

III.—THE ANCESTRY OF THE EARLY LORDS OF WARKWORTH.

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The traditional account of Roger son of Richard, lord of Warkworth in 1166, which is given by Dugdale,¹ is that he was a son of Richard, a younger son of Eustace Fitz John, lord of Alnwick, by the latter's second marriage to Agnes, daughter and heir of William son of Nigel, constable of Chester. This means that Roger was a younger brother of John, who succeeded to the constablership of Chester and was the ancestor of the second line of Lascy.² The account, so stated, was accepted in the history of Warkworth in *The Northumberland County History*, though the editor, Mr. J. C. Hodgson, in his accompanying pedigree, noted that the evidence on which Roger is made son of Richard Fitz Eustace, is not very strong, and it is remarkable that the Lacies, if an elder line, should have used a *label* over arms which the Claverings [the descendants of Roger] bore with no *difference*.³

A proof that Richard, Roger's father, could not have been Richard Fitz Eustace, son of Eustace Fitz John, was given by Round in a paper "Who was Alice of Essex?" in 1889.⁴ It has been proved conclusively that Alice 'of Essex' was a daughter of Aubrey de Vere II, and sister of Aubrey de Vere III, 1st Earl of Oxford; she married first, as his second wife, Robert de Essex, lord of Rayleigh, and

¹ *Baronage*, i, pp. 91, 105.

² See the chart pedigree in *Complete Peerage*, new ed., vol. vii, p. 677. No younger brother of John the constable named Roger is included, but only his brother Robert.

³ Vol. v, pp. 21, 25.

⁴ *Essex Arch. Soc. Trans.*, N.S., iii, 243-51.

secondly Roger son of Richard, lord of Warkworth.⁵ By his first wife, Gunnor Bigod, Robert de Essex was father of Henry de Essex, whose honour of Rayleigh was forfeited in 1163, and whose daughter Agnes had become the third wife of the 1st Earl of Oxford shortly before.⁶ Described as Alice de Essex, Alice de Vere was living in 1185, then in the king's gift, her age being given in one entry as sixty, and in another as eighty; she had two sons who were knights and a daughter married to John constable of Chester; she was holding the manor of Aynho, co. Northampton of earl William de Mandeville, her nephew, and also Clavering, Essex, as her dower.⁷ Clavering was a member of the honour of Rayleigh, which had been held by Robert de Essex, her first husband.

John the constable's widow was known as Alice de Vere.⁸ There has been a difference of opinion as to whether she was the daughter of Alice de Vere by Robert de Essex or by Roger son of Richard, lord of Warkworth, who was certainly the father of the elder Alice's two sons. Mr. Geoffrey White, who examined all the evidence relating to Alice de Vere, gave reasons for supposing that Roger son of Richard was the father of her daughter, one reason being that after the death of Alice, Clavering was granted by the king to her son Robert son of Roger, which would have been unlikely if the younger Alice had been the daughter of Robert de Essex from whom the interest in Clavering had been derived.⁹ It was on this assumption that Round's proof was based that Roger son of Richard and John constable of Chester could not have been brothers; for if they had been brothers the younger Alice would have married the elder brother of her father.

Even on the supposition that she was the daughter of

⁵ *Ibid.*, and G. H. White in *Complete Peerage*, x, App. J, pp. 115-6.

⁶ *Complete Peerage*, x, 205-6.

⁷ *Rot. de Dominabus*, Pipe Roll Soc., pp. 29, 76.

⁸ e.g. *Pipe Roll 10 Ric. I*, p. 118.

⁹ *Genealogists' Magazine*, March 1937. My thanks are due to Mr. White for this reference and for his advice on several points arising from the Vere connexion.

Robert de Essex there are chronological difficulties in the traditional account that Roger son of Richard and John constable of Chester were brothers. The late Mr. W. Paley Baildon examined in great detail the maternal ancestry of John the constable,¹⁰ whose mother Aubreye de Lisours, daughter and heir of Robert de Lisours and Aubreye de Lascy, married as her first husband Richard son of Eustace Fitz John. He gave reasons for dating the marriage of Robert de Lisours and Aubreye de Lascy as c. 1129-30,¹¹ the birth of their daughter Aubreye as c. 1131-32, and that of the latter's son John the constable as c. 1152.¹² If, therefore, this date for John's birth is approximately correct, it would be impossible to suppose that he had a younger brother who was holding Warkworth in 1166, and whose interest in Northumberland, as will be seen below, dates back to 1158.

A further piece of evidence, though of a negative character, lies in the fourteenth-century *Fundatorum Progenies et Historia* of Norton priory, founded by William son of Nigel, constable of Chester.¹³ Genealogical details in documents of this kind are often inaccurate, and indeed some of the details relating to the Lascy family in this one are certainly wrong; but it is definitely stated that Richard Fitz Eustace had two sons, John the constable and brother Robert the hospitaller, and two daughters. No mention is made of another son named Roger; and if Richard Fitz Eustace had been the father of Roger son of Richard, lord of Warkworth and ancestor of the Clavinger family, his omission in this account would be surprising.

Among the notes compiled by William de Vere, canon of St. Paul's and afterwards bishop of Hereford,¹⁴ a younger son of Aubrey de Vere II, which he appended to a treatise

¹⁰ *Baildon and the Baidons*, vol. i, in his chapter on the Fitz William family.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 347-51. This date is given by Farrer in *Early Yorks. Charters*, iii, 199. In 1130 Robert de Lisours was making payment for marrying the sister of Ilbert de Lascy (*Pipe Roll 31 Hen. I*, p. 8).

¹² Baildon, *op. cit.*, pp. 347, 350.

¹³ Pd. in *Mon. Ang.*, vi, 315.

¹⁴ *Complete Peerage*, x, App. J, pp. 118-9.

on the Miracles of St. Osyth, there is the statement that Roger son of Richard, the second husband of Alice, William's sister, was the *nepos* of earl Hugh Bigod.¹⁵ The deduction from this is that, as for chronological reasons *nepos* cannot be grandson, Roger's mother was a daughter of Roger Bigod, the Domesday tenant, who died in 1107, and a sister (or half-sister) of Hugh Bigod, created earl of Norfolk in 1140 or 1141.¹⁶ Richard, Roger's father, therefore married a daughter of Roger Bigod; and it is significant that in 1166 a Roger son of Richard held two knights' fees of earl Hugh; these were of the new feoffment and therefore created after 1135.¹⁷ Incidentally, this marriage constitutes a further proof that Richard could not have been the same person as Richard son of Eustace Fitz John, whose wife was Aubrey de Lisours.

The earliest recorded connexion of Roger son of Richard with Northumberland is in the year ending at Michaelmas 1158, when in the sheriff's accounts the sum of 58 *li.* 2 *s.* occurs as a gift by the king's writ to Roger son of Richard.¹⁸ In the next year there is a similar entry, the sum being 52 *li.* 12 *s.*¹⁹ At Michaelmas 1160, among the lands given, were 20 *li.* worth in the borough of Newcastle and 32 *li.* 12 *s.* in Warkworth, given to Roger son of Richard.²⁰ Similar entries are included in the subsequent rolls,²¹ until in the year ending at Michaelmas 1178 the figure for Warkworth is 8 *li.* 6 *d.* for a quarter of the year,²² showing that Roger died about the end of 1177. In 1166 he returned in his *carta* that he held Warkworth in chief by the service of one

¹⁵ Pd. in Leland, *Itinerary*, ed. L. Toulmin Smith, part xi, p. 172, and cited by Round in *Essex Arch. Soc. Trans.*, N.S., iii, 246.

¹⁶ *Complete Peerage*, ix, 578 n, where details are given of three other daughters of Roger Bigod, one being Gunnor, first wife of Robert de Essex.

¹⁷ *Red Bk. Exch.*, p. 397.

¹⁸ *Pipe Roll 4 Hen. II*, p. 177.

¹⁹ *Pipe Roll 5 Hen. II*, p. 13.

²⁰ *Pipe Roll 6 Hen. II*, p. 56.

²¹ Except for the period 1159-62, when the total is 52 *li.* 12 *s.*, it is invariably 52 *li.* 2 *s.*, until 1176, when Newcastle drops out. Warkworth often occurs as *Werch'*, but sometimes as *Werchwurda* or a similar spelling. There is no doubt as to the identity.

²² *Pipe Roll 24 Hen. II*, p. 59.

knight;²³ in 1168 he paid in Northumberland a mark on one fee for the aid for the marriage of the king's daughter, and in 1172 a scutage payment of 20 s.²⁴

In addition to his tenure of Warkworth and to the two knights' fees which he held of Hugh earl of Norfolk, Roger son of Richard held $1\frac{3}{4}$ knights' fees of the new feoffment of Geoffrey de Mandeville, earl of Essex,²⁵ whose mother Rohese was a sister of Alice, Roger's wife.²⁶ In 1170 William earl of Essex, who had succeeded his brother Geoffrey, issued a charter giving to Roger son of Richard the vill of Aynho, co. Northampton, in exchange for Compton, co. Warwick;²⁷ and Aynho, which was subsequently held in dower by Alice,²⁸ was inherited by their descendants.

It is unsafe to identify Roger son of Richard with others who had the same description. For the present purpose it is important to discover some clue which might throw light on the origin of his father Richard. Unfortunately the only clue at present available is of an indefinite kind. This is a marginal note, apparently made by William de Vere himself, to the family details appended to his treatise cited above, which have been printed from Leland. After the statement that Roger son of Richard was the *nepos* of earl Hugh Bigod, there is the entry *Thomas avunculus Rogeri filii Richardi* with the marginal note *Thomas de Candelent*. 'Candelent' is presumably corrupt; but a transition from Canteleut via Cantelent is possible; and the form Canteleu is a medieval spelling of Cauntelo, which in its anglicized form from the Latin often appears as Cantilupe. But no record of a Thomas de Cauntelo, living early in the twelfth century, has been found.²⁹

²³ *Red Bk. Exch.*, p. 442.

²⁴ *Pipe Roll 14 Hen. II*, p. 171; *18 Hen. II*, p. 67.

²⁵ *Red Bk. Exch.*, p. 347.

²⁶ *Complete Peerage*, v, 115.

²⁷ Text pd. by Round in *Eng. Hist. Rev.*, vi, 364. The place is Long Compton (*V.C.H. Warwickshire*, v, 53).

²⁸ Round, *Geoffey de Mandeville*, p. 390 n.; *Rot. de Dominabus*, pp. 29, 77.

²⁹ It may be significant that the second wife of the first Earl of Oxford was Eufeme, said to be daughter of William de Cauntelo (*Complete Peerage*, x, 205).

It is recorded that in 1212 Robert son of Roger was holding Clavering, of the fee of Henry de Essex, by the gift of King Henry II.³⁰ The gift was presumably made after the death of Alice, his mother, who was holding it in dower in 1185. The family, descended from Robert son of Roger, later adopted the name of Clavering.

³⁰ *Book of Fees*, p. 123.

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