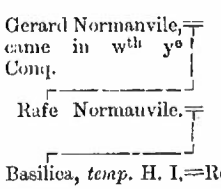
GERARD DE NORMANVILLE.

By Sir George R. Sitwell, Bart.



Dodsworth,[1] refers as evidence of the pedigree given above to a case "*pro custodia foreste de Schirewode*" on the last membrane of a "Ragman Roll *temp.* Hen. III," which may still exist in the Record Office, though it cannot now be found. He had himself inspected the document, for to his extracts from "Mr. Archer's booke of petegrees, wch he bought of the executors of Brooke, Yorke Herald, wch is a Visitation taken *anno* 1584," the following curious note is appended :—

"This Basilca was ward to H. I, who gave her to Robte Cause, and the keeping of ye fforest of ye County of Nottyngham. ffor ye keeping whereof the King pardoned him the service of 12 knights' ffees, and granted him to take in the forest Hares, ffoxes, Catts, Grayes, Otters, and Squirrels, and ye forfeiture of ye sd beasts ; and ye Advantage of ye Epedition of Doggs and ye forfaiture of them ; and yt all ye Lands, Woods, and Deere should be out of ye reward."

It is evident that we have here to deal with a *Quo Warranto* suit of Henry the Third's time, in which the representative of de Caus was defending his right to the forestorship of Sherwood. Documents of the thirteenth century speak with some looseness of the events of two hundred years before, and if Gerald de Normanville is referred to a date somewhat too early, such an inaccuracy will hardly discredit the main facts asserted on the roll. The absurdity of describing Gerald as "Baron of Laxton," or Lexinton, seems to have been due to the heralds of the sixteenth century, who have also turned his name into Reginald. In this connection, it may be noted that, amongst the gifts of the de Caus family to the Hospitallers, the Monasticon[2] records one from an unknown "Reginald de Normanville" of land in Rouceby, co. Lincoln, and that in the Testa de Nevile[3] a later Ralph de Normanville is said to hold half a fee in Rouceby under Robert de Everingham, the heir to de Caus. This property was of old feoffment, and Ralph's ancestor must therefore have been infeuded by de Caus before the death of King Henry the First.

A Gerald de Caus attests a Lincolnshire precept of William Rufus in 1096, and a charter of Henry the First in 1102.[4] No Gerald de Normanville is to be found in Domesday, but we have proof that a

[1] V, 43, and cxli, 110.
[2] Old Edition, ii, 534.
[3] Page 307. See also *Rot. Hund.*, 277, 278.
[4] Addit. MS., 31, 930, page 65.

person of that name was a landowner in Sussex at the very commencement of the twelfth century, and held the important office of *dapifer* to the Count of Ou :—

"Ego Henricus comes de Ou concedo ecclesie Sancti Martini de Bello quicquid mei homines in Anglia et in Normannia dederunt vel dabunt eidem ecclesie in elemosina pro suis animabus, excepto capite manerum et servicio de milite. Et hoc concedo pro anima mea, et pro anima patris et matris mee, et pro anima Mathildis uxoris mee defuncte, et pro anima istius quam nunc habeo, et pro animabus omnium parentum meorum et omnium antecessorum meorum. De hac re, ex parte mea, testes sunt Giroldus de Normanvilla dapifer meus, Angelrannus Vicecomes, Anselmus de Fraelvilla, Hugo de Fulcarmonte. Ex parte monachorum, Elredus dapifer Abbatis, Raimbertus filius Bristuvini, Radulphus filius Benedicti, et alii plures ex utraque parte adhuc testes sunt de hac mea concessione.

+ Henrici Comitis.
+ Hermentrudis Comitisse.
+ Hugonis.
+ Radulphi Camerarii.
+ Willelmi Osleporis (?)
+ Hugonis.
+ Rodberti filii Radulphi.
+ Willielmi filii Huffefredi."

This charter gives us the name of Count Henry's second wife, the Countess Hermentrude, who has hitherto been unknown to genealogists. The original, which I have not seen, is MS. 9,887 in the famous library of Sir Thomas Philipps, and is briefly referred to in a "descriptive catalogue of original charters, &c., constituting the Muniments of Battle Abbey," published by Thomas Thorpe in 1835. Thorpe has made the foolish mistake of attributing it to the later Count Henry, though the names of Gerald de Normanville and Anselm de Fraelville are mentioned in King Henry the First's charter of confirmation to Battle Abbey,[1] and the Abbot Ralph (1107-1124) is a principal with Anselm de Fraelville in another charter (Philipps MS. 9,887).

Girold de Normanville is witness in 1106 to Count Henry's charter to the Abbey of St. Mary of Bec and St. Martin de Bosco,[2] and in 1107, under the name of "Geroldus dapifer," to two confirmation charters of the same person to Treport Abbey. His gift, or beneficiary sale, of Glesham to Battle Abbey in about the year 1107 is mentioned in the Chron. Mon. de Bello,[3] and in a later charter of Alice, Countess of Eu, which confirms to the monks "*terram de Glesham quam Geroldus de Normanville eis vendidit pro viginti marcis argenti, excepto uno villano qui jacet ad aliam terram que dicitur Flekelai.*"[4] Glesham was held by three "*homines*" of the Count of Ou in 1086.

The office of *dapifer*, which Gerald held of Count Henry of Ou, was something more than a stewardship in the modern sense of the word. The holder of it was rather Prime Minister or Chancellor of the Exchequer for a little principality in Normandy and England. That such offices were usually conferred upon relatives we have a proof in the case of William de Alderic, *dapifer* to William de Augo, the latter

[1] Mon., iii, 247.
[2] Record Transcripts, Ser. ii, 140 A (409). This, the two Treport charters, and the following reference, I owe to the kindness of Mr. Horace Round.
[3] *Anglia Christiana* Society, page 53.
[4] Philipps' MS., 9,888.

being a great landowner and Baron, who has sometimes been erroneously identified with Count William.[1] And there is reason to suspect that Gerald de Normanville was likewise a near relative of Count Henry's.

In 1201,[2] Ralph de Normanville, whom I take to be the Ralph of Thrybergh in Yorkshire and Stainton in Lincolnshire, the ancestor of the Reresbys, claimed six bovates in Achere and half a carucate of land in Bolecroft (*read* Molecroft), whereof a certain John de Augo, his father's uncle, had been seised in the reign of King Henry the First. The defendants, William de Sancto Licio and Alice, his wife, called to warranty Robert de Bristille, who was bound to warrant it to them "*tanquam dotem Alicie*." In a later pleading, "John de Augo" is altered to "Herbert de Augo," and the pedigree will therefore stand thus :—

. . . . de Normanville, living *temp.* H. I. = . . . sister and heir of Herbert de Augo, who held lands in Aike and Molescroft, near Beverley. Living *temp.* H. I.

. . . . de Normanville. =

Ralph de Normanville, party to suit, 1201. =

Two years later, in 1203, there was a final concord between Ralph de Normanville and Robert de Bristhille. Robert recognised the property, which is now described as consisting of five bovates and half a carucate of land in "Molescroft" and six bovates of land in "Ake," to be the right and inheritance of Ralph, and in return for this concession and for the payment of sixty marks of silver, Ralph granted it to Robert, to be held by the services due for the fourth part of a knight's fee.

The estate in question was probably only a small portion of the inheritance of Herbert de Augo, for different members of the de Normanville family held other fees in the South and Midlands under the Counts of Eu. It can hardly have been given in frank marriage to the sister of Herbert de Augo, for in that case the root of title would not have been carried beyond such a grant. The record distinctly states that the property was the "*hereditas*" of Herbert, who must therefore, I think, have died without issue and have been succeeded by his sister or her representative. It appears, however, that in 1196 Walter "de Ou" and Thomas, his brother, were claiming lands and edifices in Beverley, within the liberty of which Ake and Molecroft lay.[3] Indeed, of this property in Ake and Molecroft, rents in the town of Beverley formed a part,[4] and Walter and Thomas may therefore have been claiming a portion of the very "hereditas" mentioned in Ralph de Normanville's suit. This branch of the great house of Eu may, perhaps, have sprung from William, Robert, or Enguerrard, the younger sons of Count William and of Beatrice de Busli.[5] Beatrice's

[1] Yorkshire Archæ. Journal, ix, 272.

[2] See *Coram Rege* Rolls, John, Box 1, number 6, *anno* 2 ; ditto, number 8, *anno* 2 ; and Feet of Fines, co. York, John, file 1, number (pencil) 156.

[3] Madox's Exchequer, 1711, 298.

[4] Surtees' So., xlix, 419.

[5] Yorkshire Archæ. Journal, ix, 273.

heirship to the Honour of Tickhill introduced the Counts of Eu (and with them, I have no doubt, the Normanvilles) into Yorkshire. I have evidence also that this quarter fee in Ake and Molecroft was held of the Archbishop of York, and it should be remembered that in 1144, William of Eu, the brother of Count John, was Precentor of York, and is said to have owed his appointment to his uncle, Henry de Sulli, the Abbot of Caen, who was elected Archbishop in that year, though the Pope refused to confirm him in the office.[1]

To return to the suit of 1201, Achere, or Ake, and Molecroft are Aike and Molescroft, about three miles from Beverley.[2] When the Domesday Survey was taken, both were in the hands of the Archbishop of York, who had not yet infeuded any tenant.[3] We learn from the suit that the property was to be held for the fourth part of a knight's fee. Now in a scutage roll of 1201, of which Glover has preserved a copy, at the commencement of his Visitation of Yorkshire in 1585, Robert de Bristhull is returned as holding the quarter of a knight's fee in Yorkshire of the Archbishop of York. In an inquisition of knights' fees taken in the reign of Edward the First, Roger de Woodhall (there is a mansion of this name in Molescroft[4]) is recorded as holding in Asche and Molescroft a quarter of a knight's fee of the Archbishop. It is possible to trace this quarter fee back to the reign of Henry the Second, for in the *Liber Niger* "Alizia de Molis-crot" is returned as possessed of such a holding of old feoffment under the Archbishop of York. Alizia evidently took her surname from the property in question, as did a later Thomas de Bristhille, who calls himself also "de Molescroft."[5] She may have been identical with the Alice de St. Liz of the 1201 suit, but it is more probable that she was the mother of the latter, and the wife or widow of one of the Bristilles. The suit appears to be a collusive suit brought in order to establish the title of Alice de St. Liz and of her descendants.

As regards the other parties to the suit of 1201, Robert de Bristhille took his name from a hamlet in the manor of Brandesburton, near Beverley,[6] and William de Sancto Licio was, I believe, a cadet of the great house which had held the Earldoms of Northampton and Huntingdon. In Dugdale's Baronage[7] it is recorded that Simon, Earl of Northampton had a younger brother, also named Simon, whose son, living in 1215, left descendants who assumed a surname from their residence at Seton in Rutlandshire.[8] Now "Thomas *le Enfaunt* de Seton" and "Symon de Seton" are witnesses to a charter (concerning land at Brandesburton) of Thomas, nephew of Robert de Bristille; which Robert appears to be identical with Robert de Bristille of the suit of 1201.[9] In this connection it may be noted that, in 1146 or

[1] Yorkshire Archæ. Journal, ix, 275.
[2] Surtees' So., xlix, 388, *note*; and Oliver's Beverley, 1829, 516.
[3] Domesday, 302 B, 304.
[4] Oliver's Beverley, 511.
[5] Poulson's Holderness, i, 357.
[6] Poulson's Holderness, 1840, i, 289.
[7] 1675, i, 59.
[8] I believe this statement has been questioned, but I do not know on what grounds.
[9] Addit. Charter, 5,729.

1147, Ralph and Gerold de Normanevilla are witnesses to the foundation of the Abbey of St. Mary, co. Huntingdon, by Simon de St. Liz, Earl of Northampton.[1] I take it that this Gerold was the father of Ralph de Normanville of 1201, for in the collections of Vincent, Windsor Herald, in the College of Arms, is a note making Ralph de Normanville of Thrybergh and Elias, his brother, to be the sons of a certain Gerold de Normanville.[2]

I have shewn in this paper that there is reason to suspect that Gerold de Normanvile, *dapifer* to Count Henry of Ou at the commencement of the twelfth century, may be the same person as the de Normanvile who married the sister of Herbert de Augo; and that his office and property in England may have come to him in consequence of that marriage. It is possible that he may also be identified with the Gerard de Normanvile, forester of Sherwood, whose granddaughter and heir married Robert de Caus. The place from which he derived his name was probably the Normanville which lies three miles north of Evreux. In a twelfth century list of "*Feoda Normanniae*," we have, under the heading of "Feoda Ebroic," the entry "*Normanvill, v feoda.*" In the "Maison d'Harcourt"[3] there is a statement that "*Guillaume Barton nous decrit l'origine de la Maison de Bassett en Angleterre, habituée aussi en Normandie, et y possedant autrefois la terre de Normanville surnommée le Basset.*"

'DE" POHER.

In a note on the "Le Poher Family" (*ante* xii, 215), I pointed out that its surname was distinctly personal, and that much confusion had been caused by its being, as in Mr. Redmond's treatise, "systematically and deliberately altered from *Le* to *De* Poher (or Puher), in order to make the name territorial."

I am glad to find that no less an authority than Mr. Walter Rye welcomes my exposure of what he says, deserves to be described as "jugglery."

Count de la Poer, however, undertakes to vindicate Mr. Redmond, and to show that "Le (*sic*) Poher is a territorial name." But he does not even attempt to rebut (although he quotes it) my charge, namely that of systematic tampering with the name. In addition, therefore, to my previous evidence of the true, personal, form, I will now give some actual instances of the "jugglery."

Mr. Redmond opens his historical account with this assertion: "in 1165 Ranulp (*sic*) *de* Poher held three knights' fees . . . under William

[1] Cotton Charters, vii, 3; Monasticon, v, 521.

[2] I can give no reference, as the pages of Vincent are not numbered, and I have failed to find the entry. It was copied by the late Mr. Greenstreet, the Secretary of the Pipe Roll Society. Vincent's collections consist almost exclusively of evidence obtained from the public records.

[3] ii, 1,949.