



MORTON HALL.

# DERBYSHIRE      ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

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## A Contribution towards a History of Norton, in Derbyshire.

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**I**T is my purpose, in this paper, to put together a few  
orts and scraps, hitherto, so far as I am aware,  
unknown or unnoticed, respecting the antiquities of  
the Derbyshire Norton. If the reader should think that my re-  
marks are diffuse and disjointed, when he sees how one piece of  
information jostles against another, apparently without rhyme or  
reason, I must, for my sufficient apology, remind him that I make  
no pretence of giving a consecutive historical narrative, but only  
a few undigested facts, which, rough-hewn as they are, and  
lacking interest for the general reader, may nevertheless be  
acceptable to those who have become attached to the *genius loci*,  
or, peradventure, to some of those choice spirits who seek amuse-  
ment, if not profit, in travelling along the by-paths of history.

I need not derive the name, Norton, for it is obvious enough, nor need I, to be consistent with my general intention to produce entirely new matter, insert that very usual extract from Domesday, which so often introduces a topographical essay.

The first known mention of the place occurs in the will of Wulfric Spott (A.D. 1002), who appears to have been an officer attached to the court of King Ethelred. The bequest is to one Ufegeat, and probably includes the whole township. "Item do Ufegeato terras illas apud Northtune, ea lege, ut is amicus et adjutor eo propensior sit erga illum locum." \* That the Norton mentioned here is the Derbyshire Norton is shown by the schedule affixed to the will. Why the testator wished Ufegeat to become the "friend and champion" of the place does not appear.

The manor, along with that of Alfreton, was held of the honour of Tickhill, a once famous castle in South Yorkshire, and had to render suit and service to the court there every three weeks. This is a fact which, I believe, has not been noticed before.†

" 'Escaet' et inquisicio tempore E. i. vz.

Calendar' Thomas de Chaworth pro abbate de Bello. . . .

Inquisicio capta apud Eckinton inter regem et abbatem de Bello. . . .  
Qui dicunt &c. quod non est dampnum si dominus Rex concedat Thome de Chaworth. . . . potest dare abbati de Bello Capite ad sustentacionem cujusdam Canonici in eadem abbazia pro predicto Thoma et Johanna uxore ejus x toft' xj<sup>m</sup> bona (? bovatas) terr', xlvij acras terre, xvj acras bosci, lvij<sup>s</sup> et sex denarios redditus cum pertin' in Alfreton, Norton, Grenhill, Bradway, et Woodseth. Dicunt. . . omnia predicta tofta, terras, et redditus simul cum maneriis de Alfreton et Nor. . tenentur de honore de Tykhill per sectam curie de tribus septianis in tres septianas ibidem faciend' &c. &c.

[Ex<sup>m</sup> per me Richardum Coke.]

[This last record was written in paper and y<sup>e</sup> ends of y<sup>e</sup> lynes worne out w<sup>ch</sup> w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 2 copyes of y<sup>e</sup> 2 deeds *supra* remayne w<sup>th</sup> Rich. Coke of Cold Aston and were lent by hym to mee *primo Junii anno R.R. Caroli p<sup>mo</sup> 1634. Jo. Bullock.*]

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\* Dugdale Monast. ; see also the Chronicles of Abingdon Monastery.

† My information is derived from a copy of an ancient document, now in the custody of Messrs. Marples & Marples, solicitors, Sheffield, who kindly let me peruse it. The lacunæ are not distinguished, so I cannot be quite certain where to put them. I give the document at length. It is not quite accurately copied.

Pegge's notes, in the College of Arms, contain an account of the descent of the manor, which is here printed.

Thomas Chaworth, Lord (1 Edw. II., 1308). [Thomas Chaworth, Knight.] (26 Edw. III., 1351).

William Chaworth, 41 Edw. III. to 21 Ric. II. (1366—1399).

Thomas Chaworth, Kt. (7 Edw. IV., 1467).

Magister Urmon or Ormond, and Johanna, his wife, dau. and heir of Wm. Chaworth, Kt. (3 Hen. VII.)

(17 and 18 Hen. 7). Courts were held in the Manor of Norton, in the names of John, Lord Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and other feoffees of John Ormond, Esq., and Joanna, his wife. (20 Hen. 7). A court was held in the names of Joanna Ormond, widow, and other feoffees, for the use of the said Johanna. (8 Hen. 8). A court was held in the name of Thos. Dynham and others. (12 Hen. 8). A court was held in the names of Lady Joanna Dynham, widow, and Anth. Babyngton, Esq., and Lady Ann Meryng, Dowager. (N.B.—It appears from a lease dated 7 Nov., 23 Hen. 7, that Mrs. Babyngton's name was Elisabeth, and Lady Ann Meryng's husband was called William. William Meryng was then living, but Eliz. Babyngton was dead). (13 Hen. 8). Courts were held in the names of Edwd. Grevyle, or Grevell, Kt., Anth. Babyngton, and Lady Anne Meryng, Dowager. (17 and 18 Hen. 8). Edwd. Grevyle, Kt., and Lady Johanna, his wife, and Anth. Babyngton, and Lady Ann Meryng, Dowager. (20 Hen. 8). Johanna Greville, widow, Anth. Babyngton, Esq., and Lady Ann Meryng, also, 20 Hen. 8, Wm. Fitzwilliam, Kt., and Johanna, his wife, Anth. Babyngton, and Lady Ann Meryng, Dowager, and so continued to the 23rd year of the same reign. By some torn rolls it appears that Lady Johanna was widow of William Fitzwilliam, Kt., in the 26 Hen. 8. And Anth. Babyngton is styled Knight. (27 Hen. 8, 27 and 28 Hen. 8). Lady Johanna Fitzwilliam, widow, Anth. B., Kt., and Lady Anne Meryng, Dowager. (6 Edw. 6). Thos. Babyngton and Thos. Dynham, or Denham, Esqs. The above are from the Norton Court Rolls. The following account of the Lords of the Denham Moiety of the Manor of Norton, is extracted from old deeds in the possession of Samuel Shore, Esq. (1547, June 20). Thos. Dynham sold a moiety of the Manor of Norton, to John Selyoke, for £400, but this purchase seems never to have been completed. (N.B.—This deed conveys fugitives, villians, and bondmen). (1572, Feb. 2). John Denham, of Borestall, co. Bucks, son of the aforesaid Thomas, sold part of his estate at Norton, to John Bullock, of the Inner Temple, gent., for £120. The said John Denham, by another deed of the same date, conveyed to the said Bullock, the remainder of the estates at Norton, and also the moiety of the manor, but the price is not mentioned. (1572, May 16 and 17). John Bullock conveys to Anthony Eyre, of co. York, Esq., all his moiety of the



Manor of Norton, with the appurtenances, which was lately in the possession of Thos. Denham, Esq., reserving his other estates in the parish of Norton and Dronfield. (1587, April 24). Gervase Eyre, son of the said Anthony Eyre, conveys to Anthony Blythe, of Birchet, one moiety of the Manor of Norton, which sometime was the inheritance of Thos. Denham, Esq. (N.B.—The wife of Anthony Blythe, and the mother of Charles, was called Honor). (1624, May 28). Chas. Blythe, son of the said Anthony and Judith his wife, also Thos. Wentworth, of Wales, co. York, gentleman, and Honor, his wife, convey to John Bullock, of Darley, the whole of the Manor of Norton for £220, with all its appurtenances, free warrens, courts baron, and leet views of Frank-pledge, felons' goods and wards, marriages, reliefs, goods, waifs and estrays. (N.B.—Anthony and Chas. B. were Lords of the Manor of Dronfield.) (1615 and 1616). Courts were held in the names of Barbara Frechville, decd., widow, guardian of Charles Blythe, Esq., son of Anthony Blythe. (1617 and 1618). Courts held in the names of Richard Bland, Esq., and Barbara, his wife, guardian of Chas. Blythe, Esq., son and heir of Anth. B., during his minority, lords of the Babyngton moiety, (extracted from old deeds in the possession of Samuel Shore, Esq.) (1571, Sept. 5). Marmaduke Babyngton, of Norton, was possessed of one moiety of the manor, and one moiety of various estates in Norton and Cold Aston. (1574). Henry Babyngton of the same. (1585, 20 May). Anthony Babyngton, of Dethick, conveys one-half of Norton Hall, with one-half of various lands, mentioned by name, to John Bullock, of Darley, Esq., for £400, but does not dispose of the moiety of the manor. (1587, 27 July). Fras. Babyngton, of Kingston, co. Notts., and Geo. Babyngton, of Dethick, brothers of the late Anthony B., convey to Anthony Blythe, of Birchet, one-half part of the Manor of Norton, for £190. The preceding pages show how the whole manor passed from the Blythes to the Bullocks. Thus, it appears that the Manor House at Norton, called Norton Hall, and the estates there and at Cold Aston, after being for some time held in moieties, were united again in the Bullocks, by the purchase of one moiety in the year 1572, from John Denham to John Bullock, of the Inner Temple, gent., and by the purchase of the other moiety in 1585, by the said John Bullock, then of Darley, Esq., from Anthony Babyngton. The manor was reunited in the person of Anthony Blythe, Esq., when he bought one moiety in 1587 of Fras. and Geo. Babyngton, and in the same year the other moiety of Gervase Eyre. Chas. Blythe, the son of Anthony, sold in 1624, the whole Manor of Norton, to John, son of the late John Bullock, of Darley, after which purchase the said John Bullock became sole proprietor of the Manor of Norton, and of the various estates in Norton and Cold Aston. Norton and Cold Aston were formerly the inheritance of the Denhams and Babyngtons.

*An Account of the Lords of the Manor of Norton, from John Bullock to Samuel Shore, from deeds in the possession of S. Shore.*

1666. John Bullock, of Darley, whose father, John B., of the same place, and formerly of the Inner Temple, died 12 Oct. 1606, purchases the Manor of Norton (28 May, 1624). His will was proved at Canterbury, July 2, 1641. He had three sons, John, Thomas, and William. The two first died without issue, but as they are mentioned in their father's will, which seems to have been made but a very little time before his death, it is probable that John, at least, was Lord of Norton. However, this was clear, that William at length possessed the said manor, which he mortgaged to Cornelius Clarke, of Ashover, near Chesterfield, and the said Cornelius bought the manor and various estates at Norton of Wm. Bullock's trustees, in 1668, Mar. 11. The said Wm. died 7 March, 1666, in the 50th year of his age, and his son John died 27 Feb., 1682, aged 19. Cornelius Clarke died June 18, 1696, and left his estates at Norton to his nephew, Robert Offley, of Norwich, who died 1 Feb., 1716, aged 76. His eldest son Robert was killed by a fall from his horse, at Hazzleborough, Aug. 15, 1699. The second son, Stephen, consequently succeeded Robt., his father, and the said Stephen died 1 Oct., 1727, aged 56. Joseph Offley succeeded his father Stephen, and died 3 Sept., 1751, aged—. Edmund Offley succeeded his father, Joseph, and died 21st Aug., 1754, aged—. Urith and Anna Maria Offley succeeded their brother Edmund. Urith Offley, when the family estate was divided between the two sisters, had the lordship of Norton allotted to her as part of her fortune. She was married to Samuel Shore, Esq., then of Sheffield, but now Lord of the Manor of Norton, and died Nov. 30th, 1781. The said Samuel Shore, Esq., had by his wife Urith, three sons. (1) Offley, born 1 Jan., 1760, who died of a putrid sore throat, 31 Aug., 1767. (2) Samuel, born 3 June, 1761. (3) Bohun, born 16 Oct., 1763. \*

The following charters, which I have lately met with in private hands,† will serve, perhaps, to throw a ray of light upon local history. I number them consecutively, though I do not by that means put them in chronological order. I observe, concerning

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\* The above extracts appear to have been sent to Dr. Pegge by the Rev. T. Halliday, who was curate of Norton, and who appears to have taken some interest in antiquarian pursuits. He dates a letter to Dr. Pegge, "Norton, Sep. 17, 1783." Halliday carefully examined the Court Rolls (Pilkington's *Derbyshire*) which, judging from the few extracts he gives, are of the very greatest interest. I have sought diligently for those rolls, but without success. Charles Jackson, Esq., of Balby, Doncaster, writes to me:—"Mr. Hunter said once that there was a vast number of old deeds and papers in boxes, in a hay loft at Norton. He called it 'a singular and beautiful collection,' and he only obtained access to it in 1848, when it got entrusted to Mr. Saml. Mitchell, after the Shores' misfortunes.—*Ubi nunc?*"

† Messrs. Marples & Marples, solicitors, Sheffield.

No. I., that it is a grant, dated, I think, about the year 1320, of a place familiarly known as the Herdings, upon which there is now a very picturesque and ivy-covered old house, formerly the residence of the Scrivens\* and other families, and at present occupied by Mr. Thomas Hazard. The spelling of the place-name "Heytridding" is remarkable. It is evidently the "high ridding," the high stubbing, that is, a cleared space on a hill; and this derivation exactly corresponds with the site of the place itself. The name is written in a very old hand, at the back of the deed, "Heardinge," so I make no doubt of the identity of the place. It was anciently of sufficient mark to give its name to a family, as we have in the charter itself William and Robert "of the Heytridding."

Agnes Castelayn, of Osberton, and Rose, her daughter, the recipients of Chaworth's bounty, were probably gentlefolk, to whom Chaworth had become attached. The name is, of course, the old French *Castellan*, that is, the guardian of a castle. "Hemilword," or Hamelworth, now Hemsworth, is Hamel's field. Basse is the French *bas*, low of stature, "Le Bas" being a well known French surname. God knave, that is, God son, is a remarkable name.

The witnesses to the following deed, as well as one or two of the others, are identical with the witnesses of deeds in the Beauchief chartulary. The same notary, or the same monkish hand, doubtless prepared them. There were two great courts held for the manor of Norton, at Michaelmas and Lady Day, and on these days, I suppose, all deeds were signed and enrolled.

#### I.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Thomas de Chaword dedi &c. Alicie filie Agnetis Castelayn de Osbertona et Rose filie sue, pro homagio et servicio suo, totam illam terram, cum omnibus pertinenciis suis, apud le Heytridding, quam Will's de le Heytridding quondam tenuit in soka de Nortona, una cum quindecim acris terre quas Robertus de le Heytridding quondam tenuit in campo de le Heytridding jacentibus, et duabus acris

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\* William Scriven, of the Herdings, gent., died 2 Sept. 1724. The parish register says of him: "Ecclesiæ et pauperibus hujus parochiæ liberaliter legavit."

terre et tribus rodīs quas Thomas de Hemilword quondam tenuit in eodem campo, et una . . . . . [*parchment torn*] quam Johannes King quondam tenuit in eodem campo, et una acra terre quam Rose King quondam tenuit in eodem campo, et duabus acris terre quas Hugo Basse filius Nicholai quondam tenuit in eodem campo, et dimidia acra terre quam Johannes filius Alani quondam tenuit in eodem campo, et dimidia acra terre quam Johannes Godknaue quondam tenuit in eodem campo, et tribus rodīs terre quas Johannes filius Agnetis quondam tenuit in eodem campo, et una acra terre quam Radulphus Hysmay quondam tenuit in eodem campo. Tenenda et habenda eisdem Alicie et Rose filie sue et heredibus dicte Rose de me et heredibus meis. [*Chief rent 2s. a year. If Rose Castelayn die without lawful issue, the land is to revert to Chaworth and his heirs.*] Hiis testibus domino Will'o de Folkingham\* tunc abbate de Bello capite, Johanne de Brimingtona, Will'o Mateney de Dronefeld, Thoma de Wodehuses, Rogero Carpentario, Petro de Leys, et aliis.

[Indorsed in a later hand : "Heardinge, 2 ij s."]

The following deed is dated 1353. The Gothams were of Norton Lees. We may learn from this charter that the Selioks, or Seliokes, were settled at Norton as early as 1353, doubtless at Hazelbarrow. The Parkers, of Norton, who afterwards became so distinguished, were probably, as their name implies, originally officers who had the surveillance of the park at Norton. Hervy, or Harvey (Hervé), is an ancient Norman personal name; and the personal name "Aleyn," or Alan, was common in Norman times.

## II.

*Curia Norton'. De tenementis . . . . . loucok et de aliis tenementis in Harecrofte.*

Notum cum omnibus presentibus et futuris quod ego Thomas de Chauworth miles et dominus de Norton' dedi et concessi Johanni Tynet et Isabell uxori ejusdem omnia terras et tenementa cum pertinenciis quæ quondam fuerunt Roberti Loucok, et unam . . . . . terre vocatam Harecrofte in Norton' predicta, habenda &c. ad totam vitam eorundem Johannis et Isabell sine aliquo vasto in dictis terris et tenementis . . . . . faciendo. Reddendo inde michi et heredibus meis duos solidos et decem denarios annuatim ad festa sancti Michaelis et Annunciationis Beate Marie pro omnibus serviciis sec'laribus, salvis forynseco servicio domini regis, et duabus sectis ad curiam meam de Norton', vid. ad proximam tentam post festum Sancti

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\* Abbot in 1423, according to Pegge. But query if this deed is not earlier. Pegge himself puts down John de Brimington as living in 1312.

Michaelis et ad proximam tentam post Pasca. [*Power of re-entry if rent in arrear one month.*] In cujus rei testimonium his indenturis partes predictæ sigilla sua alternatim apposuerunt. Hiis testibus Ad' de Gotham, Roberto Seliok, Ad' Parker, Will'o Hervy, Johanna Aleyn, et aliis. Datum apud Norton' predictam septimo decimo die Septembris anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum vicesimo sexto.

The following deed bears date 1384. The name Bate, or Batt, not uncommon in the neighbourhood of Norton, is a *nicked* form of Bartholomew. Hugh of the "Barkhous," that is, Hugh of the Tannery. We shall have "le Barker," that is, the tanner, below.

"What craftsman art thou," said the king,  
 "I pray thee tell me trowe ;"  
 "I am a *barker*, sir, by my trade,  
 Now tell me what art thoue ?"

*Percy's Reliques.*

William of the Moor, that is, of Greenhill Moor. "Jurdanthorp," now Jordanthorpe, possibly Jourdain's house or village. Jourdain is an early Norman baptismal name, probably corrupted from the Latin *Hodiernus*.

A person called Jordan was vicar of Norton, and another of the same name, abbot of Beauchief, in 1228. The affix *thorpe* is a Danish test-word, being an almost certain indication of a Danish settlement.

### III.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Adam Bate filius Rogeri de Parva Norton dedi &c. Hugoni del Barkhous, de leghes, omnia (*sic*) terras et tenementa, cum parcis, boscis, pascuis, pasturis, et omnibus aliis pertinenciis suis, que et quas michi decendebant jure heredit' post decessum Rogeri Bate patris mei, in parva Norton et infra soca (*sic*) de Norton' habenda &c. prefato Hugoni heredibus et assignatis suis de capitali domino feodi illius per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta, et ego &c. [*Usual warranty of title.*] Hiis testibus Will'o de Barkhous de Wodseates, Will'o de Mora de Grenhull, Richardo Wilkynson de eadem, Johanne de mora de eadem, Henrico Rauder de eadem, Johanne Rauder de parva Norton', Thoma de Jurdanthorp', Thoma Parker, Adam Parker, Johanne de Lightwod. Datum apud Norton' die sabbatis (?) in festo Purificationis beate Marie anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum septimo.

The next two charters, probably dated about the end of the 13th century, relate to lands in Aston, or Cold-Aston, now vulgarly and improperly called *Coal Aston*. "Almeton" is probably the same as Alfreton. *Nicholas subtus le Klif, i.e., Nicholas Undercliff*. It will be noticed that Cold-Aston is called simply "Aston" in the first charter. Roger, abbot of Beauchief, is probably Roger de Foulstowe, who, according to Pegge, was abbot in 1278. "Birchevend" is Birchett, near Dronfield, formerly the seat of the Blythes, lords of that manor. Burchard, Burchardus, &c., is a personal name in Domesday.

Stubble, that is, the "cleared field." Harweye, same as Harvey. This deed contains the earliest mention of *Cold-Aston* with which I am acquainted. There appears to have been more than one windmill at Cold-Aston, which is a high, bleak, and windy, place. There was one at the Herdings in the time of Elizabeth. There was a law suit about the one at the Herdings in the time of Elizabeth, and attached to the voluminous proceedings is a curious drawing of the mill itself. "Richard le Spari." The name is remarkable. "Sparri" is an old Christian name. The Domesday of Staffordshire has a Sparri amongst the tenants in chief. "Thasilharst," *i.e., the Hazelhurst, or hazel wood, a place in Norton*. Compare the neighbouring Hazelbarrow, a mound where hazels grow. Bernis, a place in Dronfield, the name being now lost.

## IV.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Will's de Chaword dedi &c. Will'o de Almetona totam terram illam cum omnibus pertinenciis suis quam Nicholaus filius Nicholai subtus le Klif de Aston quondam tenuit de Will'o patre meo in villa de Aston. Tenend', et habend' sibi et heredibus suis vel assignatis et heredibus assignatorum de me et heredibus meis libere, quiete, pacifice, integre, jure et hereditate impperpetuum cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis communis, et omnibus aliis aisiamenis ad predictam terram pertinentibus infra villam de Aston et extra, reddendo inde annuatim &c., septem solidos argenti duobus terminis sci. ad festum Sancti Johannis Baptiste tres solidos et sex denarios, et ad festum Sancti Andrei Apostoli tres solidos et sex denarios pro omnibus sclaribus (*sic*) serviciis, querelis, consuetudinibus, et demandis, salvo forinseco servicio ad predictam terram pertinente. [*Usual warranty of title.*] Pro hac autem donacione, concessione, et carte mee

hujus confirmacione dedit michi predictus Will's novem marcas pre manibus in Gersumma. Et ut hec mea donacio &c. His testibus Rogero abbate de Bello Capite, Thoma de leys, Petro de Wodehuses, Petro de Birchevend Will'o de Stobbeley, et aliis.

[Copia ver<sup>a</sup>. ex<sup>a</sup>. mense Octobris anno RR<sup>e</sup>. Elizabeth, nunc xxxiiij<sup>o</sup>. et Anno d'ni 1592, per me *Richardum Coke*.]

[Woodhouse nor any of his ancestors never pay'd this or any like rent, but only vj<sup>s</sup>. per an. as in the other deede is reserved and iiij<sup>s</sup>. land rent many yeares.]

[A faire seale of Armes in greene wax thereunto. The deede remayneth w<sup>th</sup> Godfrey Woodhouse, but is uncertaine w<sup>ch</sup> is the land herein meant and intended.]

## V.

Sciunt &c. quod ego Thomas de Chaworth miles dedi &c. Johanni Harwyte de Cold Aston unum toftum et unum bovatum terre que Petrus filius Roberti Conda de me tenuit in villuiagio (*sic*) cum pertinenciis suis sicut jacet in diversis locis in villa et campis de Aston cum molendino ventricio cum liberis redditu et introitu ad dictum molendinum. Tenend' &c. predicto Johanni heredibus suis vel assignatis. [*Rent 6s. per an. Usual warranty of title.*] His testibus Ricardo le spari, Nicholao de Norton', Thoma del Wodhous, Petro de Bernis, Thoma de Thasilharst, Will'o le Barker de Aston, et multis aliis.

[Copia vera ex<sup>a</sup> mense Octobris Anno RR<sup>e</sup>. Elizabeth, nunc xxxiiij Annoque d'ni 1592. Per me Richardum Coke.]

[This deede rem' w<sup>th</sup> Godfrey Woodhouse, sealed w<sup>th</sup> Cheworthes seale of Armes in paste.]

A few of the more curious field names in Norton and Cold-Aston may prove interesting. Some are of clear derivation and meaning, but for others I cannot account. *Poynton Wood*: perhaps so called after a family of that name. *Lumb*: that is, a ravine; and *Dowell Lumb*. Compare "the dowie dens o' Yarrow." *Jack Field*: possibly geac=gauk, (Scot. gowk). *Delves*: that is, quarries. *Moorhouse*, and *Moorhouse Green*. *Plackling Magatha*. *Plac*=a field; but what is *Magatha*? *Sick Mead*: i.e., brook meadow. *Shoulder Broad*, *Shoulder of Mutton*, and *Tongue*; the latter being frequent. Compare the Scotch abbey of Tungeland, i.e., Tongue land, so called from its being built on a peninsula like a tongue. *Far Bate Moor*: a family called Bate, anciently in Norton. *Slack Field*: Slack=a ravine. *Primrose Bank*, *Carnal Wood*. *Lathefield*=Barnfield.

*Henpepper Field* is frequent : possibly *hanep æcer*, or hemp field. *Woolhouse Field*. *Pigman Croft*: Pigman=swineherd. *Pighills*, *Swine Backfield*. *Gooselands*. *Cinder Hill*. *Ashes Wood*. These words have reference to the charcoal burning which was here carried on very extensively, as the parish registers show. *Selloak Spring Wood*. A very ancient family called Seliok was seated at Norton. Query whether they gave their name to this wood, or themselves derived their name from the place? Their crest is a punning one; an oak leaf. *Coney greave*: i.e., rabbit wood. *Lower Camp Field*; *Upper Camp Field*; (both at Woodscats); *Starnel greave*: i.e., Starling Grove. *Twenty well Sick*. Twenty well, written Quintinewell in the Beauchief charters: St. Quintin's well, near the abbey, a name given by the canons. *Fog Ing*: Fog=rank grass; Ing=a meadow; of Scandinavian origin. *Pinge Wood*, *Far Weald*, *Shoebroad Close*, *Great Sprent*, and *Little Sprent*. Sprint, and sprunt, provincial English for a hill or "brae." *Crimbles*, *Cobnar field*.

My rambling course now leads me to the parish registers. "What duller-looking volume," says Hartley Coleridge, "than a Parish Register? What drier commentary on the text *mors omnibus communis*? What is it but a barren abstract of mortality—

—— Where to be born, and die,  
Of rich and poor makes all the history?"

The first volume of the Norton Register is, as we shall see, rather more than a barren abstract of mortality. It almost invariably records the social position of the persons mentioned in it; a thing which is not common in parish registers. The number of sickle-smiths is very remarkable; indeed sickle-making seems to have been the chief occupation of the villagers. They are variously described as *fæniseocarum percussor*, *pulsor*, *consector*, *faber*, *molitor*, &c. Common labourers are described as *opifices gregarii*; charcoal burners, *carbonarii lignarii*; cutlers, *cutellarii*; locksmiths, *clavifactores*; wheelwrights, *rotarum fabri*; tailors, *vestiarii*, and sometimes *rudiarii*. Cooke Tooke, of Greenhill, is described as a shot maker. (Mr. Gill and another had a shot manufactory at Greenhill, and incurred the suspicion of the



government.) Shoemakers are *crepidarii*. There are coverlet weavers, dish-turners, musical instrument makers, and one "Marya Medley" is described as a "chimni sweeper."

Moreover, amongst the burials, short biographical notices are not unfrequent. Emmina Gill, wife of Edward Gill, of Norton, appears to have possessed rare virtues. She is said to have been "the delight of her neighbours," or in the extraordinary Latin of the register, *delicium de proximis*. The registrar, that is, I suppose, the vicar, says he has sung her praises at the end of the volume (*quæ horum nominum inscriptor in fine hujus registri dignis laudibus extollere conatur.*) I thought I had made a pleasing discovery, and turned to the end of the volume, expecting to see a copy of elegiacs, but, alas! neither verse nor prose was to be found. On Feb. 1st., 1609, the death is recorded of William Brownell, *in artibus baccalaureus, Rawm'shie* [Rawmarsh] *in com' ebor' pedagogus, qui zeli, pietatis, erudicionis, et humanitatis insigne specimen prebebat*; and on Nov. 5th, 1717, died John Staniland, *cler', A.B. et ludimagister Scholæ de Norton*. So it seems the school had then for its master a clergyman, and a Bachelor of Arts.

The register contains the names of several families of renown—The Kirkes of Greenhill, London, and Dieppe, conquerors and colonizers of Canada and Newfoundland; the Seliokes and Freschvilles, of Hazelbarrow; the Parkers, ancestors of Lord Chancellor Macclesfield, are there. The following entry will show emphatically the high position of the Parkers. "1609, Jul. 20. *Johannes Parker filius et apparens heres Johannis Parker de Lees armigeri ex Maria uxore ejus cognomento per patrem Mason. Gilbertus comes Salop', Joh'es dominus Darcie, et domina Cavendish uxor Caroli Cavendish consponsatores.*" Andrew Marvell, father of the statesman and patriot, married his second wife at Norton. Her name was Lucy Harris, a daughter of John Alured, of Charter House, by Eleanor, daughter of Ralph Constable, of St. Sepulchre's. She married three times, (a) Francis Darley, of Kilnhurst, near Rotherham; (b) William Harris, of Oaken Thorpe, in Derbyshire; and (c) Andrew Marvell, the father.

They were married on the 22nd of Nov., 1638, young Marvell being at that time eighteen.\*

Amongst the burials are : July 31, 1601. *Anthonius Blythe de Byrchett p'ce de Dranfield armiger sepultus fuit in capella ecclesie parochiali de Norton adjuncta tertio die Junii in nocte.* The Blythes, as the Dronfield register shows, removed their dead from Dronfield, and buried them at Norton, in the chapel founded by their great relation. A custom seems to have obtained in some families of burying their dead by night. The reason probably is that the darkness adds solemnity to the occasion. Evelyn, in his diary, tells us that his sister, Mrs. Darcy, was buried on the 3rd Oct., 1635, "at night, but with no meane ceremony." And on 27 Jan., 1641; "that evening was celebrated the pompous funerall of the Duke of Richmond, who was carried in effigie in an open chariot thro' London in great solemnity." It has, from time immemorial, been the custom of the ancient family of Dyott, of Freeford, to bury its deceased members by torch light.† The Blythes, doubtless, buried their dead with considerable pomp, and would take a just pride in their beautiful chapel.

1604. July 15. *Robertus Waddye nuper servus magistri Cardinal de Egmonton in com' Nottingham apud lees in puteo immersus.* [1676, Ap. 19, *Nicholaus Stones mercator florentissimus de Himsworth.*

I transcribe the first page of the register, as a specimen of what it is like. The 1st Vol. is of very unwieldy shape. It measures 2ft. 2in., by 9½in., and is doubled in the middle, which causes both the binding and the leaves to be very much broken. The baptisms begin in the first year of Elizabeth (1558), and are continued down to Feb., 1651. The marriages begin in the 2nd of Elizabeth (1559), and are continued to March, 1653. The burials begin in the same year, and are continued to March, 1650. Generally, I may say that the volume is of very con-

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\* See Fuller Worthies Library. Andrew Marvell.

† *Notes and Queries*, 5th S. vii., 246. And see Cox's *Churches of Derbyshire*, iv. 335.

siderable interest and value, and should be transcribed if not printed. The preface to the volume refers to its "religious preservation," and its "multifarious uses."

Inscriptio nominum eorum qui, regnante Elizabetha serenissima regina nunc Angliæ, &c., aut aquæ baptismate abluti, aut in matrimonio copulati, aut sepulturæ beneficio affecti fuerunt, in ecclesia parochiali de Norton, in comitatu Derb', incipiens a primo ejus regni anno, et usque ad quadragesimum secundum annum dicti regni sui continuata, juxta formam et effectum cujusdam canonis in hac parte nuper editi \* et in frontispicio hujus registri transcripti † unde necessitas et utilitas antedictæ inscriptonis et ejus religiosæ conservationis in multifarios (?) usus abunde liquebit.

## BAPTIZACIONES.

Imprimis Elizabetha Grene filia Johannis Grene de Norton fænisecarum fabri Baptizata fuit xxxmo Septembris anno primo Eliz., &c.

xxxmo Septembris.

*Anno R. Re'ne Eliz., &c., Secundo.*

Elizabetha Cam filia Will'mi Camme de parva Norton fænisecarum fabri

xmo Decembris.

Agnes Rose filia Thomæ Rose de Norton fænisecarum percussoris

xximo Januarii.

Elizabetha byrkenshawe filia Johannis byrkenshawe carbonarii lignarii

xxviii Februarii.

Elizabetha Scotte filia Emori Scotte de Bello capite alias Beauchieff

1560 xmo Aprilis.

Alicia Bate filia Roberti Bate de Iurdenthorp yeoman

viii mo Maii.

Margareta filia putativa Roberti Boot de Norton ex Margareta Blithe relicta

Thomæ blithe de himsworth defuncta

xvito Junii.

Elizabetha Claiton filia humfredi Claiton de lightewood husbandmann

xxvo Junii.

Hugo Scotte filius hugonis Scotte de Norton

xxx mo. Junii.

Thomas Deane filius Johannis d de Norton generosi

xij Augusti.

Barbara Willye filia Johannis Willie de lees

xvii mo. Septembris.

Willielmus ffoxie filius Henrici Ffoxie de lees carbonarii lignarii

ij do. Octobris.

Robertus Vicars filius Thomæ Vicars baptizatus fuit

xij Octobris.

Will'mus stannyforthe filius henrici stanyforth de heardynges husbandman

xxviij Octobris.

\* The volume would appear to have been compiled from an earlier volume, as it begins in 1560.

† The transcript of the order is not made in the volume.

*Anno R. Re'ne Eliz. tertio.*

Ellena Townende filia Thomæ Townende de grennell husbandman	xxiiij Novembris.
Richardus Kynge filius Galfridi Kinge de himswourthe	ultimo Novembris.
Jacobus Plattes filius Jacobi Plattes de grennell labourer	ix no Decembris.
Margeria parker filia Johannis parker de weetlands yeoman	xv to decembris
Johannes Rawson filius henrici Rawson de woodsette dale	xxvij mo decembris
Joicia blithe filia Will'mi Blithe de Norton	eodem die et anno.
Elizabetha Bullock filia Thomæ Bullock de grennell follifici de pinfold	ix no februarii 1561
Elizabetha malam filia Martini Malam de norton clerici	vij mo aprilis
Margeria padley filia Roberti padley de norton fænisecarum fabri	vij mo aprilis
Margeria Barnes filia Johannis Barnes de himswourth	xv aprilis
Nicholaus scotte filius Emori scotte de Bello capite alias Beauchief	xvj. mo aprilis
Johanna Bullock filia Jacobi bullock de greene apud grennell yeoman	xxix no aprilis
Elizabetha allen filia Johannis allen de woodsettes dale yeoman	xxv. o maii
Henry Taylor. Robt. holland. Hierome Smallfield.	

I here give a few inscriptions in the church.

On a plain stone in the chancel floor :—

Hic humatus jacet Rowlandus Eyre nuper de Bradwaye intra parochiam de Norton in comi. Derbi. Ar', tam genere quam virtute clarus ; amicis patrie charus. Obiit primo die Septembris, An'o dom'i MDCLXV.

Precipuis placuisse viris non ultima laus est.

On a plain stone in the chancel floor :—

Hic depositum est corpus Mariæ Wood viduæ quæ obiit 13 die Maii AD 1677 ætatis suæ 77.

Resurgam.

On a stone adjacent :—

Hic jacet in tumulo spes olim chara parentum Ric. Wood quæ (*sic*) obiit Jul. 31 . . . . . ov 17 AD. 1675.

T. W. . . . . obiit Ap. 19. 1685.

Nos ibimus ad eos, et ipsi non revertent ad nos.

On a marble monument adjacent to the north wall of the chancel :—

Hic juxta situs est Wilhelmus Bullock de Norton in agro Derbiensi armig.  
Virtute, et ingenio præcoci, primâ statim juventute,  
In. coll. D. Johan. apud Cantabrig. electus est Socius.  
Belli autem Furore á musis mollioribus rapide divulsus,  
Regijs partibus contra rebelles cum primis se devovit,  
In quibus pertinaciter cum ultimis fortissimus stetit.  
Cum Ser<sup>mo</sup>. Car. 2<sup>do</sup>. redeunt illi etiam res suæ familiares,  
Diu in perduellium manibus sequestres, et misere attritæ.  
Nec minus jam pace quam bello olim clarus et utilis,  
Deo scilicet, ecclesiæ, et regi tenaci proposito ubiq̃ fidelis,  
Quicquid, quæque postulet necessitudo, ad amussim perfecit.  
Charus maritus, indulgens ; pater ; dominus facilis ;  
Comes facundus, et gratus ; amicus certus et integer,

Patrem secutus est filius unicus Domus spes ultima,  
Johannes Bullock in Coll. D. Johan. Cantab<sup>r</sup>. noviter ascitus,  
Variolis abreptus in ipso juventutis flore, cum jam spem daret,  
Se Patrem vitæ instituto, virtute, et moribus referre.  
Vidua, utrinq̃. orba, et ipsa assiduo dolore pene confecta,  
Hoc utrisq̃. et toti familiæ, hic simul sepultæ, posuit monimentum.

Obiit	{	Pater	{	Mar. 7 <sup>o</sup> Anno	{	Ætat. suæ 50 <sup>o</sup>
						Salut. 1666
	{	Filius	{	Feb. 27 <sup>o</sup> Anno	{	Ætat. suæ 19 <sup>o</sup>
						Salut. 1682.

I have not altered the punctuation, which in several places is inaccurate.

On a slab in the chancel floor :—

Here lyeth the body of George Sherman, of Lightwood, who departed this life the 27th of Aug., 1706. Aged 68 years.

Here also lyeth the body of Margaret his wife. Departed this life the 12 of Aug. . . . . Aged 62.

On a slab in the chancel floor :—

Here is deposited in good hope of a glorious resurrection y<sup>e</sup> mortal yet precious part of Joseph Morewood of Hemsworth, gent., that earnestly holy, humble, conscientious, and circumspect Christian, whose immortal and most precious part was translated from this world to the far better country on the 28th day of March . . . ætatis suæ 55. [The date is obscured by a stone.]

There are many memorials of the Gills and Bagshawes in the chancel, but as they are affixed to the walls, and in no danger of being effaced, I have not, owing to the limited space at my disposal, here transcribed them.

In the church-yard is this amusing epitaph on a scythe-smith :—

My scythe and hammer lies reclined,  
My bellows too has lost their winde,  
My iron is spent, my steel is gone,  
My scythes are set, my work is done,  
My fires extinct, my forge decayed,  
My body in the dust is laid.

The following, too, is remarkable, to say no more about it :—

Heaven did thy lovely presauce want,  
And therefore did so early thee transplant ;  
For meaner souls he could delay,  
Impatient for thine he could not stay.

Of the older Norton families, the Kirkes, of Greenhill, appear to have been not the least distinguished. Thurstan Kirke, of Greenhill, yeoman, son of Arnold Kirke, of Whitehough, *alias* Whitehall, Esq., married Frances, daughter of Jerome Blythe, of Greenhill, Esq., by Anna, his wife. Anna Blythe died on the 29th of March, 1585, and she is described in the Norton register as "*modesta, pia, et beneficentissima matrona.*" A family of nine children sprang from this marriage, the eldest being Gervase Kirke, who was bap<sup>t</sup>. Ap. 16, 1568. Jerome Blythe was the father of Anthony Blythe, Esq., of Burchet, who, as we have seen above, was buried at night in the chapel of his ancestors. Gervase went to London, and there became a distinguished merchant adventurer. Along with Sir W. Alexander, son of Sir W. Alexander, Principal Secretary of State for Scotland, R. Charlton, and W. Berkeley, he obtained His Majesty's license for discovery, fishing, and trade, "on the south side of the river of Canada." He had five sons; David, (afterwards Sir David), Lewis, (afterwards Sir Lewis), Captain Thomas, John, and Captain James. On the 20th March, 1629, Captains David and Thomas Kirke, factors for the Canada adventures, left Gravesend

with 8 ships and two pinnaces. They arrived at Great Caspe on the 15th of June, and at Todousac and Quebec between that date and the 3rd of July. Here they traded with the natives for skins. Captain Thomas, with 200 men, demanded the surrender of Quebec, about the 3rd of July, and it was given up to him on the 9th. Upwards of 1,700 beaver skins were taken in the fort, and came into the Company's hands. On the 5th of March, 1630, a commission was issued to inquire what goods, merchandise, and other things, had been taken by Captain David Kirke from the fort of Quebec, the College of Jesuits, and the French Admiral Rochemont, whose arms the Kirkes afterwards took. A month later, the French General, De Caen, petitioned the Privy Council, complaining that Captain Kirke would not give up the beaver skins, for which he had offered the highest price, nor the keys of the warehouse, to the Lord Mayor of London, though application had been made to Mistress Kirke, his mother, (his father, Gervase Kirke, being dead\*) to W. Berkeley, and Robert Charlton. In May, 1631, Captain David was examined before Sir H. Marten, the result of his examination being as follows:—He was employed as chief commander in two voyages to Canada, in 1628, at the charge of his late father, Gervase Kirke, and other merchants in London, and in 1629 at that of Sir W. Alexander, the younger, Gervase Kirke, and their partners. He declares that on the first voyage he took possession of all Canada, except Quebec; and on the second, of Quebec also. He had a commission to expel the French from that country. He was assaulted by a French pinnace, commanded by Emery de Caen, two of his company being killed, and 12 or 18 others wounded. He acquired the beaver skins in trading with the natives and the French for victuals, and did not take them from Quebec; for when the fort surrendered there was nothing but a tub of bitter roots in it. He complains that interlopers presume to trade in the ports of Canada, to the great damage of the adventurers.

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\* He died in London, and was buried at All Hallows', Bread Street, on the [13th] Dec., 1639.

On Dec. 1st., 1631, a grant of arms was made to Captain David Kirke, and his brothers, Lewis Kirke, Governor of Canada, and James Kirke. The grant confirms to them their paternal coat, with the addition of the arms (slightly varied) of Mons. de Rockmond, a French Admiral, whom they had taken and brought into England. The grant was made in consideration of their having vanquished the French fleet under De Rockmond. In the following year they brought Mons. Champlain prisoner to England.

How the differences between the Canada Company and the French were settled does not clearly appear. A patent had been granted on the 11th May, 1633, to Sir W. Alexander, and others, for sole trade to the river and gulf of Canada, and all places adjacent, for beaver and all other skins and wool for 31 years. There is a memorandum of a proposed instrument (Jan., 1636), to be signed by the King for the Canada merchants. The grant of the 11th May, 1633, was to be first recited, and it was then to be added, that, restitution having been demanded in France for wrongs done to British subjects, and answer returned—"Kings should not fall out for that cause. Let them right themselves, and the strongest party carry it," the King has thought fit to give power to his subjects for 3 years, to surprise, and take, enjoy, and possess, &c.

On the 2nd Oct., 1639, Sir David Kirke writes as follows to Archbishop Laud:—

Most Reverend Father,

I doe with joye and a gratefull hart, acknowledge the favour I received from your Grace, in your good wishes for our prosperity in this Country, after it had pleas'd his Majesty to graunt it to us by his Patent. My Lord, I doubt not but God hath blessed us the more, for your Grace's blessing upon us. For we have found the Country so good and healthfull, that since our arrival heer, of about 100 Persons which wee brought over, to this daye wee have lost but one of sickness, and he a diseased man, before we departed out of England. Concerning the Temperature of the Clyme and the general Estate of y<sup>e</sup> Country, your Grace maye bee at large informid by those relations which are sent over to the Country and shall bee presented to your Grace, if your more serious and greate imployment maye allowe any time of eysure for their Perusal. I shall onely add this one particular observation,



out of what hath happened in the Country heertofore, and what I hope shall followe heerafter, That the Ayre of Newfoundland agrees perfectly well with all God's creatures except Jesuits and Scismatics; A greate mortality amongst the former Tribe so affrighted my Lord of Baltimore that hee utterly deserted the Country. And of the other sect, wee haue heard so many Frenzies from our next neighbouring Plantation, The greatest his Majesty hath in America; That wee hope our strict observance and use of the Rites and Service of the Church of England, as it is our chieftest safety, by the blessing of God, whose ordinance wee are constantly persuaded it is; So maye it discourage for ever all seditious Spirits to mingle with us, to the disturbance of that happy conformity which wee desire maye bee established in this Land.

To this good end, if it shall please your Grace to give us directions for the time to come [for wee doubt not but the Country maye bee peopled in a short time with a numerous Plantation of his Majestye's Subjects] wee shall with all respect and faythfulness receive and practise your Grace's Injunctions; and I in my particular shall rest ever

Ferryland,

Octobris 2<sup>o</sup>

1639<sup>o</sup>

Your Graces most obedient

DAVID KIRKE.

(Indorsed.)

Recep: Januar: 16<sup>32</sup><sub>40</sub>

From Sr David Kirke concerning y<sup>e</sup> State of Newfoundl<sup>d</sup>.

2<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1639.

Newfoundland.

(Addressed)

To the Most Reverend Father in God William by y<sup>e</sup> Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of Canterbury his grace Present thease.

On the 10th of Jan. 1640, the Bishop of Exeter, and 15 others, address the Privy Council. They state that petitions had been received from merchants, fishermen, and others, complaining of injuries done in Newfoundland by Sir David Kirke and his company, who were planters there. The cook rooms and stages had been destroyed, and the principal places for fishing disposed of to aliens. Taverns which were expressly forbidden by the Privy Council, had been set up by Kirke, whereby the fishermen wasted their estates, and grew disorderly. They request that some timely course may be taken for the prevention of such abuses. On the 12th of Sept., Sir David Kirke writes to the Privy Council. He says their letters of the 11th of March had

been received, with many complaints of the west country owners and fishermen against him. He protests that all the allegations are false. The stages and cook-rooms were pulled down by the fishermen themselves, insomuch that the masters complained to him of these outrages. He hopes by good proofs to clear himself of this causeless clamour against him, and declares that, whoever would interrupt the fishing of Newfoundland is worthy the name of a traitor.

It appears that John Kirke managed the business of the Newfoundland adventurers, amongst whom were James, Marquis of Hamilton, Philip, Earl of Pembroke, and Henry, Earl of Holland.

On the 8th of Ap., 1651, the Council of State order Sir David to be brought to England, and a commission is appointed to enquire into certain alleged miscarriages of his. The commission was to enquire touching benefits made from adventurers' goods carried over by him, money received of planters for fishing boats, licensing taverns, granting leases of land, selling wines, beaver and other skins, profits by fishing and buying or selling. The Council appointed the 8th of Nov., 1651, for receiving the relation of Sir David in writing, concerning the present state of Newfoundland. On the 8th of Jan., 1652, he was to be summoned forthwith to attend the Council, and the papers of complaint against him produced. On the 12th an order of the Council was made, appointing Mr. Neville, the Earl of Pembroke, Col. Morley, Mr. Love, Col. Purefoy, Mr. Hay, Mr. Holland. Mr. Scott, Mr. Bond, and Sir Arthur Hesilrig, or any three of them, a committee to examine the matter, to peruse papers relative to his actings at Newfoundland, and to require an account of what was due to the commonwealth of the profits of shares forfeited to the State; and to report upon the whole matter. Mr. Neville to take care of the business. On Jan. 29, Sir David entered into a bond not to depart out of the commonwealth. On Ap. 2nd, Sir Henry Vane, Mr. Masham, Mr. Challoner, Col. Dixwell, Mr. Corbett, Lord Bradshaw, and Mr. Morley were added to the Committee, who were to consider how the fishing of Newfoundland might be improved to the best advantage. The

matter came before the Council on June 11th. Sir David and Lord Baltimore pretended private interest, and declared that the proceedings respecting the fisheries would be no inconvenience to them. Sir David desired leave to go over himself, or to send some of his servants. He was allowed to send over his wife or some others in his behalf; and on June 16, he was allowed, upon giving security, to go over himself. On Dec. 22, the matter was referred to the Committee for Foreign Affairs. On May 24, 1653, security was taken of him in double the value of his estate, when the sequestration was ordered to be taken off, and all that remained, except the ordnance and other things properly belonging to the Commonwealth, delivered to such persons as he might appoint. In 1654, Lewis, John, and James Kirke, who were interested in the business of Canada, petitioned Cromwell that some course might be taken with the French Ambassador, Mons. de Neufville, before any new treaty was concluded, for payment of £48,383 2s. 9d., for which France, and especially the associates of New France, were in all equity answerable to the petitioners. On Ap. 24, 1654, Walter Sikes, Cap. Wm. Pyle, and John Treworgie petition the Lord Protector. They declare that in 1652 they were commissioned by the Council of State to manage and order affairs in Newfoundland, and secure the estate of Sir David Kirke there. But Sir David being deceased, James, his brother, had arrested them in actions for £1,100, pretending the estate in Newfoundland to be his. In 1660 (?), Sir Lewis Kirke, on behalf of himself and the sons of Sir David Kirke, deceased, late Governor of Newfoundland, petitioned the King. He declared that certain duties in Newfoundland were by patent granted to Sir David Kirke and others, which, on account of the late wars, had not been effectually prosecuted; and he prayed that the ships sent for the protection of the fishing trade might give assistance to George, David, and Philip Kirke, now resident in Newfoundland, for reinforcing the Government and receiving those duties.

On Nov. 13th, 1637, a grant of the Province of Newfoundland, bordering upon the continent of America, between 46 and 53 deg.

North lat., had been made to James, Marquis of Hamilton, Philip, Earl of Pembroke, Henry, Earl of Holland, and Sir David Kirke. But George, the late Lord Baltimore, having left the plantation in no sort provided for, and Cecil, his heir, having also deserted it, as had done several others who had grants of parcels of land, "leaving divers of our poor subjects in the said province living without government," the whole continent of Newfoundland had been granted to Sir D. Kirke.

Accordingly, Cecil, Lord Baltimore, petitioned the King. The petition recited King James's patent of Newfoundland to his father; where he began a plantation, built a fair house, in which he resided, and expended above £30,000. After his decease, the petitioner deputed Cap. Wm. Hill, Governor. In 1638, Sir David Kirke surreptitiously obtained a patent, went over the following year, and dispossessed the petitioner of all his rights there. In 1655, Kirke made over part of his patent to John Claypole (son-in-law to Oliver Cromwell), Col. Rich, Col. Goffe, and others; and Sir Lewis Kirke and others were endeavouring to get a confirmation of that patent. He prayed that no grant might be passed to his prejudice, and that he might be restored to his rights according to his patent. Upon these matters Sir Orlando Bridgenorth, and Sir Heneage Finch reported to the King. They had heard Lord Baltimore, Sir Lewis Kirke, and his brother John Kirke, and considered the patent granted to Sir George Calvert to be still in force. The Kirkes having for years lived and planted there, and their charges in improvement being unknown, they were not able to certify what was fit to be done in reference to that plantation. In 1661, the King sent his warrant to Sir Lewis Kirke, John Kirke, and others, requiring them to give up possession of any house or land in the province of Avalon belonging to Lord Baltimore, by virtue of the patent granted to his father.

In 1655, the Protector entrusted the benefit and trade of Nova Scotia, Acadia, and Canada, to Col. Thomas Temple, the Kirkes having been attached to the King's cause. In 1660, Sir Lewis Kirke, John Kirke, and Francis Berkley, petitioned the King for

the restoration of their former rights. What became of the Kirke's interest I do not quite know; but on 24th Dec., 1660, Col. Temple writes a letter to Thomas Povey, in which he complains that the King has granted the country he possesses to Thomas Elliott, of the Bedchamber. He goes on to boast of his allegiance to the late King. "One of the last commands that he [the King] whispered to Kirke, was to charge this King to have a care of honest Tom Temple." He hopes the King will not ruin him. "Whither," he says, "shall afflicted and oppressed supplicants fly if not to the throne of princes?"

In giving this account of the Kirkes, which is taken entirely from the Colonial State Papers, I have digressed somewhat from the rightful province of local history; but I have done so to bring more fully into prominence the distinguished sons of a stout-hearted man, who left Greenhill nearly 300 years ago, and played a foremost part in the establishment of British dominion in the West.

I have prepared the pedigree which concludes this essay mainly through the kind assistance of Colonel Chester, who collected his facts when engaged on his famous edition of the Registers of Westminster Abbey. Colonel Chester informs me that his endeavour was to identify the notorious George Kirke, Groom of the Bed-chamber to Charles I., with the Greenhill family. He does not appear, however, to be in any way connected with them. His coat of arms and crest are quite different from those borne by the Derbyshire Kirkes. I have only followed the descents of Thurstan Kirke's eldest son Gervase, and contented myself with merely giving the names of his brothers.

Something remains to be said about John Kirke, 4th son of Gervase, and brother of Sir David—

There is a will of a *Sir John Kirke*, of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Middlesex, *Knight*, dated 12 June, 1685, and proved the 24th of the same month, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, by his relict, Dame Anne. He was buried at St. Martin's, 23 June, 1685, as "Sir John Keirkman." She was buried there, 13 Ap., 1686, as "Lady Ann Kirke," and her will, dated 17 Jan., 1685-6, was proved (P.C.C.) 21 Ap., 1686.

There is every reason to think that this was the John, 4th son of Gervase, but why called *Sir* John is by no means evident. He does not appear to be in any list of knights. Very probably he was a knight of some foreign order, or it is quite possible that he had been dubbed a knight, but did not see fit to pay the fees demanded by the Herald's College, and so was omitted from their lists. This was not uncommon.

The reasons for believing the two men to be identical are two-fold : (1) There does not appear to be any other will or administration of a John which will at all do for the son of Gervase Kirke, and it is difficult to believe that a man in his position, and with the property that would have come to him from his brothers, could have died without either. (2) James Kirke, in his will, 24 March, 1650-1, directs to be buried in the church of Eastham, in Sussex, and bequeaths to his brother, "Mr. John Kirke," his freehold land and house in Eastham, for life, with remainder to his nephew, George Kirke, eldest son of his brother, Sir David. He also bequeaths to his brother John other property in Eastham, in trust, with remainder to the said George; and the brother John was his executor in 1656.

Now the first item in the will of this mysterious Sir John Kirke is the bequest to his wife, Anne, of his freehold estate in Eastham, with remainder to his son, Thomas Kirke, Esq.

These facts seem to be almost conclusive. *Violenta præsumptio est plena probatio*, but, as it is better never to put anything in a pedigree which cannot be proved absolutely, *Sir* John has been omitted in this instance. Still there can be no moral doubt about it.

Sir John names no other child but *Thomas*. Lady Anne does not name Thomas, but leaves her Eastham estate, and all her personalty to her son *James* Kirke, who proved her will. Both ignore the John, Mary, and Elizabeth, who were certainly living in 1658-9 and 1663, as children of John. Of course, they may have all died, but there is a strong suspicion that "Mary Lugg, wife of John Lugg, gentl'," to whom *Sir John* Kirke leaves a moiety of his messuages in St. Mary, Savoy (it will be remem-

bered that Sir Lewis called himself of Savoy parish), with remainder to her children, was this daughter Mary, though he does not call her so, and that Judith Langston, to whose children he leaves the other moiety, was another daughter.

The names of the two sons, Thomas and James, are precisely those which John Kirke would have been likely to give his children, after his two brothers.

There appears to be no further trace of the son Thomas.

The son James made a will, 4 Oct., 1688, in these words, and no more (they are of the shortest on record): "I make my dearly beloved Maria Child, alias Kirke, my whole heyre and executrix of all my real and personal estate." It was proved 2 Jan., 1695-6 (in P.C.C.), by Mary Hall, *alias* Child, *alias* Kirke, now wife of James Hall, the executor named." The Probate Act states that he died in Ireland.

On the 14th Dec., 1696, administration was granted (P.C.C.) to Anthony Moyses, principal creditor of Mary Hall, *als* Kirke, *als* Child," late of St. Martin in the Fields, deceased, her husband, James Hall, renouncing.

The identity of this James Kirke is established by the fact that the above Anthony Moyses on 29 Feb. <sup>1699</sup>/<sub>1700</sub> administered *de bonis non* the estate of Sir John Kirke, as "creditor or administrator of Mary Hall, *als* Kirke, *als* Child, deceased, while she lived *executor and universal legatee* of James Kirke, deceased, while he lived son and residuary legatee of Dame Anne Kirke, relict, &c., of Sir John Kirke."

The facts seem clear enough. James Kirke never married; Maria (or Mary) Child was his mistress, calling herself by his name, and probably passing as his wife. But it will be noticed that he does not call her so, nor is she so described in any of the Probate proceedings. After his death she married James Hall.

It is not unlikely that the quaint old house, now known as Greenhill Hall (a drawing of which accompanies this essay), may have once been the home of Thurstan Kirke, and the country seat of his son Gervase. Mary West, daughter of Gervase, is described on her monument in St. Aldate's, Oxford, as the

youngest daughter of Jarvis Kirke, of Greenhill, Esq. The house at Greenhill, with its beautifully-panelled rooms, and mullioned windows, is a good example of the domestic architecture of the 16th and 17th centuries. I have not, however, succeeded in connecting it with the Kirkes, for the earlier title deeds appear to be lost, and, therefore, what I say on this point is quite conjectural.

My thanks are due to Charles Jackson, Esq., of Balby, Doncaster; to Miss Lister, who, till lately, resided at Greenhill Hall; and to W. H. Hart, Esq., F.S.A., for the information they have each supplied me with. But I am chiefly indebted to Colonel Chester, for the accurate genealogical facts which no man but himself could have given me.