

DEACON

—

DEACON AND

ALLIED

FAMILIES



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A

THE DESCENT
OF THE FAMILY OF
D E A C O N
OF
ELSTOWE AND LONDON,
WITH SOME
GENEALOGICAL,
BIOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL
NOTES,
AND SKETCHES OF
ALLIED FAMILIES

INCLUDING

REYNES } AND { MERES
OF } . { OF
CLIFTON, } KIRTON.

BY

EDWARD DEACON,

Hon. Treas. Fairfield Co. Historical Society, Conn.

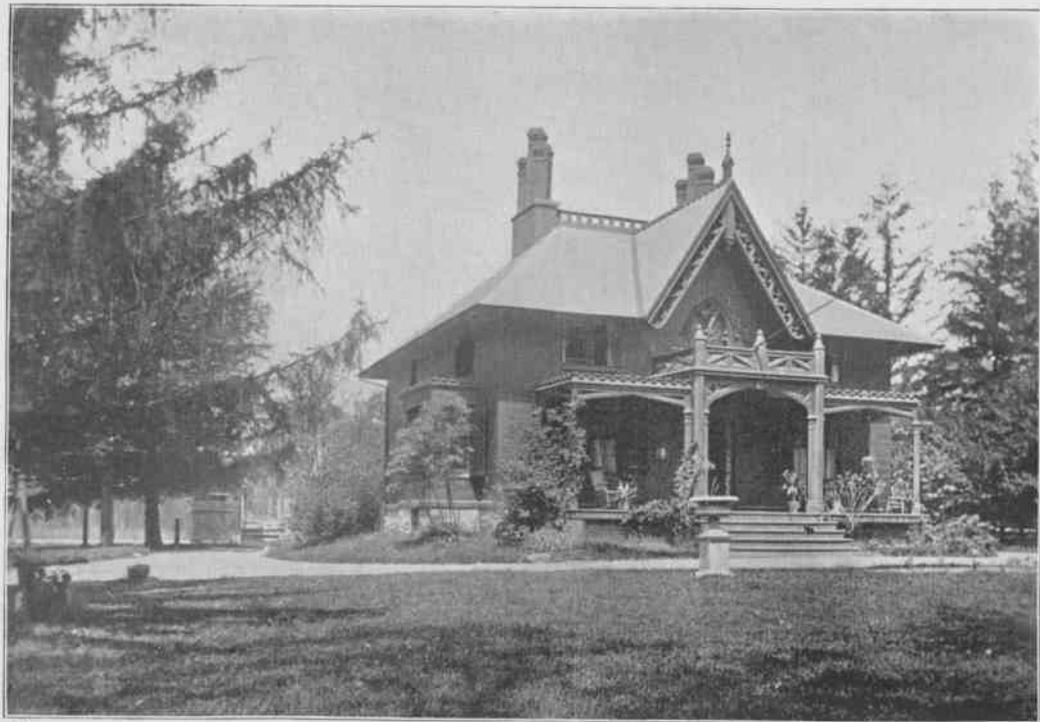
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

1898.

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Grove Cottage, Residence of Edward Deacon, Bridgeport, Conn.

TO THE MEMORY
OF MY
FATHER AND MOTHER.

*“ In this world,
Who can do a thing, will not ;
And who would do it, cannot,
I perceive :
Yet the will's somewhat——”*

BROWNING.

PREFACE.

This work being intended for private distribution only, to members of the family, and possibly to a few societies interested in genealogy, no apology is needed for the personal character of some of its contents.

It has been a labor of love during the past eighteen years to gather the facts herein presented, and the writer has the satisfaction of knowing that he has succeeded in bringing to light from the musty documents of distant centuries, some interesting material which has never before seen print.

The effort to present the brief personal records of the loved ones immediately connected with him has been its own reward; for the rest, the writer can only hope that the bringing together of the many facts and items pertaining to different branches and members of the family, may not be wholly useless to some future investigator with kindred aims and the same love for our *gens*.

Doubtless much that may appear irrelevant has been included, but it was thought unwise to omit any material which would cast light upon or add interest to the subject, though but indirectly pertaining to it; that which is trite and common place to-day, may be deemed precious to-morrow and invaluable fifty years hence.

It will be at once apparent that the make-up of this work is not scientific. None can be more aware of this than the writer, and the fault, if fault it be, must be owned. No doubt the genealogical expert will find much cause for criticism.

But there has been a purpose in this desultory scheme. The family treated of made no great mark in history, and it was not the intention to present a hard and dry consensus

of names and dates. For these reasons a discursive and narrative form was given to the notes, in the hope of making the facts presented more interesting to the reader. The pedigree charts will aid the student in following the descent.

In compiling these pages, the writer has had frequent occasion to trespass upon the kindness of strangers by correspondence, and he desires to record with pleasure the uniform courtesy with which his communications have been received and answered.

It was not thought necessary to make direct reference in every instance to the authority from which quotation was made, but on another page will be found a list of the sources from which material was drawn, and of persons to whom the grateful thanks of the writer are due for cordial and ready assistance given in his work.

Of course, for the recent biographical notes, family papers and personal knowledge must be accepted as authority.

The writer only regrets the imperfect manner in which his labors have necessarily been concluded, arising, not from any want of interest or enthusiasm in the work, but largely from inability through distance and lack of opportunity, to personally pursue the investigation of original records. For such errors as may have crept into these pages through accident or ignorance, the writer craves the indulgence of his readers, and will gladly receive any corrections which may be forwarded to him.

*Grove Cottage,
19th December, 1897.*

NOTE TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The scheme of this volume is to present

- 1st, The descent of the principal line of the family from De Akeney to Deacon, Chapters I. to VII., inclusive.
- 2nd, Sketches of some of the immediate ancestors and alliances of the present generation. Chapters X. to XII.
- 3rd, Ancestors and alliances of the family in ancient times. Chapters XIII. and XIV.
- 4th, Other branches of the family. Chapter XV.
- 5th, The family of Meres. Chapter XVI. to XVIII. Addenda, Tables of Descent, Notes, etc.

CONTENTS.

PREFACE,	-	-	-	-	-	-	Page xi
TABLE OF CONTENTS,	-	-	-	-	-	-	xv
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS,	-	-	-	-	-	-	xvii
LIST OF PEDIGREES,	-	-	-	-	-	-	xviii
COATS OF ARMS,	-	-	-	-	-	-	xix
INTRODUCTION,	-	-	-	-	-	-	xxi

CHAPTER.

- I. De Akeny of Normandy. Dakeny of Norfolk. Deakeny of Bedfordshire. Ekeny, Co. Bucks. Visitations. Coat Armor. Changes of Name. pp. 1—15.
- II. Decons of Bedfordshire. Michael, Bishop of St. Asaph. Richard of Windruge. Grafton. Stoke Brewerne. Hertfordshire Family. Thomas of Ruysbank. Royal Household. pp. 17—37.
- III. Richard Decons of Marston-Morteyne. Receiver-General. Custos Brevium. Privy Secretary. Corrodies. Field of the Cloth of Gold. Marriages. Reynes. Lynch. Speculations. Will. Ridgemont. Brickhill. Barking. Fitz-Lewes. pp. 39—61.
- IV. Decons of Co. Bedford. Thomas of Marston. Chicheley. Snagg. Inscriptions at Marston. pp. 63—70.
- V. Decons of Warwickshire. Combe. Shakspeare. pp. 73—83.
- VI. Decons of Elstowe. Nevilles. Stoke Brewerne. Norton. Nunnery. Mansion House. pp. 85—99.
- VII. Deacon of London. Coat of Arms. Merchant Taylors' Company. St. Andrew's Holborn. Mrs. Siddons. Pursuer. Bogardus. Marshall. pp. 101—124.
- VIII. Origin and Variations of Name. Quotations. Derivations. pp. 125—136.

- IX. Coat Armour and Differencing. pp. 137—142.
- X. Haffey of Bath and West Indies. Childwall Abbey. St. Vincent. Slater Family. Souffiere Mountain. Grant of Arms. Jamaica. pp. 145—161.
- XI. Scott of Liverpool. Hattrey. Mrs. Joseph Deacon. Fisher of Lancashire. Mrs. P. H. Scott. Perrin of Dublin. Richard Perrin, Esq. pp. 163—177.
- XII. Lovett of Liscomb, Co. Bucks. pp. 179—183.
- XIII. Reynes of Clifton and Marston. Borard. Frowick. Ingleton of Thornton. Inscriptions at Marston. Clifton Reynes. Effigies. Presentations to Church. High Sheriffs. Knights of the Shire. pp. 185—213.
- XIV. Morteyne, Family of, at Marston-Morteyne. Tyringham of Tyringham. Pabenham of Fleet-Marston. Lucy of Chelmscote. DeGray of Wilton. Peyyre of Taddington. Maids-Morton Church. Broughton. Daubeney. pp. 215—248.
- XV. Deacon of Northamptonshire. Early notices. Thomas Deacon of Peterborough. Wiltshire, Henry of Pewsey. Gloucestershire, Deacon of Elmstree. Jenner. Lincolnshire, Deacons of Stamford. Cecil. Glamorgan, Deacon of Longcross House. Eminent Men, Divines, Authors. Printers, etc. Notes of the Civil War. Royalists and Puritans. pp. 249—278.
- XVI. Meres of Kirton, Linc. Algarkirk. Bussy. Francis Meres, Author. Lutterworth. Kirton Church. Meres of London. Royal Navy. pp. 279—320
- XVII. Notes of Family of Meres. Guild of Corpus Christi. High Sheriffs and M. P's. Ecclesiastical Architecture. Notes of Sir Thomas Meres and his Son. Admiralty. De la Fontaine. Kirby Bellars. pp. 321—334.
- XVIII. Extracts from Meres and Early English Newspapers. Hugh Meres. Rich. Nutt. John Meres. The London Evening Post. pp. 335—346.
- XIX. Tables of Descent. Reynes-Deacons. Meres of Kirton. Stoddard-Deacon. Bulkley-Bates. pp. 347—359.
- Appendix. Deacon. Will and Inq'n Ric. Deacons. Notes of Deacon and Morteyne. pp. 361—378.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

	Facing	Title	Page
Grove Cottage,	Facing	page	1
Arms of De Akeny,	"	"	4
Site of St. Martin's Church, Ekeney,	"	"	9
Map of Ekeney and Petsoe,	"	"	19
St. Asaph's Cathedral,	"	"	22
Map of Windridge, Co. Herts,	"	"	39
Marston-Morteyne Manor,	"	"	44
Katherine of Aragon,	"	"	55
"The George" Inn, Little Brickhill,	"	"	68
Church of St. Mary, Marston-Morteyne,	"	"	77
Tomb of John Combe, Stratford Church,	"	"	79
Residence of John Combe, Stratford,	"	"	85
Arms of Deacon, of Bedfordshire,	"	"	87
Rectory, Stoke Brewerne,	"	"	97
Elstow Priory and Hall,	"	"	113
Portrait of Joseph Deacon, Esq.,	"	"	119
Portrait of Edward Deacon,	"	"	137
Arms of Deacon, of London,	"	"	147
Childwall Abbey,	"	"	153
St. Vincent, W. I.,	"	"	156
Plate Presented to Colonel Haffey,	"	"	166
Portrait of Peter Haffey Scott, Esq.,	"	"	170
Portrait of Mrs. Joseph Deacon,	"	"	171
Psalm CXLVI. (music),	"	"	173
Portrait of Mrs. P. H. Scott,	"	"	181
Liscombe House, Co. Bucks,	"	"	185
Arms of Reynes, of Clifton-Reynes,	"	"	192
Effigies of Sir Thomas Reynes and wife, 1389, Clifton Church,	"	"	199
Brass of Thomas Reynes and wife, 1451, Mars- ton Church,	"	"	202
Effigies of Ralph Reynes and wife, Clifton Church,	"	"	206
Effigy of Sir Thomas Reynes, 1471, Clifton Church,	"	"	209
Church of St. Mary, Clifton-Reynes,	"	"	253
Deacon's School, Peterborough,	"	"	256
Tomb of Thomas Deacon, Peterborough,	"	"	268
Arms of Deacon, of London and Glamorgan,	"	"	279
Arms of Meres of Kirton,	"	"	285
Ruins of the Meers, Kirton-Meers,	"	"	295
View of Kirton Church, 18th Century,	"	"	302
Church of St. Peter, Kirby Bellars,	"	"	307
Title Page Historical Register, 1737,	"	"	342
Caricature in Jacobite Journal, 1747,	"	"	346
Fac Simile, <i>London Evening Post</i> , 1748,	"	"	

PEDIGREES.

	PAGE.
Morteyne,	8, 225, 376
Deacon, Co. Herts,	28, 29
De Akeney,	35, 36, 37
Lynch } Hornby }	48, 58
Fitz-Lewes,	60
Chicheley,	66
Combe,	76
Combe, Decons, } Hales, Lucy, }	81
Blount, Combe, } Reynolds, Willis, }	83
Norton,	90
Deacon,	99
Deacon, Meres, } Haffey, Scott, }	124
Slater, } Heywood, }	150
Haffey,	160
Lovett,	182, 183
Frowick,	200
Reynes,	212, 213
Tyringham,	228
Pabenham,	233
Gray, Lucy, } Tyringham, }	234
Lucy,	240
Peyvre,	242
Broughton,	246
Daubeney,	248
Deacon, Co. Wilts,	258
Deacon, Elmstree,	260
Cecil, Deacons,	264
Brudenell, Meres,	290
Almon, Fagg,	318
Meres,	316-320

COATS OF ARMS.

	PAGE.
De Akeny, colored lith.,	1
Dakeny, of Derbyshire,	6
Deakin and Dakyns, of Yorkshire,	12
Deacon, of London,	13
Deacon, Bedford and Bucks,	16
Deacons, of Marston-Morteyne,	62
Deacons, Warwickshire,	71
Deacons, of Wasperton,	72
Deacons, Warwickshire,	82
Deacon, of Bedford, colored lith.,	85
Deacon, of London, 1630,	100
Crest of Deacon, of London,	112
Deacon, of London, colored lith.,	137
Haffey, of St. Vincent and Bath,	144
Reynes, of Clifton Reynes, colored lith.,	185
Seal and Arms, Thomas Reynes, 1462,	201
Morteyne, of Marston-Morteyne,	216
Tyringham, of Tyringham,	226
Deacon, of Glamorgan, colored lith.,	268
Meres, of Kirton, colored lith.,	279
<hr/>	
Autograph of Joseph Deacon, Esq.,	113
“ “ Peter H. Scott, Esq.,	168
“ “ Mary J. Deacon,	170
“ “ Margaret Scott,	173
“ “ Sir Thomas Meres,	300
“ “ Sir John Meres,	302

INTRODUCTION.

Careful and extended investigation has confirmed the fact that there were but two sources or locations in England from whence the name now known as Deacon originated. One was on the border line of the shires of Northampton and Cambridge, where in the earliest Norman period the name appears in various records, and from whence it soon spread north to Derby and south to Bedford and adjacent counties. The other was in the south-west of the island in Dorset and Somerset, from whence it spread into Gloucester and Wilts.

These two races were quite distinct for many centuries, and there is no doubt they were of entirely different blood; the southern family may have come from the Saxon of that name who is mentioned in Domesday as holding lands in Gloucester, and who left several descendants, while the northern race is believed to be derived from Norman stock who were granted lands by the Conqueror.

Other counties than those mentioned have no trace of the name. London, the capital and great trading port of the Kingdom, in every century attracted many from all parts of the country to its market, and there the name is found after the 14th century. From actual records we know that both families were represented in the city thereafter.

The following pages seek principally to trace one line of the northern stock from the earliest authentic records which have come to the notice of the writer.

It may well be deemed impossible to compile an English family history upon the lines of an American genealogy. In the first place, the American genealogist has the great

advantage of a definite point of beginning, usually confined to one ancestor of the name. Further he has the advantage that his point of beginning lies within a comparatively modern period, with authentic records generally available, and within a circumscribed area of action.

The spread of his family is normal, and within the boundaries of the development of his state, making it possible (as we have seen in numerous instances of admirable genealogical work) to produce an almost perfect record of family growth and dispersion.

With rare exceptions (one of which—that of Lovett—is given in this volume) the English genealogist has no definite point of beginning. When it has become possible to gather authentic data concerning his family, the race has already been spreading for centuries to all parts of the island, and many bearers of the name have lost any connection they may originally have had.

Numerous families of the same name never were allied at all, having originated separately under different circumstances; thus it is that the English genealogy is nearly always the history of one line, instead of the record of a tribe; and it is so, as much for the reasons just given as from any supposed influence of the law of primogeniture.

This work will, therefore, not be accepted, as is the American genealogy, by all connected with the name, its main interest will be with the few who are descended from the meagre line here treated of. A somewhat wider, though still limited circle, may be interested through the introduction of original material and collections concerning allied families, whose blood is mingled with some of the best in the nation, but at most it is felt that the interest will be small, and the writer will not be disappointed should his readers be confined to those of his own immediate family, for whom, indeed, this work was originally undertaken and prosecuted.

Regretting that no prominent representative of the family is found to-day in the county where for so long a period

they bore a part, the following remarks by the editor of the Visitations of Bedfordshire, published by the Harleian Society, 1884, may be read with interest :

“There is probably scarcely another county in England where land has changed hands so frequently as in this, and if the study of genealogy serves no other purpose, it will at least dispel the illusion so prevalent amongst a certain class, that the majority of the present owners of land derive their title from ‘feudal times.’ The frequent changes that have taken place in the ownership of land in this county, even as between the years 1566 and 1634, are remarkably apparent; and still more so in comparing these Visitations with the new Domesday Book of 1875. In the latter I do not think twelve land owners can be found whose names appear in the Visitations.”

Another writer, the late William Smith Ellis, remarks :

“The fortunes of families are proverbially fluctuating. The obscurity of a family a century or half a century ago is no presumption against ‘gentle descent’.”

“Of the gentry of the nineteenth century few live where their grandfathers, or even their fathers dwelt; very few, comparatively, are owners of long-inherited real estate; the various professions absorb the great majority, and disperse them throughout the kingdom and the empire; the remembrance of descent from even an ancient family in a few generations becomes traditionally dim, and eventually dies out; the knowledge of the evidences of such descent ceases to be handed down from father to son, and is ultimately lost, so that most families thus far removed from their original habitat know little more of their origin or ancestry than what is derived from personal acquaintance. This rarely goes beyond the grandfather, often not so far, and the name and circumstances of a remote ancestor are known only to some member of the family whose unwonted genealogical curiosity has elicited, and whose family pride, perchance, has preserved a neglected memorial or an expiring tradition.”

At the eleventh hour, when the last lines of the appendix to this volume were in the press, the transcription of an Original Roll in the Public Record Office, made specially for the writer, revealed the curious fact, not before known, that the manor of Marston-Morteyne, so frequently mentioned in these pages, which came by marriage to the progenitor of the Deacons of Elstowe, had previously been part of the ancient possessions of the family of DeAkeney of Bedford and Bucks (*See page 378*). This singular coincidence of the recovery of the ancient manor by the descendants of the original owners may be considered an auspicious omen with which to conclude a work which attempts to trace the descent of the family from

DE AKENEY
to
DEACON.

Original Documents have been officially examined and copies obtained from the following offices:

The Admiralty, London.	
The War Office, London.	
Kirby Bellars Parish Church, Leicestershire,	Registers.
St. Andrew's Church, Holborn, London,	"
Bishop of London's Registry, London.	
Parish Church, Newport Pagnell, Bucks,	"
St. Martin's, Ludgate, London,	"
St. Mary's Church, Elstow, Bedfordshire,	"
Stationers' Company, London.	
Merchant Tailor's Company, London.	
Sun Fire Office, London.	
St. Sepulchre's Church, London,	"
British Museum Library, London.	
Bristol Central Library, England.	
Public Record Office, London.	
Greenwich Hospital.	
Somerset House, London.	
Armagh Cathedral, Ireland,	"
Parish Church of Kingston, Jamaica, W. I.,	"
St. George the Martyr, London,	"
Lincoln Cathedral,	"
St. Anne's, Blackfriars, London,	"
St. Saviour's, Southwark,	"
St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, London,	"
College of Arms, London.	
Chetham's Library, Manchester.	
Probate Registry, Lincoln.	
" " Chester.	
" " Oxford.	
" " Aylesbury.	
" " Bedford.	
" " Bath.	
" " Northampton.	

And many others.

Through the courtesy of His Grace, the Duke of Bedford, and the late Rt. Hon. Edward Stanhope, copies have been received of manuscripts in the libraries of Woburn Abbey and Revesby Abbey, respectively.

The following newspapers in the British Museum and the Guildhall Library, have been carefully examined :

Historical Register, from 1716 to 1739.

London Daily Post, from 1719 to 1746.

British Mercury, from 1712 to 1717.

London Evening Post, from 1709 to 1767.

Many hundreds of letters have been written and replies received from England, Wales, Ireland, France, West Indies and Australia.

Libraries in the United States have been visited as follows:

Bridgeport, Boston, New York, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Syracuse, Detroit, Indianapolis, Toledo, Albany, New Haven, Worcester.

Many voluminous works have been laboriously examined for extracts and facts.

Acknowledgment is due to the undernamed gentlemen for many courtesies and much valuable information :

Sir J. Bernard Burke, Ulster King at Arms.

Rev. F. W. Weaver, Milton-Clevedon.

F. A. Blaydes, Esq., Bedford.

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Mr. J. C. Coales, Newport Pagnell, Bucks.

Mr. Richard W. Dickinson, Kirton, Lincolnshire.

Herbert E. Cooke, Esq., Berkeley Castle.

J. Foster, Esq., London.

A. Gibbons, Esq., Lincoln.

John H. Hazell, Esq., St. Vincent, W. I.

George W. Marshall, Esq., Heralds' College, London.

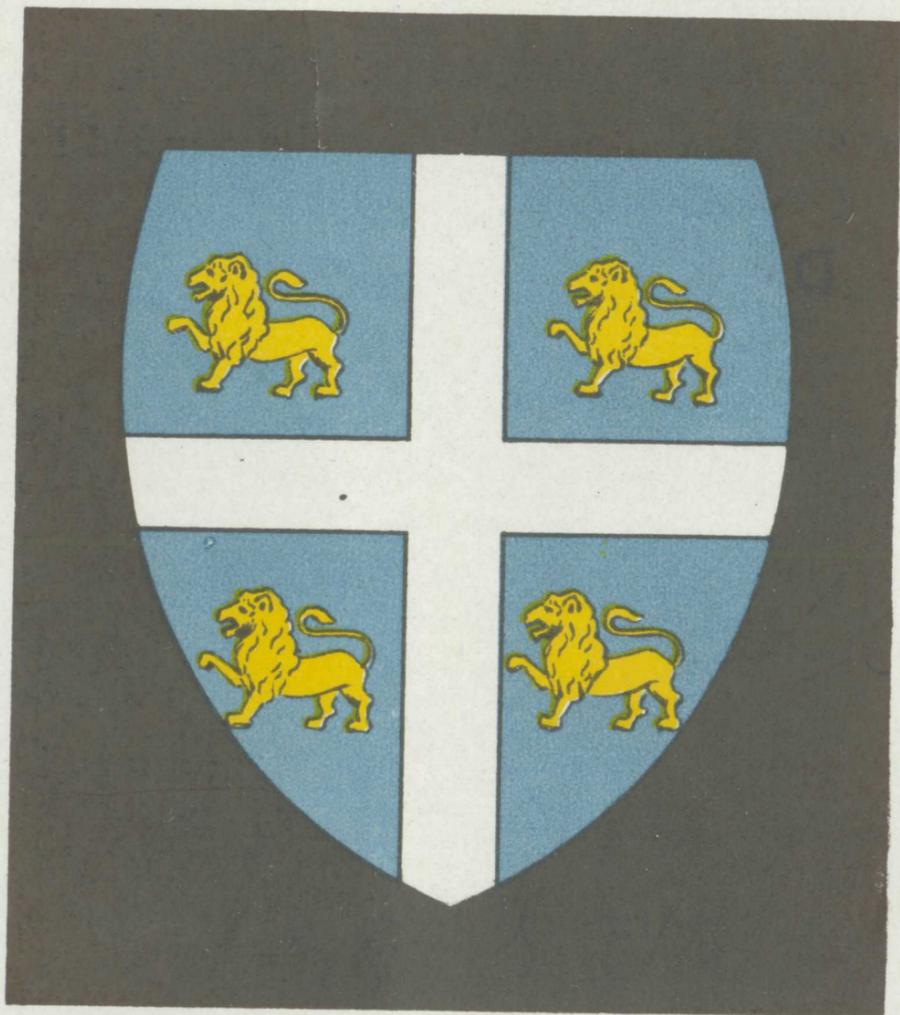
Rev. A. R. Maddison, Lincoln.

Rev. John Cartmell, Kirby Bellars, Leic.

Colonel C. T. J. Moore, Frampton Hall, Linc.

Mr. Bernard Quaritch, London.

Mr. Richard Savage, Stratford-on-Avon.



DE AKENY.

CHAPTER I.

DE AKENY.

Arms of

De Akeney

of

Normandy.

Az, a cross *argent*, between four lions—*or*.

AKENY.

DE ACQUIGNY.

From Acquigny near Louviers in Normandy.

“ This family was numerous and of great importance in England as the record shows.

Roll of Battle Abbey by the Duchess of Cleveland.

The knight who came over with the conqueror was

BALDWIN DE AKENY,

and his name is recorded as follows in the celebrated

ROLL OF BATTLE ABBEY,

From the list published by Andre Duchesne from a charter in Battle Abbey, (*apud script, rer Normann.*)

BAKEDEN.

From another list by Leland,
Collectanea de rebus Britannicis.

Bakeny.

1066. Sir BALDWIN DE AKENY, Knight. Flourished temp. Conquest and held lands in the county of Norfolk.

Arms—Azure, a cross argent, between four lions, or.

1189. WILLIAM DEKEN or DEKENY. Lord of Wighton in Norfolk, temp. Richard I, was the grandson of the foregoing, who is presumed to have been the Norman Knight whose name occurs in the Roll of Battle Abbey.

Burke's General Armory.

Sir ROGER DE AKENY, Knight. Flourished about 1150-1200. Nothing is known of him except that he had a daughter whom the chroniclers speak of as Ykenai*—or Hikenai, who was a favorite of King Henry II., (before Fair Rosamund) and who was probably the mother of William Longsword, Earl of Salisbury, (see *National Dictionary Biography—Clifford—Rosamund*). It is stated that the Earl on this ground laid claim to the inheritance of Sir Roger DeAkeny.

1199-1216. BALDWIN DE AKENI, who flourished in the reign of King John and possessed lands in Hertfordshire—see *Rotulorum Originalium*—had a brother named

RALPH DE AKENI, who held Lands in Essex.

1219. BALDWIN DE AKENEY de Whittleford, held lands in Cambridge, temp. Henry III.

1238. ROBERTUS DE DEKENE, held lands in Worcester.

1247. ALEXANDER DAKUN, held lands in Warwickshire. XXXI. Henry III.

1255. JOHN DAKENY, held lands, XXXVIII Henry III, see *Rotulorum Originalium*.

1266. Sir BALDWIN DE AKENEY, Knight, held a lordship in Holkham, temp. Henry III., and was lord of the Manor of Whittleford in Cambridge A.D. 1266. Inq. p. m. apud Bedford. 51 Hy 3. 1267. He left a son.

1275. THOMAS DE HAKENY de Maneres de Holkham, who died 3 Edw. I. 1275. Inq. p. m. Bedford. 3 Edw. I. his son was

1287. Sir ROGER DAKENY, Knight, who held one quarter of the town of Northwold in Norfolk, and who increased his patrimony by marriage with Johanna, daughter and heir to Sir William Daubeny. From this great proprietor the Manor of Dagenys in Norfolk derives its name. Inq. p. m. apud Bedford. 15 Edw. I. 1287.

Calendarium Genealogicum.

*NOTE.—As late as the reign of Henry VII., we find the name spelled Yekyn—in Northamptonshire.

SIR BAULDWIN DE EKON. 1278-1285.

Arms—Azure ; a cross patee, argent.

Camden Roll of Arms.

Henry de Ekon or Ekont.

William de Ekon.

Azure : crusilly of 7 and 3 crescents, argent.

As the family of Norfolk multiplied, they extended into the adjacent and farther counties of Cambridge, Lincoln Derby and York, while other branches settled in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire and for several generations from Ed. I., 1272, to Rich. II., 1399, were lords of one sixth part of the Great Barony of Cainho in Bedfordshire, and of Lathbury and Little Filgrave in the County of Bucks.

On the northern border of the Counties of Bedford and Buckingham : a village or town arose, named from them, EKENEY or D'EKENEY, in which was a church, dedicated to St. Martin, the patron of soldiers, and evidently erected as a penance or devotion by one of the early warrior barons of the family, and to which they held the right of presentation.

At this period these two Counties were under one jurisdiction, and were represented in Parliament by the same Burgesses.

Several of the family were returned as Knights of the Shire for these counties during the succeeding generations.

Many notices of members of the family are to be found in the early County Records. The site of this "deserted village" is shown on the Ordnance Maps of the present day. The following extract is from Lipscombe's History of the County of Bucks :

"DE EKENEY—D'EKENEY,

"EKENEY, OR OKENEY, CUM PETSOE, CO, BUCKS.

"A small depopulated village, southwest of and near Olney, so completely destroyed that not one single house now remains.



Site of St. Martin's Church, Ekeney.

“Brown Willis, the antiquary, found a tradition of the former habitations at Ekeney and that one house had survived within the lifetime of one of the oldest inhabitants of the neighborhood living at the period of his enquiries, 1755. He also discovered the site of the church of Ekeney, which was plainly distinguishable in a pasture close called St. Martin's Fields, about a quarter of a mile S. E. of Petsoe Manor House.” *Lipscombe's Co. Bucks.*

Rectors of St. Martin's Church, Ekeney.

Thomas Pascheden, presented 9 Oct., 1274, by Robert de Ekeney.

Robert de Okele, presented 17 April, 1302, by Robert de Ekeney.

Gefry Markham, presented 10 March, 1326, by Richard de Ekeney.

Willm Markhamet, presented 5 July, 1349 by Tho's Reynes de Clifton.

Vicar of Westbury Co. Bucks.

Hugh de Ekeney Vicar. 1272.

1272. Sir ROBERT DE EKENAY, Knight, of Ekeney, Co. Bucks, flourished temp. Edw. I. He attested a deed of Robert Raynes at Clifton, 1296.

1296. **Sciant presenti &c., quod Ego Robertus de Horard dedi concessi &c. &c. Rado de Reynes nepoti meo totu tenementu meum qd habui in Ruteshale, cu- homago et redditibus &c.**

Hic testibus &c.

D'no Rogers de Cyryngham.

D'no Amario de Nodarius.

D'no Roberto de Sus militibus.

Tho de Clnap.

Roberto de Ekenay, (d' Ekeney)

Tho. de Reynes.

Rob'to de Lathbyrre, et aliis.

Dat. apud Clifton, 24 Edw. I.

From him descended three sons, as follows :

1st, Sir ROBERT D'EKENEY, Baron of Cainho, Co. Bedford, Knight of the Shire 1315;

2nd, Sir THOMAS DE AKENY, Knight of Northwold, Co. Norfolk, temp. Edward II., who also held lands in the Peak of Derbyshire, 1307-1327, and

3rd, HUMPHREY DAKENY, who held lands in Derbyshire. 1272-1327, whose Arms were

Argent—a cross between four lions, gules—

And whose great grandson,

Richard Delkyn, or Dawkin of Hatton and Biggin, Co. Derby, is returned among the gentry 1442-12th Hy. 6th.

Branches of this family settled in the County of Derby at Darley Dale, Biggin Grange, Chelmorden, Stubbing Edge.

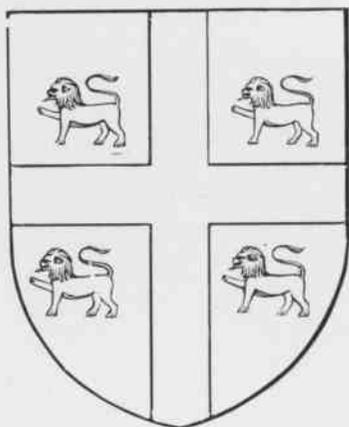
And in Yorkshire at Hackness, Linton, Attercliffe, Brandes Burton.

In later years numerous descendants made their home in Sheffield, and are to-day numbered among the chief merchants and manufacturers of that city. They commonly spell the name Deakin.

As early as King John we find traces of the family in Huntington, and a few years later (1240) Dyacone is found holding lands by tenure from the Abbey of Ramsey. All through the generations succeeding, the name is found in Huntington, Cambridge, Leicester, and Northampton; as the families increased and the branches spread Deakeney, Dakeny, Deakne, Dyacone, Dekon, Dekyn, Dycoun, Diacon, Deikins and Dicons become familiar in the records of those Counties.

In Northamptonshire the family made permanent settlements in Barnwell, Maidwell, Braybrook and Wellingboro, attaining lands, wealth and position which has endured to the latest period.

Dakeny.



DERBYSHIRE

In 9 Edw. II., 1315, Sir ROBERT DEKENY OR DE EKENY of Bedfordshire, was one of the Knights of the shire for that County. He attended the Parliament of this period at Lincoln.

1327. Sir JOHN DEKENY was possessed of one sixth of the Barony of Cainho, temp. Edward III.

1326. ROBERT DAKENY was Lord of Lathbury, Co. Bucks.

1337. JOHN DAKENEYE and Johanna his wife held lands in Clophill and Caynho. X. Edw. III.

1354. ROGER DAKENEYE, Chevalier, and Johanna his wife, held lands in Caynho and Clophill (received from John Dakeneye) Johanna, wife of Roger, was dead in 1354.

1363. JOHN DAKENEYE, son and heir of Roger held lands; XXXVI Edward III., see *Rotulorum Originalium*.

RICHARD DE EKENY, of Ekeny, Co. Bucks, presented to the Church of St. Martin 10th March, 1326.

He also appears as attesting a deed dated at Clifton Reynes in 1354 granted to Hugh Wake Knight.

Visitation Bucks, 1575-1634. Harleian MSS. No. 1533.

Deacons, Dickons, Reynes of Clifton-Reynes.

Deed dated Clifton Reynes, Wednesday, the Feast of St. Mary Magdelin 29 Edw. III.

Hugh Wake gave lands to Robert Mordaunt of Turrey.

Sciãnt praesentes et futuri quod Ego Hugh Wake de Clifton Miles, veda concessi, &c., &c.

Hic Testibus, &c., &c.

Thoma de Reynes Domino de Clifton.

Johanne D'Artes de Turveia.

Thoma Sorard.

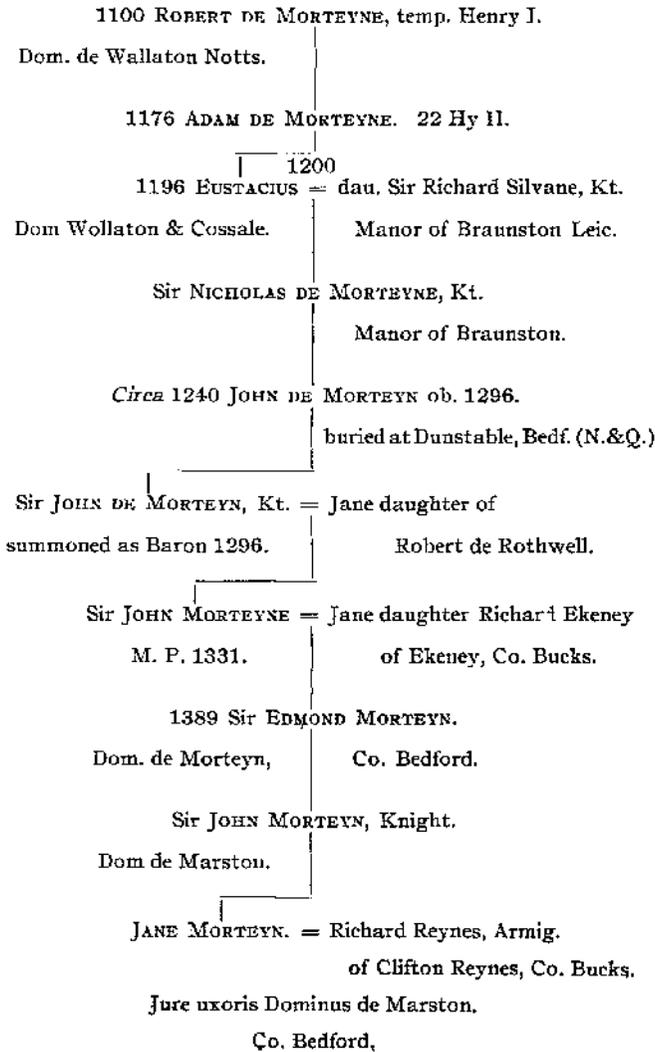
Ricardo de Beknep, (De Akency.)

Johanne Coke de Clifton,

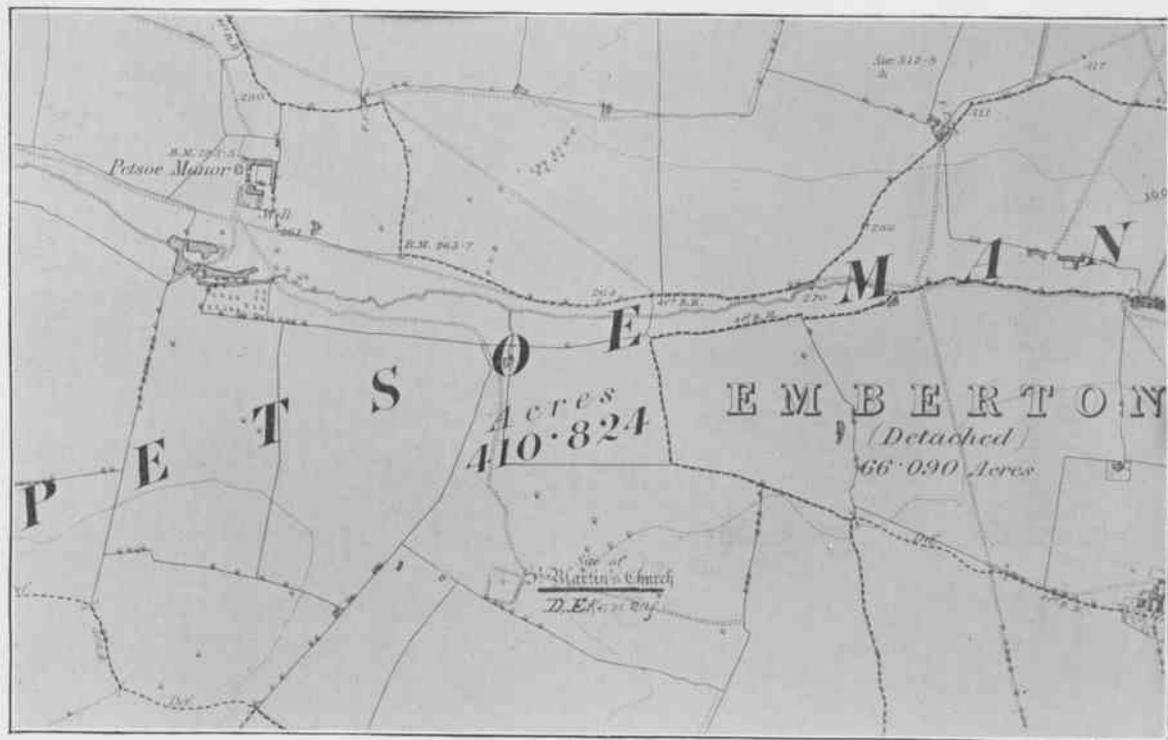
Johanne Coft de Astwood et aliis.

Data apud Clifton die Mercurii in festo Mariae Magdelenae. A. R. R. Edw. III. post. Cong. 29. 1354.

MORTEYNE.







After this period we find no further connection between this family and the Church of Ekeney, we must therefore suppose that the right of presentation was lost either by forfeiture or for lack of heirs male. Notwithstanding, the name continued to flourish in the County.

JANE EKENEY, daughter of the last named Richard de Ekeney, an heiress of the family, married Sir John Morteyne about 1330. She carried the estates of the family, and the presentation of the church of Ekeney, to the family of Morteyne.

MORTEYNE.

An ancient knightly family who acquired the lordship of the Manor of Marston, Co. Bedford, to which they gave their name.

Arms of Morteyne
of Marston-Morteyne, Co. Bedford.
Ermine, a chief indented gules.

During this period we find notices of several members of the family in the adjoining counties, whose names exhibit some of the familiar changes which it experienced as the family multiplied and wandered. Thus—

1272. HENRY DE AKENE, merchant of Almain.

License to export wool, granted 17 January, I. Edw. I.
Calendar of Patent Rolls.

To the Sheriff of Kent. Order to deliver Robert Whitlock, HENRY DEAKENE, &c., &c., from the King's prison at Canterbury, to which they were committed by John de Northwode.

Calendar of Close Rolls Edw. II., 1311, May 20th, at Berwick-on-Tweed.

This is but another way of spelling De-a-ken-ey.

A. D. 1320, Nov. 6th, WILLIAM DICOUN or Dykoun, attached to answer the Abbot. Pleading between the Abbot of Ramsey and Hugh Ladde, Willielmus Dicoun et al. concerning Hardwicke, fine, per plegium predictum pro sexdecem denariis, xvi. d.

Robert, son of THOMAS DECON of South Cave, Yorkshire, released by deed to Sir Alexander Cave, Knight, the rent of 20 shillings, &c. 14th Edward II., 1320.

Woodstock, April 16th, 1330, Thomas, Earl of Norfolk and Marshall of England, going to Gascony on the King's service, has letters nominating Richard de Burghstede and RICHARD DYKENE his attorneys until Christmas (to act for him during his absence). *Calendar of Patent Rolls.*

1334, January 28th, Woodstock, Robert, son of Richard de Brunneby claims against ROBERT DEKEN of Gerlethorp an acre of land in Gerlethorp, judgement given for the defendant on the plea that he is a villein of the Abbot of Seleby. At York Michaelmas term 17th Ed. II.

1342, Sept. 21st, Livery of the Marsh of Walton, Co. Huntingdon, ROBERTUS DEKENE impleaded by the Abbot et alliis.

Hunts. Agreement whereby John, Duke of Lancastre, and Mabil his wife, demise to Sir Robert, Abbot of Ramsey, their Manor of Woldhurst, with a Messuage and 15 acres there, that ALICE DIKOUN holds for her life, which after her death revert to John and Mabil, and the yearly rent of 14 d. that Alice owes for the said tenement for term of Mabil's life, and also a toft in Ramsey. The abbey paying therefor 10 l. yearly and to John a robe with fur of the suit worn by the Abbot's esquires.

Ramsey, Sunday after the Purification, 17th Edward III., 1343. *Hist. M. S. S. Com. Vol. I. a 1313.*

JOHN DAKEYNE, or Dekeny, of Bedford. Knight of the shire in 43 Edw. III., 1369, who attended the Parliament of that period at Westminster.

This branch of the family was seated at or near Marston-Morteyne, not far from the city of Bedford.

1374. JOHANNIS DAKENEY, Chivaler, and Maria, his wife, sold the Manors of Caynho and Clophull, in Co. Bedford, to Ralph de Norton, Knight, XLVII. Edw. III.

Rotulorum Originalium.

The Visitations of the Heralds were made for the purpose of examining the right by which persons within the respective heraldic provinces bore Arms, or were styled Esquires or Gentlemen, the information thus carefully collected was subsequently recorded in the College of Heralds.

The earliest visitations were made in the reigns of Henry IV., Edward IV., and Henry VII., but from 1528 to 1687, which was the last visitation made, they were regularly conducted every twenty or thirty years.

These visitations show various branches of the family settled in the counties of Derby, Lincoln, Leicester, Northampton and Bedford, and later in the shires of Warwick, Buckingham, Hertford, and the city of London, who were of gentle blood and entitled to bear Coat Armor.

In accordance with the usual custom, variations were made in the Arms, to designate and distinguish the different offshoots or branches of the family, sometimes by changing the colors, sometimes by the addition of a charge, or even to the granting of entirely new bearings. The Visitations also exhibit the changes in the spelling of the name, which in connection with wills and other records, show the process whereby it gradually approached the form it has now in some instances taken of

DEACON,

apparently from the similarity of sound to that of the sacerdotal office. In the Visitations of the Heralds, the Inquisition post mortem records, the Augmentation office records, the MSS. in the British Museum, Coles Escheats and numerous other authorities which have been consulted the name is found spelled in many different ways, such as, Hikenai, Hekney, Yekyn, Akeni, de Hakeny, De Ekon, Ducking, D'Elking, De Okeny, Deakinnes, Dakyn, Dyckons, Decons, Dyccons, Dawkins.

Dakyns of Linton, Co. York,
1563,
Special Grant
by Flowers, Norrey King at Arms,
and confirmed to Dakeynes of
Stubbing Edge Hall, Co. Derby,
by St. George, 1611.

Gules, a lion passant guardant and two mullets in pale, or,
between two flanches, argent, charged with a lion rampant,
sable.

Crest, a dexter arm embowed, ppr. issuing from a naval
coronet, or, holding battle axe, arg., on the wrist a ribbon.
azure.

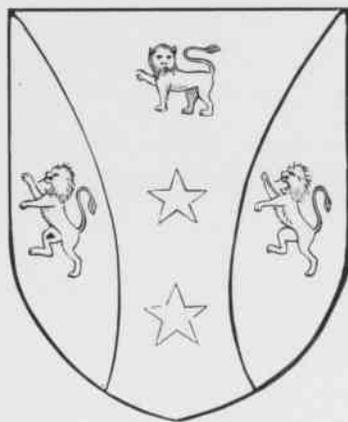
Motto, "Strike Dakyns, the devil's in the hempe."

Deakyn, of Bagthorpe House,
Co. Notts.
Deakin of Sheffield,
Co. York.

Arms
same as Dakyns, 1563,
except as to flanches arg., charged with a griffin segreant,
sable, instead of lion rampant.

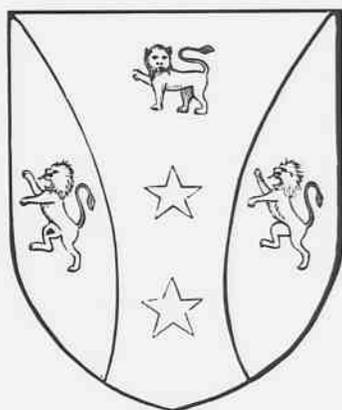
Crest and Motto,
same.

Deakin
OR
Dakyns.



Co. YORK.

Deakin
OR
Dakyns.



CO. YORK.

“While the nation was distracted by the contentions of the houses of York and Lancaster, coat armour was universally used and most religiously and pertinaciously maintained. The great families from the period of their first being ennobled, had branched out into many collateral houses who were distinguished by the usual marks of filiation and by differencing. In many instances, however, these were found insufficient to denote the separation, and as it frequently happened some branches were engaged in opposite parties, they were the more willingly led to relinquish their paternal arms and to introduce a new device.”

In a note to the above the author gives a list of families of the same name and descent having different arms, as “Bassett 7 bearings, Neville 11 bearings, Braose 5,” and so on. *Heraldry in England, James Dallaway, 1793.*

During this period the families of Derbyshire and Bedfordshire abandoned the ancient coat of arms which their ancestors had borne, and adopted new and distinctive bearings of their own.

Those of Derbyshire are given in their place.

The Bedfordshire Coat of Arms is distinguished by three roses which are variously parted by a chevron or a fesse, of different colors to distinguish the several branches. Some London branches of the family retained the old bearings with the addition of three roses in chief.

No. 1, Deacon, of London.

Azure, a cross between four lions argent, on a chief three roses gules.

Crest, a nag's head argent.

No. 2, of London.

Azure, a cross between four lions rampant or., on a chief of the last three roses gules.

Crest, a horse's head erased per fesse, or., and azure.

Motto, In utrumque paratus.

The following list shows some of the changes which the name has undergone in the different localities where branches of the family settled.

DeAkeny	1066.
D'Ekeny	Norfolk and early Bedford.
Dakeney	Early Derby, Yorkshire, Bedford and Bucks.
Dakney	Northamptonshire.
Dekne	Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.
A'Keni,	Hertfordshire.
Hekney	Buckinghamshire.
Ykenai	Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire.
Hikenai	Buckinghamshire.
Dykenai	Buckinghamshire.
Dyckon	Bedfordshire.
Deakcne	Bedfordshire and Norfolk.
Deaconc	Bedfordshire.
De Ekon	Bedfordshire.
Deken	Norfolk.
Dakyns	Derbyshire.
Dakeyne	Northamptonshire and Sheffield.
Dawkins	Derby and Leicestershire.
Ducking	Leicestershire.
DeOkenev	Buckinghamshire.
Yekyns	Northamptonshire.
Dekyns	Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire.
D'ykins	Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire.
Dyçons	Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire.
Dyacon	Huntingdonshire.
Dykoun	Huntingdonshire.
Dicons	Buckinghamshire.
Decons	Bedfordshire.
Deakinnes	Derbyshire.
Deacons.	Bedfordshire and Warwickshire.
Deacon.	

It should be borne in mind that it was not until the middle of the 18th Century that there was any really settled orthography of proper names, it was the ordinary custom to spell a name as it sounded, that is phonetically; and as there are always variations in the pronunciation of words arising from localisms and habits, there was as great a diversity of spelling.

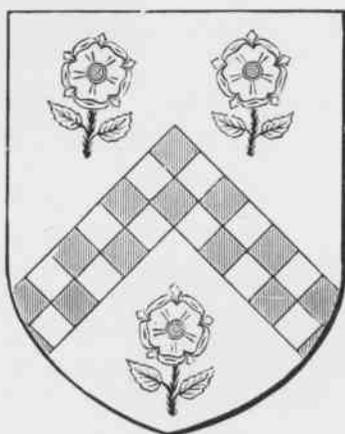
The foregoing list could easily be extended to a much greater length, but enough has been given to exemplify the facts, suffice it to say further that some descendants of the family, in the counties of Buckingham and Northampton, dropped the prefix *de* so that for many centuries and even to the present day we find the name Ekin and Ekins.

It is noteworthy and peculiar that in almost all its forms a final *s* was added to the name for about a century, from 1500 to 1600, which after that period disappeared.

The preceding pages are not supposed, nor are they intended to show the actual descent of the Deacons of Bedfordshire, but they give most of what has been preserved of the family of Deakeny, which occupied lands in the same localities in the same county, and from which doubtless many branches sprang at various periods in their history, and from whom it is believed the family here treated of (at some time) originated.

The study of genealogy is constantly revealing remarkable coincidences. It is a singular fact that whatever difficulty there may be in proving the descent of the Deacons of Bedfordshire from the Deakenys of Ekeny in the direct male line, involving the variation of the name, there is none whatever as regards the female line, the family of Morteyn linking the heiress of the Deakenys with the heiress of the Reynes in an undoubted descent, carrying the honors and blood of their ancestors into the family of Deacons by marriage.

Deacon.



BEDFORD, BUCKINGHAM
AND
WARWICK.

CHAPTER II.

DECONS
of
Bedfordshire.

Arms of
Deacon
of
Bedfordshire,
Buckinghamshire and
Warwickshire.

Argent, a chevron counter compony gules and or, between three rose branch sprigs of the second, leaved, vert.

Crest, a demi eagle displayed argent, winged sable.

Also another,

An eagle's head erased arg, between two wings sable.

Though the elder branch of the family seems to have died out or disappeared from the county of Bedford about this period, there were still numerous junior offshoots who maintained the family name, and were allied to some of the oldest houses of the county.

HENRY DEIKINS of Shakerston, Co. Leicester, held one-third of a knight's fee of the honor of Hastings, in Shakerston and Oddeston, 1346, County Leicester.

RICHARD DEKEN of Ashby Cannons, Co. Northampton, held lands there 1432, he also held lands in Co. Bedford. It may be possible to identify him with Richard of Marston (Ricardi Merstone) returned among the gentry of the county of Bedford, 12 Henry VI., 1433.

ELYN DEKYN, one of the daughters of John Beler, Esquire, sister and co-heir to John Beler, Esquire, of Eye Kettleby, county Leicester, died seized of the Manor of Medbourne, Co. Leicester, held of the King, in Capite by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee.
Inq. Post Mortem 14 Edw. IV. 1475.

Her sister Marina, also co-heir, married Sir Thomas Greene of Greenes Norton and Boughton, Co. Northampton, one of the great families of the period (whose grandfather's sister married Sir Ralph Reynes of Clifton Reynes, Co. Bucks). *See Reynes.*

Greene's Norton is five miles from Assheby Cannons.

“Leicestershire. 18 Edward IV., V. 3.

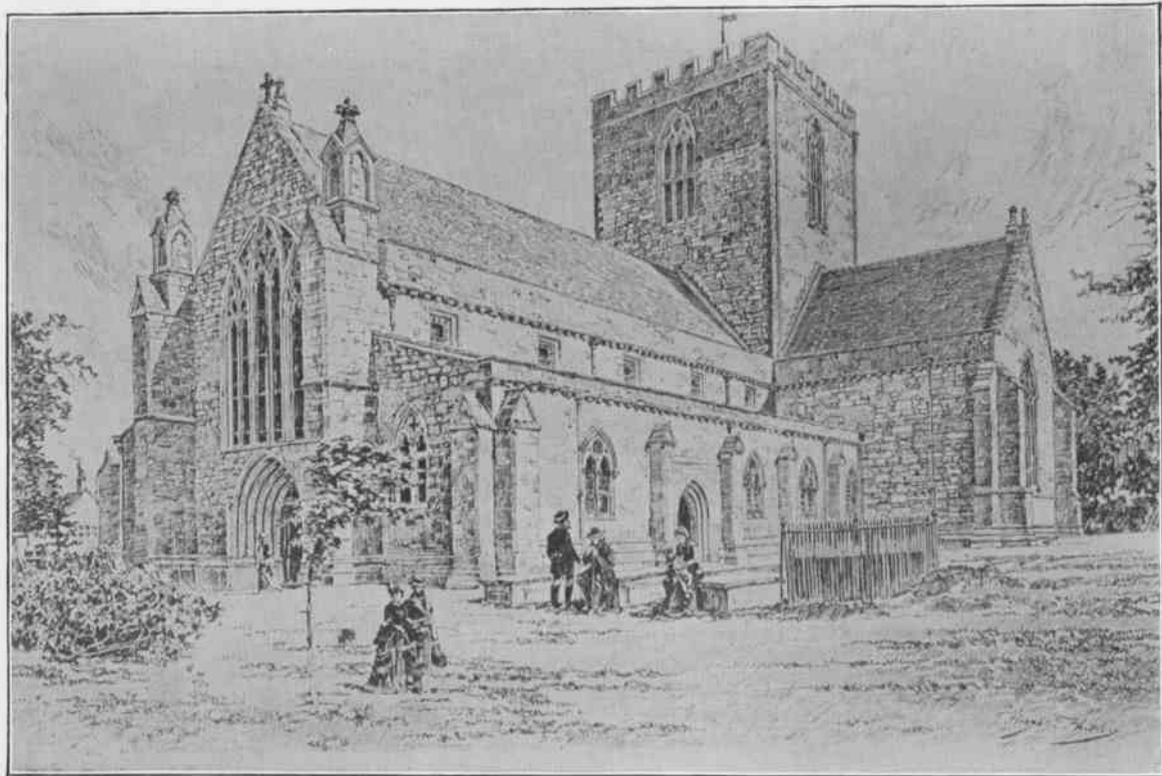
Elena Dekyn una filiarum et heredum Johannis Bellars. Medborne maner 3 tia pars.

Inquisition Post Mortem 1479.

“Medbourne Leicestershire. 1478.

Elyn Dekyn, one of the daughters and co-heirs of John Beler, Esquire, died seized of a third part of the manor of Medbourne, held of the King in capite by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee.” *Nichols, Leic.*

The Shakerston (Deken) and Medbourne (Dekyn) families continued to flourish for a long period and their



St. Asaph's Cathedral.

descendants still survive. In the subsequent records the Shakerstone family name became *Dekyn* and *Dacone*, while the Medbourne family became Deycon, an interesting and instructive illustration of the changes in the family name.

From one of these branches of the family descended two brothers,

RICHARD and FRANCIS,

of whom FRANCIS DYACONE, or Dicoun, who died circa 1498, was the father of

Michael and Richard.

This last Richard, (son of Francis) according to the pedigree given in Burke's Landed Gentry, was the father of Walter, who died 1556, and is the ancestor of the DEACONS OF LONG CROSS HOUSE, COUNTY GLAMORGAN.

In recent years this family has acquired other estates by intermarriage and has assumed the names of Lill and Head. They retain the ancient coat of Arms of DeAkeney with an addition recognizing their Bedfordshire origin, three roses in chief.

MICHAEL DYACON, brother of the last named Richard, took holy orders and attained the degree of D. D. Several of the family about this time seem to have come into confidential relations with the Royal house, and shortly after the accession of Henry VII. Michael was presented to the Priory of Saint Hillary in the island of Jersey. Subsequently he was appointed "the KING'S CONFESSOR."

He is favorably noticed by Bernard Andreas, the poetical biographer of Henry of Richmond.

In 1495 he was consecrated BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH, which office he held until his death in 1500.

His close intimacy with the King doubtless inured to the benefit of his relations. There is no question but that at this period and for some time later there were many of the family employed in the service of the Royal house in more or less responsible positions.

15 Jan'y, 1486, Michael Diacony, Doctor of Divinity, to be Prior of the house of Seinte Helerye within the isle of Gerresey (Jersey) for term of life.

3 Jan'y P. S. No. 630 Pat. p. 2m2. (24.) From Materials for the reign of King Henry VII. *Rolls Series Vol. 60, P. 250, part 1.*

“* * * unacum felicis recordationis fratrac Michaelae Dyaconi, Assavensi episcopo Francicastro, regio quamdam confessore, &c., &c.”

From Bernardi Andrea Vita Henrici VII. Rolls series, Materials, Vol. 10, p. 33.

“Michael Dyacon, the King's Confessor (H. VII.) was consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph January 11th, 1495. He died about 1500, and was buried in the Chapel of St. Paul in the Abbey Church of Westminster, with a short inscription on his grave stone, as “Wharton” intimates, though he does not tell what it was. There is no memorial of it now existing. Camden mentions his sepulchre in these words:

“Michael Episcopus Assavensis ibidem situs est.”

From Willis, Survey of St. Asaph, 1801.

That there were other members of the family in Holy Orders, appears by the following from the Calendar of State Papers, Vol. 13, Part 2, relating to the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

WILLIAM DYCKYNS, Prior of the Monastery of the Black Friars, Northampton, surrendered the house and all its possessions in England, to John (Bishop of) London, clerk, for the King's use, 20th October, 1538.

WILLIAM DYCONS, Prior of the Monastery of Maxstocke, Warwick, surrendered to the King; pension granted, 20 marks a year, 28 Henry VIII., 1536-7,

Book of Augmentations.

RICHARD DYCONS or DECONS, brother of Francis, before mentioned, was born about 1450. He espoused the cause of Richard, Duke of York, by whom after his accession to the Crown, he was rewarded with a grant of lands as will be seen by the following sketch of the Manor of Windridge, Co. Hertford.

“Manor of Winderidge, Parish of St. Michaels, County of Hertford.

This manor at the Conquest formed part of the possessions of Geoffrey de Beck.

In Domesday Survey the record is as follows:

“Geoffry de Beck holds of the Abbot one hide and a half in Wenrige. There is land for two plows, there is one in the demesne, and five villanes with two bordars have one plow. Pasture for the cattle, pannage for three hundred hogs; worth forty shillings. When received in King Edward's time it was worth fifty. Osbern a Monk and Goding his vassal held this land.”

In the 30th year King Edward III. Joane Pyrrot was in possession. In 1478, July 3d, Henry Frowick conveyed the Manor to John Fortescue, “Squyer of the King's Body,” for the sum of three hundred marcs (equal to about \$12,000 at present value of money).

“Sir John Fortescue, of Punsborne, revolted against Richard III. and was attainted in 1484. In the end of the year he joined Richmond and landed with him at Milford Haven, 1485. On the accession of Henry VII. he was appointed Lieutenant of the Tower of Risebank in the Marches of Calais.” *Fortescue by Lord Fortescue.*

This was Sir John Fortescue of Punsborne, Co. Herts, who married a daughter of Sir Geoffry Boleyn, the great-grandfather of Queen Ann Boleyn. Sir John was High Sheriff of the County 1481-1486. He died 15 Henry VII., 1501, leaving a son John, who died 9 Henry VIII., 1518.

Both these men favored Edward IV. and were opposed to Richard III., on whose accession they had to flee to France and their estates were forfeited; consequently in

1484, 1st Richard III., the Manor of Wyndruge was in possession of the Crown and was granted by the King to Rychard Decons "for the terme of his lyfe," being described as late belonging to Sir John Fortescue. On the death of King Richard, Henry VII. restored the Manor to the Fortescues, and doubtless gave Decons an equivalent.

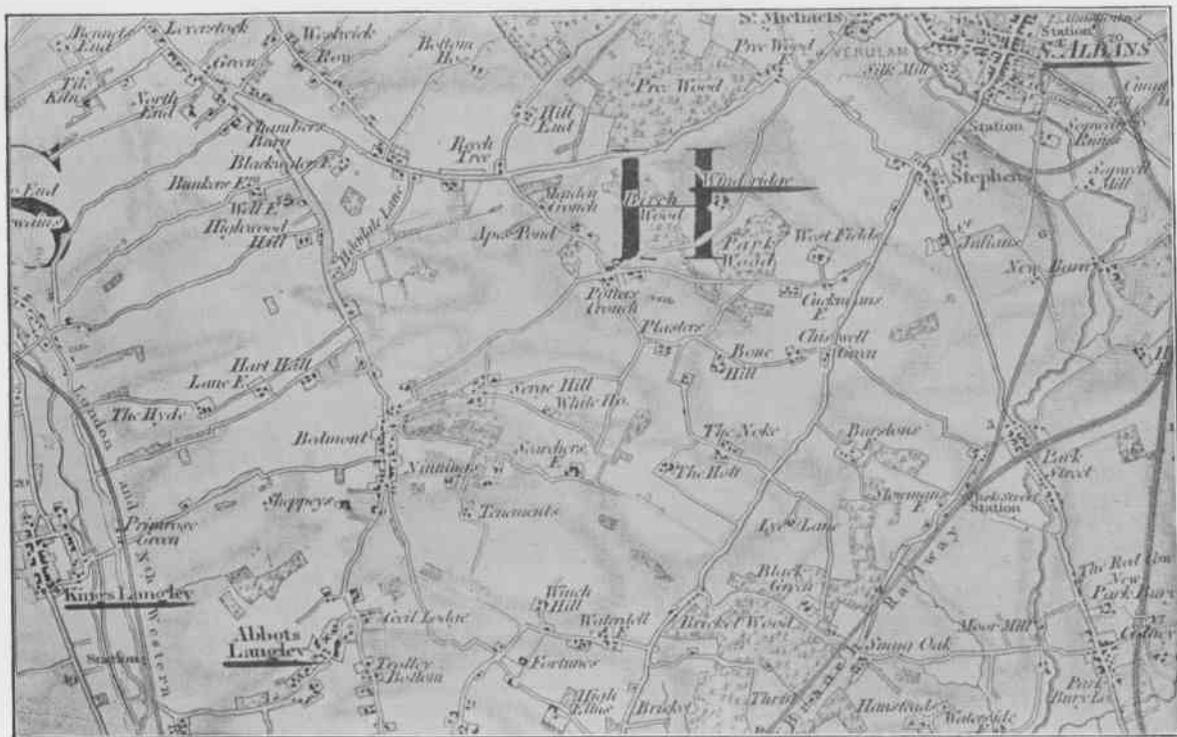
An inquisition taken in July, 1501, on the death of Sir John Fortescue, it was found that he was seized of the Manor of Wyndruge, held of the Abbot of St. Albans, yearly value ten marcs. *Clutterbuck and Cussan.*

It appears very evident, however, that Richard Decons foresaw the waning fortune of the Yorkists and finally threw in his lot with the Red Rose of Lancaster, whose colors he bore on his shield.

The accession of Henry VII., therefore, found Richard Decons prepared for the change. There is reason to believe that he was also instrumental in furthering the cause of the house of Tudor. It is not unlikely that he had already been engaged in the delicate negotiations which had taken place concerning the union of the Princess Elizabeth and Henry of Richmond.

It is evident from the position which he held in the Royal household that his profession was that of a lawyer, and the indications are that he was associated with the family of Widville rather than that of Tudor. When Henry was married, Richard Decons is found to be engaged in the service of his Queen, Elizabeth of York, in the capacity of Private Secretary.

At this period, almost the only men who could write were the lawyers and churchmen, and frequently both professions were combined. He is also styled "Clerk to the Sygnet." This title now designates the public office where the papers passed under the Great Seal are recorded, but at this early period it had a different signification, and applies to a legal office attached to the Privy Seal, and indicates that all the private papers, letters, deeds and business pertaining to and requiring the privy seal were drawn up by this officer or under his direction.



Windridge, Co. Herts.

It may be noted that Richard's nephew Michael was the King's "Confessor," and therefore cognizant of the King's most secret thoughts; Richard must himself have been almost as familiar with the correspondence and confidences of his Queen.

The mother of Elizabeth of York was a Widville, whose family estates lay in the counties of Northampton and Bedford. A previous connection of the two families whose possessions were in proximity to each other doubtless had something to do with the intimacy which at this time prevailed.

When Henry VII. was fairly seated on his throne, he began to reward those who had done him service. but the King was poor and the exchequer sadly depleted, consequently his gifts or largesses were not extravagant, nevertheless we find on record a writ passed under the King's Privy Seal, dated 1486, Michaelmass Term, 2 Henry VII., granting, among a number of others, "to Richard Decons, clerk of the signet by way of reward, VIII. l's., XIII. s., III. d., a sum equivalent in the present day to nearly a thousand dollars. *Rolls series vol. 60, pt. 2, p. 85.*

Other writs and grants are extant from which we quote as follows: 7th Feb'y 1487, Mandate to the Treasurer and Chamberlains of the Exchequer, to pay "incontynent upon the sight hereof without prest or other charges, to oure well beloved servant Richard Decons clerck of the signet with our derest wife the quene," the sum of ten marks, and xl. s. for parchment, paper, wax and ink. Given at our palace of Shene. Privy Seal.

Rolls series vol. 60 pt. 2, p. 118.

Richard is said to have died in 1496. (*Vide Burke's Landed Gentry.*) He was married and left three sons named,

RICHARD, Thomas, John,

and it may be noted that these are the names of the husband and two sons of Elizabeth Wydville, mother of the Queen.

Grafton Regis Parish, Northants.

Grafton, or the Manor of Grastone, as it is written in Domesday Book, was the freehold of Earl Godwin, in Saxon times. At the Norman Survey it was held by William, Earl of Morton, who subsequently granted it to the Abbey of Grestein in Normandy, from whom it passed to the family of De la Pole, who transferred it to Sir Richard de Widville, 1441, who married the widow of John, Duke of Bedford, and was afterwards created Earl Rivers. His daughter, Elizabeth Widville, was born at Grafton House, which is situated on the brow of the hill overlooking the village. Left a young and beautiful widow with two young sons, by the death of her first husband, Sir John Grey of Groby on the battle field of St. Albans, she accidentally met King Edward IV. in the neighboring park, who captivated by her person and manners, wooed and won her for his Queen. They were privately married at Grafton House early in the morning of the first of May, 1464, by a priest, no one being present except the boy who served at Mass, the Duchess of Bedford, and two of her gentlewomen.

The first child by this marriage was Elizabeth of York, Queen of Henry VII., born at Westminster Palace 1465. Less than three miles from Grafton House is the parish and Rectory of Stoke Bruerne, the Manor of which was held by Adam de Cortenhale in 1330, after which it became sub-divided and was in the hands of several possessors until the reign of Henry VIII., when it came into possession of the Crown.

Charles II. included this manor in the extensive grant to the first Duke of Grafton, his illegitimate son.

The Church of Stoke Bruerne, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, consists of a nave and side aisles, south porch chancel and tower containing five bells. It is in good repair, the living is a rectory in the deanery of Preston, rated in the King's Books (Henry VIII.) at £30, and now worth about £530 per annum, The Principal and fellows of Brasenose College, Oxford, purchased the avowson in 1676.

The Advowson and Rectory of Stoke Brewerne was possessed by the family of Richard Decons, Secretary to Elizabeth of York, as appears by the will of his son Richard, 1543. The proximity of the lands of the families of Wydville and Decons is thus apparent and accounts for the intimate relations which were maintained after the sudden and dazzling elevation of the Wydviles to the Throne of England.

THOMAS DYCKONS or DECONS, the second son, espoused a military career, and for several years saw active service in France. He subsequently returned to England and resided at Wylshamsted, Co. Bedford. He married Alice, daughter of Robert Spencer of Southmylls and Cople, Co. Bedford, and had a son, THOMAS, who entered Oxford and proceeded B.A. 1515. His descendants settled in the county of Hertford, where there are numerous evidences of a prosperous family of this name, who if not all directly descended from this progenitor, are without any question a branch of the same family stock. They are settled at St. Albans, Hemel-Hempstead, King's-Langley, Abbot's-Langley, Watford and neighboring parishes, and bear the same arms as Decons of Bedfordshire.

This branch of the family not only retained but increased their possessions and for three hundred years have maintained an unbroken line of descent, ranking among the gentry of Hertfordshire. Numerous memorials of the family are found in the parish churches and churchyards of this locality at the present day.

One notable instance is that of THOMAS DEACON, B.A., Trin. Coll., Oxford, born 1609 and buried in the church of St. Mary, Hemel-Hempstead, with a quaint inscription, as shown on the following page.

The slab on which this inscription was carved was originally six feet long and two feet wide. It was rudely cut in halves at a recent period when making some repairs to the church.

S^r. MARY'S CHURCH, HEMEL-HEMPSTEAD.

HEERE LYETH INTERRED
THE BODY OF THOMAS DEA
CON THE SONNE OF THOMAS
DEACON AND MARTHA HIS
WIFE OF CORNER HALL BAT
CHELOR OF ARTES AND ST
UDENT IN PHISICK WHO BY
HIS EXTRAORDINARY SPARE
BODY IN RESPECT OF BREAD
TH BEING LONG SICK OF A
CONSUMPTION AND OF HIS
AS EXTRAORDINARY HEIG
HT BEING IN PROPORTION TO
THE LENGTH OF THIS STONE
MIGHT SHEW THE DESIRE HE
HAD TO HEAVEN AND SO DEP
ARTED SEPT 28 AN. DO. 16 * *

Slab originally 6 feet by 2 feet.

This family exhibits the rather unique descent of eight generations, the eldest son of each successively being named Thomas; one of whom,

THOMAS DEACON, Esq., of Wiggen Hall, Co. Herts, the great grandson of Lieut. Col. Thomas Deacon of the Parliamentary army, was grandfather of Major General Sir CHARLES DEACON, K. C. B., who died 1842.

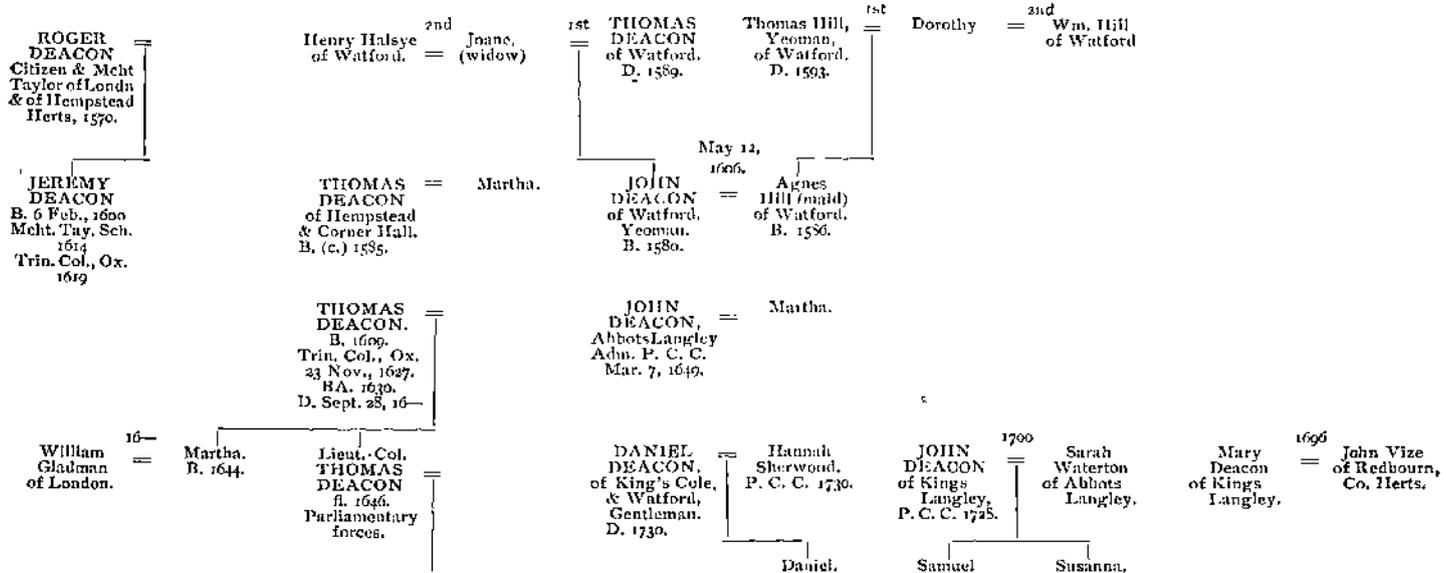
The arms, a chevron trellisse between three roses and crest a demi eagle, are carved on the family tomb in the church of St. Mary, Watford, Co. Herts.

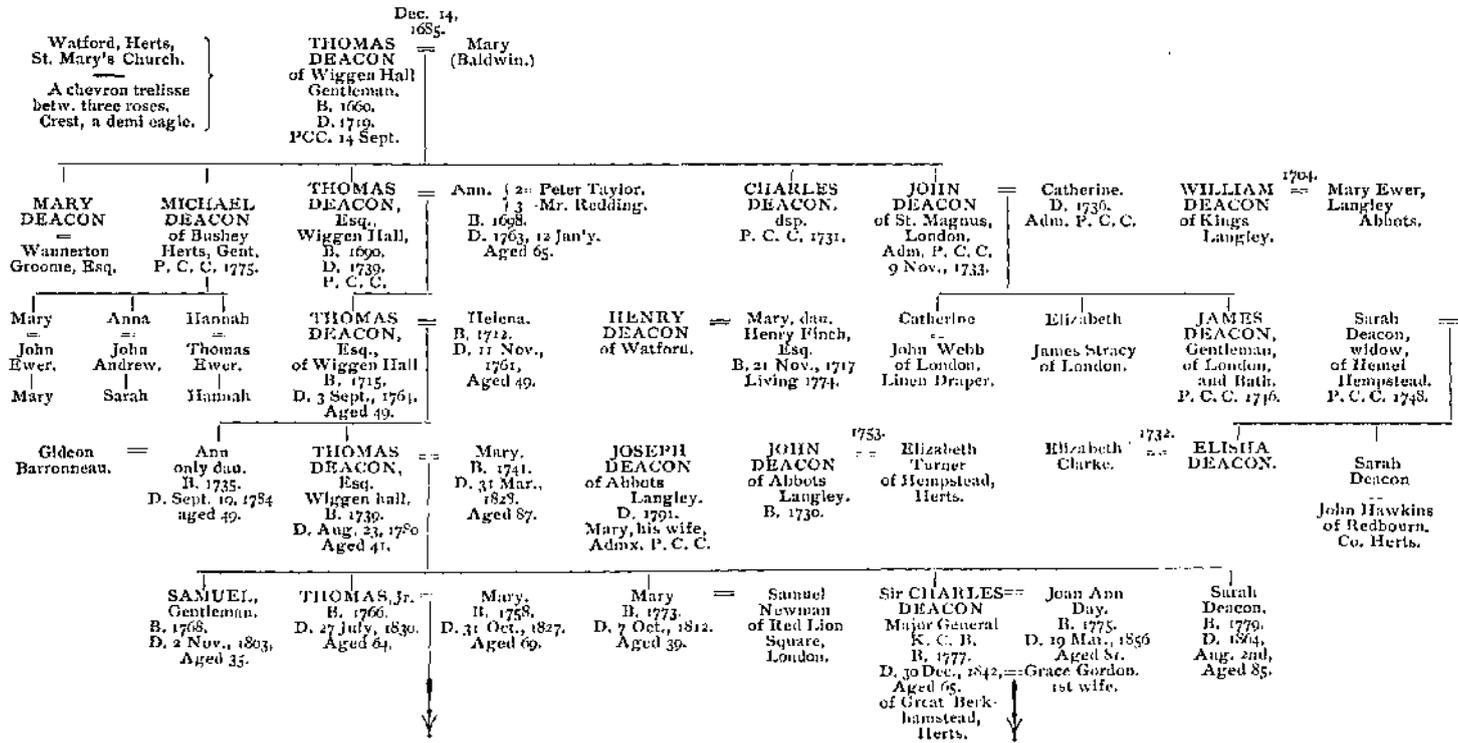
St. Mary's Ch., Watford, Herts,
at the west end of the North Aisle.

“Sacred to the memory of
Major General Sir CHARLES DEACON K. C. B.
of the Madras Army,
who departed this life on the
30th day of December 1842
aged 65 years,
after a faithful service of
fifty years, leaving
a name beloved by his friends
respected by the Government
and honored by his fellow soldiers.
This Tablet
was erected by his Widow.

Of this same family came Rear Admiral HENRY COLINS DEACON, R. N., retired 16 June, 1851, so that this branch of the family may well boast of having done its duty to the country.

DEACON OF COUNTY HERTFORD.





One of the first innovations of Henry VII. was a measure for his own safety, but veiled as if only meant to add dignity to the Crown. This was the institution of a body guard of fifty stalwart gentlemen, armed with the weapons of the day continually to attend him. Such a body of personal attendants had been instituted by Louis XI. of France, and Henry now introduced the practice into his own court, but though not popular at first, it clearly tended to exalt the Throne. These gentlemen soldiers were called Yeomen of the Guard.

“The Royal Body-Guard of the King called Yeomen of the Guard boast an antiquity earlier by a reign than that of any other organized body of troops in England. Henry VII. formally incorporated them and limited their number to fifty. Henry VIII., however, increased their number to two hundred, of which half were mounted, and no royal ceremonial was complete without the stately presence of these mighty men of war.

Edward VI. was wont to shoot with his Yeomen archers. at his death they numbered 207.

Queen Mary favored them still more and added a further two hundred and increased the splendor of their attire.

Elizabeth continued their presence in the Royal Household.

In James I. their strength was two hundred, at which it continued until the Restoration, when the number was fixed at one hundred, at which it remains. Their Captain is always a Nobleman, the Lieutenant must be a full Colonel in the Army, their Exons are Captains.”

Her Majesty's Army, by Walter Richards.

Into this body THOMAS DECONS, the second son of Secretary Decons, was enrolled when a young man. He does not, however, appear to have been satisfied to spend all his energies on parade, and we find by a letter of Henry VII., written about 1507, that Thomas was doing good service in Calais and found deserving of confidence.

“By the King H. R.

Trusty and right welbiloved, we grete you wele and for thinformacion in writing subscribed by you and our servant Thomas Decon touching Richard Knight which ye have caused to bee notified and declared unto us, we geve you our especial thankes ascertaingnyng you that we have upon knowledge of said enformacion caused the said Richard Knight to bee comitted to warde within our Towre of London.

“Wherefore we considering that he had the keping of our towre of Risebanke wol and commaund you that furthwith upon sight hereof ye do committe unto the said Thomas Decon the custodye of our said towre, and put hym into the same with noo gretter nombre of personnes than shal conveniently serve for the suer keping thereof to our moost proffit and avauntage until the tyme we shal have provided at convenient leysir a sufficient personne to have the charge and custodye of the said towre, and also til ye shal have from us by writing otherwise in commaundment,

And that ye faille not hereof as we trust you.”

Yeven under our signet at our Manor of Grenewiche the xxij: day of May.

“(addressed) To our trusty and right welbiloved counsaillor and knight for our body (body guard) Sir Gilbert Talbot, our deputie of our towne and marches of Calays.”

From letters and papers illustrative of the reigns Rich. III. and Henry VII. Rolls series 2nd vol. p. 179.*

Many years later, when Thomas was become too old for active military duty, he was rewarded with a lucrative position as Bailiff (or Steward) of crown lands, in that period an office of considerable importance.

“Grant 29 Henry VIII., 1538, Thomas Decon, yeoman of the guard, to be baliff of the Lordships and Manors of Hautloughton, Laughton and Ernesby, Leicestershire, lately belonging to William late Viscount Beaumont (attainted) vice Simon Plant deceased.”

Westminster Palace, 7 Nov.

It was a common practice of the times for a lord of the manor to seek to increase his influence by accepting the post of bailiff to any other lord. Canon Bridgeman, in his history of Wigan, gives a list of high-born persons who acted as chief-steward on the parsons manor, with three or four heads of good county families officiating as deputy stewards under him.

Playfair's Baronetage.

Among the orders of King Henry VIII., 29 May, 1515, appears the following: "William Buswood, to be clerk of the works at Calais, with the pay of as many men as Thomas Deacon lately enjoyed out of the issues of the town."

"Octo., 1533, Grant to William Lelegrave to be clerk of the works at Calais with fees, £26 (\$1500) per year in as ample a manner as Thomas Deacon, William Buswood or any others have held the same, and a messuage called Bolleyngate in the parish of St. Nicholas, Calais. Westminster. 28 Octo., 25 Henry VIII."

Ruysbank was a fortress on a tongue of land in front of the harbour of Calais, and a very important position. It was the first place taken by the French when Calais fell in 1558.

Sir Nichols Carew, the favorite of Henry VIII., Master of the Horse and Knight of the Garter, was appointed Lieutenant of the tower of Ruysbank 20 May, 1519, succeeding Sir John Peachey; next year he surrendered the office to Maurice Lord Berkeley.

He was again appointed to the same office, which he held until 1538, when Sir George Carew succeeded him with the new title of Captain of the Tower of Ruysbank. It will thus be seen how important a position this was esteemed to be. *Letters and papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII., vol. 14, part 1, 1894.*

Thomas Dykons was Juror on the Inquisition Post Mortem taken at Guildhall, London, 16th Octo., 1525, by Sir William Bailly, Knight, Lord Mayor and Escheator on the lands of Edward, Duke of Buckingham.

JOHN DICONS, brother of the foregoing, was also in the service of the Crown, as will be seen later. He resided in Stoke Goldington, County Bucks, and was the father of three children,

Robert, Nycholas, and a daughter who married Richard Yonge.

ROBERT DECONS went to London, became a member of the Grocers Company, was appointed Administrator of the Estate of his cousin Francis Decons of Lidlington, Bedfordshire, in 1552. He died a wealthy man in 1576, leaving two sons and a daughter; his will was proved P. C. C. June 9th, 1576.

NICHOLAS DECONS lived in Bedfordshire and rented lands of the dissolved Abbey of Elstowe from the Crown in 1548. In 1561 he is returned as a freeholder of lands in Colmworth (Colmarthe). See *Landsdowne MS. Brit. Mus. No. 5, folio 28*, item, "Nich'us Dyckons. Colmworthe."

In 1512 certain monies were granted to the King by levy from the laity, and trustworthy gentlemen were appointed to collect the same.

"Receipts of the first 15th and 10th granted 3 Henry VIII., Easter Term 4 & 5 Henry VIII., Nottingham, by John Dicons and Hugh Serleby £548-3-11," (about \$25,000.00) who collected and paid in this amount to the Treasury.

In 1524 Sir Thomas Lovell, K. G., bequeathed to John Decon a considerable sum of money. This Sir Thomas Lovell was an adherent of Henry VII., fought at Bosworth Field, and was created Chancellor of the Exchequer for life, an Esquire of the King's body, and afterwards knighted. He was also Treasurer of the King's and Queen's chambers, and Member of Parliament for Northamptonshire, and was elected Speaker of the House of Commons 8 Nov., 1485.

Henry VIII. continued to employ Lovell and made him Constable of the Tower. He acted as Executor for Henry VII., and filled many other important offices. He died

very rich in 1524. He was Steward and Marshall of the King's Household. The intimacy which naturally arose between John Dicons, collector of the King's levies, and Lovell, the Treasurer of the household, culminated in a friendly remembrance in the latter's will.

In 1532 Nicholas Dicons was seized of (owned) a messuage (dwelling house) in the parish of St. Peter, London, where he resided.

In 1533 JOHN DEACON was in the private service of Lady Mary (afterwards Queen Mary) as page or porter in attendance at the gate.

In 1538 THOMAS DECON is mentioned as also in the private service of Lady Mary, in some similar capacity.

There can scarcely be any doubt that these were members of this same family who seem to have been in such close contact with the Woodvilles.

In 1537 the report of the Lieutenant of Windsor Castle mentions "CHRYSTOPHER DVCCONS, Magister Sementarius."

WILLIAM DEACON, late Yeoman of the garde in garrison of Guines, (near Calais, France) now Yeoman of the King's Highness Chamber.

1554. Ordered "that his behinde salary be paid him as shal appere." Acts of the Privy Council. Record Office.

This position was one of the most confidential and trustworthy in the service of the Crown. The holder being the actual body guard or personal defender of the King in the royal chamber, he was, therefore, a man of tried and approved fidelity and courage, a soldier, not a servant.

NOTE.—It should be remembered that the SPELLING of the foregoing names varies almost with every mention in the records. The above are given as they appear in the particular items quoted, but the same persons in a subsequent notice in the records will have the name spelled quite differently.

DE AKENEY.

1066 Sir BALDWIN DE AKENEY, Knight, temp. conq. vide, Battel Abbey Roll.

* * * DE AKENEY, son and heir.

1189 WILLIAM DEKEN or D'Ekeny, Lord of Wrighton, Co. Norfolk.

Sir ROGER DE AKENEY, Kt. =
1150—1200.

dau. * * Y'kenai = King Henry II.

1200 BALDWIN DE AKENI.
Co. Herts.

William Longsword, Earl of Salisbury. (Nat'l Diet. Biog.)

1219 BALDWIN DE AKENEY.
Co. Cambridge.

RALPH DE AKENAI of Essex.

1238 ROBERTUS DE DEKENE, Co. Worcester.

1254 ALEXANDER DAKUN, Warwickshire.

JOHN DAKENEY

Continued.

1266 Sir BALDWIN DE AKENEY, Lord of Holkham and Whittleford, Co. Cambridge.

1275 THOMAS DE HAKENY of Holkham.

1287 Sir ROGER DAKENEY of Northwold = Johanna, dau. and heir Sir Wm. Daubney.
Co. Norfolk.

1296 Sir ROBERT DE EKENEY of Ekeuey, Co. Bucks =

1315 Sir ROBERT D'EKENEY of
Cainho, Bedf.

Sir THOMAS DE AKENEY of
Northwold.

HUMFUREY DAKENY of
Derbyshire.

1326 ROBERT DAKENEY of Lathbury, Co. Bucks, M. P.

1330 Sir RICHARD DE EKENEY of Ekency, Co. Bucks.

1337 JOHN DAKENEYE of Clophill = Johanna.
and Cainho, Bedford.

1354 Sir ROGER DAKENEYE, Chevalier = Johanna.
of Cainho and Clophill. Co. Bedford.

1383 JOHN DAKENEYE.

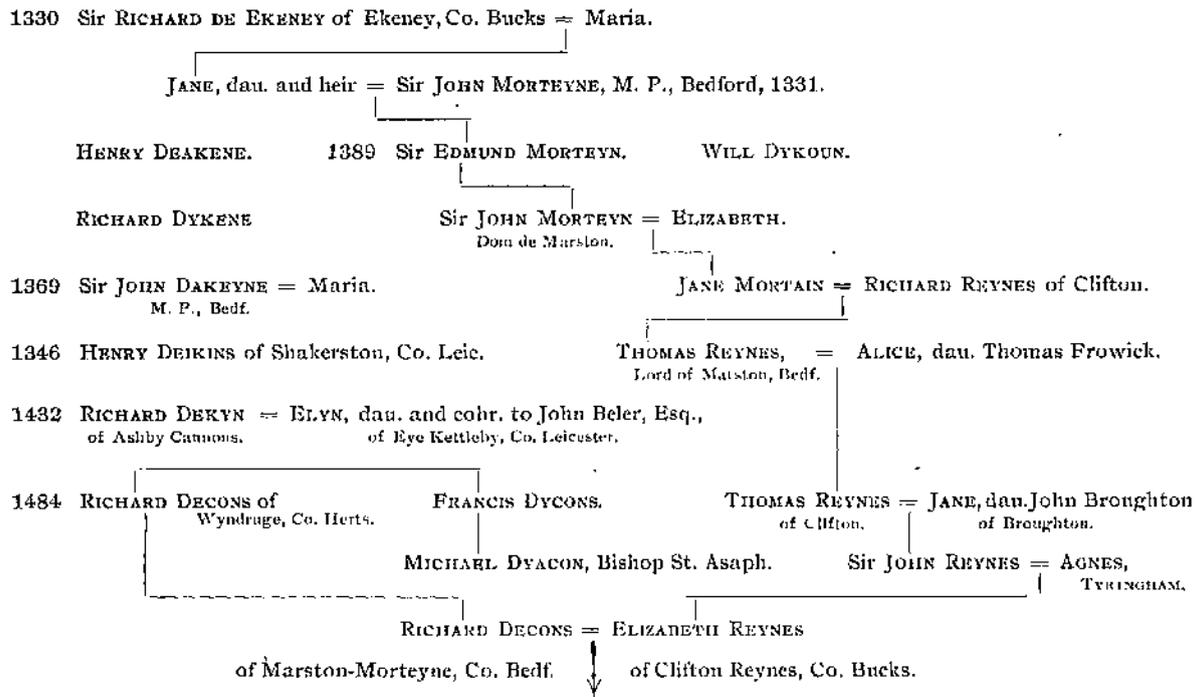
DELKYN and DAWKINS.

DAKINS.

and

DEAKIN.

Continued.





Marston-Moretaine Manor.

CHAPTER III.

RICHARD DECONS,

of

Marston-Morteyn,

Co. Bedf.s.

SECRETARY TO QUEEN KATHERINE OF ARAGON.
RECEIVER GENERAL OF THE QUEEN'S REVENUES.
SURVEYOR OF HER LANDS.
CLERK TO THE QUEEN'S SYGNET.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.
"CUSTOS BREVIUM"
OR KEEPER OF THE ROLLS AND RECORDS
of the Common Pleas.
ob. 6th June, 1521.

RICHARD DECONS,* Gentleman, was born circa 1475. In 1504 he married first, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Reynes, of Clifton Reynes, Knight, Co. Bucks, by whom he had

RICHARD,
Thomas,
Francis,
Katheryn.

Married, second, Joan Lynch, who survived him, without further issue. He died 6th June, 1521.

His will is deposited in the Registry Office, Somerset House, London, and two Inquisitions Post Mortem, one each for the Counties of Bedford and Bucks were held for his lands held capite.

He was bred to the law like his father, and succeeded him in the service of the royal family.

In 1502 he appears to have been not only Receiver General of the Queen's Revenues, but Surveyor of her lands, and attached to the office of the Queen's Signet. He was also her paymaster. In a measure he has thus become a quasi-historical character, being mentioned by Miss Strickland in her lives of the Queens of England, and a portion of his original manuscript account books having been preserved, were published verbatim and edited with many interesting and learned notes by Sir Harris Nicolas in 1830 entitled "PRIVY PURSE EXPENSES OF ELIZABETH OF YORK."

The period of his active life covered the later years of Henry VII. and the first half of Henry VIII.'s reign. It is unnecessary to refer more particularly to the numerous entries which these published accounts (which are but a fragment) disclose, further than to say that they cover the period from the 24th day of March, 1502, to March, 1503, that the total payments aggregate the sum of £3,411, 5 s., 9 d., equal to about two hundred and twenty thousand dollars in value at the present day, and that from a few personal items it appears that his duties did not confine him

*Also called Dekyns, Dykyns, Dycons, Decoun, Dicone, and Dicons.

to the Royal Court, Mr. Decons being frequently absent on personal or official business, and that he had clerks to attend to the routine of his office.

The heading of this curious old account book reads as follows:

At the beginning of the book:

HERE ENSUEN THE RECEIPTES OF RYCHARD DECONS FROM
THE XXIIIJ DAY OF MARCHE ANNO XVIJ.

The disbursements have this caption:

THIES AR THE PAYEMENTES MADE BY
RICHARD DECOUNS FROM THE XXIIIJ.
DAY OF MARCHE, ANNO XVIJ. UNTO—

The dates are the years of the King's reign.

It will be noted that in the heading of his account book the name is spelled Decouns, while the items concerning him in the body of the book all read Decons.

"July, 1502. Item the XIIJ. day of July, to John Duffyn (groom of the Queen's Chamber) for his costes riding for M. Decons whan his clerk was deed to cause him to come to the Court by the space of IJ. days, xx. d."

"March, 1503, Item, to Richard Elyot, the Quene's Atourney, x, li."

March, 1503. Item, to Richard Decons for his wages of thoffice of the Signet, x, li.

Item, to the same Richard Decons aswelle for his wages for the receipt of the Quene's money as for his costes lyeng in London aboute the Quene's matiers and busynesses and ryding for the surveyeng of the Quene's landes, xxj.li. xiiij. s. iiiij. d.

"March, 1503, Item to Richard Decons for papure, parchemyn, inke and wax lxxj. s. viij.d.

The original MSS. account book is preserved in the Public Record Office, Somerset House, London, in the Chapter House or Treasury of the Receipt of the Exchequer, and is known as Volume 210, Miscellaneous Books. It is not in the handwriting of Mr. Decons, having been written by one of his clerks in the office of the Sygnet.

Besides his private office attached to the regal Court, Mr. Decons held a public legal appointment, namely that of "Custos Brevium," or Keeper of the Rolls and Records of the Common Pleas, and had several clerks under him for making up records throughout England.

After the four Judges, this officer was the principal functionary of the Court of Common Pleas, whose duty it was to receive and keep, all writs returnable therein, and also all records of Nisi Prius, which were delivered to him by the clerks of the assize of every circuit. There were many other officers, fifteen or twenty in number, attached to this great court, the details of whose various duties will be found in the Introduction to Mr. Scargill Bird's Guide to the Public Record Office, 1896.

Queen Elizabeth of York died in February, 1503, and lies buried beside her husband in the magnificent mausoleum called Henry VII. Chapel, Westminster Abbey. After her death we lose sight of Richard Decons, who appears to have retired from the court, probably with a pension, as we find subsequently that Henry VIII. confirmed one said to have been granted previously by his father.

During this period (probably the succeeding year, 1504) Mr. Decons married, and thereafter devoted himself to his family and the aggrandisement of his fortune, in which he appears to have been quite successful.

His eldest son, RICHARD, was born 1505-6, and Thomas, the second son, in 1510. Katherine their daughter, whose age is unknown, probably came between these boys. His wife, who was hardly twenty years of age when they married, died probably about 1513 giving birth to her third son Francis, who survived, after this date Mr. Decons seems to have returned to Court, and subsequently became Secretary to Queen Katherine of Aragon. In the meantime we find that in 1513 he was granted along with William Compton and John Chamber the next presentation to the church of Myvot in the Diocese of St. Asaph.

Patent Mortlake, 22 Octo. 5 Henry VIII.

It will not be forgotten that his cousin, William Dycon, had been Bishop of St. Asaph until his death in 1500.

In 1516 Richard was granted an Annuity for life as Keeper of the Writs in the Com. Pleas £6-13-4 (\$500) confirmed as previously granted by Hy. VII.

In both the above patents he is called Richard Dycons. He was also granted sundry curious privileges connected with the Monastic system as appears by the following :

“July, 1519, Writ notifying the Abbot and Convent of Peterboro that Rich Clement and Thos Clement are admitted to a corrody, or a sustentation in the Monastery, surrendered by Richard Dicons and Thomas Goldyngton, to whom it had been granted.”

Westminster, 5 July, 2 Henry VIII.

“July, 1521, Grant to Walron de Choen in survivorship of a corrody in the Monastery of Wardon. Bedfordshire. vice Richard Dycons, deceased.”

Windsor Castle, 7 July, 13 Henry VIII.

“The Monks of Warden were famous for the Baking-pear, which gave the name to the famous Wardon-pie, so often named in old descriptions of feasts, and which so many of our historical novelists have erroneously represented as huge pasties of venison, or other meat, suited to the digestive capacities of gigantic *wardens* of feudal days.”

Knight's History of England, Vol. I., page 406.

A corrody was an allowance of meat, drink and clothing due to the King from an Abbey or other religious house for the sustenance of such of his servants as he might select to receive it. It was of the same nature as the *fid* or *fee* by which the barons held their lands of the King, and served to emphasize and perpetuate the supremacy of the Crown.

A book called “Cromwell's Remembrances,” (Thomas Cromwell, Minister of Henry VIII.) which is a declaration of “escripts” or writings in his custody, which came into his possession at various dates, contains many items mentioning Richard Decons.

For instance, it appears that the King's plate was put out into the custody of certain noblemen at various times for safety or for other reasons, and one of Richard Decon's responsibilities was to permit or sanction this. Thus mention is made as follows:

"Item. The King's Plate, (specifying articles) In the custody of Bishop of Salisbury by Mr. Decons, and so on."

"Item. Bills to be signed, Warrant directed to Ric. Decons."

"Item. Copies of Patents to Ric. Decons."

In 1520 King Henry prepared to meet Francis, King of France, at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. For this gorgeous function much preparation was made, and a great retinue was arranged to add to the glory of the occasion. Among the papers preserved in the National Archives that refer to this event is a list of those who were appointed to attend upon the Queen, Katherine of Aragon.

"FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD, 1520.

To attend upon the Queen in the following order of precedence:

Earls,
Countesses,
Baronesses,
Knights' Wives.

The Queen's Chamber is to be represented by
Richard Dycons, Secretary,
Doctor ———, Physician,
John Verney, Cupbearer,
Gentlemen Ushers,
Gentlemen Waiters,
Yeoman Ushers,
Grooms of the Chamber,
Pages, &c.

The Verneys were an ancient family of the County of Buckingham; now represented by Henry P. Verney, Lord Willoughby de Broke.



Katherine of Aragon.

Before the year closed the King granted Mr. Decons an immunity accorded only to the privileged classes.

“By the King, December, 1520. Grant to Ric. Decons of Lidlington Bedford. Exemption from serving on Juries.”

Greenwich, 26th December, 12th Henry VIII.

Some time prior to this period, the powers of the Justices of the Peace had been greatly enlarged and the office was now conferred upon some of the highest nobles and families in the land.

In 1521 Richard Decons was commissioned a Justice of the Peace for the County of Bedford. The Patent, memorandum of which follows, shows the men who were honored with this distinction. The names are given in the order as they appear in the original Patent.

February 14th, 1521. Commission of the Peace for the County of Bedford, issued to

The Cardinal of York,
Sir Robert Brudenell, Lord Chief Justice,
Sir Ric. Broke, Chief Baron Exchequer,
Sir John Seynt John of Bletshoe,
Sir George Hardy,
Sir Henry Grey of Crewkers,
Ric. Dycons of Marston-Morteync,
John Mordaunte, (afterwards Lord Mordaunt),
Geo. Ackworth of Luton,
Nich. Hardyng of Northall,
Walt Luke of Cople,
William Marshall.

Patent 12th Henry VIII.

Richard Decons was a man of large possessions and influence. He was intimately associated with some of the leading men of his day, as, Sir Richard Broke, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Sir Robert Brudenell, Chief Justice King's Bench, William Blount Lord Mountjoy, K. G., the personal friend and fellow student of Henry VIII., William Assheton, archdeacon of Winchester and York, celebrated for his benefactions to St. John's College, Cambridge.

He speculated in lands and bought and sold large properties, as appears by deeds still extant. It is very probable that he availed himself of his intimacy with needy courtiers, and his acquaintance with spendthrift noblemen, to purchase their lands, but there is no evidence that he took any undue advantage of this position. We do find one of them at least making arrangements upon his marriage for the re-purchase of his family estates.

“23 January, 1521. Articles of marriage between Earl of Kent and Mrs. Dawes of London. Sum of money to go to the redeeming of Manors, &c., purchased from him by the Lord Marquess, Ric. Dicone and William Botry.”

William Botry was a mercer of London who sold “Blake saten, blake tynselle saten, crymsyn velvet, grene satten of Bruges, and sarcenet, &c., to the Quene” in 1502-3, as appears by the Privy Purse expenses. He was a close friend of Mr. Decons and acted as administrator of his estate after his death.

He was cousin to Sir Richard Gresham and Sir John Gresham, brothers, and both Lord Mayors of London, to whom he bequeathed a large portion of his estate, and who were his executors. He left the Manor of Morehall, Co. Suffolk, to Thomas Gresham, (son of Sir Richard, afore-said) afterwards the celebrated financier to Queen Elizabeth and founder of the Royal Exchange, London.

Richard Decon's first wife, Elizabeth, (the mother of his children) was the only child by his second wife of Sir John Reynes Knight, of Clifton Reynes, Co. Bucks. An ancient knightly family long settled in that place which had frequently represented the county in Parliament.

On the death of her father, there being no direct male heir, Elizabeth Reynes became co-heir with her cousin Richard, to whom she sold her interest in the lordship of Clifton, but she carried the residue of the family estates into the family of Deacon by her marriage.

Sir John Reynes' first wife died 1481. If he married again the next year and his only daughter was born in 1484,

she would then have been just twenty years of age when she married Richard Decons in 1504.

The mother of Elizabeth Reynes was Agnes Tyringham, of Tyringham, Co. Bucks, a very ancient county family; who by a previous marriage with a daughter of the house of Pabenham are descended through the Daubeneys of Belvoir and the great house of Montfort from the Royal families of Scotland, England, and France. See further, Royal Descents, in this volume.

Agnes Tyringham's mother was Elizabeth Brudenell, sister of Sir Robert Brudenell, Lord Chief Justice, ancestor of the Earls of Cardigan.

The Manor of Clifton, Co. Bucks, passed to the family of Reynes in 1275 by the marriage of the only daughter and heir, Joan Borard of Clifton, to Thomas Reynes, and from this the place took its distinguishing appellation of Clifton Reynes.

Richard, youngest son of Sir Thomas de Reynes, who died in 1389, married an heiress of the family of Morteyne and inherited the Manor of Marston-Morteyne, Co. Bedford, which by the succession of his son Thomas to the Lordship of Clifton in 1451, united the Manors of Clifton, and Marston in the family. By this marriage the arms of Morteyne are quartered with Reynes.

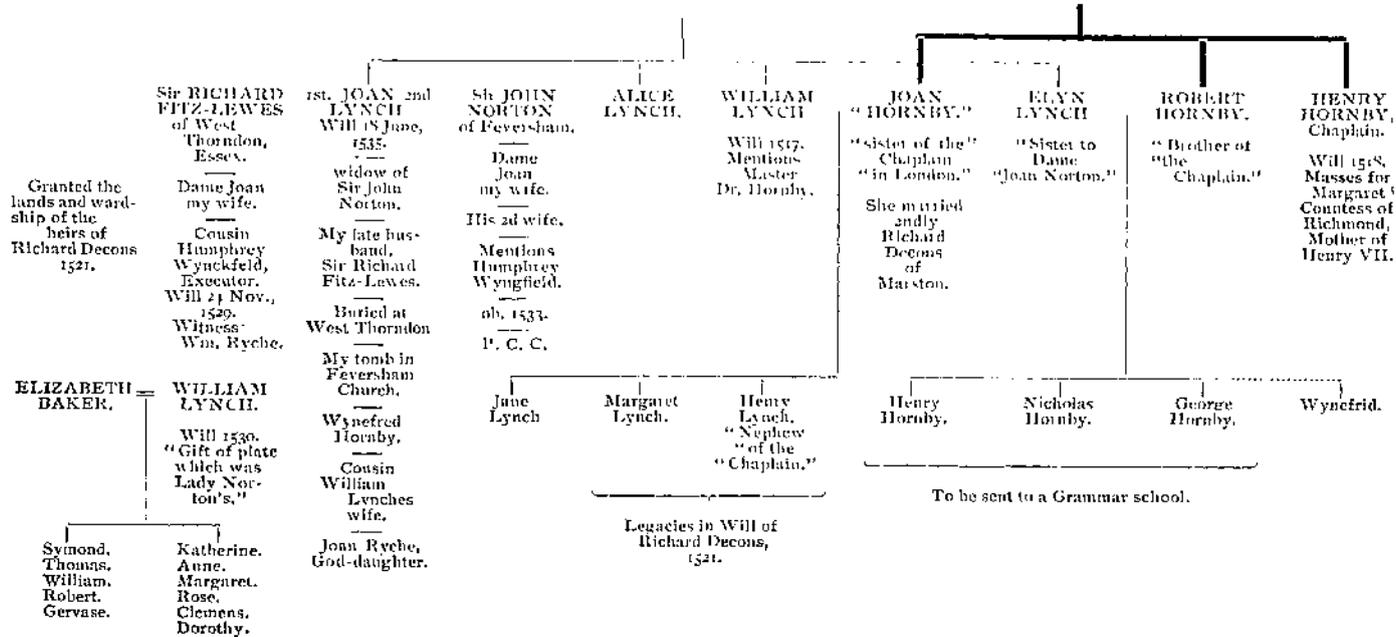
Many interesting monuments still extant in the churches of Clifton and Marston testify to the glory of the family.

INSCRIPTION.

*Hic Jarent Thomas Reynes Armiger quondam
Dominus iste ville qui obiit 3^e die November
Anno Domini M.C.C.C.L.II. et Domina Alicia uxor
ejus quai animae propicietur Deus Amen.*

Richard Decons married secondly, Joan (Hornby), the widow of William Lynch who died 1517, physician to King Henry VII. and Elizabeth of York, who is frequently mentioned in the Privy Purse Expenses of the King and Queen, between 1492 and 1502. William Lynch's sister, also named Joan, was the second wife of Sir Richard Fitz-

PEDIGREE OF LYNCH AND HORNBY.



Lewes of West Thorndon, Essex. On the death of Sir Richard in 1529, Joan married secondly, Sir John Norton of Feversham, Kent, as his third wife; she died 1535.

Sir John Norton was a celebrated soldier, whose life and services are detailed in the Nat. Dic. Biography, Vol. XLI., p. 214, but it is well to note the omission in that article of his marriage to Lady Joan (Lynch) Fitz-Lewes (indisputably proven by the wills both of Lady Fitz-Lewes Norton, and her husband, Sir John).

After the death of Doctor William Lynch, in 1517, his widow, whose maiden name was Hornby, married Richard Decons. Thus Joan (Hornby) Lynch Decons became sister-in-law in Lady Joan (Lynch) Fitz-Lewes, and thence arose the guardianship granted to Fitz-Lewes, of the heirs of Decons.

This Joan Hornby was the sister of Dr. Henry Hornby, ob. 1518, Master of Peterhouse, Dean of Wimborne, Rector of Orwell, Dean of the Chapel, Secretary and Chancellor to Margaret, Countess of Richmond, author of several devotional works. See Nat. Dic. Biography, Vol. XXVII. page 366.

At his death Mr. Decons was possessed of five great Manors, besides 1400 acres of land, pasture, arable and meadow, in the Counties of Bedford, Bucks and Hertford, with messuages and tenements in numerous towns and villages. Lands and tenements in the counties of Berkshire and Northampton, and reversions and advowsons of the churches of Clifton, Marston and Stoke Bruerne.

In 1503 he purchased a moiety of the Manor of Littlecote, Co. Bucks, and immediately thereafter he obtained the Manor of Barnes in Stewkley in same County. Later he purchased the Manor of Pyrton, Co. Hertford, which he sold again two years after in 1515. He received the Manor of Marston-Morteyne through his wife, the heiress of the ancient house of Reynes. She brought him the fine Manor House of Marston, which is still standing. This alliance gave him the right to quarter the arms of Reynes with Decon.

Following are a few of the speculations and purchases recorded in which Mr. Decons was interested:

A messuage called "Barrecan" or Barbycane, with appurtenances without Cripplegate in Parish of St. Giles, London, and premises in the County of Lincoln, purchased by the following noblemen and gentlemen (a syndicate, apparently).

Thomas, Cardinal, and Archbishop of York,
William, Archbishop of Canterbury,
Charles, Duke of Suffolk,
Henry, Earl of Wilts,
Sir Walter Devereaux de Ferrars, Knight,
Sir John Bourghchyer de Bernars, Knight,
Sir William Blount de Mountjoy, Knight,
Sir Robert Poyntz, Knight,
Sir John Pache, Knight,
Sir Henry Guildford, Knight.
Sir William Compton, Knight,
Sir Anthony Poyntz, Knight,
Sir Robert Dymmock, Knight,
Sir John Heyden, Knight,
Sir Leo Dymmock, Knight,
Sir Nicholas Carew, Knight,
Robert Bekynsale, Clerk,
RICHARD DYCONS, Esquire,
William Rudhale, Esq.,
John Sutt, Esq.
Thomas Willughby, Esq.,
Christopher Jenneye, Esq.,
Francis Browne, Esq.,
Thomas Russhe, Esq.,
Sir William Willughby, Knight,
Lord Willughby and Erysby.

Feet of Fines, Henry VIII. Hil. term Anno 10, 1519.

Littlecote or Litcot, Co. Bucks.

Nicholas Iwardby died seized of the Manor 1462, when it descended to Elizabeth, his widow, whose second husband, Thomas Selandyne, was seized 1481 at his death. It then came by marriage to her granddaughter Elizabeth, who married Thomas Pigott of Whaddon, but a third moiety seems to have passed by a division among the three daughters by fine in 1503 to Richard Dycons.

Lipscomb's Bucks.

1512, Dec. 10th, Richard Dycons of the King's Household, Gentleman, Granted to William Cornysh of the King's Chapel a tenement and lands in East Greenwich which he and others had from John Bryghtwood, late of East Greenwich, deceased.

Augmentation Office Deeds, History of Kent, Hundred of Blackheath, by Henry H. Drake, p. 277.

Manor of Stewkley, Co. Bucks. Originally there were four Manors here at Domesday.

1. Called Stukely.
2. Vaux's Manor of Stukely.
3. Manor of Littlecote.
4. Manor of the Grange of Stukely.

Vaux's Manor, so called from having been a part of the possessions of the unhappy William Lord Vaux, who was attainted in 1463. In Henry VII. the family regained possession, but in 1503 (19 H. 7th,) a fine was passed of the Manor of Barnes in Stewkley and Littlecote from Sir Richard Fowler and Elizabeth his wife to Richard Dycons.

Lipscomb's Bucks.

Half Hundred of Hitchin Herts, Manor of Pirton Dodingsells, otherwise Odingsell's Manor.

The Manor of Peritone is described in Domesday Book as of the fee of Ralph de Lemesy, in whose family it remained till 1190, thence to Hugh de Odingsells, a Fleming, by his marriage with Basillia, sister of John de Lemesci. Thence to Edward, son of John Dodynsells, Chevaler (died Tuesday next after feast of St. Andrew). He was fourteen

years of age when he inherited the Manor, afterwards married Margaret, daughter of John Cokayne of Bury Hatley, Co. Bedford. Had issue, Gerard, who possessed the Manor and died in 1493, whereupon it came to his son Edward, who in 1513 conveyed it to Richard Dycons or Decons, as follows:

Easter Term anno 4th & 5th Henry VIII. A recovery was suffered whereby Richard Decons, Esquire, William Bulstrode, Esq., Walter Luke and Henry Joye recovered against Edward Odingsells, Esq., the Manor of Peryton, called Odingsells Manor, with the appurtenances and twenty Messuages, fourteen tofts, six hundred acres of land, two hundred acres Meadow, two hundred acres pasture, one hundred acres wood, three hundred acres furze and heath, and one hundred shillings rent with the appurtenances in Peryton, Ikylford, Offeley and Ramarwyke, which recovery is exemplified on the 9 May, 5th Henry VIII., 1513.

On the 24th April, anno 5th Henry VIII., 1513, this Edward by the name of Edward Odingsells of Long Ichyngton, Co. Warwick, Esquire by his indenture of bargain and sale, in consideration of £200 paid down and £80 to be paid at the feast of Ascension conveyed the Manor of Pyreton, Ickylford, Offeley and Ramarswyke to Richard Decons, Esquire, his heirs and assigns forever.

And 4th February, 5th Henry VIII., Edward Belknapp and others released to Richard Dicons the said Manor of Pyrton, &c., &c., which they had of the grant of Edward Odingsells by fine levied.

On 4th July, 1515, Richard Dycons by his deed, in consideration of £500, conveyed the Manor of Piriton, als Pirton, als Odynsells Manor, with appurtenances in Pyrton, Ikylford, Offeley and Ramerswike to Roger Lupton, Provost of the College of St. Mary, Eton near Windsor, who gave it to the College. The Manor remained vested in the provosts of Eton College until 15th February, 1800, when it was purchased by Penelope, widow of Sir Charles

Farnaby Radcliffe, from whom it descended to Fred'k Peter Delme Radcliffe of the Priory, Hitchin, Esquire.

One mile and a half southwest of Pirton, and about two and a half miles eastward from Sharpenhoe, on the border line, and forming part of the boundary between the counties of Hertford and Bedfordshire, is DEACON HILL, an elevation whose name serves to emphasize the prominence of this family in these counties. It appears on the Government Ordnance Survey Maps and is so designated.

ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF RICHARD DECONS, ESQUIRE.

To his eldest Son Richard, aged 17 years.

Manor of Stukeley,	Feoffees,—
held of Nicholas Vaux, Kt.	Richard Broke, Kt.
3 Messuages,	Hugh Assheton, Clerk.
200 acres of land } in Sulbury,	Nichlas Couper, Clerk.
100 " pasture, }	John Mundy, Alderman of
held of Rich Lovett, gent.	London.
Co. Bucks.	Will'm Jenkys of London.

Manor of Norwode, lately	} William Blount, Kt.	
purchased of Richard, Earl		} Robert Cheyny.
Kent, held of the King.		} Wm. Bolstrode.

30 Acres of Meadow,	} William Blount, Kt.,	
800 " of pasture in Ryge-		} Robert Cheyny.
mond, called "Brockborowe		} Wm. Rudhale.

Park," Co. Bedford.

Lands and tenements, in the Towns of Rydyng,
Southampton, Salisbury,
Alconyng, Strete,
also lands and tenements and quit rents in Whitwaltham,
Lawrenswaltham, Shottesbroke,
Bynfield, Okyngham,
lands and rents in
Abbotts Langley and
Town of St. Albans.

To second son Thomas, aged 12 years.
Manor of Marston Morteyne, Feoffees.
Advowson of the church Rob't Brudenell, Kt.,
there, held of Richard, Earl Chief Justice.
of Kent, of the Barony of John St. John, Kt.
Caynho. Henry Grey, Kt.

Manor of Lythington, late
Goldington's Manor, called Thomas Reynes, Clerk.
the "Halle," held of the John Cheyne, Esq.
Abbess of Berkyng.

To youngest son Francis, aged 8 years.
Manor of Stanbrigge (near
Leighton Buzzard).
2 Messuages, } Held of Sybilla Chamber-
200 acres of land, } layne, widow, as of her
40 acres Meadow, } Manor of Tyllesworth.

2 Messuages.
40 Acres of land } in Walter Luke, Esq.
and pasture, } Edworth, Henry Joy.

Message in "Lyttyll Brykhyll" Richard Verney Jr., Kt.
called "The George," held John Verney, Esq.
of Anna Spencer, widow.

Lands and tenements in
Layton Buzzard, Co. Bucks.
Annuity of £4. 10 out of the
Manor of Clifton Reynes, Co. Bucks.
Reversion of the moiety of the same Manor,
Advowson of the church there.

To daughter Katheryn,
on her marriage £200 (\$12,000.00).

To Margaret Lynche, on her marriage, 100 marcs.

To Henry Lynch, £26.-12.-4.

These were the children of his second wife, Jane, by her
first husband, Dr. William Lynch.



The George Inn, Little Brickhill.

Ridgemount, referred to in the preceding extracts, is a large village distant about two and a half miles from Woburn, situated on a lofty hill. Below the town a castle formerly stood, belonging to the Barons of Wahull, demolished in 1270.

There are three Manors here, the largest Brogborough, which was once the property of Richard Decons, now belongs to the Duke of Bedford.

The Church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a nave, north aisle and chancel. Some of the pillars are octagonal, and others shafted. The steeple of timber contains four bells.

Lidlington is an extremely picturesque village about five miles from Woburn. The Manor formerly belonged to the Abbey of Barking. Richard Decons lived here in 1520. It is now owned by the Duke of Bedford. From the hills in this parish the prospect is exquisitely beautiful. The Church dedicated to All Saints has been lately rebuilt.

Marston-Mortaine, two miles from Lidlington, was formerly a market town having a market on Tuesday and a fair at Lady Day granted by Edward II. The church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin is a fine Gothic structure, consisting of a nave and two side aisles, separated by twelve pointed arches springing from clustered columns, a chancel, and a chapel on the south side. The tower, which is very massive, contains five large bells and is twenty yards distant from the north aisle. It is evident the church formerly exceeded its present limits.

“Little Brickhill was the “assize town” of Buckinghamshire for a considerable portion of the 17th century, (a fact but little known) having been situated on the great road from London at that time, the old Coventry and Shrewsbury. The market then was in existence as a fair (as now). The railway here has done “a great wrong” as some folks think, the occupations gone, Twelve Inns, including two Posting ones, and the celebrated “George,” are reduced to seven, with no posting, &c., &c.

Gentleman's Mag., 1849, Part I., p. 41-43.

Little Brickhill, in Co. Bucks, is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Woburn, at present but a moderate village, but was formerly a town of considerable size and consequence, the assizes for the county being held here from a very early period, the last time they were held being in 1638. Situated on the road to Birmingham, Shrewsbury and Chester, it had very considerable traffic and many Inns, including "The George."

Manning's Woburn Abbey and Vicinity.

It may be interesting further to note some of the provisions of the Will other than the disposition of the Estate.

"In Dei nomine, Amen. forasmoch as this world is transitory and no man lyving in the same hath any certayntie of his lif. Therfor I Richard Dicons Esquier beynge in hoolle mynde, lauded be god, make my testament and last will in fourne follouyng,

ffirst I bequeathe my soule to almyghty god and to our Lady saint mary and to all the holy Company of Heven, my body to be buryed in the Chapell of Saint— w'tin the church of Marston if I fortune to deceas within xxx. Miles of the same. And if I fortune to deceas in London or within xii. miles of Barkyng, then I will my body to be buried within the said monastery there.

And incontenently after my deceas I will that myne Executours doo cause a thousand masses to be said for me and a preste contenually to syng for me duryng the space of xx. yeres. Also I bequethe to thabbesse of Barkyng a gold Ryng with a Saphur and xiii. s. iiii. d. in money. And to every Lady Kepyng household vi. s. viii. d., and to every Lady Kepyng no household iii. s. iiii. d. Also to the prioressc of the Menoressc in London vi. s. viii. d., and to every Lady there iii. s. iiii. d., they to kepe a solempne dirige and masse of Requiem. Also to the ffrieris of Bedford xx. s. for ij. trentalle, Also to the ffrieris of Dunstable xx. s. for ij. tryntalle, Also to the priores and Ladies of the priory besydes Saint Albones xx. s., and to the ii. ancessis there eyther of theym iii. s. iiii. d., Also to the gray ffrieris in London xx. s. for ij. tryntalle."

NOTE.—A trentall was 30 Masses rehearsed for 30 days consecutively.

Barking was the seat of the oldest and richest Benedictine Nunnery in England dating, it is said, from 670 A.D. The Abbess was one of four who were baronesses in right of their position, and she being possessed of thirteen knights' fees and a half, held her lands of the king by a baronage, furnished her quota of men at arms and had precedence over other Abbesses. Of Barking Abbey, which was surrendered to Henry VIII., scarcely a relic remains, beyond an ancient gateway called the Chapel of the Holy Rood. It is eight miles from London.

The church of All Hallows Barking, Tower Street, London, was founded by the Abbey and still exists; it contains some fine old brasses, and altar tombs of great antiquity.

King Richard III. issued a license to the Convent of the Holy Trinity, London, to grant to the Abbess of Barking an annuity of £20-0-0, which was a large sum in those days, to assist her in her efforts to reclaim the lands drowned by a breach of the river banks, which flooded the low lying lands belonging to the Abbey.

Wheatley's Greater London, Vol. I., p. 518.

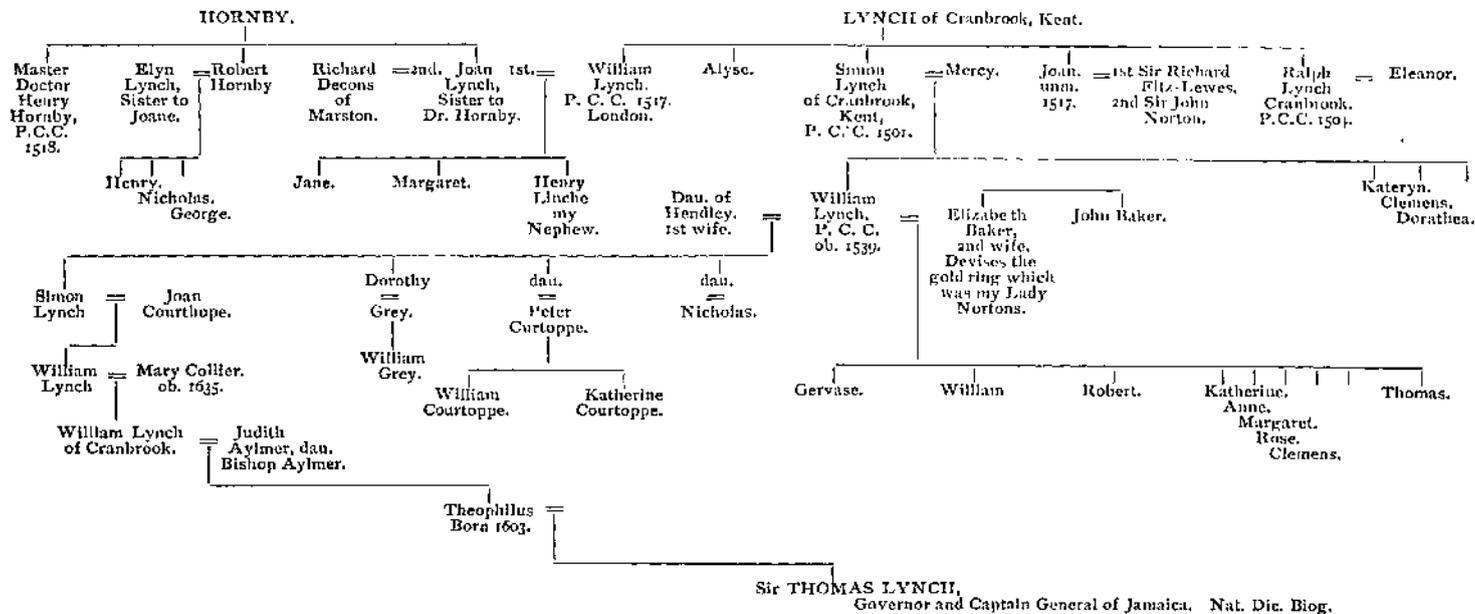
Of all the once magnificent buildings of the Abbey nothing now remains except a solitary embattled gateway, once known as the Chapel of the Holy Rood, Loft att Gate, but now commonly called the Fire Bell Gate, from a tradition that it contained the bell rung for curfew and for alarms of fire. *Ibid page 521.*

An item concerning the widow Joan is found in a report made in 1522 of the debts owing by the Abbey of St. Albans. In a very lengthy list which covers the various departments of the great establishment, under the heading "Due by the Kitchen," appears:

To the widow of Ric. Dykyns £30-0-0 (equal to about £400 now, or \$2,000) for vegetables supplied.

It is hoped that the good lady was honestly paid.

PEDIGREE OF LYNCH.



The Visitations of the Heralds show only the descent of the two younger sons, viz ; Thomas and Francis.

But it must be borne in mind that it was the practice of the Heralds to omit all reference to other children than those in whom the descent they were recording, continued.

This well known fact is one of the greatest disparagements to the usefulness of these otherwise valuable documents. The descent of the eldest son Richard, of Co. Bedford, is taken from Wills, Inquisitions, and other records. The families of the younger sons will be first given, followed by Richard, their elder brother.

After the death of Richard Dycons of Marston, in 1521, holding lands in capite, his heir by the feudal law became the ward of the King, who was therefore entitled to the custody of all the lands, profits and rents, as well as the body of the infant, to whom he was bound to give a suitable education, and had authority as guardian to dispose of him or her in marriage to a proper person without inequality of rank. Of course as the King was unable to do all this personally for so many in the realm, he sold or granted the wardship to some proper officer to act for him.

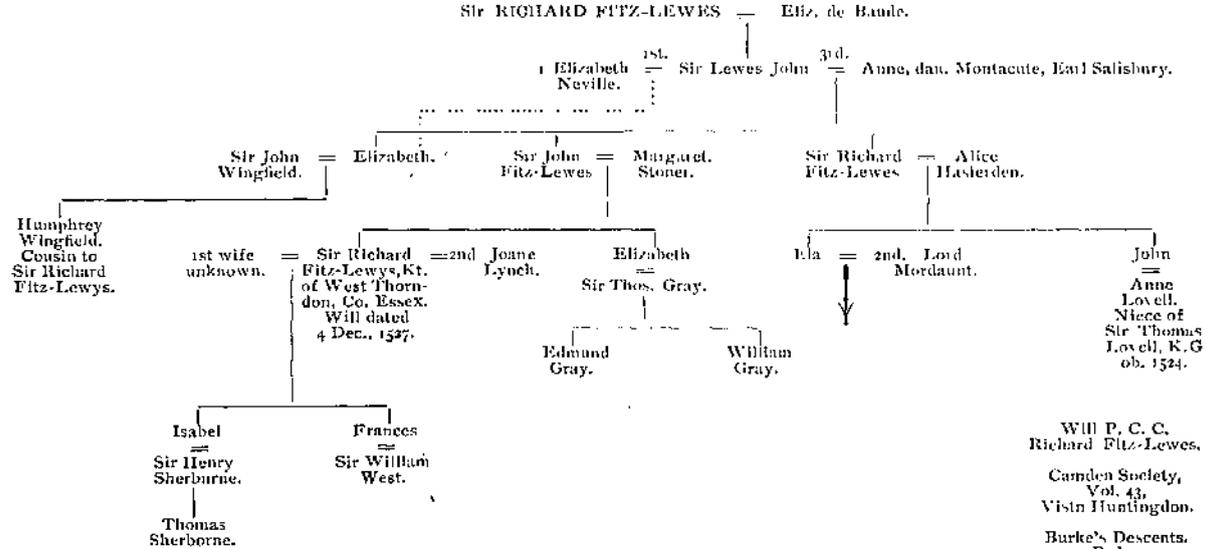
"In June, 1523, a warrant was issued to Sir Richard Fitzlowys, Knight for the body, and Joan his wife, granting to them the custody of the possessions of Ric. Dycons in counties of Bedford and Buckingham, and the wardship of Richard his son and heir. Greenwich, 27 May, 15 Henry VIII."

Sir Richard Fitz-Lewis (or Fitzlowys) Knight, of West Thornton, Co. Essex, married Jane Lynch (sister-in-law to the widow Decons). Sir Richard's will was proved at Lambeth 24th November, 1529. His widow then married Sir John Norton, whom she survived, and died in June 1535.

In Kett's rebellion, 1549, the demands of the ringleaders included that guardians be prohibited from selling the estates of their wards, and from controlling their marriages.

See Annals of the British Peasantry, page 104, by R. M. Garnier, 1895.

PEDIGREE OF FITZ-LEWES.



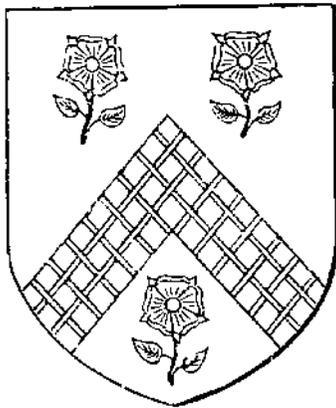
An illustration of the wrong done to wards is seen in the following extract from *Playfair's Baronetage, Vol I., p. 80.*

“Sir John Mordaunt married Ela, daughter of Sir Richard Fitz-Lewis, Knight, for whose wardship, she being a great heiress, and having an estate worth five hundred marks a year, Sir John gave thirteen hundred marks to King Henry VII.”

This Sir John was made a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Queen Anne Boleyn, and became Lord Mordaunt on his father's death, in 1562.

Sir John Fitz-Lewis, brother to Ela before mentioned, married Alice, or Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Lovell, brother of Sir Thomas Lovell, K. G., who left him £100 (c. li.) “towards finding his children to school and marriage of them.”

Becons.



MARSTON-MORTEYNE,
Co. BEDFORD.

CHAPTER IV.

DECONS,
of
Marston-Morteyn,
Co. Bedford.

Arms of
DECONS,
DYCKONS or DICONE.
Marston-Morteyne,
Bedfordshire.

Or., a chevron gules, fretty of the field,
between three roses azure, slipped vert.
Burke's Armory also calls this name Dicom
(see the Lincolnshire family).

THOMAS DECONS, the second son, was a ward, (under age) in 1521, on the death of his father. He was born in 1510 and inherited the Estates of Marston-Morteyne.

In 1524, during his minority, the living of Marston became vacant and was filled by the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, his guardian.

When he became of age he filled various offices in the county appropriate to his position. Among others he was appointed Escheator for the counties of Buckingham and Bedford.

The Escheator is an officer whose duty it is to take possession for the King of all lands that by the feudal law fall to the Crown by reason of failure of proper heirs. An interesting letter of his to Thomas Cromwell, Minister of Henry VIII., still extant among the state records, may be summarized as follows: "dated Marston, 6th^r Sept., 1538. Has received Cromwell's letters with the minutes of the office concerning Woburn lands and tenements in Bucks to be found for the King. Has charged a jury and fixed a day for them. Divers persons who claim to have certain of the said land for a term of years have asked him to have the same found by the office. Asks Cromwell's pleasure about them, and also about annuities and fees."

Calendar State Papers, Vol. XIII., pt. 2.

These are some of the very lands which came to the family of the present Dukes of Bedford.

Thomas married Jane Frances, daughter of Thomas Chicheley, of Wimple, Co. Cambridge, descended from the family of Archbishop Chicheley, the founder of All Souls College, Oxford.

His children were,

THOMAS, who d. s. p.,

Elizabeth, eldest daughter,

Frances, married Thomas Hynton of Eversholt,
in Co. Bedford,

Alice, married Richard Chibnall of Astwood,
Esq., son of Sir John Chibnall, Knight,
of Astwood, in Co. Bucks.

Henry Chicheley, 1362–1443, an English scholar and statesman, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury 1414–1443, founded “All Souls College,” Oxford, in 1437, and all his descendants are held to be entitled to “Fellowship” in said College, according to the law of “Founder’s Kin.” Thomas Chichley, whose daughter Frances married Thomas Decons of Marston aforesaid, was a direct descendant of this family in the fourth generation.

The kindred of many founders or benefactors of Colleges were entitled to Fellowships or other advantages, which rendered the knowledge or proof of such relationship important, the pedigrees of these persons are, therefore, preserved amongst the records of the respective Colleges.

The Heralds College, the Lambeth Library, and other institutions contain many MS. Volumes of these “Founder’s Kin.” Extensive collections showing the kindred of Wykeham, founder of New College, Oxford, and of Sir Tho’s White of St. John’s College, Oxford, are preserved. The pedigrees of the families of kin to Archbishop Chicheley, founder of All Souls College, Oxford, and as such entitled to fellowships in that College, were published 1765.

In 1549 Thomas Decons disposed of some of his estate as appears by the following record :

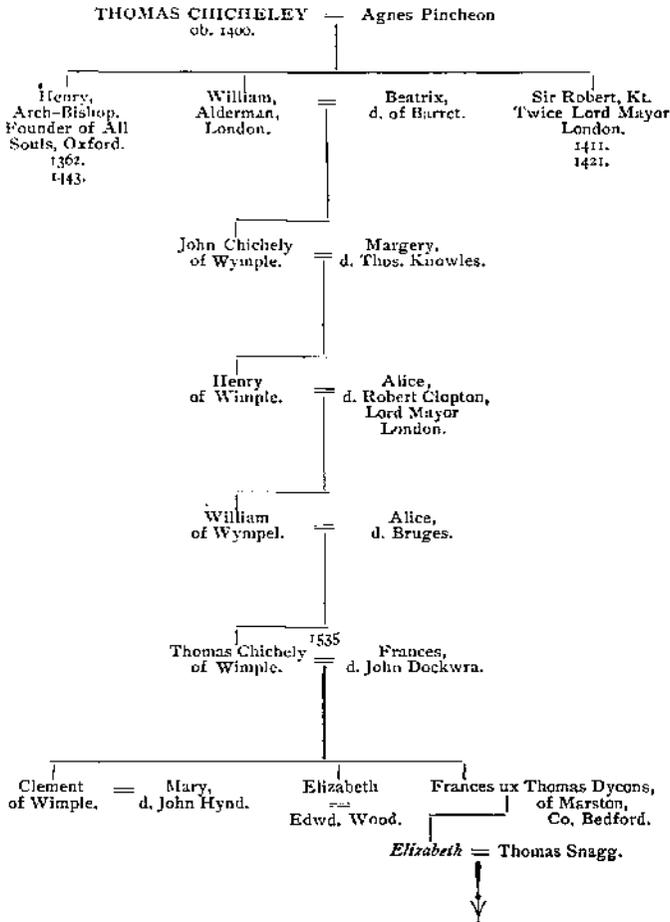
Indenture made 9 July, 3 Edw. VI., between Thomas Decons of Marston Morteyne, in Co. Bedford, Esq., of the one part, and Robert Odell of Marston Morteyn, yeoman, of the other part, Witnesses that the said Thomas, for the sum of £120-0-0 paid him by the said Robert, has sold to the said Robert his two closes called Holme close and Prynces close, containing 60 acres of land lying in Marston Morteyn, etc.

On the 10th day of July in the year aforesaid, the said Thomas Decons came to Westminster and acknowledged the said indenture. *Close Roll, 3 Edw. VI., pt. 5.*

Money at that date being worth about twelve times what it is today, this shows land to have been valued at £24-0-0, or \$120 per acre.

Visitation of Cambridge. Harleian Society, 1897.

CHICHELEY.



This family was one of the wealthiest in Cambridgeshire. Many of its members served the office of High Sheriff, while "Wimple" was one of the finest seats in the eastern counties.

Thomas Decons, Escheator, died before 1555, leaving his son a ward to the King; indicating that he held his lands of the Crown.

THOMAS DECONS, Junior, who now succeeded to the Manor of Marston, appears not to have attained his majority, he was a minor still in 1558, when Queen Elizabeth exercised wardship over his estates, and he was dead early in 1560 when his eldest sister was appointed administratrix.

It also appears that he had a younger brother named FRANCIS, who was recognized as his heir, though not usually mentioned in the records, who was living in 1561 but who must have died same year, as the estates were divided between the three daughters aforementioned. Thus early passed away the ancient Manor of Marston from the Deacon name.

Administration was granted to Elizabeth as follows :

“Prerogative Court of Canterbury—on the 13th day of February, 1560, there issued a commission to Elizabeth Dicons, alias Snage, wife of Thomas Snagge, and sister to Thomas Dicons of Marston, deceased, to administer the goods and chattels, etc., of the said deceased.”

ELIZABETH DECONS married, before 1560, Thomas Snagg, son of Thomas Snagg, Esquire, of Lechworth, Co. Hertford.

He was a “Sergeant” or Lawyer of the highest rank, and was made Judge of the Queen’s Court in Ireland. This office he resigned in 1580.

In 1571 and again in 1588, he was Burgess, or M. P., for the City of Bedford, and was chosen

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

and presented to Queen Elizabeth 12th November, 1588. He was a bencher and a double reader of Gray’s Inn, London, and his Arms are still emblazoned in the large semicircular window of the Hall of that Society. He died 1592–1593, and is buried at Marston-Morteyne.

where is a handsome canopied monument to his memory, with recumbent effigies in marble of himself and his wife Elizabeth, who inherited the Manor house of Marston, which henceforth became the chief residence of the Snagg family.

In the parish church of Marston are several other fine monuments and brasses to various members of the family, who in after years represented the City and County in Parliament, and held office as High Sheriffs in 1665, 1678, 1705.

Brasses in Marston-Morteyne Church, s. side of chancel.

“Pray for the soul of Mary Lentton, late wyfe of THOMAS REYNES. sqvery, which died the XXVIII. day of Dec'r in ye year of our Lord MCVVJ., upon whose sovlē Jesu have mercy.

“Sub hoc marmore sepulti jacent THOMAS SNAGG, Armiger et ANNA uxor ejus, qui THOMAS fuit filius primogenitus Thomae Snagg militis, et haeres legitimus Avi sui Thomas Snagg Armigeri Servientis ad Legem, et quae Anna fuit filia primogenita Edmundi Mordant de Oakeley in hoc comitatu Armigeri. Praedictus Thomas ex hac vita discessit vicesimo die Aprilis Anno Dni, 1642, et Anna Obiit Januarii septimo Anno Dni, 1657.

In quorum charissimorum parentum memoriam Thomas Snagg Armiger filius natu maximus.”

There are many others, details of which may be found in various county histories and antiquarian works treating of monuments.

Elizabeth Decons Snagg's old Manor House at Marston is still existing and it is said that some legends of Lady Snagg still linger among the oldest inhabitants of the neighborhood.

Notes and Queries.

The six inch Government Survey Map issued in 1892 exhibits the old Manor house, surrounded by its Moat, still filled with water and crossed by a bridge from the highway. Accurate measurements show this Moat to be three hundred and fifty feet long on two sides of a rec-



Church of St. Mary. Marston-Moretaine.

tangle, by three hundred feet on the other two sides, and the width of the trench between fifty and sixty feet. Within this enclosure, now adorned with numerous trees of ancient growth, stands the Manor House. Of course the Moat was a means of defense in lawless days, and for this reason closely surrounded the house; beyond and outside the Moat lay the home park, with such adornments as the means of the proprietor permitted, and beyond that were the manor lands and farms.

One writer says, "Judge Snagg appears to have been troubled with a graceless son who would seem to have indulged in the raising of money on his reversionary expectancy on the death of his father, and for this and other sins he was practically disinherited, but provision was left for his repentance, though whether he ever amended his ways is not known."

Notwithstanding the above, the following notices of him do not show such an unworthy record.

Sir THOMAS SNAGG, Knt., son of Thomas Snagg and Elizabeth Decons, was born 1563. He entered Parliament and sat for the Co. of Bedford 1588. Was Knighted by King James I. and VI. on his journey from Edinboro to London at Sir John Fortescue's house June, 1603, and served as High Sheriff of his county 1608.

He died 2 Feb'y, 1626, and was buried at Marston.

One "Snagg" wrote a book contesting King James I.'s title to the throne of England. Sir Walter Raleigh had once borrowed this work from Lord Burghley's library. This was one of the charges brought against Raleigh, which caused his being sent a prisoner to the Tower for suspected disaffection to King James.

Nat. Dic. Biog., Vol. 47, 196.

In the early part of the 18th century, 1705-1726, the Snagg family sold the estate of Marston and disappeared from the County of Bedford. It is said that the direct descendants of this family are settled and living in the city of Dublin, Ireland at the present time.

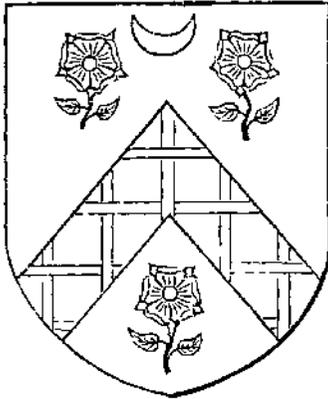
The following Transcripts are from the records of "The Institutions to Benefices." *Fasti Sacri Bedfordienses.*

1524. Dom. Wm. Marschall was presented to the living of Marston by Thomas Docaray, Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, as Guardian of Thomas Decons, s. & heir of Richard Decons, Esq., and Elezabeth his wife deceased, and of the Manor and advowson of Marston, during the minority of the said Thomas Decons, by grant from Richard, late Earl of Kent.

1558 George Parker, clerk, was presented by Q. Elizabeth by reason of the minority of Thomas Dicons.

1561 Silvester Taverner, clerk, was presented by Q. Elizabeth by reason of the minority of Francis Decons.

Decons.

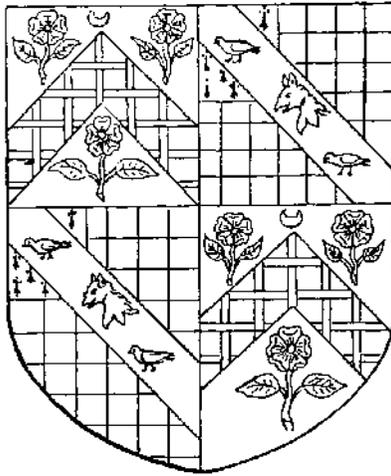


WARWICKSHIRE.

Argent—a chevron gules treille or.
between 3 roses slipped ppr.
in chief a crescent for difference.

The above sketch is a copy of the engraving given in the Visitation of Warwickshire, Harleian Society, Vol. 12. But it is undoubtedly erroneous, as this chevron is not *trellised* but *portcullised*, the correct drawing will be found on a later page, and shows but slight variation from the Bedfordshire family.

Decons.



WASPINGTON,
CO. WARWICK.

CHAPTER V.

DECONS

of

Warwickshire.

Arms of
DECONS OR DEACONS,
of Wasperton, Co. Warwick.

Confirmed by deputies of Camden, Clarencieux,
to Robert Deacons of that place.

(*Deacon.*) Quarterly 1st and 4th. Argent, a chevron
gules treille or., betw. three roses slipped, proper.

(*Reynes.*) 2nd and 3rd. Chequy or and gules. A canton
ermine, over all on a bend azure, a griffin's head erased of
the first between two birds argent.

Crest, A crane's head erased with wings expanded,
sable, eared argent, crested gules.

Burke's General Armory, Ed. 1878.

FRANCIS, the third son of Richard, was the ancestor of the Deacons of Warwickshire, whose descendants are living at the present day in that County. He was born in 1513, and when he arrived at manhood made his residence at Lidlington, Co. Bedford. He married (1542) Dorothy, the daughter and co-heiress of Henry Murcote, Esq., of Cheswick, in Co. Middlesex, and died 1552, leaving two sons and two daughters, all of whom were under age. Their near relative, Robert Deacons of London, grocer, was appointed guardian and administrator. This gentleman died in 1576 and next year the estate was administered by the eldest son,

THOMAS DEACONS, who settled at Napton, in the Co. Warwick, and married Eleanor, daughter of William Spicer, Esq., of Cheswick, of the Co. Middlesex, and City of Leicester. They had a large family, named,

ROBERT,
Margaret,
Mary,
Persis,
Martha,
William,
Hannah,

all of whom married and had children.

Thomas died in 1616 and left a will which is recorded in London. He was born about 1545 and lived to a ripe old age. His eldest son,

ROBERT DEACONS, of Wasperton and Napton, Co. Warwick, born 1577, entered Magdalen College, Oxford, 1594. He received a special confirmation of Arms from the Herald's College quartering the arms of Reynes, and married, about 1604, Ann Combe, the niece of John Combe of Stratford, the friend of Shakespeare. This man Combe, who had a reputation (whether deserved or not) for usury, died 10th July, 1614, and was buried in the parish church of Stratford with much ceremony. Some while before his death he told Shakespeare, according to a well

known story, that he believed the poet intended to write his epitaph, and begged him to tell him what he would say. Shakespeare replied with four lines, the sharpness of whose satire on Combe's ten per cent. loans is said to have brought the friendship to a close.

“Ten in a hundred lies here ingraved,
'Tis a hundred to ten his soul is not saved.
If a man ask, Who lies in this tomb?
Oh, oh, quoth the devil, 'tis my John a Combe.”

There are various versions of this legendary epitaph. The one just given is that most generally quoted. The following, however, has nearly as good authority, although probably neither are genuine.

“Ten in a hundred the divil allowes,
But Combes will have twelve he swears and he vows.
If any one ask who lies in this tomb,
Hoh quoth the devil 'tis my John a Comb.”

Shakespeare and his times by Nathan Drake, Paris, 1838.

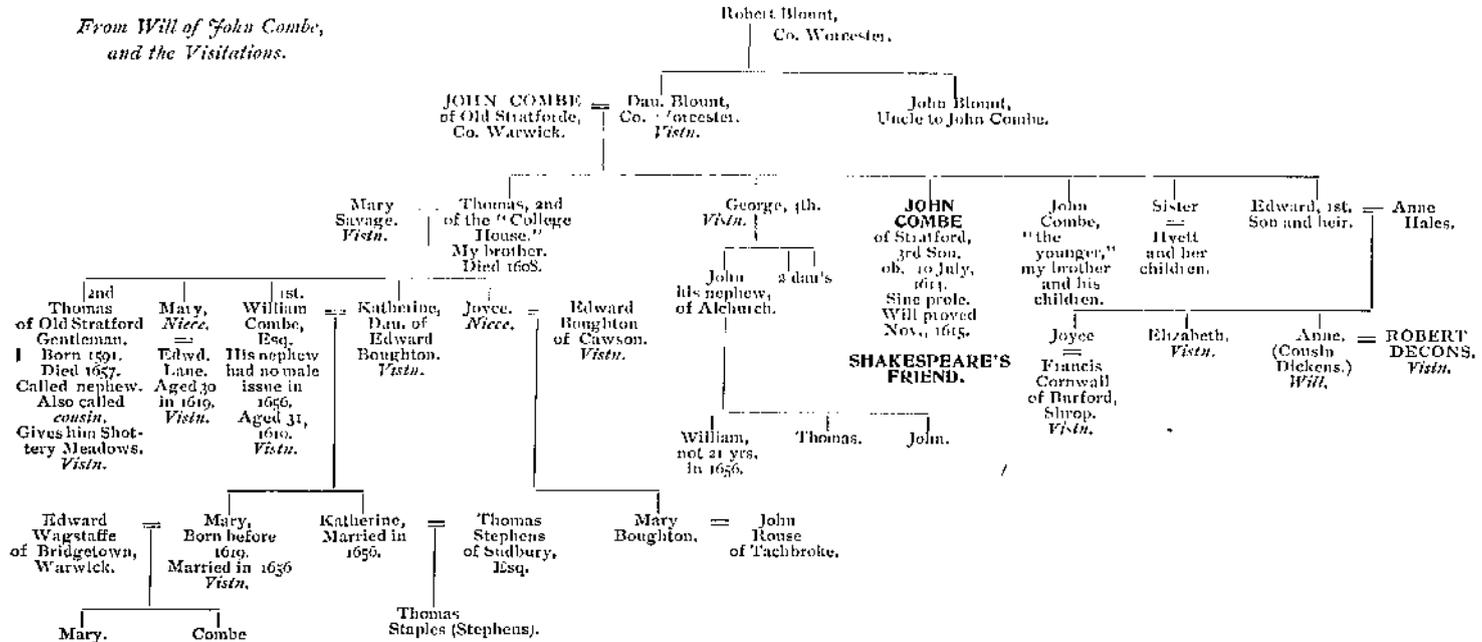
The interest in the Combe family centers in John Combe, who was contemporary with Shakespeare. He was a favorable specimen of the new class of land owners which the development of commerce had made numerous throughout England in the sixteenth century.

His chief object in life was to secure a fortune, and at the same time to stand well with his neighbours. Land offered a ready means of attaining his two aims of wealth and social dignity, while speculation in land, and private loans, secured by real estate, became the chief business of this Stratford burgess.

If old John Combe did not himself exemplify the worst vices of the new system, he yet could not avoid inflicting some hardship on his poorer neighbours, hence arose the legend of the Shakesperian satire upon his usury, which has but little authenticity. As a matter of fact Combe's tomb bears an inscription recording his many charitable bequests to the poor of Stratford, and by his Will he left

PEDIGREE OF COMBE.

*From Will of John Combe,
and the Visitations.*

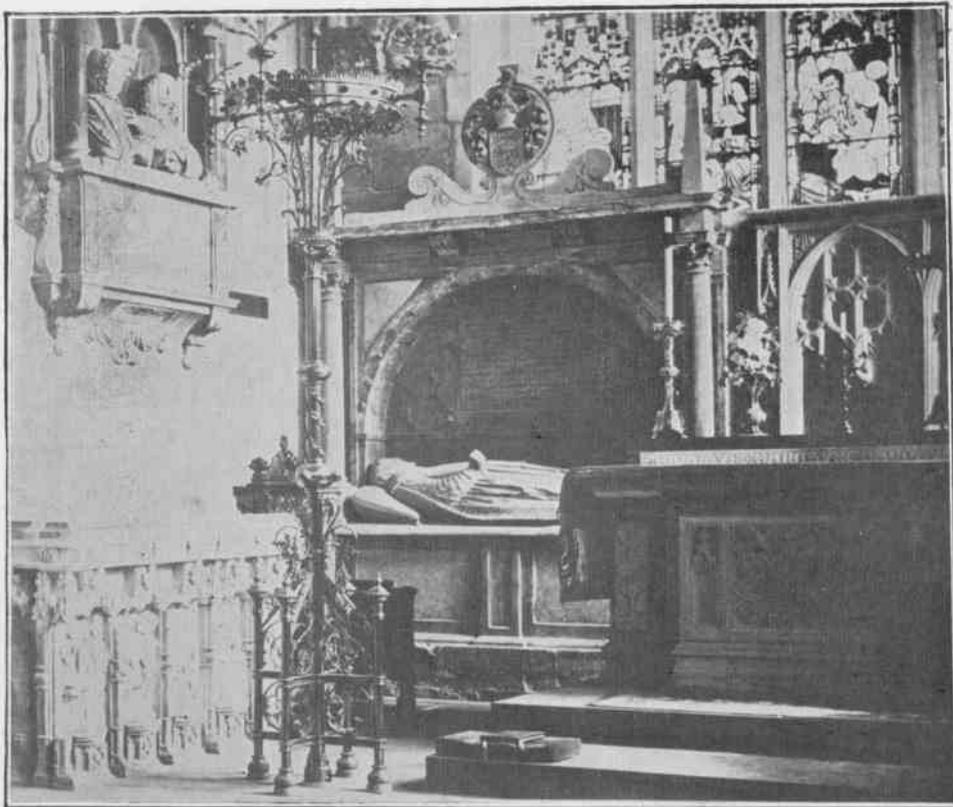


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Tomb of John Combe, Stratford Church.

five pounds to "Mr. William Shacksperc." Other bequests prove Combe to have lived on intimate terms with all the neighboring gentry, including Sir Henry Rainford, whose elaborate monument still stands in Clifford Church.

CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY.

Stratford on Avon.

'At the east end is the monument of John Combe, Esq., upon whom a celebrated 'satirical' epitaph ascribed to the pen of his acquaintance Shakespeare, is said to have been written during Mr. Combe's life. This effigy habited in a long gown, with a book in his hand, lies at full length under an ornamental arch, supported by Corinthian columns, and adorned with cherubims, etc., and the following: Arms—Ermine, Three lions passant in pale, gules; Crest, A dexter hand and arm embowed in armour, sable, garnished or; wreathed about the arm, argent and gules, holding in the hand a broken tilting spear of the last.'

HERE LYETH INTERRED YE, BODY OF JOHN COMBE, ESQ;
WHO, DEPARTING THIS LIFE YE. 10TH DAY OF JULY, AO DNI.
1614, BEQUEATHED BY HIS LAST WILL & TESTAMENT, TO
PIOVS & CHARITABLE VSES, THESE SVMES INSVING,
ANVALLY TO BE PAIED FOR EVER, VIZ. XXS. FOR TWO
SERMONS TO BE PREACHED IN THIS CHVRCH; SIX POWNDES,
XIII. & 4 PENCE, TO BYE TEN GOVNDRES FOR TEN POORE
PEOPLE, WITH, IN YE BOROVGH OF STRATFORDE; & ONE
HYNDRED POWNDES, TO BE LENT VNTO 15 POORE TRADESMEN.
OF YE SAME BORROVGH, FROM 3 YEARES TO 3 YEARES, CHANG
INGE THE PTIES EVERY THIRD YEARE, AT YE, RATE OF FIFTIE
SHILLINGES P. ANVM YE. WICH INCREASE HE APOYNTE TO
BE DESTRI BVTE TOWARDES THE RHEIFE OF YE. ALMS
PEOPLE THERE. MORE, HE GAVE TO THE POORE OF
STRATFORD TWENTY LI.
VIRTVS POST FVNERA VIVIT.*

John Combe remembered Anne Decons in his Will which proves the intimacy herein claimed, as follows :

"To my cousin Anne Dickens Five pounds to buy her a Ringe."

*The above inscription was copied verbatim, especially for this work, from the tomb in the church at Stratford on Avon.

At that period money was worth about ten times the present value, which makes the bequest equal to about fifty pounds, or two hundred and fifty dollars.

Mourning rings were the fashion in those days, and for a long period thereafter, and it is for this purpose that John Combe remembered his niece.

At this period the words cousin and niece were used interchangeably.

Extract, Will of John Combe, gent, 28th Jany., 1612.

“To my brother John a messuage.

To my cousin Anne Dickens five pounds to buy her a Ringe.

To Mr. William Shacksperc five pounds.

To Sir Francis Smith, Knight, five pounds to buy him a hawk, &c., &c.

Sir Richard Verney, Knight, }
Bartholemew Hale, Esq., } Executors.

Sir Edward Blunte, Kt., }
Sir Henry Rainsford, Kt., } Oversecrs.
Sir Francis Smith, Kt., }

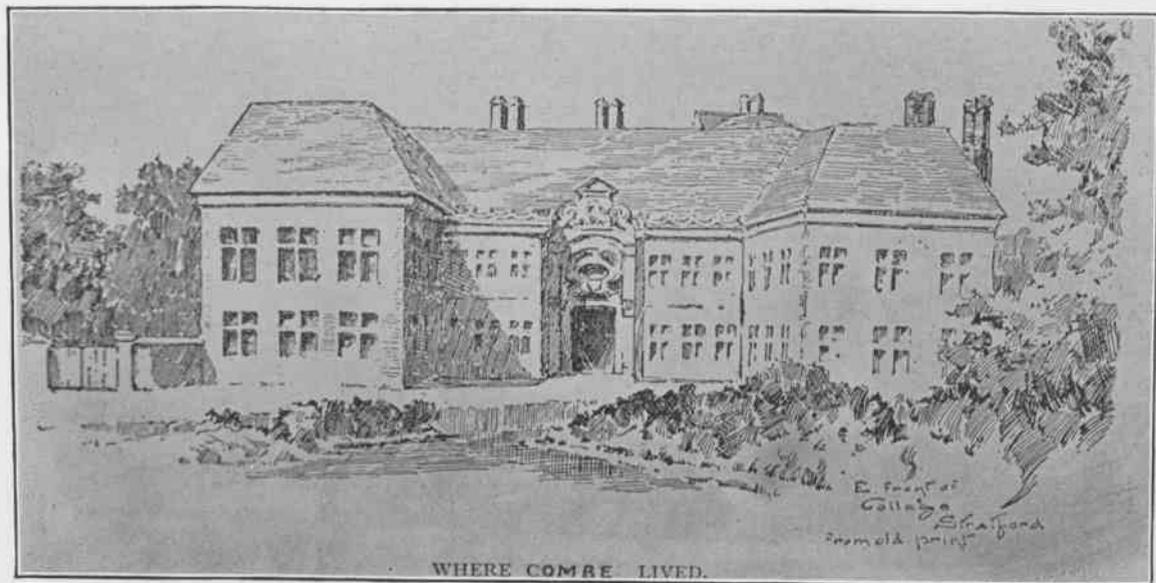
John Combe of Old Stratford in Co.
Warwick, Gentleman.

Proved 10th November, 1615. P. C. C.”

When Shakespeare died in 1616 he left his sword by will to Mr. Thomas Combe, one of the nephews of his old friend John, and the cousin of Ann Combe Deacons, and considering all the circumstances there can be no doubt of the intimate acquaintance of all the parties.

The ancient College of Stratford was founded in 1351 by Ralph, nephew of the famous Archbishop of Canterbury, John of Stratford, who built “a house of square stone adjoining the churchyard,” endowed by the King with all the privileges of a chantry and College.

When Henry VIII. suppressed the religious houses, the first to fall in Stratford was the College, which in 1551 was made over as a royal gift to the Earl of Warwick, the new



WHERE COMRE LIVED.

E. front of
College
Stratford
from old print

lord of the manor, but in 1576 it came into possession of "wealthy John Combe," who made it his residence.

In 1597 Shakespeare made his first purchase of landed property at Stratford and bought the great house of New Place with two barns and two gardens, and here the poet took up a permanent residence in the town of his birth. A glance at the map will show the relative positions of New Place and the College, "the stately residence of the Combes," the proximity of which doubtless led to much intimacy between the families.

A few years later, in 1602, Shakespeare purchased a plat of one hundred and seven acres of land in the northeast of the town from Combe, of whom it is said "he lived on good terms with the poet, although he bore the reputation of being a devilish usurer."

One of the characters in "Taming of the Shrew," the far famed beggar Christopher Sly, was doubtless a Stratford notoriety, and probably related to Stephen Sly, a customer of the fat ale wife of Wincot, the genial hostess of the Inn. This Stephen was a veritable resident of Stratford, who is frequently described in the town records as a laborer and servant to the Combes.

These stray items incidentally show something of the intimacy of the families of Combe and Shakespeare, and without trespassing on the borders of fiction we may well imagine that many an evening sun saw Uncle John the bachelor and Will the poet gossiping and smoking in the great parlor before the slumbering embers on the hearth, while young Robert Deacon courted the blushing maiden in whispered accents by the trellised window and won for his bride the lovely Ann Combe.

The college was torn down in the last century to make way for the new Town Hall.

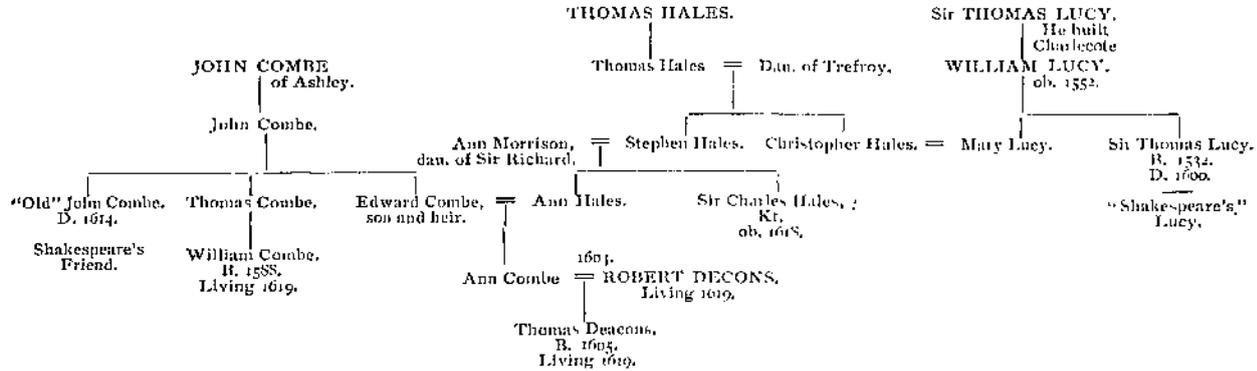
The mother of Anne Combe (who married Robert Dea-

For some of these Stratford items free use has been made of Sidney Lee's *Stratford on Avon*. Macmillan & Co., 1890. The description of the Combe monument and Will is the result of personal investigation.

cons) was Anne Hales, the daughter of a knightly family of the County of Warwick. Her Uncle, Christopher Hales, was married to Mary Lucy, the sister of Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlecote, whose name is inseparably connected with that of Shakespeare. As all the parties were living coterminously, and were closely related, it follows that Robert Deacon and his family were intimate with both Lucy and Shakespeare, and Charlecote and New Place doubtless often saw them within their hospitable walls.

Descendants of this family are still living in the County of Warwick, and one of them it is evident retained an interest in the home of his ancestors. Vide the "History of the Village of Willoughby, in the County of Warwick, by Thomas Deacon, published at London, 1828."

CONNECTION OF THE FAMILIES OF COMBE, DECONS, HALES AND LUCY.
County of Warwick, 16th Century.



NOTES.

SHAKESPEARE.

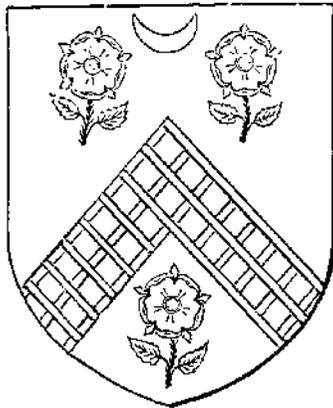
Born 1563.
Left Stratford 1585.
Returned and purchased New Place 1597.
Purchased 107 acres land from Combe 1602.
Died 1616.

COTEMPORANEOUS CHART.

1540, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620.

Sir Thomas Lucy,
SHAKESPEARE,
John Combe,
Robert Deacons,
Will Combe,
Thomas Deacons,

Decons.



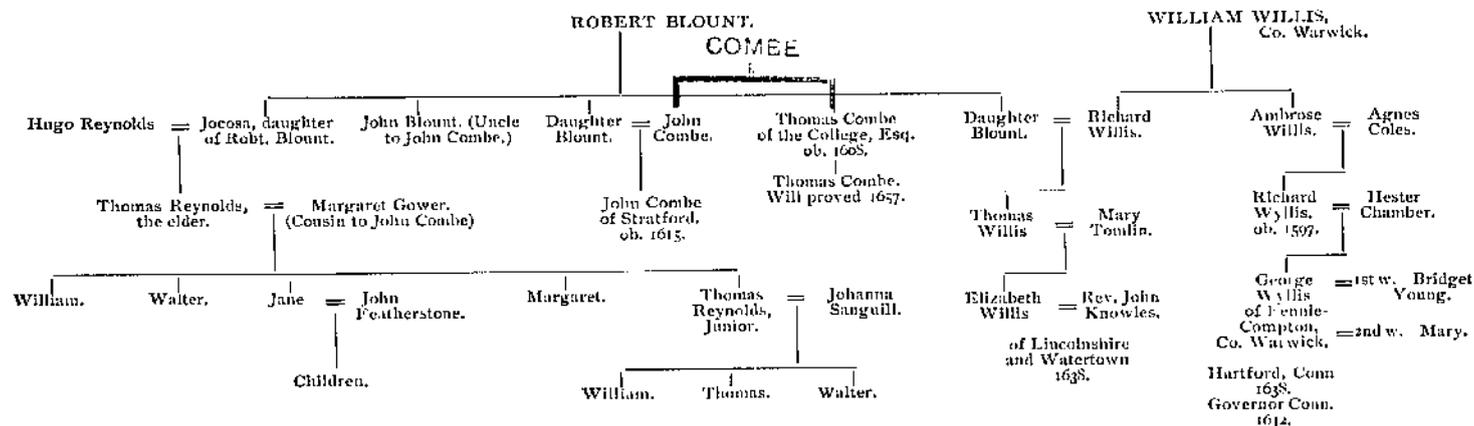
WARWICKSHIRE.

This is the *correct* representation of the Warwickshire Coat of Arms, described on page 71.

It will at once be seen that it differs but little from the Bedfordshire Arms as exhibited on page 62.

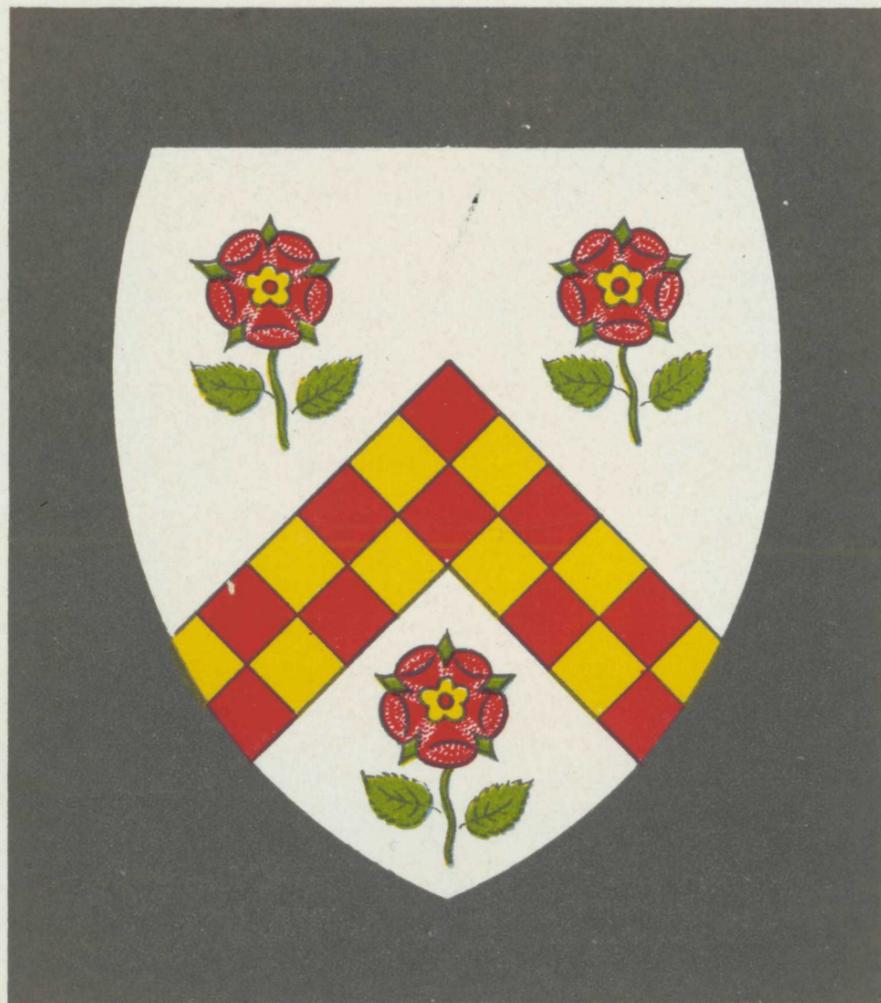
The crescent for difference signifies the family of the second son. Francis, the head of this family, was the third son; but the line of Thomas of Marston becoming extinct, the heirs of Francis by the laws of heraldry assumed the distinction of the second family.

PEDIGREE OF BLOUNT, COMBE, REYNOLDS, WILLIS.



George Willis of Fenne-Compton, called "faithful loving kinsman" in will of Thomas Combe, 1657, was second cousin to Elizabeth Willis, wife of Rev'd John Knowles.

See *Vista, Warwickshire, Harleian Society, vol. xii, p. 311.*



DEACON
of
BEDFORDSHIRE.

CHAPTER VI.

DECONS

of

Elstowe,

Co. Bedford.

ARMS:

Argent, a chevron counter-compony or and gules, between three roses of the last, stalked and leaved vert.

RICHARD DECONS, the eldest son of the Secretary, was born in 1505 and died 1543, inherited the Manors of Stukely, and Norwode, and other large properties, nevertheless he calls himself of Marston, and directs that he be buried in the church there.

Like his brother Thomas he also was entrusted with certain offices pertaining to the County, and a large parchment volume of 166 pages, consisting of accounts and reports of Richard Decons and five other gentlemen, of lands in various counties belonging to Katherine of Aragon, dated 1529, testifies to his official labors.

His wife, whose name was Ezabell, survived him and was well provided for by his will. They had a son named THOMAS, and possibly another named Richard.

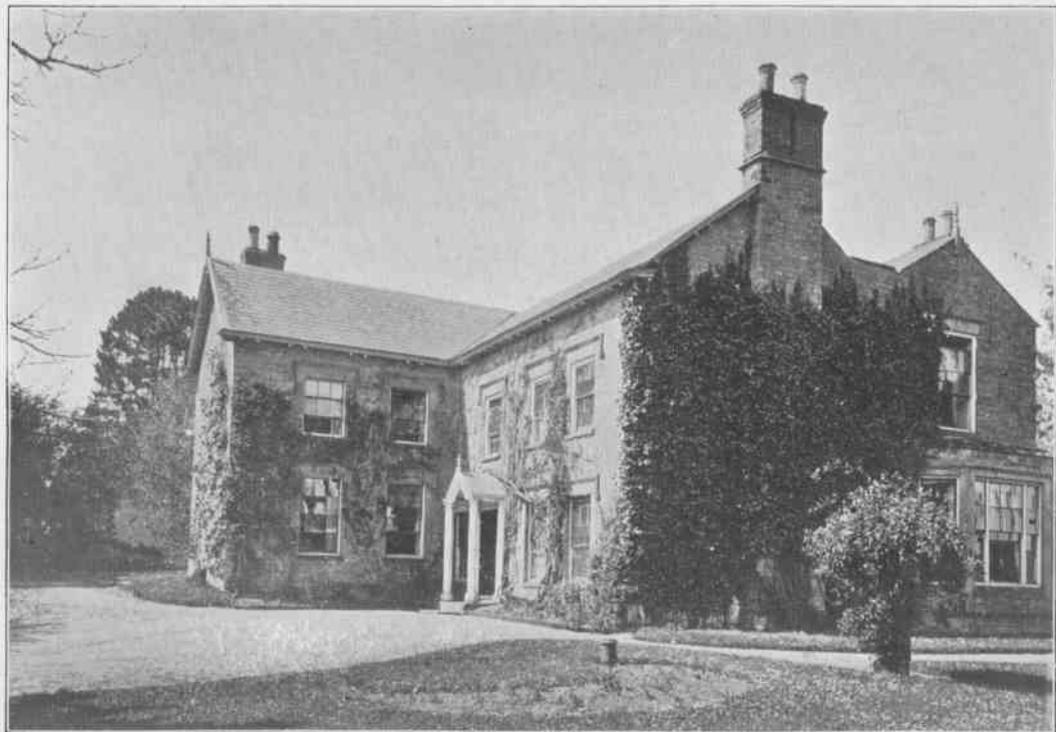
He appears to have disposed of most of the lands received under his father's will, but to have purchased considerable property in the town of Reading, County of Berks, likewise the manor, lands and tenements of Nevelles in the parish of Abbott's Langley, Co. Hertford. He was also in possession of the Reversion of the Rectory of Stoke Brewerne, which he received from his ancestors. His eldest son Thomas succeeded to the estates and continued the family line in the County of Bedford.

Extract from the will of Richard Decons of Marston, gent:

"In dei noie Amen the xxiiij. day of May in the yere of oure Lord god mccccxliij., and the xxxv. yere of the Reigne of oure sofering Lord King Henry the eight by the grace of god of ynglond, ffrance and yrland King, defender of the fayth, and in erth supme hede of the churche of yngland and yrland, I, Richard Decons of Marston Morton in the coun. of bed. gent., being hole and pfyte in mynd do constitute orden and make this my laste will and Testament in man'r and fourme foloweing. ffurst I bequeath my soull to almightie god and to oure blessed Lady sanct Mary the vargen and all the copeny of heven, my body to be beried wth in the churche of Marston aforsayd.

Itm. I will and bequeth to the hight autor thereij.s. iiij.d.

"Itm. I bequeth to the mother churche of Lincoln viij.d. I bequeth to my brother Thomas Decons, and my



Rectory Stoke Bruerne.

brother frances Decons one hundreth markes wiche is in Right dewe to me by the executors of my Lady norton laytly decesed by Reson of the bequest of my father's last will, whose soull god pardon," etc.

To "Ezabell my wife, all the lands, tenements, and appurtenances in Reading, Co. Berks, during her life, remainder to my son Thomas and his heirs, in default to son Richard and his heirs. To my wife the Rectory of Stoke Brewerne, with the purtenances, in the County of Northampton; the Manor of Nevelles in the parish of Abbott's Langley, Co. Herts, remainder to my son Thomas and his heirs, in default to my Executors. Elizabeth my wife and Francis my brother Executors. Thomas Decons supervisor, Witnesses, Mr. Wm. Marshall, priest, Dom. Wm. Becket, curate, &c. Will proved 13 July, 1543.

Walter Cheshunt, son of Alice de Staunton, remitted to Richard Widville and his heirs all right in the third part of the Manors of Stoke Bruerne and in the advowsons of the church there. This Alice was eldest daughter and coheir with her two sisters, Isabella and Joane, who each held one third. The manor and advowsons changed owners several times, until the King, Henry VIII., forced an exchange of the several moieties in 1538, and united the Manors in the Crown, where it continued till 1673, when King Charles II. granted it to the Duke of Grafton.

It was doubtless from the Widvilles that the family of Decons obtained the advowson or Rectory of Stoke Bruerne, which was not forfeited to the King with the manors.

There appears to be no record extant of the Manor of Nevilles, parish of Abbott's Langley, mentioned in this will, but in the Church of St. Lawrence in Abbott's Langley a very ancient inscription in black letter may be read as follows:

"Here lieth Robert Deyll and Elyn hys wyff, the which Robert decessed the 28th of Aprill the yeare of oure Lord God 1475.

"This world is but a vanyte, to-day a man to-morrow none."

This would indicate a family of that name in the parish.

Sir Walter Rawleigh wrote a political essay entitled "To-day a man, to-morrow none," which was published in London, after his death, in 1644.—*N. Dic. Biog. V. 47, p. 204.*

Not far from Abbott's Langley, Co. Hertford, is Wiggen Hall, the residence of the Deacon family of that county, directly descended, as previously stated, from this same stock.

Five miles directly east from Wiggen Hall, and forming the boundary line between Hertfordshire and Middlesex, is a considerable elevation known as "DEACON'S HILL," under which runs the the tunnel of the Midland Railway from London. The repetition of this name testifies to the prominence of the family in this part of the country, where for centuries they have owned lands and other properties.

The Government Survey Maps exhibit the Hill designated as above.

"On our way to Elstree, just before reaching the border of Middlesex and Herts, we cross a watershed. This watershed runs from Stanmore Heath on the west to Brockley Hill and Deacon's Hill on the east, and divides the botanical district of Hertfordshire from that of Middlesex."

Wheatley's Greater London, Vol. I., p. 304.

In the County of Buckingham, too, where the family was so long known, lands were called after their name and so designated in the deeds and maps of the period.

Grant. Lease of the Manors or lordships of Syngleburgh and Agmondesham Wooderew and the demense land of Buckland and one virgate of land and three quarters in Buckland (Bucks) called "DYCONS" parcel of the lands of the late Earl of Warwick.

Delv'd Weston, 8 June, 27 Henry VIII., 1535.

Calendar State Papers.

Queen Mary, 1553. A demise was made by the Crown of the demesne of the Manor of Buckland and $1\frac{3}{4}$ "yard" land, in the fields there called "DYCONS," parcel of the lands of the Earl of Warwick for twenty-one years, to Thomas Greenway and Richard his son.

Lipscomb's Bucks, 2 Vol. page 127.

THOMAS DECONS, Esquire, son of Richard II., of Marston, married, about 1550, Alice, daughter of John Norton of Sharpenhoe, Co. Bedford. He inherited the Bedfordshire estates from his father and resided at Wylshamsted and Streteley. He left a son named THOMAS.

The family of Norton of Sharpenhoe, Co. Bedford, claims descent from Sir John Norton, County Herts, who married Lady Maud de Grey de Ruthyn, a lineal descendant of King Henry I. of France, and of Alfred the Great, King of England. (This cannot be substantiated.)

Berry's County Pedigrees, and Americans of Royal Descent.

Three miles from Sharpenhoe is the parish of Flitton, Bedfordshire, in which is Wrcst Park, formerly the residence of Edmund, Lord Grey de Ruthyn, created Earl of Kent 1465, afterwards inhabited by the succeeding Earls and by the Duke of Kent. The House, a fine edifice of stone, is still the residence of the Earls de Grey.

The Nortons of Sharpenhoe are the progenitors of the celebrated Clergyman of that name who settled in Boston, Mass., and whose descendants are numerous in the United States.

Alice Norton, who married Thomas Decons, was aunt to the celebrated Thomas Norton, born 1520, M. P. 1561, author of several hymns in the Sternhold Collection, a Puritan and co-author of the earliest known English tragedy, produced in 1561, entitled "Ferrex and Porrex." He married Margaret, the eldest daughter of the Martyr Archbishop Cranmer, and died 1582.

The earliest known English tragedy; and also the earliest English play in blank verse, by

THOMAS SACKVILLE, afterwards Lord Buckhurst and Earl of Dorset: and

THOMAS NORTON, of Sharpenhoe (Beds).

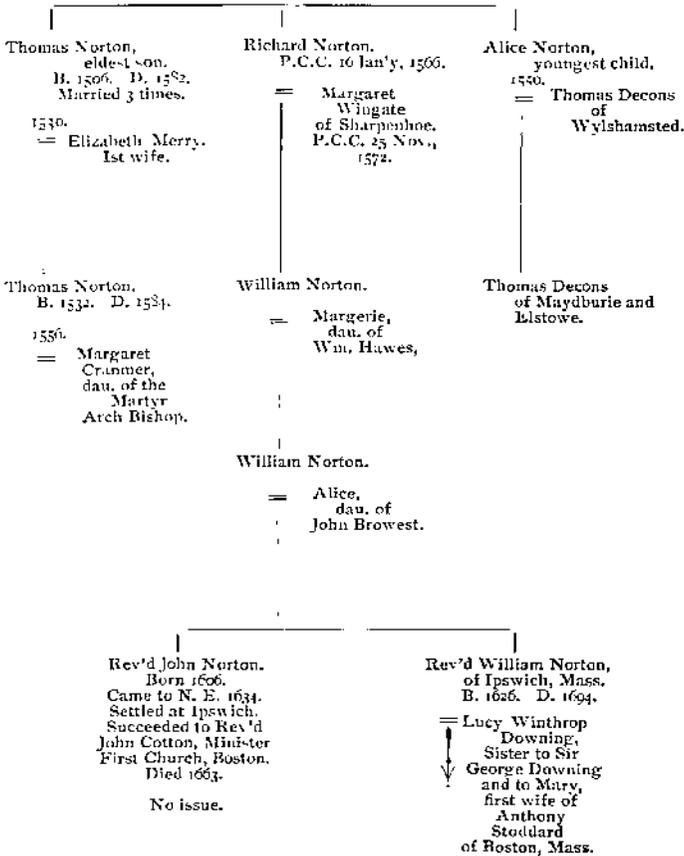
¶ *THE TRAGIDIE OF FERREX AND PORREX*, set forth without addition or alteration but altogether as the same as shewed on stage before the Queenes Maiestie, about nine yeares past, *vs.* the xvij day of Ianuarie. 1561. by the gentlemen of the Inner Temple. London. [1570].

Collated with the surreptitious edition 'The Tragedie of Gorboduc,' of 1565.

NORTON.

JOHN NORTON of Sharpenhoe, Co. Bedford.

= and Jane, dau. John Cowper.
(Many children of whom as follows)



Will of Richard Norton of Sharpenhoe, of the County of Bedford, yeomen, dated 24th day of July, 1565.

“Bequeaths twenty shillings to the amending of the highe way between Thomas Deacon's gate and the Grange gate in Streteley.”

Will of Margerie Norton, of Sherpenne, in the parish of Stretlie, in the County of Bedford, widow (of the above Richard,) dated 25th day of June, 1571.

Mentions “Thomas Deacon's children” and leaves them “my friese cassoke.” Also mentions Christopher Deacon.

Alice, wife of Thomas Deacons, was sister of the above Richard Norton.

• THOMAS DEACONS of Maidburie, Co. Bedf., son of the foregoing and grandson of Richard of Marston-Morteyne, married Joane, dau of * * Bray of Shortmead died June, 1609, and left a son, GEORGE.

He purchased the Manor of Maidburie and lands of the Abbey of Elstow, dissolved, and erected a Mansion House from part of the ruins of the Abbey, which still exists. He seems in some way to have been related to the Ratcliffe family, of whom Sir Edward Ratcliffe, Knight, was the head at this period, and whom he names as Overseer of his Will. He was buried at Elstowe June 25th, 1609.

He possessed houses at Elstowe, Wilshamsted, Cardington and Bedford, besides his Mansion House at Maydbury. He had freehold lands lying in the parishes of Elstowe, Wilshamsted and Kempston and cottages at Coxe's-croft. He mentions his cousin, John Bull of Kingsbury, Co. Middlesex, Gentleman, and Robert Deacons of Napton, Co. Warwick.

At this date the spelling of the name begins again to change, and Dickons and Decones appear in the same document signed by him. His wife died in 1622.

The BULLS were a respectable and ancient family of Hertfordshire who held various offices from the time of Edward I., when Simon Bull was a burgess to Parliament

for the borough of Hertford, 26 Edw. I., at York. Several of the family were subsequently Aldermen and Mayors of the town, others held the Commission of the Peace.

Their connection with the Decons must have been close. Robert Decons of London speaks of his cousin Francis Bull in 1571; Thomas Decons of Elstow calls John Bull his cousin 1609.

“Thomas Decons of Maidburie and Elstowe, Gentleman.

Will dated 26 May, 1609. To wife Joane, House at Elstow and £10-0-0 per annum, and some silver plate; to son George, some silver plate, and the Mansion House called Maidburie, in trust to Sir Edward Radcliffe of Elstowe, Knight, et al., for son George.

Gifts to Francis, wife of son George, also to the parish of Elstowe and the poor of Wilshamsted and to the bridge in the town of Elstowe, remainder to cousin Robert Deacons of Napton, Co. Warwick; to Anne my granddaughter £20-0-0. John Bull, of Edgeworth, Co. Middlesex, gentleman, one of the executors. Nicholas Bull, witness. Proved 31 March, 1610. Buried at Elstow June 25th, 1609.”

From indications of values in the will itself, it would appear that Mr. Deacon's estate was worth about £8,000 or \$40,000.

There are numerous evidences of the position the family sustained in the County, some of which exist to the present day. In the church of the dissolved Abbey of Woburn, now the residence of the Dukes of Bedford, were to be seen the arms of Decons, same as given by Burke, as appears by the following from Harl MSS., No. 1531. Transcribed by Richard Mundy, 1634:

Woburn Church, Bedfordshire, in the glasse windowes of the church, in the South Ile. Argent, a chevron sable fretty or, between three roses, slipped, vert, for Deacon.

“Woburn Church, dedicated to St. Mary, presents a dignified and venerable aspect. Travellers are generally struck with the singularity of its appearance, the tower standing at six yards distance from the north aisle. The

church consists of a nave, north and south aisles and a chancel. The ancient pulpit was in florid Gothic, finely carved with niches, but this was unfortunately removed early in this century when the building was 'restored'."

"Several monuments more or less injured by time remain, one of the oldest bearing date 1394. In the East Window were formerly emblazoned the Arms of Robert Vere, Earl of Oxford, impaling Stamford. Also the arms of Robert Hobbs, Abbot of Woburn, and the arms of Decons and Sandford."

In Luton, also, where the ancestors of Washington once resided, the arms of the Deacon family may be seen in the carvings upon the font which still exists.

"Luton, Bedfordshire. St. Mary's Church built by John de Wheathamstead, the twenty-third Abbott of St. Albans. Round the holy water stope and grand seats for the bishop, priests and deacons are many shields of arms carved in stone, among which appears, A chevron between three roses."

Vide Nichols Bedfordshire.

GEORGE DEACONS of Elstowe, Co. Bedff., married Frances, dau. of Henry Halfhide, Gentleman, and had issue,

Henry,
EDWARD, and
Ann.

He died 4th February, 1611.

The HALFHIDES were a good family of the County of Hertford, some branches of which were also settled in Bedfordshire. They held the Manor of Westmill, Co. Herts, which they received from the family of Toden, temp. Henry III.

Mr. Decons received a considerable estate from his father, but seems to have contracted some debts which were unliquidated at his death. To provide for this he demised houses and lands to his Executors to be sold for the discharge of his liabilities. The rest of his proper-

ty, including "all that my Mausion House wherein I now dwell, with all my lands, meadows and pastures lying in the parish of Elstowe," he leaves to his mother for her life, with Sir Edward Radclyffe, Knight, as guardian, overseer and executor of his estate for the benefit of his minor children. He possessed houses, lands and meadows in Elstowe and Kempston. Mansion, lands, meadows and pasture in Elstow and Maidbury. Farm at Coten-end and lands in Wilshamsted. Other lands and tenements not described.

His daughter Ann was married in London as per "Marriage Licenses of the Bishop of London," Feb'y 20th, 1632.

"John Branch of St. Margaret's Westminster (parish), aged 29, to Ann Dickens, spinster, aged 25, daughter of George Dickins of the town and county of Bedford, Gentleman, deceased, with consent of her mother of same place."

George Decones of Elstow, Gentleman.

"Will dated 18 January, 1670. All my landes and meadowes lying in the parishes of Elstowe and Kempston which did belonge to the late dissolved Chantry of Elstowe which Thomas Decones, my late father, had by conveyance from Thomas Cooper, to my wife Frances, and £15-0-0 per annum, and £5-0-0 per annum from land devised to my son Henry Deacons, to Ann my daughter one hundred pounds of lawfull English moneye at her age of Eighten yeres. To Joane my mother the Mansion House in which I now dwell and all lands in the south side of Preswell alias Maidbury brook. Remainder to son Edward; gift of a sum equal to about \$250 dollars per annum from rent of lands, for relief of the poor of Elstow and Wilshamsted. Mother Joan, my wife Frances and Sir Edward Ratcliffe, Knight, to be Executors. Hendry Halfeid, my wyfe's father, overseer. Proved at Northampton 4 Feb'y, 1611."

Elstow is a small village about a mile from Bedford. It was celebrated for an Abbey founded by Judith, niece of William the Conqueror, which grew and flourished as a Convent by the successive benefactions of noble families

until the dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII. Shortly after this event a portion of the sequestered lands was sold by the King, and Thomas Decons of Maidburie and Elstow purchased lands and houses, which descended to his family. In 1548 Nicholas Diccons is recorded as renting a cottage from the Crown, part of the unsold estate of the Abbey.

The name of John Bunyan has made the village of Elstow known all the world over. This man was born in the village in 1628, of an humble family, whose names appear in the records of the village centuries prior to his birth. As the Decons family were among the Gentry of the County, living in the neighborhood, doubtless Bunyan knew of them. The representative of the family at this period was Mr. Henry Deacons, of Elstowe and Maidburie, who was about thirty years old when Bunyan was born.

Mr. HENRY DEACON succeeded to the lands devised to him by his father and continued the family (for a time) in the County with which it had so long been identified.

At the Dissolution, the Nunnery of Elnstow was deeded, 26 August, 1539, to King Henry VIII., who shortly after leased the greater part of the lands for twenty-one years to Edward Hervey of Elstow, reserving the Manorial rights. But in 1553, three days before his death, King Edward VI. granted the whole demesne and site of the late Monastery or Abbey of Elnestowe in our County of Bedford, dissolved, and all houses, &c., land, soil, &c., &c., to Humphrey Ratclif, Knight. What became of the aforementioned lease does not appear, but it was doubtless satisfactorily arranged.

Sir Humphrey Ratclyff, Kt., died in 1566 and was buried in the Abbey Church. "After the death of Sir Humphrey some of the family would seem to have come into possession of the Elstow property and to have held it till 1616, when Sir Edward Ratcliffe, son of Sir Humphrey, joined in a sale of it to Thomas Hillersden, the price paid for the whole being £700."

This is the period covered by the wills of Thomas and George Deacons, who left the Elstow Monastery property to Sir Edward Ratcliffe in trust.

There seems to be little if any doubt, that the house now in ruins, to the S. W. of the church, was built about this time."

George Deacons leaves "my Mansion house in Elstow in which I now dwell.

"The Mansion house, rebuilt with the materials of the Abbey, is large and regularly built. It stands on the south west side of the church, and has now a large window from it into the body of the church, probably the same which was there in the time of the Abbey.

"This building is now ivy covered and dismantled. The parts now standing are portions of the wall of the east front and of the south wing.

"Against the former stands a very graceful porch, in the best style of the English Renaissance, the harmony of its proportions, and the grace of its details, show it to have been the work of a master hand. It is now fast hastening to utter ruin." *Chronicles of the Abbey of Elstow, 1885.*

The Elizabethan Manor house is too well known to need description.

It is generally a plain building with two projecting wings and a central porch. The initial letter of Elizabeth has been held to have suggested this form. In its provision for domestic convenience, the Manor house is more completely identified with the prevailing character of English society than the more gorgeous Mansion.

"The Manor house had its hall and buttery, its dining room and its parlours, sometimes its chapel, always its great kitchen. It was surrounded with a moat, it possessed its flower garden. When the tobacco which Raleigh introduced ceased to be worth its weight in gold the smoking room was added. On great festival days the rich plate was brought out, and displayed in the Court cupboard of the



Elstow Priory, Church and Hall in 1826.

ELSTOW MANOR-HOUSE.

"The picturesque ruins of a large Mansion House which add considerably to the beauty of the place, are described with no little elegance in the following lines."

It stood upon a gentle rising ground,
At foot of which a stream so calmly strayed
Whose lispings scarcely might be heard around
When the light summer winds low music made
Amid the trees that o'er its margin frowned,
Casting the tinkling ripples in the shade;
Save where the dancing moonbeams stole between
The lacing boughs and glittering tufts of green.

A marble porch with carven figures dight
Round which in clustering folds the ivy clung,
Lifting its fringe above the ruined height
From which the leaves in fairy branchlets hung,
Gave back the moon's unveiled and peerless light
As o'er the sward its trembling shade was flung;
Through the broad windows to the green earth streaming
And on the shattered mullions brightly gleaming.

The wallflower on that buttress is at rest,
There is no stir or sound of living thing
To scare the sparrow from his leafy nest
As fearlessly it stays its drooping wing,
Where the quaint carvings on that shield exprest
Peer from beneath their grassy covering;
And though the winds are hushed the clouds sweep by
The moon's cold disk, slowly and silently.

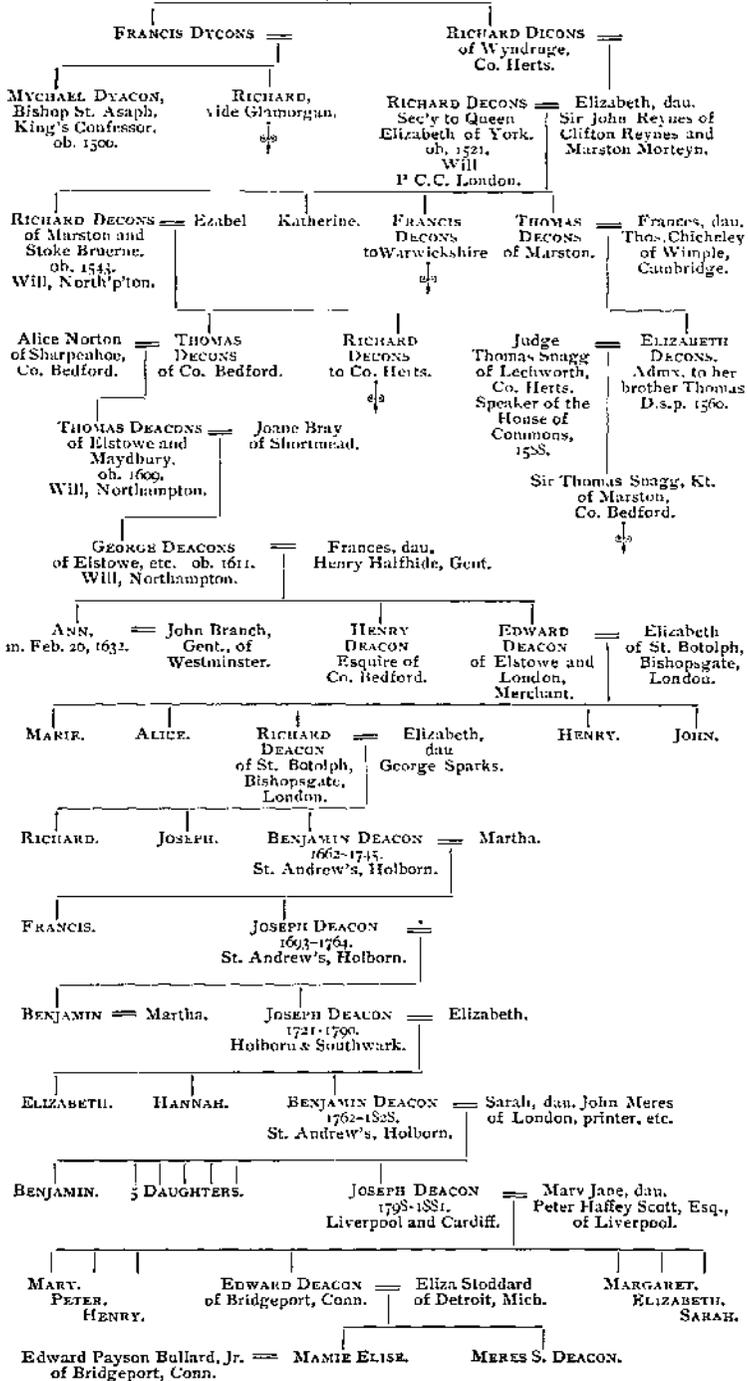
Reprinted from the Gentleman's Magazine, 1826.

dining parlour; and as the poet says quaintly, 'it is merry in the hall when beards wag all.' "

The Government Survey Maps show the sites of the Manor houses of Elstow and Marston, surrounded by their moats, which exist to the present day.

Deacon

(of Marston, Elstowe and London.)





EDWARD DEACON, ESQ.,

of

LONDON.

1630.

CHAPTER VII.

DEACON,
of
London.

Arms of
DEACON,
of
Bedfordshire
and
London.

Argent—a fess, chequy, or, and gules, between three roses of the last.*

Crest—a griffin's head erased, gules, armed and langued or, rose in mouth ppr.

Motto—In God is my trust,—In Deo fides mea.

** Sometimes erroneously described as three roses proper.*

This Coat of Arms exhibits the change from a chevron to a fess. As the chevron is a fifth of the shield, while the fess is a third, the counter-compony or two stripes of squares, was increased to checky, which contains three widths of squares, otherwise the shields correspond, compare the ancient arms facing page 17 with this.

The change from a chevron to a fess, and vice versa, is a very common one when a family definitely changes its location or founds a new branch. Numerous instances are familiar to genealogists showing this custom.

This variation, borne and depicted for two hundred and fifty years, distinguishes the London branch from their Bedfordshire ancestors.

Fuller's History of the Worthies of England, page 49, treats "of Coats of Arms and of different bearings of them by persons of the same name and family, and gives many instances in proof, quoted by Halstead in Succinct Genealogies."

It is not certain that the roses in the London shield should not be "stalked and leaved proper," but if not, it will readily be seen that the heraldic rose gules, (sometimes erroneously called proper) fills the spaces left by the fess more symmetrically than if blazoned as on the ancient coat, which probably accounts for the change.

EDWARD DEACON of Elstow, Co. Bedford, was a minor on the death of his father in 1611, and for a time remained in the County with his mother.

In 1616 the Mansion and lands of the Abbey were sold, and the estate distributed. Eventually Mr. Deacon removed to London, where he became a Merchant Adventurer. It is possibly to him that the following incident refers. A petition was presented by Edward Deacon to the Privy Council for redress, for an injury suffered at the hands of another Merchant trader engaged in the African trade.

Oct. 20th, 1639, Commission was given to Sir Edward Littleton, Solicitor General, Sir Paul Pindar and Capt'n

Wm. Rainsborough, to Enquire into the truth of the statements in the petition to the Privy Council of Edward Deacon, who with his goods had been seized and detained in Sallee for debts there contracted by Robert Blake as factor for some London merchants; petitioner having come to England after leaving his son in Barbary as a pledge, in pursuit of said Blake.

As there was another Edward Deacon, whose home was in Plymouth, living contemporaneously and apparently engaged in similar ventures, it is not quite certain to which of them this matter refers.

It appears to have originated in a dispute which was carried on for some years thereafter between Mr. Deacon and these London merchants. The earliest notice we have of it appears under date of Oct. 12th, 1639, when the Privy Council ordered a "Commission to Solicitor General Littleton and others to examine witnesses upon oath touching differences between Edward Deacon and William Clowbury and other merchants of London."

Mr. Deacon had arrived from his speculative voyage some months earlier than this, as appears by a letter addressed to Mr. Robert Read, secretary to Mr. Secretary of State Windebanke, written by Abraham Briggs, Deputy Vice Admiral of Devon, dated June 14th, 1639.

"My friend, Mr. Edward Deacon, will wait upon you in a business that much concerns me. He is newly arrived from Sallee, where Sir Nicholas Slanning and myself have given him some employment, and we shall both ask our obligations to you for any favour you shall do him."

Mr. Deacon resided in London in the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, and in that church his children born in London were baptized. By his wife Elizabeth he had five children,

- RICHARD, born before 1626.
- Maria, baptized at Elstow Sept. 29, 1630.
- Alice, born 1632, died 1656.
- John, born Nov. 10th, 1641.
- Henry, born Sept. 22d, 1644.

At this period the final *s* in the name was dropped almost universally, except in some few forms; though so late as last year a family was discovered spelling the name DEACONS, certainly an instance of persistence worthy of note and commendation.

RICHARD DEACON of London, son of Edward, received the advantage of his father's acquaintance with public men, and was employed in the public service as "Clerk to the Committee of Adventurers of the House of Commons, and Adventurers chosen in London for the Affairs of Ireland," as appears by his signature to these papers in Sept., 1647.

His latent interest in Bedfordshire is shown by his making a loan to John and Humphrey Newton of that County and taking a bond for £200-0-0 "Expressed in a certain writing of assignment or deed poll dated 8th January, 1648, signed and sealed with two seals with crest attached to the parchment." This instrument is still on file among the State papers.

He further sought to augment his estate by engaging in the lucrative business of "clothworking" or manufacturing, in which he appears to have been successful, and various transactions are noted indicative of his prosperity.

April 1, 1651, Richard Deacon, Citizen and clothworker of London, makes a lease for 25 years of a tenement in Clerkenwell, rent £8 per year.

May 2, 1653, Richard Deacon leases to William Ince, Messuage in Clement Inn Fields for 23 years, rent £30-0-0 per year.

Not content with his mercantile calling Mr. Deacon appears at this time to have taken up the legal profession, indeed, it is altogether likely that he had been educated originally with a view to that career. It is, therefore, probable that in assuming the robes, he but fulfilled the intentions with which he started in life. In a notice of him dated May 26, 1654, we find him designated as "Mr. Rich-

ard Deacon, Attorney of the Court of Common Pleas, citizen and clothworker of the City of London," and as such he is frequently described in subsequent notices.

Aug. 14, 1654, he granted a lease of a shop and messuage in Fleet Street. In 1656 he assigns a lease for £289-0-0 on property in Westminster. In 1661 he appears in a new role as Clerk to the Parliamentary Military Company (of the City of London) and as such a Warrant was served on him after the Restoration "to deliver any papers or writings in the Military ground or house to Major Harsnett to convey them to the Attorney General, who will examine into the King's title thereto."

He married Elizabeth, daughter of George Sparkes, Merchant Taylor of London, and his wife Elizabeth. An item characteristic of the times is exhibited in a certain "Warrant, issued January 20th, 1665, for the Release of Bold Boughey, Warden of the Fleet, from the custody of Jas. Seaborne, currier of London, in prison for a debt due to the late John Sparks, which debt he has now discharged to Richard Deacon and to Elizabeth Deacon, alias Sparkes, the rightful claimants."

This was the celebrated and infamous Fleet Prison for debtors. Mr. Deacon resided in the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate Street; the same place where his father had lived. He had besides daughters, three sons.

Richard, the eldest, married, but died before his father without heirs. "15th Dec., 1691, Commission to administer was granted to Richard Deacons of the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, London, father of Richard Deacons, late of the same place, but who died in the ship 'le Cales Merchant,' Mary his relect first renouncing."

Joseph, the second son, appears to have died "in parts beyond the seas," as the legal phrase is in October, 1703.

BENJAMIN, the youngest son, was born 1662, and by right of his grandfather Sparkes inherited the privilege of entry in the great Merchant Taylors' School.

That Richard Deacon was a Puritan seems evident from

the position he held in the Parliamentary Military Company of the City.

During the great Puritan Movement in England a wave of Old Testament Christian names swept over the country, of which the parish registers give evident tokens. These replace the old Saxon and Norman names which had so long held sway. It was under this influence that Mr. Deacon brought into the family the names of Joseph and Benjamin, which have been perpetuated ever since in this branch of the family through a period of two hundred and fifty years.

The Merchant Taylors' Company is said to have received a charter from Edward I. in 1300, placing it under the patronage of St. John the Baptist. Its Master was at that time entitled "Pilgrim," so named from his travelling for the Company. It is probably the most ancient of all the Guilds, but in consequence of having been re-incorporated in 1466, after several other companies had been chartered, it does not rank first in order of precedence.

Henry VII. was a member in 1503, and besides him the registers include ten sovereigns, seventeen princes and dukes, two duchesses, one archbishop, thirty-one earls, five countesses, twenty-four bishops, sixty-one barons, seven abbots and others of great prominence.

The most remarkable member was that valiant tailor's apprentice, Sir John Hawkwood, who won his spurs (knighthood) at the battle of Poitiers, married the niece of the Duke of Milan, recovered the revolted cities of Provence for Pope Gregory XII., and was rewarded with the governorship of five towns, and lies buried beneath the marble monument erected to his memory by the grateful Florentines in the cathedral of their city.

Sir R. Blackwell, another tailor's apprentice, was knighted for his valor by Edward III. The historians Stow and Speed were also members of the Company.

The family of the Earls of Craven date their rise from

William Craven, Merchant Taylor, who was Lord Mayor in 1610 and amassed a large fortune.

The Earls of Arran also derived their descent and wealth from Gerald Gore, Merchant Taylor and Alderman, who died 1607.

The Hall built in 1331 was destroyed in the Great Fire, except the kitchen and an ancient crypt beneath it. It was rebuilt and contains many notable portraits of its famous members, including Henry VIII., Charles I. and II., Wellington and Pitt.

The Company is very wealthy and maintains the celebrated Merchant Taylors' School, founded in 1561, which now occupies the ancient buildings of the Charter House, also schools at Wolverhampton, Great Crosby, Audlen, Ashwell and Wollingford; Almshouses at Lee, Lecture-ship at St. Michaels, Crooked Lane, City, and thirty-eight University fellowships, besides forty-three Exhibitions and Scholarships.

There was still another Edward Deacon living at this time, who was a surgeon (Chirurgion) of whom a curious item has come down to us. He was an officer in His Majesty's Ship (Man-of-War) "Prudence." On the 25th of Nov., 1694, instigated, no doubt, by the name of his vessel, he made his will, leaving all his possessions, prize money, wages, smart money, etc., to his loving wife Martha. During all the following year the English navy was engaged in war in the Mediterranean and in blockading the coasts of France. In one of the numerous sea fights, it seems that Deacon was wounded and must have been reported dead; for on the 9th of July, 1695, his widow made oath to this effect and proved same satisfactory to the Probate Court, and she thereupon proceeded to administer on her husband's estate. But a singular note follows the above entry in the Court records, to the effect that "the testator lived after this probate was made," and "another probate was made on the 20th day of May, 1704." What a tale is hid-

den behind these lines, pathetic and humorous. Was the widow glad or sorry to receive her husband back to life again? 'Tis another case of the lady or the tiger! But they are entitled to the benefit of the doubt and we will believe they spent a happy and affectionate decade together before the final parting.

BENJAMIN DEACON, Esq., born October 29th, 1662, was educated at the Merchant Taylors' School, which institution he entered March 11th, 1673, on the same day with Peter Le Neve, afterwards the celebrated antiquary and Herald, who became Norrey, King of Arms, in 1704.

Mr. Deacon, who carried on a successful business in the city, removed his residence to High Holborn. He married about 1690 and left two sons who survived him, named

JOSEPH.
Francis.

He died, 22d August, 1745, aged 83 years, and is interred in St. Andrew's, Holborn. His wife, Martha, died 1747. His youngest son, Francis Deacon, born 1695, lived in Dean street, parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, married Rachael, and had one son, Francis, born June 27th, 1722.

Mr. Francis Deacon, Sr., died May, 1765, and was buried at St. Andrew's, Holborn.

After the family removed to London, with one or two exceptions, none of them seem to have left Wills, though evidently all were in good circumstances, some independent, others in business. The records at this period are, therefore, chiefly to be found in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, where the family resided for upwards of a century and a half. They retained the knowledge of their Bedfordshire origin and transmitted it to their descendants, and in such documents as have been preserved they style themselves "Gentleman" and "Esquire," and though usually after this date the name is written *Deacon*, yet in many papers they continued to spell it *Decon* and *Dacon*, even as late as the present century. A complete colored drawing of

the Coat-of-Arms made by one of the family in the middle of the last century is in the possession of the writer.

JOSEPH DEACON, Gentleman, born in 1693, resided in High Holborn, married 1719, and left three sons, besides daughters, who survived him.

JOSEPH,
Benjamin,
Edward.

He died April, 1764, and was buried at St. Andrew's, Holborn. His youngest son, Edward, of Leather Lane, Parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, married Amelia ——— and died March, 1783, leaving a son and a daughter.

Vide Registers of St. Andrew's.

BENJAMIN DEACON, the second son, born 1723, resided at King's Head Court, Parish of St. Andrew, Holborn. Married June 4th, 1745, at St. George's Mayfair, to Miss Martha Watson of that parish. They had four children.

Edmund William, born 15 Nov., 1746, baptized at St. Thomas the Apostle.

Henrietta, born March 19th, 1755, baptized at St. Andrews'.

A daughter, name unknown.

Benjamin, born 21 June, 1764, baptized at St. Andrew's, Holborn.

None of these children survived him except the daughter who is unnamed.

Mr. Deacon made his will 21 June, 1773, and styles himself "Gentleman." He left the bulk of his estate to his wife Martha. He died in Southwark, Surrey, in 1781 and his will was admitted to Probate P. C. C. 14th May that year.

JOSEPH DEACON, born 1721, resided in the Parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, in the house previously occupied by his father, but was engaged in business as a Wholesale Wine Merchant, which he carried on in the Parish of St. Savior, Southwark, Surrey.

By his wife Elizabeth, whom he married in 1752, he had issue, two daughters, and one son,

Elizabeth,

Hannah, and

BENJAMIN, born August 10th, 1762.

He died 25th June, 1790, and was buried in St. Andrew's, Holborn, where so many of his family lie interred. His widow administered on his estate August 16th, 1790. The records of the court spell his name Deakin, but the burial certificate gives it correctly, Deacon—the usual unceasing variation and confusion in spelling.

Mr. Joseph Deacon's eldest daughter was a very handsome girl. "A Spanish Count fell in love with her, and they were married, and went to live in Spain. Unhappily her husband became insanelly jealous and fought a duel, in which he was killed, leaving his young wife a lovely widow three years after her marriage."

(Family reminiscences by Mrs. Elizabeth (Deacon) Musson.)

BENJAMIN DEACON, Esq., of London, born August 10th, 1762, "is said to have been a very beautiful boy." He was educated at the Merchant Taylors' School, which institution he entered in 1776.

He married, January 14th, 1787, Sarah, daughter of John Meres, Esquire, and Marthana Young. (*Vide Meres.*) They had seven children.

1. Benjamin, born 1789.
2. JOSEPH, born 1798.
3. Sarah, born 1791.
4. Jane, born 1793.
5. Mary, born 1796.
6. Marthana, born 1800.
7. Susannah Ann, born 1803. Died young.
8. Elizabeth, born 1806.

For particulars of whom see their respective pages.

John Meres, father of Sarah, was the son of John Meres, the proprietor of the celebrated papers, the "*London Evening Post*," and the "*Daily Post*," founded 1719 and 1727, and which flourished for sixty years. This John Meres was the grandson of Sir Thomas Meres, Member of Parliament for Lincoln for fifty years, who died 1715.

Mr. Benjamin Deacon engaged in business and was very successful; he was a man of substance, and maintained his private carriage; he was a member of one of the ancient Guilds or Livery companies of the city, and of course was a freeman; he took great interest in city matters, and was quite prominent in social civic life; he resided in Red Lion Square near Orange Street, and his house was surrounded by the residences of the nobility and men of eminence, especially those who were in the law, namely, Lord Erskine, Sir Vicary Gibbs, Mr. Scarlett, afterwards Lord Abinger, Charles Butler, Esquire, of Lincoln's Inn, Lord Eldon, Sir Henry Lawrence, Mr. Tillard, a gentleman of high celebrity.

These were all near neighbours of Mr. Deacon, and with all of them he was on terms of familiar acquaintance.

Actors, actresses and singers of the superior class used to come and visit at his house. Sarah Kemble, the great Mrs. Siddons, was a friend of Mrs. Deacon and used frequently to call and visit her.

Mrs. Siddons was living at 149 Strand during the time of her earlier successes. She was born in 1755, and first appeared at Drury Lane in 1775 as Portia.

Her first real triumph was in 1780 as Isabella in Southerne's Tragedy. No actress received more homage in her time than Mrs. Siddons. She closed her career in 1812 as Lady Macbeth, her greatest triumph. She is said to have made George III. shed tears.

Reynolds painted his name on the hem of her garment in his portrait of her as the Tragic Muse. Dr. Johnson kissed her hand and admired her genius.

Lord Erskine studied her cadences and tones. This lofty minded actress, as Young calls her, died in 1831. *Haunted London, Edward Walford, 1880, pages 91-319.*

Mr. Deacon was a gentleman of culture and taste. He was fond of painting, especially in water colors, which he finished exquisitely: he was partial to Heraldry, and had some acquaintance with it, seeking out the Heraldic Arms and Crests, and drawing them in colors for his friends.

The Crest of the
wore engraved



Deacon family he
on his seal.

He was of middle stature, broad shoulders, full proportions and florid complexion; he wore his hair powdered, as was the custom of those days, and with a queue; he carried himself with dignity and had all the bearing of a true gentleman of the old school.

He died in London May 14th, 1828. His widow survived him seven years. She died April 19th, 1835, aged 73.

1. **BENJAMIN DEACON**, Esq., of London, eldest son of the above, continued for a time the business left by his father, and died leaving

James Meres Deacon.

Maria Deacon.

2. **JOSEPH DEACON**, Esquire, second son, born 2nd January, 1798, in Red Lion Square, in the Parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn, London, baptized at St. George the Martyr January 28th, 1798, married 10th April, 1827, in St. Philip's Church, Liverpool, (now taken down) Mary Jane, daughter of Peter Haffey Scott, Esquire, of Liverpool. Died at Cardiff, Wales, April 13th, 1881, aged 83 years.

Mr. Deacon was the father of a numerous family of children, of whom seven survived him, as follows:

Mary, born October 25th, 1829.

Peter, born August 14th, 1831.

Henry, born January 14th, 1834.

Margaret, born March 12th, 1837.

Edward, born December 19th, 1839.

Elizabeth, born August 8th, 1842.

Sarah, born July 27th, 1844.



Besides the above another son, their first born, Joseph, a fine, promising youth, died in Dublin, 1841, of scarlet fever, aged 13 years, and Samuel Fisher, an infant son, died aged 3 years in 1850.

Mr. Joseph Deacon, when a youth, went to sea and made a few voyages to the Mediterranean. He, however, early abandoned this profession and entered commercial life in Liverpool, where he made the acquaintance of many of his life long friends, who at that time were rising young men of the town.

Mr. Lister, the Banker, Mr. Heywood, the Banker, Mr. Edw. Howell, the celebrated Bookseller, Mr. Farnsworth, the Lumberdealer, and others. In course of time Mr. Deacon engaged in the Salt trade and had his office in the Royal Exchange in the same room with Mr. Robertson Gladstone, brother of the celebrated William E. Gladstone, the English Statesman.

Through his acquaintance with Mr. Charles Wye Williams, the projector and President of the Dublin and Liverpool Steam Packet Company, Mr. Deacon was induced to become an officer of that Company, with headquarters in the City of Dublin, Ireland, having charge of the Interior Traffic Department.

This Company endeavored to develop transportation in the interior of the island, anterior to railroads, by the canal system, and a systematic line of fast passenger and freight canal boats. When the railroads had finally superseded this system, Mr. Deacon, after fifteen years' residence in the City of Dublin, returned to Liverpool.

Jos Deacon

He retired from active life about 1870 and ended his days peacefully in Cardiff at the ripe age of 83 years.

Mr. Joseph Deacon was a devout Christian gentleman, active in every church work, he was an Elder or Deacon in

the Baptist Church, and during his residence in Dublin was one of the pillars of the Abbey Street Baptist Church of that city, and afterwards of the great church known as the Myrtle Street Baptist Chapel in Liverpool, of which the celebrated Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown was minister.

Mr. Charles Y. Williams, before mentioned, was one of the pioneers of steamship building in Great Britain, and it was mainly through his exertions that the "Great Western" steamship was equipped to make the first attempt at regular steam service across the Atlantic.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Deacon maintained a warm friendship through life.

"Article I. K. Brunell, Nat'l Dic. Biography.

"In 1836 the largest steam vessel afloat did not exceed 208 feet in length. The Great Western constructed by him far surpassed any other existing steamship in size, measuring 236 feet in length by 35 in breadth, with a displacement of 2,300 tons. She made her first voyage in 1838 and achieved a great success.

"She was the first steamship employed in regular ocean service between this country (England) and America, and accomplished the voyage in the then unprecedented time of fifteen days."

Mr. Deacon was a man of large intelligence and wide reading, of a liberal mind, and thoroughly imbued with religious principle, a Christian and a gentleman in every relation of life.

In his early days, as was customary with the youth of the period, he cultivated literature and oratory in a debating society.

In Dublin he was the active promotor of a private select society called "The Book Club," for the purchase and reading of the best works of the day as they were published.

This society was composed of John Purser, Esq., Mr. Greene, Dr. Geoghegan, Mr. Butler, Mr. Deacon, and John T. Purser, Esq., and they met semi-annually at each other's residences to auction off to each other the volumes which had collected during the previous six months.

Mr. Deacon's most intimate friend was the late John Purser, Esq., of Rathmines Castle, Co. Wicklow (which had previously been the residence of Lord Palmerston, from whom he purchased it) a partner of the great Brewing firm of Guinness & Co., Dublin, of which Sir Arthur Guinness, now Lord Avonmore, the restorer of St. Patrick's Cathedral, was the head. Their friendship was one that death does not end, for it was founded and cemented by a common sympathy, and faith in the same blessed Savior.

Mr. Deacon lies buried in a beautiful cemetery near Cardiff and an appropriate monument marks his resting place.

Mr. John T. Purser, eldest son of his old friend, acted as administrator of his estate.

3. SARAH, daughter of Benjamin Deacon, London, married James Easton and died 1849 sine prole.

4. JANE emigrated to America. The following account is furnished by William J. Moseley, Justice of the Peace, North Newburg, Shiawasse Co., Mich., October 27th, 1878:

"Jane Deacon married Mr. Jacob J. Bogardus at Kalamazoo, Mich., about two years after her arrival in America. They moved to the Moseley farm in Shiawasse County shortly after, where they lived until 1852, when Jane died. She was first buried on the farm, but when that was sold, her remains were moved to the Moseley burying ground at Fremont, near North Newburg, where they lie, still unmarked by even a stone. I do not know where any of Mr. Bogardus' children now are. He had a son and daughter living near Kalamazoo, Mich., but both have since gone from there."

Mr. Bogardus was a descendant of the old New York family of that name, who laid claim to the immense property now held by Trinity Church in that city.

Dominie Everardus Bogardus, who came from Amsterdam and landed in "New Netherland," (as New York was then called) in April, 1633, was one of the grand old char-

acters of those stalwart days. He married the widow of Roelof Jans and inherited the vast grant made to that person.

A supposed flaw in the title given by his heirs when the property was sold in 1671, led to the famous law suit to recover the property from the Corporation of Trinity Church, who had received it from the Crown.

5. MARY, married first Captain John Collman Hickman, R. N., and leaves a daughter, Marian Hickman.

Married, second, Joseph Watson, whom she survived a few years.

The Commission on parchment dated 16 Sept., 1767, to Stephen Collman Hickman, Brigadier and Cornet in the 2nd troop of Horse Guards, signed by the King himself—George R.—and also by Shelburne—"Lord Shelburne,"—is in the possession of Peter Deacon, Esq., of Cardiff, Wales, who also holds the following,

Commission on parchment dated 12th March, 1812, to John Collman Hickman Lieutenant of H. M. S. "Dædalus."

Commission on parchment dated 23d October, 1815, to John Collman Hickman, Lieutenant of H. M. S. "Alceste."

The first mentioned Stephen Collman Hickman was the father of John Collman, who married Mary Deacon.

6. MARTHANA, married John Dutton Price, who died, leaving her a widow with six children, of whom,

1. Fred John Price, of the city of London, clerk, married Miss Hyde and has issue, a daughter Emily and two sons.
2. Alfred Price, married, }
3. Robert Price, unmarried }

both of whom are at Toka Toka, New Zealand.

The other children of Marthana died in their childhood, and their mother is said to have died of grief.

8. ELIZABETH, married William Binley Musson. They had no children. She died 18 April, 1883.

To this good and kind lady the compiler is indebted for a great part of this genealogy. She inherited the memory of her descent from the Bedfordshire family, and placed it on record for the information of those interested; she was also fully informed concerning the Meres family and descent, and her MS. notes were found remarkably correct on the more critical investigation which produced these pages.

CHILDREN OF JOSEPH AND MARY (SCOTT) DEACON.

No. 2, page 112.

PETER DEACON, eldest surviving son of Joseph Deacon, born August 14th, 1831, married at St. George's Church, Everton, Liverpool, July 6th, 1853, Fanny Catherine, daughter of Jonathan Vaughan Lovett, Esq., Captain R. N., of the very ancient family of Lovett of Liscombe House, Co. Bucks, (see Lovett) and has issue,

Mary Elizabeth, born 26th July, 1855.

Fanny Lovett, born 8th April, 1857.

Joseph Edward, born 13th October, 1860.

Mrs. Fanny Lovett Deacon died at Cardiff greatly beloved and deeply regretted July 3d, 1890, and is interred at Llanishen, Wales.

Mr. Deacon is by profession a Civil Engineer and head of the firm of Peter Deacon & Co., Engineers and Exporters, Cardiff, Wales, where he resides.

JOSEPH EDWARD DEACON, son of Peter Deacon, Esq., married 19th July, 1889, Clarissa Anne Frances, (born 1867) daughter of Colonel Charles Cooper, Bengal Native Infantry, and has issue,

Sackville Lovett, born Sept. 8th, 1890.

Gordon Edward, born July 16th, 1893.

Cuthbert Harold, born Nov. 19th, 1895.

HENRY DEACON, second son of Joseph Deacon, Esq., was born January 14th, 1834, married 23 July, 1861, to Mary Jane Caradyce, of Runcorn, Cheshire, born Feb. 1st, 1839. She died 24 November, 1895, and is buried at Llanishen, near Cardiff, Wales, and had issue,

Lily Scott, born 21 October, 1862.

Amy Florence, born 10 October, 1865.

Gertrude, born 25 April, 1868.

Henry Purser, born 9 April, 1870.

Edith Laura, born 20 July, 1871.

Howard Herbert, born 26 December, 1874.

Arthur Henry Caradyce, born 13 March, 1879.

Henry Purser Deacon died 4 June, 1870, buried in the New Cemetery, Cardiff, beside his Grandfather and Grandmother, and two sons of Sarah and Charles Perrin.

Mr. Henry Deacon is engaged in mercantile pursuits in the City of Bristol, in the coal trade, but is known as a gentleman of considerable taste and talent as an Artist, Writer and Poet. Among other productions from his pen he published, in 1884, a small volume upon the Economic-social questions of the day, entitled "Darkness and Dawn," and in 1891 a larger volume upon the same subject, called "Puritanism in Power." He is indefatigable in religious efforts to uplift his fellow men, and to spread the gospel of our Lord and Savior.

EDWARD DEACON, third son of Joseph and Mary Deacon, born 19th December, 1839, married 10th June, 1871, at Detroit, Mich., Eliza Stoddard, born 13th July, 1837, daughter of Captain Rodman Stoddard, J. P., of Detroit, and has issue,

Mamie Elise, born 16th April, 1873.

Meres Stoddard, born 15th May, 1879.

The Stoddard family is one of the most ancient and honorable in the history of New England, and has given many names of note to their country.

Descended from Anthony Stoddard of Boston, 1638-1687, who married Mary, sister of Sir George Downing, Baronet,



niece to Governor John Winthrop of Massachusetts, and granddaughter of Sir James Ware, Knight.

Mr. Deacon came to America in 1864, living first in Iowa, thence removing to Detroit, Mich., where he married, and finally, in 1886, to Bridgeport, Conn. He has all his life been interested in antiquarian subjects, and is the compiler of these pages. In 1891 he was elected Honorary Treasurer of the Fairfield County Historical Society, and subsequently one of the four Trustees of the Barnum Institute of Science and History. He is Secretary of the Consolidated Rolling Stock Company of Bridgeport, and a Director of the Marshall Car Co., and of the Detroit Rolling Stock Co., and a member of the Seaside Club. A brief sketch of his life appeared in *Illustrated Biography of Connecticut Men*, J. A. Spalding, Hartford, 1891, and in the *National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, Vol. 5, published by White & Co., New York.

In 1891 Mr. Deacon published "The Family of Meres and some early English Newspapers, a paper read before a local society," and in 1893 "The Ancestors of Rodman Stoddard of Woodbury, Conn., and Detroit, Mich.," followed in 1895 by a "Preliminary Sketch of the Genealogy of the family of Deacon, originally of Bedfordshire, England," a pamphlet of which these pages are the fuller and more detailed form. His residence is in Bridgeport, Conn.

MAMIE ELISE, only daughter of Edward and Eliza Deacon, born 16th April, 1873, in Detroit, Mich., educated at Mt. Holyoke College, received the degree of B. L. 17th June, 1896. Married 17th August, 1897, to Edward Payson Bullard, Jr., second son of Edward Payson Bullard, of Bridgeport, Conn.—son of Luther Bullard of Uxbridge, Mass., and his wife Hannah (Dudley) Bullard—and Alice Martha (Camp) Bullard, daughter of Joseph William Camp and Lucy Augusta (Brewster) Camp, of Bristol, Conn.

Mrs. Camp is a direct descendant of Elder Brewster of the "Mayflower."

MARY DEACON, eldest daughter of Joseph Deacon, was born October 25th, 1829. She never married, but devoted her life to works of affection and charity.

In January, 1885, she went to Australia, to be with her sister Sarah, wife of William Parsons, at Scarsdale, near Melbourne, and died there Nov. 29th, 1889, aged 60 years, leaving behind her a fragrant memory.

MARGARET DEACON, second daughter of Joseph Deacon, Esq., was born 12th March, 1837. She married December 6th, 1859, at St. Philip's Church, Liverpool, Alexander Marshall, son of Lieutenant-General Anthony Marshall of the British Army and has issue,

Alexander, born 27th January, 1861.

Joseph A., born 13th April, 1863, died 1886.

Charles Frederick, born 17 June, 1865.

Amelia Henrietta, born 27 August, 1868.

died 6 January, 1869.

The first three children were born in Howard County, Iowa, the daughter was born in Melbourne, Australia.

Mr. Alexander Marshall was educated for the sea, but abandoned it and emigrated to America, with three other brothers, for whom their father purchased a large tract of prairie land in the state of Iowa, near the site of the present town of Cresco, Howard County. Returning to England he married Miss Deacon and took her out to Iowa.

As the other brothers one after another followed his example and went to England, returning with their wives, there soon became too many families, and the land was eventually divided. Alexander sold his share and returned to England, where he now lives with his family.

His father, the late Lieut.-General Marshall, R. E., died 25th May, 1865, aged 74. The local papers gave the following sketch of his life and services:

“The death of Lieut.-General Anthony Marshall, of the Royal Engineers, which took place on Thursday last at his residence, Lipson-terrace, Plymouth, has deprived Plymouth of one of the most estimable of her military residents.

“General Marshall was born on the 6th of August, 1791, and after the usual training at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, entered the army at the age of seventeen. He served in the Peninsular campaign under the late Field-Marshal, the Duke of Wellington, from January, 1811, to October, 1813. Was present at the siege of Badajoz in June, 1811, as first lieutenant; also at the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo in January, 1812, where he was slightly wounded while laying out a part of the second parallel; also at the siege of San Sebastian on the 31st of August, 1813, where he was twice severely wounded by musket shots when leading the advance of the column of attack up the great breach. For these services he received the Peninsular war medal with three clasps. General Marshall served with the army in France as Second Captain R. E. from the investment of Paris in June, 1815, until it quitted in October, 1818. He was stationed in the Mediterranean from June, 1821, to December, 1826; in Nova Scotia from June, 1831, to August, 1834, and commanded the Royal Engineers at the Cape of Good Hope from June, 1842, to June, 1845, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. His services here were of great value to the country.

“The fatigues of the warm climate and an arduous profession brought on a severe illness, which obliged him to resign the command and return to England. He has since resided at Plymouth, engaged in works of active benevolence and usefulness until his death on the 25th instant, after three years most painful suffering.”

General Marshall was one of those instances, now happily not uncommon, of a true Christian soldier.

Gazetted—

Major-General, 30th May, 1856.

Lieutenant-General, 20th April, 1861.

Died, 25th May, 1865, aged 74.

ELIZABETH, third daughter of Joseph Deacon, Esq., born August 8th, 1842, married at Mitchell, Davison Co., Dakota, April 14th, 1882, to Augustus St. Amend Denton, of Fenton, Michigan, and had a son,

Augustus Edward, born December 8th, 1883,
died May 26th, 1887.

Miss Deacon came to the United States in 1874, and subsequent to her marriage lived in the town of Denton, Mower Co., Dakota. This town was named for her husband and was laid out by him. Unfortunately the adverse action of the South Dakota Railroad in locating a new town site and depot a few miles distant, called Diana, killed the young and rising town of Denton.

Mr. Denton never recovered from this blow to his most cherished plans, and died at Denton, Dakota, 19 October, 1883, aged 40 years and 5 months.

SARAH, youngest daughter of Joseph Deacon, Esq., born July 27th, 1844, married, January 10th, 1866, her cousin Charles Frederick Perrin, second son of the late Richard Perrin, Esquire, of Dublin, Ireland, and has issue,

Charles Heber, born September 30th, 1867.

Richard Alfred, born May 18, 1869.

Henry Jocelyn, born July 10, 1870.

Clement Alfred, born October 8, 1871.

Frances Eileen, born April 16, 1873.

Richard and Henry both died at Cardiff, England, Henry, Sept. 2d, 1870, and Richard, Dec. 15th, same year.

“He reaps the bearded grain at a breath,
And the flowers that grow between.”

Her husband, while a young man, devoted his life to Evangelical Christian work, in which he was ably seconded by his wife. To this end, they went to Australia and prosecuted untiringly and with success the preaching of the gospel to the outcast and hardened.

Engaged in this blessed work Mr. Perrin contracted fever

through exposure, and expired May 7th, 1875, aged 33 years. He died in Tasmania at Hamilton-on-Forth, and is buried in a picturesque retired little churchyard on the banks of the river Forth.

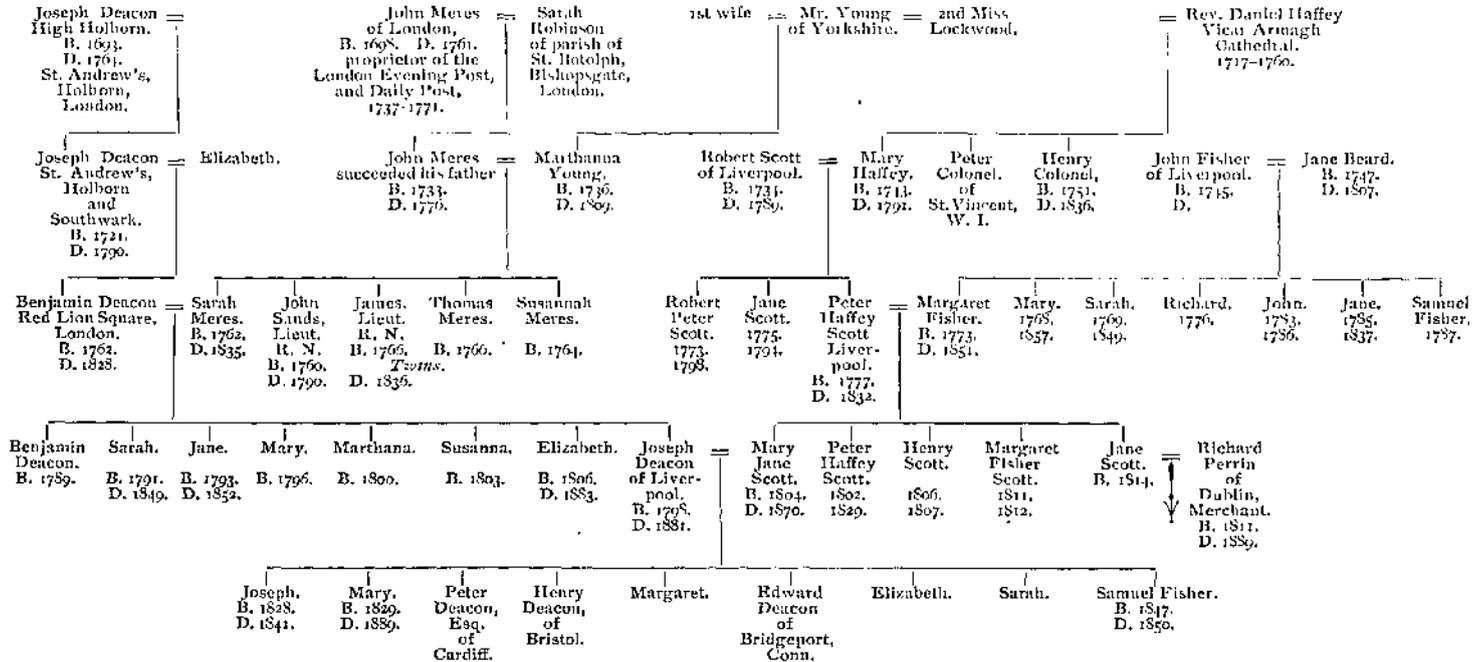
In 1878 Mrs. Perrin edited a small volume of Memorials of her late husband, Charles F. Perrin, entitled "One thing I do," published in Melbourne, Australia, by the Bible and Tract Repository.

Mrs. Perrin married again September 1st, 1882, William B. Parsons, of Leicester, England, a Banker, residing at Scarsdale, near Melbourne, Australia, and has issue by him,

Howard William, born August 7th, 1883.
died January, 1897.

Kathleen Rachel, born March 2d, 1885.

DEACON, MERES, HAFFEY, SCOTT.



CHAPTER VIII.

ORIGIN and VARIATIONS of the Name.

The following remarks upon the origin of the name, DEACON, may be thought superfluous by those who have duly considered the foregoing pedigree; but so much has been written upon the origin of family names, and it has until recently been the fashion so hastily to assume that a name must necessarily be derived from the source which its form, sound or spelling indicates, whether of place, trade, office or character; that it may not be improper to present a few facts showing the arguments which may be adduced in support of a more scientific derivation. But before proceeding to this investigation it may be well to glance at the various explanations given by learned writers on surnames; we quote as follows:

“The lower ministerial office is suggested by Philip le Dekene and Thomas le Deken, but we must be careful not to confound them with Deakin, which is often but another form of Dawkin and Dakin, little David.

“In the same manner, Dickon is frequently a diminutive or pet name for Richard. Dickens is the more usual form of the name.”

English Surnames by Charles Waring Beardsley, M.A.

Dickins, used as a nickname of Satan, has a different origin, being a contraction of the diminutive Devilkins.

Patronymica Britannica, by Mark A. Lower.

Degons—Dequon or Digon is an early nursename of Richard. One of the messengers of Eleanor, Countess of Montfort in 1265 was called "Diquon."

In the "100 Merry tales" there is an anecdote of a rustic from the North of England who as Richard III. was reviewing some troops near London, stepped out of the ranks and clapping the monarch upon the shoulder exclaimed:

"Diccon, Diccon, by the mis ays blith that thoust Kyng."

"Dick, Dick, by the mass I am glad you are King."

Nor must we forget Shakespeare's

"Jockey of Norfolk be not too bold,

For Dickon thy Master is bought and sold."

K. Richard III., Act 5, Scene 3.

So much for these speculations, which ignoring the records of local history, take dogerel verse and ancient slang as a basis upon which to build a pet theory. These quotations prove nothing save that nicknames were not unknown to our ancestors.

It will of course be seen from the preceding genealogy, that the present family of Deacon of Bedford and Buckingham is deduced from Dekeney or De Akeney, and we will now proceed to say a word or two with reference to the origin of the modern form of spelling.

Mr. Froude and others treating incidentally of the origin of family names have assumed, apparently without investigation, that the name Deacon must have arisen from the sacerdotal office or church-order so called. This, however, is mere assumption, there being no actual proof whatever that such was its source, however plausible the derivation may appear. It no more follows that the name Deacon originated from the church office, than that of King or Pope from their respective dignities, to assume which we know would be ridiculous, or that the name White must

necessarily be derived from the color so named. We now know that "hwit," anglo-saxon for swordsmith or armourer, has frequently been its source.

Close investigation into the history of the Deacon family plainly reveals the fact that the home of the name, or the location in which it was early developed, was in that part of the counties of Buckingham and Bedford which will be comprised in a circle within a radius of about ten miles, having its center on the border line of the two counties at Astwood.

In this district the family grew and flourished for many centuries, and numerous descendants within the very same area reside to-day in sight of the homes of their ancestors. It is sufficient only to mention a few of these places to prove this statement. Milton-Keynes, Newport Pagnell, Astwood, Cold-Brayfield, Little Houghton, Elstow, Medbury, Wilshamsted, and others.

In these localities after the 14th century the family was variously known as Dakyn, Diccon, Deakins, Dyckons, Decon, Dekyns, Dycon and Deacons. Now from existing documents it is known that in the earliest period the family of Dekene, D'Ekene or De Akeney (originally from Norfolk) possessed lands and lordships in just this territory, namely at Little Filgrave and Lathbury, County Bucks, and at Cainho in County Bedford, places only a few miles apart, and between or contiguous to which lie the several villages and towns above named.

Here also was situated the town or village of Ekeney or D'Ekeney, whose site appears upon the Ordnance Maps at the present date, and here from the earliest times we find records of the town, and family who flourished in this place.

It is familiar to all writers on the subject, that, family names originated in many cases from the names of places. It is stated that the Norman family of De Akeney derived their name from Acquainey in Normandy. Whether this is so or not, it may not be easy now to decide, nor whether

the family which we find settled in Buckinghamshire gave its name to the town, or the town its name to the family, but the facts remain and the records are extant which show that the family of de Ekeney lived here and possessed the lordship of the Manor, church and town of Ekeney, or D'Ekeney.

Mr. H. B. Guppy, in his recent very interesting and valuable work entitled "The Homes of Family Names," says "the ascending scale, or the rise from the state of the ignoble to the condition of the noble, has been a frequent theme for the historian and biographer, but we are very apt to forget that this ascent involves a descent in the social ladder. The rise of some families into honor and fame implies the fall and gradual degradation of others. Where are those numerous powerful families that centuries ago held sway in many an English County, but whose names are not now to be found in the roll of honor. Too frequently will it be found that in the vicinity of many a ruined castle still linger, in cottages, the descendants of the baronial family that once possessed it.

"Take the case of a noble who was the parent of a numerous progeny three centuries ago, at a very moderate computation his descendants would now be not less than three hundred in number. But where are they found? A single representative may possibly retain the ancestral honors of the senior branch. Of the other two hundred and ninety-nine who bear his name a few are directly related to the reigning peer, whilst the rest, combining in their persons a thousand other family strains, are to be found among the rank and file of the nation, in the professions, the trades, the yeomen and the laboring classes. * * * Thus we can perceive how, when an ancient house becomes extinct, it is only the honors that have passed away, the family remains, though its ramifications are lost amid the masses of the people."

It would certainly seem that the very case thus portrayed is now before us. The ancient lordships of D'Ekeney have

disappeared, the manorial estates have passed to other hands, the village of Ekeney, founded by the family, has likewise sunk into oblivion and appears only as a name on the Government Survey Maps, but the descendants of the knightly house still hover round the precincts of the family traditions, and perhaps plough the fields that their fathers owned.

Referring to Mr. Guppy's volume again, it will be seen that he finds the name of Deacon principally in the counties of Leicester and Rutland, while the cognate forms of Dickin and Dicken appear strongly represented in Bedfordshire and Bucks, and Deaken and Daykin are shown to have developed chiefly in Staffordshire and Derby.

Now Mr. Guppy's scheme is very wisely based on an enumeration of the yeoman or farmer class, representing the most permanent type of society, his conclusions, therefore, may be taken as fairly approximating the real facts.

We know from actual investigation that the name Deacon has taken this form gradually, and within a comparatively recent period; that the progenitors of those who now bear it wrote their name very differently, and that the farther back we pursue the investigation the nearer the approach to the original form of D'Ekeney, and the more circumscribed the bounds within which this name will be found.

Mr. Guppy admits what is well ascertained, that the family of De Ekeney were settled between the 13th and 15th centuries in the counties of Norfolk, Cambridge, Bedford, Bucks, Hertford and Derby. From the first two counties the family has entirely disappeared. In Derbyshire they attained considerable numbers and influence and two or three branches were well settled in lands and manor houses, but even here where the name would most naturally exhibit the least change, it has become Dakin, Deakin and Deakinnes. In the counties of Bedford, Bucks and Herts, Mr. Guppy finds no Deacons, nor Dakins, but a numerous list of Dickens and Dickins, and the same is

true of Northamptonshire, or that part included within the radius of ten miles before mentioned.

It cannot be merely accident or coincidence that the only counties in all England in which these names are found in characteristic numbers, should be exactly those in which the De Ekeneyes were early settled and from which the other forms of the name have disappeared.

It seems, therefore, incontestible that the names of Dickens and Dickins have descended through the forms of Decons and Dyckons from the Dakins, D'Ekenys and Dakeyues of the early centuries. Furthermore in the adjoining counties of Leicester and Rutland the name of Deacon is found taking the place of Dicken, but we know from the records that the early form of the name in these counties was Dicons and Dekons, the same as in Bedford and Bucks, and that Dawkins found associated with it is an accepted form of Dakeny.

Mr. Guppy says further, "The name of Le Dekene (the Deacon) which occurred in Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk in the 13th century, may have sometimes given rise to the name in East Anglia and elsewhere," but unfortunately for this supposition, Mr. Guppy's researches show that in these very counties there are no representatives whatever of the name in any form, so that the only attempt made to exhibit the derivation of the name from the office of the church is disproved by the author in his own pages.

Further with regard to the changes of names, and diversity of spelling, the following quotation from Mr. Maddison's Lincolnshire Wills, second series, is interesting :

"The spelling, it must be confessed, appears of a most arbitrary character, and to those of my readers who are not conversant with the writing of the period, I may as well say that a man not infrequently spells his own name differently even in the short limits of a will.

"I mention this because an inexperienced reader might naturally suppose that the proof sheets had been carelessly corrected. The doubling of vowels and consonants is

quite a matter of chance, sometimes the scribe indulges in a superfluity, sometimes he seems to grudge the necessary letters. So much I feel it needful to say to account for the startling discrepancies in spelling which abound in names of persons and places. Again, it may be confidently affirmed that in the reign of Henry VIII., very few country gentlemen could do more than sign their names, (if indeed they could do as much) and their acquaintance with literature must have been proportionately limited."

Another writer says, "The cause of the lesser variations are principally to be found in the circumstance that such an unimportant matter as the orthography of a name was often decided by the clerk or attorney of a county parish," who wrote the name as it sounded or was pronounced, without any regard to its origin or significance, and subject to all the modifications which ignorance, localisms, or familiarity would produce; the same writer says, "few of us reflect that the differences to which we attach so much importance were either framed in the brainpan of a parish clerk, or originated from the *phonetic orthography* of a country attorney."

Mr. Lower states that the name Mainwaring is found written in one hundred and thirty-one different ways.

It is easy to see in the light of the above explanations how D'Ekeney becomes Deken-e and Decon, while Ykenai or D'Yken became Dyken and Dycon, and Decon and Dicon became Deacon.

It may not be entirely irrelevant to observe just here, that the present Celtic (Irish) pronunciation of the name Deacon, is distinctly *Daykin*. Whether there exists any connection between the provincialism of the country people of the midland counties three centuries ago, and the patois of the Celtic race, giving rise to similar vowel sound changes, I will not here say.

Mark Anthony Lower in his Essay on English surnames says, "Having given this list of names derived from titles

and offices, I shall not attempt to account for their having been adopted as designations of families.

That the first of the name of King, Prince, Duke, held either of these dignities is too preposterous to mention, nor is it likely that the inferior titles were so derived, for that would have been a mean kind of nomenclature, (for instance, no man who was knighted would choose to be known as Mr. Knight instead of say, Sir John Brown).

“Again in ecclesiastical dignities such names if adopted could not have been perpetuated, (Bishop, Priest, Deacon) seeing that all churchmen from the Pope of Rome down to the lowest Mass-priest led a life of celibacy, and consequently had no recognized posterity. It has been conjectured, however, that these names indicate ‘Illegitimacy,’ a plausible surmise, but the proofs are wanting.

“Others think that the clerical names originated from widowers who had gone into the church and given the designations of these offices as surnames to their children, but it is impossible that such could have been the case with such names as Pope.”

The Rev. Mark Noble thinks that such as took these names, held lands under those who really bore the titles, but this again is impossible in such dignities as Pope, Cardinal and Emperor, who held no lands in England.

It has been suggested that these names were originally (in very different form) local names, or tribal names, which in course of ages becoming corrupted, and there being no written language to perpetuate their original form, they gradually conformed to the sound of later well known titles, offices, or occupations, (just as children assimilate their language to familiar word sounds) until the original form or root was utterly lost, leaving us the vast plantasmagora of surnames covering every conceivable honor or occupation known to men at that period.

The following quotations from the recent work on British Family Names, their Origin and Meaning, by Henry Barber, London, 1894, exhibits this theory:

“Corruptions which many family names have undergone tend to baffle alike the genealogical and etymological enquirer, thus the name of Bug, is found Bugge, Bogue, Boake, Boogie, Bussey, Busse, de Bougey, de Bucy, de Buci, &c.” He further says, “It is open to question whether some of the names popularly ascribed to occupations, such as Baker, Butcher, Carter, &c., will not bear a different interpretation, and the reader is invited to study these names in their respective places.”

Dr. Barber derives our English names from various tribal surnames, Frisian, Anglo Saxon and Norman.

He gives among other Frisian family (tribal) names that of *Dicks*, from this root he derives the forms Diko and Dyko, Diken, Dyken, Dikena, from which proceed the German forms of Dix and the Dutch, Dikker, Dikken.

Further from this root Dicks, he then derives all the following English names, Dix, Dick, Dack, Daking, Dickman, Dicken, Diggins, Degon, Deegon, and finally Deacon, without any reference whatever to the clerical office.

Robert Ferguson in his work entitled “Teutonic Name System, applied to British Family Names,” published in 1864, says, Root forms, *Dack, Dag, Dago*; Grimm suggests its meaning may be that of brightness or beauty, derived from *Dag*, day. Besides the simple forms Dack, Tagg, &c., we have diminutives Dagley, Tackle, Dagoin, Daykin, Dacgoin, Dagobert, Decombe, Dicom, or Dicon.

Now Daykin, Dacombe, Dicom, Dicons, are all recognized variations of Dakeny, Dycons, Deacon.

Enough has been shown to justify the conclusion that the name Deacon is not derived from the church office, even if we did not have the positive proof of descent as exhibited in the foregoing pedigree.

A recent writer in the *Quarterly Review*, who criticises rather roughly the several works bearing on the origin of Family Names, admits, however, that the study of surnames as surnames must be supplemented by some knowledge of the families to whom they belong, and further

says, "The irritating weakness of mediæval scribes for Latinizing the names they dealt with, makes identification a work of some difficulty," a significant admission. This writer insists that Barbon, a local name, became corrupted into Barebones.

Another familiar and undoubted corruption of a name into a different form, but of similar sound, is that of the famous Charter House School and Hospital in London, founded in 1371 as a Monastery named Chartreux.

But the gist of the whole argument is summed up in a nut-shell by Mark A. Lower, who quoting, says, "Mr. Ferguson well shows the tendency of corruption is almost invariably *toward* a meaning, and not away from one." After that there seems but little need to say more. There is, therefore, no difficulty in seeing the transformation of the undoubted and authentic Norman place name De Akeney into Dakin, Deakin and Deacon.

An excellent example of pedantry and ignorance (which I am pleased to be able to expose) regarding the origin of this name may be found in *Familiæ Minorum Gentium*, by Joseph Hunter, published by the Harleian Society, 1895, Vol. III., article Dakin, page 1017. Under this name Dr. Hunter wrote the following note :

I have several pedigrees of Dakeyne in letters received about 1805 from Mr. Daniel Dakeyne Jun'r of Holthouse, but not his own. That, however, I have seen in Dr. Pegge's Collection, or in Brooke's, probably the former. His name was originally Deacon, and that name is subscribed to a letter addressed to Dr. Pegge, soliciting information about the name in Derbyshire. This French orthography and pronunciation flattered the family, but I suppose Dr. Pegge may be right when he makes of it Little David, David-kin, Davykin, Dakin.

The Dakeynes of Holthouse, without any doubt whatever, are directly descended from the Dakins and Deakeynes of Derbyshire, as may be seen by various evidences. Their descent has been frequently published. It is admitted that the name had become corrupted to Deacon, a positive instance of the transformation of the name to this spelling, but the slur contained in the reference to the

French orthography, and the derivation from David is as absurd as it is unwarranted. There is not a shadow of foundation for either of these statements, they are merely the vagaries of a splenetic old man.

A recent writer in the *Genealogical Magazine* says: "The spelling of family names in times past varied much, according to the fancy of the scribe who wrote it on vellum, or the mason who carved it in stone. If the name commenced with the right letter and phonetically rendered the sound, it was sufficient. We are now more exact, but we cling sometimes rather to the shadow than the substance in declaring that branches claiming the same original stock must belong to different families, if their names are not spelled in exactly the same manner.

The wills and deeds of the family we have been recording exhibit the following forms of the name from 1470 to 1630:

Dyken, without doubt a corruption of
D'Ykenai or D'Ekeny.

Dekyn.

Dyckons.

Decons.

Dicons.

Dycon.

Decones.

Dickons.

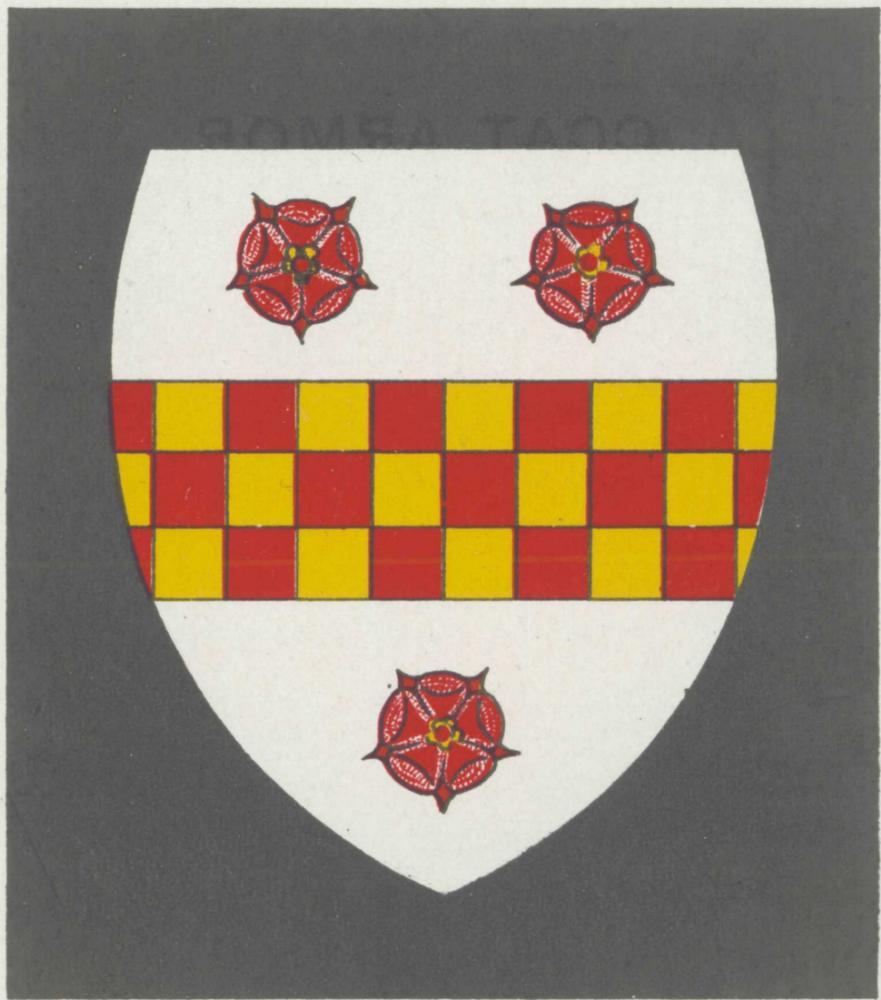
Decons.

Deacons.

Deacon.

These are not random modes of spelling, taken and arranged in order, but are the actual consecutive changes that have taken place in one family, from father to son, during a period of one hundred and fifty years, and as before stated, sometimes one document will exhibit two or more variations in spelling. But all through the period there is a gradual tendency, regardless of its origin, to conform the name to the familiar office, connected with the church, so well known to all.

As to the persistence and spread of the name, an examination of the Post Office Directories for the four Counties of Bedford, Buckingham, Cambridge and Huntingdon of recent date, exhibits the startling fact that in these counties, with a total population of 516,000, there were only four persons of adult age bearing the name of Deacon, and eleven others who spelled it with variations, as Dickens; that is, but one in 130,000 for Deacon, and but one in 47,000 for variations. Considering its comparative frequency in ancient times, this would indicate that the name is disappearing from its habitat.



DEACON
of
LONDON.

CHAPTER IX.

COAT ARMOR

and

DIFFERENCING.

DE AKENY,

Azure, a cross argent, between four lions or.

Burke.

DAKENY,

Azure, a cross argent, between four lions rampant
or.

Berry.

DAKENY, Derbyshire and Yorkshire,

Argent, a cross between four lioncels gules.

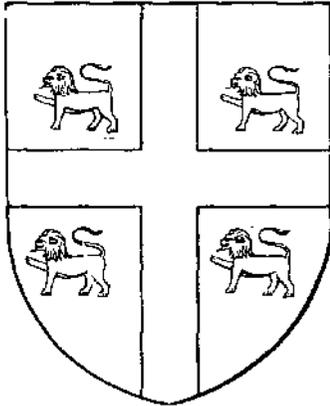
Burke.

DAKEYNE, Darbydale,

Same as above.

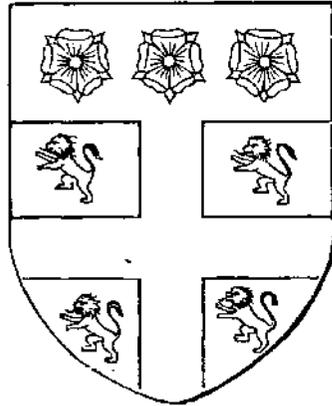
Burke.

DE AKENY.



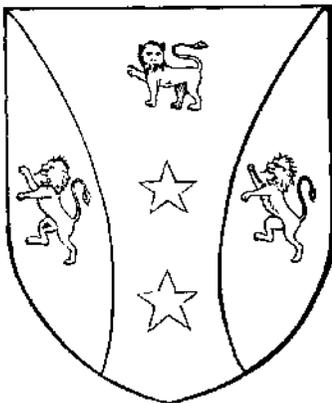
NORFOLK AND BEDFORD.

DEACON.



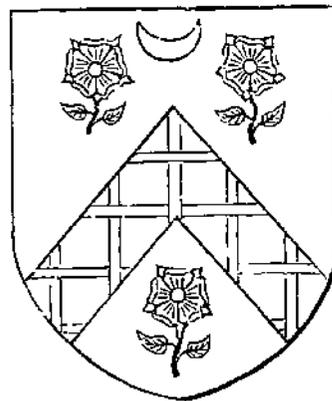
LONDON.

DEAKYN.



YORKSHIRE.

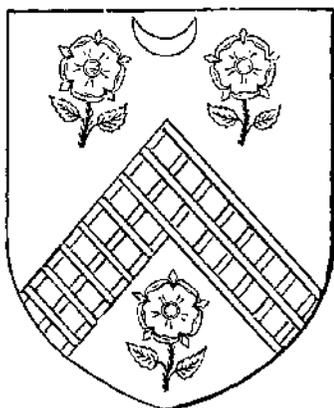
DEACON.



WASPEATON.

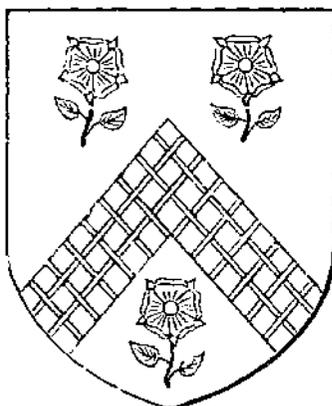
- DEAKYN, Bagthorpe House, Co. Notts, 1611.
Gules, a lion pass-guardant, and two mullets in pale, or, between two flanches argent, charged with a griffin segreant sable. *Burke.*
- DEAKIN, Sheffield,
Same as above. *Burke.*
- DEACON, Longcross House, Glamorgan,
Azure, a cross between four lions or, on a chief argent three roses gules. *Burke.*
- DEACON, London,
Azure, a cross between four lions argent, on a chief three roses gules. *Burke.*
- DEACON, London,
Azure, a cross between four lions rampant or, on a chief of the last three roses gules. *Burke.*
- DEKYNS,
Azure, a cross between four lions rampant or. *Glover.*
- DAKNEY, Norfolk,
Argent, a cross between four lions passant, gules. *Edmondson.*
- DEACON, Cirencester, Gloucestershire and Elmstree,
Argent, a cross cotised, between four lions rampant, sable; on a chief azure, three roses proper. *Rudder's Gloucestersh., 1779.*
- DEACON, Pewsey and Oare, Co. Wilts,
Azure, a cross between four lions rampant gules, impaling azure on a chevron gules, three fountains of the field. *Howard's Misc. Gen., 2d Series.*
- DEACON, Bedfordsh., Bucks and Warwickshire,
Argent, a chevron, counter compony gules and or, between three rose branch sprigs of the second, leaved vert. *Burke. Edmondson. Glover.*
- DECONS, Woburn Church, Bedford,
Argent, a chevron sable fretty or, between three roses slipped vert. *Harl. Vol. 19. Berry and Burke.*

DECON.



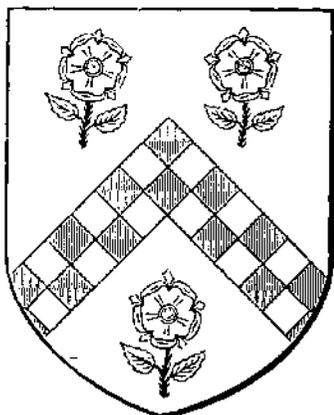
WARWICKSHIRE.

DECONS.



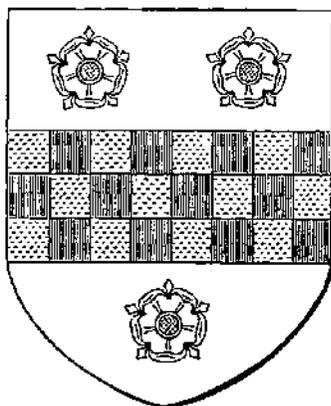
MARSTON, BEDFORDSHIRE.

DEACONS.



BEDFORD AND BUCKS.

DEACON.



ELSTOW AND LONDON.

- DAKYNS, Linton, Co. York, 1563,
Gules, a lion passant guardant and two mullets
in pale or, between two flanches argent, charged
with a lion rampant sable. *Burke.*
- DEACONS,
Sable, a cross between four lions rampant or, on a
chief of the last three roses gules.
Berry's Encyclo. Heraldry. Edmondson. Glover.
- DECONS, Warwickshire,
Argent, a chevron gules treille, or, between three
roses slipped proper, in chief a crescent for diff-ce.
Harl. Vol. 12, Visit'n.
- DECONS,
Argent, a chevron gules, fretty or, between three
roses of the second stalked and leaved vert.
Glover. Berry. Edmondson.
- DICKONS, Marston, Bedfordshire,
Or, a chevron gules, fretty of the field, between
three roses azure slipped vert.
Harl. Vol. 19, Visit, Bedf.
- DEACON, London,
Argent, a fess chequy or and gules, between three
roses proper. *MS. 1765.*
- DIKONS, Bedfordshire,
Argent, a chevron sable, fretty or, between three
roses azure, stalked, slipped and barbed, ppr.
Berry and Burke.
- DICOME, Lincoln,
Gules, a chevron ermine between three roses or.
Berry. Burke. Robson.
- DICAM, Cowby, Lincolnshire,
Gules, on a chevron or, between three roses ar-
gent, as many steeples azure.
Berry and Robson.
- DACOMBE, Dorsetshire,
Same as above. *Edmondson and Glover.*

- DIKENS,
Argent, a chevron sable, fretty or, between three
violets purple, stalked and leaved vert.
Berry. Burke. Edmondson.
- DICOM or DICONS, Bedfordsh.,
Or, a chevron gules, fretty of the field, between
three roses of the second slipped vert.
Burke and Berry.
- DECOMBE,
Argent, five lozenges in bend, between two cross
crosslets fitchie sable. *Robson's Brit. Herald.*
- DICON or DICONS,
Argent, five fusils in bend, between two cross
crosslets fitchie sable. *Burke.*
- DYCONS,
Argent, a bend fusily, sable.
Robson. Edmondson.
- DIKENS or DICKENS,
Bendy of six ermine and azure. *Burke.*
- DICKEN and DICKINS, Stafford and Worcester.
Ermine, a cross patonce sable.
- DE EKONT,
Az, a cross patee argent. *Camden Roll.*
- DE EKONT,
Az. crusily of seven and three crescents argent.
Camden Roll.
- DIKENS or DICKENS,
Bendy of six, ermine and gules. Crest a lion's
head ducally crowned or.

Haffey.



ST. VINCENT
AND
BATH.

CHAPTER X.

HAFFEY

of

Bath

and

West Indies.

ARMS OF HAFFEY.

(Confirmed to Henry Haffey, Esq., of Bath, formerly of Armagh.)

Argent, a lion rampant gules, on a chief azure, two crosses pattee or.

Crest, a demi lion rampant azure, armed and langued gules, grasping in the dexter paw a cross pattee or.

Motto, "Avisé la fin."

Burke's General Armory, Sir John Bernard Burke. Edition 1878. Harrison, London.

REV. DANIEL HAFFEY, Vicar Choral, Armagh Cathedral, Ireland.

Born, circ. 1717. Married, circ. 1740.

Admitted Armagh Cathedral Sept. 11th, 1747. He left three children,

MARY.

Peter.

Henry.

Mr. Haffey was one of the Six Vicars Choral appointed during the Episcopate of Primate, Archbishop Stone.

There was no nursery or school of musical training at Armagh at that early period, and so the Vicars Choral were brought from the schools or Cathedrals of England, and very many from Dublin.

Amongst the names of "Vicars Choral" in the Armagh Cathedral appears that of "Daniel Haffey, admitted Sept. 11th, 1747." See *Cotton's Fasti Ecclesie Hibernicæ*.

A "Vicar Choral" is a Minor Canon in Cathedral Church organizations.

Whom Mr. Haffey married, and when, I have been unable to discover, but it must have been before the year 1742.

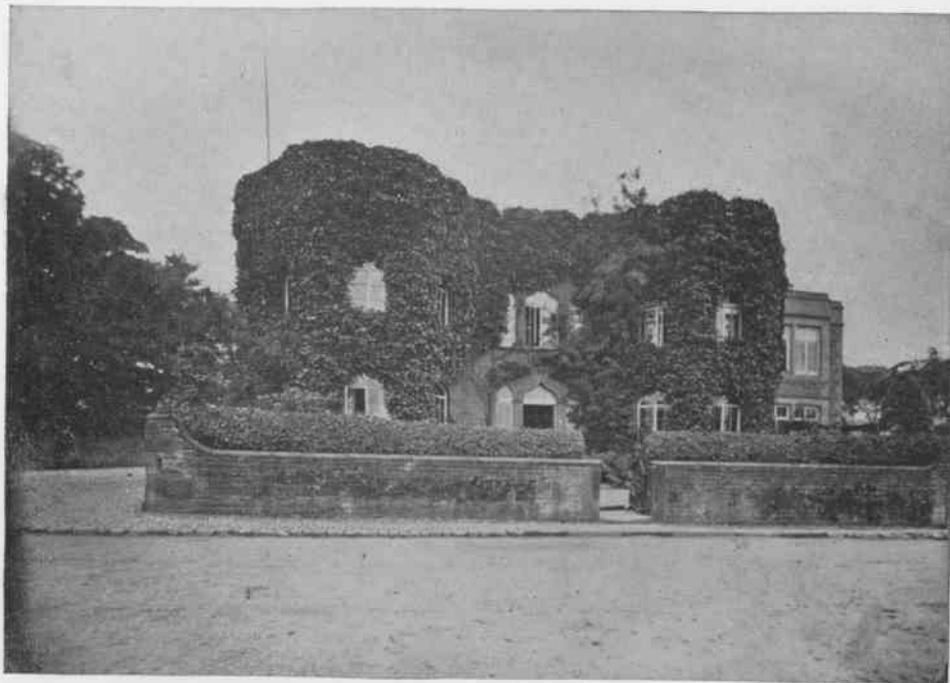
From a Reverend gentleman who most courteously replied to my enquiries concerning the office of Vicar Choral, I quote the following interesting item :

"Perhaps I can best answer your question by telling you about the Vicars Choral of the Cathedral Church of Wells, because they are a feature of that establishment.

"It was in 1237 that they were first appointed at Wells, the Bishop ordaining one to every canon or prebendary, to supply their turns (hence 'vicars') in chanting (hence 'choral') and celebrating divine service.

"At the Reformation this college of Vicars Choral escaped the general suppression which befell religious societies, and in spite of changes this Corporation still exists and includes three Priest Vicars and eleven lay singers.

"They show one at Wells, the 'vicars close' with rows of quaint old English houses where they live.



Childwall Abbey.

“A Vicar Choral, then, is a priest attached to a Cathedral or Collegiate church, to take the duty of a canon when a canon is not present, in which case he is more commonly known as a minor canon.

“The diocese of Wells is included with that of Bath and the Bishop is styled ‘the Bishop of Bath and Wells’.”

Many circumstances make it probable that Mr. Haffey came from the city of Bath, England.

It appears certain, however, that he died at Armagh and was buried there, as in after years his granddaughter was about to visit that city to see his tomb, but being prevented at the time by intervening circumstances, died before accomplishing her desire.

His death probably occurred about 1755-60, and his family returned to Bath after that event.

MARY HAFFEY, of Bath, England, his daughter, born 5 February, 1743, married about 1771 ROBERT SCOTT, of Liverpool, by whom she had three children,

Robert Peter.

Jane.

PETER HAFFEY (see Scott).

She died 6 February, 1791, aged 48 years, and was buried in the ancient churchyard of Childwall Abbey, Lancashire.

“I drove out Sunday afternoon to Childwall Abbey, one of the prettiest spots in Lancashire. The parish of Childwall covers an area of 15,330 statute acres, and dates from the eleventh century. Soon after the conquest it was annexed to the barony of Manchester, and the lords of the manor held it by service of the court baron, and were denominated judges of the court of Manchester. Under Charles I. the manor was given to Lady Stanley by royal award; it then passed to a family named Le Grey, who held it from Oliver Cromwell’s time to the eighteenth century. It was then purchased by a gentleman in Liverpool, and finally became the property, through marriage, of the present Lord Salisbury. The abbey was for many hundred

years the home of the Benedictine Monks, but is now and has been for many years an hotel. Alas! to what base uses do we come at last.

“We were shown over the quaint little church by the sexton, who knew every stick and stone in the place, and no wonder, for he has been there for forty years, and his father, grandfather and great grandfather were there before him.

“Small as the church is, one could easily spend a day wandering up and down the aisles, looking at the different coats of arms, and reading the odd inscriptions on the walls, the most remarkable of which are found about the altar. Here is one:

“‘Left by Edward Almund by will charged on a field called ye schoolfield, fifty sh. a year to be distributed in bread every Sunday at ye discretion of ye vicar and church wardens forever.’

This custom was continued for many years, but finally stopped, and for what reason, think you? There were no poor in the parish to whom the bread could be given. Think of it! Many Sundays the bread was brought, and many times it was kept until it grew moldy, when finally the fifty shillings was given to Woolton, a poorer neighboring parish.

“At one end of the church is a small, curiously shaped window. Anyone suffering from any disease was naturally not allowed to enter the church, but the poor wretches could come to this window, from the outside of which they were permitted to look through at the time of communion, and from this vantage ground the afflicted creatures could murmur their pitiful petitions to heaven, while probably in their hearts bitterly envying their more fortunate fellow creatures, who, strong in health, whispered their prayers at the foot of the altar.

“Lord Salisbury’s pew high up on one side, occupies the most prominent position in the little church, while opposite his on the ground floor is that of the owners of the

Cunard steamship line, whose beautiful home is but a short distance away. The church warden's pew is quite at the back, under the 'squint window.' It was the law in ye olden time, and in fact is now, though never complied with, for the church warden to make frequent and unexpected descents upon the 'pub' over the way, and woe betide the poor devil caught 'tippling' during the hour of worship.

"I held in my hands with reverent awe the registry—a queer little book yellow with age—in which were recorded the births, deaths and marriages for two centuries—from 1500 to 1700.

As there was no evening service, we lingered in the little church until dusk, and then heard the 'curfew toll the knell of parting day,' for here this old custom still holds sway, though it carries no message to the housewife as in Cromwell's time, but is simply a tradition."

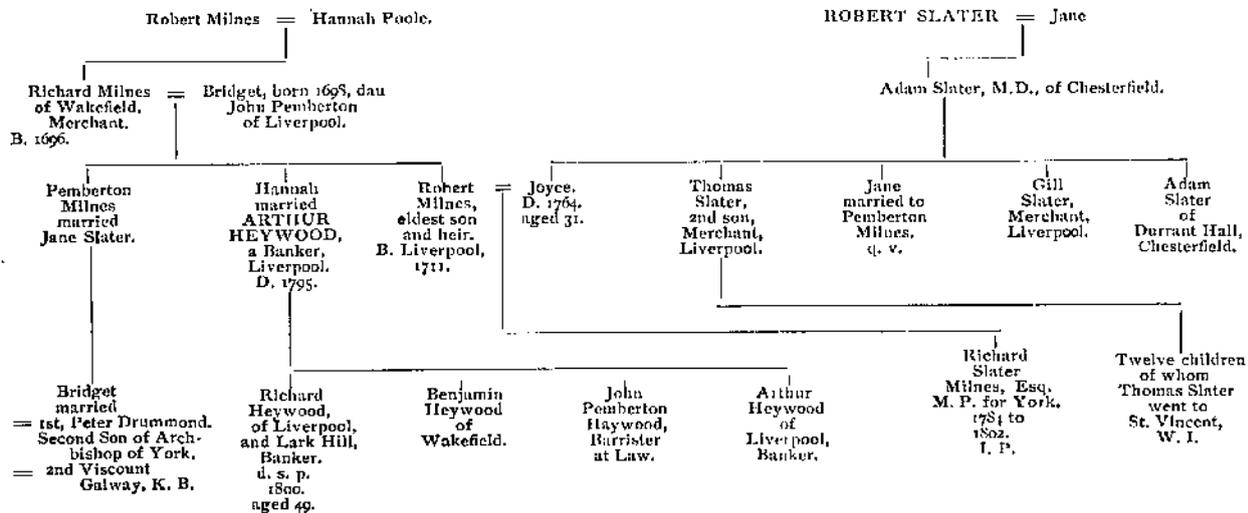
Helen Mar, London, 1895, in Toledo Blade.

PETER HAFFEY, the eldest son of the vicar, was born about the year 1747. The information about him is meagre, but there are a few items which are clear and definite.

As indicated in the notice of his father, the family returned to Bath, after that gentleman's death before the year 1760. The adjacent city of Bristol was at this period the second seaport of England, carrying on especially a large trade with the West Indian Islands. It was natural, therefore, that the young man as he grew up should be attracted by the advantages and opportunities thus afforded.

In 1763, during a temporary peace with France, which was the great rival power in the West Indies, the island of St. Vincent was ceded in perpetuity to the British Crown. Commissioners were then appointed by the government to sell the lands at public sale, and upwards of twenty thousand acres were so disposed of. The minimum price fixed was £5-0-0 sterling per acre for cleared land, and £1-0-0

CONNECTION OF THE SLATER AND HEYWOOD FAMILIES OF LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND.



for wood land, with a small fee for expense of survey, The terms were one-fifth in cash and the remainder in equal yearly instalments for five years.

It would seem that the brothers Peter and Henry Haffey were attracted by these or other inducements, for it is certain that they emigrated to this island about that time, or shortly after. A map published in 1776 by John Byres, long after the island had been fully settled, exhibits the plan or plat of their estate or plantation.

It consisted at that time of fifty-five acres, cultivated by thirty slaves. The product was sugar, rum and molasses an average crop yielding about one thousand pounds of sugar, ten gallons rum, and twenty-five gallons molasses per each slave, or equal at that time to about £41 per slave.

During subsequent years the extent of this estate was increased manyfold.

In the account of Henry Haffey which follows this, will be found in more detail the plans for the military protection and defense of the island. Suffice it to say here, that Peter Haffey was commissioned Lieut.-Colonel of the Northern Regiment in 1787, officered by a Colonel, Lieut.-Col. and Major, five Captains, five Lieutenants and five Ensigns. This bears testimony to the position and influence he held in the island.

Among the list of proprietors at this time, we find members of the now wealthy families of Slater, Jackson, Cropper and Bolton, all of Liverpool.

Edward Jackson was a Captain of the Southern Regiment in 1799, and John Cropper was a Lieutenant, while Thomas Slater, a cousin of the Heywoods, Bankers of Liverpool, was a Captain.

In the year 1830 there were six representatives of the Cropper family interested in the island, of whom five resided there, and John Cropper, Esq., had returned to live on his beautiful estate of the "Dingle," a few miles from Liverpool, situated on a most picturesque part of the shores of the river Mersey.

Colonel Haffey visited England more than once, returning again to St. Vincent. He, however, removed permanently to England before 1815, and as stated in the biography of Peter Haffey Scott he manifested an interest in his nephew's family. He is described at this period as being very tall and spare, habituated to very early rising, going out for a morning walk at five a. m. He resided in Bristol but retained the acquaintances of his earlier years, frequently visiting Liverpool.

About the year 1827, when a very old man upwards of eighty years of age, while visiting his friend John Cropper, Esq., at the Dingle, Liverpool, he suddenly died.

It is noteworthy that the late lamented Matthew Arnold died in the same house while on a visit to the Cropper family, fifty years later.*

Colonel Haffey never married, and when he died he left his fortune to the Slater family of Liverpool, after whom Slater street was named, and who had been with him in the West Indies.

Colonel Haffey in his will had left to his nephew Peter Haffey Scott the sum of £30,000 (\$150,000), but when he died it was found that in consequence of his resentment towards his nephew for his marriage with Miss Fisher, he had made a codicil cutting his nephew off with one shilling, and leaving his fortune to the Slaters of Liverpool, as before stated.

His brother, Col. Henry Haffey, thereupon directed his bankers, the Heywoods of Liverpool, in 1830, to transfer £5,000 (\$25,000) to Mr. Scott's name. This was the only sum received by him from his uncles.

HENRY HAFFEY, brother of the foregoing, and second son of Rev. Daniel Haffey of Armagh, was born in 1751. With his brother Peter he emigrated to the West Indies and settled in the island of St. Vincent.

*The announcement of the death of Walter Thomas Arnold, youngest son of the late Dr. Arnold of Rugby, at the age of fifty-eight, was recently made. He died, as did his brother, Matthew Arnold, at the home of his sister, Mrs. T. W. Cropper, Dingle Bank.



Kingstown Harbor, St. Vincent, W. I.

During the early years of his life in the tropics, he devoted himself to the interests of his plantation and amassed a large fortune, but in 1795 other events began to occur which called forth a different character in the young man.

From the History of the Colonies of the British Empire, we extract the following:

ST. VINCENT. This most beautiful of the Carribean islands is about eighteen and one-half miles long and eleven broad, contains 84,286 acres, and is nearly equidistant from Grenada and Barbadoes. It was discovered by Columbus on the 22d January, 1498 (St. Vincent Day in the Spanish Calendar). Between 1672 and 1762 it passed successively under the Governments of France and England several times, until in 1763, by the peace of Paris, the island was ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain.

"In 1795 the doctrines of liberty and equality which prevailed in France were disseminated in the West Indian Islands, through the infernal agency of Victor Hughes, whose emissaries excited the Caribs, and some of the French inhabitants into an insurrection which continued upwards of two years. Many sanguinary contests took place with varying success, but ultimately the French were subdued and the Caribs removed from the island.

"The devastation made by the enemy cost the proprietors at least one third of the value of their estates, but happily uninterrupted tranquility has since prevailed and greatly increased the prosperity of the island.

"The Government is in a Governor, Council and Assembly. The Council consists of twelve members, the Assembly of nineteen. The military establishment consists of two regiments, the Northern and the Southern, two companies and a troop of cavalry, numbering in all upwards of a thousand men."

The following extracts are taken from the History of the Island of St. Vincent, by Charles Shephard, 1831 :

"When the insurrection of the Caribs in 1795 had gained such headway that it could not be ignored by the home

government, a considerable body of troops was sent out to protect the Island.

“In a resolution entered into by the inhabitants on the 22d of October, 1795, it was resolved that an address be presented to Major General Leigh, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's troops in the Windward Islands, thanking him for his great attention to the interests of the Colony, in sending over so respectable a force, as the three gallant regiments lately arrived from England, and that Henry Haffey, Esq., and Joseph Warner, Esq., be requested to present the same, and also to represent to the General the situation in which the army is at present. * * *

“It was not long, however, before reverses threw the inhabitants into a panic, and danger and dismay predominated in all ranks. The most vigorous measures were adopted for defense. Lieut.-Colonel Haffey was indefatigable in his exertions, and raised a corps of two hundred men, called the ‘Haffey rangers.’

“General Sir Ralph Abercromby arrived at the island in June, 1796, and took command of the troops, which numbered four thousand men. A successful engagement took place with the enemy on the 10th of the month, and in the general orders which were issued on the occasion, General Abercromby said, ‘The General would fail in his duty if he did not express his fullest approbation of the good conduct, intelligence and courage of the Island Rangers under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Haffey and Major Josias Jackson. * * *

“On the 18th of July following, the Caribs being closely pressed, the son of the Chief Chatoyer, in the presence of Lieut.-Colonel Haffey and his officers, addressed his followers and expressed his willingness to submit and surrender to Colonel Haffey. Notwithstanding the war did not close but hostilities were maintained until 1797, during which the Haffey Rangers lost severely in the engagements with the enemy.

“In 1799 Lieut.-Colonel Haffey was gazetted Colonel of

the Southern Regiment, the staff consisting of one Colonel, one Lieut.-Colonel, one Major, eight Captains, eleven Lieutenants, ten Ensigns, one Adjutant, Quartermaster and Surgeon, with forty-three subalterns and six hundred rank and file.

In the year 1804 the General Assembly voted to present the Honorable Henry Haffey, late Colonel of the Southern Regiment of Militia, with the Thanks of the House and a piece of plate valued at three hundred guineas for his active exertions during the Insurrection of the Caribs and Invasion of the French in 1795 and 1796, and for his Exemplary Conduct whilst Colonel of the Southern Regiment. The Council unanimously voted thanks and concurrence. On a following page is a copy of the resolution and a description of the plate.

In 1806 Colonel Haffey, who had resigned, again accepted command of the Southern Regiment, a further mark of the continued respect and confidence which his character had inspired.

In the year 1812 occurred the terrible eruption of the Souffriere, a beautiful mountain three thousand feet high, which previous to this event was covered with an exuberant growth of forest trees.

On the 27th of April the eruption burst forth and continued in volcanic activity, throwing out great streams of lava and prodigious showers of stones, cinders and ashes until June. Immense damage was done, and many lives were lost. It was feared the island would be rendered barren by the ashes. An investigation of the losses was made and a petition presented to the Prince Regent, praying for relief. Of course only a fraction of the amount lost could be restored, but the case was laid before Parliament and the sum of £25,000 was voted for the relief of the inhabitants. Colonel Haffey's loss was appraised at £1,100 (\$5,500). He received as part compensation less than one-seventh of that sum.

ST. VINCENT.

At a Meeting of the General Assembly, the 4th Day of December, 1804:

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED,

That it is resolved Unanimously, That the Thanks of this House be presented to the Honourable HENRY HAFEEY, Esq., late Colonel of the Southern Regiment of Militia, for his zeal and indefatigable exertions in organizing and disciplining the said Regiment, and for his honorable and independent Conduct during the continuance of his Command.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

That the Honorable HENRY HAFEEY, Esq., be requested to accept of a Piece of Plate, value Three Hundred Guineas, as a further testimony of their esteem, and approbation of his Conduct during the period he commanded the Southern Regiment of Militia, so much to his own credit, and to the advantage of the Colony; and that a Message be sent up to the Council for their concurrence.

The Council Unanimously voted Thanks and Concurrence, in a Piece of Plate being presented to the Honorable HENRY HAFEEY, Esq.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PIECE OF PLATE.

Etruscan Vase, richly embossed, and gilt inside; the handles representing Victory, standing on a branch of acanthus leaves, supported by the Head of Jupiter; out of which is issuing forked lightning and thunderbolts; on the top of the body, a rich chased grape vine border; the Medallion, embossed emblematical figures, representing Truth and Justice, supported by Wisdom and Fortitude, before the Temple of Virtue and Honor, trampling on the French Ensign, Fraud, Envy, Conspiracy, and the Demons of Discord. The Reverse, a Medallion with an appropriate Inscription inclosed with a palm and laurel border. In pannels under the handles, Military Trophies, surmounting a Cestus, composed of laurel; beneath the Cestus, rich chased acanthus and water leaves alternately. Round the foot, a Cestus, as above, with the acanthus and water leaves. The base surrounded with a rich chased grape vine border, to correspond with the body. On the cover, a figure of Jupiter, vanquishing with his thunder bolts the Monster Typhon, emblematic of Rebellion. Also a rich chased Stand, with grape vine borders, supported on three Bulls.

INSCRIPTION.

To the Honourable HENRY HAFEEY, this Piece of Plate was voted in the Year 1804, by the Council and Assembly of the Island of St.

Vincent, for his active exertions during the Insurrection of the Charibs, and Invasion of the French, in 1795 and 1796, and for his exemplary Conduct whilst Colonel of the Southern Regiment of Militia.



PIECE OF PLATE

After his return from the West Indies, as a further mark of recognition Colonel Haffey was presented by King George IV. with a Gold Medal, recording his services.

It was contained in a valuable frame. This souvenir was bequeathed to his nephew by marriage, Mr. John Parks, "or his son in case the former die in my lifetime."

Colonel Henry Haffey's name appears among the list of subscribers to Shephard's History, published in 1831, which is inscribed to 'the survivors of the Carib War.'

Colonel Haffey's will is dated 20 January, 1834, and covers nine sheets of paper. He left the bulk of his estate to his two nieces, Harriet Hawtrey and Elizabeth Bean, and their children.

He married late in life but had no children. The vase presented to him by the colony of St. Vincent he left to his wife "to dispose of to such of my relations as my wife shall by writing under her hand, either in her will or otherwise direct and appoint."

His plantation lands and premises in St. Vincent were sold a few years before his death. They were named "Wallalibo," and contained five hundred acres, with appropriate buildings and two hundred and ninety-seven slaves. There was still a large amount due and unpaid by the purchaser at the Colonel's death (about \$40,000), which is mentioned in the will.

He owned several pieces of real estate and houses in the city of Bath, besides which his personal estate was sworn at £40,000 (\$200,000).

From the *Bath Chronicle*, March 24th, 1836:

"March 19th, at his house, 10 Old Sydney Place, in his 85th year, Henry Haffey, Esquire, native of Armagh, Ireland, formerly of the Island of St. Vincent in the West Indies, and for many years a resident of this city; where from his kind-heartedness, and on all occasions ready assistance to the poor, his name will be highly respected and gratefully cherished in the memory of those who enjoyed his friendship and experienced his benevolence."

His will was proved 23 April, 1836.

Henry Haffey, Esq., received from Ulster, King of Arms of all Ireland, a grant of a Coat of Arms, "the same that his ancestors for some generations have used and borne," but which do not appear to have been recorded in the office of Arms previously. 6th May, 1817.

To all and Singular to whom these Presents shall come. I, Sir Gill'm Betham, Knight, Deputy ULSTER King of Arms and principal Herald of all Ireland, send Greeting. Whereas application has been made to me by HENRY HAFHEY, formerly of Armagh, and now of the City of Bath, Esquire, setting forth that he is Descended from an Antient and Honourable Family in the North of Ireland—that his Ancestors for some Generations have used and borne certain Armorial Ensigns (an Antient Painting whereof has been exhibited to me) and which upon examination do not appear to have been recorded in Ulster's Office of Arms, wherefore he has prayed me to Assign and Grant unto him and his descendants such Armorial Ensigns as may henceforth by him and them be lawfully used and borne. Know Ye THEREFORE, that I, the said Deputy Ulster King of Arms, having taken the Premises into due Consideration, believing the allegations therein contained to be true, and deeming the Request of the said applicant reasonable and Just, am pleased to comply with the same, and by virtue of the Authority to me given do by these Presents Assign, Grant, Ratify, Exemplify and Confirm unto the said *Henry Haffey*, Esquire, and to his Descendants the Arms following, that is to say, *Argent a Lion Rampant Gules on a Chief Azure two Crosses Pattee Or.* For Crest, *on a Wreath of the Colours a Demi Lyon Rampant Azure Armed and Langued Gules grasping in his dexter paw a Cross Pattee Or.* For Motto, *AVISE LA FIN.* The Whole, as above more clearly depicted, to be used and borne by the aforesaid Henry Haffey, Esquire, and his Issue forever hereafter, according to the Laws of and Usages of Arms. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and Title and affixed the Seal of the Office of Ulster

King of Arms of all Ireland this sixth day of May in the Fifty seventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, and in the year of Our Salvation One thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

W. BETHAM, ULSTER KING
OF ARMS OF ALL IRELAND.

A true Copy.

J. Bernard Burke, Ulster.

Ulster's Office, Dublin Castle, 22 July, 1891.

JOHN BURGESS HAFFEY, born 1773, nephew of Henry Haffey, Esq. I have been unable to discover the source of the relationship his mother was Elizabeth Stevenson, sister of Major General Stevenson of the Hon. East India Company's Service, and his sister was Harriet, who married Rev. Charles Hawtrey. She became his Administratrix.

He entered the British Army and was Gazetted

Ensign	11th Light Dragoons	5th Dec., 1795.
Lieutenant	47 Foot	12 Dec., 1798.
Captain	47 Foot	7 Jan., 1799.
Major	47 Foot	7 April, 1804.
Major	18 Foot	5 Nov., 1807.
Brevet Lt.-Col.	18 Foot	4 June, 1811.

Died 4 July, 1814, in the Island of Jamaica, and was buried in the Parish Church, Kingston, with an inscription.

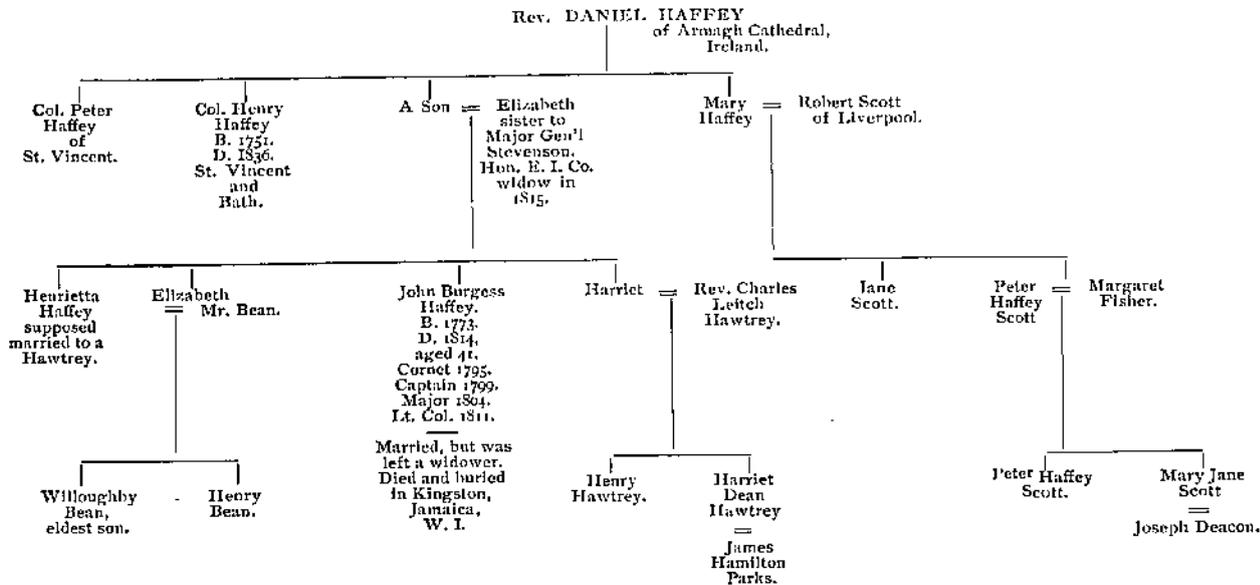
Administration granted P. C. C., August, 1815.

Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice.

In the Perogative Court of Canterbury, August. 1815.

John Burgess Haffey, On the thirtieth day Admon of all and singular the Goods, Chattels and Credits of John Burgess Haffey, late of the Island of Jamaica, Lieutenant Colonel of his Majesty's 18th Regiment of Royal Irish Infantry, Widower, deceased, was granted to Harriet Hawtrey

HAFFEY.



(wife of the Rev. Charles Hawtrey, Clerk) the natural and lawful Sister of the said deceased having been first sworn duly to administer—Elizabeth Haffey, widow, the natural and lawful Mother and next of kin of the said deceased, having first renounced the Letters of Admon of the Goods of the said deceased.

Effects under £1,000.

To the Memory
of
Lieutenant Colonel Haffey
late of the 18th Regiment of Foot
Nephew of Major General
Stevenson
of East India Company's Service
and to Henry Haffey
of the City of Bath, Esqre.
He departed this life on the 6th July,
1814
Aged 41 Years.
*(Inscription on Tomb Stone of the Parish Church, Kingston,
Jamaica.)*

CHAPTER XI.

SCOTT

of

Worcester and Liverpool.

FISHER

of

Lancashire.

PERRIN

of

Dublin, Ireland.

SCOTT
of
Worcester
and
Liverpool.

Arms of
SCOTT of WORCESTER.

Argent on a mount of bullrushes, in base ppr. a bull-passant sable—a chief pean, billetty or, with a canton of the last.

Crest, a stag couchant ppr., the dexter paw resting on a billet or, charged on the shoulder with a cross crosslet of the last.

Motto: *Nunquam libertas gratior.*

JOHN SCOTT, of Chaddesley Corbett, yeoman, settled at Stourbridge in 1667, Worcestershire, and was the ancestor of the family in this county. From him descended Robert Scott of Droitwich, of whom hereafter; also John Scott of Stourbridge, High Sheriff in 1830.

ROBERT SCOTT, Esquire, of Liverpool, born in 1734, died 3rd March, 1789.

Mr. Scott came to Liverpool from Droitwich, near Worcester, about 1760. Droitwich has been famous for the manufacture of salt for the past thousand years, and it is evident that the connection of his family with this industry was a means of his being appointed to the office he held in Liverpool.

Married about 1771 to Mary Haffey of Bath, daughter of Rev. Daniel Haffey of Armagh, deceased, by whom he had two sons and one daughter,

Robert,
PETER HAFFEY,
Jane.

Mr. Robert Scott occupied for many years a highly respectable position in the port of Liverpool as Collector of the Salt Duties. He resided in Wolstenholm Square, then the fashionable part of the town, but now entirely devoted to enormous warehouses.

ROBERT PETER SCOTT, born 12 Sept., 1773, died 4 Sept., 1798, aged 25 years.

This young man was in the Navy, and was drowned on the coast of the island of St. Domingo, West Indies, under the following circumstances. A boat in which he was going ashore upset and he swam ashore, but seeing a woman in the water he went out to save her. She dragged him down and they both were lost. He died unmarried.

JANE SCOTT, born 1st October, 1775, died unmarried, in August, 1794, aged nearly 19 years.

There are two statements regarding the death of this young lady, which cannot now be reconciled. One states that she died in the island of St. Eustacia, West Indies, which is quite probable, as her mother's family owned extensive plantations there. The other statement is that she was on a visit near London, England, at a cousin's, the Rev. Charles Leitch Hawtrey, and while out riding one day she was thrown from her horse and killed.

The Rev. Charles Hawtrey, M.A., of Christ Church 1756, brother to Stephen Hawtrey, Esq., Recorder of the city of Exeter, died at Bath June 26, 1796. He was the author of several pamphlets on the times published 1790.

The family of Hawtrey, County Bucks, are descended from a very ancient ancestry as given in Berry's County Genealogies, commencing with Sir William de Altaripa, Kt., of Algarkirke, Co. Lincoln.

Sixteen generations are given, ending with John Russell Hawtrey, who married Johanna, sole daughter, and heir of the Checkers estate, held by her father, John, who died circa 1710.

The Norman name of d'Haultrive, supposed to have originated from Hauterive near Alencon, became latinized according to the custom of those times, in ancient charters to de Alta Ripa, and has branched out into our two English names of Dealtry and Hawtrey.

PETER HAFHEY SCOTT, born 23 March, 1777, died in 1832. He married Margaret, daughter of John Fisher of Liverpool, May 11th, 1801, and left five children, namely:

PETER HAFHEY.
Mary Jane.
Henry Haffey.
Margaret Fisher.
Jane Fisher.

Of the above, Henry Haffey, born 31 August, 1806, died 11th February, 1807, was buried in Liverpool. Margaret Fisher, born 14 August, 1811, died 14th February, 1812, was buried in Liverpool. Both interred in Low Hill Cemetery.

Peter Haffey Scott was named after his uncle (his mother's brother.) His father died when he was 12 years of age, and his mother only surviving her husband two years, left him an orphan. He became a ward in Chancery and his guardian was Sir John Bolton of Storrs Hall, Cumberland.

Before completing his twenty-first year both his brother and sister had died as previously narrated. His two uncles, Colonel Peter and Colonel Henry Haffey, were bachelors, and he became, therefore, their natural heir.

Sometime prior to his brother's death, about 1796, he sailed to the island of St. Eustacia, West Indies.

On the 2d of June, 1796, he embarked on board the



“John” (sloop of war carrying £90,000 in specie) for the island of St. Vincent.

Arriving there he was given a Commission by Sir Henry Torrens on the 14th of the same month, as Ensign in the Queens, or 2nd Regiment of Foot Guards, commanded by Lord Dalhousie.

He joined his regiment on the 10th of July, 1796, at Fort Royal, Pigeon Island, Martinique, West Indies, and afterwards served with them in the island of Barbadoes. After a year or two of service Ensign Scott became “disgusted,” and throwing up his commission returned to England.

In the year 1801 he took the step which so influences lives, and on the 11th May he married Margaret Fisher, daughter of John Fisher, of Liverpool. This lady belonged to what were called at that time “Dissenters,” that is, religious bodies other than the Established Church of England. In short, she was a Baptist, or as they were then called, “Anabaptist,” those who deny the validity of infant baptism. This marriage so offended his two uncles that they disinherited him.

It is difficult for us in these days of large toleration in religious belief to comprehend the bitterness with which any independence of religious faith was viewed in the last century. We must, however, bear in mind that “dissent” was associated in the public mind (however unjustly) with disloyalty. The memory of Cromwell and the Puritans was not faded, and loyalty to the crown was supposed to be fairly exemplified by “conformity” to the established Church. Hence we may understand that officers of the army, who had borne the King’s commission, would view with an intensity of feeling foreign to our experience, any manifestation of thought which leaned away from the state church.

NOTE.—Lest I should be accused of exaggeration in the foregoing remarks concerning the reason for the bitterness of feeling manifested by Episcopalians towards Baptists in the last century, I quote from “The Church and the Puritans,” by Henry O. Wakeman, New York, Anson D. F. Randolph & Company, page 91, where the learned author says, “When the Long Parliament abolished Episcopacy, Puritanism became synonymous with rebellion.”

Mr. Scott's five children were all born before 1815. Two of them died in infancy and were buried in Liverpool. In 1815 Mr. Scott went to live in Bristol and there appears to have been an attempt to heal the breach in the family circle.



D. A. Scott
Bristol 28 April 1817

All the three surviving children were baptized at St. Stephen's Church in that year, and Col. Peter Haffey exhibited a desire to reunite the broken relationship. One of his grand-neices has placed on record her reminiscences of those days, when she tripped to the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, accompanying her stately and austere relative, while the powdered footman walked behind carrying her prayerbook.

After two years Mr. Scott removed from Bristol, and although he was visited by his uncles occasionally at long intervals, they never forgave his marriage.

"The crown of Bristol is the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, which for grandeur of proportions and elaboration of design, and finish, is entitled to stand in the selectest rank of English parish churches, and might be compared with a lesser Cathedral."

Whatever purpose there may have been (and there appears to have been some) to make Mr. Scott's son their heir, was dissipated by the untimely death of that young man at the age of twenty-seven years during the life time of his father.

After the death of the son in 1830, Col. Henry Haffey, who survived his brother, directed his bankers, the Heywoods of Liverpool, to transfer £5,000 (\$25,000) to the credit of Mr. Scott, who died two years after, aged fifty-five years, and was buried in the Necropolis, Liverpool.

Mr. Scott was a man of decided talent in Art. His house was filled with works of great merit drawn and painted by himself. He executed many beautiful pieces in India ink, which could scarcely be distinguished from Mezzotint.

PETER HAFFEY SCOTT, Jr., son of the foregoing, born at High Park, Bristol, 4 March, 1802, and christened at St. Stephen's, Bristol, 1815. Married 29 April, 1829, to Maria Henrietta Milton, daughter of John Dixon, Esq., of Westmoreland and Liverpool, at St. Phillips Church, Liverpool. Died 29 October, 1829, in Liverpool, aged twenty-seven. Four months afterwards on 3rd March, 1830, a son was born,

Peter Henry Scott.

PETER HENRY SCOTT, sometimes called Peter Henry Haffey Scott, son of the foregoing, born 3 March, 1830, married June 13th, 1855, at St. Mary's Church, Birkenhead, to Maria, daughter of John Allanson Huntington, Esq., of Hull, Yorkshire, by his wife Maria, daughter of James Tegart, of Newry, Ireland, and has issue,

Cyril Henry Huntington, born Feb. 6, 1864.

Izetta Eleanor, born Sept. 5, 1868.

Reginald Perrin, born July 14th, 1875.

MARY JANE SCOTT, eldest daughter of Peter Haffey Scott, Senior, born 13 January, 1804, at Tranmere, Cheshire, christened at St. Stephen's Church, Bristol, in 1815, married Joseph Deacon 10th April, 1827, died at Cardiff, 15 June, 1870, aged sixty-six years, buried in the New Cemetery.

Mary Jane Deacon

Mrs. Deacon was the mother of a numerous family, of whom seven children survived her. For their records see "Deacon."

Mrs. Deacon was a cultured, refined woman of a deeply religious nature, devoted to her husband and family, and impressing the entire household with her personality. With a mind stored with good reading, a habit which she maintained through life, she was well able to co-operate with her husband in his literary tastes and pursuits. In this atmosphere her whole family was trained, leaving its inevitable mark upon each of her children, and while thus caring for their intellectual nature, she was not less mindful of their physical welfare.

She was a woman of strong character, ordering her household with strict discipline, but was a true christian, and all her actions were not merely just, but were softened and tinged with the love of the Savior whom she trusted and served. In after life she suffered greatly from physical debility, which she bore with the patience and faith of the martyr. She passed away without a moment's warning from heart failure, while in the act of stepping from one room to another, greatly beloved and sincerely mourned by her family and a large circle of friends.



WATTS' VERSION.

PSALM CXLVI.

Arranged by M. E. BULLARD.

I'll praise my, I'll praise my Ma - ker with my breath. And when my voice is lost in death. Praise

shall em - ploy — my no - bler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past. While life and thought and being

last. — Or im - mor - ta - li - ty en - dures. — Or im - mor - ta - li - ty en - dures.

A favorite hymn of the olden time, which she was wont to sing to her children in the nursery, and which has retained its place in the memory of the writer, will be unfamiliar to modern ears.

PSALM CXLVI. *Watt's Version.*

"I'll praise my Maker with my breath,
And when my voice is lost in death
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past
While life and thought and being last
Or immortality endures."

JANE FISHER SCOTT of Dublin, sister of the foregoing, born 17 Sept. 1814, at Liverpool, christened at St. Stephen's Church, Bristol, in 1815, at which time her brother and sister were christened with her. Married Richard Perrin, Esq., of Dublin, Ireland, 21 Dec., 1835, and has issue (see Perrin).

FISHER

of

Lancashire.

Rev. Samuel Fisher of Norwich, related to the famous family of Gurney, of Earlham, and Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, was brother of

JOHN FISHER, of Liverpool, born 20th June, 1745. Married in Liverpool 28th April, 1767, to Jane Beard of Ireland, born 15th March, 1747, died 4 April, 1807. They had twelve children.

1. Mary, born 2 February, 1768, died 15 January, 1857, aged 89 years. Buried in the Necropolis, Liverpool.
2. Sarah, born 25 September, 1769, died 16 January, 1849, aged 79 years.
3. Samuel, born 25 August, 1771, died 16 May, 1774, aged 2 years and 9 months.
4. Margaret, born 7 August, 1773, died 24 August, 1851, aged 78 years. Buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland. See below.
5. John, born, 24 August, 1775, died 12 January, 1776.
6. Richard, born 14 November, 1776, died at Portsmouth.
7. Lucinda, born 18 March, 1779, died—
8. Jane, born 24 June, 1781, died 14 July, 1782.
9. John, born 4 September, 1783, died 17 August, 1851, aged 68 years. Buried in Necropolis, Liverpool.
10. Jane, born 30 August, 1785, died 29 March, 1837, aged 52 years, at Nelson Street, Liverpool.
11. Samuel, born 19th August, 1787, died between Africa and the West Indies.
12. James, born 4 July, 1789, died 7 December, 1794.



MARGARET FISHER, the fourth child of the foregoing, married 11th May, 1801, at the age of twenty-eight, to Peter Haffey Scott. The beautiful medallion portrait upon ivory, of which the accompanying picture is a photograph, was painted shortly after her marriage. After her husband's death, which occurred in 1832, she spent the remainder of her life residing alternately with her two married daughters, Mary J. (Deacon) and Jane (Perrin), and died at the residence of the former. She was a lady of considerable force of character and a devout christian. As stated elsewhere, she was a Baptist, remaining true to her convictions, even though to do so cost herself and husband the displeasure and neglect of the two wealthy bachelor uncles of her husband, to both of whom he was the natural heir. This neglect was exhibited in their life time, and might have been overcome by a concession of religious principle. This, however, she would not make, but voluntarily suffered the loss of earthly riches for what her conscience deemed of greater moment.

M Scott
Dublin 1839

When the Colonels Haffey died they both (with the exception of a trifling sum) left their wealth by will to strangers. From an examination of the papers available, the combined wealth of the family thus diverted from its natural channel exceeded half a million of dollars.

She died in the peaceful hope of a glorious immortality, and the prayer of her daughter Mary at her death bed, "May my last end be like hers," is the brightest epitaph that can be written for her. For records of her children see SCOTT.

PERRIN

of

Dublin.

RICHARD PERRIN, Esq., of Dublin, Ireland, eldest son of Henry Perrin, Esq., and Anne Edwards, born July —, 1811, married 21 December, 1835, at St. Brides, Liverpool, Jane Fisher Scott, the youngest daughter of Peter Haffey Scott and Margaret Fisher, died in Dublin, Ireland, 27 February, 1889.

Mr. Perrin was a prosperous grain merchant and a gentleman of prominence in the community in which he lived. He was deeply interested in hospital work. At the age of sixty-seven he made a tour round the world, visiting the five great continents, and informing himself as to the various methods of hospital practice in the great cities.

He died peacefully in his chair at the age of seventy-seven and one-half years. His family was of Huguenot extraction and came to England at the time of the persecution. The name was originally Perrine.

A large family of children was born to him, as follows :

1. Richard Henry, born 6 November, 1836, died 5 November, 1837.
2. Henry Scott, born 9 August, 1838, died 20 December, 1881.
3. Annie, born 11 June, 1840, died 23 August, 1844.
4. Charles Frederick, born 2 May, 1842, died 7 May, 1875.
5. William Edwards, born 29 July, 1845.
6. Alfred Marsden, born 24 March, 1847.
7. Richard McHenry, born 31 December, 1848, died 12 April, 1869.
8. Sidney John, born 27 August, 1850, died 13 December, 1890.

The following notices appeared in the daily papers of the city of Dublin, Ireland :

DEATH—Richard Perrin, on 27 February, 1889, of syncope, after a long illness, at 16 Morehampton Road, Dublin, aged 77 years and 7 months.

It is with great regret that we announce to-day the death of Richard Perrin, Esq., a merchant of Dublin, who was universally respected.

He was the principal of the firm of R. Perrin & Sons, which has been so well known in the corn trade for many years, and was a Director of the Corn Exchange and of the Dublin Granaries Company.

Mr. Perrin had attained the age of 77 years, and throughout his long life was extremely energetic in every philanthropic direction. In this he was an example to younger men.

He took the most active interest in the Dublin Hospital, his heart being always in efforts for the success of the poor. In every charitable work his aid could be reckoned upon. He was at all times ready to undertake personal labour in the cause of the needy and suffering, and many useful projects in Dublin for the benefit of waifs and strays owe their origin to him.

Mr. Perrin was of an old mercantile family in the city, and maintained for fifty years the highest character, making no enemies on any side, though consistent, zealous and decided in his opinions.

His death removes from us one who will be, by many classes, sincerely mourned.

FUNERAL OF MR. RICHARD PERRIN.

The remains of Mr. Richard Perrin were yesterday morning, in the presence of a large number of citizens, interred in the family vault in Mount Jerome Cemetery.

The hearse in which the remains were conveyed to the cemetery was followed by a long line of carriages occupied by gentlemen, the majority of whom were connected with the trade and commerce of Ireland, and there was also a large attendance of gentlemen connected with the learned professions.

Mr. Perrin was a Director of the Corn Exchange and other companies, and he was a member of the Committees of the following Institutions: Royal Hospital for Incurables, Fever Hospital, Cork Street Hospital, Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital, The Convalescent Home, The Old Men's Asylum.

His remains were contained in a coffin of polished oak, with gilt mountings, the breast plate bore an inscription giving the dates of the birth and death of Mr. Perrin, who died in his 77th year.

The lid was covered with a large quantity of flowers. On reaching the cemetery, the coffin was borne into the Mortuary Chapel, in which the funeral service was read by Rev. Dr. Neligan, who afterwards delivered an address, in the course of which he spoke of the high and honorable character of the deceased gentleman, and of the respect and esteem in which he was held by his fellow citizens.

The chief mourners were Messrs. William and Alfred M. Perrin, William Owen, J. P. Blessington, John Nolan, Esq., of Wicklow, and William J. Cuthbert. Upwards of two hundred gentlemen attended the funeral.

No. 2. HENRY SCOTT PERRIN, Esq., of Dublin, succeeded to his father's business, married Miss M. E. Beausire 30th May, 1868, and had five children, named :

Eva, born 2 March, 1869, died 4 February, 1882.

Alice, born 2 November, 1870.

Ernest, born 21 May, 1873.

Rosa, born 8 July, 1875.

Charles, born 29 January, 1878.

No. 4. CHARLES FREDERICK PERRIN, married to his cousin Sarah Deacon (see Deacon), and died leaving

Charles Heber, born September 30, 1867.

Clement, born October 8th, 1871.

Francis Eileen, born April 16, 1873.

No. 5. WILLIAM EDWARDS PERRIN, married July, 1867, to Emily McDonald, who died 31 January, 1883, leaving three children :

Annie Mayne, born 22 April, 1869.

Lulu, born 16 October, 1871.

Ella May, born 26 January, 1883.

No. 6. ALFRED MARSDEN PERRIN, married September, 1876, to Kate Bailey, and has,

Cecil, born 3 July, 1883.

No. 8. SIDNEY JOHN PERRIN, married February, 1872, Emily Fetherstone, and left three children :

Effie, born 19 July, 1879.

Gwendoline, born 15 May, 1882.

Mina, born 29 May, 1889.

CHAPTER XII.

LOVETT.

Arms

of

Lovett

of

Liscombe, Co. Bucks.

Anciently de Louvet of Normandy.
Sable, three Wolves heads, or.

Willm Lovet of Bedfordshire, Master of the Wolf
hounds to King William II., 1090.

Argent, three Wolves passant in pale, sable.

Now borne, 1st and 4th de Louvet, 2nd and 3rd Lovett
of Bedford.

It is scarcely possible to say too much of the real antiquity and lineage of this family, who for upwards of six hundred years have been Lords of the Manors of Liscombe and Soulbury amid all the changes of dynasties and troubles of that long period, and who can moreover trace back their descent in a direct male line to the time of the Norman Conquest.

Very few, if any, of the greater nobles can boast a longer lineage, and the number of those who have preserved an undisturbed succession is fewer still.

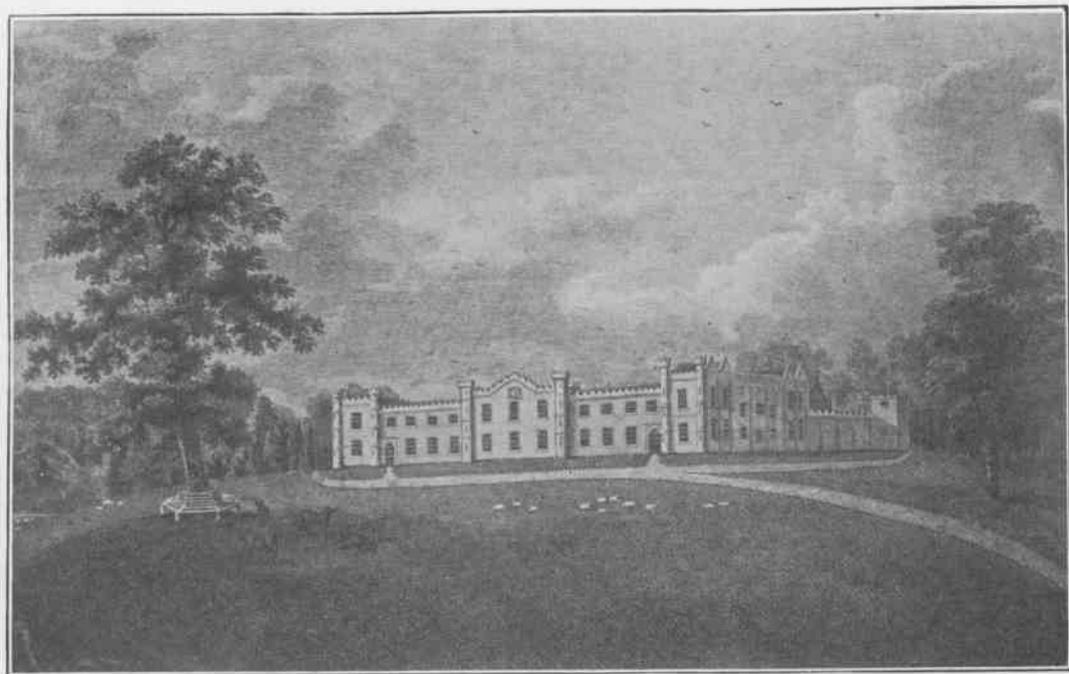
The name is Norman, and was first introduced into England on its invasion by William the Conqueror, when the first ancestor accompanied that monarch, and founded the various branches of the Lovett family which have flourished in different counties.

The name appears in the Domesday Book several times. The first ancestor was

RICARDUS DE LOUVET, of Normandy, who had two sons, William and Robert. The latter settled in Worcestershire, at Elmley, now called Elmly-Lovett. The former (the eldest son) held lands in capite of the crown granted by the Conqueror in Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

The Rev. J. Stevenson, in one of a series of lectures on the History of Leighton Buzzard and its neighborhood, after referring to the manors in the district which were given by William the Conqueror to the officers of his army, said:

“It’s a curious circumstance that none of these immense estates appear to have continued in the families of the Norman nobility of Bedfordshire beyond a few generations. There is, however, one striking exception to this remark, and as it is connected with our own immediate neighborhood, I bring it before your notice. I refer to the Lovett family. Domesday Book points to them as holding estates in Bedfordshire at the time of the Norman Conquest, when



Liscombe House and Park, Buckinghamshire

William Lovett was given the Manors of Crawley and Flitwick in that county."

In the Church of Notre Dame, at Dives, Normandy, the names of Ricardus de Louvet and his sons, Willielmus and Robertus, are inscribed over the western door, among the Norman nobles who accompanied the Conqueror to England.

Of William Lovet it is said, that his courage, strength and great affection for his wife was so proverbial as to give rise to a nursery rhyme which is preserved in the family.

*May my child be as stout,
May my child be as strong,
And my boy love as long
As Gilly of Normandy.*

In after ages the family became remarkable, not only for their long continuance, but for their great alliances, which include the ancient houses of Arden, Beauchamp, Engaine, St. Maur, de Turville, Drayton, Gimiles, Lizures, Maltravers, Gifford, Neville, Percival, Crispe, Blount, and many others.

Liscombe House, County of Bucks, has been a residence of the family from the reign of Edward II. to the present time. It is a quadrangular building, one side of which is occupied by a chapel which, by the style of its architecture, appears to have been built about the middle of the 14th century.

The house is of a much later date, no part appearing to be older than the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The windows have been much modernized. In the parish church are some monuments of the family.

A charity school for twenty-four children was founded by the Lovett family in 1714.

A detailed account of the family can be found in any of the County Histories of Buckinghamshire, in works upon the Extinct Baronetries, and the various volumes treating of the Landed Gentry. Several monographs exist dealing

with the alliances and monuments of this ancient race and describing the venerable seat of Liscombe.

The abridged descent to the alliance with Deacon is as follows:

Pedigree of Lovett.

RICARDUS DE LOUVET of Normandy came to England with the Conqueror.

WILLS LOVETT of Beds., Berks. and Northamptonshire, Master of the Wolf-Hounds to King William.

WILLIAM LOVETT, his son, succeeded by his son and heir,
JOHN DE LUVETT, 1155, of Welford, Northampton, father of

RICHARD LOVETT, 1189, married dau. of Engaine, leaving two sons, the eldest,

Sir ROBERT of Rushton, Co. Warwick, succeeded by his eldest son,

ROBERT LOVETT of Liscombe, Co. Bucks, 1314, where he settled and married, leaving

SIR THOMAS LOVETT, Knighted 1347, father of

WILLIAM of Liscombe and Soulbury, died 1392, leaving

ROGER of Soulbury and Holmedon, who had

JOHN, who married Margaret de Ingleton, and died in the lifetime of his father, leaving

SIMON or THOMAS LOVETT, 1467, who left three sons, the eldest,

WILLIAM of Liscombe had two sons who succeeded each other, viz.

ROGER, 1491, and THOMAS, of Liscombe, whose son was

RICHARD of Liscombe, the father of

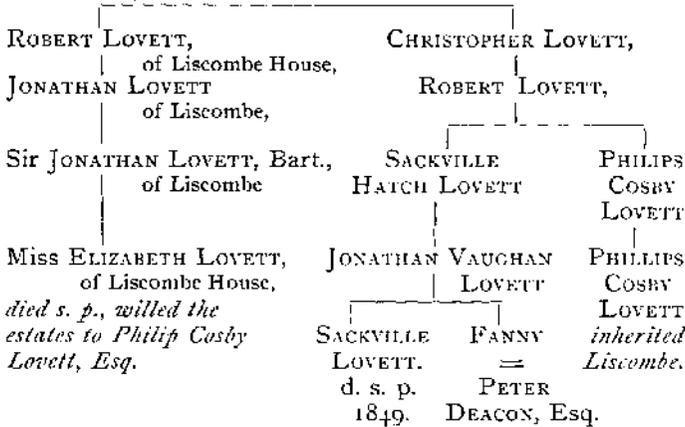
LAURENCE LOVETT, Esq., of Liscombe, who was succeeded by his son,

FRANCIS of Liscombe House, Co. Bucks, whose son was

Sir ROBERT of Liscombe, High Sheriff Bucks, 1608, father of

CHRISTOPHER, fifth Son, Lord Mayor of Dublin, whose second son was

Col. JOHN LOVETT of Liscombe, who married Susanna Horton, and had issue,

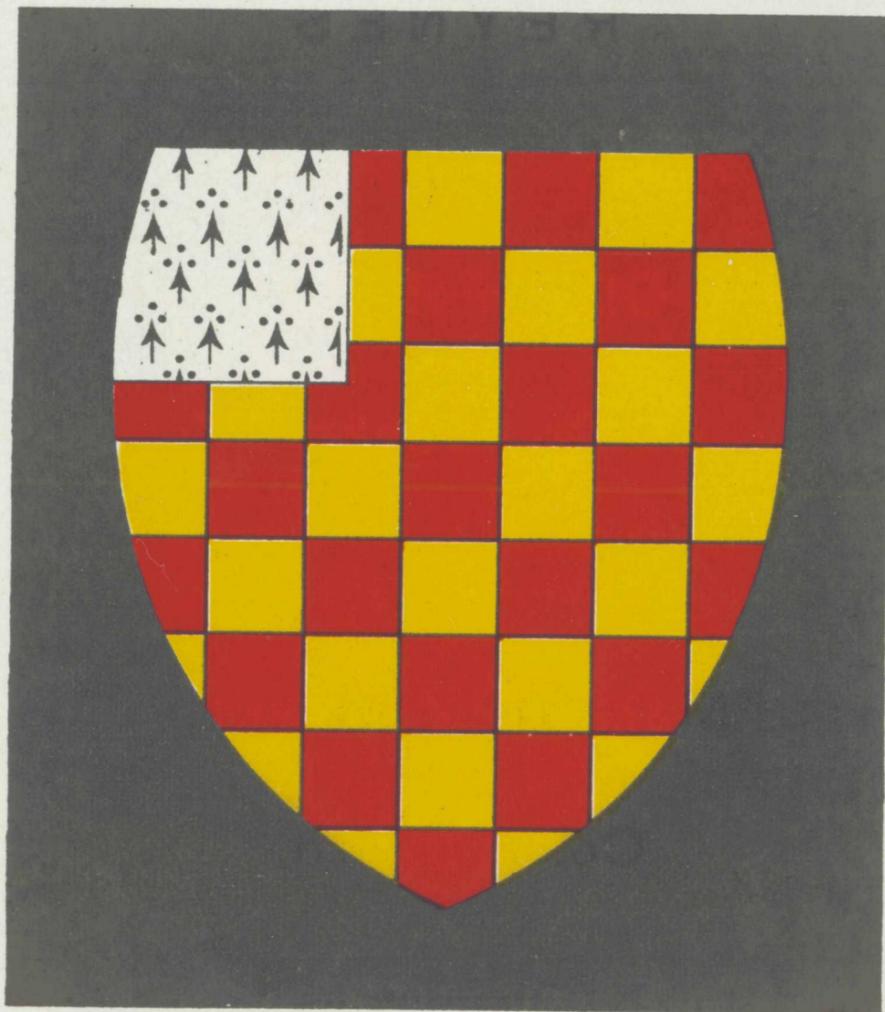


Peter Deacon, Esq., married Fanny, daughter of Jonathan Vaughan Lovett.

On the death of Sir Jonathan Lovett, Baronet, the estates descended in default of a male heir, to his unmarried daughter, Miss Elizabeth Lovett of Liscombe, whose nearest male relative was Captain Jonathan Vaughan Lovett, who dying before this lady, the next heir to the estates and honors was his only son, Sackville Lovett above named, Fanny Deacon's brother.

The unfortunate death of this young man when at college and, before the death of Miss Elizabeth Lovett of Liscombe, carried the estates away to a distant Irish branch of the family, who now inherit them.

While naturally using much of the material printed in the various county histories and other similar publications, it is but just to state that the following sketches of these ancient and extinct families are largely the result of independent and original research among the national archives at the Public Record Office, Somerset House, London. Many of the Inq. p. m. given herein have never been printed before, nor even referred to by previous writers, and the hitherto accepted pedigrees have been considerably modified in consequence.



REYNES
of
CLIFTON-REYNES.

CHAPTER XIII.

REYNES

of

Clifton-Reynes,

Co. Bucks

and

Marston-Morteyne,

Co. Bedford.

Arms of

REYNES,

Co. Bucks.

Checquey or and gules, a canton ermine.

THE LORDSHIP OF RAINES, ESSEX; HUNDRED OF HINCKFORD.

RAYNE, or RAINE. In the time of Edward the Confessor, the two great landowners were Aluin and Edric, which comprised the Manor of Old Hall, the whole of which at the Survey (Domesday) belonged to Roger de Ramis, Rennes, or Raines, whose family resided here for many ages. This Roger de Raines, chief Lord of the Manor of Missing, Essex, was one of the Conqueror's warriors, and was rewarded with seven Manors in the County of Essex, which were erected into a Barony called the Barony of Reynes, the head of which was Old Hall, in Little Reyne. It consisted of ten Knight's fees.

Wright's Essex.

The history of this ancient family may be summarized as follows:

ROGER DE RAINES came to England with the Conqueror and held several Manors in Essex given him by William.

Two places named Great Rayne, near Braintree and Little Rayne, are in Domesday Book under "*Raines.*" A very full account of this family is given by Morant in his History of Essex, under the heads "*Missing and Little Reyne.*"

This Roger de Raines was rewarded with several Manors in this County, which were created into a Barony called Raines, consisting of ten Knight's fees.

In 1140 ROGER DE REYNE was amerced forty marks for making a park without the King's leave.

In 1167 WILLIAM DE HEYNES paid a mark for each knight's fee when Matilda was married.

William and Richard de Reynes paid twenty shillings for each knight's fee for the war in Ireland in 1172, and in 1194 twenty shillings for each fee for the redemption of King Richard from captivity. Robert, Richard and William were brothers and descendants of Roger the first.

Robert died sine prole, and the Barony descended to his brother

RICHARD, who died temp. King John, and left it to his three daughters and coheirs, Alice, Amicia and Joan.

WILLIAM continued to reside in the manor, and the barony remained in the family until sold by Walter, son of Geoffrey de Raines in the 13th century.

Their descendants settled in Bedfordshire and Bucks, and from them sprang the Reynes of Clifton Reynes, Co. Bucks, and Raines of Wyton, Yorkshire.

Burke's Landed Gentry, 1850, Vol. 2, Supplement.

In 1199 HARVEY DE REYNES endowed the church of Raines with a house and twenty acres of glebe land, which deed is yet extant. The Church dedicated to All Saints is of great antiquity, erected temp. Henry II., and is attached to the Manor of Rayne Hall (by preferment rights) from that time to the present day.

William de Boscroard, or Borard, and his brother held manors and lands in Clifton, Co. Buckingham, at the Domesday Survey, under Robert de Toden, and one Simon de Borard, undoubtedly a descendant, was returned by William de Albeni Toden as his feudatory tenant, holding three knight's fees at the assessment by King Henry II. for the marriage of his daughter Maud in 1165.

There were four of the name of Simon de Borard in regular succession, who so continued as feudatory tenants, until the forfeiture of William de Albeni 3rd, for rebellion, at the end of the reign of King John.

Shortly afterwards the Borards, who had remained loyal, were granted the lands direct by the King in the first year of the reign of Henry III., and so became tenants de capite. One of the before named, called Simon de Bosco Borard, Lord of Stratherne, Co. Leicester, and Lord of Clifton, Co. Bucks, and of Okeley, Co. Bedford, married Juliana de Bellis and had issue a son,

Simon de Borard, who flourished circa 1217, and married Hawesia de Wroxsole, by whom he had a son also named Simon de Borard, who married Margaret, daughter of Asceline de Sydenham of Tychemarche, Co. Northampton, who brought him part of the Manor of Tychemarche. They had three sons and a daughter, Richard, Asceline, Robert and Joan.

ARMS OF BORARD.

Paley of six, *or*, and *azure*, a fess *argent*.

Richard de Borard, the eldest son, became Lord of Clifton, Okeley and Stratherne on the death of his father. The church of Clifton, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was founded by the family of Borard soon after the Conquest, and the right of presentation continued ever afterwards in the successive Lords of the Manor. In the exercise of this right Richard de Borard presented his brother Asceline, who was in holy orders, to the church of Clifton in 1267. Richard died unmarried in 1291, as appears by an Inquisition Post Mortem held for his lands, and his brother Asceline died about 1293.

Robert de Borard, the youngest brother, then became Lord of Clifton, and Stratherne, and was living in 1296, when he conveyed lands to his nephew, the son of his only sister Joan. He died sine prole.

The family of Reynes held lands in Stratherne, Co. Leicester, in Henry II., when RALPH DE REYNES, with Walter and William his brothers, gave four bovates of land, with tofts and messuages in pure alms. Deed was witnessed by William de Albini II., who died 1168. The family afterwards obtained the whole Manor of Stratherne.

RALPH DE REYNES de Stratherne presented lands to the Priory of Belvoir. He was the father of

THOMAS DE REYNES, who married Joan de Borard circa 1275.

On the death of Robert de Borard, without issue, in 1296, his sister Joan inherited all the lands of the family as the only surviving heir, and thus her husband, Thomas de Reynes de Stratherne, became jure uxoris, Lord of Stratherne, Clifton and Okeley, but he must have been well along in years at this time, and died very soon afterwards, leaving his lands and honors to his son RALPH, probably before 1300. But Ralph himself must have been a full grown man at this date, and did not enjoy his honors but a few years.

RALPH DE REYNES, or Reignes, received lands from his uncle, Robert de Borard, as per deed dated 1296, as follows :

Sciant presentes et future quod Ego Robertus de Borard dedi concessi, etc.

Rado de Reynes nepoti mea totu tenementu meum quod habui in Rutishale, cu homago et redditibus, etc., Hiis testibus D'no Rogero de Tyryngham D'no Amarico de Nodarius, D'no Roberto de Sees militibus, Wo de Elnay Roberto de Hckeney, Tho. de Reynes, Roberto de Lathebyry, et aliis.

Dat apud Clyfton 24 Edw. I. (1296.)

He married Amabel, daughter of Sir Richard Chamberlain, Knight, of Petsoe Manor, Co. Bedford, whose arms are, *Gules*, a chevron *or*, between three roses *or*, and died early, before 1305 (leaving a son, Thomas, about five years of age).

Some of the genealogists give this Ralph another and second wife, viz, Anabel, daughter of Sir Henry Green of Boughton, Co. Northampton, Chief Justice, but there is an evident error and confusion here. The Ralph Reynes who married Anabel Green, (and of this marriage there is no doubt) was a later member of the family. Sir Henry Green was born about 1310, was Sergeant at Law 1345, his eldest son, who succeeded him, was born 1345. He was knighted and a judge in 1354, and died 1369. His daughter Anabel could not have been born before 1335, while this Ralph Reynes said to be her husband was dead in 1305, in which year Sir Roger Tyryngham was guardian of his heir, who was about five years old.

Nichols' History Leicestershire says, "1305 Sir Roger de Tyringham presented a priest to the chantry of the blessed Virgin Mary at Stratherne as Guardian to the heir of Ralph Reynes, deceased, which Ralph had given four virgates of land to the priory of Haverholme."

"Amabilia de Reynes was returned 9 Edw. 2, 1315-16, as Lord of the Manor of Turvey, Co. Bedford."—*Brit. Mus. Add. MS. 26092, fo. 13*. Evidently she was a widow at this date. Her son,

Sir THOMAS REYNES, Knight, was a ward to Sir Roger Tyringham, Knight, of Tyringham, in 1310, who in that year, by virtue of his office as guardian, made presentation to the church of Clifton.

Thomas attained his majority before 1315, as appears by the following: "Manors of Clifton and Newenton, Co. Bucks, Thomas, son of Ralph de Reynes, returned as Lord of the Manor.—9 *Edw. 2, 1315-16*."

Sir Roger also gave him his daughter, Cecelia Tyringham, in marriage, and they had issue two sons, Thomas and Ralph, and a daughter Jane, who married Sir Richard Chamberlain, Knight, of Sherbourne, Co. Oxford, born 1320 and living 1380. *Chan. Inq. 4 Ric. II., n. 39*, and *Visit'n Oxford*.

This Sir Thomas Reynes was Knight of the shire for the County of Bucks XI. Edw. III., 1338. Parliament held at Westminster, and continued to represent the County in the Parliaments of 1340, 1341, 1344 and 1347, all at Westminster.

He received permission from the King to assign three messuages and half a virgate of land and one rood of pasture in the town of Lathebury to the Abbot and convent of Lavendon. *Inq. taken at Olney 18 Edw. III., 1344*.

It was also found that Thomas de Reyns, Chivaler, held the Manor of Clifton, in Co. Bucks, worth per annum clear £20, which the said Thomas holds of William, son of William de Roos, Lord of Hamelak, by the service of a moiety of one knight's fee, and the said William holds the same of the King.

He died before 1352 and was buried at Clifton, where underneath the North Chancel on the pavement are the effigies of a man and woman in brass. Over the man the Arms of Reynes, *chequy, a dexter Canton*. Over the woman a *sallyre engrailed*, for Tyringham. The inscription is torn off.

Sir THOMAS REYNES, Knight, the eldest son, succeeded on the death of his father and married when a young man, in 1352, Joan Seyton, daughter of Sir Thomas Seyton, of Seyton, Co. Northampton (or some authorities say, Baron Seton of Scotland) (error, see after) at which date he levied a fine for his marriage.

In 1356 we have a record of him in a deed given by Hugh Wake of lands to Robert Mordaunt of Turrey.

Dated Clifton Reynes Wednesday, the Feast of St. Mary Magdelene, 29 Edw. III.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod Ego Hugo Wake de Clifton miles, deda concessi, etc. Hic testibus.

Thoma de Reynes, Dominus de Clifton.

Johanne D'Ardres de Turveia.

Thoma Borard.

Ricardo de Hekney (De Akeney).

Johanne Coke de Clifton.

Johanne Toft de Astwood,

et aliis.

Data Apud Clifton die Mercurii in festo Mariæ Magdaleuæ,

A. R. R. Edw. III. post Conquesto 29.

Indenture 39 Edw. III. 1366.

John de Wahull leased the Manor of Pateshull, Northamptonshire, to Thomas de Reynes and Lawrence Pabensham for thirty years. *Brydge's Northamptonshire.*

Northampton, 26 April, 1384. Will of Elizabeth Latimer, lady of Isenhamsted, to be buried in the Priory Church of Newenham, Co. Bedford. Gifts to every nun of Elnestowe. Executors, Sir Thomas de Reynes, et al.

Gibbon's Linc. Wills.

August, 1368, Sir Thomas de Reynes, Knight, presented Peter Ham, clerk, to the church of Maidwell.

Rothwell Hundred, Co. Northampton. The Manor of Maidwell was in possession of Sir Nicholas Seyton in 9 Edw. II. (1315), and from him it descended to his heirs. The patronage of the church is vested in the lord of the Manor. In the chancel of the church, which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, are two battered figures of men in armour. One of them is supposed to be the effigy of Sir John Seyton, Kt., who died in Jerusalem in 1399, and whose remains were interred here.

It was undoubtedly through his marriage with Joane Seyton that Sir Thomas Reynes received the right to present to this church, and this circumstance settles the disputed point of the family of Seyton. It was certainly not the Seton family of Scotland into which he married.

Sir Thomas was elected Knight of the the shire for County Bucks in 1370 and 1378. He died 1389, and was buried in Clifton Church, where in the North Chancel the effigies of a man and woman carved in wood in full proportions, lying on an altar monument, still exist, but no inscription or Coat of Arms remains, though there are three shields. Tradition ascribes this tomb to the family of Reynes, and Lipscomb in his history of the county presumes it to be the monument of this Sir Thomas. He left three sons,

Thomas,

John,

RICHARD.

The brother of the foregoing and the younger son of Sir Thomas Reynes and Cecelia Tyringham, born circa 1330, named Sir RALPH DE REYNES, married Amabel, the daughter of Sir Henry Greene, of Boughton, Co. Northampton, Chief Justice of the King, by Catherine, his wife, daughter of Sir John Drayton. By this marriage the arms of Zouche were brought into the family by the marriage of Sir Thomas Green, grandfather of Amabel to Lucia de la Zouche, seventh in descent from David I., King of Scotland.



Deus et filius
Christus regis

Ralph lies buried in Clifton, where his Altar tomb under one of the arches in the North Chancel, with effigies of a man and woman in full proportions, carved in wood, still remains. On the South side are Arms and Shields as follows: Zouche, Tyringham impaling Reynes, Green, Drayton; on the North side, next the north chapel are Dyve, Chamberlain, Reynes and Ekeney. No inscription now remains, but in view of these achievements there can be no question for whom this tomb was erected.

Thomas Reynes, the eldest son of Sir Thomas Reynes and Joan Seton, it is agreed by all the genealogists, died *sine prole* during the lifetime of his father (see Harleian MS., 1533), for in 1383 Sir Thomas deeded his Manors to his second son,

Sir JOHN REYNES, Kt., who now succeeded. He married three times. First, 1383, Catherine, daughter of Sir Peter Scudamore, Kt., by whom he had three children.

1. Thomas, who lived to get married, and who died before his father on 5th July, 1417, leaving a young son, John, who died 20 October, 1421, aged four years.

2. Ralph, to whom the manors of Clifton and Newenton were deeded, but who died *sine prole* in the lifetime of his father.

3. Cecelia, who married Henry Strete and had issue, William, born 1409, Henry, and a daughter, Joane, who married John Anstey and had issue, from whom descends in the female line the family of Brudenell, Earls Cardigan.

Sir John married secondly Johan, daughter of Betler, and had issue Walter, who succeeded him, and Margaret, who married into the family of Brandon, and from whom descends the families of Pierrepont and Giboun.

His third wife, whom he married before 1422, was Alice Hartwell of Hartwell, by whom he had a son, John Reynes, who survived him.

Sir John Reynes died 1428 and was buried with his forefathers in Clifton, where on the pavement is a Brass with an effigy of a man in armour, and the arms of Reynes at each corner of the stone; at his feet is this inscription:

**Hic jacet Johannes Reynes Miles
Qui obiit XX. die Martii
Ao Dni MCCCXXVIII. cuius anime
Propicietur Deus; Amen.**

The following contract between Sir Thomas Reynes, 1383, and Johauna, wife of Sir Peter Scudamore, relative to the endowment of lands to their children, John Reynes and Catherine Scudamore, who were about to be married, gives many interesting particulars.

Visit'n Huntington, Camden Society, Vol. 43.

Ex chartis ex Evidentiis Thomæ Brudenell de Deen Militis et Baronetti.

6th Ric. II. Ceste endenture faict entre dame Johne q' fust la feme a Pieris Escudamor. ch'l'v et Kat'ine sa file d'une p't, et Thomas Reynes et Johan son fitz ch'l'r d'aut'r part. Tesmoigne q' la dite dame Jol'ne ad graunte q' le dit John esposera Katerine sa file &c., et la dit Thomas ad graunte a donner a dit Johan et Katerine, et a lez heyres q' le dit Joan engendra, &c., les manoirs de Clifton et Nowentone, &c.

Donne a Clifton auaunt dit en l'an de reigne n're seign le Roy Richard le secunde puy la Conqueste sisme.

It will be seen from the following deed that Thomas, the eldest son of Sir John and Catherine Scudamore, was seized of the lands of Upton Scudamore during the lifetime of his father, probably after the death of his mother. He here styles himself Lord of Upton Scudamore.

Pateat univ' sis, &c., me Thomam Reynes Dom' de Upton Escudamor attornasse et in loco meo posuisse dil'e'os mihi in Xp'to Joh'en Osberne et alios veros attornatos meos ad delib'andum plenam seisinam noie meo Joh'i Reynes patri meo, Rado Reynes et aliis in omnibus dominiis man' terr' et ten' in Com. Wiltess, South't Hertford et Buck, &c. Dat apud Tyringham Ao. 4 Hy. V. 1417. [SEAL.]

On the death of his only son, John, in 1421, the Manors descended to his younger brother, Ralph, who the year following, 1422, deeded all the lands to his father and his step-

mother, Alice, from whom they finally descended to the heirs of his sister Cicely.

Close Roll 10 Hy. V. 1422.

To all the faithful in Christ to whom this present writing shall come, Ralph de Reynes, Esq., greeting in the Lord.

Know ye that I have given, granted and confirmed to John de Reynes, Knight, my father, and to Alice his wife, and to the heirs of the said Alice, all the estate and claim which I have in the Manor of Upton Escudemor next Werminstree in Co. Wilts, in all the lands and tenements, pastures, woods, &c., in Upton, Werminstre, Harden Huych, Ruteshale, Tholneston, in the said county, in the advowsons of the churches of Tholneston and Hardenhnych, and of a certain chantry in Upton, and in all the lands, tenements, &c., in "South Wellys" in Co. Southampton, and Radene, in Co. Somerset. To hold to the said John and Alice, and the heirs of the said Alice forever, of the chief lords of those fees by the rents and services therefor due and accustomed, so that neither I, the said Ralph, nor my heirs, nor any others in our name, may from henceforth have any right in the said premises. And I, the said Ralph, and my heirs, will warrant the said premises to the said John and Alice forever.

Witnesses.

John Osborn, John Byllyngton, Robert Richard, Robert Cuttyng, Thomas Sherewyn, and others.

Given at Upton Escudemour on Monday next after the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary, 10 Hen. 5. (1422.)

The said Ralph came into the Chancery of the King at Westminster 18 May in the said year and acknowledged the said writing.

The following two deeds in 1422 and 1423 relate to lands in the county of Wiltshire, and are joined by Alice Hartwell, the third wife of Sir John.

Omnibus, &c. John Reynes Miles et Alicia uxor mea salutem, Novitiis nos concessi &c., tota pasturam in Upton Escudamor, Co. Willess. Data Ano I. Hy. VI. 1422.

Sciunt P'ntes &c., q'd Ego Joh'es Reynes Miles dedi, &c. Johi Baysham clerico, Joh'i James de Olney et Henr' Hertwell, haereditz et assignatis suis oia man' ia d'ni a terr' ten', &c., in Comitatu Willess, Suth't et Som's etc.

Hiis testibus Joh'e Osberne, Joh'e Billington, Rogero Sherewyn, Rob'to Richard, Edwardo Dyere, et aliis. Dat apud Upton Escudamore 10th Octobris An'o 9 Hy. V. 1421.

Seal. Ornament. Legend, *S. Johannis Reynes, Mil.*

An Inquisition Post Mortem, held 6th Henry VI., (No. 35) taken at Buckingham 3d July, 1428, shows that Sir John held the Manors of Clifton Reynes and of Newenton next Clifton in said County, and that Walter Reynes, aged twenty-five years and more, is his son and heir.

Another Inquisition taken at Wyndovere, in Co. Bucks, in 1427, on the Tuesday next before the Feast of St. Thomas the Martyr, for lands held by Sir John received through his first wife, Catherine Scudamore, exhibits the descent of her children, and that all the male heirs of her body were dead. Her property then passed to William Strete, eldest son of her daughter Cecelia.

WALTER REYNES, son of Sir John and Johan Betler, succeeded his father in 1428 as Lord of Clifton.

Inquisition taken at Buckingham, in Co. Bucks, before William Londesop, Escheator, 3 July, 6 Henry 6 (1428), by the oath of John Gyffard, Jr., John James, &c., &c., jurors, who say that John Reynes of Clifton did not hold any lands or tenements of the King in chief, nor of others in the said county, but they say that the said John long before his death was seized in his demesne as of fee of the Manors of Clyfton Reynes and Newenton next Clyfton in the said county, which said Manor of Clyfton is held by the Lady of Roos and the said Manor of Newenton is held of the Earl of Stafford, but by what services the jurors know not.

The said John Reynes by charter sealed with the seal of the arms of the said John, dated at Clyfton on Saturday in the feast of St. Stephen prothomartyr 4 Henry 5, (1416) granted the said Manors to Ralph Reynes, now deceased, and to John Fortho, chaplain, who now survives, to hold to them and their heirs forever. The said manors are worth per annum clear £10.

John Reynes died in the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary last past. Walter Reynes is his son and next heir, and is aged 25 years and more.

Chancery Inquisitions p. m. 6 Henry 6. No. 35.

In what year Walter died and whether he was succeeded by his half brother John Reynes, son of Alice Hartwell, is not known, but in 1451 all the male heirs of Sir John Reynes had died off, and the estate passed to the heirs of his brother Richard. The following record shows that Walter was dead in 1440, and makes no mention of his

brother John. It would also seem to indicate that the Manor of Clifton was divided between the heirs of the sister, but this was not the fact as the sequel shows, although John Anstey presented to the church of Clifton in 1458.

In an award made 18 Henry 6th (1440) it is found that in the 27th year (1354) of King Edward 3d, the Manor of Clifton was given to Thomas Reynes and Johan his wife, the wch Thomas had issue, John. John took to wife Katherine and had issue Cicely, moder of Johane, wife of John Anstey. After the decease of said Katherine, said John Reynes took to wife Johan and had issue by her Walter Reynes and Margerie, moder of Margaret, wife of John Gibonn. Wherefore it is decreed that said John Gybon and Margaret his wife, and John Anstey and Johan his wife, "shallen egally divide the land betweene them."

The following note from Lipscomb's History of the County Bucks is not borne out by the facts, and is evidently an error:

"John Reynes (Miles) had an only son, John. He settled by fine, 1427, 6 Hy. VI., all his Manors and lands upon him and his heirs, etc."

RICHARD REYNES, Esquire, so called in the several deeds and charters where he is mentioned, brother of the above mentioned Sir John and the youngest son of Sir Thomas Reynes, settled in the County of Bedford circa temp. Ric. II. But little is known about him except that he married an heiress of the ancient knightly family of Morteyne, and received by her the Manor of Marston-Morteyne. His wife, whose name was probably Jane, was the daughter and co-heir of Sir John Morteyne, Lord of Marston, 1373, and his wife Elizabeth. See pedigree Harleian MS. 1533.

An Inquisition taken at Melchborne, in Co. Bedford, 4 Ric. II., 1380, says that John Morteync, Kt., held of King Edward III. the Manor of Merssheton, (Marston) of the Barony of Cainbo, by the service of one knight's fee, which said Manor is worth per ann. clear £20. The said John died so seized Tuesday next before the feast of St. Peter, 47 Edw. III. (1373). The said John likewise held of the said King in chief the Manor of Tyllesworth by the service of one knight's fee, which said Manor is worth per ann. clear £10. Eliza-

both, relict of the said John, has taken the issues of the said manors from his death up to the present time.

In 1380, 26 Nov., a Commission was granted to Giles Daubeney et al. to enquire touching the alienation in the late reign by Edmund Morteyne, clerk, of the Manor of Merssheton, Co. Bedford, without license.
Patent Rolls, Ric. II., 1380.

The Visitation of Bucks, 1575, Harleian MS., 1533, Brit. Mus., makes Richard Reynes to marry a daughter of Mauleverer (Malivery), but in view of the following Inquisition, this must be incorrect. The Inquisition on John Morteyne, 1380, does not mention a daughter married to Richard Reynes, (though it does name two others) but it is evident that Richard received the Manor of Marston-Morteyne and left it to his son. Both Inquisitions mention Elizabeth, wife of John Morteyne, as having taken the issues of the manor, thus identifying the property. Richard's son Thomas quartered the arms of Morteyne and Mauleverer on his shield (see his brass), which he could not do unless by inheritance. Further, Richard's grandson Thomas held the Manor of Tyllesworth, *Chan. Inq. p. m. 12 Edw. 4, N. 22*, which we have just seen was held in chief by the Morteyne family. How could all this appear unless by the marriage of an heiress of Morteyne with Reynes.

It therefore appears more than probable that John Morteyne's wife was Elizabeth Mauleverer, and their daughter and heir married Richard Reynes, who became jure uxoris Lord of Marston.

Inq. taken at Wouborne, in Co. Bedford, 30 Octo. 7th Hen. VI. (1428) before William Londesop, escheator, by the oath of John Stoughton et. al., jurors, who say that Richard Reynes held the Manor of Marston-Morteyne, and one messuage and forty acres of land in Marston, which late were of Walter Adamys, and forty acres of land in Marston called Meriettes, which said premises are held of John Goldyngton and others as of their Manor of Milbroke, and are worth per ann. clear 20 marks.

The said Ric. Reynes died 4 March, 7 Henry 5 (1420). Thomas Reynes is his son and heir, and is aged thirteen years and more. Elizabeth, wife of John Morteyne, Knight, occupied the premises and took the profits thereof.

Richard had one son who succeeded him, named



Sir Thomas Reynes and Alice His Wife.
Marston-Morteyn Church.

THOMAS REYNES, Lord of Marston, born 1415, married Alice, daughter of Thomas Frowick, and died in 1451, leaving a son same name. A fine brass still existing in the church of Marston-Morteyne bears the following inscription:

*Hic jacent Thomas Reynes Armiger
quondam dominus iste ville qui
obiit 1^o die Novembr Anno Domini M^oCCcli.
et Domina Alicia uxoris eius quorum
animabus propicietur Deus Amen.*

This brass is described as very fine, the armour remarkable, particularly the taces. Head on a tilting helmet, feet on a greyhound, a dog at the lady's feet, group of nine sons, daughters gone.

Arms checky a canton, Reynes quartering Morteyne, Frowick and Mauleverer.

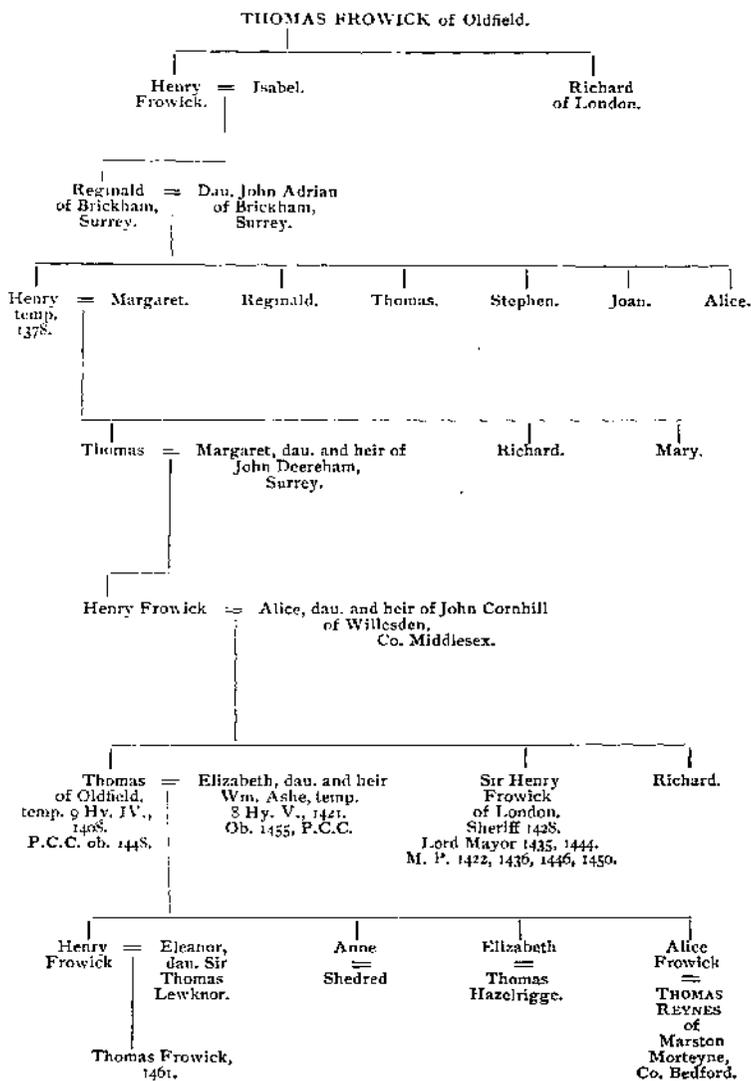
It was etched by Fisher in 1811. (See opposite page.)

Notwithstanding the large family indicated on the brass, the Visitations only record one son, who bore the same name as his father, and who became his heir. Doubtless some others survived and perpetuated the name in the county, of which there are indications in the later records.

Alice Frowick, wife of Thomas Reynes, was the daughter of Thomas Frowick, who lived temp. 9 Henry IV. (1408) and his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heir of William Ashe, living 8th Henry V. (1421).

This Thomas Frowick was brother to Sir Henry Frowick, High Sheriff 1428, and Lord Mayor of London 1435 and 1444. Member of Parliament 1422, 1436, 1446, 1450. See pedigree chart on following page.

Frowick.

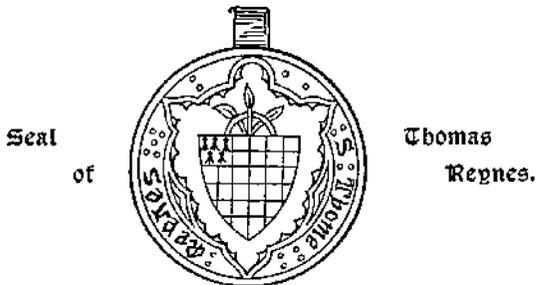


*Visitation of Herts, by Sir Henry St. George, 1534.
From Clutterbuck's Hertfordshire.*

THOMAS REYNES, Esquire, Lord of Mars ton, son of Thomas and Alice, succeeded to Clifton on the death, sine prole, of the last male heir of Sir John. There is a considerable contradiction in the genealogies of the family at this period, some saying it is doubtful if Thomas removed to Clifton, and that no memorial of him exists.

But it is certain that this Thomas was High Sheriff of the County in 1460 and 1462, and Browne Willis, who quotes the records, states that his seat was at Clifton Reynes, and then proceeds to give the arms of the family. It may, therefore, be asserted confidently that Thomas removed to Clifton and made his chief residence there, and that he was buried there.

He married Joan, the daughter of Sir John Broughton of Toddington, Co. Bedford, who died in 1489, and by whom he was made a feoffee of the Broughton estates.



The date of his death is not given in any of the genealogies, but there is an Inq. p. m. 12 Edward 4th, N. 22, on Thomas Reynes, Esq., for lands in Co. Bedford, naming Stanbrigge, Ekyndon, Belyngdon and Tyllsworth. This last place will be recognised as having descended from the Morteyne family; this Thomas died 14th April, 11 Edw. IV., (1471). The Inq. does not name the heir, neither does it mention Marston-Morteyne, which latter is the only point that casts doubt upon the assumption that it refers to the gentleman here treated of.

He left three sons,

John, Thomas and Richard.

Thomas Reynes, Esquire, Dominus de Marston and de Clifton, High Sheriff of the County 1460–1462, lies buried in Clifton, as appears by the monument which stands in the North Chancel under the uppermost arch nearest the communion table, and which from the Coat of Arms can be attributed to no other member of the family.

This monument consists of the raised effigies of a man and woman carved in stone in full proportions, and on each side eight small effigies of men and women with coats of arms over them as follows: On the south side next the nave Beauchamp, Tyringham, Seyton, Erpingham, Drayton, Scudamore.

On the opposite side, next the North Chapel, Dyve, Brisley, Tyringham, Morteyn, Seyton, Green and Zouche.

Sir JOHN REYNES, Knight, the eldest son, succeeded to the Lordships of Clifton and Marston early in the reign of Henry VII., and was patron of Clifton in 1495, in which year he presented to the church there. He married, first, Agnes, daughter of Charles Ingleton, Esq., of Thornton, where she was buried in 1481, leaving no issue.

Thornton Church, Co. Bucks.

In the chancel on the pavement is a stone whereon are the effigies of a man and woman in brass, and this inscription:

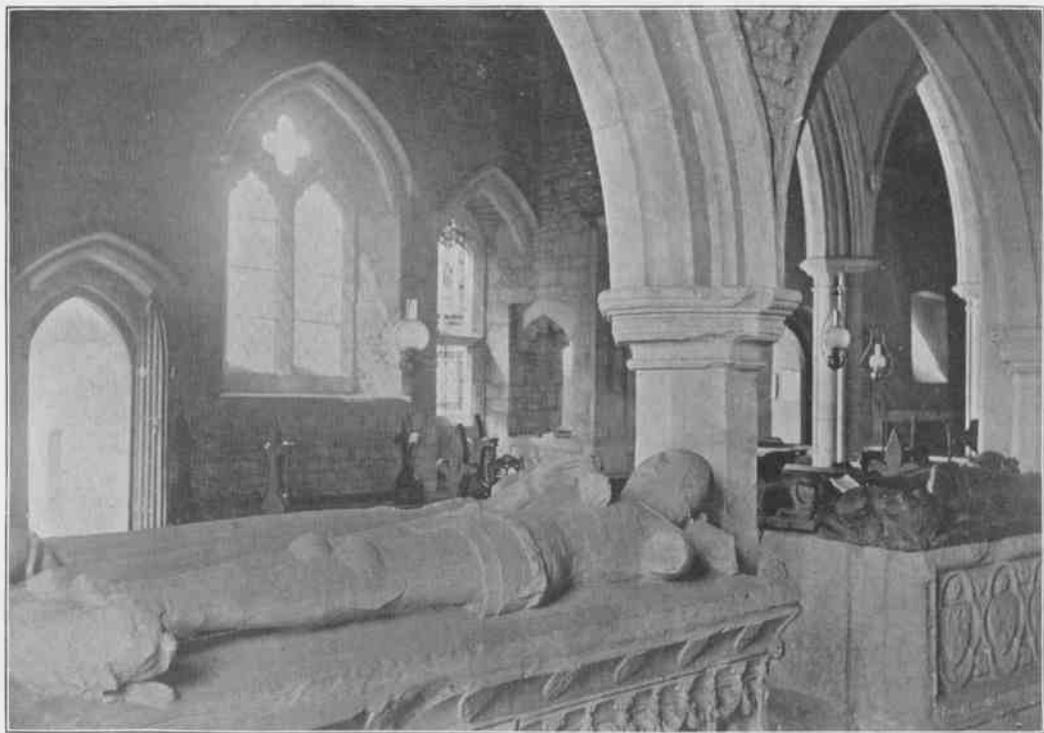
Hic jacet Agnes, uxor Johannis Reynes Armigeri
filia Caroli Ingleton, que obiit 18 die Augusti, 1481.
Cujus Anime propicietur Deus.

On two plates of brass are these arms:
INGLETON, DYMCK AND REYNES.

“Brown Willis History of the County of Bucks.”

He married, secondly, Agnes, daughter of John Tyringham of Tyringham, by whom he had one only child, named Elizabeth, born circa 1484.

Sir John died before 1507. No monument to him exists.



Tomb of Sir Thomas Reynes, Clifton Reynes.

Clifton Reynes. Advowson of the church there.

John Veysey, D. C. L., was presented 3d March, 1495, by Sir John Reynes.

Anthony Frather was presented 2d March, 1498, by Sir John Reynes.

Robert Cooper was presented 16th February, 1507, by Thomas Reynes.

Therefore Sir John Reynes of Clifton and Marston must have died between 1498 and 1507.

THOMAS REYNES, the second son, and younger brother of Sir John, was in holy orders. He received the patronage of Clifton on the death of his elder brother, and presented to the church in 1507, and 1519, was Parson of Marston, Co. Bedford, and of Cavendish, Co. Suffolk. His will was proved P. C. C. London, 18th February, 1524-5.

RICHARD REYNES, the youngest son, on the death of his brother Sir John, became Lord of Clifton, partly by inheritance and partly by purchase from Elizabeth the only child. He married Maud, daughter of John Booth of Co. Chester, and died in 1556, leaving three daughters, among whom the estate was divided, and the male line became extinct.

ELIZABETH REYNES, only child of Sir John, was born circa 1484, married RICHARD DECONS 1504, sold her part of Clifton to her uncle and inherited Marston-Morteyne, Co. Bedford, where she and her family made their residence.

In 1673 the Manor of Clifton Reynes contained a Manor house, three closes, three corn mills, five messuages, eight hundred and twelve acres of farm, meadow, arable and pasture lands, and was valued at £13,500, or \$67,500. At that time money was worth six times its present value, making an amount equivalent to \$405,000.

The Church of Clifton was founded by the family of Borard soon after the Conquest. The right of presentation continued ever afterwards in the successive Lords of Reynes Manor until 1816. The present building was probably erected temp. Edward I. (1272-1307).

The windows were once profusely ornamented with the Coats of Arms of the Reynes family and their alliances. These were existing as late as the beginning of the last (18th) century, and were frequently noted and catalogued by genealogists and antiquarians. Lipscomb's History of the County gives a complete list of them. Unfortunately these beautiful old specimens of window glass have been almost wholly destroyed, excepting a few pieces remaining in the Clerestory.

In the east windows of the South Aisle were the Arms of Reynes, Farrar, Dyve, Chamberlayne, Parslow, Druel, Reynes impaling Booth.

In another window were Reynes, Giffard, Pigot, Tyringham impaling Reynes, Reynes impaling Tyringham, Reynes impaling Reynes, Reynes quartering Broughton, Reynes impaling Booth, and others.

The font in the church is said to be extremely fine. As noted in the preceding genealogy the church abounds in monuments and brasses erected to the various Lords of the Manor of the family of Reynes. Several of these have been illustrated in Antiquarian works.

It will be noted that the following article does not agree with the genealogy given herein as to the persons to whom these interesting monuments should be attributed. But it is believed that a careful examination of the pedigree, with the various coats of arms depicted upon the tombs, and other important known data, will convince the enquirer of the correctness of the conclusions before stated, and of the error of the article quoted from, in this particular.

Vide Vol. 3, Transactions of the Archeological Society of the Co. Bucks, Aylesbury, 1870, from which the following account is transcribed.

Clifton Reynes is a small, sequestered village, yet its pretty little church contains one of the finest collections of monuments in the country. The chancel has a north aisle opening into it by two arches of the Decorated period. This aisle, which doubtless was built for a sepulchral

chapel, contains six sculptured effigies besides memorial brasses. The earliest monument is placed in the north wall within a canopied recess, and consists of two recumbent effigies, male and female, carved in oak, and resting on a marble slab supported by brackets. The knight, or warrior, is represented in the usual armor of the 13th century, but the leg-armor, which was probably shown in colors, has disappeared. The spurs also are gone, but their straps remain. The right leg is crossed over the left. With the right hand he is sheathing his sword, and with the left he holds the scabbard.

His head rests on two cushions, and his feet on a dog, very rudely figured. The lady's costume is, of course, of the same period. She wears over her head a veil, which falls on each side of the face to the shoulders. The neck and chin are covered with a wimple reaching almost to the under lip. The dress is low in front about the neck, and falls in folds down to the feet. The gown is sleeveless, with long slits for the arms. The hands are raised in prayer. The head rests on two cushions and the feet on a dog, similar to that at her husband's feet. This monument has neither date, inscription nor armorial bearings, but was probably designed to commemorate Simon de Borard and Margaret his wife. He was lord of the manor and died about A.D. 1260, which agrees with the apparent date of this monument.

The next monument to be noticed is an altar-tomb, standing under the lower arch, between the chancel and its aisles. Each side of the tomb is ornamented with five shields of arms surrounded with tracery, and over every shield, and within the tracery, is the figure of a rose. Roses are also figured on the spaces between the shields, and a border of roses placed at short intervals surrounds each side of the tomb.

The armorial bearings are described by Lipscomb. Upon the tomb are two recumbent effigies, male and female, carved in oak, much resembling those last described, but

evidently, from their execution and from some points of difference, they belong to a somewhat later period.

The Knight wears a bascinet with camail; his hauberk reaches nearly to his knees; his sur-coat is marked with squares, perhaps intended for chequy, the bearing of Reynes; he has knee pieces, but no appearance of armor beneath them on the legs, nor on the arms, which have been coloured red; no spurs or straps remain. The toes are pointed, but there is no appearance of sollerets. The head rests on two cushions; the right hand is in the attitude of drawing or sheathing the sword, which is entirely broken away, and there is no appearance of the sword-belt; the left arm holds a shield, which is semi-cylindrical and of the heater shape, but devoid of heraldic device. The right leg is crossed over the left, and the feet rest on a dog. The lady wears a veil over the head, with a fillet encircling the temples, and another passing from the forehead over the crown. The veil, passing under the fillet, falls on each side of the face down to the shoulders. A wimple or gorget covers the neck and chin almost to the under lip. The dress is low about the neck and falls in folds to the feet, which are remarkably small. The gown, or super-tunic, is sleeveless and without a girdle. The hands are in the attitude of prayer, and the arms, or sleeve of the underdress, have been coloured red. The head rests on a double cushion and the feet on a dog. There is neither date nor inscription on this monument, but from the armorial bearings and other indications it may be assigned to Ralph de Reynes, lord of the manor, and his second wife, Amabel, daughter of Sir Richard Chamberlain, of Petsoe Manor. Ralph de Reynes died about A.D. 1310, which agrees with the apparent date of the monument.

Wooden effigies are rare, and these are, I believe, the only examples in this county. They are well carved, and although more than five centuries and a half old, are in a good state of preservation, except where wantonly or accidentally injured. They are hollow, and unconnected with



Clifton Effigies
Clifton, W. Yorks.

the stone slabs on which they rest. On being raised up they are found to be deeply scooped out, and the cavity left in a rough and jagged state. Probably they were charred internally or saturated with some liquid to preserve them from worms and the effects of time and damp.

In addition to these wooden effigies, there is an extremely elegant altar-tomb under the upper or east arch. It is made of rather soft white stone, and not of alabaster as usually stated. Two recumbent effigies, boldly and elaborately executed of the same material, rest on it.

The knight wears a pointed bascinet, camail of chain mail, a jupon emblazoned with the Reynes arms, reaching scarcely below the hips, and fitting close to the body; the mail hauberk appears about two inches below the sur-coat; the legs are defended with plate armor, with knee pieces, and broad pointed sollerets. The spurs are broken off, but the straps remain; the sword is gone, but the ornamented belt with a richly chased fastening remains; the dagger is perfect, except the hilt; the hands are in the attitude of prayer, but the greater part of the left arm is broken off. The head rests on a tilting helmet, and the feet on a well sculptured dog with the collar bearing the name *Bo*, in letters raised in bold relief.

The lady's face is almost lost in her reticulated head-dress and veil; her gown is buttoned to the waist, and a mantle over her shoulders is fastened by a band over the breast and reaches to the feet. Her head rests on two pillows, and her feet on two small dogs, each wearing a collar, and with their heads in opposite directions.

Each side of the tomb is richly sculptured, and divided by graduated buttresses, into eight lofty niches with trefoiled canopies, crocketed and enriched with pinnacles and finials. The first niche on either side of the tomb contains an armed statuette, and each of the other niches a male or female figure, probably representing the knight's relations or dependents.

The canopies are surmounted by a hollow cornice, bearing in relief an armorial shield over each niche.

There is neither date nor inscription on this tomb, but it may, with much probability, be assigned to Sir John Reynes and his first wife, Catherine, daughter and heir of Sir Peter Scudamore, of Wiltshire. All these monuments are judiciously cleaned and preserved by the Rev. Thomas Evetts, now incumbent of Prestwood, and Rural Dean, when he was for a short time Curate of Clifton Reynes.

From the Records of Buckinghamshire or papers and notes on the History Antiquities and Architecture of the county, together with the transactions of the Architectural and Archæological Society for the County of Buckingham, published by the Society. Vol. III. Aylesbury, 1870. Article, The Sculptured Monuments of Buckinghamshire prior to the Sixteenth Century. By the Rev. W. Hastings Kelke.

The family of Reynes were lords of Oakley, Co. Bedford, as well as of Clifton, Co. Buckingham, though they had no residence in the former place.

In the south aisle of Oakley Church, formerly called Oakley Reynes, Co. Bedford, is a recessed canopied tomb with the effigy of a lady.

The tomb has evidently been moved at some time, for the cusplings have been transposed, as may be seen by the shields upon them being inverted. On the dexter side are the arms of Reynes, on the sinister a chevron between three eschalops, for Chamberlain. There are six other shields on the finials too indistinct to pronounce with any certainty the bearings.



St. Mary's Church, Clifton Reynes.

Following are the Presentations to the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Clifton Reynes, Co. Buckingham, during the period referred to :

PRIEST.	DATE.	PATRON.
Ralph Malclerc,	1230,	Sir Simon de Borard.
Ascelinus de Borard,	16 Jan., 1267	Richard de Borard.
Robert de Granesby,	2 May, 1293,	Richard de Bosco.
Roger, died Rector in 1310, and was succeeded by		
Adam de Tyringham,	5 Dec., 1310,	Sir Roger de Tyringham,
(Guardian of Thomas, son of Ralph de Reynes, a minor.)		
John Tyringham,	2 July, 1330,	Thomas de Reynes, Lord of Clifton.
Walter Grote,	5 July, 1349,	“ “ “
Henry de Brokhole,	15 Oct., 1361,	Thomas de Reynes, Kt.
Richard de Maidwell,	4 Dec., 1364,	Sir Thomas de Reynes, Kt.
John Baslewell,	1 Sept., 1394,	Sir John Reynes, Kt.
John Randolph, or Randall,	20 Oct., 1458,	John Anstey et al. for heirs of Sir John Reynes.
John Vesey, D. C. L., alias Harman,	3 March, 1495,	Sir John Reynes, Kt.
Anthony Fisher.	2 March, 1498,	Sir John Reynes, Kt.
Robert Cooper,	16 Feb., 1507,	Thomas Reynes.
Richard Ellis,	11 Nov., 1519,	Thomas Reynes.

SOME OF THE HIGH SHERIFFS OF THE

COUNTY OF BEDFORD-BUCKS.

1239. Paul de Peyvre of Chilton.
1289. Sir John de Pabenharn of Fleet-Marston.
1314. " "
1315. " "
1316. " "
1317. Roger de Tyringham of Tyringham.
1322. " "
1324. " "
1325. " "
1377. John Broughton of Broughton.
1378. Sir John de Olney.
1378. Thomas Peyvre of Toddington.
1379. Sir Giles Daubeney, Kt.
1388. Thomas Peyvre.
1391. William Tyringham.
1393. Thomas Peyvre of Toddington.
1407. " "
1431. Sir Giles Daubeney.
1435. John Broughton.
1446. Thos. Giffard of Twyford.
1459. John Broughton.
1460. Sir Thomas de Reynes of Clifton Reynes.
1462. " "
1463. " "
1464. " "
1466. John Broughton.
1470. William Lucy of Chelmscote.
1475. Richard Bulstrode.
1476. Hugh Bulstrode.
1504. Edward Bulstrode.

All of whom were connected with the family of Reynes.

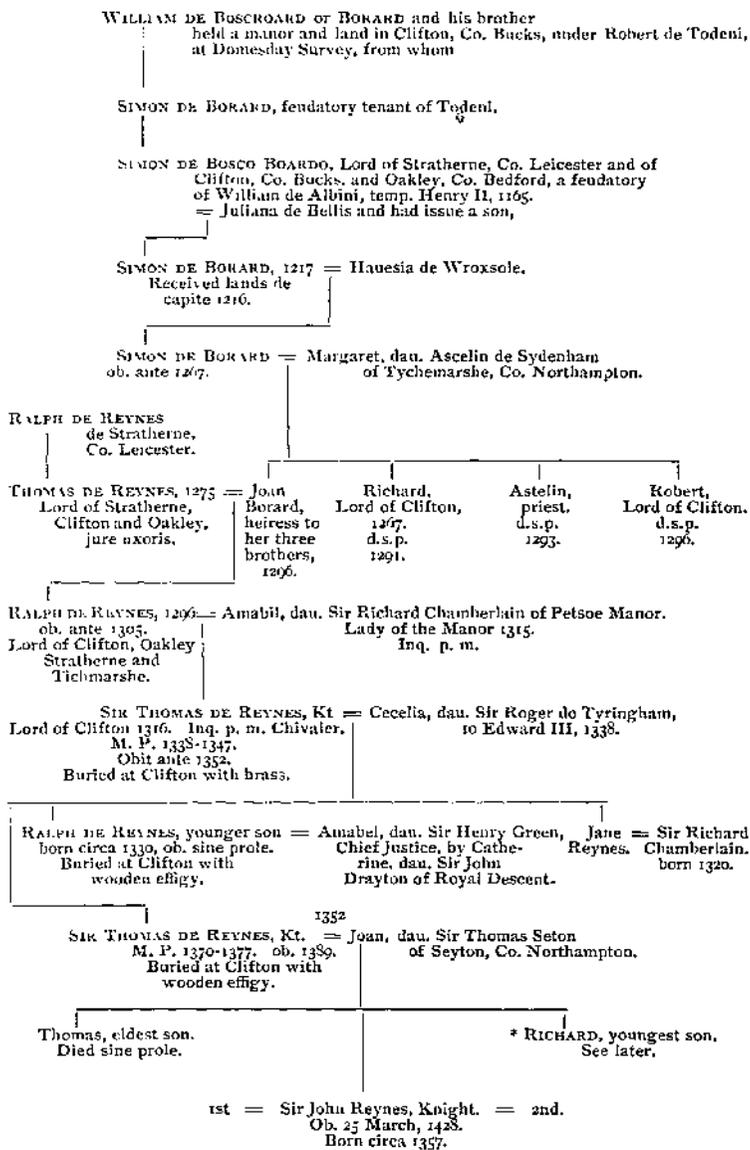
The two counties were represented by one Burgess and one Sheriff until 17 Elizabeth, 1575.

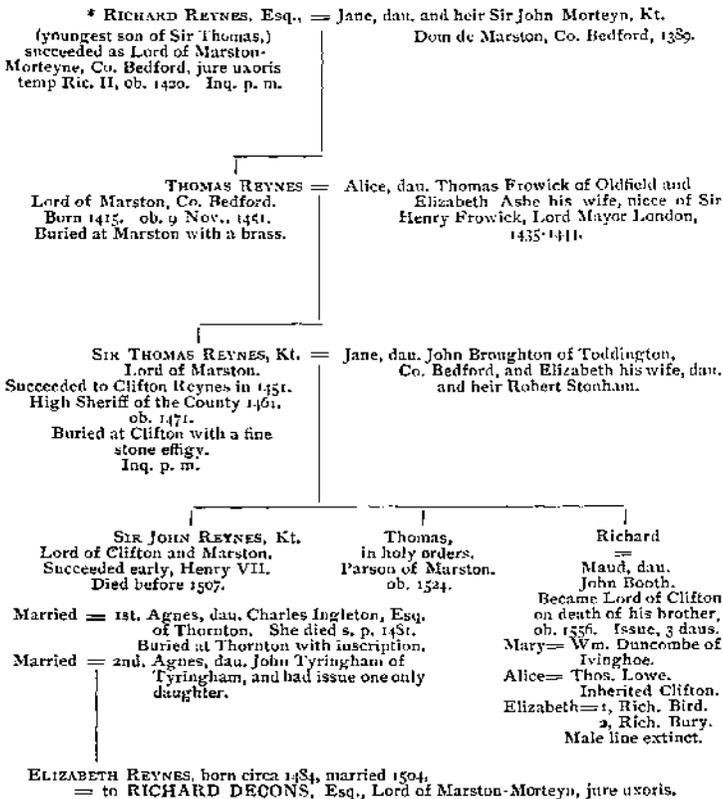
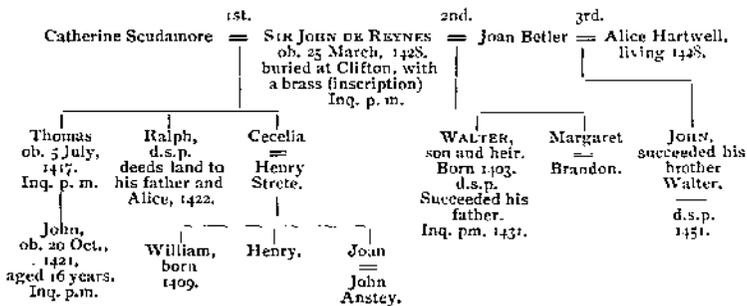
KNIGHTS OF THE SHIRE.

COUNTIES OF BEDFORD AND BUCKS.

1295.	Roger de Tyringham.
1305.	“ “
1329.	“ “
1331.	Sir John Morteyne.
1338.	Sir Thomas de Reynes.
1340.	“ “
1341.	Roger de Tyringham.
1344.	Sir Thomas de Reynes.
1347.	“ “
1353.	Sir Geoffrey de Lucy.
1354.	“ “
1355.	“ “
1356.	“ “
1357.	“ “
1361.	“ “
1370.	Sir Thomas de Reynes.
1373.	Geoffrey de Lucy.
1378.	Sir Thomas de Reynes.
1382.	John Tyringham.
1383.	John Broughton.
1392.	“ “

Reynes.





CHAPTER XIV.

MORTEYNE.

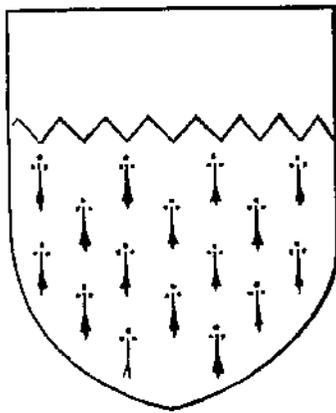
TYRINGHAM.

PABENHAM.

LUCY.

PEYVRE.

Morteyne.



MARSTON-MORTEYNE,
CO. BEDFORD.

MORTEYNE
of
Marston-Morteyne,
Co. Bedford.

ARMS OF MORTEVNE.
Ermine, a chief indented, gules.

The history of this family has not been written in detail by any of the genealogists, and what follows has only been collected from numerous sources without connection with each other, and put together so far as the facts justified.

No better beginning can be made than by a quotation from Sir T. C. Banks in his *Extinct and Dormant Baronage*.

“The family of Mortheyne was of great consideration in point of landed estates from a period of very early antiquity, and intermarried with heiresses of several eminent Baronial houses.”

The name appears in Holingshed’s list of Battel Abbaye knights, but this probably refers to Robert, Count of Mortain, half brother to William the Conqueror, who left two sons, William and Nigel, the connection between whom and the family here treated of has not been found, although the coat-armour is the same.

The earliest mention appears to be that of ROBERT DE MORTEYN, temp. Henry I., 1100, who succeeded to the Manor of Wollaton, Co. Notts, at the foundation of the Priory of Lenton. Wollaton was originally known as Olaveston, and this manor remained in the family for many generations.

He was succeeded by his son, ADAM DE MORTEYN, who rendered to the king an account of xxx. marcs of the amercement of the forest. 22 Henry II., 1176. He had two sons,

EUSTACIUS and ADAM.

Of Adam there is found nothing further.

EUSTACE DE MORTEYN, eldest son, succeeded to the Manors of Wollaton and Cossale, in Co. Notts, and appears on the pipe Roll of Rich I., 1198. He married in the time of King John the daughter and heir of Sir Richard Silwayne, and was Lord of the Manor of Braunston, Co. Leicester. His arms are given thus:

Or, three Lions Rampant, queue furchee.

In 7 John, 1206, he gave Henry, the son of William Hamelyn, his villein, with all his sequell and cattel, to the Priory of Lenton. He left two sons,

EUSTACE and NICHOLAS.

He was patron of the Church of Braunston, Co. Leicester, and presented to it in 1220. He died 1223, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Eustace. The younger son,

Sir NICHOLAS MORTEYNE, Knight, inherited the Manor of Braunston, Leicester, and died leaving two sons,
JOHN and RALPH.

RALPH inherited Braunston, to the church of which he presented as Patron in 1240, but seems afterwards to have sold or granted it to his uncle William. Ralph was Knighted. He probably died sine prole 1286.

EUSTACE DE MORTEINE, the eldest son of Eustace was found seized of the Manor of Wollaton 7 Henry III., 1223, and also held the advowson of the church of Misterton, Co. Leicester, to which as patron he presented in 1230. He left three sons,

WILLIAM, ROGER and ROBERT.

WILLIAM DE MORTEYN, son of Eustace, became a prominent man. He was seized of the Manors of Wollaton and Cossale, Co. Notts, of Eyum and Reselle, in Co. Derby, and of Walesalle, in Co. Stafford. Later he appears possessed of the Manor of Braunston, Co. Leicester, which he probably purchased from his nephew. He was High Sheriff of the counties of Warwickshire and Leicester, 56 Henry III., 1272. It is also recorded that William de Bosco held lands in Poultney and Misterton, Co. Leicester, which he held of William de Morteyne, who held them of the Bishop of Lincoln, and the Bishop held of the King, by the service of half a Knight's fee, and that John Comayn, Wm. de Kirkby, Adam Dekene, held lands of said William Morteine, as before stated. Also that in Braunston there were held twelve Carucates in feodo Dom'o Willo de Morteyne habemus do dom Eustaceius filia Eustachea de Morteyne.

William married Jane, daughter of the celebrated Philip (Lord) Marmyon of Scrivelsby, Lincolnshire, by his first wife, Jane, daughter of Hugh de Kilpeck. This Philip was High Sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicester in 1249, and of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1261. He was a great warrior, and died in 1291 without male issue. His castle of Tamworth descended to Jane Morteyne, his daughter, but as she died childless, it passed to her niece, the daughter of her only sister, by whom it went to the family of de Freville. William died seized of the Manor of Braunston, Leicestershire, in 1283, which he held of the Bishop of London by the service of one Knight's fee. He left no issue, and his lands passed to his nephew, the son of his brother Roger, of whom there is no further record except that he left a son of the same name.

ROGER DE MORTEVNE, son of Roger, came of age the same year his uncle William died, 1283 (12 Edw. I.). He inherited the estates and was Knighted, receiving a charter of free warren from the King for the Manors of Wollaton, Cossale, Eyum, Reselee and Walesalle. He married Isabel, niece and only heir to William de Luda, Episcop Eliens, by whom he had two children,

William and Isabel.

He is also called Lord of Dunesley, and his arms are given thus :

Or. Six lioncells rampant sable.

He was succeeded by his son, William de Morteyne, of whom there appears no further mention.

Isabella de Morteyn, sister of William, married Sir Richard Willoughby, of Willoughby, Knight, one of the Justices of the Bench. He was Knight of the Shire in 1324, and died 1363.

On the occasion of their marriage Isabel received from her brother William a grant of the Manor of Wollaton, which thenceforth passed to the Willoughbys.

ROBERT DE MORTEYN, supposed to be the third son of Eustace before mentioned, married, temp. Edward I., Constance, who is supposed to be the heiress of the ancient house of Turville, Co. Warwick, who brought the Manor of Turville into the family. They had two sons,

EUSTACE and JOHN.

Robert, the father, died 1299, 27 Edw. I.

EUSTACE, son of Robert de Morteyne, aged 31 in 1299, inherited the Manor of Turville, Co. Warwick, and was married and living 9 Edw. II., 1316. He was the father of Sir Thomas Morteine, Lord of Turville, whose wife's name was Margaret, and who was the father of Richard. Thomas died 1361.

RICHARD MORTEINE, Lord of Turville, died in 1395, leaving two sons.

WILLIAM MORTEINE of Turville, eldest son, leased the Manor of Turville in 1406 to his brother **JOHN MORTEYN**, in behalf of his daughter, and in 1462 Joan, wife of Alan Boteler, possessed the Manor. She was, therefore, probably the daughter of John Morteine, and with her the records of this branch of the family come to an end.

JOHN DE MORTEYN, according to the Visitation of Bucks (*Harl. MS. 1533*) and the *Plea Rolls 39 Edw. III., m. 152*, was the grandson of Eustace and son of Robert de Morteyn and Constance his wife. But according to the Visitation of Oxford, 1566, the son of Nicholas, brother of Eustace the father of Robert, who married Constance. (Lipscomb says that Constance married William de Morteyn.) These differences are at present irreconcilable, but the probabilities are in favor of the first of the above statements.

He is called Sir John de Morteyne, Knight of Warkworth, County Northampton, 14 Edw. I., 1286, was summoned 24 Edw. I. as a Baron to attend King Edward at Newcastle on Tyne to a great council, 1296. His wife was Jane,

daughter of Sir Richard de Rothwell, Kt. He owned lands in the County of Bedford and died 1296, and was buried at Dunstable, see the Registers of the Abbey. He left a son,

Sir JOHN MORTEYN, Knight, who was summoned as M. P. for Bedford and Bucks in 1331. He married Jane Ekeney, daughter and heir to Richard Ekeney de Ekeney, Co. Bucks, by which the family of Morteyn quarter the arms of Ekeney.

In 1323 John de Morteyne had a market and fair in Mars-ton, Beds. See *Charter Roll, 17 Edw. II.*

In 1366, at Bedford, on the Monday next after the Feast of All Saints, return was made that it would not be to the loss or prejudice of the King if John Morteyne were allowed to demise to the Abbey of Elnestowe two messuages, one toft, forty-four acres of land, nine acres of meadow, six acres of pasture and a rent of 3s. & 9d., with appurtenances at Elstowe, Willshamstead, and Maulden, for the purpose of keeping two wax candles burning before the high altar of the Abbey church of Elstowe, for a certain time on every Sunday forever, and two years later the Royal license for the gift was granted.

It may be noted that Elizabeth Morteyn was instituted Abbess of Elstowe in 1333, and though no record of the date of her death has been found, it is possible the donor, her relative, may have designed so to honor her memory.

John Morteyn and Jane Ekeney had six children,

John, Thomas, Edmund, Alice, Lucy and Joan.

Joane married Sir John Chamberlaine, Knight of Sherborne, Co. Oxford, whose son, Sir Rich. Chamberlaine, married Jane (daughter of Sir John Reynes, Kt., of Clifton Reynes, Co. Bucks) and inherited from her mother the Manors of Ekeney and Petsoe, Co. Bucks, and the advowson of the Church of St. Martin's, Ekeney, to which as Patron he presented 5 May, 1381. His wife, Jane Reynes, died 1413.

Lucy married Sir John Giffard, of Twyford, Kt., who had a son, Sir Thomas Giffard, aged 30 in 1380.

The second son, Thomas Morteyn, married Margaret and the records give no further particulars.

Alice married William, son of Henry Lovell, and died without issue.

The eldest son, Sir John Morteyne, married Catherine, and was succeeded by a son of same name, Sir John de Morteyn, Kt., who married a lady named Elizabeth, and who, it is probable, was an heiress of the family of Maul-everer.

Upon a scrutiny of the book of fees remaining in the Exchequer, there is found under the counties of Bedford and Bucks, that John de Morteyn holds of the fee of Eustace de Morteyn, 1 fee in Twylesworth of the old enfeoffment.

Chauncery Inq'n, p. m. 3 Ric. II., No. 46.

Inquisition taken at Melcheborne before John Wydenyll, Escheator in Co. Beds. on Saturday in the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, 4 Ric. II., (1380) by the oath of John Heryng of Carleton, William Wytir, William Campion, etc., etc., jurors, who say that John Morteyn, Knight, held of King Edw. III. the manor of Merssheton with the appurts as a particular of the Barony of Caynho by the service of one knight's fee, which said manor is worth per ann. clear £20.

The said John died so seized on Tuesday next before the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, 47 Edward III. (1373).

The said John likewise held of the said King in chief, the manor of Tyllesworth by the service of 1 Knight's fee, which said manor is worth per ann., clear, £10.

Richard Chamburleyn, Knight, and Thomas Gyffard, Knight, are the kinsmen and next heirs of the said John Morteyn, to wit, the said Richard is the son of Joan, sister of John, father of the said John Morteyn, and is aged 60 years and more. The said Thomas is the son of Lucie, sister of John, father of the said John Morteyn, and is aged 30 years and more.

Elizabeth, relict of the said John, has taken the issues of the said manors from his death up to the present time.

Chan. Inq. p. m. 4 Ric. II. n. 39.

(An Inq. p. m. was taken on Elizabeth Morteyn in 5 Ric. II., but unfortunately the document is lost.)

EDMUND DE MORTEYNE, called "clerk," or in holy orders, is stated in both visitations to have married. His wife's name is given as Alice, daughter of Merston, possibly the

Lord of the Manor of Marston, and it is most probable she was sole heir, for it is certain Edmund is called Dominus de Merston, or Lord of the Manor, and that the manor changed owners prior to 1380. Edmund is styled Knight in the Visitation of Oxford, and Lord of the Manor of Marston, Co. Bedford, called henceforward Marston-Mortaine. He left three children,

John.

Edward.

Margaret.

Edward entered holy orders.

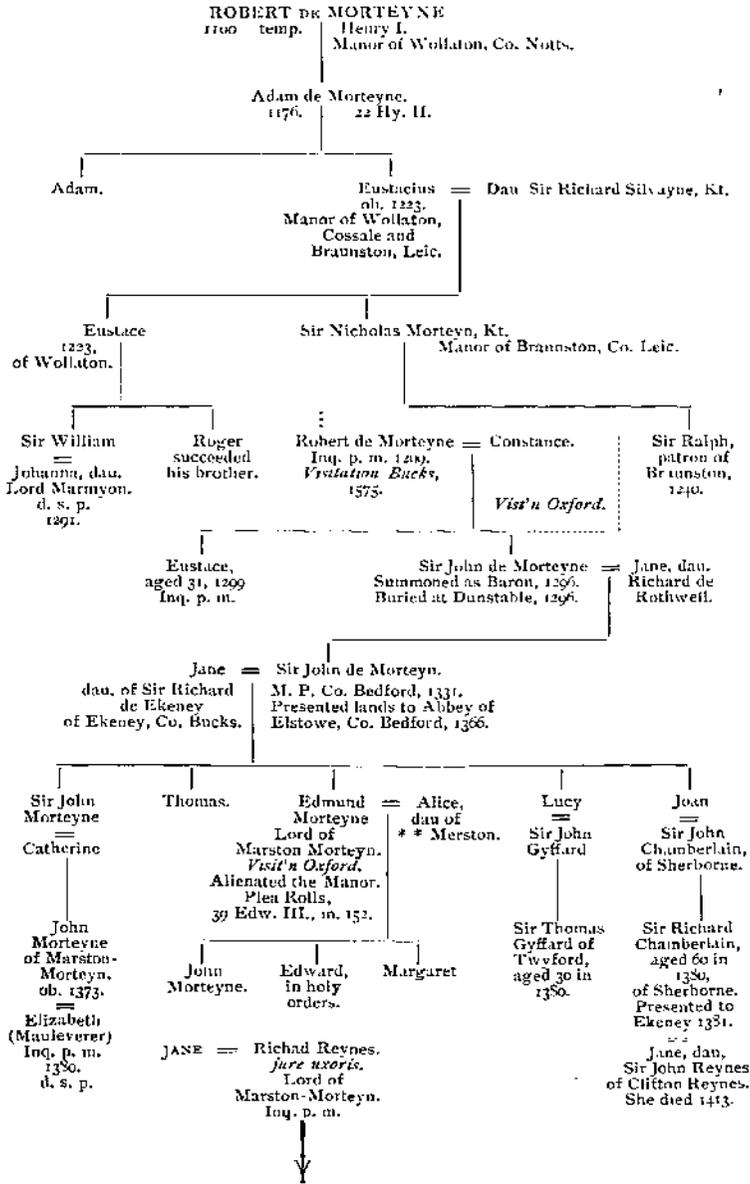
Margaret is said, by the Visitation of Oxford, to have married Sir Thomas Gifford, Knight, who was living 1367 and 1391, leaving a son, Sir Thomas Gifford, Knight, living 1394. This, however, is probably an error, and a confusion with Lucy, before named.

1380, Nov. 26th, Commission to Giles Daubeney et al. to enquire touching the alienation in the last reign by Edmund Morteyn, clerk, of the Manor of Marssheton, Co. Bedford, without license.

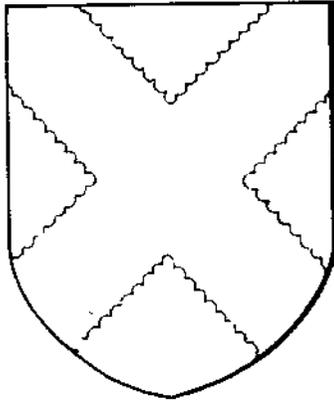
Patent Rolls, Ric. II.

In 1420 the Manor of Marston-Morteyne was held by Richard Reynes, Esq., of Co. Bedford, to whose heirs it descended until it passed to Richard Decons, who married Elizabeth, the sole heir of Sir John Reynes—see Reynes.

Morteyne.



Tyringham.



of
TYRINGHAM,
CO. BUCKS.

TYRINGHAM

of

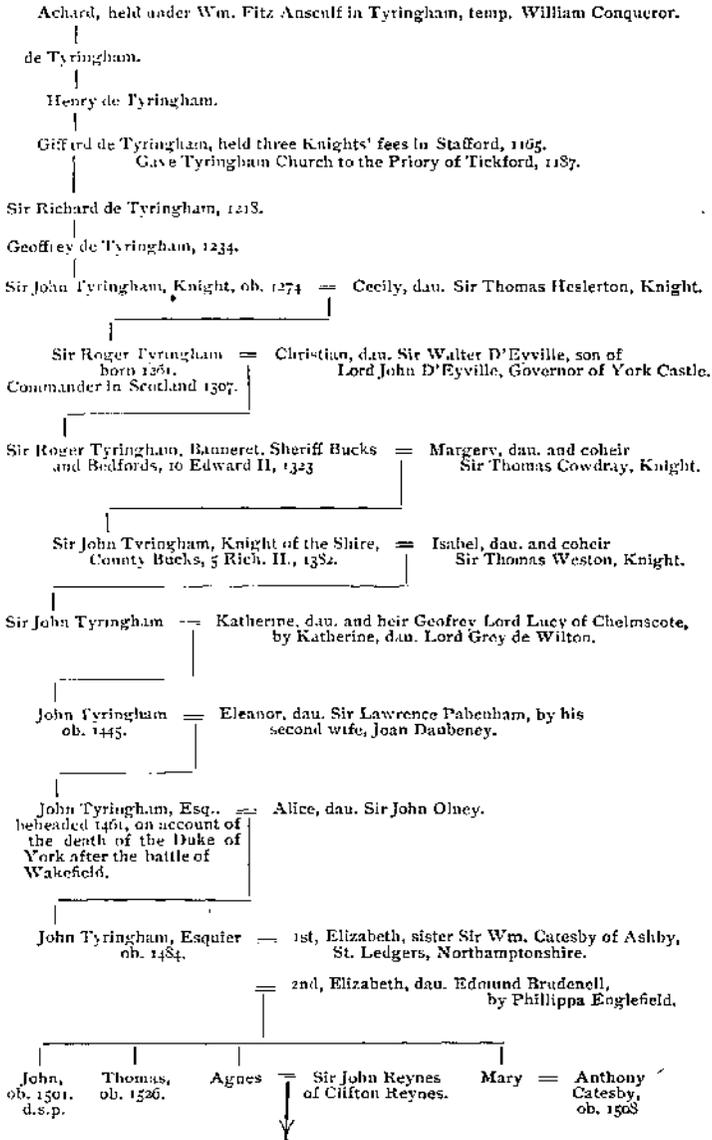
Tyringham,

Co. Bucks.

ARMS,

Azure, a saltyre engrailed, argent.

Tyringham.



The family of Tyingham deserve a more extended notice than can be here given. Settled from the earliest period in the counties of Buckingham and Northampton, they ever held a foremost place in those shires, filling the great offices, intermarrying with the noblest families, and taking their share in the notable events of those disturbed and warlike days.

Like so many other famous families, a day unfortunately came when they lacked an heir male, and so though their blood remained, their name was lost and their broad acres passed to the heirs of another race.

Their ancient Manor of Tyingham was a noble mansion of considerable extent, and elegant construction, having been the residence of this influential family during many centuries. It was taken down in 1792 and a large modern edifice erected in its stead. Sir William Tyingham, who died 1685, left an only daughter, who inherited the property and married John Backwell, Esq., of London. With this heiress the ancient family of Tyingham disappeared from the County of Buckingham. Their name is perpetuated in the manor.

In Tyingham Church is a monument of a Knight in tabard with the arms of Tyingham. The inscription is lost, but the date is about 1490.

This family, by their great intermarriages, (through the Greys of Wilton, the Lucys of Chelmscote, and the Daubeneys of Belvoir, mingled the blood of the ancient Royal families of France, Normandy, England and Scotland with their own.

Agnes, the daughter of Sir John Tyingham, who died 1484, married Sir John Keynes of Clifton-Reynes, and Marston-Morteyne, and was mother of Elizabeth Keynes Decons.

Agnes' mother was Elizabeth, sister of Sir Robert Brudenell, Lord Chief Justice, from whom in direct descent are the present family of Brudenells, Earls of Cardigan.

Following is a curious will of John, the brother of Agnes Tyringham :

WILL OF JOHN TYRINGHAM, ESQUIRE, 1501.

Feb'y 25th, 1500. I will that the great bell shall ring from 6 of the clock in the morning until 6 at night on the day that I am buried, and that a stone be laid on my grave with my picture and my arms, and I appoint Dame Elizabeth Tyringham and Mr. Thomas Reynes, Parson, my executors. Proved 10 May, 1501.

PABENHAM

of

Fleet-Marston,

Co. Bucks.

ARMS

of

PABENHAM.

Barry of six, argent and azure, on a bend gules, three
mulletts or.

The family of Pabenham was settled in the counties of Northampton and Buckingham from an early period, and intermarried with some of the most noted baronial houses, vide *Clifford* and *Criol*.

Several members of the family held office as High Sheriffs and Knights of the Shire at various periods.

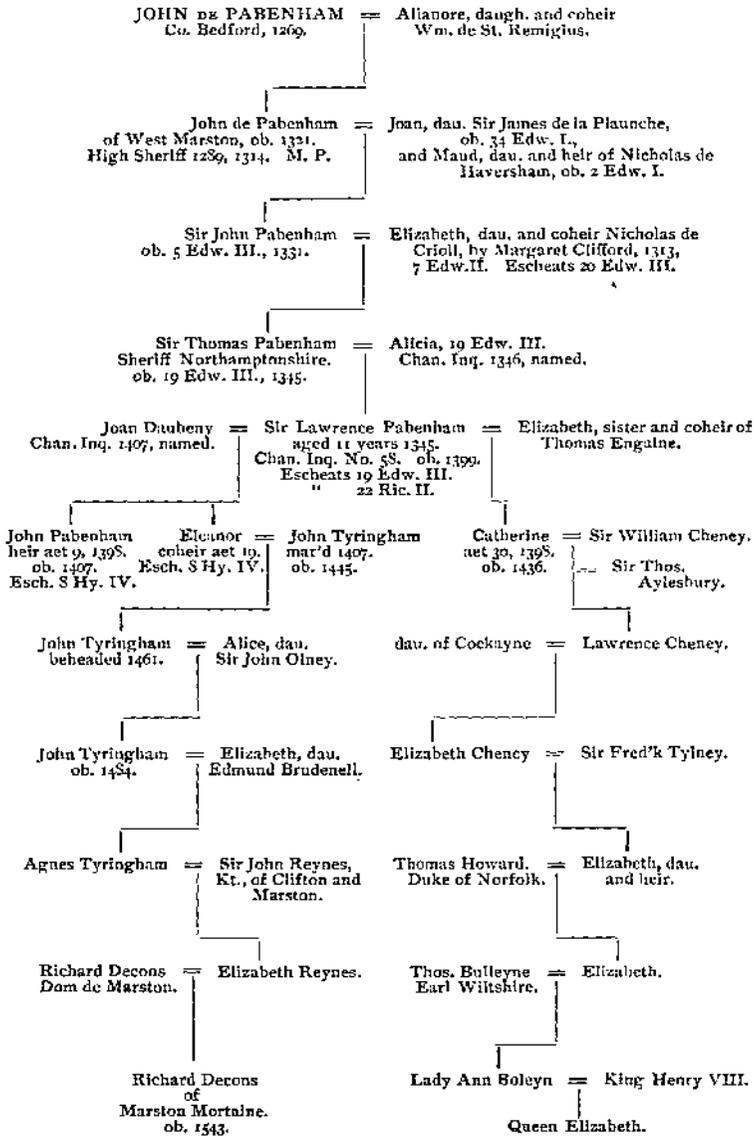
Sir Lawrence Pabenham, who flourished in the fourteenth century and died 1399, married twice. By his first wife, a daughter of the ancient family of Engayne, he is an ancestor of the unfortunate Anne Boleyn and Queen Elizabeth, by his second wife, a daughter of the Daubeney family, he is an ancestor of Elizabeth Reynes.

Margeria, wife of Nicholas de Cryoll, gave certain lands to Elizabeth de Clifford, to hold to her and her heirs by finelevied in the court of King Edward, son of King Henry, at York, in the 30th year of his reign (1301), by virtue whereof, one John de Pabenham, and Elizabeth his wife, were seized of the said lands. They had issue Thomas, and died seized of the said manor. After their death, the said Thomas entered into the same as son of the said Eliz., and had issue Laurence Pabenham, Chivaler, who entered therein as the son and heir of the said Thomas. The said Laurence married Elizabeth Engayne and they had issue, Katherine, now the wife of Thomas Aylesbury, chivaler, who still survives. After the death of the said Eliz. Engayne, the said Laurence married Joan Daubeuey, and they had issue John (named in the writ) and Alianor, wife of John de Tyryngnam, who still survives. After the death of the said Laurence, the said John, being under age and in the wardship of the King, entered the said manor, but died under age without heirs of his body, by force whereof, the said manor ought to come to the said Katherine and Alianore as dau's and heirs of the said Laurence and as kinswomen and heirs of the said Eliz.

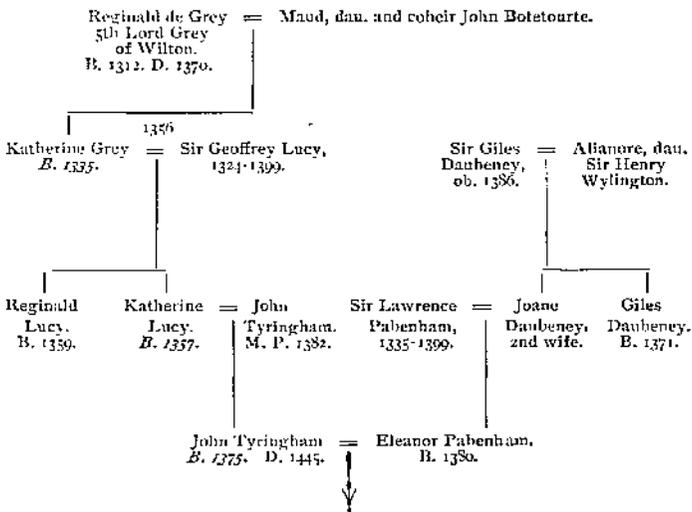
John Pabenham died on Tuesday next after the feast of St. James the Apostle (July 25) last past, the said Alianore is his sister and next heir, and is aged 19 years and more. The said Katherine is aged 30 years and more.

Chan. Inq. p. m. 8 Hen. IV., No. 61.

Pabenhām.



Grey, Lucy and Tyringham.



LUCY

of

Chelmscote,

Co. Bucks.

ARMS

of

LUCY OF CHELMESCOTE.

Gules, crusily or, three lucies hauriant.

This family is derived from the same source as the Lucy family of Charlecote, County of Warwick. Dugdale traces the family to Thurstan de Cherlecote, 1150, whose son Walter was given the village of that name by Henry de Montford. Walter is said to have married Cecily, possibly of the Anglo-Norman family of Lucy, whose son assumed the name Lucy as his surname.

But it is more probable that the celebrated Richard de Lucy, chief justiciar, who died 1179, leaving two sons and two daughters, is the original ancestor of both these families. This Richard was the father of Godfrey de Lucy,

Bishop of Winchester, who died 1204, and who was succeeded in his estates by Richard de Lucy, the son of Geoffrey, who died in the lifetime of his father, see Nat. Dict. Biog., Vol. 34, p. 247.

The Manors of Cublington and Chelmscote, County of Buckingham, were held anciently by the family of Chesnei or Chency, (Cheney) represented temp. Henry I. by Walter de Chesni, whose daughter Amabil married Almaric le Despenser, Lord of the Manor of Stanleigh, Co. Gloucester,, Sheriff of Rutland 1183. This Almaric was son of Thurstan le Despenser, who held a knight's fee in Gloucester 12th Henry II., 1166, the son of Hugo le Despenser, Steward to King Henry I., (living in 1105) and from which office the name is derived. Almaric le Despenser, living temp. Henry II. and Ric. I., had two sons and a daughter.

Thurstan le Despenser.

Almaric the younger.

Juliana.

The two sons were both in rebellion against King John and were deprived of all their inheritance. Juliana, the daughter, married first William Bardolph, second Peter de Stokes, and third, in 1207, Geoffrey de Lucy, who was loyal to John, and received from him the Manors of Cublington and Chelmscote, part of the forfeited inheritance of the brothers "Despenser," whose sister Juliana was his wife, and in this family they remained until 6th Edw. IV., 1467.

This GEOFFREY DE LUCY, who is known as the first Baron Lucy, by tenure, Lord of Newington, Kent; as before stated, was nearly allied to Richard de Lucy, Lord of Dess, Co. Norfolk, and Justiciar of England. He also held lands in Slapton, Co. Northampton, one knight's fee, temp. Henry III., held of Hugo D'Albini Earl Chester, and levied a fine with Juliana his wife in 12th Henry III., 1228. (*Brydgc's Northampton.*) He died 1252 and was succeeded by his son,

GEOFFREY DE LUCY, Lord of Cublington, Slapton, Dallington and Chelmscote. He is sometimes called Lord Lucy, and was summoned to Parliament 24 Dec., 49 Henry III., 1264, as Baron Lucy of Newington, Kent, being first Baron by writ. He presented to Slapton in 1265, and again in 1268. He is named in the *Patent Rolls*, 5 *Edw. I.*, 1277, as going with many other knights and nobles in the King's suite to Wales. His brother Almaric died in 1285. The arms of Geoffrey de Lucy are enrolled in the Segar Roll of Arms 1280. Gules, three lucies hauriant two and one, between eleven crosses ponce or. Geoffrey married Elena, daughter of Robert de Raveningham, who survived him. He died 1284 (*Escheats 12 Edw. I.*) leaving a son eighteen years of age, born in Salisbury and baptized there. His widow received Dallington and Slapton for her dowry, and is called Lady of the Manor. When her son came of age in 1288, the Sheriff was ordered to confirm her in her dowry, and to give her livery of the same. She presented to Slapton in 1288, 1289 and 1290, and lived until 1316, surviving both husband and son. The marriage of her son was granted to William de Leyburn. (*Patent Rolls.*)

GEOFFREY DE LUCY, son of the foregoing, born August 10th, 1267, inherited the lands of his father, and also the Manor of Wiggenton, County Herts. He married in 1284 a lady who is called "Desiderata." This name, though unusual, was not unknown. It is to be met with in other families. See Calendar of Patent Rolls, 5 *Edw. I.*, Desiderata le Poer. He was summoned to Parliament 26 January 25 *Edw. I.*, 1297, and is known as second Baron Lucy of Newington, by writ. He held Cublington of William de Leyburn, and Slapton of the honor of Chester. He died 1304, leaving a son of the same name, aged sixteen years. His widow survived him. (*Inq. p. m. 20 Jan'y, 1305.*) She was living in 1327.

GEOFFREY DE LUCY, son and heir, born 1288, succeeded as Lord of Cublington, Dallington, Chelmscote, Slapton and Newington. In 1309 the King presented to Dallington by reason of his minority. He was never summoned to Parliament, but is frequently called Lord Lucy. He presented to Slapton in 1326, and levied a fine there 2 Edw. III., 1329. He witnessed a deed in 1328 with John de Pabenharn, and in 1330 obtained a grant of free warren in his lordship of Fulbrook, and in 1331 free warren in his lordships of Dallington and Slapton. In 1337 he is named in a commission with Thomas de Reynes of Clifton. He married a lady named Catherine, and with her obtained license of Thomas Beke, Bishop of Lincoln in 1343, to make an oratory in his mansion at Chelmscote to the memory of his father and mother and their ancestors. He died 1345 (Lincoln Wills). The Manor of Slapton appears to have been held in dower by Catherine, his relict, who in 1347, upon collecting the aid to make the King's son a knight, accounted for one knight's fee in Slapton, held of the honor of Chester. Their son and heir who succeeded was

GEOFFREY DE LUCY, born 1324 (*Escheats 20 Edw. III.*), a noted man of his time, who represented the Counties of Bedford and Bucks as Knight of the Shire in the Parliaments of 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1361, and 1373. He presented to Slapton in 1361, and on the death of Edward, Prince of Wales, in 1379, 2 Rich. II., was found seized of the Manors of Slapton, Chelmscote and Cublington.

According to the Pedigree given in Lipscombe's History of the County of Bucks, and Berry's Buck's Genealogies, he married Katherine Grey, born circa 1335, daughter of Reginald de Grey, fifth Lord Grey of Wilton, by Maud, daughter and coheir of John Botetourt. They had two sons, Reginald and Walter, and a daughter Katherine, who married Sir John Tyringham, of Tyringham, Co. Bucks,

(the ancestor of Agnes Tyringham, mother of Elizabeth Reynes Decons of Marston-Morteyne). This Geoffrey de Lucy, the last bearing this given name, is known as the Chevalier. He died 1399 (*Escheats r Henry IV.*) seized of the manors aforesaid. and was succeeded by his eldest son, the first to break the long chain of Geoffreys.

REGINALD DE LUCY, named from his maternal grandfather, was born 1359 and succeeded to the Manors of Chelmscote and Cublington. Of him little is recorded. He married Euphemia, daughter of Ralph, second Baron Neville, and left a son Walter. He is called Chevalier, and died 16 *Henry VI.*, 1437, *Inq. p. m.* His brother Walter had received for his portion the Manor of Slapton, and presented there in 1401, 1402 and 1404. On the death of Reginald, his son born 1397, now succeeded to Chelmscote and Cublington as

Sir WALTER LUCY, Knight, and Chevalier, to whom the same year Edw. III. confirmed them by grant. He married Eleanor, daughter and coheir of Sir Warne Archduke, and died 23 *Henry VI.*, 1444, leaving a son and heir,

Sir WILLIAM LUCY, born 1420, who inherited Dallington, Cublington, Chelmscote and Slapton. To the latter he presented in 1450 and 1460, but dying sine prole in 1460, the honors and estates in the counties of Cornwall, Hereford, Worcester, Buckingham, Hertford, Essex, Kent and Northampton, vested in his sisters and coheirs, viz :

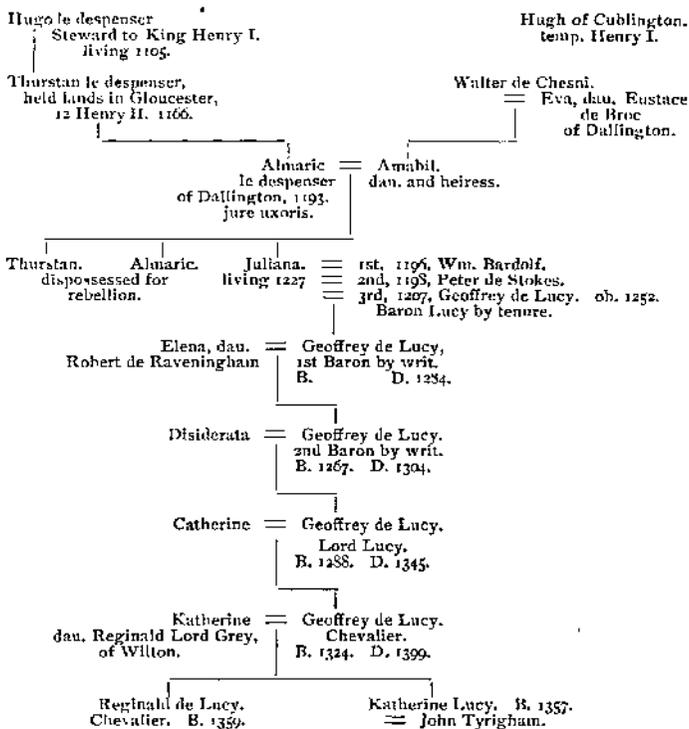
Eleanor, wife of Thomas Hopton, of Hopton, Shropshire, and Matilda, wife of Sir. William Vaux of Harrowden. The Earl of Portsmouth represents the former and the Earl of Pembroke represents the latter of these ladies. *Vide Nicholas Hist. Peerage.*

The Lucys of Chelmscote were without any question a far more illustrious and influential family than the Lucys

of Charlecote, who owe their notoriety merely to the alleged association of one of their family with Shakespeare.

But the Lucys of Chelmscote met the fate of so many noble houses in the extinction of the male line, and their history to-day can hardly be read between the lines of the ancient records.

Lucy.



PEYVRE

of

Toddington.

ARMS

of

PEYVRE.

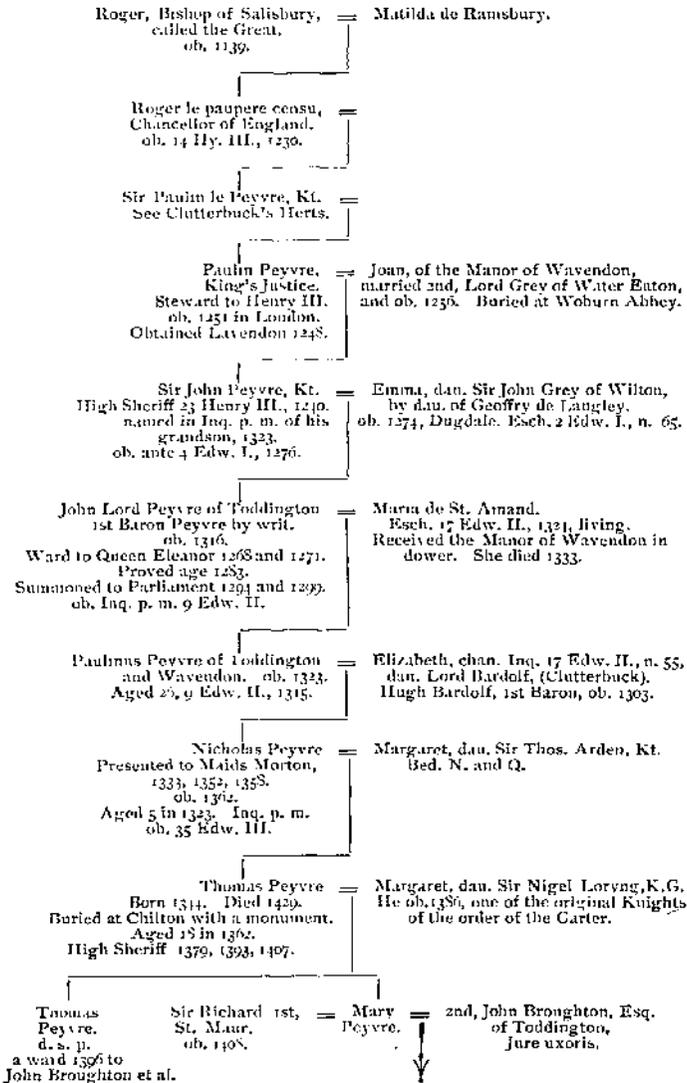
Argent, a chevron gules, between three fleurs-de-lys or.

The Peyvres were an ancient family, holding the Manor of Toddington, Co. Bucks, as early as the reign of Henry III. Paul or Paulin Peyvre was steward to King Henry III. He soon acquired great wealth, so that he is said to have possessed upwards of five hundred carucates (or about sixty thousand acres) of land when he died. Matthew Paris calls him "a most insatiable purchaser of lands and an incomparable builder." Not to speak of those in other places, his house at Toddington was like a palace, with a chapel, chambers, and other buildings covered with lead, which raised the admiration of all beholders.

In 1234, according to the annals of Dunstable, Paul possessed the estate of Wadelow. He was Sheriff of Bedford

Peyvre

OF LAVENDON, WAVENDON, TODDINGTON AND CHILTON.



and Bucks in 1239, and again in 1240, and he afterwards acquired the estates of the family of Malet, in the counties of Bucks and Herts. In 1247 he was appointed Justice of the King.

In 1248 he obtained the Manor of Lavendon from the King.

He married Annora, sister to Michael Belet, the King's Butler, founder of Wrokeston Priory. Paul died in 1251, having been previously knighted. He was buried in London, but his heart was taken to Toddington and buried there. His widow married for her second husband John Lord Gray of Water Eaton.

The Peyvres are buried in the south transept of Toddington Church, which was anciently a chantry, as there is a piscina in the southeast corner. Lysons writing in 1806, speaks of the shameful condition of the transepts and monuments of this fine old church, but it is gratifying to know that a better feeling now prevails and during recent years the ravages of time have been restored and care taken for the preservation of the ancient monuments. Notwithstanding the damage some of the memorials have sustained through miserable neglect, the interesting monuments of the Peyvres have not suffered quite so badly. There are three effigies to them, also the indents on some brassless stones in the floor.

One figure is that of a crusader. He is considerably mutilated, but was originally a very fine example. On his shield are sculptured the arms of Peyvre,

A chevron between three fleurs-de-lys.

This effigy, cut out of freestone, is situated on the west side of the south chancel, and rests upon an altar tomb with five quatrefoils. The figure is cross-legged, wears a round helmet, a surcoat, long sword and carries a pointed shield charged with the arms. At his feet a shaggy lion.

Besides their fine house at Toddington the Peyvres had a seat at Chilton, the manor and advowson of which con-

tinued in the family for some time. Many of them are buried there.

The great grandson of the first Paul the steward was also named Paulin or PAULINUS PEYVRE, and succeeded his father at the age of twenty-six. He married Lady Elizabeth, the daughter of Hugh Lord Bardolph, and died 1323, leaving a son, who succeeded him, besides two daughters, who gave the distinctive designation to the village of Maids Morton. This place, previously known as Morton, had been in the possession of the family for many centuries. "It is said to take its peculiar name from two maiden sisters of the family of Peyvre or Peover, who built a church here dedicated to St. Edmund the King, which stands at the present day."

In the middle of the church is a large ancient marble, on which were the effigies of these two ladies, in brass, with an inscription, but both effigies and inscriptions have been torn off. The coat of arms of the Peyvres, however, carved in the stone, remains. Over the north and south doors are the arms painted against the wall with the following record beneath:

"Sisters and Maidens, daughters of the Lord Peyver, the pious and magnificent founders of this church."

These two sisters are said to have been joined together, and an ancient painting is said to have represented them with their right and left arm respectively united. Sometime during the last century the large marble in the church was taken up and underneath was discovered a stone coffin in which tradition says were the two bodies of the pious sisters. Their brother's son, named

THOMAS PEYVRE, born 1344, succeeded as Lord of Toddington, Lavendon, Chilton and Astwood, in which manors he levied a fine in 1370, and married Margaret, youngest daughter of the celebrated soldier, Sir Nele Loryng, Kt., (who served at Poitiers, and was one of the original Knights of the Order of the Garter).

He was chosen High Sheriff of the County in 1378, and 1388, and died 1429.

He had one surviving child, a daughter named Mary, who married for her second husband, after 1408, Sir JOHN BROUGHTON, and carried the Manors of Grove and Toddington into that family. (Part of the Manor of Parkbury Herts was in this family 1397.)

In the south wall at Toddington Church, under two pointed arches, in whose spandrels are quatrefoils with blank shields are singly, two well preserved and most interesting effigies.

The Knight in chain and plate armor with bascinet, wears a rich baudrick, and his surcoat is embroidered with the arms of Peyvre. A lion lies at his feet, and angels support the head, holding with one hand an inscribed scroll or label which passes across the neck of the effigy under the chin, an unusual arrangement, and bearing these words:

“Miserere mei Deus set mia tua.”

The girdle is charged with flowers and swans alternately. Under the other arch, at his feet, the lady lies on a double cushion, with tassels supported by angels, attired in a rich reticulated head-dress with an embroidered bandeau or frontlet with a swan in the center. She is habited in a loose mantle and kirtle, bound by a rich girdle with a large buckle, her sleeves terminating in falling ruffles; at her feet a griffin. These figures being sheltered by the arches over them have not suffered so much by exposure to the weather as the other unprotected monuments.

A collection of inscriptions deposited in the British Museum, and which was taken before the Commonwealth, gives the following as then appearing on these monuments:

“Hic Jacet Thomas Peyvre, qui obit Anno Dom'i MCCCXXIX. cujus animae propitiatur Deus.”

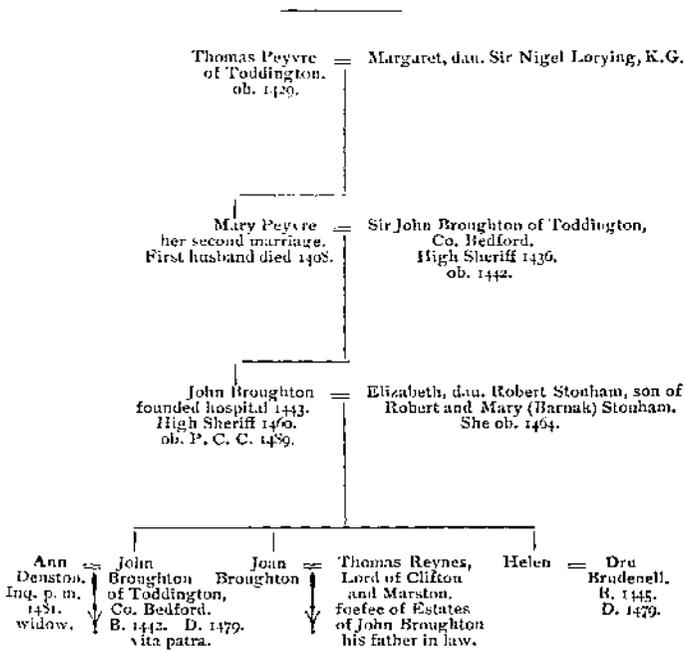
Also,

“Hic jacet Margaret, uxor Thomas Peyver,” &c., &c.

Both monuments are of white marble.

Broughton

OF TODDINGTON, CO. BEDFORD.



JOHN BROUGHTON, of Broughton and Toddington, returned among the Gentry of the County 1434, High Sheriff in 1436, with Mary Peyvre, his wife, erected and founded an hospital in 1443 in Toddington, to pray for the souls of Thomas Peyvre, and Margaret his wife, and their ancestors. This foundation now supports three poor men and a chaplain, besides three almshouses for ten poor widows.

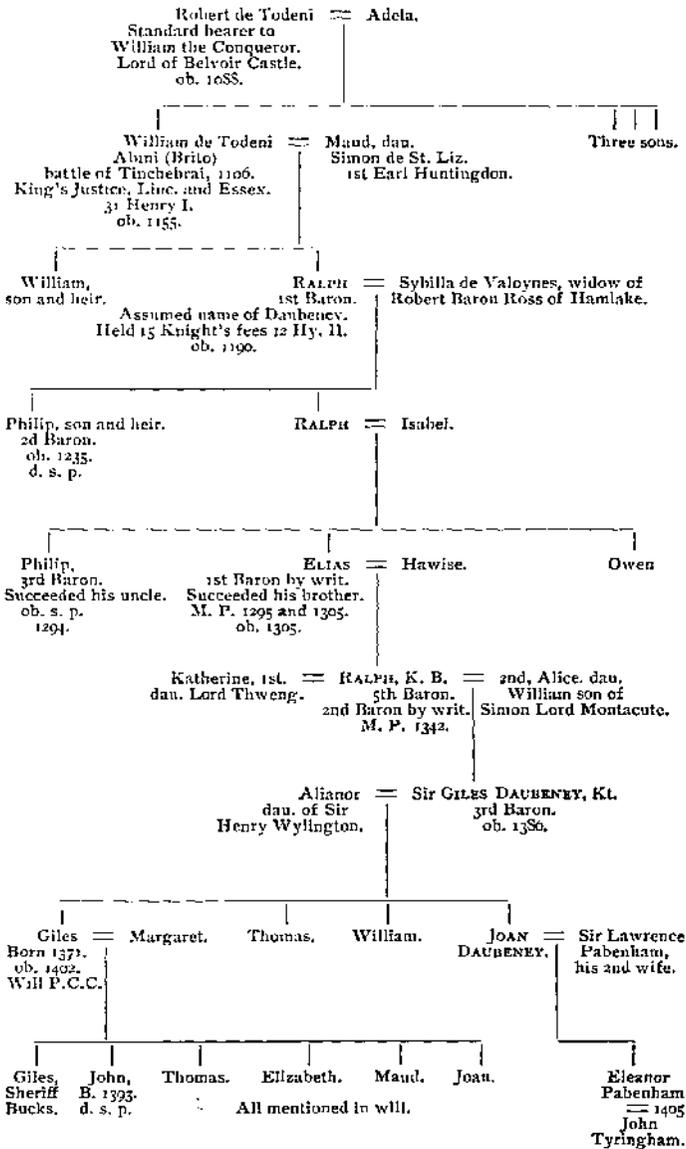
They were succeeded by their son and heir, JOHN BROUGHTON, of Toddington, who married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Robert Stonham, and presented to the church of Toddington 1460 and 1465. He died 1489; will recorded in P. C. C.

They had three children, a son, JOHN BROUGHTON, of Toddington, who continued the family in the county, and two daughters, Helen (or Eleanor) who married Dru Brudenell, born (1445, ob. 1479) she died 1469, and JOAN, who married Thomas Reynes, Esq., of Clifton Reynes and Marston-Morteyne, High Sheriff of the County 1460-1462, son of Thomas Reynes and Alice Frowicke. To this Joan he left by will the profits of his lands in Wotton for life, and her husband was named one of the feofees of the Manors of Stonham and Burgate.

Sir John Reynes of Clifton Reynes and Marston-Morteyne, the son and heir of Thomas Reynes and Joan Broughton, married as his second wife Agnes, daughter of John Tyringham, of Tyringham, and left one only child, a daughter.

Elizabeth Reynes, born 1482, and married to Richard Decons, Esq., to whom she brought the Manor of Marston. In her veins flowed the blood of the Peyvres, the Greys, the Lucys, the Broughtons, the Tyringhams and the Reynes.

Daubency.



CHAPTER XV.

DEACON

of

Northamptonshire,

Wiltshire,

Gloucestershire,

Lincolnshire,

Glamorgan.

Eminent Men of the Name.

Notes of the Civil War.

DEACON

of

Northamptonshire.

The Deacons are numerous in Northamptonshire. The records of wills and registers show them to have been settled here many centuries. They are of the same stock as the Bedfordshire family, and many of this branch attained wealth and owned large properties. A separate volume could be devoted to the genealogy of the family in this county without exhausting the subject.

1331. Oct. 3d, Westminster. License for JOHN DEKNE of Boudon to enfeoff Morgan de Dunston and Eleanor his wife of a rood of land and 56 shillings in rent at Wappenham and Astwell held in chief by fine of 4 marks.

Northampton.

Northamptonshire, 1359, Demise by Master Ralph de Waldegrave, Master of the Hospital of St. David without Northampton, to WILLIAM DYCONN of Easthaddow, Alice his wife, and Thomas their son, for their lives, of a moiety of a messuage and curtilage in Easthaddow, and a moiety of a carcuate of land. 32 Edw. III. *Hist. MSS. Com.*

Northamptonshire, Willibrook Hundred, Callyweston. Church dedicated to St. Andrew. Incumbent et temp. Institut.

JOHN DEKEN fil Joh Deken cl. penult. Nov., 1430.

Brydge's Hist. Northampton, Vol. 2, p. 436.

Receipt by John Pegge of Atneston, Co. Northampton, to RICHARD DEKEN of Assheby Canons, 8 Aug. 10 Henry VI., 1432.

Hist. MSS. Com., Vol. I, B. 293.

Northamptonshire, Higham Hundred, Irchester. Church of St. Catherine. Incumb. et temp. Institut.

Dom. HEN. DEKON. Pbr. 28 January, 1475.

Brydges' Northampton, Vol. 2, page 181.

Northamptonshire, Hemington, Polebrook Hundred. By indenture dated 4th Dec., 4th Henry VII., HENRY YEKYN and others conveyed this manor and divers lands and messuages, with their appurtenances, in Hemington and Kingsthorp to Robert, son of William Est.

Two subsequent fines were levied, one in the 5th of the same reign by THOMAS DEACONS and Anne his wife, relict of William Est the younger, to the use of Robert Montague.

Brydges' Northampton.

Northamptonshire, Rothwell Hundred, Draughton. Church of St. Catherine. Incumb. et temp. Institut.

Dom. HENR. DEKON, Pbr., 18 Oct., 1482.

Brydges' Northampton, Vol. 2, page 29.

Northamptonshire, Navisford Hundred, Stoke-Doily. Church of St. Romnold. Incumb. et temp. Institute.

THO. DEKON Cl, 3 Jan., 1570, sep. 3 Oct., 1597.

Huxlow Hundred, Thingdon, Church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Incumb. et temp. Institute.

JOH. DEACON Cl, 18 July, 1573. *Brydges' Northampton.*

A dreadful fire destroyed the greater part of the old town of Northampton in 1675. In the space of six hours upwards of six hundred houses, occupied by nearly seven hundred families, were burnt to the ground and many lives lost. A subscription was immediately instituted to rebuild the town. At the northeast corner of the Marketsquare stands one of the few houses which escaped destruction. On the front are several carved shields, one over a bay window exhibits initials and a date 1595. On the left side of this is a shield bearing the arms of Deacon, a chevron between three roses.

1563 Richard Decon of Barnwell, Co. Northampton, left a son John, and three daughters, Katherine, Ellen and

Elizabeth, to whom valuable real estate, besides money, was bequeathed.

1661, William Deacon, citizen and saddler of London, and of Barnwell Manor and Great Oakley, in the Co. Northampton, and Ann Edwards, his wife, bequeathed by will goods, money, jewelry, etc., to their children and nephews.

In the P. C. C., London, was proved 5th January, 1701, the will of William Deacon, Innholder of the town of Northampton, who left considerable estate in houses to his son of same name.

1761, John Deacon of Kittering, Co. Northampton, made his will, leaving a wife Elizabeth and a daughter Rebecca.

16 July, 1789, P. C. C. will of William Deacon, Esq., Surgeon, of Daventry, Co. Northampton, mentions his brother Samuel of Towcester, surgeon. He left large property in lands, houses, and money, and a son, John Rawlins Deacon, Esq., and two daughters, Ann and Catherine Judith.

Less than two miles from the city of Northampton (eastward) lies the pretty little village of Weston Favell. Here the Rev. James Hervey, the celebrated author of "Meditations among the Tombs," was born in 1714, in the house at the west end of the village, which is at present (1849) occupied by Mrs. Anne Deacon, a gentlewoman of private means.

Bugbrook, five miles southwest from Northampton, called in Domesday "Buchebroc." One of its principal proprietors was Samuel Deacon, Esq., of Towcester, 1849.

Towcester, a parish and town eight miles southwest from Northampton.

There is a great tumulus called Bury Hill at the north-east side of the town; here have been found many Roman coins, Samian ware and fragments of urns.

Mr. Deacon has collected a very complete series of the coins, including several of the most celebrated Roman



DEACON'S SCHOOL,

PETERBOROUGH.

In pursuance of the New Scheme, framed under the Provisions of the Endowed Schools Acts, 1869 to 1871, the School was opened on May 12th, 1881, as a

PUBLIC MIDDLE-CLASS SCHOOL

GOVERNORS,

Rev. L. T. Jones (<i>Ex-officio</i>), <i>Chairman</i>	Mr. G. Wyman	Mr. Councillor Adnitt
Mr. H. Little	Mr. J. H. Bulby, J.P.	Mr. Councillor Beaver, J.P.
Mr. E. Venetto, junr.	Mr. C. Crick, J.P.	Mr. Councillor Cliffe, J.P.
	Mr. J. Thompson, J.P.	Mr. Councillor Hunting

Head Master : Mr. JOHN WHEELER.

Second Master and Science and Art Teacher: Mr. GILBERT ATCHINSON.

Assistant Masters: Mr. W. ALTON and Mr. J. W. WERNER.

Music Master: Mr. B. MANDERS, Organist, of St. John Baptist's.

SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION.

Holy Scripture; Reading; Writing; Arithmetic; Geography;
History; English Grammar, Composition & Literature;
Latin; French; Mathematics;
Science and Art; Drill; Vocal Music.

THE SCHOOL YEAR IS DIVIDED INTO THREE TERMS.

Fees per Term (payable in advance): £5 per annum.

NO EXTRAS EXCEPT FOR BOOKS.

The Annual Examination and Prize Distribution will take place at the end of the Autumn Term.

Vacations: A Month at Christmas, Ten Days in May, & Five Weeks in the Summer.

Boys are prepared for the *Geford and Cambridge Local*, and *Preliminary Pharmaceutical, the Science and Art Examinations, and other Exams.*

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ON SCHOOL TERMS.

Emperors. The Church of Towcester is dedicated to St. Lawrence, and is a handsome structure, having been recently refitted and decorated at considerable cost, by the private donations of the neighboring gentry, among whom appears the name of William Deacon, Esq., who gave the velvet cushions for the pulpit reading desk and communion table.

At Little Houghton, three miles east of Northampton, in the latter part of the last century, Robert Deacon owned the greater part of the village. He left three sons, David, Thomas, Isaac.

David was living 1849, and was a yeoman farmer.

Thomas left a son Josiah, who was living 1849.

Isaac left two daughters, Miss Harriet Deacon of Milton Keynes, Co. Bucks, and Mrs. S. M. Oakley of London, whose pleasant letter on the genealogy of her family is among the writer's MSS., 1883.

According to Whelan's Gazetteer and Directory for the County of Northamptonshire for the year 1849, there were only 18 persons of the name of Deacon in the entire county at that time. 3 were classed among the Nobility and Gentry, 4 were yocomen farmers, 3 were in Mercantile business in the cities, and the remaining 8 were in various trades. It is noteworthy that everyone of these lived in the southeastern border of the county, adjoining the counties of Bedford and Buckingham.

DEACON OF PETERBOROUGH, CO. NORTHAMPTON.

THOMAS DEACON, of the city of Peterborough, Co. Northampton, was born in 1651, is described as a Wool Comber, and married August 4th, 1673, Mary Harvey, aged nineteen, of Spalding, in the county of Lincoln. Mr. Deacon amassed a large fortune in his business, but dying childless, left the bulk of his property to found charities in the city of his birth.

He did not, however, overlook his near relatives, but bequeathed no less than eleven money legacies to various

persons aggregating £1,535, or \$8,000. Besides this he provided for his wife Mary, leaving her the house he lived in and two houses adjoining thereto in the city, also the Manor of Fleet, and all the messuages, cottages, lands, etc., which he owned in the county of Lincoln, also twelve acres of land in Spalding, with all the ready money he should die possessed of, all his plate, furniture and linen. Then he bequeathed two houses to a relative to whom he had not left money.

To the town of Peterborough forever, twenty-five acres of ground in the Co. Cambridge, called Barsonally Close, in trust, that they take the rents and profits of said premises and pay the same yearly on St. Thomas' Day to as many poor and ancient men and women, inhabitants of Peterboro, as the said profits shall amount to at ten shillings (\$2.50) each, and not less.

To the Vicar of St. John the Baptist in Peterboro, and his successors, and to the city of Peterboro forever, my freehold messuage or tenement, and two freehold cottages with freehold ground thereto belonging, the orchard, garden, yard, barns, etc., thereto belonging in Peterboro, (this was evidently his Mansion) also my freehold farm called Willow Hall Farm, containing two hundred and twenty-five acres of land and pasture, with all the rents ways, waters ditches rights, members and appurtenances whatsoever. To the end that the same and all the rents thereof therefrom arising be duly applied for the endowing and erecting of a school and schoolhouse in Peterborough, in order there may be a schoolmaster appointed to teach twenty poor boys born in Peterborough, whose respective parents are not worth £50, to read, write, and cast accounts, in order to qualify them to be put out apprentices.

Then he provides a house and salary for the schoolmaster from certain rents, "and to the bailiff who shall collect the said rents I give £6-0-0 a year."

Provision is then made that they shall lay out £40 (\$200) in clothing the said boys every year with a pale or

light coloured cinnamon cloth, to wit, a whole suit for each boy, with a hat and other conveniences for each boy as far as 40 shillings (\$10.00) will extend, always to be provided for them before Easter Sunday every year. Also shall expend yearly out of the profit of said Willow Hall Farm so much money to buy pens, ink and paper for the said boys as my said trustees shall think proper, and said bailiff shall keep the buildings in good repair.

Likewise they shall put out as many of the said boys as apprentices as they shall think fit, giving with each apprentice in money £8 or £10, a Bible, and a Book of Common Prayer.

My further will is that my said school, etc., be visited once a year by the Right Reverend Father in God, the Lord Bishop of Peterboro and the Dean of the same place, the said Bishop and Dean to have power to enquire into the management of this my will, and to see that the same is performed in every particular. Proved at London 22 Sept., 1721.

This gentleman was commissioned High Sheriff of the County for the year 1719.

The foregoing benefaction is briefly recorded on a brass tablet in the church of St. John, Peterboro.

“HERE LYETH THE BODY OF THOMAS
DEACON ESQ LATE HIGH SHERIFF
OF THIS COUNTY OF WHOSE PIOUS
LIFE AND CHARITABLE ACTS THE
ADJOINING MONUMENT ERECTED
TO HIS MEMORY WILL GIVE AN
AMPLE ACCOUNT.

HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE AUGUST THE 19TH, 1721.”

An “American traveller,” N. P. Hawthorne, U. S. Consul, in “Our Old Home,” published 1856, writing of Peterboro, says: “The most pretentious monument remaining in the Cathedral is that of a Mr. Deacon, a gentleman of George the First’s time, in wig and breeches, leaning on his elbow and resting one hand on a skull.”

A very fine monument was erected to his memory in the Cathedral, inscribed as follows :

Sacred to the Memory

of THOMAS DEACON Esq'r. A Native of this City
Sometime High Sherriff of this County, A Person eminent for
His Morality & good life. A true Son of the Establish'd CHURCH
A constant Attendant on Her Worship & Service. His Piety
consisted not in empty profession, but in Sincerity
And unaffected truth. He had an ample Estate which He
fairly acquir'd, and increased by an honest Industry. And
Manag'd with excellent prudence & dispos'd of to laudable
Purposes. His CHARITY (even in the time of his Life) was
very large, extensive and Exemplary: of which He has
Left a lasting MONUMENT in this CITY. By founding a Charity
SCHOOL and ENDOWING it with a Freehold Estate of above One
HUNDRED and SIXTY POUNDS per Annum: And also by Setling
another Estate of TWENTY FIVE POUNDS per Ann. for a Constant
Annual distribution of ALMS to poor Ancient Inhabitants of
this CITY. Having thus laid up in Store to himself a Sure
Foundation against the time to come. He quietly departed
this Life on the 19th day of AUGUST.

Anno } { *Ætatis 70*
 } { *Domini 1721.*

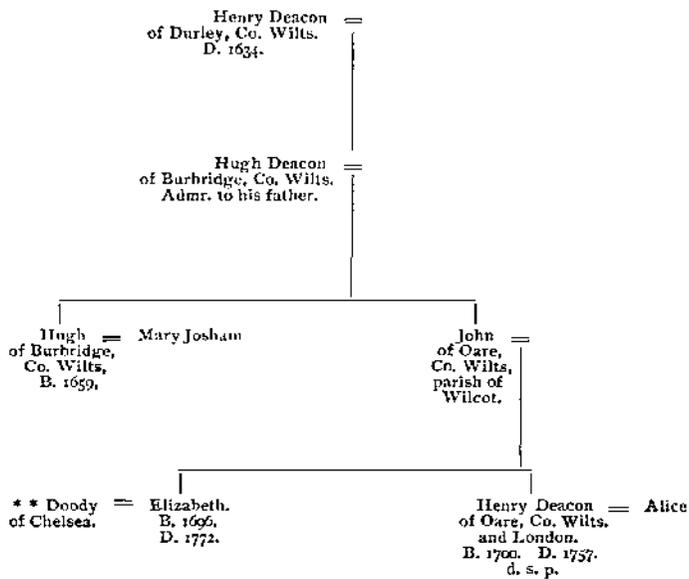


Tomb of Thomas Deacon, Esquire, Peterborough.

Miss Catherine A. Deacon of Longfield, Surrey, England, daughter of Samuel Deacon, Esq., descended from William Deacon, an extensive Woolen Manufacturer 1680-1739, of Cranford, Northamptonshire, (believed to have been a relative of the foregoing Thomas Deacon of Peterboro) and whose descendants continued the business for some generations, is much interested in the genealogy of the family, and has gathered considerable information of a most valuable nature, which she hopes to publish in the near future. All interested in the family name and history will await the appearance of her monograph with much anticipation, and will, without doubt, gladly avail themselves of the opportunity to procure a copy of her valuable work.

Deacon

OF COUNTY WILTS.



DEACON

of

Co. Wilts.

Monumental inscription Pewsey, Co. Wilts.

Arms, *Azure*, a cross between four lions rampant, *gules*, impaling *azure* on a chevron *gules*, three fountains of the field.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
HENRY DEACON ESQUIRE
LATE OF LONDON, WINE MERCHANT
AND OF OARE IN THIS COUNTY.
HE DIED JANUARY 27TH, 1757
AGED 57.

ALSO NEAR THIS PLACE LIES THE
BODY OF
MRS ELIZABETH DEACON
SISTER OF THE ABOVE MR DEACON
WHO DIED 3 FEBRUARY 1772
AGED 76.

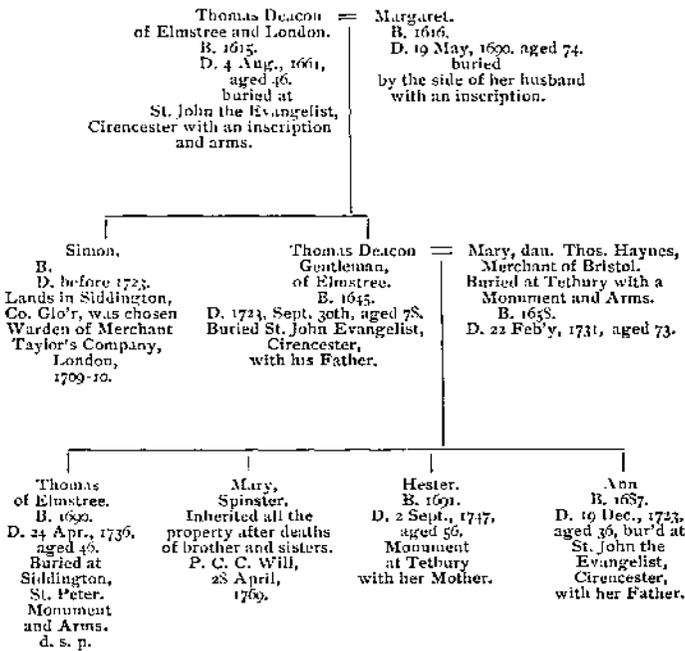
This Mr. HENRY DEACON was a Wine Merchant of the City of London. He made his will 28th March, 1753, leaving considerable property, principally to his wife Alice. He states that his father, Mr. John Deacon, was possessed of an estate in Oare, parish of Wilcot, Co. Wilts.

He was probably of the same family as Hugh Deacon of Burbridge, Co. Wilts, Gentleman, who married January 29, 1689, aged thirty years, Mary Joshan of Wilts, spinster.

P. C. C. Adm. 1634, 18 March, Com'n to Hugh Deacon, lawful son of Henry Deacon, late of Durley, Parish of Burbage, Co. Wilts, widower.

Deacon

OF ELMSTREE, CO. GLOUCESTER.



Mary Deacon in her will proved 28 Apr., 1769, names "my cousin,
Mr. Deacon Jenner of London, and my cousin, Robert Jenner, D. C. L.,
London, now Professor of Civil Law at Oxford, late of Doctors Com-
mons, and his son Thomas."

DEACON
of
Elmstree,
Co. Gloucester.

The Manor of Elmundstree was granted to the Monks of the Benedictine Abbey of St. Ebrulph, Normandy, but they were deprived by Edward IV. in the 4th year of his reign, who granted to Henry Samson, dean of Westbury College, the Manor of Alminstree or Elmstree, and so continued until the Dissolution, when it became vested in one Tooke, who lies buried in Westbury Church, since when it passed to Thomas Deacon, Esquire, formerly a silk mercer of London, whose son married Mary, daughter of Thomas Haynes, Merchant of Bristol, and it continued in this family until the death of Mary Deacon in 1769, who died unmarried and by her will devised the estate to Thomas Jenner, Esq., of the University of Oxford, the present proprietor, (1779).

The family of Edward Jenner (1749-1823), the distinguished discoverer of vaccination, belongs to the county of Gloucester, where his great grandfather, Stephen Jenner of Standish Court, died in 1667.

Dr. Jenner's mother was a Miss Head, and this family intermarried with the Deacons of Long Cross House, Glamorgan, who were also of London and related to the Deacons of Elmstree.

The connection of Jenner and Deacon, though unproven, is inherently probable.

Cirencester, Benefactions for the schooling of poor children:
1711, Mrs. Elizabeth Deacon, £20-0-0.

1723, Ann, daughter of Thomas Deacon, Esq., of Elmstree, £20-0-0. Money to be invested and interest only to be used.

*Cirencester, Church of St. John the Evangelist,
“Trinity Chapel.”*

Against the wall at west end:

HIC PROPE SITUM EST
QUOD MORTALE FUIT THOMÆ DEACON
OPIDANDI UTILIS ET AMATI
VIVI QUIDEM SCIENTIS
NEC NON MUNERE ERGA DEUM ET
HOMINES FUNGENTIS
MULTUM DEFLORATUS OBIIT
4 AUGT. ANNO SALUTIS 1661
AETATIS 46
ILLI
POST ANNOS CIRCITUR VICINTI NOVEM
PURA ET SANCTA VIDUITATE ELAPSOS
ACCESSERUNT EXUVIA MARGERIÆ
EJUSDEM THOMÆ DEACON
UXORIS PRÆSTANISSIMÆ
HANC MORTALITATUM EXUIT
19 MAIJ ANNO SALUTIS 1690
AETATIS 74.

Upon a flat stone near the Belfry:

Arms, a cross cottised between four lions rampant in chief three roses.

UNDERNEATH ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF THOMAS DEACON OF ELMSTREE IN THE PARISH OF TETBURY GENTLEMAN AND LIKEWISE OF ANNE HIS SECOND DAUGHTER.

THE FATHER DEPARTED THIS LIFE SEPT. 30TH, 1723, AGED 78 YEARS THE DAUGHTER YE 19TH OF DECEMBER FOLLOWING AGED 36 YEARS.

THEY WITH OTHER RELATIONS HERE INTERRED ALL DYING IN A WELL GROUNDED HOPE OF A JOYFUL RESURRECTION.

Siddington, St. Peter, Gloucester, one mile south of Cirencester.

Church of St. Peter.

Upon a white marble in the chancel is this inscription :

HERE LYETH THE BODY
OF THOMAS DEACON ESQ
LATE OF ELMSTREE
IN THE PARISH OF TETBURY
AND COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
THE 24TH DAY OF APRIL
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
M.D.CC.XXXVI.
IN THE 46TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.

Arms at top, Argent, a cross between four lions rampant sable on a chief azure three roses proper.

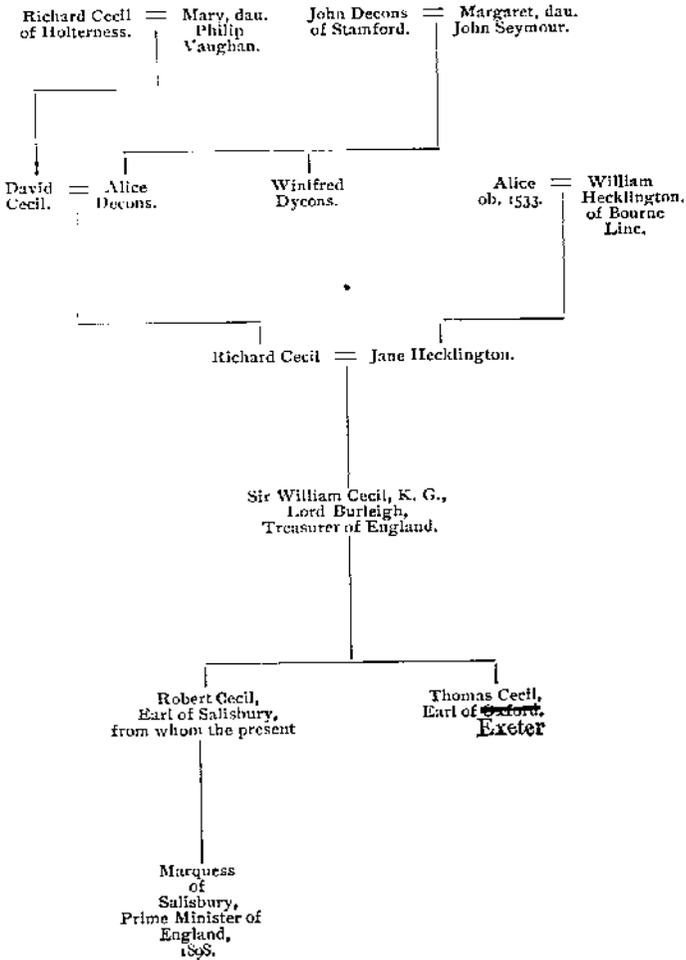
Inscriptions at Tetbury.

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF MRS MARY DEACON
WIDOW, ELDEST DAUGHTER OF MR THOMAS
HAYNES OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL, MERCHANT
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE FEBRUARY THE 22ND
ANNO DOMINI 1731-2 IN THE 73RD YEAR
OF HER AGE.

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF MRS ESTHER
DEACON, DAUGHTER OF THOMAS DEACON
GENT, (LATE OF ELMSTREE IN THIS PARISH)
AND OF MARY HIS WIFE, WHO LIES
BURIED NEAR THIS PLACE.
SHE DIED SEPT. YE 2ND IN THE YEAR
OF OUR LORD 1747, AGED 56.

Arms, upon both stones, the same as Siddington, St. Peter.

Cecil, Decons.



DECONS

of

Lincolnshire.

Arms of Dicons or Dicomcs of Lincolnshire.

Gules, a chevron ermine between three roses or.

Harleian MS., No. 2109, in the Library of the British Museum, contains the record of the Visitation of Bedfordshire, in 1582, by Cooke, Herald at Arms.

From other records it appears that a branch of the family of Deacon was settled in Stamford, a town on the extreme southwest corner of Lincolnshire and border of Northamptonshire. Their coat of arms exhibits the usual variation of colors while retaining the charges.

Brydge's History of Northamptonshire says, "David Secilt or Cysilt of Stamford married Jane, daughter of John Dicons of Stamford."

Blore, in his History of Rutland, says, "John Dickons of Stamford, whose daughter Alice married David Cessell, was Alderman or Chief Magistrate of the town three times, viz, 1476, 1483, 1493. He married Margaret, daughter of John Semarke."

John Dycons, Esq., of Stamford, Linc., married Margaret, daughter and heiress of John Seymour, and had issue a daughter, Alice Dicons, who married one David Cecill, of a good Lincolnshire family of Squires.

The Duke of Richmond, (King Henry VIII.'s natural son by Elizabeth Blount) "leaving Huntington went onward, * * and on the way his Grace kylled a buk hymself in the kyng's park called Clifpark, where Davy Secile maid his grace and all his folkes right good chere at the said Davie's own cost and charges."

This David Cecil, grandfather of the great Lord Burghley, had obtained a grant of the Keepership of Clif Park 8 Henry VIII.
Camden Society Pub'ns.

David Cecil and Alice Decons, his wife, had one son named Richard Cecil, whom they sent to court to advance his fortune, and who in 1520 was one of the pages to Henry VIII., and afterwards Sheriff of Rutlandshire. He married Alice, daughter of Eckington of Bourne, and was father of the celebrated William Cecil Lord Burleigh, the great statesman of Queen Elizabeth.

Early in his career William Cecil looked for no advancement to royal favor only, "the presumption rather, is that his ambition pointed to a brilliant career at the bar. In 1547 he became *Custos Brevium* in the Court of Common Pleas, a valuable office, the reversion to which he had secured by grant some years before."

This was the office which had been filled by Richard Decons of Marston, who died 1521.

Lord Burleigh left two sons, Thomas Cecil, created Earl of Exeter, and Robert Cecil, created Earl of Salisbury, subsequently advanced to a Marquisate. The present Prime Minister of England, the Marquess of Salisbury, is thus descended from a Decon.

The will of Alice Heckington of Bourne, Linc., dated 7 January, 1533.

To be buried in the Parish Church in our Lady's Chapel.

To my daughter Jane Cycyll one Cow.

To Wynyfyde Dyccons two Kye (cows).

I appoint executors Maister Haryngton and his wife Alice.

Probated 30 January, 1533.

The testatrix was the maternal grandmother of the great Lord Burghley.

"Maddison's Lincoln Wills,"

Elizabeth Countess of Exeter married in 1699 (as second wife) John Lord Burghley, eldest son of John Cecil, fifth Earl of Exeter. Her husband succeeded to the title in 1700 as sixth Earl. Her coat of arms dated 7th Nov., 1721, exhibits Cecil, (her husband) with twenty-four quarterings, including Howard and Neville, impaling her own coat, which contains six quarterings, 1-6 Brownlow, 2 Lee, 3 Duncombe, 4 Reynes, 5 Morteyne.

She was eldest daughter and coheir of Sir John Brownlow, third Baronet of Gt. Humby, and Alice, daughter of Richard Sherard of Lophorpe, Linc. "Illustrated," *Miscellanea Heraldica & Genealogia*, Vol. I., 2nd Series, 1886, edited by Howard.

By this marriage this branch of the Cecils (Burghley House) inherit the blood of Reynes and Morteyne.

She was descended from William Duncombe of Ivinghoe, Co. Bucks, who married Mary, daughter of Richard Reynes (ob. 1556) the brother (and coheir with his niece, Elizabeth Reynes Decons) of Sir John Reynes of Clifton and Marston, ob. 1509.

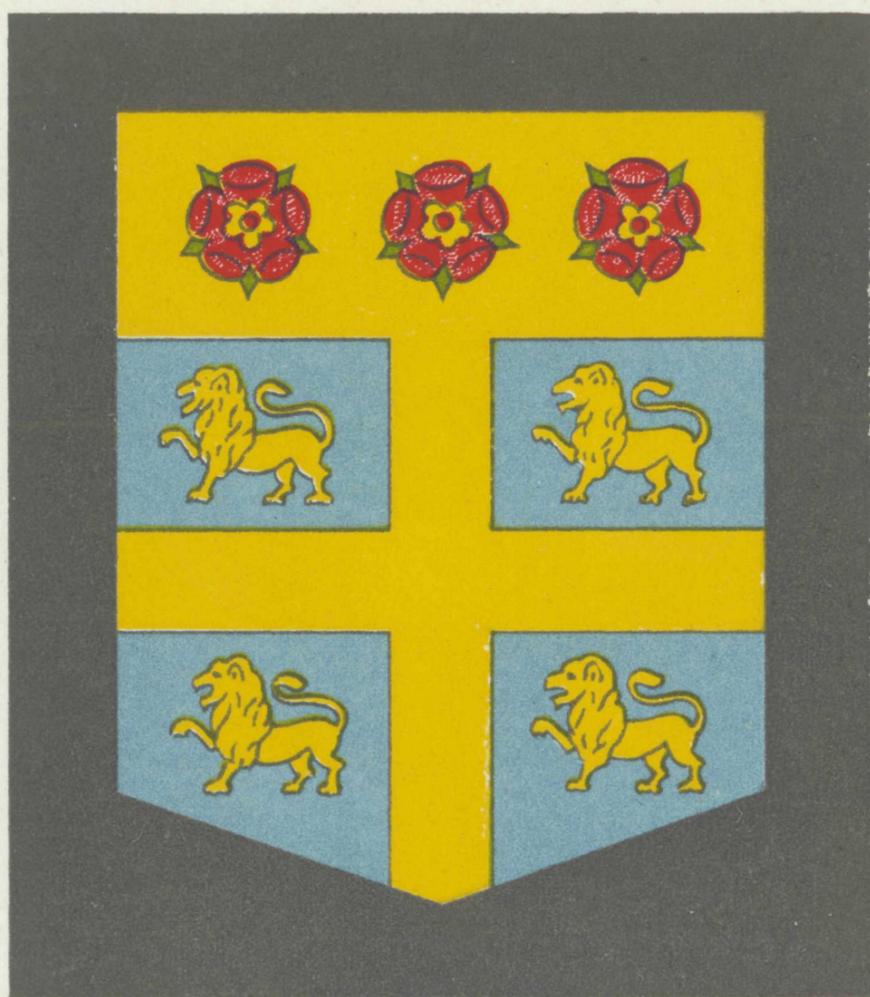
DEACON
of
Glamorganshire.

DEACON
OF LONG CROSS HOUSE
CO. GLAMORGAN.

Arms, Azure, a cross between four lions or, on a chief argent, three roses gules.

Crest, a nag's head or.

Motto, "Deo et regi astro." Around the Crest, "Seek Quiet."



DEACON
of
LONDON AND GLAMORGAN.

FRANCIS DEACON, who died about 1498, left two sons, Michael Dyacon, consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph, being the 27th in succession, January 1495-6, died about 1500, and

RICHARD, who died 1521, leaving

WALTER, who died 1556, father of

RICHARD, who died 1601, leaving two sons, namely, John, an adherent of the Parliament and an officer in Col. Eyres' regiment, and

STEPHEN, who married, 1629, Elizabeth Morton of Hampton, and had issue RICHARD and

ISAAC, who married Mary Siddell and had issue

ISAAC, who married 14 June, 1674, Miss Joyce Green, and had

WILLIAM, married 1699, whose son

JOHN married, 1710, Jane Gammon of Devonshire and died 1733, leaving

JAMES, married in London Elizabeth Howard, and had

WILLIAM, married 1761 Elizabeth Judson, issue James, born 1762, died 1812, and

HENRY, born 1777, died 1841, leaving by his marriage in 1798, with Maria Eliza, second daughter and coheirress of Rev. Dr. Lill and Elizabeth Campbell his wife, third daughter and coheirress of Rev. Sir Francis Head, fourth Bart., a son,

WILLIAM HEAD DEACON, Esq., born 1800, has issue,

Francis Henry Deacon, born 1832, of Longcross House, near Cardiff, Co. Glamorgan.

Burke's Landed Gentry.

The following brief notes are culled from a vast olla podrida of notices of individuals bearing the name, found in every class of document and printed matter. They are hardly characteristic, and are only given as a hint of the nature of the material which might be gathered in the formation of a volume of "Collections for the family of Deacon."

ÉMINENT MEN.

**Divines,
Painters,
Authors,
Printers,
Etc.**

Rev'd Dr. THOMAS DEACON, Physician and Non-juring Bishop was born 1697 and died 16 February, 1753. He was ordained "deacon" in Mr. Gandy's chapel in Scrope Court against St. Andrew's in Holborn by Mr. Collier on March 12th, 1715, and seven days afterwards, viz, March 19th, 1715, was ordained priest by the Bishop of Norwich in the same place in London.

He was a very learned man and became the author of several works on theological topics, such as agitated those days. He was a master of pure English and a vigorous writer. A lengthy article, biographical and critical, upon his life, doctrines and works, is to be found in the Dictionary of National Biography, published by Macmillan & Co., London.

Mr. Deacon was a zealous Jacobin. He not only corresponded with Prince Charles Edward the Pretender and his followers, but it is stated that he was visited personally by the Prince himself.

His proclivities rendered him obnoxious to the Government, and he suffered accordingly. In 1716 he deemed it prudent to retire to Holland, where he lived for a time on his own private resources. In 1720 he settled in Manchester and practiced medicine with considerable success. In

1744 he was ordained a Non-juring Bishop, one of the last of this consecration.

In 1745 he was living at Manchester, and when the Jacobite revolution of that year occurred, three of his sons joined the Pretender's army. Their names were

Thomas Theodorus,
Robert,
Charles.

The oldest son was twenty-two years of age, and for being instrumental in recruiting a large number of men for the Manchester regiment he was made a Lieutenant. The second son was killed in action, and Lieut. Thomas and Charles were taken prisoners. The latter, on account of his youth, was reprieved and transported to the West Indies. Thomas was tried for high treason and executed, being hanged, drawn and quartered, in accordance with the usages of those days.

The account of his trial given in the collection of State Trials, published in 1766, is curious as a specimen of manners and customs, and exhibits the terrible severity with which executions were conducted at that time.

Dr. Deacon was intimately acquainted with the celebrated John Byrom of Manchester, who in his "*Remains*,"—published by the Chetham Society—gives some touching reminiscences of the Doctor's grief and reverence for the sons who gave their lives for the lost cause.

Dr. Deacon was of good social position. He married Sarah Gamon, of an ancient family, which had many high alliances. She died 4 July, 1745, aged 45. They had another son, Edward Erastus Deacon, M.D., born 1741, who died 13 March, 1813, aged seventy-two.

Sarah Gamon, wife of Dr. Deacon, was the second daughter of Robert Gamon, Esq., of Datchworthbury and Finchley, Co. Middlesex, who died in 1760.

Her brother Richard Gamon married Elizabeth, one of the heirs of John Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham, and

daughter of John Grace, of County Kilkenny, Ireland, and their son, Richard Jr., (nephew to Doctor Deacon) was created a Baronet 1795. He married twice, first, a sister to the Duke of Grafton, second, the sister of the Duke of Athol.

Her niece, Ann Eliza, sister of the above Richard Gamon, Jr., married the Duke of Chandos, and of their children, a daughter married the Duke of Buckingham and a son married a daughter of the Duke of Northumberland.

This unprecedented alliance with five Ducal houses is noted and commented on in Playfair's History of the Peerage.

Thus the unfortunate Thomas Theodorus Deacon, executed for high treason, was cousin to three Dukes and second cousin to two more. Possibly these great relationships were his undoing.

THOMAS DEAKINS, gentleman, of Tunbridge, in 1707 gave the Parish £50 to put out ten poor boys apprentices, and £50 more to the poor, which sum was laid out in the building of two almshouses.

27 February, 1696, Mr. DEKINS, who married Sir — Bucknell, the great heiress widow, fought in Hyde Park a duel with his son-in-law, Mr. Bucknell, and killed him. Mr. Dekins is in custody.

John Villiers, Viscount Purbeck, elder brother of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, married Margaret, daughter of Ulick, Marquess of Clanricard, and had a son, John Viscount Púrbeck, who claimed the title of Earl of Buckingham. He possessed Somerville House and Park, and the Manor of Southfrith, and disposing of his property sold them "together with all lands whatever enclosed within the pales thereof," to Mr. DEKINS, who died without issue and devised them to one Cave, who in 1712 conveyed the whole estate.

JAMES DEACON died 1750. Miniature painter and talented as an artist and musician. In 1746 he took the house of the celebrated painter, C. F. Zincke, and succeeded to the old painter's business, in Tavistock street, Covent Garden, London.

He is said to have produced some masterly pieces, some of which are in the print room of the British Museum.

He caught a fever and died young in May, 1750. He is noticed in Walpole's Anecdotes of Painting in England, and in Redgraves Dictionary of Artists. His will was proved in P. C. C. 1 Aug., 1750, Margaret Deacon, relict, Parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden.

JAMES DEACON, Esq., of James st., Westminster, elected Member of the Society of Antiquaries, London, July 14th, 1796.

This gentleman belonged to the Hertfordshire family.

FROM ALIBONE'S DICTIONARY OF AUTHORS.

JOHN DEACON.

Godlie Sermon. London, 1586, 8 vo.

Tobacco tortured in the filthy fumes of tobacco refined. London, 1616, 4 to.

Theological treatises. Discourses of Spirits and Devils. 1601, 4 to.

The before named gentleman was the Rev. John Deacon, Minister and Author, who on Sept. 4th, 1609, addressed a public letter to the Justices of the Peace of the County of Hertfordshire, upon the questions of the time.

He was of Puritan proclivities and is called "Preacher at Hertford."

I. DEACON. Giltspur street, London.

Ballads. Collection of 128 Black letter broadsides of the period of the Restoration. Folio, with wood cuts, halfbound, £25-0-0, printed by I. Deacon.

THOMAS DEACON, D.D.

Theological publications. London, 1734-48.

WILLIAM DEACON, London, printed and sold by Edward Thomas, 1661, 4 to.

“Satan enthroned on his chair of Pestilence, wherein the whole business of James Naylor, his coming into Bristol and his examination is related by Ralph Farmer, Minister of the Gospel. As also the life of James Naylor, with his Parents and Birth, Education, Actions and Blasphemies is exactly set forth.”

J. DEACON, at the Rainbow in Holbourn.

“The Triumphant Weaver, or the Art of Weaving Discuss'd and Handled. Plainly showing the various opinions of divers Maters, concerning the first Original and Contriver of this Art, now so Excellent and Useful in all the Habitable parts of the World. Divided into three Parts.”

Woodcut in the title. Printed for J. Deacon at the Rainbow in Holbourn, near St. Andrew's Church, 1682, 4 to, pp. 52.

The first edition of this singular work was printed in 1677, 4 to, under the title of “Minerva, or the art of Weaving, containing the Antiquity, the Utility and Excellence of Weaving.”

The poem is divided into three cantos, each preceded by a metrical argument or summary of the contents.

The writer, whoever he be, as in duty bound in the three Cantos, is loud in his praises of the great antiquity and celebrity of the Art, and endeavours to show that it was the first and oldest of the Companies of London that were confirmed by charter.

* The work is scarce and has not, that we are aware of, been noticed bibliographically by anyone beyond the mere recital of its title. It sold in Heber's sale for £110.

(Several extracts from the poem follow.)

Chetham Society, Vol. 71, page 228, subject, “Collectanea Anglo Poetica.”

Notes of the Great Civil War.

1642-1659.

During this period the Great Civil War took place, which although not seriously involving, so far as appears, any of the Bedfordshire branch of the Deacon family, yet there were, nevertheless, several collateral members to whom it brought various vicissitudes which it may not be uninteresting to narrate.

WILLIAM DEAKENS of London farmed the Wine Licenses from the King (Chas. I.) for £18,000. He was a member of the Company of Vintners, and held messuages in St. Martin's, Ludgate. He died about 1639, leaving a widow, Anne Deakens, for whom he had purchased from the Government an annuity of £300 per annum for her benefit, but in the troubles that ensued this annuity was not paid.

On his father's death, the business was continued by his eldest son, FRANCIS DEAKENS, who when hostilities broke out between King and Parliament fled from London to the King's quarters at Oxford, and resided there while it was garrisoned against the Parliament. During his absence from London, the Provisional Government appointed a committee to manage the business, and on his return in 1649 excluded him therefrom, although he had compounded for his offenses. He then petitioned the Council for redress, pleading his miserable condition through his father's creditors and the maintenance of nine younger brothers and sisters.

His offense is stated in the Calendar of State papers: "5 Sept., 1652. Francis Deakens, Co. Oxford, persuaded divers persons to serve the King of Scots against Parliament, and spoke opprobriously of the Parliament, and offered £20 among them, and sent £100 to hire assistance for the King."

Serious as his offense seems, it would appear that Francis succeeded in making peace with his enemies, for January 2, 1653, he was ordered to be paid £20 for his former good services to State and Council.

The widow, however, did not fare so well. Her case was duly presented for redress to the Council in 1653, and referred to a committee, who upon examination reported the claim for her annuity just and due, and ordered that fourteen years arrears be paid, amounting to £1,750, but the Treasury was too needy and the order was not honored.

In 1656 the widow presented a new claim, showing that the profit of the Wine licenses were received for the State, but that nine years (1643-1651) rent due from it to her was sequestered for her son-in-law's delinquency.

The Commissioners certified that £2,478-4-11 was due to her for principal and interest. It is to be hoped she received it.

JOHN DEACONS of London likewise left his dwelling in London and went to Oxford, but repented of his error. He begs to be allowed to compound by a fine, which being severe he petitions, 1647, for a rebate, showing that he has greatly suffered in business and owes £900; on this, his fine is reduced to £20.

On Oct. 6th, 1649, he is ordered to be arrested, but managed to escape from serious difficulty, and in 1652 he appears to be a prosperous merchant of the city, trading in the Levant.

At this period there was a rage for the formation of trading companies on the same scheme as the East India Co. March 15, 1653, Parliament nominated a Committee for the Greenland Company, and placed thereon the name of John Deacons or Dickons. The Muscovy Company was also chartered and JOHN DEACONS name was presented for one of the Committee, as the Directors were then called.

In 1658, March 24th, Wm. Denis was sent to Constantinople to act as factor at that place for John Deacons, whose interests there required the presence of a representative.

In 1648 Captain GEORGE DEAKINS of the Royal Navy espoused the cause of Parliament, and thereafter was one of their most active commanders.

In 1649 he commanded the man of war curiously named "The Tenth Whelp," and was ordered to convoy merchant ships to and from the northern ports, Hull, &c., to London.

In 1650 he commanded the "Greyhound." In 1651 he asks for letters of reprisal.

During the nine following years the State Papers are full of orders, reports and warrants concerning the movements of Captain Deakons and his various ships.

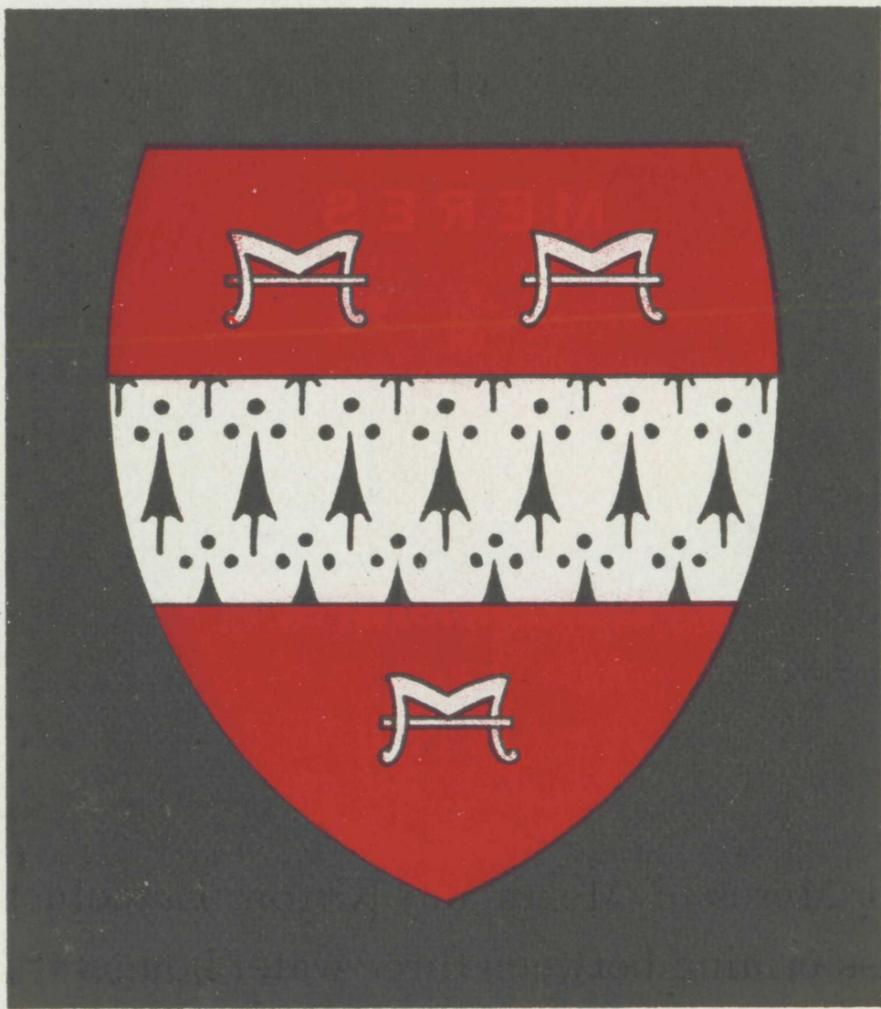
His activity rendered him very obnoxious to the Royalists, and at the Restoration he was ordered, April 13, 1660, to be apprehended and brought in custody before the Council. His name is variously spelled, and frequently as "Deacons."

One ROBERT DEACON was arrested Oct. 18, 1649, and sent to the Peterhouse. On Dec. 15th he was ordered to be bailed in the sum of £500 and to appear to answer to the Council for breaking up Captain Saltonstall's troop, evidently a brave man.

WILLIAM DEACON of London was paid £400 April 13th, 1652, for five hundred saddles and furniture supplied to the army in Ireland, and in July 17, 1652, the same William Deacon of London, Gentleman, settles in marriage with Ann Edwards rents from Barnwell Manor and Great Okeley rectory, and water mills in Higham Ferrars, Co. Northampton.

THOMAS DEACON, of the Hertfordshire branch of the family, espoused the cause of Parliament and was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel. He was victorious in several engagements. "Warrant to Lieut. Col. Thomas Deacon and Capt. Robt. Warren for the disposal of the prisoners, horses, arms, &c., lately taken at Elstree and Edgeworth."

"Warrant to Colonel Whichcott to receive into Windsor Castle such prisoners as shall be brought to him by Lieut. Col. Tho's Deacon, June 5th, 1648."



MERES
of
KIRTON.

CHAPTER XVI.

The Family

of

M E R E S

of

Kirton,

Lincolnshire.

Arms of Meres of Meers and Kirton, Lincolnshire.
Gules, a fess ermine between three water bougets argent.

Crest,
A peacock's tail erect ppr.

Motto,
Sine Metu.

As is well known, there are many so called copies of the
ROLL OF BATTLE ABBEY,
not any two of which are exactly alike. Various claims
have been set forth for the authenticity of this or the other
one. Putting these controversies aside, it can be said that
in all the more generally accepted lists, the following two
names appear :

ROLL OF BATTTEL ABBAYE.

flere.

flare.

In Hollinshed's list the names of six hundred and twenty-nine Knights are given, and the table or roll containing these names was formerly suspended in the Abbey.

Besides this, there are several other well accepted lists, as that given by Duchesne, which contains four hundred and seven names; and Leland's in the *Collectanea de rebus Britannicis*, giving four hundred and ninety names. These are ancient British lists, however. For the most recent authority we must turn to France. In that country there has lately appeared a new claimant to the honor of recording the names of the Knights who accompanied Duke William of Normandy in his expedition.

Monsieur Leopold Delisle has given to posterity what he claims to be a true and correct record of these warriors, and has caused their names to be cut in stone upon the west wall of the nave of the Church of Dives, France, from which place William sailed.

This tablet occupies a space of twenty-four metres carres, and records the names of four hundred and fifty-five Knights.

Among these we read the names of three as follows :

Richard de Meri.

Hugue de la Mere.

Guillaume de la Mare.

“ This family derives from the great fief of La Mare, near Sainte Opportune, Commune of Autretot, Normandy, where

their Castle was built upon piles on the margin of the lake still called Grande Mare.

The Sire de la Mare is one of the Norman nobles enumerated by Wace as present at the battle of Hastings, and his descendants became very numerous both in England and Normandy.

Three sons came to England with the Conqueror, and each founded a family of this name. One settled in Lancashire, another in Wiltshire, and a third in Lincolnshire.

The eldest son and heir remained in Normandy and his descendants continued the family for many generations in that country.

In the earliest periods in England the name was written LA MERE and DE MARE, while later it became

MERE, DEMEERES, MEERES and DELAMERE.

Roll of Battle Abbey by the Countess of Pembroke.

John Bernard Burke says: The descendants of this Norman Knight (Mere) occupied a prominent position in Staffordshire in the time of the early Plantagenets.

WILLIAM DE MERE occurs as sheriff of that County temp. Edw. II., (1307) and in the next reign

PETER DE LA MARE filled the Speaker's chair in the House of Commons.

Besides the counties just mentioned, branches of the family settled in

Cumberland,	Nottingham,
Dorset,	Sussex,
Hampshire,	Lincolnshire.

Of this last was the family of MEERES of Meers, and of Kirton, in Holland Lincolnshire, where they flourished from the 11th to the 18th centuries.

Here they acquired lands, built their manor houses of the Meers and Kirton, and filled the great offices of High Sheriff and King's Bailiff, Knight of the Shire or Member of Parliament, and entered into alliance by marriage with many noble families of the Kingdom.

Nor while following the military profession, did they neglect to tread the paths of literature and law, for more than one adorned the Judge's Bench, and one, himself an author, was a friend of the greatest of English poets.

RICARDI DE MERI, Battle Abbey. Temp. Conquest, 1066, one of the Knights who came over with William and who received lands in Lincolnshire held by knight's service.

1080, ROGER DE MERE, (Rage Meri) held lands in Lincolnshire and had sons and daughters.

1119, WALTER, son of (Rage Meri) Roger de Mere, of Lincolnshire, holds lands, Survey H. I.

1201, Sir OLIVER DE MEERES, of Kirton, Linc., married Petronilla, daughter of Wido de Croun, who accompanied Richard I. to the Holy Land. She inherited the vast estates of her father, which were held of the Earls of Brittany, upon the Honor or Manor of Richmond.

1301, GUILLIELMUS DE MERE, of Lincolnshire, summoned to join King Edward I. at Berwick on Tweed, with men, horses and arms, to aid in the war against the Scots.

ALLAN DE MEERES, Lord of Meers, who married the daughter of Sir John de Laline of Gosberkirk, Knight, and had issue,*

GODFREY MEERES, who married Anne, daughter of Thomas Clement, and left two sons,

JOHN, and Richard who married the daughter of Sir John Kirton.

Sir JOHN MEERES, the eldest son, married first, daughter of Sir John Luttrell and had no children. Second, daughter of Adam Welby, and had issue

Anthony, ROGER, Joane.

Joane married Adam Welby, her cousin. Sir Anthony Meeres, Knight, married Ursula, daughter of Sir John Pinchbeck, Kt., and had issue

Jane, wife to Thomas Holland, of Swinestead.
Holland was the family name of the Earls Lincoln.

Sir ROGER MEERES, Knight, Lord of Kirton and Aldborow, married daughter to Gilbert Brightman, and had issue,

Margaret, wife to Walter Aincourt, and a son named

ROGER MERES, of Kirton, Justice Common Pleas, married Elizabeth, daughter to Sir Thomas Bassett, Knight, and had issue, John de Meres de Kirkton, of whom hereafter.

By this marriage the family derives, through Matilda Ridel, wife of Richard Bassett, Baron Welden, Lord Justiciary of all England (d. 1154) from the Earls of Angouleme of the ancient Royal family of France, and also from the half sister of William the Conqueror.

Roger de Meres, Justice, King's Sergeant 40 Edw. III., raised to bench of Common Pleas Nov. 27, 1371. Supposed to be the same with Roger de Kirketon and that he used both names indifferently. We know he had property in Kirketon and it was quite a common practice for a man to call himself after his estate.

As de Kirketon his arguments as advocate extend from 28 to 45 Edward III., in the Year Books as Sergeant.

Dugdale introduces him among the Justices of Common Pleas in 39 Edw. III., but he was not raised to the Bench till the early part of 1372, 46 Edw. III., when he was for the first time acknowledged as a regular judge. The fines acknowledged before him commence in February of that year.

Roger de Meres appears as a trier of petitions in the parliament of 1372, but in the next and following parliaments Roger de Kirketon is named instead of him, without giving date of his appointment.

He continued on the Bench during the remainder of that reign, and was appointed at the commencement of the following. His name does not occur after July, 1380,

4 Rich. II., but he lived till the 9th of that reign. His death is recorded as Roger de Kirketon in 9 Rich. II., 1385, in the Inquisitions post mortem.

1391. In 15 Rich. II. John de Meres, apparently his son, appears in the Inquisitions, and at his death he has the addition "de Kirketon" to his name; thus, John de Meres de Kirketon, while on a subsequent page we find Robert de Meres de Soterton, affording positive proof that the name "de Kirketon" was sometimes used to distinguish between the two families of Meres who flourished in Lincolnshire.

Judges of England by Edward Foss, F. S. A., 1870.

JOHN DE MERES de Kirkton, son of the foregoing, married the daughter and heir of — Whittlebury. He died 1391, 15 Rich. II. (Inq. post mort.), leaving a son,

— JOHN MERES of Kirton, who married daughter and heir to Darcy of Haberton, and had issue, Jane, wife to Waterton, Margaret, wife to Thomas Welby, and JOHN.

By this marriage the family of Meres acquired the right to quarter the arms of D'arcy.

Argent three Cinquefoils gules.

JOHN MERES, married daughter to Thomas Sturley, and had two children, Ann, wife of Robert Littlebury of Moulton, and NICHOLAS.

NICHOLAS MEERES married daughter to Wilmesby and had issue three children,

THOMAS, Christopher, John.

Of these the last named, John is very likely identified with the John who married Alman Parnell. The second son, Christopher, was of Great Carleton and married twice. First, Catherine Yarborough, by whom he had a son Vincent. Second, Jane Hoetoft, by whom he left

Nicholas, Thomas, Elizabeth, Parnell, Frances and Margaret.



Ruins of the Meers, Kirton Meers.

THOMAS, the eldest son, married the daughter of Mr. Shellie and left six children,

JOHN, my son and myne heire, Roger, Richard, Philipp, Herry, and daughter Ann, who married Geoffrey Paynell.

Thomas Meres made his will 16th March, 1493, see P. C. C. 20 Vox. He calls himself "esquier, and marchaunt of the Staple of Calis." Hert shalbe buried in the Stapill Chapell ther, my body to be conveyed into Inglood and to be buried in the chapell of St. Peter and Poule within the pariss chirch of Kyrton in Holand."

He left a large estate, "suche as I have purchasid as that I am borne to," discretly Disposid to the profit and behofe of my childern.

Sir Anthony Brown, Knight, overscer.

Proved at Lambeth 8 May, 1495.

In 1324 the Sheriff of Lincolnshire made a return of the Knights in the division of Holland. The list comprises the names of twelve families, of which it is said so far as is known there is not a descendant of any one of them now residing in the division.

Some of their ancient manor houses are, it is true, remaining, but in a very mean and dilapidated condition.

It is stated that of sixty Lincolnshire Knights whose names and arms are recorded in Henry III., 1216-1272, there are only six or eight families who represent them at the present day. We have fortunately been able to obtain a photograph of the ruins of a portion of the old manor house or castle of the family of Meres. What remains of the building is supposed to have been the entrance to the courtyard. It is now used as a cattle house.

"The Knightly family of Meers supplied Sheriffs and Members for the County for some centuries; an old building, situated in the Willington Road, is supposed to have been the entrance to their fine seat. The name of 'Kirton Meer,' and their crest of the Peacock on the Inn of that name, alone testify to the remembrance of the family in

Kirton, all the fine monuments and painted glass in the church, memorials of these ancient families having been destroyed.”

White's Lincolnshire.

The following inscriptions which were in the “old church,” Kirton, are copied from *Gough's “Camden.”*

“Under the great upper window of the North aisle, on a raised altar tomb, is a stone figure with a dog at its feet, and around the verge the inscription,

“Orate pro aia Johannis de Meris.”

“and on an oak pew door on the north side are these arms carved: “A fess ermine between three water bougets; which belonged to the family of Meeres, originally of Mearos, but for many ages seated at this place, quartering three cinquefoils Darcey; and impaling a fleur de lis, Digby.”

“Crest, on a torse a peacock's tail expanded.”

JOHN MERES, of Kirton, Esq., born circa 1460, died in 1537, was the eldest son of Thomas. He married twice and became the progenitor of a numerous descent. By his first wife, Jane Tempest he had issue Anne, who became wife to John Tamworth of Leake, Robert who died sine prole, and THOMAS, of whom see later. Sir John was knighted by King Henry VIII. He married, secondly, Jane, daughter of William Blisby, of Blisby, Co. Linc., Esq., and had five children, viz:

Anthony,	Elizabeth,	Catherine,
Jane,		Lawrence.

Of Jane and Catherine there is no further record Elizabeth married one John Lynne, a yeoman. Lawrence married the daughter of Sir William Tyrwhitt, Knight, and had issue, Margaret, wife to Rich. Disney, and Elizabeth, wife to Wm. Mussenden.

Anthony, the second surviving son, but heir by conveyance, inherited the estates of Kirton.

His brother Thomas, the eldest son by the first wife, was practically disinherited by his father, Sir John, who left

the family estates to his younger son Anthony, who at his father's death was an infant, and became ward to the King 1537.

Sir John died 28 Henry VIII., succeeded by

ANTHONY MEERS, of Kirton, Esq., also of Auburn, Co. Linc., born 1513, married Katherine, daughter to Sir Everard Digby, Knight, who was grandfather of the gunpowder conspirator of the same name, and by her had eight children,

John, heir, Kenelm, Joseph, Gertrude, Jane, Maria, Katherine, Anne.

Anthony married secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Copledyke, but they had no issue.

Maister Anthony Meers was evidently a good Protestant, as appears from a curious old document still existing as a mutilated manuscript, preserved in the Episcopal Registry at Lincoln, and entitled "Inventarium Monumentorum Superstitionis," consisting of returns made in the 8 yere of quene Elizabeth to certain royal Commissioners, of such articles of church furniture in 150 parishes of the county of Lincoln, which had been used in the preceding reign, but which were in 1566 considered superstitious and unnecessary.

"Aubor (Auborn Church) Linc. Robert hyndemarshe and thomas Lansdeale, Church wardens 27 Apl. 1566.

"Imprimis the Rood Meary and John—broken and defaced in the fyrst yere of quene Elizabeth the Reaygne by Master mearse (this was Anthony Meres).

"Item II. vestmentes one albe, one stole, one altarclothe, one masse booke, one p'ssessioner, one portis, IIJ. bannerclothes, one crosse clothe—broken and defaced in the fyrst yere of quene Elizabeth the by Mr. mearse.

"Item j. handbell, one sacring bell, one crosse, one pax broken and defaced in the fyrst yere of quene Elizabeth the by Mr. mearse. exaiat et jurat."

Peacock's Church Furniture, 1866.

Anthony died in 1589 and lies buried in Auburn Church.

The following inscription beneath a kneeling figure, now somewhat mutilated, commemorates him and records his issue. The preservation of this monument is due to the present Vicar of Auburne, who found it lying buried in heaps of rubbish in the belfry.

IN MEMORIAM,
ANTONII MERES ARMIGERI
BELLI DUCIS PRESTANTISSIMI MEDICIS OPTIMI,
THEOLOGIQ' CELEBERRIMI, ALUMNUS EIVS PRONEPOSQ' MATERNUS
HENRICUS STERREL POSUIT. FILIOS HABUIT JOHANNEM KENELINUM
ET JOSEPHUM ET FILIAS GARTRUDAM JANAM MARIA' KATHERINA'
ET ANNAM.
OBIIIT UNDECIMO DIE MARTII ANNO D'NI. 1589,
ÆTATIS SUÆ 76.

This monument, much dilapidated by time, now stands in the chancel wall of the church.

His son JOHN MERES of Aldborough or Algarkirk and Auburn, Co. Linc. was High Sheriff of the county in 1596. He was knighted by King James I. at the Royal Garden at Whitehall on the 23d July, 1603. At the same time were also knighted some other gentlemen, one of whom was Sir Francis, afterwards the celebrated Lord Bacon.

Sir John married first Barbara, daughter of William Dallison, Justice of the Upper Bench temp. Philip and Mary, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Deighton of Sturton Parva, and had issue

Elizabeth, wife to Sir Francis South, died 1 June, 1604; Katherine, second wife to Thomas Harrington of Boothby Pagnall, died 5 May, 1625. Buried at Boothby Pagnall.

Barbara, wife to Sir Peter Evers of Belton, afterwards wife to Sir William Saltmarsh of Strubby.

Sir John married secondly Barbara, daughter of John Neville of Grove, Co. Notts, and had issue,

Roger and Mary.

Roger Meres of Houghton, Linc., living in 1621, married Mary, daughter Sir John Payton, of Isham, Co. Camb., Kt. and Baronet, and had issue,

William, Thomas, Edward, Barbara, Mary, Alice.

Mary sister to Roger, married Sir Thomas Edolphe of St. Radagundes, Co. Kent, and had issue,

Symon, born 1615, Margaret, Barbara, Jane, all living 1619.

Sir John Meres died 1630, and is buried at Washingboro.

Algarkirk, Linc., seven miles south of Boston, so called from Algar, Earl Mercia, who flourished 870, and whose castle was here. It is situated in the Wapentake of Kirton, Holland. The present manor house is called Hiptoft Hall. In what is called "Hill-six-acres," nearly south of the present manor house, there are evident marks of the foundations of several large buildings, which must once have been of considerable importance. It is known that this was the residence of Sir John Meres and several of his ancestors.

It is the opinion of every antiquary who has examined the foundations, that this was once the residence or fortress of Earl Algar, and the great extent of the buildings justifies this belief. On the south side are the foundations of the drawbridge, and nearby in the middle of the pasture is the fishpond. On the north side there was a large building, most probably the watch tower. The whole is surrounded with a deep moat and contains about ten acres of land.

Outside the castle are the foundations of a semi-circular alcove or summer house. The gardens were situated here and can be traced by the foundations of the wall that enclosed them.

The brave Earl Algar died gloriously in a fierce but unsuccessful battle in defense of his country against the Danes A.D. 870. His name and memory still live in the annals of his county.

We now return to the main line of the family.

THOMAS MERES, eldest son of Sir John Meres by his first wife, Jane Tempest, though naturally the heir, was in great part disinherited by his father, the estates of Kirton being left to the younger son, Anthony. Thomas married Joane, daughter of Sir Miles Bussy, Knight, of Haghams, Co. Lincoln, and aunt and heir to Agnes Bussy, married to Sir Edward Brudenell, son of Sir Thomas Brudenell, Knight, of Deane, Co. Northampton.

He had two sons, Thomas, who died before his father, and Francis.

Bussy, often Busby, certainly one of the most distinguished knightly families of Lincolnshire, whose pedigree is proved by record evidence almost to the era of the Norman Conquest. (*Peacock's Church Furniture.*) They had great estates and Hougham was their chief seat. Sir John Bussy, the unfortunate favorite of Rich. II., was executed at Bristol in 1399. The grandeur of the family decayed after this catastrophe, but they still were a leading county family down to the 16th century, when Hougham passed away to the Meeres by marriage.

The Thomas Meres before mentioned, who died in the life time of his father, may be the same as Thomas of Kirton, who was the father of Frances Meres, the author, and the friend of Shakespeare. The repetition of the names Thomas and Francis indicates relationship, but whether this Thomas be the father of the author or not, it is quite certain that Francis, the friend of the poet, was of this blood and family. So celebrated a man must not be omitted from these pages.

He must not be confused with Francis, son of Thomas Meres and Joan Bussy, of whom see later.

FRANCIS MERES, M.A., of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, born 1565, became B.A. 1587, M.A. 1591, and July 10th, 1593, he was instituted M.A. of Oxford. In one of his books he styles himself "Maister of Arts of both Univer-

sities." In 1602 he was rector of Wing in Rutland, and died there in 1646 in the eighty-first year of his age.

Francis Meres was a man of some parts. He early developed strong interest in English literature, and became well known. He was a cotemporary and friend of Shakespeare, and his reference to him in "Witts Treasurie" are among the earliest, if not the earliest authentic notices of the great poet. So complete is the evidence that it has been held by the most competent critics to be impossible to overcome, but stands an unimpeachable testimony to the personality and work of the great dramatist.

This book, "Wits Treasurie," brought its author some renown, and became a famous text book in the Colleges and schools.

Besides this volume, which is the second part of the Wits Commonwealth, Meres produced three or four other works, which have come down to us, a list of which, as noted in the Dictionary of Authors, by Allibone, is here given with the remarks appended to them.

1. God's Arithmetique, London, 1597, a sermon on Eccles. 4:9. 8 vo.
2. Palladis Tamia, Wits Treasurie, being the second part of Wits Commonwealth, 1597, 4 to; 1598, 12 mo. This is a comparative discourse of our English Poets, with the Greeke, Latine and Italian Poets.
3. Trans. of F. Lewis of Grenada's Work entitled The Sinner's Guide. 1598, 4 to. Second book 1614, 4 to.
4. Witts Academy, a treasurie of Golden Sentences, Similies and Examples. 1634-35-36.

Meres' references to Shakespeare in "Witts Treasurie" are well known.

"Meres was personally acquainted with the poet (Shakespeare) and so very intimately that the latter read over to him his sonnets before they were published. I cannot con-

ceive that all the critical skepticism in the world would ever be able to get over such testimony.”

Schlegel's Dramat. Lit., Lecture XXVI., 1846, quoted by Allibone.

Meres' writings in this connection are constantly quoted. Malone, the great critic, does so freely, as do all the Shakesporean writers. His works are to be found in the Library of the Brit. Museum, the Astor Library, and many others. Some reprints have also been made, notably one included in "Hazelwood's ancient critical Essays upon English Poets," published in 1811.

Francis Meres addressed his "Epistle nuncupatorie" to the right worshipful John Meres, Esquire, High Sheriff of Lincolnshire. He speaks of being entertained at the Sheriff's house at "Auborne," and the assistance he had received in a certain successlesse suit to Maister Laurence Meres of York, sometime of her Majestie's councell established for the North.

He dates from his "chamber in Sainte Marie, Buttolph Lane, nere London stone, this 10th day October, 1597."

For further notices of him see Anth Wood *Fasti Oxon* ed. Bliss, vol. 2, col. 262.

His wife Maria died 2 May, 1631, aged fifty-four, leaving an only son, Francis, born 1607.

FRANCIS MERES, rector of Misterton and Lutterworth, installed Archdeacon of Leicester Nov. 3, 1679, died Aug. 27th, 1683, aged seventy-seven. Buried at Misterton with an inscription.

EXUVIA VENERABILIS VIVI DOMINI FRANCISCI MEERES NECNON LEICESTRIÆ ARCHIDIACONUS QUI EX HAC VITA EXCESSIT AUG. 27TH, 1683, ÆTATIS SUÆ 77.

"Lutterworth, a small market town, near which is a spring of water so very cold that in a little time it converts straws into stone (this, of course, is a petrifying spring).

"Rector of this church heretofore was the famous John Wicklif, a man of close subtil wit and very well versed in the Scriptures, who having drawn his pen against the Pope's

authority and the Church of Rome, was not only grievously persecuted in his life time, but one and forty years after his death, by command of the Council of Sienna, his body was in a barbarous manner taken out of the grave and burnt.”

Camden's Britannia.

“The church is lately (1722) beautified with costly pavement of chequered stone, new pews and everything else new but the pulpit, made of thick oak plank six square with a seam of carved work in the joints, which is preserved, and continued in memory of Wicklif, whose pulpit it was, if constant tradition may be credited.”

It is pleasant to know that one of our race and blood officiated in this same pulpit.

EDWARD MERES, son of the foregoing, entered at St. John's College, Cambridge, and graduated B.A. 1679, M.A. 1683. He became rector of Wing 1688–1690.

FRANCIS MERES, of Kirton, the surviving son of Thomas Meres (disinherited) and Joane Bussy, was left a ward of the King at his father's death, as appears by

“An office found 28 H. 8th, 1537, in Co. Lincoln, after the death of John Meares, it was found that Thomas Meares dyed in the life of his father Thomas, and that Francis Meares, son of the body of Joane, daughter of Sir Miles Bussy, was the son and heir.”

Francis married Dorothy Anne, (daughter of Thomas Conny) who was executrix to her brother Anthony Conny, of Kirton, in Co. Lincoln, and had issue,

Godrid, ANTHONY, Sarah.

His mother Jane became heiress to Hougham through the death of her niece, Agnes Lady Brudenell, who died sine prole. His will was probated 20 July, 1557, “To be buried in Kirton Church so nere as may be the place where my child was buried.” To my son Anthony x. li. when he is 18. Legacy to Francis Cony, to my wife “Anne” 5 acres of land in Algarkirk and 2 acres in Sutterton for her life and makes her Executrix.



Printed and Sold by W. & A. Wood, Stationers, No. 1, Broad Street, London.
KIRTON CHURCH, near Doncaster.
Engraved by J. G. Kay, from a drawing by J. G. Kay, Esq. Architect.

Kirton, or Kirktown, is a large village and parish of the division of Holland, distant from Boston four miles, from Spalding twelve, and from London one hundred and eleven, has been a place of considerable size and importance, but from having lost its weekly market and its annual fair, and being out of the great public road and divested of manufactures, is now reduced to the rank of a village.

Kirton has long been famous for its large and beautiful church, which was formerly collegiate, and according to some writers was built by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, in the time of King Henry I.

This admirable structure stands on the north side of the road from Boston to London. The entire dimensions from east to west, including chancel, are 175 feet; breadth, 54; north and south transepts, 101; breadth, 51.

Body consists of three aisles, roofs very lofty, windows pointed and style the latter part of the 13th century, but the west entrance has the appearance of a much earlier period, and indicates that the present edifice was erected on the site of a former building which has a claim to great antiquity.

Rees' Cyclopaedia.

"The windows were beautifully painted with scripture histories, the arms of England, Earls of Lincoln, Orme, Meeres, Littlebury, Burton, Digby, Johnson, Cerne, Bohun, Clifford, Beauchamp. In the east windows in 1710 were gules, a fess between three bougets, ermine, and on an oak pew, a water bouget, Meeres. All the historical paintings and many arms were gone, and the west window in part bricked up in 1745, and not a single fragment of painted glass now remains in the windows of this beautiful church."

Gough's Camden.

Being much injured by neglect and larger than necessary for the population of the parish, the Chancel tower and Transepts were taken down in 1806.

A new tower was, however, erected at the west end of the church with the original materials.

Beauties of England, 1809.

Commenting on the above, a gentleman living in Kirton writes, "the so-called restoration, or rather destruction, of the old church, appears little short of an act of vandalism."

A recent letter from Col. C. T. J. Moore, C. B. F. S. A., Frampton Hall, Boston, England, says: "I am restoring to the windows of Kirton Church the arms originally therein (24 I have got), but unless others interested in replacing the records of their ancestors assist I must stop. Meres, Copuldyke, Kirton and Littlebury are of course among the 24 coats to be put in, and I hope you will be as pleased as I am to see our ancestors reinstated, for all record of everyone had been lost.

"It may interest yourself, or someone after us, if you note the arms now restoring to Kirton Church, with the dates and names attached to each coat. The dates are those when the family is first found in the Parish.

1066.	Deyncourt.	1350.	Meres.
1066.	Bozon.	1350.	De la Launde.
1067.	Bussye.	1390.	Belers.
1140.	Tilney.	1400.	Orme.
1240.	Copledyke.	1400.	Burton.
1250.	Kirton.	1450.	Locton.
1250.	Champneys.	1500.	Pury.
1270.	Claymond.	1550.	Tempest.
1280.	Littlebury.	1550.	Brown.
1300.	Roos.	1624.	Middlecott.
1300.	Tonnard.	1642.	Benale."
1330.	Coney.		

ANTHONY MERES, Esquire, second son of Frances, was under eighteen years of age in 1557. Acquired great wealth as a merchant at Lincoln, he died at St. Swithin's, Lincoln, in 1616. He married Katherine, daughter of James Crewes, of Fotheringay, Co. Northampton, and left seven children,

Thomas, the eldest son, Marmaduke, Anthony, ROBERT, Edward, Mary, Katherine.

His will is dated 4 Sept., 1615.

His son, THOMAS MEERS, of Nassington, Co. Northampton, was living 1634, but died without issue.

ANTHONY MEERS, of Bonby, Co. Linc., was returned among the list of gentry in 1642.

He was a "cavalier" and subscribed "horses" for the "maintenance and defense of his Majestie's just prerogatives." He married Hannah, daughter of Sir William Wrey of Glentworth, Co. Lincoln, Kt. and Bart., and had a son Anthony, who died sine prole.

He seems to have spent the latter part of his life at the city of Lincoln. He died 1653-4 without leaving issue, and lies buried in "Bishop Longland's Chapell." He left his fortune to his nephew, Sir Thomas Meres, who in his will calls him "my kind uncle." His younger brother,

ROBERT MERES, of Kirton, Linc., born 1596, is returned among the list of Cavalier Gentry in 1642 who subscribed to aid and defend King Charles I. He took holy orders, became D.D. and Chancellor of the diocese of Lincoln, was Vicar of Tempsford, Co. Herts, and Rector of Houghton cum Marston. He married twice, and died in his rectory house of Houghton 7th Nov., 1652, aged fifty-six years. A small brass affixed in the south wall of the chancel of the church at Houghton commemorates his memory thus:

IN VICINO PULVERE REQUIESCUNT OSSA REVERENDI VIRI ROBERTI MERES SS THEOLOGIAE PROFESSORIS QUI VIXIT ALIQUANDO ECCLESIAE CATHEDRALIS LINCOLNIE CANCELLARIUS ET NOTINGAMIE ARCHIDIACONUS OBIT RECTOR HOUGHAME C' MERSTON VII DIE NOVEMBERIS ANNO DOMINI MDCLII. ANNO ETATIS SUE LVI.

His first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Williams of Cochwillan, Cærnarvon, and niece of John Williams, Lord

Chancellor of England and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, Bishop of London, and in 1641 Archbishop of York.

She was the widow of Wm. Dolbyn, D.D., a Prebendary of Lincoln, who died 1631, by whom she had a son, John Dolbyn, born 1624, afterwards Archbishop of York, who married Catherine, daughter of Ralph, eldest brother of Archbishop Sheldon.

Besides this John, she had by her first husband two other sons and two daughters.

The issue of her marriage with Robert Meres was

Robert, Anthony, THOMAS, Hannah, Catherine.

Anthony, Hannah and Catherine lie buried with their mother in the Cathedral of Lincoln.

Chancellor Meers married, secondly, Faith, daughter of Sir John Hatcher, Knight, of Careby, Co. Lincoln, who died sine prole.

ROBERT MERES, Esq., eldest son of the Chancellor, was born circa 1637. He was living in 1698 and was named overseer, with his nephew, Gilbert Dolben, to the will of of his own brother, Sir Thomas Meres.

Sir THOMAS MERES, Knight, of Kirton, Co. Linc., third son of the Chancellor, born 1625, Knighted by Charles II. on 11 June, 1660, at Whitehall, was a Member of Parliament for the city of Lincoln for nearly fifty years, and was appointed Commissioner of the Admiralty 1679.

He married, 1658, Anne, daughter and heir of Sir Erasmus de la Fontaine of Kirby Bellars, Co. Leicester, Knight, by whom he had issue six children, as follows:

THOMAS,
 John,
 William,
 Mary,
 Francis Katherine,
 Elizabeth.

Sir Thomas became a prominent figure in the disturbed politics of the Restoration, and was intimately associated with all the historic men of that period.

His half brother was the Archbishop (Dolbyn) of York, and his wife was the cousin of Lord Viscount Camden. While his mother, Lady Dolbyn, was living, he seems to have made his principal home in the city of Lincoln, where he resided in Lincoln Close. Later, and probably after his appointment as a Commissioner of the Admiralty, he resided in the City of London, where he had a house in Bloomsbury Square.

His wife, Lady Anne, died 4 August, 1698, in London, and was deposited at the Church of St Giles, Middlesex, to be carried to Kirby Bellars, where she now lies with her husband.

Through his wife, Sir Thomas inherited the estates and Manor of Kirby Bellars, Leicestershire, which at his decease in 1715 descended to his eldest surviving son, John.

Sir Thomas was associated in the Admiralty Commission with Samuel Pepys (who was Secretary of the Navy at that time), and with John Evelyn, Esq., the authors of the now famous diaries which bear their names. He was also acquainted with Bishop Burnett, Bishop Cartwright, Sir John Bramston, and other eminent men, all of whom mention him in their journals.

He was prominent as a leader in the Parliaments of his day. Macauley ranks him among the Trimmers.

He was nominated for the high office of Speaker of the House of Commons twice, an honor which at least testifies to his ability and prominence. Unfortunately he was defeated both times, but in each case by intrigue. He was the candidate of the Court party in 1679, and of the opposition in 1685.

It is recorded of him by a gossip of those days, "old Mr. Hobbs, 1667," that he was "well monied," and that he inherited the fortune of his uncle, Mr. Anthony Meers of Bouby.

He died full of years July 9th, 1715, aged ninety years, and was buried at Kirby Bellars, Leic., in the vault beneath the chancel of the Church of St. Peter. For notices of him see "Notes of Sir Thomas Meres."

Tho: Meres

Sir Thomas by his will left houses at London, Norman-ton and Lincoln, and lands in the Lordship of Stonesby, Co. Leicester, also lands and tenements lying in Kirton and Alderchurch in Co. Lincoln. He was Commissioner of the Admiralty from 1679 to 1684, and Member of Parliament for Lincoln from 1658 to 1708, with the single exception of one year, 1701.

Letter from Ann de la Fontaine to her lover, Thomas Meres:

"These for

My Hon'd friend

Thomas Meres Esq're.

"Sr I thinke my Father's desire of having another Publication made in the Parish Church of St. Dunstan's is requisite in order to our marriage, as allsoc our intencion tomorrow to receive the holy Sacrament. If you please to come hither in the Morning about eight o'clock I shall be ready to goe with you upon that serious employment, that am,
your friend,

AN: FONTAINE.

"Jan. 2d, 1657-8."

Lincolnshire Notes and Queries, Vol. 2, p. 187.

Note to *Nichols' History of Leicester*: "Sir Thomas Meres, Knighted June 11th, 1660, a remarkably gay gentleman, and a great favorite with the ladies, died aged 90, July 9th, 1715."

Note from Playfair's Peerage of England: Edward 12th, Lord Stourton (of Wilts) sold to Sir Thomas Meres, Knight, the Manor of Stourton, Co. Wilts, for £19,400.

THOMAS MERES, his eldest son, born circa 1660, was entirely cut off by his father's will from any share in the inheritance. He went to Paris and died there before 1715. He married a lady whose name is unknown and left a son, John Meres, born circa 1698, and according to a pedigree in the possession of Nathaniel Miers, Esq., of Ynyspwllwch, Wales, another son, James, who left two sons, William and Nathaniel, both successful tradesmen and merchants of London, (also see Burke's Landed Gentry).

John, first mentioned, was apprenticed by his father in the city of London to William Stephens to learn the business of a printer, 9 Feb'y, 1712, as appears by the records of the Stationers' Company of London.

Why Thomas was cut off from the inheritance is not known. Certain, however, it is, that when his father drew up his will, which from the names mentioned and the contents, must have been about 1690, and not later than 1698, Thomas was then living, yet beyond the fact that he states he was then living his father leaves him absolutely nothing.

In the final disposition of his estate Sir Thomas devised his property to three of his children, Sir John, Francis-Katherine, and Elizabeth, thus practically disinheriting his sons Thomas and William. When Sir John died unmarried his sisters inherited most of the property. Concerning this matter a member of the Society of Antiquaries writes:

“I do not think the fact of some coheireses succeeding to the estates as conclusive against there being no other heirs, if a younger Meres had never put in his claim; for in those days it was a great chance if the information ever reached one who might be supposed lost or dead, and persons of influence would do all they could to obtain the property for their own friends.”

However, it appears probable that John Meres the nephew *did* receive recognition in the distribution of his uncle's estate, which was administered by Lady Elizabeth, sister to Sir John Meres.

Sir JOHN MERES, second son of Sir Thomas Meres, was born circa 1662, was knighted 26 Dec., 1700, by King William III., at Kensington Palace. He was one of the six clerks of the Court of Chancery.

On the death of his father in 1715, he inherited the estates in accordance with the will, and resided at Kirby Bellars, Liec. The same year he was made High Sheriff of the County, but soon retired from public life, "preferring the quiet of the student."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Meres". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

In 1720 he published a small political pamphlet or tract entitled "The Equity of Parliaments, or Public Faith Vindicated, an answer to the Crisis of Property, and addressed to the Annuitants."

Sir John was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and never married. He died February, 1736.

"The Gentleman's Magazine" for that month, noticing his death, says he was worth £4,000 per annum.

He was engaged in various commercial enterprises not unsuitable to his position, of which the following notices give a hint:

"Indenture made the four and twentieth day of September, Anno Domini 1705, and in the fourth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the faith; Between dame Anne Stapleton of Richmond, in the county of Surry, widow, Relict and Executrix of the last will and testament of Sir William Stapleton, late of Nevis, in the West Indies, Baronet, deceased of the first part. The Governour and Company for making hollow sword blades in England* of the

*The Sword Blade Co. acted as bankers for the South Sea Company, but failed through the depletion of their treasury by that gigantic speculation.



Church of S. Peter.
Kirby Bellars.

second part, and Sir John Meres of the Parish of St. Giles in the Fields, in the county of Middlesex, Knight, &c., of the third part."

Sept. 17th, 1723.

"Chronological Diary. Historical Register. The York Buildings Company unanimously elected Sir John Meres for their Governour in the room of Thomas Fane, Earl of Westmoreland."

He had in his possession at his manor house in Kirby Bellars a notable portrait of John Milton which has been engraved, and which is mentioned by the Rev. Francis Peck in the second volume of his "New Memoirs of the Life and Poetical Works of Mr. John Milton, with Explanatory and Critical Notes on divers passages of Shakespeare."

In the preface Mr. Peck says "this picture was a half length drawn when Milton was about 5 and 20, a good print of the head was prefixed to the work, which was published 1740, dedicated to Arthur Onslow, Esquire, Speaker of the House of Commons." A long description of the above portrait is given in detail in this volume.

Sir John resided in London at Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury. He died Feb'y 19th, 1735-6, and was buried in the vault beneath the chancel of the Church of St. Peter, Kirby Bellars, Co. Leic. His sister, Lady Elizabeth Pettus, was appointed Administratrix. Most of his landed estates descended, by agreement, to his nephew Thomas Whichcot, Esq., of Harpswell, eldest son of George Whichcot and Francis Katherine Meres, and the personal estate was sold by auction and the proceeds divided among the Whichcot, Maddison and Pettus families. It would seem that John Meres, son of Thomas, received recognition in this division, for reasons given later.

Long afterwards, in 1773, an Act of Parliament was passed for the sale of part of Thomas Whichcote's estates, "late the estate of Sir John Meres, Kt., viz : The Manors of Lordships of Hiptofthall in the Parish of Alderchurch, (Algarkirk) and all the manors, messuages, landes in Kirton, Kirton le Meres, Boston Skirbeck, Sibsey, Fosdyke, Frampton Sutterton and Algarkirk."

These were sold to clear off a debt of £10,000 on the Harpswell estate.

Advertisement from The London Daily Post and General Advertiser. No. 486. Saturday, May 22, 1736.

To be sold by Auction.—This Day, the 22d Inst., and the following Days. The entire and large Collection of Original Pictures, Household furniture, a very fine Musical Clock with several Astronomical Motions, &c., of Sir John Meres, Knt., lately deceas'd, which for Convenience of Sale is moved from his late Dwelling House in Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, to the Rooms lately Mrs. Gumley's, the New Exchange in the Strand. The Pictures, Goods, China, &c., may be viewed at the place of sale this Day, 22d, and every day after (Sundays excepted) till the hour of sale, which will begin each day at eleven in the Forenoon precisely. Catalogues will be delivered gratis this Day the 22d, at the Place of Sale and at Mr. Cocks' in the Great Piazzas, Covent Garden.

Advertisement. The London Daily Post and General Advertiser Saturday, May 22, 1736.

To be sold by Auction, on Tuesday, the 1st of June, and the following Days at Mr. Cock's, in the Great Piazzas, Covent Garden. The Jewels, useful Plate and other valuable effects of the late Sir John Meres deceased, consisting of Brilliants, Rose Rubies, Emeralds, Saphires, &c., in Necklaces, Solitaires, EarRings, Rings, Gold Repeaters in Bloodstone Cases set with Brilliants, Greek and Roman Coins, a curious cabinet of Oriental Moco's Agates and other precious Stones in Vases, Cups and Saucers, several Exquisite fine Basso Relievos of most excellent workmanship in Silver, a complete Collection of Mathematical Instruments, some curious old china, a great variety of valuable curiosities, as also five exceeding fine Original pictures. Catalogue will be delivered gratis on Thursday next, the 26th, at the Place of Sale and at Chadwell's Coffee House behind the Royal Exchange.

The other children of Sir Thomas Meres were Mary, married to William Haley, D.D., Dean of Chichester, died 1706.

Francis Katherina, married George Whichcot, Esq., of Harpswell, Co. Lincoln, M.P. for the county, born 1678 and had issue,

Thomas Whichcot, Esq., who had a daughter Jane, who married her relative, Sir Christopher Whichcot, 4th Baronet, leaving numerous issue whose descendants survive to the present day.

Elizabeth, the (youngest) daughter, born Oct. 17th, 1672, baptised privately at Westminster Abbey as appears by the "Register of the Collegiate Church or Abbey of St. Peter, Westminster. Baptism Oct. 29th, 1672, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Meres, Knight, of Lincoln, by Anne, daughter of Sir Erasmus de la Fountaine, Kt., of Kirby Bellars, Co. Leicester."

Recorded also at St. Margaret's, Westminster, where it is stated she was born 17th October, 1672.

She married 1 May, 1701, Sir Horatio Pettus, 4th Baronet of Rackheath, Co. Norfolk; she survived her husband and died in 1746 at the advanced age of 73 years, leaving issue—her Will dated 22 Sept., 1744, was proved August, 1746. She administered upon the Estate of her brother, Sir John Meres, Kt. Administration granted 1 April, 1736, P. C. C.

In the church of Rackneath, Norfolk, in the South Aisle, is a Tablet, erected for Sir Horatio Pettus, Bart., who died March 9th, 1730, aged 58. The Arms are as follows :

Pettus, Gules, a fesse between 3 Annulets or, Impaling.

Meres, 1 and 4 Gules, a fesse between 3 Water Bougets Erm.

De la Fountaine, 2 and 3 Gules, a bend or, in sinister chief a Cinquefoil arg.

WILLIAM, third son of Sir Thomas Meres, seems to have incurred the displeasure of his family, like his elder brother

Thomas, for some reason that does not appear, possibly from an unsatisfactory marriage.

At any rate in the will, his father leaves to William the sum of £50 per annum only, disposing of all the rest of his estate to his son John and his three daughters.

This sum of fifty pounds per annum was to be paid in half yearly installments, out of the lands, tenements and hereditaments "which I bought of Mr. John Gelston lying in Kirton or Alderchurch in Holland Lincolnshire," and its continuance was conditional that the said William shall never sell, Mortgage or Alien the same, which if he does, this annuity shall cease at once and absolutely."

Sir Thomas also recommends that his other children "be kind to William."

HUGH MEERE, undoubtedly descended from a junior branch of the family, was established in business in the Black Fryers in 1710. He was a man of property, a Director of the Sun Fire Insurance Company and a printer. He printed the *British Mercury* for the Sun Fire Co. until it ceased, and projected and carried on the publication of the *Historical Register*, a quarterly octavo, likewise the *Daily Post*, newspaper, which lived for fifty years.

In 1722 he removed to the Old Baily, to the house which had previously been occupied by the celebrated and unfortunate Algernon Sidney.

He died April 19th, 1723, and the business was continued, first by his widow for three years, afterwards by his son-in-law, Richard Nutt, until 1737, when it was taken up by John Meres.

Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice. In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, May, 1723. Hugo Meere. Decimo Quarto die em't commissio Cassandrae Meere viduæ Relce Hugonis Meere nup poe Sci Martini Ludgate London defti hentis &c., ad Adstrandum bona jura et credita dci defti De bene &c., jurat.

Ad'o de bo: non em't Apr 1726.

T H E
HISTORICAL REGISTER,

Containing

An Impartial RELATION of all
TRANSACTIONS, *Foreign and Domestic* :

WITH A

Chronological Diary

OF ALL

The Remarkable OCCURRENCES, *viz.* Births,
Marriages, Deaths, Removals, Promotions, &c. that
happened in this Year: Together with the *Cha-*
*ra*cters and *Parentage* of Persons deceased, of emi-
nent Rank.

Quicquid agunt homines ——— Juv. Sat. 1.

VOLUME XXII.

For the Year 1737.

L O N D O N :

Printed by J. MERRIS in the *Old Baily*, near *Ludgate* ;
and Sold by T. COOPER at the *Globe* in *Pater-noster-Row*, where com-
pleat Sets, from the Beginning of the Reign of King GEORGE I. and single
Parts, may be had. Sold also by the Bookellers in Town and Country.

Price One Shilling.

Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice. In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Aprilis, 1726.

Hugo Meere Vicesimo secundo die emt Com'o Elizabethæ Nutt (uxori Richardi Nutt) filiæ nrali et ltime Hugonis Meere nuper parochie St. Martini Ludgate London defuncti hentis, &c., ad administrandum bona jura et credita dicti defti per Cassandram Meere viduam et relictam ejusdem defti inadministrata de bene, &c. Jurat.

Prior Adm co. emt. May, 1723.

Hugh Meere married Cassandra, daughter of Thomas Grover, a celebrated Letter Founder of the last century.

Their daughter Elizabeth married Richard Nutt, a noted printer and publisher of the Savoy, London, who died in 1780, aged eighty. For a further notice of Hugh Meere and his connection with the Sun Fire Company see "Relton's Fire Insurance Companies, 1893, London." For further notes of Richard Nutt see "Deacon's Family of Meres and Early English Newspapers, 1891. Bridgeport, Conn."

JOHN MERES, of the Old Bailey, London, born circa 1698, son of Thomas Meres, eldest and disinherited son of Sir Thomas Meres, apprenticed 9 Feb'y, 1712, to William Stephens, married June 2d, 1732, at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, to Sarah Robinson, by whom there were several children. Succeeded to the business of Hugh Meere and Richard Nutt Augt. 1st, 1737. He printed the *Historical Register*, the *Daily Post*, and the *London Evening Post*.

In the battle for a free and untrammelled Press he took a foremost part, and came into frequent collision with the government, suffering both in purse and person for the cause of Liberty. His most noted paper, the *London Evening Post*, was the first to attempt a report of the proceedings and speeches of Parliament.

John Meres died in 1761, leaving three children, viz :

John Meres, who succeeded to his business, a daughter married to Mr. Allison, and a daughter married to Mr. Lee, whose daughter or niece, Sarah Lee, married her cousin, Lieut. James Meres, of the Royal Navy.

JOHN MERES, son of the preceding, born circa 1735, married Marthanna Young. She was the only child by the first wife of Mr. Young, of a Yorkshire family, in which county she was born in 1736, and was heiress to a large estate there.

Her father's most intimate friend was John Meres, Senior, and the intimacy of the two families resulted in the marriage of the children, which took place 1759.

Mr. Young married again a Miss Lockwood, a very beautiful young lady. They had another daughter who is said to have been very beautiful, like her mother, but to have had a very bad temper. This lady was cotemporary with Mr. Benjamin Deacon's children, and was by them called "Cross Aunt Young."

John Meres and Marthana Young had three sons and two daughters, as follows :

John Sands, born Nov. 26, 1760.

James, { twins, born Aug. 17, 1766.
Thomas, }

SARAH, born June 6, 1762.

Susanna, born Feb'y 9, 1764.

Mrs. Meres died in 1809, aged seventy-three. (A mourning ring inscribed with her name, date of death, 27 July, 1809, and age, is in the possession of Peter Deacon, Esq., of Cardiff.

JOHN SANDS MERES, the eldest surviving son, was born Nov. 26th, 1760, and baptized at the church of St. Martin's, Ludgate. He chose the sea for his occupation, and entered the Royal Navy in the man of war "Greyhound." in 1775, when fifteen years of age. In six months he was promoted to be Master's Mate, and in another half year to clerk, evincing a good education and a bright youth. After

six years' service he was Midshipman, being just twenty-one years of age, in which rank he remained two years. On the 20th Feb'y, 1783, he was transferred to the man of war "Hebe," a frigate of twenty-eight guns, commanded by Captain Thomlin, and on board of which came Prince William Henry, afterwards King William IV., to be taught navigation, and who was afterwards gazetted 3d Lieutenant in 1785. Prior to this young Meres was appointed Schoolmaster or Tutor, 5 July, 1784, which is testimony to his proficiency and worth.

In March, 1786, both Meres and Prince William were transferred to the twenty-eight gun frigate "Pegasus," and the latter was gazetted 1st Lieutenant, and afterwards Captain.

Meres continued with Prince William on board this vessel until December, 1786, when he was again transferred to the "Hebe," their old ship. Here he remained till 21 October, 1789.

In the meantime, on 4th March, 1789, Meres passed his examination favorably and awaited his seniority for appointment as Lieutenant, which would have come in due time, but for something which had occurred.

All the data for the foregoing statements is found in the Admiralty Records and may be relied on.

Now comes a strange story from two separate members of the family, one of whom has placed it in writing as follows:

"John Sands Meres went out with Prince William to teach him navigation, but they quarrelled, and each said they would report the other's conduct. On arriving at Cape Coast Castle, Meres was found murdered, but not robbed."

What dark tragedy lies behind these lines which convey a clear insinuation that there was an object other than mercenary in the removal of the young man, I cannot pretend to fathom.

The Admiralty records show that the difficulty had arisen on board the "Pegasus" lying off Antigua, W. I., before Dec., 1786, and that Meres was transferred 12 Oct., 1787, to the Hebe (per warrant) where he remained two years, in the meantime passing his examination for seniority for Lieutenant, receiving his certificate, thus proving conclusively he was in full possession of his faculties. He was then transferred 22 Oct., 1789, "per Warrant," (under arrest) to the "Adventure;" after four months he was, 14th Feb'y, 1790, removed to the "Fairy" as a "Supy prisoner for disposal," on the 30th May sent back again to the "Adventure."

On the 12th June, 1790, he was "tried by court martial and declared to be insane," and the next day transferred to the "Impregnable," from thence on the 28th June to the "Royal William," called after his pupil, and on the 3d July, 1790, he was discharged from the service by order of Admiral Roddam.

There are two or three things in the above record that look suspicious. It does not generally take a "court martial" to investigate a man's sanity, that is a matter for the doctors, and besides Meres had been under arrest nine months before he was tried. No one who knows anything of the state of feeling and subserviency that existed with regard to Royalty at this period, not to mention the absolute autocracy which exists on board a man of war at sea, would doubt for a moment that it might well be considered "insanity" for a poor midshipman or brevet Lieutenant to quarrel with his Captain, and especially a son of Royalty and at this time Duke of Clarence.

It would be an easy matter to leave a record that would suit the circumstances and avoid scandal, supposing that the greater man was in the wrong, and not a very difficult matter to get the objectionable young man out of the way quietly.

G. H. No. 17707.

Admiralty, London,
12 July, 1890.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 20th May last, I forward herewith a statement relating to John Sands Meres extracted from the Admiralty Records, and it will be seen that it was he who attended Prince William in his earlier voyages. The Records afford no further information on the subject of your enquiries.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. T. Lambert,

Director of Greenwich Hospital.

To Edward Deacon, Esq.,
Bridgeport, Conn.,
U. S. A.

ADMIRALTY RECORDS.

G. H. No. 17707. 12th July, 1890.

John Sands Meres of London.

Born Nov. 26th, 1760.

1st Entry "Greyhound," 27 Dec., 1775.

Passing Certificate 4 March, 1789.

D. from Service 3 July, 1790.

Midshipman "Dublin" 31 January, 1781.

Midshipman "Hebe" 20 February, 1783, H. R. H. Prince William 3d Lieutenant. Tutor "Hebe," 5 July, 1784.

Tutor "Pegasus" 22 March, 1786. H. R. H. Prince William, Captain.

Court Martial decl. insane 12 June, 1790.

From service, 3 July, 1790, per order Admiral Roddam.

Poor John Sands, who died thirty years of age, under these unhappy circumstances, was engaged to a Miss Lockwood, his second cousin. He never returned to marry his love, but found a sailor's grave in old ocean.

This story receives a curious confirmation in the following paragraph taken from the biography of Isaac Schomberg, 1753-1813, Captain in the Navy, Nat. Dic. British Biography, Vol. 50, page 433.

On 10th April, 1786, the *Pegasus*, frigate, was Commissioned by Prince William (William IV.), and Schomberg was appointed first lieutenant. Schomberg understood that, as an old and experienced officer, he was to act as the Prince's "dry nurse." The Prince, however, had a strong idea of being his own captain, and a difference of opinion led to disagreement.

When the ship arrived in the West Indies, the Prince gave orders as to the discipline of the ship, which Schomberg conceived himself authorized to waive, and when the Prince reprimanded him for what he termed disobedience and neglect of duty, Schomberg applied for a court martial 23 January, 1787.

Nelson, to whom as senior officer on the station his letter was addressed, replied by placing him under arrest, and acquainting him that a court martial should be ordered as soon as possible. But no court martial could be assembled, and in May Nelson sent the *Pegasus* to Jamaica with a private note to Commodore Gardner explaining the business. Gardner judged it best to supersede Schomberg 10 June, 1787, and to send him to England, where he arrived on 22 July. He was there put on half pay.

Schomberg was allied to many influential families. If he was treated so badly for maintaining his independence with this incompetent scion of royalty, is it any wonder that one who had neither rank nor fortune at his back should have been crushed to death in the fight for manhood against caste.

JAMES MERES and his brother Thomas, born twins on the 17th August, 1766, christened at St. Martin's Ludgate, city of London, August 19th.

Following the example of his brother John, James went to sea. He entered the Royal Navy and was assigned to

the man of war "Apollo" 8 July, 1781. After eighteen months training he was appointed midshipman and transferred to the "Scipio." Here he remained some three years when he was again transferred, to the "Amphion" and the "Hannibal." Serving altogether nine years, during which time he was appointed "schoolmaster" on each ship.

In 1791 he was transferred to the "Nemesis" and made master's mate. On the 2d August, 1794, on board the "Canada," he was gazetted 5th lieutenant, having previously passed his examination 25th June, 1792.

On each succeeding year after this he was transferred to another ship, receiving a higher grade at every step. Omitting the 3rd degree, he became successively 4th, 2d and 1st lieutenant, the latter on the "Diana" 1st July, 1797.

On the 29th August, 1805, after twenty-four years of active service on board ship, he was gazetted "Agent for Transports" at Rio de la Plata, Great Britain being at that time at war with South America. While here, he was present and took part in the capture of Monte Video February, 1807.

In 1809 he came home, but soon appeared in active service again. From James' Naval History the following is extracted :

In the month of June, 1810, Captain William Hoste having under orders the thirty-eight gun frigate "Active," and the eighteen pounder thirty-two gun frigate "Cerebus," cruised off the gulf of Trieste. On the 29th they landed in the harbor of Groa, and about 11 A. M. attacked the French (who had five regiments of infantry).

The British forces consisted of a division of seamen and marines under Lieutenants Slaughter and Mun, and Lieutenant James Meres of the Active, whose boats had just landed. The same intrepidity that had ensured success on previous occasions produced it on this, and the French troops with their officers laid down their arms and surrendered.

Subsequently Lieutenant Meres became Agent for Transports at the Cape of Good Hope, and continued there until 28 September, 1816, when he was retired on half pay, having seen thirty-five years of active service and attained fifty years of age.

Seven years afterwards, on 10th October, 1822, he was appointed to Greenwich Hospital to be one of the Governing Lieutenants, or officers. Shortly after receiving this appointment he married his cousin, Miss Sarah Lee, with whom he lived fourteen years. He died on 7th March, 1836, leaving no children.

ADMIRALTY RECORDS, EXTRACT.

G. H. 17707, 5th May, 1890.

Lieutenant James Meres of London, born Aug. 17, 1766.

First Entry 8 July, 1781, *Apollo*.

Passing Certificate 25 June, 1792.

Seniority, 2 Augt., 1794.

Dead 7 March, 1836.

Mid'n 6 Dec., 1782, "*Apollo*."

Master's mate 15 March, 1791, "*Nemesis*."

Extra mid'n 14 Augt., 1792, "*Nemesis*."

5th lieutenant 2 Augt., 1794, "*Canada*."

4th lieutenant 8 June, 1795, "*Prince*."

2d lieutenant, 11 June, 1796, "*La Revolutionnaire*."

1st lieutenant 1 July, 1797, "*Diana*."

At river Platte 29 Aug., 1805. Present at capture Monte Video, 1807.

At Cape Good Hope 1 July, 1809.

Half pay 29 Sept., 1816.

To Greenwich Hospital 10 October, 1822.

Lieut. James Meres was personally known to King William IV., who presented him with a seal worn pendant to the old fashioned watch ribbon or "fob." This seal was a white carnelian set in gold, and the writer's father received it after his uncle's death. He often spoke of the fraternal,

offhand way, usual with sailors, in which William would greet Meres at a levee. Possibly King William may not have forgotten the brother who taught him navigation in his youth.

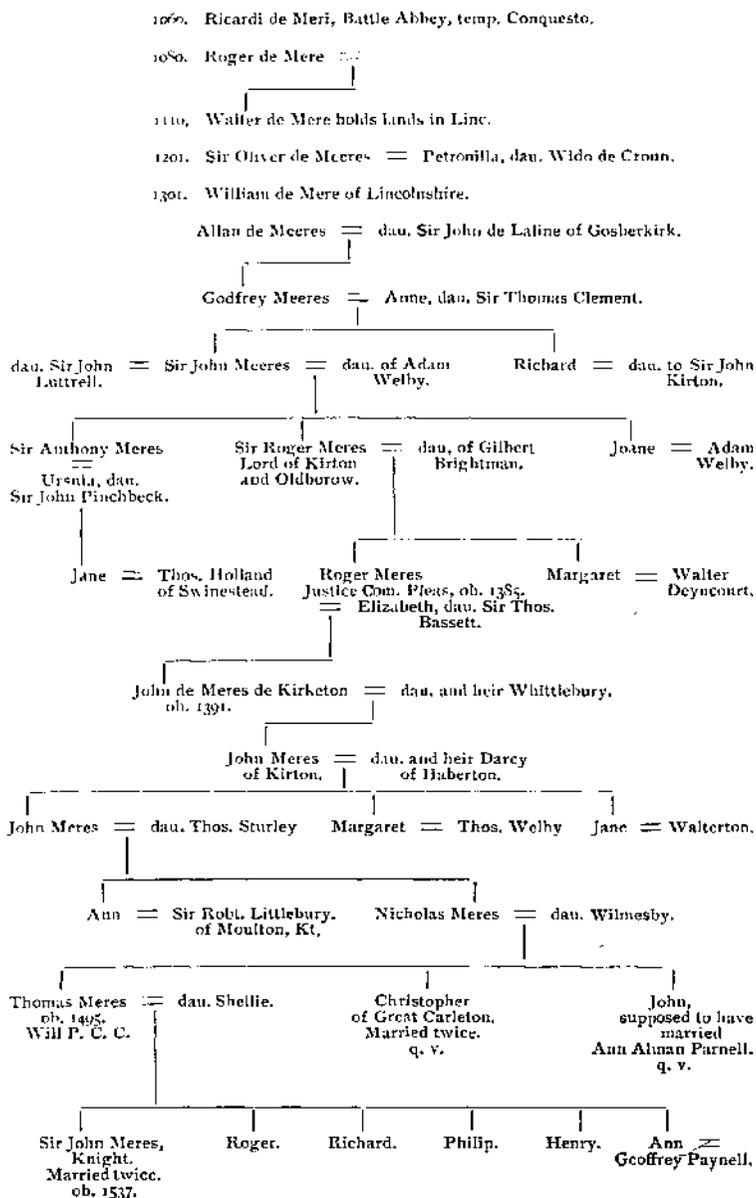
Notice of Mr. Meres' death appears in the *Gentleman's Magazine* obituary, April, 1836.

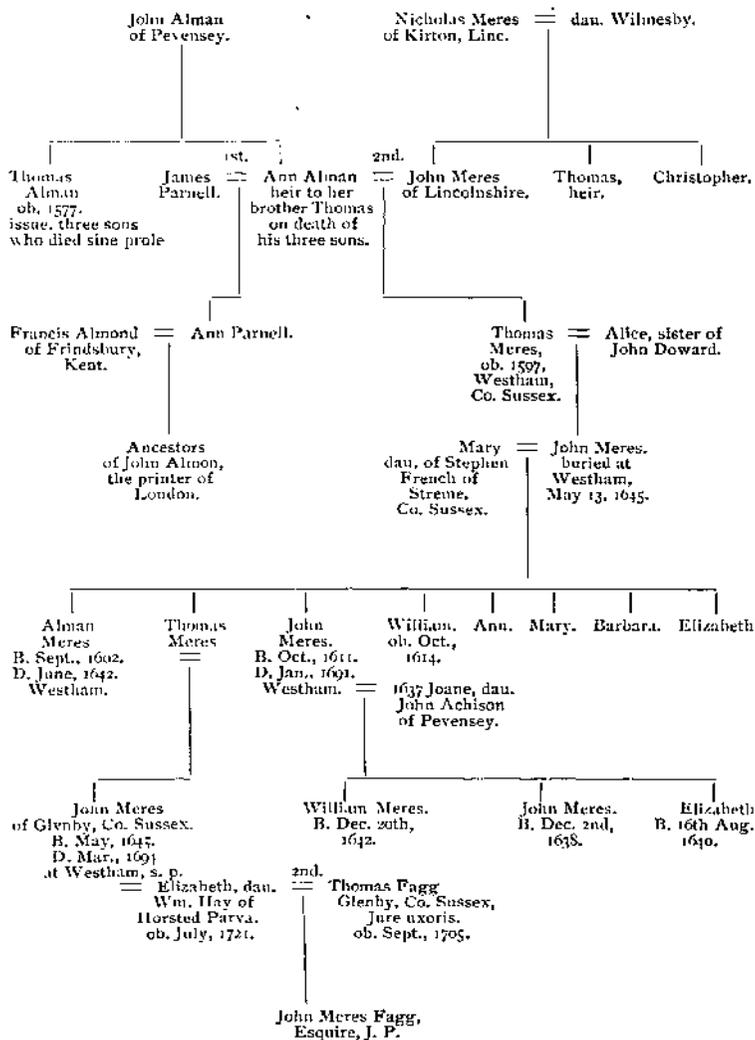
THOMAS, the other twin, born 17 August, 1766, never married. There is no record of his life, but he is said to have been "a kind, jolly man."

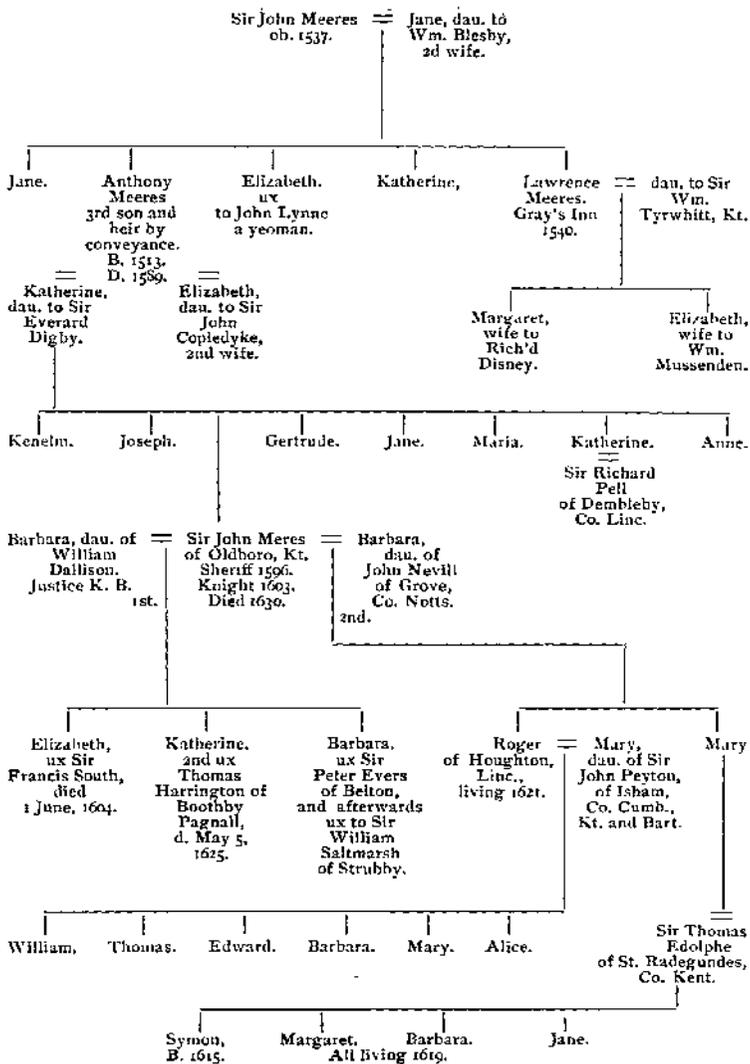
SARAH MERES, born June 6th, 1762, christened June 13th at St. Martin's, Ludgate, married January 14th, 1787, BENJAMIN DEACON, of the city of London, and left issue for which see "DEACON." She died April 19th, 1835, aged seventy-three years.

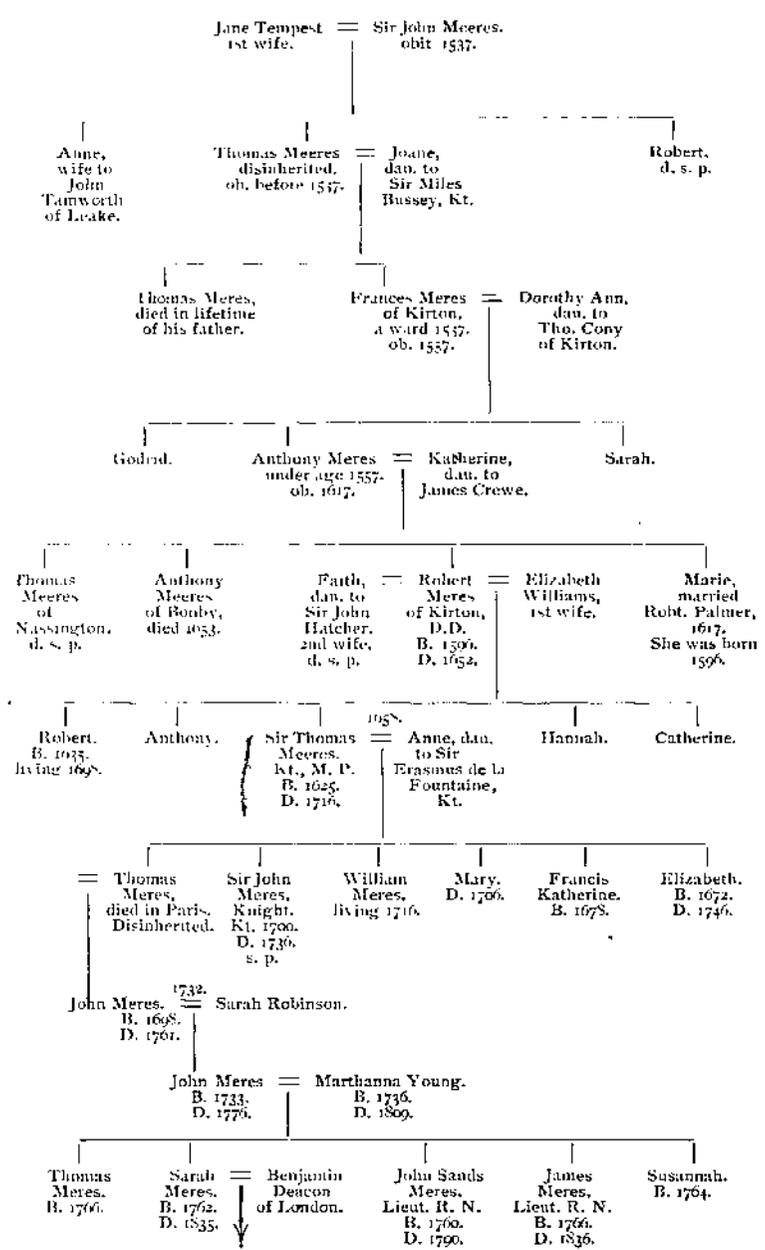
SUSANNAH MERES, born Feb'y 9th, 1764, christened ten days later at St. Martin's, Ludgate. She married Samuel Osmond, who was never well, and who left her a widow shortly after their marriage.

Meres.









CHAPTER XVII.

NOTES

of the

FAMILY

of

MERES.

1300 Willielmus de Mere returned from the county of Lincoln as holding lands or rents either in capite or otherwise to the amount of £40 yearly value and upwards, and as such summoned under general Parliamentary writ to perform military service against the Scots.

Muster at Carlisle on the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 24 June, with one hundred and twenty-nine Lords and Knights 28 Edward I.

1301 Willielimus de Mere summoned from county of Lincoln, to perform military service in person against the Scots.

Muster at Berwick on Tweed 29 Edward I., with forty other Knights, Earls and Lords.

1343, John Meeres was Rector of Levretune (Leverton) six miles northeast from Boston.

The Sea Banks raised by the Romans had been kept in good repair during their stay, but under the Saxons great dilapidations had occurred. Commissions were appointed in later years to oversee the work.

1352, in 25 years Edward III., Saier de Rocheford and Roger de Meres were appointed to view the Sea Banks and ditches or dykes of Skirbeck and Kirketon.

1355, in 28 years Edward III., Roger de Meres and two others were appointed to view the Sea Banks and dykes on the south side of Wytham from the town of Skirbeck to a place called Shufft.

1370 a dispute had existed between the Bishop of Lincoln and the Abbott of Croyland, about the bounds and limits of the parish of Holbech. A deed was made by council held and consent of both parties. In this document the arable land, the meadows and the stream of Roger Atte Meres, is repeatedly mentioned in describing the bounds.

This deed is dated 4th August, 1370.

1385, 9 Rich. II., John Littlebury, Knight, released to John de Marchford and others, all his right in all his lands in Holbech, Lincolnshire, which he had of the gift of John de Meres.

Close Rolls.

1404. An old deed dated 14 July, 1404, 5 Henry IV., recites that a piece of land on the west side of the water called "Little Fen," was that day devised by John de Rocheford, Kt., of Boston, and John de Meers de Kirton et al. to John Stevenson of Boston, Merchant.

1405 John de Meeres, son of Roger, Justice of Common Pleas, 27 Augt., feoffees of Sir Somers Roos of Gedeney, licensed with John de la laund, Robert Roos and Johan his wife et al. to celebrate divine offices in the chapel within the manor.

1408 John de Meres de Kyrketon in Holland, Excutor with others to will of Sir John Copuldyk, Kt., proved at Sleaford 3 May, 1408.

1445 Thomas Mers feoffees with John, Duke of Somerset, William, Bishop of Lincoln, Robert Wylloghby, Knight, William de la Zouche, Knight, et al., of Elizabeth, widow of Richard Lord Graye of Codnore, 7 April, 23 Henry VI.

1489, rental of the farms, lands, etc., of the Guild of Corpus Christi, made at Boston 1 Dec., 1489, 5 Henry VII., * * “also for farm 5 stong of pasture in Kyrkton, beside the Mylnehyll of Thomas Meres, Esq., by yere s. 5.

Thomas Meers of Kirton in Holland, Linc., was third husband of Margaret, widow of Sir Wm. Ayrmyrn of Osgodsby, Kt., and of Geffry Peynall of Bothby Peynall, Linc.

“See a book of the Pedigree of Boothby in a book called Gaunt, made 1699, in the hands of my Lord Chancellor by my gift to him.”

Note by Le Neve.

This gentleman was elected to represent the county in the Parliament of 1428, and again in 1434 and 1441. He was High Sheriff in 1437, and again in 1447.

Between the years of 1440 and 1450 he was elected a member of the Guild of Corpus Christi of Boston, and his wife, Dame Margaret Ermine, became a member between 1451-9. By a former wife he left a son, Thomas Meers of Osgodsby and Kirton, who was admitted a member of the Guild in 1461, and who filled the office of High Sheriff of the county in 1468, and again in 1485. He married Isabel, widow of Sir William Armine of Osgodby, (in 1450) son of the Knight before mentioned. She was his second cousin by marriage, furthermore he was her second husband, and the step-son of her first husband's mother.

1488, 23 Dec., writ to Thomas Meres, Viscount Welles and the Sheriff of Lincolnshire, to summon all Earls, Barons, Knights and other Nobles to examine how many archers each is bound to furnish the King for the expedition for the relief of Brittany.

Inquisition post mortem, Co. Lincoln, taken at Parteney last day of October, 2 Henry VII., 1495. John Copuldyk, deceased. Jury found the aforesaid was seized in fee of

the manors of, &c., &c., &c., and of forty acres of land in Algerkyrke, &c., &c., and that the said forty acres of land in Algerkyrke are held of John, son and heir of Thomas Meres, Esq., deceased.

Chancery Inq., to Henry VII., No. 76.

(Said John Copuldyke died the 15th March, A.D. 1490-1.)

1523. A grant was made in 1523, 4 Henry VIII., of a yearly subsidy for four years. Eighteen persons only were taxed in Boston, and one of them was Roger Meres, £2 yearly.

Mr. Meers, who in the early part of 1646 was despatched from Leicester to Ashby-de-la-zouch, where he rescued "divers country men prisoners there," and who carried off large quantities of stores, was a cadet of this family.

The Guild of Corpus Christi of Boston, founded 1335, was one of those mercantile, political and protective Associations which flourished during the middle ages and which fostered liberty, nourished commerce, and stood as barriers to the power of Kings and Barons, in the interest of the common people. They were much patronized by the great who found it advantageous to keep the good will of these powerful corporations.

The family of Meeres were patrons of this Guild for many centuries. The following are among the earlier names mentioned in the Register of Brethren :

- 1343. John Meeres of Levertune.
- 1343. Roger Meeres.
- 1357. John Meres of Boston.
- 1407. Roger Meeres.
- 1440-50. Thomas Meeres of Kirton.
- 1451-9. Dame Margaret Ermyne, wife of Thomas Meeres.
- 1461. Thomas Meres, Esq.
- 1530. John Merys, Esq.
- 1531. John Merys, Esq., of Kirton.
- 1540. Thomas Meres of Boston.

Among the High Sheriffs of County Lincoln :

- 1437. Henry VI., Thomas Meres of Kirton.
- 1447. Henry VI., Thomas Meres of Kirton.
- 1468. Edward IV., Thomas Meres of Kirton.
- 1485. Richard III., Thomas Meres of Kirton.
- 1596. Elizabeth, John Meres of Kirton.

Knights of the County, *i. e.*, Members of Parliament.

- 1428. Henry VI., Thomas Meres, Walterus Talboys.
- 1434. Henry VI., Thomas Meres, Hamond Sutton.
- 1441. Henry VI., Thomas Meres, Robertus Sheffield.

The name "Meeres" has, of course, reference to the water. There is an old Saxon word, "gemære" or "mære," which frequently occurs in Saxon charters, and which signifies the narrow bank or baulk in the open fields that divided the lands, and which was also used to designate the boundary between two estates or towns.

This "gemære" is called the mear or meer bank. The bank was constructed by digging a trench or ditch, which filling with water by rains or streams, was called the meer, and the bank "the meer bank."

The armorial bearings of the several branches of the family all refer to the water, being either a ship, a galley, or the bouget, which were the leathern pouches used by soldiers to carry water.

In the county of Lincoln, bordering on the North Sea or German Ocean, are lands (much of which are lower than the sea level, protected by sea walls, and subject to frequent inundations) called "the Meers." Here was settled a family designated as "de Meers," or "Atte Meers," whose branches as they multiplied spread into adjoining counties. They were well known in the 12th century, and with the advance of civilization progressed in possessions and influence.

This continued until the great commercial impulse of the 16th century and the trend of commerce to seek the western shores of England. At this period emigration, and the

consequent declension of the population began, which was continued by the growth of manufactures in the western counties during the succeeding century, that found no footing on the level sands of Lincolnshire.

“The ecclesiastical architecture of Lincolnshire has long been justly celebrated for its magnificence, and its numerous churches have been the subject of admiration.”

“It is remarkable that the most splendid edifices which adorn this district were erected chiefly in the lowest and most fenny situations, where all communication must formerly have been, and even to this day, is extremely difficult.

“The ecclesiastical edifices in the deanery of Lindsey, excepting the Cathedral of Lincoln, are in general inferior to those of Kesteven and Holland, * * * but it is principally in the division of Holland that Lincolnshire boasts of superior excellence in ecclesiastical architecture, and it is really surprising that so many fine monastic buildings and sacred edifices should have been erected in a county so inconvenient for travelling, so unpleasant to the eye, and so uncongenial with the common comforts of life, yet in this fenny and swampy district are the churches of Boston, Gosberton, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Kirton, Holbeach, Cröyland, and many others which have a just claim to universal admiration.

“The character and plan of the churches in this division vary in different parts. Some are cruciform, many have spires, while embattled towers at the west end form the principal feature of the remainder. The stone employed in the erection of these edifices is universally found to be of an excellent and durable species, still retaining at the distance of many centuries its original face and firmness.”

Ree's Cyclopaedia.

Some Notes
of
Sir Thomas Meres, Knt., M. P.,
and his **Son.**

“Meers—Sir. Thos. in Lincoln Close, a good family at Kirton neare Boston, anciently had a succession by Buchey; £300 in land, well moneyed, inheritor to his Uncle Mr. Anth. Meers, marryed dau. to Sir Erasmus de la Fountaine.”

The above entry is endorsed “from old Mr. Hobbs, 1667.” *Lincolnshire Families, temp. Charles II.*, from the Note Book of Sir Joseph Williamson, a manuscript now in the State Paper Office.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE CITY OF LINCOLN.

1658-9 Robert Marshall. Thomas Meres.	1685 Henry Monson. Sir Thomas Meres.
1660 John Monson. Thomas Meres.	1700 Sir John Bolles. Sir Thomas Meres.
1661 Sir Robert Bowles, Thomas Meres.	1702 Sir Thomas Meres. Sir Edw. Hussey.
1678 John Monson. Thomas Meres.	1705 Sir Thomas Meres. Thomas Lister.
1679 John Monson. Thomas Meres.	1708 Sir Thomas Meres. Thomas Lister.
1681 Sir Thomas Hussey. Thomas Meres.	

Political History of England by A. H. Dyke Ackland, 1882.

“Monday, July 23d, 1660. This day some of the Clergy of the Co. of Lincoln in the name of the rest being brought into the Royal Presence by the Earl of Manchester presented (a loyal address) to the King’s most excellent Majesty by the hands of the Rev. and most learned Doctor Saunderson, accompanied by that worthy gentleman, Sir Thomas Meres, and several of the orthodox and loyal Clergy.

Tuesday, January 14th, 1661. A message was brought from the House of Commons by Sir Thomas Meres, Kt., and others, reminding their Lordships of a bill for restoring Impropriations and advowsons to such persons who had served the King in the late troubles.

“Tuesday, March 6th, 1662. A message from the House of Commons by Sir Thomas Meres, Kt., and others to the Lords to give dispatch to the bill for uniformity, as believing it to be of great consequence, and the rather because they believe they shall not sit long.”

Pepys Diary.

“January 2d, 1666-7. Up to the Painted Chamber and there heard a conference between the House of Lords and Commons about the Wine Patent, which I was exceeding glad to be at, because of my hearing exceeding good discourses, but especially from the Commons. Among others, Mr. Swinfen and a young man, Sir Thomas Meres, and do out-do the Lords infinitely.

“Also July 17, 1667. The Duke of Buckingham is, it seems, set at liberty, without any further charges against him. * * Sir Thomas Meres and others did attend at the Council Chamber when he was examined.”

Note to the Life of Sam. Pepys, Vol. I., page 18.

“Information being given to the House (of Commons) that a person of quality had seen an altar with a crucifix upon it in the house of Mr. Pepys, Sir Thomas Meres was appointed by the House January, 1673, with Sir William Coventry and Mr. Garraway a Committee to attend Lord

Shaftsbury and receive what information his lordship can give on this matter. The grounds upon which the Committee decided do not appear, but the proceedings of the House on the subject are entered in the Journals (Vol. IX., page 306). Without the House coming to any vote on the subject, Pepys was permitted to retain his seat."

Bishop Burnet's History of his own times.

"1675 the King sent for Sir Thomas Meres and told him he heard they intended to impeach Lord Danby, which he said would be very prejudicial to his affairs. Sir Thomas said, the only expedient he knew was to impeach somebody else, which would spend their fury and waste their time. The King said that was right, but who should it be? Sir Thomas said Duke Lauderdale was very odious, would there be any harm falling upon him. The King answered, that will do, upon which, as he told me, he impeached him with great applause."

NOTE BY LORD DARTMOUTH.—Sir Thomas was one of the leaders of the opposition to the Court.

Evelyn Diary.

"August 15th, 1676. Came to dine with me my lord Halifax and Sir Thomas Meres, one of the Commissioners of the Admiralty. * * * Also June 25th, 1679, the new Commissioners of the Admiralty came to visit me, viz: Sir Henry Capel, brother to Earl of Essex, Mr. Finch, Sir Thomas Meres, Mr. Hales with some of the Commissioners of the Navy. I went with them to London."

Burnet, History of his own times.

"1679, Charles II. Meres was the candidate of the Court, but the Commons nominated Seymour. The King refused to confirm him, and after a constitutional battle they compromised by making Sergeant Gregory, Speaker. At the opening of the Parliament in March, 1679, Seymour had in the last session struck in with the heat against popery, that he was become popular upon it, so he managed the matter in this new parliament, that though the Court named Meres, yet he was chosen Speaker. * * * When Seymour

was next day presented as the Speaker, the King refused to confirm the election.

“Upon their return to their House the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir John Early, proposed Sir Thomas Meres as a proper person for Speaker, but after a very warm debate the original choice (Seymour) was adhered to, and finally the Parliament was prorogued for a few days. When it met again, the Commons and the King both yielded by adopting Mr. Sergeant Gregory as Speaker. Refers to Gray's Debates, Chandler's Debates, Ferguson's Growth of Popery.”

Macaulay's History of England, Vol. I., chapter 4.

May 19, 1685. The first business of the Commons was to elect a Speaker. Who should be the man? was a question which had been much debated in the Cabinet. Guildford had recommended Sir Thomas Meres, who like himself, ranked among the Trimmers. Jeffreys, who missed no opportunity of crossing the Lord Keeper, had pressed the claims of Sir John Trevor. The minion of Jeffreys was, as might have been expected, preferred by James, was proposed by Middleton, and was chosen without opposition.”

See Roger North's Life of Guildford.

Autobiography of Sir John Bramston, K. B.

“May 19, 1685. Sir Francis North, Baron of Guilford, Lord Keeper, having on his knee received command from the King, told the Commons that it was his Majesties pleasure they should goe together and make choice of a Speaker, and present him at 4 o'clock that afternoon for his Majesties approbation. * * * Indeed, there used to be more tyme between choosinge and presentment, and that might have been some tollerable excuse, if he had not known he should be named and approved too. It being generally knowne that the Lord Keeper had recommended Sir Thomas Meres, and the Lord Chief Justice Jeffries, Trevor, and the King had fixed upon Trevor.

“Meres took an important part in the debate which followed, upon granting supplies.”

Sir John Trevor, Speaker of the H. C., was expelled the chair 1695 for taking a bribe of 1,000 guineas from the City of London.

Diary of Bishop Cartwright.

“May 17, 1687, I was at the King's levee, promised my Lord Preston to sup with him to-morrow night. I visited Sir Thomas Meres and his lady, Madam Dolben and Mr. Sheldon, the Bishop of Ely, &c.

June 24, 1687. Went with my wife to visit the Lady Warburton, Meeres and Dr. Constable.

“July 6, 1687. I went to meet the King at Whitehall, to visit the Bishop of Lincoln. Sir Thomas Strickland, Sir Richard Wiseman, Sir Thomas Meeres and Mr. Dean of Carlisle supped with me.”

The Lord High Admiral is the ninth great officer of state. His office was anciently deemed of so much importance that it was either retained by the King himself or conferred upon one of his younger sons. He has the management of all maritime affairs, the government of the Royal Navy, and Judicial power in all maritime cases. This office has for a long series of years been usually in Commission, whose functions are now performed by a Board whose members are designated as “the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.” Following are the names of the Commissioners appointed by King Charles II. for the “Admiralty,” 1679:

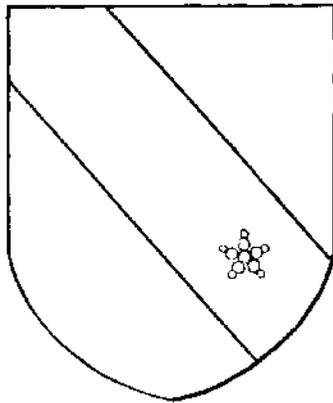
Sir Henry Capel, Kt., Hon. Daniel Finch, Sir Thomas Lee, Bt., Sir Humphrey Winch, Kt., Sir Thomas Meres, Kt., Edward Vaughan, Edward Hales.

Several changes were made in this Commission in the succeeding years, but Sir Thomas Meres was regularly Commissioned Feb'y 19th, 1680, Jan'y 20th, 1682, Aug. 28th, 1683, and April 17th, 1684, when the members were:

Daniel Earl Nottingham, Sir Humphrey Winch, Bt., Sir Thomas Meeres, Kt., Sir Edward Hales, Bt., Henry Saville, Sir John Chicheley, Kt., John Lord Vaughan.

This commission was revoked May 22, 1684, and his Majesty, King Charles II., became Lord High Admiral of England.

DE LA FOUNTAINE.



KIRBY BELLARS.

ARMS OF
DE LA FOUNTAINE.

Gules, a bend or, on the sinister base a cinquefoil argent.

Crest, on a mount vert a griffin sejant or, holding in dexter foot an eastern crown, argent.

Sir ERASMUS DE LA FOUNTAINE of Kirby Bellars, Leic., married Mary, eldest daughter of Sir Edward Noel, Bart., Baron Ridlington and Viscount Camden, by Julien, daughter of Sir Baptist Hix of London, Knight, and had issue.

Ann, married Sir Thomas Meres, 1658.

Penelope, married Sir Philip Tyrwhit.

Susanna, married Thomas Horde, 1673.

Hester, married Henry Clarke, 1672.

Sir Erasmus was Knighted at Greenwich 15 June, 1623, and was High Sheriff of the county 1628, as appears by a "Dispensation to reside out of the county of Leicester, being a bachelor and not recovered from his sickness, nevertheless to be personally attendant at both assizes if his health permit.

"To Sir Erasmus De La Fountaine, High Sheriff of the Co. Leicester."

Privy Seal, 4 Charles I., 24th December, 1628.

He died 16 March, 1672, at his "lodgings" in Holborn, buried 6 April at Kirby Bellars. His will, dated October 5, 1671, was proved March 28, 1672.

"There is a curious story told of Sir Erasmus de la Fountaine in 1636, that he pulled down a great many cottages on the estate and was fined for it, but somehow the fine was remitted.

"He took the King's side in the Civil War and his house was attacked by the Parliamentary army and set on fire, whether accidentally or intentionally was disputed."

Contributed by the Rev. John Cartmell, Rector of St. Peters, Kirby Bellars.

Kirkby Bellars, otherwise Kirkby super Wrethek, Leicestershire, lies on the west side of Leicester forest. The church is of very ancient foundation, as appears that John Kirkby resigned this church in 1276, and was succeeded by Roger de Holt.

Roger or Rogerus Bellars, ten hundred de Framland, who died 8th Henry V., was killed at Leicester 1326. He had in fee farm the hundred of Framland by grant from

the Crown, rent £12.18.5. His widow, in 1359, with consent of her son and heir, translated the Chantry of Secular priests founded by her husband in his life time at Kirkby to the use of the Canons regular of St. Augustine. Thus the collegiate chapel of St. Peter was converted into a Conventual Church 12 April, 1359, Roger de Cotes first prior.

Upon the failure of issue of Roger Belar, the founder, the patronage came into the hands of the Bishop of Lincoln. How long this continued does not appear, but at the period of the dissolution of the monasteries, the patronage of the Church of St. Peter remained with the lords of the manor.

In 1672 Sir Erasmus de la Fontaine was lord of the Manor of Kirby Bellars. His daughter and heir, Anne, married Sir Thomas Meres, and they both lived and died and are buried here.

The manorial rights passed at their death to Sir John Meres, but after his death the Rectory does not seem to have been filled. At least it is stated by Nichols in his *Antiquities of Leicestershire*, published 1790, that the stipend was £12.0.0, the living was not in charge, and the patronage remained in the heirs of Sir John Meres.

With regard to the present Manor House at Kirby Bellars, the date on the oldest part is 1732, which would be three years before Sir John Meres died. A part was pulled down and rebuilt about fifty years ago, which was, no doubt, much older. It is now in fairly good order, and has been occupied by Mr. John Henry Fox, a well to do farmer, for the past twenty-five years. It is owned by Mr. Seddon, who received it by descent from his grandmother (Mrs. Manners), related to the Duke of Rutland.

Some people who live near here have an old oak chair and bedstead which are said to have belonged to the Meres family. Both are beautifully carved. The bedstead is dated 1671.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Extracts from Deacon's

The Family of

M E R E S

and some Early

English Newspapers.

~~SPELLED MERES~~ on Page 320

Sir Thomas Meres, born 1635, was the son of Robert Meres, D.D., Chancellor of the Diocese of Lincoln, who married Elizabeth, niece of John Williams, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, Bishop of Lincoln and Archbishop of York.

Elizabeth Williams was the widow of William Dolben, D.D., who died 1631; her eldest son by this marriage became Archbishop of York, so that this lady was both niece and mother of an Archbishop. After the death of her first husband she did not long remain single, but married Chancellor Meres, and brought him several children, of whom Thomas before named was a younger son.

Sir Thomas married Anne, daughter of Sir Erasmus de la Fontaine, by whom he had several children, three sons and three daughters. He made his will in 1698, before the death of his wife, and left the bulk of his estate to his second son, John, afterwards Sir John. To his third son, William, he left an annuity of fifty pounds per annum, upon certain conditions, which if not complied with, the legacy

was to be forfeited. His eldest son was named Thomas, but beyond mentioning the fact that he was then living, Sir Thomas entirely ignored him in his will, and left him nothing. This was doubtless the result of the son having contracted a marriage offensive to his father.

The copy of the will in my possession indicates that these motives actuated Sir Thomas, for he specially enjoins should any of his three daughters marry without the consent of his executors, they should forfeit their share of the inheritance.

Hugh Meere, or Meres, of a junior branch of the family, a man of property and good social position, was living in the Black Fryars in the early years of the 18th century. In addition to other business he carried on that of a printer, and was well established before 1710.

Thomas Meeres, the disinherited son, lived in London at this time; he had a son named John, born in 1698, who at the usual age of fourteen was apprenticed by his father, the 9th of February, 1712, to William Stephens, to learn the business of a printer, as appears by the records of "The Ancient and Worshipfull Company of Stationers of the City of London."

It is probable that Thomas Meres was an adherent of King James, for we shall see that his son was strongly imbued with these proclivities. Thomas subsequently removed to Paris, the hot-bed of the Stuart party, and dying before 1715, was buried there.

The "Sun Fire Office," the oldest insurance company in the world, was established in London in 1706 as "The Exchange House Fire Office." In 1709-10 it was transferred and changed its name to "The Company of London Insurers," but from its seal or sign commonly called the "Sun Fire Office Company."

Hugh Meres was a Director of the Sun Fire Company, and when that Company determined in 1709 to add one more to the list of periodicals, by the publication of the "*British Mercury*," it is not surprising to find that he was the printer of it.

The "*British Mercury*," beginning at No. 84 and ending with No. 495, is to be found in the British Museum. It begins again as the *British Weekly Mercury* and ceased in 1716 with No. 566. The copy now in the British Museum was, from internal evidence, without doubt the one belonging to Hugh Meere, for therein are corrections in manuscript evidently made as instructions for the next number, and the handwriting is very similar to that of Mr. Meere's.

Hugh Meere was one of the acting members or Directors of the Sun Fire Office from November, 1712, to August, 1720, when he transferred his interest. He held the office of Secretary to the Board from 1718 to 1720. He published in the *Mercury* from 1712 to 1715 a "History of the World," which appeared subsequently in three volumes. It was decided by the Acting Members or Directors that Mr. Meere was entitled to the sole benefit of printing and publishing this "History."

Several notices of Hugh Meere are given by Nichols in his "Literary Anecdotes of the 18th Century."

In 1716 the "*Historical Register*" succeeded to the "*British Mercury*." This was an octavo quarterly volume purporting to give some account of political events at home and abroad, and containing a Chronological Diary of Births, Marriages and Deaths, and also other notable incidents. It was published at first at the expense of the Sun Fire Office, but contained no other reference to the Company's business. It was printed and sold by Hugh Meere in Black Fryars as per the imprint, and appears to have been a successful publication. It is recognized as the precursor of the "*Gentleman's Magazine*," which followed and improved upon its lines.

As we have seen, Hugh Meere severed his connection with the Sun Fire Office in 1720, and we find the volume for that year the last one which bears the legend, "Printed at the expense of the Sun Fire Office." Thereafter it was continued as a private enterprise by Mr. Meere.

But Meere had had other work on hand. Oct. 4, 1719,

he commenced the issuance of a new daily paper called the *Daily Post*, which maintained its existence until 1771.

The "*British Journal*" another of his publications, commenced Sept. 22, 1722. The liberty of the Press was not established then as it is now, and though the censorship had been removed, the printers and publishers were subjected to constant suits and prosecutions under the law of libel, on the part of the Crown or other parties who considered themselves aggrieved, and the law was construed at that time most rigidly and severely.

For an article in the *British Journal* deprecating charity schools and perhaps not complimentary to the clergy, the Grand Jury of Middlesex presented for prosecution the authors, publishers and printers of the said libel, and Meere suffered the usual penalty therefor.

The *British Journal* is famous for the publication of the letters of "Cato," (a pseudonym second only to that of "Junius,") which blazed upon the town in the interest of justice against the wicked promoters of the South Sea scheme. "Cato's" letters, attributed to Lord Bolingbroke, have since been collected into volumes and passed through several editions.

In March, 1722, Mr. Meere removed his household and establishment from Black Fryars to the Old Bailey, a narrow street running between Ludgate Hill and Newgate street. This street takes its name from the Court House, or Old Bailey, situated upon it.

Algernon Sidney, the unfortunate and famous younger son of Robert, Earl of Leicester, whose writings and republicanism made him obnoxious to the Government, and who was brought to the scaffold and beheaded in 1683 with Lord William Russell, for alleged complicity in the Rye-house plot, had a house in this street. It was afterwards known as No. 6, and was situated near Ludgate. This house was now purchased by Hugh Meere, and the first imprint on his publications from this locality is dated

March 19th, 1722. This property remained in the family for many years.

Hugh Meere died April 19th, 1723. His wife, Cassandra, was appointed administratrix of his estate, and continued the business of her husband under the name of C. Meere, until February, 1726.

In 1724 a curious manuscript was compiled by one Sam'l Negus. This paper exhibits "a complete list of all the printing houses in and about the cities of London and Westminster, together with the printers' names, what newspapers they print and where they are to be found."

In the lapse of time this has become a very interesting and valuable document. The compiler was rewarded with a place in the Post Office. He divided the names under three headings, according to the known or supposed political affiliations of their owners. Namely:

- 1st. Known to be well affected to King George.
- 2nd. Said to be High Flyers.
- 3rd. Roman Catholics.

Among the High Flyers we find "C. Meere, of the Old Bailey, printer of the *Daily Post* and *British Journal*." The High Flyers were evidently "independents," and not attached to the Court party. They sided with the Stuarts and were opposed to the Revolution of 1688 and William III.

Cassandra Meere did not long survive her husband. Without doubt she had been assisted, if indeed the business had not been managed, by her son-in-law, Richard Nutt, and when she died in February, 1726, her daughter Elizabeth, Mrs. Nutt, was appointed administratrix of both her father's and mother's estates, as per the records in Doctors Commons, and Richard Nutt succeeded to the business.

This gentleman was born in 1694, and lived to the great age of eighty-six years. He was at this time, therefore, thirty-two years old, and at once prosecuted the business with ardour and success. He continued the publication of the *Historical Register*, the *Daily Post* and the *British Jour-*

nal, and added the following year one of the most important papers that graced the 18th century, viz.: the "*London Evening Post*."

This paper made its appearance Dec. 12th, 1727, and continued for upwards of fifty years to exert a decided influence on the politics and opinions of the day, and to steadily fight and suffer in the cause of a free and untrammelled press.

After the business had been conducted thus for about ten years, until 1737, John Meres, the son of Thomas and grandson of Sir Thomas Meres, who had been apprenticed by his father in 1712, now appears to have bought out and superseded his relative Nutt in the management.

Sir John, the second son of Sir Thomas, had succeeded under the will to his father's estates. He died in 1735, a bachelor.

His sister, Lady Pettus, was made executrix. The bulk of the landed property descended to Thomas Whichcote, Esq., the son of another sister. The personal estate was sold at auction and the proceeds divided among surviving relatives.

It is extremely probable, although I have no proof of the fact, that John Meres, the nephew, obtained a portion or recognition in this division of his uncle's estate, for immediately thereafter, on July 31st, 1737, he took possession of the premises in the Old Bailey and conducted the business in his own name.

He had previously married, June 2nd, 1732, Sarah Robinson, a London lady, at the Church of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, and there were now several little ones climbing his knees.

It appears that Meres edited the various publications and conducted their sale and circulation, living in the house in Old Bailey and having the papers printed for him by Richard Nutt, the imprint reading, "printed for John Meres," etc., other circumstances also leading to the same conclusion.

John Meres at once made quite a change in the appearance of the *Historical Register*, he added more matter, altered the contents materially, and printed the page with a different face to that of the preceding twenty-three volumes. He published the *Register* for two years, 1737 and 1738; but the *Gentleman's Magazine* which commenced in 1731, had followed and improved upon the *Register* and became very successful, hence Meres dropped the *Register* which was thereafter discontinued, and devoted his energies to the conduct of the *Daily Post* and the *London Evening Post*.

Quoting from the article "Newspapers," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, we read, "The history of newspapers during the long reign of George III., is a history of criminal prosecutions, in which individual writers and editors were repeatedly defeated and severely punished, whilst the press itself derived new strength from the protracted conflict, and turned ignominious penalties into signal triumphs."

We need not then be surprised to find that the subject of our sketch came into frequent collision with the ruling powers. The reign of George III. had not yet been reached, but we have seen no reason to anticipate an easier fate for those who antedate that period, consequently we read as follows under date December 2nd, 1739: Complaint made in the House of Commons against John Meres, printer of the "*Daily Post*," for publishing some remarks on the "Embargo on Provisions of Victual." This was considered a breach of privilege, as criticising the action of Parliament, (not to be tolerated in a newspaper). Meres attended at the bar of the House and expressed contrition, but the House was in ill humor and ordered him into custody of the Serjeant at Arms; and a motion was made that the King be petitioned by the House to prosecute Meres. After ten days' confinement Meres petitioned the House to be discharged, on account of his wife and his family of young children, and acknowledged his offence, but after three days the House refused to discharge him and moved that the Serjeant at Arms do carry him before the Lord Chief

Justice of the King's Bench, to answer the charge to be brought against him. Nearly two months more elapsed when, on February 10th, 1740, Meres again petitioned the House for his release, "bemoaning" his offense, declaring himself "miserably reduced in health and body by his confinement, and beseeching his discharge on behalf of his wife and children, who are like to become objects of charity by being deprived of their natural supporter."

Finally the House relented and Mr. Meres was ordered to be discharged, on giving bail for his good behavior and paying the costs and fees.

We have already seen that the Meres family were classed among the "High Flyers" or disaffected towards the Royal cause. It does not surprise us, therefore, to find the *London Evening Post* favoring the Stuarts, so far as could be dared, during the exciting days of the Young Pretender's invasion in 1745-46. Fielding, the novelist, with the encouragement of the Government, after a vigorous onslaught in the "True Patriot," brought out "with the object of discrediting the shattered remnant of an unsuccessful party," the "*Jacobite Journal*," which was commenced in 1747, purporting in sarcasm to be produced by "John Trottplaid, Esq.," and "bore the representation of Mr. and Mrs. Trottplaid, the former wearing a plaid waistcoat and the latter a plaid petticoat, and both lustily huzzaing, whilst a Jesuit is assiduously calling their attention to a copy of the '*London Evening Post*.'"

This brings us naturally to what now follows. In 1754 a letter to the editor signed "True Blue" was published in the *London Evening Post*, reflecting on the Government and the Revolution. This aroused the Government, who at once arrested Richard Nutt, the Printer, who, as we have said, printed the paper for Meres, and on the 10th of July, 1755, he was brought to trial in the Court of King's Bench for a libel on the Government.

The Hon. Hume Campbell opened the cause and the Attorney General enlarged on the heinousness of the offense.



Early Caricature attributed to Hogarth.

The witnesses subpoenaed by the Crown numbered above one hundred, but ten only were examined. Mr. Perrot and Mr. Moreton, who were counsel for the defendant, did not at all enter into the defence of the paper, but only insisted on the insufficiency of the evidence as to Mr. Nutt's being the printer of it. Between four and five the jury withdrew. Ten of them were unanimous, but the different opinions of the other two obliged the judge about eight o'clock to lock them up and dismiss the court.

About ten o'clock his Lordship received a message that they were agreed on the verdict, and he immediately returned with the Solicitor General, when Mr. Nutt was found guilty.

Judgment was deferred until Nov. 28, 1755, when he was brought to the Bar of the King's Bench and received the following sentence: To stand in the pillory on the 5th of December for one hour at Charing Cross, between the hours of 12 noon and 2 p. m., to be imprisoned in the King's Bench prison two years, to pay a fine of £500 (\$2,500), and find securities for good behaviour for five years, himself for £1,000 (\$5,000), and two sureties £500 (\$2,500) each.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* says: Friday, Dec. 5th, 1755, Mr. Nutt stood in the pillory pursuant to his sentence.

It is somewhat remarkable that Richard Nutt should have been singled out for this punishment when the *London Evening Post* for all the years of its issue, (which have been carefully examined in the British Museum), bears the imprint, "Printed for John Meres, Old Bailey." How much of the fine and surety was borne by Meres in settling accounts with his printer and relative I have been unable to discover. There is a tradition however, in the family, which I have received from three independent sources, that John Meres was fined so heavily by the Government, as to nearly ruin him, for publishing an expression of sympathy with the Revolution of the Pretender.

It is therefore certain that he was a sufferer with Nutt in

the payment of the heavy fine and costs imposed by the Court.

Mr. Richard Nutt survived his sentence and lived to a good old age. He retired from business some years before his death, which took place in 1780.

But this list of troubles is not yet over. By the law of that day it was a breach of privilege of the House of Lords for a printer to mention any nobleman by name, in the reports of the parliamentary proceedings, and the fine for this offense was £100 (\$500). "One Lord Marchmont seems to have had a morbid passion for collecting these penalties. No matter that the nobleman's name was mentioned with favour; no matter that the nobleman himself did not care a rush about it, Lord Marchmont must have his pound of flesh. He was in the habit, we are told, of examining the newspapers every day with the ardour that a hawk prowls for prey. Whenever he found my Lord's name printed in any paper, he immediately made a motion in the House of Lords against the printer for breach of privilege."

In 1764 John Meres, the printer and publisher of the *London Evening Post*, was brought to the bar of the House of Lords and fined £100 (\$500) and costs, £40 (\$200), for mentioning the name of Lord Hereford in his paper.

John Almon, the bookseller and friend of Wilkes, was the author of the paragraph that brought the law down upon Meres. Almon was at this time and continued to be a very strong asserter of the public right to know how public affairs were conducted in Parliament.

Thus was the war carried on between the King, Lords and Commons, against the Public Press, the fourth estate; and the latter were the martyrs and sufferers, through whose valliant fight and patient endurance we rejoice to-day in one of the greatest of National blessings—the Liberty of the Press—for the echo of this strife was not limited to the narrow shores of England.

The *London Evening Post* is one of the three daily papers

which at this early period (1764) endeavored to give a report, scanty it is true, but nevertheless somewhat approaching to a report, of the speeches and proceedings of Parliament. This was from notes gathered in the lobbies of the Houses and in coffee houses, from buttonholed members, taken by John Almon for the *Post* and by one Wade for the other two papers, but while the editors were maturing plans for a better system of reporting, a thunderbolt fell among them, Parliament again declared war against the liberty of the Press. This was the last struggle and Parliament was defeated.

John Meres died in 1761, and left his business to his son John, born 1733.

John Meres, second, continued the business of his father at the same place, No. 6 Old Bailey, in the house that was once the residence of Algernon Sidney, a significant base from which to fight the battle for liberty of thought.

As usual we find in the forefront of this battle the *London Evening Post*, and it was well generalised, for among other noted writers for this paper were the three Burkes, Edmund, the illustrious statesman and orator; William, and Richard, who wrote over the pseudonym of "Valens."

The practice of dragging news printers to the bars of the two Houses to make a hollow submission and an abject apology for doing yesterday what they intended to do again to-morrow, was now indeed falling into discredit. But in Feby., 1771, the House of Commons, smarting under the provocation of seeing its speeches reported daily, passed a resolution that upon the discovery of the authors, printers or publishers, of any such printed newspapers, this House will proceed against them with the utmost severity.

Accordingly in March following, warrants were issued for the arrest of the printers of six papers, including the *London Evening Post*. Of these the *Post* alone was singled out for prosecution.

But at this point the name of Meres, which has for thirty-five years appeared daily in the imprint of this now celebrated newspaper, disappears.

Desiring to avoid another conflict with the Government, Mr. Meres sold out his business and the *Daily Post* ceased to exist.

Nevertheless its brother paper, the *London Evening Post*, which for so many years had fought for liberty, was continued under new management, and maintained its old and well earned laurels under the change. What followed is a matter of history. After some delay the messenger of the Commons attempted to arrest the new printer of the *London Evening Post* in the City of London. The city claimed that its ancient chartered privileges were being invaded, arrested the messenger, and defied the House. A pitched battle ensued between the City of London and the House of Commons, resulting in the defeat of the House, which thereupon desisted from further attempts to control the presses of the Metropolis. Thus was liberty at last and finally won for the Press of England, through the newspaper established and maintained so long by the family of Meres.

John Meres, second, died before Richard Nutt, and none of his family maintained any further connection with the press.

Richard Nutt, the widower of Elizabeth Meere, died March 11th, 1780. He was much respected and had been elected to represent the ward of Farringdon-without, in the Common Council of the City of London; with him died the *London Evening Post*.

Though Mr. Nutt had not printed the paper for many years, he had obtained the controlling interest after the death of John Meres second, but unfortunately Mr. Nutt had no sons to continue his business.

New papers, new men, new methods were coming to the front, and the *London Evening Post*, after an existence of fifty-four years, closed its eventful career; its record has now become almost forgotten history

CHAPTER XIX.

TABLES OF DESCENT.

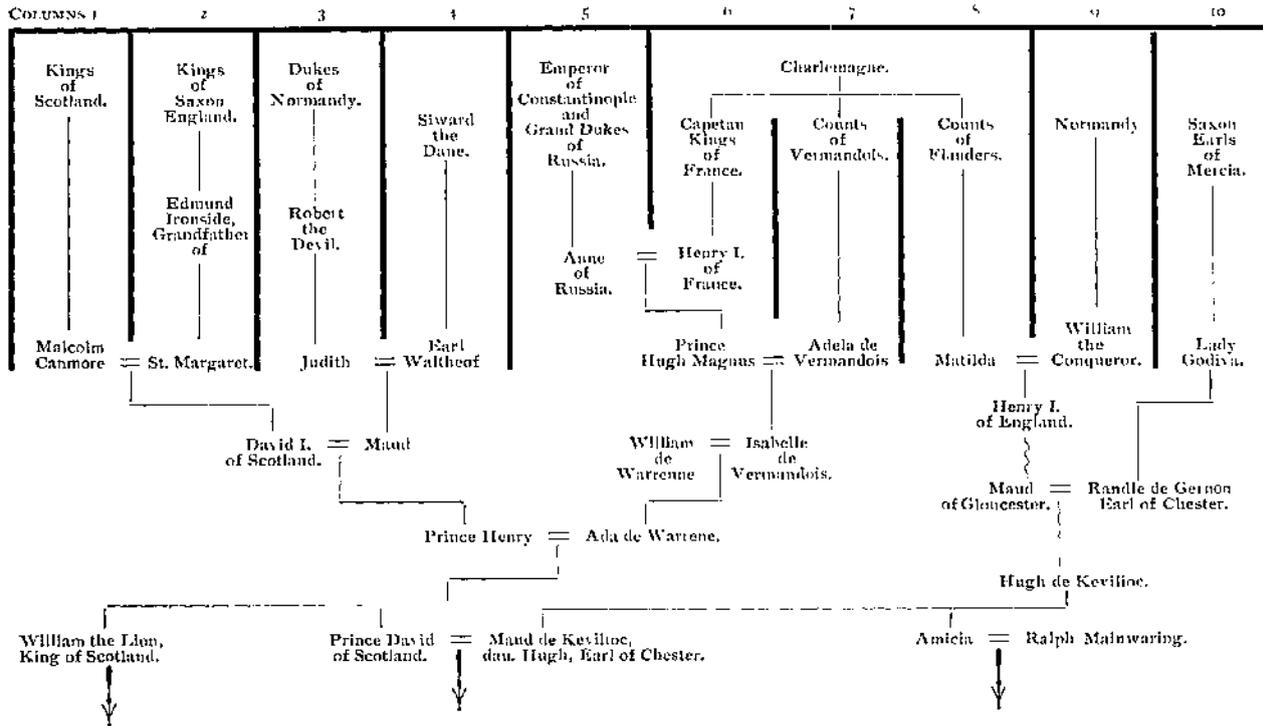
It has become the fashion for American genealogists to trace the descent of their families from some noted ancestor who immigrated during the seventeenth century, and not a few have attempted to carry their line beyond that period to well-known or ennobled English houses supposed to belong to their race and lineage.

The following tables showing the descent of the ancient families of Reynes and Meres, will not, therefore, be considered unusual nor vain; they are given not because there is any glory supposed to attach to such tabular statements, but for the reason that the alliances and names shown to be connected with the family are notable, historic and interesting.

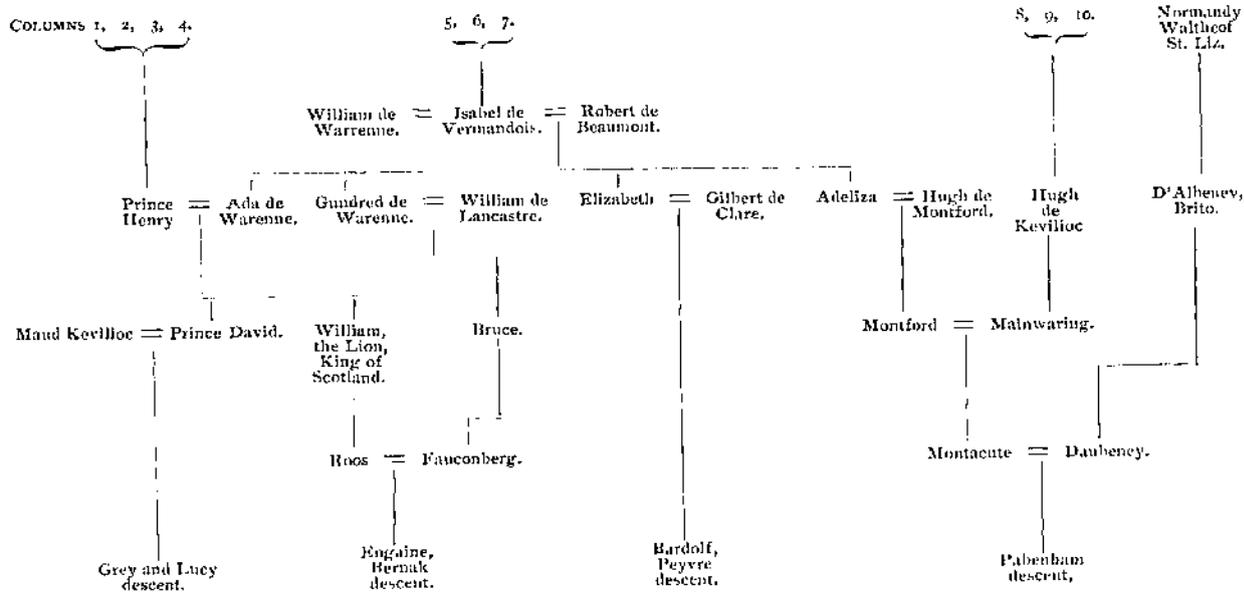
So far as the author knows, every statement given in these tables is accepted by the latest and best authorities, and they are believed to be authentic.

The descent is through the first, or left hand column of names.

CONDENSED TABLE OF ROYAL DESCENT.



Refers to Columns in Condensed Table (preceding).



REYNES—DECONS.

Table 1.

GREY AND LUCY DESCENT.

Prince David of Scotland, descended from the Kings of Scotland, Kings of England, Kings of France, Dukes of Normandy, Grand Dukes of Russia, Emperors of Constantinople and Counts of Vermandois, married Maud of Chester, descended from the Counts of Flanders, William the Conqueror and Lady Godiva.

Prince David of Scotland=Maud, de Kevilioc, dau. Hugh Earl Chester.

Margaret, eldest dau.=Alan, Earl of Galloway.

Helien of Galloway=Roger de Quincy, 2d Earl Winchester.

Margaret de Quincey=William Ferrars, 7th Earl of Derby.

Wm. Ferrars, 2d son, of Groby=Joan, dau. Hugh le despenser.

Ann Ferrars, 1st wife=John, 2d Lord Grey de Wilton.

Henry de Grey, 3d Lord Wilton=Anne, dau. Ralph Rockley.

Reginald Grey, 4th Lord Wilton=Maud, dau. John Botetourt.

Katherine Grey=Sir Geoffry de Lucy of Chelmscote.

Katherine Lucy=John Tyringham of Tyringham.

John Tyringham=Eleanor, dau. Sir Lawrence Pabenham

John Tyringham=Alice, dau. Sir John Olney.

John Tyringham=Elizabeth, dau. Sir Edmd. Brudenell.

Agnes Tyringham=Sir John Reynes of Clifton-Reynes.

Elizabeth Reynes=Richard Decons of Marston.

Table 2.

ROOS DESCENT.

Malcolm Canmore, King of Scotland=Margaret, dau. Edward the Exile.
gr. dau. Edmund Ironsides.

David I., King of Scotland.=Maud, dau. of Earl Waltheof,

Prince Henry of Scotland=Ada de Wareme.

William the Lion, King Scots father of

Isabel his daughter=Robert de Roos of Hamlake.

William de Roos=Lucy Fitz Piers.

Robert de Roos=Isabel de Albini (Belvoir).

Isabel de Roos=Walter Lord Fauconberg.

[See Table 3.]

REYNES—DECONS.

Table 3.

ENGAINE, BERNAK DESCENT.

- Henry I., King of France=Anne of Russia.
Hugh Magnus=Adela de Vermandois.
Isabel de Vermandois=William de Warrenne.
Gundred de Warrenne=William de Lancaster.
William de Lancaster=Helwyse de Stytville.
Helwyse de Lancaster=Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid.
Helwyse Fitz Reinfrid=Peter de Brus of Skelton.
Agnes de Bruce=Walter Lord Fauconbrige.
Walter Fauconberg (Table 2)=Isabel de Roos.
Walter Fauconberg=Anastacia de Nevil.
Amicia Fauconberg=Nicholas Engaine.
John Engaine=Joane Peverell.
Maria Engaine=Sir William Bernack.
John Bernack=Anne Noone.
Mary Bernack=Robert Stonham.
Robert Stonham=Katherine Burgett.
Elizabeth Stonham=John Broughton.
Joan Broughton=Thomas Reynes.
John Reynes=Agnes Tyringham.
Elizabeth Reynes=Richard Decons.

Table 4.

BARDOLPH, PEYVRE DESCENT.

- Isabel de Vermandois=Robert de Beaumont.
Elizabeth de Beaumont=Gilbert de Clare, Earl Pembroke.
Richard de Clare "Strongbow"=Eva, dau. Dermot MacMurrough,
King of Leinster, Ireland.
Isabel de Clare=William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke.
Sybil Marshall=William Ferrars, Earl of Derby.
Joane Ferrars, 4th daughter=Robert de Aguillar.
Isabel de Aguillar=Hugh (Lord Bardolf).
Elizabeth Bardolf=Paulin Peyvre.
Nicholas Peyvre=Margaret, dau. Sir Thos. Arden, Kt.
Thomas Peyvre=Margaret, dau. Sir Nigel Loryng.
Mary Peyvre=John Broughton.
John Broughton=Elizabeth Stonham.
Joan Broughton=Thomas Reynes.
Sir John Reynes=Agnes Tyringham.
Elizabeth Reynes=Richard Decons.

REYNES—DECONS.

Table 5.

MONTFORT, MONTACUTE DESCENT.

	Isabel de Vermandois=Robert de Beaumont, Earl Leicester 2d husband.
	Adaliza de Beaumont=Hugh de Montfort, 4th Baron.
Thurston de Montfort de Beldesert	father of
Henry de Montfort	father of
Thurston de Montfort	father of
	Peter de Montfort=Alice dau. Henry de Aldithley Killed at Evesham.
Peter de Montfort	father of
Elizabeth de Montfort	=William, son and heir Simon, Lord Montacute.
	Alice Montacute=Ralph Daubency. [Tables 6 and 7.]

Table 6.

MAINWARING DESCENT.

Henry I., King of England	father of
Robert, Earl of Gloucester	=Mabel Fitz Hamon.
Matilda of Gloucester	=Ranulf de Gernon, Earl of Chester.
	Hugh de Kevilloc=1st wife, name unknown.
	Amicia of Chester=Ralph Mainwaring.
	Henry de Audley=Bertrade de Mainwaring.
Alice de Aldithley or Audley	=Peter de Montfort.
	Peter de Montfort father of
Elizabeth de Montfort	=William, 2d Lord Montacute.
	Alice Montacute=Ralph Daubency. [Table 7.]

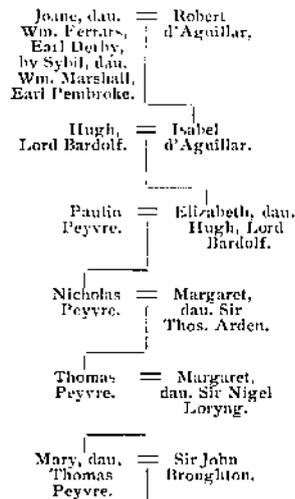
REYNES · DECONS.

Table 7.

DAUBENEY, PABENHAM DESCENT.

- Rollo the Dane, Duke of Normandy=Poppa, dau. Count of Bayeaux.
Win. Longsword, " " =Adela, dau. Count de St. Liz.
Richard I., the Fearless " =Gunnora, dau. Herbastus.
Richard II., the Good " father of
 Robert the Devil=Harlotta of Falaise.
 Adeliza=Count Lambert de Lens in Artois.
Judith, Lady of Daventry=Earl Waltheof.
 Maud=1st, Simon de St. Liz, Earl Huntingdon
 Maud de St. Liz=William d' Albin Brito.
 Ralph DaubeneY=Sibella de Valoynes.
 Ralph DaubeneY=Isabel.
 Elias DaubeneY=Hawise.
Ralph DaubeneY (Tables 5 and 6)=Alice, dau. William, Lord Montacute.
 Giles DaubeneY=Alianor, dau. Sir Henry Wyllington.
 Joane DaubeneY=Sir Lawrence PabenhAm.
Eleanor PabenhAm=John Tyingham.
 John Tyingham=Alice, dau. Sir John Olney.
 John Tyingham=Elizabeth, dau. Edmund Brudenell.
Agnes Tyingham=Sir John Reynes of Clifton Reynes.
Elizabeth Reynes=Richard Decons.

Table 4.
Columns 5, 6, 7; 5, 6, 7.



Tables 2 and 3.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

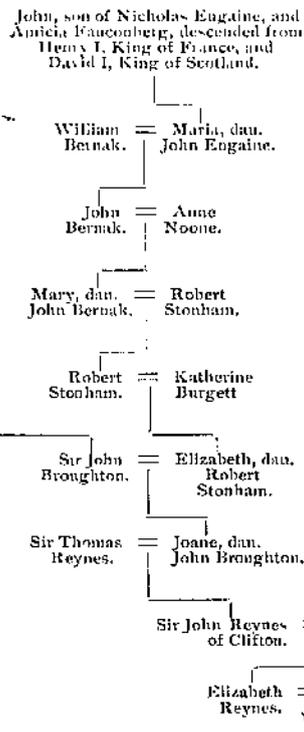


Table 7. 9
Tables 5 & 6. 8, 9, 10.

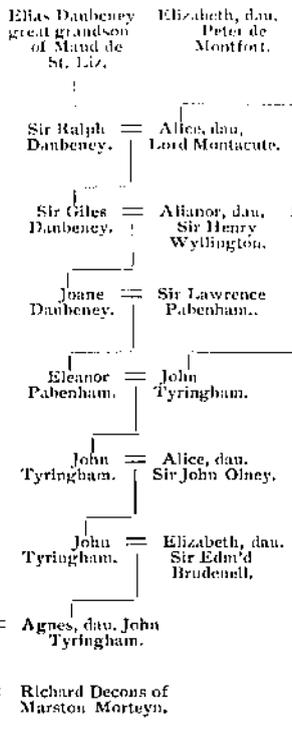
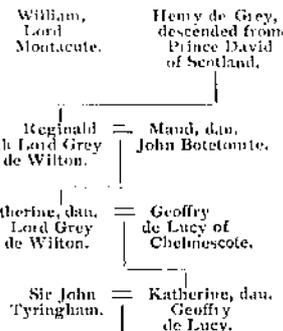


Table 1.
1, 2, 3, 4.



MERES OF KIRTON—TABLE A.

HARINGTON DESCENT.

- Malcolm Canmore, King of Scotland=Margaret, gr. dau, Edmund Ironsides
David I., King of Scotland=Maud, widow of St. Liz. and dau. of
Earl Waltheof.
Henry, Prince of Scotland=Ada, dau. Earl de Warenne.
David, Earl of Huntingdon=Maud, dau. Hugh de Kevilioc, Earl of
Chester.
Isabella of Scotland=Robert Bruce, Lord of Annandale,
great grandfather of the great
Bruce.
Robert de Brus or Bruce=Isabella, dau. Gilbert de Clare, 5th
Earl Hertford and 3d Earl Gloucester,
by Isabel, dau. Wm. Marshall,
Earl Pembroke, and the granddau.
of Strongbow by his wife Eva,
dau. Dermod, King of Leinster.
Bernard de Bruce of Conington=Constantia de Morton.
and Exton, Co. Rut'd
Bernard de Bruce (ob. 29 Ed. II.)=Agatha.
Sir Bernard de Bruce (ob. 4 Ed. III.)=Agneta.
Sir John de Bruce (ob. 24 Ed. III.)=Margaretta.
Joanna Bruce=Sir Nicholas Green, Kt.
Jane Green=Thomas Colepepper, Esq.
Sir Thomas Colepepper=Juliana, dau. Sir Ralph Cromwell, Kt.
Catherine Colepepper=John Harington of Fleet Holland, Licnc
Robert Harington=Maud, dau. Sir John Prescott.
Sir John Harington=Alice, dau. Henry Southill.
Sir John Harington=Elizabeth, dau. Robt. Morton.
Sir James Harington=Lucy, dau. Sir Wm. Sidney.
Mabilia Harington=Sir Andrew Noel, Kt.
Sir Edward Noel, Kt.=Julian, dau. Sir Baptist Hicks,
Viscount Campden.
Mary Hicks=Sir Erasmus de la Fontaine of Kirby
Bellars.
Anne de la Fontaine=Sir Thomas Meres, Kt.

MERES OF KIRTON—TABLE B.

SIDNEY DESCENT.

William the Conqueror=Matilda of Flanders.
Henry I., King of England=Matilda, dau. Malcolm, King of
Scotland.
Princess Matilda=Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou
Henry II., King of England=Eleanor of Acquitaine.
John, King of England=Isabel of Angouleme.
Henry III., King of England=Eleanor of Provence.
Edward I., King of England=Eleanor of Castille.
Princess Elizabeth (Table C)=Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford
William Bohun, Earl of Northam'ton=Elizabeth Badelsmere.
Elizabeth Bohun (Table D)=Richard, Earl of Arundel.
Elizabeth Fitz Alan=Sir Robert Goushill.
Elizabeth Goushill=Sir Robert Wingfield.
Elizabeth Wingfield=Sir William Brandon.
Anne Brandon=Sir Nicholas Sidney.
Sir William Sidney=Anne Pagenham.
Lucy Sidney (Table A)=Sir James Harington.
Mabilia Harington=Sir Andrew Noel.
Sir Edward Noel=Julian Hicks.
Mary Hicks=Sir Erasmus de la Fontaine.
Anne Fontaine=Sir Thomas Meres.

MERES—TABLE C.

CHARLEMAGNE, STRONGBOW DESCENT.

Henry I., King of France=Anne of Russia.
Hugh Magnus=Adela de Vermandois.
Isabel de Vermandois=Robert de Beaumont.
Elizabeth de Beaumont=Gilbert de Clare, Earl Pembroke.
Richard de Clare "Strongbow"=Eva, dau. Dermot MacMurrough,
King of Leinster, Ireland.
Isabel de Clare=William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke.
Eva, dau. William Marshall=William de Braose.
Eleanor de Braose=Humphrey de Bohun.
Humphrey de Bohun=Maud, dau. Ingram de Fines.
Humphrey de Bohun (Table B)=Elizabeth, dau. King Edw. I.

TABLE D.

Henry III., King of England=Eleanor of Provence.
Edmund Crouchback=Blanche of Navarre.
Henry, Earl of Lancaster=Maud, dau. Patrick Chaworth.
Eleanor Plantagenet=Richard, Earl of Arundel.
Richard, Earl of Arundel (Table B)=Elizabeth Bohun.

STODDARD - DEACON.

- Sir James Ware, Kt., M.P., ob. 1632 = Mary, sister to Sir Ambrose Bryden, Kt.
Anne Ware, = Emmanuel Downinge, born 1585.
sister of Sir James Ware, Kt., Married 2d Lucy, sister to Gov.
M. P. 1594-1666. John Winthrop.
- Mary Downing, = Anthony Stoddard, came to New Eng-
sister to Sir George Downing, land 1638, merchant of Boston,
Bart. Mass. ob. 1687.
- Rev. Solomon Stoddard of North- = Mrs. Esther Mather, *nee* Warham, of
ampton, Mass., 1643-1729. Windsor, Conn., ob. 1736 aged 96.
- Rev. Anthony Stoddard of Wood- = Prudence, great granddaughter of
bury, Conn., uncle to Rev. Jona- Governor Thomas Welles of Conn.
than Edwards.
- Gideon Stoddard of Woodbury = Olive, dan. John Curtis, died 1776.
Conn., 1714-1780. Captain
and Deacon.
- Captain Nathan Stoddard, Revolu- = Eunice Sanford, died at Woodbury
tionary army. Killed at Fort Oct., 1794, aged 48.
Mifflin, Del., Nov. 1777.
- Nathan Ashbel Stoddard of Pawlet = Ruth Judson, 1775-1838.
Vt., died at Pulaski, N. Y., 1848.
- Capt. Rodman Stoddard, J. P., died = Mary Mattison, 1809-1893.
at Detroit, Mich. 1797-1853.
- Eliza Stoddard = Edward Deacon, Bridgeport, Conn.

**BULKELEY, WAKEMAN, BATES,
of Fairfield, Conn.**

Bulkeley, Bulkley, from whom sprang the Lords of Bulkeley, Co. Chester, the Viscounts Bulkeley of Ireland, and the Barons Bulkeley of Beaumaris, likewise the Bulkeley families of Haughton, Cheadle, Burgate, Wore, Odell and New England.

AUTHORITIES

Burke's Extinct Peerage.
Visitation Bedfordshire, Harleian Society, Vol. 19.
New Eng. Gen. & Hist. Register, v. 23, p. 299.
Dic. Nat. Brit. Biography.
Schenck's Hist. of Fairfield.
Probate and County Records, Fairfield, Ct.

LINEAGE.

Robert Bulkeley, Lord of the Manor of Bulkeley, Co. Chester, temp. K. John.

William Bulkeley, Lord of Bulkeley=

Robert Bulkeley of Bulkeley=Jane, dau. Sir Wm. Butler of
Warrington.

William Bulkeley of Bulkeley=Maud, dau. Sir John Davenport,
living 1302.

Robert Bulkeley of Eaton,=Agnes.

Ancestor of the Viscounts Bulkeley of Cashel and the Barons Bulkeley of Beaumaris.

Peter Bulkeley of Haughton=Nicola, d. and h. Thomas Bird of
Alpraham.

John Bulkeley of Haughton=Arderne, dau. John Fitley of Woore.

Hugh Bulkeley of Wore=Helen, dau. Thomas Wilbraham of
Woodhey.

Humphrey Bulkeley of Wore=Grisell, d. and h. John Molton.

William Bulkeley of Wore in Co.=Beatrice, d. and h. of Wm. Hill of
Salop. Buntingstall.

Thomas Bulkeley of Wore=Elizabeth, d. Randall Grosvenor of
Belleapree.

Rev. Edward Bulkeley, D.D., Rector=Olyff Irby of Irby, Co. Lincoln, of the
of Odell, Co. Bedford, Prebend family of the Lords Boston. *Dic.*
of Litchfield. *Nat. Biog., Vol. VII., p. 235.*

Rev. Peter Bulkeley of Odell, b. 1583=1st wife Jane, dau. Thomas Allen of
d. 1659, sold his estate and came Goldington, Co. Bedford. She
to New England about 1635. died at Odell 1626.
Founded Concord, Mass.

Thomas Bulkeley, B. 1617, d. 1658.=Sarah, dau. Rev. John Jones, first
removed from Concord to Fairfield, Conn., she
field, Ct., 1644, with the Rev. minister of Fairfield, Conn., she
John Jones. mar'd 2d, Anthony Wilson, and
died 1680.

John Bulkeley, died 1707=Sarah Whelpley, dau. Joseph.
Records Fairfield.

Esther Bulkeley, mar'd Jan. 27, 1729=John Hill, died before 1770.
Rec. Fairfield, Ct.

Sarah Hill, b. April 28, 1742= *George Wakeman, mar'd 1762.
Records Fairfield. See Wakeman Genealogy.

Hill Wakeman, b. 1766, d. 1845=Dorcas Saunders, b. 1779, d. 1858.
m. 1796, settled at Bainbridge,
Chenango Co., N. Y.

Pamela Wakeman, b. 1805, d. 1872=Stephen Bates, b. 1798, d. 1840.
m. 1822.

Dorcas Dorothy Bates, b. 1839,=James A. Tiller of Detroit, Mich.
d. 1864.

Carrie D. Tiller, b. Sept. 13, 1858,

adopted daughter of Edward Deacon of Bridgeport, Ct.

*Great grandson of Rev. Samuel Wakeman, minister of Fairfield, Ct.

APPENDIX.

NOTES, ETC.

Page 25.

John Deacon of Caddington, in the Co. of Hertford and in the diocese of Lincoln. Will dated 12 April, 1612; Proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Bedford, 23 September, 1617.

Caddington, which is not to be confounded with Cardington in Beds., is partly in Herts and partly in Beds. It would seem that when he made his will the testator was living in the Herts. portion and at his death was residing in the Beds. portion.

John Stopesley of Clophill, in the county of Bedford, yeoman, December 11, 1616. "I give and bequeath to my nephew, John Deacon of Clophill aforesaid, and his heires for ever, all my copie holde with all and singular the appurtenances within the parishe of Clophill wch I have surrendered to the use of the saide John Deacon and his heires as may appeare, to be in force after my decease uppon this condition, that he the saide John Deacon, his heires, executors, administrators or assignes, doe well and truly pay the some of three score poundes of goode and lawfull money of England in manner and fourme as followethe, that is to sai, firste I will that he, the saide John Deacon, his heires, executors, administrators or assignes shall paie onto Willyam Deacon of Kinges Wallden, in

Hartfordshire, XX s. within one whole yeare after my decease." Mention is then made of Grace, the wife of Edward Lilborne of Clophill, and the four sons of the said Grace, which she had by her first husband, Henry Deacon, deceased, whose names were Stopsley Deacon, Willyam Deacon, Richard Deacon and Henry Deacon. Mentions also Agnes Deacon of Clophill, Daughter of Richard Deacon, deceased, and Joane Bell, mother of the said Agnes, Thomas Deacon of Clophill, my nephew, Elizabeth, the daughter of Thomas Deacon and Agnes her sister, and Agnes the daughter of John Deacon. Residue to John Deacon of Clophill, who is executor. Proved 18 November, 1617.

(*Archdeaconry Court of Bedford, Lib. xxviii fo. 14 b.*)

The family of the testator of 1616, undoubtedly took its name from the parish of Stopsley in Bedfordshire.

Pages 52 and 57. Value of Money.

Augustus Jessopp, D.D., says: "I express my very strong conviction that a charge of £1,600 in 1598 would *at least* be equivalent to £20,000 in our own days." (The italics are his.) The disparity must have been greater the earlier the date.

One generation of a Norfolk house, page 316, ed. 1879.

WILL OF RICHARD DECONS, 1521.

Page 53.

P. C. C. 11, Mainwaring.

In Dei nomine Amen. forasmoch as this world is transitory and no man lyving in the same hathe any certayntie of his lif, Therefor I, Richard Dicons, Esquier, beyng in hoole mynde, lauded be god, make my testament and last will in fourme follouyng :

ffirst I bequethe my soule to almyghty god and to our Lady saint mary and to all the holy Company of Heven, my body to be buryed in the Chapell of saint (blank) wtin

the Church of Marston if I fortune to deceas within xxx Miles of the same. And if I fortune to deceas in London, or within xij Miles of Barkyng, then I will my body to be buried within the said monastery there. And incontenently after my deceas I will that myne Executours doo cause a thousand masses to be said for me and a preste contenually to syng for me duryng the space of xx yeres. Also I bequethe to thabbesse of Barkyng a gold Ryng with a Saphur and xiijs. iiij d. in money. And to every Lady keyng hc usehold vjs. viij d. And to every Lady keyng no houshold ijs. iiij d. Also to the prioresse of the Menoresse in London vjs. viij d., and to every Lady there ijs. iiij d., they to kepe a solempne dirige & masse of Requiem. Also to the ffrieris of Bedford xx s. for ij. trentalle. Also to the ffrieris of Dunstable xx s. for ij. tryntalle. Also to the priores and Ladies of the priory besydes saint Albones xx s., and to the ij. ancessis there eyther of theym ijs. iiij d. Also to the gray ffrieris in London xx s. for ij. tryntalle. Item. I bequeth to my doughter Kateryn for hir mariage cc.li. Also to Margaret Lynche for hir mariage C marc. And to Henry Lynch xxvj li xiijs. iiij d.

MEMORAND' that the (blank) daye of Octob'r in the xijth yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the VIIIth, Richard Dicons, Esquier, beyng in goode and pfitte remembrance said and declared that he had made a will of his londez, and also had begonne his testament and will of his moueables, whereof he had wryten part and certeine bequeste with his owne hande which he wold shuld stande and be pformed, howbeit he had not made ne named his Executours, wherfor there and thun the said Richard named constitute and made his wif, William Bulstred, Esquier, and Walter Luke, gentelman, his Executours. and furtherly over and above the contente in his said will and testament, he than declared and willed that if it fortunod hym to deceas his sonnes beyng then within the age of xxj yeris, then that Jane his wif, the said William Bulstrid and Walter Luke his Executours, shuld receive and take all the Rente

issues and profite of all hismanours, landez and tenemente Excepte his wife Joynter til his said sonnes come to the said age of xxj yeris towardis the payment of his dette, ffynding of his childern, and the performyng of his legacies and bequests. And all the Residue of the said Rente and profite of his landes duryng the said Nonage taken and Receyued should be disposed by his said Exccutours in dedis of Charitie for the welth of his soule. And when Thomas his second Sonne come to his full age of xxj yearis then he willed that he should have the Maner of Marston with thappurtenance after the maner, forme and effecte conteyned in the said will of his landes. And in lykewise he wold that when his sonne Richard come to his full age that he shuld have all such maners, landes & tent's as he had assigned hym in his said will. And after lyke maner, fourme and effecte as was conteyned in his said will. And also he declared that when ffraunces his sonne come to lyke age that then he shuld have such landes and tenemente as he had assigned hym in his said will and under lyke maner and forme as it was and is conteyned in his said will of and upon the disposicion of his landez and tenements. furtherly he said and declared that where he had bequethed to his daughter Kateryn to hir mariage ccli in his foresaid testament, that if it fortunod the said Kateryn his daughter to dye before full age or mariage, that then the said ccli to hir so bequethed shuld be by his said Executours egally devided bitwene his sonnes.

ULTIMA VOLUNTAS RICHI. DICONS.

THIS IS THE LAST WYLL of me, Richard Dicons, Esquier, towchyng the disposicion of all my maners, landez and tenemente that I or any other to myne use have wtin the Realme of England. ffirst I will that Thomas Decons, my Second sonne, shal have aft'r my deceas the maner of Marston Morteyn with thappurtenances in the Countie of Bedd, to hym and to his heires males of his bodye lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such issue male of his bodye

lawfully begoten I will the said maner with thappurtenances Remyne to ffrauncez Dicons, brother of the said Thomas, to have to hym and to his heires males of his body lawfully begotten. And for defaulte of such issue I will the said maner wt the appurtenances remayne to Kateryn my doughter, Sister to the said Thomas and ffraunces, and to the heires male of hir body lawfully begotten. And for defaulte of such issue to the heires of the bodye of the said Thomas lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such issue the Remynder thereof to the said ffraunces and to the heires of his body lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such issue the said manner with thappurtenances to Remyne to the right heires of Thomas Raynes, ffather of John Raynes, esquier, deceased ffather of Elizabethhe, late wif of the said Richard Dicons. Also I will that the foresaid Thomas Dicons shall have after my deceas the manor of Lytlington, Called the Halle late Goldyngtons to hym and to his heires males of his body lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such issue the said maner to Remyne to Richard Dicons, my eldest sonne, to have to hym and to his heires males of his body lawfully begoten. And for default of such issue I will the said maner with th' appurtenances to Remyne to ffraunces Dicons, my yongest sonne, to have to hym and to his heires males of his body lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such issue the Remynder thereof to Thomas Dicons my brother, and the heirs males of his body lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such issue the Remynder thereof to John Dicons my yongest brother and to the heires males of his body lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such issue the Remynder thereof to the Right heirs of me the said Richard forever. Also I will that Richard Dicons, my oldest Sonne, shall have after my deceas all such landez and tenemente lying in the Townes of Rydyng, Southampton, Salisbury, Alconyng and Strete to hym and to his heires of his body lawfully begoten. Also I will that after the deceas of Jane my wif the said Richard to have all the landez and tenemente

and quite rents lying in Whitwaltham, Lawrencewaltham, Shottesbroke, Bynfield and Okyngham, and also the maner called Barnes, wt appurtenances in Stewcley in the Countie of Buk. And also all the landes and tenementes in Sudbury. and also all the landes and tente wt appurtenances in Abbote Langley and in the Towne of saint Albons to have to hym and to his heires males of his bodye lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such issue I will the said maners with all the landes and tenementes and quite rente aforesaid wt thappurtenancez to Remyne to ffraunces Dicons his brother to have to hym and to his heires males of his body lawfully begoten. And for default of such issue the said Maners, londes and tenementes with thappurtenances to Remyne to Thomas Dicons, brother to the said ffraunces, to have to hym and to his heires males of his body lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such issue the Remynder thereof to Thomas Dicons my brother, & to the heires males of his body lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such issue the Remynder thereof to John Dicons my brother, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten. And for defaulte of such issue the Remynder thereof to the right heires of me, the said Richard forever. Also I will that ffraunces Decons, my youngest sonne, shall have after my deceas the annuytie of iiij li and x s. goyng oute of the maner of Clifton Raynes, and also the Reu'cion of the Moytie of the same maner with the avouson of the Church after the deceas of my Cosyn, Maister Thomas Raynes, prest. And also all my landes and tenementes with thappurtenances lying in Edworth and other villages there next adjoyning. And also a tenement called the George in lytill Birkhall with thappurtenances. And also all my landes and tenementes lying in Layghton bussard, and also the maner wt all other my londis and tenementes in Stanbrygge to have to hym and to hys heires males of his body lawfully begoten. and for default of such issue to Richard Dicons his brother and to the heires males of his body lawfully begoten. And for de-

faulte of suche Issue to Thomas Dicons, brother to the said Richard, and to the heires males of his body lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of such Issue, the Remynder thereof to Thomas Dicons my Brother and to the heires males of his body lawfully begoten. And for defaulte of suche Issue the remaynder thereof to John Decons, my Brother, and to the heires males of his body lawful begoten. And for defaulte of suche Issue the Remynder thereof to the right heirs of me, the said Richard, foreuer.

PROBATUM fuit supra scriptum testamentum coram dno apud Lamhith vicesimo primo die mensis Junii Anno dni Miltimo quingentesimo vicesimo primo Jurament Johanne Relicte et Exccutricis in hmoi testamento noiat.

Escheators Inquisitions Post Mortem 12-13 Hen., VIII., Series 2, File 16.

RICHARD DECONS. BUCKS.

Inquisition taken at Stony Stratford, 2 October, 13 Hen. VIII., (1521) before William Tanfield, Esq., Escheator, after the death of Richard Decons, Esq., by the oath of John Richardson, John Smith, etc., jurors, who say that Richard Decons was not seized alone solely of any manors, etc., when he died, but that long before his death he was seized of the manor of Stukeley in the said county, and of three messuages, two hundred acres of land and one hundred acres of pasture in Sulbury, and so seized he encoffed thereof Richard Broke, Knight, Serjeant-at-Law, Hugh Ashheton, Clerk, Nicholas Couper, Clerk, John Mundy, citizen & Alderman of London, William Jenkys of London, grocer, William Lynch of Cranbroke, Clothier, &c., &c.: to hold to them and their heirs to the use of Joan Decons, widow, late the wife of the said Richard Decons, for the term of her life, and after her decease to the use of the said Ric. Decons & his heirs and to fulfil his last will. The said Joan still survives. Afterwards the said Richard Decons declared his last will, whereby he declared that the

said feoffees should after the decease of the said Joan be seized of the said premises to the use of Richard Decons his son and heir, and his heirs male; and for default of such issue then to the use of Francis Decons, younger brother of the said Richard Decons (the son) & his heirs male; and for default then to the use of Thomas Decons, elder brother of the said Francis, & his heirs male; and for default, then to the use of Thomas Decons, brother of the said Richard Decons (the father) and his heirs male; and for default, then to the use of John Decons, younger brother of the said Richard Decons (the father) and his heirs male, and for default, then to the use of the right heirs of the said Richard Decons (the father) forever. The said Richard Decons long before his death was seised of a certain messuage in "Lytyll Brykhyll" in the said county and so seised he enfeoffed thereof Richard Verney, junior, Knt., John Verney, Esq., &c., to hold to them and their heirs to the use of the said Richard Decons & his heirs forever. By his said will the said Richard Decons willed that if he should happen to die during the minority of his son Francis, that then the said Joan Decons, William Bulstrode & Walter Luke his executors should receive the profits of the said Messuage until the said Francis should attain his full age of 21, to pay his (testator's) debts and legacies, and afterwards to the use of said Francis and his heirs male, with remainder successively in tail male to Richard Decons, brother of the said Francis, Thomas Decons junior, Thomas Decons senior, John Decons and the right heirs of the said Richard Decons (the father) forever.

The said manor of Stukeley is held of Nicholas Vaux, Knight, but by what service the jurors know not, and is worth per an., clear, £4. The lands and tenements in Sulbury are held of Richard Lovett, gent., by what services the jurors know not, and are worth per an., clear, £3. The messuage in "Lytyll Brykkyll" is held of Anna Spencer, widow, and is worth per ann., clear, 40 s.

Richard Decons died the last day of May last past (1521); Richard Decons junior is his son & heir and is aged 15 years and more.

(The Inq. itself is in Latin.)

*Escheators Inquisitions post mortem 13. 14 Hen. VIII.,
Series 2, File 17.*

RICHARD DECONS, ESQ., BEDFORD.

Inquisition taken at Bedford 20 Oct., 14 Hen. VIII. (1522) before John Fitz Jeffrey, Esq., Escheator, after the death of Richard Decons, Esq., by the oath of John Ward, &c., &c., jurors, who say that Robert Brudenell, Chief Justice of the Common Bench, John Saint John, Knt., Henry Gray, Knt., &c., &c., were seized of the manor of Marston Morteyn, together with the advowson of the Church there to the use of the said Richard Decons and Elizabeth his wife and their heirs; and for default to the use of the said Elizabeth and her heirs, and for default then to the use of the right heirs of Thomas Raynes, Esq., deceased, forever. Afterwards the said Elizabeth died, and the said Richard died on the 6th June, 13 Henry VIII. (1521). After his death the use of the said manor descended to Thomas Decons as son & heir of the said Richard & Elizabeth: he is aged 12 years and more.

The said manor is held of Richard, Earl of Kent, as of his Barony of Caynhoo by the service of one knight's fee and a half, and is worth per ann. £50.

Thomas Reynes, Clerk, John Cheyne, Esq., and others were seized of the manor of Lythington, late Goldyngton's Manor, to the use of the said Richard & Eliz. & their heirs. After their decease the use of the said manor descended to the said Thomas Decons. The said manor is held of the Abbess of Berkyng by the yearly service of 20 s. and by suit at the Court of the said manor, and is

worth per ann. 20 marks. William Blount, Knt., Robert Cheyny & Wm. Bolstrode were seised of the manor of Norwode lately purchased of Richard, Earl of Kent, to the use of the said Richard Decons & his heirs. After the death of the said Richard the use of the said manor descended to Richard Decons his son & heir, who is aged 17 years and more. The said manor is held of the King.

The said Wm. Blount, Robt. Cheyny & Wm. Rudhale were seized of 30 a. of meadow and 800 a. of pasture in Rygmond, called Brokborowe pasture & park, to the use of the said Ric. Decons & his heirs, after whose death the use of the said premises descended to the said Richard Decons junior: they are worth per ann. 20 marks. William Botry of London, mercer, took the issues and profits of the said manor of Norwode & of Brokborowe pasture & park from the death of the said Ric. Decons senior up to the present time.

The said Ric. Decons senior died seized of two messuages, 200 a. of land and 40 a. of meadow in Stanbrigge which are held of Sybilla Chamberlayn, widow, as of her manor of Tyllesworth, and are worth per ann. 4 marks.

Walter Luke, Henry Joy & others were seised of 2 messuages & 40 a. of land & pasture in Edworth to the use of the said Ric. Decon & his heirs, which the said Ric. by his will bequeathed to his said son Francis & his heirs male. The said premises are worth per ann. £5 and are held of the Prior of Newenham by fealty and the yearly rent of 9 s. 9 d.

(The original document is very much faded and can only be read with great difficulty.)

Page 67.

Thomas Decons, of Marston, Will 12 Augt., 1549: ob. 7 Sept. ult. Inq. post mort. Amphill 14 Jan., 3 Edw. VI., Bedford. Thomas, son and heir, æt. 11, 24 Oct. last.

Probate Court, Northampton, 1543.

RICHARD DECONS.

Page 86.

In dei noie Amen the xxij day of May in the yere of our Lord god Mccccxliij and the xxxv yere of the Reigne of our sofering Lord King Henry the eight by the grace of god of yngland, ffrance and yrland King, defender of the fayth and in erth sup'me hede of the church of yngland and yrland, I Richard Decons of Maston Morton in the coun. of bed. gent., being hole and pfyte in mynde do constitute, orden and make this my laste will and Testament in man' and forme followeing. ffirst I bequethe my soull to almightie god and to our blessed Lady sanct Mary the vargen and all the copeny of heven, my body to be beried within the churche of Marstan aforesayd. Itm, I will and bequethe to the high autor there iij s. iiij. d. Itm, I bequethe to the mother churche of Lincoln viij d. Itm, I bequethe to my brother Thomas Decons and my brother frances Decons one hundred markes wiche is in Right dewe to me by the executors of my Lady norton laytly deceased by Reson of the bequest of my father's laste will, whose soull god pdon, and also I will that my said brother fraunces, after the Recou'ry or haveing of the said hundred markes shall thereoff have the sole admiistration to the intent to Retene the one halfe thereof to his owen use, the other halfe to give and delyv' to my said brother Thomas, his executors, admiistrators or assignes to his or there owen use. Itm, I will that aftur my decese that Ezabell my wyffe shall have all my landes and tentes with the appurtenances in Reding in the coun. of barkeshyre dureing her natural lyffe, and after hir decese I will the said landes and tentes Remane to Thomas my sonne and to his eyres of his body lawfully begotten, and for lacke of suche ysseu the Remainder thereoffe to the cyres of the said Rich. lawfully begotten. Also I will aftur my decese that

ezabell my wyffe shall have the Reu'tion of Stoke brewerne wt the ptenance in the coun. of Wylshyre, the man' of nevelles wt the ptenances within the pysch of Abbottes Langley in the coun. of Harteford durieng hir lyffe natural and aftur hir decese I will the said man'is, landes & tentes, wt there appurtenances Remane to Thomas Decons my sonne, and to the eyres of his body lawfully begotten. and for defawte of suche yssewe the Remander to the eyres of me, the forsayd Ric. Decons lawfully begotten. Also I geve to ezabell my wyffe the Residew of all my goodes moveables and unmoueble unbequethed. And for the accomplesement of this my laste will I orden and make Elizabeth my wyffe and frances Decons my brother my ex-ecutors for the mistratation of this my said will and Testa-ment, and Thomas Decons my brother supvysor of the same. Also I bequeth to my brother frances for his paynnes taking in the p'misses vj s. viij d. Also I will that my fun'allas at the day of my beryall to be orderyd & done by the discesion of my executors before named. In wyt-ness hereof I, the said Richard Decons, have declared this to be my last will and Testament, and in prove thereoff I have subscribed my name in the p'sens of Mr. William Marshall, preste, dni Wiltmi becket, curat, ibm. Thomas Ricerd.

per me, Ric. Decons.

Proved 13 July, 1543.

Page 91.

In latter half of Elizabeth's reign, the fashion of building large houses in the country parishes prevailed to a surpris- ing extent, and this, with other causes, hastened the ruin of many an old county family which had held its own for generations.

Jessopp's One Generation, p. 25.

Page 92.

Jessopp's one generation of a Norfolk house says: "A gentleman could in his young days live on £10 a year—temp. 1588—and many instances might be adduced of an annuity of this amount being left to younger sons by men of large means." Page 314, note, and quotes *Harrison* that "in Queen Elizabeth's time this was a sufficient maintenance for a gentleman."

EARLY MENTION OF THE NAME OF DEACON.

Page 130.

Walter the Deacon was at Domesday Survey found a tenant in chief of the King, in the counties of Gloucester and Essex. He left two sons and a daughter.

"Notes on the Domesday Book."

Walter the Deacon was an Ancestor of the Noble family of De Hastings. Walter had two sons named
Walter Mascherell, and
Alexander, and a daughter,
Editha.

Wright's Essex, Vol. I., p. 67.

Bishop-Stortford. When William the Conqueror had secured himself of the fear of his enemies and established his dominion, he of his princely bounty gave to Maurice, the Venerable, Bishop of London, and his successors, the town and castle of Bishop-Stortford, and whatever William his predecessor had of his gifts, with all the lands which William Diacon and Ralph his brother held of him, that they might possess it forever. (Called Stort from the river Stort and Bishop from this gift.)

Sir Henry Chauncey's History of Hertfordshire.

It will be at once noticed that the above refer to an "office" and not to a "name," the son of Walter did not retain the surname.

GIRTON, CO. CAMBRIDGE, A.D. 1239–40.

Inquisitio facta apud Gretthonam tempore fratris Thomæ de Sausynthonea Camerarii Anno Regni Regis Henrici vicessimo quarto.

Cecilia Diacone tenet unam croftam eodem modo pro duo decim denariis ad quatuor predictos terminos, et unam gallinam ad natale et obolum ad auxilium vicecomitis ad duos terminos et facit fenem sicut alii, et tres precarias in autumno ad cibum domini.

Cartularium Monasterii de Ramesia.

Assize of mort d'ancestor arraigned by Stephen de Wytlesford against the prioress of Icton and John de Akeny touching a messuage and land in the vill of Whittlesford, Cambridge. *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 5 Edw. I., 1277.*

The foregoing exhibit two forms of the name in the same county at a very early period.

MORTEVNE.

Pages 223, 224. General Plantagenet Harrison's Index to the Coram Rege Rolls.

Bedford. Fine at Westminster 20 Edw. III. (1346) between John, son of John Morteyn, Chivaler, father of the said John that now is, and Katherine his wife, plts., and Master Edmund Morteyn, deft, of half the manor of Tillesworth: To hold to them and their heirs.

Sir John Morteyn, Chivaler.

┌───────────┐
John Morteyne=Katherine.

└───────────┘
John Morteyne who claims.

Coram Rege Roll Trin. 40 Edw. III. m. 23 d.

This pedigree was compiled by Gen. Harrison and does not appear in this form in the fine itself.

Genealogist, New Series, Vol. XI., p. 95, article Plea Rolls.

Edmund de Morteyn, 39 Edw, III., (1367) m. 152 sued Walter de Manny.

Manor of Oneston. Pleads his title and gives pedigree as follows :

Constance de Morteyn, temp. Ed. I.
┌──────────────────┐
John de Morteyn.
┌──────────────────┐
John de Morteyn.
┌──────────────────┐
Edmund de Morteyn, plaintiff.

Calendar of Patent Rolls, 4 Ric. II., p. 1., memb. 38 d.

1380. July 12, Westminster.

Appointment of Thomas Peyure and John Malyns to enquire whether John Morteyn, Knight, enfeoffed Thomas de Reynes, knt., William, parson of the church of Merston and others (named) of the manors of Merston and Tillesworth, co. Bedford, and whether they demised the said manors to Elizabeth, late the wife of the said John, for her life, how long she was seized thereof, and by what service, and to whom the reversion thereof belongs, and into all circumstances connected therewith, and to return their *inquisition* into Chancery.

Note by Miss E. M. Walford of London.

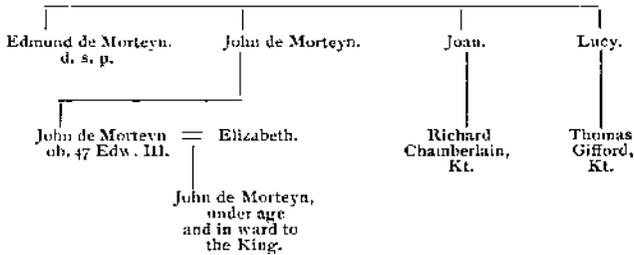
(Unfortunately I cannot anywhere find the inquisition mentioned above : if it were only extant it would give exactly the information wanted.)

(The Commission to Giles Daubeny, Patent Roll, 4 Ric. II., p. 1, m. 5th, unfortunately gives no further information. I have examined the original Roll.) *See ante page 224.*

(I have searched Palmer's Indexes, Vols. I., II., III., 47, 87, 94. Also Escheators Inq., Inq. ad quod damnum, Exchequer Inq., Patent Rolls, etc.)

Genealogist, New Series, Vol. 14. Jan'y, 1898.

1396. De Banco Rolls, Mich. 19 Ric II., m. 409, Bedford. The King versus Elizabeth Morteyne. For the next presentation to the church of Marston near Bedford, as guardian of John de Morteyn, who was under age and in ward to the King.



De Banco Roll, Mich. 19 Ric. II., memb. 409.

Elizabeth Morteyn and Roger Balle, Chaplain, were summoned to answer to the King of a plea that they permit the King to present a fit parson to the Church of Merston next Bedeford. Edmund Morteyn was seized of the manor of Merston, to which belongs the advowson of the said Church, and presented William Marshall. The said Edmund held the said manor of Roger Dageney as of his manor of Caynho, and the said Roger held the said manor of Caynho of the King.

The said Edmund died without heirs of his body, and after his death the said manor of Merston descended to John Morteyn his kinsman and heir, to wit, son of John, brother of the said Edmund; after the death of the said John, the said manor descended to John his son and heir, who was under age, by reason whereof the King seized the said into his hands, together with the advowson of the said Church. The Church is now vacant by the death of the said William Marshall, and the presentation belongs to the King.

The said Elizabeth says the said Edmund held the said

manor of Almaricus de St. Amando as of his barony of Caynho, and not of the said Roger.

The said John Morteyn, kinsman of the said Edmund, long before Tuesday next before the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula 47 Edw. III. (1373), granted the said manor to Thomas Reynes, Chevalier, William Marshall, parson of the said Church of Merston, and others: to hold to them and their heirs forever. They granted to the said Almaricus the next presentation to the said Church, and he presented William Stoke. Afterwards they granted the said manor to the said Eliz. for her life, so that after her death it should remain to John, son of John Morteyn, and his heirs; for default then to remain to Richard, son of Thomas Reynes, and his heirs male; for default then to John Reynes, brother of the said Richard, and his heirs male; for default then to John Morteyn of Dunnesby and his heirs male; for default, to the right heirs of the said John Morteyn, Knt.

Recites an Inq'n in which it is set forth that John Morteyn, Knt., held the said manor of Merston, and died thereof seized on Tuesday next before the feast of St. Peter, ad Vincula 47 Edw. III., and that Ric. Chamberleyn, Knt., son of Joan sister of John, father of the said John Morteyn, and Thomas Giffard, Knt., son of Lucy, sister of the said John the father, being of full age, were his kinsmen and heirs.

The said Elizabeth says the said John did not die seized thereof, as he had granted the said manor to Thomas Reynes and others.

When this case was tried it was ordered that the King's hands should be removed from the said manor and that the same should be delivered to the said Elizabeth, who then presented Roger Balle to the said Church.

It is now considered that the King shall recover the said presentation against the said Elizabeth and Roger, who are fined.

The foregoing, which has been abstracted for this work directly from the original Roll, modifies the statements on pages 198, 223 and 224, and also the pedigree charts of Morteyne. It shows that Edmund left no heirs, but the mystery of Richard Reynes' inheritance of Marston is not cleared up. It would seem there must have been a marriage between the families of Reynes and Morteyne which does not yet appear, which gave the feoffees of John Morteyne, 1373, the right to grant the manor of Marston to Richard Reynes, his heirs, and in default to his brother Sir John Reynes and his heirs, *before* reverting to the more distant relatives, viz., the Morteyns of Dunnesby.

It further appears that this manor was originally a part of the possessions of the DeAkeney family (for Roger Dageney named in the Roll is Roger DeAkeney of Cainho, Co. Bedford) *see ante*, pages 4, 7 and 11, so that in coming through the Reynes family to Richard Decons, it was merely reverting to its original owners.

There are 225 Wills and Administrations of the family of Deacon between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries, among the Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury now on file in Somerset House, London, as follows: 5 in the 15th century, 27 in the 16th century, 89 in the 17th century and 104 in the 18th century. The writer has complete copies of all these wills, with many others of the same family name from other Probate Registries. It is his intention to deposit these copies, which are bound in two volumes, in the library of one of the Historical Societies in this country.

The earliest will is that of John Dekene of Ipswich, 1448.

About one-third of the earliest wills belong to the family domiciled in the southwest of England, who have no connection with the stock herein treated of. Coming down to

later dates other counties are represented, especially Hertford, Leicester and Berkshire.

Wills of London, and Surrey (which stands for Southwark, or London across the Thames) are numerous.

There was also a yeoman family of Kent, which sent many scions to the Metropolis.

There is one Will that will interest Americans, that of Thomas Deacon of St. Saviour's, Southwark, Co. Surrey, yeoman, proved 14 October, 1652, who mentions cousin Magdalen Causon of Enfield, cousin Alice Crew of London, cousin William Graves, chandler, of London, cousin Thomas Deacon, planter, in Virginia. Wife Margaret, Executrix.

The only Deacons named in New England records bore the name John. There were three of this name, one of Plymouth, died 1636. The others may have been father and son, and were both of Lynn.

There was a Thomas Deacon, aged 19, who came in July, 1635, in the "Assurance," and of whom nothing more is recorded, who is supposed by some to have been twin brother to Avis Deacon, aged 19, who came the same month and year in the "Alice." *See Hotten's Immigrants.*

This Avis Deacon probably belonged to the Berkshire family of Shinfield, descended from Avis Deacon, who died, 1587, and her husband, Simonde Deacon, of Shinfield, "husbandman," whose sons were Symond, Francis, Richard, John, William and Raphe. *Probate Registry.*

This Ralfe (as he signs himself) died 1624, leaving Richard, Edward, Alice, Ann, Johan, and Avis. But this Avis could not have been the woman who emigrated, for she is specially named in the will of her grandmother, 1587, (as Avis, dau. of my son Raphe) which would make her nearly fifty years of age in 1635. In view, however, of the rarity of the name, and its persistence in this family, there can be little doubt but that the emigrant girl belonged to this branch.

The only woman who came to America at this period

bearing this somewhat unusual name was Avis Deacon, who came in the "Alice," and she is said to have married William Reade, who came over in the "Assurance" in 1635 along with young Thomas Deacon, before mentioned, and who became one of the most prominent men in the early history of Weymouth, Mass., a Representative to the Gen. Ct. 1636 and 1638. They had a family of eight children, whose descendants are now numerous and prominent.

See Reid Geneal.

George Deacon of Southwark Surrey came over in 1677 and settled in New Jersey. He was a Quaker Minister and died in Burlington, N. J., 1726, where his descendants flourish at the present day. *Munsell's Am. Ancestry.*

Pages 201 and 202.

John Reynes (afterwards knighted) son of Thomas Reynes and Joan Broughton, was named as feofee of the manor of Todyngton *et al.*, by John Broughton, his maternal grandfather. *See Inq. p. m. 4 Hy. VII., 1489. No. 577 Calendar of Inq., Vol. I.*

The manors of Stanbrygge, Tyllesworth, Pettyshoe and Ekeney were held by Richard Chamberleyn, Esq., who died 1497, *Inq. p. m., 12 Henry VII.*, being the great-grandson of his ancestor Richard, who married Jane Reynes; named on page 223 herein.

INDEX.

DEAKENEY, DEACON

AND

VARIATIONS.

PAGE 382 TO 384.

GENERAL INDEX

TO

OTHER NAMES.

PAGE 385 TO 394.

Many names will be found under the prefix *de*.

NOTE.—The names in Pedigree Charts are not indexed.

DEACON.

- Dageney, Roger, 376, 378
 Dakeneye, John, 7
 Johanna, 7
 Roger, 7
 Dakeney, Johannes, 11
 Maru, 11
 Dakeny, Humphrey, 6
 John, 3
 Robert, 7
 Roger, 3
 Dakeyne, Daniel, 134
 John, 10
 Dakun, Alexander, 3
 Dawkin, Richard, 6
 De Akene, Henry, 9
 De Akeney, Baldwin, 3
 Roger, 378
 De Akeni, Baldwin, 3
 Ralph, 3
 De Akeny, Baldwin, 2
 John, 374, 375, 376, 377,
 378
 Roger, 3
 Thomas, 6
 De Dekene, Robertus, 3
 De Ekenay, Robert, 5
 De Ekeney, Hugh, 5
 Richard, 5, 7, 9, 222
 Robert, 5
 D' Ekeney, Robert, 6, 7
 William, 2
 De Ekon, Bauldwin, 4
 Henry, 4, 251
 William, 4
 De Hakeny, Thomas, 3
 de Hekenay, Robert, 5
 Deacon, Agnes, 361, 362
 Alice, 103, 259, 379
 Amelia, 109
 Amy Florence, 118
 Ann, 252, 261, 379
 Ann Edwards, 252
 Anne, 252
 Arthur Henry Caradyce,
 115
 Avis, 379, 380
 Benjamin, 105, 106, 108,
 109, 110, 111, 112, 115, 305
 Catherine A., 257
 Catherine Judith, 252
 Charles, 27, 272
 Christopher, 91
 Clarissa Anna Francis
 (Cooper), 117
 Cuthbert Harold, 117
 David, 253
 Edith Laura, 118
 Edmund William, 109
 Edward, 102, 103, 104, 107,
 109, 112, 118, 119, 379
 Deacon, Edward Erastus, 272
 Eliza (Stoddard), 118, 119
 Elizabeth, 103, 116, 119,
 112, 117, 122, 252, 259, 261,
 362
 Elizabeth (Howard) 269
 Elizabeth (Judson), 269
 Elizabeth (Morton) 269
 Esther, 263
 Fanny Catherine (Lov-
 ett), 117, 183
 Fanny Lovett, 117, 183
 Francis, 108, 269, 379
 Francis Henry, 269
 George, 380
 Gertrude, 118
 Gordon Edward, 117
 Hannah, 119
 Harriet, 253
 Henrietta, 109
 Henry, 95, 103, 112, 118,
 259, 269, 276, 362
 Henry Collins, 27
 Henry Purser, 118
 Howard Herbert, 118
 Hugh, 259
 Isaac, 253, 269
 James, 269, 274
 James Meres, 112
 Jane, 110, 115
 Jane (Gammon) 259
 Joane Bell, 362
 John, 34, 103, 252, 259, 269,
 274, 361, 362, 379
 John Rawlins, 252
 Joseph, 105, 106, 108, 109,
 110, 113, 113, 117, 118, 120,
 122, 170
 Joseph Edward, 117
 Josiah, 253
 Joyce (Green), 269
 Lily Scott, 118
 Mamie Elise, 118, 119
 Margaret, 112, 120, 274, 379
 Maria, 103, 112
 Maria Eliza (Lill), 269
 Martha, 107, 108
 Martha (Watson), 109
 Marthana, 110, 116
 Mary, 110, 112, 116, 118,
 120
 Mary (Havey), 253, 254
 Mary (Haynes), 261, 263
 Mary (Siddell), 269
 Mary Elizabeth, 117
 Mary Jane (Caradyce),
 118
 Mary Jane (Scott), 112,
 117, 170, 173

- Deacon Meres Stoddard, 118
 Peter, 112, 116, 117, 133, 308
 Rachael, 108
 Ralph, 379
 Rebecca, 252
 Richard, 103, 104, 105, 269, 362, 379
 Robert, 79, 253, 272, 278
 Sackville Lovett, 117
 Samuel, 252, 257
 Samuel Fisher, 113
 Sarah, 110, 112, 115, 120, 122, 177
 Sarah (Gammon), 272
 Sarah (Meres), 110, 315
 Simonde, 379
 Stephen, 269
 Stopsley, 362
 Susannah Ann, 110
 Thomas, 25, 27, 33, 80, 91, 203, 255, 256, 257, 261, 262, 263, 271, 274, 278, 362, 379, 389
 Thomas Theodorus, 272, 273
 Walter, 269
 William, 34, 252, 253, 260, 275, 278, 379
 William Head, 369
 William, 362
- Deacons, Alice, 91
 Ann (Combe), 78
 Ann, 93, 94
 Anne, 92, 251
 Edward, 93, 94
 Eleanor, 74
 Frances (Halfhide), 94
 George, 91, 92, 93, 96
 Hannah, 74
 Henry, 93, 94, 95
 Joane (Bray), 91, 94
 Margaret, 74
 Martha, 74
 Mary, 74
 Persis, 74
 Richard, 378
 Robert, 74, 79, 80, 92
 Thomas, 74, 91, 95, 251
 William, 74
- Deakene, Henry, 9
 Deakens, Anne, 276
 William, 276
 Deakins, Francis, 276, 277
 George, 278
 Thomas, 273
 Deakons, John, 277
 Richard, 105
- Decon, Elizabeth, 251
 Ellen, 251
 John, 23, 251
 Katherine, 251
 Richard, 251
 Robert, 10
 Thomas, 10, 32, 34
- Decones, Frances, 94
 George, 94
 Thomas, 94
- Decons, Alice, 64, 89, 91, 266
 Anne, 77, 78, 92
 Dorothy, 74
- Decons, Elizabeth, 46, 64, 67, 68, 69, 70, 221, 229, 239, 269, 372
 Elizabeth (Reynes), 40, 203, 229, 239, 247, 267
 Elizabeth, 86, 87, 371, 372
 Frances, 64
 Francis, 13, 40, 42, 54, 59, 67, 70, 74, 87, 92, 328, 370
 Frances, 364, 365, 366, 371, 372
 George, 92
 Jane, 54, 365
 Joan, 47, 367, 368
 John, 23, 367, 368
 Kathryn, 363, 364, 365
 Kathryn, 40, 42, 54
 Michael, 23
 Nicholas, 23
 Richard, 21, 22, 23, 25, 40, 41, 42, 45, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 52, 53, 55, 70, 86, 87, 89, 203, 221, 247, 266, 362, 364, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 378
 Robert, 33, 74, 91, 92
 Rychard, 41
 Thomas, 23, 25, 30, 31, 40, 42, 53, 54, 59, 64, 65, 67, 70, 86, 87, 89, 92, 95, 364, 365, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372
- Decouns, Richard, 41
 Deikus, Henry, 13
 Deken, John, 250
 Richard, 13, 270
 Robert, 10
 William, 2
- Dekene, Adam, 219
 John, 373
 Robertus, 10
- Dekeny, John, 7
 Dekne, Eleanor, 250
 John, 250
- Dekon, Hen, 251
 Dekyn, Elyn, 18
 Delkyn, Richard, 6
 Diacon, Ralph, 373
 William, 373
- Diaconi, Cecilia, 374
 Diacony, Michael, 29
 Diacons, Nicholas, 35
 Dickens, Ann, 94
 Anne, 77, 78
 George, 94
- Dickons, Alice, 265
 John, 265
- Dicone, Ric, 46
 Dicons, Alice, 265
 Elizabeth, 67, 365
 Frances, 364, 365, 366
 Jane, 265, 363, 365
 John, 33, 34, 265, 365, 366
 Nicholas, 24
 Nycholas, 33
 Richard, 43, 52, 56, 362, 363, 364, 365, 367
 Robert, 33
 Thomas, 67, 70, 364, 365, 368, 367
- Dicoun, William, 10
 Willielmus, 10
- Dikoun, Alice, 10

Dyacon, Michael, 19, 20, 269	Dycons, John, 265
Dyacone, Francis, 19	Ric., 45, 59
Walter, 19	Richard, 21, 43, 44, 45,
Dycecons, Christopher, 34	50, 51, 52, 59
Wynfryde, 266	William, 20
Dyckons, Alice (Spencer), 25	Dykene, Richard, 10
Nich'us, 33	Dykoun, William, 10
Thomas, 25, 32	Dykyns, Ric. 57
Dyckyns, William, 20	Ekeney, Jane, 9, 222
Dycon, William, 43	Richard, 222
Dyconn, Alice, 250	Hikenal, 3
Thomas, 250	Yekenai, 3
William, 250	Yekyn, Henry, 251

GENERAL INDEX.

Many names will be found under the prefix *de*.

- Abercromby, Ralph, 154
 Abinger, Lord, 111
 Ackworth, Geo. 45
 Adamys, Walter, 198
 Alexander, 373
 Allison, Mr., 308
 Almon, John, 344
 Almund, Edward, 148
 Andreas, Bernard, 19
 Anstey, Joane, (Strete), 193, 197
 John, 193, 197, 209
 Armine, Isabel, 323
 William, 323
 Arnold, Matthew, 152
 Ashe, Elizabeth, 199
 William, 199
 Assheton, Hugh, 53, 337
 William, 45
 Aylesbury, Katherine, (Fahen-
 ham), 232
 Thomas, 232
 Ayrmyrn, Wm., 323
 Bacon, Francis, 288
 Backwell, John, 229
 Bailey, Kate, 177
 Bailly, William, 32
 Baile, Roger, 378, 377
 Banks, T. C., 218
 Barber, Henry, 132
 Burdolph, Elizabeth, 244
 Hugh, 244
 Juliana, (de Despenser), 236
 William, 236
 Baslewell, John, 209
 Bassett, Elizabeth, 283
 Matilda, (Tidel), 283
 Richard, 283
 Thomas, 283
 Bean, Elizabeth, 157
 Beard, Jane, 172
 Beaumont, William, 31
 Beausire, M. E., 177
 Becket, Wm., 87
 Beke, Thomas, 238
 Bekynsale, Robert, 50
 Belar, Roger, 334
 Beler, John, 18
 Marina, 18
 Belet, Annora, 242
 Michael, 242
 Belknapp, Edward, 52
 Bellars, Johannes, 18
 Belfers, Rogerus, 333
 Berkeley, Maurice, 32
 Betham, Will'm, 158, 159
 Betler, Johan, 193
 Bird, Scargill, 42
 Blackwell, R., 106
 Blake, Robert, 103
 Blessington, J. P. 176
 Bitsby, Jane, 286
 William, 286
 Blount, William, 45, 50, 53, 370
 Blunte, Edward, 78
 Bogardus, Everardus, 115
 Jacob J, 115
 Jane (Deacon), 115
 Boleyn, Ann, 21, 61
 Geoffrey, 21
 Bolles, John, 327
 Bolstrode, Wm., 53, 370
 Bolton, John, 186
 Booth, John, 208
 Maud, 208
 Borard see de Borard.
 Borard, Joan, 47
 Boteler, Alan, 221
 Joan, 221
 Botetourt, John, 238
 Maud, 238
 Botry, William, 46, 370
 Boughcy, Bold, 105
 Bourghchyer, John, 50
 Bowles, Robert, 327
 Bramston, John, 239
 Branch, Ann (Dickens), 94
 John, 94
 Brandon, Margaret (Reynes), 193
 Bray, Joane, 91
 Brewster, Elder, 119
 Briggs, Abraham, 180
 Brightman, Gilbert, 281
 Broke, Ric., 45, 53, 367
 Broughton, Elizabeth (Ston-
 ham), 247
 Helen, 247
 Joan, 201, 247, 380
 John, 201, 210, 211,
 245, 247, 380
 Mary (Feyvre), 245
 247
 Brown, Anthony, 285
 Hugh Stowell, 114
 Browne, Francis, 50
 Brownlow, Alice (Sherard), 267
 Elizabeth, 267
 John, 267
 Brudenell, Agnes (Bussy), 291, 294
 Dru., 247
 Edward, 291
 Elizabeth, 47, 229
 Helen (Broughton),
 247
 Robert, 45, 47, 54, 229,
 369
 Thomas, 291
 Bryghtwood, John, 51

- Bull, Francis, 92
 John, 91, 92
 Nicholas, 92
 Simon, 91
 Bullard, Alice Martha (Camp), 119
 Edward Payson, 119
 Edward Payson, Jr., 119
 Hannah (Dudley), 118
 Luther, 119
 Mamie Ense (Deacon), 119
 Bulstrid, William, 363
 Bulstrode, Edward, 210
 Hugh, 210
 Richard, 210
 William, 52, 368
 Bunyan, John, 55
 Burke, Edmund, 345
 John Bernard, 159, 281
 Richard, 345
 William, 345
 Burnett, Bishop, 299
 Bussy, Agnes, 291
 Joane, 291, 294
 John, 291
 Miles, 291
 Buswood, William, 32
 Butler, Charles, 111
 Mr., 114
 Byllington, John, 195
 Byres, John, 151
 Byron, John, 272
 Camp, Joseph William, 119
 Lucy Augusta (Brewster), 119
 Campbell, Hume, 342
 Campion, William, 223
 Capel, Henry, 329, 331
 Caradyce, Mary Jane, 118
 Carew, George, 32
 Nichols, 32
 Nicholas, 50
 Cartwright, Bishop, 239
 Cave, Alexander, 10
 Cecil, Alice (Deacons), 266
 Alice (Eckington), 266
 David, 266
 Elizabeth (Brownlow), 267
 John, 267
 Richard, 266
 Robert, 266
 Thomas, 266
 William, 266
 Cessell, David, 265
 Chamber, John, 42
 Chamberlain, Amabel, 189
 Richard, 189, 190, 222
 Chamberlaine, Jane (Reynes), 222
 Joane (Morteyne), 222, 223
 John, 222
 Chamberlayne, Sybilla, 54, 370
 Chamberleyn, Joan (Morteyn), 377
 Richard, 223, 380
 Ric, 377
 Checkers, Johanna, 166
 John, 166
 Cheshunt, Walter, 87
 Cheyne, John, 54, 369
 Cheyny, Robert, 53, 370
 Chibnall, Alice (Decons), 64
 John, 64
 Richard, 64
 Chicheley, Henry, 65
 Jane Francis, 64, 65
 John, 331
 Chichely, Thomas, 64, 65
 Clarke, Henry, 333
 Clement, Anne, 282
 Rich., 43
 Thos., 43, 282
 Clowbury, William, 103
 Cokayne, Edward, 52
 Gerard, 52
 John, 52
 Margaret, 52
 Collier, Mr., 271
 Comayn, John, 219
 Combe, Ann, 74, 79
 John, 74, 75, 77, 78, 79
 Thomas, 78
 Compton, William, 42, 50
 Conny, Anthony, 294
 Dorothy Anne, 294
 Cooper, Charles, 117
 Clarissa Anne Frances, 117
 Robert, 263, 309
 Thomas, 34
 Copledyke, Elizabeth, 267
 John, 287, 322, 324
 Cornysh, William, 51
 Couper, Nicholas, 54, 367
 Coventry, William, 328
 Cranmer, Margaret, 39
 Craven, William, 107
 Crew, Alice, 379
 Crewes, James, 296
 Katherine, 296
 Cromwell, Thomas, 43, 64
 Cropper, John, 151, 152
 Cuthbert, William J., 176
 Cuttyng, Robert, 195
 Cyeyll, Jane, 266
 Dallison, Barbara, 298
 Elizabeth (Deighton), 298
 William, 298
 D'Albini, Hugo, 236
 Daubeny, Joan, 232
 Johanna, 3
 William, 3
 Daubeny, Giles, 198, 210, 224, 375
 Dawes, Mrs., 46
 de Albeni Todeni, Maud, 137
 William, 187
 de Albini, 2nd, 188
 de Altaripa, William, 165
 de Beck, Geoffrey, 21
 de Bellis, Juliana, 187
 de Bernars, John Bourghchyer, 50
 de Borard, Asceline, 188
 Ascelinus, 209
 Joan, 188, 189
 Margaret, 205
 Richard, 188, 209
 Robert, 188, 189
 Simon, 187, 188, 205, 209
 de Bosco, Richard, 260
 William, 219
 Borard, Simon, 187
 de Boseroard, William, 187
 de Brockhole, Henry, 209

- de Broke, Willoughby, 44
de Brunneby, Richard, 10
 Robert, 10
de Burghstede, Richard, 10
de Chericote, Thurstan, 235
 Walter, 235
de Chesni, Amabl, 236
 Walter, 236
de Choen, Walron, 43
de Clifford, Elizabeth, 232
de Cortenhala, Adam, 21
de Cotes, Roger, 334
de Croun, Wido, 232
 Petronilla, 232
de Cryoll, Margeria, 232
 Nicholas, 232
de Ekeny, Richard Ekeny, 222
de Ferrars, Walter Deveraux, 50
de Granesby, Robert, 209
de Grey, Maud (Botetourt), 238
 Reginald, 238
 de Ruthyn, 89
 de Ruthyn, Maud, 89
de Holt, Roger, 333
de Ingleton, Margaret, 182
de Kirkby, Wm., 219
de Kirketon, John de Meres, 234,
 322
 Roger, -"
de Laltne, John, 232
de Lemescl, John, 51
de Lemesy, Ralph, 51
de Leyburn, William, 237
de Louvet, Ricardus, 180, 181, 182
 Robert, 180
 Robertus, 181
 William, 180
 Willielmus, 181
de Lucy, Almaric, 237
 Catherine, 238
 Desiderata, 237
 Elena, (de Ravening-
 ham), 237
 Euphemia (Neville), 239
 Geoffrey, 211, 236, 237,
 238, 239
 Godfrey, 235
 Juliana (le Despenser),
 236
 Katherine, 238
 Katherine (Grey), 233
 Richard, 235, 236
 Reginald, 238, 239
 Walter, 238, 239
de Luda, Isabel, 220
 William, 220
de Luvett, John, 182
de Maidwell, Richard, 209
de Manny, Walter, 375
de Marchford, John, 322
de Mere, Guillelmus, 282
 Roger, 282
 Walter, 282
 William, 281
 Willielmus, 321
de Meeres, Altan, 282
 Oliver, 282
 Petronilla (de Croun),
 282
de Meres, John, 283, 284, 322
 Roger, 283, 322
de Merl, Ricard, 282
de Meri, Richard, 289
de Montford, Henry, 235
de Mouatjoy, William Blount, 50
de Mortene, Eustace, 219
 Robert, 219
 Roger, 219
 William, 219
de Morteyne, Adam, 218
 Constance, 221, 375
 Edmund, 223, 224, 375
 Edward, 224
 Eustace, 218, 219, 221,
 222
 Eustacius, 218
 Elizabeth, 223, 375
 Isabel, 220
 Isabel (de Luda), 220
 Jane (Marmyon), 221
 Jane (de Rothwell),
 222
 John, 221, 223, 224,
 375, 376
 Margaret, 224
 Nicholas, 219
 Robert, 218, 221
 Roger, 220
 William, 219, 220
de Northwood, John, 9
de Norton, Ralph, 11
de Odingsells, Basula, 51
 Hugh, 51
de Okele, Robert, 5
de Olney, John, 210
de Pabenharn, Elizabeth, 232
 John, 210, 232, 235
 Thomas, 232
de Peyvre, Paul, 210
de Raines, Geoffrey, 187
 Roger, 188
 Walter, 187
de Ramis, Roger, 186
de Raveningham, Elena, 237
 Robert, 237
de Reyne, Roger, 185
de Reynes, Alice, 187, 195
 Amabel (Chamberlain)
 189, 206
 Amabilia, 190
 Amicia, 187
 Anabel, Green, 189, 192
 Harvey, 187
 Joan, 187
 John, 195
 Ralph, 188, 189, 190, 192,
 183, 195, 206, 209
 Richard, 47, 186, 187
 Robert, 186, 187
 Thomas, 47, 188, 189, 191,
 209, 210, 211, 238, 375
 Walter, 188
 William, 186, 187, 188
de Rocheford, John, 322
 Saier, 322
de Roos, William, 190
de Soterton, Robert, de Meres, 281
de St. Amando, Almaricus, 377
de Staunton, Alice, 87
 Isabella, 87
 Joane, 87
de Stokes, Juliana de Despenser),
 236

- de Stokes, Peter, 236
de Sydenham, Asceline, 188
Margaret, 188
de Toden, Robert, 187
de Tyringham, Adam, 209
Alianor (Pabenh-
ham), 222
John, 206, 222
Roger, 199, 209, 210,
211
de Wahull, John, 191
de Waldegrave, Ralph, 250
de Whearhamstead, John, 93
de Widdville, Richard, 24
de Wroxsole, Hawesia, 188
de Wytlesford, Stephen, 374
Dean, Mr., 331
Deighton, Elizabeth, 288
Robert, 288
de la Fontaine, Anne, 298, 333
Erasmus, 298, 333,
334
Hester, 333
Penelope, 333
Susanna, 333
de la Mare, Guillaume, 280
Petr., 281
de la Mere, Hugue, 280
de la Zouch, Lucia, 192
Delisle, Leopold, 280
Denis, Wm., 277
Denton, Augustus Edward, 122
Augustus St. Amend, 122
Elizabeth (Deacon), 122
Despenser, see le Despenser
Deveraux, Walter, 50
Digby, Everard, 287
Katherine, 287
Disney, Margaret (Meres), 286
Rich., 286
Dixon, John, 169
Maria Henrietta Milton, 169
Docaray, Thomas, 70
Dodynsells, Edward, 51
John, 51
Dolben, Gilbert, 298
William, 335
Dolbyn, Catherine (Sheldon), 298
John, 298
Wm., 298
Downing, George, 118
Mary, 118
Drayton, Catherine, 192
John, 192
Duffin, John, 41
Duncombe, Mary (Reynes), 267
William, 267
Dymmock, Leo, 50
Robert, 50
Early, John, 280
Easton, James, 115
Eckington, Alice, 266
Editha, 273
Edolphe, Barbara, 289
Jane, 289
Margaret, 289
Mary (Meres), 289
Symon, 289
Thomas, 289
Edwards, Ann, 278
Anne, 174
Ekenev, Jane, 9, 222
Elden, Lord, 111
Ellis, Richard, 209
Elyot, Richard, 41
Engayne, Elizabeth, 232
Ermine, Margaret, 324, 324
Erskine, Lord, 111
Est, Robert, 251
William, 251
Evelyn, John, 299
Evers, Barbara (Meres), 288
Peter, 288
Eyctts, Thomas, 208
Farmer, Ralph, 275
Farnsworth, Mr., 113
Ferguson, Robert, 133, 131
Fetherstone, Emily, 177
Finch, Daniel, 321
Mr., 329
Fisher, Anthony, 209
James, 172
Jane, 172
Jane (Beard), 172
John, 166, 167, 172
Lucinda, 172
Mary, 172
Margaret, 165, 167, 172, 173,
174
Miss, 152
Richard, 172
Samuel, 172
Sarah, 172
Fitz-Jeffrey, John, 369
Fitz-Lewes, Richard, 47, 49, 59
Fitz-Lewis, Ela, 61
John, 61
Richard, 59, 61
Fitz Lowys, Joan, 59
Richard, 59,
Fortescue, John, 21, 22
Fortho, John, 196
Fontaine, see de la Fontaine
Fowler, Elizabeth, 51
Richard, 51
Fox, John Henry, 334
Frather, Anthony, 203
Frowick, Alice, 189, 217
Elizabeth (Ash), 199
Henry, 21, 199
Thomas, 199
Fry, Elizabeth, 172
Gamon, Ann Eliza, 273
Elizabeth (Grace), 272
Richard, 272
Richard, Jr., 273
Robert, 272
Sarah, 272
Gammon, Jane, 269
Carraway, Mr., 328
Gelston, John, 306
Geohegan, Dr., 114
Gibbs, Vicary, 111
Giboun, John, 197
Margaret (Reynes), 197
Giffard, John, 222
Lucy (Morteyne), 222, 377
Thos., 210, 222, 377
Gifford, Margaret (de Morteyn),
224
Thomas, 224
Gladstone, Robertson, 113
William El., 113
Goldyngton, John, 198

- Goldyngton, Thomas, 43
 Gore, Gerald, 107
 Grace, Elizabeth, 272
 John, 273
 Gray, John, 243
 Henry, 369
 Green, Anabel, 189, 192
 Catherine (Drayton), 192
 Henry, 189, 192,
 Joyce, 269
 Lucia (de la Zouche), 192
 Thomas, 192
 Greene, Mr., 114
 Thomas, 18
 Greenway, Richard, 88
 Thomas, 88
 Gresham, John, 46
 Richard, 46
 Thomas, 46
 Grey, see de Grey
 Grey, Henry, 45, 54
 John, 24
 Katherine, 238
 Grote, Walter, 209
 Grover, Cassandra, 307
 Thomas, 307
 Guildford, Henry, 50
 Guinness, Arthur, 115
 Guppy, H. B., 128
 Gyffard, John, Jr., 196
 Thomas, 223
 Haffey, Daniel, 146, 152, 165
 Elizabeth, 161
 Harriet, 159
 Henry, 146, 151, 152, 154,
 155, 157, 158, 161, 166, 169,
 168
 Hale, Bartholomew, 78
 Hales, Anne, 80
 Christopher, 80
 Edward, 391
 Mary (Lucy), 80
 Mr., 329
 Haley, William, 305
 Halfeld, Hendry, 94
 Halfhide, Frances, 93
 Henry, 93
 Ham, Peter, 191
 Hamelyn, Henry, 219
 William, 219
 Hardy, George, 45
 Hardying, Nich., 45
 Harrington, Katherine (Meeres),
 288
 Thomas, 288
 Hartwell, Alice, 193, 195, 196
 Haryngton, Alice, 266
 Maister, 266
 Hatcher, Faith, 298
 John, 298
 Havey, Mary, 263
 Hawkwood, John, 106
 Hawthorne, N. P., 255
 Hawtrey, Charles, 153, 161, 165
 Charles Leitch, 165
 Harriet, 157, 159
 Johanna (Checkers), 166
 John Russell, 166
 Stephen, 165
 Haynes, Mary, 261
 Thomas, 261
 Head, Elizabeth Campbell, 289
 Francis, 289
 Miss, 261
 Heckington, Alice, 265
 Hervey, Edward, 95
 Hervey, James, 252
 Heryng, John, 233
 Heyden, John, 50
 Heywood, Mr., 113
 Hickman, John Colman, 116
 Marian, 116
 Mary (Deacon), 116
 Stephen, Colman, 116
 Hikenal, J
 Hillersden, Thomas, 95
 Hix, Baptist, 333
 Julien, 333
 Hobbs, Mr., 299
 Robert, 93
 Hoetoff, Jane, 284
 Holland, Thomas, 283
 Hopton, Eleanor (Lucy), 239
 Thomas, 239
 Horde, Thomas, 333
 Hornby, Henry, 49
 Joan, 47, 49
 Hoste, William, 313
 Howard, Elizabeth, 269
 Howell, Edw., 113
 Hughes, Victor, 153
 Hunter, Joseph, 134
 Huntington, John Allanson, 169
 Maria, 169
 Maria (Tegart), 169
 Hussey, Edw., 327
 Thomas, 327
 Hyde, Miss, 116
 Hynton, Frances (Decons), 64
 Thomas, 64
 Ince, William, 101
 Ingleton, Agnes, 202
 Charles, 202
 Iwardby, Elizabeth, 51
 Nicholas, 51
 Jackson, Edward, 151
 Josias, 154
 James, John, 196
 Jans, Roelof, 116
 Jenkys, Will'm, 53, 367
 Jenner, Edward, 261
 Stephen, 261
 Thomas, 261
 Jennyc, Christopher, 59
 Jessopp, Augustus, 362
 Joshan, Mary, 269
 Joy, Henry, 54, 370
 Joye, Henry, 52
 Judson, Elizabeth, 269
 Kelke, W. Hastings, 208
 Kirkby, John, 333
 Kirton, John, 282
 Knight, Richard, 31
 Ladde, Hugh, 10
 Lambert, G. T., 311
 Latimer, Elizabeth, 191
 Lawrence, Henry, 111
 le Despenser, Almaric, 236, 237
 Amabil (de Chesnl),
 236
 Hugo, 236

- le Despenser, Juliana, 236
Thurstan, 236
- le Peor, Desiderata, 237
- Lee, Mr., 308
Sarah, 308, 314
Thomas, 331
- Lelegrave, William, 32
- Le Neve, Peter, 108
- Lentton, Mary, 68
- Lilborne, Edward, 362
Grace, 362
- Lill, Elizabeth Campbell, (Head),
269
- Lister, Mr., 113
Thomas, 327
- Littlebury, Ann (Meres), 284
John, 322
Robert, 281
- Littleton, Edward, 102
- Lockwood, Miss, 308
- Londesop, William, 196, 198
- Longsword, William, 3
- Loring, Margaret, 244
Nela, 244
- Lovell, Alice or Anne, 61
Henry, 223
Robert, 61
Thomas, 32, 61
William, 223
- Lovett, see de Louvet
- Lovett, Christopher, 183
Fanny, 183
Fanny Catherine, 117
Francis, 182
John, 182, 183
Jonathan, 183
Jonathan Vaughan, 117,
183
Lawrence, 182
Philips Cosby, 183
Rich., 53, 182, 368
Robert, 182, 183
Roger, 182
Sackville, 183
Simon, 182
Thomas, 182
William, 179, 181, 182
Wils., 182
- Lower, Mark Anthony, 131, 134
- Lucy, see de Lucy
- Lucy, Cecily, 235
Eleanor (Warne), 239
Mary, 80
Matilda, 239
Thomas, 80
Walter, 239
William, 210, 239
- Luke, Wait., 45, 52, 54, 363, 368, 370
- Lupton, Roger, 52
- Luttrell, John, 282
- Lynch, Henry, 54, 363
Jane, 54, 59
Joan, 40, 47, 49
William, 47, 49, 54, 367
- Lynche, Margaret, 54, 363
- Lynne, Elizabeth (Meres), 286
John, 285
- Maddison, Mr., 130
- Malclere, Ralph, 209
- Malyns, John, 375
- Manners, Mrs., 334
- Markham, Geffry, 5
- Markhamet, Willm., 5
- Marmyon, Jane, 220
Jane (de Kilpeck), 220
Phillip, 220
- Marshall, Alexander, 120
Amelia Henrietta, 120
Anthony, 120, 121
Charles Frederick, 120
Joseph A., 120
Margaret (Deacon), 120
Robert, 327
William, 45, 70, 87, 372,
376, 377
- Mascherell, Walter, 373
- Maulayever, Elizabeth, 198
- Meeres, Meres, see de Meeres, de
Meres, de la Mere.
- Meere, Cassandra, 339
Hugh, 336, 337, 339
- Meeres, Alman (Parnell), 281
Ann, 285
Anne (Clement), 282
Anthony, 282
Catherine (Yarborough),
284
Christopher, 284
Elizabeth, 284
Frances, 284
Godfrey, 282
Herry, 285
Jane, 283
Jane (Hoetoft), 284
Joane, 282
John, 282, 284, 285, 322, 323
Margaret, 283, 284
Nicholas, 284
Parnell, 284
Phillip, 285
Richard, 282, 287
Roger, 282, 283, 285, 324
Thomas, 284, 285
Ursula (Finchbeck), 282
Vincent, 284
- Meers, Thomas, 323
- Merc, Elizabeth, 346
Hugh, 306
- Meres, see Meeres, de Meres, de
la Merc
- Meres, Alice, 280
Ann, 284
Anne, 286, 287
Anne (de la Fontaine),
288
Anthony, 286, 287, 291, 294,
296, 297, 298, 299
Barbara, 288, 289
Barbara (Dallison), 288
Barbara (Neville), 288
Cassandra (Grover), 307
Catherine, 286, 298
Catherine (Digby), 287
Dorothy Anne (Conny),
294
Edward, 283, 283, 294, 297
Elizabeth, 286, 288, 298, 301
302, 305
Elizabeth (Bassett), 283
Elizabeth (Copledyke), 287
Elizabeth (Williams), 297
Faith Hatcher, 298
Francis, 291, 292, 293, 294, 296

- Meres, Frances Katherine, 298, 301
 303
 Gertrude, 287
 Godrid, 294
 Hannah, 298
 Hannah (Wiley), 297
 James, 301, 303, 312
 Jane, 294, 286, 287, 294
 Jane Blisby, 286
 Jane (Tempest), 286, 291
 Joane (Bussey), 291, 294
 John, 110, 111, 284, 286, 287,
 288, 289, 291, 293, 298, 299,
 301, 302, 303, 304, 306, 307,
 308, 312, 324, 325, 331, 340
 344, 345, 346
 John Sands, 308, 311
 Joseph, 287
 Katherine, 287, 288, 297
 Katherine (Crewes), 296
 Kenelm, 287
 Laurence, 286, 293
 Margaret, 284, 286
 Maria, 287, 293, 294
 Marmaduke, 297
 Martham (Young), 110, 308
 Mary, 288, 289, 297, 298, 305
 Mary (Peyton), 289
 Nathaniel, 301
 Nicholas, 284
 Robert, 286, 297, 298, 325
 Roger, 283, 288, 289
 Roger Atte, 322
 Sarah, 294, 308, 315
 Sara (Lee), 308
 Sarah (Robinson), 307
 Susanna, 308, 315
 Thomas, 111, 234, 286, 289,
 291, 294, 297, 298, 299, 300,
 301, 302, 303, 305, 306, 307,
 308, 312, 315, 321, 323, 327
 328, 330, 331, 333, 335, 336
 340
 William, 280, 298, 301, 307,
 308
- Mers, Thomas, 323
- Merstone, Ricard, 18
- Merys, John, 324
- Mers, Nathaniel, 301
- Milton, John, 308
- Monson, Henry, 327
 John, 327
- Montague, Robert, 251
- Moore, C. T. J., 296
- Mordaunt, John, 61
 Robert, 7, 191
- Mordaunte, John, 45
- Mortain, Nigel, 218
 Robert, 218
 William, 218
- Mortelme, Joan, 221
 Margaret, 221
 Richard, 221
 Thomas, 221
 William, 219, 221
- Morteyn, see de Morteyn
 Alice, 222, 223
 Catherine, 223
 Edmund, 222, 374, 376,
 377, 378
 Joan, 222
 John, 221, 222, 374, 375, 376,
 377, 378
- Morteyn, Katherine, 374
 Lucy, 222, 223
 Margaret, 223
 Thomas, 222, 223
- Morteyne, Edmund, 198
 Elizabeth, 197, 198, 201,
 376, 377
 Elizabeth (Mauleverer),
 198
 Jane, 197, 230
 Jane (Ekeney), 222
 John, 9, 197, 198, 211, 219,
 221, 222, 223
 Nicholas, 219
 Ralph, 219
- Morton, Elizabeth, 269
- Moseley, William J., 115
- Mundy, John, 53, 367
 Richard, 92
- Murcote, Dorothy, 74
 Henry, 74
- Mussenden, Elizabeth (Meres), 256
 William, 286
- Musson, Elizabeth (Deacon), 106,
 117
 William Binley, 117
- McDonald, Emily, 177
- Naylor, James, 275
- Negus, Samuel, 329
- Neligan, Rev. Dr., 176
- Neville, Barbara, 283
 Euphemia, 289
 John, 283
 Ralph, 229
- Newton, Humphrey, 104
 John, 104
- Nicolas, Harris, 40
- Noble, Mark, 132
- Noel, Edward, 333
 Mary, 333
- Nolan, John, 176
- North, Francis, 330
- Norton, Alice, 89
 John, 49, 50, 59
 Margerie, 91
 Richard, 91
 Thomas, 89
- Nutt, Elizabeth (Meres), 307
 Richard, 306, 307, 332, 340, 342,
 343, 344, 346, 376
- Oakley, Mrs. S. M., 233
- Odell, Robert, 65
- Odingsells, Edward, 52
- Onslow, Arthur, 303
- Osborne, John, 136
- Osmund, Samuel, 315
- Owen, William, 176
- Pabenham, see de Pabenham
 Alanor, 222
 Elizabeth (Engayne),
 222
 Joan (Daubeney), 232
 John, 232
 Katherine, 232
 Laurence, 191, 232
- Pache, John, 50
- Palmerston, Lord, 115
- Parker, George, 70
- Parks, John, 157
- Parnell, Alman, 284
- Parsons, Howard William, 123
 Kathleen Rachael, 123
 Sarah (Deacon), 120, 123

- Parsons, William, 120
 William B., 123
 Pascheden, Thomas, 5
 Paynell, Ann (Meeres), 285
 Geoffrey, 285
 Payton, John, 289
 Mary, 289
 Peachey, John, 32
 Peck, Francis, 303
 Pegge, John, 250
 Pepsys, Mr., 328
 Samuel, 289
 Perrin, Alfred Marsden, 174, 176,
 177
 Alice, 177
 Anne (Edwards), 174
 Annie, 174
 Annie Mayne, 177
 Cecil, 177
 Charles, 118, 177
 Charles Frederick, 122,
 123, 174, 177
 Charles Heber, 122, 177
 Clement, 177
 Clement Alfred, 122
 Effie, 177
 Ella May, 177
 Emily (Fetherstone), 177
 Emily (McDonald), 177
 Ernest, 177
 Eva, 177
 Frances Eileen, 123, 177
 Gwendoline, 177
 Henry, 174
 Henry Jocelyn, 122
 Henry Scott, 174, 177
 Jane Fisher (Scott), 171,
 174
 Kate (Bailey), 177
 Lulu, 177
 M. E. (Ecausaire), 177
 Mina, 177
 Richard, 122, 171, 174, 175
 Richard Alfred, 122
 Richard Henry, 174
 Richard McHenry, 174
 Rosa, 177
 Sarah, 118
 Sarah (Deacon), 122, 177
 Sidney John, 174, 177
 William Edwards, 174, 176,
 177
 Pettus, Elizabeth (Meres), 303, 305
 Horatio, 305
 Peyvre, Annora (Belet), 243
 Elizabeth (Bardolph), 244
 Margaret (Loryng), 244,
 247
 Mary, 245, 247
 Paul, 241
 Paulinus, 244
 Thomas, 210, 244, 247
 Peynall, Geoffry, 323
 Peyure, Thomas, 375
 Pigott, Thomas, 51
 Pinchbeck, John, 282
 Ursula, 282
 Pindar, Paul, 102
 Plant, Simon, 31
 Poyntz, Anthony, 50
 Robert, 50
 Price, Alfred, 116
 Emily, 116
 Fred John, 116
 John Dutton, 116
 Robert, 116
 Purser, John, 114, 115
 John T., 114, 115
 Pyyrot, Joane, 21
 Radcliffe, Charles Farnaby, 53
 Edward, 92
 Fred'k Peter Delme, 53
 Penelope, 52
 Radclyffe, Edward, 94
 Rainsford, Henry, 77
 Rainsborough, Wm., 103
 Rainsford, Henry, 78
 Raleigh, Walter, 63, 88
 Randoiph, John, 209
 Ratcliff, Humphrey, 85
 Ratcliffe, Edward, 91, 94, 95, 96
 Rawleigh, Walter, 83
 Raynes, Elizabeth, 365
 John, 365
 Robert, 5
 Thomas, 365, 366, 369
 Read, Robert, 103
 Reade, William, 380
 Reynes, see de Reynes
 Agnes (Ingleton), 202
 Agnes (Tyringham), 202
 229, 247
 Alice (Prowick), 199, 201,
 247
 Alice (Hartwell), 193, 195,
 196
 Catherine (Scudamore),
 193, 194, 196, 208
 Cecilia, 193
 Cecilia (Tyringham), 192
 Cicely, 197
 Elizabeth, 40, 46, 47, 202,
 203, 224, 232, 247, 267
 Jane, 190, 222, 330
 Jane (Morteyne), 197
 Joan (Broughton), 201,
 247
 Joan (Seyton), 191
 Johan (Betler), 193, 196,
 197
 John, 40, 46, 192, 193, 194,
 196, 201, 202, 203, 208, 209,
 224, 229, 247, 267, 377, 378
 380
 Katherine, 197
 Margaret, 193, 197
 Margerie, 197
 Mary, 267
 Maud (Booth), 203
 Ralph, 18, 190, 193, 194, 196
 Richard, 192, 196, 197, 198,
 201, 202, 203, 224, 267, 377,
 378
 Thomas, 5, 47, 54, 68, 190,
 191, 192, 193, 194, 197, 198,
 199, 201, 202, 203, 209, 220,
 247, 369, 377, 380
 Walter, 193, 196, 197
 Ricard, Thomas, 372
 Richard, Robert, 196
 Richardson, John, 367
 Robinson, Sarah, 307, 340
 Roos, Johan, 322
 Robert, 322

- Roos, Somers, 322
 Rudhaie, William, 50, 53, 370
 Russhe, Thomas, 50
 Sackville, Thomas, 39
 Saint John, John, 369
 Salisbury, Lord, 148
 Salmarsh, Barbara (Meres), (Eyers), 238
 William, 288
 Samson, Henry, 261
 Saville, Henry, 231
 Scarlett, Mr., 111
 Schomberg, Isaac, 212
 Scott, Cyril Henry Huntington, 139
 Henry Haffey, 166
 Iselta Eleanor, 169
 Isaac, 147, 185, 173
 Jane Fisher, 166, 171, 174
 John, 164
 Margaret (Fisher), 166, 173
 174
 Margaret Fisher, 166
 Maria Henrietta Milton, (Dixon), 169
 Maria (Huntington), 169
 Mary (Haffey), 147, 165
 Mary Jane, 112, 166, 170, 173
 Peter Haffey, 112, 122, 147, 152, 165, 166, 170, 173, 174
 Peter Haffey, Jr., 169
 Peter Henry, 169
 Reginald Ferrin, 169
 Robert, 147, 164, 165
 Robert Peter, 147, 165
 Scudamore, Catherine, 193, 194, 196
 Johanna, 194
 Peter, 193, 194, 208
 Seaborne, James, 165
 Seclit, David, 235
 Seddon, Mr., 334
 Selandyns, Thomas, 51
 Semarke, John, 263
 Margaret, 265
 Serleby, Hugh, 33
 Seton, Joan, 193
 Seymour, John, 265
 Margaret, 265
 Seynt John, John, 45
 Seyton, Joan, 191, 192
 John, 192
 Nicholas, 192
 Thomas, 191
 Shackspere, William, 77, 78
 Sheffield, John, 272
 Robertus, 325
 Sheldon, Catherine, 298
 Ralph, 298
 Shephard, Charles, 153
 Sherard, Alice, 267
 Sherard, Richard, 267
 Sherewyn, Thomas, 195
 Siddell, Mary, 269
 Siddons, Sarah (Kemble), 111
 Sidney, Algernon, 306, 333, 345
 Silwayne, Richard, 218
 Sianning, Nicholas, 103
 Slater, Thomas, 151
 Sly, Christopher, 79
 Stephen, 79
 Smith, Francis, 78
 John, 367
 Snagg, Anna, 68
 Elizabeth (Decons), 67, 68, 69
 Thomas, 67, 68, 69
 Snagge, Thomas, 67
 South, Elizabeth (Meres), 238
 Francis, 238
 Spalding, J. A., 119
 Sparkes, Elizabeth, 105
 George, 105
 John, 105
 Spencer, Alice, 25
 Anna, 34 368
 Robert, 25
 Spicer, Eleanor, 74
 William, 74
 St. John, John, 54
 Stapleton, Anne, 302
 William, 302
 Stephens, William, 301, 307, 336
 Stevenson, Elizabeth, 159
 J., 180
 John, 222
 Stoddard, Anthony, 118
 Eliza, 118
 Mary (Downing), 118
 Rodman, 118, 119
 Stoke, William, 377
 Stonham, Elizabeth, 247
 Robert, 247
 Stopesley, John, 361
 Stoughton, John, 198
 Strete, Cecilia (Reynes), 193, 196
 Henry, 193
 Joane, 193
 William, 193, 196
 Strickland, Miss, 40
 Thomas, 331
 Sturley, Thomas, 284
 Sutt, John, 50
 Sutton, Hamond, 325
 Swinfen, Mr., 323
 Talbot, Gilbert, 31
 Talboys, Walterus, 325
 Tamworth, Anne (Meres), 236
 John, 286
 Tanfield, William, 267
 Taverner, Silvester, 70
 Tegart, James, 189
 Maria, 169
 Tempest, Jane, 285
 Thomas, Edward, 275
 Tillard, Mr., 111
 Tiller, Carrie D., 359
 Torrens, Henry, 167
 Trevor, John, 330
 Tyringham, see de Tyringham
 Tyringham, Agnes, 47, 202, 229, 230, 239, 247
 Cecilia, 190, 192
 Elizabeth (Brudenell), 229, 230
 John, 202, 209, 211, 229, 230, 233, 247
 Katherine (de Lucy), 238
 Roger, 189, 190
 William, 210, 229
 Tyrwhitt, Philip, 333
 Tyrwhitt, William, 286
 Vaughan, Edward, 331
 John, 331

- Vaux, Matilda (Lucy), 239
Nicholas, 53, 368
William, 51, 239
- Vere, Robert, 92
- Verney, Henry P., 44
John, 44, 54, 368
Richard, Jr., 54, 78, 368
- Voysey, John, 203, 209
- Vilhers, George, 273
John, 273
Margaret, 273
- Wake, Hugh, 7, 191
- Walford E. M., 375
- Walter the Deacon, 373
- Ward, John, 369
- Ware, James, 119
- Warne, Eleanor, 239
- Warner, Joseph, 154
- Warren, Robt., 278
- Watson, Joseph, 116
Martha, 109
- Welby, Adam, 282
Margaret, (Meres), 281
Thomas, 284
- Whitchot, Christopher, 305
Francis, Katherine
(Meres), 305
George, 303, 305
Jane, 305
Thomas, 303, 305
- Whitchote, Thomas, 340
- Whitchott, Colonel, 278
- Whitlock, Robert, 9
- Wicklif, John, 293
- Widville, Elizabeth, 24
Richard, 87
- Williams, Charles Wye, 113, 114
Elizabeth, 297, 335
Hugh, 297
John, 297, 335
- Willis, Browne, 5, 201
- Willoghby, Robert, 327
- Wiloughby, Isabella (de Mor-
teyn), 220
Richard, 220
- Willughby, Thomas, 50
William, 50
- Winch, Humphrey, 351
- Winthrop, John, 119
- Wiseman, Richard, 331
- Wrey, Hannah, 297
William, 297
- Wydenyll, John, 223
- Wydvile, Elizabeth, 23
- Wytir, William, 225
- Yarborough, Catherine, 284
- Yekenat, 3
- Yekyn, Henry, 251
- Yonge, Richard, 33
- Young, Marthana, 308
- Zinke, C. F., 274

