

Brook,

OF SOMERSET AND DEVON, BARONS OF COBHAM IN KENT.

BY W. H. HAMILTON ROGERS, F.S.A.

Part III.

A DESCENT of Brook proceeding from a younger son of the main stem of this family, appears to have been first located at Bristol, and subsequently at Long-Ashton, Barrow-Gurney, and Glastonbury, in Somerset. The following account of them is not offered as complete, but it is believed the principal particulars are included.

Its founder was *Hugh Brook*, third son of *Sir Thomas Brook*, Junr., of Olditch and Weycroft in Devon, by his wife *Joan de la Pole-Braybroke*, Lady of Cobham, where he had settled on his marriage with the heiress of that name and place, and where he died in 1429.

Brook, of Bristol.

HUGH BROOK, who according to the *Visitation*, Somerset, 1623, married PETRONEL ———, of whom no further particulars are recorded. He appears to have left a son *Thomas*.

THOMAS BROOK,—not named in the Somerset *Visitation*,—but according to Dr. Norris, the late Vicar of Redcliffe, in his account of that church (1882).

“Thomas Canynges, the last surviving grandson of the wealthy and munificent William Canynges, inherited an estate at Wells from his mother, and sold his grandfather’s house in Redcliffe Street. In 1500 it seems to have become the residence of Thomas Brook, the father of John Brook, whose gravestone, inlaid with brass, is in Redcliffe church.”

Who he married is not recorded, but in the Gloucestershire *Visitation*, a *Thomas Brooke* is mentioned as having married *Anne*, daughter of *Sir Thomas Spert*, of Stybonheath, Middlesex, Comptroller of the Ships to Henry VIII. Lysons in the *Environs of London*, Part II, thus refers to him:—

“On the south wall of Stepney church is the monument of Sir Thomas Spert, Comptroller of the Navy in the reign of Henry VIII, the Founder and first Master of the Corporation of the Trinity House, 1541; and that it was erected by them in 1622.”

He appears to have left two sons, *William*, apparently the eldest, died s.p. A *William Brooke* married *Agnes*, daughter of *John Wynter* and *Alicia* his wife, daughter and heir of *William Tirrey*, and she married secondly *Dr. Thomas Wilson*, Secretary to Queen Elizabeth. The younger was *John*.

JOHN BROOK, second son, was a person of considerable position, Serjeant-at-Law to Henry VIII, and Justice of Assize to that King for the western parts of England. He also held the office of Chief Steward to the Monastery of Glastonbury, which must have occurred during the rule of Abbot Richard Beere, who presided there from Jan. 1492-3, to his death 20th Jan., 1524.

He married *JOHANNA*, only daughter and heiress of *RICHARD AMERIKE*, of Ashton-Phillips (or Lower Court), in Long-Ashton, a manor of which he purchased “one moiety in 1491 from *Thomas Withyford*, and the other half from *Humphrey Seymour* in 1503, thus being proprietor of the whole.” This property *John Brook* probably possessed *jure uxoris*, and resided on it; he was married in 1494. They left three sons, *Thomas*, eldest and heir,—*Arthur*, and *David*, and one daughter *Lucia*, who married *Nicholas Tooze*, son and heir of *John Tooze* of Taunton, and his wife *Johanna*, daughter of *John Combes*. Arms of *Tooze*,—*Sable, two swords in saltire argent, hilts or, points downwards, within a bordure of the second.*

He was interested in the management of Redcliffe Church, and, continues *Dr. Norris* :



hic iacet corpus beatorum viri Johis brook quondam fruent ad legem Iherosolimi
 p[ro]p[ri]et[ar]is t[er]re in me[m]o[r]ie regis henrici octavi et iusticiam eiusdem regis ad allias in
 p[ar]t[ib]us occidentalis anglie ac in p[ar]t[ib]us Senghali d[omi]ni honorabilis d[omi]ni et consue
 t[er]ni scote regie de Galanna in Ang[li]a. S[an]cti quoque quod em Johis obiit xxv die men
 sis decembris anno d[omi]ni millesimo quingentesimo xxv et uxore sua regina Johanna
 de ce[m]eterio r[ati]s[on]e et heredi richardi amerike quor[um] anim[ar]um p[ro]p[ri]et[ar]i[us] deus Amen



JOHN BROOK, AND JOHANNA AMERIKE, HIS WIFE.

“An antient document in the vestry of Redcliffe Church is,—‘A book of accompte of John Brooke and others, procurators of the church,’ containing charges for obits said in Canynges Chantries. This book is much scribbled over by Chatterton, teaching himself to counterfeit the fifteenth century writing.”

He died 25th Dec., 1522, and was interred together with his wife, on the north side of the chancel of Redcliffe Church, beneath a flat stone whereon is inlet their effigies in brass, with inscription; and originally also four shields, one of which only remains.

He is in forensic costume, with coif, tippet and hood, and long gown with full sleeves. His wife wears a pedimental head-dress with flowing lappets, close-fitting gown with fur cuffs, an embroidered girdle with enriched fastening, from which depends by a chain an ornamented pomander. Both have their hands raised in prayer.

Beneath them is this inscription:—

Hic iacet Corpus venerabilis viri Joh'is Brook quondam seruent' ad legem Illustrissimi principis felicis memorie Regis Henrici octavi et Justiciam eiusdem Regis ad assisas in p'tib's occidentalib's Anglie ac Capitalis Senescalli illius honorabilis Domus et Monastarii Beate Marie de Glasconia in Com' Som'cett qui quidem Joh'es obiit xxv^o die Mensis Decembris anno d'ni Millesimo quingentesimo xxijo et iuxta e'd'm Requiescit Johanna vxor eius vna filia'm et heredu' Richardi Amerike quor' a'ib's p'picietur deus Amen.

Which may be read :

Here lies the body of the venerable man John Brook, formerly a Serjeant at Law of the most illustrious prince of happy memory King Henry the eighth, and a Justice of Assize of the same King in the western parts of England, and Chief Steward of that honourable House and Monastery of the Blessed Mary at Glastonbury in the County of Somerset; which said John died the 25th day of the month of December, 1522,—and next to him rests Johanna his wife, only daughter and heiress of Richard Amerike, on whose souls may God have mercy,—Amen.

The arms on the remaining shield are greatly denuded, and two of the quarters, those assigned to Braybroke, unfinished, simply marked out, as if the engraver was uncertain of his work, and subsequently hatched over one of them; the bear-

ings of Brook also are nearly obliterated. But sufficient remains to identify them with careful scrutiny, and may be thus described.

Per pale, dexter paly of two,—1. *On a chevron, three lions rampant, in the dexter chief, a crescent for difference*, (COBHAM of Kent). 2. *On a chevron, a lion rampant crowned*, (BROOK, the crown an augmentation after their migration to Cobham) impaling *sinister*, quarterly of four, 1. Cobham with *crescent*,—2 and 3, *seven mascles*, 3. 3 and 1. (BRAYBROKE). 4. Brook.

Of *Thomas* and *Arthur*, the eldest and second sons, presently.

SIR DAVID OR DAVY BROOK, third son of John Brook, Serjeant-at-Law. He appears to have followed his father's profession of the law, and to have risen to considerable eminence herein, being described as Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, was knighted at, or immediately after the Coronation of Queen Mary in 1553, and bore for his arms,—*Gules, on a chevron argent, a lion rampant sable, ducally crowned or, a crescent azure, on another of the third, for difference*. Crest,—*A Blackamoor's head proper, wreathed argent and sable*. (Metcalf).

In the *Visitation*, Somerset 1623, he is stated to have married KATHERINE, "sister" of John Bridges, Lord Chandois, and that he died s.p. In the *Visitation*, Gloucestershire, this lady is recorded to have married *Leonard Poole* of that county, who died 30th Sep.—30 Henry VIII, 1539, (by Collins called *Richard*), and if so Sir David must have been her second husband.

She was the third daughter of *Sir Giles Bruges or Bridges*, of Coberly, co. Gloucester, knighted by Henry VII, being "dubbed at Blackheath feild on St. Botolph's day,"—17th June, 1497,—Sheriff of Gloucestershire 1500, and died 1511.

This brother, Sir John Bridges, appears to have been a busy soldier and flexible courtier, in the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, and Queen Mary, and his career gives an inter-

esting glimpse of the shifting adaptations in vogue at that era.

As narrated by Burke and Collins :—

“He was in the retinue of Henry VIII during his French wars, and subsequently constituted Deputy-Governor of Bulloign,—was “in nomination” for one of the Knights of the Garter, 1 Edward VI,—and on her accession “waited on Queen Mary, assisted her against those who had usurped the government, and on her entrance into London, to the Tower, was one of the principal persons in her train, for which services she then committed to him the charge of the Tower,” and on Sunday, 8th April, 1554, created him at St. James’s, Baron Chandos of Sudely, and gave him also a grant of the Manor and Castle of Sudeley, of which he had previously been constituted Constable. “Four days afterward,” continues Burke, “he attended Lady Jane Grey to the scaffold, and that unhappy lady presented him (as related by some), in testimony of his civilities to her with her prayer book, but according to others, it was a table book, with some Greek and Latin verses which she wrote in it, upon his begging her to write something that he might retain as a memorial of her.” But Mr. Doyne Bell in his “*Chapel in the Tower*,” gives a circumstantial account of this pathetic incident occurring in the last moments of this good and brave-hearted young creature. “The book she gave to Thomas Brydges, for his brother Sir John Brydges, Lieutenant of the Tower, is now in the British Museum. It is a manual of prayers, a small square vellum book, bound in modern times, and is No. 2342 in the Harleian MSS. : it is believed that Lady Jane Grey had borrowed it of Sir John Brydges, carried it with her to the scaffold, and then returned it through the hands of his brother, with the following written in it :—

“For as mutche as you have desyred so simple a woman to wrighte in so worthye a booke, good mayster Lieufftenante, therefore I shall as a frende desyre you, and as a christian require you, to call upon God to encline your harte to his lawes, to quicken you in his wayes, and not to take the worde of trewethe utterlye oute of youre mouthe. Lyve styll to dye, that by deathe you may purchas eternall life, and remember howe the ende of Mathusael, whoe as we reade the scriptures was the longest liver that was of a manne, died at the laste ; for as the precher sayethe, there is a tyme to be borne, and a tyme to dye : and the daye of deathe is better than the daye of oure birthe.

Youres, as the Lord knowethe, as a frende.

JANE DUDELEY.

It would be difficult to find from so young a mind, over which the shadow of death was hanging, a parallel remembrance at once so beautiful and appropriate, and it perhaps was intended to convey a special meaning to its recipient ; as the sequel apparently shews, for the “Lieufftenante,” who only lived about three years afterward, died “an adherent to the old religion,” 4th March, 1557-8, and although in his will he ordered his body to be buried in the chancel of Sudeley, “according to his degree, but without worldly pomp or vain glory,” yet, “his funeral solemnities were performed with great pomp, being carried in a hearse of war, with four banners of images, and all appendages of honour.”

The arms of Bridges are,—*Argent, on a cross sable, a leopard’s head cabossed or.* The date of Sir David’s death does not appear.

of Long-Ashton.

THOMAS BROOK, eldest son of John Brook, Serjeant-at-Law, he succeeded to Ashton-Phillips, in Long-Ashton, and

was living in 1524. He married JOAN, daughter and co-heir of *John Speke*, "of Somerset," and left a son, *Hugh*.

HUGH BROOK, son and heir of *Thomas*. He succeeded to the manor of Ashton-Phillips and was resident there. He married a daughter and heir of . . . *Morice*, by whom he had four daughters—1, *Elizabeth*; 2, *Frances*; 3, *Susan*; and 4, *Alice*. He died in 1586, and was buried at Long Ashton; and Collinson notes:—

"In a chapel in Long Ashton Church, against the south wall is a large stone monument erected to the memory of Hugh Brook, of Lower Court, Esq., who died 30 Elizabeth (?), and was buried 23 February, 1586. There is no inscription on this tomb, it having been left unfinished."

This is a low altar tomb of plain character, in an arched recess, in the south wall at the west end of the south aisle. There is no date, arms, or inscription.

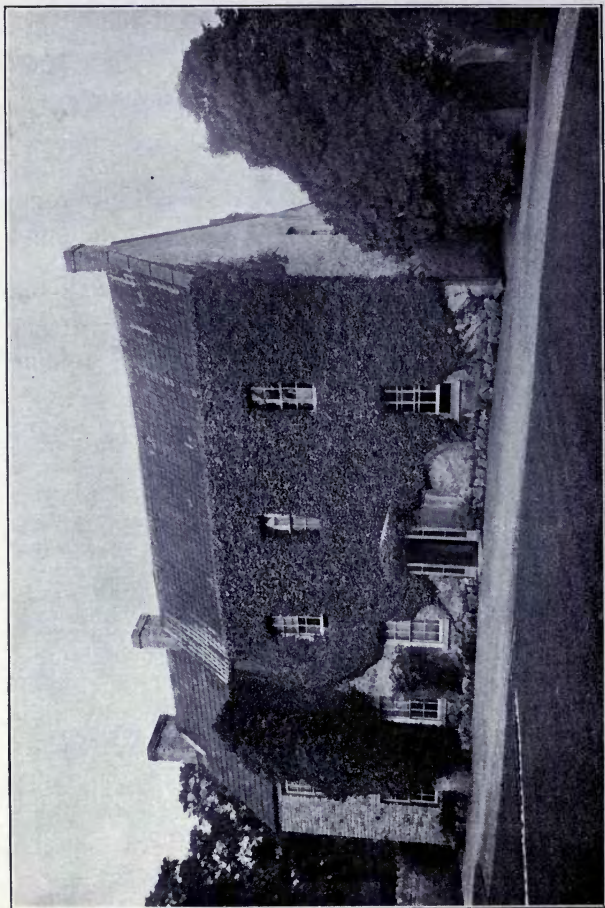
ELIZABETH BROOK, eldest daughter and co-heir; she married *Giles Walwyn, Esq.*, of Herefordshire. He sold that part of the manor he held in right of his wife to Mrs. Jane Smith, widow of Matthew Smith, of Long Ashton, Esq., in 1593.

FRANCES BROOK, second daughter and co-heir; she married *William Clarke*, of Minchin Barrow, by whom she had a son and heir, *Christopher*, who sold their portion to Sir Hugh Smith in 1603.

SUSAN BROOK, third daughter and co-heir; she married *Hugh Halswell, Esq.* (probably of Goathurst, Bridgwater); they had a son and heir, *Thomas*, who disposed of this share of the manor to Sir Hugh Smith in 1600.

ALICE BROOK, fourth daughter and co-heir; she married *Thomas Vatchell*, of Cannington, Esq., who sold their moiety of the manor to Mrs. Jane Smith, in the same year as did her sister Elizabeth, 1593. The Somerset *Visitation* mentions *Margaret*, as being the name of one of the daughters. These four co-heiresses appear to have ended this descent.

In describing the manor house of Ashton-Phillips, called



ASHTON-PHILIPS, OR LOWER COURT.

LONG-ASHTON, SOMERSET.

Lower Court, which was probably built by Richard Amerike, Collinson observes:—

“It was formerly a very large and grand structure, but little now remains except an east wing for the dwelling apartments, in which is a large room wainscotted and the edges of the panels gilt. At the south end stands the chapel, twenty-two feet by ten in breadth. The altar is of stone, and still remains in its pristine state. The pulpit stood on the left side, and in the south wall is a niche for holy water. A small bell till of late years hung in an arcade over the entrance.”

The house or mansion of Ashton-Phillips, or Lower Court, built as presumed by Richard Ameryke—although no arms or date remain to attest it—and which subsequently became the residence of his daughter and heiress Johanna, with her husband John Brook, and their descendants, has, except the detached Chapel, been almost entirely rebuilt and modernised. By the aid of a recent careful inspection, with accompanying photograph, we are enabled to give a detailed account and view of the building as it now appears, and the antient portions that at present remain.

“On the right of the dwelling house is a low pointed doorway, covered with ivy, which runs up the gable, and clothes a separate detached Chapel, having a walled-up two-light window on the north side, facing the end of the house, the label and heads being still in the wall. The east window is filled up outside, but inside are the remains of a nice perpendicular window. On the south is a two-light window, matching the north, and both about where the altar-rails would be, this has been turned into a doorway leading into a farm shed. The niche, which is apparently a true piscina, is just east of this. The altar as described by Collinson has vanished. The roof is in capital condition, every rafter being continued as a tie-beam across, moulded and slightly curved. The interior is now used as a lumber room. Outside the ivy going up to the top covers the bell-cot, and is too dense to make out any cross on the east ridge. Apparently what looks like an ivy-covered buttress, but level with the top of the Chapel door, is the springing of an arch, so that the building must have stretched away to the west, and then probably turned again to the south. On the east, or other side of the house, is a good doorway, and the remains of some later square-headed and labelled windows, but the rest of this side has been generally rebuilt. Apparently the house was moated, and there are considerable remains of fish-ponds, &c.”¹

of Barrow-Gurney.

ARTHUR BROOK, second son of *John Brook*, Sergeant-at-Law. In him the male succession of the family was continued; but who he married, or any further particulars

1. By the kindness of F. Were, Esq., and the photograph by Mr. C. F. Master.

respecting him, are not available. He appears, however, to have left a son, *Edward*.

EDWARD BROOK, his son, is described as being "of Barrow-Gurney," and to have married *Florence*, the daughter of *Brandbridge*. They left four sons, *Arthur*, *Thomas*, *Edward*, and *Hugh*: as stated in the *Visitation*, confirmed in the will of their nephew *Edward*, proved 2nd February, 1636-7. There are several entries in the *Barrow-Gurney Register*, between 1607-1663, to families named *Thomas alias Brooke*, and *Brocke*, but they do not appear to be connected with this descent of Brook.

ARTHUR BROOK, eldest son of *Edward*, aforesaid. He is described as having died s.p.

of Glastonbury.

THOMAS BROOK, second son. He is mentioned as "of Glastonbury Abbey, 1623," to have married *Rebecca*, daughter and co-heir of *John Wike*, of Ninehead; and to have left a son and two daughters, who, at that date 1623, were respectively *Arthur*, aged six; *Elizabeth*, five; and *Mary*, three years. The three are also mentioned in their cousin *Edward's* will in 1636.

EDWARD BROOK, third son. He is also mentioned by his nephew *Edward*, in his will, and is recorded to have died s.p.

HUGH BROOK, fourth son, also of Glastonbury; he married *Dorothy*, daughter of *Edward Preston* of that place, was dead before 1636, and his wife married secondly *Mr. John Strode*. In the *Visitation* he is described as then having three children: *Edward*, aged ten, *Joan*, aged twelve, and *Jane*, aged thirteen; but in *Edward's* will two other sons, *Silvanus* and *Thomas*, are mentioned, and two further daughters, one *Dorothy*, who apparently married *Edward Davis*, and another unnamed to *William Court alias Paris*. *Jane*, the eldest daughter, married *John Gaylard*, of Lovington, Somerset. *Joan* was wife of *Matthew Sheppard*, of Calne, vintner.

EDWARD BROOK, eldest son, appears to have succeeded his father, and to have died young, aged about twenty-three, and unmarried in 1636-7. The following particulars of his will are taken from the Rev. F. Brown's *Extracts*:—

“Edward Brooke, of Glaston, Somerset, gent., will dated 5th July, 1636, proved 2nd February, 1636-7. My mother, Dorothy Stroade (daughter of Edward Preston, of Glastonbury); my uncle, Thomas Brooke, gent.; my father, Hugh Brooke, of Glaston, gent., deceased; my sister, Jane, wife of John Gaylard, of Lovington, Somerset, yeoman; my sister, Joan, wife of Matthew Sheppard, of Calne, Wilts, vintner (who proved the will); my brothers, Silvanus, Thomas, and Edward Davies; my brother, Will, Court *alias* Paris; my sister, Dorothy Davies; my father-in-law (step-father), Mr. John Strode, twenty shillings for a ring; my uncles, Edward and Thomas Brooke, of Glaston; my cousins, Elizabeth and Mary Brooke, and Arthur Brooke.”

The arms of this descent of Brook, as given in the *Visitation* of Somerset for 1623, consist of nine quarterings: 1, *Gules, on a chevron argent, a lion rampant sable, crowned or on a crescent, a mullet for difference* (BROOK), of Olditch and Weycroft, the *crown* being an *augmentation*, added apparently after they had migrated to Cobham; 2, *Gules, on a chevron or, three lions rampant sable* (COBHAM, Barons of Cobham); 3, *Ermine, on a chevron gules, three buck's heads cabossed or* (HANNING), this evidently represents the alliance of the first Sir Thomas Brook, and Johanna Hanning, widow of Thomas Chedder, on her seal the *buck's heads* are in a *chief*; 4, *Ermine, seven mascles conjoined, 3. 2. 1. (sic)* (BRAYBROKE) should be 3. 3. 1., the second Sir Thomas Brook married Johanna Braybroke-Cobham, Lady of Cobham; 5, *Gules, a chevron dancettée, between twelve cross-crosslets or*; 6, *Barry nebulée of six argent and gules* (BASSETT); 7, *Azure, a fess dancettée between three garbs or*; 8, *Azure, two bars nebulée or* (DE LA POLE); 9, *Gules, a fess argent between six cross-crosslets or* (PEVERELL).

Notes as to other descendants of Brook.

MARGARET BROOK, the widow of *Duke Brook*, of Templecombe, ob. 1606, and buried at Cobham; she appears to have been a Berkley, and deceased 1641-2. Her will is dated 30th

Jan., 1641, and proved 7th Feb., 1641-2. In it she mentions "my nephew, Michael Berkley; Maurice, youngest son of my brother, Robert Berkley; my niece, Penelope Warnford, eldest daughter of Sir William Broök."

These further particulars relating to them are extracted from "*The fate of Henry Brooke, tenth Lord Cobham*," by I. G. Waller, Esq., in the *Archæologia of the Society of Antiquaries*, Vol. xlv, 1881, relative to their acquisition of some of the forfeited estates of their cousin, the hapless Henry Brook.

"The will of George, Lord Cobham, dated 31st March, 1552, made an elaborate settlement of the estates, entailing them on the next heir, with remainder in the usual manner. The king—James I—therefore by the law of the land, could only be entitled to a life interest on the Cobham domains. Possibly this consideration may have had much to do with the royal mercy (?).

No sooner, therefore, did he become possessed than he began to realize. And, for this purpose, he entered into a bargain of a cruel, if even of a legal character. Unfortunately, the next heir was (William), the son of George Brooke, who was executed at Winchester—a poor friendless child of tender age, unable to assert his own rights before the law, and deserted by those near to him in blood, whose duty it was to aid him.

This transaction was entered into with Duke Brooke, the son of an uncle of Lord (Henry) Cobham, and next in succession, if George Brooke's children were debarred by attaind of blood. This appears from the answer by the king to "*The Humble Petition of Duke Brooke, of Temple Combe, Esq., and in consideration of £4,269 on 4th May, 1605, and £3,250 on 8th November, 1605, and £3,250 on the 4th May, 1606, by the said Duke Brooke paid, we grant, &c.*" Then follows a recital of the manors, &c., making in all ninety-one items. So here we find the king, in two years after the attainder, is proceeding to realize on the estates seized.

The recipient did not live long in possession of the property thus acquired, but died without issue 27th May, 1606 (buried at Cobham, 10th June following) only twenty-three days after the time fixed for his last payment. On 25th October, 1607, Charles Brook, his brother, had a renewal of this grant from the king, but on what terms does not appear. Whilst the property was in his hands, he parted with several manors to Cecil, then Earl of Salisbury, for £5,000, as well as to others. He died 5th April, 1610 (and was buried at Temple Combe)."

In the meantime "the unfortunate prisoner, Henry Brook, was living out those who were enjoying and scattering his estates." And it was in this year of 1610, that "the restoration of blood" took place, of the still young children of George Brook, his brother, was accorded, but shorn of all claim to the estates or title. "But," continues Mr. Waller—

"It must surely be questionable if the king had a right to set aside the will of George, Lord Cobham, for it is clearly shewn by the instruments drawn up by the lawyers respecting the sale of property by John Brooke (afterward) created



SIR THOMAS WYATT—OB: 1542.

Lord Cobham by patent, to the Duke of Lenox and Richmond, that they considered the will and entail in force, notwithstanding the attainder, as it is constantly recited, and the death of all who could claim duly proved.

It seems probable that James, with the connivance of Cecil, who bought some of the estates of Charles Brooke, used or abused the law, and threw such obstacles in the way of the rightful heir, as rendered any process against the Crown hopeless."

MARGARET BROOK, the youngest daughter of William Brook, Lord Cobham, K.G., ob. 1596, was, according to Lysons, (*Environs, Stepney*) baptized there, and gives this entry from the *Register* :

"Margaret Brooke, the daughter of Sir William Brooke, Lord Cobham, baptized 8th June, 1564."

She was sister to the ill-fated Henry Brook; and ancestress of Sir Richard Temple, created Viscount Cobham.

ELIZABETH BROOK, LADY WYATT, one of the daughters of Thomas Brook, Lord Cobham, ob. 1529, married Sir Thomas Wyatt, the elder, the well-known poet, who died near Sherborne. Hutchins says :—

"Being sent by the King (Henry VIII) to Falmouth to conduct Montmorency, the imperial ambassador, to London, from an excess of zeal to please the King, he made more expedition than was necessary, riding hard in a very hot season, and died of a violent fever here, and was buried in the great church, 1541, aged 38."

He was conveyed to his friend, Sir John Horsey's house, at Clifton-Maubank, close by, where he died, and who afterwards laid him in the vault prepared for himself in the Abbey Church, where he subsequently found a resting place beside him. The *Register* records :—

"11 Mensis Octobris 1542,—34 Re: Hen. 8,—Sepultus est D'ns Thomas Wyet miles D'ni Regis Consiliarius vir Venerabilis."

But no memorial or inscription exists to record his burial there, a strange reproach to the history of English literature.

BROOK—STOURTON. John, eighth Baron Stourton, married in 1580 Elizabeth, daughter of William Brook, Lord Cobham, K.G., ob. 1596-7, by his second wife, Frances Newton, of East Harptree, and sister of Henry Brook, the last unfortunate Baron Cobham.

He was the son of Charles, seventh Baron Stourton, by his wife Anne, daughter of Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, who

“with the help of four of his own servants committed a foul murder on a person named Hartgill and his son, burying their bodies fifty feet deep in the earth, thinking thereby to prevent the discovery ; but afterwards it coming to light, he had sentence of death passed on him, which he suffered at Salisbury, 16th March, 1557, by (as it is said) an halter of silk, in respect of his quality. His tomb is in the nave of Salisbury Cathedral.”

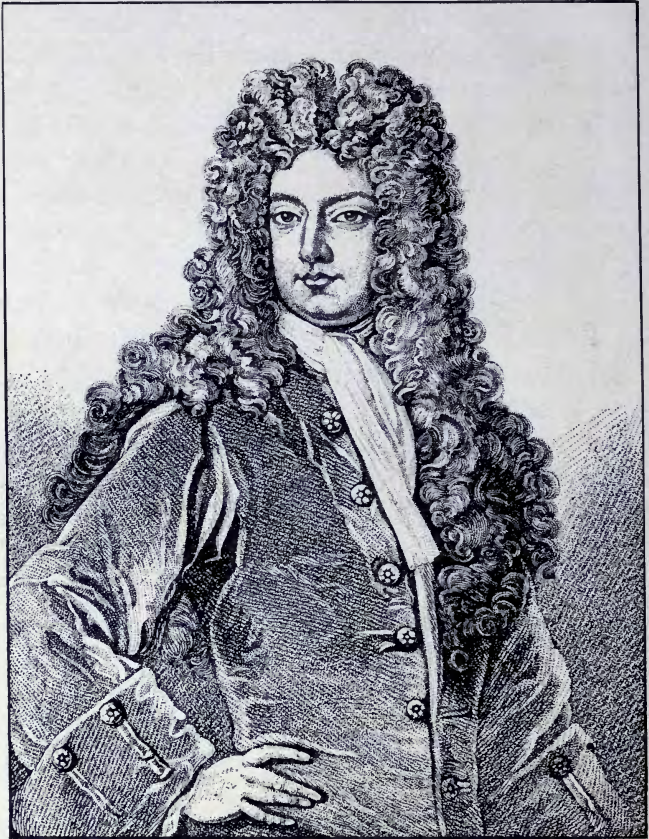
He—Lord John—was restored in blood by Act of Parliament, 18 Elizabeth, 1575, and acted as one of the peers on the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots. He died 13th October, 1588, without issue, appointed his body to be buried in the chapel of the church at Stourton ; and was succeeded by his brother and heir, Edward. The date of Lady Stourton’s death does not appear.

THOMAS BROOK, the fourth son of George Brook, Lord Cobham, K.G., ob. 1558, whose lawless career has been previously alluded to, the cruel incident recorded of him in his conduct as a buccaneer is thus described by Froude, in his *History of England*:—

“The sons of Lord Cobham of Cowling Castle, who had first distinguished themselves in Wyatt’s rebellion, had grown up after the type of their boyhood, irregular lawless Protestants ; and one of them, Thomas (Brook) Cobham, was at this time (1563) roving the seas, half-pirate, half knight-errant of the Reformation, doing battle on his own account with the enemies of the truth, wherever the service of God, was likely to be repaid with plunder. He was one of a thousand whom Elizabeth was forced for decency’s sake to disclaim and condemn in proclamations, and whom she was as powerless, as she was probably unwilling to interfere with in practice. What Cobham was, and what his kind were, may be seen in the story about to be told.

A Spanish ship was freighted in Flanders for Bilbao ; the cargo was valued at 80,000 ducats, and there were on board also forty prisoners condemned, as the Spanish accounts say ‘for heavy offences worthy of chastisement,’ who were going to Spain to serve in the galleys. Young Cobham, cruising in the Channel, caught sight of the vessel, chased her down into the Bay of Biscay, fired into her, killed her captain’s brother and a number of men, and then boarding when all resistance had ceased, sewed up the captain himself, and the survivors of the crew in their own sails, and flung them overboard. The fate of the prisoners is not related ; it seems they perished with the rest. The ship was scuttled ; and Cobham made off with booty, which the English themselves admitted to be worth 50,000 ducats, to his pirate’s nest in the south of Ireland. Eighteen drowned bodies, with the mainsail for their winding sheet, were washed up on the Spanish shores, ‘cruelty without example, of which but to hear was enough to break the heart.’

Cobham was tried for piracy the next year at the indignant requisition of Spain. He refused to plead to his indictment, and the dreadful sentence was



RICHARD TEMPLE, VISCOUNT COBHAM.

OB: 1749.

passed upon him of the *peine forte et dure*.¹ His relations, de Silva said, strained their influence to prevent it from being carried into effect; and it seems that either they succeeded or that Cobham himself yielded to the terror, and consented to answer. At all events he escaped the death which he deserved, and was soon again abroad on the high seas."

It would be difficult to find a match to the inhumanity of this occurrence, an unparalleled example it is to be hoped, of the barbarous spirit accompanying the depredations of these sea-roving freebooters.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, BART., VISCOUNT AND BARON COBHAM. It has been mentioned these titles were revived in this gentleman, as a descendant of *Margaret Brook*, daughter of William Brook, Lord Cobham, ob. 1597.

He acquired considerable renown as a military commander under the Duke of Marlborough in Flanders, and having risen to the rank of Lieutenant-General, was elevated to the peerage as *Baron Cobham, of Cobham, co. Kent, 19th October, 1714*, and further created *Viscount and Baron Cobham, 23rd May, 1718*, to him and his heirs male, and in default thereof, by special remainder, to his sisters, Hester Grenville, and her heirs male, and in default, to Dame Christian Lyttelton, third sister of the said Viscount, and her heirs male. He died at Stow, 13th September, 1749, and these dignities then devolved on his elder sister Hester, widow, and relict of Richard Grenville, of Wotton, co. Buckingham, Esq., ob. 17th February, 1726-7.

Hester Grenville, Viscountess Cobham, was 18th October, 1749, created Countess Temple, with succession to her heirs male, and both titles continued with her descendants to the Dukes of Buckingham, the last of whom deceased in 1889, without male issue, when the Viscounty of Cobham reverted to the male descendant of Christian Lyttelton, the second sister in remainder. The Temple earldom, which had been recreated 14th February, 1822, with remainder to a female heir, then passed to the present Earl Temple, of Newton House, Bristol.

The family of Lyttelton is of antient descent in the county of Worcester, with considerable possessions. Thomas de Luttelton, of Frankley, "esquire of the body to three successive kings," died 1 Henry VI, 1422, leaving an only daughter and heiress, Elizabeth.

1. "The English judgment of penance for standing mute was as follows,—that the prisoner be remanded to the prison from whence he came, and put into a low dark chamber, and there be laid on his back, on the bare floor naked; that there be placed upon his body as great a weight of iron as he could bear, and more; that he have no sustenance save only on the first day three morsels of the worst bread, and on the second day three draughts of standing water that should be nearest to the prison door; and in this situation this should be alternately his daily diet, or, as anciently the judgment ran, till he answered."—BLACKSTONE'S *Commentaries*, book iv, chap. 25.

Thomas Westcote, of an antient family in Devon, presumed to have derived their name from the manor of Westcote, in the parish of Marwood, near Barnstaple, married this heiress. He is described

“as being a gentleman of Devon, anciently descended, the king’s servant in Court, and celebrated for his military prowess, which brought him to the notice of Kings Henry IV and V; but the lady being fair and of noble spirit (to use the phraseology of Lord Coke), and having large possessions from her ancestors De Luttleton, and from her mother, daughter and heir of Quartermain, and other ancestors, resolved to continue the honour of her name, and therefore provided by Westcote’s assent, before marriage, that her issue inheritable should be called by the name of Luttelton. Upon this marriage Mr. Westcote settled at Frankley, and served the office of Escheator to Henry VI, 1450, soon after which he died leaving four sons and as many daughters.” He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Thomas Lyttelton, K.B., the celebrated lawyer and Chief Justice of the King’s Bench, who died 23rd August, 1481. But according to Westcote, the Devonshire historian, this change of name applied only to the eldest son as heir of Lyttelton, the three other younger sons were to retain their father’s patronymic, Guido, Edmund, and Nicholas, and from the elder of these he describes himself to descend.

Their descendant, Sir Thomas Lyttelton, Bart., M.P. for co Worcester, etc., married 8th May, 1708, Christian, sister of Sir Richard Temple, Bart., of Stow, created Viscount and Baron Cobham, and she and her heirs male, were constituted second in remainder to those titles. They had eight children: of the sons, George the eldest and heir, held several important ministerial offices, he represented Oakhampton in Devon, in Parliament, and married, first, Lucy daughter of Hugh Fortescue, Esq., of Filleigh, in that county. He was created *Baron Lyttelton, of Frankley, co. Worcester*, 19th Nov., 1757, died 22nd Aug., 1773. He was succeeded by his son Thomas, who dying without issue, 27th Nov., 1779, the peerage expired. William Henry Lyttelton, their fifth son, held a distinguished position in the diplomatic service; he was elevated to the peerage of Ireland 31st July, 1776, by the title of *Baron Westcote, of Ballymore, co. Longford*, being the surname of Thomas Westcote, who married the heiress of Lyttelton. On 13th Aug., 1794, he was created a peer of Great Britain by the same title (*Baron Lyttelton, of Frankley*), which had expired with his nephew Thomas. He died 14th Sep., 1808. At the death of the Duke of Buckingham in 1889, without heirs male, the title of Viscount Cobham reverted to George William, fourth Baron Lyttelton and Westcote, as the existing heir male of Christian Temple-Lyttelton, the second sister in remainder of Sir Richard Temple, the original grantee in 1718.

Arms of Westcote,—*Argent, a bend cotised sable, within a bordure engrailed gules bezantée.* Of Lyttelton,—*Argent, a chevron between three escallops sable.*

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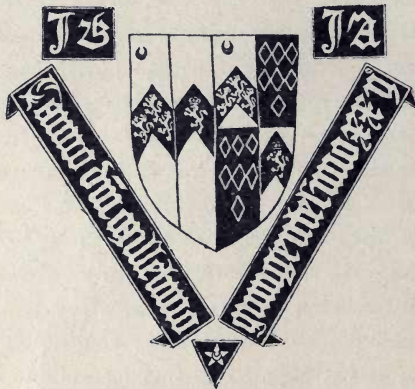
Few titles appear to have been subject to greater fluctuation and re-creation than that of the Barony of Cobham. From the family of Brook of Ilchester and Olditch, descending from the reigns of the earlier Plantagenet Kings, the knightly heir

of the house in the days of their Lancastrian successor, "Kynge Harry the VI," wedded the Lady of Cobham in Kent, sole heiress to the title and possessions of the Barony of that name, which had descended to her through many generations, and was one of the most antient and important in East Anglia. Their descendants, the Cobham-Brooks, through successive summonses to Parliament by the York and Tudor sovereigns, as peers of the realm, occupied from their official functions and honours, a position in the first rank of social influence among the hereditary nobility, which continued comparatively unaffected by the varying phases of national affairs, until the first Stuart king remorselessly extinguished them, title and possessions. Revived by the second Stuart king in the person of a descendant of a younger son of the fourth Baron, an empty title shorn of all that gave it dignity and influence, it flickered a few years, and at the death of its first, unfortunate, and only possessor, again expired; and at his decease, the name of Brook in connection with the Barony, as its original inheritor, completely disappeared. Seventy years afterward, by the first Georgian king, the abeyant title was once more revived,—to be again re-conferred and enhanced—in the person of a remote descendant bearing another name, deriving from a distaff of the main house, sister to the last unfortunate Baron, and this re-creation, only by its liberal remainders to female heirs, survives to the present.

It is a singular coincidence that after so much vicissitude, the title should have returned to the descendant of a gentleman, who, although his family patronymic was supplanted on their union by that of his heiress wife, came from Devon, the county from which the Brooks also migrated on marriage with the heiress of Cobham, but not in their case, with the extinction of their name.

The Westcotes continued to descend from Guido, the second son of Thomas Westcote and Elizabeth Lyttelton, and of them was Thomas Westcote, who, "following the Court in the

time of King Henry VIII, came into Devon with Sir Thomas Dennis, Knt., of Holcombe-Burnel, Devon, Chancellor to Queen Anne of Cleves, and was much desired in marriage by Anne, daughter of Wilson, relict of John Raddon (of West-Raddon, in Shobrooke, near Crediton, Devon), whom he married," where the Westcotes afterwards resided in honourable estate, and it was here there was baptised on 17th June, 1567, his grandson, the historian, genealogist and heraldist, so well known to the archæologists of his native county by his work, "*A View of Devonshire in MDCXXX, with a Pedigree of most of its Gentry, by Thomas Westcote, Gent.*," and it is pleasant to observe the name is honourably preserved in one of the titles of the ennobled descendants of the preceding Thomas Westcote, who flourished two centuries antecedent.



FROM THE REDCLIFFE BRASS.