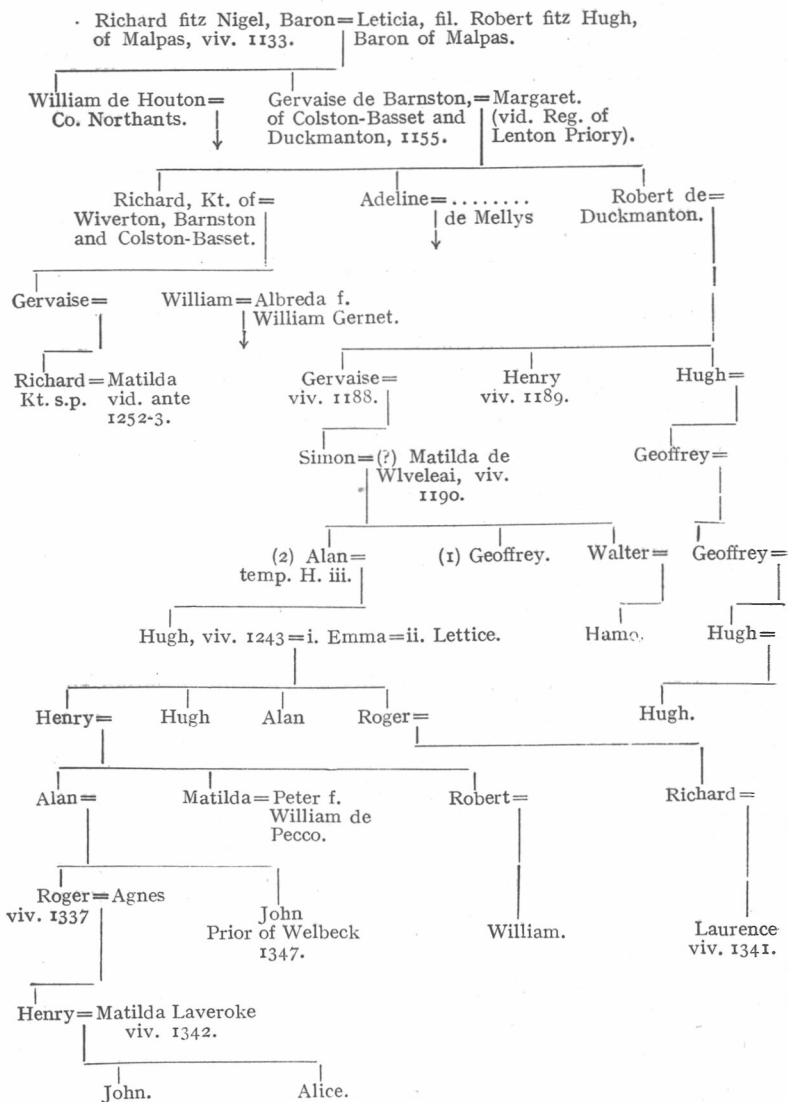


PEDIGREE OF DUCKMANTON.



The Family of Duckmanton.

By REV. S. P. H. STATHAM.

IN the Domesday the manor of Duckmanton was held *in capite* by Ralph f. Hubert, with Geoffrey as tenant.¹ We are able to identify this tenant with almost absolute certainty. He was that Geoffrey Ridel, "Justiciarius totius Angliae," who perished in the "White Ship" in 1120. In the *Descriptive Catalogue of Derbyshire Charters*, compiled by Isaac Jeayes and published in 1906, there is one numbered 1078 which contains the reddition of the manor of Duckmanton to one Gervaise fitz Richard by Geoffrey Ridel. This Geoffrey was the son of Richard Bassett (ob. 1154) and Matilda, the daughter and heir of Geoffrey Ridel (ob. 1120) by his wife Geva, daughter of Hugh, Earl of Chester. The descent of the manor is perfectly clear to 1155-60. The brothers of the Geoffrey Ridel who makes the reddition, Ralph and William Bassett, both sign this charter as witnesses. From the tenor of the deed it is clear that a certain William fitz Richard had, at some anterior period, received a grant of Duckmanton from its then mesne lord. Wishing to make it a part of his brother Gervaise's heritage he surrenders it to Geoffrey Ridel with a view to his regranting it to his brother. This Geoffrey Ridel agrees to do and in his court enfeoffs Gervaise fitz Richard therewith and receives his homage for it. Gervaise already held the "terra de Colston" (Basset) in Notts. from Ralph Basset, and Duckmanton and Colston are both henceforward to be held of Geoffrey Ridel for one knight's fee. The reason for the grant is not stated; but it is at

¹ See this vol. p. 182.

least possible that Gervaise's wife, Margaret, may have been some connection of the Basset family.

Gervaise gave to the Priory of Lenton two bovates of land in Colston with the men who held them "by the consent of his faithful wife Margaret." Richard, his son and heir, confirmed this gift of his father's and added two bovates in Wiverton. This latter grant was made at Nottingham in 1178-9 before the King's Justices, and was witnessed amongst others by Richard's son Gervaise.¹

Richard, the father of William and Gervaise, can be identified with Richard fitz Nigel, brother of William fitz Nigel of Halton, co. Chester, and son of Nigel, viscount of the Cotentin in the time of William I. He held the manor of Annesley in the county of Notts., and several other manors in the same county chiefly under Roger de Busli. According to Mr. J. Pym Yeatman, who is, however, not always reliable, Roger de Busli was a uterine brother of Hugh, Earl of Chester, and, therefore a relative of Richard fitz Nigel. On the death of the latter, which occurred about 1138, the manors of Barnston and Wiverton came to Gervaise, in addition to Colston-Basset and Duckmanton. His son Richard succeeded him; but was not known as Richard de Barnston but as Richard de Wiverton, where his capital messuage was evidently situated. The soc of Wiverton was in Colston-Basset and some of his land was probably included in the grant of that manor to his father. I am not sure of this, however, because one of his descendants, another Richard, was found in 1252-3 to have held twenty-four bovates of land in Wiverton and Barnston for one fifth of a Knight's fee, and 16 bovates of land in Wiverton and Colston of Ralph Lord Basset, and seven bovates in Wiverton of Henry de Bek.² The mesne lordship of this land eventually came into the hands of the

¹ Thoroton's *Notts.*, i. 163., from the Registers of Lenton.

² I. p. m. 37 Hen. iii.

Chaworth family.¹ Richard de Wiverton was a donor of three bovates of land in Wiverton and Barnston to Thurgarton Priory,² and conveyed his whole land of Duckmanton to the Abbey of Welbeck for 49 silver marks to be paid to him by Geoffrey fitz Peter.³

Robert, the brother of Sir Richard de Wiverton, received Duckmanton as his inheritance on the death of his father Gervaise, and was succeeded by his son Gervaise II, who as Gervaise fitz Robert witnessed the deed of Ivo, Archdeacon of Derby addressed to the chapter of Scarvesdale, instituting the Abbot and Canons of Welbeck to the church of St. Peter, Duckmanton, on the presentation of Geoffrey fitz Peter. This deed is dated 1177-8.⁴ Gervaise apparently had two brothers, Henry mentioned in the Pipe Roll for 35 Henry II and 1 Richard I, and Hugh, who was the ancestor of a line which can be traced for five generations.⁵

Gervaise was succeeded by his son Simon, whose wife was presumably Matilda de Wiveleia.⁶ Geoffrey their eldest son appears⁷ to have died without children and Duckmanton was, therefore, next held by his brother Alan.⁸ Hugh his son inherited, his wife's name being Emme. He exchanged certain lands with the Abbot of Welbeck⁹ and in 1243 received from William the Abbot of the said Abbey for himself and his wife full participation in all spiritual goods, with full and solemn service at their decease, and the enrolment of their names in the martyrology of the Abbey in return for their benefactions thereto and especially for the remission of a bond for five marks.¹⁰

¹ Thoroton, i. 197.

² Reg. Thurgarton f. 141 (Thor. i. 206).

³ Dugd. Monast. 166 and Thor. i. 163.

⁴ Jeayes, Derb., Chart. 1080.

⁵ *Ibid.* 702, 1088-90, 2325 and 2326.

⁶ *Ibid.* 1083.

⁷ *Ibid.* 1085.

⁸ *Ibid.* 1086, 1087.

⁹ *Ibid.* 1086.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 1087.

He had a fee in Brampton as well as Duckmanton for he released the Hospital of St. Leonard for Lepers at Chesterfield of homages, wards, reliefs, etc., for lands granted to them by Ascer de Tapton "in his fee of Brampton."¹ His name occurs in the Pipe Roll for 27 Henry III (1242-3) under the New Oblations, and again in 1261-2, where his wife's name is given as Lettice.

He was succeeded by his son Henry whose daughter was married to William son of Peter de Pecco.² Henry appears to have had three brothers, Hugh,³ Alan⁴ and Roger whose son Richard and grandson Laurence appear in Jeayes' charters numbered 1096-1100 and 1105. Henry described as a free tenant of Welbeck.⁵ Alan was presumably the next holder of the manor, whose brother had a son living in 1333.⁶ Roger followed his father in possession of Duckmanton. John de Whetteberg (Weyteburgh) in 1337 grants to Roger son of Alan de Duckmanton a messuage and a moiety of the lands which he had by grant from William Daniel in Tibshelf and in 1347 grants the same land in tail upon Roger and his wife Agnes.⁷ In 1342 John de Whittington grants these lands to Matilda de Duckmanton on the death of Agnes widow of Roger.⁸ Roger's brother John was Prior of Welbeck, living in 1292 and 1347.⁹

Henry succeeded his father Roger about 1338. He married Matilda Laveroke, who in 1311 made a grant of two bovates of land and a messuage in Duckmanton to Welbeck Abbey.¹⁰ In the deed referred to above (J. 1106),

¹ *Ibid.* 410.

² *Ibid.* 1091.

³ *Ibid.* 702.

⁴ *Ibid.* 1893.

⁵ Feud. Hist. Derb. i. 480.

⁶ Jeayes, 2290.

⁷ *Ibid.* 2328, 2331.

⁸ *Ibid.* 1106.

⁹ *Ibid.* 1093, 2330, 2331.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 1905.

she and her husband receive in tail, with reversion to their children John and Alice, the lands held by his mother Agnes. There is a similar grant recorded in the *Feudal History of Derbyshire* (ii, 432), dated 1329, but the wife of Roger is there called Elizabeth.

The family appears to have died out in Duckmanton about the middle of the xiv century, and, although I have seen occasional mention of the name at later dates, it is one that has almost disappeared.
