

## CHAPTER II.

# THE DERBYSHIRE BRANCH

### *Descent from the D'Abitots*

**H**OW is it that the pedigree of the Barlows of Derbyshire, who long held lands in the county\* and who in the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries intermarried with many of the great Derbyshire families, has never so far been worked out?

"More than four hundred years ago there was a hall at Stoke tenanted by the Barlows, and where they remained for generations, and this is a fact which arouses no little curiosity . . . What of the Barlows? Who were they? We have before us a pile of genealogies, in which we can trace that they allied themselves with the baronial houses of Chaworth, Talbot, and Frecheville; with the Cokaynes, Eyres, Strelleys, Foljambes, Hardwicks, Meverells, and Beresfords; but the compilers of Derbyshire history are silent about them."†

In order to try and answer this question, we must begin with the Domesday survey itself.

#### BARLEIE, DERBYSHIRE, IN DOMESDAY.

In the ninth century Derbyshire with three adjacent counties, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire to the east, and Yorkshire to the north, were settled by the Danes, and the Domesday unit of taxation in these five counties was accordingly the carucate of eight bovates.‡

First among the holders of land in Derbyshire stands, as elsewhere, the King (No. I. on the Roll); the sources from which the King derived his possessions were three:—

1.—He succeeded Edward the Confessor as holding a remarkable group of manors stretching almost without break from Ashbourne to the Yorkshire border—namely, Ashbourne, Parwich, Wirksworth, "Mestesforde," Darley Dale, Bakewell, Ashford and Hope.§

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\*In the case of Barlow v. Eyre, the Decree of the Court, July 7th, 1601, expressly stated that the lands at Barlow had been held by the plaintiff and his ancestors "for 400 years and better"; see below, Chap. III.

†J. Tilley, *Derbyshire*, 1893, Vol. I., p. 204. Curiously, the late Mr. Renton Dunlop, F.S.A., in his *History of the Scroggs Family*, asks almost precisely the same question as to the Herts. branch; see below, Chap. VI.

‡As against the hide of four virgates in the south and west. The great plough of eight oxen was the unit employed by the Domesday Commissioners. Usually a carucate represents a ploughland, and each of its eight bovates is the land assignable to one ox; often, however, as at Barleie, it is not possible to square the carucates with the ploughs: *V. H. Derb.*, Vol. I., p. 317.

§*Op. cit.*, Vol. I., p. 297.

## BARLOW FAMILY RECORDS

2.—The forfeited estates of the late Earl of the Shire, Edwin, the grandson of Earl Leofric of Mercia.

3.—Various manors, e.g., Eyam, and Stoney Middleton on the Derwent, which were apparently deliberately seized at the Conquest.

The greatest landholder in Derbyshire was Henry de Ferrers, the Lord of Longueville in Normandy, whose son became, in 1136, first Earl of Derby (No. II. on the Roll) ; though he possessed ninety manors in the shire, the head of his barony lay at Tutbury, just outside the county, in Staffordshire.\*

Lead mining† was a very important and distinctive feature of Derbyshire at the time of the survey, just as salt mines were of Worcestershire. The centres of the lead mines were Wirksworth (where were three mines), "Mestesforde," Bakewell and Ashford, on the royal demesne ; and Crick, on the fief of Ralf fitz Hubert (No. X. on the Roll).

Ascuit Musard (No. XII. on the Roll), who was a Breton, held as we shall see a fief,‡ while the last column of the Derby survey is devoted to the anomalous class of the King's Thegns—which is of importance, as all its members were Englishmen.§

With regard to the vill of Barlow, or to use the Domesday spelling, Barleie, the twelfth fief was described as follows :—

"XII.—*The land of Ascuit Musard.*"

M. in BARLEIE (Barlow) Hacon had 2 parts of 1 carucate of land (assessed) to the geld. (There is) land for half a plough. There now 6 villeins and 1 bordar have 1 plough. There (are) 2 acres of meadow. Wood(land) for pannage 1½ leagues in length and 8 furlongs in breadth. In King Edward's time it was worth 10 shillings and (it is worth the same) now. Ascuit Musard holds it.

M. in STAVELIE (Staveley) Hacon had 4 carucates of land (assessed) to the geld. (There is) land for 4 ploughs. There Ascuit has now 3 ploughs in demesne ; and 21 villeins and 7 bordars have 4 ploughs. There (is) a priest and a church and 1 mill (rendering) 5 shillings and 4 pence. There (are) 60 acres of meadow. Wood(land) for pannage 1½ leagues in length and the same in breadth. In King Edward's time it was worth 6 pounds and (it is worth the same) now."

Ascuit Musard also held land in the neighbouring villages of Holm, Brampton, Wadshelf and Killamarsh, but these do not concern us.

\*The connection between Derby and adjacent counties, e.g., Notts., was close at the time of Domesday and for long after ; and till Elizabeth's reign these two counties had only one Sheriff : *V. H. Derb.*, Vol. I., p. 308.

†*Op. cit.*, Vol. I., pp. 297 and 316. It is possible that in early times the lead may have been carried on packs down to the Mersey and thence transported by sea ; if so, this may furnish a reason for the early settlement of members of Derbyshire families on Merseyside : see Chap. VIII.

‡Gilbert de Gand, who, from his name, clearly was a Fleming, held fief No. XIII. ; these names demonstrate the wide area on which William drew for his conquering army.

§Mr. Freeman supposes that as they were fairly numerous in Derbyshire the resistance of the English to the Conquest was less stubborn there than in other counties : *V. H. Derb.*, Vol. I., p. 306.

¶The Barlow haunts are well marked on the Domesday map (*op. cit.*, Vol. I., p. 326), e.g., Stoke (which was a Berewick of Hope : *op. cit.*, Vol. I., p. 332), Barleie itself, Echintune, Staveleie, Dranefield, Cestrefield, etc.

¶ *Op. cit.*, Vol. I., p. 351.

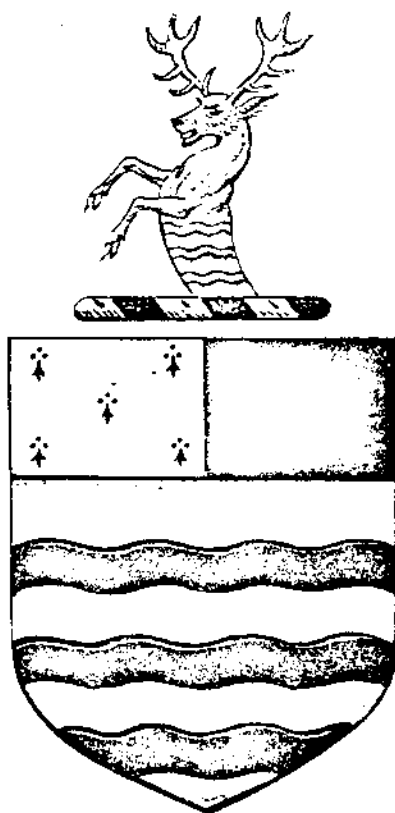


PLATE 4.

Arms of Barley, Co. Derby : extracted from the College of Arms.  
See Chap. IX., *Arms*.

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It is important to note the connection even in Domesday between Barlow and Staveley, both being at that time in Ascut Musard's fief, and Hacon, an Englishman, having held both in King Edward's time. The survey mentions a church at Staveley but no church at Barleie; probably at least half a century elapsed before the Church of St. Lawrence was erected at Barleie as a parochial chapel to Staveley.

There is a further entry relating to Barleie under heading:—\*

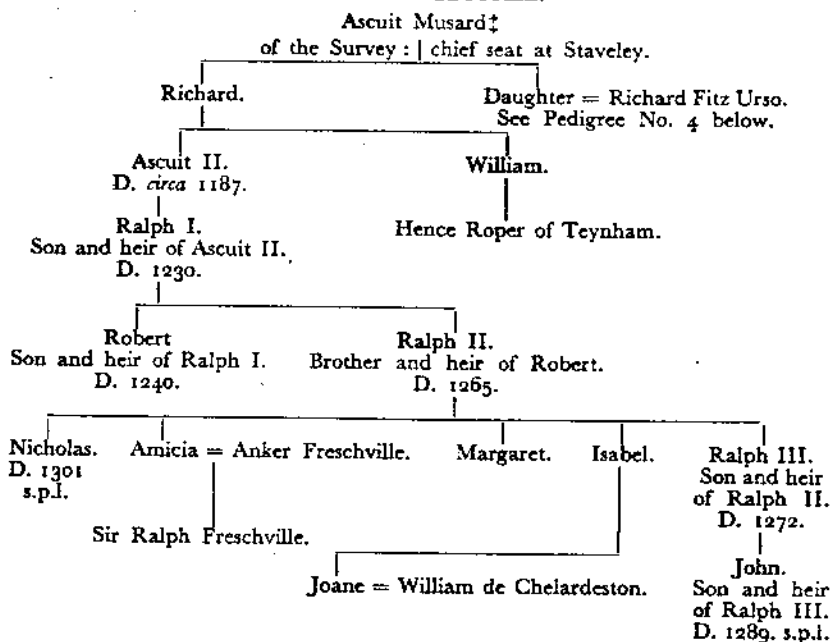
"XVII.—*The land of the King's Thegns.*

2 M. In BARLEIE (Barlow) Levric and Uctred† had 2½ bovates of land (assessed) to the geld. (There is) land for 5 oxen (i.e., ⅓ of a plough team). There now 3 villeins and 4 bordars have 1 plough. Wood(land) for pannage 3 leagues in length and ¼ furlongs in breadth. In King Edward's time it was worth 6 shillings and 8 pence and (it is worth the same) now."

The Musard pedigree is as follows:—

### PEDIGREE No. 2.

#### MUSARD PEDIGREE.



\**V. H. Derb.*, Vol. I., p. 353.

†One Uctred, also a King's Thegn, held lands in Derbei Hundred of S. Lancs. (West Derby) in Domesday; below, Chap. V. It was an Uctred de Withington whose daughter Sibylla, about 1250, gave lands in Barlow Lancs. to Sir Thomas de Barlow.

‡*Bank's Dormant Baronage*, Vol. I., p. 145; also Cox, *Derb. Churches*, Vol. IV., p. 62; Wyrley's Copy (1592) of the Visitation of 1569; and notes on the Freschville and Musard pedigrees by Falconer Madan in *Collect. Topog. et Gen.*, Vol. IV., pp. 1-28, 181-218 and 384-388, from *Wolley Papers*, Brit. Mus. Add. MSS. 6697, p. 434; *Derb. Arch.*, N.S., Vol. I., 1925, p. 167; and Ped. No. 2.

## BARLOW FAMILY RECORDS

On the death of Nicholas, in 1301, without lawful issue, the three heirs were Nicholas' nephew, Sir Ralph Freschville, Margaret his sister, and Joane Chelardeston his niece, and they had livery accordingly.

The Heralds, in their Visitation of 1569, seem hardly to have appreciated that Ascuit Musard, of the Conquest, was one of the great Norman Barons who came over with the Conqueror.\* Besides five manors in Derbyshire, he had lands in five other counties, including Gloucester and Warwick; Ralph Musard I., Vicecomes of Gloucester, who died 1230, built a castle at Misarden, called, says Atkyns, in his day "Musard's Castle."†

To sum up, the Domesday entries show:—

(a)—The existence of the village Barleie in Anglo-Saxon times, probably long prior to the Conquest; and the cultivation of land there in Edward's time by Saxons or Danes with such non-Norman names as Hacon, Levric and Uhtred. Pegge's pedigree tracing back to a Sir Simon de Barley of Enflete or Ewflete, who is supposed to have come over with the Conqueror and given his name to the place, is in consequence clearly apochryphal. Indeed, Pegge‡ himself argues that the name of the place is older than that of the family.

(b)—The close connection, from the earliest times, between Staveley and Barley, both being held by the same lord, Hacon, prior to the Conquest, and at Domesday by Ascuit Musard. As a matter of geography, Staveley lies about six miles due west of Barlow, from which it is separated by Withington and Brimington. This close connection is again emphasised when temp. Henry II. 1154-1189 Ascuit Musard II. appropriated to the Preceptory of Staveley§ half (i.e., half the rectorial tithes) of the Church of Staveley; and Walter Abitot added to the moiety a gift of 22 acres of land at Barlow.

The Staveley branch of the Musards came to an end, with the marriage of the heiress Amicia, in the middle of the thirteenth century,

\*Hascouf Musard is included amongst the companions of William the Conqueror; *De Magnay Nobiliaire de Normandie*, p. 5. In the Middle Ages the family were Gloucestershire magnates, e.g., Sir John Musard was M.P. Staffs. 1354, M.P. Worcs. 1355, etc.; *William Salt Arch. Soc., Staffs.*, N.S., 1917, p. 97.

†Atkyns' *Gloucestershire*, p. 293. A younger branch became Roper, Lords of Teynham in Kent, and in 1824 took the Derbyshire name of Curzon; *D'Anisy Recherches sur le Domesday*, Brit. Mus., Vol. I., p. 222; and Segar & Edmondson *Baronag. Genealog.*, Vol. IV., p. 383. The Musard family apparently originally came from St. Hilaire in Normandy. In the thirteenth century, Katherine Musard held lands in Foregate, Staffs., which, in the seventeenth century was associated with a Barlow branch: see Staffs. pedigree No. 17.

‡*Collect. Topog. et Gen.*, Vol. IV., p. 189.

§*Cox Derb. Churches*, Vol. I., p. 345, and Vol. III., p. 281, quoting Lansdowne MSS. 207 F., p. 150. Cox suggests the appropriation was to Yeaveley which lies twenty miles away, south of Ashbourne; but Pegge is clear that the appropriation was to the Preceptory of St. John of Jerusalem at Staveley; *Collect.*, Vol. IV., p. 189. See also Nichols *Collectanea*, quoted by Cox. Cox, however, is equally clear that the Preceptory was at Yeaveley, Vol. III., p. 281.

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to Anker Freschville. The Musard arms\* (as well as those of Freschville and Beresford) were formerly, according to Thoroton, extant in a window in Bunney Church, where the tablet to Humphrey Barlow (d. 1570) is still to be found,† see Plate 18.

*Who were the D'Abitots of Barleie, and what was their connection with the Worcestershire or other branch of the D'Abitots?*

There is a second question that chroniclers have often asked—How did the lordship of Barleie, originally in the great Norman family of Musard, pass to the descendants of another great Norman family, the D'Abitots? It now appears that one key will probably solve both puzzles.

The early Derbyshire chronicles are confused, though the tradition seems clear that the D'Abitots, about 1200, began to hold the manor of Barleie. The Pegge pedigree, below, No. 15, suggests that about 1166 a Jane D'Abitot, daughter and heir of John D'Abitot, a son or younger brother of Gervase D'Abitot, married a Barley. There is also authority that this Gervase was Earl of Worcester, but both statements lack confirmation.‡

Several writers trace connection through a descendant of Urso's brother, Robert le Dispenser, but again give no reference. We have also Lysons's§ authority (Introduction above) that instead of a Barley having married the D'Abitot heiress, there was "reason for supposing" that the Barleys were descended from a younger branch of the D'Abitot family; but, unfortunately, Lysons did not specify his "reasons."

There are chance references to members of the D'Abitot family in connection with the Musards almost from the time of the Survey; for instance, a Rad, or Ralph, D'Abetot is witness to a deed of exchange of Hasculph Musard I. of the Conquest, probably about 1080; and another Ralph de Abbatot was witness to a deed of gift of Hasculph Musard II., grandson of Hasculph I., probably about 1160.||

\*The Musard arms, together with those of Freschville and Abitot, are given below, Chap. IX., *Arms*. See *Tilley Halls of Derby.*, Vol. III., p. 34.

†Thoroton's *Notts.*, by Throsby, 1797, Vol. I., pp. 90-91; for Barlow arms see same, Vol. II., Plate 1, No. 31.

‡*Tilley Old Halls of Derbyshire*, Vol. III., p. 66; see art. by Laurance, *Derb. Arch.*, Vol. XXXV., p. 276.

§Lysons' *Magna Brit.*, 1817, Vol. V., *Derbyshire*, p. cxv. For the Dispenser pedigree, see Blore's *Rutland*, Vol. I., pt. II., pp. 19 and 20, and 200 and 230.

||*Collect. Topog. et Gen.*, Vol. IV., p. 15. According to the *Testa de Nevill*, "In Staveley, Barley, Hekering, Galf Dispens holds one fee by reason of the custody and wardship of the land and heir of Robert Musard": see also Pipe Roll 24 Hen. III., 1240, "Oblations." This probably means that Geoffrey Dispenser, a descendant of Urso's brother Robert le Dispenser, had married a Musard, and so had guardianship of Robert Musard's brother Ralph II.: see Atkyns' *Glostershire*, p. 293, and Pym Yeatman's *Feud. Derby.*, Vol. I., pp. 210 and 442. But the real link of the D'Abitots with the Musards and through them with Barleie is not via the Dispensers, but directly from Urso; see below.

# BARLOW FAMILY RECORDS

## PEDIGREE No. 3.

William de Abetot, 1207.

Grant from William de Abetot to the Hospitallers of Staveley of a bovate of land in Barleia next the land of Roger le Eam, A.D. 1207. *Jeayes Ch.* 228 : *Harl. Cart.* 86 G. 46.

Jordanus de Habetot, *circa* 1270.

Grant of land from Jordan de Habetot to Robert Francus (Francis) de Barleia which Thomas fil. Hardolf held : undated : probably *circa* 1270-80 ; *J. Ch.* 225 ; a memorial stone to Julia, wife of Adam Francis, still exists in Barlow Church ; in *J. Ch.* 695 he is described as Jordan de Hapetot of Barlege, and is also referred to as Jordan de Barlay, *J. Ch.* 1536, *circa* Ed. I. In I.P.M., 11 Ed. I., No. 11, 1283, Jordanus de Abetot holds the manor of Barley of the Lord of Staveley and Robert is his heir.

James.

By deed Adam, son of Robert Francis de Barley Woodsetis, granted to James, son of Jordan de Abetot, a bovate of land in Barlow, formerly held by Serlo Baylii ; witnesses as in charter 225, and as in lease of 1301 ; date of deed prob. *circa* 1280 : *Cox, Derb. Ch.*, Vol. I., p. 65 : Add. MSS. 6668, p. 212.

Robert de Aptoft *Dominus de Barley* = Maria. D. 1324. I.P.M. 18 Ed. II., 1301, Robert, son of Jordanus de Aptoft, in Barley, leases to Robert, son of William de Barley, a bovate of land in Barley "Pro homagio et servicio suo" which bovate was once held by Serlo Baylii and which was afterwards held by James de Barley. Robert Aptoft *Dominus de Barley* : Wolley Add. MSS. 6668, p. 204, 17 Ed. II., 1323.

Thomas Aptoft,

fil. and her. of Robert Aptoft de Barley : grant and quitclaim of reversion of a bovate of land on death of his mother Mary, June 29th, 1339 : *J. Ch.* 229 : Add. MSS. 6695, p. 288.

Robert de Barley, *senr.*,

and ors. : grant of bovate of land in Barle Woodsetes : *J. Ch.* 230, 8 June, 1368. Add. MSS. 6668, p. 203, speaks of Robt. of Barly. *senr.* and Robert of Barley, junior, *circa* 1360. Robert de Barley was on Commission of the Peace, Co. Derby, 1384, and was part owner of the advowson of Dronfield Church, 1389 : *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1301-1553.*

William Barley, *Dominus de Barley.*

Grant to James Maver of message abutting on Holmesfield and on road to Chesterfield in the Lordship of Barly in the fee of Staveley : *J. Ch.* 233, 28 Oct. 1402.

Robert Barley of Barley = Margaret.

Tomb in Barley Church ; D. 1464 ; with Thomas Cokayn, gent., is witness to grant from Agnes Fletcher of Barley widow to John Percy Vicar of Dronfield and ors. of land in Barley ; *J. Ch.* 236, 1459. Robt. Barle, *dominus de Barle* ; quitclaim to Robert Mawer of Barle Woodsetes of a bovate of land in Dronfield : *J. Ch.* 1063, 2 Feb. 1447-8.

Robert Barley *Senr.*, Esq., of Barley = Elena.

Acquittance by Robert Barley of Barley *Senr.* Esq., Elena his wife, and Thomas his son, of 10 marks to Henry Foljambe : See Deed of 24 June 1487, *J. Ch.* 871.  
24 June 1487 : *J. Ch.* 871.

Thomas Barlow.

Party to Deed of 24 June 1487. D. 20 Jan. 1495-6.

Robert Barley of Barley Lees Junr.

Son & heir of Robert Barley of Barley *Senr.* Esq. : Acquittance to Henry Foljambe of £4, 2 Feb. 1487, *J. Ch.* 870.

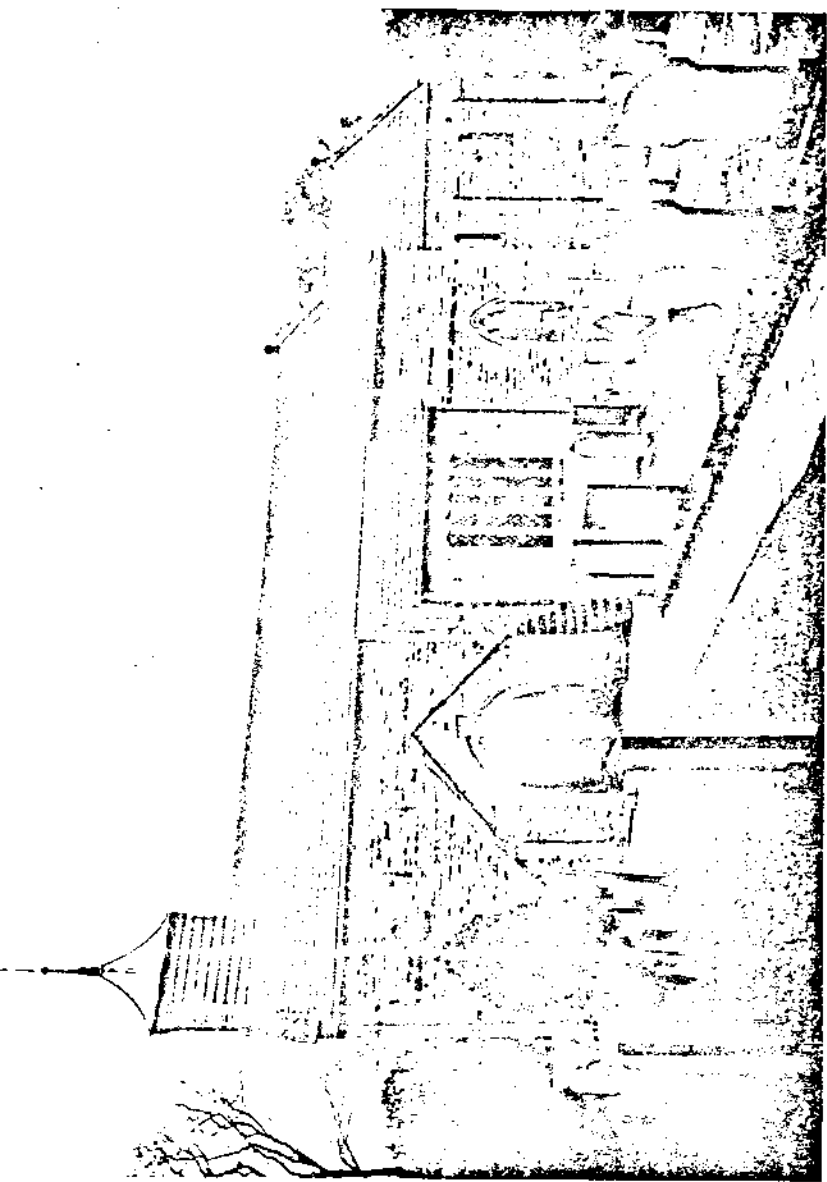


PLATE 5.  
Church of St. Lawrence at Barlow, near Chesterfield; with the Lady's Quire in  
the centre.