

THE LEES OF QUARRENDON.

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[PART THE FIRST.]

This family is of very ancient origin, and came originally from Cheshire. It occupied a distinguished position at Wybunbury in that county in the thirty-eighth year of King Edward III., while from a junior member who settled at Quarrendon, co. Bucks, in the reign of King Henry VII., was descended Sir Henry Lee, the celebrated Knight of the Garter, *temp.* Queen Elizabeth. Sir Henry Lee, Knight, of Dytchley, co. Oxon, first cousin and heir of the above, was created a Baronet by King James I., 22nd May, 1611; and his great-grandson, Sir Edward Henry Lee, was by King Charles II. raised to the peerage as Earl of Litchfield, Viscount Quarrendon, and Baron Lee, of Spelsbury, co. Oxon, on the 5th July, 1674. This peerage became extinct upon the death of Robert, fourth Earl, in 1776; when the estates in the counties of Bucks and Oxon passed to Henry the eleventh Viscount Dillon, of Ireland, who had

married 26th October, 1745, Lady Charlotte Lee, the eldest daughter of George Henry, second Earl of Litchfield, and whose great-grandson now represents the main branch through the female line. Other representatives of the ancient family exist, the intermarriages for many generations having been numerous.*

It is the object of the writer of this paper to give correct and reliable information of the main and all other branches of this family, commencing formally with Benedict Lee, of Quarrendon, who settled there A.D. 1438. In the first place, the pedigree connecting this Benedict with the Lees of Cheshire will be set forth. It should be remembered, however, that several recorded pedigrees in the College of Arms differ somewhat materially one from the other. The writer has the advantage of being able to consult five independent pedigrees, all transcripts of originals, possessed by different branches of the family; and thus may be able, in some degree, not only to reconcile certain existing differences, but to add, from these and from other sources, some valuable information with regard to a gentle, knightly, and noble family of considerable renown, and formerly of high position. The first pedigree, which will be referred to under the mark (A), is a transcript from one originally belonging to the second Earl of Litchfield; the second (B) is copied from a MS. in the possession of Cosmas Nevill, of Holt, co. Leicester, Esq.; the third (C) is transcribed from a most interesting original of the date A.D. 1611, at Brockhall, co. Northampton, the seat of the Rev. T. C. Thornton; the fourth (D) from one formerly in the possession of John Lee, Esq., great-grandfather of the late Rev. T. T. Lee, B.A., of Thame and Stokenchurch, co. Oxon; and the fifth (E) from a manuscript in the possession of General H. D. Townshend, of Trevallyn, the representative, in the female line, of the Coton Hall branch of the Lees. In

* Amongst these are the following:—The Thorntons, of Brockhall, co. Northampton; the Dods, of Cloverley, co. Salop; Lord Clifford, of Chudleigh; the Nevills, of Holt, co. Leicester; Sir Piers Mostyn, Bart.; Lord Vaux, of Harrowden; the late Lord Palmerston; Sir Alfred Slade, Bart.; the Gore-Langtons, of Somersetshire; the Bishop of Manchester, the Rev. James Prince Lee, D.D.; Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness, Bart., M.P., LL.D., of Ashford Park, co. Galway; the Lees of Thame, co. Oxon; Henry Lee, Esq., of Barna, co. Tipperary; Sir George Philip Lee, Knt., etc.

pedigree (B) the Quarrendon Lees are thus connected with the Lees of Cheshire :—

Sir Walter At Lee, of y^e manor of Lee, of Lee Hall there in the parish of Wibenbury, in y^e County Palatine of Chester, y^e 36 of King Edward y^e 3, whose ancestors had been there seated for ages

Sir John at Lee, of Lee Hall, 1 K. Richard y^e 2d. = Isabel, dau. to Sir Piers de Dutton, of Dutton, com. Chester, kt.

John Lee, of Lee Hall, in Cheshire, esq., King Henry y^e 4th. = Elizabeth, dau. to Sir Thomas Foulshurst, of Crewe Hall, com. Chester, kt.

Thomas Lee, of Lee Hall, in Cheshire, esq., King Henry y^e 6th. = Elizabeth, dau. to Sir John Aston, kt.*

John Lee, of Lee Hall, in Cheshire, esq., King Henry 6. = Margerie, dau. to Sir Ralph Hocknell, of Hocknell Hall, com. Chester, kt.

BENEDICT LEE, of Quarrendon, com. Bucks, esq., a younger son ; King Edward y^e 4th, K. Henry 7th.

Upon this it should be remarked (a), that in Pedigree A, Sir Thomas Foulshurst is called "Sir Thomas Fowlechurch," and that side by side with the John Lee who married Elizabeth Foulshurst are placed the names of two brothers not mentioned above, Richard Lee and John Lee; also (b) that in the same pedigree Sir John Aston is called "Sir John Astron of Astron, Cheshire," and that his daughter's name is given as "Alice," and not as Elizabeth.

The brothers of Benedict Lee, Esq., of Quarrendon, stand as follows in Pedigree A :—

John Lee, of Lee Hall, esq. = Margaret, dau. of Sir Ralph Hocknell, of Hocknell Hall, in Cheshire.

1. Tho- mas Lee, of Lee Hall.	= Wini- freda Cotton.	2. John Lee, of Astron, in Staf- fordshire.	= Grace Bagot.	3. Wil- liam Lee, of Essex.	= Mary Har- leton.	5. BENE- DICT LEE, beth, of Quar- rendon, Bucks.	= Eliza- beth, John Wood, esq.
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4. Robert Lee, of Astron, in Staffordshire.

* On an ancient silver seal of the sixteenth century, now in the possession of W. J. Legh, Esq., of Lyme Hall, co. Chester, which the writer of this paper recently inspected, and of which he took impressions, the ancient arms of Aston, co. Chester, appear in the second quarter, thereby connecting the Leghs of Lyme with the Leghs or Lees of Wibonbury. Lyme Hall contains some interesting ancient heraldic glass.

In Pedigree C the information is slightly different, and given at greater length. On the latter account, therefore, it is worthy of being reproduced:—

Thomas Lee, of Lee, in the parish of Wibonbury, in com. Chester.	Margery, dau. of . . . Hocknell.	Richard Lee.	William Lee.
Thomas Lee, of Lee, in Cheshire, eldest son of John	Wynne-fred, dau. of (sic) Cotton	John Lee, of Aston, in Staffordshire, seconde sone.	Grace, of Aston, in Bagot.
		BENE-DICT, Quaren-don, in Buck. fifte sone.	Eliza-beth, dau. of Wood-e, of War-wicke-shire. sone.
		Robert Lee, of Aston, in Staffordshire, fourth sone.	Francis Lee, sixt sone.
William Lee, of Essex, third sone. dau. of John Harleton.			

Thus much, then, with regard to the descents as far down as Benedict Lee, the founder of the Lees of Quarrendon. The question now arises, what arms were borne by him? The ancient arms of Lee of Lee Hall were, *Argent, a chevron (or a fesse, for both appear) between three leopards' heads sable*.* The following arms were also borne by the Lees of Wybunbury: *Gules, a lion rampant or*.† These arms are found again and again repeated in either the second or third quartering of the Lees of Quarrendon, in the MS. description, now in the British Museum, of the armorial



ORIGINAL ARMS OF LEE OF CHESHIRE.

bearings at (formerly existing in) St. Peter's, Quarrendon, the family burying-place, by Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald. In one shield of the Lees, for example,

* The Leighs of East Hall, in High Lee, co. Chester, bear the following arms, allowed in 1566: *Argent, a lion rampant gules, armed and langued azure*. The Leighs of West Hall, in High Leigh, now bear the following arms, allowed in 1563: *Or, a lion rampant gules, armed and langued azure*. Originally this branch of the Leighs bore, *Gules, a pale fusillé argent*.

† These arms appear in the first quarter of the arms of Sir Anthony Lee (wrongly called Sir Henry Lee), impaling those of Wyatt, co. Kent, at fol. 104 of the MS. of Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald (Lanadowne MSS., British Museum, No. 874).

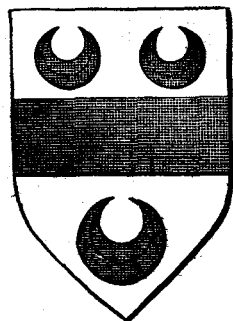
containing eight quarterings—in the first of which appears the annulet, as a mark of cadency—the arms, *Gules, a lion rampant or*, stand second.*

It appears, however, tolerably certain that Benedict Lee, who settled at Quarrendon, A.D. 1438, and who, as is learnt from a deed in the possession of Lord Viscount Dillon, was made Constable of Quarrendon in 1441, continued to use the arms, as already given, which the family had borne in Cheshire. He married, as one of the above pedigrees states, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Wood, of Warwickshire, Esq., by whom he had issue three sons:—

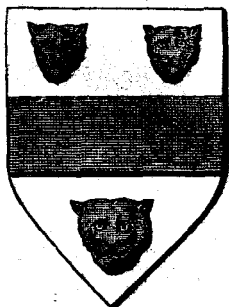
1. Richard Lee, styled "firmare" [farmer] in a deed dated 1472, was likewise, like his father, Constable of Quarrendon, and bore for his arms, *Argent, a fess between three crescents sable*.

2. Edward Lee, Constable of Quarrendon from A.D. 1485 to 1486.

3. Robert Lee, Constable of Quarrendon from A.D. 1486 to 1496.



THE ARMS OF LEE, OF QUARRENDON, CO. BUCKS.



THE ARMS OF WOOD, CO. WARWICK.

The arms borne by Richard Lee (whether by grant or by assumption is not now easily determined, as there is no record of such a grant at the College of Arms) are undoubtedly those which, since his day, have been invariably used by his descendants, and by every branch of such, including that more direct branch which was ennobled, and the other branches which sprung from the main stock during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. They occurred on every monumental memorial at Quarrendon; according to Nicholas Charles's MS., no less than

* The same arms and quarterings (the eighth being like the first) are likewise found at fol. 78 of the Visitation of Bucks, 1575-1634. (Harleian MS., British Museum, No. 1533.)

thirteen times, either in glass or stone. Here and there other arms may have been used by individual members of the family—as for example: on one occasion by Sir Anthony Lee, already referred to, who reverted to the old Cheshire arms, and also by the widow of Sir Henry Lee, K.G., buried in the north transept of St. Mary's, Aylesbury, who bore the grant specially made to Sir Robert Lee in 1513, but the customary arms were those here represented.

Richard Lee,* married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of William Saunders or Sanders, Esq., of the co. Oxon. Arms of Saunders, Ar. a lion rampant azure within a bordure of the second, charged with fleurs de lys or. The Pedigree of Cope of Hampshire gives the arms “charged with eight estoiles or” in the Visitations of 1531 and 1575. Stephen Coape or Cope, of Bedenham, in co. Southampton, married another of the co-heiresses of William Saunders, and the arms of Cope impaling Saunders are given by Nicholas Charles, Lansdowne MSS. No. 874, British



ARMS OF SAUNDERS,
CO. OXON.

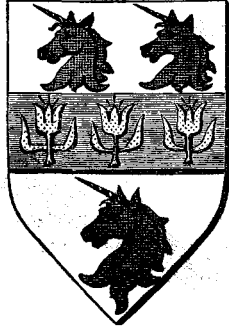
Museum, as amongst “these four eschocons (which) stand in the north and south windowes of the chauncell” of St. Peter's Quarrendon. The above Richard Lee had issue, by Elizabeth, his wife:—

ROBERT LEE, of Quarrendon, Burston, and Hardwicke, co. Bucks, gentleman, sheriff of Bucks in 1521 and 1533, afterwards knighted.† He was Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to King Henry VIII. A special grant of arms was made to him by Thomas Wriothesley, Garter, and Thomas Benolt, Clarenceaux, dated London, April 18th, 1513, 4th

* This William Saunders probably had another wife, as his son Sir Robert, many years after, in conveying property to his brother Roger, refers to Joane as their mother, and also mentions that she died October 8, 1517.

† Robert Lee, previously styled “generosus,” was knighted in 1526.

of Henry VIII. He is styled "gentilhomme," and the arms are thus described in the grant: "D'argent a une fece d'asur entre trois testes de licorne rasees de sable, sur la fece trois lis d'or. A son tymbre ung laneret dor, ses esles becque et membres de gueules, saississant et repaissant sur une jambe de heron d'asur, assiz sur une torse d'argent et de pourpre, mantelle de gueules double d'argent."* Sir Robert Lee married, first, Mary [some pedigrees say Joane] daughter of _____ Cope, Esq., of the co. Oxon, and by her had issue :—



ARMS OF SIR ROBERT LEE,
OF QUARRENDON.

SIR ANTHONY LEE, Knt. of Burston, co. Bucks, commoner of St. John's College, Oxford, M.P. for Bucks, 1 Edward VI. ob. Nov. 24th, 3rd of Edward VI., buried at Quarrendon. Sir Anthony† married, first, Margaret, daughter of Sir Henry Wyatt or Wiat, and sister of Sir Thomas Wyatt, of Allington Castle, co. Kent. [Arms of Wyatt, Per fesse azure and gules, a barnacle argent.] And secondly, Mrs. Anne Cassall, or Hassall, of the co. Chester.

The post-mortem inquisition of Sir Anthony was taken at Aylesbury on September 25th, in the 3rd and 4th of Edward VI.

The following inscription existing at St. Peter's, Quarrendon, in 1611, transcribed verbatim from "Nicholas Charles' Visitation," has not, we believe, been printed :—

"Anthony Lee knight of worthy name,
Sire to S^r Henry Lee of noble fame,
Sonne to S^r Robert Lee, here buried lyes,
Whereas his fame and memory never dyes.

* This grant of arms is in the possession of the writer of this paper, having belonged to the Yorkshire Lees, of whom his great-grandfather was the direct representative.

† The arms of Sir Anthony Lee impaling those of Wyatt, may be found tricked at fol. 104, Heraldic Collections of Nicholas Charles, Lansd. MS. 874, British Museum. The old arms of Lee of Cheshire appear in the 1st and 4th quarters, and those granted to his father, Sir Robert Lee, in the 2nd and 3rd quarters.

Great in the fortune whence himself did run,
 But greater in y^e greatnesse of his sonne ;
 His body here, his soul in heaven doth rest,
 What scordn the earth cannot with earth be prest."

In Charles' MS. the arms of Lee (eight quarterings) appear to the left, and those of Lee impaling Wyatt to the right. Vide also Harleian MSS. No. 1533, A.D. 1575—1634, fol. 78.

He had issue by his first wife—*

1. Sir Henry Lee, K.G.
2. Thomas Lee.
3. Robert Lee.
4. Cromwell Lee.
5. Joice Lee.
6. Lettice Lee.
7. Jane Lee.
8. Catharine Lee.

He had issue by his second wife, Ann Hassell, whom he married only a year before his death—

Richard (knighted), who probably married Lady Croker, of Hook Norton.

1. SIR HENRY LEE, Lord of Fleet Marston and Quarrendon, was born at Allington Castle, co. Kent, in 1531; married Anne, daughter of William, Lord Paget; represented Bucks in Parliament in 1557-58, and in 1571-72; died at Spelsbury, co. Oxon, in 1610, s. p. v.,† and was buried at Quarrendon. Sir Henry's epitaph, as it appeared in Quarrendon Chapel, is given at pp. 114—116 of Mr. Jordan's "Parochial History of Enstone," 4to. 1857; and again at p. 133 of the "Addenda to the

* In the Pedigree of the Lees in Lipscombe's "Bucks," it is stated that Sir Anthony Lee married, secondly, Anne, daughter and heiress of — Hassell of —, co. Chester, and had issue Jane or Elizabeth, but no authority is given for the statement. The MSS. in Caius Coll. Library, Cambridge, which appear to be referred to, contain no evidence of the fact. On the other hand, the Pedigree of the family of Lee, belonging to the Thorntons of Brockhall, co. Northampton (c) contains the following:—

—, daughter of S ^r —Sir Anthony Lee of—Anne, daughter of Thomas Wyat, Knt. Burston, K. married first wife.	} — Hassall, seconde wyfe.
two wyves.	

Sir Richard Lee, Knt. married the La. Halls, and died without issue.

† The names of his children were John, Henry, and Mary.

Ædes Hartwellianæ," 4to. 1865. The fifth plate in this interesting volume contains engravings of certain monumental relics of the Quarrendon Lees in the Hartwell Museum, and a copy of Sir Henry Lee's arms as set forth in his garter-plate, still existing at St. George's, Windsor—restored by Sir C. G. Young, Garter. Sir Henry Lee's lady is buried in the north transept of St. Mary's, Aylesbury, co. Bucks. On this tomb the arms (the same as those of the grant to Robert Lee, possessed by the writer of this paper) stand as follows: **Argent**, on a fesse azure three lilies or, between three unicorns' heads erased sable, impaling, Quarterly, first and fourth **Sable**, on a cross engrailed arg. five lions passant of the first between four eagles displayed or; second and third **Argent**, two bars gules; in a dexter canton gules a cinquefoil or, in sinister chief a crescent: below on the dexter side the arms of the dexter impalement, and on the sinister those of the sinister impalement in a lozenge, for Lee of Quarrendon and Paget.* Sir Henry Lee was Master of the Ordnance to Queen Elizabeth, and Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter. His garter-plate still remains in his stall at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, whereon his arms are, Quarterly of seven (four in chief and three in base):

1. **Argent**, a fess between three crescents sable, *Lee*.
2. **Argent**, a fess between three unicorns' heads erased sable, *Lee co. Bucks*.
3. **Gules**, a lion rampant argent, *Lee co. Chester*.
4. **Argent**, a fess between three leopards' heads, sable, *Wood co. Warwick*.
5. **Azure**, an escocheon ermine, within an orle of eight estoiles or.
6. **Vert**, two wolves courant or.
7. **Argent**, a lion rampant within a bordure azure, charged with eight fleurs-de-lis or. Crest out of a marquess's coronet, a column argent, upon the capital a bird's leg erased at the thigh, a cormorant preying thereon or. Supporters, On either side a lion sable,

* Having tricked the arms described above, Nicholas Charles writes: "On a fayre monument of Sir Henry Lee's wife, daughter of the Lord Pagett, w^{ch} woman died A° D'ni 1584, having issue, by Sir Henry Lee aforesaid, John Lee, Henry, and Mary." Fol. 70, MS. Lansdowne 874.

having a collar or charged with three crescents of the first. Motto (above the crest) FIDE ET CONSTANCIA, with the following inscription below :—

DV . TRESHONORABLE . CH'LR . HENRY
LEA . CH'LR . DV . TRESNOBLE . ORDRE
DE . LA . IARRETIERE . LE . XXIII
DE . MAY . L'AN . 1597.

Not long after Sir Henry resigned his office as special champion of the beauty of Queen Elizabeth, he fell in love with her new maid of honour, Anne Vavasour, of an ancient and distinguished Yorkshire family, mentioned in a letter from Sir John Stanhope to Lord Talbot in November, 1590, as a brilliant star at court,—“Our new mayd Mrs. Vavasoure florishethe like the lylly and the rose.” “Though in the morning flower of her charms,” writes Miss Strickland, “and esteemed the loveliest girl in the whole court, she drove a whole bevy of youthful lovers to despair by accepting this ancient relic of the age of chivalry.” Tradition reports that Miss Vavasour became Sir Henry's mistress; hence the rhyming couplet :—

“Here lyes the ob~~ject~~at good Sr Harry,
By her he lov'd, but ne'er would marry,” etc.

It is also believed that after the erection of a monument to Sir Henry Lee and his mistress, in the chancel of Quarrendon church, the bishop of the diocese ordered it to be removed.* Two fragments of the figures, in alabaster, existed at Quarrendon so late as the year 1863, when that place was visited by the writer of this article. Nicholas Charles's MS. gives the following inscription as having been placed on the tomb :—

“Under thys stone intombd lyes a faire and worthy dame,
Daughter to Henry Vavasor, Anne Vavasour her name.
She living with Sr Henry Lee for love long tyme did dwell :
Death could not part them but that here they reste within one cell.”

Nicholas Charles gives the arms of Vavasour, on a lozenge, [Or,] a fesse dancetté [sa.] with a crescent for

* “This tombe is since erased and pulled downe. 1612.” Nicholas Charles in MS. Lansdowne 876, p. 72.

difference; crest, on a wreath or and sable, a cock gules, as existing in Quarrendon church at his visit in 1611. Sir Henry's will, in his own handwriting, remains at Dytchley, with his signature and seal. The following autograph of this distinguished knight is taken from a deed in the writer's possession:—

2. Thomas, of whom we know nothing.

3. Robert Lee married Jane Restwold. Pedigree C states that Robert Lee married Jane, widow of Sir Francis Hastings, daughter of Edward Restwold. [Arms of Restwolve, of Aston Clinton, co. Bucks, Gyronny of four, erm. and gu.] They had issue, according to Pedigree A, Barbara Lee, who married Richard Rogers, and had no issue; according to Pedigree C, Barbara Lee married Edward Raynsforde, of Great Tewe, Oxon, by whom she had a son, Henry Lee Raynsforde, supposed heir to his uncle. But, as we shall see, the property was left to his second cousin and namesake.

4. Cromwell Lee, Esq., of Holywell, Oxford, and of St. John's College, to which he was a very considerable benefactor, married Mary, the daughter of Sir John Harcourt, and relict of Richard Taverner, Esq. [Arms of Harcourt, Gules, two bars or.] Cromwell Lee died A.D. 1601. His only son, John, is thus referred to at p. 802 of Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*, Ed. Oxon.: "June 1.—Doctor of Divinity, John Lea, of St. John's College, and of the gentile family of the Leas or Lees of Quarrendon, in Bucks, and of Ditchley, in Oxfordshire; was chaplain to the most noble knight, Sir Henry Lea; was beneficed in the said counties, and, dying about 1609,* was buried in St. John's Coll. Chappel, to the adorning of which he

* This date must be incorrect, as he proceeded to his degree of S.T.B. in 1610, and possibly was not created S.T.P. or D.D. *per saltum*.

was an especial benefactor. He gave also many books to that Coll. Library." The Rev. J. B. Gray, M.A., Fellow of St. John's, adds the following in a note to the author of this paper:—"John Lee proceeded A.M. 1591, S.T.B. 1610. He was chaplain to Sir Henry Lee, and rector of Fleet Marston, and afterwards of Wootton. He died a Fellow, and was buried in the chapel. He gave *sexaginta et decem* pounds for the choir, which, for some reason unexplained, was spent on the ornamentation of the chapel."

Thus far, with regard to the issue of Sir Robert Lee of Quarrendon, by Mary [or Joane] Coape, Cope, or Coope, his first wife.

(To be continued.)
