

On the Early Descent of the Ferrers.

BY JOHN BOOTH, Shotley Bridge, co. Durham,
V.-P. Surtees Society.

IN the last volume* an outline pedigree of the descent of the early generations of the great Ferrers family, with some account of the first seven Earls, was given to illustrate the account of Duffield Castle. There are various points in the early Ferrers' pedigree that have not yet been cleared up. As a contribution to further definite knowledge in this direction, I give extended copies of two early Ferrers charters that have not hitherto been published, and which are in my possession.

The first of these, which is undated, is of so much interest that a fac-simile representation is given on Plate V. The witnesses supply some links, hitherto unknown or uncertain, in the pedigree. Mention is made amongst the witnesses of Robert de Ferrers, brother of the Earl, and also of the two uncles of the Earl, Robert and Henry. William, Earl Ferrers, of the body of the charter, I believe to be the second of that name; he succeeded his father, who died at Acre in 1190, and died, it is said, of gout in 1246. Lucian and Ralph de Seila, of the charter, may be the family of Shirley, who were subfeudatories of the Ferrers, and afterwards became Ferrers of Chartley and Tamworth.

The following is an extended transcript:—

“Willelmus Comes de Ferrarius Omnibus hominibus suis et amicis clericis et laicis. Francis et Anglis presentibus et futuris Salutem. Sciant omnes me concessisse et hac presenti carta mea

* *Derbyshire Archaeological Society's Journal*, Vol. iv., pp. 118-135.

Willelms Comes de ferr. Omib; hob; suis ꝛ amicus lucas ꝛ lucas francos
ꝛ anglis. p̄sentib; ꝛ futuris. sate. Sciant om̄s me concessisse. ꝛ hac p̄sentia
causa mea confirmasse Luciano de seila ꝛ heredib; suis tenere de me ꝛ
heredib; meis totū tenementū suum quod tenuit de Radulfo de seila ꝛ de
securitū quod fecit Radulfo de seila. sct ꝛ sicutū dimidiū aialars. ꝛ i. iug
p̄teris nemores quam Radulfo sct Rad dedit in elombū ꝛ ꝛ cōtinuans
qua habuit ꝛ totū solcū suū. ꝛ unū ceruum infra p̄sentam ad meā fugā.
q̄m ip̄e. mittere ad me. ꝛ concedū ad homē suum que mittere ad me. don.

habeat ceruū dñi sui. ꝛ tūc ceruū dono ei in aumenru ꝛ ꝛ homagium
ꝛ sicutū suum. hui aut confirmatōis ꝛ donatōis sūe reses. Robt de
ferr ꝛ dōs. Robt ꝛ hūric de ferr amicit eōm. hūric fit vobale lūni

Nicholaus fit pagani tūc dapif. Robt de curecy. Willelms de conyūbi. Johs
de bolcbult. Willelms fit hebra iūuar. Curv anib; ali i c f f s



confirmasse Luciano de Seila et heredibus suis tenere de me et heredibus meis totum tenementum suum quod tenuit de Radulfo de Seila scilicet per idem servicium quod fecit Radulfo de Seila scilicet per servicium dimidii militis et in super partem memoris quam Radulfo filio Radulfi dedit in escambium propter communam quam habuit per totum boscum suum et unum Cervum infra cressam ad meam fugam cum ipse mittet ad me et conredium ad hominem suum quem mittet ad me donec habeat cervum domini sui et hunc cervum dono ei in augmentum (*sic*) propter homagium et servicium suum hujus autem confirmationis et donacionis sunt testes Robertus de Ferrarius frater comitis, Robertus et Henricus de Ferrarius avunculi comitis Henricus filius Walkelini Nicholaus filius Pagani tunc dapifer Robertus de Curetun Willelmus de Mungumberi Johannes de Boscheville Willelmus filius Hereberti Junior cum multis aliis."

The other charter is a release of right of common of pasture in the manor of Wodeham Ferrers, in the county of Essex, to William de Ferrers. It is dated 29th October, 1254, the same year in which the third earl of that name met with his death through a fall into the Ouse. But if the date of his death be correctly given as April 5, 1254, the grantee in the charter must have been his son. To this charter a parchment label is attached with an oval seal, bearing a fleur-de-lis, but the marginal legend is illegible.

"Omnibus has literas visuris vel auditoris Willelmus Sperun salutem Noveritis me remisisse concessisse et quietum clamasse pro me et heredibus meis Willelmo de Ferrers et heredibus suis et omnibus hominibus suis et eorum heredibus et assignatis et Priori et Conventui de Bykenaker et eorum successoribus et omnibus aliis tenentibus de feodo predicti Willelmi totum jus et clamium quod habui vel habere potui vel potero in communa pasturæ in omnibus terris et tenementis prædictorum Willelmi de Ferrers et omnium tenentium suorum in manerio de Wodeham Ferreres viz de terris et tenementis ad hunc diem sine aliqua contradictione et calumpnia mei et heredum meorum in perpetuum. Pro hac vero remissione et quieta clamatione dedit mihi pædictus Willelmus duas marcas argenti. In cujus rei

testimonium præsentis literas sigilli mei munimine roboravi Hiis testibus Johanne de Bedenestede Petro Mareschallo Radulfo de Herun Willelmo de Sencler, Sewale de Haningfeld Eadmundo filio Thomæ de Purleg. Willelmo de Marisco et aliis-Datum apud Chelmerford die Jovis in Crastino apostolorum Simonis et Judæ Anno regni Henrici filii regis Johannis tricesimo nono."

At the hamlet of Bycknacre in the Parish of Woodham Ferris, its modern name, stood the Priory of Bykenaker, founded by Maurice Fitz Jeffrey prior to 1189, some remains of which still exist.

As throwing further light on the early Ferrers family, I may supplement these notes by the following extracts from a MS., also in my possession, which bears the following heading, "A Register of all the noble men of England sithence the conquest created," and which has been apparently compiled towards the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

"William Lord Ferrys the sonne and heyre of Robart Earle Ferrys and Darbye that forfyted his lands to King Henry III was Lord of Grobye in the right of Margaret his Grandmother second daughter and one of the heyres of Robert Quincy Earle of Winchester and Lord of Groby. This William Lord of Groby after the Atteynder of his father left the beareing of the Armes of Ferrys and bare the armes of Quincy. The heyres generall (sic) that did descend of this William Lord Ferrys of Groby was maryed to Edward Gray second sonne to Renold Lord Gray of Ruthers who had issue Sir Ihon (sic) Gray Knight father to Thomas Marquis Dorsett and Edward Gray Vyscount Lysley. The heyre male that disconded of the same William Lord Ferrys of Groby is John Ferrys of Tamworth."

"William Lord Ferrys of Chartley second sonne to William Earle Ferrys and Darby brother to the aforesaid Robert Earle Ferrys and Darbye had issue of whom there did discend as heyre generall Anne Lady Ferrys of Chartley that was maryed to Sir Walter De Vereny Knight who in her right was Lord Ferrys of Chartley."