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COLLECTIONS

FOR A

HISTORY

OF

STAFFORDSHIRE

EDITED BY

The William Salt Archaeological Society.

VOLUME VII. NEW SERIES.



Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

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"And in this undertaking, the Reader may see what Furniture (though it lie dispersed) our Publick Records will afford for History: and how plentifully our own may be supplied and improved, if pains were taken therein: for what is hitherto made publick, hath been collected, chiefly out of our Annals, and they filled with few things but such as were very obvious, nay the Annalists themselves (for the most part residing in Monasteries) too oftentimes byass'd with Interest, and Affection, to Times and Persons: But on the contrary, in our publick Records lye matter of Fact, in full Truth, and therewith the Chronological part, carried on, even to days of the Month. So that an industrious Searcher may thence collect considerable matter for new History, rectifie many mistakes in our old and in both gratifie the world with unshadowed verity."—(ASHMOLE'S *History of the Garter*.)

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1904.

The William Salt Archaeological Society.

1904.

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The William Salt Archaeological Society.

GENERAL MEETING, 10TH NOVEMBER, 1903.

THE Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the William Salt Library, Stafford, on the 10th of November, 1903. The Chair was taken by the President, Lord Wrottesley, and the members and friends of the Society present were the Rev. F. H. Annesley, the Rev. W. Beresford, the Rev. E. Collett, the Rev. F. G. Inge, the Rev. S. W. Hutchinson, the Rev. S. Lees, the Rev. F. P. Parker, the Rev. G. J. Royds, the Rev. E. Salt, the Rev. C. Swynnerton, the Rev. C. S. Tyack, the Rev. R. A. Wilson, the Rev. F. J. Wrottesley and Messrs. W. S. Brough, A. J. Caddie, W. N. Furnival, W. N. Landor, W. Morton Philips, General the Hon. George Wrottesley, the Honorary Secretary, and Mr. J. W. Bradley, the Assistant Secretary.

Letters and telegrams of apology for non-attendance were received from the Venerable Archdeacon Lane, the Rev. E. R. Bridgeman, Captain R. Walker, and Messrs. A. Scrivener and W. H. Duignan. After some preliminary remarks from the Chairman, the Report of the Assistant Secretary upon the financial condition of the Society was read as follows:—

REPORT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 1903.

There has been no loss of members by death reported this year.

Two new Members have been added, viz. :—

The Rev. Tho. Taylor, M.A., F.S.A., Vicar of St. Just-in-Penrith, Cornwall; and

The Rev. R. A. Wilson, Vicar of Hints, Tamworth.

Lord Harrowby has continued his uncle's subscription.

The number of members at present is 154.

Lieut.-Col. Joscelyne Bagot in a letter suggests several county gentlemen whom he thinks should and would become members if the Society was brought before their notice.

Turning to the Finances: Five members have voluntarily continued the extra half-guinea, thus adding £2 12s. 6d. to the year's income, which makes the total amount received from this source £99 4s.

It should be explained that up to 1894 about 40 members were habitually one year in arrear of their subscriptions. Explanatory applications were made, and in every case where a question was raised, tabulated statements of accounts were drawn up and sent to the applicants. By these means the number of such deficiencies has been gradually reduced from 40 to two.

One of these debtors now owes £4 4s. and ignores alike the printed applications and personal letters from the Assistant Secretary and Mr. Duignan. Requests to return the volumes which represent the unpaid subscriptions or to withdraw according to Rule 5 if he so desire, have also been entirely ignored.

This case is very similar to that of Mr. Pershouse Bayley, who was reported last year and still remains a defaulter and retains the volumes in spite of the most pressing applications. Mr. Duignan believes there would be no difficulty in recovering the money or the volumes in both cases if he is authorized by this Meeting to act for the Society. The sum owing to the Society amounts to seven guineas, which, if it is submitted, should not be lost.

Apart from this sum and omitting Miss Burne's subscription (as her volumes were returned) there were only five guineas left unpaid when the books were closed for audit. Three have been received since, and a fourth will be paid shortly, leaving only one guinea of the forty belated subscriptions still unpaid.

One encouraging result of the special efforts made to obtain this clearance now is the increase of the Balance in the Bank to £110 2s. 10d., notwithstanding the cost of the extra volume which was issued this year.

Frequent evidences are forthcoming of the high esteem in which the Staffordshire Historical Collections are held by many Archæologists outside the membership of the William Salt Archæological Society.

J. W. BRADLEY,
Assistant Secretary.

The President then called for the Report of the Editorial Committee, which was read as follows:—

REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1903.

The Committee have to report that Volume VI of the New Series was issued to the Subscribers during the past summer in two parts. At the time it was resolved to make it consist of two parts in order to introduce into it the Wrottesley History: the size of the first Volume, or Part I of the issue, which consisted of original Records, was reduced to 200 pages in order to be on the safe side in the matter of expense; the cost of Part II, however (the Wrottesley History), has proved so small, this has turned out to have been an unnecessary precaution, and a balance of £110 was left at the close of the financial year. This will enable the Committee to issue a larger Volume for the year 1904. This Volume is now in the press, and will consist of about 300 pages containing—

1. A history of the Okeover Family with transcripts of their ancient deeds.
2. A further instalment of the Fines of James I.; and
3. An abstract of the Early Chancery Proceedings which relate to Staffordshire.

It will be perceived that this differs in some respects from the programme proposed at the General Meeting of 1903; but shortly after the date of the last Meeting, the Committee received information that Mr. Okeover was about to send all his ancient deeds to the British Museum to be calendared by Mr. Jeayes of the MS. Department of the Museum. It was considered advisable therefore to take advantage of this opportunity to obtain abstracts or copies of these deeds for the Society, and an arrangement was made with Mr. Okeover and the authorities of the Museum by virtue of which the Honorary Secretary was enabled to take abstracts of the deeds as soon as Mr. Jeayes had completed

his task. It should be explained with reference to this matter that Mr. Jeayes' calendar is in English, but for the purpose of this Society it was considered preferable to have Latin copies or abstracts of the deeds, and these will be printed in the forthcoming Volume.

In the last report of the Committee, it was recommended that an effort should be made to include the contents of the Bishop's Registers at Lichfield amongst the publications of the Society, and the Committee have now the satisfaction of reporting that the Bishop of Lichfield has placed the calendaring of the Episcopal Records into the hands of the Rev. R. A. Wilson, the Vicar of Hints. Mr. Wilson is now engaged upon this task, and has informed the Committee that he expects to have three of the Bishop's Registers completed in 1904, but he would prefer that his work should be published in a Volume by itself instead of being cut up into detached sections and printed in a serial form. The Committee concur with him in this view, and it is proposed to issue a complete Volume of Episcopal Records in the year 1905.

After some discussion the President moved the adoption of the Report, which was carried unanimously. The attention of the meeting was then drawn to the question of two members who were for several years in arrear with their subscriptions, and who had persistently declined to take any notice of applications made to them by the Assistant Secretary for the payment of their subscriptions or for the return of the volumes which had been forwarded to them. It was finally decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Committee.

Mr. Beresford proposed, that with a view of increasing the membership of the Society, a pamphlet should be drawn up, giving an account of the work and object of the Society, and which should be sent to persons likely to become members. This proposal was supported by Mr. Collett and Mr. Landor, but no decision was come to respecting it.

Mr. Beresford proposed and Mr. Lees seconded that the hearty thanks of the Meeting be given to the Honorary Secretary for his

unwearied and generous labours on behalf of the Society, and Mr. Collett proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Wrottesley for coming so far for the purpose of taking the chair at the Meeting. After these votes had been unanimously passed and acknowledged, the Meeting separated.

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Staffordshire County Studies
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EFFIGY OF HUMPHREY OKEOVER
ON WINDOW OF OKEOVER CHURCH
1538.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILY OF
OKEOVER, OF OKEOVER, CO. STAFFORD.

Staffordshire County Studies



Photo by R. & R. Wall, Ashbourne.

ENTRANCE GATES TO OKEOVER HALL.



Photo by R. & R. Bell, Asatruon.

VIEW OF OKEOVER HALL, 1903.

THE OKEOVERS OF OKEOVER.

OKEOVER is a village and parish on the west bank of the river Dove, which separates Staffordshire from Derbyshire. The present parish, originally a chapelry under Ilam, contains only 871 acres, but the ancient manor of Okeover was a very much larger territory and included Casterne and the greater part of Ilam. These parts are called the "*Appendicia*" of Okeover in Domesday and the Burton Chartulary.

Under the heading of "TERRA SANCTE MARIE DE BERTONE," Domesday gives the following account of it:—

"IPSA ABBATIA TENET ACOVRE. BI III VIRGATE TERRE CUM APPENDICIIS. TERRA EST II CARUCATE. EDDULFUS TENET AD CENSUM. IBI UNUM MOLENDINUM. SILVA DIMIDIA LEUVA LONGA ET III QUARENTENA LATA. VALET XX SOLIDOS."

The meaning of which is, that Okeover with its appendages was rated at three virgates of land, or three-fourths of a hide. There was arable land for two ploughs. Eddulf held it at farm. There was a mill, and about 180 acres of wood, and it was worth 20s. annually. The old manorial mill on the river Dove still exists, and must have been a valuable possession in former days.

The next account of Okeover is contained in the Burton Chartulary, where there is a survey of the Abbey lands during the reign of the Abbot Nigel, between the years 1095 and 1113, or about 20 years later than Domesday. Under Acoure it states that there was Inland¹ for one plough. The land held in villenage (*terra hominum*) in Acoure and Ylum was rated at

¹ The Inlands were the lands in the hands of the owner, and held in demesne, as distinguished from those in the hands of tenants. A pool of water at Wrottesley is still called the "Inland Pool."

three virgates. In Acoure there were warlands¹ of 16 bovates, and a mill rented at 4s. There were likewise at Ylum, warlands of 16 bovates and a mill rented at 10s. This land viz., Acoure and Ylum, Orm held at farm for 26s. and vii*d.* (*i.e.* two marks annually).

Another survey made in the first year of the Abbot Geoffrey (1114) gives a more detailed account of the manor. It states that—

In Acoure there was Inland for one plough. The land held in villeinage (*terra hominum*) at Acoure and Ilum was rated at three virgates and there was warland at Acoure sufficient for two ploughs. Lewin held a carucate of land "*pro servitio suo*"² and had under him two tenants (*homines*). Of the other carucate (or ploughland) Swegn held two bovates for 15*d.*, Lewin two bovates for 15*d.*, and Amelstan and Cheneward held two between them for 15*d.* There were three cottagers who worked for one day. The mill was worth 4s., and there were two bovates of warlanda in demesne.

In Ylum all the land was warland and there was none in demesne. There were 16 bovates of land of which Tedwi held two for 2s. Lewin Gup two for 15*d.* Another Lewin, two for 16*d.* Ulward the Smith, one for 16*d.* Huning, one for 12*d.* Griffin, one for 12*d.* Bertrich held land for which he paid a rent of 6s. The mill was worth 10s. Acoura with its "*appendicia*" was rated (*de defendit*) at half a hide and one virgate (*i.e.* three virgates as before.) Orm holds this land for 20 *oras*.³

We obtain therefore this information, Okeover and Ilam were rated at three virgates only, and there were two ploughs at Okeover, and two at Ilum. Each plough was worked by eight oxen.⁴ Neither the names nor the numbers of the villein tenants at Okeover are given by the monks. A villein tenant usually

¹ The Warlands appear to be lands cultivated in common by the manorial plough. The "*terra hominum*" was the land in the possession of villein tenants who could not be dispossessed of their lands, and held by customary services.

² Lewin was probably a freeman holding by villein services, which was not an uncommon tenure, but the term "*pro servitio suo*" is so vague, it may mean simply a money payment.

³ An "*ora*" is sometimes translated as a shilling, but this entry shows that ten "*oras*" went to a mark.

⁴ Every tenant of a bovate of land found an ox for the manorial or communal plough, and received his share of the produce of the land (Seebohm's *Village Community*).

held a virgate of land, but no doubt there were more villein tenants than virgates at Okeover, for the land of the monks was rated at an exceptionally low figure.¹

The "*appendicia*" of Okeover were the most important parts of the manor, for they consisted of the greater portion of the present parish of Ilam. The whole of Ilam in fact, except Throley and the land attached to the church, formed part of the manor of Okeover. The census named above says of Okeover, "*hanc terram tenet Ormus pro XX oris, et cum ea etiam Ilam preter ecclesiam et terram ad eam jacentem que ecclesia et terra est Abbatis.*"

It was probably on the death of Eddulf, the Domesday tenant, that the Abbot Nigel (1114-1113) enfeoffed Orm in the manor of Okeover (Deed No. 1). The feoffment, which is the earliest deed in the Burton Chartulary, was for two lives only, and whilst on this subject, it is curious to note the reluctance of the monastic bodies for at least fifty years after the Conquest to grant an hereditary tenure in any of their possessions. Their practice, however, seems to have been to admit the son of the previous tenant on his formal application in full chapter and to accept his homage for the lands which had been held by his father,² and it is very likely therefore that Orm was the son of Eddulf. Both names are of Scandinavian origin, like the other tenants of the Burton monks, and there appears to have been a considerable settlement of Danes in the north-eastern portion of Staffordshire.

The Abbot Nigel's deed states that he and all his brother monks in full chapter had granted Acovere to this Orm (*huic Ormo*) on condition that he should pay 20 "oras" annually, and be the Abbey's man (*homo*), swearing fealty on the four Evangelists, and on his death his body was to be brought to Burton to be buried *cum tota pecunia sua*, and after his burial his

¹ At Leigh, which is the next vill named in the above census, twelve villein tenants are specified by name, but the "*terra hominum*" was rated at less than one hide. A hide of land consisted of four virgates. (*Burton Chartulary*, p. 27.)

² Hence the expression "*huic Ormo*" in the deed of feoffment, and see also the *History of the Wrottesley Family* in the last number of these collections. The *Evesham Chartulary* states that the Abbot Walter, who succeeded Agelwine in 1077, being a young man at the date of his accession, and not endowed with much worldly wisdom, had refused to accept the homage of many worthy tenants of the monastery and had bestowed their lands on his own relations; and in the same history it will be seen that the manor of Loynton had been granted by the same monks for one life only, *temp.* H. I.; but the sons had succeeded their fathers in regular succession up to the reign of Edward II.

At the same sittings of the Court the tenants of Snelstone, who had been sued by Christiana for dower, likewise called upon the warrantors of their lands to warrant to them their various tenancies. In this suit Christiana occurs in the double capacity of plaintiff and warrantor. The Record states that:

Derb. Henry de Hambury, chivaler, and Isabella, his wife, Simon of the Halle and Agnes, his wife, and Henry, son of the said Simon, John Wildegos and Isolda, his wife, John Tury, and Joan, his wife, William le Walous, and Alice, his wife, and Roger Broun of Snelleston, and Sibil his wife appeared by attorney against Christiana, formerly wife of Roger de Okoure, *custos* of the person and of part of the lands of Thomas, son and heir of the said Roger de Okovere, Edward de Chaundoys, Thomas de Rolleston, and Reyna his wife, *custodes* of another part of the said lands, Walter de Montgomery, *custos* of another part of the same lands, and John, son of Roger de Bradeburn, *custos* of another part of the same lands, in a plea that they should be present in Court with the said heir, to warrant to the said Henry de Hambury, and Isabella and the other plaintiffs a third part of their several tenancies in Snelleston, which Christiana, formerly wife of Roger de Okoure, knight, claimed as dower against them. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to take into the King's hand, land belonging to the heir, to the value of the dower claimed, and to summon them for the Quindene of Trinity, on which day the *custos* of the heir is to produce him in Court.¹

It appears by these suits that Christiana had been jointly enfeoffed at Okeover with her husband Roger, by William, the Parson of Enefeld (Enville near Birmingham), who must have been a feoffee put in by Roger for that purpose. Walter de Montgomery was *custos* of part of the lands as mesne lord of Snelstone. Sir Edward de Chandos, and Reina, who was the heir of Robert de Stafford, the other coparcener, represented the heirs of Robert fitzWalkeline, and John de Bradeburne, must have been the mesne lord of other lands, in co. Derby, which had been formerly held by Sir Roger.

Thomas de Okeover was of age in 1357, for at Michaelmas

¹ *Staffordshire Collections*, Vol. XI, pp. 91 and 92.

term 31 E. III., he was suing William de Hulle, of Saperton, for causing waste and destruction in houses, woods, and gardens in Snellestone, which William held in custody, of the inheritance of the said Thomas.¹ At this date Thomas was not a knight and had probably lately come of age.

In 1359 by a deed at Okeover, he granted a lease of the mill of Attelowe to William le Walyshe²; and on the Saturday after the Feast of St. Barnabas 35 E. III. (June, 1361), styling himself Thomas de Okovere, kt., he vested in three ecclesiastics all his goods, movable and immovable, in the counties of Derby and Stafford.³

This was a common practice in former days when an action was pending against an owner of property, as it protected his goods and chattels from distraint. This is all the information which I have been able to collect respecting this member of the family, and nothing is known of his wife, nor of any children except his son and heir Philip, who first occurs on the Vascon Roll of 44 E. III. (1370), when he was serving in Aquitaine with Edward the Black Prince.⁴ At this date Philip was not a knight and his father may have been alive, but the latter was certainly dead before June, 1372, when Philip levied a fine respecting the manors of Okeover, Snelston, and Atlow.⁵

SIR PHILIP DE OKEOVER, 1373-1399.

As shown above, this Philip was serving in Gascony in 1370, in the retinue of John de Gaunt, the son of Edward III. John was Duke of Lancaster in right of his wife, and was therefore the feudal overlord of Philip.

The principal event of the war was the siege and capture of Limoges by the Black Prince.

On the 1st July, 1372, Philip de Okovere, and Alice his wife, levied a fine respecting the manors of Okeover, Snelstone, and Atlow, and lands in Mapulton, by which they were settled on

¹ *Staffordshire Collections*, Vol. XII, p. 154.

² Deed at Okeover.

³ Deed No. 76, Appendix.

⁴ *Staffordshire Collections*, Vol. VIII, p. 112.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Vol. XI, p. 191.

Philip and Alice and their issue, and failing such on the right heirs of Philip.¹ The object of this fine would be to give a life interest in the estate to Alice in the event of her surviving him. The fine was levied shortly before the sailing of the expedition to Gascony under Edward III.

In the campaign of 1380 in the north of France, Sir Philip, who was now a knight, was serving in the retinue of the famous Sir Hugh de Calverley.² The army was assembled at Calais and marched from there to Brittany. Sir Philip on this occasion took out letters of protection for a year.²

In the following year Sir Philip occurs in the retinue of William de Windsor, a banneret of some distinction, who had married Alice Perrers, the late King's mistress.³ When the army was mustered, however, at Clary sur Somme, in the presence of Thomas, Earl of Buckingham, the King's son, who was to command the expedition, Sir Philip had transferred himself to the retinue of his old chief, Sir Hugh de Calverley.⁴

On the 18th of March, 2 Ric. II. 1379, a special commission was issued directing Alured de Sulrey, Philip de Okore, Thomas Myners, and the Sheriff of co. Stafford to enquire, on the oath of a jury, what malefactors had killed William Horsho of Burton and another man named, and by whose procurement the felony had been committed, etc. The jury returned that they had been killed by William Mauveisin and Nicholas de Aston and by the order of Thomas de Ardene, kt. The proceedings will be found at pp. 149 and 152 of Vol. XIV of the *Staffordshire Collections*. Sir Thomas Ardene was lord of Elford, co. Stafford, but his principal estates were in Cheshire.

In 7 Ric. II. (1383) Sir Philip attempted to recover the manor of Callow from the representatives of William de la Launde, to whom the manor had been granted by Sir Hugh de Okeover in marriage with Lucy, his daughter, in the reign of Henry III., claiming as male heir of the grantor.

The defendant of the action, Goditha, the widow of Ralph de Statham, pleaded a fine of 3 E. III. (1329), which barred the

¹ *Staffordshire Collections*, Vol. XI, p. 191.

² *Ibid.*, Vol. XIV, p. 227.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 230.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 231.

RALPH OKEOVER, 1543-1571.

Ralph must have come of age in 1543, for the Inquisition on his grandfather's death states he was sixteen years of age in 30 Hen. VIII. His father Philip had married Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Thomas Babington of Dethick by Edith the daughter of Ralph Fitz Herbert of Norbury.¹ This marriage must have brought Ralph into close connection with all the uncompromising adherents of the Catholic religion in the Midland counties, and probably affected to a great extent his political views and conduct. He died, however, before the harsh measures against the Catholics had been set on foot. At Easter term 3 E. VI. (1549) he levied a Fine by which his Staffordshire estates were vested in Richard Okeover and Thomas Beresford. In this fine, the property is stated to consist of 40 messuages, 40 tofts, 2 water mills, 2 dovecotes, 40 gardens, 1,000 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 1,000 acres of pasture, 1,000 acres of furze and heath, 1,000 acres of moor, 1,000 acres of marsh and £5 of rent in Okeover, Woodhouse, Ilam and Castern.² During the interregnum between the death of his father in 1538 and the accession of Ralph to his estates, the greater monasteries had been abolished, and the ministers of Henry VIII. had purposed in the first instance to establish a Collegiate Church at Burton in place of the monastery. By Letters Patent of 1541, the chapels of Shene, Galdon and Okover, co. Stafford, were granted to the Dean and Chapter of the church of Burton, and all the possessions of Burton Monastery were to be held of the Crown by a yearly payment of £63 2s. 4d. They were afterwards bestowed by the King upon the first Lord Paget.

At Hillary term, 3 Elizabeth (January, 1561), another Fine was levied by Ralph Okeover, Philip Okeover, Rowland Okeover and Nicholas Okeover, which vested all the Staffordshire property in the same feoffees as in the fine of 3 E. VI.³ This fine was levied shortly before Ralph's marriage with his second wife, Katherine Lee, for the purpose of making provision

¹ *Nichol's Leicestershire*, Vol. III, p. 564, and Inqn. p.m. 30 H. VIII., p. 64.

² *Staffordshire Collections*, Vol. XII, p. 201. The name of Barresford (Beresford) is erroneously written Bafford in these Collections.

³ *Ibid.*, Vol. XIII, p. 212.

for his daughters by his first wife. Philip and Roland were the younger brothers of Ralph, and Nicholas was his uncle.¹

Ralph was High Sheriff for Staffordshire from November, 1564, to November, 1565, when he was succeeded by John Wrottesley of Wrottesley. The Queen's writ commanding him to hand over the county and its rolls and records to the new Sheriff is still at Okeover, and as these writs, being purely formal, were seldom preserved, I give it in full.

"Elizabeth dei gratia Anglie, Francie et Hibernie Regina, fidei defensor, etc., dilecto sibi Radō Oker armigero, nuper vicecomiti Staffordie salutem. Cum comiserimus dilecto nobis Johi Wrottesley armigero comitatum nostrum predictum cum pertinentiis custodiendum quamdiu nobis placuerit prout in literis nostris patentibus sibi inde confectis plenius continetur. Tibi precipimus quod eidem Johanni comitatum predictum cum pertinentiis una cum rotulis, brebibus, memorandis, et omnibus aliis ad officium Vicecomitis Comitatus predicti spectantibus que in custodia tua existunt per Indenturis inter te et prefatum Johannem debite conficiendis liberes. T. me ipsa apud Westmonasterium, xvi. die Novembris, anno r. n. septimo (16 November, 1565)."

Ralph died on the 29th of March, 1571.² He was married in 1536, when fourteen years of age, to Matilda, the daughter of Sir William Basset of Blore,⁴ by whom he had four daughters, Ellen, Elizabeth, Dorothy and Faith, and by his second wife, Catherine Leigh, he left an only daughter, Isabel. According to the Okeover Pedigree his second wife was widow of Henry Leigh of Rushall, co. Stafford, and daughter and co-heir of Sir John Dunham of Kirklington, co. Notts., and this agrees with the pedigrees of Leigh and Okeover in the Visitation of 1583.⁵

Ellen, the eldest daughter and co-heir of Ralph, married first, John Taylor of Burton-upon-Trent, and secondly, Richard Endesor of Pagets Bromley, co. Stafford.⁶

Elizabeth, the second daughter, married Sir Nicholas Longford of Longford, co. Derby. She died *s.p.* in 1571.⁷

¹ Inqn. p.m., 13 Elizabeth, see p. 73.

² Original at Okeover.

³ Inqn. p.m., 13 Elizabeth, see p. 74.

⁴ Inqn. p.m., 30 H. VIII.

⁵ *Visitation of Staffordshire*, Vol. III, *Staffordshire Collections*.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

Dorothy, the third daughter, married Humphrey Welles of Horecross, co. Stafford.¹

Faith, the fourth daughter, died unmarried.²

Of Isabel, the daughter by his second wife, nothing is known. She was aged seven only at the date of her father's death,³ and probably died unmarried.

The following Inquisitions were taken after the death of Ralph Okeover :—

DERBY.

Delivered into Court, 20th August [1571].

Abstract.

INQUISITION taken at Workesworthe in the county of Derby, 23rd July, 13 Elizabeth (1571) before William Barton, esquire, escheator, after the death of Ralph Okeover, esquire, by the oath of John Menell', Roland Ferne, Thomas Barbur, Richard Breillesforthe, John Ashe, Arthur Mower, John Clowes, John Home, Robert Stubbes, John George Buxton, John Lane and Thomas Steple; WHO SAY that the said Ralph was seised of the manors of Okeover, Woodhouses, Castren', Ilame and Swynscowe in the county of Stafford, and of the manors of Atlowe, Snelston, Mapleton and Yeldersley in the county of Derby in his demesne as of fee tail, with remainder to Philip Okeover and his issue male, with remainder to Roland Okeover and his issue male, with remainder to Nicholas Okeover and his issue male, with remainder to Humphrey Okeover and his issue male, and then to the right heirs of said Ralph. The said Nicholas was seised of the pasture in Mapleton called the Heywoodd, with 2 messuages and lands in Atlowe and Snelston for the term of his life, with remainders to Ralph and his issue male, Philip and his issue male, Roland and his issue male, Nicholas and his issue male, Humphrey and his issue male, and then to the right heirs of Ralph for ever. The said Philip was seised of 4 messuages in Woodhouses for his life, with remainders to Ralph and his issue male, Philip and his issue male, Roland and his issue male, Nicholas and his issue male, Humphrey and his issue male, and then to the right heirs of the

¹ *Visitation of Staffordshire*, Vol. III, *Staffordshire Collections*.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

The replicacon of Sir Anthony Ashley, knight, and Dame Jane his wief, Compleinantes, to the Answer of Rowland Okeouer, esquier, defendant.

The said Compleinantes mainteine theire bill of Complaint by them into this honorable Court against the said defendant exhibited, and every matter and thing therein conteyned to be true cerye, and sufficient in the lawe to be answered unto in suche sort and manner as the same are in and by the said Bill trulie set forth and declared, and saie that the answer of the defendant is not only in the materiall pointes therof untrue but also very uncerteine and insufficient in the law to be replied vnto. The benefit and advantage of excepcion to the incertenties and insufficiencies of which said answer being vnto this Compleinantes now and at all times hereafter saved and reserued, then and not otherwaies for Replicacon therovnto theis Compleinantes saye in every matter and thing as in and by their said bill of Compleint they have trulie set forth and alleadged, and the same will averr and prove as this honorable Court shall award. Without that that Raphe Okeouer in the answer named made suche Conveyance and assurance of the landes and hereintamentes in the bill menconed as in the said Answer is surmised. Or that the said Phillip Okeouer in the bill named was never seised of the mannors and landes in the bill menconed of anye suche estate whereby this Compleinant Dame Jane was by course of the lawe inheritable of the said mannors and landes or of anie part therof as in the said Answer vntruely is pretended. And without that that the Inventorie of all the goodes and Chattelles whereof the said Phillip Okeouer died possessed amounted to no greater summe then in the Answer is surmised. Or that all the goodes and Chattelles wherof the said Phillip died possessed which came to the handes of the said defendant or wherof he had anie notice or intelligence were conteyned or Comprised in the Inventorie in the said answer menconed or that such goodes and Chattelles as were Conteyned in the same Inventorie were prized at a deare rate or to the value therof in manner and forme as in the saide Answer is declared and pretended. For theis Compleinantes saie that the said Phillip died possessed of goodes to the value in the bill menconed and set forth And without that

the said Margaret in the Answer named had hir third part of the goodes and Chattelles whereof the said Phillip died possessed, to the vttermost value therof in manner and forme as in the said Bill of Complaint is pretended and alleadged. And without that that the said Phillip Okeouer stode indebted at the time of his death to the said defendant in any such Somme or Sommes of money as in the said Answer is surmised. Or that since the death of the said Phillip he the said defendant, hath paid or disbursed or standith ingaged for such seuerall Sommes of money and in such sort and manner as in the said Answer is also surmised. Or that the same seuerall Sommes of money in the said Answer supposed to be disbursed or laid out by the said defendant, or for which he supposeth he hath ingaged him self since the death of the said Phillip are or ought to be allowed unto him the said defendant out of the goodes whereof the said Phillip died possessed in manner and forme as in the said Answer is also pretended. And without that, that the said defendant hath disbursed or laid out more money in discharging of the supposed debtes and legasies and funerall expences in the Answer surmised then all the goodes and Chattells of the said Phillip amounted vnto in manner and forme as in the said Answer is verie vntuely alleadged And without that that any other matter or thing in the said Answer Contained materiall or effectuall in the lawe to be replied vnto and heren by theis Complainantes not sufficiently replied vnto Confessed and avoided trauersed or denied is true in manner and forme as in the said answer is alleadged and pretended. All which theis Complainantes will aver and proue as this honorable Court shall award, and pray as in and by their said Bill they have praied.¹

There is no record of any judgment having been delivered before the death of Rowland which took place about eighteen months after this date.

In the same year that Rowland succeeded his brother Ralph, viz., in 1604, he married a second wife, Anne Needham, and settled upon her and her issue the lands in Mapleton, Yeldersley, and Ilam, which had been bequeathed to him by

¹ Chancery Proceedings, James I., A 2/10, Public Record Office.

his brother's will. In the fine which was levied for this purpose at Trinity term 3 James I. (1604), this estate is described as consisting of 4 messuages, 3 cottages, 4 gardens, 4 orchards, 80 acres of arable land, 160 acres of meadow, 300 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood, and 300 acres of furze and heath and common of pasture in Mapleton and Yeldersley, co. Derby and a messuage and garden and orchard, 50 acres of arable land, 30 acres of meadow, 50 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, 200 acres of furze and heath and common of pasture in Ilam, co. Stafford.¹ The marriage portion of Anne was £400.²

Ralph the only son of Philip had died in 1598 without leaving any issue,³ and this second marriage of Rowland contracted in his old age no doubt added to the bitterness of feeling between him and Sir Anthony Ashley, for up to this date there was every chance that Jane Okeover might succeed to the property under the settlement of 32-33 Elizabeth. At the same sittings of the Court, viz., of Trinity 3 James I. (1604), when the above fine was levied, Sir Anthony levied the fine respecting the manors of Atlow, Snelstone, and Okeover which has been mentioned on p. 86, and from the time of Rowland's marriage up to his death, there was continual litigation between the two.

Rowland died at Okeover on the 7th of May, 1610. The Staffordshire Inquisition taken after his death has been lost, but the Derbyshire Inquisition is extant and is as follows:

DERBY.

Writ of "*diem clausit extremum*" dated at Westminster, 15th May, 1610.

Abstract.

INQUISITION taken at Derby 28th May, 8 James I. (1610), before Francis Cooke, esquire, John Bullock, esquire, feodary, and Edmund Warynge, gentleman, after the death of Rowland

¹ *Staffordshire Collections*, Vol. IV, New Series, p. 5.

² Inquisition p.m. on Rowland Okeover, 1610. A marriage portion of £400 in ready money, in the reign of James I., would be equivalent to about £200 a year at the present day; for instance, £400 must be multiplied by 5 to give its equivalent value in modern money, it would therefore amount to a capital sum of £2,000, and the current rate of interest in the reign of James I. was ten per cent. Shakespeare in his will directs his executors to pay ten per cent. on all his legacies.

³ He was buried at Snelston, 6th of March, 1597-98. ("Brownes of Bechworth Castle," by Mr. Pym Yeatman, 1903.)

Ada de Aldethlega, Roberto de Verdon, Ernaldo Senescallo meo, Ada filio Ade de Aldithlega, Henrico de Prayers, Rogero Bagot, Willelmo Panton, Willelmo de Ippetanes, Willelmo filio Radulfi, Herberto fratre Willelmi de Ippetanes, Milone de Verdon, Normanno Panton, Galfrido de Acovere, Henrico de Wutton et multis aliis.*

* From the Okeover Chartulary, Bodleian Library, Oxford. Wood MS. No. 6.

The donor is Bertram de Verdun, the head of the baronial house of Verdun of Alton, now represented by the Earls of Shrewsbury. He joined the Crusade of 1190, and died Governor of Joppa in 1192.

Adam de Aldithlega, the first lay witness, was the head of the house of Audley, and held Audley, Heley, and other places under Bertram; all the other witnesses can be readily identified from the *Staffordshire Collections*. William Panton was nephew of Bertram, his mother Aline de Verdun, sister of Bertram, having married his father Ivo Pantulf. Norman Panton was brother of William and therefore another nephew of Bertram, William de Ipstanes was a third nephew, being the son of Herbert, brother to Bertram. Vol. I, *Staff. Coll.*, p. 75.

Carta Hugonis de Acouere facta Galfrido fratri suo.

14. Sciant presentes et futur quod ego Hugo de Acouere dedi concessi et hac carta mea confirmavi Galfrido fratri meo pro homagio suo et servicio totam terram meam in Sn. Ilston que fuit Ricardi fratris mei cum omnibus pertinentiis suis et libertatibus sicut antecessores mei melius eam tenuerunt excepto quod in manu mea et heredum meorum retineo servicium Roberti de Stanton de terra quam Colbanus tenuit in eadem villa cum omnibus pertinentiis et libertatibus ad eandem terram pertinentibus et cultura juxta molendinum que est inter dominia et veterem cursum Duve salua semper sede et stangno molendini cum parua insula predicto Galfrido et heredibus suis tenendam de me et heredibus meis. Et si forte predicta cultura per predictum molendinum vel stangnum ad detrimentum meum vel heredum meorum iminuat per visum legalum virorum ex utraque parte mihi vel heredibus meis emendetur. Hanc vero terram concessi predicto Galfrido et heredibus suis tenendam de me et heredibus meis in feudo et hereditate libere et quiete et honorifice ab omni servicio et consuetudine ad me vel ad heredes meos pertinente saluo forinseco servicio. Reddendo inde annuatim

mihī et heredibus meis decem solidos argenti ad festum sancti Martini. Si autem contigerit predictum Galfridum sine herede de carne sua exiente abiisse tota terra memorata cum omnibus pertinentiis ad me vel ad heredes meos reuertetur. Ut autem hec mea donacio et concessio et confirmacio processu temporis locum firmitatis optineant presentem cartam sigilli mei munimine roborari dignum duxi. Hiis testibus Willelmo Comite de Ferrariis Willelmo de Rideware tunc senescallo, Galfrido Saluagio, Jordano de Tolka, Rogero de Ridewar, Galfrido de Costenton, Radulpho filio Jordani, Roberto de Appelby, Willelmo de Grendon, Radulpho filio Nicholai Johanne filio Herberti, Henrico de Breillsford, Nicholao de Cariland, Eytrop de Ossemundeston et pluribus aliis.*

* Okeover Chartulary, Bodleian Library, fol. 24.

*Carta Nicholai de Verdun facta Hugoni de Acouere de terra
in Schene.*

15. Sciant omnes presentes et futuri quod ego Nicholaus de Verdun concessi et presenti carta confirmavi Hugoni de Acouere et heredibus suis totam terram de Schene cum omnibus pertinentiis habendam et tenendam de me et heredibus meis sibi et heredibus suis. Reddendo inde annuatim triginta sex solidos et octo denarios ad duos terminos scilicet ad pascha floridum xviii solidos et iiij denarios et ad festum sancti michaelis xviii solidos et iiij denarios pro omni servicio et exactione mihi vel heredibus meis pertinente et cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus sicut carta domini patris mei Bertrami de Verdun testatur. Et preterea ego Nicholaus de Verdun et heredes mei quietclamavimus et adquietabimus predictum Hugonem de Acouere et heredes suos ab omnibus scutagiis et ab omni exactione scutagii predicte terre pertinentibus. Hiis testibus Willelmo Panton Radulpho filio Jordani Roberto de Campani Willelmo de Ippistanes Henrico de Denstone Henrico de Wotton Elya clerico Milone de Verdun Willelmo de Warewic Thoma de Stanton et multis aliis.

Okeover Chartulary, Bodleian Library, fol. 7. Nicholas de Verdun succeeded his brother Thomas, in 1200 or 1201 (Pipe Rolls, Vol. II, *Staff. Collections*).

successione hereditari post mortem Walteri Waldeshelf patris sui in Adgaresley in Comitatu Staffordie et in Assheburne, Bradeleye, Knyveton, Peverwych Bradburne and la Lee juxta Bradburne in Comitatu Derbeye simul cum homagiis et serviitiis liberorum tenentum etc. Exceptis illis terris et tenementis in la Lee que idem Walterus tenuit ad terminum vite Willelmi de Hopton. Habend et tenend omnia terras etc. predicto Ricardo et heredibus et assignatis suis etc. Hiis testibus Willelmo de Mapelton, Willelmo de Knyveton, Johanne de Lemynstre, Thoma de Matherfeld de Assheburne, Ricardo Hervy de Assheburne, etc. Data apud Assheburne die Mercurii in festo Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni Regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu duodecimo.

(Seals gone.)

75. Pateat universis per presentes me Thomam de Okovere militem dedisse et concessisse Philippo Persone ecclesie de Leegh, Rogero vicario ecclesie de Matherfeld et Johanni Wode capellano omnia bona mea mobilia et immobilia in Comitatu (*sic*) Derbeye et Staffordie vel aliqui loco nomine meo vel possessione mea manente sine ullo retenemento etc. Datum apud Okovere die Sabati proxima post festum Sancti Barnabe apostolici anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum tricesimo quinto.

76. Sciant etc. quod ego Philippus de Okore miles dedi etc. Thome de Marchynton militi, Johanni Crecy rectori ecclesie de Longeford Johanni Wade, rectori ecclesie de Legh et Thoma de Schene totum manerium meum de Okore in Comitatu Staffordie cum omnibus terris, tenementis, redditibus et serviitiis tam liberorum quam nativorum et cum homagiis, wardiis, releviis, eschaetis, bondagiis et ceteris omnibus pertinentiis suis etc. Hiis testibus Nicholao de Kneveton, Olivero de Barton, Johanne Cokayn, Willelmo de Newnham, rectore ecclesie de Sulyhulle et Ricardo de Welbek et aliis. Data apud Assheburne die Sabbati

in vigilia Purificationis beate Marie anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum quinto.



Legend in Gothic letters.
Sigillum Philippi de Okover.

77. Noverint universi per presentes me Isabellam Saucheverell dedisse, concessisse et presenti scripto meo confirmasse Philippo de Okover militi et Thome de Hopwelle filio meo omnia bona et catalla mea mobilia et immobilia ubicunque infra regnum Anglie fuerint inventa, habenda et tenenda omnia predicta bona et catalla mobilia et immobilia predictis Philippo et Thome executoribus vel suis assignatis in perpetuum. In cuius rei, etc. Datum apud Hopwelle die dominica proximo ante festum Sancti Edwardi Regis et confessoris anno regni Regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum septimo.*

* Isabella, according to the Pedigree at Okeover, was daughter of Sir Roger de Okeover, and would be therefore aunt to Sir Philip. She had married, according to the same Pedigree, William Sautcheverel, of Hopwell, co. Derby. The object of placing all her goods and chattells into trust would be to evade some legal process.

By indenture, dated from Hopwell, in 16 Ric. II., Sir Thomas Fraunceys, Sir Robert de Burley, and Sir Geoffrey Dawe, conveyed to John Sacheverell and Christofora, his wife, the manor of Hopwell, which they held by gift of

80. Sciant, etc., quod ego Willelmus Avener capellanus dedi, etc. Johanni de Okovere filio Philippi de Okovere militis unum mesuagium cum pertinentiis in Assheburne quod quidem mesuagium Johannes de Derby nuper tenuit. Habendum, etc., ad terminum vite sue, ita quod post ejus decessum predictum mesuagium cum pertinentiis remaneat Thome de Okovere fratri predicti Johannis heredibus et assignatis suis in perpetuum, etc. Hiis testibus Johanne Cokayn militi Johanne Cokayn filio ejusdem Johannis, Thoma de Knyventon, Nicholao de Lymestre, Willelmo de Roterdon, Johanne de Elton et aliis. Data apud Assheburne vicesimo die Julii anno regni Regis Henrici quinti post conquestum secundo.

(Seal gone.)

81. Omnibus Xpi fidelibus hoc presens scriptum visuris vel audituris Johannes Cokeyn miles salutem in domino sempiternam. Noveritis me concessisse Thome de Okore nepoti meo quod ipse includere possit quondam parcellem terre jacentem in quodam campo jacente inter Okore Parke et Maverfeld Smeethe videlicet illam parcellem que jacet inter le Balke extendent a parco de Okore usque manerium de Snellesdale ex parte orientali et quondam venellam que ducit a Okore usque campos de Swynscowe et Wodhous ex parte occidentali, et parcellem illam inclusam in separali habere et tenere sibi et heredibus suis in perpetuum. Ita vero nec ego predictus Johannes nec heredes mee aliquam actionem calumpniam seu comunam in predicta parcella terre exigere vel vendicare poterimus in futurum set per presentes sumus exclusi in perpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium, etc. Datum in festo Sancte Katerine virginis anno regni regis Henrici quinti post conquestum Anglie secundo. (*No witnesses.*)

(Seal destroyed.)

82. Sciant etc. quod nos Johannes Poole de Hertynghdon et Johannes Oker feoffati Thome Oker senioris, dimisimus, etc. Willelmo Hendford seniori, Roberto Hendford et Thome Alcrynton capellano omnia maneria, terras et tenementa, redditus et servitia nostra, pratos, pascua, pastura, boscos ()

Habenda, etc. omnia predicta etc. prefato Johanni filio meo ad terminum vite sue etc. Hiis testibus Johanne Warën, Ricardo Welbek, Ricardo Wirley, Thoma Laurenson, Henrico Brome et aliis. Data apud Assheburne die Jovis proximo post festum Sancti Oswaldi Regis et Martyris anno regni Regis Henrici post conquestum Anglie decimo septimo.



Legend in Gothic letters.

Signillum Thomas (sic) Okorr.

A Rental on parchment without date, but written in the character of the fifteenth century, headed Ilum, Swynescogh, Calton Schene, Snellesdale.

De dominio de Ilum, capitale redditus xiiis.
 Casterne, De Ricardo de Digmere pro terra Willelmi de
 Ypstones viiis. et pro secta curie ad Festum Michalis iis.
 Oker, De Thoma de Schene pro Casterne iijs.
 Oker, De Johanne del Wodhouses pro terra sua, Ketulbrudyng
 et le Lone Daghone Plowsale xvs. xid. et ad Purificatione
 beate marie ijs.

Endorsed in a contemporary hand.

Rotuli Curiarum de Okovre cum rentalibus infra.*

* The Court Rolls are missing.

Thys indenture made bytthixe Nicholle ffynderne of ffynderne Esquyre and Robert son of the sayd Nicholle on the one partye and Philippe Okovere of Okovere Esquyre and Mergret doghtour of the said Philippe on the other partye beryth wytnesse that the sayd partyes beyn fully agreed that the sayd Robert schall take to wyfe the sayd Mergret, and the sayd Mergret schall take to husband the sayd Robert at such tyme as the partyes thynk convenient by the grace of God and the sayd Nicholle wyllfe and grauntyth by thys present wrytyng that he schall make, or do to be made a sure sufficient and loufull estate in the lowe to the sayd Robert and Mergret and to the heyers of the body of the sayd Robert loufully bygoten of and in landes and tenementes to the yerly value of x. marke over all maner charges and reprises and the sayd estate so to be made before the fest of the holy Trinite next comyng, for the which esposels estates and grauntes to be made in maner and fourme aforsayd the sayd Philippe schall paye to the sayd Nicholle xxiii*li*. vis. and viii*d*. of lefull moneye of England that is to saye x*li*. therof to be payd to the sayd Nicholle the daye of the esposels hadde and the remadnee (*sic*) therof to be payd at dyverse tymes as schall appere by severalle obligations in the whych the sayd Philippe or others schall be bounden to the sayd Nicholle or to hys attorneys or hys executours as schall hoor playnly appere in the sayd obligations. In wittnesse wherof to all maner covenants welle and truly to be kept and fourmed (*sic*) on of the party of the sayd Nicholle to that part of thys indenture remaynyng with the sayd Philippe the sayd Nicholle hath sette hys sealle and in lykewyse to alle maner of covenants to be kept and perfourmed on the partye of the sayd Philippe to that other part of thys indenture remaynyng wit the sayd Nicholle the sayd Philippe hath sette hys sealle, gevyn at Sutton the xjth Daye of Januare in the yere of the regne of Kyng Edward iiijth xith.

(Seal destroyed.)

SWINSCOE DEEDS.

*From an old parchment roll in the handwriting of the
fourteenth century.¹*

Omnibus Sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit, Robertus filius David de Calnovere salutem in domino. Noverit universitas vestra me assensu et voluntate Avicie uxoris mee et heredum meorum dedisse, etc., in puram et perpetuam elemosinam pro salute anime mee et anime uxoris mee Avicie et heredum meorum, Deo et beate Marie de Roucestrie et canonicis ibidem deo servientibus tres bovatas terre, etc., in villa de Swinescho, videlicet illas duas bovatas terre quas Hugo Wodehuses tenuit et illam bovatom terre quam Ragilnaldus tenuit et preterea servitium et homagium illius bovate terre quam Willelmus armiger tenuit in eadem villa. Tenendas et habendas ita libere et quiete sicut, etc. Hiis testibus Domino Roberto de Ocover, Henrico de Deniston, Roberto de Stanton, Willelmo de Heyton, Roberto de Torp, Galfrido de Seggisside, Rogero de Wodehuses, Radulfo filio Philippi et multis aliis.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus tam presentibus quam futuris Henricus de Wuttona salutem. Notum vobis facio me concessisse et cedissee et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse, Deo et ecclesie beate Marie Roucestrie et canonicis regularibus ibidem deo servientibus duas bovatas terre, etc., in Suenesco scilicet illam quam Henricus filius Gamel tenuit et illam quam Ulfkel tenuit, etc., reddendo mihi et heredibus meis annuatim xii denarios, etc. Concessi etiam et dedi prefatis canonicis essartum in Wadhul quod fuit Roberti Morsel, etc., reddendo mihi et heredibus meis annuatim vi sagittas ad festum Sancti Michaelis. Hiis testibus Hugone de Acoura, Olivero filio

¹ The following deeds are evidently copies of deeds relating to Swinscoe made for Sir Roger de Okeover, when he sold that manor to the Abbot of Rocester, in 11 E. II. See the last deed of the series.

Nigelli, Radulpho filio Jordani, Philippo de Draycota, Johanne de Sautcheverel, Philippo de Burton et Radulfo filio ejus, Ivone Ruffo, Petro Portario, Roberto Ostelario, Ricardo de Pardevilla, Henrico de Seggeshale et multis aliis.

Hec est conventio inter Henricum Abbatem Roucestrie et conventus ejusdem loci et Ernulphum del Bec scilicet quod abbas concessit consensu et assensu conventus sui unam bovatom terre in Roucestrie cum masiagio de suo dominio predicto E: et heredibus suis tenendam liberam et quietam ab omnibus servitiis et consuetudinibus que ad illas (*sic*) pertinent et a forinseco servitio illam quietam clamaverunt et si opus fuerit aquietabunt; eadem pro actione memoratus E: petitione et consensu uxoris sue Margarete concessit Abbati et conventui de Roucestre unam bovatom terre in Swinesco illam scilicet que fuit Ormi molendinarii cum masuagio prout est infossatum juxta capellam de vers le nort (*sic*) tenendam de illo, etc. (*no witnesses*).

Omnibus Christi fidelibus tam presentibus quam futuris Margareta quondam uxor Hernaldi del Bek* universitati vestre notum facio me dedisse et concessisse assensu Galfridi del Bec filii mei Deo et ecclesie beate Marie de Roucestria, etc., duas bovas terre in Swinesco scilicet illam quam tenuit Aured de Monias et illam quam tenuit Willelmus le sureis, etc., et unum essartum in Nettlehale et masuagium proprius capelle in escambium duarum bovarum in Hulton quas quondam dominus meus Hernaldus del Bec dedit in puram et perpetuam elemosinam prefate Abbathie de Roucestria. Concessi illas liberas et quietas, etc., salvis duobus solidis reddendis annuatim ad Bloram, etc. Hiis testibus Hugone de Hacoura, Roberto filio ejus Radulfo de Prestewude, Galfrido del Bec, Philippo de Draicot, Henrico de Deniston, Philippo de Burton, Heild: capellano de Hulton, Swano de Hulton, Willelmo de Swinesco et multis aliis.

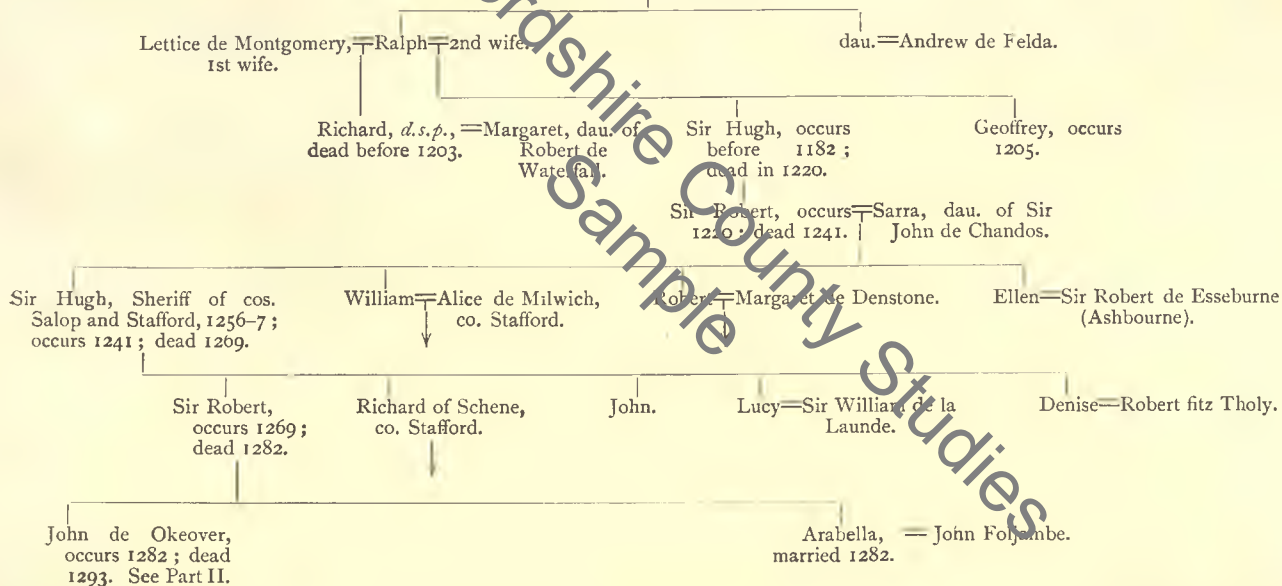
* According to the Liber Niger of 1166. Ernald de Bec had been enfeoffed by Robert de Ferrers, temp. H. I. He held half a knight's fee in Hilton.

PEDIGREE OF OKEOVER OF OKEOVER, CO. STAFFORD.

Abbreviations :—H. V., Heralds' Visitation ; O. P., Okeover Pedigree.

PART I.

ORM DE ACOVERE,
occurs before 1089 and after 1138.



Staffordshire County Studies

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OKEOVER OF OKEOVER.

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TO

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Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

FINAL CONCORDS, STAFFORDSHIRE.

TEMP. JAMES I.

(Continued from p. 60, Vol. VI, New Series, Part 1.)

FINAL CONCORDS, STAFFORDSHIRE.

TEMP. JAMES I.

(Continued from p. 60, Vol. VI, New Series, Part I.)

HILLARY, 16 JAMES I.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between Francis Walsted, complainant, and Thomas Walsted, gentleman, and Richard Walsted, son and heir apparent of the same Thomas, deforciant of 3 messuages, 6 cottages, 2 tofts, 7 gardens, 50 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, and 12 acres of furze and heath in Walsted, Delves Great Barre, Weste Bromwich, Rushall, and **Walshall**.

Thomas and Richard remitted all right to Francis and his heir, for which Francis gave them £60.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between Richard Tomkys and Michael Nickins and Anne, his wife, complainants, and Henry Pynson and Alice, his wife, deforciant of 1 messuage, 1 garden, 1 orchard, 6 acres of land, 20 acres of pasture, and 3 acres of wood in **Bryerley** and **Sedgley**.

Henry and Alice remitted all right to Richard and Michael and the heirs of Richard, for which Richard and Michael gave them £41.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between Richard Hurlebutt, complainant, and John Orchard and Anne, his wife, deforciant of 1 messuage, 1 garden, 20 acres of land, 50 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 4 acres of wood, 20 acres of furze and heath, 2s. 6d. rent, and common of pasture for all kinds of cattle in **Garrers** all, otherwise **Garsall**, **Milwich** and **Cotton**.

John and Anne remitted all right to Richard and his heirs, for which Richard gave them £120.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between Hillary Hawkes, gentleman, complainant, and John Rogers, gentleman, deforciant of 2 messuages, 2 gardens, 2 orchards, 2 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, 4 acres of wood, and 20 acres of furze and heath in **Whitmore**.

John remitted all right to Hillary and his heirs, for which Hillary gave him £60.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between John Perschowse, gent. and Mary, his wife, complainants, and Michael Davison, gentleman, and William Turton, deforciant of 20 acres of land and 4 acres of meadow in **Walsall**.

Michael and William remitted all right to John and Mary and the heirs of John, for which John and Mary gave them £41.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between Richard Aspley, complainant, and Gilbert Dale, deforciant of 1 cottage, 1 garden, 1 orchard, 16 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 14 acres of pasture, and common of pasture for all kinds of cattle in Acton Trussell, Beddenhall otherwise Bednall, Rudgely, and Cannock.

Gilbert remitted all right to Richard and his heirs, for which Richard gave him £41.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between Richard Jevan and John Jevan, complainants, and Edward Wilkes, deforciant of 1 cottage, 1 barn, 1 garden, 1 acre of land, and 1 acre of pasture in Bryerley and Sedgley.

Edward remitted all right to Richard and John and the heirs of Richard, for which Richard and John gave him £40.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between Thomas Bathoe, complainant, and William White and Elizabeth, his wife, deforciant of 1 messuage, 1 garden, 1 orchard, 120 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 10 acres of moor, common of pasture for all cattle, and common of turbary in Lyttle Onne and Churtz Eaton.

William and Elizabeth granted whatsoever they had in the said tenements to Thomas. To have and to hold to the said Thomas all the life of the said Elizabeth, for which Thomas gave them £100.

On the Morrow of the Purification of the Blessed Mary. 16 James I.

Between James Whitelam, gentleman, and Ralph Brown, gentleman, complainants, and John Offley, knight, deforciant of 3 messuages, 3 gardens, 3 orchards, 200 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 100 acres of furze and heath, and common of pasture for all kinds of cattle in Dilron otherwise Dilerne, Carsewell otherwise Caverswell, Weston, and Home otherwise Howme.

John remitted all right to James and Ralph and the heirs of James, and granted further that he would warrant the said tenements against Henry Offley, esquire, father of the said John, and his heirs for ever, for which James and Ralph gave him £200.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between George Thorley, gentleman, complainant, and William Colmore, gentleman, and Frances, his wife, deforciant of 1 messuage, 20 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture, 40 acres of wood, 100 acres of furze and heath, common of pasture for all kinds of cattle, and common of turbary in Heaton and Leeke, and of all tithes in the said tenements.

William and Frances remitted all right to George and his heirs, for which George gave them £120.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between Edmund Windesor, esquire, complainant, and Edward Coke, knight, Robert Bulleyn, gentleman, and John Pepis, gentleman, deforciant of 4 messuages, 4 cottages, 6 gardens, 4 orchards, 140 acres of land, 60 acres of meadow, 300 acres of pasture, and common of pasture for all kinds of cattle in Knightley.

The deforciant remitted all right to Edmund and his heirs, for which Edmund gave them £400.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between John Waple, gentleman, and William Paddy, complainants, and Edward Coke, knight, Robert Bulleyne, gent., and John Pepys, gent., deforciant of 2 messuages, 2 gardens, 2 orchards, 60 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, and common of pasture for all cattle in Knightley.

The deforciant remitted all right to John Waple and William and heirs of John Waple, for which John Waple and William gave them £160.

On the Octaves of the Purification. 16 James I.

Between Nicholas Nevell, complainant, and Walter Hevenyngham, knight, and Nicholas Hevenyngham, armiger, deforciant of 1 messuage, 1 garden, 1 orchard, 12 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 7 acres of pasture, and common of pasture in **Longdon**.

Walter and Nicholas Hevenyngham remitted all right to Nicholas Nevell and his heirs, for which Nicholas Nevell gave them £41.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between John Pakington, knight, Thomas Grantham, knight, William Borlase, knight, and Thomas Burdett, armiger, complainants, and John Ferrers, knight, deforciant of the honour of the castle of **Tamworth**, and of 8 messuages, 2 mills, 10 gardens, 100 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 40 acres of pasture, and 12s. rent in **Tamworth**, **Dreyton-Basset**, and **Wiggerton**.

John Ferrers remitted all right to the plaintiffs and the heirs of John Pakington, for which the complainants gave him £200.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between Richard Weston, armiger, and Robert Wolseley, gentleman, complainants, and Thomas Wolseley, knight, deforciant of the manors of **Wolseley** and **Bisheton**, and of 20 messuages, 300 cottages, 10 tofts, 2 water-mills, 1 dove-cote, 30 gardens, 30 orchards, 1,500 acres of land, 400 acres of meadow, 500 acres of pasture, 1,000 acres of wood, 600 acres of furze and heath, 10 acres of land covered with water, and 40s. rent in **Wolseley**, **Bisheton**, **Coleton**, **Great Heywood**, **Little Heywood**, **Abbots Bromley**, **Stafford**, **Heddersford**, and **Canok** otherwise **Canock**, and also of a free fishery in the water of **Trent**.

Thomas remitted all right to Richard and Robert and the heirs of Richard, for which Richard and Robert gave him £1,600.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between William Pyerson, Henry Stone, and Richard Stone, complainants, and John Persehowse, gentleman, and Mary, his wife, and John Sherwyn, and Elizabeth, his wife, deforciant of 4 messuages, 1 cottage, 5 gardens, 24 acres of land, and 30 acres of pasture in **Walsall** and **Rushall**.

The deforciant remitted all right to the plaintiffs and the heirs of William, for which the complainants gave them £41.

On the Octaves of St. Hillary. 16 James I.

Between William Sheldon, the younger, gentleman, complainant, and Edward Newman, gentleman, and Judith, his wife, Ralph Smyth, the younger, gentleman, and Mary, his wife, Francis Talbot, gentleman, and Judith, his wife, and Amphilis Bradeley, deforciant of 1 messuage, 1 barn, 1 garden, 1 orchard, 30 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, 10 acres of furze and heath, and common of pasture for all kinds of cattle in **Swynford Regis** otherwise **Kingswynford**, and **Ashwood**.

The deforciant remitted all right to William and his heirs, for which William gave them £100.

On the Quindene of Easter. 17 James I.

Between John Spittall, complainant, and Richard Crosway, deforciant of 1 toft, 16 acres of land, 7 acres of meadow, and 8 acres of pasture in **Morffe** and **Enfield**.

Richard remitted all right to John and his heirs, for which John gave him £41.

On the Quindene of Easter. 17 James I.

Between John Porter and Thomas Fodon, complainants, and Richard Bowyer, gentleman, and Anne, his wife, deforciant of 40 acres of pasture for all cattle and common of turbarry in **Milwiche**.

Richard and Anne remitted all right to John and Thomas and the heirs of John, for which John and Thomas gave them £60.

On the Quindene of Easter. 17 James I.

Between James Sherrat, complainant, and Robert Steele and Winifred, his wife, deforciant, of 6 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, and 6 acres of pasture in **Elithfeld, Bagottes Bromley, and Heatley**.

Robert and Winifred remitted all right to James and his heirs, for which James gave them £41.

On the Quindene of Easter. 17 James I.

Between Richard Almond, gentleman, complainant, and John Bolde and Ellen, his wife, deforciant of 1 cottage, and 1 acre of land in **Burton-on-Trent**.

John and Ellen remitted all right to Richard and his heirs, for which Edward gave them £40.

On the Quindene of Easter. 17 James I.

Between Henry Heynes, gentleman, and Richard Staunton, complainants, and Jonas Chalener, clerk, deforciant of 1 messuage, 1 garden, 60 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture in **Olfaleng, Esington and Wednesfeld**.

Jonas remitted all right to Henry and Richard and the heirs of Henry, for which Henry and Richard gave him £20.

On the Quindene of Easter. 17 James I.

Between Thomas Bradburie, complainant, and Thomas Colecloughe and Agnes, his wife, deforciant of 20 acres of land, 2 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, and common of pasture for all cattle in **Barlston**.

Thomas and Agnes remitted all right to Thomas Bradburie and his heirs, for which Thomas Bradburie gave them £60.

On the Quindene of Easter. 17 James I.

Between Ralph Deykyn, complainant, and Richard Tewe, gentleman, deforciant of 40 acres of pasture in **Whittington**.

Richard remitted all right to Ralph and his heirs, and granted that he would warrant the said tenements against the heirs of Richard Tewe, gentleman, deceased, for which Ralph gave him £41.

At one month from Easter Day. 17 James I.

Between William Chambers and Thomas Chambers, complainants, and Robert Tomlynson otherwise Dudley, gentleman, and Margaret his wife, deforciant of a third part of 4 acres of meadow and 12 acres of pasture in **Rowley**.

Robert and Margaret remitted all right to William and Thomas and the heirs of William, for which William and Thomas gave them £40.

On the Quindene of Easter. 17 James I.

Between William Turton and Thomas Turton, complainants, and John Downyng and Elizabeth, his wife, deforciant of 1 messuage, 3 cottages, 4 gardens, 4 orchards, 30 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, 4 acres of wood, and 6 acres of furze and heath in **Sedgely and Cottewall end**.

John and Elizabeth remitted all right to William and Thomas and the heirs of William, for which William and Thomas gave them £100.

On the Octaves of St. Michael. 19 James I.

Between Henry Goughe and Henry Devie, complainants, and Nicholas Bache and Eleanor, his wife, deforciantes of 1 messuage, 1 barn, 1 garden, 1 orchard, 40 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and 20 acres of pasture in **Overpenne** and **Netherpenne**.

Nicholas and Eleanor remitted all right to the complainants, and the heirs of Henry Goughe, for which the complainants gave them £60.

On the Octaves of St. Michael. 19 James I.

Between William Orpe and William Gynder, complainants, and Robert Alsager, gentleman, and Judith, his wife, Ranulph Smyth, gentleman, Ellen Smyth, widow, and William Withering, gentleman, deforciantes of the moiety of 4 messuages, 4 gardens, 4 orchards, 100 acres of land, 30 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood, and 200 acres of furze and heath in **Ellaston** and **Westwood**.

The deforciantes remitted all right to the complainants and the heirs of William Orpe, and the said Ranulph and Ellen granted that they would warrant the said tenements against the heirs of Mary Lawton, deceased, for ever, for which the complainants gave them £60.

(To be continued.)

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

EARLY CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS.

RICHARD II. TO HENRY VII.

FROM THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS IN THE PUBLIC
RECORD OFFICE.

PREFACE.

THE early Chancery proceedings were calendared at the Record Office in 1901. The work has been admirably performed, the documents being arranged, as nearly as possible, in chronological order and a short abstract given of the contents of each. They consist of bills of complaint or petitions addressed to the Chancellor praying him to intervene in cases where no remedy could be obtained by the common law. They are interesting from a legal point of view, as they show very clearly the origin of the old Court of Chancery. From an antiquarian point of view, they are also interesting as they illustrate the ancient privilege of a subject to appeal to the King in person when right was not done to him in an inferior court.

The petitions for the most part consist of applications for writs of *sub pena* to be directed to the other party to be examined on the grievance complained of, or appeals from the decisions of local jurisdictions, in which the petitioner prays for a writ of *certiorari* or *habeas corpus cum causa*¹ to be directed to the court from which the appeal is made.

The earliest petitions are in French and with the exception of the first on the list have been translated into English. French continued to be the language of the bills of complaint till the reign of Henry VI., when English came into common use. In the case of the English petitions, I have in most instances modernized the spelling and retained the original language, but in a few cases I have given the spelling of the documents, as specimens of the quaint and uncertain orthography of the period.

G. W.

¹ Viz., to bring up the body of the petitioner with the cause of his arrest.

EARLY CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS.

Bundle 3. No. 16b.

A chancelier nostre Seigneur le Roy supplie Alexandre de Beseford, que come il estoit seise du William fitz William de Burmyngham deynz age, et en fit garde, vient un John Huwet qui est un grant et commune amesour des rowetes en pais et just guyler $\frac{XX}{III}$ gentz armez et archers a Honnesworth en le Counte de Stafford le dymenge proscheyn devant le feste de Seynt Luke lan du reigne nostre seigneur le Roy quinzisme (15 Ric. II., A.D. 1391) et illeours le dit garde pristement et amesnerent ove eux issynt que le dit Alexandre ne poet savoir ou le dit enfant est, que plese a votre seigneurie graunt un brief direct al dit John Huwet sur un grant peyne de luy faire venir devant vos en la Chancellerie a respondre du tort avant dit considerauntz tres gracios par quil est si grant meffetour et meynteniour des querelles en celles parties qui le dit suppliant par autre voie entraine navir remede.¹

Bundle 4. No. 36.

*To the Honourable Lord the Bishop of Durham, Chancellor of England.*²

Joan, formerly wife of Henry Grene, of Loundres, petitions that whereas the said Henry was seised of certain lands and tenements in Chatrylne in the county of Stafford, in his demesne as of fee and had enfeofed in them one William Louthe and others who are dead, on condition that the said tenements should be sold and the proceeds handed over to her for her sustenance and to "faire Almoigne" for the salvation of the said Henry, by virtue of which the said William and his associates were seised, and after

¹ The parliament of 1381 had made a presentment against the malefactors called maintainers, who in different counties supported themselves by plunder, one of their great objects being to carry off the heirs of men of property, whom they restored after the payment of a heavy ransom. John Huwet was a famous Captain of one of the free companies of this era, and was probably son of that John Huwet, of Walshall, who was killed in 36 E. III., see *Staffordshire Collections*, Volumes XIII, p. 10, and XIV, p. 115.

² This petition is translated from the French. Thomas Longley, the Bishop of Durham, was Chancellor 1405-6, and from 1417 to 1424.

his death although one John Gaynesford cousin and heir of the said William had entered to perform the said conditions, one John Fernyhalgh of Chatkylne had entered without any title or right and refused to allow the conditions to be performed to the great loss of the suppliant, she prays therefore that considering her great age, he would grant to her a writ directed to the said John Fernyhalgh to appear before the chancellor at a month of Easter day next, to answer respecting the above matters.

Bundle 4. No. 113.

To the Reverend Father in God, and very Gracious Bishop of Durham, Chancellor of England.¹

Hugh Berewyk, Esquier, petitions that whereas he was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manors of Berewyk-Mauveisin, and Willeslond, in the co. of Salop, both before and after the time when the Lord the King passed into Normandy up to the 4th of June, in the seventh year of the present King disseised by one John Lanchestre, otherwise Bruere, of the vill of Slepea, near Saint Albones, co. Hertford, yomen, and Elizabeth, his wife, of the maintenance of Richard Peshale, son of Humfrey de Peshale, of the county of Stafford, Esquier, and other malefactors of their . . . to the number of twenty persons . . . it had been ordained by the King the said passage that no assise of novel disseisin should be brought against any person until the King should return to England so that your petitioner has no remedy by the common law That it may please your very gracious lord to ordain that the petitioner should be restored to his manors, etc. (*rest illegible*).

Bundle 4. No. 142.

To the Bishop of Durham, Chancellor of England.

Thomas Wydevyle, Esqr., John Longevyle, Esquire, John Barton the elder, William Palmer, and three others, styled clerks, petition that whereas they had been enfeoffed by Elizabeth, Lady Clinton, to the use of the said Lady, of the manor of Fissherwyke, co. Stafford, and the said Lady and her ancestors had been peaceably seised of the said manor before the date of the feoffment for 200 years or more without interruption, one John Miners of the said county, and Robert Cook and Alice, his wife, bringing with them 40 persons armed and arrayed in manner of war, had entered the manor by force on the vigil of Corpus Christi in the seventh year of the present reign² and still occupied and retained it to the damage and disinheritation of the petitioners, they therefore prayed that writs might be directed to the said John Myners, Robert and Alice to appear before the Chancellor, in

¹ See note on last page.

² This year must be 7 H. V., and the date 1420, for the Bishop of Durham had ceased to be Chancellor before 7 H. VI. The petition is translated from the French.

his Chancery to be examined on the said matters and to restore to the petitioners the said manor with the issues for the meantime and the damages which they had sustained.

Bundle 4. No. 147.

To the very gracious Lord Bishop of Durham, Chancellor of England.¹

John, son of Phelip de Eggerton, of the county of Chester, Esquier, petitions that whereas the King, the father of the present King had granted to him and to Sir Roger Acton, knight, the wardship . . . which formerly belonged to one John Wareyn, son and heir of Henry Gryffyth le Wareyn in the co. of Chester . . . during the nonage of the said Gryffyth, son and heir of the said John Wareyn with the marriage of the said Gryffyth . . . the said Gryffyth died at the age of 17 years. Margaret Wareyn, his sister and heir, then of the age of 13 years . . . and married her to the said petitioner . . . the said Margaret, wife of the petitioner out of the vill of Eggerto, in the county of Chester . . . by main force by Richard de Cholmoundesley who had married Elena the aunt of the petitioner and Hugh de Cholmoundesley, the son of the said Richard . . . and the said Hugh after the said ravishment (le dit ravissement) made by him and his father and others before named . . . (*rest illegible*).

Bundle 5. No. 120.

To the Reverend Father in God, the very noble and very gracious Lord Bishop of Durham, Chancellor of England.

Hugh Berewyk of Salop petitions that whereas before the late passage of Our Sovereign Lord the King into Normandy, he had been retained with the very noble Earl de la March and had remained with him in all the gracious days (en tous les gracieuses jours) of the King in Normandy and in France,² until he had been lately sent to England on account of sickness (a cause del infirmite) during which time he had been forcibly disseised of divers lands and tenements within the town of Salop and the county of Salop, by Richard, son of Umfrey Peshale, of the county of Stafford, Esquier, Margaret Berewych, his servant, John Lancestre, otherwise Lanchestre, of the vill of Slepe, in the co. of Hertford, yoman, Elizabeth, his wife, William Forster, of Salop, Draper, and others named

¹ See note on p. 241.

² Thomas Longley, the Bishop of Durham, was Chancellor of England both before and after the date of the King's expeditions. The first expedition of Henry V. to France took place in 1415; the second in 1417, and the third in 1421. The King died 31st August, 1422; the date of the petition is therefore between 1417 and 1422.

he prays a writ directed to the disseisors to call them before him in Chancery, etc., considering that the petitioner cannot maintain a writ of disseisin during the absence of the King, etc.

Bundle 6. No. 12.

*To the very gracious Lord the Bishop of Winchester, Chancellor of England.*¹

Hugh de Erdeswyk petitions that whereas John de Draycote and William de Draycote with many others, had forcibly entered the manor of Draycote on the Wores, and had beaten and wounded his servant, Robert Berneville, so that he had lost his services for a length of time, a writ may be issued to the said John and William to appear before the Chancellor in the King's Chancery on a certain day, to answer to the above trespass and other things which will be served upon them.

(In French.)

Bundle 6. No. 50.

To the same Chancellor.

The Abbot of Burton-upon-Trent petitions that whereas the King on the 31st June in the second year of his reign had taken into his hand his house for certain reasons, and that whereas Thomas de Southam, the abbot of the same place, his predecessor, by the suress and cohercion of Monsieur John Bagot, the Sheriff of Staffordshire,³ had given to him annually xxxs. to be the friend of the house, the said John not being content with the xxxs. on the 20th November in the fourth year of King Henry, formerly King of England, the father of the present King, in order to force a larger sum from the Abbot, had destroyed his park at Bromley and had taken 20 bucks and 12 does, to the great damage of the Abbot and to the prejudice and contempt of the King, etc. And the said Monsieur John held in chief of the said Abbot the vill of Feld in the same county by homage, fealty, and escuage and by the service of 20s. annually, and had refused to perform his homage . . . et le dit Monsieur John is so powerful in his country (est de si graunte poer en sa pais) the said petitioner cannot have . . . may it please your Lordship (*the rest is illegible*).

¹ Probably Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, who was Chancellor from 1413 to 1416, and from 1424 to 1426.

² This must be the 31st June, 1401. Thomas de Southam resigned the Abbacy in 1400. His successor, John de Sudbury, the petitioner, resigned in 1423. *Burton Chartulary*.

³ Sir John Bagot was Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1420.

Bundle 61. No. 154.

To the Archbishop of York, Chancellor of England.¹

William Botiller, Clerk, Prebendary of Langrigge, in the College Church of Penkrigge, co. Stafford, petitions that whereas one John Langton late was seised in demesne as of fee of two tenements, 2 acres of land, and 20 acres of meadow in Penkrigge, and had enfeoffed in them Margaret Langton widow, William Gough, and John Wolley, to the intent that after the decease of the said John Langton they should make an estate in the said tenements to the suppliant when required, and although they had often been required to do so after the death of John Langton, they had always refused to do so, he therefore prayed for a writ of *sub pena* to be directed to the said Margaret, William and John commanding them to appear before the King in his Chancery, etc.

Bundle 61. No. 228.

To the same Chancellor.

Thomas Forster and Alianore his wife, William Husee and Beatrix his wife, petition that whereas Thomas More the father of the said Alianore and Beatrix, and whose heirs they are, was seised of 9 messuages, 100 acres of land and 30 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture and 6 acres of wood in Penkrich and a toft, 10 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and 30 acres of pasture in Chylyngton, 6 acres of land in Whiston, 4 acres of meadow in Preston, 60 acres of pasture in Wolverhampton, and 2s. of rent in Pilletonale, co. Stafford, in his demesne as of fee, and had enfeoffed John Harecourt, Squyer, and Thomas Swynnerton, clerk, with others now deceased in fee upon trust and to the use of the said Thomas More and his heirs, and Thomas More had died and the petitioners had divers times required the said John Harecourt and Thomas Swynnerton to make an estate of the said tenements, that is to say, one half thereof to the said Alianore and to her heirs and the other half to the said Beatrix and to her heirs, the said John Harecourt and Thomas Swynnerton have refused utterly to do so, and as the petitioners have no remedy by the common law, they pray that a writ of *sub pena* may be directed to the said John Harecourt and Thomas Swynnerton, commanding them to appear before the King in his Chancery to answer to the premises, etc.

¹ John Kempe, Archbishop of York, was Chancellor, 1426 to 1432.

George Neville, Archbishop of York, was Chancellor, 1465 to 1467, and from 1470 to 1471, during the restoration of Henry VI.

Thomas Rotherham, Archbishop of York, was Chancellor, 1480 to 1483.

Bundle 61. No. 229.

*To the Archbishop of York, Chancellor of England.*¹

Thomas Forster and Alianore his wife, daughter and one of the heirs of Thomas More, petition that whereas Thomas More was seised of a messuage, 60 acres of land and 20 acres of meadow called the Parke in the parish of Penkrich, co. Stafford, in his demesne as of fee and had enfeoffed in the same John Harecourt, Squyer, and Thomas Swynnerton, clerk, with others now deceased upon trust and to the use of the said Thomas More and his heirs, and the said Thomas More had issue the said Alianore and Beatrice, now wife of William Husee, and died, and after whose decease the said Thomas Swynnerton has made estate of the said tenements to William Husee and Beatrice and to the heirs of their bodies, by virtue of which the said William and Beatrice have been seised in their demesne as of fee tail, and the petitioners have divers times required the said William Husee (*sic*) and Beatrice to make estate of the half of the said tenements to the said Alianore as daughter and one of the heirs of the said Thomas More, they have refused to do so; they therefore prayed for writs of *sub pena* to be directed to the said Thomas Swynnerton, William Husee and Beatrice, commanding them to appear before the King in his Chancery to answer the premises, etc.

Bundle 61. No. 260.

*To the Archbishop of York, Chancellor of England.*¹

William Husee and Beatrice his wife petition that whereas one Thomas More, father of the said Beatrice, was seised in his demesne as of fee of certain lands and tenements in Penkrich in the co. of Stafford, and had enfeoffed therein John Harecourt, Esquier, and Thomas Swynnerton clerk, with others now deceased, to the use and behoof of the said Thomas More and of his heirs and to fulfill his last will, which Thomas by his last will, willed that the said feoffees should make estate to the petitioners in as much of the said land as should amount to the sum of 40s. yearly, to them and the heirs of their bodies, and for default of such issue, to remain to the heirs of the said Thomas More, and the said Thomas More had died, and after his decease the petitioners had often times required the said John and Thomas Swynnerton to make to them an estate of the said lands as aforesaid according to the will of the said Thomas More, they have refused to do so; they therefore pray for writs of *sub pena* to be directed to the said John Harecourt and Thomas Swynnerton, commanding them to appear before the King in his Chancery "to answer to the premises and to be ruled therein as right and conscience requireth," etc.

¹ See note on p. 277.

Bundle 62. No. 376.

To the Archbishop of York, Chancellor of England.

John Rouclyffe esquier and Margret his wife, John Suttehyll esquier and Elizabeth his wife, cousins and heirs of Sir William Plumpton, knight, late deceased, viz., daughters of William Plumpton esquier, son of the said Sir William, petition that whereas one Robert Eyre of Padley Hall esquire has in his possession divers evidences and writings which belong to the petitioners by reason of their title right and interests in divers manors, lands, and tenements which descended to the said Margret and Elizabeth after the death of Sir William Plumpton, so that the petitioners are ignorant of the number and contents of the said evidences and writings, and they have no remedy by the common law: they pray that a writ of *sub pena* may be directed unto the said Robert Eyre, commanding him to appear before the King in his Chancery to answer there as conscience shall require in their behalf, etc.

Bundle 62. No. 377.

This is the answer of Robert Eyre to the bill of complaint put against him by John Rouclyffe and Margaret his wife and John Sotehill and Elizabeth his wife.

Thereto the said Robert saith that William Plomton, knight, was seised of the manor of Elton and of other lands and tenements within the shires of Derby and Stafford, the which is the forsaid lands and tenements specified in the bill of complaint, and common voise (voies) is and was in the said counties, to the knowledge of the said Robert that the said Sir William should cause astate of the said lands and tenements to be made to one Robert Plomton knight his son to have to him and to his heirs male of his body begotten, and to the knowledge of the said Robert Eyre the will of the said Sir William was that in consideration of such estate as was made to the said Robert Plomton of the said lands and tenements, that the said Robert Plomton should have the said evidences for which cause in discharging of the conscience of the said Robert Eyre he prays a writ of *sub pena* against the said Robert Plomton, etc.

Bundle 62. No. 378.

This is the answer of Sir Robert Plompton to a bill put against him (by) Robert Eyre.

The said Robert saith that the matter contained in the same bill is determinable at the common law, and therefore he hath not in this court to answer, that notwithstanding the same Robert for title to have the said evidence saith that William Plompton, knight, father of the said Robert whose heir male he is, was seised of the said manor of Elton and of other lands and

Bundle 75. No. 14.

To the Chancellor of England.

William Buffrey petitions that whereas one John Dudley of Seggesley¹ in Staffordshire withholds a deed of entail of the petitioner, which deed your full reverend and worthy brother Sir Humfrey Stafford, knight,² delivered to the said John, and now late, gracious lord, your forsaid worthy brother having very knowledge that the foresaid deed should of right be delivered to your beseecher, and for the default of the same deed he has been and yet is kept from the manor of Netherpenne this xii year, sende as ye shall have very knowledge to the forsaid John, and required him to deliver the same deed to your beseecher in discharge of his soul inasmuch as he delivered to the aforesaid John the same deed, which John that notwithstanding will not that deed deliver, against right and good conscience withholds it to the disinheritation of the beseecher, without your gracious remedy. Whereupon if it please to your gracious lordship to consider the matter aforesaid . . . may not help your beseecher because of his great poverty, the great riches maintenance and support of the said John to grant a writ *sub pena* direct to the same John to appear before you in the Chancery and there to make to your beseecher deliverance of the said deed in discharge of your aforesaid full reverend brother, and the great wayle that your poor bedman of right should take thereby for the love of God in work of charity.

¹ John Dudley of Seggesley, married Elizabeth, d. of Thomas Buffrey of Penn. See *Grazebrook's History of the Dudleys*, Vol. X, Part 2, of *Staffordshire Collections*.

² John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells, the brother of Sir Humphrey Stafford, was Chancellor in March, 1432, to 22nd April, 1433, and from May, 1433, to May, 1443. During the last period he was Archbishop of Canterbury.

Staffordshire County Studies

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