

Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

Horston Castle; its Governors from the 12th to the 16th centuries.

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THE remains of Horston castle are situated in the parish of Horsley about a mile south of Horsley church on a spur of rock some 200 feet above the Derby-Sheffield road and about 1,200 yards west of the old Roman Rykniel Street. These remains are fragmentary and consist of a wall of dressed stone which is part of the north face of the keep, and a small portion of the west wall of the keep. The north wall is divided into a centre part and two flanking parts. The centre part, 14 feet wide, consists of some seven courses sloping backwards slightly and is set back from the flanks. These flanking parts suggest corner towers which must have been fairly large as the total length of the north wall when complete would have been about 55 feet.

Within this north wall, which is 15 feet thick in places, is a chamber lined with dressed stone measuring 7 feet 8 inches by 7 feet and 6 feet deep. Various writers state that this is the well. With this I do not agree as the sinking of a shaft through the thick layer of millstone grit on which the keep stands must surely have been a feat beyond the scope of those early castle builders. It

was probably a store room for the valuables and money. A similar chamber to this was found during the excavation at the Roman military station at Brough.

There is a sheer drop from the west and south aspects, but a moat is visible on the north and east sides which is crossed by a built up pathway on the north side and a similar one to the south-east. Extensive quarrying in the immediate vicinity has rendered any conjecture as to the general lay-out of the castle well nigh impossible.

The castle was built for military purposes, but whether it was ever besieged or taken I do not know, neither do I know when it fell into disuetude except that it was probably before the civil war as I have failed to find any reference to it in that period when if it was standing it must surely have figured in some engagement or other. Its final destruction, however, came in 1760 when Kedleston Hall was re-built. It appears that the stone came from the castle quarry and would no doubt include much of the dressed stone of the castle itself. In getting the larger stones down local men formed a drag and were rewarded for their services with ale from Kedleston.¹

Throughout this paper I have, except where making actual quotations, used one spelling—Horston. There are, however, many other renderings, including Horeston, Horstan, Horestan. Harston, Hareston and Harestan, but I think it better to keep to the one most commonly found in the sources I have consulted. The name is derived from OE. *har-stan*, literally "hoar or grey stone," which survives as *hoarstone*, "boundary-stone." This place-name is found under various disguises in many counties. Hearthstone, near Matlock is a Derbyshire example. In the case of Horston castle the name has been corrupted by association with the name of the parish, Horsley, in which it is situated, which has quite a different etymology, i.e. OE. *horsalēāh*, "the horse clearing."

¹ Kerry MSS.

CONSTABLES, KEEPERS OR CUSTODIANS, ETC.
OF HORSTON CASTLE.

Hugh de Buron.	temp. Stephen.
William Briwer.	ante 19 Feb. 1204.
Samson de Strelley.	19 Feb. 1204—21 Apl. 1205.
Brian Hostrai.	21 Apl. 1205—? May 1205.
Robt. de Muscans.	ante 19 May 1205—?.
Brian de Insula.	?—17 May 1215.
William Earl of Ferrars.	17 May 1215—ante 1224.
Ralph son of Nicholas.	? 1224—1 May 1236.
Hugh son of Ralph.	1 May 1236—Easter 1239.
William de Cantilupe.	1 June 1239—after 24 Apl. 1246.
Robert le Vavasour.	? 1246—ante 1252.
Peter de Montfort.	?—29 Nov. 1252.
Ralph son of Nicholas.	29 Nov. 1252—20 June 1255.
Roger de Luvetot	20 June 1255—Michaelmas 1255.
Hugh le Despencer.	Michaelmas 1255—20 June 1262.
Geoffrey de Childewick.	20 Jan. 1262—? 1264.
John de Grey.	ante 20 Apl. 1264—? 1266.
Gerard de Fanacurt.	12 Nov. 1266—ante 1275.
Hugh de Babington.	Relinquished 27 Apl. 1275.
Walter de Stirkesle.	27 Apl. 1275—10 Nov. 1275.
Thomas de Normanville	10 Nov. 1275—27 July 1282.
William Bagot.	27 July 1282—? Oct. 1290.
Richard Foliot.	27 Oct. 1290—? 1300.
Ralph de Shirley.	holding 23 June 1301—? 1302.
Ralph Pypard.	13 Nov. 1302—? 1304.
Hugh de Nottingham.	holding 10 Oct. 1304—? 1305.
John de Chandos.	1305—1311.
Robert de Malo Lacu.	1st term 11 Apl. 1311—15 Mar. 1322.
Ronald de Richemund.	15 Mar. 1322—13 May 1322.
Robert de Malo Lacu.	2nd term 13 May 1322—? Dec. 1323.
Nicholas de Hungerford.	?—17 Dec. 1323.
John de Denum.	17 Dec. 1323—? 1331.

Edward de Chandos.	11 Jan. 1331—? 1345.
Robert Chandos.	23 Oct. 1345—? Nov. 1347.
Henry of Lancaster.	10 Nov. 1347—13 May 1361
Edward de Twyford.	holding 10 May 1363—1375-76.
Robert de Swylyngton.	1 Dec. 1376—ante 11 July 1391.
Roger Crophull.	11 July 1391—29 Sept. 1391.
John de Holland Earl of Huntingdon.	29 Sept. 1391—? 1399.
John Curzon.	18 Jan. 1400—? June 1405.
Richard Grey.	6 June 1405—? 1419.
Philip Leche.	?—ante Aug. 1420.
Richard Hastynges.	2 Aug. 1420—? 1431.
Henry Beaumont.	8 Nov. 1436—?.
John Statham and John his son.	1st term 4 Dec. 1439—24 Oct. 1443.
William Goureyley.	24 Oct. 1443—? 9 Sept. 1448.
John Statham and John his son.	2nd term 9 Sept. 1448—? 24 July 1453.
Edmund E. of Richmond.	{ 24 July 1453—obit. 1456.
Jaspar E. of Pembroke.	{ do.—? ante 1456.
John Lynton.	{ Michaelmas 1461—? 1473.
John Birde.	
Henry Pierpoint. <i>Steward.</i>	25 Jan. 1462—? 1489.
William Nevill E. of Kent.	1 Aug. 1462—9 Jan. 1463.
George D. of Clarence.	25 Jan. 1463—? 1478.
John Durant, <i>Auditor.</i>	13 Jan. 1474.
Thomas Byngham, <i>Receiver.</i>	22 Apl. 1474—? 1477.
Gervase Clyfton, <i>Receiver.</i>	28 Feb. 1477.
Thomas Lovel, <i>Steward.</i>	31 Mar. 1489—1 July 1519.
Thomas Lovel } „	7 July 1519—25 May 1524.
Thomas Lord Ross } „	7 July 1519—?.
John Aglond, <i>Bailiff.</i>	20 Hy. VII 1505—? 1515.

John Thompson. <i>Receiver.</i>	?—obit holding before 14 Apl. 1511.
William Keby, <i>Receiver.</i>	14 Apl. 1511—in office 1520.
Thomas E. of Surrey and Duke of Norfolk.	1 Feb. 1514—obit 21 May 1524.
Richard Hopkins, <i>Bailiff of Horsley.</i>	22 July 1515—10 April 1522.
Thomas Garton, <i>Bailiff</i> <i>of Horsley.</i>	Granted reversion 10 Apl. 1522 —?.
George E. of Shrews- bury, <i>Steward.</i>	27 May 1524—obit. 1538.
Thomas Grey } John Bukby } <i>Bailiff of</i> <i>Horsley.</i>	12 Dec. 1530—?.
Thomas E. of Rutland, <i>Steward.</i>	obit. holding before 28 May 1544.
Sir Richard Southwell. <i>Steward.</i>	28 May 1544—? 1547.
Henry E. of Rutland, <i>Steward.</i>	11 July 1547.

HUGH DE BURON. Temp. Stephen.

In Letters Patent (of Edward III) dated 20 March 1337, confirming the impropriation of Horsley church to the Cluniac Priory of Lenton, mention is made that the church was originally given to the Priory by Hugh de Buron during the reign of Stephen (1135-54). This Hugh de Buron is described as "sometime lord of the castle of Horestone." This is the first mention of a castle at Horston, and whether it was founded in the Conqueror's reign to enforce law and order or was one of the adulterine or unlicensed castles of the barons put up in Stephen's reign we do not know. These early Norman castles consisted of a raised mound or motte surrounded by a ditch and a larger outer court or bailey also protected by a ditch with a bridge communicating with the motte. Both the motte and the bailey were

protected by wooden ramparts with lean-to buildings erected against the outer fencing. We need say little of the internal economy, suffice it to add that these castles were erected to stand long periods of siege if necessary.

Hugh de Buron was the son of the Ralph de Buron who held the manor of Horsley at the time of the Domesday survey. Hugh had two sons, the elder of whom entered Lenton Priory as a monk. The younger, Roger, succeeded to the barony in 1155, and his daughter Aelina (or Aeliva) married Peter de Sandiacre the elder, and brought him the mills of Copecastel in Derby as her marriage portion.¹ Roger died in or before 1198, for in that year Peter de Sandiacre's name occurs in the Pipe Rolls among the New Oblations as rendering account of £100 "for having seisin of Horsley which he says is of his inheritance together with the service of six knights." He paid into the Treasury 100 marks, leaving 50 marks owing. Peter did not hold Horsley long, for in John's reign he exchanged it with the king for the manor of Litchurch in the borough of Derby.² This exchange took place prior to 19 Feb. 1204, when sheriff William Brewer was ordered to deliver to Samson de Stradleigh (Strelley) the manor of Horsley, and he was to retain it as long as he held the castle.³

This exchange is referred to in the Assize Rolls of 1281. We learn that in that year Robert de Dethek held "13 bovates of land in Lutelchurch (Litchurch) which Peter de Sandiacre held of King John in chief." Robert stated that Peter de Sandiacre held Horston castle "of the ancestors of Baldwin Wake" and that he, i.e. Peter, exchanged the castle with the king for the 13 bovates in Litchurch.⁴ This ancestor of Baldwin Wake must have been William Briwere whose daughter Isobel married a

¹ *Darley Cart.*

² *Pipe Rolls.*

³ *Rot. Lib.*

⁴ Assize Rolls P.R.O. extracted by Mr. C. E. Lugard, 1938.

Baldwin Wake who was probably the grandfather of the Baldwin living in 1281. Briwere's only son, also William, died childless in or before February 1233, and part of his estates went to his nephew, Hugh Wake son of Baldwin I.¹ It appears that after the death of Peter de Sandiacre, Richard, his heir, sold of the manor of Litchurch 3 bovates to Will. de Dicheforde and 13 bovates to John of Henoure which Geoffrey de Dethic held in 1275.² After his death, c. 1279, this land went to his brother Robert.

WILLIAM BRIWERE OR BREWER. ante 19 Feb. 1204.

William Briwere was governor in 1204, but for how long we do not know. In 1204 he was ordered to hand over his charge to Samson Stradleigh (Strelley).³ Brewer was an eminent man of his times. He was sheriff of Devonshire in Henry II's reign and a justice itinerant in 1187. Henry's successor Richard likewise placed great trust in him, for when he left England in 1189 Briwere was one of four justices to whom the safety of the country was committed. Later he became sheriff of Devonshire and Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and the joint counties of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.⁴ His shrievalty of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire was from 1194-1200, and he again served in 1203 with a deputy, William de Leche, acting for him.

Briwere was made a baron by John, succeeding to the barony which Roger de Buron had held, although according to the Darley Abbey Cartulary one Seher de Speut held part or whole of Roger's barony after the latter's death. This charter confirms to the canons by Seher de Speut all the gifts of Roger de Buron "his predecessor" in Horsley and Kilburn⁵, Briwere apparently would follow Speut. His influence and wealth grew, and although on the side of John he was a signatory of the

¹ *Book of Fees.*

² Kerry MSS. quoting Rotuli Hundredorum.

³ *Rot. Lit. Pat.*

⁴ *D.N.B.*

⁵ *Darley Cart.*

Magna Charta. He assisted at the coronation of Henry III, and was present at the dedication of Worcester Cathedral when he presented a chalice of four marks weight. He was founder of Torre Abbey of Premonstratensian Canons in 1196 and also of Dunkeswell where he was buried in 1226.¹

During the first few years of John's reign there was much expenditure on Horston castle, and I think it fair to assume that in this period the wooden ramparts gave way to stone walls, remains of which are still to be seen. At Michaelmas 1200 expenditure was authorised of £48. 10s. 2d. on the castle by the view of William de Grendon clerk, Samson de Stradleia and Ralf de Welleboef and Peter son of William. By the same royal writ and by the view of Samson de Stradleia a further expenditure of £125 was allowed.² Next year, in 3 John, the very large sum of £246 was spent on the castle,³ whilst in 1205 the sheriff of Nottingham and Derby, Robert de Veteri Ponte was ordered to account to the Exchequer for the sum he had expended by view of Brian Hostrarii, or Brian the Usher, and other lawful men "in crenelating our tower of Harestan."⁴ No sum is mentioned.

SAMSON DE STRELLEY. 19 Feb. 1204—21 April 1205.

Samson de Strelley took over the custody of the castle on 19 Feb. 1204 from William Briwere and was in charge until 21 April 1205, when he was ordered to deliver the castle together with the township of Horsley to Brian Hostrai.⁵ To his lot fell the task of entertaining King John on his first visit to Horston castle. John had stayed the night of Sunday, 22nd August 1204 at Burton Abbey, and on the Monday made his way to Horston where he stayed one night only, for he slept on Monday

¹ *D.N.B.*

² *Pipe Rolls.*

³ *Rot. Can.*, 3 Jno.

⁴ *Rot. Lit. Claus.*

⁵ *Rot. Lit. Pat.*

night at Nottingham.¹ The king's visit might well have been to inspect improvements that had been effected during the preceding four or five years.

Samson de Strelley was the son of Walter de Stradlegh (Strelley) and Isilia de Moiz. In 6 Richard I he paid a fine of 43/6 levied on his lands in Nottinghamshire, and in 10 Richard I he obtained seisin of his father's lands, forfeited because of his, i.e. his father's, allegiance to earl John probably when John took the castles of Nottingham and Tickhill whilst the king was in the Holy Land in 1190. In 4 John, Samson held one knight's fee of the Honour of Peveril for which he paid scutage. He died in 1208.²

BRIAN HOSTRAI or OSTIARIUS. 21 April 1205—? May 1205.

Brian as we have seen succeeded Samson de Strelley on 21 April 1205, when he was given the custody of the castle with appurtenances "for as long as it shall please us."³ He gave as pledges for the good custody of the castle Robert de Veteri Ponte sheriff, John de Bessingburg, Hugh Crassus and Peter de Stoke.⁴

Brian apparently only had a short tenure of office for in the Pipe Roll of 6 John, among the New Oblations, is an entry that Robert de Muscans accounts for 15 marks that he may be relieved of the custody of the castle. John's sixth regnal year ran from 3 June 1204 until 18 May 1205, and, as we have seen, Samson de Strelley's immediate successor was Brian, the supercession of the latter by Robert de Muscans must have occurred between 21 April and 18 May 1205, so that neither Brian nor Robert governed for long.

ROBERT DE MUSCANS. ante 19 May 1205.

Robert's tenure was a short one, but we do not know who was his successor for we do not find mention of another governor until 1215, when Brian de Insula was custodian.

¹ *Rot. Lit. Pat.*

² Kerry, *DAJ.* v.

³ *Rot. Lit. Pat.*

⁴ *Rot. Finibus.*

Although there is no mention of a custodian between 1205 and 1215, there are a few references to the castle that are of some interest. On 28 September 1205 the king ordered the Barons of the Exchequer to refund to "our beloved and faithful R. de Veteri Ponte" the sum he had spent in the carriage of 40 tuns of wine from the port of Bristol to Nottingham, and the further expense of conveying 1 tun from Nottingham to Lichfield, 2 tuns from Nottingham to Melbourne and 1 tun from Nottingham to Horston.¹ Some two years later there was more wine sent to Horston, for on 12 October 1207 John ordered the Barons of the Exchequer to pay William de Cornhull, Archdeacon of Huntingdon, for 48 tuns of wine at 2 marks each, and 6 tuns at 3 marks each bought at St. Botolphs "for our use." Also to pay the Archdeacon for 15 tuns also bought for "our use." and of which 4 tuns were sent to Horston, 3 to Clipston and 3 to Melbourne.²

John spent another night at Horston on Monday, 4 May 1209, having stayed the previous night at Derby.³

The spiritual as well as the spirituous needs of the inhabitants of the castle were catered for, as on 30 May 1207 the royal mandate ordered the sheriff to pay the chaplain "who serves our chapel of Harestan" 50 shillings stipend. This mandate issued from Newark was witnessed by Robert de Veteri Ponte.⁴ The chaplain also had his vestments provided, as in 1215 the sheriff was ordered to provide these.⁵ The chaplain's stipend in 1250 was still 50 shillings, as the sheriff of that year was ordered to provide a chaplain to celebrate divine service "in the king's castle of Harestan."⁶

BRIAN DE INSULA. Relinquished 17 May 1215.

The first mention we have of Brian de Insula, in connection with Horston, is in the Pipe Roll of 11 John. Here

¹ *Rot. Lit. Claus.*

² *Ibid.*

³ *Rot. Lit. Pat.*

⁴ *Rot. Lit. Claus.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Cal. Close Rolls.*

Brian accounts for the sum of £134. os. 5d. expended on work at Horston and Bolsover castles by the view of William le Vavasur, Robert de Barncote, John filius Adam and Rann Camerarii.¹ How long Brian held the castle we do not know, but he relinquished his office on 17 May 1215, when he was ordered to deliver the castle over to William earl of Ferrars.² He was a man of some importance and was bailiff of Peak Forest 1222-1228, succeeding in that office William earl Ferrars who was bailiff 1216-1222. He was later made a Justice of Forests and was succeeded in the bailiffship by Robert de Laxton.³

WILLIAM, EARL OF FERRARS. 17 May 1215—ante 1224.

William was fourth Earl of Ferrars and succeeded his father in the earldom in 1191. He was granted Horston castle on 17 May 1215, wherein to place his wife for safety during his absence with the king on an intended crusade. Trouble with the barons prevented their going, and William, acting for the king, captured the castles of Peak and Bolsover and was made their governor.⁴ Thus he held the four strongholds of Derbyshire, Duffield (built by his great-great-grandfather), Horston, Peak and Bolsover.

The choice of Horston for the safe keeping of his wife, Agnes, daughter of Hugh Keveliok, when he already held Duffield, is interesting. It may have been that either Horston was a safer haven of retreat than Duffield, or that it was better appointed for the accommodation of a lady and her suite.

I have not been able to determine the length of William's tenure, and the next governor on the list, Ralph, son of Nicholas, was in occupation on 8 Nov. 1230, but the date of his appointment is not known.⁵

John died 19 October 1216 and was succeeded by his

¹ *Pipe Rolls*, 11 John.

Rot. Lit. Pat.

³ *D.A.J.*, n.s. 2.

⁴ *D.A.J.* x.

⁵ *Cal. Close Rolls.*

infant son Henry III, who, on 24 July 1217, informed the verderers and foresters of the forest of Harestan that he had committed the forest to "our beloved and faithful Robert de Ferrars" with all its appurtenances, to be kept at the royal pleasure. The foresters were ordered to be attentive in all things and answerable to Robert. The letters patent were sealed with the seal of Earl W. the Marshall (William of Pembroke), regent "of us and our realm because we have not yet a seal."¹ This is the only mention I have found of a forest of Harestan and the identity of Robert de Ferrars is not clear, but it is possible that he was a younger brother of William the fourth earl.

RALPH, SON OF NICHOLAS. ? 1224—1 May 1236.

Ralph was appointed sheriff of the joint counties in 1224, and it is probable by virtue of that office that he was custodian of both Nottingham and Horston castles. He had certainly had the keeping of the castles prior to 8 November 1230 for on that date he was granted the profits of the joint counties and the royal manors, "which were accustomed to be in the hands of the sheriffs," provided he rendered 50 marks to the Exchequer of these profits.²

If not during his custodianship it was certainly during his term of sheriff that Henry III, on 23rd July 1226, issued an order to the reeve of Derby that he was to take no toll of the men of Horston who bought goods in the Derby market for their own use or who sold goods in the market.³

Ralph was sheriff from 1224 until 1236. He had as deputies Hugh le Bell 1227-34, and William de Derley 1234-36. He must have been a busy man for he combined these offices with that of steward to William Earl of Ferrars.⁴

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Cal. Close Rolls.*

³ *Rot. Lit. Claus.*

⁴ Cox, *Three Centuries of Derby Annals.*

For a very full account of Ralph and the offices he held the reader is referred to the paper by the Rev. S. P. H. Statham in *D.A.J.*, vol. xi, n.s., pp. 60-62.

HUGH, SON OF RALPH. 1 May 1236—Easter 1239.

Hugh was given the custody of the counties of Nottingham and Derby, and the king's castles of Nottingham and Horston on 1 May 1236, when Ralph son of Nicholas was ordered to hand these over to him.¹ The relationship, if any, between Hugh and Ralph I have been unable to discover. Hugh received from the crown the sum of 80 marks for the keeping of the joint counties and the two castles of Nottingham and Horston for the year ending Michaelmas 1238.² On 19 February 1239 the king authorised payment to Hugh of 40 marks for the half year from Michaelmas 1238 to Easter 1239 (Easter Day 1239 being 27 March) in respect of the two counties and two castles which seems to show that his tenure of these offices expired on that date.³

Some repairs were necessary in 23 Henry III for Ralph accounted for the expenditure of £4. 5s. 4d. on repairing the gate of Horston castle and the pale of Nottingham castle "by the view and testimony of William Brien and Henry Talliatoris."⁴

Hugh was lord of Bilborough and Shipley where he had his seat and had as joint sheriff during the latter part of his tenure, Robert le Vavasour.⁵

WILLIAM DE CANTILUPE. 11 June 1239—after 24 April 1246.

William was evidently made sheriff and castle keeper of Nottingham and Horston on St. Barnabas' day (11 June) 1239, as on 18 Jan. 1240 for these offices he was allowed 50 marks from the former date until Christmas 1239, the yearly rate being 100 marks.⁶ As Hugh son of Ralph's shrievalty expired at Easter 1239 there seems to be a gap

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Cal. Lib. Rolls.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Pipe Rolls.*

⁵ Cox, *Three Centuries of Derb. Annals.*

⁶ *Cal. Rot. Lib.*

of some two and a half months, when either Hugh's deputy, Robert le Vavasour, or the new sheriff, Arnold de Bosco, may have acted as custodian of the two castles. Arnold de Bosco was sheriff only from Easter to Midsummer 1239.

During this gap on 19 April 1239 the sheriff was ordered to have the gate of Horston castle and the palisade of Nottingham castle repaired.¹ A little later on 27 July 1239 William de Cantilupe as sheriff was ordered to have the houses of the castles of Nottingham and Horston repaired.²

William de Cantilupe was the second baron, succeeding his father the first baron. In 1238 he was with others made guardian of the royal seal, and during Henry III's absence abroad in 1242 and 1244 was one of the messengers sent by the king to the prelates to ask for a subsidy. He died 22 February 1251 and his widow Millicent tended Margaret, Queen of Scotland, on her marriage.³

William was sheriff the second half of 1239 and for the first quarter of 1240 with Baldwin de Paunton as his deputy, who, in his turn, was sheriff from March 1240 until 1246. He was still governor of the castles of Nottingham and Horston on 24 April 1246; as the sheriff, Robert le Vavasour, was that day ordered to pay him 50 marks yearly out of the issue of the counties as wages for the safe keeping of the castles, one half to be paid at the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the other half at Christmas.⁴

Further repairs were necessary at Horston in 1246 whilst Robert le Vavasour was sheriff, but whether or not William de Cantilupe was still constable I do not know. These repairs were somewhat extensive as they embraced repairs to the fence, bridge, buildings, gate and hall "of the king's castle of Harestan."⁵

¹ *Cal. Lib. Rolls.*

⁴ *Cal. Rot. Lib.*

² *Cal. Rot. Lib.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

³ *D.N.B.*

On 12 February 1247 the sheriff was ordered to repair the barbican, buildings and gutters of Horston castle, and also to provide a chaplain to celebrate divine service in the castle chapel, who was to have "his liveries of fifty shillings yearly."¹ On 7 April following Robert de Ros, justice of the forest, was ordered to allow the sheriff to have as much timber (oak) as was necessary, from Sherwood Forest, to carry out these repairs.² Further repairs were ordered on 6 November 1250, when the sheriff was ordered to repair and amend the king's buildings and the bridge of "his castle of La Harestan," the cost to be credited by the view and testimony of lawful men.³

ROBERT LE VAVASOUR. ? 1246—? ante 1252.

Robert was sheriff from 16 April 1246 until 11 May 1255; and by virtue of that office was constable of Horston for at least a part of that time. I have found no contemporary record of his appointment or supercession as castle keeper, but in the *Cal. Pat. Rolls* of 54 Henry III, 18 October 1270, there is a pardon, in consideration of £60 paid into the Exchequer, granted to Elizabeth and Annora, daughters and heirs of William le Vavasour, in respect of the debts due to the king by their grandfather Robert le Vavasour. Robert is described as sheriff of the counties of Nottingham and Derby, constable of the castles of Nottingham, Horston and Bolsover, subescheator in the joint counties and keeper of the king's demesnes, vaccaries and stock, and it was in the accounts of these charges that he was in arrears at the time of his death⁴.

Robert acted as joint sheriff with Hugh son of Ralph 1236-1239.

PETER DE MONTFORT. Vacated 29 Nov. 1252.

I have been unable to determine how long Peter had

¹ *Cal. Lib. Rolls.*

² *Cal. Close Rolls.*

³ *Cal. Lib. Rolls.*

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

held Horston castle prior to 29 November 1252, when he was ordered to hand over to Ralph son of Nicholas.¹

RALPH, SON OF NICHOLAS. 29 November 1252—20 June 1255.

There seems little doubt that this is the same Ralph who held the castle in 1230 and was sheriff 1224-1236. Ralph took over the castle for the second time from Peter de Montfort, and held it until 20 June 1255, when he surrendered it in exchange for the corpus of the castle of Nottingham with the hay of Beskwode, saving to the king the mills, meadows, and other appurtenances of the castle (i.e. Nottingham) without the walls. These the sheriff, Roger de Luvetot, was ordered to deliver to the keeping of six good men of Nottingham, who were to be answerable for the issues of the same to the Exchequer until further notice.²

ROGER DE LUVETOT. 20 June 1255—Michaelmas 1255.

Roger de Luvetot was sheriff of the joint counties for three and a half years from May 1255 to Oct. 1258, when he was succeeded by Simon de Hedon. As we have seen before, Ralph son of Nicholas was granted the castle Nottingham on 20 June 1255,³ and Roger was the same day granted the custody of Horston "as long as he shall be sheriff."⁴ Although Roger continued sheriff until 1258 he was, on 7 November 1255, ordered to hand over the castle and manor of Horston to Hugh le Despencer as from the Michaelmas previous.⁵

HUGH LE DESPENCER. Michaelmas 1255—20 June 1262.

The first mention in history that we have of Hugh occurs in the Patent Rolls of 40 Henry III. On 7 November 1255 a mandate was issued to the sheriff (Roger de Luvetot) to deliver the castle and manor of Horston to Hugh. He was granted them as from the previous Michaelmas for a period of five years and was to render

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.*

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

to the Exchequer £15 a year out of the manor, but was to keep the manor at his own cost.¹ In 1258 he was one of the twelve representatives elected by the barons to represent them at the Parliament of Oxford, and by the "Provisions of Oxford" was one of the twelve commissioners of the barons in Parliament, and, at the same time, his appointment to Horston was confirmed. In 1260 he was a justice itinerant for three counties, and in October of that year succeeded Hugh Bigod as justiciary of the barons. His name occurs in the Fine Rolls as a justiciary in March and June 1261. On the king regaining some of his lost power Hugh's father-in-law, Sir Philip Basset, was appointed a justiciary on 24 April 1261, and both acted jointly for a year until Sir Philip was made sole justiciary. On 15 July 1263 Hugh was re-appointed and was also made custodian of the Tower of London. He fought with distinction for the barons at Lewes 13 May 1264, when he captured his father-in-law, and, as a reward, was made governor of six castles, including Oxford, Nottingham and Devizes. Later he was an arbiter between the king and the barons and then fell fighting at the battle of Evesham in 1265. His widow, Aliva, married Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk and marshal of England. His grandson, also Hugh was the ill-fated favourite of Edward II.²

Hugh's tenure of Horston was seemingly prolonged from the original term of five years, for it was not until 20 June 1262 that he was ordered to deliver Horston castle to Geoffrey de Childewick.³

GEOFFREY DE CHILDEWICK. 20 June 1262—? 1264.

The solitary fact that I have been able to ascertain about Geoffrey de Childewick is that he was appointed to the castle of Haverstan—obviously a mis-spelling of Harestan—on 20 June 1262 when his predecessor

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *D.N.B.*

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

Hugh le Despencer was ordered to hand over to him.¹ His tenure was a short one—two years at the most—for the next castellan on our list is John de Grey, appointed before 20 April 1264, and it is possible that there may have been another appointment between Geoffrey and John.²

JOHN DE GREY. ante 20 April 1264—? 1266.

John was the second son of Henry de Grey, first baron Grey of Codnor, and must have possessed more than ordinary ability, for in 23 Henry III he was made sheriff of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire, and seven years later was custodian of Gannoc castle in North Wales and justice of Chester. In year 35 Henry III he incurred the royal displeasure for marrying without the royal license Johanna, widow of Paulinus Peiure, and was fined 500 marks and removed from his constablership of Gannoc. He went on a crusade in 1252, and on his return the following year he rehabilitated himself in the king's favour and was forgiven his fine, and also made governor of the castles of Northampton, Shrewsbury and Dover. In 1260 he was made a justice in eyre in Somerset, Dorset and Devon, and on 9 July 1261 he became sheriff of Hereford and governor of Hereford castle.³

John was made custodian of the castles of Nottingham, Bolsover and Horston a short time before 20 April 1264, for on that date in a royal mandate he is mentioned as having been lately committed to these offices.⁴ This mandate was to order him to "munition with victuals" the castles owing to the troubled state of the realm. John was to be allowed his expenses by the view of lawful men and the victuals were to remain the king's property unless used in whole or part should a war break out.⁵ War did break out and Henry III was defeated at Lewes on 13 May 1264 by the barons under the leadership of Simon de Montfort. It does not appear, however,

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Ibid.*

³ *D.N.B.*

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

that Horston suffered any siege. It is probable, of course, that John de Grey was dismissed the governorships and a follower of Simon de Montfort installed in his stead. On 18 July 1264 there was the "committment during pleasure, by the counsel of the King's Barons" to William son of Herbert to the office of sheriff of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire with a mandate to the tenants of Horston castle to be intendant to him.¹ Thus it would seem that he would be governor by virtue of his office of sheriff.

Simon de Montfort's power was, however, short lived and many of his powerful barons deserted to the king, and in a last vain resort to arms he was slain at the Battle of Evesham (4 August 1265).

John was sheriff on 14 April 1264 although he did not account, and on 18 July William son of Herbert was appointed, whilst John was still in possession.² William acted until 8 August 1265 when, after Evesham, John was re-appointed although he did not account. After Evesham the king apparently ruled more constitutionally, and on 20 August 1266, when Reginald de Grey, probably the son of John, was sheriff, he made a grant in frank almain for the saving of his soul and the souls of his ancestors and heirs to the brethren of the hermitage of Bridesdale (Breadsall) of a messuage and 20 acres of land in Horsley and Horston provided they rendered yearly half a mark to the bailiff of the manor of Horston.³

John de Grey married Emma daughter and heiress of Geoffrey de Glanville, by whom he had a daughter and a son, Reginald who became first baron de Grey. John died in 1266.⁴

GERARD DE FANACURT. 12 November 1266—ante 1275.

By Letters Patent, dated Kenilworth 12 Nov. 1266, Gerard was given a grant for life of Horston castle on condition that he fortify it at his own cost and render £15 yearly to the Exchequer. He was further charged that he

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *D.N.B.*

make no sale, destruction or waste of the woods, men, houses, lands and rents, but was allowed his estover in the said woods. A month later his appointment was confirmed and Richard de Clifford, king's clerk, escheator of the king's lands north of the Trent was ordered to deliver the castle to him.¹

The stipulation that Gerard was to make no waste or destruction may have been occasioned by the action of the king's sub-escheator Nicholas le Breton in making waste and destruction in the king's woods at Horston to the extent of £13 in the year 1266. We get this information from the Assize Rolls of 1281, when Nicholas was ordered to appear at Lincoln to answer this 15 years old charge.²

Gerard, in 1269, figured in a lawsuit which gives us information both of local and national interest. He was accused by Henry de la Grene of Horsley of enclosing 2 acres of common pasture. He did not appear to answer the charge, but his bailiff stated that the assize ought not to have been brought because the manor of Horsley was the king's ancient demesne, and also because the enclosure was begun before Gerard had been demised the farm for life. The bailiff further stated that it was lawful for the lord to enclose waste land provided sufficient pasture remained for the other tenants. Henry de la Grene lost his case as he had sufficient pasture for his beasts for all the year.³ In talking about the feudal system many people have the idea that the lord was omnipotent and could do exactly as he liked with his lands and tenants. This case shows how erroneous such an idea is, and indicates that even the king himself or his deputy could not enclose waste land unless sufficient remained for common pasture, and also shows that the

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Assize Rolls, P.R.O.* extracted by Mr. C. E. Lugard, 1938.

³ *Assize Rolls, P.R.O.*, extracted by Mr. C. E. Lugard, 1937.

lesser tenants had the right of appeal to the king's travelling justices in instances of alleged wrongful enclosure.

Gerard's holding of both the castle and the manor of Horsley is of interest, as is also Henry's name "of the green."

The further unity of the manor of Horsley and the castle of Horston is shown by the tallage assessed in 1268 when "Harstan cum Horsle" was assessed at 8 marks. The assessment was made by Lord John de Reygate, escheator of the king's lands beyond the Trent, and Walter de Stokes. Other assessments were the township of Derby at 50 marks and the township of Billesovers (Bolsover) at 12 marks. A few years previous, 1260-1, Harestan with soc was tallaged at £4.¹

HUGH DE BABINGTON. Relinquished 27 April 1275.

Hugh de Babington was undersheriff to Walter Gifford, Archbishop of York, from midsummer 1271 to the following March, and it is possible that part of his duties entailed the custodianship of Horston. He was made sheriff on his own account in March 1272, and probably held that office until Oct. 1274 when Walter de Stirkesle was appointed. Hugh was, on 27 April 1275, ordered to hand over to Walter de Stirkesle the castle of Horston and the soke of Horsley.²

WALTER DE STIRKESLE. 27 April 1275—10 November 1275.

The tenure of Walter was a short one, for on 10 November 1275 he was ordered to deliver the castle to his successor Thomas de Normanville.³ He was sheriff of the joint counties 1274-78, and it was in that capacity that he was ordered to hand to Thomas de Normanville the castles of Bolsover and Horston and the hundreds of Wirksworth and Ashbourne with the receipts as from the previous Michaelmas.⁴ It was during his short occupancy

¹ *Cal. Close Rolls.*

² *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

of Horston that the king, Edward I, granted various towns and castles to his queen (Eleanor of Castile), including Horston. It appears that at the time of his espousal in 1254 he granted to her by charter many castles including Tykenhull and Staunford and also many towns; but now, in 1275, "for the avoidance of disputes," he now gave to her among many the castles and towns of Bristol and Odiham, the towns of Bedford and Derby and the castle of Horston with the town.¹

THOMAS DE NORMANVILLE. 10 November 1275—27 July 1282.

Thomas was son of Ralph de Normanville of Empingham, Rutland, who died in 1259, when his son was but three years old. The family were a branch of the Bassets of Normandy and are found in possession of the manor of Empingham in William the Conqueror's time.² He must have been a precocious youth, for as we have seen he was granted Bolsover and Horston castles and the manors of Wirksworth and Ashbourne on 10 November 1275—before he was twenty years of age. But this is not all, for on the same day he was made steward of all the king's castles, lands, etc. of Northumberland, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.³ In 1276 he is mentioned as seneschal and king's escheator beyond the Trent, and in 1279 he arbitrated in a dispute between King Alexander of Scotland and the Bishop of Durham. In 1286 he was made a justice in eyre for forest pleas in Nottinghamshire and Lancashire, and two years later was summoned to a council held at Westminster 13 October 1288. He died in 1292 possessed of many estates in Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. He had married Dionysia who brought him as dowry one-third of the manor of Kenardington in Kent, and by her had a son Edmund who died without issue, and a daughter Margaret, his heiress, who married William Basing.⁴

¹ *Cal. Charter Rolls.*

² *D.N.B.*

³ *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

⁴ *D.N.B.*

During Thomas' constableness the affairs of two tenants of Horston provide an interesting little sidelight. On 5 November 1279 the king granted to William Nurry and his heirs a messuage and 31 acres at a rent of 13/4 a year, which had been in the occupation of Richard de Glandres at a rent of 9/- a year until he was hanged for committing a felony. What the felony was is not mentioned.¹

WILLIAM BAGOT. 27 July 1282—? Oct. 1290.

Edward I, on 27 July 1282, issued a mandate to Thomas de Normanville to deliver to William Bagot the castle of Horston with its armour. The appointment of William Bagot was of course during the royal pleasure, and he was also granted reasonable estover in the castle woods.² I have been unable to discover the length of Bagot's tenure.

RICHARD FOLIOT. 27 Oct. 1290—? 1300.

Thomas de Normanville was still evidently the king's escheator beyond the Trent in 1290, for on 27 October of that year he was ordered to deliver the castle of Horston to Richard Foliot, who was to hold it for life.³ A few days after his appointment Richard was, on 7 November 1290, ordered to allow as the king's gift 120 oak trees "fit for timber" out of the king's woods to John de Langeton, clerk.⁴ The close connection between the royal manor of Horsley and Horston castle is aptly seen by the grant on 24 March 1291 to Richard Foliot of a weekly market and annual fair at Horsley. The weekly market was granted for Thursday and the annual fair on the eve, day (8 Sept.) and morrow of the Nativity of St. Mary.⁵ Now this makes interesting reading, but it is not the first instance of a grant of a market and fair at Horsley. On 8 September 1267 Henry III informed the sheriff, Reginald de Grey, that he wished a weekly market

¹ *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

⁴ *Cal. Close Rolls.*

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

³ *Ibid.*

to be held on a Thursday and a yearly fair of three days on the vigil the day and the morrow of St. Peter ad Vincula (1 August), together with all liberties and free customs appertaining to such a market and fair, to be held in the royal manor of Horsley.¹

Richard died in or before 1300, for Geoffrey de Sandiacre was granted, during the king's pleasure, as from 28 April 1300, half of the farm of the castle of Horston with appurtenances which "Richard Foliot, deceased, held by the king's grant for life." For this grant Geoffrey rendered £10.²

RALPH DE SHIRLEY. Holding 23 June 1301.

Of his tenure I have found nothing beyond the following. On 23 June 1301 the keeper of the royal woods at Horston was ordered to allow to Ralph de Shirley, constable of Horston castle, twelve oak trees "fit for timber" to be used in repairs to the houses within the castle.³

Ralph was sheriff of the joint counties from April 1298 until April 1300. Ricardus de Furneaux was sheriff for the next twelve months, when Ralph was again appointed and held the office from April 1301 until April 1303.

RALPH PYPARD. 13 Nov. 1302—? 1304.

Ralph was granted for life the castle of Horston at £20 yearly on 23 November 1302. He was also granted the town and castle of Bolsover at 80 marks yearly, the manor of Esseford, co. Derby, at £80, the manor of Bray, Berkshire, at £80, the farm and town of Aylesbury, Bucks, at £60, and the farm and town of Bedford at £40 yearly. All these were granted on condition that he yielded to the king in fee simple all his castles, towns, manors and lands in Ireland, and should their yield either exceed or fall short of 500 marks the difference was to be made up.⁴

Ralph was the grandson of a former custodian—Ralph

¹ *Cal. Close Rolls.* ² *Pipe Rolls.* ³ *Cal. Close Rolls.* ⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

son of Nicholas, governor in 1252 q.v.—being the son of Nicholas' second son Ralph. He took his mother's name of Pypard and was summoned to Parliament as Baron Pypard.¹

HUGH DE NOTTINGHAM. In office 10 October 1304—
[?] 1305.

Further repairs to the castle were necessary in 1304, when, on 10 October of that year, Hugh was ordered to repair the houses within the castle and also the castle walls. No mention is made of the cost, but the expenditure was to be allowed out of the farm of the castle.² This is the only reference I have found about Hugh, whose tenure of the castle at its most could only have been three years.

JOHN DE CHANDOS. 1305—1311.

Edward II in the first year of his reign granted, on 16 March 1308, during pleasure, Horston castle to John de Chandos;³ but then John had evidently been governor for at least two years as he owed the late King Edward I £40, being arrears of two years of the farm of the castle, for on 22 March 1308 the new king ordered the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer to acquit John of the £40, having been pardoned the same.⁴

Edward II had a troublous reign from the start, the cause being his bad choice of friends and advisers, among whom was Piers Gaveston. On 6 April 1308 the constable of Horston, with some fifty others, was ordered to fortify and safely guard the castle "so that no danger arise through want of fortification or guard."⁵

John was the son of Henry de Chandos and Eleanor his wife, and married, in 1291, Elizabeth daughter of Henry de Braylesford.⁶ He died between 1311 and 1313, for on 18 January 1313 his son and heir, Edward, wrongly referred to in the *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, as John, obviously

¹ Statham, *D.A.J.*, n.s. xi, pp. 64-5.

² *Cal. Close Rolls.* ³ *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

⁴ *Cal. Close Rolls.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Jeayes, *Radbourne Charters.*

due to a clerical error, was pardoned the sum of £120 which John owed the king for the farm of the castle which, at £20 per annum, equals six years rent.¹ John's successor, Robert de Malo Lacu, was appointed by letters patent, dated 5 March 1311, his term of office to commence on the Easter following, 11 April, and this enables us to be reasonably safe in fixing John's tenure as 1305-1311 and his death in 1311 or shortly after.² John's son and heir, Edward, was in all probability, the Edward Chandos who was made custodian of the castle in 1331.

ROBERT DE MALO LACU. 11 April 1311—15 March 1322 and 13 May 1322—ante 17 Dec. 1323.

Robert's appointment, during pleasure, was made by letters under the Exchequer seal dated 5 March 1311, his tenure to commence on the Easter following, i.e. 11 April. He was to render the usual £20 per annum to the exchequer.³ Robert had been in office barely a month when he was ordered to spend up to 60 shillings in repairs to the castle, the necessary timber to be taken from the woods nearby the castle.⁴ On 20 July 1311 he was given power to demise to tenants certain lands which, as a result of an inquisition, appeared to be escheats and yielded nothing to the crown. He was ordered to rend to the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer the names of these tenants with the rents payable.⁵ Robert, along with the governors of many other castles, was, on 28 January 1312, ordered to provision the castle and to safely guard it,⁶ and a few days later, on 3 February, a writ of aid was issued to the knights, freemen and others of the neighbourhood to place their services at Robert's disposal should he require them.⁷ These precautions were occasioned by Edward's trouble with the barons, due chiefly to his allegiance to his favourite Gaveston. A further mandate to the knights, freemen and others.

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Cal. Close Rolls.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

⁶ *Cal. Close Rolls.*

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

was issued on 26 August, ordering them to be prepared to assist the garrison if and when needed.¹

Robert had, prior to his appointment to Horston and also Bolsover castle, been constable of Rokesburgh castle. On vacating that office the king owed him the large sum of £240. 8s. 6d. Of this amount Robert had expended £128. 7s. 6d. on wages and horses for the knights and men-at-arms of the garrison, £96. 7s. on wages for the soldiers of the garrison, and the remaining £15. 14s. represented the value of the horse he had lost when in Edward I's service in Gascony.² On 5 June 1312 he was released of his £20 yearly rent until this sum was paid off and a mandate was issued accordingly "to the person who supplies the place of the treasurer and to the chamberlains of the Exchequer,"³ the country at this time being governed by a council of twenty-one bishops and barons.

On 7 April 1313 the king ordered that so long as Robert held Bolsover and Horston and the debt be not discharged, no tallage should be assessed for the king's use upon the tenants of the said castles, but should the king cause a general assessment to be made throughout his lands, Robert should assess the tenants and men of the castles and hamlets appertaining to them, liable to such a tallage, and apply the money raised to reducing the debt.⁴

The king's indebtedness to Robert was now much increased on account of the munitioning of the two castles. On 18 October 1313 arrears of £14. 4s. 7½d. of the farm of Horston castle were set off against £179. 18s. 4d., which was the sum Robert had spent on the munitioning.⁵ On 3 June 1314 the king ordered the bailiffs of the borough of Derby to allow Robert £25. 10s. yearly of the farm of the borough until the balance of £165. 13s. 8½d. be discharged.⁶

There now occurs a gap of about eight years in the

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Cal. Close Rolls.*

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Cal. Close Rolls.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

records, during which time we must hope that Robert obtained settlement of his debt, for on 15 March 1322 the king, whilst at Derby, committed the custody of the castle and the forest of Duffield Frith to Ronald de Richemund. Robert de Malo Lacu, or his lieutenant at Horston, was ordered to deliver the castle to him.¹ Two months later however, on 13 May, the king ordered Ronald to hand back the castle to Robert de Malo Lacu. How long was Robert's second term of office I do not know, but it was not a very long one, as on 17 December the year following 1323 Nicholas de Hungerford was succeeded as constable by John de Denum.² The last we hear of Robert is that on 12 May 1324 the king ordered the barons of the exchequer to compel Ronald de Richemund to account to Robert the issue of the castle he received during his short term as custodian.³

At an Inquisition, ordered by the council to be held at the castle in 1311, we get the names of many local men whose lands were escheated by reason of felony or other reasons. Robert Norry held at Horston 9 acres and a rood of land which had been in the king's hands as an escheat for 9 years. Robert, son of Richard de Horsley, hanged for larceny at Schepesheved (Shepshed), Leicestershire, held in Horston 3 acres and $1\frac{1}{2}$ roods of arable land and $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre of meadow which had been in the king's hands 14 years. Robert le Swete killed a man at Horsley, absconded, and his croft and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of arable land at Horsley had been escheated 2 years. Nicholas le Parker gave to William Kyng, a bastard, 2 acres in Horsley, who died without an heir. These 2 acres had been in the king's hands for 7 years. Thomas Keys "withdrew himself" after killing a man at Kilburn. His $9\frac{1}{2}$ acres in Kilburn and Horsley had been in the king's hands 3 years. Robert, son of Andrew, occupied $\frac{1}{2}$ a rood of land of the highway at the head of the town of

¹ *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

² *Ibid.*

³ *Cal. Close Rolls.*

Horsley, for which in the time of the constableness of John de Chandos he paid 4d. rent. A lane near a toft in Horston, which once belonged to William Norry, was rented at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a year and was held by William Michael. These latter two items are interesting. How Robert son of Andrew could occupy $\frac{1}{2}$ a rood of the highway is I think open to speculation.¹

RONALD DE RICHEMUND. 15 March 1322—13 May 1322.

Ronald as we see had a short term of office but it was not one without incident. He was appointed on 15 March 1322,² and four days later, on 19th March, the garrison was ordered to be strengthened. The king sent Sir Richard de Mollesworth and forty footmen to augment the garrison, and Ronald was ordered to pay the knight the sum of 8d. a day and each of the footmen 4d. a day so long as they were there.³ By 13 April matters had apparently become more settled, because on that day the king ordered the removal of the extra garrison. He also ordered the governor to cause "the king's victuals therein to be kept safely" at the governor's peril and to cause perishable goods to be sold and others purchased in their place as often as necessary. A similar command was issued to the governors of some fifty odd castles.⁴

Ronald's custodianship was cut short on 13 May 1322—barely two months from his appointment—when he was ordered to hand back his charge to Robert de Malo Lacu. NICHOLAS DE HUNGERFORD. ?—17 December 1323.

All that I have discovered about Nicholas de Hungerford is that on 17 December 1323 he was ordered to deliver the castle and the keeping of the Duffield frith and its parks to John de Denum.⁵

JOHN DE DENUM. 17 December 1323—ante 1331.

John de Denum, described as the king's yeoman, was granted the castle during pleasure on 17 December 1323,

¹ *Cal. Misc. Inquis.*

² *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

³ *Cal. Close Rolls.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

being answerable for the issues thereof to the Exchequer. He was also granted the chief keeping of the chase of Duffield frith and the parks within its confines.¹

On 25 March 1326 John was ordered to have certain repairs done to the castle. The gates and bridge were to be repaired as well as the chamber covered with lead and other houses within the castle, the total cost not to exceed 20 marks.²

The church of the neighbouring manor, Horsley, had been impropriated to Lenton Priory since temp. Stephen, and as Lenton was a cell of the Abbey of Cluny its temporalities were at this time during the wars with France, in common with the temporalities of other alien monasteries, in the hands of the Crown. John de Denum, as keeper of the castle of Horston and the soke of Horsley, accounted to the king for all expenditure and income of the priory lands in Horsley and Horston. The following are details for the period Michaelmas 1324 to Michaelmas 1325:—

“ Rents of Assize.

“ He, i.e. John de Denum, accounts for 12d. from rents of freemen there in the terms of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary and of Michaelmas.

“ And for £14. 16s. from rents of divers customary tenants there in the same terms.

“ Works.

“ And for 4s. from works of the said customary tenants sold for the carriage of wood at Christmas.

“ And for 5s. from works of the same for the carriage of hay at Michaelmas.

“ Sale of meadow and pasture.

“ And for 2s. from grass of the moat about the castle.

“ And for 28s. 8d. from the crop of 16 acres of meadow there sold as grass this year.

¹ *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

² *Cal. Close Rolls.*

“ *Perquisites of Courts.*

“ And for £5. 6s. 11d. from perquisites of courts there this year.

Sum received £22. 3s. 7d.

“ Of which he accounts in the excess of his account of the former year for £2. 6s. 2d. And in his own fee for custody of the castle £2. 0s. 0d. And in wages of a janitor of the said castle who has also charge of the king’s wood and warren there, taking 1d. a day during the aforesaid time £1 10s. 4d.”¹

EDWARD DE CHANDOS. 11 Jan. 1331—? 1345.

As before stated, this Edward was probably the son of John de Chandos, governor, 1305-11. He was appointed custodian by Edward III on 11 Jan. 1331 at a rent of £20, payable in moieties at Easter and Michaelmas.² On 9 October the same year the king, however, remitted this rent and Chandos was to hold the castle for life, rent free. This concession was a reward for the services Chandos had rendered the king in his youth “ in staying continually by his side without any remuneration.”³ In 1327 the king granted him a pension of £40 until he could be provided with estates to that value.⁴

The first mention of Edward that I have found is during the lifetime of his father in 3 Edward II (1309-10), when he acquired lands in Egginton.⁵ In 1328-9 we find Edward Chandos, knight, granting lands in Dalbury Lees to R. de Colande.⁶ A year later he granted to his kinsman John de Murcaston, certain lands in Radbourne which he (John) held on lease from Robert de Beck, knight, for the term of the life of Edward’s mother, Dame Elizabeth.⁷ In 9 Edward III (1335-6) Edward made a grant to Robert Chandos, described as the parson of Radbourne, of the moiety of the manor and the advowson of the church of

¹ *Ministers Accounts.*

² *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

⁴ Statham, *D.A.J.*, n.s. 5, p. 34.

⁵ Jeayes, *Radbourne Charters.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

Radbourne together with the moiety of Mugginton manor and the advowson in fee.¹ In a further charter, however, of the same date we find Robert de Chandos, rector of Radbourne, granting to Edward and Isabel his wife the moiety of Radbourne manor and the advowson, and also a third part of Egginton manor.² Next year we find a similar grant of the moiety of Mugginton manor and advowson to Edward for life, then to his son John and his heirs male, and, on failure to Robert, another son and his heirs male.³ In 1341 Edward granted to William Philip of Egginton, chaplain, certain lands in Egginton, and in 1345-6 he granted to his son John and his heirs an annual rent in Egginton.⁴

The last mention of Edward occurs in 1345-6, the probable date of his death, when Robert Chandos, rector of Radbourne, granted to him all his lands, his shares in manors and advowsons in Radbourne, Mugginton and Egginton.⁵

In 1340 Edward was one of the four commissioners appointed to enquire into the disastrous fire at Spondon which destroyed the church and most of the village.⁶

Whether or not Edward held the castle until his death is not known. In 1340, on 12 June, is a confirmation of a release by Edward to Thomas Purchasour for life of all rents, customs or services due by reason of lands which he held in Horsley and Kilburn, and also a grant of *exemption* from all ameracements in respect of the manor of Horston.⁷ As this is a confirmation the release happened sometime before, but how long we cannot tell or whether Edward still retained the keeping of the castle.

Edward's wife was Isabel, daughter of Sir Robert Twyford, and his heir was his eldest son John, who was Derbyshire's most illustrious soldier. As seen above, he

¹ Jeayes, *Radbourne Charters*.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Cox, *Churches of Derbys*.

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*.

had another son, Robert, whom Jeayes queries as having died during his father's lifetime.¹ It is probable, or at least possible, that this Robert is the Robert Chandos described as "the king's yeoman" who was appointed castellan on 23 October 1345.² Edward also had three daughters: Elizabeth, co-heiress of her brother Sir John, Eleanor and Margaret.

ROBERT CHANDOS. 23 October 1345—? 10 November 1347.

Robert Chandos, described as the king's yeoman, was granted the custody of the castle for life on 23 October 1345 as a reward for good service "at the yearly rent at the Exchequer of the extent thereof."³ On 26 February 1347 Edward III excused Robert the rent as a recompense for his services and sacrifices in the war in France.⁴

Robert was, as we have seen before, probably the second son of Edward Chandos who was his predecessor at Horston.

HENRY OF LANCASTER. 10 November 1347—13 May 1361 or before.

Henry was the eldest son of Henry, Earl of Lancaster, and Maud his wife, and grandson of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster—Crouchback. He was born c. 1299; in 1334 was summoned to Parliament; in 1336 commanded an army against the Scots, and on 16 March 1337 was created Earl of Derby. On 22 September 1347 he succeeded his father as Earl of Lancaster and Earl of Leicester and steward of England.⁵ On 10 November 1347 Edward III made him a grant of £40 yearly out of the farm of the town of Derby and the castle of Horston to maintain the dignity of the Earldom of Derby "which he had lately assumed" by the service of rendering yearly one rose in June. The grant was made to Henry and his heirs male with reversion to the crown in the event of

¹ Jeayes, *Radbourne Charters*.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*.

² *Cal. Fine Rolls*.

⁵ *D.N.B.*

³ *Ibid.*

failure of issue.¹ He was one of the original Knights of the Garter, and on 20 August 1349 was created Earl of Lincoln as a reward for his services in Gascony. Two years later, on 6 March 1351, he was made Duke of Lancaster and died of pestilence at Leicester some ten years later and was buried on the south side of the altar of the collegiate church there.²

EDWARD DE TWYFORD. In office 10 May 1363—1375-76.

Edward de Twyford was custodian on 10 May 1363, when 14 acres of land and 5 acres of meadow in Horsley were granted to the warden and chaplain of the altar of the Virgin Mary at Chaddesden. These lands were described as being held of Edward as part of the manor of Horston which "he holds for life of the king's grant."³ The only other reference I have of Edward is that he died in occupation of Horston in the second part of the forty-ninth year of Edward III's reign (1375-76).⁴

ROBERT DE SWYLLYNGTON. 1 December 1376—ante 11 July 1391.

Robert de Swylyngton, knight, was granted Horston castle on 1 December 1376 on condition that he repaired it and caused it to be kept in repair. His grant read "as Henry, late Duke of Lancaster, had it during his lifetime,"⁵ and how this grant differed from that to Edward de Twyford is not stated, but it is probable that the latter had to pay the customary £20 per annum. The grant to Henry of Lancaster as we have seen was conditional on rendering yearly a rose in June, and on 20 January 1377 Robert de Swylyngton "le uncle," knight, was granted for life Horston with a view of frankpledge and all liberties pertaining at a rose rent "as fully and wholly as the king's kinsman, Henry, Duke of Lancaster, held it." In this re-grant the condition is made that he shall keep the castle in repair.⁶

¹ Jeayes, *Derby Charters*.

⁴ *Cal. Inquis. P.M.*

² *D.N.B.*

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

On his death Edward III was succeeded by Richard II, who, on 22 February 1378, confirmed Robert in his custodianship.¹

Robert died sometime before 11 July 1391, when the castle was granted to Roger Crophull to hold it as held by Robert de Swylyngton, knight, deceased.²

ROGER CROPHULL. 11 July 1391—29 September 1391.

On 11 July 1391 Richard II made a grant for life of Horston castle to his esquire, Roger Crophull.³ Two months later, on 13 September, the king confirmed this grant and granted also a view of frankpledge and all other liberties thereto "as held by Robert de Swylyngton, knight, deceased."⁴

Roger's constablership was, however, of a transitory nature, as on 29 September 1391 the king revoked the above two letters patent, stating that they were "granted in forgetfulness of the grant thereof to the king's brother, the Earl of Huntingdon."⁵

JOHN DE HOLLAND, Earl of Huntingdon. 29 September 1391—? 1399.

John was half brother to Richard II, as after the death of his father, Thomas Holland, in 1360, his mother married the Black Prince. He was born about 1352, was made a knight of the garter in 1381 and in the same year justice of Chester. In 1385 he was judged guilty of the murder of Ralph, son of Hugh of Stafford. It appears that, while the king's army was en route for Scotland, an archer of Ralph's killed an esquire of Holland's, and when Ralph went to appease Holland the latter slew him. For this his lands were forfeited, and in February 1386 he was ordered to provide three chaplains to pray for Hugh's soul. Soon, however, he regained favour and married Elizabeth the second daughter of John of Gaunt and sister of the future Henry IV. On 2 June 1387 he was created Earl of Huntingdon and received large grants of lands.

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

In 1389 he was made Chamberlain of England for life,¹ and on 29 Sept. 1391 was granted for life rent free the castle of Horston with view of frankpledge and all other members, profits and commodities pertaining thereto.² On 7 November 1392 occurred an inspeximus and confirmation of a grant dated 13 February 1392 to William Statham, esquire, by John for the term of John's life of £10 per annum from the issues of Horston castle with the addition to the original grant, that if he survived John he, i.e. William, was to receive the £10 for life.³ In 1394 John was made constable of Conway castle, and next year governor of the castle and town of Carlisle. He was created Duke of Exeter on 29 September 1397. On Richard's deposition in 1399 he forfeited many of his lands, including probably Horston, and titles, and became again Earl of Huntingdon. He lost his head on 16 January 1400 for plotting for the restoration of Richard.⁴

JOHN CURZON. 18 January 1400—? June 1405.

In the first year of his reign, on 18 January 1400, Henry IV granted to his esquire, John Curzon, for life, Horston castle together with a view of frankpledge and other profits and commodities.⁵ John was summoned to attend a Council about 1403 as one of the representatives of the county⁶ and died soon afterwards, as his successor was appointed on 6 June 1405 to fill the void caused by his death.⁷ On 24 Aug. 1401 Robert Claydoun, keeper of the hanaper of chancery, was ordered, without taking a fee, to deliver to John Curzon the letters patent granting to him Horston castle, worth £20 a year, and the office of steward of the honour of Tutbury at £20 a year, and also £20 per annum out of the honour.⁸

RICHARD GREY, 4th Baron de Grey. 6 June 1405—
ante 1419, or 1419.

Richard was the son of Henry de Grey who died in

¹ *D.N.B.*

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *D.N.B.*

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

⁶ *Acts of Privy Council.*

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

⁸ *Cal. Close Rolls.*

1379, and he succeeded his grandfather, John de Grey, in 1392. In 1400 he was appointed admiral of the fleet of the Thames and governor of Roxburgh castle. In 1404 he was made a Justice for South Wales, and, in the following year, Lieutenant of the south-west, which post he held until 1 February 1406.¹ On 6 June 1405 the king made a grant for life to his "kinsman, Richard Lord of Grey" of Horston castle, lately held by the late John Curzon.² In 1407 he was made custodian of Nottingham castle and ranger of Sherwood Forest. In 1413 he was made governor of Fronsac in Aquitaine and in the year following was one of the emissaries appointed to negotiate a truce with France and arrange a marriage between the king and Catherine of France. In 1418 Richard was made governor of Argentaing castle (Aquitaine) and he died 1 August 1419.

He married in 1387 Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Ralph Bassett of Sapcote, by whom he had three sons: John 5th baron, Henry 6th baron and William, Bishop of Ely, who died in 1478.³

PHILIP LECHE. ?—ante Aug. 1420.

My only record of Philip Leche, knight, is that he died holding Horston castle before 2 August 1420, for on that date his successor was appointed.⁴

RICHARD HASTYNGES. 2 Aug. 1420—? 1431.

Richard Hastinges, knight, was granted for life the castle and lordship of Horston on 2 August 1420 on the same condition as Philip Leche, knight, deceased had held it.⁵

Richard was in occupation on 10 July 1424, for on that date Henry VI issued a writ to him concerning the canons' of Darley Abbey rights in Horsley and Kilburn.⁶

HENRY BEAUMONT. Appointed 8 November 1436—?.

The grant to Henry Beaumont, king's esquire, was

¹ *D.N.B.*

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

³ *D.N.B.*

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Darley Cart.*

during the royal pleasure, and he was to hold the castle himself or by deputy at the accustomed fees and wages.¹ There would appear to be a little confusion about Beaumont's tenure, for it seems that John Statham, esquire, and his son John were, on 4 December 1439, granted the keeping of Horston for a period of twelve years from the death of Sir Richard Hastynges² which, as we deduce later, probably occurred in 1431.

Henry Beaumont, king's squire, was born at Overton, Leicestershire, in 1412, being a younger son of Henry lord Beaumont by Elizabeth, daughter of William lord Willoughby. He married Jane daughter and heiress of William Leventhorpe, by whom he had one son, afterwards Sir Henry Beaumont. He was M.P. for Dunwich 1429-32. On 8 November 1436 he was granted £20 a year for life, which sum to be paid him by the Abbot of Rufford in lieu of paying it to the alien monastery of Clairvaux. In 1438 this pension was made a charge on the church of Rotherham. On 7 May 1443 he was granted, as king's squire, one tun of red wine yearly, to be delivered at Ipswich. Beaumont, however, did not enjoy this privilege for long as he died in 1446.³

JOHN STATHAM and his son, JOHN STATHAM. 4 December 1439—? 24 July 1453.

On 4 December 1439 Henry VI granted to John Statham and his son John, by mainprise of John Turnstede of Wormele, co. Derby, "gentilman," and Robert Rasyn of Nottingham, the castle and lordship of Horston with appurtenances for a term of twelve years from the death of Sir Richard Hastynges, at a yearly rent of £11. There was a proviso that if anyone else offered a larger rent by the following Easter, the Stathams, if they desired to keep the castle and lordship, were bound to pay the larger rent.⁴ Some four years later, on 19 November 1443, John

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

³ Wedgwood, *Hist. of Parliament.*

² *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

⁴ *Cal. Fine Rolls.*

Statham and his sons John, Thomas, Henry and Nicholas were, by mainprise of Bartholomew Whitfield of Heydour, Lincolnshire, gentleman, and John de Carleton of Carleton in Lyndrick, Notts, yeoman, granted the keeping of the castle and lordship of Horston, for a period of 40 years from 9 September 1448, at a rent of £11 with an increment of 20 shillings.¹ To add further to our confusion, a month earlier than this last grant William Goureley was, on 24 October 1443, granted for life Horston castle and lordship immediately after the expiration of twelve years from the death of Sir Richard Hastynges. John Statham and his son John are mentioned as holding the castle by letters patent dated 4 December 18 Henry VI (1439).² It seems fair to draw the conclusion that the year 1443 probably represents the end of the twelve years term from Sir Richard Hastynges death which would thus have occurred about 1431.

John's son, Nicholas, was Member of Parliament for Old Sarum 1467-8, and sometime during 1470-1. He was, on 30 October 1467, on the death of John Clerk, made a second baron of the exchequer. He was an eminent lawyer and was the author of the earliest known abridgment of the law printed by R. Pynson in 1495.³

WILLIAM GOURELEY. 24 October 1443—? 9 September 1448.

William Goureley was given a grant for life, on 24 October 1443, of the castle and lordship of Horston after the expiration of twelve years from the death of Sir Richard Hastynges, at an annual rent of £11 with 20/- increment.⁴ William was Member of Parliament for Horsham 1453-4, and in 1448 he and John Byrston had a joint grant of the office of auditor of the exchequer. He would appear to have come from Derbyshire, as in either

¹ *Cal. Fine Rolls.* ² *Cal. Pat. Rolls.* ³ Wedgwood, *History of Parliament.*

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

1443-50 or 1455-7 he sued Thomas Neville, late sheriff of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, on a bond.¹

It is possible that the Stathams held the castle until 24 October 1443 and Gourey from that date until 9 September 1448, when John Statham and his sons were granted the castle for 40 years.

EDMUND, Earl of Richmond. 24 July 1453—1456.

JASPAR, Earl of Pembroke. 24 July 1453—? ante 1456.

This is the first occasion of the appointment of a dual custodianship. They were, on 24 July 1453, granted the manors of Mansfield and Lyndeby in Sherwood, the manor, lordship and town of Clipston, the castle and lordship of Horston, the manor of Bolsover, the office of bailiff of the wapentake of Morleston and Litchurch, the manor and lordship of Magour in South Wales, and £10 yearly from the abbot of Welbeck out of the farm of the mills of Retford. In return Edmund was to surrender the lordship and manor of Atherstone, Warwickshire, granted to him 6 April 1453, and Jaspas to surrender the lordship and manor of Moresend, Northamptonshire, granted to him on 16 March 1453.²

Edmund and Jaspas were half-brothers of the king, Henry VI, being the sons of Owen Tudor and Henry V's widow, Catherine de Valois. Edmund was the elder and was knighted 15 December 1449, and was summoned to Parliament as Earl of Richmond 30 January 1452-3. He married, in 1455, Margaret daughter of John Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, and died at Carmarthen the following year. His son, afterwards Henry VII, was born posthumously 28 January 1456-7 at Carmarthen castle, the residence of Jaspas.³

How long both brothers acted together is not clear, but at his death it would seem that Edmund held Horston castle and Bolsover manor on his own, and not a moiety

¹ Wedgwood, *Hist. of Parliament*.

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*.

³ *D.N.B.*

as would be the case if Jasper were still acting with him.¹

Jasper, born c. 1431, was made Earl of Pembroke in or before 1453. He was on the king's side at the battle of St. Albans in 1455, and at the battle of Mortimers Cross, 2 February 1461, was routed by the Earl of March. Next month Henry VI was deposed and Edward IV made king, and Jasper was deprived of his earldom of Pembroke which was, however, restored to him on Henry's restoration in 1470. On 27 October 1485 he was created Duke of Bedford, and in 1492 made Earl Marshal of England. He married Catherine Woodville, daughter of Richard Earl Rivers and widow of Henry Stafford, second Duke of Buckingham, but died without issue in December 1495.²

Although it would seem that Edmund died holding Horston, Jasper probably had a re-grant. In 1520 we read of a receiver appointed for "the lands lately belonging to Jasper duke of Bedford."³ Again in 1555 the castle of Horston with the manor of Horsley and various other lands "lately parcel of the possessions of Jasper Duke of Bedford" were granted to Lady Ann Stanhope.⁴ JOHN LYNTON and JOHN BIRDE. Michaelmas 1461—

? 1473.

John Lynton and John Birde were granted the custody of the castle and lordship of Horston from Michaelmas, 1 Edward IV 1461, for twelve years at a rent of £12.⁵ But on 1 August 1462 the king granted to his uncle, William Nevill, earl of Kent, among many others, the castle and lordship of Horston.⁶ This would mean that although Lynton and Birde were still responsible for the custody of the castle and lordship they were responsible to William Nevill for the issues. This is made more clear when on 12 January 1465, Edward IV granted to his brother, George duke of Clarence, all moneys, rents and

¹ *Cal. Inq. P.M.*

² *D.N.B.*

³ *State Paper of Henry VIII.*

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

farms due to the king from Michaelmas 1461 in respect of "the custody of the castle and lordship of Horston, granted to John Lynton and John Birde for 12 years from Michaelmas, 1 Edward IV at a rent of £12 by letters patent dated 24 February 1 Edward IV."¹

I have been unable to discover anything further about Lynton, but of John Birde, however, there is quite a little worth recording. He was possibly the son of John Brydde—the name occurs variously as Birde, Byrd, Bryd, Brydde—of Chilwell, and was born in 1415. He was Member of Parliament for the Borough of Derby in the years 1455-6, 1460 and 1478. He was probably the John Bridde of Lokhawe, gent., who, on 4 November 1452, with Nicholas Statham of Morley, gent., was a main-pignor for John Statham in the keeping of Horston castle (*Fine Rolls*, 30 Henry VI). In 1453 he was paid 12/4 for taking the king's money from Derby to Westminster, and in 1462 he accounted as Receiver of the king's lands in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire. In 1470 he was one of those ordered to seize any estates in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire belonging to the duke of Clarence, q.v., Warwick and other rebels. He died soon after 1478.²

In order to make this list as comprehensive as possible I propose to include such as William Nevill and George, duke of Clarence, who, although they were not strictly speaking governors, were yet closely bound to the castle, deriving part of their income from its issues. Others I shall include were receivers and stewards, for they would be responsible to the king for the good keeping of the castle and its estates.

HENRY PIERPOINT, Steward. 25 January 1462—? 1489.

Henry Pierpoint, on 25 January 1462, was appointed

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² Wedgwood, *Hist. of Parliament.*

steward of the lordships of Bolsover and Horsley with the accustomed fees and profits.¹ This is the first appointment I have been able to trace to the office of steward, and a month later he, along with Richard Byngham the elder, Walter Blount, knight, Richard Wyloughby, Richard Byngham the younger and the sheriff, was ordered to arrest William Barley, otherwise Barlow, otherwise Strotte "sithesmyth," John Thorpe, husbandman, and William Wyrall "sithesmyth," all of Horsley, who had committed divers depredations in the district.²

WILLIAM NEVILLE, Earl of Kent. 1 August 1462—
9 January 1463.

The king, on 1 August 1462, granted to his uncle, William Neville earl of Kent and lord of Fauconbridge, and the heirs male of his body, many manors and lordships, including the castles and lordships of Horston and Bolsover.³ William was the second son of Ralph Neville, first Earl of Westmorland, and married Joan, heiress of the last Baron Fauconberg (Fauconbridge) sometime before 1424. He saw much service in the wars in France, where he was taken prisoner in 1449, but was liberated the next year. He was, in 1443, made captain of Roxburgh castle and was steward to his brother the bishop of Durham, 1443-57.⁴ He died on 9 January 1463, holding the castles and lordships of Horston and Bolsover.

GEORGE, Duke of Clarence. 25 January 1463—? 1478.

George was a younger brother of Edward IV, and, as stated before, was given among other grants the castles, manors and lordships of Horston and Bolsover on 25 January 1463 after the death of his uncle, William Neville, earl of Kent.⁵ He married, in 1469, Isabella, daughter of Warwick the king-maker, and played his part with Warwick in dethroning Edward and placing Henry VI on the throne once more in 1470. Henry was

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *D.N.B.*

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

only king again for a short time—9 October 1470-14 April 1471—and George, after many vicissitudes, finally lost his head in 1478.

JOHN DURANT. 13 January 1474—?. Auditor.

John Durant was granted during pleasure the office of auditor of the castles and lordships of Bolsover, Horston, Horsley and Chesterfield on 13 January 1474. Out of these and other rents and fee farms he was to receive yearly £3 6s. 8d., together with customary other profits.¹

THOMAS BYNGHAM. 22 April 1474—? 1477. Receiver.

Thomas Byngham, the king's servitor, was made Receiver for the royal pleasure on 22 April 1474 of the king's castles, manors and lordships of Horston, Bolsover and Chesterfield as well as many other rents and farms in other counties. He was to receive 10 marks yearly.²

GERVASE CLYFTON. 28 February 1477—? Receiver.

Gervase Clyfton's appointment during pleasure was made on 28 February 1477. He was made receiver of the king's castles, manors, lordships and fee-farms of Horston, Bolsover, etc., etc. with £10 yearly out of their issues, and was to render his account, not as usual to the Exchequer, but to the appointed auditors at Nottingham castle.³

From this time onwards references to the castle are very few. We note references to the lordships and manors of Horsley and Bolsover, with which Horston was linked for so long, and also the lordship of Horston, but in these references no mention is made of the castle. As it may be that the castle and manor of Horston and the manor of Horsley became one unit under Horsley I think it will be useful to quote these references.

THOMAS LOVELL. 31 March 1489—25 May 1524.
Steward.

THOMAS LORD ROSS. 7 July 1519—? ante 1524.

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

Thomas Lovell was the fifth son of Sir Ralph Lovell of Barton Bendish, Norfolk, and Anne his wife. He was an adherant of Henry of Lancaster, who, when he came to the throne as Henry VII, made Lovell Chancellor of the Exchequer for life. On 7 November 1485 he was summoned to Parliament for Northamptonshire, and next day elected Speaker of the House of Commons. He was knighted on 9 June 1487 after Henry had defeated Lambert Simnel at Stoke, Nottinghamshire, and two years later, on 11 March 1489, was made governor of Nottingham castle. On 31 March the same year, Lovell, described as the king's councillor, was made steward of the lordships of Mansfield, Bolsover and Horsley, his stewardship to commence, however, when the office lapsed into the king's hands.² In 1502 he was made Treasurer of the Household and President of the Council, and in the same year he received the Garter. Henry VIII reposed in him the same confidence as his father had, and Lovell was re-appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer and made governor of the Tower of London in 1509.³

On 1 July 1519 Sir Thomas surrendered his grant of 31 March 1489, but six days later he, along with Thomas Lord Ross, was made governor of Nottingham castle and joint steward of the Manors of Mansfield, Bolsover and Horsley.⁴ Lovell held his office of steward until his death on 25 May 1524, when apparently he was acting on his own. He was twice married, first to Eleanor, daughter of Jeffrey Ratcliffe,⁵ and secondly to Isobel, daughter of Thomas Lord Rous, but died without issue.⁶ This Thomas Lord Rous is probably the same person as the Thomas Lord Ross who acted with Lovell as steward of Horsley.

JOHN AGLOND. In office 20 Henry VII. Bailiff.

John Aglond, bailiff of the king's manor of Horsley,

¹ *D.N.B.* ² *Cal. Pat. Rolls.* ³ *D.N.B.* ⁴ *State Papers of Henry VIII.*

⁵ *D.N.B.* ⁶ Wedgwood, *Hist. of Parliament.*

was in 20 Henry VII accused of cutting and selling one hundred oaks, valued at 4 marks, without the king's licence.¹ Whether or not restitution or any penalty was enforced I have not discovered. John made an appeal to the Court of Star Chamber against Thomas Saucheverall, Francis Normanton, Harry Ball and others concerning land in Horsley but there is no date mentioned in the Proceedings.²

JOHN THOMPSON. ?—Obit holding before 14 April 1511.
Receiver.

John Thompson died holding the office of receiver of the lordships of Horsley, Horston, Bolsover, Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Lynby and Clipstone and his successor, William Keby, was appointed on 14 April 1511.³

WILLIAM KEYB. 14 April 1511—in office 1520.
Receiver.

William Keby, yeoman usher of the Chamber, was, on 14 April 1511, made receiver during the royal pleasure of the lordships of Horsley, Horston, Bolsover, Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Lynby and Clipstone, vice John Thompson, deceased. On 10 July, however, there is a grant, during good conduct, of the above offices to John Carleton. How long Keby was superceded by Carleton I do not know, but in 1520 William Keby "receiver of the lands lately belonging to Jaspas, duke of Bedford" accounts for the fees of Sir Thomas Lovell, Richard Hopkins, bailiff of Horsley, himself and others at £21. 18s. 4d.⁴

JOHN CARLETON. Appointed 10 July 1511. Receiver.

I have been unable to ascertain John's length of tenure of the lordships of Horsley, Horston, Bolsover, etc. His appointment dated from 10 July 1511 to be held during good conduct.⁵

¹ *Cal. Inq.*

² *Court of Star Chamber.*

³ *State Papers, Henry VIII.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

THOMAS HOWARD, Duke of Norfolk. 1 Feb. 1514.—Obit
21 May, 1524.

Thomas, Earl of Surrey, was in command of the English armies which in 1513 defeated the Scots at Flodden. As a reward Henry VIII, on 1 February 1514, created him Duke of Norfolk in tail mail. He was granted £40 yearly out of the issues of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, a long list of manors and the castles of Bolsover and "Horsley and Horston" to maintain the dignity of the dukedom. He was also granted an addition to his coat of arms, viz., on a bend on his shield he was allowed to emblazon a demi-lion gules, pierced in the mouth with an arrow, and coloured according to the arms of Scotland as borne by the slain King James of Scotland.¹

The combining of Horsley and Horston for the name of the castle goes further to show that Horston was losing its identity.

Thomas Howard was the only son of his father, the first Duke of Norfolk, and his wife Catharine de Moleyns, and was born in 1443. He was a faithful follower of Edward IV, who made him sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1476 and knighted him two years later. He fought alongside his father for Richard at Bosworth. His father was killed and Thomas was committed to the Tower for over three years and deprived of his earldom of Surrey. This was restored in 1489, and he became a loyal servant of Henry VIII and one of his best generals, seeing much service against the Scots culminating in his great victory of Flodden. He died at Framlingham castle on 21 May 1524, and was buried at Thetford Priory.²

RICHARD HOPKINS. 22 July 1515—after 10 April 1522.
Bailiff.

When Thomas Garton was given the reversion of the office of bailiff of the lordship of Horsley on 10 April 1522, Richard Hopkins was stated to be holding the

¹ *State Papers*, Henry VIII.

² *D.N.B.*

office by patent dated 22 July 1515.¹ The only other reference I have to Hopkins occurs in 1520 when William Keby, the receiver, accounted for the fees of various officers, including Sir Thomas Lovell and Richard Hopkins, at the figure of £21. 8s. 4d.²

THOMAS GARTON. Granted reversion 10 April 1522. Bailiff.

There is no certainty as to whether Garton actually acted as bailiff. He was as we have seen granted the reversion of the office held by Richard Hopkins on 10 April 1522, but in 1530, when Thomas Grey and John Bukby were appointed joint bailiffs, they were appointed to succeed Robert (? Richard) Hopkins or Roger Croket.³

GEORGE, 4th Earl of Shrewsbury. 27 May 1524—in or before 1538. Steward.

George Talbot was born in 1468 and succeeded his father in 1473. He fought at the battle of Stoke, Notts, in 1487, was made a Knight of the Garter in 1488, and on 23 December the same year was made chief commissioner of musters for Staffordshire. Henry VIII made him lord steward of the household and a chamberlain of the exchequer. In 1513 he was appointed joint ambassador with the earl of Surrey—afterwards Duke of Norfolk,—to the court of Julius II. In the same year he was made lieutenant-general of an army in France, and a few years later, in 1520, he was present at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. In 1522 he was made steward of the Duke of Buckingham,⁴ and on 27 May 1524 he was appointed to the stewardship of Horsley and Bolsover, rendered vacant by the death of Sir Thomas Lovell two days previously.⁵ At the Dissolution he received vast grants of lands and he died at Wingfield on 21 July 1538, and was buried at Sheffield. His memorial is to be seen

¹ *State Papers*, Henry VIII.

⁴ *D.N.B.*

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁵ *State Papers*, Henry VIII.

in the Shrewsbury chapel of the south aisle of the Sheffield Cathedral. He is depicted with his two wives although his second wife, who survived him, is buried elsewhere. His wives were (1) Anne, daughter of William, 1st baron Hastings, by whom he had 11 children; and (2) Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Ralph Walden of Erith, Kent, who married again after Shrewsbury's death, William Herbert, 1st earl of Pembroke of the second creation.¹
 THOMAS GREY, JOHN BUKBY. 12 December 1530—?
 Bailiffs.

On 12 December 1530 Thomas Grey, yeoman of the Guard, and John Bukby, officer of the Pantry, were appointed joint bailiffs vice Robert (? Richard) Hopkins or Roger Croket.² On 21 December 1531 there is a similar grant enrolled to Grey and Bukby on surrender of the patent of 1515, granting the office of bailiff to Robert (? Richard) Hopkins.³ This seems further evidence that Thomas Garton never actually performed the office.

THOMAS, 1st Earl of Rutland. ? 1538—20 September 1543. Steward.⁴

Thomas was the eldest son of Sir George Manners and Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Leger. He was prominent in the service of Henry VIII, who appointed him his cup bearer in 1521. He was lord warden of the eastern marches April-October 1522, and 12 July 1524 he became warden of Sherwood Forest, which office became practically an hereditary one in the Rutland family. He was created earl of Rutland on 18 June 1525, and at the Dissolution received large grants of land. In 1542 he was made constable of Nottingham castle.⁵ The date of his appointment as steward of the lordship of Horsley I do not know, but he died on 20 September 1543 holding that office.⁶

¹ *D.N.B.*

² *State Papers*, Henry VIII.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ The reference on p. 5 should read thus.

⁵ *D.N.B.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

He was buried at Bottesford where there is a particularly fine memorial to him. It is in alabaster, probably Chellaston, and was executed by "Richard Parker the Alabaster man," at a cost of £24, including carriage and erection.¹

SIR RICHARD SOUTHWELL. 28 May 1544—ante 11 July 1547. Steward.

Sir Richard Southwell was born in 1504 and was brought up with Henry Howard, earl of Surrey, and was intimately bound up with the Howard family. In 1531 he was accused of murder but was pardoned by payment of £1,000. He was sheriff of Norfolk 1534-5. He played a great part in the Dissolution, and on 24 April 1538 he was rewarded with the office of receiver to the Court of Augmentation. The same year he was surveyor to the lands of the duke of Suffolk. The following year he was Member of Parliament for Norfolk, and in 1539 he was knighted.² On 28 May 1544, then one of the General Surveyors, he was made chief steward of many lordships and manors, including Horsley with the leading of the king's men and tenants there, in place of the late earl of Rutland.³ He was an adviser of Edward VI, and on the accession of Mary enjoyed her confidence, who, in 1553 granted him a pension of £100. He did not however, appear favourable in Elizabeth's eyes and died on 11 January 1563-4.⁴ He did not retain his stewardship of Horsley very long for on 11 July 1547 Edward VI granted this office to Henry, earl of Rutland to hold the same as fully as his father the first earl had held it.⁵

HENRY, 2nd earl of Rutland. 11 July 1547—? ante 1555. Steward.

Henry was probably born before 1515 and succeeded his father in 1543. He was knighted in 1544 and was the

¹ Esdaile, *English Monumental Sculpture*, pp. 6, 117.

² *D.N.B.*

³ *State Papers*, Henry VIII.

⁴ *D.N.B.*

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

bearer of the spurs at Edwards coronation. In 1547 he was appointed constable of Nottingham castle and warden and chief justice of Sherwood Forest.¹ The same year, on 11 July, saw his appointment to the office of steward of the lordships or manors of Mansfield, Bolsover and Horsley.² He held the stewardship until or before 1555, when Lady Ann Stanhope received a grant of the lordship and manor of Horsley and the castle of Horston.³ After service in Scotland, Rutland was, in 1551, made lord lieutenant of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. He suffered imprisonment at Mary's hands, but soon regained the royal favour. He was a favourite of Elizabeth, who appointed him lord president of the north 1560-1. He died 17 September 1563 and is buried in Bottesford church. He was twice married, first to Lady Margaret Neville, daughter of Ralph earl of Westmorland and secondly to Bridget, daughter of John lord Hussey. He was succeeded in the earldom by a son of his first marriage.⁴

We are now at the end of our rather long list of governors and other officials of Horston castle. As we have seen, Horston has become merged into Horsley and has almost lost its identity. The explanation probably lies in the fusion of the two manors into one to make administration easier. As evidence of this there is an appeal to the king and queen, Philip and Mary, by Robert Bromeley, who had received a grant of land from Henry Draycott in Horsley "in the manor of Horeston and Horseley" against an attack on his house by Richard Draycott, Mark Bouser, John Brokes, Thomas Tavern or Taverner, John Slake and Anne Draycott.⁵

At the present time Horston is practically forgotten, and even the ordnance survey map labels the castle as Horsley castle. In the two volumes of Manor Court Rolls extant, dealing with period 1732-1863, which I

¹ *D.N.B.*

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *D.N.B.*

⁵ *Court of Star Chamber.*

was able to study by the kind permission of Commander R. Wilmot-Sitwell, Stainsby House, this union of the two manors is further apparent and the manor is always referred to as that of Horsley and Horston or Horston and Horsley.

The last mention of Horston castle is in 1555 when Lady Ann Stanhope, widow of Sir Michael Stanhope, was granted a large number of lordships and manors in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, including the lordship and manor of Horsley and the castle of Horston.¹ The manor of Horsley and the castle are described as "all lately parcel of the possessions of Jaspar, Duke of Bedford." Anne was to hold for life and then the estates were to go to her son Thomas in fee tail with remainder successively in tail.² This Thomas was the grandfather of the first earl of Chesterfield, and the manor remained in this family until the sixth earl, George, sold to Edward Sacheverel Sitwell in 1819 or 1820. The present representative of the family, Commander Wilmot-Sitwell although owning a great deal of the old manor, does not own the actual castle ruins.

The spur of rock on which these ruins stand is now unhappily being quarried away rapidly. Things, however, are not quite as bad as Lysons, writing in 1817, would have us believe when he states that there were no remains of the castle and the site was used as a tip.

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls.*

² *Ibid.*