

Greasley Castle.

By HERBERT GREEN, B.A.

MOST guides and general histories of Nottinghamshire make mention of Greasley Castle. Many record little more than the grant of the licence to crenellate made by Edward III. to Nicholas de Cantelupe in 1340. A few go further and give a more detailed account of some aspect or other of the castle's history. Thoroton¹ for example, mentions the owners of Greasley down to his own time with some description of their descent. *The Victoria County History of Nottinghamshire* (Vol. II, p. 311) provides an excellent account of the earthworks and fishponds which may still be traced near the castle. *The History of Nottinghamshire* by Cornelius Brown (1896)² gives a good description of Greasley Castle and its builder. Another book which must be mentioned is *Griseleia; Snotinghscire* by Rodolph Baron von Hube (1901). Since this volume was published ideas on many subjects have changed. But, while the references to the general history of England and the interpretation of place-names given in this book, cannot now be accepted, the account of the life of Nicholas de Cantelupe, with the sources of information indicated, remains a valuable contribution. The illustrations are distinctly helpful, but the description of the castle, although containing some useful information, is not convincing.

(¹) Throsby's edition of *Thoroton*, Vol. II, p. 239, *et seq.*

(²) p. 240.

In view of the existence of a considerable amount of literature on this subject, it seems desirable to give reasons for the writing of this article. The original purpose was to describe the results of excavation attempted, although on a very small scale, in the summer of 1933. In addition it is hoped that the article will be useful in attempting to answer a number of questions which arise concerning Greasley Castle, and which so far have not been seriously tackled by any writer. Throughout, an attempt has been made to discover how the history of the castle may be used to illustrate important movements in the general history of England for in this, perhaps, the greatest value of the study of local history lies.

The licence to fortify Greasley came at a time when the building of castles was beginning to decline.¹ The foundation of true castles was a comparatively rare thing in the 14th and 15th centuries, and in a number of crenellated houses the fortification was very slight, and at times little more than ornamental. The baronial castle was becoming an anachronism. That the invention of gunpowder was one reason for this decline can scarcely be denied, but the effect of this discovery was perhaps more gradual than was at one time supposed. Apart from the castle's reduced effectiveness owing to the use of artillery, there was a tendency for it to decline in importance in the military organisation of the country. Changes in the art of war tended to give the military advantage to the side which could put into the field and handle effectively the largest masses of men-at-arms. Edward I., for example, had developed

(¹) See *The Development of the Castle in England and Wales*, F. M. Stenton. Historical Association Leaflet No. 22 (1910, reprinted 1933). *Military Architecture in England in the Middle Ages*, A. Hamilton Thompson; Oxford University Press, 1912.

an infantry very efficient in missile tactics. This development combined with the complete independence from the feudal levy, gave to the king, the person best able to pay, an advantage over the barons, and played an important part in the suppression of militant feudalism, and in rendering the baronial castle an anachronism.

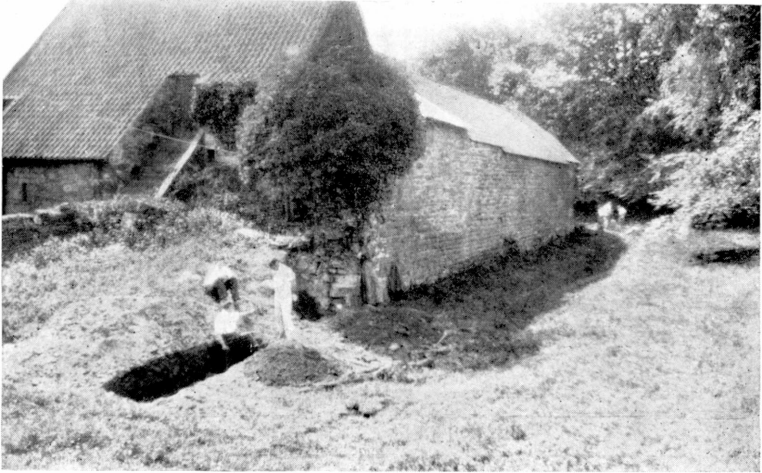
When, in the 14th and 15th centuries massive fortresses no longer served a useful purpose, men took the opportunity to escape the extreme discomfort which these castles inflicted upon their occupants. Earlier castles were sometimes altered to provide greater comfort, but where practicable, the fortified manor house was preferred to the castle. At Tretower¹ in Wales the remains of a 14th century fortified house may be seen within a short distance of the ruined castle which it superseded. Although Greasley was dignified by the name of castle it was probably little more than a fortified manor house. The wording in the Calendar of Patent Rolls² runs, "Licence to Nicholas Cantelupe to crenellate his dwelling place of Gryseleye co. Notts." Thoroton³ in recording the granting of the licence to Nicholas "to strengthen or fortify his manor house," remarks, "from this time it was called a castle." As a 14th-century fortified house it is probably more important and interesting than it would have been as a castle; for although in one sense the beginning of the development of the larger type of English house⁴ lies in the Norman

(¹) For a picture of this, see *London Illustrated News*, July 7th, 1934.

(²) *Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward III.*, Vol. IV, 1338-1340.

(³) Throsby's edition, Vol. II, p. 240.

(⁴) See *The Growth of the English House*, J. A. Gotch, 1909 (Batsford), p. 24.



GREASLEY CASTLE 1933.



GREASLEY CASTLE 1933.

SKETCH PLAN OF PART OF
GREASLEY CASTLE.

References.

———— Walls still standing,
probably original.

- - - - Other walls standing

———— Foundations discovered
by excavation, 1933.

- - - - Suggested line of
original walls.

A) Places where excavation
B) attempted. *See text.*

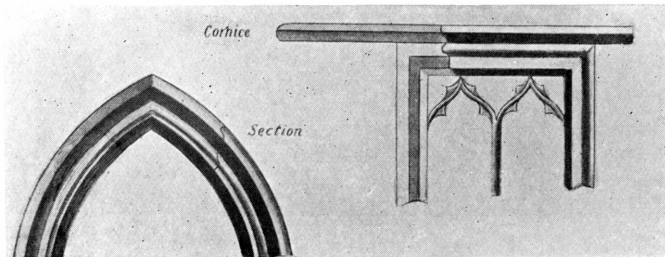
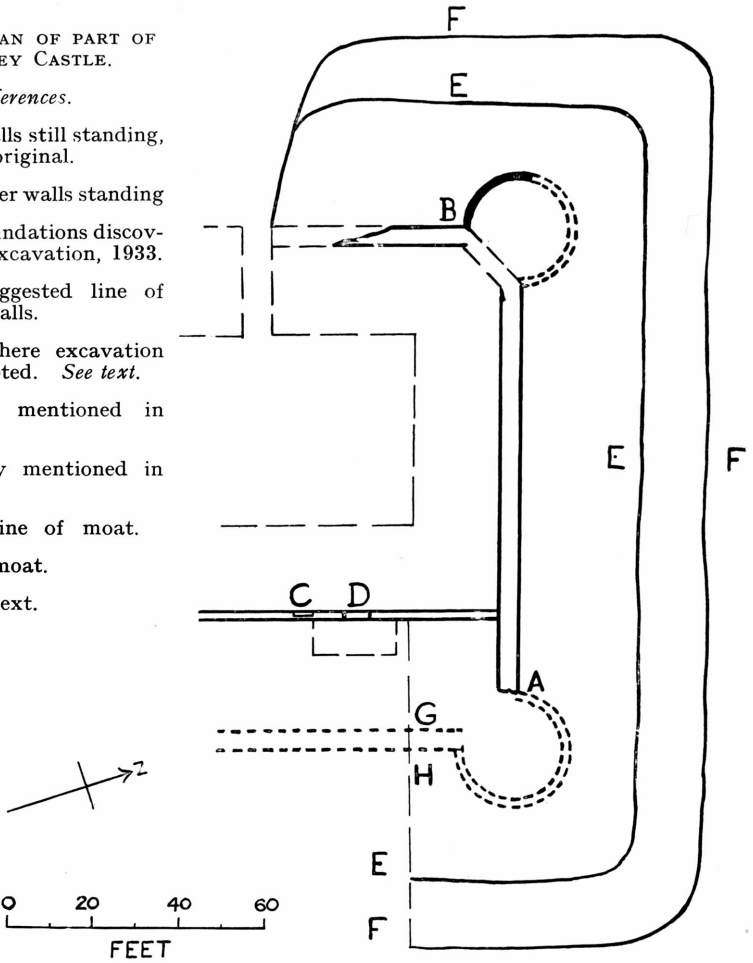
C Window mentioned in
the text.

D Doorway mentioned in
the text.

E Lower line of moat.

F Top of moat.

G.H. *See text.*



PORTIONS OF OLD DOOR AND WINDOW IN RUINS OF GREASLEY CASTLE.

Taken from Baron Von Hube's Book GRISELEIA.

keep, the fortified house marks the earliest development of the truly domestic architecture. Viewed in this light, Greasley Castle takes on the character of an early example of a fortified manor house, and the starting point of the growth of the larger type of English house, a growth continued through Haddon Hall, South Wingfield Manor, Tattershall Castle, and Wollaton Hall, to name a few examples in Nottinghamshire and adjacent counties.

It was with the hope of discovering, among other things, something of the ground plan, that excavation was attempted in the summer of 1933. Throughout, the work was handicapped by the necessity to fill in again each day. Although digging was carried out on two days only the party was numerous. The two places at which excavation was undertaken are marked "A" and "B" on the accompanying plan. On the first day digging was confined to the north-east corner, "A" only, but on the second day one party worked at "A" while a second worked at the north-west corner "B." At each of these corners there are suggestions on the existing wall (almost 5 feet thick) of angle towers, and the first aim was to see whether angle towers had been a feature of Greasley or not. The first day's digging, *i.e.*, at "A," produced no sign of foundations of any tower, even at a depth of nearly 6 feet. It seemed that the wall went straight on, an idea which had to be abandoned after the second day's digging. At a depth of 3 feet 6 inches and below, pieces of broken pottery were found along with small pieces of charcoal and coal, part of an 18th-century clay pipe, and small pieces of bone. Most of the pottery was afterwards declared by the Curator of the Nottingham Castle Museum to be of 17th-century date. Much of it was glazed inside but

not outside, a characteristic of pottery used in the kitchen.

The work on the second day produced more satisfactory results. The party working at " B " soon met with success and, before filling in had to be considered, the base of a round tower some 20 feet or more in diameter had been uncovered to about one third of its circumference. The other end " A " again failed to give positive results. Although two trenches were made at " A " in an attempt to find a continuation of the existing wall, or the base of a tower, neither was found. But in spite of this it still seems probable that a tower did originally exist at this corner, for the projections on the wall at this end are very similar to those at the north-west corner where the existence of a tower was definitely established. The plan will show that if a tower existed at " A " the same size as that discovered at " B," the distance between its outer edge and the top of the moat, would be the same as the distance from the outer edge of the north-west tower " B " and the top of the moat.

In the 14th century angle towers were generally built square, reverting to the form which has been superseded for military purposes by the round tower. The existence of a round tower in a fortified house of the date of Greasley is somewhat unusual, but not very surprising, as the shape did not matter much. In manor houses no attempt was made at the scientific flanking of a curtain wall such as had been developed in castles of the 13th century.¹

Is it possible from the evidence available to form any idea of the ground plan of Greasley? It must be

(¹) Professor A. Hamilton Thompson.

stated at once that it is not possible to be definite. The best that can be done is to put forward a theory which seems to be justified by the information we have. In the first place it seems reasonable to suppose that Greasley was square or rectangular with angle towers. But this is not saying much, and no description of a medieval manor house is complete without reference to the hall, the kitchen and buttery, and to the solar and other family apartments. The hall at this period and for centuries afterwards was easily the most important room in the house. It has been said that the hall was not so much the heart of the house but the house itself.¹ The tendency which has persisted to this day, to call the principal house of the parish "the hall" is not mere chance. At one end of the hall was the solar to which the lord might retire when he desired privacy; at the other end was the kitchen department, the headquarters of the servants. The entrance to the hall was placed at the servants' end, whereas the "high table" at which the lord and lady sat, occupied the upper or solar end, away from the draughty entrance. The discovery of the position of the hall, the solar and the kitchen at Greasley would be an important step in solving the problem of its ground plan. How important may be seen from the statement made by J. A. Gotch that "the main idea of entering the hall at its lower end, of the kitchens being at this end and the solar or family rooms at the other, is so universal as to furnish a clue to the unravelling of the mysteries of many a complicated ruin."² Will this prove to be true in the case of Greasley?

In the wall at the back of what is now a stable are a

(¹) *The Growth of the English House*, J. A. Gotch, p. 24.

(²) *The Growth of the English House*, J. A. Gotch, p. 27.

door and a 14th-century square-headed window both built up (marked D and C respectively on the plan).¹ It is not unreasonable to suggest that this door might have been the entrance to the hall from the courtyard. The finding of coal and charcoal, small bones and pottery intended for kitchen use at position "A" seems to point to the existence of the kitchens at this end. If the door "D" were the entrance to the hall its position would be in accordance with the general practice mentioned above. The window "C" looking into the courtyard would not present to an enemy an easy means of entering the house. If this suggestion is correct we might expect to find a hall about 33 feet wide, and of an unknown length. The hall of Oakham Castle, said to be the finest example in England of an early hall, is 65 feet long by 43 feet wide.² The hall at Stokesay Castle (1240-1290) is 52 feet by 31 feet,³ that at Haddon 43 feet by 28 feet,⁴ and that at South Wingfield Manor 71 feet 7 inches by 36 feet 5 inches.⁴

Against this theory of the position of the hall it may be urged that the position of the window should be further to the south than "C," for it is likely that the only use of the window would be to illuminate the dais. On the other hand, as the window seems to be a little later than the door, it is possible that an oriel window existed somewhere further along that wall and that the window "C" is an inserted window. It is at least a theory that might be investigated.⁵

(¹) In Baron von Hube's *Griseleia* between pp. 92-93 drawings of these are reproduced. They are both called windows but there seems to be little doubt that one is a door.

(²) Gotch, p. 27. (³) Gotch, p. 37. (⁴) Gotch, p. 70.

(⁵) For the valuable criticism of the theory of the position of the hall contained in this paragraph I am indebted to Mr. J. Holland Walker.

Mention has already been made of the description given in the *Victoria County History of Nottinghamshire* of the earthworks surrounding Greasley Castle, and forming apparently two courts. It would be interesting to know whether these ramparts were surmounted by a wooden stockade or a stone wall. There is no evidence to suggest a stone wall, although in places the ramparts have been cut through to make roads, or for other purposes.

It is unfortunate that no prints or plans have come to us to solve the problems which Greasley presents, but further excavation would probably be worth while. The excavation attempted in 1933 handicapped as it was by the necessity to fill in again at the end of each day's work, was never intended to be more than a trial excavation. The work at Greasley and the writing of this article will be considered worth while if interest in Greasley Castle is increased, and if the house is, as a result considered with Haddon, South Wingfield and Wollaton, in the story of the growth of the larger English house. It would be a good thing if a society or group of antiquarians, more expert in this branch of local history, and with greater resources than the writer of this article, would continue the work begun, and give to the county a fuller and more satisfactory account of this interesting medieval fortified manor house. It may be of use to suggest that in the event of further excavation a trench from G to H (see plan) might reveal the existence of the foundations of the outer wall, and help to solve the problem of the north-east angle tower. In addition a more thorough examination of the north-west tower would probably give interesting results, and a trench cut across the moat might lead to the discovery of its original depth.

II.

Although apparently no record of the architectural features of Greasley Castle has come down to us, there is a considerable amount of information with regard to Nicholas de Cantelupe. It would be possible to reconstruct from the material available¹ a fairly detailed life of Nicholas, but even if time allowed, this would scarcely come within the scope of this paper. The purpose of this second section is to seek answers to a number of interesting questions which arise in the history of Greasley, and to use the details of the activities of its builder to illustrate certain well-defined features of the time of Edward III.

Of the lands which Nicholas de Cantelupe held, the most important to us, apart from Greasley itself, was the manor of Ilkeston in the neighbouring county of Derbyshire. Ilkeston and Greasley came into the same hands through the marriage of Sir Ralph de Greasley with Isobel² the heiress of the Muskham family of Ilkeston. Three generations later Eustachia, heiress of the lands in Greasley and Ilkeston, became the wife of Nicholas de Cantelupe (not the Nicholas who fortified Greasley Castle), thus bringing to Greasley the branch of a family which had already achieved distinction. This Nicholas de Cantelupe was a younger son of William de Cantelupe, Baron Cantelupe by tenure, Senechal to King John.³ Two members of the family had been

(¹) See *Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward III.*, and *Calendar of Close Rolls, Edward III.*

(²) *Thoroton*: Throsby's edition, Vol. II, pp. 239-246. Throsby gives a different descent based upon Rastall, and Dugdale's extract from the Beauvale Register. Thoroton with a fully documented description, seems preferable to Dugdale, full of pitfalls for the unwary. See also *Griseleia*, Baron von Hube, p. 7.

(³) *History of the Parish and Priory of Lenton*, Godfrey, p. 130.

eminent dignitaries of the Church ; Walter de Cantelupe, Bishop of Worcester, and Thomas de Cantelupe, who after being Lord Chancellor, became Bishop of Hereford.¹ It was no insignificant family that became connected with Greasley by the marriage of Eustachia. From this marriage came William de Cantelupe who was born and baptised in Lenton Priory in 1263.² In 1294 he served in Gascony and later in Scotland. In 1299, he was raised to the peerage as Baron Cantelupe by writ of summons. When in 1308 he died, he left a son, also William de Cantelupe, aged sixteen years, and a younger son Nicholas, the builder of Greasley Castle and of Beauvale Charterhouse. Nicholas took possession of the manor of Greasley in 1320 before his brother died,³ although William retained in his own hands other lands of which Ilkeston was part.

From the *Inquisitiones Post Mortem* ("Inquisitiones Post Mortem relating to Nottinghamshire") ; (*Thoroton Society Records Series* 1914, Vol. II, 1279-1321) it is possible to glean a number of details of the manor of Greasley which came into the possession of Nicholas. On the death of Hugh (c. 43-45 Henry III.) grandfather of Eustachia mentioned above, the jury declared upon their oath⁴ that Hugh held the manor by the service of a knight's fee to be done to the lord the king. In the manor there were three carucates of land with a capital

(¹) *A History of Nottinghamshire*, Cornelius Brown, 1896, p. 241.

(²) *History of the Parish and Priory of Lenton*: Godfrey, pp. 130-31n.

(³) *Inquisitiones Post Mortem relating to Nottinghamshire*, *Thoroton Society Records Series*, 1914, Vol. II, 1279-1321, p. 302. On p. 257 of "Notes on the churches of Derbyshire" by J. C. Cox, 1879, Vol. IV., there is the suggestion that William and Nicholas were father and son, but the *Inquisition* mentioned above makes it clear that they were brothers.

(⁴) *Inquisitiones Post Mortem relating to Notts.*, Vol. II, pp. 137-8.

message, together worth six pounds yearly ; sixty oxgangs of land in villeinage ; free tenants rendering yearly forty-three shillings and ninepence, one pound of pepper and one pound of cummin (a spice) ; and 14 coterelli who each rendered yearly twelve pence. Other features of the manor were a windmill rendering two marks, a dovehouse worth two shillings yearly and a pasture protected by a wood. A document of 1305-6¹ concerning William de Cantelupe gives us the additional information that the manor of Greasley was of the great fee of Peveril and held by William " by homage doing suit at the court of the Honor of the liberty of Peverel every three weeks when scutage runs and it is put at forty shillings." ² This is confirmed by the finding of the jury whose task it was to enquire whether the desire of William de Cantelupe to enfeoff his brother Nicholas of the manor of Greasley would be to the damage or prejudice of the king.

The capital message mentioned in the previous paragraph was probably the manor house which Nicholas turned into a fortified manor house in the reign of Edward III. Why did Nicholas wish to fortify his house and why was he given permission ? These are parts of a wider question, for during the reign of Edward III. no fewer than 175³ royal licences to crenellate were granted. The number for the period 1256 to 1478 is 371, showing that 47.1 per cent. were granted during the reign of Edward III., an exceptional percentage even when allowance is made for the length of the reign. This high figure is probably due to the prevalent unrest during

(¹) *Ibid.*, p. 213.

(²) *Ibid.*, p. 302.

(³) These figures are based on the table of Royal Licences to crenellate given in *The English Archaeologist's Handbook*, Godwin, 1867. Stubbs *Constitutional History of England*, Vol. III., p. 537, gives 180 as the figure for the reign of Edward III.

the period of the Hundred Years' War, especially in the North of England, where Scottish raids were constant. Defence against possible invasion would have been a good ostensible cause in most cases. There was also, however, the unsafe state of the country illustrated by numerous petitions on the rolls of Parliament and by statutory legislation.¹ The numerous commissions of Oyer and Terminer to which Nicholas himself was appointed are useful illustrations of the state of England. In July of 1340 he was sent into Leicester to enquire into the attack upon the chief justice ; in December of the same year he was sent to enquire into unlawful assemblies in Lincolnshire ; and the next month he was under orders for Lincolnshire again, this time to enquire into murders which had taken place there.² There is little wonder that, early in the 14th century cathedral and similar closes were fortified ; and there was equally good reason for the fortification of country houses.

There is a strong temptation to see in the crenellation of Greasley an additional motive. The foundation of Beauvale Charterhouse so near to Greasley, and so soon after the granting of the licence to crenellate, seems to suggest that Nicholas had social position in mind and was aping the great Norman barons. Roger de Busli had built himself a castle at Tickhill and founded a monastery at Blyth ; Henry de Ferrers had built both castle and monastery at Tutbury ; and at Nottingham, the castle built for the king, but placed in the keeping of William Peverel, was followed some forty or fifty years later by the Peverel foundation of Lenton Priory, little more than a mile away.

(¹) Professor A. Hamilton Thompson.

(²) *Calendar of Patent Rolls* and *Calendar of Close Rolls* for many others.

Applications for licence to crenellate were made in Chancery, and the licences were issued in the form of letters patent for which the applicant paid a fine. Probably the charge was determined by what the applicant was likely or willing to pay, and bore little relation to what he intended to do, whether to build what was in effect a castle, or merely to strengthen a manor house with battlements. It would appear that in most cases the licence was simply a matter of business between the applicant and Chancery, and that it went out under the great seal without necessarily coming before the king in person. It is doubtful whether applications were often refused; the Chancellor would be the judge of the applicant's respectability and intentions. It would probably be a mistake to regard these things as a personal arrangement between monarch and subject.¹

Had the permission to crenellate Greasley been dependent upon royal favour, there is every reason to believe that it would still have been granted, for Nicholas de Cantelupe was a man useful in many ways to Edward III. It has already been mentioned that Nicholas was called upon to serve upon numerous Commissions of Oyer and Terminer. But it was not in this sphere alone that he rendered valuable assistance to the king. In 1320 he was in Scotland with Edward II. who six years later knighted him. Early in the reign of Edward III., Nicholas was again in Scotland and in 1336 was made Governor of Berwick-on-Tweed. The year 1339 saw him in both Scotland and Flanders. In 1341 he was called upon to take forty men-at-arms to fight against

(¹) Professor A. Hamilton Thompson.

the Scots,¹ and in 1343 he was one of the ambassadors sent to treat for peace with France. At the beginning of the campaign which ended at Crecy, Nicholas was summoned to attend the king. When a French invasion threatened in 1352 he was appointed one of the commissioners for the defence of Lincolnshire. In addition to his services as a soldier he was called to attend Parliament between the years 1337 and 1354. By the time of his death in 1355 he had founded the Carthusian monastery of Beauvale, and Cantelupe College, a college of priests to celebrate at the altar of St. Nicholas in the cathedral of Lincoln.²

If the services which Nicholas performed for the king were insufficient to put him in favour, he had powerful relatives to obtain for him what he required. One of these, William de la Zouch, who was constantly employed by Edward III. in various capacities, became Archbishop of York in 1342,³ and in the foundation charter of Beauvale one of the reasons given for the founding of the monastery was the desire to ensure "the good estate of Archbishop Zouch," the founder's "most dear lord and cousin." The charter was witnessed at Greasley on December 9th, 1343, by many distinguished men. It was probably one of the earliest and greatest gatherings that ever took place in Greasley. In addition to the Archbishop of York were the bishops of Durham, Lincoln and Lichfield; the earls of Derby, Northampton and Huntingdon; Sir John Grey; Sir

(1) Rymer, Vol. V., p. 290. Edward III. sometimes raised troops by Commissions of Array but more often by agreement with well known captains who raised, organised and led a number of men. (See Oman: *History of the Art of War*, p. 591 and *England in the Later Middle Ages*, Vickers, p. 224). This may be an example of the second method.

(2) *Dictionary of National Biography*, Vol. VIII., p. 447.

(3) *Victoria County History: Nottinghamshire*, Vol. II., p. 57.

William Deincourt and Sir William de Grey of Sandiacre, knights; William, son and heir of the founder and William's son Nicholas. Another and shorter charter was witnessed by several knights of the district.¹ Altogether it was a most imposing company which took part in this house-warming at Greasley Castle, and which witnessed the Beauvale charters. The whole event was probably one of the greatest days in the life of Nicholas de Cantelupe.

It is not easy to see at first, why Nicholas chose to build his castle at Greasley. It is by no means an ideal situation from a military point of view. The castle was overlooked by the church, built higher up on the slope of the hill, and by a hill on the opposite side of the modern road from Nottingham to Alfreton. It occupied no strategic position as the castles of Nottingham and Newark did, and although there is a good view from Greasley Castle over the valley below, there is nothing like the range of view seen from Laxton Castle, to mention one. All this stresses the point already made, that defence and military strength were not the only things in the mind of its builder, when Greasley Castle was constructed. Why did not Nicholas chose Ilkeston for his fortified house? It seems to offer a better site. Close proximity to the castle of the Greys at Codnor (built 1224-58) also in Derbyshire, can scarcely have been the cause of the rejection of Ilkeston, as Greasley is nearer to Codnor than is Ilkeston. The reason seems to lie rather in the facilities which Greasley and the surrounding country offered to Nicholas in carrying out his twofold scheme of building monastery and castle after the fashion of earlier barons. At the foundation

(¹) *Ibid.*, p. 105.

the monks of Beauvale were given the monastery that he had built "in his park of Greasley," and a considerable amount of land in Greasley and Selston. Four years later additional grants of lands and rents were made to the value of £20 per annum in Selston, Watnall, Kimberley and Newthorpe.

The life of Nicholas de Cantelupe may be used to illustrate a number of changes which were taking place during the reign of Edward III. In the first place, the character of the baronage was changing, for not only was the number of the barons steadily diminishing, although their individual wealth and power were growing, but they had also forgotten their old desire for local independence, and had acquired an interest in national government. At the same time knights and smaller gentry were beginning their rise to power, which made them in the 18th century, in a sense, more powerful than the central government itself. Nicholas de Cantelupe, third baron, Lord of Eselburgh in Bucks., Ilkeston, Greasley and of several villages in the adjoining county of Lincolnshire, was a member of the diminishing baronage, the most distinguished representative of the Nottinghamshire branch of the Cantelupe family, a branch which died out with the deaths of the grandsons of Nicholas. Although he allowed himself the dignity of a fortified dwelling, styled castle, and founded a monastery after the fashion of the Norman barons, it would appear that most of his time was spent in the service of the king, either in administration or in war against the king's enemies.

It has already been mentioned that the *Calendar of Patent Rolls of Edward III.*, Vols. I to X, and the *Calendar of Close Rolls* furnish abundant evidence of the

employment of Nicholas by the king on Commissions of Oyer and Terminer. It is also clear from these records that in 1340 Nicholas was appointed to supervise in Lincolnshire, and later in Nottinghamshire, the assessment and collection of the ninth granted to the king by statute.¹ The employment of men like Nicholas de Cantelupe on commissions of Oyer and Terminer and in the collection of taxes illustrates the fact that the older method of itinerant justices seems to have gone out of use in the time of Edward III.

The eyre appears to have been regarded as a sore burden on the counties, causing many complaints, and as the machinery for collecting revenue, it was becoming unnecessary, for the king was coming to depend more and more on taxes granted by Parliament, and less and less on the profits of jurisdiction, and the income derived from his feudal rights, escheats, wardships, and so forth.²

Lack of time and space prevents any attempt at an adequate treatment of the history of Greasley Castle and its owners after the death of Nicholas de Cantelupe. A brief sketch must suffice. Nicholas had a son William about whom there is little to record beyond his want of originality in calling his sons Nicholas and William.³ Eventually William and Nicholas died without issue, Greasley coming into the hands of the Zouch family, which was connected with the Cantelupes, as has already been shown.⁴

(1) *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, Vol. IV., p. 499 ; Vol. V., p. 27.

(2) Maitland : *Constitutional History of England*, p. 137 *et seq.*

(3) *Thoroton* : Throsby's edition, Vol. II., p. 240.

(4) For further details see "Notes on the churches of Derbyshire," J. C. Cox, Vol. IV., pp. 257-8.

The Zouch family held it until, in 1485, the Battle of Bosworth brought a change of ownership. Lord Zouch took sides with Richard III. and was slain at Bosworth.¹ Afterwards along with the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Surrey, Lord Ferrers and twenty-three knights, he was declared guilty of high treason and his property forfeit to the Crown.² On March 7th, 1486, the castle, manor and lordship of Greasley and Kimberley, co. Notts., and the manor and lordship of Ilkeston, and a coal mine in Ilkeston were granted with other lands to John Savage the younger, Knt., "in consideration of his having largely exposed himself with a crowd of his kinsmen, servants and friends as volunteers in the king's service in the battle against the king's great adversary Richard III., the late pretended King of England, and also in consideration of other services rendered always with anxious solicitude during prosperity as well as adversity."³

John Savage had not shown towards Richard III. the quality of faithfulness ascribed to him by the document quoted. He had been created Knight of the Bath by Edward IV. on April 17th, 1483, and he was one of those selected to bear Edward's body into Westminster Abbey. In 1484-85 he was Mayor of Chester and much preferment was bestowed upon him by Richard III., but while Lord Zouch remained faithful to Richard and was slain on Bosworth Field, Savage seems to have had a secret understanding with Henry Tudor and joined him on his march through Wales. According to some

(¹) Chronicle of Calais.

(²) *Political History of England: 1485-1547*, H. A. L. Fisher, p. 8.

(³) *Materials for the reign of Henry VII.*, Ed. Campbell. Rolls Series, Vol. I., p. 365.

authorities he commanded the left wing of the Lancastrian army at Bosworth. When Sir John Savage was killed at the siege of Boulogne in 1494¹ the castle and lands descended to his son John. This John Savage and his son, another John, were found guilty of the murder of one John Pauncefote, but were pardoned for their offences on the promise to pay to the king 4,000 marks. Their lands in Granby, Sutton, Greasley and Kimberley were taken over "for further surety of payment."² Sir John Manners, grandfather of the Earl of Rutland, who was alive when Thoroton wrote (June 16th, 1673), purchased the lordship of Greasley from the Savages,³ (probably in 1608).

No satisfactory evidence has been found that Greasley Castle was subject to any attack or siege. Baron von Hube, in his *History of Greasley*, p. 94, mentions a tradition that the castle was taken and overthrown during the Civil War, but until definite information is forthcoming the problem must be left open. Throsby (1797) states that "the mansion of Nicholas de Cantelupe which has been since his time called a castle, by reason he had liberty from Edward III., to fortify it, is totally destroyed except a plain wall or two." This statement and the discovery of late 17th century pottery seems to suggest a date round about 1700 as the probable time at which Greasley was abandoned and its destruction begun.

(¹) *Dictionary of National Biography*, Vol. 50, p. 338.

(²) *Inquisitiones Post Mortem relating to Nottinghamshire : Thoroton Society Record Series*, Vol. I., pp. 152-5.

(³) *Thoroton* : Throsby's edition, Vol. II., p. 241.

My thanks are due to I. C. Grammer, Esq., the owner of Greasley Castle, who kindly consented to the excavation, and to Mr. Noon, the tenant, who gave us every assistance while we were at work there. I am indebted to Mr. Prior of the Mathematics Department of University College, Nottingham; to Messrs. Train, Graham, Mardling and Pinion of the staff of High Pavement School, Nottingham; and to a number of boys of that school, for help with the digging. One of the photographs shown was taken by Mr. Mardling. To Professor A. Hamilton Thompson of Leeds University I owe thanks for very useful information, acknowledged in footnotes, concerning fortified houses and methods of granting licences to crenellate; and to Mr. J. Holland Walker who kindly read the manuscript and who provided the valuable criticism acknowledged in the footnote number 5 on page 40.

