THE FOLLIOTTS OF LONDONDERRY AND CHESTER.

The English Foliots, Folyotts, or Folliotts—for the name was spelled in various ways—appear to have been a branch of an ancient Norman family, and to have settled originally in Yorkshire, where in the reign of William the Conqueror they were lords of Fenwick and Foliot's Fee.[1]

They subsequently acquired the manor of Northon in the same county; the manor of Grimston in the county of Nottingham; and other manors in Norfolk and Derby.[2] Fenwick and Northon were apparently mesne manors within the manor of Pontefract.

On the great Roll of the Pipe of 31 Henry I, we find a William Foliot in Yorkshire, and a Pain Foliot in Devonshire[3]; but afterwards they are met with in many other counties in England.

Early in the reign of Edward III, the Folliott possessions in the counties of York, Nottingham, and Norfolk came to Margaret or Margery, daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Folliott[4]; and on her subsequent marriage with Sir Hugh Hastings, they passed to the Hastings family.[5]

In Harl. MS. 4,630, fol. 201, the following passage is found:—

"ffolyott of ffenwicke in the Wapentake of Osgoldcrosse beares gules a bend argent.

John ffolyott, Lord of ffenwicke, married the daughter of S^{r} Adam Newmarche Kn^{t}; had issue John.

John ffolyott Esq., son and heire of John, and Lord of ffenwicke, married Annabella, daughter of S^{r} John Pollington of Pollington in Balne, near Snaithe, Kn^{t}; had issue S^{r} Richard, Cuthbert, and Alexander.

S^{r} Richard ffolyott, Kn^{t}, son and heire of John, and Lord of ffenwicke, marryed [*blank*], daughter of S^{r} John of Emley, Kn^{t}; had issue Margaret, his daughter and sole heire, married to Sr Hugh Hastings, Kn^{t}, in whose right he was Lord of ffenwicke and ffolyott ffee, which lands were holden of Willm Placiter, Earle of Warren, Sussex and Surrey."

One of the younger members of the Yorkshire family settled in Worcestershire, where a branch of the family existed in the reign of Henry I.[6] From this stock came Hugh Foliot, Bishop of Hereford in 1219; and of this name and perhaps family were Gilbert Foliot, bishop of the same See in 1161, who was afterwards translated to London, and Robert Foliot, who was consecrated Bishop of Hereford by St. Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Pedigrees of the Worcestershire family are given in Nash's History of Worcestershire, vol. ii, p. 528, and in the Visitation of Worcestershire in Harl. Soc., xxvii, p. 53.

From the Worcestershire Foliots descended Sir Henry Folliott, Governor of Ballyshannon, co. Donegal, who was created Lord

[1] Nash's History of Worcestershire (second ed.), ii, 258.
[2] Cal. Inquisitions Post Mortem, i, 150, 324.
[3] Great Roll of the Pipe, 31 Henry I, ed. Joseph Hunter, pp. 26, 154.
[4] Cal. Inquisitions Post Mortem, ii, 30.
[5] *Ib.*, p. 135.
[6] Nash's History of Worcesterhire ii, 257.

Folliott, Baron of Ballyshannon, in the Peerage of Ireland, on 22 Jan. 1619/20. He became one of the Undertakers in the Plantation of Ulster; and frequent mention of him is made in the State Papers of the period.

Early in the seventeenth century one William Folliott migrated from England to the city of Londonderry. As his arrival occurred at the time when Sir Henry Folliott, afterwards Lord Folliott, was actively concerned with Irish affairs, and especially with those in the Province of Ulster, one might conjecture that this William Folliott was a cadet of the Worcestershire family, following the fortunes of his house. However, the Rev. James Folliott, of Stapeley House, Nantwich, who took a great deal of trouble about seventy years ago in collecting materials for a family pedigree, has left amongst his papers a document stating, amongst other things, that this William Folliott came from Yorkshire; and the pedigree of the Folliott family given in the early editions of Burke's Landed Gentry, the materials for which were no doubt supplied by the Rev. James Folliott, repeats this statement.

The Yorkshire origin was perhaps a matter of tradition amongst the Folliotts of Londonderry, for there does not appear to be any documentary evidence on the subject.

William Folliott had two sons, Thomas and Robert. Thomas, the eldest son, established himself at Coleraine in the county Londonderry, and his only son went to the East Indies and died without issue. Robert, the younger son, served in the Army, and on his retirement married Eleanor Bradshaw, of Bradshaw Hall, co. Lancaster, and settled down in the city of Londonderry. His name appears on the Hearth Money Roll of the city and county of Londonderry for Michaelmas 1663, now in the Public Record Office, Dublin.

Robert Folliott had three sons, viz., William, John, and Henry; but of these William, the eldest son, alone needs notice. He was born in Londonderry in 1644, and married Jane, daughter of Matthew Thompson of the co. Antrim, by his wife Jane Coburn. Of this marriage there was issue two children, viz., Elinor, born in Londonderry in 1670, who married Humphrey Ewing, and William, who was born in Londonderry on 18 March 1686. He entered the Army when not quite fifteen years old, and served in Spain in the War of the Spanish Succession. He was at the taking of Barcelona and Alicante, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Almanza. Having made his escape, however, he was able to be present at Tortosa on 14 May 1707, when he was severely wounded by a shot through the right arm. For his bravery on this occasion he was recommended for a commission by General Earle, but he did not receive it until the year 1715.

When quartered at Tilbury Fort, after his return from Spain, he married Rosamond, daughter of John Greenstreet, of Tunbridge and Gravesend, by his wife Miss Knowles. There were four children of this marriage, viz., two sons who died in infancy, a daughter, Jane, who was married in 1747 to Mr. Philip Prosser of Dublin, merchant; and a son William, who went to Antigua and married Mrs. Fowler, a widow. Of this marriage there was no issue.

William Folliott, the elder, retired from the Army as a lieutenant on half-pay, and his wife Rosamond dying at Gravesend in 1720, he returned to his native city of Londonderry, and became a merchant there. In 1721 he married Joan, daughter of William Evory, one of the leading merchants of Londonderry, and by this second marriage he had four children, viz., three sons and one daughter. John, the eldest son, died young, having been drowned off the coast of Londonderry; and Robert, the youngest, after living a roving, and not very satisfactory life, died unmarried, sometime before 1805. Margaret, the daughter, married Captain Thomas Duval, who ultimately attained the rank of a Major-General in the Army on 3 May 1796. She died in 1803, leaving several children, issue of this marriage.

James Folliott, the second son, by whom the line of this branch of the Folliotts was continued, will be noticed presently, but the career of George, the third son, will be first dealt with. He was born in 1729 in Londonderry, and when he grew up he resolved to seek his fortune in one of the British Colonies of North America. His parents were at first strongly opposed to this plan, but owing, as is believed, to the advice of his maternal uncle, George Evory, who was a medical man in Londonderry, their consent was ultimately given, and he emigrated to New York. Settling in New York City, he in the course of time became a successful and wealthy merchant and shipowner. In 1759 he married Jane, daughter of George Harison of New York, merchant, by his wife Jane Nichols, but there were no children of the marriage. Two interesting volumes of the diaries kept by George Folliott are now in the possession of Lady Lawrence of Belgard, co. Dublin.[1] One of these details his doings from 26 September 1765 to the 7 June 1766, during a visit to England; while the other, which covers a period from 6 July 1771 to 24 March 1775, is chiefly taken up with memoranda relating to the daily life of himself and his wife during the summers spent by them at Mr. Denyse's, The Narrows, New York Harbour, and his visits on business to lands in Dutchess County and elsewhere, of which he was in possession as a mortgagee.

In 1775 he was elected a Member of the Provincial Congress for the city and county of New York, but declined serving.[2] During the War of Independence he took the side of the Loyalists, with the result that all his property in lands and mortgages was confiscated. Forced at last to leave America, he and his wife and his emancipated slave Cato, sailed from New York, and arrived at Falmouth on 23 June 1784. The remainder of his life was spent almost entirely at Chester, where his brother James Folliott resided. He died in August 1810, and was buried at Chester. His wife had predeceased him, and by his will, dated 31 July 1809,

[1] The diaries came to the late Sir Henry Lawrence, Bart., from his grandfather, Dr. Evory Kennedy of Belgard, and Dublin, a legatee under the will of Miss Margaret Evory referred to afterwards.

[2] Biographical Sketches of Loyalists of the American Revolution, by Lorenzo Sabine, vol. i, 429.

he left the bulk of his property to his cousins, Dr. Thomas Evory of Dublin, and Margaret Evory, the children of his uncle, George Evory of Londonderry. At the time of his death his claims against the British Government for the losses sustained by him during the war were still unsatisfied.

James Folliott, the second son of Lieutenant William Folliott of Londonderry, was born at Londonderry in 1726, and when he grew up was placed in the counting house of his uncle, James Evory, a merchant and shipowner of Dublin. He afterwards settled in Chester, and became one of the principal merchants in that city. He married first, in 1760, Mary, daughter of Rev. Edward Harwood, rector of Thornton, Cheshire, by his first wife Theodosia Trevisa,[1] and there were two children of the marriage, namely, an only son, William Harwood Folliott, born in 1761, and a daughter Theodosia, who died in infancy. His wife Mary died in 1764, and after an interval of some years he married Catherine Darbishire, daughter of the rector of Davenham, but there was no issue of this marriage.

His father, Lieutenant William Folliott of Londonderry, attained the age of ninety-two years, and died in Londonderry in 1778.

The subsequent history of the family is sufficiently set out in the tabular pedigree overleaf. It will be seen that on the death of the Rev. James Folliott, of Stapeley House, Nantwich, in 1876, the male line of the Folliotts of Chester and Londonderry came to an end.

At a time when "ff" was used to denote a capital "F," the name of the family was written "ffolliott," and Lieutenant James Folliott in letters written between March 1755 and August 1770, now before the present writer, always so subscribed himself. But, as has often been pointed out, it is absurd at the present day to write surnames such as Folliott or French with "ff" instead of "F." As well might every Jones and Robinson insist on writing his name Iones and Robinfon, because in former times "I" was the symbol used where "J" is now employed, and an "s" was represented by "f" when it was not a final letter. It need hardly be stated that such forms as Ffolliott, Ffrench, and the like are wholly indefensible. The double "f" discharged the functions of a capital "F," and if "F" is used, the *raison d'être* of the second "f" ceases to exist.

The arms of Folliott of Chester and Stapeley House, near Nantwich, are given on plate xxxiv in Heraldic Illustrations by John Burke and John Bernard Burke (1844), and are:—

ARMS: Gules a bend argent.

CREST: A lion rampant per pale argent and gules.[2]

EDMUND T. BEWLEY.

[1] The pedigree of the Harwood family will be found in Burke's Commoners, and Burke's Landed Gentry (second edition).

[2] A large portion of the materials for the above article has been supplied by documents relating to the Folliott family kindly lent by Mrs. Devenish-Meares and Mrs. William Bellingham, daughters of the late George Folliott, Esq., of Vicar's Cross, Chester.

Pedigree of Folliott.

William Folliott, migrated from England to Londonderry early in the seventeenth century.

- Thomas Folliott, of Coleraine, co. Londonderry.
  - Thomas Folliott, went to the East Indies; d. s.p.
  - A daughter.
- Robert Folliott, of Londonderry, served in the Army; settled in Londonderry in 1642. = Elinor, dau. of ... Bradshaw, of Bradshaw Hall, co. Lancaster; b. 1616 in West Chester; d. 1689 in Londonderry, during the siege.
  - William Folliott, of Londonderry; b. 1644 in Londonderry; d. there 1699. = Jane, dau. of Matthew Thompson, of co. Antrim, by his wife Jane Coburn; b. 1648 in Londonderry; d. there 1 June 1721.
    - Elinor, b. 1670/1 in Londonderry; d. there 1720; m. Humphrey Ewing, and left issue two daughters, Martha and Ann.
    - Rosamund, dau. of John Greenstreet, of Gravesend and Tunbridge, by ... Knowles, his wife; b. 1685/6 at Gravesend; d. there 1720/1. First wife. = William Folliott, of Londonderry; b. 18 March 1686/7 in Londonderry; served in the Army in the war of the Spanish Succession 1705-7; retired as a Lieutenant on half-pay, and became a merchant in Londonderry; Sheriff of Londonderry 1734 and 1741; d. 1778 in Londonderry. = Joan, dau. of Wm. Evory, of Londonderry, by his wife Margaret Gallagher; b. 1695; mar. 3 Jan. 1721/2; d. 22 Feb. 1772. Second wife.
      - William Folliott, b. 1710/1 at Gravesend; d. there 1712.
      - John Folliott, b. 1712 at Gravesend; d. 1715/6 at Tilbury Fort.
      - Jane, b. 17 Sep. 1716 at Tilbury Fort; mar. 1747 Philip Prosser, of Dublin, merchant; d. June 1768, leaving issue three sons and two daughters.
      - William Folliott, b. 23 Sep. 1719 at Gravesend; went to Antigua; d. s.p. = ... widow of ... Fowler; m. Dec. 1742.
  - John Folliott.
  - Henry Folliott, of Termonlane, Londonderry. Will dated 21 June 1719.
    - Janet ... named in her husband's will.
      - William Folliott, named in his father's will.

▲

John Folliott, b. 15 July 1723 in Londonderry; drowned at Fair Head, near Coleraine.

George Folliott, of New York, merchant; b. 9 Feb. 1729/30 in Londonderry; emigrated to North American Colonies; and after the War of Independence came to England and settled at Chester; d. s.p. Aug. 1810 at Chester. Will dated 31 July 1809; proved at Chester 18 Aug. 1810, and subsequently in P.C.C.

Jane, dau. of George Harison, of New York, by his wife Jane Nichols; m. 1759; d. in lifetime of husband.

Robert Folliott, b. 23 Sep. 1733 in Londonderry; d. unm. before 1805.

Margaret, b. 20 Feb. 1734/5; m. Captain (afterwards Major-General) Thomas Duval; d. 1803, leaving issue four daughters.

Mary, dau. of Rev. Edward Harwood, Rector of Thornton, co. Chester, by his first wife, Theodosia Trevisa; m. 1760; d. March 1764. First wife.

James Folliott, of Chester, b. 13 April 1726 in Londonderry; d. 1790 at Chester.

Catherine, dau. of Rev. .... Darbishire, Rector of Davenham, co. Chester; m. 1770; d. s.p. Second wife.

William Harwood Folliott, of Wynbunbury, Chester, Stapeley House, Nantwich, and Eaton Hall, co. Chester; b. 7 March 1761; d. 22 Nov. 1831 at Chester. M.I. at Thornton.

Catherine, dau. of John Burscoe, of Stapeley House, Nantwich, co. Chester, by his wife Elizabeth Turner; m. 23 Jan. 1797; d. 30 May 1850 at Malpas, in her 79th year. M.I. at Thornton.

Theodosia, d. in infancy 1768. M.I. at Thornton.

Rev. James Folliott, of Stapeley House, Nantwich; J.P. for co. Chester; b. 16 July 1799; B.A. (Oxon) 1822; M.A. 1825; d. 2 Oct. 1876.

Mary Anne Elizbeth, dau. of Rev. Enoch Clementson, Incumbent of Church Minshull; m. 23 Sep. 1835.

George Folliott, of Vicar's Cross, co. Chester; b. 12 Jan. 1801; d. 20 June 1851 at Vicar's Cross; bur. in Chester Cemetery. M.I at Thornton.

Dorothea Elizabeth, eld. dau. of William John Moore, of Dublin; m. 14 July 1836; she mar. secondly 12 Sep. 1854 John Fetherstonhaugh Lowry, of Ballymore, co. Westmeath; d. 10 Oct. 1892.

Elizabeth, d. unm. 8 Nov. 1824, aged 21. M.I. at Thornton.

Catherine, m. Joseph Barningham Miller, of Folliott House, Chester.

James Folliott, b. 1836 at Rome; B.A. and M.A. (Oxon) 1862; d. unm. 1869.

George Folliott, b. 29 Jan. 1849; d. 6 Feb. 1849.

Katherine, mar. 15 Nov. 1870 Major-Gen. Devenish-Meares, of Meares Court, Ballynacargy, co. Westmeath, J.P. and D.L. co. Westmeath.

Dorothea Elizabeth, m. 21 Dec. 1880 Robert William Lowry, of Pomeroy House, co. Tyrone, Barrister-at-law, B.A. (Oxon); J.P. and D.L., co. Tyrone.

Eda Isabella Evory, m. 28 Dec. 1871 James Folingsby Walker, of Cheltenham, and has issue.

Grace Burscoe, m. 17 Aug. 1865 Captain William Bellingham, late 29th Regt.