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June 2008

The  
Gresleys of Drakelowe

An Account of the Family, and Notes of its  
connexions by Marriage and Descent  
from the Norman Conquest  
to the Present Day

*With Appendixes, Pedigrees and Illustrations*

COMPILED BY

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Oxford

PRINTED FOR SUBSCRIBERS

1899

Oxford

HORACE HART, PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY

THE  
GRESLEYS OF DRAKELOWE





*Gresleys of Drakelow*

*Plate I*

SIR PETER DE GRESLEY  
d. about A.D. 1310

(From *Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 4205, fol. 112, of the 15th cent.*: see p. 43)

Meliorè Fide quam Fortuna

GRESLEY MOTTO.

*More Faithful than Fortunate.*

IN what old story far away,  
In what great action is enshrined,  
The sad sweet motto which to-day  
Around the Gresleys' name is twined?

Was it for country or for crown  
They played a grand tho' tragic part?  
Or did they lay their fortune down  
To strive to win one careless heart?

We cannot tell: but this we know,  
That they who chose in that dim past  
Those noble words,—come weal come woe—  
Stood by them stedfast to the last.

And this we feel, when deep in dust  
Lie earthly hopes and worldly state,  
In that far Land where all is just,  
The *Faithful* will be *Fortunate*.

FLORENCE SEVERNE.

1889.

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## PREFACE

---

THE present volume is the best description which the author is able to give of the successive generations of a remarkable family. An ideal family history would require historical genius in the writer, leisure for research, a lavish outlay, and plentiful material. In the present instance the last of these conditions is the only one of which fulfilment can be claimed. The late Rev. John Morewood Gresley, a trained antiquary, amassed a large number of Gresley records from authentic sources, and the contemplation of these, late in the year 1895, was the cause of the present endeavour to raise a memorial both of Mr. Gresley's labours and of the ancient family to which he belonged.

The Gresley family is perhaps unique in combining a proved succession in the male line from the eleventh century to the present time with the occupation for the last seven hundred years of a manor which was held by an ancestor at the time of the Domesday Survey. The property and influence of the Gresleys have been almost equally divided between Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire, Drakelowe lying in Derbyshire near the point where the three shires meet; and in each they have held a high position and have formed connexions by marriage with the leading families. Their antiquity and local fixity attracted the attention of Sir Henry Ellis (*Introd. to Domesday* i. 346-7), the Rev. R. W. Eyton (*Salt Society's publications* i. 223), and other antiquaries: while, if the link with the Norman family of Toeni be accepted, the pedigree in the male line is continuous for nine hundred years.

The story begins with the prominent Norman family of Toeni, the head of which was hereditary Standard-bearer of the Dukes of Normandy. At the Battle of Hastings, however, Ralph de Toeni asked permission to fight in the ranks, and his services and those of his brother, Robert de Stafford, were rewarded with broad lands in England after the Conquest. A Nigel de Stafford who also appears as an extensive landowner at the time of the Domesday Survey, was in all probability the son of Robert, and was certainly the father of the first who bore the name of Gresley. The curious legend of the Devil of Drakelowe supplies the reason why the family name was Gresley rather than Drakelowe.

The Gresleys thenceforward seem to have lived for some years at Gresley Castle, and, as holding their lands *in capite*, ranked among the *Barones minores*. They took their full share of military service as knights: indeed one generation, the family of Sir Peter, was so exceedingly militant as to deserve a less honourable appellation. The family steadily increased in wealth until a marriage with the heiress of the Wasteneyes of Colton, in the middle of the fourteenth century, raised it to a leading position in the county—a position retained more by diplomacy than force through the Wars of the Roses. In Elizabeth's time the head of the family incurred debts which caused the sale of Colton and several other manors, and the baronetcy conferred on Sir George Gresley in 1611 was not accompanied by any retrieval of these losses. In the Civil War the first Baronet was a Parliamentarian, but his grandson, Sir Thomas, was in favour after the Restoration, and by his marriage recovered an important part of the property which had been sold at the beginning of the century.

At this point the family divides into two branches, the eldest son William carrying on the line of Baronets and residing at Drakelowe, while the younger, Thomas, became the progenitor of a line of Squires and Rectors of Seile, residing at Nether Seile. In 1837 however, with Sir Roger Gresley, the elder branch died out, and the Rector of Seile

---

at that time, who was Sir Roger's first and fourth cousin, became the ninth Baronet, and was the grandfather of the present Baronet, Sir Robert, whose two sons augur well for the continuance of this wonderful pedigree.

The present volume is not published. Every member of the William Salt Archæological Society receives a copy of the ordinary edition, as do subscribers before issue, a list of whom is subjoined. The special edition is limited to fifty copies, which have all been subscribed for.

The author has to offer his best thanks to many welcome helpers. The present head of the family, Sir Robert Gresley, Baronet, of Drakelowe, Burton on Trent, has taken a warm personal interest in the scheme, and has himself contributed chapter VIII; and Major-General the Hon. George Wrottesley, who is the life and soul of the William Salt Society and an indefatigable historian, has given most valuable help, especially in the earlier chapters: while Mr. J. Horace Round, Lord Hawkesbury, Miss Agnes Gresley of Barton under Needwood, Mr. Nigel Gresley (for the Australian branch) and Miss Govett (for the Bristol Gresleys), with others too numerous to mention, have supplied valuable information.

Notes and criticisms of the present book will be gladly received, in view of the possible issue of a few pages of Addenda at some later period.

BRASENOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD.

*September, 1899.*

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Ὅπου ποτ' ἄν ὤσιν ἄνδρες,  
. . . ἐνταῦθα τείχη καὶ πόλεις.

ARISTIDES.

The Knights' bones are dust,  
And their good swords rust;  
Their souls are with the Saints, we trust.

COLERIDGE.

# THE GRESLEYS OF DRAKELOWE



## CHAPTER I

### THE NORMAN FAMILY OF TOENI, AND ITS SETTLEMENT IN ENGLAND

THE Norwegian Vikings or 'Northmen' who in the second half of the ninth century began to harry the shores of Northern Gaul, and who at last under Rollo obtained a firm footing on land in the district round Rouen, can have had little idea of their future influence on England. That island seemed destined rather to fall into the hands of their kinsmen the Danes, while the new-comers in Gaul were fully occupied in building up the Duchy of Normandy, 'the only permanent Northern state<sup>a</sup> within the limits of the ancient Carolingian Empire.' But so it was ordained by fate, that while perhaps no Englishman can boast, or cares to boast, of a Danish descent from before the Conquest, the chief families of Normandy should be the coveted ancestry of the oldest houses in the kingdom. An example of this may be seen in the great Norman family of Toeni, the head of which for at least two generations before the invasion of England held the high position of Standard-bearer of the Dukes of Normandy.

<sup>a</sup> C. F. Keary, Vikings in Western Christendom (Lond. 1891), p. 438.

## CHAP. I.

## Their Mixed Descent.

If Rollo, the first Duke of Normandy, was of Scandinavian blood, as is generally allowed, the Toenis must be conceded a similar origin: for Roger de Toeni, the second who bore that surname, is expressly stated by William of Jumièges<sup>b</sup> (Gulielmus Gemeticensis), or rather his continuator, to have been 'de stirpe Malahulcii qui Rollonis Ducis [Normanniae] patruus<sup>c</sup> fuit et cum eo Francos atterens Normanniam fortiter adquisierat.' With this clue we can give in outline the traditional descent of the Toenis from Fornjot King of Finland to Ivar, and the historical pedigree from the latter onward. The first part<sup>d</sup> is:—Fornjot King of Finland — Kari — Thorri — Gorr — Heiti — Sveiði — Halfdan the Old — Ivar, Jarl of the Uplanders (Oplændingjarl). From this point we are on clearer ground, and it may be convenient for reference to carry Rollo's pedigree down to William the Conqueror. The line is<sup>e</sup>:—Ivar — Eystein Glumra (Eystein the Eloquent or Noisy) — Rögnavld riki, Jarl of both the Mæren and of Romsdal: married Hilda (or in full Ragnhilda), dau. of Hrolf Nefja: d. 890: his brother Sigurd riki was the first Earl of Orkney, d. 874 — **Rollo**, first Duke of Normandy (in French Rou, properly Hrolf, known from his stature as Gongu-Hrolf<sup>f</sup>: b. 846?, d. about 931: his brothers were Ivar and Thorir the Silent) — William i (2nd Duke, d. 942) — Richard i (3rd Duke, d. 996) — Richard ii (4th Duke, d. 1026) — Richard iii (5th Duke, d. 1028) — Robert (a brother, 6th Duke, d. 1035) — **William the Conqueror** (7th Duke, King of England, d. 1087).

From what has been said above we are perhaps justified in assuming that an unrecorded brother of Rögnavld bore a name (probably Malahultis) which appears in its latinized form as Malahulcius, and that he was a lineal ancestor of the Toenis. It must be noted however that Dudo of St. Quentin, the first Norman historian (fl. 1000–25), knows nothing of Rollo as a Norwegian, but assigns him a Danish (or what meant the same, a Dacian) origin: and his authority has

<sup>b</sup> Hist. Norm. vii. 3.

<sup>c</sup> 'paternal uncle.'

<sup>d</sup> R. S. lxxxviii (Icel. Sagas i), pp. 1–4.

<sup>e</sup> R. S. ut supra, p. xlii: Munch's Norske Folks Historie ii, geneal. xi: P. B. Du Chaillu, The Viking Age (1889) i. 462–4.

<sup>f</sup> 'Rolf the Ganger, or Walker,' because no horse could carry him.

been followed by Lair<sup>g</sup>, Steenstrup<sup>h</sup> and others. *Non nostrum tantas*—, but both sides concede ultimately to Rollo a Scandinavian ancestry. Even Malahulcius's name has been attacked by Bouquet, the editor of the *Recueil des Historiens de France* (xi. 38), who reads the passage above quoted as 'de stirpe mala Hulcii,' citing the corresponding French passage, taken from the Latin of Jumièges, in the *Chroniques de France* or *Chroniques de Saint-Denis* (*ibid.* xi. 401), which reads 'Rogiers Thohins hons estraiz & descendu de mauvese racine': but it is probable from the omission of any French equivalent of 'Hulcii' or the next clause, that the translator was puzzled. Steenstrup however seizes the idea, and tries to identify Huncdeus (probably Hunthiofr), a Norman leader, with Hulcius! As a fact, Malahultis is a good Norwegian name and there is no reason for changing the received text.

But there is some evidence also that the Toenis were of mixed descent, and had Frankish blood in their veins, as may well have been the case. This appears from the following fact. Hugh, archbishop of Rouen from 942 to 989, and elected to that office by Duke William (who was probably his kinsman), held as part of the possessions of his see the fief of Todiniacum or Toeni. But he was a man 'prosapia clarus, sed ignobilis cunctis operibus,' and alienated this fief, bestowing it, with all its appurtenances, on 'frater suus Rodulphus, potentissimus vir, filius Hugonis de Calvacamp' (Calvacamp being stated to be the name of a village near Dieppe). This is attested by the *Acta Archiepiscoporum Rothomagensium* printed in Mabillon's *Vetera Analecta* (1723 edition, p. 223). It can hardly be doubted that this Rodulphus is the first Toeni, so that we here obtain the origin of the name of Toeni; and as we know that the first Toeni was alive and had a grown-up son in about A.D. 1020, it may be conjectured on a comparison of dates and generations that at least one generation intervened between Malahulcius and Hugh de Calvacamp. In the absence of evidence it is idle to speculate whether

CHAP. I.

<sup>g</sup> Dudon, ed. by Lair (Caen, 1865) pref. pp. 49-78.

<sup>h</sup> *Études préliminaires* (Caen, 1880).

## CHAP. I.

Hugh married a grand-daughter or other female descendant of the former: but that relationship would satisfy the probabilities of the position.

This relationship with a Frankish family is said to be also affirmed in one of the Continuations of William of Jumièges<sup>i</sup>, and M. Prevost, the editor of Ordericus Vitalis, goes so far as to write<sup>j</sup> of the Toenis 'cette famille, par une exception bien rare chez les seigneurs normands, paraît n'avoir pas été d'origine scandinave, mais être sortie d'un personnage franc nommé Hugue de Calvacamp.' In sharp contrast with this Palgrave<sup>k</sup> says that the Toeni pedigree 'affords one of the very few instances in which the ancestry of a Norman is deduced from a genuine Northman'! The Toenis were, in fact, an unfortunate example for either writer to take, for reasons stated above.

Before we turn to the actual line of Toeni, a few words may be said about its eponymous village.

**Tosny, or Toeni.**

Tosny is a small village on the left bank of the Seine in the canton of Gaillon and department of L'Eure, near the well-known Château Gaillard. The Seine at this point makes a horseshoe curve<sup>l</sup>, sweeping beneath the heights of Les Andelys on which the château stands, and which look across the river in a south-westerly direction over level meadows enclosed by the river's bend. Within this bend a spectator from the castle would see the two villages of Bernières and Tosny, the former on the right hand, the latter a little nearer and on the left, close to the Seine. It is not without significance, as will shortly be seen, that in Cassini's large Atlas (1744) a place called Grange le Conches is to be found close to Tosny. The name has varied<sup>m</sup> between Toeni (Toëniium), Totteneium, Todiniacum, Thony (Thoniaium), and Toni (Toniacum), with minor variations, but appears to be now fixed as Tosny. Toeni and its meadows belonged, as has been stated, to the arch-

<sup>i</sup> Folio Will. Salt MS. at Stafford lettered 'Gresley.'

<sup>j</sup> Prevost's Ord. Vit. v. 47 n.

<sup>k</sup> Normandy and England, iii (1864). 203.

<sup>l</sup> Plan in Viollet Le Duc's Dict. de l'Arch. Franç. (1854-68), iii. 85.

<sup>m</sup> Blosseville, Dict. topog. de l'Eure (1877).

bishopric of Rouen, until alienated by the first Toeni's brother, to give a name and place to the family in which we are interested.

CHAP. I.

Ralph i de Toeni (fl. A.D. 1000).

Of the first of the family we know very little. In about 1020 Richard ii. Duke of Normandy placed him and his son Roger ('Rodulphus<sup>n</sup> Toennensis & Rogerius filius ejusdem,' 'Raoul<sup>o</sup> de Thoeini [in the printed edition Thocini] & Rogier son fil') with Nigel de Coutances (Neel de St. Sauveur) and others in charge of the castle of Tillières (Castrum Tegulense) to hold it against Odo of Chartres, the Duke's brother-in-law, who had revolted. Odo boldly attacked Tillières, but was entirely routed and barely escaped with his life. It is possible that this Ralph is the 'Rodulphus Todinensis' who is found in a single MS. of Leo Marsicanus's *Chronica Monasterii Casinensis*<sup>p</sup> as one of forty Normans who were trying their fortunes in Italy and are mentioned as at Capua in about 1012. If we place Ralph's acquisition of Toeni in about 970-80, he may be said to have 'flourished' in about A.D. 1000. In Lord Lindsay's *Lives of the Lindsays* (2nd ed., 1858) a Hugo de Limesay (ancestor of the Lindsays) is put forward as another son of Ralph, besides Roger: but I have not met with any proof or corroboration of the statement. In an undated charter<sup>q</sup> of Richard Duke of Normandy to Lisieux, supposed to be of about 1028, one of the witnesses is 'Rodulphus filius Rodulphi de Todenico,' of whom I can render no account, if the words quoted are correct. But the charter is certainly carelessly copied or edited, for one of the witnesses is 'Hebertus episcopus *Ambianensis*,' (instead of *Lexoviensis*), and if so the first 'Rodulphus' may be an error for 'Rogerius.' M. Gardin<sup>r</sup> asserts, but without quoting any authority, that Ralph in the tenth century possessed Castillon (Châtillon) the site of an old Roman camp close to, and indeed part of, the town of Conches: but this must be regarded at present as due to some confusion with his son Roger.

<sup>n</sup> Jum. v. 10.

<sup>o</sup> Chron. of St. Denis (Rec. des Histt. de France, x. 308 B).

<sup>p</sup> Pertz, Mon. Germ. Hist. Scriptt. vii. 652, cf. 676.

<sup>q</sup> Mém. de la Soc. des Antiqu. de Normandie, xiii (1844), p. 10 n.

<sup>r</sup> Conches, p. 11.

## CHAP. I.

## Roger i de Toeni (occ. abt. 1020, d. abt. 1040).

With this Roger, son of the first Toeni, we may be said to emerge into the light of history. He appears as a typical leader among the Norman nobles, proud of his connexion with the Dukes of Normandy, contemptuous of the base-born Duke William, quarrelsome among his peers, ready to engage in far distant expeditions for fame and booty, careless of the sufferings of others, and yet without inconsistency the founder of an abbey which should expiate his misdeeds.

We have seen that in about 1020 he shared his father's success at Tillières. In about 1035 he undoubtedly signalized his connexion with Conches (see p. 8) by founding a Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul in close proximity at Châtillon. But the great fact in his life is the expedition to Spain from which he derived his name of de Hispania, Hispanicus, or d'Espagne. Freeman even says<sup>s</sup> that he 'was the first to carry the Norman arms into the Spanish peninsula': and it appears that he was sent by Henry i of France<sup>t</sup> between 1031 and 1035, with other Normans, to help Ferdinand King of Castile and Leon. The rough Norman leader gained a reputation for cruelty, but also for invincibility: and after his victories found a wife for himself in Godehildis<sup>u</sup> daughter of Raymundus (son of Borellus and Count of Barcelona), who had died in 1017, and of his wife Ermensenda. In 1035 when Robert Duke of Normandy was dead and succeeded by his illegitimate son William (the Conqueror), we find Roger de Toeni back in France, indignant that a base-born man should rule the duchy and ready to join Neel de St. Sauveur, viscount of the Côtentin, in a revolt against him. The occasion was soon afforded, but in a fight with Roger de Bello Monte (Beaumont), son of Humfridus de Vetulis whose property had been attacked, both Roger and two of his young sons Helbertus and Elinantius (Hebert and Helmant<sup>v</sup>, Herberz and Alinanz<sup>w</sup>) were killed<sup>x</sup>, apparently at the end of May in

<sup>s</sup> Norm. Conqu. i (3rd ed.) 465, v. 356.

<sup>t</sup> Caumont, Bull. monum., 1st S., ii. (1836) 243, 303.

<sup>u</sup> Ademar, iii. 55 in Pertz' Mon. Germ. Hist. Scriptt., iv. 140-1: Dozy, Recherches, 3rd ed. (1881) i. 37, ii. 333-5: cf. chron. in Baluzius, Marca Hisp. (1688), col. 542.

<sup>v</sup> Rec. des Histt. de France, xi. 329 A.

<sup>w</sup> *ibid.* xi. 401 CD.

<sup>x</sup> Jum. vii. 3, viii. 17: Ord. Vit. i. 180, ii. 40, 369, iii. 338.



about 1040. So fell the turbulent and proud Norman who had achieved the position of Standard-bearer of the Duke and carried the fame of the Northmen into Spain. He was buried in the abbey he had founded at Conches on May 30, a day ever after kept there as the 'Depositio Domini Rogerii fundatoris istius ecclesiae'.<sup>v</sup> It is recorded that his body was laid 'dans le chapitre soubz une pierre facon de marbre taillee tout simplement, et elevee de terre d'un pied sur trois lionnes de pierre: on ny voit aucune marque ny auscune escriture'.<sup>z</sup> On May 7, 1463, his body and those of his wife and children were re-discovered and solemnly attested.<sup>a</sup> It may be added that Ansgotus Normannus was a relative of 'Rogerius Toënis qui Hispanicus vocabatur'<sup>b</sup>: and that a deed of gift by Roger is printed in *Gallia Christiana* xi. instr. 128 D.

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<sup>v</sup> Obit. Conch. in Neustria pia 569.

<sup>z</sup> Paris, Bibl. Nat., MS. St. Germ. 1065.

<sup>a</sup> *ibid.* 1399: Gall. Christ. xi. 642 B.

<sup>b</sup> Ord. Vit. ii. 64.

His wife was **Godehildis**, see above, who after his death married as his second wife Richard count of Évreux, son of Robert archbishop of Rouen and grandson of Richard I Duke of Normandy. Count Richard died in 1067, having first married Adela or Helena, who is often confused with Godehildis. By the latter he had a son William who succeeded him, a daughter Agnes (see p. 11), and a daughter Godehildis who became nun and abbess of the Benedictine nunnery of St. Saviour at Évreux, founded by her father. Deeds by Godehildis as countess of Évreux are printed in *Gallia Christiana* xi. instr. 129 B, 130 B.

Their issue was:—

**Helbert** } both died young, see p. 6.  
**Helinantius** }

**Ralph**, see p. 9.

**Robert de Stafford**, see p. 16.

**Adelina** or **Adeliza**. She married William Fitz-Osberne, who fought at the battle of Hastings and was Count of Breteuil and Earl of Hereford (*d.* 1070). They were founders of the abbeys of Lire (Lira) and Cormeilles (Cormeliae), and were buried in them, she in the former, he (the survivor) in the latter. Their children were William who became Lord of Breteuil, Ralph a monk at Cormeilles, Roger Earl of Hereford whose issue was soon extinct, and two daughters, one named Emma.

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## Conches (Châtillon).

The seat of the Toenis may now be briefly described, chiefly by notes from Alex. Gardin's *Notice historique sur la ville de Conches* (Évreux, 1865, 8°): he quotes however few authorities, and is not entirely trustworthy on matters of history.

<sup>c</sup> Cf. Caumont, Bull. monum., 1<sup>st</sup> S., ii. (1836) 224, 305.

The present town of Conches lies on the right bank of the little stream of the Rouloir, about eleven miles south-west of Évreux. The Rouloir soon joins the Iton, which flows into the Eure at Acquigny, and the Eure into the Seine at Pont de l'Arche. But the first abode of the Toenis was a place more than a mile to the west of Conches, which is now called Vieux-Conches, and there Ralph de Toeni settled himself<sup>c</sup> early in the eleventh century, building a fortress of which remains still exist. Near it a church of St. Ouen was built, and round it grew a little village bearing the same name as the church. After Ralph's death, however, his son Roger removed (in about 1030?) to a spot then called Chastillon (Castellio), probably from a Roman camp in the neighbourhood, and there not only built the imposing walls, within which a central fortress of the twelfth century still in great measure defies the destructive influence of Time, but also founded the Benedictine abbey already mentioned. Châtillon is now practically included in Conches, and one of the gates is still called the Porte de Châtillon. The abbey was variously known as Cœnobium SS. Petri et Pauli de Castellione, Ecclesia Castellionensis, or Castellionensis abbatia apud Conchas. A long list of its abbots and other information are in *Gallia Christiana*, tom. xi. col. 637. The church of Ste. Foy is said to have been also begun in Roger's time, and the story is<sup>d</sup> that Roger on his return from Spain made a pilgrimage to St. James of Compostella, and on his way back to England (!) visited the shrine of Ste. Foy (Fides, martyred at Agen in about A.D. 300) at Conques (Conchae

<sup>d</sup> L'abbé Bouillet in Revue de l'Art Chrétien, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ser., ii (1875), p. 375.

Rutenorum, in the Département d'Aveyron), from which he brought some relics to hallow his new church at Châtillon, thenceforward itself called Conchae or Conches. The modern church of Ste. Foy, which is the most conspicuous feature in the Conches of to-day, is of later date but on the same site. The old castle built by Roger or his successors is of prodigious strength, consisting of a circular donjon with massive walls, a ring of bastions and walls surrounding the keep, and a large and nearly circular area, about 300 feet in diameter, enclosed by the outer wall. The fortifications on the south-east look down a steep declivity to the stream below.

The Toenis remained Lords of Conches until June 1, 1204, Roger de Toeni being then the only exception made when Philippe Auguste allowed the Norman barons to regain their possessions by the capitulation of Rouen. Conches was then given to the King's cousin Robert de Courtenay, and in about 1250 to his grand-daughter who had married Robert ii, count of Artois. Its ancient history may be said to end with its union in 1343 with the Duchy of Normandy.

**Ralph ii de Toeni, or de Conchis (senex).**

Although not in the main line of the family so far as the Gresleys are concerned, it is impossible to pass over the second Ralph de Toeni, who was perhaps the most prominent of all this Norman house. He seems to have been born in about 1037, and first emerges into notice at the battle of Mortemer<sup>e</sup> in 1054, where Duke William obtained a complete victory over the King's troops. It was the young Ralph de Toeni who was selected by the Duke to report this overwhelming disaster to the King himself. Ralph made his way by night to a hill which overlooked the King's camp, and soon his voice was heard through the darkness, bidding the French to sleep no longer but go to Mortemer to bear off and bury their comrades, and proclaiming the flight of the King's brother and the capture of Earl Wido. The very

<sup>e</sup> Ord. Vit. i. 184.

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† Jum. vii. 24:  
Rad. de  
Diceto (R. S.  
lxviii) i. 190:  
Rob. of  
Torigny (R.S.  
lxxxii) iv. 33:  
Chron. de S.  
Denis in Rec.  
des Histt. xi.  
404 C. See  
below.

§ Ord. Vit.  
iii. 8r.

h Aimé in  
Dozy, Re-  
cherches ii.  
335.

i Ord. Vit. ii.  
401-3.

j Ord. Vit. ii.  
400 n.

k Robert  
Wace, Rom.  
de Rou, ed.  
Andersen  
(1877) vol. 2,  
pt. 3, p. 330,  
vv. 7598-608:  
see below.

words of his (traditional) speech are preserved<sup>f</sup>, and such was their effect that the French king fled with the utmost haste. In 1063 however Ralph was one of the Norman nobles who for their continual quarrellings were deprived of all their possessions by Duke William and driven from Normandy<sup>g</sup>. It can hardly be an accidental coincidence that in about 1064-5 we hear of a fresh expedition of Normans to Spain<sup>h</sup>, but the name of Ralph de Toeni does not occur. After the Conquest of England however we know for certain that Ralph did make a journey to Spain and at the monastery of St. Evroul at Ouche (Uticum)<sup>i</sup> promised help to the abbey if he returned in safety: and after his return in fulfilment of his vow gave to it lands in Toeni, Conches and elsewhere. This journey is however generally placed in about 1075, and could not be earlier than 1066, while the restoration of the exiled barons is placed by Prevost as early as 1063<sup>j</sup>, the same year as the expulsion. At any rate Ralph and the other delinquents recovered their domains, and he was certainly in full amity with the Duke at the time of the invasion of England.

At the memorable battle of Hastings or Senlac in 1066 it was the office of Ralph de Toeni to bear in person the Standard of the Duke of Normandy, but, according to the *Roman de Rou*<sup>k</sup>, when Duke William called on him to carry the Standard, which the Pope had sent him, as his duty by right and by ancestry, Ralph thanked him for acknowledging the ancient right of the Toenis, but claimed quittance of the service on this occasion in order that he might take full share in the actual fighting. A similar request was made by

† *Franceis, Franceis, levez, levez,  
Tenez vos veies; trop dormez.  
Allez vos amis enterrer  
Ki sont occis à Mortemer.*

É. Le Héricher, *Hist. et glossaire du Normand* (n. d.) i. 143.

k The original runs:—

Portez, dist il, mon gonfanon,  
Ne uos uoil faire se dreit non:  
Par dreit e par anceisorie  
Deiuent estre de Normandie  
Vostre parent gonfanonier,  
Mult furent tuit boen cheualier.

Gautier Giffard, and finally the standard was borne on that fateful day by Turstin fitz Rollo le Blanc.

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Of Ralph in England we have no facts recorded, except the possession of lands in Flamsteed<sup>1</sup> (co. Herts.), Alton<sup>m</sup> in Worcestershire, Caldecote<sup>n</sup> in Norfolk, and elsewhere, and his occurrence as witness in several charters<sup>o</sup>. At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) he owned about thirty-seven manors in Norfolk, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire and Berkshire. But in fact he was throughout his life Norman and not English, both in his tastes and abode, and joined freely in the internecine quarrels of the barons of Normandy after the Conquest<sup>o</sup>, of which the best known is the Guerre des Belles Dames, see below. He also joined in the revolt of Robert the son of the Conqueror in 1078, and though he was subsequently restored to favour, this may account for the small number of manors which he held in 1087, compared with the vast estates of his brother Robert.

<sup>1</sup> Gall. Christ. xi. 129 E: Dugd., Mon. Angl. i. (2nd ed.) 504 A.

<sup>m</sup> Ord. Vit. v. 180, cf. iii. 25, iv. 67.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid. ii. 40, iii. 28, &c.

<sup>o</sup> Ibid. iii. 262, 296, 348-50, iv. 98.

On March 24<sup>p</sup>, probably 110½, he died, and was buried, as was natural, in the abbey at Conches.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid. ii. 405, cf. iv. 183.

His wife was **Elizabeth** (latinized as Isabella by Ordericus Vitalis<sup>q</sup>) daughter of Simon de Montfort l'Amauri. The way in which she was obtained illustrates the rough manners of the time. Ralph carried off by night Agnes his uterine sister (daughter of Richard 3rd count of Évreux and of Godehildis, in this connexion also called Adela<sup>r</sup>, Helene<sup>s</sup> and even Jolande<sup>t</sup>!, widow of Roger i de Toeni) and gave her to Simon as his third wife, receiving in exchange the daughter of the said Simon by a former wife, Elizabeth de Broyes dame de Nogent. It was the high spirit, levity and audacity of Elizabeth when matched in quarrel with the clever but cruel and grasping nature of Helvisa countess of Évreux (wife of William 4th count, and daughter of William count of Nevers) which in 1090 precipitated Évreux, Conches and the whole neighbourhood into fierce conflict, and gave the struggle the name of 'La Guerre des Belles Dames.' Elizabeth is described by Ordericus Vitalis<sup>u</sup> in lively terms, as if she were a very Camilla or Amazon,

<sup>q</sup> Also in a deed of Ralph in Dugd. Mon. vi. 995: but Elizabeth once in Ord. ii. 402.

<sup>r</sup> Prevost in his Ord. ii. 404 n: Mas Latrie, p. 1597.

<sup>s</sup> Anselme ii. 478.

<sup>t</sup> B. M. MS. Add. 18039, fol. 81 v.

<sup>u</sup> iii. 345: Gardin, Conches, p. 16.

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a beldam indeed, marching to war in full armour and with more than a soldier's ardour. 'Both women,' says Orderic, 'were loquacious, high-spirited and of graceful figure: both ruled their husbands and lorded it over their inferiors, whom they found various means of terrifying.' The crisis came in November when Conches was regularly besieged, but not till after three years of desultory warfare, ending in the victory of the Toenis, did the two families come to an agreement—to the effect that the Count of Évreux and his nephew Guillermus de Breteuil should make Roger son of Ralph de Toeni their heir. But the death of Roger on May 15, 1093<sup>v</sup>—about which the chronicler tells a touching story—frustrated this happily-conceived arrangement. Finally Elizabeth after years of widowhood took the veil at the priory of Haute Bruyère near Montfort l'Amauri, ending her wild life in the peace of a cloister.

Their children were:—

<sup>v</sup> Ord. Vit. iii. 348-50. See below.

**Roger ii de Toeni**, who died unmarried in 1093, see above: he occurs as consenting to his father's gifts to the abbey of St. Evroul<sup>w</sup>.

<sup>w</sup> Ord. Vit. ii. 403.

**Ralph iii de Toeni**: see below.

<sup>x</sup> Duchesne, Hist. Norm. Scriptt. 1091: continuator of Jum. viii. 41.

**Godehildis**<sup>x</sup>, who married 1. Robert de Neuburgh, and 2. Baldwin, son of Eustace Count of Boulogne.

This appears to be the best place for briefly showing the continuance of the male line of the Toenis until its extinction early in the fourteenth century: see also the pedigree at the end of this volume.

**Ralph iii de Toeni or de Conchis (juvenis).**

Of this Ralph we know nothing during his father's lifetime, but on succeeding to his father's place in 110 $\frac{1}{2}$  he at once comes to the front.

<sup>v</sup> The young Roger had heard Baldwin, afterwards King of Jerusalem, describing a dream in which he saw our Lord hanging on the Cross and bestowing on him a benediction; and turned to his mother, saying, 'I know a man, and he is not far off, who has seen a similar vision.' On being questioned about this, the youth blushed and would not say what he meant, till at last, overcome by his mother's entreaties, he replied, 'Some one I know lately saw the Lord Jesus in a vision, placing His hands on his head in blessing, and saying, "Come quickly, My beloved, to Me, and I will give thee the pleasures of life." Sure I am that one so summoned by God will not remain long in this life.' The same year the youth took to his bed, and shortly after died.

In 1103 he is found raiding part of Normandy<sup>y</sup>, and in the same year he crosses to England and marries Judith<sup>z</sup>, alias Adeliza<sup>a</sup>, alias Alicia<sup>b</sup>, daughter of Waltheof earl of Huntingdon and of Judith—which last was a daughter of a half-sister of William the Conqueror. After a career of perhaps dubious fidelity to the King of England (he is more than once suspected, but there is no proof of actual defection), Ralph died in 1125 or 1126<sup>c</sup>. Besides Roger iii de Toeni (see below), Ralph's children were Hugh, who died in his father's lifetime and was buried in Holy Trinity church in London<sup>b</sup>, Simon<sup>b</sup> and Isabella<sup>bd</sup>. Maclean<sup>e</sup> adds a Ralph, and a Margaret who married Walter son of Richard fitz Pons from whom descended the long line of De Cliffords.

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<sup>y</sup> Ord. Vit. iv. 186, 191.

<sup>z</sup> Jum. cont. viii. 37.

<sup>a</sup> Ord. Vit. iv. 198.

<sup>b</sup> Dugd. Mon. vi. 152, cf. 576.

<sup>c</sup> Ord. Vit. ii. 404.

<sup>d</sup> Bodl. MS. Dodsw. xxx. 112.

<sup>e</sup> Trigg Minor i. 64-6, cf. Clifford's Coll. Cliff 124, &c.

<sup>f</sup> Ord. Vit. v. 115.

<sup>g</sup> Maclean, as above.

<sup>h</sup> Chron. Hannon. by Gislebertus de Monte, in Pertz, Mon. Germ. Hist. Scriptt. xxi. 506, &c.

<sup>i</sup> Paris, Bibl. Nat. MS. St. Germ. 577; Bodl. MS. Ashm. 860, fol. 386.

**Roger iii de Toeni or de Conchis.**

Of Roger who succeeded his father in 1125 or 1126 we hear little, except in connexion with petty warfare in Normandy. Twice at least he was imprisoned there, but at the last date at which he is mentioned, Sept. 1138, he is reconciled to King Stephen<sup>f</sup>. His death is stated to have been in 1165<sup>g</sup>. He married Gertrude<sup>h</sup> or Ida<sup>i</sup> daughter of Baldwin count of Hainault. Their children were Ralph iv de Toeni, see below; Roger; Baldwin who lived in Hainault and died in 1170; and Geoffrey a clerk.

**Ralph iv de Toeni.**

Ralph was founder of Westacre abbey in Norfolk, and married Margaret de Beaumont: their children were Roger iv de Toeni, see below; Richard a clerk who died in 1252, and possibly others.

**Roger iv de Toeni.**

Married Petronilla de Lacy, who subsequently wedded William de St. Omer. Roger died on a voyage to the Holy Land at about Michaelmas 1239, and was succeeded by his son Roger.

**Roger v de Toeni.**

He married at about the time of his succession Alice de Bohun or according to some authorities Constance de Beaumont (by whom he had a son Ralph), and secondly Isabella. Roger was taken prisoner at the battle of Lewes in 1263 and died in 1277.

**Ralph v de Toeni.**

Born in about 1255, he married Clarissa, by whom he had only two children Robert and Alice. Ralph died in Gascony in 1294 or 1295.

**Robert de Toeni.**

This Robert was the last in the male line of the great family of Toeni. His wife was Matilda daughter of Malice Earl of Strathearn, but they had no children. In the long and authentic description of the siege

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<sup>j</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Cotton Calig. A. xviii, &c., ed. by Nicolas (1828) and Wright (1864).

<sup>k</sup> see below.

<sup>l</sup> Journ. of Archaeol. Assn. xxvii. 366.

<sup>m</sup> Rolls of Arms, c. 1240-45, c. 1245-50, c. 1295 (two).

<sup>n</sup> English version of the Romance printed by him, dedication. The claim would be through the line of Stafford. For the Swan badge see *Gent. Mag.* N.S. xviii (1842. ii) 353-60.

of Caerlaverock in July 1300, preserved in a French poem<sup>j</sup>, Robert is mentioned more than once, in passages of considerable interest. In one his arms are mentioned :—

Blanche cote e blanches alectes,  
Escu blanc, e banier blanche,  
Portoit, o la vermeille manche,  
Robers de Tony, ki bien signe  
Ke il est du Chevaler au Cigne<sup>k</sup>.

This gives the Toeni arms as Argent a maunche gules, as the abbey of Conches bore them and as they occur in Markland church<sup>l</sup> and elsewhere<sup>m</sup>. It also makes the curious statement that Robert was descended from the Knight of the Swan, an honour claimed as late as the sixteenth century by William Copeland<sup>n</sup> the printer for his patron the Duke of Buckingham, whose family had before then assumed the White Swan as a badge. The Romance of the Knight of the Swan is French (see the edition by Reiffenberg (1848), and the *Histoire littéraire de la France* xxii. 351), and the Knight himself is Helias, whose daughter Ida marries Eustace count of Boulogne and is mother of Godfrey of Boulogne, the hero of the first Crusade. But the real connexion is in all probability not through the marriage of Godehildis with the son of Eustace (see p. 12), which would put lineal descent out of the question, but through Robert's grandmother, who was a Bohun : and the two families who are said to have claimed a similar descent are the Bohuns (through Maud daughter of Geoffrey Fitz-Piers Earl of Essex) and the Beauchamps, according to Sir N. H. Nicolas (*Siege of Caerlaverock*, 1828, p. 369), quoted in the Duchess of Cleveland's edition of the Battle Abbey Roll (1889) iii. 173. The latter family probably claimed the Swan badge through Robert's sister.

The second passage is :—

Ceus ki estoient sur le mur  
Robert de Tony mult grevoit<sup>o</sup>.

<sup>o</sup> see below.

Robert was in the retinue of John de St. John, and was attached to the person of the King's son, afterwards Edward ii. He was summoned to Parliament as Baron de Tony from 1299 till his death in 1310.

Alice de Toeni, sister of Robert, was born in 1283 or 1284, and married three times, first Thomas de Leybourne, secondly in about 1311 Guy de Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, and thirdly (after 1315) William La Zouche of Mortimer.

So ended the male line of Toeni. Pedigrees of some authority will be found in Duchesne's *Hist. Norm. Scriptores* (1619), p. 1091 (to Roger ii) ;

<sup>k</sup> White surcoat and white alettes, white shield and white banner, with a red maunche (sleeve) bore Robert de Tony, who well shows that he is (descended) from the Knight of the Swan. (Nicolas p. 42, Wright p. 18.)

<sup>o</sup> Them who were on the wall Robert de Tony harassed much. (Nicolas p. 74, Wright p. 30.)



Maclean's *Trigg Minor* i (1873), 64-6; Bodl. MS. Ashm. 1107, fol. 207; see also Dugdale's *Baronage*, and Brit. Mus. MSS. Lansd. 863, fol. 77<sup>v</sup>; Add. 5937, fol. 135<sup>v</sup>; Bodl. MSS. Rawl. B. 83, fol. 49; 313, foll. 38, 39<sup>v</sup>; Dodsw. iv. 21, 22, cf. 49; Hoare's *Modern Wilts*, Cawden (1835), p. 5. The line from Ralph i to Roger ii can be proved from a long charter of Henry i to the abbey of Conches (of about A.D. 1130) printed in full in *Gallia Christiana* xi. instr. 128-33. The name is still preserved in Saham Tony in Norfolk and in Newton Tony and Stratford Tony in Wilts. The above account of the Tony family since the Conquest, being only subsidiary to the main purpose of this book, is not put forward as proved, but only as representing the dates and facts found in ordinary books of reference.

### The Toden Family.

Of the Toden family of Belvoir<sup>p</sup> it is difficult to trace the early history. There was undoubtedly a Robert de Toden who came over from Normandy at the Conquest, built Belvoir Castle and founded a Priory near it, where he was buried in 1088. Toden is certainly a possible by-form of Toeni, as we find Totteneium in the eleventh century and Todiniacum in the twelfth, as Latin names of that place. On the other hand no proof has been found of any connexion between the Toeni and Toden families, and the personal names are not strikingly similar, as will be seen if we carry the line on for a generation or two. Robert married Adela, and their children were William de Albini, who succeeded his father; Berengar (who may be the Berengarius de Thoneio of Blore's *Rutland* p. 99<sup>q</sup>, but the short form, omitting *d*, has not been found elsewhere<sup>r</sup>); Geoffrey; Robert; and Agnes, who married Hubert de Rye. William de Albini married Maude de St. Liz, daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon, had issue William and Ralph, and died in 1155. It may be noted that the Latin name of Totnes is Toteneium and Totenesium.

<sup>p</sup> See Dugd. Baronage; Eller's Belvoir Castle, p. 6.

<sup>q</sup> = Dugd. Mon. iii. 551 (before A. D. 1112).

<sup>r</sup> Dugd. Mon. iii. 547-9; Bodl. MS. Dodsw. vii. 157<sup>v</sup>.

## CHAPTER II

### ROBERT DE STAFFORD AND NIGEL DE STAFFORD

As has been already mentioned, the estates held in England at the time of Domesday (1086) by Ralph de Toeni were far exceeded by the broad acres of his younger brother Robert de Stafford, who must have stood high in the favour of the Conqueror, although we have no record of actual services at the Conquest. In Staffordshire he owned 81 manors, in Warwickshire 26, in Lincolnshire 20 and 4 in other counties, 131 in all. He is not however recorded as holding a manor in Stafford itself, although

<sup>a</sup> Baronage i.  
156.

he owned 54 manses there, but Dugdale<sup>a</sup> explains this by the fact that Stafford castle, of which he may very probably have been governor, was demolished before 1086, and the new one had not yet been built. The ground and surroundings of the old castle were held in 1086 by Henry de Ferrers.

Of Robert we have certain authentic details. That his surname was de Stafford and that he was a younger brother of Ralph ii de Toeni (he is actually called Robertus de Toenio by his grandson<sup>b</sup>) are absolutely certain from the long charter already mentioned (see p. 15), in *Gallia Christiana* xi. instr. 128-33. He must have been born not later than about 1041, and married Avic<sup>c</sup> daughter of the Earl of Clare, who probably survived him. All the other notices about him are in connexion with religious houses.

<sup>b</sup> Dugd. Mon.  
vi. 994.

<sup>c</sup> Dugd. Mon.  
vi. 231, cf. iv.  
160.

He was a benefactor to Conches<sup>d</sup>: he founded or re-founded the Priory of Regular Canons at Stone<sup>e</sup> in Staffordshire, and granted lands to Evesham Abbey<sup>f</sup> and Bordesley Abbey<sup>g</sup>. The gift to Evesham was the manor of Wrottesley in Staffordshire, and the deed is dated 1072: but the abbot only became mesne tenant, since alienation of a manor held in capite was impossible, and so in the Domesday Book (1086) Wrottesley is recorded as still in Robert de Stafford's hands. There is also a second deed dated 1088, when Robert, now infirm and near his death, had become a monk at Evesham and 'pro penitentia,' at the instigation of the Bishop of Chester, 'monachus factus in infirmitate mea in eodem monasterio,' gave to the abbey not Wrottesley only but land in Loynton. It may be presumed that the donor died there in 1088 or 1089. A rhyming chronicle or table which used to hang in the Priory of Stone testified<sup>h</sup> that both Robert de Stafford and his wife were buried at Stone: but the deed of 1088 proves that at that date both husband and wife intended Evesham to be their place of sepulture.

Their issue was, Nicholas the eldest, and according to all previous accounts the only, son: but there is some reason for believing them to have had a younger son named Nigel de Stafford, see p. 18. The male line however of Nicholas's descendants died out after a few generations, for Nicholas, who married Maude Moolte daughter of the Earl of Chester, had an only son Robert (who married Avice and died in about 1176): and Robert left only three children, Robert and Nicholas who died without issue, the former in about 1193; and a daughter Millicent, who married Hervey Bagot: and the line of Barons and Earls of Stafford (from 1444 to 1521 also Dukes of Buckingham) is derived through this female heiress by a very chequered descent, having suffered three forfeitures and at least as many extinctions.

It may be mentioned here that Dugdale in his *Baronage* (i. 258, cf. 266-7) represents Walkeline de Ferrers, younger brother of the Robert de Ferrers who died in 1247, as marrying 'Goda filia Roberti de Toeni.' Walkeline occurs

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<sup>d</sup> Gall. Christ. xi. instr. 131: MS. Archives de l'Eure H. 251.

<sup>e</sup> Dugd. Mon. vi. 225.

<sup>f</sup> Salt Soc. ii. i. 178, 182, cf. Dugd. Mon. ii. 18.

<sup>g</sup> Dugd. Mon. v. 408.

<sup>h</sup> Dugd. Mon. vi. 231: but it is of little authority.

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between 1166 and 1189, but Dugdale offers no proof of such a marriage, and I cannot understand who Robert or Goda was, if the entry be correct. Neither occurs in the *Placita apud Westm. T. Pasch. 13 H. 3, rot. 13* (the second roll bearing that reference: now *Curia Regis Roll 102*) which bears on Walkeline's descendants and mentions his name.

**Nigel de Stafford.**

(*b.* about 1040: *d.* abt. 1115?)

Nigel de Stafford is the great *crux* of the Gresley pedigree.

<sup>1</sup> e. g. Dugd.  
Baron. i. 156;  
Eyton, Staff.  
p. 51.

All previous investigators<sup>1</sup> have regarded him as a younger brother of Ralph ii de Toeni and of Robert de Stafford, and a son of Roger i de Toeni and of Godehildis. There is no evidence whatever of this, and chronological probabilities are against it, for, if we assume the above relationships we find that, according to inferences of high probability, while Nigel was born not later than about 1041, two of his sons, William and Nicholas, are alive in 1165. Another objection is that it would be almost unparalleled, if two landowners and founders of families were given at about the same time the same territorial name. But the true aspect of the question will be best seen, if the few ascertained facts about Nigel de Stafford are clearly set forth.

1. The primary fact about him is his estates at the time of the *Domesday Survey* (1086). 'Nigellus de Statford' held in Derbyshire nine manors and two sokes (see App. B), and 'Nigellus' held two more manors. In Staffordshire 'Nigellus' has thirteen holdings, in Leicestershire four holdings, in Warwickshire one holding: and there is good reason for assuming the identity of 'Nigellus' above with Nigel de Statford or Stafford, for the Derbyshire and Leicestershire holdings form (roughly speaking) a group in a district within about six miles of Burton-on-Trent to the W., S.W. and S., and out of the thirty-one holdings no less than twelve are subsequently found in the hands of the Gresleys.

2. *Nigel de Stafford and Elstow.* In a charter of Henry i

(1124-35)<sup>j</sup> there is a confirmation of gifts to the nunnery of Elstow in Bedfordshire (which had been founded in about A. D. 1078 by Judith widow of Waltheof Earl of Huntingdon), and the sixth grant (the entries appear to be roughly in chronological order) is one by Nigel de Stafford of 10½ virgates of land in Erendesby (Arnesby) in Leicestershire: and there are other mentions of the same gift<sup>k</sup>. Among the other benefactors are the foundress and the Countess Matilda. Now both the latter were connected with the Toenis, Judith's daughter Judith or Adeliza having married Ralph iii de Toeni, Nigel's first cousin (if not nephew), see p. 13: while Matilda was the foundress's daughter. In Domesday the landowners in Arnesby are the mysterious William Peverel and the Bishop of Coutances, and the Testa de Nevill<sup>l</sup> shows that in 1272 the village was still of the fee of Peverel and was then granted to Hugh de Beauchamp (whose ancestor<sup>m</sup> held land there in 1201), who also gave 10½ virgates of land there to Elstow. In 1279<sup>n</sup> Arnesby is of two fees, Peverel and Ferrers, Hugh's grant belonging to the former, and Nigel's to the latter. But the materials for a clear history of the place are not at present available. We incidentally find in this charter a proof that Nigel was married and had a daughter, for he gives the land to the nunnery 'cum filia sua,' implying either that she was a nun there or at least that she was educated there.

3. *Nigel de Stafford and St. Alban's abbey.* In a list of benefactors to the great Abbey of St. Alban's we find a record<sup>o</sup> that Nigel de Stafford gave the church of Norton, and one carucate of land and a tithe of his lordship in the same vill: and the Countess Judith again appears as a benefactor in the same list with Nigel. This Norton was undoubtedly Norton juxta Twycross, which Nigel held under Henry de Ferrers at the time of Domesday (see App. B). The proof of this is found in a charter<sup>p</sup> of Richard Earl of Chester (*d.* 1120) confirming this grant in terms which identify the place. It may be noted also that the Belvoir Chartulary<sup>q</sup> contains a final concord of 1224 about the

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<sup>j</sup> S. R.  
Wigram's  
Elstow  
(1885), p. 158.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid.  
pp. 27, 76.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. p. 101.

<sup>m</sup> Pipe Roll  
3 John. ■

<sup>n</sup> Nichols,  
Leic. iv. i.  
9-10.

<sup>o</sup> Dugd. Mon.  
ii. 220: R. S.  
xxviii. i. 447.

<sup>p</sup> Information  
from J. H.  
Round, Esq.

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advowson of Norton which proves that Geoffrey de Gresley, then alive, was the heir of Nigel de Stafford—an important corroboration of the connexion between the Gresleys and Staffords.

4. Mr. J. H. Round has found in an unpublished list of 'barones,' probably of 1086, a mention of Nigellus de Torp, whom he identifies without hesitation as Nigel de Stafford. It is worth mentioning also that in an undated deed<sup>a</sup> of about 1150, a grant by Gunfredus de Warmewell to the monks of Holne priory in Dorset, among the witnesses is 'Neel de Stafford,' of whom I know nothing more.

<sup>a</sup> Montacute Chartulary (pr. by the Somerset Arch. Soc.), p. 166, charter 130.

The above may be said to represent all the *facts* which we at present know about the Nigel de Stafford of Domesday: what remains is more or less probable conjecture. We can only say that it is very improbable that Nigel had no connexion with Robert de Stafford, and that if he was a son of the latter, all the facts we know about him fall into their places. The rather rare name Nicholas, it may be noticed, occurs in both Nigel's and Robert's families. It has been suggested that Nigel may have been the 'miles' of Henry de Ferrers who held Stafford Castle in 1086, and thence derived his surname; but this is at present only conjecture. With respect to Nigel's descendants we are on safe ground: for we may with practical certainty identify two sets of three persons, father, son and grandson, namely the Gresley line, Nigel de Stafford—William de Gresley—Robert de Gresley, and the Ferrers tenants, Nigel—William fitz Nigel—Robert fitz William. Nigel may have lived till about 1115: see p. 33, note <sup>m</sup>. In one case it appears that Nigel de Stafford is called, after his death, Nigel de Gresley, namely in the Pipe Rolls referred to on pp. 28, 33. If this be so, it is a further proof, if proof were still needed, of the descent of the Gresleys from Nigel de Stafford.

The evidence so far brings before us a man possessing considerable property in Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire, partly as lord, partly as tenant of Henry de Ferrers, Richard Forestarius, the Bishop of Chester and

Ralph fitz-Hubert. Of Robert de Stafford, who holds still larger estates near to Nigel, chiefly in Staffordshire, he is in no case a tenant<sup>a</sup>. No other Nigel occurs in the Domesday record of the three counties, and a considerable number of the holdings reappear in the hands of the Gresley family a generation or two later, the first Gresley being confessedly a fitz-Nigel.

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<sup>a</sup> See however Salt Soc. i. 180 about Bromley Bagot.

The name of Nigel's wife is not known, even traditionally. His children were:—

1. William fitz-Nigel de Gresley, see p. 24.

2. Nicholas fitz-Nigel de Gresley, who married Margaret, see below. Before 1149 he founded the Priory of Black or Austin canons at Calwich<sup>r</sup> in the parish of Ellastone in Staffordshire: and before 1167 Kenilworth Abbey received<sup>r</sup> that Priory and its lands 'ex dono Nicholai filii Nigelli et Margaretæ uxoris suæ': Margaret is known to have been the ward<sup>s</sup> of Geoffrey de Clinton the founder of Kenilworth abbey. Margaret also gave the church of Longford<sup>t</sup> as of her own patrimony to Kenilworth ('Margareta uxor Nicholai filii Nigelli'), and confirmed it by a formal deed because 'Dominus meus Nicholas' her husband had disturbed the monks in their possession of it: and finally her husband 'Nicholaüs de Greseleia'<sup>u</sup> with the consent of his brother William and his wife Margaret and for the soul of his father Nigel confirmed his wife's grant. Nicholas must have died soon after, for we find his widow with a son William in a deed<sup>u</sup> of about 1160-70 (Eyton thinks 1166). Another son Simon occurs as a witness in a deed already quoted<sup>t</sup>. The further succession will be found in the pedigree of Stafford. This branch of the Stafford line soon abandoned the name of de Gresley and assumed that of de Longford<sup>v</sup>, Longford having come to Nicholas through his wife Margaret de Bubendon (an old name of part of Longford). Nicholas had a daughter Felicia<sup>w</sup>, who married Rogerus Duredent.

<sup>r</sup> Dugd. Mon. ed. Ellis, vi. 224.

<sup>s</sup> Dugd. Warw. 2nd ed., i. 239.

<sup>t</sup> Dugd. Mon. vi. 224.

<sup>u</sup> Tutbury cartul. in Trin. Coll. Camb. libr., charter 250, p. 99.

<sup>v</sup> Derb. Visits<sup>s</sup>, cf. Chetham Soc. xlii. 113, Bodl. MS. Dodsw. lxxxii, fol. 16.

<sup>w</sup> Bodl. MS. Dugd. 18, fol. 43<sup>y</sup>.

3. A daughter, a nun (?) at Elstow, see above.

### The Devil of Drakelowe.

One single narrative, part legendary, part historical, has preserved some notice of Drakelowe in the years immediately following the Great Survey. Dugdale in his *Monasticon Anglicanum*<sup>x</sup> quotes the *Chronica Abbatum de Burton* (a sixteenth-century MS.?), which testifies to a common saying 'The Devill of Drakelowe,' and states that it arose from a story of two Stapenhill rustics who fled from the abbot of Burton to Roger the Poitevin, and for

<sup>x</sup> Ed. Ellis, iii. 47, cf. Bodl. MS. Dugd. F. 1, p. 13.

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their faithlessness brought down the vengeance of Modwenna the patron saint of Burton Abbey. The Chronicle also states that this was during the abbacy of Galfridus de Mala Terra, who was abbot in 1085-94, so that in all probability the miracle or ghost story belongs to about 1090-94, when Drakelowe was held by Roger for the second time<sup>7</sup>. The only surviving narrative of the event is the *Tractatus de Miraculis* which follows the *Life of St. Modwenna*<sup>8</sup> written by Gaufridus who was abbot of Burton from 1114-51 and may well have been a contemporary witness. The *Life of the same saint by Concupranus*, which has been printed<sup>9</sup>, has no mention of it, nor the brief printed *Annals of Burton*.

<sup>7</sup> see pp. 32-33.

<sup>8</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Royal 15 B iv, fol. 87r.

<sup>9</sup> *Acta Sanctorum*, July, ii. 297.

The tractate states that two villeins who lived at Stapenhill under the jurisdiction of the abbot of Burton fled 'ad uillam proximam que Drachelawa dicitur, relinquentes inique dominos suos monachos et manere cupientes sub potestate Rogerii Comititis qui Pictauensis cognominabatur.' The abbey officers promptly seized the corn which was to have been given out to the delinquents, who meanwhile told the Count so mendacious a story, as the chronicle says, that he threatened the abbot, seized all the corn at Stapenhill, and sent soldiers to the abbey lands at Blakepol, who challenged the abbot's ten soldiers to fight. The abbot rushed to St. Modwenna's shrine, while his ten retainers, against orders, sallied forth and fought sixty of the count's followers including the 'dapifer Comititis,' with varying results. The day after the two refugees were seized with illness, died, and were buried the next morning at Stapenhill in wooden coffins (*archae ligneae*). Then followed a terrible scene. That same evening before sunset the figures of these two were seen bearing their coffins in fantastic fashion on their shoulders and rushing about the paths and fields at Drakelowe, assuming the appearance of bears or hounds or other animals. This continued all night, and the position became intolerable when these creatures began to bang their coffins against the walls of the houses, crying, 'Forward,



forward with haste, bestir yourselves and come.' Every evening and every night this happened, till, to cap everything, an epidemic seized the place and nearly everybody died, except two rustics and Drogo the Count's bailiff. The Count went in penitence to the abbot, and made full restitution, but the Saint was not so easily pacified as her Abbot. The two rustics themselves fell ill, and some neighbours, still in deadly fright of the nocturnal visitants, exhumed the bodies of the two original refugees, bore off their hearts 'ad collem qui Dodefresford nuncupatur,' and burnt them there. Just when this was completed an evil spirit in the shape of a flying crow was seen to emerge from the flames. This was no doubt the Devil of Drakelow, and his appearance sent every one into ecstasies of fright. Even the two rustics, as soon as they saw the smoke of the fire, suddenly found themselves quite well enough to rise from their sick beds and flee with wives and children, bag and baggage, 'ad uillam proximam que Greseleia dicitur.' Thus was Drakelow utterly depopulated, and remained so for a long time, such fear was there of the wrath of St. Modwenna and such wonder at the miracles wrought for her sake.

So runs the legend, and we can see through it with some certitude a quarrel between Roger the Poitevin and the Abbot of Burton, an encounter between their retainers, and an epidemic disease which shortly after depopulated Drakelow and caused a migration of rich and poor to Gresley—a circumstance which probably caused the name of Gresley instead of Drakelow to be attached to the family commemorated in the present volume. We seem to recover old place-names in Blakepol and Dodefresford Hill: but they cannot at present be identified.

An article on 'S. Modwen and "The Devill of Drakelow"' will be found in the *Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society's Journal*, vol. xvii. (1895), p. 49: and one on the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon (pagan) cemetery at Stapenhill in the *Burton-on-Trent Natural History and Archaeological Society's Transactions*, vol. i. (1889), p. 156.

## CHAPTER III

### THE EARLY GRESLEYS

THE century and a half after the Domesday Survey of 1086 is the darkest of all the byways which the genealogist has to tread. The first kind of public document which he finds to hand after losing the light of the Survey is the series of Pipe Rolls, the earliest of which is perhaps of the year 1129-30: but the interval of forty years and much of the succeeding century are only to be studied in monastic charters or chronicles of the time. It must not be wondered at, therefore, if the first few Gresleys are shadowy personages, the dates of whose birth and death are unrecorded and of whom no personal traits are preserved. It will therefore be well in these early pages to give the precise name or title which occurs in a document quoted, whether 'de Greseleia,' 'fitz Nigel' or the like: so that, when the writer has to assume for the time the identity of a 'de Gresley' with a 'fitz Nigel,' it will be at once recognized by the reader as an assumption, until such time as the accumulation of evidence translates it into a fact.

#### **William fitz Nigel de Gresley.**

(occ. 1129, d. 1166?)

The earliest Gresley bore the name of William. No account whatever has come down to us of the reason for his assumption of that surname, although we have seen that it was perhaps naturally due to the depopulation of Drakelowe, and the migration of its inhabitants to Gresley. The village itself (now divided into Church Gresley

and Castle Gresley, both in Derbyshire) is about four miles S.E. of Burton-on-Trent and three miles E.S.E. of Drakelowe, about halfway between Swadlincote and Linton, two neighbouring manors of Nigel de Stafford mentioned in Domesday. It may be noted that the Gresley in Nottinghamshire is about twenty-two miles N.E. of Burton and is throughout this book distinguished by the *a* in its first syllable.

Almost the only definite dated fact about William de Gresley is the following entry in the earliest Pipe Roll (1129-30) under Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, 'Willelmus de Griseleia reddit comptum de x marcis argenti pro conuentione de terra inter eum & Radulphum Barret. In thesauro xl s et debet vij marcas argenti.' Nothing more is known of this transaction, which may relate to land in Kingsley, but Barret is undoubtedly an error for, or phonetic variety of, Basset.

There is however an earlier mention of him, in a Leicestershire survey, recently discovered by Mr. J. H. Round<sup>a</sup> in the Public Record Office, and dated by him as between 1124 and 1129, 'Hundred de Dichesword. In Widesers iij carucatae Willelmi de Greseleia. Idem in Lintona j carucata.' Both these were held by Nigel de Stafford in 1086.

<sup>a</sup> Feudal England, p. 200.

William also appears as a witness to several deeds, as (1) to the foundation deed<sup>b</sup> of Trentham abbey by Ralph de Gernon Earl of Chester, between 1142 and 1154 executed 'apud Greselegam' ('Willielmus de Gresele'): (2) to the deed of gift<sup>c</sup> from Enisanus and Ernaldus to Kenilworth abbey of the church of Stane ('Willielmus de Greseleia'): (3) to a notification<sup>d</sup> of a sale by Ralph de Seile, in about 1166 ('Willelmus de Gresele').

<sup>b</sup> Dugd. Mon., ed. Ellis, vi. 397.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. vi. 232.

<sup>d</sup> Gres. Ch. 3: Gres. Chartul. p. 16.

Willelmus de Gresele also confirmed<sup>e</sup> to Robert fitz Abraham twelve acres of ground which Robert's father held of William's father 'in villa de Gresele.' Among the witnesses to this is Reginald prior of Gresley. This is important for if William de Gresley be proved to be the son of Nigel de Stafford, this deed proves that the latter held land in Gresley itself.

<sup>e</sup> Gres. Chartul. p. 18.

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A 'Willielmus de Greilli' is witness to a deed of Ralph de Gernon Earl of Chester (*d.* 1153) giving land to St. Werburgh's at Chester: the deed was dated 'apud Greselegam,' and is printed in *Dugd. Mon.* ii. 388 (ed. Ellis). The spelling 'Greilli' is a solitary instance of confusion between the families of Grely and Gresley at this early date.

So far we have found William de Gresley as a landowner in Gresley and living at least in 1129 and 1142: we must now connect him with the Ferrers tenant William fitz Nigel. This can be done by means of a deed<sup>f</sup> of June 6, 1325, in which Geoffrey de Gresley describes himself as 'filz et heir monsieur Pieres de Greseleie et cousin et heir Willame fiz Nel de Greseleie foundour de la Priore de Seont Jorge de Greseleie,' and grants to the priory certain privileges. Now Geoffrey here asserts in the presence of the prior and convent that the founder of Gresley priory was William fitz Nigel (Neel) de Gresley<sup>g</sup>. It is impossible that he could have stated this had it been false, or that the convent did not know who their own founder was: so we may assume that William de Gresley was a son of Nigel. Nigel de Stafford is the person to whom all these converging presumptions point, so that on the whole we may feel secure in affirming that the relationship of Nigel de Stafford and William fitz Nigel de Gresley was that of father and son.

It is usually stated that William de Gresley also founded the Castle of Gresley, of which the old central earthwork in the shape of a mound still exists, but though this is probable no distinct mention of a castle is found till 1268 when a mill in Castle Gresley<sup>h</sup> (*molendinum de Castro Gresel'*) is mentioned: in 1300-1 land in 'Castel Gresley'<sup>i</sup> is also recorded.

Now that we know that William de Gresley was William fitz Nigel, we may identify him without any doubt with the witness of those names in the deed<sup>j</sup> by which Robert Earl of Ferrers founded Merevale abbey in 1148-9. It is practically certain also that he is referred to in the important

<sup>f</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 6671, fol. 35: Gr. Chartul. p. 36.

<sup>g</sup> The foundation was not later than 1157, see App. A.

<sup>h</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 20.

<sup>i</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 26.

<sup>j</sup> *Dugd. Mon.* ed. Ellis, v. 482.

statement which is found in the *Liber Niger Scaccarii*<sup>k</sup>, that William fitz Nigel held four knight's fees of the Earl of Ferrers, and that Robert his son then held them. William fitz Nigel (de Gresley) is witness in 1150-52 to a deed<sup>l</sup> of Walter Bp. of Coventry: but probably died not later than 1166, as his son held his father's knight's fees in that year.

William's wife is traditionally stated to have borne the name of **Elena**, but there is no proof of this, and the earliest mention of the name at present found is the pedigree entitled 'Greseleiorum stemma antiquissima' (*sic*), composed in 1583. Their issue was:—

1. Robert, see p. 29.

2. Engenulph de Gresley, who is directly stated to be Robert's brother in an exchange deed<sup>m</sup> between the two. He made an important marriage by wedding Alina, daughter<sup>n</sup> and heiress of Robert fitz-Orm (or de Buckenhall<sup>o</sup>) and Mabilia de Perpunt, which Robert was son of Orm le Guidon de Derlaveston, who married a daughter of Nicholatis the Domesday sheriff of Staffordshire. This brought Darlaston into the family, and also land in and near Tunstall<sup>p</sup>. Alina, also found as Edelina, Alicia and Elena, survived her husband<sup>q</sup>, but he was alive in about 1166 when he occurs as holding  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a knight's fee under Robert de Stafford grandson of the Robert of Domesday. Engenulph had only one son, Robert de Gresley, who died without issue after 1204 (see p. 30); and his two daughters Dionysia and Petronilla became his heirs. It is nearly certain that he had a third daughter Hawisia, but it appears to be just possible that she was Robert's wife and daughter of 'Hawisius' or Hugh de Burstal, for (1) she is never called, as Dionysia and Petronilla often are, daughter of Engenulph, and (2) in no other way can I explain the deed of John de Evington found on p. 7 of the Gresley Chartulary, by which he gives to Hawisia formerly wife of Robert de Gresley land in Thurmaston near Leicester near a pond of Hawisius de Burstale her father (called Hugo de Burstale in a pedigree on the same page of the Chartulary). If this be true, Robert must have died before 1208, for before November in that year she married Henry de Verdun<sup>r</sup>. Of Dionysia, lady of Darlaston (as of Petronilla her sister) there are several deeds extant<sup>s</sup>, and, probably after 1208<sup>t</sup>, she married Stephen de Wiverston<sup>u</sup>, and was alive in 1227<sup>v</sup> with a son Henry.

It is possible that Petronilla married as her first husband Adam de Audley (Aldithele), as Ward<sup>v</sup> asserts, for in a list of Adam's son Henry's lands in 1226-7<sup>w</sup> occur Tunstall, Chaterlege, Chelle and Northmancote as given him by Engenulph and his wife, but there is no proof of the marriage, and certainly in 1208<sup>r</sup> Petronilla was already married,

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<sup>k</sup> R. S. xcix. i. 336 (A. D. 1160-66), cf. J. H. Round's Feudal Engl., p. 214.

<sup>l</sup> Salt Soc. iii. i. 183-4.

<sup>m</sup> In about 1820 owned by S. P. Wolferstan esq.; cf. Salt Soc. iv. i. 206.

<sup>n</sup> Eyton, Staff. pp. 53, 80-1. 87-9: the Stone Chartulary and

Harwood's Erdeswick's Staff. are inaccurate. See also Ward's Stoke on Trent, App. p. lvi, cf. p. 540.

<sup>o</sup> Bodl. MS. Ashm. 833, p. 227.

<sup>p</sup> Plac. de Quo Warr. 710: Ward's Stoke, App. p. iii.

<sup>q</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Cotton Vesp. E. 24, fol. 5.

<sup>r</sup> Fines ii. 31: cf. Salt Soc. iv. i. 206.

<sup>s</sup> Salt Soc. vi. i. 7-10.

<sup>t</sup> Salt Soc. v. i. 13: Gresl. Chartul. p. 6.

<sup>u</sup> Salt Soc. iv. i. 66.

<sup>v</sup> Stoke on Trent 541.

<sup>w</sup> Bodl. MS. Dodsw. ii. 67<sup>y</sup>, liv. 92<sup>v</sup>, cf. cxii. 44<sup>v</sup>.

- CHAP. III. to Robert de Suggenhall, and both were alive in 15 Hen. 3<sup>x</sup> (1230-1). John an illegitimate son of Alina is also mentioned<sup>y</sup>. For the descendants of Hawisia and Dionysia, see Brit. Mus. MS. Cotton Vesp. E. 24, fol. 15<sup>v</sup>: Petronilla probably had no children by Robert. For another Engenulph de Gresley of this time, see below: and for an Audley pedigree see Bodl. MS. Ashm. 1107, p. 244, from Dugdale, and note in ped. ii (p. 224).
- <sup>x</sup> Bodl. MS. Dodsw. xcvi, fol. 32<sup>v</sup>.
- <sup>y</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Cotton Vesp. E. 24, foll. 5, 7<sup>v</sup>: Salt Soc. v. 1. 13, vi. 1. 8, 9, 14.
- <sup>z</sup> Gresl. Charters 2, 4-7: Salt Soc. iii. 2. 87: Derb. Visitn. of 1611: Dugd. Mon. vi. 809 = Rott, Londin. p. 16, cf. Nichols Leic. iv. 633.
- <sup>a</sup> Eyton in Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 31940.
- <sup>b</sup> Derb. Arch. Soc. viii. 138, cf. Feud. Derb. i. 122.
- <sup>c</sup> Gresl. Chartul. pp. 15, 29.
- <sup>d</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 31940, fol. 211<sup>v</sup>.
- <sup>e</sup> Derb. Chh. iii. 387.
- <sup>f</sup> Gresl. Charters 3-7: Brit. Mus. Wolley Charter x. 21, cf. Gresl. Chartul. p. 22.
- <sup>g</sup> Endorsement of Gresl. Charter 4.
- <sup>h</sup> Feud. Derb. i. 165.
- <sup>i</sup> Gresl. Charters 4, 5, figured in Jeayes pl. 1.
- <sup>j</sup> Salt Soc. iv. 1. 114.
- <sup>k</sup> Gresl. Charter 5 (facsimile in Jeayes).
3. **Nigel de Gresley.** Nigel and his three next brothers are proved by their appearance as witnesses to a deed between their two elder brothers quoted above (note <sup>m</sup>, p. 27). The Nigel de Gresley recorded in the Pipe Rolls of 1171, 1172, 1189 and 1202 as holding land in the honour of Lancaster (the place is given as 'in Drakelawa' at the last two dates) is in all probability Nigel de Stafford, his name being continued long after his death: see more at p. 33.
4. **Henry de Gresley**<sup>z</sup> or de Wetmore<sup>a</sup> occurs in about 1177-8, in one case as a knight<sup>b</sup> under the Earl of Derby.
5. **William** may be the William de Gresley who was rector of Lullington<sup>c</sup>. He was dead in 1168 according to Eyton<sup>d</sup> and Cox<sup>e</sup>.
6. **Ralph de Gresley**<sup>f</sup> or de Hethre<sup>g</sup> granted land in Seile, Hether and Ravenstone, and was married. He paid scutage in 1204-5<sup>h</sup>. His seal occurs on two deeds now at Drakelowe<sup>i</sup>. I know of no other Ralph de Gresley who can be referred to in a Plea Roll of (probably) 33 Hen. 3 (1248-9)<sup>j</sup>. There a Margaret, who had married first Ralph de Gresley and secondly Ralph Grim, sues William de Gresley son of Geoffrey on behalf of a son John (by Ralph) under age, about the manor of Hethcote which Geoffrey had given to John's ancestors.
- 7, 8. **Sisters** are mentioned in a notification to the Bp. of Lincoln of a grant<sup>k</sup> by Ralph de Gresley 'omnium fratrum meorum & sororum').

#### Engenulph de Gresley, &c.

It may be worth while at this point to introduce some notice of another family of Gresleys which cannot at present be connected with the main line of the family.

In the Gresley Chartulary at p. 6 is the following pedigree. Paganus de Gresley had a son Richard de Gresley, who had a son Ingenulphus de Gresley (who married Letitia), and two daughters, Agatha (married to Radulphus Grime), and Juliana wife of Robert le Spencer ('Dispensator'). Richard may have had two other sons Richard and Robert who

appear as witnesses to deeds of William and Robert de Gresley. The pedigree above is probably based on two deeds at p. 27 of the Chartulary (one about land at Drake-*lowe*), and Robert Dispensarius de Gresley (Priory ?) occurs in Gresley Charter 66. The date of the last of the three generations is clearly about A.D. 1320. Engenulph is a rare name, but shared by both these Gresley families and by the Ferrers, their close associates.

There is also a mysterious **Reginald** de Gresley connected by marriage with the Boyleston family, of whom something must be said. The cardinal document is a memorandum<sup>1</sup> on fol. 2 of the Ridware Chartulary, which proves that Thomas lord of Boyleston and of Draycote-under-Needwood (which latter he held under the Earl of Ferrers) had a daughter Hawisia who married firstly 'J.' (almost certainly an error for 'R.' = Reginald) de Gresley and secondly Ralph Pecche. By her first husband she had a son Reginald, called de Boyleston or de Gresley, who died without children, and by her second a son Nicholas. The first Reginald is found in about 1162-67<sup>m</sup>, and the second in 1192-94<sup>n</sup>. The following references corroborate the above:—Brit. Mus. Harl. Charter 111. F. 59, and Wolley Charter X. 20 and 21: Nichols *Leic.* iii. 982\*, Cox *Derb. Chh.* iii. 15, *Rott. Cur. Reg.* i. 100, and the *Liber Niger Scaccarii*, which states that the first Reginald held two knight's fees of the Earl Ferrers.

<sup>1</sup> Salt Soc. xvi. 257-8.

<sup>m</sup> R. S. xcix. i. 337; Yeatm. Feud. Derb. ii. 288: Gresl. Charters 3.  
<sup>n</sup> E. Shirley's Stemm. Shirl. App. p. 8, 2nd ed. p. 348: Salt Soc. iii. 1. 28.

### Robert de Gresley

(occ. 1166—abt. 1183.)

Of this Robert nothing of importance is recorded: his name is found from 1166 till about 1183. At the former date he holds one knight's fee<sup>o</sup> under the Bishop of Coventry in Morton, Tamhorn and Wolseley, and also holds four knight's fees<sup>p</sup> in the Ferrers Derbyshire fief, as his father William Fitz-Nigel had done in the time of Henry I. There is also a grant to him from the abbot and convent of Burton<sup>q</sup> of Darlaston, not before 1167:

### ii

<sup>o</sup> R. S. xcix. i. 263 (Red Bk. of Exch.); Salt Soc. i. 147, 153 (Black Bk. of Exch.).  
<sup>p</sup> R. S. xcix. i. 336.  
<sup>q</sup> Gresl. Charter 2 (= Chartul. p. 22, and Salt Soc. v. i. 40), Eyton Staff. 81-2.

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<sup>r</sup> Gresl.  
Chartul. p. 22,  
Bodl. MS.  
Dodsw. xcvi.  
13, Brit. Mus.  
MS. Harl.  
1077, fol. 8<sup>v</sup>,  
Qu. Coll. Oxf.  
MS. H. 5,  
p. 24<sup>v</sup>. It did  
not take effect.

and an interesting deed consisting of a quit-claim<sup>r</sup> to him by William Earl of Ferrers of the service of one knight to wit of Hethdra and Ravenst(one), which Ralph, brother of Robert, held of the Earl, so that Robert's service was reduced to three knights instead of four. General Wrottesley considers this to be a very unusual deed, perhaps evidencing a quarrel between the two brothers, but may it not rather be a case of sub-infeudation? An exchange deed between him and his younger brother Engenulph ('Ingold') by which the former gave land in Swadlincote (Derb.), Kingsley and Bredley (both Staff.) for land in Morton (Staff.) has been mentioned<sup>s</sup>: it was produced in evidence at the Staffordshire assizes of 127 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

<sup>s</sup> note <sup>m</sup>, p. 27.

There has been considerable confusion hitherto between this Robert and his nephew Robert de Gresley son of Engenulph. There is so little direct evidence for Engenulph's son that it is worth while to go into detail. It is seemingly certain that the Robert de Gresley of the elder branch died in or before 1184, and that his son William succeeded him in about that year, see p. 32. Yet it is absolutely certain that a Robert de Gresley is found in various deeds up to 1204. No other Robert is known except the traditional son of Engenulph who has probably dropped out of sight because, he having no issue, his sisters and widow were co-heirs and inherited the property. The point shows itself even in the Gresley Chartulary, for the pedigree on p. 7 inserts a whole generation between Robert son of William and his son William, namely a Robert who married 'Havisia filia Hugonis de Burstale.' This latter fact is no doubt based on the deed of John de Evington mentioned above<sup>t</sup>.

<sup>t</sup> p. 27.

We have then to distinguish between two Robert de Gresleys. The deeds above mentioned are certainly rightly assigned to the two respectively, and the Robert de Gresley who was by writ excused a scutage in 1204-5<sup>u</sup> in the honour of Peverell was presumably Engenulph's son, while the Robert de Gresley who accounted with others for five

<sup>u</sup> Feud. Derb.  
165.



marks for the duel of the Earl of Ferrers<sup>v</sup> in 1176-7 was no doubt the other. But some ambiguous references remain<sup>w</sup>, and one of difficulty. In 1210<sup>x</sup> among the 'Prestita facta [money advanced] militibus apud Grenoc' occurs Robert de Gresley (cs.): this may however be a repeated record of a loan, carried on from year to year unchanged, or else by an unusual confusion of names the reference is to a Robert de Grelly, see App. D. And this may account for the Robertus Gresle who occurs in scutage rolls of 1220-21<sup>y</sup> and of 1221-22<sup>z</sup>. There is a curious story at fol. 98 of the Burton Chartulary<sup>a</sup> which conceivably relates to this Robert. One Wakelin de Winterton acquired from Ralph de Caldwell his manor of Caldwell, but, as far as can be gathered from the discoloured record, did not actually gain possession, until by the help of 'Dominus Robertus de Greyseley,' to whom Wakelin promised 40s. for his assistance, Ralph was turned out: nevertheless Ralph was subsequently allowed by Wakelin to be tenant of Caldwell for life. However, Wakelin refused to pay the 40s. and Robert thereupon killed him ('per eundem Robertum occisus est' Waclynus).

That Robert's wife's name was **Basilia** is certain from a deed already mentioned<sup>a</sup>. Their children were:—

1. **William**, see p. 32.

2. **Henry**, who occurs as a witness ('Henricus filius Roberti de Gresleia') to a deed<sup>b</sup> by his father. He had a son Nicholas de Norton to whom (as Nicholaüs filius Henrici de Gresley) the abbot of Burton at some date between 1188 and 1197 granted<sup>c</sup> land in Withmere jure hereditario, as his father held it. There is also a deed<sup>d</sup> by which Nicholaüs de Norton filius Henrici de Gresley gives to his son Roger de Norton, then engaged to be married, the land in Withmere which Nicholas had previously given with his daughter Cecilia's hand to Ralph de Roucester, for a rent of 4s. 2d. a year. At a later date, in 1309, a 'Henricus de Norton Gresleye' was ordained<sup>e</sup> priest at Colwich upon his patrimonial title and by letters dimissory from the Bp. of Lincoln.

3. **Nicholas** de Gresley is mentioned in one pedigree<sup>f</sup> (which omits Henry) as a son of Robert de Gresley, but is probably a reference to Robert's grandson, if not a simple mistake.

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<sup>v</sup> Feud. Derb. i. 122.

<sup>w</sup> Bodl. MS. Dodsw. xcvi, fol. 13=31<sup>v</sup>, xii, fol. 134: R. S. xcix. i. 419, &c.

<sup>x</sup> Lib. Rolls, p. 186.

<sup>y</sup> Bodl. MS. Dodsw. ciii, p. 53.

<sup>z</sup> Genealogist N. S. i. 74.

<sup>a</sup> Salt Soc. v. 1. 89: Derb. Arch. Soc. vii. 143. See however p. 45 to which place this incident should probably be transferred.

<sup>a</sup> note<sup>m</sup>, p. 27.

<sup>b</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 15.

<sup>c</sup> Salt Soc. v. 1. 43.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. 45.

<sup>e</sup> Lichf. Episc. Reg. i. 109.

<sup>f</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 5.

## CHAP. III.

## iii

## William de Gresley.

(occ. 1184-1220.)

Even with the second William de Gresley we hardly emerge into a clearer light, the records about him being still inconsiderable. He nowhere seems to call himself definitely William son of Robert, but in the Pipe Roll for Warwickshire and Leicestershire in 1183-4 we find that 'Willelmus de Greselea reddit computum de xxx marcis pro habenda terra patris sui, tam de feodo comitis Cestrie quam de feodo episcopi Cestriensis' and no other William de Gresley is known to have been alive at that time, while the entry appears to give the date of Robert's death. His close connexion with the Ferrers family and his frequent title Dominus de Lullington are among the presumptions which lead one to feel sure of the parentage of this William. He is concerned also in a dispute about the advowson of Kingston<sup>g</sup>, the church which William fitz Nigel certainly owned, and which William states that his grandfather William did own. The deeds in which he occurs as a witness range from 1194<sup>h</sup> to 1220<sup>i</sup>. One, undated, appears to bear his seal: it is a grant<sup>j</sup> by him of land at Wetley (Heteleia), and the seal bears the legend + SIGILL' WILLELMI DE GRESLEIA, round a knight on horseback with drawn sword (Birch's Catal. of Brit. Mus. Seals no. 6076, 'early 13th cent.'). This is the first Gresley seal of the main line, but two damaged ones of William's uncle Ralph de Gresley are at Drakelowe<sup>k</sup>.

<sup>g</sup> Placita Westm. 70: Salt Soc. iii. i. 48-9, 64, cf. i. 223. See also Testa de Neville, 47, 49, 51.

<sup>h</sup> Salt Soc. iii. i. 28.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid. iv. 11.

<sup>j</sup> Brit. Mus. Wolley Ch. v. 33.

<sup>k</sup> Gresl. Charter 4, 5 (facs. in Jeayes).

There is an important set of deeds connecting this William with Drakelowe. We have seen that in about 1090-94 a pestilence occurred at Drakelowe and drove nearly all its inhabitants to Gresley, and it appears probable that Nigel's son William lived at Gresley in consequence, and built the Castle there. But the actual history of Drakelowe between Nigel's time and 1200 is matter of conjecture. It was perhaps always part of the great Lancaster fief, which was soon after 1066 in the hands of Roger the Poitevin, but

at some time before 1086<sup>1</sup> was temporarily escheated to the Crown, which granted Drakelowe to Nigel de Stafford in or before that year. Roger again held it from about 1090 until he was expelled from England in 1103 for complicity in the rising of his brother Robert de Belesme. The whole fief was then finally forfeited to the Crown, and Henry I gave it<sup>m</sup> to his nephew Stephen of Blois: and he when King presented it to Ralph de Gernon Earl of Chester, who as we have seen dates one of his deeds 'apud Greselegam.' At the accession of Henry II (1154) the fief again reverted to the Crown. But these vicissitudes in the history of the Honour of Lancaster do not preclude the idea of a tenancy by the Gresleys. And in the Pipe Rolls of 1170-71, 1171-72, 1188-89 and 1201-2 certain lands in the fief are held by a Nigel de Gresley, and these lands are known from the later references to be Drakelowe, which seems to have been in or before 1188 granted out of the corpus of the Honour by the King. This Nigel seems to have been Nigel<sup>n</sup> de Stafford, the name of the original tenant being often continued long after his death, in this section of the Pipe Rolls. In these Pipe-roll entries Nigel's name is given in juxtaposition with that of a William fitz Walkelin, who was of Duston in Northamptonshire, but Walkelin is also a Ferrers name and unusual outside that family. A Walkelin was brother of William Earl Ferrers (*d.* 1191) and is said to have married a De Toeni, and that very Earl's son William (Earl Ferrers, *d.* 1247) did in 1192 marry Agnes a grand-daughter and heiress of Ralph de Gernon Earl of Chester. In this way we find the Ferrers family brought near to Drakelowe and Gresley, and we are thus prepared for the set of deeds referred to above.

The one *dated* deed is a royal grant of March 17, 1201<sup>o</sup>, confirming to William de Ferrers Earl of Derby and to his heirs 'servitium Willielmi de Greseleia et heredum suorum

<sup>m</sup> This transference took place in about 1114-1116, at which date the Honour of Lancaster probably came into existence. Since the later Pipe Rolls seem to imply that Drakelowe was confirmed to Nigel de Stafford as part of that Honour, it would seem probable that Nigel lived till at least about A. D. 1115. (Gen. Wrottesley.)

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<sup>1</sup> see Domesday Survey.

<sup>m</sup> see at foot.

<sup>n</sup> see pp. 18, 28.

<sup>o</sup> Rymer's *Fœdera* (Lond. 1816) i. 82; Rott. Londin. 92; Charter Rolls 11.

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p Testa de  
 Neville pp.  
 17, 18, 409  
 (Feud. Derb.  
 i. 401, 409):  
 Brit. Mus.  
 MS. Harl.  
 6671, fol. 33:  
 R. S. xcix. ii.  
 566, 571, 587.  
 q Salt Soc. iv.  
 11.  
 r Brit. Mus.  
 MS. Cotton  
 Calig. A. viii:  
 cf. Bodl. MS.  
 Dugd. 39, fol.  
 12: Pegge's  
 Beauchief  
 Abbey (1801)  
 p. 186:  
 Hearne's  
 Chron. Joh.  
 Glaston.  
 (1726) ii. 562.  
 s Leic. iii.  
 1009\*.  
 t Cox, Derb.  
 Chh. iii. 388.  
 u Surrey  
 Arch. Ass.  
 Extr. vol. i.  
 10.  
 v Gresl.  
 Charter 73:  
 Gresl.  
 Chartul. pp.  
 23, 29.  
 w Gresl.  
 Chartul. p. 30.  
 x Brit. Mus.  
 MS. Eg. 996,  
 fol. 78: Bodl.  
 MS. Dodsw.  
 xcvi, foll. 32<sup>v</sup>,  
 34: Staff.  
 Visit<sup>n</sup>.  
 y Fine Rolls  
 ii. 90, cf.  
 Bodl. MS.  
 Dodsw. xv,  
 fol. 296<sup>v</sup>.

de terra de Drakelawe, quam de nobis tenuit idem Willielmus, per liberum servitium unius arcus et unius pharetre et duodecim sagittarum per annum.' Here is evidence that William de Gresley held Drakelowe of King John by the service of a bow, quiver and twelve arrows yearly, and that in 1201 the Earl of Ferrers appears as mesne Lord holding Drakelowe in capite of the King and sub-granting it to William de Gresley, to be held by the same service.

Round this dated deed are grouped other records, some dated, some undated, which show<sup>p</sup> that the Earl held the land of the King by the same service as that by which William held it of the Earl, that Drakelowe was of the Honour of Lancaster, that the bow was to be without string, the quiver of Tutbury or Lancaster make (Tutbury being the Earl's chief seat), the arrows feathered, that 'i bozo' (broad-headed shaft) was also required: and that this arrangement was in force till 1217-18 at least. The last mention of William de Gresley is in April 1220<sup>q</sup> as one of twelve jurymen summoned at Lichfield.

The name of William de Gresley's wife **Basilia** is certain (unless there be an error in the original record) from the Calendar of the Præmonstratensian Abbey of Beauchief<sup>r</sup>, which has come down to us. There, opposite July 26 (vii Kal. Aug.), occurs 'Commemoratio Basille matris Galfridi de Gresely': and of no other Geoffrey but this William's son could the mother's name have been Basilla or Basilia. Nichols<sup>s</sup> notes that the two Basilias need corroboration, but unless *matris* be used loosely for *aviae*, both are proved satisfactorily. The one here commemorated was probably a benefactress to the abbey. Their issue was:—

1. **Geoffrey** de Gresley, see p. 35.
2. **Henry** de Gresley, rector of Lullington in about 1225<sup>t</sup>, whose wife may possibly have been named Alice<sup>u</sup>, and who certainly had two sons Geoffrey and Henry both de Lullington<sup>v</sup>.
3. **Agatha**, once called Agnes<sup>w</sup>, who married Geoffrey de Bec<sup>x</sup>.
4. **Alice** who married Richard fitz Gilbert<sup>x</sup>. She probably survived her husband, for in 1250<sup>y</sup> Geoffrey de Everle has the custody of her lands. For a supposed William see p. 38, n. <sup>k</sup>.

## Geoffrey de Gresley.

(occ. 1210-1240.)

## iv

The name Geoffrey first appears with this de Gresley, and may some day be a clue or corroboration when his mother's family is known, for neither the De Toenis nor Staffords nor Ferrers exhibit it, while other distinctive names such as Engenulph and Petronilla are apparently from the last-named family. The eldest grandson of the present Geoffrey bore the name, and also *his* grandson, but from 1440 to 1740 it does not occur again.

Geoffrey was clearly a person of distinction and high in the esteem of William Earl Ferrers, who in 1192 married Agnes the sister and co-heir of Ranulph Earl of Chester, and who through her received large estates between the Ribble and the Mersey which had belonged to her father. It will be remembered that that Earl of Chester was connected with Gresley, and his daughter's name perhaps suggested that of the prioress of Gresley (see below, p. 36).

The first mention of Geoffrey is in the Praestita Roll<sup>z</sup> of 1210, when among the sums of money advanced (praestita facta) to the knights in Ireland where King John was conducting a campaign, are sums of fifty marks, forty, and sixty, advanced to the Earl Ferrers and delivered over (for transfer to the Earl) to Geoffrey de Gresley. In 1220 he and his wife are sued<sup>a</sup> for trespass at Cressington (? = Cessington, Cossington) on the land of his wife's brother Roger then under age. The suit was probably connected with a family dispute, and the offence a technical one.

In several undated deeds he is described as 'tunc seneschallus Comitum de Ferrariis<sup>b</sup>,' showing that he was Steward in the Earl's household: so also in one Plea-Roll dated Nov. 1227<sup>c</sup>.

In one deed he occurs among the witnesses as 'Constabularius de Peco<sup>d</sup>,' Constable of the Peak, or in full, Constable of the Castle of the High Peak<sup>e</sup>. In the year 1215 William Earl Ferrers had won Bolsover and Peak Castles from

<sup>z</sup> Lib. Rott. pp. 203, 210, 223.

<sup>a</sup> Bodl. MS. Dodsw. xxix. p. 4, cxxii. fol. 39<sup>v</sup>.

<sup>b</sup> e. g. Salt Soc. xvi. 276: Hist. MSS. Comm. ix. 2. 402: Gresl. Charter 49: Derb. Arch. Soc. vii. 131: Shaw's Staff. i. 85.

<sup>c</sup> Salt Soc. iv. 1. 53.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. xvi. 274.

<sup>e</sup> Derb. Arch. Soc. xv. 96, 98.

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King John in fighting against the Barons, and in 1216 was made Governor (Castellanus) of Peak Castle<sup>f</sup>, an office he also held in at least 1217<sup>f</sup> and 1229<sup>f</sup>: and which is identical with that of Constable of the Peak<sup>g</sup>.

The last mention of him is on June 19, 1240, when the service which he owed for Kingston is assigned to Hawisia Fitz-Alan<sup>h</sup>. His seal is known from Gresley Charter 40 (see App. C), which bears the arms vaire of Gresley: drawings of his seal may also be seen in certain copies of a grant by him to Polesworth in Bodl. MSS. Dodsw. lxxv, p. 49 and Dugd. F. 2, p. 15, as well as in Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 8157, fol. 10. This is the first definite occurrence of the arms of the family, and may probably be dated in about

1240.

Geoffrey was twice married, first (before Easter 1220<sup>i</sup>) to **Margery**<sup>j</sup> daughter of Roger de Somervile and of his wife Maud lady of Cossington in Leicestershire. Their children were:—

1. **William**, see p. 37.

2. **Agnes**, prioress of Grace Dieu. This was an Austin house of nuns founded to the honour of the Virgin Mary and the Holy Trinity at Belton in Leicestershire (about ten miles west of Gresley) by Roësia de Verdun in about 1240. In Gresley Charter 40 we have a record that William gave two virgates of land, with his sister Agnes, to the church of the Trinity at L[a Grace Dieu?] outside Belton, perhaps in 1240. It is probable that Agnes de Gresley was the first prioress, since she occurs in that position in 1242, according to Nichols<sup>k</sup>, and certainly in about 1250<sup>l</sup>, 1262<sup>m</sup>, 1269<sup>n</sup> and even 1281<sup>o</sup>. The dates are however complicated by the fact that Nichols also states that in 1243 Grosseteste's Register at Lincoln testifies that Mary de Stretton was elected prioress. Either Agnes was only nun in 1242, or there was a temporary vacancy in 1243.

3. '**Robert de Gresley**' is perhaps only (and not quite certainly) known as a witness in three deeds<sup>p</sup>, two of which are of 1225<sup>q</sup>, and in none of which is his parentage given.

4. **Geoffrey** son of Geoffrey de Gresley occurs as a witness<sup>r</sup>, and also as the recipient of a messuage in Donisthorp<sup>s</sup>. It is probable that he met

<sup>g</sup> In about 1600, when the Castle was part of the Duchy of Lancaster, the duty of the Constable was to attach persons committing offences against the King within the liberty, to keep them prisoners in the Castle, and to see that the Castle itself was in good condition (*Derb. Arch. Soc.* xv. 96).

<sup>f</sup> Pegge's Bolsover and Peak Castle (1785), p. 6: *Derb. Arch. Soc.* ix. 126, cf. xiv. 53, 165.

<sup>h</sup> See at foot.

<sup>i</sup> Salt Soc. i. 223 (*Close Roll of 24 Hen. 3*).

<sup>j</sup> Salt Soc. iv. i. 14, Bodl. MS. Dodsw., ut supra.

<sup>k</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 20.

<sup>l</sup> Leic. iii. 651-2.

<sup>m</sup> Camd. Soc. viii. p. 66.

<sup>n</sup> Gresl. Charter 99.

<sup>o</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Wolley Charter vi. 28, with the prioress' seal.

<sup>p</sup> *Derb. Arch. Soc.* xii. 39 (*Derbyshire Fine*).

<sup>q</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 30.

<sup>r</sup> Brit. Mus. MSS. Add. Chart. 24712,

Harl. Chart. 43. D. 6.

<sup>s</sup> Salt Soc. xvi. 276.

<sup>t</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 28.

with a violent death, for in Jan. 129½ one Reginald de Bokesworth<sup>†</sup> had surrendered at Cambridge to stand his trial for the murder of Geoffrey 'de Grisele.'

Geoffrey's first wife may have died before 1244<sup>u</sup>, for in that year and in 1247<sup>v</sup> one Juliana de Gresley from Leicestershire<sup>w</sup> occurs in connexions which certainly suggest that she was Geoffrey's widow (at least in 1247), though the fact of wifehood or widowhood is not definitely stated.

#### William de Gresley.

(occ. abt. 1240-1247.)

The first appearance of William de Gresley is in an undated grant<sup>x</sup> by him, with the advice and consent of Geoffrey de Gresley his father, of two virgates of land to Walter Leveriz de Cossington. As there seems to be an allusion to Agnes as already a nun at Grace Dieu, it cannot be before about 1240, and is probably very nearly of that date. To this deed William's seal is attached, as well as his father's, the former<sup>y</sup> consisting of a fine fleur-de-lys encircled with the legend '+ Sigill' : Wilelmi : de : Greseleg,' all in good preservation.

William appears as grantor or witness in several undated deeds, and in dated ones ranging from 1244<sup>z</sup> to 1247<sup>a</sup>: but an earlier mention of him is in 1242-3, when he is found holding one knight's fee and perhaps  $\frac{3}{8}$  of another, in Linton<sup>b</sup>: and in a later deed he is a defendant in a suit already mentioned (p. 28). In 1245 he grants the advowson of Lullington to Gresley Priory.

The affair of the advowson of Kingston requires closer attention than any of the preceding facts. A deed printed in Dugdale's *Monasticon*<sup>c</sup> declares that William de Gresley son of Geoffrey de Gresley (which can only be the present William) gave to Roucester abbey certain lands in Kingston with the advowson of the church of Kingston, probably in about 1240, certainly not before 1229<sup>d</sup>. Yet in Aug. 1304<sup>e</sup> the Bishop of Lichfield ratifies the appropriation of Kingston to Roucester as a gift made in the time of his predecessor

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<sup>†</sup> Patent Rolls  
20 Edw. I,  
p. 466.

<sup>u</sup> Salt Soc. iv.  
102.

<sup>v</sup> Ibid. 106.

<sup>w</sup> Ibid. iii. 2.  
86-7 (pedi-  
grees in a  
Staffordsh.  
Visitation).

#### V

<sup>x</sup> Gresl.  
Charter 40.

<sup>y</sup> facs. in  
Jeayes' Gresl.  
Charters pl. ii.

<sup>z</sup> Gresl.  
Charter 73.

<sup>a</sup> Erdesw.  
212: Shaw's  
Staff. i. 23:  
Salt Soc. iv.  
I. 108.

<sup>b</sup> Feud. Derb.  
i. 445.

<sup>c</sup> Dugd. Mon.  
ed. Ellis, v. i,  
411.

<sup>d</sup> Brit. Mus.  
MS. Harl.  
3868, fol. 26<sup>v</sup>.

<sup>e</sup> Lichf.  
Episc. Reg. i,  
fol. 26<sup>v</sup>.

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° Lichf.  
Episc. Reg. i,  
fol. 26<sup>v</sup>.  
† Patent Roll  
of 8 Edw. ii,  
pars 2,  
membr. 29.

Roger (1245-57, 1257-96), and Edward ii in confirming<sup>f</sup> the same implies that it was after 1279 (Statute of Mortmain), and as the gift was to take effect when a certain rector<sup>°</sup> died or resigned, who resigned in 1284, that may be taken as the date of the grant. Without going more into detail, the facts appear to be that the Advowson, but not the revenues, was granted in about 1240, and that the Appropriation, which implies that the revenues could be applied by the Abbey *in proprios usus*, followed in 1284.

§ Salt Soc. iv.  
i. 132.

William died before June 1254, for there is then a reference<sup>§</sup> to a suit earlier in that year in which Elizabeth widow of William de Gresley was complainant against Philip de Verdon about land at Kingston.

h Nichols,  
Leic. iii. 2.  
1009\*.

Probably before 1245 (see p. 39) he married **Elizabeth**, daughter of John de Bakepuiz, Lord of Barton Bakepuiz, and Roësia his wife: and she occurs as his widow in a deed of June 1254, see above, and was alive in 1268-9<sup>h</sup>. It is interesting to find that Bakepuiz in Normandy, from which this lady's family came, is quite near to Toeni. William received from Elizabeth's parents with their daughter a rent<sup>†</sup> of 20s. from a mill at Bubington.

† Salt Soc.  
viii. i. 149.

**Geoffrey** (see below) was the only issue of this marriage of which we have any record: and it is with him that we enter at last into a wider field of records and a clearer light: it will be seen also that he took a more conspicuous part in the public affairs of his time.

## vi

## Sir Geoffrey de Gresley, Kt.

(b. abt. 1245: d. 1305-6.)

‡ Gresl.  
Chartul. p. 20.  
k Brit. Mus.  
MS. Harl.  
945, fol. 80,  
cf. Add. 8157,  
fol. 21; Gresl.  
Chartul. p. 20.  
At the first  
ref. Gulielmus  
'frater Gal-  
fridi' seems  
to be an error  
for 'pater  
Galfridi.'

The first mention of Geoffrey de Gresley is in an agreement<sup>‡</sup> between William Lord of Caldwell and Geoffrey Lord of Gresley in 1265-6: and in 1268<sup>k</sup> he confirms the various gifts and privileges conferred by his ancestors on Gresley Priory. Geoffrey's father died before 1254, and had his son been of age it is hardly doubtful that this confirmation would have occurred in the first year or two



of his enjoyment of his father's estates: it is a fair assumption then (especially as there was no change of prior at this period) that Geoffrey became of full age in about 1266 and was therefore born in about 1245.

That he was not born much later than 1245 is apparent from the fact that he took a full share in the Barons' War of 1261-5, and shared in the disasters which befell them after the battle of Evesham, Aug. 4, 1265. He appears to have taken part in the wild doings of Robert Ferrers Earl of Derby. At any rate we find the formal record that on Nov. 30, 1265, the King granted to Thomas Corbet<sup>1</sup> all the lands in Morton and Kingston which had belonged to Geoffrey de Gresley 'inimico et rebelli nostro qui Simoni de Montfort . . . inimico et feloni nostro et imprisis suis adheserit tempore guerre que nuper in regno mota fuit.' By the Dictum de Kenilworth of Oct. 15, 1266, Geoffrey was empowered to redeem his lands by large payments, instead of entirely forfeiting them, and this no doubt was done both with the lands granted to Thomas Corbet and with Drake-lowe, Gresley, Lullington and Norton which had been granted to Peter Corbet<sup>m</sup>. Several suits arose out of these affairs, and from one<sup>n</sup> it appears that Geoffrey had been taken prisoner at Chartley Castle (the Earl of Derby's seat) by Hamon Le Strange and hurried off to Bridgenorth Castle. Escaping thence he joined Simon de Montfort at London and was with him at Winchester, Oxford, Northampton and Kenilworth, of which latter Castle he was perhaps one of the heroic defenders in 1266. In that year the vast estates of the Ferrers were transferred to Edmund Plantagenet.

With the accession of Edward I in 1272 a quieter time came, and we hear no more of civil struggles. But the rough experiences of Geoffrey's early life left their mark for at least two generations, and he himself seems to have found difficulty in settling down as a country squire. As early as 1269<sup>o</sup> he had been 'rioting' at Northbury, though this may have been more a political than a social disturbance,

<sup>1</sup> Bodl. MS.  
Dugd. H.,  
p. 62.

<sup>m</sup> Rott.  
Westm. 253,  
cf. Salt Soc.  
iv. 186.

<sup>n</sup> Salt Soc. vi.  
i. 57-8.

<sup>o</sup> Ibid. iv.  
172.

- CHAP. III. but in 1275<sup>p</sup> he is found acting forcibly against the Abbot of Roucester, and in 1279-80<sup>q</sup> is sued for wounding Ralph Le Messer at Lullington: there are complaints against him also in 1279<sup>r</sup> and 1290-92<sup>s</sup>. In spite of the large expenses of redemption, Geoffrey must have been a wealthy landed proprietor, and was Lord of at least the manors of Drakelowe<sup>t</sup>, Norton<sup>u</sup>, Morton<sup>v</sup>, Kingston<sup>w</sup>, Lullington<sup>x</sup> and Linton<sup>y</sup>, with property and rights in Gresley<sup>z</sup>, Wolseley<sup>a</sup>, Bromley Bagot<sup>b</sup>, Bilsdon<sup>d</sup>, Croxall<sup>e</sup>, Colveley<sup>f</sup>, Hixon<sup>g</sup>, Seile<sup>x</sup>, Ercall Magna<sup>h</sup>, Willesley<sup>i</sup>, Donisthorp<sup>j</sup>, Swadlincote<sup>j</sup>, Hethcote<sup>j</sup> and Okethorp<sup>j</sup>.
- There is no doubt that knighthood was conferred on this Geoffrey de Gresley, but this cannot have been as early as 1270, as Nichols<sup>k</sup> states, for in 1271-2<sup>l</sup> it is expressly recorded that he is of full age and holds a full knight's fee, but is not yet knight. It may be doubted whether Edward I would soon forgive the part taken against his father Henry III, although Geoffrey pleaded his loyalty<sup>m</sup> at that time. It was late in his life, when he was often summoned to attend the King for military service, that knighthood must have been conferred on him. We find a summons for foreign service in 1297<sup>n</sup>, and for Scotch service in the same year<sup>o</sup> and in 1298<sup>p</sup>, and in 1301<sup>q</sup>. In two parliaments he also represented Derbyshire (in 1288<sup>r</sup> and 1301<sup>s</sup>), and was more than once on the commission for collecting the King's Fifteenth in Derbyshire, in 1301-3<sup>t</sup>. At last in a Staffordshire Assize Roll<sup>u</sup> of 21 Edw. I (1292-3) we find him as Sir Geoffrey de Gresley: again, in a Perambulation of Cannock and Kynefare forests<sup>v</sup> in June 1300, we twice find Geoffrey de Gresley *chevalier*, and once more among the New Oblations in a Pipe Roll of 1305-6<sup>w</sup> there is mention of 'Galfridus de Gresley miles,' so that about 1290-92 is the probable date of his taking up his knighthood.
- <sup>p</sup> Salt Soc. vi. 1. 55.  
<sup>q</sup> Ibid. vi. 1. 109; at which ref. there is also a proof of Sir G.'s parentage.  
<sup>r</sup> Ibid. vi. 1. 144.  
<sup>s</sup> Ibid. vi. 1. 200, cf. 209.  
<sup>t</sup> Ibid. v. 1. 89, &c.  
<sup>u</sup> Gresl. Charter 154.  
<sup>v</sup> Salt Soc. vi. 1. 144.  
<sup>w</sup> Ibid. vi. 1. 241, cf. 118: Plac. de Quo Warr. 705.  
<sup>x</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 20.  
<sup>y</sup> Plac. Westm. 262.  
<sup>z</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 31.  
<sup>a</sup> Salt Soc. i. 153.  
<sup>b</sup> Ibid. i. 180.  
<sup>c</sup> Nichols, Leic. ii. 434.  
<sup>d</sup> Hundr. Rolls i. 59.  
<sup>e</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 31.  
<sup>f</sup> Gresl. Charter 100-1, 104, 125-6, 148.  
<sup>g</sup> Bodl. MS. 22099, fol. 2.  
<sup>h</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 21, cf. Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, p. 40.  
<sup>i</sup> Inqu. post Mort. i. 142.  
<sup>j</sup> Leic. iii. 2. 1009\*.  
<sup>k</sup> Salt Soc. iv. 1. 213.  
<sup>l</sup> Ibid. i. 223-4.  
<sup>m</sup> Parl. Writs i. 283; Salt Soc. viii. 1. 17.  
<sup>n</sup> Parl. Writs i. 288.  
<sup>o</sup> Ibid. 312; Salt Soc. viii. 1. 19.  
<sup>p</sup> Ibid. i. 93, 102.  
<sup>q</sup> Parl. Writs i. 351; Salt Soc. viii. 1. 23.  
<sup>r</sup> Parl. Writs i. 86.  
<sup>s</sup> Ibid. i. 106, 111; Salt Soc. v. 1. 13, 89.  
<sup>t</sup> Yeatm. Feud. Derb. i. 262: cf. an undated deed in Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 8157, fol. 21.  
<sup>u</sup> Salt Soc. vi. 1. 283-4.  
<sup>v</sup> Ibid. v. 1. 176, 179.

Sir Geoffrey can only have enjoyed his new rank for about fifteen years, for in Hilary Term 1306 his executors are sued<sup>x</sup> for a debt, showing that his death was before that date, probably in the winter of 1305-6. Two seals of Sir Geoffrey are known, one a small armorial seal attached to Gresley Charter 103 (reproduced by Jeayes), and one of a larger size belonging to Gresley Charter 147, of which there is a drawing in the British Museum<sup>y</sup>, in which he is on horseback, facing the dexter side, bearing a shield vaire in his left hand and in his right an uplifted sword: the armour of his horse also bears vaire before and behind. Sir Geoffrey's *sigillum secretum* is mentioned in 1294-5<sup>z</sup>.

He had the right of Gallows (*habuit furcam*) in at least Croxall (Hundr. Rolls i. 59), Kingston (Salt Soc. v. i. 118, vi. i. 241), Drakelowe and Lullington (implied in Placita de Quo Warranto, p. 141†), and there can be but few other families in England beside the Gresleys whose ancestors in the male line had this right of hanging thieves caught *in flagrante delicto*.

His wife's name was Agnes, who occurs in 1291-2<sup>a</sup>, when her husband and she ('Anneys') make provision for a canon of Gresley to pray for her soul: that she was not then dead is shown by the fact that she survived<sup>b</sup> him. Their issue was:—

1. Peter, see p. 42.

2. Robert de Gresley, whose life was overshadowed by a sentence of outlawry. In 1279 some land at Hixon had been granted by his father to William de Wasteneys of Hixon, and there was probably friendship between the two families. There must however have been also quarrelling, for in 1292-3 Robert was indicted at the Staffordshire Assizes for the homicide of John<sup>c</sup> brother of William de Wasteneys, probably at Tamworth, and was outlawed for that and for minor crimes. He had married Isolda, who in 1297-8<sup>d</sup> was a widow with a son John.

3. William was in 1290-2<sup>e</sup> sued for damage done at Lullington, and was concerned in the affair of his brother Robert and similarly outlawed<sup>e</sup>. It may be he who was pardoned in 1295<sup>f</sup> for causing the death of Richard Wycharde of Shayle.

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<sup>x</sup> Salt Soc. vii. i. 145, 148.

<sup>y</sup> MS. Add. 8157, fol. 21: Dugdale had a drawing of it (Hamper's Life of Dugd. (1827) p. 214).

<sup>z</sup> Erdesw. Staff., p. 213 (= Hamper, as above).

† See p. 190.

<sup>a</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 34.

<sup>b</sup> Brit. Mus. Add. 6671, p. 43.

<sup>c</sup> Salt Soc. vi. i. 278, cf. 281, 283, 284.

<sup>d</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 32: Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 1415, fol. 107<sup>v</sup>: Bodl. MS. Dodsw. xcvi, fol. 31<sup>v</sup>.

<sup>e</sup> Salt Soc. vi. i. 200.

<sup>f</sup> Pat. Rolls of 1295, p. 138.

## CHAP. III.

## vii

## Sir Peter de Gresley, Kt.

(occ. 1290: *d.* abt. 1310.)

Sir Peter has the least satisfactory record of all the heads of the house of Gresley. In the qualities which make a good soldier he resembled his father, but he inherited also a strain of roughness and violence which was transmitted to his sons in a still more marked degree. Except in the various deeds of grant to which he is a party, there is hardly a record of himself or his family which is not concerned either with hard fighting or other equally violent but less legitimate conduct. The very earliest mention of him is that he was sued for damage done at Lullington, in 1290-2<sup>g</sup>, and one of the latest is a similar trial for damage at Hendenhouse Heath, Clifton, in Michaelmas 1306<sup>h</sup>, while in Michaelmas 1300<sup>i</sup> he had been fined 'for many defaults.'

From 1298 to 1306 he is constantly given letters of protection as about to start for Scotland, either as in the retinue of the Earl of Gloucester (May 1298<sup>j</sup>), or as in the retinue of Robert Fitz-Walter (June 1300<sup>k</sup>), or as 'vallet' of the Prince of Wales (July<sup>l</sup> and Oct.<sup>m</sup> 1301), or as in the retinue of Robert de la Warde (Apr. 1304<sup>n</sup>, June 1306<sup>o</sup>). In April 1307 a writ summoned him to London to be knighted with the Prince of Wales, soon after succession to his father's estates, and there is no doubt that on Whitsunday in that year (May 14) he was dubbed Knight at Westminster with some three hundred more, and proceeded forthwith to a campaign in Scotland. Accordingly, in a deed of July 7, 1307, we find him styled 'Sir Pere de Greseleye<sup>p</sup>.' In 1308<sup>q</sup> he was one of those called on to array the Staffordshire levies, but he must have died while in the prime of life, for the last mention of him is in Michaelmas 1309<sup>r</sup>, and in 1312<sup>s</sup> he was certainly dead, while Nichols<sup>t</sup> states that he died in 1309-10—which may be a legitimate deduction from the incident mentioned later in connexion with his wife.

<sup>g</sup> Salt Soc. vi. i. 200.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid. vii. i. 159, 169.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid. vii. i. 73.

<sup>j</sup> Ibid. viii. i. 20.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid. 21.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. 24.

<sup>m</sup> Docc.Scott. ii. 218.

<sup>n</sup> Salt Soc. viii. i. 25.

<sup>o</sup> Ibid. 27.

<sup>p</sup> Gresl Chartul. p. 32.

<sup>q</sup> Salt Soc. viii. i. 29; Pat. Roll 1308, p. 82.

<sup>r</sup> Salt Soc. ix. i. 20.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid. x. i. 11.

<sup>t</sup> Leic. iii. 2. 1009\*.

His estates were large, for in 1309 he obtained by royal charter<sup>u</sup> the right of free warren in Norton in Leicestershire; Gresley, Lullington, Linton, Donisthorpe, Heathcote, Swadlincote, Drakelowe and Caldwell in Derbyshire; Morton, Kingston and Hixon in Staffordshire; and Toft in Norfolk. The manor of Eggington in Derbyshire also came to him through his wife.

His seal is apparently not known to exist, but there is a coloured full-length portrait<sup>v</sup> of him, probably drawn for King Henry vi, which represents 'Sir Peres de Greyle' in complete armour with visor up, with banner in his right hand and sword in his left: both banner and surcoat bear the arms *vaire ermine and gules*.

He married **Johanna**, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Robert de Stafford and a lineal descendant of the Toenis. Very shortly after her husband's death, she was forcibly abducted<sup>w</sup> from her manor of Drakelowe, which had been assigned to her by her eldest son, and carried off to Swinnerton by Sir John de Swinnerton and others. There she was detained for a long time, and it is certainly noticeable that we hear nothing of her for some years after this event. Justice was slow, and not till 1323-4 was Sir John brought to trial, when he produced a pardon from the King dated May 25, 1310! However before 1320 Johanna must have escaped, for she was then the wife<sup>x</sup> of Sir Walter de Montgomery (a connexion of the Swinnertons), who died in 1322 or 1323<sup>y</sup>. The violence of the times can be as well gathered from the following single incident as from a catalogue of crimes. On Sept. 23, 1323<sup>z</sup>, Johanna is found abetting her

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<sup>u</sup> Gresl.  
Charter 483;  
Charter Rolls  
1308-9, p. 142.

<sup>v</sup> Brit. Mus.  
MS. Harl.  
4205, fol. 112.

<sup>w</sup> For the  
whole story  
see Salt Soc.  
vii. 2, 25,  
92: x. i. 45,  
62: Patent  
Rolls 1310,  
pp. 228, 307.

<sup>x</sup> Salt Soc. ix.  
i. 83.  
<sup>y</sup> Gresl.  
Chartul. p. 38,  
compared  
with Salt Soc.  
x. i. 56.

<sup>z</sup> Salt Soc. x.  
i. 56, 59-60:  
Patent Rolls  
1327, p. 43:  
see footnote.

<sup>u</sup> *Extracts from the Plea Rolls. Coram Rege. Hillary, 18 E. II.*  
(Salt Soc. x. i. pp. 59-60.)

*Leic.* The Sheriff had been ordered to arrest Peter son of Peter de Greseleye and Robert his brother, Joan the wife of Walter de Monte Gomeri, and William de Northfolk, and produce them at Trinity term, to answer the appeal of Philippa formerly wife of William de Monte Gomeri for the death [of] William her husband, at which day Philippa appeared and the defendants did not appear and the Sheriff returned they could not be found and held nothing within his bailiwick, and he was ordered to put them into the *exigent* and if they did not appear, to outlaw them, and he now returned that the said Peter and William had not appeared at the County Courts, and had been outlawed, but that the said

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<sup>a</sup> Salt Soc.  
xiv. i. 30.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. x. i.  
56.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. xii. 17.

sons Peter and Robert de Gresley in the murder of Sir William de Montgomery son of her late husband Sir Walter 'on the high road under the park of Seal'! Philippa the widow of the murdered man procured the arrest of all three, but they were acquitted! Again in 1333<sup>a</sup> she was accused of murder and again acquitted. After these records—and they are only samples—one is not surprised to hear of her own strong-box being broken into at Drakelowe in 1323-4<sup>b</sup>. At last in or before 1342<sup>c</sup> her turbulent life is ended.

The children of Sir Peter and Johanna were:—

1. **Geoffrey**, see p. 46.

2. **Thomas**, who escapes with the lightest number of charges against him. He was only accused of trespass with his brother Edmund in

Robert and Joan had appeared at the fifth Court, and had surrendered themselves prisoners, and he had sent them *coram Rege*, and they were committed to the custody of the Marshall, who produced them before the Court, and the said Philippa likewise appeared and appealed the said Robert brother of Peter son of Peter de Greseleye, of procuring and abetting the death of her husband, and she stated that they were in the vill of Norton, near Twycrosse, in co. Leicester, on the Thursday before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 17 E. II., in the manor house (*in aula manerii*) of Walter de Monte Gomeri, from which place the said Robert had feloniously procured and sent the said Peter son of Peter de Greseleye to kill her husband, and by which mission, procurement and assent, the said Peter son of Peter de Greseleye, on the Tuesday before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, in the same year, and at the third hour, had feloniously struck her husband on the head in the vill of Oversheile in Co. Leicestre, on a heath called les Whetelondes, near the Abbey of Mirivale, with a sword of Cologne worth 6s., and of which he had died within the arms of the said Philippa, &c.

And the said Philippa appealed the said Joan, wife of Walter de Monte Gomeri, of aiding, abetting, and procuring the death of her husband, and stated she was present in the vill of Norton and had sent the said Peter to commit the deed as aforesaid, &c.

And the said Robert and Joan appeared and defended the felony, and stated that the said Philippa ought not to be admitted to appeal them for the death of her husband, because she had remitted to them her suit for the said death, and all actions and trespasses from the beginning of the world up to the Monday after the last Feast of the Purification, by her deed which they produced, and as the said Philippa did not deny her deed she was committed to the custody of the Marshall.

And process against the said Robert and Joan being continued at the suit of the King for abetting the said death, the said Robert stated he was a clerk, and could not answer without his Ordinary, &c. And the said Joan stated she was not guilty and appealed to a jury, which is to be summoned for three weeks from Easter, and in the meantime she was committed to the custody of Robert de Dumbleton, the Marshall, but was afterwards admitted to bail, on the surety of Edward Charles, Geoffrey Wich, Robert Baynard, Knights, of co. Norfolk, and Robert Took, Knight, John de Miners, Roger de Bradburn, and John de Hamburi, of co. Derby. A postscript states that the process was continued till Easter term, 19 E. II., when a jury returned a verdict that the said Robert and Joan were not guilty of abetting the death of the said William de Monte Gomeri, and they were therefore acquitted of the same.

1320<sup>d</sup>, and fined with many of the gentry of Derbyshire for hunting in, or receiving venison from, the Forest of the Peak in 1364-5 (?)<sup>e</sup>. He and his elder brother Sir Geoffrey were of a quieter or more restrained disposition than the rest of the family.

3. **Peter**, of whom we have no account apart from the records of the Staffordshire Assizes. In 1323 he is accused of rioting both at Lichfield<sup>f</sup> and Ashbourne<sup>g</sup>. But in the same year a more serious crime was proved against him, namely the murder<sup>h</sup> of Sir William de Montgomery, as above mentioned. As he did not answer to the summons he was outlawed, and did not receive a pardon for the deed till March 1327<sup>i</sup>. Soon after this he was himself killed<sup>j</sup> at Adgaresley by Henry son of John Le Miners and William Le Hunte, who were brought to trial in March 1328<sup>k</sup>.

4. **Edmund**, who as early as 1310 is accused of damage<sup>k</sup> at Over Seile with his brother (cousin?) John. In 1320 and 1321 he has gone a step further and is summoned for trespass<sup>l</sup>, that is forcible entry into private grounds: but in 1325 and again in 1327 his crime is robbery, at Eyton<sup>m</sup> and at Walton<sup>n</sup>, where he is also accused of intent to murder John Grim: in the latter year he was even on his trial for the murder<sup>o</sup> of John de Pycheford: and as late as 1348 a charge of robbery at Little Lockesley<sup>p</sup> is brought against him. He was still living in 1357-8, when he granted land in Edingale<sup>q</sup> to his brother Sir Robert. He was married and had a son Geoffrey, who owned land in 1353-4<sup>r</sup>.

5. **Sir Robert** de Gresley of Edingale, Kt., the most prominent of the younger sons of Sir Peter. The assizes record ten charges against him between 1320 and 1348, one of trespass<sup>s</sup>, two of riot<sup>t</sup>, three of robbery<sup>u</sup>, and no less than four of murder: in Dec. 1320 he robbed and killed William Attewood<sup>v</sup> at Marchington: in 1321-2 he aided and abetted a murder at Marston<sup>w</sup>: in 1327 John de Pycheford<sup>x</sup> was his victim: and probably also Waclyn de Winterton<sup>y</sup>. His methods of evading the consequences of these misdeeds do honour to his ingenuity. In July 1333<sup>z</sup> for his services with the King's army in Scotland he obtained a general pardon for all felonies, and in Hilary 1334<sup>a</sup> flourished this useful document in the face of the judge and jury when accused of having six years earlier robbed the parson of Walton. On another occasion<sup>b</sup> he remembered that he was a 'Clerk,' and said that he could not answer the charge without his Ordinary!

Turning from this catalogue of misdemeanors, we find Sir Robert representing Derbyshire in the Parliament of 1340, fighting in Scotland both in 1333<sup>y</sup> and 1335<sup>z</sup>, summoned to Ipswich with his brothers Edmund and Roger for foreign service in November 1338<sup>d</sup>, and serving in Aquitaine under the Earl of Lancaster in 1346<sup>e</sup>, when he probably took part in the siege of Calais (1346-7). The last mention of him is

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<sup>d</sup> Salt Soc. x. i. 33.

<sup>e</sup> Derb. Arch. Soc. xiv. 167.

<sup>f</sup> Salt Soc. x. i. 52.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid. 44.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid. 56.

<sup>i</sup> Patent

Rolls 1327,

p. 43.

<sup>j</sup> Salt Soc.

xiv. i. 14-15,

24.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid. x. i. 8.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid. 33, 36.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid. 62.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid. xiv. i.

30, 33, 34.

<sup>o</sup> Ibid. xiv. i.

3, 11.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid. xii. i.

87, 94.

<sup>q</sup> Gresley

Chartul. p. 41.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid.

<sup>s</sup> Salt Soc.

xiv. i. 67.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid. iv. 2.

29-30; x. i.

67.

<sup>u</sup> Ibid. x. i.

62; xiv. i. 30,

33, 34; xii. i.

87, 94.

<sup>v</sup> Ibid. x. i.

56, 63.

<sup>w</sup> Ibid. 56.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid. xiv. i.

3, 11.

<sup>y</sup> see footnote.

<sup>z</sup> Salt Soc.

viii. i. 51.

<sup>a</sup> Ibid. xiv. i.

30.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. x. i.

60, see p. 44.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. viii. i.

54.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. 63.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid. viii.

i. 73.

<sup>y</sup> See p. 31, where the incident is narrated in connexion with an earlier Robert de Gresley: but I now believe that it is properly related of Sir Robert of Edingale.

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f Erdesw.  
 Staff. p. 212;  
 Bodl. MS.  
 Dugd. H. p.  
 59 (where is  
 a drawing of  
 his seal); &c.  
 g Salt Soc.  
 xvii. 278, cf.  
 Brit. Mus.  
 MS. Stowe  
 Charter 137  
 (1347).  
 h Gresley  
 Chartul. p. 42.  
 i Dugd.  
 Warw. pp.  
 58-9.  
 j Salt Soc.  
 xvii. 113.  
 k Gresley  
 Chartul. p. 51.  
 l Brit. Mus.  
 MS. Harl. 807,  
 fol. 60, and  
 Peerages.  
 m Bodl. MS.  
 Dodsw. xlii.  
 n Salt Soc. xi.  
 185.  
 o Ibid. x. 1.  
 67-8; iv. 2.  
 29-30.  
 p Patent  
 Rolls 1333,  
 p. 437.  
 q Salt Soc.  
 xii. 111;  
 Registrum de  
 Tutbury  
 Charter 313  
 (Trin. Coll. Camb. MS., from a Cotton MS.); Salt Soc. xiii. 206, 199; Gresley Chartul. p. 47.  
 r Salt Soc. x. 1. 36. s Ibid. ix. 1. 19. t Gresley Chartul. p. 41. u Salt Soc. v. 1. 88;  
 Derb. Arch. Soc. vii. 143. v Salt Soc. xi. 105; cf. Derb. Arch. Soc. xviii. 13; &c.

as a grantor of land in Hartley<sup>f</sup> near Coventry in 1360-1. He appears to be first mentioned as a Knight in 1343<sup>g</sup>. His seal<sup>h</sup> bears *vaire a bend engrailed*.

Sir Robert married Elena daughter of John Revell son of William Revell of Newbold Revell, who became co-heiress<sup>i</sup> with her two sisters on the death without issue of her three brothers, and brought thereby to her issue the manor of Brownsover in Warwickshire and other property. Their issue was Robert who died without issue, and Joan who married Richard Boteler before 1382 (and had a daughter Elizabeth, who married Ralph Bellers<sup>j</sup>), and perhaps married as a second husband William Wale<sup>k</sup> of Northampton. Sir Robert also had a son Thomas who married Katrine and died before 1405-6, for in that year the widow and her son Thomas are mentioned<sup>k</sup>. It is possible that Sir Robert was twice married, for a Robert de Gresley certainly married Katherine, one of the five daughters and co-heiresses of William de Camvile<sup>l</sup>, Lord Camvile of Clifton (*d.* 1338), who were all of full age in 1308 and among whose descendants the Barony of Camvile is still in abeyance. Robert and Katherine occur in 1336-7<sup>m</sup> and 1338<sup>n</sup>.

6. Roger we find accused of rioting in 1326<sup>o</sup>, and outlawed for the murder of Roger de Norton in 1338<sup>p</sup>, for which he was pardoned<sup>p</sup>. There are other notes<sup>q</sup> of a Roger de Gresley, who might be this Roger, between 135½ and 1392, usually as an attorney.

A Vincent de Gresley was accused with his brother Geoffrey of trespass in 1321<sup>r</sup>, and of damage at Alrewas in 1323<sup>s</sup>, and is a witness to a deed<sup>t</sup> apparently of 134½<sup>o</sup>, but I cannot prove that he was a son of Sir Peter. See p. 155.

There is also a Nicholas de Gresley clerk who also occurs as an attorney or as a witness, between 1320<sup>u</sup> and 1340<sup>v</sup>.

## viii

## Sir Geoffrey de Gresley, Kt.

(occ. 1309: *d.* abt. 1331-2.)

The eldest son of Sir Peter seems to have been as peaceful as his father, mother and brothers were turbulent. The first mention of him is in August 1309 when he was granted free warren<sup>w</sup> in his manor of Gresley at the instance of Hugh Le

w Brit. Mus.  
 MS. Add.  
 6674, fol. 8<sup>v</sup>.



Despencer: this may mark the date of his father's death. In 1324 he was summoned to Parliament <sup>x</sup> as a Staffordshire Knight of the Shire, and occurs in subsidy rolls of Staffordshire<sup>y</sup> and Derbyshire<sup>z</sup> (1327) as holding land in Morton, Wolverhampton and Lullington. A grant by him to Gresley Priory of all profits from deaths within the priory (June 6, 1325) has been already mentioned<sup>a</sup>: and there is another probably of the same year by which he gives land in Castle Gresley to the same priory. He must have died before Hilary term 1333<sup>b</sup>, but was alive in 1330<sup>c</sup>. His seal (imperfect) is on Gresley Charter 185 (1318) and has been reproduced by Jeayes.

His wife was **Margaret**, daughter of Sir John Gernon, Kt., of Lanington, near Oxford, who occurs as a widow in various deeds from 1332<sup>d</sup> to 1352<sup>e</sup>: her seal is known from Gresley Charter 256<sup>f</sup> and a drawing in the Gresley Chartulary<sup>g</sup>, and bears three coats of arms (Gresley, Gernon and Langton). On March 25, 1318, Sir Geoffrey had granted<sup>h</sup> to Hugh Gernon, parson of the church of Ylkesleye, his manor of Morton and all his lands in Morton and Hixon, perhaps as trustee for his wife: and this may mark the year or period of the marriage.

It is however very difficult to discover the parentage of this Margaret Gernon. The best account of the Gernon family is to be found in R. E. Chester Waters' *Chester of Chicheley* (1878), and part of the pedigree which in point of date seems nearest to Margaret is given in the Pedigrees. The two original assertions of her connexions are in Gresley documents entered in a Staffordshire Visitation, printed in *Salt Soc.* iii. 2. 86, 87, where she is described as (1) 'fille a John Gernon S<sup>r</sup> de Laminton près Oxenford' and (2) 'filia Johannis Gernon militis Domini de Lanington juxta Oxoniam. Port gules 3 pales undé argent.' The only two places near Oxford which in any way resemble Lamington or Lanington or, as the word has generally been assumed to be, Lavington ('Lauington'), are Lavendon in Buckinghamshire and Langton, Lanton or (as now) Launton near Bicester in

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<sup>x</sup> Salt Soc. viii. i. 46.

<sup>y</sup> Ibid. vii. i. 210, 249.

<sup>z</sup> MS. in Public Record Office.

<sup>a</sup> p. 26.

<sup>b</sup> Salt Soc. xi. 42, cf. 53, 55; xii. 71.

<sup>c</sup> Gresley Charter 227: but cf. Gresley Chartul. p. 45.

<sup>d</sup> Salt Soc. x. i. 87.

<sup>e</sup> Gresley Charter 283.

<sup>f</sup> See Parker's Colton, 2nd ed., p. 333.

<sup>g</sup> p. 42.

<sup>h</sup> Gresley Charter 185.

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<sup>i</sup> See  
Lipscomb's  
Buckingham-  
shire, vol. 4.  
<sup>j</sup> See White  
Kennet's  
Ambrosden.

<sup>k</sup> See Baker's  
Northampton-  
shire i. 9;  
Bridges' do.  
i. 401.

Oxfordshire. The former <sup>i</sup> may be dismissed: the distance from Oxford is more than thirty miles, the manor was in the hands of the Peuvre or Peover family, and there is no trace of the name Gernon or the spelling Lavington. Launton <sup>j</sup> is only eleven miles from Oxford, but the manor has from the Conquest been in the hands of the Abbey of Westminster, and no trace of the Gernon family is known there. The Gernons had some property in Abington <sup>k</sup> near Northampton.

Margaret's seal is mentioned above, the three coats of arms being, vaire for *Gresley*, paly wavy of six for *Gernon*, and six annulets, two, three and one, for *Langton* (?).

The issue of Sir Geoffrey and Margaret was:—

**John**, see below.

For Nicholas, sometimes stated to be a son of Geoffrey, see p. 46.

## ix

## Sir John de Gresley, Kt.

(occ. 1327-96.)

Sir John de Gresley is notable, not only for his long life, which covered more than three-quarters of the fourteenth century, but also for his marriage with the widow of the head of the De Wasteney family, an alliance which ultimately brought the manor of Colton and other large possessions to the estate of the Gresleys.

As early as 1327-8 a John de Gresley occurs in a Subsidy Roll <sup>1</sup> for Derbyshire as holding land in Lullington, but the head of the family was still under age at Easter 1334 when the Earl of Lancaster claimed the wardship <sup>m</sup> of him from Roger de Swynnerton. In 1349-50 <sup>n</sup> he is first found as Sir Jo<sup>h</sup> de Gresley, Kt., and both in 1358-9 and 1372-3 is Sheriff of Derbyshire with Nottinghamshire. In the brief Parliament of 1372 he sat as a representative of Staffordshire. In his earlier years he seems to have imitated his uncles, if he be the John who was accused of trespass in 1341, 1342 and 1345 <sup>o</sup>, but that there were other Johns de Gresley, whom we cannot place in the pedigree, is shown by one of those names being Prior of Gresley in 1360-1 <sup>p</sup>, who perhaps induced Sir

<sup>1</sup> Public  
Record  
Office: cf.  
Gresley  
Chartul. p. 37.  
<sup>m</sup> Salt Soc. xi.  
52.

<sup>n</sup> Gresley  
Chartul. p. 25.

<sup>o</sup> Salt Soc. xi.  
i. 116-7; xii.  
15, 44.

<sup>p</sup> Gresley  
Chartul. p. 42.

John to make a considerable grant of land<sup>q</sup> to the Priory two years afterwards.

His armorial seal is attached to a deed<sup>r</sup> of 137 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and to a manumission<sup>s</sup> of Thomas Nettebreyder his butler at Drakelowe, May 28, 1379: but in Oct. 1393 he lost this seal, and there is a curious deed of Oct. 17, 1394<sup>t</sup>, in which he repudiates all writings sealed since his loss, and himself makes use of the seal of the Deanery of Repton in its place. He died before Easter 1396<sup>u</sup>, having outlived his only son Sir Nicholas.

Sir John was twice married: first in about 1345 to **Alice** de Swinnerton, perhaps a grand-niece of the Sir John de Swinnerton who abducted her husband's grandmother, and a niece of the Sir Roger who claimed wardship of her husband against the Earl of Lancaster in 1334<sup>v</sup>. She occurs as his wife in 1346-7<sup>w</sup> and 1348-9<sup>x</sup>, but died soon after, leaving an only son

**Nicholas**, born about 1345-50 (see p. 50).

Sir John's second marriage was of great importance to the fortunes of himself and his descendants. Before 1352 he married **Joan**<sup>y</sup> the widow of Sir Thomas de Wasteneys, although she had taken a vow of chastity on the death of her husband, and had received the usual ring and mantle in token of it, so that her marriage required a papal mandate and penance for its allowance. The great Colton estates of the De Wasteneys had been entailed on Sir Thomas and Joan for life with remainder to his sons William, John and Thomas and their issue, but none of the three had children, and almost the whole estate came into the possession of Joan, then Dame Gresley. The young brothers De Wasteneys probably resented the second marriage of their mother and the transference of the property to a Gresley: and in 1363<sup>z</sup> and 1366<sup>a</sup> we find William and Thomas sued for stealing swans from Sir John de Gresley at Rugeley: but for more than 250 years from this time the Gresleys were Lords of the Manor of Colton and held the

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<sup>q</sup> Inqu. ad quod damnum in Public Record Office, Jan. 28, 136 $\frac{2}{3}$ .

<sup>r</sup> Gresley Charter 319: facs. in Jeayes.

<sup>s</sup> Gresley Charter 342.

<sup>t</sup> Ibid. 358.

<sup>u</sup> Salt Soc. xv. 74.

<sup>v</sup> Ibid. xi. 52.

<sup>w</sup> Gresley Chartul. p. 39.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid. p. 42.

<sup>y</sup> Gresley Charter 284: Parker's Colton (2nd ed.), pp. 96, 339, and passim: Cal. of Papal Registers—Letters iii (ed. Bliss, 1897), p. 561.

<sup>z</sup> Salt Soc. xiii. 31: Parker's Colton, p. 85.

<sup>a</sup> Salt Soc. xiii. 54.

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<sup>b</sup> Pedigree  
in Gresley  
Chartul. p. 5 :  
Parker's  
Colton, p. 72.  
<sup>c</sup> Salt Soc.  
xvi. 31.

Advowson of the Church. Joan's maiden name was Toly, she being the daughter of John Toly<sup>b</sup> of Wymondham in Norfolk (?): and it would appear<sup>c</sup> that she had first married Sir Richard Peshall, for in 1396 Adam Pesale son of Joan wife of John de Grisele, and Nicholas his brother, are indicted and outlawed for breaking into Drakelow and stealing money and plate: but neither of the Toly nor of the Peshall family at this time do I readily find any connected account. Her will<sup>d</sup>, written at Drakelow, dated May 23, 1393, and proved Dec. 28, 1393, is printed in full in Parker's *Colton*, 2nd edition, p. 106. She desired to be buried at Braceborough ('Brassingborough') in Lincolnshire, and left legacies to the Prior of Gresley and (her grandson?) Thomas de Gresley. Her death clearly took place in 1393, and she left no children by Sir John de Gresley, unless possibly a daughter Thomasine, for whom see p. 56.

<sup>d</sup> Gresley  
Charter 355.

<sup>e</sup> Parker's  
Colton, p. 81;  
cf. Salt Soc.  
xiv. i. 233.

A William de Gresley 'Esquire' occurs between 1363<sup>e</sup> and 1397, at which date he represented Nottingham in the Great Parliament, but I cannot find the nature of his connexion with the Gresleys of Drakelow.

## X

## Sir Nicholas de Gresley, Kt.

(*b.* abt. 1345-50: *d.* abt. 1380.)

<sup>f</sup> Salt Soc.  
xiii. 17.

<sup>g</sup> *Ibid.* viii. i.  
107.

<sup>h</sup> Gresl.  
Charter 301.

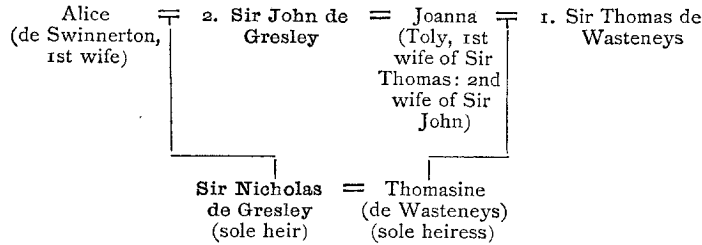
<sup>i</sup> Salt Soc.  
viii. i. 110.

<sup>j</sup> *Ibid.* i. 113.

He was undoubtedly the son, and not the brother, of Sir John, as is clearly proved by Gresley Charters 301 and 318: the date of his birth must have been between 1345 and 1350. As early as 1361 Nicholas occurs, being indicted with his father for trespass<sup>f</sup> at New Hall, but the case was dismissed. The line of Gresley must have been in some danger of extinction when the young Nicholas, an only child, in September 1362 obtained letters of protection<sup>g</sup> as starting for Gascony in the retinue of the Prince of Wales, but before May 1364<sup>h</sup> he had married his step-mother's daughter Thomasine de Wasteneys, thus doubly securing the Colton property to the Gresley family. In 1368<sup>i</sup> we find him as Sir Nicholas serving with Prince Edmund Plantagenet<sup>j</sup>, and again in 1370 as with Sir Walter Huwet<sup>j</sup>. But he died in his father's lifetime,

some time after May 1374<sup>k</sup>, and certainly before June 1389, when we find his widow married<sup>l</sup> a second time.

The wife of Nicholas was **Thomasine** de Wasteneys, the sole heiress of the Wasteneys of Colton, Braceborough, Carleby, Osgathorpe, &c., and the daughter of Sir Nicholas's step-mother, thus:—



The marriage was before May 1364 (see above). Almost the only fact that we know of Thomasine's life apart from formal grants, is that Colton Church was decorated in her time with frescoes in the chancel, which survived until 1851 and of which some drawings are reproduced in Parker's Colton (2nd ed. : opp. p. 188). Among these are at least two illustrating the life of St. Nicholas, and we can hardly doubt that they were painted for Thomasine in memory of her husband of that name.

Before June 1389, however, as we have seen, she was married a second time, to Sir Hamon de Peshall, but no children of this marriage are recorded, and even after it she is called Thomasina 'de Gresley' in 1398<sup>m</sup>, 1399<sup>n</sup> and 1403<sup>n</sup>. Between the latter year and July 1405 she must have died<sup>o</sup>.

The children of her first marriage were:—

**Thomas**, born about 1365, see p. 52.

**Roger** de Gresley, who lived at Church Gresley<sup>p</sup>, called Robert in a pedigree in the Gresley Chartulary (p. 5). He is probably the Roger de Gresley concerned in deeds of 1387<sup>q</sup> and was an executor of his father's will in 1396<sup>r</sup>. In 1400-1 he held half a knight's fee by right of his wife under the Earl of Warwick<sup>s</sup>, and occurs also in 1403-4, but died before 1414<sup>t</sup>. We know<sup>u</sup> that he, 'of Church Gresley,' married Isabel de Timhorn<sup>v</sup> (Tamhorn?), and that their daughter and heiress Margaret married William Babthorpe (Attorney General, 1420-29), of Elston in Leicestershire, and had a son William.

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<sup>k</sup> Gresley Charter 327.

<sup>l</sup> Parker's Colton, pp. 103-4.

<sup>m</sup> Parker's Colton, p. 105.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid. pp. 104, 356.

<sup>o</sup> Gresley Charter 374, Parker's Colton, p. 357.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid. p. 103 : Wolferstan notes as below.

<sup>q</sup> Gresley Chartul. p. 47 ; Salt Soc. xi. 206, cf. 209.

<sup>r</sup> Ibid. xv. 74.

<sup>s</sup> Bodl. MS. Dugd. D. i.

<sup>t</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6698, fol. 419.

<sup>u</sup> Staffordsh. Visit<sup>n</sup>. 1583 (Wolferstan addns. 1764).

<sup>v</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 5.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE GRESLEYS IN THE FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CENTURIES

**xi**

**Sir Thomas de Gresley, Kt.**

(*b.* abt. 1365: *d.* abt. 1445.)

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the Gresleys were wealthy landowners with influence and position in all the three counties which converge near Drakelowe. Sir Thomas was probably born about 1365, but first occurs in 1392 when he was already married. In 1394-5<sup>a</sup> his grandfather Sir John grants him all his manors in Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Yorkshire. In 1399 begins his series of public appointments, when he became Sheriff of Staffordshire and is first mentioned as Knight. Seven times he represented Derbyshire or Staffordshire in Parliament, the former in 1400 (but the Parliament never met), 1405, 1414 and 1417, the latter in 1413 and 1419. Besides this he was in about 1400 Master Forester of High Peak, according to Erdeswick<sup>b</sup>, and Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1422 and 1439, and of Derbyshire in 1426. He was presumably therefore a Lancastrian in his views.

In the French expeditions of Henry v Sir Thomas and his son Sir John took their part, the former furnishing in 1415<sup>c</sup> three men-at-arms and nine archers, and the latter two men-at-arms and six archers: and they were almost certainly present on the field of Agincourt (Oct. 25, 1415), although their names do not occur in a<sup>d</sup> roll professing to enumerate the English army.

<sup>a</sup> Gresley Chartul. p. 47.

<sup>b</sup> Staffordsh. P. 537.

<sup>c</sup> Nicolas' Agincourt (1832) p. 380.

<sup>d</sup> Nicolas, as above, p. 356; Bodl. MS. Ashm. 825, p. 14: Gen. Wrottesley has demonstrated its unauthentic character.

Perhaps Sir Thomas's high estimation in his neighbours' eyes may be as well gauged by the guardianships<sup>o</sup>, trusteeships<sup>f</sup> and arbitrations<sup>g</sup> which were entrusted to him, as by any other test. These however, and his public services did not secure him from a long bill of complaints<sup>h</sup> made against him by the Abbey of Burton in about A.D. 1400, chiefly relating to minor points of tenure and alleged trespasses. He died between 1441<sup>i</sup> and 1446<sup>j</sup>, probably nearly at the latter date. It is clear that he was in favour with the Lancastrian nobles, but his descendants were staunch Yorkists. His armorial seal is attached to Gresley Charter 376, and is reproduced by Jeayes<sup>k</sup>.

His wife was **Margaret** daughter of Thomas Walsh of Wanlip in Leicestershire, who occurs as his wife as early as Easter 1392<sup>l</sup>, and was alive in 1421, when she was the recipient of a legacy by her mother Katherine's will<sup>m</sup>. Their issue was:—

1. **John**, see p. 54.

2. **Geoffrey**, of whom hardly anything is known: he occurs in 1433<sup>n</sup> and 1439<sup>o</sup>.

3. **Jane**, or **Joan**, nurse to King Henry vi. She married Thomas de Astley Esq. of Patshull in Staffordshire, who was descended from the last of the Toenis. Henry vi was the only son of Henry v and Katherine of France, and was born at Windsor on Dec. 6, 1421. He succeeded as King on Sept. 1, 1422, and probably Joan Gresley was the Royal nurse from his birth until Easter 1424. The fact is known from the Proceedings of the Privy Council<sup>p</sup>, which on Jan. 16, 1423<sup>q</sup>, 'concesserunt Johanne uxori Thome Astley nutrici Regis annuitatem xl librarum percipiendam quamdiu Regi placuerit in Scaccario suo ad terminos Pasche & Sancti Michaelis per equales porciones, et quod prima solucio fiat [in festo] Pasche proxime': this pension was continued at least till 1433, but she did not die till 1452-3<sup>r</sup>. The nurse's office was supplemented when the King was only two years old by a governess, Dame Alice Botiller<sup>s</sup>, who was given powers by the Council to teach the King and even 'resonablement chastier de temps en temps, ainsi come le cas requerera.' Possibly Joan was selected by the Earl of Warwick who was her third cousin.

I know of no other 'Joane daughter of Sir Thomas Gresley' who could have married John Browne<sup>s</sup> of Morfe, son of Thomas Browne and Alice (*née* Banester): their issue was, William, Thomas (who had issue) and John (who married Anne Fitton and had issue).

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<sup>o</sup> Brit. Mus. MSS. Add. 6698, fol. 308; Harl. 506, p. 252; cf. Salt xvii. 26.

<sup>f</sup> Shaw's Staffsh. i. 15; Cox's Derb. Churches iii. 110, cf. 25; cf. Salt Soc. xv. 74; xvii. 59.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid. xvii. 51, 38, 82.

<sup>h</sup> Gresley Charter 363.

<sup>i</sup> Caius Coll. (Camb.) MS. 529, fol. 28.

<sup>j</sup> Inqu. post mortem iv. 225.

<sup>k</sup> On pl. 2, where 370 is an error for 376.

<sup>l</sup> Salt Soc. xi. 199.

<sup>m</sup> Abstract in Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 2044, fol. 30.

<sup>n</sup> Gresley Charter 410.

<sup>o</sup> Ibid. 417.

<sup>p</sup> Edited by Sir N. H. Nicolas, iii (1834), p. 131, cf. iv. 181.

<sup>q</sup> Parker's Colton, p. 119.

<sup>r</sup> Proceedings, as above, iii. 143, cf. 191, 234-5.

<sup>s</sup> Shropshire Visitation in Harl. Soc. xxviii. 90, 267.

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4. **Margaret**, of whom nothing is known except that she became the first wife of Sir Thomas Blount (*d.* 1456), and the mother of Walter first Lord Mountjoy.

5. Another daughter of Sir Thomas seems to be mentioned in the inscription of a monument which till about A.D. 1700 was in Croxall Church. Of this there are two independent transcripts, one in Bodl. MS. Dodsw. lxxxii, p. 49 (= *Reliquary* xii. 219) (A), and a second with a drawing of the monument and inscription in St. Loe Kniveton's papers (now Lord Scarsdale's) made about two hundred years ago, and reproduced in R. Ussher's *Croxall* (1881) pp. 5-6 (B): of this latter there are corrections in Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 5809, fol. 69<sup>2</sup>, printed in Cox's *Derbyshire Churches* iii. 360 (C). It is instructive to notice by comparison how difficult it is to copy such an inscription accurately: in the following text the facsimile in B is taken as a basis. 'Hic iacet Iohanes Curson Armiger Dominus de Croxhall qui obiit iij die Aprilis ['8 . . . , a piece torn off, A: '8 Kal. Aprilis,' which must be wrong, see below, C] anno Domini ['Domini' omitted, A] mccccl cuius anime propicietur Deus Amen [this clause omitted, A] Et Jnnocentia ['Senchia,' A: 'Seachia,' 'Sarache' C] uxor eius filia Domini ['Domini' omitted, C] Thome Gresley militis ['militis' omitted, A]. At the parents' feet are five sons and three daughters, and Ussher remarks that it is curious that John is on Senchia's left, she on his right. She 'is represented in a long gown, with deep sleeves turned back at the wrists.' In John Curzon's Will <sup>t</sup>, dated Apr. 1, and proved May 19, 1450, his wife's name is given as Senecha. The marriage is stated by Ussher to have taken place in 1422-3. But Senecha is a very curious name even as a contraction of **Innocentia**, and rather suggests the Spanish Sanchia which came into the Gresley family at about this time through the Blounts, see pedigree. To add to the confusion a Derbyshire pedigree based on the Visitations (printed in the *Genealogist* N.S. vii. 73), gives her name as Anne! The Spanish name is not unknown in English history, King John's <sup>son's</sup> wife having been Sanchia of Provence, while it is found in the Carew <sup>1</sup> family.

\* Ussher's *Croxall* p. 146.

<sup>u</sup> Bodl. MS. 1833r.

## xii

## Sir John Gresley, Kt.

(occ. 1410: *d.* 1449.)

Sir John only survived his father for about five years, and so we naturally do not find much recorded of him. He probably married in 1409 or 1410, for in 11 Hen. 4 some trustees<sup>v</sup> grant to him and 'Elizabeth Clarell' (see below) a rent at Colton. In 1415 he shared in the French wars with his father (see p. 52), and was a Knight as early as 1413<sup>w</sup>, and represented Derbyshire in the Parliament of 1422. In 1433-4 Sir John was returned as one of the

<sup>v</sup> Gresley Charter 387: Parker's Colton, p. 361 (11 Hen. 4 = Sept. 30, 1409, to Sept. 29, 1410).

<sup>w</sup> Gresley Charter 396.



leading gentry of Staffordshire, who were sworn to keep the peace for themselves and their retainers, but no doubt he was himself a Lancastrian, his sister having such close relations with the King. We catch one more glimpse of his activity in a list of the retinue of the Duke of Bedford in 1435<sup>x</sup>, as 'John Gresley Knight Bachelor,' but the Duke died in September of that year. John died on Jan. 17, 144<sup>§</sup>, according to an Inquisition post mortem<sup>y</sup> which states that he held no lands of the King in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire.

Sir John's wife was **Elizabeth** (not Margaret) daughter of Sir Thomas Clarell of Aldwark, Yorkshire, by Matilda daughter of Sir Nicholas Montgomery. Her Christian name cannot be doubted in view of Gresley Charter 387<sup>z</sup>, which appears to be a marriage settlement of the two, though Elizabeth is not expressly called the wife of John: the date is 1409-10. Elizabeth's name is also given in pedigrees in Brit. Mus. MSS. Harl. 4630 (p. 94) and Add. 5530 (pp. xxvii, cii), and she had a sister Margaret.

But confusion has arisen in the pedigrees and Visitations from it not having been seen that Sir John married a second wife whose name was **Margaret**<sup>a</sup>. There can be little doubt that she was a daughter of John Norwood a merchant of Coventry, and was three times married, 1. to Thomas Massey, son of Sir John Massey of Tatton in Cheshire by Alice (Worselay): this first husband died without issue Aug. 24, 1420: 2. to John de Delves (son of John), who had first married Philippa who died in 1420: John died in April 1429: 3. to Sir John Gresley in 1440-1. She survived her third husband, and occurs at least as late as March 1, 144<sup>§</sup><sup>b</sup>.

Of Sir John's children it may be assumed that all were by his first wife, from considerations of date. Their names were:—

1. **John** (born 1418), see p. 57.

2. **Nicholas**, who occurs in 1450<sup>c</sup> as a witness ('Nicholaus Gresley senior'), and once more in 1455<sup>d</sup> in connexion with some riotous proceedings which will be noticed in the account of his brother Sir John.

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<sup>x</sup> R. S. xxii.  
2. 436.

<sup>y</sup> Inqu. post mortem ix. 472: cf. Edw. Jones Index to Records (Memoranda), Gresley Charter 425, Parker's Colton, p. 364.  
<sup>z</sup> = Gresley Chartulary p. 51; Parker's Colton, p. 361.

<sup>a</sup> Helsby's Ormerod's Cheshire i. 441 (Massey), iii. 522 (Delves): S.P. Wolferstan's manuscript notes to Nichols' Leicester-shire: cf. Bodl. MS. Ashm. 854, foll. 343, 352<sup>v</sup>, 399.

<sup>b</sup> Gresley Charter 425.

<sup>c</sup> R. Ussher's Croxall, p. 146.

<sup>d</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 4611, fol. 176.

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\* Dugd. War-  
wickshire, 2nd  
ed., p. 342, cf.  
347; cf. Salt  
Soc. xi. 216.

† Shaw's  
Staffordshire  
i. 180 from  
a Chetwynd  
MS.

3. Katherine, who is only mentioned as having married Sir William Peto<sup>o</sup> (occ. 1430, *d.* 1464-5) who was a son of William de Peto (*d.* 1406-7) by Joan daughter of Sir John Thornbury and subsequently wife of Sir Robert Corbet. William and Katherine had a son John, born in about 1434 (*d.* 1487-8), who in 1453-4 married Eleanor Mantfeld.

It is possible that this Katherine had previously married John Cawarden<sup>f</sup>, of Mavesyn Ridware, before 1426, and had a son John and several other children by him: but as her husband survived her and married secondly Margaret Boteler and did not die till July 8, 1475, there is some unexplained mystery. Possibly there were two sisters Katherine, or conceivably a divorce.

4. Thomasine? This lady is very difficult to place with certainty. She was certainly married to Hugh Wrottesley, who was born on Sept. 14, 1400<sup>g</sup>: and the marriage was before 1421, for in that year she occurs in Katherine Walsh's Will as 'Thomasine Wrottesley<sup>h</sup>.' Hugh died in 1464 and Thomasine on Dec. 25, 1480. Thomasine is definitely affirmed<sup>i</sup> to be the daughter of Sir John Gresley, but was she daughter of *this* Sir John or of his great-grandfather whose second wife died in 1393?

<sup>g</sup> Staffordsh.  
Visit<sup>n</sup>. 1583:  
Worcestersh.  
Visit<sup>n</sup>. 1569:  
Cheshire Inqu.  
post mortem  
9 Hen. 4.

<sup>h</sup> Brit. Mus.  
MS. Harl.  
2044, fol. 18<sup>A</sup>  
or 30.

<sup>i</sup> Burke's  
Peerage 1896  
(a careful ac-  
count of the  
Wrottesleys):  
Worcestersh.  
Visit<sup>n</sup>. of 1569,  
&c.

If she is daughter of the present Sir John, the difficulty is that we have seen above that he was probably married in 1409 (not before Sept. 30) or 1410, so that Thomasine could not have been born before 1410 and would have married before the age of twelve. Also it is odd that Katherine Walsh should have singled out this one great-grandchild and child-wife for remembrance in her will, the only other Gresley mentioned being her daughter.

If she is daughter of the elder Sir John, there are no less difficulties. He was married before 1347 and seems to be holding property in 1328 and so was probably born not later than the latter year: if so, Thomasine who died in 1480 would be a child of his old age. But we know of no issue of Sir John's second wife Joan, and if there was we must suppose Joan to have had two daughters by different husbands each named Thomasine. And how can we account for Joan making no mention of this Thomasine in her will?

On the whole I believe that Thomasine was daughter of the second Sir John and married when very young, as is not unparalleled. If the authorities had shown any variation of her father's name, one might have inclined to believe her the daughter of Sir Nicholas or Sir Thomas.

For Thomasine's children see the Wrottesley Pedigree, which is given at greater length than usual on account of its long unbroken male line and also of its certitude, the latter quality being the result of the researches of Major-General the Hon. George Wrottesley.

At this point may be mentioned William de Gresley, a monk of Newby Abbey in Lincolnshire, afterwards Abbot

of Beauchief Abbey, who died in 1433 at the latter place, and was commemorated on Jan. 2. He was perhaps of the Gresley family of Gresley in Nottinghamshire, and the few facts known about him may be found in Pegge's and Addy's *Beauchief Abbey*, the *Reliquary* vii. 197; Brit. Mus. MSS. Cotton Calig. A. viii, fol. 4, Wolley Charter I. 14=Add. 6667, fol. 673; Bodl. MS. Dugd. 39, fol. 12.

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## Sir John Gresley, Kt.

xiii

(b. 1418?: d. 1487.)

We now come to the Gresley who had to face the troublous times of the middle of the fifteenth century. Hitherto the family had been Lancastrian, but the present Sir John, though evidently not a strong partisan, certainly on some occasions threw his weight into the Yorkist scale, even before the success of that cause was at all ensured or even likely. It would seem that conviction gradually overcome his natural allegiance to the Duchy of Lancaster.

We have no record of Sir John until his father's death on Jan. 17, 144<sup>g</sup>, when the son and heir was thirty years old<sup>j</sup>: so he was born between Jan. 18, 141<sup>7</sup>, and Jan. 17, 141<sup>8</sup>. He seems to occur as a witness on Jan. 21, 144<sup>g</sup><sup>k</sup>: and there are indications that in March 1449<sup>l</sup> he had just succeeded to his father's property. As early as 1450 he represented Staffordshire in Parliament, as also in 1453. In 1451 he is styled Knight<sup>m</sup> for the first time. In 1453 he was Sheriff of Derbyshire with Nottinghamshire. But the state of the kingdom allowed no one of position to be neutral or quiet, and Sir John was soon in the thick of the tumult. First there were private quarrels between Sir John in common with his brother Nicholas and their retainers, and Sir William Vernon of Haddon Hall, with Roger his brother and their servants and tenants. Many hard blows were exchanged, as appears from a singular award<sup>n</sup> dated Sept. 12, 1455, and arranged by Humphrey Stafford first Duke of Buckingham. The Vernons had land at Seile, which is only

<sup>j</sup> Inqu. post mortem.<sup>k</sup> Gresley Charter 430.<sup>l</sup> Ibid. 425 = Parker's Colton, p. 364.<sup>m</sup> Tutbury Chartulary, Charter 303.<sup>n</sup> Gresley Charter 437, see Parker's Colton, p. 116.

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a few miles from Drakelowe, but we have no record of the actual causes of the feud. The award is a delightful document, not only from its judicial insistence 'that the seid Sir William and Sir John shalbe full frendes and of frendely delyng, and pardone and leye aparte either to other all maner aggrugginges and Rancoure of herte,' but chiefly from its precise assessment of the injuries actually done. The compensation paid to 'Annes that was the wife of John Herte which was slayne at Burton by the seruauntz of the seid Sir William' was twenty marks. For a sore wound on the head or face 13s. 4*d.* is exacted, for ordinary strokes 6s. 8*d.* or 10s.: but a sore stroke on the leg 'the bonne striken asunder with a bille' costs 40s., while a stroke on the foot, though only 20s., yet 'if it growe to a mayme' is 100s., as is also a maim on the hand or thumb. How far the award appeased strife we do not know, but the intermarriage of the grandchildren of the two combatants must have been a final seal of amity. The disturbances had been serious enough to move the King to issue a mandate<sup>o</sup> on the 12th of July preceding the award, summoning Sir John Gresley and Roger Vernon to Westminster to answer for their 'riotous assemblies.'

<sup>o</sup> Privy Council Proceedings, vi. pp. 250-1, cf. p. lxxi.

But all personal affairs were merged in the larger conflict between the two great Houses. It is clear that Sir John, in opposition to the family traditions and the practice of his father and grandfather, took up arms against the King in 1452, on the side of the Duke of York: for he is one of the two thousand or so who were pardoned<sup>p</sup> for it in the same year. During the campaign of 1455, ending with the Yorkist victory of St. Albans on May 23, he may have remained neutral, since on May 14<sup>q</sup> of that year, when the Duke of York was actually in arms against the King, we find Sir John appointed a Commissioner for raising money for the relief of Calais both in Staffordshire and Derbyshire. It would seem that he concealed his Yorkist sympathies for several years, for according to Gregory's Chronicle<sup>r</sup> he was one

<sup>p</sup> Pardon Roll of 30-31 Hen. 6, membr. 1.

<sup>q</sup> Proceedings of the Privy Council, vi. pp. 242-3.

<sup>r</sup> Camd. Soc., N.S., xvii. p. 204.

of the seven who were dubbed knights on the very day of, and immediately before, the fight at Blore Heath on Sept. 23, 1459. It is possible that, as there had been no actual declaration of hostilities, and as that action was after all rather of the nature of a severe skirmish than a pitched battle, Sir John was still with the King at Eccleshall and knighted in order, if possible, to retain his wavering fidelity. If he fought at all on that day, as he probably did, for five out of the seven new knights fell in the *mêlée*, it must have been on the Lancastrian side, and in accordance with this policy is the fact that on March 20, 1461, he gave some aid to four Lancastrian soldiers hurrying to the North, for which he was not pardoned till Dec. 1, 1471<sup>s</sup>. At the former date Edward iv had been proclaimed but not crowned King, and until the battle of Towton on March 29, 1461, his position was not assured.

<sup>s</sup> Coram Rege Roll of Trin. T. 1472.

It may be here recorded that in 1459 we find the more peaceful note that Sir John and his wife were elected members of St. Mary's Gild at Lichfield<sup>†</sup>, and in Sept. 1460 that he represented Derbyshire in Parliament.

<sup>†</sup> Harwood's Lichfield, p. 404, cf. 405.

When once Edward iv was established on the throne, Sir John undoubtedly showed himself a Yorkist and accompanied the King on his expedition to Scotland in Dec. 1462<sup>u</sup>: and we naturally find him in all the Commissions of the Peace till 1470, Staffordshire being in general a Lancastrian county, so much so that the Earls of Warwick and Shrewsbury, Sir John himself, and his two relations, Sir Walter Wrottesley and Sir John Stanley were almost the only non-official magistrates in the whole county. It is noticeable that he was also in the Commission of the Peace of 1470-1 during the brief revival of Lancastrian power, but this was of course due to the supreme influence of the Earl of Warwick at the time, and not to any change in Sir John's political views. In 1474-5 he was a party to the covenant<sup>v</sup> by which several persons of distinction bound themselves to defend the Yorkist Lord Hastings against all enemies. Probably the large share of Lancastrian fortunes

<sup>u</sup> Chron. in Camd. Soc., N.S., xxviii. 157.

<sup>v</sup> Printed in Dugd. Baronage i. 583-4.

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<sup>x</sup> Brit. Mus.  
MS. Harl.  
3881, fol. 20<sup>b</sup>.

received by the latter or his quarrel with the Woodvilles made him form this bodyguard of friends, but even the renewal of this bond in 1481<sup>x</sup> did not avail to prevent Lord Hastings' execution in 1483, during the brief reign of Edward V.

<sup>y</sup> Gresley  
Charter 440.

In 146<sup>z</sup> there were serious disputes between the Abbot and Convent of Burton and Sir John Gresley about lands, rents and fisheries, which were referred<sup>y</sup> at this date to the arbitration of George Duke of Clarence, but the issue is not known. A remarkable claim by Sir John in 1469 may show that he knew the pedigree of the De Wasteneys for many generations. Rose Wasteneys, sole heiress of the Wasteneys of Tixall<sup>z</sup>, had married Sir John Merston, and in conjunction with him sold the manor of Tixall which had been in her family for over 300 years. No less than eight generations intervened between Rose and Sir Geoffrey de Wasteneys in the twelfth century, the younger brother of Sir William de Wasteneys of Colton<sup>a</sup>, whose descendant after a similar series of eight intervening generations was Sir John, who now claims to be next of kin to Rose! She indignantly disclaimed the connexion, but whether the lady's protestations or the Knight's learning prevailed, is not known, though the probabilities are in favour of the former.

<sup>z</sup> See Parker's  
Colton, p. 404  
and pedigree  
opp. p. 412 in  
that book.

<sup>a</sup> Ibid. ped.  
opp. p. 78.

<sup>b</sup> S. Bentley's  
Excerpta  
Historica  
(1831), p. 384.

<sup>c</sup> Brit. Mus.  
MSS. Add.  
6669, fol. 515;  
6710, p. 3.

<sup>d</sup> Brit. Mus.  
MS. Cotton  
Julius B. xii,  
fol. 7<sup>y</sup>, printed  
in Leland's  
Collectanea  
(1774) iv. p.  
186, where  
'Agrisley' is  
'a Gresley.'

<sup>e</sup> Gresley  
Charter 449,  
Parker's  
Colton p. 367.

Sir John was one of the numerous gentry present at the Coronation of Richard iii<sup>b</sup> in July 1483, and even accompanied Henry vii in his first progress to the North in the spring of 1486<sup>c</sup>, but died on Jan. 31, 1487<sup>d</sup>.

His wife was **Anne Stanley**, daughter of Sir Thomas Stanley of Elford, and the marriage must have been not later than 1455, since the eldest son was born in that year: and she was his wife as late as June 1481<sup>e</sup>. Their issue was:—

1. **Thomas** (born 1455), see p. 61.

2. **Elizabeth**, who married Thomas Montford of Kingshurst and Sutton Coldfield. Some confusion has arisen from the common assertion that this daughter of Sir John Gresley married Sir Simon de Montfort, who was put to death in 1494, and was the father of Thomas. He married Anne (Verney) and so the name of Anne has been assumed to

be that of Sir John's daughter: but the Visitations of Warwickshire and Essex do not allow the point to be doubtful: see pedigree. Thomas and Elizabeth Montford had a son Simon who married 1. Joyce Rugeley and 2. Anne Longford, and had issue.

3. **Alice**, who in 1478 married John Egerton of Wrinhill, son of Hugh. An abstract of the wedding contract, previous to the marriage and dated 18 Edw. 4, (which began on March 4, 1478<sup>1</sup>) is in the Gresley Chartulary, p. 57, and a grant after the marriage is dated Dec. 20, 1478<sup>f</sup>. They had a daughter Ellen<sup>g</sup> who married Sir Henry Willoughby and had a son Hugh.

4. **Thomasine**. The Gresley pedigrees and evidences do not mention this daughter, but there is sufficient evidence that 'Thomasine daughter of Sir John Gresley' married John Darell<sup>h</sup> of Scotney, a son of Thomas Darell by Florence, *née* Chicheley, a daughter of the great Archbishop: see pedigree. Their children were Henry, Agnes and Florence. This Thomasine cannot<sup>i</sup> possibly be the Thomasine daughter of Sir John Gresley noticed on p. 56.

There is some evidence that Sir John married a second wife, **Emma** fifth daughter of Sir Ralph Hastings, see pedigree. This is stated by Nichols (*Leicestershire* iii, p. 608, n. 7), and Collins (*Peerage*, 1812, vi, p. 649) who cites 'MS. St. George præd.' But the fact cannot be regarded as established: Sir John's first wife was alive in 1481, and he died in 1489<sup>7</sup>.

#### Sir Thomas Gresley, Kt.

(*b.* 1455?: *d.* 1503.)

Sir Thomas was thirty-one years old<sup>j</sup> at his father's death on Jan. 31, 1489<sup>7</sup>, and was therefore born between Feb. 1, 1458<sup>4</sup>, and Jan. 30, 1455<sup>5</sup>. The first mention of him is on Nov. 30, 1471, when he occurs as a witness in a grant<sup>k</sup> to his father. As early as Dec. 1477 he represented Staffordshire in Parliament, in his father's lifetime. In 1488 we first find him as Sir Thomas Gresley, Knight, when he received a Commission<sup>l</sup> with others in December to provide archers from Derbyshire for service in the King's army in Brittany: in the same year he is admitted, as his father was, a member of St. Mary's Guild at Lichfield<sup>m</sup>. In spite of his Yorkist traditions he was twice Sheriff of Staffordshire (1489-90 and

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<sup>f</sup> P. R. O., printed Cal. of Ancient Deeds, C. 735.

<sup>g</sup> Gresley Chartulary, p. 60.  
<sup>h</sup> Hasted's Kent ii. 380, iii. 224-5; Notts Visitations 1569 and 1614.

<sup>i</sup> The Inquisition on her death in 1481 disproves it.

<sup>j</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6710, p. 3; 6669, fol. 215.

<sup>k</sup> Gresley Charter 441.

<sup>l</sup> Rolls Ser. lx. 2. 386.

<sup>m</sup> Harwood's Lichfield (1806), p. 408.

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 Rolls Ser.  
 lx. 2. 562.

1497-8), and on the former occasion, in Mich. T. 1490, received £100 by writ of Privy Seal<sup>a</sup> as a reward for his services as sheriff. It speaks well for Sir Thomas's prudence and quietude that he escaped all complicity in the various Yorkist risings in the reign of Henry vii, and that he seems to have preserved his large estates intact in a time of so many illegal exactions and confiscations.

<sup>o</sup> Prerog. Ct. of Canterb., and Bodl. MS. Dodsw. xxii, fol. 90<sup>r</sup>, fr. York Reg.  
<sup>p</sup> But see Index Libr. x. 239.

As he is one of the earliest Gresleys whose birth we can fix within a year, so he is the first of the male line whose will is extant<sup>o</sup>. It is in English, dated 'Jan. 25, 1503,' and was proved on Apr. 26, 1503, so that probably the first date is 1502<sup>p</sup>, exceptionally: he died therefore in the first half of 1503 (possibly 1504). The chief provisions are that he bequeaths his body to be buried 'in the Monastery of Greisley before the High Awter the fader,' gives orders about his funeral, and makes some money bequests to the Priory and the Canons. There are mentions of the marriage contract of his son William with Benett Vernon, of 'Elyn and Mary my ij daughters' unmarried, his other sons 'John, George, Robert and James,' and his wife 'Dame Anne' who is his executor with the Prior.

His wife was **Anne** daughter of Sir Thomas Ferrers of Tamworth Castle, she being a first cousin of her husband's stepmother, see pedigrees of Ferrers and Hastings. It is interesting to see the ancient connexion of the families of Gresley and Ferrers thus renewed, and not for the last time, as will be seen. She survived her husband, and proved his will on April 26, 1503. Their issue was:—

1. **William** (born about 1475), see p. 64.

<sup>q</sup> Parker's Colton, p. 200.  
<sup>r</sup> Ibid. pp. 119, 199.  
<sup>s</sup> Ibid. p. 199.  
<sup>t</sup> Oxf. Univ. Reg.  
<sup>v</sup> Reg. Cur. Canc. Oxon. 7, fol. 2<sup>r</sup>.

2. **John**, born in 1481 or 1482, a Clerk in Holy Orders. In 1499 John Gresley, Clerk, being then aged seventeen, had a Papal dispensation<sup>q</sup> to hold benefices without stint, and was made Rector of Colton<sup>r</sup>, but resigned that position in the following year<sup>s</sup>, and apparently went to Oxford. For this is no doubt the John Gresley who took the degrees of B. Civ. L. and B. Can. L. at Oxford on July 7, 1507<sup>t</sup>. On Dec. 31, 1506<sup>v</sup>, he was admitted Principal of White Hall, that is to say, (apparently) White Hall in Cheney Lane (Aula Alba major, in vico Catenarum) and the adjoining White Hall (Aula Alba minor, super muros), and also Pery Hall: but he ('magister Johannes Grasley') resigned his position



on Feb. 10, 150 $\frac{7}{8}$ <sup>v</sup>, though he continued to live in White Hall till at least March 150 $\frac{3}{8}$ <sup>w</sup>. One of the same names was Warden<sup>x</sup> of Ruthin Hospital, co. Denbigh, in 1512, and was presented on April 12 of that year to the living of Norton in Hales<sup>y</sup>, co. Salop. A John Gresley of 'Stapnell' (Stapenhill) helped to draw up an inventory of the goods of Anne Gresley in 1555, see p. 67: but it is very unlikely that this was a son of Sir Thomas, for if John had not died before his elder brother William, that is to say before March 10, 152 $\frac{2}{8}$ , he would presumably have succeeded to the Gresley estates, instead of George; although in earlier centuries his orders might have debarred him.

3. **George** (born 1494), see p. 65.

4. **Robert** occurs as a trustee on Feb. 10, 151 $\frac{0}{8}$ <sup>z</sup>, and in 1518-9 received the manors of 'Oskethorp' (Osgathorp)<sup>a</sup> and Donisthorp from his brother George. It appears that he was married and had a son George, for the will of Dame Katharine Gresley, his sister-in-law, dated 1572, mentions 'George Greisley, son to Robert Greisley': a George Gresley also was buried at Gresley cum Membris<sup>b</sup> on Oct. 8, 1591. Robert not being mentioned in the will was probably dead in 1572.

5. **James** does not occur in the Derbyshire Visitations, but is known from those of Staffordshire, and was the defendant in two law-suits<sup>c</sup> of 1519-20 and 1531-2. His will<sup>d</sup> dated May 30 (proved June 17), 1536, shows that he was 'of Hanbury' and possessed a house at Blithbury: also that his wife Katharine<sup>e</sup> was alive, and a son George and another son and daughter. The probate further proves that his wife had had a son 'Thomas Blont' by a former husband, and the accompanying inventory of his goods (which is dated Apr. 28, 1536) indicates that his position was that of a gentleman freeholder at Hanbury.

6. **Elizabeth**, whose name does not occur in either the Derbyshire or Staffordshire Visitations, is also the only child not mentioned in her father's Will. Perhaps this indicates that her marriage was against her father's wishes. Of her existence there cannot well be doubt. She married<sup>f</sup> first Sir John Montgomery (who died in 1513) and had issue<sup>g</sup> by him:—Ellen, who married Sir John Vernon of Haddon Hall: Anne who married Sir John Browne of Snelston: and Dorothy, of Cubley, who married Sir Thomas Giffard of Chillington<sup>h</sup>. Elizabeth married secondly, before (probably long before) 1536, Sir John Giffard<sup>i</sup> of Chillington, whose first wife died in 1491, but he himself not till 1566. Their issue<sup>j</sup> was at least a daughter Frances who married Sir John Talbot of Grafton<sup>k</sup>. Sir John Giffard had first married Jane Hoord, and their son Sir Thomas Giffard married, as we have seen, Dorothy a daughter of his second wife by her first husband, exactly as had occurred with the De Wasteneys and Gresleys, see p. 51.

7. **Ellen**, mentioned in her father's Will, and at that date (1503) unmarried: she subsequently married Sir Nicholas Strelley<sup>k</sup> as his second wife, but had no issue.

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<sup>v</sup> Reg. Cur. Canc. Oxon. 7, fol. 46<sup>r</sup>.

<sup>w</sup> Ibid. fol. 87<sup>v</sup>, cf. 71<sup>v</sup>, 72<sup>v</sup>, 73<sup>r</sup>, 80<sup>r</sup>.

<sup>x</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxon.

<sup>y</sup> Bodl. MS. Blakeway 2, fr. Dugd. E. 1.

<sup>z</sup> Gresley Charter 463.

<sup>a</sup> Gresley Chartulary, p. 62: Nichols, Leicestersh. iii. 998.

<sup>b</sup> Gresley Reg.

<sup>c</sup> Duc. Lanc. i. 194.

<sup>d</sup> At Lichfield, see Index Libr. vii. 2.

<sup>e</sup> See also Duc. Lanc. i. 154.

<sup>f</sup> Gresley Chartulary, p. 8.

<sup>g</sup> Reliquary, O.S., xv. 7; Cox's Derb. Chh. iii. 92, 96, 315.

<sup>h</sup> Her brother James' Will.

<sup>i</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 1187, fol. 94: cf. Bodl. MS. Ashm. 853, p. 36.

<sup>j</sup> Reliquary, as above; Salt Soc. iv. 2. 54, 58.

<sup>k</sup> See pedigree.

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<sup>1</sup> See pedigree.

8. **Mary**, mentioned in her father's will, and also at that date unmarried: she is probably the 'Maria daughter of Thomas Gresley Knight,' who married Thomas Forster<sup>1</sup>, the third son of Richard Forster of Evelith by his wife Margaret daughter of William Selman of Morton in Staffordshire, where the Gresleys had for a long time held property.

## XV

## Sir William Gresley, Kt.

(*b. abt. 1475: d. 1521*).

<sup>m</sup> Duc. Lancast. Inqu. i, p. 6.

<sup>n</sup> Salt Soc. xii. 183; Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, p. 55; Parker's Colton, p. 120.

The eldest son of Sir Thomas seems to appear first in an Inquisition post mortem<sup>m</sup> dated '27 Hen. 7.' This must of course be an error, perhaps for 20 Hen. 7 (1504-5): in it 'William de Gresley' accounts for the eight manors of Gresley, Lamberton, Linton, Ashby, Byldeston, Norton, Swatlington (Swadlincote), and Lullington. A fine<sup>n</sup> levied in 1519 shows that he then held the manors of Drakelowe, Lullington, Castle Gresley, Linton, Oakthorpe, Donisthorp, Colton, Kingston, Morton (Norton?), Hixon, and Tutbury-Woodhouses; as well as sixty messuages, and about three thousand acres of land in Staffordshire; and also the manors of Osgathorpe and Morton in Leicestershire, Seaton Ross in Yorkshire, and Brasingburgh, Carleby and Boston in Lincolnshire. There is no reason to suppose the above lists exhaustive, but even so, they exhibit clearly the wealth and position of the Gresleys of Drakelowe at the beginning of the sixteenth century.

<sup>p</sup> Inderwick's Inner Temple Records i (1896), pp. 2, 18, 20.

<sup>q</sup> *Ibid.* p. 39.

Sir William was a member of the Inner Temple at London, and we find that in 1505 and 1510 he was elected<sup>p</sup> a Marshal of that Society for the Christmas feast, but in each case refused to perform the duties of the post and was fined £10—which he probably did not pay, for in 1511<sup>q</sup> when Sir William was now a Knight and had distinguished himself in military service abroad, the Parliament of the Society<sup>q</sup> thought it well to pardon him all 'offices, amercements and pensions past' (a singular collocation) for a fine of four marks, which *was* paid.

There can be little doubt that he served in France and Flanders in the campaign of the summer and autumn of 1513, and was present at the Battle of Spurs (Aug. 16) and the

capture of T rouanne (Aug. 22) and of Tournay (Sept. 24). On the 14th of October his services were rewarded by knight-hood<sup>r</sup> at the King's hand at Lisle. He did not however enjoy a long life, having been born probably in about 1475, while his death took place on March 10, 1521<sup>s</sup>. His autograph signature ('per me Wyllyam Greysseley squyer') and seal occur on Gresley Charter 463, dated 10 Feb., 1509<sup>o</sup>: this is the earliest Gresley autograph I have met with.

He married **Benedicta** daughter of Sir Henry Vernon<sup>t</sup> of Haddon Hall: the contract before the marriage, between the fathers of the bride and bridegroom, is dated 1496-7<sup>u</sup>: but there was no issue. This alliance must have cemented the friendship between the two families, which it may be hoped began, or was renewed, after the award of forty years before (see p. 57).

By Alice Tawke Sir William had four sons (Thomas, Edward, Humphrey and Antony) and possibly a daughter Ursula: all these assumed the name of Gresley, and their mother, who married Sir John Savage, disputed the succession of Sir George Gresley to the family estates, but an award of Cardinal Wolsey is still extant<sup>v</sup>, dated Trinity Term 1525, which decides against her claim. Lady Savage died in 1549<sup>w</sup>. Thomas was living at Milverton in 1577<sup>x</sup>: of Edward we know nothing: Humphrey probably died in 1548<sup>y</sup>: Anthony was alive in 1548<sup>z</sup>, and was the progenitor of a family of Gresley<sup>a</sup> or Grisling at Saltash in Devon and Willingham and Laceby in Lincolnshire (the Gresley Christian names which occur are William, John, Thomas, Ambrose, Ursula, Elizabeth, and, by marriage, Rose). Other names mentioned in Lady Savage's Will are 'Anne Gresley my daughter in law' and 'Gylis Gresley and his sister Katherine,' but of these I know nothing.

## Sir George Gresley, Kt.

(b. 1494? : d. 1548.)

Sir George succeeded his brother William on March 10, 1521<sup>o</sup><sup>b</sup>, and was twenty-six years old at that time: he was

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<sup>r</sup> Metcalfe's Book of Knights (1885), p. 55; Stephen Glover's County of Derby i (1829), app. p. 57; Parker's Colton, p. 120: cf. an inaccurate statement in Reliquary, O.S., xi. 166.

<sup>s</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6710, p. 58.

<sup>t</sup> See pedigree.

<sup>u</sup> Gresley Chartulary, p. 61 (abstract only).

<sup>v</sup> Gresley Charter 475.

<sup>w</sup> Her will was proved May 12, 1549.

<sup>x</sup> Collect. Topogr. viii. 304, cf. 299.

<sup>y</sup> His will was proved Feb. 11, 1548<sup>o</sup>.

<sup>z</sup> Gresley Chartulary, p. 57.

<sup>a</sup> Lincolnshire Visitations, 1562-4 and 1592.

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<sup>b</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6710, p. 58.

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born therefore between March 11, 149 $\frac{3}{4}$ , and March 10, 149 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The award of Cardinal Wolsey by which he was confirmed in his large estates has been mentioned. Few facts of his life are known, except that he was made a Knight of the Bath<sup>e</sup> at the Coronation of Anne Boleyn on June 1, 1533, and that he was twice Sheriff of Staffordshire (in 1537-8 and 1544-5, in the former case being described as 'of Knypersley'). Leland<sup>d</sup> records (presumably in about 1540) that 'Sir George Gresley dwelleth at the Mannor place of Coleton, and hath a greate parke there vpon Trent a mile lower then Haywod; hee hath vpon Trent, a mile lower then Burton Towne, a very fayre mannor place and parke, at Draykelo.' He died on April 21, 1548<sup>e</sup>, his Will<sup>f</sup> being dated April 19, 1548, and proved on June 16 following. He desired to be buried in Gresley Church and left everything to his wife Katherine.

His first wife was **Margaret**<sup>g</sup> daughter of John Mulsho of Thingdon or Finden in Northamptonshire, by whom he had two children, William and Katherine. The marriage must have been before 1524. Their issue was:—

1. **William** (born 1524), see p. 67.

2. **Katherine**, who married Edward Winter of Worthington in Leicestershire. In Sept. 1555 they execute a quit-claim to Sir William her brother of some lands given to her father, Sir George, in trust for her in 1537. Both were alive in 1572, the date of her stepmother's will: for their issue see pedigree.

Sir George married secondly (and, to judge by dates below, in about 1530<sup>h</sup>) **Katherine**<sup>i</sup> one of fifteen children of John Sutton Lord Dudley, by whom he had two sons and three daughters, as below. She long survived her husband, for her Will<sup>j</sup> is dated April 22, 1572, and was proved on April 12, 1574, so she died between the two dates. There is also an inventory of her goods at Drakelowe taken March 7, 157 $\frac{3}{4}$ . She desired to be buried in the chancel of Gresley Church 'with or neare unto my . . . late husband,' and left numerous small legacies to her relatives. Her children were:—

3 (1). **Edward**, who was perhaps a co-trustee as early as 1534<sup>k</sup>, was admitted to Gray's Inn<sup>l</sup>, London, in 1550: a letter from him (of 1559?) is

<sup>e</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Cotton Claud. C. iii, p. 120.

<sup>d</sup> Notes of some families of Staffordshire, pr. in Collectanea Topogr. et Geneal. iii (1836), 339.

<sup>e</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6710, p. 133; Add. 6660, fol. 631; Harl. 756, fol. 491.

<sup>f</sup> Reg. of the Prerog. Ct. of Canterbury.

<sup>g</sup> Staffordsh. Visitation, 1583.

<sup>h</sup> See also Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, p. 56.

<sup>i</sup> Staff. Visitation, 1583.

<sup>j</sup> At Lichfield. Index Libr. vii. 218-9.

<sup>k</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6697, fol. 488.

<sup>l</sup> Foster's Admission Register.

in Lord Bagot's possession<sup>m</sup>. He was buried on April 4, 1594<sup>n</sup>, at Alrewas, where he had lived for some years. His monument, incorrectly described by Shaw, was re-discovered in 1854, when the church was restored. His wife was Anne Corbet, and they had issue, see pedigree iv.

4 (2). **Elizabeth**, who married Charles Somerset (the marriage license is dated July 29, 1557<sup>o</sup>): both were alive in 1572<sup>p</sup>, and they had issue, see pedigree xlvii.

5 (3). **Thomas**, a puzzling personage. A Thomas Gresley married Jane<sup>q</sup> daughter of Elizabeth Beaufo of Milverton: yet a Gresley also married an Alice<sup>r</sup> daughter of John Beaufo (who d. 1516) by Elizabeth. Again a Thomas Gresley married Dorothy<sup>s</sup> daughter of William Dethick of Newhall: yet a good pedigree<sup>t</sup> states that Francis Dethick married a *daughter* of Sir George Gresley. Again a Thomas Gresley of Criche married an Elena<sup>v</sup> to whom administration of his goods was granted at Derby 1598. These marriages I cannot at present disentangle, but it is a crowning defeat to find that Dame Katherine Gresley, this Thomas's mother, in her Will of 1572, leaves legacies to the six children of her son Thomas by *Margaret* 'his supposed wife'! Thomas seems to have resided chiefly at Lullington, and was alive in 1551<sup>w</sup> but died before April 1572, the date of his mother's Will. See pedigree v.

6 (4). **Anne**, of whom we know nothing except her Will<sup>x</sup>, which is dated July 31, 1551, and proved May 19, 1555: there is also an inventory of her goods on May 31, 1555. Her mother is sole executrix.

7 (5). **Elinor**, administration of whose goods was granted on Jan. 27, 1553<sup>y</sup>, to Edward Gresley her brother as against William Gresley her half-brother.

<sup>v</sup> Lichfield Act. Book, p. 218. Court of Canterbury.

<sup>w</sup> His sister Anne's Will.

<sup>x</sup> At Lichfield.

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<sup>m</sup> Hist. MSS. Comm. iv. 332.

<sup>n</sup> Alrewas Reg.; not

1593, as Shaw's Staffordshire i. 135.

<sup>o</sup> Notes on

Nichols' Gresley Pedigree by S. P. Wolferstan.

<sup>p</sup> Her mother's Will.

<sup>q</sup> Dugd. Warwickshire, p.

189: her mother's Will

1553 in Bodl. MS. Dugd. E.

i, p. 80.

<sup>r</sup> Warw. Visitation

1619:

see p. 156.

<sup>s</sup> Bodl. MS.

Wood F. 23,

no. 248;

Genealogist,

N. S., vii, 79.

<sup>t</sup> Harvey

(Clarencieux)

in Queen's Coll. (Oxf.)

MS. F. 24.

<sup>y</sup> Prerog.

Sir William Gresley, Kt.

(b. 1524? : d. 1573.)

The eldest son of Sir George Gresley was aged 23 on April 21, 1548, when his father died, and was therefore born between April 22, 1524, and April 21, 1525. On Oct. 2, 1553, the day after Queen Mary's Coronation, he was dubbed Knight<sup>z</sup> in the Queen's presence at Westminster, being thirty-second in a list of ninety. He, Sir Simon Harcourt and two others were deputed by the Privy Council<sup>a</sup> on Jan. 19, 1557<sup>z</sup>, to levy, furnish and lead three hundred

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<sup>z</sup> Strype's Memorials

(1822) iii, pt.

2, p. 181:

Machyn's

Diary (Camden Soc. xlii)

pp. 46, 335:

Coll. of Arms

MS. I. 7, fol.

74.

<sup>a</sup> Acts of

Privy Council,

N. S., vi.

(1893), p. 244.

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Staffordshire men for service at Berwick, to check a threatened Scotch invasion, and in 1561-2 he was High Sheriff of Staffordshire: but on the whole Sir William seems to have led a quiet and uneventful life. He added to his large estates, not only by his marriage, but by obtaining a conveyance from Lord Berkeley<sup>b</sup> of all his lands about Drakelowe, including the manors of Rosliston, Coton and Linton. His death took place on May 24, 1573<sup>c</sup>.

Probably in 1548<sup>d</sup>, possibly a little earlier, he married **Katherine**, daughter of Sir Edward Aston of Tixall, and she survived her husband till at least 1576<sup>e</sup>, but was dead on Sept. 9, 1585, when administration<sup>f</sup> of her goods was granted to her son Thomas.

Their issue was:—

1. **Thomas** (born Nov. 3, 1552), see p. 69.

2. **Simon**, born between Nov. 25, 1560 and Nov. 24, 1561, for on Nov. 24, 1581, when he and his younger brother matriculated together at Merton College, Oxford, he was aged twenty, and his brother fifteen: but neither took any degree at the University. He married, 1. Anne eldest daughter of Thomas Wood esq. of Growtey<sup>g</sup> (by whom he had no issue: she died on April 21, 1591, and was buried at Staunton in Worcestershire<sup>h</sup>, where her monument still is, with verses to her honour). 2. Anne daughter of Humphrey Dixwell Esq. of Church Over in Warwickshire, widow of Edward Broughton Esq. of Longdon in Staffordshire, who was alive in 1610<sup>i</sup>: for their issue see pedigree vi. This Simon has been the cause of some errors: he is called Stephen in the Staffordshire Visitation of 1583, and is actually on the Aston monument in St. Mary's church at Stafford<sup>j</sup> recorded as the husband of Katherine Aston, his mother! A Simon Gresley also married Anne Hetherington<sup>k</sup> at St. Dunstan's in the West, London, on May 28, 1587, but, assuming this to be correct, I know nothing of either, unless Anne Wood married firstly a Hetherington, and secondly Simon Gresley. From Simon's Will in the Prerogative Court of London, dated Jan. 4, 1637<sup>l</sup>, and proved June 14, 1637, and Sept. 30, 1647, we learn that he resided at the close of his life at Appleton (part of Great Budworth parish) in Cheshire, and that his second wife was buried at Great Budworth, where he also desired to be buried.

3. **Hastings**, born between Nov. 25, 1565, and Nov. 24, 1566, see above: but little is known of him, except his matriculation at Merton. He married Elizabeth<sup>l</sup> widow of William Francis of Foremark, she herself being a daughter of William Francis of Ticknall, see the Burdet pedigree: she was for the second time a widow in 1635<sup>m</sup>. Her daughter

<sup>b</sup> Gresley Charter 484; John Smyth's Lives of the Berkeleys ii (1883), p. 357.

<sup>c</sup> See p. 74: but May 23rd in Brit. Mus. MSS. Add. 6710, p. 238; 6669, fol. 64r.

<sup>d</sup> Gresley Charter 478.

<sup>e</sup> Parker's Colton p. 123.

<sup>f</sup> Lichfield Act. Book, p. 106.

<sup>g</sup> I do not readily find any account of this family or place: their arms were, on a bend three fleurs de lys.

<sup>h</sup> Nash's Worcestershire ii, 373.

<sup>i</sup> Final Concord of Easter 1610, owned by the Rev. N. W. Gresley.

<sup>j</sup> Bodl. MS. Ashm. 853, p. 14<sup>v</sup>.

<sup>k</sup> Collect. Topogr. v. 214.

<sup>l</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 6160, ii, fol. 23<sup>v</sup>.

<sup>m</sup> Her Will at Lichfield dated and proved in 1635.

by her former husband married a Burdet and was the mother of Bridget Burdet who married Thomas Gresley son of the first Baronet.

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Next follow four daughters, whose relative order is as below, but some of whom may be older than their brothers, and one of whom probably married William Horton Esq., as he is called in Sir Thomas Gresley's Will 'my brother-in-law': he was probably one of the Hortons of Catton in Derbyshire.

4. **Jane.**

5. **Mary** occurs as a god-parent on Jan. 9, 158 $\frac{5}{8}$  p.

° Burton on Trent Register.

6. **Elizabeth** died without issue.

7. **Grace**, who married Sir Thomas Wolseley of Wolseley in Staffordshire, and thus connected what were probably the two most ancient and honourable families in the district: but she had no children. It is perhaps not quite certain whether Grace or her sister Mary married Sir Thomas: whichever did so died before 1598.

**Sir Thomas Gresley, Kt.**

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(*b.* 1552: *d.* 1610.)

As he was 20 years, 6 months and 20 days old at his father's death on May 24, 1573, he was born on Nov. 3, 1552, but it is noticeable that he was not sent to Oxford for education, although his younger brothers and eldest son were sent there. In fact the 'fashion' of sending the young nobility and gentry to the Universities was only just coming in under the influence of Queen Elizabeth, who turned to her Universities when she desired public servants either in Church or State. As Sir Thomas was still a minor when his father died, he had to obtain from the Crown when he came of age (the deeds are dated June 16, 1574) a grant of his own wardship and marriage, and the Court of Wards and Liveries required a schedule of all the property concerned, two copies of which are now at Drakelowe °: see p. 74.

Sir Thomas's public career began when he was Sheriff of Staffordshire, in 1583-4, and an eventful year it was for him. Mary Queen of Scots had been staying at Sheffield, but towards the close of Sir Thomas's year of office it was decided to remove her thence to Wingfield and so to Tutbury Castle. Her retinue, though reduced, was large enough to cause considerable embarrassment and trouble,

° Gresley Charters 487-8; cf. Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6710, p. 238; 6669, fol. 64r; Harl. 757, p. 135.

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<sup>p</sup> Printed in Shaw's Staffordshire i, appendix pp. 13-17, &c.

<sup>q</sup> Hist. MSS. Comm. iv. 330.

<sup>r</sup> Erdeswick's Staffordshire p. 533.

the Castle not being suitably furnished and by all accounts a cold and damp place for an invalid Queen. The correspondence<sup>p</sup> between Sir Ralph Sadler, to whom the Queen had been entrusted, and Secretary Walsingham, a relative of Lady Gresley, is a vivid picture of the labour and anxiety involved in the move to Tutbury. One expedient for making Tutbury comfortable was to transfer from Lord Paget's house at Burton (or Beaudesert?) some 'household stuff,' including the valuable hangings on the wall: for that house was being dismantled in consequence of its owner's withdrawal to France as a suspected Roman Catholic ready to aid the Scottish Queen. As early as Dec. 18, 1583, Sir Thomas, or 'Thomas Gresley Esquire' as he then was, had received an order<sup>q</sup> to take an inventory of Lord Paget's goods both at Burton and Beaudesert, and it appears that he not only did so but under authority sold some hangings of value and some beds to 'Mr. Digby' and 'Mr. Ferrers.' Now these hangings were exactly what were wanted for Tutbury! Accordingly after an order of Nov. 7, 1584, to convey Lord Paget's household stuff to Tutbury, the hangings were enquired for, and found to have been sold. The crisis was acute when the Queen of Scots moved from Wingfield to Derby on Jan. 13, 1584, and reached Tutbury Castle on the following day. The fact that 'x peces of hangings which wer in my L. great chambre' had been sold, and the Queen's complaints of her cold welcome at Tutbury reached Queen Elizabeth's ears, and she in much displeasure sent an emphatic message on Feb. 18, 1584, that the hangings were to be recovered. The ex-sheriff did his best, and recovered eight pieces from Ferrers, but nothing from Digby. Matters at last quieted down, and when Mary's last journey to Fotheringay took place, Sir Thomas was ordered to attend her<sup>r</sup>. The details are well known, how she was given opportunities for complicity in Babington's conspiracy, was arrested at Chartley, was removed to Fotheringay on Sept. 25, 1586, tried on Oct. 14-15, and executed on Feb. 8 following.



That Sir Thomas was a leading man in public affairs in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, is evinced by his captaincy of the Derbyshire Horse<sup>s</sup> for many years, and the frequent mention of him in connexion with musters and levies, as in 1587<sup>t</sup>, 1588<sup>u</sup>, 1595<sup>v</sup>, 1599<sup>w</sup>, 1601<sup>x</sup>. He was also Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1591-2, and 1603-4, and Deputy Lieutenant of the county in 1600<sup>y</sup>. At last he was rewarded by James I, in his progress from Scotland to London, with Knighthood, conferred on him at Worksop on April 21, 1603<sup>z</sup>.

It is to be feared that these public services involved Sir Thomas in debt: at any rate he was the first Gresley who set the example of selling any of the larger estates of the family. His father had sold the distant Wasteneys manor of Braceborough<sup>a</sup>, but now the son, with the consent of his son George sold the manor of Colton<sup>b</sup> on June 2, 1609, to Sir Walter Aston for £13,000: and seems also to have disposed of his land at Blithbury<sup>c</sup>, Kingston<sup>d</sup>, Callowhill<sup>e</sup> and Loxley<sup>f</sup>, and some perhaps elsewhere.

He died in Sept. 1610, being buried at Gresley<sup>g</sup> on the 6th of that month. His Will<sup>h</sup> is dated July 20 in that year and was proved on the Oct. 26 following: Dorothy Gresley his daughter was the sole executrix.

Sir Thomas Gresley seems to have been married three times: first, in about 1573, to **Elizabeth** eldest daughter of James Harvey<sup>i\*</sup> citizen and merchant of Lime Street in London, and as Sir Thomas's second wife had a family of eight before 1585, the first wife must have soon died: she certainly had no children by Sir Thomas.

His second wife was **Katherine** daughter of Sir Thomas Walsingham of Beadhay, Kent, and Scadbury in Staffordshire. She was baptized at Chiselhurst<sup>g</sup> in Kent on Jan. 8, 1585<sup>g</sup>, and must have married early, for she was buried on Dec. 18, 1585, at Gresley<sup>h</sup>, and had had eight children.

The third wife (after 1595) was **Mary**, illegitimate daughter of Sir Richard Southwell of Woodrising in Norfolk. She had already married three times<sup>i</sup>, 1. Henry son and heir of Sir Thomas Paston: 2. (in 1573) Dr. William Drury<sup>j</sup>,

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<sup>s</sup> Hist. MSS. Comm. xii. 4. 357 (A. D. 1599).

<sup>t</sup> Ibid. 230, cf. 267, 276.

<sup>u</sup> Cox's Derby. Annals i. 152, cf. ii. 102, 104.

<sup>v</sup> Derby. Arch. Soc. xvii. 32.

<sup>w</sup> Ibid. 40.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid. 42-5.

<sup>y</sup> Cox's Derby. Ann. i. 220.

<sup>z</sup> Metcalfe's Bk. of Knights, p. 140.

<sup>a</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, p. 51.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. p. 52.

<sup>c</sup> Parker's Colton p. 126.

<sup>d</sup> Salt Soc. xvi. 131.

<sup>e</sup> Gresley Reg.

<sup>f</sup> Prerog. Court of Canterb.

<sup>i\*</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, pp. 37-8; Harl. 757, p. 15.

<sup>g</sup> Chiselh. Reg.

<sup>h</sup> Gresley Reg.

<sup>i</sup> Norfolk Visitations, 1563, 1589, 1613.

<sup>j</sup> 'Collins vi. 365. Seymour's London i. 737; Drury pedigree MS.'

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a Master in Chancery, who died on Dec. 15, 1589, and was buried at St. Mary Magdalen, Old Fish St., London: 3. Robert Forde, D.C.L., who died in 1595. Mary herself, who seems to have had no children by any of her husbands, died in 1622. She is not mentioned in Sir Thomas's Will, and was buried in the same church as her second husband.

The children of Sir Thomas Gresley by his second wife were:—

1. **Katharine**, who married first Francis Dethick Esq. of Newhall, a great-nephew of Dorothy Dethick who married Thomas Gresley, see p. 67: secondly Sir Bartholomew Hales of Snitterfield, and thirdly Edward Gibbs, who died in about 1633-4. Katharine herself died between April 10, 1635, the date of a codicil of her Will, and Aug. 6, 1635, when it was proved<sup>k</sup>. She was distinguished from her next sister by being called Katharine of Kent<sup>l</sup>, having perhaps had part of her mother's property in that county settled on her. She perhaps had a daughter Elizabeth by her second husband<sup>m</sup>.

<sup>k</sup> In the Prerog. Court of Canterbury.

<sup>l</sup> MS. Chetwynd pedigree: Erdeswick's Staffordshire p. 217.

<sup>m</sup> Warw. Visitation, 1619.

<sup>n</sup> Staff. and Derb. Visitations of 1583.

<sup>o</sup> Gresl. Reg.

2. **Katharine**, the second daughter of that name, who was the first wife of Sir Richard Harpur of Swarkston (who afterwards married Katharine's first cousin Elizabeth, see ped. vi): he died in April 1619. She was sometimes known as Katharine of York<sup>l</sup>.

3. **Henry**, the eldest son, was probably born in 1579, since he was four years old in 1583<sup>n</sup>, and was fifteen years old when he matriculated at Balliol College, Oxford, in Nov. 1594. He supplicated for the degree of B.A. on May 27, 1597, but died in the following year and was buried at Gresley on Sept. 16, 1598<sup>o</sup>.

4. **George** (born 1580: the first Baronet), see p. 80.

5. **John**, probably born in 1581, since when matriculated at his eldest brother's College on Jan. 20, 1595, he was aged 16. He married Joan daughter of Jasper More of Larden in Shropshire, and in 1613 was living in Shrewsbury<sup>p</sup>. From him descended the long line of Worcester-shire and Bristol Gresleys, whose fortunes are traced in chapter vii of the present work. A John Gresley was buried at Gresley on Nov. 18, 1623<sup>q</sup>.

<sup>p</sup> Matric. record of his son Henry.

<sup>q</sup> Gresley Reg.

6. **William** was born in 1583 or early in 1584, since he was nineteen when he matriculated at Gloucester Hall, Oxford, on Jan. 28, 1603. He may be the 'William Gresley' who wrote a motto in Bodl. MS. Digby 230, fol. 224.

7. **Dorothy** was born on Aug. 28, and baptized on Sept. 11, 1584, at or near Burton on Trent<sup>r</sup>: she married (after 1609<sup>s</sup>) Sir Alexander Barkw of Barlow Moor in Shropshire, who died in 1642, a Roman Catholic<sup>t</sup>: Dorothy was his second wife, and survived him.

<sup>r</sup> Burton Reg.

<sup>s</sup> Her father's Will.

<sup>t</sup> Cheth. Soc. lxxv, p. 46.

8. **Walsingham**, the youngest child, was perhaps the most distinguished. He was born in the summer or autumn of 1585, and entered at Gloucester Hall, Oxford, on the same day as his brother William, Jan. 28, 1603, aged 17. In 1619 he was employed on foreign service on behalf of the

King, being attached to the British Embassy at Madrid, whence he writes a political newsletter<sup>u</sup> to Sir Thomas Pelham on 'Jan. 22, 1619' (1618?). At about the same time he was despatched to Sardinia to demand the restitution of a British ship<sup>v</sup> seized by the Viceroy of that island, but was himself taken on the way by Turkish men of war and carried a slave to Algiers. He seems however to have returned safely to Spain, for on Dec. 1<sup>o</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 1622, he sends Spanish news<sup>w</sup> to Sir Robert Seymour, but was apparently passing from England to Spain again in March or April 1623<sup>x</sup>. In Aug. 1623<sup>y</sup> he was again despatched to Madrid on an important mission about the Spanish Match, but by the February following he had returned to London<sup>z</sup>. In Jan. 1632<sup>z</sup> there is a long letter<sup>a</sup> from him describing the arrival of Viscount Wentworth in Ireland as Lord Deputy, and the ceremonies which attended it. But shortly after he died, on Oct. 28, 1633, at Sherborne, and was buried there on Oct. 30, as the Sherborne Registers show. It is singular that his monument (see below) gives a wrong date. No doubt his employment on public service was partly due to his mother being related to Sir Francis Walsingham of Elizabethan fame: but it is clear also that he found a life-long patron in Sir John Digby the first Earl of Bristol, whose diversified life and long political connexion with the Spanish Court are well known. There is not evidence enough to show in detail the relation of Walsingham Gresley to the Earl, but it is expressed in general terms on the Gresley Monument at Sherborne, the inscription on which runs 'Hic iacet Walsingham : Gresley . . . qui Io: Com<sup>ti</sup>: Bristol : apud exteras nationes domiq: prosperis, et adversis : amore ac fidelitate inservivit in cuius rei memoria hoc ei monumentum posuit,' the date of his death being given as on Nov. 4 (not 14), 1633, and his age as forty-eight. He was never married.

The above order of the children is certainly correct.

It may be here mentioned that J. Payne Collier, in his *New Particulars regarding the Works of Shakespeare* (1836), p. 65, mentions some verses signed 'W. Sh.,' four of which (beginning 'The fruit that is to earlie gotten') are supposed to be spoken by 'M<sup>is</sup> [Mistress] Gresley,' but the reference is not known.

The Law Reports give an account of 'Greisley's Case' in Trinity Term 30 Eliz. (1588) in the Common Pleas, which was a question of the right of distraint in the manor of Kingston, of which Sir Thomas Gresley was Lord. References to the Reports containing this case will be found in the *Repertorium Juridicum* (1742), p. 31, and elsewhere.

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<sup>u</sup> Cartwright's Bramer, p. 144; E. Shirley's *Stemmata Shirleiana*, 2nd ed., p. 282; E. Shirley's *Sherley Brothers* (Roxburghe Club, 1848), p. 87.

<sup>v</sup> *The Vineyard*: see *Epistolæ Hoelianaë* (1892) pp. 152, 162.

<sup>w</sup> *Brit. Mus. MS. Add.* 29974, fol. 60: cf. *Hist. MSS. Comm.* viii, pt. 1, p. 215; x, pt. 4, p. 388.

<sup>x</sup> *Hist. MSS. Comm.* vii, p. 260: cf. *Brit. Mus. MS. Add.* 33084, fol. 36 (1631), *Erdeswick's Staffordsh.* p. 218.

<sup>y</sup> *Epistolæ Hoelianaë* (1892), pp. 173, 187.

<sup>z</sup> *Ibid.* p. 204.

<sup>a</sup> Printed at p. 76.

## NOTE A.

(See p. 69.)

The extent and clere yerelye value of all the Lordshippes Mannors Landes tenementes and heredytamentes Late of sir William Gresley knight deceased the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> daye of maye Laste paste before the fyndinge of the office &c. And which bene discended and comen in possessyone and revercion to Thomas Gresley esquier sonne and heyer of the said sir William beinge of the age of twentye yeres sixe monethes and twentye Dayes at the deathe of the said sir Wylliam As by an office thereof founde at Derbye in the countye of Derbye the seconde daye of September Anno decimo quinto domine Elizabethe Regine &c. appareth videlicet

## Comitatus Derbiensis.

<sup>1</sup> The Mannors of Drakelowe and Caldwell with thappurtenaunces in the countye of Derbye and dyverse Landes tenementes rentes and heredytamentes with thappurtenaunces in Drakelowe and Caldwell Staplehill and Walton vpon Trent parcell of the said mannors of Drakelowe and Caldwell are holden of the quenens Maiestie as of her honor of Tutberye by knightes seruice that is to saye by a whole knightes fee and are by yere aboue all charges

xliij<sup>li</sup>.xliij<sup>li</sup>.

## Comitatus Staffordiensis.

<sup>2</sup> The Manor of Colton with thappurtenaunces and Dyverse Landes tenementes and heredytamentes in Colton Colwiche Newland and Blytheburye are holden of Edward Lord Stafford per seruicium ignoratum and are by yere aboue all charges

xxxviiij<sup>li</sup>.

The Mannor of Kingeston with thappurtenaunces and all Landes tenementes and heredytamentes in Kingeston Leeshill and Loxley are holden of Henrye Erle of Arundell per que seruicia ignoratur and are by yere aboue all charges

xiiij<sup>li</sup>.xlviij<sup>li</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [*in margin*] In the possessyone of the ladye katheryne Gresley widowe late wief of sir George Gresley knight deceased for terme of her lief in the name of her ioyntor.

<sup>2</sup> [*in margin*] In possessyone of the Ladye Katheryne Gresley widowe Late wief of sir William Gresley knyghte for terme of her lief.

Comitatus Derbiensis.

The Mannor of Cooton alias Cotes with all and singuler thappurtenaunces ys holden of the quenes Maiestie in chief by knightes seruice and are by yere aboute all charges } xv<sup>li</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The Mannor of Castle Gresley with thappurtenaunces in Castle Gresley with thappurtenaunces and Duranthorpe alias Donasthorpe ys holden of the quenes Maiestie as of her honor of Tutberye by the sixte parte of a knightes fee and are by yere aboute all charges } xiiij<sup>li</sup>. vj<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>.

The Manor of Lolington alias Lullington with the appurtenaunces in Lullington and Walton vpon trent is holden of the quenes Maiestie as of her honor of Tutberye by knightes seruice and are by yere aboute all charges } xx<sup>li</sup>.

The Mannor of Rostlaston with all and singuler the appurtenaunces in Lynton ys holden of Humfrey Ferrars esquier as of his Manor of Walton vpon trent by fealtye and rent of vj<sup>d</sup>. and are by yere aboute all charges } xvj<sup>li</sup>.

The moytie of the Manor of Overseale and Netherseale with thappurtenaunces are holden of the Quenes Maiestie in chief by the xl<sup>th</sup> parte of a knightes fee and ys by yere aboute all charges } xiiij<sup>li</sup>.

Comitatus Staffordiensis.

The Manors of Moreton and Huxton with all and singuler thappurtenaunces and dyverse Landes tenementes and heredytamentes with thappurtenaunces in Moreton Huxton alias Hyxton and Admaston are holden of the Lord Pagett as of his manor of haywood per serui-cium ignoratum and are by yere aboute all charges } x<sup>li</sup>. xvj<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>.

xx  
iiiiij<sup>li</sup>. iij<sup>s</sup>. iiij<sup>d</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [*in margin*] Whereof the Manor of Gresley in the countye of Derbye the manors of Moreton and Hixton Landes and tenementes in Newland Colwiche Admaston Leeshill Loxley Bromeshouse Kingeston Calohill Grynley and Blithbury in the countye of Stafford are assured to thuse of the said Thomas Gresley and

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<sup>1</sup> Dyverse Landes tenementes and heredytamentes with thappurtenaunces in Tutberye and Tutberye Woodhousen are holden of the quenes Maiestie as of her honor of Tutberye by knightes seruice and are by yere aboute all charges } vj<sup>li</sup>.

Summa Totalis <sup>xx</sup> ciiij iij<sup>li</sup>. iij<sup>s</sup>. iij<sup>d</sup>. whereof the heyer was ioynthe purchaser of Landes to the value of xiiij<sup>li</sup>. by the yere and so remayneth to the heire in possessyone and Revercion Landes to the value of clxix<sup>li</sup>. iij<sup>s</sup>. iij<sup>d</sup>.

## NOTE B.

LETTER FROM WALSINGHAM GRESLEY DESCRIBING LORD  
WENTWORTH'S ARRIVAL IN DUBLIN, JAN. 1633<sup>3</sup>.

(See p. 73 : printed from a MS. which was recently in the possession of Mr. J. E. Cornish, bookseller, of Manchester : see also Hist. MSS. Comm. iii. p. 211.)

Syr, wee are now vpon our returne to the North, and I hope this will bee the last tyme I shall write to you from hence, and therefore had I not bine surprisid with the suddaine departure of this Messenger I would haue written more at large. My lords of Essex and Cromwell with their good Company arrived here on Satterdaie last, and were mett 5 myles off and brought in with greate state by the lorde Justice, lord Primate, and all people of quallitie that were about this Towne, and the highwayes and streets especially soe thronged with people to see him, that hardly could the Coaches passe, I thinke his Father in all his glory here was not more ioyfully received, which wee thought was highly expressed in the phrase of the Countrie by an old Irish woeman,

of theirs males of his bodye lauffully begotten and for defalte of suche issue to the right heires of the said sir William Also the Mannors of lollings alias Lullington Roselaston and Cooton alias Cootes and landes in lenton duranstop alias Donastrop and Stapenhill were forfeited by the said sir William Gresley to James harvyte cytizen and alderman of london and by the same James assured to Symon harecourte esquier and others to thuse of the said sir William for terme of his lief without ympechement of waste and after his decease to thuse of the said Thomas Gresley and of theirs males of his bodye of the bodye of Elizabeth harvyte to be begotten and for defalte of suche issue to thuse of theirs males of the said sir William &c. Lykewise the moytie of the Manors of Overseale and Netherseale alias Magna Seale were ioyntlie purchased of the right honorable Walter Erle of Essex by the said sir William Gresley and Thomas his sonne and to the heires of the said Thomas.

<sup>1</sup> [*in margin*] Assured to Edward Gresley for terme of his lief by sir George Gresley knighte father of the said sir William and Edwarde.

that cried out aloud 'blest bee the tyme that I liue to see a Sonne of thie Father here.'

On the Tewesday followinge the longe expected Lord Deputie arrived here somewhat early in the morninge, the wynde blowinge stiffe, hee could not land at the Hoe, where that lord had provided dinner for him, but was brought by the Shipp's Pinnace to Lowhy where hee landed ere the Justices had any notice of his arrivall, yet the lorde Corke hastned to meete him, and brought him in his Coach to the Castle, but soe priuatly that there was not soe much as one peece of ordinance shott off, yet by that tyme hee came thither, the presse of ordinarie people was such as theie were forced to pull vpp the drawebridge of the Castle, and his lordshipp would admitt of noe visitts all that day, but went ymediatly to bedd to his Lady, whoe vntill that instant had noe other title, nor place giuen her here but that of Mistris Rodes, although now wee heare shee was married to him six weekes before hee sent her hither.

On Wednesdaie hee admitted all visitts which were decently performed by the Lorde Justices, Councel Judges, Nobillity, Captaines, and Magistrates of the Towne, which his lordshipp repayed to most of them and to my Lord of Essex first of all, givinge him place in all places where theie mett.

Vpon Thursday hee receiued the Sword (not in the Church as is usually the Custome), some say the reason hereof was because the lord Primate at the instance of the lords Justices havinge provided a Sermon for that Solempnity the Archbishop of this Towne would not giue way to him, but the true reason was that his lordshipp did it to avoyd publike fausto but the Common Voyce is not herewith satisfied, but seemes to murmur that theire ancyeant Customes are by him slighted. Twoe of the Clock in the Afternoone was the hower appointed for this Ceremony, and the place was the Councell Chamber. The manner was thus. The Lords Justices with the body of the Councell came first into the Presence Chamber, and soe into the Gallery, the Lorde Deputie instantly came out to them and theie hauinge made a shorte speech vnto him in his eare whisperinge like; the Deputie it seemes would haue had them gon through the Gallery into the Councell Chamber, but the lord Chancellor told him it was more proper at that tyme to goe more publicly thither, wherevpon it was soe agreed, and hee followinge the Lords Justices, theie went through the presence greate Chamber and soe through the Courte vpp into the Councell Chamber, where the full Councell sittinge, the Deputie stood at a corner of the board, whilst Mr. Wanisford (whoe the day before was sworne Master of the Rolls) read his commission; the Lord Mount Morris as Secretarie of State havinge it in reversion after Sir Dudley Norton whoe may well bee Inuilaid [*sic*] read the kings letter to the lords Justices for the deliueringe vp the sword, givinge reasons for his longe stay and requiringe them to administer the oathe vnto him, which hee havinge taken the lord Chauncellor made a speech vnto him in what state theie now left the kingdome, noe libell out, or any kinde of Commotion but many things

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there were worthie of reformation ; which theie as faithfull Councillors would at fitt tymes acquainte his Lordshipp with, and soe deliueringe the Ensignes of his authoritie to the Deputie his Lordshipp held the sword in his hand [and] sittinge downe in the Chaire of State made a very good speech vnto the board tellinge them that hee would bee noe vpholder of Factions amongst them, but should esteeme of them most that most stroue to effect the kings service, that theie should finde him neuer to faile of his word. Hee said hee had heard there had bine some distast taken at the takinge from euery Company twoe for the raisinge of himselfe a Troope of horse, and foote, he protested it was not his owne doeing ; but when hee was declared Deputie there was neuer a troope for him, which was the cause hee came not ouer presently. That after the first Company that should fall hee would promise that the second of each Company hee had taken to make vpp this should bee restored back to them againe, and that hee did not meane to appropriate it to his owne persone, but annex the Company of foote and horse to his place, that theie might bee as a guard, alwayes to the succeedinge Deputies, and Lords Justices, for said hee as hee held it vnfit for a Deputie to seeke a Company, soe hee thought very vnfit that after a Deputie were remoued that hee should still retayne his Companie. Therein hee touched the lord of Faulkland, whoe retayned his.

Havinge made an end of his Speech he deliuered the kings letter to bee read for the makinge of the Master of the Rolles one of the Councill, whoe havinge taken his oathe and his place the Deputie deliuered his Sword to the Earle of Castell Hauen (which had bine carried thither before the Justices by a knight) and soe the Justices followinge him theie returned him the same way theie came and cominge into the Presence Chamber hee caused them to make a stand, and cominge before the Cloath of State hee made twoe lowe, and humble courtesies to the Kings and Queenes pictures, which hang on each side the State, and fixinge his eye with much seriousness shewed a kinde of devotion. Then takinge the sword into his hand, hee missed there a yonge Gentleman his Cozen Danby (whoe is married to the Master of the Rolles his daughter), the gentleman cominge out of the Crowd presented himselfe before him on his knee, and by him Master George Wentworth the Deputies brother whoe was first knighted, then Danby, and after him one Master Remington a very yonge Gentleman vnder yeares whoe hopes to haue his wardshipp thereby, for his father is very old, and sickly.

Havinge done this hee went into the Privie Chamber, where his Lady stode accompayned with the Countesse of Tirconnell, and diuerse other Ladies. And here was the first place hee declared his lady to bee his wife, which was by presentinge her to bee saluted by the Justices with a kisse from each one. When hee came from the Councill Chamber all the ordenance of the Castell were shott off. And this is all the part of the Ceremony I observed, which I thinke worthie of your knowledge. It is thought on Sonnday next hee will make more knights.



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There is come ouer with his lordshipp Master Phillipp Manwaringe, whoe theie say shall haue some place here, but I can learne none vacant, yet guesse it may bee the Secretaries place, for Sir Dudley Norton beinge a miserable spectacle of mortallitie it may bee will willingly resigne to him havinge bine formerly fellowe seruants to the late Earle of Salisbury.

Syr I must desire you to make my excuse to my noble Lord, and Master, if I write not at this tyme to his lordshipp beinge in such hast. If there be any thing herein worthy his lordshipps notion I know you will present it in a more proper phrase and togeather tender my humble duty to his lordshipp and service to all at Sherborne. And soe I conclude with my respects to your selfe, and friends at London, and remayne

Your affectionate servant  
WALSINGHAM GRESLEY.

[*To the Earl of Bristol*]

## CHAPTER V

### THE LINE OF BARONETS FROM 1611 TO 1837

xviii

Sir George Gresley, 1st Baronet.

(*b.* 1580? : *d.* 1651.)

SIR GEORGE GRESLEY, the first of the line of Baronets, was born between Nov. 1579 and Nov. 1580, since he was aged 14 when he matriculated (on Nov. 22?, 1594) at Balliol College, Oxford. In 1597-8 he was admitted a member of the Inner Temple, and we hear no more of him until his father's death in 1610, except in connexion with certain sales and leases of land, in two of which he is described as 'of Colton Lodge<sup>a</sup>.' In 1610 his public career begins at once, for he took part in a violent electioneering dispute at Derby<sup>b</sup> with Sir Philip Stanhope.

<sup>a</sup> Parker's Colton pp. 372, 373 (1607 and 1608).

<sup>b</sup> Erdeswick's Staffordsh. p. 218.

It was in 1611 that James I, anxious to replenish his exchequer, issued a Commission to give patents of Baronetage to such of the country gentry as would provide thirty footmen for three years at 8*d.* a day for the settling of Ulster (equivalent to a single payment of £1,095). On them the King conferred the style and privileges of Baronets of England, promising them hereditary succession, a limitation in number to 200, and a rank above all Knights, except K.G.'s and such as should be created by the King on the field of battle. Accordingly eighteen patents were issued on May 22, 1611, fifty-seven more on June 29, and seventeen on Nov. 25. In this list of ninety-two we find the name of 'George Gresley, of Drakelowe, Derbyshire, Esquire' twenty-eighth. But

even before the end of the year a dispute arose about the relative precedency of Baronets and of younger sons of Viscounts and Barons, and among the seven or eight who were prominent on the side of the new Order Sir George is mentioned. He was present also at the personal interview of representatives of the Order with the King in February 161½, but the question was at last in May following decided against them, a kind of compensation being given, to the effect that the badge of Ulster should appear on their arms and that all Baronets should take their Knighthood by simple application at the age of twenty-one—a privilege which lasted till at least 1874. It is but fitting that in the present year (1899) the descendant of Sir George should similarly find a place on the Committee of Baronets which is to define and defend the rights of the whole body at the present time.

Sir George must have been in favour at Court, for he was selected as one of the ten who bore bannerols at Prince Henry's funeral<sup>c</sup> on Dec. 7, 1612. After that he seems to have generally lived at Drakelowe, occurring as Knight and J.P. in 1614<sup>d</sup>, a Commissioner of Musters for Derbyshire in 1618<sup>e</sup>, and M.P. for Newcastle under Lyme in the Parliament of 162½—162¾. It may well be that the scenes he witnessed during these few sessions were sufficient to shake his confidence in Charles I, and not only decided him to refuse to pay ship-money in 1636<sup>f</sup>, but also, when the great struggle came, to choose the Parliamentary side. The 'melior fides' of his family motto was not touched, for he could conscientiously say with Hampden 'Against my King I do not fight, But for my King and Kingdom's right.'

We have also twenty-one news-letters<sup>g</sup> on public affairs written by him from London to Sir Thomas Puckering between May 28, 1629, and Jan. 23, 163½.

The outbreak of the Civil War in the autumn of 1642 found Derbyshire, outwardly at least, on the Royalist side: and the raising of the famous regiment by Sir John Gell in that county, with a view to counteract the movements of the

<sup>c</sup> Nichols, *Progresses of James i.* See p. 85.

<sup>d</sup> Salt Soc. v. 2. 341.

<sup>e</sup> Folio MS., in Sir G.'s hand, at Drakelowe.

<sup>f</sup> If he be the 'Mr. Gresley' in Cox's *Derb. Annals* ii. 112.

<sup>g</sup> Twelve in Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 4178, foll. 617-79: nearly all printed in the *Court and Times of Charles i.* See p. 86.

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Royalist troops, must have been at the outset a great risk. Of the history of its marches and countermarches from Oct. 1642 we have three accounts, one (*A True Account*) extending to February 1643, the second<sup>h</sup>, also *A True Account*, to Sept. 1644, and the third (*A True Relation*) reaching to 1646: the first and third are printed in Noble's Glover's *Derbyshire* (1829) i. App. pp. 70<sup>i</sup>, 62. In about October 1642 the first *Account* relates that 'Sir George Gresley was now joined with us, the only gentleman of quality in this County that cordially appeared to be on our side.' The Vernons and Harpurs and most of his relations were against him, but Sir George held to his convictions and shared the expeditions of the Regiment as it passed to Bretby, Nottingham, Uttoxeter, Newark, Lichfield (during the siege), and Stafford. Its head-quarters were always Derby, and its practical effect was that on May 1, 1643, nearly all Derbyshire and parts of South Yorkshire and East Cheshire were Parliamentary, though almost surrounded by the King's adherents. In the varying fortunes of the rest of 1643 ground was lost in Derbyshire, but within a year more fortune had finally turned, and Lichfield, Tamworth, Ashby, Belvoir and Grantham were the only Royalist holdings in the neighbourhood. We have letters of Sir George of Dec. 24, 1642<sup>j</sup>, Nov. 16<sup>j</sup> and Dec. 16<sup>k</sup>, 1644, Feb. 18<sup>k</sup> and 19<sup>k</sup>, 1644<sup>l</sup>, and May 26<sup>l,m</sup> and Nov. 21<sup>m</sup>, 1645. But perhaps the most graphic account of his position is in a Petition<sup>k</sup> from him to Parliament, of Sept. or Nov. 1644, in which he asks for compensation for losses, his whole estate being four miles from Tutbury, five from Ashby and seven from Lichfield, all Royalist garrisons which plundered and wasted his domains. In the February following he must have consulted John Lilly, the well-known astrologer, perhaps on the principle 'Flectere si nequeo Superos, Acheronta movebo'; for an astrological figure set for him on 'Feb. 3, 1644' is in Bodl. MS. Ashm. 436, fol. 104<sup>a</sup>, in Lilly's own handwriting, but the precise cause of the visit is not stated. At any rate on Aug. 28,

<sup>h</sup> Hist. MSS. Comm. ix. 2. 387.

<sup>i</sup> From Shaw's Staffordshire i. 55.

<sup>j</sup> Hist. MSS. Comm. xii. 2. 328.

<sup>k</sup> Shaw's Staffordsh. i. 18.

<sup>l</sup> Sir Geo. Gresley's MS. See p. 87.

<sup>m</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 11331, fol. 161<sup>v</sup>. See p. 88.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid. 11332, fol. 112.

<sup>o</sup> Virg. Aen. vii. 312.

1645<sup>p</sup>, Parliament voted him a sum of £4 weekly, which continued till August 20 in the following year<sup>p</sup>.

Sir George did not long survive the Civil War, for we find the record of his burial on Feb. 5, 1651<sup>q</sup>, in the Temple Church at London, 'in the body of the Church on the Inner Temple side<sup>q</sup>,' i.e. in the nave or central aisle. All traces of it appear to be now lost, and even in the clerestory of the Church where most of the monuments are now preserved, there is none which bears his name.

Besides the letters mentioned above we have two specimens of his powers of versification, one a sonnet 'Vpon the death of the Ladie Jane Burdett, who dyed March 21, 1637,' beginning 'He and his Muse' and dated March 23 in that year<sup>r</sup>: the other a sportive poem beginning 'Jack and Tom in heate of youth | Did loue the fayre Astrea<sup>s</sup>.'

He may have had some antiquarian tastes, as he was a friend of Sir William Dugdale<sup>t</sup>, and it is even stated that the latter owed some of his advancement to Sir George's influential friends.

The large estates held by the family at the beginning of the seventeenth century suffered serious diminution in the time of the first Baronet. Not only was the Manor of Colton sold in 1609 to Sir Walter Aston for £16,000, see p. 71 above, but the Manor of Rosliston<sup>u</sup> also, in 1629, was disposed of to Sir Thomas Hutchinson for £3,800, and a moiety of Gresley parish<sup>v</sup> to William Harries in the preceding year. In 1622 his yearly income from Drakelowe, Rosliston, Nether Seile, Over Seile, Lullington, Gresley, Coton and Linton was over £2,500, but within two years the two Manors of Seile passed to Mr. Morewood for £2,560 (fortunately to be recovered within the century by a marriage with the Morewood heiress), and nearly thirty smaller properties to various purchasers. Part of these sales were no doubt due to a debt, partly his father's, which in 1624 was stated to be £7,022, but which was reduced to less than £2,000 in 1627.

On Dec. 17, 1600, at Walton on Trent, Sir George Gresley married **Susan** daughter of Sir Humphrey Ferrers, he being

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<sup>p</sup> Journals of the House of Commons.

<sup>q</sup> Temple Reg.

<sup>r</sup> At p. 18 of T. C.'s Funeral Sermon on the occasion (York, 1650, sm. 4<sup>o</sup>): the author was T. Calvert.

<sup>s</sup> Sir G. G.'s MS.

<sup>t</sup> Erdeswicke's Staffordshire p. 217: Wood's Fasti Oxon., ed. Bliss, ii. 15.

<sup>u</sup> Papers at Drakelowe.

<sup>v</sup> Erdeswick's Staffordshire p. 207<sup>u</sup>.

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the great-great-grandson of the Sir Thomas Gresley who married Anne Ferrers. Susan's brother Sir John Ferrers had married a Puckering, no doubt a relation of the addressee of so many of Sir George's letters. The marriage was not a happy one, for there is a draft of a Private Act of Parliament of about 1620, by which it is enacted that in consequence of Dame Susan having 'separated her selfe from him [her husband] and lyved from him by the space of eight yeares or thereabouts,' her jointure should revert to her husband, and any children 'she has had or shall have' since the elopement are not to be accounted his. This however was never passed, and no more is heard of Dame Susan, except that she was alive in 1622<sup>w</sup>.

<sup>w</sup> Marriage settlements of Tho. Gresley and Jane Burdet.

The Act states that Sir George had five children, but their relative order is not certainly known:—

1. **Thomas** (born soon after 1600), see p. 89.

<sup>x</sup> Walton Reg.

2. **Elizabeth**, buried at Walton on April 6, 1607<sup>x</sup>.

<sup>y</sup> Harl. Soc. xxxviii. 577.

3. **Dorothy**, who married Robert Milward esq. of Broadlow, who was drowned in 1632<sup>y</sup>. By him she had a daughter Mary who married Sir John Bowyer, see pedigree. Dorothy's second husband was Edward Wilmot, D.D., of Chaddesden: they occur as married in 1642<sup>z</sup>.

<sup>z</sup> Administration of Sir Tho. Gresley's goods.

4. A child who died in infancy and was buried at Burton on Trent on July 28, 1610<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> Burton Reg.

5. **Elizabeth**, a second daughter of that name, who seems to occur as the wife of Richard Walcot<sup>b</sup>, see pedigree: but she probably died before 1642, as Dorothy was the only surviving sister of the late Sir Thomas at that date<sup>z</sup>.

<sup>b</sup> Information from Lord Hawkesbury.

## NOTE A (see p. 81).

'The Magnificent ffunerall of the righte High Mightie ffarr Renowned & Most Relligious Prince Henrye Prince of Wales Duke of Cornewall' &c. Lichfield Cathedral MSS. No. 21, pp. 99-123.

'This Noble Prince Deceafed at St. James, the 6<sup>th</sup> daye of November Anno domini .1612. And was moſte Princelye Interred within the Abbey of Weſtminſter the 7<sup>th</sup> of December then nexte followinge w<sup>th</sup> greate State and Pompe, as by the Sequell hereof fhall appeare.'

. . . . .

'Mondaye the 7<sup>th</sup> of December (the funerall daye) the Representacion was layde vppon the Corpes . And both together putt Into an open Charyott : And fo pceeded as ffolloweth.'

'The Arche Bifhoppe of Canterburye, Preacher.

The Greate Embroydred Banner of the Vnion . Borne by the Earles of Montgomerye & Argile.

An Horfe Ledd, Called Cheualle de dieule, Covered w<sup>th</sup> blacke veluett, Ledd by a Chife Quyrrey, Mounfieur S<sup>t</sup>. Antoin.

The Prince his Hatchements of Honor, Borne by Officers of Armes . viz, The Spurres, by Windfor.

The Gauntletts, by Somerfett.

The Helme & Creft, by Richemonde.

The Targe, by Yorke.

The Sworde, by Norroye, kinge at Armes.

The Coate, by Clarencieux, kinge at Armes.

The Gentellmen vfhers to the Prince, beareinge theyr wandes.

The Corpes of the Prince, Lyeinge In an open Chariott, w<sup>th</sup> the Princes Representacion thereon: Invested in his Roabes of Eftate of Purpell velluett, flurred w<sup>th</sup> Ermyne: His highnes Cappe and Crowne on his head, and his Rodd of Goulde In his hande. And at his ffeete w<sup>th</sup>in y<sup>e</sup> fayde Charriott, fate S<sup>r</sup> David Murraye, y<sup>e</sup> Mafter of his warde Roabe.

The Charriott was Couered w<sup>th</sup> blacke velluett, and garnifhed w<sup>th</sup> Plumes of blacke feathers: And drawn by Sixe Horfes Couered, and Armed w<sup>th</sup> Efchocheons haugeinge theyr Chifferons and Plumes.

A Cannopoy of Blacke veluett, borne ouer the Representacion by Sixe Barronetts.

Ten Bannerolls, borne by .x. Barronetts.

viz.

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| S <sup>r</sup> Moyle ffynche   | S <sup>r</sup> Anthony Coape.    |
| S <sup>r</sup> Thomas Mownfon  | S <sup>r</sup> George Grefley.   |
| S <sup>r</sup> John Wentworth  | S <sup>r</sup> Robert Cotton.    |
| S <sup>r</sup> Henrye Savyle   | S <sup>r</sup> Lewis Trefham.    |
| S <sup>r</sup> Thomas Brudnell | S <sup>r</sup> Phillippe Tyrwit. |

Fower Affitaunts to the Corpes . That bore upp the Corners of y<sup>e</sup> Palle . viz.

The Lo: Zowche.

The Lo: Aburgauenye.

The Lo: Burleigh.

The Lo: Walden.

William Seager, Principall Kinge of Armes, Betweene the Gent Vsher of Prince Charles, and the Gent Vsher of the Prince Pallatine.

Prince Charles Chife Mourner, Supported by the Lo: Priuie Scale, and the Duke of Lennox.

'So that the whole Number Amounted to—2000. Perfones, or thereabouts.'

## NOTE B.

## THREE LETTERS OF SIR GEORGE GRESLEY.

## I.

*Sir George Gresley to Sir Thomas Puckering, Bart.*Essex House, January 23, 163 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

That which, at this present, I am able to inform you is the reformation of the prices of all small acates, the officers of the Green-Cloth having made complaint that the rates of such manner of provision was grown so high, that the compounders could not furnish the household with provision at the rates they then were bound to do. Whereupon, by the king's express command, the lord mayor hath set forth his proclamation and a rate upon the prices of small acates, which I have sent my brother Gibbs; and the price of beef and mutton is to be taxed also very speedily. The wine customers, as it is said, will petition the king for a defalcation of their yearly . . . or otherwise they are not able to hold them. But the vintners are so circumspect to observe the decree, that if you bring meat ready dressed with you into their houses, they will not furnish you with a trencher and napkin to eat it. Some of the little innkeepers, as I hear, went to the court, to petition the king, but were committed to prison for their pains.

And one Mr. Humphrey, a son of Dr. Humphrey<sup>1</sup>, which was president of Magdalen College, in Oxford, is committed to prison for prophesying that doomsday should be upon Friday come month. The manner of Sir Francis Nethersole's offence and his commitment was, as it is most voiced, that pressing to have had some speech with the king, and being prevented therein, he wrote a letter to Secretary Coke, which trenched too much upon his majesty's person; the effect being, as it is reported, that as King James was voiced to be the first loss of the Palatinate, so his majesty would be voiced the second loss thereof, if so be he did longer delay to declare himself what aid he would give towards the restoring the Queen of Bohemia and her children to their inheritanee: which being revealed by Secretary Coke, he was sent for and committed to Mr. Trumball, and upon farther examination concerning his offence, and slipping away from Mr. Trumball, committed to the Tower.

There is some muttering of the change of officers; as that my Lord Chamberlain should be lord steward, and the Duke of Lennox lord chamberlain; that Mr. Noy shall be master of the Wards, and the recorder, or Sir John Bankes, attorney-general. But it is most certain that none but civilians shall be hereafter either masters of

<sup>1</sup> Laurence Humphrey, D.D., who died February 1, 1588, at the age of sixty-three.



Request or Chancery; by which you may smell who looks and hopes to be lord chancellor.

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As for foreign news, I hear not any but a report that the King of France will set up the Duke of Savoy to make his claim to Milan.

II.

*Coppie of S<sup>r</sup> Geo. Gresleye l<sup>r</sup>e.*

*S<sup>r</sup> George Gresleyes l<sup>r</sup>e from Darby touching the King's motions,*

*May 26<sup>b</sup>, 1645.*

S<sup>r</sup>

I have as yet rec<sup>d</sup> only too l<sup>r</sup>e's from you y<sup>e</sup> one upon friday morneing dated 20<sup>b</sup> May, y<sup>e</sup> other upon Saturday morning dated 22<sup>d</sup> May y<sup>e</sup> intelligence of my Lo. Faifax his not keepeing y<sup>e</sup> appointed tyme for y<sup>e</sup> Randezvous at Nottingham caused our Horse to returne whome, as they were in their march thither: yo<sup>r</sup> newes of Coll. Vermuyden attending y<sup>e</sup> r[eturn?] of y<sup>e</sup> Kinges army is very true for he himselfe w<sup>th</sup> 4 colls more (viz.) Fines, Sydney, Pye and Oky w<sup>th</sup> about 3,000 horse and dragoones, quartered in the Towne and in y<sup>e</sup> adjacent villiages upon Saterdag night last L<sup>t</sup> Gefall Cromwell was at Coventry w<sup>th</sup> them and went from thence w<sup>th</sup> 1,000 horse and 4,000 foote towarde Oxford to Joyne w<sup>th</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Tho. Fairfax, major Gefall Browne, y<sup>e</sup> London auxhill Reg<sup>ts</sup> and such other forces as y<sup>e</sup> asotiated Countrye next Oxford have lately raised for y<sup>e</sup> beseiging of that City w<sup>ch</sup> is allready or will be suddenly surrounded w<sup>th</sup> 16,000 Horse and foote at least: upon Saturday in y<sup>e</sup> afternoone wee had certaine intelligence of y<sup>e</sup> Kinges forces comeing to quarter Uttoxeter and betweene that and tutbury that night w<sup>ch</sup> fell out true, for y<sup>e</sup> King lay at M<sup>r</sup>. Kniversley house called Loxley, The two Princes at Uttoxeter and y<sup>e</sup> rest of y<sup>e</sup> Army betwixt that and our Garrison at Barton from whence about the time of our horse going out that afternoone to give us y<sup>e</sup> best intelligence they could, had a skirmish w<sup>th</sup> 100 of y<sup>e</sup> enemyes horse in w<sup>ch</sup> through y<sup>e</sup> blessing of God wee killed and wounded about 10 of y<sup>e</sup> enemye, whereof one was L<sup>t</sup> and wee had not any hurt but only one Horse rune through the y<sup>e</sup> necke w<sup>th</sup> a tucke by one of y<sup>e</sup> enemye, and y<sup>e</sup> rider killed y<sup>e</sup> enemy w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Tucke. That night late Coll. Vermuyden had intelligence from Stafford that y<sup>e</sup> Kinge intended to march through y<sup>e</sup> Peake y<sup>e</sup> next day to Pontefracte and Coll. Thornaugh came hither in y<sup>e</sup> midle of y<sup>e</sup> night w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> same newes and soe hastned him away towarde Sheffeilde w<sup>ch</sup> had he not done, but stayed here all Sunday (as wee would have had him done) to have bin certaine w<sup>ch</sup> way y<sup>e</sup> King had moved, we had by all probability cutt of many of y<sup>e</sup> Kinges horse, and of these stragling troopes w<sup>ch</sup> Plundered y<sup>e</sup> country. for upon Sunday morneing about 8 of y<sup>e</sup> Clocke y<sup>e</sup> King had his Rendevouz upon Fossen heath w<sup>th</sup> in two miles of Titbury where it is said he had about 4,000 foote 3,000 horse & 12

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Peeces of Ordinance he drew a Brigade of his Horse into Barton Parke w<sup>ch</sup> was attended with a Party of foote, w<sup>thout</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Pale a Party marched about y<sup>e</sup> Garrison to view it, in w<sup>ch</sup> it is said both y<sup>e</sup> Princes were: a probable conjecture whereof we have from a faire Irish Grayhound, w<sup>ch</sup> was taken by ten of our men w<sup>ch</sup> ventured over y<sup>e</sup> workes, he had a Coller about y<sup>e</sup> necke w<sup>th</sup> P. K. in brasse and y<sup>e</sup> Princes armes, and said by some Prisoners wee have taken to be y<sup>e</sup> Princes, some of y<sup>e</sup> Ordinance were once turned to be drawne ag<sup>t</sup> our Barten Garrison but a sudden comãd came and diverted that course, y<sup>e</sup> King and Princes were earnestly solicited to storme that Garrison and this Towne and had bin harkened unto but for retarding his march from Tudbury (as wee conceive) to Ashby, and soe to storme Coleourton Garrison and soe from thence to Newarke or else to Leicister and into y<sup>e</sup> assotiated Counties: after y<sup>e</sup> enemyes Brigade was drawne out of y<sup>e</sup> Parke wee sent out of y<sup>e</sup> Garrison severalle Parties successively w<sup>ch</sup> (blessed be God) had good success for wee tooke 11 Prisoners whereof one was a Captaine . . . a Coll. in S<sup>r</sup> Marmaduke Langdales Brigade, as desperate and as valliant a man of war as any in y<sup>e</sup> Army by y<sup>e</sup> reporte of y<sup>e</sup> Prisoners, and would not yeld till he was desparately wounded and died of it since his being brought to y<sup>e</sup> Garrison. Wee took alsoe divers horses and armes and Plundered stuffe, Our Darby Horse faced y<sup>e</sup> enemy on Sunday in y<sup>e</sup> afternoone, untill y<sup>e</sup> eveninge that they marched over Dene to Tudbury and there quartered on y<sup>e</sup> other side of y<sup>e</sup> River but they never sent out any Party to charge us: wee had intelligence from Lecester on Sunday night that a private frend in Newarke sent them notice that y<sup>e</sup> enemy there & at Belvoire had order from his Ma<sup>tie</sup> not to stir out of their quarters, but to have provision brought them, and bee ready at an howers warneing: that they have made a worke in y<sup>e</sup> ground of Muskham Bridg to harber 400 horse and men and an other within musket shot of Newarke towards Grantham, where they have a tent and men ready to march upon an howeres warneing. I have fetched in 300 horse to mount dragoones, wee have some intelligence came from Sheffield w<sup>ch</sup> you shall have by y<sup>e</sup> next for y<sup>e</sup> messenger will not stay till it bee writt and soe in hast reste.

Yo<sup>r</sup> Reall frend  
GEO. GREISLEY

May 26. 11. Clock in y<sup>e</sup>  
morning.

## III.

*Sir Geo. Greisley to Sir W. B. [William Brereton].*

Sir,

Beeing desirous not Justly to merryt y<sup>e</sup> Epethyte of ungratefull I willingly take this oppurtunity to return yo<sup>u</sup> infynite thankses for yo<sup>r</sup>

greate favour in beginning to renewe our intercourse of Intelligence and in a tyme when yo<sup>u</sup> are straytned of tyme and full of business in which I pray God to prosper yo<sup>u</sup>, for y<sup>e</sup> supply of p<sup>ro</sup>vision which yo<sup>u</sup> expect from these ptes I must referr yo<sup>u</sup> to y<sup>e</sup> answeare of yo<sup>r</sup> Co<sup>m</sup>mittees and for my owne p<sup>ar</sup>ticular am sorry if wee are disabled to furnish yo<sup>r</sup> as wee desire, by reason of y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>ro</sup>vision which wee are to send for y<sup>e</sup> mainteynance of our 500 foote 3 troopes of horse and our forces which were at Bolesover, which are (as you may p<sup>er</sup>ceive by y<sup>e</sup> Inclosed) upon the disgarrisoning thereof Co<sup>m</sup>anded to bee sent to Collonell Generall Poynts for to goe against Newarke, and wee have this day a messenger come from y<sup>e</sup> Lord of Leven: whoe brings as certayne word that y<sup>e</sup> Scottish foote will bee this night about Weatherby and many of the horse are now about Chesterfield and wee are sent unto by Collonell Genrall Poynts to send two of our Co<sup>m</sup>mittee to meete w<sup>th</sup> two of the Co<sup>m</sup>mittees of the next adjacent countye, how and in what manner wee may best p<sup>ro</sup>vide victualls for y<sup>e</sup> mayntenance of soe greate an armye, wee heare y<sup>t</sup> Genrall Goring hath layd downe his Comission and Greenvyle hath taken it, and this day our forces at Barton Garrison tooke Captaine Ashton and a Cornett as they were cominge from Litchfeild to Newarke w<sup>th</sup> a Comission under the King's hand and l<sup>et</sup> to my Lord Bellasy, an other y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Regim<sup>t</sup> of horse and foote y<sup>t</sup> were under Willys and another Collonell whose name I have forgott with their officers should repayre w<sup>th</sup> speede to Litchfeild and to bee under Collonell Cromwell, but left it to Ashton to tell them for what service they were designed, and soe have noe more to say, but y<sup>t</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> noble favours shall bee ever duly acknowledged by

21<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1645.For Sir Will<sup>m</sup>  
Brereton,  
theis.S<sup>r</sup>  
Yo<sup>r</sup> most faythfull frend  
and servant  
GEO. GRESLEY

Thomas Gresley.

(b. soon after 1600: d. 1642.)

xix

Thomas Gresley must have been born soon after 1600, for on Nov. 19, 1619, he was admitted a reader in the Bodleian as a member of Trinity College, Oxford, although his name has entirely escaped the University Registers. He certainly took no degree, and quite possibly was never matriculated, but stayed some terms at College as a member of it but not, in strictness, a member of the University. After his marriage

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 ° MS. of Sir  
 Geo. Gresley.

in 1622 he seems to have resided at Lullington<sup>°</sup>, but little is recorded about him. In 1641 or 1642 he signed with others a petition from the gentry of Derbyshire to the King, beseeching him to return to the Parliament: and this seems to indicate that he was not so stout a Parliamentarian as his father, who does not sign: Thomas was however appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the county by the Parliament on Nov. 2, 1642. On Dec. 19 of this same year he died, in his father's lifetime, and was buried at Gresley. His Will seems not to be in existence, but only two administrations granted in 1642 and 1649, both at Lichfield<sup>d</sup>.

<sup>d</sup> Index Libr.  
 vii. 44f.

His wife was **Bridget**, daughter of Sir Thomas Burdet, Bart., of Bramcote and Foremark and of Jane, whose father and mother (William and Elizabeth) united the two ancient branches of the family of Francis of Derbyshire, those of Osmundeston and Ticknall, and (the younger branch) of Ingleby and Foremark. Eleven generations back both William and Elizabeth had common ancestors in John Francis and his wife Margaret (Beaufoy), who occur in 1310. It is this Mrs. Elizabeth Francis (*née* Francis) who is commemorated by William Sampson in his *Virtus post Funera vivit* (Lond. 1636, pp. 41-2) in a poem on 'the Worshipful M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Greasley, Mother of the Lady Bvrdeavt of Formarke,' Mary being an error for Elizabeth. Elizabeth after her husband's death had married Hastings Gresley of Repton, see p. 68. There was a curious arrangement at the time of the marriage in 1622, probably due to Sir George Gresley's financial difficulties, that for the first four years the newly married couple should reside with Sir Thomas Burdet at Foremark. She survived her husband for more than forty years, and was buried at Gresley<sup>°</sup> on Nov. 25, 1685. Her Will is at Lichfield, and mentions, of her sons or sons-in-law, Sir Thomas and George Gresley, John Harpur, and Thomas Brome; of her daughters and daughters-in-law Mary Harpur, Frances Whitehall, Bridget Brome, Lady Gresley and Jane Gresley: and thirty-one grandchildren of the families of Gresley,

<sup>°</sup> Lullington  
 Register.

Brome, Whitehall, Harpur, Inge, Ward, Dyott and Skeffington.

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Their children were:—

1. **Jane**, who died young.
2. **Henry**, who died young.
3. **George**, who died young.
4. **Thomas Gresley** (born 1628 or 1629: 2nd Baronet), see p. 92.
5. **Frances**, who on June 20, 1666, at Lullington<sup>f</sup>, married John Whitehall<sup>g</sup> of Pipe Ridware, as his second wife. He was born in the autumn of 1623 or spring of 1624, and had married Frances<sup>h</sup> Aston of Tixall: he died on Aug. 9, 1684, in his wife's lifetime<sup>k</sup>, and his monument is at Pipe Ridware. Their children were James who had issue, Bridget who died unmarried on July 29, 1716, aged 46, and Frances who died unmarried on Feb. 26, 174 $\frac{3}{4}$ , aged 73.
 

<sup>f</sup> Lullington Reg.  
<sup>g</sup> Salt Soc. v. 2. 307.  
<sup>h</sup> Clifford's Tixall 150.
6. **Bridget**, born in or before 1635<sup>i</sup>, who married on Dec. 30, 1657, at Lullington<sup>f</sup>, Thomas Brome of Fisherwick. They had nine children<sup>j</sup>, Thomas, Richard, William, John, George, Charles, Mary (who married Sir Robert Burdet of Bramcote as his third wife, and died in July 1742), Bridget, Catherine and Frances. He and his wife were alive in 1685<sup>k</sup>.
 

<sup>i</sup> Will of Elizabeth Gresley, 1635.  
<sup>j</sup> Shaw's Staffordshire i. 373: Nichols' Leic. iii. 450.  
<sup>k</sup> Will of Bridget Gresley, 1685.
7. **George**, who married on May 11, 1669, at Lullington<sup>f</sup>, Jane daughter of Thomas Nelson Esq. of Northampton and chief heiress of her uncle the Rev. Samuel Wollaston, Rector of Thorp Constantine, who died in 1667 or 1668. He had difficulties in acting as trustee for his cousin Robert Wilmot in 1678<sup>l</sup>: and died in Oct. 1704, being buried on the 14th of that month at Lullington<sup>m</sup>, where his wife had been buried on Jan. 23, 170 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
 

<sup>l</sup> Hist. MSS. Comm. ix. 2. 120.  
<sup>m</sup> Lullington Reg.
8. **Katherine**, married on Feb. 7, 166 $\frac{1}{2}$ , at Lullington<sup>m</sup>, to Richard Dyott Esq. of Lichfield (b. 1623 or 1624), who had been Captain of horse of the Company of Loyal Volunteers at Lichfield, and after fighting on the King's side at Edgehill retired to the Continent until just before the Restoration. Katharine, who was a benefactor to the parish of Lullington<sup>m</sup> (an anagram was made on her name Catherine Dyot 'a noted Charity'), died in 1667, and her husband in 1677, leaving a son Richard, born in about 1666, who at the age of nineteen married his cousin Frances Inge of Thorp Constantine.
9. **Elizabeth**, married on Sept. 18, 1672, at Lullington, to Philip Trafford Esq. of Swithamley in Staffordshire, but husband and wife died within four years of the marriage (she in Oct. 1674 and he in May 1676, both buried at Macclesfield) and seem to have left no issue.
10. **Mary**, who on Feb. 14, 1669<sup>n</sup>, at Lullington, married the Rev. John Harpur (see pedigree) of Little Over, Rector of Morley in Derbyshire, whose first wife had been Mary daughter of Paul Ballidon Esq. of Derby. Mary the second wife was alive in 1685<sup>o</sup>.
 

<sup>n</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>o</sup> Will of Bridget Gresley, 1685.

## Sir Thomas Gresley, 2nd Bart.

(b. 1628 or 1629: d. 1699.)

From Sir Thomas's monument we gather that he was born between June 6, 1628, and June 5, 1629: but little is known of him before his marriage, which was in all probability in 1648. He was too young to be prominent in the Civil War, during which his father died, and did not succeed to the Baronetcy till the death of his grandfather early in February 1651.

To all outward appearance Sir Thomas was a type of a country gentleman, now disputing with the Pagets of Beaudesert about a weir at Burton<sup>p</sup>, now Sheriff of Derbyshire<sup>q</sup>, now appointed Deputy of the Master of the Royal Leash for ten miles round Drakelow<sup>r</sup>. His portrait also bears this impression out, both in the picture at Drakelow and on his great monument in Gresley church (of which more will be said later). He married a well-to-do but grasping wife, and in his old age became eccentric, secreting gold and silver in different rooms and being even regarded as *non compos mentis*. This appears from a petition<sup>s</sup> in Chancery filed by his son Thomas soon after his father's death in which many curious details of the household are given, though allowance must be made for the son's obvious animus against his mother. It is at any rate clear that Lady Gresley dominated the household and could be safely trusted to look after her own interests, and this is amply borne out by the language of Sir Thomas's Will. He died on June 5, 1699, aged 70, according to the Monument, and was buried at Church Gresley on the 9th with considerable ceremony. For a description of the Monument, see Appendix A.

His wife was **Frances** daughter and co-heir of Gilbert Morewood Esquire of Nether Seile, formerly a London merchant. Her letters show her to have been a religious-minded lady, careful of the welfare of her children, and of a forcible character, but not clever or well educated. In later life she excited the animosity of at least one of her

<sup>p</sup> In 1656 and 1676. Gresl. Charters 497, 499.

<sup>q</sup> In 1662.

<sup>r</sup> In 1665: Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, p. 37.

<sup>s</sup> Papers at Drakelow. See p. 95.

sons, and the house at Drakelowe must have been in an unfortunate condition for the last ten years of Sir Thomas's life. She had experienced a heavy blow in early life, having been engaged to her cousin Rowland Morewood<sup>†</sup> of Alfreton, who died in 1647, when Frances was only seventeen, she having been baptized on March 16, 1630<sup>‡</sup>. However in the next year, or not later than then, she married Sir Thomas Gresley. Some of her correspondence between 1678 and 1695 is still in existence, and now in the possession of Capt. Stewart of Alltyrolyn, Llandyssil, South Wales. They are letters from her, with some from Sir Thomas, to Sir John Moore who in 1681-2 was Lord Mayor of London: it is clear that the two families were on intimate terms. The correspondence is chiefly about her sons' bringing up, as will be noticed later: in spite of her considerable fortune she says, on Oct. 6, 1679, 'For my part I was neuer any of Fortunes darlinges, to haue uery much of the fading perishing treasures of this life: and it is my desire that I may not bee towmuch affected with them.' In 1691 she is somewhat aggrieved that Sir Thomas is by his Will leaving everything to the eldest son, and says that if she survives, she will have 'a house and nothing to put in it.' On February 13, 1698, she writes that Mr. Waite, a schoolmaster who lived within a mile of Drakelowe, had obtained recommendations to Sir John Moore to make him head-master of Appleby School: but she remarks that Sir John is wise not to appoint any one to that post for life but only during good behaviour, adding that Repton School is ruined by the opposite principle. Her son Thomas was in 1707 a governor<sup>‡</sup> of the former school. Two letters from her are printed as specimens at pp. 98-99.

<sup>†</sup> Harl. Soc. xxxix. 1064.

<sup>‡</sup> Nichols, Leicestershire iii. 1010.

<sup>‡</sup> Nichols, Leicestershire iv. 441.

Her own Will is dated Oct. 30, 1707 (with a codicil, afterwards destroyed by her, dated Dec. 25, 1710), and was proved on Oct. 1, 1711, she having died on or about June 30, 1711<sup>‡</sup>.

<sup>‡</sup> Papers at Drakelowe.

The children of Sir Thomas and Lady Gresley were:—

1. **Frances**, born at Drakelowe on April 13, 1649<sup>‡</sup>, who married William eldest son of William Inge of Thorp Constantine soon after June 6, 1666,

<sup>‡</sup> Family Bible at Drakelowe.

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the date of a settlement with respect to the Thorp property, see pedigree. She died in 1712 and was buried on April 29 in that year at Thorp.

<sup>x</sup> Family Bible at Drakelowe.

2. **Bridget**, born at Drakelowe Sept. 15, 1651<sup>x</sup>: buried at Gresley Oct. 21, 1652.

<sup>y</sup> Nichols. Leicestershire iii. 988\*.

3. **Elizabeth**, born at Drakelowe Jan. 4, 1653<sup>x</sup>: died unmarried at Drakelowe Aug. 10, 1693: her nuncupative Will and inventories of her property (amounting to £641 15s. 2d.) are at Lichfield: a monument was placed to her memory in Gresley church<sup>y</sup>.

4. **Dorothy**, born at Drakelowe July 14, 1655<sup>x</sup>. She seems to have fallen in love with one of her father's servants named Thomas Ward, and when he was dismissed in consequence, she left Drakelowe suddenly, on June 18 (?), 1681, at 1 a.m., and was married to him by license at Tutbury eight hours later. Their children were at least Thomas (who died of a wound received at the battle of Hochstadt in 1703 while serving in General Wyndham's Regiment), Gresley, William, and Mary (who married John Swan). Her mother's Will shows that she resented Dorothy's marriage till the day of her death. Dorothy was a widow in 1713: and was buried at Gresley April 9, 1715.

<sup>z</sup> Family Bible at Drakelowe.

5. **Mary**, born at Drakelowe April 14, 1657<sup>z</sup>, married at Stapenhill on May 22, 1693, Daniel Watson Esq. of Burton, a son of Henry and Anne Watson. Mary probably died before October 1707, as she is not mentioned in her mother's Will of that date.

6. **Grace**, born at Drakelowe August 15, 1658<sup>z</sup>, married at Stapenhill on May 15, 1683, Robert Roby Esq. of Castle Donington, where she was buried on Nov. 2, 1709<sup>a</sup>, and he on Nov. 13, 1714<sup>b</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> Derb. Arch. Soc. xiv. 103.

<sup>b</sup> Gresley pedigree MS.

7. **William** (born Nov. 8, 1661: 3rd Baronet), see p. 100.

8. **Anne**, born at Drakelowe on Feb. 19, 1663<sup>z</sup>, died unmarried between March 27, 1709, the date of her Will, and 1716 the date of her sister Lettice's Will: at the former date she was 'of St. Ann's, Westminster.'

<sup>c</sup> Family Bible at Drakelowe. iii. 988\*.

9. **Catharine**, born at Drakelowe May 19, 1664<sup>c</sup>, died unmarried on Sept. 7, 1694. Her monument in Gresley Church is printed in Nichols's *Leicestershire*<sup>d</sup>.

10. **Lettice** or **Letitia**, born at Drakelowe in 1665 or one of the two next years, died unmarried, and was buried at Nether Seile on Feb. 17, 1734<sup>d</sup>. A letter from her is printed at p. 100.

11. **Thomas** (born May 10, 1668), see p. 102. When the direct male line of the elder branch of Baronets failed at Sir Roger's death in 1837, it was to the direct male descent of this Thomas that the Baronetcy devolved. It has therefore been thought well from this point to deal alternately with the heads of the two collateral lines until 1837.

12. **Isabella**, born at Drakelowe in 1669, died unmarried on Aug. 16, 1694, and was buried at Gresley<sup>d</sup>.

13. **Charles**, born at Drakelowe on Feb. 21, 1692<sup>c</sup>, was 'a very in-



genious brisk boy<sup>e</sup>: in accordance with the custom of the time among the country gentry, he was 'an apprentice in London<sup>f</sup>' in 1690, but settled at Dunstall near Barton in Staffordshire after his marriage on Oct. 23, 1695, with Ann third daughter of John Bott Esq. of that place. Their children were three daughters:—Elizabeth, who married first Thomas Bott her first cousin, and secondly Samuel Beardsley of Tamworth, and died in 1775; Frances who never married, and Ann wife of Edward Mathews: see pedigree xiv. Ann Gresley died on Sept. 20, 1720<sup>g</sup>, aged 44, and Charles on June 29, 1724<sup>g</sup>: both were buried at Tatenhill, where they had been married, and where a monument to them is still in existence. Their daughter Frances was also interred in the same church.

14. Sarah, born at Drakelowe on March 20, 1678<sup>h</sup>, married, probably in 1715<sup>b</sup>, Paul Ballidon of Stapenhill, whose father and grandfather bore the same names, but there was no issue. She died on June 15, 1736, and was buried two days after in All Saints' Church, Derby: he died in 1729.

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<sup>e</sup> His mother's letter of May 1687 in Capt. Stewart's possession.

<sup>f</sup> Tho. Gresley's Petition at Drakelowe: see below.

<sup>g</sup> Shaw's Staffordshire i. 108.

<sup>h</sup> The marriage settlement is dated Oct. 29, 1715 (Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, p. 58).

## NOTE A

PETITION OF THOMAS GRESLEY, ESQ., OF LULLINGTON,  
ABOUT A.D. 1700.

'To the Right Honourable Sir Nathan Wright, Knight, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England. Humbly complayneing sheweth vnto your Lordshipp your Oratour Thomas Gresley of Lullington,' county Derby, 'gentleman. That Sir Thomas Gresley late of Drakelow,' county Derby, 'deceased and Dame Frances his wife being seised' &c. 'of and in the Mannour of Neather Seale' &c. 'Did as a provision for your Oratour their second sonn by certain Indentures of Lease and Release,' dated 23 and 24 Sept. 1690, 'convey settle and assure the same (except A wood called Potter's Wood) vpon your Oratour his heirs' &c. 'charged with the payment of 500 *li*,' &c. 'and reserving liberty only for the said dame Frances' &c. 'to fall the wood on the said premisses,' &c. 'persueant to which said Settlement your Oratour entered on the said premisses' &c. 'The said Sir Thomas Gresley and Dame Frances or one of them did at the time of the making the said Settlement insist vpon your Oratour giving 200 *li* towards the provision of Charles Gresley his younger Brother then an Apprentice in London when he should come out of his time or have occasion for the same,' which he paid to Sir Thomas Gresley upon the marriage of the said Charles. Sir Thomas Gresley had a deed prepared whereby he provided for Dame Frances, settling upon her a messuage and lands at Gresley worth £37 per annum; but afterwards providing for her otherwise, he intended to have cancelled the Gresley settlement, but Dame Frances kept him

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—

from doing so : but he, thinking it done, made a lease of the Gresley land in 1695 for 21 years to Richard Ward, of Fenny Drayton, county Leicester, and also included the same land in his settlement upon his eldest son, William Gresley, at the time of his marriage in his father's lifetime. 'And your Oratour further sheweth that the said Sir Thomas 'Gresley being very infirme before he dyed and not able to looke after 'his affayres himselfe, the said Dame Frances had heaped vpp great 'riches which she kept to her owne vse, or otherwise concealed the 'same from the said Sir Thomas. And the said Sir Thomas Gresley 'liveing at an Out Seat very remote from company, he hid divers great 'quantities of Silver, Gold, and other valuable things, in divers private 'places about the house where he lived, making very few except the 'said Dame Frances acquainted therewith : or else the said Dame 'Frances by watching and observeing him therein, came to the know- 'ledge and custody thereof. And your Oratour further sheweth that 'the said Sir Thomas Gresley did in his life time, and whilst he was of 'perfect mind and memory, make and duly publish his last Will and 'Testament in writeing, and thereby gives and devises to your Oratour 'and his heirs the said Wood called Potters Wood ; and after the devise 'of divers Legacyes therein particularly mencioned, gives and devises 'to your Oratour all the residue of his personall Estate, and thereof 'constitutes and appoynts your Oratour his sole Executor ; and shortly 'after dyed seized of the said Wood called Potter's Wood, and possessed 'of A great personall estate consisting in ready moneys, some wherof 'lay ready by him, other partes thereof were hid and concealed in 'seuerall places in and about the said house wherein he lived ; and alsoe 'possessed of divers securityes for money and great arrears of rent, and 'had divers Summes of money due and oweing to him vpon simple 'contract, many whereof were entred in his Almanacks and other 'pockett bookes, wherein he had alsoe made memorandums of the 'places where he had layed his money or other things of value, and 'of other things relateing to his personall estate ; and alsoe possessed of 'great quantities of corne, hay, cattle, plate, Jewells, husbandry ware, 'Leases, and other personaltyes to A great value. And alsoe haveing 'in his custody all the deedes and writeings concerneing the said 'Mannour of Seale' &c. 'After whose decease your Oratour duely 'proved the said will and tooke upon him the burthen of the said 'Executorshipp,' &c. 'And the said Dame Frances liveing in the 'house where the said Sir Thomas dyed, and haveing the coimand of 'the keys of all the Closetts about the house and the power over the 'same in his sickness, did either in his life time or after his decease 'possess herselfe of great quantities of gold, silver, and other rich 'things, which he, the said Sir Thomas, had hidd and laid vpp, and 'particularly she the said Dame Frances either by herselfe, or some 'other person or persons by her employed, tooke upp A floor or some 'boards in A floor, vnder which the said Sir Thomas Gresley had hid 'great quantities of gold, silver, and other rich things, all which shee

‘tooke and carryed the same forth of the said Roome in her apron, or otherwise. And she, the said Dame Frances, did find severall parcells of gold, silver, and other things, in severall places in and about the said house where the said Sir Thomas Gresley dyed, both in his life time and in the time of his sickness and afterwards, All which she alsoe conceales. And she the said Dame Frances doth know of divers other places in and about the said house where the said Testatour did in his life time lay upp his treasure, which she conceals from your Oratour intending to take the same at her pleasure: and the house where the said Testatour dyed being in Joynture to the said Dame Frances for her life, she refuseth to permitt your Oratour to make a full and effectual search in the same. And the said Dame Frances did alsoe in the Testatours lifetime for many years before his death, save to her selfe severall summes of money which she concealed from him, and now pretends the same was not part of his estate, when, as she well knows, she was capable of takeing noe money to her owne vse dureing the Coverture, but that whatsoever was saved by her was for the benefitt of her husband and ought to be accounted part of his personall estate, and she the said Dame Frances ought to discover the same and deliver the same to your Oratour. And she the said Dame Frances vnder pretence that the household goods were given to her, possessed her selfe of all the plate which was not in vse in the house, and of divers other things as were not household goods, As all the Testatours Books, and all the pictures that were in the house, And of A great quantity of wool, cheese, netts for fishing and for taking of Rabitts, and other things in and about the said house at the Testatours death, and of divers parcells of cloth and other things that lay ready bought in the house, and were not made vpp into household goods, and alsoe of A great quantity of meature that lay in and about the said house, and alsoe of great quantities of sawed boards which were alsoe about the said house and noe ways mad vse of or fitted to any vse in the said house. And the said Dame Frances haveing a further designe to conceale the effects from your Oratour sent to him to see some of the Testatour’s Almanacks where entryes were made of the summes and places where his money was layed, and of severall persons that owed him money, and of other matters relateing to his personall estate; and haveing gott the said bookes into her custody hath cutt or caused to be cutt out of the same divers Leaves where the entryes aforesaid were made, and hath returned them soe cutt to your Oratour.’ She also had taken possession of the Farm at Gresley, and turned Richard Ward out of it; so that both he and Sir William Gresley demanded satisfaction. She also refused to give up the writings touching the Manor of Nether Seile, &c. Pretence was also made that Sir Thomas Gresley was not *compos mentis* when he made his Will. Dame Frances had rejected offers of reconciliation with her son Thomas Gresley, and had threatened to ruin and undo him.

Thomas Gresley prays for redress, and concludes: ‘May it please

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'your Lordshipp, the premisses considered, to grant vnto your Oratour  
'his Majestyes most gracious writt of Subpoena to be directed to the  
'said Dame Frances and Sir William Gresley and the rest of the  
'confederates when discovered, thereby commanding them and every  
'of them at A certain day, and vnder a certain payne therein to be  
'limited, to bee and personally appear before your Lordshipp in this  
'most honourable Court to answer all and singuler the said premisses,  
'and to stand to and abide such further ordering and Decree therein  
'as to your Lordshipp shall seem meet and agreable to equity and good  
'Conscience. And your Oratour shall ever pray &c.'

Indorsed—'Gresley Against Gresley &c. Bill in Chancery.' [From  
Evidences at Nether Seile, 1853. J. M. G.]

## NOTE B.

[COPIES OF OLD LETTERS FROM FRANCES LADY GRESLEY  
IN THE POSSESSION OF SIR ROBERT GRESLEY, BART. :  
see pp. 93, 94.]

## I.

Deaire Son

Dracklow the 9 [1689 or 1690]

the letters from my Cossin Lee and Sir John speake that they  
would haue you continu with your master, which I beleue will be no  
greate matter of aduantage to you, thay are ferefull of uentring againe  
of another hauing given fие hundred pound alredy, I suppose you are  
acquainted with what thay rit to your father, For my part I do not licke  
of it, I am not uery willing you should go beyand see, for your father  
I beleue will not be willing to furnish you with mony as you may expect,  
my Cossin hopgood and her brother, think that your going to mr broking  
will do you no good, I was at Formorek about a month agoo I desired  
Sir ffrances [Burdett] to let your father know, that I would giue you  
Seale, which is better then tow hundred a yere besides the wood, which  
I will reserue for my selfe in case I should suruiue your father, which  
I will haue in my owne power, to cut downe to help to stock Dracklow  
and that I would haue you to haue it when you was one and twenty ;  
hee semed mity unwillin to part with it, but at last hee said you should  
haue it but you should pay him back againe the fие hundred pound  
which Mr broking had of him, so Sir ffrances saide you should pay it  
and he and euery body thinketh it is a uery good bargaine, because he  
can kepe it for his life so I would haue you to tacke aduice from  
sumbody that you may trust what is best to be don about this bisnis  
of mr broking — turne ouer

whether it wil do you any greate good because hee is so uery much under a cloude, but say nothing of this to Sir John nor my cossin Lee— for I hope when you think it may be conueniant and with safety to your self, you wil com into the contry which I desire before any thing be concluded with Mr brocking. . . . .

Your father and I send you our blessing

Your brother and sisters remembr ther loues to you

Your louing mother

FRANCES GRESLEY.

ffor Mr. Thomas Gresley at Mr. John Nuberryis house in Blacke friers Londo post payde 6d

[The Seile estate (excepting Potter's Wood) was settled by Sir Thomas and Lady Gresley upon their second son Thomas 24 Sept. A.D. 1690, who was to pay out of the rents of it £500 to his father in the course of four years. Power was reserved to Lady Gresley to cut down timber and other trees upon the estate during her life and seven years after her decease, which became a source of dispute and litigation. 'Your brother' mentioned in the letter was Sir Thomas's third son Charles, afterwards of Dunstal, county Stafford.—J. M. G.]

II.

my harte

though the newes of your health is at all times uery acceptable to me; yet it is a much greater contentment to me to haue it from your owne hand then from any other whatsoever, which I do not doute of your affordinge me soe greate a delight: and if you stil taie me of not ualluing your former leter to it merit, by Resson I did not answer it it must be because it is not possible to ualue enough: not becais I do not ualue them as much as I can: and then doe but consider this to be the only meains for absent frinds to conuers and that the want of thinges are best knowne in the want of them when absstent; although I did alwais set a uery high esstemat one the inioyment of your Company nether am I now able to expres to you how unhapy I essteme my self by your absence from me: I haue not anny thinge worthy to aqunt you with and shal here breake of though Ruffly more then to tel you I am

Your Most affectinate and truly louing wife

FRANCES GRESSLEY.

may 28th.

## NOTE C.

LETITIA GRESLEY.

[Indorsed 'Sister Lettice's Letter to her Sister Ballidon ;' and directed by Lettice Gresley herself 'To Mrs Ballidon—present—': about A.D. 1720.]

Dearest Sis

this is to giue you a grate many thanks' for all your cindness to mee both when you was heare and at alle other tims i do sadele want your good compene and do allwase think of you whereuer i do go for i hafe a uery mallecon time of it now for ye windos are all oupen and so I do not go to them for if i do i gate cold for i am so nesh of my years my Sister is as shee was when you was heare my Brother's hand is better i am tacking my Barck and it mack mee but bade but i was uery bade fore i touck it and i hope that i shall better when i hafe don it prea sand me word how you do and all frands do my Brother and Sister ioyne with mee in saruis to you and all frands whear you do think fite i shall rite to mrs. Clarck and gife your saruis to her and all with hore and if you do ples to hafe any think eals to hor if you will let mee know i will rite it to hore or if you ples to rite to hore and i sand it to hore i am your lofeing Sister til dath I g

[LETITIA GRESLEY.]

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Sir William Gresley, 3rd Bart.

(*b.* 1661: *d.* 1710.)

On the label attached to Sir William's picture at Drake-  
lowe, he is stated to have been born in 1663, and this agrees  
with the statement in the Oxford Registers that when he  
matriculated at the University from Trinity College on June  
10, 1681, he was aged 17. But both these evidences must  
be wrong. The births of his two next younger sisters were  
on Feb. 19, 1663, and May 19, 1664, which of themselves  
preclude the date 1663, unless he had been a twin: but  
also the family Bible at Drakelowe records that he was  
born there on Nov. 8, 1661, between 9 and 10 in the  
morning—which is undoubtedly the true date. Of his early  
life we know nothing: and his portrait seems to suggest  
a quiet, if not a retiring character. He took no degree at

Oxford, but his College still possesses two silver cups presented by him in 1682 (when he probably went down) and bearing a Latin inscription. After his father's death in 1699 he resided at Drakelowe, and in 1704 was High Sheriff of Derbyshire. On Oct. 17, 1710, he died, and is described in the Administration granted to his widow as 'nuper de Oakeley in com. Salop.,' his actual residence for the last few years having been at Bishop's Castle near Oakeley, which came to him through his wife.

There is an amusing account of the wooing of 'Squire Bill of Drakelowe,' among the Coke Papers<sup>a</sup>, from which it appears that he first proposed to a sister of his future wife, but was not accepted, and that finally Mistress **Barbara** Oakeley, *née* Walcot, carried him off. Francis Hopegood writes to Thomas Coke on Aug. 14, 1696, 'Esquire Bill [Gresley] of Drakelowe went a wooing into a far country, but his mistress was not much smitten with either his phiz or beau meene; however he made shift to captivate the heart of a widow. I know not who this venturesome woman is, but they say she has £250 p. a. jointure, and £2,000 stock, and seven children, but all provided for. The knight and his lady are much against it. . . . Just now I receive a letter from Sir Nicholas with the following relation of the Squire's courtship, and that Uncle R. B. [Robert Burdet] is going with him to see his mistress; vizt. the gentleman with the handwhip begad was motioned to a virgin lady in Shropshire; he went and liked her, but she did not like him; so an elder sister of hers, a widow, told her if she would not have him, she would; to which the Squire agreed. But not to the liking of his parents, which gave him much disturbance, and in his language said, "Kill mother begad, zuns shoot her"; which so terrified his mother that she was fain to get away to Burton with her daughters; but the knight errant is resolved and says—"Zuns will have her and that quickly too, for hunting is coming in and then cannot awhile."'

<sup>a</sup> Hist. MS. Comm. xii, App. 2, pp. 361, 363, 373.

And again, on Sept. 18, 1696, 'Squire Bill of Drakelowe is

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married to the Shropshire widow. Lord have mercy upon her! Sure men are very scarce, for they say she is a comely woman, has wherewith to keep her clean, and her children provided for.'

Also, 1698, April 6. Foremark. Elizabeth Coke to Thomas Coke at Mrs. Hopegood's in Lothbury in London. 'Esquire Bill and his lady are in Derbyshire, and are daily expected here. He swears he has got "best best wife world. I took her down in her wedding shews (shoes?) and the best in the world."'

Barbara was the daughter of John Walcot and Elizabeth his wife, and born on Jan. 31, 166½, and seems to have died in 1724<sup>b</sup>: by her first husband William Oakeley (of Bishop's Castle in Shropshire) she had had seven children, one of whom was William Oakeley grandfather of Sir Charles Oakeley, whose granddaughter Georgina Ann Reid in 1831 married the Rev. Sir William Nigel Gresley, 9th Baronet, and lives at Barton under Needwood.

The marriage was on Sept. 2, 1696, at Bishop's Castle, and the issue as follows:—

1. **Bridget**, baptized at Bishop's Castle on Oct. 10, 1697<sup>c</sup>, married on April 5, 1716<sup>c</sup>, Adam Ottley of Pitchford, and had three children by him, see pedigree. She died on June 23, 1737<sup>c</sup>, and was buried two days later<sup>d</sup> at Pitchford. Portraits<sup>d</sup> of her (by Sir G. Kneller) and of her husband (by Jervas) are at Pitchford.

2. **Thomas** (born 1698 or '99), 4th Baronet: see p. 104.

3. **William**, who died young.

<sup>b</sup> Administration of her estate was granted on April 28 in that year.

<sup>c</sup> Bodl. MS. 22087, fol. 210<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>d</sup> Information from Lord Hawkesbury.

## xxi

**Thomas Gresley**, Esq., of Nether Seile, brother of Sir William Gresley, 3rd Baronet.

(*b.* 1668: *d.* 1743.)

Thomas Gresley, 2nd son of Sir Thomas Gresley and a direct ancestor of the present Baronet, was born at Drake-lowe on Sunday May 10, 1668<sup>e</sup>, at about 2 p.m. Like his younger brother Charles, he was sent to London and placed under the care of Sir John Moore (see p. 93), who took

<sup>e</sup> Family Bible at Drakelowe.



great care of both during an attack of small-pox in 1687<sup>f</sup>. Thomas was in 1684 bound apprentice to John Broking, a London merchant, who was to train him in business and settle him in Leghorn: but in 1689 or 1690 Thomas was still in London at 'Mr. John Nuberryis house in Blacke Friers<sup>g</sup>'. In the latter year the manor of Nether Seile was given him by his parents, and he probably settled there soon after, or not later than his marriage in 1705: after which he resided perhaps chiefly at Ladyhole. In Sept. 1710 he took an active part in local politics, and seems to have been one of the three who started the opposition to the Coke interest<sup>h</sup> at that time, though his father was on their side in 1685: and in 1712-3 he was High Sheriff of Leicestershire. On April 6, 1743, he died at Nether Seile.

On Feb. 7, 170 $\frac{1}{2}$ , at Ashbourne in Derbyshire, he married **Elizabeth** daughter of John Lee of Ladyhole in that parish. She was considerably younger than her husband, as at her death on Feb. 14, 173 $\frac{3}{8}$ , she was only fifty-two, according to the monument at Nether Seile<sup>i</sup>.

Their children were:—

1. **Lee**, born on Nov. 14, 1705<sup>j</sup>, at about 3 a.m., and baptized at Ashbourne<sup>k</sup> (after private baptism) on Dec. 17, matriculated at Oxford from Trinity College on June 1, 1724, being then aged 18: and thence proceeded in 1726, without taking a degree, to the Inner Temple in London: but he appears to have had ill health from his earliest years, and died unmarried; and was buried on March 2, 174 $\frac{8}{9}$ , at Nether Seile<sup>l</sup>: his will is dated Feb. 4, 174 $\frac{8}{9}$ .

2. **Frances**, born June 19, 1707, at about 5 p.m., died on Nov. 28, 1713<sup>l</sup>.

3. **Thomas**, born July 26, 1708, died April 15, 1709<sup>l</sup>.

4. **William**, born Jan. 23, 171 $\frac{0}{8}$ , buried July 11, 1717<sup>l</sup>.

5. **John** (born Jan. 15, 171 $\frac{9}{1}$ ), see p. 107.

6. **Elizabeth**, born March 9, 171 $\frac{1}{2}$ , married (probably in about 1750) a distant cousin Henry Gresley, for whom see p. 141: but there seems to have been no issue, and she died on Nov. 28, 1792.

7. **James**, baptized Aug. 13, 1715, at Nether Seile<sup>m</sup>, was matriculated at Cambridge from Emmanuel College (B.A. 1737), and took Holy Orders. He was English Master at Appleby School from 1738 till his death, which took place on Oct. 23, 1745<sup>n</sup>, only two years after he had (on Aug. 13, 1743) married Ann daughter of Richard Farmer of Witherly

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<sup>f</sup> Letters in the possession of Capt. Stewart.

<sup>g</sup> Letter from his mother to him: see p. 99.

<sup>h</sup> Hist. MSS. Comm. xii. 3. 96, 99, cf. 5, 86.

<sup>i</sup> Nichols, Leicester-shire iii. 995.

<sup>j</sup> Nether Seile Reg.  
<sup>k</sup> Ashbourne Reg.

<sup>l</sup> Nether Seile Reg.

<sup>m</sup> N. Seile Reg.

<sup>n</sup> Monument at Appleby in Nichols' Leicestershire iv. 437, cf. 95<sup>1</sup>, Topographer ii. (1790) p. 73.

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and Rebecca his wife (*née* Moore, of Appleby Parva). James had no children: his widow (born July 17, 1714) died on Nov. 15, 1766.

<sup>o</sup> N. Seile  
Reg.

<sup>p</sup> Army Lists.

8. **Robert**, baptized Oct. 6, 1717, at Nether Seile <sup>o</sup>, was a Captain in the 86th Regiment of Foot <sup>p</sup> from 1756 till it was disbanded in 1763: in 1760 he was with his Regiment in Senegal. He seems to have married Jane Hurt of Cork, perhaps a member of the old Derbyshire family of Hurt of Casterne and Alderwasley. For his family see the pedigree of the Australian Gresleys (p. 142): he was alive in 1775 <sup>p</sup>.

## xxii

## Sir Thomas Gresley, 4th Baronet.

(*b.* 1698 or 1699: *d.* 1746.)

It is curious that there appears to be no record of the day of Sir Thomas's birth: but we know that when he matriculated at Oxford from Balliol College, on May 7, 1716, he was aged 17: so that he must have been born between May 8, 1698, and May 7, 1699. Hardly anything is known of his life after leaving Oxford—where he took no degree—except in connexion with his two marriages, the first of which was of considerable importance. A few scattered facts we know, such as that from Nov. 4 to Dec. 4, 1727 <sup>a</sup> he and Lady Gresley were at Knypersley, and there is an inventory <sup>a</sup> of the goods there which belonged to her on Dec. 2 in that year: but his seems to have been a *fallentis semita vitæ*. He was buried at Gresley <sup>r</sup> on Oct. 11, 1746.

<sup>a</sup> Family  
Notebk.

<sup>r</sup> Gresley  
Reg.

<sup>s</sup> Bowyer  
family Note-  
book.

On April 5, 1719 <sup>s</sup>, at Biddulph Sir Thomas married **Dorothy** daughter and co-heir of Sir William Bowyer of Knypersley in Staffordshire, more than half of whose large estates came ultimately to the Gresley family through this and another marriage, see the pedigree of Bowyer. She died on July 31, 1736 <sup>t</sup>, and was buried in Gresley Church on the 3rd of August <sup>t</sup> following, having had, it is believed, twelve children by Sir Thomas, of whom only two survived to middle age. The names of such as are recorded are:—

<sup>t</sup> Gresley  
Mont & Reg.

<sup>u</sup> Lady  
Dorothy's  
notes.

<sup>v</sup> Gresley  
Reg.

1. **William**, born at Drakelowe on Jan. 11, 1718 <sup>u</sup>, died on Aug. 8, 1724 <sup>u</sup>, and was buried on the next day <sup>v</sup>.

2. A son, born at Drakelowe April 16, 1721 <sup>u</sup>, died the same day.

3. **Thomas** (born July 12, 1722), the 5th Baronet, see p. 109.

4. **Dorothy**, born at Drakelowe March 4, 1725<sup>u</sup>, died there on June 20, 1729<sup>u</sup>, and was buried at Gresley on the 22nd<sup>v</sup>. CHAP. V.
5. **Nigel** (born Jan. 11, 1728<sup>z</sup>), the 6th Baronet, see p. 109.
6. **John**, born at Drakelowe on April 22, 1727<sup>u</sup>, was privately baptized there on May 11 and christened on June 6<sup>w</sup> following at Walton, but he died in 1733<sup>z</sup> and was buried at Gresley on Jan. 5<sup>v</sup> in that year. <sup>w</sup> Walton Reg.
7. **Charles**, born May 26, 1728<sup>x</sup>, at Drakelowe, died on Aug. 25, 1729, and was buried on the 27th at Gresley<sup>y</sup>. <sup>x</sup> Bible at Drakelowe.  
<sup>y</sup> Gresley Reg.
8. **Selina**, born at Drakelowe Aug. 17, 1729<sup>x</sup>, was buried at Gresley on May 16, 1738<sup>y</sup>. (<sup>y</sup> 'Sleaneya' for Selina!)
9. **William**, born at Drakelowe Nov. 27, 1730, was buried on July 3, 1731<sup>y</sup>.
10. A daughter was born at Drakelowe on Oct. 12, 1733<sup>x</sup>, but must have died young.
11. } Apparently unrecorded by name: no doubt they died in infancy.  
12. }

On June 11, 1739, Sir Thomas married at Haddon Chapel<sup>z</sup> **Gertrude**, daughter and co-heir of John Grammer Esq. of Pledwick in Yorkshire. She survived her husband for forty-four years, living chiefly at Lichfield, and was buried in Gresley Church on Jan. 5, 1791<sup>a</sup>. In the gossip of the time she was known as 'Lady Blackwig<sup>b</sup>'! By her Sir Thomas had two children:— <sup>z</sup> Bakewell Reg.

- 13 (1). **Gertrude**, born at Drakelowe on April 27, 1740<sup>c</sup>, baptized at Walton on May 14, 1740<sup>d</sup>, died young and was buried at Gresley on Dec. 17, 1749<sup>a</sup>. <sup>a</sup> Gresley Reg.  
<sup>b</sup> Reminiscences of a Mrs. Lee in manuscript.
- 14 (2). **Geoffrey**, born at Drakelowe on Nov. 1, 1741<sup>e</sup>, was baptized at Walton on Nov. 27 following<sup>d</sup>: his fortunes must be closely followed. <sup>c</sup> Bible at Drakelowe.  
<sup>d</sup> Notes by Wolferstan on Gresley pedigree in Nichols' Leicestershire.  
<sup>e</sup> Walton Reg.

Of the fourteen children of Sir Thomas Gresley, eleven died unmarried or in infancy. Of the three sons who grew up to manhood, Thomas, Nigel and Geoffrey, the first died without issue, the male line of the second failed in 1837 on the death of Sir Roger: and Geoffrey's only son died childless in 1758.

Geoffrey was certainly at Nether Seile on Feb. 6, 1758<sup>f</sup>, and on April 6, 1763<sup>f</sup>, but went to Virginia soon after and married there. His wife's name was Jane Grant, according to a statement<sup>g</sup> sent to the College of Arms by Sir Roger Gresley on Dec. 31, 1835: he says that the name occurs <sup>f</sup> Family Notebk., contemporary.  
<sup>g</sup> Abstract at Drakelowe.

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<sup>h</sup> Elizabeth Beardsley's Will, see below.

in an 'old pedigree' and that there was an erroneous idea that the Christian name was Mary. His children, born in America, were Thomas, born Oct. 10, 1767<sup>h</sup>, and Jane Grammer, born April 4, 1769<sup>h</sup>: Geoffrey himself died before July 1774<sup>h</sup>. His widow came to England with the two children: and Richard Gresley (born 1766, died 1850, see p. 148) gave the following information to the Rev. J. M. Gresley:—that Geoffrey's widow 'returned to England with his two children, who lived with their grandmother [Gertrude Lady Gresley] at Lichfield in a house in Sandford St. about fifty yards from the George Inn, on the left-hand side as you go out of Lichfield.' On July 20, 1774, Elizabeth Beardsley of Tamworth (see p. 95) by a codicil to her Will<sup>i</sup> left £200 to 'the two children of her late godson Jeffery Gresley deceased,' namely to 'Thomas Gresley aged 11 on Oct. 10, 1778,' and to Jane Grammer Gresley aged 9 on April 4, 1778<sup>i</sup>, both then 'resident with and maintained by their grandmother<sup>j</sup>', Lady Gresley.

<sup>i</sup> Quoted in a bond of Gertrude Lady Gresley Dec. 26, 1778, at Drakelowe.

<sup>j</sup> The words of the bond, above.

<sup>k</sup> Family Notebook.

<sup>l</sup> Paper at Drakelowe.

<sup>m</sup> *Gent. Mag.* lxx. 165, &c.

<sup>n</sup> Nichols' *Leicestershire* iii, pt. 2, p. 1011\*.

<sup>o</sup> Information given by Rich. Gresley to the Rev. J. M. Gresley.

Thomas Gresley, the son, who entered Rugby School early in 1780, was on good terms with the family, and known familiarly as 'Thomas Gresley the sailor,' he being in the navy. He was dining for instance at Drakelowe on Oct. 7, 1789<sup>k</sup>, and at Nether Seile on Jan. 9, 1790<sup>k</sup>. On Thursday March 8, 1798<sup>k</sup>, he died, and on March 12 was buried at Seile<sup>k</sup>. The Rev. J. M. Gresley adds, no doubt from Richard Gresley's information, that Thomas 'shot himself at Tamworth, being, and having been, of unsound mind.' On Jan. 4, 1836, Sir Roger Gresley testified<sup>l</sup> that the Rev. G. W. Lloyd, incumbent of Church Gresley, knew Thomas personally, had often met him at Drakelowe, and could prove that he was the only son of Geoffrey and that he died unmarried.

Jane Grammer Gresley married on Jan. 21, 1795<sup>m</sup>, Robert Willoughby Esq., first cousin of Lord Willoughby: she died on Sept. 9, 1803<sup>n</sup>, leaving a son John<sup>n</sup> (born 1796; died 1811, when a midshipman, on board ship, by falling<sup>o</sup> from a mast on to the deck) and a daughter Jane Charlotte<sup>n</sup>

(born 1797, died Sept. 15, 1803). Robert Willoughby<sup>p</sup> was of Kingsbury Cliff in Warwickshire (born Feb. 21, 1765: a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Militia), and had previously married Cecile daughter of M. Pierre Gratian de Goudin of Sens: his third wife was Avarilla eldest daughter of Edward Croxall, and he had issue by all his wives.

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<sup>p</sup> Burke's  
Landed  
Gentry (1846)  
ii. 1603.

John Gresley, of Nether Seile, first cousin of Sir Thomas Gresley,  
the 4th Baronet.

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(b. 1714<sup>q</sup>: d. 1783.)

John Gresley was born on Jan. 15, 1714<sup>q</sup>, at Nether Seile and baptized on the 25th of the same month<sup>q</sup>. As a fourth son he had no natural expectation of becoming his father's heir. However his elder brothers died, Lee making him his heir for his (John's) lifetime, and things went well with him. He lived at Wirksworth for most of his life, both his wives being from local families, and only in his later years, probably after his second wife's death in 1766, moved to Sandybrook near Ashbourne, where he died on Dec. 31, 1783<sup>r</sup>, aged 73, and was buried at Ashbourne on Jan. 5, 1784<sup>s</sup>.

<sup>q</sup> Nether  
Seile Reg.

On Aug. 20, 1733<sup>t</sup>, at Wirksworth he married his first wife **Dorothy** Wilcockson, who was baptized Dec. 12, 1708<sup>t</sup>, see pedigree lix. She must have died in 1746, probably at or soon after the birth of her second daughter Elizabeth. Their issue was:—

<sup>r</sup> Family  
Notebook.  
<sup>s</sup> Ashbourne  
Reg.  
<sup>t</sup> Wirksw.  
Reg.

1. **Thomas** (born July 1734), see p. 113.

2. **John**, born between Feb. 11, 1738<sup>u</sup>, and March 20 following<sup>u</sup>, when he was baptized at Ashbourne<sup>v</sup>, went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge (B.A. 1758, M.A. 1761, B.D. 1768), of which foundation he became a Fellow. At one time he was minister of Bakewell Chapel<sup>w</sup> in Derbyshire: but at his death at Wensley on Feb. 10, 1795 (aged 58) he was rector of Aller in Somerset<sup>w</sup>: the burial was at Rowtor Chapel in Birchover parish, Derbyshire, where there is a monument to him. He is described in a private letter of 1848 as 'popular,' and in personal appearance 'portly and commanding.' In 1781 he was residuary legatee

<sup>u</sup> From age  
on monu-  
ment.  
<sup>v</sup> Ashb. Reg.  
<sup>w</sup> Mont.  
there: see  
Somers. and  
Dors. N. and  
Q. iv. 310.

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of John Wall\* of Wensley (see p. 114), and his Will<sup>v</sup> shows that he possessed considerable property, including lead mines and shares in lead mines. For his quarrels with his brother Thomas see p. 114. In his last years he suffered much from scorbutic ulcers.

<sup>a</sup> Ashb. Reg. 3. **Elizabeth**, baptized April 24, 1740<sup>z</sup>, was buried at Ashbourne June 13, 1744<sup>z</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> Family Notebook. 4. **Elizabeth**, born, as may be deduced from her monument, between Nov. 14, 1745, and Nov. 13, 1746, married on May 22, 1764<sup>z</sup>, at Ashbourne Samuel Ball of Tamworth, and died Nov. 13, 1802<sup>a</sup>, aged 56, and was buried on the 19th<sup>a</sup>. For her children see pedigree xi.

<sup>b</sup> Marriage articles are dated July 6, 1747. John Gresley married secondly in July 1747<sup>b</sup> **Mary**, widow of John Toplis of Wirksworth, *née* Bradley, see pedigree lix: she died on Sept. 4, 1766<sup>c</sup>. Their issue was:—

<sup>c</sup> Family Notebk. 5 (1). **Charles Lee**, baptized at Ashbourne on Aug. 14, 1748<sup>d</sup>, died at Sandybrook on Feb. 10, 1768<sup>e</sup>, and was buried at Ashbourne two days later<sup>d</sup>.

<sup>f</sup> Papers of the Rev. J. M. Gresley. 6 (2). **James Henry**, was alive on June 2, 1766<sup>e</sup>, but is stated to have died unmarried under age, before April 15, 1777<sup>f</sup>.

<sup>g</sup> Deed by him of Apr. 15, 1777. 7 (3). **William Theophilus**, the year of whose birth appears not to be recorded, but who was over twenty-one in April 1777<sup>g</sup>, was a surgeon, whom we find in 1797<sup>h</sup> at Slough, and in 1803-26 at Liverpool, where he was house surgeon in the Infirmary. He died on May 19, 1826, with no surviving issue, though he married twice. His first wife was Anne only daughter of Richard Watkins rector of Clifton Camvill and Anne his wife. She died on Oct. 21, 1781, aged 29, of puerperal fever, and was buried on the 26th at Clifton<sup>i</sup>, leaving a son William who was buried on May 8, 1784<sup>i</sup>. On Nov. 29, 1790, 'William Gresley Esq. of the Hotwells, Bristol<sup>j</sup>' was married again to Mary Anningson of Clifton near Bristol, the daughter of a Twickenham gentleman: but she died on March 25<sup>k</sup> or 27<sup>l</sup>, 1797, without issue, and was buried at Twickenham on the 30th<sup>l</sup>.

<sup>k</sup> Family Notebk. 8 (4). **Robert**, who was over twenty-one in April 1777<sup>m</sup>, married, on Dec. 21, 1777, at Ashbourne<sup>n</sup>, Mary Deane of that place, who died June 23, 1791, in child-bed. Robert occurs in April 1782<sup>o</sup>, and was buried at some subsequent date at Mosley near Ashton-under-Lyme, where his wife was also buried. His children are best given in a separate pedigree (see p. 146), as the name of Gresley still survives in this branch.

<sup>o</sup> Family Notebk. 9 (5). **Walsingham**, born in 1758 or 1759<sup>m</sup>, was in 1784 a Lieutenant in the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot<sup>p</sup>, and served in the West Indies, whence he returned with a liver complaint, and died unmarried at the Hotwells, Bristol, on March 16, 1786.

<sup>p</sup> Army Lists.

Sir Thomas Gresley, 5th Baronet.

(b. 1722: d. 1753.)

Sir Thomas was born at Drakelowe on July 12, 1722<sup>q</sup>, at 4 a.m., and matriculated at Oxford from Balliol College on May 24, 1739, but took no degree. On succeeding to the Baronetcy in 1746 he took a larger share in public affairs than his father, for in 1750-1 he was High Sheriff of Derbyshire, in connexion with which there is an account in the *Reliquary*<sup>r</sup> of his coming into Derby in state for the Assizes. On Nov. 30, 1753, he was elected M.P. for Lichfield in the Tory interest, polling 348 against Henry Vernon's 261<sup>s</sup>, at a bye-contest—the omission of which in the official return of all Members of Parliament (Lond. 1878-91) is only one among many imperfections in that work—but within a month of his election died in London (on Dec. 23) of small-pox, at the early age of thirty-one, and was buried at Gresley<sup>t</sup> on the last day of the year.

Sir Thomas married, probably in 1749, **Wilmot** daughter and heir of Mr. Hood of Leicester<sup>u</sup>, of whom I cannot find any account. She long survived her husband and died in Hertford Street, London, on June 11<sup>v</sup> or 12<sup>w</sup>, 1797, and was buried at Gresley on the 26th<sup>x</sup>. Their only issue was a daughter:—

**Wilmot**, born at Drakelowe on Aug. 17, 1750<sup>y</sup>, and baptized at Walton on Oct. 5<sup>z</sup> of the same year, married her first cousin Sir Nigel Bowyer Gresley, the 7th Baronet, see p. 119.

Sir Nigel Gresley, 6th Baronet, brother of the 5th Baronet.

(b. 1728: d. 1787.)

Sir Nigel was the most ingenious, energetic and public-spirited, but perhaps not the most prudent, of the Gresley

<sup>r</sup> *Reliquary*, O.S. xi. (1870-71) 93. 1751. Derby, March 21. On Monday last Sir Thomas Gresley, of Drakelow, Bart., our High Sheriff, accompany'd by a great number of Gentlemen and Tradesmen of Burton-upon-Trent, and the neighbouring places, and attended by several Servants, in handsome Gold-Lac'd Liveries, came to the *King's Head* in this Town, where after refreshing themselves, and being join'd by many other Gentlemen &c., and the proper Officers, they set out to meet Sir Sydney Stafford Smythe, the Judge appointed to hold the Assizes here, who arrived about Six the same evening.

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<sup>q</sup> Bible at Drakelowe.

<sup>r</sup> O.S., xi. 93: see below.

<sup>s</sup> Harwood's Lichfield (1806), p. 365.

<sup>t</sup> Gresley Reg.

<sup>u</sup> Nichols' Leicester-shire iii. pt. 2, 1011\*.

<sup>v</sup> Gent. Mag. (lxvii. 534) lxxviii. 398.

<sup>w</sup> Family Notebk.

<sup>x</sup> Gresley Reg.

<sup>y</sup> Bible at Drakelowe.

<sup>z</sup> Wolferstan notes to a pedigree.

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<sup>a</sup> Bible at Drakelowe.

<sup>b</sup> Walton Reg.

<sup>c</sup> Navy Lists.

<sup>d</sup> Information from Richard Gresley and Elizabeth Pycroft.

The possible ships were the Furnace, Bridgewater, and perhaps Royal Sovereign.

<sup>e</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 15955, fol. 278.

Baronets of the eighteenth century. He was born at Drake-  
lowe on Jan. 11, 172 $\frac{5}{8}$ <sup>a</sup>, and baptized at Walton on Jan. 27<sup>b</sup>  
following. We find him early in life in the Royal Navy,  
his first commission as Lieutenant being in 1747 or 1748<sup>c</sup>.  
It appears to have been in his ship<sup>d</sup> that Flora Macdonald  
was conveyed to London under guard at the close of 1746:  
and to commemorate his kindness and courtesy on this  
occasion a picture of her (still at Drakelowe) was sub-  
sequently presented by Flora herself to Sir Nigel. He is  
even stated to have been a strong Jacobite in sentiment,  
but whether this chivalrous incident was the cause or effect  
of his political views, is not clear. He probably left the  
navy from ill-health, since in a letter<sup>e</sup> of March 18, 17 $\frac{4}{8}$ <sup>9</sup>, he  
declines the post of Lieutenant on the *Mercury*, which had  
been offered him by Lord Anson, on the ground of rheumatic  
complaints. In this letter, it may be added, he expresses  
views inconsistent with any love for the Stuart dynasty.  
He was still on the active list of Lieutenants at the close  
of 1750<sup>e</sup>.

On succeeding unexpectedly to the Baronetcy, Sir Nigel  
found himself in possession of the Knypersley estate and  
since Drakelowe was assigned by will or arrangement to  
Dame Wilmot Gresley, he resided at Knypersley<sup>f</sup> after  
his marriage, and kept hounds; until for the sake of his  
children's education, but partly also from debt<sup>g</sup>, he left  
Knypersley (in 1765) and moved to Worcester, and at last  
for health to Bath. It is interesting to remember that Kny-  
persley had been in possession of Alina<sup>h</sup> wife of Engenulph  
de Gresley at least six centuries before.

He was an early patron of James Brindley the engineer,  
who in 1752<sup>i</sup> erected for him a water engine for draining  
the Gresley coal mines near Manchester. In 1775 he ob-  
tained a private Act for constructing, in conjunction with  
his eldest son, the 'Newcastle Upper Canal' to convey his  
coal and ironstone from the mines at Apedale into the  
Grand Trunk Canal at Newcastle-under-Lyme. It is about  
nine miles long and still known as Gresley's Canal, but

<sup>f</sup> Letter from Sir Roger Gresley Jan. 4, 1836, at Drakelowe.

<sup>g</sup> E. Meteyard's *Life of Wedgwood* i. 397.

<sup>h</sup> Bodl. MS. Ashm. 833, p. 227.

<sup>i</sup> Ward's *Stoke upon Trent*, p. 163.



is derelict. His schemes, however, were not profitable, and in 1767 he obtained a private Act empowering him to sell the Knypersley estate.

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On April 17, 1787<sup>1</sup>, he died at Bath (of dropsy?) and was buried in Bath Abbey<sup>k</sup> four days later.

<sup>1</sup> Mon<sup>t</sup> at Bath.

<sup>k</sup> Bath Abbey Reg.

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* vol. lvii (1787) p. 288 there is an eulogy of Sir Nigel signed 'Polyxena,' with some verses (by Major Barry) to his memory: and also a sympathetic but discriminating character of him stated to be by Governor Philip Thicknesse<sup>1</sup>, which may be here reprinted:—

<sup>1</sup> Nichols, Leicester-shire iii. pt. 2, 1011\*, note 8.

'Sir Nigel Gresley possessed a character that ought not to be passed by with one eulogium, however just, and with one testimony of public regret, however sincere. The nature of this Baronet was good-nature. He was a kind husband, a tender father, a zealous friend, an hospitable neighbour. He was brave without boasting, and was just such a man as *Sterne* describes his uncle Toby, to whose kindness the weak would fly for protection. His manners were simple and unaffected, not such as are formed by the dancing-master, or acquired in a foreign tour. They were far better, and had a nobler source, for they sprung from an excellent heart. He had a soul for sympathy, and a tear for pity. His form, indeed, was robust beyond common appearance; but his dispositions were mild, generous, and unsuspecting. It was rather a difficult matter to make him think ill, and it was very easy to persuade him to think well, of others. These, and their associate virtues, had in some part of his life, involved him in difficulty and inconvenience. Indeed, cold, inanimate prudence might say, that such qualities are not formed for what is called the prosperity of this world; and it may be true; but they will stand him in *good stead* in that world whither he is gone. While his family lament, and his friends regret, his loss, a distant and forgotten admirer of his character lays an humble tribute of regard upon his grave.'

In corroboration of this, Richard Gresley used to relate of Sir Nigel that 'nothing could put him out of humour, for he was certainly the most good-natured man I ever saw.' An old Nether Seile man<sup>m</sup> who died about 1846, said that Sir Nigel 'was the biggest man he ever saw in his life, except it was a giant in a show,' and that when he went to church at Nether Seile, where he often visited, he was obliged to go *sideways* into the Hall pew. It is related of him also that one day when he was coming out

<sup>m</sup> William Kirkby.

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of the Pump Room at Bath, one of the chair-men standing by remarked upon his 'robust appearance' and, in fact, was impertinent. Sir Nigel immediately said to him 'Take me up to Lansdowne Crescent,' and got into his chair. Before they had proceeded far up the hill, the man besought him not to require him to go any further, and humbly begged pardon, which Sir Nigel readily granted.

<sup>n</sup> Astbury Reg.

On May 18, 1752<sup>n</sup>, at Astbury in Cheshire he married his cousin **Elizabeth**, third daughter and co-heir of the Rev. Ellis Wynn of Congleton and Elizabeth his wife, *née* Oldfield. After her husband's death she lived in the Close at Lichfield in a house<sup>o</sup> opposite the South Transept of the Cathedral, where she died on May 13, 1793<sup>p</sup>: she was buried in the Abbey Church at Bath<sup>q</sup> on the 22nd. She was familiarly known as 'Lady Whitewig' in contradistinction to Gertrude Lady Gresley, see p. 105. Among the friends of her later life was Miss Anna Seward, from whose letters we learn that in 1789 they met after a separation of nearly twenty years<sup>r</sup>, and that Lady Gresley entered her 'new house<sup>s</sup> in the Close' in Dec. 1790, after staying for some time in one of the Canons' houses; with details of her lameness and final illness which a visit to Buxton<sup>t</sup> in 1792 failed to cure. At this time Lady Gresley had a 'feeble and delicate frame<sup>u</sup>,' but was of an active and intellectual disposition. Her two unmarried daughters were living with her till her death. The children of Sir Nigel and Elizabeth were:—

<sup>o</sup> Information from Richard Gresley.

<sup>p</sup> Nichols' Leicester-shire iii. pt. 2, 1011\*.

<sup>q</sup> Bath Abbey Reg.

<sup>r</sup> Letters ii. 325.

<sup>s</sup> *Ibid.* iii. 48.

<sup>t</sup> *Ibid.* iii. 15.

<sup>u</sup> *Ibid.* iii. 115, cf. 228, 331.

<sup>v</sup> Her mother's notebook.

<sup>w</sup> Manuscript 'Hist. of Our Ancestors' by Mrs. Turner.

<sup>x</sup> Her mother's notebk.

<sup>y</sup> *Gent. Mag.* N.S. xi. 557.

<sup>z</sup> *Ibid.* vii. 110.

<sup>a</sup> Family Notebk.

1. **Nigel Bowyer** (born March 18, 1753), 7th Baronet, see p. 117.

2. **Dorothy**, born May 12, 1754<sup>y</sup>, died in infancy.

3. **Anne**, born May 11, 1755, who was known as 'Graceful Gresley' from her fine minuet dancing, married Sir John Edensor Heathcote on Jan. 3, 1780, at Walcot church near Bath: for their children see the Heathcote pedigree. She is stated to have died in Sept. 1797<sup>w</sup>, in child-bed.

4. **Elizabeth**, born Aug. 18, 1756<sup>x</sup>, died unmarried at Leamington on April 10, 1839<sup>y</sup>.

5. **Frances**, born Nov. 30, 1757<sup>x</sup>, died unmarried on Sept. 30, 1836<sup>z</sup>, at Leamington, and was buried there on Oct. 7<sup>a</sup>.

6. **Louisa Jane**, born Oct. 5, 1759<sup>x</sup>, lived at Drakelowe<sup>b</sup> after her sister-in-law's death, and married on May 5, 1798, the Rev. William Gresley of Nether Seile: and died on April 20, 1806, leaving issue: see p. 122.

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—  
<sup>x</sup> Her mother's Notebk.  
<sup>b</sup> Seward's Letters iii.  
381.

7. **Harriet**, born Feb. 9, 1761<sup>x</sup>, married John Jelly<sup>c</sup> Esq., a solicitor of Bath, son of Thomas Jelly, and had six children<sup>c</sup>:—John Gresley (born July 13, 1790, married in 1824 Sarah Weeks, and had issue), Edward Nigel (drowned at sea in 1812), Harriet, Selina, Frances, and Louisa (born at Bath, died at Farley in Somerset June 30, 1810, aged 17). Harriet died at Norton St. Philip's May 25, 1832, and was buried at Farley.

<sup>c</sup> Information from J. G. Jelly Esq., 1844.

8. **Mary Susanna**, born April 23, 1762<sup>d</sup>, married (in Lichfield Cathedral, on July 19, 1791<sup>d</sup>) the Rev. Baptist John Proby<sup>e</sup>, Vicar of St. Mary's, Lichfield, eldest son of the Very Rev. Baptist Proby, Dean of Lichfield, and Mary his wife, *née* Russell. There were five children of this marriage:—Capt. Will. Hen. Baptist (R.N., married in 1831 Mary Louisa How, and had issue, died Nov. 26, 1839), Rev. John Carysfort (married at Calcutta Lydia Browne, and had issue), Joshua Brownlow (died in infancy), Maria Susanna (died 1862), and Louisa (died 1849). Mary Susanna died on Nov. 1, 1820, and was buried on the 9th in Lichfield Cathedral: her husband died on Jan. 14, 1830.

<sup>d</sup> Lichf. Cath. Reg.  
<sup>e</sup> An account of him is in *Gent. Mag.* vol. c, pt. 1, p. 280: the following details are chiefly from Maria Susanna Proby, 1850.

Rev. Thomas Gresley, D.D., F.R.S., of Nether Seile, 2nd cousin of the 5th and 6th Baronets.

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(b. 1734: d. 1785.)

Thomas was born shortly before July 21, 1734, the date of his baptism at Wirksworth<sup>f</sup>. He matriculated at Oxford from Hertford College on April 17, 1751, and came under the rigid and peculiar statutes of its Founder, Dr. Richard Newton: he took his B.A. degree (after his marriage) on Feb. 14, 1758, M.A. May 11, 1758: B.D. and D.D. together as a Grand-Compounder on Nov. 11, 1768. He was ordained priest on Sept. 24, 1758, by the Bishop of Lincoln, and on Oct. 31, 1759, was instituted Rector of Nether Seile (of which he was also patron)—a living he retained till his death. He was a man of considerable means, and in about 1770 purchased the inappropriate tithes of Church Gresley and of Measham. His favourite residence was Four Oaks<sup>f\*</sup> in the parish of Sutton Coldfield, which he bought from

<sup>f</sup> Wirksw. Reg.

<sup>f\*</sup> See account and views of Four Oaks in *The Warden*, no. 1 (June, 1898), p. 1.

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Lord Irnham on April 5, 1778: and an account of his hospitality and courtesy to some visitors there in 1779 is given in Sir Rich. Joseph Sullivan's *Observations during a Tour* (Lond. 1780, pp. 141-2). At his death his Will shows that he was owner of property in Nether Seile, Donisthorpe, Clifton Camville, Sutton Coldfield, Shenstone, Tamworth and parts of Derbyshire.

His life was that of a country rector in easy circumstances, but he was extremely touchy in matters which concerned his reputation, and peppery in temper. He was most indignant, for instance, with his son William for not obeying his wishes in the matter of a profession<sup>g</sup>, and conducted his disagreement<sup>g</sup> with his brother John with much asperity. It appears that Mrs. Beardsley, Thomas's cousin, had by her Will dated Oct. 6, 1778, settled property on Thomas to the exclusion of his brothers and sisters, who were disappointed. John undoubtedly after this spoke of his brother as 'Dr. Delegate the Will-maker,' suggesting thereby that he had dictated his aunt's Will: and a pretty quarrel arose, which lasted till John's death in 1783. Their sister Mrs. Ball also shared John's feelings, but as she was partly dependent on Thomas after her husband's death, she endeavoured to keep on good terms with both sides. John however obtained some compensation, for Mr. Wall of Wensley, who had tried unsuccessfully to act the part of a peacemaker, made him his residuary legatee, as has been mentioned. But nothing would reconcile the two brothers, and their old father, John, was much exercised about it, and made frequent attempts to heal the wound.

On April 17, 1785, Thomas had a fit of apoplexy at Bath and died the next day<sup>h</sup>, and was buried in St. James's Churchyard<sup>i</sup> there on April 23.

He married first on Feb. 7, 1757<sup>j</sup>, **Elizabeth** eldest daughter and sole heiress of the Rev. William Vincent of Sheepy Magna in Leicestershire: she died on May 19, 1769<sup>k</sup>, in the thirty-seventh year of her age. Their children were:—

<sup>g</sup> Letters at Drakelow.

<sup>h</sup> Mont<sup>t</sup> at Nether Seile.

<sup>i</sup> Family Notebooks.

<sup>j</sup> Family Notebk.

<sup>k</sup> Mont<sup>t</sup> at Nether Seile.

1. **Nigel**, born and privately baptized at Nether Seile on Jan. 7, 1758<sup>1</sup>, and christened on Feb. 7 following, died on Jan. 9, 1761, and was buried the same day at Nether Seile.

2. **Dorothy**, born at Nether Seile on April 21, 1759, baptized the same day, christened on May 13, died on Feb. 11, 1767, at Derby and was buried at St. Michael's in that town.

3. **William** (born Aug. 27, 1760), see p. 121.

4. **Thomas**, born Nov. 11, 1761, baptized the same day at Nether Seile, christened on Dec. 13, was matriculated at Oxford from Christ Church on May 2, 1780 (B.A. Jan. 27, 1784, M.A. May 21, 1801). He was ordained Deacon on Aug. 3, 1784, and Priest in June 1786, after which he went to Switzerland till November. At about this time or later he was Chaplain to Charlotte Sophia Baroness Howe : but for a few years after his return from abroad he appears to have led the life of a country gentleman, hunting and coursing with avidity : until on June 30, 1790, he was instituted to the living of Stretton-en-le-Field, which he resigned in the following year, while on a foreign tour with his two sisters for the health of the elder one. Thomas was always much interested in greyhounds, and it was on this tour in Spain that he obtained from the Royal Kennels at Lisbon the breed of Seile Pointers which became afterwards well known. He returned to England on Aug. 1, 1792. In May 1794 he was made Chaplain of the new Volunteer Yeomen of Leicestershire, and a sermon preached before them on Aug. 29 was printed. After this he held several livings, Hinton on the Green in Gloucestershire (Jan. 1797–Oct. 1802), Polesworth (given him by the Lord Chancellor, Oct. 1802 till his death : the Vicarage was burnt down on Jan. 18–19, 1803), and Nether Whitacre (Oct. 1804–1817). But in Jan. 1807 he had a paralytic stroke, and was an invalid ever after, till his death at Polesworth on March 19, 1817, from inflammation of the lungs supervening on fits : the burial was on the 25th. He was never married. Tradition says that he was rather a character in his way, and well known for the excellence and antiquity of his port.

5. **Richard**, born and baptized Aug. 9, 1766, at Nether Seile, christened on Sept. 12, went in 1776 to Mr. Wood's school at Loughborough and in the next year to a school at Lichfield conducted by Mr. Price, whom his pupil followed to Birmingham in 1779 on his appointment as master to the Free School there. Next he became private pupil of Mr. Birch of Thoresby in 1781, and in 1784 of Mr. Gunning at Sutton near Woodbridge. On June 25, 1785, he matriculated at Oxford from Christ Church, and came into residence the next October, but took no degree, and removed his name from the books on Oct. 28, 1787, on which occasion he 'received advice from the Dean [Dr. Cyril Jackson] which I shall always remember with *thankfulness*.' The next year he entered Lincoln's Inn, which he exchanged for the Middle Temple in 1791 : was called to the Bar on May 30, 1794, and became a Bencher in 1830. But having some property and being fond of country life he determined to

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<sup>1</sup> The details below are all from Family Notebooks, when not otherwise specified.

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leave London and practise as a provincial counsel, and we find him living at Sheepy in 1794 and Coventry in 1796. About this time he was engaged to be married to a Miss F. Wilson, only child of Capt. Wilson of Tamworth, but she died on Dec. 15, 1799, and on May 22 in the following year he took as his wife Caroline, youngest daughter of Andrew Grote, of Threadneedle St. and Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, banker; an aunt of the Historian. His residence from 1800 till 1817 was at Kenilworth, but on Oct. 1 in the latter year his wife died in child-birth at the age of forty-five, and on Dec. 17 he moved to Stowe House near Lichfield, which he had recently purchased. There he lived for nearly eight years, having married on Dec. 5, 1820, his second wife Mary, widow of Robert Drummond of Megginch Castle in Perthshire, and eldest daughter of the Rev. Joseph Phillimore, Vicar of Orton on the Hill. The marriage took place at St. Martin's in the Fields, London. On Oct. 12, 1829, he made another change, having bought Meriden Hall in Warwickshire. This he only left after his son Richard's death in Oct. 1837, and seems to have resided for a time at 5 Waterloo Place, Leamington, but took his wife for a tour abroad in 1838-9. On Dec. 14, 1841, his wife had a paralytic stroke, not for the first time, died the next day, and was buried at Fulham. At this time Richard was living at 11 Oxford Square, London, where he died at the age of eighty-four on March 27, 1850. His body was taken to Nether Seile for burial (April 3), where there is a monument to his memory. He is well remembered as a genial, courteous gentleman, full of information and ready to impart it. One of his favourite pursuits was archery: he was a Woodman of the Forest of Arden as early as 1787, and a member of the Society of Kentish Bowmen in 1788, besides winning the 'Meriden Arrow' in 1793 and 1797. He was also a Major in the Warwickshire Yeomanry.

His family of eight children are dealt with separately (see p. 148): the eldest was the well-known writer and divine, the Rev. William Gresley, of Boyne Hill, near Maidenhead.

6. **Elizabeth**, born (and no doubt baptized) on March 4, 1763, christened on April 5 following, was of weak health throughout her life, and lived with her sister Mary at Nether Seile till Dec. 1789. At that time their brother, the Rector of Seile, was growing up, and though invited to remain they decided to leave and in Sept. 1790 took lodgings at Worcester. In 1791 Elizabeth was in a decline, which the Spanish tour with Thomas failed to arrest. She landed at Falmouth on Aug. 1, 1792, and stayed at the Hotwells near Bristol in October, but gradually sank, and died on Nov. 28, 1792, at Nether Seile, where she was buried three days later. Many of her and her sister Mary's letters are preserved at Drakelowe, and show them both to have been lively and gay young ladies, with a keen enjoyment of the pleasures of social life.

7. **Mary**, born and baptized Aug. 1, 1764, christened on Oct. 10, lived with her elder sister during the latter's lifetime, and after that (from 1793) with her aunt at Tamworth until 1806, when they both moved to Seile.

In 1815 she bought a house in St. John St., Lichfield, opposite the end of Frog Lane and the Robin Hood Inn, where she lived till her death there on Feb. 6, 1834: she was buried at Nether Seile on the 13th.

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8. **Frances**, born and baptized Apr. 29, 1769, died at Nether Seile on July 15, 1770.

Dr. Gresley married secondly on March 1, 1777<sup>m</sup>, at St. Clement's in the Strand, London, **Elizabeth** widow of William Pycroft, surgeon, of Burton-on-Trent, and daughter of Joseph Wilkes of Over Seile. She was baptized on Aug. 18, 1735, at Nether Seile, and her first marriage was there solemnized on Sept. 23, 1757: she had issue by her first husband (who died in 1762 or 1763), and herself died on Aug. 26<sup>n</sup> or 27<sup>o</sup>, 1816, aged 81: and was buried on the 31st. The children of Dr. Gresley by his second wife were:—

<sup>m</sup> Express testimony of J. W. Pycroft, 1853, from the Church Register.

9 (1). **Charles**, born June 20, 1777<sup>p</sup>, and baptized on the 29th, died on Oct. 5, 1785, at Solihull and was buried three days later at Nether Seile.

<sup>n</sup> Family Notebook.  
<sup>o</sup> Mon<sup>t</sup> at N. Seile.

10 (2). **John**, baptized at Nether Seile March 23, 1779, christened on April 18 following, died at Four Oaks on Dec. 27, 1782, and was buried at Nether Seile on Jan. 3.

<sup>p</sup> Family Notebook.

**Sir Nigel Bowyer Gresley, 7th Baronet.**

**xxiv**

(*b.* 1753: *d.* 1808.)

Nigel Bowyer was born on March 18, 1753<sup>q</sup>, and educated at Manchester Grammar School<sup>r</sup>: but we know little of his life before his father's death, except in connexion with his marriage. In 1780 however he was High Sheriff of Derbyshire, and in 1783 obtained a private Act enabling him to lease part of his Staffordshire estates to persons interested in iron works. From this Act it appears that Nigel had already interested himself in iron works on his estates, following the example of his father. He also endeavoured to improve the pottery made at Gresley, which had previously been a coarse brown ware made from a bluish-white superficial clay known as 'Rough Tom.' In 1795, in conjunction with Mr. Adderley, Sir Nigel established a porcelain factory<sup>s</sup>

<sup>q</sup> Family Notebook.  
<sup>r</sup> Admitted June 11, 1763, see Manch. Sch. Reg. (Cheth. Soc.) i. 108, 185.

<sup>s</sup> Chaffers' Pottery 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (1876), p. 809: and information from an old Gresley man named Thomas Grey, There was a 1795. It was

given to the Rev. J. M. Gresley. 'Church Gresley, Derbyshire. Porcelain. manufactory of china established at Gresley Hall, the seat of the Gresley family, in

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at Church Gresley, employing Staffordshire men, and succeeded in producing the Gresley China, for which the Miss Gresleys used to paint the patterns. Several sets of this ware are still at Drakelowe, but the factory was unremunerative, and was sold in 1825. About £80,000 are said to have been lost in this unfortunate venture.

Miss Seward was staying at Drakelowe in July 1794, and testifies<sup>†</sup> that 'Sir Nigel knows well how to animate and diversify the longest summer day.' She mentions also<sup>‡</sup> that he personally designed a monument in Lichfield Cathedral erected to the memory of a Mr. Saville, a Vicar Choral, who died in 1803.

At a bye-election early in 1799 Sir Nigel unsuccessfully contested a Parliamentary seat at Lichfield in the Conservative interest, his successful opponent being Sir J. Wrottesley. Among the public posts which he held were the Recordership of Lichfield from 1802, a Trusteeship of Raunston Hospital<sup>‡</sup> in the same year, and a Governorship of Appleby School<sup>¶</sup>. At Drakelowe he kept open house, and delighted the neighbourhood with masqued Balls. The following verses by Miss Anna Seward<sup>‡</sup>, politely declining an invitation to one of these Balls on Dec. 20, 1793, have been printed in *La Belle Assemblée or Court . . . Magazine*, no. 57 (1829), but are here given from the autograph of the authoress.

An Apology to Sir Nigel Gresley for not accepting his invitation to his Masqued Ball [Dec. 20, 1793, at Drakelowe].

Ah! Gresley, skill'd to deck the festal rite  
With Taste's coy art and Fancy's various light,  
Soon when those Powers shall lead the frolic train  
Beneath the splendour of their chosen Fane,

in existence for about twenty years, and the property was sold in 1825, not being remunerative. My informant, Mr. W. Brown, says, "Part of the buildings were standing as stables in the farmyard, and were repaired in 1848. My mother told me about the Miss Gresleys painting china for themselves when she went over the works. Gresley Hall was bought by my father from the Gresleys, and was occupied by my grandfather, and we retained it till 1851; we had many dozens of *wastrels*, plates of very fine transparent china, white with a deep blue tree with birds; they were all said to be imperfect, or they would have received a second colour in gold."—W. Chaffers' *Pottery and Porcelain*, 8th ed., by F. Litchfield, Lond., 1897, 8<sup>o</sup>, pp. 803-4.

† Letters iii. 381; see p. 166.

‡ Ibid. vi. 209, cf. 112-3.

‡ Nichols, Leicester-shire iii. pt. 2, 936.

¶ Ibid. iv. 441.

‡ Seward's Letters iii. 343.



Where Drakelow, white as o'er the Vale she gleams  
 Eyes her fair form in Trent's pellucid streams,  
 Cou'd I amid the jocund band convene  
 Youth, Health or Spirit to the glittering scene,  
 Then shou'd my pen thy flattering summons greet  
 With gladdened heart and with acceptance meet.  
 But long precarious health, Life's faded bloom,  
 And recent ravage of the ruthless Tomb  
 Closed o'er my friends, forbid the pageant bower  
 To shine before me with magnetic power.  
 When graver pleasures and domestic mirth  
 Raise the soft Lares o'er thy glowing hearth,  
 Thine may it be to share the joys benign  
 More grateful to Existence's decline,  
 To view expanding mind with effluence warm  
 Illume thy loved Maria's youthful form,  
 To mark, around that ever liberal board,  
 Blessed by glad welcome from its graceful Lord,  
 With sportive glee his lovely infants sit  
 And bright Louisa lance [launch?] the dart of Wit,  
 While most his sence and spirit render gay  
 The golden leisure of the social day.

ANNA SEWARD.

Lichfield, Nov. 19, 1793.

Sir Nigel himself had literary tastes, and contributed some papers about the Civil War as it affected Staffordshire to Shaw's *History of the County*. At the end of his life he resided at Bath, and died there of dropsy on March 26, 1808<sup>y</sup>, and on April 4 was buried in the Abbey, where there is a monument to his memory.

Sir Nigel married first at Croxall on Jan. 26, 1776<sup>z</sup>, his first cousin **Wilmot** (see p. 109), only child and heir of Sir Thomas Gresley the 5th Baronet. There are some graceful verses 'On the Marriage of Nigel Bowyer Gresley Esq. with Miss Gresley of Drakelow. By a Friend,' probably by Miss Seward: they begin 'As Gresley stood on Gallia's shore.' She died at Bristol on Dec. 3<sup>a</sup>, 4<sup>b</sup> or 5<sup>c</sup>, 1790, and was buried at Gresley on Dec. 13. Elizabeth Gresley was living at Worcester at the time, and records that on Saturday Dec. 11 'the Funeral of Lady Gresley pass'd thro' on their way to Gresley—the hearse, two

<sup>y</sup> Manch. Sch. Reg., as above.

<sup>z</sup> Bible at Drakelowe.

<sup>a</sup> Mon<sup>t</sup> at Gresley.

<sup>b</sup> Family Notebooks.

<sup>c</sup> Family Notebook, Nichols' *Leicestershire* iii. pt. 2, 1011\*.

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mourning coaches and six, their own chaise and pair, and her saddle horse led with saddle covered with black and three men on horseback. The family came to Worcester, and stay'd all night.' She left three daughters, but in order to keep the property and title together bequeathed the bulk of the estates to any son of Sir Nigel by a future wife <sup>a</sup>.

The issue of this marriage was as below :—

<sup>a</sup> See her Mon<sup>t</sup> at Gresley.

<sup>o</sup> Bible at Drakelowe.

<sup>r</sup> His Mon<sup>t</sup> at Whittington.

<sup>g</sup> Family Notebk.

<sup>h</sup> Cath. Reg.

<sup>i</sup> Gent. Mag. lxxviii. 850.

<sup>j</sup> Gresley Reg.

<sup>k</sup> Gent. Mag. lxi. 612, cf. lxxviii. 554.

<sup>l</sup> Family Notebk.

<sup>m</sup> Gent. Mag. N.S. xv. 107.

<sup>n</sup> Pedigree annotated by Rich. Gresley.

<sup>o</sup> Gresley Reg.

<sup>p</sup> Bible at Drakelowe.

<sup>q</sup> Gent. Mag. xcii. 1. 368, cf. Foster's Alumni Oxon.

<sup>r</sup> Papers of Charles Gresley Esq.

<sup>s</sup> Gent. Mag. lxxxvi. 1. 568, cf. 607 and 2. 504.

1. **Wilmot Maria**, born at Drakelowe April 7, 1778<sup>o</sup>, baptized at Walton May 20, was married at Gresley Church on Sept. 21, 1802<sup>f</sup>, to the Rev. Thomas Levett, second son of Thomas Levett Esq. of Packington. He died without issue on Oct. 9, 1843, at Leamington in his seventy-fourth year, and was buried at Whittington where he had been for forty years curate. She died on Dec. 17, 1845<sup>g</sup>, at Packington, and was buried at Whittington.

2. **Emma Sophia**, born at Lichfield April 17, 1785<sup>o</sup>, and baptized in the Cathedral on July 18<sup>h</sup>, was married at Scarborough on Sept. 15, 1808<sup>i</sup>, to Richard Edensor Heathcote, M.P., her first cousin, and had three children (see Heathcote pedigree). She died in Sept. 1813<sup>g</sup>.

3. **Elizabeth Augusta**, born at Drakelowe Dec. 5, 1787<sup>o</sup>, christened at Walton on Feb. 20, 1788<sup>g</sup>, died on or about Oct. 4, 1808<sup>g</sup>, unmarried, and was buried at Gresley on Oct. 10<sup>j</sup>.

Sir Nigel married secondly **Maria Eliza**, only daughter and heir of Caleb Garway Esq., of Worcester. The marriage was at St. James's<sup>k</sup>, Piccadilly, London, on June 25, 1796<sup>l</sup>. She died at Cheltenham on Nov. 9, 1840<sup>m</sup>, in her seventieth year, having had four children :—

4 (1). **Almeria Georgiana Eliza**, born April 9, 1797<sup>n</sup>, christened at Gresley Sept. 22<sup>l</sup> in that year, died on Jan. 6, 1798<sup>l</sup>, and was buried at Gresley on Jan. 10<sup>o</sup>.

5 (2). **Louisa Georgiana Maria**, born at Drakelowe on July 18, 1798<sup>p</sup>, married on March 2, 1822, at Leamington the Rev. Edward Woodyat<sup>q</sup> M.A., and had eight children, of whom the eldest son was the Rev. George Woodyat<sup>r</sup>, who on July 4, 1865, married Ella (Pendrill), and the eldest daughter was Georgiana Louisa<sup>r</sup> who on Jan. 10, 1843, married the Rev. Dennis L. Cousins of Cheltenham. Edward was of Kempsey in Worcestershire, and son of George Woodyat of Ledbury.

6 (3). **Roger** (born Dec. 27, 1799), 8th Baronet, see p. 124.

7 (4). **Nigel**, born at Worcester on March 15, 1801<sup>n</sup>, died of consumption at the Hotwells near Bristol on May 19, 1816<sup>g</sup>, and was buried at Church Gresley on the 29th<sup>o</sup>.

Rev. William Gresley, third cousin of the 7th Baronet, father  
of the 9th Baronet.

(b. 1760: d. 1829.)

William, born on Aug. 27, 1760<sup>†</sup>, and christened on Sept. 26<sup>u</sup>, went in February 1779 to be private pupil of Mr. Birch of Thoresby, and thence went to London to study for the Law under a Mr. Russell<sup>v</sup>, but in spite of his father's strenuous insistence could not 'settle his mind to that profession<sup>v</sup>,' and on June 29, 1781, matriculated at Oxford from University College, taking his degree of B.A. on July 9, 1785: he appears however to have been entered as a barrister of the Middle Temple in 1783<sup>w</sup>. When his father died he finally decided to change his profession: and after being on Sept. 25, 1785, ordained Deacon and on the Oct. 2 following Priest<sup>w</sup>, he was at once inducted into the Rectory of Seile, a position which he held till his death. At first his two sisters kept house for him, but they left at the close of 1789.

<sup>†</sup> Pedigree annotated by Rich. Gresley.

<sup>u</sup> Family Notebk.

<sup>v</sup> Letter of his aunt Hannah Vincent, Jan. 18, 1781, at Drakelowe.

<sup>w</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxon.

In 1798 at Gresley he married his third cousin Louisa Jane daughter of Sir Nigel Gresley the 6th Baronet, and the dispositions of the two are vividly characterized by Miss Anna Seward in a private letter of March 13, 1798, 'Louisa Gresley, the elegant, the witty, the eccentric, the agreeable, is going to marry her clerical kinsman and namesake, of silence so inflexible and solemn'; and on July 3 when the wedding was over she writes that Mrs. Gresley never looked 'so healthy or so handsome,' and that she 'has animated her once statue-like husband with the vital light of love and happiness.'

When his brother-in-law Sir Nigel Bowyer Gresley died in 1808, William found himself guardian of Sir Roger, and had much trouble in connexion with his education, until at last in 1820 he broke with the trustees and Lady Gresley, and resigned the guardianship. His later life was probably uneventful and quiet, except for two accidents which prevented him from leading an active life. On Dec. 14, 1814,

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his thigh was broken by a kick from his horse, and again broken on April 26 of the following year by a fall on the gravel walk in front of his house—on which occasion it was so unskilfully set by two Ashby surgeons that he was a cripple for life. His death came on Oct. 3, 1829, at Nether Seile, where he was buried on Oct. 10: the following character of him in the *Gentleman's Magazine*<sup>x</sup> is perhaps particular enough to deserve reprinting:—‘Mr. Gresley was alike distinguished by firmness and independence, and by the milder virtues of benevolence, humility and piety: his life exemplified the character of a faithful parochial minister and an English country gentleman.’

<sup>x</sup> xcix. 2. 571.

<sup>v</sup> Family Notebooks.

On May 5, 1798, as has been mentioned, he married his cousin **Louisa Jane Gresley**. She died on April 20, 1806<sup>v</sup>, and was buried at Seile on the 26th<sup>v</sup>. Their issue, besides a still-born son on Dec. 26, 1799<sup>v</sup>, was:—

1. **Louisa Elizabeth**, born Sept. 11, 1801<sup>v</sup>, christened Nov. 15<sup>v</sup>, who married on July 26, 1825<sup>v</sup>, at Seile the Rev. Spencer Madan, and had ten children: see pedigree xl. She died in the Close at Lichfield on Dec. 22, 1861<sup>v</sup>.

2. **William Nigel** (born March 25, 1806<sup>v</sup>), 9th Baronet, see p. 129.

William married secondly on Aug. 29, 1811, **Mary** the only daughter of Thomas Thorp Esq. of Over Seile and Loughborough, banker. After her husband's death she left Nether Seile with her family and went to live at Over Seile with her father, who died on Jan. 15, 1840, and was buried at Nether Seile on the 23rd. Mrs. Gresley herself died at Over Seile on July 19, 1869. Their issue (see ped. vii.) was:—

3 (1). **Frances Mary**, born June 20, 1812, lived at Nether Seile until her father's death, and for the rest of her life at Over Seile, where she died unmarried on Sept. 17, 1888. She was distinguished for beauty, grace and intelligence, and had considerable powers of painting and drawing.

4 (2). **Harriet**, born Sept. 25, 1813: married the Rev. George Madan: see pedigree xl.

5 (3). **Emma**, born Dec. 20, 1814, died May 8, 1815.

6 (4). **John Morewood**, born July 6, 1816, educated at Appleby School, entered at Harrow in October 1830, but after a term there was injured

(on Jan. 10, 1831) by an explosion of fireworks in his pocket at Nether Seile, and did not return to school, but went as a private pupil to the Rev. Eccles J. Carter at Bathford. On June 18, 1835, he matriculated at Oxford from Exeter College (B.A. from St. Mary Hall, May 21, 1840, M.A. Jan. 23, 1845), and took Holy Orders (deacon in 1841, priest in 1842). From 1841 to 1847 and again from 1860 to 1863 he was Curate of Seile, and in the interval Rector: and from Nov. 1863 till his death on May 15, 1866, Master of Etwall Hospital near Repton. He was an active Secretary (and one of the founders) of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society (1855-60), and Secretary and mainstay of the Anastatic Drawing Society (1855-64), as well as a strong Conservative and an energetic parish priest. Memoirs of him will be found in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 3rd Series ii. 114, and (by O. Jewitt) in the *Reliquary* for July 1866. Besides many archæological papers he accumulated with the utmost industry most valuable collections for a projected 'Stemmata Gresleiana: Genealogies of the Family of Gresley and their Connections; from the time of Rollo 1st Duke of Normandy to the reign of Victoria of England': see App. E. Without them the present work could not have been undertaken.

On Jan. 23, 1849, at Ashby he married Penelope (born Aug. 12, 1827), eldest daughter of the Rev. Marmaduke Vavasour and his wife Mary Ann (St. John): she was a great-granddaughter of the well-known antiquary Dr. William Stukeley, and died on Feb. 22, 1858, of pulmonary phthisis, at Bournemouth. Their sons are:—Nigel Walsingham (born Jan. 31, 1850, educated at Repton, matriculated at Oxford from Exeter College on April 10, 1869, B.A. 1872, after honours in the School of Law and Modern History, M.A. 1876: at Cuddesdon College: deacon 1873, priest 1874: Curate of Ashbourne 1873-6, of Boyne Hill 1877, of Newport Pagnell 1877, of Dursley 1878-9: Vicar of Milbourne St. Andrew, 1879-87: Rector of Dursley from 1887: Rural Dean of Dursley, 1896: on Oct. 29, 1878, he married at Cheltenham Jane Charlotte, youngest daughter of the Rev. Arthur Drummond, widow of Henry Scott Gresley Esq., see p. 152), Geoffrey Ferrers (born Aug. 17, 1851: ordained deacon 1878, priest 1879; Curate of Newport Pagnell 1878-83, since then a clergyman in Cape Colony, and chaplain on Robben Island in that Colony, now Vicar of Observatory Road, Capetown), William Stukeley (born at Ashby Nov. 7, 1852: in 1889 he married Maria Elizabeth, daughter of James Archer, and has issue, Stukeley Marmaduke, born 1890, Nigel Morewood, born 1892: he now resides in Erie, Pennsylvania, U. S. A.), Roger St. John (born June 19, 1854, educated at St. Edward's School, Oxford, at Repton and at the Salisbury Theological College; ordained deacon 1877, priest 1879: Curate of Milbourne St. Andrew 1877-79, aad of St. John's, Glastonbury, 1879-81, and of Rowbarton near Taunton from 1881: Hon. Canon of Wells Cathedral), Lawrence Stafford (born Dec. 4, 1855, educated at Repton, matriculated at Oxford from Exeter College on April 9, 1875, B.A. May 31, 1879, after honours in History, M.A. May 11, 1882: ordained deacon 1878, priest 1881:

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Curate of Ashover 1879-82, and of Christ Church, Battersea, London 1882-5: Vicar of Birdsall in Yorkshire from 1885).

7 (5). **Charles**, born and baptized at Nether Seile on Nov. 28, 1817, christened on March 25 following, was at school at the Rev. W. Hutchins', Winifred House, Sion Hill, Bath: and afterwards articled to Mr. Whately a well-known solicitor in Birmingham. Since 1847 he has been Registrar and Chapter Clerk of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield. On Oct. 21, 1852, he married, at Goostrey, Augusta Catherine (born Feb. 6, 1825) youngest daughter of Egerton Leigh Esq. of the West Hall, High Leigh, and Jodrell Hall in Cheshire and his wife Wilhelmina Sarah second daughter of George Stratton Esq. of Great Tew in Oxfordshire. After their marriage they lived at the Moat House in Lichfield, but in 1853 moved to their present residence in the Close. Their children are:—Wilhelmina Mary (born Sept. 28, 1853), Isabel Beatrice (born Jan. 19, 1855), Charles Egerton (born Oct. 26, 1856, died April 25, 1857), Augusta Penelope (born Feb. 12, 1858), Herbert Leigh (born July 27, 1859, died Aug. 26, 1859), Nigel Egerton (born Aug. 5, 1860, educated at Radley College, matriculated at Oxford from University College on Oct. 13, 1879, B.A. 1883, after honours in the School of Law and Modern History: now farming a ranche in Wyoming, U. S. A.), Eleanor Louisa (born March 3, 1862), Rosamond Evelyn (born June 23, 1863), Charles Vincent (born August 20, 1865: educated at Radley College: matriculated at Cambridge from Jesus College, B.A. 1890, M.A. 1899: ordained deacon 1895, priest 1897: Curate of Wincobank near Sheffield), Margaret Morewood (born August 21, 1867).

8 (6). **Maria**, born Jan. 25, 1821, lived at Nether Seile and Over Seile with her sister Frances till the death of the latter: since 1890 she has resided at the Moat House, Lichfield.

## XXV

## Sir Roger Gresley, 8th Baronet.

(*b.* 1799: *d.* 1837.)

Sir Roger was born on Dec. 27, 1799<sup>z</sup>, at Drakelowe, and baptized at Gresley on Jan. 3, 1800<sup>a</sup>. He was only eight years old when he succeeded to the Baronetcy, on March 26, 1808, and his education was the subject of much anxiety to his mother and the trustees, who were not in agreement on the subject. Roger was a Ward of Chancery, and the trustees appointed by the Court and his guardian (the Rev. William Gresley, who was his uncle by marriage) strongly urged that the boy should be sent to Westminster: but Lady Gresley insisted with much tartness and eccentricity that he should be kept at home, and her firmness and asperity prevailed. However he was sent to Oxford,

<sup>z</sup> Bible at Drakelowe.  
<sup>a</sup> Gresley Reg.

where he matriculated from Christ Church as a gentleman commoner on Oct. 17, 1817, but left in 1819 without taking a degree.

At Christ Church he became acquainted with the sons of the Earl of Coventry, and occasionally stayed with them at Croome the family seat at Severn-Stoke in Worcestershire. There he first met Lady Sophia whom he afterwards married, but when the match was proposed to Lady Gresley it met with her fierce opposition. She obtained an order of the Court of Chancery that Sir Roger should not quit the country without its consent, and that Lord Coventry should not allow him to marry his daughter without similar permission. By these and other means the wedding was postponed until the young Baronet was of age, and actually took place on June 2, 1821, but Lady Gresley refused to be present or to see the bride.

From about 1826 Sir Roger Gresley engaged in public life, and also produced several literary works. In that year he was High Sheriff of Derbyshire, and unsuccessfully contested Lichfield in the Conservative interest, obtaining 356 votes against Sir G. Anson's 474 and the Hon. G. J. V. Vernon's 411. About this time he was also Captain of the Staffordshire Yeomanry, and Groom of the Bedchamber to the Duke of Sussex. In 1830, besides being elected an F.S.A., on Dec. 9, he was more successful in his political campaign, being returned on Aug. 5 as Conservative Member for the City of Durham (M. A. Taylor, Liberal, 546 votes: Sir R. Gresley, 486: W. R. C. Chaytor, Liberal, unsuccessful, 436): but he was unseated in the following year, when he again obtained a seat at a bye-election for New Romney. In 1832 he was unsuccessful in South Derbyshire, his old opponent Mr. Vernon polling 3036 and Lord Waterpark 2839, against Sir Roger's 1952: but this result was reversed in Jan. 1835, when the same three contested the same constituency, and Sir Roger obtained 2,495, his Conservative colleague Sir George Crewe 2517, but Vernon 1951 and Waterpark 1910. Only once again did he contest

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a seat, at the close of his life, when South Derbyshire rejected him in July 1837.

In the intervals of political life Sir Roger lived a good deal in Italy and Paris. The Duchess of Cleveland is responsible for the statement<sup>b</sup> that he 'parcelled out' his remaining property 'in such a manner that by annual sales it should last him his life; but he died a comparatively young man.' This may be true: as early as 1828 he sold the site of the priory of Gresley<sup>c</sup> as well as the Castle Hill and the Hall, both at Gresley: and later he sold various rights of minerals to his own solicitor Mr. Mousley, whose executors were made to refund the purchase money by legal decisions of July 10, 1858, and April 29, 1859. Sir Roger incurred very considerable debts, partly no doubt in connexion with his parliamentary contests. Incidentally we find<sup>d</sup> that he was one of the managing committee of Crockford's Club, where gambling went on, in 1834. In 1836 he sustained a severe injury by a fall from his horse, which brought on paralysis, from which he never entirely recovered: and on Oct. 12, 1837<sup>e</sup>, he died suddenly<sup>e</sup> at Drakelowe, leaving no issue, and was buried on the 21st at Church Gresley. Accounts of his life will be found in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1837, pt. ii, p. 649, and in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Sir Roger adopted the spelling 'Greisley' for his name. His Library was sold by auction in London on May 22-4, 1838.

Sir Roger<sup>f</sup> was one of the Baronets who first called attention to the anomalies and encroachments on the original charter of their order which had been from time to time committed by the Crown. After his death his cousin and successor the Rev. Sir Nigel Gresley also interested himself in the matter, and was one of Sir R. Brown's famous committee of Privileges. In the light of the present revival of the movement it is worthy of note that Sir George Gresley the 1st Baronet was the first to call King James's attention to the question a few months after the institution of the order, and that after the lapse of more than two centuries

<sup>b</sup> Battle Abbey Roll (1889) iii. 177.

<sup>c</sup> Cox's Derbyshire Churches iii. 371.

<sup>d</sup> J. Ashton's When Will. IV was King (1896), p. 179.

<sup>e</sup> Family Notebk.

<sup>f</sup> The next two paragraphs are derived from notes furnished by Sir Robert Gresley.



his descendants Sir Roger, Sir Nigel and now Sir Robert should take up the question.

There are a few people still alive who can remember Sir Roger, and they describe him as tall and extremely good looking, with a most high-bred courteous manner. He had marked ability, though he never did himself justice in Parliament, an excellent linguist and a man of great taste. In politics a strong Tory, intensely and perhaps inordinately proud of the ancient family of which he was the head, hating with every instinct of his nature the democratic tendencies which even in his days were commencing to make themselves felt, he spent the greater part of his short life and the greater part of his fortune in contested elections where he vigorously and eloquently pleaded the cause of those principles, of the truth and wisdom of which he was so strongly convinced. Altogether his was a striking personality, and one characteristic of his time. A politician, a dandy, a virtuoso, a sportsman, a country gentleman, at the same time devoted to sport and to literary pursuits, an antiquary, a Pope's biographer and yet a strong Protestant, and a man of fashion, he exhibited a combination of qualities not often met with, even in those days when the exigencies of political life did not engross so much of a man's time, and when society was so much more exclusive and cultivated.

Sir Roger's printed works were:—1. A Letter to the Rt. Hon. Robert Peel on Catholic Emancipation (Lond., 1827, 8°): 2. A Letter to John Earl of Shrewsbury, in reply to his Reasons for not taking the Test (Lond., 1828, 8°): 3. Sir Philip Gasteneys, a Minor (Lond., 1829, 8°: a tale directed against modern Roman Catholicism), and 4. The Life and Pontificate of Gregory vii (Lond., 1832, 8°: an account of Hildebrand, reviewed in the *London Literary Gazette* of May 26, 1832).

On June 2, 1821, he married The Lady **Sophia Catherine**, youngest daughter of the 7th Earl of Coventry, born Nov. 30, 1801: the wedding ceremony took place by special

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<sup>g</sup> Harl. Soc.,  
Registers  
xxii. 218.

license, with the consent of the bride's father (she being a minor) 'in the dwelling house of the Earl of Coventry in Piccadilly<sup>g</sup>,' in the parish of St. George's Hanover Square, London. She married secondly on July 16, 1839, Henry Des Vœux Esq., eldest son of Sir Charles Des Vœux, Bar<sup>t</sup>.: and died on March 29, 1875 having lived at Drakelowe till her death. The only child of Sir Roger and The Lady Sophia was:—

<sup>h</sup> Family  
Notebk.

<sup>i</sup> Gresley

<sup>h</sup> Sophia Editha, born Oct. 4, 1823 <sup>h</sup>, who died Nov. 2 in the same year and was buried at Gresley<sup>i</sup> on the 8th of the same month.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE LINE OF BARONETS FROM 1837 TO THE PRESENT TIME

**The Rev. Sir William Nigel Gresley**, 9th Baronet, first  
cousin (by his mother) of the 8th Baronet.

**XXV**

*(b. 1806 : d. 1847.)*

THE Squires and Rectors of Seile in the eighteenth century, succeeding each other in that quiet village, can hardly have imagined that their descendants would take the place of the elder branch and carry on the long and unbroken male line of Gresley descent. They and their families were always on good terms with the owner of Drakelowe for the time being, but the relationship of the heads of the two branches seemed to be drifting from second to third cousin and from third to fourth. It is singular that the intermarriage of a Rector of Seile with a daughter of the elder line immediately preceded the transference of the Baronetcy, so that the subject of our present attention, Sir William Nigel Gresley, was a son of a sister of the 7th Baronet, as if Nature wished to provide that the younger branch should nevertheless be in direct and close descent from the elder.

William Nigel was born and baptized at Nether Seile on March 25, 1806, and was educated first at Mr. Ward's School at Ravenstone in Derbyshire (from 1813), and then at Westminster, where he was admitted on Jan. 15, 1817. On Sept. 1, 1821, he had an accident by which he lost

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a thumb, his gun having burst. On May 4, 1824, he matriculated at Oxford from Christ Church, and took his degree, as his half-brother John did subsequently, from St. Mary Hall (on May 27, 1829). In 1830 he was ordained deacon and priest, and in September of that year he succeeded to his father's position in the Rectory of Seile, which he held until his death.

On October 12, 1837, he succeeded to the Baronetcy, and ultimately by Sir Roger's Will, dated May 2, 1837, to all his estates, except that certain properties were to be sold to pay debts, and except also life-interest (in Drakelowe) of the Lady Sophia Gresley, who did not die till 1875. Accordingly the Lullington property was sold in 1838 for £98,000 to C. R. Colville Esq., who also in 1840 bought the inappropriate Rectory of the same place. Of Sir Nigel hardly anything is recorded of permanent interest, and he lived quietly at Seile until his death on Sept. 3, 1847: he was buried there on Sept. 10. One sermon by him preached at Nether Seile on Dec. 27, 1840, in memory of Miss Elizabeth Pycroft, was printed in 1841. An account of him will be found in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1848 (N.S., vol. xxix) p. 84.

<sup>a</sup> This paragraph is from notes furnished by Sir Robert Gresley.

Those persons who remember Sir Nigel<sup>a</sup> say he was a man much beloved, of extremely high spirits and, before his health broke down, devoted to hunting; but the expenses incident to a large family combined with ill health compelled him to give it up many years before his death. At one time it was his habit, whenever he went to Freeford to see his old friend and schoolfellow Col. Dyott, to go straight across country.

<sup>b</sup> Bible at Drakelowe.

He married on March 24, 1831<sup>b</sup>, in Lichfield Cathedral, **Georgina Ann**, second daughter of George Reid Esq. of Watlington Hall in Norfolk, see pedigree lxiv. Lady Gresley now resides at Barton under Needwood, in Staffordshire, about four miles from Drakelowe. The children of Sir William and Lady Gresley, who were all born at Nether Seile Hall, were:—

1. **Thomas**, born Jan. 17, 1832, the 10th Baronet: see below.
2. **Louisa Mary**, born April 6, 1833<sup>b</sup>: for many years an invalid.
3. **Nigel**, born Aug. 18, 1834<sup>b</sup>, educated at Rossall School and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree in 1858. In the next year he was ordained, and for a short time Curate of Chewton Mendip in Somerset, and then from 1860 till his death on Jan. 29, 1897, Rector of Seile, but for the last twenty years of his life an invalid, and for the last ten blind. On April 27, 1864, he married Joanna Beatrice, youngest daughter of John Wilson Esq. of Barton under Needwood, and had five children:—George Nigel (born Feb. 19, 1865, educated at Clifton College, and Selwyn College, Cambridge, B.A. 1886, Curate of St. George's Darlaston and of Glascote near Tamworth, Vicar of Horsley Woodhouse in Derbyshire from 1896), Arthur Spencer (born Sept. 23, 1867, in business in Liverpool), Beatrice Georgina (born Aug. 10, 1866), Nigel Bowyer (born Sept. 18, 1870, now in the Bank of British North America, New York), Herbert Nigel (born June 19, 1876, a Mechanical Engineer).
4. **William Lee**, born Jan. 26, 1836<sup>c</sup>, educated at Rossall, a member of the Free Foresters' Cricket Club in 1856 and 1859<sup>d</sup>, Lieutenant in the Staffordshire Militia and Honorary Major of the 4th Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment. He died from the effects of falling accidentally into the fire, on Feb. 1, 1888, unmarried.
5. **Sophia Amelia**, born Nov. 29<sup>e</sup> (not 18<sup>f</sup>), 1837, died April 6, 1853, at the Close, Lichfield.
6. **Georgina Wilmot**, born Aug. 13, 1839<sup>f</sup>, was married on April 9, 1863, at Barton, to Henry Cunliffe Shawe Esq. of Weddington Hall near Nuneaton, born Aug. 20, 1833, only son of Samuel Pole Shawe Esq. of Maple Hayes in Staffordshire. Their children are:—Edith Mary (born July 28, 1864), Laura Georgina (born Dec. 9, 1865, died May 11, 1875), Caroline (born May 3, 1867, died in infancy), Eleanor Grace (born Jan. 30, 1872), Henry Nigel Pole (born Jan. 30, 1874), Margaret Sophia (born April 13, 1875, died in infancy), and Charles (born Nov. 15, 1878).
7. **Frances**, born and died March 20, 1841<sup>g</sup>.
8. **Agnes Elizabeth**, born Aug. 17, 1842<sup>f</sup>, resides at Barton.
9. **Arthur Francis**, born Sept. 4, 1844<sup>f</sup>, now Commander in the Royal Navy, resides at Barton.

<sup>c</sup> Bible at Drakelow.  
<sup>d</sup> W. K. R. Bedford's Free Foresters (1895), pp. 11, 27, cf. p. 128.  
<sup>e</sup> Family Notebook.  
<sup>f</sup> Bible at Drakelow.

Sir Thomas Gresley, 10th Baronet.

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(b. 1832: d. 1868.)

Sir Thomas was born on Jan. 17, 1832<sup>g</sup>, at Nether Seile Hall, and baptized on Feb. 24<sup>h</sup>. He was educated at first by several private tutors, at Asperton<sup>i</sup> near Ledbury, at Newton Longueville<sup>i</sup> by the Rev. — Hughes, and from October 1840 at the Rev. Charles Fletcher's private school at South-

<sup>g</sup> Bible at Drakelow.  
<sup>h</sup> Seile Reg.  
<sup>i</sup> Family Notebook.

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<sup>1</sup> Family  
Notebook.

well<sup>1</sup>. In August 1845 he entered the 'School House' at Rugby, then under Dr. Tait, and after leaving in 1850, went into the Army and became Captain of the 1st Dragoon Guards, and Aide-de-camp to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He had succeeded to the Baronetcy on Sept. 3, 1847. Much of the family property was sold by him, including Coton Park in 1853, land in Derby and Church Gresley in 1854 and 1857, and land in Linton in the latter year.

For a brief period at the close of his short life he represented South Derbyshire in Parliament, being elected on Nov. 21, 1868, but he died on Dec. 18 in the same year at Shipley<sup>1</sup> in Derbyshire, and was buried at Cauldwell, where he had resided during his married life.

<sup>1</sup> This paragraph is from notes furnished by Sir Robert Gresley.

Sir Thomas Gresley's memory<sup>1</sup> is still held in affectionate regard by all who knew him, and his sad and premature death within a month of his election made a great sensation at the time, not only from the sad circumstances of the case, but also from the respect and admiration he had personally inspired. This election was a great victory for the Conservatives, as both the sitting members were Liberals and both lost their seats. Like his father he was devoted to hunting, and like Sir Roger to Art, and he was one of the committee of gentlemen who acted as judges of the works of Art exhibited at South Kensington in 1862. After leaving the army he lived entirely in the country at Cauldwell, which is about 2½ miles from Drakelowe and was lent to him by Sir H. Des Vœux; there he devoted himself to the useful but unostentatious pursuits of a country gentleman, especially county business, until his death in 1868.

On Feb. 28, 1854, he married by special license at the Chapel Royal, Dublin Castle, **Laura Anne**, eldest daughter of Captain Robert Griffith Williams (2nd son of Sir Robert Williams, 9th Baronet, and Comptroller of the Household to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland), whose elder brother assumed the additional name of Bulkeley on inheriting the estates of Lord Bulkeley. She now resides at 55 Great Cumberland Place, London.

Their children were :—

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1. **Laura**, born Aug. 1, 1856, at Laputa Lodge, Ballyshannon : she died there on Aug. 6 of the same year, and was buried on the 8th.
2. **Walter**, born and died Oct. 15, 1864.
3. **Robert** (born Feb. 1, 1866), 11th Baronet, see below.

**Sir Robert Gresley, 11th Baronet.**

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(*b.* 1866.)

Sir Robert was born on Feb. 1, 1866, at 28 Upper Grosvenor St., London<sup>k</sup>, and succeeded to the Baronetcy when two years old. He was educated at Eton, and was a Lieutenant in the Derbyshire Militia. He is a Deputy Lieutenant for Derbyshire.

<sup>k</sup> Bible at Drakelow.

On June 6, 1893, he married at St. Margaret's, Westminster, The Lady **Frances Louisa**, eldest child of the 8th Duke of Marlborough, born Sept. 15, 1870.

Their children are :—

1. **Nigel**, born April 22, 1894, at 55 Great Cumberland Place, London.
2. **Laurence**, born March 3, 1896, at the same place.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE COLLATERAL BRANCHES FROM THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

In most families which can show an antiquity and stability comparable to those of the Gresleys, there are a large number of collateral or cadet branches, which consist of descendants of the younger sons of the main line of the family. In the present case we find fewer than might be expected, and only four which need a separate and detailed account in the present chapter: of which one arises in the seventeenth century, two in the eighteenth and one in the nineteenth. These are (A) the *Worcestershire and Bristol* Gresleys, who spring from John, third son of Sir Thomas Gresley Kt. (Sir Thomas *d.* 1610, see p. 69): (B) the *Australian* Gresleys, who are probably descended from Robert, sixth son of Thomas Gresley of Nether Seile (Thomas *d.* 1743, see p. 104): (C) the *North Wales and Liverpool* Gresleys, from Robert, sixth son of John Gresley of Nether Seile (John *d.* 1783): (D) the family of *Richard Gresley*, fourth son of Dr. Thomas Gresley of Nether Seile (Thomas *d.* 1785). These will now be dealt with in turn, and it is remarkable that so far as the records are known, and they are considerable in extent, one of these lines is extinct in the male line, and one is represented by one gentleman without children.

After these have been treated, a list will be given (E)



of the Gresley families who are not known to be connected with the Drakelowe line, while the families which spell their name Greasley and probably came from the Nottinghamshire village of that name will be briefly touched on in Appendix D. It has been recently calculated from the Somerset House Registers of Gresleys or Greasleys that there are probably at this time about one hundred Gresleys alive and five hundred Greasleys, but a very small proportion are in any way connected with the family with which this book is concerned. It must be remembered that until surnames became fossilized and descended regularly from father to son, that is to say till the fifteenth century, Thomas the son of John might be Thomas Johnson, and his son might be Thompson. So too any man, whatever his station of life, who lived in Gresley might, as soon as he left the village and settled elsewhere, bear a name of the form John of Gresley, and thus bear no relation whatever to the Gresley family who were Lords of the Manor of Gresley. There must be hundreds of Gresleys or Greasleys now in England who have no right at all to claim kinship with the Gresleys of Drakelowe, and one of the four collateral branches which follow cannot fully prove its connexion. In any case, all four branches parted company from the main stem not less than three generations ago.

*A. The Worcestershire and Bristol Gresleys.*

**John** Gresley, fourth son of Sir Thomas Gresley, Kt., of Drakelowe, and brother of the first Baronet, was probably born in 1581 (see p. 72), and after marrying, on April 20, 1611, at Withington, Joan daughter and heir of Jasper More of Larden in Shropshire, resided chiefly at Shrewsbury. He had four sons, 1. *Ferrers*, a lawyer, who lived at Welsford in the parish of Langford Bondville in Somerset: he married Elizabeth (Brooke)<sup>a</sup>, but died without issue in Nov. 1691. 2. *Henry*, see below: 3. *John*, of whom I know nothing: 4. *Reginald*, who died young.

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<sup>a</sup> Somerset Wills 4th Ser. p. 81.

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**Henry** Gresley, a translator and writer of some repute, was born on Nov. 9, 1613, and educated at Westminster and Christ Church, Oxford, (matr. Sept. 1, 1634: B.A. April 11, 1638: M.A. July 8, 1641: incorporated at Cambridge in 1651). When the Parliamentary Visitors came to Oxford in 1647, he seems to have been in residence and to have refused to submit, in consequence of which he was expelled, in March 1650. He then travelled in France as tutor to the sons of the Earl of Clare. At the Restoration he was given the Rectory of Severn Stoke in Worcestershire, and held it and (from 1672) a prebend in Worcester Cathedral, until his death on June 8, 1678. His writings were 1. an English translation of Balzac's *Prince* (Lond., 1648, 8°), 2. an English translation of J. F. Senault's *Christian Man* (Lond., 1650, 4°). He also contributed poems to the Oxford Verses on the death of Viscount Bayning in 1638, and to the *Horti Carolini Rosa Altera* in 1640. An English<sup>b</sup> and a Latin<sup>b</sup> poem by him are also preserved in manuscript.

<sup>b</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Roy. 12 A. xiii, fol. 7: *ibid.* lviii, fol. 37.

He was twice married, first (June 5, 1655) to Mary daughter of Edward Allye of Hatfield in Worcestershire, who died in April 1664, secondly (April 16, 1667) to Eleanor (daughter of Gervase Buck and Mary his wife) who died on Jan. 17, 1703, aged 64. By his first wife he had five children, 1. a *daughter* born in March 1655, who died the same day, probably twin with 2. *Mary* who died in 1657: 3. *Henry*, born in 1658, died unmarried: 4. *Charles*, born in 1660, see below: 5. *Edward*, born Feb. 24, 1661, who died young. By his second wife he had four children, 6. *Anne*, born Jan. 19, 1667, who died young: 7. *John*, born Dec. 22, 1669, who died unmarried at Strensham on April 15, 1718: 8. *Walsingham*, born Aug. 26, 1672, died in India in about 1713: 9. *Francis*, whose family requires a separate paragraph.

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<sup>c</sup> Sev. Stoke Reg.

<sup>d</sup> Nash's Worcestershire ii. 396.

**Francis** Gresley, the ninth child of Henry Gresley, was born at Stoke on Feb. 26, 1674<sup>c</sup>, and is usually described as a centenarian, but as he certainly died on Nov. 11, 1773<sup>d</sup>, he was aged only 98. He matriculated at Oxford from

Magdalen Hall on March 23, 1691<sup>o</sup>, aged 16 (B.A. 1694, M.A. 1697). In 1702<sup>3</sup> he was at Naunton Beauchamp<sup>e</sup>, but from April 3, 1706 till his death, rector of Strensham in Worcestershire<sup>d</sup>. He married Elizabeth daughter of Philip Barton Esq. and sister of Dr. Philip Barton, Canon of Christ Church, Oxford; and had four sons and four daughters:—1. *Francis*, born April 24, 1712, successively Vicar of Charlton in Wiltshire and of Grendon Underwood in Buckinghamshire, where he died without issue on Dec. 28, 1778, having married Mary Lipscomb: 2. *Philip*, born June 26, 1713, an attorney at Pershore, who married on Dec. 23, 1745<sup>f</sup>, Elizabeth Surman and died in Feb. 1763, leaving only two children:—Elizabeth, born Sept. 5, 1747, buried on July 29, 1758, at Pershore, and Philip, born Nov. 29, 1751, who married Ann — and lived at High Park near Droitwich, but died without issue on Sept. 6, 1825. Thus ended the male line descended from Francis Gresley, but the Philip who died in 1825 by his will left his property to Robert Archibald Douglas Esq., son of General Archibald Douglas of Witham in Essex, on condition that he assumed the name of Gresley. Mr. Douglas who was Lord of the Manor of Salwarp, lived thenceforward at High Park, bearing the name of R. A. Douglas Gresley, but died without issue on Feb. 13, 1885<sup>g</sup>, having married in 1833 Rebecca Maria daughter of Thomas Harvey Esq. of Portland Place, London: she died on March 3, 1876. Robert's sister was the Helen Douglas who married Dr. Gaisford Dean of Christ Church, Oxford. Francis Gresley's third son was 3. *Henry*, born May 22, 1714 (of Wadham College, Oxford, matr. March 16, 1732<sup>1</sup>, B.A. 1735, M.A. 1738, Fellow of Wadham 1741-50, Rector of St. Peter-le-Bailey, Oxford, 1743, and of Tarent Hinton in Dorset from July 18, 1749, till his death in Nov. 1773): 4. *Anne*, born June 2, 1716: 5. *Elizabeth*, born Apr. 21, 1717: 6. *Eleanor*, born May 28, 1721, died April 1785: 7. *Sarah*, born July 12, 1722: 8. *John*, born March 16, 1723, who died young. We now revert to Charles third son of Henry Gresley.

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<sup>e</sup> Admin<sup>n</sup>. of goods of John Gresley Feb. 4, 1702<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>f</sup> Pershore Reg.

<sup>g</sup> J. J. Howard's Visitation of England and Wales i. (1893), p. 8.

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## XX

Charles Gresley, baptized Aug. 26, 1660, lived at Bristol, and his monument in St. Thomas's Church there states that he died on July 20, 1735. He married twice, 1. Jane, *née* Cannon, of Fitzhead in Somerset who died in 1688 (?)<sup>h</sup>, 2. Joan<sup>h\*</sup>, widow of John Blinman, of St. Decuman's, Somerset. By his two wives Charles had twelve children, as below, of whom the first two only appear to have been by the first wife. The twelve were:—1. *Thomas*, born before 1695, married on Nov. 8, 1709, at St. Thomas's Church, Bristol, Joan (Blinman), daughter of his step-mother by a former husband: Thomas died in September 1727, and Joan in 1748, having had five children, Robert (buried Aug. 26, 1713), the Rev. Blinman Gresley (who matriculated at Oxford from Trinity College on March 23, 173 $\frac{1}{2}$ , aged 16, B.A. 1735, M.A. 1738: Vicar of Banwell<sup>h\*\*</sup> in Somerset: married his first cousin Mary Gresley, and had issue Anna Maria, who died unmarried on July 30, 1845, aged 89<sup>i</sup>, Joanna, who married — Lyne, Thomas who died unmarried, and Sophia who died at St. Michael's Hill, Bristol, on Oct. 28, 1849, aged 85<sup>j</sup>, having been born deaf and dumb and become ultimately blind), Jane (buried Oct. 14, 1715, aged two months), Ferris (buried on Aug. 16, 1717, aged two weeks), and John (baptized at Redcliffe Church, Bristol, Oct. 30, 1723, who married Ann Lader, and died in Sept. 1781): 2. *Henry*, buried Dec. 11, 1697: 3. *Charles*, born July 1695, died July 16, 1761, *see below*: 4. *Robert*, born Aug. 1696, died March 1760, *see below*: 5. *Margaret*, baptized Nov. 4, 1698, buried March 18, 1719: 6. *John*, born 1701, died 1780, *see below*: 7. *Francis*, baptized Nov. 10, 1702, buried April 20, 1703: 8. *Mary*, born 1703, died 1787, *see below*: 9. *Elizabeth*, baptized May 18, 1705, probably the Elizabeth who was buried on March 27, 1739: 10. *Anne*, born 1707, *see below*: 11. *Francis*, baptized June 9, 1708, buried May 10, 1791, having married Cecilia Leeson; but all his children (John, Cecilia, Anne, Fanny, Mary) died young, except the youngest, who in 1774 married the Rev. William Milton, and whose daughter Frances was

<sup>h</sup> Admin<sup>n</sup>. of her goods was granted to Charles on Jan. 19, 1688 $\frac{5}{8}$ .

<sup>h\*</sup> She died March 24, 1728 $\frac{3}{8}$ .

<sup>h\*\*</sup> Until his death on Nov. 23, 1772.

<sup>i</sup> Gent. Mag., N.S., xxiv. 324.

<sup>j</sup> Ibid. xxxii. 666.

the mother of Anthony Trollope the novelist: 12. *Henry*, CHAP. VII.  
the date of whose birth is uncertain but who appears to have  
been alive in 1791, *see below*.

Of this large family no less than six require separate  
mention, Charles, Robert, John, Mary, Anne and Henry:  
who will now be taken in order.

**Charles** Gresley, son of Charles, was baptized on July 23, **xxi**  
1695, and matriculated at Oxford from All Souls College  
on June 27, 1711 (B.A. 1715, M.A. Trinity College 1718):  
Rector of Blagdon in Somerset from 1720 till his death on  
July 16, 1761. He married 1. — Andrews, by whom he had  
a daughter *Anne* who married Dennis Lemon of Worle: and  
2. Joan widow of Beadon Devon, by whom he had a daughter  
*Elizabeth* who married P. Tudball.

**Robert** Gresley, son of Charles, was baptized on Aug. 27, **xxi**  
1696, and matriculated at Oxford from Trinity College on  
March 9, 1711<sup>2</sup> (B.A. 1717, M.A. 1720, M.B. 1723): he was  
buried at St. Thomas's Church, Bristol, on March 7, 1760,  
having married Elizabeth Crosse (died Dec. 1776?: daughter  
of Richard Crosse of Broomfield in Somerset), by whom he  
had five children:—1. *Anne*, who married the Rev. Samuel  
Webb, rector of Winford in Somerset, and died without  
issue in 1799: 2. *Elizabeth*, who died unmarried and was  
buried on Aug. 22, 1800, aged 57: 3. *Mary*, who also died  
unmarried and was buried on April 4, 1804, aged 69:  
4. *Robert*, buried on Feb. 4, 1738<sup>2</sup>, aged 2: 5. *Richard*, who  
died in infancy and was buried on April 10, 1739.

**John** Gresley, son of Charles, was baptized on May 23, **xxi**  
1701, became a merchant at Bristol, where he died, and  
was buried on April 4, 1780. He married Mary Marsh  
of New Sarum, and by her had three children, of the  
family of one of whom the fortunes have to be further  
traced. The order of the three is uncertain: their names  
were:—*Catherine*, who died young and was buried on April  
13, 1745: *Amelia*, who married 1. John Marsh, 2. ... Hallett:  
and *John*, *see next below*.

**John** Gresley, son of John, married Mary (daughter **xxii**

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of Joseph Jones, of Bristol), who was buried on Oct. 16, 1804, aged 66, and by her had six children:—1. *Maria*, who married George Webb Hall (died 1822), and had ten children, of whom seven were daughters: 2. *Charlotte*, who died unmarried at Clifton (Bristol) on March 4, 1850, aged 81: 3. *Catherine*, who married as his second wife, on Feb. 9, 1804, Thomas Hellicar Esq., a Bristol merchant, and had by him four children (Charlotte, Valentine, John Hellicar and Amelia Gresley, which last married Robert Ball Esq. and was the mother of Sir Robert Stawell Ball, now Lowndean Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge): 4. *Henrietta*, who married Joseph Hellicar a brother of Thomas and had six children, one of whom (Marianne) married John Loudon McAdam, fourth son of the great road-maker, and another (Millicent) married the Rev. E. Caulfeild: 5. *John*, who died at the age of seven: 6. *Charles*, see below: 7. *Amelia* who on Jan. 25, 1800, married as his first wife Paul Tatlock of London and had one son, Gresley. John died on June 4, 1796.

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**Charles**, sixth child of John, was born in 1776, lived all his life in Bristol or Clifton and died at the latter place on May 18, 1862, aged 85. He married Jane Whitchurch, his second cousin (who died in 1842): and by her had <sup>Six</sup> five children:—1. *John*, buried Sept. 30, 1818, aged 13: 2. *Henry*, buried May 26, 1810, aged 3: 3. *Charles*, who died young: 4. *Francis Reginald*, who was buried on April 1, 1812: 5. *Nigel*, born in 1813, died at Halifax in Yorkshire, Sept. 14, 1884, who married 1. Anne daughter of Robert Pease of New-castle, co. Limerick (by whom he had a son Charles born at Cork Feb. 1844, died March 23, 1864), and 2. on April 1, 1865, Jane Frances, second daughter of William Jesson of Beverley in Yorkshire (by whom he had a daughter Amelia Mary Whitchurch who died young): 6. *Amelia Charlotte*, born in 1814, who now resides, unmarried, at Pinchurst, Clevedon, Somerset,

and is perhaps the sole representative of the Gresleys of Bristol who still bears their name.

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**Mary**, daughter of Charles (p. 138), was baptized on Oct. 28, 1703, and buried on Dec. 29, 1787. She married, on Feb. 12, 172 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Michael White of Bristol, and by him had four daughters:—1. *Anne*, see below: 2. *Sarah*, who died unmarried: 3. *Mary*, who died in 1810, having in 1761 married as his second wife Henry Hobhouse Esq. (born 1714, died 1773), whose grandson by his first wife was the Rt. Hon. Henry Hobhouse, Home Secretary 1817-27, father of Edmund Hobhouse, now retired Bishop of Nelson, and of the present Lord Hobhouse: 4. *Catherine*, who died unmarried.

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**Anne**, eldest daughter of Mary, died on June 21, 1778, having married in 1756 Daniel Smith, a Bristol merchant, by whom she had two daughters, the eldest of whom, Sophia, was the grandmother of Miss Catherine Frances Govett, now residing at Plymouth, who possesses some Gresley relics.

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**Anne**, daughter of Charles, was baptized on April 27, 1707, and married in 1746 James son of Joseph Whitchurch, a Bristol merchant: by whom she had among other children three sons, *James*, born 1746, who died unmarried, *Joseph* born 1747 who married and had issue, and *Samuel* (born 1748, died 1815) who married Mary Evans, and by her had, among other children, two daughters, Jane who married her second cousin Charles Gresley (see p. 140), and Sarah born in 1785, who married John Elton and was the mother of the Rev. Edward Elton, late Vicar of Sherrington, near Newport Pagnell (died 1898). *& Mary Ann married William Perry in*

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**Henry**, son of Charles, lived in Bristol, and married twice, his second wife being his distant cousin Elizabeth Gresley daughter of Thomas Gresley of Nether Seile by Elizabeth, *née Lee*, see p. 103. Henry seems to have had no children by his second wife, but by his first wife, Sarah (daughter of Alexander Osborne, of Bristol) who died in May 1746, aged 43, he had a family of at least eleven children:—

xxi 1/1800  
 had 12 children  
 of whom 10 were  
 George Gresley Perry  
 Born 1820 was the  
 youngest.

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1. *Mary*, baptized Feb. 23, 172 $\frac{3}{4}$ , died 1753, having married her first cousin, the Rev. Blinman Gresley, see p. 138:
2. *Sarah*, baptized Feb. 12, 172 $\frac{4}{5}$ , married the Rev. George Attwood of Milverton, in Somerset:
3. *Henry*, baptized April 10, 1726, died unmarried and was buried on Aug. 12, 1786:
4. *Charles*, baptized Nov. 30, 1727, also died unmarried:
5. *Anne*, baptized Nov. 14, 1729, was buried on March 25, 1808:
6. *Elizabeth*, baptized Jan. 7, 173 $\frac{1}{2}$ , died on Nov. 26 (not 19), 1825, at her sister Martha's house at Banwell, see below:
7. *Walter*, baptized Dec. 27, 1733, was buried on Feb. 6, 173 $\frac{2}{3}$ :
8. *Harriet*, baptized June 1, 1735, married on April 7, 1768, at St. Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol, George Watson of that city:
9. *Clementina*, baptized Jan. 2, 173 $\frac{7}{8}$ , perhaps buried at St. Thomas's, Bristol, on Jan. 16, 173 $\frac{2}{3}$ :
10. *Martha*, born between May 18, 1744, and May 17, 1745, married in 1772 John Emery of Banwell in Somerset, and by him had three sons, Henry Gresley (M.D., M.R.C.S., died 1826), Thomas (a captain in the army), and George:
11. *Charlotte*:
12. A *Clementina* (?), who perhaps married William Vincent, see no. 9 above.

We have now followed this large Gresley branch so far as the family name survived through the male line, and it appears that the only known representative of it who still bears the name is the lady mentioned on p. 140.

B. *The Australian Gresleys.*

We have seen (p. 104) that Thomas Gresley of Nether Seile, the eleventh child of Sir Thomas Gresley, second Bart., by Frances his wife, *née* Morewood, had an eighth child Robert, a Captain in the 86th Regiment, born in 1717. Several pedigrees, but no conclusive evidence, assert that he married Jane Hurt of Cork, and this agrees with information received in 1896 from M. G. Lavers Esq. of 6 Stanley Gardens, Kensington Park, London, and may be regarded as very probable.



The Australian branch, on its side, mounts up to one William Gresley, a successful schoolmaster at Marlborough in Wiltshire: and one pedigree of some weight in the Salt Library at Stafford states as a fact—what is otherwise difficult to establish—that William was the son of the Robert Gresley who married Jane Hurt. There is certainly a firm belief among William's descendants that they are a branch of the Gresleys of Drakelowe through the Thomas Gresley who married a Morewood.

The family of **Robert** is fairly well established by information afforded me by M. G. Lavers Esq., of 6 Stanley Gardens, Kensington Park, London, whose papers are corroborated by the undoubted fact<sup>k</sup> that one of Robert's daughters married a Lavers. His family then was:—1. *James*, who died young: 2. *Thomas*, who died young: 3. *Elinor*, who married William Bunbury, but died without issue: 4. *William*, see below: 5. *Elizabeth*, who on June 28, 1780, at St. Martin's in the Fields, London, married James Lavers, stationer and bookseller, of 10 the Strand, London, and also of Stokenham in South Devon: their family was 1. Robert Garrett, 2. Eliza Cheney, 3. James Gresley (these three died young): 4. William Bunbury Gresley, who was present as a midshipman at the battle of Copenhagen, and died in Canada in about 1855: he married Emily, *née* Kuhne, and had ten children of whom my correspondent, see above, is one: 5. Henry James, 6. Robert Gresley, who was in the 91st Regiment, 7. Ann Coulton, 8. Jane Elinor Gresley, who married John Eales and whose children live in New South Wales, 9. Eliza Cheney, who died young, 10. Orlando Nigel): 6. *Robert*, who died young: 7. *Jane*.

**William.** From this William downwards we are on secure ground, but the tradition among his descendants is that William's father was either Robert or Peter who lived at Melton Mowbray, where it is believed that he died in about 1780. Extended research has hitherto failed to make William's parentage clear and indubitable. He was probably born in about 1760 at or near Melton Mowbray,

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<sup>k</sup> Known from two Gresley pedigrees, and information from Richard Gresley, Esq.

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but he first became prominent as the master of a large and flourishing school at Marlborough in Wiltshire, in a house on the south side of the High Street. The White Horse on the side of Granham Hill overlooking Marlborough was the work of his boys<sup>1</sup>. In about 1816 he moved to Datchet where he again opened a school; and died at New Shoreham in Sussex on Sept. 23, 1843. He married twice, 1. on April 18, 1786, at St. Peter's Church, Marlborough, Mary daughter of the Rev. John Davis, a Nonconformist minister, who was associated with him in the management of the school: she died on Dec. 23, 1818, at Datchet: 2. on Jan. 4, 1823, Elizabeth *née* Black, of Islington, who died at Hurstpierpoint in 1849. By his second wife he had no children, but by his first wife he had no less than twenty-eight, of whom the names of nineteen are preserved as follows; but the majority of them died young:—

<sup>1</sup> Wilts Archæol. Mag. xiv. 27.

<sup>m</sup> These dates of birth are from Dr. Williams's Registers at Somerset House, London.

1. *John*, see below: 2. *Catherine*, born Jan. 2, 1790<sup>m</sup>, who married J. L. Penn Esq., an official at Somerset House, and died at Brighton in 1844: 3. *Mary*, born Nov. 9, 1791, who married a Mons. Alberêt of Geneva and died at Peckham: 4. *Charles Francis*, born March 3, 1798, who married a Miss Phillips of Greenwich, but had no issue, and was buried at Lambeth in 1834: 5. *William*, born June 7, 1799, who died unmarried: 6. *Edward*, born July 26, 1800, who married a Miss Penn, but had no children: 7. *James Thorley*, born July 23, 1802, who died unmarried (his second name was derived from his mother whose mother was Esther *née* Thorley): 8. *Esther*, born Aug. 20, 1803, who died in Dublin in 1871: 9. *Sarah Ann Lowe*, the twenty-eighth child, born Feb. 23, 1808, who married Thomas Sinclair McDougal Esq., and died May 24, 1884, leaving issue (it may be noted that the Lowes of Alderwasley intermarried with the Hurts<sup>m</sup>, see p. 142). Besides these there were a *Clara*, who died unmarried, a *Walsingham*, eight *Nigels*, and nine more whose names are not recorded.

<sup>m</sup> Derb. Archæol. Soc. iii. 172.

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*John*, the eldest son of William Gresley, born according to Dr. Williams's Registers on June 4, 1788, was something

of an astronomer in his early days, and became thereby acquainted with the Herschells. Dr. Ross, the proprietor of a newspaper in Tasmania, who had married a half-sister of John's wife, persuaded John to emigrate with his family to that island in 1833. A farm was bought on Bruni Island near Hobart, and John settled there and at Datchet Lodge, Sandy Bay, Hobart, until his death at the latter place on Aug. 22, 1868, being then, according to his monument in St. George's Church, aged 81, but really in his eighty-first year. On July 9, 1812, at Odiham, he married Mary daughter of Captain Eccles Smith, of the 77th Regiment: she died at Hobart on April 13, 1861, aged 70, having had eight children:—1. *William*, born at Marlborough in 1815, married a Miss Hill, but there was no issue of the marriage, and he was murdered by natives in Victoria in 1852: 2. *Susan*, born at Marlborough April 4, 1816, married at Hobart Capt. George Jackson, R.N., and died at Valparaiso on April 28, 1844, leaving issue: 3. *Nigel John Davis*, see below: 4. *Edward*, born in Nov. 1818, was in the Army, and died without issue in 1855: 5. *Charles Adolphus*, born in April 1822, married Jane daughter of Col. Sharpe, and had four sons and four daughters, all now dead: 6. *Mary Anne Penn*, born in April 1829, married H. Denne Esq., and is living in Tasmania, having issue: 7. *Sarah*, born at Uxbridge on Feb. 8, 1830, married R. Pybus Esq. of Manila, and has issue: 8. *Henry Lee*, born at Datchet in 1832, died at sea in the following year.

**Nigel John Davis**, second son of John Gresley, was born at Datchet on Sept. 2, 1817, and emigrated with his father to Hobart. There on April 25, 1850, he married Marianne Harriet, elder daughter of Charles Abbott Esq., Sheriff of Hobart. Nigel was at first in the Treasury Department of the Tasmanian Government, and eventually Manager of the Union Bank of Australia, until his death on Aug. 19, 1879, at Auckland, New Zealand, whither he had gone for his health. His widow is at present living in London. Their family was:—1. *Henrietta Selina*, born Jan. 19, 1851,

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married on July 14, 1875, at Hobart, Anthony Harley, son of Gen. and Lady Charlotte Bacon, and has issue: 2. *Louisa Florence*, born June 24, 1852, was at one time engaged to her distant relation Francis Edward Gresley (see p. 153), but he died in 1878 and she, on Aug. 4, 1881, married (at Bombay) Arthur William Forde Esq., M.I.C.E. who died on Oct. 25, 1886: on July 4, 1892, she married Capt. Ion Turner, late 16th Queen's Lancers, and now lives in England: 3. *Nigel*, born Sept. 24, 1854, was educated at the High School at Hobart, and at the time of his father's death had charge of the Oatlands branch of the Union Bank of Australia, but soon after came to the London office of the same Bank, from which he has recently retired: on July 5, 1894, he married Isabel Herbert, only daughter of William Henry Mabb of Patrington in Yorkshire: 4. *Laura*, born Nov. 3, 1855, married on Aug. 29, 1875, David Lewis Esq. of Cilwen, Tasmania (who died in 1890), and has issue: 5. *Herbert*, born Oct. 8, 1857, died on Dec. 18 of the same year: 6. *Madeline*, born Jan. 4, 1859, married on Nov. 6, 1878, at St. George's, Hanover Square, London, Major Charles H. Strutt, and has issue: 7. *Augusta Blanche*, born Nov. 9, 1861, married on Feb. 16, 1881, at Broach near Bombay, Henry James Benett Hargrave Esq., B.A., and died at Dublin on Dec. 18, 1888, leaving issue: 8. *Josephine Lempriere*, born Dec. 17, 1864, died on June 4 in the following year: 9. *Alicia Frederica*, born Feb. 15, 1866, married on Nov. 4, 1893, Col. George Flemyng Gyll, R.A., and has issue: 10. *Ethel Beatrice Lempriere*, born Oct. 19, 1871, married on Sept. 3, 1894, the Rev. Thomas H. Watson, D.D., of Norwood Lodge, South Norwood: 11. *Isobel Clare Millicent*, born Nov. 2, 1872, died on June 23, 1878.

*C. The North Wales and Liverpool Gresleys.*

This branch of the Gresley family is descended from **Robert (xxiii)** eighth son of John Gresley, which John was first cousin of Sir Thomas Gresley the fourth Baronet. He

has been briefly noticed on p. 108, where his marriage with Mary Deane in 1777 is mentioned. Their children were:—1. *John Walsey*, who was buried on Oct. 28, 1779: 2. *Charles Lee*, see below: 3. *Mary Ann*, born on Sept. 16, 1780, resided with her uncle Dr. William Gresley in Liverpool, and there married, on April 10, 1809, Robert Jones, who had been a pupil under William Gresley at the Liverpool Old Infirmary: Mr. Jones resided for the latter part of his life at Holywell in Flintshire, and had an only son William Gresley, born on May 16, 1810, who had a family of at least eight children.

**Charles Lee**, second son of Robert, lived at Nottingham and Leicester, and married in 1803 Cassandra Pearson of Basford, Nottingham (born 1787, died 1817). Charles died in 1847, having had four children:—1. *Mary Ann*, born Oct. 2, 1804, lived for some time at Barton under Needwood, and died of consumption at Matlock on March 16, 1827: 2. *Ann*, baptized Aug. 16, 1806, buried on Nov. 19 of the same year: 3. *William Toplis*, born Dec. 6, 1807, was educated at Christ's Hospital, and died on Sept. 30, 1836, at Nantwich, having married 1. on Aug. 3, 1830, Eliza Ellen Smith of Belper, who died soon after her marriage at Duffield, without issue; and 2. Anne Hardley, by whom he had two children, Mary Anne, born in about 1832 at Burslem, who died at the age of eighteen months, and William Nigel, born probably in 1834, who died on Oct. 26, 1837: 4. *Charles Lee Andrew Robert*, born May 6, 1813, lived in Liverpool and in about 1832 married Ann Macnamara of Burriscucane, county Clare, Ireland, who died Nov. 26, 1857. Charles died on June 26, 1848, leaving five children:— 1. *Ellen*, born June 12, 1833: 2. *Catherine*, born June 7, 1834: 3. *Mary Ann*, born March 24, 1839, married W. Simpson, and died in Feb. 1878: 4. *Ann*, born Feb. 26, 1842: 5. *Charles William*, born May 24, 1844: possibly there was another daughter Cassandra.

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D. *The family of Richard Gresley.*

**xxiv**     **Richard Gresley** (born 1766, died 1850) was the fourth son of the Rev. Thomas Gresley, D.D., second cousin of the fifth Baronet of the same names, and his life and two marriages have been given on pp. 113-17. By his second wife Mary Drummond, *née* Phillimore, he had no children, but by his first wife, Caroline Grote, he had six sons and two daughters, of whom two require an extended notice:—

1. The eldest son was the well-known writer *William Gresley* (born March 16, 1801), prebendary of Lichfield and incumbent of Boyne Hill, for whom see next page.

2. *Richard Newcombe*, born June 30, 1804, was educated at Westminster<sup>m</sup> (admitted May 26, 1815, King's Scholar 1818) and Christ Church, Oxford (matriculated May 18, 1822, Student of the House 1822-35, 2nd class in Literæ Humaniores, B.A. 1826, M.A. 1828), and studied at the Middle Temple, being called to the Bar on July 23, 1829. He practised as an Equity Draftsman, and published in 1836 a *Treatise on the Law of Evidence* (which reached a second edition in 1847), but signs of consumption showed themselves, under which disease he gradually sank, until the end came on June 10, 1837, at Meriden Hall, his father's place in Warwickshire.

3. *Thomas Morgan*, born Oct. 31, 1805, died at Kenilworth on Nov. 4, 1807.

4. *Francis*, born May 5, 1807: see p. 152.

5. *Caroline Mary*, born at midnight between Dec. 12 and 13, 1809, married on Nov. 17, 1840, at St. James's, Piccadilly, and at the Chapel of the Sardinian Ambassador, London, the Count Riccardo Felice Langosco di Langosco, a Lieut.-Col. in the Italian army, who died on April 11, 1886, at Genoa, aged 71. The Langoscos of Langosco are the elder branch of an old family, whose pedigree goes back to Tadeo Langosco in the thirteenth century. The Countess lives at Via Cernaja 11, Milan, and has had three children:—

<sup>m</sup> Four letters by him are printed at p. 157.

1. Count *Luigi Riccardo Felice*, born Oct. 7, 1841, died Oct. 19, 1875, unmarried: 2. Count *Guglielmo Giacinto Giuseppe*, of Casale, Monferrato, Piedmont, born Oct. 5, 1843, married on April 24, 1873, Signora Giuditta, daughter of Antonio Mascazzino, and has three sons and a daughter: 3. Count *Federico Francesco Teofilo*, born on May 2, 1847, married on Oct. 17, 1885, the Baroness Esilda daughter of Admiral Baron Tholosano, but she died on June 10, 1886: 4. Count *Lucca Francesco*, born Oct. 3, 1849, married on Nov. 30, 1882, the Countess Cesarina Della Croce, of Vigevano in Piedmont, and has had four sons.

6. *George*, born Jan. 26, 1812 (one of twin sons, of whom the other never lived), died on May 18 in the same year.

7. *Andrew Robert*, born Jan. 22, 1814, was educated at Westminster (admitted Sept. 18, 1826, King's Scholar 1828) and at Trinity College, Cambridge (elected from Westminster on May 30, 1832). But when at school he overstrained himself with boating and gymnastic exercises, and after being an invalid at home during almost all 1832 he died at Meriden of consumption on March 10, 1833.

8. *Elizabeth*, born July 9, 1815, married on Oct. 7, 1839, at the British Embassy at Paris, Lieutenant Alexander Clotworthy Dawson, R.N., who died on Aug. 16, 1841, on board H.M.S. *Alert*, near Havana, where he was buried. The issue of the marriage was one child who died in infancy. Elizabeth married secondly on May 15, 1856, Captain (afterwards Admiral) Thomas George Forbes.

9. A daughter who died in infancy on Oct. 1, 1817.

The **Rev. William Gresley**, of Boyne Hill, eldest son of Richard Gresley.

William was born at Kenilworth on March 16, 1801, and educated at Mr. Waters's, Edial Hall near Lichfield (entered Aug. 1807), Westminster School (admitted Jan. 14, 1811, King's Scholar 1815) and at Christ Church, Oxford (matr. May 21, 1819, Student 1819-28, 2nd class in Literæ Humaniores, B.A. 1823, M.A. 1825). Like many of his

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family he was fond of archery, and was in 1820 one of the original Bowmen of the Isis, an Oxford Club. An injury to his eye prevented his studying for the Bar, and he took Holy Orders in 1825 (priest 1826). He was successively curate of Drayton Bassett near Tamworth (till 1829), curate of St. Chad's at Stowe and Lecturer of St. Mary's, Lichfield (1830-37), Prebendary of Lichfield (1840-76), curate of St. Paul's, Brighton, and lastly from 1857 till his death Vicar of All Saints, Boyne Hill, near Maidenhead, a newly formed parish. On Nov. 20, 1876, he died at Boyne Hill, having survived all his nine children.

He was by far the most prolific writer who has borne the name of Gresley, and exercised a very considerable influence in maintaining sound and moderate Church principles at times when many minds were unsettled by ultra-Tractarianism and (later) by Rationalism. His works were:—

*Ecclesiastes Anglicanus*, 1835.

*Sermons on the Duties of a Christian*, 1836.

*The Portrait of an English Churchman*, 1838 and often afterwards.

*The Necessity of Zeal*, Oxford University Sermons, 1839.

*Some Thoughts on Diocesan Education*, 1839.

In 1839 he in conjunction with Edward Churton started the *Englishman's Library*, which eventually consisted of thirty-one volumes, issued between 1839 and 1846. William Gresley contributed *The Siege of Lichfield* (1840), *Charles Lever*, *The Forest of Arden*, *Clement Walton* (all 1841), *Bernard Leslie* (1842), *Church Clavering* (1843), *Coniston Hall* (1846).

*Remarks on a Restoration of the National Church*, 1841.

*Holiday Tales*, 1842.

*Parochial Sermons*, 1842.

*The Offertory*, a sermon, 1843.

*The Spiritual Condition of the Young*, 1843.

*The Church the Healer of the Nation's Wounds*, a sermon, 1843.

*A Sermon*, in aid of the Add. Curates' Society, 1844.

*Anglo-Catholicism*, 1844.

In 1844 the *Juvenile Englishman's Library* was started by F. E. Paget and J. E. Russell (twenty-one vols., 1844-49), and William Gresley contributed *Henri de Clermont* (1844) and *Colton Green* (1846).

*St. Stephen; Death for Truth*, 1845.

*Frank's First Trip to the Continent*, 1845.

*Suggestions on the New Statute at Oxford*, about the proposed degradation of Mr. Ward, 1845.

*A Short Treatise on the English Church*, 1845.

*God's House a House of Prayer*, a sermon, 1845.

*Self-Examination*, a sermon, 1845.

*Evangelical Truth and Apostolical Order*, a dialogue, 1846.



- The Real Danger of the Church of England*, 1846, which reached a sixth edition in the following year.
- A Second Statement of the Real Danger* (as above), 1846.
- A Third Statement* (as above), 1847.
- Practical Sermons*, 1848.
- The Use of Confirmation*, 1848.
- A Help to Prayer*, 1849.
- A Word of Remonstrance with the Evangelicals*, 1850, which reached a third edition in 1851.
- Stand fast and hope*, a pamphlet on the Gorham Case, 1850.
- Distinctive Tenets of the Church of England*, 1851.
- A Second Word of Remonstrance* (see above), 1851.
- A Letter on Tractarianism*, 1851.
- The Ordinance of Confession*, 1851.
- A Letter on Confession*, in reply to the Rev. R. J. M'Ghee, 1852.
- A Sermon on Church Music*, 1852.
- Some Account of the Church*, a sermon, 1854.
- The Unity of the Church*, a sermon, 1854.
- The Present State of the Controversy with Rome*, 1855.
- An Answer to the Rev. E. B. Elliott*, about Tractarianism, 1856.
- In 1856 he edited Brevint's *Christian Sacrament*.
- The Position of the Church*, on the Denison Case (1856).
- Sermons preached at Brighton*, 1858.
- Boyne Hill Tracts*, by W. G., 1858.
- The Church the Pillar of the Truth*, 1859.
- Conversion*, 1859.
- Bernard Leslie*, part 2, 1859.
- Idealism considered*, on *Essays and Reviews*, 1860.
- Sophron and Neologus; or, Common Sense and Philosophy*, 1861.
- The Prayer-book as it is*, 1865.
- Thoughts on the Bible*, 1871.
- Priests and Philosophers*, 1873.
- Thoughts on Religion and Philosophy*, 1875.
- The Scepticism of the Nineteenth Century*, selections, edited with a Memoir of the Author by S. C. Austen, 1879.

On Oct. 28, 1828, he married Anne Wright, daughter and heiress of John Barker Scott Esq., of Lichfield, banker, and had nine children, as follows (his wife died on May 28, 1864, aged 59):—1. *Caroline Anne*, born Feb. 7, 1830, died Aug. 21, 1844: 2. *William*, born June 13, 1831, died July 13, 1844: 3. *John Scott*, born Sept. 1, 1832, died Dec. 17, 1844: 4. *Mary Elizabeth*, born Aug. 2, 1834, died Oct. 27, 1868: 5. *Adelaide Frances*, born in 1836, died May 19, 1844: 6. *Richard Scott*, born Sept. 13, 1837, died Jan. 30, 1853: 7. *Louisa*, died on March 8, 1840, aged one year: 8. *Henry Scott*, born Nov. 20, 1840, matriculated at Oxford from Christ Church on Oct. 21, 1858 (B.A. 1861), became a Barrister-at-

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law of the Inner Temple, London, in 1866: on Nov. 26, 1867, he married Jane Charlotte Drummond (see p. 123), but died on Jan. 28 of the following year: 9. *Nigel Scott*, born Nov. 9, 1842, matriculated like his brother from Christ Church on Oct. 16, 1861, but died on Dec. 6, 1863.

A memorial window, erected in Lichfield Cathedral in memory of the Rev. William Gresley, and called the Gresley Memorial Window, was dedicated on July 31, 1895, and the list of subscribers includes twenty who bear the name of Gresley.

## XXV

Major **Francis Gresley**, fourth son of Richard Gresley.

Francis Gresley was born on May 5, 1807, at Kenilworth, and educated at Westminster (Jan. 14, 1818—Whitsuntide 1822). In 1823 he entered the East India Company's service, and sailed for India on June 16 on board the *Thomas Grenville*. In 1844 he returned to England, and lived successively at Gifford's Hall in Suffolk, where his wife's father-in-law had lived and most of his children were born, at Winterdyne in Worcestershire, and at Meriden Hall near Leamington, once his father's place, where he died on Dec. 10, 1880. On Sept. 19, 1848, at Ilfracombe, he married Mary, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Thorp, of Burton Overy, and niece of the lady of the same names who in 1811 married Francis's uncle the Rev. William Gresley, see p. 122. Miss Thorp had previously on Aug. 31, 1840, married Francis Russell Kendal Esq. of Walthamstow (who died at Venice in 1847) and had had three children by him:—1. Clarence Peter Trevelyan, an officer in the Life Guards, who married Catherine daughter of Lord Brabazon, 2. Gwenllian Elizabeth Fanny Isabel, who married, in Westminster Abbey, Arthur son of the Rev. Lord John Thynne, 3. Ethel Mary Jemima, who married Col. Villiers Forbes, R.A. Mary was only twenty-nine at the time of her second marriage, and died on Aug. 10, 1894, at Flax Bourton, leaving eight children of her second family:—1. *Richard Nigel*, born March 15, 1850, a Captain in the Royal Navy, and latterly

Commander of the Royal Yacht *Victoria and Albert*, who on May 5, 1892, married Ruth Slingsby daughter of G. P. T. Duncombe Esq., and has issue Dorothy born 1893 and Roger born 1895: 2. *Francis Edward*, born July 31, 1851, who was at one time engaged to a distant relation also bearing the name of Gresley, see p. 146, but died of typhoid fever, unmarried, at Urana, New South Wales, on May 22, 1878: 3. *Caroline Frances* ('Queenie'), born Nov. 26, 1852, married on March 27, 1875, James Edwards<sup>m\*</sup> Esq., of Woodhorn Grange near Morpeth, now of Flax Bourton: 4, 5. *Rose Elizabeth* and *Mary Lilian*, twins, born May 12, 1854: Rose married on April 11, 1885, George McGowan Esq., of Preston, and has issue: the latter died unmarried at Weymouth on Sept. 6, 1885: 6. *Mary Louisa*, born Dec. 17, 1855, married on Oct. 17, 1882, Capt. Edward Ambrose Holbeck, a retired officer of the Royal Navy: 7. *Susan Isabel Garstin* ('Daisy'), born July 29, 1859, married on Jan. 3, 1889, Capt. Edwin John Payne Gallwey, late of the Royal Navy: 8. *William Nigel*, born March 3, 1861.

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<sup>m\*</sup> See p. 263.

## E. Unidentified Gresleys,

who cannot at present be connected with the pedigree of the Gresleys of Drakelowe, in rough chronological order.

Many of the following were no doubt simply persons who, having lived at one time at Church or Castle Gresley, acquired when they left their native place the local surname of Gresley, before surnames had become fixed family names.

1199. **Stephen de Gresley.** Stephanus de Gresley in Sept. 1199 killed<sup>n</sup> Osbert de Hegwin and fled from justice. <sup>n</sup> Salt Soc. iii. i. 44.
1201. **Ingerannus de Gresley** occurs<sup>o</sup> as a 'sponsalis' of Eustachia de Camvile, who was engaged in a lawsuit with Nicholas de Verdun about land. <sup>o</sup> Salt Soc. iii. i. 71, cf. Dugdale's Warwickshire (1755) p. 593.
1203. **Hervey** ('Herveus') de Gresley occurs in a Staffordshire Assize Roll<sup>p</sup> of Sept. 1203. Hervey was a Stafford family name. <sup>p</sup> Salt Soc. iii. i. 86.
1210. **Roger de Gresley.** According to the Red Book of the Exchequer<sup>q</sup> a 'Rogerus Gresle' in 1210-12 held twelve knights' fees in Lancashire. <sup>q</sup> Rolls Ser. ed. ii. 568.

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<sup>r</sup> Bodl. MS.  
Dodsw.

103, p. 39.

<sup>s</sup> Matt. Paris  
(Rolls Ser.)  
Chron. Maj.

ii. 585: name  
erroneously  
given as

Roger in  
Erdeswick's  
Staffsh., p.  
213.

<sup>t</sup> Salisb.

Charters  
(Rolls Ser.  
97) p. 264.

<sup>u</sup> Gresl.

Charter 122.

<sup>v</sup> Salt Soc.

xvi. 302

(Ridware  
Chartulary).

<sup>w</sup> Salt Soc.

iv. 1. 210.

<sup>x</sup> Gresley

Chartul. p.

38 = Parker's

Colton 2nd

ed. p. 59.

<sup>y</sup> Reg. Epistt.

Joh. Peckham

(Rolls Ser.

77) iii. 1015.

<sup>z</sup> Gresley

Charter 158.

<sup>a</sup> Lichf. Episc.

Reg.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Bodl. MS.

Blakeway 1,

p. 231.

<sup>d</sup> Ely Episc.

Reg. in Brit.

Mus. MS.

Add. 5824,

fol. 5, 23.

<sup>e</sup> Lichf. Episc.

Reg.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid.

<sup>i</sup> Gresl.

Chartul. p.

36.

<sup>k</sup> Lichf.

Episc. Reg. i.

129<sup>v</sup>.

1215. Robert de Gresley. On Dec. 11, 1215, the King gave<sup>r</sup> to Ralph de Gernon land in Pirinton co. Oxon. 'que fuit Roberti de Gresley.' This may be the Robertus de Greslei<sup>s</sup> who was among the barons who assembled at Stamford at Easter 1215 and eventually obtained Magna Charta from King John. If so, the name should rather be Grellly, see App. D.

1240. William de Gresley ('Gresleghe') occurs in a deed of Dec. 25, 1240<sup>t</sup>, about Whitchurch in Dorset.

13th cent. Walter de Gresley, and John his son. Walter de Gresele of Dorandesthorp (Donisthorpe) was witness to a deed<sup>u</sup> of Ralph Wychard: and his son John 'filius Walteri de Gresley de Durandesthorp' held land<sup>v</sup> in Donisthorpe.

1271-2. Elias de Gresley (perhaps only = 'from Gresley'). He killed<sup>w</sup> one Roger at the bridge outside the vill of Roucester with a stone, in 56 Hen. 3: he fled from justice and was outlawed. One of the same names granted land<sup>x</sup> in Osgathorpe to Sir William de Waste-neys, in 4 Edw. 2 (1310-1).

1279. Simon de Gresley was on Sept. 23, 1279<sup>y</sup>, appointed Vicar of Godmersham by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

late 13th cent. Enge de Gresley was a witness to a deed<sup>z</sup> of John Oky of Linton.

1300. Robert de Gresley was ordained acolyte<sup>a</sup> at Burton on Trent on Dec. 17, 1300.

1302. William de Gresley. There must have been at least two William de Gresleys to whom the following notices refer:—ordained sub-deacon at Derby, presented by the Prior of Gresley on Sept. 22, 1302<sup>b</sup>: ordained sub-deacon at Colwich upon his patrimonial title on Dec. 18, 1305; ordained deacon at Lichfield, presented by the same Prior, Sept. 21, 1303<sup>b</sup>, and priest at Lilleshull. March 28, 1304<sup>b</sup>: a monk of Roucester, ordained priest at Gnosall Dec. 20, 1320<sup>b</sup>: instituted to the chapel of Hordley on Nov. 7, 1322<sup>c</sup>, and to the Rectory of Mongewell in June 1336<sup>e</sup>: rector of Hildresham at least 1338-43<sup>d</sup>.

1303. Ralph de Gresley was ordained sub-deacon<sup>e</sup> at Lichfield upon his patrimonial title, on Sept. 21, 1303.

1305. John de Gresley was on Dec. 18, 1305, ordained sub-deacon at Colwich<sup>f</sup>, on the presentation of the Prior of Gresley. Another of the same names was ordained deacon<sup>g</sup> at Derby on April 3, 1305, and priest<sup>h</sup> at the same place on the following Dec. 23, on both occasions presented by the Prior and Convent of Gresley.

1307-8. William de Aula de Gresley was a witness<sup>i</sup> in 1307-8, but was probably William de Awl or Aula, living at Gresley: see Jayes's index to his *Descriptive Catalogue of Gresley Charters*, s.v. Aula.

1317. Thomas de Gresley, a monk of Merevale Abbey, was on April 2, 1317, ordained priest at Lichfield<sup>k</sup>.

1318. **Richard de Gresley.** Occurs in a Leicestershire taxation of a twentieth 1327-8, as holding land in Normanton super le Hethe: and, as 'Graseleye,' in a Staffordshire subsidy roll of the same date as holding land in 'Schaeschulfe.' He may be the 'Richardus del Gresley' who was witness<sup>1</sup> to a deed of Richard de la Lee in 1318-9. Of this latter a brother **William** also occurs in the deed, who may be the William de Gresley who held land in Herdeby in 1323-4, according to a Leicestershire taxation of a fifteenth.
1320. **Hugh de Gresley** was in 1320 ordained sub-deacon<sup>m</sup> at Lichfield on March 29, deacon<sup>n</sup> at Darley on Sept. 20 and priest<sup>o</sup> at Gnosall on Dec. 20, being in each case presented by the Prior and Canons of Gresley.
1321. **Vincent de Gresley** and **Geoffrey** his brother were accused of trespass<sup>p</sup> in 1321, and Vincent also of damage at Alrewas in 1323<sup>q</sup>. The latter was also a witness<sup>r</sup> to a deed of John Brom in 23 Edw. 3 (1349-50). Perhaps he was a son of Sir Peter: see p. 46.
- 1339-40. **Robert de Gresley** and **Katrine** his wife were witnesses to a deed<sup>s</sup> about land in Clifton Camvile, dated 13 Edw. 3.
1354. **Henry de Gresley**, merchant, was in this year sued<sup>t</sup> by Henry Puy of Rugeley for a debt.
1374. **William de Gresley.** In 1374<sup>u</sup> he succeeds Robert Crull as Dean or Master in the College of secular Canons in Hastings Castle; and one of the same names on July 13, 1375<sup>v</sup>, exchanged the Rectory of Bishop's Hampton in Worcestershire for that of St. Bennet, Paul's Wharf, London, but was no longer there in 1379.
- 1379-80. **Thomas Gresley** and **Katrina** his wife occur in a poll-tax<sup>w</sup> record of this date in Offlow Hundred, Staffordshire.
- early 15th cent. **John Gresley** ('Gresele'), rector of Grindon or Grinton in Yorkshire, was sued<sup>x</sup> at about this time for a rent charge due to the Abbot of St. Alban's. The Abbot of Ramsey had presented him to the living.
1429. **Thomas de Gresley** 'clericus in minoribus ordinibus constitutus' in this year resigned<sup>y</sup> the church of Rolleston in Staffordshire, to which he had been presented by Prince John.
- 15th cent.? **Oliver Gresley.** In a Rutland Visitation, 1618-9, an Oliver Gresley marries Jane daughter of Thomas Busby and his wife daughter of Sir Richard Egerton.
1466. **William Gresley, B.C.L.,** was in 1466 made Rector<sup>z</sup> of Colton in Staffordshire.
1481. **William** and **Richard Gresley.** The former was 'rector ecclesie de Stoke' when on June 5, 1481, he and Richard leased<sup>a</sup> the manor of Colton in Staffordshire to Sir John Gresley and Anne his wife, from whom they had received the manor by feoffment. This must refer to some technical transfer and re-transfer. Richard also occurs as a witness on Feb. 15, 1493, to a deed<sup>b</sup> of Lewis Bagot.
- c. 1500. **Christian** daughter of **John Gresley** is stated to have married<sup>c</sup> George son of Mark Robinson (occurs 1464) and his wife Anne *née*

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<sup>1</sup> Bodl. MS. Dodsw. 31, p. 130.<sup>m</sup> Lichf. Episc. Reg. i. 137<sup>v</sup>.<sup>n</sup> Ibid. 140.<sup>o</sup> Ibid. 141.<sup>p</sup> Salt Soc. x. 1. 36.<sup>q</sup> Salt Soc. ix. 1. 91.<sup>r</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 41.<sup>s</sup> N. and Q. 6th S. xii. 57; Salt Soc. xi. 185.<sup>t</sup> Salt Soc. xii. 129.<sup>u</sup> Dugd. Mon. Angl. vi. 1470.<sup>v</sup> Newcourt's Repert. i. 302; Dugd. Warw. 2nd ed. ii. 672; Hennessy's Repert. (1898) pp. cxlii, 346.<sup>w</sup> Salt Soc. xvii. 170.<sup>x</sup> Walsingham, Gesta Abb. S. Albani (Rolls Ser. 28) iii. 518-22.<sup>y</sup> Lichf. Episc. Reg.<sup>z</sup> Parker's Colton, p. 199.<sup>a</sup> Gresl. Charter 449.<sup>b</sup> Ibid. 455.<sup>c</sup> A. P. Burke's Family Records (1897), p. 507.

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- Pembridge. Thomas Robinson a son of this Gresley marriage married an Alsop, and occurs in 1514.
- <sup>e\*</sup> Warw. Visit<sup>n</sup>. 1619: Salt Soc. vii. 2. 106: see p. 67.
- <sup>d</sup> Lichf. Wills in Index Libr. vii. 35.
- <sup>e</sup> Ibid. vii. 43.
- <sup>f</sup> App. to the 49th Rept. of the Dep. Keeper of the Records, p. 269.
- <sup>g</sup> Ibid. p. 266.
- <sup>h</sup> Yorksh. Archæol. Soc., Record Ser. xiv (1893), p. 67.
- <sup>i</sup> App. to the 49th Rept. of the Dep. Keeper of the Records, pp. 268-9.
- <sup>j</sup> Gresl. Reg.
- <sup>k</sup> Signet Bills in Index Libr. iv. 184.
- <sup>l</sup> Roy. Comp. Papers, 1st Ser. x. 596.
- <sup>m</sup> St. Mich. Reg.
- <sup>n</sup> Watton Church Reg.
- <sup>o</sup> Somersetsh. Wills. 3rd Ser., p. 53.
- <sup>p</sup> Ibid. p. 123.
- early 16th cent. A Gresley is stated to have married Alice <sup>e\*</sup> daughter of John Beaufo of Edmondscote (who died in 1516) and of Elizabeth his wife (*née* Toke or Take).
1532. Ellen Gresley. Her Will was proved <sup>d</sup> at Lichfield in this year.
1536. A Mr. Gresley's Will was proved at Lichfield <sup>e</sup> in this year.
1538. Agnes Gresley seems to have been a nun, for in 1538-40 she was in receipt of a pension (?), according to the Augmentation Office Records <sup>f</sup>.
1548. Edward Gresley in 1548-9 received a pension (?), according to the Augmentation Office Records <sup>g</sup>, and so was presumably a monk.
1551. Thomas Gresley ('Gresseley') of Stapleford in Nottinghamshire. His Will <sup>h</sup> made on Oct. 25, 1551, and proved on Oct. 12, 1558, is in the York Registry (vol. xv, pt. 3, fol. 228).
- 1567-89. St. Mary's Registers at Lichfield mention several Gresleys. Edward G. (d. 1589) married Joanne (d. 1587), and their children were Frances (d. 1574), Margaret (bapt. 1567), John (d. 1570), William (bapt. 1572, d. 1588<sup>3</sup>), and Joan (bapt. and d. 1576). Also a Thomas G. had a son Robert who died in 1585: and a Margaret Gresley married the Rev. George Bromley on May 27, 1574.
1594. Robert and John Gresley seem to have received pensions (?) in 1594-6, according to the Augmentation Office Records <sup>i</sup>.
1600. John Gresley married Frances Wakefield on May 27, 1600<sup>j</sup>, and on Nov. 18, 1623<sup>j</sup>, was buried at Gresley.
1623. A Mr. Gresley received a pension <sup>k</sup> in July of this year.
1646. A Mr. Gresley was in this year deputed by the Royalist Commission Commissioners<sup>l</sup> to receive £4 a week from Sir Lewis Dyve's Bedfordshire Estate in trust to hand it over to Sir Lewis.
1655. John Gresley of the parish of St. Dionis Backchurch, London, made a will on Nov. 2, 1655 (proved on Nov. 13, 1656), which appoints his mother 'mistris Sarah Gresley' as sole executrix. John's desire was to be buried in St. Mary Magdalen Church, Bermondsey.
1667. Mary Gresley on June 27, 1667, married <sup>m</sup> Hugh Sharrat at St. Michael's Church, Lichfield.
1673. The Will of Mary Gresley of St. Paul's, Shadwell, dated Nov. 21, 1673, and proved on Jan. 5, 1674<sup>3</sup> and Sept. 23, 1679, mentions a daughter Sarah, widow of Roger Apps and perhaps wife of Joseph Hammond.
1704. William son of Robert Gresley, of Watton on the Wolds, was baptized <sup>n</sup> Dec. 3, 1704.
1716. Christopher Gresley occurs as the son-in-law of Margaret Leigh (*née* Collard) of Barton in St. Decuman's, in her Will <sup>o</sup> dated Oct. 24, 1716, proved April 2, 1718.
1716. Thomas Gresley. 'My cousin Thomas Gresley' occurs in the Will <sup>p</sup> of Gustavus Venner of Fitzhead in Somerset, dated Dec. 24, 1716, proved April 2, 1718.

- 1726-40. The Registers of Abbot's Bromley, in Staffordshire, give details of a family there. **John** Gresley (who died in 1742) married on Feb. 23, 1728, **Martha** Bunn (?), and their family was:—**William** (bapt. 1729), **John** (bapt. 1729), **Thomas** (bapt. 1735), **Benjamin** (bapt. 1737, died 1740), **Martha** (bapt. 1740).
- 18th cent.? **Gresleys** of Congerston in Leicestershire. A paper among the Rev. J. M. Gresley's collections with no dates and no mention of the authority, gives **John** as having two sons **John** (who had a son **John**) and **Philip**, and a daughter who married — Mellis.
1792. **W. B. Gresley** signed a petition<sup>a</sup> in 1792 against the African Slave-trade.
1798. **Gresleys** of Basford, near Nottingham. **Gervas G.** married **Sarah** Lighton<sup>r</sup> on Oct. 29, 1798.
1854. **Philip** Gresley was a witness<sup>s</sup> in a case of assault in London in June 1854.
1867. **Isaac M. Gresley** was injured in a railway accident at Methley near Leeds in April 1867, and died on April 4 in the following year aged 62<sup>t</sup>.
1896. Messrs. **Gresley** and **Utermarck** occur in **Gore's** Liverpool Directory as merchants at 13 Drury Lane.

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<sup>a</sup> Hist. MSS. Comm. v. App. 297.

<sup>r</sup> Basf. Ch. Reg.

<sup>s</sup> Morning Post, June 29, 1854.

<sup>t</sup> Times, Apr. 6, 1868.

NOTE A.

ACCOUNT OF THE CORONATION OF GEORGE IV

(in three letters from Richard Newcombe Gresley : see p. 148).

(1)

My dear William,

July 18th, 1821.

You will expect to hear something of the Coronation, as we shall bear rather a conspicuous part in it; most of it you will read in the papers, but if anything of consequence takes place which you will perhaps not see there, I will write you word at the end of this letter on Friday. Goodenough has exerted himself very much in our favour, and has got places for the whole of the Town Boys in the Nunneries; he tried, but we are afraid without success, to get us the K. S. places in the Hall. Goodenough made an excellent speech in school this morning, informing us in a fluent manner, and at some length, that as it had been his Majesty's most gracious favor to give us places in the approaching Ceremony, we are to meet in school tomorrow morning at 5 o'clock, in dress as if we were going to a dinner party; he gave long directions and paid us compliments about conduct; he said that with regard to conduct, to People who in the mass so universally conduct themselves well he should say nothing &c. The Town Boys will march in four divisions headed by the Ushers, and we shall stand with Goodenough in the two front rows of the Organ loft looking toward the Chancel, so that we shall have one of the best places in the Church. We rehearsed our part in Lockhours justnow; Goodenough told us

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that it has been an ancient custom for the King's Scholars of Westminster to shout as the King passes us, but that this time, as the anthem will probably not be over when he comes in, immediately that it is we are to cry out as loud as we can—Vivat Georgius Rex—raising our voice at the end in a curious way; we rehearsed, as I said, a short time ago; he set us off, and we hallowed away most harmoniously.

July 20th.

I will now conclude my letter which I broke off rather abruptly on Wednesday—We were all very much hurried then with providing food for the Evening and the next day, for the Gates of Deans yard were closed at five o'clock for the night. We all went to bed early and were up at four the next morning. We breakfasted immediately, and met Goodenough in School at a little before six. He distributed tickets (which by the bye are specimens of Sir W. Congreave's new printing;) we were then joined by Mrs. Goodenough, and proceeded to the Abbey where we waited till  $\frac{1}{4}$  before 12, when the procession appeared at the door. We had most of us taken the precaution to bring some provisions; some brought cake and wine, however I brought sandwiches and a bottle of cold tea, and a little brandy in case I should faint: but unfortunately the corks came out of both the bottles, and the greatest comfort I experienced was from a volume of the Percy Anecdotes which I luckily had put into my pocket. We sat in the Organ loft, almost the best place in the Abbey, for we saw the procession come in and we saw the whole of the Ceremony. The worst was that the King's back was turned towards us in all the chairs he sat. As we had a ceremony to perform we took the front rows in the Organ loft, but when the Herb-woman and her maids came there, the Herb-woman herself, a bold masculine looking woman, said that she could not think of going behind, and that if we were Gentlemen we should give up our places: however those who were next to her thought that if she had been a lady she would not have asked, and considered it sufficient to allow her to go behind; they were explaining very civilly to her, but she began to push and being a strong woman, forced herself into a front seat and sat there fanning herself. When the anthem was over Goodenough cleared his voice with a hem, and sung out melodiously; we then shouted—Vivat Georgius Rex—six times, and we were cheered very much—We shouted away and clapped gloriously at the Recognition and at other times during the ceremony—The grandest part of the whole was when the crown was placed on the King's head; immediately the trumpets and drums sounded, an immense shout was raised, and the Peers put on their coronets—I will write again tomorrow.

Yours very truly, R. N. G.

W. Gresley Esq.,  
Stowe House, Lichfield.



(2)

St. Peters, July 21st, 1821.

My dear Brother,

The shouting at the moment that the Crown was placed on the King's Head was so great that it was attended by one unpleasant and melancholy circumstance; a gentleman was taken ill shortly before, and the sudden voice brought on Fits of which yesterday it is said he died—After the Crown was put on, Lord William Bentick (I believe) the Almoner, threw about a quantity of silver medals. It was curious to see the Peers in their coronets, and the Knights Commanders in their plumes, the Heralds, Marshalmen, &c. &c. all eagerly scrambling for a medal, and crowding round the person who was throwing them begging him to give them one. Lord Amherst in a squeeze put his foot upon one, and sat quietly till the rush was over, and then snapped it up when nobody was looking. The King was quite overcome by the Recognition, to find himself so well received; but afterwards at the Hall he was so tired that he was obliged to stand on one leg, and was sinking down, but they gave him something that looked like barley water, which quite recovered him. The King did us great honor when he came out; there was an immense shouting, and he had walked along without bowing, but when he came by us he tapped the Duke of Devonshire with his sceptre and pointed to us; he then gave us a gracious nod and smile, and touched his Crown with his sceptre. The royal Dukes were much applauded; the Duke of York appeared very much affected when he kissed his brother: by the bye all the Peers one after another kissed the King's left cheek, and it is said he used nineteen pocket handkerchiefs in mopping his face.—When he came in he looked too large for effect, indeed he was more like an elephant than a Man, and there were ten or twelve persons continually with him to bear up his train. It was said, but I believe it was not true, that a pistol was wrested out of a Man's hand as he was taking aim at his Majesty. If it had been a fact we should have heard more of it. The Princess Esterhazy lost a branch of Diamonds, and the elder Prince Esterhazy wore a dress which was valued at £100,000. The Queen, I suppose you have heard, tried to obtain entrance at the doors, but the door-keepers were ordered not to admit any improper persons, therefore of course she was refused. She came through Ducklane and other blackguard places to beat up recruits, and as she went back the few persons that accompanied her broke as many windows as they could, and plastered servants and carriages with mud if they did not salute the Queen. I was really glad to hear that she had feeling enough to burst into tears when she was hissed and execrated by the Mob, who had collected round the Platform over which the procession was to pass. Lord Hood made himself quite as great a fool as usual; and when Alderman Wood appeared, he was greeted with cries of 'turn out that Wood, drive him away, off with him, off, off.'—At the Banquet the Champion was not *au fait* in his horsemanship, and as the Marquis of Anglesea was leaning

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down, his cork leg failed him, and he was very nearly off his horse. However it went off very well on the whole.—At the conclusion of the Banquet there was a scramble for the Ornaments, and it was said some spoons and plate were purloined. Morgan, who was there, stumbled upon Dr. Goodenough: he was shifting a quantity of pyecrust and a pine apple into his mouth, and he said to him, 'For heaven's sake, Morgan, get me something to drink,—a little hock if possible.' Morgan brought him a bowl of punch, and he appeared to receive much gratification from washing down his mouthful. We went in the evening to see the illuminations. I. Phillamore went in a curious figure, in a pair of Corderoy Breeches, Wellington Boots, and an old blue coat of mine; Partington and I went together; we heard a Man say that there was free egress into the Park, so we went there; There were excellent fireworks and curious things on the Serpentine, such as Elephants, Dragons, and Alligators; we got in without any difficulty early in the Evening, but we were about twenty minutes getting out again through one of the gates: however we managed to get before three Butchers and an Irishman, and they pushed us on very pleasantly without any exertion of our own.

We were in the Abbey from six o'clock till four: we then got our dinners, and most of us lay down and slept for some hours: at nine we went out to see the fireworks, and got to bed by about one; but the next day, being a holiday, we had a long sleep, and got up in the Morning scarcely feeling the least fatiguing effects from our exertions.

Yours affectly, R. N. G.

W. Gresley Esqre,  
Stowe, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

(3)

St. Peters Coll. July 26th.

My dear William,

. . . I heard that at the Coronation, when the Archbishop preached about the burthens of Royalty, the King was observed to wink at the Duke of York and point to his immense train which 10 or 12 persons were bearing. . . .

Believe me, Yours truly, R. N. GRESLEY.

W. Gresley Esqre,  
Stowe House, Lichfield.



*Gresleys of Drakelowe*

DRAKELOWE  
*(from the south-east)*

*Plate II*

## CHAPTER VIII

### DRAKELOWE

(Written by Sir Robert Gresley, Bart.)

DRAKELOWE, to which so many references have been made in the previous pages of this book, is situated on a bend of the river Trent, on the borders of Derbyshire and Staffordshire, the river forming a natural boundary between the two counties. In only one sense can it be called historical. It has been the home of twenty-eight generations of one family, from the reign of Henry II to the present day, being mentioned in the Pipe Rolls of 1170-71, 1171-72, 1188-89, and 1201-2, as being held by Nigel de Gresley<sup>a</sup>; and the manor has been held ever since by his descendants, though their other properties, many of which marched with it, have nearly all passed into other hands. In the reign of King John, William de Gresley holds the manor of the king, by the annual payment of a bow, quiver, and twelve arrows, but how long this ancient tenure was kept up is not known. In the year 1323 a robbery occurs, Johanna Gresley's 'strong box' being broken into, though what was taken is not stated. Except the statement, now in the British Museum, that in the year 1548 Drakelowe is a manor (6 messuages, 1000 acres of pasture, 100 acres of land, 50 acres of meadow, 50 acres of wood, and a watermill), held as in 1522, and others of a similar nature which occur from time to time, there are scarcely any facts from an historical point of view worth chronicling, and one may

<sup>a</sup> See however p. 33.

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be permitted to regret that the ancient privilege of gallows, and all that it implied, which was granted to Sir Geoffrey Gresley in 1330, has passed into desuetude, and is now, like many other good old customs, 'more honoured in the breach than in the observance.' If this had not been the case there would in all probability have been a few incidents worth relating!

Leland in 1540 records that 'Sir George Gresley dwelleth at the Manor Place of Colton, and hath a great park there upon Trent a mile lower than Haywood, he hath upon Trent a mile lower than Burton town a very large manor place and park at Draekelo.' This park (including the pleasure grounds and that part now called 'The Warren,' and in old times 'The Hare Park') is nearly 580 acres in extent, of which the Deer Park contains 207 acres; it is fairly well wooded, and in spite of the gales which in recent years have done much damage, there are still a good many fine old trees dotted about it, especially beeches and oaks, while some of the limes near the house are really very fine trees. But it is the pleasure grounds and gardens which are the chief beauty of the place, many of the hollies and yews lining the walks being well over 30 feet in height. Most of the latter are 'faced' in the old-fashioned way. When these were laid out is not known, but the rose garden and round garden have an eighteenth-century air about them, and probably date from that period, if not before.

With regard to the present house, it is not known when it was built, nor is it easy, even to the architect's eye, to determine the point, the fact being that it has been much altered and added to at different times. It is probable, however, that the greater part as it stands is of no very great antiquity, much of it being built in 1723, a date which appears on the head of an old leaden water-pipe; but it is on exactly the same site as the ancient building, portions of which are incorporated in the present structure, and when some restorations were being done in Sir Roger's time, some work was come upon said to be Norman. It was

he who built the present billiard-room, and the bed-room and dressing-room over it, and he also partially refaced the west front of the house, and in fact altered it considerably. Probably the most interesting room in the house is that known as the large dining-room; it is, roughly, 42 feet in length, by 25 in width, and 20 feet high. The walls and ceiling are entirely painted over, and represent the scenery near the Peak in Derbyshire. A wooden palisade, painted green and fixed against the wall, does duty for the modern dado, and makes the entire circuit of the room, with gates for the doors, and the mantelpiece is composed of Derbyshire spar, with a masque in the centre. The design, which is a bold, not to say an ambitious one, including as it does trees almost life-size, a river meandering between rocks and under wooded banks, is carried out in a masterly manner, and while the proportions of the room are not interfered with, an impression of size is produced in harmony with such a scene. It was executed in about 1790, it is believed, by Paul Sandby, a well-known artist; and a kind of distemper, not oils, is the medium employed. The other rooms are not particularly remarkable in any way; most of them are panelled, and they contain a good deal of antique furniture, china, and tapestry, also a small collection of bronzes and ivories. Some of the old beds are very handsome, and the carving elaborate, yet with a certain rudeness about it. Five of them are oak and two of ebony; of these one of the former undoubtedly dates from the time of Queen Elizabeth, the other four are only a few years later, one bearing the date 1620 let into the head. The two ebony beds are quite different in character, being Portuguese or Spanish work of the seventeenth century. Apparently there is no record as to where they came from, or when they were first put in the house; possibly they may have been procured by Walsingham Gresley when he went to Spain in Charles the First's reign. Amongst the objects of interest in the house is a beautiful contemporary model of a 74-gun ship of

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the earlier part of the eighteenth century; it has no name, but it has always been said to be a model of one of the ships in which Sir Nigel Gresley served before he succeeded his brother and retired. There are also some few pieces of armour and some sixteenth and seventeenth century swords. But probably the most interesting relic of the past in the possession of the family is the jewel, said to have been given by Queen Elizabeth to Catherine Sutton (daughter of Lord Dudley, K.G., and wife of Sir George Gresley, K.B.). It is a beautiful specimen of sixteenth-century work, and forms a pendant which when open shows two miniatures, of which one is a portrait of herself, and one of her husband. There is no picture of this Lady Gresley at Drakelowe, but there is one of her grand-daughter-in-law, Katherine Walsingham, the wife of Sir Thomas Gresley, who is portrayed wearing this identical jewel, which has remained an heirloom ever since, and happily escaped being stolen with the rest of Lady Sophia Gresley's jewels in the great robbery which occurred in 1829. Besides pictures of members of the family, many of which have been reproduced in collotype in the special edition of this book, there are pictures of various historical personages, such as James the First, Prince Maurice, Lady Rich, and others, amongst which the one of Flora Macdonald is especially interesting, as she gave it herself to Sir Nigel Gresley<sup>1</sup>. The one of Sir John Norris is also worthy of remark, chiefly from its quaint inscription in Latin, stating as it does that in every way he was the equal of Cyrus, Scipio, Hector, Hannibal, and Achilles—a very modest statement indeed, but one which history hardly corroborates! And now little more remains to be said. Drakelowe does not pretend in any way to be a show place, but few who know it will deny a certain stateliness and air of ancient comfort which seems particularly its own, and when on a hot summer's day one

<sup>1</sup> The inscription on the back says: 'This portrait of Flora Macdonald was given by herself to Sir Nigel Gresley, captain in the Royal Navy, who captured her in her flight from Scotland to France, from whom she experienced every civility, and as a mark of her gratitude presented him with this picture, 1747.'

strolls about its ancient grounds, imagination peoples them with its old owners, long since dead and buried, whose lives have been briefly described in this book. Knights of the Middle Ages, cavaliers, roundheads, gentlemen and ladies of Queen Anne's time in wigs and patches, fox-hunting, port-loving squires, like those depicted by Addison, and dandies of the beginning of the century pass before us, and one feels that they too have all in their turn owned it as their home, and have spent here a portion at least of their brief span of life, many of which lives were begun and ended in the old house hard by; and it is these old associations which, linked to personal memories and future hopes, form that charm which makes these old country houses so dear to Englishmen, and which coupled with their love of sport and a country life, has helped in no small degree, to form that patriotic spirit in which, in times of stress and danger, the gentlemen of England have never been found wanting.

## NOTE A.

[LETTERS OF ANNA SEWARD, 1784-1807, VOL. III. 1811, P. 380.]

LETTER XCVI. TO THE REV. T. S. WHALLEY.

Lichfield, July 25, 1794.

A fortnight since, I passed a few days very pleasantly beneath the spacious and elegant mansion of Sir Nigel Gresley, and amidst its surrounding groves and lawns, which the taste of their owner has rendered Arcadian. Sir Nigel has adorned one of his rooms with singular happiness. It is large, one side painted with forest scenery, whose majestic trees arch over the coved ceiling. Through them we see glades, tufted banks, and ascending walks, in perspective. The opposite side of the room exhibits a Peak valley; the front shows a prospect of more distant country, vying with the beauties of the real one, admitted, opposite, through a crystal wall of window, the whole breadth of the apartment. Its chimney-piece, formed of spars, and ores, and shells, represents a grotto. Real pales, painted green, and breast-



## CHAP. VIII.

high, are placed a few inches from the walls, and increase the power of the deception. In these are little wicket gates, that, half open, invite us to ascend the seeming forest banks. The perspective is so well preserved as to produce a landscape deception little inferior to the watery delusion of the celebrated panorama.

Sir Nigel knows well how to animate and diversify the longest summer-day. His sister Louisa, who lives with him, has all the comic graces; and his eldest daughter, an amiable girl of fifteen, wins every person's love and esteem, by the sweetest attentions of innate politeness. One evening, we had a large party on the Trent, which, in its best and clearest expansion, rolls at the foot of the lawn. . . .

## NOTE B.

## PORTRAITS AT DRAKELOWE.

## (I) GRESLEY PORTRAITS

(in chronological order of date of death).

1. Sir George Gresley (xv), K.B., d. 1548. By Zucchero.
2. Catherine, Lady Gresley, *née* Aston, d. 1585.
3. Katherine, Lady Gresley, *née* Walsingham, d. 1585.
4. Walsingham Gresley, d. 1633. By Cornelius Jansen.
5. Thomas Gresley (xix), d. 1642.
6. Sir George Gresley, 1st Bt. (xviii), d. 1651.
7. Ditto (with motto 'Quod desit, dolet').
8. Bridget Gresley, *née* Burdet, d. 1685.
9. Sir Thomas Gresley, 2nd Bt. (xx), d. 1699.
10. Sir William Gresley, 3rd Bt. (xxi), d. 1710.
11. Anne Gresley, sister of the last, d. about 1710-15.
12. Sir Thomas Gresley, 4th Bt. (xxii), d. 1746, with Dorothy Lady Gresley (*née* Bowyer), and their family.
13. Ditto, several miniatures of his children.
14. Sir Thomas Gresley, 5th Bt. (xxiii), d. 1753.
15. Ditto, by Kettle.
16. Sir Nigel Gresley, 6th Bt. (xxiv), d. 1787.
17. Ditto, in naval uniform.
18. Elizabeth, Lady Gresley (*née* Wynne), d. 1793.
19. Wilmot, Lady Gresley (*née* Gresley), d. 1790. By Sir Joshua Reynolds.
20. Sir Nigel Bowyer Gresley, 7th Bt. (xxiv), d. 1808.
21. Ditto, miniature in snuff-box.
22. Rev. William Gresley, of Seile, d. 1829, a miniature.
23. Sir Roger Gresley, 8th Bt. (xxv), d. 1837.  $\frac{3}{4}$  length.
24. Ditto, full length.
25. Ditto,  $\frac{1}{4}$  length.

26. Sir Roger Gresley, 8th Bt. (xxv), d. 1837, a miniature.
27. Ditto, miniature.
28. Ditto, miniature.
29. Sir William Nigel Gresley, 9th Bt. (xxv), d. 1847.
30. Ditto.
31. Lady Sophia Gresley (*née* Coventry), d. 1875.
32. Ditto, miniature.
33. Ditto, miniature.
34. Ditto, miniature.

## (2) MISCELLANEOUS PORTRAITS

(in alphabetical order of names).

35. Sir John Bowyer, d. 1666?
36. 5th Earl of Coventry, d. 1751.
37. Countess of Coventry, *née* Gunning, d. 1760.
38. Lord Dudley, K.G., d. 1532.
39. Duchess of Hamilton, *née* Gunning, d. 1790.
40. King James I, d. 1625.
41. Marchioness of Londonderry, *née* Vane-Tempest, d. 1865 (miniature).
42. Flora Macdonald, d. 1790.
43. Prince Maurice of Nassau, d. 1625. By Mireveldt.
44. Ditto? By F. Bol.
45. Duchess of Montmorency.
46. Sir John Norreys, d. 1597.
47. Duchess of Portsmouth, d. 1734.
48. Bishop Edward Reynolds, d. 1676.
49. Mrs. Reynolds, his wife.
- 50, 51. Lady Rich. By William Honthorst.
52. Countess of Salisbury, *née* Bennet, d. 1713.
53. Lady E. Spencer.

- 
54. Two miniatures of girls.
  55. Miniature of three children.
  56. Picture painted by Lucas Cranach, from the Prince of Monaco's collection.
  57. Picture of a Lady, bought in Italy by Sir Thomas Gresley, 10th Bt.
  58. Picture of a widow-lady, with the arms (apparently) argent, three chevrons gules: of the time of Elizabeth or James I; with three rings on the left hand, which is holding a gold chain.
  59. Picture of a Lady dressed in bright pink, holding a basket of flowers: in French style, in an oval frame.

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60. Picture of a gentleman in blue, with wig: perhaps Sir William Bowyer.
  61. Picture of a gentleman in brown coat with silver buttons, carrying a dog in his hand: in a black frame: probably Sir Thomas Gresley, 4th Bart.
  62. Picture of a Lady, in blue dress, with flowers in her left hand: in a black frame: probably Gertrude, Lady Gresley, *née* Grammer, 2nd wife of the preceding.
  63. Portrait of a Lady, said to be Queen Henrietta Maria.
  64. Portrait of a child with dog.

PORTRAITS AT 55 GREAT CUMBERLAND PLACE, LONDON;  
all from Nether Seile.

65. Sir Thomas Gresley, 2nd Bt., d. 1699.
66. Thomas Gresley, Esq., 2nd son of the 2nd Bt. (?), d. 1743.
67. Mrs. Gresley, *née* Vincent, d. 1769: by Sir Joshua Reynolds.
68. Sir Nigel Gresley, 6th Bt., d. 1787: in naval uniform: a miniature.
69. Mrs. Gresley, *née* Gresley, d. 1806, with her two nieces Mrs. Levett (d. 1845) and Mrs. Heathcote, *née* Gresley (d. 1813): a slightly coloured drawing by J. R. Smith.
70. Miss Hannah Vincent, d. 1808: by Sir Joshua Reynolds.
71. Miss Gresley.
72. Miss Gresley.

PORTRAITS AT BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD.

73. Rev. Sir William Nigel Gresley, 9th Bt., d. 1847: by Buehner.
74. Ditto, a miniature.
75. Georgina Ann, Lady Gresley, *née* Reid, a miniature.

(Note.—The pictures of scenery, the tapestry, the china, the stained glass windows and other treasures of the house cannot be here described.)

## APPENDIXES

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## APPENDIX A

### NOTES RELATING TO THE CASTLE, PRIORY AND CHURCH OF GRESLEY

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#### A. GRESLEY CASTLE.

THE traveller from Burton to Leicester, just before he approaches Gresley station, about four miles from Burton, may notice high above him on a hill to the left, one of those green knolls which are so attractive to the antiquary. The first glance will show him that it is no natural eminence, but a mound raised either for sepulture or for defence. In the present case, the name of the village, the traditions of the place, and the disturbed surface of the field to the north and east of the mound suffice to prove that these are the visible remains of Gresley Castle.

The mound is circular, and even at the present time over twenty feet high, and perhaps 100 yards in circuit at the base, but must have been more imposing before the levelling forces of Nature had worn it down. Its shape and position, however, serve to recall the old Norman earth-mounds on which the donjon keep was erected, and which was the earliest, as it seems likely to be the latest, form of defensive fortification. It is quite possible that surface excavations in the surrounding field would reveal the outline of the courtyards and gateway of the Castle, but till this is done it is unsafe to venture on anything more than a conjecture that these lay chiefly to the north of the keep in the direction of the high-road. There is still a deep fosse round the mound.

No record whatever has come down to us of the building of the place. All that can be said is that when Drakelowe was depopulated at the close of the eleventh century<sup>a</sup> the vill of Gresley<sup>a</sup> profited by its neighbour's fall, and became the abode of the first

<sup>a</sup> See p. 23.

- APP. A. Gresley. In about 1150 we find a deed of the Earl of Chester<sup>b</sup> dated 'apud Greselegam,' and it is natural to assume that William Fitz-Nigel de Gresley had before then planned or begun the fortifications, probably adapting them to suit a pre-existing mound<sup>c</sup>: but whether the outer works were military or domestic, cannot be determined, nor does the name of Castle Gresley occur before 1268<sup>d</sup>. The building must have been abandoned by about that date, or we should have found some mention of it in existing documents.
- <sup>b</sup> See p. 25.
- <sup>c</sup> See at foot.
- <sup>d</sup> See p. 26.

### B. GRESLEY PRIORY.

- On a ridge of high ground, about a mile east of the Castle, but separated from it by a wide valley, stood the Priory of Gresley, built by William Fitz-Nigel de Gresley, who probably died in 1166<sup>e</sup>. It was dedicated to St. George, and contained Canons Regular of the order of St. Augustine. The following account by the Rev. J. M. Gresley gives a description of the excavations undertaken by him in 1861, the results of which are shown in the plan of the priory:—
- <sup>e</sup> See p. 27.

#### *The Priory of St. George of Gresley, Derbyshire.*

(Ashby-de-la-Zouch, 1861, 8<sup>o</sup>.)

- In the reign of King Henry the First, A.D. 1100-1135, William de Gresley, son of Nigel de Stafford (mentioned in Domesday-Book), founded near his Castle of Gresley, Derbyshire, a small Priory of Canons Regular of the Order of St. Augustine, dedicated to St. George. It subsequently received other grants of land; and shortly before the first dissolution of Monasteries in 1536 by Henry the Eighth, it was found possessed of property in Gresley, Linton, Swadlingcote, Harthcote\*, Newton, Boothorpe, Seile, Donisthorpe, Oakthorpe, Chilcote, and Foremark, and of the rectory of Lullington, of the clear value of £31 6s. 0d. per annum. In 1543 the King sold the site of the Priory and the bulk of its estates to Henry Criche, probably one of the many speculators in Monastic property at that period. Thirteen years afterwards it passed to Sir Christopher Alleyne, of the Mote, in Kent, the first of that family who settled at Gresley, son of Sir John Alleyne, twice Lord Mayor of London in the reign of Henry the Eighth, who by his will gave a rich gold collar and jewel to be worn by the Lord Mayor and his successors. From the Alleynes it passed in the last century to the Meynells, and afterwards to the Gresleys of Drakelow.
- <sup>\*</sup> Heathcote.

<sup>e</sup> In the eleventh and twelfth centuries the natural form of keep would be square, *unless* an existing mound made a circular or nearly circular shape more convenient.

The late Sir Roger Gresley, Bart., sold it in 1827. The site of the Priory had been previously detached from the Gresley Hall estate.

The Canons Regular of the Order of St. Augustine, or Black Canons, as they were called from the colour of their habit or dress, combined the duties of parish priests and monks. Consequently the same Church was frequently a divided property; the Nave belonging to the parishioners, the Chancel or Choir to the Canons. Such probably being the case at Gresley, the Choir of the Church was sold by the King, as well as the domestic buildings of the Monastery and its estates. These edifices were most likely very soon demolished; partly from fear of their being again demanded for Divine Service, and partly, we may suppose, to build a residence, Gresley Hall, for Sir Christopher Alleyne. The parishioners still retained their Nave, and the land north of the Church as their burial-ground; but the rest, which had belonged to the Canons, was desecrated. In the year 1840 the site of the Choir was purchased as an addition to the parish burial-ground: human remains being found there, the Bishop of Lichfield considered that consecration of it was not required. The rapid increase of population in the place since that time now demands a further enlargement, and the Earl Howe, as trustee to the Marquis of Hastings, to whom the land immediately south of the Church belongs, has consented to a grant of a piece of ground for that purpose. It was therefore necessary to ascertain whether this had been consecrated, and an opportunity was also thus given for the investigation of any remains which might exist of the Monastic Edifice.

Thirty-two feet south of the south-east angle of the Tower of the Church, (which stands at the east end of the north aisle of the Nave,) the foundation of a thick wall was discovered running southward. Fragments of windows of the fourteenth century, of painted glass, and of encaustic tiles with coats of arms and various devices, were found above it. On the west side of it a Stone Coffin, cut out of a single block, with a circular cavity for the head and tapering to the feet, was discovered; and on the left side of this another Coffin formed of upright slabs of stone. These contained human remains carefully placed. Four other interments were found side-by-side of these: one of them had been buried in a wooden Coffin: another seemed to have had stones placed around him after he had been laid in the earth: the other two appeared to have been buried without any protection. No rings or other valuables were found with them; only a copper buckle or two, which probably fastened the girdle of their habit in which they were buried. The arms or hands of all had been religiously crossed in front of the body. Lying thus undisturbed in a row they presented a striking appearance. Further westward of these was another interment, and four more on the east side of the wall. Of the latter, one was in a Stone Coffin similar to that first found. The stone lid was upon it, but broken, ornamented with a Cross, the ends terminating with *Fleurs-de-lis*, but without date or inscription. Upon removing this, the remains were found to have been previously disturbed. Coffins of this description were in use chiefly during the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries, to which period these may be assigned, containing in all



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probability the bodies of Priors and other inmates of the house. The absence of anything valuable in them may be accounted for by the limited income of the establishment: the Canons could not afford to bury such things.

Another foundation of a thick wall, eastward of the one first found, and parallel with it, was discovered. A bevel on the east side of it showed that to have been the outside. On the west side of it were the remains of a fire-place with a stone fender. By the side of this a large drain was found, running south and south-west with the fall of the ground. Many other foundations of walls running north and south, east and west, were discovered, but at present not so connectedly as to allow any plan of the buildings to be ascertained. There are, however, indications that the Priory was built on the usual plan, with a Cloister-court, surrounded by the Chapter-house, Refectory, Dormitory, &c. There can be no doubt that this was the burial-place of the Canons, some of them probably in the Cloister-court, others in the Chapter-house. The greatest care has been taken to prevent the remains being treated with disrespect, and, considering the thousands of persons who have visited the spot, successfully so. It is intended that they shall be re-interred, and a commemorative stone set over them.

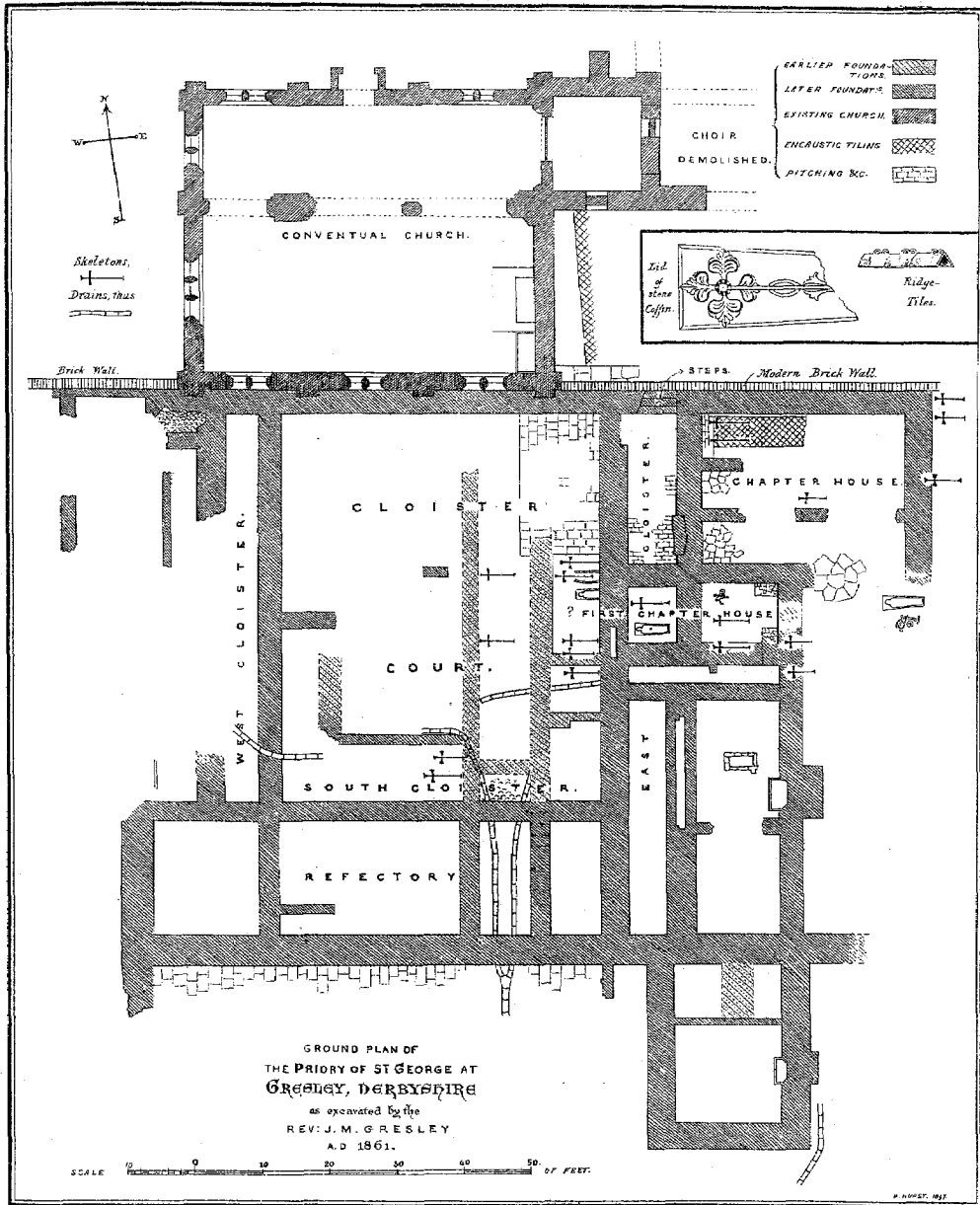
Contributions towards the expenses, however small, will be gladly received by

J. M. GRESLEY,  
Over Seile,  
Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

May 18, A. D. 1861.

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Further excavations have brought to light the foundations of ranges of buildings, forming three sides of a quadrangular Court, the Church on the north side forming the fourth. On the east, south, and west sides there are evidences of Cloisters, contiguous to which on the east side were the Chapter-house, and three or four other apartments, one of which had evidently been used for melting the lead at the time of the dissolution, many strips and fragments of which lay about, and also coal, dross, and the pipe of the bellows. In the Chapter-house lay several of the Canons, who had been buried in wooden Coffins, the nails of which remained. Here also were many fragments of painted glass of the fourteenth century, portions of a base and columns of Purbeck marble, some copper plates, probably from the bindings of books, two silver pennies of Kings Edward the First and Second, the floriated termination of an iron door-hinge, and a large key. Outside the south-eastern angle of the quadrangle was an apartment with a fire-place: this is the usual position of the Prior's Lodging. On the south side of the Court was the Refectory, with two small apartments at the east end. The range of buildings extending along the west of the Quadrangle probably comprised the kitchen and domestic offices, if we may so conjecture from the drains found there. The junction of the domestic buildings with the Church has not been satisfactorily made out. North



of the Chapter-house was found part of a passage with a pavement of yellow and black tiles, with a row of others along it with shields of arms and knots, arranged lozenge-wise. In the east Cloister was discovered another Stone Coffin, with a ponderous lid of sandstone without ornament or inscription. This Coffin was of harder stone and of better workmanship than the other two. The bones contained in it had not been previously disturbed. Further northward in the same Cloister was another Coffin formed of several stones: this had been previously opened. Several other interments were found in this and in the south Cloister. Near the Prior's Lodging some circular pieces of black and yellow pottery were found, probably for the game of tables or backgammon; also broken drinking-cups with two handles, and (particularly may be noticed) the iron shoeing of a mediaeval spade.

October, A. D. 1861.

A careful diary of the excavations was kept by the writer of the above Account, and from it and other notes Mr. Herbert Hurst has skilfully compiled the ground-plan which is here reproduced.

#### ANNALS OF THE PRIORY.

No connected history of the Priory is possible, from the scantiness of the materials which have come down to us, and from the small size of the foundation, which was no doubt destitute of any of the appendages of larger houses, such as a Register or Chartulary<sup>f</sup>. All that can be done is to put down in chronological order the succession of abbots and a few records of individual canons and deeds of gift. The chief references for the House, other than papers at Drakelowe, are, Dugdale's *Monasticon* (ed. Ellis, vi. 410: a meagre account), remarks by Pegge in *Archæologia* v. 24, and Cox's *Derbyshire Churches* (iii. 367-376).

An apparent dedication to St. Mary as well as St. George occurs in an abstract of a lost charter of 1268<sup>g</sup>, in which the words run, 'Conventus Beatæ Mariæ de Gresele,' but this is probably due to carelessness of the scribe for the fuller expression which is found in Gresley Charter 34<sup>h</sup>, 'Deo et Sanctæ Mariæ et Sancto Georgio de Gresele,' in which the mention of St. Mary the Virgin has nothing to do with the dedication of the house.

About A. D. 1150. Foundation of the Priory by William fitz-Nigel de Gresley, see p. 26.

1151-7. The first prior was no doubt **Reginald**, who is only once mentioned, as a witness to a deed of Henry fitz-Saward which cannot be later than 1157 or earlier than 1151<sup>i</sup>. The

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<sup>f</sup> No. 5448 in Bernard's 1697 Catalogue of MSS., now in the College of Arms, is connected with the Abbey of Beauvale in Gresley co. Notts: so too Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6060.

<sup>g</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 20.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid. p. 23.

<sup>i</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 3650, foll. 18 = p. 33 and 82<sup>v</sup> = p. 164: printed in Shirley's *Stemmata Shireiana*, 1st ed. app. p. 6, 2nd ed. p. 346.

- APP. A. 'Reginaldus canonicus' and 'frater Gilbertus' who were witnesses to an undated deed of Robert de Gresley (occ. 1166-circa 1183<sup>j</sup>) may have been of this house.
- <sup>j</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 15.
- <sup>k\*</sup> Red Bk. of Exch. (Rolls Ser.) i. 68. 1186-7. Mention of the Priory of Gresley as in the Honour of Lancaster<sup>j\*</sup>.
- <sup>k</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, fol. 33. **Walter** was prior in the first half of the thirteenth century<sup>k</sup>.
- <sup>l</sup> Gresley Charters 76, 152; cf. Gresl. Chartul. p. 21. **Richard**, whose counter-seal occurs on a deed of the time of Henry iii<sup>l</sup>, was prior not later than about 1240<sup>m</sup>, and died in 1281.
- <sup>m</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 29; cf. Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 8157, fol. 52. 1281. On May 26 the Priory petitioned<sup>n</sup> their patron, through W. de Seile and J. de Bromley, to allow them to elect their own prior, Richard having lately died. No doubt this **William de Seile** then succeeded, as he occurs as Prior in 1291<sup>o</sup>.
- <sup>n</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, p. 40. 128<sup>o</sup>/<sub>8</sub>, Feb. 16. Robert de Gresley, presumably a canon of this house, was on that day elected Abbot of Roucester, but as another abbot on March 20, 128<sup>o</sup>/<sub>9</sub>, received the temporalities, he either died before that date or possibly even came back to Gresley as Prior on William's death, for a **Robert** prior occurs in 1308<sup>p</sup> and in an undated deed<sup>q</sup>.
- <sup>o</sup> Salt Soc. xvi. p. 269 = Ridw. Chartul.
- <sup>p</sup> Lichf. Reg. i. 70<sup>v</sup>.
- <sup>q</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, p. 40. 1311. **Roger de Aston** was elected<sup>r</sup> Prior, and occurs in 1328<sup>s</sup> and 1341<sup>t</sup>.
- <sup>r</sup> Lichf. Reg. i. 45.
- <sup>s</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6671, p. 34. 1316, June 17. A decree<sup>u</sup> was issued by the Bishop of Lichfield for a reformation of the priory in the matter of pensions and the like.
- <sup>t</sup> Bodl. MS. Ashm. 833, p. 430: with drawing of the Prior's private seal.
- <sup>u</sup> Lichf. Reg. i. 53<sup>v</sup>.
- <sup>v</sup> Ibid. ii. 78<sup>v</sup>, 81, 88<sup>v</sup>.
- <sup>w</sup> Ibid. ii. 87. 1341, July 1. Radulphus de Bentele is made Vicar<sup>v</sup> of Lullington, but soon died and was succeeded on Oct. 11, 1344, by Simon de Longdon, who was followed on his demise by Radulphus de Fenny Drayton on Nov. 10, 1349. All three were Canons of Gresley.
- <sup>x</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 42. 1349, Aug. 26. **John Walrant**, formerly Canon, was appointed Prior<sup>w</sup>.
- <sup>y</sup> Cox's Derb. Chh. iii. 389. 1360-1. **John Gresley** occurs as Prior<sup>x</sup>: and in 136<sup>z</sup>/<sub>3</sub> an inquisition of 37 Edw. 3, Jan. 28 shows that Sir John de Gresley gave lands in Heathcote, Swadlincote and Church Gresley.
- <sup>z</sup> Lichf. Reg. vi. 145. 1389. **John Ray**, Canon of Gresley, is made Vicar of Lullington<sup>y</sup>.
- <sup>a</sup> Bodl. MS. Dodsw. 22, p. 5. 1400. In this year **John de Tutbury**, who was in 1389 a Canon<sup>z</sup> and sub-deacon, was appointed Prior. He occurs in 1409<sup>a</sup>, and



Gresley : Church : Derbyshire :  
Drawn in Anastatic by Alfred H. Clarke : A.D. : 1859 : from a sketch by S. Shaw : engraved by Ravenhill : for the :  
Topographer : of : October : 1789 .

*Gresleys of Drakelow*

*Plate IV*

GRESLEY CHURCH  
(from a sketch of A.D. 1789)

is accused in 1413 of abducting<sup>b</sup> a nun of Brewood, but obtains acquittal. He died in 1420<sup>d</sup>.

1420. Simon Balsham is 'vice Superioris fungens<sup>e</sup>,' presumably in the interregnum.

1420, Sept. 13. **William de Sancto Ivone** was elected Prior<sup>d</sup>, he and John de Bredon having been the two chosen by the Priory, between whom their patron Sir Thomas de Gresley should make choice. He was undoubtedly Prior at his death in Dec. 1438 or Jan. 1438<sup>g</sup>, so that Cox's mention of William Sayborne as Prior in 1438 must be an error: probably 'Saiburne' is a misreading of de 'S̄c̄o Yuone.'

1429. John de Burton, Canon of Gresley, was made Vicar<sup>e</sup> of Lullington.

1438<sup>g</sup>, Jan. 26. **Richard of Coventry** was installed<sup>f</sup> Prior, having been recommended<sup>s</sup> for the office to Sir Thomas de Gresley on the 21st by the Priory through their Sub-Prior John de Bredon, on the death of William de Sancto Ivone. Richard occurs as a witness in 1447<sup>h</sup>.

1439. William Catton<sup>i</sup>, Canon of Gresley, was made Prior of Erdbury in Warwickshire.

1450. Of **Thomas**, stated by Cox<sup>j</sup> to be Prior in this year, I have not found other record before 1467, when he was elected<sup>k</sup> a member of the Gild of St. Mary at Lichfield.

1453. Ralph Lyng, Canon of Gresley, was made Rector<sup>l</sup> of Harshorn in Derbyshire.

1476. **John Smith** is stated by Cox<sup>m</sup> to have been appointed in this year and to have died in 1493. In 1487 he was a brother<sup>n</sup> of the Gild of St. Mary at Lichfield.

1493. **Robert Mogge** is stated by Cox<sup>m</sup> to have been in this year appointed Prior: he occurs as such in 1503<sup>o</sup> and 1510<sup>p</sup>.

1520. **John Okely** was prior in this year<sup>q</sup> and in 1528<sup>r</sup>, and until the storm of the Reformation burst upon the house. On May 1, 1537, Letters Patent granted to him a pension<sup>s</sup> of £6 a year for life.

1529. John Cowopp, Canon of Gresley, was made Vicar of Lullington<sup>t</sup>.

In Dec. 1535 the Royal Commissioners (probably Layton and Leigh) visited the Priory, and in 1536 it was surrendered into the hands of the King. After this the whole fabric of the Priory fell

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- <sup>b</sup> Salt Soc. xvii. 17, 53, cf. 59.  
<sup>c</sup> Gresl. Chartul. p. 53.  
<sup>d</sup> Gresl. Charters 402<sup>A</sup>, 402<sup>B</sup>, 402<sup>C</sup>.  
<sup>e</sup> Cox's *Derb. Chh.* iii. 389.  
<sup>f</sup> *Lichf. Reg.* ix. 89<sup>b</sup>.  
<sup>g</sup> Gresl. Charter 416.  
<sup>h</sup> MS. of S. P. Wolferstan.  
<sup>i</sup> Dugd. *Warwickshire* (ed. 1730) p. 1076.  
<sup>j</sup> *Derb. Chh.* iii. 370, from the *Lich. Episc. Reg.*  
<sup>k</sup> Harwood's *Lichfield* (1806) p. 404.  
<sup>l</sup> Cox's *Derb. Chh.* iii. 380.  
<sup>m</sup> Cox, ut supra, iii. 370 (from the *Lichf. Episc. Registers*).  
<sup>n</sup> Harwood's *Lichfield*, pp. 310, 320, 322, 329, 408, 413.  
<sup>o</sup> Sir Tho. Gresley's Will.  
<sup>p</sup> Gresley Charter 463.  
<sup>q</sup> *Ibid.* 476.  
<sup>r</sup> Harwood's *Lichfield*, p. 413.  
<sup>s</sup> Bodl. MS. Rawl. C. 134, fol. 135.  
<sup>t</sup> Cox's *Derb. Chh.* iii. 389.

APP. A.

into decay, with the exception of the Priory Church which became the parish Church of Gresley.

The successive owners or (in italics) tenants of the site have been Henry Criche or Cruche (1540), *Richard Appleton* (?), *John Seymour* (1550), Sir Christopher Allen (1558), *Richard Dale* (1616), the Meynells (eighteenth century), and the Gresleys of Drakelowe (from about 1775 to 1828).

### SEALS AND ARMS OF THE PRIORY.

The seal of the Priory is known in at least three forms:—

1. As sketched in the Gresley Chartulary at p. 19 (no. 3: cf. Jeayes, no. 52), in connexion with a deed of about A. D. 1220-30. In this St. George, the patron saint, is depicted on horseback, bearing a long lance and a kite-shaped shield, the whole of which is visible, with the legend SIGILLVM:PRIORATVS:STI:GEORGH:DE:GRESELEY. This appears to be the seal drawn in Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 8157, fol. 21, from a Portsea MS.

2. The second seal, and the only one known to be still in existence, is on a deed at Drakelowe of the time of Prior Richard (about A. D. 1250), no. 76 in Mr. Jeayes's *Catalogue*, and described with a facsimile in that work (p. x and plate 1). It represents St. George in armour on horseback, bearing a long lance with a gonfanon, and a kite-shaped shield, half of which is visible, apparently charged with an escarbuncle of eight rays. The legend is SIGILLVM:SANCTI:GEORGH:DE:GRESELE. On the reverse is the counter-seal or secretum of the Prior.

3. The third seal is known from sketches of it in three places in the Gresley Chartulary (pp. 31 and 53), attached to deeds of the dates 1281, 1300-1 and 1420. In this also St. George is represented on horseback, but the lance has given place to an uplited sword, a dragon is depicted beneath, and the horse bears on two places a cross pattee, which is also on the shield. Behind the rider is a small shield with the Gresley arms, and the legend is SIGILLVM:CŌVENTVS:STI:GEORGH:DE:GRESLEYA. A drawing of this is in Bodl. MS. Ashm. 833, fol. 430, as from a deed owned in 1658 by a Mr. Turnepenny, sub-chanter of Lichfield Cathedral, and dated 1341, which bore at the back of the seal a secretum Prioris.

Leland (*Collectanea*, vol. i. p. 49) depicts the arms of the Priory

'ex sigillo' as a cross pattee impaling the Gresley arms, but he probably took this from the third seal above.

APP. A.

### C. GRESLEY CHURCH.

(From W. Wyrley's copy, in 1592, of the Visitation of Derbyshire of 1569, in Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 6592.)

The Church of Gresley hath in it thes Armes followinge | it is seated 2 miles from the Trent, amongst the woodes, whear William the sonn of Nigell de Gresley founded a priorie in the honore of St. George, the Ruines wherof remayne | of which priorie the Gresleys wear patrons and had a necessarie voyce in the election of the pryore | it doth appear to me by manie circumstances yt the Gresleys had the full co[m]plement of our Auncient Barrons; As fyrst, the hundred of Gresley, being one of the divisiones of this Countie of Darbie, to be held by the Gresleys in Barinagio | then a pryorie of their foundation, then their Castle of their own Surnam, seted within a mile of the pryorie, toward the Trent | then | their parke | at Draklow, the Ancient seat of their house | And last that in old records roles and Cronicles of Antiquitie the name of Gresley is euer numbered amongst the Barones: This William the founder | had yssue Robert de Gresley knight whom Mathew Paris remembereth, in k. John and Henrie the third: lyffe whoe had yssue William, whoe had yssue Geofferey, whoe had yssue William, whoe had yssue Gefforey, whoe had yssue Peter, whoe had yssue Gefforey, whoe had yssue John, who had yssue Nicholas who had yssue Thomas, whoe had yssue John, whoe had yssue John whoe had yssue Thomas, whoe had yssue George, whoe had yssue William Gresley (as the rest from the begining | had been knight) whoe had yssue Thomas Gresley esquier | my very good friend of whom I may rightly with the poet say: ille nobis hæc otia fecit: The pleasant sytuation of Draklow, (vpon the banke of Trent on the South, northwest one mile from the Chastell of Gresley) I will passe over, as not able to discribe the exelencie therof x at the subuersion of the priorie of Gresley many their monuments perished, in the parish Church thes under tricked remayning [*then follow* eleven shields in trick, of France, England, Vere, Beauchamp, Clare, Burgh, Stafford, Appleby (?), Gresley, Gasteneys: the eleventh is, argent two wolves or hounds sable, and the next sentence refers to this coat:—] ther is one verie old monument of thes 2 woolfes in a syde vestment of whyt upon his mayle, kneling | of the time of H: the third at the least: [*then*



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*follows, separate :—*] Hear Iyeth the Bodie of Sr George Gresley knight and ladie katheren his wyff | Hetherto Gresley Church in Darbyshier.

(For the church, its monuments, and its vicissitudes Cox's *Derbyshire Churches*, iii. 367-376, is the fullest and best authority : see also the *Topographer* for 1789.)

THE MONUMENT OF SIR THOMAS GRESLEY IN  
GRESLEY CHURCH.

The finest monument in the church is undoubtedly that of Sir Thomas Gresley, the second Baronet, who died in 1699. After his death William Inge, whose mother was Sir Thomas's eldest daughter, seems to have had the chief direction of this memorial, and soon after 1699 was in correspondence with Gregory King, Lancaster herald, about the armorial details. Not only has an elaborate paper <sup>u</sup> by King come down to us, slightly injured, but also a minute description <sup>u</sup> of the whole monument, dated October, 1777. The following paragraphs are from the latter document :—

<sup>u</sup> At Drake-  
lowe.

'In the Abbey Church of Gresley, com. Derb., on the left hand of the altar up to the wall is a large Monument of about 12 foot high and 9 foot over ; under an Arch of Alabaster the figure of Sir Tho: Gresley kneeling. Above the arch two urns, on each side one, from each Urn a Mantle hanging down reaches to two mourning boys, the one with his arms across, the other covering his face with a mantle ; under the pedestal of one boy the arms of Gasteneys, under the other the arms of Morewood (as being the only heiresses with whom the family match'd) : within the Arch a black Marble-table flat to the wall with this inscription

Sir Thomas Gresley  
of Drakelow  
in the County of Derby Baronet  
Died the 5 of June 1699  
Aged 70

At the Top of the Monument the sheild of Sir Tho: Gresley Bart., namely, Quarterly Gresley and Gasteneys with an inescoccheon of Morewood—a Canton for Baronet.

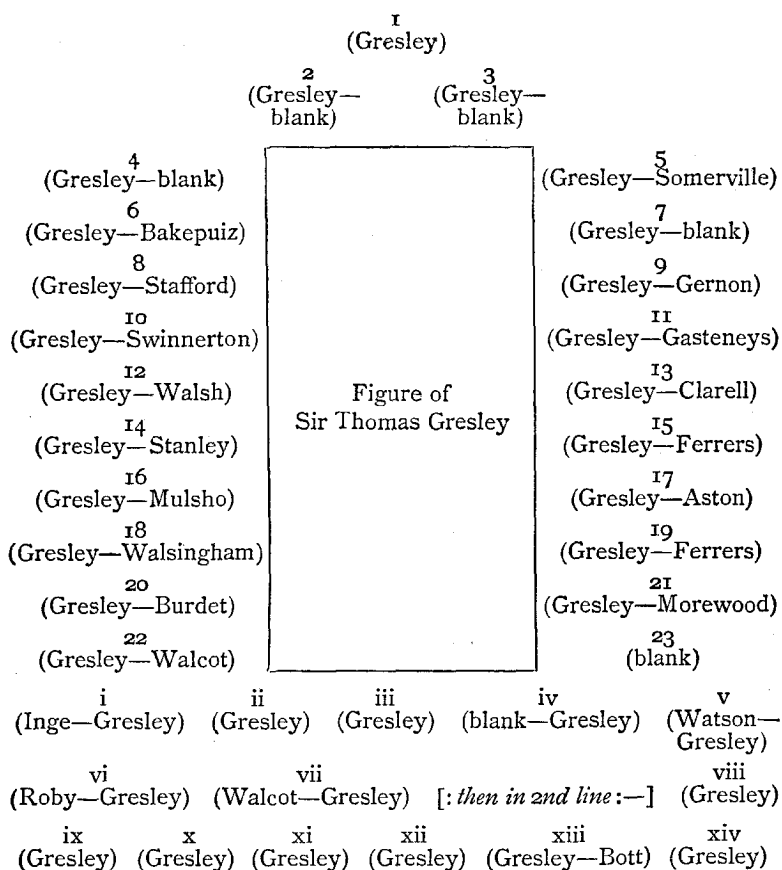
Round the Arch are 23 Escocheons placed as they are in this paper, and below the Stone on which Sir Thomas kneels are fourteen Escocheons without names placed as in this paper for the fourteen children of Sir Tho: and Dame Frances his wife. The

whole Monument is of Alabaster adorned with gold except the black inscription-table

APP A.

The work of Sir W<sup>m</sup> Wilson'

The arrangement of the arms is as follows, 1-23 being the chief Escutcheons and i-xiv the smaller ones of the children of Sir Thomas. The names of families are here added in brackets, but are represented by coats of arms only, in the original.



Among the other Gresley monuments at present in the Church are memorials (1) to Elizabeth, Isabel and Katharine Gresley, see p. 94; (2) to Dorothy Lady Gresley, see p. 104; (3) Wilmot Lady Gresley, see p. 119; (4) Nigel, son of Sir N. B. Gresley, see p. 120.

## APPENDIX B

### NOTES ON THE MANORS AND POSSESSIONS OF THE FAMILY

To trace the acquisition and devolution of the Gresley property in detail would require a volume for itself, the materials being copious and well-preserved. All that can be attempted in the present Appendix is to provide a frame-work which some future antiquary can use, by quoting the earliest authorities on the Gresley possessions, and subjoining an alphabetical list of the various places in which successive generations of the family have held property, with a few notes.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 naturally supplies the starting-point, to be succeeded by the early Pipe Rolls, the evidences of the Black and Red Books of the Exchequer, the Testa de Nevill, and the Hundred Rolls. The entries in these, as being of primary importance, will be given in full.

#### I.

ENTRIES RELATING TO NIGEL DE STAFFORD OR THE GRESLEYS  
IN THE DOMESDAY SURVEY, THE EARLY PIPE ROLLS, THE  
RED AND BLACK BOOKS OF THE EXCHEQUER, THE TESTA  
DE NEVILL, THE ROTULI HUNDREDORUM, AND PLACITA DE  
QUO WARRANTO.

A. *Domesday* (A. D. 1086).

Derbyshire.

vi. TERRA HENRICI DE FERIERES.

Catton in  
Croxall.

Manerium. In CHETVN habuit Siuuard iij carucatas terre ad  
geldam. Terra iij carucarum. Ibi nunc in dominio iij caruce  
& xiiij uillani & ij bordarij habent iiij carucas & xxiiij acras

prati. Silua minor i quarentena longitudine & i quarentena latitudine. T. R. E. & modo ualet lx solidos. Nigellus tenet. APP. B.  
—

x. TERRA RADVLFI FILII HVBERTI.

Berewica. In Vffentune iiij bouatę terrę ad geldam. Terra dimidię caruę. Berewica in Pentric. Wasta est. Ibi ij acreę prati. Silua pasturabilis dimidia leuaa longitudine & iiij quarentenę latitudine. Nigellus tenet. Ufton in  
South Win-  
field.

xijij. TERRA NIGELLI DE STATFORD.

Manerium. In DRACHELAVVE & Hedcote. habuit Elric iiij carucatas terrę ad geldam. Terra iiij carucarum. Jbi modo Nigellus de Stadford habet in dominio iiij carucas & vj uillanos habentes ij carucas. Ibi est sedes j molini & xij acreę prati. Silua pasturabilis ij leuuę & dimidium longitudine & ij leuuę latitudine. T. R. E. ualebat lx solidos. modo xl. Drakelowe  
and Heath-  
cote.

Manerium. In STAPENHILLE. habuit Godric vi bouatas terrę ad geldam. Terra i caruę. Jbi nunc in dominio i caruca & iiij uillani & iiij bordarij habent i carucam. Ibi iiij acreę prati. Silua minor i quarentena longitudine & i latitudine. T. R. E. & modo ualet x solidos. Stapenhill.

Manerium. In SIVARDINGESCOTES. habuit Godric i carucatam terrę ad geldam. Terra i caruę. Jbi nunc in dominio i caruca & iiij uillani & ij bordarij habent i carucam. & i censarius habet i carucam. Ibi i acra prati. Silua pasturabilis iiij quarentenę longitudine & iiij latitudine. T. R. E. ualebat xx solidos modo xxx. Swadlincote.

Manerium. In FORNEVVERCHE. habuit Vlchel ij carucatas terrę ad geldam. Terra ij carucarum. Jbi nunc in dominio i caruca & v uillani & iiij bordarij habent i carucam. Ibi i molinus ij solidorum & xx. iiij acreę prati. Silua pasturabilis dimidia leuaa longitudine & tantundem latitudine. T. R. E. ualebat xl solidos modo xv solidos. Foremark.

Soca. In Englebi iiij bouatę terrę ad geldam. Terra iiij boum. Soca eiusdem Manerij. Ibi i uillanus & ii bordarij cum dimidia caruca & iiij acreę prati. Ingleby.

Soca. In Tichenhalle i carucata terrę ad geldam. Terra i caruę. Soca pertinet ad Rapendun Manerium regis. Ibi habet Ticknall.  
(Repton.)

- APP. B.  
 Nigellus i carucam in dominio & i uillanum & i bordarium cum i caruca. Ibi x acre prati. Valet ij solidos. Quarta pars silue pasturabilis eiusdem uille, cuius longitudo est i leuua & latitudo dimidia leuua. pertinet ad Nigellum.
- Smisby. Manerium. In SMIDESBI. habuit Eduinus ij carucatas terre ad geldam. Terra ij carucarum. Ibi nunc in dominio i caruca & v uillani cum i caruca. Silua pasturabilis dimidia leuua longitudine & vi quarentene latitudine. T. R. E. ualebat xl solidos. modo xx solidos.
- Ravenston (in Leicestershire). Manerium. In RAVENSTVN. habet Godric i carucatum terre ad geldam. Terra i caruce. Wasta est. Ibi viij acre prati. T. R. E. ualebat xv solidos. modo xij denarios.
- Donisthorp. Manerium. In DYRANDESTORP. habet Carle i carucatum terre ad geldam. Terra dimidie caruce. Wasta est. T. R. E. ualebat v solidos. modo iiij denarios.
- Oakthorp. Manerium. In ACHETORP. habet Ernuin vi bouatas terre ad geldam. Terra dimidie caruce. Wasta est. T. R. E. ualebat v solidos. modo iiij denarios.
- Trangsbj (unknown). Manerium. In TRANGESBY. habet Elnod dimidiam carucatum terre ad geldam. Wasta est. T. R. E. ualebat v solidos. modo ij denarios.

### Leicestershire.

#### xiiii. TERRA HENRICI DE FERIERES.

- Twycross. Nigellus tenet de Henrico vi carucatas terre in TVICROS. T. R. E. erant ibi vi caruce. In dominio est i caruca cum i seruo. & xi uillani cum vi bordarijs habent vi carucas. Valuit ij solidos. Modo xl solidos.
- Swepestone. Nigellus tenet de H[enrico] x carucatas terre in SCOPESTONE. T. R. E. erant ibi x caruce. In dominio sunt ij caruce. & xv uillani cum presbitero & ij bordarij habent vi carucas. Ibi xij acre prati. Valuit xij denarios. Modo xl solidos. De hac terra T. R. E. tenuit Sbern ij carucatas terre. & quo uoluit ire potuit. Reliquam terram tenuit Leuric. cuius terram tenet Osmundus episcopus.
- Winshill (?) in Derbyshire. Nigellus tenet de H[enrico] in WINDESERS ij carucatas terre uastas. T. R. E. erant ibi ij caruce. Aluric libere tenuit.
- Linton, in Derbyshire. Nigellus tenet de H[enrico] in LINTONE i carucatum terre uastam.

**Staffordshire.**

ii. TERRA EPISCOPI DE CESTRE.

- . . . . .
- Ipse episcopus tenet HVSTEDONE. & Picot de eo. & Nigellus de Hixon.  
 Picot. Ibi <sup>a</sup> Ibi sunt v uillani cum ij carucis & iij acre prati. <sup>a</sup> In marg.  
 Valuit & ualet x solidos & ix denarios. 'Require  
 quanta terra.'
- Ipse episcopus tenet VLSELEI. & Nigellus de eo. Ibi dimidia hida Wolsley.  
 pertinet ad Haiuode. Ibi sunt iij uillani & ij bordarij cum  
 i caruca & iij acre prati. Valuit & ualet xl denarios.
- . . . . .
- Ipse episcopus tenet SCOTESLEI. & Nigellus de eo. Ibi ij carucate Scotsley  
 terre. In dominio est una caruca. & viij uillani & ij bordarij (unknown).  
 cum i caruca. Ibi i acra prati. Valet x solidos.
- Ipse episcopus tenet MORTONE. & Nigellus de eo. Ibi ij carucate Morton, in  
 terre. In dominio est una caruca. & ij uillani & iij bordarij Colwich.  
 cum dimidia caruca. Ibi ij acre prati. Valet v solidos.
- Ipse episcopus tenet DREGETONE. & Nigellus de eo. Ibi est unus Drointon.  
 uillanus cum dimidia caruca. Valuit & ualet xxx denarios.
- . . . . .
- Ipse episcopus tenet LICEFELLE . . . Ad ipsum Manerium pertinent Tamhorn.  
 hec membra . . . Tamahore terra iij carucarum. Nigellus  
 tenet . . .

xiii. TERRA RICARDI FORESTARIJ.

- RICARDVS Forestarius tenet de rege TVRVOLDESFELD. & Nigel de Thursfield.  
 eo. Bernulfus tenuit & liber homo fuit. Ibi est i uirgata terre.  
 Terra est ij carucarum. Ibi est una [caruca?] cum ij uillanis  
 & i bordario. Silua i leua longitudine & tantundem latitudine.  
 Valet x solidos.
- Isdem R. tenet Witemore. & Nigel de eo. Vlfac tenuit & liber Whitmore.  
 homo fuit. Ibi est dimidia hida. Terra est iij carucarum. In  
 dominio est una [caruca] & iij uillani & ij bordarij cum i caruca.  
 Ibi i acra prati. Silua i leua longitudine & dimidium  
 latitudine. Valet x solidos.
- . . . . .
- Isdem R. tenet HENEFORD. & Nigellus de eo. Ibi est una uirgata Handford.  
 terre. Terra est i caruce. Vasta est. Toulf tenuit. Silua  
 modica xx pertice in longitudine & latitudine. Valet ij solidos.
- . . . . .
- Isdem R. tenet CLAITONE. & Nigel de eo. Clayton.

## APP. B.

## XV. TERRA RADVLFI FILII HVBERTI.

Kingsley. Isdem Robertus de Buci [qui tenet ii hidas in Bretlei de Radulfo] tenet in CHINGESLEI i hidam de Radulfo. & Nigel de eo. Leuric tenuit & liber homo fuit. Terra est i caruce. Jpsa est in dominio. & ii acre prati. Silua ibi i leuaa longitudine & iiij quarentene latitude. Valuit vi solidos. modo x solidos.

## XVI. TERRA NIGELLI.

Thorp Constantine. NIGELLVS tenet TORP. Jbi sunt iii hide. Terra est vi carucarum. In dominio est una & vij uillani & vi bordarii habent iiij carucas. Ibi viij acre prati. Valuit xx solidos. modo xl solidos. Vluuinus tenuit. Hanc terram calumniatur Nicolaus ad firmam regis in Cliftone.

## In CHINGESLEIA.

Kingsley. Idem Nigellus tenet de rege iij hidas. Terra est iij carucarum. Leuric libere tenuit T. R. E. Ibi sunt iiij uillani & vij bordarij cum i caruca & dimidio. & una acra prati. De ipsa terra tenet Liolfus ij hidas de Nigello. Totum ualet xvij solidos.

Morton in Gnosall. Idem N[igellus] tenet i hidam in MORTONE. Terra ij carucarum & ij uillani & ij bordarij cum i caruca. Valet x solidos.

NOTE ON NIGEL DE STAFFORD'S DOMESDAY TENURES, AND THEIR PROBABLE DEVOLUTION TILL ABOUT 1200 (partly based on information from Gen. Wrottesley).

Of their Domesday manors in Derbyshire the Gresleys lost :—	And they gained in their place :—
Foremark	Bilstone
Ingleby	Coton
Smisby	Gresley (two manors)
Stapenhill	Heather
Ticknall	Linton (a second fee)
Trangsby	Lullington
Twycross	Norton
	Swannington (a small estate)
	Perhaps all acquired by exchange in the first quarter of the twelfth century.

Donisthorp, Drakelowe, Heathcote, Oakthorp, Ravenston and Swadlincote were retained.

To 'promote' (that is, set up) Ralph de Gresley (p. 28) some manors were alienated, for he obtained a fee in Gresley, Heather and Ravenstone and perhaps all the fees held by the Gresleys of Ralph fitz-Hubert (Ufton and Kingsley).

The Gresleys lost all the fees held of Richard the Forester (Thursfield, Whitmore, Hanford and Clayton) and retained all but one of those held of the Bishop of Chester (Hixon, Wolseley, Scotsley, Morton in Colwich and Tamhorn, but not Drointon). And they acquired from the Abbot of Burton Darlaston and Caldwell: but Darlaston was subinfeuded to promote Engenulph, a younger son (p. 27).

When Drointon was lost, they seem to have acquired by exchange the fee of Longford, and this was subinfeuded to promote another cadet of the family, Nicholas de Gresley, who married Margaret the heiress of Longford.

It must be understood that most of the above statements are inferences and not ascertained facts.

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B. *Early Pipe Rolls, printed.*

31 Hen. i (1130)?

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Willelmus de Griseleia reddit compositum de x marcis argenti pro p. 11.  
conuentione de terra inter eum & Radulphum Barret [*sic*]. In the-  
sauro xl solidi. Et debet vij marcas argenti.

. . . . .  
Serlo de Burg debet lx libras & vij solidos & vj denarios de p. 31.  
blanco de veteri firma de Notingehamscire & Derbiescire . . . Et  
xiiij marcas argenti pro placito quod fuit inter eum [sc. Radulphum  
Basset] & Robertum Greslet.

. . . . .  
17 Hen. ii (1170).

Lancastra.

Et [Rogerus de Herleberga] debet xiii libras & xvi solidos p. 29.  
numero qui remanserunt super terras quas Willelmus filius Walke-  
lini & Nigellus de Greseleia tenent.

Similar entries in 18 Hen. ii (1171), 21 Hen. ii (1174).

21 Hen. ii (1174).

Lancastra de tribus annis.



- APP. B.  
p. 7, cf. pp.  
8, 9.
- Rogerus de Herleberga reddit computum . . . de terris datis . . . Nigello de Greseleia, xlviii solidos de dimidio anno in Drakelawa [similarly in 1 Rich. i (1189), 3 John (1201)].
- . . . . .
- Staffordescira.
- p. 68.
- Idem Vicecomes reddit compotum . . . de v marcis de Roberto de Greselega, quia adduxit quem [?] plegiauit [?] coram Iusticiario aliter quam eum plegiauerat.

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C. *Testa de Nevill.*

(Lond. 1807, folio: compiled in the first half of the thirteenth century.)

COMITATUS NOTINGHAMSHIRE ET DERBYSHIRE.

Feoda militum . . . qui non habent brevia de habendo scutagio.

. . . . .

- pp. 5, 9.
- De Willelmo filio Galfridi de Gresleg xl solidos pro uno feodo militis in LINTON de eodem feodo [scil. comitis de Ferrariis].
- . . . . .
- pp. 5, 9.
- De Willelmo de Greseleg & Gilberto de Setgrave xxx solidos pro tribus partibus feodi in LINTON de eodem feodo.

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Veredicta juratorum de singulis wapentakis . . . de escaetis, dominabus, vadletis & puellis, &c.

. . . . .

- p. 17.
- Willelmus de Gresele tenet DRAKELAW in capite & reddit unum arcum sine corda & i (*pharetram*) de Tutisbiry & xij sagittas & unum buszonem.

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Feoda militum in Comitatus Salopia & Stafford. Baronia (vel, Feoda) J. filij Alani.

. . . . .

- pp. 47, 49, 51.
- Willelmus de Gresele dimidium feodi in KINGESTON.
-

Nomina eorum qui tenent feoda militaria in comitatibus Warrwick-  
shire & Leycestershire & de quibus ipsi tenent. APP. B.

Feoda Comitum de Ferrarijs.

In PARVA ESSEBY dimidium feodi quod Willelmus de Leyre tenet  
de Willelmo de Gresele & ipse de Comite de Ferrarijs. P. 94.

In BILDISTON tertia pars unius feodi quam Radulphus Grym tenet  
de Willelmo de Gresle & ipse de eodem comite.

In NORTON due partes unius feodi quas idem Willelmus de Gresle  
tenet de eodem Comite.

In SWANINTON Willelmus le Bretun dat xxxiiij denarios ad scutum  
xls & tenet de Willelmo de Gresel & ipse de eodem Comite. P. 95.

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D. *Red Book of the Exchequer (and Black Book).*

(Rolls Series edition : compiled in the thirteenth century.)

A. D. 1201-12. Scutagia incipientia anno ii<sup>o</sup> Regis Johannis et  
completa in xiii<sup>o</sup>. p. 180.

Derbyshire. De honore Peverelli.

Radulfus de Greselega iij milites.

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A. D. 1166. Staffordshire. Witness of Richard bp. of Coventry.  
Milites qui fuerunt feodati tempore Henrici regis [primi]. p. 263.  
Robertus de Gresleia [debet] j militem.

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A. D. 1166. Staffordshire.  
Robertus de Stafford habet lx feoda . . . , scilicet lj de servitio p. 265.  
militum . . . De supradictis lj . . . Robertus filius Radulfi tenet  
feoda vij militum, scilicet . . . Engenulfus de Gresleia ij partes  
[unius militis].

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A. D. 1166. Derbyshire. Witness of William Earl of Ferrers.  
Tempore Henrici regis [primi].

- APP. B.  
p. 336. Willelmus filius Nigelli [tenuit] feoda iiij militum ; et Robertus, filius suus, modo tenet eosdem milites.  
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.  
p. 337. Radulfus Parvus, feoda ij militum ; modo tenet Reginaldus de Griseleia.

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A. D. 1210-12. Lancashire. Serjanteriae.

- p. 571. Willelmus de Greslega [tenet] Drakelowe per unum arcum sine corda et pharetram de Lancastre et xij sagittas et j bozonem.

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A. D. 1211-12.

- p. 587. Nota quod Simon de Farar[iis] habet totum servitium Willelmi de Greslega per j arcum perquirendum et xij sagittas, sicut continetur in ij Regis Johannis, in Rotulo Cancellariae.

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E. *Rotuli Hundredorum*, A. D. 1274-5.

Derbyshire.

- Qui alii a Rege clamant, &c.  
p. 59. Galfridus de Gresel Almaricus de Sancto Amando Ricardus de Corsum apud CROSAL habent furcas nesciunt quo warranto.

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F. *Placita de Quo Warranto*.

(Excerpts from 'Placita De Quo Warranto temporibus Edw. I. II. & III.' Lond., 1818, folio.)

p. 132.

COMITATUS DERBIENSIS.

PLACITA DE QUO WARANTO coram W. de Herle et Sociis suis Justiciariis itinerantibus in comitatu Nostro Derbiensi die Lune proximo post festum apostolorum Petri et Pauli Anno Regni Regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu Quarto [July 2, 1330.]  
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p. 141.

summonita.  
Inquiry about  
rights in  
Drakelowe  
and Lullington.

(1)

Johanna que fuit uxor Petri de Gresleye summonita fuit ad respondendum domino Regi de placito quo waranto clamat habere in manerio suo de DRAKELOWE liberam warennam visum franci-plegii infangethef furcas wayf et extrauras et eciam in manerio suo de LULLYNGTON' liberam warennam infangethef et furcas etc.

Et Johanna per Johannem Child attornatum suum venit Et quoad omnes libertates superius nominatas excepta libera warennam in DRAKELOWE et LULYNGTON' etc. dicit quod ipsa et omnes qui predicta maneria tenuerunt a tempore quo non extat memoria habuerunt omnes libertates illas tanquam eisdem maneriis pertinentes in forma predicta Et eo waranto clamat libertates illas etc. Et quoad liberam warennam habendam in maneriis predictis etc. dicit quod dominus Edwardus nuper Rex Anglie pater domini Regis nunc per cartam suam concessit et confirmavit cuidam Petro de Greseley quod ipse et heredes sui imperpetuum habeant liberam warennam in omnibus dominicis terris suis in DRAKELOWE et LULLYNGTON' dum tamen terre ille non sint infra metas foreste Regis Ita quod nullus intret terras illas ad fugandum in eis vel ad aliquid capiendum quod ad warennam pertineat sine licencia et voluntate ipsius Petri et heredum suorum super forisfacturam Regi decem librarum Et profert predictam cartam predicti Edwardi Regis etc. que premissa testatur in forma predicta etc. cujus data est quinto die Augusti anno regni sui tercio Et dicit quod ipsa tenet

1309

predicta maneria de DRAKELOWE et LULLYNGTON que predictus Petrus tunc tenuit etc. scilicet manerium de DRAKELOWE de dono Walteri de Bynkelurn qui illud dedit predicto Petro et ipsi Johanne tenendum sibi et heredibus suis etc. Et similiter manerium de LULLYNGTON' in dotem etc. de hereditate Galfridi de Gresleye etc.

Et Willelmus de Denum qui sequitur pro domino Rege dicit quod predicta Johanna non habet in manerio suo de DRAKELOWE judicialia que ad visum franciplegii pertinent nec eciam furcas ibidem nec eciam furcas in predicto manerio suo de LULLYNGTON' Dicit similiter quod predicta Johanna semper usa est amerciare illos qui deliquerunt in articulis visus franciplegii quocienscunque deliquissent et nunquam ponere illos ad iudicium pillorii neque tumbrelli Et hoc petit quod inquiratur pro Rege Petit eciam quod inquiratur etc. qualiter predicta Johanna usa est predictis warennis etc. et si habuerit predictas libertates superius clamatas titulo prescripcionis etc. et si sic tunc qualiter illis usa est etc. Ideo inquiratur etc.

[*Decision of the Jury* :—] xii juratores dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predicta Johanna et illi qui predicta maneria tenuerunt a tempore concessionis warennae predictae bene usi sunt warennis illis in omnibus prout requiritur Et quoad predictum visum habendum dicunt quod predicta Johanna et omnes illi qui predictum manerium de DRAKELOWE tenuerunt a tempore quo non extat memoria sine interrupcione habuerunt visum franciplegii in eodem manerio set dicunt quod non habent pillorium nec

APP. B.

Rights established :—  
Warren in both manors,

frankpledge at Drakehowe,

APP. B. tumbrellum Et dicunt quod predicta Johanna semper usa est  
 — americiare illos qui deliquerunt in articulis visus predicti et nun-  
 quam ponere eos ad penam corporalem adeo bene tertia vice et  
 gallows in pluribus sicut prima vice vel secunda Et dicunt quod habuit furcas  
 both, in predictis maneriis ante sumptionem itineris propter sui exilitatem  
 Et dicunt quod ipsa et omnes qui predictum manerium de DRAKE-  
 LOWE et LULLYNGTON' tenuerunt a tempore quo non extat memoria  
 habuerunt infangethef in eisdem maneriis sine interrupcione etc.  
 Set dicunt quod nunquam habuerunt wayf nec extrauras in predicto  
 manerio de DRAKELOWE Ideo predictae libertates visus franciplegii  
 et infangethef capiantur in manum domini Regis etc. Postea  
 frunkpledge at Lullington, and infangethef in both. Nicolaus de Greselye et Thomas de Lullynton' fecerunt finem  
 cum domino Rege de viginti solidis pro predictis libertatibus visus  
 franciplegii et infangethef predictae Johanne rehabende Ideo eadem  
 Johanna rehabeat libertates illas utendas modis quibus decet etc.  
 Et erigat furcas si etc. Et quoad libertates illas et libertatem  
 warennam habendas in manerio suo de LULLYNTON' predicta Johanna  
 ad presens sine die salvo jure Regis etc. Et quo ad wayf et  
 Misericordia. extrauras in manerio suo de DRAKELOWE habendas eadem Johanna  
 in misericordia pro falso clameo etc. Et quo ad warennam  
 habendam in manerio suo de DRAKELOWE ad iudicium etc. Et  
 sciendum quod predictus finis admittitur virtute cujusdam brevis  
 domini Regis justiciariis hic missi de finibus in huiusmodi casu  
 recipiendis etc. Et quo ad warennam predictam habendam in  
 manerio suo de DRAKELOWE ad presens sine die salvo jure  
 Regis etc.

. . . . .

p. 156.

(2)

summonitus.

Galfridus de Greseleye summonitus fuit ad respondendum domino  
 Regi de placito quo waranto clamat habere in manerio suo de  
 GRESELEYE liberam warennam in terris suis dominicis infangethef  
 et furcas etc.

Inquiry about  
 rights in  
 Gresley.

Et Galfridus per Thomam de Lull' attornatum suum venit et quo-  
 ad hoc quod ipse summonitus est etc. quo waranto clamat habere  
 liberam warennam in manerio suo predicto Dicit quod dominus  
 Edwardus quondam Rex Anglie pater domini Regis nunc ad  
 instanciam dilecti et fidelis sui Hugonis Le Despenser junioris  
 concessit et carta sua confirmavit dilecto et fideli suo Petro de  
 Greseleye patri predicti Galfridi cujus heres ipse est quod ipse et  
 heredes sui imperpetuum habeant liberam warennam in omnibus  
 dominicis terris suis in GRESELEYE in comitatu Derbiensi dum

tamen terre ille non sint infra metas foreste Regis Ita quod nullus intret terras illas ad fugandum in eis vel ad aliquid capiendum quod ad warennam pertineat sine licencia et voluntate ipsius Petri vel heredum suorum super forisfacturam Regi decem librarum Et profert cartam ipsius Edwardi Regis etc. que libertatem predictam testatur in forma predicta Cujus data est apud STAMFORD quinto die Augusti anno regni sui tercio Et eo waranto clamat ipse libertatem predictam etc.

APP. B.

1309

Et Willelmus de Denum qui sequitur pro Rege dicit quod ipse non habet furcas que ad hujusmodi libertatem de infangenthes requiruntur et hoc petit quod inquiratur pro Rege etc. Ideo inquiratur.

Et juratores dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus Galfridus habet warennam predictam in predicto manerio de GRESELEYE Et dicunt quod magna pars dominicarum terrarum dicti manerii est in manibus diversorum tenentium ad terminum vite etc. ex dimissione predicti Galfridi et tamen idem Galfridus usus est warennam illa tam in terris illis quam in terris dominicis suis propriis hucusque Et dicunt quod ipse et omnes antecessores sui a tempore predicto hucusque habuerunt sine interruptione predictam libertatem de infangenthes et furcas tanquam dicto manerio pertinentes et libertate illa bene usi sunt hucusque excepto tantum quod non furcas ad presens set quod furce quas habuit ante sumptionem itineris deciderunt etc. et nondum eriguntur etc. Ideo predicta libertas de infangenthes capiatur in manum domini Regis etc. eo quod non habet judicialia scilicet furcas etc. Postea Nicholaus de Greseleye et Thomas de Lullynton' de eodem comitatu fecerunt finem cum domino Rege de dimidia marca pro predicta libertate predicto Galfrido rehabendo Ideo predictus Galfridus rehabeat libertatem illam et erigat furcas utendas ea modo quo decet Ideo predictus Galfridus quoad libertatem istam et omnes alias libertates superius clamas ad presens inde sine die salvo jure Regis etc. Et sciendum quod iste finis admittitur virtute cujusdam brevis domini Regis Justiciariis missi de finibus in hujusmodi casu recipiendis etc.

Rights established :—  
Warren,

infangenthes  
and gallows.

(3)

Galfridus de Greseleye summonitus fuit ad respondendum domino Regi de placito quo waranto clamat habere liberam warennam in LYNNTON' etc.

p. 156.  
Inquiry about  
rights of  
warren in  
Linton.

Et Galfridus per attornatum suum venit et dicit quod ipse clamat warennam predictam in omnibus dominicis terris suis in LYNNTON' Dicit quod dominus Edwardus quondam Rex Anglie pater domini

- APP. B. Regis nunc ad instanciam dilecti et fidelis sui Hugonis le Despenser junioris concessit et carta sua confirmavit dilecto et fidei suo Petro de Gresley patri predicti Galfridi cujus heres ipse est quod ipse et heredes sui imperpetuum habeant liberam warennam in omnibus dominicis terris suis in LYNTON' in comitatu isto dum tamen terre ille sunt infra metas foreste Regis Ita quod nullus intret terras illas ad fugandum in eis vel ad aliquid capiendum quod ad warennam pertineat sine licencia et voluntate ipsius Petri vel heredum suorum
- p. 157. super forisfacturam Regi decem librarum Et profert cartam ipsius Edwardi patris etc. que libertatem predictam testatur in forma predicta Cujus data est apud STAMFORD quinto die Augusti anno regni sui tercio Et eo waranto clamat ipse predictam warennam etc.
- 1309 Et Willelmus de Denum qui sequitur pro Rege dicit quod abusus est warena illa Et hoc petit quod inquiratur pro Rege Ideo inquiratur etc.
- The right disallowed. Et xii juratores dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus Galfridus non est usus aliqua warena in dominicis terris suis in LYNTON' sicut superius clamat Ideo predictus Galfridus in misericordia pro falso clameo etc.
- . . . . .
- (4)
- p. 707. PLACITA DOMINI REGIS coram J. de Berewyk' et Sociis suis  
1348 Justiciariis itinerantibus in comitatu STAFFORDIENSI in termino Sancti Hillarii anno regni Regis Edwardi vicesimo primo.
- . . . . .
- p. 710. Nicholaus de Aldithele summonitus fuit ad respondendum domino  
summonitus. Regi de placito quo waranto clamat tenere placita corone et habere liberam warennam furcas feriam mercatum et wayf in EVEDON, TUNSTALL, ALDYTHELE, HORTON, CHESTERTON, BOTTELEGH', et ALSTANFELD etc.
- . . . . .
- Rights in Tunstal established. Et Nicholaus quoad predictum manerium de TONSTALL dicit quod ipse clamat in eodem visum franci plegii et ea que ad hujusmodi visum pertinent emendas assise panis et cervisie fracte et wayf Et dicit quod ipse et antecessores sui a tempore quo quidam Eugenulphus de Gresley et Edelina uxor eius cujus jus manerium illud fuit antea manerium illud dederunt cuidam Ade de Aldythele antecessori ipsius Nicholai et predicti Eugenulphus et Edelina et antecessores ipsius Edeline ante tempus predictae donacionis a tempore quo non extat memoria habuerunt predictas libertates in

predicto manerio et eis usi sunt Et de hoc ponit se super patriam  
Et Hugo de Louther preterquam de wayf similiter Ideo fiat inde  
jurata.

Juratores dicunt super sacramentum suum quod predictus  
Nicholaus et antecessores sui tenentes manerium predictum semper  
post tempus predicte donacionis et predicti Egnulphus et Edelina  
ante temporibus suis et antecessorum ipsius Edeline semper a tem-  
pore quo non extat memoria habuerunt predictas libertates in  
predicto manerio sicut predictum est Ideo predictus Nicholaus inde  
sine die salvo jure Regis. (Rot. 32.)

. . . . .

II.

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF GRESLEY PROPERTIES, WITH THEIR  
OCCURRENCE IN SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS OF THE FAMILY, UP  
TO THE TIME OF THE FIRST BARONET (about A. D. 1600).

i, ii, iii, &c. refer to the generations of the head of the family and correspond  
with the similar numbers at the top of the right-hand pages of the text of this  
book. xv is distinguished as xv *a* if referring to Sir William, and xv *b* if to  
Sir George. See also the general Index for other mentions.

**Abbot's Bromley.**

(Staff. : 10 m. WNW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xi and xvi.

**Admaston.**

(Staff. : 12 m. W. by N. of Drakelowe.) The Gresleys held property  
there in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (xvi and xvii).

**Appleby.**

(Leic. : 8 m. SE. by S. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in ix.

**Arnesby (Erendesby).**

(Leic. : 8 m. SSE. of Leicester.) The holding of Nigel de Stafford  
in this parish has been noticed at p. 19. There is no trace of it in the  
hands of the Gresleys.

**Ashby Parva (Parva Essebi).**

(Leic. ? : 10 m. S. by W. of Leicester.) In the Testa de Nevill  
William de Leyre is recorded as holding half a knight's fee in this place  
from William de Gresley (v), and he from the Earl of Ferrers. It seems  
to recur in xi, xv *a*, and xvii.



APP. B.  

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**Barton** under Needwood.

(Staff.:  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. WSW. of Drakelowe.) This occurs in xiv and xvi.

**Baston.**

(Lincolnshire.) Occurs in xv *a*, xv *b*.

**Bilstone.**

(Leic.: 12 m. SE. of Drakelowe.) This was probably in 1086 part of Twycross. It occurs in v, vi, xi, xv *a*, xvii.

**Blithbury.**

(Staff.: 10 m. W. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xvi and xvii.

**Blithford.**

(Staff.: 10 m. W. by N. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xvi.

**Bloxwich.**

(Staff.: 2 m. N. of Walsall.) Occurs in xvi.

**Braceborough.**

(Lincolnshire.) Occurs in ix, xi, xv *a*-xvi.

**Bradley** in the Moors (Bretley).

(Staff.: near Cheadle.) In 1086 'Nigel' held Bretlei of Ralph fitz-Hubert: it occurs also in iii.

**Bramshall** (Bromshulf).

(Staff.: 12 m. NW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xvi.

**Branstone.**

(Staff.:  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. NW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xvi.

**Bretley.** *See* Bradley in the Moors.

**Bromley**, Abbot's. *See* Abbot's Bromley.

**Bromley Bagot.**

(Staff.:  $11\frac{1}{2}$  m. WNW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in vi.

**Bromshulf.** *See* Bramshall.

**Burton on Trent.**

(Staff.: 2 m. N. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xi, xiii, xv *a*, xvi.

**Caldway.**

(Staffordshire?) Occurs in xvi.

**Calowhill.**

(Staff.: 12½ m. WNW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xvi.

**Carlby.**

(Lincolnshire.) Occurs in xv a, xv b.

**Catton in Croxall.** (Chetun.)

(Derb.: 3½ m. SSW. of Drakelowe.) This is probably the place represented by 'Chetun' in the Domesday Survey: and if so it was a manor held by 'Nigel' in 1086 under Henry de Ferrers. The lordship passed with Amicia de Ferrers to Nigel de Albini: and the Gresleys lost all hold of it.

**Cauldwell.**

(Derb.: 2¼ m. SSE. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in vii, ix, xi, xv b-xviii.

**Clayton.**

(Staff.: 29 m. WNW. of Drakelowe.) 'Nigel' held this manor in 1086 under Ricardus Forestarius, but the Gresleys soon lost it.

**Clifton.**

Occurs in vii, but has not been certainly identified.

**Colton.**

(Staff.: 12 m. W. of Drakelowe.) Large estates in Colton came to the Gresleys from the De Wasteneys, see p. 49: it occurs in ix, xi-xviii, Newland being a part of it.

**Colveley.**

Occurs in vi, but has not been certainly identified.

**Colwich.**

(Staff.: 14 m. W. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xvi-xvii. See Haywood, and Morton in Colwich.

**Cossington.**

(Leic.: near Mount Sorrel.) Occurs in iv.

**Coton.**

There are five Coton in Staffordshire and at least one in each of Leicestershire and Derbyshire. The one in which the Gresleys held land in vii, xiii, xvi-xviii is perhaps Coton in the Elms, three miles S. of Drakelowe.

## APP. B.

**Coventry.**

(Warwickshire.) Occurs in xi.

**Croxall.**

(Derb. : 4½ m. SW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in vi and xvii.

**Darlaston.**

(Staff. : 24 m. NW. by W. of Drakelowe.) This manor, held at the time of the Domesday Survey by the Abbey of St. Mary at Burton, soon came into the hands of Orm le Gulden, and with his granddaughter Alina to Engenulph de Gresley : but some land there was granted by the Abbot of Burton to Robert de Gresley (ii), which however is not mentioned in deeds after his time.

**Donisthorp (Durandesthorp).**

(Derby. and Leic. : 6 m. SE. of Drakelowe, chiefly in a detached piece of Derbyshire.) A manor held by Nigel de Stafford in 1086, and retained by the Gresleys. It occurs in vi, vii, xv-xvii.

**Drakelowe.**

(Derb. : 2 m. S. of Burton on Trent.) This is mentioned first among the manors held by Nigel de Stafford at the time of the Domesday Survey (1086), and is still the seat of his lineal descendant in an unbroken male line, Sir Robert Gresley. In about 1093 it was depopulated by an epidemic disease<sup>a</sup> and the village of Gresley received what was left of its inhabitants. For a century after this catastrophe there is no mention of Drakelowe, except a note of the ford there over the Trent in an early Burton charter<sup>b</sup> and mentions in Pipe Rolls of 1170-89. In 1185 annexed to the town and church of Stapenhill granted to Burton abbey were the chapels and tithes of Drakelowe<sup>c</sup>, Heathcote, &c. Then, in 1201 we find it as held by William de Gresley under the Earl of Ferrers and Derby, and it has been in the tenure of the family ever since. The statement on p. 191 that Johanna de Gresley received the manor of Drakelowe from Walter de Brinkburn ('Bynkeburn') must seemingly refer to some formal transfer, as from a trustee, since her husband and father-in-law had held it. It occurs in deeds of iii, iv, vi-ix, xi, xiv-xviii. See chapter viii.

There are other Drakeloves :—(1) in Cheshire, a manor in the Lordship of Rudheath, anciently in the possession of the Pages of Eardshaw, later held by the Delves, Prescots and Shakerleys : (2) in Nottinghamshire, three miles SE. of Bawtry on a Roman road, near which occurs also the name of Drakeholes.

**Drointon (Dregetone).**

(Staff. : 14 m. WNW. of Drakelowe.) This manor was held by Nigel in 1086 from the Bishop of Chester : but does not appear in the hands of the Gresleys.

**Edingale.**

(Staff. : 5 m. S. by W. of Drakelowe.) This manor came into the possession of Sir Robert Gresley, Knight, of Edingale, son of Sir Peter

<sup>a</sup> See p. 23.

<sup>b</sup> Salt Soc. v. i. 47.

<sup>c</sup> Cox, Derb. chh. iii. 475, cf. Shaw's Staffordshire, i. 3.

(vii), in about the middle of the fourteenth century : but the main line of the Gresleys held land there in xv *b*-xvii.

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**Egginton.**

(Derb. : 5½ m. NNE. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in vii.

**Ercall Magna.**

(Shropshire.) Occurs in vi.

**Erendesby.** See Arnesby.

**Essebi.** See Ashby Parva.

**Foremark.**

(Derb. : 7 m. NE. of Drakelowe.) A manor of Nigel de Stafford in 1086. This was soon lost by the Gresleys, and was granted by the Ferrers to the Verduns. The Burdets however by intermarriage (see p. o) renewed the Gresley interest in the village.

**Gresley (Church and Castle).**

(Derb. : 3-4 m. WSW. and SW. of Drakelowe.) See Appendix A. From the Domesday Survey and a deed of the first Gresley we know that Nigel de Stafford held land here (in Heathcote) : it occurs also in i, iv, vi-ix, xi, xii, xiv-xviii.

**Handford (Heneford).**

(Staff. : 22 m. WNW. of Drakelowe.) Held in 1086 by 'Nigel' from Ricardus Forestarius, but lost by the Gresleys.

**Haywood, Little.**

(Staff. : 14½ m. W. of Drakelowe.) This is close to Colwich, and occurs in xvi.

**Heathcote.**

(Derb. : 3 m. ESE. of Drakelowe, in the parish of Church Gresley.) This place, which formed part of the manor of Drakelowe in 1086, cannot be identified with any place except the one now represented by a farm-house called Heathcote House, which exhibits traces of old building and lies on the high-road between Castle Gresley and Swadlincote about a mile from the former. This was probably the piece of land in Gresley which Nigel de Stafford held, see above. It occurs in deeds of vi, vii, ix.

**Heather.**

(Leic. : 11 m. SE. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in ii.

**Hixon (Hustedone, Huxedon).**

(Staff. : 15 m. W. by N. of Drakelowe.) 'Nigel' held this manor of Picot in 1086, and Picot of the Bishop of Chester. This was retained by the Gresleys and appears in iii, iv, vi-viii, xv *a*, xvi-xvii.

**Hurst.**

Occurs in vii, but has not been certainly identified.

**Ingleby.**

(Derb. : 8 m. NE. of Drakelowe, on the Trent.) A soke of Nigel de Stafford in 1086. This was very early lost by the Gresleys, and does not recur in connexion with them.

**Kingsley (Chingesleia).**

(Staff. : 23 m. NW. of Drakelowe.) 'Nigel' held four hides there, three of Robert de Buci, who held them of Ralph fitz-Hubert, and one in capite. The Gresleys appear to have lost these, but Robert de Gresley (ii) certainly had two bovates there, which he parted with by exchange to his brother Engenulph. See p. 25.

**Kingston.**

(Staff. : 12½ m. NW. of Drakelowe.) This occurs in iii, v-ix, xiii, xv-xvii.

**Knighton.**

(Staff. : probably near Eccleshall.) Occurs in viii.

**Knypersley.**

(Staff. : near Biddulph, about 32 m. NW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xi and perhaps xv*b*; property there came to the Gresleys in the eighteenth century.

**Lambton (Lamberton).**

Occurs in xi, xv*a*, xvii, but has not been certainly identified.

**Leeshill.**

(Staff. : 13½ m. NW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xvi-xvii : the same as Loxhill?

**Linton.**

(Derb. : 3 m. SE. of Drakelowe.) 'Nigel' held one carucate of Henry de Ferrers in Linton, in 1086: and this appears, though recorded under Leicestershire, to be the Derbyshire Linton, and to have long continued, with augmentation, in the Gresley family, for it occurs in i, iii, v-ix, xi, xv*a*-xviii.

**Loxhill.** See Leeshill.

**Loxley.**

(Staff. : 14 m. NW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xvi and xvii.

**Lullington.**

(Derb. : 4½ m. S. by E. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in ii-ix, xi, xii, xiv-xviii.

**Mavesyn Ridware.**

(Staff. : 10 m. WSW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xi and xvi.

**Morton in Colwich.**

(Staff. : 14 m. W. by N. of Drakelowe.) A manor held in 1086 by 'Nigel' from the Bishop of Chester. It is doubtful whether this was ever out of the possession of the Gresleys till it was sold in the seventeenth century. It occurs in ii, iv, vi-ix, xi, xiv-xviii.

**Morton in Gnosall.**

(Staff. : 27 m. W. of Drakelowe.) 'Nigel' held one hide there, but this was lost by the Gresleys.

**Newington.**

(Kent.) Occurs in xvii.

**Newland.** See Colton.

**Northwich.**

(Cheshire.) Occurs in xii.

**Norton near Twycross.**

(Leic. : 9 m. SE. of Drakelowe.) This appears to be the church which Nigel de Stafford granted to St. Alban's, see p. 19. In 1086 it was probably included in Twycross. It occurs in iv, v, vii, ix-xi, xv a-xvii.

**Oakthorp.**

(Derb. : 7 m. SE. of Drakelowe, in a detached piece of the county.) A manor held by Nigel de Stafford in 1086: retained by the Gresleys. It occurs in vi, xi, xv a, xv b, xvi.

**Osgathorp.**

(Leic. : 12 m. E. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in ix, x, xv a, xv b.

**Ravenston.**

(Leic. : 11 m. ESE. of Drakelowe.) A manor held by Nigel de Stafford in 1086: retained by the Gresleys at first, but given to Ralph son of William fitz-Nigel de Gresley, who gave part of it to the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem at Clerkenwell.

**Repton.**

(Derb. : 5½ m. NE. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xiii and xvii.

**Ridware, Mavesyn.** See Mavesyn Ridware.

**Rosliston.**

(Derb. : 2¼ m. S. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in vii, xiii, xvi-xviii.

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**Rugeley.**

(Staff. : 12 m. W. by S. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in ix.

**Scopston.** *See* Sweystone.**Scotsley.**

(Staff. : unidentified.) Held by 'Nigel' in 1086 from the Bishop of Chester: but Eyton thinks that the name has disappeared and cannot be identified, though it was probably near Colwich. It is conceivably an error for Loxley.

**Seaton.**

(Yorksh. : near Hornsea.) Occurs in ix, xi, xiv-xv *b*.

**Seile** (Over Seile and Nether Seile).

(Leic. : 4½ m. SE. and 5 m. SSE. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in vi, xi, xvi-xviii.

**Smisby.**

(Derb. : 7 m. E. by S. of Drakelowe.) A manor held by Nigel de Stafford in 1086, but soon after parted with by the Gresleys.

**Snareston.**

(Leic. : 9 m. SE. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xiii and xv *a*.

**Spaldingmore.**

(Yorksh. : near Howden.) Occurs in ix, xi, xiv-xv *b*.

**Stapenhill.**

(Derb. : 1½ m. NE. of Drakelowe.) This was a double manor, partly held by Nigel de Stafford in 1086, and partly by the Abbot of Burton. The Gresleys appear to have lost their interest in it soon after that date: but there are evidences that xi, xiv, xv *b*, xvi, and xvii had land there.

**Swadlincote.**

(Derb. : 4 m. E. of Drakelowe.) A manor belonging to Nigel de Stafford in 1086, retained and held in demesne by the Gresleys throughout. Part was granted in exchange by Robert de Gresley to his brother Engenulph. It occurs in deeds of ii, iii, vi, vii, ix, xi, xv *a*, xvii. It is now a village of coal miners.

**Swannington.**

(Leic. : 11½ m. E. by S. of Drakelowe.) In the Testa de Nevill it is recorded that William le Bretun held land there from William de Gresley (v), and he of the Earl of Derby. This small property does not seem to be elsewhere mentioned.

**Swepstone** (Scopston).

(Leic.: 10 m. SE. by E. of Drakelowe.) In 1086 'Nigel' held ten carucates here: but no part of the land appears to have descended to the Gresleys.

**Tamhorn.**

(Staff.: 9½ m. SSW. of Drakelowe.) This was a member belonging to the manor of Lichfield, and held in 1086 by 'Nigel' from the Bishop of Chester. It occurs in ii and vi.

**Thirlby.**

(Lincolnshire.) Occurs in xv b.

**Thorp Constantine** (Torp).

(Staff.: 3½ m. SSW. of Drakelowe.) A manor held in capite by 'Nigel' in 1086. The Gresleys lost this manor, and it passed to the family of Constantine.

**Thursfield** (Turvoldesfeld).

(Staff.: 32 m. NW. of Drakelowe.) This manor was held of Ricardus Forestarius by 'Nigel,' and perhaps came to Engenulph de Gresley, for Henry iii confirmed it to Henry de Verdun son-in-law of Engenulph, and it passed away from the Gresleys.

**Ticknall.**

(Derb.: 7½ m. ENE. of Drakelowe.) A soke held by Nigel de Stafford in 1086, but soon parted with by the Gresleys, and shared between the Earls of Ferrers and the Abbot of Burton.

**Toft.**

(Norf.: either Toft Trees or West Toft.) Occurs in vii.

**Trangesby.**

(Derb.: unidentified.) A manor held by Nigel de Stafford in 1086, but the name seems to have wholly died out, and the place cannot now be identified.

**Tutbury.**

(Staff.: 5½ m. NNW. of Drakelowe.) This was the chief seat of the Ferrers in early times. The Gresleys held property there in iii, xi, xv a-xvii, and if Tutbury Woodhouse be the same land, in v also.

**Twycross.**

(Leic.: 11 m. SE. of Drakelowe.) 'Nigel' held six carucates in Twycross in 1086, from Henry de Ferrers. Probably these are represented in after times by Norton juxta Twycross, and Bilstone, which see.



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**Uftcn** in South Winfield (Uffenton).

(Derb. : 22 m. NNE. of Drakelowe.) This manor was held by 'Nigel' of Ralph fitz-Hubert: but the elder line at least of the Gresleys retained none of the lands so held.

**Ulselei.** *See* Walseley.**Walton on Trent.**

(Staff. : 2 m. SW. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xi, xv b-xvii.

**Wetley.**

(Staff. : near Cheadle.) Occurs in iii.

**Whitmore** (Witemore).

(Staff. : 32 m. WNW. of Drakelowe.) In 1086 'Nigel' held Whitmore under Ricardus Forestarius (Richard Chenvin, chief Forester of Cannock), but the Gresleys soon lost this.

**Windsers.** *See* Winshill.**Winshill** (Windsers?).

(Derb. : 3 m. NNE. of Drakelowe.) Nigel in 1086 held six carucates from Henry de Ferrers in Windsers, which is recorded under Leicestershire, but is probably Winshill in Derbyshire: see Linton. Winshill is recorded as part of the Gresley property in the time of the first Gresley (William, i), but not afterwards.

**Walseley** (Ulselei).

(Staff. : 13½ m. W. of Drakelowe.) This manor was held in 1086 by 'Nigel' from the Bishop of Chester: and was retained by the Gresleys, occurring in ii, vi, ix, xvii.

**Wolverhampton.**

(Staffordshire.) Occurs in viii.

**Woodhouse.** *See* Tutbury.**Wyveley.**

Occurs in vii, but has not been certainly identified.

**Yoxall.**

(Staff. : 6 m. W. by S. of Drakelowe.) Occurs in xi and xiv.

## APPENDIX C

### THE GRESLEY ARMS, SEALS, CREST, AND MOTTO.

#### ARMS AND SEALS.

THE Gresley arms are *Vaire ermine and gules*, and there can be little doubt that they are derived from the arms of the Ferrers family, which were Vaire or and gules. It was not uncommon in the thirteenth century for tenants to adopt on some fitting occasion the arms of their feudal lords, but with a slight difference for distinction's sake, such as a change of tincture or an added bordure. A curious example of arms passing with differences through the families of Luttrell, Furnival, Eccleshall and Clarell may be seen in Hunter's *South Yorkshire* (1831) ii. 52.

Armorial bearings may be said to have come into ordinary use in the last quarter of the twelfth century, and we may surmise that, some years after the Ferrers exempted William de Gresley from all but a nominal service in respect of Drakelowe in about A.D. 1200, the latter assumed by permission the Ferrers arms with a change of tincture.

The actual evidence about the arms is as follows:—the earliest Gresley seal, as has been noticed at p. 28, is one of Ralph de Gresley, uncle of the William just mentioned, of which a facsimile is given by Jeayes on the plate opposite p. 25 of the *Gresley Charters*, bearing the number 4. On this there is no trace of armorial bearings. The second seal is one of William himself, stated to be 'early thirteenth century,' also without arms (see p. 32). But on the seal of his son Geoffrey, of about 1240 at latest, occur the arms Vaire ermine and gules, which is their first occurrence: and this date is also that of the first recorded instance of the Ferrers arms<sup>a</sup>. A facsimile of a poor impression of the seal is given by Jeayes (plate opposite p. 83, no. 40A). So too the

<sup>a</sup> Planché in  
Journ. of  
Archæol.  
Assn. vii  
(1852). 226.

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seal of Geoffrey's son William, about 1240-50, is almost identical with his father's (Brit. Mus. Add. Ch. 21491; Birch, Brit. Mus. Seals 10243), although during his father's lifetime he only bore a fleur-de-lys on his seal (Jeayes, as above, no. 40 B). These evidences sufficiently establish the coat in the first half of the thirteenth century.

The testimony may be carried on by means of seals and written records. Sir Geoffrey de Gresley, who died in 1305 or 1306, bore the same arms on his seal (Jeayes, as above, no. 103): and the two Rolls of Arms of about 1295, printed in the *Archæologia* xxxix. 412, 433, testify that Sir Geoffrey bore 'Vairy ermine and gules' or 'gules and ermine.' And in 1315 the Parliament Roll, printed from Brit. Mus. MS. Cotton Calig. A. 18 in *Parliamentary Writs* (Record Office Publication) i. 411, states that 'Sire Peres de Gresle' bore 'verree de goules e de ermyne.' After this the witness of rolls of arms becomes so frequent and uniform that it need not be quoted.

After the De Wasteney's connexion in the second half of the fourteenth century, the arms of the head of the family became:—

<sup>b</sup> Staff. Visitn.  
1583.

Quarterly<sup>b</sup> 1st and 4th Vaire ermine and gules, for *Gresley*: 2nd and 3rd sable a lion rampant argent collared gules, for *Wasteney's*. Shortly after the baronetcy was conferred, when Colton had been sold in about 1609, the Wasteney's arms dropped out, so that the original Gresley arms are still the authorized ones, with the addition in the case of the head of the family of the badge of Ulster.

<sup>c</sup> Linc. Visitn.  
of 1592, ad-  
ditions, as pr.  
in the *Genea-  
logist*, O.S. iv.  
110.

The variations have been slight and unimportant. Occasionally the coat has been blazoned gules and ermine instead of ermine and gules. The Lincolnshire Gresleys blazoned the ermine as 'argent guttee de poix<sup>c</sup>' which means the same.

<sup>d</sup> Brit. Mus.  
MS. Cotton  
Calig. C. 5,  
fol. 59 :  
printed in  
Glover's  
*Derbyshire* i.  
(1829) app.  
p. 61.

<sup>e</sup> Salt Soc. iii.  
2. 85 (with  
plate): see  
also Brit.  
Mus. MS.  
Harl. 2203,  
fol. 14.

<sup>f</sup> In a paper  
at Drake-  
lowe.

#### CREST.

The family crest is a Lion passant ermine, armed langued and collared gules. The earliest occurrence that I have noted is in 1513, where in a list of Captains<sup>d</sup> engaging in the foreign campaign of that year occurs 'Sir Will. Gresley bayreth assure a Lyon sylver passant and gowrdes gold.' In some later cases however the lion is statant and ermine, as in the Staffordshire Visitation of 1583<sup>e</sup>, where some MSS. even exhibit a lion's head coupéd argent, collared gules. In about A.D. 1700, Gregory King<sup>f</sup>, Lancaster Herald, criticizing the proposed monument of

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Sir William Gresley who died in 1699, writes 'As to the Crest of Gresley, I find it in one book onely to be a lion passant argent, the tail extended. But all the other books are' a lion statant ermine collared gules: but the testimony of the military list of 1513 inclines the balance in favour of the lion passant, while the tincture may be pronounced to be ermine.

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MOTTO.

The motto is 'Melioꛑe fide quam fortuna' ('With better fealty than fortune'), but I have not noticed any occurrence of it earlier than the eighteenth century.

## APPENDIX D

### THE GRELLYS, BARONS OF MANCHESTER, AND OTHER FAMILIES OF SIMILAR NAME BUT UN- CONNECTED WITH THE GRESLEYS

#### i. THE GRELLYS, BARONS OF MANCHESTER.

THIS family is commonly in some way interwoven with the early Gresleys, with whom it has in reality no kind of connexion. In general the original records keep the forms Grelly, Grailli, Greilli or occasionally Gresle or Greslet for this branch, and only on a very few occasions spell it as Gresley. A short account of the Grellys is however necessary, to enable readers to distinguish clearly between the two families.

The chief authorities for the Grellys are:—W. R. Whatton in the Manchester Literary Society's Transactions, N. S., iv. (1824), p. 473 sqq., Dugdale's *Baronage*, i. 608, Baine's *Lancashire*, ed. Croston, ii (1889) 27-9, Blore's *Rutland* 99, Harland's *Manchester* (Chetham Soc. liii, lvi), *Collectanea Topographica*, vii. 17-18, S. Hibbert's *History of the Foundations in Manchester*, vol. 2 (1834), p. 217: to which the reader is referred for a fuller account.

The arms of the family were, Gules three bendlets enhanced or.

The first of the name who occurs in records is **Albert** de Grelly who is found in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as owning land in Lancashire, and occurs also in 1094. Two sons of him are recorded, Robert and Alan<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> Cheth. Soc. x. 50, cf. 40.

<sup>b</sup> It is doubtful whether Robert or his son was the first Baron by Tenure and Lord of Manchester.

<sup>c</sup> Rolls Ser. lxxix. 258.

**Robert** (first Baron Grelle and Lord of Manchester<sup>b</sup>?) is not infrequently confused with the Robert de Gresley of p. 29. He was the founder of Swineshead Abbey in Lincolnshire in A.D. 1134, and appears to have had, by his wife Beatrix, a younger son Bernard<sup>c</sup> as well as Albert.

Robert's son **Albert**, second Baron Grelly, generally distinguished from his son as 'senex,' married Agnes daughter of

William Fitz-Nigel, Baron of Halton in Cheshire. In the *Life of St. William of Norwich* by Thomas of Monmouth (published in 1896) there is a chapter 'De Niso Alberti Gressle mire curato,' in which Albert is described<sup>d</sup> as having cured the sickness of his favourite falcon in A.D. 1154 by praying to St. William, and as having gone with his father, to fulfil his vow of an annual offering, to Norwich, where the author of the *Life* spoke with them both. Albert must have died before 1174, when his heir Albert was in the King's custody and 11 years old. Of his three daughters, Emma married Orme the son of Ailward, and Amabel was the wife of Geoffrey Trezgoz. It is possible that the third daughter was the Barbara who occurs in an inexplicable pedigree of the Quadring, to be found in E. Oldfield's *Wainfleet* (Lond. 1829), p. 217, and in *Visitations of Lincolnshire in the Genealogist*, Old Series, iv. 269, vi. 277. This Barbara or Berseba is the daughter of 'Sir Robert Grisley Knight,' and seems to be of about the date 1230-50: she is recorded to have married Hamon son of Geoffrey Quadring, and had a son James. If this Barbara be a Gresley and not a Grelly, I cannot place her in any known pedigree. On the other hand some authorities give the name of Albert's third daughter as Edith, and state that she married Gilbert de Nocton.

Albert the third Baron ('Juvenis') was born about 1162 or 1163, and married Isabel Basset, but died before 1183, leaving a son,

Robert, fourth Baron, born about 1180, who married Margery (or Alicia) de Longchamp, and was a prominent member of the Barons' party in 1214-5 at Stamford<sup>e</sup>, occurring also as a witness to the confirmation of Magna Charta by Henry III, on Feb. 11, 1224<sup>f</sup>. He died in about 1230, and was succeeded by his son,

Thomas (fifth Baron), who was also a person of mark, and in 1258-9 was made Warden of the King's Forests south of the Trent. His wife was Christiana Ledet, and he seems to have died in 1261, leaving three sons, Peter a Clerk in Holy Orders, Herbert who died without issue, and (the eldest) Robert, which last died in his father's lifetime, leaving a son,

Robert (sixth Baron), grandson and heir of Thomas. He was born in about 1252 and in 1279-80 married Hawyse daughter of John de Burgh<sup>g\*</sup>, but at his death in 1283 left only a son and daughter. The former was Thomas, seventh Baron, born about 1278, who died unmarried in 1347. He was summoned by writ as a Baron to the Parliaments of 1308 and 1311, and it was he who granted to the (then) little town of Manchester its great

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<sup>d</sup> p. 258.

<sup>e</sup> Matth. Paris Chron. Maj. (R. S. lvii) ii. 585: Roger of Wendover (R. S. xxxiv) ii. 114, cf. 170.

<sup>g\*</sup> His wife Cecily was sister of John Baliol, King of Scotland 1292-1314, and daughter of John Baliol and Dervorguilla (Surtees' *Durham* iv. 60).

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charter of 1301, under which the town was governed for several centuries. When he died the male line and name of Grelly died out, and the estates went to his sister and heir Joan, who married John Delawarr, Lord Delawarr. There seems, however, to have been another sister, Isabella<sup>f</sup>, who married John Gise.

<sup>t</sup> Bodl. MS.  
Dodsw. xx.  
114.

Among other Grellys of whom there are records are:—an *Albertus* de Grele, who was summoned to Parliament in 1324 as armiger<sup>g</sup> in Leicestershire: a *Pierre* de Greilly, Vicomte de Benauges in 1344<sup>h</sup>: a *Johannes* de Greilli who was 'capitalis Boiorum'. (Captal de Buch) in 1365<sup>i</sup>: *Jehan* de Grailly, Captal de Buch, one of the original Knights of the Garter: *Archibaldus* de Grelly 'capitanus de la Bouche' (Captal de Buch) in 1377-8<sup>j</sup>: and others, who chiefly bore the name of John, and were of a French family in the thirteenth century. There is a printed 'Honourable Life . . . of Sir John de Gralhy, Capitall de Buz,' by William Wyrley (Lond. 1592, 4<sup>o</sup>), cf. Bodl. MS. Ashm. 1106, fol. 461.

<sup>g</sup> Parl. Writs  
ii. 1. 640.

<sup>h</sup> Chron. de  
Melsa (R. S.  
xlili) iii. 53.

<sup>i</sup> Gall. Christ.  
i. 468 D:  
Blorc's Rut-  
land 101.

<sup>j</sup> Munim.  
Lond. (R. S.)  
ii. 2. 480.

## ii. THE GREASLEYS OF GREASLEY, CO. NOTTS.

The village of Greasley in Nottinghamshire, about 23 miles NE. by N. of the Derbyshire Gresley, contained not only a Castle but also a Priory called Beauvale: and references to a supposed 'Chartulary of Greasley' are in reality either to a British Museum MS. acquired in 1814, or to a few excerpts in the College of Arms MS. Vincent 31, pp. 173-6: and both refer to Beauvale Priory, sometimes called Greasley.

Of the family which took its name from Greasley the following is a short account, the chief authorities being Thoroton's *Nottinghamshire* (1790) ii. 239-41, Dugdale's *Monasticon* (ed. Ellis) vi. 13, and Lipscomb's *Buckinghamshire* i. 175-6:—

Ralph, in the time of William the Conqueror, had a son Richard: and he had a son Hugh Fitz-Richard, whose son **William** (occ. 1140) first bore the name of Greasley. His wife's name is not recorded, but his son was **Ralph** de Greasley who married Isabella (or Agnes) an heiress of the family of Muscamp, and was lord of Greasley and Selston as well as, in right of his wife, lord of Muscamp in Nottinghamshire. He probably died in 1228. Their daughter was undoubtedly **Agnes**, who married **Hugh** Fitz-Ralph in about A.D. 1215, and from whom the husband assumed the name of Greasley. There is some evidence that she had first in about 1210 married Robertus Lupus. The children of Hugh (who seems to have died in 1260) and Agnes were certainly **Ralph**

and perhaps Hugh. With Ralph's daughter **Eustachia** the male line of de Greasley failed for the second time and finally. Eustachia may have had a sister Idonea, but if so, the latter died without issue, and Eustachia became sole heiress. She married firstly William de Cantelupe and had a son William born in about 1292. William's son Nicholas, Eustachia's grandson, succeeded to Greasley Castle in or before 1334, founded Beauvale Priory in 1343, and died in 1355. Eustachia's second husband (before 1290) was William de Ross of Ingmanthorp, and she had issue by him also.

The following persons or families which have come to my notice in searching records are probably not Gresleys but Greasleys :—

1396. William de Gressely <sup>k</sup> of Nottingham.

1605-13. There is a William 'Gresley' of Oldcote in Nottinghamshire <sup>l</sup>.

17th cent. We find Greisleys, Greseleys or Greasleys in Warwick (Thomas, Cicely, Edward), Rowvall (Richard, Ralph), and London (William, Mary, Katherine, Abigail, Sarah, Ann, Elizabeth, John, Henry, Ellen, Joseph, Susannah, Hannah). At Codsall in Staffordshire there was a William Greasley who in 1668 married Elizabeth (Knight), and was a benefactor to the poor of Codsall. He died in 1705 and left a son and daughter William and Dorothy who died young, and another daughter Elizabeth, who married Richard Allsop and had issue.

18th cent. There was a family of Greasley <sup>m</sup> at Barrow on Soar and Mount Sorrel in Leicestershire. A Thomas Greasley, who married Elizabeth and died in 1717, had a son Thomas (who married Elizabeth *née* Mason, and died in 1738, leaving an only daughter Lucretia [?] who died in 1795) and two daughters, Mary who married Thomas Hall and died in 1722, and Phœbe, who married George English and died in 1766, leaving nine children. A Humphrey Greasley <sup>m</sup> of Barrow on Soar in 1630 was probably of this family; and a Thomas Greasley <sup>m</sup>, who married Anne and died in 1765, leaving a daughter Sophia.

There was also a considerable family in the parish of All Saints <sup>n</sup> at Derby, in which the following names occur :—John, Dorothy, Anne, Henry, Mary, William, Ralph, Elizabeth, Esther, Catharine, Patience, Thomas, Joseph, Arabella, Lydia, Charles, Francis, James, Hannah. Also a John Greasley <sup>o</sup> of Broughton married Hannah Dordin at Ashbourne in Derbyshire in 1736. In Lichfield a Mary Greasley <sup>p</sup> married James Finch in the Cathedral on March 7, 1769. In 1794 a Gabriel Greasley <sup>q</sup> occurs at Leicester.

1826-56. The Whitwick Registers show a family of Greasleys at Thringstone in Leicestershire. The names are Thomas, Mary, Laurence, James, John, Elizabeth, Sarah, Ann and William. A George Greasley just escaped from the fatal fire at Whitwick Colliery on April 19, 1898.

1828. A William Greasley was married on Oct. 18, at Duffield <sup>r</sup> in Derbyshire.

1856. A Francis Greasley <sup>s</sup> occurs at Kegworth in Leicestershire.

APP. D.

<sup>k</sup> Stevenson's Records of Nottingham (1882), p. 312.  
<sup>l</sup> Brit. Mus. MS. Add. 6668, foll. 90-92.

<sup>m</sup> Nichols, Leicestershire, iii. 76, 91, 92, 99.

<sup>n</sup> Parish Registers.

<sup>o</sup> Ashbourne Register.

<sup>p</sup> Cathedral Register.

<sup>q</sup> Weston's Leicester Directory, 1794.

<sup>r</sup> Duffield Register.

<sup>s</sup> Leicester Journal, Dec. 12, 1856.



## APPENDIX E

### ACCOUNT OF THE AUTHORITIES OF WHICH USE HAS BEEN MADE--THE GRESLEY CHARTULARY, THE MUNIMENTS AT DRAKELOWE, THE PAPERS OF THE REV. JOHN MOREWOOD GRESLEY, ETC.

#### A.

##### **The Gresley Chartulary.**

A FAMILY Chartulary is not a common thing. In the case of Monasteries, almost every house which possessed any considerable amount of property found it convenient to have a copy of its charters enrolled in a single large volume, both for facility of reference, and for safety: at the same time the original charters were preserved with care as providing the testimony which would be accepted in a court of law. However the chances of fire and other accidents tended to destroy the originals, so that in very many cases the Chartulary alone survives to form the primary authority for the history of the property of the House. But it was different with private families: the natural devolution of the mansion and its contents from father to son, the private nature of the proceedings, and even the methods by which property was acquired and transmitted excited less jealousy in others, and fewer questionings of right and claim, than when a religious house accepted property from some benefactor who strove to expiate former sins by a testamentary bequest. There was therefore less obvious need for a formal register and transcript of family

charters, and hardly more than a score of them are known to exist in England.

The Gresley Chartulary is contained in a small folio volume lettered 'Visitation of Lancashire. Smith,' and numbered 6719, on Shelf L. c. 2. 16, in the Chetham Library at Manchester. The volume really includes (1) a copy by William Smith (Rouge Dragon), made in about A.D. 1600, of Flower's Visitation of Lancashire in 1567, (2) the Gresley Chartulary, (3) Trickings of Cheshire Arms by William Smith. The Chartulary is quite distinct from the rest, and is in a hand which has been identified by the Rev. J. M. Gresley with that of British Museum MS. Harleian 6592, which was written by William Wyrley, a friend of the Sir Thomas Gresley who died in 1610. The handwriting is apparently of the last quarter of the sixteenth century, and the whole chartulary occupies 34 leaves or, as the references will be to pages, 68 pages, of a poor kind of paper. About 331 deeds were copied or (more usually) abstracted, ranging from the eleventh to the sixteenth century, with some pedigrees and 128 sketches of seals and coats of arms. The pedigree on p. 5 ends with the marriage of Thomas Gresley and Katherine (Walsingham) which must have been in about 1576, but entries on p. 3, apparently in Wyrley's hand, cannot have been before A.D. 1600.

The Chartulary was not noticed, it would seem, from the time of its composition until Dr. Samuel Pegge<sup>a</sup> (who died in 1796) copied it. After him a Colonel Chadwick<sup>b</sup> had it copied, and the Chadwick copy was collated with the original by Samuel Pipe Wolferstan, Esq. in 1801. Nichols also freely used the information contained in it in his great History of Leicestershire, 1795-1815. After that the book again dropped out of sight, so much so that when the Rev. J. M. Gresley applied to see it in 1848 the Chetham Librarian could not find it. The visitor, however, was able himself to afford a clue, and the right volume was unearthed. In the following year it was very carefully copied for him by Mr. Richard Sims of the British Museum. A detailed account of the MS. with extracts was contributed by Mr. John Harland to the *Manchester Guardian* of July 28, 1849, and the same gentleman printed three articles on it, including pedigrees and abstracts in English of a selection of the deeds, in the *Reliquary*<sup>c</sup> of 1865-6. In this the selected deeds are numbered from 1 to 87, and the pedigrees from i to iv. Many of the deeds do not directly concern the Gresleys, but relate to the history of property acquired by them.

APP. E.

<sup>a</sup> Shaw's Staffordshire i. 185.

<sup>b</sup> Nichols' Leicestershire iii. 2. p. 983\*.

<sup>c</sup> Vol. vi. pp. 29, 79, 139.

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The following is a table of the contents of the book, especially of the charters which are either noticed in Harland's Selection (H.) or can be identified with existing Drakelowe Muniments as catalogued by Jeayes (J.). Such as are *only* represented by numbers (1), (2), &c., are undated deeds or abstracts of deeds.

*Chartulary.*

## PAGE

1. Scribbling.
2. Blank.
3. Notes.
4. Notes of arms.
5. Pedigrees (H. ped. i).
6. Pedigrees (H. ped. ii).
7. (1) H. p. 37, (2) H. ped. iii, (3) H. p. 36 *u*.
8. Pedigree (H. ped. iv).
9. (1), (2), (3) J. 37, (4) 1277, (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10).
10. Blank.
11. (1).
12. (1).
13. Pedigree.
14. Extract from Matthew Paris.
15. (1) H. 1, (2) H. 2, (3) H. 3, J. 4, (4) H. 4=28.
16. (1) H. 5, J. 6, (2) H. 6, J. 7, (3) H. 7, J. 3?, (4).
17. (1) H. 8, (2) 1198, J. 29, (3) J. 64, (4) J. 18, (5) J. 57, (6), (7).
18. (1), (2), (3), (4) J. 62?, (5), (6), (7) H. 9, (8) H. 10=29, J. 103?.
19. (1) H. 11, J. 147, (2) H. 12, J. 76, (3) cf. J. 52, (4) H. 13, J. 152?, (5), (6) cf. J. 105.
20. (1), (2) H. 14, (3) 1265-6, H. 37, (4), (5) H. 16, (6) H. 17, (7) H. 17, (8), (9) 1268, H. 38.
21. (1) H. 18, (2), (3) J. 49, (4), (5), (6) J. 10, (7).
22. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) H. 19, (6) H. 20, J. 2, (7).
23. (1) J. 34, (2), (3), (4), (5).
24. (1) c. 1221, J. 43, (2) 1261, (3) 1307-8, (4) 1340, (5), (6), (7), (8), (9).
25. (1), (2), (3) 1345, J. 268, (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9).
26. (1), (2) 1273?, J. 123, (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8).
27. (1), (2), (3), (4) H. 21, (5) H. 22, (6).
28. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9) H. 23, (10) H. 24.
29. (1) H. 25, (2) H. 26, J. 40, (3) H. 27, (4) H. 28=4.
30. (1) H. 29=10, (2) H. 30, (3) H. 31, (4) H. 32, (5) H. 33, (6) H. 34 = J. 36.
31. (1) 1297, H. 47, (2) 1291, H. 41, (3), (4) 1281, H. 40, (5) 1328, H. 55, (6) 1324-5?, H. 54?.
32. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) 1292-3, J. 141, (6) 1272, H. 39, J. 101, (7) H. 46, (8) 1298, H. 48, (9) H. 42, (10), (11).
33. (1) 1292, H. 43, (2), (3), (4), (5) 1294, H. 45, (6), (7), (8), (9).
34. (1) 1298, H. 49, (2) 1279, J. 126, (3) 1292, H. 44, (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9).
35. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7).
36. (1), (2), (3), (4) 1324-5, H. 54, (5), (6).
37. (1), (2) H. 53, J. 185, (3), (4) 1309-10, H. 51, (6), (7), (8).

## PAGE

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38. (1), (2) 1310-11, H. 52, (3), (4) 1262, H. 36, (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11).  
 39. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11).  
 40. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9).  
 41. (1) 1372, H. 61, J. 319, (2), (3) 1353, H. 59, (4), (5) 1340, H. 58, (6), (7) 1357, H. 60.  
 42. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) 1337, H. 57, J. 240, (6) 1352, J. 284, (7).  
 43. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) 1374, J. 327, (9), (10).  
 44. (1), (2), (3) 1382, H. 62, J. 344, (4) 1382, J. 345, (5), (6), (7), (8), (9).  
 45. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) 1330, H. 56.  
 46. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8).  
 47. (1) 1394-5, H. 64, J. 358, (2), (3), (4) 1386-7, H. 63, (5), (6) 1394-5, H. 65, (7).  
 48. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7).  
 49. Blank.  
 50. Blank.  
 51. (1) 1406-7, H. 67, (2) 1410, J. 388, (3) 1409-10, H. 68, J. 387, (4), (5) 1406, H. 66, (6).  
 52. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and pedigree of Oky.  
 53. (1) 1420, H. 71, J. 402<sup>A</sup>, (2) H. 69, J. 376, (3) 1418, J. 401, (4), (5), (6) 1415-6, H. 70.  
 54. (1) 1436-7, H. 74, (2), (3) 1439, J. 417, (4), (5) 1455-6, H. 75, J. 437, (6) 1438, H. 73.  
 55. Pedigree of Montgomery.  
 56. Blank.  
 57. (1) 1481, J. 449, (2), (3), (4) 1481, H. 78, (5) 1462, H. 76, (6) 1478, H. 77.  
 58. (1), (2), (3).  
 59. Blank.  
 60. (1), and pedigree.  
 61. (1) 1496-7, H. 80, (2) 1420, H. 72, J. 402<sup>B</sup>, (3) 1496-7, H. 79.  
 62. (1) 1533-4, H. 85, (2) 1518-9, H. 83, (3) 1518-9, H. 84, (4) 1534-5, H. 86, (5) 1510, H. 81, J. 463, (6) 1517-8, H. 82.  
 63. (1) 1555-6, H. 87, J. 481.  
 64. Blank.  
 65. (1), (2), (3) J. 72, (4) J. 48, (5) cf. J. 67, (6), (7) J. 159, (8) J. 53, (9).  
 66. (1) J. 51, (2) 1316, J. 177?, (3), (4) J. 30-1, (5) 1305, H. 50, J. 165?, (6) J. 159, (7), (8), (9) 1305, J. 165.  
 67. Blank.  
 68. (1) c. 1232, J. 46.

It appears, then, that of the 331 deeds abstracted or copied in the Chartulary, 59 can be directly compared with the originals still existing, a proportion large enough to establish the general authenticity of those which cannot be so compared. The authenticity of the Chartulary may in fact be regarded as above suspicion, but it is clear that many early and important deeds still existing entirely escaped the notice of the compiler of the volume.

## B.

**The Muniments at Drakelowe.**

An admirable *Descriptive Catalogue of the Charters and Muniments of the Gresley Family in the possession of Sir Robert Gresley, Bart., at Drakelowe*, has been lately compiled by Mr. Isaac Herbert Jeayes, of the Department of MSS. at the British Museum, and published in 1895. It is a Calendar of 502 deeds ranging from about 1150 to 1676, with a preface, facsimiles, and index, and also a description of another family Chartulary at Drakelowe, known as the Ridware Chartulary, which was written chiefly in the first quarter of the fourteenth century, and bears curious pen and ink drawings, one of which is reproduced by Mr. Jeayes opposite p. 119. A complete abstract of this valuable MS. has been recently published by the William Salt Society<sup>d</sup>. About thirty of the Gresley deeds belong to the twelfth century, and not less than 100 to the thirteenth century. There are, however, at Drakelowe a large number of additional papers relating to family affairs of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, which were outside Mr. Jeayes' scope, and which include old maps of properties, rent-books, leases and the like, with a considerable number of private letters chiefly of the second half of the eighteenth century or later.

<sup>d</sup> Staffordshire Collections, vol. xvi (1896), ed. by the Hon. G. Wrottesley.

With respect to Mr. Jeayes's book, the references in the text of the present work show of what service it has been in the investigation of the earlier records of the family. The following notes will, it is hoped, add something to the usefulness of the volume, and are not presented in any spirit of criticism:—

The facsimiles have no letterpress, so that it is worth while to point out that the frontispiece is Charter no. 1, and the facsimile opposite p. 3 is no. 5. On plate 2, 370 is an error for 376.

It should be noticed that when a charter is dated by reference to a feast (as, on the Monday after the feast of St. Luke) the date supplied in square brackets by Mr. Jeayes is that of the feast, not of the charter.

P. 1. The Charters which are also to be found in the Gresley Chartulary, which sometimes preserves sketches of the seals when they were less injured than they are now, are 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 18, 29, 30, 31, 34, 36, 37, 40, 43, 46, 48, 49, 51, 52?, 53, 57, 62?, 64, 67?, 72, 76, 99, 101, 103, 105?, 123, 126, 141, 147, 152?, 159, 165, 177?, 185, 240, 268, 284, 319, 327, 344, 345, 358, 376, 387, 388,

401, 402<sup>A</sup>, 402<sup>B</sup>, 417, 437, 449, 463, 481. The Charters of which the seals are facsimiled by Mr. Jeayes are nos. 2 (two), 3, 4, 24, 40, 50, 52 (two), 64, 74, 76 (two), 81, 83, 103, 129, 159, 174, 185, 304, 315, 319, 345, 376.

P. 14, no. 40. The 'Ecclesia beate Trinitatis de L[eicestre]' should probably be, as Mr. Jeayes has suggested to me, 'Ecclesia . . . de L[a Grace Dieu]' near Belton. The deed would then be, not, 'Temp. John,' but circa 1240.

P. 41, no. 165, '1304' should be 1305.

P. 80, no. 363. The charges were made by the Abbot *against* Sir Thomas.

The index is not quite complete: e.g. William Burded (in charter 40), Nicholas de Drenketh (ch. 3), Ralph fitz Ralph de Montgomeri (ch. 3), Ralph fitz Ernald (*ibid.*), Robert fitz Ralph (*ibid.*), Humphrey de Tolca (*ibid.*), and perhaps a few more have escaped it: 'p.' should precede 113 under Cardona, and 114 under Ingwardeby: and 482<sup>A</sup> may be added under Gresley Priory.

### C.

#### The Collections of the Rev. John Morewood Gresley.

Mr. Gresley, who was a trained antiquary (see p. 122), seems to have first turned his attention to the history of the Gresley family in about 1845, and from at least 1847 till his death, in 1866, was incessantly employed in amassing copies of Gresley deeds of all kinds, usually making use of the skilled assistance of Mr. Richard Sims. At the time of his death the mass of papers he had accumulated was enormous, and represented a large expenditure of his own time and money. He had even advanced so far as to have almost finished a systematic series of genealogies with notes, to which he prefixed the title 'Stemmata Gresleiana: Genealogies of the Family of Gresley and their Connexions; From the time of Rollo first Duke of Normandy to the Reign of Victoria of England,' and which still remain as a monument of his perseverance and acumen. It is curious, however, that no one of his family or friends seems to have had direct information from Mr. Gresley of the great work he was so long and deeply engaged on. No mention of it is made in the elaborate memoirs of his life by Mr. Jewitt and others who knew him intimately,

## APP. E.

and after his death the papers were stored at Lichfield in Mr. Charles Gresley's house without exciting any inquiry or investigation. About five years ago they were handed over to the Rev. N. W. Gresley as the eldest son of their deceased owner, and in his house at Dursley in Gloucestershire I first saw them in Oct. 1894. The sight of them inspired me with a desire to do what I could to ensure that my uncle's collections should not have been amassed in vain, and that some memorial should be raised both to his labours and also to the ancient family to which he devoted so many years of his life.

The Gresley collections were in no order whatever when they were temporarily deposited in my hands, but now that they have been to some extent arranged under general classes they may be very briefly characterized with reference to them. The divisions are:—

A. 'Stemmata Gresleiana,' pedigrees with notes in a semi-final form, a bound folio volume.

B. Various notes about (1) persons, (2) deeds, (3) manors and possessions. A bound folio volume, unfinished.

C. Miscellaneous notes, especially consisting of or relating to illustrations and facsimiles, such as were issued in the volumes of the Anastatic Society: a bound folio volume.

All the divisions which follow, except *u*, are unbound papers.

d. Gresley pedigrees and general accounts of the family, manuscript and printed.

e. A large collection of copies of (1) Wills, (2) Monumental inscriptions, (3) Parish registers.

f. De Toeni papers.

g. A large collection of copies of papers relating to the Gresley family before A.D. 1500, chiefly copies of MSS. (1) in the British Museum, (2) in the Bodleian and College Libraries at Oxford, (3) in the Public Record Office, (4) Lichfield Episcopal Registers.

h. Papers of the sixteenth century.

i. " " seventeenth century.

j. " " " " (Sir George Gresley).

k. " " eighteenth century.

l. " " " " (Sir Nigel Gresley).

m. " " " " (Sir Nigel Bowyer Gresley).

n. " " nineteenth century.

o. " " " " (main line).

p. " " " " (Nether Seile line).

q. " " " " (Sir Roger Gresley).

r. Large collections, chiefly genealogical, relating to families which intermarried with the Gresleys.

s. Papers relating to Gresley Priory, Castle, and Church, including a minute diary of the excavations in 1861.

t. Papers relating to Religious Houses other than Gresley Priory.

u. The Gresley Chartulary, including a careful verbatim copy of it: a bound volume and unbound papers.

v. Papers relating to the Grellys and Greasleys.

#### D.

#### **Manuscripts.**

The MSS. of the British Museum, Bodleian and Oxford College Libraries have been searched; and the contents of the Public Record Office as far as possible.

A 'History of our Ancestors' in folio, written by Mrs. Turner of Broad Chalke, now owned by Miss Agnes Gresley of Barton. Also a similar volume in quarto.

A small quarto book written by Francis Gresley in the early part of the eighteenth century, now owned by Miss Amelia Gresley, of Clevedon.

A Bible printed in 1638, preserved at Drakelowe, containing contemporary family memoranda from 1649 to 1896.

Seven Gresley MSS. in the William Salt Library at Stafford.

Pedigrees and papers lent me by the late Rev. E. Elton, of Sherington, Newport Pagnell.

A vellum roll of Gresley descents from Charlemagne and Alfred the Great (!) through Edward I (by female lines), lent me by R. Gresley Hall, Esq., of 60 Avenue Road, Regent's Park, London.

Pegge's Derbyshire MSS. at the College of Arms, London.

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An extended search has been made in the chief printed literature relating to Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire, as well as in general works, including periodicals, relating to British genealogy, heraldry and antiquities. The Record publications, Rolls Series, Harleian Society, Historical MSS. Commission, and such series have been ransacked, and a multitude of smaller historical and topographical books.



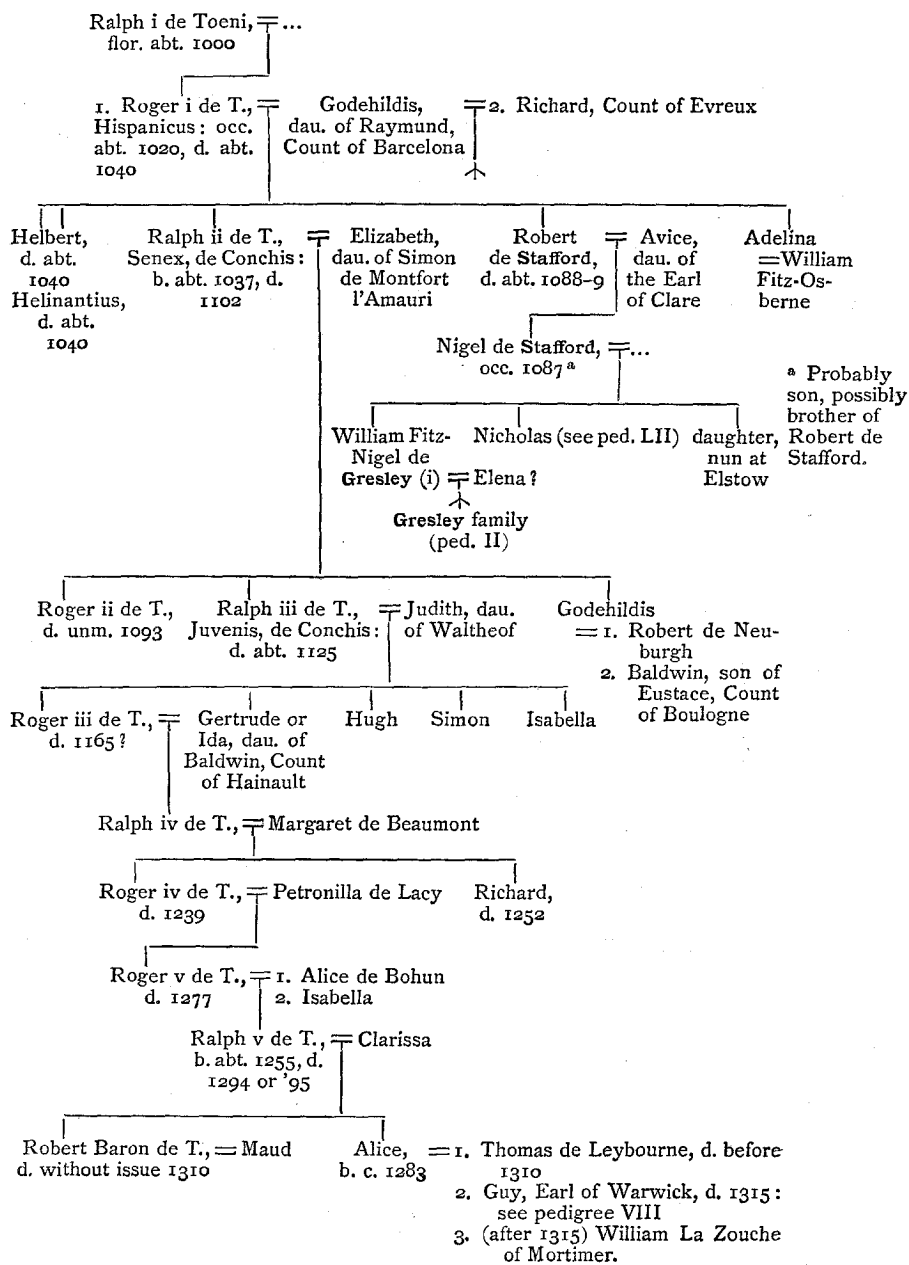
# PEDIGREES

NOTE:—The following Pedigrees, after those of Toeni and Gresley, are intended primarily to exhibit those members of families which intermarried with the Gresleys, with whom the Gresleys may naturally have come in contact. For this purpose five generations in all, as a minimum, have been where possible recorded, with the Gresley connexion in the third. Extensions of this principle have been admitted where the families were of eminence or where the records are exceptionally trustworthy and interesting. But they are not put forward as the results of original research or as fully established.

TOENI

PED. I.  
Toeni.

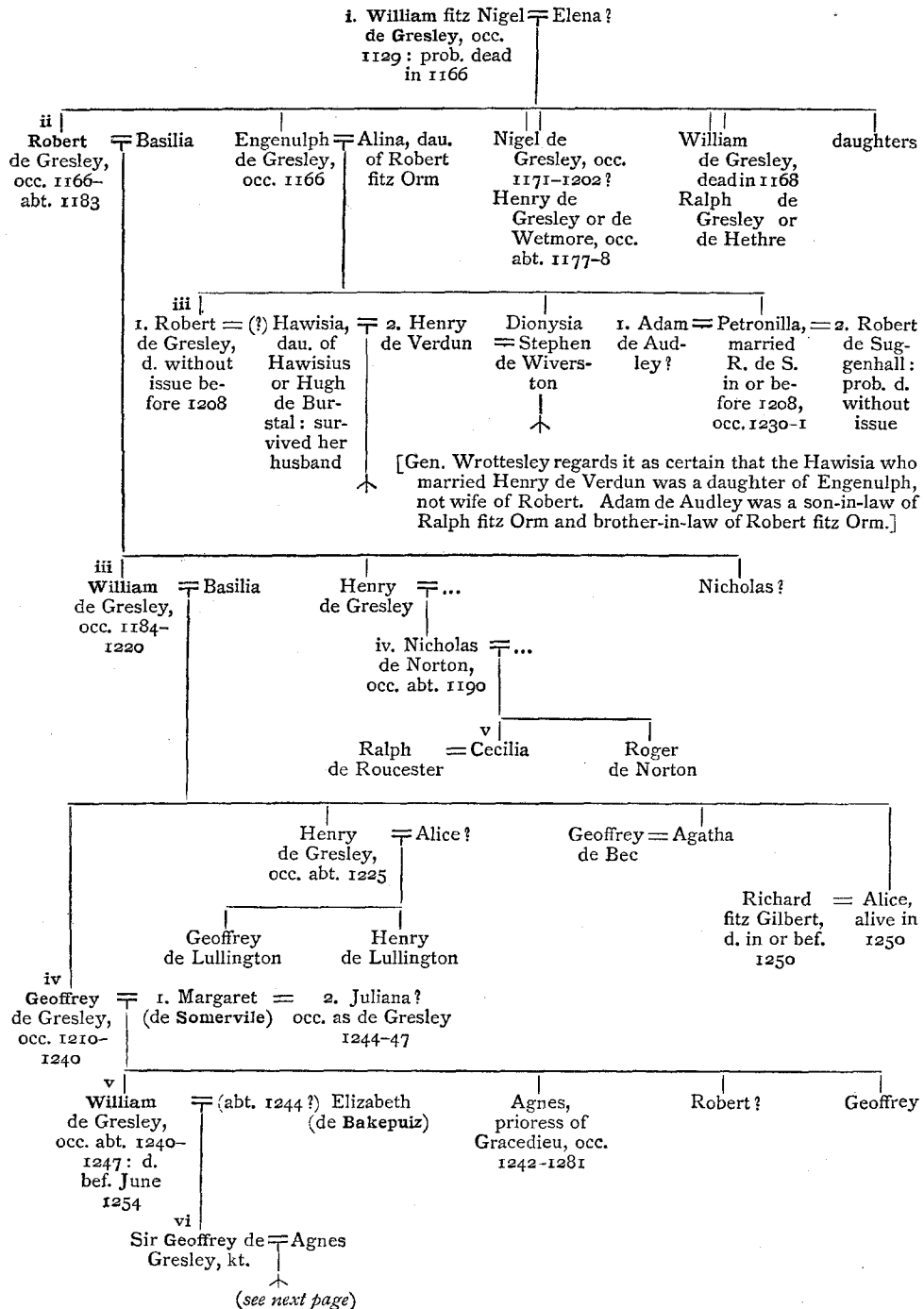
(Arms:—Argent a manche gules.)



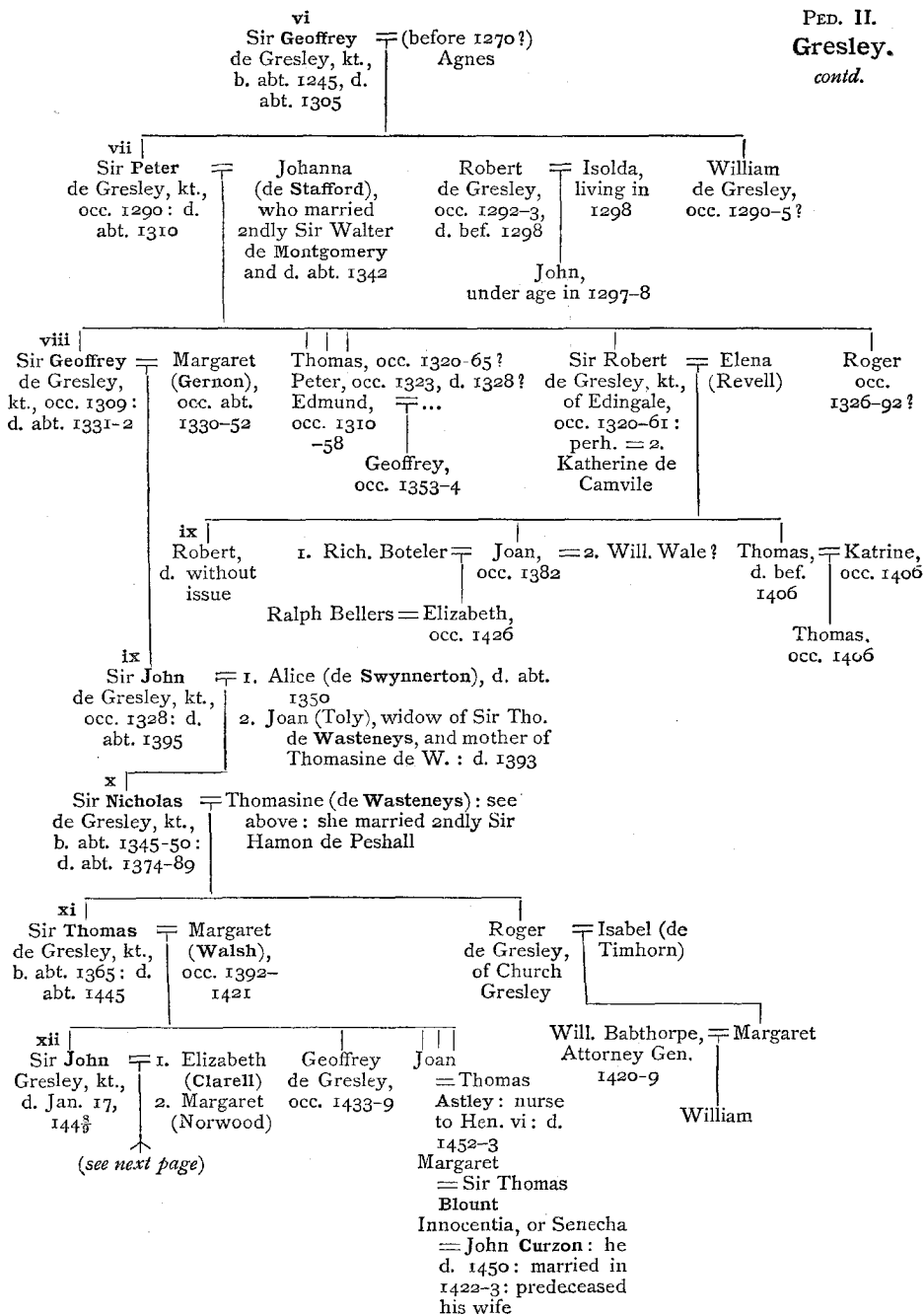
PED. II.  
Gresley.

## GRESLEY

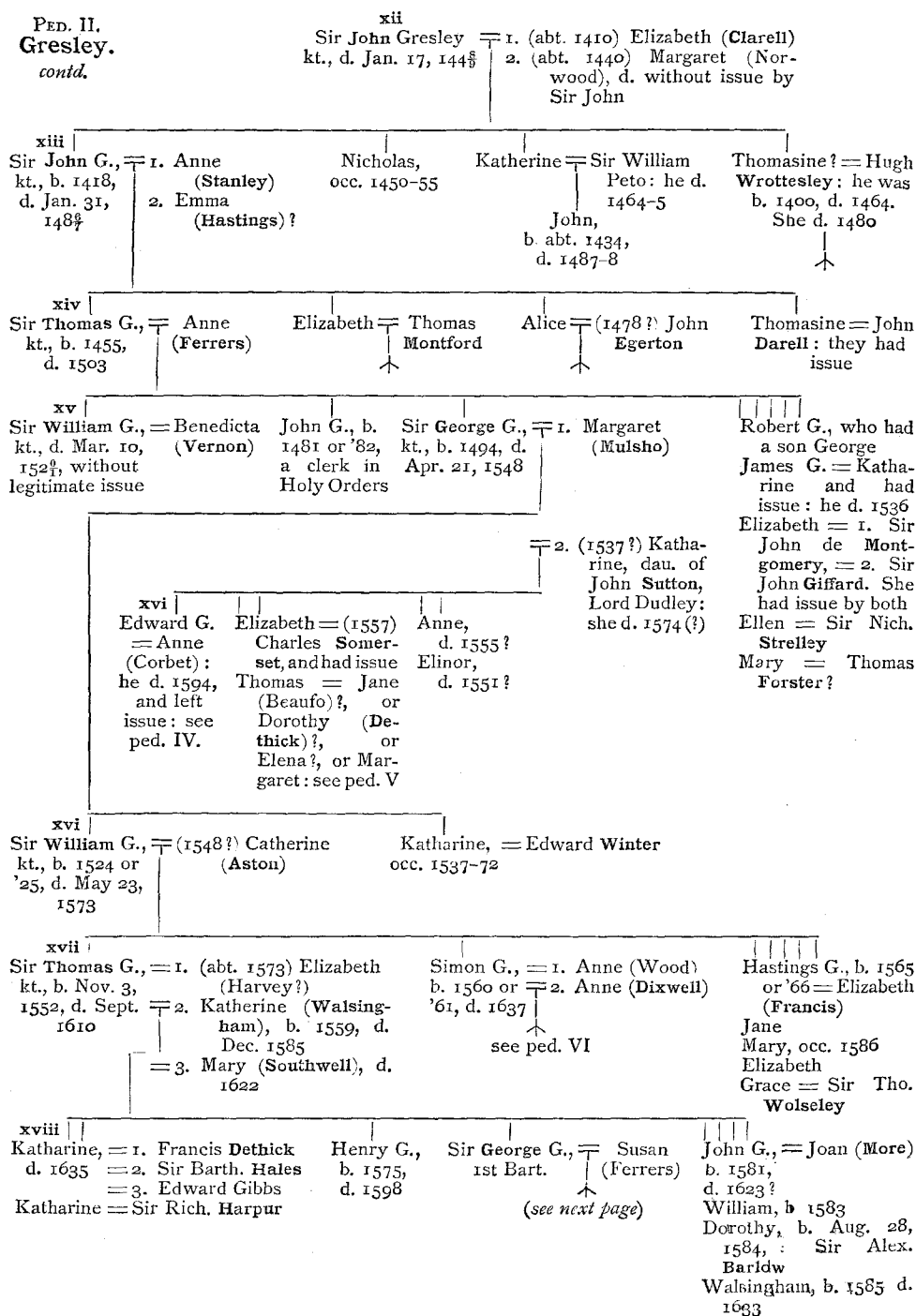
(Arms:—Vaire ermine and gules.)

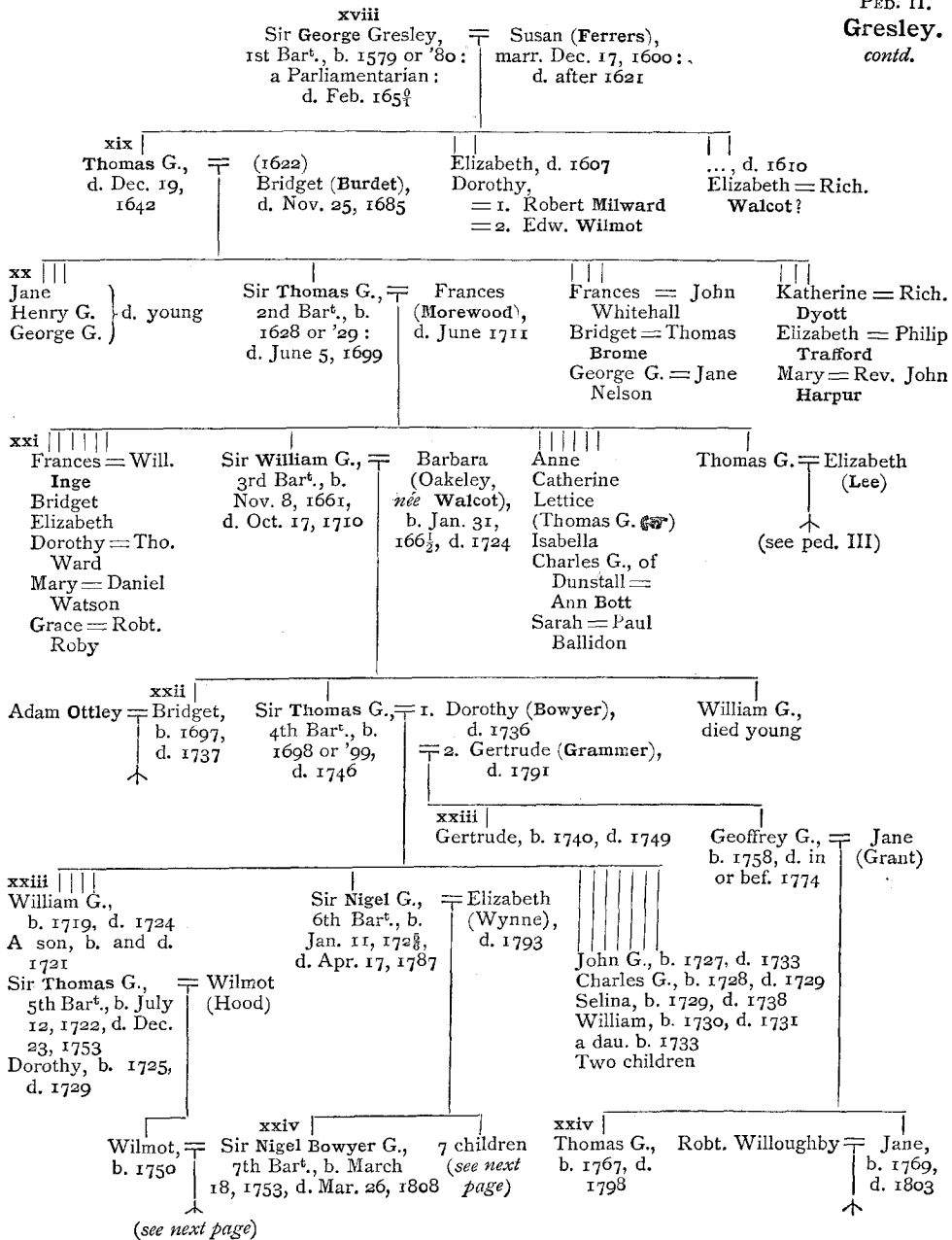


PED. II.  
Gresley.  
*contd.*

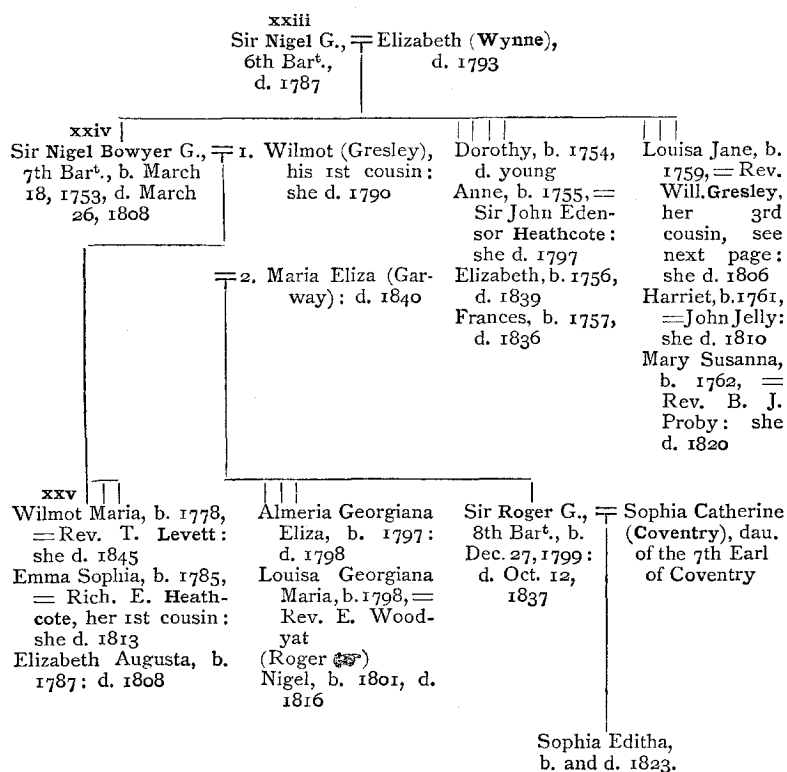


PED. II.  
Gresley.  
contd.





PED. II.  
Gresley.  
contd.

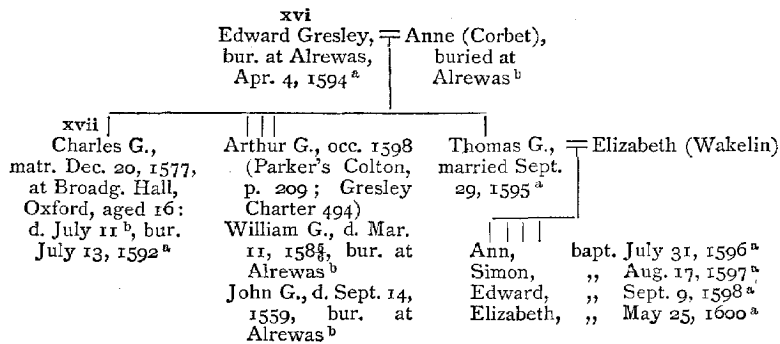








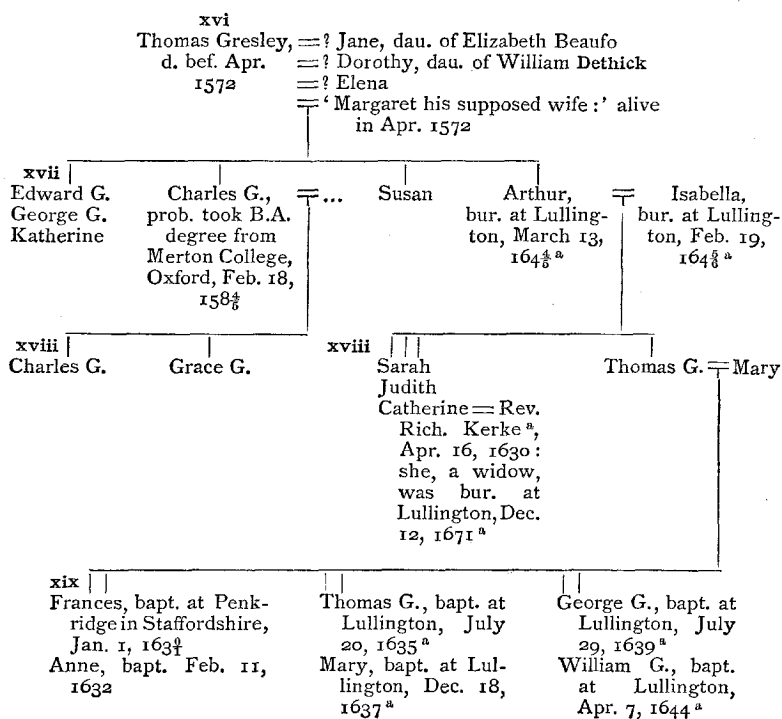
## EDWARD GRESLEY

second son of Sir George Gresley  
(see p. 66)<sup>a</sup> Alrewas Register.<sup>b</sup> Bodl. MS. Dodsw. 82, fol. 58<sup>v</sup>.Gresley Chartulary, p. 3.  
Nichols' Leicestershire (Gresley Pedigree).

PED. V.  
Gresley.

## THOMAS GRESLEY

third son of Sir George Gresley  
(see p. 67)



<sup>a</sup> Lullington Register.

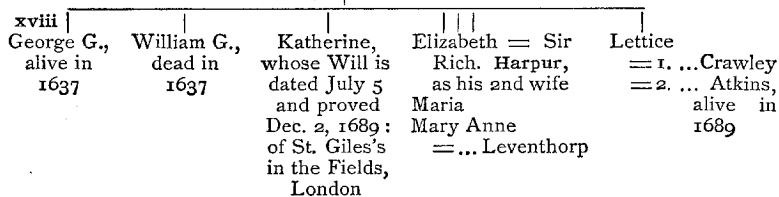
Gresley Chartulary, p. 3.  
Nichols' Leicestershire (Gresley Pedigree).

## SIMON GRESLEY

second son of Sir William Gresley  
(see p. 68)

xvii

Simon Gresley, = 1. Anne (Wood), d. 1591,  
b. 1560 or '61, without issue  
d. 1637 = 2. Anne (Dixwell)

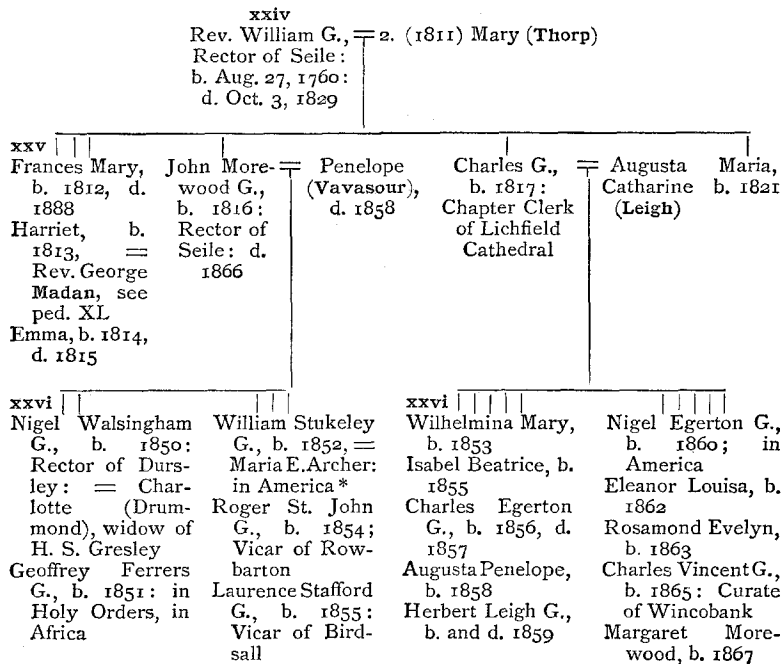


Simon's Will, 1637.  
Katherine's Will, 1689.  
Gresley Pedigrees.

PED. VII.  
Gresley.

## WILLIAM GRESLEY

father of the 9th Baronet, by his 2nd wife  
(see p. 122)



\* Married 1889; their issue is, Stukeley Marmaduke G., b. 1890; Nigel More-wood G., b. 1892; William Francis G., b. 1898.

PEDIGREES OF FAMILIES WHICH  
HAVE INTERMARRIED WITH THE GRESLEYS

ARDERNE

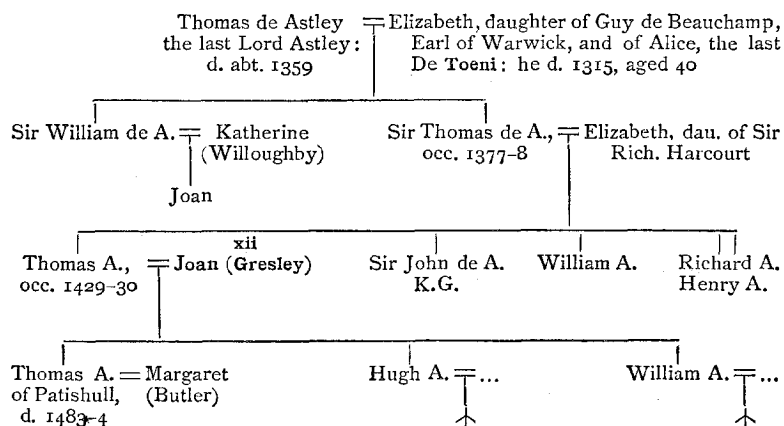
Arderne.

See STANLEY

ASTLEY

PED. VIII.  
Astley.

(Arms:—azure a cinquefoil pierced ermine.)

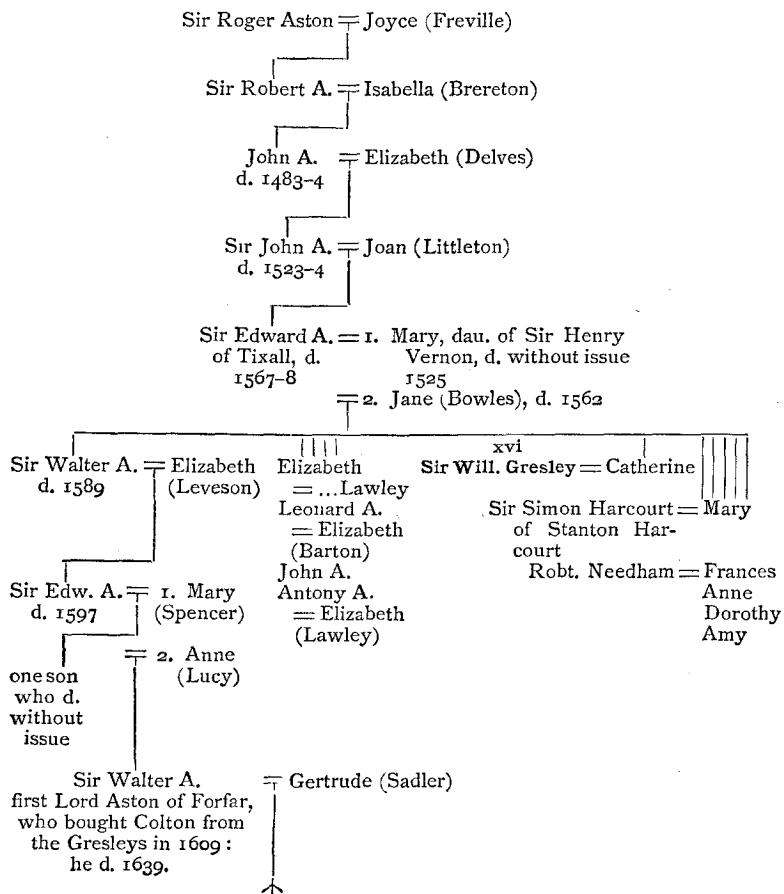


Staffordshire Visitation, 1583.  
Collins's Baronetage (1741), iv. 372.  
Burton's Leicestershire (1777), p. 55.

PED. IX.  
Aston.

### ASTON, of Tixall

(Arms:—argent a fess and three lozenges in chief sable.)

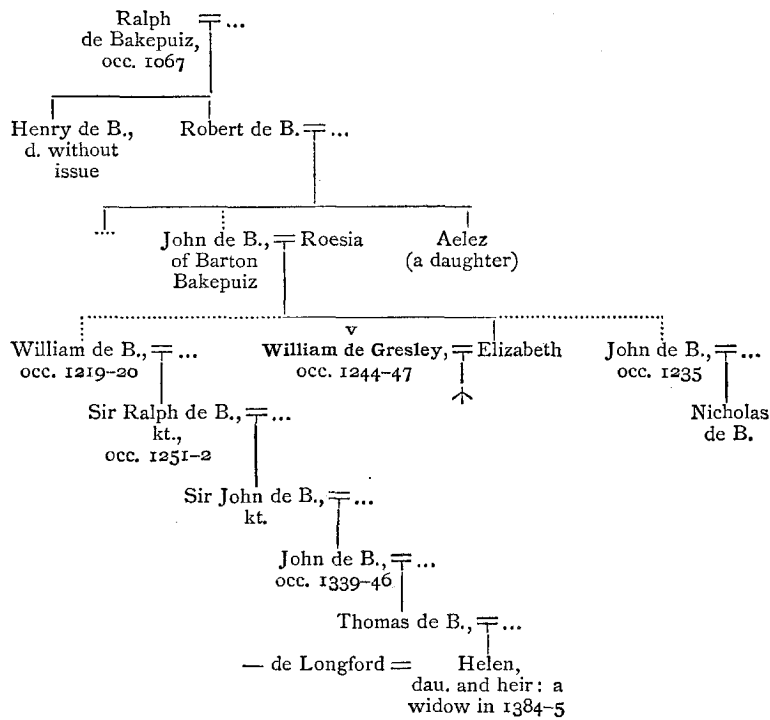


Sir Tho. Clifford's Tixall, p. 147 sqq.  
Brit. Mus. MSS. Harl. 6128, fol. 1;  
1077, fol. 64<sup>v</sup>.  
Cokayne's Peerage.



BAKEPUIZ

(Arms:—gules three bars argent as many fers de cheval in chief or.)



No satisfactory pedigree of this family has yet been drawn out. The above is from Nichols' Leicestershire iii. 5-6, with the Gresley connexion conjecturally fitted in, the conjectural parts being represented by dotted lines.

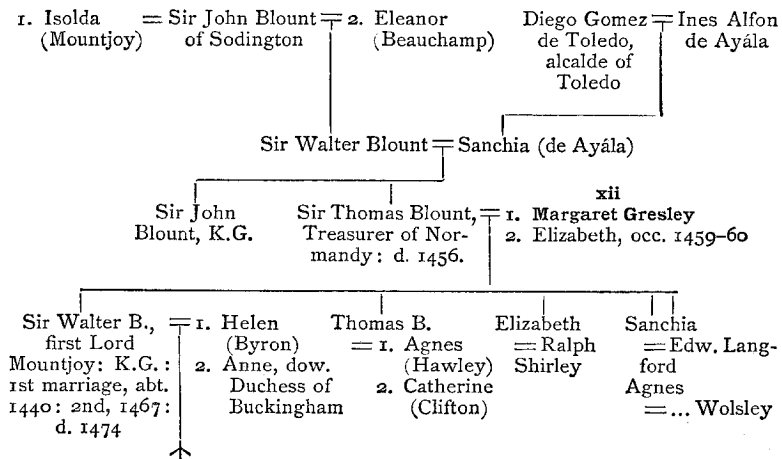




PED. XIII.  
Blount.

## BLOUNT

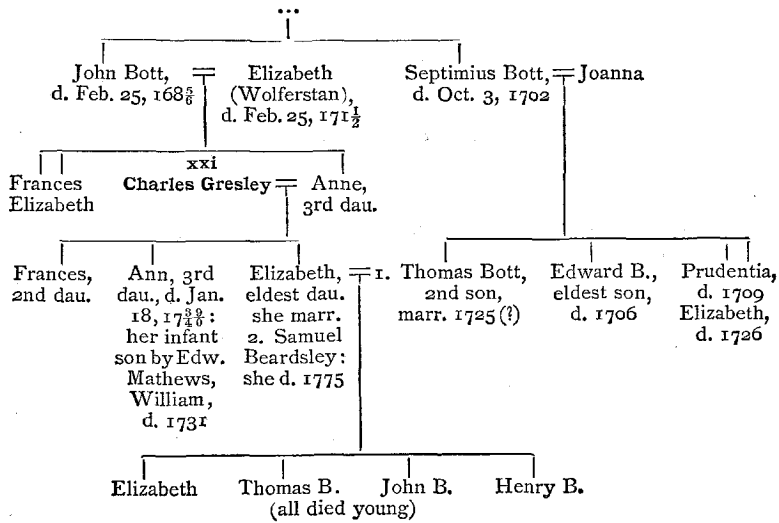
(Arms :—barry nebuly of six or and sable.)



Sir Alex. Croke's History of the Croke Family (1823) ii. 174, ped. 11 : ii. 252, ped. 12.  
Shropshire Visitation, 1623.  
Gresley Chartulary, p. 6.  
Nash's Worcestershire ii. opp. p. 162.  
F. M. Nichols, Lawford Hall, pp. 184 sqq.

BOTT

(Arms :—or a chevron ermine between three mullets sable.)

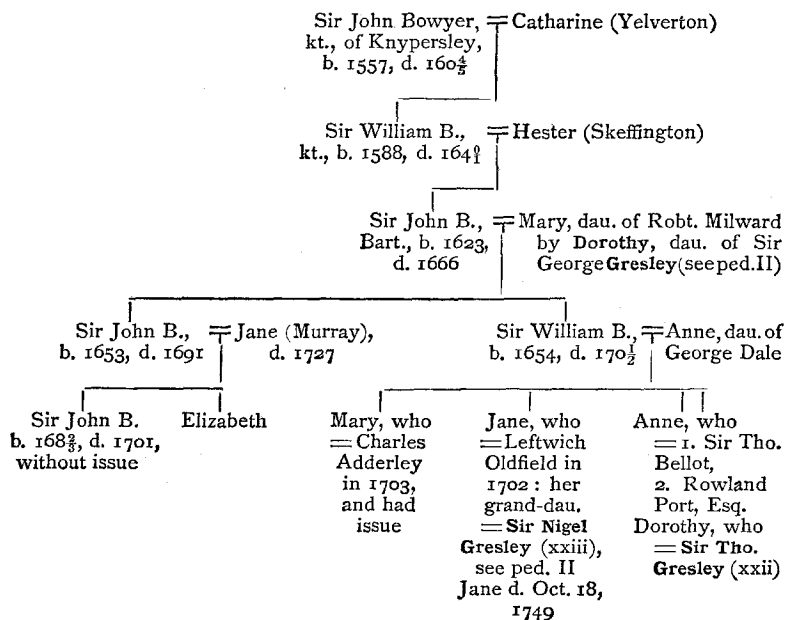


Monuments at Trinity Church, Coventry,  
and at Tatenhill.

PED. XV.  
Bowyer.

## BOWYER

(Arms :—argent a lion rampant between three crosses crosslet fitchy gules.)

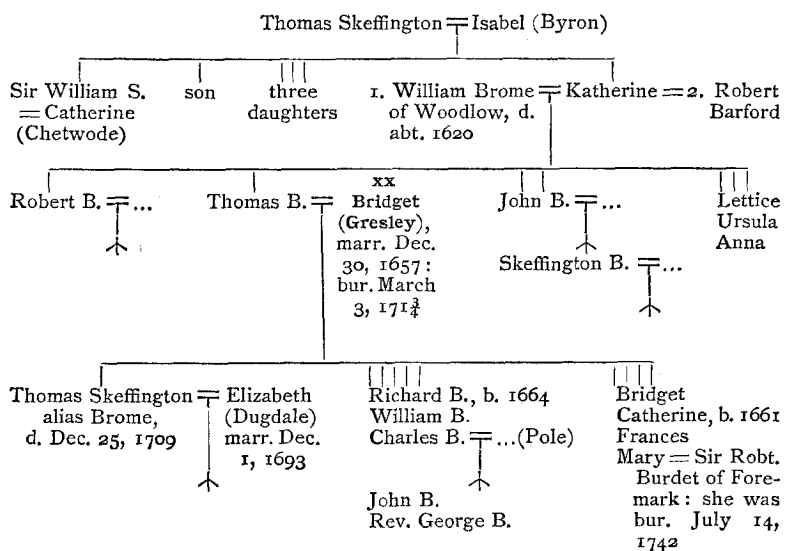


The Bowyer estates were divided equally by lot among the four daughters of Sir William Bowyer. The Norton estate fell to Mary: the Sidway, Maer Aston, Dedington and Bucknal estates to Jane, through whose grand-daughter part came to Sir Nigel Gresley: the Apedale estate to Anne, who left it to Sir Nigel, her nephew and great-nephew: and the Knypersley estate to Dorothy, mother of Sir Nigel.

MSS. of S. P. Wolferstan.  
Bowyer family Notebook.

BROME

(Arms :—azure a sinister hand erect in pale coupé at the wrist argent [?].)

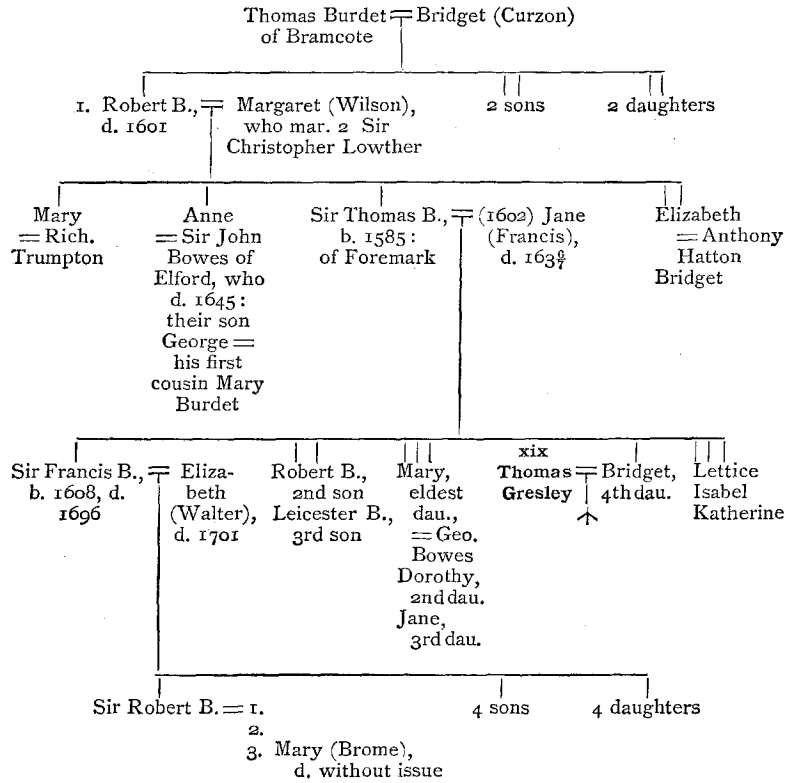


Shaw's Staffordshire i. 373.  
Nichols' Leicestershire iii. 450.

PED. XVII.  
Burdet.

### BURDET

(Arms:—azure on two bars or six martlets gules.)



Nichols' Leicestershire iii. 351.  
Wotton's Baronetage i. (1741), 335-6.  
Betham's Baronetage i. (1801), 163-6.

Chicheley.

### CHICHELEY

See DARELL

Churchill.

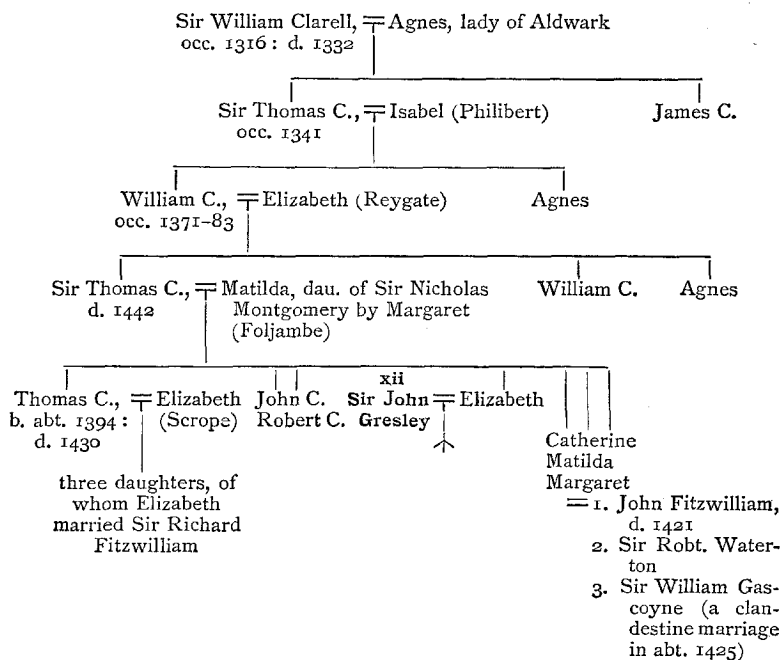
### CHURCHILL

See SPENCER-CHURCHILL



CLARELL,  
of Tickhill and Aldwark, in Yorkshire

(Arms : gules six martlets three two and one argent.)

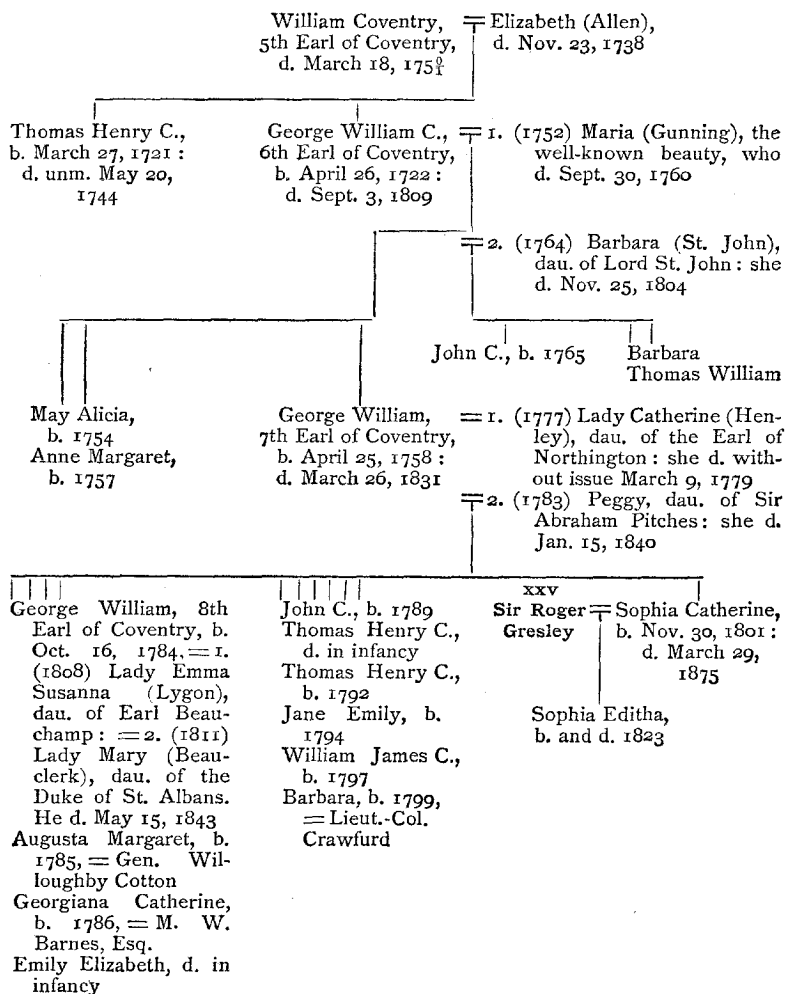


J. Hunter's South Yorkshire or Doncaster  
ii. (1831), p. 53.  
J. Foster's Yorkshire Pedigrees i.  
Brit. Mus. MSS. Harl. 4630, p. 94; Add.  
5530, pp. xxvii, cii.  
Gresley Chartulary, p. 55.

PED. XIX.  
Coventry,  
Earls of  
Coventry.

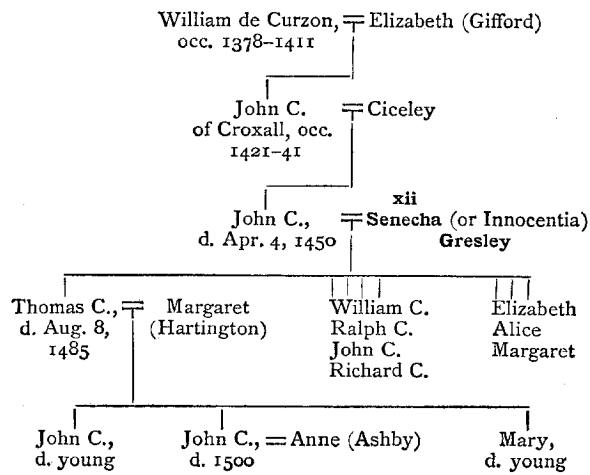
## COVENTRY

(Arms :—sable a fesse ermine between three crescents or.)



CURZON

(Arms :—azure on a bend between two lions rampant argent three popinjays vert.)

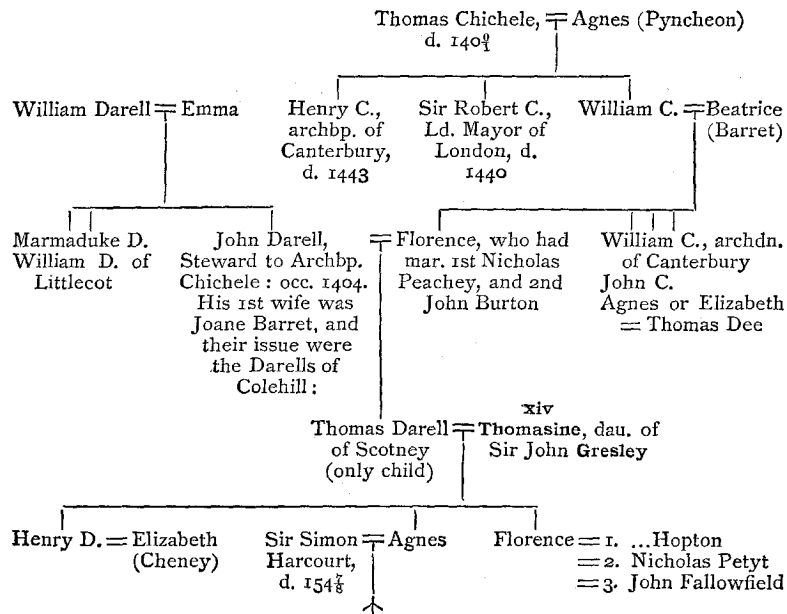


Rich. Ussher's Parish of Croxall (1881),  
pp. 5-6, ped. opp. p. 10.

PED. XXI.  
Darell.

## DARELL

(Arms :—azure a lion rampant or armed langued and crowned gules.)



Stemmata Chicheleana (1765) tables 1, 21,  
108, 219 : suppl. (1775), pp. viii, xi.  
Hasted's Kent ii. 380, iii. 224-5.  
Nottinghamshire Visitations, 1569, 1614.  
Archæologia Cantiana xvii. 46.

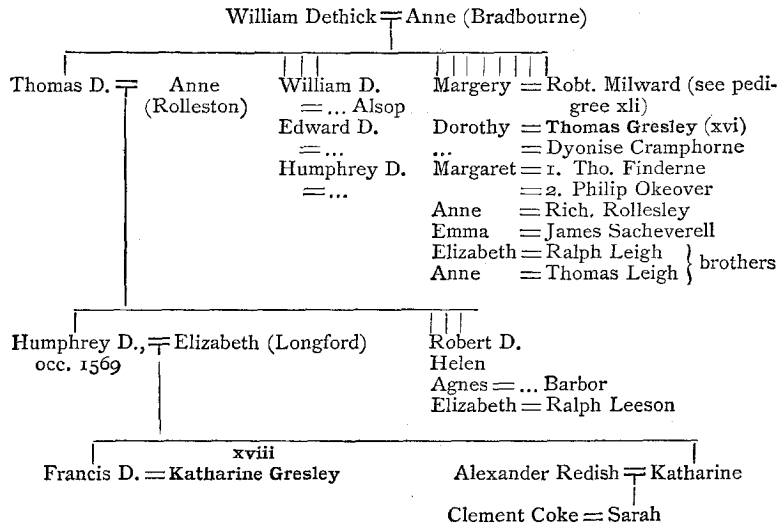
Derby.

## DERBY

See FERRERS

DETHICK of Newhall

(Arms :—argent a fess vaire or and gules between three water-bougets sable.)



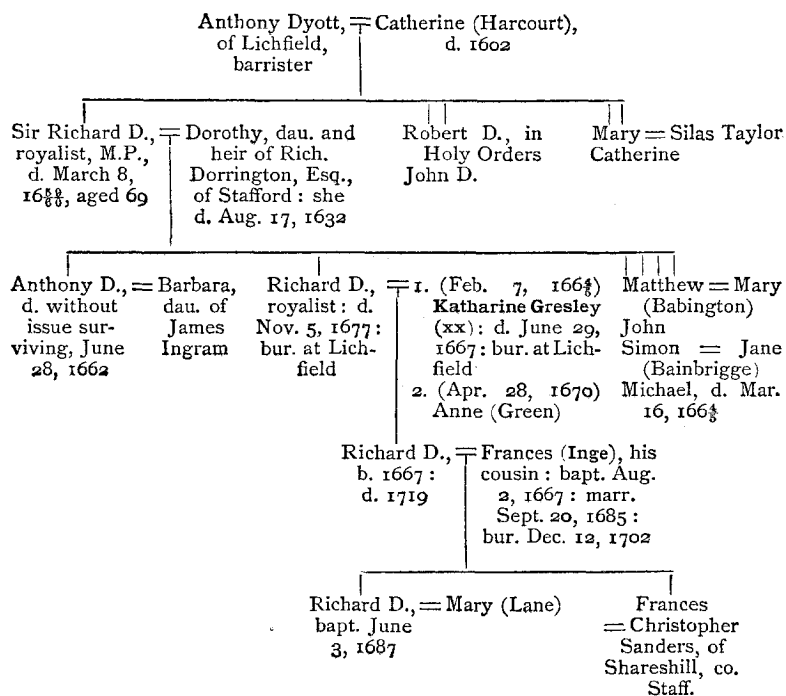
*Note.* The Dorothy Dethick who married John Harpur (see ped. XXXIII) was the daughter and heiress of John Dethick of Breadsall, a distant connexion of the Newhall Dethicks. Her name came from her grandmother, Mrs. Dorothy Powtrel: she was born in 1589, and died on Jan. 12, 161 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

Genealogist, N.S., vii. 79-80.  
Derbyshire Visitations, 1569 and 1611.  
Derbyshire Archæol. Soc. vi, opp. p. 1.



## DYOTT

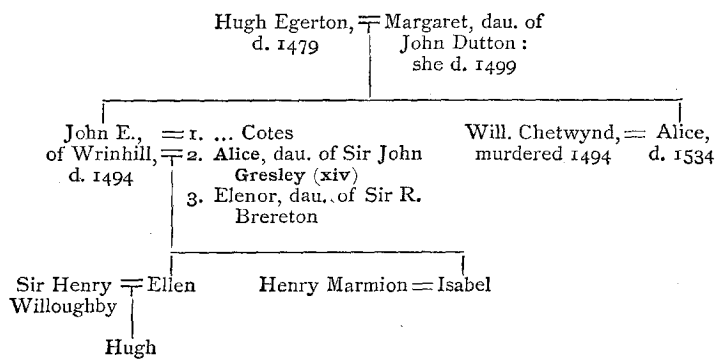
(Arms:—or a tiger passant sable.)



PED. XXV.  
Egerton.

## EGERTON

(Arms :—gules a fess between three pheons argent.)



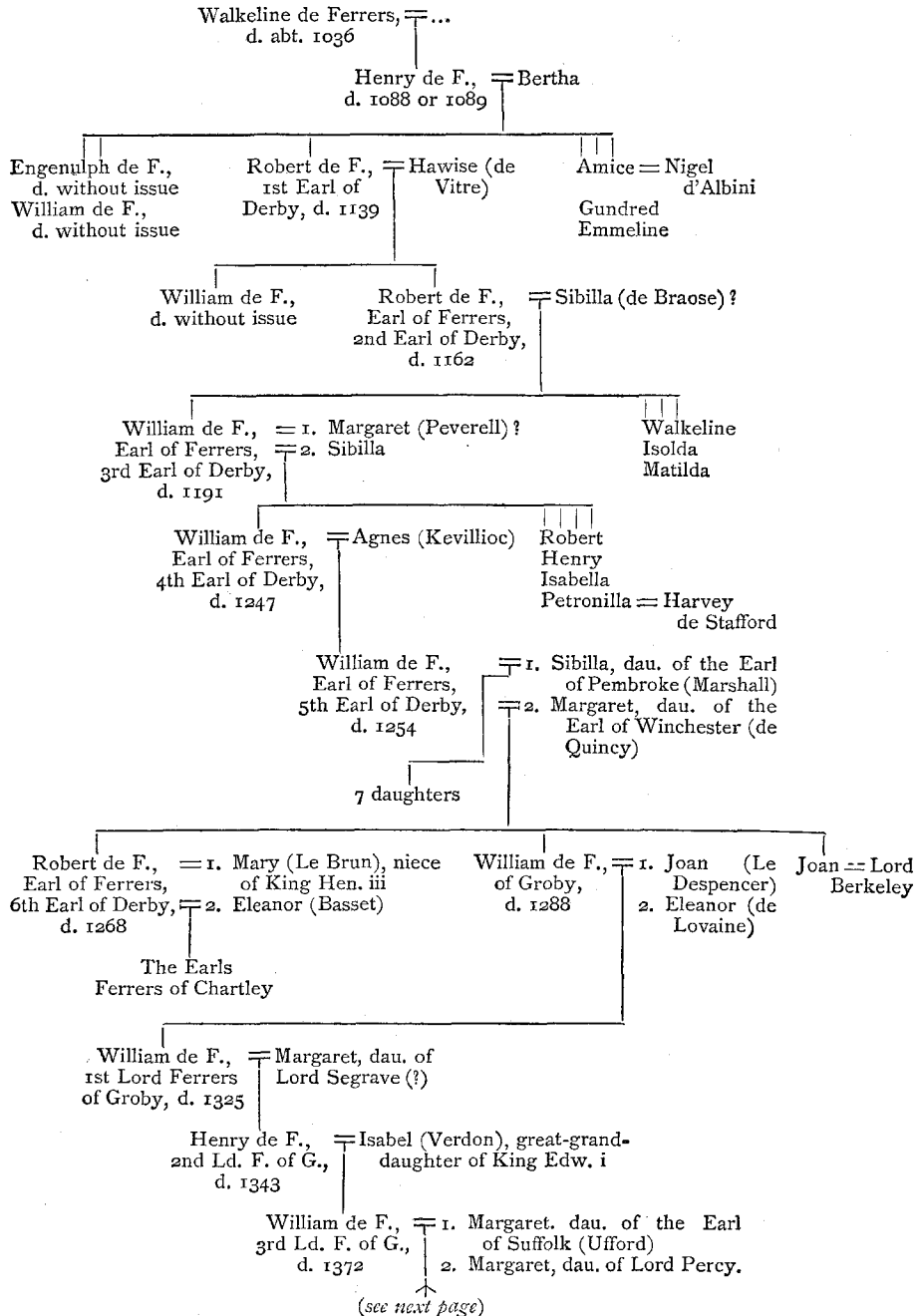
Cheshire Visitation, 1580.  
Gresley Chartulary, p. 60.  
H. E. C. Stapylton's Chetwynds (1892),  
p. 125.



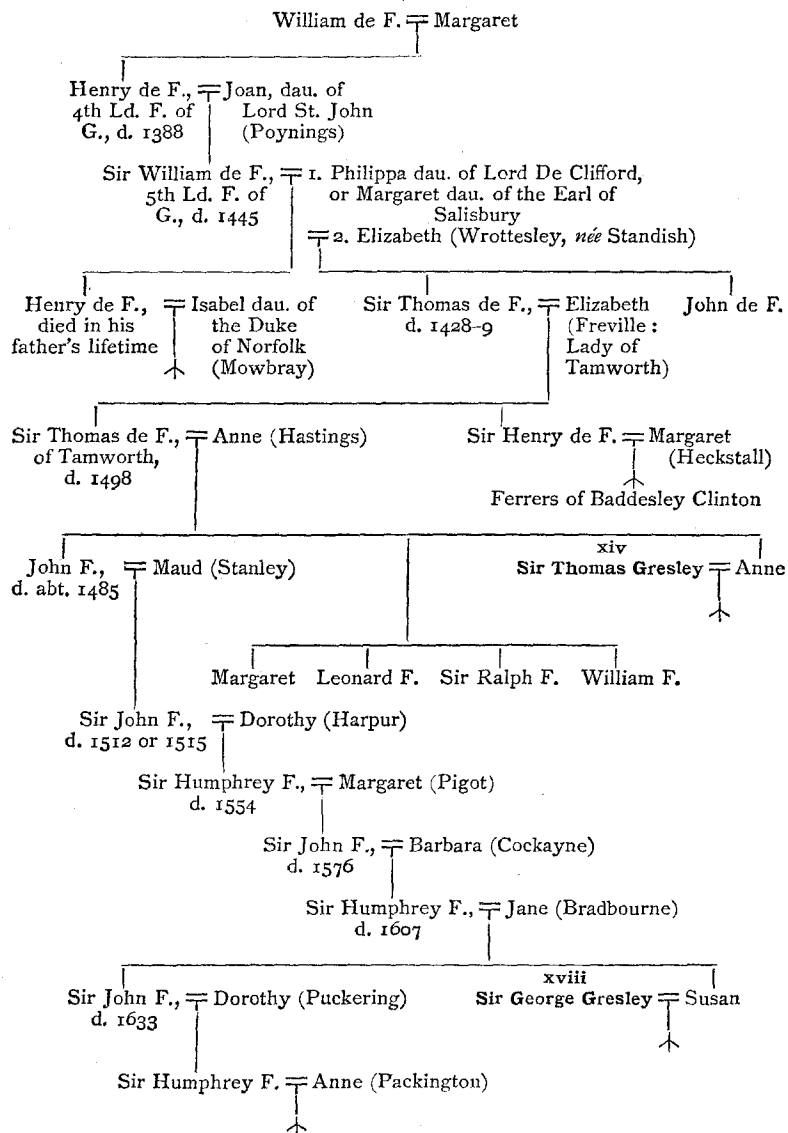
FERRERS

(Arms:—gules seven fusils three three and one voided of the field, in chief a label of three points azure. Ferrers of Chartley and ancient Ferrers bore, vair or and gules: see p. 205)

PED. XXVI.  
Ferrers,  
Earls of  
Ferrers  
and Derby.



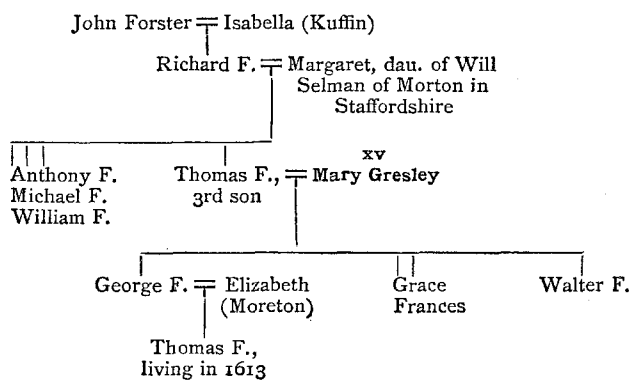
PED. XXVI.  
**Ferrers.**  
*contd.*



Dugdale's Baronage i. 257.  
 Cockayne's Peerage.  
 Planché in Journ. of the Archæol. Assn.  
 vii (1852), p. 220.  
 Jewitt, Derbyshire Domesday (1871), p. vii.  
 Cox in Derb. Archæol. Soc. ix (1887),  
 p. 118.  
 Shirley's Stemmata Shirleana, p. 103.  
 Shaw's Staffordshire i. 418.  
 Sir Tho. de Ferrers' Will, dated Feb. 149 .  
 H. Norris, Baddesley Clinton (1897).  
 &c.

## FORSTER, of Evelith

(Arms :—quarterly per fess indented argent and sable : first and fourth a bugle horn of the last strung or, second and third a pheon argent [?].)



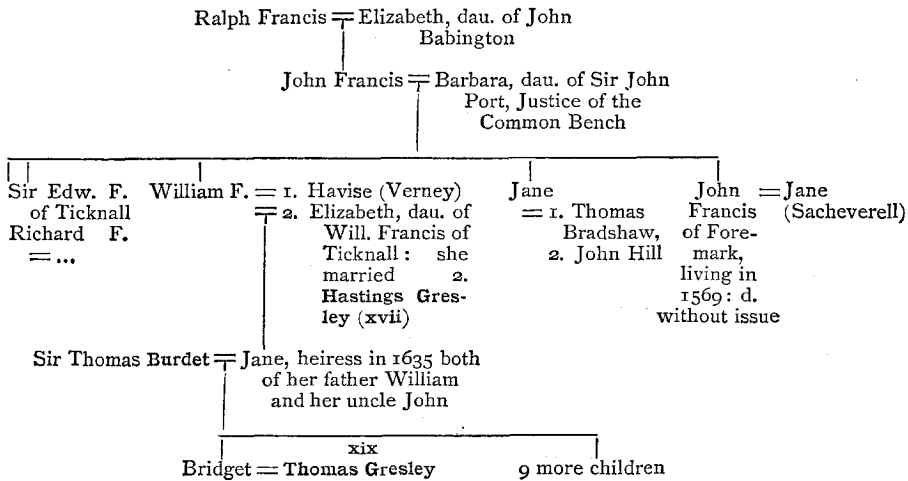
Huntingdonshire Visitation, 1613.  
The Shropshire Visitation of 1623 seems to be wrong, where it differs from the above pedigree.  
Bodl. MS. Blakeway 5, fol. 252<sup>ov</sup>.

PED. XXVIII.

Francis.

## FRANCIS

(Arms:—argent a chevron between three eagles displayed gules [?].)



Derbyshire Visitation, 1569 and 1611  
(Genealogist, N.S., vii. 135).  
Helsby's Ormerod's Cheshire iii. 297.  
Harleian Soc. xxxix. 571.  
See also Essex Visitation 1612 (Harl  
Soc. xiii. 200).

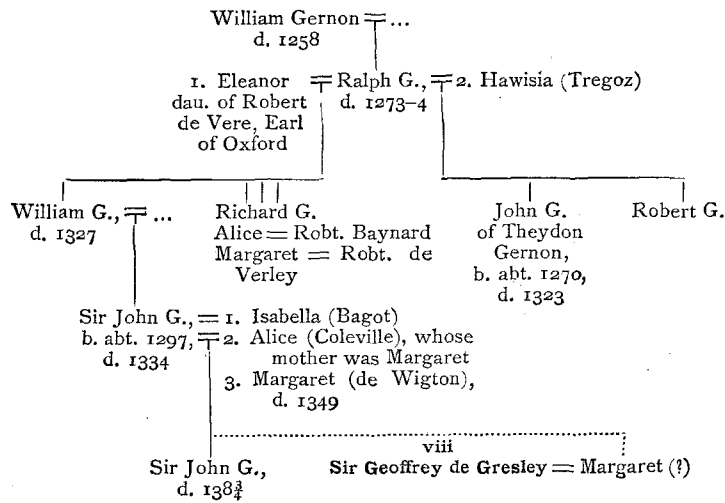
Gaste-  
neys.

## GASTENEYS

*See* WASTENEYS

GERNON

(Arms :—paly wavy of seven pieces gules and argent.)



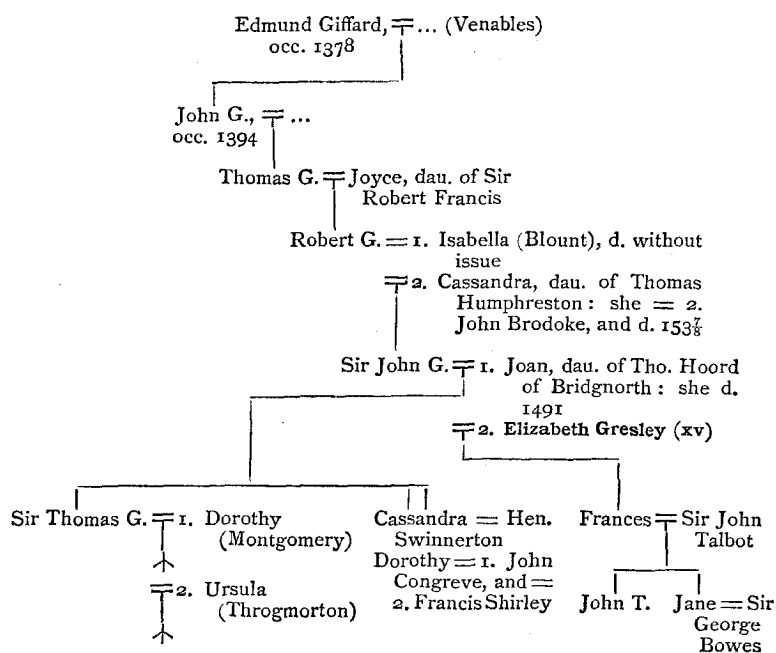
(Dotted lines indicate unproved but probable connexion.)

R. E. Chester Waters' Chester of  
Chicheley (1878) i. 199.  
Morant's Essex ii. 181.

PED. XXX.  
Giffard.

### GIFFARD, of Chillington

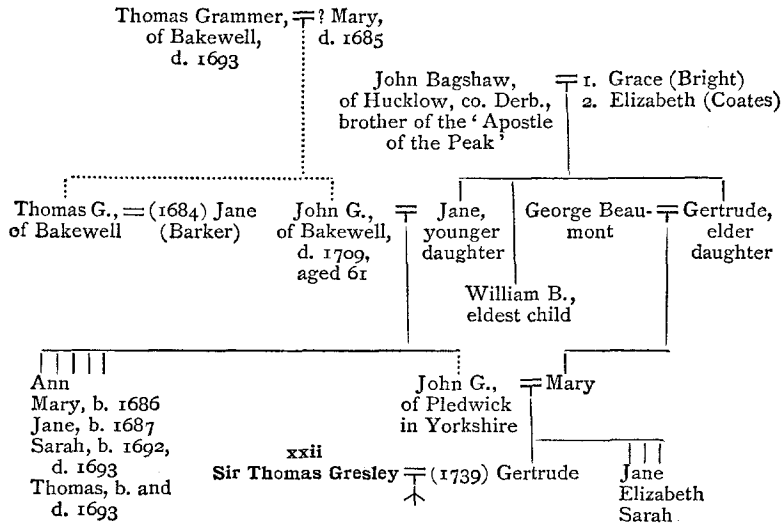
(Arms :—quarterly first and fourth azure three stirrups with leathers or two and one, second and third gules three lions passant argent.)



Reliquary xv. 7.  
J. H. Smith's *Brewood Chancel* (1870),  
p. 5; *Brewood*, 2nd ed. (1874),  
p. 38.

GRAMMER

(Arms :—gules billetty or a lion rampant argent [?].)



(Dotted lines indicate unproved but probable connexion.)

Reliquary, O. S., iv. 98.  
Harl. Soc. xxxvii. 246.  
J. Foster's Yorkshire Pedigrees, vol. i. (Beaumont).  
W. H. G. Bagshaw's Bagshawes of Ford (1886), p. 96.

GRESLEY

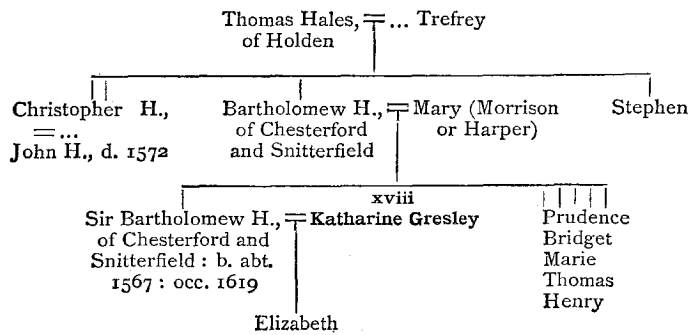
See Pedigrees II-VII.

PED. XXXII.

Hales.

## HALES, of Snitterfield

(Arms :—gules three broad arrows or.)

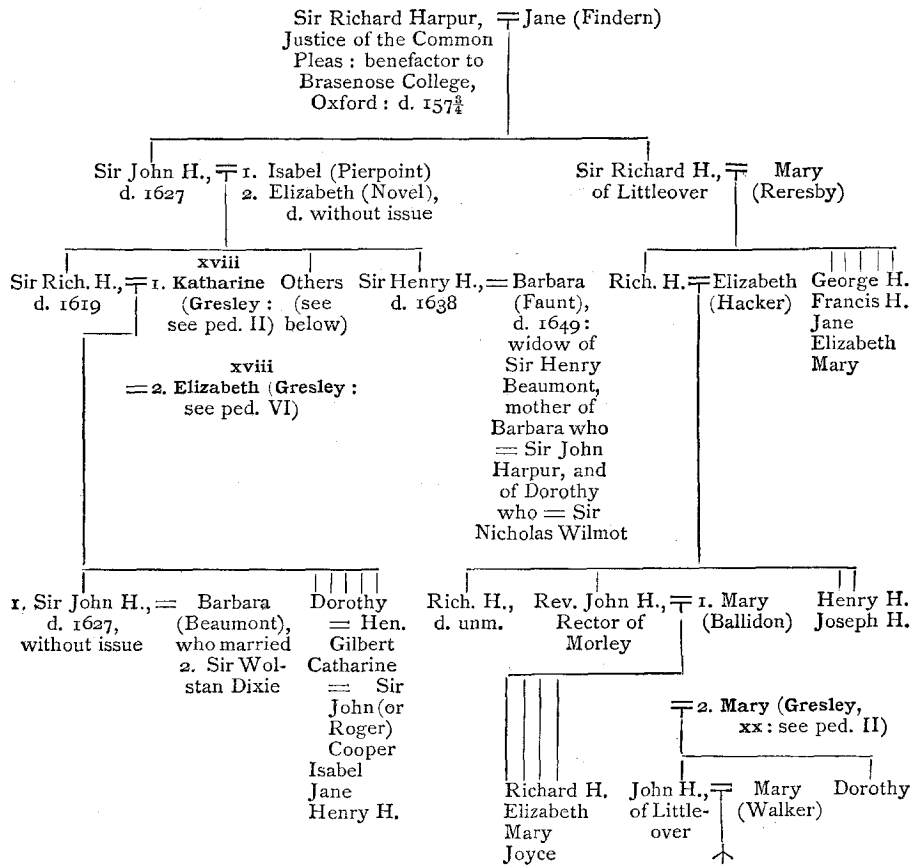
Warwickshire Visitation, 1619.  
Collins's Baronetage (1741), iii. 165.



HARPUR, of Swarkston

PED. XXXIII.  
Harpur.

(Arms :—per bend sinister argent and sable a lion rampant counterchanged within a bordure gobonated or and gules.)



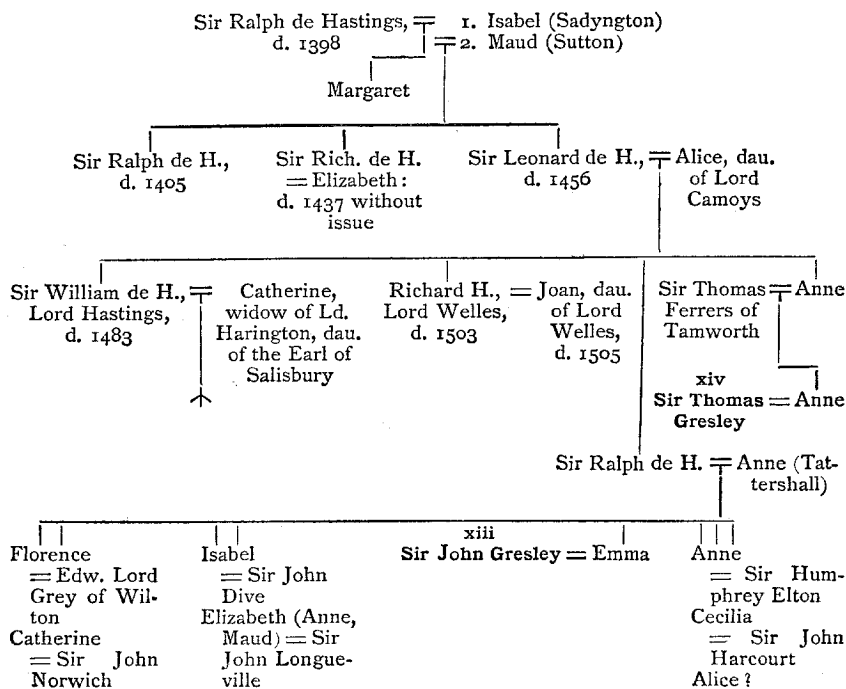
*Note.*—Sir Richard Harpur's other brothers and sisters were :—John = Dorothy Dethick : George, William, Francis, and Thomas, who all died without issue : Winifred = John Browne : Dorothy = John White : Jane = Patrick Lowe : Isabella = Sir Philip Sherard : and Winifred, who died without issue.

Cox's Derbyshire Churches ii. 4-5, iii. 500.  
Collins's Baronetage, 1741.  
Noble's Glover's Derbyshire (1829), ii. pp. 184-6, &c.  
Nichols' Leicestershire iii. 2, 885.

PED. XXXIV.

**Hastings.****HASTINGS**

(Arms :—argent a maunch sable [?].)



H. N. Bell's Huntingdon Peerage

(1820), p. 12.

Nichols' Leicestershire, iii. 608, n. 7.

Collins' Peerage (1812), vi. 648.

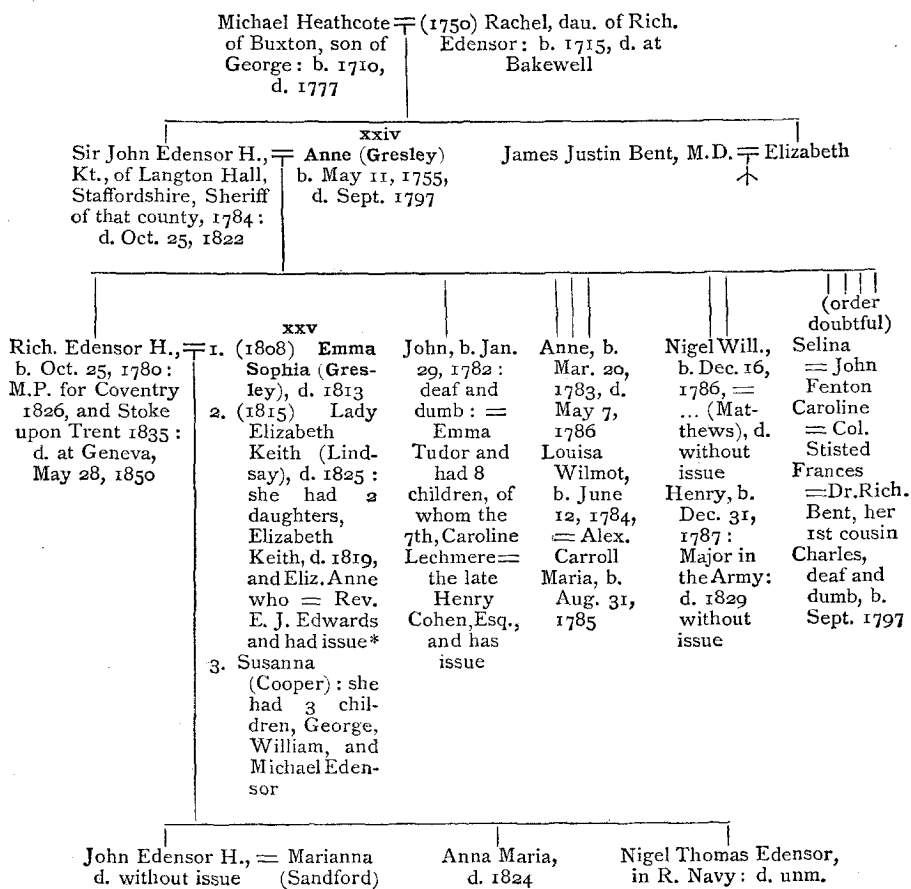
Stemmata Chicheleana (1765),

no. 24: Suppl. (1775), nos. 318,

351, 352, 354.

HEATHCOTE

(Arms:—ermine three pomeis each charged with a cross or.)



Family Notebooks.  
Information from E. D. Heathcote, Esq., 1898.

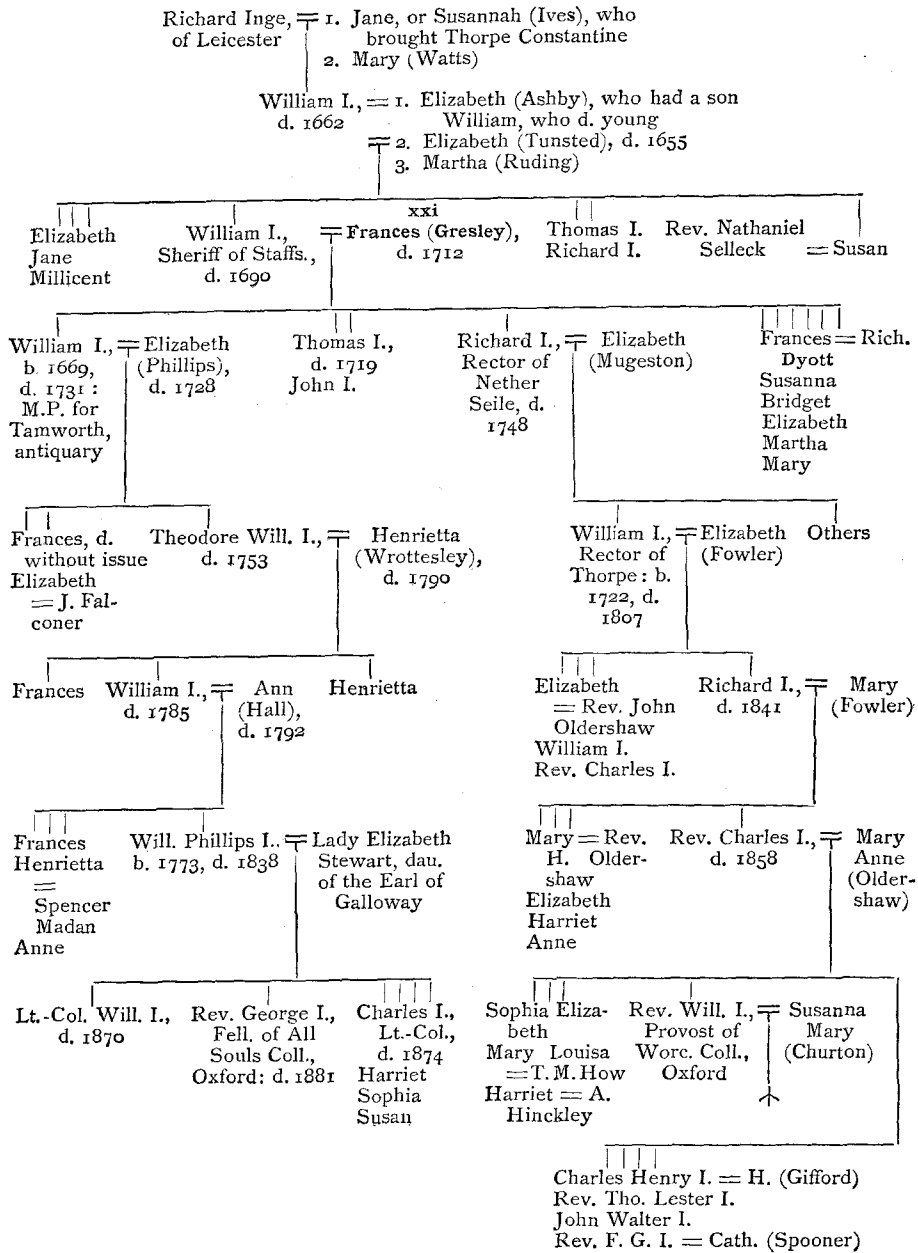
\* One son was the James Edwards mentioned on p. 153.

PED. XXXVI.

Inge.

## INGE, of Thorpe Constantine

(Arms:—or on a chevron vert three leopards' faces of the first.)



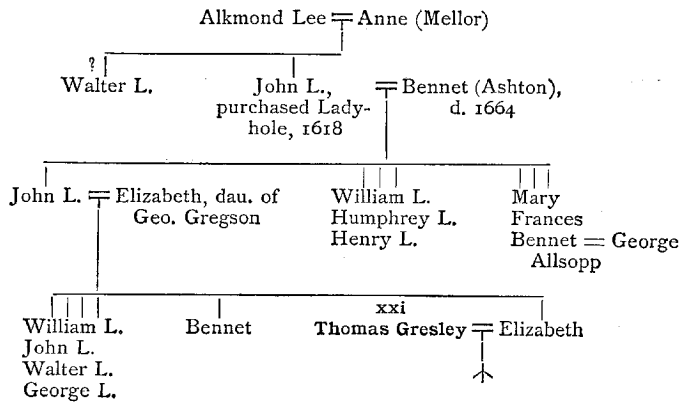
Shaw's Staffordshire i. 409.

Burke's Landed Gentry (1846) i. 633.

Manuscript pedigree in the hands of the Provost of Worcester College, Oxford.

LEE, or LEES, of Ladyhole

(Arms:—azure three ducal coronets or a border argent.)

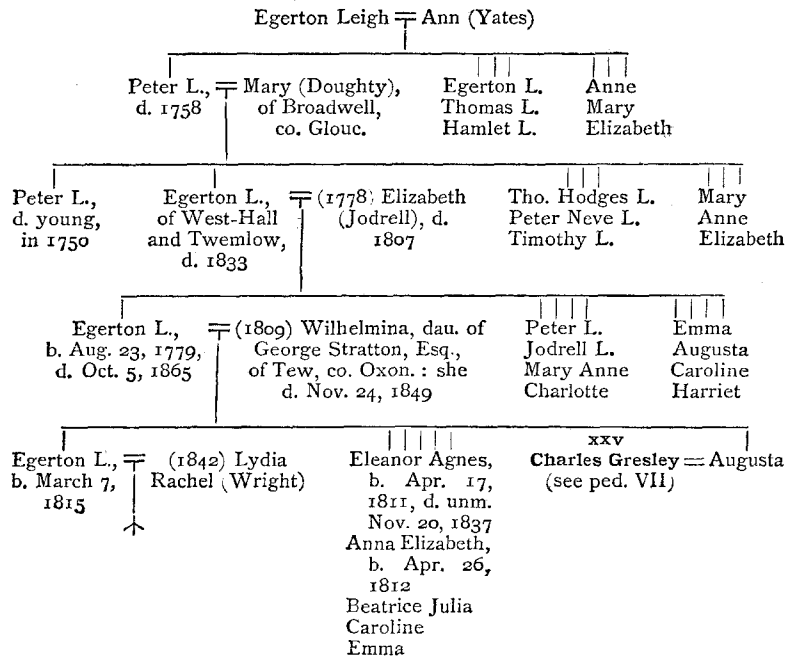


Papers at Drakelowe.  
Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 6104.

PED.  
XXXVIII.  
Leigh.

### LEIGH, of West-Hall

(Arms:—or a lion rampant gules.)

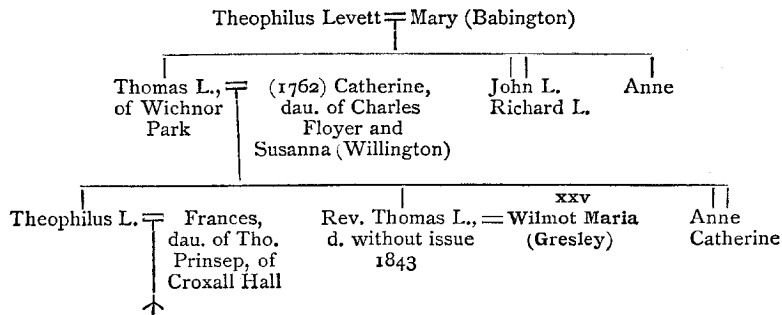


Helsby's Ormerod's Cheshire (1882)  
i. 456-7.

PED.  
XXXIX.  
Levett.

LEVETT

(Arms:—argent a lion rampant between three crosses crosslet fitchy sable, a bordure engrailed azure charged with four crosses crosslet fitchy and four fleurs-de-lys alternately or.)



Burke's Landed Gentry (1846) i. 725.

LONGFORD

Longford.

See STAFFORD II

PED. XL.

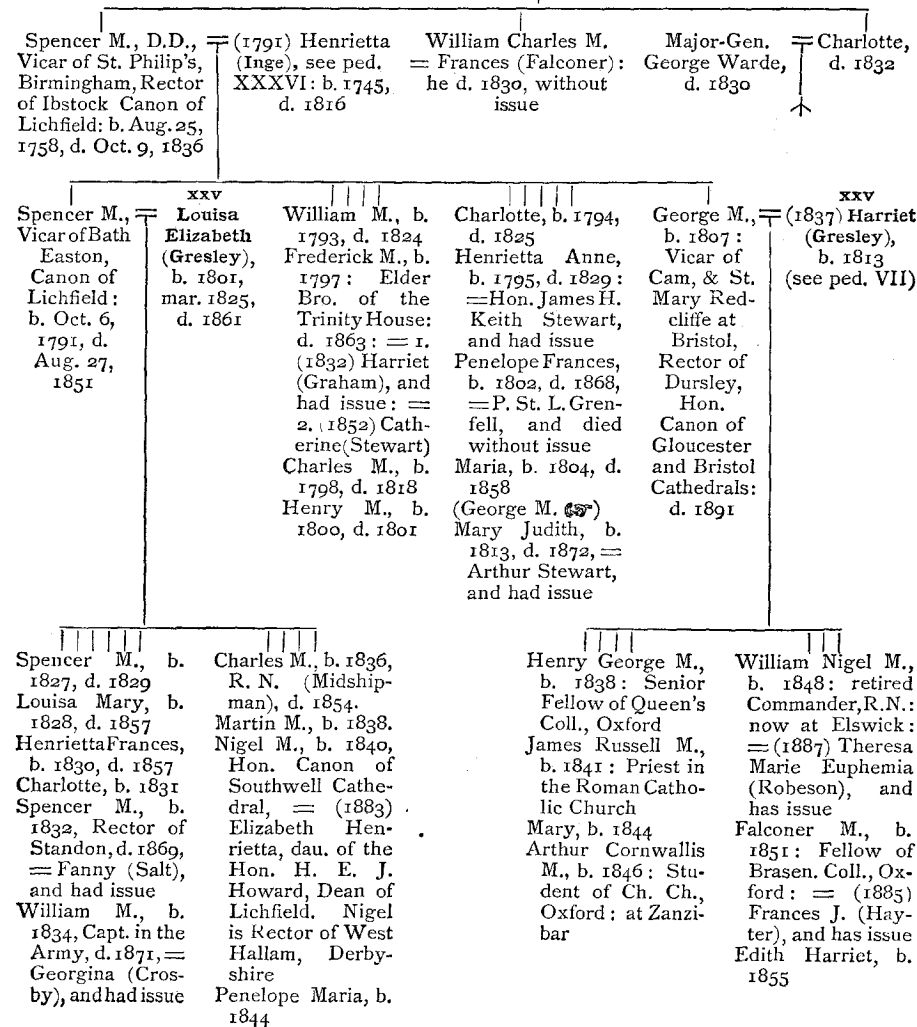
Madan.

## MADAN

(Arms :—sable a falcon or preying on a duck argent, on a chief of the second a cross bottony gules)

Spencer Madan, D.D., Chaplain in Ordinary to the King, Bp. of Bristol and of Peterborough, b. 1727 or '28 : son of Col. Martin Madan, M.P., and Judith (Cowper) aunt of the poet : Spencer d. 1813

1. Lady Charlotte (Cornwallis), dau. of the first Earl Cornwallis : she d. 1794  
 = 2. Mary (Vyse), who d. without issue 1827





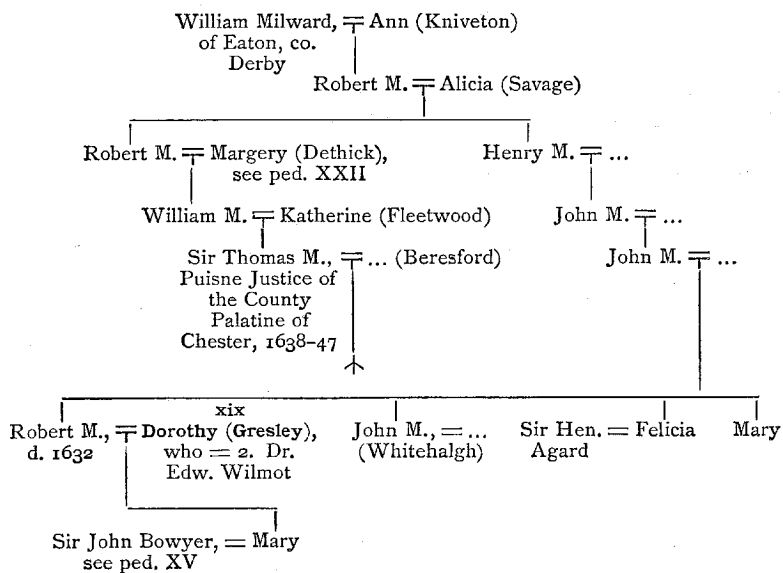
MARLBOROUGH  
See SPENCER-CHURCHILL

Marl-  
borough.

MILWARD

PED. XLI.  
Milward.

(Arms :—ermine on a fess gules three plates.)

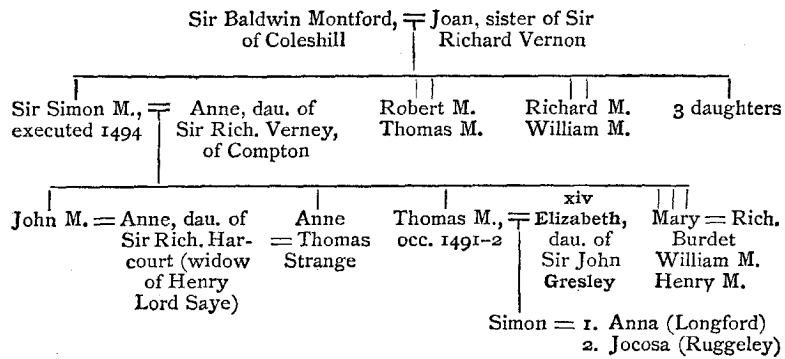


Derbyshire Visitation, 1662-3.  
Derbyshire Pedigrees, a MS. owned by  
S. P. Wollerstan, Esq.  
Harl. Soc. xxxviii. 577.

PED. XLII.  
Montford.

## MONTFORD

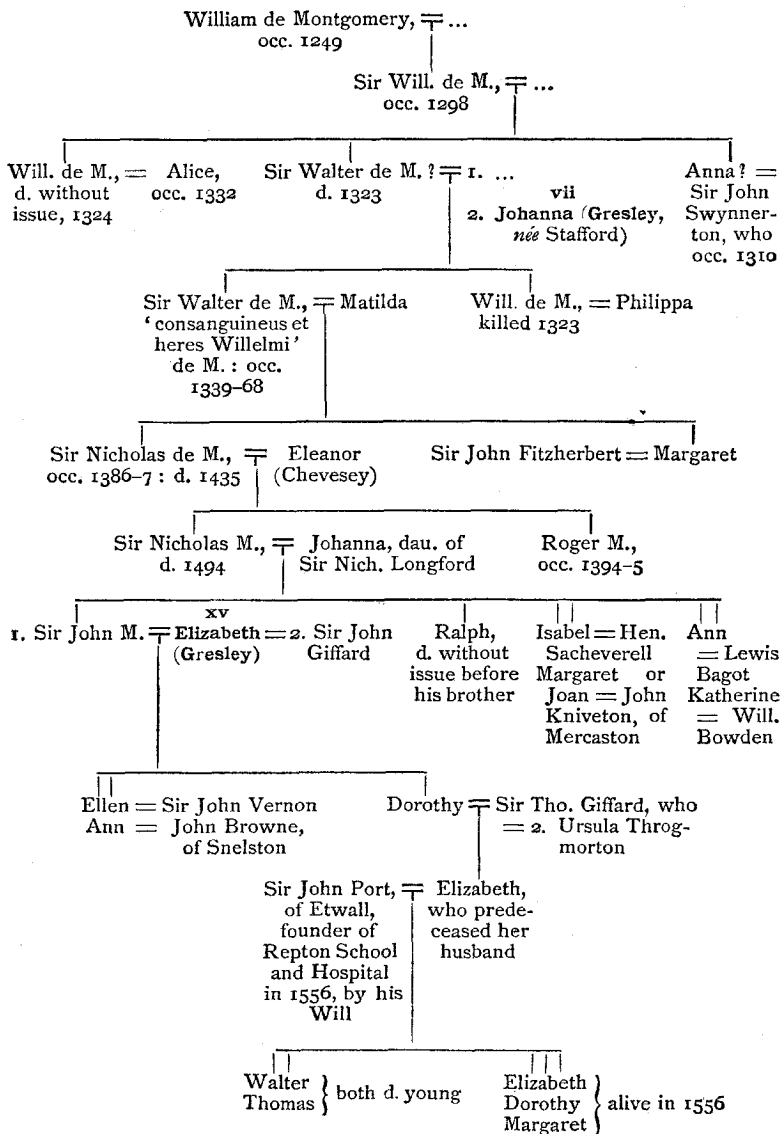
(Arms :—bendy of six or and azure.)



Visitations of Warwickshire and Essex.  
Dugdale's Warwickshire, 2nd ed. (1765),  
p. 715.

MONTGOMERY

(Arms:—or an eagle displayed gules.)

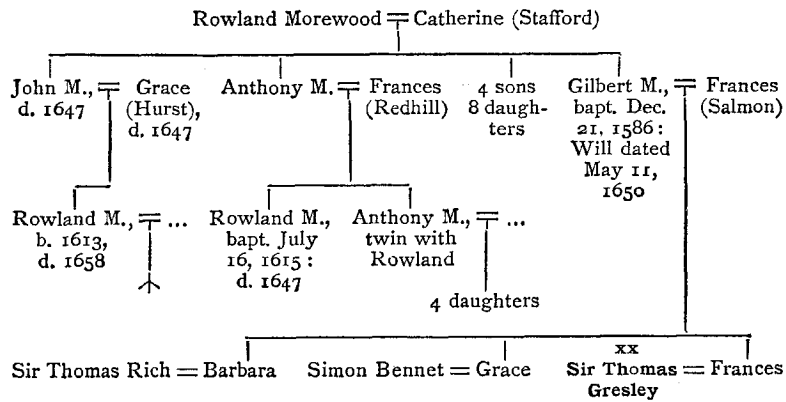


Reliquary xv. 7.  
Cox's *Derb. Churches* iii. 9r.  
R. Bigsby's *Repton* (1854), *Hist.* p. 103.



MOREWOOD

(Arms :—vert a tree argent fruited or.)

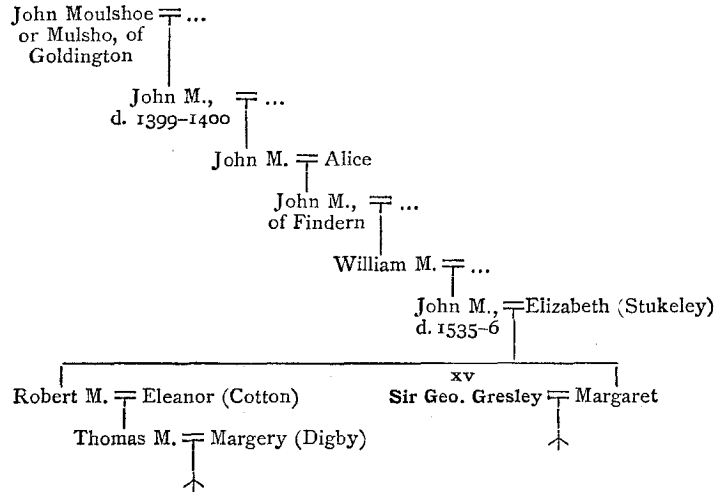


Harleian Soc. xxxix. 1062-4.  
Hunter's Hallamshire (1819), 274.

PED. XLVI.  
Mulsho.

MULSHO, of Findern

(Arms :—ermine on a bend sable three goats' heads erased of the first horned and bearded or.)



Bridges' Northamptonshire.

Oakeley.

OAKELEY

*See* WALCOT

Ottley.

OTTLEY

*See* WALCOT

REID

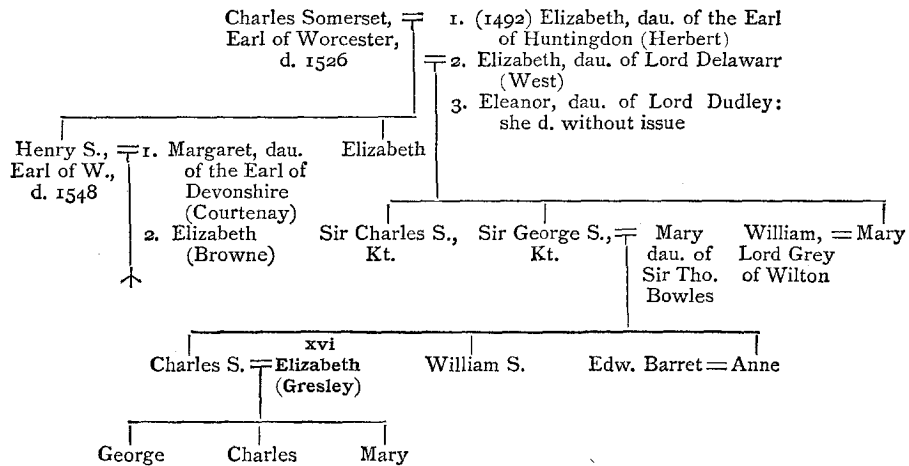
Reid.

See WALCOT

SOMERSET

PED. XLVII.  
Somerset.

(Arms:—argent on a fess France and England quarterly within a bordure compony argent and azure.)

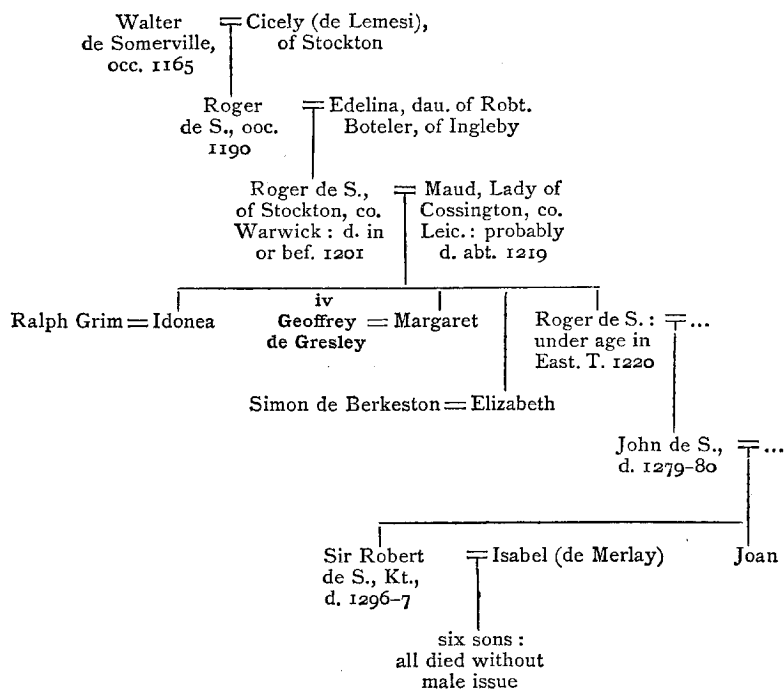


Doyle's Baronage.  
Collins' Peerage (1812) i. 227.

PED. XLVIII.  
Somerville.

## SOMERVILE

(Arms :—azure three spread-eagles between nine crosses crosslet or :  
probably at first the field was crusily.)

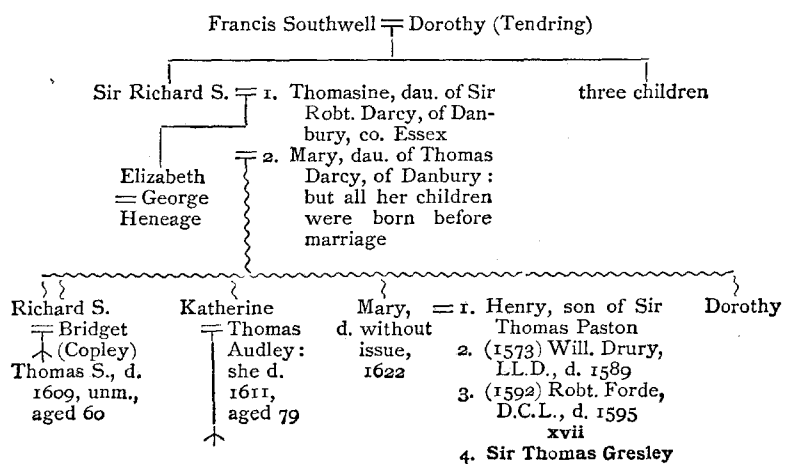


Salt Soc. iv. i. 14.  
Bodl. MS. Dodsw. cxxii. p. 40.  
Shaw's Staffordsh. i. 126.  
Dugd. Warw. 2nd ed. ii. 341.



## SOUTHWELL

(Arms :—argent three cinquefoils gules each charged with six annulets or [?].)



Norfolk Visitation, 1563.  
 Brit. Mus. MS Harl. 1552, fol. 48.  
 Jos. Edmondson's Baronagium  
 Genealogicum, vi, fol. 33.

PED. I.  
**Spencer-Churchill,**  
**Dukes of**  
**Marl-**  
**borough.**

### SPENCER-CHURCHILL

(Arms:—quarterly 1st and 4th sable a lion rampant argent on the canton of the last a cross gules: 2nd and 3rd quarterly argent and gules, in the 2nd and 3rd a fret or: over all on a bend sable three escallops of the first (*for Spencer*): in chief an escutcheon of pretence argent charged with the cross of St. George gules, on an inescutcheon azure three fleurs-de-lys or.)

George Spencer-Churchill,  $\equiv$  (1791) Susan (Stewart), dau. of  
 5th Duke of Marlborough, John, 7th Earl of Galloway:  
 b. 1766, d. 1840 she d. 1841

George S.-C.,  $\equiv$  1. (1819) Jane (Stewart), 3 sons 1 daughter  
 6th Duke of Marl- dau. of George, 8th  
 borough, b. 1793, Earl of Galloway:  
 d. 1857 she d. 1844  
 $\equiv$  2. (1846) Charlotte  
 Augusta (Flower),  
 dau. of Viscount  
 Ashbrook: she d.  
 1850  
 $\equiv$  3. (1851) Jane Frances  
 Clinton (Stewart),  
 first cousin of Jane  
 Stewart above

John Winston S.-C.,  $\equiv$  (1843) Frances A. E. (Vane-  
 7th Duke of Marl- Stewart), dau. of the  
 borough, b. 1822, Marquess of Londonderry:  
 d. 1883 she d. 1899

George Charles S.-C.,  $\equiv$  1. (1869) Albertha F. A. Lord 3 sons  
 8th Duke of Marl- (Hamilton), dau. of Randolph 6 daughters  
 borough, b. May 13, the Duke of Aber- Churchill,  
 1844, d. Nov. 9, 1892 corn b. 1849,  
 2. (1888) Jane Lilian d. 1895  
 Warren (Price),  
 widow of Lewis  
 Hamersley: she  $\equiv$   
 2. Lord William  
 Beresford, V.C.

xxvii  
 Sir Robert  $\equiv$  Frances Charles Richard  $\equiv$  (1895) Consuelo, Lilian Maud, b.  
 Gresley Louisa, John S.-C., 9th dau. of W. K. July 9, 1873:  
 b. Sept. 15, Duke of Marl- Vanderbilt, Esq., marr. (1898)  
 1870 borough, b. Nov. of New York C. A. Gren-  
 13, 1871 fell, Esq.  
 Norah Beatrice  
 Harriette, b.  
 Sept. 1, 1875

John Albert Edward  
 William S.-C.,  
 Marquis of Blandford,  
 b. 1897

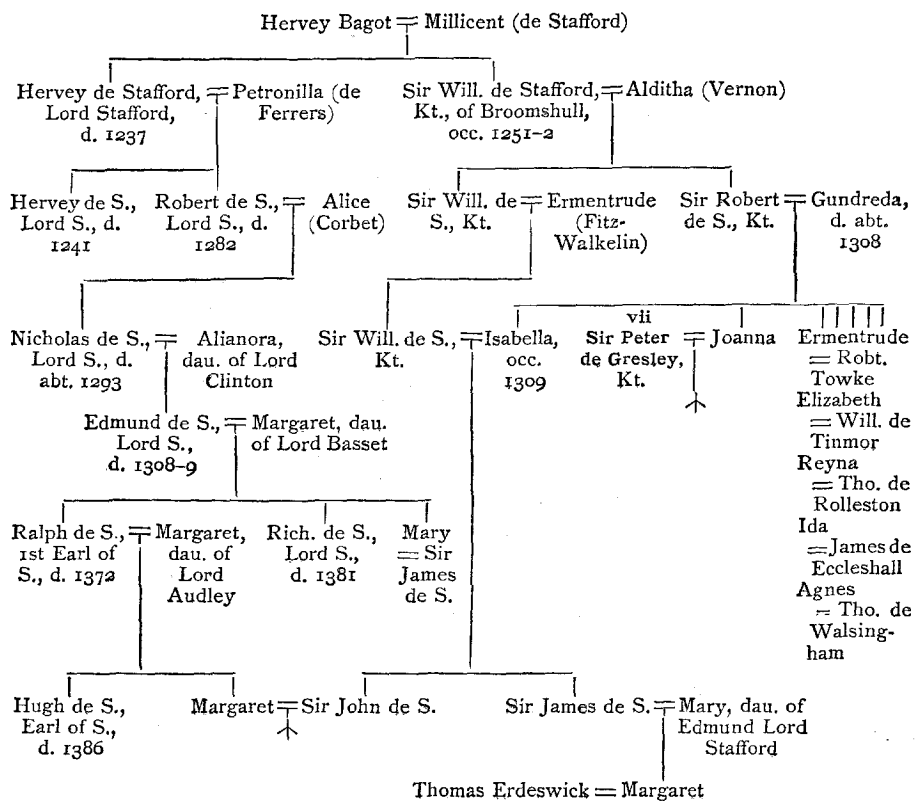
Ivor Charles  
 S.-C.,  
 b. 1898

Pecrages.



PED. LIII.  
Stafford  
III.

## STAFFORD, III



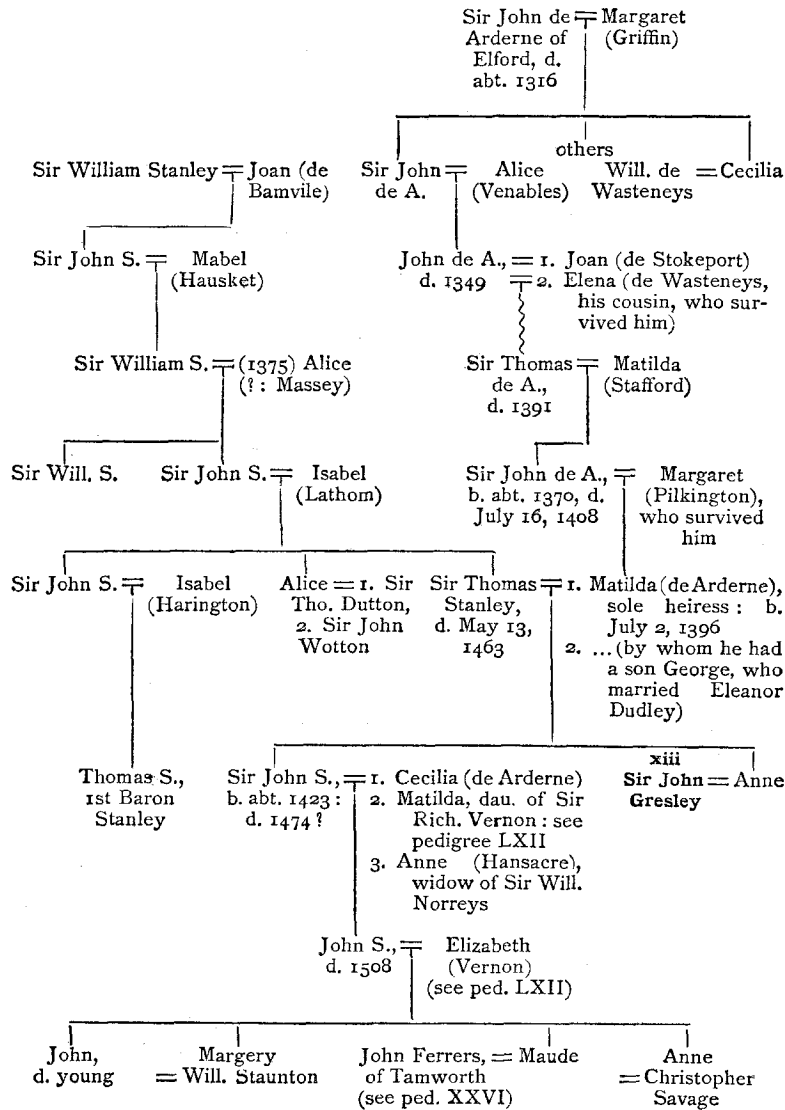
[The above is a working pedigree, but not all proved. The following authorities are some which may be compared, but will be found to differ considerably :—Dugdale's Baronage i. 172 : Staffordshire Visitations in Salt Soc. v. 2. 251 : John Campbell's Stafford Peerage (1818) : Lysons' Derbyshire, p. 156 : Erdeswick's Staffordshire, ed. Harwood, pp. 45-6 : cf. Salt Soc. ii. 1. 273, v. 1. 62, ix. 1. 20 : Cox's Derbyshire Churches iii. 211 sqq. For Longford, see Metcalfe's Derbyshire pedigrees (Genealogist N.S. viii. 17) : Chetham Soc. xlii. 113 : Thoroton's Northants (1790) iii. 145, 61.

STANLEY and ARDERNE

PED. LIV.  
Stanley  
and  
Arderne.

(Stanley arms :—quarterly 1st and 4th argent on a bend vert three bucks' heads caboshed or, 2nd and 3rd azure on a chief indented argent three plates.

Arderne arms :—argent a fess chequy or and azure [?].)

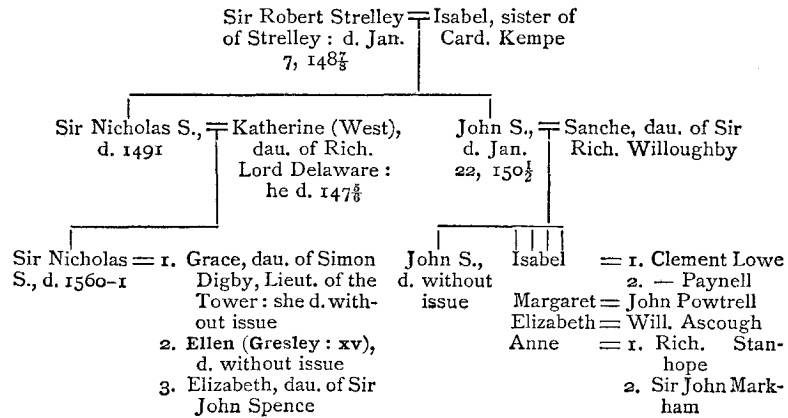


Edw. Richardson's Elford Church (Lond., 1852, fol.).  
John Seacombe's House of Stanley (Liverpool, abt. 1740, 4<sup>o</sup>).

PED. LV.  
Strelley.

## STRELLEY

(Arms :—paly of six argent and azure [?].)



Manuscript Pedigree of Strelley, owned in 1852 by  
James Thomas Edge, Esq., of Strelley.  
Thoroton's Northants (1677), p. 230.

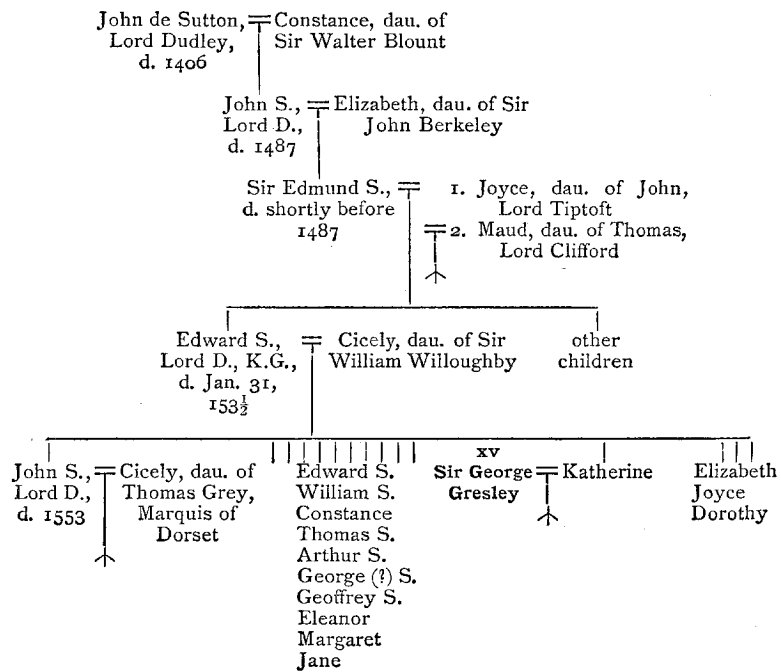
Stukeley.

## STUKELEY

See VAVASOUR

SUTTON

(Arms :—or a lion rampant vert.)

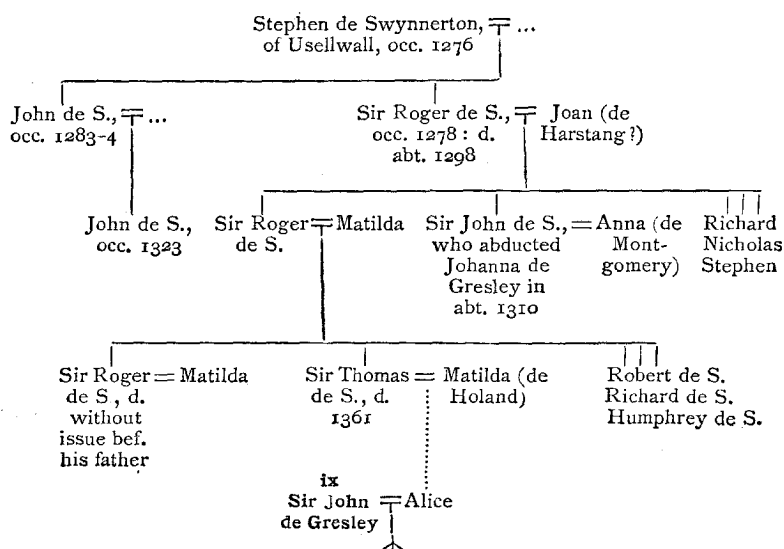


Salt Soc. ix. 2, passim.

PED. LVII.  
Swynnerton.

### SWYNNERTON

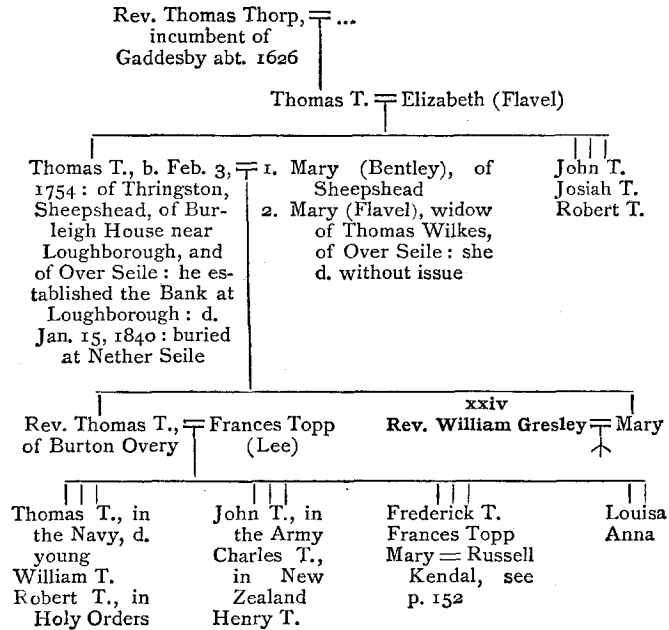
(Arms :—argent a cross fleury sable.)



(The precise place of Alice in this pedigree is not yet certain.)



THORP



Manuscript pedigree, dated Jan. 21, 1843.

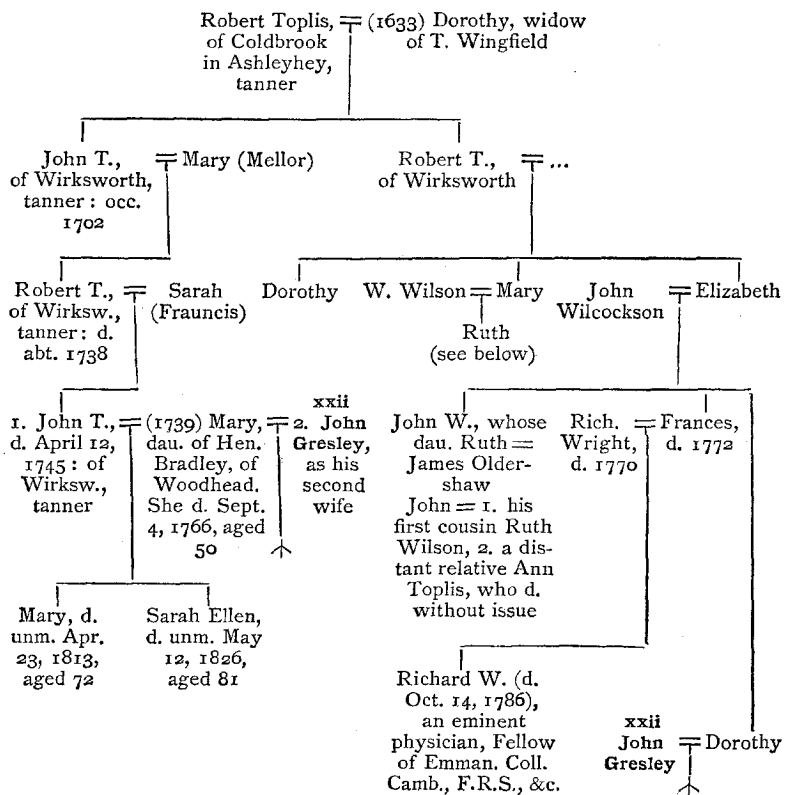
TOENI

Toeni.

See Pedigree I.

PED. LIX.  
Toplis and  
Wilcockson.

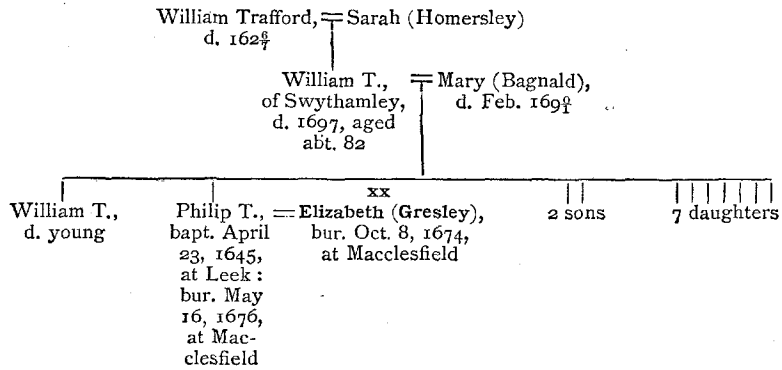
TOPLIS and WILCOCKSON



Manuscript pedigrees and notes.

TRAFFORD

(Arms :—argent a griffin segreant gules.)



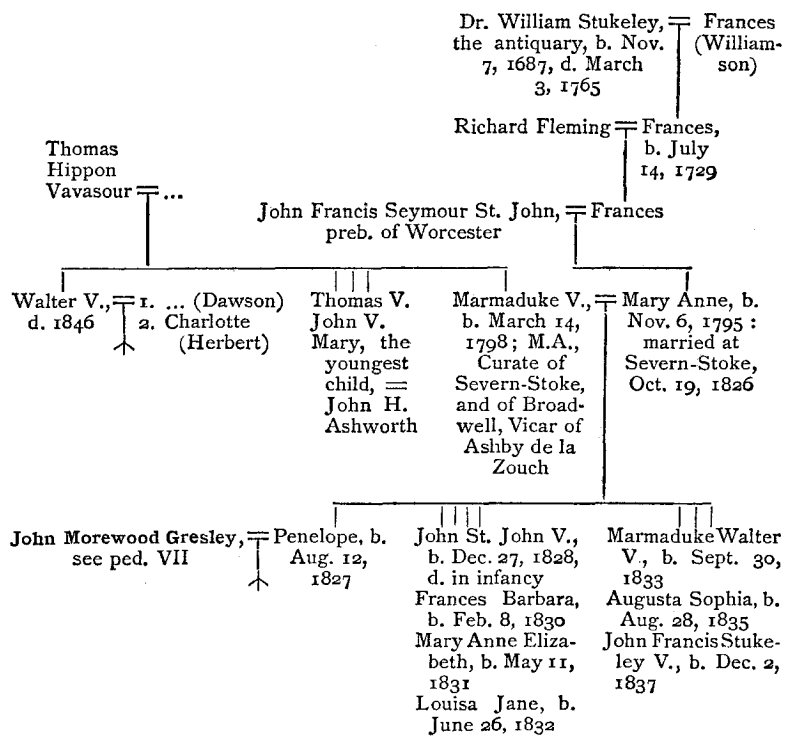
Information from W. H. B. Bird, Esq.,  
1896 : &c.

PED. LXI.  
**Vavasour  
 and  
 Stukeley.**

### VAVASOUR and STUKELEY

(Vavasour arms :—or a fess dancetty sable.)

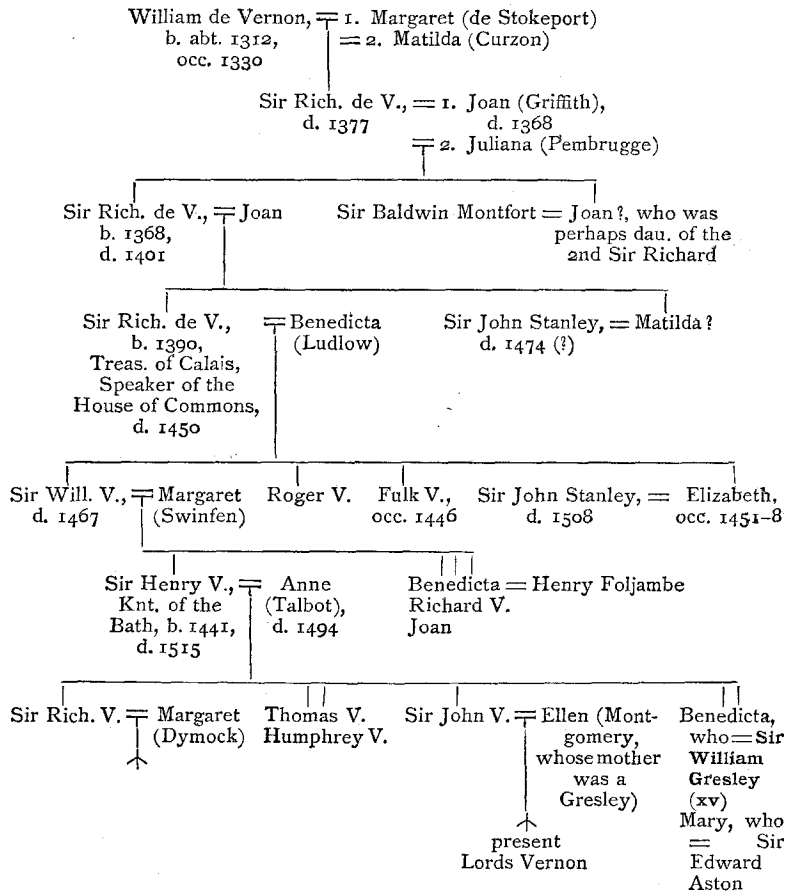
(Stukeley arms :—sable on a fess argent three mullets of the field.)



Papers of the Rev. J. M. Gresley.

VERNON, of Haddon Hall

(Arms :—argent a fret sable.)

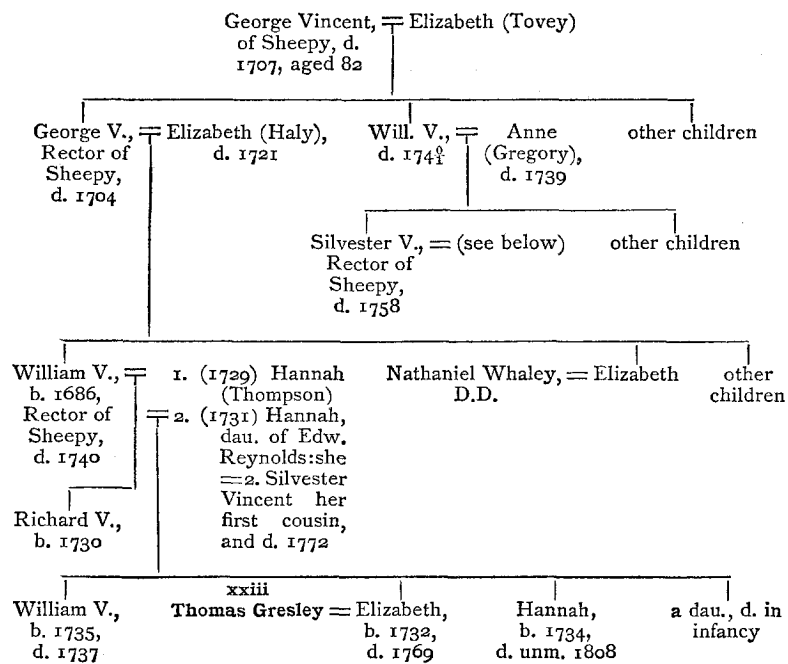


S. Rayner's Haddon Hall, 1836.  
 Reliquary, xxi, pl. xv.  
 Essex Visitation, 1612.  
 Information from the Hon. G. Wrottesley.

PED. LXIII.  
Vincent.

### VINCENT, of Sheepy

(Arms :—azure three quatrefoils argent.)



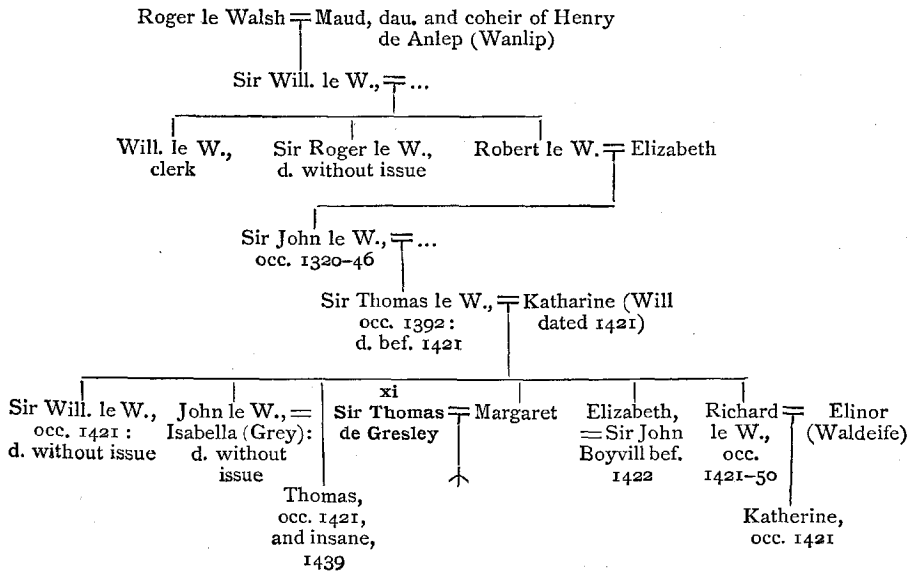
Nichols' Leicestershire iv, pt. 2, pp. 933-4.  
Information from R. S. Boddington, Esq.



PED. LXV.  
Walsh.

WALSH, of Wanlip, co. Leicester

(Arms :—gules two bars argent over all a bend of the second.)

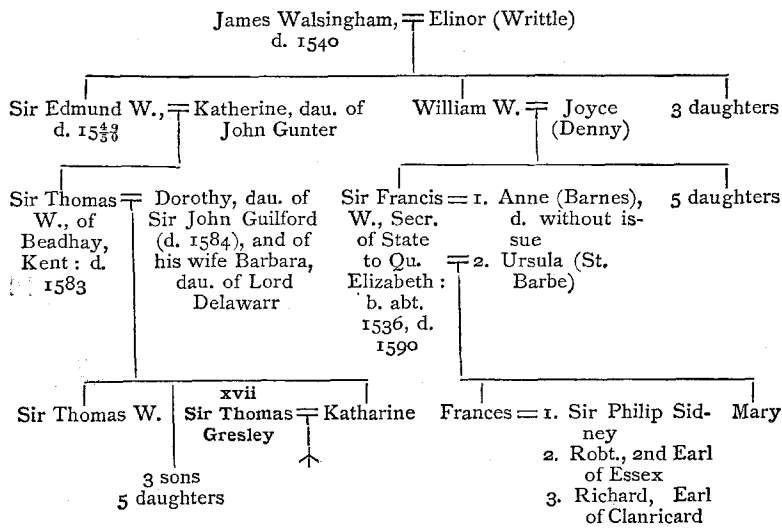


Nichols' Leic. iii. 1100, corrected by the Will  
of Lady Margaret Walsh, dated 1421.



WALSINGHAM

(Arms :—paly of six pieces argent and sable a fess gules.)

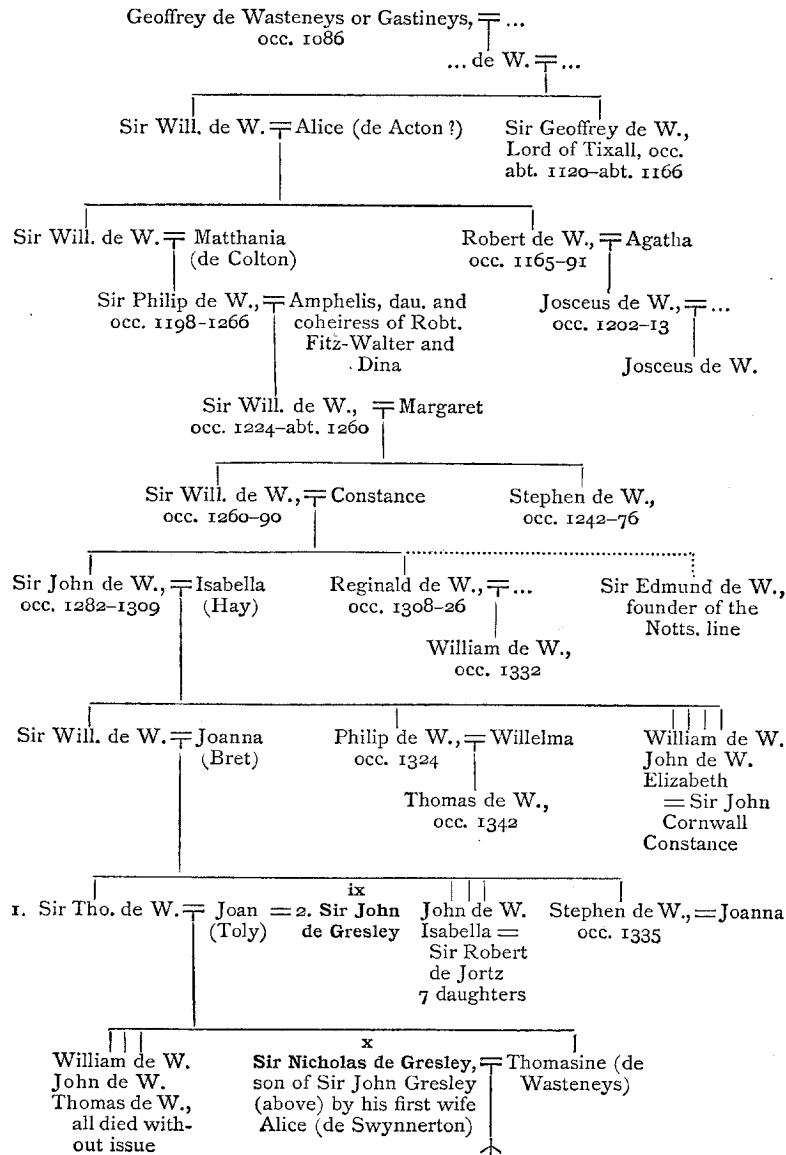


Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 807, fol. 5 : &c.

PED. LXVII.

**Waste-  
neys.****WASTENEYS**

(Arms :—sable a lion rampant argent armed langued and collared gules.)



Some Account of Colton by the Rector  
(F. Parker) (Second Edition), Birm.  
1897, p. 78.

WILCOCKSON

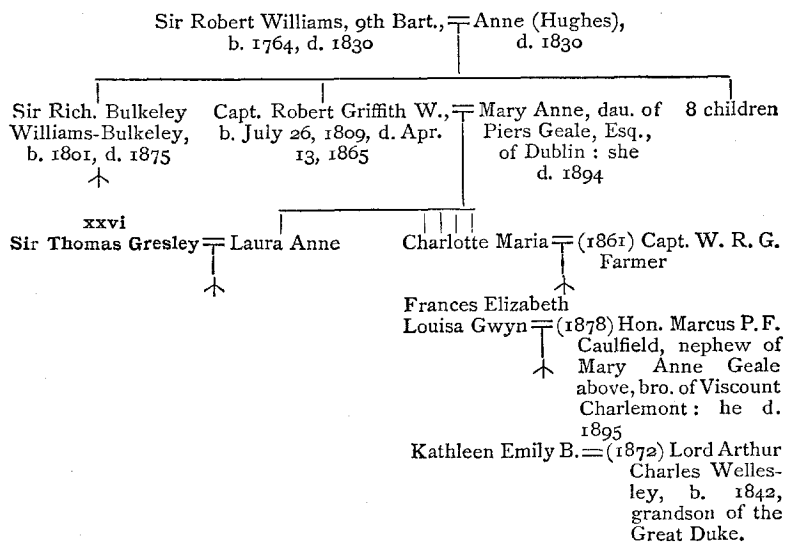
See TOPLIS

Wilcockson.

WILLIAMS

PED. LXVIII.  
Williams.

(Arms :—quarterly 1st and 4th sable a chevron between three bulls' heads caboshed argent, for *Bulkeley* : 2nd and 3rd gules a chevron ermine between three Saracens' heads couped at the shoulders proper, for *Williams*.)

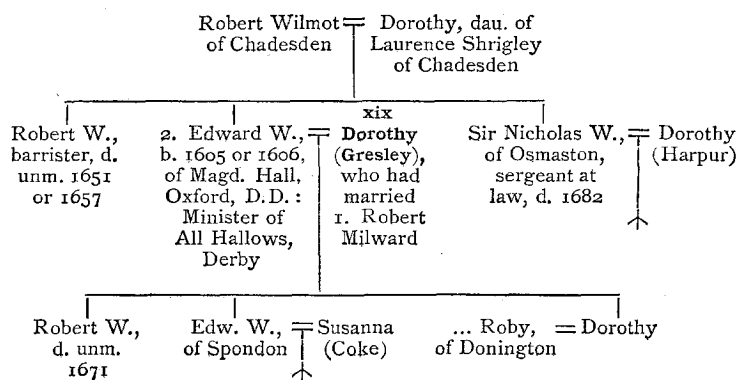


Burke's Peerage.

PED. LXIX.  
Wilmot.

## WILMOT

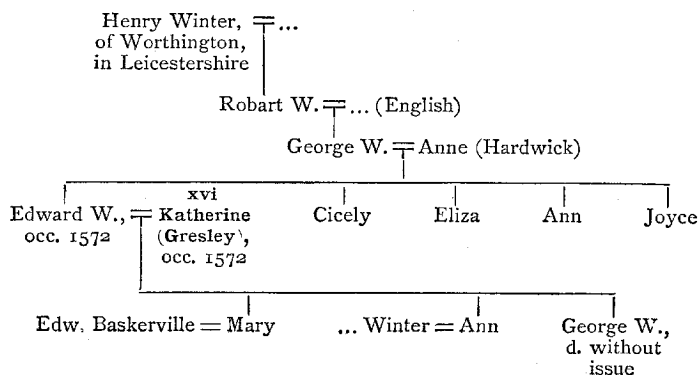
(Arms :—sable on a fess or between three eagles' heads coupéd argent as many escallops gules, a canton vairy ermine and of the fourth.)



Derbyshire Pedigrees, a MS. owned by  
S. P. Wolferstan, Esq.  
Foster's Alumni Oxonienses.  
Noble's Glover's Derbyshire (1829), ii.  
208.

WINTER

(Arms :—sable on a chevron between three tuns argent a chess rook azure.)



Leicestershire Visitation, 1619.

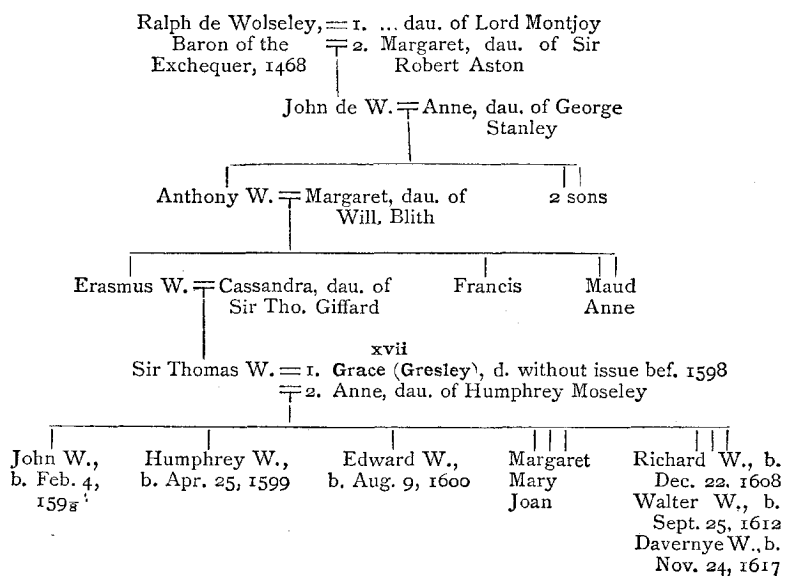
PED. LXXI.  
Wolseley.

## WOLSELEY

(Arms :—argent a talbot passant gules.)

The earlier generations are as follows, but they have not yet been fully proved, so far as I know :—

Siwardus, dominus de Wolseley—William de W.—Richard de W.—Stephen de W.—Robert de W.—Robert de W.—Richard de W.—John de W.—Ralph de W.



Collins's Baronetage (1741), ii. 134.  
Staffordshire Visitations, 1614, 1663-4.  
Genealogist, O.S., ii. 333.  
Burke's Peerage and Baronetage.

Worcester.

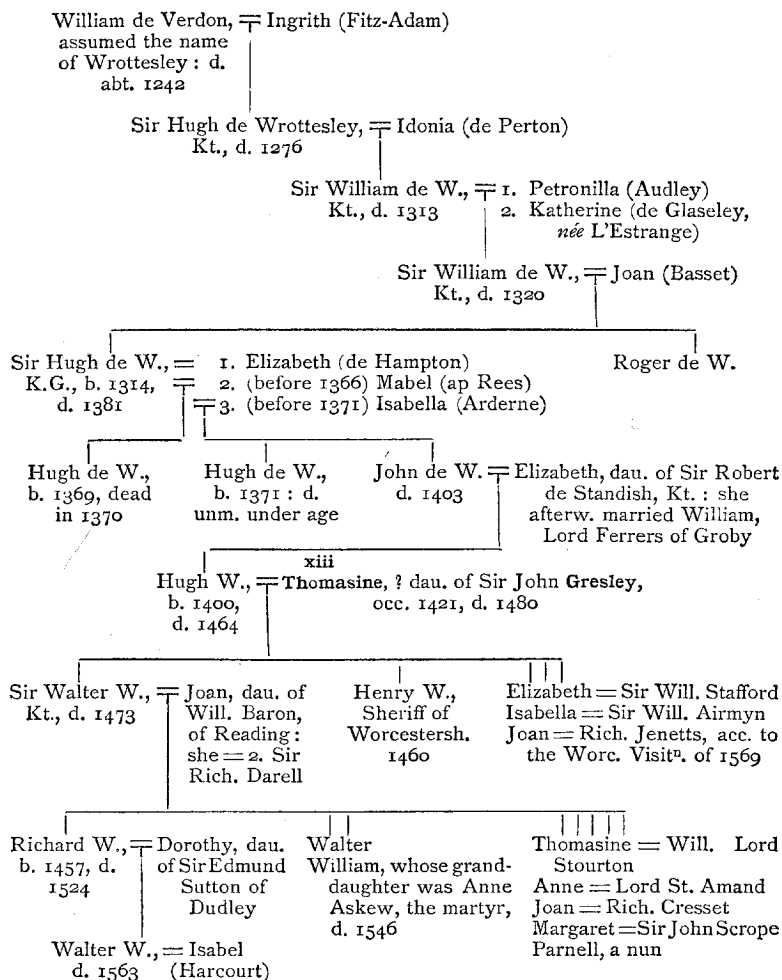
## WORCESTER

see SOMERSET

## WROTTESELEY

PED. LXXII.  
Wrottes-  
ley.

(Arms :—or three piles sable a canton ermine)



From Walter there is an unbroken male descent, thus :—

Walter, d. 1563—John, d. 1578—Walter, d. 1630—Sir Hugh, Kt., d. 1633—Sir Walter, Kt. and Bart., d. 1659—Sir Walter, d. 1686—Sir Walter, d. 1712—Sir John, d. 1726—Rev. Sir Richard, whose two elder brothers predeceased him, d. 1769—Sir John, d. 1787—Sir John, first Lord Wrottesley, d. 1841—John, Lord W., d. 1867—Arthur, the present Lord Wrottesley, brother of Major-Gen. the Hon. George Wrottesley, to whom this volume is much indebted.

Burke's Peerage 1896, and private information  
from the Hon. George Wrottesley.





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