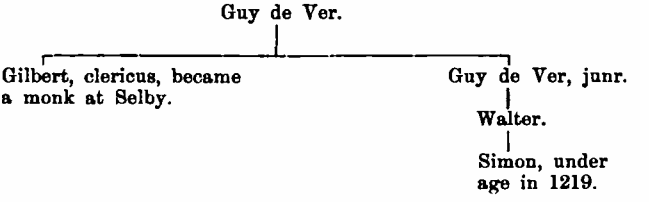
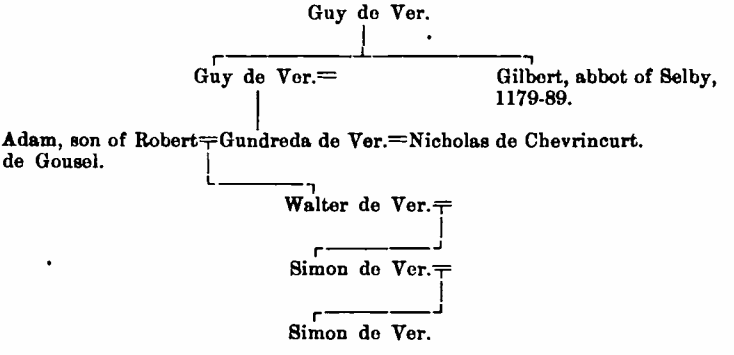
VER OF BOTTESFORD AND GOXHILL, CO. LINCOLN, AND SPROATLEY, CO. YORK.

A perusal of the MSS. of the late Rev. F. Laurent, rector of Saleby, and a well-known Lincolnshire scholar and antiquary of the middle of last century, has led me to doubt the correctness of a pedigree of the Vers from Bracton's Note Book, published in *The Genealogist.*[1] The best way to show the point in question seems to be to put before my readers the pedigrees, and then to produce the information I have been able to collect. I may here say that I have verified all the references I have used from Mr. Laurent's MSS., and have added considerably to them.



Mr. Laurent's pedigree:—



Both pedigrees agree about the first two generations, which may be proved from the Coucher Book of Selby Abbey. Guy de Ver confirmed the grant of his father (Guy) of a bovate of land in Osgotby.[2] *Circa* 1189 Guy de Ver gave to Selby the church of St. Bartholomew of Lincoln near the Castle, and the whole land

[1] *Genealogist* (New Series), vi, p. 7 (Bracton's Note Book). Lincoln. A plea of last presentation to the Church of Borteford *alias* Bateford (the king *v.* the prior of Thornholm). De Banco Roll. Trin. 4 Henry III.

[2] Coucher Book of Selby ii, 225.

in Butterwyck upon Trent, which is of his fee and tenure, etc. The Sacristan of Selby is to find what has been appointed by the convent of Selby for the anniversary of Gilbert, the abbot, (Guy's brother). A charter of Guy de Ver (the son) c. 1190 confirms the gift of his father to Selby, "all which pertains to his lordship of Botisford."[1] But the question is—Was Walter de Ver the son of the second Guy, or his grandson through his daughter who had married Adam de Gousel?

For the first supposition there is the evidence of Bracton's Note Book,[2] which is undoubtedly strong, but other evidence seems to me to point strongly the other way. I do not undertake to solve the doubt, though I hope some reader of *The Genealogist* will be able to do so.

Walter de Ver, son of Adam de Gousle, gave to Bridlington priory the church of Sproteley; Ralph, brother of Ernisius de Gousle, gave two bovates of land at Sproteley to buy incense for the great altar; Walter de Vere, son of Adam de Gousle, confirmed this gift; and Simon, son of Walter de Ver, confirmed the gift of the church and of the two bovates of land.[3]

Walter de Ver, son of Adam de Gousle, gave to Bridlington the church of All Saints, Gousle,[4] c. 1205.

In 1205 Simon de Kime is said to be responsible for the debt, which Walter de Ver owes to the King for the fine, which the said Simon made with the King for the same Walter for the debt of Adam son of Robert father of the same Walter (pro debito Ade filii Roberti patris ipsius Walteri).[5]

Michaelmas, 10 John, A.D. 1208, Nicholas de Chevincurt owes xlvj^{li} x^{s} ij^{d} of the debt of Guy de Ver, whose daughter and heir he has to wife.[6]

Nicholas de Chevrincurt for an obit on 12th Kal. Sept. (21 August), for Gundreda de Ver his wife, with the consent of William Melton de Ver, his son, gave to Selby 12s. out of land that Reyner de Gunnef held of Guy de Ver in Gunnef.[7] In a grand assize between Walter de Ver and Walter de Orrebi concerning a free tenement in Wotton, the jurors say that Gundreda de Ver, mother of the said Walter, held the land of Wotton in dower,

[1] Coucher Book of Selby, ii, 297.

[2] Juratores quesiti, quis sit heres Widonis, dicunt quod Simon de Ver filius et heres Walteri de Ver filii et heredis ipsius Widonis. Maitland's Bracton's Note Book, iii, 337.

[3] Burton's Mon. Ebor., p. 241.

[4] Stevens's Appendix to Dugdale, ii, 337, No. 385.

[5] *Rot. de finibus* (Hardy), i, 324. Mr. Laurent gives this—"33 Henry II, 1187, Guy de Ver renders his account of 120 m. for a concord in the King's court between himself and Adam his son-in-law." He also quotes Pipe Rolls 6 Richard I. He also says that Walter de Ver married Sibilla de Kyme, quoting Harleian MS. 301, fol. 171^{b}.

[6] Harl. MS. 301, fol. 191b. "Commun' memorand' scaccar' penes Rememoratorem D'ni Thesaurii," Rot. 4, m. 1.

[7] Mon. Angl. iii, 486. The land seems to have been in Amcotts. See also Coucher Book of Selby, ii, 296, where the son is named "William de Ver," and the land which Reigner de Gunnesse held of Guy de Ver in Gunnesse is given.

and of that land she gave part to the same Walter (de Orrebi) for his homage and service, so that he and his heirs should hold that land until she should give him 10 marks to purchase land which he should hold of the prior of Thornholm; and Walter says that she never gave him those 10 marks, and that her heir ought to warrant that land to him.[1]

The family of Ver held considerable possessions in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. In 1212 Walter de Ver held the fee of 1 knight in Botelford and in Askeby (of the Barony of Creuker); also he held the fee of 1 knight in Scottun of the Earl of Chester, and the fee of half a knight in Messingham of Lady Ellaria Trussebut.[2]

In 1243 Simon de Ver holds 1 fee in Wyton and Gousul of the Bishop of Lincoln, and 2½ carucates of land there, whereof xlviij carucates make a knight's fee, of the Earl of Albemarle; he also holds 1 fee in Bottlisford of Alexander de Nevill, 8 parts of 1 fee in Scotton of the Earl Marshal, and the fourth part of 1 fee in Yolthorp of the Honor of Lancaster.[3]

In 1210-11 Walter de Ver gave to Saer de Sutton half a carucate of land in Sprottel, co. York, and another half carucate in Gousel, co. Lincoln, retaining other lands in Sprottel.[4] In 1219-20 Nicholas de Schauencurt and Sibilla his wife claimed land in Gousel as the dower of Sibilla of the free tenement which was of Walter de Ver, formerly her husband.[5]

In 13-14 Henry III, 1228-9, Simon de Ver was summoned to hear judgment of the assize of last presentation, which was taken in the time of King John in court between the same King and the prior of Thornholm of the church of Botelesford, and wherein the jurors say that one Guy de Ver presented the last parson, and wherein the plea of warrant remained until the coming of age of the said Simon. And Simon comes, and they are agreed, and have a chirograph.[6] The agreement was that Simon acknowledged the advowson of the church to be the right of the prior and the church of Thornholm of the gift of the ancestors of the said Simon, while the prior granted that as often as that church shall be vacant in the life of the said Simon, the said Simon shall elect a fit clerk.[7] In 1240, Nicholas, son of Nicholas de Chevincurt, quitclaimed to Simon de Ver all right in 27 bovates of land in Scotton and Askeby, in the manor of Bottesford, and in all the lands and tenements which were of the inheritance of Guy de Ver.[8]

In 1271 the prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England by his attorney offered himself the fourth day against Simon son of Simon de Veer of a plea that he warrant to him two parts of the manor of Botlesford in Lyndesey, with appur-

[1] Abbrev. Plac., p. 75.
[2] Testa de Nevill, pp. 344, 345.
[3] *Ibid.*, pp. 304, 308, 311, 316.
[4] Final Concords, Lincoln, p. 114.
[5] *Ibid.*, p. 156.
[6] Curia Regis Roll, 104, m. 13d.
[7] Final Concords, p. 225.
[8] *Ibid.*, p. 310.

tenances, and the advowson of the church of the same vill, which he holds. And he does not come. And he had a day by his essoin to this day. Let him be attached that he be here on the octave of St. John Baptist.[1]

In 1275 the jurors of the Wapentake of Manlee say that Simon de Ver held four fees in Botensfort (Bottesford) of the Barony of Redburn, and that four years before he had sold all the said fees to the Hospitallers, worth xl^{li}, whereby the king loses ward, marriage and service.[2] The prior of the Hospitallers in 1281 says that King Henry III by his charter confirmed the gift which Simon de Veer made to one Roger de Veer, prior of the said Hospital. And Simon's charter testifies that he gave to the said prior all his tenements which he had in his manor of Botelesford, with all its members, viz., Messingham, Yadelthorpe, Burnyngham, Butterwyk, Askeby, Brunneby, together with the advowson of the church of Botelesford, to hold in alms, etc.[3] It was also presented by xij jurors of Coringham Wapentake that Simon de Ver, father of the then Simon, held in the vill of Scotton and in Kynnardeferye twenty-four years before 21½ bovates of land.

According to the Hundred Rolls the Abbot of Bridlington holds in 1275 half a fee in Gousel of the gift of Simon de Ver, and another half fee there by the service of 25s. annually to be paid to the Bishop of Lincoln.[4] But the Roll of the wapentake of Yarborough, which I believe to be the original return from which the shorter account in the Hundred Rolls was compiled, states that the Abbot of Thornton holds these two half fees of the gift of Simon de Veer, as well as half a fee of his gift of the Bishop of Lincoln in Wootton;[5] and this statement is confirmed by the Lay Subsidy Roll of Edward I, which states that the Abbot of Thornton holds one fee in Wotton and Gousel of the Bishop of Lincoln, which Simon de Ver formerly held,[6] and by the fact that at the Dissolution the Abbey of Thornton held the manor of Goxhill.[7]

The prior of the Hospital of St. John held temp. Edward I one fee in Botouesford, and John de Theuelby held seven parts of one fee in Scotton, which Simon de Veer formerly held.[8]

On the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul 1270, Sir Simon de Ver, son of Sir Simon de Ver, knt., granted to Robert Gylt lands and certain villeins in Sprothele in Holderness.[9] Simon de Ver sold the manor of Sprottele to Roger Darcy before 1287.[10]

[1] Curia Regis Roll, 202, m. 32d. Easter 55 Henry III.
[2] Rot. Hund. i, 339b.
[3] Placita de quo war^{to}, p. 426. But it is clear that eventually the advowson went to Thornholm priory, which alienated the same to the dean and chapter of Lincoln in 1305 (Cal. of Pat. Rolls, Edw. I, vol. iv, p. 410).
[4] Rot. Hund. i, 377.
[5] Linc. Notes and Queries, vol. 25, 27, 28.
[6] Lay Subsidy Roll $\frac{135}{1}$.
[7] Mon. Angl. iii, 486.
[8] Lay Subsidy Roll $\frac{135}{1}$.
[9] Harl. Charter, 80 H. 7.
[10] Yorkshire Inquisitions, ii, 59.

There is, or was, in Goxhill a tenement, called the Vere Cote, which was leased in 1653 by Edward Skynner, of Thornton College, Esq., to Robert Gilliat, of Burnham, yeoman.[1] Walter de Ver gave to Bridlington the bercary or sheep cote in Gousel, which was confirmed by Simon son of Walter de Ver, and in 1264 by Simon, son of the said Simon.[2]

In the Church of Goxhill is a figure in armour of the thirteenth century, said to represent one of the Vers.

Mr. Laurent says a charter of Simon de Ver to Kirkham in 1229[3] has for a seal a boar's head, and the inscription "Sigill. Simonis de Wer," while the cognizance of the great house of Vere was a boar.

W. O. MASSINGBERD.

THE FIRST LORD BELHAVEN AND STENTON.

I suppose that as a general rule Letters of Administration, of which the *relict* can be shown to have had cognizance by renouncing, are about as good evidence of a man's death as the most sceptical in genealogical matters would require, and when in the case of a Scotch peer the admon. is confirmed by a detailed and circumstantial account of his death from the pen of a contemporary Lyon King of Arms, few would be found to suspect either fraud or mis-statement.

All these conditions were fulfilled in the person of the first Lord Belhaven, yet he can be shown, beyond any shadow of doubt, to have lived some twenty-seven years after his reported death, and nearly twenty-three after his admon.

The account of his decease as given in Balfour's *Annals*, vol. iv, under date 3 July, 1652, is as follows.

"Sir John Hamilton, Lord Belhaven, who had married the base daughter of James, Marquess of Hamilton, begotten on Stewart, daughter to the Lord Blantyre [*i.e.*, Margaret, bastard da. of the Marquis, by Anne, widow of John, Lord Saltoun, and da. of Walter (Stewart), Lord Blantyre], miserably perished in the sinking sands of the Solway."

In the *Complete Peerage*, vol. i, p. 306, however, he is shown to have had a re-grant of his peerage in 1675, and is correctly stated to have died 17 June, 1679. (Funeral entry 20th in Lyon Office).

Attention is properly drawn in a note to "an almost inexplicable admon." of the goods of John Hamilton, Lord Belhaven, dat. 11 Nov. 1656.

The explanation which apparently was not known to G.E.C. or to Mr. R. R. Stodart, with whom he was in communication on the

[1] Mr. Laurent's MSS., quoting an "Indenture *penes* W. Heselden."
[2] Burton's Mon. Ebor. p. 230.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 374, and Dodsworth vij, fol. 201.