
THE ORIGIN OF THE LINDSAYS.

By Sir George R. Sitwell, Bart.

Had I been aware that Mr. Round had seriously considered this question, I should have written with more modesty of the labours of other genealogists. I have no doubt that the evidences I gave (with the important exception he mentions) must have been known to him, though they certainly were not to others who have endeavoured to trace the origin of the Lindsays; but I doubt whether he had also founded upon these evidences the conclusion that there is a strong presumption of a descent from de Bocquencé. If so, I should welcome his independent judgment as a valuable confirmation of my own.

Mr. Round suggests that Baldric of Lincolnshire may have been described as "de Lindissi" in order to distinguish him from the Baldric of Cheshire. Baldric was not, however, I think, so named in

his lifetime, and as there is reason to believe that Baldric of Cheshire, or his widow Billeheld, parted with Cocle as well as Peckforton, leaving no descendants in that county, the necessity of such a distinction in 1121-9 is not very obvious. If, as Mr. Round admits, Baldric of Cheshire may fairly be presumed to have been a member of the house of Bocquencé, it is at least a very curious coincidence that Baldric of Lincolnshire and his descendants, as well as Baldric de Bocquencé, should have been so closely connected with the Abbey of St. Evroul.

As regards the surname, I would, on the contrary, suggest, as a working theory, that Walter "de Lindesi" of 1113-6 was the first of this family to assume it, when (as is supposed) he left that province and settled in Scotland; and that it spread laterally from him, being adopted by his brothers or near relations out of compliment to the most distinguished member of their family.

Surely Walter, who is described at this date as "noble and knight," must have been a man of good birth, and not the descendant of some obscure tenant of carucates or bovates. No other gentle family which bore this name contemporaneously with him, or soon after his death, can be found, except that which I have traced as settled at Hamingebi from 1086 until the service of Richard de Lindesi was transferred to the brother of the Scotch King in 1189.

Windsor Herald, dwelling upon the fact that no Baldric is to be found amongst the descendants of the first Walter de Lindesi, thinks it improbable that he can have been nearly related to Baldric de Bocquencé, and is inclined to suggest that his father may have been the "Willelmus" who held under the Earl of Chester in Dorset and elsewhere. To this I reply that the name was equally out of favour amongst the De Courcis, De Neviles, and other undoubted descendants of Baldricus Teutonicus, and that the identity of this "Willelmus" with the well-known William Malbedeng, has been clearly proved by Eyton in his Domesday studies of Dorset, Staffordshire, and Somerset. "In all cases," he writes, "where *Willelmus* appears as Earl Hugh's Domesday tenant, in Somerset, Dorset, or Wiltshire, we may be sure that the said *Willelmus* was William Malbedeng, one of the Earl's Cheshire barons, the *caput* of whose barony was Wich Malbanc." Baldric is a far more uncommon name than William, and the probabilities that Baldric, the Earl's tenant in Lincolnshire, is identical with Baldric, his tenant in Cheshire, are much stronger; but I can hardly expect others to see this as clearly as I do, who have formerly spent months in working out the Earl's Domesday tenants in various parts of England.