

## The Heraldry of Willoughby.

By REV. HENRY LAWRANCE, M.A.

SINCE one branch of the Willoughbys was long settled at Risley, and examples of arms connected with families of this name are to be seen at Brackenfield, Breaston, Chesterfield and other places in the county, no excuse is made for placing before Derbyshire readers this brief account of the Willoughby heraldry.

The place-name Willoughby is a common one, and is met with in Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, but it is with the last two counties that we are particularly concerned. Each has more than one village of this name,<sup>1</sup> but the derivation is perhaps the same in every case. The termination *-by* is, of course, Scandinavian and signifies "a dwelling" or "village." The origin of the second element is not quite certain: it may be a personal name, or it may be derived from the Old English *Welig* or *Wilig* "a willow."<sup>2</sup>

From two places of this name, in different parts of the country, two important families derive their origin, and, by a singular coincidence, two of their principal lines became united through the marriage of an heiress in the sixteenth century, and are now represented by Lord Middleton.

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<sup>1</sup> Willoughby-on-the-wolds and Willoughby near Norwell in Nottinghamshire, Willoughby-on-the-marsh, Silk Willoughby, Scot Willoughby and West Willoughby, near Grantham, in Lincolnshire.

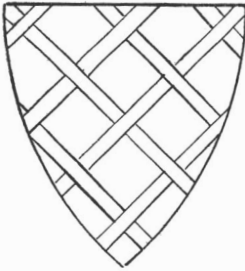
<sup>2</sup> The old English personal name Willech occurs twice in *Onomasticon Saxonicum*. Mr. Williamson, however, thinks the other derivation is more probable, and states that the early forms of the Nottinghamshire Willoughbys indicate this origin.

The Lincolnshire family takes its name from Willoughby-on-the-marsh, near Alford. To this family belonged Ralph de Willoughby, who was living in 1216 and married the co-heir of Serlo de Pleasley, co. Derby. Thus began the connection of the Willoughbys with Derbyshire, for Pleasley came to them by this marriage. The descent of the manor was clearly explained in the last volume of the *Journal*.<sup>1</sup>

In 1281 Robert Willoughby, son of Ralph named above, alienated Pleasley to Thomas Bek, bishop of St. David's the uncle of his daughter-in-law.<sup>2</sup> The earliest coat

associated with this family is *or fretty azure*. In the Roll of Caerlaverock<sup>3</sup> we read,

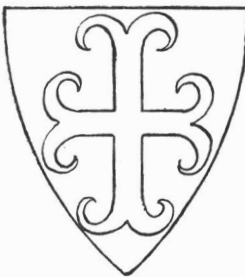
“ Robert de Wileby veus  
I fu en or de inde fretté.”



WILLOUGHBY OF  
WILLOUGHBY.

Spilsby, and niece of Anthony Bek the famous bishop of Durham. The surname Bek is derived from Bec in

Normandy and the family supplied no less than four bishops to the English church. Sir William Willoughby died in 1306 and on the death of the bishop of Durham in 1311 Sir Robert inherited a large part of his property, being summoned to parliament two years later as Lord Willoughby d'Eresby.



BEK OF ERESBY.

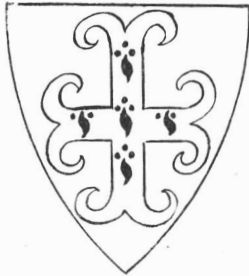
The arms of Bek, *gules a cross*

<sup>1</sup> N.S. i, 196. See also Mr. Statham's account in the present volume, where Serlo's pedigree is given in full.

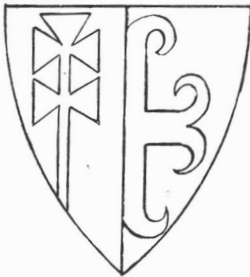
<sup>2</sup> *Journal*, xiii, 23.

<sup>3</sup> Ed. by Thos. Wright, 1864.

*moline argent*,<sup>1</sup> are derived from the French name *beque* given to an iron of that form, a beck or beak, said to come from the Latin *bicornis*; the word appears in Flemish as *begorie*.<sup>2</sup> The bishop of Durham, one of the greatest



ANTHONY BEK,  
Bishop of Durham.



PATRIARCH OF  
JERUSALEM.

soldiers of his age, differenced his family coat by bearing the cross ermine instead of argent.<sup>3</sup> To quote again the roll of Caerlaverock,

“Le noble eveske de Dureaume,  
Le plus vaillant clerk du roiaume,  
Voire voir de crestienté,  
Si vous en dirai verité,  
Mais je ne sai par queus outrages  
Dont uns plais fu entames,  
En Engleterre estoit remes  
Si ke en Escoce lors ne vent.  
Non porquant si bien li souvent  
Du roi, ke emprise la oia  
Cent e seisante homes a armes  
Vermeille e un fer de moleyne  
De ermine e envoia se ensegne.”<sup>4</sup>

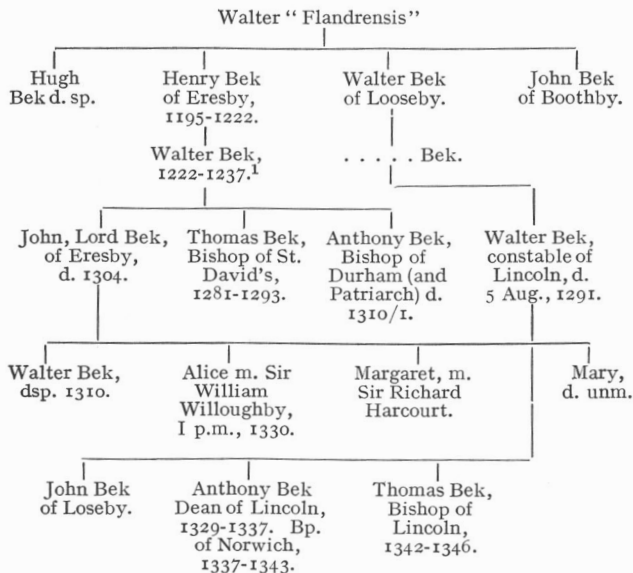
The following pedigree of Bek will show the relationship of the various persons mentioned in these notes.

<sup>1</sup> Given for Sir Walter Bek, Sir John's father, in *Charles's Roll* and *Jenyn's Ordinary*: for John Ld. Bek, 1297 (*Brit. Mus. Cat. of Seals*).

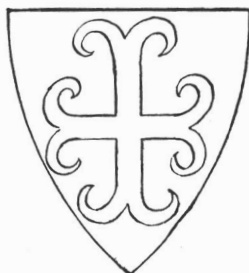
<sup>2</sup> *Eng. Dialect Dict.*

<sup>3</sup> This coat may be seen in stained glass in Skipwith Church, Yorks., and also at Howden, in the second instance impaled by the arms of the patriarchate of Jerusalem, a dignity conferred upon him by the pope in 1305. (Illustrated in colour *Y.A.S. Journal*, xxvi, 119). See the *Falkirk Roll* and *Parl. Roll* 15. “Le Euesque de Dureem e Pat'ark de goules a vn fer de molyn de ermyne.” It is only fair to say that at Howden no ermine spots are now visible, if they ever were present time has completely effaced them. Probably after he became the head of the family he used the undifferenced coat (*Harl. MS.*, 521).

<sup>4</sup> The circumstances of the quarrel between the Bishop and the King which commenced in this year are well-known. The dispute arose through the former claiming the right to appoint or remove the Prior of Durham at his pleasure.



THOMAS BEK,  
Bishop of St. David's.



BEK OF LOSEBY.

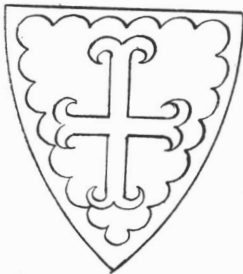
We have now to consider the shields in stained glass in Chesterfield Church.<sup>2</sup> They are four in number; one a mutilated shield of Wake, lords of Chesterfield: another showing the arms of England: a third those of Bek of Eresby: and the last the same with the colours reversed, *argent a cross moline gules*. As the Bek Shield is without ermine spots it is not likely to refer to the Bishop of Durham. It is quite probable that the unidentified coat belongs to the Loseby branch of the family. It

<sup>1</sup> Some pedigrees insert two generations, between Walter and John lord Bek. Pleadings in Assize roll 9 Ed. I (*Journal*, xviii, 105) sets forth the pedigree as here.

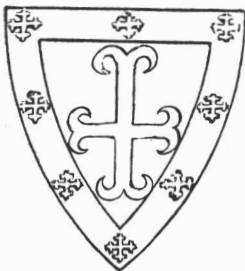
<sup>2</sup> *Derb. Arch. Journal*, xliiii, 62.

was not unusual for a younger son to difference his arms by reversing the colours. There is a well-known example in the case of the Nevills: The Nevills of Raby bore *gules a saltire argent*, whilst the Nevills of Hornby bore *argent a saltire gules*. The arms borne by the two bishops, who belonged to the Loseby branch, make this suggestion no less probable. Those of Anthony, bishop of Norwich are only known from his seal, and may well have been *argent a cross moline and a border engrailed gules*.<sup>1</sup> Thomas,

bishop of Lincoln, is said to have used the arms of Bek of Eresby differenced by *a border azure charged with eight cross-crosslets argent*,<sup>2</sup> It is far more likely that such a border would be added to a shield with a silver field than to one in which the field was gules. The question then arises why should the arms of the Loseby Beks be found at Chesterfield? I venture to suggest that it was for the following reason. As is well known the church of Chesterfield was in the patronage of the dean of Lincoln. Before his promotion to the see of Norwich Anthony Bek was closely connected with Lincoln. He became chancellor of the cathedral in 1316 and in 1320 was elected bishop, but the pope refused to confirm the election and Henry Burghersh was consecrated in his



ANTHONY BEK,  
Bishop of Norwich.

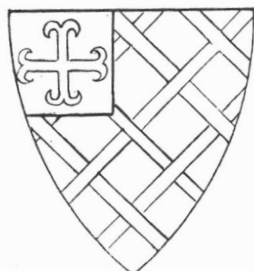


THOMAS BEK.  
Bishop of Lincoln.

<sup>1</sup> MS. notes to Godwin by Walker (*Willement's Eccles. Armory, MS.*) gives for this bishop *sable a cross moline or*.

<sup>2</sup> *Harl. MS.* 1481, p. 163. Bedford, *Blazon of Episcopacy*, gives the border charged with mitres.

place. In 1329, however, he became dean and held that office till his consecration as bishop of Norwich, 30 March, 1337. It may well be that this glass at Chesterfield was inserted between 1329 and 1337, and that the dean set up his own arms side by side with those of Bek of Eresby to show his connection with the baronial house. This date would accord well with the other two shields, since Thomas, third lord Wake, 1317-1348, was closely connected with the royal family, his wife being Blanche, daughter of Henry, Earl of Lancaster, his sister and heir,



MUNBY.

SIR ROBERT  
WILLOUGHBY.

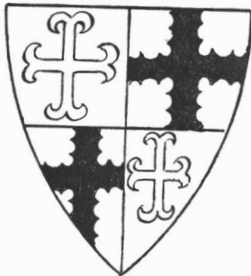
Margaret, the wife of Edmund of Woodstock, whilst his daughter subsequently married the Black Prince. It is probable, therefore, that the Wake arms at Chesterfield represent the third lord of that name.<sup>1</sup>

Sir William Willoughby was by the heiress of Bek the father of two sons, Robert his successor and Thomas who married Margaret the sister and heir of Alan de Munby and assumed his wife's name; he seems to have used the arms of Willoughby, with Bek on a canton. Robert, the elder son, the first lord Willoughby, on his uncle's death adopted the Bek arms in place of his own.<sup>2</sup> He had perhaps other sons besides his heir. Sir Robert

<sup>1</sup> The arms of England without the quartering of France point to a date before 1341, a fact which helps to confirm the suggestion in the text.

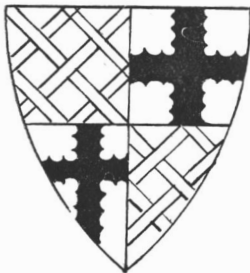
<sup>2</sup> Roll of Edw. II. "Sir Robert de Wylebi, de gules a un fer de moline de argent": *Roll of Hen. VI: Military Roll: Parl. Roll*. So also on the Shield on the effigy of the second lord at Spilsby: *Brit. Mus. Cat. of Seals*, 1376, whilst a later seal (1384) shows the quartered coat. Over the shield in the former seal is a crest—a pair of bull's horns rising from a ducal coronet: it is evidently this crest which appears on his tomb at Spilsby though there they look more like ears and may be a play upon the name Eresby.

Willoughby knighted at the capitulation of Calais, 1348, differenced his arms with a bend sable, whilst William de Willoughby used at the second Dunstable tournament, 1334, similar arms to the Bishop of Durham. John, the third lord Willoughby married Cicely, daughter and heir



WILLOUGHBY OF  
ERESBY.

of Robert de Ufford, Earl of Sussex. This lady was heir to her brother, William de Ufford, and after his death in 1382 the lords of Eresby quartered Ufford, *or a cross engrailed sable*, with the cross moline of Bek.<sup>1</sup> From Thomas and John, younger sons of the fourth lord, descend the lords Willoughby de Broke and the Willoughbys, baronets of Baldon. The fifth lord



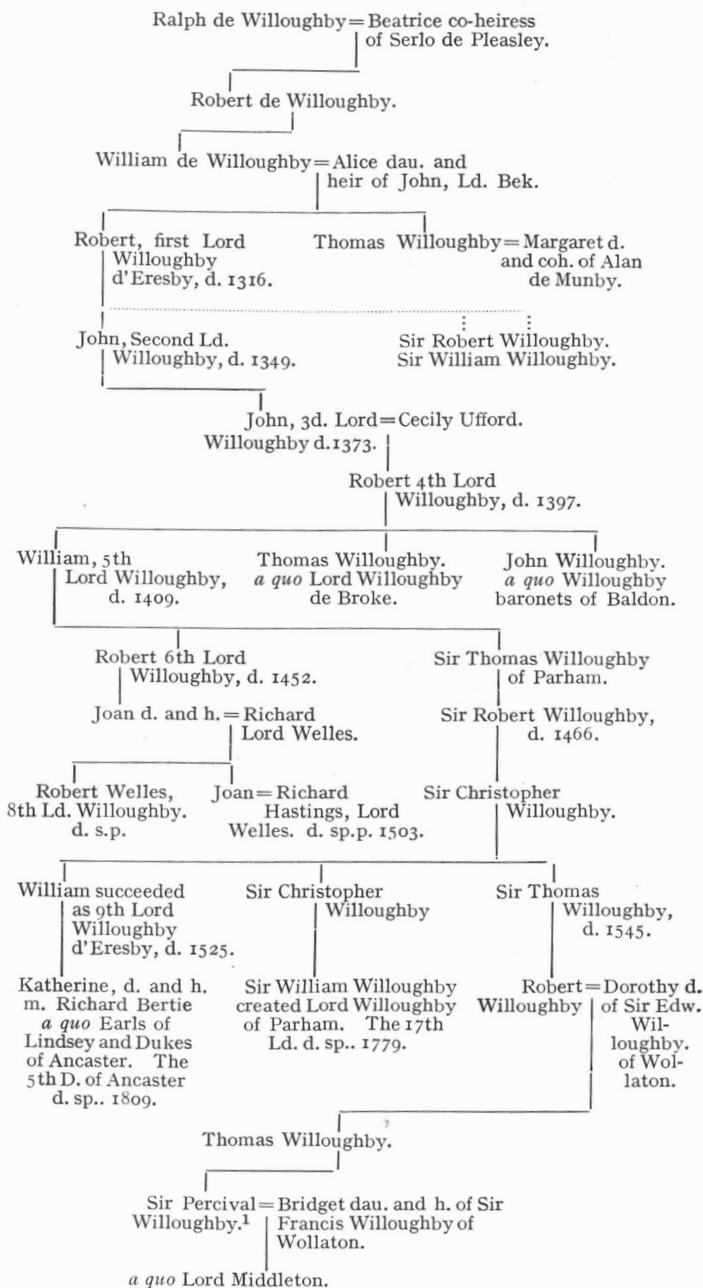
WILLOUGHBY OF  
PARHAM.

had two sons, Robert sixth lord and Sir Thomas Willoughby, a gallant soldier, from whose grandson, Sir Christopher of Parham, descended three families. To the first of these the Eresby barony eventually reverted: from the second sprang the extinct Lords Willoughby of Parham, who bore the old Willoughby coat quartered with Ufford: from the third the present Lord Middleton derives.

It is not necessary to follow the fortunes of this family further. It will suffice to state that they became successively Earls of Lindsey

and Dukes of Ancaster, both of which peerages are now extinct. The following pedigree will explain what has been said:

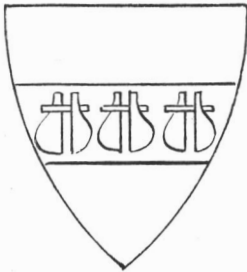
<sup>1</sup> *Rouen Roll*; the quarters reversed in *Willemet's Roll*, and seal of Sir Thomas W. (*Brit. Mus.* 1399).



<sup>1</sup> The account of Dr. Willoughby whose grave-stone at St. Peter's, Derby, is described in the twenty-fourth volume of the *Journal* is incorrect. He was not connected with the Willoughbys of Parham but was the third son of this Sir Percival Willoughby.



The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Willoughbys had quite a different origin. Their family name is derived from Willoughby-on-the-Wolds in the extreme South of the former county. The founder of the family fortunes was Ralph Bugge a prosperous Nottingham merchant who, if he did not actually hail from Derbyshire, was closely connected with the county. It is probable that his fortune came from speculation in Derbyshire lead. Between 1235 and 1238 he is stated to have extracted minerals in the Peak, and between 1243 and 1249 the name of Ralph Bugge of Bakewell occurs in the same connection. In 1250 he succeeded William de Horsenden as bailiff of the forest of Peak. In 1259-60 his name twice occurs in the Derbyshire Feet of Fines in connection with the transfer of property.<sup>1</sup> It is evident that Ralph Bugge, the father, was succeeded by a son of the same name in his lead-mining activities in north Derbyshire. In Mr. Carringtons' extracts from the Haddon charters, printed in the fifteenth volume of the *Journal*, this son is called, on page 49, "Ralph Bugge junior," and on p. 59 he is called "Ralph, son of Ralph Bugge of Nottingham." The father purchased the manors of Bingham and



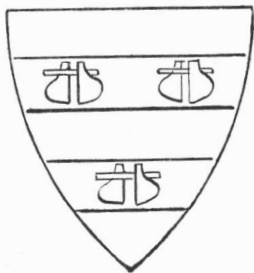
BINGHAM.

Willoughby. His sons, Ralph and Richard, succeeded to these properties and the families which sprang from them adopted surnames from their respective estates in place of their less euphonious patronymic. Both, however, preserved the memory of their father's name in the arms which they used. Bingham, or a fess gules charged with three water-bougets (or "bougs") argent.<sup>2</sup> Willoughby or two bars gules charged with three

<sup>1</sup> See *Journal* xiv, 164, 174, and x, 157, 158.

<sup>2</sup> *Powell's and Willement's Rolls and Jenyn's Ordinary. Roll of Edw. II.* "Monsire de Bingham port d'or sur fes gules trois boustes d'argent."

*water-bougets argent.*<sup>1</sup> The arms given in Jenyn's Ordinary for Sir Richard Willoughby—*Azure two bars argent charged with three (or six) cinquefoils or*—seems to be a Leicestershire Coat and may belong to a family deriving its name from Willoughby-Waterless in that county.



WILLOUGHBY OF  
WOLLATON.

Sir Richard Willoughby, the grandson of Ralph Bugge, purchased the manor of Wollaton, which subsequently became the principal residence of the family, and died in 1324. His effigy may be seen in Willoughby church<sup>2</sup> as may that of his son and successor of the same name who was a Justice of the King's Bench and died in 1362. This Sir Richard

had three wives. From one the Willoughbys of Risley are supposed to descend, from another the Willoughbys of Wollaton. Sir Edmund the eldest son by the second wife was the grandfather of Sir Hugh Willoughby who married two wives, Isabel daughter of John Bradborne, and Margaret, daughter and coheir of Sir Baldwin Freville. The Willoughbys are stated<sup>3</sup> to have become possessed of Brackenfield, in Derbyshire, through the Morteyns: in any event Sir Richard Willoughby held it of the Deincourts in 1369.<sup>4</sup> There can be little doubt that the screen now in the modern church, but originally erected in the disused chapel of Holy Trinity, was set up by the above Sir Hugh. It has a shield at either side: Willoughby of Wollaton impaling *a cross patonce (gules)* . . . Freville: and the same impaling *(argent) a bend (gules) charged with three mullets (or)* . . . Bradborne.<sup>5</sup>

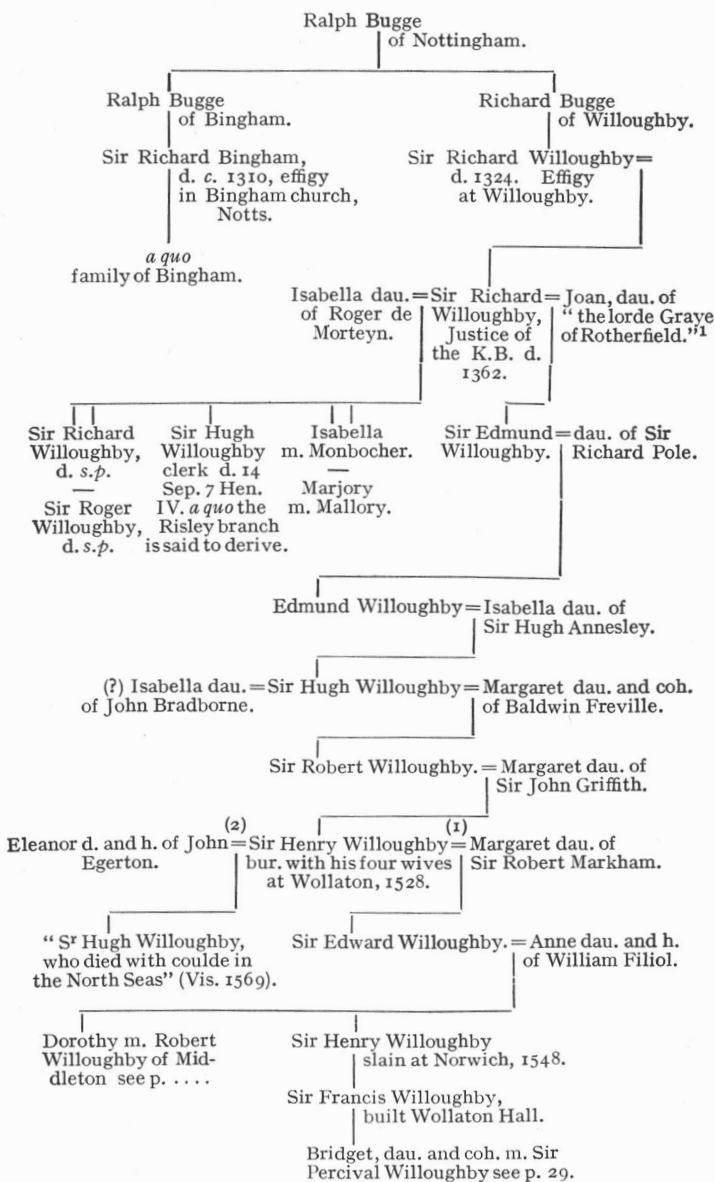
<sup>1</sup> *Military, Powell's and Willement's Rolls.*

<sup>2</sup> *Thoroton Soc.*, 128 (Illus.) Sir Richard Bingham's effigy is illustrated p. 124.

<sup>3</sup> *Cox.*, *Derb. Ch.*, i, 277.

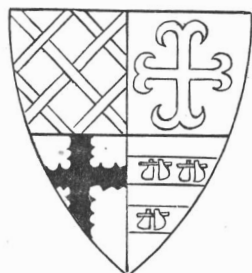
<sup>4</sup> *Glover's Derbyshire*, ii, 132.

<sup>5</sup> *Cox. loc. cit.* states that Thomas, son of Hugh Willoughby of Risley, married Isabel, daughter of John Bradborne. This may be so but the inaccuracy of his account in other particulars must make one hesitate to accept this statement without confirmation. He calls the other shield Bek, which is obviously impossible, as there was no connection between these Willoughbys and the Beks.



<sup>1</sup> MS. Visitation in the possession of the Society.

In a former number of the *Journal* (xxxvi, 84) the arms of Willoughby are given quartering Freville and Marmion and impaling Filiol, Braose and Waleys. This opportunity is taken of correcting a mistake on the same page.



WILLOUGHBY OF  
MIDDLETON.

The arms given in Harl. MS. 2134, should be 1. Willoughby. 2. Frevile. 3. Marmyon. 4. Kilpec. 5. Montfort. 6. *argent billey a lion rampant sable* (de la Plaunche). 7. *sable a fess between six cross-crosslets argent* (Haversham), John, Lord Montfort, d. 1296, having married Alice, daughter of Sir William de la Plaunche. Tonge's Visitation of the Northern Counties, 1530,<sup>1</sup> adds

two more quarterings after Frevile, *or a castle triple-towered azure* and *barry nebuly or and gules*.

The connection of the Willoughbys of Risley with the Wollaton family is still in doubt. The belief that they descended from a Hugh Willoughby a priest has been referred to above. Collins suggests another origin. "I rather think them descended from Sir Henry Willoughby, knight banneret, who was possessed of Wollaton by lineal descent from the said Sir Richard, was knight of the body to King Henry VIII, and died 20th May, 1528, as I am informed from the inscription on his Monument at Wollaton, in an arch between the south isle and the chancel whereon is the effigies of a knight in armour, with two wives by his side, and underneath two sons in armour, and two daughters in the dress of the times." This is, however, impossible. Burke's account is quite worthless, for he makes the first baronet the son of Sir Hugh Willoughby, the famous navigator, instead of Sir John Willoughby, whose will was printed in the last volume of the *Journal*. As the arms of Willoughby are sometimes met with

<sup>1</sup> *Surtrees Soc.* xli, 4.

showing six water-bougets on the bars instead of the usual three, it has been suggested that the Risley branch differenced their arms in this way, but there does not seem to be any direct evidence, and in any case they must soon have reverted to the original coat. Their arms may be seen on the font and Church-plate at Risley. On the brass of Hugh Willoughby and Isabel his wife, daughter of Gervase Clifton, at Wilne, are the arms of d'Abridgecourt (*ermine two bars humetty gules*) impaling Clifton, showing that he, at least, used the arms of his mother's family in place of his own. The windows of the Willoughby chapel at Wilne record the marriages with the families of Neale, Hawe and Knolles, Sir Henry Willoughby, baronet, of Risley, left at his decease in 1653 a daughter and heiress who married first, Sir Thomas Aston and was the mother of Sir Willoughby Aston, and secondly the Hon. Anchitel Grey. There are two shields at Breaston, carved on a stone built into a buttress against the north aisle of the Church, which seem to record this match. The first has Grey, quarterly of twenty, and the other Grey with a label of five points and a crescent on the upper bar for difference, impaling Willoughby. On a stone above is the following inscription:

E. T. R. W.	1680.
CHVR. W.	

Assuming that the descent of the Risley family is as is usually stated, the following pedigree shows the succession as set forth in *The Churches of Derbyshire*: it requires, however, confirmation in several particulars:—

Sir Hugh Willoughby, = Joan Spenser,  
 clerk d. 7 Hen. IV. } *alias* Risley.

Hugh Willoughby = Joan d. and heir of Sir  
 of Risley. } John d'Abridgecourt.

Hugh Willoughby = Isabel d. of Sir  
 of Risley, d. 12 } Gervase Clifton.  
 Sep. 1491. M.I. } d. 3 May, 1492.  
 at Wilne.

Hugh Willoughby = Anne (Jane) d. of  
 of Risley M.I. } Richard Wentworth.  
 Wilne, d. 1513.

Thomas Willoughby. = Isabel d. of John  
 Bradborne.

Hugh Willoughby. = Margaret d. of Anthony  
 Molineux, D.D. (Burke,  
*Extinct Bart.*).

Michael Willoughby = Katherine of Risley, bur. 1 } Tatlocke: m. 10 Jan., 1591 } Jul., 1546, bur. } 4 Apr., 1594.	George Willoughby = Elizabeth d. and heir of Ric. Neale.
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Baptist Willoughby.  
 —  
 Raphael Willoughby.

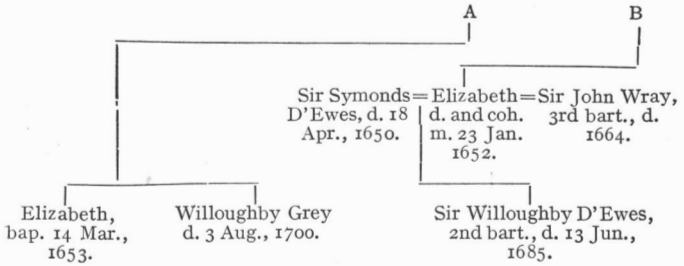
Sir John Willoughby, = Frances d. and w.d. 6 Feb., 1604. } heir of Henry bur. at Wilne 28 } Hawe, d. Mar., 1605. } 21 Sep., 1602.	Richard Willoughby ment. in his brother's will.
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Elizabeth, = Henry Willoughby, = Lettice dau. of Sir } created a bart. 1611, } d. and coh. Henry } d. s.p.m. bur. 22 } of Sir Knolles. } Nov., 1653. } Francis } } Darcy.	Francis Willoughby, } bur. 30 May, 1652.	Ursula. — Elizabeth } m. Austin } Palgrave.
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Frances bap. 1 Oct., 1607, bur. 30 Mar., 1608.	Sir Thomas Aston, = Anne cr. bart., 1628. } d. and d. 1645. } coh.	= Hon. Anchtel 2nd son of Hen. E. of Stamford. bur. 11 Jun. 1702
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Sir Willoughby Aston,  
 2nd bart., d. 14 Sept., 1702.

A B



We will conclude with a transcript of the pedigree of Willoughby from the copy of the Visitation of 1569 in the possession of the Society. It will be seen from what has been said above that the earlier generations require considerable correction.

