

DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP.

MANORIAL HISTORY.—(Continued from Page 218.)

THE CHEYNE FAMILY.

After the death of Lord Cobham, the Manor of Drayton passed to the Cheyne Family, and continued in their possession for more than three centuries. The name of this Family, which is supposed to be derived from the French Chene, an oak, or Chenai, a grove of oaks, is so variously written in ancient records as to have caused much confusion and many serious mistakes. The name of the same person may be found thus severally written:—"de Chednoy," "de Cheney," "de Cheigny," and "de Chyngnie while his ancestors, Lords of the same Manor, are written, "de Kausne," "de Kan," "de Ken," "de Shaine," "de Sheene," and "de Cahaignes;" and his successors, "Cheyney," "Cheney," and "Cheyne." It is also written "de Keynes," "de Chinene," "de Chene," and in Latin, "de Querceto," "Caneto," and "Casineto." Some of these variations may have been caused by the intentional contractions, or by the mistakes of transcribers, but they are doubtless chiefly owing to a strange kind of ancient pedantry, of which Fuller quaintly remarks, "It is an epidemical disease to which many ancient names are subject, to be variously disguised in writing. How many names is it, Chesney, Chedney, Cheyne, Chyne, Cheney, &c.? and all but one de Casineto." This diversity in spelling has occasioned innumerable errors. The nearest of kin have been considered as totally unconnected, and the same individual has been severed into two, three, and even four distinct persons. So little dependence can be placed on early orthography, that it has been truly remarked by a competent judge, "To the days of Queen Elizabeth, and even later, the number of letters a man put into his name was as much a matter of choice as the number of flourishes he put round it."

Dugdale, and many historians and genealogists, probably on his authority, state that the various branches of the Cheyne Family descended from one common ancestor,

Ralph de Caneto or de Casineto, who first came into England with the Conqueror. But almost immediately after the Conquest, several branches of the Family were settled in various parts of the kingdom, and, although there is good reason to believe that these originally sprang from the same stock, yet they were too numerous at this early period to have had one common ancestor at the time of the Conquest. It must therefore be concluded that several brothers or cousins accompanied the Conqueror, and, subsequently establishing themselves in different parts of the kingdom, became the heads of these several early branches. The following are some of the earliest notices of the family that I have met with:—

A.D. 1043—1066. In the "Exeter Doomsday Book," at fol. 391^b, this entry occurs:—" Goscelmus holds one Manor, which is called 'Aulescoma.' Chenias held this in the time of King Edward (the Confessor). At fol. 396, "Goscelmus holds one Manor, which is called 'Farenneia,' and Chenias held it." In the "Winchester," at fol. 4,— "The house of Lewine Chane rendered custom in the time of King Edward." If these persons were of the Chevne Family, it is evident some of its members must have been established in England prior to the Conquest.

A.D. 1066—1100. Richard de Chene, who is often styled "Richard Forestarius," or "Venator," is said to have come into England with the Conqueror, who conferred upon him a third part of Chesterton, in Warwickshire. He also gave him other lands in Staffordshire, held in Serjeantry, by keeping of the forest of Cannoc, or Kannoc ; for the bailiwick whereof he paid yearly ten marks to the king. ("Dugdale's Warwickshire" and "Ward's Stoke-upon-Trent.")

Ralph de Keynes, who lived in the reign of the Conqueror, left two sons, Ralph and William. Ralph, succeeding his father, married the daughter of Hugh Maminot, and had in frank-marriage with her, by the grant of Henry I., the Manors of Tarent, in Dorset, and of Combe and Somerford, in Wilts.* To this branch may be traced other branches, whose name is often written "Cheiney" and "Cheney."

William de Cahains held of the king lands at Flore, in Northamptonshire, and at Barton, in Cambridgeshire.

* "Hutchins' Dorset," vol. i., p. 188.

In Buckinghamshire he held a manor of Goisfrid de Mandeville; and in the county of Sussex he held manors under the Earl of Morton and Archbishop Lanfranc. ("Doomsday Book.") Dugdale, and others perhaps on his authority, erroneously place Barton in Hertfordshire, and make this William de Cahaignes the second son of Ralph de Keines, who is said to have accompanied the Conqueror: whereas, he was certainly his cotemporary, was previously and more extensively enfeoffed with possessions* and is the only one of the family whose name is mentioned in "Doomsday Book." In the reign of William Rufus he was Sheriff of Northampton. By his wife, Adalais, he had Hugh, who succeeded him, and whose name is written "de Cheney." (See "Bridge's Northamptonshire.")

In "Wace's Poetical Roll of the Conqueror's Companions," which is considered by Sir Henry Ellis as the earliest list now extant of those who fought at Hastings, the following couplet occurs :—

" Et Gilebt li niel Dasnieres
De Chaaignes et de Coismeres."

In the "Ely Inquisition," fol. 1, Nicholas de Chenete is mentioned as one of the Jurors for Stapleton Hundred.

In the "Winchester Book," at fol. 23^b, occurs this entry:— "William de Chaisneto supplies the Hospital with *salt* and *water*." "Item. Balwin pays to the Bishop vi^s. And item. Baldwin pays to Gilbert de Chinai ii. s."

A.D. 1100—1135. Count Manasses de Chisnes in the first year of Henry the First, was one of the king's sureties in a compact between him and Robert Earl of Flanders, the Earl stipulating to supply Henry with 500 soldiers for the sum of 400 marks. ("Rymer's Foedera," vol. i., pp. 1, 3.)

In the same reign, Roger de Cheney gave the tithes of Minster Lovel, in Oxfordshire, to the Monks of Eynsham. About the same time, Ralph de Chesnei bestowed on the Monks of Lewis one hide of land and the mill at Bardsey, and also the Church of Bristelmesten, with all the tythes he had in that town. ("Dugdale's Baronage," vol. ii., p. 289.)

A.D. 1150—1188. William de Cheney was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in the fifth of Henry the Second. (Dugdale.) Nicholas de Chenet was Sheriff of Cam-

bridgeshire and Huntingdonshire in the ninth of the same reign. Philip de Cahaines gave the Church of Willien, in Herts, to the Monastery of St. Mary of Newport Pagnell, previously to the fifteenth of the same reign. ("History of York," by the Archaeological Institute, 1846.) In the same reign, William or Walter de Chesnei was Lord of the Manor, and Patron of the Advowson of Cublington, in the county of Buckingham. ("Lipscomb's History of Bucks," "Dugdale's Bar.," vol. i., p. 708.)

A.D. 1190—1216. Ralph de Cahaines was Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset from the 3rd to the 6th of Richard I.; and William de Cahaines, his son, succeeded him from the 6th to the 10th of the same reign, ("Hutchin's Dorset" and "Collinson's Somerset."

A.D. 1250—1274. John de Chesnei, in the reign of King John, possessed a moiety of the manor of Fleet Marston, in Bucks. (Lipscomb.) Roger de Chedney was Sheriff of Gloucestershire from 1262 to 1271. "By an Inquisition taken at Stevenache, Herts, on Tuesday next after the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, in the third year of Edward I., it was found that Laurence de Brok held there of John de Cheyne 100 acres of land, by one slip of gilly flower yearly." ("Clutterbuck's Herts," vol. ii., p. 441.

Before the close of the fourteenth century, the Cheyne Family had extended into various parts of the kingdom and while no branch lost its original position, some attained more exalted rank. Besides possessing some ancient Baronages, they attained three distinct hereditary Peerages; and by their alliances have enriched the wealth and influence of many others. They have intermarried with the families of at least four Dukes, three Earls, two Viscounts, and three Barons. They have given their name to more than twenty towns and manors; and so frequently does their name occur in County Histories, that Fuller quaintly observes— "The name of Cheney is so noble and so diffused through the catalogue of Sheriffs, that it is harder to miss than find them in any county."

The Cheneys of Drayton Beauchamp and of Isenhamsted Cheneys were probably descended from William de Cahains, who held a manor of Goisfrid de Mandeville, in Buckinghamshire, at the time of the Domesday Survey. They were evidently nearly related, for both inherited

lands from the Chenduits of King's Langley, and when the Isenhamsted branch failed, the manor and advowson of that parish passed to the Cheynes of Drayton. Browne Willis, Lipscomb, Clutterbock, and other county historians suppose the Cheynes and Chenduits to be the same family. Were this the case it would not be difficult to trace their descent from the Conqueror's reign. But, with all due deference to such accumulated authority, I cannot but believe them to be distinct families.* Our account of the Drayton branch, therefore, must begin with the following unconnected notices, collected by Browne Willis from old deeds belonging to William Lord Cheyne :—

1356.— 30 Edw. III. Thomas Cheyne and Emma, his wife, made several grants of lands in Langley, Hemsted, and other places.

In the same year a lease of lands was made by Margaret, wife of Richard Winchcombe, daughter of Thomas and Emma Cheyne.

In the same year mention is made of Margaret, daughter of William Cheyne.

1358.— 32 Edw. III. Emma is called Relicta and Vidua of Thomas Cheyne.

1363.— 37 Edw. III. Thomas Cheyne occurs as living, who was probably son of the former Thomas.

1372.— 47 Edw. III. A Release of lands in Langley was effected by Joan, daughter of Thomas and Emma Cheyne.

Sometime in the reign of Edw. III., a manor in Langley, called "Chenduit's Manor," came to Richard Parker, by Joan, daughter of Thomas and Emma Cheyne. It was recovered back again to the Cheynes, and sold by Charles Lord Cheyne, who died in 1698. †

We now come to Thomas Cheyne, to whom Edward III., granted the reversion of Drayton Manor, after the death of Lord Cobham. Apparently he was a son of the above-named Thomas and Emma Cheyne, and Browne Willis supposes that this Thomas, who must have died between 1356 and 1358, was buried at Drayton.

In 1356, Thomas Cheyne was in the retinue of the

* The descent of the Chenduits, and my reasons for believing them to be distinct families, are given in the "Archæological Journal," vol. x., p. 49.

† Willis's M.S.

Black Prince,* but whether or not he was the grantee of Drayton Manor is uncertain. The following notices undoubtedly refer to him :—

In the year 1361, Thomas Cheiney,† having been attached to the household of Edward III., as Valet de Chambre (*unus valectorum camerae*), received from that king a grant of a fifth part of the Manor of Cheping-Norton, together with all things, lands and tenements in "la Wood," in the county of Devon, to be held of the king in fee, and which had previously been held *in capite* by Walter Horton.‡ The office of Valet, and all similar offices about the king's person, were considered highly honourable appointments — were usually held, says Jacobs, by young gentlemen of "great discent and quality." "On account of his good services," says the grant, "the king conferred on him the following year two parts of four tenements, and of one quay, and of twenty-one cottages in the parish of the Blessed Mary, of Somersett, in London, to hold in fee; which had previously been held by John de Gildesburgh, a bastard, deceased." ||

In the same year, he received from the king, to hold on the same condition, a grant of two tenements, two celars, and five shops (*shopoe*) in the parish of Doglane, which had formerly been held by Bernard Primroll, or Primrose.§ His royal master conferred on him another mark of his favour in this same year, by granting him free warrens in the Manors of Grove, Whelpele, and Broughton, in the county of Buckingham.¶

We now come to that important mark of royal favour which made Thomas Cheyne, though, as I believe, a younger son, the wealthy progenitor of a distinguished branch of his ancient family. This was a grant, in 1364, to Thomas Cheiney and his heirs for ever of the reversion of several manors after the death of John Lord Cobham, who, as stated in the account of that nobleman, had previously conceded them for this purpose to the king.

* "Rymer's Foedera," yol. v.

† The name is spelt throughout as in the original Records.

‡ "Cal. Rot. Pat.," 35 Edw. III., p. 174.

|| "Cal. Rot. Pat.," p. 175. § "Cal. Rot. Pat.," p. 176.

¶ "Cal. Rot. Chart.," p. 184.

These manors were Drayton Beauchamp, Choulesbury, Helpesthorpe, Mersworth, and Saunderton, in the county of Buckingham, with all the members and appurtenances belonging to, or arising out of them, together with the advowson of the Church of Drayton.*

The process of this transfer was remarkable, and has caused some serious mistakes.

Lord Cobham first conceded his possessions to the king, apparently without any reservation, † The king then re-granted them to Lord Cobham for his life only,‡ and granted the reversion of them after Lord Cobham's death to his "beloved Esquire, Thomas Cheney and others."|| Each of these transactions is separately recorded, and bears a different date, consequently any one of them taken alone must necessarily mislead. One mistake which has arisen therefrom has been repeated in every published notice of Thomas Cheney I have yet seen. It is this:— The king's grant to him bears date 15th October, 1364, from which it has been concluded that Lord Cobham was then dead, and that Thomas Cheney succeeded him as Lord of Drayton Beauchamp Manor. Whereas, we find this same John Lord Cobham actively engaged both in political and military affairs for more than a dozen years afterwards.

In this grant, Thomas Cheney is for the first time styled Esquire (*Scutifer*), or shield-bearer to the king. This was a very honorable appointment, and evinces the increasing regard of his royal master. It was not at this period a title of honour, but, as already observed, a distinguished office, to which the king could only appoint four persons.

In the following year, 1365, Thomas Cheney received another honourable mark of his sovereign's esteem. This was the appointment to the office of Constable of the "royal Castle of Windsor," to hold during his life,§ and Ranger of the "royal forest of Windsor,"¶ two distinguished offices now held by her Majesty's Royal Consort, Prince Albert. In the same, or next succeeding year, he

* "Cal. Rot. Pat.," p. 179.

† "Rot. Orig. Abbr.," vol. ii., p. 277.

‡ "Cal. Rot. Pat.," p. 178.

|| "Cal Rot. Pat.," pp. 179, 180, 182.

§ "Abb. Rot. Orig.," vol. ii., p. 285. ¶ "Cal. Rot. Pat.," p. 180.

received a charter for free warrens in Drayton, Elstrop, Marsworth, and Cholesbury.*

As Constable of Windsor Castle and Ranger of its Park, he was Custos General of "Guildford Royal Park," which lay within the limits of Windsor Forest. The king, therefore, as another mark of regard, granted to him for life, all the fisheries, pasturage, and pannage, in the said Park of Guildford, on this condition — that he should pay the yearly sum of one hundred shillings, and always reserve sufficient pasturage for the sustentation of the king's wild animals in the said Park.†

In the year 1368, he appears to have been appointed Escheator for the County of Devon, for I find in this year the following record:— "Thomas Cheney, King's Escheator for the County of Devon, is commanded to render to Hugh de Courtenay, Earl of Devon, a return concerning one messuage, one carucate of land, eight acres of wood, furze, and brambles (*bosci, jampni, et brueri*), and twenty-two shillings, with their appurtinences in Loghincote, which belonged to John de Loghincote, but which, on account of felony by him committed, he has forfeited as an outlaw, and they are to be delivered over to the said Earl of Devon."‡

Browne Willis states that Thomas Cheney died in this year, 1368, but does not refer to his authority, and other historians and antiquaries, probably depending on him, have made the same statement; but Willis's account of this Thomas Cheyne's death is not satisfactory, for while, in one place, he states that he died in 1368, in another part of his manuscript he doubts whether he was the son or the husband of Emma Cheyne, who, he says, was styled the widow of Thomas Cheyne in 1358. It appears therefore more than probable that Willis's account of his death rests on no certain authority. Perhaps no express record of it exists. || He is not mentioned in the "Inquisitiones

* "Cal. Rot. Pat.," p. 185.

† "Orig.," p. 287. ‡ "Abrev. Rot. Orig.," vol. ii., p. 298.

|| In the "Patent Rolls," 49 Edw. III., 1375, a Thomas Cheyne Miles occurs as "*janitor castri*" of Porchester, and warrenor of the warren thereto belonging. And in "Howse's Chronicle," p. 280, a Sir Thomas Cheyne is mentioned as having been taken prisoner and carried to France by some French vessels which made an inroad on the Sussex coast, in 1377.

Post Mortem," but in "Rymer's Foedera" is a document which, if it refer, as it probably does, to this Thomas Cheyne, contains important information respecting him and his family. From this document we learn that the Thomas Cheyne therein named had lent the large sum of £1,483 6s. 6d. to King Edward III., in 1367; that in the year 1380, when this document was prepared, Thomas Cheyne was not living, but that previously to his death he had received the honour of knighthood. The following is the document referred to :—

"The Indenture of the Prince of Wales upon the Finances of Bertram du Guesclin, taken prisoner in the said conflict. (Battle of Navarre.)

"A.D. 1367.

" An. 41 Edw. 3rd.

"Richard, by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland, to our Chamberlain of South Wales for the time being, and who for the time to come shall be, greeting. As our most dear Lord and Father (whom God assoil) by his letters patent made the twentieth day of July in the year of the reign of King Edward our Grandfather, of England, the forty-fifth, was indebted to Thomas Cheyne, knight, in the sum of one thousand four hundred and eighty-three pounds, six shillings and sixpence, for the finance of Bertrand du Guesclin, knight, taken in the battle of Navarre. Our said Father willing that payment should be made to the said Thomas, or to his executors or assigns, by the hands of the Chamberlain of South Wales for the time being, in the form following, that is to say,

"At the feast of St. Michael then next ensuing, two hundred marks. And at the feast of Easter after the next ensuing one hundred marks.

"And thus from year to year two hundred marks at the same terms in equal portions until the same Thomas, his executors, or assigns, shall be repaid the said one thousand four hundred and eighty three pounds, six shillings and sixpence, notwithstanding any other assignment made by our Father to any other person in times past.

"And we, the twentieth day of February, in the year of the reign of the said King Edward our Grandfather the fifty-first, when we were Prince of Wales, and since

on the twenty-second day of March, in the first year of our Reign, have by our letters patent confirmed the grant of our said Father, as in our same letters is contained more at large.

"And whereas the said Thomas, who is now called to God, hath assigned our beloved John and William Cheyne, his brothers and Richard, Parson of the Church of Farnborough, his executors, to make administration according to his last will.

"We will, with the consent of our council, and we command you that what is in arrear to the said Thomas, as well in the time of our said Father as in our own time, of the one thousand four hundred and eighty-three pounds, six shillings and sixpence above named, as well at the feast of Easter last past, and for the feast itself, and two hundred marks a year from the said feast of Easter on the terms of St. Michael and of Easter in equal portions until the said one thousand four hundred and eighty-three pounds, six shillings and sixpence be paid, be quickly paid to the said Executors, or to one of them, or to the Attorneys, according to the purport of the above-named letters, notwithstanding any other assignment made, as aforesaid.

"Receiving from the said Executors, or one of them, letters of acquittance for us, or sufficient for what shall now be paid.

"By these presents we will that you have due allowance in your accounts.

"Given under our Privy Seal at Westminster, the 28th day of May, in the fourth year of our reign." ("Rymer's Foedera," vol. vi., p. 557.)

SWAN-UPPING,—Swans were anciently considered as "the king's game." King Edward the Fourth ordained that no one, whose income was less than five marks, should possess a swan; and imprisonment to any one who dared to touch their eggs. The marks of the several owners, known as "swan marks," were on their beaks; that of the king was called "the double nick;" and the sign of the royal swan, or swan with two nicks, becoming unintelligible to the sign painter, was perverted into "the swan with two necks." So also "swan-upping," the taking up of the cygnets to mark them, on the authorized day — the Monday following Midsummer-day — is now changed into the ridiculous phrase of "swan-hopping."