

CHAPTER VIII.

A BARLOW PILGRIMAGE

In Cos. Notts., Derby, Lancs., Chester, etc.

THE Derbyshire Peak District, forming the southern end of the Pennine Range, calls to mind some of the most beautiful scenery of central England. It is the land of high tors, down whose rugged sides drain the streams which water the four or five neighbouring counties: from the lofty Kinder Scout (over 2,000 feet) and the neighbouring crags around Buxton flow to the north-west the Goyt and the Etherow, joining the Mersey near Manchester; the Don and its tributaries, including the Barlow Brook, run north-east to the Humber, while to the south the three beautiful rivers, the Dove, the Wye and the Derwent, swell the broad waters of the Trent.*

This country of glorious uplands, dales, and waters, in the very heart of England, is the Barlow country. A circle of thirty or forty miles radius from the old Roman settlement of Aquae, now Buxton, encloses practically all the northern haunts referred to in these pages, while along a line drawn twenty miles from east to west in the centre from Buxton to Chesterfield lie Stoke and Stoney Middleton, Barlow Church and village, Dronfield, Staveley, Eckington and Attercliffe—all the principal homes of the Derbyshire branch, see map, Plate 1.

Assuming that the pilgrim starts from London, he had best travel direct to Nottingham, about two hours by train; he should arrange for a car (probably hired from Derby or Buxton as a convenient centre) to meet him on arrival at Nottingham and take him to

BUNNEY

which lies four miles south of Nottingham and about thirty miles south-west from the village of Barley. On the east wall of the south aisle of the church at Bunney will be found the interesting memorial tablet to Humphrey Barlow, the son of Thomas Barlow of Stoke and Dorothy Meverell, and grandson of George Barlow of Stoke and Joan Illingworth of Bunney, see Plate 18.

*Lovers of Derbyshire will find R. Murray Gilchrist's novels and short stories of interest, and to give local colour he makes use of the name Barley. A great historic novel of the Peakland has still to be written. *Bess of Hardwick*, by Mrs. Stepney Rawson, 1910, gives much interesting information and many contemporary letters.



PLATE 17.

His Excellency Joel Barlow, American Ambassador to France : D. 1812 : from the contemporary bust by Houdon.

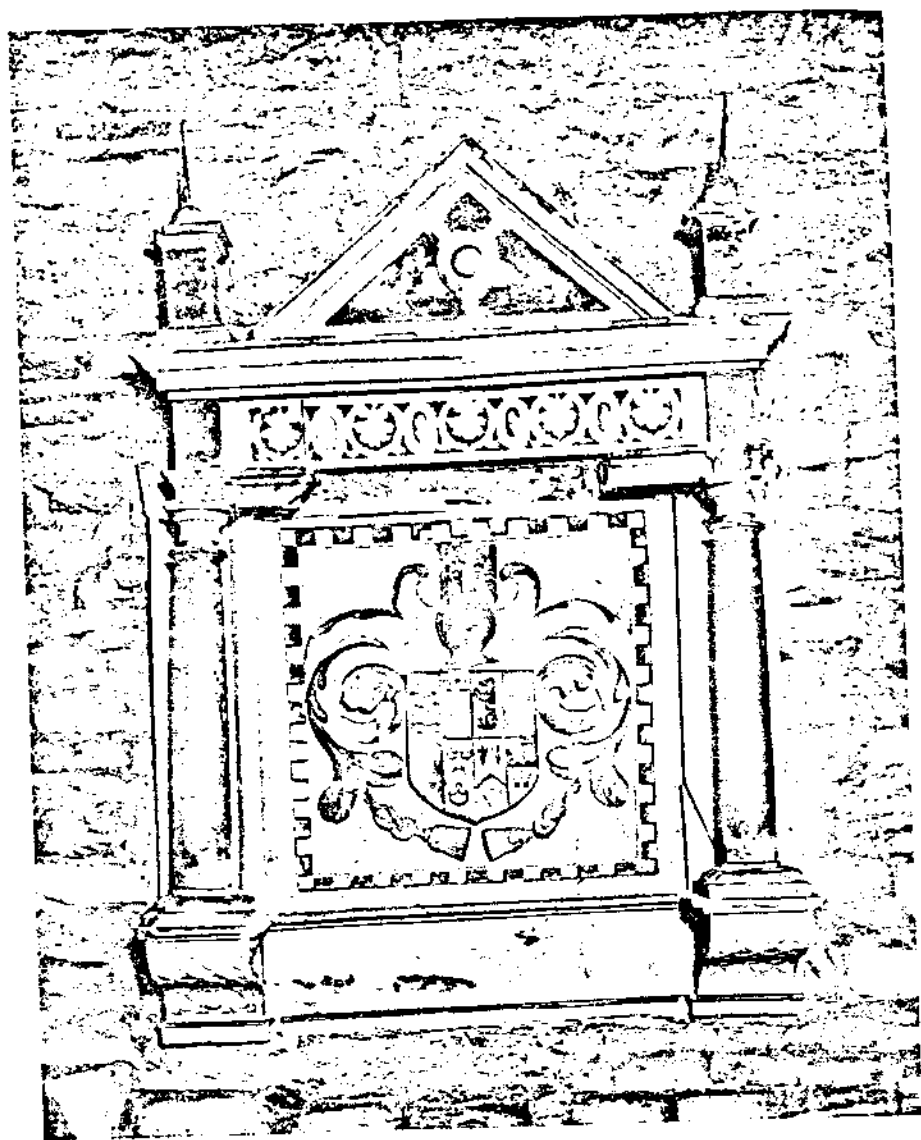


PLATE 18.

Monument to Humphrey Barlow, D. 1570, in the Church at Bunney, Notts., with arms of Barlow, Beresford, Rolleston, etc.

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The Bunney property came to Humphrey through his grandmother, Joan Illingworth. The memorial was erected by his wife, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Aden Beresford the younger of Fenny Bentley; Humphrey's widow afterwards married Richard Parkin.

Humphrey Barlow held at his death, on July 10th, 1570, large estates in his own right at Hope, Tideswell, Barlow, Eckington, etc., in Derbyshire, including Stoke Hall.* He left an only child, Ursula, and the estates seem to have passed out of the Barlow family on her marriage. The arms on the monument in Bunney Church show various quarterings, including Barley, Beresford, Rolleston, etc. In the church windows, according to Thoroton, were Azure 2 chevrons and a bordure or, for Musard; also the Freschville arms: the presence of the Musard and Freschville arms is of great interest.†

The inscription on the monument on the wall of Bunney Church, which is no longer legible, stated (according to Thoroton) that Humphrey was buried "In his own Isle (aisle) in Stony Middleton in Derbyshire"; see below, visit to Stoke.

From Bunney the way lies to

DERBY

about fifteen miles by road, the Trent being crossed at the historic Swarkeston Bridge, the point at which Prince Charlie, realising all was lost, finally turned back north in the ill-fated "'45."

The Church of All Saints—now the Cathedral—at Derby contains the grandiose monument which Bess of Hardwick, some time before her death in 1607, erected to her own memory. Born in 1518, the fourth daughter and coheiress of John Hardwick of Hardwick, according to the accepted story, while staying in the London house of Lady Zouch, a Derbyshire neighbour, she met another young Derbyshire neighbour, Robert Barley. He was a sickly youth: she nursed him and then married him, she, according to tradition, being 14 and he 17; but the accepted ages are incorrect. We know that she was born about 1517 or 1518, and that the marriage took place in 1543, which would make her 25; while Robert was born on December 10th, 1529,‡ and died the Wednesday before Christmas Day 36 Hen. VIII., 1544, aged just 15 years. Therefore, at his marriage he was barely 14—eleven years younger than Bess. On his death she commenced proceedings against Peter Ffychville (*sic*) as trustee for her dower, and by verdict of the court November 12th, 1553, after ten years' struggle, she was awarded her dower rights

*P.Y., Vol. IV., p. 425; B.P.R., p. 57.

†See Thoroton's *Nottinghamshire*, Ed. 1677, p. 46. These windows are no longer extant. 5 Ed. I. Richard de Grey, heir of Anker Frecheville, recovered the advowson of the church at Bunney against the Chapter at Southwell.

‡See I.P.M. of his father Arthur, taken at Bolsover, October 12th, 1543, when Robert was aged 13 years 10 months and 2 days.

BARLOW FAMILY RECORDS

in the manor and lands in Barley and also in Barley Lees, Dunston, Dronfield and Holmesfield.*

It is interesting to find that this is not the first marriage between the two families of Hardwick and Barlow; the Harleian MSS.† show a marriage some five generations earlier between a Hardwyck and Nicola, daughter of Robert Barley, whose monument we shall find in Barley Church; see Plate 6.

After Robert Barley's death, Elizabeth remained a widow until 20th August 1547, when she became the third wife of Sir William Cavendish of Cavendish in Suffolk, and was thus the means of introducing that family into Derbyshire. Sir William left by his third wife three sons and two daughters. It was only by her second husband that Bess had any issue. Her third husband, after a brief widowhood, was Sir William St. Loe, whose fair lordships in Gloucestershire she forthwith schemed to secure. Bess's fourth husband was the famous George, sixth Earl of Shrewsbury, and she insisted on a double alliance between his family and her children by her second husband. On 6th February 1568 Henry Cavendish, her eldest son, was married to Grace Talbot, the Earl's youngest daughter; whilst Gilbert Talbot, the Earl's second son, was at the same time married to Mary Cavendish, her youngest daughter: then followed her own marriage with the Earl.

In February 1569 Mary Queen of Scots was committed to the custody of Shrewsbury, and the Countess received her at Tutbury Castle. In 1574 she schemed a hasty marriage between young Charles Stuart, Earl of Lennox, and her daughter Elizabeth Cavendish, and Queen Elizabeth angrily sent the Countess to the Tower for three months. Her daughter became the mother of Arabella Stuart, next in succession to the English throne after her cousin James. In 1582 the Countess took charge of her grandchild, whom she treated with great tyranny, and eventually disinherited her.

The Countess became jealous of her husband's supposed attachment to Queen Mary, though apparently without cause, and there was a breach between them for the last ten years of his life: and she did not accompany him on his last sad visit to Barley in 1590 (see Mower MS., Chap. III.). After the death of the Earl in 1590, Bess, who had already built great mansions at Bolsover and Worksop, as well as at Chatsworth, started erecting a grand new hall at Hardwick.

She was full of vigour to the last, and when she died at the age of 89 in February, 1608, was engaged on another great mansion at Oldcotes.‡

From Derby the road runs north (thirteen miles) to

ASHBOURNE

the beautiful Cathedral of the Peak, where, in the Cockayne Chapel§ in the northern transept, repose many interesting alabaster monu-

*The author is indebted for these facts to Mr. A. Bagshawe, of Sheffield, the well-known authority on Derbyshire antiquities; the original documents of these proceedings of Bess against Peter Ffychville were at Hardwicke Hall and were copied by Mr. Bagshawe's father in 1888.

†Harl. MSS., 6592, p. 22.

‡Summarised, with some additions and corrections, from the account by J. C. Cox in the *Red Guide to Derbyshire*, published by Methuen, 1903, p. 63; see MS. in Chatsworth Library by Nathaniel Johnston, M.D., written in 1692; see also *Life of Bess of Hardwick*, by the Revd. F. Brodhurst, M.A., in *Derb. Arch.*, Vol. XXX., pp. 231-260, together with an interesting account of Arabella Stuart's glib exploits and the anxiety which she caused to the Council; also of Bess of Hardwick's intimacy with Lady Jane Grey.

§The Chapel also holds the beautiful monument by T. Banks, R.A., to Penelope Boothby; see Cox *Derb. Ch.*, Vol. II., p. 392.

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ments of the Cockayne family, amongst others that of Sir Thomas Cockayne and his wife, Barbara Fitzherbert, which not only bears the arms of Sir Thomas and his wife, but also impales the arg. 3 bars wavy sab. a chief per pale ermine and gules for Barley, the connection being that Sir Thomas Cockayne's mother was Agnes, the sister of Robert Barlow (d. 1465) whose monument is in Barlow Church.* Agnes Barley had married Thomas Cockayne (d. 1488) whose beautiful monument we shall find in Youlgrave Church; see below, and Plate 20.

From Ashbourne a short detour should be made south-east (five miles) to Norbury, which lies close to the Dove and the Staffordshire border. Norbury is one of the most memorable parish churches in Derbyshire, famous not only for numerous beautiful monuments of the Fitzherbert family, but for its wealth of fifteenth-century glass.

In the middle of the sixteenth century, Maud Fitzherbert, whose grandmother was an Eyre of Padley, married Thomas Barlow,† and in 1587 the husband and wife, together with Thomas Eyre, suffered imprisonment as recusants under vile conditions in Derby gaol; but there is no record of this marriage in Norbury Church.

Then back to Ashbourne and on (three miles) to Fenny Bentley, the home of the Beresfords. The grim alabaster monument, with shrouded figures of Thomas Beresford,‡ who died 1473, and of his wife who predeceased him in 1467, and of their nineteen children, including his sons Denys and Aden, is of great interest. He was clearly a man of valour; like so many other Derbyshire gentlemen, he fought at Agincourt§ (1415), and the inscription on his tomb commemorates him as "Dux fortis et audax" and adds as proof "Francia testatur, Curia testis Agen," "Agen Curia" being a literal Latin translation of Agincourt. Mrs. George Barlow (*née* Jane Freschville) married as her second husband Denys Beresford of Cutthorpe, close to Barley, who was a grandson of the warrior Thomas Beresford; and the wife of Humphrey Barlow of Bunney, mentioned above, was Elizabeth Beresford, grand-daughter of Aden Beresford, the son of the same Thomas of Agincourt fame.

*See Cox *Derb. Ch.*, Vol. II., p. 385. The connections between the Cockaynes and the Barlows were, says Cox, "numerous and intricate." In the next generation, Robert Barlow, eldest son of Robert of the monument, married his cousin, the daughter of Sir Thomas Cockayne.

†B.P.R., p. 58.

‡See, for a good account of the monument, an article by Albert Hartsborn, F.S.A., *Derb. Arch.*, Vol. XI., p. 129: he puts the date of the tomb at 1550: the figures were all represented in shrouds as, after 70 years, in the absence of portraits, it would not be possible to portray any likeness. It was probably the work of an Italian artist. These alabaster figures, tied at head and foot as if in shrouds, have a somewhat ghastly effect.

§There seems to have been much the same enthusiasm in the Derbyshire valleys for recruiting to fight the French in 1414 as there was exactly 500 years later to fight in the Great War, and to some extent over much the same battle area. Derbyshire claimed to have sent more recruits than any other county, which has a very modern ring.