

CHAPTER V.

THE LANCASHIRE BRANCH

The Barlows of Barlow Hall

Connections with the Cheshire and Irish Barlows

BARLOW HALL, which was for some 500 years the central home of the Lancashire branch, lies on the north or Lancashire bank of the Mersey, at Chorlton-cum-Hardy, which constitutes, with Withington, a suburb of Manchester on the south-west side of that town; Chorlton-cum-Hardy was included from the twelfth century in the hundred of Withington.

Unlike Barlow, or Barleie, in Derbyshire, there is no mention of Barlow Hall or of the name in this locality in Domesday, nor can any reference to the name Barlow Hall be traced till nearly two centuries later.*

The connection between Derbyshire and South Lancashire (i.e., from the Ribble to the Mersey) was from the earliest times a close one. Lancashire† as a county finds no place in Domesday; the southern portion "between Ribble and Mersey" was included under Cestrescire (Cheshire), and the northern portion under Eurviscire (Yorkshire).

At the time of the survey the southern area was sub-divided into six hundreds, which took their names from the King's six capital manors of Derbei (West Derby), Newetune, Walintune (Warrington), Blacheburn (Blackburn), Salford and Lailand: the whole of this area was often loosely referred to as West Derby.‡

The greater part of the lands, both in the southern region (between Ribble and Mersey), and also in the area north of the Ribble, was granted at the Conquest to Roger de Poictou (Pictavensis), son of

*The earliest dated reference to the name appears to occur in 1253, but see the undated deed referred to below.

†The name is derived from the River Lune or Lunc.

‡Acknowledgment is made to the *Victoria History of Lancashire*. See especially Vol. I., p. 269 *et seq.*, and Vol. IV., p. 297. This area south of the Ribble was subject to a double system of assessment—the English system of four virgates to the hide, and the Danish equivalent of eight bovates to the carucate or ploughland: in each hide there were six carucates.

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Roger Montgomery of the Albin family, but was forfeited for treason some twenty years later.*

Of the tenants of the southern area in Domesday, two are of special interest: "Nigel," who is described as holding three hides and half a carucate of land under Roger of Poitou in Salford hundred, and "Uchtred," a King's thegn, who held seventeen manors, including Knowsley, in the hundred of Derbei. It is not clear if the name Uchtred represents one tenant of the seventeen manors, but the *Victoria History* gives evidence that for some manors at any rate the name represents the same holder, and probably this is true for the whole seventeen.

The Nigel referred to is probably Nigel de Stafford, whose descendants, the Gresleys, subsequently held Drakelowe on the banks of the Trent in Derbyshire, of the honour of Lancaster, as a sergeanty.†

As to Uchtred, it is important to remember that another Uchtred, also a King's thegn, held land in Barleie, in Derbyshire, at Domesday: these two names may also in this case represent the same person, and if so, he forms an interesting early link between the Barlow homes in Derbyshire and on the Mersey.

Henry III., on October 18th, 1229, gave all the land between Ribble and Mersey, including the vill of West Derby and the vill of Salford, to Ranulf, Earl of Chester and Lincoln. Upon the Earl's death in 1232 without issue, this fee descended to William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, in right of his wife Agnes, one of the sisters and co-heirs of the Earl of Chester. This tenure of the fee of West Derby in Lancs. by the Earl of Derby in itself constitutes a strong link between the two counties.

THE MANOR OF WITHINGTON.‡

This formed part of Salford Hundred. At its first appearance in the records, the manor or fee of Wythinton was held of the Lord of Manchester, and included the hamlet of Chorlton-cum-Hardy. By the inquest of 1212 it was found that Matthew and Roger, sons of William, held of Robert Gresley the fee of one knight "of ancient time" and were "bound to find a judge for the King."§

*Roger de Poitou regranted the manors to various Norman tenants and built forts at Liverpool, Warrington, etc., to guard the passages of the Mersey from attacks out of Cheshire; he also placed at "a high ford or boat called Holyntare" a guard of the passage out of Cheshire at "Straitford" against the Cheshire Barony of Stockport. This fort or guard must have been close to the site of Barlow Hall: *V. H. Lancs.*, Vol. III., p. 1; *Baines Hist. Lancs.*, Vol. I., pp. 38 and 116.

†*V. H. Lancs.*, Vol. I., p. 281.

‡*V. H. Lancs.*, Vol. IV., p. 288.

§*Lanc. Inq. and Extents*, Pt. I., *Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Cheshire*, Vol. XLVIII., p. 53. There were two persons named Robert de Gresley circa 1200; see F. Madan, *Gresleys of Drakelowe*, p. 29.

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The lords of Withington, who are spoken of almost from the first as *de Haversage*, derived that surname from one of their manors (Hathersage) lying thirty miles away in Derbyshire, on the banks of the Derwent. Little is known of them or when they came over from Derbyshire to Merseyside, but Matthew *de Haversage*, who was probably a son of Matthew son of William mentioned above, in 1248-9 procured a charter of free warren for his manors, and six years earlier, in 1242, we find that Matthew *de Haversage** held a knight's fee in Withington.

Matthew *de Haversage* left no son but two daughters, co-heiresses, one of whom, Cicely, about the end of Henry III.'s reign, *circa* 1260-1270, married Longford of Longford: the other married Goushill of Barlborough, both in Derbyshire.†

By deed, dated the Eve of St. John the Baptist, 1259, a partition of the Hathersage lands was made between Sir Nigel *de* Longford and Dame Maud Goushill.

Turning to Chorlton-cum-Hardy, the hamlet in Withington in which Barlow Hall is situate, we find the earliest forms and dates for these names are "Chollirton," 1250, and "Barlowe," 1253.‡ Barlow Hall lies to the south of the township on the north bank of the Mersey; the Roman road from Wigan into Cheshire crossed the Mersey close to Barlow Hall.§

The *Victoria History* gives the three principal landowners in the district from early times as the *de Haversages*, as lords of Withington, the *de Barlows*, and the *de Traffords*. In the *Testa de Nevill*, however, temp. Ed. I., 1272-1307, we find four landowners mentioned in Chorlton, namely, Gospatrick and Adam *de* Chorleton, Henry *de* Chetham, Matthew son of William (*de Haversage*), and William *de* Bothelton, but no mention is made in that survey of the vill or family of Barlow.||

The name makes its first definite dated appearance about the time of Ed. I. (1272-1307), when Barlow Hall is mentioned as the

*Two of Matthew's charters are quoted in Booker's *Didsbury*, p. 319, one being to Richard, son of H. *de* Hondforth: for connections of the Barlows and the Handforths 300 years later, see below.

†Booker's *Didsbury*, p. 2, citing *Calendarium Rotulorum Chartarum*, p. 66, and see *V. H. Lancs.*, Vol. IV., p. 289 note, and authorities there cited.

‡*V. H. Lancs.*, Vol. IV., p. 297.

§*Baines Hist. of Lancs.*, Vol. I., p. 5. There was both a ford and later a bridge, and near here Prince Charlie crossed on his way south in the '45.

||Booker, p. 244. There may have been a separate manor of Chorlton-cum-Hardy held in moieties by Trafford and Barlow, and this receives confirmation from the Barlow settlement of 1336. The *de Traffords*, as indicated above, probably acquired part of their lands in this area from, or held them under, the *de Longforths*: *V. H., Lancs.*, Vol. IV., p. 298 note, col. 1, citing Towneley MSS. DD No. 1505; and see Booker, pp. 108-112.

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residence of Sir Robert de Barlow,* but the reference to the vill of Barlow in the important undated deed mentioned below is probably half a century earlier.

The Lancashire pedigree† (No. 7 below) is mainly derived from an interesting memorandum made by the second Randle Holmes, the Chester antiquary and Deputy to the Officers at Arms, who in 1653 was permitted to carry on his studies peacefully, in spite of the troublous times, at Barlow Hall. According to the note at the head of the memorandum, it is an abstract made in April, 1653, of some 28 family deeds or documents, then in the muniment room at Barlow Hall; these deeds are summarised, though not always fully or accurately, in Booker's *Didsbury*.‡

Holmes places first in order the deed by which Alexander son of Albin of Sale, gave all his lands in the vill of Barlow to Thomas de Barlow for the nominal service of two pairs of white gloves at Christmas, Thomas probably being a relative. That deed is not dated, but we can rely on Holmes' skill as an antiquary to justify the priority claimed for this document.§

There is a curious mistake made by Booker and by those who followed without checking him: Booker describes Alexander as the son of *William* Albin of Sale, but reference to the original memorandum in the Harl. MSS. shows that the word "William" has been incorrectly inserted, and all that Holmes states in his abstract is that it was "*Alexander son of Albin of Sale*" who gave the land.||

Who the Albinis of Sale were is not clear. Gresley and Sale, or Seile, were neighbouring villages in South Derbyshire, close to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and Nichols and Pym Yeatman both connect the Albinis of Sale with the Gresleys (see map, Plate I.). At the Survey, Nigel de Albin held two ploughlands in Nether or Great Seale and also the entire lordship of Over or Little Seale,¶ but by the time of the *Testa de Nevill*, Ed. I., these lands appear to have passed into the hands of de Ferrers or de Gresley or Mersham. Falconer Madan, in his scholarly history of the Gresleys of Drakelow, denies that the Gresleys were of Albin descent and claims, but with some hesitation, that the Toesnis, ancestors of the Gresleys, had, in

*Booker, pp. 245, 249; and B.P.R., p. 129.

†See generally *V. H., Lancs.*, Vol. IV., p. 298. The memorandum is written out in one hand on four foolscap pages and bound up at the end of Harl. MSS. 2112, being pp. 172-174.

‡Pages 251-2; the documents are given in full in *Pal. Note Book*, Vol. IV., for 1884, pp. 206-9.

§The deed is witnessed by "Dominus G. de Cheetham," which appears to indicate the famous Geoffrey de Cheetham, which would place the deed at about 1200-1250.

¶The *Palatine Note Book*, Vol. IV., p. 206, correctly omits the word "William."

¶Nichols *Leicstr.*, Vol. III., Pt. II., pp. 979* and 989.*

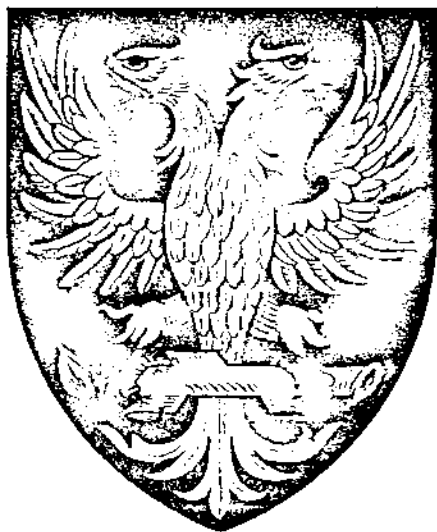


PLATE 8.

Arms of Barlow, Co. Lancs.: extracted from the College of Arms.
See Chap. IX., *Arms*.

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spite of the similarity of name, no connection with the Todenis of Belvoir; admittedly the latter were of Albinis descent, and Robert Todenis, who came over at the Conquest, built Belvoir Castle where he was buried in 1088; he had a son, William de Albinis, who succeeded his father.*

Nichols† quotes a deed of 13 Hen. III., by which Isolda de Beauchamp grants lands in Seile, formerly the property of her brother Stephen de Beauchamp, and to which Hugh le Dispenser and others are witnesses: and refers to a second contemporary deed by which William Fitz Warin, nephew of Stephen de Beauchamp, grants lands also in Cotes (Seale) which Stephen de Beauchamp formerly held, and to which Walter and Eudo Beauchamp, Osbert de Abbetoft and others were witnesses: both deeds show the close relation of the Dispenser-Abitot-Beauchamp connection with Seile and point the way to further investigation of the D'Abitot and Albinis relationship in regard to the Lancashire Barlow pedigree.

It must not, however, be forgotten that there is a village of Sale only a mile or two south of Barlow Hall on the Cheshire side of the Mersey; this Sale does not appear in Domesday, and so far no trace has come to light of a holding by an Albinis of land there, but about 1190 William Albinis of Belvoir does appear as holding considerable lands hard by in Lancashire. The powerful Montbegon family had estates at Melling and Hornby in Lonsdale Hundred to the north of the county, and also in Salford Hundred, in which, as mentioned above, Chorlton lay: in 1195, Roger de Montbegon's estates, or a portion of them, were taken into the King's hand as punishment for the part played by Montbegon in the rebellion of Count John de Mortain, and William Albinis of Belvoir was placed by the King in possession of part of the Montbegon lands. The connection of the Albinis with this part of Lancashire requires further investigation.‡

Next arises the question, who is the Thomas de Barlow to whom Alexander son of Albinis of Sale, about half a century or so later,

*Falconer Madan, *Gresleys of Drakelowe*, p. 15. Nichols *Leicstr.*, Vol. II., Pt. I., pp. 22-27, gives four generations of Albinis of Belvoir.

†Nichols *Leicstr.*, Vol. III., Pt. II., p. 982.* For connection between the Albinis and the D'Abitots (whom we now believe to have been the ancestors of the de Barlows), see Chap. I. Pym Yeatman boldly claims that the Todenis of Conches, and afterwards of Drakelowe and Gresley, and the Todenis of Belvoir, were both Albinis; the names Toesni and Todenis are certainly very alike, as Madan admits, see p. 15.

‡See *Lanc. Pipe Rolls and Early Charters*, by W. Farrer, Liverpool, 1902, pp. 84, 93, 95; *V. H. Lancs.*, Vol. I., p. 321; Vol. VIII., p. 191; *Rot. de Oblatis et Finibus, Rec. Com.*, p. 123. A junior branch of the Masseys of Dunham Massey were settled at Sale, and Ormerod quotes a deed of feoffment of 1382 to which Richard de Mascye de Sale and Hugh de Barlow are parties: *Cheshire*, Vol. I., p. 563.