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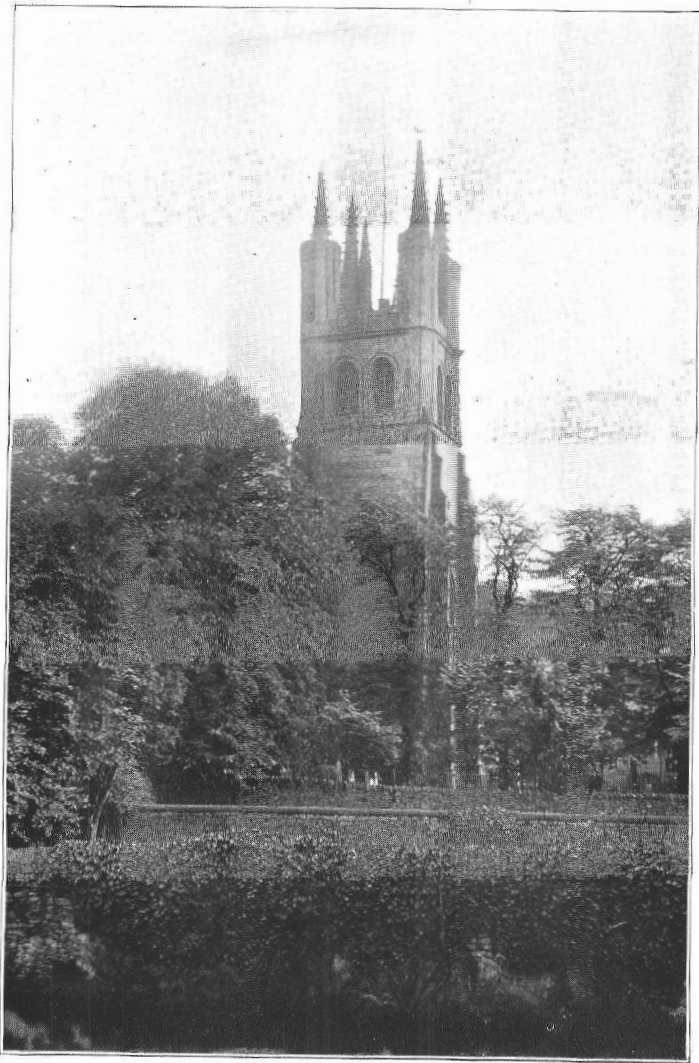
Sir Sampson Meverill of Tideswell,
1388-1462.

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WITH the exception, perhaps, of the brass to the memory of Bishop Pursglove, the most interesting memorial in Tideswell Church is the large altar tomb which stands in the centre of the chancel, and bears the name of Sir Sampson Meverill.

There have been, so far as we know, two restorations of the tomb—the one in 1702, when Sir John Statham renewed some of the brasses which had been stolen, as he affirms, some fourteen years previously; and the other in 1876, when the present beautiful base of Derbyshire alabaster took the place of the old “wooden railings,” on which, with the stone ends, the large slab of Purbeck marble which forms the top of the monument used to rest. In the centre of this slab is fixed a brass plate, on which is engraved a symbolical representation of the Holy Trinity, around which is the inscription, “Ego sum Alpha et Omega, primus et novissimus.” God the Father is represented as an old man, seated beneath a canopy, holding a crucifix in front of Him, on which hangs the human form of God the Son, whilst above the right shoulder rests a dove, the emblem of God the Holy Ghost.



TIDESWELL CHURCH, FROM THE VICARAGE GARDEN.

An illustration, with a description, of this brass is given on page 26 of *Illustrations of Monumental Brasses*, published by the Camden Society, Cambridge.

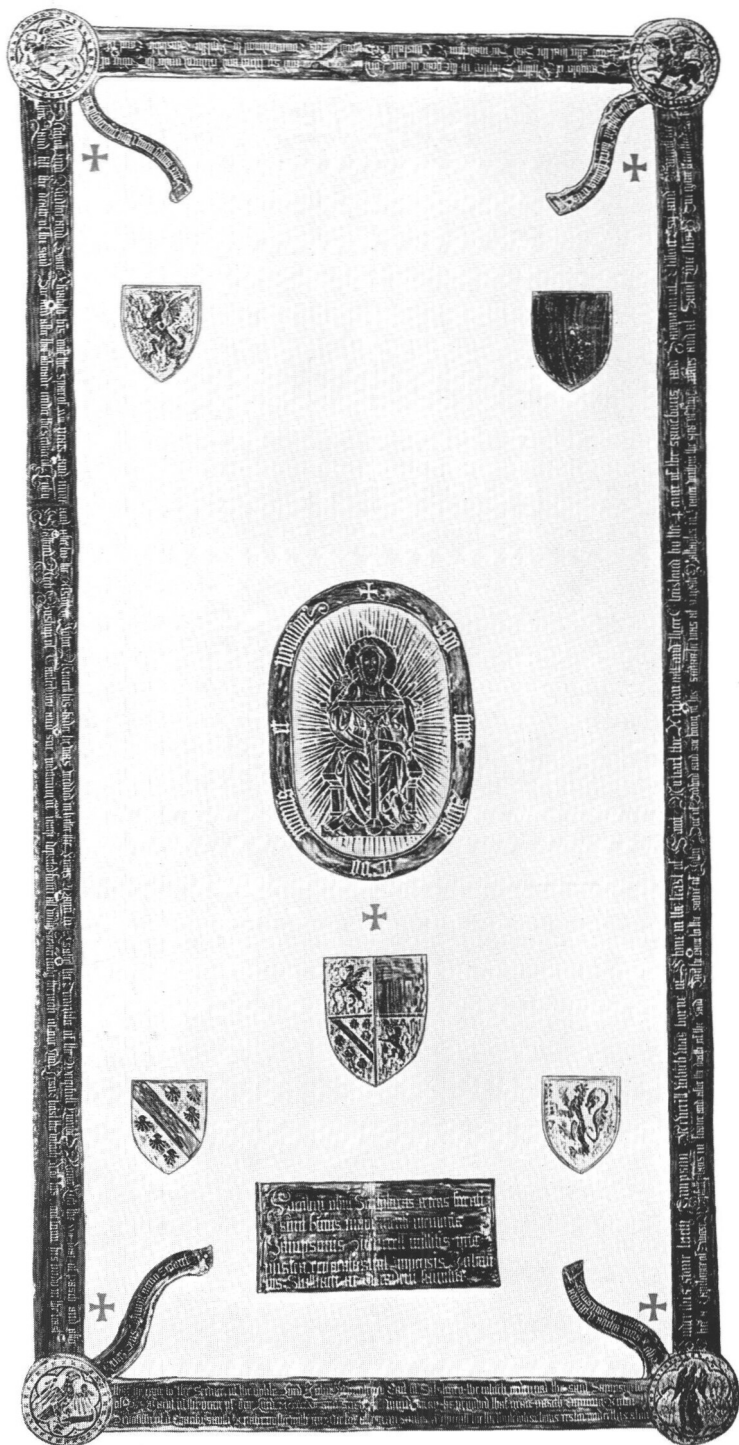
Near each corner of the slab is a shield, one of which is a field without a charge, and the others bear the separate coats of Meverill (*Argent, a gryphon segreant sable, beaked and legged gules*), Daniell (*Az: a bend between six escallops or*), and Brampton (*Gules, a lion rampant or*). Underneath the oval brass bearing the representation of the Holy Trinity is a large shield, quartered with the arms of (1) Meverill, (2) Daniell, (3) blank, (4) Brampton. This shield, with its blank quartering, will be explained later.

On the border of the tomb runs a riband, which bears the following inscription :

“Under this stone lyeth Sampson Meverill, which was borne in Stone in the feast of St. Michael the Archangell, and there Christened by the Pryor of the same hous, and Sampson of Clifton, Esq., and Margrett, ^{XX} the daughter of Philip Stapley in the yeare of our Lord, MCCC IIII VIII, and so lived, under the service of Nicholl Lord Audley and Dame Elizabeth his wife, the space of XVIII years and more ; and after, by the Assent of John Meverill, his fader, he was wedded in belser, the King’s Mannor, to Isabell the daughter of the worpful knight, Sir Roger Lech, the XVII day of Pasch, and after he came to the service of the noble Lord John Mountegue, Earl of Salisbury, the which ordeyned the said Sampson to be a Capitayne of diverse worpful places in france ; and after the death of the said Earl, he came to the service of John Duke of Bedford, and soe being in his service, he was in XI grate Battayles in France within the space of two years, and at St. Luce the said Duc gave him the order of kthood : and after that the said Duc made him kt Constable, and by his commandment he kept the Constable Court of this land till the death of the said Duc ; and after that hee aboade under the service of John Stafford, Arch Byshop of Canterbury, and soe enduring in great worp, departed from all worldly service, unto the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the which dped his soul from his body in the feast of St. Marut in the yeare of our Lord MCCCCLXII, and soe his word may be prouved that grace paseth cunning. Amen. Devoutly of yr charity sayth a pater noster with an Ave for all Xpian soules and especially, for the soule whose bonss resten under this stone.”

There is one more brass, an oblong one, let into the stone below the large shield, which tells its own tale :

“Sacrilegi olim Sculpturas aereas furati sunt hujus monumenti memoriae Sampsonis Meverill Millitis quae postea reparatae sunt impensis Johannis Statham ar : ejusdem familiae.” (Arthur Wall fecit.)



RUBBING FROM SIR SAMPSON MEVERILL'S TOMB.

This brass is explained by a manuscript in the *Wolley Collections*¹ in the British Museum, in the handwriting of Sir John Statham, which states, "My Ancestor Sr Sampson Meveril K^t Banneret, Knight Constable of France, was buried at his family seat Tideswell, whereof they have been Lords of the Manor from the conquest, as appears by the records."

"This Sir Sampson's tomb was and still is in the middle of Tideswell chancel, and about 1688 the brasses, with the following inscriptions, were stolen, and in the year 1702 I had the same exactly renewed, viz., 'Under this stone here lyeth,' etc. (see opposite page).

In another of the *Wolley Manuscripts*² is to be found a sketch of Meverill's tomb as it appeared at the commencement of the eighteenth century, with the wooden palisading. And in the *Gentleman's Magazine*³ for December, 1794, a description of the tomb is given with a copy of the inscription.

On the tomb are, roughly cut, five consecration crosses, which seem to show that the tomb has been used as an altar. Possibly this was on the anniversary of his death, or it may have been, as Dr. Davey Biggs⁴ seems to imply, so used, in and after 1552, during the time when it was enjoined that the communion table should be placed in the middle of the chancel.

Underneath the altar slab, and visible through the openings in the side of the tomb, is an emaciated figure, wrapped in a winding sheet, his head supported by angels. This effigy, representing the old knight at the time of his death, reminds us of the Wakeman monument, or "Monument of the starved monk," at Tewkesbury Abbey. What a strange contrast! The brasses above tell of Sir Sampson Meverill's greatness. The effigy points to the earthly end of all, whatever their position may be.

¹ 6668, p. 521.

² 6667, pp. 404, 405.

³ pp. 1101, 1102.

⁴ *The Lord's Supper*, by Rev. C. R. Davey Biggs, D.D., Oxford, Mowbray, 1905, p. 51 and frontispiece.

Mr. Pym Yeatman, in his last published volume,¹ assumes, in the chapter on Tideswell, that this tomb was appropriated by the Meverills; but that it was not in the first instance theirs. He thinks that it is older than the present church, and that it and the De Bower tomb may have stood in old days against the two projecting arches, which probably marked the tombs of the co-founders, on the north side of the sanctuary in Tideswell Church, and that this Meverill tomb may have been that of some royal personage. Of the wrongly-named De Bower monument, I have treated at some length in the third and fourth editions of my *Guide to Tideswell and its Church*.² Mr. Pym Yeatman will, I am sure, pardon me for pointing out that his assumption with regard to the Meverill tomb is nothing more than conjecture, and that there is not the slightest evidence to show that it ever belonged to anyone excepting Sir Sampson Meverill, or that it ever stood in any other position than that in which it stands to-day.

The following references throw some light upon the older brasses which were upon the tomb previous to their removal in 1688 :

The Visitation of Derbyshire,³ A.D. 1611.—“ Upon a tombe in Tiddeswall Church in C^o of Derby Sr Sampson Meverell K^{nt} marid Issabell d. of Sir Roger Lech was at xj great Battailles in France wthin y^e space of two years was by John Duke of Bedford Knight Constable made knight at S. Luce & by his commandment kept the constables court of this land during his life. He died a^o dⁿⁱ 1462.”

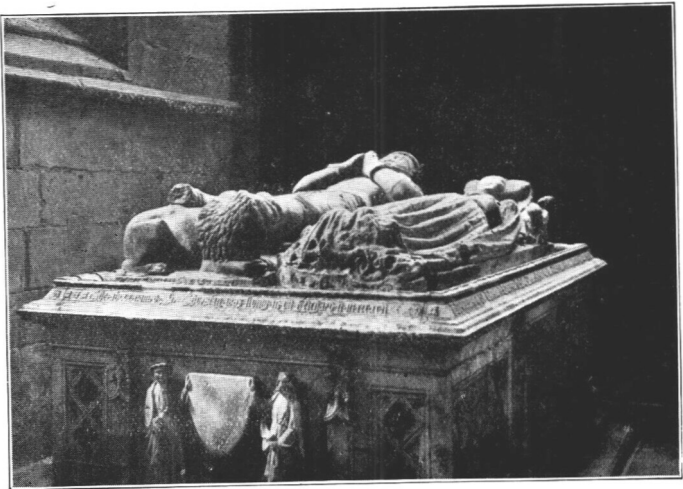
An almost verbatim description, apparently copied from this, is given in *Historical and Antiquarian Gleanings, etc.*,⁴ collected by Elias Ashmole, 1657, the only material difference being the statement that he “ kept Constables court of this land during ‘ the Duke’s ’ lyfe.”

¹ *Feudal Derbyshire*, section ix., pp. 125-6.

² 4th edition, pp. 36-38.

³ *Harl. MS.* 1537, p. 11.

⁴ *Ashmole MS.* 860, 136.



DE BOWER TOMB.

In the Bodleian library is a MS. volume of *Church Notes*, made by Ralph Sheldon.¹ Besides describing the Foljambe, Litton, and Pursglove monuments, he says of Tideswell: "In this Church is another auntient Monument as the former with Inscription round the edges; but the Monument of Meverell having a double Inscription round I thought it easier to write it downe in a legible way than to venture huddling or blotting of words, as here followeth"; and then he gives the inscription on the riband round the tomb, practically word for word the same as it is on the tomb at the present time, the only variations being the evident variations of one or other of the copyists. *E.g.*, according to Sheldon, he was "eight" years serving under Lord Audley. The "belsar" of the present brass is spelt "belpar." The day of his marriage was "the xiiij day of Pasch." And the day of his death is rightly given as "the feast of St. Macute" (or Macutus, *i.e.*, November 15th). From *Wood's Life and Times*² we find that Ralph Sheldon was a friend of Anthony a Wood's. He was born in 1623, and died in 1684. The inscriptions in Sheldon's *Church Notes* are mostly of the date 1674, collected in 1671, though Wood added some Oxfordshire ones in 1675-6. But, in any case, they were anterior to the removal of the brasses from Meverell's tomb in 1688. (See page 3.)

But the most conclusive proof of the practical identity of the inscription, ordered to be engraved by Sir John Statham in 1702, with that which existed before the spoliation in 1688, is given by the *Harleian Manuscript*, 6592, in the British Museum. It is William Wyrley's copy of the *Visitation of Derbyshire, etc.*, made by W. Flower and Robt. Glover in 1569 (99 b). "At Tydeswall in the peake in Derbyshire is a fayr Church wherein be these monuments; it would seem to be have been the place of buriinge to the family of the Meverels whose it is." Then follow ten shields, bearing, according to

¹ *Wood MS.*, C. 10.

² *Oxford Historical Society.*

Dr. Cox,¹ the arms of Stanley, Daniel, Foljambe, England, Francis, Meverell, Darley, Warren, Frecheville and Thorold. After which, the MS. proceeds as follows: "It is written that followeth on a fayr marble moniment on w^{ch} are the five escutcheons under tricked." Wyrley gives in full the inscription, which differs in some few places slightly in phraseology, though not at all in sense from the modern inscription. Sir Sampson served under Lord Audley "eighteen" years; "pelpear" was the place where he was married on the "18 of pasc." And "at St. Luce the sayd Duke (of Bedford) gave him the order of knighthood, and made him knight Constable, and by his command he kept the constable's court of this land till the death of the s^d Duke." "His soule ascended the day of St Macute, 1462."

And what is of some interest is the fact that from this MS. we can tell what the arms on the shields originally were, and consequently we are able to account for the blank field which occurs twice on the tomb.

The escutcheon now left blank was that of Middleton (*Erm., on a canton, a chevron*). And the quartered shield bore the arms of (1) Meverell, (2) Middleton, (3) Daniell, and (4) Brampton. And over all, on an escutcheon of pretence, were the arms of Leche.

It is quite evident, both from the enamelling and from the character of the workmanship, that the original brasses still remaining are two of the four symbols of the Evangelists, the oval brass with the symbol of the Holy Trinity, the shields of Daniell and of Brampton. The renewed brasses are the riband bearing the inscription, the quartered shield, the one bearing the arms of Meverell, and the blank one, with the remaining symbols of the Evangelists. In renewing the missing shields, those of Daniell and of Brampton still existed, and by their position on the slab they would occupy the third and fourth quarters on the central shield. The arms of Meverell were known, and

¹ *Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. ii., p. 579.

would, of course, occupy the first quarter. But at the time of the renovation it was not known whose arms were in the second quarter, and, as a consequence, that space and the corresponding vacant place were left blank. Nor was it known about the escutcheon of pretence which bore the arms of Leche, and so this was omitted.

Either Wyrley or the heralds appear to have been well satisfied with the beverage supplied in the old Peak town, for the notes on the monuments conclude with the remark, "Hytherto Tydeswall whear is the best alle in Darbyshire."

Some two miles from Ilam, in Staffordshire, and not far from the beautiful valley, Dovedale, where the river Dove separates the counties of Derby and Stafford, is situated the old manor house of Throwley. It stands in a ruinous condition, surrounded by nettles and weeds, and with notice boards warning the passer-by not to venture too close to the old buildings lest he should be injured by the falling debris. Such is the condition of the old home of the Meverills. As far back as 1216, at least, the Meverills had resided here, when Thomas Meverell is described as "armiger." His great-great-grandson, another Thomas Meverell, it was who, by his marriage, became connected with Tideswell, and he and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of William Daniell, were the great-grandparents of Sir Sampson Meverill.

The following notes on the manor and markets of Tideswell bear upon Sir Sampson Meverill's connection with the town:

In the year 1250, the King, by charter, dated 24th February, "confirmed to Master Paulinus de Bampton"—who already possessed the manor of Tideswell—"that he and his heirs may have for ever one market each week on Wednesday at his manor of Tydeswell. And that they may have one fair each year to last during three days, namely, on the vigil day and morrow of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Unless that market and fair should be to the hurt of neighbouring markets and fairs."¹

¹ *Charter Rolls*, 35 Henry III., mem. 11 (Roll 43).

From Paulinus the manor passed to his kinsfolk, the Daniels. Sir Richard Daniel died in 1322, leaving three daughters, the eldest of whom married Thomas Meverell, of Throwley. Their son, Thomas Meverell, had a daughter, Elizabeth, who became the wife of Sir Nicholas Stafford.

By a charter, dated July 5th, 1391, the King, Richard II., granted and gave license to "Nicholas de Stafford chivaler and Elizabeth his wife that they and the heirs and assigns of the aforesaid Elizabeth may have one market each week on Wednesday in the town of Tyddeswell in the county of Derby and one fair there each year to last two days, namely on the vigil and feast of the beheading of St. John the Baptist. However that market and fair may not be to the hurt of neighbouring markets and fairs there."¹

It will be seen that the date of the fair had been transferred from June 24th (the nativity) to August 29th (the beheading of St. John the Baptist).

Sir Nicholas de Stafford and his wife Elizabeth died without issue, and the Daniel estates passed to her cousin, John Meverell, the father of Sir Sampson Meverell.

In Sir Sampson's time, the date of the fair was changed,² and permission was given for the fair to be held twice a year, in May and in October.

"The King to all &c., Sampson Meverell knt. and Isabella his wife have shown to us and our council that King Richard our predecessor by his letters patent dated 5 July 18th year (*sic*) gave licence to his faithful knight Nicholas de Stafford and Elizabeth his wife, that they and the heirs and assigns of Elizabeth should have a weekly market on Wednesday in the town of Tyddeswell, and a fair there for two days on the vigil and feast of the beheading of St. John Baptist, so that it should not be to the hurt of neighbouring markets and fairs, which fair is not of use because the said vigil and feast are not kept as festival days in any place about

¹ *Charter Rolls*, 15-17 Richard II., mem. 19 (Roll 164).

² *Patent Rolls*, 11 Henry VI., par. i., mem. 16.

the said town, and likewise they happen in August. Therefore the said Sampson and Isabella have asked for our grace on this behalf. And we have granted to them that they and their heirs and assigns shall have, so long as it pleases us, two fairs for two days, one on the feast of St. Elena in the month of May, and the other on the feast of St. Luke after the feast of St. Michael, in exchange for the said other two days, so that these fairs shall not be to the hurt of neighbouring markets and fairs. And we confirm previous letters patent to the said Sampson and Isabella except as to the said vigil and day of St. John.

“Witness the King at Westminster, 5. November.

“by writ of privy seal.”

We now turn again to Sir Sampson. He was born, as the inscription on his tomb tells us, on September 29th, 1388, his godparents being the prior of the monastery at Stone, Sampson of Clifton, from whom he received his name, and Margaret, daughter of Philip Stapley. He served as page to Lord and Lady Audley. He was married at Belper to Isabella, the daughter of Sir Roger Leche, a member of the Chatsworth family and Lord High Treasurer of England, 8 Henry V. (1420). It was perhaps the part taken by Sir Philip Leche, his wife's uncle, in the French wars, that induced Sampson to take up so vigorously the military profession. He served in France under John (William ?) Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, by whom he was promoted to the rank of captain. After the death of the Earl of Salisbury, in 1428, he served under the Duke of Bedford, by whom he was knighted, and by whom, later, he seems to have been made deputy knight constable. The Duke died in 1435.

In 1431, Sampson Meverell, of Tideswell, miles, had¹ “a free tenement in Tyddeswell held in soccage, value per an: viij^{li}.”

¹ *Inquisitions and Assessments relating to Feudal Aids.*

Sir Sampson was a soldier by profession ; he was apparently somewhat bellicose by nature too. The following references are given, for the most part in order of date :

Extracts from the Plea Rolls¹ of Henry V., etc., in Public Record Office. In 4 Henry V. (1417), Sampson Meverell sued Richard Billyngton, the Abbot of St. Mary of Hilton, for abducting, "vi et armis," his servant, John Cowdale, who was in his service at Hilton, so that he had lost his services for a length of time. The Abbot did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce him on the octaves of St. Michael.²

At suit of Henry de Bothe and William Pirton in 1422 as to whether Sampson Meverell and Isabella his wife had disseised the said Henry and William of certain lands in Tyddeswelle ; the said Sampson Meverell of Edensovere, gentilman, and Isabella his wife, Robert Litton of Litton, . . . and John Meverell of Throwley, arm ; . . . had assembled together and collected divers malefactors and outlaws from various parts, armed with swords, bows and arrows, coats of mail and palettes, as if for war, and had risen in insurrection at Neweton Grange, c^o. Derby, on Saturday before F. of St. Lawrence, 1 Henry VI., lying in wait to beat, wound, and kill the Jurors empanelled for the Inquisition and the coroners, and had chased and captured Henry de Longesdon one of the jurors and compelled him to swear on the book that he would find a verdict for the said Sampson and Isabella, . . . had threatened to kill any of the Jury who gave a verdict for said Henry and William.

. . . the said Isabella by the command of Sampson and John Meverell had held the said Manor House (Bobenhall) in a defensible manner and with a strong hand against the peace of the king, refusing to obey the sheriff until he had forced an entry into the Manor House, &c.

¹ De Banco. Trin : 4 Hen. V., Staff. (m. 288).

² *Collections for a History of Staffordshire* (Wm. Salt), vol. xvii., p. 57. All such references in the future will be referred to as *Salt*.

The defendants pleaded not guilty and appealed to a jury; but none of the 24 Jurymen appeared. Later they threw themselves on the King's grace. Sampson and Isabella were fined 2 marks, all the others 10/- each.¹

A Guy Meverell had been killed before Calais in 1347. Presumably he was a member of the same family.

(Crecy and Calais). Thomas Meverell, of Co. Stafford, who had been assessed at a man-at-arms, and had sent his brother Guy, bene armatum et munitum, to be exonerated, the said Guy having served in the retinue of Robert de Ferrars until his death before Calais. Dated 20th November, 21 Edward III., and allocated under Berks. on the Pipe Rolls of 20 Edward III.²

Calais Roll, 21 Edward III. Death of Guy Meverel of Co. Stafford recorded.³

What part Sampson Meverell had taken in the French wars besides that which is mentioned on his tomb we cannot tell. Was he present in 1415 at the taking of Honfleur, or at the battle of Agincourt, when he would be twenty-seven years of age? In 1420 the treaty of Troyes was signed, and on August 31st, 1422, Henry V. died. He was succeeded by his infant son, Henry VI., in whose name John, Duke of Bedford, himself a member of the royal family, assumed the government of France. We know that after this time Sampson Meverell was fighting in France, for he served under the Earl of Montacute, who commanded the English army at the siege of Orleans, October 12th, and who was killed early in the siege. After the death of the Earl, he served under the Duke of Bedford. Without a doubt, then, he fought at Orleans and against Joan of Arc. Perhaps he was present at the crowning of the young King at Paris

¹ *Salt*, vol. xvii., pp. 98, 99. Plea Rolls, Coram Rege. Easter 2 Henry VI. (1424).

² *Salt*, vol. xviii., p. 151. Memoranda Roll. Queen's Remembrancer, 21 Edward III.

³ *Salt*, vol. xviii., p. 281.

in 1431. But he appears to have been in Tideswell again in this same year, and in the following one, 1432, he obtained the renewal of the grant of the market and of the fair.

In 4 Henry VI. (1426), John Meverell granted to Sampson, his son, and Isabella, his wife, daughter of Roger Leche, his manor of Tideswell, in tail, with ultimate remainder to himself.¹

In 1428 a grant was made by Sampson Meverell and Isabel his wife to Nicholas de Holand of lands in Tydeswell, to be held by him and his heirs at their will in accordance with the custom of the manor of Tyddeswell. Saturday after St. Martin in the winter 7 Henry VI. Appended to this grant is a fine armorial seal of Sampson. *Quarterly of four*: one and four, a griffin rampant; two and three, a bend *between six scallops*. Crest, *a griffin's head*. Legend, *Sigillum Sampsonis Meverell*. The seal of his wife Isabel (Leche) is also appended. *Vair, on a chief indented three crowns*.²

In 8 Henry VI. (1429), Sampson Meverell, together with his father, had been outlawed.

Lancashire.—A writ of error to annul the outlawry of John Meverell of Frodeswelle, co. Stafford, who together with Sampson Meverel of Frodeswelle, . . . had been outlawed on an indictment for feloniously receiving at Weryngton, Isabella late servant of Andrew Salogham of Lichfield, who had been indicted for robbing the said Andrew at Chorley of five silver dishes worth £5 in 8 Henry VI., &c., &c.

On 20th September, 18 Henry VI. (1439), Sampson Meverell Knt. witnessed an Okeover deed.⁴

¹ *Bateman Charter*, quoted by Pym Yeatman, *Feudal Derbyshire*, section ix., p. 181.

² *Hist. MSS. Commission. MSS. of Duke of Rutland at Belvoir*, 1905, vol. iv., p. 50.

³ *Salt*, vol. iii., N.S., p. 138. *Coram Rege*, Mich. 16 Henry VI. (m. 5 Rex).

Salt, vol. vii., N.S., pt. i., p. 51.

*Staffordshire.*¹—Sampson Meverell, late of Throwley, knight, John Beresford of Beresford, the younger, gentleman, William Purseloves, Vicar of Tyddeswall, co. Derby, John Cantrill of Alstonefield, husbondman, John Bagnold of Oncote, husbondman, and Thomas Wright of Wetton, husbondman, were attached at the suit of Ralf Basset, armiger, for treading down and consuming his hay at Throwley in stacks with their cattle; and Ralf stated that on the Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Mary in 21 Henry VI. they had come to Throwley with swords and bows and arrows, and had consumed and trodden down with their cattle 60 cart loads of hay. The defendants appeared and asked for an adjournment till the octaves of St. Hilary, which was granted.

*Staffordshire.*²—In the year 1447 Ralph Basset, armiger, sued John Berysford of Berysford, gentleman, William Purseloves, vicar of Tyddeswalle, co. Derby, and John Bagenhall of Onecote, husbondman, for depasturing cattle on his corn and grass at Grendone and Musdene. The defendants did not appear, and the sheriff was ordered to distraint John Berysford and to arrest the others and to produce them on the octaves of St. Hilary.

On a hill about one and a half miles from Ilam, on the opposite side of the river from the slope on which Throwley Hall stands, is situated the village of Blore. What remains of Blore Hall is now a portion of a farmhouse; but in the fifteenth century it was the seat of the family of the Bassets, whose power was considerable and their influence far-reaching. There were constant feuds between the families of Meverell and Basset, due perhaps in the first instance to the straying of cattle, or the scarcity of labour, and fomented by the proud spirits of these two powerful neighbours, who would brook no interference with their real or imaginary rights.

¹ *Salt*, vol. iii., N.S., p. 167. Plea Rolls de Banco. Hil. 23 Henry VI. (1444), m. 559.

² *Salt*, vol. iii., N.S., p. 179. De Banco. Mich. 26 Henry VI. (1447), m. 374 dorso.

And, in addition to this, there were constant disputes about the tithes of Throwley, which belonged to the Church of Ilam, and which John Southworth, or Sopworth, the vicar of that church, had devised to Ralph Basset. To this quarrel the following charters refer :

The first¹ contains a notification by John Wendesley and Gregory Newport, Canons of Lichfield, as Commissioners for John Stafford, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the rector and vicar of Blore and Alstonefield, and the chaplain of Waterfall, to proclaim at mass on Sundays and at festivals the excommunication of John Southworth, perpetual Vicar of Ilam. Given at Lichfield, 29th July, 1444. On the dorso of this Latin document is a statement in English, in the handwriting of Sir Sampson Meverell, of the causes of complaint against the said priest which led to his excommunication. "It is to be had in mynd y^{at} Sr Jon Southworth vicar of Ilam dede corus Sr Sampson Meverell & Dam Isabell is wyff y^e v day of Aprill in y^e ii' & xx^{te} yer of K. H. ye vj w^hout any aconte," and that "ye Vicar of Ilam coum to Throwley to a spye," and sent a message by Basset, and "in ye mon of Aprill ye jx Jon Southworth ye Vecar of Ilam" sent to "all ye prests in ye contie yat yey schold do no s'vice wen I or my wyeff or any scevans of ourus wer in any of ye" churches, etc. As the Latin notification shows, Sir Sampson had appealed to his old friend and patron, John Stafford, the Archbishop of Canterbury, by whom the Commission was appointed. Southworth failed to answer to the summons, and the result was that he himself was excommunicated.

The seal² of John Lord Dudley was attached to a deed of 22 Henry VI. (1444), whereby "Johannes Dñs Dudley constituitur arbiter inter Sampsonum Meverell Mil' et Radul' Basset Mil'."

In 26 Henry VI., Sampson Meverell, late of Tiddeswelle,

¹ British Museum, Addit. Ch. 27343. Fletcher's *Tideswell and its Church*, p. 34.

² *Salt*, vol. ix., p. 70.



TIDESWELL CHURCH CHANCEL, SHEWING MEVERILL TOMB.

Knight, and others,¹ accused before Justices of the Peace at Beauraper (Belper) of having on Sunday before F. of Conversion of S. Paul, 26 Henry VI., at Thorp, with at least 40 persons, assembled in a riotous manner armed with jacks, salets, swords, and bows and arrows, with a view of killing John Southworth, the Vicar of the Church of Ilam, and had insulted and threatened that they would kill him unless he was willing to give up the society and service of Ralph Basset; and unless he would demise to the said Sampson all the tithes of Throwley which belonged to the Church of Ilam, and to which the said Vicar refused to consent because he had previously demised the same to Ralph Basset; and because the said Vicar refused the demand of the said Sampson Meverell, knight, and the others at Thorp, had feloniously robbed him of 8 marks of lawful money, and through fear of death he had been forced to make a general release of the tithes to the said Sampson. The king had ordered this indictment to be heard at this court. Sampson Meverell now surrendered and stated he was not guilty and appealed to a Jury, being admitted to bail. A postscript states that a Jury at Michaelmas term found that he was not guilty.

Sampson Meverell,² Kn^t., accused Thomas, Prior of Tutbury, and others, of having on 12 May, 25 Henry VI., taken by force 12 oxen & 4 cows belonging to him & worth £12 from Throweley & for impounding 1,080 sheep for a day against the law & custom of England & for which he claimed £100 as damages. It was stated in defence to be partly arrears of rent (5s. being paid annually from manor of Throwley to King as of honor of Tutbury). Suit adjourned, etc.

Ralph Basset³ sued John, abbot of Dieulacres, Sampson Meverell late of Throweley, kn^t., Isabella his wife, . . .

¹ *Salt*, vol. iii., N.S., p. 182. Coram Rege. Hil. 28 Henry VI. m. 23 Rex, dorso.

² *Salt*, vol. iii., N.S., p. 184. De Banco. Trinity 27 Henry VI. m. 307.

³ *Salt*, vol. iii., N.S., p. 182. De Banco. Mich. 27 Henry VI. m. 64. dorso.

Thomas Meverell late of Throweley, gent. . . . &c., for breaking into his house & closes at Blore & taking 12 oxen & 12 cows worth 20 marks, and for insulting & beating his servants so that he lost the services of one Ralph his servant for a length of time. None of defendants appeared. Arrest ordered.

Sampson Meverell¹ & others accused by Wm. Trussell, Knt., of having, when Jurors at Tutbury, 7 June, 26 Henry VI., each accepted 100/- for food & 13/4 for pocket money. They denied it, etc.

Sampson Meverel,² late of Throwley, Knt., sued by Ralph Basset for debt of 48 marks.

Sampson Meverel and Isabella his wife sued by Humphrey Walker for breaking into his close at Casterne and depasturing cattle on his wheat and grass.

Ralph Basset,³ of Maynel Langley, co. Derb., arm. . . . John Southworth, vicar of Ilam, . . . William Sonde, parson of Bloure, . . . were attached to answer complaint of Sampson Meverell, late of Tyddeswelle, Knt., that by a conspiracy formed by them at Monyasshe, they had caused him to be indicted in 26 Henry VI. for robbing the said John Southworth of 8 marks of money, and to be arrested and lodged in the prison of the Marshalsea until he had been acquitted coram Rege on the morrow of S. Martin, 28 Henry VI., and for which he claimed £400 damages.

The defendants appeared by attorney and denied the injury, and appealed to a jury summoned for October.

Sampson Meverell,⁴ Knight, Justice of the Peace, sitting at Stafford.

Sampson Meverell,⁵ Knight, and his fellow justices at Stafford.

¹ *Salt*, vol. iii., N.S., p. 191. Coram Rege. 28 Henry VI. m. 33.

² *Salt*, vol. iii., N.S., p. 199. De Banco. Hilary 29 Henry VI. m. 19.

³ *Salt*, vol. iii., N.S., pp. 194-5. Coram Rege. Mich. 29 Henry VI. m. 39.

⁴ *Salt*, vol. iv., N.S., p. 103. De Banco. Trinity 35 Henry VI.

⁵ *Salt*, vol. iv., N.S., p. 107. Plea Rolls. Coram Rege. Easter 36 Henry VI.

John Stathom¹ of Throwley, Staff., yeoman, having Friday before Feast of S. Barnabas, 26 Henry VI., stolen 12 oxen, worth £8 13. 4., of the goods of Ralph Basset, and having been harboured by Sampson Meverell of Throwley, Kn^{t.}, John and Sampson were arrested. Sampson surrendered and was committed to the Marshalsea, and being brought before the Court, produced the King's letters patent dated 30th October, 31 Henry VI., pardoning him for all felonies and offences perpetrated before the day of Parastenes, viz., 7 April, 30 Henry VI. And, having found sufficient security in chancery for his good behaviour, the said Sampson was discharged.

At this time, which was about four years before his death, Sir Sampson was seventy years of age. In those days might and right were to some extent synonymous terms, and the raiding of another's estate, though it might in law be a technical offence, yet does not appear to have been in those turbulent times regarded as a sin. It certainly seems strange to us to find Sir Sampson Meverell imprisoned in the Marshalsea in 1447; in 1457 and 1458 acting in a judicial capacity himself; and then being again committed to the Marshalsea, though on this second occasion he was pardoned.

What office he held under the Archbishop of Canterbury, John Stafford (Archbishop 1443-1452), I have not been able to find. His epitaph implies that he was a person of position, and his recorded saying "that grace passeth cunning" may be an indication of more devout feelings. He died at the age of 74 years, on St. Macutus (*i.e.*, St. Malo) Day, November 15th, 1462, and was buried at Tideswell.

His widow held her Manorial Court at Tideswell.²

At the Court of Lady Isabella Meverell held at Tyddyswell, on the 24th day of February, 7 Edward IV., after the conquest of England, comes Robert Bradshawe of Tydd' in his own person and surrenders into the hands of the aforesaid

¹ *Salt*, vol. iv., N.S., p. 115. Coram Rege. Hilary 38 Henry VI.

² Charter belonging to Rev. J. M. J. Fletcher.

lady Isabelle all his lands and tenements which are in the town and fields of Tyddiswall and Weston except a house with garden in which the said Robert dwells, lying between Merleygappe on the north side and the land of the Chantry on the south side, to the use of Thomas Bradshaw, son of Robert. And the said Thomas receives, on the same day and year, the said messuage &c. of the said Lady Isabelle, To hold of her according to the customs of the manor of Tydd, And he renders fealty and is admitted tenant And gives for a fine xxs.

Richard Beresford
Steward there.

Isabella Meverell¹ accused of receiving and abetting the said John Stathom knowing he had committed the felony (as above, June, 26 Henry VI.). She surrendered and pleaded not guilty, and put herself on the country. She was admitted to bail, on security of Robert Lytton of Lytton, gentleman, and Thomas Saunders of Westminster, yeoman.

*Derbyshire.*²—John Gresley, knight, Thomas Stathom, knight, William Babyngton, armiger, and six others named, sued Thomas Meverell late of Throweley, co. Stafford, armiger, and Isabella Meverell, late of Tyddeswelle, co. Derby, wydowe, for breaking into their closes and houses at Tyddeswelle and carrying away a bag containing 50/- in money. The defendants did not appear, the sheriff returned he had distrained them each up to 40^d. He was ordered to distrain again and produce them on the octave of Holy Trinity.

*Derbyshire.*³—Henry Foljambe, armiger, sued Isabella Meverell, late of Tyddeswalle, wydowe, Thomas Meverell, late of Tyddeswelle, armiger, John Tunstede, late of Tunstede, gentelman, and John Tounende, late of Wheston, labourer, for illegally rescuing cattle which he had distrained according to law and custom. Defendants did not appear. First three to be distrained. John arrested.

¹ *Salt*, vol. iv., N.S., p. 156. Easter 8 Edward IV. m. 7 Rex.

² *Salt*, vol. iv., N.S., p. 163. De Banco. Easter 9 Edward IV.

³ *Salt*, vol. iv., N.S., p. 175. De Banco. Mich. 11 Edward IV. m. 277.

It is satisfactory to know that eventually the houses of Meverell and Basset were united through the marriage of William Basset of Blore to Elizabeth Meverell, who was great-granddaughter to Sir Sampson. Their monument is to be found in the north chapel of Blore Church.

Lease for life from Mag. Edmund de Stafford, Canon of Lichfield, afterwards Bishop of Exeter, Richard, Vicar of Alstonefield, &c., to Nicholas de Stafford, Chyvaler, and Elizabeth his wife, of the manors of Throwley, Frodeswell and Tyddeswell, with land at Tyddeswell, Wormhyll, & Spondon, and the bailiwick of the Forest of High Peak co. Derby, for yearly rent of "unum florem rose."¹

April 16th, 1450, is the date of a Power of Attorney² from Sampson Meverell, miles, to Robert Forman & Edmund Chedulton to deliver seisin of the manor of Frodeswell . . . to Ralph Leche & others.

On 4th May, 1450, Lease³ was granted for 4 years from Ralph Leche & others to Sampson Meverell, miles, of manor of Frodeswelle, &c., for yearly rent of a red rose.

Power of attorney⁴ from Thomas Meverell, Esq., to Henry Matlok and Alexander Fallus, to enter the manors of Throwsley, and Frodeswalle, co. Stafford, and his lands in Botterton and Stanshope in the same county, and his manor of Tyddeswalle and lands in Spondon, and half his manor of Stapley, co. Chest., and all estates in the said counties which belonged to his father, Sampson Meverell, miles, and to deliver seisin of the same to Nicholas Fitzherbert, esq., Richard Knyfton, esq., Edward Bageshagh, Thomas Taillour, vicar of Tyddeswall, and Richard Blaklach, chaplain. Dat. Throwley, 10th September, 13 Edward IV. (1473).⁵

Arthur Meverell⁶ (alias Throwley), Prior of the House of the B.V.M. at Tutbury. Surrender of House to King, 1539.

¹ British Museum, Addit. Ch., 27,500. 1388. See also No. 2355 *Derbyshire Charters*, by I. H. Jeayes.

² Addit. Ch., 27,510.

³ Addit. Ch., 27,511.

⁴ Addit. Ch., 27,513.

⁵ This is quoted in Jeayes' *Derbyshire Charters*, No. 2366.

⁶ Rymer's *Foedera*, viii., vi., Pt. iii., 25.

I have a strong suspicion that this Arthur Meverell, the last prior of Tutbury, was the same Arthur Meverell who was Vicar of Tideswell from 1544 to 1547.

2 Je 35 Henry VIII., 1543.¹ The Dean and Chapter sent to Mr. Rad. Snede and Tho. Fane, clerk, chaplain, the chantry and half the advowson of the Vicarage of Tideswell to present Sir Arthur Meverell, clerk, if living then.

23rd August, 1544.² Sir Arthur Meverell, chaplain, was collated to the Vicarage of Tyddeswell (vacant by the death of Edmund Eyre).

29th April, 1547.³ Sir Arthur Meverell, Vicar of Tideswell, resigned his Vicarage; and Sir George Cokke, chaplain, was admitted.

A branch of the Meverell family remained in Tideswell, and of this was Cromwell Meverell, seventh in descent from Sir Sampson Meverell. He was born about the year 1625. That his sympathies were with the Parliamentary side seems evident from the next extract.

March 6th, 1655.⁴ Upon consideration of the petition of the Inhabitants of Tiddesdale in the county of Derby for that the rectory of Tiddesdale aforesaid being impropriate to the late Deane and Chapter of Litchfield, and the vicarage thereof in the gift of these trustees. It is ordered that Cromwell Meverell of Tiddeswall aforesaid, gent., do provide some honest and responsible p'son from time to time to discharge the duty of the Minister of the said place and collect and gather the tithes, rents, dues, and profits of the said vicarage, and therewith satisfie such p'son & p'sons as he shall so p'vide for the said service till these Trustees shall have pro'ded some godly & able Minister to the said Vicarage, the said Mr. Meverel giving an acc^t thereof from time to time to these Trustees:—

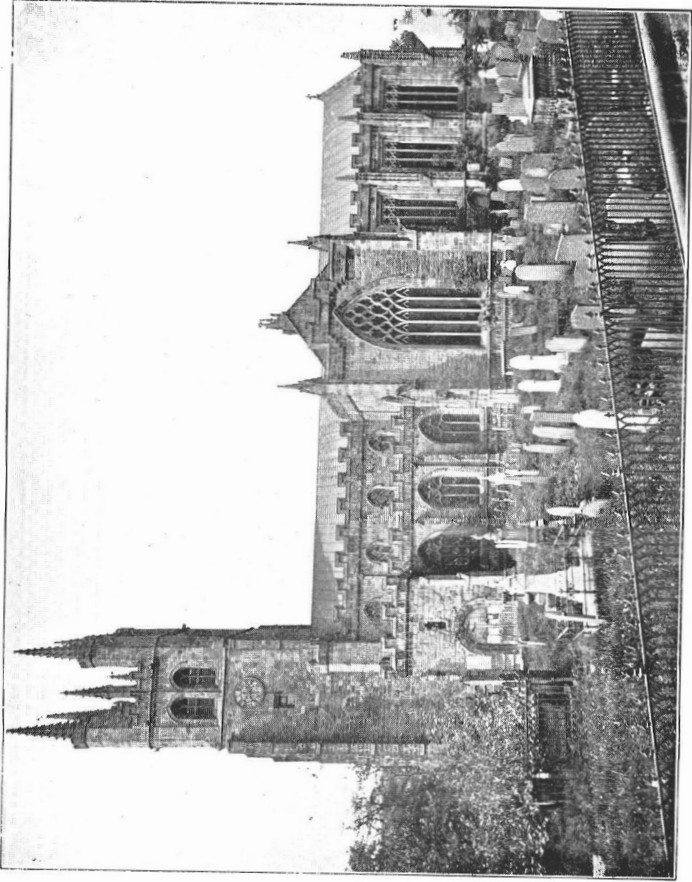
Jo. Pocock, R. Sydenham, Edw. Cressett, R. Hall, Jo. Humfrey.

¹ *Chapter Act Books*, at Lichfield. Vol. iv., f. 129.

² *Ibid.*, vol. iv., f. 136.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. iv., f. 144.

⁴ Lambeth Library. *Augmentations of Livings*, vol. 972, p. 427.



TIDESWELL CHURCH.

Cromwell Meverell's daughter Barbara was married to Thomas Statham of Tansley, by whom she was the mother of Sir John Statham.

Cromwell Meverell's second cousin, in the older line, Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Robert Meverell, was married to Thomas Lord Cromwell, Earl of Ardglass. Robert settled the manor of Tideswell on his daughter Elizabeth in 1626. Her son Wingfield sold the manor of Tideswell to the Eyres.

Conveyance¹ from the Rt. Hon. Wingfield Lord Cromwell to Robert Eyre of Highlow, Esq., of the Manors of Tideswell, &c., 18th November, 1654.²

Exemplification of a common recovery suffered in Mich. term, 1654, of the Manor of Tideswell, &c., wherein Hen. Balguy was Demandant, Robert Eyre tenant, & Wingfield Lord Cromwell Voucher.

In 1802 the manor passed by purchase to the Duke of Devonshire, and in this family it still remains.

PEDIGREES OF THE MEVERELL FAMILY.

British Museum, *Wolley*, 6707.

Visitation of Staffordshire, 1614, *Salt*, vol. v., ii., pp. 211, 212, 341 (Harl. MSS., 2113, 6128).

Visitation of London, 1633-4-5, by Sir Henry St. George, Knight, etc. (Harleian Society, vol. xvii., 1883). *Salt*, vol. ii., p. 98.

Pym Yeatman's *Feudal Derbyshire*, sect. ix., pp. 158-9, 133. Sleight's *History of Leek*, 2nd Edit., p. 56.

The following extracts from the Tideswell Parish Registers relating to this family are interesting:

1638, June 11th.—Francis Meverell, *buried*.

1642, July 1st.—Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Meverell, *buried*³ (laystall).

1644, June 30th.—Ds. Ralph Meverell, *buried* (laystall).

1648, June 29th.—Grace Meverell, *buried*.

¹ British Museum, *Wolley MSS.*, 6687, pp. 437-472.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 473-476.

³ Laystall denotes an interment within the Church.

1651, August 14th.—The wife of Cromwell Meverell, *buried* (laystall).

1660, June.—Bathia, daughter of Cromwell Meverell, *baptised*.

1661, July 25th.—Obadiah, son of Cromwell Meverell, *baptised*.

1661, October 21st.—Mary, daughter of Mr. Meverell, of Tideswell, *buried*.

1662, April 16th.—Rebecca, daughter of Mr. C. Meverell, *buried*.

1663, May 5th.—Sampson, son of Cromwell Meverell, of Tideswell, *baptised*.

1676, December 3rd.—Robert Meverell, Generosus, of Dale Head, *buried* (laystall).

1687, November 29th.—Barbara Meverell, of Tideswell, *buried* (laystall).