NOTES ON THE PEDIGREE OF GERNON.

By J. HORACE ROUND.

I propose, in this Note, to collect the genealogical evidence on the family of Gernon afforded by certain deeds in the Bodleian Library relating to the Manor of Wickham in Suffolk. I have no acquaintance whatever with Suffolk genealogy, nor any special knowledge of the Gernon pedigree, so that some one who is more fortunate in these respects may doubtless be able to enlighten us further on the points of which I here treat.

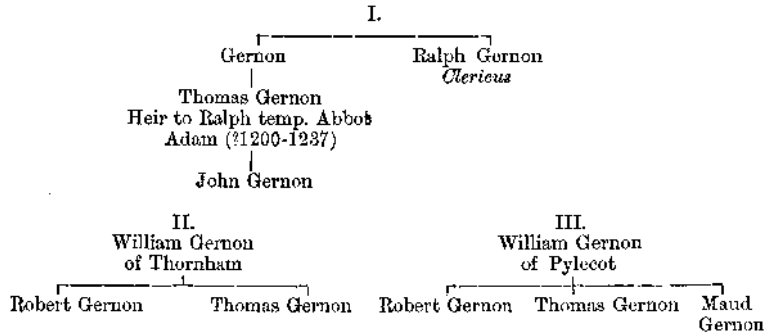
The best pedigree by far of the Gernons, I presume, is that given by Mr. Waters in his *Chesters of Chicheley*. From it we learn that they bettered their fortunes by the marriage of Mathew Gernon of Dowham, Essex (living "1161"), with a co-heiress of the Sackvilles of Essex and Suffolk. Her uncle, Robert de Sackville, had given his Manor of Wickham (Suffolk) to the Abbey of St. John at Colchester, and the fact that the Gernons, whom I am about to trace, are found as tenants of that Manor, may perhaps point to their descent from a younger son of Mathew Gernon by the Sackville co-heiress.

The first of this branch who appears in these deeds is Ralph Gernon, *clericus*, who, about the end of the 12th century, held lands in Wickham of the Abbey of St. John, paying an annual rent of 9 shillings.[1,2] In this holding he was succeeded, in the days of Abbot Adam (*? circ.* 1200-1237), by his nephew Thomas,[1,2] apparently the same as Thomas son of William Gernon of Thornham[11,13]. Ralph Gernon, *clericus*, had also held, from William Kenman, the *servicium et homagium* of Peter de Holegate of Wickham for an annual rent of 3d.[3] This his nephew Thomas made over to Roger de Bertone, *clericus* [2,4], to whom William Kenman then quit-claimed the 3d. rent due from him for the holding.[3] Of the holding which he inherited from his uncle Ralph, he granted one half to Roger de Bertone at an annual rent of 4s. 6d,[2,4] the same being subsequently granted by his son John to Richard Russell.[5] If, as I take it, Thomas, nephew of Ralph, and father of John Gernon, was identical with Thomas son of William Gernon, of Great Thornham,[11,13] he had a brother, Robert [11,12,14], from whom he held a tenement in Wickham.

Whether William Gernon "of Thornham" was identical with William Gernon "of Pylecot"[15,16] I cannot say. Perhaps it will be safest to give the three pedigrees separately, and their respective evidences also.

The chief point to which I would call attention is that the transaction between William Kenman and Roger de Bertone, which is assigned in the Bodleian *Calendar* to "*c.* 1210-20"[3], must, from internal evidence, be subsequent to that between Thomas Gernon and Roger de Bertone, which the same *Calendar* assigns to "*c.* 1310"[3]. It is quite unnecessary to look at the deeds; the *Calendar* convicts itself. That so really useful and excellent a work should contain such a slip as this, teaches us

with what caution it should be used. Nor will that caution be lessened when we learn that the "Kenman" of one deed figures as "Keuman" in the other; that Roger de Berton is indexed for one deed as Roger, but for the other as *Robert*, de Berton; and that "Peter Holgate" and "Peter de Hollegat" appear, in the Index, in different places, so that their identity is obscured. But the chief point is the error of date, to which I invite attention as a startling instance of the pernicious results of that tentative dating, which must, as I have shewn more than once, occasionally tend to most misleading conjectures.



EVIDENCES.

I.

(1) "Adam the abbot, and the monks of Colchester devise and confirm to Thomas nephew and heir of Ralph Gernun, etc. etc. (c. 1200)."—p. 63.
(2) "Thomas Gernun grants to Roger de Berton, clerk..... the half of the whole land which was Ralph Gernun's, his uncle in Wickham, etc. etc. (c. 1310)."—p. 68.
(3) "William Keuman of Brocford grants to Roger de Berton etc. etc. (c. 1210-20)"—p. 433.
(4) Thomas Gernon grants to Roger de Berton, clerk etc. etc. (c. 1250)"—p. 540 [cf. 68]
(5) "John, son of Thomas Gernun, grants ..... Also whole of the land..... which Roger de Berton held of his father in Wyckam (c. 1250)"—p. 539.
(6) "John Gernum of Wickam, son of Thomas, grants etc. etc. (c. 1280-1300)"—p. 66.
(7) "John Gernun of Wyckam quit-claims etc. etc. (c. 1260)."—p. 538.
(8) "John Gernun of Wickam grants etc. etc. (c. 1270)"—p. 538.
(9) "John Gernun of Wickam (c. 1260-70)"—p. 540.
(10) "John Gernun of Wickam grants etc. etc. (c. 1280)."—p 66.

II.

(11) "Thomas Gernum, son of William Gernum of Great Thornham, grants..... the whole of that tenement which he held of Robert Gernum his brother in the village of Wickam etc. etc. (c. 1270)"—p. 64.
(12) "Robert Gernun, formerly son of William Gernun of Tornham ..... his brother Thomas etc. etc. (c. 1270)"—p. 64.
(13) "Thomas, son of William Gernum of Thornham etc. etc. (c. 1286)"—p. 66.
(14) "Robert, son of William Gernun de Thornham, etc. etc. (c. 1300)"—p. 67.

III.

(15) "Robert, son of William Gernon of Pylecot, appoints etc. etc. (c. 1260)"—p. 63.
(16) "Matilda, daughter of William Gernun of Pylecok, widow, grants to Thomas Gernun, her brother..... land in Wyckam (c. 1270)"—p. 538.