

Original Documents.

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE FAMILY OF SWYNFORD. FROM THE KETTLETHORPE TITLE-DEEDS OF COLONEL CRACROFT- AMCOTTS.

Communicated by the REV. EDWIN GEORGE JARVIS.

For the following documents, preserved among the title-deeds of Col. Cracroft-Amcotts, we are indebted to the kindness of the Rev. Edwin Jarvis. They will be seen to relate to property in the parish of Kettlethorpe, Lincolnshire, now belonging to Col. Cracroft-Amcotts, and in the adjacent townships of Laughterton and Fenton, in the same county. Although perhaps comparatively of small historical interest, and supplying no new genealogical facts, yet they introduce us to several members of a family closely connected with the distinguished son of Edward III. and the royal house of Lancaster. The documentary evidence, moreover, connected with the Swynford family is very limited: there is a brief communication by the late Mr. Hunter published in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxvi. p. 267, which brings before us two deeds relating to Sir Thomas Swynford, in the time of Henry VI., that were found at Wolley in Yorkshire, among the evidences of Mr. Wentworth, to whose son, the late Mr. George Wentworth, we have often been indebted for transcripts of documents from the same source.

The documents are here placed in chronological order; of the greater part it has been thought that abstracts would be found sufficient; and the remaining two are printed at length with the contractions extended.

1. Bond from Sir Thomas Swynford to William Aunsel of Horbling.

Ceste endenture temoyng qe, com mon Sir Thomas de Swynforde soyt oblige a Wiliham Aunsel de Horbling en vint un livers six south' viij. deners de sterlinges par son escrit obligatorie apaier a la feste Seint Michel proschein avenir, et cum le dit mon Sir Thomas eyt graunte et assigne le dite Wiliham et sez assignies a prendre et a destreyndre deinz lez maners de Horbling et de Segbroke¹ ou lez apurtenancez pur un anuel rente de quatre livres dargent et pur un robe covenable pur un chivaler de sute mon Sir Roger le Estrange, a prendre la robe a la feste de Nouwel et la rente de quatre livers a lez festez de Pasch' et de Seint Michel par ouwels porciouns a tote la vie le dite mon Sir Thomas, cum par un escrit de annuite au dite Sir Thomas par le dite mon Sir Roger en fete plus pleinement et (*sic*) contenuz; le dite Wiliham Aunsel voute et graunte pur

¹ Horbling is situate about two miles east of Folkingham, Lincolnshire; Sedgbrook lies about eight miles to the west

of Horbling on the road from Grantham to Nottingham.

luy et sez (*sic*) executours qe si le dite mon Sir Thomas seit prest a server au dit mon Sir Roger, solom le purporte le dit annuite fait a mon Sir dit Thomas, deinz le Counte de Nicole a lez coustages mon Sir dit Roger, issint qe le dite Wiliham Aunsel ne soit pas ouste ne destourbe a prendre la dite annuel rente de quatre livers et de la robe avant dite ; et qe le dite mon Sir Roger le Estrange qe ore est ne a nul altre tenante de manerz de Horbling et de Segbroke de la rente et de lez robes avant ditz, issint qe le dit Wiliham Aunsel ne soyt destourbe a destreyndre et a prendre la dite annuite ; et qe le dit mon Sir Thomas soit prest de avouuer et a maintenir a lez coustagez le dit Wiliham quant ke le ditez Wiliham en serra pur lever de la annuite avant dite en le non le dit Sir Thomas et a le eus et profit le dit Wiliham ; adonkes le dite escrit obligatorie de vint un livers siz south' viij. deners soit tenu pur nul ; et si non qe le dit escrite obligatorie de vint j. liver siz south' viij. deners soit tenu pur bon et estoise en sa force. En temoinaunce de cestez chosez a ceste endenture les partiez suz ditez entrechangablement ount mys lour seels. La date a Sleaford li lundy prochein devante le feste Seint Margarete lan du regne le Roy Edward terce apres le conquete vint syne (A.D. 1352).

The seal, which was appended by a parchment label to the foot of the document, is lost.

2. Grant by John de Seynte Crois, lord of Kettlethorpe, to Thomas Frankys of Kettlethorpe, of a tenement in Kettlethorpe and half a bovate of land, to hold to him and the heirs of his body at the annual rent of 5s. Witnessed by "Johanni filio Gerardi de Ketilthorpe, Henrico Serjante de eadem, Johanni Claypulle de Laghtertone et aliis." Dated at Kettlethorpe on Sunday before Michaelmas, 1350.

3. Grant by John de Dovdale, dwelling in Chaworthe, "domine Katerine de Swynforde domine de Ketilthorp," her heirs and assigns, of certain tenements which he had of the feoffment of Sir Robert de Northwode, rector of Kettlethorpe, and John de Chorley, dwelling in Lincoln, in the town and fields of Kettlethorp and Laghterton, to hold to her, her heirs and assigns. Witnessed by "domino Roberto de Northwode rectore ecclesie de Ketilthorpe, Johanne de Ralham (?) de eadem, Johanne de Cleipolle de Laughtertone, Thome Madreffen (?) de eadem, Thoma filio Hugonis de Ketilthorpe, et aliis." Dated at Kettlethorpe, on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 3 Rich. II. (Sept. 14, 1379). There is appended by a parchment label an imperfect impression of a signet ring on red wax ; the device was probably St. Christopher. The following memorandum is endorsed in a later hand upon the deed : "Thys Norwod gave the lordship off Kettylthorp in taylle to Hugo Swynford."

4. Grant by Nicholas Hebdenne, knight, to John de Seuerby,² citizen of Lincoln, in fee simple of all the rents and services of all his tenants in Laughterton, Fenton, and Kettlethorpe. Witnessed by "Roberto persona Ecclesie de Ketulthorpe, Johanne de Claypole de Laghtertone, Thoma de Mathersay de eadem, Johanne de Torkesay, Willelmo filio Walteri de

² Probably the same person who is called in the following document John "de Serby." There is a parish near

Brigg, in the north of Lincolnshire, called Searby.

Saxulby, et aliis." Dated at Laughterton, on Monday, on the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, 7 Rich. II. (Nov. 30, 1384).

An impression of the seal of Sir Nicholas Hebdenne is appended by a parchment label to the foot of the document. The device is a shield, placed diagonally within a lozenge-shaped panel ornamented with gothic tracery, bearing ermine five fusils in fess, and ensigned with a helm on which is a crest, apparently a bird's head; of the legend the letters NICH EBEDEN, in black letter, remain.³

5. Grant by John de Serby citizen of Lincoln to Lady Katherine de Swynforde lady of Kettlethorpe in fee simple of all his rent which he had in Kettlethorpe, Laughterton, and Fenton in the county of Lincoln, called "Howelle-rent,"⁴ which he had of the gift of Sir Nicholas "Hebdeyne," knight. Witnessed by "Johanne de Suttone, cive Lincoln", Johanne Norman de eadem, Roberto de Suttone de eadem, Johanne de Claypulle, domino Roberto persona de Ketelthorpe, Johanne filio Henrici de Fentone, et multis aliis." Dated at Kettlethorpe on the Feast of St. James the Apostle, 11 Rich. II. (April 30, 1388). The seal, which was appended by a parchment label to the foot of the document, is lost.

6. Grant by Thomas Aylemere of Kettlethorpe to Lady Katherine Duchess of Lancaster, in fee simple of a piece of land.

Sciatis presentes et futuri quod ego Thomas Aylemere de Ketilthorpe dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea con(firmavi) Domine Katerine Ducisse Lancastre domine de Ketilthorpe heredibus et assignatis suis unam placiam terre, nuper unum curtilagi(um), continentem in longitudine triginta ulnas regis cum quatuor policibus (*sic*), et abbuttat super solum dicti Thome versus boriā, (et) super viam regiam versus occidentem, et super fossatum dicti Thome versus orientem, et continet in se in latitudine novem ulnas regias, et abbuttat super solum dicte domine Ducisse versus austrum, habendam et tenendam predictam placiam terre dicte domine Katerine Ducisse Lancastre domine de Ketilthorpe heredibus et assignatis suis, libere, quiete, bene et in pace. Et ego vero predictus (Thomas) et heredes mei omnem predictam placiam terre dicte domine Katerine Ducisse Lancastre, heredibus et assignatis suis, contra omnes gentes warrantizabimus et imperpetuum defendemus. In cujus rei testimonio huic presenti carte mee sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus, Johanne de Stafforde armigero, Roberto Hare, Johanne Robynsone, Philippo de Ketilthorpe, et Johanne filio ejusdem Philippi, N(icholao) Gerarde, Johanne Clerke, et multis alii (*sic*). Data apud Ketilthorpe die Mercurii in festo translacionis⁵ Sancti Edwardi Regis, anno regni Regis Henrici quarti post conquestum Anglie secundo (Oct. 13, A.D. 1400).

The seal, which was appended by a parchment label, is lost.

³ The arms of Hebdenn, of Hebdenn in Craven, are given by Burke as *erm.* five fusils in fesse *qu.* In the Roll of Arms of the reign of Richard II. edited by Mr. Willement we find "No. 474. Monsr. Hipden. Ermine five fusils in fess gules."

⁴ Possibly a rent for owelty (equality) on some partition; compare, however, the document No. 7 *infra*, in which

mention is made of lands in Laughterton "de feodo de Howelle."

⁵ Some uncertainty exists in regard to this feast; the first translation of St. Edward, king and martyr, having been assigned to Feb. 18, and the second to June 20. It is therefore possible that the document here printed should be referred to A.D. 1401.

7. Deed dated at Lughterton Tuesday next before Easter 14 Hen. VI. (April 3, 1436), whereby Thomas Swynford, Knight, granted to Peter Stowe of Newton "unum mesuagium in Laghtertone cum duabus bovatis terre et novem acris et dimidia prati cum pertinenciis suis in Laghtertone predict' de feodo de Howelle; quarum una acra et dimidia jacent super Weldaille, et una acra et dimidia jacent super Robertholme, una acra et dimidia jacent super Hevedlanddaille, et quinque acre jacent super Northredgate, cum una dimidia acra prati in Weldaille;" and also "unam bovatom terre in se continentem viginti quatuor acras terre de feodo domini de Kettilthorpe, cum quatuor acris prati jacentibus in Weldaille, cum capitibus herbagii, et unam rodam prati jacentem be (*sic*) Northredgate ex orientali parti de Daynpolsyk inter pratum Thome Aylmer ex parte australi et pratum Johannis Scarle ex parte boriali, que nuper fuerunt Roberti Cleypole de Laghtertone, et que habui ex dono et feoffamento Johannis Philipotte de Kettilthorpe;" to hold to the said Peter, his heirs, and assigns for ever, at the yearly rent of 15s. 3d. to the lord of Kettlethorpe. Witnessed by "Roberto Manby, Hugone de Lincolne de Neutone, Roberto Emound de Laghtertone, Johanne Mautone de eadem, Johanne Fox de Fentone, et multis aliis."

There is appended by a parchment label a fragment of the seal of Sir Thomas Swynford on bright red wax, of circular form, diam. about 1½ in.; device, a shield placed diagonally; bearing a chevron probably charged with three boars' heads, now effaced; there remains on the sinister side, as a supporter, a wolf or dog collared; of the legend may be read the first words:—SIGILLU: THOMA . . . in black letter.⁶

8. Bond from Thomas Swynford, Knight, to Peter Stowe of Newton "(Nautone juxta Trente in comitatu Lincoln)" in 10*l.*, payable at Christmas then next ensuing. Dated April 4, 14 Hen. VI. (A.D. 1436).⁷

The seal of Sir Thomas Swynford which was appended by a label partially cut from the bottom of the parchment, is lost.

9. Indenture dated at Lincoln Sept. 8, 1 Edw. IV. (1461), between Thomas Swynford, Esq. (*armiger*) of the one part, and William Swynford, Esq., of the other part, which witnessed that, although the said Thomas by his Statute Merchant dated at Lincoln Sept. 8, 1 Edw. IV., was bound to the said William in 200*l.* to be paid to the same William his heirs or executors at Michaelmas then next ensuing, the said William granted that if he, his heirs, and assigns should quietly enjoy for ever the manor of Kettlethorpe with its appurtenances, which the said William had of the feoffment of the said Thomas, without any disturbance by the said Thomas, his heirs, or assigns, then the said Statute Merchant should be void.

The first of the documents given above is a bond from Sir Thomas de Swynford to William Aunsel of Horbling, Lincolnshire, in the sum of

⁶ In the Roll of "les nons e les armes a banerez de Engleterre," about 1308-14, edited by Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas, we find the arms of the grandfather of the Sir Thomas Swynford party to this deed are thus blazoned—"Sire Thomas

de Swyneford, de argent a un cheveroun de sables a iij. testes de cenglers de goulus."

⁷ Newton is situate near Kettlethorpe, about nine miles west of Lincoln.

21l. 6s. 8d., with a condition, for better securing to him yearly 4l. of silver and a gown suitable for a knight of the suite of Sir Roger l'Estrange, which Sir Thomas being entitled to out of the manors of Horbling and Sedgebrook had granted to William Aunsel for his life. The Sir Thomas de Swynford, party to this deed, was the father of Sir Hugh, the first husband of Katherine Roet (afterwards Duchess of Lancaster), and lord of the manor of Kettlethorpe; he died 35 Edw. III. 1361, leaving Sir Hugh, his son and heir, of full age. The grant to Sir Thomas de Swynford out of the manors of Horbling and Sedgebrook was by Sir Roger l'Estrange of Knokyn, Shropshire, who was then lord of them.⁸ The bond, preserved among Col. Cracroft-Amcott's evidences, was probably part of an arrangement for retaining William Aunsel to do some service as a knight, jointly with Sir Thomas, in the retinue of Sir Roger l'Estrange.

In No. 2 we find a grant of a tenement and land by John de St. Cross, described as lord of Kettlethorpe, to Thomas Frankys of that place. The family of St. Cross seems to have been of some note in those parts of Lincolnshire in the reign of Edward I. Gilbert de Sancta Cruce held a knight's fee in Upton, probably the parish of that name not far distant from Kettlethorpe towards the north.

The deed No. 3, dated 1379, brings under our notice Katherine de Swynford, described here, and also in the subsequent document, No. 5, bearing date 1388, as *domina* of Kettlethorpe; it relates to tenements in that place and the adjacent township of Laughterton. At the period of the date of this grant she had, it is evident, become the mistress of the Duke of Lancaster, as John Beaufort, their eldest son, was created a knight in 1391, and must have been born as early as 1375.

It may be hardly necessary to remind our readers that we owe to the indefatigable researches of the late Sir Nicholas H. Nicolas a concise but comprehensive notice, given in the *Excerpta Historica*, of the family of Swynford at the period to which the foregoing deeds relate. Many particulars will be there found regarding Katherine, the daughter and coheirss of Sir Payne Roet, a native of Hainault, Guienne king of arms, and who may probably have come to England in 1328 in the retinue of Philippa, Queen of Edward III.⁹

Katherine, it is well known, was first the wife of Sir Hugh Swynford, of Kettlethorpe, called by Sandford (pp. 253, 322) "Sir Otes Swinford," (about 1367), by whom she had one son, Thomas, aged four years at his father's death, which occurred in Guienne 46 Edw. III. (1372). It has been supposed that she was abroad with her husband, having taken charge

⁸ Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i., p. 665.

⁹ *Excerpta Historica*, p. 152. In that valuable notice of the issue of Katherine, wife of Swynford and afterwards of John of Gaunt, her maiden name is given as "Roelt;" it is thus written in Pat. 13 Hen. IV., printed in the *Fœdera*. Sir Harris Nicolas states (*Excerpta*, p. 155) that no particulars of Sir Payne Roet's pedigree have been discovered; his arms, in allusion to his name, were *gules* three Katherine wheels (*rouettes*) or, which occur on the tomb of Chaucer, who espoused Philippa, daughter and coheirss of Sir Payne, and sister of the above-

mentioned Katherine. In the life of Chaucer, however, by Sir H. Nicolas, prefixed to his edition of the *Romaunt of the Rose* and the *Minor Poems*, the name is written "Roet." See vol. i., pp. 60, 134, and pedigree, p. 140. The name of Sir Payne Roet has not been found in any record, but Weever describes a slab in St. Paul's, London, once decorated with a sepulchral brass, escutcheons, &c., and inscribed—"Hic jacet Paganus Roet miles Guyennerex armorum pater Catherine Ducisse Lancastrie." *Funeral Monuments*, p. 431.

of the daughters of John of Gaunt, then at his castle of Beaufort in Anjou, and at that time under ten years of age; she became shortly after his mistress, and eventually, in 1395—6, his wife.

In No. 6, which bears date 1400, and is a grant of a portion of land described as a curtilage or plot of ground of very moderate dimensions adjacent to the property of Katherine Swynford, we find her entitled Duchess of Lancaster. After the death of his second wife, Constance of Castile, John of Gaunt married at Lincoln on January 13, 1396, to the great displeasure of the Duchess of Gloucester and others of the blood royal, the lady whom, not less than seventeen years before, he designated "nostre treschier et bien amee dame Katherine Swynford, maistresse de nos tres ames filles Philippe et Elizabeth de Lancastre."¹ He died two years after, having, it may be remembered, obtained from Richard II. letters patent of legitimation dated February 9, 1397 for their four children born before marriage, who subsequently occupied distinguished positions in the history of the period.²

The deeds Nos. 7 and 8, above printed, relate to transactions to which Sir Thomas Swynford, great grandson of the Sir Thomas whose name has already occurred in these documents, was party. His father Sir Thomas was son and heir of Sir Hugh Swynford by Katherine Roelt, and appears to have been four years old at his father's death in 1372. There is reason to believe, as Sir Harris Nicolas observes, that he was in the suite of his father-in-law, the Duke of Lancaster, by whom he is styled, in his will dated 1397, "mon tres chere bacheliere."³ He died 11 Hen. VI. 1432—3, having alienated his lands in Lincolnshire, as the inquisition on his death finds that he held nothing in that county. He appears to have had issue two sons, Thomas and William. The eldest, party to these deeds, Nos. 7 and 8, was a knight at his father's death, being then twenty-six years of age. He died before 5 Edw. IV., 1465, and was probably father of the Thomas Swynford, who in that year made proof of his age and obtained livery of his lands in Lincolnshire.

In No. 9 it appears that Thomas Swynford had conveyed in fee to William Swynford in 1461 the manor of Kettlethorpe, and that the said William took a Statute Merchant from Thomas Swynford for quiet enjoyment. It is not clear who these parties may have been, the said Thomas who is described as *armiger*, was probably son of Sir Thomas Swynford who died about 1465, and in his father's lifetime was only esquire; he seems to have had the manor of Kettlethorpe with an imperfect title; hence the Statute Merchant. It is remarkable that No. 7 seems to show that his father was not seised of it, since at the end the lord of Kettlethorpe is mentioned as if Sir Thomas was not the lord. William may have been the younger son of the Sir Thomas Swynford above mentioned, deceased in 11 Hen. VI. Of this William Swynford all that is known is, according to Sir H. Nicolas, that his half-uncle Cardinal Beaufort, by a codicil to his will dated 1447, bequeathed to him 400*l.* and a quantity of silver vessels.

¹ Patent granted by the Duke of Lancaster, Dec. 27, 3 Rich. II., cited from the Black Book of the Duchy of Lancaster, Sandford, Geneal. Hist. p. 253.

² See a translation of this document,

Excerpta Hist., p. 153, and the exemplification 10 Feb. 8 Hen. IV., Sandford, p. 322.

³ Excerpta Hist., p. 157.