

Bampfylde House, Exeter.

## The Archaeological Iournal.

JUNE, 1874.

## BAMPFYLDE HOUSE, EXETER.

By ROBERT YMOND, F.S.A.

THROUGHOUT its long eventful history the City of Exeter has always occupied the position of a local metropolis. This position dates from the time when it was the capital of the Kingdom of Wessex. It had been an important military post long before King Athelstane surrounded it with a wall of hewn stone, and from that time to the termination of the civil commotions of the seventeenth century it remained the military key of the Western Peninsula. Its pre-eminence as a centre of ecclesiastical government dates from the reign of the Confessor. Thenceforward a group of monastic establishments and the town residences of Abbots and Priors clustered within its walls round a noble cathedral. Thus, the Abbot of Buckfast had his town house in the Cathedral The head of the wealthy monastery of Torre occupied a more obscure abode in Paul Street. The Prior of Otterton reserved an occasional lodging for himself in the same quarter. The Abbot of Tavistock resided in a house in South Street, which afterwards became the Bear Inn. whilst the Prior of Plympton occupied a tenement in the same street, now known as the Black Lions Inn. After the country had recovered from the depressing influence of the contests between the Houses of York and Lancaster and the monasteries had been dissolved, Exeter rapidly attained prominence as a nucleus of mercantile activity. It became the emporium of an enormous foreign trade in the woollen fabrics of the surrounding country, and for a long time Leeds alone surpassed it in the magnitude of this commerce. In the value and amount of cloth traffic it had no rival in the West of England. As the point from which the south-VOL. XXXI. (No. 122.)

western highways radiated it was the most convenient centre of county government, and whilst access to London was beset with difficulty and heavy cost, the county magnates, like their ecclesiastical predecessors, resorted to the county metropolis for purposes of business and social pleasures. The house of the Blackfriars in Exeter was one of the least of the ecclesiastical acquisitions of the favoured family of Russell, and under the name of Bedford House it became the scene of some of the most striking incidents in the City's history. Chief among these events was the birth of the Princess Henrietta Maria, who was baptized at the Cathedral on the 21st July, 1644. Bedford House was demolished more than a century ago, and gave place to a crescent of brick houses called Bedford Crescent. Later still another semi-circle was added, and Bedford Crescent became Bedford Circus, the ground rents of which are still paid to the Duke. The Colletons had a mansion in Fore Street, still exhibiting armorial traces of their residence. The Carvs of Cockington had a residence in Paul Street. The Giffards had a "Grete House" in St. Martin's Lane. Courtenay House in the Cathedral Close is now worthily occupied by the Library and rooms of the Devon and Exeter Institution. These and others of similar origin have either been completely obliterated, or so transformed as to have lost all their distinctive features as private residences. But Bampfylde House is distinguished amongst its compeers by the retention of these features with so little alteration that there is no difficulty in picturing the mansion as it existed when the ancient race, whose surname it bears, maintained hospitable state within its walls. The other civic residences of the county families have long since passed into the hands of strangers, but Bampfylde House remains to this day the property of Baron Poltimore, and was occupied by his lordship's great aunt, Miss Georgina Sophia Bampfylde, until her decease in August, 1814.

The building is unmistakably Elizabethan in plan and in style. It stands in the parish of St. Lawrence, not far within the East Gate of the City, in Raden Lane, a carriage thoroughfare only 14 feet wide, and now called Bampfylde Street. The Garden, now covered with stabling, abutted on the City walls. A gateway in Raden Lane leads into a small quadrangular paved court, one side of which fronts

the street, whilst the other three are enclosed by the build-The rooms on the ground floor had no windows or other openings facing the highway, their light being derived from three large mullioned windows, each occupying nearly an entire side of the quadrangle. Thus, when the entrance to the court was closed, the inmates were secure from night marauders or civil broils. They might even hold out for a time after the City gates had yielded to the sudden incursion of an enemy. One such proof of security was afforded by Bampfylde House so recently as the 19th July, 1769, during the residence of Sir Richard Warwick Bampfylde, when the Duke of Bedford, the newly-appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Devonshire, as well as of Exeter, came to the Guildhall to receive the freedom of the city. His Grace had excited the popular indignation by his supposed concurrence in an article of the treaty of peace giving admission to the silk and other manufactures of France, in competition with fabrics in which the citizens were largely interested. On leaving the Guildhall, the Duke was greeted at its entrance with the hisses and threats of a furious mob. Under the protection of the Mayor and his officers he was conducted to the safe shelter of Bampfylde House. His passage from thence to the neighbouring castle was attended by fresh insult, but he afterwards managed to reach the Cathedral in his coach. Here the Bishop and Clergy waited to receive him with the customary honours. But there also the incensed rabble were waiting to give him a reception of a different sort. His alighting was the signal for a general rush, in which the attendants of the Duke were borne down, and the Cathedral dignitaries received rough usage. With great difficulty the Duke reached the choir without personal injury, and finally passed by a back way to the Bishop's Palace, to wait till night, when the popular fury had somewhat abated.

In one corner of the quadrangle of Bampfylde House stands a curious water tank, cast in lead of great thickness, and looking as if it had never been delivered over to the destructive hands of a repairing plumber. Its sides and front are divided into rectangular panels, the dividing lines being in relief. The front side bears the letters SR C.W.B. [Sir Coplestone Warwick Bampfylde], and the date 1724, surmounted by a representation of a fat stag pursued by three hounds and a huntsman on foot, bearing a spear.

Fortunately for the stag, the dogs and man are equally well favoured.

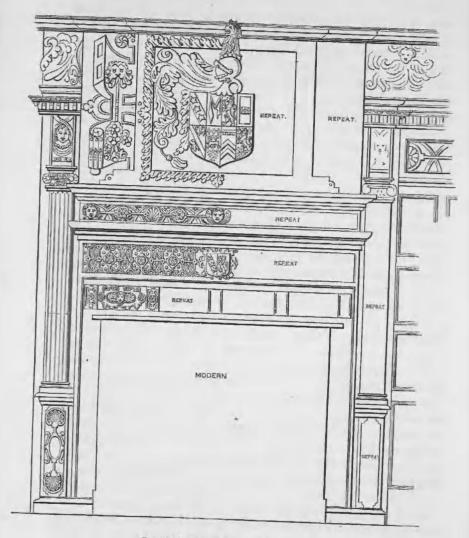
In the opposite corner of the quadrangle is an open porch, supported by moulded oaken columns at its angles, and surmounted by a roofed closet or muniment room, its overhanging windows supported by carved brackets, after a fashion common in old Manor houses. The angle posts supporting the superstructure are enriched with lions' heads, of Elizabethan character, carved in relief, and connected by a carved frieze on the two external sides. The centre of each side is occupied by a shield, that in the front bearing Bampfylde impaled with Clifton (Sa. semée of cinquefoils, a lion ramp. arg.). The other bears Bampfylde only (or. on a bend gules

three mullets arg.).

The construction of this porch was apparently an afterthought, for it overlaps and partially obscures one of the upper mullioned windows overlooking the right-hand side of the quadrangle. The carving and details, however, correspond in style with the rest of the house. porch opens into the hall, an apartment of comparatively ample proportions, having in the upper panes of its 6-light mullioned window the six coloured glass armorials of which an illustration accompanies the Rev. F. T. Colby's memoir on The Heraldry of Exeter. On the side of the hall, opposite the window, formerly stood a handsome chimneypiece, occupying the entire height of the apartment. very remarkable piece of workmanship was placed here by Sir Coplestone Bampfylde, second baronet, soon after the restoration, but was removed by the late Lord Poltimore to his country mansion near Exeter. An equestrian figure of King Charles I. occupies the upper part of the centre. Peace and Plenty stand personified on either side, while a Cavalier and a Puritan occupy the pilasters at the extreme edges of the composition.

Underneath the Hall is a large cellar of the same dimensions, with a plain brick groining springing from a square brick pier (1 foot 11 inches on face), having a plain red sandstone base and chamfered stone abacus 5 inches deep. External access to this cellar is gained through an opening in the paved court of the quadrangle by a flight of stone steps.

<sup>1</sup> See Arch. Journal, vol. xxx. p. 235.



Bampfylde House, Exeter. Mantel-piece.

The cellar is no doubt original work, but it has been divided

into compartments at a later date.

From one corner of the Hall the principal staircase ascends by a broad and easy flight. An oaken newel, 5½ inches in diameter, and perhaps the side panelling, are the only original parts now remaining. For the domestics there was a narrower winding stair in the rear of the building. In this case, too, the stairs have been removed, but an octagonal oaken newel, of the original work, 4 inches in diameter, still remains. On the first landing of the principal staircase a door surmounted by a shield, bearing Bampfulde and Clifton impaled, gives access to a truly noble apartment. Its walls are lined throughout with rich panelling, extending from the floor to within a foot of the ceiling, and divided into compartments by shallow fluted pilasters, of Ionic character, resting on panelled and carved pedestals, 2 feet 4 inches high. Above the pilasters are brackets of graceful form, each bearing a mask in bold relief and of most spirited design. Between the brackets, and ranging with them in height, is a series of carved panels, consistent with each other in character, but freely varying in design. A narrow carved panel serves as a skirting, and between these bands the panelling is plainly moulded. The brackets are surmounted by a wooden cornice of bold projection, having small moulded brackets at frequent intervals. Over all comes the plaster frieze, which, if not originally of rude and coarse design, has certainly been disfigured by repeated coats of whitewash. It represents the human figure with its extremities terminating in foliage repeated all round the room. Being at a safe height from the street, this apartment has three external windows, the one at the end of the room being recessed in a deep bay, projecting oriel-wise over Raden Lane. The longer external side is lighted by the two other windows, between which stands the richly-decorated mantelpiece shown in the accompanying illustration. The shield of eight quarterings,2 once brilliant with tinctures and metals, is now overlaid by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 1 Bampfylde: Or, on a bend gu. three mullets arg. 2. Hastings: Or, a maunch gu. 3. Huxham: Arg. a lion ramp. sa. 4. Faber: Arg., on a fesse sa. three crosses crosslet or, all within a bordure az. 5. Pederton: Arg. a bend gu. between three lions' heads erased sa, crowned of the second. 6. Pederton: Gu. semee of cross crosslets,

a lion pass. guard. arg. 7. St. Maur: Arg. two chevrons gu. over all a label, az, 8. Pederton: Or, semee of cross crosslets, a lion ramp. az. CREST, a lion's head crased sable, ducally crowned gules. On a small shield below are Bampfylde and Clifton impaled.

the repeated coats of plain stone colour oil paint, which disfigure all the oak panelling and other adornments of this and the other apartments of the house. But the rich ornamentation of the principal room culminates in its elaborate ceiling—a fine example of the designer's taste and the modeller's skill. The two other rooms on this floor are only partially panelled, while their ceilings, though decorated in the same style, are less elaborated. One of these rooms has a projecting oriel corresponding with that just mentioned. The little muniment room over the porch retains its lining of oak panelling, and similar framing is still to be met with in other parts of the house.

The second, or topmost, floor contains several bedchambers, presenting no features calling for special notice. The roof has been more than once renewed, but retains its originally

bold and massive form.

Of the domestic offices, which were approached by a door on the right side of the principal entrance, and had also an external access from Raden Lane through a courtyard, few original features remain, with the exception of a large 4-light window, opening into the quadrangle, two smaller windows overlooking a narrow side passage, another lighting the back staircase and looking into the courtyard in the rear, and a large gable window on the second floor, facing in the same direction.<sup>3</sup>

At the time of the visit of the Royal Archæological Institute to Exeter last year, Mr. Parker, C.B., assigned the date of the erection of Bampfylde House to the year 1590. Richard Bampfylde, the then head of the family, died in 1594, and it was probably commenced in his lifetime, but completed by his son and heir, Sir Amias Bampfylde, who was knighted in 1603, and whose arms, impaled with those of Elizabeth (Clifton) his wife, are displayed on a shield over the doorway of the principal room. The six coats of arms in the coloured glass windows of the hall refer only to this knight's great grandfather, and great great grandfather and their wives, and they were probably transferred or repeated from the windows of an older town residence of the family on the same site. There is, indeed, some ground for believing that the lords of the Manor of Poltimore (otherwise Clist Moys)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The writer is indebted to P. B. Hayward, Esq., architect, for much valuable building.

had a town residence here at an even earlier date than the acquisition of that Manor by the Bampfyldes. At least four generations of the knightly family of Poltimore had held this Manor when Sir Richard of that ilk, having no issue, granted it to Simon Lord Montacute, who, in turn, sold it to William de Pointingdon, Canon of Exeter, by whom it was bestowed, in 1298, on his pupil John Baunfeld, or Bampfylde, the representative of an already well-established County family. Amongst the Exeter archives is the Will, dated 1394, of John Soth of "Northyetestrete" (now North Street), in that city, who bequeathed to his grandson, John Bolle, the house in the parish of St. Lawrence which had belonged to Richard de Poltimore, junior, knight. Like most of the numerous parishes into which Exeter is divided, St. Lawrence is of very limited area, so that the house referred to must have been very near, if it did not actually form part of, the site of Bampfylde

House and its garden.

During the six centuries which intervened between the days of the first Bampfylde who held the manor of Poltimore and the time of the present Baron Poltimore, his heir in direct male succession, this ancient race had been closely connected by family ties with the West of England. A glance at the pedigree appended to this memoir will be sufficient to prove the manifold extent of these alliances.4 The ante-Norman name of Coplestone of Coplestone, appears more than once. The Bampfyldes have also matched with the Carys of romantic Clovelly, with Clifford of Chudleigh, Bassett of Heanton Court, near the mouth of the Taw: with Pole of Shute, Drake of Buckland, St. Maur of North-Molton, and Kirkham of Blagdon by Torbay. These were heiresses of Devonshire blood, and many of them brought, as their marriage portions or by inheritance, fair estates in every part of the county. From Cornwall a Bampfylde won a Carew of Antony; from Somerset, a Clifton of Barrington, a Warre of Hestercombe, and a Sydenham of Brimpton. Poltimore is distant only four miles from the east gate of Exeter, and though the matrimonial alliance of the Bampfyldes include no names of strictly Exeter origin.

inscriptions, parish registers, and other sources of information. It is brought down to the time of the last of the Family who resided at Bampfylde House,

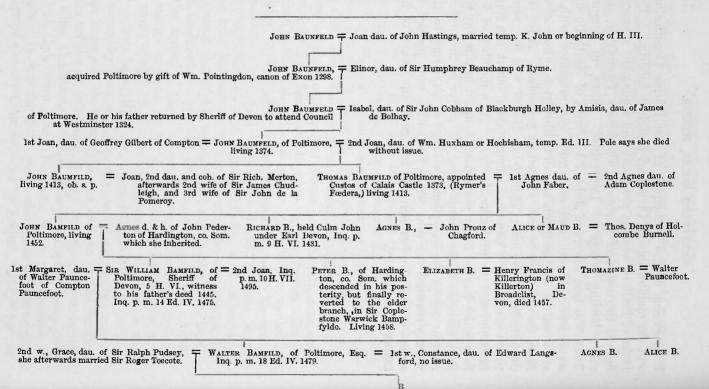
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This pedigree is compiled from a careful comparison of the evidence afforded by Pole, Westcote, Prince, Betham, Collius, the Heralds Visitation of 1620, the Post-mortem Inquisitions, monumental

they have for centuries been more or less closely associated with the history of the city. On twelve different occasions, between the years 1656 and 1807, five of its members were elected to represent the citizens in Parliament, and on all these occasions the hospitality of Bampfylde House was dispensed with a liberal hand. Thomas Bampfylde, youngest brother of the first baronet, was Recorder of Exeter from 1654 to 1660, and of him it is stated that he made a voluntary restitution of the profits of the office for the time he held it to the poor of the city. The Recorder's elder brother, Sir John Bampfylde, M.P. for Penryn, had been created a baronet by Charles I. in 1641, but he subsequently adopted the cause of the Parliament, and, in 1645, when Fairfax arranged his forces along the line of the Clist for the reduction of Exeter, Sir John gave up his seat at Poltimore on that river as a garrison. Here, in the following year, the Commissioners for the citizens on the one part and the army on the other met to arrange the Articles under which the Parliamentary forces occupied Exeter on the 13th April, 1646. Sir John's eldest son and heir, Sir Coplestone Bampfylde, one of Prince's "Worthies," was a Royalist, and on his presentation of a Petition of Right on behalf of the gentlemen of Devon and Exeter, was committed by the Rump Parliament to the Tower. On his release, at the restoration of monarchy, he was rewarded by election to the county shrievalty, an office which he upheld with more than usual splendour. In 1675, when Monk, who had reached the dignity of Duke of Albemarle, came into his native county to organize the militia, Sir Coplestone Bampfylde was amongst the gentlemen of Devon who tendered his services to the astute general. Again, on the arrival of the Prince of Orange, the then aged Sir Coplestone was one of the first to testify his adherence to the cause of the Protestant deliverer, by sending his congratulations through his son, Colonel Hugh Bampfylde.

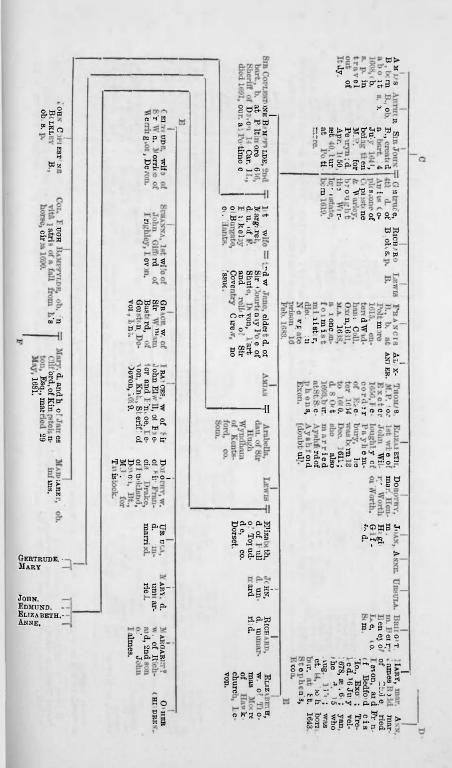
Passing by such of the rich materials of family romance in the history of the Bampfyldes as have no special bearing on the subject of this paper, it may be noted, in conclusion, that since the decease of Miss Georgina Sophia Bampfylde, in 1814, their town house has been let to a succession of tenants. It was for some years the place of meeting of the Devon County Club, founded in August, 1816, "for the

Propagation of the Principles of the British Constitution and the maintenance of Civil and Religious Liberty." Duke of Bedford was the president, and among the stewards floured the names of Fortescue, Chichester, Bampfylde, and other leading Whigs of Devonshire. Here, in August, 1821, the late Reverend John Pike Jones, of North Bovey, an ardent politician and antiquary, was presented with a silver salver at the hands of Lord Ebrington, whose elections for the shire he had eloquently promoted. After the dissolution of the club, Bampfylde House was for some time tenanted by a keeper of billiard-tables, but it has since been devoted to professional offices. As a member of the firm which has for many years past occupied in this way the town mansion of the Bampfyldes, the writer of the present memoir enjoys the half-yearly privilege of tendering to the worthy steward the rent which his lord is now pleased to accept in lieu of other suit and service at the Courts of his manor of Poltimore.

## PEDIGREE OF BAMPFYLDE OF POLTIMORE.



EDW		beth, dau. of Sir Nicholas W Som., and relict of Wa		ELIZABETH B. = Ly	e. Margaret B. = Richard Yarde Bradley, Devoi
RICHARD BAMPFYLDE, of Poltimore, Esq., Sheriff of Devon, 18 Eliz., d. 29 May 1594, buried at Poltimore.	Elizabeth, dau. of Sir John Sydenham, of Brimpton, co. Som., d. 4 March 1599, buried at Poltimore.		stor of Earl of	Richard Pol- LAURENTIA I lard of Way, Devon.	3. ::: 1st, Bid-well, 2nd, Robert Ful- ford.  MARY B. = Will Wai ford Hai
ob. s. BAMPFYLDE p. in a of Polti- voyage more; kntd. to Ire- at Windsor and. 9 July 1603,	Elizabeth, RICHARD. JAN il. of Sir John Clif- ton of Bar- ring ton, county of Som., Knt.	MES, ELIZABETH, JOAN,  (2nd W.) = unmar- George Cary ried.  of Clovelly, Esq., who d.  10 July 1601.	Usula, Susanna, Susanna, John Thomas Fulford, Myll, in Of Fulford. Simcock.	ge; hays; 2nd, Bredy, co.	ANNE, = KATHERINE, Unmarried. — Will Lacy Hartro. co. Berks; 2nd, to Luttrel.
	= Elizabeth, WILLIAM B. d. of Thos. Drake of	A M IAS Anne, dau. B. of of John Wil- Weston loughby, of Bamp- Payhem-	B. or JAMES B.,	ROTHY = 1st Edward JA d. 1 Hancock, of mar rch, Coomb Mar- 22 S	ried Francis d. un- d. uni



SIR COPLESTONE WARWICK BAMP- \_ FYLDE, 3rd Bart., M.P. for Exeter 1710, M.P. for Devon at his death, 7 Oct. 1727, inherited Hardington from his godfather Warwick Bampfylde, last heir male of that branch.

Gertrude, d. of Sir John Carew. Bart. of Anthony, and relict of Sir Godfrey Copley; she d. 14 April and bur, at Poltimore 23 April, 1736.

1st w. Elizabeth, d. of - Basset = of Heanton Court. Devon. no issue.

JOHN BAMPFYLDE of Hestercombe. = co. Som., born 1691, M.P. for Devon. d. 17 Sept. 1750, bur. at Kingston, Somerset.

2nd w. Margaret. d. & h. of Sir Francis Warre of Hestercombe. Bart.

SIR RICHARD WARWICK - Jane, d. & h. of Col. John Mary, bapt. = 1st, Sir Coventry Coplestone = Mary, 2nd Elizabeth. Margaretta, BAMPFYLDE, 4th Bart., bapt. at Poltimore 21 Nov. 1722. M.P. for Devon, M.P. for Exeter 1741, d. 15 July, & bur. at Poltimore 24 July, 1776.

Codrington of Codring- at ton, Gloucestershire, more, 2 Aug. married 1 Aug. 1742, d. 1718, d. Nov. 15 Feb. 1789.

Polti-1762.

Esq., M.P. for West Looe, ob. s. p. 1764.

Carew. Bart.: WARRE B., d. of Ed-2nd, Wm. Buller, ob. s. p.1791, ward Knight. of Wolverlev. co.Worcester. inherited Hestercombe, = Geo. Tynedale of Bathford. co. Som., Esq.

FRANCES. A son and 6 DAUGH. ob. inf.

CHARLES WAR. WICK B., born and baptized at Poltimore. 19th, and bur. there 28 Feb. 1750.

SIR CHARLES WARWICK BAMP-FYLDE, 5th Bart, of Hardington Park, co. Som., D.C.L., born and bapt, at St. Augustine's, Bristol, 23 Jan. 1753. M.P. for Exeter, 1774 to 1807. Assassinated 19 April, 1823, and died at his house, Montague Square, London; bur, at Hardington 25 April, 1823.

Catherine, d. & coh. of Admiral Sir John Moore, married 1776, d. 20 March, 1832. æt. 79.

JOHN CODRINGTON WAR-WICK B., born at St. Augustine's, Bristol, 24 Aug., and bapt, there 11 Sept. 1754: d. unmarried.

RICHARD WARWICK B. born at St. Augustine's 13th and bapt, there 29 May, 1756, d, there 2 June, 1756, bur, at Wraxall, co. Somerset.

AMIAS WAR-WICK B., born at Poltimore. 25 Nov. 1757. d. 22 Jan. 1834.

Rev. RICHARD WARWICK B. Rector of Poltimore and Black Torrington, born at Bampfylde House, Exon. 5 Feb. 1759, d. 15 Sept. 1834. unmarried.

SIR GEORGE WARWICK BAMPFYLDE, born 23 March, 1786, 6th Bart., created Baron Poltimore 10 Sept. 1831. Father of present peer. Died 19 Dec. 1858.

G

GERTRUDE. b. at Wraxall, 10 May, 1743, mar. Oldfield Bowles, Esq., of North Aston, c. Oxon. 1768, d. 1769. no issue.

ELIZABETH, b. at St. Gilesin - the-Fields. London, 15 April, 1746, m. at St. Lawrence, Exon, 15 January, 1780, to Col. John Gordon. 50th Regmnt. who ob, s. p. 1782.

JENNY COD-RINGTON, born at St. Augustines. Bristol. 12 Feb. 1747.

CHARLOTTE. bapt, at Poltimore, 25 April. 1750, mar. 24 Dec. 1774. to Abel Movsey. Esq., of Charterhouse, Hinton, co. Som. M.P. for Bath.

HARRIET, b. at Bampfylde House, Exeter, 28 June, bapt. at Poltimore, 17 Aug. 1760, married at St. Lawrence, Exon, 25 Sept. 1788, to George Daniell, M.D., of Exeter, who d. there 9 Jan. 1822, leaving issue.

MARY FRANces, born at Bampfylde House, Exon. 19 Nov. 1761, d. unmarried.

GEORGINA SOPHIA, of Bampfylde House, Exon, born there 25 June, 1764. d. unmarried at Dawlish, 31 Aug. 1814.