

The Troutbeck Family.

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(Read 16th Oct., 1928).



HIS family no doubt derived its name from Troutbeck, a parish in Westmorland on the east side of Windermere. Nothing is known of its early history, but it will be seen from what follows that the Cheshire Troutbecks had some connexion with the Kendal district. The earliest of the name to occur in Cheshire is

ADAM TROWETBEK, who in 1366 claimed a debt of £9 16s. 8d. against Richard de Sydynton, William de Lytherpoll and Richard, son of Adam de Henneshagh; they had made a formal acknowledgment of it a year before.¹ The names of the defendants point to a transaction in the Macclesfield district, but Adam may have been a stranger trading in the county, for the palatine privileges of Cheshire required that no one of the county should be summoned to answer outside its limits. In one of the Holme pedigrees² the father of William Troutbeck the Chamberlain is said to have been named Adam, but there is nothing to identify him with the plaintiff of 1366. The pedigree mentioned is, like most of the old Troutbeck pedigrees, confused and untrustworthy. For example, in their anxiety to record the marriage of the first William Troutbeck and Joan Rixton, the Holmes attribute it to each of the three Williams.

¹ Chester Plea Roll, 69, m. 31.

² Harl MS., 2040, f. 124.

1. WILLIAM TROUTBECK I.

The founder of the Cheshire family, so far as any records show, was the above-named William, who died in 1444. He occurs first on 30 November, 1401, when the king granted to Richard Rose and William Troutbek, of the county of Westmorland, a sum of £62 13s. 4d., due by Richard to the Exchequer as arrears of a subsidy which he had collected in the time of Richard II.³ Troutbeck was probably a surety for Rose, and the favour may have been due to his politics, for the family appears to have been Lancastrian consistently throughout the fifteenth century. A further grant was made by the king on 27 July, 1405, when he gave to his esquires William Pembyrton and William Troutebeke the wardship and marriage of George, son and heir of Hugh Curwen, who had been in charge of the rebellious earl of Northumberland; the reason for the grant was that they had done the king good service, without reward, in Wales and Scotland and at Shrewsbury and many other places. A proviso was added that if the profits of the wardship exceeded 40 marks a year the surplus must be paid into the exchequer.⁴

Henry, Prince of Wales, on 1 November, 1412, appointed William Troutbeck to be chamberlain of Chester,⁵ and renewed the grant on 27 Oct., 1413, after he had succeeded to the throne as Henry V.⁶; Troutbeck was to hold the office with the accustomed fees and wages, during the king's pleasure.⁷ Soon afterwards he was one of the commissioners appointed to arrest certain persons.⁸ In this post, as the chief executive official of the county palatine, he had to collect the revenues pertaining to the earldom, and his court probably had, as it had somewhat later, a judicial position in the county similar to that of the chancery at Westminster. In 1415 he assembled fifty men-at-arms and 650 archers, apparently the Cheshire contingent, sent to serve the king in his

³ *Cal. Patent R.*, 1401-5, p. 20.

⁴ *Cal. Patent R.*, 1405-8, p. 30.

⁵ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxvi, 476.

⁶ *Cal. Patent R.*, 1413-6, p. 140.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*, 149.

war with France⁹, but it does not appear that Troutbeck himself took any part in these wars. In the next expedition, July 1417, he as chamberlain of Chester brought William Massey of Coddington and thirty-three archers of the hundred of Broxton to join the king's forces; they were engaged to serve for a whole year.¹⁰ In 1416 he was one of the commissioners to collect sums due by the tenants of the late earl of Arundel in Bromfield, Yale and Oswestry, so that moneys due by the earl to his soldiers engaged in the last expedition to France might be the more quickly paid.¹¹ Again in 1418 he was a commissioner for the muster of 364 men-at arms and 776 archers going to ship at Southampton for the safe-keeping of the seas.¹²

From this time onwards William Troutbeck the chamberlain is frequently mentioned in the Patent and Chester Recognizance Rolls as a commissioner for various purposes, such as arrays of troops and collection of subsidies, and in other capacities. For example, in 1422 he was to receive eight French prisoners in the Tower of London and convey them to the castle of Flint.¹³

On the death of Henry V he was reappointed (4 October, 1422) to his office of Chamberlain of Chester.¹⁴ As previously, the grant was "during pleasure," but on 15 August, 1437, the office was confirmed to him for life, and his son John was to succeed him, "during good behaviour."¹⁵ Two years later, however, the father surrendered the office and the son was then appointed to it for life.¹⁶ William had in 1418 received from the king (Henry V) two annuities of £10 each from the manor of Drakelow and the Dee mills at Chester,¹⁷ and these were confirmed to him on 27 Jan.,

⁹ Nicolas, *Agincourt*, 385.

¹⁰ B. Williams, *Gesta Henrici V*, 273.

¹¹ *Cal. Patent R.*, 1413-6, p. 344.

¹² *Ibid.*, 1416-22, p. 199.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 446.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 1422-29, p. 4.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 1436-41, p. 77.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 275.

¹⁷ *Dep. Keeper's Report*, xxxvii, 717.

1422-3.¹⁸ In 1421 he and another were made stewards of the courts within the lordships of Hawarden and Mold¹⁹; and soon afterwards he received an annuity of £20 from Hawarden.²⁰ In 1431-2 he and his son John obtained a lease of the manors of Hawarden and Mold for a term of forty years²¹. He was appointed parker of Shotwick in 1430²²; and in 1437 this office was confirmed for life to him and his son John.²³ He was also Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster from June, 1424, to the end of 1430; after reappointment "during pleasure" on 12 July, 1437, he became chancellor for life from 7 May, 1439.²⁴ In this capacity he was called upon to settle the armed quarrel between the families of Molyneux and Stanley, at Liverpool in 1424, just after his appointment.²⁵

It was arranged that he should be sent over to Ireland in 1429 to search for James Stewart, a kinsman of James I. of Scotland, who had taken refuge there after the execution of his father Murdoch in 1425. Troutbeck was allowed 100 marks for his expenses.²⁶ The search appears to have failed, for James is said to have died in Ireland in 1451; he was ancestor of the Stewarts of Ardvoirlich.

A Kendal transaction in which William Troutbeck was concerned in 1431, illustrates his interest in Westmorland. The king then granted leave to John Merbury and Agnes his wife to surrender that third part of a quarter of the manor of Kendal, which was Agnes's dower from her former husband, John del Par, to Thomas del Par, the son and heir of John, at a rent of forty marks a year to Agnes. Leave was also granted to Thomas to transfer his whole quarter of the manor (save one acre) to William Troutbeck and others, who would then reconvey it to Thomas and Alice his wife for life, with

¹⁸ *Cal. Patent R.*, 1422-29, p. 60.

¹⁹ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, loc. cit.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Ministers' Accts (P.R.O.) 1210/10.

²² *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, loc. cit.

²³ *Cal. Patent R.*, 1436-41, p. 57.

²⁴ Baines's *Lancs.* (ed. Croxton), i, 75; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xl. 535.

²⁵ Baines, v, 119.

²⁶ Rymer, *Foedera*, x. 415; Douglas, *Scots Peerage*, i., 451.

remainder to Thomas's heirs.²⁷ There may have been some family connection between the Parrs and Troutbecks.

Holding a number of lucrative offices and endowed with annuities, William Troutbeck became wealthy. His chief acquisition was the manors of Stanry (Stony) Dunham, or Dunham on the Hill, Great Trafford and Hoole, all near Chester. These on the death of Thomas FitzAlan, earl of Arundel, in 1415, had become the inheritance of his three sisters, Elizabeth, duchess of Norfolk, Joan, baroness of Abergavenny, and Margaret, wife of Rowland Lenthal. Troutbeck first (before 1422) acquired the lease of the manor,²⁸ and afterwards purchased the shares of the sisters. In 1425 he purchased the Abergavenny third,²⁹ and in 1427 obtained that of Norman Babington, the Duchess's grantee.³⁰ In 1425-6 land in Wimbold's Trafford, a dependency of Dunham, was held of Sir Rowland Lenthal and William Troutbeck.³¹ The Lenthals in 1443-4 gave their third to Richard Towneley and other trustees for Troutbeck, who thus shortly before his death completed his purchase.³² In 1431 Walter Twiford and Margaret his wife sold the manor of Budworth in le Frith (Little Budworth) and a fifth part of the manor of Little Neston and Hargrave to trustees for William Troutbeck.³³ A settlement of this manor of Budworth and fifth part was made by him in 1439, and the names of the feoffees are noteworthy in view of the family history; for he granted the estate to Richard Pensell, rector of St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, Chester, and John Thornton, rector of Dodleston, who were to pass it on to Richard Towneley the elder, Richard his son, William Wroth, John Germyn and Randle de Rixton; these were to grant it to John del Dedwode and Richard de Bolde, who were to give it to William

²⁷ *Cal. Patent R.*, 1429-36, p. 144.

²⁸ Letter in Ormerod's *Ches.*, ii., 38; see note on p. 37. *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxix, 78.

²⁹ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxix., 79.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, xxvii, 24.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 97.

³² *Ibid.*, xxix., 85; xxxvii, 719, 461.

³³ *Ibid.*, xxxvii., 728.

Troutbek and Joan his wife.³⁴ The manor of Rainford in Lancashire was also in his possession, but apparently in trust only, for it did not descend to his heirs.³⁵ Another trusteeship, probably, was that of the manor called the White Hall and lands called Poynants in South Benfleet, Essex, released by Robert Blossine (? Blossme) to William Troutbek, esq., in 1412.³⁶ In 1466-7 Sir Thomas Tyrell acquired this estate from William Troutbek, son of Sir William [who was grandson of the above William Troutbek], and William Pensell, kinsman and heir of Sir Richard Pensell, chivaler, viz., son of John, brother and heir of Sir Richard.³⁷ It would thus seem that the estate had been held in trust for the Pensells; on the other hand, Richard Pensell, who had been presented to the rectory of St. Mary's, Chester, by Troutbeck, acted as trustee for him and his son John.³⁸

William Troutbeck married Joan, daughter and heir of William Rixton, according to the pedigrees, which in this case there is no reason to distrust, because the Rixton arms were usually impaled or quartered with those of Troutbeck. Isabel, also described as daughter and heir of William de Rixton, married John de Towneley of Towneley in 1382³⁹; she may have been an aunt of Joan, and her son and grandson, the two Richard Towneleys, have been named above among the Troutbeck feoffees. Joan, daughter of William de Rixton of Warrington, in 1405-6, obtained a writ in the Chancery of the Duchy of Lancaster.⁴⁰ At that time, therefore, she was unmarried. Beaumont, in his account of the family, calls her Joan Massey and professes to give the trustees of the marriage settlement (?1413), viz., John Massey, chaplain, John de Dedwode, Richard Bold, Richard

³⁴ *Dep. Keeper's Report*, xxxvii, 718.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 719.

³⁶ Close R. 262 (14 Hen. IV.), m. 29. Inaccurately cited in Morant, i., 264.

³⁷ *De Banco R.* 822 (Hil. 6 Edw. IV), m. 236d. (Plantagenet Harrison's note).

³⁸ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxvii, 585. John Pensell is named in 1433; *ibid.* See Earwaker, *St. Mary's on the Hill*, 79.

³⁹ Baines' *Lancs.* (ed. Croston), iii, 383.

⁴⁰ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxiii, 5.

Towneley, Richard Pensell and Roger Holme, who occur in later Troutbeck feoffments. Joan was one of the ladies in attendance on Katherine of France, queen of Henry V, in 1422, and received various grants on that account both then and at later dates.⁴¹

William Troutbeck, in 1433, made an agreement for the building of a chantry chapel on the south side of the chancel of St. Mary's, Chester, as follows⁴² :

This endenture made by twene William Troutebek esquier on that on partie and Thomas Betes mason on that other partie beres wittnesse that the forsaid Thomas has made covenant and granted to the said William that he shall make a chapel in the chirche yorde of Seynte Marie on the Hill on the south side of the chauncell of the chirche there that is to wete the est ende the south side and the west ende contenyng the length of the chauncell there and xvij fote wide with inne the walles and as high as hit nedes resonably to be with v faire and clenely wrought wyndowes full of light that is to say on gable wyndow in the est ende with iiij lightes and iij windowes on the south side ichone of iij lightes and on in the weste ende in the best wise to be deviset and iiij botras on the south side with a grete arche in the weste ende and the chapelle to be battellet above like to the little closet with inne the castell of Chester with a corbyl table longyng thereto and at ayther end iiij honest fynals. And the forsaid William shall pay to the forsaid Thomas xx^{li} like as the worke goes forwarde and also give him a gowne and alsoe the forsaid William shall fynde fre stone lyme sonde water wyndelasse and stuff for to scaffalde with and such manere necessaries as the forsaid Thomas nedes and all manere of cariages that longen therto and the forsaid Thomas shall by the oversight of Maester John Asser make the chappell and all thynges that longen thereto masoncraft honestly. In wytnesse of the which thyng to these presentes endentures the parties forsaid aither anendes other haven set to their sealx. Gyven at Chester the Mononday next before the feste of the natyvyte of Seint John the Baptist in the yere of Kyng Henry the Sixt after the Conquest xj [22 June, 1433].

In 1441 William and Joan assigned to Roger Holme, rector of Astbury, and John Mascy, chaplain, various messuages

⁴¹ Rymer, *Foedera*, x., 204; *Cal. Patent R.*, 1429-36, p. 81; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxvii, 719.

⁴² Ormerod, ii., 41. The original was in the possession of the earl of Shrewsbury in 1807.

and lands in Woodchurch, Ledsham, Little Christleton and Chester, in order to provide a stipend of 106s. 8d. for a chaplain celebrating in the Trinity Chapel, built as above by William and Joan, for their souls. The lands were to descend to their son John Troutbeck and his issue subject to the same trust, and in default of issue successively to Richard Bolde of Chester, Thomas Par, knt., Geoffrey Warburton, knt., John, son of Hugh Dutton of Hatton, and the king. The feoffees fulfilled their trust in 1444.⁴³

The founders of the chapel were no doubt buried there, in the centre of the chapel, where a sumptuous monument was afterwards erected, probably by their son John, commemorating the alliances of the family. The grandson William's tomb seems to have been that in the south-east corner of the chapel. The building fell in ruins in 1661, and the monuments were destroyed. The descriptions of the figures on the two monuments are so much alike that they must have been carved much about the same time, but the records of the coats of arms around them are quite distinct, and may be given thus from Harleian MS. 2151⁴⁴:

Central Tomb.

At head.—1, Troutbeck; 2, Rixton.

At foot.—1, Troutbeck impaling Rixton; 2, Rixton quartering Argent a fess gules with three mullets in chief sable (? Towneley, gules in error for sable), impaling argent a fess (? Kighley).

On north side.—1, Argent two chevrons gules, on a canton of the last a mullet or [? Orreby, Corbet]; 2, Argent two bars azure, quartering Or three water bougets sable [Parr and Ros of Kendal]; 3, Argent 2 bars gules, on a canton of the last a cross-crosslet fitchee or, impaling azure a lion rampant argent [? Lancaster]; 4, Azure crusilly fitchee a cinquefoil or [? Taillebois]

On south side.—1, Troutbeck impaling Hulse; 2, Troutbeck (with a label of three points) impaling the Stanley of Lathom coat; 3, Venables impaling Troutbeck; 4, Rixton impaling Troutbeck.

⁴³ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxxvii., 719, 720; Earwaker, *St. Mary's, Chester*, 31.

⁴⁴ See Earwaker as above.

Some of the coats on the north side seem intended to emphasise the family's connection with Kendal; those on the south side show the alliances of the son John Troutbeck and his son (with the label) and of daughters. They cannot be earlier in date than the marriage of John's son William with Margaret Stanley (1448) nor later than John's own death (1458).

William Troutbeck seems to have died at the end of 1444 or early in 1445, but no inquisition *post mortem* has been preserved. Joan his widow claimed dower against John Troutbeck in respect of lands and fishery at Leighton and Poulton Lancelyn in Wirral in January 1444-5.⁴⁵ She and the son John, as executors of William's last will, had various suits with debtors and others.⁴⁶ Joan was in 1448 charged with raising a ditch in her manor of Stony Dunham so as to be an obstruction.⁴⁷ She died 9 Dec., 1452, and inquisitions were made after her death for lands held by her in the city and the county of Chester. John her son and heir was then aged 40 and more. In the city she had messuages and rents in Bridge Street, Eastgate Street and Foregate Street. In the county were the manors of Great Trafford, Stony Dunham and Hoole, with lands in Hoole, etc., held by her after the death of her husband, the reversion being to John, the son and heir of William; all these were held of the king in right of his earldom of Chester by knight's service and rendering judgements in the county (court) of Chester. The manor of Budworth in the Frith, the fifth part of the manor of Little Neston and Hargrave and lands in Woodchurch, Ledsham and Little Christleton were also named.⁴⁸ The widow's inquisition may thus be taken as showing the estates of her late husband. Her will has not been preserved, but the executors were her son John Troutbeck and his son William.⁴⁹

⁴⁵ Chester Plea R., 150, m. 11.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, m. 17; 151, m. 2 etc.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 154, m. 18; see 152, m. 25d.; 156, m. 37.

⁴⁸ Chester Inq. p. m., file 43 (31 Hen. VI., No. 5).

⁴⁹ Chester Plea Roll 161, m. 28, 32.

William and Joan had several children, but particulars do not appear in contemporary records except as to the heir John. In addition to him the old pedigrees give—

William, said to have had some interest in Hawarden. A William Troutbeck was a witness at Flint in 1433-4, but there is nothing to identify him.⁵⁰ William the Chamberlain was then alive.

Joan, said to have married (1) William or Matthew Rixton, and (2) William Pigot.

Elizabeth, said to have married (1) Thomas or William Venables [? of Agdon] and (2) Robert Knolles (see below).

The coats of arms on the tomb give evidence in favour of the marriages of the daughters.

William Troutbeck had also an illegitimate son Miles, who studied at Oxford and embraced a clerical career, being presented by his father to the rectory of Astbury in December, 1425.⁵¹ In the Lichfield Episcopal Register is entered about that time a dispensation dated 1419, in favour of Miles Trowtbek, removing the canonical impediment of illegitimacy; he was the son of an unmarried man and an unmarried woman.⁵² Miles was dead in 1430, when his father was acting as his executor.⁵³

In view of the claims of various families to quarter the arms of Troutbeck in right of descent from "a daughter and heir of William Troutbeck," it is necessary to point out that of the three Williams whose history is known, not one had a "daughter and heir." A particularly flagrant example is that of the Knolles family, according to F.C. Cass in his *History of South Mimms*. He gives a pedigree (p. 70) of the Frowykes of Old Fold, in which it is recorded that Robert Knolles, living in 1460, married "Elizabeth dau. and heiress of William Troutbeck and widow of Thomas Venables; d. 28 Nov., 1458, bur. at North Mimms,"

⁵⁰ Harl MS., 2099, f. 25.

⁵¹ Ormerod iii., 26.

⁵² Act. Bk. ix, f. 151. Dispensation granted at Florence 14 Oct., 2 Martin V, by Jordan (Orsini), cardinal bishop of Albano, a papal official.

⁵³ Chester Plea Roll, 135, m. 7d., 11, 14, 19d., 22.

and that she left two daughters, one of whom married Henry Frowyke. In the accompanying coat of arms are quartered the coats of Knolles, with Troutbeck, More, Holes and Mobberley. These four Troutbeck coats must in any case be omitted, but the inclusion of the Holes and Mobberley arms points to a confusion between Elizabeth, daughter of William the Chamberlain, and his granddaughter Elizabeth (daughter of John Troutbeck), only the latter having the right to those coats through her mother. As the younger Elizabeth was living in 1460 she cannot have been the wife of Knolles; and neither Elizabeth was heiress of her father. William II also had a daughter Elizabeth, but she was living, and under age, at her father's death in 1459. The authority for the Knolles marriage is Chauncy (*Herts.*, 529), and the date of Elizabeth's death is recorded on a brass in North Mimms church. The other Knolles coheir married Richard Fortescue of Devon, but Vivian does not record any claim to quarterings.

2. JOHN TROUTBECK.

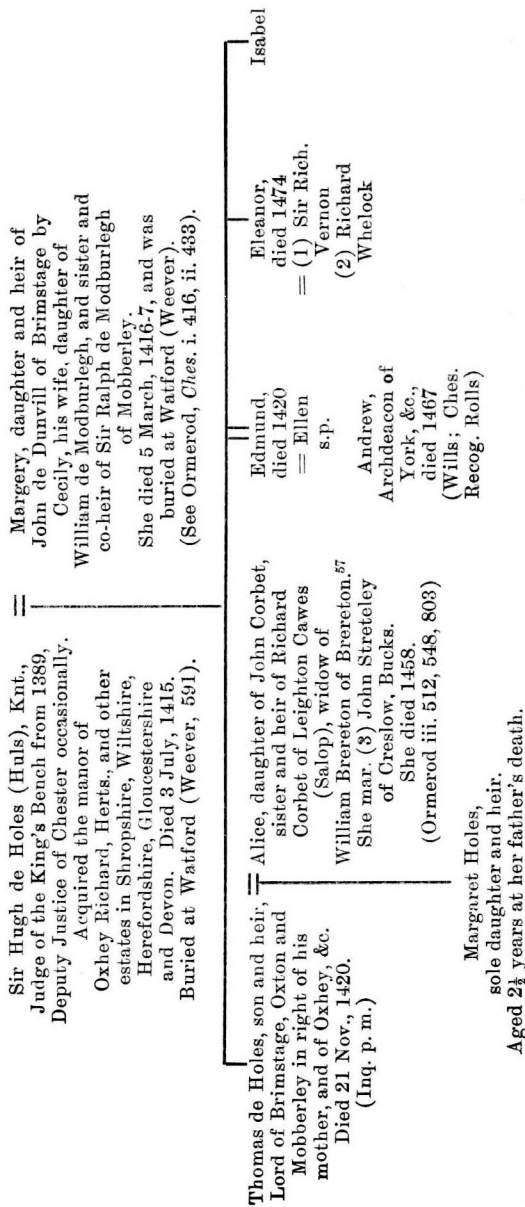
John Troutbeck, son and heir of William, has already been mentioned as his father's partner and successor in the offices of chamberlain of Chester, parker of Shotwick and farmer of the manors of Hawarden and Mold. His appointment as chamberlain was ratified 19 April, 1445, soon after his father's death, and again on 10 August in the same year.⁵⁴ From his mother's inquisition it appears that he was born before 1413. His father in 1421 became guardian of the lands, etc., of Margery, the three years old daughter and heir of Thomas Holes or Huls, with the right of her marriage,⁵⁵ and he married her accordingly to his eldest son. In July, 1432, John Troutbeck and Margery his wife proved her age and received livery of her lands.⁵⁶ She was a well endowed heiress, and this marriage fully established the Troutbecks among the Cheshire gentry.

⁵⁴ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxvii, 720.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 717.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 718.

HOLES PEDIGREE.



⁵⁷ Alice was wife of William Breton in 1410; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxvi, 55. She, already married to Stretley, had assignment of dower from the Holes estates in 1422; *ibid* xxxvii, 692.

Margaret, wife of John Troutbek and heir of Thomas Huls, was stated at the inquiry as to her age to have been born on 28 Oct., 1417, at Oxhey, Herts., and baptised at Watford church; one John Welles was her godfather.⁵⁸ Among the estates she inherited should be mentioned the moiety of the serjeancy of the Bridge Gate of Chester, acquired by her grandfather Sir Hugh from the heiress of Raby, and the manor of Raby⁵⁹; a messuage and rent and the custody of the earl of Chester's garden in the castle ditch⁶⁰; and two-fifths of the manor of Little Neston and Hargrave⁶¹, of which, as already stated, one-fifth had been acquired by William Troutbeck. The other moiety of the serjeancy appears to have been purchased by the Erneys family, who had also a share in Little Neston and Hargrave, and it descended to the Norrises of Speke. The serjeancy was of some importance in Chester, and a mansion in Bridge Street was attached to the office, which descended with other Troutbeck estates to the earls of Shrewsbury.⁶²

As has been recorded already, John Troutbeck was a leading official in the county even many years before his father's death, and in 1438-9 he served as sheriff, previous to his permanent appointment as chamberlain.⁶³ He was also knight of the shire for Hertford in two Parliaments, 1441-2 and 1446-7, and member for the borough of Hindon, Wilts., 1448, and Weymouth, Dorset, 1450. His wife's estates brought him into conflict with many of his neighbours, and in 1433 and 1438 he had to find sureties to keep the peace.⁶⁴ On his part, he accused George Stanley, of Hooton, and others of stealing his cattle at Brimstage,⁶⁵ and had other suits at Mobberley and Barnston about the same time.⁶⁶ In

⁵⁸ Chester Inq. p.m. file 36 (10 Henry VI, No. 7).

⁵⁹ Ormerod, *Ches. ii.*, 548. The exact details are not known.

⁶⁰ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxvi., 237.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 238.

⁶² R. H. Morris, *Chester in Plantagenet Times*, 228-30; *Ches. Sheaf*, 3rd ser., xx. 54.

⁶³ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxxvii., 718.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ Chester Plea R., 144, m. 7d.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.* 145, m. 2, 2d.

fact, he was constantly in the court as plaintiff in cases of theft, trespass, etc. In 1452-3 he was himself charged with exceeding his official duties.⁶⁷ A curious grant of the reversion of the chamberlainship after John's death was in 1445 made to the king's serjeant Thomas Danyell, esq., with the proviso that "if John have offended or do offend, the said Thomas shall enter the office."⁶⁸ It looks as if he were not altogether trusted, in spite of the ratification of the grants made to him in his father's lifetime. This concession, however, may not have been unfriendly, for two years later the same Thomas Danyell and John Troutebek, king's esquier, were appointed King's Remembrancers at the Exchequer.⁶⁹ The grant was surrendered in 1450.⁷⁰

John Troutbeck surrendered his office as Chamberlain, perhaps on account of ill-health, early in 1457, and Sir Richard Tunstall, the "stainless knight" of Lancastrian eulogy, succeeded him.⁷¹ He did not long survive the surrender. His wife Margery had died on 16th Nov., 1456, holding the manor of Albrighton, Salop, and other estates of her inheritance, settled on herself and her husband and her heirs. William her son and heir was then aged twenty-four and more.⁷² John Troutbeck died on 26 August, 1458, at Oxhey, as appears from his will. On 22 February, 1456-7 he had given his manors of Brimstage, Dunham, Trafford and Budworth, the advowson of the church at Mobberley, and all his lands in Cheshire, etc., to feoffees, who included John, earl of Arundel and Master Andrew Holes⁷³; and made probably a similar feoffment for other estates, the escheators' returns for Devon, Hertfordshire, Wiltshire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire merely stating that he had held no lands in those counties at his death. In London he held two messuages, etc., in St. Olave's in Silver Street, Cripplegate

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 158, m. 27, 28.

⁶⁸ *Cal. Patent R.*, 1441-6, p. 333.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 1446-52, p. 33.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 405.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, 1452-61, p. 338.

⁷² *Inq. p.m.*, 35 Henry VI, No. 8 (file 163).

⁷³ *Ches. Inq. p.m.* file 45 (37 Hen. VI., No. 9).

Ward, of the king in free burgage. In Shropshire he held Albrighton by the courtesy of England, a moiety of the manors of Fordesham and Newport and a third part of the manor of Egmondon. The heir was his son William Troutbek, who was 25 years of age.⁷⁴

He had married a second wife, Alice, daughter of Joan, widow of John Judde, esq.⁷⁵ In 1457 the king's serjeant, John Judde of London, merchant, was made master of the king's ordnance, he having caused to be made at his own expense sixty guns called serpentines, and stuff of gunpowder, saltpetre and sulphur to the amount of 20 tons. He was living in 1460.⁷⁶ Alice, widow of John Truttebek, esq., alleged in 1459 that her late husband being seised of the manor of Oxhey, Herts., enfeoffed Gilbert Parre thereof for the fulfilment of his will, desiring Alice to hold the manor for her life. Gilbert, however, refused to give her possession; and Sir William Truttebek, the son and heir, wanted Gilbert to transfer it to him, though he knew his father's will. She therefore asked the bishop of Winchester, as chancellor, to intervene on her behalf.⁷⁷

The following is an abstract of John Troutbeck's will,⁷⁸ which does not mention Alice :

In Dei nomine, amen. 1458, the feast of St. Bartholomew (24 Aug.), I, John Troughtbek, being of sound memory, though sick in body, make my last will. I bequeath my soul to God my creator, to blessed Mary His mother and all His saints; my body to be buried wherever it may please my eldest son William. To each chaplain celebrating for my soul, wheresoever my body may rest, for one year, 10 marks. To the parish church of Watford a silver gilt chalice. To John Troutbek my younger son £100, when he shall come to years of discretion. To Isabel my daughter 200 marks at marriageable age. To servants, etc., Richard Ryxton my kinsman, 4 marks. To

⁷⁴ Inq. p.m., 37 Henry VI, No. 21 (file 172); Ches. Inq. p.m., file 45.

⁷⁵ Close R. 313 (1 Edw. IV), m. 37; a deed by Joan granting all her goods in England to Alice Troutbeck, widow, her daughter, and to John Gylon, gent.

⁷⁶ *Cal. Patent R.*, 1452-61, p. 342, etc., 605.

⁷⁷ Early Chanc. Proc. 26/262, 263.

⁷⁸ St. Albans: Stoneham, f. 92d, "Trughtbek de Watford."

Ralph Winstanley, Philip de Codyngton, Robert Halsted, Hugh Shotylworth, John Foxwyst and Richard Hyndeley, 4 marks apiece. To Ralph de Evys, John Bayly, Robert Wryght and Henry Wraughton, 40s. each. To Elizabeth Shotylworth my servant, 20s. To William Cooke, Alice Deye and my servant Lettice Deye each 6s. 6d. Executors: William Troughtbek, my eldest son, Richard Ryxton and Ralph Winstanley; each of the two last to have 40s. At Oxey.

Proved 25 Sept., 1458, by Ryxton and Wynstanley, the other executor renouncing.

Beside the three children named in the will—William John and Isabel (Elizabeth), John Troutbeck had another daughter named Cecily. Her name is probably omitted because provision had been made for her, for in December, 1454, Hugh Calveley and William Horton had licence to alienate to William, son of John Troutbek and others certain lands in Kingsley, etc., to hold for the life of Cecily, daughter of John Troutbek, esq., and wife of John Done, of Utkinton, esq., with remainder in tail male to the said John Done.⁷⁹ Cecily seems to have married John, the son of that Sir John Done who was killed at Blore Heath; both the parties would be children. Nothing more is heard of Cecily, but John Troutbeck is mentioned in a plea of 1525 referred to below. Ormerod thinks that this John was a chaplain or chantry priest at Hoghton, Lancs.

Robert Grosvenor, obviously as trustee, granted the reversion of lands in Sproston and Kinderton (then held for life by Elizabeth, widow of Richard Venables) to Elizabeth, daughter of John Troutbek, for life, by charter dated 14 Jan., 1453-4. She married Sir Hugh Venables, kinsman and heir of Hugh Venables, of Kinderton, and as his widow received in 1460, the manor of Witton from Grosvenor, soon afterwards surrendering it to him for a term at 40 marks rent (4 April, 1460).⁸⁰ Sir Hugh was killed at Blore Heath, fighting on the Lancastrian side; he was only 22 years of age and had no children.⁸¹ In the time of Edward

⁷⁹ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxvii, 17.

⁸⁰ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxvii, 169.

⁸¹ Ormerod iii., 192.

IV it was stated that Thomas Weston had purchased the presentation to Rostherne church from Sir Hugh Venables and his father-in-law John Troutbeck.⁸²

3. SIR WILLIAM TROUTBECK II.

William Troutbeck, the son and heir, who in the Cheshire inquisition after his father's death was stated to have been 23 years old on 20 July, 1458—and therefore born in 1435⁸³—had but a brief career, being slain at the fatal battle of Blore Heath on 23 September, 1459. He had recently been made a knight and was fighting on the Lancastrian side, which lost the battle. He had married Margaret, daughter of Thomas (1st lord) Stanley; and on 22 May, 1453, his father and mother joined in assigning land in Pickmere to "William Troutbek, our son, and Margaret his wife."⁸⁴ Margaret, as widow, on 26 April, 1460, asked the king (Henry VI) to grant her the wardship and marriage of William, son and heir of her late husband. He had held lands in Shropshire of the king by knights' service and had been killed at Blore Heath in the company of James, lord Audley. He had incurred great expense recently on the occasion of his knighthood and had lost £400 at the battle. She had four children by him. Her petition was granted, and she paid £100.⁸⁵

The usual inquisitions were made as to Sir William's lands in January and February, 1459-60. The following is an outline of them.

In London the messages in St. Olave's parish are recorded as before. In Hertfordshire the manor of Oxhey Richard was held of the abbot of St. Albans by knight's service. In Hereford a third part of the manors of Monyton on the Wey and Dillewe was held of the king as Duke of Lancaster. In Devon Sir William had a moiety of the manors of West Raddon, Nymet St. George, Newton Tracy and Barnstaple, and the advowson of the church of Newton Tracy; in Gloucestershire a moiety of the manor of Begworth was held of the duke of Gloucester; in

⁸² Harl. MS., 2077, f. 36.

⁸³ He was probably a few years older.

⁸⁴ Harl. MS., 2074, f. 18.

⁸⁵ *Cal. Patent R.*, 1452-61, p. 582.

Wiltshire a moiety of the manors of Broughton and Ashton Giffard and the advowson of the church of Codford; in Shropshire, the manor of Albrighton, a moiety of the manors of Fordesham and Newport and a third part of the manor of Egmond. All these had been settled on his parents John and Margery and the heirs of Margery by fine in 1445. Sir William was the son and heir, and his heir was his son William Troutbeck, aged 10 years and more at his father's death.⁸⁶

The inquisition in Cheshire took place in September 1464, at Bunbury. It was found that the manor of Mobberley and the advowson of the church were held of Thomas Stanley as of his manor of Alderley by knight's service; the manor of Brimstage of Lord Lestraunge, the manor of Raby of Thomas lord Stanley by a rent of 3s., the manors of Budworth in le Frith, Great Trafford, Stony Dunham and Hoole, a moiety of the town of Little Neston and a fifth part of the hamlet of Hargrave of the late king Henry by knight's service. From Hargrave 3s. a year was paid to the abbot of Chester. Besides these manors Sir William had held messuages, lands and rent in Barnston, Carnsdalefield, Ledsham, Woodchurch, Eccleston, land by the castle of Chester, Hulme by Middlewich, Kinderton, Brereton, Newton by Middlewich, Coggeshall, Little Christleton, Bridge Trafford and Tattenhall. Sir Hugh de Holes had in 1375-6 settled the manor of Elton on his son Edmund and male issue. Edmund left no son, but his widow Ellen held it in dower till her death; and then the manor came to William, son of Sir William Troutbeck, as son of William, son of Margery, daughter of Thomas, son of the said Hugh de Holes. The manor of Oxtan, a moiety of the town of Pickmere, a rent in Thingwall and messuages in Tranmere, Upton and Wireswall had been settled on Sir William and Margaret his wife, daughter of Thomas lord Stanley, and they had issue William Troutbeck, under age. This son William was now fifteen years old and more, and had been married to Joan, daughter of Sir John Botiller, knt., in the lifetime of the said Sir John. Margaret, widow of Sir William, had enjoyed the profits in virtue of the king's writ granting the wardship and marriage of the heir to Sir John Boteler and Margaret his wife; dated 8 Jan., 1462-3.⁸⁷

In Whitweek 1465 an inquisition was made concerning Sir William's holding in the city of Chester. The return is in part illegible, but he had held messuages, etc., in Castle Lane, Eastgate Street, Fleshmonger Lane, Bridge Street, Whitefriars

⁸⁶ Inq. p. m. 38 and 39 Henry VI, No. 47 (file 177).

⁸⁷ Chester Inq. p.m. file 46 (4 Edw. IV, No. 4). See *Cal. Patent R.*, 1461-67, p 209.

Lane, a vacant place by the Ship Gate, Handbridge, Earl's Eye, seven fishing stalls on the Dee, a moiety of the serjeancy of the Bridge Gate and land by Claverton Lane.⁸⁸

These inquisitions afford a view of the position and alliances of the family. On 23 Janu., 1459-60 a dispensation had been granted, permitting the marriage of Sir John Boteler and Margaret, widow of Sir William Troutbeck, who were related in the third and third degrees.⁸⁹ The Chester inquisition shows that the marriage had taken place, and that Dame Margaret, as guardian, had caused her eldest son to be married to a step-daughter. Sir John Boteler died on 26 February, 1462-3. By his former wife he had a son and successor William, who married Joan or Jane, daughter of Sir William Troutbeck, and daughters Margaret and Joan or Jane, who married respectively the brothers Adam and William Troutbeck. By the above Margaret, his second wife, he had a son Thomas, who ultimately inherited the Warrington estates. Margaret herself afterwards married Henry, lord Grey of Codnor, and died about 1481.⁹⁰

According to Dame Margaret's petition in 1460, she had four children by Sir William Troutbeck. The pedigrees⁹¹ give them as follows, adding a fifth, Thomas, who died young :

William, son and heir ;

Adam ;

Joan, married (1) Sir William Boteler (as above) and (2) Sir

William Griffith, of Penrhyn, chamberlain of North Wales ;

Elizabeth, married Sir Alexander Hoghton, of Hoghton, Lancs.⁹²

In reference to Joan's second marriage, it may be noticed that she is wrongly described as "coheir" in the Griffith pedigrees,⁹³ and in Lloyd's *Powys Fadog* the Troutbeck arms are blazoned as Argent three trouts in pale proper.

⁸⁸ Chester Inq. p.m. file 46 (5 Edwd. IV, No. 6).

⁸⁹ Lichfield Episc. Reg., xii, f. 157d.

⁹⁰ Beaumont, *Lords of Warrington* (Chetham Soc.), 294, 300; *Cheshire Visit.* of 1580 (Harl. Soc.), 223.

⁹¹ See Add. MS., 5530, f. 195.

⁹² *Inquis. p.m.* (Chetham Soc.) ii, 130. There was an only child named Anne.

⁹³ Harl. MS., 2094, f. 25; Lloyd, *Powys Fadog*, iv., 342.

The tomb formerly by the south wall near the east end of the Troutbeck chapel in St. Mary's, Chester, was that of Sir William, judging by the arms displayed on it. On the slab were the figures of a knight and his wife, and below, on the end wall of the tomb, were the arms of Troutbeck and Stanley. On the side wall were the following arms, showing the family alliances :

1. Troutbeck impaling Butler of Bewsey ;
2. Butler, impaling Troutbeck ;
3. Brereton ;
4. Troutbeck, impaling Holes.

The other side and end of the tomb seem to have been against the walls of the chapel.

4. SIR WILLIAM TROUTBECK III.

William III, thus left a minor, was brought up under his mother's guardianship⁹⁴, and appears to have lived at Bewsey, near Warrington, the seat of the Botelers. In 1463 and later the abbot of Chester impleaded Margaret, widow of Sir John Boteler, William, son of Sir William Troutbeck, and William Hampton, concerning a tenement in Raby.⁹⁵ In 1464 Margaret, as widow and executrix of Sir William Troutbek, made a claim against Joyce Beaucham, lady of Cokesay, widow of Leonard Stapulton⁹⁶. William Troutbeck, with other esquires, gentlemen and yeomen, were in June, 1469, imprisoned in the Northgate at Chester, possibly for some political offence, but were released.⁹⁷

William proved his age in 1472, evidence being given that he was baptised in St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, Chester, on the feast of St. Stephen the pope (2 Aug.), 1449.⁹⁸ At the same time dower was assigned to his mother as follows: the manors of Raby and Stony Dunham, a fifth part of the hamlet of Hargrave, a moiety of the town of Little Neston,

⁹⁴ The grant to her was exempted from the operation of the Act of Resumption passed in 1464; *Rolls of Parlt.* v. 530 b.

⁹⁵ Chester Plea R., 167, m. 31; 168, m. 18; 174, m. 9 d., etc.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, 168, m. 15.

⁹⁷ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxvii, 721. The movement for the restoration of Henry VI had already begun.

⁹⁸ Chester Inq. p.m., file 47 (12 Edw. IV. No. 4).

messuages and land in Barnston, Carnesdalefield and Ledsham, and £6 rent from Tattenhall.⁹⁹ A few years afterwards, as "William Trowtebek, of Bewsey, esq." he was with many others implicated in some forest offence in Delamere, and charged at the swainmote. He was put on the exigent for non-appearance, but no outlawry is recorded.¹⁰⁰ It was probably this matter that he referred to in a petition for the restoration of the manor of Oxhey addressed to Henry VII. In this he alleged that Edward IV had entered the manor by force and kept him out by refusing to allow him to be discharged from an outlawry. The petitioner had fought for Henry at Bosworth and the manor had been restored to him, but he asked for confirmation. This was granted.¹⁰¹ In the Raby claim long prosecuted by the abbot of Chester, William Troutbeck appeared in 1481 and stated that his mother had held nothing there except as dower from Sir William Troutbeck; William Hampton, one of the defendants, had died in December, 1473, but his name was still in the writ.¹⁰² From this it appears that his mother had died by 1481. The suit went on; the defendants in 1485 were William Troutbeck and Roger Hampton.¹⁰³

From the petition just cited it will be seen that William maintained the Lancastrian traditions of his house and joined Henry VII on his return to England to claim the crown, taking part in the battle of Bosworth. In 1487 he again fought for the king at the battle of Stoke, and was there made a knight. His arms are described as—Quarterly : 1 and 4, Azure 3 trouts fretted argent; 2 and 3, Argent a fleur-de-lys between 3 blackamoors' heads coupé sable.¹⁰⁴ In a MS. volume displaying arms, written in the latter part of the 15th century, is the picture of a combat between Troghtbek and Watyrton. The former's coat shows three

⁹⁹ Chester Inq., p. m. file 47 (12 Edw. IV., No. 3).

¹⁰⁰ Chester Plea R., 180, m. 33, 38 d., 43; 181, m. 4, 9.

¹⁰¹ *Rolls of Parlt.*, vi., 320.

¹⁰² Chester Plea R., 185, m. 73.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, 187, m. 17 d.

¹⁰⁴ Metcalfe, *Knights*, 14.

trouts argent on an azure ground; the fishes are placed one above another so as to form a star of six points, and not "fretty."¹⁰⁵

Sir William does not appear much on the plea rolls or in any public capacity. In 1492 and later he had a suit for trespass at Wimbold's Trafford with Thomas Crewe and others.¹⁰⁶ In 1495 he was a surety for Sir George Holford.¹⁰⁷ A settlement was made of his manors of Brimstage, Oxton, etc., in 1503, by way of a recovery, the demandants being Robert Troutebeke, Thomas Hogh and William Frodesham, but the uses are not stated in the plea roll.¹⁰⁸ About the same time he became surety for the fines of William Jenkinson, Edward Williamson and William Coulton, of Woodchurch, probably his tenants.¹⁰⁹ In Delamere Forest it was found, at a court in May 1503, that Sir William Troutbek of Brimstage had enclosed land in the forest and at Belyng Mershe and built two houses upon it, in Budworth en le Frith.¹¹⁰ He probably compounded for the offence, as the suit drops out.¹¹¹ In December, 1507 he was exempted from serving on juries, etc., on account of illness,¹¹² but early in the following February was appointed one of the commissioners to inquire touching the engrossing and regrating of corn in Cheshire.¹¹³ About the same time he acted as a feoffee of Richard Cotton, of Cotton.¹¹⁴ About this time also, according to Leadam's *Domesday of Inclosures* (ii. 644), he made a park at Brimstage, taking in 20 acres of arable land.

He died 8 September, 1510. Holding in Cheshire the manors of Brimstage, Oxton, etc., a moiety of the serjeancy of Bridge Street in Chester with custody of the bridge, etc., he married Margaret, daughter of Richard Hough, esq., and

¹⁰⁵ Harl. MS., 4205, f. 37.

¹⁰⁶ Chester Plea R., 192, m. 25 d., etc.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, 195, m. 21d.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, 203, m. 25.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, m. 52.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 204, m. 30 d; 205, m. 10.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, 207, m. 1.

¹¹² *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxvii, 721.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁴ Chester Plea R., 209, m. 67.

suffered a recovery of the said manors, etc., in 1503, as stated above. The inquisition, taken 7 May, 1512, recites the tenures, and states that the heir was Margaret, daughter of Adam Troutbeck, brother of Sir William, who had been married to John Talbot, esq., in Sir William's lifetime and was 16 years of age at his death.¹¹⁵ A full abstract of the recovery referred to and an abstract of the inquisition concerning Sir William's estate in the city of Chester are printed in the Deputy Keeper's reports from the Recognizance rolls.¹¹⁶ The latter mentions the messuage called Troutbekks Place and the custody of the garden in the Castle ditch.

The following is Sir William's last will, proved 3 Dec., 1510¹¹⁷:

In the name of God, amen. I, Sir William Troutbeke, knyght, make my testament and last will in maner and fourme folowing. First I bequeth my soule to almighty God, my body to be buried in my chapell in the parisshe church of Seynt Marye of the Hill in Chester. Also I make Margaret my wif and Thomas Hoghe myn executours, and to the accomplishment of this my will I make my lord of Ely¹¹⁸ myn overseer of my said testament, that this my last will may be fulfilled in every poynt. Furthermore I will that xxiiij of my servaunts have blake gownes to accompany me to my buryall. Also that myn executours shall geve xij white gownes to xij poore men to bere xij torches at my buriall. Also I will that xij tapers shalbe ther. And as for brede ale and wyne as myn executours shall thinke necessary. And all my goodes moevable that leven of my buriall I give unto Margaret my said wif.

And as towching and concernyng my londes. Where as by diverse dedes ended bering date the first day of May the xxiiij yere of king Henry the vijth [1508] I have caused by my commaundment and request Thomas Hoghe and William Frodsam feoffez to myn use by recovery of all my londes in Chesshier to geve and graunte certeyn maners londes and tenementes in the countie of Chester to Margaret my wif for terme of hir life for hir joyntour, also to my sonnes and daughters for terms of their lyves, the remaynder therof to my right heyres as it aperith in the same dedes and writtings. And

¹¹⁵ Chester Inq. p.m., file 60 (4 Hen. VIII, No. 7).

¹¹⁶ Report xxxix, 264.

¹¹⁷ P.C.C., 35 Bennett; printed in Earwaker's *St. Mary's, Chester*, 185.

¹¹⁸ His cousin James Stanley, bishop of Ely.

also I will that my said wif and children named¹¹⁹ in the said dedes and writtinges shall have the same londes for terme of their lyves, the remaynder to my right heyres, according as yz specified in the same dedes. And further if it happen that the same gifte and graunte of the said londes by the said dedes made to my wif and childern and to every of theym be not sufficient in the lawe to every of them according to the same myn entent in that behalf as written in the said dedes, than I will that the said Thomas Hoghe and William Frodsam my feoffez shall make a sure and a sufficient estate in the lawe to my said wif for terme of hir life of all thos maners londes and tenementes to hir appoynted in the said dedes. And in like wise to my children and every of them named in the said dedes for terms of their lyves all those londes and tenementes to theym and every of theym appoyntid in the said dedes according to the true entent and meanyng of the same dedes and writtinges, the remaynder after their deceste to my right heyres. And that this be doon incontynently aftir my deceste without delay. And if this my will be not sufficient in the lawe, that then it be made and mendyd by lerned counsaill according to the true entent of this my will.

In witness wherof I have sett to my seale the ix day of September the yere of our Lord Mⁱ Vc and X.

The will is curious in that it omits in the bequest of his soul any mention of St. Mary and All Saints, and omits also any provision for Masses for his soul.

From this will and documents previously cited, it appears that Sir William was married twice: (1) to Joan Boteler and (2) to Margaret, daughter of Thomas Hough. The first was a child marriage, but it was not until 1491 that Sir William obtained a divorce on the ground of kinship, the parties being related in the fourth and fourth degrees.¹²⁰ Margaret, the widow, married William Pole, of Poole, in Cheshire, serjeant-at-arms to the king; pardon being granted on 22nd July, 1513, because the marriage had taken place without the king's licence.¹²¹ William Pole and his wife Margaret were plaintiffs at Chester in 1511.¹²²

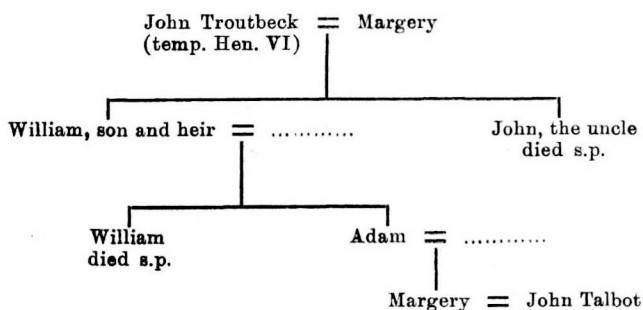
¹¹⁹ There may have been illegitimate children; see Eglington, dau. of William Troutbeck, below.

¹²⁰ Lichfield Episc. Regs., xiii, f. 125.

¹²¹ *Letters and Papers Hen. VIII*, i. 967 (2137, No. 23).

¹²² Chester Plea R., 213, m. 7-12.

It is clear from the inquisition and will that Sir William had no lawful children, or none surviving, and John Talbot and Margaret his wife entered without question on their inheritance, livery being ordered on 5th May, 1512.¹²³ A suit in 1525 concerning Oxhey Richard, Herts., confirms the pedigree and adds a detail.¹²⁴ Sir John Talbot and Margery (Margaret) his wife, then claimed three messuages etc., in Oxhey, against Sir John Husey, on the ground of their descent as follows:—



The effigies of Margaret and Elizabeth, wives of Sir John Talbot, in Bromsgrove Church, co. Worc., are engraved in Hollis's *Monumental Effigies*, pt. vi.

5. ADAM TROUTBECK.

Adam Troutbeck, father of the heiress, is a very shadowy personage, little being known of his life. In 1478 Thomas Frodesham began a suit against Adam Troutbeke, of Thornton-le-Moors, Richard Bunbury, John Troutbeke, Robert Troutbeke, gentlemen, and many others, for trespass on his house and land at Elton. On trial in 1481 the accused were acquitted.¹²⁵ This does not seem to have ended the matter, the Prince of Wales as earl of Chester beginning a suit against Adam, John and Robert and others¹²⁶; but nothing

¹²³ *Letters and Papers Henry VIII*, i. 564 (1221, No. 11).

¹²⁴ De Banco R. Trin. 17 Hen. VIII, m. 143 (Plantagenet Harrison's Notes).

¹²⁵ Chester Plea R., 182, m. 14, 19, 26 d; 185, m. 72.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*, 186, m. 5.

further seems to have been done. Some years later, in 1491, Adam Troutbek and Joan his wife, late the wife of Hamon Masy of Denwall, claimed a debt against William Sharpe, of Great Neston, yeoman, and others.¹²⁷ Then Adam Troutbek of Denwall, esq., was put on the exigent together with a number of others, for some offence in Delamere Forest reported by the swainmote. A year later he made fine for it with the earl, pledges for the payment of his 20s. being Robert Troutbeck and Richard Rixton.¹²⁸ His style as "esquire" may be due to the knighting of his brother, or may denote his position at Denwall, where, however, he could not have been lord of the manor, as the Hospital had the estate there. Nothing is known of Adam's death, which must have been earlier than his brother's, as his daughter only is named in the inquisition.

His marriages are a matter of some interest.

As stated above Adam was in childhood married to Margaret, daughter of Sir John Boteler, of Bewsey, and she is the only wife attributed to him in the old pedigrees, which make her the mother of his heir. A plea cited above shows that all this is quite untrustworthy, for it records that in 1491 his wife was Joan, widow of Hamnet Masy, of Denwall, a man of whom nothing is known otherwise. As the daughter Margaret's age was given as 16 in 1510, at the death of her uncle Sir William, it seems clear that she was Adam's daughter by Joan. As to Joan, there can be little doubt that she was the "Joan, daughter and heir of Robert Molyneux," who in some of the pedigrees is made second wife of Sir *William* Troutbeck (and mother of his heir!). The arms of Molyneux of Sefton, formerly in the east window of the Troutbeck chapel at St. Mary's, Chester, give evidence that there was some alliance between the families. The Talbots also quartered the Molyneux arms (with several of the ancient quarterings) together with those of Sir Baldwin Strange, an illegitimate offshoot of the Stranges

¹²⁷ *Ibid.* 192, m. 2. Joan was widow of Masy in 1490, when she arranged for her daughter's marriage; *Genealogist*, N.S., vii, 245.

¹²⁸ Chester Plea R., 195, m. 32; 196, m. 13d.

of Knockyn, Salop, who is said to have distinguished himself in the French wars of Henry V. If the Talbot pedigree be examined it will be found that these arms can come in *only through Margaret Troutbeck*¹²⁹; and if the Troutbeck pedigree be examined it becomes equally certain that they can come in only through her mother, who must therefore have been a Molyneux. Thus the marriage of Joan Molyneux must be assigned to Adam and not to his brother William, and she really was the mother of the heir.

Her parentage, however, remains a matter for conjecture.

Edward Ludlowe, of Chipping Campden, Glos., died in September, 1409, leaving a daughter and heir Margaret, aged 14,¹³⁰ who married Sir Baldwin Le Strange.¹³¹ Margaret died 16 February, 1418-9, leaving as heir her daughter Elizabeth, wife of Robert Mouleners or Molyneux, aged 14 and more in 1431; her estates consisted of Ludlowe's manor in Campden and other manors and lands in Shropshire, Kent, Essex and Middlesex.¹³² According to the proof of age, Elizabeth was born at Handsworth, Staffs., and baptised in the church there in February, 1417-8.¹³³ Robert Molyneux died on 14 October, 1466, having survived his wife, and their son John was heir; aged 19 years and 9 months in August 1467.¹³⁴ John did not hold his manors, etc., more than a few years, for he died in July, 1473, his daughter and heir Cecily being then about a month old.¹³⁵ Cecily, who died 7 July, 1503, was twice married: (1) to Henry Fitzherbert, son of John Fitzherbert of Etwall, Staffs., king's remembrancer in

¹²⁹ *Shropshire Vis.* (Harl. Soc.), ii. 450; *Worcester Vis.* (Harl. Soc.), 132.

¹³⁰ *Glouc. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc.), ii. 256.

¹³¹ Married by 1410; *Cal. Patent R.* 1408-13, p. 159.

¹³² *Inq. p.m.* 10 Henry VI, No 10 (file 53).

¹³³ *Ibid.* No. 54 (file 56).

¹³⁴ *Ibid.* 6 Edw. IV, No. 17 (file 19). For Staffordshire suits by Robert Molyneux, esq., and Elizabeth his wife, in 1441-7, see *Staffs. Coll.* (Salt. Soc.), N.S., iii. 158, 165, 178. There is a deed by Edith Moleyns (Molyneux) daughter of Robert the brother and heir of Adam Moleyns, late bishop of Chichester, on the Close Roll of 37 Henry VI, m. 12d.

¹³⁵ *Inq. p.m.* 13 Edw. IV., No. 18 (file 44); *Chanc. Misc. Inquis.*, file 330 (2 Rich. III, No. 43).

the Exchequer, by whom she had a son and heir Eustace; and (2) to John Josslyn, an Essex man, by whom she had a son Nicholas. The estates went to Eustace Fitzherbert, who left two daughters as heirs.¹³⁶

This descent has been given from the records to show that the Molyneux-Troutbeck alliance does not come into its main line. In the absence of evidence, it may be suggested that the Robert Molyneux named had had another son, Robert, who was the father of Joan, wife successively of Hamnet Mascy and Adam Troutbeck. This would justify the Talbots, who presumably took the Molyneux quarterings from Margaret Troutbeck.

Joan Troutbeck, widow, made a claim against William Pull (Pole) of Brimstage, in 1511.¹³⁷

6. MISCELLANEA.

It will be useful to record the occurrence of various other Troutbecks occurring in Cheshire, for they show that the main stem threw out branches not otherwise known, or that distant kinsmen were attracted by the success of the great William, and possibly promoted by him.

The earliest in time, if the descents could be trusted, occurs in the pedigree of the Welsh family of Holland, of Hendref Fawr in Abergele, where a Roger Holland, living apparently in the time of Edward III, is stated to have married Jane, daughter of Sir Roger, son of Sir William Troutbeck.¹³⁸ This may reveal a son of William I, the Chamberlain, not otherwise known. Another kinsman of this William may have been the Thomas Troutbeck who was one of the Cheshire archers sent from Northwich and Nantwich hundreds in 1417 (?) to serve in the French war.¹³⁹ Agnes, wife of William Denny, who in the time of Henry VI

¹³⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, ii, 372, 475, 476; *Staffs. Visit. of 1583* (Salt Soc.), 72-4; *Cal. Patent R.*, 1485-94, p. 388.

¹³⁷ Chester Warrants of Attorney, 9, m. 7 d.

¹³⁸ J. W. Lloyd, *Powys Fadog*, iii. 50. The dates given are irreconcilable.

¹³⁹ *Cheshire Sheaf*, 3rd Ser., vi., 88.

claimed various "profits of lands" against her kinsman John Troutbeck, the chamberlain, may have been a niece of William I.¹⁴⁰

In pleas cited above are mentioned John and Robert Troutbeck, who were associated with Adam Troutbeck in the trespass at Elton in 1478. From their description as "gentlemen," they were no doubt kinsmen. In the pedigrees Robert is put down as son of the Sir William killed at Blore Heath, and therefore Adam's brother. But this would contradict the widow's assertion that she had four children by her husband. His parentage is unknown, but he acted as steward or confidential agent to the last Sir William and his brother, being trustee for the former in 1503 and surety for Adam in 1492. He was dead in 1508. He may have been the Robert Troutbeck of Great Trafford or Trafford Bridge, who had, according to the Cheshire pedigrees, three daughters married thus: Alice to Hugh Hankey, of Churton, Elizabeth to Thomas Crew of Holt, and Jane to Christopher Trafford, of Bridge Trafford.¹⁴¹ The Thomas and Richard Troutbeck named below may have been Robert's sons.

John Troutbeck may have been the younger son of John the Chamberlain, mentioned in the will recited above. A John Troutbeck, aged 47, deposed that he was present when Sir William Troutbeck, deceased, licensed John Glayve to enclose ground between Oxton and Prenton about 27 years ago.¹⁴² The date, unfortunately, is missing, but will be later than 1510. Glayve is mentioned in the Chester Plea Rolls of 1481 and thereabouts.

John and Henry Troutbek, of Mobberley, and William Troutbek, of Poole, occur in cases of 1511-12.¹⁴³

¹⁴⁰ *Cheshire Sheaf*, 3rd Ser., v. 32. See also viii, 40, xvii, 97, xix, 33, xxii, 70. The Dennys quartered the Troutbeck arms.

¹⁴¹ See Harl. M.S., 2040, f. 124; *Ches. Visit. of 1580* (Harl. Soc.), 109; *Ches. Visit. of 1613* (Harl. Soc.), 239.

¹⁴² *Various Collections* (Hist. MSS. Com.), ii, 301, in Lord E. Talbot's MSS.

¹⁴³ Chester Warrants of Attorney, 9, m. 8 d., 11.

Thomas Troutbeke, of Great Trafford, gent., is mentioned in 1510-11,¹⁴⁴ and in 1518 Thomas Troutbeck, gent., probably the same, was in the portmote of Chester bound over to keep the peace to Thomas Ince, ironmonger.¹⁴⁵ Another Thomas was tenant of the prior of Birkenhead at Brimstage in 1536.¹⁴⁶ Yet again in 1585 an award was made in a dispute between Thomas Troutbeck the younger, of Great Trafford, and Thomas Davy (son of George Davy *alias* Milner) concerning a dwelling house and garden by Trafford bridge. Troutbeck was to enjoy possession, but without invalidating the title of his son John Troutbeck under the last will of George Davy, and he was to give a calf to Jane Troutbeck (Thomas Davy's daughter).¹⁴⁷ The will of Thomas Troutbeck of Milne Green in Plemstow was proved in 1607.

Richard Troutbeck, of Great Trafford, gent., occurs, like Thomas, in a trespass case in 1511.¹⁴⁸ One Richard Troutbeck, perhaps the same man, was appointed an overseer of the will of Sir John Talbot, husband of Margaret, made in 1549.¹⁴⁹ This was probably the Richard Troutbeck, late of Newport, Salop, gent., mentioned in an indenture of 1558, made by his widow, Margaret Charlton, concerning lands in Trafford which in 1547 the said Richard had demised to William Leeche.¹⁵⁰

In 1551 a list of tenants in Chester included in a lease made by the Dean and Chapter gives the name of Mrs. Troutbeck.¹⁵¹ In St. Mary's-on-the-Hill is a brass plate for Eglanbie, daughter to William Troutbeck and wife of Richard Leigh of Chester, who died 11 March, 1596-7.¹⁵²

Other Troutbecks appear in Cumberland and Yorkshire, but no attempt has been made to trace their relationships. The name did not die out in Cheshire. Dr. Samuel

¹⁴⁴ Chester Plea R., 212, m. 71; 213, m. 1 d., 58.

¹⁴⁵ Harl. MS., 2020, f. 16.

¹⁴⁶ Ministers Accts. Henry VIII, No. 409, etc.

¹⁴⁷ Harl. MS., 2020, f. 91d.

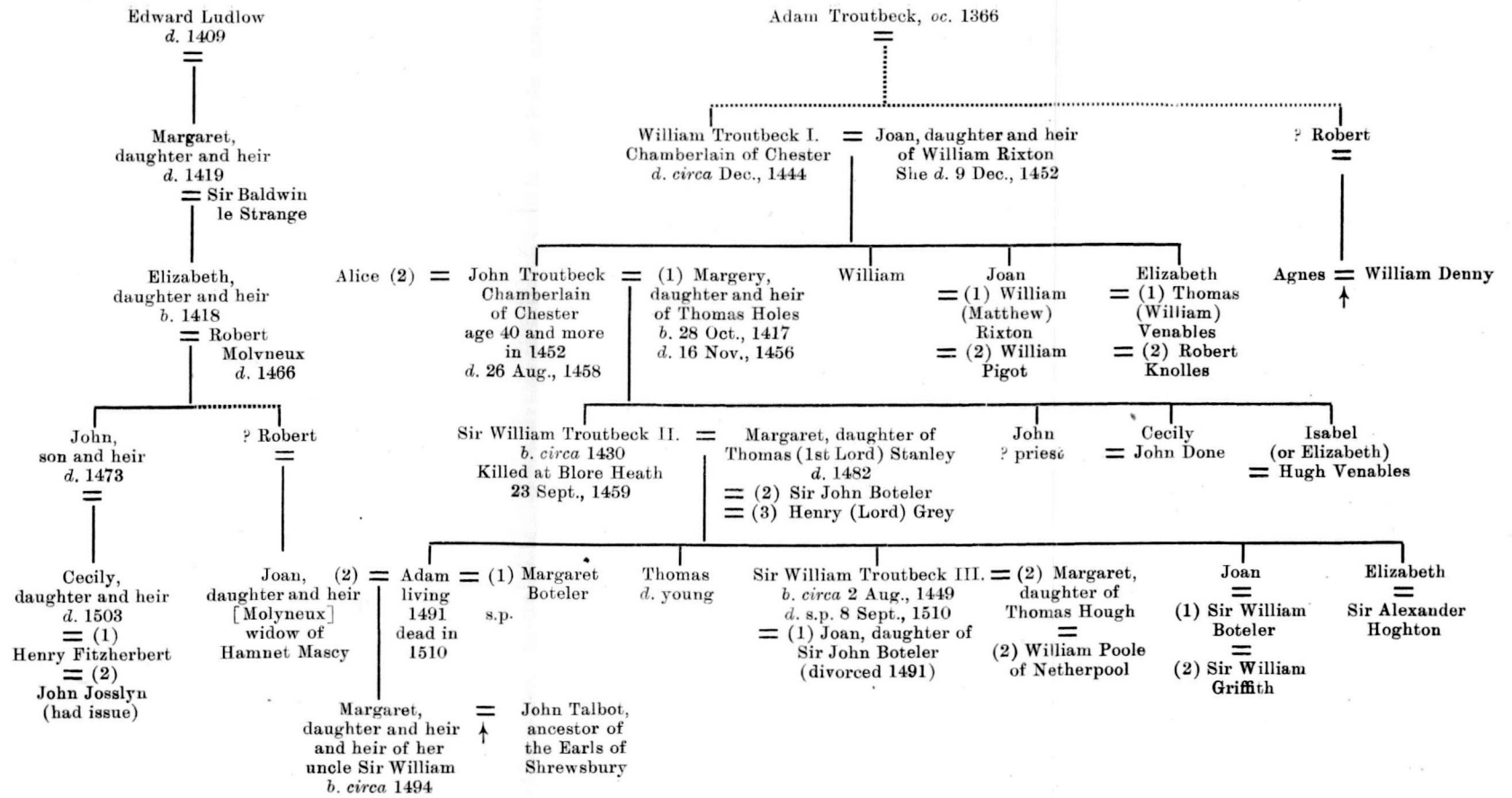
¹⁴⁸ Chester Plea R., 213, m. 58.

¹⁴⁹ P.C.C., 40 Populwell.

¹⁵⁰ Harl. MS., 2079, f. 50 d., 51.

¹⁵¹ *Deputy Keeper's Rep.*, xxxix, 57.

¹⁵² *King's Vale Royal*, 43.



Troutbeck's balsam was a Congleton medicine famous about 1760. The doctor died in 1785.¹⁵³

The old arms of Troutbeck, as displayed on the tombs in St. Mary's, Chester, were Argent, a fleur-de-lys between three Moors' heads coupéd sable.¹⁵⁴ These are said to be the arms of a northern family of Moore, differenced by the fleur-de-lys, but nothing is known about them or their connection with the Troutbecks. Later the family adopted a coat suggested by their surname, Azure three trouts argent. The fish seem to have been arranged differently at different times, but "fretted in triangle" was the usual figure, and they thus appear in the boss at Brimstage Hall.



¹⁵³ *Cheshire Sheaf*, 3rd Ser. ii., 93, 128.

¹⁵⁴ See also *Trans. Hist. Soc.* xlii, 269 (Warrington).