

Trent.

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TRENT has so many attractions for the antiquary, the architect, and the historian, that some particulars respecting it and its possessors, supplementing those given by Collinson in his *History of Somerset*, will not, I hope, prove uninteresting to the Members of the Society I have now the pleasure of addressing.

The superior Lordship or Seigniority of Trent in the time of the Conqueror was part of the vast possessions of Robert, Earl of Moreton, which were afterwards known as "The Honour of Moreton." In *Domesday Book* Ansgar is said to hold Trent of "The Earl." He also held of the same Earl, Preston on the west side of Yeovil, now called Preston Bermondsey, Odcombe, Isle now called Isle Brewers, and other manors in this county, several in Dorset, and Buckland in Devon. From the corresponding account in *The Exeter Domesday* we learn that Ansgar bore the additional name of Brito, and this is confirmed by other evidence. *The Annals of the Abbey of Bermondsey*¹ tell us that in 1126 (26 Hen. I) Ansgerus Brito and Walter his son gave to the monks the Manor of Preston, and from another source² that Walter, the son of Ansgar,

(1). Published by the Master of the Rolls.

(2). Cott. MSS. Claud. A. viii. p. 110.

gave to them two hides of land at "Stane," now called Stone Farm, in the parish of Preston. This Walter Brito gave (anno incerto) a corody out of his Manor of Isle and Chederlee to the Priory of St. Nicholas, Exeter, for the health of Hawisa his wife—Walter (?) his brother being a witness to the charter.³ 12 Hen. II, Walter Brito answered for fifteen knights' fees in Somerset of the fees of Moreton, one of which was held by William Brito,⁴ and all were held of the King in chief, and constituted the Barony of Brito. He held another knight's fee of Moreton of Richard Fitzwilliam,⁵ and, 20 Hen. II, he paid sixty-six pounds and a mark for relief of his lands in Somerset and Dorset.⁶ He died probably in this reign, as, according to Sir William Pole,⁷ Chederlee was, temp. Hen. II, the land of Walter Croc, who was his nephew and one of his heirs. He did not however succeed to his inheritance without opposition. 1 John, Walter Croc pays a fine of 200 marks for having a recognition of Mort'd'ancestor of a moiety of the land which had belonged to Walter Brito in Trente, Otecumbe, Isle, Chedderlee, Stocleg' and Bukeland;⁸ and in the same year John de Montacute, who appears to be in possession of the lands, fines for remanding the recognition demanded by Walter Croc against him of a moiety of "The Honour of Brito" in Otecumbe, Trent and the other places above-mentioned.⁹ The result of the assize was in favour of Croc, who was found to be the next heir of Walter Brito, of a moiety of his "Barony."¹⁰ It is not very intelligible from the language of the record, whether John de Montacute

(3). Coll. Top. et Gen. Vol. I. p. 336.

(4). Hearne's Liber Niger, p. 98. (5). Ib. p. 85.

(6). Pipe Roll 20 Hen. II. Dors. and Som.

(7). Pole's Devon, p. 192. (8). Rot. de obl. et Fin. 1 John.

(9). Ib. (10). Plac. Abb. 2 John, Rot. 6 in dorso.

did not claim some consanguinity with Brito, and it is quite possible that they may have been related, as Ansgar was sometimes surnamed Ansgar de Montagud.¹¹ Walter Croc did not retain the property long. 2 John, he granted to the King, in open court, the moiety of the whole barony which had belonged to Walter Brito his uncle, to the intent that Richard Briewere, and his heirs, might hold and enjoy the same.¹² 4 John, William Briewere paid a fine of 500 marks to have the daughter of Hugh de Moreville in marriage with his son Richard, and also for a moiety of the land which was Walter Brito's, then in the King's hands; and Richard de Hasecumb, heir of the said Walter, came into court, and released to the King and the said William all his right to the said moiety to the use of the said Richard Briewere.¹³ This Richard de Hasecumb was, we may conclude, another nephew of Brito, and coheir of his barony with Walter Croc. Although in the record called Robert de Hattecumb, he is no doubt the person who, 3 John, levied a fine of "The Ville of Ysle and of Odcumb" to the use of Richard Briewere and his heirs, receiving in return a grant in fee of two hides of land in Hasecumb,¹⁴ which is an unknown part, either of the parish of Odcombe, or the adjoining parish of Brympton, but is to this day separately assessed to the land tax. It is clear that the entirety of the whole barony was vested in

(11). Since this paper has been in the Printer's hands my attention has been called by the addenda to the 3 Ed. of Hutchins' Dorset, to a notice in that work of the family of Brito, which substantially agrees with that given in the text.

(12) Lib. Nig. p. 372, where the charter is set out. Pipe Roll. 2 John, Dora. and Som.

(13). Pipe Roll. 4 John, Cumb.

(14). Ped. Fin. Som. 3 John, No. 48.

Richard Briewere, for, 13 John, he answered upon a scutage for the fifteen knight's fees of the Honour of Moreton, which, as we have seen, belonged to Walter Brito;¹⁵ and about the same time he acknowledged the receipt from Hugh the Prior and the Convent of Bermondsey of forty marks, promised him for the confirmation of the lands of Preston and "La Stane," which they had by the gift of Ansgar Brito and Walter his son.¹⁶ Richard Briewere was the son of William Lord Briewere, a baron of great wealth and influence in the west, and died without issue in the lifetime of his father, who was succeeded on his death, 11 Hen. III, by his only surviving son, William. He also died without issue, 16 Hen. III, leaving his sisters—Alice, wife of Reginald de Mohun, and Margaret, wife of William de la Ferte, and the daughters of his sister Joan, wife of William de Percy, and the daughters of William de Braos, son of Griselda or Græcia, his eldest sister, and Hugh Wake, son of his sister Isabel, wife of Baldwin Wake, his coheireses. Now to some or one of them, Trent, in the partition which was made of the barony, must have been allotted. But it is only recorded¹⁷ that Alice de Mohun took (inter alia) the Manor of Isle and 4s. 7½d. rent out of the Manor of Trent, and the daughters of William de Percy a rent of 39s. 2½d. out of the same manor. Indeed there is no mention of the Barony or Honour of Brito, *eo nomine*, in the partition. The estates taken by Alice de Mohun, Margaret de la Ferte, and the daughters of William de Percy are set out in the roll, and the locality of the share of Hugh Wake is sufficiently indicated by his relief being accounted for by the sheriff of

(15). Pipe Roll, 13 John Dors. and Som.

(16). Cott. MSS. *ubi sup.*

(17). Close Rolls 17 Hen. III, m. 8.

Nottingham and Derby ;¹⁸ but the estates constituting the allotment of the daughters of William de Braos are not recorded. However as we afterwards find both Trent and Odcombe in the possession of them or their descendants, we may safely conclude that they formed part of the Braos share. It should here be mentioned that Hawis Wat is said to have held Trent, in the Hundred of Horethorne, 19 Hen. III, of the gift of King John, and that it was worth £10.¹⁹ But this cannot, consistently with the foregoing account, refer to the manorial estate, except to a lease or other limited grant of it whilst in the King's hands. A much more difficult feature is introduced into the title by a proceeding many years afterwards.

It is an Inquis. p. m. taken at Yeovil, 4 Ed. I.²⁰ The jurors there find that "Walter le Bret" held the Manors of Odecumbe, Milverton, Ile Brywere, and the Manor of Trente, of our Lord the King, in chief by barony on the day he died ; that the said Walter had two daughters, Alice and Annora, that the issue of Alice was Stephen le Bret, and of Annora, Henry Croc ; and that the said Stephen and Henry are the next heirs of the said Walter, and forty years of age and upwards, but there is no finding of the time of his death. Henry Croc was a nephew of Walter Croc, who, 4 Hen. III, had "entered into religion," and Umfry, his brother and heir, on whom his lands devolved, relinquished them in favour of Henry, his son, a minor, whose wardship and marriage were granted to William Briewere.²¹ With the evidence before us of the transfer of the Brito Barony to Richard Briewere, so far back as 4 John, we must conclude that the Inquisi-

(18). Pipe Roll, 17 Hen. III, Nott. and Derb.

(19). Testa de Nevill.

(20). Inq. p. m. 4 Ed. I, No. 22.

(21). Excerpt e rot fin Vol. I. p. 41.

tion refers to the death of Walter Brito at the time we have mentioned, and the proceeding was possibly instituted by his then heirs, as a foundation for a claim to the estates which had been alienated after his death. The claim may have been set up at this time in consequence of the recent death of Joan, the widow of William Briewere, who held the Manors of Ile, Odcombe and Milverton, and perhaps Trent also, in dower.²² The omission of the date of the death of their alleged ancestor shews that the parties were not well informed in an important and necessary element in such inquiries; and as Walter Croc could hardly have been mistaken in the charter quoted above, in calling Walter Brito his mother's brother (*avunculus*), Alice and Annora must have been the sisters, and not the daughters, of Walter Brito, as stated in the Inquisition. There is, however, no reason for not giving due weight to the confirmatory and express evidence it affords us, that Trent was part and parcel of the Brito barony.

Assuming then upon the evidence set out, that Trent fell to the lot of the grand-daughters of Græcia de Braos, we will proceed to enquire who they were. Her son, William de Braos, married Eva, daughter of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, and left issue by her four daughters—Eleanor, wife of Humphry de Bohun; Eva, wife of William de Cantilupe; Isabel, wife of David, son of Lewellyn, Prince of Wales, and Maud, wife of Roger Lord Mortimer of Wigmore,²³ who not only acquired a goodly inheritance from their father. but, as coheireesses of their mother, succeeded also to the large possessions of the Earl Marshal, upon the death of her brothers without issue. But, although there were

(22). Inq. p. m. 49, Hen. III, No. 5.

(23). Dugd. Bar. i. 419.

four daughters, their maternal estates are said, by a recent authority, to have been divided amongst three of them only—Eva, Maud, and Eleanor;²⁴ and this must have been the case with the father's estates also, Trent being held by the same three in undivided shares.²⁵ Of the demesne lands a partition was subsequently made, but the manor itself, including the Manor Mill, to which in feudal times certain manorial rights were incident, and also the advowson of the church, which was appendant to the manor, continued undivided down to the reign of James I, if not later.

William Lord de Cantilupe, the husband of Eva de Braos, was of Aston Cantilupe, in the county of Warwick. The Cantilupes had other property in this neighbourhood. The Lordship and Hundred of Berwick belonged to them, in which was the Manor of Chilton (consequently called Chilton Cantelo), and part of Marston. 34 Hen. III, William Lord de Cantilupe and Eva his wife bestowed her one-third of the Manor of Trent in free alms for ever on the Priory of Studley in the county of Warwick.²⁶ This was a Priory of Augustine Canons, first founded in Stephen's reign, at Wicton in Worcestershire, but afterwards transferred to Studley, near Aston Cantilupe. It had fallen into decay, until re-endowed by the munificence of Lord Cantilupe's grandfather, and he himself again enriched it²⁷ with a grant of lands in Worle, Locking, Kewstoke, and Norton, in this

(24). Coll. Top. and Gen. vi. pp. 68—86.

(25). Dugd. Bar. i. 180, from which it would seem that Isabel was wrongfully deprived of her inheritance by Humphry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford.

(26). Ped. Fin. Som. 34 Hen. III.

(27). Dugd. Mon. vi. p. 185.

county,²⁸ part of the estates he had inherited as one of the coheirs of William de Courteney.

The priory held this one-third down to its dissolution as one of the lesser monasteries, 26 Hen. VIII. In the minister's accounts for several subsequent years²⁹ "the rent of the farm of the Manor of Trent in lease to Richard Lawrance" is accounted for. In the 38th year of that reign it was granted (except the one-third of the advowson) to Robert Brokelsby and Nicholas Girdlington, and subsequently distributed by sale amongst the owners of the remaining two-thirds, and perhaps others.³⁰

The grant describes the premises as "The Scite and Capital Messuage of the Manor of Trent with the Buildings Curtilages Gardens and orchards adjoining; 8a. of Pasture called The Eight Acres, A close of pasture called Marles, 109 Acres of Land in the Common Fields of Trent all late in Lease to John Hannam and divers other tenements out on Lease—Also the third part of a water mill called Trent Mill with the fishery there and one Virgate and two acres of arable and pasture the other two parts belonging to William Gerard Esqre and Stukeley Gent and their heirs in fee—Also perquisites of Courts and also Trent wood 7½ acres set with underwood of oak and hazel. In Trent wood and Trent Grove and about the scites of divers Tenements there and in the hedges and closes pertaining to the same be 700 Elms and Oaks usually cropped of 30 40 and 50 years growth whereof 400 reserved for Timber to repair the Houses standing upon the same and for Stakes and for Hedgebote to repair and maintain hedges and fences of the same and

(28). Glaston. Reg. in the library at Longleat.

(29). Mon. Acc. 27 and 28 Hen. VIII m. 35, 30, and 31 Hen. VIII m. 17.

(30). Particulars of Grants Aug. Off. 38 Hen. VIII.

300 residue valued at 4d per tree which is in the whole £6."

As to the one-third of Eleanor, wife of Humphry de Bohun, it was probably sold by her and her husband, or their son, as, early in the reign of Edward I we find it in the possession of Robert de Seford and Matilda his wife. But the Bohun family remained chief Lords of the Fee. An Inquisition, taken 8th Feb., 47 Ed. III,³¹ after the death of Humphry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, to ascertain the knight's fees held by him in chief, finds that he had half a fee in a third part of the Manor of Trent and—which identifies it with the part now under consideration,—that it was held by Robert de Wyke (a misnomer as we shall see for Roger), and was worth by the year comm. ann. 50s.

From Robert de Seford and Matilda his wife it passed to Sir Gilbert le Chasteleyn. The family of Le Chasteleyn was of great antiquity in the county of Suffolk, deriving their hereditary surname from their ancient office of *Castellan* to the sovereign or some great lord, in the same way as that of Chamberlayne, Spencer, Marshal, and others is derived. The name in the earliest records is therefore said to be written *Le Chasteleyn*, and not as subsequently, *de Chasteleyn*, and the arms of Alan le Chasteleyn, on his seal to a charter, 34 Ed. I, are, in allusion to the office—*or* three castles triple-towered *sa*. In the British Museum is a manuscript containing a genealogical account of this family, verified by transcripts of old charters relating to their possessions.³² In its original state it contained the grant of Trent to Sir Gilbert le Chasteleyn and his son Alan, but that is

(31). Inq. p. m. 46 Ed. III, No. 10.

(32). Harl. MS. 6152.

now wanting by the loss of two of the leaves ; the date, however, of the purchase is preserved in a subsequent passage, which says, "The said Alan enjoyed the Manor of Trent in the County of Somerset by survivorship upon the death of Gilbert his father who had made him joint purchaser with himself anno. 13 Ed. I"—referring to fo. 7, being one of the lost leaves. From other evidence we find that the purchase only comprised one-third of the manor ; for, 15 Ed. I, a fine was levied between Gilbert le Chasteleyn, and Robert de Seford and Matilda his wife, of one-third of the manor of Trent to the use of the said Gilbert and his heirs, to be held of the said Robert and Matilda, and the heirs of the said Matilda, by the rent of 1d.³³ It is clear from this reddendum that the property was the inheritance of the wife. 17 Ed. II, it is found by Inq. that Alan *de* Chasteleyn held at his death one-third part of the Manor of Trent of Robert de Seford and Matilda his wife, by the annual rent of 1d. ; that it was worth £10 by the year, and that Thomas *de* Chasteleyn, his son, was the heir of the said Alan, and aged twenty years and upwards.³⁴ From Thomas, the son of Alan, this one-third descended, in the reign of Edward III, to Joan, daughter and heiress of his son, Thomas Chasteleyn, of Dinnington, in this county, by Emma his wife, one of the daughters and coheireesses of John de Cantelo, Lord of Chilton Cantelo.³⁵ Joan was the wife of Roger Wyke, whose family were seated at Bindon, near Axmouth, Devon. She became entitled during her minority to certain lands in Chilton Cantelo, as coheireess to her

(33). Ped. Fin. Som. 15 Ed. I, No. 100.

(34). Ped. Fin. Som. 17 Ed. II, No. 2.

(35). Coll. Som. ii. 339, Inq. p. m. 23 Ed. III, No. 47.

mother, and made proof of her age 36 Ed. III,³⁶ after the death of Walter Parker, her mother's second husband, who was tenant by the curtesy of the lands, which were held in chief by the heir of Lawrence de Hastings, Earl of Pembroke, and in the custody of the Crown during his minority. The jurors find that the said Joan was the heir of her mother, and of full age, and that she was born at Dinnington, and baptized in the Church of St. Nicholas there. One of the witnesses states that "he well remembers on the day of the Baptism of the said Joan going with Thomas Chasteleyn her Father to Donyat Park (in the adjoining parish) and killing two deer there with bows and arrows and that the said Thomas Chasteleyn gave him the skin of one of the Deer to make a waistcoat in remembrance of his daughter's age."

This lady survived her husband, Roger Wyke, and became the wife of John Manyngford, *alias* Modyford, of the adjoining parish of Mudford. By a deed in Norman-French, dated 10th May, 1 Hen. IV,³⁷ "Between Robert Kn̄yvet of the County of Essex and Joan his wife cousin and heir of Gilbert Chasteleyn who was the Father of Thomas the Father of William the Father of John the Father of the said Joan, of the one part and John Manyngford of the County of Somerset and Joan his wife cousin and heir of Alan Chasteleyn—that is to say daughter of Thomas son of Thomas son of Alan brother of the said Thomas son of Gilbert, of the other part" It is declared that if the said Robert and Joan should die without issue of her body—the said Joan the wife of John Manyngford will be the heir and next of blood to the said Joan the wife of Robert Kn̄yvet of all lands which

(36). Inq. 36 Ed. III, Som. No. 36.

(37). Harl. MS. 6152.

were of the inheritance of the said Gilbert Chasteleyn and in like manner if the said John Manyngford and Joan his wife should die without issue of her body the said Joan the wife of Robert will be the heir and next of blood to the said Joan the wife of John Manyngford of all lands which were of the inheritance of the said Alan Chasteleyn." From an indorsement on this deed it appears that the above-named Robert and Joan did die without issue, and "That Elizabeth the daughter and heir of John Manyngford and Joan his wife is married to Thomas Affelton whose issue are John, Richard and Robert and the Lands descended to the said John from the said Alan are 'en Trent jouste Yevle en la comte de Soms.'"

The Affeltons were of Affelton, in the county of Devon. Katherine, daughter and heiress of John Affelton, son of the above Thomas and Elizabeth, brought this one-third to her husband, Hugh Stukeley, sheriff of Devon, 27 Hen. VI. His son, Sir Nicholas Stukeley, married Alice, daughter of Sir John Wadham, the owner of Chilton Cantelo, and was no doubt the Nicholas who, according to Westcote,³⁸ resided at Trent. His mother, who survived her husband, was married secondly to William Bouchier, Lord Fitzwarine.³⁹ She died 7 Ed. IV, and was buried according to the directions of her will in the Church of West Wolrington, Devon, in which parish Affelton lies, and not at Poyntington, as has been supposed. The inscription on the grave stone in the porch of Poyntington Church refers to Katherine, widow of Sir John Streeche, or Streche, whose daughter Cicely was married to Sir William Cheney, Lord of Poyntington.⁴⁰

(38). Westcote's Devon, pp. 579, 585.

(39). Pole, 439. Dugd. Bar. ii. 131.

(40). Pole, p. 303.

In the hall window of the old Mansion House of Breakspeare, near Harefield, Middlesex, there was a shield of the Stukeley arms and their quarterings, amongst which were those of Chastelyn and Cantilupe, and a chevron between three roses *gu.* for Manyngford.⁴¹ Roger Manyngford was sheriff of Somerset and Dorset, 1372, and escheator of those counties, 1389.

36 Hen. VIII, Hugh Stukeley, grandson of Sir Nicholas, sold this one-third to John Young, and with his son Lewis Stukeley, levied a fine of the Manor of Trent (but which passed in fact only one-third) and twelve messuages and divers lands in Trent, the third part of one water mill, and one-third part of the advowson of the Church of Trent, to the use of Young in fee.⁴² He was succeeded by his son, William Young, who died 29th March, 1623. By Inq. p. m. taken 15th January, .5 Charles I,⁴³ it was found that John Young, his son, died 30th September, 1630, leaving by Anna his wife, daughter of Robert Harbyn, William Young his son and heir, and seized of the Manor of Trent and one-third of the advowson of the church held of the Hundred of Horethorne in socage and also of other lands purchased of the grantees of the priory estate, and described as "three closes of land in Trent containing 16 acres and one coppice wood called Studleys Wood 12a. parcel of the possessions of the late Priory of Studley held of the King in chief by knight's service." The whole of the Young estate was sold by a subsequent member of that family, and became united with the other parts of the manor

(41). *Gent. Mag.*, vol. xciii. p. 209.

(42). *Ped. Fin. Som. Trin. Term* 36 Hen. VIII.

(43). *Harl. MSS.*, Cole's Esch. i. p. 261.

in the ancestors of our President, Mr. Danby Seymour, the owner of the entirety.

The mansion house belonging to the Youngs is that on the south-west of the church, now occupied by Mr. Stacey, and in the window of a small chamber, which has the appearance of an oratory, are the arms of Young—*or* three roses and a canton *gu.*, which were confirmed to William Young in 1615. On the ceiling beam of the parlour are three coats in plaster—a dolphin embowed (Fitzjames), a stork (Storke), and an eagle displayed—which arms are also on escutcheons in the church. There is a fourth, apparently a butterfly, which may refer to Nicholas Girdlington, one of the grantees of the priory lands, who bore three butterflies for his arms.⁴⁴ Richard Fitzjames was Rector of Trent, 1476.

We have yet to deal with the one-third of Maud, the wife of Roger de Mortimer, which (with the exception perhaps of the seignory) was not long retained by her. 8 Ed. I, Henry de Wollavington came to the assizes at Somerton,⁴⁵ and asked that a charter might be enrolled, by which, in consideration of sixty marks, Lord Roger de Mortimer released to the said Henry, son and heir of Henry de Wollavington, certain lands and tenements in Trent, which belonged to the said Henry his father,—probably as lessee. And 7 Ed. III⁴⁶ a fine was levied, wherein John de Wollavington and Agnes his wife were plaintiffs, and William Fitz Richard de Caleshall, and Peter Pownsond, defendants, of a rent of £6 7s. 2d., and four bushels of corn in Trent and Chilton Cantelo, and one-third part of the Manor of Trent, and of the

(44). Coll. Top. and Gen. iv. p. 190.

(45). Assize. Rolla. Som. 8 Ed. I.

(46). Ped. Fin. Som. 7 Ed. III, No. 120.

advowson of the church of the same manor, to the use of the said John and Agnes, and the heirs of the said John. But it appears at the same time to have been in the hands of Sir Thomas West, first Lord West (whose wife was a first cousin of William de Cantilupe), for, 6 Ed. III, he, with others, presented a clerk to the Church of Trent. And 32 Ed. III, by a fine, wherein his son, Sir Thomas West, was plaintiff, and John de Terstwode, or Testwode, and Maria his wife, were defendants,⁴⁷ (inter alia) one-third part of the Manor of Trent, was entailed on the said John and his issue. Notwithstanding this, the said John and Maria, in consideration of 100 marks, levied a fine, 2 Rd. II, of one acre of land in Trent, and the advowson of the Church of Trent, to the use of John Harewell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and his heirs in fee.⁴⁸

The settlement made by Sir Thomas West is referred to in the Inquisition taken after his death, 22nd September, 10 Richard II.⁴⁹ The Jurors find that Thomas West Chiv., deceased, once held one-third part of the Manor of Trent, with the third part of the advowson of the church, which was held of the heirs of Humphry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, by knight's service, but which, long before he died, he had by charter given and confirmed to John Testwode, and the heirs of his body, with remainder for default of such issue to himself in fee; that the said third part of the manor was worth by the year ten marks, and the church twenty marks. This Inquisition, it will be observed, says this share was held of the Bohuns; if so, Humphry de Bohun must have acquired the lordship of two third parts at least, and it may have been one of the results of

(47). Ped. Fin. Divers Counties, 32 Ed. III.

(48). Ped. Fin. Som. 2 Rd. II, No. 17.

(49). Inq. p. m. 10 Rd. II, No. 52.

a litigation between him and Roger de Mortimer and Maud his wife, relative to the Braos Estates.⁵⁰

I have found no intermediate link in the title of this one-third until the reign of Henry VIII, when it belonged to the Storke family, who inhabited the ancient house on the north-west side of the church, now occupied by Mr. Seymour, and celebrated as a place of refuge for Charles II, after the Battle of Worcester. The main front of the house is comparatively modern, having been erected by Sir Francis Wyndham, in 1706. But there are subordinate parts of the building much earlier, which still exhibit features of a mediæval house, and raise a suspicion that the royal fugitive was not the first Papist in disguise who had been concealed within its walls.

The family of Storke, of which perhaps, that of Starky of Lancashire, connected by marriage with the Gerards of Ince, may be a variety (both bearing for their arms a stork), were not improbably lessees under the priory. They had an early connection with the counties of Somerset and Dorset. John Storke was, 20 Hen. VI, party with Tristram Burnell to a fine of lands in Yeovil and Chilthorne; and Alice, his widow, died 15 Ed. IV, seized of lands in Bagber, in Sturminster Newton.⁵¹ Tristram Storke, of Trent, who was returned as one of the gentry resident in Somerset, temp. Hen. VII, died 1532, leaving, as is recorded on the tablet in the church, by Alice his wife daughter of Robert Bingham of Bingham's Melcombe, four daughters his coheirresses, viz., Joan, the wife of Richard Compton; Ann, the wife of John Larder; Isabel, the wife of Alexander Seymour of Evenswinden Wilts, and Bourton Oxfordshire (a younger

(50). Plac. Abbr. 4 Ed. IV, p. 266.

(51). Inq. p. m. 14 Ed. IV, No. 12.

branch of the Duke of Somerset's family), and Mary the wife of William Gerard, who in the partition of her father's property took, we may presume, Trent as her share.

The Gerards came to Trent immediately from Dorsetshire, but they claimed, as appears by the monument to Wm. Gerard in the church, to be of the same family as the Gerards of Bryn in Lancashire. John Gerard, of Friar Mayne, temp. Ed. IV, was the direct ancestor of the Trent branch,⁵² the elder line terminating in an heiress, married to Sir Nathaniel Napper, or Napier, now represented by Mr. Gerard Sturt.

William Gerard, grandson of William Gerard and Mary Storke, died 1st May 1604, leaving Mary his wife, and Thomas his son, surviving, seized of "one third of the Manor of Trent and of 4 acres more in Trent" and of the Manors of West or Gerard's Waddon, Broadway, and Nottingham, Dorset.⁵³ And in 1607 the benefit of the recusancy of Mary Gerard of Trent, his widow, was granted by the Crown to David Stewart.⁵⁴

Thomas Gerard, son and heir of William, married in 1618 Ann, second daughter of Robert Coker of Map-powder, and their daughter and coheiress Ann was the wife of Sir Francis Wyndham, who by that means became possessed of the Gerard part of the manor and estate.

It is worthy of remark that in the adjoining parish of Sandford Orcas there was resident, from the reign of Hen. IV, if not earlier, down to the time of James I, another distinct family of Gerard or Jerard, who were owners of a moiety of that manor, which John Jerard

(52). Hutch. Dorset, 3 ed. Vol. I. p. 608.

(53). Cole's Esch. iv. p. 191.

(54). Hutch. Dorset, Vol. I. p. 556.

settled by charter dated at Sandford, 20th January, 9 Hen. V.⁶⁵ The arms on his seal are a chevron between three ermine spots, and the inscription "Sigillum Johannis Jerard," and yet over the west door of an old manor house in Sandford there was, and perhaps is still, a lion rampant crowned, the arms of the Gerards of Trent.

An heiress of the Sandford Jerards was married in the reign of Richard II to Richard de Strode of Parnham,⁶⁶ whose descendants quartered the arms of Jerard. William de Strode, son of Richard and Alice his wife, levied a fine of lands in Trent, 36 Hen. VI, which lands were sold by the Strodes, in the reign of Charles I, to William Gundry of Trent gentleman, and have lineally descended through his heiress to Mr. Flambert, the present owner.

There is considerable obscurity in the title to the advowson, especially about the time of the Reformation. The first incumbent noticed in the register is Thomas de Upton sub-dean, rector of Donyat (where as we have seen Thomas Chasteleyn resided), and afterwards Archdeacon of Wells, who was, 6 Ed. III, presented by the Prior and Convent of Studley, Thomas Lord West, and Thomas Chasteleyn, the three owners of the manor. In 1361, William Pikewille was on the death of Upton presented by the Crown alone, the presentation belonging to it, as the register states, by reason of the minority of the heir of Thos. Chasteleyn, although why that circumstance should affect the rights of the other two owners is not intelligible.

The priory join in the presentations regularly down to its dissolution, but it is difficult to connect the other patrons with the title we have traced until the time of

(55). Harl. MS. 1141, fo. 41.

(56). Hutch. Dor. 3 ed., vol. 2, p. 131 Coker's Dors. p. 21.

Nicholas Stukeley. After the dissolution the crown which had only, so far as appears from documentary evidence, acquired the one-third belonging to the priory, appropriated the entirety and presented alone down to 6 James I, when it was granted⁵⁷ with other advowsons to Sir Henry Fowkes, Kt., and by him sold four years after, with the advowson of Gyrlington, Oxfordshire, to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, for £350.

In 1680, John Young, a descendant of the purchaser, claimed one-third of the advowson, which had been bought by and conveyed to his ancestor, and contested the right of the college to it. The case set up by Young in the pleadings was this. That one Storke left three coheireesses and divided the manor and advowson between them; one married Hugh Stukeley, who conveyed one-third of the manor and advowson to the plaintiff's ancestor, John Young, another daughter married Gerard, and another continued a maid and left her part to the Priory of Studley, whence it came to the Crown on the dissolution, and whilst it remained in the King's hands he alone presented, but that since he had granted his right to a subject, the plaintiff was entitled to his one-third. But upon a trial at Wells, September 23rd, 1680, the college got a verdict.⁵⁸ It is impossible to reconcile Young's case with the recorded title, and it is fair to assume that he was unable to support it by evidence. On the other hand it is as difficult to understand on what grounds the college succeeded, there being no evidence of the title of the Crown, either to the Young or the Gerard third, although the latter may have been forfeited or transferred by the disabling statute against papists.

(57). Pat. Rolls, 6 Jac. I. pt. 14.

(58). MS. of B. Smyth, Rector of Tront.

The following list of presentations kindly furnished to me from the Registry at Wells will complete the series given in Collinson :—

DATE	INCUMBENTS	PATRONS
1333-6, Feb.	Thomas de Upton	Prior of Stodleigh, Thomas West, and Thomas Chasteleyn
1361, 18th Feb.	Wm. de Pikeville	The King by reason of the minority of the Heir of Thomas Chasteleyn
1424, 11th Oct.	Richd. Penyfade	Prior and Convent of Stodley, Thos. Beauchamp, Kt., John Rendall, and John Bottreaux
1427, 18th Oct.	Wm. Morys	Ditto
1427, 3rd Feb.	Henry Blakmoor, in exchange with Wm. Morys	By consent of ditto
1440, 29th May	John Pleymarke	Giles Rendale, John Botreaux, and Prior and Convent of Studdelegh
1460, 14th Sept.	Thos. Caas	Said Prior & Convent, Wm. Boucher, Lord Fitzwarryn, Kt., and Wm. Wayte, Esq.
1476, 23rd July	Richard Fitzjames	Said Prior & Convent, Nicholas Stukeley, Esq., and John Bonvyle
1485, 31st Jan.	John Lugwarden on the death of John Combe (sic)	Said Prior & Convent, John Bonvyle, Rich. Stucley, and Wm. Roo, gent.
1500, 10th Nov.	Henry Stevyns	Said Prior & Convent, Thos. Stucle, and Alice, widow of Giles Rendale, gent, also Alice Clayton

With regard to the church itself I must leave a particular description of it to abler hands. The nave and chancel are Perpendicular, but the tower is Decorated. It stands on the south transept, which is lighted by a three-light window on the south, and another smaller one on the east. It is terminated by a pierced quatrefoil parapet, supported by a corbel table, with crocketed pinnacles (lately restored) at the four corners. Rising from it is an elegant spire, 35 feet high, with moulded angles. This tower with its spire always struck me as a peculiarity not congenial to the Somersetshire type, a spire being of rare occurrence, and the tower generally a western one. But when we consider who the patrons were at the period when the tower was erected, and also what was the prevailing style of Warwickshire, we may fairly conjecture that we are indebted to the Priory of Studley for introducing the novel feature we so much admire; and this conjecture is strengthened by the invocation to the Patron Saint of the Priory on one of the bells "*Augustine tuam campanam protege sanam.*"

Corresponding with the south transept is a chapel on the north side of the nave the eastern window of which, as well as the single lancet light in the western end, are also of the Decorated period. Under the recessed arches in the north wall of this chapel are two stone effigies, which Collinson erroneously attributes to the Gerard family. The western effigy represents a man in plate armour of the period of Ed. III. He wears on his head a conical bascinet, with a camail attached, and he rests on his tilting helmet, the crest of which is defaced; on the elbows and knees are strapped elbow pieces and knee caps; the legs are cased in greaves; the feet, girt with heavy spurs, rest on a dog statant. Attached to the girdle is his great

sword on the left side, and a short dagger on the right. There is no shield. His hands are raised on his breast in prayer. The face is exposed with a moustache on the upper lip; signs of colouring are slightly apparent on the surface. There is no record or tradition assisting us to identify this figure, and I gave up the case as hopeless until a second examination. Then on looking closely at the tilting helmet I discovered that, although only a fragment of the crest remained, it was certainly the body of a duck or goose. Now the arms of Wyke are a chevron between three barnacles, or solan geese, close,⁵⁹ and the effigy is, I venture to suggest, that of Roger Wyke, the first husband of Joan Chasteleyn, owner of one third of the manor, who died between 36 Ed. III and 1 Hen. IV.

The other effigy is of a different character. It represents a civilian, and apparently a youth. The head which rest on two cushions is uncovered, and the hair is short and formally dressed. The body is draped in a close tunic, the folds of which about the neck and shoulders indicate a kind of hood. Round the waist is a girdle with a sword attached on the left side; the feet rest on a dog couchant. It is possible this figure may be intended for a son of Roger and Joan Wyke.

The chapel is probably that of the chantry, founded by John Frank or French, a native of Trent, and Master of the Rolls in the reign of Hen. VI. He was of Oriel College, Oxford, and a lawyer of great repute, rendering great assistance to the chancellors of that King, in enlarging the equitable jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery, and establishing it on principles which are still observed.⁶⁰ The chantry was founded *within* the church,

(59). Westcote's Devon, p. 558.

(60). Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors.

and this chapel appears to be the only part of it appropriate for the chantry altar and services. But, as it was not founded until the time of Hen. VI, the chapel, which is much earlier, must have served some purpose previously. There is no record of any other chantry connected with the church, and it has been conjectured that, although the position is unusual, it may have been a Lady Chapel. But, looking at the exterior, and the style of the arch in the interior, so far as the original work remains, may it not originally have been a real transept, corresponding with the other, with the Decorated window then in the north wall, but removed to the eastern end when the chapel was enlarged, and adapted for the purpose of Frank's chantry ?

On the suppression of chantries the temporalities of this one vested in the Crown ; and by a grant, 2 Ed. VI,⁶¹ the mansion (or manse) of the chantry of Trent, within the church there, with the stables and garden adjoining, then in the occupation of John Shete, clerk, the late incumbent, and worth 6s. per annum, was granted to William Fountayne and Richard Mayne, for the sum of £6. By a memorandum on the receipt for the money it appears that the endowment consisted of an annual rent of £8, granted by the provost and scholars of Oriel College, by the license of King Henry VI, to the rector of Trent, and the men of the same ville, for the support of the chaplain, and for the obit of John Frank, viz., for the salary of the chaplain and the repairs of his manse and the ornaments of the chapel, £7 6s. 8d. ; and for the obit, 13s. 4d. It is added that there hath been yearly (*i.e.*, since the suppression) distributed amongst the poor people of the parish 10s. 8d.,

(61). Particulars of Grants Aug. Off.

parcel of the said sum of 13s. 4d., granted for the maintenance of the obit. The house of the chaplain is still standing adjoining the churchyard. It is a building of a superior character, with some of the original windows and doorways remaining, but the coats of arms mentioned by Collinson are gone.

The chapel itself seems to have been taken possession of by the Gerards, when they succeeded to their estate in the parish, and Collinson has preserved many inscriptions on the floor, relating to their burial, which have now disappeared. The soffit of the arch dividing it from the nave is decorated with two genealogical trees, with nearly forty shields of arms suspended on the branches, exhibiting respectively the arms of Thomas Gerard and Ann Coker his wife, and their different alliances. The painting, which had become faded and defaced, was in the year 1792 restored at the expense of the Wyndham family and Mr. Seymour, and the heraldry was corrected under the superintendence of Francis Townshend, Windsor herald. It must have been on this occasion that a shield was added with the arms of Wyndham. The arms are so clearly delineated in the plate in Collinson that it is not necessary to set them out here, but the following is believed to be a correct list of the families bearing them, which information Collinson does not give :—

The Gerard trees, on the north side of the arch—1, Otho, the common ancestor of Windsor, Fitzgerald, Gerard, and other families ; 2, Windsor ; 3, Gerard de Windsor, imp. Bryn—Prince of Wales ; 4, Gerald or Fitzgerald, Earl of Kerry ; 5, Gerard, imp. Kingsley ; 6, Gerard, Earl of Desmond ; 7, Gerard and Bryn, quarterly, imp. Bromley ; 8, Gerard, imp. Bryn ; 9, Gerard and Bryn quarterly, imp. Stanley ; 10, Gerard, imp. Meers ; 11, Gerard, imp.

Ratcliffe ; 12, Gerard, imp. Wells ; 13, Gerard, imp. *gu.* a chevron *or* between three swans or geese (*Lyte* or *Wyke* ?) ; 14, Gerard and Bryn quarterly, imp. Dutton ; 15, the same, imp. Storke ; 16, Roper, imp. Gerard ; 17, Hansby (?), imp. Gerard ; 18, Gerard, imp. Willoughby ; 19, Gerard, imp. Allen ; 20, Wyndham, Bart., with Gerard and Bryn quarterly, on an inescutcheon.

The Coker tree, on the south side—1, Coker ; 2, Coker of Bower, imp. Norris ; 3, Seymour, imp. Coker ; 4, Coker, imp. Walsh ; 5, quarterly, one, two, and three, Seymour and Beauchamp, four Coker ; 6, Coker, imp. Vele (by which marriage Mappowder came to the Cokers, temp. Henry V) ; 7, Bingham, imp. Coker ; 8, Coker, imp. Turges ; 9, Ludlow, imp. Coker ; 10, Coker, imp. Malet ; 11, Coker, imp. Strode ; 12, Coker, imp. Sutton ; 13, Daubeny, imp. Coker ; 14, Coker, imp. Beaumont ; 15, Husey, imp. Coker ; 16, Coker, imp. Turberville ; 17, Brune, imp. Coker ; 18, Coker, imp. Petre ; 19, Coker, imp. Williams ; 20, Coker, imp. Moldford.

On one side of the arch is a panache, issuing from a coronet, intended for the crest of Gerard de Windsor⁶²—although doubts are entertained whether the panache should ever be so considered—and on the other side a Saracen's head for the crest of Coker. On a shield affixed to the wall of the chapel is this coat ; Party per pale, baron and feme—1, Storke ; 2, *arg.*, a chevron *sab.*, between three eagles disp. of the same ; 3, *az.*, three cov. cups *or* ; 4, *arg.*, an eagle disp. *sab.* (*gy.* Bryn) ; 5, Paly indented *gu.* and *or* ; 6, *arg.*, a saltire *sab.* within a bordure of the last—imp. quarterly 1 and 4 ; *as.*, a bend cotised

(62). See the seal of William de Windsor, 1381, in Boutell's English Heraldry.

or between six crosses patee of the same (Bingham); 2 and 3 *erm.*, a lion ramp. *gu.*, crowned *or* (Turberville). Several of these arms have not yet been identified.

There was formally a chapel at Adbere in this parish, served by the rector—but at one time so reluctantly that the inhabitants were compelled to seek redress. In the reign of Hen. VIII the inhabitants of Overadbeare instituted a suit in Chancery against Emericus Tuckfield, clerk, rector of Trent, and others, to compel the due performance of the service in the chapel, and it is recorded in the Book of Decrees in Chancery,⁶³ on the 20th November, 37 Hen. VIII, “This day the said Emericus Tuckfield hath appeared in proper person and hath confessed in open court that the said Plaintiffs ought to have a priest found at the Chapel at Overadbeare according to an ancient custom and is contented that a priest be found there to celebrate accordingly.”

Colonel, afterwards Sir Francis Wyndham, the first baronet, and Lady Wyndham, his wife, who survived him, are both buried beneath the chapel. We may have anticipated that gratitude and respect would have raised some fitting memorial to the loyal and faithful preserver of his Sovereign—who “forsook not the Crown even when it hung upon a bush”—but there is none, save the following inscription on a Hamdon Hill stone, lately removed from the floor:—“Here lyeth the body of Sir Francis Wyndham Baronet who dyed the 15th day of July 1676 *Ætatis suæ* . . .”, and this to Lady Wyndham, “*Dm. (Dame) A W obt Jul 19 Ano Dom. 1698.*” From his coffin-plate we learn that Sir Francis was aged 66.

General Hugh Wyndham, son of Sir Francis, is also buried here. The register states, “The Honble. Hugh

(63). Decrees in Chancery, Vol. I. A.

Wyndham died at Valencia in Spain Sept 30 1706 and was brought and buried at Trent May 31 1707." There is a tradition that he was buried in three kingdoms—his body in one, his heart in another, and his bowels in a third. His heart is certainly preserved in spirits and deposited in the chapel vault.

The baronetcy of Wyndham expired with Sir Francis Wyndham, who died in his childhood, 1719. The female line is continued in several families, and amongst them in that of Harbin Elizabeth one of the daughters of Sir Francis, the first baronet, being the wife of William Harbin, ancestor of the present Mr. George Harbin of Newton, where there are portraits of Sir Francis and Lady Wyndham, and some royal grants and relics noticed in the Society's *Proceedings* for 1853.
