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COLLECTIONS

FOR A

HISTORY

OF

STAFFORDSHIRE

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The William Salt Archaeological Society.

VOLUME VIII.

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Staffordshire County Studies

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The William Salt Archaeological Society.

GENERAL MEETING, 18TH OCTOBER, 1887.

The Ninth General Meeting of the Subscribers was held at the William Salt Library, Stafford, on Tuesday, the 18th October, 1887, The Right Hon. Lord Wrottesley in the Chair. There were also present: The Dean of Lichfield, Major-General the Hon. G. Wrottesley, Mr. Thomas Salt M.P., Dr. Arlidge, Mr. W. S. Brough, Mr. Fenton, the Rev. W. Fletcher, Mr. J. Nayler, the Rev. F. Parker, Mr. F. C. Perry, Mr. Whitgreave, Mr. Mazzinghi, and others.

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 an account of their proceedings during the past year:—

Vol. VII. was issued to the members of the Society in July this year, considerably later than usual, or was anticipated at the last Meeting, the issues having been delayed through various causes. The printing of Vol. VIII. is about half completed, and this volume will be probably issued to subscribers early in 1888. Its contents consist of a Paper on the Military Service performed by Staffordshire tenants during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, compiled by the Honorary Secretary from the original records of the wars of that period. The remainder of the first part of the volume will be occupied by a chartulary of St. Thomas of Stafford, which has been compiled by Mr. Parker from the Chetwynd MSS. and from original deeds in the possession of the Trustees of the late Sir Thomas Phillips.

Part II. of the volume will contain a History of the Parish of Castre or Castle Church, by the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Mazzinghi, taken from the Stafford MSS. at Blithfield, and

other original sources. The forthcoming volume will be somewhat reduced in size, in order to diminish to some extent the deficit caused by the abnormal bulk of Volumes V. and VI.

During the past year four of the subscribers have died, six have withdrawn, and five new subscribers have joined the Society : the net loss therefore in the number of annual subscribers will be five.

The Report having been approved, the accounts for the past year were laid before the Meeting. These showed a deficit of £70, and the question of reducing the expenditure by the issue of a smaller volume was taken into consideration. After some debate, it was resolved that future volumes should be reduced as nearly as practicable to 300 pages, and that measures should be adopted to increase if possible the number of subscribers to the Society.

After the usual votes of thanks to the Contributors and Officers of the Society, the Meeting separated.

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

CORRIGENDA.

Page 2, line 31. The Ralph de Pesehale here mentioned was probably Ralph de Pesehale of Suffolk. This Ralph appeared in Banco at Easter Term, 15 Henry III., and acknowledged he had granted the manor of Pesehale in Suffolk to Roger le Bigod and Isabel his wife. Banco Roll, 15 Henry III., Easter term.

Page 39, line 17. For Roger de Somery read John de Somery.

Page 40, line 20. For Roger de Somery read John de Somery.

Page 126, line 17, from foot note of page, insert a comma after *view*.

Page 125. For Thirlostone, read *Thirlestane*.

Page 134, line 29. For Reparandum, read *reparandam*.

Page 135, note 2. For Celestinus, read *Celestinus*.

Page 136, line 28. For tertio, read *tertiove*.

Page 144. Apprare, "one of many forms of a word appearing in Ed. I.'s Statute of Merton, meaning improvement of waste lands." (Bp. Hobhouse.)

Page 145, line 17. For etusic, read *et sic*.

Page 160, note 2. Stephano de Wivdeun (*Wiverdeston, i.e., Worston*).

Page 161, note 1. Stretton is *Stretton near Brewood*.

Page 169, 4 lines from foot of page. For que, read *quam*.

Page 146, line 21. Querentur, omit *v*.

Page 152, line 33. For ipse, read *ipso*.

Page 177, line 10. Ruhelawe is *Bowley near Stafford*.

Page 178, line 22. For predico, read *predicto*.

Page 179. "Penilton," now *Pendleton*.

Page 182, note 2. Maculine, better *Maculm*.

Page 184, note 3. "The manor of Marston came close up to, and into, what is now the Foregate of Stafford, and formed part of the Borough," Mr. Mazzinghi informs me.

Page 185, line 9. For R. de Swinfen, read *de Swinnerton*.—Foot of page. *denarios*, not *denariost*.—Note 2. Uncuty, read *uncertainty*.—Note 5. Omit that: as the principal bridge is perhaps here intended.

Page 186. The references to notes, ten lines from foot of page, should be 5 and 6, not 1 and 2.

Page 187, line 10. For extendunt, read *extendentes*.

Page 193, last line. For 1150, read *1250*.—Note 6. For Cotlon, read *Colton*.

Page 194, note 3. For Thursday, read *Wednesday*.

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The William Salt Archaeological Society.

1887.

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NOTES

ON THE

MILITARY SERVICE PERFORMED BY STAFFORDSHIRE TENANTS

DURING THE

THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH CENTURIES.

AN authentic record of military service performed in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries has been handed down to us by the writs of protection issued to those who applied for them whilst employed in the service of the King. These, as a rule, were men against whom personal actions were pending, and who wished to protect their property from legal process during their absence. Before the reign of Edward I. the writs of protection were enrolled amongst the Patents, but with the commencement of the reign of Edward I. separate Rolls were kept for all writs issued on the occasion of a war. These Rolls are named after the locality of the war, and are headed Scotia, Wallia, Vasconia, Alemanna, and Francia. All the writs of historical interest from these Rolls have been printed by Rymer, but the writs of protection, having a personal interest only, were omitted except in a very few cases by the compilers of the "Fœdera" and the following notes have been taken to supply this deficiency, so far as the Staffordshire tenants are concerned.

The writ of protection ran as follows:—

Edwardus Dei gratiâ Rex., etc., Omnibus ballivis et fidelibus suis ad quos etc., Sciatis quod suscepimus in protectione et defensione nostrâ A.B. qui in obsequio nostro, in comitivâ dilecti et fidelis nostri C.D. in partibus, etc., moratur, homines, terras, redditus et omnes possessiones ipsius A.B., ideo mandamus quod ipsum A.B. homines, etc. mantineatis, protegatis et defendatis. In cujus rei testimonium, etc.

This was the simple writ of protection. The writ "*cum clausula Volumus*" contained the following additional clause:—

" Volumus etiam quod idem A.B. sit quietus de omnibus placitis et querelis exceptis placitis de dote et de assisis nove dissaissine et ultime presentationis et attinctis et exceptis loquelis quas coram Justiciariis nostris itinerantibus in itineribus suis sumoneri contigit."

The writ, it will be perceived, gave complete protection against all personal actions, and likewise against any pleas in the superior courts of law, except pleas of dower and of last presentation.

14 HEN. III.

In the fourteenth year of his reign, A.D. 1230, Henry III. assembled a large army at Portsmouth for the invasion of France, passed over into Brittany, and landed at St. Malo on the 5th May. He was there joined by the Duke of Brittany and many Breton nobles, and marched through Anjou and Poitou to Gascony. Whilst in Gascony he received the homage of the Gascon nobility, and returned to England in October, without having achieved anything of note or at all commensurate with his preparations and expenditure.

The Patent Roll of 14 Hen. III. contains several letters of protection for those who had set out "*ad partes transmarinas*," dated from Portsmouth 20th April; amongst them are the following Staffordshire tenants:—

Ralph Basset of Drayton.	Geoffrey de St. Maur.
William de Aldithele (cum Henrico de Aldithele).	Ralph Basset of Weledon.
William de Dustun.	Henry de Aldithele (Studley).
Adam Mauveisin) cum R. Basset de Drayton).	Hervey de Stafford.
John fitz Philip.	Nicholas de Verdun.
Roger de Somery.	William Basset.
	Hugh de Oddingesele.
	Ralph de Pesehale.

37 HEN. III.

In the 37th year of his reign, on the 6th August, 1253, Henry III. set sail from Portsmouth with over 300 ships filled with troops, in order to suppress an insurrection in Gascony; and being joined there by the Earl of Leicester, who brought additional forces out of France, the Gascons submitted to his authority, and the authors of the sedition were either taken prisoners or driven out of the country. This was the only military exploit of Henry III. which met with any success.

Thomas Mallesores.	Thomas de Sheynton.
Thomas de Kynardesleye.	John Cressy.
Robert de Legh.	Henry Pouger.
Henry de Ossewelle.	John de Perton.
John le Bakere.	Richard de Merton.

A writ of protection was issued for Margaret the wife of Ralph de Stafford so long as her husband was in the King's service in Scotland and it being asserted that certain persons were insidiously designing to abduct the said Margaret during her husband's absence; in consequence of which the King takes her under his special protection and defence. Dated from Newcastle-on-Tyne 28th October.

John de Chewynde, Chivaler, who had proceeded to Scotland in the suite of John d'Estraunge of Blaunkmouster, had letters of protection till Easter. Dated from Strivelyn (Stirling) 3rd November.

Similar letters were granted to John de Wasteneys and Thomas de Wasteneys, who were in the retinue of Robert de Colleville in Scotland. Dated Stirling, 10th November.

Letters of protection were also granted to William de Careswelle and Thomas de St. Maur, who were with Richard Earl of Arundel in Scotland. Dated from Botheville 14th November.

SCOTCH ROLL. 11 E. III. A.D. 1337.

John de Stafford, Chivaler, who was in Scotland in the suite of Ralph de Stafford, had letters of protection till the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Dated from Westminster 16th March.

Ralph de Stafford, who was in Scotland in the King's service, had letters of protection till the same date. Dated from the Tower of London 3rd April.

Thomas Pecche and John Bagot and the rest of the suite as named in 10 E. III., with the exception of Walter Culy, had similar letters.

Hugh le Despencer, who was in Scotland, had letters of protection till Michaelmas. Dated from Wyndesore 1st May.

The King for the good service rendered by Walter de Cully of Haukeswelle, at Perth and elsewhere in Scotland, pardons him for the death of Richard the draper of Pollesworth. Dated from Kelentere near Strivelyn (Stirling) 13th June.¹

¹ This writ probably belongs to the previous year, for the King was not in Scotland at this date.

Duke of Lancaster, had letters of protection till Michaelmas. Dated 20th May.

Commissioners were appointed to select archers in all the English counties *citra* Trent: Staffordshire to provide 100 archers, to be arrayed by John de Stafford, John de Verdon, Robert de Aston, and the Sheriff. Dated 20th July, from Westminster.

Writs to all the great lords of North and South Wales to array Welshmen for the King's service, who were to be ready when summoned to pass into France with the King. Dated from Westminster 20th July.

The following who were abroad in the retinue of Henry Duke of Lancaster, had letters of protection till the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

Thomas son of Robert Tuchet of Lanton.

James de Pype, Knight.

Theobald Trussel, Chamberlain, and others.

Nicholas de Longeford, Knight, junior, who was in the retinue of Henry Duke of Lancaster in Brittany, had letters of protection till Michaelmas. Dated by the King at Westminster 4th November.

WAR WITH FRANCE, 23 AND 34 E. III., A.D. 1359-1360,

Hostilities broke out again between the French and English in the autumn of 1359. The King sailed from Sandwich with 1,100 ships, which are said to have conveyed the most numerous and best appointed army which England had hitherto assembled.¹ From Calais the King marched to Rheims, but owing to the lateness of the season he was unable to take that place, and after seven weeks' investment he raised the siege and occupied the Duchy of Burgundy. In the following spring he advanced to the walls of Paris, and burnt the suburbs; but the Dauphin refused all his proposals for peace, and he broke up his camp and marched towards Brittany. In the neighbourhood of Chartres his army was overtaken by one of the most fearful tempests recorded in history, and according to Knighton 6,000 horses were killed by cold, exposure, and the hail and lightning. The King, in a fit of remorse, vowed that he would refuse no proposals of peace which were compatible with his honour, and on the 8th May peace was signed at Bretigni.

¹ According to Froissart he had 8,000 wagons, each drawn by four horses, and a complete pontoon equipment of boats covered with leather (*cuir boullu*).

NOTES FROM THE FRENCH ROLL OF 33 E. III., A.D. 1359.

PART I.

Writs were issued to Commissioners of Array in all counties *citra* Trent to select mounted archers, of the best and strongest in their counties, clothed uniformly, and to be armed with bows and arrows and daggers and other suitable arms, and who were to be at Sandwich on the Quindene of the Assumption. Dated 4th August.

The numbers to be arrayed varied from 10 in Rutlandshire to 70 in co. Lincoln. The number to be provided by Staffordshire was 40.

John de Stafford, John de Swynnerton, and the Sheriff of Staffordshire to be Commissioners of Array in co. Stafford, and the archers were to be led by John de Swynnerton.

The following, in the suite of Edward Prince of Wales, had letters of protection, dated 6th August:—

Ralph Giffard; Roger d'Audele, Chivaler; Richard de Stafford, Chivaler; James d'Audelegh, Chivaler; Rese ap Griffith had letters of general attorney under the name of Joan ap Griffith and Magister John de Somerville, dated 10th September.

William son of John de Chetevynde of Shaynton, in the retinue of Thomas de Roos of Hamerak, had letters of general attorney, dated 2nd September.

NOTES FROM THE FRENCH ROLL OF 33 E. III., A.D. 1359.

PART II.

John Beyshyn, in the retinue of Thomas de Swynnerton, had letters of protection till Easter. Dated 8th October.

The following, in the suite of the King, had letters of protection till Easter, viz., John de Mokleston. Dated 8th October.

William de Overton, Knight; Leo de Perton, *Panetarius Regis*; Edward le Despencer, Chivaler; Ralph Basset of Drayton, Thomas de Swynnerton, Chivaler; Thomas de Staundon, John de Sutton, Chivaler, in the retinue of William de Bohun Earl of Northampton. Dated Sandwich, 12th October.

Thomas de Swynnerton, Chivaler, had letters of attorney in the names of John de Swynnerton of Hulton and Richard de Jonestone. Dated Sandwich, 25th September.

The following, in the retinue of Henry Duke of Lancaster, had letters of protection to last till Easter:—

Nicholas de Longeford, Chivaler; Walter de Bermyngeham,

Chivaler; Henry de Pipe, and William de Ferrars. Dated 6th September.

Richard de Vernon, Chivaler, in the retinue of Ralph Basset, Knight. Dated 13th October.

The following, in the retinue of Ralph Earl of Stafford, had letters of protection till Easter; dated 28th August:—

John de Peyto, junior; Humfrey de Stafford, Nicholas de Beek, Chivaler; Roger de Aston; dated from Sandwich 28th October.

Roger Hilary, Chivaler. Dated 3rd September.

Walter de Verney. Dated Sandwich, 20th October.

The following had letters of protection till Easter:—

Fulk de Bermingham, in the suite of Thomas de Beauchamp Earl of Warwick. Dated 12th September.

William le Spencer, Chivaler; Thomas de Ardene, Robert Corbet, Roger Trumwyn, and John de Rolleston, in the suite of Richard de Stafford. Dated 20th August.

The following, in the retinue of Edward Prince of Wales, had letters of protection till Easter, dated 20th August:—

Hugh de Stafford, Hugh le Despencer, Thomas le Despencer, Knight; Rese ap Griffith, William Trusse, Knight; William son and heir of John Trussel of Cublesden, Knight. Dated 20th October.

Nicholas de Audele, Knight, and John de Heveningham Knight, in the retinue of Roger le Mortimer Earl of March, had letters of protection till Easter. Dated 20th August.

Edward le Botiller of Norbury, in the retinue of Roger l'Estraunge, had letters of protection till Easter. Dated 4th September.

A note says the King crossed to France with his army on the 28th October.

John de Ferrars, who was abroad in the King's service, had letters of protection till Easter. Dated 8th November, by the Custos.

Nicholas de Seymore, Chivaler, who was abroad in the retinue of Thomas de Holand, had letters of attorney for a year. Dated 8th November, by the Custos.

Ralph Earl of Stafford, who was in the King's service, had letters of protection till Easter. Dated 20th January.

FRENCH ROLL, 34 E. III., A.D. 1360.

John de Wasteneys of co. Lincoln, who was in the King's service in Normandy, in the retinue of Thomas de Holand, had

letters of protection till the Feast of St. John the Baptist. Dated 5th October.

Philip de Chetewynde, who was of the retinue of Ralph de Ferrars, Captain of Calais, had letters of protection for a year. Dated 6th July.

Peace was notified by the King in a proclamation dated from Calais 24th October.

IRISH REBELLION, A.D. 1361-1364, 35-38 E. III.

In this year Lionel the King's son, who was Earl of Ulster in right of his wife, was appointed Lieutenant of Ireland. The Irish were in rebellion, and the Prince was accompanied by a body of men-at-arms from England, under the command of Ralph Earl of Stafford, Eustace d'Alriccourt, and other leaders. The retinue of the Earl upon this occasion has been preserved amongst the Army Miscellanea of the Exchequer. It comprised 1 Banneret, Le Sieur de Roos; 18 Knights, amongst whom were—

Hugh de Stafford,	Nicholas Beek,
Robert de Stafford,	John de Peyto,
William Bakepu,	John de Sudlee,
John de Odyngseller,	John Talbot, and
John de Bromwyche,	William de Morteyn;
Robert de Grendon,	

And 78 Esquires, amongst whom were:—

Walter de Verney.	John Dunheved.
John Burnell.	Owen de Wolaston.
William de Chetwynd.	Roger de Pulesdor.
Humfrey de Stafford.	William de Duffeld.
Henry de Morehalle.	Roger Botiller.
William Barbour.	John de Shukburgh.
William de Wykford.	John de Hondesacre
John de Chetwynd.	Thomas de Allerwas
Thomas de Peyton.	Robert de Verney.
Thomas de Weston.	John de Weston.
Robert Sautcheverel.	Owen de Pulesdon.
Henry de Chetwynde.	Nicholas de Stafford
William Hamsterle.	

In the third quarter of the year, over which the account extends, and commencing 2nd February, 36 E. III., the name of Simon de Hondesacre is substituted for John de Hundesacre.

Item pur Mons. Richard de Stafford, Clerk, une chival lyart de mousterle ps xx mares.

Item pur William Chetewynde une chival lyart de cauci pilee ps xiii.

Item pur William Hamesterley (Hammersley) une chival bayard noir ove une estoile blank en le frount ps viiii.

The retinue of Lionel Duke of Clarence and Earl of Ulton consisted of 5 Knights and 64 Esquires and 70 mounted archers. Amongst the Esquires were John Pullesdon, John de Mountford, Thomas de Asteleye, and William de Sharesull. Men of good birth appear also to have served as mounted archers, for amongst these were John Stungeways, Hugh de Bulkeley, Roger Dymmok, Henry de Verdon, Richard Corbet, William de Clinton, and Michael Talbot.¹

The retinue of Ralph de Ferrars, Banneret, consisted of 4 Knights, amongst whom were Sir Thomas Harcourt and Sir Thomas Verdon, and 15 Esquires; amongst whom were Philip de Chetewynd and William de Ferrars, and 20 archers.²

The retinue of Mons. John de Carew, Banneret, consisted of 1 Knight, 8 Esquires, and 10 archers.

It will be noted that in all these retinues the number of mounted archers exactly corresponded with that of the number of men-at-arms, and the rule appears to have been that every man-at-arms brought into the field one archer on horseback; but some brought many more; thus—

The retinue of William de Wyndesore, Banneret, consisted of 3 Knights, 49 Esquires, and 59 archers, or a surplus of 6 archers.

The retinue of Thomas de Hoggshawe, Banneret, consisted of 3 Knights, 30 Esquires, and 38 archers, or a surplus of 4 archers.

The retinue of Eustace d'Abrugecourt, Banneret, consisted of

¹ The body guard of royal personages appears to have always consisted of men of good birth, who were equipped as mounted archers, similar to the Scottish archers of the French kings during the Middle Ages. These would wear of course the royal colours. The existing body of Scottish archers, or Royal Body Guard of Queen Victoria, is an interesting survival of these ancient body guards, and it is to be regretted that it has been thought appropriate to clothe them in suits of *Lincoln green*, as if there was some connection between them and the woodland heroes of Robin Hood.

² This Retinue Roll is dated from 14th August, 34 E. III., to 14th March, 38 E. III., and probably contains the retinue of Ralph de Ferrars at Calais during those dates. (See under French Roll of 34 E. III.)

WAR IN SPAIN, 40-41 E. III., A.D. 1366-1367.

Shortly after the peace of Bretigni, King Edward had united all his French dominions south of the Loire into one Principality, which had been bestowed on Edward the Black Prince, with the title of Duke of Aquitaine. In the year 1366 the Prince, with the permission of King Edward, espoused the cause of Pedro the Cruel, the ex-King of Castile, who had been driven from his throne by Henry de Transtamare his illegitimate brother. The Prince crossed the Pyrenees in the middle of the winter, and on the 3rd April, 1367, fought the bloody and decisive battle of Najara, which re-established Don Pedro on the throne.

NOTES FROM THE GASCON ROLL OF 40 E. III., A.D. 1366.

Richard de Stafford junior, Chivaler, in the retinue of Edward Prince of Wales, had letters of attorney for a year. Dated 10th July.

Writs were issued, dated 30th July, to the Sheriffs of the following counties to array archers for the Prince of Wales, who were to be ready to embark by the Nativity of the Blessed Mary (8th September):—

Notts and Derby	to provide	100
Leycester .. .. .	.. .. .	50
Northampton .. .. .	.. .. .	50
Warwick .. .. .	.. .. .	50
Rutland .. .. .	.. .. .	40
Lincoln .. .. .	.. .. .	40
Bedford and Bucks .. .. .	.. .. .	80
Cambridge and Hunts .. .. .	.. .. .	60
Essex .. .. .	.. .. .	50
Hereford .. .. .	.. .. .	30
Oxford and Berks .. .. .	.. .. .	100
London and Middlesex .. .. .	.. .. .	100
Gloucester .. .. .	.. .. .	100
Worcester .. .. .	.. .. .	50
Wyltes .. .. .	.. .. .	50

Ralph Basset of Drayton, Knight, who was in Aquitaine in the retinue of Edward Prince of Wales, had letters of protection for a year. Dated 6th August.

A Writ dated 16th September, addressed to the Sheriffs of Lancaster, Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and North-

umberland, directs them to array in each of those counties 100 archers to accompany John Duke of Lancaster to Gascony, to be paid by the said Duke, and to be the most expert and strongest archers in their bailiwicks.

Humfrey de Stafford, Henry de Morhalle, and Hugh de Stafford Knights, who were in Aquitaine in the retinue of Edward Prince of Wales, had letters of protection for a year. Dated 15th October.

Nicholas de Langford, Knight, John de Rocheford, Knight, and John de Ferrars, Knight, about to set out for Aquitaine in the retinue of John Duke of Lancaster, had letters of protection for a year. Dated 2nd November.

John de Ferrars of Charteleye, Chivaler, who was about to set out abroad in the King's service, had letters of attorney for a year. Dated 1st January.

VASCON ROLL, 41 E. III., A.D. 1367.

Thomas de Ardene, Chivaler, who was in Gascony in the retinue of Edward Prince of Aquitaine and Wales, had letters of protection for a year. Dated from Westminster 13th February.

RENEWAL OF WAR WITH FRANCE, A.D. 1369-1370, 43 and 44 E. III.

Edward the Black Prince had involved himself so deeply in debt by his Castilian campaign, and by the failure of Don Pedro to keep his engagements, that he was forced to impose a "fouage" or hearth-tax on his Gascon subjects. A portion of the Gascon nobility refused to pay the tax, and appealed to the French King. In 1369 the Black Prince was summoned to Paris to answer the complaints of his Gascon subjects. He imprisoned the messengers, and replied that he would obey the summons at the head of an army.¹ On the 3rd June Edward III. resumed the title of King of France which he had renounced by the treaty of Bretigni, and prepared for war.

His son John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, was sent to Calais at the head of an army, which pillaged the neighbouring country; but the French, acting under instructions from Charles V., refused to hazard an engagement. The great Chandos who had been

¹ As Aquitaine had been ceded to the English Crown in full sovereignty by the peace of Bretigni, the summons was unlawful and insulting.

ad arma;" amongst these were Walter de Wrottesley, John de Swinnerton, William de Swinnerton, John de Wolseley, Henry de Pipe, William fitz Herbert, William de Leighton, Thomas de Levinton, Ralph Basset, John Wolaston, Thomas Beck, William de Ferers, Thomas de Pyrie, Hugh Griffith, Robert Sweneshed, and John Arderne.

The accounts comprise a space of 314 days from the 16th June, 47 E. III (1373), on which day the Earl arrived at Sandwich with his retinue, to the 26th April following, on which day he arrived at Portsmouth on his return home ("*quo die applicuit apud Portes-muth versus partes proprias*"). A note against the name of each Knight or Squire gives the date of their arrival at Sandwich, from which day their pay commenced: each Knight received 2s. a day, and each Esquire 1*d.*

In February, 1374, a truce was concluded, to last till 1st May, 1375; it was extended in 1375 to last till 1st April, 1377. The Black Prince, whose health had been failing for some time, died on 8th June, 1376, and the King died at Shene on the 21st June, 1377.

ADDENDA.

THE BARONS' WAR, 49-50 HEN. III., A.D. 1265-1266.

The following writs appear on the Close Roll of 50 Hen. III. The Sheriff of Staffordshire is commanded to admit to the King's peace the following who had submitted through the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfeld, to whom the King had given power to receive the submissions of the rebels who had adhered to Simon de Montfort, viz. : Robert de Roueleghe and Richard, Philip, Giles, and Walter his brothers ; William de Hopewas, James de Tymmore, William de Esseyby, Thomas de Pessale, Robert de Suggenhull, Ralph de Ellerora, and Richard de Stafford.

Mandate to Roger de Clifford, Constable of Gloucester Castle to release William de Parles, who was detained there a prisoner (at the intercession of Roger de Somery).

CLOSE ROLL 51 HEN. III., A.D. 1267.

Richard de Loges by deed agrees to pay to the King 100 marks for the redemption of his lands.

Ralph Basset of Sapcote by deed grants to John de Verdun his manors of Sapcote and Stanton, to be held by the said John until he had paid to him 2,000 marks for their redemption, the money to be paid by instalments at John de Verdun's Castle of Alveton, or at the Abbey of Croxden, as John should think fit. Witnesses : John fitz Alan Lord of Arundel ; Sir Roger de Somery, Sir Robert Aguilun, Sir William de St. Odomar, Sir Walter de Dunstanville, Sir Richard de Mundeville, Sir John de Chetwynd.

William de Wavere¹ compounds with Roger de Sumery to give him his manor of Marston in co. Warwick, for which Roger restores to him all his other lands which had been given to him by the King.

PATENT ROLL 52 HEN. III., A.D. 1268.

The King remits all his anger against Eustace de Watford arising out of the late disturbances in the Kingdom, in consequence of laudable service rendered by the said Eustace.

A pardon under the Great Seal was granted to Robert Hasteng, and his lands which had been given by the King to James de Aldideley (Audley) and to Hugh de Turberville, are to be restored to him.

¹ William de Wavere held Amblecote in Staffordshire of Roger de Somery.

“CHARTULARY” OF THE PRIORY

OF

ST. THOMAS (A'BECKET)

NEAR STAFFORD.

(Founded circa 1173-75 A.D.)

COLLECTED, AND EDITED,

BY

REV. F. PARKER.

A CHARTULARY

OF

ST. THOMAS' PRIORY, NEAR STAFFORD.

IN attempting to publish a chartulary of the "Augustinian" Priory of St. Thomas, we have to meet this difficulty, that no complete collection of that house's deeds exists; the nearest approach to it will be found in some twenty pages of a small MS. book of Sampson Erdeswicke's numbered "506," among the Harleian MSS. at the British Museum; stripped of its modern binding this volume might easily be taken for a mere note book, containing at best rough drafts for Erdeswicke's important work on the history of Staffordshire; certainly these few leaves are but a chartulary in outline, not to be compared for a moment with that of Ronton, although in point of revenue, and therefore in the number of its charters, St. Thomas equalled, if it did not surpass that priory.

Fortunately for our purpose, however, many of the St. Thomas' original deeds fell into the hands of the late Sir Thomas Phillipps, and have been preserved in the library at Thirlestone House, Cheltenham; of these rather more than a hundred will be printed in the present collection.¹

The rest are chiefly from Walter Chetwynd's MS. "History of Pirehill;" they have been compared with such of the originals as remain in Mr. Fenwick's possession; and will be found taking precedence here, in right both of their date and their importance. Some few deeds have been inserted from Chetwynd's MSS. note books at Ingestre; with three or four from his collection of family papers.

The "William Salt" Library has furnished one or two valuable transcripts of MSS. in the British Museum, &c., and especially the

¹ By the kindness of Mr. Fenwick, to whom the writer is indebted for access to these charters, without which the work must have fallen through.

original deed of Gerard, son of Brien, for the foundation of the Priory, which is copied imperfectly in the "Monasticon," but has been here reproduced in autotype,¹ together with the common seal of St. Thomas a fine example of early 15th century work.² These may be taken as the chief sources, if we except an interesting and lengthy grant of lands at Newton, near Blithfield, for which we are indebted to Colonel Hunter Weston, who copied it for General Woottesley.

The bulk of the Chartulary has been arranged alphabetically, for more convenient reference; which was the rather necessary, because Erdeswicke's MSS. outline appears to have been too hurriedly drawn up to pay much attention to order: deeds relating to one and the same place, notably so in the case of Stafford, being distributed unaccountably among the rest; while the drawback is not lessened by a handwriting very small, cramped, and, owing to the numerous abbreviations, difficult to decipher.

To give here any account of "St Thomas" Priory would be to anticipate the history of the "Hundred," which, it is hoped, the William Salt Society will be able to publish in course of time; but as the deeds contained in this chartulary affect many parts of Staffordshire, and, with some few exceptions, have never as yet been published, the Editorial Committee consider that it will serve the end they have in view to add this to the more important chartularies of Abbeys and Priors which they have already printed.

It only remains, then, to point out, that the headings, printed in italics before each place, are from an old parchment roll of the St. Thomas' property found by Walter Chetwynd among the "Fowler" papers: here inserted piecemeal, that the reader may see at a glance where deeds are missing; and because it will be found for the most part incorporated "as a whole" in the earlier charters of Bishop Richard Peche.

The "Dodsworth" MSS., belonging to the Bodleian Library, were

¹ The autotype reduces the size of the original deed about one-fourth.

² This seal, as Dr. Cox informs me, is of later date than I supposed, and certainly not much earlier than 1425 A.D. A grant of lands at Clayton Griffyn from St. Thomas to Trentham Priory exists among the Trentham muniments. It bears a small oval seal in green wax about three-quarters of an inch long, representing the murder of Archbishop Becket by the four Knights. A priest stands behind the former, holding over him a cross. The Knights wear square-topt helmets. The whole design is particularly well executed.

examined, but proved to contain very little relating to this subject, and that little only transcribed from Erdeswicke's papers; the same being the case with Harleian MS. 2044 B.M., which copies, not always very accurately, about twenty of the Erdeswick deeds.

A list of the "Priors of St. Thomas," though far from complete, has been added to assist those who are concerned in dating the charters.

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

PRIORS OF ST. THOMAS NEAR STAFFORD.

Walter,¹ Prior of St. Thomas. ("Ronton Chartulary," "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. IV., p. 267.)

Adam, Prior of St. Thomas. ("Wolseley Deed," *temp.* R. I. or John. "Leigh MSS.")

Nicholas, Prior of St. Thomas 1203 A.D. ("Fradswell Deeds")

Philip, Prior of St. Thomas 1221-28 A.D.

Richard,² Prior of St. Thomas 1248 A.D. ("Final Concords," "Staffordshire Historical Collections," p. 23.)

Nicholas de Aspley, Prior 1257-92 A.D., &c.

Richard de Hildestone, Prior 1295-1342 A.D.

Thomas de Tydnesouvre,³ on death of Richard de Hilderstone, elected 1342-47 A.D.

Robert Cheadle,⁴ elected 1357-58 A.D., &c.

Richard de Mere,⁴ elected 1365 A.D. (Robert de Hilderstone, the other candidate, had been chosen, but his election was annulled by the Bishop.)

Nicholas de Huxton,⁵ 1377-1407 A.D.

Thomas Swineshede,⁴ elected 1405-12 A.D.

Richard Bowyer,⁴ elected 1412 A.D.

Richard Stafford,⁴ elected 1437-46 A.D.

Richard Colwich,⁴ elected 1447-78 A.D.

William Chedull,⁴ elected on resignation of Richard Colwich, 1478 A.D.

¹ It is difficult to determine precedence between these two Priors; "Adam" might naturally be preferred, in the absence of further evidence, were it not that Thomas Noel, whose deed Walter attests, died at an advanced age in 1206 A.D. Since this was written I have found proof in a Wolseley deed that Walter was the Prior in Gerard son of Brien's day.

² The notice in the rolls of 1248 A.D. is the only authority I have met with for this name.

³ (1342 A.D.) The electing Canons were: Roger de Aldelyne, John de Stafford, Robert de Podemcre, William Noreis, Robert de Hilderstone,* *Roger de Stafford*, Robert de Chedle,† *John de Ruggeleye*, Thomas de Ersthope,† *Richard le Rotour*, John de Wynnerton,† *Henry de Cnyghtleeye* (Knightley). (Thomas de Tydnesouvre had been sub-Prior.)

(1535 A.D.) Besides Prior Richard Wythell, the following canons were pensioned at the surrender: Richard Harvey, sub-Prior, Xtopher Simson, Thomas Bageley, Brother Wm. Pykestock, Brother Wm. Stapulton, Brother Wm. Bordon.

⁴ These elections have been taken from the Lichfield Episcopal Registers. The Priors elected were submitted for confirmation to the Bishop.

⁵ In the grant of Weston-on-Trent Church, the following members of the Priory occur: N. de Huxton (Prior), Fr. Nich, Lichfield, sub-Prior, Fr. Wm. de Bedenhale, Fr. Hugh de Ronton, Fr. Thomas Swineshede, Fr. Walter de Roleston, Fr. Richard de Ley, Fr. Nicholas de Yoxhall, Fr. John de Stafford, Fr. John de Ashull, Fr. Philip de Stanford. (1389 A.D.)

* Sub-Prior in 1347 A.D.

† These three were guilty of great irregularities in A.D. 1347, as will appear in the Bishop's visitation.

William Smith,¹ (?) elected 1494 A.D.

John Messingham, Prior in 1525 and 1530 A.D. (21 H. VIII.) (Chetwynd MSS.)

Richard Wythell, Prior at surrender of St. Thomas, 1535 A.D.

¹ *Vide* Coles MSS. Vol. XXVII. (B.M.), but there is considerable uncertainty between this Priory and Stone. (*Vide* Vol. XLV., same collection.)

² 35 E. I. Plea Rolls, "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. VII. A suit for trespass by Agnes widow of Henry Wymer, against St. Thomas, names (besides Richard de Mere, Prior) these canons: Brother Richard de Cocton, Brother Adam Girard, Brother William of the Rce, Brother Robert de Weston, Brother Henry de Huttesdon, Brother Thomas de Huttesdon. (1307 A.D.)

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

Sciant. p. et f., quod ego Philippus le Poer, canonicus Beate Marie de Stafford, dedi, &c., Deo et ecclesie Scti Thome, pro salute anime mee, et meorum, in liberam, &c., elemosinam, tres acras terre cum pertinentiis in territorio de Witegreve, illas scilicet quas habui ex dono Edwini, filii Thome Balche de Wytegreve, viz., dimidiam acram ad Scarpenhull juxta terram Willi Sparuwé,¹ et dimidiam acram que vocatur "Havedlond" super Elmers-hull, et dimidiam acram terre de duobus selionibus super "le Feld," juxta terram Agnetis de Ghardino, et dimidiam acram terre, de 2 selionibus, super "Hodestowhul," inter terram dicti Edwini et terram que fuit Nicholai de Whitegreve, et dimidiam acram terre, unius selionis, ad "Horestun," juxta terram Sibille vidue. Tenend., &c. Reddendo inde annuatim predicto Edwino heredibus suis, unum par albarum cyrothecarum pretio unius oboli, vel obolarum, die Scti Bertolini pro omni servicio. (Warranty and seal.) Hiis testibus: Dno Willielmo Wymer, Adâ Wymer, Ricardo de Walseshal canonico de Stafford, Clemente de Wytegreve, Ada Sparawe,¹ et aliis. Anno millesimo ducentesimo quinquagesimo secundo (A.D. 1252), coram generali curiâ de Wytegreve. (Philipps' MS. 7897.)

Sciant p. et f., quod ego Willielmus, filius Ade de Wytegreave, concessi Deo et ecclesie Scti Thome, &c., in liberam, &c., elemosinam, unam acram de tribus selionibus cum pertinentiis, in territorio de Wytegreave, illam scilicet, &c., que vocatur "Pesselul," et jacet inter terram Radulphi² Bungy, et viam que ducit a Wytegreave usque "Bruggefeld." Tenend., &c. (Warranty and seal.) Hiis testibus: Clemente de Wytegreave, Radulpho Bungy, Willielmo de Holt, Simone de Herford. (Circâ 1210 (?).) (Philipps' MS. 7897.)

(Omitted.) Ernald son of Geri, to St. Thomas and canons, gives three acres in Witegreve, two situated in "Haregrevehehe," and one half acre at Fuldeforde, and one half acre at Hatenolde (?), and a rent of twelve pence they used to pay him for eight acres in Hurchull. They giving him one penny yearly. (Sealed.) Hiis testibus: Dno Roberto de Wethelesbar, Willielmo de Gnoweshall, Ricardo de Walseshal, Ada Witegreve, Adâ filio Ricardi, Helia de eadem, &c. (Philipps' MS. 7897.)

Walter son of Geri sells to the Church and canons of St. Thomas the Martyr near Stafford, for 5½ marcs and a hog (*bacorum*) and 1 poniblam? (*poneriam*) of corn, all his lands in Witegreve, and all his rights to half virgate there with liberties and common, to be held hereditarily, free of all service, saving that due to the chief lord. These witnesses: Ralph de Mutton,³ Ivo, his brother, Thomas de Kerswall, Walter his brother, Remard le Clerc, Richard of Hoptun, Richard of Orbretun, Bernard of the same, Roger of Frodeswell, Walter and Richard his brothers, &c. (Philipps' MS. 7897.)

WOLASTON.⁴

Felicia⁵ de Dokesay, Laurentio filio meo et heredibus suis, &c., duas virgatas terre in Wolaston, quas Eudo de Wolaston dedit Ernaldo⁶ de

¹ This name is given as Spanaw in the Assize Roll of 4 R. John ("Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. III., p. 53.)

² Ralph Bungy was sued in 1 John. (Assize Roll.) ("Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. III., p. 42.)

³ Testing Clause 1194-5 A.D. ("Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. II., p. 266.)

⁴ Near Penkridge.

⁵ Felicia de Dokesay appears in the Final Concords (October, 1208 A.D.), when she established her right to two virgates in Bure; but lets the same to John the hunter, who is to acquit her, and her heirs, of the service of hunting for the Lord Stafford. She appears to have married Eudo de Mere.

⁶ An Arnald de Dokesey was tenant to Simon le Sage (1168 A.D.). (*Vide* Pipe Rolls, "Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. I., p. 54); possibly the same man

Dokeseye cum Aldythâ filiâ suâ in libero maritagio, pro hac autem dedit mihi anulum aureum. (B.M.)

Laurentius, filius Eudonis de Mere,¹ Deo et Sancti Thome ecclesie, duas virgatas terre in Wolaston, quas Eudo de Wolaston dedit Ernaldo de Dokeseye cum Aldithâ filiâ suâ in libero maritagio. Reddendo duos denarios pro omnibus servitiis, salvo forinseco servicio. (B.M.)

¹ Eudo de Mere and one John de Wollaston are parties in a suit of 1 John (1199 A.D.) ("Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. III., p. 60.)

N.B.—The letters B.M., following deeds in this chartulary, signify that they are taken from Harl. MS. 506 B.M.

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 — Wm., s. of, 161.
 — Wm., s. of, 198.
 — John, s. of Wm., 186.
 Wynestary, Thos. de, 37, 41.
 — Robt., *ibid.* 55.
 — Thos., s. of, 55.
 — Wm., 10.
 Wyrley, Thos. de, 7.
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 — Thos., b. of, 43.
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Y.

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Z.

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CASTLE CHURCH,

WITH SOME ACCOUNT

OF ITS

PARISH AND MANOR AND OF ITS
ESCHEAT

TEMPORE HENRY VIII.

ADDENDA VEL CORRIGENDA.

- Page 2, about the middle, *after* "Charters of many sovereigns," *insert* "tribal descent perhaps by the use of Borough English."
- Page 2, paragraph 2, line 4. Since this was written Mr. Calvert has published a short account of the Borough.
- Page 3, line 2, *for* "Staffordshire," *read* "Stafford Town."
- Page 9, at end of second paragraph, *after* [X] *add* [G].
- Page 10, about middle of page *for* "distinct and," *read* "distant or."
- Page 10, line 8 from bottom, *add as note* to Fish Pools, as follows:—"The printed Wardrobe Roll of E. I. speaks not only of the King's, but of the Queen's Vivary at Stafford; not only of the King's Fisherman there, but of the Queen's."
- Page 11, line 2, *add as note*. "This word 'castle' is used in the sense of Castlewick in the Inq. p. m. upon the death of Earl Hugh, where it is said 'In which *Castle* the Earl had held two carucates of demesne land.' See Campbell's 'Stafford Fee-age,' p. 64, line 8. 'Castle' indeed had been used for Castlewick previously, for a plea roll of 21 E. I. says that Nicholas Baron of Stafford held the 'Castle' of Stafford with the liberty of Bradeley *in capite* of the King ('Staffordshire Collections,' Vol. VI., pp. 258-9). It may be just hinted that the old intrenchment at Billington may have led to the whole district eastward of the Peak being styled *Castre* or *Castelry*."
- Page 11, at the end of third paragraph, *add as note*, "See 'Staffordshire Collections,' Vol. IV., p. 290 n."
- Page 11, line 7 from bottom, *omit* [L].
- Page 12, line 8, *for* "Tillington Pond," *read* "Tillington Ford."
- Page 14, line 6 from bottom, *for* the paragraph beginning "The Names," *insert* all the places in the map opposite except Stafford, Copenhall, Dunston, Acton Trussell and Penkridge, formed the Domesday Manor of Bradeley; and all the places in the map above Copenhall and below Stafford form now the Manor and Parish of the Castle.
- Page 20, at the end of the fourth paragraph, *for* "sixth year of Edward III.," *read* "first year." *Confer.* the Subsidy at large, "Staffordshire Collections," Vol. VII., Part I., p. 195.
- Page 23, 6 lines from bottom, *set a "comma"* after "Clerk."
- Page 24, paragraph 3, *for* "6 E. I. 117," *read* "1 E. III. 117."
- Page 27, line 13 from bottom, *for* "Branselle," *read* "Branselle."
- Page 30, line 12 and elsewhere, *for* "Teste de Nevil," *read* "Testa de Nevil."
- Page 31, at end of first paragraph, within the brackets *insert* [Y].

Page 31, line 12, *omit* brackets.

Page 35, paragraph 2. For the early branches of the Bagots and their connexion, *see* General Wrottesley's remarks in his Commentary upon the *Liber Niger*, "Staffordshire Collections," Vol. I., pp. 167, 169, 170.

Page 39, line 9, for "*m.* 33," read "No. 33."

Page 39, line 12, for "168," read "No. 168."

Page 39, line 8 from bottom, for "32," read "No. 32."

Page 40, line 5 from bottom, for "*m.* 5," read "No. V."

Page 48, paragraph 3, line 4. Walter Chetwynd (*see* his "Staffordshire Collections," Vol. III., p. 51) names Roger le Wete as the grantor of the Brocage to the Priory, *test.* Gerald fil Brien.

Page 52, line 11, for "Rowley," read "hamlet."

Page 72, line 5, for "the manor of the same name," read "Weston in Standon."

Page 79, line 17. Compare with Addenda to page 11, line 2.

Page 84, line 2 *insert* after full-stop, "The Chapel of St. Nicholas of Stafford, mentioned by Mr. Eyton ("Antiquities of Shropshire," Vol. V., p. 176), must I think be understood as this old chapel on the Hill, and if so it must have been at all events older than the year involved in the mention of it, that is 1186 or possibly 1173. But in the accounts of William Bromley and Thomas Gryme, Wardens of the Church of St. Marys of Stafford in the twentieth year of King Henry VII., appear items for different repairs to the aisle of St. Nicholas. That aisle supposes a chapel also there of corresponding dedication.

Page 84, *add* at foot. Land called the Downes near Bradley and within its parish, was chargeable with tithes to the Free Chapel of St. Nicholas. In early times a Royal patent (20 E. I.) granted this same Free Chapel during the minority of the heir to Thomas son of Nicholas the deceased Baron. A part of the tithes, *viz.* those of corn and grain, of lands called the Downes, near the town of Bradeley, heretofore belonging to the Free Chapel of St. Nicholas within the Castle of Stafford, were leased by Henry Earl (Lord) Stafford to Edward Ward of Levedale, *alias* Leadall, in the county of Stafford, Yeoman. *See* original deed, 13th December, 1694, in the parcel of Salt MSS. 73.

Page 97, *add* note to second paragraph, "Edmund Baron Stafford had been interred with the Minorites, *see* p. 100 *infra*. A century later on the opposite side of the town, in the Choir of the Friars Augustines, under a tomb before the high altar, was buried the Earl of the same name, Edmund, slain at Shrewsbury A.D. 1403. According to Dugdale (Baronage, Vol. I., p. 164), not lands, but their plate and rich shrine had led to their destruction, and so their house became a ruin, and "therein all those fair and costly tombs of this most noble family (whereof some had been originally (?) placed therein), were miserably torn to pieces, and buried under the heap of its deplorable ruins."

Page 110, note 2. *See* the Act, section 15, which provides that the attainder shall not prejudice certain grants made by the Duke to Sir Andrew Windsor and to Anthony Windsor.

Page 113, note 3, *add* "The Duke, when Earl, had recommended Radcliffe for promotion to the valuable Rectory of Wynwick, calling him his own Clerk." *See* the Earl's letter to the Bishop printed at large in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. LXIII, p. 402.

Page 115, *add* at end of note, previous to note 1, "*see* Addenda to p. 84 at foot."

Page 116, line 14 from bottom. Edmund Earl of Stafford had before granted the pasture called the Hough to Nicholas Bradshaw for life. *See* the *L. p. m.* on the Earl's death, 4 Hen. IV., No. 41.

Page 132. This word Wingerun is perhaps a contraction from Wicingorun, and alludes to money current amongst the Danes, &c. *See* Duchesne *in verba*.

Page 144-6, as note to this proof of age *add* as follows: "Subsequently on an Inquest of the 16th E. III., No. 38, Edmund's son Ralph, afterwards first Earl Stafford, it was found that the latter was born in Avynton (? Aminton) near Tamworth, and was baptized in the Church of St. Edith of this Town of Tamworth."

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

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THE MANOR AND PARISH OF "CASTRE" (CASTLE).

In times remote the county town, before history recorded the name which now designates it, was peopled by at first probably a sparse body of Anglo-Saxon settlers, coming thither, it has been suggested from the Eastern coast. [K.] It assumed the form usual with village communities. This is an inference from institutions of which the more important and distinctive features long survived in their integrity, *i.e.* in allotments, common fields, and common pasture, and which are at the present day far from obliterated.

In the course of a few centuries the primitive settlement took another form, the fence (*caun*, or *tune*) which encircled it, good against cattle, was no defence against human foes; so now it was surrounded by solid palisades and perhaps by rude walls, giving to the space enclosed the character of a "burh." This was the work of Æthelfleda, Alfred's warlike daughter, or of his son Edward the Elder, but it was more probably the result of a concerted policy between them. The change was made owing to the stress of events and the, now menacing, proximity of their old formidable enemies the Danes, who had long previously obtained a solid footing in districts on the northern and eastern sides of the island, and had had that footing countenanced and confirmed by the Peace of Guthrum through the good feeling or deliberate policy of the illustrious Alfred.

It is evident that much is now solid drained land which was then water or unstable marsh, and consequently an additional obstacle to hostile onset or surprise. Indeed, the legend of the Saint Bertelin, if we may refer to it, speaks of an island, and the fact of one seems preserved in the name of the corner of the town, called by a word of Saxon origin not only denoting isle, but characterizing this one as of not small dimensions, *i.e.*, as broad isle (*Brodeye*). The terminal syllable of a supposed more ancient name, Bethnei (Latin form, *Bethania*), may preserve a record of a similar topographical fact. [L.]

The "burh" and district just mentioned lie entirely on the left or northern bank of the Sow, but the opposite stretch of land on the

south side of that river had formed an important manor of the Saxon Earls of Mercia, and was called Bradeley. It is now represented in part by the land which comprises the Parish of Bradeley. It included, however, in early times something more, viz., various members, and one especially our present subject, afterwards itself a distinct manor, termed the Manor of Castre, or the Manor of Stafford. Thus the area of a village community, the "burgh" or borough, and the manor just mentioned (which last fell to a Norman Baron on the escheat of the last Saxon Earl), all lay together, so to say, within an area of 12,000 acres more or less, with a river nearly intersecting them. Now the borough had even with the Saxons been the King's borough, as the manor had been the Earl's manor. The result was a combination, not only interesting, but rare, as within narrow limits representing the three essential elements of the mixed form of government under which England has so long lived. Popular rights and liberties and progress represented by the institutions of common fields and common pastures and allotments, afterwards also by franchises, confirmed by the charters of many Sovereigns; the King's rights, evidenced by a Royal burgh, a royal castle (afterwards King's Gaol), also by a King's chapel and a King's pool, while the Baronial rights came to be made prominent by a Baron's castle or by a demesne manor, "which, or one of them, was the caput of his Barony." [B.]

A subject so suggestive concerns in its entirety municipal as well as general history. The borough of Stafford awaits its Historian, but it is in vain to treat the history of the Manor of Stafford as entirely distinct. More especially is it impossible to have a clear notion of the early associations of the Baronial fief, without having in mind simultaneously the particulars of the royal rights existing in its vicinity.

The subject is not easy, and has been rendered less so by the confusion of names, of things, and persons, by the questionable pretensions of Barons it may be, and perhaps by the vacillating purposes of Kings, and especially by the inconsistent and hasty allegations of topographical writers. [A.] The difficulty may serve to excuse these introductory remarks, as well as my making the King's Castle of Stafford the first matter for consideration.

To prevent or lessen confusion, the whole subject has been divided under the following heads:—1. The King's Castle in Stafford; 2. The Manor of Stafford; 3. The Feudal Barons of the

Bromley to William Hunt and Henry Hean. Who Berington was see "Erdeswick," by Harwood, p. 175 and note there.

Degge says, Edward son of Sir Robert Stamford sold Rowley to Sir Richard Berrington, who married Edward's sister, and was father of John Berrington, who owned it in 1665; *apud* "Erdeswick," by Harwood, in note at p. 448; and see "Staffordshire Collections," Vol. V., p. 260.

Mr. Harwood strangely mistakes (p. 175) Erdeswick, who did not, as Mr. Harwood has done, confound the Rowley to which he referred with any other place of similar name, but had in his mind and his text only the hamlet (variously written as Roweleeu, Reule, Rule) which is in the extreme westerly part of the parish of Bradeley, not far from Haughton, and is by no means the Rowley near Stafford. The latter had really, as the commentator truly says, belonged to a religious house in Stafford, and William Stanford, Esq., and after him Sir Robert Stanford became its owners, and the latter's son Edward sold it to Richard Berrington, who married his daughter, and had issue John, who enjoyed it in 1660. The inquiries referring to the Stanfords have been given above. From the inquisition held on the death of Richard Berrington, who died on the 16th February, 9th of James I., it appears that the successor of John his son consisted of the Manor of Rowley juxta Stafford, on messuage, sixty-six acres of land, forty-three of meadow, sixty-four of pasture, ten of wood, and 60s. rent and the site of the Monastery of the Aunson Friars, with great tithes of hay, calves, lambs, pigs, and wool, etc., as tenant *in capite* of the fortieth part of a knight's fee.

In the "Royal Composition Papers," 2nd Series, Vol. XLIII., p. 74, on the 11th June, 1649, we find the following as to the Stafford possessions: "The Marquis of Dorchester and the Earl of Kingston petitioned the Commissioners of Composition for leave to be admitted to a reasonable composition for two parts of certain estates purchased by them from the Right Hon. William Lord Viscount Stafford. It was stated to consist of:—

The Manor of fforbridge with the appurtenances and all other the lands, mylls, and tythes of the said Lord Viscount Stafford situate and being in Castle Church and Bradeley, and in the borough of Stafford or elsewhere in the said county of Stafford, two parts whereof remayne under sequestration for the recusancy only of the said Lord Viscount Stafford.

founder of the family of Toeni and Conches in Normandy, and that (afterwards called) of Stafford in England.

In Normandy the Toneis were mixed up with the turbulent events that characterise the annals of its dukes. One of these chiefs, Roger de Tonei, senior, as well as his son Ralph, are spoken of as hereditary standard bearers of Normandy; both had distinguished themselves in Spain; the father had even been styled "d'Espagne" in consequence. (Orderic, *ubi supra*, note of M. Prevost.) Ralph was so conspicuous a political character, that even his physician Goisbert finds frequent mention in the narrative, wherein the Anglo-Norman historian informs us that Ralph had taken him with him to England, and through him had granted to the Monks of St. Evroult in Normandy two estates in England, one named Caldecot in Norfolk, and the other Alvington in Worcestershire. Indeed historian and physician became eventually both monks in that abbey. Ralph was elder brother to Robert de Tonei, afterwards called of Stafford. Such is the conclusion of Mr. Eyton ("Staffordshire Historical Collections," Vol. II., pp. 254-5). Ralph was evidently the brother the more distinctly marked in the page of history, where in England he appears as owner of Flamstead and Clifford Castles, and occupies a more important place in continental chronicles, where family alliances connected him with the great houses of Fitz Osborne, of Montfort, of Evreux, of Mellent, and of Boulogne; the marriage too of his daughter Godchilde to Baldwin son of Count Eustace led to a throne, and seems the first link that connected the family with the Crusades, and may have been the cause, although Robert de Tonei's previous attachment to Duke Robert may have been another, that in carrying Robert de Stafford to the East led to the extinction of the first race of males.

The value of Orderic's testimony depends upon his means of information, as well as upon his honesty as an historian; it is for this reason that I have mentioned Ralph's physician, Goisbert, afterwards long resident with the historian as fellow monk within the same monastery. For thus it seems impossible that the Anglo-Norman historian who was collecting details, should not have made himself well informed as to Norman doings in England, and especially as to those of the de Toneis.

Robert, whom the Domesday Commissioners called "de Stafford," and who himself or his immediate successors on receiving from his Sovereign and Relative numerous fees in and near Stafford and

Book of Domesday tells us remained unoccupied (*vastas*). [D. B., p. 246.]

But although thus of the comital manors, Robert de Stafford had hardly more than a third, he had in his share within the borough, what was styled "of his own fee," forty-one mansures, nearly as many as all those of the comital estate put together. Whatever may be the relation in which Robert thus stood in power to the other tenants *in capite* in Staffordshire, and whatever may have been the relative extent or value of Robert de Stafford's estates elsewhere, in the neighbourhood of Stafford itself they were without rival. Not only were his fees divided from that town on the south only by the River Sow, but they extended, with the exception of the break occasioned by the King's Pool, on its other side, so as to completely encircle the burgh from Tillington on the west, to presumably a member of the Bishop of Lichfield's manor of Haywood on the east, where a part, afterwards the site of St. Thomas the Martyr's Priory, appeared a century later to have been relinquished by a Gerard de Stafford (thought, probably erroneously, by some to have been of the baronial family, and co-founder with Bishop Peche of the said Priory).

But the proprietorship of the Staffords in this centre was not limited to that extensive and almost perfect circumference; in the town itself Domesday Book marks Robert as holder of the aforesaid thirteen mansures, and on the south and west sides, even the strips of meadow land that intervened between the walls and town gates were soon afterwards found in the possession of the family, and claimed as belonging to their Manor of Stafford. Nor was this all, for although the Domesday Commissioners at first doubted it, a half of the King's share in the borough ferm seems to have become the Staffords' by Royal grant. [P. 246: *medietatem partis propriam Regis habet Robertus dono Regis ut dicit*. A later entry is positive upon the subject; p. 248, verso: *in burgo de Statford habet Robertus lxx. sol. de medietate partis Regis*.]

In another passage of the Staffordshire census, at fo. 249, Robert is found at Bramshall a close neighbour of the King; the same Robert, it tells us, holds in Bramshall (Bramselle) one virgate of land of which one moiety is the King's as the way halves it (*ut via eam dividit*).

It seems impossible not to admit the sagacious conclusion of a distinguished antiquary, that the King expressly withheld from Robert everything that might savour of earldom. But be that as it

traversed by their armies as well as by those who rebelled against their authority. I may add there is proof of all the early Kings having visited Staffordshire except perhaps William II. With respect to the Conqueror he may have thought it good policy to retain Staffordshire, not only as a secondary line of defence against the Welsh, but as his own boundary against the powerful earls to whom he had accorded a Palatinate and independent sovereignty in Cheshire and Shropshire.

What the position was that Robert de Stafford and his first successor held in the contest for power with the powerful feudal lords near him needs elucidation, and the evidence to make it out is far from conclusive; but the Sheriffdom was perhaps, it has been said, its basis. At that early period the high office which then conferred the chief authority, military as well as civil, was granted sometimes in other counties to successive members of the same family. In the absence of other special appointment to a Royal castle, it is apprehended that the Sheriff would *ex officio* have its custody, and the first baron may thus have taken his name de Stafford not as a territorial one at first, but as a description, which, the castle effaced, would cease to be applicable, especially when, as we know was the case, the King appointed a different castellan to the Royal castle which he rebuilt at Stafford, *i.e.*, William Pantulf. For I am not aware that in the eleventh century or in the twelfth, or even later, the Latin preposition "de" prefixed to a local name necessarily was more than one of various modes of distinguishing a man in respect of connection with some place. Robert Tonei may then have been styled Robert de Stadford for the same reason as Turchil his Saxon contemporary was called Turchil de Warwick (as to which see Dugdale's "Warwickshire," first edition, p. 302), namely, from residence there or holding the castle for that King's Earl as vice-comes, or as representing the King in the respective towns, in neither of which counties had any earl been made, the King retaining the earldom in his own hands in both. But to return to the subject of the Sheriffdom, I remark that although the third of the feudal Lords de Stafford had no lord of his name de Stafford successor in the Sheriffdom, the same high office was held by one of his foremost liege Knights, Hervey de Stretton, for eighteen years successively (13 H. II.—30 H. II.).

This interval passed, it is not easy to avoid suspecting that this branch of the Toneis having fallen to the distaff, it had somewhat

declined in power and influence, although fated to rise again higher; and the incessant wars with France which soon ensued terminating (*temp.* John) in the separation of France from Normandy, would so react upon the principal branch as not only to detract from its importance, but disparage for a time the junior branch at Stafford.

The last baron of the first Stafford race was also a crusader; the preparation for this distant and adventurous expedition embarrassed the estates of many of his coëvals, and may have embarrassed his. So that we may finally suppose that the close of the twelfth century did not find the different branches of this originally foremost family with a position relatively improved; but their hopes and aspirations remained the same, and long before this they had at least got rid of formidable competitors in the case of a neighbouring family, to be presently mentioned.

It was a sad foreshadowing of what England had to expect and endure from these warriors, to know that before they were launched upon this country and even during the minority of their Duke, their families had been continually engaged in cruel feuds amongst themselves; "thus, says Ordericus, "the Normans took off by poison Alan Count of Brittany their own Duke's guardian, and defeated his successor Count Gislebert in a bloody battle, the two nations massacring each other incredibly in almost daily encounters. Likewise Turketil de Neumarche, and *Robert de Tonei*, and Osbern, Steward of Normandy, and William and Hugh the two sons of Roger de Montgomery, and Robert de Beaumont, *Walkelin de Ferrers*, and Hugh de Montfort, and many other powerful warriors, made war on each other by turn, causing great confusion and distress in the country, which was then deprived of its natural protectors, *i.e.*, by the nonage of William." [B.V., ch. 9.] So that one main motive of the Conqueror in his invasion of England may have at first been to employ his turbulent barons: history repeating itself; something of the same kind took place when Archbishop Chicheley counselled Henry V. to amuse his subjects in foreign wars.

THE NEIGHBOURING FEUDAL CHIEFS.

FERRERS, FITZ ANSCULF, ROGER DE MONTGOMERY AND HIS SON
HUGH, WILLIAM PANTULF, AND THE EARLS OF CHESTER.

All these chiefs were not only great in power and influence in Staffordshire, but by all but one of them holding mansures in the burgh of Stafford itself were likely, if disposed, to be formidable rivals and enemies of Robert de Stafford. Ferrers (Mr. Planché restored the orthography Ferrier) owned one manure in the burgh, described in Domesday as then "vastam." He had held also the site of the first Royal castle there, and this in right of his Manor of Chebsey, but at the date of the Domesday compilation it was in ruins; perhaps both wasted manure and ruinous site are descriptions of one interest. The lordship of this part of his property, whatever the property was, would accompany under ordinary circumstances the descent of the Manor of Chebsey; and that of Chebsey, although topographers are generally silent upon the subject, can be traced from Ferrers to the Royal House of Lancaster, and found to be treated as a member of the Honor of Tutbury. It had become such no doubt as a consequence of the Ferrers' forfeiture *temp.* H. III.

But somehow or other, that part of the fee in the Ferrers' estate in the borough of Stafford is no more spoken of as belonging to Ferrers. It had been severed, no doubt, and become the King's, and was the site of more than a single Royal castle; Domesday Book says upon it, "Rex præcepit fieri castellum quod nunc est destructum;" the phrase and context imply that the King had taken the land for himself. On the other hand, Ferrers had his own castle at Tutbury, and a burgh around it, as I understand the description in the Census. The Conqueror sometimes altered such territorial arrangements. We shall presently see an instance of his doing so in the case of William fitz Ansculph (p. 67).

The Castle of Tutbury had been, it appears, in the hands of Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester;¹ when the census was compiled it

¹ Several estates, part of the fief of Earl Roger de Montgomery, appear in Domesday Book as in tenure of a "William." The estates are Cresswall, Dodington (Derrington), Modreshal, Almenton, Anstonfield, Celteton, and Basford. All but the first of these are mentioned as occupied by William simply; but on the first occurrence of the name at Cresswall, Pantulf is written above the name of place, so that Cresswall was in William Pantulf's tenure. It would seem possible that William

residents the following names occur: Adams (husband of Sarah Salt, 1697), Adderley, Adshead, Anson, Aston, Barbor, Bayley, Berington, Beterton, Bickerton, Carelesse, Chamberlane *alias* Backhouse, Chomley (Cholmondeley) Clarke, Cockes (John, Curate), Collins, Dickenson, Dovey (of Ricarscote), Drakeford (of Forbridge), Eardswick (Sampson son of John), Foxe (of Rowley), Gonway, Goldsmith, Harcourt, Hervey, Humptbach, Keen, Lees, Lineall John (Minister), Lyttelton, Macclesfield, Norris, Palmer, Pursley, Salt, Spenser, Sutton, Talbot, Thorley, Whitgreave (of Burton very often), Whitmore, Yornall. [U.]

Christenings and interments are sometimes mentioned as celebrated at St. Mary's, Stafford, or at Stafford. A child upon one occasion is christened at Bradeley. Mention is made of Thomas Salt the son of Richard Salt and C[lem]aunce his wife, as christened at Billyngton Chapel in 1690.

The Registers afford materials for a complete list of the Curates (the Act of E. VI. makes them perpetual Curates or Vicars) from the commencement of the independence of the Church; the first name being John Cockes. Afterwards and in later times officiating Ministers are spoken of, and it may be not easy to distinguish these always from the Incumbents proper. Once at least the Church itself was held by a Rector of St. Mary's, Stafford, and the officiating Minister may have been the latter's Curate. [U.]

The Ecclesiastical Census for 1676 [Salt MS. 23] tells us that in Castle Church there then were 171 Conformists, 7 Papists, and 2 Non-Conformists, which number would seem to omit children under sixteen years of age.

The Register Book in a memorandum on the fly leaf shows the

At Castle Church, a place in Staffordshire,
Where he receiveth eight pounds by the year,
Which he hath truly in Exchequer pay,
For which he thanks your Highnesse night and day.
He aged is full threescore yeares and ten,
A long time now to live with mortall Men,
His wife also is threescore yeares and one,
That Stipend poor they still do live upon.
Now if your Highnesse would be so much pleas'd,
That his eight pounds to forty pound be rais'd,
He thinks that he should live with more content,
Then hundred pounds thrice (*sic*) some receive in rent,
Though 's (*sic*) stipend be but eight pounds by the year,
Which he receives for feeding souls so dear,
Yet his poor Tallent he will never hide,
In verse he writes, yet God is still his guide."

landlord between the King and the said William. (Inq. ad qd. damnun, 21 E. III., No. 62.) In the Chetw. MSS., Vol. II., p. 133, amongst Whitgreave deeds, is the following abstract :—

“Sciatis &c. qd Ego Johes del Croft vici de Berkswich dedi &c. John de Aston de Salt, Margeriae Selyman de Stafford, ad totum vitam ipsius Margeriae & Johi de Briggeford, filio Adæ Waterson de Briggeford, & hæ. r. f. assignatis ipsius Johis de Briggeford omnia ten. mea de Ricardscote, quæ nuper habui de dom & feofmento Hugonis de Norton in feud. in perpetuum &c. Teste : John Clifton, Will. Palmer, &c. 18 Ric. II.

A piece of meadowing in Ricardscote (is) called Rereholme. (*Worsw.*, fo. 29a. of E. VI.) At this date, on the 31st July, died Thomas Rugeley, Esq., who is shown by the inquisition to have held Rickerscote from Humphrey Whiggreave.

Amongst the Royal Compositions in the Salt MSS., Vol. II., p. 857, a Humfrey Gouldsmith is mentioned as paying £14 for two years' tenure of land at Rickerscote, under the Commonwealth, A.D. 1651, 1652.

Radford Bridge stands in what was the edge of the ancient Forest of Cannock, and indicates one of its approaches, for Dugdale (*Warw.*, p. 138) tells us that Hugh de Loges held five tenements in Chesterton (co. Warwick), by the service of conducting the Earl of Chester towards the King's Court through the midst of the Forest of Knok; meeting him at Rotford bridge, upon notice of his coming, and a Hopwas bridge upon his return; in which forest the Earl might, if he pleased, kill a deer in his going, and another at his coming back; giving unto Loges at each time he should attend him a barb'd arrow.

We find from the Pat. Roll, 1 E. I. (1275-7), m. 9, *dorso*, that Richard de Roulow arraigned an assize of novel disseisin against Peter the Prior of St. John near Stafford and Henry le Fevre concerning tenements in Roulowe.

William de Mortuomari (Mortimer) and R. de Belafgo were appointed by Pat. 34 E. I. to take the assize of novel disseisin arraigned by Ralph le Teynturer of Forebrugge against Richard le Palmere of Burton and Felicia his wife and others, concerning common of pasture in Rulowe (Rowley) near Stafford.

By charter dated at Stafford 15 H. VI., witnessed by Jo. Holt & Jo. Cradoc, then Bailiffs of Stafford, and Jo. Bradley, Tho. Lych and Tho. Molot, Burgesses, and others, Thomas Fisher de Roulow near Stafford granted to Jo. Temmis and Tho. Browne, Chaplains, and to Will. Knighton and Ralph Bottiler, of Stafford, Burgesses, all his lands, &c., in Roulow aforesaid. (See Abstract by Bassano, Salt MS. 153, p. 35.)

Worswick notes also an extent of the Manor of Rowley (*fo. iii.*).

Temp. E. I. Juliana widow of Robert de Halghton claimed as dower a portion amongst places in Selkemor.

Margery wife of John de Rowelawe claimed (28 E. I.) in dower one-third of three acres in Rowleowe and Stafford. (“Staff. Coll.,” Vol. VII., p. 72.) The same widow apparently, though called Margaret, claimed (28 E. I.) as dower one-third of sixteen acres in Rowleowe and Stafford, eight and one-third of a messuage. (*Ibid.*, p. 76.)

In the 34 E. I., or about it, a common of pasture in Roulowe near Stafford was in litigation by John son of Ralph le Teynturer of Forebrugge, with Richard le Palmer, of Burton, Richard Kirry, and others; but the suit was

in Manchester to be removed, first to Chester and then to the King's vill of Stafford. The King heard from the Sheriff that his castle and gaol which had been properly taken as a prison for the Courts of Stafford, is situated within the said vill, and that an ambiguity had arisen whether the said castle and gaol should be received as part of the sanctuary of the said vill. The King then proceeded to say that it was not, nor had it ever been, his intent that the said castle and gaol should be, or be reputed to be, any part of the sanctuary of the aforesaid vill. Such is the purport of the instrument which follows.

PATENT OF KING H. VIII.

Henricus Dei gratia, etc. Vicecomiti Staffordiæ salutem. Licet nuper Virtute ejusdem Actus parliamenti per breve nostrum tibi inde directum proclamari fecimus quod Villa nostra de Stafford infra Ballivam esset Villa Sanctuarii et quod Felones, Transgressores, et alii Malefactores illuc fugientes haberent Tuitionem et privilegium ibidem juxta Vim Formam et effectum Actus et proclamationis predicti. ac aliorum Statutorum et Legum Regni nostri Angl. et cum ex Testimonio tuo et aliorum fide dignorum ligeorum accepimus quod *Castrum et Gaol nostrum* pro prisonibus in comitatu tuo captis et capiendis situatum sit *infra Villam predictam* et quod quedam *ambiguitas orta est utrum dictum castrum & gaola*, pro parcella sanctuarii villæ prædictæ acciperetur, etc., scias, etc., quod non est nec unquam fuit intentio mea quod *predictum Castrum sive Gaola* esset vel reputaretur aliqua parcella Sanctuarii predicti, etc. Dat. 3^o die Augusti, a^o regni nostri 34^o.

Thus the castle and gaol, and castle or gaol, are names of the same structure, and *within*¹ the King's vill of Stafford, but the King declares that he never intended (*i.e.*, by his proclamation, which substituted Stafford for Chester as a place of sanctuary) that his castle or gaol should serve as part of the sanctuary.

The castle and gaol mentioned in this Patent cannot be in any way understood as meaning the Staffords' on the Hill, first because the instrument itself mentions the castle and gaol as being situated within the town of Stafford, and secondly because the Staffords' Castle forfeited to the King by the last Duke had been granted previously to the attainted Duke's son, Henry Lord Stafford and Ursula his wife. (See the Patent, second part, for the 23rd year of the reign of King Henry VIII.)

Appendix E, p. 11, par. 1.

In the more ancient times "Castel" did not necessarily mean of Roman origin, for Leland, "Collect.," Vol. II., p. 302, cites from the ancient chronicle of Malmesbury the text "sub castello de Bladon quod Saxonice vocabatur Ingelburne Castel, quod castellum constructum fuit a quodam rege Britanico."

The word "Castle" is certainly of wide application; so the Manor House of Macclesfield, which had come to the hands of Edward Stafford Duke of

¹ I translate *infra* within, according to the universal mediæval usage; see Duchesne *in voce*.

Buckingham, was called in the sixteenth century "the manor, castell, or capital messuage of Macclesfield" (see Earwaker's "East Cheshire," Vol. I., p. 476); but in 1398 John de Macclesfield had obtained from Rich. II. licence to crenellate it, *ibid.*

What has been said of the early centuries in France applies to Norman England. "War," says Guizot, "was everywhere; naturally the monuments of war, and the means to wage it or repel it, were everywhere too. Not only did they build castles, they converted all things into fortresses and places for defence. Towards the eleventh century, at Nîmes, in France, a company styled of the Arenes, seized for their habitation the Roman amphitheatre; the Arenes still exist to this day. It was easy to fortify places fortresses in themselves already. This is not an isolated fact; most of the ancient circuses, that at Arles included, were used similarly and occupied as if they had been castles for some time. Monasteries and churches were equally fortified. They were garnished with towers, ramparts, and fosses, and sedulously guarded; they sustained long sieges. Burgers did as did the nobles. Their villas and bourgs were fortified; chieftains were stationed as sentinels in the bell towers of churches to scan what was passing in the distance, and to announce the approach of an enemy. Alas! sometimes he was in the vill itself, in a neighbouring street."

Appendix F, p. 1, middle of p. 8, par. 1.

We know Ralph de Toeni the hereditary standard bearer did not bear the standard at Hastings. Ordericus tells us that Turpin son of Rollo did ("Hist.," B. III., ch. 14.) In the "Roman de Rou," Vol. II., p. 195, we learn why. A life of the historian is prefixed to Mr. Prévot's edition of Orderic's chief work; as this has been often cited in the preceding pages, his claim to speak with authority should be made clearer.

"It fell to my lot," says Vitalis, "a stranger and an Englishman, coming here" (to the Abbey of St. Evroult in Normandy) "when only ten years old, from the furthest borders of Mercia, and rude of speech and manners, in the midst of a people full of intelligence, to compose, by God's help, a narrative of Norman events and transactions for the use of Normans."

Vitalis had made journeys to Worcester and Croyland; at the latter place he wrote at the request of the Monks a Latin epitaph on Earl Waltheof. Another motive may have incited him to this, for a benefactor of his Abbey, R. de Toeni, had married the daughter of Waltheof. Vitalis' biography furnishes us with the following dates: He was born the 15th or 16th February, 1075, at Attingham (Atcham) on the Severn. He received his name from his sponsor, a noble Saxon priest named Siward, who also baptized him.

1080 æt. 5, was sent to school at Shrewsbury, where, under the same Siward, he learnt reading, grammar, and church chants.

1085 æt. 10, his father sent him to St. Evroult Abbey in Normandy; he never afterwards saw his father.

1086 received the tonsure on St. Vitalis' day, and assumed the saint's name.

1091 at the Abbot's request, he was received as sub-deacon; and

of Humfrey Stafford, Knt., late called Lord Southwyk, otherwise called Earl of Devonshire. The petition claimed many manors of which the said Earl had been seised, amongst others those of Penkerych, Pyrton, Lytewode, Hydecopenhale, and Amblecote; these had been settled in *tail male*, but forcibly disturbed by Humfry Stafford, late of Grafton, Squier, supported by his favour, as the petition says, with Richard, late "in deed and not in right," King of England. The prayer of the petitioners was accorded, and themselves put in possession of the aforesaid manors.

Bromshall is not mentioned in the petition above mentioned, but it became the subject of a litigation a few years afterwards. The Erdeswicks having inherited the right of the sole heiress of Sir James Stafford, of Sandon, had held not Sandon only, but Bromshall, from the time when Sir James had died. But it would seem that although Sandon was theirs by express settlement, Bromshall had been settled in *tail male*, and so his brother Sir John Stafford and his heirs male were to be preferred to the heiress who had married Erdeswick, and so the Erdeswicks were at last ousted by Willoughby de Broke, whose representatives still own it. (General Report of the Commissioner of Public Records Appendix, p. 58, 1837, referring to a special assize, anno 5 H. VIII., between Henry Willoughby de Broke and others, plaintiffs, and Hugh Erdeswick, disseisor; and see Sampson Erdeswick's commentary upon that litigation in the "Antiquities of Staffordshire," ed. Harwood, p. 512, and the pedigree adduced by him in that first Salt MS. (once Mr. Hamper's).)

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

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