

The Ancient Family of Cockayne and their Monuments in Ashbourne Church.

By E. A. SADLER, M.D.

THE ancient family of Cockayne¹ was settled in Ashbourne certainly as early as the middle of the twelfth century. How long they had been there is not known; nor is there any record of earlier residences of the family, with the exception of a vague reference in one of Sir Aston Cockayne's poems to an ancestor who was said to be "all'i'd to Will the Conqueror" and "liv'd in his reign at Henningham Castle" in the county of Essex.

The earliest member of the family who can be traced with certainty is John Cockayne,² who resided at Ashbourne about 1150. His son was Andreas Cockayne (1154 to 1189), whose son William succeeded him. William's son was also named William, and he married the daughter of Hugh de Dalbury, and was succeeded by his son Roger, whose son was another William Cockayne (1299 to 1323) who married, Sarah, the sister of an Ashbourne merchant named Alexander.

Their eldest son was John, the first of a number of John Cockaynes. He lived from 1305 to 1332 and married the daughter of Sir William de Kniveton of Bradley. Their eldest son, John, was M.P. for the County of Derby.

¹ There were many ways of spelling Cockayne in the older wills, church registers and other records, sometimes differing even in the same document. Cokeine, Cokeyn, Cokayn, Cokayne, Cockaine, Cokaine, Cockain, Cokain are all found. The modern spelling—Cockayne—was generally adopted by the family about the beginning of the 18th century. Lord Cullen however uses Cockayne as his family name.

² From pedigrees of Cockayne in the Heralds' Visitations, and from a pedigree of the Ashburne branch of the family supplied by George Edward Adams of the Heralds' College to Andreas Edward Cockayne, who collected a large number of memoranda relating to his family and published them at Cengleton in 1869.

He died about 1357, having married Loetitia, daughter of Sir Thomas Withers, and left a son John who was knighted and who, like his father, became M.P. for the County of Derby.

With this Sir John Cockayne begins the series of Cockayne monuments in the church of St. Oswald, Ashbourne; for though every one of the preceding Cockaynes resided at Ashbourne Hall, there are no monuments to their memory in the church. But from Sir John Cockayne in 1372 to Sir Thomas in 1592, there are monuments in the church commemorating every successive head of the family except one. The exception is that of the first Thomas (*ob.* 1488) who died before his father and was buried at Youlgrave. (See p. 23).

The monuments are all of great interest, some of great beauty, and adorned with heraldic shields often painted in their proper colours, so that they are a source of interest and instruction to the archaeologist, and to students of heraldry, costume, brasses and armour. The armory of the chief families of Derbyshire is well represented.

The tombs are, with one exception, placed in the Lady Chapel,¹ which occupied the N.E. transept, and is separated from the rest of the church by a fine 14th century screen of oak. This transept was originally the site of an altar dedicated to St. Mary in the chantry founded by Henry Kniveton, Rector of Norbury in 1392. Architecturally the Chapel belongs to the Early English period, the triple lancet windows in the east wall, the beautifully moulded arches, and the piers which support them being exceptionally fine examples of the best period of this style. It was built between the years 1220 and 1240, and, together with the chancel and south transept, was consecrated in the year 1241 by Hugh de Patishull, Lord Bishop of Coventry, as a contemporary brass plate affixed to the wall of the Vestry shows.

¹ Sometimes called the Cockayne Chapel, and in recent times more often referred to as the Boothby Chapel.

The special use of this transept as a monumental chapel dates from the middle of the 19th century, and the monuments which were originally placed in relationship to the altar of St. Mary on the east side of the chapel, were at that time somewhat altered in position, and two beautiful altar-tombs of the Bradbournes,¹ which had, up to that time, been in the Bradbourne Chapel in the S.E. transept, were brought into the Lady Chapel. At various times memorials to the Boothbys, who succeeded the Cockaynes at Ashbourne Hall, have also been erected in the chapel and occupy chiefly its south and S.E. side.

THE COCKAYNE MONUMENTS.

I. THE ALTAR-TOMB OF SIR JOHN COCKAYNE AND HIS SON EDMUND.

This, the earliest of the Cockayne monuments, was in the restoration of 1878 advanced a little eastward, so that it now occupies the site of the altar of St. Mary, the foot of the tomb being close to the east wall of the transept. It lies beneath a bracket which stood on the north side of the altar to the Virgin and originally carried an image of St. Modwin,² but is now occupied by a stone effigy representing the head of a bishop which adorned the capital of a pillar found during restoration.

On the tomb lie, side by side, effigies carved in alabaster representing Sir John Cockayne and his eldest son Edmund.

¹ The Bradbourne family was originally established at Bradbourne before the time of Henry III, but became associated with Ashbourne a century later, through the purchase of an estate at Hough in Hulland, at that time part of the parish of Ashbourne.

² St. Modwin was an Irish nun possessed of unusual healing powers. She healed the son of King Egbert of his leprosy, and the King in his gratitude invited her to England, where she established a nunnery at Polesworth and her daughter Edith became the first abbess. Pooley Hall, the Warwickshire seat of the Cockaynes was in the parish of Polesworth, and this association would account for their veneration of St. Modwin, and explain the introduction of this little known saint into Ashbourne church.

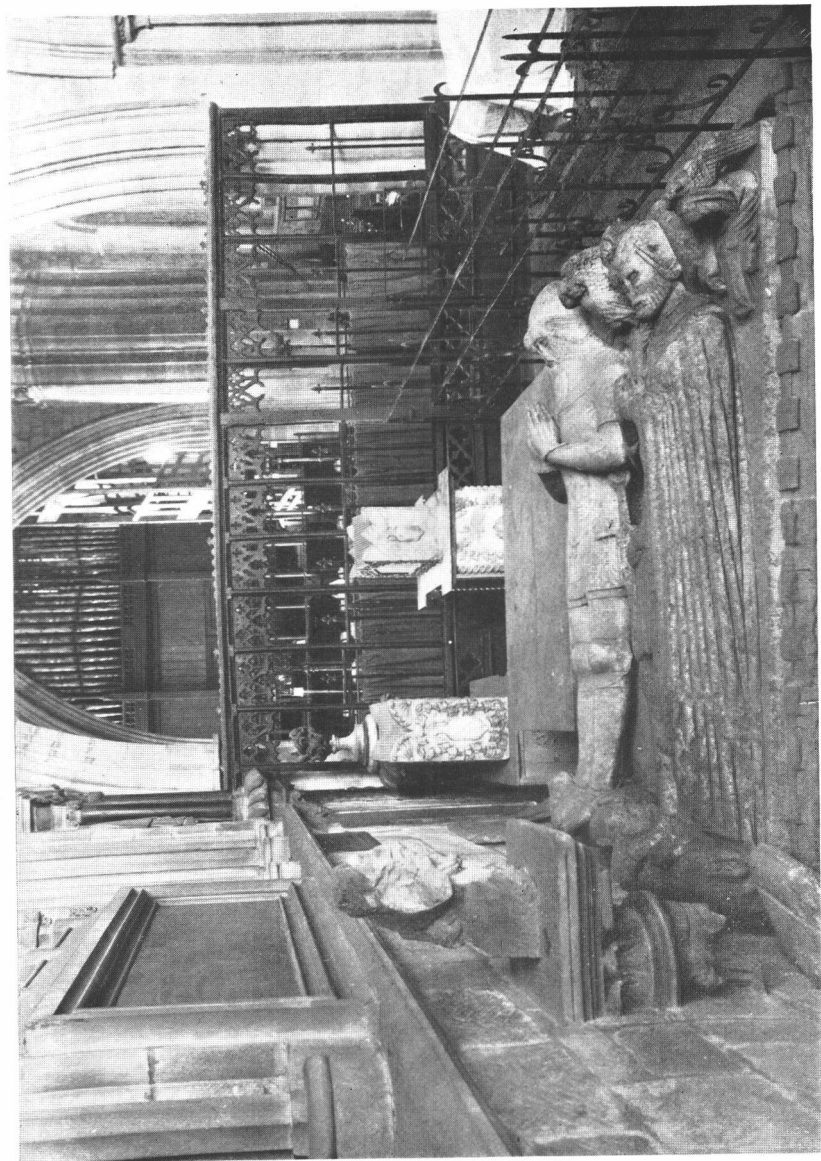


Photo. by H. Hinge.

ALTAR TOMB OF SIR JOHN COCKAYNE AND HIS SON EDMUND,
beyond it the tomb of John Cockayne, and the Boothby monuments.

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Sir John Cockayne, who was several times M.P. for the County of Derby, married Cecilia, relict of Robert Ireton of Ireton,¹ co. Derby and died in 1372. Besides his son Edmund, who succeeded him, he had a second son John who was knighted and who became the founder of the Bedfordshire branch of the family.

Edmund Cockayne married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Richard Harthill,² a marriage of immense importance to the fortunes of the family of Cockayne. The marriage brought the large Warwickshire estates at Pooley and Polesworth, as well as the Harthill and Ballidon estates in Derbyshire to the Cockaynes. Edmund was slain at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1404.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOMB.

The figures are carved in alabaster. The father, Sir John is represented as an old man in the costume of a gentleman of the 14th century. On his head is a coif. He has a tight-fitting tunic buttoned down the front, with sleeves to the wrist. Around his loins is a high hip belt, from which hangs the gypsire or purse ornamented with tassels. The long chausses or hose show beneath the short tunic, and fastened on the right shoulder is a mantle which falls loosely over the left in graceful folds and reaches on that side to the feet, which rest upon a lion.

The younger man, Edmund, wears the knightly dress of the same period, a pointed basinet, more handsome than its stunted successors in the next century, a tippet of mail or camail, upon which is a plain shield "remarkably if not uniquely placed," according to J. R. Planche who described the tomb in 1851.³ The tabard has short sleeves and is bordered with a deep fringe, underneath

¹ Little Ireton, Kedleston.

² This name is variously written; Herthill, Herthull and de Herthill are also found. It is commonly pronounced Hartle and frequently spelt thus. Harthill Hall was a manor $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Bakewell, and less than 2 miles from Youlgrave where was their parish church. The family of Harthill became extinct in 1402 after Elizabeth had married Edmund Cockayne.

³ In the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, Vol. 7, p. 374.

which passes the sword-belt. The tabard displays the family coat of Cockayne, *arg.* three cocks *gules*. His feet rest upon a lion.

The figures are on separate slabs. That on which John rests was formerly let into the floor, probably in front of the altar. It is rare to find the effigies of two men side by side on the same tomb. The reason probably is that Edmund's wife, who survived him and married John Franceys of Ingleby for second husband, had a tomb made wide enough to contain the figures of her father-in-law and her first husband. She erected also a tomb to her own father, Sir Richard Harthill, in Polesworth Church, which has much resemblance to the tomb at Ashbourne. She herself was probably buried at Polesworth, as there is an altar-tomb to her in the chancel of that church.

The base of the tomb is of freestone. On its four sides are quatrefoil panels with Decorated mouldings originally painted. In the panels are stone shields on which are thirteen coats of arms, emblazoned in heraldic colours.¹

On the north side:

- (1) Erdeswick—*arg.* on a chevron *gu.*: five bezants.
- (2) Vernon—*arg.*: fretty *sa.*: a canton *gu.*:
- (3) Shirley—paly of six *or.*: and *arg.*: a canton, *ermine.*
- (4) Astley—*az.*: a cinquefoil *ermine.*
- (5) Pembruge²—barry of six, *arg.*: and *az.*:

At the head of the tomb:

- (6) Pype or Pipe—*gu.*: a fesse *or.*: between 6 crosses-crosslet, *or.*:
- (7) Cokayne and Harthill—quarterly.

¹ The heraldry of the tombs is described as it exists to-day, after actual personal observation. It agrees fairly well with that of the Heralds' Visitations showing that any necessary repairs or restoration in later years has been faithfully and correctly done.

² Sir Richard Vernon (*ob.* 1452) became entitled to bear the Pembruge arms in right of his mother, who was heiress of Sir Fulco de Pembruge, Lord of Tonge Castle, co. Salop. These arms may be seen on a shield over the door of the porch at Haddon Hall.

- (8) Stafford of Pipe—*or*: a chevron *gu*:
 On the south side:
 (9) Ferrers¹—*vaire*, *or*. and *gu*.
 (10) Basset—*or*: 3 piles *gu*: a canton *vaire*, *arg*. and
az.
 (11) Longford—*paly* of six *or*: and *gu*: over all a
 bend *arg*:
 (12) Cotton alias Ridware²—*or*: an eagle displayed
arg: armed *az*:
 (13) Poleswell or Hartington—*arg*: a stag's head
 caboshed, *gu*: between the horns a fleur-de-lys of
 the same.

There is little doubt that some of these coats refer to alliances that occurred after the erection of the tomb and that they were painted thereon at a later date. The records of Heralds' Visitations show that they were all there in 1611. Astley and Erdeswick of Staffordshire had been brought in by the Harthills (Erdeswick is met with, in conjunction with Harthill, in old stained glass at Youlgrave); but Shirley, Ferrers, Vernon, Pembruge, Basset and Cotton certainly relate to later connections of the family.

On the wall above this tomb is a modern brass plate with an inscription:

“The foundations of the walls (Lady Chapel) were renewed, the northern and clerestory windows repaired at the cost of George Edward Cockayne,³ Lancaster Herald, who also re-arranged, and restored the monuments of his ancestors 1878. Francis Jourdain, Vicar; William Richard Holland, John Wray Lister, Churchwardens.”

¹ This was the coat of Ferrers after marriage with Peveril. Later, they adopted the arms of Quincy, earl of Winchester after marriage, which arms appear in the mural monument of Sir Thomas Cockayne (p. 38).

² These arms were adopted by Cotton after the marriage with the heiress of Ridware, whose arms they were.

³ George Edward Cockayne was the grandfather of the present Lord Cullen of Ashbourne.

II. TOMB OF SIR JOHN COCKAYNE, AND OF HIS FIRST WIFE, JOAN.

The monument of Sir John, the second in point of date of the Cockayne monuments is situated on the north side of the tomb of his father and grandfather.

Sir John Cockayne "of Ashbourne and Pooley, knight," was the eldest son of Edmund Cockayne and his wife Elizabeth. He was Sheriff of the counties of Derby and Nottingham in 1422, 1428, 1434, and like his father and grandfather, M.P. for the county of Derby. He went to France in 1411 in the service of the king, and before doing so made his will at Pooley, where he had resided from time to time. Since Pooley Hall became a possession of the Cockaynes by the marriage of John's father with the only child and heiress of Sir Richard Harthill, Pooley had become an alternative residence with Ashbourne Hall for the head of the family.

Sir John married, firstly, Joan, daughter of Sir John D'abridgecourt of Stratfieldsaye, co. Hants, K.G.; and secondly Isabella, daughter of Sir Hugh Shirley, knt. ancestor of the earls of Ferrers. The earlier marriage was not known previous to 1870. Up to that time, there was doubt as to the identity of the effigy of the lady beside Sir John, as the only wife of Sir John known at that time was Isabel Shirley, and to her memory a handsome altar-tomb existed in the church of Polesworth, Warwickshire, her native county. The discovery of the previous marriage of Sir John satisfactorily cleared up the difficulty. The lady by his side on the Ashbourne tomb represents his first wife, Joan, who pre-deceased her husband; while the second wife, Isabel, who outlived him, was buried in the place of her ancestors.

Sir John died in 1447, leaving, by his second wife, a son, John who succeeded, and three other sons and two daughters. His second son William became the founder of the branch of the family which ultimately settled at



Photo. by H. Hinge.

ALTAR TOMB OF SIR JOHN COCKAYNE AND HIS WIFE JOAN,
in the background the tomb of Sir Thomas Cockayne and his wife Barbara.

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Rushton Hall, co. Northampton, and from which were descended the Viscounts Cullen.¹

Sir John abandoned his own family coat of arms and adopted that of his mother, Elizabeth Harthill.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOMB.

The tomb of Sir John and Lady Joan Cockayne is the most beautiful of all the Cockayne tombs. It is entirely of alabaster, and the sides are carved with an elegant panelling, with exquisitely carved figures of angels bearing shields, which are now plain, all traces of former emblazonment having disappeared.

Sir John's effigy affords a good specimen of the armour of the 15th century (reigns of Henry V and Henry VI). Mail armour had then entirely disappeared and plate armour was in vogue. There is no military surcoat, jupon or tabard. He wears a breast-plate to which is appended a skirt of horizontal steel bands called taces; there are pallettes (plates to protect the arm-pits) which were not introduced until the reign of Henry V. Round his neck is the Lancastrian collar of SS, which is not met with earlier than the reign of Henry IV.²

The Lady Joan is represented in the characteristic dress of the earlier part of the 15th century, of the same period as the armour of her husband. She wears a sideless surcoat with its full skirt, surmounting the tightly fitting kirtle, girdled over the hips; a mantle with lace and tassels hangs from her shoulders, and she has a horned or lunated head-dress with a reticulated covering for the hair.

¹ At the death of the 6th Viscount Cullen in 1810, the Viscounty became extinct. The present Lord Cullen of Ashbourne, who holds a barony created in 1920, is descended from a younger branch of the same family.

² Collar of SS.—There is a certain amount of mystery about this decoration; its origin and significance are unknown. At the present time it is worn by the Lord Chief Justice, the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, the Lord Mayor of London, and by Heralds, Kings of Arms and Sergeants of Arms.

III. TOMB OF JOHN COCKAYNE.

John Cockayne was the grandson of Edmund of the first monument, and the eldest son of Sir John, of the second monument, by his second wife, Isabel, daughter of Sir Hugh Shirley. He, like his immediate ancestors, was M.P. for the county of Derby, and resided at Ashbourne and Pooley. He married Agnes, daughter of Sir Richard Vernon, Knt. of Haddon Hall, and died at a great age in the year 1505. He returned to the family arms which his father had given up, using the Harthill arms as a quartering only.

This monument has a somewhat chequered history. It consisted originally of an inscribed slab of alabaster let into the floor of the chapel, and by the constant treading of feet became much worn. Moreover, a portion of the inscription round the slab was cut away to make room for the base of one of the Boothby monuments, destroying half the lettering and leaving only a few letters at one corner. In or about the year 1865 the slab was taken up to preserve it from further destruction, and as one half was worn completely bare, it was divided, and the half which still possessed some traces of the carving was fixed into the eastern wall of the chapel. But at the re-arrangement of the chapel in 1872, the slab was again removed and placed on a base of modern construction with plain sides, and erected in a position to the south of the double tomb of John and Edmund Cockayne. The only remains of carving on the slab are now four shields, one at each corner, bearing the quartered arms of Cockayne and Harthill, impaling those of Vernon,¹ which were the means by which it became possible, in the absence of part of the inscription, to identify the tomb as that of John Cockayne and his Vernon wife.

The remains of the inscription round the margin consist

¹ See page 18 for arms of Vernon.

of leaden letters let into the stone, the few letters which can now be deciphered, read as follows:

(Q)ui quidem (Johan)ohes obiit vicesimo tertio die mensu (D)ecembris Ann(o)"; the rest is missing.

He evidently died on the 23rd of December; the year we know from other sources.

Thomas Cockayne, the eldest son of John has no memorial in Ashbourne church. He was killed, during the life-time of his father, in a duel with Sir Thomas Burdett of Bramcote, when on a visit to his father's house at Pooley. His body was removed to Youlgrave, in which parish was Harthill Hall, where the eldest son of the Cockaynes resided during his father's life-time.

He married Agnes daughter of Robert Barley, of Barlow, co. Derby, who is of importance in this account of the Cockayne tombs at Ashbourne, as the arms of her family occur on several of them.

There is a small but very beautiful altar tomb, without inscription, to the memory of Thomas and his wife in the chancel of Youlgrave church. This is the only break in the series of monuments that commemorate in Ashbourne church the head of the Cockayne family in the direct line between the years 1372 and 1592.

IV. ALTAR-TOMB OF SIR THOMAS COCKAYNE AND HIS WIFE BARBARA.

Sir Thomas, the eldest son of Thomas Cockayne, who was killed at Pooley, and of his wife Agnes was born in 1479. He was styled "The Magnificent" and was the most celebrated, and perhaps the most interesting of the Cockaynes. He was knighted by Henry VIII on the field of battle at the siege of Tournai in 1513. He was also present at the Battle of the Spurs which resulted in the capture of Terwin or Terouenne, and accompanied the king at that wonderful display of chivalry "The Field of the Cloth of Gold."

He succeeded to the estates in 1505, and from the inscription on his tomb, it would appear that they were somewhat encumbered. However that may be, it is certain that he restored the fortunes of his family, and rebuilt Ashbourne Hall in Derbyshire and Pooley Hall in Warwickshire, and enclosed woods and land to form three parks at Ashbourne, Clifton near Ashbourne, and Pooley.

He married Barbara, daughter of John Fitzherbert of Etwall and Ashbourne, and granddaughter of Sir Ralph Fitzherbert of Norbury, by whom he had three sons and three daughters. He died in April, 1537 and by his will dated 4th April, 28th Henry VIII (1536) he bequeathed "my soul to God, and the Lady Marye and all the company of heaven; my body to be buried in the church of Hassheburne in my Lady's Quire before the image of St. Modwin,"¹ appointing that his executors should cause a tomb of marble to be placed there for him, which was accordingly performed, and is the altar-tomb situated in the N.E. corner of the Lady Chapel.²

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOMB.

The tomb is of Purbeck marble. It stands in its original position at the N.E. angle of the Lady Chapel, and is of massive proportions being seven feet in length, four in width and four in height. Built against two outer walls it has suffered much from damp. On the marble base is an alabaster slab on which are drawn the effigies of Sir Thomas and his wife in scroll lines filled in with black mastic.

The knight has a profusion of hair and a long beard, and is represented in a complete suit of plate-armor (*temp.* Henry VIII). He wears a belt which passes over

¹ See note, p. 16.

² The will directs "a tombe to be raised over me according to the discretion and advice of my wife and executors; the sum of £8 to be expended on the same, so that it be all of marble, and if that sum be not sufficient then I will that more be expended thereon."

the taces below the breast-plate and from the belt hangs a sword. At his feet is depicted a hound with raised head. The head of Sir Thomas is of much beauty and would seem to be more the representation of a saint than of a hunter and warrior.

His wife is portrayed as a Tudor matron wearing a small ruff and a long robe which reaches to her feet. On her head is the pedimental head-dress of the earlier part of the 16th century as shown by the long pendant lappets which hang from it.

The end and side of the base of the tomb are divided into panels filled with tracery, the larger ones carrying shields on which are coats mainly of Cockayne and Harthill with various quarterings engraved thereon.

On the side of the tomb are:

(1) In the centre—quarterly. In the first quarter Cockayne quartering Harthill (*arg.* two bars *vert.*); 2nd quarter, Rossington¹ (*arg.* a fesse between 3 crescents, *gu.*); 3rd quarter, Edensor, (*arg.* a chevron *gu.* between three horse-shoes, *sa.*); 4th quarter, *arg.* three stags, *sa.*;² the whole impaling Fitzherbert (*arg.* a chief *vaire*, *or* and *gu.* over all a bend, *sa.*, a crescent for difference. These are the arms of Sir Thomas Cockayne and his wife Barbara Fitzherbert.

(2) On the dexter side—Cockayne, quartered as above, impaling Barley (barry wavy of six, *arg.* and *sa.*, a chief *per pale*, *ermine* and *gu.*). These are the arms of Sir Thomas Cockayne's parents.

¹ Rossington of Doncaster became connected with Youlgrave at a very early date by marriage with an heiress of Kniveton. An effigy of a cross-legged crusader on a tomb in Youlgrave church is said to represent Sir John Rossington. Harthill Hall was in the parish of Youlgrave.

² The shield which appears on several of the Cockayne tombs bearing *arg.* 3 stags, *sa.*, has long been a puzzle to the armorists. Mr. C. G. Gardner, of Lindley, nr. Nuneaton, a learned Warwickshire archaeologist (whose knowledge of heraldry has been of great assistance to me, in describing the Cockayne monuments) has, after much investigation, come to the conclusion that it is the canting coat of the Harthills (Hart-hill) used alternately with *arg.* two bars, *vert.* It is now borne by Rogers, who, he thinks may have descended from the Harthills on the distaff-side.

(3) On the sinister side, Fitzherbert (as above) impaling Babington (*arg.* ten torteaux, four, three, two and one, in chief a label of three points, *az.*). These are the arms of Lady Cockayne's parents.

At the head of the tomb—Cockayne, quarterly of seven, viz. 1st quarter, Cockayne; 2nd, Harthill; 3rd Deyville (*arg.* on a fesse, *gu.* between four fleurs-de-lys of the same, 2 and 2, two fleurs-de-lys, *arg.*); 4th Savage,¹ (*arg.* six lions rampant, 3, 2 and 1, *sa.* langued *gu.*); 5th Rossington (as above); 6th Edensor (as above); 7th three stags (as above).

There are two rhyming inscriptions recounting the knight's deeds and virtues. The rhyming epitaphs on this tomb have become famous as the first of their kind. Previous to the 15th century inscriptions were rarely found, the tomb being identified by the coats of arms. Later, inscriptions in latin round the edge of the tomb were introduced, recording merely the names with date of death of the man (never of the woman), and perhaps an exhortation to pray for their souls. Then, at the period with which we are dealing, and in connection with the monument to Sir Thomas, occur the first of the rhyming epitaphs in English which became so common in the eighteenth century.

One of the inscriptions is on the slab inscribed on the lady's voluminous skirts. Being much worn, it is now barely legible. It records that:

“ Here lieth Sir Thomas Cockayne
 Made knight at Turney and Turwyne²
 Who builded here fayre houses Twayne³
 With many profettes that remayne
 And three fayre parkes⁴ impaled he

¹ At an early period, a coheirress of the family of Savage of Tissington married Edensor.

² Terwin or Terouenne.

³ Ashbourne Hall and Pooley Hall.

⁴ Ashbourne, Clifton, near Ashbourne, and Pooley.

For his successors here to be
 And did his house and name restore
 Whiche others had decayed before
 And was a knight so worshipfull
 So vertuous wyse and pitifull
 His deeds deserve that his good name
 Lyve here in everlasting fame
 Who had issue iii sonnes iii daughters.”

The second inscription¹ in its original form has disappeared but a copy has been engraved on a modern brass tablet from the version of Charles Ashmole (1662) preserved in the Bodleian Library. The tablet has been fixed to the north wall of the chapel over the tomb. It runs thus:

“ Here chested in this Tombe, and closed in this clay
 Doth lye Sr. Thomas Cokain Knt., and must till
 judgment day.
 This martiall man so bold and eke This worthy wight
 At Turwyn and at Turney siege was Dub'd a worthy
 knight.
 Two goodly houses he did build to his great praise and
 fame
 With profitte greate and manifold belonging to the same.
 Three Parkes empaled eke wherein to chace his deere,
 Aloft the Lodge² within this Parke he also builded heere.
 He did his house and name renew and eke his land
 restore,
 Which others had by negligence decay'd in tyme before.
 This marshall knight had yssue male 3 sons of manly
 port,
 And eke three daughters verteous, all married in this
 sort.
 The eldest unto husband had a knight of worthy fame,

¹ Dugdale in his Visitation, 1666 says that “ Paynted on a Tablet over the said Tombe is this Elegie written of the same Sir Thomas Cokain, Kt.”

² At Clifton, Ashbourne; probably where the Lodge Farm now stands.

Sir William Basset,¹ Lord of Blore, and so was called
by name.

To Vincent Loe,² of Denby Squire, the second married
was,

The third to Robert Burdet³ Squire, all this he brought
to pass.

This knight he was so witifull, so verteous and so
pittifull,

His deeds deserve his noble fame may live in everlasting
name."

Dugdale's account has minor differences chiefly in the orthography, but the last two lines differ altogether. His reading is:

The body of this worthy knight shall never come to hell,
But yet in tombe of marble-stone, till judgment day
shall dwell.

V. TOMB OF FRANCIS COCKAYNE AND HIS WIFE DOROTHY.

Francis, described as "Esquire," was the eldest son of Sir Thomas Cockayne and his wife Barbara, and succeeded his father in 1537, but his enjoyment of the inheritance was a short one for he died the next year. He does not appear to have figured in any events of importance, but lived a quiet life mainly at Pooley. He had married Dorothy, the rich daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Marrowe, Sergeant-at-law, and had three sons and three daughters. He died seised of the manor of

¹ Sir William Bassett married Ann the eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Cockayne. Sir William's mother had married as second husband Henry Cockayne the brother of Sir Thomas.

² Vincent Lowe married Jane the second daughter of Sir Thomas Cockayne. Vincent's father Humphrey married Margaret daughter of Thomas Cockayne of Ashbourne, esquire.

³ The marriage of Elizabeth, third daughter of Sir Thomas, with Robert Burdett of Bramcote, co. Warwick, helped to heal the feud between the Cockaynes and Burdetts, which resulted in the duel between Thomas Burdett and Thomas Cockayne, the grandfather of Elizabeth Cockayne, in which Thomas Cockayne was slain.

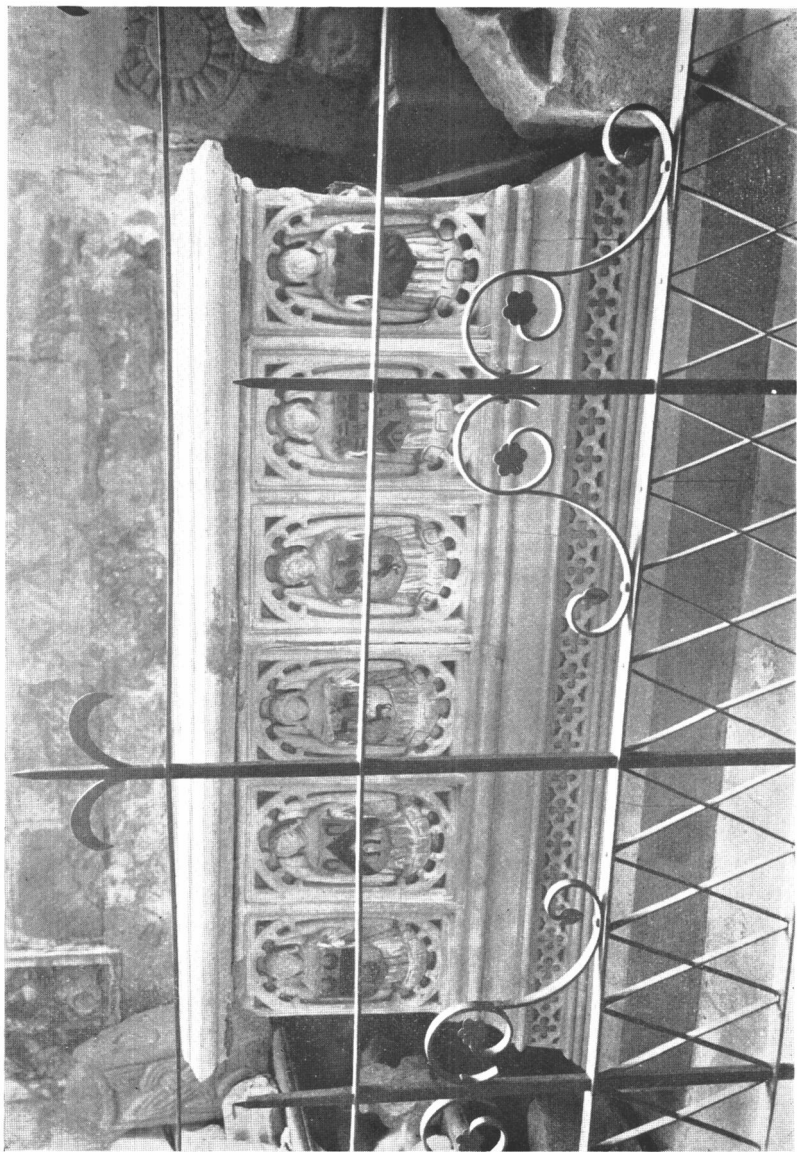


Photo. by H. Hinge.

ALTAR TOMB OF FRANCIS COCKAYNE AND HIS WIFE DOROTHY.

To face p. 28.

Calton in Staffordshire and had also lands in Longnor, Kingsley and Cheadle, in addition to the main estates in Derbyshire and Warwickshire.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOMB.

The monument to Francis Cockayne is a very beautiful altar-tomb of freestone, 6 ft. 4 ins. long, 3 ft. wide and 4 ft. high, situated under the north window of the Lady Chapel. Though architecture was being much influenced by the Renaissance at this time, the tomb of Francis is gothic in character. Upon the slab are inlays of brass representing the squire and his lady.

The brass effigy of Francis himself is presented in armour with a rich tabard or surcoat, decorated with the arms of Cockayne, the sword being behind the body; on the knees are plates of armour and on each heel is the spur and rowel. His face is beautiful and refined like that of his father, and his head, covered with long hair, rests on a cap or helm, decorated with mantling, and surmounted by his crest, the cock. His hands are placed in the attitude of prayer.

His wife is richly attired in a long graceful robe, encircled at the waist by a belt with an ornamental clasp. The robe falls in elegant folds to her feet and has large loose frilled sleeves; her head, adorned with the pedimental Tudor cap, rests on a cushion ornamented with tassels.

Above their heads is represented a canopy of rich tracery of beautiful and elegant design, and supported by twisted shafts. At the feet of Francis are shown three boys in miniature, and at the feet of Dorothy three girls.

Along three sides of the edge of the slab (the fourth side, being close to the wall, has a plain brass band) is an inscription in old English letters, which says:

“ Here lyeth the bodie of Francys Cokaine Escuyer, and Dorotheie his wyffe, the whyche Francys decessyd y^e vth daye of Auguste A^o. dni M^oCCCCXXXVIIJ.”

The inscription is not altogether correct as Dorothy Cockayne is not buried there. Having caused her own effigy in brass to be placed beside her husband's, while she was yet alive (no uncommon custom in those days) she married again in 1540, Sir Humphrey Ferrers, a widower, of Tamworth Castle. As Sir Humphrey's son, John, had married one of Dorothy Cockayne's daughters, and his daughter Dorothy had married the eldest son of Dorothy Cockayne, and succeeded with her husband to the Cockayne estates, Francis Cockayne's widow had, by her second marriage to Sir Humphrey, become step-mother to her daughter-in-law, and also to her son-in-law. When Dorothy Cockayne or Ferrers, as she became, died, she was buried, according to Dugdale, the Warwickshire historian, at Baddesley Clinton, co. Warwick, the early home of her mother, Isabel Brome. So that the inscription on the tomb of Francis Cockayne is a lying one, in so far as it relates to the burial of Dorothy, his wife.

In addition to the figures and inscription on the slab, there are four escutcheons of brass, and round the sides of the tomb ten others; and as many of the coats are repeated on several of the shields, it will simplify the description, and save repetition, if a list of the families represented, and a description of the arms they bore, is first given, and afterwards an indication of the positions on the tomb which they occupy.

The families represented are:

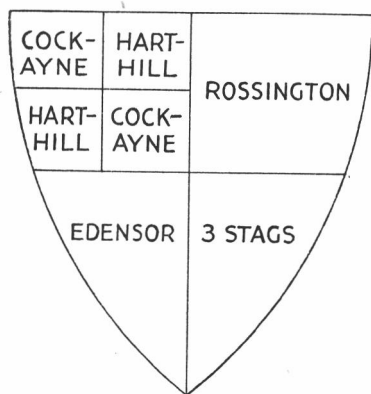
- (1) Cockayne—*arg.* three cocks, *gu.* the combs and wattles, *sa.*
- (2) Harthill—*arg.* two bars, *vert.*
- (3) Marrowe¹—*arg.* a fesse engrailed between three maidens' heads coupéd, *or.*
- (4) Brome²—*sa.* on a chevron, *arg.* three slips of broom, *vert.* seeded, *or.*

¹ Thomas Marrowe was the father of Dorothy Cockayne.

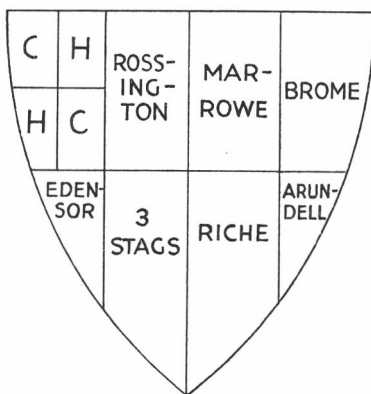
² Isabel, daughter of Nicholas Brome, lord of Baddesley Clinton, co. Warwick, was the mother of Dorothy Cockayne.

- (5) Riche¹—*gu.* a chevron between three crosses-crosslet, *or.*
- (6) Arundell²—*sa.* six martlets (or arundells) *arg.*
- (7) Rossington³—*arg.* a fesse between three crescents, *gu.*
- (8) Edensor—*arg.* a chevron, *gu.* between three horseshoes, *sa.*
- (9) Fitzherbert—*arg.* a chief vaire, *or* and *gu.* over all a bend, *sa.* a crescent for difference.....
- (10) The elusive Three stags.⁴

The four shields of brass on the slab occur at each of the corners, one at the head of the slab above the figure of the man, the second above the figure of the woman, the third and fourth at the foot of the slab, supporting, as it were, the two shafts of the canopy over the figures. The arms on these shields though well and deeply carved are not painted. Each shield has a number of quarterings whose nature and position are shown in the accompanying diagrams:



No. 1.—Head of Slab, dexter side.



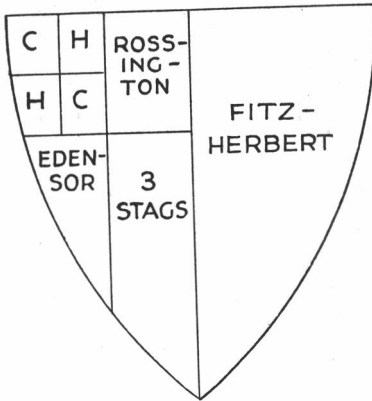
No. 2.—Head of Slab, sinister side.

¹ Catherine, daughter and co-heir of John Riche of London was the mother of Thomas Marrowe.

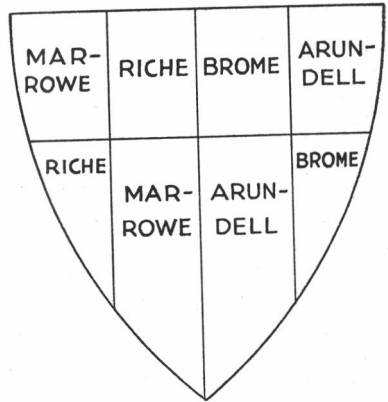
² Isabel Brome's mother was an Arundell.

³ For Rossington, see note p. 20.

⁴ For "Three Stags" see note, p. 25.



No. 3. Foot of slab,
dexter side.



No. 4. Foot of slab,
sinister side.

Shield No. 1 has Cockayne and the quarterings of his family.

No. 2 has Cockayne and his quarterings, impaling the quarterings of his wife and her family.

No. 3 has Cockayne and his quarterings, impaling Fitzherbert, the arms of his mother's family.

No. 4 has the quarterings of his wife and her family only.

The base of the tomb has fine gothic ornament and carving on three sides, the fourth being built into the wall of the Chapel. There are ten deeply-carved panels, two at each end, and six on the side. In each panel is the figure of an angel holding a stone shield to which is affixed a shield of brass, with the achievements carved and painted thereon.

The two shields at the head of the tomb bear the arms of:

- (1) Cockayne. (This metal shield is now missing).
- (2) Harthill.

At the foot are two:

- (3) Marrowe impaling Brome.
- (4) Brome¹ impaling Arundell.

¹ Cox says *Riche* impaling Arundel, but the arms at the present time are definitely those of Brome.



Photo. by H. Hinge.

MURAL MONUMENT OF SIR THOMAS COCKAYNE AND HIS
WIFE DOROTHY.

To face p. 32.

On the side, six shields:

- (5) Rossington.
- (6) Edensor or Ednesoure.
- (7) ? Three stags.
- (8) Cockayne.¹
- (9) Cockayne and Harthill quarterly, quartering Rossington, Edensor and Three Stags.
- (10) Marrowe quartering Brome, Riche and Arundell.²

The tomb of Francis and Dorothy has, as a result of its position against an outer wall, yielded to decay; and in Puritan times also, it suffered greatly from hard usage, the brasses, the effigies, the canopy and the inscription were all partly destroyed; the shields entirely. That they are now in good condition is due to the care of George Edward Cockayne, Lancaster Herald, who in the year 1878, at his own expense, faithfully restored them and other tombs of his ancestors, which had suffered damage and decay.³

VI. MURAL MONUMENT OF SIR THOMAS COCKAYNE, AND HIS WIFE DOROTHY.

The third Thomas Cockayne lived during a striking and important period in the history of England, and in his own life he played an important part in the far-reaching changes that were going on in the country. He succeeded his father, Francis, who had died young, in 1538, at the time when the dissolution of the great religious houses under Henry VIII was just beginning, and in one of these houses he was especially interested—the abbey of Polesworth near to his seat at Pooley.⁴

¹ Before the 1878 restoration this shield was Cockayne and Harthill quarterly in the first quarter, quartering Rossington, Edensor and Three Stags, impaling Marrowe quartered with Brome, Riche and Arundell; this is precisely the same as the second shield on the slab.

² Cox says Marrowe quartering Riche only. On this shield the cross-crosslets of Riche are drawn *fitchée* instead of plain.

³ See p. 19.

⁴ See note, p. 16.

In 1540 he married Dorothy Ferrers daughter of Sir Humphrey Ferrers, of Tamworth Castle, and in 1544 we hear of him in the army commanded by the Earl of Hertford, the brother-in-law of the King. The king was anxious to marry his infant son, Edward, to the infant and orphaned daughter of James V of Scotland, which project was strongly opposed by Cardinal Benton, Archbishop of St. Andrews, and it was to break down this opposition that Henry sent the Earl of Hertford to Scotland with an army in which served Thomas Cockayne. The town of Leith was invested by the English, and it was in this encounter that Cockayne was created 'miles' and given the temporary rank of Captain.

The next important period of his life is connected with literature. He was one of that brilliant band of poets and authors who made the reign of Elizabeth such a glorious period in the history of English literature. Hollingshead, the chronicler of England, Scotland and Ireland acted as steward on a neighbouring estate and was a frequent visitor to Sir Thomas at Pooley. Michael Drayton and John Donne, whose life was written by the master-hand of Izaak Walton, were among the writers of this era who were intimates of the Cockaynes in their Warwickshire home; and there is reason to believe that Cockayne had literary connection also with the greatest of all Warwickshire and indeed of all English writers, William Shakespeare.

Sir Thomas was also a famous sportsman, like his grandfather before him. He published, in the year before his death, a book on hunting, entitled, "A Short Treatise of Hunting, compyled for the delight of Noblemen and Gentlemen, by Sir Thomas Cockaine, Knight," which is now of extreme rarity, though a copy may be found in the British Museum, and another changed hands privately in 1933, for a sum of £2,100.¹

¹ A full account of this work with facsimile reproduction of the whole of its pages and quaint illustrations occurs in the *Journal* of the D.N.H.A.S. for 1881, vol. iii, p. 109.

As far as Ashbourne is concerned, Sir Thomas's great work was the founding of the Grammar School in 1585.¹ Though he spent a good deal of his time at his Warwickshire house of Pooley, his chief interest was in Ashbourne and he was buried there as the church register shows.

1592. November 15, Dominus Thomas Cockaine, sepultus in nocte, M.²

His wife Dorothy followed him after little more than three years, and her burial at Ashbourne is also recorded in the church register:

1595. Dec. 23—Domina Dorothea Cockaine, Vidua uxor Domini Thomas Cockaine, diem obit Derbyce, M.

And in Ashbourne Church, too, was erected the magnificent mural monument to their memory.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOMB.

The monument now stands on the north wall of the north transept inside the north door, and just outside the 15th century screen of the Lady Chapel, in which are the tombs of his ancestors.

The tomb, in the Renaissance style, is composed of alabaster and marble elaborately carved. It is 16 ft. in height, and the upper portion hides part of the lower light of the great N.W. window of the transept. At the restoration of 1840 under the Rev. Tenison Mosse, the tomb was moved to this position and the base sunk below the level of the floor of the transept, in consequence of which it has been much damaged by damp. Before that time the tomb stood inside the chapel against the eastern wall, which is believed to have been its original position.

In the centre of the monument is a large recess under a semi-circular arch, supported on two small piers. In the recess are figures of Thomas and Dorothy facing each

¹ See "Earliest Records of Ashbourne Grammar School," in the *Journal of the D.N.H.A.S.*, 1931, vol. v (N.S.), p. 80.

² M=mortuary fee.

other and kneeling on cushions at a prayer-desk. On the face of the prayer-desk is an inscription in Latin:

HIC JACENT SEPVLTA
CORPORA THOMÆ
COKAINI MILITIS
ET DOM DOROTH
EÆ VXORIS EIVS
CHRISTI MORS
NOBIS VITA

Beneath the figure of Thomas, carved in one of the three panels into which the upper part of the base of the tomb is divided, are the kneeling figures of their three sons in miniature; and on the panel beneath Dorothy, their seven daughters also kneeling. The centre panel between the two groups of figures has this inscription:

NOMINA LIBERORUM THOMÆ COKAINI MIL
ET DOM DOROTHEÆ VXORIS EIVS — FRAN-
CISCVS THOMAS EDWARDVS FLORENTIA
DOROTHEA TALUTHA JOHANNA JOHANNA
JAN MAUD.

The occurrence of the name Joan twice over is probably due to the custom, common in those times, of giving to a child the name of a preceding one who had died.

The lower part of the base of the tomb is occupied by two large panels which are now blank but which would be intended for inscriptions. Cox in his "Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire," says that the following inscription was once upon the tomb:

"Thomas Cokaine, Miles, Filius et Hæres Francisci Cokayne Armigeri et Dorotheæ Uxoris Ejus Filiæ et Hæredis Thomæ Marrowe, Servientis-ad-Legem de Berkswell¹ In Com Varvicensi Qui Thomas fuit creatus Miles per Comitum Hertfordiæ Tempore Captionis Edyngborough In Scotia 2do Die Maii 1544 Anno 36 Hen: 8."²

¹ The Marrowes were granted the manor of Berkswell by Mary I.

² Harl. MSS., 5809, f. 23.

It is possible that this inscription may have been the one to occupy the lower panels, and that it disappeared as a result of the damp during the burial of this part of the tomb beneath the level of the floor, or as a result of the substitution of plain slabs at the restoration of 1878, to replace those that were damaged.

The tomb is rich in heraldry, all the shields being finely carved and well painted. It introduces a number of new arms brought to the family achievement by Sir Thomas's alliance with Ferrers.

In the spandrels above the semi-circular arch are:

- (1) Over the Knight, *arg.* 3 cocks *gu.*, the combs and wattles, *sa.*; the well-known Cockayne arms.
- (2) Over the lady, *arg.* a fesse engrailed between three maidens' heads coupé, *or.*; the arms of Marrowe, Sir Thomas's mother.

In the superstructure of the monument are two short columns, one at each end, and on the plinth of each of these columns is a shield:

- (1) Dexter—*vair*, a fesse fretty, *or* and *gu* (Marmion of Tamworth).¹
- (2) Sinister—*or.* a saltire engrailed, *sa.* (Botetort of Weoley, co. Worcester).¹

In the centre of the superstructure is a panel with a shield (surmounted by a helmet and crest), quarterly of eleven:

- (1) Cockayne—*arg.* three cocks, *gu.*
- (2) Harthill—*arg.* two bars *vert.*
- (3) Deyville—*or.* on a fesse between four fleurs-de-lys, *gu.* 2 and 2, two fleurs-de-lys of the first.
- (4) Savage—*arg.* six lions rampant, *sa.*, langued *gu.*
- (5) Rossington—*arg.* a fesse between three crescents, *gu.*
- (6) Edensor—*arg.* a chevron, *gu.* between three horseshoes, *sa.*

¹ Both *Marmion* and *Botetort* are ancestors of Ferrers of Tamworth.

- (7) — *arg.* three stags, *sa.*
 (8) Marrowe—*arg.* a fesse engrailed between three maidens' heads coupéd, *or.*
 (9) Brome—*sa.* on a chevron, *arg.* three slips of broom, *vert.* seeded, *or.*
 (10) Riche—*gu.* a chevron between three crosses-crosslet, *or.*
 (11) Arundell—*sa.* six martlets or arundells, *arg.*

Beneath this achievement is a label with the words:

A TRIBULACI - ONE.

At the sides of the monument, springing from the ends of the base, are two more tapering columns, at the base of which are shields bearing on the dexter side the quartered arms of Cockayne and Harthill; and on the sinister Cockayne quartering Harthill and Marrowe, impaling Ferrers¹ (*gu.* seven mascles, 3, 3 and 1, conjunct, *or.*); Freville (*or.* a cross with floriated extremities, *gu.*); Marmion (*vair*, a fesse fretty, *or.* and *gu.*) and Botetort (*or.* a saltire engrailed, *sa.*).

At the extreme summit of the monument are a third pair of short tapering columns with a shield on the plinth:

- (1) dexter—*gu.* seven mascles, 3, 3 and 1, conjunct, *or.* (for Ferrers of Tamworth).
 (2) Sinister—*or.* a cross with floriated extremities, *gu.* (for Freville of Tamworth).

After the death of Sir Thomas Cockayne in 1592, the family appears to have declined. Francis, the eldest son of Sir Thomas died before his mother, and only two years after his father, and was buried, as recorded in the church register, at Ashbourne on Dec. 26, 1594, and was given the usual Cockayne burial at midnight by the light of torches.

¹ These arms belong to Ferrers of Groby. They were adopted by the family after the marriage of William of Ferrers, Earl of Derby in 1254, with Margaret Lady of Groby, daughter of Roger Quincy, earl of Winchester, whose arms they were (see note, p. 19).

He died childless and was succeeded by his brother Edward, who had married Jane Ashby of Willoughby-in-the Wolds, co. Leicester, a friend of John Donne. He lived previously at Mapleton; the old registers of that church record the birth of several of his children, including his eldest son, Thomas (the fourth), who ultimately succeeded his father at Ashbourne. Edward was buried at Ashbourne on Oct. 12, 1606.

Thomas died in 1638, but the place of his burial is unknown. His wife Anne or Anna, daughter of Sir John Stanhope of Elvaston in the county of Derby survived him twenty-six years and was buried at Ashbourne, as this quaint entry in the Ashbourne Church register records:

“Mrs. Anna Cockayne, widow died about 6 in the morning, 29th day & the hearse was layd over her the 1st September, 1664.”

The eldest son of Thomas and Anna was Aston Cockayne, who was baptized at Ashbourne Dec. 20th, 1608, and became in his day a famous poet. Inheriting from his father a declining patrimony, impoverished by his adherence to the Royalist cause, and by his unbending Roman Catholicism during the time of the Commonwealth, and further embarrassed by his own extravagance, he sold the Ashbourne estates to Sir William Boothby, Bt. in 1671. Thus the ancient home and estates of the Cockaynes at Ashbourne, which they had held since the time of Edward I, and the Hall, which Thomas “the Magnificent” had built, passed into other hands, and the connection of the family with Ashbourne, which had lasted for over five hundred years, came to an end.