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to have been a brave man, and at the request of Empress Maud, his step-mother, King Stephen created him Earl of Arundel, Chichester and Sussex, and all the lands in Shropshire were given him. The Countess died 1151. He was buried at Wymondham, Co. Norfolk, in 1156. He had issue,

WILLIAM DE ALBINI II. (2nd Earl of Arundel) Lord of Buckenham, Co. Norfolk, Lord of Westhope and Stretton. He married Maud, daughter and heiress of James de St. Hilary and widow of Roger, Earl of Clare and Hertford, he accompanied the Crusade to the Holy Land, and dying on his return from Palestine in 1176, was buried at Wymondham, having issue,

WILLIAM DE ALBINI III., Earl of Arundel and Sussex, Lord of Buckenham, Westhope and Stretton. He inherited all his father's estates, and married Maud, daughter of William de Warren, by his second wife Bextrede, daughter of Simon, Count de Evreux. The Earl died in 1199, and was buried by his father.

His son, WILLIAM DE ALBINI IV., succeeded him in all his titles and estates, he married Isabella, sister and co-heir of Ranulf, last Earl of Chester. He died in Italy in 1221, and was buried at Wymondham, and had issue two sons, William and Hugh, and one daughter. His elder son,

WILLIAM DE ALBINI V., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope, died without issue in 1223.

The younger son, HUGH DE ALBINI, Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope, also died without issue in 1243, leaving his sister ISABEL sole heiress to all his vast possessions and estates. She married the great nephew of Isabel de Say, JOHN FITZALAN I., Lord of Clun, who by right of his wife, Countess Isabel, became Lord of Westhope. He died in 1243, and she in 1255, and had issue,

JOHN FITZALAN II., Earl of Arundel, and Lord of Westhope after his mother's death in 1255. He married Maud, daughter of Theobald de Butler and Roese de Verdon. She was Lady of Oswestry (Album Monasterium). His under-tenant at Westhope was Roger Pollard, who died in 1264. In the 52nd year of Henry III. (1264), John, son of Alan, holds Westhope (Phillipps MS. 11226, folio 288), and in the Roll

of Perambulations, 29 Edward I. (1301) mention is made of the Village of Westhope, as being in the Hundred of Munslow. In the time of Henry III. a MS. in Shrewsbury Free Library, under Westhop, states that in the time of Henry III, "John son of Alan holds Westhop for one hide of land of our Lord the King and does suit to the County, not to the hundred, and does not pay stretward or motfee."

In 52 Henry III. this occurs:—"The extent of the Manors of Oswestry (Albomonasterium), of Westhop and of Clowne and Hale Hampeston and Hethe, all which John fitzAlan held of our Lord the King by service. And they say that John, son of the aforesaid Sir John Fitzalan is the first-born and heir of the aforesaid Sir John Fitzalan and is of the age of 22 years."—(*Phillipps MS.*)

Earl John II. died 52 Henry III. (1268), leaving issue, JOHN FITZALAN III., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope. He inherited all his father's honours and estates. Born the 14th of September, 1240, he married Isabel, daughter of Sir Roger de Mortimer of Wigmore, Knight, Baron Mortimer of Chirk, Co. Salop, and died 18 March, 56 Henry III. (1272). The Inquisition post Mortem (see *Phillipps MS.* 11226, folio 288) states that he held Westhope.

RICHARD FITZALAN IV., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope, was created Baron of Kedy and Kedewy, Clun, Oswestrie, and Chirk, Co. Salop. He married Alice or Alisona, daughter of the Marquis de Saluzzo, in Italy. In the *Placita quo Waranto*, temp. Edward I. (1274), "Richard, son of John Alan, the Earl of Arundel, was summoned to answer to our Lord the King to show by what authority he claimed to hold pleas of the Crown, and have weyfs (stray cattle) in his Manors of Upton-under-Hawemañ, Wroccestre, Westhop, Acton Round, and Shrewardyne. He pleaded his right to hold two Great Courts. &c., by immemorial usage. (See Eyton, VII., 260.1.) He died 9 March, 1303, and left issue:

EDMUND FITZALAN V., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope. He distinguished himself to a great extent during the reign of Edward II.; he attended him in the expedition to Scotland, and with him was taken prisoner. By order of the Queen he was beheaded at Bristol, 17th

November, 1326, in the horribly cruel manner in which those execution were carried out at that time. In the Patent Rolls of 31 Edward I. (1303) it is stated that a "Commission was granted to William Inge, William de Mortuo Mari, and John Nevill, touching the person who during his minority cut down trees of Edmund, Earl of Arundel, at Shrewardyn, Upton-under-Haghemon, Wrocestre, Hopesay, Alghamston (Alcaston), Westhope, and Acton Round, in co. Salop, and other places, also hunted his free warrens at Upton, Wrocestre, Alghamston, Westhope, and Acton le Round." He married, June 1305, Alice, daughter of William, and sister and heiress of John Plantagenet, 8th and last Earl of Warren and Surrey, and had issue:

RICHARD FITZALAN VI., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope, who was born in 1306, and in 1330 Parliament restored to him all his father's estates, Edward III. declaring his father's death was a gross miscarriage of justice. He was Earl of Warren and Surrey by right of his mother; Lord of the Manors of Westhope, Bromfield, Oswestrie, Yale, Clun, and Chirk, co. Salop, and Dinas Bran, North Wales; Baron Fitzalan, Life Sheriff of Shropshire, Governor of Chirk Castle, which he bought from a descendant of Helyas de Say, and Knight of the Garter. He married twice, first to Isabel, daughter of Hugh, Lord Despenser, and secondly, in 1345, Elianor, daughter of Henry Plantagenet, 3rd Earl of Lancaster, and sister of Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Lancaster, whose natural daughter Juliana, married William Dannett, of Westhope, who, I surmise, was his undertenant. He died the 24th January, 1376, and Elianor, his wife, in 1372.

In the *Patent Rolls* of 1st March, 1347, "Licence is given for Richard, Earl of Arundel, to enfeof John de Alresford and others of the Castle and towne and the Manor of Arundel, and of the Manors of Stretton and Westhope, and for them to grant the whole to him for life."

In the *Patent Rolls* of 3rd Edward III., part 2, 4th December, 1329, occurs a "Pardon to the convent of Wenlock for acquiring lands in Mortmain, in Presthope, 15 acres and 3 acres of meadow, of Margaret Presthope. In Sutton, half a virgate of land of Alice daughter of Thomas de Sutton.

In Wolveston a messuage and 2 virgates of land for Juliana, daughter of John de Westhope."

In the *Calendar of Patent Rolls* 19th Edward III., Part I., 1345-6, June 24th, "Richard, Earl of Arundel, Grants to the King several Manors, amongst them Stretton, Westhope, Sideleye, Conede, Acton Round, Wroxeter, and Upton. The King of special grace had granted to the Earl the said castle and Manors, etc., so surrendered to him."

In the 4th Edward III. (1331), in an Inquisition, Roger de Chenny is styled of Westhope (*Phillipps MS.*, 11226, p. 333.) The *Close Roll* of 1348, 21st Edward III., part I. (See *Phillipps' MS.*, 11227, folio 353 B) has the following:—"To all to whom, etc. Maurice de Berkele and Edward de St. John de Neuers, etc., Know ye that we have granted to Richard, Earl of Arundel the right and claim which have in the Castle, town and Manor of Arundel in County of Sussex (and many Manors in other counties), and the castle, town, and Manor of Clone, in the Marches of Wales; the Castle, town, and Manor of Osewaldestre in the same Marches; the Manor of Ruton in the same Marches; also the Manors of Bokenhull in County of Salop, of Clunbury, of Dodynton, of Hethe, of Stretton, of Westhope, of Sidney, of Conede, of Acton Rounde, of Wroxcestre, of Upton, of Dalile; the Castle, town, and Manor of Shrewardyn, with the appurtenances in the said County of Salop, of Alghamston, of Hyntes, in the said County. To have and to hold, etc., to the said Richard; and be it remembered that the King confirms and caused it to be inrolled. Witness the King, near Caley, the 20th January."

The Will of Richard, Earl of Arundel, 1376, in the Lambeth Palace Library (92B Sudbury) is written in Norman-French.

To be buried in the Priory of Lewes beside the tomb of my "treschere Compaigne Alianora de Lancaster q dieu essoile." He mentions my son Richard Arundel, my daughter Johane Arundel, my son John Arundel, my son Thomas Arundel, John, son of my son John Arundel, William, Henry and Edward, sons of my son John Arundel, my nephews and nieces, the sons and daughters of Roger Lestrangle and my daughter, Elizabeth Lestrangle, Aleise my daughter.

My Bible in two volumes. He bequeaths to the Augustin Friars of Ludlow, 10 marks. To the Augustin Friars of Wodehous, Salop, 10 marks. To the Friars Minor of Bridgnorth, 10 marks.

My uncle John Darrundell. Will dated 5 December, 1375, proved 11 Kal. November, 1376.

The Will of Alianore Arundell widow (daughter of the Earl of Lancaster) is also in the Lambeth Palace Library.

(Arundel, I., 222 B.)

Will dated 10 September, 5 Henry IV., 1404.

To be buried in the Priory of Lewys, where Seigneur Lord John Arundell lies buried. She bequeaths to my Lady of Hereford, a gold tablet; and a legacy to my Lady of Kent. She mentions my daughter de Roos, my daughter Johan, my son Richard Arundel, and my son Reynald. She bequeaths to Elizabeth Arderne a russet gowne, and to William and Thomas Arderne silver.

Executors; William Deerannt, Vicar of Spettesbury, and John Ouynton. Supervisors: Sir Richard Arundell and Master John Tybythyng. Proved at Lambeth, 17 February, 1404-5.

EARL RICHARD VI. had issue two sons:—Richard his heir, and Sir John de Arundel, whose grandson eventually succeeded.

RICHARD FITZALAN VII., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope, K.G., was born in 1345, and married in 1359, Elizabeth, daughter of William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, who died in 1385. He was charged with high treason and sent to the Tower, found guilty; he was beheaded at Cheapside, 18 September, 1397. His Inquisition Post Mortem 21 Richard II. (1397-8) gives a good number of names and holdings of the early Shropshire sub-tenants. (Record Commission Volume).

He had issue:

THOMAS FITZALAN VIII., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope, who was born 13 October, 1381, and created Knight of the Garter, and Lord Treasurer of England. He inherited all his father's vast possessions. He held various distinguished appointments, and was considered a wise and

just minister. He married the 1st of May, 1405, Beatrix, daughter of Joam I., King of Portugal, and dying without issue in 1415 was succeeded by his cousin. He and his wife are buried in the Church of Arundel; their monument in alabaster is of great beauty. The Inquisition Post Mortem of Beatrix, Countess of Arundel, 18 Henry VI. (1440) states that she was of Westhop Manor, co. Salop.

Will of Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, 3 Henry V. (Lambeth Palace, Chicheley, Vol. I., 287A). Dated 10 August, 3 Henry V., 1416, mentions his property in Sussex, Surrey, Southampton, Kent, Norfolk, Gloucester, Salop, and Hereford. The property in Salop was placed in the hands of Edward, Lord of Pows (Powys), Robert Pobelew, Thomas Harlyng Clerk, and John Bartelot. He devises to his son John, the Manor of Kemsing, etc. He gives lands for a Chaplain at the College at Arundel; a Legacy to Austin Friars of London, to pray for the soul of his father Richard, Earl of Arundel. He orders a pilgrimage, which he had vowed to make himself, to be undertaken by William Ryman, or someone else, to St. Thomas of Canterbury and St. Richard of Cicester. He bequeaths to Elizabeth Arundel my Kinswoman, for her kindness to me during my illness £40. For a vestment to the blessed Wynefred of Salop £20.

The executors are Henry, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Thomas, Bishop of Durham, Beatrix, my most loving wife, Sir John Wiltes, Kt., Robert Pobelowe, Thomas Harling, Clerks, William Boerly, William Ryman, and John Bartelot.

Codicil. "I will that John Well, have my Manors of Bolden and Middlehop in Salop to the end of his life, then to my wife, and then to be sold and the money distributed for the good of my soul. I will that John Young who came with me from Calles (Calais) at my first coming into Yngland to my master's dominion (The King), have £10 per annum. My consort to have the governance of my lands till my son John is of age."

Proved in the Church of Poules (Pauls) Wharf 11 December, 1415. Letters of Administration granted at Lambeth on 13 December, 1415, to Beatrise, Countess of Arundel, Sir John Wilts, Knight, and John Bartelot.

Inquisition Post Mortem 18 Henry VI., No. 28, File 98, 1440.

Inquisition taken at Ludlowe on Tuesday in the week of Pentecost, 18 Henry VI., before John Chetwyn Escheater for Salop and the Marches of Wales, after the death of Beatrix, lately Countess of Arundell, and late wife of Thomas Earl of Arundell. Recites the fine of 31 Edward III. (as in the Inquisition post mortem of John Earl of Arundell) and that Richard Earl of Arundell was seized (with other lands) of the Manor of Westhope, and settled it on the heirs of the body of himself and Alianore, daughter of Henry of Lancaster. Beatrix died 23 October last past, without heir. John, Duke of Norfolk, is aged 24 years and Elizabeth, wife of Edward Nevile, Lord of Berguvenny, is aged 22 years, and Edward Lenthall is aged 20 years.

(This Inquisition is very much faded and stained, and is very long. But it is clearly seen that the Manor of Westhope is mentioned, and it was part of the dower of Beatrix).

Before I continue with the Lords of Westhope I must return to Sir John de Arundel, the brother of Earl Richard VI. He was Marshal of England in 1377, and married in 1364, Alinore, daughter and heir of John, Lord Maltravers; she was Baroness Maltravers in her own right; she died 10 January, 1404, her husband was drowned in the Irish Sea, on 13 December, 1379. His will is dated 26 November, 1379, and an Inquisition Post Mortem was taken 3 Richard II. He had issue an only son, Sir John Arundel, Baron Maltravers, who was born 30 November, 1365, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward, Lord le Despenser. Sir John died 14 August, 1391, and was buried at Missenden Abbey, leaving a son, JOHN DE ARUNDEL IX., who was born at the Manor of Dilton, in the County of Bucks, 1 August, 1387, and who in 1405 succeeded his mother in the Barony of Maltravers, and by virtue of an entail of the Castle of Arundel made in 21 Edward III. (1348) became on the death of his cousin, Earl Thomas VIII., in 1415 Earl of Arundel and Lord of Westhope. He married in 1407 Alianore, daughter of Sir John Berkeley, Knight, of Beverston in the County of Gloucester, and died the 21 April, 1421, and he and his wife are buried in the Church of Arundel.

The Inquisition taken after the death of John, Earl of Arundel, at Dorchester, Co. Dorset, on Monday next before the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, 14 Henry VI., 1435, mentions John Arundel, late Lord of Mautravers, and Alianore his wife (the parents of John, the deceased Earl), and his wife Matilda. It states that John, Earl of Arundel, died 12 May last past; and that Humphrey Arundel, his son and next heir, is aged 7 years and more. (Chancery Inq. P.M., 13 Henry VI., No. 37).

In the Chancery Proceedings, 33 Henry VI. (1455), No. 35, mention is made of Alianore, who was the wife of Walter Hungerford, Knight, lately the wife of Sir Richard Poynges, Kt., and late the wife of John Arundell of Arundell, Chivaler, who held etc. Order to enquire who is next heir, dated 8 August 33 Henry VI. She owned the Manors of Bodyngton, Prynter, Westhope, Melmsley, Eggerley, and Marbrooke, and held one third part of these. The Manor of Westhope is held of our Lord the King by fealty and all services, and is worth in all outgoings 60/-. The Countess Alianore married secondly Sir Richard Poynings, son and heir of Lord Poynings. He died in 1430, leaving issue an only daughter and heir, Alianore, who married Henry Percy, 2nd Earl of Northumberland, and died 10 February, 1482. She married thirdly, Sir Walter Hungerford of Heytesbury, Co. Wilts, and died 1449, leaving issue.

She died in August, 1455, and is buried at Arundel. Her Will is dated 20 July, 33 Henry VI., 1455. In it she styles herself Alianore, Countess of Arundell and Lady Maltravers (although she married secondly Sir Richard Poynings, Knight, and thirdly Sir Walter Hungerford, Knight). She bequeathed her body to be buried in the Chapel of our Lady, within the Collegiate Church of the Holy Trinity at Arundell, and gave to the Master and Fellows of that College a Cross of Silver Gilt, to remain therein perpetually for convenient uses, as also forty pounds sterling, upon condition that the master and Fellows with all the Priests and Officers of that College, and their successors should yearly keep the Obits of John, Earl of Arundell, her late husband, and her own Obit, with Mass and Office of Requiem solemnly with Note, at convenient hours, for their souls, and the souls of their

parents, and ancestors, and all the faithful departed. And likewise ordained that her executors should dispose two hundred marks of her goods, to found a Perpetual Chantry, at the Altar of our Blessed Lady in the same Chapel, for one Priest to celebrate Mass thereat every day for the health of her said husband's soul, and her own soul, and have ten marks per annum for so doing: or at least for twenty years next after her decease. Moreover she gave to William, Earl of Arundell, her son, her best cup of gold, likewise a ring, with a ruby, and an hundred pounds sterling. To Joane, Countess of Arundel (his wife) a cup of silver. To Alianore Percy, her daughter (by Lord Poynings) a golden collar for her neck with a jewel set with precious stones hanging thereat, also a bason of silver with the Armes of the Lord Poynings, and of Sir John Berkeley, Knt., her father, thereon, likewise an ewer of silver, and a hundred pounds sterling. To the Lady Dudley, her sister, a rowe of pearls. To Margaret, the wife of Lord Hungerford, a standing cup of gilt. To Sir Robert Hungerford, Knt., Lord Molyns, then prisoner in France, all her wooll at Haytesbury of an hundred pounds value towards his ransom, provided that he be released of his imprisonment during his life, and that neither he, nor the Lord Hungerford his father, nor any other, disturb the executors of that her Testament. To Sir Morice Berkeley, Knt., her brother, two silver pots with the Armes of the Lord Hungerford, and twenty pounds sterling. To the Lady Lora his wife, a cup of beryl garnished with gold. To Maurice, the son of her said brother, a salt-cellar of silver and ten pounds sterling. To Anne, his wife, a Book of Mattins, covered with velvet. To Thomas Berkeley, her brother's son, ten pounds. To Edward, another of his sons, ten pounds. Her Will was proved on the twenty-third of August, 1455.

The Inquisition Post Mortem was taken in 34 Henry VI., after her death at Stretton, co. Salop. The Jury found that Alianor held, as Countess of Arundel, certain property, and she held in dower of John Arundel, late of Arundel, Knight, formerly her husband, the Manors of Dodynton, Hyntes and Westhop, with the appurtenances, and other Manors, and the third part of the Manor of Acton. The Manor of

Westhop was held of our Lord the King by fealty, and all services, and is worth 65/-. William, now Earl of Arundel, is son and next heir of the said Countess, and is aged 32 and more. The Countess died 1 August last past.

In the *Phillips MS.* 11,227, folio 264, is an abstract of an Inquisition post mortem 33 Henry VI., No. 35, Gloucester and Marches of Wales. The Jury say that Alianore, who was the wife of Walter Hungerford, Knight, lately wife of Richard Poynings, Knight, holds in the County of Salop and the Marches of Wales of the dower of John Arundell, late of Arundel, Knight, lately her husband, the lands of Dodynton, Acton Round, Westhope, and also the estates of Donne, Besley, Kempton, and Upton, parishes of the Lordship of Clune. The reversion of the said manors, belonging of right to William, now Earl of Arundell, son and heir of the aforesaid John Arundell. And that Alianore died 1 August last past, and William, now Earl of Arundell, is her son and heir, and aged 32 years.

It is rather curious to note that Sir Thomas Dyer, Knight, (1559) married as his second wife a daughter of Henry, Lord Poynings, and as his third wife Johane, daughter of Sir Maurice Berkeley, Knight, of Beverston. And Sir Walter Hungerford, Knight, owned Heytesbury Park, county Wilts, which estate in 1616 belonged to George Dyer, the father of Sir William Dyer, Baronet.

Earl John IX. left issue two sons, John X., and William.

JOHN DE ARUNDEL X., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope, who was born at Lychet Maltravers, co. Dorset, 14 February, 1407-8, and succeeded to his father's estates. He married first Constance, daughter of Sir John de Cornwall, K.G., Lord Fanhope, and secondly Maud, daughter of Sir Robert Lovell, and widow of Sir Richard Stafford, Knight; she died the 19th May, 1436. Earl John X. died at Beauvais 12 June, 1433, and was buried there, leaving issue a son, Humphrey.

In the Wills preserved in Lambeth Palace Library, is one of Radulph Hunte of Bath, dated 20 September, 1432, in which is mentioned his executor John de Westhope.

The Will of John, Earl of Arundel, is dated 8th April, 1430. My body to be buried in the College of the Holy

Trinity of Arundel, in the wall between the Choir and the Altar of the Chapel of the Blessed Mary of the same College. Legacy to same College. To Eleanor, my mother, a red girdle adorned with gold and precious stones. To Matilda my wife, a Legacy. To Humphrey my son, the same. Residue of my silver, to my consort. To Roger Conert for good service £10. To William Needham 100/-. To John Frebody, 5 marks. To Jamyn Blanksherd, 5 marks. Residue to Sir Maurice Berkeley, Kt., John Hody and John Greudon, Clerk, for the good of my soul to be disposed by them. They to be executors, and Master Thomas Polton Bishop of Worcester, supervisor.

The Testator mentions his Manors of Almodyton, Codelow, Bercourt, Wylde . . . gge and Lynche in Sussex, Stoke-tristre, Coklyngton, Sperlegroff and Hyndford in Somerset, ffukelhorp in Herdingham, Norfolk, Grandesden in Cambridge, and the reversion of the Manor of Croxton which William Beauford holdeth for life. He states that "We have granted to our brother William Arundel the reversion of Eyno, co. Northampton, after the decease of Elizabeth, wife of Sir Edward Arundel, and also of Croxton." Also that "Sir Morys (Maurice Berkeley Kt.) our uncle is enfeofed of Grantden Manor, if God will that we decease before comyng into Ynglande againe, the Manor of Grantden, to go to our brother and his heirs, if he die without heirs of his body then to our heirs." My son and heir Humfrey. He makes provision for Anne Stanwell, his cosen, and some others.

The Will, with a Codicil, was proved at Lambeth, 15 February, 1435. (Chichele, Vol. I., fo. 457b).

The Inquisition Post Mortem was taken at Shrewsbury, co. Salop, 17 October, 18 Henry VI. (1440). The Jury found that John, Earl of Arundel, deceased, held when he died, the Manors that Richard, late Earl of Arundel when he died was seized of, and the Manors of Ruyton, Bokenhull, Stretton, Westhope, Conede Acton, Rounde Acton, Wroxhall, etc. John, Earl of Arundel, held these as heir of Richard, Earl of Arundel and Alianore his wife; and William his brother is next heir, and is aged 14 years. John, Earl of Arundel, died 20 June, 18 Henry VI. (1440).

Inquisition Post Mortem 18 Henry VI., No. 27, File 98, 1440.

A further Inquisition was taken at Salop on Wednesday after the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary Virgin, 19 Henry VI., before Thomas Hopton and Richard Hoorde, after the death of John, Earl of Arundell. The Jury say that John, late Earl of Arundell, deceased, held at his death the Castle, &c. of Shrewardyn, the Hamlett of Tybreton, part of the Manor of Dalilee, the Manor of Arkall, &c.; and John died seised thereof in fee tail. And they say that Richard, late Earl of Arundell, was seized of the same Castle, &c. of Shrewaydyn, Tybreton, also of the Castles and Manors of Clone and Oswestry, and the Manors of Ruyton, Bokenhill, Strattonheiths, Westhope, Conede, Acton Rounde, Wroxester, Upton, Dalilee, Alghampton and Hynts. And being so seised a Fine was levied in the Octaves of Trinity, 31 Edward III., between the same Richard, late Earl of Arundel, complainant, and John de Alresford and John Sprot, Chaplain, deforciant, of all the same Castles and Manors, to the use of the heirs of Richard, late Earl of Arundell on the body of Alianore, daughter of Henry de Lancastre, to be begotten. And he had issue by Alianore, viz.: Joan, late Countess of Hereford, Richard, Alice, late Countess of Kent, and Thomas, late Archbishop of Canterbury; and he died so seised and they came to Richard, as son and heir of the said late Earl. And Richard had issue, John, late Earl, and died so seised in fee tail by virtue of the fine, and the premises came to Thomas, late Earl, son and heir of Richard, son of Richard. And Thomas died seised in fee tail, and the premises descended to John de Arundell, Chivaler, as kinsman and heir male of Thomas late Earl, viz., son of John, son of John, son of Richard and Alianore, which said John de Arundell, Chivaler, died seised in fee tail, and the premises descended to John, late Earl of Arundell, as son and heir of the said John de Arundell, Chivaler, and then to William, now Earl of Arundell, as brother and heir of John. And that John, late Earl of Arundell, died 20 June, 16 Henry VI., and William, now Earl of Arundell, is his brother and heir, and is aged 29 years and upwards. (An abstract of this Inquisition is also given in Phillipp's MS. 11,226, fo. 263).

The Will of Matildes, Countess of Arundel, is dated 11 May, 1436, and was proved in P.C.C. 25 October, 1436 (21 Luffenham). She mentions her son Humfrey; and leaves the residue of her property in England, Wales, France, and Normandy, to her executors Walter Would and William Lewston, and appoints Elizabeth Lowell, her mother, and Humfrey Stafford, her father, supervisors.

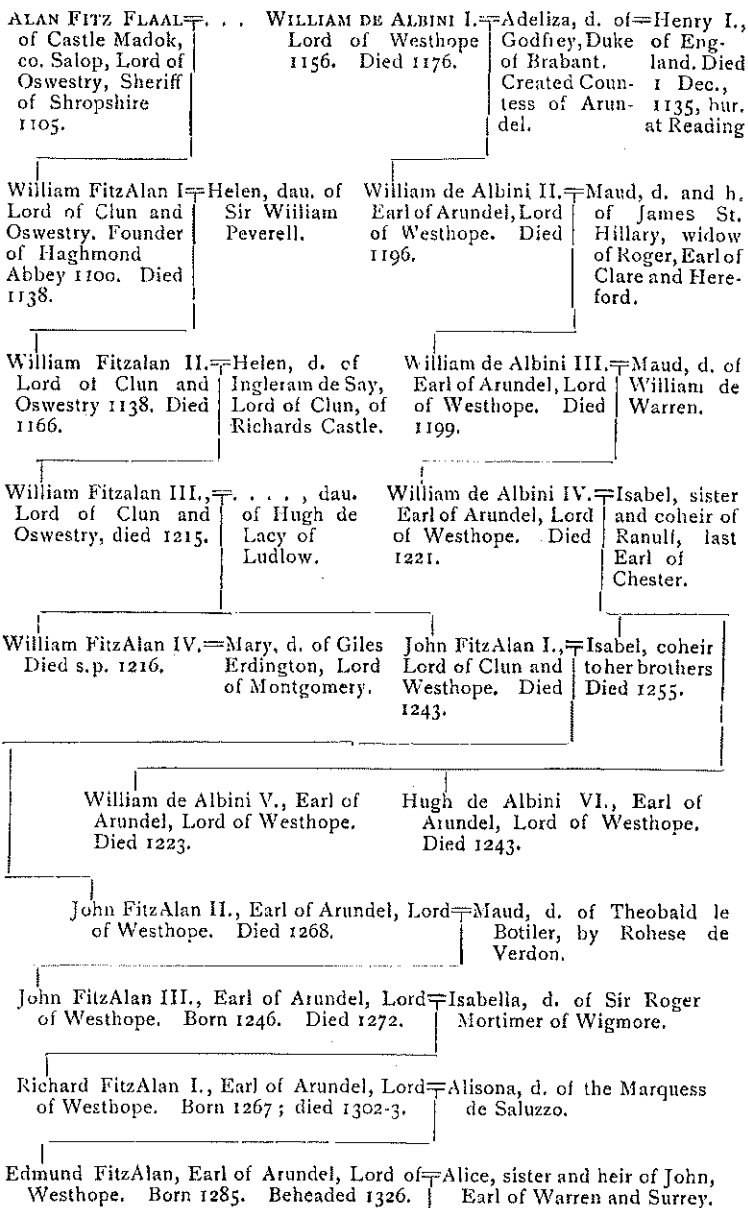
The Inquisition Post Mortem of Matilda, Countess of Arundel, was taken at Sherborne, co. Dorset, on Monday next before the Feast of S.S. Simon and Jude, 15 Henry VI. (1436). The Countess died on 19 May last past, and Humphrey, Earl of Arundel, her son and next heir, is aged 8 years and more (Chancery Inq. P.M., 15 Henry VI., No. 39).

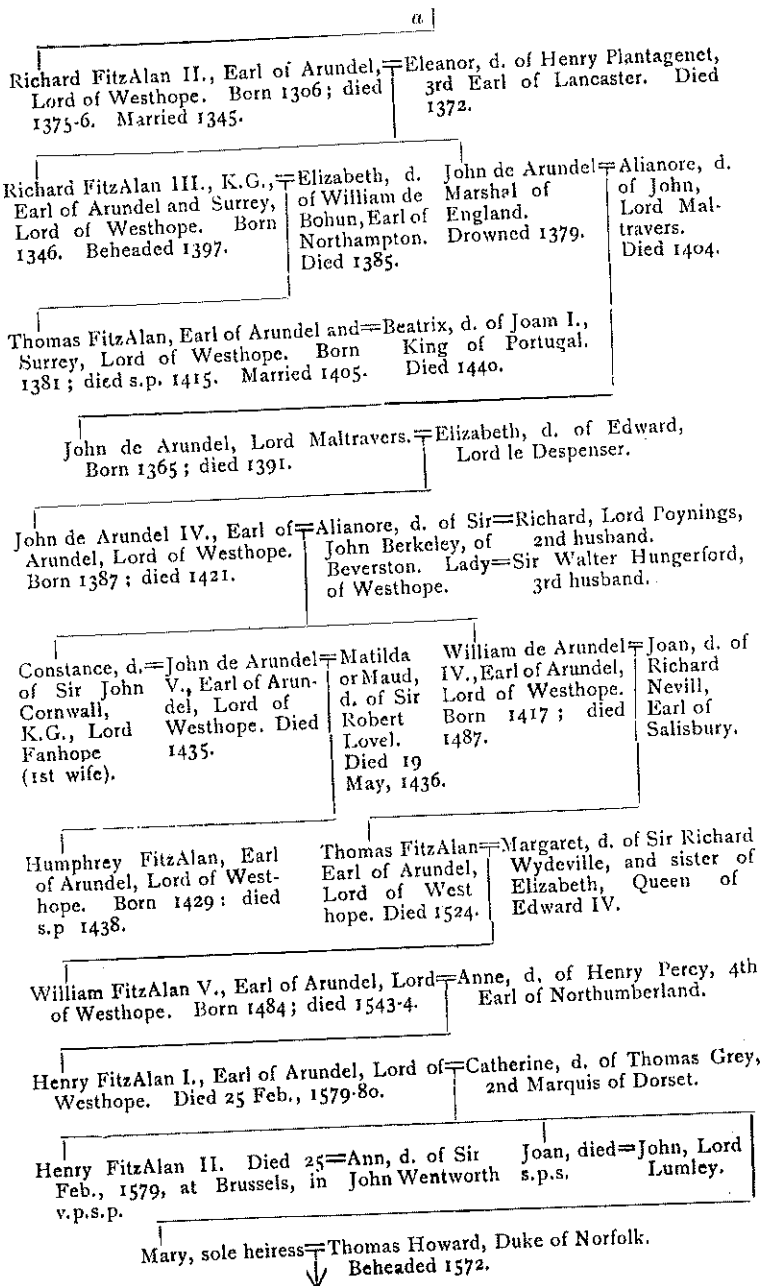
HUMPHREY FITZALAN XI., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope. He was born 30 January, 1429, succeeded his father in 1433, and died unmarried 24 April, 1437. The Inquisition Post Mortem taken on his decease states that Humphrey, son and heir of John Arundel, late Earl of Arundel and Matilda his late wife, daughter of Elizabeth, who was the wife of Richard Lovell, died 24 April last past; and William Arundel is uncle and next heir, and was aged 20 years and more on 23 November last past.

Humphrey was succeeded by his uncle William.

WILLIAM DE ARUNDELL XII., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope, succeeded his nephew. He was born in 1417, and married Joan, the daughter of Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury. In the Chancery Proceedings of the 23 March, 1465, is a "Licence to Sir William Dudley, Knight, and William Ernele, to grant the Castle, town, and Manor, and the Lordship of Cloune, and the Manors of Acton Round, Wroxeter, Upton, and Westhope, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Exeter, William, Earl of Arundel, and Sir Edmund Grey, Knight." William, Earl of Arundel, dying in the third year of Henry VII. (1487), was succeeded by his son, THOMAS FITZALAN XIII., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Richard Wydeville, Knight, and sister of Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IVth. Earl Thomas dying the 16 Henry VIII. (1524-5) was succeeded by his son, WILLIAM XIV.

PEDIGREE OF ALBINI AND FITZALAN, LORDS OF WESTHOPE.





WILLIAM FITZALAN XIV., Earl of Arundel, Lord of Westhope, who was born in 1484, and created Knight of the Order of the Garter, and he inherited all his father's estates. He was one of the Lords who subscribed a letter in 1530 to the Pope requesting him to comply with Henry VIII.'s request for a divorce from Queen Catherine. He was an advocate for the Reformation. He married Anne, daughter of Henry Percy, 4th Earl of Northumberland, and dying in 1543 was succeeded by his son,

HENRY FITZALAN XV., Earl of Arundel, and last Lord of Westhope of the Arundel family. He married Catherine, daughter of Thomas Grey, 2nd Marquis of Dorset. He sold the Manor of Westhope to the Queen (Elizabeth) in 1561, and died in his 68th year 25 February, 1579, leaving issue, Henry, who died without issue in his lifetime; Joan, who married John, Lord Lumley, but died without surviving issue; and Mary, who became sole heiress, and married Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk.

In the *Feet of Fines*, Hil. 3 Elizabeth (1561), is a Final Concord made before Sir James Dyer, Knight, and other Justices, Between the Queen complainant, and Henry Earl of Arundell, Sir John Lumley, Knight, Lord of Lumley, and Jane his wife, deforciant, touching the Manor of Kyngestonley and Woodchester with the appurtenances, and 60 messuages, 20 cottages, 10 tofts, 60 gardens, 60 orchards, and 2,300 acres of meadow, 1,000 acres of pasture, &c., in Kyngestonley and Woodchester, the Manor of Hindesford, etc. in co. Somerset, the Manor of Stapleford, in co. Wilts, and the Manors of Wroxeter and Westhope, with the appurtenances, and 20 messuages, 10 cottages, 10 tofts, 1,000 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 100 acres of wood, 100 acres of uncultivated land, and 40/- rent, with the appurtenances in Wroxeter and Westhope, co. Salop.

In the *Particulars of Grants*, temp. Elizabeth, No. 2,567, Thomas Wood and William Frankland request to purchase the Lordship and Manor of Westhope, parcel of the lands had in exchange with the Earl of Arundel. The *Patent Rolls* of 5 Elizabeth, 6th part, contains a Grant from the Queen to Thomas Wood and William Frankland of the Lordship and Manor of Westhope, with the appurtenances, and lands and

tenements in the tenure of Thomas Mytton, late parcel of the possessions exchanged with the Earl of Arundel. To hold to them and their heirs of the Queen in socage. Dated 16 July, 5 Elizabeth, 1563.

(From the above it would appear that one Earl of Arundel exchanged the Manor of Westhope with the Crown for some other property. This was probably Henry XV., in 1561).

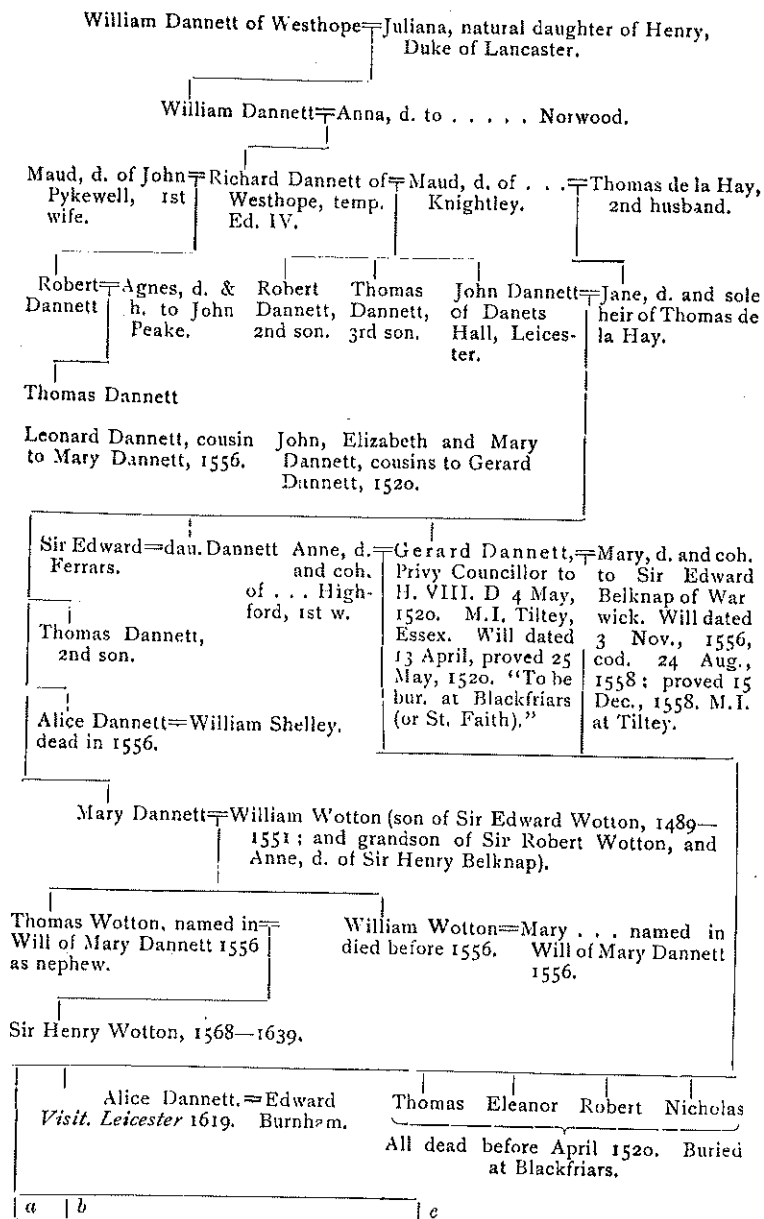
IV.

LORDS OF THE MANOR. DANNATT OF WESTHOPE.

In the last chapter I have shown the Lords of the Manor when the Earls of Arundel had the estate. The *Visitation of Shropshire* 1623 records that William Dannatt of Westhope married Juliana, the natural daughter of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, and we know by previous history that William Dannatt, or Dannett, was living as undertenant of the Earl of Arundel. He had a son, William Dannatt, who married Anna, daughter of Norwood, but this William is not styled of Westhope. His son, Richard Dannatt of Westhope living in the time of Edward IV., married twice, and from his second wife Maud, daughter of Knightley, the Lords of Westhope descend. The Dannatt pedigrees given in the *Visitations of Shropshire* and of *Leicestershire*, and that in Nichols's *History of Leicester*, all differ somewhat, so I give a pedigree embodying the above, with additions taken from Wills and Chancery Proceedings. John Dannatt, the son of Richard Dannatt (temp. Edward IV.) is put down in the *Visitation of Shropshire* as of Leicestershire. He married Jane, daughter of Thomas de la Haye. Nichols states that he died in 1490. He had a son Gerard Dannatt, born 3 July, 1473, and who married Mary, sister and co-heir of Sir Edward Belknap of Knoll, co. Warwick. He was Councillor of State to Henry VIII., and died 4 May, 1520, and was buried at the Abbey of Tiltey, co. Essex, where a monument is erected to his memory.

At Tiltey Dunmow, in the Church, is a brass to Gerard Danet, who died 4 May, 1520, and was buried there with Maria, his wife. The brass contains three shields:—1st shield, Quarterly, 1. Danet guttée de a canton ermine; 2. on two bars 6 lions rampant; 3. same as

PEDIGREE OF DANNETT OF WESTHOPE.



HISTORY OF WESTHOPE.

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<p>^a ^b Elizabeth = Sir John Arundel of Dannett Cornwall, Kt.</p>	<p>^c Sir John Dannett, Kt., of Cosham, Croydon, Surrey, born 1503, living Oct. 17, 1521.</p>	<p>Anne, d. & s. h. of John Ellen- bridge, living a widow 1556.</p>
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Sir John Arundel, Kt.
Thomas, George, Edward.
In Will of Mary Dannett 1556.

<p>Jane = (1) . Birkenshaw Dannett (2).. Atkinson</p>	<p>Thomas = Anne, d. of Dannett Matthew of Dork- Browne of ing, 2nd Surrey. son.</p>	<p>Mary = George Medley Dannett of Tilty Abbey Essex, and Whitnes, Warwick.</p>
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Elizabeth Mary Henry William
(All in Will of Mary Dannett, 1556).

<p>Thomas Dannett, s. & h. In Will of grandmother Mary Dannett, æt. 22.</p>	<p>Awdley Dannett. In Will of his grandmother Mary Dannett 1556, M.A. Oxon. M.P. Rye. Will dated 14 Apr., proved 9 Oct., 1591.</p>	<p>Edward George (In the Will of Mary Dannett 1556).</p>
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<p>John Frances (named in Will of grandmother, Mary Dannett, 1556).</p>	<p>Mary eld. dau.</p>	<p>Jane Dannett, styled elder daughter, named in Will of her brother, Awdley Dannett.</p>
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<p>Anne, or Agnes, d. of John Bellamy. Will dated 9 Aug., proved 20 Nov., 1626. Bur. at Diddlebury, Salop. ob. s.p.</p>	<p>Sir John Dannett, Kt., of Westhope, 2nd son, B.A. Oxon, Inner Temple. Will dated 29 Jan., pr. 30 April, 1607. Died 12 Feb., 1607, at Westhope.</p>	<p>Elizabeth, d. of Leonard John Lenton, died ob. s.p. young.</p>
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<p>Gerard Dannett of Westhope. In Will of his grand- mother 1558, in will of his brother John 1607, lands in Munslow, Cul- mington & Siefton 1628. Subsidy Roll Will d. 6 June, 1610, bur. at Elm- bridge.</p>	<p>Sara, d. of Edward Cald- well of Upton Warren, Co. Worcester. Married at Elmbridge, 19 Oct., 1595.</p>	<p>Thomas Dannett = Mercy of Diddlebury, in grandmother's Will. Admon. 3 June, 1605.</p>	<p>Jane Dannett men. in Will of her grand- mother, Mary, mar. Henley.</p>
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a

b

c

2; 4. 3 eagles rising. 2nd shield: Danet, with a quartering as on shield one, impaling quarterly, 1. 3 eagles displayed, a bend cottised 2. Two bendlets; 3. A bend of ten; 4. A fesse chequé between 6 crosses patée fitchée, three and three. 3rd shield: Quarterly 1 and 8 Danet; 2. On two bars 6 lions rampant three and three; 3. Three eagles displayed in bend cottised; 4. Two bendlets; 5. Three eagles displayed; 6. Bendy of ten; 7. A fesse chequé between 6 crosses patée fitchée.

Gerard Dannatt's Will is dated 30 April, 1520.

"I bequeath my body to be buried in the Church of the Black Friars in London, under the old stone with the ragged cross, next adjoyning to the smale stonys of Thomas Danet, Elenor Danet, Robert and Nicholas Danet, my children, or else in the Parish Church of St. Faith. My body to be wrapped only in a simple sheet, without coffer or chest, and the Prior or Churchwardens shall provide 13 old torches, 4 great tapers, or else my executors shall provide with Thomas Linde, wax chaundler, dwelling in the old Bayle in London, so that no money be spent in new fashions. I will there will be provided 12 schocheons of myne armes to be sette about my corps and pillars, next adjoyning to my grave and not past. If I be buried in the Black Friars, I will Master Curlewse, my curate, have 3s. 4d., and Sir Thomas, his Parish priest 20d. Item, I give to my son John Danet, my gilt challis, my mass book, and my best vestment with the outer clothes, with bedding etc., including the counterpane I bought of the executors of my lady Naffan, my plain gilt cup having the greyhounds head in the bottom raised, and my bag of the greyhounds head. I will that all this bequest remain at the pleasure of Mary my wife, till my son come to the age of 23 years at the least. I give to my daughter Anne, wife to my said son, my posset silver and a gilt spoon. I give to my son John, my small cheyne with the cross which I have been accustomed to wear daily, my greater cheyne to be sold towards the marriage of my two daughters Elizabeth and Mary, to whom I give £100 and £80 respectively towards their marriages. If both my said daughters die before marriage, their portions shall come to my son Thomas, save that some portion shall be spent in the

repair of the bridges and ways about Leicester, Warwick, and the highway at Mestham, leading from Wood Street to the cross at Mestham. Item, I give to the amending of the bridge between my house and the Friars Augustines in Leicester £10. I will that my special good lady, the Lady Marques Dorsett have a gold ring to the intent she may have my sinful soul in remembrance, likewise my good Lady and sister Belknappe, and my sisters Wutton and Shelley a gilt spoon apiece. Item, I give to my brother, Sir Edward Belknappe my mule with the apparel. I devise to Mary my wife, such lands as I have bought in Leicestershire for her life, then to remain to the right heirs of my body and in default to the right heirs of John Danet my father. I will that for seven years my executors bestow 20s. yearly to some good religious priest, to sing for the soul of my wife Anne, the souls of my father and mother, of Thomas Danet, Clerk, of Gerard Delahaye, Thomas Elmbrugge, Robert Elmore, Clerk, and Margaret Buteler. I give to Robert Cobbis 6s. 8d, and to every other of my servants in my house 3s. 4d. To my brother William Shelley 5 yards of black cloth. The residue of all my goods, except only the lease of my house in Ive Lane, which I give jointly to my wife Mary and son John, I give to my wife. I give to my son John, my best signet with the greyhound's head, I make my wife Mary, and my brother William Shelley, my executors with the advice of Sir Edward Belknappe. I give to my wife Mary, all my lands purchased in Surrey for her life to remain at her death to the right heirs of my body, and in default to my daughter Anne Danet for life and my right heirs. I will that my servant Robert May have 40s. yearly, during his life out of my lands in the town of Leicester, and that my wife have all the issues of my lands in Leicester, and Coventry, which be no part of her jointure for 7 years to come. Item, I will that my Lady of Salisbury have a like remembrance as I have bequeathed to my Lady Marques."

Witnesses : Sir Edward Greville. Sir Edward Ferrers, my sister his wife, my cosyn John Danett, my cosyn Elizabeth Danett, my cosyn Mary Danett, Maister William Fawke, Sir Thomas Walles, Ales Shelley, my wife, my cosyn Beatrice Rawdon, and Mr. Richard Parker.

Proved in P.C.C. 25 May, 1520, by the executrix
(2 Maynwaring.)

The Will of Mary Dannatt, widow of Gerard Dannatt, is dated 3 November, 1556.

"I will that a sermon be made at my burial by a learned man, and I give £10 to be distributed to six score poor folks men or women, and to poor householders in eight Parishes, viz., the Parish where I shall be called out of this world, and six Parishes adjoining, and the Parish of Mestham. I give to my son-in-law, Sir John Arundell, Knight, and my daughter Elizabeth, his wife, a chafing dish of silver, &c. To my son-in-law, George Medeley, Esq., and my daughter Marie his wife, two pots of silver, etc., and all my household stuff remaining at Tyltey on the day of my death, To my son Thomas Danett, a basin and ewer of silver, parcel gilt, &c., and to his wife Anne, my ring with a diamond. Item, to Anne Danett, widow of my son Sir John Danet, Knight, deceased, my ring bequeathed me by my sister Shelley. To my nephew (grandson) John Arundell, Esq., son and heir to the said Sir John, one gilt goblet with a cover graven with the greyhound's head and the lizard, To my nephews (grandsons) Thomas, George and Edward Arundell, younger sons of Sir John, a Gilt spoon apiece, with the letter M enamelled on the top, and the like to my nieces (grand-daughters) Cecill, Marie and Elizabeth Arundell. To Anne Atkinson £6 13s. 4d. To Leonard Danet, a little standing cup, gilt. To Gerard and Thomas Danet, younger sons of my said son Sir John, a gilt spoon as above. To Jane Danet, one of the daughters of my said late son, a little casting bottle, &c. To my niece, the Lady Mary Carrowe, late wife to Sir Henrie Guldeford, Knight, my little candlestick of silver To my good Lord, the Lord John Graye and Dame Marie his wife, two rings of fine gold. To my nephews Sir Anthony Cooke of Guydyhall, Knight, and Thomas Wootton, Esq. son and heir of Sir Edward Wootton, Knight, deceased, rings enamelled with the letter M on the inside. To Marie Wootton, widow of my nephew William Wootton, deceased, a like ring. To Cecill Elyys 20s. My executors shall have all moneys coming out of my estate of inheritance in Bedford and Broome. I give to Thomas

Danet, son and heir of my son Thomas Danet, my best feather bed and bedding, &c., &c., at his age of 22. To Edward, Awdeley, George, and John Danett, sons of my son Thomas, a gilt spoon apiece with the letter M and the like to their sisters Frances and Jane Danet. To John Danet, second son of my son Sir John, the little pot which the Queen's Majesty gave me for a New Year's gift, two cushions of verders with the greyhound's head, &c. To Henry Medeley, son and heir to my son-in law George Medeley, a goblet of silver. My two suits of hanging of cloth remaining in London to be divided between my son Thomas, and the said Henry Medeley. To Elizabeth Medeley, one of the daughters of the said George, my best damask gown, &c., and my bedstead which I used myself to be in at the Myneris (Minories.) To Mary Medley, her sister, my striped gown of satin. To Mary Danett, daughter of my son Thomas, my gown of satin furred with martins. My executors shall occupy all my lands in Great Dorsett, and Birton alias Dorsett, and Byrton in the county of Warwick. and in Old Lydde and Langporte, co. Kent, except my part of the Manor of Great Dorsett and Birton alias Dorsett, and Birton which I have covenanted to remain at my death to Leonard Danett, Esq., my cousin and heir apparent by Indenture between myself and him dated 15th December 1 and 2 Phillip and Mary, and excepting the lands I have conveyed to my younger son Thomas Danett, they shall also occupy my third part of the woods in St. Mary Cray, Orpington, Follescraie, and Chiselhurst, for 15 years from my decease. I give to my niece Mary Whitneye £15. To Dorothy Perrie 4 marks. To Elizabeth and Marie Medeley, daughters of George Medeley, Esquire, £50 apiece. To William Medeley, one of the sons of the said George, a holy water stoupe with the sprinkle gilt. To Mary Danet, eldest daughter to my son Thomas £50, if she die before she be married, then to remain successively to her younger sisters, Frances and Jane, to their marriages. To my servants, John Gonne and William Gorton, £10 apiece. My executors shall have as above all rents of certain meadows in the Manor of Bronkynsthorpe, co. Leicester. I ordain my executors, my Lord John Greye, my said nephew Thomas

Wootton, Esquire, George Medeley, Esquire, and my son Thomas Danet."

(Signed) MARIE DANET.

Proved in P.O.C. 15 December, 1558, by Justinian Kidd, Proctor for the executors named. (16 Welles).

Gerard and Mary had besides other issue:—Sir John Dannatt, Kt., and Thomas Dannatt, who married Anne, daughter of Sir Matthew Browne, Knight, a cousin of Lord John Grey's wife.

Sir John Dannatt was born in 1503. and married Anne, daughter and sole heir of John Ellenbridge; he was living in 1539, and had issue:—Sir John Dannatt, Knt., Leonard Dannatt, Esq., Gerard Dannatt, Esq., Thomas Dannatt, Esq., Jane Dannatt, and Mary Dannatt, married to William Jephson, who was executor to the Will of Sir John Dannatt in 1606.

Leonard Dannett appears to be the first Lord of Westhope. In 1561 Queen Elizabeth purchased the Manor of Westhope from Henry Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel, and John Lumley, Lord Lumley, and Jane his wife. In Easter Term, 10 Elizabeth, 1568, Leonard Dannatt purchased the Manor of Westhope from Lodovic Grevell and Thomasina his wife. Final Concord between Leonard Dannatt, Armiger, Complainant, and Ludovic Grevell, Armiger, and Thomasina his wife, deforciant, of the Manor of Westhope, with the appurtenances. and 30 messuages, 20 tofts, 2 water mills, one dove cote, 30 gardens, 500 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 100 acres of wood, 100 acres of furze and heath, rent £4 10s. od., and free warren with the appurtenances in Westhoppe. (Feet of Fines, Easter Term, 10 Elizabeth, 1568).

In the Chancery Proceedings temp. Elizabeth (Series 2, pars 54, no. 3) is a Suit between "Leonard Danet, Esquire, Plaintiff, and William Head and Francis Head, Defendants. Long before the said supposed entry in the Bill specified, the Honorable Yearle of Arundel was of and the Manor of Westhope whereof the land to which the entry is supposed to be is being holden of the Manor of Westhope day of March in 2 and 3 years of our late Lord and Lady and Quene Philip and Mary.

died did by one, Thomas Paulmer Thomas Stradling, &c., authorised by the said Erle, according to the custom of the said Manor, let to Walter Head, 2 messuages, one yard land, and a parcel of ground lying in a place called "The Bache" within the said Manor of Westhope. The Defendants had destroyed a fence. Dated 25 January, 1569. This document is much injured.

In the Chancery Proceedings temp. Elizabeth (Series II., 51, No. 33), is a Suit between Leonard Dannatt, plaintiff, and Robert Bishopp and others, defendants, dated 27 April, 1570. Your orator Leonard Dannett, of Dannetts Hall, co. Leicester, Esqre., is seized of the Manor of Westhop, in the County of Sallopp, in his desmesne as of fee, or of fee tayle, of what estate certyngly youre saide oratoure knoweth not, by Reasone that he wanteth the deed of evidences thereof made, parcell of which Manor, one messuage and divers lands and tenements thereunto belonging, late in the tenure of one Roger Stedman, and now in the occupation of one Robert Bushopp, and William Headd, ys and tyme whereof there ys no memorye to the contraye hath been and yt is percell and demysabill and used to be demysed by Copie of Court Roll of the said Manor for lyf and lyves by the Stewards of the said Manor for the tyme beinge, which messuages, landes, and tenements, one Robert Bushoppe, Ancret Bushoppe, and Robert Cockes, clayme and pretend tytle unto, by Copie of Court Roll of the said Manor for and during their lyves, unto nowe of late that the oryiginal deedes and wrytinges touchinge this said Manor, and whereby your said Oratoure should prove his Title and interest in the said Manor and premises, have casually comen to the hands of the said Robert Bushoppe, John Bushoppe, Anthony Bushoppe, Ancret Bushopps, Robert Curtis, and Thomas Addams, who sithence the obteyning and having thereof, now of late have certayne consideration among them nowe to defraude your Oratoure of the saide premises, and to the end that your saide Oratoure should not know certainly against whom to use his action for the recoverye of the same by the cources and order of the Common Laws of the Realm, yf he know his certayn title as he doth not . . . the said Robert Bushoppe, John Bushoppe, Ancret Bushoppe,

and Robert Cockes, have by deedes conveyed the said messuage and premises to the said William Hedde, and others, so that youre Oratoure cannot know against whom to use his action by the Comon Laws of the Realme as the said Robert Bushoppe, John Bushoppe, Ancret Bushoppe, Robert Cockes, Thomas Addams, and William Headde, know. For reformation whereof, your said Oratoure is without remedy by the Order of the Common Laws of this Realme, because he knoweth not certainly the contents of the said deedes nor writings what estate is by them lymited or made, nor yet who is tenant of the freeholde of the premises.

Answer of Robert and Ancrete Bishopp. A Long tyme since the Righte Honorable the Earl of Arundell was seized in his demesne as of fee or fee tayle of and in the said Manor of Westhope. The customary lands of which Manor whereof the memory of man have byn and yet are demysed and demysable by Copie of Court Roll of the said Manor for term of one, two or three lyves, by the Steward of the Manor. And the said Earl, so being of the said Manor with appurtenances seised, at a Court holden of the same Manor of Westhope 16 March, 2 & 3 Philip and Mary, by Sir Thomas Stradlyng and Sir Thomas Palmer, Knights, and other commissioners and Stewards for the said Earl, they did by Copie of Court Roll demyse and grant unto the saide Robert Bishoppe, Ancret Bishoppe, and one John Cockes, the tenements and lands with the appurtenances then late in the tenure and occupation of one Roger Stedman, being and which tyme out of the mind of man have byn customar ye lands and parcel of the said Manor, to have and to hold the same unto the said Robert, Ancret, and John Bishoppe, for their natural lyves, and the longer liver and successively. By force of which Robert Bishoppe, the first named, entered into and was admitted tenant, and did his services, the issues and profits thereof comyng, rising, and growing in his owne righte, and the said Ancret, as his servant and by his command have received and taken as lawful was and is for them to do.

Answer of Anthony Bishopp and Thomas Addams, who utterly disclaim any right or interest to the said tenements

and lands, and deny having made any conveyance to William Hedde of the same.

Answer of William Hedde to complaint of Leonard Dannet (55, No. 8). He says that Leonard Dannett agreed to pay him 100 marks, and the Complainant called him into the parlour of the Mansion House of Westhope, and shutt the door, and set a man to kepe it Then the complainant offered money to the defendant who refused it. (The document is considerably damaged here.) The plaintiff claimed to have paid to William Hedde £6 13s. 4d., and promised 60 marks more on the condition that William Hedde, Johan, his wife and their sons Walter, Francis, John, Edward, Thomas, and Gregorie, gave up all right and claim to the premises.

Feet of Fines, Salop, Easter Term, 18 Elizabeth, 1576. Final concord between Charles Fox, Complainant, and Leonard Dannet, deforciant, of the Manor of Westhope, with the appurtenances and four messuages, seven cottages, six tofts, one watermill, one dovecot, six gardens, 400 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 2 acres of pasture, 400 acres of wood, 100 acres of furse and heath, 2 acres of moors and free warren, with the appurtenances in Westhope and Dydelbury. The said Leonard Dannet to make over to the said Charles Fox the said Manor, lands, tenements and free-warren. Charles Fox to hold it of the gift of Leonard Dannet. The said Leonard Dannet remitted and quit claimed for himself and his heirs to the said Charles Fox, and his heirs for ever, the said Manor, tenements, lands, and free warren, with the appurtenances. And the said Leonard Dannet will warrant this against the said Leonard and his heirs, and against Lodovic Grevill, Armiger, and his heirs for ever; and in return for his recognition, remission, and quit claim, Charles Fox pays to the said Leonard Dannet £400 sterling. Salop, the day after the Ascension of our Lord in the 18th year of the reign of Elizabeth (1576).

Early Chancery Proceedings, Series II, 54 No, 3 (no date, but temp. Elizabeth.) To the Ryghte Honourable Sir Nicholas Bacon, Knighte, Lord Keeper of the Greate Seale of England.

Your Orator Leonard Dannett, of Dannetts Hall in Co.

Leicester, Esquire. Whereas your said orator was and yet is lawfully seised in his demesne as of free, by good and just title of inheritance, by good and sufficient conveyance and assurance in the lawe, of and in the Manor of Westhop with the appurtenances in the County of Salop, and of and in divers messuages, lands, tenements, commons, and hereditaments with the appurtenances belonging to the same, set, lying and being, in the said Countie. So yt is, Right Honorable Lord that divers and sundrie dedes, evidences, charters, escriptes, terrors, rentalls, Court rolls, and other mynynments and writings touching and concerning the said Manor, and other the said premises, with their appurtenances, explaining, mentonyng, and declaring, the certeyne by mites, metes, and boundes, of the said Manor and other the premises and rightfullie belonging unto your said Orator, are parte casuallie parte, craftelie, dishonestie, and by false and sinister meanes come to the hande, and custodie, and possession of one William Hedd of Westhop, yeoman. By reason that one Lodowyck Grevell of Milcot, Esquier, sometyme Lord of the said Manor who solde the same to your said orator about two yeres laste paste, did constitute, make, and appoynte, the said William, his bayliff within the said Manor, who thereby was permytted by youre said orator, after the purchase of the said Manor to execute the said office as Bayliff, and he, the same William, by colour of the same office hathe sithens gotten into his custodie and possession the said dedes evidences, terrors, Court Rolls, Rentalls, and other the said escriptes, etc., touching the said premises, and by colour of having of the same hathe and dothe unlawfullie without all manner or juste and reasonable cause, clayme, and pretend and title and interest into divers percelles of the said premises to the great disquiet, losse, and prejudyce, of your said orator and hath sundry tymes wrongfullie and unlawfullie entered upon divers and sundrie parcells of the same premises, and hathe not onlie topped and felled downe the trees, and underwood, growing and being in and upon the same, and with his beaste and cattell consumed destroyed and plowed upp the comens and severall grounds of your said orator, belonging to the said Manor to your said orators grete losse, and hindrance, and to the grete impoverishment

of your said orator's tennants and fermors, then but also by lyke wronge hath erected there and sett up certen barnes, and edifices, in and upon divers parcells of the said premises, and hath enclosed divers and sundrie parcells of the same, and not so contented hathe lykewise verie wrongfullie, and unlawfullie, caused and procured one ffrancis Hedd his sonne, Robert Busshoppe and Anne his wife, and divers other personnes to your said orator unknown, to enter in and upon the said premises, and to dige or caste downe one Bancke or dyche of a certain ground called the Neytheryarde, which saide bancke and dyche your saide orator ys to make and maneteyne, for that the same do stand upon his Manor and inheritance, and albeit your said orator hath divers and sunderie tymes most friendelie and earnestlie asked the said William Hedd to deliver unto him the said Dedes.

Answer of William Hedd and Francis Hedd (54 No. 48.)

Some tyme before the said subposed entrye into the Lands in the bill specified, Henry, Earl of Arundel (was seized) and Manor of Westhope whereof the land where the entry is subposed to be is parcel, seysed in his demesne as of fee, and being so seized, at a Court holden in the Manor of Westhope at Westhope, on the daye of Marche in the 2nd and 3rd yeare of the raigne of our late Sovereigne Lord and Ladye King Phillipe and Quene Marye (1555-6), did by one Thomas Paulmer, Thomas Stradlinge and others then appoynted and authorized by the saide Erle, accordinge to the custom of the said Manor, demyse grant and sell by Coppye of Court Rowle, accordinge to the custom of the saide Manor and to Walter Hed his sonne, two Messuages parcel of the saide Manor, on yard Land being in the several tenures and occupations of William Hearth and John Tasker, by force whereof the said William and Walter entered and were thereof seised in their demesne as of freehold accordinge to a Further the said William, and John Head son of the said William Head, defendant at the Court aforesaid, toke of the said Comysioners accordinge and by Coppye of Court Royle, three acres ground of the said Erle lyinge in a place cawled The Bache within the s^d Manor of Westhope, by force whereof the said defendant & Johane his wife and

the said John the said 3 acres with the Barne one Thomas Mytton gent. of the saide land whereon the s^d Barne is erected lawfullie seised many years yet enduring, and by his dede dated 26 July, 4 Elizabeth (1562), did demyse and grante it to William Head, who denies that he unlawfully cut down trees, etc.

(The document is damaged.)

Close Rolls, 29 Elizabeth (1587), part 28.

Leonard Dannett, of Westhope, Co. Salop, armiger, owes to William Baldwin, of Clements Inn, £200.

On the 8 June, 34 Elizabeth (1592), this has been paid.

Close Rolls, 17 Elizabeth (1575), part 18.

Leonard Dannett, of Danetts Hall, owes Ludovic Greville, of Nidcott, co. Warwick, Armiger, £180.

23 Eliz. (1581) Leonard Dannatt, of Danetts Hall, owes Edward Pytt £800.

In 18 Elizabeth (1576), Charles Fox purchased the Manor of Westhope from Leonard Dannatt; evidently this purchase did not take effect, and the sale was only a mortgage. The family of Fox are well known in Shropshire, their pedigree is in the Visitation of Salop of 1623. It does not appear that Leonard Dannatt married, for on 23 February, 1592-3, a Commission was issued to John Danett, brother of Leonard Danett, Esquire, late of Danetts Hall in the Parish of St. Mary, in the town of Leicester, deceased, to administer the goods of the said deceased, in the person of John Smith notary public, his proctor in that behalf. (P.C.C. Administration Act Book, 1592—1598, folio 6.)

The following Nuncupative Will of Leonard Dannett, of Dannett's Hall, co. Leicester, was proved at Leicester in 1591.

Nuncupative Will or declaration made and delivered 10 Feb., 1590, in the presence of servants Thos. Wilcox and Nicholas Ludlam. To every servant of one years service £5 over and above their salary. My Manor of Dannetts Hall and Walch Hail to be sold for the payment of my debts. My brother John To Edw. Cowlie and Dorothy his wife, all my goods, chattels, debts, etc., whom I make my executors. My body to be buried at Leicester.

Upon the morrow being Thursday he said in the presence

of said Witnesses that he did not "remembre cheres Christians year I would not she shalbe utterlie turned out of dorres," but that she may have the things she brought with her, and such parts as may fall to her "fr. Asplye-ard-Elmgbridge." (?).

Proved at Leicester xxj. Jan. 1591 (No. 132.)

(No children or other relatives are mentioned).

Sir John Dannatt, of Danett's Hall, co. Leicester, the brother of Leonard Dannatt, became on the death of his brother Lord of Westhope. He married twice, his first wife being Elizabeth, daughter of John Lenton. The Chancery Proceedings of 1553 (49, No. 63), record a suit by John Danet and Elizabeth his wife against Richard Mitton. He . . . Sir Thomas Grey, Knight, late Lord Grey, attainted of high treason, at his apprehension delivered to Richard Mitton, to the use of the said Lord Grey, divers goods, £200 in money, jewells, etc. Queen Mary by letters patent, in the 1st year (1553) of her reign, gave to the said Elizabeth, one of your said Orators, among other things, all the goods of Sir Thomas Grey and possessions at the time of his apprehension. Elizabeth and her husband have applied to Richard Mitton, who refused to give them up.

Richard Mitton, in his answer, says that Sir Thomas Grey possessed, at the time of his apprehension, money and jewels, horses and armour, rings, and a ring of gold with a stone called a ruby, worth 53/4, other rings, a suit of mayle, etc. Lord Grey, fleeing beyond the seas, passed through Oswastre, of which towne Richard Mitton was an officer unto the Right Honorable Henry. . . . Richard Mitton thought it his duty to arrest Sir Thomas Grey, Richard Pedocke, and one or two others with him, and took from him the rings, etc. There is much more, and it is a very interesting case, and throws light on the history of the times.¹ Lord Thomas Grey was uncle to Lady Jane Grey and the Duke of Suffolk, and was beheaded 8 March, 1553-54. Sir John married secondly, Agnes, daughter of John Bellamy. His Will, in which he described as Sir John Dannatt, late of

¹ Reference should be made to an interesting paper by the late Mr. William Phillips, entitled "The Capture of Lord Thomas Grey in Shropshire," printed in the *Shropshire Archaeological Transactions*, 3rd Series, II., 143—150.

Dannett's Hall, but now of Westhope, in the Parish of Didleburie, co. Salop, Esquire, is dated 29 January, 1606-7.

"I will that my debts be paid, and likewise that small remnant that is yet unpaid of my late brother Leonard Danett's debts. I have conveyed to Agnes my wife, for her life, my lands called Westhope aforesaid; and Milcourte alias Mulcourte in the Parishes of Binstead and Froill, co. Southants. The reversion of Milcourte, which I purchased of Ferdinand, Lord Windsor, deceased, I give to my friends, William Bellamy my brother (in law), and Thomas Lenton, my cousin, in trust to sell the same, with the advice of my brother William Jephson and my friend Mr. Richard Atkins, one of His Majesty's Council in the Marches of Wales, Esquires, for the performance of this my Will. The reversion of my Manor of Westhope shall go to my brother Gerrard in tail mail; remainder to the heirs of my late brother Thomas, John and Thomas successively; remainder to my nephew Sir William Jephson, Knight; remainder to my nephew Sir John Jephson, Knight; and then to my own right heirs. The reversion of Danetts Hall and Walch Hall in the Parish of St. Mary's, in the Borough of Leicester, and all lands which descended to me from my said late brother Leonard Danett, or which I have purchased since his death, shall remain in tail male to my brother Gerrard, and the heirs of my late brother Thomas, "one after the other, John and Thomas," and then to my own right heirs. I give to the last said John and Thomas, annuities of £10 each at their ages of 21.

Item, to John and Latimer Sampson, sons of Mr. Nathaniel Sampson, Master of the New Hospital in Leicester, £6 13s. 4d. yearly, for their lives, so long as my heirs of Danett Hall shall enjoy the lease of the New Hospital. Edward Cooley, my servant, shall have £4 a year abated of his rent of Aspley during his life, and the life of Dorothy his wife. Whereas I levied a fine of the Manor of Aspley, and of all my lands in Co. Stafford, for the making of leases, &c., I now entail it again in the same manner as it is entailed in the deeds that were before of my mother's conveyance.

I bequeath to my brothers Jephson and Gerrard, to Sir William and Sir John Jephson, to my nieces Mervin and

Lucas, to Mr. Sacheverell, and Mr. Nathaniel Sampson, of Leicester, preachers, to Mr. Robert Horne, Mr. Stephens, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Farmer, minister and preachers, and my brother (in law) William Bellamy, to every one of them a ring, in every ring to be the word, "Praise God." Item, to Mary Jewell £20. To Elizabeth Bellamy, my wife's niece, £10. To John Bellamy my servant, my lease of the fulling mill of Milcourte. To Thomasine Streek, my wife's niece, 40s. To John Porter, my late servant, a debt he claimeth of my late brother Leonard Danett, and the like to Edward Purslowe my servant.

I will that Mr. Robert Horne, preacher, with Mary his wife, after my decease shall have their continuance with Agnes my wife, according to covenants under my hand dated 30th April, 2 James I. (1605). I will that John ap Powell and William Dyke my tenants, shall have leases of their houses.

I forgive my brother Gerrard the £100 he oweth me, on condition he in no sort trouble Agnes my wife. He hath no cause so to do, because though Milcourt be sold, I have bequeathed to him my purchased land of better value than £2000. To his son John, and to every of his children I give a piece of gold. I will that when Thomas Lenton, my cousin, reneweth the lease, he shall have ten years' rent or £100.

I make executors of this my Will my dear brother (in law) Mr. William Jephson, Agnes my wife, and William Bellamy her brother, and I bequeath to the said Mr. Jephson whose integrity I know, a gilt silver jug of the value of £10, and do will to be written upon it, "God thanke you." I give to my friend Mr. William Baldwyn gent., a gold ring. To the Parish of Didlebury 40s. To the poor of Ludlow 20s.

(Signed) JOHN DANETT.

I release the aforesaid Richard Atkyns, esquire, of all claims that might be made by me or my heirs to the Manors of Boyfeside and Morecote in the County of Gloucester, that were sold unto him by my late brother Leonard Dannett.

Witnesses: Robert Horne, Minister, Thomas Ellis, Minister, Elizabeth Bellamy.

Proved P.C.C. 30 April, 1607, by Agnes Danett the Executrix named. (28 Huddlestone.)

Inquisition Post Mortem Sir John Danett, 5 James I (Chancery Inq. 5 Jac. I., 2 pars, volume 300, No. 174.)

Inquisition taken at Leominster before John Hooper, Eschætor, 3 August, 5 James I. (1607), after the death of John Dannett. The jury find that John Danett was seized in his own demesne and as of fee, of and in the Manor of Westhope, with the appurtenances, in the Parish of Diddlebury, and of divers lands, messuages and hereditaments in Westhope, and of the capital messuage or site of the Manor of Milcourte alias Mulcourte, with the appurtenances in Bynsteed and ffroyle, co. Southampton. By Indenture dated 7 January, 42 Elizabeth, made between him the said John Danett of Danett's Hall, co. Leicester, on the one part, and William Jephson of ffroyle, co. Southampton, and Edmund Mervin of Peterfield, senior, esquires, Thomas Hutley of Hauton, co. Salop, Gentleman, William Baldwin of Ludlow, Gentleman, and William Bellamy of Axminster, co. Devon, Gentleman, on the other part, John Danett gave to the above six gentlemen, the Manors of Milcourte and Westhope, to the use of the said John Danett for life, and then to the use of Agnes his wife for life, in satisfaction of her dower, and after her decease to the use of the heirs of the body of John and Agnes Danett; if they had no child then as to the Manor of Westhope, etc., to the use of Gerard Danett, brother and heir of John Danett, and to the heirs of his body; in default of such, to his brother, Thomas Danett, and to the heirs of his body; in default of such, to John Jephson, nephew of John Danett for life, then to William Jephson (John Jephson's elder brother) and his heirs, then to the heirs of John Danett for ever. As to Milcourt, after the decease of John Danett without issue, to his wife, and after her decease, to Thomas Danett, brother of John Danett for life, then to Gerard Danett the other brother, and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten; for lack of such heirs, to Thomas Danett, and for lack of such heirs then to William Jephson, by virtue of which Indenture, and by the force of an Act of Parliament dated 4 February, 27 Henry VIII. (1536), about uses, the said John Danett was seised of Westhope and Milcourte for his life, with remainder to Agnes Danett for her life. Also that John Danett on the 18 January, 2

James I. (1605) gave to William Baldwin, one of the feoffees, a piece of gold value 5/- before divers witnesses. And they further find that on the 29th January last, John Danett made his Will, and gave the reversion of Milcourte to William Bellamy his brother (in law) and Thomas Lenton, his kinsman, and their heirs, with the intention that within a year of John's death they should sell it, with the advice and assent of William Jephson, and Richard Atkins, Armiger, and use the money to pay his debts and legacies. He gave the reversion of the Manor of Westhope, to Gerard Danett his brother, and his heirs male, in default of such, to the heirs male of Thomas Danett late brother of the said John Danett, viz. John and Thomas successively, and if it happen Gerard and Thomas Danett die without heirs male of their bodies, then to William Jephson his nephew, and his heirs male of his body. If William Jephson die without issue, then to Sir John Jephson, Knight, John Danett's nephew, and to the right heirs of the Testator. And the jury also find that the said John Danett was seised on the day of his death in his own demesne and as of fee, of and in the Manor of Bromkingsthorpe and of 5 messuages with the appurtenances in the Parish of St. Mary de Castro in the town of Leicester. The Manor of Bromkingsthorpe by the name of Dannett Hall and Walshall and all his property in Leicestershire, both of which he had as heir to his brother Leonard Danett, and that which he bought he left to Gerard Danett his brother, and his heirs male lawfully begotten, in default to the heirs of Thomas Danett lately deceased his brother, namely John and Thomas Danett, failing these, to the right heirs of the said John Danett, but out of these an annuity to John Danett the elder son of Thomas Danett his late brother £10 till 21 years of age, and an annuity to Thomas Danett his brother's younger son, and an annual rent of £6 13s. 4d. to John and Latimer, sons of Nathaniel Sampson, Master of the New Hospital for their lives *i.e.* each five marks. Also Edward Cowley to have £4 per annum during the life of Edward and his wife Dorothy. The Manor of Aspley to Anne Danett for life, and after her decease to the said John Danett for life, with remainder, after the death of John Danett, to the right heirs of Sir John Danett, Knight, father

of the said John Danett and his heirs male. And remainder, in default of such, to Anne Danett, wife of the said Sir John Danett, Knight and her heirs. Further the Lady Anne Danett, mother of the said John Danett, died long before John Danett (her son). And said John Danett died at Westhope on 12 February last, and Gerard Danett is his brother and next heir, and is 60 years old and more. And the Manor of Westhope was held by John Danett of our Lord the King, as of his Manor of East Greenwich, in free and common socage, by fealty for all services, and not in capite, and is worth net £5 per annum. Agnes Danett his widow is still living at Westhope.

On the 3rd of June, 1605, a commission was issued to Mercy Danett, relict of Thomas Dannatt late of Diddlebury in the County of Salop deceased, to administer the goods of the said deceased. (P.C.C. Admon Act Book, 1605-1610, folio 8.) This Thomas is the brother of Leonard Dannett, and he is mentioned in the will of Sir John Dannett, Knt.

Sir John Dannett's estates were inherited, after the death of Agnes his widow, by his brother Gerard Dannett, who became Lord of Westhope. He married at Elmbridge, co. Worcester 19 October, 1595, Sara, daughter of Edward Caldwell, of Upton Warren, co. Worcester. He had issue John and Gerard, and two daughters.

Will of Edward Caldwell of Upton Warren, co. Worcester, gentleman. (This is evidently the father of Sara Caldwell, the wife of Gerard Dannett). To my wife Mary Caldwell, all my goods. My late deceased uncle Richard Caldwell, Doctor of Physic. My sons Robert and Samuel Caldwell. My brothers Robert, John, William and Joseph Caldwell. My wife Executrix. Witnesses: Robert and Joseph Caldwell. The second Codicil mentions his six daughters, one Sara.

Will proved in P.C.C., 14 February, 1586. (8 Spencer).

Inquisition Post Mortem Gerard Dannett, 8 James I., 1611, No. 147.

Inquisition taken 14 January, 8 James I. (1611), after the death of Gerard Dannett. The Jury find that Gerard Dannett, at the time of his death, was seised of the Manor of Bromkingthorpe, alias Dannetts Hall and Walshall, and

of 5 messuages with the appurtenances in Leicester, and of the Reversion of the Manor of Westhope, and of divers messuages in Elmbridge. Also that Gerard Dannett made his will 6 June, 8 James I. (1611). To be buried in the Parish Church of Doderhill or elsewhere. The Manor of Elmbridge to his wife Sara for life in dower, after her decease to Gerard Dannett my younger son and his assigns for life. On condition that if John Dannett shall at any time pay to Gerard Dannett during his lifetime £500, the estate of Gerard Dannett in this property shall be void. I owe to my friend Walter Cowley, citizen and ironmonger of London, £500, to be paid the 22 October next. I will that my friends Edmund Purcell of Purcell Hall, Gentleman, Samuel Caldwell, Gentleman, my brother in law, and Edward Cowley of Brude, Staffordshire, shall sell the Manor of Aspeley. To my daughters Mary and Anne Dannett £300 each when 21, or married with my wife's consent. I require that my son John Dannett and his heirs do, within three years after the death of Agnes Dannett widow, late wife of my brother John Dannett Esquire deceased, pay to John Dannett and Thomas Dannett, sons of Thomas Dannett my brother deceased, £240, which is to them severally bequeathed or limited by way of annuity of £10 per annum till 21. My goods and chattels to my wife and four children equally. Gerard Dannett died the 6 June, 8 James I. (1611) at Elmbridge. John Dannett is his son and heir, and at the time of the taking of this Inquisition of the age of 12 years except 14 days. Mentions tenure of the Manor of Bromkingtonthorpe. The Manor of Westhope with all appurtenances is held of our Lord the King, as of his Manor of East Greenwich, in free and common soccage by fealty only, and is worth during the life of Agnes Dannett nothing, as she holds it for life, but after her decease is worth £5.

In the Subsidy Rolls for co. Salop of 21 James I. (1624), and of 1 Car. I. (1625), Anne Dannatt holds lands in Westhope worth £3 per annum, and pays 12/- to the Subsidy. (Subsidy Rolls, ¹⁶⁷/₁₆₆ and ¹⁶⁷/₁₆₁, Salop.)

The Inquisition seems to prove that Lady Agnes Dannatt, Widow, was Lady of Westhope, and it seems probable that she and Gerard Dannatt resided there, for in 1 Car. I. (1625),

Anne Dannatt, widow, was assessed for lands in Westhope, and in 1626 she was living there, but in 1637 her property went to Gerard Dannatt's heir.

The Will of Agnes Dannatt, of Westhope, co. Salop, Widow, is dated August 1626. I bequeath my body to be buried in the Chancel of the Parish Church of Diddlebury. I give to the poor of the said Parish, 20s. To the poor of the Parish of Axminster, co. Devon 40s. Item, to Samuel Bellamy, the son of my nephew John Bellamy, £10. To my cousin John Danett, the son of my brother in law Thomas Danett gentleman, deceased, £10, together with a silver bowl and two silver spoons. To my cousin Thomas Danett, brother of the said John Danett, £10, &c. Item, to Margaret, daughter of William Jenkes, £5 and two silver spoons. All the rest of my goods not bequeathed, I give to John Bellamy my nephew, the son of William Bellamy my brother deceased, and I appoint my said nephew to be my executor.

The Mark of Agnes Dannett.

Witnesses: Fr Philips, Edward Purslowe's mark, Arthur Pie's mark.

Proved in P.C.C. 20th November 1626, by John Bellamy the executor named. (122 Hele).

John Dannett became the next Lord of Westhope. His Inquisition Post Mortem was taken 4 Car. I. (1629). (Chancery Inquisition, Volume 443, No. 63.)

Inquisition taken at Hinckley 6 June 4 Charles I., before Robert Chamberlain Esquire, eschætor, after the death of John Dannett, Esq. The Jury find that the said John Dannett was seised the day before his death of the Manor of Bromkingesthorpe, alias Dannett's Hall, alias Walsall, with the appurtenances, and of 5 messuages with the appurtenances in the Parish of St. Mary de Castro, Leicester. And that by Indenture dated 29 July 18 James I. (1621) he gave to the Revd. Father in God, Thomas, Bishop of Peterborough, and William Dove senior, the Manor and other premises in Bromkingesthorpe alias Dannett's Hall alias Walsall, To Hold to the use of the said John Dannett for life, then to the use of Thomas Dannett, son and heir apparent to the said John Dannett and his heirs male, by

virtue of which Indenture and by the force of an Act of Parliament of Henry VIII. dated 4 February, 27 year of his reign (1536), the said John Dannett held it for life, with remainder to his son Thomas Dannett. Further that the said John Dannett was seised of the Reversion of the Manor of Westhope etc., and the Reversion of the Manor of Elmbridge, co. Worcester, and of Aspeley, co. Stafford, immediately after the deceased of one Sara Dannett widow, late the wife of one John Dannett, Esq., deceased, and of Gerard Dannett, Esq., etc. And the Jury find that the said John Dannett died 4 May last, and Thomas Dannett is son and heir, and was at his father's death not 15, viz. on 15 August last he was 8 years old and no more.

And the Jury further find that the Manor of Bromkington or Walshall was held of our Lord the King, as of his Manor of Leicester, parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, by military service by the 12th part of a Knights fee, and are worth £10. And that the Manor of Westhope in the Parish of Diddlebury, with all and singular messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments, were held of our Lord the King, as of his Manor of East Greenwich, by fealty only, not by Knight's service, and are worth during the life of the said Sara and Gerard Dannett nothing, as Sara and Gerard Dannett hold them for their lives. And after the decease of Sara and Gerard Dannett they will be worth £5 per annum. And that the Manor of Elmbridge is held of Sir John Packington, Knight, as of his Manor of Wichbould, by an annual rent of 12d, but by what other services the jurors know not. They are worth nothing till the decease of Sara and Gerard Dannett. They will then be worth £3-6-8. And that the Manor of Aspeley was held of Sir Walter Leveson, Knight, as of his Manor of Coven, and is during the life of Sara and Gerard Dannett worth nothing, but afterwards will be worth 20/- And that Sara and Gerard Dannett are living.

In 1628, Gerard Dannett is stated to have been assessed 8s., in respect of lands worth 20s. in Culmington and Siston (Siefert), in the Hundred of Munslow (Lay subsidy, ¹⁶⁷/₂₀₀ Salop.) In a terrier much mutilated in the Bishop's Registry at Hereford of the lands and tithes belonging to Diddlebury in

1637, is this :—"Westhope—payd by all the inhabitants of Westhope in recompence of theyr teith hey, six pence yearly --Item further teith of a toonout in the tenure of Gerard Dannett 2s. yearly—" In the Chancery Proceedings (File 1126, No. 1), the heir of Gerard and Mary Dannett is John their son, and he is 17 years of age. This Gerard is the brother of John and Gerard Dannett.

The will of Thomas Dannett, the last Lord of Westhope of that family, is dated 20 January, 1654-5, and in it he is styled Thomas Dannett of Elmbridge in the County of Worcester, Esquire. "I do make Thomas Pochin of Barkbye Thorpe, Co. Leicester, Esquire, and George Caldwell, of Hope in the Parish of Clifton upon Teame, co. Worcester, Gent., executors of my Will. I give all my Manor of Westhope in the County of Salop, to be sold by my executors for the payment of my debts, which amount to £1000 and upwards, and for the raising of £300 apiece for every of my five younger children by my former wife, or so much thereof, to be equally divided among them, as may be raised by the said means. And in case £400 is raised, I will that my daughter Sarah shall have £100 of the overplus, and the residue if there be any shall remain to my son Gerard. If any of the said younger children die before their age of 21. or marriage, the portion of the deceased to be divided among the survivors. My executors shall receive the profits of my Manor of Elmbridge till my son Gerard be 21. I commend my other three children to my loving wife, their mother. In case of her death or marriage, my executors shall have power with the consent of Ferdinando Sacheverall of Old Hayes, Co. Leicester, esquire, to lease out my Manors of Bronkingsthorpe and Walshall Co. Leicester, to the intent of a proviso contained in an Indenture of 10 July, 1649, and the said Ferdinando shall in that case have the tuition of my said three children. Item, my executors shall deliver my sealing ring to my son Gerard. I give £20 for the binding apprentice of Leonard Dannett my uncle's son. To Thomas Royley and Mary his wife and every of my now servants which shall be with me at my death, I give 10s. apiece. To the poor of Elmbridge 5s. to be distributed by Thomas Withie. All the residue of my goods, I give to my wife and my son Gerard.

(Signed) THO. DANNETT.

BB

Witnesses: Thos. Birrington, Fer. Sacheverell, Pl. Berwicke, John Marshall.

Proved in P.C.C. 12 March, 1654-5, by George Caldwell, the other executor having renounced, &c. (340 Aylett.)

In 1654-5, under the Will of Thomas Dannatt, the Westhope Estate was sold. I have not been able to find the deed of sale, but in the same year Henry Fleming is Lord of Westhope.

The following abstracts of Dannett Wills are preserved in the Leicester Registry.

Will of Thomas Dennett of Mych Bowdon.

Will dated the 17 Sept., 1522. My soul to Almighty God, our Lady Saint Mary and All Souls, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Peter and Pawle of Boweden. My best goods for my mortuary after the custom of the town. To the church of Lincoln vijd. To the repellacon off the hye auter, and welfare of the Church of Myche Bowdon id., my executors to pay of my goods. To John Smith, son of Thomas, x marks at Michaelmas 1524. To Thomas Smith, son of Thomas, £5, at Michaelmas, 1527. The residue of my goods, etc., to Agnes Denet my wife, and John Denet (here obliterated) my executors.

Richard Dekyn, Wm. Bowgton, and Robert Johnson to be Overseers, and to have xijd each.

Witnesses: Sir William Gasken, prest, Wm. Sowther, Chartre prest, John Corte, John Dekyn, Thos. Smyth.

(No Probate Act).

(Register Book of Wills at Leicester, 1515-1526, folio 173.)

Will of Christian Dannett of the Borough of Leicester, widow.

Will dated 15 April, 1604. My body to be buried in the Parish Church of St. Margaret's, Leicester. Bequests of bedding, clothing, etc., to the following: To Margaret Dryver, daughter of Danett Dryver my late nephew. To my daughter Annie Wills, and Mary Bateman and Elizabeth Laurence of Wittington. The following are mentioned: - Richard Bateman son of said Mary, and his brother William Bateman, William Sympkyn, son of my said daughter Anne Wills and Jane his wife, Christian Wales goddaughter, Anne

Dryver my servant, Thomas Wilcox and his wife, my servant John Wales, and Katherine his wife. To John Wales the younger, a silver spoon. My goddaughter Christian Rudinge. John Dryver and Jervis Dryver. To my nephew Walter Rudinge, a silver spoon. Richard Wills son of my said daughter Anne Wills. Rose Style. My late servants Jane Blisse and Dennys. Edward Cowley and Dorothy his wife, John Goddall & his wife. To the Lady Deverux a bracelett. To the Lady Hastings a looking glass. To the poor of Leicester £10. To the poor of the old Hospital near Leicester 20s. The rest of my goods to my servant Thomas Wilcox, my sole Executor. Overseers Wm. Norris and Edward Garley. Legacies To the said William Symkyn £10. To Margaret Dryver £12. To John Dryver, Anne Dryver and my said daughter Anne Wills £10 each. To Richard Wills £10 To Mrs. Gatley 10s. in gold. To Edith Wilcox 10s. To Wm. Symkyn £10 more and to Joan his wife a guinea.

Witnesses: Edward Gatley, W. Norice, William Newton, Margaret Dryver.

Proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 25 July 1606. Original Probate filed at Leicester 1605 (No. 117.)

Monumental Inscriptions to the Dannetts.

At Tilley Abbey, Essex. The Effigy of a man and wife, with six sons and six daughters, and Arms. "Hic jacet sepultus, cum conjuge Maria, Gerardus Danet, de Bronkynsthorpe, in com. Lecestrie, arm. serenissimi regis Henrici octavi consiliarius. Ob. 4 Maij 1520, an. regni Hen. VIII. 20. Quorum animabus propitiatur Deus. Amen."

At St. Mary's, Leicester, was a shield of Arms, with nine quarterings. "Leonardus Danet, de Danet's Hall, ob 1582." The St. Mary's Churchwardens' Accounts have this entry:—"1495. Rec. of M^r Gerard Danet, for wasting of torches for his lady 0 .. 3^s .. 0."

At St. Augustine's, or Doderhill Church, Worcestershire. Effigies of Mr. Gerard Danet of Elmbridge, and his wife, and four children kneeling, and shield of Arms with eight quarterings. "Here lieth the body of Gerard Danet, esquire, who died the 11th day of June 1610. Also the picture of

Sara hys second wyfe, who erected thys tombe, and by whom onely hee had issewe John, Gerard, Mary, and Anne."

At Barkby Hall, co. Leicester, on a copper plate. "John Danet, only brother of Thomas Danet, of Danet's Hall, esq., died 1 May 1645, aged 24. Frances Danet, wife of Thomas Danet, of Danet's Hall, esq., died 3 June, 1645, aged 27."

V

LORDS OF THE MANOR—FLEMING OF WESTHOPE.

HENRY FLEMING of Sibdon Castle, Lord of Westhope, was born in 1624. I have not been able to trace his parents. He married Hellen His Will was proved in 1656 (P.C.C. Wootton 124 & 294.) In it, he is described as of S. Andrew's Holborn. He appoints his dear and loveing wife executrix, and bequeaths to her the lease of his house, and all things pertayning to the said house, and all my goods, household stuffe, plate, jewells, stores, &c., at Westhope, and implements whatsoever, and £600 in money. In case all his children die before 21, he devises all his lands in Shropshire from the death of the surviving son to his wife for the term of 40 years, in case she live so long. The residue of his lands to be sold, and the money to be divided amongst such of his sister's children as shall be then living, and in such case after his wife's death the lands at Westhope to be divided between his brother Fleming and brother Bassett, if both living, but if both be deceased then to his next heir. On 21 July 1677, the estate was committed to John Fleming eldest son of the said deceased.

In the Chancel of Diddlebury Church is a mural tablet to Henry Fleming of Westhope, Esquire, who died in 1656. Arms, gules 3 crescents in fesse ermine between 7 cross crosslets fitchee argent (Fleming), impaling, per bend Sinister ermine and ermines a lion rampant, or (Tudor Trevor). Beyond that his wife's name was Hellen, nothing is known of her, but she married secondly Samuel ffoote, and was dead on the 22 November 1662. He had one son, JOHN FLEMING, Lord of Westhope and Sibdon, who was born 1652. He married Elizabeth the daughter of Sir John Edwards, knight, who was born 1655, and he was buried at Diddlebury, 30 March,

1716. He had issue thirteen sons and six daughters. A tombstone on the outside of the south wall, records their deaths.

The Will of John Fleming of Westhope in the Parish of Diddlebury co. Salop, Esqre., dated 20 February 1709-10, proved 22 June 1716 (P.C.C. 116 Fox.)

I give to my son Richard, all my writings that secure Westhope and Shadwell to him only; my picture in gold, and my interest in Monkeye that is beyond the Westbridge in Shrewsbury, together with the money he borrowed of me at Shadwell, Westhope, Bishop's Castle, and London.

To my daughter Bettridge, my stock of implements, also all my household goods, also the remainder of the said 400 [*sic*] Articles with my son John, to be paid to the younger children together with what is due from my son Benjamin and £22 is due from my son Algernon, when they come to be 21 years of age, and all other goods not here disposed of.

I give to my children that shall be living at my death, except the said Richard and Bettridge, 40s. a piece. And in case of death before the age of 21, then what is left to him by this Will to go to my son Benjamin. To my daughter Dorothy £5 and six pairs of sheets. My executor to have my pictures in gold, the gold chain I give to my wife. I appoint £20 for my funeral in the chancel of Diddlebury or Clun, with a deep impression on my grave stone:—"Unhappy Industry. Obijt the day of Anno Dni 170—, Etatis suae——." I bequeath To the poor of Diddlebury £3. I desire my good friend, who shall be my attorney at my decease, to take upon him the execution of this my Will as Trustee for my children. [*Signed*] J Fleming. Witnesses: Thomas Brompton, William Watts, John Burton.

Commission was granted to Elizabeth Fleming, guardian of Beatrice Fleming, a minor, daughter of the deceased.

These names, "my son Joseph, and my Grand-daughter Mary Fleming," are crossed out.

His wife Elizabeth survived him, and her will is dated 14 January 1728, and proved at Hereford, 23 September 1729.

The following bequest is mentioned:—"If my son Richard Fleming rebuilds the Chappell at Westhope and fits it up for the service of God within four years, then I give to endow

PEDIGREE OF FLEMING, LORD OF WESTHOPE.

HENRY FLEMING, Lord of Westhope & Sibdon. Born 1624, died 1650, buried at Diddlebury. M.I.

Helen . . . = . . . Samuel John A dau. = . . .
 Dead 22 floote, 2nd Fleming Fovey
 Nov., 1662: husband.

John Fleming, Lord of Westhope and Sibdon. Born 1652, bur. at Diddlebury, 30 March, 1716. M.I.

Elizabeth, eld. dau. of Sir John Edwards, Kt., Born 1655, died 16 Feb., 1728, aged 73, bur. at Diddlebury. M.I.

Richard Fleming Lord of Westhope & Sibdon and Shadwell-on-Clun. Born 1680, died 20 June, 1748, bur. at Clun.

Elizabeth, 4th dau. of Sir Edward Acton, Bart. Bapt. at Morville, 16 May, 1683, mar. there 12 June, 1708, bur. there 6 Feb., 1738.

Benjamin Fleming Joseph Fleming
 John Fleming Algernon Stokesay
 Henry Fleming Bapt. at 29 Aug., 1679.
 Bur. at Diddlebury, 18 Jan., 1740.
 Richard Fleming of Clun. Fleming
 Fleming

John Fleming. Born 1720, died 1764.

Hector Fleming Born 1690, bur. at Diddlebury, 7 March 1728, 13th son.

Hercules Fleming, 10th son. Born 1697, bur. at Diddlebury, 10 Nov., 1721

Elizabeth Fleming, d. 1682, bur. at Diddlebury.

Beatrice Fleming youngest, dau., mar. 25 July, 1723, died 25 May, 1724, M.I. Diddlebury.

Rev. John Acton, Vicar of Clun. B. 17 Nov., 1687, d. 14 June 1745, aged 47. M.I. Diddlebury.

Hon. Gilbert Fleming, Governor of the Leeward Islands. Bur. at Diddlebury, 14 Jan., 1762. M.I.

Bettridge Fleming.

Dorothy Fleming.

Helena Fleming. M.I. at Diddlebury.

Edward Acton = Anne, d. and h. of William Gregory of Woolhope.

. . . Fleming.

Fleming.

Gilbert Fane Fleming. Died 26 Dec., 1777.

Theresa Susannah Acton = John Stackhouse mar. 1773.
 ↓ of Pendarves.

Camilla Annabella Fleming = Edward Carey of Follaton, mar. 1776.
 ↓ Devon.

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Edward Fleming, Lord of Westhope, Sibdon and Shadwell. Bap. at Shadwell, 19 April, 1711, died 31 Mar., 1773, bur. at Clun.	= Ann, d. of John Cooper of Camberwell, Wilts. Mar. 1740, died 6 May, 1770.	Rev. John Fleming, D.C.L. = Mary Fleming Vicar of Higley, 1772, & Rector of Acton Scott, Co. Salop. B. at Shadwell, 4 Aug., 1719, died s.p., 1782	Bapt. 26 May, 1709, at Morville.
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Richard Fleming of Dinmore, Hereford. B. at Shadwell, 25 Sept., 1713, bur. at Clun. Died 14 Sept., 1772 (2nd son).	= Elizabeth Stukeley. Married 7 Dec., 1752.	Beatrice Fleming. B. at Shadwell, 11 Oct., 1721, d. 1740.
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Richard Stukeley Fleming. Born 1755, died 1806. Sheriff of Hereford 1804.	Rev. Richard Fleming = Elizabeth . . . Curate of Eaton-under-Haywood. Bur. there 25 Dec., 1819.	Born 1812, Died 1856.
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Richard Acton Fleming. Bap. at Eaton, 28 Oct., 1811.	Jane Fleming. Bap. at Eaton, 22 Sept., 1807, married at Ludlow, 19 May, 1831.	= Thomas Hooper of Hay.	Alice Fleming. Bap. at Eaton, 19 Feb., 1805.
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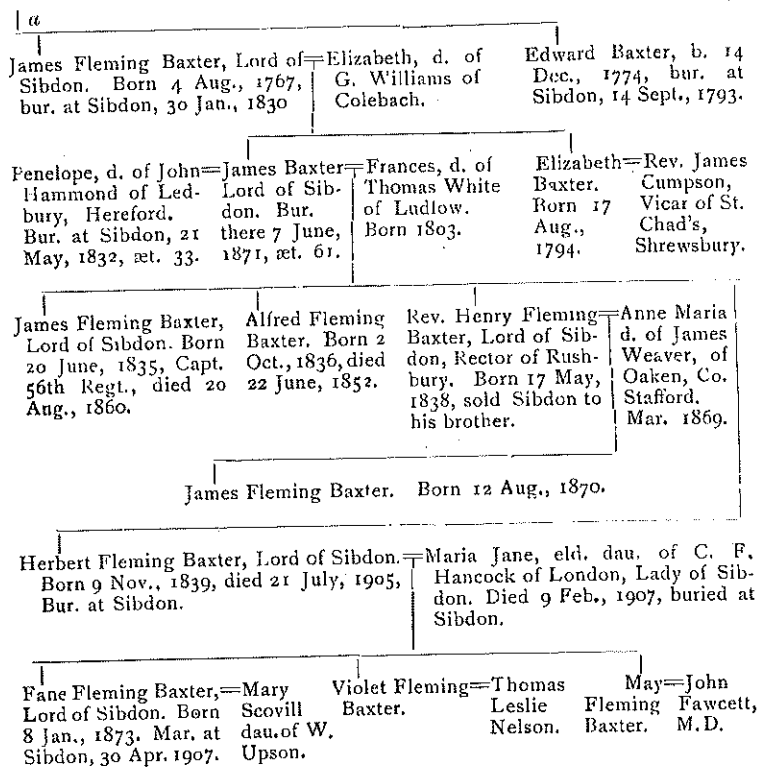
Elvisa Fleming. Bap. at Eaton, 6 June, 1803.	Anne Fleming. Bap. at Clee St. Margaret, 25 May, 1797.	Mary Fleming. Bap. at Clee St. Margaret, 5 Aug., 1795.	Sarah Fleming. Bap. at Clee St. Margaret, 6 Dec. 1799.
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Gilbert Fleming, Lord of Westhope, Sibdon & Shadwell. Bap. at Sibdon, 29 Nov., 1745, bur. there 26 May, 1774.	Sarah Fleming, eld. dau. & co-heir to her brother, Lady of Sibdon. Born 6 April, 1742, died 10 Dec., 1774.	= John Baxter of The Rock, near Newton. Died 24 Aug, 1788, æt. 64.	Ann Fleming co-heir to her brother. Bap. at Sibdon, 10 May, 1748. Lady of Shadwell.	= Richard James of Ludlow. Bur. at Sibdon, 11 Feb., 1802.
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Ann Frances Cooper Jnmes.

Frances Fleming, co-heir to her brother. Lady of Westhope. Bap. at Sibdon, 9th Jan., 1754, died 24 Nov., 1792, bur. at Paddington, d.s.p	= John Harries of Cruckton. Barister-at-Law	Elizabeth Fleming. Bap. at Sibdon, 17 Aug., bur. there 29 Aug., 1751.
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it £100, but if the Lord of the Manor of Westhope should be remiss in having it supplied with 12 Sermons yearly, then the profits shall go to the Parish of Acton Scott."

(An enquiry at Acton Scott shows that no profits have been received there.)

The Testatrix bequeaths to her grandson Edward Acton, four pictures, viz.: his mother, his uncle Hercules, Dr. Edwardes, and his uncle Heath Edwards. She mentions her son Gilbert Fleming.

On a Mural tablet on the south wall of Diddlebury Church, is this inscription:—"Here lyeth the Body of Elizabeth Fleming, relict of John Fleming Esquire of Westhope by whom she had 19 children 13 sons and 6 daughters. She departed this life ye 16th of February 17²⁸/₂₉ aged 73 and of

Hector Fleming of London, Merchant, her 13th son who died the 30th of the same month aged 38." Arms: On a lozenge gules 3 crescents 2 and 1 ermine between 7 crosses fitchee (Fleming), impaling, ermine a lion rampant. In the Chancel on the mural tablet to Henry Fleming, is also inscribed:—"Elizabeth and Helen, who died 1682, and Hercules Fleming 10th Son who died in 1750, aged 24."

John and Elizabeth Fleming had issue:

Richard Fleming, their eldest son and heir, Lord of Westhope; John Fleming; Benjamin Fleming; Richard Fleming of Clun; Algernon Fleming; Henry Fleming, baptized at Stokesay 29 August 1679; Joseph Fleming, who was buried at Diddlebury 18 January 1740, and 3 sons whose names are not recorded; Hector Fleming, born 1690, buried at Diddlebury 7 March 1728, the 10th son; The Honble Gilbert Fleming Governor of the Leeward Islands, buried at Diddlebury 14 January 1762; Hercules Fleming, the 13th son, born in 1697, buried at Diddlebury 1721; Elizabeth Fleming who died in 1682 and buried at Diddlebury; Bettridge Fleming; Dorothy Fleming, and another daughter who died young; Beatrice Fleming, who married in 1723 the Revd. John Acton Vicar of Clun, and she died the 28 May 1724, and was buried at Diddlebury.

RICHARD FLEMING, the son and heir, on the death of his father became Lord of Westhope, Sibdon, and Shadwell; he was born in 1680 and married at Morville, co. Salop, on the 12 June 1708, Elizabeth 4th daughter of Sir Edward Acton, Baronet, of Aldenham. She was baptized at Morville co. Salop 16 May 1683, and was buried there 6 February 1738.

The Westhope property became vested in the Trustees of his marriage settlement, and on the marriage of his eldest son Edward Fleming in 1740 with Miss Cooper a life interest in the property was reserved to him. He died on the 20th June 1748, and had issue:—

Edward Fleming, his son and heir, Lord of Westhope.

Richard Fleming, baptized at Shadwell 25 September 1713, of Dinmore, Hereford; he married on the 7th December 1752 Miss Stukeley. He died the 14 September 1772, and was buried at Clun.

The Revd. John Fleming, L.L.D., born at Shadwell 4 August, 1719, Vicar of Higley, and Rector of Acton Scott, Co. Salop. He married his cousin Mary Fleming, who was born in 1709. He died in 1782, without issue.

Elizabeth Fleming, buried at Morville 10 November 1709.

Beatrice Fleming, born at Shadwell 11 October 1721, and died in 1740.

EDWARD FLEMING his heir was Lord of Westhope, Sibdon, and Shadwell; he was baptized at Shadwell 19 April 1711, and married in 1740 Ann, daughter of John Cooper of Camberwell, co. Wilts. She died 6 May 1770.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* of March 31, 1773, gives the following story:—

“Edward Fleming of Sibdon Castle, and Westhope near Ludlow possessed of £1500 a year. After eating a hearty breakfast of spring pottage declared to his daughters that he believed poison had been mixed with his mess. The ladies tasted, as did an old housekeeper; and all of them were more or less affected in proportion to the quantity they eat.

Mr. Fleming died in great agony, before any relief could be administered, but the ladies and the housekeeper recovered. The perpetrator of this wicked act is not yet discovered.”

His wife Anne was buried at Sibdon Carwood 6 May 1770.

He died at Westhope 31 March 1773, and was buried at Clun. He left issue, a son

GILBERT FLEMING, Lord of Westhope, Sibdon, and Shadwell, who was baptised at Sibdon Carwood 29 November 1745. In *Notes and Queries* for 1869, 4th Series, volume III., page 56, it is mentioned that he was the subject of a local story:—

“Gilbert Fleming is said to have bribed the cook to put poison into the food of his father Edward, for which the cook was tried and executed. The real culprit drank himself to death in a little more than a year after this event and the Westhope estate and other property then went to his three sisters. Two of these were supposed to have been cognisant of the murder, and are said to have come to untimely and painful deaths, the third who was innocent prospered. The sister who had Westhope left all her property to Sir John Swinnerton Dyer, Bart.” I am told

the papers of this trial are in a solicitor's office in London, and that the cook was executed for the murder.

Gilbert Fleming died 26 May 1774, and was buried at Sibdon. He was the last Lord of Westhope. He left no will, and by virtue of a partition deed the property was divided between his three sisters, Sarah, Ann, and Frances.

Sarah Fleming, the elder daughter, born 6 April 1742, became Lady of Sibdon. She married John Baxter of The Rock, Newtown, and died 10 December 1774, leaving issue two sons; and from the elder, the present Lord of Sibdon, Mr. Fane Fleming Baxter descends.

Ann Fleming, baptized at Sibdon 10 May 1748, became Lady of Shadwell. She married in 1773 Richard James of Ludlow. In the *Gentlemen's Magazine* of 31 May 1801 is this account of her death:—

“Mrs. James of Ludlow, daughter of Edward Fleming Esqre., late of Sibdon Castle co. Salop, coming in a chaise from Chapel House down the eminence below Chipping Norton, one of the horses proving unruly, the carriage was thrown down a bank, the fall of which was three feet perpendicular in 14 feet whereby she received so violent a blow on the back and upper part of the spine, as instantly to deprive her of all power of moving the upper or lower extremities, in which lamentable state she languished 6 weeks.” She was buried at Sibdon Carwood, 29 April 1801, as Anne James, daughter of Edward Fleming, late of Sibdon Castle.

The late Mrs. Fleming Baxter of Sibdon Castle possessed a letter written by Mr. James, referring to the death of Sir John Swinnerton Dyer and to Mrs. James's accident.

Most of the family portraits are at Sibdon.

Elizabeth Fleming, was baptized at Sibdon Carwood 17 August 1751, and buried there 29th August in the same year.

Frances Fleming, the youngest daughter was baptized at Sibdon 9 January 1754. She was Lady of the Manor of Westhope, and married John Harries, of Cruckton and London, Barrister-at-law. She died 24 November 1792, and was buried at Paddington. She left the Westhope Estate to Sir John Swinnerton Dyer, 6th Baronet, but the property was subject to a mortgage of £4000.

Her will is dated 4 October 1790, and proved 11 January

1793 (P.C.C. 26 Dodwell). She is styled as of the parish of St. James, Westminster, widow of John Harries of Cruckton and Lincolns Inn Fields. She devises all her estates of what nature or kind, to Sir John Swinnerton Dyer, Bart. and his heirs for ever. She leaves £50 to her sister Ann James, £500 to Ann Frances Cooper James her sister's daughter when 21, and £50 to Richard James her sister's husband for a ring. She appoints Sir John Swinnerton Dyer, Baronet, her sole executor.

She was the last of the Fleming Family who possessed Westhope.

VI.

LORDS OF THE MANOR—SWINNERTON DYER OF WESTHOPE.

This family is descended from Ralph Dyer of Wincanton, Co. Somerset, living there in 1380. The history of this family has appeared in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, 1906-7, so that I will touch only on those members who were connected with Westhope. Sir James Dyer, Knight, was one of the Judges appointed to try the case of the Earl of Arundel in 1561, and it is curious that his descendants should possess the estate in later years. He was born in 1512 at Roundhill, Wincanton, and was 11 years old when his father, Richard Dyer, died. He entered as a commoner of Broadgate Hall, now Pembroke College, Oxford, and was called to the bar in 1537. In 6 Edward VI. he was chosen Speaker. He was one of the witnesses to the King's will. He was appointed Sergeant-at-law 19 October, 1553, and though greatly opposed to the religion of Queen Mary he served her well and faithfully. The day following the accession of Queen Elizabeth, 1558, his Commission as Puisne Judge of the Common Pleas was renewed. He became Lord Chief Justice in 1559, which post he held for 20 years. He was cousin to Sir Edward Dyer, Knight, the poet, who was the author of "In Praise of Nothing" and of that well-known poem "My mind to me a Kingdom is." Sir James Dyer was a clever, capable man, a firm adherent of the reformed religion, and a friend to all with whom he came in contact. He left his reports on Law Cases to his nephews,

James Dyer, Richard Farwell, and William Hanmer; and they were published between 1592 and 1688. He was a very rich man, owning considerable property in many Counties. He married the 9th of February, 1546, Margaret, daughter of John A'Barrowe, and grand-daughter of Sir Maurice A'Barrowe of North Barrow, Co. Somerset, and widow of Sir Thomas Elyot, Knight, of Carlton, Co. Cambridge, and their portraits by Holbein are at Windsor Castle. Sir James Dyer died without issue, and was buried in the Chancel of Great Staughton Church, Co. Hunts, 24 March, 1582, with his wife, who died 26 August, 1560. His heir was his great nephew, Sir Richard Dyer, Knight, who, with his wife, was buried at Great Staughton, where there is a large monument erected to them. In his will, he leaves his collar of S.S. and a ring to the Queen. Wheatstone refers to him in a poem:—

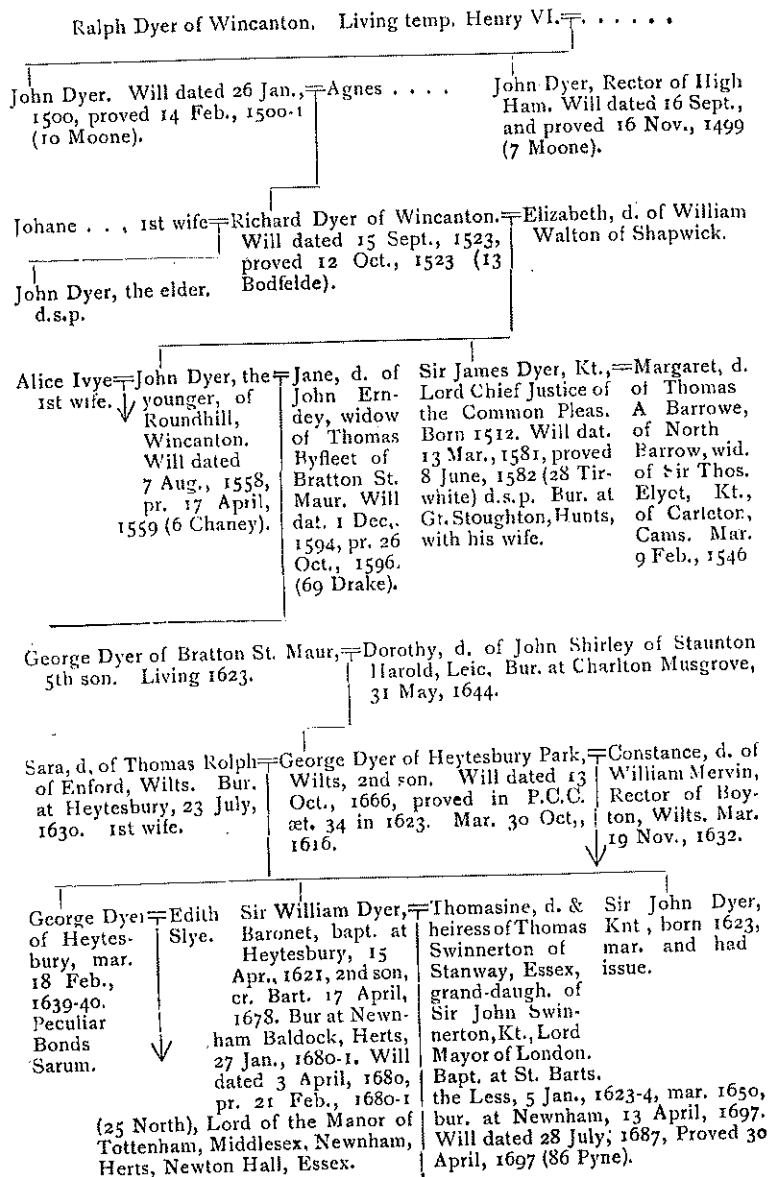
“Alive, refuge, for those whom wrong did payne,

“A Dyer, such as dyed without a stayne.”

Sir Lodovic Dyer, grandson of Sir Richard, was created a Baronet, but his only son dying as a child the baronetcy became extinct, until Sir William Dyer (great grandson of John Dyer, who was the brother of Sir James) was created a Baronet in 1678.

Sir John Swinnerton Dyer, 6th Baronet, became first Lord of Westhope in 1792. He was the son of Sir Thomas Swinnerton Dyer, 5th Baronet, and was baptized 30 November, 1738, at Finchingfield, Co. Essex, and married 9 December, 1761, at St. Vedast, Foster-lane, London, Susannah, daughter of Henry Vicary, Esq., of Windsor. He was Colonel in the Guards, and one of the grooms of the bedchamber to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, afterwards George III. He was one of the Prince's great friends, and lent him £80,000, which was not repaid. He lived chiefly at his London house in St. John's Square, and there are no records of his having lived at Westhope. He was a man of very amiable manners, and kind affections. His character as a master, father, brother, husband, and friend, was truly excellent and exemplary. His wife died 7 April, 1773. He died suddenly 21 March, 1801, and was buried at St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, in the Swinnerton Vault. A tablet is placed to his memory in the Church of Westhope. His will was dated

PEDIGREE OF DYER.



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Swinerton Dyer, born 1651, bur. at St. Mary, Aldermanbury, 29 Jan., 1676-7, d.s.p.

Sir John Swinerton Dyer, born 1657, 2nd Bart., Lord of Tottenham, Newnham, & Newton Hall. Will dated 23 Oct., 1690, pr. 7 July, 1701 (94 Dyer). Bur. at Gt. Dunmow.

Elizabeth, d. of Sir Rowland Johnson, Kt., of Gray's Inn, mar. 5 Sept., 1683.

Thomas Dyer, named in *Vis. of Middx.* 1663.

William Dyer of Newnham, b. 1659, Sheriff of Herts. 1694. Will dated 2 Nov., 1734, pr. 17 Nov., 1739 (231 Henchman). Mar. twice, and had issue.

Swinerton Dyer, bapt. at St. Andrew's, Holborn, 13 Jan., 1686-7, bur. at Gt. Dunmow, 17 May, 1701.

Sir Swinerton Dyer, 3rd Bt., 2nd son, bapt. at St. Andrew's Holborn, 13 Feb. 1687-8. Will dated 21 Feb., 1735-6, pr. 8 March, 1735-6 (53 Derby), leaving issue by 1st mar. d. Anne, mar. Paul Whitehead.

1st, 16 Sept., 1712, Anne, d. of Edward Belitha, bur. at Gt. Dunmow, 28 Aug., 1714.
2nd, 19 Dec., 1727, Mary, heiress of John Kempe of Spain's Hall, Essex. Will (274 Anber). Bur. at Finchingfield.

Sir John Swinerton Dyer, 4th Bt. Will (213 Hutton) 1758.

Sir Thomas Swinerton Dyer, 5th Bart., of Tottenham, Spain's Hall, Essex. Bapt. at Gt. Dunmow, 12 Mar., 1695. Will dated 13 Jan., 1777, proved 1780 (468 Collins).

Elizabeth, d. of Major Jones (2nd wife). Will 1777 (348 Collyer). Mar. 25 Sept., 1735.

William Dyer, b. 1693. Will 1741 (200 Spurway).

Sir John Swinerton Dyer, 6th Bt., Lord of Westhope, Newton Hall, and Tottenham. Bapt. at Finchingfield, 30 Nov. 1738. Will dated 22 Sept., 1790, proved 21 July, 1801 (425 Abercombie). M.I. Westhope. Bur. at Aldermanbury, 28 March, 1801.

Susannah, d. of Henry Vicary, d. 7 April, 1773, mar. 9 Dec., 1761.

Thomas Dyer of Park Street, London, bapt. 4 July, 1744. Will dated 25 May, 1795, pr. 9 Sept., 1800 (656 Adderley).

Mary, d. of Richard Smith, wid. of James Berney, d. 1775, mar. 29 Nov., 1708.

Sir Thomas Richard Swinerton Dyer, 7th Bt., Lord of Westhope and Tottenham. Bapt. St. John Evangelist, 16 March, 1678, mar. 14 Apr., 1814, at South Stoneham, Hants, bur. at Ovington, 6 April, 1838. M.I. Westhope. Will dated 14 June, 1833, proved 10 May, 1838 (3:9 Nicholl). d.s.p.

Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of James Standerwicke of Ovington, Hants, Lady of Westhope and Ovington. Will dated 18 May, 1863, proved 9 July, 1864. M.I. Westhope. Bur. at Memmelsdorf.

Frederick Baron von Zandt, mar. 30 May, 1839, bur. at Bamberg 1841.

<p>Sir Thomas Swinnerton Dyer of Swinnerton Lodge 8th Bart. B. 1770, d. 1854. Will dated 9 Sept., 1853, pr. 12 Dec., 1854, d.s.p. 27 Nov., 1854.</p>	<p>Sir John Dyer, K.C.B., Gen. R.A. B. 1775, d. 1816. Will dated 21 April, 1816, pr. 14 Aug., 1816 (428 Wynne).</p>	<p>Jane, sister and heiress of Simon Halliday (descended from Sir Leonard Halliday, Lord Mayor of London, 1603), mar. 14 Mar., 1795, d. 1851.</p>
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<p>Sir Thomas Swinnerton Dyer, 9th Bart., of Brompton Hall, Middlesex, and Westcroft Park, Surrey, Capt. R.A. B. 1799, d. 1878. M.I. Westhope. Will dated 14 Nov., 1876, proved 1878.</p>	<p>Mary Anne, d. of Col. John Albeck Clement, and grand-dau. of Francis Le Maistre. D. 1880. M.I. Westhope, mar. 7 Feb., 1832.</p>
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<p>Sir Swinnerton Halliday Dyer, 10th Bart. B. 1833, d. 1882. Will dated 2 Jan., 1880, pr. 15 May, 1882. M.I. Westhope.</p>	<p>Helen Maria, sister & coh. of Ed. Croker of The Grange, Limerick, mar. 29 July, 1858.</p>	<p>Colonel Henry Clement Swinnerton Dyer, Lord of Westhope. Born 1834, mar. 6 Apr., 1869, d. 1898. M.I. Westhope.</p>	<p>Amelia Susan, heiress of John Ward of Otterington Hall, Yorks, and Gorstage Hall, Cheshire, by Henrietta, d. of Sir John Lister-Kaye, Bt. Born 1838, d. 1903. Lady of Westhope. M.I. Westhope. Bur. at Culmington.</p>
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<p>Sir Thomas Swinner-ton Dyer, 11th Bart., B. 1860, d. 1907.</p>	<p>Dona Edith, d. of Sir Charles Roderick McGrigor, Bt. mar. 21 Jan., 1886. D. 1909.</p>
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Sir John Swinnerton Dyer, 12th Bt. B. 1891.

<p>Leonard Whitworth Swinnerton Dyer, Lord of Westhope and Gorstage Hall, Cheshire. Born 30 Oct., 1875.</p>	<p>Lucy, eld. d. of the late Francis Shröder of New York, mar. 12 June, 1897.</p>	<p>Evelyn Henrietta Swinner-ton Dyer, mar. Col. G. B. N. Martin, C.B., R.A.</p>
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Leonard Schröder Swinnerton Dyer, son and heir. Born 30 March, 1898.

ARMS:—1 and 4, Or a chief indented Gules (DYER).

2 and 3, A cross pattée fleury within a bordure indented Gules

(SWINNERTON).

Crests:—1. Out of a ducal coronet Or a Goat's head Argent horned Or.

2. Out of a ducal coronet Or a Falcon rising Argent. Grant dated 20 April, 1575. (Both for DYER).

22 September, 1790, with two codicils dated 12 July, 1792, and 19 March, 1801, and was proved in the P.C.C. 21 July, 1801. (425 Abercrombie.)

He was succeeded by his only son, Sir Thomas Richard Swinnerton Dyer, 7th, Baronet, who was baptized 27 January, 1769, and became Lord of Westhope. He also had property

in Clarges Street, Piccadilly. He was Colonel in the Foot Guards, Equerry to His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, A.D.C. to Sir Ralph Abercromby in the expedition to Egypt, Equerry to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, A.D.C. to Sir John Moore, and was present at his death at Corunna. He was Lieut.-General in the English and Spanish Army, and for his generosity he was called "The Father of the Unfortunate Spaniards." He married 14 April, 1814, at North Stoneham, Co. Hants., Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of James Standerwicke, Esq., of Ovington Park, Co. Hants. John Sergeant, who lived at "Yew Tree Cottage," in The Batch, Westhope, was his groom, and died at the age of 90 in 1899. He well remembered Sir Thomas and Lady Swinnerton Dyer, at Westhope, and on one occasion had to take two horses (a bay and a grey) down from Westhope by road to Ovington. He used to relate how much beloved Sir Thomas and his wife were at Westhope, and, although they did not live here for long, they constantly paid visits, coming in their big yellow coach drawn by four horses and mounted by postilions. When here they resided at the "Ward House." Sir Thomas died without issue 12 April, 1838, leaving by his will, dated 14 June, 1833, and proved in P.C.C. 10 May, 1838, (309 Nicholl,) everything to his wife, who became Lady of Westhope. He was buried at Ovington, and a brass tablet is erected to him in Westhope Church.

Lady Swinnerton Dyer married secondly, 30 May, 1839, Frederic, Baron von Zandt, Chamberlain to the King of Bavaria, of Seehof Castle, Bamberg, Bavaria. Both the Baron and Baroness made several visits to Westhope, and they both gave gifts to the Church, and between 1839 and 1841 John Sergeant was sent to Seehof Castle with important letters on several occasions. The Baron died suddenly at Seehof in 1841, and is buried at Bamberg. His Will was dated 8 May, 1840, and proved 4 April, 1842, and by it he left everything to his wife.

The Baroness after his death lived chiefly at Ovington, paying visits to Westhope occasionally. She enlarged the "Ward House" by several rooms, and after it was completed occupied it for some time. She was charitable and much beloved by all who knew her. She died at Seehof Castle,

27 May, 1864, and is buried at Memmelsdorf, near Bamberg. Her will is dated 8 March, 1860, with a codicil dated 18 February, 1863, and was proved 9 July, 1864. She had no issue. A brass tablet is erected to her memory in the Church of Westhope.

The estate of Westhope was inherited by her husband's cousin, Colonel Henry Clement Swinnerton Dyer, second son of Sir Thomas Swinnerton Dyer, 9th Baronet, who became Lord of Westhope. He was born 30 December, 1834, and entered the Royal Artillery as Second-Lieutenant, 22 December, 1852, at the early age of 18. He became Lieutenant 17 February, 1854, 2nd Captain 14 November, 1859, Captain 22 August, 1868, Brevet-Major 15 April, 1864, Lieutenant-Colonel 1 April, 1874, and retired in 1876 with the rank of Colonel. He served during the Crimean War, and was present at the Battle of Icherneya, the siege and fall of Sebastopol, where his horse was killed under him. He was rewarded with a medal and clasp, and the Turkish medal. Then followed distinguished service in the Indian Mutiny, and at the capture of Dilkoosha and Martiniere. He was present at the relief of Lucknow, the passage of Kahlee Nuddee, the capture of Futyghur, the defeat of the Gwalior contingent, and at the Battle of Cawnpore, in which battle his horse was killed under him a second time. He was at the affair of Bamgunga, the siege and capture of Lucknow, the actions of Bareilly and Shahjehanpore, and the capture of the forts at Bunai and Mohumdee. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and received a medal with two clasps. His career in the Artillery last 23 years, and his retirement was received with universal regret. In 1862, he became Inspector of Artillery at Woolwich, in 1864 Assistant Director of Ordnance at the War Office and Superintendent of the Small Arms Factory at Enfield, which post he held until 1875, when he joined Sir Joseph Whitworth's Works at Manchester. He remained there until 1880, when he joined Sir William Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., at Newcastle-on-Tyne, as one of the Directors. Whilst there he built the great Steel Works, and when the two firms amalgamated, he was made chief Director of the Manchester branch.

Colonel Swinnerton Dyer was sent to Italy to start the Ordnance Factory at Pozzuoli, near Naples. He so successfully quelled the strikes there, that he was personally decorated by King Humbert with the Order of Knight Commander of the Crown of Italy. His name is so well-known in connection with the Employers' Federation as its central figure in the most important industrial struggle of the century, and he became its first President, 1897-8. Colonel Swinnerton Dyer and Sir Henry Bessemer have been called "The Two Giants of Industry." Sir Henry gave the world an industry, that Colonel Swinnerton Dyer showed us how to use. He was also created Knight Commander of Charles VII. of Spain, Knight Commander of the Rose of Brazil, and held the Military Order of Merit for Spain. He was a splendid linguist, speaking French, German, Spanish, Italian and Hindustani perfectly.

He was a handsome man, tall with commanding presence. His courtly, frank, genial manner, established him as a favourite with all who knew him. He had the happy knack of making everyone feel he was their friend. He married 6 April, 1869, Amelia Susan, only daughter and eventually heiress of John Ward, Esq., and Henrietta his wife, third daughter of Sir John Lister Kaye, Baronet, of Denby Grange, Co. Yorks., and a direct descendant both of Edward IV. and of Elizabeth Wydeville Queen of Edward IV., by her first husband Sir John Grey, Lord Ferrers of Groby. When Colonel Swinnerton Dyer inherited Westhope in 1864 he began to improve the estate. He was frequently at Westhope, living at the Ward House, until it was pulled down in 1891, when a small cottage was built on the Shoulder of Mutton site. There were great rejoicings at Westhope in 1869 on his marriage, where he and his wife spent their honeymoon; in 1875, for the birth of his only son, and in 1896 for his son's coming of age. Shortly before his death, the members of the Employers' Federation presented him with a large service of silver. They wished to present him with his portrait, but owing to his sudden death 20 March, 1898, the portrait was painted from photographs. It is a speaking likeness, and was presented to his son in 1899. His loss was felt by all, especially by the people of Westhope, to whom

he had endeared himself by his kindness and justice as a landlord. He is buried at Withington, Manchester. His will is dated 18 March, 1896, and was proved in 1899. He had issue; Leonard Whitworth Swinnerton Dyer and a daughter, Evelyn Henrietta Swinnerton Dyer (the writer of this history). On his death his widow, Mrs. Amelia Susan Swinnerton Dyer, became Lady of Westhope. She enlarged the small cottage, and built the Manor House. She was beloved by all who knew her for her goodness, courtesy, and generosity. She died after a few weeks' illness on 3 January, 1903, when her son, Leonard Whitworth Swinnerton Dyer, became Lord of Westhope. He was born 30 October, 1875, and married 12 June, 1897, Lucy, elder daughter of the late Francis Schroeder, of New York, and has a son and heir, Leonard Schroeder Swinnerton Dyer, born 30 March, 1898.

VII.

HOUSES ON THE ESTATE.

A Deed of 1707 mentions "All that site, Capital messuage or Mansion House of the said Lordshippe or Manor of Westhope, and all that Chappell in Westhope, and that Dovehouse, with all lands, etc. All that messuage or tenement, anciently called 'Passe House,' in the occupation of Edward Evans, and Elianor his wife. 'Franklin's Tenement' in the occupation of Thomas and Elizabeth Penny deceased. 'Ward Tenement' in the occupation of Richard Ward and Elizabeth his wife. 'The Tenement' occupied by Stephen Dowell. 'The Tenement' occupied by Edward Powell, Eleanor his wife and Richard their son. The Cottage known as 'Bowen's Tenement' in the tenure of Oliver Appewe. The Cottage called 'Bolas Tenement' occupied by Ralph Bolas. The Cottage called 'Bulters Tenement' in the occupation of Francis Butcher."

The Tithe Map shows on Callow Hill a field called 'Old House Piece.' On enquiry from the oldest inhabitant, I am informed that in 1826 when she was a girl of 17, Widow Pritchard, the mother of Mrs. John Serjeant, then an old woman of 90 odd years, remembered in her younger days, that that piece of ground was occupied by a large black and

white Manor House, and that until some years ago, the foundations were to be seen. This may have been the Manor House or Mansion mentioned in the Chancery Proceedings of Leonard Danett.

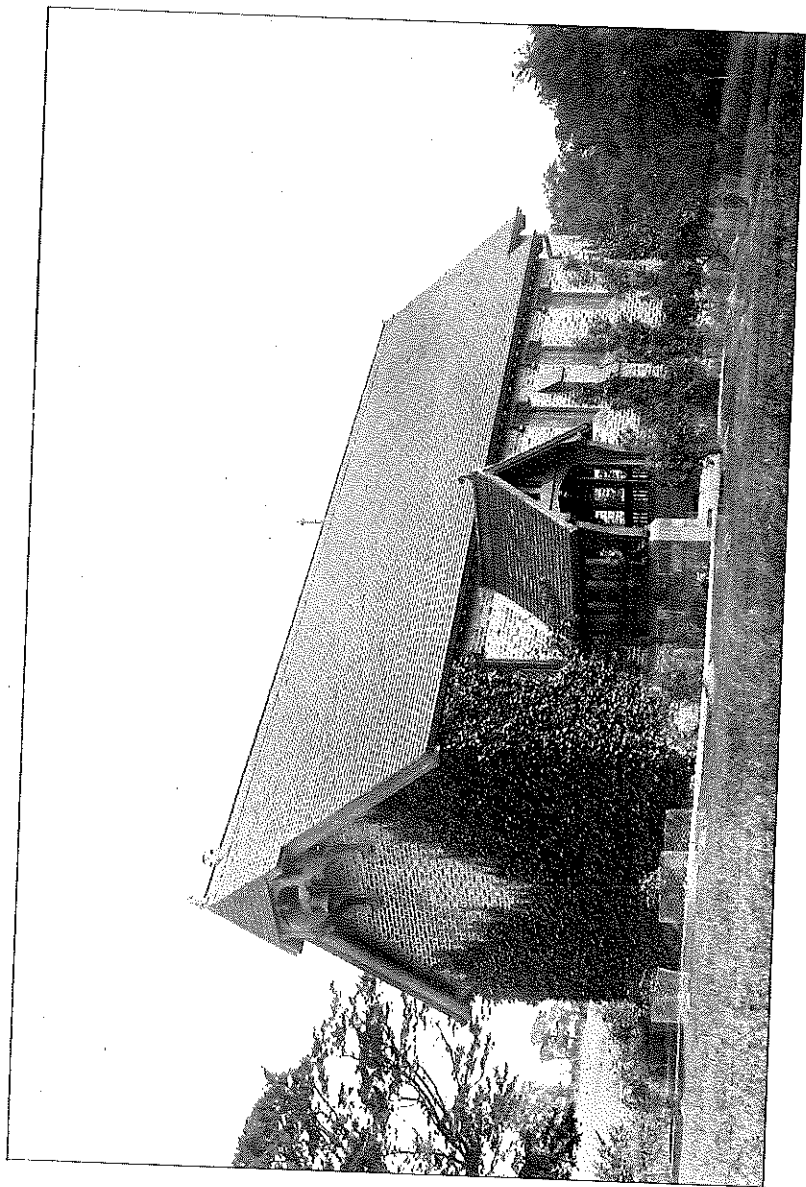
THE MANOR.—This house was built in 1902 by the late Mrs. Swinnerton Dyer as a present to her son. The outside is rough cast, gabled, with red tiled roof, and the Dyer coat of arms above the door. The stables and other buildings correspond. The garden is tastefully laid out and terraced. The garden entrance opens on to a stone terrace, with grass terrace below it, on which is a sun dial, and sloping down the brook is a large square rose garden.

There are four balls on the entrance gates. The origin of these balls is curious.

In olden days, the Lord of the Manor had jurisdiction over all on his Manor, and had the power of Life and Death. As most offences in those days were punished by death, the punishment was chiefly death. So to show to all and sundry that the Lord of the Manor had such power, the heads of all malefactors were placed on pikes at his gates, or on his battlements, or on any other conspicuous place on his estate. Then as the bleeding hideous skull began to be offensive to the educated taste of the Lords of the Manor, they dispensed with the real article, and had it copied in stone. They grew to be stone balls, and were a real sign of the power the Lord of the Manor had over *all* on his estate, or within his Manorial rights. They were part of his rights, so in olden days balls on the gates meant that a Lord of the Manor lived within them, and he had the right to behead whom he would. It was of course only a great Lord that had such power, and only the Lord of the Manor had such rights. When, therefore, one sees an old estate with balls on its gates, battlements, or walls surrounding the estate, one knows that the estate was a Manor, and that its owner had the manorial rights of death over all on that Manor.

THE COTTAGE.—This house was built by the late Colonel Swinnerton Dyer in 1891, for two labourers' Cottages, but until his death he occupied it when he made short visits to the estate. On his decease the house was altered and enlarged, and lit by electric light. The stables, half timber, were built in 1899.

WESTHOPE HALL.—A pretty old red brick gabled house, built in the style of the old manor houses of the 16th century. On the chimney in front is the date 1617, and on the house the coat of arms of Salop, three leopards heads. The house commands a good view of the Batch Valley and Dinchope Hill, and is partly surrounded by trees. The house is approached by a short lane; on one side there still remains part of the old wall and a yew tree. As far as I know only three old yew trees are on the estate: the one just mentioned, one at the entrance of the Churchyard, and another in the Chapel Orchard. In the front of the house is a small garden, and beyond an orchard called Chapel Orchard, now divided by a road from the Church Orchard. As both these orchards are called Chapel Orchard, it seems probable that this was the principal house. I am told that some of the buildings at the back were pulled down about 60 years ago, and the foundations remain under the mound, now over-grown with trees. The orchard on the south side of the house in spring is a white carpet of snowdrops, and the double yellow daffodil grow wild in the fields surrounding it. The rooms consist of a parlour, stone-flagged, with a heavy black oak beam across the ceiling; this room had formerly a large open fire place. There is a small parlour adjoining the kitchen, with a low ceiling and black oak beams; it has evidently not been altered since it was erected in 1617; it has the large open fire place, with iron support to hold the cauldron and kettle, and in the corner is the old cheese press. Another room opens out of this, and there are other small rooms and large cupboards at the back. The back door has still its old wooden bolt. All the lower rooms, except the small parlour, are flagged with stone. The oak staircase leading to the upper is narrow and straight. The floors of the passage and bedrooms are most uneven, with some large attics above. There are some large out-buildings and a small shed, close to the house which used to be the forge, with a small stable beyond. Both these buildings might have been connected with the house in bye gone years. Although it is the largest of the farm houses, it could not have been the Manor House mentioned in the Chancery proceedings of Leonard Dannett, but it most



WESTHOPE CHAPEL

R. L. Bartlett, Photo.

probably succeeded the old black and white house which was situated on Callow Hill; and Westhope Hall may be the capital mansion house mentioned in the deed of 1707.

MIDDLE WESTHOPE HOUSE.—Now a farm house, and probably so called as it is situated in the middle of the estate. From the appearance of the house, as it now stands, it was probably built about the same time as "Westhope Hall." The rooms are a fair size, with low ceilings and oak beams. The parlour has recently been floored with red tiles, the kitchen and offices are stoned with flags. Some 15 years ago some alterations were required, and the workmen came upon a blocked up oven, and chimney, in which was found an old Bible, containing a lock of hair and a penny. Unfortunately these were taken away or destroyed, as they were not forthcoming when asked for. There are some good farm buildings at the back. The house is built on the road, with small garden and orchard adjoining in front, which leads to "Harton Road" on the north, and "The Batch," now called "Siefton Batch," on the south east, and the present road was cut through the garden and orchard; the old road, branching off to the right, and coming out above Westhope Hall, is still to be traced.

HILL END.—Now a farm house, built on the side of Hill End Hill. The date is probably about 1620; it commands a good view of the surrounding country, and is approached by a narrow steep lane, from the road. There is a gateway with wooden loft over it, but the road on that side is now not used. Apparently the old road went through this farm. The house is built higher than the road through the gateway, and is approached by a flight of steps to the front door. The top stone is curious and carved with a cross; another stone of the same description is on the top step of the old kitchen garden of "The Cross way Cottages." I will not attempt to decide what these stones are, or how they came there, but I am told they are old grave stones. The house contains a nice parlour and kitchen and some fair sized bedrooms. It has good outbuildings. The remains of a wall surrounding the house on the side towards the road, is to be seen in dry weather. The orchard, at the back of the house in early spring, is a mass of snowdrops, and daffodils also grow there.

Below Hill End on the left hand side going down the road, towards the Batch, are foundations of a Cottage which, about 80 years ago, was occupied by Widow Patty Leighton, the remains of a wall are still standing, the cottage is shown on the Tithe Map No. 191, and at the back of it is the Plantation. The house was known as "House Field Cottage,"

THE BATCH FARM.—Lying at the entrance of the estate from Siefton, is an old house built in a hollow below the road, opposite The Quarry. The house is of stone, gabled, and contains a large lofty kitchen flagged with stone and other rooms of some size. It is built close to the stream that runs through the estate.

WARD HOUSE.—In 1707 this Farm, situated near the Chapel, was occupied by Richard Ward and Elizabeth his wife, and consisted of house, garden, buildings and fold. The house contained pantry, kitchen, back kitchen and dairy, all flagged with stone, and two parlours, and the hall was tiled with red and black tiles. Under one of the front parlours was a square cellar, about 14 ft. by 20 ft., entered from above by a trap door, and it has been stated that this room led to an underground passage, leading to the Chapel. Sometime between 1840 and 1848, Baroness Von Zandt, widow of Sir Thomas Richard Swinnerton Dyer, 7th Bart., added a new parlour, sitting room, bedroom, and bathroom, all on the ground floor, and pulled down the wall dividing the two parlours. The first floor contained six bedrooms, and large attics above. The house was built in a square, the new buildings towards the church yard were of stone. The entrance was approached by four stone steps, from the courtyard which was paved with cobble stones, and had a battlement in front, with a lead roof. The house contained a good oak staircase, and the older rooms were pannelled oak, with heavy oak beams across the ceilings, and oak floors. It was latterly called "The Old Manor House," but it has been proved to be miscalled, as Westhope Hall would have been the Manor house. Ward House was pulled down by Colonel Swinnerton Dyer in 1891, the oak was used for building the present Ward Farm, and some of it was used in Westhope Manor. The supposed date of Ward Farm is about 1620, but it might have been built earlier. In 1905

all the old foundations were dug out, and beneath the floor of the cellar some bones of animals were found, but the secret passage was not discovered; more bones were found in the wall which supports the high ground above the field.

WARD FARM.—The present house was erected by the late Lord of the Manor in 1891.

BURWOOD FARM AND UPPER WESTHOPE FARM.—These two houses, the latter the largest, are built on the hill north of the estate, and have a fine view of the Longmynd, Church Stretton Hills, and Wenlock Edge. From the appearance of the buildings they may be about 250 years old.

TITTERHILL COTTAGES.—These three cottages in black and white are some of the oldest, I might say the oldest now on the estate. They are situated almost on the brow of the hill, and approached by a steep narrow lane which has been widened part of the way up, and is a short cut to Diddlebury. Hartshorne, in his *Salopia Antiqua*, states that the word "Titter" means to "totter" or "tremble," and derived its name from the Icelandic *Titra* signifying "to tremble." The name is of uncertain date, but has been put down to the time of the Druids.

THE WITCHES COTTAGE.—A small cottage, now in ruins, on the grass road from Upper Westhope Farm to Titterhill. I have not been able to find its history or ascertain the reason of its name. The last occupant was an old widow woman. It is opposite "Old Woman's Meadow" and "Old Hannah's Field." I am told Widow Pritchard lived there until she went to Batch Cottage.

THE CROSSWAY COTTAGES.—So called, as they are situated at the cross roads opposite "The Cottage," which lead to "Titterhill," "Ward Farm," "Middle Westhope," and "The Batch."

"THE BATCH COTTAGES."—Two old cottages opposite to the Batch Farm.

"TWO COTTAGES" in the corner of Crossway field. These were built by the late Mrs. Swinnerton Dyer. They are shaped like a wedge, and are rough cast, with long red tiled sloping roofs.

In 1845 there were 15 houses on this estate, but some of the cottages have now disappeared.

WESTHOPE SCHOOL.—This was built in 1906, at the cost of Mrs. Martin, who bought the site from the Westhope estate. The school is a black and white timbered building, and is erected partly over the foundations of the old Ward House, which was taken down about eighteen years ago. The old foundations of the cellar of the Ward House are to be seen in the heating chamber of the school. The school was opened by the Archdeacon of Ludlow, on Monday, April 8th, 1907, in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Swinnerton Dyer, Mrs. Martin, and many others. The school accommodates 60 children, who formerly had to walk 3 or 4 miles to the nearest school.

THE WARD COTTAGE was built by Mrs. Martin at the same time for a teacher's residence. It is of estate stone from "The Batch Quarry," to the first story, with half timber work above; with carving above the door, "Ward Cottage, E.H.M., 1906." When the foundations for this were dug, a brick culvert, 3 ft. by 4 ft., was discovered, covered with large flags of stone, about 4 ft. below the ground, evidently leading from the old Ward House. The cottage contains parlour, kitchen, scullery and three bedrooms.

The old well opposite the school is of the depth of 29 ft.; it is very wide, and must have been made many hundred years ago. It has never been known to fail in its supply. Nothing was found in it when it was cleaned out; the depth of water in it was 20 feet.

VIII.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OR CHAPEL.

Unfortunately all the Court Rolls and Church Deeds belonging to the estate, that would throw light on the history of the chapel, are missing, and what little that has been found of its history comes from public records. It was probably built by some early lord of the manor of Westhope as a private chapel, on account of the great distance from the Parish Church of Diddlebury. The lords of the manor would maintain the upkeep of the chapel, and pay for the services of a chaplain, at their own sole cost.

The first mention of the chapel is in a MS. of the late Rev. Edward Williams, in the Shrewsbury Free Library, as follows:—"39 Henry III. (1255), Westhope, a chapelry not connected with Diddlebury in the Diocese of Hereford." But unfortunately he does not say where he obtained the information. In the *Registrum Thome de Cantilupo, Episcopi Herefordensis*, under the date 8 November, 1277, is this Licence to Hugh the rector to study for a year:—"Licencia Studendi. Item Memorandum quod Hugo, Rector ecclesie de Westhope, habet Licenciam studendi per unum annum a Festo Beati Michaelis."

In the reign of Edward III. (1327), the Chapel of Westhope, in the Deanery of Wenlock, was taxed VI marks.

In Edward III. (1330), the chapel is mentioned "As of the value of 13d, having goods worth 11s.

In the Certificates of Colleges 1 Edward IV. (1461), the chapel is mentioned as "within the parish of Duddlebury of the value of xid."

"A Certificate of Sir George Blount, knight, Reynolde Corbett, Richard fforsett, and Richard Cupper, Commissioners appointed for the survey of Colleges, chantries, free chappels, fraternyties, brother-hoods, guyldes, Manor Lands, etc., by Act of Parliament begonne at Westminster 4 November, 1st year of His Highness reign within the County of Salop, and Stafford, by vertue of the King's Majesty's moste Honourable Commission, to them and others, directed, made, and certified, the 20 day of November, 2 Edward VI., 1549," gives this account of the Church:—"The Chappell of Westhope within the sayd parishe of Dudlebury, valued at xid, payments nil, Remaining xid, no Incumbent. To the pore nul, goods ijs."

Particulars of Grants, temp. Edward VI., No. 1552. John Cowper and Richard Trevor request to purchase the rent of the free chapel of Westhope, with lands pertaining to the same in Dudlebury, 28 February, 3 Edward VI. (1550).

Patent Roll, 3 Edward VI., 6 pars, m. 1. Grant from the King to John Cupper and Richard Trevor, in consideration of £2050 13s. 9d., of (much church property, including) the Chapel of Westhopp, with a parcel of land adjoining, called Chappell Yard, and lands and tenements

in several holdings. to hold them in socage. Dated at Lieghes, 10 April, 3 Edward VI. (1550).

Certificates of Colleges, temp. Elizabeth (1558.)

The parish of Duddlebury, "The Chappel or Westhope within the sayd parish. This was spoliated by the Act of Parliament of 1 Edward VI."

Particulars of Grants, 1552. "The rent of the Chapel of Westhope, with parcel adjacent called 'Chappell Yarde,' in the tenure of William Wall, value 6d. There is no other lands of the said Chappell to yt."

John Cowper and Richard Trevor purchased (amongst other things) "rents in Duddlebury given for the support of a light, and a lamp in the Parish," and the rent of the free Chappel of Westhopp, with lands pertaining to it in Duddlebury.

3 Edward VI. (1552), Duddlebury and Westhope, to John Cowper and Richard Trevor. The Chappel of Westhope within the parishe of Dudlebury, Rent of one baulk of arable land in tenure of Robert Busse 1d, Rent of one acre of pasture land in tenure of William Lewis iiijd, Rent of the aforesaid Chappell with parcel adjacent called Chappell Yarde in the tenure of William Wall vjd, at 23 years purchase 22/- . There is no other lands or tenement to the said Chappell belonging as yt is presented, there be no wodes growing upon any of the said premises, last day of February 3. Edward VI The Kings Majesty discharge the purchasers of all incumbrances except leases and the covenants of the same. The tenure is socage. The Purchaser to have the issues from Michaelmas last. The purchaser to be bounde for the woddess. The leade belles and advousons except."

The word "advousons" in the plural proves that the patronage of the Chapel and of Diddlebury were different.

The late Colonel Swinnerton Dyer, in a letter to the Vicar of Diddlebury 1895, stated—"The first mention of the Chapel I have found is in a deed of 1650, in which is mentioned the Chapel and the Chapel Meadow." He did not say where he had seen the deed, and I have not been able to find it.

The deed of 1707 mention "All that Chapell, or building called a Chappell, in Westhope with the appurtenances ;" "The Manor, Dovehouse, and Chappell."

In the Will of Mrs. Elizabeth Fleming of Westhope, 1728, is this bequest :—" If my son Richard Fleming rebuilds the Chappell at Westhope, and fits it up for the service of God within four years, then I give to endow it £100, but if the Lord of the Manor should be remiss in having it supplied with twelve sermons yearly, then the profits shall go to the Parish of Acton Scott." The Chapel was rebuilt in 1728.

A paper amongst the Diddlebury Deeds states :—" The Chapel of Westhope is private property, it stands in an orchard, without fence or protection of any kind. The Proprietor gives five pounds a year to the Vicar of Diddlebury, to give his or her tenants twelve evening services.

" In 1840 the Baron Von Zandt promised a new pulpit, the old one being decayed, he promised a new surplice, but died suddenly." There is no date, but this memorandum was probably written by the Vicar, Mr. Underwood, in 1844.

The Advowson. As the first mention we have of the Advowson is 1255, John Fitzalan Lord of Clun, would be the patron, and the gift would be in the hands of the successive Lords of the Manor. In 1745 Edward Fleming was patron of the living.

Eceton's *Thesaurus*, 1754, has this ;—" Westhope Chappell. Patron, Edward Fleming, Esq."

In Archdeacon Plymley's *General View of the Agriculture of Shropshire*, 1803, page 35, is this notice of the church :—" Westhope Chapel, Deanery of Ludlow. A separate assessment, but in Diddlebury parish. It is not connected with the Vicarage of Diddlebury."

Leonard Swinnerton Dyer, Esq., is now (1909) patron of the living of Westhope. Westhope Church is really a private chapel, and belongs to the Lord of the Manor of Westhope, who is solely responsible for its upkeep, and for the maintenance of the services.

Dedication of Westhope Chapel. We can only presume that the consecration took place prior to 1255. But the mention of "plate" at an early date shows that the chapel was a consecrated building. The late Colonel Swinnerton Dyer told the writer that before the Reformation all the Church Plate had been buried. I am sorry I did not at the time ask how he came to that conclusion. In connection with

consecration a story is told of the old White Chapel of Cleck Heaton in Yorkshire. When the old chapel was in a bad state of repair, it was restored, and when ready for opening the Most Rev. Archbishop Sharp was asked to consecrate it. When he arrived at the Churchyard entrance, he at once noted the old yew tree. He turned to his coachman, and told him to drive home, saying, "'Tis holy Ground." This episode occurred in 1705.

At the entrance gate of the Westhope Church is a very old yew tree, and although I hardly think it could have been planted in 1200, it might have been.

The Rev. D. H. S. Cranage, in his *Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire*, Vol. I., p. 167, says that "the foundations and walls of the present building for some feet above the ground date from about 1740. With these exceptions the chapel was rebuilt in 1892 by Col. Swinnerton Dyer, R.A. The building is neat, and in good taste, though it makes no architectural pretension. The foundations and quoins are of stone; the rest is of brick, with the exception of the porch, which is of wood and stone." Mr. Cranage should have used the word "restored," instead of "rebuilt" in 1892.

Description of the Church. The exterior is of red brick from 3 feet above the ground, with red tiled roof, making a bright patch of colour that can be seen from most points on the estate; the west and north sides are covered with ivy, the south side covered with climbing roses. Over the east window is a small stone cross. There is no tower. The porch on the south side is of stone, with tiled roof, and is lined with oak. The vestry on the north is also covered with ivy; the only entrance is from the chancel. Two short buttresses support the outside walls on the north and south. The foundations, which only show to 3 feet above the ground, are 11 feet below the ground, and these deep foundations point to them being the foundations of the old chapel. The late Col. Swinnerton Dyer told the writer that there was an underground passage, leading from the Church to the Manor House, which he had bricked up as it was unsafe. Although search has been made between the Ward House and the Church, no passage has been found on that side, so in all probability the passage is between the Church and Westhope Hall, as both stand on high ground.

Interior.—The exterior is certainly unpretentious, but the inside makes up for its want, in beauty. A short time ago a gentleman was visiting some of the old Shropshire churches, and his guide took him to see the Old Heath Chapel, as being the most ancient, dating from Norman times. When he had seen it, his guide said, "You have seen our oldest chapel, now I will take you to see the most beautiful one." He brought him to the Chapel of Westhope. What it may have been like in years gone by, records relate nothing, and although since its restorations nothing remains of any old carvings, and the almary, the piscina, sedilia, &c., all have disappeared, as far as possible, it is beautiful, in its plainness. The nave and chancel are continuous, the chancel higher by two steps than the nave, and one step at the altar. The pulpit, reading desk, and pews are of pine. The walls coloured a grey blue. The altar table is of wood, made from the oak of the estate; the two sides have lately been filled in with some oak carvings, once part of the old pews. The front of the altar contains three paintings, "Ecce Homo" in the centre, and "The Angel of the Agony" and the "Angel of the Record" in two side panels. The altar rails are iron, painted in dull blue and gold with the top rail of oak. The re-table is made from the carved oak of the old pews. The brass lectern is very fine, and was "Presented by Mr. J. Swinnerton Dyer, in memory of his Father." The doors are pine, as also is the roof. There is no chancel screen, but two pine pillars between the chancel and nave support the roof, the one nearest the reading desk contains a small oak frame, in which is some old glass. The credence table, of carved oak black with age, dates from 1600. The gospel table is modern; so also is the alms box, although it is a copy of an old one, with the words "Remember the Poor, 1905." The vestry contains a 17th century carved old chest, chair, and cupboard.

The Font is placed at the west end, and as far as one can judge does not appear to be of very great age, owing to its being made from one piece of stone, and no outlet for the water. A brass lining has been inserted, which now contains the water, and can be easily lifted out. An old Saxon Font was found in August, 1908, in a cottage garden in the

outskirts of Westhope, which probably anciently belonged to the church, to which it has been again restored.

The Reredos, presented in 1898, is of different coloured Italian marbles. I am told it represents a piece of almost every marble known. It was given by the late Mrs. Swinnerton Dyer.

The Organ, presented in 1898, replaced a small old harmonium.

In 1903 the old stove was removed, and the church heated with water pipes.

Seats, North Side.—The old carved oak pew taken away in 1891 belonged to the Lord of the Manor. It was replaced by two pews of pine, now (1909) occupied by Mr. Leonard Swinnerton Dyer and Mrs. Martin.

All the pews have brass tablets denoting to whom they belong.

- I. Leonard Swinnerton Dyer.
- II. Mrs. Martin.
- III. Westhope Hall, John Corfield.
- IV. Middle Westhope, Thomas Manley.
- V. Batch Farm, G. Hince.
- VI. Ward Cottage and Hill End.
- VII. Upper Westhope.
- VIII.
- IX. Occupied by the Clerk.

South Side.—

- I. Moorwood.
- II. Ward Farm.
- III. and IV. The Cottage Household.
- V. and VI. Westhope Household.

The Clerk.—For many years Edward Meredith of Titterhill held the post, and on his death was succeeded by William Lott, whose name is recorded on the brass plate. He was succeeded in 1906 by his son George Lott who resigned, and Thomas Davies of Titterhill is now clerk.

Brasses.—There are three Brasses in the Chancel.

1. "To the memory of Colonel Sir John Swinnerton Dyer 6th Baronet, of Westhope, Groom of the Bedchamber to the Prince of Wales. Born 20 November 1738. married Susannah Vicary of Windsor, died 21 March

1801," with the Dyer Arms, Or a chief indented Gules, quartering Swinnerton, and Crest, a Goat's head.

2. "To the memory of Lieut. General Sir Thomas Richard Swinnerton Dyer 7th Baronet, of Westhope, Equerry to the Duke of Kent and Duke of Cumberland, died 12 April 1838, Buried at Ovington, Hampshire," with the Dyer Arms and Crest.
3. "In Memory of Elizabeth, Baroness Von Zandt of Ovington Park and Westhope, Widow of Sir Thomas Richard Swinnerton Dyer, died 27 May 1864 at Seehof Castle, aged 84, Buried at Memmelsdorf Bamberg." On the north side of the Nave below the window :
1. "In memory of Colonel Henry Clement Swinnerton Dyer, of Westhope, Craven Arms, Royal Artillery, Knight Commander of the Crown of Italy, Knight Commander of Charles VII. of Spain, Knight Commander of the Rose of Brazil, and Order of Merit of Spain, 2nd son of the 9th Baronet."
2. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." On the wall below the window :
3. "To our Beloved Mother, Amelia Susan, of Gorstage Hall, Cheshire, Widow of Colonel Henry Clement Swinnerton Dyer of Westhope, granddaughter of Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart., and the Lady Amelia Grey his wife, and lineally descended from King Edward IV. and Elizabeth Wydeville, Queen Consort. Born 2nd August 1838, died 3 January 1903. Buried at Culmington, Salop. This Brass is placed to her memory by her two children."
4. "Rest in Peace, William Lott died 13 March 1906, aged 78, Buried at Diddlebury." He was for many years clerk of the Chapel.

Brass Furniture.—Brass and jewelled Altar Cross. Eucharist Candles. Pair of vases. Altar Desk. Alms dish. Wall candle sticks.

The beautiful brass lectern, "To the memory of my Father, Colonel Henry Clement Swinnerton Dyer, Born 30 December 1834, died 20 March 1898, from his son," replaces

the oak lectern given by Captain Stewart Dyer, which was too small for the large Bible, and is now placed in the vestry.

The Brass font lining. The font ewer, "Presented to Westhope Church June 1904, by the Tenants and Cottagers of the Westhope Estate."

Brass Pulpit Desk. Two seven light Brass vesper lights.

Windows.—The East window, designed by H. L. Moore, of London, is of three lights.

Our Lord as "The Light of the World" in the centre, supported by the figures of "Faith and Hope." The colouring is especially beautiful. This window was inserted by the late Colonel Swinnerton Dyer in memory of his parents. The inscription on the window is "In memory of Sir Thomas Swinnerton Dyer, 9th Baronet, born 10 December, 1799, died 29th October, 1878, and Mary Anne, Lady Dyer, his wife, born 24th August, 1805, died 9th February, 1880."

Above this inscription are the Dyer Arms, Or, a chief indented gules, quartering Clement, with the two Dyer Crests, the Goat's Head and Falcon.

On the north side is a window, the subject taken from I. Samuel, xxvi. chapter, 12 verse, "To the memory of Agnes Griffith Dyer, born 20 October, 1838, died 20 August, 1855, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas and Lady Swinnerton Dyer."

On the south side the subject taken from II. Samuel, v. chapter, "To the memory of Sir Swinnerton Halliday Dyer, 10th Baronet, born 4th June, 1833, died 16th March, 1882, eldest son of the 9th Baronet."

There are four other coloured windows in the Chancel.

All these windows were inserted by Colonel Swinnerton Dyer.

On the north side of the nave is a window, the subject of which a Knight in armour kneeling at the feet of an Angel, who, with outstretched arms, is receiving him into her keeping. In his right hand he holds his sword with the point lowered, and by his left side on the ground lies his shield, on which are the Dyer Arms. Below is the inscription "To the memory of Colonel Henry Clement Swinnerton Dyer, 2nd son of the 9th Baronet, erected by his daughter."

Of the old glass, only two small pieces remain, taken from

one of the windows on the restoration of the chapel; it has the inscription, F. Milner, 11 August 1764.

Another piece of glass has the inscription, J. Humphreys, 1870.

Both pieces of glass are now placed in the Chancel.

The piece with the date 1640, was in existence eight years ago, but has unfortunately been lost.

Church Furniture.—Nothing of the old vestments, fair linen, or altar cloths remain. But the Church possesses now four sets of vestments in cloth of gold, green, red, and purple, and four complete sets in white, red, green and purple, altar frontals, reading desk coverings, book markers and stoles, all embroidered, and set of fair linen, and cloths. The sanctuary curtains are in red, with fleur-de-lys pattern. The chancel carpet is of a thick red pile, and all the cushions covered with red velvet. The Credence Table is of 16th century work, and in the vestry is a 17th century chest.

Plate.—None of the old plate remains. All that the church possesses is modern, and has been presented within the last forty years. A silver flagon, glass and silver cruet, two silver patens, and silver chalice.

Endowments.—1728, Mrs. Elizabeth Fleming, £100. 1841, Elizabeth Baroness Von Zandt, £5 per annum.

Bell.—The Church Bell, which is hung in a wooden arched cot on the West gable, has on it the inscription, "W. Blews & Sons, 1872." Its diameter is 17 inches.

Restoration.—The Church was restored by Richard Fleming in 1728. The extent of the restoration is not known but in Mrs. Elizabeth Fleming's will, 1728, she leaves a bequest to her son "to rebuild" the chapel. In 1891 the late Colonel Swinnerton Dyer again restored the chapel. Some beautiful stained glass windows were put into the old windows, and plain glass in the others, the old oak pews and oak roof rotten with age, and falling to pieces from decay, were removed; this shows that, although by the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Fleming she wished the Church to be rebuilt, the old windows, floor, roof and oak pews were retained. The old broken stone flags of the Aisle and Chancel were removed and refloored with red tiles. The old wooden belfry, which the writer remembers looking very aged and dilapidated, was

pulled down, and the bell placed at the West End. The walls were re-plastered, the roof re-tiled, and the oak roof inside copied again in pine. It is hardly likely that the oak roof restored in 1728, if new at that time, would have been in such preservation as not to have been able to be used again in 1891, some 163 years later, so we may surmise that Richard Fleming used the roof of the old church in his restoration in 1728. The door was formerly at the west end, but was blocked up and the door removed to the south side, and the porch built. The round window over the old doorway was taken away, and the vestry built. When the old broken flags of stone were removed, the Chancel and Nave were cemented over beneath the tiles, and the floor filled up. Probably there was a Crypt under the Church, as the foundations are so deep before the restoration of 1728. An old inhabitant tells the writer that the Church, before the restoration in 1891, was in a very bad condition; this all points to the rebuilding being simply a restoration. It seems a pity that when restored in 1728 it was not kept the same as in the early ages. Many can echo this wish, for it is due to bad restoration that so many of our old churches have been spoilt.

CHURCHYARD.

The Church stands in an orchard, with hedge round it. Years ago the Chapel Orchard was joined to the Chapel Orchard, which is in front of Westhope Hall. Now these two are divided by a road.

William Andrews, in his book *Historical Byways and Highways of Old England*, says that it was the custom in olden days to plant fruit trees in burial grounds and lands surrounding the Church, for in a survey made in the 12th Century, "The burial ground of the good monks and Canons was planted with the following useful trees: Pear, apple, plum, laurel, chestnut, hazel nut, almond, walnut, medlar, quince, mulberry and fig. Some of these trees are in the orchard now, others in the plot adjoining and two old yew trees." Yews in bye-gone ages served for two purposes,—to supply wood for the bows, which in olden times were England's means of defence; and the yew is typical of immortality. And in the many "God's acres" that surround His

churches, there is seldom one, that does not at least possess one old yew tree raising its dark branches far above the ground, with its rugged grey stem marking silently its age. As far as is known the churchyard has not been consecrated. No graves have been found there, although they may have been buried in the church itself. Only one thing has been found, —on digging a drain some years ago a large earthenware pot was discovered some feet below the ground, which was broken up by the workmen, as it was worth nothing! I am sorry to say I did not see it, or would have saved it from destruction. The short path from the road has been planted with rose trees. The gate approached by two stone steps is of pale oak, with old-fashioned bolt and latch. In the spring the churchyard is yellow with masses of wild double daffodils, which only grow there and in the Chapel Meadow, adjoining, and in Chapel Orchard by Westhope Hall, and the orchard behind Hill End.

IX.

PAROCHIAL RECORDS.

REGISTERS.

The Chapel does not possess any early Register Books. The following entries relating to Westhope are taken from the Diddlebury Registers.

1716, March 30, John Fleming, gent, buried.

1721, November 10, Mr. Hercules Fleming, buried.

1723, July 25, the Revd. Mr. John Acton, Vicar of Clunne, and Mrs. Beatrice Fleming, of Diddlebury, married.

1724, May 24, Edward, son of the Revd. Mr. John Acton and Beatrice, his wife, baptized.

1724, May 28, Mrs. Beatrice Acton, buried.

1728, February 20, Mrs. Elizabeth Fleming, buried.

1728, March 7, Mr. Hector Fleming, buried.

1740, January 18, Joseph Fleming, Esq., of the parish of St. James's, Westminster, in the county of Middlesex, buried.

1760, September 29, William Palmer of the parish of Eaton, gent, and Elizabeth Maria Amies, of the parish of Diddlebury, were legally married in the Chapple of Westhope by licence. Witnesses: Menry Haynes and Eliza Amies.

1762, January 14, Gilbert Fleming, Esq., buried.

1765, June 10, William Fleeming, of the parish of Tettenhall in the County of Stafford, bachelor, and Elizabeth Evans, of the parish of Diddlebury, were married by licence.

1726, August 22, Richard Fleming, Clerk, solemnized a marriage at Diddlebury between John Harrington and Laetitia Downes.

1797, May 31, William Dyer witnessed a marriage between Thomas Ball and Margaret Newell, both of Diddlebury.

1811, January 31, Richard Fleming, A.B., Curate of Eaton, solemnized the marriage of William Downes and Mary Camel.

1866, May 3, John Parry and Constance Lloyd married at the Chapel of Westhope.

1873, June 26, John Humphreys, widower, labourer, and Lucretia Painter, full age, spinster, married at the Chapel of Westhope. Witnesses: James and Emily Blomfield (of Upper Westhope Farm, Westhope. The former witness is living).

There are many baptisms recorded in the Diddlebury Registers as having taken place in the Chapel of Westhope. There is now a Register for baptisms.

The following extracts are from the transcripts of the Registers of Diddlebury, preserved at Hereford:—

1680, July 14. Elizabeth, daughter of John Fleming, gent, and Elizabeth, his wife, baptised.

1681, July 20. Richard, son of John Fleming, gent., and Elizabeth, his wife, baptised.

1682, August 2. Hellen and Dorothy, daughters of John Fleming, gent, and Elizabeth his wife, baptised.

1682-3, March 3. Elizabeth, daughter of John Fleming, gent, buried.

1683, August 29. Francis, son of John Fleming, gent, and Elizabeth, his wife, baptised.

December 20. Helena, daughter of John Fleming, gent, buried.

1712, December 13. Richard Danett, buried.

REGISTER OF BISHOP TRELICK. (MS. at Hereford.)

Richard le Acre de Westhope ordained priest in the Parish Church of Stretton, 28 March, 1349. Richard de Acre of Casteo ordained deacon same day. Walter Dyare was ordained deacon in Hereford Cathedral, 19 September, 1349,

the Bishop of Hereford ordaining candidates from Worcester-shire because the see of Worcester was vacant.

CHURCHWARDENS, OVERSEERS, &C.

These are taken from the Registers of Diddlebury, and were kindly supplied by Mr. G. William S. Sparrow, who has transcribed the registers of the parish, which it is hoped will presently be printed.

1685. Thomas Barker, Overseer for Westhope.

1686. Edward Tyler, Overseer for Westhope.

1686. John Hill, of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.

1686. Richard Ward, Supervisor of Highways for Westhope (probably the same who was tenant of Ward Farm in 1707).

1687. Nathaniel Smith, Supervisor of Highways for Westhope.

1688. Edward Thomas, Overseer for Westhope.

1688. Edward Morris, Supervisor of the Highways for Westhope.

1689. John Campian, Supervisor of the Highways for Westhope.

1690. Nathaniel Smith, of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.

1690. John Hill, Overseer for Westhope.

1690. William Hammonds, Supervisor of the Highways for Westhope.

1691. John Farmer, Supervisor of the Highways for Westhope.

1692. John Edwards, Overseer for Westhope.

1692. Edward Tyler, Supervisor of the Highways for Westhope.

1693. David Jones, Supervisor of the Highways for Westhope.

1694. John Farmer of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.

1694. John Bridgwaters, Overseer for Westhope.

1696. Edward Lloyd, of Westhope Mill, Overseer.

1698. David Jones of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.

- 1698. John Hill, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1700. John Edwards, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1702. John Hill of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.
- 1702. John Campian, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1704. Nathaniel Smith, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1706. Richard Amies, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1708. John Fleming, Esq., Overseer for Westhope.
- 1710. John Hill of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.
- 1712. David Jones, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1714. William Eltoft of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.
- 1714. John Taylor, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1716. John Hill, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1718. Thomas Amies, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1719. John Smith of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.
- 1720. Edward Bowen, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1722. Thomas Amies, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1724. Thomas Amies, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1732. Edward Amies, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1733. William Higgins of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.
- 1734. William Higgins, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1736-7. John Prichard, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1738. Henry Haines, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1740. Richard Fleming, Esq., Overseer for Westhope.
- 1741. Henry Haines of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.
- 1742. Edward Parker, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1744. Thomas Smith, Overseer for Westhope.
- 1749. Griffiths Davies of Westhope, Churchwarden of Diddlebury.

TITHES.

Phillipps' MS., 11226, folio 436 (in Shrewsbury Free Library). Memorandum that on Tuesday next before Palm Sunday, Osbert, farmer of Diddlebury, promised in the presence of the Bishop of Hereford that he will pay to the Dean and Chapter of Hereford, at the feast of St. Ethelbert next

to come, ten marks for arrears of his farm under the penalty of forty shillings, and the same Osbert granted to the Dean and Chapter, all the tithes of Westhop, and Middlehop, so long as he should live, for ten yearly marks which he owes them in the name of the farm. Nevertheless, so that if the said tithes in common years, are not worth ten marks, he will assign other tithes besides to them, with which the Dean and Chapter will and ought to be reasonably satisfied for the ten annual marks. Given in the Chapter House at Hereford in the fourth year of the Pontificate of Bishop R. (There is no date).

A terrier of Glebe Lands, Tenements, tithes, rights, duties, and customs belonging to the Vicar of Diddlebury dated 22 April, 1637.

Churchwardens, John Norncott, Gent., John Baldwin, Gent., Francis Pulley, William Fosbrooke, Richard Stedman, Adam Price, Clement Downes, Charles Wellings, Michael Duke, Thomas Lewis, Gent., Richard Like and Thomas Turner, and passed by Thomas Habberly.

In Westhope. Item, payed by all the inhabitants of Westhope aforesaid for and in recompence of their Tythe Hay the sum of twelve shillings and six pence yearly.

Item, for the tythe of a mill now in the tenure of Gerrard Dannett two shillings yearly.

Item, for every calf, that is calv'd within the parish, four pence, saveing and excepting those who pay the tenth calf in kind, and for every colt fallen one penney.

Item, for all the Gardens in the Parish one penney for every Garden.

Item, for Wood and Fuel burnt in each house within the said Parish one penney yearly.

Item for every Servant, Artificer, and Tradesman receiving the Communion at Easter, the tenth part of all his clean gain, all charges deducted, and for every other Communicant two pence a peece yearly.

Item, for the Tythe milk of every cow kept in the Parish one penny.

Item, there are due to the Vicar all other small Tythes as wooll, lambs, apples, pears and other fruits, geese, pigs, hemp,

and flax and all other small Tythes in kind saveing and excepting such and such places as any sum of money above be mentioned to be paid in lieu of tythes.

Item, Eggs, Videlicet for every Henn two eggs at Easter.

Item for Egistment of barrons and inprofitable cattle, the tenth part of the value of the pasture.

Item, there is and before the memory of Man to the contrary there was in the Channcel of Diddlebury aforesaid a convenient seat for the said Vickar and his assistant Minister adjoining to the receiving place and free egress and regress into the said Channcell for the administration of the sacrament Reading of Prayers to stand to bring in and distributing of his customary right to the parishioners and distributing the same at Easter, or other times receiving the custom money in recompence of his Tythes in kind putting on and off his Robes and place for a Chest to stand in, for safe keeping and setting up of the same.

Item, for every sheep that is sould a half penny a head.

Item, for every one that is married within the Parish twenty pence, and every one that is married in any other parish, he or she being of this Parish the like sum of twenty pence.

Item, for every one that is buried within the Parish six pence.

Item, for every woman that is Church'd within the parish sixpence.

Item, a Mortuary due to be paid to the Vickar from such persons, and in such shares as they have been accustomedly paid according to the statute.

William Churchman, Curate.

William Tyler, x his mark.

William Higley, Churchwarden—Thomas Lewis, John Bawdewine, Adam Price, Francis Pulley, Richard Like, x his mark, William Fosbrooke, Clement Downes, x his mark, Charles Wellings, Michael Duke, Thomas Turner, Richard Stedman.

RECEIPT OF DIDDLEBURY TITHES TO EASTER, 1839.

Thomas Banks, late Mr. John Banks, Westhope	11	0
For late part of Mr. Brooms, Westhope	8	5

John Banks, late Mr. Dawes, Westhope	6	18	0
William Bluck, Westhope	1	6	
Lady Dyer, Aston	5	0	0
Lady Dyer for late part of Broome, Aston ...	4	15	6
William Webster, late Edward Farmer, formerly Halls, late Brooms	2	15	0
Ditto for about 8 acres of pasture land of late Brooms... ..	6	0	
April 10. Paid Mrs. Dyer for Tenants' Dinner at her house on rent day £8 4s. 6d.			
May 6. Paid for a receipt stamp 1s. 0d			

RECEIPT OF DIDDLEBURY TITHES TO EASTER, 1840.

Thomas Banks, late John Banks, Westhope ...	11	0	
Ditto for late part of Mr. Brooms	8	6	
Lady Dyer, Aston	5	0	0
Ditto for part of Brooms	4	15	6
William Webster, late Edward Tanner, formerly Hall's, late Brooms	2	15	0
Ditto for eight acres of pasture land late Brooms	6	0	
April 27. Paid Mrs. Dyer's bill for the Tenants' Dinners £7 16s. 10d.			

The Mrs. Dyer referred to was Mary Bradley or Bradeley; she married James Dyer, and lived in Siefert Batch, later they lived at Titterhill. She was given notice to leave this estate on account of her son, a small boy of about eight years old, having one Sunday morning set fire to a rick of oats in Titterhill Barn. She is living now at Ludlow, under the name of Morris (1906). Her husband, James Dyer, died at Ludlow Union some years ago.

The Lord of the Manor of Westhope is lay Rector of Hayton's Bent in the parish of Stanton Lacy, near Ludlow.

A few words as to the meaning of a lay rector will not be out of place. All churches were originally Rectories. Vicarages were only created as the Religious Houses seized and appropriated the Churches. Then the Monks became Rectors, and they put in a priest as Vicar to serve the Church, and his stipend was the small tithes, the Monks taking the great or more important tithes. So that those Churches which were never seized by the Monks are rectories still: whilst those

taken by the Monks became vicarages. When the monasteries came to end about 1537 King Henry VIII. seized all the tithes of these churches which had been appropriated by the Monks, and he became Lay Rector; but he sold them all to various laymen, and they became Lay-Rectors; and so, of course, were all the subsequent owners of the tithes Lay-Rectors to this day. All these Churches still had a clerical Vicar, who served the Church, and received the small tithes for his stipend. Where a Lay-Rector restores the lay-rectorial tithes to a church for the stipend of the Vicar, such Vicar would become a Rector again. This has been done in several cases. A lay-man is a Lay-Rector or Impropriatory because he is a successor of the Monastic Rectors. The Vicarial or small tithes never belonged to the monks, but only the Rectorial or great tithes.

There are no deeds to show how the Lord of Manor of Westhope became Lay-Rector of Hayton's Bent.

REGISTERS OF THE DYERS,---OWNERS OF WESTHOPE.

Sir John Swinnerton Dyer, 6th Baronet.

Finchingfield. 1738, November 20. John Swinnerton, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Dyer, baptised.

St. Vedast's, Foster Lane. 1761, December 9. John Swinnerton Dyer of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, Westminster, Bachelor, and Susannah Vicary of this Parish, Spinster, married by licence. Witnesses, Elizabeth Dyer and Henry Vicary.

St. Margaret's, Westminster. 1773, April 17. Susannah Dyer buried.

St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury. 1801, March 28. Sir John Swinnerton Dyer, Baronet, in the Chancel Vault buried; died 21st March, aged 63 years.

Sir Thomas Richard Swinnerton Dyer, 7th Baronet.

St. Margaret's Westminster. 1768, March 16. Thomas Richard, son of John Swinnerton Dyer and Susannah, his wife, baptised; born 5 February.

North Stoneham, Hants. 1814, April 12. Sir Thomas Richard Swinnerton Dyer, Baronet, and Elizabeth, daughter of James Standerwicke, Esq., of Ovington, married by licence dated 11 April.

Ovington, Alresford. 1838, April 12. Sir Thomas Richard Swinnerton Dyer, buried, aged 70.

1839, May 30. Frederick Baron von Zandt and Dame Elizabeth Dyer, Widow, married.

Mennelsdorf, near Bamberg, Bavaria. 1864, May 31. Baroness Elizabeth von Zandt, widow of His Bavarian Majesty's Chamberlain, Frederic Baron von Zandt, buried; died 27 May, aged 84 years.

Colonel Henry Clement Swinnerton Dyer. Chobham, Surrey. 1835, February 8. Henry Clement Swinnerton, son of Thomas Swinnerton Dyer and Mary Anne, his wife, baptised; born 30 December, 1834.

Appleby, Westmoreland. 1869, April 6. Henry Clement Swinnerton Dyer and Amelia Susan Ward, married. Watlas, Co. York. 1838, Amelia Susan, daughter of John Ward and Henrietta, his wife, baptised 2 September; born 2nd August.

Withington Cemetery, Manchester. 1898, March 23. Henry Clement Swinnerton Dyer buried (cremated); died 20 March.

Culmington, Bromfield, Salop. 1903, January 7. Amelia Susan Swinnerton Dyer buried; died 3 January.

Leonard Whitworth Swinnerton Dyer. Skipton in Craven, Co. York. 1875, November 14. Leonard Whitworth Swinnerton, son of Henry Clement Swinnerton Dyer and Amelia Susan, his wife, baptised; born 30 October.

Church of the Transfiguration, New York. 1897, June 12. Leonard Whitworth Swinnerton Dyer and Lucy Schroeder married.

WILL OF RICHARD LEWYS OF WESTHOPE, IN THE
PARISH OF DUDDYLBURY. 1536.

Dated 12 March, 1535.

To be buried in the churchyard of Duddylbury.

To the high altar for tithes forgotten, 3s. 4d.

To the Cathedral Church of Hereford, 8d.

To our lady service in the parish church of Duddylburye, for my buriall, 6s. 8d., and a suit of vestments.

To maintain our lady service in WYSTANTON 6s. 8d.

To the parish church of Acton of the Hill, for to have my father and mother praied for 6s. 8d.

I direct my executors to find a priest to sing for the souls of John Lewys and Annes his wife, and for my soul and my wife Annes', and all Christian souls, for three years; and a trentall of masses for my soul; where my executors shall think most convenient.

My sons Edward and William; and my daughters Elizabeth the wife of Rauf Marston, and another the wife of William Phillips of Ludlow.

To Maister Lytley, and my brother in law William Mason, 20s. apiece.

My lands at Dudley, Ludlow, Wulstene, and Sutton.

To my wife Annes, my tenement in Westhope occupied by Annes Roberts, for her dowry.

Executors: my sons in law and my wife.

Witnesses: Maister John Lytley, gent., Richard Rude of Agustun, William Mason of Duddylbury, Richard Jenks of Harton, Edward Lewys of Stanway, Sir Richard Mormecot, priest, Sir John Williamson.

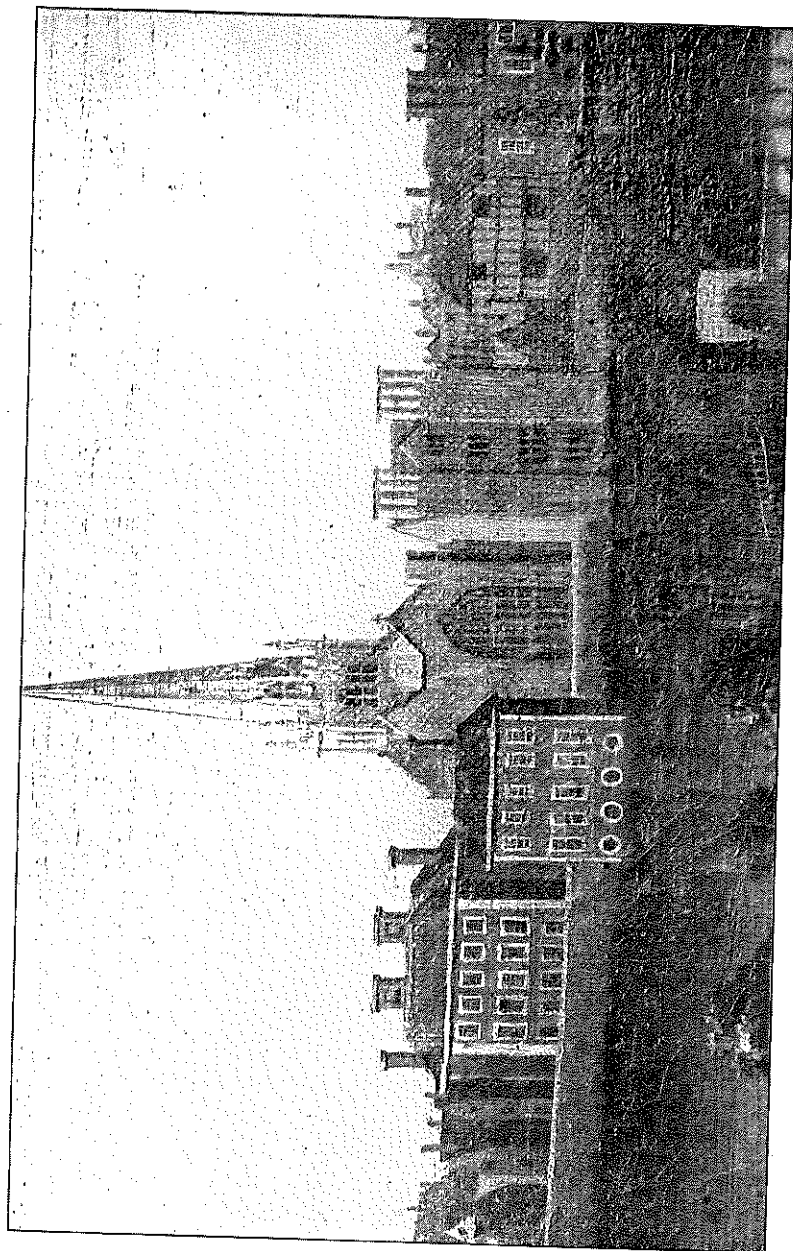
Will proved in P.C.C. 17 April, 1536.
(34 Hogen).

OTHER DANNATT WILLS.

Will of Thomas Danett, 1628. (Brother of Gerard Danett).
Mentions his mother Sara Danett. (P.C.C. 57 Barrington).

Will of Awdley Dannet, of London, gent. Dated 16 April, 1591. Mentions his sister Jane Dannet. (P.C.C. 72 Sainberbe).

Will of Alexander Danett, of Poole, gent. Dated 1 Nov., 1653. Mentions his wife Frances; his children, Anthony, Alexander, Samuel, Elizabeth, Agnes, Frances, and Magdalen; Alexander and Sarah, children of Alexander; and Elizabeth, daughter of Anthony. Proved P.C.C. 20 July, 1655. (70 Aylett).



THE STONE HOUSE, SHREWSBURY.

(FROM AN OLD PRINTING.)

H. H. Hughes, Photo.

THE STONE HOUSE, NEAR ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SHREWSBURY.

By J. A. MORRIS.

WITHIN the last few months a building of considerable historical interest, known as the "Stone House," has been demolished: it stood just within the line of the Town Walls, opposite the East end of St. Mary's Church, and adjacent to the buildings of the Salop Infirmary. On its site is now being erected a new building to serve as the Nurses' Home for the latter institution.

The older portion of the structure was but a wing of ¹the "Great Stone House" of Sir Richard Lee, the son of Sir Humphrey Lee, who built it, and who was the first Shropshire Baronet; in the course of alterations and additions made in the 18th century, it had been cased with brickwork, and nothing remained visible to succeeding generations to account for its distinctive appellation,—The Stone House. During the three centuries of its existence, it had been associated with many important events in the history of the town, and, it had been the birth-place of some distinguished citizens: now, that it is a memory of the past, a humble attempt is being made in the following pages to place on record something of its history, and the lives of its inmates.

Before considering the origin of the Stone House, it will be interesting to look back to early Norman times, when the site lay waste, enclosed within the walls, and to trace its subsequent connection with the fortunes of the ²Friars Preachers, or Black Friars, who held it for nearly three centuries: they came to Shrewsbury in or shortly after the year 1230, and built their Church and conventual buildings on land outside the walls, granted to them by the King, which extended from St. Mary's Water Lode for a considerable

¹ *Transactions*, 3rd Series, Vol. VII., p. 312.

² *Transactions*, Vol. IX., p. 252.

Vol. IX., 3rd Series.

distance towards the Stone Bridge. ¹In 1245 the town wall was being rebuilt, and the Friars received a gift of the stone remaining over for the erection of their own buildings. They had also received a grant of land within the walls, so that their property was divided into two portions by the town wall. One of the earliest references² to the site of the Stone House is contained in the document *Inquisitio quo Warranto*, from which the following item is extracted:—"Inquisitio Ville et Libertatis, Salopie," etc.³ 7 Edward I. (1278).
³"Feoda que tenentur de Ecclesia Beate Marie, Salopie."
 "Two burgages granted to the Friars Preachers, and by"
 "them underlet to Henry le Taylour and his wife for life,"
 "which were worth 20s. per annum."

The jury, who had to reply to the inquisition, stated that the Friars Preachers had obstructed the road leading from the Street of Dogpole towards Severn, at ⁴Yrkyslode, that having been done in consequence of ⁵the injury caused to their church by rain floods from the higher ground pouring into the building.

From this extract it will be gathered that the Friars Preachers were at one time in possession of a considerable area of land, extending southwards, within the town walls, from the gate leading to St. Mary's Water Lode.

⁶In 1279 the town wall was ordered to be raised to a height of 8 feet next to the Blackfriars. In the succeeding century the Friars pursued their useful, unpretentious lives, and finding the inconvenience of having no approach into the town for their own particular use, they petitioned the King in 1380 ¹that they might be permitted to have a postern in the wall: the Royal license was granted on May 1st of the same year,

¹ *Transactions*, Vol. IX., pp. 253, 254, 256, 257.

² *Inquisitio quo Warranto*. Veridictum duodecim Juratorum Ville et Libertatis Salop. 7 Edw. I. (1278). feoda que tenentur de ecclesia Beate Marie, Salop. Henri le Taylour tenet duo burg' ad vitam ipsius et uxoris sue de Fratribus Predicatoribus, nescitur quo serviciis nec quo warranto, et valet modo per annum XXs. (Copy, Joseph Morris Transcript, p. 36, in Shrewsbury Free Library, M.S. 281).

³ *Transactions*, 3rd Series, Vol. I., p. 166.

⁴ Yrkyslode was a narrow lane that led from the top of Dogpole down to the Severn, through what was called St. Mary's Friars. *Transactions*, Vol. I., p. 180.

⁵ *Transactions*, Vol. IX., p. 256.

⁶ *Transactions*, Vol. IX., p. 258. Pat. 3 Rich. III., p. 2, m. 1.

and they were empowered to make a postern (portam introitus) over against the front of St. Mary's Church, for the carriage of necessities by hand only; but when the King pleased, on a reasonable cause, the Friars, at their own cost, were to do away with the postern and close the wall again when any imminent danger threatened the town; and they were to find security before the Bailiffs that no damage or danger should happen to the town through the postern.

¹ In the 8th Edward IV. (1469) the land between a certain venell called "Saintmarywaterlode" and the gate of entrance to the Church of the Friars Preachers, was lying waste, for in a deed of that date Roger Eyton, Esquire, of Salop, gave seisin to "William Prowd, bruer," of a void place near the cemetery of St. Mary's Church, as above described.

² In 1538 the Friars Preachers, who had held high repute amongst their fellow townsmen, were suppressed, their buildings confiscated, and passing into the hands of Roger Lewys, draper, alias Pope, in 1544, afterwards came into other hands.

Nothing further is recorded until the beginning of the 17th century, when the Corporation noting the signs of the coming troubles, bethought them of the need of the repair of the town walls, and gave instructions that a careful watch should be placed at the entrance gates of the town, including St. Mary's Water Lode.

³ In the 7th James I. (1610) they made a further order as follows:—

"In the Agreement at the Common Hall this year a grant
"in fee farm is made to Mr. Lee, of the town wall in length
"44 yards, from Mr.⁴Barker's land to a lane or entry leading
"from St. Marie's Churchyard to a place called St. Marie's
"Friars as also their right of passage into the Fryers through
"the said lane or entry."

¹ *Transactions*, 3rd Series, Vol. VII., p. 312.

² *Transactions*, Vol. IX., p. 264.

³ *Transactions*, Vol. IX., p. 167.

⁴ In 1586-7 the Corporation had agreed to make a grant of the adjacent Council House and St. Nicholas Chapel to Rowland Barker of Haughmond Abbey. Rowland Barker was admitted a burgess Aug. 7, 1570, and served the office of Sheriff in 1585. He was the grandson of Sir Rowland Hill who purchased the Monastery. (William Phillips, MS., *Shropshire Men*, Vol. I., p. 180.)

¹ On September 6th, 1612, the parishioners of St. Mary consented, at the earnest request of "Mr. Humphrey Lea, Esquire, that he and his heirs forever shall have as much right and title as in them is, for the settinge straight of the new palle in the Church-yard wheare he hath encroached in places of the palle a yard of ground: in consideration whereof he hath promised to be a good benefactor towards the re-pairing of the church." Presumably, at this time Mr. Lea had built his new stone house, and was taking means to have it fenced in from the street in front of it, as to the condition of which there had been many complaints during the preceding 30 years. At this period the description "tenementum lapideum" was frequently applied to houses of the better sort built by the gentry, who had residences both in the town and country: the Free Grammar School was being rebuilt and enlarged with stone, and the comparatively recent destruction of the monastic establishments had provided a source of supply for the foundations, etc., near at hand and at little cost. The Stone House was a survival of a class of domestic building that has since almost entirely disappeared in the towns: in 1646 it was described ² in St. Mary's Parish Book as "the great stone house of Sir Richard Lea of Langley," the son of the builder of the house, Humphrey Lea. In 1657 amongst the Corporation rentals is the entry:—"ffee farme. Sir Richard Lee, Baronet, for part of ye town wall and ground over St. Mary's fryers whereon he hath builded his stone house oo ,, oo ,, o6."

Sir Richard Lea died in 1660, leaving part of his property, including the Stone House and Lea Hall, to his daughter Rachel, who had married Ralph Cleaton, the second son of Ralph Cleaton of ³Oneley. Her descendant in the third generation Ralph Cleaton had two daughters—⁴ Alethea who married James Apperley, M.B., and Jane, who became

¹ *Transactions*, 3rd Series, Vol. VII., p. 313. There is a deed in the Free Library dated 20 August, 28th Elizabeth (1586) by which Robert Ireland of Salop, Esquire, confirmed to Richard Lewys, draper (possibly a descendant of Roger Lewys who purchased the Dominican Monastery) "All that stone house or messuage, then in decay, situated in St. Marie's Almes-housetreete."

² *Transactions*, Vol. VII., p. 313.

³ Onneley, in the parish of Woore, 6 miles N.N.E. of Market Drayton. There is also a township of Onneley in the parish of Madeley, co. Stafford.

⁴ Blakeway's *Sheriffs*, p. 97.

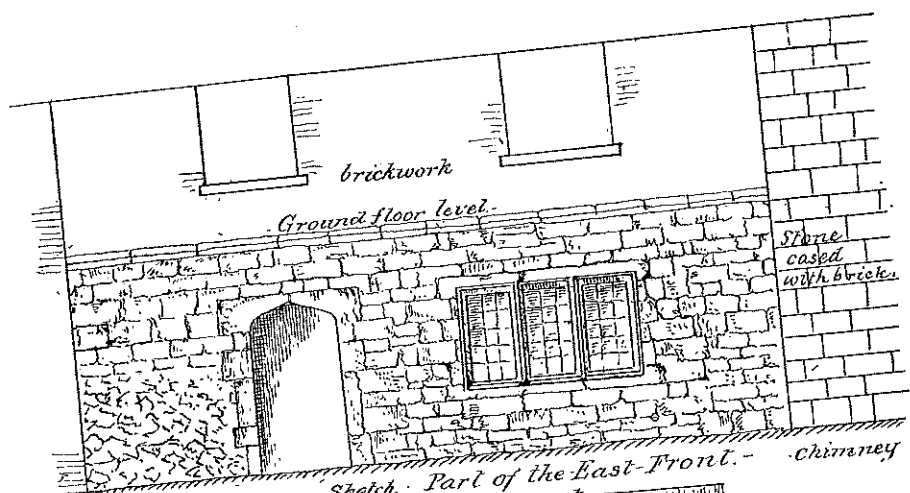
the wife of Watkin Williams Wynne of Voelas in the county of Denbigh, whose daughter, Joan, married the Honorable Charles Finch, brother of the Earl of Aylesford, and another daughter married Thomas Assheton Smith of Tedworth, Hants., and Vaynol in the county of Carnarvon; this lady succeeded to the Lea Hall estate, which she sold to Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt Jones. It is now the property of Frank Bibby, Esq., and is occupied by Mr. William Oakley.

Amongst the deeds in the possession of the Directors of the Salop Infirmary is a reference to a lease and re-lease of the Stone House in 1781, the parties to which were Sir Roger Mostyn and Richard Myddleton, Esq., of the first part, the Honble. Charles Finch and Joan, his wife, of the second part, and William Beckett Birtles, Esq., and Richard Morhall, Esq., of the third part, from which I conclude that the Honble. Joan Finch was the last owner of the Stone House who had descended from Humphrey Lea, the builder. In 1788 the names of the different persons who were parties to the deeds are as follows:—John Leake, Richard Morhall, Mary Bright and Mary Betton. The deeds in 1798 contain the names of Mary Bright, Mary Betton, Richard Morhall, John Corbet, Thomas Jones, Rowland Hunt and John Hill (conveyance to Rowland Hunt); and in 1808 the deeds contain the names of Rowland Hunt, John Hill, Thomas Lloyd and John Williams, conveyance to Thomas Lloyd. At this time (1808) the property passed into the hands of the Lloyd Family, who finally sold it to the Directors of the Infirmary.

Having now in a somewhat disconnected manner traced the story relating to the Stone House, it remains to describe the building as it existed when it was taken down in December, 1908. Commencing with the basement, which was divided into two rooms, the one on the north with a deeply recessed fire-place, had probably been used as a kitchen, with a window and doorway on the north front, having stone jambs, etc., as originally constructed; the doorway led into a small yard and here there was some old masonry, which suggested that there had been an outlet from this yard through the town wall. The other room on the south had a three-light stone mullioned window, and a doorway of comparatively recent construction, on the east front; besides these rooms there was cellaring under the modern western portion of the

building, which was four storeys high. The eastern portion of the building—the remnant of the old Stone House—had at least three floors, above the basement, each of which was originally one chamber only, divided in later times into two or more apartments: that on the ground floor (on a level with St. Mary's Place) had windows on the northern and western sides in the original stone walls, which had been blocked up or partially destroyed by modern alterations: the floor above presented the same features. There were some remains of the stone work with door openings in the southern wall leading into the destroyed central portion of the building. Excepting the massive stone chimney stack at the north-east corner which remained to the second floor, the masonry had been removed on the eastern front and replaced with brick-work. There were doorways in the central division wall (the western wall of the original building) leading into the more modern portion, on the stone work of one of which the date 1654 was cut. The building contained few features of interest other than are characteristic of the architecture of the early portion of the 17th century, the period at which it was built. The illustrations comprise the plan of the building at the ground level, sketches of the lower portion of the building on the east front, and of the doorway, windows, and other details. During the course of the excavations a paved footway was found against the building on the east side about 5 ft. below the present level, showing that the soil has been heaped up against it, and that there was a greater difference between the level of the ground inside and outside the town wall than there is at present. At the north-east corner of the building was the remains of a rudely constructed weathered buttress; ¹this may have marked the termination of an "outward curved semi-circular bit of wall" which is referred to in the Taylor MS. and shown upon Speed's map of the town. As previously stated the Stone House when built covered at least three times as much ground as the wing that had remained until a recent date; it consisted of two lofty wings and a central portion between: at what date the one wing and central portion were destroyed is a matter of conjecture. An oil painting in the possession of H. R. H.

¹ *Transactions*, Vol. IV., p. 107.



Boiler House.

Window head basement.
- East Front.

Bultruss

Basement

Window Jamb.
at B.

R.A.

1654.

letters at x.



Base of Town Wall.

Open-yard

brick casing

brick casing

Line at the Town Wall

brickwork

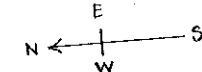
doorway built-up

Stone

window built-up

Stone walls

window destroyed



Plan of The Stone House.
at the Ground floor level

← dotted lines shew brick built
portion of the 18th century →

Sketch of
Old Bultruss

J A Morris
del.

Boiler House Infirmary

OF THE STONE HOUSE.



Southam, Esq., is an eastern view of the town, probably dating from the middle of the 18th century; this shows the mansion as consisting of a central portion four storeys high, with mullioned windows, terminating in a gable, and two massive projecting chimneys, one at either angle, with tall stacks above the roof line, giving the elevation a somewhat turretted appearance. With his kind permission a photograph of this portion of the picture has been reproduced as a frontispiece to this paper. In all probability it was towards the end of the 18th century when the property passed from the descendants of the Lee family that the modern brick front half of the building was erected, and the remaining part of the old building cased with brickwork. A plan attached to the deeds represents the building early in the 19th century much as it was of late, the space occupied by the Boiler House and other outbuildings of the Infirmary being then a garden.

¹The family of Lee, sometimes spelt Lea, was descended from an ancient Shropshire family, one of whom, Richard Lee, was Sheriff of the county in 1479. ¹Richard Lee of Langley was third in descent from the above-named, his eldest son Walter, died during his lifetime, his second son ²Humphrey, born 1555, entered Shrewsbury School in 1566 and re-entered in 1570. Matriculated at Hart College, Oxford, in 1576, as "Arm. Fil. of Salop." Admitted student of the Inner Temple 1577-8, he obtained a considerable reputation as a barrister; on the death of his father in 1591 he succeeded to the family estates; in 1600 he was Sheriff of Shropshire. He married Margaret, daughter of Reginald Corbet, Esq., of Stoke, Salop, by whom he had one son and five daughters. He frequently resided at Lea Hall in the Parish of Preston Gobalds, and it was there that his son Richard was born September 6th, 1600. Somewhere between 1610 and 1612 he built the Stone House; and in 1620 he was created a Baronet. He died October 6th, 1632, and was buried at Acton Burnell five days later. His son, ³Sir Richard Lee, who succeeded him, was also educated at Shrews-

¹ Wm. Phillips, *MS, Shropshire Men*, Vol. III., p. 154 passim.

² In the transept of Acton Burnell Church are monuments erected in memory of Richard Lee and his son, Sir Humphrey Lee.

³ A portrait of Sir Richard Lee hangs in the Gallery at Acton Burnell Park.

bury School, admitted to Queen's College, Oxford, May 10th, 1616, and elected Member of Parliament for the County in 1640. He must have resided very frequently at the Stone House, as he took a prominent part in the affairs of the town. ¹Amongst his friends was Thomas Chaloner, the then head-master of Shrewsbury School, who mentions him as one of "a knot of company keepers" who made up the "Club of good fellows," who met at the "Sextry," an ancient Inn—still existing—in the passage now called the Golden Cross, leading from High Street to Old St. Chad's Church. He was taken prisoner at the capture of Shrewsbury, as also a Richard Lee, possibly one of his sons, who died during his father's lifetime. Staunch loyalist as he was, and having zealously exerted himself in the Stuart cause, he suffered heavily in mind and fortune for his consistency. The document, as follows, preserved amongst the State papers, shows how deeply he was affected by his troubles and anxieties:—

April 14, 1648. Sir Richard Lee of Langley. ²A petition stating that he has remained a prisoner in Nantwich ³since the taking of Shrewsbury. He has been grievously visited with sickness, is old and infirm, and being desirous to compound for his delinquency, prays leave to attend the Committee to prosecute his composition, and that you will grant him liberty upon his parole to appear before your honors at a certain day for that purpose.

The petition was referred to the sub-committee, who reported:—We can certify that if it please you to grant him liberty upon his parole at a certain day to appear before you for that purpose, he will act accordingly, having hitherto so faithfully performed his engagements to us in that kind.

⁴He was reduced to compound for his estates in the sum of £3,719 and £169 per annum. For a time he left the country, and a copy of the pass permitting him to cross the seas is still preserved.

⁵March 6, 1655-6. Pass for Sir Richard Lee, Margaret his wife, Mary their daughter, and a maid to Holland.

¹ Fisher's *Annals of Shrewsbury School*, p. 149. Letters of Sir Thomas Bushell to Sir Francis Oatley, 1642-3.

² *State Papers, Domestic Series*, 1648-9. p. 46.

³ *Cal. Committee for Compounding*, 1643-1660, part II., p. 1005.

⁴ Blakeway's *Sheriffs*, p. 97.

⁵ *State Papers, Domestic Series*, 1655-6, p. 579.

¹Under date September 29, 1657-8, is the Petition of Lady Margaret Lee and Mary, her daughter-in-law. They went to Holland eight or nine weeks before for the health of (Lady) Margaret, who had been ill for some years, and that she might put a daughter to school to learn the language. On returning they were thrown into the Tower because they had crossed without a pass; (Lady) Margaret being very weak from imprisonment and in danger of death they beg to be released.

Shortly afterwards the family returned to Langley, where Sir Richard Lee died just about a month before the restoration of the monarchy, and was buried at Acton Burnell, April 3, 1660.

²He first married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Allen, of London, Alderman, who died in 1643, and is buried at Acton Burnell, by whom he had five sons, all of whom died during their father's life-time; one of them, Thomas, ³was so great a favourite with his tutor, the very eminent and loyal Mr. Chaloner, ejected Headmaster of Shrewsbury School, that he says of him:—"Mihi semper unice perplacuit." He had also three daughters, the eldest, Mary, baptised June 27, 1639, at Preston Gobalds, married to Edward Smythe, Esq., of Eske, the fourth son of a very ancient family in the bishoprick of Durham, who thus acquired the Langley and Acton Burnell estates; out of respect to the memory and services of his father-in-law he was created a Baronet a few months after the Restoration. ⁴The second daughter, Elizabeth, was baptised at Acton Burnell, July 19, 1631, of Shrewsbury, and buried at Preen, March 24, 1655. The third daughter, Rachel, baptised November 30, 1629 (?) at Acton Burnell, married Ralph Cleaton as before stated.

⁵There is no very clear evidence as to the occupants of the Stone House during the next century. Mr. William Phillips, in his genealogy of the Hunt Family, thinks that Rowland Hunt of Boreatton (the son of Colonel Thomas Hunt, a Governor of the town during Parliamentary times), who was Sheriff in 1672, resided at Shrewsbury in 1677 in a house near the Drapers' Hall, which he suggests was probably the

¹ *State Papers, Domestic Series*, 1657-8, p. 110.

² Wm. Phillips, *MS. Shropshire Men*, Vol. III., p. 154.

³ Blakeway's *Sheriffs*, p. 97.

⁴ Wm. Phillips, *MS. Shropshire Men*, Vol. III., p. 154.

⁵ Wm. Phillips, *MS. Shropshire Men*, Vol. III., p. 154.

Stone House; a ¹descendant of the same family Rowland Hunt, born January 13, 1784, Sheriff in 1830, married April 8, 1823, Mary, the eldest daughter of Thomas Lloyd of Shrewsbury, Attorney, and Glangwyna in the county of Carnarvon, and on the same authority it is suggested that he resided at the Stone House in 1803.

The family of Lloyd is descended from an ancient and opulent Shrewsbury family. John Lloyd of the Wyle Cop was sworn a burgess in 1704. It was his son, Thomas Lloyd, who purchased the Stone House. He is described as an Attorney, of the Stone House, also of Ford, and was Mayor in 1810. His son, John Thomas Lloyd, also of the Stone House was sworn a burgess, October 8, 1812; married October 5, 1819, Harriet, the daughter of the Rev. Samuel Butler, D.D., afterwards Bishop of Lichfield, and died May 12, 1826. He was the father of William Butler Lloyd, Esq., and the Venble. Archdeacon Thomas Bucknall Lloyd, who was born at the Stone House, May 23, 1824.

About the year 1832, the Lloyd family removed from the Stone House to the Whitehall, and it was occupied by William Wybergh How, Esq., who was Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1839. It is an interesting coincidence that about this time there were four boys in the same form at Shrewsbury School, who distinguished themselves in after years, and were intimately connected with the Stone House. Two of these were born at the Stone House; Thomas Bucknall Lloyd, Archdeacon of Salop, Vicar of St. Mary's, and Chairman of the Governing Body of the School; and William Butler Lloyd, Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1853-4. The other two spent many years of their boyhood at the Stone House; William Walsham How, Bishop of Bedford, afterwards of Wakefield, and Thomas Maynard How, Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1857.

Eventually, Mr. W. W. How removed to his new residence in the Abbey Foregate, and for a time the Stone House was used as a high-class ladies' school. After which it became the home of the Nursing Staff of the Infirmary.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Directors of the Infirmary for their kind permission to inspect the deeds in their possession, and many friends who have tendered information and advice.

TWO ELECTIONS FOR BISHOP'S CASTLE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

BY THE REV. JOHN R. BURTON, B.A.

IN sorting and arranging various old Walcot MSS., I find some letters and accounts which throw light on the elections at Bishop's Castle in the "good old times;" and as they are probably a sample of the system then in vogue throughout the country they may be of interest. The *letters* relate to the election of 1741. No. 1 is from James Bridges, the "princely" Duke of Chandos, to his nephew, John Walcot of Walcot, thanking him for promised help in the candidature of his son, the Marquis of Carnarvon. The writer during his father's lifetime sat in several Parliaments for Hereford, and held the lucrative office of Paymaster-General of all the English forces abroad throughout the Marlborough campaigns. In 1714 he was created by George I. Viscount Wilton and Earl of Carnarvon; and in 1719 was raised to the Marquisate of Carnarvon and Dukedom of Chandos. He was also Chancellor of the University of St. Andrew's. The Duke was known as an ostentatious patron of arts and letters. Pope, in his poem on Taste, described in a satirical manner the pomp and magnificence of his life at Canons. All his surroundings were princely. Handel was organist of his private chapel. Thus he lavished a fortune estimated at £3,000,000, and left his son in an impoverished condition. The other letters are from the candidate himself, and show how his satisfaction with "honest Bishop's Castle" was sadly modified when the "satisfaction required by the burgesses" became duly appreciated later on.

At the election of 1753, John Dashwood King, the brother-in-law of John Walcot (bapt. at Bitterley 24 Jan. 1697, Burgess of Ludlow 1719, M.P. for Shropshire 1727), was a candidate. A small bundle of receipted bills shows how the burgesses of honest Bishop's Castle desired "to be

It may here be noted that Charles Walcot was elected Member for Bishop's Castle in 1586 and 1588, and George Walcot in 1700.

(Letter from James, 1st Duke of Chandos, to John Walcot.)

Dear Sir,

Jul. 26, 1739.

Your first Letter having acquainted me I should soon hear from you again, I defer'd answering it till I had received your second, which accordingly came to hand by Monday's post. I am much obliged to you for your readiness to assist Lord Carnarvan, and have no doubt but with so powerful Help he will be able to succeed both at Bishop's Castle and Radnor, for which last place I am likewise fully determined to set him up and try and fling out the present worthless Member. As I am wholly a stranger at Bishop's Castle I must leave the management of that Election to your Devotion, and the person you tell me you have engaged for the Agent. I should be glad to know who He is, as there may be occasion to correspond with Him. Whatever the expence shall be I will readily bear, but I must trust to Him to steer clear of the Act of Parliament, so as that no Proof may be capable of being brought to the contrary. I should therefore be glad to know what sort of Satisfaction will be required, that the Burgesses shall be taken notice of: as soon as I receive your answer, I'll write to Mr. More to desire his Vote and Interest for Lord Carnarvan, who will very willingly I dare say joyn with Mr. Kynaston or any other Gentleman you shall desire. I must likewise desire your Interest for Lord Carnarvan at Radnor, and wish his success above may be as easy as I dare say it will be below. The Dutchess joyns me in desiring your acceptance and your Ladies of our very Humble Services. We hope your young Gentleman is well and thrives apace and that he will soon have another Brother for an additional Blessing to you.

I am, most sincerely, Dear Nephew,

Your most faithfull Humble Servant,

CHANDOS.

(Letters of Henry, Marquess of Carnarvan, afterwards
2nd Duke of Chandos.)

(No. 1.)

Aug. 18, 1740.

Dear Sir,

I am much oblig'd to you for your Letter of the 23^d of July, and am very well pleased with Mr. Morris's Management. As I am little us'd to these Affairs, this being the first of the kind I ever took upon myself, I don't rightly understand what Method the Order for Mr. Morris shou'd be drawn in, but if He will be so good to send me such a one as He thinks proper, I will sign it, and return it.

As to Radnor, tho' in all probability the Majority of the Votes wou'd be in Favour of Me, yet I shou'd, nevertheless, not be return'd: in which Case a Petition wou'd ensue. The Expence of that wou'd be as great, as that of the Election, and my succeeding in it, or not, wou'd depend upon the Complexion of the House. These things consider'd has made my Lord Duke determined not to set me up.

My best Respects attend your Fireside,

And I remain, Dear Sir,

Your most oblig'd Humble Servant,

CARNARVAN.

August the 16th, 1740.

(No. 2.)

May 12, 1741.

Sir,

I take the first Opportunity to return you my sincere Thanks for your great Friendship to Me, when at Walcot, and do assure You my Sense of it is infinitely greater than words can express.

I thank God, I found my Lord Duke much better than when I left Him, and my good Fortune at Honest Bishop's Castle did not a little contribute towards it.

I beg my best Respects to my Couzen Walcot, and remain,

Sir, Your affect. Kinsman,

and oblig'd Humble Servant,

London,

CARNARVAN.

(No. 3.)

Dear Sir,

Aug. 1, 1742.

Rec^d your Letter, tho' not so soon as I ought to have done, had I been at Home when it came to my House. As to the Affair at Bishop's Castle, I confess it gives me a good deal of Uneasiness that I have not been able to discharge the Bills of my good Friends, but to deal ingenuously with you; my being oblig'd to be at the whole Expense myself has put me so much behind hand that I fear I shall not be able to satisfye their Demands till towards Mich^s.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your affect. Kinsman

& oblig'd Hum. Servant,

CARNARVAN.

Abbots-Ann,

Aug. 1st, 1742.

(No. 4.)

Dear Sir,

Oct. 29, 1742.

Frequent Visits from an Ague and Fever has weaken'd Me so much and render'd Me so indolent, that I have not been able to set Pen to Paper since I rec^d your Letter. I am very sorry that Ben. Bright should have been put to any Straits for want of the Mony due to Him from Me; but I have one Comfort that the Interest those Bills carry with Them (I mean, Bills of that Sort) will make ample amends when they are paid, which His and the rest shall be very shortly.

I am, Dr. Sir,

Your affect. Kinsman

And oblig'd Humble Servant,

CARNARVAN.

London, Oct. 29th, 1742.

John Walcot, Esq.

(No. 5.)

Dear Sir,

London, Feb. 17th, 1746.

Rec^d your Letter, and as to the Legacy of my Lord

Duke's, I have now nothing at all to do with the Executorial Affairs, having put them into Chancery: but thus much I know, that till all the Debts are paid, which it will be some-time first, no Legacy can be paid; and they are at present making the proper Dispositions for the discharging every thing.

The Two Hundred Pounds you mention is morally impossible for Me to furnish at present, and at the same time that I acknowledge your Friendship to Me in the Election, I cannot but wish I had never seen Bishop's Castle, for to that, in a great Measure were owing the Difficulties I have since felt. The sudden Turn Lord Duke took in not bearing the Expence of the Election, tho' he was the means of my being a Candidate, oblig'd Me to borrow the Money at exorbitant Interest because I would not leave my Friends in the Lurch (as Mr. Powys did) so that every Shilling fell upon me, Lord Duke contributing nothing towards it but Seventy Pounds: what the Expence was you are sensible.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your oblig'd Humble Servant,

CHANDOS.

BISHOP'S CASTLE ELECTION, 1753.

Some bills paid by John Walcott, Esq.

"The Hon^{ble} John Walcot, Esq.,

To Ann Minton, Dr.

				£	s.	d.
1753.	The first Treat	...	...	2	10	0
Jan. 17th.	For Drink	...	...	3	10	0
" 20th.	For Eating...	...	...	7	15	0
Do.	For Lickquor, &c....	...	...	8	10	0
				<u>£22 5 0"</u>		

"John Walcote, Esq., his bill, January the 18, 1753, by orders Delivered to the Burgesses of Bishop's Castle from the 18 to the 21 for Drinking and Eating, aleven pound

ten Shillings and haighpence... .. £11 10s. 8d.
Per Edward Norton, jun^r."

"John Walcote, Esq., his bill November ye 22, 1752, by
orders Delivered to the Burgesses of Bishop's Castle.

Per Edward Norton, sen^r. ... £1 3s. od.

and for orders from the same hand to the Burgesses of
Bishop's Castle from the 18 to the 21 of January, 1753, for
Eating and Drinking £12 5s. 4d."

"Richard Maddox's Bill.						£	s.	d.
Nov. 23.	Ale	...	...	...	...	0	18	2
Jan. 18.	Ditto	...	...	...	..	2	0	6
" 20.	Ditto	...	...	...	...	6	13	4
" 23.	Eating	...	...	...	...	4	13	0
						<u>£14 5 0"</u>		

"Gallons.						£	s.	d.
Edward Norton, Sen ^r	...	...	108	...	...	7	4	0
Edward Norton, Jun.	...	...	80	...	...	5	6	8
Francis Sayce	...	...	120	...	...	8	0	0
						<u>£20 10 8"</u>		

"G." ¹						£	s.	d.
R. B.	...	...	101	...	...	6	14	8
			167	...	...	11	2	8
Wid. Wat.	...	...	171	...	...	11	8	0
			315	...	...	21	0	8
Wid. Bar.	...	...	092	...	...	06	2	8
for Liquours	..	...	...	...	...	08	15	0
Rich. Mad.	...	...	162	...	...	10	16	0
			...	...	...	9	12	0
J. Rog.	...	...	063	...	...	4	4	0
			175	...	...	10	13	4
Ann Min.	...	...	137	...	...	9	2	8
			...	...	...	14	10	0
Rich. Mar.	...	...	90	...	...	6	0	0"

¹ Gallons.

Mr. H. T. Weyman in his account of the Members for Bishop's Castle mentions that the inhabitants had then no manufactory or trade *except* that of electioneering, which they found *very profitable*. In the election for 1722 it was proved that of the 52 voters for Mr. Bowater Vernon 51 had been bribed. Jeremiah Brown, jun., received £52 10s., John Bright £30, John Sayes £28, Robert Minton, jun., £25, &c., &c. Six free and independent electors were contented with the trifling satisfaction of £6 each! The total sum then given in money was over £700; and if to this must be added more than £200 for eating and drinking, as in the case of John Dashwood-King, a candidate might well "wish that he had never seen Bishop's Castle." Moreover, these figures refer only to *one* Member: the worthy Burgesses would also expect some satisfaction from Mr. Andrew Hill of Court of Hill, near Ludlow, whose cousin and supporter, Mr. Powys, had left him in the lurch. And what of the defeated candidates? *Sic tempora, sic mores.*

HOPTON WAFERS.

BY THE REV. J. PAYTON, M.A., RECTOR ; PREBENDARY OF
HEREFORD, AND RURAL DEAN.

IN the South of the County of Salop, near the border of Worcestershire, on the main road between Cleobury Mortimer and Ludlow, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the former, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ from the latter, is situated the little village of Hopton Wafers, with its Church and some 15 houses. There are over 90 houses in the parish, the greater number being on the side of the Clee Hill above the village. The Parish is in shape like a pear, with its head towards Cleobury Mortimer, which stretches out two long arms, completely embracing the Parish of Hopton Wafers, ending at a stone on the hill called the Stooping Stone, where come to a point the parishes of Hopton Wafers, Coreley, Farlow, and the two portions of Cleobury Mortimer. The two latter while still in the civil parish of Cleobury Mortimer, are now separated ecclesiastically, one portion forming part of the district attached to Cleeton S. Mary, the other forming, with a portion of Coreley, the district of Doddington, now united by Order in Council with the Parish of Hopton Wafers.

Travelling from Cleobury Mortimer along the main road, one gradually rises till a height of over 700 feet above sea level is attained, whence by a steady descent the village of Hopton Wafers, about 500 feet above the sea level, is reached. In front the road ascends quickly up the slope of the Clee Hill, till at a thousand feet it turns at right angles towards Ludlow. The parish still rises until 1,400 is reached at the Stooping Stone. To the right the road by the Church ascends in the direction of Woodhouse 670 feet; to the left is the road to Earl's Ditton, about 800 feet. When we remember that the Celtic word "Hope" is applied to places lying between hills, such as Hope Bowdler, Hope Bagot, and the several Hoptons, and is the native Scotch word for hollows in the hills, also that the word "ton" is the ancient word for

an enclosure, hence our word town, we see how aptly named is this Hopton, the village or enclosure in the hollow of the hills. But as there are several Hoptons, we should expect to find a second name for distinction. Such second names are often those of former Lords of the Manor. We have such in our neighbouring Neens (Neen—Sax. brook), on the Rea, Neen-ton, Neen Savage, Neen Sollars; often an S denotes possession, and in Hopton Wafers we should expect a family name "Wafer," and we find it in Wafre, one Robert le Wafre holding the Manor in early times. The same Robert held the Manor of Tedstone Wafre, and, I believe, Hampton Wafre in Herefordshire.

The name Wafre is a puzzle; I have consulted several friends skilled in words without success, Dr. Bradley, the learned editor of the new English Dictionary, to whom I ventured to write, for whose kindness I am very grateful, writes:—"Our ordinary word wafer is in modern French *gauffre*, and its early meanings are honeycomb, bee-hive, and a sort of sweet cakes. It does not seem to me impossible that the word in one of these senses may have been given as a personal male-name. On the other hand, the use of *le* before a cognomen does not, according to the usage of our early documents, by any means prove that the word to which it is prefixed is French." Dr. Bradley, however, deprecates guesses, as "When once made they may be quoted as demonstrative conclusions." The Arms of *le Wafre* are Gules, a fesse wavy between 3 plates arg.; the 3 plates may be 3 wafers or cakes, so that Dr. Bradley's suggestion receives some confirmation.

The "Book of Winchester," Domesday Book, made in 1086, twenty years after the Norman Conquest, states that Roger de Lacy holds Hoptone, and Widard holds under him. Siward, a freeman, held it in Saxon times.

In the time of Edward the Confessor Hopton belonged to the Church at Worcester. Earl Sweyn, eldest son of Earl Godwin, having abducted an Abbess was compelled to put her away by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of Worcester. In revenge he procured that the Church of Worcester should be deprived of lands in Shropshire, including Hopton and Cleobury North.

Siward appears to have held Cleobury North, Stanton Lacy, Abdon and Hopton. Anderson suggests that he was a Viking rover. These Manors, according to Domesday Book, were held by Roger de Lacy, a typical instance of the Saxon displaced by the Norman. Roger de Lacy held the Manor from Roger Comes, the Earl of Hereford.

William Fitz-Osbern, son of Seneschal Osbern, an irregular kinsman of Duke William, who was murdered in William's childhood, was created by William Earl of Hereford and guard of the Welsh March. In 1071 he was killed in battle, and Roger his son succeeded him. He forfeited the Earldom in 1075 for rebellion, and it was not filled up till 1143, so that Roger de Lacy, I suppose, held under the Crown in 1086. Of Widard nothing is known except that he was of sufficient importance to appear upon the Bayeux tapestry with the words over his head HIC EST WADARD, and also that he was Lord of Farlow, about 3 miles from Hopton. Lloyd supposes le Wafre to be descended from Widard, but this is apparently a guess without any foundation.

The Manor passed from Roger de Lacy to Bernard de Newmarch, whose daughter and sole heiress Sybil married Milo FitzWalter, who had been created Earl of Hereford in 1143. Bernard de Newmarch was the founder of Brecknock Priory. Among the grants which his Vassals had made to the Priory, and which he confirms, is one by Walter de Cropus, whom Eyton supposes to be the ancestor of le Wafre. Perhaps Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Eyton may come under Dr. Bradley's warning about guesses.

In 1236 the tithes of Hopton Wafre were confirmed by Rafe,¹ Bishop of Hereford, to Brecknock Priory, but in 1278 the right of presentation was held by the Abbot of Wigmore. In 1291 the value of the Tithe is set down at £4 2s. 6d., of which the Prior of Brecknock and the Abbot of Wigmore each takes 6/8.

When Sir Hugh de Mortimer, one of whose castles was at Cleobury, founded the Abbey of Wigmore, and endowed it, with, amongst others, the neighbouring Manor of Caynham, he may possibly have been able to effect that a portion of

¹ Ralph, of Maidstone, Dean of Hereford, Bishop 1234-39.—*Dioc. Cal.*

the Tithe and the right of presentation to the benefice of Hopton should be assigned to the new foundation. The Manor of Hopton as given in Domesday contained 3 hides geldable, and arable land sufficient for 4 ox-teams. In King Edward's time the Manor was worth 10/- annually, afterwards 12/-, but now 9/2.

In the Charters of Brecknock, 1200-10, occur the signatures of Robert Wafre, and in 1216-22 of Robert le Wafre. This Robert probably held Hopton as the vassal of the Earl of Hereford. He appears to have married a lady of the name of Baskerville. In 1243 Robert holds in Thoddestone (Tedstone Wafre) one hide, and in 1255 he is described as Lord of Hopton holding in capite of the Earl of Hereford. He was living in 1265. Unless he lived to extreme age, we must suppose that the first-mentioned Robert Wafre was the father of this Robert le Wafre. In 1275 Roger de Mortimer of Chirk, 3rd son of Roger Lord Mortimer of Wigmore, married Lucy, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert le Wafre, Knight. In 1284 this Roger holds Hopton Waffre of the Earl of Hereford, and in 1286 obtains a grant of free warren in Hopton Waffre. He died in 1326 a prisoner in the Tower, and was succeeded by his son of the same name, "Cui tota hæreditas domini Roberti de Wafre avi sui descendebat." (To whom descended the entire heritage of his grandfather Robert de Wafre).

Although holding the Manor the le Wafres do not appear to have had any residence in Hopton Wafers. One authority states that they lived in Herefordshire. The first Lord of the Manor to reside appears to have been Richard Hyde, who built a house some hundred years later.

In the *Visitation of Shropshire* 1623 a pedigree is given tracing the descent of the Hyde or Hide family, both spellings of the name occur, from the le Wafres. It is signed by Richard Hyde, son and heir of Humphrey Hyde. Of the latter, we know that he presented to the benefice in 1560, so possibly the father's age was the cause of the son signing the pedigree. Humphrey was also an outlaw in 1616, for what reason I cannot discover, so there may have been another cause.

I shall give the first portion of the pedigree first, as it

requires some comment, the remainder, which seems correct, I will give after. The later Hydes seem to have held the manorial rights, also the advowson after the suppression of Wigmore Abbey, the King making only one appointment in 1540. How Humphrey Hyde obtained the right of presentation may some day be discovered, as the State Rolls are made to give up their secrets. But before the time of the Hydes the Manor seems to have been divided and property in Hopton held by others. Indeed I very much question whether the Hyde property was anything like co-extensive with the parish.

The following notes from Inquisitions Post Mortem and other documents seem to support my contention as to the division of the Manor.

In 1331, John de Hopton assigns to the Prior and Brethren of St. Augustine at Wodehouse 2 acres of land in Wodehouse, one carrucate of land in Hopton and 40/-.

Woodhouse adjoins Hopton, and is $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile from Hopton Church. It was a cell of Augustinian monks from Wigmore, founded about 1250. It contains one house, and is extra-parochial. I am told that there still exists a grant by Queen Mary amongst the title deeds.

In 1335 William de Ercalewe levied a fine of the fourth part of the Manor to Witto for life, with remainder to William Careswell.

In 1337 Philip de Baggessovere held the Manor of Hopton Wafre.

In 1342 William de Hopton assigns to the Prior of Wodehouse 60/-.

This, I presume, is William de Ercalewe, whose name is also mentioned in the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1327 (Shrop. Arch. *Trans.*, 3rd Series, Vol. VI., p. 135).

In 1383, Sir Roger de Cherleton of Powis levied a fine of Hopton Wafre.

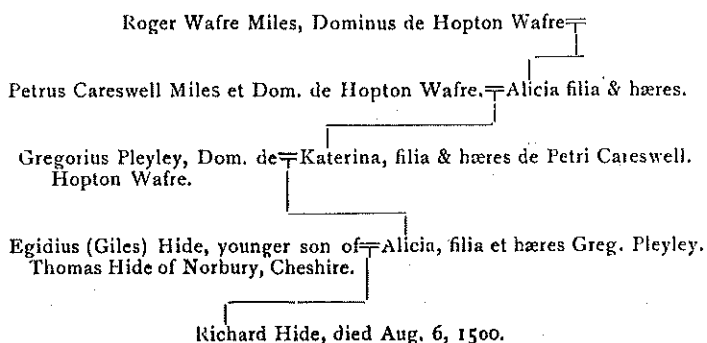
In the same year Petrus de Careswell and Mary his wife, who had granted to Roger de Cherleton and others a rent of 12 marks, out of the Manor of Ercalewe, agreed that the said rent should be void, the grantees holding peaceably the Manor of Hopton Wafre and rent in Cleobury North.

In 1391, Richard Earl of Arundel had half a knight's fee in Hopton Wafre held by Thomas Plerlewe.

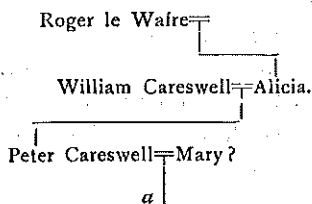
In 1417, Sir John Talbot (Earl of Shrewsbury) levied a fine in favour of Stiward, his wife, and heirs of their bodies.

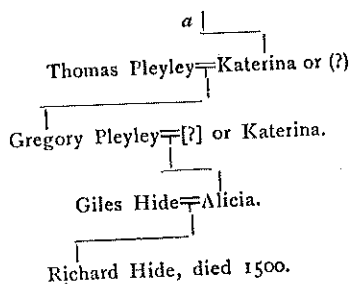
Blakeway says he can give no account of the connection between these several possessors.

Visitation of Shropshire, 1623.



The question arises are there sufficient names here to bridge over the interval between Roger le Wafre's succession in 1326 to Richard Hyde's death in 1500? There is a possibility that Richard Hyde who signs the pedigree in 1623, while knowing his own family correctly (see later), could only give the succession previously through the several heiresses. There is a suspicion about the three successive heiresses. Also Peter Careswell's wife's name is given as Mary in the notes I have previously given, and the fact of being joined with her husband in 1383 would seem to show that she had her own rights in the Manor. Has Richard Hyde given a wrong name? Ought we to find room for William Careswell mentioned in 1335, and for Thomas Pleyley mentioned in 1391? It would almost seem that the pedigree might be amended thus:—

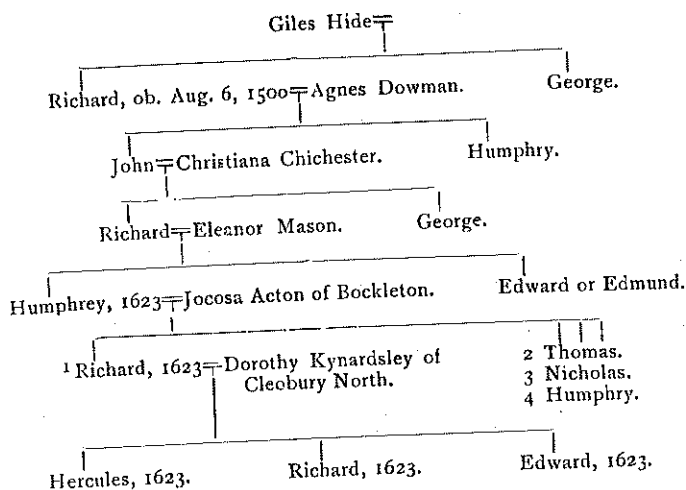




But, alas, this is only guess work; though better filling up the interval of time.

The name Careswell occurs locally about 1220, when William holds Coreley, a neighbouring parish, and Burwarton, some 8 miles distant. Of the Pleyley family I have no knowledge.

The descent from Giles Hide as given in the *Visitation* pedigree of 1623 is as follows:—



Richard Hyde died in 1666, and was succeeded by Hercules, died 1685. He was succeeded by Richard, son or grandson, who married in 1708 Sarah Charlett, daughter and co-heiress of Richard Charlett, gent. He died in 1719, leaving an only child, Mary, born in 1710, who died un-

¹ Signs the Pedigree.

married in 1778. Sarah Hyde is said to have been accidentally killed in a paper mill, the industry of paper-making having been carried on in Hopton Wafers, where in olden time were "blade mills." Coal and iron are found in the Clee Hill, and there are still remains of a blast furnace below Corn brook, in the parish of Coreley.

In 1756 Mary Hyde sold Hopton Court to Joseph Oldham, and let to him on lease the paper mills. He carried on the profitable business of paper-making in conjunction with Thomas Compson of Cleobury Mortimer, whose sister he had married. Mr. Compson built the Manor House at Cleobury Mortimer, where also were paper mills. There are still old people who talk of the wagons laden with paper for London, returning with loads of rags. Mr. Oldham pulled down the ancient house of the Hydes, built, I know not when,¹ building a new house on another site. Below the present Court is a spot where nettles grow, which is said to be the old site; and recently in making tennis courts an old deep well was found, which seems to confirm this.

In 1779, Mr. Oldham sold Hopton Court to John Hale of Bewdley, who died the same year, and whose son Curteis Hale sold the property to Thomas Botfield in 1798. Mary Hyde retained the Manor and advowson. In 1765 Robert Edwards, Rector of Hopton Wafers, was a trustee of Mary Hyde, his father, William Edwards, Vicar of Cleobury Mortimer, having been trustee of Sarah Charlett's Settlement in 1708. To Mary Edwards, sister of Robert, Mary Hyde left all her real estate. She, in turn, left the Manor, advowson, and all her interest in the estate to William Bedford and James Stanton. The wife of the latter, Ann Stanton, was her niece. There is also a legacy to Polly (or Mary) Stanton, their daughter, who on 17 May, 1790, was married at Hopton Wafers to William Henry Betty, whose son, William Henry West Betty, born 13 Sept., 1791, at Shrewsbury, and baptized 18 Sept. at St. Chad's, was known

¹ In *Stemmata Botvilliana* it is said Richard Hyde, the elder, is the first recorded owner of the Manor House. He died in 1604. This date is manifestly incorrect according to Blakeway's list of Rectors, where Richard's son Humphrey appoints in 1560; but this is not the only error in the brief notice in that book, p. ccxxxi.

as the Modern Roscius, "the wonder of the age," the child actor of 11 years of age.

James Stanton is described as of Oldbury; he was buried at Hopton Wafers, and on a mural tablet in the Church is called Lord of the Manor. In 1799 Ann Stanton sold the Manor and advowson to Joseph Cotton. In 1793 Joseph Cotton presented to the benefice, so apparently he had purchased the right of next presentation. His nominee was Nathaniel Cotton, I presume his son; who resigned in 1806 when Thomas Bowdler, who had married Joseph Cotton's daughter, was presented. Mr. Cotton was of Leyton, Essex, his son, Mr. William Cotton of Wallwood House, Leytonstone, was the father of Sir Henry Cotton, Lord Justice, who died in 1890.

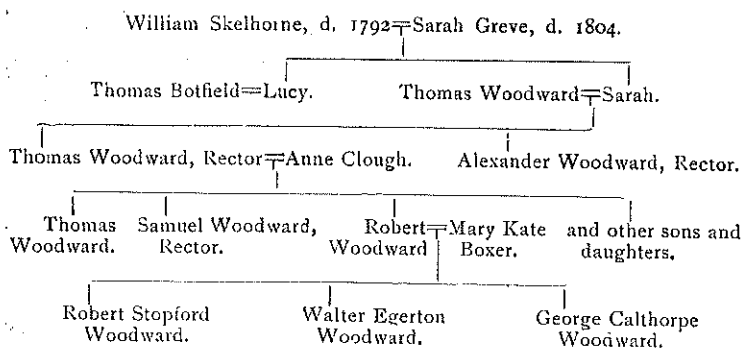
In 1812 Thomas Botfield purchased the Manor and advowson, thus re-uniting the old Hyde property. Mr. Thomas Botfield was a son of Thomas Botfield of Dawley. He and his brothers William and Beriah made fortunes in coal mining, they each purchased estates, to which Mr. Beriah Botfield, son of Beriah Botfield, succeeded, his uncles leaving no heirs. Mr. Beriah Botfield died without issue, when Hopton Court estate fell to the Woodward family, under Thomas Botfield's Will. Mr. Garnett-Botfield succeeded to Mr. William Botfield's estates, and Mr. Beriah Botfield's own property, after the life interest of his widow, a daughter of Sir Baldwin Leighton, was settled by him on the second son of the Marquis of Bath, with whom he had a common ancestor in Thomas Botville, temp. Henry V., being descended from his youngest son John Botfelde, whose eldest brother William was the grandfather of John of the Inne, who first assumed the name Thynne, from whom the Bath family trace their descent. Mr. Thomas Botfield was evidently a man of remarkable energy, a member of many learned societies, and a Deputy-Lieutenant. He re-built the Church, and also added a new part to Hopton Court, after designs by Nash, leaving only a portion of the house built by Mr. Oldham, containing the kitchen and offices. He died in 1843, and was succeeded by his nephew Beriah, as we have stated.

Mr. Beriah Botfield died in 1863, when the property came

to Thomas Woodward, son of the Rev. Thomas Woodward, Rector, who had died in 1854, and on whom Mr. Thomas Botfield had entailed the Hopton Court estate failing issue of Mr. Beriah Botfield. Mr. Woodward was a nephew of Mrs. Thomas Botfield.

The Woodward family is descended from Alexander, the 4th son of Alexander Woodward of Shevington or Shavington, Lanc. This Alexander settled in Liverpool as a merchant. Thomas Woodward died without issue in 1888, and was succeeded by his brother Samuel Woodward, Rector, who died in 1890, leaving issue three daughters. The property then came to his brother, Captain, afterwards Vice-Admiral, Robert Woodward, C.B., R.N., who died in 1907, leaving three sons, the eldest, Robert Stopford Woodward, succeeding him.

The connection between Botfield and Woodward :



Long as the ancient family of the Hydes held Hopton Wafers there is little record of them. The earlier registers are lost, and there are no monuments in Church or Churchyard, save flat stones near the chancel steps bearing the names of Richard and Sarah his wife, and a mural tablet to their daughter Mary Hyde. There is a tradition of vaults under the Church; but as the Church has been re-built on the old site, no doubt these, if existing, were finally closed.

There are memorials in the Churchyard to other Hydes in a humble position of life, no doubt offshoots of the family, but as in our earliest registers from 1660 there is a distinction made in entering names, Mr. or Gentleman being used for

the main branch, the descent must be much further back than that.

Of one of these is the following record in the *Gentleman's Magazine* :—"A fine old man died at Hopton Wafers in Shropshire on Nov. 3, 1798. His name was William Hyde, and he was in the 106th year of his age." I have seen somewhere in print, but cannot recall where, that he had sons over 80 years of age at the time of his death. The copy of our missing Registers from 1660 has enabled me to test this. William, son of George and Margaret Hyde, was born in 1702, he died in 1798. His age is entered in the register as 105 years. I am afraid we must allow an error of nine or ten years. In 1705 his wife Elizabeth Nicholds was baptized. She died in 1792, aged 88 years by register, but 86 by dates. They were married in 1728, and their eldest son was baptized in 1731, so would be 64 years of age at his father's death. A hundred years ago age was often a matter of guess work. Even in this present year, 1908, I have had to correct the age of one given as 83, but really 78; and in other instances I have found the ages of old people magnified. I am afraid the name of William Hyde must no longer be given amongst Shropshire centenarians. There are many descendants of this old couple, but scattered, abroad. According to the *Worcester Herald* of 1795, the old man had sons settled in Wiltshire. A descendant of his second son is Mr. Joseph Hyde of Eastbourne, whose name I gladly mention as interested in his family history and deservedly proud of his ancient descent. Having so far traced the history of the Manor of Hopton Wafers, I turn to the Church and its Rectors.

There was a Church at Hopton Wafers as early as 1236, a drawing of which, made in 1825, is preserved at Hopton Court. It was a plain oblong structure with a low tower and a timber south porch. The barnlike roof was broken on the side shown in the drawing by three dormer windows. The windows in the south wall shown appear to be Early English in style. There was an old font, Norman or Early English, under a yew tree in the Churchyard, which has recently been pieced together and placed in the Church for preservation. In the west window of the present tower is a

fragment of 14th century glass, the head and a portion of the wings of S. Michael, to whom the church is dedicated. Some carved oak panels, probably 17th century work, are still to be seen in the Church. There is nothing known of the history of the old Church. In 1820 a faculty was issued to take down old pews and erect new, to raise the floor, to add to the present Church in length and width. Apparently the whole Church was taken down and the present Church built over the site. This was done in 1825 at the sole expense of Thomas Botfield. The new Church is like the old, a plain oblong structure, the windows being of a perpendicular type, those in the tower, however, being modern Norman. Some of the old woodwork was preserved, the solid stonework and the sound oak of all the new work, show that no expense was spared, all was well done according to the light of that day, and we may respect the liberality and piety of the new founder, while deeply regretting that the old Church was not preserved. The interior has the corners shaped so that both east and west ends are oval in shape. The pews were fairly high, and there were open sittings in the centre. A step higher than these were, on the north side, a large square pew for the Squire, on the south side a three-decker with sound-board over it, and a large pew for the Rector. On a step above a high cast iron railing separated what has been aptly termed "a little space to read the Commandments in." In the centre of the Communion Table was a large stone book, on which were painted the ten Commandments. This book is now preserved in the north wall of the nave, near the lectern, and attracts great attention from visitors.

In 1852, Mrs. Lucy Botfield made an Easter gift of the stained glass in the east window. In 1892 there was made a complete re-arrangement of the interior of the Church. The east window was raised, a chancel screen erected, a new altar with re-table and triptych placed, and choir stalls and lectern added. The walls, formerly coloured in imitation stonework, were re-coloured, the plaster ceiling removed and the present hammer beam roof substituted. Later additions have been an organ, Litany desk and carved oak pulpit. Later all the windows were re-leaded and filled with Cathedral

glass. In 1907 a memorial window was placed in the north wall in memory of Vice-Admiral Woodward, C.B., to whose untiring energy and personal liberality the above improvements were chiefly due. The Communion plate is modern and good, presented by Thomas Botfield. The old Elizabethan cup and cover is preserved. The Registers are complete from 1729, and there is a copy of the Bishop's Transcripts for the years 1638, and 1660—1728. There are three bells; on the smallest is no inscription, the others are inscribed

1. A. R. 1708.

2. Richard Bvcher 1671

All praise and glory be to God for ever.

At the east end of the Church, on the north side, is a monument by E. Bailey, R.A. Of it Mr. Cranage remarks, "it is very unlike the taste of to-day, but it has considerable merit." Mr. Thomas Botfield is represented as reclining on a couch, his wife kneeling at his side with bowed head. It has the following inscription:—

In Memory of Thomas Botfield, Esqre., of Hopton Court,
in this Parish,

F.R.S., F.R.I., F.G.S., F.H.S., F.G.S., M.S.A.
For many years a Deputy-Lieutenant and Magistrate
For the County of Salop.

Born February 14th, 1762, died January 17th, 1843.

(Underneath)

Also of

Lucy his wife,

Born June 17th, 1774. Died August 15th, 1856.

On the south side are two mural tablets and four brasses.

Tablets. 1. Coat of Arms. Gules, 3 arrows in pale, Or.

Near this Place lies
The Body of John Hale, Esqre.
late of Hopton Court in this Parish
who died the 14th day of December,
1779, aged 57 years.

HOPTON WAFERS.

2. Near this Place lie the Remains of
James Stanton, Esq^{re}, of this Parish,
Lord of the Manor.
And of Ann his Wife,
Who died March 24th, 1793.
Aged 59 years.

She died July 31st, 1817, Aged 83 years.
For the milder Virtues he was
Eminently conspicuous
She for Superior intelligence
And a truly Christian Character.

Brasses.

1. In Memory of
Thomas Woodward, M.A.
For xx years Rector of
this Parish. Born Oct.
xxx, mccccviii. Died Sep^r
1, mdcccliv. His Widow
and nine children have
placed this tablet.

2. In Memory of
Ann Widow of
Thomas Woodward, M.A.
Rector of this Parish
Her brave heart, her
Bright Example, A
Peacemaker.
Her children loved and loving
Placed this.

3. Near this Church is laid in sure and certain hope of the
Resurrection of the body and of Life Everlasting all
that could die of
Thomas Woodward
For 25 years the Resident Squire of Hopton Wafers and
Farlow
This brass and the cross over his grave are erected
In Loving Memory of him by his Widow, August 1888.
I believe in the Communion of Saints.

4. In the same grave and in the same hope rests
Mary Woodward
For 24 years the wife and for 17 years the widow of
the above named Thomas Woodward.
Released from Suffering the 15th September, 1905.
I look for the Resurrection of the dead
and the Life of the World to Come.

Tablet on the south wall of the chancel.

Hyde Arms: Az. a chevron counterchanged or. and gules between 3 lozenges or.

In Memory of M^{rs} Mary Hyde,
Only child of the late Rich^d Hyde, Esq^{re},
Of Hopton Court,
And Lady of the Manor.
She departed this life October the 19th, 1778,
Aged 68 years.

Her Character was chiefly marked by the
Integrity of her Heart,
the Steadiness of her Friendship,
the Placidness of her Disposition
and her just union of Piety and Morality.

The succession of Rectors appears to be complete for 1279, though perhaps it may require some correction as the publications of the Cantilupe Society become available.

There is a mention of a Rector apparently in 1278 (*Cantil.*, p. 302), but the first recorded name is William de Bray presented by the Abbot and Convent of Wigmore in 1279; all presentations unless otherwise noted are by the same. The next Rector appears to have been William de Moiton, who resigned in 1322.

He was succeeded by William de Sheynestone. There was a dispute between these two referred to the Rector of Westbury (*Cantilupe* 233), and later the Bishop consents to act as arbitrator; they are called portionists in Castle Holdgate (*Cant.* 238), but no further reference occurs as to cause or result.

In 1329, William de la More was appointed by the Bishop, by lapse; in 1331, Sir Hugh de Neenton was appointed; in 1349 John de Orleton, and in 1350, Sir Elyas Musard was removed. I hope that when Bishop Trilleck's Register is published some light may be thrown on this. Sir Richard de Birches is the next name, he resigned in 1362, and was succeeded by Gilbert Aunger, who removed to Wheathill in 1374, John de la Owene, Rector of Wheathill, succeeding him; in the same year he removed to Momele (Mamble), and John Body, Vicar of Momele, removed to Hopton. In 1390, Richard

Bakere became Rector, and in the same year John le Prowde, who resigned in 1398, when Sir William Cheyney became Rector, resigning in 1399. His successor was Richard Doddington, and in 1404 John Adams was Rector, resigning in 1413 on a pension of 2 marks.

The next names are Sir John Berkeley 1413, Sir John Beulegarde 1420, Sir John Yonge 1421, Sir Walter Phelipes 1434, and Sir William Sprot, who died in 1509. In that year the Abbot and Convent made their last appointment, Sir John Pownteney; as in 1540 the King appoints Sir John Hay. In *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, which shows the value of benefices of suppressed Monasteries, it is stated that John Pontney, Rector, returns the value as 114s. 8d., less procurations 6d., Abbot of Wigmore 6s. 8d., Prior of Brecknock, 6s.

The prefix "Sir," which now ceases, was a courtesy title commonly given to the clergy at the period. In 1560 Edward Churchman was appointed by Humphry Hyde, gentleman. Possibly amongst the title deeds of Hopton Court the grant of the right of presentation may be found, but these deeds were, no doubt, examined by Mr. Beriah Botfield, who was well known as an archæologist, and in his book *Stemmata Botevilliana* I find no mention of such a grant. Of Edward Churchman, who was Rector for 56 years, there is an interesting note in the Parker Collection of MSS. in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, amongst the certified answers to the Archbishop's inquiries, for which I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. C. W. Moule. It is dated 1561. "Edwardus Churchman rector ibidem presbiter etatis xxx annorum residet et est hospitalis." He must therefore have lived to the age of 85, and it is not a bad record to be inscribed as sticking to his parish and exercising hospitality.

In 1616 Luke Whelar was appointed by Humphrey Hyde, and Robert Gregorie by the King, in consequence of Humphrey Hide being an outlaw. I can find nothing more, but apparently the first nomination held, as in 1623 Luke Whelar was Rector, being cited by the Bishop to answer charges. Canon Capes has been kind enough to examine for me two entries in the Bishop's registers. They contain reports of proceedings against him in the Consistory Court

for non-observance of Canonical duties. He had preached no sermons for several years, nor procured others to do so, he had not read the proper lessons, and generally disregarded the rules lately enacted, had spoken contemptuously of ecclesiastical discipline, and neglected the citations. The issue is not reported, but he appears to have weathered the storm, as in 1638 he signs the transcript of the registers as Luke Wheeler. He was succeeded by John Wheeler, who died in 1683, who was succeeded by John Taylor, the patron being Ch. Boughton. In 1690, Edward Boughton became Curate, and in 1691 Rector, John Taylor resigning, patron, Richard Hyde. This looks like an arrangement for next presentation, now, happily, illegal.

Edward Boughton was succeeded in 1739 by John Hughes, patron, Mary Hyde. In 1744, Robert Edwards became Rector, a kinsman of the patron, Mary Hyde (*v. ante*). In 1783 he was succeeded by Edward Whitehurst, patron T. Whitehurst, Chirk, evidently another sale of next presentation, followed by another in 1793, when Nathaniel Cotton was presented by Joseph Cotton, who, as we have seen, purchased the advowson in 1799. On the resignation of Nathaniel Cotton, Thomas Bowdler was appointed by Joseph Cotton, his father-in-law. Of Thomas Bowdler we have a biography published. His grandfather married the daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Cotton, 6th and last Bart., descended from Sir R. Cotton, founder of the Cottonian Library. This Mr. Bowdler had two sons, one the father of the Rector, who published a memorial of him, the other the editor of the "Family Shakespeare;" also a daughter, Harriet Bowdler, a gifted authoress. Thomas Bowdler was ordained Curate to Leyton, Essex. He married Phœbe, daughter of Joseph Cotton. Her brother William was the father of Lord Justice Cotton. Mr. Bowdler was for some time non-resident, holding the benefices of Ash and Ridley, in Kent, 1811-20. In 1820 he resigned these, which he held for a minor, also resigning Hopton Wafers, becoming Rector of Addington, in Kent. He was, like other members of his family, an author, one of his books, "Prayers for a Christian Household," was used by Bishop Selwyn of Lichfield in his Chapel, where I first saw it; prefixed to it is the Memoir referred to.

Thomas Bowdler was succeeded in 1820 by Charles Walcot, the patron being now Thomas Botfield, who also, on Mr. Walcot's resignation in 1834 appointed his nephew by marriage, Thomas Woodward, who had been licensed to the Curacy in 1832. On his death in 1854 his brother Alexander Woodward became Rector, patron, Beriah Botfield. He was succeeded by his nephew Samuel Woodward, on his resignation in 1861, also appointed by Beriah Botfield. Mr. Woodward was the second son of Mr. Thomas Woodward, Rector, and in 1888 succeeded his elder brother in the Hopton Court estate. He died in 1890, when his successor in the estate, Capt. Woodward, C.B., R.N., appointed the present Rector, then a Chaplain and Naval Instructor in the Royal Navy. The present Rector was appointed Rural Dean of Stottesdon in 1898, and in 1908 was collated to the Prebendal Stall of Putson Major in Hereford Cathedral.

After writing what I have been able to find about Manor, Church, and Rectors, there is little more to be said. The Parish has an acreage of 1,610, and the population at the last Census was 461. The Church accommodates 200.

The upper portion of the Parish is open common, which, however, is enclosed on paper under the Enclosure Act. There are about 10 farms, but the larger portion of the population is employed in the Clee Hill Stone Quarries, of which there are three worked by different Companies. The cottages in the upper part of the parish are isolated, each with enclosed land and the right of common.

In the village is a cottage, opposite the Church, which is said to be the old Rectory, but does not belong to the benefice. I mention it solely because there is an old kitchen chimney, outside of which is the remains of a spit wheel, which is curious.

In 1822 a house in the occupation of John Breakwell, now the Miners' Arms Inn, was licensed as a place of worship for Protestant Dissenters by the Bishop of Hereford. There is now a Primitive Methodist Chapel in the Ludlow Circuit. I cannot find when a School was first opened in Hopton, but that there was a Church School from the beginning of

the last century is clear. Mr. Thomas Botfield by Will dated 1836 left £1,000 to be invested, three-fifths of the income for the education of poor boys between the ages of 8 and 12, inhabitants of the Parishes of Hopton Wafers, Farlow, and Coreley, and two-fifths for the education of poor girls between 8 and 12 of the same parishes. By order of the Charity Commissioners the income is equally divided between the three schools. By Will dated 1852 Mrs. Lucy Botfield left £400 in trust for the master and mistress of the School at Hopton Wafers in connection with the Church of England in equal halves.

Mr. Botfield also left a house, used as a school, to be let at a rent of 6^d a year for the purpose, but in 1872 Mr. T. Woodward gave land on which the present School was erected, without outside aid. In 1890 an Infants' room was added, and in 1906, in consequence of the increase in numbers, a classroom was built.

There are some old books preserved in the Vestry containing Churchwardens' Accounts 1799—1817 and 1846—1853; also Overseers' Accounts 1792—1816, and Vestry Minutes 1793—1816. In another volume still in use, are Overseers' Accounts from 1816—1838, and Vestry Minutes from 1817 to the present day.

By the same will quoted above, Mrs. Botfield left £300 in trust, the income to be paid to the wife of the Rector of Hopton Wafers to be distributed at her sole discretion for the benefit of the poor of the parish in such proportions and manner and for such purposes as she in her sole discretion shall think fit. In case of the Rector being unmarried, then to be paid to him with the same discretion.

There is land in Hopton Wafers belonging to the poor of Claverley. It was purchased out of a bequest, 1734, of Thomas Acton of Gatacre. It is a far cry to Claverley, but I find that paper mills existed there, and there was an interchange of paper makers between the two places, hence, I suppose, the connection by which land here, 5½ acres, was purchased by Claverley trustees.

Miss Auden has kindly copied for me two references in the *Transactions*, one dating 1553, of Church goods delivered into the keeping of the Rector and Churchwardens.

a fragment, only one item surviving, a patent of silver (2nd Series, XII., 329). The other, dated 1327, is a list of names given in the Lay Subsidy Roll. William de Ercalewe, *v. ante*, heads the list. Other names I do not recognise, there is Richard de la Sheote, which possibly refers to one of the Shote farms; also John and Walter de Dodyton, which may be Doddington, there is a le Gode. The name Goode is still with us, also William de Syneton, which sounds somewhat like Shineton. (3rd Series, VI. 135).

I find a note in reference to the value of the Benefice. We have seen that John Pountney, Rector, made a return of the value, which is given in *Valor Ecclesiasticus* :

	s.	d.
Glebe, &c.	114	8
Procurations—Arch. of Salop ...		6
Abbot of Wigmore ...	6	8
Prior of Brecknock ...	6	0

101s. 6d.

Tenths of this would be 10s. 1¾d.

Mr. le Fanu informs me that records dating beginning of the 18th century show amount chargeable 11s. 7¾d. In Bacon's *Liber Regis* value is £5 16s. 5½d., tenths would be on this 11s. 7¾d.; tenths are now 12s. 2d. Mr. le Fanu says that he is unable to account for these differences, and similar ones in Cleobury Mortimer, Burford, Neen Sollars, and others.

called on to show cause why they cease to purchase; or else buy them in future to prevent the ruin of the trade.

1621 May 29.—Clothiers of North Wales to the Council.

Request that the staple for the sale of Welsh Cottons may be re-established at Oswestry, the drapers of Shrewsbury trying to draw all trade to that town, which will be their ruin.

1622.—Petition of the Drapers of Shrewsbury to the Council that as by the late Proclamation for free trade in Welsh Cloths, the French Company are able to buy Welsh cloths themselves instead of purchasing through them, they may be allowed to export them to France, having a large stock on hand and fearing ruin from its non-disposal.

1622, June 15th.—The revocation by Proclamation of the orders restraining the market for Welsh cloths and cottons to Oswestry was occasioned by complaints made thereon in Parliament. The inhabitants of Wales desire a continuance of the market there, but wish liberty to exchange their wools elsewhere if they please. Thinks the market should be restored to Oswestry provisionally, until any valid objection against it can be shewn by the drapers of Shrewsbury or others.

1622.—The Council to the Lord President of Wales.

On complaint made before Parliament and sundry letters and certificates received since, it was ordered that the market for Welsh cottons should be restored to Oswestry to prevent the decay of trade and disturbances there. The drapers of Shrewsbury petition for leave to retain a weekly market at Shrewsbury for the general good of trade.

See no reason to alter the former order, but the case being important and best judged by those near at hand, request his Lordship and the Chief Justice of Chester to hear all the parties concerned and to confirm the order of Council, unless sufficient cause be shewn to the contrary.

WM. MARTIN M. SELLWOOD, M.A.

VIII.

HUMPHREY WALCOT'S FINE FOR KNIGHTHOOD.

1631.

The following receipt for twenty pounds, the amount of Humphrey Walcot's fine for refusing Knighthood, illustrates one of King Charles I.'s devices for raising money without the Parliament.

"Composition for Knighthood XX^{li}.

Quinto die Maii Anno R. Re. Caroli Anglie, &c., Septimo.

Receaved the said day and yeare by me S^r. Wm. Whitmore Kt. of Humfrey Walcott of Walcott in the County of Salop Esq^r the some of Twentie pownds according to his Composition with the

Commissioners for discharge of the order of Knighthood for his fine enlarged by them with respect had to his issues, which I am by his Ma^{ties} Letters appointed to Receave to his Ma^{ties} use.

I say received XX^{li}.

Wm. Whitmore."

JOHN R. BURTON.

IX.

THE WILL OF ANNE WALCOT 1675.

In the 3rd Series of the *Transactions*, Vol. V., facing p. 324, is a portrait of this lady, who was the correspondent of Lady Brilliana Harley, and to whom Thomas Froyssell dedicated his sermon preached at the funeral of her husband Humphrey Walcot, June 8th 1650 [pp. 319 - 324^l]. The pedigree of the Docwra family is also given on p. 324. The phraseology of the Will shows the lasting influence of the Puritan preacher; and helps to explain the difficulty of a truly religious Royalist family in giving unreserved support to a cause upheld by so many reckless Cavaliers. The *via media* must have been very difficult. The Will is also interesting in its incidental mention of William Walcot, by whose means the cloak, stained with the blood of the Royal martyr (now lent to the Shrewsbury Museum), was brought to Shropshire. In her later days Mrs. Walcot seems to have left Walcot to her eldest son and his numerous family, and to have resided with her second son Sir Thomas Walcot at Bitterley Court. She was however buried in the "Bow" or Walcot Chapel at Lydbury North.

"In the name of God, Amen. I, Anne Walcott of Bitterley, in the County of Salop, widow and relict of Humphrey Walcott, Esqr. deceased, being in perfect memory make this my last Will and Testament that when it shall please the great God of Heaven and Earth to call mee out of this world to himselfe by death I doe bequeath this my vile body to the Earth there to rest for a time in hope of a glorious Resurrection; and to bee buried by my deare Husband Humphrey Walcott in the Bow in Lidbury Church if it may conveniently bee done, otherwise in the Parish Church where I shall happen to dye, and my soule to returne to God that gave it to raigne with my deare Saviour for evermore.

And as for the disposing of such Goods as I have I will that my sonn Thomas Walcott and his wife have Twenty pounds given them for their mourning. And of all the furniture belonging to my Chamber at Bitterley with my bookes my said daughter Walcott to take what she pleaseth for her owne use, and to dispose of the rest to what friends she pleaseth. I give to my sonn William the Twenty pounds he hath of mine in his hands and of it to provide himselfe of mourning. And I give him the old Trunk in my Chamber at Bitterley with all that is in it. I give to my daughter Elizabeth Walcott my weddinge Ring. I give to my Grandchildren Twenty pounds to bee equally divided amongst

them and to bee paid in for their use within a yeaere after my decease. I give to my daughter Mary Walcott my mother's weddinge Ringe and Tenn pounds in mony besides her mourninge, and I leave my Cloaths to my said daughter Mary Walcott to bee disposed of as she sees good. I give and bequeath to Hester Owen who now lives with mee the sum of Five pounds, and also to her sister Bridget Owen the like sum of Five pounds. I give and bequeath to the men servants and maide servants which shall be liveinge at my sonn Walcotts at Bitterley at the time of my decease the sum of Six pounds to be divided and distributed amongst them as my sonn Thomas Walcott in his discretion shall thinke fit. And I give to the poore of Bitterley where I now am the sume of Five pounds, and I make and nominate my Sonn John Walcott sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto putt my hand and seal this fifth day of Aprill in the year of our Lord God 1675, ANNE WALCOTT. Signed, sealed and published in the presence of us, Bridgett Owen, Hester Owen, John Beeston."

The Will was proved at Hereford, on the 29th day of November, 1675, by John Walcot, Esqr., son and executor. The Official Seal of Sir Timothy Baldwyn, LL.D., Vicar-General is appended.

JOHN R. BURTON.

X.

A CAROLINE RELIC.

I possess an interesting copy of the "Eikon Basilike: The Pourtraicture of His Sacred Majestie [Charles I.] in his Solitudes and Sufferings."

First Edition, sm. 8vo. original calf, tall copy. 1648. One of the old clasps remaining.

On the reverse side of blank leaf at end is written in a fine contemporary hand,—*"This booke was given to Ffrancis Taylor, by his g[rand]father John Taylor ye tenth day of May, 1640."*

John and Francis Taylor were of Longdon-upon Tern, vide *The Visitation of Shropshire* 1623, Vol. II., p. 457 (Harleian Society).

EDWARD J. TAYLOR, F.S.A.

West Pelton Vicarage co. Durham.

The pedigree of Taylor, as given in the Shrewsbury Schools' Library MS., goes back to William Taylor who held Longdon-upon-Tern under the abbot of Lilleshall, the father of John Taylor the donor of the book. John had four sons; Richard, the eldest, married Eleanor, daughter of William Langley of Shrewsbury, and sister of Richard Langley of the Abbey. He lived at Cherington, and was the father of two sons, Richard, and Francis, the owner of the book. Thomas, called in the Visitation, fourth, and Andrew,

called fifth son, both married and left sons, and John, called the second son, was the ancestor of the present Shropshire Tayleours. He married Margaret Creswell, a Staffordshire heiress, and their son was Creswell Taylor (as the Visitation spells it) of Longdon.

The family is apparently, like several of the oldest Shropshire families, now widely spread. I was interested some years ago, when picking up an old prayer book in a Shrewsbury Church, to find that it contained the book-plate of the Taylor family (ermine, on a chief sable, 3 escallops, argent), though the Mr. Taylor who owned and used the book, was in a very humble position in life.

H. M. AUDEN, F.R.Hist. S.

XI.

LICENSE TO SIR JOHN WELD, THE ELDER, OF
WILLEY, TO TRAVEL IN COS. STAFFORD AND
SALOP, 26 OCT., 1650.

The Sequestration Papers of Sir John Weld and of his son were edited by the late Mr. William Phillips, and printed in the *Transactions* for 1901 (See 3rd Series, I., 185—212). The restrictions on "Papists and delinquents," even after they had paid their composition, and taken the Negative Oath and the Covenant, were very galling; they were not allowed to travel five miles from their usual place of residence without obtaining a license to travel. The following License, under the signatures and seals of four Shropshire Parliamentary Justices of the Peace, permitting Sir John Weld the elder to travel on matters of business from Willey to Eccleshall, and elsewhere in the counties of Salop and Stafford, for the space of three months is preserved amongst the family muniments at Willey, and is here printed by the kind permission of Lord Forester.

Mr. W. A. Shaw, in his *Knights of England*, II., 214, states that John Weld, senior, was knighted at Wellington on the 19th (or 21st) of September, 1642, and John Weld, junior, at Shrewsbury on 22nd September 1642. These dates differ from those given by Mr. Phillips and from those in the Pedigree at Willey. Shaw also states that another John Weld of Willey was knighted on 17 March, 1682-3.

Salop. To all whom these presentes may in any wise concerne. Whereas Sr. John Weld the elder of Willey in the said county of Salop, kht. (a delinquent), hath this day made oath before us whose names are subscribed Justices of the Peace for the said county that he hath occasion of busines to travaile from his dwelling house in Willey afforesaid unto Eccleshall in the county of Stafford and into some other places in the said county and alsoe unto divers places in the county of Salop to receaue moneys unto

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