

Annals of Thoreston and Horsley.

BY REV. CHAS. KERRY.

THE BURONS AND HORSLEY CASTLE.



HORSLEY is included in Domesday in the "Land of Ralph de Buron." The account is as follows:—
 "In Horsalei. Turgar had 3 carucates of land hidable. Land for 4 ploughs. There are now in demesne 2 ploughs and 19 villains and 4 borderers having 6 ploughs. There are 60 acres of meadow. Wood pasturable, one mile in length and one mile in breadth. In the time of King Edward, it was worth 100 shill., now 60 shill. A knight of Ralph holds it."

The church is not mentioned in this record, neither are the churches in the *other* lordships forming the Barony of Buron, viz.—Weston, Denby, Hallam, and Herdebi; but I think it hardly follows that there was no church in any of these places, for it appears from Dr. Cox's account of Denby church, that the arcade between the nave and north aisle (ruthlessly destroyed in 1838) was obviously of Saxon origin—and as Denby was only a chapelry in the parish of Horsley, and was dependent on the mother church for its spiritual ministrations, there can be no doubt but a church existed at Horsley in Anglo-Saxon times. In Godfrey's *History of Lenton and its Priory*, it is stated that the church of Horsley was erected by the Burons, but on what authority this statement is made I cannot find—indeed I do not think it probable; for there is not one single vestige of Norman work to be found in the present edifice. The earliest portion (erected about 1210) is

the west end of the north aisle, with its three buttresses (one in the angle by the tower), all with acutely pitched weatherings, including the lower part of the western portion of the north wall. It may be that the round columns of the south arcade are of this period too.

The tower and nave follow suit about 1310—and the next in sequence are the chancel, the south aisle, the clerestory, and the upper portion of the walls of the north aisle, all constructed about 1450.

A church erected by the Burons would not have required reconstruction so early as the 13th century—because of the very substantial character of Norman work—nor do I think that a desire to bring the church into conformity with the then prevailing style of architecture would have led the inhabitants of a poor and thinly populated district to make such sweeping and costly changes in their parish church.

It is clear, therefore, that the present building occupies the site of an edifice which *required* reconstruction at the commencement of the 13th and 14th centuries, and that this structure was the old Saxon church presented by the Burons to the Priory of Lenton.

Lenton Priory was founded in 1102, and the foundation charter was attested, amongst others, by Hugh de Buron, son of Ralph of the Norman survey. In the year 1144, this Hugh de Buron and Hugh (called Meschines), his son and heir, gave to God and the monastery of Lenton the churches of Ossington, Notts., and *Horsley*, Derbyshire, and half the church of Cotgrave, Notts., which was then held by one Nicholas. This was done with great solemnity in the chapter-house of the convent, and among the witnesses was Roger, his younger son, who much approved of the gift.

To a subsequent gift to the convent of what he had in the town of Cotgrave, the following of "his own men" were witnesses:—

Robert, son of Andrew, of Costock (*Cotingstock*).

Robert de Rosello.

Robert, son of Serlo.

Albert the knight, of Kilbourne, his steward.

Hugo de Busli, his chamberlain, and others.

“Hugo de Buron, son of Ralph, considering out of the reasoning given him of God, that the life of this transitory age was short and troublesome, and that he that giveth to the poor of Christ lendeth unto God, on the day when the lady Albreda, his wife, was buried, for her soul and the souls of his sons and daughters, and all his ancestors, by the consent of his sons Hugh and Roger, gave to the church of the Holy Trinity at Lenton, his land at Almeton, which gift he and his beloved sons laid on the greater altar, in the presence of Humphrey the Prior and the whole convent of brethren.”

This Hugh de Buron had two sons, Hugh the elder, and Roger. It appears that the elder son became a monk during his father's lifetime, and that the estates were inherited by Roger the younger, who succeeded his father in 1156, when he paid 40 marks into the exchequer for his fine or “relief.”

“Hugo de Buron, the elder brother of Roger, gave his body to God and the church of Holy Trinity at Lenton, and there took the habit and religion of the Cluniac monks, that God might avert the scourge of his wrath, due for the very great multitude of his sins, and for the soul of his lord, Richard I., and others, gave and granted to God and the said church of Lenton, and to the monks, the whole town of Ossington with all its appendages.”

It appears that he had previously given Ossington to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, which subsequently was the cause of litigation between the monks of Lenton and the Knights Hospitallers.

We now come to Roger, the younger son, who succeeded his father Hugh in 1156. In the Red Book of the Exchequer we find his certificate or carta of his estates as follows:—“To Henry the King of England, Duke of Normandy, &c., Roger de Buron—health—concerning my knights who held land in the time of Henry I. know that they are

- (a) William de Heriz, who holds 2 fees.
- (b) Roger de Cotingstock holds in Cotingstock and Rempston
2 fees.

- (c) Patricius de Rosell holds one knight's fee.
- (d) Albertus (whom my father enfeoffed after the death of King Henry) holds one knight's fee; and
- (e) I myself do service for 4 knights fees of my demesne.
Altogether 10 knight's fees.

Of these

Patrick Rossell held Denby, and

Albert the Knight steward to Hugh de Buron, hold one knight's fee in Kilbourn.

In 1167, Roger de Buron paid 10 marks for 10 knights' fees into the exchequer as an aid for the marriage of Maud, eldest dau. of Henry I., espoused to Henry V., surnamed the Lion (Duke of Saxony and Sardinia). The same year she was sent into Germany with a rich dower and a splendid train, where her marriage was accomplished.*

In 1176, this Roger paid another sum of 10 marks for his forest dues, probably to assist in defraying the expenses of the war with Ireland.

In 1177, Roger de Buron was fined 1 mark for being concerned in the duel of the Earl of Ferrars.

In 1187, He was laid under a fine of £10 for not accompanying the king's army into Galway.

It would seem that Roger de Buron died in 1199, in which year Peter de Sandiacre paid £100 into the exchequer for having seizin of Horsley, which he said was his inheritance, for the service of 5 knights. The same year a scutage was assessed for the coronation of King John at 2 marks per fee; at which time Peter de Sandiacre paid 20 marks for the fees of Roger de Buron.

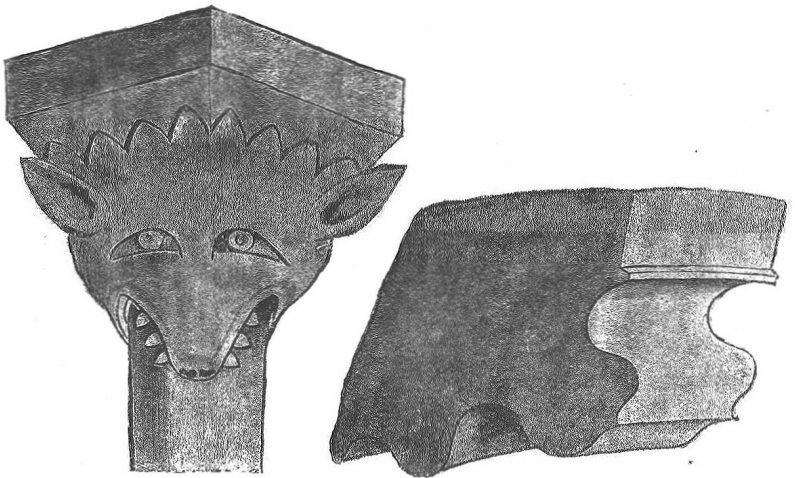
In this year, 1199, certain works were executed at the Castle of Harestan, under the supervision of William de Grendon, clerk, Samson de Stradley, Ralph de Wellbeuf, and Peter Fitz William.

This William de Grendon, "clerk," called also "advocate," of Dale, was the second son of Serlo de Grendon, who married Margery, sister to William de Hanselyn, founder of Dale Abbey.

* *Sandford's Gen. Hist.*

This William granted Depedale to that convent, and founded a chantry in the Hermitage chapel, now the south aisle of Dale church.

So little of the ruins of Horsley Castle remain, that it is impossible to say with any certainty what portions of the fabric were constructed at this time. One thing is certain, that a very large quantity of moulded ashlar and other fragments of this period now compose a part of the wall of the old park, running from what I call Roger's pond, below the pound, up the valley at the back of Horsley Park farmhouse. A stone from this wall formerly decorated the gable end of a pig-cote at Horsley Park farm at the time the old buildings were taken down. It consisted of the cap of a column, the lower portion beneath the abacus forming a wolf's head with distended jaws, the top of the column being thrust into its mouth. I have often enquired about this relic, but never could learn its fate; happily, I made a careful sketch of it at the time, which is here reproduced, together with another moulded stone.



In the year 1852, *i.e.*, 35 years ago, by permission of Edward Degge Sitwell, Esq., I made excavations on the site of the old

castle, when the basement story of a small tower was emptied. Amongst the *debris* thrown out I found a small sheep bell, which I gave to the late Mr. Fox, of Morley, a boar's tusk, fragments of rotten beams, and the lower portion of a pair of antlers with a small fragment of the skull.

Some years after this, I obtained leave of Mr. Hervey Sitwell to prosecute the work, and removed the sloping bank from the face of the masonry looking towards Horsley. The wall had been covered to a considerable height with loose stones, and the work solidified by pouring liquid mortar on the pile. We had very great difficulty in clearing this mass away from the face of the tower basement. It must have been thrown up in a time of apprehended danger, and subsequent to the introduction of cannon, but when it is impossible to say, for I cannot find that there was a garrison at Horsley during the civil wars.

I think there can be no doubt but that the present ruin formed a portion of the keep, which appears to have been multi-angular, and apparently constructed on an outcrop of the rock at a considerable elevation above the rest of the castle buildings.

Of the extent and size of this fortress it is impossible now to speak with any certainty, but a large block of grouted rubble may be seen about 50 yards below the present ruin. It lies on a curved bank, which seems to me to indicate the course of the outer walls of a court-yard; but I may be mistaken, for the whole surface of the hill, and specially the castle site, has been so thoroughly disturbed by quarrying that its original features have entirely disappeared.

I have heard many times of the castle well, and a few years ago there were some living who pretended to know its position, but it has long been filled with rubbish from the quarry.

A little while ago the castle hill was famous for its daffodils, and there was one kind which was identified as the daffodil of Syria, proving their eastern origin, but this variety has disappeared long ago. Of the remainder, some were planted last year in Smalley churchyard.

In 1850 I noticed a few gooseberry bushes growing in the

moat, probably the degenerated successors of those once cultivated in the castle garden.

To proceed :—In the year 1201 Walter Malet paid 20 marks for assize of mort ancestor of 10 knights fees in Oscinton, Horsley, and Cotgrave (Notts.), against the Knights Hospitallers of Jerusalem, Peter de Sandiacre, and Robert de Buron.

This Robert de Buron was the son and heir of the last named Roger, and his wife Nichola, who was afterwards married by the Earl of Chester to Anketina de Brikesard without the consent of the King, and was, therefore, disseized of most of her lands, for some of which she compounded about the 2nd of King John. Robert de Buron increased the possessions and consequence of his family by his marriage with Cecilia, daughter and sole heiress of Sir Richard Clayton, of Clayton, in Lancashire, where the Byrons fixed their seat until the reign of Henry VIII., when they planted their residence among the ruins of the dissolved Priory of Newstead.

In 1204 Peter de Sandiacre paid 20 marks scutage for 7 knights fees. In this year Walter Malet conceded the vill of Oscinton in free and pure alms to the brothers of the Hospital of Jerusalem, for the benefit of the souls of King John, his queen, and her heirs, and for the soul of Roger de Buron, and for the souls of his own parents; which said premises of Oscinton the said Walter Malet held by concession of Roger de Buron. And the said Walter Malet, for himself and his heirs, warranted that the said vill should remain devoted to the said house and hospital for its prayers.

In 1205 Robert de Muschamp paid 15 marks to be relieved of the custody of the Castle of Harestan.*

In 1210 certain works were executed at Harestan Castle, under the supervision of William le Vavasour, Robert de Bevecourt, John, son of Adam, and Ralph Camara.*

In 1213 Peter de Sandiacre received 100 shill. rent in Litchurch in exchange for Horsley.

In 1214 King John granted the royal Castle of Harestan* to

* Pipe Rolls.

William Ferrars, Earl of Derby, reciting that it was granted to him for the purpose of placing his wife there for security whilst he went into the Holy Land. A rising of the barons, however, prevented his departure, and having wrested the Castles of Peak and Bolsover by assault from the rebels, he was thereupon made governor of both those fortresses, so that he then held every Derbyshire stronghold of any importance. From this we may gather that Harestan Castle was a very secure stronghold—more so, perhaps, than Duffield.*

In the Calendar of Fines for 1225, there is a most interesting entry relating to Horsley. In that year Richard Sandiacre, in consideration of the sum of 8 silver marks, surrendered his tenure of 207 acres of land there to Walter Malet. This land was occupied by twenty tenants, whose names happily are given. We have William le Macun (or the Mason) with his 20 acres; no doubt a very useful man in the fortress with his mallet and chisel.

Gilbert de Castro, *i.e.*, of the Castle—perhaps some official at Harestan—20 acres.

Thomas de Wudehus, obviously from the neighbouring village—12 acres.

Roger le Parker, *i.e.*, the park keeper or ranger, having the custody of the game within the royalty—15 acres.

Lewin de Cotesgrave, without doubt an old dependent of the Burons, and from Nottinghamshire—15 acres.

Gilbert, son of Henry, or Fitz Henry, as the record terms him—20 acres.

Henry Fitz Gilbert, probably son of the last named—12 acres.

Robert le Clerc, probably the chaplain of the Castle—12 acres.

Hugh Fitz Ailrul—9 acres.

Arnold the ——— (his occupation defaced)—7 acres.

Ralph of Ripley—8 acres.

Godfrey Fitz Payn—8 acres.

Gilbert, son of Emma—6 acres.

Geoffry de Horsley—6 acres.

* See Cox's *Duffield Castle*, *Society's Journal*, vol. ix.

Henry le Minur (an old Derbyshire name)—8 acres.

Nicholas Fitz Herbert—6 acres.

Robert Fitz Gamell—7 acres.

Ralph, son of Beatrice—6 acres.

Andrew le Carboner, *i.e.*, charcoal burner—6 acres. Coal was little used at this period.

Gilbert, son of Robert—4 acres.

From a careful perusal of these names we have here clearly a list of the principal retainers of the Castle in 1225. It would be interesting to ascertain the situation of these land plots. They would hardly be within the boundary of the park, or, in other words, in the immediate vicinity of the Castle. Most likely the fields stretching from Coxbench to Horsley are the identical enclosures held by these persons. Probably some of them were married, and when not on duty resided as cottars in the neighbourhood, with their cattle, pigs, common rights, and other feudal privileges.

In 1226, Henry III. issued his mandate to the market officials of Derby that no toll was to be taken of the men of Harestan of those things that they bought for their own use, nor of those things that they personally sold there.*

In 1239, the Castle of Harestan was repaired, under the supervision of William Brien and Henry Talliatoris.†

In 1251, Peter de Montfort was appointed Governor.†

In 1256, Hugo le Despencer paid £15 into the Exchequer for the farm of the Castle and Manor of Harestan, for that and the four following years.†

In 1266, the chaplain at Harestan Castle received 50 shillings for his stipend. It appears from this that there was then a chapel within the fortress.†

In the year 1276 Thomas Normanville, of Harestan Castle, occurs in the Pipe Rolls among those who made some payment to the king. Again in 1278 he answered for the rents of Harestan.

In 1283, the advowson of the church of Horsley was granted to

* Rot. Lit. Claus.

† Pipe Rolls.

the Prior of Lenton in exchange for the advowson of the church of Felmersham (Ely) to himself and his successors.*

In 1285, John Pipard had a grant of Harestan Castle for life.

In 1287, the Abbot of Derby was seized of the mill of Horsley "Super Derwent." †

In 1291, Richard Foliott obtained a patent for a market and a fair at his manor of Horsley, in Derbyshire. ‡

The old market cross, undoubtedly erected at this time, stood in the wide place near the entrance to the church yard on the east. The entire basement was remaining until about the year 1830, when the stones were removed and employed in the construction of the new parish school.

In 1299, Jordanus Foliot died, possessed of Harestan Castle, with the soke of Horsley. §

In the year 1300, Geoffry de Sandiacre paid £10 into the exchequer for half the farm of the castle and manor of Harestan. ||

In 1307, John de Chaundos was appointed governor of the castle ¶

In 1312, Robert Tybetot paid £22 into the treasury for holding, amongst other estates, the soke of Horsley and Horeston. **

In 1315, Sir Ralph Shirley was appointed governor of the castle. ††

In 1318, Robert Tybetot, of the castle of Nottingham, with the King's Mill there, paid £22 for the soke of Horsley and Horeston for the last 5 years.

In 1322, Ronald de Pembroke was appointed governor of the castle. ‡‡

In 1323, Gerard de Fanacourt seems to have had a grant of Horeston. §§

In 1324, John de Denum was appointed governor of Horeston Castle by the crown. ||||

In 1328, the King licensed the Prior of Breadsall to lease for

* Charter Rolls. † Inq Post Mort. ‡ Cal. Rot. Pat. § Cal. Inquis. Mort.

|| Pipe Rolls. ¶ Abbr. Rot. Orig. ** Pipe Rolls.

†† Davies' *History of Derbyshire*. ‡‡ Abbr. Rot. Orig.

§§ Cal. Rot. Pat. |||| Abbr. Rot. Orig.

40 years to Richard Goldyngton, clerk and verger, a messuage and 20 acres of land in Horsley and Horeston.*

In 1329, a patent was issued for Thomas Goldington concerning the Castle of Horeston.†

In 1330, Edward Chaundos was given the custody of Horeston Castle and its appurtenances, rendering to the crown £20 per annum.‡

In 1330, Nicholas de Chaddesden, clerk and warden, with others of the chapel of Chaddesden, died possessed of 14 acres of land in Derby and Horsley, with the manor of Horeston, with remainder to the same Nicholas.§

In 1345, the custody of the castle and manor of Horeston was granted for life to Robert Chaundos.||

In 1348, Henry, nephew to Thomas Earl of Lancaster, created Earl of Derby, obtained a grant (to himself and his heirs male of his body) of this fortress, with the annual rent of £40, issuing out of Litchurch.

In 1375, Edward de Twyford died seized of Horeston Castle.¶

In 1392, John de Holland, third son of Thomas Earl of Kent, had a grant of Horeston Castle for life.

In the same year Henry de Coton, clerk, who held 10 acres of land in Horeston for the prior and convent of Breadsall Park, departed this life.**

In 1453, Henry VI granted to Edmund, Earl of Richmond, and to Jasper, Earl of Pembroke, the castle and lordship of Horeston.††

In 1457, Edmund Hallam, Earl of Richmond, died, possessed (inter alia) of the castle and lordship of Horeston.

In 1514, the castle and manor of Horsley were granted in special tail, to be held by the service of one knight's fee by Henry VIII. to the Duke of Norfolk, being part of his reward for his services at the battle of Flodden Field.

In 1568, Thomas Stanhope was possessed of this castle, from him it descended to the Earls of Chesterfield, one of whom sold

* Abbr. Rot. Orig. † Rot. Pat. ‡ Abbr. Rot. Orig. § Cal. Inq. Mort.
 || Abbr. Rot. Orig. ¶ Cal. Inq. Mort. ** Cal. Inq. Mort. †† Inq. Post. Mort.

the manor and estate, including the castle, to the Sitwell family about the year 1817.

ADDENDA.

Philip Kinder, in his History of Derby, writes :—*

“ All y^t I can find by reading or relation about this place is that King James went one day a hunting into Horsley Parke, and from thence in progress to Derby.”

In the 4th vol. of the *Reliquary* is given the following instance of longevity :—

“ Frances Barton, of Horsley, Derbyshire, died in 1789, aged 107. She was a midwife for 80 years. Her husband for 70 years had been sexton of the parish. They used to say that she had twice brought into the world, and he had twice buried or taken out of the world, the whole parish. It is said she well remembered the Revolution of 1688, and that she danced at a merry making on that occasion.”†

About the year 1848, the late Mr. Sam. Else, of Horsley Park, gave me a fine perforated stone hammer, which he discovered with several flint celts, when making a drain below the house some years before. The celts had been given to the children for playthings, and had been lost for years, but the hammer had been used for a “ clodding mall ” for 30 years, and as such I found it affixed to a long handle in a corner of the cowhouse.

“ Have it, my lad? Aye — take it and welcome ” was his good natured response to my petition.

In a religious census of Derbyshire, taken in 1676, Horsley is returned as having 293 conformists, with neither papists nor nonconformists.‡

N.B.—The compiler of these notes is indebted to Mr. Pym Yeatman's *Feudal History of Derbyshire* for the extracts from the Pipe Rolls and from some other early documents.

The items for the years 1226, 1287, 1307, 1322, 1324, 1328, 1330, 1345, 1375, and 1453, have been kindly contributed by the Editor.

C. K.

* Kinder's MS., *Reliquary*. † *Derby Mercury*, January 15th, 1790.

‡ *Journal* VII., 34.