



Staffordshire County Studies
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Staffordshire Record Society

COLLECTIONS

FOR A

HISTORY

OF

STAFFORDSHIRE

EDITED BY

The William Salt Archaeological Society.

1910.



“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 old 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 byassed 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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Printers in Ordinary to His late Majesty.

1910.

Staffordshire County Studies

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The William Salt Archaeological Society.

1910.

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RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

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

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

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- (d) Church Notes hitherto unpublished, such as Ecclesiastical Surveys, Extracts from Episcopal and Parish Registers, Copies of Epitaphs, and Description of Monuments and Ecclesiastical Buildings,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

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

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

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

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

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The William Salt Archaeological Society.

SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 13TH, 1909.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Society was held at the William Salt Library on April 13th, 1909, Sir Henry Wiggin, Bart., in the Chair, and there were present:—Rev. E. R. O. Bridgeman, Rev. S. W. Hutchinson, Rev. D. S. Murray, Rev. F. P. Parker, Colonel Mort, Messrs. J. Wilcox Edge, W. R. Holland, A. Huntbach, J. H. Mitchell, V. D. T. Mynors, J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., and J. W. Bradley, Assistant Secretary.

Sir Henry Wiggin referred to the irreparable loss the Society had suffered by the death of their Hon. Secretary, Major-General the Hon. George Wrottesley, which had made the calling of this meeting necessary. Mr. Parker moved and Mr. Wedgwood seconded a vote of condolence from the Society to Mrs. Wrottesley, and that, to show further their appreciation of his extraordinary services and abilities, they should establish a fund to be devoted to putting up a suitable Memorial to the General either at Tettenhall, in the Wrottesley vault in the church there, or at Lichfield, as his family should prefer. This was carried all standing, and a Committee, consisting of Sir Henry Wiggin, Bart., the Dean of Rochester, Messrs. Parker, Bridgeman, and Wedgwood, was appointed to collect subscriptions and make all necessary arrangements.

Mr. Parker then proposed and Mr. Wilcox Edge seconded the appointment of Mr. Wedgwood as Honorary Secretary. This was carried unanimously, and after the usual votes of thanks the meeting terminated.

GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 1909.

THE Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the William Salt Library, Stafford, on September 27th, 1909. Mr. Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P. (Hon. Sec.), was in the Chair, and there were present:—Rev. E. R. O. Bridgeman, Rev. S. Hutchinson, Rev. F. G. Yrge, Rev. F. P. Parker, Rev. R. A. Wilson, Captain G. Cavenagh-Mainwaring; Messrs. P. W. L. Adams, E. Collett, W. H. Duignan, F. A. Homer, W. N. Landor, and J. W. Bradley, Assistant Secretary. Letters of apology for absence were read from Lord Wrottesley, Colonel the Hon. F. C. Bridgeman, Rev. W. Beresford, and Rev. Charles Swymerton.

The Assistant Secretary's Report was read as follows:—

At the last Annual Meeting the number of members was 160. During the past year,

- (1) The following have withdrawn from Membership: Mr. Cecil Clay, Mr. J. P. T. Royds, and Mr. Geo. Derry; the last named has, however, presented his back volumes to the Fenton Public Library on condition that they shall take his place as member and subscriber.
- (2) The Society has lost by death Lord Burton, the Hon. Fred Strutt, the Rev. Samuel Lees, Mr. J. Griffith, and Mr. R. Hovenden, and, most serious loss of all, Major-General the Hon. George Wrottesley, who has been the Society's Honorary Secretary for the last thirty years.
- (3) New members have joined as follows:—the Society of Antiquaries of London, the College of Arms, Fenton Public Library, the Right Hon. Lewis Harcourt, P.C., Mr. H. B. Greene, Wolstanton, Dr. C. H. Hopwood, Fenton, and Mr. T. W. Twyford, D.L., of Whitmore Hall.
- (4) The Society therefore now numbers 158 members.
- (5) As regards finance, only two ordinary subscriptions remain unpaid, and these are not likely to be long neglected. Two of the Bishops Register (Special) Subscriptions remain unpaid. Thus only £3 3s. is outstanding.

J. W. BRADLEY,
Assistant Secretary.

The Report of the Editorial Committee was then read as follows:—

The Editorial Committee submit a report of their proceedings during the past year, proposals for the coming year, and Balance Sheet of Receipts and Expenditure. They regret that the Balance Sheet, showing a balance in hand of £16 5s., has not yet been audited.

Volume XIII (New Series), containing the first part of Chetwynd's *History of the Hundred of Pirehill*, was issued to subscribers in May, and the Rev. F. J. Parker expects to be able to put the second portion in hand shortly. This will consist principally of the Bishops great Manor of Eccleshall, and will form the main portion of the next Volume. Mr. W. N. Landon's *History of the Wolseley Family* and the usual Reviews will complete the next Volume, XIII (New Series).¹

For many years Mr. W. F. Carter has had in hand for publication by the Society extensive *Notes on Staffordshire Visitation Families*. The Society has expended £10 in obtaining Will Abstracts for Mr. Carter's work, and the Committee recommend that a commencement should be made with the publication of this work in Volume XIV.² A letter has been received from Mr. Carter, explaining what steps he is taking to preserve the MSS. for the Society in any case. The letter will be filed with the Minutes.

With regard to a large number of Walsall Rentals and Bailiff's Accounts of the fifteenth century, an offer had been made to copy some of them for the Society, and the Committee propose to ask to have some sample Rolls copied and sent for future publication.

Mr. P. W. L. Adams has found at Keele Hall the Court Rolls of the old Manor Courts of Tunstall, and also those of Keele, dating from 1326. If Mr. Sneyd's permission can be obtained, the Committee suggest that the Tunstall Rolls be copied and printed. Being of interest specially to one locality, the Potteries, and in view of the fact that they have already printed extensively from the Court Rolls of Alrewas, the Committee, however, do not think that these Rolls should be printed in full, at any rate for the present, unless some portion of the cost is borne by those specially interested, outside the Society's ordinary funds.

¹ Mr. Parker has found himself unable to complete the editing of the second part of Chetwynd's "History" in time for publication in this volume, and the articles now printed have been substituted.—(Hon. Sec.)

² The first instalment now appears in this volume for 1910.

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THE COURT OF THE STAR
CHAMBER.

HEN. VIII. AND EDW. VI.

(Continued from Vol. X, New Series.)

Staffordshire
Sample County
Studies

THE COURT OF THE STAR CHAMBER.

STAR CHAMBER PROCEEDINGS (STAFFORD).

HENRY VIII. VOL. XV, FOL. 50 TO BUNDLE XXX, No. 18
AND EDW. VI., BUNDLE III, No. 25.

FLAKETT v. BERESFORD.

Vol. XV, fol. 90-107.

The answer of Adam Basford¹ to the bill of complaint of John Flakett.

The said Adam Basford saith that the said bill of complaint is [1516] uncertain, etc. The said Adam saith that he at the request of Humfrey Walker desired the same Robert Jacson, Richard Bayle, and Christopher Launte, his neighbours, to depose before the Justice or any other men before whom the said Robert, Richard, and Christopher Launte at any time should be called, that they should say and declare "the truth that they knewe of the mordour and deth of Henry Flakkett and nott to lett to shew the truth for faver, dreded ne mede, but only as they knew the truth in that behalf. Without that the seid Robert Jacson, Christofer Launte and Richard Bayle by the procurment and senyester labour of the seid Adame Basford or eny other his adherentes, kynsmen or frendes to the knowlege of the seid Adame Basford or thorow faver, promyse or grete rewarde not dredyng all myghty God, at the request of the seid Adame Basford contrary to their first othes, informacion and evidence that they gave be fore the seid coroner and enquest that was then sworne be fore hym didd escues the seid Richard Bowman that he shuld nott be giltie of the seid mordour in maner and fourme as in the seid bill is alleged or that the seid Christofer Launte and Richard Bayle at the speciall labour, instance and desier of the seid Adame Basford, George Meuerell and Robert Hassill came be fore the Kynges

¹ Adam Beresford, see p. 8.

Justice at Westminster and then and their in lyke maner contrary to their first othes, informacion and evidence by theym gevyn be fore the seid coroner untruly informed the seid jure sworne be fore the seid Justice upon the triall of the seid Humfrey Walker that the seid Humfrey was nott giltye of the seid mordour, And without that the seid Humfrey Walker and Richard Bowman or eny of theym are dayly supported, mayntened and borne by the seid Adame Basford and other his kinsmen to his knowlege in such wyse that the seid Riott and mordour in those parties cane nott be founde ne ponysshed according to the good order of the Kynges lawes." etc. All which matters the said Adam is ready to aver as this Court will award, and prayeth to be dismissed out of the Court with his reasonable costs.

Interrogatories to be administered for the part of John Flaket to Robert Jakson, Christopher Lont, and Richard Bayly.

1. Whether these deponents or any of them were at *Stansop*, co. Stafford, on the ground belonging to Henry Flaket, the 20th of September, 7 Henry VIII. [1515] at such time as Richard Bowman carried compost or dung on the said land.

Item whether the said Richard Bowman had any oxen in his wain of the said Walker's at the same time.

2. Whether Richard Bowman was then tenant or servant to Humfrey Walker.

3. Whether the said deponents were present when the said Henry Flakett came to Bowman and desired the said Bowman to cease the carriage of the said compost.

4. Whether Bowman said that his master, Humfrey Walker had commanded him to carry it, and that he would do so or else die the next day, and what other words the said Bowman then spake, and what weapons he had.

5. Whether William Wodward, servant to Walker, then came to them, and what weapon he had, and what was his demeanour.

6. Whether soon after the coming of the said Wodward the said Walker came thither, and weapon he had.

7. Whether Walker came thither on horseback, with a hawk on his hand, and as soon as he came "lyghted of his seid hors and cast of his hawke of his hand, and then toke a staff from Christofer Lont and seid to the seid Henry Flakett 'thou churle thou woldest ouer ley my servauntes and thou shalt have strokes therefore,'" and what was his further demeanour.

8. Whether Flaket was then of the age of seventy-six years and almost blind.

9. Whether Walker, Wodward and Bowman did then strike Henry Flaket.

10. If any of them then struck John Flaket.

11. Whether Isabell Bakshawe, wife to Robert Bakshawe, then knelt on her knee with a child in her arms and required Walker to save the life of Henry Flaket.

12. Whether Walker and Wodward immediately after the said affray went to Alsfield with their staves bloody, and there drank at an alehouse, making their boast that they had "canvassed a carle," and said that "he shuld lyck hym hole."

13. Whether the said Henry died of the strokes that he had at the said fray.

14. Whether the dagger that he was stricken with was Humfrey Walker's.

15. Whether the said deponents were sworn before John Ireton, coroner of the county of Derby, to give evidence to the jury, and what evidence they gave, and whether Walker, Wodward, and Bowman upon such evidence as they then gave were indicted for the death of the said Henry.

16. Whether these deponents, at Derby, before the Justices of Assize, upon the trial of Bowman, gave any evidence to the jury, and what evidence they gave, and whether Bowman, by reason of their evidence was acquitted.

17. At whose instance came they to Derby to be witnesses, and what reward had they.

18. Whether Christopher Lont and Richard Baily in the term of Easter last came before the King's Justices at Westminster and there upon the trial of Walker gave evidence to that jury, and what evidence they gave then.

19. At whose desire they came to Westminster, and what they had for their labour or were promised.

20. What persons have been the labourers for the said Walker, Bowman, and Wodward.

Robert Jakson of Stanneshop, co. Stafford, labourer, of the age of twenty-six years, sworne 22nd June, 8 Henry VIII. [1516], upon interrogatories administered by John Flaket saith :

1. He knows not whether the ground belongs to Henry Flaket or not.

2. Bowman was tenant to Humfrey Walker.

3 and 4. He saw Henry Flaket at the ground where the dung lay. Who said to Bowman "who bade the cary away any dong from hens." And he said, his master, Humfrey Walker. Then Flaket desired Bowman to go to his master and desire him "to put it in two of their neighbours" ere any more were carried from thence, and he would be content to be ordered by them. Who denied so to do, and said the said Henry, "goo thowe chorle if thowe will for I will not." For he said his master had bought it. Then said Flaket, "there was noo man had any auctorite to sell but he." And further this deponent saith that Bowman had a dung fork and a plain staff with a pike on the end of it.

5. Soon after William Woodward came thither having a bill in his hands and asked this deponent and others there being what business was there; and then this deponent answered there was no harm done, "nor noon shuld be doo if he wold ordre hym selfe like a wise man and make noo besynes." Then he swore by God's wounds, "I will make the best as long as they will be ruled."

6 and 7. Soon after the coming of Woodward there came Humfrey Walker on horseback having a hawk on his hand and a dagger by his side, and as soon as he came thither he "lighted of his horse and cast of his hawk and toke by violence a staff from Cristofer Lonte, and then spake many wordes there," but what they were this deponent perfectly remembers not; and then suddenly the affray began but who struck the first stroke this deponent cannot tell.

8. Henry Flaket was above the age of seventy years, and might not well see, and had no weapons but a piked staff.

9. He cannot tell whether they or any of them struck Flaket or no.

10. He saw the said Walker strike the said John Flaket to the ground.

15. He was sworn before John Ireton, coroner of Derby, and such evidence as is specified in the aforesaid depositions he gave to the Jury, and shortly after Walker, Woodward and Bowman were indicted, but whether it was by reason of the said evidence or not, he cannot tell.

16. He said that he, Christopher Lont, and others were at Derby before the Justices of Assize there upon the trial of the said Bowman, to give evidence against the said Bowman, and so the said Christopher began to show the whole circumstance of the affray to the jury. And then the Justices said that needed not, but thereupon asked them whether they saw Bowman strike Flaket or no, and they said "nay." Then they asked them how many bloody wounds Flaket had, and they said they saw but two, one on the head and the other on the finger.

17. Humfrey Walker and Robert Haselles spoke to this deponent and desired him, and "Aden" Basford sent his son and George Meverell, his servant, to the said deponent to come to Derby to testify the truth in this behalf, but as for money or rewards, he had none

[*Another deponent.*]

6. He saw Wodward strike Flaket with a bill on the head and neck.
7. He heard reported that Humfrey Walker felled the said John Flaket

Richard Bally of Sansop of the age of twenty-eight years, sworn and examined.

1. He saith that he was not there till the affray was begun.

10. He supposeth in his conscience that Humfrey Walker struck John Flaket to the ground, for at the time John Flaket was felled this deponent came thither to help to rid the affray.

Christofer Lonte of Stansop of the age of fifty-six years, sworn and examined.

3 and 4. He saw Henry Flaket come to the ground where the dung lay. Who asked Bowman "who bade he cary away any dong from hens"; and he said his master. Then said flaket, "nother thy master nor thowe shall have any here." Then said Bowman his master bade him carry it. Then Flaket bade him go to his master and desire him to put it in two of their neighbours. Then said Bowman, "goo youre selfe and you will, for I will not." And thereupon they "multiplied" words.

Robert Hasels of the age of sixty years, examined.

1. He was at Bewdley about that time.

2. He saith that his going thither was to know of William Woodewarde, then "sainctuarie man" there for the murder of Henry Flakett, father to John Flakett, what he had confessed to the same John Flakett, John Cokayn, gentleman, and the same Wodewarde's father concerning the said murder. Which John Flakett, John Cokayne, and old Wodewarde, as it was reported in the county, had been there afore with the same Wodeward to cause him to accuse Humfrey Walker of the said murder. And this was all the business that this deponent had there. And he saith that he went thither at the desire of Humfrey Walker, Nicholas Hethcotte, Richard Hethcotte, and the priest of Langnor, whose name he knoweth not. The which Nicholas Hethcotte being uncle to the wife of the same Wodeward, and "thother," at the

LYTTLETON *v.* WOLSELEY.

Bundle 27, No. 152, and Bundle 32, No. 101.

The report of the Commission and the interrogatories are as [1545] follows:—

Dilecto Sibi Waltero Wrothesley armigero necnon dilecto sibi Humfrido Wellys, armigero de potestate commissa retornabili xv, Hillarii.

Our dewties unto your honorable Lordshippis Remembred these shalbe to signifye unto the same that according unto the kings Majesties Comysson herin inclosed unto us derecked. We repared to the within named John Wolseley at Wolseley bregge the xixth day of Jenuarii in the xxxvith yere of the Reigne of our Soveragne lord king Henry theght and examyned the said John Wolseley upon the contents of the said bill of compleant. And upon an owthe to him by us menestered we toke his answer to the same, wiche said answer with the said comysshon and bill of compleant we have annexed together and sent unto your honorable Lordshippis subscribed with our hands to the same and sett our sealis the day and yere above said.

Walturus Wrotyssey,

per nos Humfridum Wellys.

Interrogatoryis to be mynystred on the parte and behalfe of Mr. Edward Lytyllton complaynnant agaynst John Wolseley, John Brynley, John Hasulton, and William Wryght, defendants.

Whether Edward Lytyllton nowe complaynnant and his aunccestors be and have bene fosters of the fee within the kings highness forest of Cannock in the County of Stafford.

Item. Whether the right reverend father in God, Rychard, nowe byshope of Coventre and Lychefelde, dyd complayne to the lorde Chancelor of thys Realme apon thys defendant for hunting in the aforesayd forest of Cannocke.

Item. Whether the wood called Wolseley woode be within the forest of Cannocke aforesayd.

Item. Whether the aforesayd John Wolseley and other the defendants assembled themselves together the xijth day of Septembre at the aforesayde Woolseley Woode in ryoutouse maner that ys to say with swordes, bukkelers, staves, bowes, and arrowes and other weapons, and ryoutously entryd into the aforesayd forest.

*Super Interrogatoriis ex parte Littleton ministratis.*Examinatur VII^o, Februarii anno XXXVI^o.

John Brynley, of Wolsley bridge, in the County of Stafford, sworn, etc.

To the first he saithe he never knew nor herde that the said complaynant or any his auncetors were foresters within the forest of Cannocke.

To the second he denyeth that ever the bysshop of Coventry and Lichfield did complayne upon this deponent or any other the defendants to the lord Chancelor for hunting in the said forest to this deponent's knowledge.

To the third he saith the same wood callyd Wolsley wood is not within the forest of Cannocke nor is any parcel thereof.

To the last he confesseth that this deponent in the company of John Wolseley and dyverse other tenants of the saide Wolseley did hunt about the tyme articulated within the said Wolseley wood being the grounde and inheritauce of the said John Wolseley as they have sondry tymes accustomedly used so to do. And he denyth any riot or force or any weapons there as he saithe more than lytell hunting staves.

John Hasulton of Colwich, husbandman, and Wm. Wrighte of Rigely, yeoman, both of the county of Stafford, answer similarly.

TOMYNS v. SPYTTAL.

Bundle 18, Nos. 85 and 105.

To the King.

[1546] In most lamentable wise complaineth unto your most excellent majesty your faithful subject and orator Humfrey Tomyns, that whereas one Elizabeth Tomyns, widow, now deceased, late the wife of Thomas Tomyns, deceased, father and mother of the said Humphrey, was lawfully seised according to the custom of the manor of *Enveld*, belonging to the parson of *Enveld*, of 1 messuage and 40 acres of land, meadow, wood, and pasture, in the parish of *Enveld*, co. Stafford, by Copy of Court Roll of the said manor, called "the Parson's Manour of *Enveld*." After whose decease the premises descended to the said Humphrey, who has taken the profits of the premises by the hands of John Gyldon, until the 25th day of July in the 37th year of your reign, one Hugh Spyttull, with two persons unknown, with force and arms entered into the premises and took and drove away one ox

and expelled the said Gyldon from the premises. Whereupon your said suppliant sued to Sir John Harcourt, knight, sheriff of the said county for replevin. The said sheriff at his "Countie" holden 12th January last awarded "*wythernam*." By force whereof the said Gyldon was thereof possessed four days. About the 20th of January next Humphrey Broke and others with force and arms came to one of our messuage of the said Humphrey Tomyns in Nether Morfe, in Envild, in which your orator dwelleth, and of which he is lawfully seised by title of inheritance from his ancestors, and took the said ox, and disseised the said Tomyns of the same messuage. Please your majesty to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the said Hugh Spyttull, etc. commanding them to appear in your Star Chamber to answer to the premises.

The replication on Humphrey Tomyns and John Gyldon.

The bill of complaint is true. The said Hugh Spyttull hath confessed that he and two of Walter Wrottesley's servants took an ox of the same Gyldon and drove him away.

Upon interrogatories on the behalf of Tomyns, 15th June, 1 Edward VI.

Hugh Spittel, of Envild, husbandman, sworn, confesses that two servants of Mr. Wrottesley's, whose names he knoweth not, came to the house of this deponent, being bailiff to the said Mr. Wrottesley, about noon, and told this deponent they were come to receive the ox of John Gildon for a heriot due to their said master, and thereupon this deponent went with him to the house of the said Gildon, and there finding the ox in the fold by the house drove him away, not breaking any locks or doors there. And saith they drove the same to Wrottesley Hall, and had no weapons but staves. Knows not whether the ground where they took the ox belongs to the parsonage of Envild or not. Mr. Wrottesley kept the ox for his heriot three days. Was not at the taking of the ox the second time.

Humphrey Broke, of Envild, husbandman, confesses that he, being constable, accompanied with Richard Billingsley, came to the house of the said Tomyns to fetch again an ox which he wrongfully had delivered by force of a *wythernam*, mistaking the same ox to be the ox of Hugh Spittel, which indeed was the ox of the said Byllingsley.

have no writ of restitution, but the Justices awarded a *venire facias* returnable at the next Quarter Sessions. By force whereof at the said Sessions holden at Stafford on Tuesday next after Low Sunday, one Sir Edward Aston, sheriff of the county,¹ of his own mind and without any procuring of Humphry Mynors or any other, returned a panel before the said Justices, and thereupon eleven were sworn. The next Quarter Sessions, at Stafford, on Tuesday next after Holy Trinity, the said Richard Taylour on the King's behalf desired that the complainant might be demanded to follow her traverse, which she refused utterly to do. Whereupon the said Richard demanded restitution of the premises upon the said indictment, but in nowise could he obtain the writ of restitution at that time. By force whereof at the Quarter Sessions holden at Stafford on Tuesday after the Feast of St. Michael last, the said Richard Taylour by his counsel desired restitution, which the Justices granted, and the said defendant was put in possession of the premises by the said Roger Benson who had a precept to do the same. And for execution thereof the said Benson commanded one Thomas Crosse, Randoll Bradshagh, and Richard Stanlowe to aid him. By reason whereof the said Thomas Crosse, etc., in quiet manner put the said defendant in possession.

The answer of Humfrey Mynors.

To the same effect as Richard Taylour's answer.

DENSTONES *v.* HEYWOOD.

Bundle XVIII, No. 24.

To the King our most dread sovereign Lord.

In most humble wise complaining showeth your oratrix Jane Denstones, widow, that whereas your said oratrix tenant to the Mayor and burgesses of *Newcastell*, co. Stafford, of a messuage in the said town, one John Heywood, of Stonylowe, John Swynerton, of Whytmore, John Bromeley, and Edward Peke with divers other riotous persons to the number of six or thereabout with swords, bucklers, bills, staves, and other unlawful weapons, the 24th of July last, at *Newcastell* by the commandment of one William Heywood, of Stonylowe, broke down and

¹ He was Sheriff as Ed. Aston, Esq., November 7th, 1528, to November 9th, 1529, and as Sir Ed. Aston November 14th, 1534, to November 22nd, 1535; November 17th, 1540, to November 27th, 1541; November 13th, 1556, to November 16th, 1557.

putted open the doors and walls of the said tenement and into the same forcibly entered and cast out your said oratrix, and made an assault and affray and beat, struck and evil entreated her, so that she being an old poor woman was in great danger of her life and like to have been cruelly murdered and slain if she had not shortly had help of the inhabitants of the said town. Please your highness to direct your writ of *Subpena* to the said riotous persons commanding them to appear in your Star Chamber to make answer to the premises.

[Rendered.] On the octaves of Hillary.

WHATELEY *v.* BISHOP OF LICHFIELD.

Bundle XVII, No. 93.

To the Kyng our Sovereign Lord.

Humbly showeth and complaineth unto your Highness your faithful subject and daily oratrix Johan Whatley, late the wife of Thomas Whatley, deceased, that whereas John Standley, esquire, father to Elizabeth Standley and Isabell Standley, and their ancestors "whoos doughters and heyres nor John Hurcye and Water Moylle have taken to ther wyffes have had belonging to ther Manour of Clyftoon Camvell withyn your countye of Stafford probate of testaments within the sayd Manour, withyn whyche Manour hath ben accustomed tyme wherof the mynde of man ys nott to the contrary that the tenants inhabytyng within the same Manour of Clyftoon Camvell aforesayd to have ther testaments proved att the Court holden within the Manour aforesayd afore the Steward of the same Courts and the person [parson] ther for the tyme beynge." Nevertheless your poor oratrix being a tenant inhabiting within the said manor, the Bishop of the diocese there being Bishop of Chester, and one Edmund Stretay, clerk, being commissary under the said bishop by the said bishop's commandments hath directed a citation to one Thomas Segg, their summoner, and "hath assyted" your poor oratrix to appear before them for the probate of her husband's testament, please your Highness to grant your writ of *subpena* to be directed to the abovesaid Edmund Stretay, clerk, and Thomas Segg to appear before your Council in your Star Chamber to make answer to the premises.

The answer of Edmond Strethay, clerk, and Thomas Segge.

The bill of complaint is uncertain, untrue and insufficient in the law to be answered unto. The said manor of Clyfton is within the diocese

of the Bishop of Chester, by reason whereof testaments of all persons inhabiting within the said Manor being "under c. li." ought by the spiritual law to be proved before the said bishop or his commissary there. And for that the said Thomas Whatley at the time of his death was inhabiting within the said manor and being worth in substance at the time of his death under £100, the said Edmund caused the said Johanne to be cited for the probate of her husband's testament as lawful was for the said Edmund to do.

Interrogatories on the part of Johan Whatley, widow, to be ministered to Edmond Strehen and Thomas Segge.

1. Whether the deponents do know and have heard say that the tenants of the manor of Clyfton Camvyll and inhabitants within the same manor used time out of mind to have the wills of such inhabitants and tenants to be proved at the Court within the said manor.
2. How many of the said tenants and inhabitants these deponents have known to have proved will at the Court of the same manor?
3. Whether any of the said tenants and inhabitants having goods and chattels to the value of £100 ought or have at any time had any of their testaments proved before the Stewards of the said manor, and in what year?
4. How many inhabitants within the said manor have the deponents known to have proved their testaments before the Bishop of Chester?

ALREWAS COURT ROLLS.

1268—1269 AND 1272—1273.

Transcribed and Edited by

WALTER NOBLE LANDOLPH.

ALREWAS COURT ROLLS.

1268—1269 AND 1272—1273.

THE following Rolls are a continuation of those printed in Vol. X, New Series, to which a general introduction was prefixed, so that only a few supplementary remarks seem now to be needed.

It should be noted that all these Rolls are the original minutes of the proceedings of the Court, and were actually written while the Court was sitting. This is the reason why so many of the entries in these Rolls have been cancelled, for many orders were evidently made by the Court during the earlier part of its sitting, which were afterwards altered; generally no doubt on the petition of persons who had arrived late, and had found that their cases had been already dealt with.¹

Naturally they were written rather hurriedly by the scribe. Hence there are a large number of clerical errors and many variations in the spelling of a single word.²

Originally Courts of this nature seem to have been held at fortnightly intervals, but an ordinance of 1234 provided that they should be held but once in three weeks.³ The Alrewas Rolls are complete, or practically so,⁴ within the periods named,

¹ See p. 101, note 3, p. 131, note 4, p. 135, note 4, etc.

² See p. 106, note 1, p. 110, note 6, p. 115, note 1, p. 122, note 4, etc.

³ Seldon Society, Vol. II, p. xlix.

⁴ P. 103, note 3.

so it is clear that this ordinance was not universally enforced, for it will be seen that they were held at most irregular intervals of from one week¹ to six or more weeks.

The general powers and duties of this Court have been already briefly mentioned,² but it may be convenient to mention some of those which are specifically illustrated in the Rolls now published.

Attention must first be called to some actions which were brought by tenants against the Lord of the Manor. *Ex officio* he was of course the head of this Court; in fact it may be said that the Court belonged to him as Lord of the Manor, and yet we find the Court adjudicating on these cases and actually issuing a distraint upon its own Lord. For Alrewas was ancient demesne of the Crown, and the tenants could therefore bring actions against their Lord by the little writ of right.³

In the following pages examples will be found of the power of this Court to decide the customs of the Manor,⁴ to make regulations as to the use of the common fields,⁵ to enforce the performance of bargains⁶ and the payment of debts⁷ between tenants, to see that the frankpledgers do their duty,⁸ to settle minor affrays,⁹ and even the raising of the hue and cry.¹⁰

It is interesting to see that the custom of "Borough English" prevailed in Alrewas even at this early date.¹¹

Among the assize breakers is one who was fined for selling putrid and rotten meat,¹² and there are several interesting entries relating to the suit service which was due from the free tenants,¹³ and there are some dealing with the sale of free land.¹⁴

¹ In 1272 one court was held on April 18th, the next on June 3rd, the next on June 11th, and the next on August 7th: see p. 103, note 3.

² *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. X, New Series, p. 252.

³ P. 107, note 2, p. 117, note 3, p. 129, note 2, and *cf.* p. 134, note 1.

⁴ P. 119, note 8.

⁵ P. 103, note 4.

⁶ P. 108, note 3.

⁷ P. 110, note 2.

⁸ P. 106, note 4.

⁹ P. 116, note 4, p. 121, note 3, etc.

¹⁰ P. 137, note 2, p. 131, note 6.

¹¹ P. 136, note 2, *cf.* Vol. X, p. 251, note 2, and *cf.* p. 109, note 4.

¹² P. 115, note 2, *cf.* p. 105, note 5, etc.

¹³ Note on the next page.

¹⁴ P. 126, note 1.

Finally attention may be directed to the fact that the Court resented any interference with its own powers or jurisdiction.¹

The writer and the Society desire to express their grateful thanks to Professor Vinogradoff, whose unrivalled authority on the subject will be universally recognised. He has been kind enough to revise the transcript and the writer's rough notes. His corrected readings and illustrations have been important. He has not, however, seen these notes in their final form, so that he must not be held responsible for any errors that the writer may have made.

A NOTE ON THE SUIT SERVICE OF THE FREE TENANTS.

Some of the entries in these Rolls relating to the suit service of the free tenants are very puzzling, and it seems desirable to draw attention to them.

On June 11th, 1259, Nicholas White is distrained for his default at the Great Court, and he also found pledges because he had essoined himself at the Great Court and not at the next Court.

Again, on October 28th, 1273, we read that Wm. de Rideware, who had essoined himself at the Great Court after Easter, but did not come to have judgment therefor, and so was attached by his sureties (named), first of all essoined his first default, but the Court considered that he could not be essoined until he had purged his first default, so it decreed that he should be better distrained and that his sureties should be summoned. On the preceding August 10th, Wm. de Rideware was ordered to be distrained upon "because he essoined himself at the great court and did not come."

It would seem from these entries that a free tenant could not excuse himself from personal appearance at the Great Court, and that although he might try to do so, and even formally essoin himself, he was yet liable to be distrained upon for his personal absence. See also p. 133, note 2, where an obscure entry would seem to mean that Geoffrey the Woodreeve was in mercy because he essoined himself and had not awaited or required a day to be fixed by the court for his appearance.

It is also clear that a free tenant could essoin himself three times from personal attendance at any ordinary court without any further penalty, for on October 26th, November 16th, and December 14th, 1260, Wm. de Rideware did so essoin himself for the first, second and third times respectively. Wm. de Rideware was continually being distrained upon for default in appearance, and examples will be found in the courts of August 7th, August 29th, and October 8th, 1272. On October 29th, 1272, he essoins himself by a surety for the first time after several defaults, and also finds two sureties to appear.

¹ P. 112, note 1.

Nolbe de Alrewas,—plegius, prosequende W. Fox—quod ipse detinet ijs. et vjd. de quibus posuit dictum Radulfum in plegio versus Nicholam Botulweston et dictus? Rogerus contradixit dictum Radulfum de verbo ad verbum et est ad legem.¹

Rogerus filius Nolbe in misericordia quia vadiat legem versus Radulfum piscatorem et noluit plegios invenire de lege. Ideo conservatum est per totam curiam quod defec de lege perit in respectum ad indendum quomodo steterit (?) in manerio. Et nota quod invenit {in pi'} de fidelitate videlicet Gilbertus Alwyn et Willelmus Fox.²

Presentat est per francos plegios in suo veredico quod Robertus filius Radulfi posuit corballum in aquam domini sine licencia ad capiendos pisces domini. Ideo in misericordia (xld.) per conservatum totius curie.³

Johannes Burdon queritur de Galfrido Clerico quod idem Galfridus verberavit dictum J. et sanguinem ab eo traxit. Plegii prosequendi, Thomas ad chyele et Walterus Bern.⁴

Rogerus filius Galfridi Swan dat domino iijssol. ad habendam inquisitionem de terra qua fuit Galfridi Swan, uterum propinquor heres est vel non.⁵

Willelmus Fox in misericordia pro assisa fracta (vjdz.).

¹⁻² Ralph complains that Roger detains 2s. 6d. of the moneys that Roger had made Ralph responsible for in his plea against Nicholas Botulph, and the said Roger contradicts the said Ralph word by word and is to wage his law (for an explanation of these technical terms see Vol. X. New Series, pp. 262 and 266). In the next entry Roger is at the mercy of the lord because he ought to wage his law against Ralph and yet is unwilling to and sureties so to do. Therefore it is considered by the whole court that the question of this default should be put in respite to be dealt with in the manner usual in the manor. And be it known that Roger finds as sureties for his fealty Gilbert and William Fox. The use of *conservatum* in place of *consideratum* shows the kind of Latinity one has to deal with in these rolls.

³ Frank pledges. See p. 128, note 3, *corballum*, a basket.

⁴ John complains that Geoffrey struck him and drew his blood. His sureties for prosecuting are Thomas at the style and Walter Bern or Beryn of Edingale. At the next court Geoffrey, the Clerk of Edingale, is in the mercy for this offence, but no fine is named because John refused to prosecute. Hence John is fined 12d., p. 119, notes 1 and 5.

⁵ Geoffrey Swan.

Thomas Bernard in misericordia pro eodem, condonatur per Dominum.

Simon filius Prepositi in misericordie pro eodem ; condonatur per Senescallum.¹

Robertus Faber in misericordie pro eodem ; condonatur per Dominum.

Robertus de Gros de Hedenighale in misericordie pro eodem condonatur per Dominum.

Thomas Alwyne in misericordie (vj*d.*) pro eodem.

[*The following is on a roll sewn on to the last.*]

Willelmus Marcuries in misericordia versus Robertum fratrum suum pro falsa quarta per breve domini regis super quamdam terra in ville de Hedenighale. Plegii (*a line then*) et breve suum et loquelam versus dictum Robertum (*illegible*) per iudicium.²

Preceptum est per totam curiam quod dominus Johannis de Sumervile sumoniatur ad proximam curiam {coram} contra Aliciam le Blude primo quod dictum J placitat per breve domini regis.³

¹ This is almost the only mention of the Steward in these rolls. Usually his subordinate, the Bailiff, presides at Alrewas and remits these fines.

² See p. 112, note 1.

³ This suit is of exceptional importance inasmuch as it shows a Court ordering its own Lord to be summoned to appear before it and subsequently (p. 119, note 4) issuing a distraint upon its Lord when he disregarded the summons.

On the 20th June, 1272, there was an assize, etc., at Lichfield, before the itinerant judges there as to whether John de Somerville had unjustly dispossessed Alice, daughter of Geoffrey le Whyte of a messuage and half a virgate of land in Alrewas. John pleaded that Alrewas was of the ancient demesne of the king in which no writ ran except the little writ of right close, so the suit was dismissed (*S.H.C.*, IV, p. 193, *cf.* *S.H.C.*, X, New Series, p. 250).

Hence, no doubt, Alice obtained a Little Writ of Right addressed to the President of John's own Court at Alrewas, in consequence of which the whole court ordered that John should be summoned at the next Court to appear against Alice le Blude, and there plead in accordance with the king's writ. Le Blude is an obvious mistake for le Blunde, the blond person or—in English—White. At the next Court, Alice, daughter of Geoffrey Blun (*sic*) offered herself against John, and he had been summoned by trustworthy witnesses, but did not appear, so the court ordered that he should be distrained upon. There is no further mention of this suit on these Rolls perhaps because the king had died, but it is possible that Alice herself died before

Inquiratur ad proximam curiam de transgressione facta inter Radulfum de Lullinton et Willelmum Halpeny.

[Here is a blank space on the roll.]

Curia apud Alrewas die Sabbati proximam post conceptionem beate Marie anno r. r. H. lvij (*Saturday, 10 December, 1272*).¹

Willelmus Edriam [essoniat se] de communi [secta] per Reginaldum filium Henrici, j^o.

Richardus Piscator de com : per Robertum filium Hodi, j^o.

Henricus Rader de com : per Johannem filium suum, j^o.

Henricus Woderoue de com : per Robertum filium Johannis, j^o.

Robertus Koc[us] de com : per Galfridum filium Walteri, j^o.

Willelmus Martin de com : per Robertum filium Walteri, j^o.

Symon filium Prepositi de com : per Willelmus filium Roberti, j^o.

Robertus Faber de Hedenighale de com : per Thomam filium Henrici, j^o.

Willelmus de Strethey de com : per filium Alani de Wyginton, j^o.

Willelmus de Rideware *vadiat misericordiam* per manum suum pro pluribus defaltis. Plegius Robertus de Gros de Hedenighale.²

the next Court, which was held on 14th Jan., 1272-3, and that the following entry at that Court refers to this suit. It is there stated that Nicholas, son of Alice, gave 4s. to the lord to have seisin of one virgate of land in Alrewas that Alice his mother had held (p. 120).

Several years before the date of this action, viz., on the 7th Oct., 1259, all the men of Edingale were amerced 2s. for concealing Geoffrey White, then written Albus (Vol. X, New Series, p. 268), and this entry may afford some clue as to why and when it was that the lord seised this land.

For further information about the writs in manors of Ancient Demesne such as Alrewas, see the Chapter on Ancient Demesne in *Villainage in England*, by Prof. Vinogradoff.

¹ Henry III. died 16th Nov. 1272, but the news of his death evidently had not reached Alrewas when these rolls were written.

² See p. 115, note 5 ; *vadiat misericordiam*—finds security for the amercement.

sine pannagio videlicet sex hoggos. Plegii ; Willelmus ad caput ville et Robertus Partrik. {precium hoggorum vj solidos} (iij*s.*).¹

Matilda le Meyes in misericordia (i*s.*) pro pannagio detento videlicet de quatuor porcis et quatuor hoggis {precium porcorum x*s.*} (i*s.*)

Memorandum quod {Robertus} Henricus filius Hering dat domino xiiij solidos pro terra patris sui habenda usque ad etatem fratris sui, videlicet Robertus heres dicte terre. Et cum dictus Robertus ad plenam etatem pervenerit, intrabit terram suam sine? calumpnia? Domini feodi. Preterea dictus Henricus capit de domino duas acras usque ad dictum terminum et ad hunc terminum dicte due acre revertantur domino feodi.²

Nicholas Bonde in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro assisa fracta.

Nicholas Biker in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro eodem.

Nicholas Rotarius in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro eodem.

Henricus Prepositus in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro eodem.

Matilda uxor Wytemay in misericordia (ii*jd.*) pro eodem.

{Alicia Gamel in misericordia}.

Adam Edeman, Gilbertus Partric.

Robertus filius Hawise, Galnid Goky in misericordia (i*s.*) pro sicera.³

Mille Pott[er]? in misericordia (x*ij.*) quia traxit brasium suum de feodo domini super terram persone ad pandoxandum.⁴

Margeria Spare in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro assisa fracta et prava.

Radulfus de Lullington de Hedenighale in misericordia (v*jd.*) pro eodem.

¹ The writer cannot decipher or explain this entry.

² This entry shows that the custom of "Borough English," descent of lands to the youngest son, prevailed in Alrewas, even in these days. See Vol. X, New Series, p. 251, note 2. *Sine calumpnia*, without any further claim for heriots or dues on the part of the lord of the manor.

³ *sicera*? Probably a clerical error for *servicie*, *i.e.*, *cervicie*—beer.

⁴ Millicent Potter is fined 12 (pence, probably, but neither pence or shillings is written) because she carried her malt from the lord's manor to the prebendal manor to brew beer there.

Pueri Roberti Wole dant domino 1 marcum pro licencia habenda vendendi terram suam apud Frodeley et facta est finis pro venditore et emptore. Plegii, Robertus filius Heyne et Henricus Wodegrove.¹

Thomas Edemon in misericordia (xij*℥*) pro hutesio levato in honore Henrici Prepositi.²

Adam Prepositus, qui francplegius est, in misericordia (vj*℥*) pro transgressionem.

Robertus de Borewey distringatur veniendi ad proximam curiam respondendi quare detinet inclausum quoddam campum in tempore anni quod deberet esse communam pasturam.³

Adam Phal indistringatur pro pannagio pro quatuor? porcorum suorum recente.⁴

¹ The boys of Robert Woleley give 1*℥* 1*℥* to the lord for leave to sell their land at Fradley, and a final concord is made for the sale and the purchase.

² *pro hutesio levato*, or raising the hue and cry.

³ To answer to the charge of keeping a certain field enclosed at a time of year when it ought to be open for the common pasture.

⁴ *Phalin*, elsewhere written Falyn; *levato* is puzzling but apparently correct.

LANE OF KING'S BROMLEY,
FORMERLY OF
BENTLEY AND THE HYDE.

BY
MAJOR-GENERAL THE HON. GEORGE WROTTESEY.¹

¹ This history of the Lane Family is published as left by General Wrottesley at his death, with some slight alterations of obvious slips. He did not regard it as finished, but it seems to the Editor to be sufficiently complete for publication.

LANE OF KING'S BROMLEY, FORMERLY OF BENTLEY AND THE HYDE.

THIS family derives its principal distinction from the share it took in the preservation of Charles II. after the battle of Worcester. Jane Lane, a daughter of the house, who rode behind the King, disguised as a tenant of the Lanes, from Bentley to Bristol, is one of the heroines of English History. Independently of this, however, the history of the family is not uninteresting. They derive their name, originally written "in the Lone of Hampton," from the lane of Wolverhampton, and much of the interest which surrounds their early origin is derived from the contrast between this homely sobriquet and the position which they undoubtedly occupied as early as the reign of Edward I. In fact, these local designations are not incompatible with a certain social position, or even with high birth as we know from the analogous cases of Townshend; "atte townshend," Thynne, "atte Inn"; De la Pole, and others.

In the reign of Edward II. Richard in de Lone of Hampton was married to the widow of a Knight (Sir John de Tresel), and his elder brother Andrew in de Lone, the ancestor of the present family of Lane, was Steward of the King's manor of Tettenhall and seals with a coat of arms showing a chevron between three cinquefoils.¹

Whatever name or sobriquet a family may bear, if they bore coat-armour as early as the reign of Edward III. they must be reckoned amongst the gentle blood of England, and Evelyn Shirley rightly includes the Lanes of King's Bromley amongst the *Noble and Gentlemen of England*.

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VI, New Series, part 1, note on p. 160.

There seems, however, to be an irresistible temptation amongst our old families to go "one better" as it were, and to claim an earlier origin than authentic records give to them. In Burke's *Landed Gentry* this family claims a descent from a Sir Reginald de Lona of Halton, co. Chester, living in the reign of Henry II. Of this descent, however, there is no proof whatever, nor is there any evidence which suggests a descent from a Cheshire family. The error appears to have originated from a mistaken assumption that the manor of Hatton, near Brewood, held at one time by the Lanes, was Halton in Cheshire.¹

The earliest proved ancestor of the family is a John in le Lone of Hampton, who was one of a jury at the assizes held at Wolverhampton in 17 E. I. (1289).² This John occurs again on the Staffordshire Assize Roll of 21 E. I. (1293) as surety for one of his neighbours who had killed another in self-defence.³ In 1295 he was one of the tenants in Wolverhampton who were sued by the Prebendary of the King's Free Chapel in that town in a plea respecting the tenure of their lands.⁴

John was succeeded by his son Richard,⁵ who is mentioned frequently on the Rolls, and appears to have been a man of some local importance. He was one of those who took part in the feud between the Staffords and the Ipstons respecting the church of Eaton, and at Michaelmas term 19 E. II. (1325) he was a defendant in a suit of trespass brought against him and others by Thomas de Brumpton, the parson of Church Eaton,⁶ one of the defendants named in this suit. John de Picheford had been killed during the quarrel, and the Sheriff returned he was dead and that Richard de la Lone could not be found.⁶

On the Subsidy Rolls of 1 E. III. (1327) and 6 E. III. (1332) his name occurs amongst the principal inhabitants of Wolverhampton who were assessed to the tax. In the first of these

¹ One of the disadvantages of these assumptions is that they draw a red herring across the real trail. Thus it may turn out, when the history of Warwickshire is written in more detail, that the Lanes are a scion of a great Warwickshire house. The use of the cinquefoils and the name of Andrew seems to point to a relationship to the Astleys.

² *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VI, p. 186-7. ³ *Ibid.*, p. 283.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 30.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, p. 44.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol. X, pp. 62 and 66.

lists are to be found the names of Richard in la Lone and Alice atte Lone.¹ This Alice was apparently the widow of his father John, for on the second Subsidy Roll of 6 E. III. (1332) her name no longer occurs, and the assessment of Richard is increased by the amount set against her name on the Roll of 1327.² At Easter term 5 E. III. (1331) William, son of Richard de Marnham (or West Bromwich), sued Richard in the Lone of Wolverhampton, Andrew his son, Richard Leveson, William de Engleton, and others named in the Court of King's Bench (*coram Rege*) in a plea of trespass. Nine of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce them at the following Michaelmas term.³ When the suit appears again on the Rolls, which is at Michaelmas term 6 E. III. (1332), the Sheriff returned that Richard in the Lone and his son Andrew were both dead.⁴ This may have been true in the case of Richard, but his son Andrew was certainly alive for several years after this date.

In a suit in Banco of Trinity term, 9 E. III. (1335), Richard de la Lone (*sic*) of Wolverhampton sued Robert le Say and William de Pulton to render to him a reasonable account for the times that each of them had been the receiver of his money. The defendants did not appear and the Sheriff was ordered to produce them at the following Michaelmas term.⁵ At Easter term 13 E. III. (1339) William de Ercelesre who had been Sheriff of Salop and Staffordshire, sued Richard atte Lane of Wolverhampton to render a reasonable account for the time he had been the receiver of his money. Richard apparently had acted as Sub-Sheriff for William, and the defendants in the first suit had acted as his Bailiffs. I conclude this Richard was a younger son of the last-named Richard, for the latter was certainly succeeded by his son Andrew.⁶ Richard the son of Richard atte Lone, had married Margery the widow of Sir John de Tresell of Trysull, near Wolverhampton,⁷ and his name frequently occurs on the rolls of the early part of the reign of Edward III.

Richard the elder was succeeded by his son Andrew⁸ who was

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. VII, p. 249.

² *Ibid.*, Vol. X, p. 126.

³ *Ibid.*, Vol. XIV, p. 24.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Vol. p. 61.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, p. 44.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Vol. XI, p. 162; and Vol. XII, pp. 62, 150.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Vol. XVII, p. 44.

COVEN MANOR.

7 Ed. II. An exchange between Jo. de Aldenham and Raph Lord of Coven.

30 E. III. A deed from Ric. le Taylor to Jo. Coven of y^e manor of Coven.

40 E. III. A Deed from Tho. de Coven Knt. to Rob. Jones, Skinner of London, of all his lands and services in Coven.

40 E. III. A letter of Attorney from Tho. de Coven to Rad. Hyde to deliver possessⁿ to Rob. Jones.

40 E. III. A Deed from Rob. de Coven, Skinner of London to Jo. de Coven of all y^e lands in Coven w^{ch} were of y^e feoffm^t. of Tho. de Coven.

41 E. III. A Release from Joan y^e daur of W. Jones of Coven to Wal. Woodhouse of a messuage and lands in Coven and Pendeford.

15 R. II. A Deed from Jo. de Coven to Will. Hyde and Jo. Sawyer of that messuage w^{ch} he had of y^e feoffmt. of Robt. Jones, cit. and skinner of Lond., in Coven.

18 R. II. A Deed from Jo. Ld. of Coven to John Bradeley and Will. Hyde, cap., of his Manor of Coven etc., to hold by them and their heyres, paying a rose at Midsomer. Test. Will. Marshall sch^r, Jo. Giffard, Egidio de Hyde, Rob. de Bidulph, Thos. de Brinsford.

6 H. V. A releafe from Jo. Norman, cit. of London, and Lucy his wife to Ric. of Coven, of all their interest in the lands of the sayd Ric. in Coven.

10 H. V. A Deed from Tho. Baddesley and Cat. his wife to Jo. of Coven of y^e reversion of all the lands wh^{ch} were Will. Jones, father of the said Cat. in Coven and Pen.

10 H. V. A Release from Will. Javes, Thos. Waight, Ric. Lone, and Tho. Brinsford of all their lands in Coven, of Jo. of Coven to him and his heyres.

12 H. VI. Release from Tho. Roddesley (Baddesley?) and Cat. his wife to Ric. Lone of all their lands in Coven and Pen, except one p^{ce}ll in Coven 3 foot long and 2 foote broad.

A Deed from Walt. bp. of Coventry to Ralp his . . . Lord of Harborne, of one rood of land in Hamunden with the Hay and Louvrishrudding and several other lands and freedoms.

S.D. A Deed from y^e Convent to Raph., etc.

S.D. A Deed from Walt, Bp. of Coventry to Raph his . . . of all his land in Bromhale, wh^h Will. his uncle and the widow of Alricus held reds 4s.

S.D. A Deed from Raph of Bromhale to Waltr. his man the son of Will. of Bromhale of all his lands which were to Will. father of y^e sd. Walter rds. 10s.

S.D. A Deed from Jo. Lord of Bromhale to Adam his sonne and Lettice his wife of all his land in Bromhale and Chillington.

27 E. I. A Deed from Jo. son of Raph of Bromhale to Tho. of the Hyde of all his lands, etc. in Bromhale wth the Ldship.

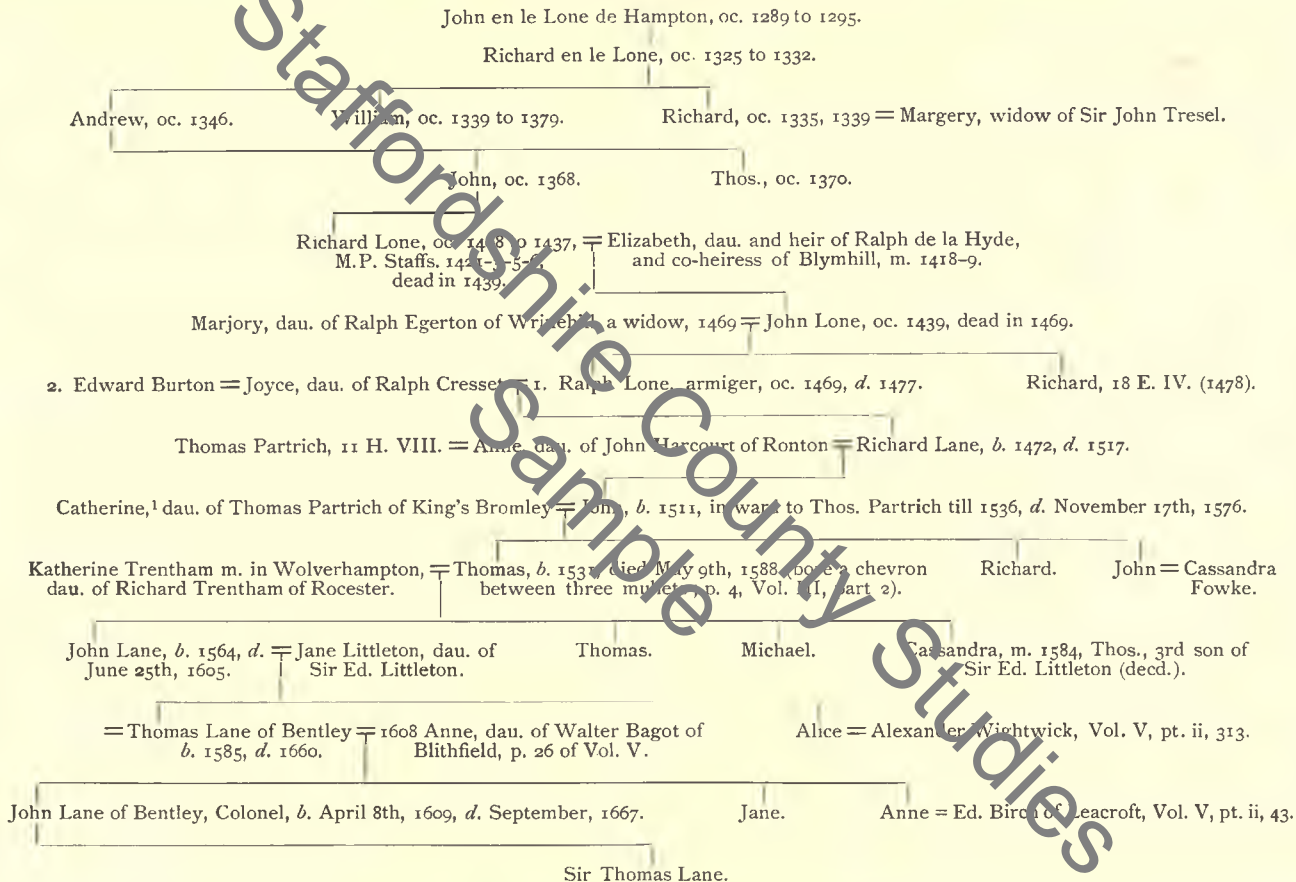
27 E. III. A release from Giles of ye Hide y^e son of Tho., to Raph his brother of his lands in Bromhale in wh^h he had an Estate for life from his father.

28 Ed. III. A Deed from Raph of the Hyde to Jone his wife and Tho. his son of the Manor of Bromhale and the heyres of Tho. and for want of such issue to y^e right heyres of Raph.

20 R. II. A Release from Agnes Somerford sometime wife of Robt. Fowlhurst to Jn^o Hyde, of land in Bromhale, wh^h sometime was Jno. Hyde.

6 H. V. A Deed from Joan Bargalon to Ric. and Elizth. Lone of the Manor of Bromhale, land in Codsall &c. wh^h were Raph Hydes in Bromhale and Horsbrooke.

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample



¹ *Margaret*, not Catherine, according to Mr. Murray Lane.

NOTES ON
STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILIES.

BY

W. FOWLER CARTER.

Staffordshire County Studies

NOTES ON STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILIES.

PREFACE.

THE PLAN OF THESE NOTES.

STAFFORDSHIRE is fortunate in that its three Heraldic Visitations were all edited by Henry Sydney Grazebrook ; and these notes will, I trust, be regarded as a tribute to him as well as a continuation of his work.

His annotated copy of the Visitations is in the William Salt Library, and it first occurred to me that I might edit the annotations he had made, adding memoranda relating to a few families of whose pedigrees I happened to have special knowledge.

But I soon became dissatisfied with this project. In the first place, the annotations, which were largely taken from the Visitations and collections published by the Harleian Society, were neither systematic nor complete ; then, it was also pointed out to me that Mr. Grazebrook was more especially versed and interested in the pedigrees of South Staffordshire families, and readers connected with the northern part of the county might complain that they were neglected.

Though it would manifestly be impossible for one writer to produce, or one Society to print, detailed histories of all the principal families of the county, hardly any such family should be entirely omitted.

Moreover it would be advisable that these notes should be continued easily by others upon the same lines, and I therefore propose to state in each case exactly what has been examined, a system which will relieve succeeding students of much unnecessary labour. The duplication of work among genealogists and antiquaries is quite lamentable, and I wish these *Notes on Staffordshire Families* to form a nucleus round which the

researches of future antiquaries should accumulate, so that the collections concerning any particular family or surname would be linked together and an enquirer would see almost at a glance what researches his fore-runners had made and what results they had achieved. In fact, I would have a County Antiquarian Society keep, as it were, a Ledger of Family Histories, and each new fact discovered or research undertaken should be duly posted to the proper page wherein the account of the family concerned is recorded. In some cases, one cannot possibly do more than open an account; leaving it to successors or possible co-adjutors to contribute the items. But even this modest work should have some value; it will make a beginning, and offer a foundation which may tempt others to erect thereon a substantial edifice.

Lastly, without neglecting the accurate language and the strict rules of evidence required by modern genealogists, I have endeavoured to include in these notes some matters that may interest the ordinary archæologist, the student of language, and the general reader.

THE FAMILIES DEALT WITH.

The basis of these notes is an alphabetical list of all the Pedigrees entered, and of all the persons summoned or disclaimed, at the three Visitations of the County in 1583, 1614 and 1663-4. It includes also the three or four pedigrees from other counties printed by Grazebrook along with the two later Visitations. The list numbers (allowing for duplications) about 550, and few indeed were the families of any importance in the County who escaped the notice of the Heralds at all their three perambulations. Not having access to the records of Heralds' College, I cannot be certain whether the official copies of Visitation contain one or two pedigrees which have not appeared in print, but am practically sure that they do not, and I have checked the list of "Disclaimers" with those contained in Mr. J. Paul Rylands' invaluable *Disclaimers at the Heralds' Visitations*. I also endeavour to establish the identities of all the persons summoned or disclaimed, as also of their estates. With regard to the former there is an occasional difficulty due to

and conclude the series with two abstracts of South Staffordshire Wills.]

(20) John Adames of Houndsworth,¹ yeoman. Dated February 27th, 1653-4. Proved July 12th, 1654. My well-beloved wife Anne, sole Executrix, and give her all my lands, etc., in Houndsworth, commonly called The Lesse which I lately purchased of Sir John Wyrley, Knt., and the Weetfield lately purchased of Mr. William Stamford, Esquire, deceased. To daughters Elizabeth, Judeth and Mary, £120. To daughter Elizabeth Adams, three parcels of land called the Riddings which I lately purchased of John Scott, yeoman. To John Adams, my eldest son, that Coffor or Chest wherein my writings or evidences are kept and preserved, etc. To the poor of Houndsworth, and Perry Barr, 20s. The residue of goods to my said Executrix.

Witnesses :—Symon Browne, John Browne, William Austin.

Proved in P.C.C. (79 Aclm) by the Executrix.

(21) Thomas Adams of Walsall, buckle-maker. Dated October 19th, 1754. Proved November 3rd, 1756. By Indenture dated October 8th instant, I have given unto my dear wife "by the name of Scott Short" an annuity of £20 arising out of my lands, etc., in Walsall, I give my farmhouse in Great Bloxwich in the parish of Walsall, now in the tenure of John Brookes to my son James Adams, his heirs, etc., for ever. To son Thomas Adams, seven messuages in Ablewell Street, Walsall, one of which is now in my occupation, and the other six in the tenures of Benjamin Foster, Joseph Reynolds, Richard Wilkes, Benjamin Leeson . . . Lees . . . Allen, and all the shop tools and implements belonging to my trade. To my daughter, Mary Adams, my five messuages in Ablewell and Rushall Streets, in the occupations of William Smith, Humphrey Dudley, Mr. Roger Holmes, Samuel Freeman and Maurice Peace. The Residue between my said three children.

Executors :—Mr. Benjamin James the elder, and my daughter Mary.

Witnesses :—Mary Hawe, J^{no} Hawe, Sam^l Morris.

Proved in P.C.C. (286 Glazier) by the Executors.

ADAMS OF CHURCH EATON.

In the Subsidy Rolls of 1327 and 1332-3, John Adames appears² at High Onne, which though a separate vill, is in the parish of Church Eaton; while in the latter place one-third of the male taxpayers bore the Christian name of Adam, and one of these latter, or John himself, may well have left a son who

¹ *I.e.*, Handsworth.

² In 1327, as Odames.

took Adams for his surname. At any rate I find¹ that at Church Eaton in the Poll Tax of 1379-80, "Edith Adams, widow," paid twelve pence, which was about the average amount. Quite probably, she was ancestress of the Adams Family which appears at Church Eaton in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, though no "abull man" of the name was found there at the Muster of 1539.

Down to the year 1660, the following Wills, etc., of persons named Adams from Church Eaton are at Lichfield :—

- 1551. John Adams.
- 1595. John Adams.
- 1597. William Adams; Administration.
- 1634. Richard Adams.
- 1637-8. Francis Adams.
- 1638. Thomas Adams.

In P.C.C. (33 Scott) the following Will was proved May 29th, 1595, the Testator being evidently of the Church Eaton Family, and it is an interesting example of the continuity of English life that his brother-in-law, William Hakyng, belonged to a family which had dwelt in the neighbourhood for some three centuries.²

Thomas Addams, of Woollaston, co. Staffs., bachelor. Dated 16th April, 1595.

"I desire to be buried in the churchyard of Churcheyton. I give to Richard Parker my brother-in-law, my sister his wife and their children, £30 out of my debts. To Anne Parkes my sister's daughter, £10 out of my debts. To my brother-in-law, Robert Bill of Walton, £6 13s. 4d. To my brother, Henry Adams, £14 that he oweth me. My brother-in-law, William Hakyn and Thomas and Margaret Hakyn, my sister's children. To Anne Stokes, two sheep.

Executors: Walter Parkes, my brother-in-law, and Lawrence Bratt, yeoman. Overseers: Richard Parker, my brother-in-law, and William Hakyn. Witnesses: William Jennyns, Frauncys Adams, Laurence Bratt and Walter Parkes. Debts owing to me: from Mr. George Onslowe (£26 13s. 4d.

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVII, 197.

² Matilda Hakun of High Onn occurs in the 1327 Subsidy Roll; Adam Haken at Church Eaton in that of 1332-3; John Hakouns at Church Eaton in the Poll Tax of 1379-80; and Thomas Hakyns in the Muster Roll of 1539 at the neighbouring villages of Moreton and Wilbryhton.

6. AGARD.

In the 1583 Visitation the following persons of this name were summoned¹ :—

George Agard of Barton (under Needwood).

Humfrey Agard of Newborough.

William Agard, Gent., of Tunstall.

In the 1663-4 Visitation Mr. Agard of Dunston was summoned². None of the name appeared, but they were not disclaimed, the reason doubtless being that in each case a descent from the Foston Agards was well understood.

All four summonses were under Offlow Hundred; "Tunstall" was Dunstall in Tatenhill, often called Tunstall. Tatenhill is in Offlow Hundred, while as to Dunston I can only suggest that Dunston may be a clerical error on the part of the Heralds, though I cannot certify that the Agards were still at Dunstall so late as 1664. In the pedigree I am about to attempt, one can with tolerable certainty include the above William; but not George, or "Mr. Agard," though I can give various particulars concerning the former.

The principal family of the Agards was seated for centuries at Foston in Appletree Hundred, Derbyshire; but as they frequently occur in Staffordshire Records, and intermarried with Staffordshire families, as moreover they were the ancestors of the Dunstall Agards with whom we are more specially concerned, I am almost forced to say something about them.

The name of Agard, which I take to be the same as Haggard and Ogard, appears in Domesday Book, but not in connection with either Derbyshire or Staffordshire. In Worcestershire, however, Acard is recorded as the tenant of Swinford and Pedbmore (*i.e.*, Old Swinford and Pedmore) under Gervase Paganet.

In 1208 Adam Acharde acted as attorney for Walter and Eva de Witfield of Staffordshire.³

In 1272 Walter⁴ Akart was sued by William de Ridware for seven acres of meadow in the vill of Draycote, near Hanbury, the suit being apparently mixed up with another against the

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. III, part 2, p. 5. ² *Ibid.*, Vol. V, part 2, p. 338.

³ *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, part 2, p. 6.

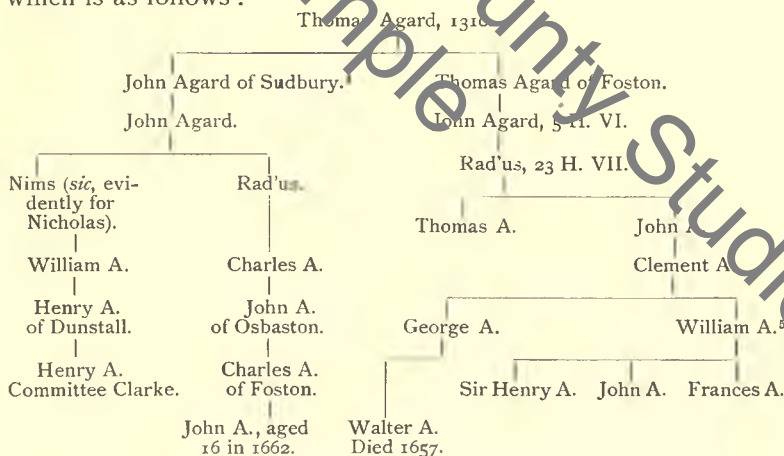
⁴ Not "Roger" as in *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVI, p. 241.

Plaintiff's half-brother, Roger de Ridware. Against the latter Walter Akart defended his title successfully in the same year, but seems to have been worsted by William. The pleadings show that Walter was the son of John Akart and was of Foston.¹

In 1437 Thomas Agard of Foston, yeoman, and Thomas Maneworth of Makeworth, gentleman, were sued by Sir John Gresley, Knt., and Margaret his wife, to account for their receivership of moneys of the said Margaret.²

In 1436 John Agard of Foston, yeoman, was indicted as accessory after the fact to the carrying off by three Radclyffes of Alice daughter of Robert Strangulford. It was decided, however, that the indictment was not sufficient.³

Apparently the Agards of Foston endeavoured to trace back their ancestry almost as far as the time of Walter, for an outline or copy of their pedigree entered in the 1662-3 Visitation of Derbyshire appeared in *The Genealogist*, and has at its head "Thomas Agard, 1310." I expect that the original Visitation Pedigree in Heralds' College gives much fuller details, and I trust that it is more correct, for a moment's inspection shows the absurdity of the descent as traced in *The Genealogist*, which is as follows:—



¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, Vol. XVI, pp. 258-260 ; Vol. IV, 196-7 and 203.

² *Ibid.*, New Series, Vol. III, p. 140.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 224.

⁴ In Derbyshire.

⁵ For details of this part of the pedigree see Hardy's *History of Tatenhill*, I, 121.

(2) Thomas Agard of "Newborow" com. Staff gentelman, dated 5th January, 1556. "Somwhat seycke and dyseysed in body." "My soole to all myghty god our Redeemer and maker and our Bleyssyd Lady sent Mary and all the bleyssyd company of hevyn to pray for me." "To be buried in the parish church of Hanbury of the sothe syde of the churche."

Unto the Church of Hanbury 40*d.* to the chappell of Newborow 4*d.*
 Unto my brother Mychaell Agard my best blew coote and a peire of russett hoose. Unto my brother Humfrey Agard my beyste blacke coote and a peire of reyrd hoose. My sister Jane 5*s.*, my sister Mary 40*d.*, my sister Elizabeth. Ten of the poorest foolkys in Newborow eu'ry of them 4*d.* Testator's brothers and sisters to have the occupation of the large medow as to which there was "dysseccion betwyxt my mother-in-law and me."

The residue to his wife "Dorethe for to brynge uppe my childern on" until his heir attains the age of twenty-one; and she is to have the same jointure as testator's mother-in-law has under his father's will. "My tow daughters" and "my tow younger sonnes" each 5 marks for their child's portion.

Executors:—"my wyffe Dorethe Agard and my well belouyd cousen Nicholas Agard of Dunstall.

Overseer:—"my faythfull and well belouyd frend William Marchham Esq."

Witness, Thomas Wittington gentelman, Robert Fenton, Henry Gretrakys, Richard Newton, John Browne, Henry Holand with others.

Inventory taken February 12th, and 4 Philip and Mary (1557).

(3) Richard Agard of Yoxall; dated March 17th, 1567; proved April 4th, 1562.¹

"Sowle to Almiztye God, oure ladye Sent Marye and to all the wholye cumpanye of hevyn. My bodye to be buried in what church hyt shall please god to call me owt of this transatorye lyffe."

The friends of Michael Olrych to have in trust for him the house in Bloxwych where John Chate dwells, and Testator's wife Elizabeth is to guarantee the said friends against claims by John Olrych or any other.

Testator's wife Elizabeth is to have for life his lands and tenements in Bloxwych, remainder to father Rauffe Agard and mother Elizabeth Agard for their lives remainder in tail male to brothers Charles and Thomas, remainder to Testator's right heirs. Wife is to have "leash and tacke" of the parsonage of Yoxall. Father Rauffe Agard to have "four sters," of which two are in custody of sister Ann Alyn, and two in father's own custody, also "my best gowne and my fryaddo cote." Brother Charles my bey trottyng geldyng my best dublet and my cut jerkyn. Bequests to god-children. "Also I wyll that eu'ry poore body in Yoxal kepyng howse have four pence." Bequests to men-servants and women-servants within the howse at the day of his death.

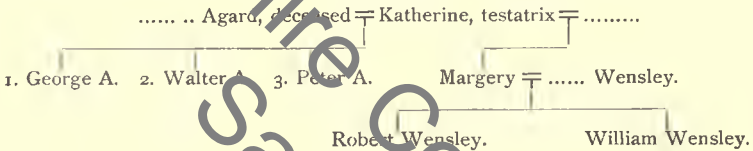
¹ The Testator therefore dated his Will according to New Style.

Executrix. The Will was dated April 18th, and proved by the Executrix May 14th, 1618.

As to Henry Agard himself, I have little doubt that he was the Henry Agard, gent., whose Will was proved in P.C.C. (88 Swann) in 1623.

It was, I suppose, Henry the son of Henry and Katherine who was married at Barton under Needwood on October 3rd, 1529, to Elizabeth Chippingdale. After this date I find no other Agard entries in the Barton Registers; there are a few earlier, but it is surprising to find no further mention of the name in the registers of Tatenhill.

It will be noticed that I have not made use of Abstract 7, the Will of Katherine Agard of Newborough, proved 1628, which gives the following information :—



The testatrix also mentions Sara Agard her daughter-in-law and Sarah's daughter Mary Agard; also "my good friends and kinsmen Sir Henry Agard, Knight, and Richard Weston, Esquire." It is plain therefore that she was the Katherine¹ daughter of Nicholas Barbour of Yoxall called wife of George Agard of Foston in the 1663-4 Visitation. George is shown in *The Genealogist* pedigree as uncle of Sir Henry Agard, and I expect he was the George who died intestate in 1618 as "of Newborough," and that she was his second wife.² His son Walter would be the Walter Agard who claimed the Escheatorship of Tutbury, and produced to prove his title an ancient hunting horn, the origin of their hunting horn crest.³

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, V, pt. 2, p. 31.

² In Hanbury Church is a monument to George Agard, *d.* 1608, Katherine his wife, *d.* 1626, and William their son, *d.* 1626: Hardy, *History of Tatenhill*, I, 122.—J. C. W.

³ For particulars of this claim and horn see Hardy's *History of Tatenhill*, I, 122-4. The tenure seems to date from Walter Agard of 1275-94.—J. C. W.

I have now dealt, I think, with all the references to Agards in the "Final Concords" of Staffordshire hitherto published, and have used all the Lichfield and P.C.C. Wills, etc., of Staffordshire Agards to the end of the sixteenth century.

None of the name appear in the early Subsidy Rolls or the Poll Tax, and only one, Nicholas of Sirescote, in the 1539 Muster Roll.

The book of Lichfield Marriage Licences in the Salt Library I have not examined for Agard references, but I have found no reference other than that I have used either in *The Genealogist*, *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, or the Harleian Society Visitation Volumes.

I have, I hope, without trespassing too much on Derbyshire territory, cleared the ground for those interested in the Agards of Staffordshire, and I have only to add that Kelly's *Directory* gives the name neither among the "Private Residents" or "Farmers" of the latter county and that the Agards appear to have vanished entirely from this part of the Midlands. It is more surprising still that the name does occur at all in the "Court" or "Commercial" lists in Kelly's *Directory of London* for 190-; but it is possible that the name is sometimes represented by "Agar," for Nicholas Agard of Sirescote already mentioned appears in some Chancery Pleadings² as "Agarr," and it is stated³ that the Agards of Yorkshire were the ancestors of the titled Irish family of Agar.

There has been put into my hands the pedigree of an Agard

¹ Sir Reginald Hardy states that Nic. Agard held closes in Newborough and Anslow in 20 Edward IV., *History of Tatenhill*, I, 120. The Court Rolls which he prints give also the following:—

1494. Nic. Agard surrenders land in Tatenhill to the use of John Agard and Joan his wife, and Nicolas the son of John (II, 136).

1517. John Agard of Foston, who held land in Barton and Dunstall by royal charter, died more than a year before, and John Agard, son of Ralph, son of the said John, was his heir aged twenty-six and more (II, 179).

1532. John Agard was seized of land in Barton, is dead, and Nicholas his son and heir is of full age (II, 208).—J. C. W.

² *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, N.S., IX, p. 79.

³ *Yorkshire Arch. Soc.*, Vol. XIII, p. 77.

Edward Aldridge of Bromley Hurst co. Stafford, yeoman ; dated 16th September, proved October 23rd, 1649. To be buried in the Church of Bromley, near to my wife. To my sons Roger, James, and William Aldridge 12*d.* each, to my daughters Mary and Elizabeth 12*d.* The residue to my son Edward Aldridge and my daughters Ann and Frances Aldridge equally. Executor my son Edward Aldridge. Witnesses :—Tho. Norris, William Alport, and Tho. Brasier. Inventory dated September 19th, 1649, amounts to £48 1*s.* 8*d.* Appraisers :—Tho. Norris, William Alport, John Plimer, and Edward Addams. Proved by the Executor.

The various works and calendars, etc., that I have consulted throw no light on the Aldriche pedigree. "Mrs. Anne Aldriche" is mentioned in the Will¹ dated 1657 of Antony Moore, who seems to have been in the employ of Sir John Wyrley of Hamstead, Staffordshire, and she may have been the mother of Jonah Aldriche. The name also prevailed in Derbyshire, for the Will² of Robert Aldriche of Melbourne, gent., was proved in 1566, and in 1694 Richard Alldriche had licence to marry Sarah Insley at Ticknall.

Among the marriage licences at Lichfield are the three following :—

- 1683. William Aldriche to marry Joan Copsall at Tamworth.
- 1684. William Aldriche to marry Sarah Walker at Shenstone or Aston, juxta Birmingham.
- 1687. Ralph Alldriche to marry Sarah Marshall at Ticknall or Hampstall Ridware.

¹ P.C.C., Wootton, 23.

² P.C.C., Crymes, 31.

REVIEWS.

Close Rolls. Henry III., 1234-1237.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

The Staffordshire men most prominent in this volume are the mad hereditary forester, Hugh de Loges of Rodbaston, and the Marcher Lord, Henry de Audley. The King sends Hugh three huntsmen and deerhounds to take "50 *hinds* (hinds) ad opus domini Regis"; he orders him to supply the custodian of the bridge at Wichnor with 3 oaks to repair the bridge, and to supply 30 oaks from the forests of Alrewas, Hopways, and Bentley to the Friars Minor at Lichfield for the building of their houses and chapel there. In 1235, he is instructed to give leave to Ralph Basset of Drayton to assart 50 acres of his wood lying "inter Burne et Watlingestrete." These matters pertained to his official position. We have also the following private suit of his which finds no place in the Staffordshire Plea Rolls:—"Hugo de Log' attornavit Henr. de Lileburn contra Ricardum de Otherton Robertum de Linehull et Sybillam uxorem ejus et Job. le Orb, de eo quod idem Hugo acquietet predictos A., R., S. and R. de servo ad quod Herveus Bagod exigit ab eis de libero tenemento suo quod de predicto Hugone tenent in Otherton and Linehull. Teste rege apud Westm. XIX die Marcii" (1237).

As for Henry de Audley he had the debts of his vassals remitted in 1234; in 1235 he has permission to import his crops from his Irish lands freely into England; in 1237, his service in Cheshire is alleged as an excuse for postponing the suit that Giles de Erdington was bringing against him for the manor of Shawbury (Salop).

After the death of John of Huntingdon, Earl of Chester, Audley was appointed by Letter Close of 22nd June, 1237, custodian of the castles of Chester and Beeston. He was twice treating for peace with Llewelyn of Wales, first in company with Fulk Fitzwarren and Hervey Bagod of Stafford in 1237, and again with the Bishop of Coventry, Wm., Earl of Albemarle, and Ralph Mortimer at Shrewsbury in 1237. Hervey Bagod died the year after his appointment, and on 14th June, 1237, the sheriff is instructed to remit to his widow, Petronella, "quia gravida est et ta vicina partui," the homage due from her for her dower.

The aftermath of the rebellion of Richard, the Earl Marshal, comes into this volume. Hugh de Burg, Earl of Kent, has restored to him, in 1237, the Manor of Arley, and on 14th November, 1234, the King grants to Philippa, Countess of Warwick, wife of Richard Siward, those six librates of land in Stanefeld (Alstonefield) which he had forfeited in the time of this civil war. It may be mentioned that the Index gives "Stanefeld" wrongly as "Stone-field in Stoke-on-Trent." Philippa, the widow of Henry, Earl of Warwick, was

eldest dau. and co-heiress of Thos. Basset of Hedonden by Philippa, eldest dau. and co-heiress of the Barony of Malbanc of which Alstonefield formed a member. She is called Philippa Malbanc in Vol. IV of these collections.

The scutage for marrying the King's sister to the Emperor of Germany was levied in 1235. Vol. VII, New Series, should be corrected, in that Gen. Wrottesley, in his history of the Okeovers, has accidentally placed this curage in 1242, and thereby post-dated the death of Robert de Okeover which should be given as 1235 for the reasons there stated. This explains why his son was knighted in 1241. (*Staff. Colls.*, VII, N.S., 16.) The collectors of the scutage for County Stafford were Rob. de Grendon and Rob. de Essington, Kts. The collectors in 1237 of the 30th from the county were Rob. de Halghton, Rob. de Knihteleg, Rob. de Essington, Rob. de Swinnerton and Wm. de Wyrley, Clerk.

Commissions of Knights were also told off to determine the county boundaries between Handsworth and Aston Manor; between Seisdon and Tressel and Claverley in Salop; and between Tong and the lands of Hugh de Weston in Weston. This is an early mention of Hugh de Weston, and we find him again in these rolls, imprisoned in Stafford Gaol with one Henry de Mer', appealed for the murder of Wm., son of John Gille. He is released by letter close of 1235.

With reference to the sheriffs of this period, we find John fitzPhilip of Barlaston, on April 20th, 1235, sent to tell the custodian of Bridgnorth to let the Sheriff, Rob. de Trava, have a dole of wine; and on November 14th, 1236, John l'Estrange is ordered to take over the custody of Bridgnorth from Rob. de la Haye. Another custodian mentioned is Gilbert, son of Stephen de Segrave the Chancellor. He has debts remitted in 1237 due from him while custodian of Newcastle under-Lyme. And in connection with Newcastle we discover in this volume for the first time a park, enclosed by Ranulf, Earl of Chester, and apparently including Bradwell Wood. After the death of the Earl, when the manor reverted to the Crown, the King had apparently dispersed it.

“Pro Abbate de Hulton.—Rex Constabulario suo Novi Castri suo Lima salutem. Scias quod per inquisitionem factam per preceptum nostrum acceperimus quod quedam pars bosci, quam Abbas de Hulton clamat suam esse de dono Henrici de Aldithel in Ruston (Grange), et quod R. quondam comes Cestrie and Linc' inclusit infra parcum predicti castri cum (quando manerium Novi Castri esset in manu sua, est de dominico grangie predicto abbatis de Ruston, et quod predictus comes predictam partem bosci inclusit infra predictum parcum de permissione predictorum abbatis et Henrici. Et quia predictus parcus prostratus est de precepto nostro, tibi precipimus quod eidem abbati de predicta parte bosci talem seisinam habere facias qualem inde habuit antiquam esset inclusa infra predictum parcum. Teste rege apud Waverl', II die January (1235).”

It is at Newcastle also that “Avicia mulier” is with the consent of the Bishop, the parson and the King admitted a recluse to the church on July 8th, 1237. Among other ecclesiastical intelligence we find Philip, Abbot of

Roucester, as early as 1235; and in 1237 there is a Prior of Dudley who has been excommunicated by the Bishop and apparently done penance and so avoided the arm of the civil law. It was as "valletus" to the Archbishop of Dublin that Andrew Blunt, who figures so largely in the Plea Rolls in Vol. IV of these collections, gained his position. He is exempted from taking up knighthood in 1235, and he is described in one place as Andrew of Sandon. We have a mention, too, of Matilda as wife of Walter de Ridware in 1237. He died about 1240, and by collating the Plea Rolls we see that she afterwards married Oliver d'Eyncourt.

In conclusion, the Letters show that the King passed through Staffordshire in 1235 and again in 1237. He was at Burton on September 12th, Lichfield, September 15th, and Birmingham on the 16th September, 1235; at Nottingham on October 6th and 7th, Lichfield, October 10th, and Birmingham on October 11th, 1237. The Burton, Lichfield, Birmingham road must have been a fair highway in those days and may account in some small degree for the growth of Birmingham. These rolls are given in full in Latin. When the early form of the name here appearing is considered Mr. Maskelyn's index, in which only one minute mistake can be found, is little less than marvellous.

J. C. W.

Feudal Aids, 1284-1431. Vol. IV. Stafford—Worcester.

H.M. Stationery Office, 1908.

This is the fourth volume of what is commonly called Kirby's Quest, and it deals with Staffordshire feudatories of 1284/5, 1316, 1401, and 1428. The first of these lists has already been used by General Wrottesley when determining the Knight's fees in the Liber Niger, see *Staff Colls.*, Vol. I. This important list of 1284/5 has evidently been taken from a bad transcript of the original returns, and it is regrettable that when printing these returns efforts have not been made to restore the correct readings by making a comparison with such a work as Gen. Wrottesley's. Some of the more complicated corruptions are as follows;—Leyton for Church Eyton, Heresardon for Beresardon, Heryleys for High Offyleye, Mulneceyeys for Mulnemeys, Clutculne for Chatculn, Hyndon for Slyndon, Gammthorn and Wolteleg for Tamnthorn and Wolseleg, Frest for Freford, Kenestar for Kenefar, Belinton for Bobinton, Ralph Basset's Barony was of Weledon not "Melton"; and in the Entry "Stendon.—Heres Radulphi de Stendon tenet manerium de Stendon (Standon)" one would hardly recognize Shendon.—Heres Radulphi de Grendon tenet manerium de Shendon (Shenstone), which must be what the original scribe wrote. The later lists are less corrupt or have been corrected in the *Corrigenda*. They are also of less value.

Some day it will be necessary to bring General Wrottesley's work on the Liber Niger up to date by tracing the Staffordshire manors and their lords through the Testa de Nevil and these subsequent feudatories with the full annotation they deserve. Meanwhile, it will be well to indicate the new

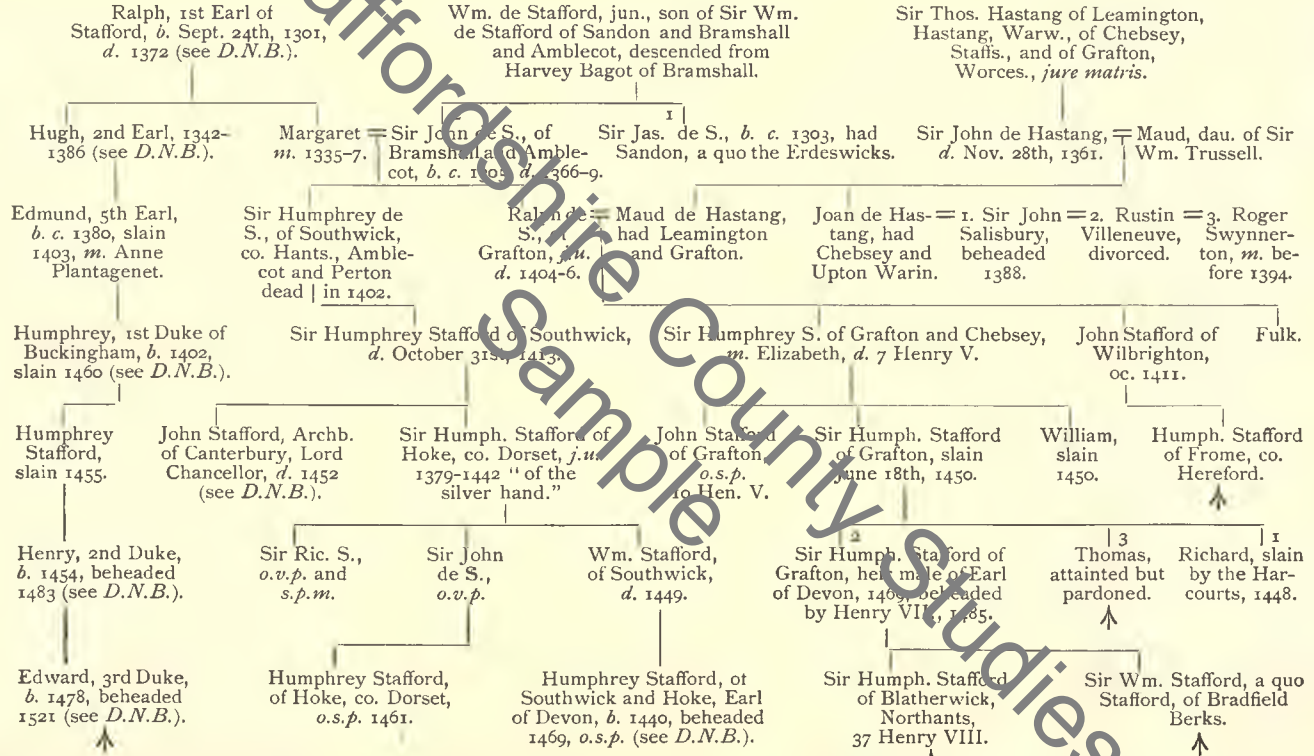
8th, 1448, Hampton, Harpur, Arblaster, Whitgreve, Cumberland, and John Archer of Statfold are appointed to enquire into escheats, etc., in Staffordshire. On September 25th, 1449, Hampton, Harper, Arblaster, Whitgreve, the Bishop, and Thos. Stanley, are to raise a loan in Staffs for the war. On February 18th, 1450, Sir Thos. Blount, Sir John Griffith, Wm. Cumberland, Thos. Everdon, and others are Justices to deliver the Gaol of Worcester Castle of Edmund Sutton, Esq., John Blount, Esq., Wm. Walsale, Thos. Walsale, and others. And on June 1st, 1450, Sir John Griffith, Rob. Astor, Esq., Ric. Bagot, Esq., and Thos. Wolsley, enquire as to lands held in chief by Joan, widow of John Wynnesbury, deceased.

Two armed feuds are of interest. Sir Ric. Vernon, Ric. Bagot, Esq., John Rothe, Esq., Wm. Vernon, Esq., John Rolston, Rob. Fraunceys, and the J.P.'s for Derby and Staffs. are commissioned on March 11th, 1449, to arrest John Gresley, Esq., and his brothers Thomas and Nicholas and many others named, for laying in wait for the Abbot of Burton and his men. The other feud concerns the Staffords and the Harcourts (see *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, III, New Series, 199). According to one side the servants of Sir Robert Harcourt of Staunton Harcourt, co. Oxon. by procurement of Joan Harcourt of Bosworth, co. Leicester, wedowe, killed Ric. Stafford and Wm. Sharpe his servant, and beat Humphrey Stafford at Coventry. According to the other account Humphrey Stafford, son of Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, and an enormous following, all named, came to Staunton Harcourt and wounded the King's lieges and carried off their goods. Or this may have been a second and consequent affray. (April-May, 1450.) The feud ended in 1471, when Sir Robert Harcourt was finally killed off by Wm. Stafford, the bastard of Grafton.

There was Humphrey Stafford the Duke (1402-1460), Sir Humphrey of Hoke, co. Dorset (1379-1442), Sir Humphrey of Grafton, co. Worcester (slain 1450), Sir Humphrey, his son (attainted 1480), not to mention Humphrey Stafford of Southwick and Hoke, Earl of Devon (b. 1440, beheaded 1469). These Rolls introduce us to yet another Humphrey Stafford, of Frome, co. Hereford. His wife Margaret, aged 37 and over, was daughter and heir to Wm. Lichfield, and the inquisition on his death in 1447 shows her inheriting land in Freford, Weeford, Lichfield, Cursonowe, Whittington, Elmhurst, etc. The connection of these Staffords is shown in the Chart pedigree which follows.

One charter, quoted from May 14th, 1349, may be given. Hy., son of John atte Forde of Bysshebury, grants to Hy., son of Ralph de Bysshebury, and Maud his wife, lands and services in Wolverhampton, which he had of the gift of Hy., son of Ralph, to the use of them and their heirs with remainder to the right heirs of Henry, son of Ralph. Witness: Sir Henry de Bysshebury, Kt., Sir Ric. Hillary, John de Hampton, Roger de Trescote, Ric. Levesone, and others.

Among matters ecclesiastical, we have the pardon of Dan John Bredon, Prior of St. Giles, Canwell, for a doubtful murder, 1447. The foundation of a chantry of two chaplains to pray at All Saints, Walsall, by Thos. Mollesley and Henry Flaxale, 1448. And the pardon of Wm. Aleyne of Stubbilane, co.



Staffordshire County Studies

Stafford, yeoman, for felony and murder committed at Burton by the procurement of Ralph Henley, Abbot of Burton, and his fellow monks, Thos. Norton and Wm. Stapyhill, 1452. (*Staff. Coll.*, III, N.S., 185, 211.)

J. C. W.

Calendar of State Papers. Foreign Series of the reign of Elizabeth, May--December, 1582, preserved in the Public Record Office. Edited by Arthur John Butler, M.A. H.M. Stationery Office, 1909.

Foreign Affairs, we have been told on good authority, are the concern of "sovereigns and statesmen," and are not to be interfered with by the vulgar crowd. But all things come to him who knows how to wait; and now by the aid of this volume, and others like it, the man in the street, after an interval of three centuries, may study at his ease the inner workings and secret springs of our foreign diplomacy in the days of Good Queen Bess. Cecil the sagacious, Walsingham the wary, and even the elusive Vestal, throned in our historic island, here display with engaging frankness the strenuous watchfulness, the timid alertness, and the tortuous audacity, by which they baffled the intrigues of our exasperated neighbours, and secured for England her position as a great and independent European Power.

The scene, as unfolded in this volume, opens with the siege of Oudenarde by the Prince of Parma, and there follows a period of delay on the part of the Duke of Anjou, and of inefficient support accorded to him and the Netherlands by England and France, which culminated in the capture of the town by the Spanish. This campaign, and incidents centred round it, occupy the main part of our volume, and though England's policy, as here laid bare to the view, redounds nothing to our glory and little enough to our honour, we get an impression of the fearful odds against us, and of the dull but dogged common-sense with which our statesmen, now aided, now hampered, by our extraordinary queen, brought us through our difficulties.

For the historian and the novelist alike ample fare is here provided, while the casual reader who once takes the volume in his hands will with difficulty tear himself from its perusal.

Pages 330 to 333 are largely taken up with the complaints made in 1582 by the (English) merchants of Rouen, who, in quite modern vein, complain bitterly of "the miserable and cruel extortions wherewith the English nation is at this day oppressed." They state that heavy impositions are raised "upon no commodity but such as Englishmen bring into the realm or transport out again." Broad cloth, Kerseys and Manchesters are heavily charged, both upon the piece and on "the northern dozen." Welsh cotton, canvas, and buckram pay increased imports, and each bag of woad pays thirty shillings. Of late there have been new impositions on papers, and playing cards are charged a duty of 40s. the hundred-weight. Now that there is a league between England and France, they suggest that instead of these exactions, there should be a general "defence" made for any merchant

One would like to ask all who print Chart pedigrees in works of this serious character, to make two improvements in future in accordance with the dictates of modern scientific accuracy. Firstly, every date that can be found, for birth, death, marriage or office, should be inserted, with footnote reference if possible; and without economising the guarding words "in or before." Secondly, that, where the pedigree is the result of the author's own researches, he should sign or initial it, so that those who follow may know that it is the work of someone who can be trusted (or mistaken), and not the compilation of Shaw, Chetwynd, Erdeswick, Dugdale, or even of G. E. C. The fashion of accepting one of those old-time pedigrees, and tinkering it with a date here and a remarriage there, and then printing it off in company with matter of a thoroughly trustworthy character is one to be discouraged. Nothing short of the initials R. H. at the foot of p. 90 would ever make the writer believe in the Mynors Pedigree there displayed.

The early Court and Woodmoot Rolls which fill most of the second volume extend from 1356 to 1543. They are well done, in extended Latin, by Mr. W. K. Boyd. Woodmoot Rolls are new and supply much that is fresh as to the management of the Royal forests, such as Needwood. The Court Rolls show a good many traces of vassalage surviving well into the fifteenth century, but we have as yet too few Court Rolls of the fourteenth century in print for any comparative study of the disappearance in our county of the degrading system of allodial serfdom, and of the progressive leasing of the lord's demesnes to tenant farmers employing free labour.

One cannot take leave of this History without saying that it is thoroughly readable in spite of the total absence of imaginative broidery. Evidently Sir Reginald loves his county and his subject, and he has the gift of passing on his feeling to others, though they may never have seen or heard,

Barton-under-Needwood,
Dunstall in the dale,
Tatenhill for a pretty girl,
And Burton for good ale.

There are no illustrations, which is perhaps a pity, but I am not certain that they are really wanted after all.

J. C. W.

Staffordshire County Studies
Sample

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