



## Esgarestona (Esgarston)

versus

### East Garston.

*By Rev. F. T. Wethered.*

---

**A**LL your readers will cordially sympathize with the Vicar of "East Garston" (the Rev. J. L. Tudor) in his laudable effort to emancipate his Parish from the dreadful mutilation to which the true name of it has been subjected for some hundreds of years—"East Garston," "Garston East"—quite *dreadful*!

This parish is nowhere mentioned by name in Domesday. But in it, no fewer than four manors are given bearing the name of "Lamborne." The most valuable of these is set down in that Survey as worth £42, and was held by William the Conqueror; the next in value, £12, was held by Goisfridus de Manneville (the founder of Hurley Priory); another, valued at £6, was held by Norman de Hascoith; and a fourth, valued at 50 shillings, was held by Mathiu de Moretania.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Domesday tells us, the Lamborne Manor held by G. de Manneville was tenanted by Esgar (*in capite*). This Esgar, or Asgar, was "Steallere," i.e. Master of the Horse, to the King; and, all the lands which he held in England in virtue of his office fell to Geoffrey de Mandeville (Goisfridus de Manneville) at the Conquest. Esgar was the son of Adelstan and grandson of Tovi. His holdings extended at the time of the Conquest to Buckinghamshire, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Warwickshire and other counties, including three manors in Berkshire, viz.: one of the Lamborne Manors, Hurley and Streatley. Asgar was the older and northern form of Esgar's name. "Gar" in A.S.=spear. "As" is an old heathen name for God. Thus, Asgar=the spear of God. In the transmutation of the name to "Esgar" there may have been intended the idea of æsc=ash tree, a frequent material for making spear shafts. It is stated in "Ely Book" that Alfhære or Esgar, Cing's stabul

(Constable), seized upon the Abbey lands at Pleshey, in the time of William the Conqueror, and extorted a permission from the House to hold them during his life. But the Monks, we are told, never recovered their property. Being, like honest Englishmen, staunch haters of the Frenchman and invader they incurred the resentment of the Norman Duke for aiding and comforting his bitterest foes, Edwin and Morcar. He imprisoned Alfhre for life, perhaps because he was a formidable person, and kept the lands. Such, then, was the man who undoubtedly gave his name to "East Garston," viz. : Esegarestona (Esgar's Town).

In one of the Hurley Charters and Deeds,\* appears the following :—"H [enricus] Rex Anglie et Dux Normannie et Aquitanie et comes Andegavie" greets one William de London, and orders him as follows "Precipio tibi quod juste (&c.) habere facias Priori et Monachis de Herleia decimas suas de Esegarestona (East Garston) sicut ipsi eas melius habuerunt, et plenius anno et die quo rex H [enricus] auus meus [Hen. I.] fuit uiuus et mortuus, et nisi feceris J. Sarebut [iensis] episcopus [Joceline de Bohun] faciat ne amodo inde clamorem audiam pro penuria recti. Teste—Peter de la Mara, apud Lond." [1154-1184.]

Now, *who* was William of London? There was a worthy of that name who flourished between 1166-1212, son of Thomas of London. The "Battle Abbey Rolls" (Vol. I. pp. 229, etc.) tells us that Hawise, the only daughter of Thomas de London married a descendant of Patric de Cadurcis (Chaworth), of Little Brittany. This Patric had been a Benefactor of Gloucester Abbey in the latter years of the Conqueror's reign. Camden says concerning Hawise's husband, whose name was also Patric, that he "brought with his fair inheritance, the title of the Lord of Ogmor and Kydweli. The heirs of Maurice de Londres were obliged by their tenure, &c." Madox\* hands down to us a Deed of Grant which was made in direct compliance with the above mentioned Precept of Hen. II. It is headed "A Grant in Frankalmoigne to the Monks of Hurley of the Tithe of Esgarestons, viz. : the third part of the Tithe of corn, two parts of the Tithe of money," &c., and runs as follows, viz. : "Willelmus de Londonia omnibus hominibus, &c., &c. . . . Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse Deo et Ecclesiæ S. Mariæ de Herleia et fratribus ibidem seruiantibus, &c., decimam meam in Esgareston, videlicet tertiam partem decimæ totius annonæ

\* See p. 94 (No. 14) of my Book "St. Mary's, Hurley, in the Middle Ages, based on Hurley Charters and Deeds."

meæ de dominio et duas partes decimæ totius pecuniæ et totam decimam caseorum sine parte exceptis tribus caseis, &c. &c., &c. . . Hiis testibus—Mauricio, filio meo, Toma, pincerna, Simon de Bonavilla (with eight more).” At the foot occurs “Ex autogr: in arch: S. Petri Westmon. Polled. Indorsed in an old hand ‘Carta Willelmi de Londoniis’ and ‘Carta Willelmi de Lond de decimis de Estgrastone,’ and in another part ‘exhibitum fuit hoc Instrumentum coram nobis Officiali Sarum v Idus Maii. T. Querendon.’” There is no date of the year.

The Pipe Rolls (1169-70) tell us that William de London paid 20s. for a fourth fine; and (1174-5) that he paid 33 shillings scutage; and that he paid 20s. aid to marry the King’s daughter.† From 1169-1189 William de Mandeville (3rd Earl of Essex) held the de Mandeville estates. This William de M. was great grandson to the holder of the Lamborne Manor [Esegarestona], held by Esgar in the time of the Confessor. There is no difficulty whatever in showing *why* the Manor of Esegarestona was charged to pay Tithe, originally, to Hurley Priory, because, in the Foundation-Charter (1086-1087) of Hurley Priory, our Founder expressly grants “in omnibus maneriis quæ in dominio meo eo tempore erant, tertiam partem decimæ totius annonæ meæ, &c., &c.,” to the Priory. And it was concerning the non-payment of this Tithe, due all along from Esegarestona by our Founder’s grant, that William de London received such a rap on the knuckles from Henry II.

Further, in Pope Nicholas’ Taxation, completed in 20 Edw. I. (1292) to subsidize the Crown, the following very interesting and corroborative items occur, viz:—

#### DECANATUS NEUBUR’.

	TAXATIO.	DECIMA.
Ecclesia de Esegarston ... ..	£12 0 0	£1 4 0
Vicar’ in eadem ... ..	4 6 8	0 8 8
Porcio Prioris de Hurle in eadem	1 10 0	0 3 0

In the “*Testa de Neville*,” p. 107 (col. 2) *temp.* Hen. III. [1216-1272], (Edw. I., 1272-1307), we find, under *Escaeta domini Regis in Com., Berks*: “Eva de T’Sey est de don’ domini Regis et non est maritata et valet terra ejus in Esgarston quam tenet de domino Rege xx libr.”

\* Form. Angl. No. ccccxxv. p. 251.

† 23 Hen. II., 1176-1177.

Under *Feoda Episcopi Sarum*\*: "Eva de Tracey tenet manerium de Esegareston cum pertin. in dote."

Under "Recepta carucagu,"† 5 Hen. III. [1220-21]: "De Esegareston Eve de Tracey pro xxix. carucis et dim., et parte lix. sol., iii. den."

And under "Rotuli Hundredum," Edw. I. [1272-1307]: "Paganus de cadurc' [Chaworth] tenet visum franciplegii de hominibus suis de Estgarston."

In a Catalogue of Ancient Deeds in the Record Office, No. B. 3928 contains a grant to the Prior and Convent of St. Denis, near Southampton, to Rev. Natheles in Estgarston, (viii. Id. Mart. . . Edw. II. [1307-1327]): and B.M. Harl, ch. 75 E. 9 contains a Pardon to Hugh de Berewyk, for acquiring from Henry Duke of Lancaster, the Manors of Esgarton, Lanyngton and Chaworth, held from the Crown *in capite*, (24 Oct., 25 Edw. III. [1351]).

In a Hurley Deed there occurs a lease by Frater William Zepuswych, Prior of Hurley, to Isabel, relict of Thomas Chapman, of Ergaston [East Garston], of all tithes, etc., etc. Dated:—Hurley, Vig. of S.S. Philip and James [30th April], 1 Hen. IV. [1400]. In an original parchment now at Christ Church, Oxford, endorsed "An Intimation of the Bishop of Sarum concerning the patronage of the Vicarage of Eastgarston, 9 Feb., 1599," the parish is twice called "Eastgarston alias Ergaston" and once "Eastgarston." The orthography of the endorsement is clearly of level date with the text of the instrument itself. Christ Church, Oxford, became patron of the parish at the time of the dissolution of the Monasteries, up to which date it had belonged to the Nunnery of Amesbury.

It will be easily seen from the above brief summary of the philological history of "East Garston" which has, even of late, been printed as "Garston East" that my object all along has been to trace the gradual deterioration and (I may add) *debasement* of its original name "Esegarestona,"—a very pretty and euphonious as well as intelligible name, from the early days after Domesday to the present time.

I wish all success to Mr. Tudor in his effort to restore the original name, modified, as he (I think) wisely proposes, from Esegarestona to "Esgarston."

---

\* Page 124, col. 2.

† Page 131, col. 2.