

An enquiry into the origin of the Family of Stathum.

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AN effort has been made in the following pages to trace the descent of the family of Stathum, which, for a long period, was settled at Morley, co. Derby. The first of the name to hold that lordship was Ralph de Stathum, who held it in right of his wife, Goditha, the daughter of Roger de Masci de Sale, co. Chester. It has hitherto been considered impossible to settle with any accuracy either the name or descent of his father. All that was known was that his family took their name from the hamlet of Stathum in the township of Lymme, co. Chester, and that the arms borne by them differed in a small degree only from those used by the Haltons, Lymmcs, Leighs, Wylmes and other families which spring from the same township. According to the Domesday Book Lymme was held in two moieties, one half being held by Gilbert de Venables, baron of Kinderton, the other by Osbern, son of Tazon, who was the ancestor of the Boydels of Dodleston. The paramount rights of the moiety held by Gilbert de Venables passed into the hands of Nigel, baron of Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte and Viscount of the Cotentin (*Ormerod's History of Cheshire*, i, 578, *et seq.*), or his descendants. This Nigel accompanied William of Normandy to England in 1066 in the train of Hugh d'Avranches, the future earl of Chester. He was rewarded for his services by the barony of Halton and the grant of the hereditary constablership of Chester (*Cotton. MSS. B. M. Cleopatra 3, f. 329* and *Monasticon*. ed. 1665, f. 905). The moiety of Lymme held by Gilbert is subsequently found to be in the possession of Hugh

de Lymme (*Ormerod*) and later, in 1330, it was vested in the hands of Geoffrey de Warburton, knight, John Boyddell, John Danyell, William Wilme, William de Stathum and Richard le Ward (*Inq. Chester*, 3, 23 Ed. iii, no. 27). As land passes chiefly by lineal descent or by marriage an endeavour was made to trace the successive ownership of Stathum, Reddish, Oughtrington, Brome and Heatley, the five hamlets forming this moiety of Lymme. The results of that investigation are recorded in the chart appended herewith, together with the results of an enquiry into the antecedents of Nigel de Sancto Salvatore.

According to *Ormerod* (i, 688), the barony of Saint-Sauveur was created by Rollo, duke of Normandy, in favour of Richard, one of his chief and favourite commanders. I have been unable to find authority for this statement in any French document, but feel that it would not have been made without sufficient foundation. Saint-Sauveur, a little township on the river Ouve in the Cotentin, came into prominence in Norman history about the middle of the tenth century as the residence of one of the most powerful vassals of the dukes of Normandy. It was the chief castle of the viscount to whom was confided the administration of the Cotentin, the title of which survives to the present day in the name of Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte. Mr. Léopold Delisle in his *Historie du Chateau et des Sires de Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte* (Valognes, 1867) gives an ample account of every holder of the barony from the death of Richard to the French Revolution and justifies every statement by voluminous *pièces justificatives*. The whole of the information contained in the chart, down to and including the second Nigel, is derived from his book and may be taken as absolutely correct.

With Nigel, fourth baron of Saint-Sauveur, begins the history of a very famous English family. Succeeding to his father at an early age he joined the rebellion of Guy of Burgundy against the duke of Normandy and distin-

guished himself at the battle of Val des Dunes. The Roman de Rou contains a most flattering account of his prowess in that action. As a natural result he was deprived of his possessions by the duke for several years, but was restored to favour before 1051. In that year he accompanied the duke to England on his visit to Edward the Confessor and witnessed a charter of the king wherein he grants certain lands to the priory of Mount S. Michael in Cornwall. The other witnesses are Robert, archbishop of Rouen, a son of Richard I. of Normandy by Gonnor; Herbert, bishop of Lisieux; Robert, bishop of Coutance; Anschitil Choschet; and Turstin (*Monasticon*, ed. 1665, f. 551).

As has already been stated he fought at Hastings and was created baron of Halton and constable of Chester (*Ormerod* i, 686, *et seq.* *Dugdale, Monasticon*, ed. 1665, f. 905). The following extract from the "Ancient Rolls," as Ormerod calls them, is worthy of repeating at length:—

"Cum Hugone Comite venit quidam nobilis nomine Nigellus, et cum isto Nigello venerunt quinque fratres, videlicet Hudardus, Edardus, Wolmerus, Horswine et Wolfaithe. Dictus vero comes dedit prefato Nigello baroniam de Halton ad quam pertinebat novem feoda militum et dimidium, et quarta pars unius feodi et quinta pars unius feodi nomine constabularii Cestrie: et fecit eum marescallum suum, ita quod quando dictus Hugo comes exercitum suum mitteret in Walliam dictus Nigellus et heredes sui in eundo preceperunt et in redeundo cum exercitu ultimi remanerunt, et ob hanc causam dedit prefatus Hugo comes dicto Nigello duo feoda militum in Englefeld citra Rothland."

His brother Udard (Eudo) became the ancestor of the de Dutton family, and Wolfaithe, another brother, was the ancestor of the de Hutton family (*vid. Ormerod in loco*).

He was married firstly to a sister of William the Conqueror, and secondly to Adèle, sister of Richard de Reviers (*Delisle*) and had issue five sons and three daughters. From the Domesday Book it is evident that William succeeded him in the barony of Halton, and that

Richard also settled in England. According to Delisle, the barony of Saint-Sauveur descended to his sons Nigel and Roger, and eventually, through the daughters of his son Roger to the Taissons and Harcourts.

William, second baron Halton, was the direct ancestor, through his grand-daughter, of the famous de Lascis (*vid. Ormerod in loco*).

Richard, who appears in the records of the times as Richard Fitz Nigel, appears as a witness to the charter of Hugh, earl of Chester, founding the abbey of Saint Werburgh in Chester. The date of this deed is 1093. In the charter of William, baron of Halton and Constable of Chester, granting Newton to the canons of S. Augustine (*Dugdale's Monast.* ed. 1655, 985), he signs as "Richard his brother." He also appears as a witness in the charter of Ranulph le Meschyn to S. Warburgh (1121-29) as Richard Fitz Nigel (*Dugdale in loco*). His name appears in the Pipe Roll of 31 Hen. I. as "rendering an account of £40 for the plea of a coffer full of money," under Leicestershire. In 4 Hen. II. he also renders account for 27½ marcs in Bedfordshire, and for 100 sh. in Leceistershire. He married Leticia, daughter and co-heiress of Robert Fitz Hugh, Baron of Malpas, co. Chester (*Jeayes, Derby Ch.* 530). The descent of the barony of Malpas is confessedly obscure, but the charter referred to above solves the difficulty to a great extent. Gilbert Fitz Richard de Malpas is to be found as a witness of a deed of Matilda, mother of Hugh, third earl of Chester (*Stowe MSS.* 153). His son Gilbert Fitz Gilbert, secretary to his father, appears to have yielded up the fee of Malpas to the Patrics (*vid. Ormerod under Malpas*) and to have settled at Lymme. His name appears in the Pipe Roll for 3 John and in other documents of the period. Ormerod who deals at length with the family of de Lymme is evidently of opinion that they sprang from the Halton family, but does not go into the question with any particularity. In

the same way, he dismisses the Stathums with the statement that Stathum was the property of a family that used the arms of Lymme and was probably descended from them.

Hugh de Lymme, son of Gilbert de Lymme, was lord of half of the township of Lymme and we can thus trace the descent of this holding from Nigel, first baron of Halton, to his great-grandson. This Hugh de Lymme, who was living in 1258, had three sons and one daughter, and the descendants of the eldest and second sons, Alan and Richard, are given in Ormerod under Lymme. Of Simon, the third son he gives no information, but there are satisfactory reasons for believing him to be the ancestor of the Stathums. This Simon, the son of Hugh, must have been living about 1240-50, yet no reference to him as Simon de Lymme has been found, but it is known that a Simon de Stathum existed at that date, and, moreover, he is the first of that name that has been discovered. As stated above the Stathums had a share in that moiety of Lymme in which Stathum is situated and which, also, was in the possession of Hugh de Lymme. In a charter signed by William de Saint Ledger two of the witnesses are Sir Simon de Stathum and William de Stathum (*Lands*, MSS. B.M. 269, f. 175 b.) ; it is undated, but was evidently written in the middle of the thirteenth century. I have not been able to prove the marriage but I believe Simon's wife to have been a daughter of William Wylme, alias Leigh, of Oughttrington, who was living about 1250. William Wylme's other daughter, Margery, was married to Richard Leigh of West Hill, and their son Thomas assumed the name of Wylme (*Ormerod*, i, 587). The documentary evidence which proves the descent of Gilbert de Lymme from Richard Fitz Nigel and of Simon de Stathum from Gilbert de Lymme is somewhat weak, but taking into account the fact that hereditary lands known to have been in the possession of the Haltons are found to be in the

hands of the Stathums at a later date a *prima facie* case has, at least, been established. Another important point has yet to be considered, and that is the arms borne by the various families. In these days arms can be, and are, assumed without question. In earlier days the right to bear a particular coat was strictly investigated and carefully guarded. The arms of the Haltons are given (*Ormerod in loco.*) as Gules, a pale fusillè or; those of Lymme as Gules, a pale fusillè argent; and those of Stathum as Gules, a pale fusillè argent with a label or baton for difference. Ancient Seals and allowances of the College of Arms prove that the Lymmes used the baronial coat of Halton differenced only by the tincture of the pale (*Ormerod i*, 578-9). Sir Ralph de Stathum of Morley and his descendants used a similar coat, viz.:—Gules, a pale fusillè argent, quartered with those of Morley (Argent, a lion rampant sable, crowned or.).

William de Stathum of the St. Ledger charter was evidently the son of Sir Simon. He died before 1298, having married the heiress of John de Smallburgh and Beeston, co. Norfolk. There are a large number of documents among the Ancient Deeds in the P.R.O. connected with this holding and the Stathums and the information given in the chart has been obtained from them (*C.* 189, 2109, 2113, 2115, 2117, 2243, 2507, 2546, 2558, 2814 and others). It is doubtful, however, whether Stalham is not the real name used in these deeds.

Robert de Stathum is mentioned in the Ches. Plea. R. (81, *m.* 17, *Ric.* ii) as the father of William de Stathum and grandfather of Johanna. He married Cicely, daughter of William D'Anyers of Daresby, co. Chester (*Ormerod i*, 427) and in addition to William had a son John, who, as I believe, was the grandfather of Thomas de Stathum, lord of Stockport in the right of his wife Isabella de Devonport. This John held lands under Laurence de Ferrer and also under Ralph de Pleys in Canterbury (*Hundred Rolls*, ii,

546, b, t. Ed. i), and also held under William Toluze in the same manor of Ralph de Pleys (*ib.* 547). In 1369-70, John de Stathum, then dead, is mentioned as one of the feoffees of Ralph Lord Cromwell, in Hucknall Torkard, co. Notts. (*Thorotons, Notts.* ii, 275). He is mentioned in the Chester Plea Rolls (3 Ed. iii, 41, m. 2) as joining with John Boydel de Lymme, Gilbert de Lymme, Robert del Brom and William de in the confession of a debt of £10 to William de Mulneton. He appears to have had a son named Richard who was the father of Thomas de Stockport, who died without heirs in 1374, and of John, married to Agnes, who were living in 1402 and 1395 respectively. In 1382 a suit was instituted in the court at Chester against "John, son of Hugh de Stathum, for the unlawful disseisin of Thomas de Warneford and Maria his wife of a free tenement in Knutsford." John de Stathum comes into court in his own person and declares that his father's name was Richard and not Hugh (*Plea Rolls, Chester*, 83, m. 22, 3 *Ric.* ii). In 1395 he and his wife Agnes received from Robert Fawkenor a grant of land in Quarndon and Barrow (*Add. Charters, B.M.*, 24, 215). It is of interest to note that in 1490 Joan, daughter of Sir Henry de Stathum, knight, and widow of John Sacheverell, grants 5 marcs of yearly rent in Quarndon to the son of William Sacheverell (*Anc. Deeds. P.R.O., B*, 2973). No trace of any issue of John and Agnes has been found, and it is probable that their cousin, Sir Thomas Stathum, son of Sir Ralph, became their heir. In February, 1402, John de Stathum served on the jury of an inquisition held at Loughboro' by the collectors of the aid to the Lord King for the marriage of Blanche, the King's eldest daughter. On this jury there also served a John Farnham who was one of the witnesses to the grant by Robert Fawkenor in 1395. This is the first mention of Loughboro' in connection with the Stathums, and it is interesting in view of the fact that in the sixteenth century a younger branch of the family still held land there.

William de Stathum, elder son of Robert (*Plea R. Chesh.* 1 *Ric.* ii) is mentioned, as noted above, as being with John Boydell, John Danyell, William Wilme and Richard le Ward, the holders of "a moiety of the manor of Lymme by one knight's fee and the payment of each of them yearly of 2d. yearly, called Hissom silver" (*Inq. Chest.* $\frac{3}{1}$, 23 Ed. iii, no. 27). The name of his wife has not been discovered, but he had two sons, Hugh and William, and a daughter Johanna. His son, William, was with William de Alkemundelowe and Robert le Harper, appointed Bedel of the Hundred of Bucklow in 1396, and in 1403 he was made a collector of the subsidy (*Recog. Rolls, Chester*, 1396, 1403). Johanna commenced an action for unlawful disseisin in 1378 against Laurence Glayve of Stathum (*Chest. Plea. Roll*, 81, m. 17, 1 *Ric.* ii).

Hugh de Stathum is mentioned in the Chester Plea Roll (6 *Hen.* iv, f. 9) as the father of John. His wife is unknown but he appears to have had three sons John, Ralph, and Thomas. Thomas is mentioned in the Chester *Placita Coronatorum* 8 *Ric.* ii, as having been summoned to answer for "divers transgressions." The entry runs: Thomas, son of Hugh de Stathum, Hugh le Criour, Robert Andrews, servant of Robert de Ridleigh, summoned for the first time for divers transgression at the suit of the Lord King in the first week of Lent, 1384" etc. Beyond this no reference to him has been found.

John, the eldest son, by a deed enrolled in the court of Chester in 1405 (6 *Hen.* iv, f. 9) left "all his lands, tenements, rents and services in the ville of Lymme, Lymbothes and Stathum" to his son John and his heirs male, with remainder to his son Thomas, and his heirs male, with remainder to (his nephew) Thomas, son of Ralph de Stathum, with remainder to William, son of Ralph de Stathum, and failing male issue to all or any of these legatees with remainder to his right heirs. In 1379 he sued Robert de Legh of Adlinton for "a certain chest" (*Chest.*

Plea. Rolls, 83, m. 22; 3 *Ric.* ii) and in 1385 John de Grey of Codnor, Robert Twyford, Henry de Braynesford John Curzon of Kedleston and two others were appointed to make inquisition touching the evil doers who came to Colton, assaulted John Stathum and Isabella, his wife, whom the King had taken into his protection, etc. (*Pat. R.* 8 *Ric.* ij, pt. 2, m. 36d). This commission was issued in response to a petition to the King made by John and Isabella. This petition still exists. It is written in French and may be found in the P.R.O. under Ancient Petitions, file 139, no. 6937.

We have no knowledge of his wife, Isabella's, family name and beyond the fact that she had a daughter, Ameria, nothing further is know of her. Ameria married Thomas de Arden, a younger son, I believe, of Sir John de Arden, knight, of Arden, and Alvanley. In addition to his legitimate daughter John de Stathum had two illegitimate sons the John and Thomas named as his heirs in the document enrolled in court in 1405 and referred to above. After her father's death Ameria brought an action of novel-disseisin against her illegitimate brother, John, for the hereditary lands in Lymme, Lymbothes and Stathum. She won her suit, but it was not until after the lapse of 60 years that her brother's grandson was finally deprived of all authority over them. The Chester Recog. Rolls (99, m. 3d. 26. 5, 7 Hen. vi. m. 7d. 16 and 17 Hen. vi., 14 and 15 Ed. iv., 21-22 Ed. iv, m. 6., 42 Hen. vii, in d.) bear witness to the long struggle which went on between the two families for the possession of the Stathum patrimony. In the end the Ardens triumphed and the name DE Stathum ceased to be justified from 1486.

The descendants of John de Stathum and of Ameria de Arden which figure in the chart are all drawn from the Recognisance Rolls referred to above, but I have been unable to carry them any further. In the Probate Office at Chester the wills of Edward and Peter Stathum are

preserved. They both died at Allostock in 1616. There are also several other Stathum wills of the 17th century to be found there, but it has hitherto been found impossible to bridge the gap between 1486 and 1616.

We now return to Hugh's other son, Ralph. We have seen how his brother John named his two eldest nephews, Thomas and William, his heirs, failing issue to his own sons, these nephews being the sons of Sir Ralph de Stathum, knight, of Morley, co. Derby. The most important references to him are to be found in the Pipe Roll for Northampton, 51 Ed. iii and 3 Ric. ii (his wife is named Edith in these Rolls), Patent Rolls, 51 Ed. iii, m. 2 ; 3 Ric. ii, part 3, m. 16d. ; Lay Subs. Roll 91/27, 3 Ric. ii ; Inq. P.M., 1 Hen. iv, part 2a, last folio ; Add. Ch. B.M. 5242 ; Cox's History of Derbyshire churches, sub. Morley.

The property inherited by him through his wife, Goditha, is given in full in Add. MSS. B.M. 5235. It consisted of the manor of Morley, less one-third of the woods of Morley, Smalley and Kidsley ; 8 bovates of land in Wilne ; 4 virgates in Hemington, co. Leicester ; one-third of the manor of Wartnaby, co. Leicester ; the service of Jordan de Tochi in Aston ; the service of Jordan de Snitterton as well as the service of Richard Marshall in the same place ; other parcels of land in Shardlow, etc. The deed describes the inheritance of Yseude de Morley as apportioned to her husband Simon St. Maure in 1200, Goditha being their final heiress.

References to Richard the second son will be found in the Pat. Rolls, 15 Ric. ii, 17 Ric. ii, and 22 Ric. ii, Exchequer L.T.R. Memoranda Roll, 168, 4 Hen. iv. In the de Banco Roll for Easter, 8 Hen. vi, we find that Thomas Bolton, clerk, gave the king 33 sh. for licence to agree with Richard de Stathum and Emma, his wife, etc., for the manors of Overhayford and Netherhayford, co. Northants. (Cf. also *Pedes Finium* for same year). Emma was the widow of Sir Edmund D'Oyley (a descendant of Robert de Oilgi,

who married Aldeth dr. of Wigod of Wallingford, tem. Ed. Confessor). This must refer to a grandson of Sir Ralph's, as his son certainly died before 1420. See also references in Feudal Aids, P.R.O. 1, 277; Anc. Deeds, B, 1250; Add. MSS. 5239, and Pat. Roll, 3 Hen. v.

The third son, William, was an esquire first to John de Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, and then to Henry IV. References to him will be found in Pat. Rolls 16 Ric. ii; 2 Hen. iv; 15 Ric. ii; Coram Rege R., Mich. Term, 6 Ric. ii; Feudal Aids, i, 296;

References to his son, Ralph, are to be found in 9 Ric. ii; 16 Ric. ii; and 17 Ric. ii. Of Nicholas I have found no mention at all, and of Robert none but the mere mention of his name in Add. Chart, 5242.

Peter the youngest was rector of the free chapel of Mirabell in the diocese of Lincoln previous to 1374. In that year he was collated to the canonry and prebend in the collegiate church of Gnosale, co. Staff. in exchange with his brother Thomas (*Register of Bishop Stretton of Lichfield*, iv, 145). He appears also as witness to a deed in 1409 (*Feud. Hist. of Derby*, iii, 407).

Sir Thomas de Stathum, knight, was in 1364 instituted to the canonry and prebend of Gnosale. He is described in the Bishop's Register (*Vid. Supra.*) as "Thomas, son of Ralph Stathome, clerk." He had evidently been admitted when quite young to one of the minor clerical orders so that he might be inducted to some office of emolument. References to him will be found in Pat. Rolls, 11 Ric. ii; 20 Ric. iij, Coram Rege R. Trinity 2 Hen. vi; Pleas of Assize in various counties, 7 Hen. iv; Add. MSS., 6697; Coram Rege R. Trinity, 12 Hen. vi, m. 93; Feud. Hist. Derby, ii, 144. The last reference proves that both he and his brother William were present with the Cheshire Archers at the battle of Agincourt. His wife was Elizabeth, the only daughter, not widow, of Robert Lumley of Heyford and Harleston, co. Northants.

(*Baker's Northants.*, i, 105, 167). He had one son, John, and a daughter, Katherine, who married a del Hogh (*vid. Ormerod*, i, 552).

John de Stathum was seised of considerable property in co. Derby. See Feudal Aids, i, 293, 295; Lay Sub. R. $\frac{91}{73}$, 1450, and $\frac{91}{83}$, 11 Hen. vi. See also Coram Rege Roll, Trinity, 12 Hen. vi, m. 93. In 1453 he made an agreement with Thomas, prior of Breadsall Park, that in return for a gift of 7 marcs for the roofing of the priory church and for the glazing thereof, the convent should henceforward daily say a "secretum," a "collect" and a "post-communion" for the souls of Godith, Thomas, Elizabeth, Cecily and John, their heirs and successors for ever. Three collects are given and each one contains a petition for the delivery of the "Land of Promise" from "the power of the Pagans." The agreement was made in October 31, 1453, Constantinople having fallen in May of the same year (*Add. Ch.* 5243). It is of great interest to note that in Morley church an almost unique Requiem plate still exists over the piscina bearing the following inscription:—"Ffor the sowles of Ralph Godytha Thomas Elizabeth Cecill and John and of theyr successors and for all cristen sowles De Profundis etc: Pater noster etc: Ave Maria: et ne nos: requiem eternam etc: Domine exaudi oracionem: with yis orison Inclina domine etc: John Stathum ordynd yis to be said and more writen in other divers bokes." The "more writen in other divers bokes" undoubtedly refers to the prayers referred to above. His wife was Cicely one of the five children of Richard Cornwall, baron of Burford, who traced his descent direct from Richard, earl of Cornwall, second son of King John (*Harl.* xxviii, 145). He had, at least, four sons and one daughter, viz.: Thomas, Henry, Nicholas, John and Goditha.

Sir Thomas, kt., succeeded his father at Morley in 1453. He was twice married, but left no heir. Reference will be

found to him in Add. MSS. 6696, f. 75b; Pat. Roll, 13 Hen. vi; 15 Hen. vi; 9 Ed. iv. His will is to be found at Somerset House (Wattys). It was made in June, 1469, and proved on January 1, 1470. He refers to his brother: "John of the Hall" who was living at Lime (? Lymme). It is a lengthy but interesting document. Sir Henry, kt., succeeded to Morley on his brother's death. He is mentioned in Woll. Chrs. B.M. 4, 15. He was married three times, but left no male heir and the Morley property passed through his daughter, Joan, to the Sacheverells. His first wife was Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Bothe, knt., of Denham Massey, whose two brothers, Laurence and William, were both archbishops of York. His second was Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Giles St. Lowe of Mayton, co. Norfolk. He was attainted in 1460 (*Bloomfield, Hist. Norfolk*, v, 504, x, 419). His third wife was Margaret, youngest daughter of John Stanhope, kt., ancestor of the earls of Chesterfield. He survived all his brothers, dying in 1480.

Sir Nicholas, kt., is well known as the author of the earliest existing "Abridgment of Laws," published in 1495. He is constantly referred to in the Patent Rolls, and interesting information concerning him is also to be found in Ancient Deeds, A. 5767, 12183, and C. 950. I believe that he married Anne, daughter of Ralph Shirley, of Etendon. He had one child, a daughter, Ann. His will, made on July 15, 1472, was proved on August 5 of the same year (*S. House Wattys.*, vi, 52). It contains a bequest by which the image of the Virgin in Morley church was repainted, and also refers to "Dame Elizabeth," his brother John's wife. According to Stow a monument to him existed in the old church of S. James, Garlickhithe. He was certainly buried there.

Sir John, kt., was in the royal service and eventually received the grant of the castle and lordship of Horeston in Horsley, co. Derby. References to him will be found in

Add. MSS. 6697, f. 21 ; Derby. Charters, I. H. Jeayes, 2362 ; Pat. Rolls, 12 Hen. vi ; 22 Hen. vi. He died before his brother Nicholas, who, in his will, left £9 to John's children, and further contingent sums for the performance of his brother John's bequests. He had, by his wife Elizabeth, of whom nothing is known, four sons and a daughter, John, Roger, William, Henry and Joan.

The eldest son, John (*Woll. MSS.* ix, 42), married Johanna, daughter of Sir William Hastings, kt. In an Inq. P.M. (1 *Ric.* iii, f. 415, no. 32) it is stated that Bleasby manor with messuages and lands in Bleasby, Gourton and Gyppesmere were part of Sir William's estate, and as John and Johanna and their heirs enjoyed this property, it can only have come into their possession as Johanna's dowry. They were living in Bleasby as early as 1446 (Pat. Roll, 25 Hen. vi), and lived and died there in 1502 and post 1525 respectively. The Rev. H. L. Williams, a vicar of Bleasby, published in 1897, a short history of his parish. It contains an account of the discreditable behaviour of the vicar in 1502 to the "squire, Mr. John Statham and his wife," behaviour which ended in his losing his benefice. John Statham had four sons and three daughters, some of whom were born during the lifetime of their grandfather's brother, Sir Thomas. He leaves "Little Thomas" 2 marcs, and mentions one of the daughters, Lucy, in his will.

The eldest son, Henry (*Derby. Charters-Jeayes*, 525) succeeded his father at Bleasby and is the ancestor of the John Statham who was the last knight created by queen Anne. The Stathums of Liverpool and of Shottle and Belper are also descended from him. From his second son Thomas, descends the Leicestershire family, who kept up the connection with the Hastings (earls of Huntingdon) in two or three successive generations by acting as stewards at Ashby de la Zouche.

It has generally been supposed that the direct line from Sir Ralph de Stathum died out with the decease of Sir Henry in 1480. The wills of Sir Thomas of Morley (1469), and of Sir Nicholas of London (1472) prove beyond any doubt, however, that another brother, John, existed. That having been proved it was quite easy, by the aid of wills and other documents, to continue the line down to the present day.

The really weak points in this pedigree have already been noted, they are the connection between the Gilbert Fitz Richard and Gilbert de Lymme, and Simon de Stathum and Simon de Lymme. The absence of a Pipe Roll for Cheshire, however, and the destruction of the earlier records of the county by fire render all research extremely difficult. In submitting this *arbre généalogique* to the criticism of Derbyshire Antiquarians I hope that additional light and additional information may be forthcoming on the origin of what after all is an ancient if not an illustrious family.
