

Tunsted of Tunsted.

By HENRY KIRKE, M.A., B.C.L.



IN 1372, when the manor and forest of the High Peak were granted to John, Duke of Lancaster, the special character of the forest as a hunting place for our kings had departed for ever. In former years the Peak Forest had been a favourite hunting-ground for our Plantagenet and Angevin kings, but before the date above quoted the forest proper had gradually diminished, and the oppressive forest laws were relaxed or fell into desuetude. As population increased, encroachments were made upon the Royal demesne. The foresters in fee who had obtained grants of land for preserving the king's rights were some of the first to encroach upon the forest boundaries, cutting down trees to build or enlarge their homesteads, enclosing convenient patches of land, killing off wild beasts and fencing in their flocks and herds. As did their masters so did the freemen, foresters, and verderers who dwelt around their lords' messuages.

In this manner there sprung up a number of local freeholders who gradually, as years rolled on, acquired wealth and position, distinguished themselves in the King's wars, obtained grants of arms, and took their place in the roll of the County Gentry of Derbyshire. To judge by the Herald's Visitations, Inquisitiones post-mortem, and other sources, there must have been a large number of such families residing within the High Peak Hundred during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; but nearly all of these have long since disappeared from the county, having sunk in the social scale or become absorbed in other families. Foljambe of Walton, Mellor of Mellor, Ashton of Castleton, Litton of

Litton, Eyre of Highlow, Buxton of Buxton, Bowden of Bowden, Meverell of Tideswell, Bagshaw of Ridge, Beard of Beard, Legh of Blackbrook, Radcliffe of Mellor, Shallcross of Shallcross, Bradbury of Ollersett, Savage of Castleton, Bradshaw of Bradshaw, Woodrope of Hope, Browne of Marsh, Ashenhurst of Beard, Needham of Thornsett, all these are gone. To this list may be added Tunsted of Tunsted, who were landowners in the High Peak Hundred from the thirteenth century, and were included in the list of gentlemen entitled to bear arms.

Tunsted is a hamlet in the parish of Wormhill, near to Hargate Wall, and therein a family of the same name resided from the beginning of the thirteenth to the end of the seventeenth century. The first of the name of whom we have any record was Robert de Tunsted, who bought some land at Greatorex, in the parish of Wormhill, between 1216 and 1221. From the rolls of the Peak Forest, we learn that Nicholas de Tunsted and Richard de Tunsted had built houses in the King's demesne of Peak Forest with the license of the bailiff in 1251-2. Robert de Tunsted and Ralph, his brother, were living in 1284-5, witnesses to a deed. One Henry de Tunsted was living in 1290, and is mentioned in a Pipe Roll of 1300 as one of the gentlemen living in the High Peak Hundred. Ralph de Tunsted was a juryman at the assizes held at Derby in 1330.

John Tunsted of Tunsted, gentleman, got into trouble in 1471, and was presented at the bailiff's Court for illegally rescuing cattle distrained, and he is also mentioned in the list of gentlemen so-called,¹ taken in 1443.

On the 6th November, 1574, Anthony Tunsted of Tunsted, and Joyce, his wife, and Robert, his son and heir-apparent, convey a message and lands at Hardwick Wall and Hill, in the parish of Wormhill, to William Bagshaw of Litton. The same Anthony Tunsted grants on the 31st May, 1578, to Robert Tunsted, Humphrey Tunsted, and John Tunsted, with others, certain messages and lands and tenements on trust for Wormhill

¹ I use the word "so-called" as this list contains the names of 3 blacksmiths, 2 braziers, 2 tailors, 1 skinner, 1 cooper, 1 glover, 1 currier, 1 farrier, 1 baker, and 1 plasterer, besides numerous other names of persons who are obviously of no social position at all.

Church. Under the same trust, Richard Tunsted was appointed a trustee of the same lands and houses on the 1st March, 1625, the trustees mentioned in the former deed being all dead.

On the death of Richard Tunsted, William Inge of Thorpe Constantine, co. Stafford, and William Inge the younger, were appointed trustees of the same lands and messuages on the 30th March, 1683.

In the Herald's Visitation of the County of Derby in 1611, there is a pedigree of Tunsted of Tunsted extending to five generations; and in the 1664 Visitation, a short pedigree of four generations. In the Derbyshire Visitation MS., edited by the Rev. H. Lawrence for this *Journal*,¹ there occurs this note: "Tunsted is determined in an heiress married to Ing of Thorp in Staffordshire (?) if Ing does not qter arms for her."

From these and other sources I have drawn up the accompanying pedigree, which I believe to be fairly correct. In the Visitation of 1664, Francis is entered as the son of John Tunsted, and grandson of Anthony, whereas in the 1611 Visitation Francis is the brother of John, which latter is, I believe, correct. Anthony, the eldest son of John Tunsted, who entered his pedigree in 1611, died without issue, and the younger son, Thomas, left an only daughter and heiress, who married William Inge of Thorp Constantine. Some of the descendants of the younger branch appear to have lived on at Tunsted or its immediate neighbourhood, as in 1665 we find James Tunsted acting as bailiff of the Peak Forest, a position which seems to have been hereditary in his family.

There are some interesting entries in the Calendar of State Papers (Domestic Series) relating to the later Tunsteds. "In July, 1584, secret confirmation addressed to Sir F. Walsingham of the proceedings of Anthony Tunsted, brother of Robert Tunsted, and brother-in-law of Geoffrey Foljambe, his correspondence with Papists in England and connection with the Conspirators for the liberation of the Scottish Queen." Again in January, 1592, "John Tunsted, who has lately, and since his

¹ Vol. xxxii.

father's death, been made bailiff of the High Peak, an office of much credit, by reason of the few justices inhabiting the place through its wildness, that he may command all the Hundred. There is no part of Derbyshire so fraught with recusants and seminaries; there are conjectured to be three hundred recusants. Tunsted's eldest brother is a fugitive and traitor of Anthony Babington's conspiracy, and Geoffrey Foljambe, who married his sister, is another. His younger brother coasts the country, gives intelligence to Papists beyond seas and land, and lives in the style of a gentleman. An uncle, Humphrey, is supposed to be a priest, and travels about secretly. George Bagshawe, of Marsh Green, Chapel-en-le-Frith, under-bailiff, and his sister, the widow Mellor, greatly suspected to have seminaries and dangerous people in her house."

These denunciations of the Tunsteds seem to have had no serious results—probably they had small foundation in fact—for in 1623 we find Francis Tunsted acting as bailiff of the Peak Forest, that "office of much credit." On April 25th, 1623, he writes to Lord Annandale, "Sends His Majesty four moor hens with eggs in them and three cocks. Moor fowls are so decayed that none will be left unless there be a proclamation restraining for three years all shooting of them North of the Trent. Requests the King's letter to Sir Richard Harpur, J.P. for Derbyshire, to assist him in taking an excellent setting dog belonging to two mean gentlemen of the County." In June of the same year Francis Tunsted receives the following official notice: "The King is displeased that his orders to Francis Tunsted for preservation of the game by taking up setting dogs and nets, &c., have not produced better effects. They are to enforce the laws for the game and assist Tunsted in punishment of offenders. If any gentlemen are guilty in these parts, one of the Secretaries of State is to be informed and the King will personally reprove the offenders, and would be glad to be informed of the faulty persons and the best remedies to be adopted. His Majesty will also be much gratified if, as moor game is decayed, the gentlemen will forbear hawking for a year."

In 1665, James Tunsted, who had succeeded his father, Francis, as bailiff, writes : " James Tunsted, the King's servant to the Council. For redress for contempt offered to His Majesty's Warrant appointing him to preserve the game in Derbyshire, and to take up setting dogs with guns, &c., disturbing thereof. On the 7th February, he took a gun from Richard Green, of Ashford, reading him the warrant, but Green said he cared neither for him nor his warrant, and assembling twenty men, took away the gun, and the petitioner narrowly escaped being murdered."

A younger branch of the Tunsteds of Tunsted settled at Stodhart, Chapel-en-le-Frith. This property belonged to the Ashtons, and it is probable, although not fully proved, that it came into the possession of the Tunsteds by the marriage of John Tunsted with Agnes Ashton.

Under date 15th April, 19 Henry VII., there is extant a declaration of Thomas Bowden of Bowden, yeoman, and Nicholas Kyrke of Chapel-en-le-Frith, yeoman, as to delivery of seisin of lands in Milton, *alias* Stodhart, by Agnes Ashton to Hugh Ashton, her son and heir, as to an arrangement made by said Hugh with his brothers and sisters as to Hockholme and Pottersfield, which were part of Hugh's inheritance under his late father's disposition.

The following extracts from deeds will throw some light upon the Tunsteds of Stodhart.¹

April 2nd and 3rd, Philip and Mary. Agnes Tunsted, widow of John Tunsted, of Chapel Milton, leaves to Robert Tunsted, her son and heir-apparent, a parcel of ground in Bowden Edge called Pottersfield, then in occupation of John Sheade during the life of the said Agnes. Rent 16/4.

April 22nd, 2nd and 3rd yeare of Philip and Mary. Indenture between Anthony Tunsted and Arnold Kyrke, yeomen, of divers lands in Bowden Edge and Bradshaw Edge, in the county of Derby, called Pottersfield for the sum of £26 13. 4. *His Testibus* George Parker, Ottewell Kyrke, Godfrey Thornhill, Arnold Kyrke, Henry Bradshawe of Bradshawe.

¹ I am indebted to Mr. William Braylesford Bunting for these extracts from Stodhart deeds.

Agnes Tunsted makes her brother-in-law, Anthony Tunsted, and her son-in-law, Arnold Kyrke, trustees of certain lands in Bowden Edge and Bradshaw Edge.

11 James I.—Fine. Charles Ashton *querens* and Henry Kyrke Junr., and Anne, his wife, defts., of 10 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, and 3 of pasture in Bowden Chapel.

10th June, 1647.—Robert Tunsted of Stodhart, yeoman, and Thomas Tunsted his son (1), and George Shirt of Bowden Head, yeoman, and Charles Ashton of Brownside, yeoman (2), Charles Lingard of Chapel Milton, yeoman, and Henry Kyrke of Courses (3).

13th July, 1657.—Anne Tunsted of Stodhart, widow, and Robert Tunsted, late of same, deceased (1), Robert, eldest son of said Robert, and Anne (2), recites. Anne is seised for life with remainder to Robert of certain fields, including Pottersfield. Lease for life.

18th July, 1657.—Robert Tunsted of Stodhart, yeoman, and John, his son of same (1). John Lingard of Hall, yeoman (2). Lease for a month of messuage and lands in occupation of Robert and Anne, his mother.

20th July, 1657.—Robert and John Tunsted, as in last, Charles Lingard of Chapel Milton, yeoman, Henry Kyrke of Courses, yeoman, Francis Gee of Eccles, yeoman, and Edward Lingard of Hall, yeoman. Deed making tenant to the precipe. In this deed the chief rent is 7/7, and is apportioned 1/11 to be paid to Robert Tunsted, 4/- to Charles Lingard, and 1/8 to Henry Kyrke; mentions Susanna, wife of Robert Tunsted.

6th May, 1662.—Robert Tunsted to John Downes of Brownside. Conveyance of lands in Stodhart subject to dower of Robert's wife, Susanna.

16th August, 1664.—Robert Tunsted to James Buckley of Gee Cross, Saddleworth Frith, co. York, Clothworker (who had married Martha, one of Robert's daughters). Conveyance of the rest of Robert Tunsted's land at Stodhart.

18th August, 1664.—Charles Lingard the elder, of Chapel Milton, yeoman, and Nicholas Lingard, one of his sons. In consideration of marriage of Nicholas shortly to be solemnised with

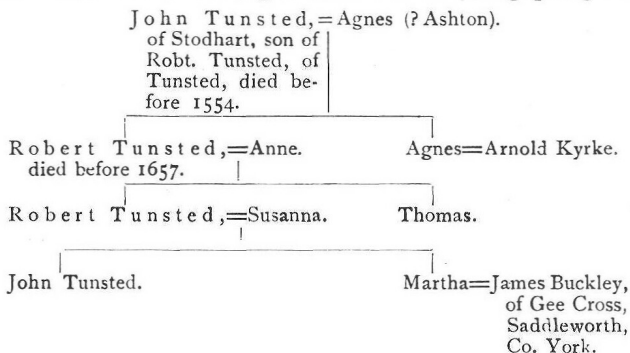
Anne, daughter of John Ashton, of Gostilow, yeoman, and £160, all his (Charles Lingard's) share of the ancient messuage at Stodhart, formerly the inheritance of Robert Tunsted, and purchased by said Charles from him and Henry Kyrke of Courses.

In the Duchy of Lancaster Rent Roll under "Stodhart" we find:—

				s.	d.
1509.—Hug. Ashton	...	...	...	10	1
1534.—John Tunsted	...	...	...	10	1
1561.—Robert Tunsted	...	...	...	10	1

From this it would appear that John Tunsted held the same lands under the Duchy as Hugo Ashton had previously done.

From these deeds we might draft the following pedigree:—



The arms of the Tunsteds were sable 3 falcons reclaimed argent.¹



¹ *Harl. M.S.* in British Museum, 1537.

John Tunsted, of Tunsted, living in 1377, =
held land at Tunsted under the Crown,
1411, 1431.

John Tunsted, of Tunsted, = Margaret, d. of Eyre
held lands at Litton, of Hope.
Longstone, Monsal,
Fairfield, and Fernylee,
1472.

Emma = Charles Bagshaw, of Ridge
Hall, Chapel-en-le-Frith,
married in 1458.

Robert Tunsted, of Tunsted = dau. of John Gell,
of Hopton.

Margaret = Nicholas Eyre,
of Hope.

Agnes = Richard Blackwall,
of Blackwall.

Anthony Tunsted, of Tunsted, = Joyce, d. of Males-
Bailliff of the Peak Forest. herbes, of Co. Wilts.

Humphrey.
Augustus.
Edmund.

Matthew,
Presbyter.

John Tunsted,
of Stodhart.

Margaret.

V

Robert Tunsted,
of Tunsted,
living 1611,
Bailliff of P.F.

John Tunsted, = Anne, dau. of Thos.
Hackett, of Han-
some Grange.

Thomas.
William.
Anthony.

Emma,
wife of Geoffrey
Foljambe, of Walton.

Francis Tunsted = Thomasina, dau. of
William Baxter, of
Shepwell, co. York.

Anthony Tunsted,
o.s.p.

Thomas Tunsted, =
of Tunsted.

Robert. John.

James,
Bailliff of Peak Forest.

Richard Tunsted,
o.s.p.

Elizabeth, = William Inge,
dau. and heir. | of Thorpe Constantine,
ob. 1662.

Francis Tunsted,
living 1664, æt 32

William Inge, = Frances, eldest daughter of
of Thorpe, Sir Thos. Gresley of
ob. 1690. Drakelow, Bart.