

CHILLINGHAM CASTLE.

ON the 27th of January, 1344, King Edward III., 'of his especial grace,' granted a licence to his beloved and faithful Thomas de Heton to fortify his manor-house of 'Chevelyngham' with a wall of lime and stone, to crenellate it, and to make it into a castle or fortalice.¹ The castle must have been completed by 1348, in which year Sir Thomas de Heton gave to whoever should be vicar of Chillingham a chamber above the gate of his castle of Chillingham with one stable for two horses in the west hall of the castle.²

A curious picture of a day at Chillingham in the last years of the 14th century has been preserved in the *Proof of Age* of Margaret the youngest daughter of Sir Henry de Heton. This Margaret was born in Chillingham Castle on the 14th of January, 1395, and was baptized in Chillingham Church, her god-father being John Bolton, canon of Alnwick Abbey, and her godmothers Margaret Fox and Margaret Scryven. On the very same day as her christening, Nicholas Heron was married in the church; John Serjeant took Alice de Wyndegales to wife; Sir Henry de Heton bought a white horse from William Cramlington, and despatched Wyland Maudit to Newcastle to buy wine; John Belsise rode to Alnwick with a letter to the Earl of Northumberland; William Cotys slew a doe in the field of Chillingham; and John Horsley had the misfortune to be carried off by the Scots, but his capture was evenly balanced by John Wytton, who laid hands on

¹ 'Pro Thoma de Hetone. Rex omnibus Ballivis et fidelibus suis ad quos, &c. salutem. Sciatis quod de gratia nostra speciali concessimus et licenciam dedimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris dilecto et fideli nostro Thome de Hetone quod ipse mansum suum de Chevelyngham muco de petra et calce firmare et Kernellare et castrum seu fortalitium inde facere et mansum illud sic firmatum Kernellatum et castrum seu fortalitium inde factum tenere possit sibi et heredibus suis sine occasione vel impedimento nostrum vel heredum nostrorum vicecomitum, aut aliorum ballivorum seu ministrorum nostrorum quorumcunque. In cujus &c. T. R. apud Westm. xxvij die Januarii. Per breve de privato sigillo.—*Patent Roll*, 18 Ed. III. pt. 1 m. 46, P.R.O.

² 'Dominus Thomas de Heton dedit vicario de Chyllingham qui pro tempore fuerit unam cameram super portam castri de Chyllingham cum uno stabulo in dicto castro pro duobus equis in occidentali aula anno domini 1348 coram testibus Johanne Heton, Alano Heton et Johanne Terme (?) Willelmo domino de Heton.'—*Registr. Eccles. Dunelm.*, III. p. 4; Hodgson, *Northd.* III. ii. p. 119. This same document gravely recounts the foundation and endowment of the church of Chillingham by Julius Cæsar.

Thomas Turnbull, a Scot, and lodged him in Chillingham Castle. The Scots, however, were not the only dangerous neighbours to whom the inhabitants of Chillingham were exposed: that same day Robert Horne was seized by Sir Thomas Gray of Heton and carried to Norham Castle against his will.³

William de Heton, the last of his race at Chillingham, died on 23rd September, 1400, and his estates passed to Margaret and her two elder sisters, Jane, wife of Robert Rutherford, and Elizabeth, wife of William Johnson.⁴ It does not appear to be known when or how the Grays of Heton first became possessed of Chillingham. Heton they probably acquired by a marriage with an heiress of the Hetons, whose arms they quartered, *vert, a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed argent*; but the earlier alliances in the Gray genealogy seem to have been tampered with by the heralds in the usual way.⁵ Sir Ralph Gray, who died in 1443, appears to have been the first of his family who owned Chillingham. The splendid altar tomb of this Sir Ralph and his widow Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Lord Fitzhugh of Ravensworth, in Richmondshire, stands in a chapel, now the family pew of Lord Tankerville, on the south side of the chancel of the small parish church. It is without compeer in the northern counties of England, the tomb of the Nevilles at Staindrop—at any rate since it was bundled out of the chancel there—being confessedly inferior. The recumbent effigies are characteristic of the middle of the 15th century, the armour of the knight resembling, with its many straps and buckles, that of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in St. Mary's Church there. At the head of the tomb against the west wall of the chapel a full-length figure in white supports a helmet with the crest of Gray of Heton, *a ram's head argent, attired or*; while on each side of this beneath the same helmet and crest are representations of angels bearing heavenwards the souls of Sir Ralph and his lady. On the verge of the

³ *Inq. p.m.* 12 Hen. IV. num. 47; *Archæologia Eliana*, IV. p. 329.

⁴ *Inq. p.m.* 5 Hen. IV. num. 18. Their mother Isabel Mouboucher subsequently married Robert Harbottle. At her death, 23 Oct. 1426, Chillingham was still held by her three daughters, Jane wife of Thomas Lilburn, Elizabeth wife of John Park, and Margaret wife of Thomas Middleton. *Inq. p.m.* 5 Hen. VI. num. 40. For the Gray pedigree see Raine, *North-Durham*, p. 326.

⁵ The Grays of Horton bore *barry of six arg. and az.* the ancient arms of Henry de Grai at Caerlaveroc, differenced by *a bezant on a bend gu.* The arms of the Grays of Heton and Chillingham would appear to be an adaptation of the Heton coat; indeed, according to Jenyn's Collections, *Hartl. MS.* 6589, the Grays seem in the first instance to have adopted it pure and simple.

slab at each side are fixed the arms of Gray of Heton, *gules, a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed argent*, supported by angels, and at the foot of the tomb is a shield with these impaling Fitzhugh, *azure, three chevrons braced a chief or*, quartering Marmion, *vair, a fess gules*. Scattered along the verge are pairs of ladders and cloaks, the ancient *badges* of the Gray family; modern heralds have ignorantly assigned to it the ladder as a *crest*. The ladder (*scala, échelle*), possibly originally a play on the name, *gré* meaning in Old French a flight of steps, gave the title to the celebrated *Scalacronica* composed by Sir Thomas Gray during his captivity in Edinburgh Castle in 1355; the cloak seems to be 'ly chape du Cordeler,' the *Grayfriar's* cloak alluded to in the heraldic enigma prefixed to that work.⁶ Sir John Gray had not only been first and foremost in establishing the Franciscans at Berwick in the 13th century, but was believed to have appeared after death to his younger son Thomas 'Hugtoun,' in the dress of their Order for the purpose of denouncing the wickedness of the burgesses of Berwick in reducing their contributions in support of the friars.⁷

Niches filled with statuettes of saints alternate on the three sides of the tomb with angels supporting blank shields. As far as can be made out, the statuettes are—at the S.W. corner of the tomb—(1) a figure broken in two; along the south side—(2) *St. Paul*, a spear in the right hand, a book and maniple in the left, (3) a woman crowned, in the right hand a staff, in the left a lump (?) with a flat upper surface, (4) *St. Cuthbert* in mitre, *St. Oswald's* head in his left hand, (5) *St. Dorothea* (?), in her right roses and a rosary, in her left a board with four keys fastened on it; at the S.E. corner (6) *St. Peter*, a key in the right; along the east side—(7) a bishop in mitre, the right raised in the act of benediction, a staff in the left, (8) *St. Nivian* (?) in mitre, the right raised in benediction, behind it a chain, and at his left side a chain and lock; at the N.E. corner—(9) *St. Catherine*, a sword in her right, a wheel in her left; on the north side—(10) *St. John Baptist*, an *Agnus Dei* in his left, (11) *St. Theodosia* (?) with long hair, a lump (?) in her right, a packet (?) in her left, (12) *St. John*, in the left a chalice which has held the serpent now broken away, (13) *St. Margaret*, standing on a dragon, her hands clasped, a

⁶ *Scalacronica*, Prologue, p. 1. ⁷ *Chronicon de Lanercost*, A.D. 1296, p. 185.

sword or staff to her left ; at the N.E. corner—(14) *St. Roch* in a hat with broad brim, a staff in his right, a book in his left, a pilgrim's scrip on the left side.

The whole tomb has been ornamented with colour, and the abundant remains of this on the effigies make them still more valuable as studies in costume. The carving is in many places so fresh as to exhibit traces of a realistic, one may almost say renaissance, feeling that many would hardly expect at the period.

Sir Ralph Gray's son, of the same name, had the prudence to convey the castle of Chillingham in trust to William 'Hepsone,' vicar of Wooler, and Edmund Burrell; so that, though he was beheaded at Doncaster on 10th July, 1464, for rebelling against Edward IV., his widow Jacquetta continued to enjoy it till her death in 1469.⁸ In 1509 Chillingham was in the keeping of the Bishop of Durham as guardian of Thomas Gray, a minor. Sir Edward Gray, the boy's great-uncle and eventual heir, was the actual occupant of the castle, which was capable of accommodating a garrison of a hundred horse.⁹ After the Pilgrimage of Grace several of the king's party took refuge in the castle, and Sir Ingram Percy sent for great ordnance from Berwick to besiege it.¹⁰ In 1541 the castle was in a fair state of repair, having been 'of late newly reparell'd' by Sir Robert Ellerker, who had the custody and governance of it during the minority of his stepson Ralph Gray.¹¹

The Grays remained lords of Chillingham till, on the death of Ford Gray, Earl of Tankerville, in 1701, it became the property of his only daughter and heiress, Lady Ossulston, whose husband was subsequently created Earl of Tankerville. The 'county of Tanquerville' in Normandy granted to Sir John de Gray, a brother of the ancestor of the Grays of Chillingham, as a reward for his services by Henry V. on 31st January, 1419, to be held by homage and annual delivery of a bassinet (or helmet) at the castle of Rouen on the feast of St. George, was lost by his son Henry Gray in October, 1449.

A small Decorated window in the upper part of the south-east tower of the castle, to be seen from the flower-garden, the right-hand portion of the south-west tower, and the dungeon in the north-west

⁸ *Inq. p.m.* 9 & 10 Ed. IV. num. 11.

⁹ See above, p. 23.

¹⁰ *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII.* vol. xii. 1090, 30

¹¹ See above, pp. 41, 42.



J. P. GIBSON, PHOTO.

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CHILLINGHAM CASTLE, FROM THE N.

1884.

THIS PLATE CONTRIBUTED BY THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF TANKERVILLE.



tower, are thoroughly characteristic of the architecture of the middle of the 14th century; and it may be safely inferred that the north-east tower likewise dates originally from the time of Sir Thomas de Heton. The buildings that now connect these towers, and so form a courtyard measuring about 20 yards by 17 yards, are apparently of much later construction. At the inner corner of each tower is a stair with a square newel and landings. On a stone shield above the main entrance are the arms:—1 and 4 *a lion rampant within a bordure*, GRAY of Heton; 2, *barry of six, on a bend a roundle*, GRAY of Horton; 3, *three chevrons braced, a chief*, FITZHUGH, quartering *vair, a fess*, MARMION. Several of the charges are repeated on smaller shields on a line below the battlements, with the additional coat of *three garbs*, probably *or, three garbs gu.*, PRESFEN.

On the east side of the courtyard inside the castle is an arcade, attributed to Inigo Jones, with a projecting stone stair in the centre that leads up to the dining room. On either side of this stair are arranged on brackets along the wall stone figures of seven of the Nine Worthies in classical habiliments. The whole series embraced three Jews—Joshua, David, and Judas Maccabeus; three pagans—Hector, Alexander, and Julius Cæsar; and three Christians—Arthur, Charlemagne, and Godfrey of Bouillon. Some of them may be identified by the devices on their oval shields. Those to the north appear to be (1) a double-headed eagle—Charlemagne, (2) a cross between four crosses—Godfrey de Bouillon, (3) a crown within an orle of fleurs-de-lys—Arthur (?); to the south, (4) a lion rampant holding a halbert—Hector of Troy,¹² (5) a crown above an eagle, (6) weather worn. In the centre of the balustrade above is (7) a double-headed eagle—Julius Cæsar. These figures appear to belong to the very beginning of the 17th century. Similar statues of the Nine Worthies may be seen at Montacute in Somersetshire, and on other houses of that date.

A passage in the account book of William Taylor, steward of Chillingham in 1692—‘Beasts in ye Parke, my Lord’s—16 white wilde beasts, 2 black steeres and a quy, 12 white read and black eard, 5 blacke oxen and browne one, 2 oxen from Wark June last,’¹³ seems to draw a distinction between pure white wild cattle and those with red and black ears.

¹² Hierome de Bara, *Le Blason des Armoires*, 1581, p. 172.

¹³ Mackenzie, *View of Northumberland*, i. p. 390 n.