

The Staffords of Eyam.

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URING the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the Staffords, though never Lords of the Manor of Eyam, owned the greater part of that and the neighbouring townships, besides other lands in the counties of Derby, Buckingham and Hertford. Several genealogists have attempted to construct a pedigree of the family, and have evidently found it an extremely difficult task. More than one have made suggestions and statements as curious as they are impossible; no statement should ever be made in a family history without evidence. A careful study of this, now collected and published for the first time, will prove many of these suggestions to be untrue. What has been written in *The Reliquary*¹ and other publications has for the most part been derived from the Wolley manuscripts,² which are erroneous in many important points. The Wolley charters, however, which, being originals, are, of course, trustworthy, have been extensively used in this article, as have also the transcripts from the Haddon charters made by the late Mr. Wm. Carrington, of Bakewell, who most kindly put them at the disposal of the writer. The references to these will be found in the footnotes. But it is upon the writer's own family³ deeds that he has mainly relied. These deeds, together with many of the lands

¹ *Reliquary*, vol. ii., p. 219.

² Add. MSS. 6,675 and 6,671 in British Museum.

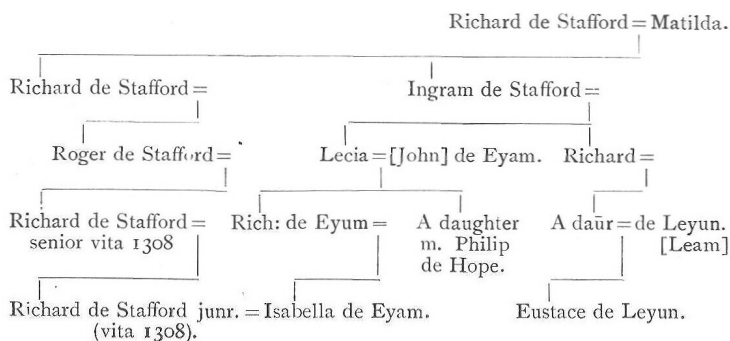
³ Since this History was in type an abstract of these deeds has been included by Mr. Jayes in his valuable book, *Derbyshire Charters*.

to which they refer, descended straight from the Staffords and Lynfords to the Bradshaws, through whom the deeds were transmitted to their present owner, and they now form the main body of evidence for this history, which may thus be fairly assumed to be unassailable in its main points. These latter references are all specially numbered with Roman numerals in the footnotes.

I.—RICHARD DE STAFFORD is the first member of this family on record. It has not hitherto been found possible to connect him with the great baronial family, ancestors of the Dukes of Buckingham, who took their name from the important capital and castle of the neighbouring county, in which their chief possessions were situated. Considering the date at which apparently he suddenly springs into existence, he would, if related in any degree, be either a son or a very near relation of Nicholas, second Baron de Stafford. But although there is evidence of some armorial identification, it is quite possible that the two families were distinct. The Staffords of Botham, near Glossop, County Derby, however, who bore the same arms as the Staffords of Eyam, with a mullet for a difference, almost certainly sprung from the Baronial stock. Judde Stafford, of Botham, the first in the Visit. of 1662, formed one of the Jury in a Bradshaw suit, 1499.¹ The document on which is based the existence of Richard de Stafford as a landowner of Eyam is without date, but was probably executed soon after his death, early in the reign of Henry III. That which warrants the assertion that he was the progenitor of a long line of landed proprietors, whose acres grew by means of their marriages, was printed in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* for 1901, vol. xxiii., under the title, "Proceedings taken in Winster Church regarding the consanguinity of the parties to the marriage of two of the Staffords of Eyam, 1308." The original, in the possession of the writer, a *fac-simile* of which forms the frontispiece to that volume, has proved most valuable to the genealogist, as it supplies a pedigree of no less than five

¹ Vol. xxv., p. 24, of this *Journal*.

generations, dating from the time of King John. As the proceedings in Winster Church took place in 1308, a rough calculation, giving an allowance of thirty years to each generation, would warrant the supposition that the said Richard de Stafford was living at Eyam about the year 1200. Who he was, from whence he came, as well as when he died, are still matters for conjecture. That he had two sons, Richard and Ingram, by his wife, Matilda, is ascertained from the manuscript¹ before alluded to, from which the following pedigree is obtained:—



Thus we see that Richard was the heir, and that Ingram, the second son, had issue (i.) one son, Richard, whose daughter married and was the mother of one Eustace de Leam; and (ii.) a daughter, Lecia, who married John de Eyam, and whose son, Richard de Eyam, was father of Isabella, and that it was her marriage with Richard de Stafford, junr., which was the subject of the proceedings of 1308.

II.—RICHARD DE STAFFORD, the elder of the two brothers, succeeded his father in the lands at Eyam. This is proved by two charters, both undated, but *temp.* Henry III. The first is a “grant by Eustace de Mortayne to Richard de Stafford of three bovates of land in Eyam, one of which Richard de Stafford his father had held; another was held by Adam de Kileburn, the said Richard to find yearly a lamp burning during divine service

¹ *Archæological Journal*, xxiii., p. 86.

before the altar of St. Helen in the parish church of Eyam."¹ The second is a confirmation of this grant made to him by "Eustace, the son of Eustace de Mortheyne," by the same service of the lamp kept burning on the altar of St. Helen during divine service in the parish church.² The first was probably executed soon after the death of Richard de Stafford, sen., and the latter within a few years. Somewhat later than these is the "Release and Quitclaim by William de Morstein to Richard de Stafford of all rights of service, and following, which he possessed in John, son of Nicholas de Eyam, together with his goods and chattels." John de Eyam is probably the man who married his niece, Lecia de Stafford, and therefore father of Richard de Eyum. This deed³ is dated at Dunnisby, co. York, 32 Henry III. (1247), and bears an heraldic seal, partially broken—evidently the armorial bearings of the Mortheynes. The coat is "*on a chief a lion pass.*" surrounded by the legend: S . Will . . . ORTOIN. The next deed⁴ is undated, but belongs to this period and refers to a

"Grant made by Roger Mortheyn Lord of Eyam to Richard de Stafford of a piece of Land lying nygh the Garden of ye said Richard as it is closed and diked to bigg and mak domez in y^e sayd place" (*i.e.*, fenced in to build and enlarge houses).

III.—ROGER DE STAFFORD succeeded his father Richard as will be seen in the pedigree (page 263). This is corroborated by a "grant made by Richard de Stafford to Roger his son of all that land which he held and possessed of the gift of Sir Eustace de Morstein in the Township of Eyam," by the same tenure—quaint, though not unusual—of the burning lamp on the altar of St. Helen.⁵ It is undated, but of the time of Henry III., as is

¹ The east end of the north aisle of Eyam Church is known as "The Stafford or Bradshawe Quire." Here it is presumed was the altar dedicated to St. Helen, and beneath the Quire the Staffords probably lie buried. The Quire formerly was enclosed by an oak screen, now removed into the chancel; the oak pews, however, still exist *in situ*.

² *Wolley*, vii., 37 and 38.

³ No. I., in the collection of the writer.

⁴ No. II. (8), in the writer's collection.

⁵ *Wolley*. vii., 4A.

also a grant¹ of three acres of land in Hassop by Peter de Hassop, son of Robert de Lascy, to Roger, son of Richard de Stafford. Also undated, but of the same period, is a "grant to Roger son of Richard de Stafford and his heirs of two oxgangs of land in Eyam by Eustace de Morteyn at a yearly rent of 8d."²

Another grant³ to him, also undated, is from William Morteyn, of one oxgang of land, a garden and a toft called "Cattle Hill," for which he paid 2d. as a chief rent. "Presumedly it was this "Roger de Stafford who bought for £10 the custody and the "marriage of Isabel, second daughter of Simon de Melner, "Forrester of Fee, of Languedale, from Thomas Turbott."⁴ From what we know of such transactions, she probably became the wife of one of his sons, though it is quite possible that he might himself have married her. Of his family we have little knowledge beyond that supplied by the "Proceedings with respect to the divorce," which only mentions one son. There is, however, evidence of a second son in an undated charter, which is "a grant by Roger son of Roger de Stafford to Richard de Stafford his brother of all the land in Eyam which Richard de Stafford his grandfather gave him." The exact date of this grant is uncertain, but it is undoubtedly of the time of Edward I., and thus prior to the evidence taken with a view to the divorce, the date of which was the second year of Edward II. The only son of Roger de Stafford there mentioned is his son Richard, who eventually carried on the family of which he appears at that time to have been the head and the fourth member in line of succession.

IV.—RICHARD DE STAFFORD, called senior in the manuscript so frequently mentioned, viz.: "The Proceedings taken in Winster Church with a view to a divorce of Richard de Stafford, jun., and Isabella his wife, a daughter of Richard de Eyam."

¹ *Feudal History*, sec. v., 186.

² No. II. (3).

³ No. II. (7).

⁴ *Feudal History*, sec. v., p. 204, by Pym Yeatman, to whom I am indebted for the above suggestion as to identity, in a letter, the wording of which is here quoted almost verbatim.

Wolley, vii., 39.

The divorce was that of his own son, which he was bent on bringing about, and he, whether conscientiously or not, makes use of the weighty authority of the Church to annul a marriage which undoubtedly was within the prohibited degrees, though the consanguinity was hardly such as to warrant a separation after marriage, had there not probably been some other cause for such a serious step. A glance at the pedigree will show that the relationship between man and wife was no nearer than that of third cousins. Whether or not any ulterior reason existed will probably now, however, never be known.

The evidence was taken in Winster Church on the 5th of November, 1308, and was such as would be obtainable only from those who were able, on account of their age, to give their personal knowledge of the links in the genealogical chain. The most valuable evidence was given by a relation of the family, one William le Proude, of Foolow, who said he was sixty years old, and well remembered Ingram de Stafford, his own grandfather, who was the great-grandfather of Isabella de Eyam, the wife of Richard de Stafford, jun., one of the offenders. He, however, had no personal remembrance of his great-grandfather, Richard de Stafford, the common ancestor of both husband and wife, but forty years ago he had known his name from his mother, as also the fact that he was the father not only of his own grandfather but also of the grandfather of Richard de Stafford, senior, who had instituted these proceedings. This evidence was corroborated by Philip de Hope,¹ William le Chapman, of Hope, Eustace de Leam, Richard del Hawe, and Richard Freeman, all of whom were sexagenarians.

It would seem that in consequence of these proceedings the marriage was duly annulled from evidence to be found in the Stafford Plea Rolls—though it may possibly be only a friendly fine and recovery. In any case it throws further light on this pedigree, for there we find that in the Michaelmas² Term, 11 Edward II. (1317),

¹ See the Pedigree on page 263.

² *De Banco*, M. 328.

“Roger son of Richard de Stafford the elder sued Isabella daughter of Richard de Eyum for a message and the third of two parts of six bovates of land in Eyum as his right and inheritance, and in which she had no entry except through Roger son of Richard de Stafford the younger who had demised the tenements to her, and of which he had unjustly disseised John de Stafford the brother of the said Roger (the plaintiff) whose heir he was. Isabella called to warranty Roger son of Richard de Stafford the younger.”

From this entry we learn that less than ten years after the proceedings in Winster Church, which had led to the divorce, not only was Richard de Stafford the elder dead, but Richard the younger—presumably his eldest son and successor—was likewise dead, leaving by Isabella de Eyam a son, Roger Stafford, who, but for the divorce of his parents, would have succeeded to his grandfather's estates; that not only had this divorce rendered him illegitimate, but it had precluded his mother from deriving any benefit from the maintenance which had been provided for her; and that on the death of his father without legitimate issue the estates had devolved on the next in succession, his uncle John, who had died without issue, leaving his brother, Roger de Stafford, his heir, who was now suing Richard's divorced wife for a portion of his legal inheritance. Richard de Stafford the elder, therefore, had died between the years 1308 and 1317, having had issue—

- (i.) Richard de Stafford, the younger, who, as we have seen, had married his third cousin, Isabella, daughter of Richard de Eyam, from whom he was divorced, and by whom he had issue Roger, deprived, by the divorce of his parents, of his inheritance.
- (ii.) John, who inherited the estates, but who must have died without issue.
- (iii.) Roger de Stafford, who succeeded to the estates on the death of his brother John.
- (iv.) Cecilia, the only daughter of whom we have any knowledge. This is obtained from the following:—

“Rodgr Morteyn Lord of Eyom gaf Cecill ye doghter of Rich. Stafford land medowe and bygyng¹ and oder parcelz &c in Eyom and boundez theym in the dede . Serche ye dede beryng date xxxiiij yere of Kyng Edward (1304) paying chefe by yere 1^d.²²”

¹ A building, probably a house.

² No. II., 9.

V.—ROGER DE STAFFORD, then, the third son of Richard de Stafford the elder, succeeded to the estates about 11 Edward II. (1317), when he was plaintiff in the suit alluded to on page 267. Little, however, is known of him, as his name occurs in few deeds. Among the Haddon Charters is a grant dated 3 Edward II. (1309), “by Robert son of John del Vale to Roger de Stafford of his messuage near the Church at Bakewell,” from which might be argued that prior to his brother John’s death he was living in Bakewell, about five miles from his ancestral home.

In 16 Edward III.,¹ 1343, he attested a grant of land at Hucklow by Thomas, son of Richard L’Archer, of Hucklow, to Thomas, son of Richard L’Archer, of Hucklow. He probably died in 1351, or thereabouts, for a deed,² which is dated at Eyam 25 Edward III. (1351), is witnessed by his son and successor as “John son of Roger de Stafford, of Eyam.” This—not a very usual form of attestation—he probably used to draw attention to the fact that he had succeeded his father.

VI.—JOHN DE STAFFORD, of Eyam. In these terms his name appears as the first witness to an entail³ deed of 28 Edward III. (1354), and then follow three other deeds which bear his name⁴ as an attesting witness, the last of which is dated 43 Edward III. (1369). His marriage with Dionysia, daughter and eventual heiress of William de Lynford, brought into the family large estates. He must have been married about the year 1364, for a grant dated at Lynford⁵ 38 Edward III. (1364) was executed by Sir Laurence de Lynford giving “to William “Lynford, his son, and to John de Stafford, his kinsman, all his “lands, with tenements, woods, lead mines, heriots, turbary, etc., “in Moniash, Chelmorton, and Calver, all in co. Derby; lands “in Magna Lynford and Thornburgh, in co. Bucks.; and lands “in Estharnam,⁶ in co. Wilts.” These lands eventually passed into the possession of the Stafford family, which till then had owned, so far as there is documentary evidence, few possessions

¹ No. V.

² *Wolley*, vii., 42.

³ *Ibid.*, vii., 61.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vii., 43.

⁵ No. IX.

⁶ East Harnam is about a mile from Salisbury.

outside the parish of Eyam. The importance of this deed by which they passed is probably the reason for the writer possessing duplicates of the deed—two are on parchment and one is on paper.

With respect to the lands, those mentioned as being in the co. of Derby, which can be traced in the Stafford family for the next two centuries, were charged with the dowry of Dionysia's mother, for about this time, though whether later or earlier it is hard to say, an undated conveyance was executed¹ by Nicholas de Cotterell and Roger de Gaddesby to Lawrence de Lynford and Alice, his wife, and their heirs of the lands in Monyash, Chelmorton, Hassop, Calver, and Rowsley, which lands, Marjery, late wife to William de Lynford, had held of her dowry.

Several grants of lands in Eyam and the neighbourhood exist, which were made to John de Stafford. *E.g.*, "In 44 Edward III. (1370), Johanna and Matilda the daughters of Richard del Dale of Eyam in their widowhood granted to John de Stafford land in Eyam lying between the high road and the village brook opposite to the messuage of the said John de Stafford on the other side of the road."²

In the forty-sixth year of Edward III. (1372) a lease was granted by "Nycholas son of John de Stafford to John de Stafford his father of a messuage and ten acres of land in Great Hucklow which Nycholas had of the demyse of Thomas the son of John L'Archer, who had it of the demyse of Thomas the son of Richard."³

In 11 Richard II. (1388), a release of land in Eyam was made to him as John de Stafford, sen., by Margery, late wife of John, son of Nicholas de Haddon, of land which she had inherited from her brother, Henry Gregory.⁴

The same date is affixed to a grant by Robert de Wardelow, of Bakewell, to John de Stafford and his heirs of lands in

¹ No. XVII.

² No. XI.

³ No. XIV. (b).

⁴ No. XVIII.

Highlow, which had descended to him after the death of John L'Archer, of Highlow, lately in the tenure of John de Billeston.¹

These lands in Highlow, which township adjoins that of Eyam, were apparently afterwards held by Richard, the son of John de Stafford, as will be seen. The sixteenth year of Richard II. (1393), is the date of a grant² from John de Stafford, of Eyam, and Thomas Amot, of Middleton, to John Rankell, chaplain, of two messuages, and nine acres and a half of land in Eyam.

In 19 Richard II. (1395), John, or possibly his eldest son, attested a grant of lands in Calver and Middleton Cliff by Godfrey de Roland to Thomas and Richard Gomfray, but as there is no proof of the date of his death, it may have been that this deed was attested,³ as indeed may others prior to it, by his son, for as in this case, where father and son bore the same Christian name, it is not easy to determine the identity of the individual. Both were certainly alive in 1338, but after that date it is not clear as to whether "John de Stafford" refers to the elder or younger. Rhodes, in his *Peak Scenery*, declares that "in the reign of Richard II., a period when the rights of the subject were but inaccurately defined and his liberty but imperfectly secured by law, a violent and outrageous assault was made on one of the Staffords, who was at that time Lord of the Manor of Eyam. Attacked by an armed force, he was forcibly carried away from his home to the residence of his enemy, and there detained close prisoner until he was ransomed by his friends." No authority is given, and it is hard to say whence Rhodes obtained his information. If it be true, it must have been either John de Stafford, sen., or his son, who had this unpleasant experience. It may be remarked, however, that the Staffords never at any time owned the manor of Eyam.

By his marriage with Dyonisia de Lynford, John de Stafford, sen., had issue :

1. John de Stafford, his successor (of whom presently, p. 272).

¹ *Haddon Charters*.

² N^o. XXI.

³ *Wolley*, vii., 54.

2. Nicholas, of whom mention is first made in "a grant dated at Tideswell,¹ 36 Edward III. (1362), of a messuage and twelve acres in Hucklow by Thomas, son of John L'Archer, to Nicholas, son of John de Stafford." Nothing more is known about him except that he leased land at Hucklow to his father ten years later, noted on page 269. As his name is not mentioned in the entail deed quoted below, it would almost seem that he was dead in 1391.
3. Richard. In 14 Richard II. (1391),² there is a grant "by Thomas Gomfray, parson of the church at Dronfield, and John Rankell, chaplain to John de Stafford, of Eyam, settling all lands and tenements, etc., which they held of the gift and feoffment of Isabella, sister of John de Billeston, of Bakewell, on John de Stafford during his life, with remainder to Richard, his son, and his heirs, with remainder to John de Stafford, brother to the said Richard, and then to the rightful heirs of the above John de Stafford."

But the earliest mention of Richard is in a grant dated at Bakewell, 3 Richard II. (1379),² of lands near Bakewell, by Thomas Bilstone to Richard Stafford, son of John Stafford. In 14 Richard II. (1390),² he granted a release to John Redser, parson of the church at Eyam, and John Rankell, chaplain, of all his rights in Youlgrave. By a deed dated at Tideswell 19 Richard II. (1395),² John Cobyne granted to him as "Richard de Stafford son of John de Stafford," and his heirs certain messuages and lands in Tideswell. A confirmation of a grant of lands at Bakewell to "John de Stafford, of Eyam, and Richard, his son, and to John, brother to Richard," is dated 20 Richard II. (1396).²

Three years later, a messuage and two bovates of land, and a toft lying near Leyhamsty, at Eyam, were granted to him by William Kalale, of Normanton, and Randolph de Glapwell. This is dated at Eyam 23 Richard II. (1399).³

¹ No. VIII.

² *Haddon Charters.*

³ No. XXV.

In 3 Henry IV. (1401),¹ one "Richard de Stafford, of Highlow," granted lands to John Milnes, of Tideswell—and the same man attested a deed of 1 Henry IV. Taking into consideration the deed quoted before, which proved that in 11 Richard II. (1388)¹ John de Stafford, his father, had from Robt. de Wardelow a grant of land in Highlow, it may be presumed that this man is identical with his son Richard. In 13 Henry IV. (1412),¹ it would appear that Richard was dead, as in that year there is an indenture dated at Eyam between John de Stafford, of Eyam, and Richard de Stafford, heir of Richard de Stafford, on the one part, and Thomas de Collay, of Bakewell, and Johanna, his wife, on the other part, with respect to lands held by Clement de Longsdon and others. In any case, he was dead in 4 Henry V. (1417),¹ for in that year land in Haddonlowe was granted to Roger de Padley and Lettice his wife, by Richard de Stafford, son and heir of Richard de Stafford, deceased. His son Richard, therefore, was now in possession of his lands, and it will probably be he who, as Richard Stafford, of Highlow, attested a deed of 11 Henry VI. (1432),² and it will be his son who, as John Stafford, of Highlow, son of Richard de Stafford, in 14 Edward IV. (1474) had a grant of lands in Longsdon and Bakewell.¹

VII.—JOHN DE STAFFORD, of Eyam, the eldest son, succeeded his father, *circa* 1400, and it is worth notice that in all deeds connected with him after this date the word "de" is for the most part dropped before his surname, and the word "Armiger," or esquier, substituted after his name. This fact, which will be noticed by comparing the next two deeds which follow, would suggest that in 1400 a grant of arms was made to this family. The coat would probably have been one already borne by a Stafford "with a difference." The arms borne at this date by Edmond, Earl of Stafford, father of Humphry, 1st Duke of Buckingham, were "*or: on a chevron gul.*" Now, although no grant of arms to Stafford of Eyam has been found, this same coat

¹ *Haddon Charters.*

² *Wolley*, vii. 37.

with a difference,¹ viz.: "*Or on a chev. gul., between three martlets sable,*" was allowed by the heralds as a quartering for Stafford in the visitation of 1611 to the family of Savage of Castleton, and in that of Bradshawe of Bradshaw in the visitation of 1634, although not a quartering in the Bradshawe coat, it was placed on a little shield beside the entry of the marriage of Francis Bradshawe and Anne Stafford.² These arms *impaled* with Bradshaw, however, were carved over the Bradshaw gateway³ in 1620, and as an Eyre *quartering* over the mantel-piece in the dining room at Hassop Hall in 1607—though *impaled* with Eyre on an old oak screen in Longston Church⁴ in 1620, and were *quartered* with Morewood on a brass in the Church at Bradfield,⁵ co. York, in 1647. Thus the men who married the four co-heiresses of this family appear to have borne these arms unchallenged.

The first of the deeds to be compared is a release⁶ granted by John Rankell, of Eyam, chaplain, to John de Stafford, of Eyam, of all rights which the former possessed in the township and chapelry of Foolowe and Bretton, formerly granted to him by John Plumer and William Hendley, chaplains. This was dated at Eyam 2nd February, 1 Henry IV. (1400); then on the following 27th of June a power of attorney, dated at Kettlethorpe, co. Lincoln,⁷ was executed by him as "John Stafford of Eyam *armiger*" to Richard Stafford, his brother, and John Rankell, chaplain, to deliver seisin of the same lands to Richard de Knottesford, of Newton, co. Lincoln. Then follow three deeds dated 6 Henry IV. (1405), a release, a bond, and a power of attorney,⁸ all connected with transactions between John Stafford,

1 For this and other information obtained from the Heralds' College I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Farnham Burke, *Somerset Herald*.

2 *Heralds' College*, c. 33.

3 Vol. xxv., p. 40, of this *Journal*.

4 Cox's *Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. ii., pp. 101 and 102.

5 Hunter's *Hallamshire* (Gatty), p. 463.

6 No. XXIX.

7 No. XXVIII. This is the first mention of the connection which undoubtedly existed between the Staffords of Eyam and the co. of Lincoln. It is interesting, too, to record the fact that the Foolow and Bretton lands descended to the Bradshaws and were only sold by their descendant in 1883.

8 Nos. XXXIII., XXXIV., & XXXV.

of Eyam, armiger, and John, son and heir of Nicholas Leghes, of Eyam, with respect to the reversion of a messuage and one bovate of land in Eyam. In the Heralds' College is a note of an ancient deed, now non-existent, which belongs to this time, and has its own interest:—"John Stafforth, Esquire, grants to Henry Bishop of Winton, John Beauford, Earl of Sarum, and Thomas Esquire, all his lands, tenements, rents, and services, which he had in the counties of Derby and Lincoln, to them their heirs and assigns. Dated at Eyam, 20th July, 10 Henry IV. (1409)." There are several grants of land, etc., in which his name occurs as one of the attesting witnesses. The last of these is dated at Eyam 2nd February, 8 Henry V. (1421).¹ It is a grant to John Martyn and Nicholas Martyn of land in Eyam called Rylve,² and his name, which appears as "John de Stafford, Squyer," is immediately followed by that of Henry de Stafford, of Mydleton Clyff, which place being immediately outside the township of Eyam suggests the probability that Henry was a member of this family.

The next and almost the last information obtainable with respect to John de Stafford is contained in an original manuscript of about 3 Henry VI. (1424).³ It is the pleading in a case tried at Westminster, 1 Henry VI., in which he was plaintiff, and one John Attebourgh, the defendant, who is accused of wrongful possession of certain land in Aldenham,⁴ co. Herts., described as "a messuage with 200 acres of arable land, 40 acres of wood, 20 acres of Meadow and 30 acres of pasture with all its appurtenances formerly in the possession of Edmond Lynford who had enfeoffed Thomas Lynford and Thomas Bennebury and the heirs of Thos. Lynford by virtue of which they had been seised of the land in question up to the date of the death

¹ *Wolley*, vii., 63.

² Martyn family and Rylve lands *cf.* pp. 279 and 287.

³ No. XXXVIII.

⁴ In the writer's possession is a grant (No. X.) of these same lands by Richard, son of John Porter, of Aldenham, to Edmond, son of Reginald Brok, of Combehawey. It is dated at Bath, 38 Edward III., 1364, and has a Seal of the Mayor and Corporation of Bath in good preservation.

of Thos. Lynford which had taken place on the 28th October 1423.¹ After which date the reversion of the land had passed to the said John Stafford as nearest of kin and heir of Thomas as being the son of Dionysia sister of Lawrence the father of the said Thomas Lynford." The defendant lost the suit and had to pay 200 marks.

From this we ascertain that the death of his cousin, Thomas Lynford, on 28th October, 1423, put John de Stafford in possession of the large estates of the Lynford family in the counties of Derby, Buckingham, and Hertford. Probably the following pedigree² was drawn out at this time for use in the above suit. It is written on parchment, is headed "Pedigree of Peter Lynford," and is as follows:—

"Piers de Linford hadd issue Lawrence, Lawrence hadd issue William, William had issue Lawrence and Dionis, Lawrence hadd issue Thomas. Thomas had issue Edmond, which diseassed without issue of his bodie. Dionis toke to husband John Stafford, and had issue by the said John, a son called John Stafford, and John had issue Robert Stafford."³

Then follows on the same side of the parchment an abstract of a deed, the original of which is No. XVII. in the writer's possession:—

"Certaine lands and tenements, woods, leases, and pastures, services of ffree men and bond &c. myne of lead oare, with the appertenances, were given by Nicho Cotterell and Roger de Gaddesby to Lawrence Lynford and Alice his wife and to the heires betweene them lawfully begotten, lying in Moniash, Chelmorten, Hassopp, Calver, and Rousley as it appeareth more plainly in the deed &c."

¹ On the 22nd of September in the same year Thomas Lynford had granted to Sir Richard Vernon and John Atteborgh the Manor of Calver, on condition that they made to Thomas, son of the said Richard Vernon, an Estate in the same Manor after the death of himself. To hold to the said Thomas Vernon and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten for ever. Add. MSS. 6697, p. 502.

² No. XLIXB.

³ An exact reproduction of this Lynford pedigree and charter occurs in *Harl.* 1424, fol. 95, with the statement that it was "*Ex chartis Mr. Savage de Castleton in le Peke in com. Derby,*" who "*duxit in uxorem unam filiarum et hered' huius familie de Stafford.*"

Below this is a memorandum in Latin of a suit heard in the fourth year of Henry V. (1416), during the Easter term, before certain justices sitting at Westminster, in which John Grome and others were the querents, and Thomas Linford, Edmond Linford, and John Stafford, of co. Lincoln,¹ and William Linford, of co. Northampton, were the defendants.

The first information the writer has of this family of Lynford is an acknowledgment dated 18 Edward II. (1324) of a sum of money paid by Henry Fauconbergh, vicar of Derby, to Dyonisia, formerly wife of Lawrence de Lynford.² Somewhat later there is a grant by her to Roger de Burton and others of two bovates of land and a messuage in Calver.²

In 15 Edward III. (1341), a grant of a messuage in Hassop was made by William de Lynford to Roger, son of Hugh de Birchell.²

In 38 Edward III. (1364), a grant² was made by Godfrey Foljamb³ of lands and all rights in Chelmorton to Lawrence de Lynford. In this same year was executed the deed quoted on page 268, which first connects the Staffords with the Lynford family, and which settles all the Lynford estates. That portion of them which was situated in the county of Derby had been charged with the dowry or jointure of Margery, wife of William Lynford. By the deed already cited on page 269,⁴ they were re-settled on Lawrence, son and heir of William Lynford and Alice, his wife, and their heirs, on the death of Margery. In 43 Edward III. (1369),⁵ Lawrence de Lynford made a grant of "a place and five acres in Chelmorton to Henry le Heir."

In 1 Richard II. ⁶ (1377), "Katherine, formerly wife of

¹ See footnote, p. 273.

² *Haddon Charters.*

³ To this same Godfrey and Avine, his wife, Lawrence de Lynford granted, 29 Edward III. (1355), all his lands in Hassop, to hold to the said Godfrey and Avine and their heirs. Add. MSS. 6697, p. 501.

⁴ No. XVII.

⁵ *Haddon Charters.*

⁶ *Haddon Charters.*

Lawrence de Lynford, made a grant to Thomas de Wednesley of five marks yearly, arising out of her lands at Monyash and Chelmorton"; and the next transaction before us is that contained in the suit between John Att Burgh in the year 1424, quoted on page 274, from which we learn of the death of the last of the Lynfords and of the passing of their estates to John Stafford, of Eyam.

A year later he deals with a portion of his Lynford inheritance, for a grant was executed at Youlgreave,¹ 18th March, 3 Henri VI. (1425), by John Stafford, Esquier, to John de Asshelay, Chaplain for the Chantry of St. Mary of Moniash, of certain lands and tenements at Youlgreave. This act of piety—evidently the reason for his descendant Humphry² being a patron of the chantry—is the last of which we have any knowledge, and probably it was not long before his death. By his wife Alice he had three sons:—

1. Robert, his heir.
2. John, of whom presently.
3. Roger.

VIII.—ROBERT STAFFORD succeeded to the estates on his father's death.

There are three charters dated 1 Henry IV. (1400), two of which relate to the same lands in Eyam, though one was executed in Lincolnshire, but all three tend to prove that Robert was the eldest son of John de Stafford. This is the reason why no other issue is shown in the Lynford pedigree previously mentioned.

(1) Grant of a message and two bovates of land and one toft lying near Leyumsty in Eyam by Richard de Stafford of Eyam and John Rankell, chaplain, to Alice, wife of John Stafford,

¹ *Harl. Charters*, 84A, 39.

² See page 288.

armiger, and Robert, their son, and his lawful heirs,¹ dated at Eyam.

(2) Power of attorney concerning the same lands from Alice, wife of John Stafford, armiger, and Robert, their son, to Richard Knottesford, of Newton, co. Lincoln, dated at Kettlethorpe, co. Lincoln.²

(3) Grant by John Rankel, chaplain, to Alice, wife of John Stafford, armiger, and Robert, their son, and his heirs, of all lands and tenements, etc., which had belonged to John Stafford, of Eyam, senior, the father of the said John Stafford, in Eyam, Ryley, Folowe, Hucklow, Bakewell, Youlgrave, and Castleton, to be held during the lifetime of Alice, and after her death to descend to Robert, with remainder to John and Roger, their other sons, dated at Eyam.³

It is possible that Alice herself had brought many of these lands to her husband. Some are mentioned here for the first time. At present her identity is a matter for conjecture. The following copy of a note is among the manuscripts at Heralds' College, which has been made at some time from an original deed, apparently not now in existence :—

“ Robert Oletham de Stotton grants to John de Stafforth and Alice his wife daughter of the said Robert Oletham all his tenements in the town of Stotton to their heirs lawfully begotten, but if they die without heirs of their two bodies then to return to the said Robert Oletham and his heirs for ever. Dated at Stotton 12 Rich. II. (1388).”

As Stafford is occasionally written Stafforth, Oletham may possibly be Oledam or “Oldham,” or it may be a clerical error for Chetham, but no such place exists as Stotton. There is, however, no more frequent error made in palæography than confusion between the letters c and t, which are almost identical in form, consequently this place will be almost certainly Scotton, in co. Lincoln, which is about fifteen miles from Kettlethorpe.

¹ No. XXVI.

² No. XXXVII.

³ *Wolley*, vii., 46.

A Bond, dated 10th October, 1 Henry VI. (1422), was executed, in which Sir John Kyghley, Richard Wallace, armiger, of co. Sussex, and Robert Stafford, armiger of co. Derby, were bound to Sir Philip Braunche, Knt., in a sum of 350 marks.¹

In an inquest² of Knights' fees taken at Ashbourne 10 Henry VI. (1430), appears the entry "Robert Stafford of Eyam Esqr 40/ in Eyam." There is in the Heralds' College a note of a grant dated at Eyam 10th November, 10 Henry VI. (1431), "made by John Stafford de Eyam, and Margaret, his wife, to Richard Pygot, Esquier, Robert Stafford, Esquier, and to John Stafford, their son, of all their lands, tenements, rents and services in Roland, Calver, and Eyam, on condition that they enfeoff the said John Stafford, and Margaret, his wife, in the same, their heirs and assigns for ever." Except a release,³ however, to him of lands and tenements at Eyam, by John, son and heir of Nicholas Wardlow, which is dated 18 Henry VI. (1439), it is not till the 7th June, 23 Henry VI. (1445), that there is any further mention of him, on which day a bond⁴ was executed by Isabella Barton, of Thornton, co. Buckingham, widow, to Robert Stafford, armiger, of Eyam, in £100, concerning the manor of Thornburgh, co. Buckingham, lately in the possession of Thomas Lynford, deceased, and in the same year there is a grant by Nicholas Martin, of Tideswell, to Robert Stafford, of Eyam, of a messuage and two bovates of land in Eyam called Rylve.⁵

Riley is the name, to this day, of a plot of land on the top and slope of a hill on the eastern side of the parish of Eyam. This is probably the same land settled on Robert's mother in 1400—see page 278. Years afterwards, in 1520, there was a

1 No. XXXVI.

2 *Feudal History*, sec. ii., p. 502.

3 No. XI.

4 No. XLIII.

5 *Wolley*, vii., 69.

dispute about the possession of land in Ryley between Humphry Stafford and Ralph Martyn, probably a descendant of this Nicholas, the account of which appears on page 287.

There is evidence of Robert's marriage, soon after this, for on the 4th January, 24 Henry VI. (1446),¹ a settlement of lands in Eyam, Bakewell, Youlgrave, Tideswell, and Hucklow was made on Thomas Eyre, armiger, and Richard Bakewell, in trust for Robert Stafford, armiger, and Elizabeth, his wife, and their children, and, failing legitimate issue, to the sole use of Robert Stafford. A recovery of the same lands is dated 6th January, 24 Henry VI. (1446). Both deeds are dated at Eyam.

In 32 Henry VI. (1454), a writ was issued ordering him not to commit waste, etc., in certain messuages and lands at Monyash, Chelmorton, Calver, Bromley, and Oslaston, pending the hearing of a suit² between him and Thomas Vernon, Esquier.

The next year a power of attorney was given "by John Barrow, arm., to Richard Stafford for entry into all the lands and lead mines in Monyash, Chelmorton, and Calver, and other places in co. Derby, of which he had lately become possessed by the gift and feoffment of Thomas Lynford, and to give seisin of the said lands to Robert Stafford, armiger, William de la Pole, John Milne, and Thomas Wild." This is dated at Monyash 3rd January, 33 Henry VI. (1455).³

Although Robert Stafford had become possessed of the Lynford estates on his father's death some twenty-five years before this, he appears only now to have had the title-deeds delivered over to him, probably by his trustees, for the 19th day of January, in the thirty-third year of Henry VI. (1456), is the date of a

"Byll⁴ indentyd which bears witness that Nicholas Hasulhyrst and John Folowe have delivered to Robert Stafford Esquier of Eyhum a dede off ffeoft selyd wt gwynt wax and the seyll off armes off Sir Laurens

1 Nos. XLIV., XLV.

2 No. XLVII. These lands had formed part of the old Lynford Estate.

3 No. XLVIII.

4 No. XLIXA.

Lynford, a dede of ffeoft off landys tayll selyd wt the same seyll, a dede off ffeofet undyr the same seyll, a acquite indentyd betwyxt Thomas Barow and John Stafford, a letter off Attorney made to be Robt Stafford unto Willm Taylor and John Cobyn with xl dedys in a box inseyled conteynge the Manor off Thurghweston."

This fact is presumptive evidence that his wife, Elizabeth, was now deceased, without leaving issue, for assuming that the Lynford estates were subject to a similar settlement to that quoted before, Robert Stafford would become now absolutely entitled to the estates, and so the deeds would be delivered to him.

Certain memoranda have been written, probably about this time, on the reverse side of the skin containing the Lynford pedigree,¹ quoted on page 275. They relate to the chief rents due by Robert to the lord of the manor of Eyam, of which the collector is one Richard Stafford, possibly Robert's first cousin mentioned on page 272.

The first item is "William de Hassop payeth for the holding in Monyash 12^d," and the last is, "Robert Stafford for land in Folowe by year 3^s/8^d and for lands in Eyam 13d. Sum total xxi^s 1^d the which the Lord receives yearly and no more." The lord of the manor of Eyam in 1456, when this was probably written, was John, 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury.

A grant, dated 2 Edward IV. (1463),² by Richard de Stafford, of Highlowe, and Robert Stafford, of Eyam, Esquier, to Roger Stafford—probably his brother—of certain lands in Bakewell, and another of the same date by the same Richard to Robert Stafford, of Eyam, and Robert and John Milne, give the last information which can be gathered about him. He probably died very soon after this date. At any rate, he was dead in 1467, the date of "an indenture³ between Richard Stafford cousin⁴ and heir of Robert Stafford Esqr late of Eyam and Thomas Foljambe Esqr enumerating the contents of a box of Deeds delivered to the said Thomas Foljamb to keep to the

¹ No. XLIXB.

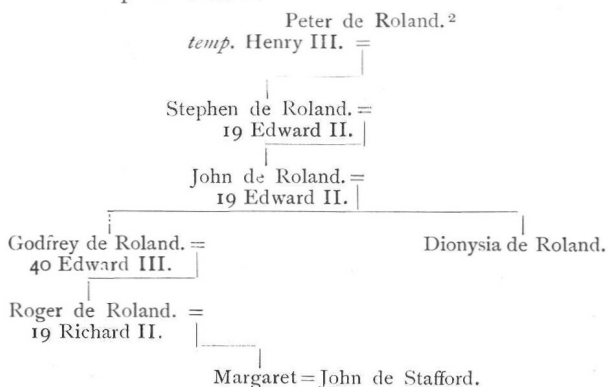
² *Haddon Charters*.

³ *Derbyshire Charters* by I. H. Jeayes, No. 1262.

⁴ A word very frequently used for a nephew or niece.

behoof and use of the said Richard and his heirs." In 14 Edward IV. (1474),¹ a lease was executed by Roger and John Milne with a quitclaim to Henry Vernon of lands, which were held by them and Robert Stafford, now deceased, of the gift and feoffment of Richard de Stafford. Robert was succeeded in the Stafford and Lynford estates by his nephew Richard, the son of his brother, John Stafford, who, himself, as will be seen, was by no means an unimportant member of the family, although a second son.

JOHN DE STAFFORD, the second son of John de Stafford, of Eyam, married Margaret, the daughter and heir of Roger Roland, of Roland, in Great Longstone, which marriage brought into the family various possessions, in addition to the manor of Roland. The following is constructed from various deeds in the Hassop collection:—



The year 1409 (10 Henry IV.) was the date of "a grant in tail by Nicholas Martyn, of Folowe, John Andrew and John Clerk, chaplains, and William Meverell, to Margaret, daughter and heir of Roger de Roland, of the manor of Roland, which they held from Thomas de Benteley and

¹ *Haddon Charters.*

² Peter de Rolond was witness to the Charter confirming the grant of lands at Eyam, to Richard de Stafford, *temp.* Henry III. Several deeds were attested by him up to 22 Edward I. He is described in a charter at Hassop Hall as Peter, son of Wimund de Roland. For access to the Hassop deeds, I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Leslie, the owner of Hassop Hall.

Johanna, his wife, kinswoman and heir of Nicholas Martyn, chaplain, within the lordship of Eyam and Calvore, with remainder to Margery, the daughter of Godfrey de Roland, and to Stephen de Roland."¹ John Stafford—possibly his father—attested this deed, and among the Hassop deeds is one bearing the same date, which is the grant to John Stafford from Nicholas Martyn, and another, of the custody of Margaret, daughter and heir of Roger de Roland. Although there is no mention of any intended marriage, these deeds were probably executed with a view to that, and therefore the first was witnessed by him. Of the date of the actual marriage there is, however, no record, but in the first year of Henry VI. (1423), a release to John Stafford, junior, of Eyam, and Margaret his wife, was executed by Richard Penyston, son and heir of William Penyston, of Baslow, of "omnimodas acciones," real and personal.²

A release was executed 11 Henry VI. (1432),³ by Johanna, widow of Thomas de Bentley, of Tideswell, to John Stafford, of Eyam, and Margaret his wife, daughter and heir of Roger de Roland, and to John their son, of lands which formerly belonged to Richard Martyn, Chaplain, uncle to the said Johanna, in Roland, Calvor, and Eyam Clyff. These same lands were, in 1431, granted to Richard Pygot and Robert Stafford on condition that they enfeoffed the said John Stafford and Margaret, his wife, and their heirs in the same.⁴ His name appears among the special Conservators of the Peace, which had been chosen by the Commissioners in the county, under an enactment made 12 Henry VI. (1433),⁵ "for the better keeping of the peace."

Among the records of this family in the possession of the writer is an interesting document, dated 1444, which is a grant by the prior and convent of the Carmelites at Doncaster to

¹ *Wolley*, vii., 59.

² No. XXXVII. There are four releases at Hassop from the Penystons of land at Roland to John and Margaret, bearing the same date.

³ *Wolley*, vii., 57.

⁴ See page 279.

⁵ *Glover's History of Derbyshire*, vol. i., p. 61.

John Stafford, *generosus* of Eyam, and to Margaret, his wife, and their children, of a mass and three collects to be sung for them on the feasts of the Annunciation, Trinity, and All Saints', for ever as an acknowledgment that they have received "from John Stafford of Eyam, in the Peak," a sum of money for the repair of their house and redemption of their jewels pledged on account of their intolerable debt. Certain penalties were to be imposed should the priest neglect this duty.¹ This document, which is in Latin, is dated at Stafford at a general convocation on the feast of St. Zacchæus, 15th March, 1444, and bears the remains of the seal of the prior and convent. On the back of the parchment, in English, is a long statement by John de Stafford to the effect that he imposes upon his heirs of the manors of Roland and Calver for ever, certain taxes and rents and wax candles to the prior of Newstead, and for the use of Eyam Church, for which he granted them a full part of a mass performed in the White Friars at Doncaster, and "yf thay do not," he adds, "I graunt hem no part bot and he be a gudman he wyll full fayn for hys saule sake and I pray hem thus be way of conciens for the land standys tailed."

By the deed² of 11 Henry VI. (1432), quoted before, it would seem that John was the eldest of his sons, and was alive on the 24th June, 1445, which is the date of a "Release by John Stafford, of Eyam, and Margaret, his wife, to John Stafford, their son, of lands in Roland, Calver, and Eyam Clyff, otherwise Midilton Clyf in Eyam, which lands he holds conjointly with Robert Stafford."³ After this date there is no evidence to be found relating either to father or son. In 1465 there is proof that John Stafford, the father, was dead, and it is to be presumed that John Stafford, the son, was likewise dead, as the 4th of November, 5 Edward IV. (1465),⁴ is the date of "a grant by Dame Margaret Stafford, widow of John Stafford, Esquier, to Richard, their son and heir, of lands in Eyam Cliff, *alias*

¹ No. XLII.

² *Wolley*, vii., 57, see page 283.

³ *Wolley*, vii., 56.

⁴ *Wolley*, vii., 55.

Midleton Clyff, and five marks annuity out of the Manor of Roland, with a proviso for the cessation of the annuity and provision for the unmarried daughters of the grantor at the discretion of Thomas Foljambe, Esquier."

John Stafford, therefore, never lived to succeed his elder brother in the paternal estates, but about the year 1465 died, having had issue by Margaret, his wife—

1. John, who probably died in his father's lifetime.
2. Richard, his heir, of whom presently.
3. Nicholas.

IX.—RICHARD STAFFORD presumably succeeded to the Roland estates on the death of his father, and to the Lynford and Stafford estates on the death of his uncle Robert. The exact dates are uncertain. He married Agnes, daughter of Roger Eyre, of Holm Hall. The first evidence of any independent action on his part lies in two deeds executed at Roland on the 20th October, 21 Edward IV. (1481).¹ Both are grants of land in Roland—one "by Robert Mockson, Chaplain, and Richard Cobyn to Richard Stafford, son and heir of Lady Margaret Stafford, and Agnes his wife, daughter of Roger Eyre, sen., gent.;" and the other by "Richard Stafford, son and heir of Margaret Stafford, widow to Robert Mockson, and Richard Cobyn." The next² is dated 2 Richard III. (1484), and is "a release by Thos. Trote, son and heir of John Trote, late of Folowe, to Richard Stafford, kinsman and heir of Robert Stafford, late of Eyam, of a messuage and five roods of land in Foolow, lying between a messuage belonging to the said Richard and that lately belonging to Richard Staden, which John Trote had of the feoffment of the said Robert Stafford."

The next evidence is in a deed which apparently was drawn up and executed by Richard, mainly for the purpose of ensuring a maintenance for his two natural children. It is evidently made in exercise of a power reserved in a previous³—probably a marriage—settlement, reserving the right to charge his estates to a limited extent, so that he might make provision for all

¹ *Haddon Charters.*

² No. LII.

³ Some Stafford and Bradshawe Deeds were destroyed by a fire early in the nineteenth century, possibly this one perished then.

younger children, for the original settlement would, of course, entail the whole property upon the eldest son in tail. Hence the latter's name is not mentioned, as he was already amply provided for and did not come within the power. That it should be exercised to include illegitimate children is unusual, and suggests that the wording of the power was in general terms instead of the usual limitation in favour of younger children. The document alluded to is a declaration¹ by "Richard Stafford son and heir of John Stafford of Eyam of the uses of an enfeoffment made 20 Oct: 6 Henry VII. (1490) by him in trust to Robert Eyre of Padeley jun^r., Philip Eyre, Parson of Ashover, Roger Eyre of Holme, Nicholas Stafford his brother, and Roger Eyre of Plumley, of lands in Eyam, Middleton, Calver, Roland, Youlgreve, Tideswell, Longsdon, Hucklow, Leam and Bakewell—for certain purposes—namely, that he should enjoy the revenue of the said lands during his life, and after his decease that his wife should have her proper dower, together with her jointure, and that certain moneys should be paid to the use of his bastard son Thomas, and his bastard daughter Margaret, and that his legitimate son John should have 'for the term of his life an estate of landes and tenements to the yerely value of four marks over all charges and reprises in Calver; the remainder thereof after his decease to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and in default to his right heirs.'" Further, that ten marks should be taken yearly till a sum of £40 had been made up to provide for those of his daughters lawfully begotten who should marry. If all his daughters died unmarried, then ten marks of that £40 was to be paid to his two natural children, and the residue to his brother Nicholas. This deed furnishes almost the only information obtainable concerning Richard and his children. No daughter is mentioned by name. No son but John. It is obvious, however, that John could not have been his only legitimate son. It has been shown above the reason why his heir is not mentioned, nor is it possible that he

¹ *Wolley*, vii., 48. A duplicate of this is among the Hassop deeds.

would have left his only son and heir in the position shown in that deed—even though he might have been a spendthrift—entirely dependent on the trustees of his father's estate for an annual income of only four marks (£2 13s. 4d.), chargeable, too, on the lands in Calver alone, one small portion only of his large estates. It will be noticed, that after settling the whole revenue proceeding from these estates on himself Richard settled "the remainder"—all his real estate—subject to certain charges, on his heir-at-law, and that he provided for John after the same manner as his daughters. John, then, certainly could not have been his heir-at-law. Thirty years afterwards all the estates hitherto owned by the Staffords were in the possession of "Humphry Stafford, armiger," and from him they were transmitted to his descendants. Who was Humphry? The manuscript pedigrees contained in *Add. MSS.* 6,675, p. 259, and in the *Wolley MSS. Add.* 6,671, p. 120, in the British Museum, represent him as the son of John and grandson of Richard. Where is the proof of this statement? Is it not far more probable that *he* was the heir-at-law alluded to above, the son and heir of Richard and brother to John, as is suggested by Vincent in his pedigree of the family among the collections in the Heralds' College? The dates would admit of this.

X.—HUMPHRY STAFFORD was certainly in possession of the ancestral estates eventually, but he seems to have been forced to take legal proceedings to obtain the Ryley estate, so often mentioned in this history, probably the same land granted in 1445 by Nicholas Martyn to Robert Stafford, for in 11 Henry VIII. (1520)¹ Richard Sutton and John Porte, Esquires, were appointed as arbitrators in a dispute between Humphry Stafford, Esquire, and Ralph Martyn, of Wynster, respecting the right to a messuage, two oxgangs, and one rood of land called Rylye, in Eyam, with the result that Humphry Stafford was judged to be the rightful owner, and Ralph Martyn was ordered not only to deliver up to Humphry all the evidences and muniments which

¹ *Wolley*, vii., 49. See pages 279 and 280 for the account of Riley.

concerned the land in dispute, but also, at his own expense, to provide the necessary legal documents to establish the right of Humphry and his heirs to the land in dispute.

The following is eighteen years later, when Humphry appears in the light of a family man: a release and quitclaim¹ by Thomas Bagshaw, of Eyam, and Humphry, his son and heir, to Humphry Stafford, of Eyam, armiger, and his three sons, Humphry Stafford, Roland, and Anthony Stafford, of all rights, etc. It is dated 22nd October, 30 Henry VIII. (1538). Four years later, namely, 1 March, 33 Henry VIII. (1542),² a lease was granted by him to one Hew Sheldon of a messuage and lands in Monyash, which would be undoubtedly a portion of his inheritance from the Lynfords. His great grandfather, the first Stafford who inherited the Lynford estate, had endowed St. Mary's Chantry in this place with certain lands,³ and this is the reason, doubtless, why Humphry is part patron, as is shown in the Chantry Roll drawn up in the reign of Henry VIII., which mentions a chantry founded at Monyash by Nicholas and John Congson, of which the Earl of Shrewsbury and Humphry Stafford, Esquier, were then patrons.⁴

In 2 Edward VI. (1548),⁵ Humphry Stafford, Esquier, senior, of Eyam, made a provision for "his younger son Roland Stafford" by a grant of certain lands in Roland. Rent a red rose. Not ten years later both he and his eldest son Humphry were dead.⁶ He married Anne, whose identity has not been discovered. She died in 1560, as will be seen below, having had issue—

1. Humphry, died before 1556-7.
2. Roland, died 1556-7.
3. Anthony, probably died young.
4. Dorothy, married⁷ Ralph Blackwall.

¹ No. LIII.

² *Wolley*, vii., 47.

³ Page 277.

⁴ Cox's *Derbyshire Churches*, vol. ii., p. 107; also vol. xxix., p. 8, of this *Journal*.

⁵ *Haddon Charters*, a duplicate of which is at Hassop.

⁶ *Vide* Roland Stafford's Will.

⁷ Cox's *Derbyshire Churches*, vol. ii., p. 118.

XI.—Humphry Stafford, jun., evidently succeeded his father, as is shown in his brother's will, but could have enjoyed his possessions but a very short time. He married Lucy, the daughter of Edward Eyre,¹ of Holme Hall, near Chesterfield. His grandmother had been a member of the same family, and thus he and his wife were second cousins once removed. His will has not been discovered, but as will be seen by that of his brother quoted below, he left all his estates to his wife in trust for his five daughters till the youngest reached the age of sixteen. His wife, however, did not live to complete the trust, but bequeathed it to her brother-in-law, Roland, who in his turn died, leaving the trust to his mother, who died three or four years afterwards, leaving, as will be seen in her will, four grandchildren, co-heiresses to the immense wealth—valued, says Wood,² at one hundred thousand pounds—left by her son Humphry. The following are abstracts of the two wills alluded to:—

Will of Roland Stafford,
of Eyam, Co. Derby.
Dated 18 Oct: 1556.

Proved 16th January, 1556-7, at Lichfield.

To be buried in the Parish Church at Eyam. Whereas my late brother Humfrey Stafford, by his will, bequeathed to his late wife Luce, my sister in law, all his lands etc. which should descend to his five daughters, Ales, Gartered, Anne, Katryn, and Dorytye, until the youngest attains sixteen.

He, my said brother, also gave his said wife Lucy, all his goods, and appointed her sole Executrix of his will.

Whereas my sister, in her late widowhood, and by her will, bequeathed all her right to the above bequests, to me her brother-in-law, Rowland Stafford.

Executors; Otewell Alen, George Blackwall, and John Fitzherbert, and give to them the guardianship of the said Alice, Gartered, Anne, Katherine, and Doryty.

And whereas, my said brother Humfrey in his lifetime, did give to Robert Wylcockson of the Grange, a house etc in Youlgrave, for x years, after the death of the widow, being then alive; and also my said sister, in her lifetime did assign the same. I have given unto my mother all my goods, as well real, as personal, conditional upon her paying all debts owing to my father by brother Humfrey and me.

¹ Hunter's *Familie Minorum Gentium*, vol. ii., p. 557.

² Wood's *History of Eyam*, p. 175.

I have a lease of the ground at Abney. I desire my said mother to leave the same to my servant John Haryson.

Witnesses; Sir Wm. Baker, clarke, Pars.n of Eyam; Sr W^m Fyldefend, Clark, Vicar of Tyddeswell; and John Haryson.

Proved by Ottewell Allen and Geo. Blackwall, power reserved to John Fitzherbert.

Will of Anne Stafford, widow.¹

Dated 5th June, 1560. Proved at Lichfield, 31st Aug., 1560.

To be buried in the Parish Church of Eyam—Out of her estate to be paid mortuary, and funeral expenses etc. Also "certain Debts for which John Harryson is bound to the Executors of my son Rowland Stafford, which my son dyd owe to the children of Raffe Blackwall." "To John Savage my son a yoke of my best oxen." Thirty wethers and 30 ewes are also left to him. To Alice Stafford, my daughter, my mare.

The legatees are numerous. Among them are John Haryson, Nycholas Woodruff and his wife, Sir John Nedham, John Syward, Robert and Katherine Marshall, Elizabeth Marshall and her daughter, William Merell (Meverell), Christopher and Joan Barlowe, Raffe Chattesworth, John Wade, Joan Turner. To her other servants, Roger Dunne, Edmond and John Dam, and Humphry Woodruffe, two sheep are left, and her "redde petycotte" to the wife of Humphrey Merell. To John Haryson "ye Rente and ye reste of the yeares which be unsayte of the Grange called Abneye." She leaves 20s. "for the Reparacion of the parryshe Church of Eame," and she ends the will with the following:—

"I gyve to Thomas Savage and Robert Eyar eyther of them foure markes. The rest of all my Goodes moveable and unmoveable not bequythed I geve them to my Chylden that ys to saye Alice Stafforde Gertrudde Anne and Katheryne Stafford whom I make my lawfull Executors, And forasmuch as my chylden be younge and not able to take and occupye their goodes to their proffett I hartelye desyre Thomas Savage and Robert Eyar to take their goodes and keep hyt untill thei be at full age and then to dystribute and equalye devyde hyt to my sayd chyldren which Thomas and Robert I make supervysors of thys my laste wyll to see hytt executed and performed etc."

The witnesses are John Nedham, curate, William Roland, Thos. Moslye, Philip Roland, and John Mynes.

The debts she names as owing are: "To the executors of

¹ *Adl. MSS.* 6,692, b, 258.

Raffe Blackwall xii^{li} Thos Mosslye iiij stryke wheat," and "These be ye dettes w^{ch} be owing to me Imprimis my Lord of Scroresburye¹ for hay xij^{li} John Wylkocson and Nycholas Wylson xx^{li}

"Admōn to Richard Snape Rector of Morton for the use of Alice, Gertrude, Anne, and Catherine, daughters and heiresses of Humphry Stafford."

It will be noticed that in the three years that had intervened between these two wills, Dorothy, the youngest daughter, had died, and Anne, the widow of Humphry Stafford, sen., had evidently had the care of her son Humphry's children since the death of their parents, for she speaks of her grandchildren as though they were her own. They must, too, have been quite young, for Francis Bradshaw, the future husband of the third daughter, was at this date only five years old.² Although she calls her eldest daughter Alice by her maiden name, she must have been already married, as she mentions her husband, John Savage, as her son. Thomas Savage, one of the supervisors of the will, was his father.

The four daughters of Humphry mentioned in the will were—

1. Alice, married John Savage, of Castleton, by whom she had seven sons and two daughters. She inherited lands in Eyam and elsewhere, which her grandson Humphry sold. Her husband died 1605. The family is believed to be now extinct.
2. Gertrude, married Rowland Eyre, of Hassop, by whom she had eight sons and four daughters. She inherited the manor of Rowland, which has never since then been alienated from the Hassop estate. The family became extinct in the direct line on the death of Dorothy, generally styled Lady Newburgh, 22nd November, 1853. Gertrude died in 1624, and lies buried with her husband in Longstone Church, where

¹ Francis Talbot, 8th Earl of Shrewsbury, who died this same year, 1560.

² Vol. xxv., p. 35, of this *Journal*.

there is a brass¹ to her memory with the arms of Eyre impaling Stafford.

3. Anne, of whom presently.
4. Katherine, married Rowland Morewood, of The Oaks, Bradfield, co. York, and by him had seven sons and eight daughters.² She brought to her husband estates at Middleton Bank, Eyam, and Riley, all of which were sold³ early in the nineteenth century to James Furness and others. She was buried in the chancel of Bradfield Church, 16th July, 1595, and her husband in the same place, 1st July, 1619. There is a brass⁴ in the same church to the memory of her son John Morewood, of the Oaks, and Grace (Hurst) his wife (both of whom died in 1647), on which are quartered the arms of Morewood and Stafford of Eyam.

5. Dorothy, died, a child, between 1556 and 1560.

The third daughter, Anne, was married about 4th May, 1565, to Francis Bradshawe,⁵ eldest son and heir of Godfrey Bradshawe, of Bradshaw, co. Derby. As the bridegroom was born 17th February, 1555-6,⁶ he was at that date barely ten years old, and his bride was probably not as old. She was then in the wardship of Robert Eyre, of Edale, who had received her from the guardianship of George, Earl of Shrewsbury.⁶

In 1568 a deed was executed⁷ to enable "Francis Bradshawe and his wife to peaceably enjoy a fourth part of the lands lately the inheritance of Humphry Stafford," and on the 10th September, 12 Elizabeth, 1569, an order was made by George, Earl of Shrewsbury, lord of the manor of Eyam, with respect to the lands which Francis had acquired with his wife. In *The Reliquary*, vol. x., p. 236, an account is quoted "from Francis

¹ Cox, vol. ii., p. 102.

² Hunter's *Familia Minorum Gentium*, vol. iii., p. 1062.

³ *Reliquary*, vol. ii., p. 222.

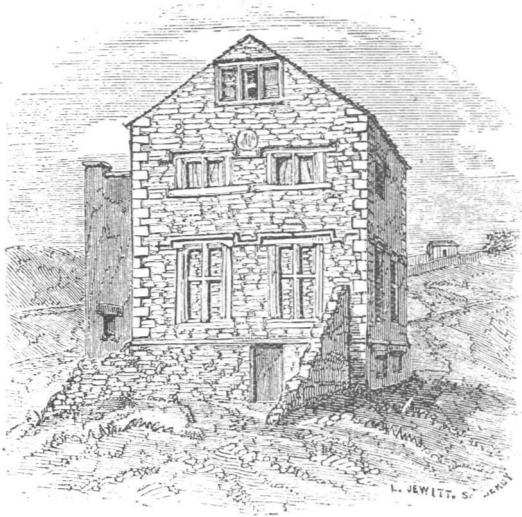
⁴ *Yorks. Arch. Journal*, vol. xv., pp. 6, 8.

⁵ Vol. xxv., p. 36, of this *Journal*.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Vol. xxv., p. 36, of this *Journal*.

Bradshaw of Eyam, gent., for £60 rec^d. from Rowland Eyre of Hassop, for his right in the Manor of Rowland, in right of Anne Bradsha his wife, one of the daughters and heirs of Humphry Stafford of Eyam, late deceased," which said lordship was by "partition allotted to Eyre and Gertrude his wife as the fourth part of the lands by John Manners, Esq.," who was at that time High Sheriff. A Receipt for Anne's share, dated 20th April, 20 Elizabeth, and signed by Francis Bradshawe, is among the Hassop Deeds.



The lands allotted to Anne Bradshaw included the whole of the townships of Bretton and Foolow, which, as it has been proved, can be traced back to the year 1400 as Stafford property, as well as many messuages and lands actually in Eyam, including the ancient mansion house situated on the slope of a hill just outside the village. This house was pulled down by her son and another erected, probably about the year 1630.¹ A very interesting account of this old hall, written in 1861 by Mr. Peter Furness, appears in *The Reliquary*, vol. ii., p. 219, from which the above illustration is taken. He says "it was intended to be hung

¹ Vol. xxv., p. 44, of this *Journal*. This Hall was sold by one of the representatives of the family in 1883.

with tapestry, which came to the place but was never put up, and that an old man who was born in this part of the hall informed him that when a child he saw the tapestry lie in a heap in a corner of the chamber, where it rotted away." Mr. Furness goes on to say that judging from the extent of the foundations, removed some years since, the hall of the Staffords must have been an extensive building. "The whole had a flat roof covered with lead. One room was said to have been very large, the beams ornamented with carvings of shields of arms, and a fine traceried window looking east. In the room was a large shovel board¹ of massy oak." The tradition that a very large establishment of servants was maintained by the Staffords is corroborated by a big baker's oven, destroyed some years ago; the slaughter-house, usually part of the outbuildings of a mansion house of any importance, however, being then in existence. Ann Stafford never left the hall of her forefathers, for there she and her husband took up their abode, and lived out their joint lives. When she died is unknown. She was, however, dead in 1606.² Seven sons and four daughters were born to her, and of these Francis, the eldest, High Sheriff in 1630, began his married life at Bradshaw Hall, near Chapel-en-le-Frith, and died there in 1635. His brother George, however, his eventual heir, from whom is descended the present representative of the Stafford and Bradshaw families, lived for the greater portion of his married life at Eyam Hall, dying there in June, 1646. The marriage of his eldest daughter is the first entry on that page of the Eyam registers which tells the pitiful tale of the first lives claimed by the plague, which drove his widow and her daughter out of Eyam in 1665. Mrs. Bradshawe then took refuge with her eldest son at Brampton, in Yorkshire, and from that time Eyam Hall ceased to be a residence of this family. In 1676 a member of the family of Wright of Longstone built the residence now known as "Eyam Hall," on a portion of their own estate, and "Eyam Old Hall," as it then became in legal documents, was left to its present solitary and mutilated existence.

¹ A long and heavy table of oak on which the game was played.

² Vol. xxv., p. 37, of this *Journal*.