

There is a blocked-up semi-circular headed doorway on the north side, which may be a relic of the original structure. On the north of the vestry is a Decorated doorway, with fillet-band on the hood-mould and double quarter round on arch and jambs, moved to its present position from the north side of the Chancel. There are low graduated buttresses on either side of the east angles of the Chancel (plate XIV.), and of the north and south angles of the transepts. At the east end of the south aisle is a low, square turret with small lancet windows, containing the staircase leading up to the belfry. The nave and south transept have an embattled parapet.

The old Buckland Manor House stands close to the Churchyard on the north side, and has been converted into stables. The present mansion stands farther away to the west, and was built by Sir Robert Throckmorton, Bart., about the year 1757. Portions of the old Manor Houses of Barcote and Carswell also remain.

(To be continued.)

The Wilcotes Family.

By W. F. Carter.

IN January, 1898, Dr. F. N. Macnamara contributed to this Magazine (Vol. III., No. 4, pp. 97—107) a very interesting and valuable paper on "The Wilcotes Family." I put together some notes bearing on what he had written, but laid them aside in consequence of his death. I am afraid they will interest no one, but as they concern in part one of the most beautiful monumental brasses in Oxfordshire, I may perhaps be excused for recording them briefly in these pages.

Dr. Macnamara's paper may be divided into three parts as follows :—

Part I. (p. 98—l. 12 of 101) :—Sir William Wilcotes, Kn't,
of Headington and North-
leigh.*

Part II. (p. 101—106) :—John Wilcotes, Esq., of Great
Tew.

* In which latter parish is Wilcotes, from which the Family is presumed to have taken its name.

Part III. (p. 107):—

The Preaus or Prewes (de Pratellis) Family.

Part I. With regard to Dr. Macnamara's account of SIR WILLIAM WILCOTES, what little I have to say is more in the way of enquiry than of criticism. I should be glad to know whether it is certain that this William Wilcotes who "had leave to purchase from the Abbey of S. Ebrulf in Normandy the Manor of Willecote in Gloucestershire (Rot. Pat. 20, Ric. II., part 3, m. 16), took his name from Wilcotes in Northleigh." From information kindly supplied by the Rev. J. Harvey Bloom, of Whitchurch, Warwickshire, it certainly appears that from 1 Edw. II. to 31 Edward III. there was a local family of Willecote (in Alveston, Gloucestershire), owning property in Stratford on Avon, their pedigree being as follows:—

Ralph de Wylecote in 1 Edw. II., father of

William de Wylecote of 1 Edw. II. to 15 Edw. III., father of

1 Thomas de Wylecote, son and heir 19 Edw. III.

2 William de Wylecote, chaplain 15 and 31 Edw. III.

Prima facie it is more probable that one of this family bought Willecote when he had the chance, and also that Simon de Wilecot,† of Pillerton, Hersey, Warwickshire, took his name from the Gloucestershire Manor, which is just on the borders of Warwickshire. It has occurred to me that possibly the Willecotes *gave* their name to Wilcotes in Northleigh, which might originally be Willecotes Manor. If, however, J.L.G.M., in his "Notes on the Oxfordshire Domesday," is correct in identifying Wilcotes with the Domesday "Widelicote," then my suggestion falls to the ground, and we must suppose that it was a mere coincidence, or possibly a freak of fancy, which led William Wilcotes to add the Gloucestershire Willecote to his estate.

As to Sir William's Arms, I find in the (Harl. Soc.) Visitations of Oxfordshire, p. 31, that in Northleigh Church there were formerly two representations of the Wilcotes Armorial Bearings, namely:—I., Azure, an eagle displayed argent, beaked and legged or, on its breast an escallop sable. Crest: On a wreath, an eagle's head and wings argent. II., Azure, an eagle displayed argent, beaked and legged or, round its neck a coronet gules. Crest: Issuing from a coronet gules, an eagle's head argent. The second is plainly Wilcotes, of Great Tew. I suggest that the first is the

† Mentioned by Dr. Macnamara on p. 105.

shield of Sir William Wilcotes differenced by a scallop shell derived from the Arms of his wife, Elizabeth Trillow, which were : Argent, a chevron, enrailed between three scallop shells sable.

As for the Trillows, I can add but little to Dr. Macnamara's notes, but my abstract of the *de Banco* suit of 10 Henry IV., he quotes (on p. 99) is somewhat fuller. It appears that Thomas de Trillawe had issue a son and heir, John, of *temp* Edw. III., who had issue a daughter and heiress, Joan, married to John de Heslyngton. Joan and her husband were Plaintiffs respecting lands in Wenylcote, Northleye, Fynstoke Faulore and Topwell. On the other side, the lands were claimed in right of the following descent : Robert Trillowe had issue a son and heir, John, who had issue a son and heir, John, who had issue a daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married to William Wylcotes. Elizabeth and her husband were the Defendants.

With regard to the co-heirs of William and Elizabeth Wilcotes, my notes give Thomas, and not William, as the name of the Wykham co-heir, and Barton, not Burton, as the surname of the co-heiress, Isabel. I feel sure that Barton is correct, for on page 31 of the (Harl. Soc.) Visitations of Oxfordshire, the Barton Arms, *Ermine on a canton gules an owl argent*, are recorded as appearing in Northleigh Church.

Part II. As to JOHN WILCOTES, of Tew, Dr. Macnamara states and proves from records the following facts :—

- (1) That he had a first wife named Alice, who had had a daughter Emma, by a former husband, and that by the marriage settlement of John and Alice, Great Tewe was settled upon themselves for life, with remainder to the heirs of their bodies, failing whom on Emma and her heirs, failing whom on the right heirs of John Wilcotes.
- (2) That the brass of John and Alice in Great Tewe Church exhibits the Wilcotes Arms (*a displayed eagle ducally gorged*), together with the Arms of Alice (*a displayed eagle*).
- (3) That John Wilcotes married secondly, Elizabeth Cheney, and had by her two daughters, who were found to be his heirs in his Inquisition Post Mortem.†
- (4) That in his will he mentions his son, Thomas Wilcotes,

† But Dr. Macnamara calls them John's heirs only as to Great Tew.

on whom he settles the Manors of Dene Over Chalcford and Nether Chalcford, only after failure of issue of his (John's) daughter, Margaret.

- (5) That in his will he settles the Manor of Great Tewe on his daughter, Elizabeth and her heirs, failing whom on Sir John Wilcotes and his heirs, male.
- (6) John Wilcotes' daughter, Elizabeth, married Henry Rainsford, to whom she brought Great Tew, and her sister, Margaret, married John Ashfield, but relinquished Dene and Chalcford to her brother, Thomas Wilcotes.*

Unfortunately, Dr. Macnamara drew some false inferences from the above facts, and also called in to his aid a shockingly bogus pedigree of Rainsford, thus making a serious confusion in this part of his paper, which I will endeavour to correct.

First with regard to the various Rainsford Pedigrees and Quarterings put down by Lee in the (Harl. Soc.) 1574 Visitation of Oxfordshire from the information of the contemporary Rainsford, Dr. Macnamara quotes Lee's own remark that "Though he (*i.e.*, Mr. Rainsford) use his pleasure, neither had I matter (*i.e.*, material, evidence), but wylle for all these coats."

A few minutes examination will show anyone versed in such matters that the whole of these Rainsford pedigrees and memoranda relating to the period before the match with Wilcotes, are not worth the paper on which they are printed.† For example, as Dr. Macnamara noted, Tew Manor is made to pass through some five and twenty successive heiresses! The father of John Wilcotes' first wife is now Edward, and again Thomas! The Arms of Trillow are ascribed to "Arderbourgh," *i.e.*, Adderbury,‡ and claimed as a quartering:—obviously the concoctor believed that a Wilcotes had married a Trillow, but did not know that the Wilcotes who made the match was Sir William, from whom John, his contemporary, could not have inherited the quartering. John Wilcotes had bought Dene and the Chalcfords from the Leukenors, to whom they came from the Shareshulls,¶ so down goes the Shareshull coat as a quartering! John's widow marries for a second husband Sir Richard Walksted, so the Walksted Arms are also claimed as due to be

* Dr. Macnamara's Paper, p. 104.

† I do not, of course, include in this statement Lee's own notes of Arms and Monuments in Churches and houses.

‡ Third footnote on p. 103 of Dr. Macnamara's paper.

¶ The Arms of this family were *A fess embattled*, and are to be seen in Adderbury Church to this day.

quartered ! The quarterings for Glanville Lyons and Scocathe I believe to be pure fiction ! But I can waste no more time over this rubbish ;* it must go ; and away with it goes all Dr. Macnamara's authority for describing Alice, Sir John Wilcotes' first wife, as daughter and heir of Thomas or Edward Wilcotes by Elizabeth Hall. For the present we must agree that Alice's parentage is unknown.

I come now to the false inferences drawn by Dr. Macnamara from the six statements of fact he has given correctly as mentioned above. First, then, it is not true, as he states, that John Wilcotes' daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, were returned as his heirs only in respect to Great Tew. They are found to be his heirs *absolutely*. To make sure of this I examined the original document (I.P.M., 6 Henry VI., No. 41). It states as follows :—

The Inquisition was taken on the feast of S. Simon, 6 Henry VI. (28th Oct., 1427). The Jury found that John Wilcotes, Esq., in his life time held the Manor of Great Tywe, and granted it to Richard Cralle, Esq., of Co. Sussex, Alexander Cheyne, of Co. Kent, and Thomas Frankleyn, and in consequence of the said conveyance, John Wilcotes was not seised of anything either held from the King or from anyone else. Elizabeth, aged nine years and more, and Margaret, aged eight years and more, are his daughters and heirs. A certain Richard Purcell held a water-mill of the fee of John Wilcotes,† and John Hilton also held freely an estate in the same fee, and (I gathered from a necessarily hurried examination) Purcell and Hilton (and perhaps other tenants) had not attorned themselves as tenants to Richard Cralle and the others at the date of John Wilcotes' death. Consequently Richard Walkstede, Knight, and Elizabeth, his wife,‡ had since John Wilcotes' death received the outgoings, rents, &c., of the free tenants who had so failed to attorn.

The foregoing Inquisition show quite clearly that John Wilcotes' heirs were his daughters, and Dr. Macnamara's inference (p. 102, line 25) that his son Thomas was the son of his first wife Alice, is shown to be both false and unnecessary. Thomas, without a shadow of doubt, was John Wilcotes' bastard son.

* For some further criticism as to these quarterings see "The Genealogist," Vol. I.

† Have we here the explanation of the Purcell quartering assumed by the Rainsfords' ?

‡ John Wilcotes' widow.

I examined his Inquisition, P.M. (12 Edw. IV., No. 13), which was taken at Wyttenev, Oxfordshire, on the day next after the Feast of S. John the Baptist (30th August), before Thomas Fowler, Escheator.

The Jury say that on the day of his decease, Thomas Wylcotes, Esq., held no tenements of the King or of any others. In his lifetime he had been seised of Dene, Over Chalford and Nether Chalford in Oxfordshire, and so seised, he conveyed them to Thomas, Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury John Bourgchier de Berners, Knight, John [?D]addeford, James Arblaster and Richard Nowers. The said Manors are held from the Abbey of S. Kenelm of Winchcombe, The said Thomas Wylcotes died 15th March, 12 Edward IV. (1472).

No heirs of Thomas are mentioned in the Inquisition, doubtless for the good reason that being a bastard he had none. If any further corroboration of his illegitimacy is desired, it may be found in the fact that he was entirely cut out of all chance of succession to Great Tew, although John tried to keep that estate in the Wilcotes Family. *A fortiori*, Thomas could not have been the son of Alice and John, for had he been, he would, under the settlement have inherited Great Tew as a matter of right.

Having thus stated the facts correctly, and cleared away the misleading "Rainsford" pedigree-hash with the false inferences consequent upon it, we may now in a few words summarise the results as follows :—

There were two contemporaries bearing the same surname :

WILLIAM WILCOTES, of Northleigh, died 17th Jan., 1411—12 ;

And JOHN WILCOTES, of Great Tew, died 21st May, 1422.

They were certainly relations, and almost certainly brothers, for William left a son, John, who was a Knight, and living in April, 1422, when John Wilcotes, of Great Tew, made his will, settling the reversion of Great Tew on "John Wilcotes, Knight." No other contemporary, "John Wilcotes, Knight," has ever been heard of, and we may assume that the Squire of Tew wished to settle his estate upon his nearest legitimate kinsman in the male line, who was probably his nephew.

The above WILLIAM WILCOTES, of Northleigh, is identified as the purchaser of the Gloucestershire Willecotes by his Inquisition, P.M., which mentions it first in the list of his estates. He married Elizabeth Trillow (otherwise Trillok), daughter and heiress of John Trillow, and by her had issue :—

- 1 Thomas Wilcotes, of whom below.
 - 2 John Wilcotes, afterwards a Knight, who was heir to his brother, and married Elizabeth Danvers, but died without issue, his widow remarrying to Thomas Blount.
- And five daughters and co-heiresses, as set out in the
De Banco suit of 19 Henry VI.

(To be continued.)

Baulking Church, Berks.

By W. H. Hallam.

(Continued from page 89, Vol. 12.)

Another old world feature of Baulking is the village green or common, where still feed the pigs, and cows and ganders of the villagers, as for centuries past; but possessing exceptional interest to the County, for it was here that the second recorded fall of a meteor in Britain took place. The circumstances of this event are recorded in a very rare tract preserved in the British Museum, and details of it are worth re-printing in this Journal.

The Title is:—"Looke Up and See Wonders; a miraculous Apparition in the Ayre lately seen in Barkeshire at Bawlkyn Greene, neere Hatford, 9th April, 1628."

The writer proceeds: "So Benumbed wee are in our Sences, that albeit God Himself holla in our eares, we by our Wills are loath to heare him. His dreadfull pursuants of thunder and Lightning terrifie us so long as they have us in their fingers, but beeing off, we dance and sing in the midst of our follies. . . . The foure great quarter masters of the world (the foure elements) have bin in civill warre, one against another. . . . As for fire it hath denied of late to warme us but at unreasonable rates, and hard conditions. But what talke I of this earthly nourishment of fire? The