

ART. V.—*The Family of de Mulcaster.* By T. H. B. GRAHAM, M.A.

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THE cradle of the de Mulcasters was Mulcaster (now Muncaster), in the south of Cumberland. According to John Denton (*Accompt, edit.* Ferguson, p. 19*), they were an offshoot of the de Penningtons, lords of that place. One of them, Benedict de Pennington, whose name occurs in the Pipe Roll of 1185, had a younger son David, known as "David de Mulcaster," and founder of the family which bore that distinctive surname. David had a younger son Adam de Mulcaster, father of Robert. That bare statement is not supported by any evidence.

A clue to the genealogy of the family is furnished by the Plea Rolls *de Banco*, Hilary, 5-6 Edward III, m. 98 *dorso*, respecting land in Bolton and Uckmanby, from which it appears that Robert de Mulcaster had three sons, Walter who died without issue; William who had issue Robert; and Robert who had issue Walter (*Genealogist*, N.S., viii, 240).

There is another pedigree, which a younger branch of the family settled at Charlwood, Surrey, recorded at the Heralds' Visitation of that county in 1623 (*Harleian Society's Publications*, xliii, p. 130). It traces descent from a certain Sir Richard Mulcaster, knight, and bears a note that "this Sir Richard was commanded by King William Rufus, in the sixth year of his reign, to reside at *Brackenhill*, and four other knights against the Scots." It adds that his son Sir Geoffrey was "committed to ward

* He may have gleaned his information from the records of Furness Abbey (see *Furness Coucher*, edit. Brownbill, Chetham Society's publications, vol. lxxvi, pp. 561-6).

for killing the King's deer," and continues to trace descent, through Sir Richard, Sir Marmaduke and another Sir Richard, to Sir Walter Mulcaster, who "in the battle of Carloverock had the leading of the middle ward, where King Edward Longshanks was himself in person," and represents him as being the *father* of the earliest Sir Robert Mulcaster. These and other allegations, made in the Surrey pedigree with regard to the origin and history of the family, are not consistent with the other published documents. In Henry III's reign, Robert de Mulcaster was witness to a grant of common pasture in Bothilton (Bolton), made to the Abbey of Holm Cultram (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 148). And in 1246-7, Robert de Mulcaster acquired from William, son of William de Ulvesby, three carucates of land at Torpenhow (these *Transactions*, N.S., vii, p. 224).

It is convenient to note that the parish of Torpenhow comprises four townships, namely, Torpenhow *cum* Whitrigg, Blennerhasset *cum* Kirkland, Bothel *cum* Threapland, and Bewaldeth *cum* Snittlegarth. In each of those townships the Mulcasters were from time to time holders of land.

Exemption for life was granted, in 1256, to a certain Robert de Mulcaster from being put on assizes and being made sheriff against his will (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 40 Hen. III, p. 504). On May 24th, 1260, Robert de Mulcaster (see Pedigree A), was appointed sheriff of Cumberland (*ibid.*, 44 Hen. III, p. 72), and, on September 21st, 1265, Robert de Mulcaster, "Knight," was appointed a commissioner for certain purposes (*ibid.*, 49 Hen. III, p. 491).

Dominus Robert de Mulcaster was charged with taking a hind at Oulton, about Candlemas, 1271-2 (these *Transactions*, N.S., vii, p. 11). In 2 Ed. I, 1273-4, he settled on his son Walter the manors of Bolton, Torpenhow, Blennerhasset and Bewaldeth (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 125).

The Surrey Pedigree gives the following version of the

settlement:—"This Sir Robert Mulcaster entailed the Mulcasters' lands to the heirs male, *anno* 2 Ed. I, *viz.* Torpenhow, Ugmanby, Bolton, Blenerhasset, Boldicks Yeyton (Bolton Gate), Hermethauit (Armathwaite), Millam de Copland in Cumberland, Sir Roger Seyton then Chief Justice of England." Sir Roger Seyton was Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in 1275.

On January 18th, 1278, there was a grant to Robert de Mulcaster and his heirs of a weekly market, on Tuesday, at his manor of Hayton; and of a yearly fair there on the vigil, feast and morrow of St. Mary Magdalen; and of free warren in all his demesne lands of Torpenhow, Blennerhasset, Bewaldeth and Ermicetwayth (*Cal. Charter Rolls*, 6 Ed. I, p. 206); and, on August 4th, 1277, he had lately been appointed a justice to deliver Carlisle gaol (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 5 Ed. I, p. 400).

In 1278, there was a plea of Alan de Pennington *versus* Robert de Mulcaster, regarding the manor of Mulcaster. Alan alleged an agreement between himself and Robert, to the effect that Robert should deliver to Alan the manor of Giffen, in Cunningham, Ayrshire, and also deliver to him a certain charter, by which an ancestor of Alan [Benedict de Pennington*], whose heir he was, became enfeoffed of the same manor, and that Alan should thereupon enfeoff Robert son of Robert or John son of Robert of ten marks of land in Giffen. Alan further alleged that, in consideration of the premises, he had granted all his lands in Copeland to Robert for life and Robert had agreed that Alan's son and heir, William, should marry Alice, daughter of Benedict and heir of Robert de Mulcaster (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 29; and see Wilson, *St. Bees Register*, p. 241 n.).

It appears by an inquisition made in March, 1281-2, that Robert de Mulcaster held five-sixths of the manor

* In the translation here quoted, this name is inserted in square brackets.

of Torpenhow by cornage of Baldwin de Wake (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 10 Ed. I, p. 258). His eldest son Walter, who succeeded to the settled estates, was described, at the Pleas of Assize holden in 1278-9, as "Sir Walter de Mulcaster, of Arthuret" (*Cal. Doc. Scot.*, ii, p. 34), and the said inquisition of 1281-2 shows that he held his land at North Easton, Arthuret and Stubhill, of Baldwin de Wake. In 1283, he was going beyond seas with Anthony Bek (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 11 Ed. I, p. 60). A roll of arms, compiled in Edward I's reign, states that his armorial bearings were: Barry of 12 *argent* and *gules*, on a bend *azure* three escallops or (*Archæologia*, vol. xxxix, p. 437). He was knight of the shire in 1290. He died without issue and was succeeded by his brother William.

The said William de Mulcaster, "son of Robert," had made a claim, in 1285, at the Pleas of the forest, that his men of the hamlet of Uckmanby were liable to pay half a mark only for puture of the foresters and the claim was allowed in the following reign. Alan de Pennington, who "hated William's father, on account of contentions between them," was the cause of the dispute (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 5 Ed. II, p. 385). He was sheriff in 1298.

On July 4th, 1299, Robert de Clifford wrote to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, desiring them to excuse Sir William de Mulcaster and Robert and Richard de Mulcaster from appearing in the Court of Exchequer according to their summons, by reason of their attendance upon him in defence of the Marches (Nicolson and Burn, i, viii). According to the Surrey Pedigree, Robert and Richard were sons of Sir William, but that is impossible.

It appears, from an interesting inquisition made in 1300, concerning the lands of John de Wake deceased, that Sir William de Mulcaster held the manor of Torpenhow (except one-sixth part thereof); Robert de Mulcaster held the manor of Bryarhill (? Brackenhill); Richard de

Mulcaster held a carucate of land at Easton of John de Easton, the immediate tenant thereof; and Lady Joan de Mulcaster* held three bovates of land at Arthuret. They were all tenants by cornage (*Cal. inq. p.m.* 28 Ed. I, p. 448). And it further appears, from another inquisition made in 1305 concerning the lands of Thomas de Lucy, that William de Mulcaster held the manor of Hayton in Aspatria, Blennerhasset and Uckmanby by cornage (*ibid.*, 33 Ed. I, p. 219).

On June 30th, 1300, the King committed to William de Mulcaster for life the manor of Bolton, lately held by Geoffrey de Mowbray, a Scottish rebel deceased (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 28 Ed. I, p. 529). He was probably already in possession of the land as under-tenant, by virtue of the family settlement of 1273-4. I will interrupt, for a moment, the biography of Sir William Mulcaster, in order to notice some records which mention collateral members of the family. On July 9th, 1302, the escheator was ordered to take into the King's hand the lands of a certain John de Mulcaster, deceased tenant in chief (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 30 Ed. I, p. 456). John died seised of Threapland (held in chief, as of the Honour of Cockermouth), which he had purchased from Michael de Harcla and settled as is presently mentioned; also of Little Waverton (Lessonhall), which he had purchased from Robert de Lascelles and held in fee simple of Sir John de Wigton, chief lord.

The jury found that John had an elder brother Benedict de Mulcaster, deceased, whose daughter Alice was born in Scotland some twenty years previously and had been resident there ever since. If living, she was heir, but if dead, her uncle William (John's brother), aged 40 and more, was heir (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 30 Ed. I, p. 74). On November 9th, 1304, it had been shown by inquisition

* Johanna, who was the wife of Walter de Mulcaster, is mentioned in 1292-3 (*Cal. Genealog.*, edit. Roberts, ii, 477).

that John de Mulcaster had settled Threapland upon himself and the heirs of his body, with successive remainders to his brother Thomas and the heirs of his body and to his brother William in fee simple. John and Thomas had both died without heir of their bodies, and the escheator was ordered to deliver Threapland to William (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 32 Ed. I, p. 501); and, on March 30th, 1304, the escheator was ordered to give Alice, widow of Thomas de Soules, seisin of the lands of which her uncle John de Mulcaster, whose heir she was, was seised in fee (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 32 Ed. I, p. 129).

In 1316, William de Mulcaster granted to Sir Henry de Malton all his lands in Threapland, with his capital messuage there, and all his land which John de Hayton held of him in Aldersceugh and a certain *cultura* of land in Blennerhasset called "le Fyche" (*Catalogue Ancient Deeds*, vol. vi, p. 82); and, in the following year, Henry de Malton was pardoned for acquiring the same without licence for an estate in fee simple (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 11 Ed. II, p. 3).

The following records may relate to Robert, son of Robert, mentioned in the Plea Roll Pedigree. In 1318, it was ordered that a new coroner should be elected in place of Robert de Mulcaster, as the King learnt that he had been captured by the Scots (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 12 Ed. II, p. 43); and again in 1319, in place of Robert de Mulcaster incapacitated by blindness (*ibid.*, p. 72). Robert had purchased from his brother Walter the manor of Newland in Bolton for an estate in tail, but had sold it to John de Harcla who sold it again to Andrew de Harcla, and he forfeited it for rebellion. The last-named Robert de Mulcaster died on All Souls, 1324, and his daughters Margaret and Agnes, and the son of his eldest daughter Joan claimed the manor by virtue of the entail (*Rot. Parl.*, 18 Ed. II, p. 426); and his widow, Isabel, claimed dower out of the same (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 18 Ed. II, p. 403).

I will now return to the main stem of the family. Sir William de Mulcaster took a prominent part in the affairs of the county. He was sheriff in 1298 and 1304 and knight of the shire in 1309 and 1311. William de Mulcaster died in 1318-19, seised of Bewaldeth, held in chief as of the Honour of Cockermouth; five-sixths of Torpenhow with a mill held of Thomas Wake; and the manors of Hayton, Blennerhasset and Uckmanby, held of Christiana, widow of Thomas de Lucy, who had an estate by dower therein, and his son Robert, *aged 22 and more*, was his heir (*Cal. inq. p.m.*, 12 Ed. II, p. 88).

On March 20th, 1319, the escheator was ordered to take into the King's hand the lands of William de Mulcaster, deceased, tenant in chief (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 12 Ed. II, p. 394); and, on April 24th, it was ordered that the same should be delivered to Robert de Mulcaster, son of William (*ibid.*, p. 397). Robert de Mulcaster, "knight," was knight of the shire in 1325. On February 16th, 1327, there was an order to deliver to Ermeiarda, widow of John de Harcla, the manor of Whithall and some tenements in Uckmanby, as the King learnt that Robert de Mulcaster had enfeoffed John and Ermeiarda jointly of the same for their lives (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1 Ed. III, p. 32).

In 1334, Robert, son of William de Mulcaster, was imprisoned in Carlisle Castle for trespass of vert and venison in Inglewood forest, and had letters to Ralph de Nevill, keeper of the forest, to bail him until the coming of the justices next in eyre of Pleas of the Forest (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 7 Ed. III, p. 165). According to a roll of arms made in Edward III's reign, Sir Robert de Mulcaster bore barry of 6 *argent* and *gules*, a baston (*bâton*), *azure* (Foster, *Some Feudal Coats*).

In 1341-2, Sir Robert de Mulcaster, knight, made a settlement of his manors of Torpenhow, Hayton, Blennerhasset, Whithall, Bewaldeth and one-fourth part of Uckmanby, from which it appears that his wife was

named Johanna, and his sons were named William, Robert, John, Walter, and Peter (these *Transactions*, N.S., vii, p. 237).

On July 1st, 1344, John de Orreton made a complaint that Robert de Mulcaster, knight, and others had assaulted him with drawn swords, as he sat with his fellows in the Exchequer of Carlisle (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 18 Ed. III, p. 387), and on October 1st, of the same year, Robert de Mulcaster, knight, was commissioned to levy the tenth and fifteenth and place the money in the cathedral church of Carlisle (*Cal. Fine Rolls*, 18 Ed. III, p. 393). He was a commissioner for similar purposes on October 5th, 1346 (*ibid.*, 20 Ed. III, p. 482), and must therefore have been still alive at the date of the transaction next mentioned.

By charter, dated at Hayton, January 16th, 1344-5, William, described as "son and *heir* of Robert de Mulcaster, lord of Torpenhow," confirmed the gift, by his father, to Euphemia, sister of Ralph de Nevill, of Raby, for life, of his manor of Whithall and all other lands which he held in the vills of Uckmanby and Bolton (Madox, *Formulare*, p. 62).

The compiler of the Surrey Pedigree alleges that the said William married Euphemia, sister of Sir Ralph Nevill, Earl of Westmorland (*sic*). The allegation is incredible because Ralph, created first Earl of Westmorland in 1397, died in 1425.*

There was a complaint, in 1378, that William de Mulcaster, collector of the tenth and fifteenth, had not accounted for money received by him (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1 Rich. II, p. 60).

William was dead in 1388-9, when it is recorded that he held no land in Cumberland, that is to say in chief (*Cal. Esch.*, 12 Rich. II, p. 102). He was succeeded by

* It is possible that she was sister of the earl's grandfather, Ralph, who died in 1367, and whose mother's name was Euphemia (see Cokayne's Peerage).

his son Robert de Mulcaster, *chivaler*, knight of the shire in 1388.

By charter, dated at Threapland, November 17th, 1392, Robert de Mulcaster, knight, lord of Hayton, granted to Clement de Skelton, knight, Thomas de Skelton and others, Threapland and his capital messuage there and all his land which John de Hayton formerly held in Aldersceugh, and a piece of land in Blennerhasset called "le Maston Fittes," in fee simple. Sir Robert's seal, affixed thereto, bore barry of 10, a bend dexter (Denton, *Accompt*, edit. Ferguson, p. 174). The premises had been conveyed, in 1316, by William de Mulcaster to Henry de Malton (see *supra*). The latter's daughter married a Skelton (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 120).

In 1400, there was a grant by Sir Robert de Mulcaster, knight, to Geoffrey Tilliol (of Embleton) and others, of all his lands in Whitrigg, Belysis and Thornbank, the feoffment to be void on payment within 40 years of 250 marks (*Catalogue Ancient Deeds*, vol. vi, p. 47). By inquisition made in 1398-9, respecting lands of Matilda, wife of Henry de Percy, it was found that Robert de Mulcaster, *chivaler*, held Hayton, Blennerhasset and Uckmanby, of the manor of Aspatria (*Cal. Esch.*, 22 Rich. II, p. 244).

By another deed, written in Norman French, and dated at Whitrigg, January 25th, 1404-5, Sir John de Skelton, *chivaler*, Alice his wife, widow of Geoffrey Tilliol, and Katherine, daughter and heiress of Geoffrey, acknowledged that they had received from Sir William de Clifford, for the benefit of Katherine, 250 marks, for which all the lands of Robert de Mulcaster at Whitrigg, Belysis, and Thornbank, in the vill of Torpenhow, had been mortgaged to Geoffrey de Tilliol, and released to Robert de Mulcaster and William de Clifford all claim, to the said lands (*ibid.*, p. 176). And on Midsummer Day, 1406, Sir William de Clifford, the new mortgagee, conveyed to Sir John de

Skelton, in fee simple, the same lands, on condition that, if the heirs of Sir Robert de Mulcaster should, before the end of 20 years, pay to Sir John de Skelton 255 marks, they should enjoy the lands again (*ibid.*, p. 176). The deed is witnessed by Richard de Skelton, sheriff.

On January 3rd, 1406-7, Sir Robert de Mulcaster granted to Sir Robert de Highmore, in fee simple, his vill of Bewaldeth (*ibid.*, p. 179).

Robert Mulcaster, *chivaler*, was pardoned on November 11th, 1408, for all treasons (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 10 Hen. IV, p. 6).

The Surrey Pedigree states that "this Sir Robert Mulcaster became an unthrift, and, for very small sums of present money, sold his lands to his *uncle*, Ralph, Earl of Westmorland, who, knowing the title to be weak by reason of the entail, did straightway alien the said lands by parcels, Robert presently after the sale dying." But the statement is not in harmony with the foregoing facts.

Sir Robert de Mulcaster left no male issue. His only daughter inherited Hayton and whatever else remained of the family property, and married Sir Peter de Tilliol, of Scaleby, knight of the shire in 1413, who died in 1434-5, seised of the manors of Hayton and Torpenhow and a close called "Torpenhow park" held as of the manor of Papcastle (*Cal. Esch.*, 13 Hen. VI, p. 159).

The Surrey Pedigree exhibits the genealogy of a younger branch of the family, descended from a certain "Richard Mulcaster, Esquire." John, son of Richard (see Pedigree B), "married the heir of Artneth and Stafle, by whom we hold lands about Carlisle." There was a family of de Arthuret, one of whom, William, mayor of Carlisle, died in 1369 (Ferguson, *Test. Karl.*, p. 89). Richard,* son of John, "married Alice daughter and sole heir of William son of John Hodwine and (? of), Keinton, Esquire" (perhaps Godwin, of Somerset), and their son, John Mul-

* Richard de Mulcaster was M.P. for Carlisle in 1420, and again in 1425-6.

caster, "entailed his lands about Carlisle to his heirs male, remainder to the heirs of Alan Blennerhasset; and the two Brackenhills to the heirs male, remainder to the heirs general."

Richard, son and heir of John, was the father of William Mulcaster "of Carlisle," who may be identical with William Mulcaster, "Gent.," M.P. for that city in 1558 and 1562-3. His son, Richard Mulcaster, was born about 1530 and went to school at Eton. In 1548, he was elected a scholar of King's College, Cambridge, and took the degree of bachelor of arts in 1553-4. But, in 1555, he migrated to Oxford, where he was elected a student of Christ Church. He was incorporated a bachelor of arts and was licensed to proceed in that faculty in December, 1556 (Wood, *Athenæ*, edit. 1815, ii, 93). He spent some years in hard study at Oxford, and became eminent for his profound knowledge of Greek and Hebrew. On September 24th, 1561, he was appointed first head-master of the Merchant Taylors' school. In 1581, he published a quaint work on education, dedicated to the Queen and styled "Positions." It was re-edited, in 1888, by Mr. R. H. Quick, with an appended biography, compiled from particulars furnished by the Rev. Richard Mulcaster, of Anglesea House, Paignton. He took great interest in dramatic art and his pupils frequently performed masques before Queen Elizabeth and her court.

He resigned the head-mastership of the Merchant Taylors' school on June 28th, 1586, was made vicar of Cranbrook, Kent, in 1590, and prebendary of Salisbury Cathedral in 1594. On August 5th, 1596, being then, at least, in his 66th year, he was elected head-master of St. Paul's school. In 1598, the Queen presented him to the rectory of Stanford Rivers, Essex, but he does not appear to have resigned the head-mastership of St. Paul's school until 1608. His wife, Katherine, died on August 6th, 1609, and was buried in the chancel of Stanford Rivers

church. An epitaph described her as "wife to Richard Mulcaster, by ancient parentage and lineal descent an esquire born." He died on April 15th, 1611, and was buried with his wife, but no memorial marks the spot. Bishop Andrews, of Winchester, a pupil and admirer of Richard Mulcaster, left a legacy to his son Peter (*Dictionary of National Biography*).

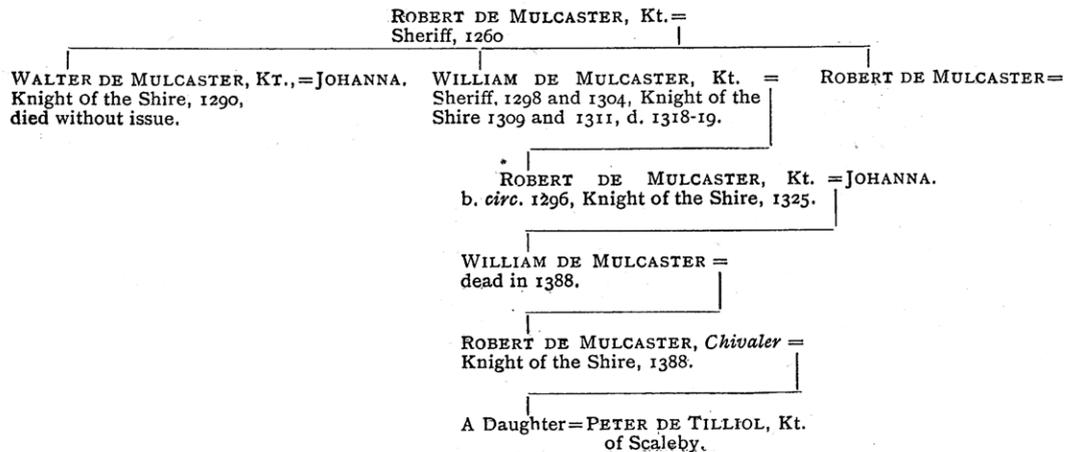
If the date of Richard the school-master's birth, 1530, is taken as the starting point and a reckoning, which allows a period of some 33 years for each generation, is made, it is evident that "Richard Mulcaster Esquire," ancestor of the younger branch, was not the son of Sir William Mulcaster, and that he did not, in fact, receive from Sir William a grant of "both the Brackenhills upon Leven" as the compiler of the Surrey Pedigree would have one believe. And it is stated elsewhere that the Mulcaster who married one of the three co-heiresses of Staffol lived during Henry V's reign, 1413-22 (*Lysons*, p. 128). The arms borne by the younger branch at the Surrey Visitation, 1623, were:—Barry of 10 *argent* and *gules*, a bend *azure*; and their crest was a lion *azure* with a coronet *or*, holding a sword erect *argent*, the blade embued *gules*.

Thomas Mulcaster, whose name appears at the foot of Pedigree B, became rector of Charlwood, and at the Herald's Visitation of Surrey in 1662 quartered his family arms with those of "Artneth"—*or* on a fesse *sable* three lozenges *argent* (*Harleian Society's Publications*, lx, p. 85). Edmondson assigns to "Artered" a similar coat—*argent* on a fesse *sable* three lozenges *or* (*Heraldry*, 1780, vol. i, p. 82). But I have said enough to show that the Surrey Pedigree of 1623 does not prove conclusively that the Mulcasters of Carlisle were descended from Sir William de Mulcaster, that one of them married the heiress of Arthuret and Staffield and that Brackenhill was their original domicile.

A tombstone in Irthington churchyard bore the following inscription :—“ Underneath this stone doth lie Randal Mulcaster of y^e Stone Walls, in Laversdale, near the Piets Wall, who departed 'this life the eleventh of June in the year of our Lord 1670 ” (Nicolson, *Miscellany Accounts*, p. 52). I am informed by one of our members that this Randal Mulcaster, traditionally known as “ Randie with the long sword,” fought for Charles I and was son of Richard, son of William.

(A)

Pedigree of de Mulcaster.



(B)

Pedigree of Mulcaster.

(From *Harl. Soc. Pub.* xliii., 130).

RICHARD MULCASTER, "Esquire."

JOHN = the heiress of Arthuret and Staffol.

