

Notes on the Manors of Kirk Langley and Meynell Langley.

[FROM THE MSS. OF THE LATE GODFREY MEYNELL; COMPILED
circa 1830.]*

MEYNELL LANGLEY.

THE earliest record I can find relative to King's or Kirk Langley is in Domesday Book; it was then part of the possessions of Ralf, the son of Hubert; and Mr. Wolley of Matlock is inclined to think that it belonged to the Meynells at a very early period. By this survey it appears that—"Levenot has four carucates of land, there are to the geld six carucates of land, there is in demesne one carucate, and two villains and four bordars have two carucates; there is a wood where cattle may graze, one mile long and three furlongs broad, and a small underwood; in the time of Edward the Confessor worth one hundred shillings, now only forty shillings." At the compiling of Domesday Book, Langley does not appear to have been held under Ralf Fitz Hubert by Robertus; but in the certificate given by Hubert Fitz Ralf, 12 Henry II., 1146, of the Knights' fees held of him, Robertus de Maisnell is mentioned as holding five of those Knights' fees of old feofment, which at least refers to the time of Henry I., 1108. Langley appears to have been one of Ralf Fitz Hubert's manors at the time Domesday Book was compiled, but it is mentioned to have been then held in demesne; it is not improbable, however, that it was soon after

* Permission to print these Notes has been kindly given by his grandson, the present Mr. Godfrey Meynell, of Meynell Langley.

granted to Robert de Maisnell, or one of his ancestors, and formed a part of those five Knights' fees above-mentioned, and that it afterwards became the property of a younger son, who was the ancestor of the Meynells of Meynell Langley. Dugdale, in his *Warwickshire*, p. 798, says that Philippa Savage was the wife of Hugh de Meinell, of Langley Meynell, in Derbyshire, where their chief seat was; and this refers to the time of Edward I., for he died in the 13th year of that king's reign.

Thus far we have traced the manor of Meynell Langley in the possession of the Meynells from Henry I.'s time, 1108. In the year 1268, Sir William Meynell, of Langley, was a great benefactor to the religious house at Yeaveley.* In 1285, Lord Hugh de Meynell resided at Langley, according to Dugdale, page 798, and his son William resided here, and died 7 Edward II., 1314;† his son, Hugh de Meinell, was a Baron of Parliament, 1 Edward III., and Barnes says that he was with Edward III. at the battle of Cressy, and that Lord Hugh de Meinell and several other nobles were taken prisoners at Mants.‡ The next in succession was Richard Meynell; he died 33 Edward III., and, from the authority of Barnes, was at the battle of Poitiers. In this king's reign there were two gallant esquires of England slain, Richard Meynell and William Muswell; he might be son of the former. The next possessor was Ralf de Meynil; he died 10 Richard II., 1376. Ralf de Meynil left four daughters:—Joan, who was married (1) to John Staunton, of Staunton Harold, (2) to Sir Thomas Clinton Knt.; Elizabeth, to William Crawshaw; Margaret, to John Dethick, of Newhall; and Thomasine, to Reginald Dethick.§ Sir John Dethick, in right of his wife, about 1458, became possessed of Meynell Langley, but he died without issue male, and his estate at Meynell Langley devolved upon his only daughter, Margaret, who married Ralf Bassett, of Blore. William Bassett, his son, married Alice, daughter of

* Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. ii., p. 546.

† Vide *Extinct Peerage*.

‡ Barnes' *History of Edward III.*, pp. 804, 810.

§ Vide Erdeswick's *Staffordshire*.

Robert Moston, of Peckleton, co. Leicester; he died 1456, and William, his son and heir, married Joan, the daughter and co-heiress of Richard Byron; William was his son and heir, whose father died 1498, and he, the son, married Elizabeth, the daughter of Thomas Meverel, of Throwley, and died in 1506. William, his son, married Isabel, daughter of Robert Cokayne, and died in 1553. William Bassett was his son and heir, and the last possessor male of this estate; he married (1) Elizabeth, the daughter of Anthony Fitzherbert, and (2) the daughter of Thomas Austen, afterwards Lady Corbett; he died 44 Elizabeth, 1602, and left Elizabeth Bassett, his daughter by his second wife, his heiress.

Elizabeth Bassett was married to William, Duke of Newcastle, whose fortune was spent in the service of King Charles I., for he raised a regiment of horse at his own expense and maintained them; * she died young, but left a son. This estate was then seized by the Protector Cromwell, and great dilapidation of the woods ensued; and I apprehend the many charcoal hearths now visible in Meynell Langley were in consequence of the great falls of timber at that period. When Charles II. returned, this estate was restored to the family, but the finances of the Duke were so far exhausted that it was found necessary to sell this and other estates, † and he and his son conveyed Kirk and Meynell Langley (but not the advowson) to Richard Meynell; the purchase-money for the two manors was £12,524 11s. 6d., a sum that now would scarcely purchase a farm; I think Isaac Meynell, another brother, also joined in the purchase. This Richard Meynell ‡ was the

* It is stated by the Duchess of Newcastle that the loss sustained by the Duke from the Civil Wars rather surpassed than fell short of £733,579. Vide his life, and Walpole's *Royal and Noble Authors*, vol. ii., p. 17.

† I have in my possession an old rent-roll of all the estates of the Duke that were intended for sale; the date 1670.—G. M.

‡ Vide an old MS. in my possession, written by Thomas Meynell, rector of Langley, of which the following is a copy:—

“In answer to any malicious person that shall suggest that Meynell of Willington is not of the family of the Meynells formerly of Meynell Langley, I say that we have the same coat of arms allowed us in all Visitations that Sir Hugh Meynell had, and in particular my late father, Godfrey Meynell, Esq., at one of these Visitations, I think 31 Charles I. (according to the account Sir Simon Degg gives of it), had the same coat of arms allowed him, and so had his father, 1618, and I have heard my father say that he was placed at dinner

sixth son of Godfrey Meynell, of Willington, in the county of Derby, and was a descendant of the Meynells formerly of Langley, as may be seen in the pedigree in the Herald's College, and by the pedigree entered by his father, Godfrey, 1618, and by his monument in St. Dunstan's, in East London. The same coat of arms was allowed him that Sir Hugh Meynell had in 1285—viz., Vaire, *argent* and *sable*. He died a bachelor, and Isaac, his brother, the seventh son, became possessed of Meynell Langley.*

Isaac left one only daughter, Elizabeth, who married † Honble. Robert Cecil, member for Wooton Bassett, and second son of the Earl of Salisbury, but, I apprehend, sold the estate to Godfrey Meynell, Esquire, of Langley, grandson of the before-named Godfrey Meynell, of Willington, and son of Thomas Meynell, the rector of Langley, who married Catharine, daughter to Colonel John Lane, of Bentley Abbey, in the county of Stafford, and niece to Mrs. Jane Lane who was so greatly instrumental in saving King Charles II. when he quitted the kingdom for France.‡

Thomas Meynell had one son and four daughters; to his son Godfrey he gave up property in his own lifetime, residing himself at the rectory. He died in the autumn of the year 1705, and the above Godfrey, his son, in the spring preceding. The son married Mary Horde, daughter of Thomas Horde, Esq., of Coates, in the county of Oxford; he left one son and one daughter; Godfrey, his son, died in the year 1758, and left his estate to the grandchildren of his grandfather, Thomas Meynell, by his three great-aunts (1) Katherine, who married Gilbert

above his godfather, Godfrey Thacker, of Repton, Esq., by the Herald, and would have refused the place because he was his godfather, but the Herald would not suffer him, but told him it was his place. Vaire *argent* and *sable* was the De la Ward's coat, and the nag's head was the crest, and the daughter of De la Ward married to the Meynells of Langley. The pedigree is carried down in the Herald's College to anno 1634, Book G. 33, folio 7, and this coat was then allowed by the Herald. This was writ by Tho. Meynell, rector of Langley, and given to his son Godfrey, 1702."

* Part of the estate lying in Kirk Langley was sold afterwards by Godfrey Meynell, Esq.

† First to Hale, of King's Walden; second, to Robert Cecil.

‡ Vide Lanes' pedigree, and the Lanes' petition to Charles II.

Cheshire, whose daughter married, first, Mr. Peach, and secondly, Mr. Cheney ; (2) Dorothy, who married, first, Mr. Warden, and secondly, Mr. Hodgkinson ; and (3) Susanna, who married Mr. Lord, of Little Chester, and who was the executrix of her father, Thomas Meynell, the rector of Langley.

The father of the late Mr. Meynell was buried in the chancel, by order of his father, Thomas Meynell, but as the father himself died in the autumn following, the son's widow removed the body of her husband to the choir, where it now lies. Thomas Meynell wished the chancel to be the burial-place, but the late Mr. Godfrey Meynell was laid by his father, Godfrey, in the choir, nearly under the monument since erected to Mr Cheney and his wives ; in the same place were buried two other children of his father who died young.

KIRK LANGLEY.

With regard to the manor of Kirk Langley, this at the Conquest belonged to Ralf Fitz Hugh, as one entire place. It then passed, in the time of Henry III. (1218), to Ralf Fitz Nicholas ; then to the Pipards of Oxfordshire, who, I think, assumed the name of Twyford. In the time of Edward II. (circa 1264) it was possessed by a Twyford, for Dugdale in his *History of Warwickshire* (page 36) says that Sir John de Twyford made his residence at Stretton Baskerville, County Warwick, though Kirk Langley in Derbyshire was his ancient residence ; this was the 17th Edward II., and in the year 1302, and it was then called their ancient residence.

At what period they first settled here I do not find. It appears that Henry Pole, of Whittington, son of Peter Pole, of Heage, married a daughter of Twyford, probably the daughter or sister of Thomas Twyford, who died in 1523, and whose monumental inscription will be hereafter given.

I find by an ancient deed, anno 3 Henry IV., 1446, that Robert de Twyford was then Lord of Kirk Langley :—

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego William Dethic Miles dedi Roberto de Twyford domino de Langley, Rado fratri ejus, Johanni de Garforth, Thome de Dethic, filiis meis, omnes terras etc in villa de Raddeburne praeter terras quasdam Johannis Annesty et Isabel uxoris ejus anno 3rd Henry 4th.

We find Henry Pole buried at Langley, and Dorothy his wife, who died 1558; and he appears to be patron of the church. Probably from the marriage with Twyford, he bears the arms of Pole, together with those of Chandos and Twyford; and in the centre of the third shield is a cinque-foil, which denotes a third son; but the wife's bearing on the tomb is not that of Twyford.*

An *Inquisitio post-mortem*, 20th Henry VIII, 1512, states that Robert Knifton had in Langley 47 acres of arable land, 20 acres of meadow, and 20 acres of pasture.

William Bassett possessed the manor of Kirk Langley, probably by purchase from German Pole. He held it of the heirs of Jacob Strangeways, and of the heirs of Stuteville by half a knight's fee, and it was of the value of £40.

Humphrey Bradbourne, Knt., had the manor of Burrows in Langley. He held 1 messuage, 38 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, and 20 acres of wood, with the appurtenances, and held of the Earl of Salop, as of his manor of Kirk Langley, by fealty, and paying 5 marks yearly.

Lady Corbett, widow of William Bassett, held the manor. I find that Lady Corbett was the daughter of Thomas Austen, of Oxley Farm, Staffordshire, and was first married to William Boothby, and was mother of Thomas Boothby, of Tooley Park. For her second husband she married William Bassett, of Blore, by whom she had Elizabeth, married first to Henry Howard, and afterwards to William, Earl of Newcastle. Thirdly she married Sir Richard Corbett, and died 1640, aged 74, immensely rich. (Vide Nichol's *History of Leicestershire*, vol. iii., p 732.)

The Knivetons had also lands in Burrows, and the farm belonging to Dr. Johnson was their property.

Thus far I have attempted to trace the possessions of these two manors until the reign of Charles II. At this period the

* The tomb at Kirk Langley to Henry Pole and Dorothy, his wife, is to the eldest son of Henry Pole, who married the heiress of Twyford. For full explanation of the armorial bearings on this tomb, and for further particulars relative to the Twyford and Pole families, see *Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. iv., pp. 267-8, 273-5.—ED.

feudal system was wholly abolished, land owners became numerous, and from that time it is difficult to trace the property. It was formerly in fewer hands, and an estate of that day held by knights' service may now have many owners; land is become of more value, better cultivated, and parcelled into lots for sale. Then it was granted in general for service done to the Crown, and seldom in less quantity than a whole manor, or, when sold, large estates were transferred from one family to another.

In April, 1817, Mr. Cornelius Brough gave me two deeds, one of which I forwarded to Mr. Lysons, and of which I have received the following account:—It is a grant from William de Longeley, clerk to Henry Moyster of Kniveton, chaplain, of a messuage, with out-houses, buildings, gardens, curtilage, etc., adjoining, and all the arable land in his assart, with ditches and enclosures in the vill and territory of Kirk Langley, which messuage adjoins to the place of my daughter Cicely, to have and to hold, etc., of the capital lords of the fee by due service with warranty. It is dated in the 20th year of Edward II. The parchment is about eight inches long and four wide.

The other deed is a grant from John Parker, of Whittington, to his son Thomas of a house and lands in Kirk Langley, and these are probably the same premises mentioned in the earlier deed. This deed is dated 37 Henry VIII. The parchment is about seven inches long and two broad.

Of these two evidences, which are now at Meynell Langley, we give extended transcripts.—ED.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Willielmus de Longley clericus dedi concessi et hac presente carta mea confirmavi Domino Henrico Moyster de Knyveton capellano unum messuagium cum domibus et edificiis et vastante gardino curteli præterea et croftum adjacentem et totam terram arrabilem in asartis meis cum fossatis et clausuris suis in villa et in territorio de Kyrke Longeleye quod quidem assuagium jacet juxta placeam Cicelie filie mee habendum et tenendum predicto domino Henrico Moyster et heredibus suis et suis assignatis libere quiete integre pacifice bene cum omnibus suis pertinentibus in feodo et heriditate in perpetuum de dominis capitalibus feodi illius pro servicia omnibus (*sic*) inde debita et consueta pro omnibus Et ego vero predictus Willielmus de Longeley Clericus et heredes mei omnia predicta tenementa cum omnibus pertinentibus suis predicto Domino Henrico Moyster de Knyveton capellano et heredibus suis et suis assignatis contra omnes gentes warrantizabimus in perpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Dominis Hugone de Meignyll Johanne

The following extract from the account of the Langleys, given in the *Churches of Derbyshire*, is here reprinted, as it illustrates and explains the earlier of Mr. Meynell's account of their descent. According to "The Bowke of Evidences of Twiforde his Lands" (Add. MSS. 6672, British Museum), which is a chartulary of evidences chiefly pertaining to Langley, neither of these accounts of the Twyfords and the transference of their estates to the Pole family are absolutely correct, but the discrepancy only arises in connection with some Christian names. It is hoped that this Twyford "Booke" may be printed *in extenso* in some future volume of these transactions.

"The Manor of Langley was held, according to the Domesday Book, by Levenot, under Ralph Fitz Hubert. There is no record at that date of a church. The manor at an early period was divided into two moieties, one of which became known as Kirk or Church Langley, from having a church fabric on the estate; and the other as Meynell Langley, from the name of the proprietor. At the beginning of the reign of Henry III., 1218, Kirk Langley was held by one Nicholas. To him succeeded his son, Robert Fitz-Nicholas, who died in the last year of Henry III.'s long reign. He died without issue, and the jury, at the inquisition after his death, found that his nephew, Ralph Pipard, then aged 28, the son of Ralph Fitz-Nicholas, was his heir. He died seized of landed property at Thurvaston, Etwall, and Egginton, as well as of the manor of 'Chirche Longley' and the advowson of its

de Twyford milite Thomi de Staunton Henrico de Caumbes Henrico de Meignyll et aliis. Datum apud Kyrke Longeley nono die mensis Septembris anno regni Regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi vicessimo.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes Parkar de Whyttynton in Comitatu Derbiensi Husbandman dedi concessi et hac presente carta mea confirmavi Thome Parker filio meo Totum Illud messuagium cum omnibuscroftis terris et pasture et pasti et aliis proventionibus habeo habui vel quovismodo habere potero in villa et campis de Kyrk Longelle in comitatu Derbiensi Habendum et tenendum predictum messuagium cum omnibuscroftis præterea pasturis passis et aliis pertinentibus dicto Thomi et heredibus suis imperpetuum de Capitalibus dominis foedi Illius pro futuris inde debitis et de jure consuetis In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto meo sigillum meum apposui Datum vicessimo septimo die mensis Novembris anno regni Henrici octavi Anglie Francis et Hibernie regis fidei defensoris et ecclesie Anglicane et Hibernie supremi capitis tricessimo septimo.

church, the rectory being valued by the jury at twenty marks per annum. Names at this period were changed with much caprice, according to the residence of the individual. It has generally been supposed that a Fitz-Nicholas sold this manor to a Pipard, but the inquisition that we have just quoted shows that Ralph, son of Ralph, and nephew of Robert Fitz-Nicholas, inherited it by descent. It would seem that he had assumed the name of Pipard from having resided, previously to his becoming heir to his uncle, at Rotherfield-Pipard, in Oxfordshire; or possibly from having married an heiress of the Pipards, who gave their name to that place, for the Pipards are said to have originally sprung from a hamlet of that name in Somersetshire. Robert Fitz-Nicholas had also owned the manor of Twyford, in Buckinghamshire, which his nephew, Ralph Pipard, also inherited, and of which he was seized at the time of his death, in 1310. Twyford, Bucks, was one of the most important of their manors, and hence the heir of Ralph assumed that name in preference to Pipard, and was known as John de Twyford.

“ The manor of Kirk Langley, together with the advowson of the rectory, remained in the hands of the Twyford, or de Twyford, family until the time of Henry VIII., when Henry Pole, of Chesterfield, son of Peter Pole, of Heage, married Ursula, the daughter and heiress of Thomas Twyford, who died in 1522. Henry Pole was succeeded by his son, of the same name, who died in 1558. He died without issue, and was succeeded by his brother Augustine, whose son, German Pole, sold the manor of Kirk Langley to Bassets, of Blore, then also lords of Meynell Langley, and the two manors were for the most part subsequently held together. William Basset married Judith, daughter of Thomas Austen, and widow of William Boothby. On the death of her second husband she was married to Sir Richard Corbett, of Morton Corbett, Shropshire. We find Lady Corbett presenting to the rectory of Kirk Langley both in 1619 and in 1621. By her second husband, William Basset, she had one daughter, first married to Henry Howard, son of the Earl of Suffolk (by whom she had a daughter, married to Sir John Harpur, of Swarkeston),

and secondly to William, Earl, and afterwards Duke, of Newcastle. On the restoration the Earl of Newcastle presented to this rectory. In the eighteenth century the advowson and next presentation were repeatedly sold; but during the present century it has been in the gift of the Meynells, of Meynell Langley."

A Visit to Derbyshire in 1630.

AMONGST the Harleian manuscripts is preserved the notebook of Justinian Pagett, Esq., a lawyer. It is headed:—"Remarkable things wh. I observed in my journey thro' Warwickshire, Darbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, Flintshire, etc., Anno 1630."

The part relating to Derbyshire is very brief, and is as follows:—

"In Darbyshire we went into poole hole, a vast hollow rock, wherein are several roomes, as it were, one on th' other.

1. A river's head is heere.
2. Stone hanging like icesickles, like a flitch of bacon etc.
3. The Q. of Scott's pillars.
4. Picture of a Lyon.

In the town of Buxtons we saw a pretty little brick house where in a lowe roome is a bath with 7 springs, 6 of them being hot, and the seventh cold, so that with a span you may lay your thumb on a hott spring, and your little finger on the cold. From hence we went thro' Castleton, where we saw the ruin'd castle and the great hoale called the Divillsarse. From thence to Mantaur, a high hill at one ende whereof the earth doth run doune continually like unto the sinking and gliding of sand in the lower part of an hower glasse. From hence to a well neere a town call'd Tideswell, wh. ebbs and flows sometimes 3 or 4 times a day, and from hence we went to Darby and Nottingham."