

THE CHURCH OF GUYZANCE.

From the level sward of a large haugh among the intricate winds of the Coquet, between Felton and Warkworth, rises a small but interesting ruin. It adds a charm to the pleasant amphitheatre of which it forms a centre, and is a striking feature of the scene from every point of view. A little west is the residence called Brainshaugh. The ruin consists of a nave and chancel, the eastern wall of which has entirely disappeared. The general character of the building is transitional Norman, of which style a striking example remains in a capital adorned with numerous vertical strings of the nailhead ornament. This fragment, which perhaps adorned the destroyed chancel arch, forms the headstone to a grave—for the consecrated earth has not been wholly secularised—and another piece of stone moulded with a succession of right angles like steps, lies near it. The nave is very short in proportion to the choir, and has perhaps been used for domestic purposes. The north doorway of the choir is pointed exteriorly and is square within, but above the lintel stone of the square arises a semicircular blank arch. The south wall has arrangements of the decorated period. There is a chamfered doorway, and a piscina of two or three basins. Between these objects is a wide opening in the wall, at the height of about a couple of stones from the ground, with bold converse mouldings of a quarter-circle. There is a kind of socket at the base of this opening, as if a screen or door had moved in a vertical manner. To the south-west of the opening are indications of domestic apartments. The ruins are walled round, and every care is taken to preserve them.

Here is the site of the church of Saint Wilfrid of Gysnes, which Richard Tison gave to the canons of Alnwick in the twelfth century, and it is proposed to make it the text of some notices of Tison and the heirs of his fee in Northumberland. They will perhaps differ materially from received traditions, but as my authorities will be obvious, it will not be worth while to point out the errors of statements unsupported by contemporary evidence.

TISON.—The Tisons are presumed to have descended from the lords of the country in the departement du Calvados, called le Anglais, of which Thury-Harcourt is the capital. These lords have in their deeds the soubriquet of Taisson (Norman for a badger), which is latinized *Taxo*.¹

GILBERT TISON appears among the Norman adventurers in the earliest years of the Conqueror's reign. In a charter made between the fray of Hastings, 1066, and the death of Alred Archbishop of York, in, 1069, being witnessed by that prelate, Gilbert Tison describes himself as the Great Standard-bearer of the King of England (*dominus Gilbertus Tison, domini regis Angliæ summus vexillator*), and states that at the instance of Queen Matildis, for the souls of Saint Edward the King, William the Bastard, himself, his parents and successors, he had given to the monks of Selby property in Polkerthorp (the Fulcartorp of Domesday), in Bubwith, in a place called Gunelby (Gundeby), and the town of Lund in the field of Writtelow, near his manor-house there, which Grunkel fitz-Thorin, the bailiff, held of him for a new-year's gift.² Selby monastery was founded by the king to the honour of Saint German, a name which afterwards appears in the Tison family. During the archiepiscopate of Archbishop Thomas of York (1070-87), Tison, by consent of his wife and sons, gave to the same convent further lands in the land called Gundeby and the town called Lund, and tithes in Aigrun (Eykring, in Tison's Nottinghamshire fee), and in Alvelay (Kirk-Ella, the Alvingi of Domesday). The consideration was that Gilbert should be *plenarius frater* in the church of Selby. "Sir Adam my son" and "Richard Tison" attest the grant.³ In Domesday Book (1086) Gilbert Tison held the manors of Alvingi, Hase, Umlovebi, Chrachetorp, Weresa, and Siwarbi (including Spellington, Lont, Wilgetot, Gripetorp, Ladon, and Nortdufelt), Bonnebi, Bubvid, Fulcartorp, Holme, Santune, Houetone, and Rudtorp, all in the East Riding; and numerous manors and estates in the West Riding, Craven, Nottinghamshire, and Lincolnshire.

The early history of Alnwick is shrouded in thick darkness, but there seems no improbability in the statement, that Tison was its lord, and that he gave to his younger son Richard the vills of Shiplingbotel, Hasand, Newton, Reighton (Rennington), Folandon, (?) and Broxfield,⁴ and the church of Gisyng or Gysures, as Richard and his descendants certainly did hold similar estates.

¹ Stapleton in the Plompton Correspondence.

² 3 Mon. Angl. nov. ed. 500.

³ Hunter's Eccl. Doc. 50.

⁴ From the way, however, in which Broxfield is mentioned in the sequel, I am inclined to think that it was a later acquisition.

I have not seen any evidence of the mode in which the estates *in capite* of Tison passed, some to Ivo de Vescy, and some to Nigel de Albini; others in Craven to Percy and the Skipton (Romilli) fee: but Mr. Stapleton is probably correct in supposing that the evil example of Robert de Mowbray led the great standard-bearer into rebellion, and caused the forfeiture of his vast estates. His descendants held some of them of the Albinis and Vescys, but the tenancy in chief had departed for ever from the race of Tison. Ivo de Vesci is not named in Domesday Book. Taking Eustace fitz-John, *grandævus*, as being aged 70 at his death in 1157, Ivo might be born in 1055 or 1060.

TISON OF YORKSHIRE.—The son and heir, ADAM TISON, witnessed his father's second grant to Selby monastery before 1087. In 31 Hen. I. (1130-1), Adam Tison accounted for his father's debts, and for a fine not to plead for his lands until the son of Nigel de Albini (Roger de Mowbray) was a knight.⁶ The same entry occurs in the roll of 5 Steph. 1140.⁶ Some dispute had therefore arisen between the old and new owners of the land. With the consent of Emma his wife, and William his son, Adam Tison gave Aton Croft, in the wood of Holme, to Selby abbey. In 1168,

WILLIAM TISON held 15 knights fees of ancient feoffment of Roger de Mowbray in Yorkshire. He had a daughter MAUDE, who married De Belver, and when a widow, with the consent of her son John, gave to Selby Abbey, towards augmenting the hermitage of Holme, all that part of Holter-hirst which had belonged to *Adam Tison her grandfather*. A Constable of Flamburgh appears to have married another daughter. William Constable of Flaynburgh confirmed Adam Tison's grant to Selby, and gave an assart called Holter-hirst, north of the hermitage of Holme, Galfrid Salvain being a witness. Kirk Ella church, which Gilbert Tison had given, was confirmed by both families. Some further gifts and confirmations by them may be seen in the Monasticon. The manor of Holme in Spalding More was sold by Sir Wm. Constable of Flambrough, Bart., in 1633, to Sir Marmaduke Langdale.⁷

TISON OF NORTHUMBERLAND.—We have already seen that RICHARD TISON is represented as being the younger son of the standard-bearer, and as receiving from him the Shiplingbottle fees. These were

⁶ Pipe Roll, Yks.

⁶ Adam Tison redd. comp. de 32l. et 2s. pro omnibus debitis patris sui; et de 15 marc. argenti ne placitet de terra sua donec fil. Nigelli de Albini sit miles.

⁷-Visit. Yks. 1584.

two in number, held of the Vesci family as of ancient feoffment (*i. e.* before 1135). Consequently, they were certainly held by this Richard, who is said to have founded a chapel of nuns at Gysyures about 1100. I venture to print this date instead of the 1000 of the copy of the Chronicle of Alnwick Monastery in Harl. MS. 692. Whatever the character of Richard's foundation was, its possessions are clearly set out in Eustace fitz-John's charter to the canons of Alnewick. By this he confirmed "the church of Saint Wilfrid of Gysnes which Richard Tysone gave to the same canons in perpetual alms, with one measure and two oxgangs of land in the same vill, and with Halghe where the church is, with Ridlei, and with Morwick-halghe as Richard granted to them." This confirmation was witnessed by Richard Tysone himself, Wm. Tysone, Ivo de Vescy, Arnulph de Morwic, Arnulph de Heysende. Haysand is afterwards found as part of the Tison fees. Two parts of the tithes of Arnulph there formed part of Eustace fitz-John's foundation. "The halgh where the church is" still conveys an exact idea of Brainshaugh. The grant is placed in the year 1147 by the Alnwick Chronicle, when Richard Tison must have been an aged man. William de St. Barbara, Bishop of Durham, (1142-1152), is mentioned in it.

WILLIAM TISON, said in the Chronicle of Alnwick to be son of Richard, succeeded to his estates, being mentioned in the Black Book of the Exchequer as holding two knights' fees of William de Vesci of ancient feoffment in 1168. The next descent in the Chronicle is proved by the grant of lands in Great Chivington, by William de Vescy, who died in 1184, to Ernald de Morwyce, (Harl. MS. 1985, 290). That grant is witnessed by "William Tisone and German his son, and Guy Tisone." This Guy Tysun, on the evidence of the Pipe Rolls, rendered money to the sheriff for chattels of fugitives in Northumberland from 1165 to 1173, surveyed the building of the keep of Newcastle in 1172 and 1174, and held lands in Matfen and Nafferton apparently by the customary service of keeping the pleas of the crown or being coroner. From 23 Hen. II., 1177, the sheriff accounts for their rents as the land of Guy Tisun, so that he probably died in that year⁸.

GERMAN TISON, who was perhaps some connection of Prior German of Durham, gave at Schipilbotel a quarter of wheat and 5s. annually to the monks of Newminster, the transactions relative to whom throughout this paper have been derived from a copy of their Cartulary made by William Woodman, Esq., of Morpeth, by the kind permission of that gentleman. German Tison stands in the Alnwick Chronicle as father of the Lady BONE TISON, who married William de Hilton of Hilton

⁸ See also Hartshorne's Northumberland, 231.

Castle, and carried the Tison estates to that family. In his old age, after 1197, he seems to have married Agnes, the widow or sister of his daughter's father in law, Alexander de Hilton, as the Patent Roll of 1209 reveals a protection for German Tison against any distringas for payment of a debt which Agnes de Hilton his wife had contracted before his marriage without his assent. In the Pipe Roll of 1211 he and his wife Agnes pay 10 marks that Henry de Ferlington (who had had the custody of the Hilton estates since 1208, after William de Hilton's death) might hold to his agreement with them concerning two parts of a moiety of the vill of Hetton (Helton?) In 1213 he pays 3 marks ut deponatur de assisa. And I find no more of him.

The impression left by a comparison of dates is that the Tysons lived to good old ages. Their pedigree seems to stand thus—

Gilbert Tison, Great Standard-bearer of William the Conqueror, occurs before 1069, and as a tenant in capite in 1086: made a grant to Selby Abbey.

Adam Tison, witnessed his father's grant to Selby Abbey before 1087; was interested in Yorkshire lands in 1140; made a further grant to Selby Abbey.	Emma, consented to her husband's grant to Selby Abbey.	Richard Tison, son of Gilbert according to the Chronicle of Alnwick Abbey; gave Guyzance church to that abbey; liv. 1147.
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William Tison, consented to his father's grant to Selby Abbey, held 15 fees of Roger de Mowbray in Yorkshire, 1168.	William Tison, held Richard's estates in Northumberland, as 2 fees of William de Vesci of ancient feoffment, 1168.	Guy Tison, coroner of Northumberland, 1165-76, dead 1177.
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Maude, wife of De Belver.	... wife of Constable of Flamborough.	German Tison, named as son of William in William de Vescey's grant to Ernald de Morwyc, before 1184.	1. ... = 2. Agnes de Hilton, mar. before 1209, liv. 1211.
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Bone Tison carried the Tison fees to her issue; is named as daughter in the Alnwick Chronicle; probably married about 1198.	German	William de Hilton, died before 1208. His son and heir Alexander was a minor in that year, and of age about 1220.
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At such an early period, we can scarcely expect to find any evidence of arms for Tison. In the seventeenth century the Hiltons quartered Vert, three lions rampant Argent, crowned, langued, collared, and chained Or, for this marriage. There is a pretended marriage with an heiress of a Saxon family, Tyson, with Ivo de Vesce, in respect of which Lord Eure in Elizabeth's time,⁹ and Vesey of Brampton in le Morthinge in 1612, quartered the same coat.¹⁰ Bishop Percy attributes a bend on Alnwick Castle to Tison.¹¹

⁹ Cotemporary MS. of the Arms of the Peers, temp. Eliz., in J. B. Taylor's MSS.

¹⁰ Visit. Ebor.

¹¹ Collins's Peerage.

HILTON.—It would be endless to refute all the absurd statements which have passed current respecting the Barons of Hilton.

Their fees on the Wear were of ancient feoffment, and must therefore have been carved out of the possessions of the See of Durham previously to 1135, but whatever semblance to truth may exist in the traditional memories of their continuous ownership from a Saxon period, no evidence of it exists previous to Pusac's episcopate (commencing in 1153), when we have the singular name of ROMANUS for a witness to that prelate's charters to Anchetel Bulmer and Hugh Burel, as mentioned by Mr. Surtees. In 1157, the same person, by the style of ROMANUS KNIGHT OF HELTON, makes an agreement with the convent of Durham, touching the chapel of the vill from which he took his name. He and his heirs were to have their chaplain, and find him according to the will of the prior and of him who should be over the church of Weremuth. Romanus shall give to the chaplain all the alms (this expression scarcely includes tithes) which come from his own house, but shall give to the mother church for every ox¹² in every year a thrave of oats. He and his household of Heltun shall come to the same mother church with their alms and oblations as the manner is on the great festivals (afterwards explained to be those of Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and St. Peter and Paul). The half carucate of *Trublard's land*, viz. four oxgangs, held by four men, and all the men of Risum and Heltun shall pay tithes, alms, and customs to the mother church. The chaplain shall give security that these terms shall be observed, and if they are not, the chapel shall temporarily cease. The agreement remains in the Treasury at Durham. Many a squabble did the new and fashionable chapel bring upon the Master of Wearmouth in after-years.

In the bishop's return of his knights' fees in 1166, he returns "Romanus de Helton" as holding 3. Two of his knights north of Tees held 5 each, and this was the highest number.

ALEXANDER DE HELTON, the next owner, seems to have been son of Romanus, as another convention with Prior German in 1172 mentions him as Alexander Lord of Helton, and reciting that he and *his father* had chosen and presented a chaplain; they shall give to his chapel the *tithes* of their own house. The four men holding Trublard's four oxgangs were now Albert, Osbern, Outi and Yvelet.¹³ In 1189 we have a similar grant from Prior Bertram to Thomas de Yolton and the chaplain who should serve the chapel during his life. It seems from this instrument,

¹² Draught ox.—*Convention of 1172*.

¹³ Extract in J. B. Taylor's MSS. Mr. Surtees does not print the document in his appendix.

which confirms the stipulations of 1157, that Trublard's Land comprised one and a half carucate. The prior grants the tithe of a carucate to the then chaplain, the four oxgangs and Risum paying to the mother church like other men of Heltun.¹⁴

This Alexander is a frequent witness to Bishop Pusac's charters and was the fifth attesting witness of the charter of Roger de Kibleswre, made "in the presence of Lord Hugh, Bishop of Durham, and of the Barons of the Bishoprick in full court at Durham A.D. MCLXXX."¹⁵ He survived the bishop, and accounted for 4*l.* scutage during the vacancy of the See in 1197. The early seal in Mr. Surtees's work and the entry in the *Liber Vitæ Dunelm.*, attributed to this Alexander, must be transferred to Alexander his grandson. Probably his wife was the Agnes de Hilton who married German Tison before 1209.

WILLIAM DE HELTON, the husband of Lady Bone Tison, must have held the estate for a very short time, being dead in 1208.

ALEXANDER DE HELTON, his son and heir, was under age in that year, when we find on the Charter Roll a confirmation to Henry de Ferlington and Agnes his wife, of Bp. Philip's grant to them of the custody of the lands which were William de Helton's and of Alexander his heir, so that he be not disparaged in marriage. The grant successively extends to German his brother and to his sisters in case of his own death during minority. From the Fine Roll, which calls Agnes the *sister* of Henry; it appears that two palfreys were paid for the confirmation.

This Alexander occurs with his wife in the Durham Book of Life in writing of the 13th century, in the entry "Alexander de Helt', Agnes uxor ejus. ii sol'," and with a predilection of the mother church of Wearmouth unusual in his race, he gave to it 3 marks yearly from his mill of Helton, for the perpetual sustenance of a chaplain to celebrate divine offices for the dead at the altar of St. Lawrence in that church. To the charter granting this foundation is appended the seal of white wax bearing on a shield a gallant demi-lion passant, and inscribed SIGILLVM ALEXSANDER DE HELT', which is somewhat inaccurately engraved by Surtees, and by him ascribed to the first Sir Alexander. The witnesses to the charter may be seen in his History, and the approximate date is further ascertained by the ordination of the chantry "pro dominis de Hilton," by prior Ralph who presided over the convent of Durham from 1214 to 1233, and who recites the grant of "venerabilis amicus noster Alexander de Helton" and describes the intended masses as for the souls of the grantor and of all his ancestors. Randal gives the date as 1220, and perhaps he had some reasons for doing so.

¹⁴ Printed in Surtees.

¹⁵ Surtees.

Geoffrey fitz-Geoffrey, one of the witnesses of the above charter, and lord of Ravensworth, and Alexander de Hilton occur in the Testa de Nevil as collectors of the aid in Northumberland on the marriage of the King's sister with the Emperor in 1235. The Pipe Rolls now mention Alexander de Hilton frequently, he rendering account for Hugh de Verly of a debt which appears in the Yorkshire roll of 1234 (referring to that of 1229) as 87*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* In 1236 the debt, then 79*l.* 12*d.*, is transferred to the Northumberland roll; in 1237 he pays an arrear of instalments to the amount of 25*l.*, with a memorandum that he is to pay 12½ marks a year. The officers of the Exchequer were empowered by royal writs to make terms for payment of the king's debts; such arrangements ceased on the want of punctual payment, but might be renewed after payment. Accordingly, in 1238, Alexander de Hilton recovered his terms which he had forfeited in 1235.¹⁶ In 1244, a balance of the debt was paid, and Hilton was quit.

This transaction introduces us to the estate of Swine, which was held by the Hiltons of the archbishop. It has generally been supposed that they were part of the inheritance of Tison¹⁷—and it is a coincidence that Winestead church is dedicated to St. German,—but the evidence points to a family of Verli as the former owners.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII., under the nunnery of Swine (which, however, in 33 Edw. I. comprised “magister, fratres, canonici, et moniales”),¹⁸ there occurs the payment of an ox for victuals and 16*s.* in money to commemorate the obit of “Master Robert Virley, first founder of this house.” The date of the foundation may be arrived at by the confirmation of Robert de Verli's gift of the church of S. Mary in Swine, by Hugh de Pusac, then treasurer of York Cathedral, who became Bishop of Durham in 1153, before King Stephen's death.¹⁹ Another payment of 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* follows, for the obit of Richard Virley, nephew, (*nepotis*) of the said Robert. In 1184, Hugh de Verli gave 40*s.* to the king that he may be quit of his oath in a plea of land against William de Ottringham. In 5 Hen. III. 1220-1, Robert de Verli granted to Henry de Pocklington, a servant of Easington, and Margaret his wife, the homage and service of *John de Hilton* for an oxgang in Wynsted. In 1308 evidence was given that the boundary between Waghen and Swyne was from Seggesholme as far as the beach tree

¹⁶ Memor. 22 Hen. iii. Rot. 9. b.

¹⁷ The name lingers in the East Riding. Isaac, son of Thomas Tyson, of Swine, was baptized in 1711, and Thomas Tyson himself was buried at Swine in 1713.

¹⁸ Thompson's Swine, 15.

¹⁹ One Hugh de Verli is said to have given to John Lascels half a carucate in Swine at a still earlier date, in Henry I.'s reign.

which Henry de Verley cut down on Braunchesholme, and, in 1252, Lady Amabilla de Verley presents a rector to Winestead.²⁰

Thus the Verlis held Swine and Winestead after the marriage between Hilton and Tison. In after times the Hiltons held manorial rights in the two places and presented to Winestead; but the Suttons seem to have owned half the manor of Swine. Probably this Alexander de Hilton and one of the Suttons married coheirresses of Verli, the former taking the lion's share in consideration of paying the crown debts of Hugh de Verli. In the Valor Ecclesiasticus the nuns are found owning the site of a manor-house, and as in similar cases, the priory lands were no doubt designated a manor. According to the same Valor, the nuns also held lands in Wynestead.

To return to the Northumberland estates. In 1240 there was a fine levied respecting the land and wood within the following boundaries. From Milneden by an old dike to Colepeteburn; and from Colepeteburn descending to the footpath called Gysinred; and by that footpath ascending from Colepeteburn to the hoar of the wood (*ad horam bosci*); and so by the hoar of the wood to the way which leads under Hawthorneley; and thence to the other Hawthornley; and next by Greteley to Lemetley; and from Lemetley towards the north east to Alreburn. Stephen Abbot of Newminster stated that Alexander de Hilton took more of the above land and wood than pertained to his tenement of Sipillebotle. By the present fine, Hilton acknowledged that the lands and wood within the following boundaries belonged to the abbey. From the east side towards the abbot's grange of Stretton, viz.: as the dike which is called Ruedich on the west side of Wyteleys ascends from Keket (Coquet) towards the north to a certain green boundary (*viridem divisam, i. e. a balk*); and by that boundary as it is wont to be, and as stones are placed on either side to Merethorn; and from Merethorn towards the North across the meadow by heaps of stones; and so by a certain sike to Hunthakesden; and from Hunthakesden by heaps of stones to the sike which descends to (*var. from*) Milneden; and so to Milneden; and thence by the boundary between the monks and Hugh de Haysand as the dike descends to Colepeteburn; and so descending by Colepeteburn to a cross in the bottom (*in profundo*). And from that cross as the dike which Alexander raised extends itself to Alreburn. The abbot on his part acknowledged Hilton's title to the land and woods between the said boundaries on the west side and his manors of Sipillebotle and Gysnes.

²⁰ Poulson's Holderness.

We now come to a very singular instrument printed in the Monasticon. Matilda the prioress and the convent of Swine agree with Sir Alexander de Hilton, knight, who gave them nine oxgangs in Swine if he should die in 1241 (*quod absit*), that if he should die in the second year next following, three, and if in the third year, six of the oxgangs should return to his heirs, after the completion of the term agreed upon by an indenture. If he kept the convent indemnified for the said three years, they were bound to return to his heirs the charter of feoffment which he made to them and the said land and other lands, after the term of six years. And if he died within the three last years, and his heirs would not warrant to the convent the manor of Swine, with the lands and tenements in Otringham, which he demised to them for six years, his executors should within those years pay damages for the default.

Burton, in his MS. pedigree of Hilton of Swine, at Burton Constable, mentions a charter of Alexander in 26 Hen. III., 1241, giving the oxgangs at Swine and tenements. The transaction is evidently connected with the baron's journey to the Holy Land; for in 1241 William de Fortibus, Earl of Albemarle, a right valiant knight, Peter de Malolacu (Mauley) of Poitou by nation, and some time brought up and enriched under the patronage of King John, Ebeline de Rocheford of Poitou, John Ansard, Alexander de Hiltun, Geoffrey de Chandalers, and many other nobles of the realm, took their journey with great preparation to Jerusalem, commending themselves to the prayers of the religious.²¹

Doubtless Alexander died during his expedition, for

ROBERT DE HILTON, his son and heir, was a minor in 1243, when Archbishop Grey granted to his steward, Sir William de Widindon, the custody of the land which was Sir Alexander de Helton's in the manor of Swine, until the lawful age of his heirs.²² In 1246 Walter de Grey, the archbishop's nephew, had similar custody of the land which was Alexander de Hylton's of the archbishop's fee in Wynestow.²³ We have equally clear evidence of his possession of the Durham and Northumberland estates in their ancient tenure. In the Feoda Militum, printed in 1 Surtees, cxxvii, which bears internal evidence of a date during this baron's minority, "The heir of Hilton holds three knights' fees" between the Tyne and Tees. And so, in the list of Northumbrian baronies in the Testa de Nevil, which mentions William de Vesci, who died in 1253, we find, under the barony of Vesci, that "Robert de Hilton holds Schiplingbotill, Newton, Haysand, Gynis, and Renington

²¹ Matt. Paris, 551.

²² Dated at Cawood 6 Kal. Apr. anno cons. 27. (Reg. Grey.)

²³ Ibid. 4 Kal. Maii, anno cons. 30.

by two fees of ancient feoffment." And, under "the socage of Corbrigg," we read that "the heir of Alexander de Hilton holds in Werke with one toft. for 12*d.*" As to the custody of the Durham estates, we find that in 1249, William Harepin, clerk, chaplain of Hilton, in swearing fealty to the church of Durham, and observation of the composition of 1172, states that he was presented "by Lady Isouda, to whom belongs the presentation of the same by reason of the custody of Heltun, the custody being received from the lord Prior up to the feast of St. Michael." From this document (which is printed in 2 Sur. 380, and is witnessed by William de Heltun), I can only conceive that any doubts whether the advowson passed with the manor, were intended to be removed by the prior, the owner of the mother church of Wearmouth giving a special and temporary power to present.

In 1254, William de Lonesdale was presented to the chapel by "Robert de Hilton, son and heir of the late Sir Alexander de Hilton." The young lord addresses the instrument to the Prior of Durham, and dates it from Sumerton, and because "my seal is not known to you, I have procured the seal of the reverend father my lord Archbishop of York to be affixed to these presents." Notwithstanding the custom of procuring the annexation of well-known seals to deeds, it does appear, at first sight, to be a peculiarity, that a Prior of Durham should be ignorant of the bearing of a Hilton; and though an ordinary difference between a father's and a son's seal may have been sufficient under doubtful circumstances to have put the recipient of a presentation upon his guard, there is a remarkable coincidence between the entry and the first evidences of a completely changed bearing for the house of Hilton. What the young lord's seal really was is not left to conjecture. It bore the simple charge of two bars instead of the gallant lion of Alexander his father—the bars, or castle-bars as some call them, which have been so fruitful a source of early fable, and, by the devices of heralds, have been retired from their true date to the days of Athelstan and the nuns of Hartlepool. The seal is affixed to a grant witnessed by Sir John de Vesci (1253 to 1289), by which "Robert de Helton, knt., son of Alexander de Helton," gave to the prior for his hostelry, or place for the entertainment of strangers, all his land in the Bailey at Durham, between the church of St. Mary in the South Bailey ("Dr. Raine's church"), and the wall of the prior and convent in length, and in breadth beside the king's highway from the corner of the great stable to the same church. A note on the charter informs us that the premises were afterwards called "*Ortum Ostellarii.*"²⁴

²⁴ 4 Sur. ii. p. 161.

The colour of the arms was the same as afterwards, the blazon being set out in the Roll of Arms t. Edw. I., printed in *1 Antiq. Rep.*: "Sir Robert Hylton, Argent et ij barres Azure." It would perhaps be idle to speculate at length on the probable significance of the new arms, yet one cannot help noticing that the archbishop of whom Hilton held his lands in Yorkshire, whose family had the custody of them during his youth, and who lent his seal to authenticate the ward's charter, was Walter Grey, whose arms were Barry of 6 Argent and Azure.

In 41 Hen. III., 1256-7, we have upon the charter roll a grant to Robert Helton of free warren in Sheplingbotle manor, Renyngton manor, and Helton manor, in Northumberland, and in Swyne manor and Wynested manor, in Yorkshire. The treatment of Hilton here, and that of the warrens generally in the *Placita de quo warranto* of 1298, in which Durham occurs as a mere franchise in the great county of Northumberland, throw considerable doubt upon the bishop's power to confer the privilege of free warren.

In 1264, "Sir Robert de Hilton demorant a Hilton" appears among "les nomes des chivalliers demorantez en le franchise de Duresme, demz Tyne et Teys, qui furent a baner en le temps le roy Henry fitz le roy John a le bataill de Lewes entre lavaunt dit roy Henry et Sir Symond de Monford counte de Leicestre."²⁵ Like his feudal lord, John de Vesci, Hilton supported the cause of the barons. John de Vesci was taken on the field of Evesham, and was deprived of Alnwick castle, but in 1266 he entered into a combination of his party, and by force regained his castle, Hilton accompanying him. Prince Edward marched to the rescue and compelled a surrender, but obtained a pardon for Vesci. It was deemed prudent to allow the defeated but still formidable insurgents to redeem their forfeited acres, the redemption money being distributed among the grantees of the escheats. This was effected by the *Dictum de Kenilworth*.

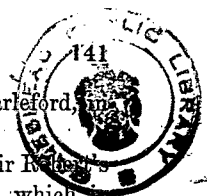
A jury assembled at Sypplingbotill in 1267, and found that Robert de Hilton's lands in Northumberland comprised the manors of Remington, Sypplingbotill, and Gysennys, with lands at Haysand and Normanley, &c., all held of Alnwick Castle.²⁶ At Remington the demesne lands were composed of eight score acres of arable and six acres of pasture, &c., total value 6*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*; at Sypplingbotill of fourteen score acres, &c. Many other rentals of mills, rents, services, &c., follow, and the sum total of the extent was 66*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*²⁷ In 54 Hen. III., 1269-70, an Essex jury presents that Robert de Helton, who was in the castle of

²⁵ Greenwell's *Hatfield's Survey*, xiv.

²⁶ *Cal. Inquis.*

²⁷ *Surtees.*

THE CHURCH OF GUYZANCE.



Annewik against the king, had land in the hundred of Karleford, and Waldringfell.²⁸

The possession of those southern lands is accounted for by Sir Robert's marriage to Joan, one of the coheireses of William Breton, which is proved by the summons roll of an army to meet at Worcester in 1277, and proceed against the Welch, where we meet with the entry "Essex. Memorand. de hereditibus Willielmi de Bretun *qui de Rege tenuit in capite* — ux. Roberti de Hilton, ux. Walteri de Anaver', ux. Willielmi de Huntingfeud." In 1280, Robert de Hilton acknowledged by a fine that he and Joan his wife held a messuage and 4 carucates of land in Lalleford and Criche, of Adam de Lascy by the service of 20*l.* a year.²⁹ The year after, Hilton gave Lacy 45*l.* for a remission of all arrears of services for lands in Essex, and his homage he must do according to the tenor of his writings.³⁰

In the Hundred Rolls for Northumberland, 1274-5, we find, under Kokedale Ward, that Roger Bertram of Mitford had sold the wood of Estrineside to Robert de Hilton, yielding the rent of 1*l.*, that the latter then held it, and that it was worth 40*s.* per annum. The same Roger had given to Robert de Galmetorpe a carucate of land in the town of Quer-gar, yielding the rent of 1*l.*, and Robert de Hilton then held it of the same Roger Bertram by that service.

It was probably this Robert who entered into a fresh agreement with the monks of Newminster for the rectifying and certifying the boundaries between their grange of Stretton and Syepelbotle. By this arrangement Robert de Hilton was permitted to make a fence (*hayam*) from the watercourse (*aqueductu*) which comes from Colepethford, between the park of the abbot and the wood of the said Robert, to a stone cross. And that fence extended itself to Moryley and to the tongue of land (*lyng^m*) which comes from Buheley, and so towards the east to Witeleys, and so to the dike which is the boundary between the field of Stratton and the land called Percy land. All places within the fence towards Syepelbotle which were the convent's, were to belong to Hilton in perpetual exchange for all places on the other side of the fence towards the grange of Stratton, which were Hilton's, and were now to be the possession of the monks. Another exchange took place between the same parties. In the latter case the abbot and convent make a dike from the dike, which is the boundary between the field of Stratton and Percy lande,

²⁸ Placita de terris datis et occupatis occasione turbacionis in regno Angliæ. These Placita contain the record of the proceedings in consequence of the Dictum de Kenilworth in Essex, Northampton, Suffolk, and Cambridge.

²⁹ Abb. Plac. In the margin is "Ebor. Essex."

³⁰ Ibid.

and it extends to Smaleburn, which is the boundary between the lands of the said Robert and the land of Botlestone. All lands to the south of it which were Hilton's are to remain to the convent in exchange for their lands on the north of it, which are to be Hilton's.

In 1289 Robert de Hiltone was found to hold Schipilbodille, with its members, by two knights' fees and the yearly rent of 26s. 8d., and in respect of the increase of Hugh Ribaud's tenement in Brokefield, 11½d. And it is worth 100 marks per annum.³¹ In 1293 he stands first on the list of the *legaliores milites* of the county who were impannelled to ascertain the Umfreville liberties in Redesdale. He himself was summoned to show by what warrant he claimed free warren in his demesne lands in Shepelingbotle, without the license and will of the king and his progenitors. He answered by producing the charter of 1256-7, granting to him (*eidem Roberto*) and his heirs free warren in all his demesne lands in the manors of Shepelingbotle, Renington and Hilton which were not within the (king's) forest. Then a jury was summoned to enquire whether they were within the metes of the forest, and as to Hilton's usage of other liberties. They found that he had reasonably used warren since the charter, and that the lands were not in the forest. On that point, therefore, Hilton was dismissed *sine die*. But the jurors, being asked if he was used to have other liberties which he now claimed, say that he and his ancestors for time immemorial have taken wares when the assize of ale was broken, from their tenants, and often punished them by amerciaments *et non judicialiter*. Therefore the said liberty is taken into the king's hand as distress, and Hilton makes a fine of half a mark for replevying it, and may go *sine die*. Free warren in all his lands within the liberty of Durham was allowed him.³²

We thus have proof that the Robert de Hilton of 1293 was he of 1256. Between him and another Robert intervened for a very brief space SIR ALEXANDER DE HILTON, whose widow Elizabeth had dower in 32 Edw. I., 1303-1304. From 1295 to 1303 we have a continuous series of summonses of Robert de Hilton as a baron of the realm, in right, as it would appear, of the Breton inheritances held in capite. Whether these are to be given to the first or second Robert is a question. If Elizabeth's dower had accrued but recently before 1304, they will belong to the elder Robert. In 1295 he would not be older than 65.

Robert de Hilton was summoned to the parliaments to be held at Westminster on 1 Aug. and 13 Nov. 1295, though his name does not

³¹ Inq. p. m. Joh. Vescy, 17 E. I.—*Hartshorne's Northumberland Memoirs*, cxx.]

³² Placita de quo warranto.

occur in the writs for the prorogation of the latter to December. In 1296 he was summoned to a parliament to be holden at Bury St. Edmund's on 3 Nov., and in 1297 to another to be holden at Salisbury on 24 Feb. of that year. No more summonses to parliament appear, and perhaps some will be inclined to draw a line of demarcation between the generations in this year, during which, however, a person of the same name was summoned to perform military service in his own person at the musters of Newcastle against the Scots on Dec. 6. In 1298 he was summoned among the "barons" to be at the Carlisle muster of June 6, and to the adjourned muster of Aug. 2. In July he was discharged from attendance at Carlisle, but to be ready to proceed on forty days' notice, and he was accordingly summoned to a muster at York, on Nov. 12. He was one of the commissioners appointed to summon the knights of Northumberland to a muster at Carlisle, 24 June, and in April was enjoined to enforce the muster of the levies of the men at arms in Northumberland pursuant to his commission. In January, 1303, he was enjoined to place himself with horses, arms, and all his forces under the command of John de Segrave, the king's lieutenant in Scotland. All these appointments may be seen more fully in the Parliamentary Writs. There were meetings of parliament in 1299, 1300, and 1302, but Hilton was not summoned to any of them. Robert de Hilton the second lived till 1322, but I have no more evidences of the name in public life.

Robert de Hilton the elder had three sons, 1. ALEXANDER, the continuator of the main line, as before mentioned. 2. *William*, on whose marriage in 1288 with the coheiress of Lascelles, his father settled the manors of Swine and Winestead, as will be noticed in connection with Swine hereafter. 3. *Germanus*, who, as "son of Sir Robert de Hilton, knight," received from William fitz-Richard of North Wydeslade, lands at Blakeden (Blagdon, par. Stannington) in the Plessis fee. The charter is printed in 2 Hod. ii, 347, and was made before 1299, Robert Bertram dying in this year. He seems to have died issueless, as the same lands were alienated by his nephew Robert fitz-Alexander de Hilton, by a charter witnessed by one of the Guischart de Charrons.

During the time of Sir Robert the elder we may probably place the admission to the chapel of Hilton of Master John de Dertheford (Bedeford in dorso) s.d., and that of Geoffrey de Leuesham presented by Robert de Hilton in 1297. This Geoffrey in 1321 sealed with the device of a dove or some such innocent bird pounced upon by one of the carnivorous denizens of the air, and the legend ALAS IE SV PRIS. This device is not uncommon. (See the Norwich volume of the Archæological Institute.)

I have thus given groundworks on which the early pedigree of the Hiltons depends, and the following is the result:—

Romanus de Helton, knight, of Helton, co. Dur. 1157-1166. =			
Alexander de Helton, Lord of Helton, a baron, of the Bishop of Durham, 1172, 1197.	=	Qu. Agnes de Hilton remarried to German Tison before 1209.	
William Helton, dead in 1208.	=	Lady Bone, daughter and heiress of German Tison.	
Sir Alexander de Helton, son and heir, a minor in 1208; went to Palestine 1241, died before 1243. ARMS— <i>A demi-tion passant.</i>	=	Agnes German, (de Verli?) a minor 1208.	Some daughters, minors 1208.
Sir Robert de Hilton, knt., son and heir, a minor 1243, of age 1254; and living 1293. He settled the manors of Swine and Winestead on his son William's marriage with Maud Lascelles in 1288.	=	Joan, dau. coh. of William de Bretun, 1277.	
Sir Alexander de Hilton.	=	Elizabeth, had dower 1303-4.	William, A QUO HILTON DE SWINE. German, had lands at Blagdon, par. Stannington, before 1299, died s. p.
Sir Robert de Hilton, heir to his uncle German, A QUO BARONES DE HILTON.			

In this portion of the pedigree, to have separated the estates would have caused much tautology and destroyed the mutual bearings of the scanty evidences of an early period. But henceforth the manor of Swine has its separate lords in the members of a younger house of a dignity perhaps superior to their elder brethren; the domestic history of the Durham estates is capable of more ample illustration than before, while the Northumbrian estates are of insignificant importance. I shall therefore for the present detach such notices as I have of them, and leave the general history of the Hiltons to be taken up afterwards.

Mr. Hartshorne (p. 148 of his Northumberland volume), prints a list of fees in 1296.—“Supponitur esse Kirkby Quest”—in which “Robert de Hilton holds two knights' fees in Shilibotell, Haysand, and Gisenes of John de Vesey, and he of the king.”

In the Inq. p. m. of Henry de Percy, the new lord of Alnwick, 1314, we find that Robert de Hilton holds 2 fees and 13 parts [1-13th part?] of a fee in Schippellingbotell, Heysaund, Gysins, Neuton, Renington, and Brokkesfeld, and renders yearly for Castle-ward 27s. 7½d., and the said tenements are worth 100 marks per annum.³³

Sir Robert Hilton II. died in 1322. His son and successor, Sir Alexander de Hilton, applied in 1334 to give a messuage and 106 acres in Broxfield to the Abbey of Alnwyke. A jury found that by his so

³³ Hartshorne, cxxij.

doing, no loss would accrue to the king, and that Sir Henry Percy was mesne lord between the king and Alexander, who held, besides the donation, the villis of Shipplingbotyll, Haysand, Gysens, Remington, and Newton-on-the-Moor, of Henry Percy in chief, by the service of 2 knights' fees.³⁴

The subsequent history of these estates is unknown to me, but they seem to have been alienated by the Hiltons before the 15th century. Guyzance itself stands in a very anomalous position. Mr. Hartshorne (p. 189) states that in Mason's Survey of 1618, Gusanice is treated as a parcel of the parish of Braneslawe (Brainshaugh). In the Book of Rates of 1663, the contents and proprietors stand thus:—

BRAINSHAUGH, Extra-parochial.

Brainshaugh	Mrs. Ossmotherly.
Barnhills	Wm. Widdrington, of the same.
—— Tyth.	
Guison Town	Mrs. Osmotherly.
—— Mill	My Lord, a part.
—— Tyth	Mr. Robt. Widdrington.
—— Fulling Mill	E. Northumbd.
—— and Barnhill Petty Tythes.	

In the census, Guyzance occurs as a township in the parish of Shilbottle, a connection quite in keeping with its feudal history. But, judging from the early mention of the church in the Halgh, it is very probable that we really have the relics of an obsolete parish. I am told that burials are performed among the ruins by the incumbents of any of the three surrounding parishes of Felton, Shilbottle, and Warkworth, without reference to jurisdiction, and that the chapel is known as that of Brainshaugh rather than that of Guyzance. I do not at all see the supposed identity between Brainshaugh and the meadow called Braneslei in the park of John fitz-Robert, Lord of Warkworth, who gave it to the Prior and convent of Durham.³⁵ The tenures seem quite distinct.

The ground at Guyzance is broken and uncultivated, and altogether very wildly beautiful. The mill is still an interesting object, and near it is a ferry, over which a pretty Northumbrian maiden steers the fortunate passenger.

W. H. D. LONGSTAFFE, F.S.A.

³⁴ Surtees.

³⁵ See Raine's North Durham, Appendix, for the grant.