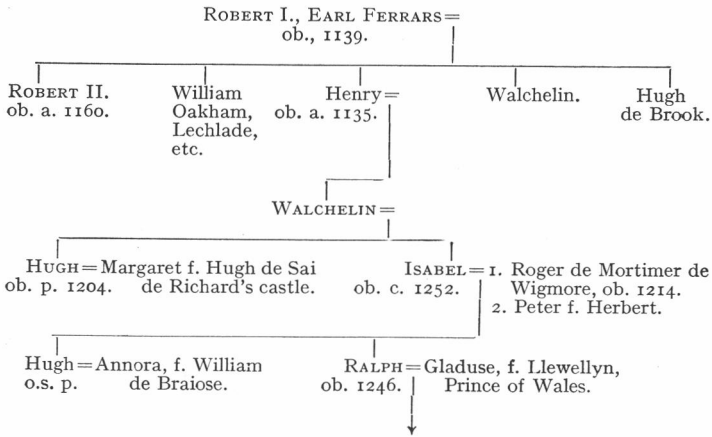


The Manor of William de Ferrars.

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IN the charter of Earl William de Ferrars of 1166 no direct reference is made to Lechlade, Glouc., or Oakham, Rut. They are generally supposed to have been held by William de Ferrars, the son of Henry de Ferrars who succeeded to the fief in Normandy. This William is said to have been the grandfather of Walchelin de Ferrars, lord of Ferrières, who granted Lechlade to his son Hugh (*Bris. and Glouc. Arch. Journ.*, 1879-80, I, 172: *Comp. Peer Antiq.*, *Salop* IV, 196). I see no reason why this theory should be accepted when reasonable grounds exist for believing that the Walchelin de Ferrars who held Lechlade and Oakham was a grandson of Robert de Ferrars, the first Earl. I am inclined to believe that these and other fees were included in the "manor" in which William de Ferrars was enfeoffed by his brother,

Earl Robert II, soon after 1139, and for which he rendered the service of 4 Knights (*R. B. E.* 339). Eyton, in his account of the Ferrar's barony in Staffordshire in 1166, identifies William's "manor" with the dower which Matilda, daughter of Robert II, received on her marriage with Bertram de Verdun (*S. Coll.* I, 210) and describes it as comprising Crakemarsh, Creighton and Combridge, Staffs.; Worthington, Leics.; and Foremark and Hartshorn, Dbys. In 1296 Theobald de Verdun held 4 fees in these places (*I.P.M.* III, p. 300). In 1242-3 Roesa de Verdun held of the barony of Ferrars 1 fee in Crakemarsh and Creighton with 8 bovates in Stramshall; 1 fee in Worthington; 1 fee in Hartshorn; $\frac{1}{2}$ fee in Foremark of the heir of Bertram de Verdun; and $\frac{1}{4}$ fee in Staunton Harold (*B. Fees*, 969, 947, 994, 995). The dower of Matilda was, therefore, practically that assigned to her by Eyton, but there is nothing whatever to prove that William's "manor" escheated to the head of the family at his death. It appears to be more likely that it passed to his nephew, Walchelin, the son of his brother Henry and so, as shown in the chart, to Roger de Mortuo Mari. Between 1210-1213 Roger de Mortimer had Oakham for 1 fee; it had been held by Henry de Ferrars and was Norman land (*R.B.E.*, 535). He also held Lechlade and Longborough of the inheritance of his wife (*B.F.* 50). On May 5, 1205 Isabel de Mortimer, sister of Hugh de Ferrars fines 300 marks for manors of Lichelad and Langeburg which were Hugh's (*Rot. Close*). He also held, in 1196, $\frac{1}{2}$ fee in Burghfield of the Ferrars' barony (*B.F.*, 849: *V.C.H. Berks.*, I, 347). In 1235-6 Ralph (f. Roger) de Mortimer held $1\frac{1}{2}$ fees in Bisley and Longborough and $\frac{1}{2}$ fee in Naunton (*B.F.* 440, 444). In the same year Isabel de Mortimer held 3 fees, $\frac{1}{2}$ fee and $\frac{1}{3}$ fee (*ib.*, 506). In 1237 the lady Isabella de Mortimer held Oakham (*ib.*, 619). Roger de Mortimer died in 1214, and Hugh his heir, dying without issue was succeeded by his brother Ralph. He was

deceased in 1246, his mother surviving until 1252. On her death Oakham was given to Richard, earl of Cornwall (*ib.*, 1145). It would appear, therefore, that Roger de Mortimer obtained with his wife Isabel de Ferrars 4 fees. It is not impossible that Scropton formed a part of Isabel's inheritance as we find Robert II, Earl Ferrars, exchanging with the prior of Tutbury for the manor of Agardsley his mill of Scropton, and the mansion, etc. in Scropton which Sir Richard de Mortimer had held (*C. Tut.* xcxi). In 1251 William the earl granted in tail to Richard de Mortimer 15 bovates in Scropton for the service of $\frac{1}{4}$ fee (*Dby. Fines* 1251). The following extracts appear to afford sufficient justification for the descent of Lechlade and Oakham as given in the chart. (? Roger) de Novo Burgo and Walchelin de Ferrars to Hugh de Ferrars: know that we have allowed the grant that you have made to the canons of Kenilworth of the land of Brooke, and when our nephew shall possess a seal he shall freely confirm your gift with it: in the meantime we have ratified your gift . . .' (*D.M.* II, 130, 10a). William de Ferrars freely conceded to the canon of Kenilworth the gift which his brother Hugh had made to them (*ib.* 30a). Henry II confirmed to S. Mary of Kenilworth the land of Brooke which Hugh de Ferrars gave them with the consent of Walchelin, his nephew, and of William, his brother. As this confirmation is joined with the confirmation of his grandfather's grant the gift of Hugh de Ferrars must have been made before 1135 (*ib.*, 40). (Roger) de Novoburgo and Walchelin de Ferrars were, I imagine, the guardians of Walchelin the nephew alike of Hugh and of William the lord of the fee of which Brooke formed a part. It is known that Robert the first earl, had in addition to his heir Robert two other sons William the Templar and Henry. It would seem from the above extracts that he had also two others Walchelin and Hugh. It is possible that Walchelin was enfeoffed in Radbourne.