NEVILL OF LACEBY, STURTON AND APPLEBY, CO. LINCOLN.

The number of Nevills holding lands in Lincolnshire by knight service *circa* A.D. 1200 is remarkable.

First of all there was the family, which lived at Burreth, a lost vill adjoining Bucknall and Bardney, but was soon to end in an heiress, from whom descended the greater family of Nevill of Raby. Then, besides John de Nevill, "forestarius," who does not seem to have had any residentiary property in Lincolnshire, there were Nevills of Redbourne, of Laceby, and of Haburgh and Kirmington, who all held of the king in chief. And lastly there were Nevills of Grimsthorpe, Faldingworth, Scotton, etc., who held by knight service of other lords.

To distinguish between the different families is a most difficult task, rendered much more so by the number of Geoffreys, Hughs and Johns that lived at the same period. I cannot even say that all these Lincolnshire Nevills came from one original stock. Still, with our fine records something ought to be done, and the only way seems to be to work out by degrees the different families as far as we can. I have already done something for the Nevills of Redbourne [1] and Grimsthorpe,[2] and I now make a similar attempt for the Nevills of Laceby, Sturton and Appleby. I have long hesitated about them. Many years ago I published in my "History of Ormsby" a pedigree of the Nevills of Laceby and Thornholm, but I have only lately found sufficient evidence to connect them with Sturton and Appleby. Mr. Eyton writes, "it was unquestionably Geoffrey, son of Alan de Nevill, who was called Camerarius, and obtained from Richard I a grant of Laceby," [3] and he points out that Geoffrey son of Alan de Nevill's grant to Tupholm of the church of All Saints of Stratton, was confirmed by Henry III. A Plea Roll [4] proves the connection with Sturton [Stretton in the record]—for Hawise de Nevill sues Hugh de Nevill to acquit her of the service which Lucy de Chauncey demands from her for the manor of Sturton, of which Hugh had dowered her "for the whole tenement which was of Geoffrey de Nevill, formerly her husband, in Lesseby, Stretton," etc.

The connection of the Laceby Nevills with Appleby is much more difficult to prove. We know that Mabel, daughter of Adam de Montbegon and coheiress of her brother Roger, was dead in 1249,[5] and had outlived her husband, Geoffrey de Nevill, so that

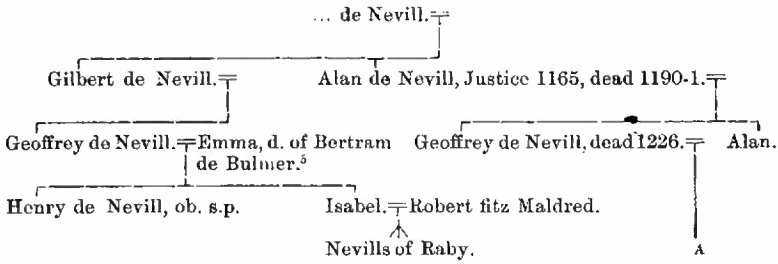
[1] Report of Associated Archit. Societies, 1899, p. 5. Linc. Notes and Queries, vi, 148.
[2] Report of Associated Archit. Societies, 1903, p. 71.
[3] Addit. MS. 31,930, f. 120.
[4] Curia Regis Roll 202, m. 32 d. Easter, 55 Henry III, A.D. 1271.
[5] Chancery Inq. Post Mortem, 33 Henry III, no. 17.

he could not be the Geoffrey de Nevill who presented to the church of Laceby in 1261. Moreover in *Testa de Nevill*[1] we find that when John de Nevill held xx^{li} of land in Leseby, a Geoffrey de Nevill held half xx^{li} of land in Appelby, whereof Eudo de Lungvilers held the other half with his wife. This seems fatal to the connection of the Laceby Nevills with Appleby, if we are to take the pedigree of Nevill of Thornholm, given in the Inquisition[2] post mortem of Philip de Nevill, to be correct, and Geoffrey de Nevill to be son of John and father of Hugh. But the records do not agree. We have the inquisition of Geoffrey de Nevill of Leysseby,[3] taken in 1267, and find that he held the manor of Leisseby of the lord the king, worth xxvj^{li} xvij^{s} j^{d}q, and the manor of Stratton of the heirs of Geoffrey de Benigworth,[4] by rendering to them c^{s} per annum, worth xvj^{li} ij^{s} ix^{d} per annum; and that Hugh de Nevill, *son of the uncle* of the said Geoffrey is his next heir, and of the age of xxx years and more. That this Hugh was son of a Geoffrey de Nevill we learn from the Hundred Rolls: —

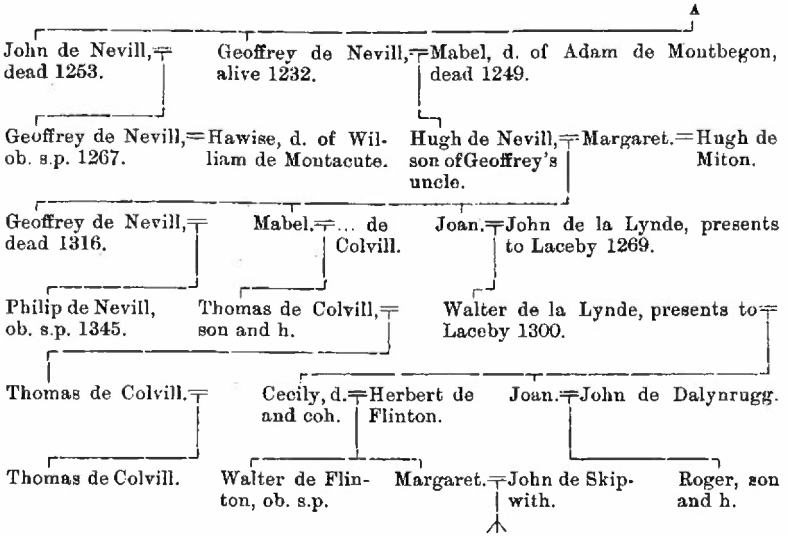
i, 377. In Cadeney and Husum 3 carucates of land were subtracted by Geoffrey father of Hugh who now is.

i, 380. The jurors say that Roger de Stratton and Michael Scot by command of Hugh de Nevill came to the manor of Leyseby after the death of John de la Lynde, and seized that manor into the hand of the said Hugh, the seisin of which belongs to the king, and took of goods of the deceased to the value of xij^{li} xix^{d}, except fagots worth xviij^{d}, and took them to the manor of the same Hugh of Cadeney by order of the said Hugh.

I will now set down the pedigree, and add some further information.



[1] p. 370.
[2] Chancery Inq. Post Mortem, 48 Edw. III, 2nd nrs., no. 8.
[3] Inq. Post Mortem, C, file 34 (14).
[4] This is clearly so, nothwithstanding the reading given in the Calendar.
[5] The parentage of Geoffrey's wife seems proved from the Pipe Roll, 22 Henry II (A.D. 1175-6)—"Bertram de Bulemer debet . . . . Quo omnia debita requirenda sunt a Galfrido de Neuill qui habet filiam ejusdem Bertram cum hereditate." At the same time, the evidence that she was afterwards called Emma de Humez appears to be conclusive (Rot. Scaccarii Norman., ii, clxxxv).



Gilbert de Nevill held five knights' fees of the Bishop of Lincoln, and four of Manasser Arsic in 1166,[1] and with his brother, Alan, founded the abbey of Tupholm. Gilbert gave to this abbey the churches of St. Peter of Burreth, and of St. Peter of Rasen; Alan gave the church of St. Michael of Staynton; Geoffrey, son of Alan de Nevill, gave the church of All Saints of Sturton.[2] Alan de Nevill was Justice in 1165. In 1166 he was excommunicated for his support of the king against Becket, but obtained absolution from Gilbert Foliot, Bishop of London. He died 2 Richard I, leaving two sons, Geoffrey and Alan.[3] Alan de Nevill, junior, was Justice Itinerant 1170-9.[4] Geoffrey de de Nevill, "camerarius," obtained the manor of Laceby with Swallow, Little Cotes and Great Cotes, an ancient demesne manor,[5] from King John, in exchange for the manor of Bere, co. Dorset.[6] He was dead in 1226, John de Nevill being his son and heir.[7]

[1] Liber Niger.
[2] Mon. Angl., vi, 870.
[3] Foss' Judges, i, 283.
[4] *Ibid.*
[5] So in the record, but in Domesday Book Laceby was not a manor of the King but of the Bishop of Bayeux.
[6] Hundred Rolls, i, 263; see also Curia Regis Roll, 167, m. 10 d. Geoffrey de Nevill, grandson of the grantee, claims to present to the Church of Little Coates, A.D. 1260. Yorkshire Inquisitions, i, 9, tell us that Geoffrey de Nevill, Chamberlain of England, was Keeper of the Forest, Sheriff of Yorkshire, and Keeper of the King's Castles in the same county.
[7] Excerpta, i, 136. 31 May, 1230, the King has granted to John de Nevill that so long as he is in the service of the King in foreign parts he shall have respite of the 10s. which he renders yearly for the debt of Geoffrey de Nevill, his father, whose heir he is. (Cal. of Close Rolls, 1227-31, p. 412; see also p. 30, when, A.D. 1228, John de Nevill has to pay a debt of Geoffrey, his father, to a Jew of Lincoln).

Two charters of John de Nevill, son of Geoffrey de Nevill, are in the British Museum: by one he grants lands in Laceby to Walter, son of Walter de Belesby, and by the other the whole of le Skelysike in Sturton, on the west part, to the abbey of Kirkstead.[1] John de Nevill, "camerarius," alienated three bovates of the king's demesne.[2] He held two fees in Sturton in 1243[3] of Geoffrey de Benigworth. In 38 Hen. III 1253-4, the Sheriff of Lincoln is ordered to distrain Geoffrey, son of John de Nevill, to render to Robert de Wyleby, the King's Escheator, vj marks and a half for the crops of certain meadow and the issues of a mill which he bought of the said escheator after the death of the said Geoffrey (*sic*).[4]

Geoffrey de Nevill, as we have seen, was dead in 1267, and in that year the king took the homage of Hugh de Nevill, kinsman and heir of Geoffrey, lately deceased, for all lands the same Geoffrey held in chief on the day he died.[5] I have already given the reasons for my belief that this Hugh de Nevill was son of that Geoffrey, who was brother of John, and husband of Mabel, daughter and coheiress of Adam de Montbegon. I think the dates and facts are thus made to accord. In 1253 the king took the homage of Hugh, son and heir of Mabel de Nevill,[6] and in 1254 it was found that he held the moiety of the town of Appleby in Lindsey, in chief of the king, John de Lungvylers, who was dead, having held the other moiety.[7] In 1275 Geoffrey de Nevill (brother of Robert de Nevill of Raby, and husband of Margaret, daughter and heir of John de Longvilers) and Geoffrey, son of Dom[s] Hugh de Nevill, held the soke of Appleby.[8] In 1316 comes very important evidence bearing upon the question of the connection of the Laceby Nevills with Appleby. In the inquisition of Geoffrey de Nevill[9] it is found that he held the moiety of the vills of Appleby and Saunton, and the advowson of the priory of Thornholm, of the King in chief, which moiety the said Geoffrey alienated to divers men, except 1[d] of rent from lands in Saunton and j wreath [sertum] from Margaret de Nevill for a certain place of meadow in Appleby, of which the same Geoffrey died seised, as he did of the advowson of the aforesaid priory; and that Philip de Nevill is his son and heir, aged thirty years. One cannot doubt that this Philip descended from the Geoffrey de Nevill who married Mabel de Montbegon, the heiress of half Appleby, and we know from other evidence that he was the representative of the Laceby Nevills. Here I must go back some years. Hugh

[1] Harl. Charters, 54 B. 37 and 54 B. 38.
[2] Hundred Rolls, i, 264. But the date 41 Henry III must be wrong.
[3] Testa de Nevill, p. 331.
[4] Abbrev. Rot. Orig., 1, 14. It was John who was dead. Geoffrey, son and heir of John de Nevill, did fealty to the King in 1253 (Excerpta, ii, 170).
[5] Excerpta, ii, 459.
[6] Excerpta, ii, 165.
[7] Yorkshire Inquisitions, i, 41.
[8] Hundred Rolls.
[9] Chancery Inq. Post Mortem, 10 Edw. II, no. 22.

de Nevill had no sooner obtained the manor of Laceby than he transferred it to John de la Lynde, who had married Joan, his daughter.[1] In 12 Edward I, Hugh de Miton and Margaret, his wife, unsuccessfully sued Walter de la Lynde for dower of the same Margaret in Laceby of the grant of Hugh de Nevile, formerly her husband.[2] It is doubtful whether the manor of Sturton ever came to Hugh's son, Geoffrey, for Robert de Arcy was in possession in 1303;[3] and we only hear of Hugh's grandson, "Philip, son of Geoffrey, son of Hugh de Nevyle of Thornholme," through an inquisition taken twenty-nine years after his death[4] in consequence of the claim on the part of the king to present to the church of Laceby. The jurors then say that one John de Nevill, son of Geoffrey de Nevill, long ago held the manor of Laceby and the advowson of the church of King Henry, great grandfather of the present king, to whom succeeded Geoffrey, as son and heir, after whose death Hugh de Nevill, as son and heir of the same Geoffrey, son of John, was seised, and gave the said manor with the advowson to one John de la Lynde, to hold of the said Hugh by the annual rent of 1^{d}, which same Hugh died seised of the s^{d} rent *temp.* King Henry, after whose death one Geoffrey, son and heir of the same Hugh, died seised, to whom succeeded Philip, son and heir of the same Geoffrey, who died seised of the said 1^{d} of rent without heir of himself.[5]

Walter de Flinton presented to Laceby Church in 1396, while John de Skipwith, great grandson of John de Skipwith and Margaret de Flinton, was in possession of a moiety of the manor of Laceby with appurtenances in Swallow, Bradley and Little Coates in 1403.[6]

W. O. Massingberd.

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[1] "History of Ormsby," p. 56. The date of the charter is given as 4 Feb., 52 Henry III [A.D. 1267-8].

[2] Assize Roll, 502.

[3] Feudal Aids, iii, 139, 172.

[4] Chancery Inq. Post Mortem, 48 Edward III, 2nd nrs., no. 8. Philip died on Thursday in the week of Pentecost, 19 Edw. III [A.D. 1345].

[5] The rent descended to Thomas de Colvill of Cokewold, Knt., and after his death to his son Thomas, and the descent is given as in my tabular pedigree. Other information is given in De Banco Roll, 179, m. 409. The King unsuccessfully claims on the ground that Walter de fflinton had intruded upon the moiety of the manor and advowson without doing suit.

[6] "History of Ormsby," p. 74.