

LEEDS OF WAPPINGTHORNE.

BY MISS ELEANOR LLOYD.

WAPPINGTHORNE lies about two miles to the north-west of Steyning. On quitting the high road you mount a low hill, from whence there is a charming view of Wiston House and Park, with the Downs and Chanctonbury Ring behind. On the further side of the hill the gable end of an old manor house soon becomes visible. The eastern part of the house has been destroyed, as is evident from the remains of a bricked-up fireplace and stone mantel-piece on the outer wall of the first floor, and the wall is supported by two modern brick buttresses. The roof is slated and has four tall plain chimneys on the line of its ridge. The south front, which looks on to a small lawn surrounded by laurel bushes, has been modernised, but the north side remains, as when first built, of brick with mullioned windows, one of which reaches from the bottom floor almost to the roof, some of the lights being closed up. A fine old Jacobean porch forms the entrance, and a shield of arms, with date 1609 carved in stone, is over the doorway. Inside the house there is not much to be seen, though something of interest may be hidden behind the whitewash and paper of the walls. One of the lower rooms is well panelled with oak, and has a pretty little cornice of narrow oblong panels carved with alternate star and linen fold pattern.

The coat of arms over the entrance doorway is worth examination. It is not so entirely obliterated as Mr. Lower avers, the sinister half being quite discernible, and the upper quarterings of the dexter side may be guessed at. The coat is that of the Leeds family, owners of Wappingthorne for about two hundred years. The house was evidently built in the reign of James I. by Sir Thomas Leeds, K.B., who married Mary, only daughter and heiress of Thomas Leeds, of North



WAPPINGTHORNE.

Milford, in the parish of Kirkby Wharfe, Yorkshire. The arms are therefore Leedes of Wappingthorne impaling Leedes of North Milford.

Both families have long been extinct in the male line, but a pedigree of Leedes of Wappingthorne still exists. It was drawn up, no doubt, early in the seventeenth century, and is a beautiful specimen of heraldic art. At the foot there is a magnificent shield of fourteen quarterings, from which some of the coats in the stone carving can be identified. It is here shown that the Leedes family claimed descent from Reginald [a mistake for Gerald] de Normanville, one of the Conqueror's followers, whose heiress is said to have married Robert or Thomas de Kause, Caux, or Calx, as it is variously spelt. Another ancestor is Astolfus [Asolf or Essulf], two of whose grandsons were known as "de Birkin" and "de Ledes," from their lands in these Yorkshire townships. Both these men were donors of land to Fountains Abbey, and both are said to have married daughters and heiresses of Robert de Caus. The name of William, son of Thomas de Ledes, also occurs in the monastic chartulary. His descendant, Sir Roger de Ledes, in 1285, held land in Leeds and Armley, and married Margaret Kirkton, lady of the manor of Saxton. His eldest son, Roger, continued the family of Leedes of Northall in Leeds, and their pedigree, identical in part with the one just described, is printed in Thoresby's *Ducatus Leodensis*, from a MS. in Sir Philip Constable's collection. It has been proved to be in the main accurate. A younger son, Richard, is named in this pedigree, but of a second son, John, from whom the Leedes of Wappingthorne claimed descent, there is no trace whatever. Sir Roger had, indeed, two other sons, who were accused of brawling in Leeds in 13 Ed. II.,¹ but their names were Thomas and Robert. Richard was forefather of the Leedes of North Milford. Robert was living in 1340 and mentions his heirs in a deed (Harl. MSS.). Of Thomas we know nothing, except that he died without issue.² John is said to have married the

¹ Thoresby Soc., Misc., IV.

² De Banco Roll, 14 Hen. VI., East, m. 2^d.

daughter of Hamo Bonett, and to have become "of Wappingthorn," co. Sussex; but this is quite unhistorical.

Wappingthorne, at the time of the *Domesday*, was held of William de Braose, by William "filius Manne." The overlordship remained with the Braoses and the manor was held under the honour of Bramber, by military service, by Robert Bonett, at the time of the *Testa de Nevill*, and in 51 Hen. III. (1266-7) by Hamo Bonett,³ who paid William de Braose 18 marks for murage to Bramber Castle, so making himself and his heirs free from any future

claims.⁴ Hamon Bonett appears in the Subsidy Rolls⁵ of 1296 in Tottington. In 1351, Margaret, wife of Nigel,

son of William Bonett, died seized of the Manor of Wappingthorne. Alice, the sister and heiress of William Bonett, married Nicholas Wylcombe, and the De Banco Rolls of 1391⁶ give two charters, dated at Wappingthorne, 41 Edwd. III., and 8 Ric. II., by which Nicholas, son of Nicholas de Wylcombe, releases to his father all his rights in the Manor of Woghwode, Totyington, and in the vill of Sele, or in Wappingthorne. In the same year⁷

Nicholas Wylcombe impleaded Richard Page, farmer of the Manor of Wappingthorne, from 16th September,

³ In the Wappingthorne pedigree Hamo Bonett is said to have obtained Wappingthorne in right of his wife, Mauld, daughter and heiress of Robert de St. Andrew, who married Emma, daughter and heiress of — Merles. The wife of — Merles was, according to this record, daughter and heiress of Nigel de Combe, and Nigel de Combe married the daughter and heiress of Anthony Brus or Braose, of Wappingthorne. The arms of all these families are accordingly quartered on the Leedes shield.

^{3a} For the shields of arms we are indebted to the kindness of Mr. S. C. Kaines Smith.

⁴ *Feet of Fines* (Sussex Record Society), No. 724.

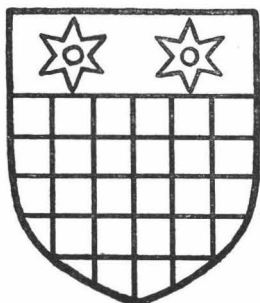
⁵ *Sussex Record Society*, Vol. X.

⁶ De Banco Roll, 519, Charter 2.

⁷ De Banco Roll, 519, m. 521.

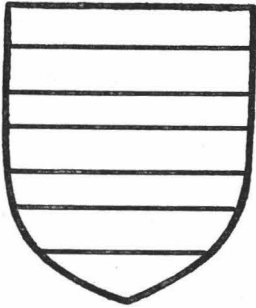


BRAOSE.^{3a}



BONET.

22 Ric. II., to Michaelmas, 1 Henry IV., for abducting his servant. On September, 1397, the manor was seized "forti manu" by Ralph and Laurence de Codyngton, who still held it at Michaelmas, 1400.⁸



WILCOMBE.

Nicholas Wylcombe, the younger, had two sons — John, who died childless, and Peter, who became heir to his brother. Peter, who according to the unreliable pedigree, married Agnes, daughter of Hugh Harpeden, of Harpeden,^{8a} Sussex, knight, had a daughter Agnes,⁹ and she became the wife of John Ledes. The marriage must have

taken place early in the fifteenth century, as in 1425 John Ledes, esquire, and Alice his wife were parties to a fine,¹⁰ and in 1428 John Ledys is named in the assessments for feudal aids as having land in Piddinghoe, once Thomas Wylcombe's. According to Mr. Lower, he owned Stantons, in the parish of Chilington East, in the reign of Henry VI. He was also Knight of the Shire for Sussex in the Parliament of 10 Henry VI., and is named in a list of Sussex Gentry in 1434.

From whence did this John Ledys spring? Was he an offshoot of the Yorkshire family, or one of the Leeds, of Kent? History does not say, but it seems likely that he was a descendant of one Geoffrey de Ledes, who was a land holder in Sussex in the fourteenth century, and of whom the Patent and Close Rolls have several notices. Geoffrey is first named in 1314 as lending money to Christiana de Boys, of Nastok, and others, with security of their lands in Essex. In 1316 he had a grant of the forest of Kingscliffe, in Northants, which he surrendered in 1319; in 1322 he was appointed with some others to assess a fine of 200*l.* on the knights and esquires of

⁸ Mins. Accts., 1,031, No. 4. All this information and much more has been most kindly furnished by Mr. Salzmann.

^{8a} Harpingden in Piddinghoe.

⁹ Her real name was Alice; see *Coram Rege R.*, 842, m. 40.

¹⁰ Feet of Fines, File 85, No. 29; *ex inf.*, Col. Attree.

Sussex for failure to attend the King at Cirencester. He was made a collector of customs at Chichester in 1328.

In the Subsidy Rolls the name of Geoffrey de Ledes is found in Chudeham (Chidham, near Bosham) in 1327, in the vill of Compton, near Singleton, in 1332, as also in Chilgrove, and Wodcote in West Hampnett, which manor he was in 1355 holding for life by a grant from John de St. John. He also had land in Selham. In 1340 he was enfeoffed with fifty acres of land in Bosham,^{10a} in 1352 was exempted from serving on juries or as mayor or sheriff, and in 1354 by a Papal indult¹¹ had license to choose his own confessor. This seems to be the last notice, and he probably died soon after. Between Geoffrey de Ledes in 1355 and John Ledes, Esquire, and M.P., there is a gap of seventy-three years, which so far remains unfilled. William Ernle, of Earnley in West Sussex (c. 1314), is said to have had a daughter Agnes, who married a Gilbert de Ledys and had issue.^{11a} Possibly a Richard de Ledys, who was in the Earl of Arundel's retinue in the war with France, *temp.* Henry V., might be of this family. There was also a William Ledes, appointed Controller of Customs in Sandwich and along the Kentish Coast from Gravesend to Romney in 1397. In the Wappingthorne pedigree John Ledes, the father of Reginald, is said to be son of a William.

John Ledys is returned in 1433 as holding Wappingthorne and Wowode, one knight's fee and a half, with Lord Poynings; in 1457 he died, and in his will¹² names his sons John, Reginald, Stephen, his daughters Elizabeth, Margaret, Isabell and Agnes; his wife Isabell (he had evidently married a second time) and his sister Farington. He bequeaths certain oxen in Wappingthorne to his sister, and divides his goblets, pieces, spoons, cattle and sheep amongst his family. He gives his body to the church of St. Mary Spital.

^{10a} In the reign of Henry VIII. there were still Leedes living in Bosham, Richard Leedes and Thomas, his son; Chancery Proc., Ser. II., 25, No. 33.

¹¹ *Cal. Papal Letters*, Vol. III., p. 527.

^{11a} Elwes and Robinson, *Castles, &c., of W. Sussex*, p. 75; the pedigree is taken from the Burrell MSS., but the evidence for the statement is not forthcoming.

¹² P.C.C., Stokton, 16.

John, the eldest son, is found in 11 Ed. IV. (1471) to be bringing a complaint¹³ against Joan Lewkenor, of West Grinstead, concerning a trespass on lands at Horsham, to which he had proved his right by descent from Nicholas Wylcombe through Alice Wylcombe, his mother, in 21 Hen. VI. (1443), where also the pedigree is given.¹⁴ According to the herald's genealogy, which may here begin to be of some use, John Leedes died childless, and his brother Reginald or Reynold, or his nephew John, must have succeeded to the estate. Reginald is said to have married Joan Cuddington, of Cuddington (later Nonsuch), in Surrey, and between him and the John Leedes, whose will was proved in 1558, there may have been three generations, namely, John, whose wife was Anne, daughter of Francis Southwell, Esquire, and who died 11 Ed. IV. (1475)¹⁵; Thomas,



ALFREY.

married to Joan Goring, of Burton; and William, who, with his wife, Joan, daughter and heiress of Thomas Alfrey, of the Wyld, co. Sussex, left a large family. He was living in 1522, but probably died before 1538, as in that year we find John Ledys, his son,¹⁶ in the Commission of the Peace for Sussex, and one of the "gentlemen of my Lord Privy Seal" (Thomas Cromwell) "mete to be preferred to the King's Ma^{sties} service." In

the previous year he and Sir John Gage had reported a deposition concerning one John Alyn, who was accused of saying before witnesses at Newick that he could not judge how the King should be Pope and have power to license people to eat butter, cheese and milk in Lent, but Alyn denied such speaking. The will¹⁷ of this John Ledys of Wappingthorne was proved in February, 1558-9. He desires his son, John Ledys, when of full

¹³ Coram Rege R., 842, m. 40.

¹⁴ De Banco Roll, 370, m. 325^d.

¹⁵ It is equally possible that this Thomas was the brother of William, and that both were the sons of John.

¹⁶ Cal. State Papers Dom., 1537.

¹⁷ P.C.C., Wells, 40.

age, to pay his brother Anthony 40*l.* a year, and leaves to his daughter, Elizabeth Scotte, and his sister, Dorothy Reynolds, certain lands in Hurstpierpoint and Twynham, called Berrylands; mentions also lands in Surrey, and appoints Edward Bellingham, Richard Farnfeld and Edward Leedes, gent.,¹⁸ executors.

The son, John Leedes, was engaged in a Chancery suit soon after his coming of age with one Thomas Ellys respecting the manor of Ashurst Wold, ats Walhyll, ats Wylde, including land called Lygers, Middle Parkden and Tylers Hill, which he had inherited from the Alfreys.^{18a} He married a daughter of Sir Thomas Palmer, of Angmering, and had a troubled life, even for those troublous days. He was a recusant, and the life of a recusant in Elizabethan times was one of constant suspicion, fines and imprisonment. In 1569 we find it reported to the Privy Council¹⁹ that "Mr. Leedes of Steyning and his brother-in-law are amongst those who come not to their parish church nor receive the Communion at Easter but at that time get them out of the country until that feast be past and return not again until then," hoping thereby to escape the fine. Three years later his estates in Wappingthorne, Tottington (Wowode), East and West Grinstead appear to have been confiscated,²⁰ "he being a fugitive beyond sea," and granted to Thomas West, but were probably redeemed, and the grant cancelled, as in later years he was able to live on his estate and bequeath it to his son. He was still absent in 1576 "contrarie to the statute of 13 Elizabeth," but the next year the return of Mrs. Leedes to England is reported by her father, Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir Thomas Shirley and another gentleman are required²¹ "to call Mistress Leedes before them and examine her as to the cause of her return to this realm and with whom she hath remained during her absence, and whether she can be contented upon her abode here

¹⁸ Edward Leedes was of Soberton, Hants, younger brother of John.

^{18a} Chanc. Proc., Ser. II., 112, No. 5.

¹⁹ *Victoria Hist. of Sussex*, Vol. I., p. 519.

²⁰ *State Papers Dom.*, *Eliz.*, 1572, Vol. 88.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 1577.

to live as a dutiful and obedient subject towards Her Majestie and the laws of this realm."

The enquirers were probably satisfied, as good neighbours might be, and reported accordingly. In course of time John Leedes came back also, and signed his submission, but still remained recusant.

When the charge of furnishing light horsemen for the war in Flanders was levied upon the recusants and the clergy, he petitioned against it as being too heavy, but offered to pay £25 for one only.²² Several made excuses. John Tawke "wishes he could do as commanded, but has been in prison five years and lost all his property by his recusancy." Nicholas Wolfe is also sorry, but has only 20*l.* a year; John Delves, the same, with four children to provide for. Times were hard for the conscientious Romanist. The Queen, however, expressed herself as pleased with the readiness with which the recusants furnished the horsemen for her service and was ready to grant immunity from the pains and penalties inflicted by law on condition of an annual payment. Several men compounded for 10*l.* a year, but whether John Leedes was one of them is not told. Anyhow, he was fined 60*l.* for three months' recusancy in 1588,²³ and was under restraint at Mitcham in 1589. He asked leave to go into the country on his private affairs, and this was granted, but with a warning to return and behave himself dutifully and obediently towards Her Majesty. There was great fear of the recusant gentlemen being ready to favour a landing of the Spaniards in Sussex, and consequently, in March, 1589-90, Leedes and others were removed to Ely "to have rooms in the Bishop's Palace, and to be used with all curtesie, but not to confer with strangers unless a trusty person be with them." They were to furnish their own beds, to be allowed to converse at meals and other times, but to forbear from subjects unfit for good subjects, to be allowed to walk together within certain limits and to

²² *State Papers Dom., Eliz.*, 1585, Vol. 183. The accounts in the following paragraphs are based upon the *Domestic State Papers* of the dates mentioned.

²³ Recusant Roll, 34 Eliz.

be shut up in their chambers at nights. Sir John Arundel, Sir Thomas Tresham and fourteen others, including John Gage, of Firle, made up the company.

In the course of that same year Leedes' wife and children fell sick, and he begged liberty to remain at his own house, leave being no doubt granted, but in 1592 he is desired to return to Ely; Sir Thomas Tresham not having entered into bond the whole party was recalled. Possibly the journey was deferred, as in February, 1596, he is described as an ailing recusant, not able to go to Ely with the rest, and so is "to be restrained and remayne at his own house till further order shall be given. Aged, and troubled with dyvers infirmities."²⁴ He lived to see James I. upon the throne, and died in 1606. At an inquisition taken at Horsham he is shown to have died seized of the Manor of Brockhurst, holden of the Manor of Sheffield Greensted by fealty and 4d. rent yearly. Sir Thomas Leedes, K.B., was his son and heir, then aged 40 years.

Sir Thomas had been described some years before as "a prominent recusant." Ben Beard, an informer, writes to Lord Keeper Puckering in 1594,²⁵ that "Butler a priest keeps with Thomas Leedes . . . and that he and Bamford who has a son a priest, commonly hunt and hawk together with such persons in their company." Later he reports that "Thomas Leedes keeps Norton a priest in Thorne House near Sir Thomas Shirley's, near to which lies Washington House where Nicholas Wolfe, a gentleman and great companion of Leedes, lives; these houses are receptacles for priests and have great conveniences for hiding them. . . . In Wolfe's in a little gallery there is a place for an altar and other massing stuff, a cover of boards over a great cupboard which can be taken off."

Thomas Leedes had married, probably about 1588, Marie, only daughter and heiress of Thomas Leedes, of North Milford, in Yorkshire, who had endured also as a

²⁴ *Acts of the Privy Council*, 31st Dec., 1596.

²⁵ *State Papers Dom.*, *Eliz.*, 1594, Vol. 248.



LEEDES.

“Papist and harbourer of priests,” fines and imprisonment, and, dying at York, was buried at Kirkby Wharfe, April 23rd, 1603, “by night being a recusant.” There is a very pretty little engraved tablet in the church to his memory. By his will he left his estate to his grandson Robert (baptised at Kirkby Wharfe, 4th December, 1596), fourth son of his daughter Marie, and, failing him, to the

brothers Thomas, Edward and John in succession. He also left a legacy of £3. 6s. 8d. yearly for “the Catholic prisoners which shall remain from time to time in the Castle of York for the Catholic religion and their conscience, so long as any such persons shall lie there, and if it shall please God to restore the Catholic faith as it was in the days of King Henry VIII. and in the four last years of Queen Marie’s days,” a like sum to be paid “between two honest and vertuous Catholic priests for ever in the parishes of Kirby and Kippax to celebrate Divine service, and the said two priests to pray daily for my soul and of Anne Leedes my late wife and for the souls of my father and mother and of all my kinsfolk.” His wife was Anne Scargill, no doubt one of the Scargills of Lead Hall, in the neighbouring parish of Saxton, a family which became extinct in the male line in the sixteenth century.

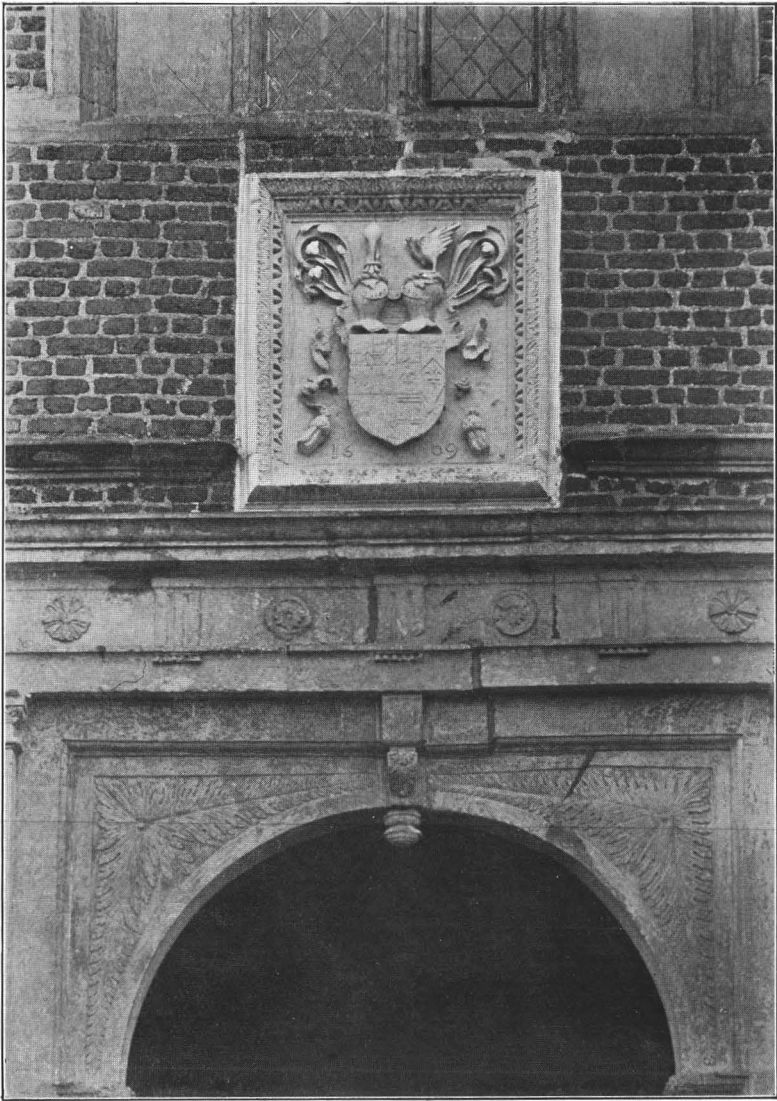
Thomas Leedes, of Wappingthorne, on coming into his own and his wife’s property, must have found himself a fairly rich man. He was made a Knight of the Bath at the Coronation; he rebuilt his house and placed over the front door the coats of arms of the united families. Probably he had his pedigree made out at the same time and the missing ancestors supplied by the genius of the heralds. They certainly managed to endow him with a magnificent shield of many quarterings. Those emblazoned on the parchment are—1 Leedes, 2 Kauce, 3 Normanville, 4 Bonett, 5 St. Andrew, 6 Merles,

7 Combe, 8 Brus (or Braose), 9 Wyllcomb, 10 Harpeden, 11 Cuddington, 12 Alfrey, 13 Leedes, 14 Scargill. The carving above the door had 10 quarterings on the dexter side, of which Leedes, Normanville and Bonett only are discernable. The impaled arms of Leedes of North Milford are—1, Leedes, *argent* a fess *gules* between three eaglets displayed *sable*;^{25a} 2, Caus or Kauce, a chevron between three fleurs de lys, the same as given in the shield of the Constables of Everingham, who were lineal descendants of the heiress Matilda de Caus; 3, Normanville; 4, Scargill. The fleur de lys crest on the dexter side is found also in Beverley Minster on the brass of Robert Leedes of Molescroft, and is with the arms on the screen in Kirkby Wharfe Church. The other crest, “on a staff *ragulée vert*, a cockatrice with wings addorsed *or*, combed and wattled *gules*,” is assigned (“added”) to Leedes of Molescroft and Laceby in the Lincolnshire Visitation, 1592,²⁶ and is also said to have been borne by Brian Leedes, of North Milford.

An interesting account of the family of Sir Thomas Leedes is in Foley's *History of the English Province of the Society of Jesus*, Vol. I., taken from that given by Thomas, his fourth son, when he entered the college of St. Omer. “My father's estate,” he says, “was ample, as it was left to him entire by his father. He was a schismatic for some time, although my mother was always Catholic. My father was first created a Knight of the Bath and then Lord Lieutenant of the County, and gained a great respect for prudence and equity, and at his departure left behind him an incredible blank. For by the pious importunity of his wife, and indeed moved by Divine impulse, he at length determined to embrace Christian liberty. Having arranged his family affairs he went into voluntary exile at Louvain, and thus chose a port of salvation. He took with him four sons, and two daughters scarcely out of their infancy. The eldest son being the heir and living at Court married the

^{25a} Sir Thomas and his descendants took these arms, differencing them with a mullet to indicate descent from the fictitious second son of Sir Roger.

²⁶ Extended by R. Cooke, 1654; see *Genealogist*, Vol. VI.



WAPPINGTHORNE.

SHIELD OF ARMS OVER THE ENTRANCE.

daughter of Sir Thomas Monson, a man most hostile to the faith, and in great favour with the King. A little more than eight years ago (1607) my father out of fear of the present laws and the Earl of Salisbury persuaded me to frequent the Protestant Church. But after three years, growing older and my father having been then reconciled, being converted by Father Walpole, I crossed the sea and entered St. Omer Seminary."

The writer of the above, Thomas Leedes, born 1594, at Wappingthorne, became the head of the English College at Rouen, 1640-41, and died between 1650 and 1655. His brother, Edward, born 1598-9, also a Jesuit, was entered at the English College at Rouen, 1615, under the name of Courtney, and was professed in 1634. When in England he was arrested on a charge of having written against the Oath of Supremacy, and imprisoned. He became head in turn of the English Colleges at St. Omer, Rouen and Liège, and died at St. Omer 3rd October, 1677.

John Leedes, the eldest son, was knighted at Whitehall, January 8th, 1610-11, and about the same time²⁷ was married to Bridget, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Monson, of Carlton, Lincolnshire. Sir Thomas Leedes, "in consideration of £3000 paid him by Sir Thomas Monson," probably the young lady's fortune, settled the estates of Wappingthorne, Downing and Tottington Wowood, as well as the Yorkshire estates, on his son, subject to certain life interests. With this provision Sir John lived about Court, and seems to have conformed to the Church of England. He was of an indiscreet habit, for after the scandalous murder of Sir Thomas Overbury both he and his wife were "committed for irreverent speeches of the King, and for speaking too much about this poysoning business."²⁸ Their remarks on the King's unwieldy size and allusions to the manner of his father's death were detailed to His Majesty and are reported in the State Papers. Sir Thomas Monson spent a year in the

²⁷ He was already married in 10 James I.; Feet of Fines, Trin., 10 Jas. I.

²⁸ *State Papers Dom.*, Jas. I., 1616.

Tower, on what seems to be very slight suspicion of complicity in the murder, but got his pardon and was released in 1617.

Sir John was elected M.P. for Shoreham in 1620-21, and sat in the House for a week, but without taking the oath, and this being found out, he was adjudged incapable of sitting during this Parliament, and a new writ was issued. He had sat in a previous Parliament, so could not profess ignorance.²⁹ His friends pleaded in his excuse that it was "Negligence and not Presumption," but he was censured and discharged. Not being a very wise man we find him in the same year committed again to custody for "idle words," or as another account has it "for prattling," and expressing discontent with the King and Government. Of his eldest son, John, who was old enough to give evidence at the enquiry in 1615, we hear no more, and in 1641 Thomas Leedes appears as the heir, and as succeeding his father, who had been elected in February, 1640, as M.P. for Steyning, in which same year Sir John joined with other Sussex gentlemen in signing the Protestation against Popery.

He seems to have been very much in debt. Living about Court and "prattling" was not conducive to the maintenance of a good estate. From 1618 much of the property appears to have been in hands of trustees, Sir Edward Francis, who seems to have resided at Wappingthorne, and Sir John Caryll, of Harting.³⁰ Money had been borrowed from Sir R. Brooke and other persons. Lady Leedes, the mother, had an annuity of £120, the brothers, Thomas, Robert and Edward, each £40 a year, and the Sussex rent roll was about £950 per annum. By the time therefore that the accounts were made up in 1625-6, there was a deficiency of £1,809. 19s. 8d. The estates then seem to have been mortgaged to Sir John Caryll. In 1624 Sir William Goring was tenant of Wappingthorne, and by 1636 Mr. Edward Goring was living there. As in 1621 the

²⁹ *Journals of the House of Commons*, February 10th, 18 Jas. I.

³⁰ Their accounts are preserved in the British Museum; Add. MSS., 18,929.

annuities sent abroad were for Thomas and Edward Leedes only, we may suppose that Robert, to whom his grandfather had bequeathed North Milford, died about 1620. Sir Thomas seems to have been still alive in 1626, in which year Sir Edward Francis, by a deed, quit claimed and released all his rights in Wappingthorne, and all the lands late the freeholds and inheritance of Sir John Leedes, Kt., and his father in "Wappingthorne, Staplefield, Horsebroke, Calcott, Stenning, Ashurst, Bramber, Tottington Wowode, Cowfold, and the several farms of Oxendeane ats Okendeane and Alfreys" to Sir John Caryll, of Harting.³¹ It probably passed into the hands of the Goring family soon after.

Thomas Leedes, the younger, M.P. for Steyning, married a daughter of Sir Ambrose Browne, of Betchworth, and had two children, both of whom died young. He was active in the King's cause in the earlier part of the Civil Wars, commanded a troop of horse for the Rape of Arundel, and took part in the seizure of magazines and cannon at Chichester, for which he and the other Members who had joined in the expedition were expelled from Parliament. He seems then to have joined the King's forces and was killed near Oxford in 1645, or thereabouts. Sir John had no other son. His daughter, Magdalen, married in 1633 to Francis Hamby, of Tathwell, Lincolnshire; was living at Tathwell in 1640-41, but probably died soon after.—She is not mentioned in her father's will. She had one son, afterwards Sir John Hamby, Kt., of Tathwell, who died in 1678, and left a daughter and heiress, the wife of John Chaplin, of Blankeney, from whom the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P., is now the direct descendant.

Sir John Leedes made his will in 1654. If he had any near relations of his own name he ignored them. Edward Leedes, of Soberton, Hants, named in Berry's *Hampshire Genealogies*, seems to have left no male heirs. Only one member of the family is mentioned—"My dear sister Elizabeth Dowlich widdowe" to whom

³¹ Add. Ch., 18,927.

he bequeaths his personal estate. The remainder of the will would lead one to suppose that his heirs had some claim in the way of mortgage, or money advanced upon the estate—"To my loving cousins Robert Leedes of Beverley c^o York Esq^{re} and Inglebert Leedes his son and heir the interest right title and remainder to all messuages lands and tenements in the parishes of Steyning and Coombes c^o Sussex and of Milford and Pockthorpe c^o York or elsewhere in England not before settled upon them and conveyed unto them by anie former deed of settlement . . . My beloved cousins Robert Leedes of Beverley and his sonne Inglebert joint ex^{ors} "

Sir John died in 1656, and his will was proved November 22nd, 1658, by Inglebert Leedes, surviving executor. Inglebert sold the Cissbury property to Sir John Fagge, and probably parted with the remaining land in Steyning also, and the Leedes' family as connected with Sussex came to an end.

The cousinship between Sir John and his heirs must have been distant. They certainly sprang from the same Roger de Ledes named in Kirkby's inquisition of 1285, for there can be little doubt that the ancestor of the North Milford family, Robert Leedes, Franklin, of Kirkby Wharfe, named in the poll tax return of 2 Ric. II., a grandson to Sir Roger, was identical with the Robert Leedes, of Molescroft, near Beverley, who in 1391 settled lands in Laceby, Lincolnshire, on his son Robert, from whom Robert Leedes, of Beverley, and Inglebert, his son, were lineally descended. This last-named Robert Leedes was living in Beverley in 1626, and in 1642 joined the King's forces, but left them after the battle of Marston Moor, took the covenant, compounded for his estate and paid the penalty. He died in 1656 and was buried in Beverley Minster, where there is a brass to his memory, bearing the Leedes' arms and fleur de lys crest, with the inscription :—

EPI TAPHIVM ROBERTI LEEDES ARMIGERI
 QUOD IPSE ANTE OBITVM PRÆSCRIPSIT
 ROBERTI LEEDES QUOD ERAT ET QUOD FVTVRVM SPERAT

Inglebert, his son, who is named in the Visitation of Lincolnshire as three years old in 1636, was baptised in Beverley Minster, April 24th, 1633. He was twice married, and seems to have lived in York, where most of his children were born and baptised. His two sons in turn inherited the estate of North Milford; the second, Robert, left a daughter and heiress—married in 1741 to Edward Rookes, of Royds Hall, who assumed the name and arms of Leedes. They had three daughters; Mary, the eldest, married and left no children; the second, Jane, became the wife of William Serjeantson, of Hanlith, and left a son William Leedes Serjeantson, whose descendants through his two married daughters are now living. The third daughter, Ann, married the Rev. Jeremiah Smith, rector of Berwick, Sussex, from 1784 to 1797, and Vicar of Wartling 1797-1810, also owner of Woodside, in the parish of Peasemars, where he died in 1815. Their grandson, Mr. Thomas Pix, of Woodside, died in 1900, at the age of 92, unmarried, and was buried at Peasemars. The estate of North Milford was sold after the death of Mr. Rookes Leedes in 1785, and the name of Leedes disappeared from the list of Yorkshire gentry, as it had done from that of Sussex.

It may be as well to note down and correct one or two inaccurate statements made in some standard works:—

1. In Elwes' *Manors and Castles of Western Sussex*, and also by Mr. Lower, Englebert Leedes is called the son of Sir John. This, as we see, he was not; but a distant cousin, though heir.

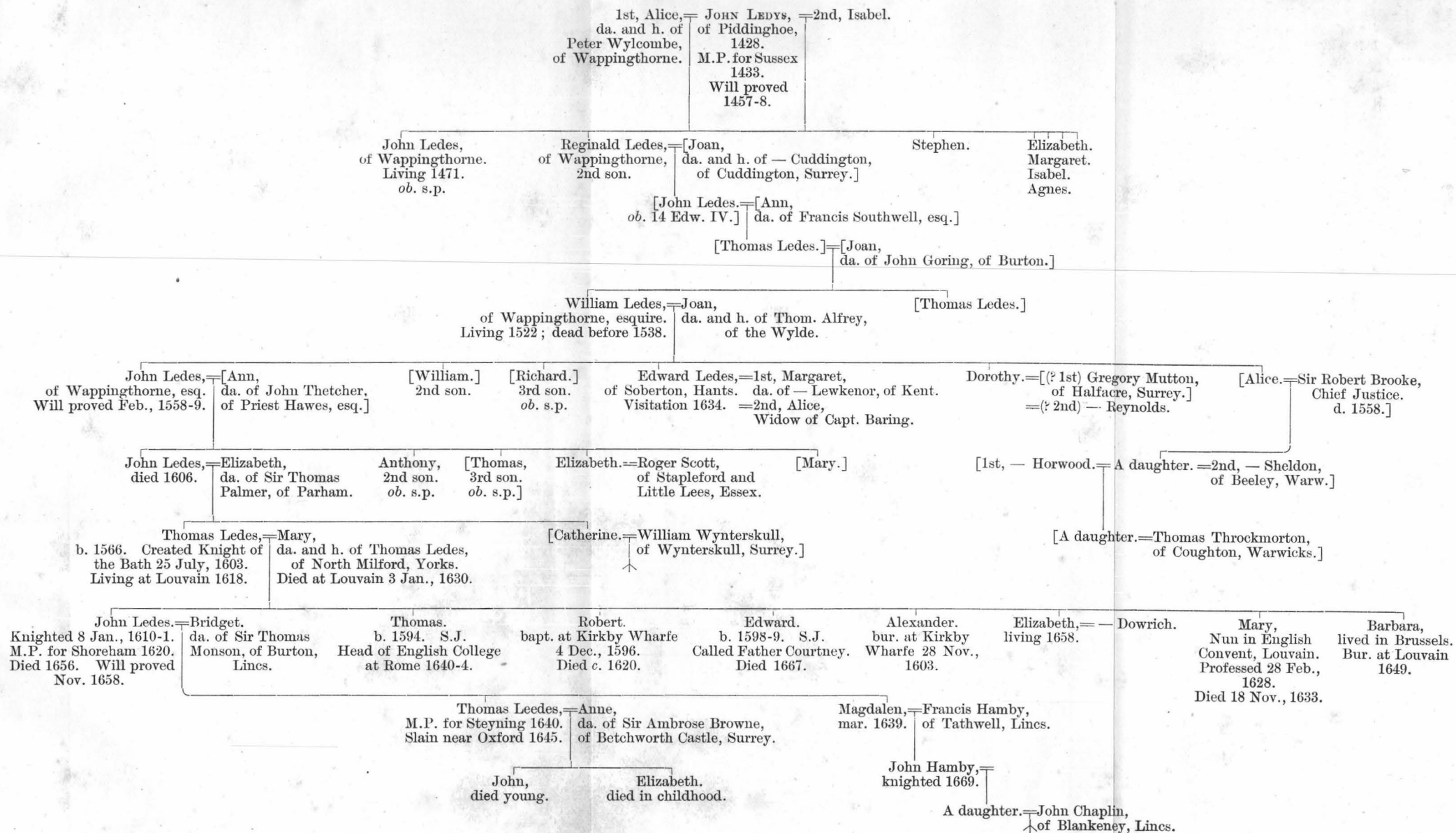
2. Dugdale's *Visitation of Yorkshire*, printed by the Surtees Society, Vol. XXXVI., includes "Leedes of Hopenthorne C^{om} Ebor." It should be "C^{om} Sussex." Possibly the Herald saw the fine Wappingthorne pedigree in Inglebert's possession at his Visitation and made his notes from it too hastily.

3. In the *Genealogist*, Vol. XXIV., N.S., published 1908, Mr. J. W. Clay, F.S.A., in his "Additions to Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire," falls into the error of supposing that Thomas, the son of Sir Thomas Leedes,

K.B., inherited the Milford Estate, and was the same as Thomas Leedes, of Molescroft, the father of Robert and grandfather of Inglebert. The descent of Inglebert and his father is given in full in the *Genealogist*, Vol. VI.,³² where the cockatrice crest is "added." The will of Sir John Leedes (Wotton, 625 and 298) decides the relationship.

³² In the *Lincolnshire Visitation*, 1636, Robert Leedes, of Beverley, is said to be the son of Edward Leedes, of Winterton, who is named in the lay subsidy of 7 James I. In the Visitation of Yorkshire, 1666, he is called the son of Thomas Leedes, of Molescroft (Beverley), who also married a Portington. It seems odd that Inglebert could not give the names of his own grandfather and grandmother correctly.

LEEDES OF WAPPINGTHORNE.



The entries within brackets are derived from the seventeenth century pedigree, and have not been corroborated by the evidence of records.