

**Some Account of the Family of Lowe, of
Alderwasley and Denby, in the County
of Derby, and elsewhere.**

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THE Lowes of Alderwasley and the Lowes of Denby, once two of the leading families in Derbyshire, were of Cheshire origin, and are stated to have sprung from two brothers, both of whom married Derbyshire heiresses in the latter part of the fifteenth century.

A number of charters recently* brought to light have done much to elucidate the earlier descents of the family, and have sufficiently proved that portion of the pedigree which has hitherto been looked upon as obscure if not altogether fallacious.†

* For much of the information contained in the first portion of this paper the writer is indebted to J. P. Earwaker, Esq., F.S.A., the historian of "East Cheshire," by whom many of the above-mentioned charters were first brought to his notice.

† An old emblazoned pedigree in the possession of the Hurt family, entitled "*Stemmata et propagationes antiquæ familiæ dignissimi viri Edwardi Lowe de Alderwasley in Comitatu Darbiæ, Armigeri.*" commences with Thomas, who died in 1415, and was the father of Geoffrey, whose son married the eldest co-heiress of Fawne, and settled at Alderwasley. The authority for this was evidently unknown to Adam Wolley, the Derbyshire antiquary, who added the following note to his copy of the pedigree: "These two first descents are not proved by any evidences in Mr. Hurt's possession;" and it is quite clear that no such proof was forthcoming at the time of the Visitations, for the pedigrees of the Lowes of Alderwasley, given by the heralds, are not carried back beyond Thomas Lowe, who married the co-heiress of Fawne.

The name is obviously one of local origin. *Hlaw, hlaw*, or *low* is the Anglo-Saxon word for a small hill, of the use of which not a few examples are to be found in Derbyshire and elsewhere. About two miles from Congleton there is an ancient timbered mansion standing upon a gentle eminence called The Lowe,* which is traditionally recognised as occupying the site of the original residence of the family, and as the place from whence the surname was derived. There is, however, no documentary evidence to connect the family with that place, and so early as the latter half of the fourteenth century, the Lowes are found to have resided in the neighbourhood of Macclesfield.

The first of the family of whom we have any specific record are William del Lowe and Thomas del Lowe, both of Macclesfield, and presumably brothers. William del Lowe, who is assumed to have been the elder, was living in 1392, when a tenement of his in Jordan's Gate in Macclesfield is referred to in the statement of a boundary. He was dead in 1398, when his widow, Elena del Lowe, of Bollington (a neighbouring village), free from all claims of matrimony, quit-claimed land in "le Walle gate" in Macclesfield, which was formerly held by Roger le Mulner, her uncle, and which she herself held by the gift of Thomas, son of the said Roger. In 1402, Thomas del Lowe, son of William del Lowe, of Macclesfield, conceded to John de Macclesfield, the elder, clerk, all the lands in Macclesfield which he had by the gift of Thomas, son of Roger le Mulner. Five years later, this same Thomas del Lowe, and Matilda his wife granted certain rents to the said John de Macclesfield; and in July, 1407, they together surrendered lands in the Portmote Court of Macclesfield. In 1426, at a court of the Mayor of Macclesfield, held there before John de Legh, Mayor of that town, on the Friday next before the feast

* Adam Wolley, speaks of La Lowe, in the chapelry of Witton, as the ancient seat of the family, and the statement has been copied by several subsequent writers. But there does not appear to have ever been any such place, and the family did not settle in that part of Cheshire until after the middle of the fifteenth century.

of St. Chad the Bishop, Thomas del Lowe came into the full Court, and there before the said Mayor, John de Dutton, Reginald del Downes, Stephen del Rowe, Stephen Blagge, John del Lowe, Richard Phelipp, William de Clayton, servant of the said Mayor, Vivian Starkey, clerk, and many others who were present; and the said Thomas del Lowe, being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, declared that he stood in full possession of all the lands, tenements, rents, and services in Macclesfield and elsewhere, which had descended to him upon the death of William del Lowe, his father, without any alienation whatever, excepting the annual rent of two shillings from the half burgage lying between the tenement of John de Rossyndale on the one side and that of Geoffrey del Lowe on the other, which rent the said Thomas del Lowe and Matilda his wife had granted to the said Geoffrey del Lowe, as by their charter more fully appeared. In 1436, Thomas del Lowe, who is obviously identical with the one in question, was examined at Macclesfield in the "proof of age" of Peter de Legh, of Lyme, and is then described as being sixty years of age. This would give 1376 as the date of his birth. This same Thomas del Lowe occurs as Mayor of Macclesfield. 1430-1, 1438-9, 1439-40, 1443-4, (?), and 1448-9. Whether he left issue is doubtful. William del Lowe, his father, had another son, John del Lowe, whose name occurs as a witness to several charters, and who has already been referred to as one of those persons present at the Manorial Court of the Mayor of Macclesfield, in 1426. It appears from the Chester Ministers' Accounts that John del Lowe, the son of William del Lowe, was Chamberlain of Middlewich in the first and second years of the reign of King Henry IV., and again in the two following years. John del Lowe was likewise deputy clerk and approver of mills on the river Dee, in 1406, as appears from the Cheshire Recognizance Rolls.*

* He is perhaps likewise identical with John de Lowe, who was commissioned by Henry, Prince of Wales, as one of the justices of gaol delivery for the castle of Chester, on the 1st of August, 1406, and again on the 28th of September that same year.

Thomas del Lowe, the elder, from whom the Derbyshire families of Lowe derived their descent,* and whom we have conjectured to have been the younger brother of William del Lowe, occurs as a witness to a charter in 1407, and was the father of that Geoffrey del Lowe referred to in the proceedings of the Manorial Court of Macclesfield in 1426, already quoted. According to an old pedigree, a copy of which is to be found amongst the Wolley MSS. in the British Museum,† this Thomas del Lowe died at Macclesfield at eleven o'clock at night, on the 10th of February, 1415. Geoffrey del Lowe, his son and heir, is stated on the same authority to have married Margaret, daughter of [Sir Peter?] Legh, of Lyme, in the County of Chester. This marriage is not given in any of the various pedigrees of that family, but there is no particular reason for doubting the accuracy of the statement.‡ By a charter, dated at Macclesfield the Saturday next after the feast of St. Kenelm, King and Martyr, in the seventeenth year of the reign of King Henry VI. (this would be in July, 1439), John Rossyndale, the elder, and John Rossyndale the younger, his son and heir, remitted and quit-claimed for ever to Geoffrey del Lowe, of Macclesfield, and his heirs, all their claims and title to certain lands and tenements of the said Geoffrey del Lowe, situated in "le Dedestrete" in the town of Macclesfield. The witnesses to this charter were Thomas del Lowe, then Mayor of Macclesfield, Stephen del Rowe, Alderman, Roger de Falybrome, Thomas Davy, Provost of the said town, Lawrence Blagg, and many others. Geoffrey del Lowe is stated to have died at Macclesfield on the Monday in the third week of Lent, 1451, between the hours of six and seven in the morning. His widow survived him for about three years, dying on

* A pedigree of the Lowes of Alderwasley and Denby, compiled by the writer, may be found in "The Reliquary," vol. 12, plate 34. One or two corrections are requisite in the first three generations.

† Add. MSS. 6666, p. 137.

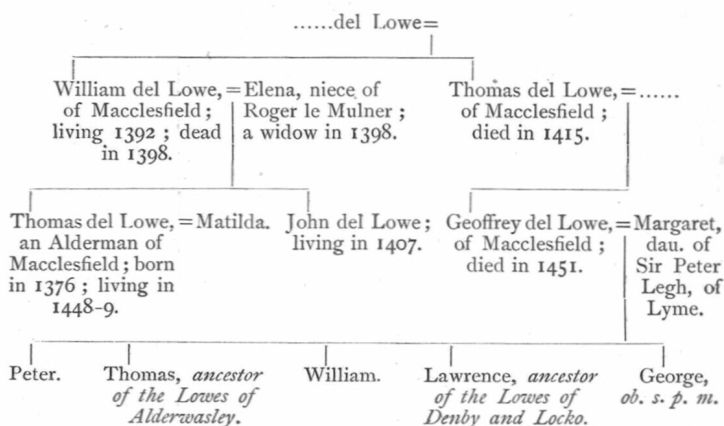
‡ She may not improbably have been the daughter of that Sir Peter Legh, of Lyme, who fought at Agincourt, where he was created a Knight-Banneret, and whose arms are carved upon the tower of Macclesfield Church. If so she had been previously married to Nicholas Blundell.

the Sunday before the feast of the Annunciation, 1454. They appear to have had issue five (if not six) sons, all of whom are named in contemporary charters.

By a charter dated in 1453, certain lands in Pexall (a small township about three miles from Macclesfield), were granted by John Hough, of Pexall, and Nicholas Hough, of the City of Oxford, to Laurence del Lowe, son of Geoffrey del Lowe, of Macclesfield, who reconveyed the same to George del Lowe, his younger brother. This George, who was living in 1472, as appears from a charter of Thomas del Lowe, his brother, which will subsequently be referred to, had no male issue, and Margaret, his only daughter and heiress, became the wife of William Swetenham, of Somerford Booths, in or about the year 1479, and carried certain lands in Pexall, Bollington, and Macclesfield, into the Swetenham family. According to a fine old emblazoned pedigree in Somerford Booths Hall, wherein the arms of Swetenham appear, impaling *Gules*, two wolves passant *argent*—the ancient arms of Lowe—this Margaret Swetenham was living a widow in 1491. Previous to 1473, the Lowes had quitted Macclesfield and were seated in the neighbourhood of Northwich, as is seen from a charter, dated September the 1st, in that year, whereby William Coton, of the town of Derby, Peter del Lowe, of Northwyche, John Halyn, “preste” of Wytton, Thomas del Lowe, William del Lowe, and Laurence del Lowe, all of the same place, testified that they were witnesses to a certain charter whereby Thomas Whyttington, of Belper, in the County of Derby, and Margery, his wife, granted a messuage and seven acres of land in that place to John Whyttington, their eldest son. As will subsequently be shown, the Thomas del Lowe of this charter became the ancestor of the Lowes of Alderwasley; Laurence del Lowe was ancestor of the Lowes of Denby; and either from Peter or William del Lowe sprang what, so far as can be ascertained, is now the sole existing branch of the family.*

* A branch of the family who were descended either from Peter del Lowe or his brother William (more probably the latter), continued for some generations at Hartford, a township in the immediate vicinity of Northwich. This

Assuming that William del Lowe and Thomas del Lowe, the elder, were brothers (and the supposition is really immaterial) the earlier descents of the family would be as follows:—



The above-named Thomas Lowe (for it should be remarked that from about this time the family wrote their name simply Lowe without the prefix), acquired a considerable estate through his marriage with Joane, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Fawne, of Alderwasley, which, according to the old pedigree previously quoted, was solemnised on the 23rd of November, 1471. By their charter, dated on the Monday next after the Feast of the Purification, in the eleventh year of King Edward the IV. (February, 1472), Thomas Lowe and Joane his wife together granted and confirmed to Lawrence Lowe and George Lowe, brothers of the said Thomas, and to Humphrey Lowe, Ottiwell

township is situated in the ancient chapelry of Witton, and within the last three centuries at least twenty-five members of this branch of the family have been interred in Witton Church, as appears from the registers. Unfortunately, that church was re-paved some years since, and not a single inscription to the Lowes, or, indeed, any other family, escaped destruction. Robert Lowe, a younger son of John Lowe, of Hartford, purchased the impropriate rectory and perpetual advowson of Middlewich from Lord Brereton in 1663, and settled at Newton Hall, near that place, which is still in the possession of his descendants in the female line; whilst from John Lowe, his younger brother, are descended the Lowes, of Highfield, in Nottinghamshire, now represented by Edward Joseph Lowe, Esq., J.P., and D.L., of Highfield, and of Shirenewton Hall, in the County of Monmouth. Vide Ormerod's "*History of Cheshire*," 2nd edit., vol. iii, p. 182; and Burke's "*Landed Gentry*," 6th edit., vol. ii, p. 991.

Lowe, and Brian Lowe, sons of the said Lawrence, to Roger Hulme, rector of Astbury in Cheshire, and to Geoffrey Davy, rector of Swetenham in the same county, to Richard Newton and Humphrey Newton his son, Richard Eyton and Laurence Eyton his son, and to William Rode and John Lowe, * all their lands and tenements in Alderwaslegh and elsewhere in the County of Derby, upon trust to certain uses. Henry Vernon, Esq., Ralph Sacheverell, Esq., Henry Columbello, Esq., James Taylor of Alderwaslegh, Richard Newton and others were witnesses to the same. Appended to this charter are two imperfect seals of red wax.



The first of these seems to have borne upon it the figure of a wolf, and the Lowes of Alderwasley are found to have borne a single wolf upon their armorial shield in place of the two which appeared upon the ancient family coat.† Thomas Fawne, the father of Joane Lowe, by his will “written at Alderwaslegh the tenth day of Januere the yer of the reign of King Edwarde iiiijth after the Conqueste of Englande the xvijth,” states that “lyinge in godd’s handes and felyng myself in perill of dethe and being whole in my

* This John Lowe seems to have been a priest, and there is some slight reason for supposing that he may have been another son of Geoffrey del Lowe, of Macclesfield. His name appears in more than one other charter in conjunction with other members of the family, but in no instance is he described as a relative.

† Relative to the armorial bearings of the family some difficulty arises. The original coat seems to have been: *Gules*, two wolves passant, *argent*. There is reason to believe that the above-named Thomas Lowe, of Alderwasley, altered this coat, bearing one wolf only; and the arms which were allowed to the Lowes of Alderwasley by the heralds were: *Gules*, a wolf passant *argent*. The descendants of Laurence Lowe, of Denby, bore a distinct coat, namely: *Azure*, a hart trippant *argent*, which was duly allowed by the heralds; but what was the origin of this coat, or for what reason the Lowes of Denby should have assumed arms which bore no resemblance whatever to those borne by other branches of the family, are points which yet remain to be determined. Nor does the difficulty end here. It has just been seen that the Lowes of Alderwasley bore the wolf for their arms, but upon a tomb in Wirksworth Church, to Anthony Lowe, of Alderwasley, the son and successor of the above-named Thomas Lowe, there is a very peculiar coat of arms, of which

mynde, saye and take upon my charge as I will answer afore god that that gifte and graunte that I made to Thomas Lowe and Johanne my eldest daughter of all the lyvelode that I had or myght have in Allerwaslegh or Asheleyhay or elleswher w^hinne the counte of Derby is gode lawfull and trewe. And that I the said Thomas Fawne never knewe that the said lyvelode was entayled nauther on the heires male nor generall that I might [not] lawfully at the said marriage of my said doght' Johanne and Thomas Lowe giff it and sell it to whomsoev' me liste, except men of reigion and jewes. And also I never made no taylage of hit nor no thereof saff only the taylage that was made be me the said Thomas Fawne at the mariage of my doght' Johanne and Thomas Lowe." He further proceeds to "charge my doghters both Margery and Ellyn on my blessing that they nev'r make title nor clayme nor cause their husbandes to clayme the said lyvelode nor any part thereof but that they kepe and p'forme the bargen the which I made between them and their eldest suster and her husbande and that they luffe and cause their husbandes to luffe and be as breder and susters." It would seem, however, that the apprehensions which it is quite evident Thomas Fawne must have entertained were not without cause, for three years later Walter Wynter, of Heage, Margery his wife, and Ellen her

the wolf forms no part. The marshalling of this coat is most remarkable. The dexter half of the shield is divided per pale, having on the dexter side two coats, that in chief—three roses—being apparently the arms attributed to the Rossells of Denby, and that in base—a fesse engrailed charged with three mullets between as many crescents—is similar to an unnamed quartering (probably Ashborne) allowed to the Lowes of Denby by St. George at the Visitation of 1612; whilst on the sinister side, occupying the entire length of the shield, is—a hart trippant—and over all is a label of three points; the sinister half of the shield bears the arms and quarterings of Fogge—a family into which Anthony Lowe intermarried. A smaller shield at the end of the tomb exhibits three roses, with a label of three points, impaling a blank coat. From this (and at least one other example mentioned by Mr. Cox in the account which he gives of the old chapel at Alderwasley, in his "*Derbyshire Churches*," vol. ii., p. 569), it would appear as though Anthony Lowe bore what we may venture to conclude are the arms of Rossell, in place of his paternal coat. Had he been descended from the heiress of Rossell this would only have been another example of what, in somewhat earlier times, was a not uncommon practice; but, according to the accepted version of the pedigree, Anthony Lowe was not so descended, the heiress of Rossell being stated to have married his father's brother. We have no explanation to offer, nor can we hazard a conjecture as to why the stag appears in this solitary instance in the armorial shield of the Lowes of Alderwasley.

sister, the two younger daughters of Thomas Fawne, regardless of their father's testamentary injunctions and "blessyng," and of his command to "luffe" their eldest and more fortunate sister, Joane, and her husband, Thomas Lowe, urged a claim against them for an equal share in their father's lands, upon the plea that those lands were "entayled upon the heyres general." The case was determined at Nottingham on the 1st of April, 1481, when Thomas Powtrell appeared as counsel for the claimants, whilst Lawrence Lowe, serjeant-at-law, defended the suit for his elder brother and his wife. The two younger co-heiresses entirely failed to establish their claim, and Thomas Lowe and his posterity have continued in undisturbed enjoyment of the Alderwasley estate ever since. In 1516, King Henry VIII., by royal letters patent, dated November 20th, in the sixth year of his reign, granted to this Thomas Lowe, whom he styles his servant, full license to impark and impale all his lands and woods at Alderwasley, together with a certain close, called "Shyninge Cliffe," and to make a free warren thereof, notwithstanding that any part might be within the bounds of the forest of Duffield Frith. Thomas Lowe was dead in 1521, but the precise date of his decease has not been seen. Joane "lat wyff of Thomas Lowe of Alderwaslegh, in the p'yshe of Werksworth," by her will dated August the 18th, 1531, desires to be interred in the "roode quiere of Werksworth nyght unto the sepulchare of my husband," and gave the apparently not very munificent bequest of fourpence to each of the mother churches of Coventry and Lichfield. To her son, Anthony Lowe, she gave all the lands which came to her from her father, Thomas Fawne, and charged her eldest son, Sir Avery Lowe, priest "upon his fader's blessing and myne that he make no clayme ne title ageynste my sayd son Anthony for the sayd lands nor any parcell thereof;" and she further charged her sons, Sir Avery Lowe and Sir Marke Lowe, priests, that they should urge no claim against any of her sons "except it fortune as god forbid that they or oder of them do fall in pov'ty necessarye or gret ned." To every tenant on the estate she gave twelve pence, and "two shelyngs" to each of her household servants.

Alverdus, or Avery Lowe, the eldest son, having taken holy orders, and the second son dying in infancy, the estate devolved upon Anthony Lowe, Esq., the third son, who (according to the old pedigree which has frequently been quoted) was born at one o'clock in the afternoon, on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, 1482. He became gentleman of the bed-chamber and standard-bearer to King Henry VII., King Henry VIII., King Edward VI., and Queen Mary; and having received a severe wound in the head in the royal service, was granted the special privilege of remaining covered in the presence of the sovereign. In 1527, he had a grant from the Crown of the manor of Alderwasley and Ashleyhay to be held by him and his heirs by the yearly, rent of £26 10s. od., and fealty only for all services. Out of this grant arose a noted cause which was argued in the Court of Wards, in Trinity term, 7 Jac. I., and which is reported by Sir Edward Coke, under the title of "Anthony Lowe's case," but which need not be further referred to here. By his will, dated September the 27th, 1555, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, November the 6th, 1557, he desires to "be buried in the parrish church of Wyrkesworthe," and devises his manor of Alderwasley and Ashleyhay, together with all his other lands to his wife for her life, and after her death, to his only son, Edward Lowe and his heirs male, or in default of such heirs, to his three daughters, Anne, Susan, and Barbara. He gives to his son all "the rayment that belongeth to my bodye," together with "the horse and sadell that I doe ride upon," and his sword and buckler. Amongst other bequests, including that of twelve pence to "the high aulter of Wyrkisworth," he gives to each of his three daughters, Anne, Susan, and Barbara, "one hundred marcks a peece if they wilbe ordered by my wyfe in their mariage, but if they will not be ordered then I will they shall have but xx^l a peece." Anthony Lowe is buried in the chancel at Wirksworth, where there is an altar-tomb bearing his recumbent effigy, in plate armour, with his helmet on his head, a double chain

about his neck, and a skull at his feet, and having this inscription :—

“HERE LYETHE ANTONEYE LOWE, ESQUYER, SERVANTE TO
KYNGE HENRY THE VII., KYNG HENRY THE VIII., KYNG EDWARDE
Y^E VI. & QUEENE MARIE Y^E I, BURIED Y^E 4 OF DECB.

A.D. 1555.

Bridget, his wife, was the daughter of Sir John Fogge, of Richbury, in Kent, comptroller of the household, and privy counsellor to King Henry VII., and was herself a maid of honour to Queen Catherine of Arragon. By her will, dated September 25th, 1557, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, October the 8th, following, she desires to be “buried in the chauncell of the p^sh church of Wyrksworth, near unto my said late husband, Anthony Lowe, and at my buryall to be such convenyante expenses and necessarye observances as to my worshyp and degree shall apperteyne.”

Edward Lowe, Esq., of Alderwasley, the only son of Anthony Lowe, was twice married; first to Dorothy, daughter of Christopher Eyre, Esq., of Highlow, by whom he had Bridget and two other daughters; and secondly to Lucy, daughter of Ralph Gell, Esq., of Hopton, by whom he had a son and a daughter. His will is dated May the 17th, 1577. After his decease the manorial courts of Alderwasley and Ashleyhay were held in the name of Lucy, his widow, until 1589, when his only son, Anthony, appears to have attained his majority.

Anthony Lowe, Esq., of Alderwasley, the only son of Edward Lowe, was likewise twice married, and the following account of his wives and children is taken from the Wolley MSS.* :—

“Anthony Lowe and Mary his wife were marryed the second day of february beeing Candlemas day An^o Dom. regn. Regin. Eliz., 31^o, 1589, and lived together the space of 10 yeares or thereabouts, at w^{ch} time the said Mary

* Add. MSS., 6666, p. 153.

dyed in childbed upon the first day of July, reg. Regin. Eliz. 39^o, 1598, in w^{ch} time they had Issue 3 sonnes and 5 daughters, viz, Mildred Lowe, Judyth, Edward, Rowland, Mary, Anne, John, and the youngest w^{ch} died wth her mother. And after that the said Anthony married again the 23rd of January followinge and soe lived wth his latter wife from the 23rd of January, 1599, to the 23rd of June, 1600, in w^{ch} time hee had Issue two sonnes booth at one birth, viz: Anthony and Thomas, and then the afforesaid 23rd of June, 1600, hee departed this life leaving behinde him 5 children livinge, viz. Judith, Edward, Anne and John by the first wife, and Thomas by the second.*

Mary, the first wife above referred to, was the daughter of Rowland Ferne, Esq., of Hognaston; and Elizabeth, the second wife, was a Cheshire lady, named Blore. John Lowe,* his second son, became ancestor of the Lowes of Owlgreaves.

From the Inquisition Post Mortem taken at Derby, October the 6th, 1601, it appears that at the death of Anthony Lowe, Esq., his son and heir, Edward Lowe, was eight years of age and more. There is a curious statement in the Wolley MSS., apparently taken from a contemporary letter, to the effect that "William Dethicke and Raphe Wigley, sonne to Henry Wigley, of Middleton, did fetch Edward Lowe, sonne and heire of Anthony Lowe, Esq., from Chelaston, the 23rd of June, in the

* John Lowe, the youngest son of Anthony Lowe, Esq., of Alderwasley by his first marriage, settled first at Hasland, and subsequently at Owlgreaves, in the parish of Heanor. He served King Charles I. as captain of a troop of horse in the civil wars, and in 1643, was fined £133 6s. 8d. by the Parliament, as a Royalist delinquent. In his will, dated November 10th, 1657, he names his eldest son John, who must have died in his father's lifetime, for Owlgreaves was inherited by his son, Francis, who died in 1684, leaving three sons. Francis Lowe, the eldest of these three sons, married Jane, daughter and sole heiress of John Middleton, Esq., of Wansley Hall, in Nottinghamshire, but died without issue, and was buried at Heanor, May the 9th, 1697. The second son, Charles, who succeeded to the Owlgreaves estate on the death of his elder brother, was buried at Heanor March the 29th, 1719; he had no male issue, and the greater portion of his property devolved upon his three daughters and coheirresses. Anthony Lowe, the third son, was a doctor of medicine, and died, without male issue, February the 9th, 1729-30, leaving an only daughter and heiress, who married, in 1732, John Gorsuch Eccleston, Esq., of Eccleston, in Lancashire. He resided at the Milne House, Astle, in Cheshire, but had no issue. He was buried at Chelford, in that county, where his grave-stone, bearing a Latin epitaph, whereon he is described as "nuper d' Owlgreave in Com^{te} Derbⁱⁱ: Mdæ Dr," yet remains in the churchyard. (See Earwaker's "*East Cheshire*," vol. ii. p. 368.) This branch of the family were Roman Catholics, and intermarried with the Eyres, of Newbold; the Beaumonts, of Barrow, and other families who had adhered to the faith of their ancestors.

night of the same daye, and brought him to the house of the said Henry Wigley, who conveyed him by the said Dethicke and one Rob't. Mason to Mr. Bentley, who detaineth him from his right gardeine in socage." The date of this lawless proceeding does not appear. Edward Lowe, Esq., subsequently married Jane, daughter of Henry Hall, of Cortlingstock (now called Costock), in Nottinghamshire, by whom he had a family of thirteen children. It is certainly significant that Elizabeth, another daughter of this same Henry Hall, should have been the wife of Richard Wigley, Esq., of Wigwell, one of the sons of Henry Wigley, of Middleton, who took such a prominent part in the abduction of Edward Lowe, from his lawful guardian, as above mentioned. He took an active share in the civil wars, suffering severe privations and great hardships through his unswerving devotion to the cause of his Sovereign. In 1643, he presented a petition to the crown, setting forth his losses and praying for restitution in these terms:—

"May it please y^r excellency that whereas y^r petitioner, Edward Lowe of Alderwasley in the County of Derby, esq^r did aboute 12 months since cause his eldest son and five other of his sons to take up arms for the king and did at his owne great charge furnish his eldest son with a compleat troop of horse and armed them all, and the rest of his sons going along with their other brother as officers in the said troope and have been ever since in service and still are, all but his eldest son, who lost his life in the said service: and your petitioner was thereupon driven away from his house by the enemy, and hath ever since been kept away by them, his house hath been plundered since then 26 times and all his household goods, 500 sheepe, fourscore and ten beasts, 44 horses, and all his rents taken, his woods cut down and taken away by them, and his hay and corn both the last year's cropp and this, in all amounting to the value of £3,000, to the great prejudice of your petitioner and the utter ruin and destruction of his whole family."

"That your excellency will be pleased to grant unto y^r petitioner all such men whose names are hereunder written, being delinquents and all others his neighbours delinquents that have been a great cause of his undoing, and withal a sequestration of all their estate both goods and lands, &c., &c."

The losses which he sustained are elsewhere enumerated, as follows:—

“The house of Edw. Lowe, Esq^r of Alderwasley, was plunder’d by the Parliament party as under.

1642.	Captain Matthews, Ralph Peoyser, & three hundred	£.
October 29.	soldjiers came in the night about ten of the clock, shott in at the windows and had liked to have killed a gentleman in the house, breaking open the doors, & tooke in moneys, plate, & jewelles, & bedding, & other household goods to the value of	500
	At ano ^r time Col ^l Gell’s servants, Tho. Gell, Jno. Hadin, Jno. Farrall, Bradle, Anth. Peoyser, B. Asford, and the Steeples, broke the stable & took two geldings & two mares with saddles & bridles, worth	120
	Capt. Vermuden at an ^r time by Col ^l Gell’s warrant took to Wingfield Mannor 8 oxen & 2 bulls, worth	50
	30 kine, worth	120
	33 steers & heifers, worth	190
	20 calves, worth	30
	12 swine, worth	15
	750 & odd sheep, young and old, worth	296
	12 three year old colts & fillies, worth	70
	4 strike of seed oats, worth	4
	At an ^r time Capt. Clarke tooke to Wingfield Mannor one stoned colt, 3 mares, & 3 geldings, worth ...	80
	And one fatt bull, worth	6
	Capt. Backeshalle’s soldjers took 5 kine & two oxen, worth.....	34
	And a rick of oats, worth	10
	All these were taken before my Lord Marquess took the mannor. Derby men took of me at several times 20 horses that I had of tenants for rent, worth	90
	Capt. Frith took at two sev ^l times 25 horses, young & old, which y ^e tenants gave me, & 38 beasts, worth.....	206
	Frith also took household goods, wearing cloths, gold rings, and money of y ^e childrens, and a buff coat, worth in all.....	120
	At ano ^r time Mr. John Gell’s men took 35 load of hay from y ^e ground, worth.....	35
	And Col ^l Gell’s men took a trunk & a pack at Geo. Flint’s of Holloway with all my best apparell and my wife’s, my wife’s curtains, lawn and cambrick,	

gold & jewells of the children's and my train- band's collors and scarves, worth	£ 400
And y ^e grant of y ^e mannor w ^{ch} cost me.....	200
And at y ^e same time y ^e took pewter and brass out of a coal pitt worth	30
Captain Wells took bootes, shoos & coats & sheets, stock ^s & blanketts, worth	30
	<hr/> 2555 13 4

The estate was subsequently sequestrated by the Parliament, and Edward Lowe and his two eldest surviving sons, John and Arthur,* were compelled to compound for the same by a payment of £221. Edward Lowe, Esq., was buried in the chancel at Wirksworth, July the 8th, 1650. Anthony Lowe, his eldest son, who was born September the 11th, 1613, and baptised at Wirksworth on the 19th of that month, was killed in battle at Gainsborough, July the 30th, 1643. He was then under the command of the Earl of Newcastle, and being greatly esteemed by the Earl, his remains were conveyed to Bolsover, and there interred in the vault belonging to that nobleman's family. Bassano mentions a monument in the church at Bolsover to this Anthony Lowe, but it has long since disappeared. Edward Lowe, the second son, who was born May the 4th, 1614, and baptised at Wirksworth on the 28th of that month, and who died unmarried and was buried in the chancel at Wirksworth, July the 21st, 1646, is said likewise to have died from the effects of a wound received in the civil wars. The family estates accordingly devolved on John Lowe, the third son.

John Lowe, Esq., of Alderwasley, the eldest surviving son of Edward Lowe, was born May the 2nd, 1616, and baptised at Wirksworth on the 19th of that month. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Anthony Crofts, of Brampton, by whom he had three sons and two daughters. His wife was buried at Wirksworth, July the 8th,

* This Arthur Lowe married Jane, daughter and heiress of John Brookshaw, of Hazlewood, and was father of Anthony Lowe, of Hazlewood, whose only son, Captain Edward Lowe, sold that property to Sir Nathaniel Curzon. Bart., in 1748, and died in 1774, at the age of 94 years. Arthur Lowe survived his nephew, John Lowe, Esq., of Alderwasley, and became heir male of the family. Two of his younger sons married and had issue.

1677, and he himself was buried there on the 24th of the same month.

John Lowe, Esq., of Alderwasley, the eldest son of John Lowe, was nine years of age in 1662, and was the last male representative of the elder branch of this family. He served as High Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1679, and dying unmarried June the 16th, 1690, was buried on the 19th of that month in the chancel at Wirksworth, where there is a mural monument, with a quaint rhyming epitaph, to his memory. His second brother, Anthony Lowe, who was eight years of age in 1662, became an officer in the first troop of Life Guards, and dying a bachelor in London. August the 10th, 1685, was buried in the parish church of St. Dunstan's in the West. The mural monument erected to his memory happily escaped destruction when that church was rebuilt, and is thus inscribed :—

“ P. M. S.
 PROPE JACET CORPUS ANTONIJ LOW,
 GENEROSI, EX ANTIQUA FAMILIA APUD
 ALDERWASLEY IN AGRO DERBIEN :
 FILIJ SECUNDI FUIT DUOBUS
 SERENISSIMIS & AUGUSTISSIMIS
 REGIBUS CAROLO ET JACOBO SECUNDO
 IN TURMA SATELLITIJ PRIMA VNUS
 E QUATUOR LOCUMTENENTIBUS
 OBIIT X^{MO} DIE AUGUSTI AN. DO. MDCLXXXV.
 ÆTATIS SUÆ 30.”

Thomas Lowe, the third son, died young. Of the two daughters, Jane, the elder, died unmarried in the lifetime of her eldest brother, whilst Elizabeth, the younger, who became sole heiress of her family, was married January the 12th, 1670-1, to Nicholas Hurt, Esq., of Casterne, in the County of Stafford, and died April the 20th, 1713, aged 62, leaving with other issue, a son, Charles, whose descendants are the present possessors of the Alderwasley estate.

We must now revert to Lawrence Lowe, the younger brother (as we apprehend), of that Thomas Lowe, from whom the

Lowes of Alderwasley derived their descent.* Lawrence Lowe



appears to have embraced the legal profession and became a Serjeant-at-Law. In 1474, he is said to have been in the service of William, Lord Hastings; and he is obviously identical with that Lawrence Lowe who became Recorder of the Borough of Nottingham, in or about the year 1480. The fact that he was twice married is sufficiently established, and there can be but little doubt that his first wife was the heiress of the family of Rossell, of Denby, and that through her the chief share of the Manor of Denby came into his possession; but evidence of this marriage is altogether wanting, and even her parentage is unknown. His second wife was Alice, daughter and coheir of William Mylton, of Gratton, in the County of Derby (son of Ranulph de Milneton, or Mylton, of Milton, in Cheshire, by Mary, his wife, daughter and sole heiress of . . . Gratton, of Gratton), and widow of Oliver de Newton, of Newton, in Cheshire, who died in London of the plague in 1452, and was buried in St. Andrew's Church, Holborn.† This second marriage

* Adam Wolley distinctly speaks of Laurence Lowe as the younger brother of Thomas Lowe, of Alderwasley; and in the charter of 1473, wherein four of the sons of Geoffrey del Lowe are mentioned, Lawrence is the one who is named last. But, at the same time, it must not be overlooked that there is proof that Lawrence Lowe was married to his second wife in 1455, whilst Thomas, who is assumed to have been the elder, was not married until 1471, and must have survived his brother Lawrence, at least five-and-twenty years. That Thomas and Lawrence Lowe were brothers has already been sufficiently proved, notwithstanding the apparent discrepancy in the dates; and the statement that Thomas was a younger son of Lawrence, and not his brother is quite untenable, unless we admit the hypothesis that confusion has arisen between two persons of the same name, and that Lawrence Lowe, serjeant-at-law, and Thomas Lowe, of Alderwasley, were the sons of another Lawrence Lowe. Thus, supposing that it was the elder Lawrence who married the heiress of Rossell, some of the heraldic anomalies which have been referred to, would be clearly obviated. But a careful analysis of the various statements that have been given, will show many difficulties to such an explanation of the descent.

† By her first husband, Alice, the daughter and co-heiress of William Mylton, had, with other issue, a son, Richard de Newton, who married Janet, the daughter of Lawrence Lowe, his mother's second husband. We have here sufficient evidence that Lawrence Lowe must have been twice married. It seems more probable that his son and heir was the issue of his first marriage,

must have been solemnized prior to 1455, for there is a deed of partition, dated in that year, whereby certain lands of William Mylton are divided between John Massey and Margaret his wife, Ralph Browne and Elena his wife, and Lawrence Lowe and Alice his wife; the said Margaret, Elena, and Alice, being the three daughters and coheireses of the said William Mylton. Lawrence Lowe was living in 1484, when a covenant was entered into on the feast day of St. Clement (November the 23rd), in that year, between Henry Kent, Vicar of Horsley, with the consent of Richard, Prior of Lenton, and Lawrence Lowe, of Denby, to have a priest to say daily mass in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin, at Denby; but he was dead in 1491, when Alice, his second wife (who herself died the year following), is described as a widow.

Humphrey Lowe, Esq., of Denby, the eldest son of Lawrence Lowe, was living in 1516. He was married prior to 1462, to Margaret, daughter and heiress of John Linstone,* and by her was father of Clement Lowe, Esq., who married Isabella, daughter and co heiress of John Strelley, Esq., of Strelley, in the County of Nottingham (by Saunchia, daughter of Sir Richard Willoughby, of Wollaton, in the same county), and had an only daughter and heiress, Mary, who became the wife of William Sacheverell, Esq., of Stanton-by-bridge (second son of Sir Henry Sacheverell, of Morley, Knight); and from this match the Sacheverells of Barton, in Nottinghamshire, were descended. The Denby estate, however, devolved upon Vincent Lowe, the second son of Humphrey Lowe, and continued with his descendants.

but it is remarkable that his posterity should have quartered the arms of Rossell and *also* those of Mylton; and such an arrangement, though apparently quite incorrect, was officially recognised by St. George in the Visitation of 1612. In his pedigree (vide Harl. MSS. 1093) Alice Mylton is given as the mother of Lawrence Lowe's heir, whilst the match with the heiress of Rossell is altogether ignored. But the pedigree abounds in errors, not the least of which is that Anthony Lowe, of Alderwasley, the husband of Bridget Fogge, is stated to have been the second son of Vincent Lowe, of Denby, and the great-grandson of Lawrence Lowe. The remarkable coat of arms upon Anthony Lowe's tomb in Wirksworth Church, already described, may possibly have originated this mistake.

* There is a charter, dated in 1462, whereby Humphrey Lowe, and Margaret, his wife, united with Lawrence Lowe, his father, in granting certain lands in the meadows of Clifton to John Cokayne and Thomas his son.

According to Lysons, this Vincent Lowe purchased the manor of Park Hall, in Denby, from Sir Peter Frecheville, about the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII., and settled it upon his younger son, Jasper Lowe, Esq., who succeeded to the Denby estate upon the decease of his elder brother, Vincent, in 1653; and since that time the manors of Denby and Park Hall have continued to be united. Jasper Lowe died in 1583, having had issue four sons and two daughters. His eldest son, Patrick, who was twenty-one years of age at the time of his father's decease, married Jane, daughter of Sir John Harpur, of Swarkestone, and had four children. On the north side of the chancel at Denby, there is a fine mural monument, which from the armorial bearings may be identified as that of Patrick Lowe; but there is no inscription, and as there are no registers belonging to the church extant earlier than the year 1725, the date of his decease cannot be ascertained.* The monument in question consists of the full-sized effigies of a man and woman kneeling beneath canopies, and each holding a book in their clasped hands. The former is represented bare-headed and in plate-armour; and the latter in a French cap and ruff, with a triple chain round her neck. Their four children are likewise represented in effigy, two of them having their heads covered with a veil or shroud, to typify their decease in the lifetime of their parents. Patrick Lowe probably left his estates somewhat involved, for in 1627, a Special Act of Parliament (3 Car. I., cap. 13. pr.), was passed to enable his son and successor, Vincent Lowe, of Denbigh, (*sic.*) in the county of Derby, Esq., to sell part of his estate for payment of his debts. Vincent Lowe, the only surviving son of Patrick Lowe, was eighteen years of age at the time of St. George's Visitation in 1612, and was living in 1634. He married Anne, natural daughter of Henry Cavendish, Esq., of Tutbury, in Staffordshire, by whom he had a son and heir, John Lowe

* He was living in the second year of the reign of King James I., for the tenor bell of Denby Church is inscribed "PATRICKE LOWE, ESQVIRE, ANNO DO. 1604."

(married to Katherine, daughter of Sir Arthur Pilkington, Bart., of Stanley, in Yorkshire), and nine younger children. Want of space prohibits any detailed account of the descent of this family. It should be added, however, that in 1785, upon the decease of Richard Lowe, Esq.,* of Denby and Locko Park, the estates devolved upon William Drury, Esq. (grandson of William Drury, Alderman of Nottingham, who married Anne, eldest daughter of John Lowe, Esq., of Denby); and he accordingly assumed the additional name and arms of Lowe, by royal license, July the 10th, 1790. William Drury Lowe, Esq., died without male issue, July the 11th, 1827, leaving Anne, his widow, a life interest in the estates. That lady, whose maiden name was Steer, was baptised at Burton Latimer, in Northamptonshire, July the 23rd, 1745, and died at Locko Park, November the 13th, 1848, in her 104th year. Her only daughter and heiress had married Robert Holden, Esq., of Nuthall Temple, in Nottinghamshire, whose eldest son assumed the name and arms of Lowe, by royal license, upon succeeding to the family estates on the decease of his maternal grandmother, the venerable lady above mentioned.

* Richard Lowe, Esq., had no lawful issue, but by Ellen Leyton, whom he afterwards married, he had three natural daughters. His brother, Stead Lowe, settled in America, where he died, leaving a son of his own name, who did not, however, inherit the family estates.