

Historical
COLLECTIONS

FOR A

HISTORY
OF
STAFFORDSHIRE

EDITED BY

The William Salt Archaeological Society.

SALT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY, VOL. VI. PART 2.
ADDENDUM, PAGE XIV. PREFACE.

Since this volume was printed, my friend Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, has pointed out to me the interesting fact that the matrix of the fourteenth century seal of the Chapter was found near Sudbury, Suffolk, in the early part of the century. It was engraved in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in 1848 (vol. xxx., p. 134), where there is a good account of its discovery. On this engraving the legend is perfectly clear, and the termination of the inscription is:—LYCHFELD' AD CAS; that is, that the seal was used *ad causas*, or for causes ecclesiastical. It is much to be hoped that this interesting seal may find its way back to the custody of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield.

J. C. C.

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V. 7

VOLUME VII.

1886.

LONDON:
HARRISON AND SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,
Printers in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

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Staffordshire Sample County Studies

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PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HER MAJESTY,
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The William Salt Archaeological Society.

GENERAL MEETING, 19TH OCTOBER, 1886.

The Eighth General Meeting of the Subscribers was held at the William Salt Library, Stafford, on Tuesday, the 19th October, 1886, The Right Hon. Lord Wrottesley in the Chair. There were also present: Mr. N. Joyce Mayor of Stafford, The Dean of Lichfield, Major-General the Hon. G. Wrottesley, Major-General Edmund Manningham-Buller, Mr. Thomas Salt, M.P., Mr. Francis Whitgreave, Captain Congreve, the Rev. F. P. Parker, the Rev. W. Beresford, Mr. J. C. Tillesley, Mr. Robert Fenton, Mr. Joseph Naylor, Mr. W. H. Dugnar, Mr. J. H. Stone, Mr. J. Edge, Mr. T. J. de' Mazzinghi, and others.

The President detailed the steps which had been taken to procure the original MS. by Walter Chetwynd, of the History of Pirehill Hundred, and the ineffectual search which had been made for it at Ingestre, by permission of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who, upon the failure of his agent to find the MS. in question had placed at the disposal of the Society the original collections which had been made by Walter Chetwynd for the history in question. The President finished by proposing a vote of thanks to the Earl, which was carried unanimously.

The following Report of the Editorial Committee was read to the Meeting by the Honorary Secretary:—

The Editorial Committee submit to the Council and Subscribers a report of their operations during the past year:—

Part I. of the Sixth Volume of the Transactions of the Society was issued to the subscribers in the early part of this year, and the Second Part was completed and issued in June last. The printing of Vol. VII. is well advanced, and it will be probably in the hands of subscribers before the close of the present year. The contents consist of extracts from the Plea

RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

I.—That the Society be called the “WILLIAM SALT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.”

II.—The leading object of the Society shall be the editing and printing of original documents relating to the County of Stafford, to which, however, may be added papers selected by an Editorial Committee, illustrative of the same, or coming under any of the eight following heads:—

- (a) Abstracts of the Monastic Chartularies, and of Ancient Family Deeds, with the names of witnesses and fac-similies of seals; Genealogies of Nobility and Gentry (accompanied by proofs), Heraldic Visitations, and other papers touching the general history and descent of properties and families.
- (b) Printing and editing of the Public Records relating to the County, including the Exchequer or Pipe Rolls, the Assize Rolls, Fine Rolls, Inquisitions, Perambulators of Forests, Subsidy Rolls, and Assessments, &c., &c.
- (c) History of Parishes and of Manors, and of Manorial Customs and Tenures, illustrated by Copies of, or reference to, original grants.
- (d) Church Notes hitherto unpublished, such as Ecclesiastical Surveys, Extracts from Episcopal and Parishes Registers, Copies of Epitaphs, and Description of Monuments and Ecclesiastical Buildings, Abstracts or Copies of Wills, &c.
- (e) Notices of British and Roman Remains, and Roads and Buildings, and the Antiquities generally of the District.
- (f) Autograph Letters and other Documents relating to the Civil War.
- (g) Notices of distinguished Worthies, Brevesicles, Election Squibs, &c.
- (h) Correspondence, in which enquiries may be made and answered, on any of the above subjects, and miscellaneous information, including corrections of errors.

III.—The general affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council of ten, of whom five shall be trustees of the William Salt Library, and nominated by them, from time to time, and five shall be elected at an Annual Meeting of the Subscribers. The Council shall be empowered to delegate if they see fit, the selection of the papers to be printed, to an Editorial Committee. Of the Council, three shall be a quorum, and in case of equality of votes, their Chairman shall have a casting vote.

IV.—The Officers of the Society shall be a Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Auditor, to be appointed by the Council. These Offices shall be honorary, but the Council shall have power to appoint an Assistant Secretary to be paid at the discretion of the Council, as the nature of his duties may warrant.

V.—The Subscription shall be One Guinea annually, to be paid in advance, upon the first of January in each year, and such annual payment shall entitle each Subscriber to the volume issued for the year of such subscription. Any Subscriber shall be permitted to withdraw from the Society by giving notice of his intention three months before the termination of any year of Subscription.

N.B.—To save trouble, it is recommended that the Members of the Society pay their subscriptions to the Society's bankers by revocable order upon their own bankers, a printed form for which may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

1886.

- AMPHLETT, JOHN, Gent, Stourbridge.
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- BAGOT, Captain JOSCELINE, Levens Hall, Milnthorpe.
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BILL, CHARLES, Farley Hall, Chedale, Stoke-upon-Trent.
BIRCH, THOMAS JOHN, Armage Lodge, Rugely.
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BLAKISTON, MATTHEW FREDERICK, Nowley Park, Stafford.
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BOURNE, The Rev. T. G., Broome Rectory, Stourbridge.
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BRIDGEMAN, The Hon. and Rev. Canon, The Hall, Wigan.
BRIDGEMAN, The Hon. and Rev. JOHN R., Weston-under-Lizzard, Shifnal.
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BURNE, Miss, Pye Birch, Eccleshall.
BURTON, The Right Hon. Lord, Rangemore, Burton-upon-Trent.
- CADDICK, EDWARD, Wellington Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
CARTER, W. FOWLER, 33, Waterloo Street, Birmingham.
CARTER, JOHN, Brunswick Terrace, Stafford.
CHILD, Sir SMITH, Bart., Blythe Bridge, Stoke-upon-Trent.
CHILDE, The Rev. Prebendary EDW. BALDWIN, Kyre Park, Tenbury.

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3. A History of the Family of **Swynnerton of Swynnerton,**
and of the younger branches of the same Family settled
at **Eccleshall, Hilton, and Butterton.** *By the Hon. and*
Rev. Canon Bridgeman.

PLEA ROLLS OF THE REIGN OF EDWARD I.

A.D. 1293 TO A.D. 1307.

Continued from Part I., Vol. VI.

INTRODUCTION.

THE preface to the Plea Rolls in Vol. VI., Part I., of these Collections carried the sketch given of the History of the Law as far as the Statute of "*Quia emptores*" of the 18th year of Edward I. Between this year and the end of the reign of this Sovereign, the only Statutes of any importance are the confirmations of the Great Charter, and of the Charter of the Forest, in the 25th and 28th years of Edward I.

The general discontent produced by the arbitrary conduct of the King, and the heavy burdens thrown upon all classes for the support of the King's warlike policy, culminated at length into open resistance to the Royal authority at the period of the proposed expedition to Flanders in 1297. A large body of the Barons refused to accompany the King, on the ground that they were not bound to serve him beyond the seas, and they shortly afterwards delivered to him a formal remonstrance complaining of the violation of Magna Charta and of the Charter of the Forests, and demanding a confirmation of the two Charters, and a renunciation of the King's claim to impose aids and tallages without the consent of Parliament. The dissensions between the King and his subjects continued for nearly three years, but the firm attitude assumed by the Barons, and the necessities of the King's position arising from the number of his foreign enemies, at length prevailed, and after a fruitless effort on the King's part to introduce the words, "*salvo jure coronæ nostræ*," in the 28th year of his reign, he affixed the Great Seal of England to an absolute confirmation of the great and lesser Charters without any reservation of the Royal prerogative.

The historian Hume goes very fully into these transactions, following closely the text of Walter Hemingford's chronicle; but

the first writer who showed a full appreciation of their importance is Hallam, who, in his "Constitutional History," styles the confirmation of the Charters by Edward I. one of the pillars of the English Constitution. In this statute the King renounced for himself and his heirs for ever all claim to make aids and tallages without the assent of the whole realm (*par commun assent de tut le royaume*), saving the ancient aids and prises due and accustomed, which would be the aids such as scutage due by tenure, and the prises for the King's household or royal fortresses. This is the first mention in the Statute Book of a renunciation of right to levy taxes without the assent of Parliament. There had been a similar renunciation in the Great Charter of King John, but it had been omitted in the revised Charter issued by Henry III.

This statute, being in the form of a charter, was sealed with the Great Seal at Ghent in Flanders on 5th November, in the 25th year of his reign. Complaints, however, having been made that the Charter was not observed, an additional Act, known as the *Articuli super Chartas*, was passed in 28 E. I. In these additional articles the King remits all his anger against Humfrey de Bohun, the Constable, Roger Bigod, the Earl Marshal, and all the other Earls, Barons, Knights, and others, and also the tenants of land to the yearly value of £20 who had not obeyed his summons to pass over into Flanders. The same articles also contained a provision that three Knights should be elected in every county to redress all acts done against the Great Charter and the Charter of the Forest.

In pursuance of these articles, a close writ was directed to the Sheriff of Staffordshire, dated from Westminster, 27th March, 1300, directing him to cause three Knights of the county to be elected, who were to appear before the King and Council at York on the morrow of the Ascension (20th May), to perform whatsoever should be enjoined of them for the better performance of the Great Charter and the Charter of the Forests.

By Letters Patent dated from St. Edmunds on the 10th May following, William de Stafford, Robert de Pype, and William de Wrottesleye, were appointed Justiciaries for the due observance of the articles contained in the Great Charter and the Statute of Winchester, within the county of Stafford, and to hear and determine all pleas and complaints arising thereon.

In describing this Court of three Knights, which were elected by the freeholders of each county, to hear and determine offences

against the two Charters, Hume observes: "Three Knights were appointed to be chosen in each county, and were invested with the power of punishing, by fine and imprisonment, every transgression or violation of the Charters, a precaution which, though it was soon disused, as encroaching too much on the Royal prerogative, proves the attachment which the English, in that age, bore to liberty, and their well grounded jealousy of the disposition of Edward I."

One of the consequences of these disputes between the King and his Barons, was the perambulations of the forests of 28 E. I., which have been given in Part I. of Vol. V. of these Collections, the object being to define the bounds of the jurisdiction of the forest officers.

The Statute of Winchester was enacted in 1285 for the better security of the subject, and the more prompt pursuit and capture of felons. It directed that the hue and cry, the *hutesium et clamor*, should be made in all County Courts, Hundred Courts, markets, fairs, or other places where there was great resort of people, so that none might excuse himself out of ignorance. Inquisitions were to be made when necessary by the lord of the vill, and afterwards in the Hundred and County, and in two or more counties in the case of felonies committed in the marches of shires, so that the offenders might be attainted. If the county would not answer for the bodies of such offenders, the people of the county were to be responsible for the robberies committed and the *damages sustained*, so that the whole Hundred where the robbery was committed should be answerable. The Hundred was to have only forty days allowed them to agree for the damages or answer for the bodies of the robbers. It is upon this provision of the Statute of Winchester that the right has originated that compensation might be recovered against the Hundred for loss sustained by a breach of the peace.

It was also enacted that in walled towns the gates should be closed from sunset till sunrise, and that watches were to be kept, as had been used in former times, viz., in every walled town six men at each gate; in every borough twelve men; in every vill six or four, according to the number of the inhabitants; and these were to watch continually from sunset till sunrise. If any stranger passed by, the watch was to arrest him till the morning, and if any suspicion appeared, he was to be delivered to the Sheriff. If anyone resisted the arrest, hue and cry was to be raised, and those

brothers had unjustly disseised John son of Ralph le Tenturer of Forebrugge of common of pasture in Roulowe appurtenant to his free hold in Forebrugge and Roulowe, viz., in forty acres of land, etc. Richard le Palmer answered for all the defendants, and stated that there was no common in Roulowe appurtenant to any tenement in Forbrugge; and if that was given against him, he pleaded that John had no free tenement in Forebrugge to which common of pasture in Roulowe was appurtenant.

The jury found that common in Roulowe was not appurtenant to any tenement in Forebrugge unless the owner held land both in Roulowe and Forebrugge, and that the said John son of Ralph had a tenement in (*word illegible*), and that the defendants had unjustly disseised him of common in the said land; and as regards common in nine acres of moor and marsh, they say that John had a right of common in them between Easter and Michaelmas in each year, and that the defendants had disseised him of it. He is therefore to recover seisin of the said common of pasture, and his damages are taxed at 4*d.*; and he is *in misericordiâ* for his false claim for the residue. *m.* 20.

Staff. John son of John de Shelton and Emma his wife not prosecuting their writ of mort d'ancestor against John son of Robert atte Lowe and Amice his wife respecting tenements in Chatculne, he and his sureties, viz., Robert le Keu of Podemor and Robert Thomasmon of Podemore, are *in misericordiâ*. *m.* 20.

Staff. Alice daughter of Alexander Craket of Middelwych not prosecuting her writ of novel disseisin against Richard le (*sic*) Vernun of Herlaston and others respecting tenements in Harlaston she and her sureties, viz., Thomas son of Thomas and Richard de Bromleye are *in misericordiâ*. *m.* 20.

Staff. Walter son of William de Linton of Horecros not prosecuting his writ of mort d'ancestor against Robert le Sutarele and others respecting tenements in Horecros, is *in misericordiâ*.

Staff. Richard son of Richard de Lee and William his brother not prosecuting their writ of novel disseisin *versus* Richard du Lee and another, they and their sureties, viz., William de Kendale of Fulford and John le Messer of the same, are *in misericordiâ*. *m.* 20.

Staff. Alice daughter of Thomas de Norton and Matilda wife of Richard de Benetlega, put in their place William son of John de Norton or William de Ronton *versus* John Doyley in a plea of mort d'ancestor. *m.* 20.

ASSIZES TAKEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON IN CO. STAFFORD BEFORE THE
SAME JUSTICES, ON THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE FEAST OF
THE PURIFICATION. 35 E. I.

Staff. An assize, etc., if Philip son of Philip de Draicote, Emma formerly wife of Philip de Leghe, Reginald the son of Emma, Richard de Sondbache and Lucy his wife, Adam de Mukleston, Robert de Stepelton and Matilda his wife, and William de Stafford, had unjustly disseised Henry son of Henry de Wynleye of common of pasture in eighty acres of alder and heath, between the Feasts of the Ascension and the Purification, in Leghe near Tene.

Adam, Robert, and Matilda stated they held no right in the tenements; the others answered as tenants, and denied that Henry had ever had common of pasture in them. The jury found that Philip, Emma, Reginald, Richard, and Lucy had unjustly disseised the plaintiff of common of pasture for six oxen and two cows between the above named Feasts. He is therefore to recover seisin of this, and is *in misericordiâ* for a false claim for the rest. *m.* 21.

Staff. An assize, etc., if Richard son of Hugh Galpyn of Dulverne, Richard de Careswell, William de Caverswell, Clerk, William Cort of Caverswell, and Hugh de Peshale of Dulvere (*sic*), had unjustly disseised Robert Galpyn of Chedle of a toft and half a virgate and two acres of land and three acres of meadow in Dulverne (Dilhorn). Richard de Caverswell answered as tenant, and stated he entered by the said Richard son of Hugh; and Richard son of Hugh stated his father died seized of the tenements, and he had entered into them as his son and heir. Verdict for the defendants. *m. 21.*

Staff. An assize, etc., if Philip de Cetewynde (*sic*, Chetwynd) and Isabella his wife, Philip son of Philip de Cetewynde, Richard Lovekyn, and William de Ingestre, had unjustly disseised Andrew de Assheburne, Canon of the Church of St. Laurence of Gnoushale, of a piece of marsh in Holneye. Philip and the other defendants took exception to the writ because the Church of Gnoushale was dedicated to the Blessed Mary and to St. Peter and not to St. Laurence, and he appealed to a jury on this point, which found in his favour, and the suit was dismissed. *m. 21, dorso.*

Staff. An assize, etc., if the Prior of Trentham, John de Verdun, Canon of the Prior, and William Brun of Trentham, had unjustly disseised Robert de Fraunkeville of a acrey in Trentham for himself, his horse, and groom. The Prior and the others stated that as regards corn and hay for his horse, Robert held land in Trentham in exchange for it, and as regards the rest, he was in seisin of it if he chose to demand it. The suit was adjourned to the Wednesday after the Ascension, at Forton. *m. 22.*

Staff. An assize etc., if Geoffrey de Wasteneys of Tyxale, and John le Hayward of Taxal (*sic*), had unjustly disseised Philip de Chetewynde of common of pasture in twenty acre of land in Taxale (Tixall) appurtenant to his freehold in Ingestre. Geoffrey pleaded that as regarded a part of the claim he had approved the pasture as capital lord of Tixall, and as regarded the remainder that Philip had no right of common. The suit was adjourned to the Wednesday after the Ascension, at Forton, because Philip challenged all the jury. *m. 22.*

Staff. An assize, etc., if Philip de Chetewynde and Isabella his wife, Roger son of Jordan de Peulesdon, Nicholas son of Geoffrey of Ingestre, John de la Grene of Ingestre, and Adam de Boterton, had unjustly disseised Geoffrey de Wasteneys of common of pasture appurtenant to his freehold in Tyxhale. Philip answered for all the defendants, and stated that as regarded a part of the pasture claimed, one Robert de Chetewynde held it at the date of the writ and still holds it, and as regarded the residue, he had approved it as capital lord of the fee, and as was lawful. The jury say (*sic*), left unfinished. *m. 22.*

CORAM REGE ROLL. MICHAELMAS, 32-33 E. I.

Staff. Thomas le Keu of Bromshulf (Bramshall), sued William son of Michael de Morton, Edmund son of William de Morton, Walter de Penne, Hugh de St. George, Adam Paynssone of Preston, and John son of Michael de Morton in a plea of trespass. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to attach them, and he returned they could not be found, and held nothing in the country. He is therefore ordered to arrest them if found, and keep them in safe custody, and produce them at the Octaves of Hillary wherever the King might be within the kingdom. *m. 19.*

¹ The suit evidently referred to common of pasture in Ingestre, although the name has been omitted.

Staff. The Prior of Ronton sued Richard de Draycote in a plea that he should acquit him of the service which Richard de Cavereswell exacted from him for the freehold which he held of the said Richard, and of which Richard de Draycote is mesne lord and ought to acquit him. Richard did not appear, and is to be attached for the morrow of St. Martin. *m.* 196.

Staff. Joan formerly wife of Roger de Caverswall sued John son of William de Pykestok and John de Wenlok for a debt of 6 marks. They did not appear, and are to be attached for the morrow of St. Martin. *m.* 196.

Staff. John de Ferrars sued Robert de Bures for causing waste and destruction in the lands, houses, and woods and gardens of Charteley, which Robert held for term of his life only, of the inheritance of the said John. Robert did not appear, and is to be attached for the morrow of St. Martin. *m.* 214.

Staff. Robert de Somerforde was summoned by Jordan de Hamelhamstede in a plea that he had taken and unjustly detained two cows belonging to him. Robert stated that one John de Sempingham held of him a messuage and half a virgate of land in Somerforde by homage and fealty and the service of 4s. yearly, and put at his court every three weeks; and he had taken the cattle in a place called La Grave, within his fee, because the service was in arrear. Jordan stated that the cattle were taken out of the fee on the high road, and appealed to a jury, which is to be summoned for the morrow of all Souls. *m.* 213, *dorso.*

Staff. Thomas son of Hugh de Weston, and John de Bradele, withdrew their plea of debt against John de Stretton, the parson of the Church of Weston near Brewode. *m.* 193, *dorso.*

Staff. Robert Cereys and Pardonilla his wife sued James son of William de Thykess for a third of ten messuages, two carucates of land, and 40s. of rent in Sheperig, in Newcastle-under-Lyme, which they claimed as dower. James did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to take the dower claimed into the King's hand, and to summon him for three weeks from Michaelmas. *m.* 179, *dorso.*

Staff. In the suit of Richard de Blithefeld and Richard de Wolseye against Richard de Herthull to acquit them of the service due to Peter de Gresleye for tenements in Wulselye, the Sheriff returned that Richard de Herthull held nothing within his bailwick by which he could be attached, and it was testified he held sufficient at Herthull in co. Derby. The Sheriff of Derbyshire was therefore ordered to summon him for the morrow of St. Martin. A postscript further adjourns the suit to three weeks from Easter. *m.* 87, *dorso.*

Staff. John de St. Maur sued Alianora the wife of Thomas de Tyvolesdon (who had been admitted to sue by the default of the said Thomas) for ten acres of land and two meadows in Felde (Field) as his right and inheritance, and in which Thomas and Alianora had no entry except by a demise which Henry de St. Maur, the grandfather of John, whose heir he is, had made to one Walter de Otteford for a term now expired.

Alianora called to warranty Philip son of Philip de Chetwynde Knight, who appeared and warranted the tenements to her, and stated that John had no right, because Henry de St. Maur, from whose seisin he claimed, had remitted and quit-claimed all his right to Philip de Chetwynde his father; and he produced the deed of Henry. John denied that the deed was executed by his grandfather, and appealed to a jury, which is to be summoned for the morrow of St. Martin, and the deed in the meantime was handed into the custody of J. Bacun the King's clerk, and all the witnesses to the deed were dead. A postscript adds that on the Octaves of the Purification, 1 E. II., one Philip son of the said Philip, son of Philip, appeared in Court, and stated that his father (the defendant) was dead, and prayed that the deed might be given

up to him as his heir. And after it was testified in Court by Nicholas de Warreyke that Philip his father was dead, and that he, the said Philip, was his heir, the deed was delivered up to him in full Court (*in plena Curia*). *m.* 84, *dorso*.

Essex, Staff. Agnes formerly wife of Reginald le Wodeward of Wolverhampton, sued William de Fynchefeld of Overe Penne, and Magister Richard Walraund, Clerk, for a third of twelve and a half acres of land in Overe Penne in co. Stafford, which she claimed as dower; and they did not appear at the day given to them at Trinity term, but they afterwards appeared in Court and called to warranty Richard son of Seburn de Bures. The Sheriff was therefore commanded to take the dower claimed into the King's hand, and to summon them to hear judgment at the Octaves of St. Michael. *m.* 23, *dorso*.

Staff. Mabel formerly wife of Geoffrey de Gorsthull sued Reginald le Bedel of Lycherela, for an acre and a half in Elmburst as her right and *maritagium*, etc. (*as before*). Reginald pleaded that he held the land conjointly with one Amice his wife, who was not named in the writ; and as Mabel could not deny this, she asked permission to withdraw it. *m.* 22, *dorso*.

Staff. The Sheriff was ordered to raise £150 from the lands and chattels of Edmund Baron of Stafford, and the Sheriff of Warwickshire was ordered to raise £50 from the lands of the same Baron, for debts owing by the said Edmund to Ralph de Hengham. *m.* 7, *dorso*.

Staff. Roger son of Peter Corbizun sued John Gyffard of Chylington and Alditha his wife for the manor of Chylington, of which Margaret Corbizun his kinswoman was seized as of fee when she died. John and Alditha took exception to the writ because they did not hold the whole manor, and they stated that one Thomas de Hyda had a messuage and a virgate of land in it, and Ralph Gyffard a messuage and a croft, and the Prioress and Nuns of Brewode held a messuage and half a virgate of land, and held those tenements when the writ was issued, viz., on the 6th March, 32 E. I. Roger replied that John and Alditha held the whole manor either in demesne, or as of alms, or as of service, and appealed to a jury, which is to be summoned for the morrow of St. Martin. *m.* 1, *dorso*.

BANCO ROLL. MICHAELMAS, 33 E. I.

Staff. William Sauvage and Lucy his wife not appearing to prosecute their suit for dower against Richard Constantyn, it is dismissed. *m.* 83.

Staff. John de Swynnerton sued Katerina formerly wife of Nicholas de Audeleye and James de Stafford, in a plea that each of them should pay him a debt of £40, which they unjustly detained. The defendants did not appear and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce them at the Quindene of Hillary. *m.* 103.

Staff. Richard le Eyr sued William son of William de Kynthon for two parts of a messuage and a virgate of land in Kynthon near Woninton; and he sued Richard le Brer and Cecilia his wife for a third of a messuage and a virgate of land in the same vill, of which William le Eyr his grandfather, whose heir he is, had died seized as of fee, and he stated that the said William his grandfather was seized of the tenements in the reign of King Henry the King's father, and from the said William the fee descended to one Adam as son and heir, and from Adam to Richard who now sues. The defendants appeared, and Richard and Cecilia stated they held the third part as dower of Cecily, and they called to warranty William son of William de Kynthon, who is to be summoned for the morrow of the Purification; and William pleaded that the said William le Eyr the grandfather did not die seized of the tene-

of one and a half acres, and Geoffrey de Copenhale and Nesta his wife for a third of two acres, and John son of Thomas Rose for a third of two acres, and John Matheu for a third of two and a half acres, and John Page for a third of two and a half acres, and Adam de Berlaston for a third of three and a half acres, and Richard le Spenser for a third of two acres, and Thomas Dun for a third of three and a half acres, and William Oldman for a third of two acres, and William Phelip for the third of half an acre, and Richard de Hales for a third of four acres, and John son of Robert de Huggeford for a third of a messuage and two acres, and thirty other tenants in the same vill for a third of their holdings in the same vill, as her dower. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to take the dower claimed into the King's hand, and to summon them for the morrow of the Purification.¹ *m.* 405.

Staff. William Wyther gives 20s. for license of concord with Reginald son of Reginald de Legh, respecting tenements in Caldon.² *m.* 425.

Staff. Margaret formerly wife of John de Wanton sued John son of John fitz Philip for a third of the manor of Bobyngton as her dower. John stated that he held the said manor for term of his life by the concession of John son of John de Wanton, and that the reversion of the manor after his death fell to one Joan the wife of Hugh de Eppham, daughter and heir of the said John son of John de Wanton, and he called to warranty Hugh and Joan; and Joan was under age; and their lands were in the seisin of the said Hugh and Joan by virtue of a fine levied in 15 E. I. between John son of John fitz Philip, complainant, and John son of John de Wanton, deforciant, of the manor of Bubyn-ton, by which fine the said John son of John fitz Philip acknowledged the said manor to be the right of the said John son of John de Wanton; for which acknowledgment, etc., the same John son of John de Wanton conceded to John son of John fitz Philip the said manor, to be held of John son of John de Wanton and his heirs for the life of the said John son of John fitz Philip, etc.; and the said John son of John fitz Philip not being able to produce a transcript of the fine, a mandate was sent to Roger Brebaroun and his fellow Justices to send a transcript of it under such seals as the Justices of Hillary; and the said John son of John de Wanton is to be summoned for the same date, the summons to be served in cos. Ebor. and Lincoln. *n.* 426.

Salop. John son of Thomas Mauveysin of Berwick sued the Prior of Wambrigge (Wombridge) for the third of a mill in Orpinton, of which Henry Mauveysin his grandfather had been seised in demesne as of fee in the reign of King Henry the King's father. The Prior denied that the said Henry had died seised of the tenement, and appealed to a jury, which is to be summoned for five weeks from Easter. *m.* 438, *dorso*.

Staff. Richard de Delves sued Ralph de Bromleye and Agnes his wife in a plea that they should warrant to him a bovate of land in Dimmesdale which he held and claimed to hold of them, and for which he held their deed. Ralph and Agnes did not appear, and are to be attached for a month from Easter. *m.* 428, *dorso*.

Staff. Adam de Leghe sued William de Wolseleye in a plea that he caused waste and destruction in the houses and gardens in Bertherton which

¹ This suit will give the reader an idea of the subdivision of the land in England in the thirteenth century. It will be perceived that there were no less than seventy-four freeholders in the single manor of Hilderstone, besides a resident lord of the manor, William de Huggeford.

² By this fine Reginald acknowledged a messuage and three bovates and two acres of land, and half a bovate of land, and sixty acres of wood and sixteen acres of pasture in Caldon, to be the right of William Wyther, for which William gave him £100. (*Pedes Finium, Stafford.*, 34 E. I.)

Staff. Simon le Scot of Bromleye Regis sued Roger son of Thomas Corbet in a plea that he should warrant to him seventeen acres of land in Bromleye Regis, which he claimed to hold of him. Roger did not appear, and the Sheriff returned he held nothing in co. Stafford, and it was shown he held sufficient in co. Salop. The Sheriff of Salop was therefore ordered to attach him for the morrow of St. John the Baptist. A postscript adjourns the suit to the morrow of St. Martin. *m.* 261, *dorso*.

Staff. Nicholas Randolf and William de Mersshon, the executors of William de Pykestoke, sued Richard Spigornel and Henry son of William de Wolaton and William de la Doune, in a plea that each of them should render to them 8 marks which they unjustly detained. The defendants did not appear and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce them on the Octaves of Trinity. *m.* 233, *dorso*.

Staff. Dionisia formerly wife of John le Bret, senior, sued Hugh de Aldytheleye and Isolda his wife for the third of a messuage and carucate of land, twenty acres of wood, and twenty acres of pasture, and ten acres of meadow and 100s. of rent in Chesterton, as her dower. Hugh and Isolda called to warranty William son of William de Thicknesse, who is to be summoned for three weeks from Easter. *m.* 225, *dorso*.

Staff. John de Chetewynde sued Robert de Staundon for causing waste and destruction in houses, woods, and gardens, which he held in custody of the inheritance of John in Weston near Staundon. Robert did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to attach him for the Quindene of Trinity. A postscript states the Sheriff made no return at that date, and the suit was adjourned to the morrow of All Souls. *m.* 115, *dorso*.

Staff. William Orpinger of Sandon and Margaret his wife sued Henry de Horseleye for a third of eight acres of land in Sandon (Sandon), and they sued Amice formerly wife of Thomas the Clerk for a third of four acres in the same vill as dower. Henry and Amice stated they held only for a term by the demise of one Richard son of Richard Wolfrich whom they called to warranty. Richard is to be summoned for the Quindene of Easter. *m.* 87, *dorso*.

Staff. Juliana formerly wife of Robert de Hufgeford sued Eva de Oswaldestre for the third of a water-mill in Hildulveston (Hilderstone) as dower. Eva called to warranty William son of Robert de Hufgeford, who is to be summoned for a month from Easter. *m.* 87, *dorso*.

BANCO ROLL. EASTER, 34 E. I.

Staff. William son of Robert de Hufgeford sued Walter de Hufgeford in a plea that he should acquit him of the service which William de Chetewynde exacted from him for the tenement which he held of the said Walter in Hildulveston (Hilderstone), and in which Walter was mesne lord between them. Walter did not appear, and the Sheriff returned he held nothing within his county, and it was shown that he held sufficient in co. Salop. The Sheriff of Salop was therefore commanded to summon him for the Octaves of Michaelmas, and the Sheriff of Staffordshire was ordered to attach him according to Statute. *m.* 21.

Staff. William son of Robert de Hufgeford sued Elyas atte Lowe for an acre and a half of land in Hildulveston (Hilderstone), and he sued William le Caretter for an acre and a half of land in the same vill, and Adam de Preers and Alice his wife for six acres in the same vill, and John son of John de Brok, for six acres in the same vill. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to take the tenements into the King's hand, and to summon them for the Octaves of Michaelmas. *m.* 52.

Staff. Agnes formerly wife of Henry de Salt sued Robert de Bromleye and Ralph de Hampton for a third of a water mill in Blythefeld as her dower. Robert and Ralph called to warranty Isabella and Margaret the daughters and heirs of Henry de Salt, whose persons and lands are in the custody of the said Agnes. And he produced a deed of Henry son of Hugh de Salt, which showed that Henry gave to Magister Robert (de Bromleye) and Ralph, the said mill for a term of thirty years, and after thirty years they were to render to the said Henry and his heirs 100*s.* yearly, and which contained a clause of warranty. Agnes was therefore ordered to produce the heirs to warrant the tenements at the Quindene of Trinity. *m.* 76.

Staff. Matilda (*sic*) formerly wife of John le Bret recovers a third of a messuage and a carucate of land, etc., in Chesterton as dower against Hugh de Aldytheleye and Isolda his wife, through default of the defendants. *m.* 101.

Staff. Roger son of Peter Corbizun sued Simon son of Ralph Cotyn of Buckenbale for six acres of land in Maddele-under-Lyme, in which the said Simon had no entry except by a disseisin which Simon Cotyn had made of Peter Corbizun his father. And Simon had made default at the last Octaves of Michaelmas, and the Sheriff had been ordered to take the tenements into the King's hands, and to summon the parties to hear judgment at this term, and upon this the Simon appeared who called himself son of the said Ralph, and stated that he held the said tenements, and held them at the date of the writ; and he prayed that he might not lose them by the default of the said Simon, who had died long before the date of the writ. And Roger stated that the said Simon who called himself son of Ralph did not hold the tenements in question, and that Simon, against whom he sued, was alive and held the tenement, and held them at the date of the writ; and he appealed to a jury, which is to be summoned for three weeks from Michaelmas; on which day, a postscript states, the Sheriff sent no writ, and the suit was adjourned till the Purification of the Blessed Mary. *m.* 127.

Staff. Alice formerly wife of Peter de Colcestre sued Ralph le Despencer for a third of a messuage and five acres and a half of land in Elleford; and she sued William son of Rogan de Cumberford for a third of a pound of pepper in the same vill, and William son of Alan Frabazun of Cumberton (*sic*) for a third of an acre of pasture; and she sued Osbert Everard of Tamworth for a third of a messuage and half a virgate of land in the same vill; and Robert Hastang for a third of two acres in Badenhall, which she claimed as dower. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to take the dower claimed into the King's hand, and to summon them for the Quindene of Trinity. *m.* 141.

Staff. The Abbot of Roucestre, the executor of Urian de St. Perris, sued William de Hundesaker (Hundsacre) and Edmund son of Geoffrey de Greseleye, the executors of Geoffrey de Greseleye, for a debt of 10 marks; and they did not appear; and the Sheriff had been ordered to distrain, etc., and he now returned that he had distrained William by his chattels to the value of 20*d.*, and that Edmund held nothing within his bailiwick, and it was shown he held sufficient at Kynkeston (Kingston). The Sheriff was ordered to distrain as before, and to produce them on the morrow of St. John the Baptist. *m.* 218.

Staff. Adam Coyne was sued by Thomas Earl of Lancaster for customs and right services owing for the free tenement he held of him in Uttoxhather (Uttoxeter) and Marchinton; and the Earl stated by his attorney that whereas the said Adam held of him four messuages and three hundred and nineteen acres of land and fourteen acres of meadow, sixty acres of moor and marsh, by homage and fealty, and the service of a tenth of a Knight's fee and a rent of 10*s.* annually, he had unjustly withheld the service, and for which he

Theobald is to produce the said Nicholas with the assistance of the Court at Westminster before the Justices of the Bench at the Quindene of Michaelmas; and Henry put in his place William de Courson and Richard son of Herbert de Twycros; and Theobald put in his place William Burgess of Alveton and William Hoddelone of Alveton. *m. 12, dorso.*

Staff. Philip de Chetwynde not prosecuting his writ of novel disseisin *versus* Geoffrey Wasteneys of Tyxale and John le Hayward of Tixale respecting common of pasture in Tixale appurtenant to his freehold in Ingestre, he and his sureties, viz., Richard de Whitegrave of Ingestre and Stephen de Ingestre, are *in misericordia.* *m. 12, dorso.*

Staff. Henry de Denston withdrew his writ of novel disseisin *versus* Alan son of Robert de Brocton and others respecting tenements in Denstone. *m. 12, dorso.*

Staff. John de Chetwynde withdrew his writ of novel disseisin *versus* Robert de Staundon respecting tenements in Weston near Staundon. *m. 12, dorso.*

Staff. John son of John de Schelton and Emma his wife withdrew their writ of mort d'ancestor *versus* William Dadus of Podmore, the brother of the said Emma, respecting tenements in Chatkulne. *m. 12, dorso.*

Staff. John Doylly, who brought a jury of twenty-four to convict twelve in a suit against Richard de Benteleye and Matilda his wife and Alice sister of Matilda respecting tenements in Morton, near Cannokbury, did not appear to prosecute it. He is therefore to be arrested, and his sureties, William de Say of Wirelay and Adam Whethals, are *in misericordia.* John afterwards fined 20s. for his release. *m. 12, dorso.*

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

THE SUBSIDY ROLL OF A.D. 1327.

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

THE SUBSIDY ROLL OF A.D. 1327.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS Subsidy was granted by the First Parliament of King Edward III. to meet the expenses of the Scotch War. The Statute has been lost, but the King's Commission, dated 23rd November, 1 Edward III., recites that the Earls, Barons, Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of the Kingdom, had granted to him a twentieth part of all moveable goods for the defence of the Kingdom against the Scots.

The Collectors and Taxers for co. Stafford were John de Acton and Richard de Hampton. The Commission directs them to summon before them the most loyal and best men of each vill, from which they were to elect four, or six, or more if they thought it desirable, by whom the assessment could be best accomplished. These were to be sworn to fully and loyally make inquiry into the goods possessed by every man of the vill on Michaelmas Day, 1 Edward III., in the house or out of the house, and to tax the same according to their true value, saving the things to be excepted. The latter are stated to be the armour, "*mouture*,"¹ jewels and robes of Knights and gentlemen and their wives, and their plate of silver or pewter. "*Des viens de meseaux*"² were not to be taxed, nor the goods of those whose moveable property did not reach the amount of 10s. The Commission makes no distinction between freemen and others, and it is probable therefore that the villein tenants of every manor were taxed equally with the freeholders, for the principle of the taxation of this era was to include all classes indiscriminately, until it degenerated at length into the poll tax pure and simple, which produced the insurrections of the following reign.

¹ I conclude this word, from the context, must mean horses used for riding.

² Probably tools and implements used in agriculture or trade.

On the other hand, the exemptions amongst the upper classes were numerous. The nobles and gentry paid no tallage on their most valuable possessions, and all those who held any office under the King claimed to be exempt altogether. There was good reason for some of these exemptions, for the upper classes for the most part paid scutage, and those who attended, according to their summons, to serve the King in a warlike expedition, and whose scutage was remitted in consequence, were put to an enormous expense in the necessary equipment of horses and arms for themselves and retinue. When the feudal levies were discontinued, the English nobles submitted to the same taxation as the rest of the community, and thus freed themselves from the reproach cast by the French revolutionary party of the last century with some justice against their nobility, of making use of obsolete privileges to escape their share of the national burdens.

The Roll now printed is the earliest extant Subsidy Roll for Staffordshire. It will be noted that for the purpose of computing totals, manors are in some cases joined together in the most arbitrary fashion, quite independent of any manorial or ecclesiastical connection.

EXCHEQUER SUBSIDY ROLL, A.D. 1327.

Headed—VICISSIMA DOMINO REGI A LAICIS CONCESSA IN COMITATU
STAFFORDIÆ ANNO REGNI SUI PRIMO.

HUNDRED DE PYRHUL.

Cubblesdon (Kibblestone in
Stone).

	s.	d.
De Johne Trussel	xv.	
Roberto Under the tre....	v.	
Willmo de Hodynet	iiij.	
Thoma fox	iiij.	
David Curteys	iiij.	vj.
Johne Herberd	v.	vj.
Thoma Cissore	ij.	
Thoma Under the tre	ij.	
Henrico Hankyn	ij.	
Ricardo Molendinario	ij.	
Henrico Fabro	ij.	
Willmo Page	iiij.	
Willmo Batkyn	iiij.	
Willo Barneville	iiij.	
Ricardo Baroun	ij.	
Ricardo Under-Wode	iiij.	
Thoma Haket	iiij.	
Ricardo Porcario	iiij.	
Thoma Saunfayl	iiij.	
Johne de Beryhul....	ij.	
Roberto de Aula		vj.
Johne fox		vj.
Summa	<u>lxx.s. p̄b.</u>	

Staundon.

	s.	d.
De Viviano de Staundon	vj.	
Roberto filio prepositi		xv.
Stepho Medico		xij.
Henrico de Aston		xx.
Adam Bercario		xviiij.
Thoma Carettario		xvj.
Ricardo Batkoc		xij.
Adam Carpentario		xviiij.
Adam bercario de Cherlton		xvij.
Willmo Capellano		xviiij.
Adam de Walford		xviiij.
Thoma Herberd	ij.	
Johne Overey		xij.
Johne Fraunchetere		xx.

Weston.

	s.	d.
De Johne de Chetewynde	v.	
Willmo le Motere		xxj.
Galfrido de Weston		xij.
Thoma Molendinario		xviiij.
Ricardo de Offyleye		xx.
Roberto filio Thome		xvj.
Johne Bercario		xviiij.
Thoma Bercario		xvj̄ob.
Henrico de Rugge		xviiij.
Johne Attelowe		xviiij.
Henrico filio Raulphi		xiiij.
Summa....	<u>xliiij.s. p̄b.</u>	

Mershton (Marston).

	s.	d.
De Henrico le Hayward		xviiij.
Johne Curteys		xij.
Henrico le Hayward senior	iiij.	
Thoma Hobben		vj.
Adam Morynca		xij.
Willmo filio Thome	ij.	
Ancia Norman		xij.
Ricardo de Hoiseleye		xij.
Henrico le Revesone	iiij.	
Johne Othe Grene	iiij.	
Johne filio Roberti		vj.
Willmo filio Roberti	ij.	vj.
Johne filio Willmi		xij.
Henrico fratre ejus		xij.
Willmo fratre ejus		xij.
Nicholao le Reve	v.	
Elena filia Johannis	ij.	
Adam othe Grene	iiij.	
Johne Nel	ij.	vj.
Henrico filio Ronulphi		xij.
Thoma Houden		vj.
Dyonisia de Charteleye		vj.
Willmo Elyot		xviiij.
Henrico filio Willmi		xviiij.
Summa..	<u>xl.s. p̄b.</u>	

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Willielmo Bridun	...	xij.	Waltero le Wyse	...	ij.
Thoma in le Grene	...	xij.	Rogero de Redesford	...	xij.
Henr' de Barnehurst	...	iiij.	Rogero de Levedale	...	xvj.
Will'o Avyns	...	xij.	Thoma de Cressewalle	...	xij.
Willielmo le Wyse	...	v.			
Waltero Odys	...	ij.			
Roberto le Graunger	...	vj.	Summa	...	<u>c.s. p̄b.</u>
Summa totius Hundredi de Seysdonlxvj.li	xiiij.s.	vij.d. p̄b.
Prob' Summa totalis Vicesimæ in Comitatu Stafford dno					
Regi concessæ a laicis, anno Regni sui primo		cccclj.li	v.s.	v.d. qu.

Hos rotulos libere averunt hic ad Scaccarium Johannes de Hodynet, attornatus Johannis de Acton annis taxatorum et collectorum vicesimæ Regi concessæ in Comitatu Stafford, et Johannes de Barndhurst attornatus Ricardi de Hampton, alterius taxatorum et collectorum dictæ vicesimæ sub sigillis predictorum taxatorum et collectorum, ix. die Maii anno tertio Regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum.

END.

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AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

FAMILY OF SWYNNERTON,

OF SWYNNERTON AND ELSEWHERE IN THE
COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

IN the following pages it is proposed to trace the history of a Staffordshire family, which although originally only of knightly rank, attained a position of considerable importance during the reigns of the first three Edwards owing to the extent of its possessions and the personal qualities of some of its members. Two, if not three, of the family bore, as Bannerets, the insignia of Swynnerton, the cross floy, displayed, in the Scotch and French wars of the fourteenth century, and one of these attained Baronial rank, having been summoned by writ to the House of Peers, by King Edward III., though his descendants were never afterwards summoned.

The manor and parish of Swynnerton, from which they took their name, and of which they were lords, consists of the hamlets of Swynnerton, Earnfield, Beech, Acton, Hatton and Shelton. One of these, however, that of Beech, formed no part of the fee of Swynnerton, it being shown by an inquisition of *ad quod damnum* of 2 Edw. III., to which reference will hereafter be made, that it formed a portion of the fief of Tittensor.

SWYNNERTON OF SWYNNERTON.

At the time of the Great Survey in 1086, ASLEN held two hides in Sulvertone (*i.e.*, Swynnerton) of Robert de Stafford. There were eight carucates of land there, of which one was held in demesne; and there were ten villeins and five boors who held six carucates. (The carucate not accounted for is doubtless Beech.) There were

ten acres of pasture, and wood of one league in length and one in breadth. The value was 40s.

ROBERT fitz EHELEN, one of the witnesses to the Charter of Nicholas de Stafford to Kenilworth Priory between 1122 and 1125, or thereabouts, was probably the son of the Domesday tenant. The father's name has been spelt with great variety. In the Staffordshire Domesday it is given as Aslen; in the Lincolnshire Domesday as Edelo. In later records as Ehelen, Eelen, Eslenem, Esluem and Aelem.¹

ROBERT fitz EELEN (possibly the same but more probably the son of the former) is styled Lord of Swynnerton in a certificate of Helias, Archdeacon of Stafford, concerning the concession of the Church of Swynnerton to the Priory of Stone (or Stanes), which passed between 1155 and 1159.² It is more probable from the dates that the last Robert fitz Eelen was the grandson than the son of the Domesday tenant. Nothing, says Mr. Eyton, has been a more fruitful source of genealogical paradox than the mistaken idea which some writers seem to have entertained with regard to the personal nomenclature of the twelfth century. The term "filius" or "fitz" as generally used in the twelfth century, means "descendant of" not "son of," though in some exceptional cases a strictly patronymic nomenclature, like that of the Welsh, seems to have obtained among the Normans.³

Whether the said Robert were the son or grandson of Aslen, he will probably have been the same person who, as Robert fitz Aelem, is recorded as holding 1½ f.m. of the Baron of Stafford in 1166.⁴ General Wrottesley supposes this fee to have included a portion of North Rauceby in Lincolnshire, which was also held by the Swynnertons of the Baron of Stafford. The Lincolnshire Domesday names Roscebi among Robert de Stafford's lands, which was then held by Edelo (doubtless the same with Aslen or Eelen), and the Lincolnshire Hundred Roll of 3 Edw. I. (1274-5) states that

¹ "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. II., pp. 195-197. In the Pipe Roll of 13 Hen. II. (1166-7), Swynnerton is described as Swineduna *Helye*. ("Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. I., p. 49.)

² "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. III., p. 185. The Church of Swynnerton appears at that time to have been divided into two portions, and the two incumbents thereof, who were both named Osbert, had conceded the Church to be subject to the Priory of Stone, with the consent of Robert fitz Eelen, lord of the vill.

³ "Antiquities of Shropshire," Vol. II., p. 305, note.

⁴ *Liber Niger*; "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. I., p. 174.

the Hospitallers of Maltby held half a Knight's fee in Rouceby, of the gift of Robert de Silverston (Swynnerton) one hundred years before.¹ This would take us back to about the year 1175. Swynnerton was variously written in early times as Sulvertone, Swilveston, Silveston and Swinerton.

The extensive tenure in different counties of the Swynnertons under the Barons of Stafford, and their frequent occurrence as witnesses of their deeds, would seem to point to some relationship between the families.

ROBERT DE SWYNNERTON is witness to a deed of Hervey Bagot which is placed by Mr. Eyton between 1185 and 1190, but which may possibly have passed a few years later;² and before the year 1198 he confirmed his father's grant of the Church of Swynnerton, to the Monks of Stone.³ In 1199 he was in litigation with one Walter de Cherleton concerning a pool in Swynnerton, which Cherleton asserted that Robert had raised unlawfully to the detriment of his free tenement in the same vill after the second coronation of King Richard, that is in 1194.⁴ The vill of Cherleton was adjacent to Swynnerton.

In the same year Stephen de Hamton claimed against Robert de Swynnerton four virgates of land with the appurtenances in Hamton, which his father had mortgaged to Robert for a term which has expired. Robert came and defended his right, and said that he did not hold that land in demesne, for that Philip Baggot and Hugh de Hatton held it of him, and it was needless for him to give him any further answer unless the Court required it. And Hugh came and said that the father of Stephen gave to him the land which he holds, namely, one virgate; and he ought to hold it of him (Stephen). And Stephen acknowledged this and took his homage for it. And Robert de Swininton (Swynnerton), of whom Stephen ought to hold it, took the homage of Stephen for it. And Philip is summoned to appear at Westminster after the Feast of St. Michael, to show by what warrant he holds the land which his father (*i.e.*, the father of Stephen) mortgaged to the father of Robert.⁵ The final concord was dated at Westminster, 4th May,

¹ *Liber Niger*; "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. I., p. 174.

² "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. II., p. 261.

³ *Ibid.*, Vol. VI., p. 30.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Vol. III., p. 56. (From Assize Roll, 1 John.)

⁵ "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. III., pp. 59, 60; which refers to Fin. Conc. 1 John, No. 6. See also *Placita corone* taken at Lichfield on the Feast of St. Michael (entered in the "*Abbreuiatio*" as *Placita incerti temporis Regis*

1200, concerning three virgates of land in Hampton. Philip acknowledged the land to be the right of Stephen and his heirs, and Stephen granted the land to Philip to hold for the five years next following the second Ascension Day after the coronation of King John, and this agreement was made in the presence of Robert de Swinewarton the chief lord.¹

At the Shropshire Assizes of 1203 Adam Forester essoigned the attendance of Robert de Swynnerton, who was included in the general summons.² This will have been in consequence of his tenure of Telow in that county. Whether it were he or his successor of the same name who appears in 14 John (1212) as a Knight of grand assize for the county of Stafford,³ I am unable to decide.

In King John's wars with the Barons, the Lord of Swynnerton evidently took part with the latter; for in November, 1217, the Sheriff of *Lincolnshire* is ordered to restore the lands of ROBERT DE SWYNNERTON who had returned to his allegiance, from which he had receded in the time of King John.⁴ In a record of about the same date he is stated to hold one Knight's fee in Swynnerton, in the county of Stafford.⁵ In Michaelmas term, 2 Hen. III. (probably in November, 1217)⁶ an assize of last presentation was taken to the Church of Swynnerton, the advowson of which the King claimed against the Prior of Kenilworth, who appeared and pleaded the Church was not vacant, because he and the Canons had presented

Johannis, but which bear internal evidence of having been held at Michaelmas, 1199, as *Mauger* is therein spoken of as bishop *elect* of Worcester). See also Vol. III., p. 56. The father of Stephen was named Robert, and he was probably a cadet of the House of Swynnerton, Hatton being a member of the manor of Swynnerton. The suit was continued in 1205 and 1206, between Robert de Swynnerton on the one part, and Stephen, son of Robert, and Philip Biggot on the other, and terminated in 10 Hen. III., 1227, by the surrender of the four disputed virgates by the Lord of Swynnerton to *William son of Stephen* because he is poor.

¹ "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. III., p. 167.

² "Antiquities of Shropshire," Vol. VIII., p. 255.

³ "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. III., p. 158.

⁴ 3 Rot. Claus. 2 Hen. III., 2^a, *pars. m.* 16.

⁵ Extract de Lib. Feod. Milit. 1 Hen. III. (Shaw's "Staffordshire," Vol. I., p. 15.)

⁶ As the regnal years of Hen. III. commenced 28th October, the session of the Michaelmas Term 1 Hen. III. may have extended to the end of October, which would have fallen in the second year of his reign. I cannot otherwise account for the concord of 20th May, 1218 (hereafter to be mentioned), which must surely have followed and not preceded the present suit.

wife.¹ In 6 Hen. VII. he conceded to John de Swynnerton his brother an annual rent of 40s issuing from his manor of Swynnerton.¹ In 12 Hen. VII., 1496, he was one of those appointed commissioners for the county of Stafford, in conjunction with the Justices of the Peace for that county, to collect the subsidy which had been granted to the King in the Parliament held at Westminster, for the maintenance of an army against the Scots.²

On 21st April, 13 Hen. VII., 1498, he made over certain lands in Beche to his son Thomas Swynnerton and Alice his wife.³

In 13 Hen. VII. (1500-1) he conceded to Robert Moreton and James Nowell the next advowson and presentation to the Church of Swynnerton, and on 12th June, 1503, he was appointed, together with Edward Hammer, to be a collector of a subsidy in Gwely Cuhelyn.⁴ This is the last I hear of him. He was dead in 21 Hen. VII., 1506,⁵ leaving Joan his wife surviving, by whom he had a son and heir Thomas and several daughters.⁶ Joan his widow was living 6th September, 19 Hen. VIII., 1527, the date of a deed by which Thomas Swynnerton de Hulton and "*Joanna Swynton mater predicti Thomæ in sua iurâ viduitate*," release to William Wagstaffe and his heirs certain lands in Norton and Wyrley.³ It was probably she who was admitted as a member of the Guild or Corporation of Lichfield, by the name of "*Johanna Swynnerton*," in 1534.⁷

THOMAS SWYNNERTON, of Swynnerton and Hilton Esq., occurs with Alice his wife in 22 Hen. VII., being then described as of Hilton;³ and in the following year he confirmed an annual rent of 43s. to his uncle John Swynnerton.³

In 1 Hen. VIII. (1509-10) an indenture was made between Thomas Swynnerton, of Hilton, Esq., and Alice his wife, of the one part, and John Swynnerton, of Swynnerton (his uncle), of the other part, whereby Thomas and Alice agreed to farm to the said John Swynnerton the manor of Swynnerton.¹

¹ Chetwynd MSS., Vol. II., from Nowell's Deeds.

² Rot. Parl., Vol. VI., p. 517.

³ Swynnerton Evidences at Hilton.

⁴ Deputy Keeper of Record's 37th Report.

⁵ MS. Calendar of Escheators' Accounts.

⁶ Chetwynd MSS., Vol. IV.

⁷ Harwood's "Lichfield," p. 414. Several ladies of rank were admitted as members of the Guild, and among them, in 1495, no less a personage than "Excelentissima Dna Elizabeth' regin' Anglie et Francie."

In 4 Hen. VIII. Thomas Swynnerton was Escheator for the county of Stafford;¹ and in 16 Hen. VIII. (1536-7) he was Sheriff of the same county.²

In 18 Hen. VIII. he sold his manor of Norton to John Vernon, of Harlaston, Esq.³ By deed dated 20th August, 31 Hen. VIII. 1540, Thomas Swynnerton, Esq., and Humphrey his son and heir granted a lease of herbage in Essington Wood; rent a Red Rose (if demanded) at the Feast of St. John the Baptist.⁴

Thomas Swynnerton died in 33 Hen. VIII., 1542, leaving Humphrey his son and heir then of full age.⁵

Besides Humphrey, who succeeded him, Thomas Swynnerton had also a daughter Anne, married in 6 Hen. VIII. to Nicholas Lisle, of Moxnull, co. Warwick,⁶ which Nicholas died in 32 Henry VIII. Alice, widow of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton, was living 17th November, 1520, and then holding a jointure of £20 4s. 0d.⁷ She was the daughter of Sir Humphrey Stanley, of Pipe, in the county of Stafford, Knight Banneret.⁸

There was formerly a monument in Swynnerton Church to the memory of Sir Thomas Swynnerton and Alice his wife, with the following arms, namely, on the Dexter side, quarterly 1st and 4th, (for Swynnerton) a cross flory, and 2nd and 3rd (for Swynnerton of Hilton) the same within a bordure engrailed; and on the Sinister side a shield of six quarterings: 1 (for Stanley) *argent* on a bend three stags' heads, *or*; 2 (for Lathom) *argent*, a chief engrailed, *or*, charged with eight bezants; 3 (for Stafford of Pipe) *or*, a chevron *gules*, between three martlets, *sable*; 4 (for Pipe) *azure*, two pipes converged, *or*, between seven cross crosslets, of the

¹ MS. Calendar of Escheators' Accounts.

² Shaw's "Staffordshire."

³ Huntbache MSS., *penes* Lord Wrottesley.

⁴ Deed at Hilton.

⁵ Swynnerton Evidences at Hilton.

⁶ Chetwynd MSS., Vol. IV.

⁷ Chetwynd MSS., Vol. III., from Vernon's deeds.

⁸ Swynner'on evidences at Hilton. She is properly so described in Lord Wrottesley's Huntbache MSS. There is a pedigree in the Chetwynd MSS., Vol. II. (attributed to Huntbache), which gives as the wife of Thomas Swynnerton, of Swynnerton, *Alice*, daughter of John Harecourt, of Raunton. A Harecourt pedigree in Vincent's Collections at the College of Arms gives *Margaret*, youngest daughter of John Harecourt, of Raunton, as wife of *John Swynnerton, of Swynnerton*. There was at this time a John Swynnerton who resided at Swynnerton, which he rented from his nephew Thomas Swynnerton, who left a wife Mode (or Maud) surviving him, but if there were such a marriage it more probably referred to John Swynnerton of Uscwall in 1409.

same; 5 (for Camville) *azure*, three lions passant, *argent*; 6 (for) a scythe.¹

HUMPHREY SWYNNERTON, of Swynnerton and Hilton, Esq., the son of Thomas, was the last direct heir male of this ancient family. In May, 1550 (4 Edw. VI.), he renewed the old suit with the Savages for possession of the manor or manors of Barrow in Cheshire which seems to have ended in a compromise; for in 1 and 2 Philip and Mary (1554-5) Sir John Savage purchased from Humphrey Swynnerton, for 100 marks, the manors of Great and Little Barrow, together with the advowson of the church, and sixty messuages, two water-mills, 700 acres of land, 300 acres of meadow, 600 acres of pasture, 300 acres of wood, 200 acres of moor, turbary, and marsh, and 20s. of rent, with the appurtenances, in those two villis, to him and his heir for ever.²

After this these manors remained with the Savages until the death without issue, in 1786, of Lady Penelope Cholmondeley, the daughter of James Barry, 4th Earl of Barrymore, by his wife Lady Elizabeth Savage, daughter and heiress of Richard Earl Rivers, when it passed with other estates to her husband's nephew, George James, 4th Earl of Cholmondeley.

Humphrey Swynnerton was elected as one of the burgesses for the town of Stafford to serve in the Parliament summoned to meet at Oxford and (by fresh writs) at Westminster, 2nd April, 1554.³

In March, 1555-6, he presented to the Church of Swynnerton as patron.⁴ He rebuilt the Church of Sharesill, co. Stafford, in 1562, and dying soon afterwards, was buried in the church of his own foundation there, where upon the southside of the chancel there was formerly an alabaster tomb with the figures of a man in armour and his wife, bearing this inscription: "Here lyeth the bodies of Humfrey Swinerton, Esq., and Cassandra his wife; w^{ch} Humfrey caused the Church first to be sanctified, and was Lord of Swinerton and patron of the Church, and Lord of Hilton; w^{ch} Humfrey died at Hilton xxvth day of Aug. in the yeare of our Lord 1562; on whose soule Jhū have mercy. Amen." Upon the monument were these six coats of arms: I. *azure*, three stirrups

¹ Chetwynd MSS. The identification of the arms is not given by Chetwynd.

² Cal. Recordorum in Castro Cestrie, *temp.* Hen. III. to Car. I. MSS. penes T. Duffus Hardy, Esq. (Copy in Wm. Salt Lib., Stafford.)

³ "Parliaments of England," Vol. I., p. 385.

⁴ Lichfield Diocesan Register.

Humphrey, who died without issue, and another son Robert,¹ who succeeded to the inheritance.

HUMPHREY SWYNNERTON and Agnes his wife are described as being of the Hall, Swineshead, in 19 Hen. VII. (1503-4).²

If he survived his father and came into the inheritance he was succeeded by his brother Robert at Isewall and Blymhill.

ROBERT SWYNNERTON, of Isewall, Esq., Lord of a fourth part of Blymhill married Lucy, daughter of Richard Littleton, of Pillaton Hall, Esq., in the county of Stafford, by whom he had an elder son Edward (whom Erdeswick speaks of as "the prodigal)," a younger son, Richard, and three daughters, Alice, Elizabeth, and Joan, who were all living at Michaelmas, 1545. The said Robert had died before this, leaving his wife surviving, who was then the wife of Nicholas Braubarne, and who in 1554 presented to the

Seynt Chadds howsse of Lychfelde to vr^e of them xij^d to prey for me It. I be quethe to Blymyll church a cove It. I gyffe to Blymyll towne iiij. stryke of whete to helpe to mede the fowte wey yf they wil not stryve w^t my excecutors It. I be quethe to mayst^r Jhon Coots my farrayd gowne and a fyll yⁿ Woodcote p^ke It. I bequethe to my coser Robert Swynnton my foldyn borde and my sylv^r salte yf he doe not stryve w^t my excecutors yf he doe hys my myde he shall not have my sylv^r salte It. I be quethe to my cosyn Wyll^m Swynnton ij. calvs & to hys wyffe a cove It. I bequethe to Alys Honde a heffur to prey for me It. to Margery Jobbur a heffur to prey for me It. to Olyv^r Corp iiij. [stryke] of barly to prey for my solle It. to Gorge Jonys iiij. stryke of barly to prey for my solle It. to ychon of my god chyltren iiij^d, to prey for my solle It. I wyll yt n^e preste S^r Jhon Collyns schall have £v. to syng a yere yn blymyll church to prey for my solle and my fad^rs and mod^rs solls yf my goods wyll pforme hyt It. I make my excecutors mayst^r Jhon Coots my svant Thomas Preyng S^r Jhon Collyns to see yf my excecutor^s doe pforme my wyll when I am browght whom my wyll pformyd and my dette paid I gyff my svant Thoms all the resydue of my goods thes beryng wytnes S^r Jhon Syche vycar of Lapley S^r Roger Jerves pson of Weston my gosly fad^r S^r John Collyns Thomas Turn^r Wyllm Mers w^t od^r"

¹ A pedigree in the Chetwynd MSS. gives, as the wife of this John Swynne ton of Isewall, Frances, daughter and heiress of *Francis* Preston. If this be so, Erdeswick (or his editor) must be mistaken in the date of a deed, which he gives as of 2 Ric. II., whereby John Swinnerton covenants that he will take to wife Frances, daughter and heir of *Philip* Preston, Gent., and for default of heirs of Frances, to John Preston, brother of Frances (Philip?); and in default to . . . late wife of Raufe Thicketnes, sister of Philip, and for default to Agnes, late wife of Thomas Derby, sister of Philip, and for default to the heirs of William Preston, father of Philip (Erdeswick's "Staffordshire," p. 113). On the other hand, if Erdeswick (or his editor) be accurate as to the date of this deed, it would strengthen Chetwynd's assertion that the first Humphrey, who probably married about 1349, had a son John, whose son was dead in 3 Hen. V.

² Chetwynd MSS., Vol. III., p. 188.

Swynnerton sells to Thomas Jobber, of Orslowe, all his part and portion of the manor of Blymhill, with the appurtenances (except a certain messuage with the appurtenances in Brockehurst, then inhabited by William Blakemore, and all those houses and lands, &c., now or late in the occupation of the said William Blakemore) together with sundry other messuages, lands, &c., in Blymhill, Brynton, and Evith Heyes, in the parish of Blymhill, certain chief rents in Marston, all his portion of the advowson of the Church of Blymhill, and all other lands, tenements, &c., whatsoever, of the said Edward Swynnerton, in Blymhill, Brynton, and Marston, which sometime were of the inheritance of John Swynnerton, Esq., deceased, grandfather of the said Edward, together with all reversions, remainders, &c.¹

The excepted portion, consisting of the house at Brockhurst, and upwards of five hundred acres of land, had already been sold or mortgaged to William Blakemore in 1563, saving the interest therein of Lucy, relict of Nicholas Bradburne.²

In a list of names and arms of the gentry of the county of Stafford made in 1583, Edward Swynnerton of Eccleshall, Gent., and (his son) Hugh Swynnerton of Eccleshall, Gent., are described as being "hors du pays;"³ but both of them appear to have returned to Staffordshire, and been buried with their forefathers at Eccleshall. The Parochial Register shows that Edward Swynnerton, Gent., was buried at Eccleshall 10th December, 1598,³ and that this applies to him is confirmed by the language of Erdeswick, who wrote in 1600, and died himself in 1603. In speaking of the family he says: "In Eccleshall is the seat of one of the

¹ Original deed *penes* Earl of Bradford.

² Vincent's "Collections for Staffordshire," in the Heralds' College.

³ Eccleshall Parochial Register, where the following entries occur, viz., among the christenings: February 2, 1574, Thomas Swynnerton; February 24, 1575, William Swynnerton; October 6, 1577, Marye Swynnerton; December 21, 1578, Elizabeth Swynnerton; November 2, 1579, Walter Swynnerton; April 23, 1580, Robert Swynnerton; March 2, 1586, Anna Swynnerton; and December 22, 1589, Edwardus Swynnerton. Among the marriages: June 16, 1574, Thomas Cottrill and Susannah Swynnerton; April 10, 1586, Henry Borne and Fraunces Swynnerton; and April 17, 1609, James Skrymschere, of Shrosburye, Gent., and Marye Swynnerton, the daughter of Hugh Swynnerton, of Eccleshall, Gent. And among the burials: January 24, 1573, Marye Swynnerton; May 22, 1574, Robert Swynnerton; July 14, 1576, William Swynnerton; April 8, 1579, Ann Swynnerton, the wyeffe to William Swynnerton; March 21, 1581, Elizabeth Swynnerton; December 21, 1585, William Swynnerton; December 22, 1586, Fraunces Swynnerton; May 19, 1587, Ann Swynnerton; December 10, 1598, Edward Swynnerton, Gent.; and March 3, 1602, Jane Swynnerton, the wyeffe of Hughe Swynnerton, of Eccleshall, Gent.

Swynnertons, which hath been of a very good living; but Edward Swynnerton, *lately deceased* (a man well known by the name of Wild Swynnerton), hath almost sold all, and reserved little more than Isewall, his house in Eccleshall, and some few tenements in the same town." Chetwynd who lived some seventy or eighty years later, tells us that this was afterwards sold to one . . . Boswell, Gent. who was the owner of it in his time (that is about 1678).

Edward Swynnerton married first, Frances, daughter of Sampson Erdeswick of Sandon, Esq. (aunt to the eminent Staffordshire antiquary of the same name), by whom he had a son Hugh (who was evidently named after his mother's relations); and secondly, Ann daughter of . . . Morris (by Grace, daughter of Thomas Swynnerton, of Madeley) by whom he had a younger son, Edward.²

HUGH SWYNNERTON, Gent., the eldest son of Edward, married Joan, daughter of . . . Sutton, Lord Dudley,³ and had issue John, Thomas, and a daughter Mary, married in 1609 to James Scrymshire, of Norbury, in the county of Stafford, being then described as Shrewsbury, Gent.⁴ Joan the wife of Hugh Swynnerton was buried at Eccleshall on 3rd March, 1602; and Hugh himself in April, 1621.⁵ I can learn no more of this family, which according to Chetwynd soon became utterly extinct.

SWYNNERTON OF HILTON.

This branch of the family, though cadets from the parent stem, eventually became of greater importance than the senior line, being tenants *in capite* of the Crown.

It had its origin in JOHN DE SWYNNERTON, second son of Roger

¹ *Ex inf.*, Rev. C. Swynnerton.

² Vincent's "Collections for Staffordshire." Edward Swynnerton (the elder) appears to have had a daughter Elizabeth (probably by his first wife), who was married to Thomas Dudley, of Tipton, co. Stafford (*see* "Staff. Hist. Collections," Vol. V., Part 2, p. 117, *note*). In the time of Queen Elizabeth, Thomas Dudley, Randolph Machin, and Hugh Swynnerton were defendants in an action brought against them by John Dodde for possession of land in Eccleshall, the inheritance of Thomas Dudley, and by him devised to Randolph Dodde (plaintiff's father) and Jane his wife and the plaintiff. (Proceedings in Chancery, *temp.* Eliz., Vol. I., D. d. 7, No. 27.)

³ The date would point to Edward, eighth Baron, who died in 1586, the father of the spendthrift lord (the ninth and last of the Suttons who bore the title of Dudley), but no such daughter is recorded in the pedigrees, and it is probable that she was an illegitimate daughter.

⁴ Eccleshall Parochial Register, and Vincent's "Collections for Staffordshire."

⁵ Eccleshall Parochial Register (*ex inf.*, Rev. C. Swynnerton).

They were probably married in the year 1306, when Anne will have been about fifteen or sixteen years of age, for it was in that year that John de Swynnerton became Steward of the Forest of Cannock.¹ In the same year William de Nevill and Felice his wife sued John de Swynnerton and Avice (Anne) his wife, for a third part of the bailiwick of the Stewardship of the Forest of Cannock with appurtenances in Wednesbury, Dorlaston, Wilnehale, Wolnesfeld, Newbrigge, Oxeleye, Mollesleye, Bissebury, Esington, Penderford, Covene, Shareshull, Hulton, Great Shardon (Sardon), Little Sardon, Bentleye, Fetherstone, Teddeleye, Pilatenhale, Huntingdon, Wolgavoston, Pencerich, Alrewas, Orgrave, Fordleye, Bromleye-Regis, Little Corburgh, Elmhurst, Gaukeleye, Kinwaston, Eton, Otherton, Rodbaston Hamelet, Haterdon, Oggeleye, Overe Stonhale, Nether Stonhale, Alrewyz, Russehale, Peleshale, Great Blockeswyz, Little Blockewyz, Hopewas, Bollenhull, and Cheteling, which they claimed as dower of Felicia. The defendants did not appear, and they had a day given to them at this date *prece partium*. They afterwards appeared (*sic, left unfinished*).² Again William de Nevyle and Felice his wife sued John de Swynnerton and Avice his wife for a third of two messuages, three virgates of land, forty acres of wood, and 10 marks of rent in Keppindon (co. Derby) as dower of Felice. The defendants had made default at the last Octaves of St. Martin, and the process had been continued till this day; and the Sheriff had been ordered to take the dower claimed into the King's hand; and the Sheriff now returned that he had

appears to have devised the manor of Whelton, for term of life, to his wife Joan, daughter of Geoffrey de Cornwall, Baron of Burford; who, in her widowhood, styled herself Lady of Whelton, and, by deed of 49 Edw. III. (1375), granted to John Holt, of Brampton, near Dingley, the manor and advowson of Whelton, with all her lands in Whelton and Staverton. After the death of Dame Joan, John de Swynnerton, by his deed dated in 3 Ric. II. (1380), granted and confirmed the manor of Whelton to John Holt and Alice his wife, for their lives, and to the executors and assigns of the survivor of them for one whole year, rendering for or instead of the said John de Swynnerton and his heirs, the services due and accustomed to the chief lords of the fee (Baker's "Northamptonshire"). This grant was probably the result of a compromise, and the price paid for the renunciation of rights acquired by the tenants under the deed of Joan, Lady of Whelton; and it was not till after their death that the Swynnertons fully recovered their maternal inheritance. After Philip de Montgomery's death the Stewardship of Cannock Forest was held by Sir Robert de Bures, Lord of Charteleghe, for eleven years (*i.e.*, till 1306), when he was succeeded by John de Swynnerton (Inq., 45 Edw. III., No. 65, 1st N^o).

¹ Inq., 45 Edw. III., No. 65, 1st N^o.

² Plea Rolls, 35 Edw. I., m. 263, *dorso*, and m. 206, *dorso* ("Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. VII., p. 186).

In 32 Edw. III. (1358), John de Swynnerton, calling himself the son and heir of Sir John de Swynnerton, of Hilton, releases to Sir William Sharesull all his right, etc., to all the messuages, lands, &c., which the same William holds in the manor of Sharesull; witnesses, William Trumwyne, Thomas le Champion, Hugh de Wrottesley, Robert Costey, John de Covene, and others. Dated at Hilton, and sealed with a seal bearing the Swynnerton cross within a bordure engrailed.¹

In 32 Edw. III., by writ tested at Westminster, 12th January, 1359, John de Swynnerton is commissioned, with John de Stafford and the Sheriff of Staffordshire, to choose, draw out and array, one hundred archers in the county of Stafford for the King's wars in France, to be ready by Mid-Lent Sunday, uniformly clothed at the expense of the county, and provided with bows, arrows, short swords, and other suitable arms.²

By writ tested at Westminster, 4th August, 33 Edw. III., 1359, the said commissioners are ordered to deliver to the said John de Swynnerton forty "*Sagittarios equites*," chosen as before mentioned from the county of Stafford, to be by him conducted to Sandwich, on the Quinzaine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary next coming at the latest, ready to serve in the King's retinue at the King's expense.³ It would seem however, that Swynnerton himself did not on this occasion any more than on the last accompany the expedition beyond the seas. It is probable that his administrative powers were such as made it requisite to keep him in England, for on 16th November of the same year John de Swynnerton of Hilton and Humphrey de Swynnerton are among those who are commissioned in the county of Stafford to array men for the safety

and drive it at least three times round the fire, while Jack of Hilton is blowing the fire. This part of the ceremony being finished, the lord of Essington, or his deputy or bailiff, carried it to the kitchen of Hilton Hall, and delivered it to the cook, and, as soon as he had dressed it, the lord of Essington, or his bailiff, by way of further service, brought it to the table of the lord paramount of Hilton and Essington, and received a dish of meat from the lord's table for his own mess. This service was performed until within fifty years of Plot's time, who wrote in 1586. Jack of Hilton was an *Æolipile*, or vessel for creating a blast by means of steam, being a small bronze figure of a naked man, about twelve inches in height, kneeling on his right knee. It is still in the possession of Augustus Levison Vernon, Esq., the present lord of the manor. There is an engraving of it given in Plot's "Staffordshire," as also in the "Archæologia," Vol. XIII., pl. XXVII.

¹ Huntbache MSS. *penes* Lord Wrottesley.

² "Rym. Fæd.," Vol. III., pt. I., p. 416.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 441.

of the kingdom during the King's absence;¹ and on 4th December of the same year, John de Swynnerton de Hulton is one of those appointed as King's Justices for the county of Stafford to make inquiries concerning certain felonies and transgressions committed therein, and to hear and determine the suits arising therefrom.²

In 35 Edw. III. John de Swynnerton of Hilton is appointed Sheriff of the county of Stafford, his appointment being dated 20th October, 1361.³ Mr. Hadfield adduces a deed in French, dated at Hilton (42 Edw. III.), whereby John de Swynnerton of Hilton authorises William de Melton to take into his (Swynnerton's) hands all the lands which his nephew Hugh Halsweyn, of Tykenhall, held at Bepton.⁴ By writ of 22nd July, 43 Edw. III. (1369), John de Swynnerton and William Banastre are appointed to take into the King's hands all the lands, tenements, goods, and chattels which belonged to Nicholas Beck, late Sheriff of Staffordshire, on the day of his death, and to hold the same until the King be fully satisfied for all the debts due from the said Nicholas at the time he was Sheriff of Staffordshire.⁵

In 47 and 48 Edw. III., John de Swynnerton was one of the esquires in the retinue of Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who was in the army of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.⁶ It is doubtful whether this John de Swynnerton were the father or the son, probably the latter, for I think, but I am not sure, that John de Swynnerton of Hilton, the father, was then a Knight.

After this I do not meet with this John de Swynnerton's name in connection with the public affairs of the realm, but he lived for several years afterwards. Sir John de Swynnerton married a lady named Christiana, but who she was I have not been able to ascertain. He was living in 2 Ric. II. (1378-9), Christian being then his wife, and John their son and heir.⁷

¹ "Rym. Fæd.," p. 457.

² *Ibid.*, p. 464.

³ Rot. Fin., 35 Edw. III., m. 29.

⁴ *Ex inf.*, Thomas de Mazzinghi, Esq.

⁵ Rot. Fin., 43 Edw. III., m. 27.

⁶ Retinue Roll, Army *Miscellanea*, bundle 49, *ex inf.*, Hon. G. Wrottesley. The retinue comprised 27 Knights, amongst whom were Richard de Stafford, Thomas de Ardern (of Elford), and Thomas de Birmingham, and 172 Esquires (*scutiferi, homines ad arma*), amongst whom were Walter de Wrottesley, John de Swynnerton, William de Swynnerton, John Wolseley, Henry de Pype, William fitz Herbert, William de Leighton, Thomas de Levinton, and Rauf Bassett; and 200 archers.

⁷ Shaw's "Staff." The Rev. C. Swynnerton in some notes on the Swynnerton family, printed in the "Reliquary," mentions a deed of 13th December, 46 Edw. III.,

to him and his wife Christina and their issue male, of the Dean of Wolverhampton by the service of 12*d. per annum*. He held also lands in Stretton of Geoffrey Congreve, and a burgage in Pencrych, Pilatenhale, and Huntyngdon. John de Swynnerton was the son and next heir of the said John and Christina de Swynnerton, and he was thirty years of age and more.¹

JOHN DE SWYNNERTON (III.) of Hilton, Esq., the son and heir of John de Swynnerton by Christina his wife, who thus succeeded to the family inheritance in 1379, made a grant and confirmation, in the following year, of the manor of Whelton, co. Northampton, to John Holt and Alice his wife, for their lives, and to the executors and assigns of the survivor of them for one whole year.²

In 15 Ric II. (1392) he was Sheriff of the county of Stafford.³

In 3 Hen. IV. he was returned as Knight of the Shire for the county of Stafford to serve in the Parliament summoned to meet at Westminster, 15th September, and prorogued to 30th September, 1402,⁴ and in that and the following year he was the King's Escheator for the counties of Stafford and Salop.⁵

In 10 Hen. IV. (1408) he and Clemencia his wife made a grant of land called Blackleys to Richard Leveson.⁶ I think that he died in or about 5 Hen. VI. (1426-7). Clemencia, who had been the wife of John de Swynnerton, senior, died seized of her dower in the bailiwick and stewardship of the Forest of Carnock,⁸ which descended in that year to their (then) son and heir Thomas de Swynnerton.²

A pedigree in the Harleian MSS. (quoted by Mr. Swynnerton) gives as the issue of John de Swynnerton and Clemencia his wife five sons, viz., 1, John; 2, Thomas; 3, Edmund or Edward; 4, Giles; and 5, Peter.⁹ I suppose Edmund and Peter to have died without issue.

¹ Inq. p. m. 3 Ric., No. 59, from a copy preserved among the Swynnerton Evidences at Hilton. The printed calendar of Inq. p. m. makes no mention of lands in Northamptonshire.

² Baker's "Northamptonshire."

³ Shaw's "Staff."

⁴ "Parliaments of England," Vol. I., p. 263.

⁵ MS. Calendar of Escheators' accounts, inquisitions, etc., at the Record Office.

⁶ Notes by Rev. C. Swynnerton, who quotes from a deed at Hilton.

⁷ Cal. Inq. p. m., No. 12.

⁸ Baker's "Northamptonshire," and MS. Collections at Record Office.

⁹ Harl. MS., 1445, fo. 132.

SWYNNERTON OF BUTTERTON.

WE have now to speak of another line of the Swynnerton family, one branch of which, having been seated for many years at Butterton, a manor and township in the parish of Trentham, became extinct in the male line upon the death of Thomas Swynnerton, of Butterton Hall, Esq., in 1836; and there is good reason to believe that another branch is still extant in the male line, as will be shown hereafter. Chetwynd, in speaking of Butterton, says, "Between Seabridge and Hanchurch there is a little village wherein there are two ancient families—the one of the Swynnertons, and the other of the Buttertons." And in speaking of the former, he says, "John de Swynnerton purchased all the lands there of William Badkin of Fulford in 7 Edw. II."¹ The Swynnertons of Butterton claimed their descent from Thomas de Swynnerton, younger son of Sir John de Swynnerton, of Hilton, Knight, by his wife Anne, the daughter and heiress of Philip de Montgomery, which Thomas is represented as having married Matilda, the widow of Sir John Latymer, Knight, and had by her a son and successor, John Swynnerton, of Butterton, living in 1384. The descent is so given by Burke, in his "History of the Commoners," whose account was probably furnished by the representatives of the family at Butterton. I have seen no proof, however, of this statement, and the family pedigree from which I believe it to have been taken is not of much authority in itself, being no older than A.D. 1713. It was drawn up in that year for Mr. Thomas Swynnerton of Butterton, as we are told by Mr. Edward Jones, in his MS. Book of the Swynnertons of Swynnerton, compiled for Mr. Basil Fitzherbert, of Swynnerton. From researches which have recently been made among the archives of the manor of Newcastle-under-Lyme, by the Rev. C. Swynnerton, it seems more probable that the first Thomas de Swynnerton, from whom the Butterton family derived their origin, was the son of that Richard de Swynnerton whom I take to have been a brother of Sir Roger (the Baron) of Swynnerton, and Sir John (of Hilton), in which case the first Thomas de Swynnerton of this line will have been a nephew and not a son of that first Sir John de Swynnerton of Hilton whom I suppose to have been the purchaser of the lands at Butterton in 7 Edw. II. In the inquisition taken after the death of Sir John de Swynnerton in 1340, there is no mention of any such lands being in his possession at the time of his death; and it

¹ Chetwynd MSS., Vol. II., *penes* Earl of Shrewsbury.

is quite possible that when he purchased other lands in the neighbourhood of Hilton and elsewhere, he may have passed over the lands at Butterton to his brother Richard, or his nephew Thomas the son of Richard.

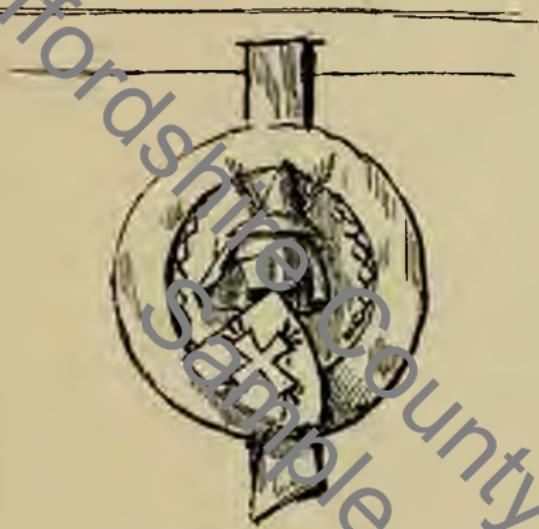
RICHARD DE SWYNNERTON, younger son of Roger de Swynnerton, son of Stephen Uselwall, has already been spoken of in treating of the Swynnertons of Swynnerton.¹ He probably received from his father, or his elder brother Roger, certain lands in Cherleton (Chorlton), Swynnerton, and Whitmore as his patrimony. By a fine of 7 Edw. II. (1314) it appears that Roger son of Roger de Swynnerton purchased the manor of Whitmore from Ralph son of John de Whitmore, the reserved rent being a red rose.² It was therefore most likely from his brother that Richard de Swynnerton obtained his lands of Whitmore. Of Richard de Swynnerton we hear nothing after the year 1350, when he had the King's licence to proceed from Dover to the city of Rome. He was then an old man, having survived his two elder brothers by more than ten years. Perhaps his journey to Rome may have been for the purpose of obtaining a pardon for the crimes of his earlier years, and especially for the murder of Henry, parson of Penkridge, in 1315-6. It is probable, from what follows, that before starting on his foreign travels, he made over to his son Thomas the whole or a part of his lands to be held in trust for him during the remainder of his life.

THOMAS, son of RICHARD DE SWYNNERTON, occurs during the lifetime of his father in 1343, in a Chorlton deed, whereby he concedes to Thomas Bert., of Chaucton, one acre of arable land lying in le Vic . . . between the land of William de Oniley and the land of William de Chauldon, and the great stone lying upon the said acre, to have and to hold to the said Thomas Bert., his heirs and assigns, of the chief lords of the fee by the accustomed services, the reserved rent being two silver pennies, payable at the feast of St. John the Baptist, during the life of the said Thomas, son of Richard. This deed was dated at Chaueldon (Chorlton), on the day of St. Mary Magdalen, 17 Edw. III. (22nd July, 1343), and witnessed by William de Oniley and William de Chauldon, *minor*, John del Berne, John, son of Richard Jordane de Cherleton, and others.³

¹ See p. 27; I would here correct as superfluous the alternative suggestion made there that this Richard de Swynnerton may have been a priest, and consequently his son Thomas an illegitimate son.

² Feet of Fines, *ex. inf.* Rev. C. Swynnerton.

³ Chorlton Deeds, *penes* Duke of Sutherland at Trentham.



SEAL FROM AN OLD DEED OF THOMAS DE SWYNNERTON, *circa* 1350.

(MS. 404 at William Salt Library, Stafford, being Seals and Arms from Original Sources.)

In 1353, John, son of Margery le Bret, of Chauleton, concedes to Thomas, son of Richard de Swynnerton, his whole lands and tenements with the appurtenances in . . . , which he had after the decease of his father and grandfather and his mother, to have and to hold the said lands and tenements to the said Thomas, his heirs and assigns, of the chief lords of the fee by the accustomed services for ever. Dated at Chaueldon on the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 27 Edw. III. (8th December, 1353).¹ Soon afterwards, namely, on the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle (21st December) of the same year, John, son of . . . de Chaueldon, grants to Richard, son of William de Chaueldon and his heirs his cottage in Chauelton which William Shakeloe formerly held, with all the lands and tenements which he purchased from Thomas, son of Richard de Swynnerton, and from John, son of John, son of Robert the Smith of Madeley, to which is witness, among others, William Oreley, Lord of Chaueldon.²

In 29 Edw. III., on the Saturday next before the feast of St. Luke (17th October, 1355) Thomas, son of Richard de Swynnerton is amerced in the court of the Lord of the manor of Newcastle, for an assault on Henry del Wode, on the presentment of William de Sheprig (Seabridge) and William fit. John, the frankpledges for the vill of Hanchurch, for which he is fined 2s.³

The great manor of Newcastle-under-Lyme, which was then in the hands of Henry Duke of Lancaster, included within its limits the vills of Clayton, Hanchurch, and Seabridge, and as Butterton lay between these two last, it probably formed a part of Hanchurch at that time.

In 34 Edw. III., on the Saturday next after the feast of St. Dionysius (10th October, 1360), the frankpledges of Clayton and Seabridge presented Thomas de Swynnerton, *chivaler*, for not making his appearance at the lord's court as a tenant of lands within the manor of Newcastle.¹

¹ Chorlton Deeds (as before).

² *Ibid.*

³ Court Rolls of the Manor of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

⁴ *Ibid.* This is the first and only time we meet with Thomas de Swynnerton in the Court Rolls of Newcastle as a *knight*. Sir Thomas de Swynnerton of Swynnerton, the head of the family, was living at this time, and this entry may possibly have referred to him; but the presentation being made by the frankpledges of Clayton and Seabridge, would seem to point to a Swynnerton of Butterton as the person here referred to. Thomas de Swynnerton (probably the owner of Butterton and the son of Richard rather than a younger son of Sir John de Swynnerton of Hilton) married about the year 1356, Matilda, the widow of Sir John Latymer of Braybrook, in the county of Northampton, Knight; and as

his goods, funeral expenses being discharged of the whole. He gives to Robert Swynnerton of Newcastle a cow, and to every child of Robert a sheep. He gives to John Meire, otherwise called John Swynnerton, one of the lesser oxen. He gives to Richard Swynnerton of Kidsgrove a cow, and to Blanch and Elizabeth his daughters either of them a sheep. He gives to "Joan Swynnerton, my brother's last daughter, and to her sister Elizabeth Swynnerton, either of them a cow." He gives to "William Swynnerton, son of Randle Swynnerton, of Church Lawton," a twynter heifer, and to the residue of the children of the said Randle Swynnerton every one of them a sheep. He gives to Elizabeth Rathbone and Elline Swynnerton his servants a twynter heifer. He also remembers Margaret Tunstall, Richard Tunstall, Lawrence Hancock's children, and James Couklow his godson. The rest of all his goods unbequeathed he gives to "John Swynnerton of Church Lawton," whom, jointly with his wife, he appoints as his executor. He mentions as his overseers Richard Couklow of the Brode Field, and Richard Tunstall of the Brock House; also James Rowley of Gell Banke as a debtor to him of £6 13s. 4d.¹

John Swynnerton of Church Lawton, James's brother, concerning whom some notice from the Tunstall Rolls have already been quoted, must have moved into the township of Church Lawton, which adjoins that of Brerehurst, soon after 1571, as after that date we find his name no longer mentioned on the Tunstall Rolls. In that year, on the 26th April, both he and his brother James are mentioned as of Brerehurst,² and I have reason to believe that land held by them was situated both in Brerehurst and in Church Lawton. In the next year, 1572, his grandson William was baptized at Church Lawton, so that we shall not be far wrong in assigning the autumn or winter of 1571 as the time of his migration from the parish of Wolstanton.

That he possessed Oldcot after the death of James, is seen by a decree of the Court of Chancery given at Westminster in March, 31 Elizabeth, 1588, in favour of Lawrence Loggan, of Longden, gentleman, being the rightful possessor of one messuage, three cottages, and 43 customary acres (129 acres) of land, meadow, pasture, and wood in the hamlet of Oldcote and Brerehurst in Staffordshire, in the manor of Tunstall, lately possessed by *John*

¹ The original at Lichfield.

² Tunstall Manor Rolls.

Swynnerton.³ A subsequent deed shows that these lands and tenements passed to William Lawton in consideration of a payment of £300. Dated November, 38 Elizabeth, 1595.¹

John Swynnerton was buried at Church Lawton on the 29th July, 1595. His sister Elizabeth would appear to have died at the same place when visiting her kinsfolk, since the register contains also the following entry: "Elizabeth Swinerton pger sepulta 15 Dec., 1608."² As well as Randle, he would appear to have had a son Richard, mentioned above as of Kidsgrove, concerning whom we shall speak presently.

RANDLE SWYNNERTON, son of John, had for wife Elizabeth, who from certain details in his will may have been one of the Cartwrights of Astbury. From his father John, "by the grant and demyse of James Swinerton of Olcott, late deceased," he inherited on a lease of ninety-nine years some land called "The Littleheys" and "by the grant and demyse of Randle Rode, of Rode, Esquire, late deceased," he also held land "at Heming's Bridge." With this Randle Rode of Rode he must have been distantly connected, since the Bellotts and the Rodes had intermarried in the reign of Henry VII;³ in consequence of which intermarriage it was, I suppose, that Randle, deceased in 1608, left large legacies to Edward Bellott, Esq.⁴

In 17 Elizabeth, 1574, on the 17th December, Randle Swynnerton is essoigned in his attendance at the Lawton Manor Court, and on 26th in the same year he attended it as a juror. In 8 James, 1610, his name is entered as one of the tenants.⁵

By his wife Elizabeth he had two sons, William and John, of whom John was baptized at Lawton on the 9th October, 1574. In 1 Jas. I., 1603, this John was presented for default because he came within the jurisdiction of the frankpledges. In 8 Jas. I., 1610, on the 27th September, John Swynnerton with others are mentioned as within the control of the court, and as sworn to the Lord the King as lieges according to the law of the realm of England.⁵ In 1619, on the 15th October, John Swynnerton occurs as a tenant, and again on the 17th October, 1623.⁵ In 1624, on 29th December, he was buried at Lawton, leaving apparently no issue.²

¹ Original at Lawton, and quoted for me by Frank Renaud, Esq., M.D., F.S.A., of Alderley Edge.

² Lawton Register, by kind permission of the Rector.

³ *Miscell. Geneal. et Herald.* "On the Bellotts of Moreton."

⁴ V. Randle Rode's will, proved at Chester in 1608.

⁵ Lawton Manor Rolls, by favour of F. Renaud, Esq.

ensuing September the Council passed the following minute: "1529, 19th Sept. At the assemblie aforesaide the companie have made choyce of Johe Hondslay to be a Capital Burgess in the room of James Swyn̄ton, deceased." He died at his tenement in the "Yron Markett," for which in 1608 he was paying the corporation an acknowledgment of "nyne pence." He left a son John, who was baptized on the 23rd of May, 1599, and two daughters, Mary and Alike, the other daughters Margaret and Joan having pre-deceased him.¹ What became of these children does not appear.

Old Robert Swynnerton of Newcastle must have left however a fourth son ROGER, who was baptized in August, 1567,¹ besides a daughter Agnes, who was buried in 1597.¹

ROGER SWYNNERTON in his turn had two sons and a daughter, namely, Randle or Ralph, baptized on the 5th February, 1605; Thomas, baptized on the 24th October, 1618; and Joan, baptized on the 5th March, 1603.¹

Of the subsequent fortunes of this branch of the Swynnertons I am ignorant. Their names do not occur again in the Newcastle registers, but as the Civil War broke out just when they must have attained the prime of manhood, I imagine that like Harrison and the Bradshaws and many others in Newcastle, they probably left the country to seek their fortunes in the midst of more stirring scenes. The Swynnertons of Newcastle who occur in the latter part of the century were offshoots of the Swynnertons of the Yew Tree, Whitmore.²

¹ Newcastle Parish Registers. Rogerus Swynnerton filius Robti Swynnerton et uxor ejus v^o die Augusti baptizat erat 1567.

¹ See an account of them *ante*.

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Ms. de Nothstein (327) - (v 277)

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

HARRISON AND SONS,
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HER MAJESTY,
ST. MARTIN'S LANE, LONDON.