

BARLOW FAMILY RECORDS

wife's brother William and her brother-in-law John, became deeply involved with Perkin Warbeck about 1493 and visited him in the Low Countries; Parker, then rector of Barley near Albury, and afterwards Archbishop, was sent over on behalf of Henry VII. to watch them. Clifford, realising eventually that the plot was hopeless, treacherously revealed it to the King's Council for a Judas fee of £500; he subsequently restored, presumably in a fit of remorse, the aisle and porch of Aspenden Church,* and there is a fine monument and brass there to his memory and that of his wife, see Plate 14; this bears the Clifford arms impaling Ermine three bars wavy sable for Barley, as usual in Herts.†

William and John Barley had their property confiscated; William at any rate was pardoned in due course, and had his estates restored.‡

In addition to Elizabeth, two or three other children of John and Christian Barley had brilliant public careers of a kind which indicates, especially at a period when influence counted for so much, that their father and his immediate ancestors must have held some considerable position either in Lancashire or the eastern counties.

William's son of John rose to fame as an ecclesiastic and joined in consecrating Archbishop Parker. William's early education and advancement were certainly in the eastern counties and not in Lancashire; he|| was brought up in the houses of the Canons of St. Austin at St. Osyth in Essex and in Oxford; between 1509 and 1511 he became Prior of Tiptree in Essex, and Canon of Blakemore.§

He was in special favour with the Boleyn family: in 1528, when the King was courting Anne, her father, Sir Thomas, was soliciting Wolsey for a living for William. The link was probably a territorial one, for while the elder brother Sir James Boleyn owned Blickling in Norfolk, Sir Thomas Boleyn had a property at Rochford on the Roche in Essex, four or five miles north of Southend, and about thirty miles south-east of Albury; and from this place he took his

*See Cussans *Herts.*, Vol. I., *Edwinstree*, p. 93.

†*De Banco Roll*, Mich., 23 Hen. VII., m 626. is quoted by Morant as authority for Elizabeth being the daughter of William Barlow, bro. of Henry, but in fact does not mention who Elizabeth's father was: *V. H. Bucks.*, Vol. III., p. 389.

‡William and John were both attainted 1496; William appears to have been pardoned in 1498; his name is also included in the Pardon Roll in 1509 on the accession of Henry VIII.: John's pardon has not been traced. Others appearing in the Roll in the same year were Robert Barley of Barley in Staveley Parish (Co. Derby); and Margery Barley of Stoke, Derbyshire, widow and executrix of Thos. Barley. William and his wife, Elizabeth, lie in Elsenham Church: *Essex Arch.*, Vol. IV., N.S., p. 123. Layer Breton and other manors which came into the King's hands on William's attainder were regranted to him and his wife Elizabeth, 1499-1501; *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1301-1553.

§Roger Barlow, citizen and tailor of London, whose will was proved P.C.C., 1493, may have been a relation.

||See *Dict. Nat. Biogr.*

¶He is so described on the Pardon Roll of 1510-11, *Cal.* 1513, 1803 (i) m. 4, p. 819; see *Essex Arch. Soc.*, first series, Vol. V., p. 24.

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title when he was made Viscount Rochford by the King in 1525. This points to a connection of two leading county families.*

In 1532, Anne made William Prior of Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire, and he was sent with Lord Robert Howard, probably also at the Queen's instigation, on an embassy to Scotland, and while there was elected Bishop of St. Asaph, January 16th, 1535-6, and was within a few months translated to St. David's.†

Another brother, John Barlow, also owed his promotion to Boleyn influence. In 1530 he was made Dean of the Collegiate Foundation of Westbury-on-Trym, near Bristol, and in 1532 we find from the State Papers that he was in Louvain on the business of the Queen's divorce; and in another State Paper he is described as "belonging to the Queen," and it is stated that he "had his promotion by her"; ‡ he remained Dean of Westbury till its dissolution in 1544, when he became Dean of Worcester.

The most famous member of this remarkable family was Roger, the explorer: his history and exploits are of great interest, but space permits only the barest outline.§ The Wotton account suggests that after the Perkin Warbeck rising in 1497, and his father's attainder,

**Cal. St. Pap. Dom.*, Hen. VIII., 1528. Anne Boleyn remained a consistent patron and friend of the Barlow family from 1528 till her fall and death in May, 1536. There was an earlier connection of the families through Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Thomas Boleyn, great-uncle of Anne Boleyn, was Master of the College 1454-1472. John Barley was fellow of the College 1466, Master 1483-1504, and was subsequently Rector of Winterton and St. Michael's Coslany, Norwich; will proved Feb. 16th, 1504; see Blomfield's *Norfolk*, Vol. XI., p. 198; John Venn *Biographical Hist. of Gonville and Caius Coll.*, Vol. I., 1349-1713, pp. 9, 11 and 57.

†William was confirmed to St. David's April 21st, 1536. The fact of William Barlow's consecration has now been established, T. A. Lacey, *A Roman Diary*, p. 153; and many charges made against him are proved to be without foundation; see *Dict. Nat. Biogr.* Temp. Ed. VI. he was translated to Bath and Wells; on Mary's accession he was sent to the Tower where he signed some form of recantation and subsequently escaped to the Low Countries. On the accession of Elizabeth he returned and joined in consecrating Archbishop Parker; in December, 1559, he was made Bishop of Chichester, where he died in 1568. He married Agatha Welsborne, formerly an Abbess, and by her had five daughters, all of whom married Bishops, including Archbishop Parker's son and the well-known Toby Matthews, Archbishop of York. He also had two sons, William (who was Archdeacon of Salisbury and Rector of Easton, Hants, for 48 years, till 1625) and John. Easton Church has a well-preserved monument to his wife Agatha Welsborne: for his will see P.C.C., August 13th, 1568, and *App.*

‡Gairdner *Letters and Papers For. and Dom.*, of Hen. VIII., Vol. V., 1531-1538, p. 500, year 1532, No. 1114, where he is described as "of small stature with red hair, sober in eating and drinking, speaking little and ignorant of music and games"; and Vol. X., year 1536, p. 492, No. 1182. There is in the *Archæologia or Tracts of the Society of Antiquaries*, Vol. XXIII., p. 56, Lond. 1831, Brit. Mus., an amusing account of a journey by the writer in company with John, the Dean of Westbury, and another brother Thomas Barlow (also a clerk "who for the most part spake veraye litle or no thing") on horseback from Bristol (Bristol) to Slebech.

§For fuller details, reference must be made to Roger's account of his travels, *Geographia Barlow*, published this year by the Hakluyt Society, with an admirable introduction by the editor, Professor E. G. R. Taylor, under the title, *A Brief Summe of Geographie*.

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Roger fled to Spain : that Roger was at Seville in Spain in 1526 we know, but as a wealthy merchant and not as a penniless refugee ; he had probably been established there for ten years or more in trading association with two Bristol merchants, Robert and Nicholas Thorne. What connection either Roger Barlow or his father John may have had with Bristol or the Spanish trade is unknown ; Bristol records have been searched, but without result.*

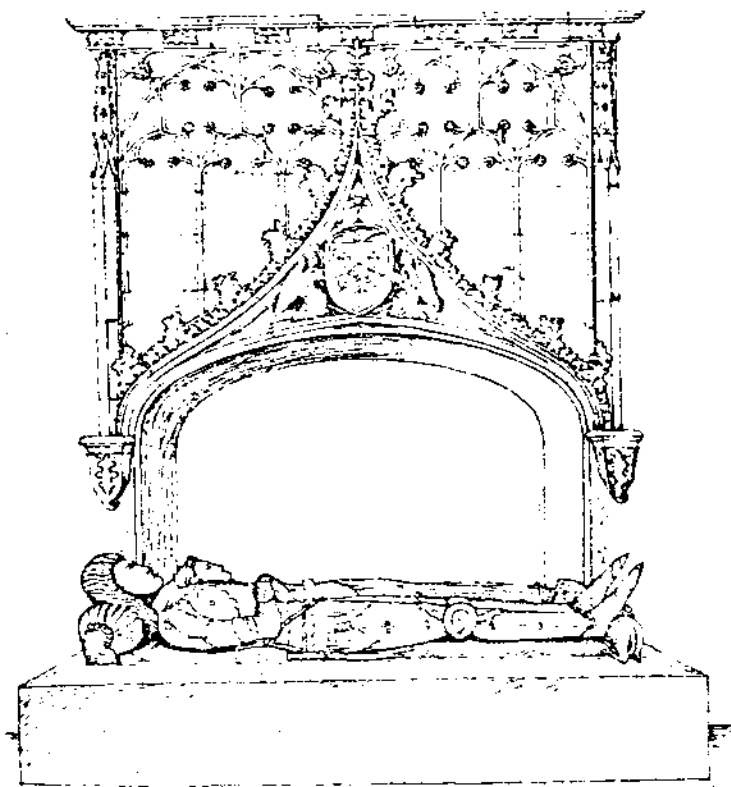
In 1526 Roger† joined with the Thornes in fitting out the expedition which was to make him famous, of which Sebastian Cabot, himself brought up in Bristol, was made Grand Pilot and Admiral : Roger subscribed no less than 550 ducats towards the adventure and went as supercargo in the Admiral's ship. In 1527, after various adventures and quarrels, the expedition penetrated the Plate River as far north-west as the site of Ascuncion in Paraguay, and fell in with many Indians possessed of rich stores of gold and silver ornaments from over the mountains in Peru. Roger was sent home in 1528 in company with Hernando Calderon, the treasurer, their pockets full of gold, to report these discoveries to Charles V. ; he almost certainly had personal interviews with Charles on arrival, and it was probably then that, if tradition is correct, he was decorated with one of the minor orders of the Golden Fleece.

In 1529 Wolsey fell, and Cromwell and Anne Boleyn were in the ascendant. Sir Thomas Boleyn, now Viscount Rochford and Earl of Wiltshire, was sent in December, 1529, by Henry VIII. on a special mission to Charles V., and possibly Roger then and there explained to him the ambitious project which he and the Thornes had discussed of an expedition to the spice islands by the north-west of America. At any rate, we find the Thornes back in England in 1532, and Roger Barlow was also at home by then, for he obtained exemption from serving on juries on February 26th, 1532, at Bristol. In 1541, his great work, *Geographia Barlow*, with an account of his voyage to the Plate River and his project for the north-west expedition, was laid before the King. In 1546 he acquired jointly with his brother Thomas Barlow, rector of Catfield (or Hatfield), Norfolk,‡ the manor and preceptory of Slebech, where he had in fact been for some time residing,

* *Bristol Wills, 1572-1792* and the *Great Orphan Book and Calendar of Wills, 1379-1674*. See *British Record Society*, No. 17, for 1897, ed. by E. A. Fry, Brit. Mus. The Bristol City Archivist and the editor of the *Great Red Book of Bristol* have also been consulted. See for the Thornes and their foundation of the Grammar School of St. Bartholomew in Bristol, *V. H. Glas.*, Vol. II., pp. 361-368. John Barlow the Dean was a trustee of the school. It is a curious coincidence that the author was born in Bristol, his father, subsequently Dean of Peterborough, being at that time Vicar of St. Bartholomew's Church.

† The portrait of Sir Alexander Barlow (Plate 10), painted in 1616, shows that his son John died, i.e., before 1616, at "Civille in Spayne"; see RAINES MSS., Chetham Library, Vol. IX., p. 268. This may indicate a link with Roger.

‡ *Cal. St. Pap. Dom.*, Hen. VIII., 1532. There was a considerable branch of the Barlow family established in Norfolk; see Bloomfield's *Norfolk*, esp. Vols. III., IV., VI. and VII. For Thomas Barlow, Rector of Catfield, 1529, see *op. cit.*, Vol. IX., p. 291.



(i.)

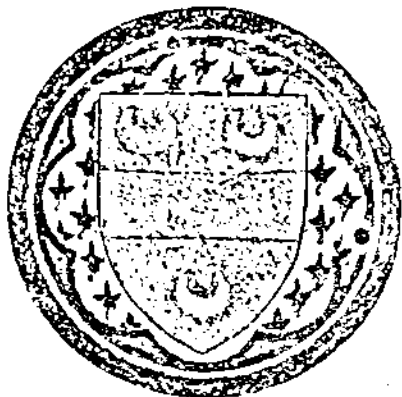


(ii.)

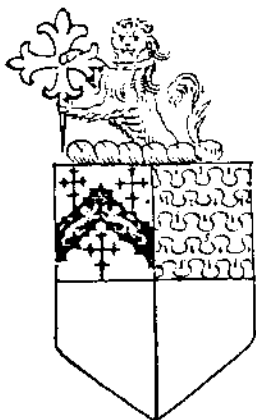
PLATE 15.

- (i.) Full length effigies in Slebetch Church, Co. Pembroke, traditionally attributed to Roger Barlow and Julian his wife, with Barlow arms on canopy above.
 (ii.) Sketch of head of Roger, showing Yorkist collar with pendant, together with detail of sun and roses.

Sketches by W. Trevor Evans.



(i.)



PEDIGREE No. 18.

Henry Barlow
of Cheshire ma^r

Henry Barlow ... dau^r of ...
of Cheshire ma^r Newton of Cheshire

Henry Barlow
Sonne of Henry.

Ranulph Barlow Julian dau^r of ...
of Chichester ~ Duffield of Greensfe
borne in Kent

Ralphe Barlow
Deane of Welles.

William dyed
a Barchellor -
April. 1634.

John Barlow 2^d son
ma^r Margery dau^r
of John Parker of
Plymouth.

Henry. Mary. ma^r
Barlow to Tho. Wolfe.
of Chiche^r 2 to Nic. Thomson

Willmott

Mary.

(ii.)

PLATE 16.

(i.) Two roundels, probably dated *circa* 1350, in Albury Church, Co. Herts., with Barley and Pateshull arms: see Chap. VI.

(ii.) Arms of Barlow of Slebatch quartering semble arms of Barley, Co. Herts.; with Pedigree No. 18 of Ralphe Barlow, Dean of Wells, 1621-1631: reproduced from Harl. MSS. 6164, Visitation of Sussex 1633-1634: for pedigree see also Berry's *Sussex Gen.*, p. 164: for the lines of descent see P.C.C. Wills below, *App.*

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for £705. From that time onwards Roger styles himself "armiger," and his name appears each year on the Sheriff Roll for Pembrokeshire.*

Henry VIII. died in 1547, and the project of the north-west passage which was, according to the Wotton excerpt,† then afoot, was dropped, but Roger enjoyed the confidence of the highest naval authorities, and was made Vice Admiral of the Coast in 1549:‡ in 1550 he was appointed a Commissioner to collect a Parliamentary grant from the landowners of Bedford. He died February, 1554, and his will was dated May 6th, the previous year.§

Roger was succeeded by his eldest son John, who was Sheriff of Pembroke in 1561 and again in 1574.

The two effigies which formerly lay in the ruined Preceptory Church at Slebech at the back of the manor house, and which were transferred in 1904 by the then owner of Slebech, Baron de Rutzen, to the modern church alongside the main Caermarthen road, are traditionally attributed to Roger and his wife. Careful sketches of the tomb have been made and are here reproduced, see Plate 15.

The collar, as the sketch shows, is without doubt the Yorkist collar of the sun and roses, identical with that on Robert Barlow's monument at Barlow of 1464: the pendant is much weathered from exposure in the old ruined church, and the local Welsh mason in the sixteenth century probably had but a hazy idea of how the pendant of the Order of the Golden Fleece should be designed. Bearing this in mind, the pendant appears not improbably to be that of the Golden Fleece: if that is accepted, the collar and pendant point clearly to the effigy being, in accordance with tradition, that of Roger. His father had supported and suffered for the Yorkist cause as represented by Perkin Warbeck, while Roger's services in voyaging up the Plate River may well have received from Charles V. recognition in the shape of a minor decoration of the Order. Search in the published archives of the Order and at the Library at Barcelona have, it is true, so far failed to disclose Roger's name, but the names of foreigners, members of the Order, are apt to be so disguised in the Spanish of the period, as to be unrecognisable. It can safely be said that there is no one to whom the collar and pendant can with any probability be attributed other than Roger. Certainly no ordinary member of the Commandery of St. John is likely to have been entitled to them.

The later pedigree has been worked out by the authorities at the College of Arms, and the author has had it enrolled accordingly

*So early as 1538, Roger held a lease of lands formerly belonging to the suppressed Priory of Haverfordwest; Gairdner *Letters For. and Dom.*, Hen. VIII., Vol. XIII., Pt. I., 1538, No. 320; and for the purchase by Roger and Thomas in 1546 see Gairdner *Letters For. and Dom.*, Hen. VIII., Vol. XXI., 1546, p. 578, Brit. Mus. Thomas's will, with interesting references to his nephews, Roger's children, was proved P.C.C., Dec. 6th, 1558; and see *App.*

†See Add. MSS. 24120, Brit. Mus., p. 37.

‡Professor Taylor has had the good fortune to discover at the Record Office Roger's original commission as Vice Admiral of the Coast.

§Roger was chosen as Sheriff for Pembroke 1548 and 1549, and is then expressly called "armiger"; *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, Ed. VI., pp. 329, 339.

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at the College, see Pedigree No. 13. As so enrolled, however, it is incomplete; it omits the direct line of descent from George Barlow, Esq., of Slebetch, and Anne Vernon, as follows:—

PEDIGREE No. 13—*continued.*

George Barlow Esq. = Anne Vernon, niece of Viscount Hereford.

John Barlow, Esq., of Slebetch, known as Colonel Barlow; see *Cal. St. Pap. Dom. Ch. I.*, 1640-41, p. 338: fought on the Royalist side and marched to relieve the Marquess of Worcester at Raglan Castle: fled the country till the Restoration: the valuable library at Slebetch was burnt by the Cromwellian, Colonel Norton.

