

# DERBYSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL

AND


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## The Old Ashburne Families.

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F some sixty families, at one time more or less territorially connected with Ashburne and its neighbourhood, and many of whose members doubtless lie mouldering into dust beneath us, but three or four—the Fitzherberts, Okeovers, Shirleys, and Cokaynes—I believe, still exist in the locality, or retain any portion of their ancient inheritance. The changes incidental to a new order of things, when the last relics of feudalism were swept away ; and the losses incurred in the Civil Wars, account for the breaking up of many estates. And, indeed, as says an old writer, “The very dash of fire in the blood which made the old houses illustrious in days of action, made them also apt to ruin themselves when there was nothing to do.” Charles Cotton, the spendthrift poet-angler, married the heiress of the older line of the Beresfords ; and from him derives, through the

Lucys and Comptons, the present Duke of Devonshire. Sir William Fitzherbert represents another branch ; and, as showing that the ancient martial spirit which nerved the arm of the Agincourt hero, Thomas Beresford, who, with his sixteen sons and five daughters, sleeps his long sleep at Bentley, still distinguishes the race, I need but name Lord William Beresford, who has but lately won his V.C. in Zululand. Philip Kinder, the Derbyshire historian, speaks of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, of Norbury, who died 1538, as having "given life with law unto the common lawes of England, and in comparison put the codes with digest into a bag." Mr. Okeover, a true type of a Saxon gentleman, is the chief of a family, lords of Okeover long previous to the conquest. Shirley was the common "cunabula," or cradle of the great baronial family of Shirley, Earls Ferrers ; and of the Ireton family, from whom descended the stern old Puritan general, Henry Ireton, who married my Lord Protector's daughter Bridget, sate in judgment on unhappy Charles Stuart (who, by the way, was twice at Ashburne, lodging on one occasion at Mr. Cokayne's, 13 Aug., 1645), and died at Limerick, though buried in the Abbey, whence his body at the Restoration was ignominiously expelled and hung in chains at Tyburn. A John Cokayne was of Ashburne in the reign of King Stephen, and from him come down in stately succession numerous knights of the shire—Sir John Cokayne, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, ob. 1447 ; many doughty warriors—notably Edmund, slain on the King's side at Shrewsbury (1404) ; and Sir Thomas, knighted by bluff old Hal at the siege of Tournay. It is bitterly to be regretted that at the time of the spoliation of this noble church in 1840, the original armour surmounting this knight's tomb was sent away to the Hall as so much rubbish, and hitherto has not been recovered. Another Sir Thos. Cokayne, of Ashburne, who ob. 1592, was author of a "Shorte Treatise of Hunting, compiled for ye Delighte of Noblemen and Gentylnen." In it he states, "ffor this 52 yeares during which tyme I have hunted ye Bucke in sumer & ye hare in winter, 2 yeares only excepted. In the one having King Henry the 8th hys letters to serve in hys

Warres in Scotland, before his Majesty's going to Bulleine. And in the other, King Edward the 6th hys letters to serve under Francis ye Earle of Shrewsburie, his Grace's Lieutenante, to rescue ye siege of Haddington," &c. Of the portrait of Sir Aston Cokaine, a satirical poet of no mean repute, *tem.* Charles I., several fine prints, engraved by different artists, are known. Mr. Geo. Edward Cokayne, Lancaster Herald, a representative, through his mother, one of the co-heiresses of the last Lord Cullen, has happily lately been able to recover at least a portion of the family possessions here. Lord Cullen, I may add, along with the Veres, Earls of Oxford, represented the old Salopian family of Trentham, who had a grant of Rocester Priory, *anno* 1540. Thomas Cokayne, last heir male, 1672, joined with his father in the sale of "his fayre lordeshyppe of Ashburne," to Sir William Boothby, of Broadlow Ashe. Of other families, time serves but for the very briefest notice. The Adderleys have but lately sold their Thorpe property. Glover records 22 generations of the Alsops, of Alsop-le-Dale. Thomas Ashburne, D.D., born here, according to Fuller, in the reign of the 2nd Edward, was a great opponent of Wycliffe. An illegitimate son of Lord Audley, of Helegh, settled at "Ashburne-in-ye-Peake," and the two co-heiresses of this family ultimately married two brothers Thorold, of Lincolnshire. Mr. Thomas Bainbridge, of Woodseat, purchased the manor of Rocester in 1778; and one of his sons, Philip, was killed in command of the 20th Regiment of Foot, at the battle of Egmont-op-Zee, in 1799. Many of us remember his son Peter (who assumed, in 1832, the name of Le Hunt) as an active magistrate here; and his daughter Harriet, married to Col. Robert Dale, of the 93rd Regiment, who, too, lost his life in the attack on New Orleans, in 1815. The Dales came from Lea Hall, in the neighbourhood of Ashburne, and have been long and honourably connected with the town and all its good works. Miss Dale Dolby, a direct descendant, still survives. The lordly Bassets, of Blore and Grindon, after inter-marrying with the Byrons, Brailsfords, Egertons, Okeovers, Fitzherberts, and Boothbys, ended in a soli-

tary heiress, whose second husband was William Cavendish, the renowned Duke of Newcastle. Boothby was originally a Lincolnshire family, and the first baronet was described as of Broadlow Ash, in 1660. Ashburne has been prolific of minor bards; and in Sir Brooke Boothby, father of the beautiful Penelope, we hail another poet and political writer. His sumptuous book, "Sorrows sacred to the memory of Penelope," printed by Bulmer, in 1796, is rapidly becoming very scarce. Of the shameless way in which the tombs in the Bradburne chantry or chapel were treated in the so-called restoration of 1840, Mr. Cox has spoken in not too indignant terms. A print, by Wright, is extant, of Sir Humphry's monument, with its arms and quarterings. Breretons, of Hurdlow, a younger branch of the great Cheshire house, may be traced back to the beginning of the 16th century; the Buxtons, to one Aubricius de Buckstone, 16th Henry II., who died seized of lands in Lincolnshire; Dakins; or Dakeyne, to one Robert, of Bigging Grange, whose son John married a daughter of the very ancient house of De la Pole, of Hertington, and of which Cardinal Pole was accounted no unworthy member. Sir Symon Degge, the great lawyer, and author of "The Parson's Counsellor," one of the intended knights of the Royal Oak, lived at the old hall at Fenny Bentley. A wide-spread race were the Fernes of Parwich and elsewhere; of whom Sir John Ferne, a noted herald, published, in 1586, the "Blazon of Gentry," and later on the "Glory of Generosity." Sir John Gell's Moorland Dragoons are believed to have had one or two skirmishes under the very shadow of the church. Another took place near Tissington in 1644, in which the Royalists came to grief, and lost 170 prisoners (Major Mollanus, Gell's German *alter ego*, commanded the Parliamentarians, and spurs connected with this passage of arms will be shown us at the Hall). His is a name of mark, since he harried both this and the adjoining county, garrisoned Chatsworth, Hassop, and Winfield, keeping "diurnall makers" (among the earliest instances of special correspondents) in his pay, at great cost, to record his glorious exploits; took Lichfield by storm in 1643, and was rewarded with a baronetcy and two years'

imprisonment in the Tower—his estates being in the meanwhile confiscated—and finally, after this stormy and varied career, he died peacefully in his bed, and was buried at Wirksworth, 1671, æt. 78. His portrait and armour are still to be seen at Hopton. Towards the beginning of the 16th century, the Hurts, who again were connected with the Cokaynes, Beresfords, Fitzherberts, and Okeovers, were described as of Ashburne, lead merchants, and later on as of Casterne. Since the marriage of Nicholas Hurt, in 1670, with the heiress of Lowe, Alderwasley has continued to be their principal seat. Sir Andrew Kniveton, of a knightly family, being impoverished by the civil wars, had to sell Bradley and the greater part of the family inheritance. The last baronet was a gentleman-pensioner in William of Orange's reign. Of this family was St. Loe Kniveton, the antiquary. From Thomas Levinge, who bought Parwich from the Cokaynes, circa 1600, great great-grandson of Thomas Levinge, living in Derbyshire, 1431, descended Sir Richard Levinge, who was born at Leek, 1656, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, created a Baronet in 1704; and whose daughter Mary married Washington Shirley, second Earl Ferrers, father of Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, the friend and patron of Whitfield, the enthusiast. Oliver Meverell, living 5th King John, was the common ancestor of the Meverells of Throwley and Tideswell, which was obtained by marriage with the heiress of Daniell. Robert Meverell's heiress, again, mated with Thomas, fourth Lord Cromwell and first Earl of Ardglass, whose son's widow was Charles Cotton's second wife. Erdeswicke describes Throwley as "a fair, antient house, and goodly demesne, being the seat of the Meverells, a very antient house of gentlemen, equalling the best in the shyre, though God hath not for two or three generations blessed their heyres with the best gifts of nature." The descent of Meynell of Bradley is shown by Glover to be traceable to Gilbert de Mesnil, younger brother to Hugo de Grante Mesnil, Earl of Leicester, and a companion of the Conqueror. Lastly, from John Porte, a Chester merchant, circa 1580, descended the Ports of Ilam, and Sir John Porte of Etwall,

founder of Repton Hospital. The elder branch ended in an heiress, Catherine Port, who, by will dated 1722, and proved 1725, devised Ilam to her kinsman, Rowe Newel, who thereupon took the name of Port. His sister, and heiress, married Burslem Sparrow, of Wolverhampton, whose son marrying the granddaughter of Mr. Bernard Granville, of Calwich, reassumed the name of Port; and to the fact of his grand-daughter Frances Waddington becoming the wife of Baron Bunsen we are indebted for many pleasing reminiscences of this charming locality in her husband's interesting memoirs. Amongst other names which crop up in the registers, in old deeds and pedigrees connected with the district, are:—Ballidon, Bancroft, Bateman, Birom, Blore (the topographer, born here 1764), Blount, Bonshrant (of Thorpe), Browne, Corden, Carter, Chatterton, Chauncey, Coke *vel* Cooke, Doxey, Edensor, Etches, Fowne or le Fun of Yeaveley, Goodwin (an old law family), Grammer, Graves (author of the too-little read "Spiritual Quixote," which he wrote at Tissington), Greaves (of Beeley, Mayfield and Bradley), Hanson, Hartshorne, Hayne, Hieron (the honest Nonconformist), Kirkland, Longford, Lovell, Lee (of Lady-hole), Ley (of Mathfield), Manlove, Millward (of Bradley), Monjoye, Owfield (founder of almshouses, 1630), Pegge, do., Riddlesden, Sadlier, Savage (of Tissington), Spalden (who founded the Clergymen's Widows' Almshouses in 1710), Stopford, Taylor, Topleys, Vernon (?), Wise.

THOMAS HURT, OF ASHBURNE-IN-YE-PEAKE, =

William Hurt, of Ashburne. = Joan, dau. of Leigh, of Mathfield, co. Staff.  
 (The h. of this line md : a Byron, cir. 1650.)  
 Nicolas Hurt, of Ashburne, = and Kniveton, co. Derb.  
 Ralph Hurt.  
 =  
 Ancestor of H. of Bristol.

Thomas Hurt, e. s. and h. = Roger Hurt, of Casterne, = Edith, dau. of John Cokayne, co. Staff, gen. of Baddesley-Ensor, co. Warkwk : ob. 1589.  
 =  
 (a quo, Hurt of Kniveton.)

1588.  
 Nicholas Hurt, of Blore, co. Staff., Ao. Di. 1612, = Hellen, dau. of John Beresford, of Newton-Grange : n. 1567, ob. 1642. | by Mawde fitzherbert, ux ejus, ob. Ao. 1600.

Thomas Hurt, = Dorothy, dau of Alsop, de co. Derb. o. s. p. | Roger Hurt, of Casterne, gen., = Frances, dau. of Edmund Brudenell, (of Ilam, 7 Mch., 1665,) of Stanton-Wyvile, co. Leicester, esq. ob. circa 1667. | 2 sons and 3 daus.

Nicholas Hurt, of Casterne, esq. (of Ilam, 7 Mch, 1665.) Sep., Ilam, 7 Feb., 1676 = Isabella, dau. of Sir Henry Harpur (who ob. 1638,) of Calke, co. Derby. 1st. bart.  
 John Hurt, of Uttoxeter. =  
 Thomas Hurt, of Ilam, 1665. =  
 Anne Adshead, = George Jacson, M.D. of Derby, n. 1646. ob. 1699. q : s. d. and h. ?  
 Dorothy, = Thos. Adshead, of Milwich, co. Staff.  
 Anne, = Thomas Rudyerd, sep : Leek, 31. July, 1684. 18. Sep., 1654. ux. i.  
 John Port, = Constance, = Ralph Okeover, of Okeover, n. 22 Mch., 1632. of Ilam, a Captain of Infnt. in bello civili.

Thomas Rudyerd, of Rudyerd, Jun., 20th in unbroken male descent from Golferus, lord of Rudyerd, time of Canute ye Dane. o. v. p. et s. p.

George Jacson, = Grace vel Joyce, Roger Jacson, = Frances, Symon Jacson, = Mary, Dorothy, = John Gisborne, Charles Hinton, = Anne J. = James Gisborne, M.A., Vicar of Leek, co. Staff., n. 1682, ob. 1719. dau. of John Hollyns, of Mossley, co. Staff., n. 4 Feb., 1693, ob. 1738. M.B. n. 1687. o.s.p., 1743. dau. and of Chester. Col. John ob. 1739. Shalcrosse, of Shalcrosse, co. Derb., by Anne, ux ejus, dau. of Sir John Arderne, of Harden, co. Cest., Knt. sister n. 1675. of Hugh Poole, M.A., Rector of Bebbington, co. Pal. Cest. of Derby, n. 1675. Will dated 22 July, 1742. of Lichfield, Esq., vir i. = James M.A., Rector of Staveley, co. Derb. Preb. of Durham, bp. 3 Jan., 1688; ob. 7 Sep., 1759, æt 70.

Francis Gisborne, M.A., for 60 years Rector of Staveley; ob. 20 July, 1821. (An immense benefactor to ye poor of Derbyshire.)  
 Thomas Gisborne, M.D., Fellow of St. John's, Cantab. Phys. to King and President, Coll. Phys.; ob. cælebs, at Romeley Hall, 1806.

1670.  
 Nicholas Hurt, of Casterne, and of Alderwasley, jure uxoris. Sep., Ilam, Ao. 1711. = Elizabeth, dau. and h. of John Lowe, of Alderwasley, co. Derb., esq. ob. 1714.  
 Elizabeth Hurt, = John Sleigh, of Ashburne, md. Ashburne, 23 Mch., 1684-5. gen (q : sep., Leek, 23 Dec., 1728 ?)  
 Other issue.

Francis Sleigh, ob. infans. | Elizabeth Sleigh, e. d. and ult. co-h. q. ux. Benjamin Pye, LL.D., Archdeacon of Durham and a poet ? | Anne Sleigh, = William Chauncey, M.D., 2nd dau. and co-h. md. Alstonfield, 30 Dec., 1708. of Ashburne, dead ante 1758. | Mary Sleigh, o. s. p.

Charles Chauncey, a Captain in ye Army, 8 Aug., 1758. | Frances Chauncey, = Thomas Lawrence. M.D., of St. Clement-Danes, living 1758. in ye city of Westminster. | Mary, 1758. | Anne, 1758. | Isabella, 1758.