

XV. GELL

OF HOPTON

Gell of Carsington a° 1290
1359

Robert Gelle or Gyle, of Carsington
and Hopton in 22th of K^o. Ed III
a° 10 of King Ric^o II. 45 a° 2 of Hen IV
obit a° 10 of K^o. H. IV. Natus ante 1327

Four of his written documents were extant
at Hopton in A.D. 1800 =

De Hoptons of Hopton The Heiress, married Nicholas de Rollesley. She was called
Johanna D^o John De Hopton & sold her moiety of the Hopton estate to her nephew
Ralph Gell. Temp. Hen VI. Her ancestors lived at Hopton temp. King John. There seem to have been two
branches of the De Hoptons. Will de Hopton lived Temp. Ed II & H. III. married Rollesley whence descended Kniveton

1409 Robert Gelle of Hopton =
1430 Deeds at Hopton a° 1000
mentions him in a° 10 of
K^o Henry IV in 8^o of Hen. VI.

Guests ex. Fama 25 staff in
from the last of which Sir
Philip Gell bought their part
of Hopton.

John Gelle. Deeds at Hopton. =
a° 3 Hen VI & a° 11 Hen VI
1428 1433

Ellene mentioned
in a deed with her hus-
band & son.

Thomas
7th Ed IV

Rain
of Ible
28th of
Ed IV

John Gelle called
Junior 7. Ed IV
ob. ante 5. Nov^r
a° 12 Hen VI.
1522

Margaret
D^o Black
wall of Ste-
nie Grange
15th Hen VI. H. VI

Emmett
may. Hugh
Roper of
Ternhill
to Dorset



John Gell
living Nov^r
1545. H. VI
and 3. Dec^r

Godtfrid D to
Nic. Ashby of Chis-
linton Co. Dor^o Eg^o.
by Anne D^o Gell. to
Roger Folgermba. an
ancient family whose
tomb is at Dorchester

Ralph Gell 1496
aged 30 1/2 upwards
5. Nov 12. Hen VII. ob.
7. June buried in the
Gell chapel at Wicks
worth

Emmet D. to Hugh
Beresford of New-
ton Grange. ances-
tor to the Marquis
of Waterford.

Beresford



NOTE

The Gells are said to be descended from a Roman
Prefect, whose Tumulus being excavated near Hopton an Urn
was found with a rude inscription. The
vase & burnt bones were at Hopton
Black Pottery. V. BRIT. LEG. VII. Archaeologia.





DARLEY DALE COSTREL.

The Gells of Hopton.

By MRS. MEADE WALDO.



THE following article does not pretend to be a history of the Gell family, and there is little here, perhaps, that could not be collected from other sources.

The main object of the writer is to put on record the contents of a book, so far as it is concerned with the family of Gell, which was the work of Sir William Gell, the well-known traveller and antiquarian, who died in 1836. The writer of this article will not guarantee the correctness of the information therein contained. The book is beautifully illustrated with sketches and pedigrees, and illuminated with coats-of-arms (one at least of which is incorrectly coloured). These relate to a great degree to the family of Eyre of Highlow, and the different houses with which that family was allied by marriage, which is accounted for by the fact that the compiler was by birth an Eyre, for towards the latter end of the seventeenth century William Eyre of Highlow had married Katherine, elder sister of Sir Philip Gell, the last baronet, and their second son, John Gell Eyre, on the death of his uncle in 1719 without issue, succeeded to the Hopton estates, and assumed the name of Gell in lieu of Eyre.¹

¹ A thoroughly reliable pedigree of this family was compiled by I. N. Ince and John Sleight, the author of the *History of Leek*, and published in Jewitt's *Reliquary*, vol. xi., p. 225.

Two pages of Sir William Gell's manuscript are here produced in fac-simile. The title-page is beautifully hand-printed, and runs as follows:—

NE SCRIPTIS
 Deperditis
 PEREAT RERUM
 MEMORIA
 DILECTISSIMO FRATRI
 PHILIPPO GELL DE HOPTON
 ARMIGERO
 D. D. D.
 GUGIELMUS GELL
 EQUES
 MDCCCXXX

There are notes and additions to Sir W. Gell's work in different ink and handwriting. These are probably the work of his niece, Isabella, daughter of the late Philip Gell of Hopton. She married the late William Pole Thornhill of Stanton-in-Peak, and at her death in 1878 the ancient family of Gell of Hopton became extinct, even in the female line. The male line had ended, as has been said, in the person of Sir Philip Gell. The Hopton estates then descended to his nephew, John Gell Eyre, who took the name of Gell under his uncle Sir Philip's will, and received in 1731 a re-grant of the arms as granted in 1575 to Anthony Gell of Hopton: *Party per bend or and azure three mullets of six points, pierced and counterchanged.* Crest: *a greyhound statant sable collared or.*

Any matter in the following notes which is not contained in Sir W. Gell's manuscript is enclosed in brackets.

“The Gells are said to be descended from a Roman Prefect, whose Tumulus being excavated near Hopton, an Urn¹ was found, with a rude inscription:—

¹ Vol. vii., pp. 66 and 67 of this *Journal*.

" I. F. C.

GELI

PRÆ. III. COH

V : : BRIT. LEG.

The vase and burnt bones were at Hopton." ¹

" Gell of Carsington a^o 1290-1359.

" Robert² Gelle or Gyle of Carsington and Hopton in 44th of K^g. Ed. III. a^o 10 of King Ric^d. II. and a^o 2 of Hen. IV. obiit a^o 10 of K^g. H. IV. Natus ante 1327. Four of his written documents were extant at Hopton in A.D. 1800.³ He married an Heiress of the De Hoptons of Hopton.⁴ The Heiress of another branch married Nicholas de Rollesley. She was called Johanna D. to John de Hopton, and sold her moiety of the Hopton estate to her nephew Ralph Gell, *temp*. Hen. VI. Her ancestors lived at Hopton *temp*. King John. There seem to have been two branches of the de Hoptons. Will. de Hopton lived *temp*. Ed. II., and his daughter married Rollesley, whence descended Kniveton, Greatorex, Farne and Stuffin, from the last of which Sir Philip Gell bought their part of Hopton. [Greatorex and Farne or Fearn are still village names at Carsington.]

" 1409-1430 Ralph Gelle of Hopton son of Robert. Deeds at Hopton a^o 1800 mention him in a^o 10 of K^g. Henry IV. and 8th of Hen. VI.

" He was succeeded by John Gelle. Deeds at Hopton a^o 3 Hen. VI. 1425 and a^o 11 Hen. VI. 1433. He married Ellene . . . mentioned in a deed with her Husband and Son. [Of this marriage came several sons and a daughter] 1 Thomas, 7th of Edward IV. 2 Ralph of Ible 1 & 7 of Edward IV. 3 John Gelle called Junior 7 Edward IV. ob. ante 5 November a^o 12 King Henry VIII. 1522, and Emmote who married Hugh Roper of Turnditch [in this

¹ Vide *Archæologia*, vol. xii., p. 2.

² Lysons calls him Ralph. Cf. *Reliquary*, xi., 225.

³ Vide *Historical Commissioners' Report*.

⁴ A doubtful point.

county]. He was succeeded by his son John Gelle [called Junior, *vid supra*] married Margaret, D. to Blackwall of Steeple Grange [in the parish of Wirksworth, and by her had] John Gell who was living 15 November 14 of Henry VIII.—he had three daughters—and Ralph Gell, 1496, aged 30 and upwards 5 November 12 Hen. VIII. ob. 7 June¹ buried in the Gell chapel at Wirksworth. [He was twice married, first] to Godythe D. to Nic^s Ashby of Chellaston Co. Derb. Esq. by Anne D. & coh. to Roger Foljambe an ancient family whose tombs are at Bakewell.² Secondly, to Emma D. to Hugh Beresforde of Newton Grange ancestor to the Marquis of Waterford. [By his first wife, Ralph Gell had] Anthony Gell, Barrister of the Inner Temple, Bencher and Feodary of the County of Derby, ob. s.p. July 29, 1583. Founder of the School and Hospital [*i.e.*, Almshouses] at Wirksworth and Lord of the Manor of Carsington. [The first recorded grant of arms known of to the family of Gell of Hopton is that to Anthony Gell, 1575. He was succeeded by his brother] Thomas, aged 50 at the death of Anthony, and then unmarried, died November 11, 36th of Queen Elizabeth. He married Millicent D. to Sir Ralph Sacheverel of Stanton Juxta Pontem. She afterwards married John Curzon of Kedleston, and was mother to Sir John Curzon, ancestor to Lord Scarsdale.

“ Thomas Gell was succeeded by his son Sir John Gell, Knight and Baronet. Baptised at Carsington July 2, 1593. Created Baronet Jan. 29, 17 Charles I. He was Sheriff 1634. Colonel of two regiments of Cavalry for the Parliament, 1671. Beat the Earl of Northampton at the battle of Hopton Heath. [There can be no doubt that this battle took place at Hopton Heath, near Stafford. Nightingale quotes a letter from Sir William Brereton, who joined forces with Gell, and describes

¹ “ In 7 Eliz. (1564), died R. Gell, who was succeeded by his son Anthony.” (*Pilkington's Derbyshire*, vol. ii., p. 308.)

² ? Tideswell or Chesterfield. One tomb, that of Sir Godfrey, is extant at Bakewell.

XVI. GELL B



Radcliffe

1596 The Gell aged 50 at the death of Anthony ...

Millisent D. to Sir Ralph Sachverall of Stanton Justa Pentam ...



Sachverall

Sir J. Radcliffe of Ordsal, window of Sir John Stanhope of Elsworth ...

D. to

Sir John Gell Knight = Elizabeth D. to Sir Percival Willoughby ...

Elizabeth D. to Sir Percival Willoughby of Wollaton ...



Willoughby

Sir John Gell Bart. = Katherine D. to John Bucker Esq. of Donnington ...

Katherine D. to John Bucker Esq. of Donnington ...



Wiggley



Wiggley

Sir Philip Gell Bart. = Eliz. D. to Sir John Fagg of Whiston in Sussex. Bart.

Eliz. D. to Sir John Fagg of Whiston in Sussex. Bart.

Katherine = William Eyre Esq. 2nd son of Eyre of Highlow Esq. Sheriff in 1691.

William Eyre Esq. 2nd son of Eyre of Highlow Esq. Sheriff in 1691.



John Gell Eyre = Isabella Sister & Co. to James, last Lord Darcy of Naivan ...

Isabella Sister & Co. to James, last Lord Darcy of Naivan ...



Sorosby

Philip Gell Esq. of Hopton Sheriff in 1757. Educated at the Academy of Turin ...

Dorothy D. Co. of William Milnes of Aidercar Park Esq. by an Heiress of Sorosby.



Milnes

plainly how he got there. He calls the place 'Salt' Heath. Salt is a village near the heath. The battle was fought on March 19th, 1643, and the Earl of Northampton was killed. It appears that Sir John Gell was wounded upon this occasion, but not seriously. Cherry, in *Historical Studies*, quotes a pamphlet 'of great rarity' in the British Museum. It is by a Royalist, and mentions the fact. 'Gell,' he says, 'is certainly hurt, but not killed. He is not too forward to come into danger!'¹

"Succeeded Lord Brooke at Lichfield, buried December 4, 1671 [at Wirksworth]. Sir John Gell was twice married. First to Elizabeth D. to Sir Percival Willoughby of Wollaton, co. Notts, ancestor of Lord Middleton. She was buried Oct. 26, 1644. Secondly to a daughter of Sir J. Radcliffe of Ordsal, widow of Sir J. Stanhope of Elvaston, ancestor of Lord Harrington.

"Sir John had a brother Thomas, born 1594. Called to the bar of Inner Temple 1620. Lt.-Col. in the Civil Wars. Recorder of Derby, and M.P. 1640. Died April 3, 1657, buried at Wirksworth. Many letters at Hopton from the Countess of Rutland call him 'Sweet Tom Gell.'

"Sir John Gell was succeeded by his son John, second baronet, æt. 54 in 1662. Knight in Parliament for the county Sept. 3, 1654, also Sept. 7, 1656, and Jan. 27, 1658. Sheriff 1673. He died in London, Feb. 8, 1688, while attending Parliament. His² body brought to Wirksworth by Norroy King at Arms and . . . Herald. This Sir John [second baronet] had one brother William, buried Nov. 16, 1642, and four sisters, Millicent nupt Richard Radcliffe Esq., Bridget nupt Wigley of Wigwell Esq., Eleanor nupt Ant. Alsop of Alsop in the Dale Esq., and Elizabeth nupt Henry Wigfal of Renishaw Esq. Sir John was succeeded by his second son, Philip. Baptised 6 July 1651, 4 Car. II., at Carsington.

¹ This information was given to the writer by Mr. W. Morton Philips.

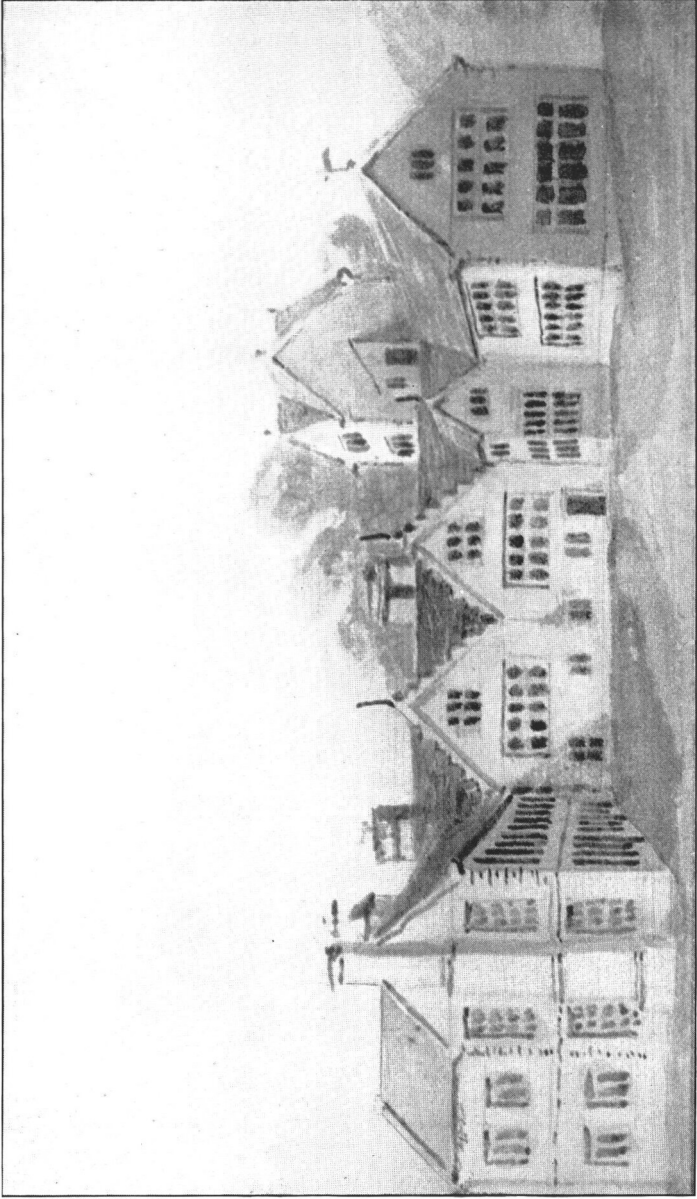
² *Vide* his coffin plate, Jewett's *Reliquary*, xi., 134.

The eldest son, John, was born April 16, 1649. At Oxford July 3, 1666. Went into . . . at Gray's Inn, Michaelmas term 1669. Called to the bar March, 1673. He died unmarried. Buried at Wirksworth 17 September, 1674.

“ Philip then became heir. He went into Turkey and brought home Arabian horses, of which he had a great stud. Was taken prisoner by the Algerines. Knight of the Shire in Parliament 1st of William and Mary. He married Elizabeth D. to Sir John Fagg of Whiston in Sussex Bart. She was buried June 11, 1716. Sir Philip died s.p. July 15, 1719. Buried at Wirksworth. He founded the Almshouse at Hopton, for two persons of Hopton and the same of Carsington, charging lands with 2/- per week for each of them. There was another brother, Thomas, born March 12, 1653. Buried at Wirksworth July 11, 1654. Sir Philip's 4th brother Francis, baptised 1659, had two wives, and one daughter Temperance, who obiit s.p.

“ Sir Philip had three sisters, Elizabeth died November 4, 1704, and Temperance baptised 1656, buried at Wirksworth 1730. He was succeeded by his sister Katharine, who married William Eyre of Highlow Esq., Sheriff in 1691, 4th William and Mary.

“ Katharine's second son, John Gell Eyre, took the name of Gell by the will of Sir Philip [his uncle, and obtained a fresh re-grant in 1731 of the arms granted first to Anthony Gell, 1575, and subsequently confirmed to his nephew, Sir John, in the Visitation of 1621, and thus passed to his son, Sir John, and his grandson, Sir Philip, in whom the male line, with the baronetcy, became extinct]. He succeeded to the Hopton estates. Buried at Wirksworth February 24, 1739. A studious and learned person who collected the library at Hopton. He married Isabella, sister and co-heir to James last Lord Darcy of Naivan, Daughter of Judge Jessop of Broomhall co. York, by an heiress of Lord Darcy. Buried July 21, 1738, at Wirksworth.

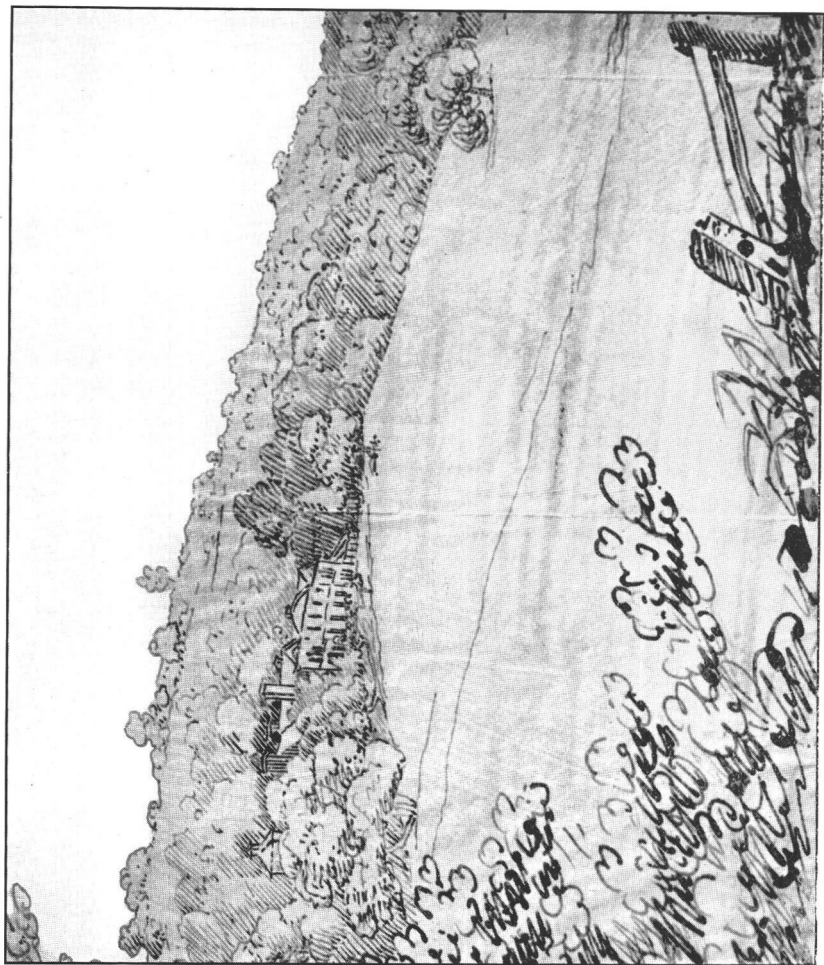


HOPTON HALL, 1800.

“ Mr. John Gell Eyre Gell was succeeded by his son Philip Gell of Hopton, born 1722 or 3. Sheriff in 1755. Educated at the Academy of Turin. Accompanied his relative the Earl of Holderness on his Embassy to Holland. He married Dorothy, daughter and co-heir of William Milnes, Esq., of Aldercar Park, by an heiress of Soresby, and died 5 Augt. 1795. æt 72. Mr. Gell had a brother John. He entered the navy and rose to the rank of Admiral. There were five sisters—Temperance, buried at Wirksworth, 1783, Catharina, Isabella, Mary, and Anna, married to Hugo Meynell of Bradley, the great foxhunter, by whom she had a son Godfrey. Mr. Gell was succeeded by his son Philip. Born July 9, 1775. M.P. in several Parliaments. Sheriff in 1822. He married Georgiana daughter and coh. to . . . Nicholas Esq. of Alcannings. The family had married an heiress of Hubert descended from Nicholas. The second son William was born March 25, 1777. He was knighted May 11, 1814, and was M.A., F.R.S., and F.S.A. [The author of several historical and archæological works, Sir William was also chamberlain to H.M. Queen Caroline. He died s.p. February 4th, 1836, and was buried in the English cemetery at Naples.] There was also a daughter Mary, born 1778.

“ Mr. Gell had a son John Nicholas [born 4th February, 1805. He married at Milan, 183—, Guiseppina Grassi of Genoa, who died 187—. John Nicholas Gell died s.p. August, 1836]. Also a daughter Isabella nupt William Thornhill of Stanton [in Peak] Esq. [Between 1800 and 1803 Mr. Gell altered and practically rebuilt Hopton Hall. The writer's grandmother, Mrs. Chandos-Pole, often heard him say that he had been his own architect, and had lived to find out that he could not have had a worse one! He died in 1842, and on the death of Mrs. Thornhill, s.p. in 1878, the ancient family of Gell of Hopton became extinct also in the female line. The Hopton estates passed, by the will of Philip Gell,

to Henry Chandos-Pole, second son of the late Edward Sacheverell Chandos-Pole of Radburne, in this county, ob. 1863. He took the name and arms of Gell by Sign Manual in 1863, receiving a re-grant of the arms with a badge of difference. On Mr. Chandos-Pole-Gell's death in 1902, he was succeeded by his son, Harry Anthony Chandos-Pole-Gell, born 1872, the present owner.]”



Signed, M. Zell.

HOPTON HALL, 1803.