

BARLOW FAMILY RECORDS

In 1583, Alexander was arrested for recusancy and carried off to Salford Gaol, though he was actually too ill to sit upright on his horse, and he died in confinement not long afterwards. The eldest son of Alexander Barlow the elder, himself named Alexander, was knighted together with his eldest son, also Alexander (the third), at the coronation of James I. in 1603. On January 19th, 1609, the "benefit" of Sir Alexander's estates (in spite of the knighthood conferred on him only six years before) was granted to two of the King's needy favourites, William Marker and Thomas Webber, that they might get what they could by exacting the full penalties of the Recusancy Acts.

Sir Alexander Barlow (the second) died April 20th, 1620, and was buried by torchlight in the Collegiate Church in Manchester. In his will he bequeathed to his wife:—

"My owne picture to keepe during her lyffe,"
and afterwards to go as an heirloom at Barlow Hall.* A print of this portrait engraved on copper is by courteous permission of the author of *Forgotten Shrines* reproduced on Plate 10.

Sir Alexander (the second) had a brother Edward, who has become famous as Dom Ambrose Barlow. He was christened in Didsbury Church, and the entry has been examined by the author in the Parish Registry.†

At the early age of twelve, Edward entered as a page the house of his kinsman Sir Uryan Legh of High Legh, in Cheshire. There is in the locality an old, if rather vulgar, saying, "In Cheshire Leghs are thick as fleas"; the Barlows were connected by marriage with the chief stem of the family tree, and Edward's paternal grandmother was Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of George Legh of High Legh Hall, in the centre of the Legh country. It was a common practice of the day for a gentleman's son to serve as apprentice in the house of some nobleman, just as Peter Barlow did in the house of Mr. Talbot of Sarisbury.‡

Shortly afterwards, Edward Barlow proceeded to the Catholic Seminary at Douai and was ordained priest in 1617. He then returned to Lancashire, in spite of the Government's hostility to recusants.§ His home was at Barlow Hall, and he appears frequently to have visited other well-known Roman Catholic homes, especially Morleys,

*The portrait apparently remained there till the Hall was sold in August, 1785, and it passed into the hands of Dr. Barlow of Blackburn, whose descendants are believed still to possess it; *Forgotten Shrines*, p. 213; at the time that book was written, a copy of the print was said to be in the possession of Mr. Joseph Gillow: *Pal. News Book*, Vol. IV., for 1884, p. 214.

†"30 November Anno Domini 1585 Edward the son of Alex. Barlowe gent."

‡See Mower MS., Chap. III., and *Forgotten Shrines*, p. 220. Edward's sister Margaret married John Talbot of Sarisbury, Co. Lancs.; Booker, p. 265.

§*Forgotten Shrines*, p. 225. Father Ambrose was beatified at Rome in 1930.

A BARLOW PILGRIMAGE

the home of the Tyldesleys, and Wardley Hall, the residence of his kinsman, Roger Downes.

The Puritan element in Parliament were constantly urging repressive measures against the so-called "Popish malignants," and on March 7th, 1641, a Royal Decree ordered that all Romish priests should leave the kingdom within one month under penalty of death as for treason.

The seizure of Father Ambrose forthwith on Easter Day, April 25th, 1641, by the Vicar and congregation of Leigh, and his subsequent trial and martyr's death at Lancaster, are a tragic story, for which the details must be sought in Booker's *Didsbury* (p. 279) and *Forgotten Shrines* (p. 240).

Wardley Hall is a fine half-timber house of the Elizabethan period, surrounded by a moat, and in good preservation; it lies about three miles from Salford and has recently been acquired as a residence for the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford, see Plate 25: it holds, according to tradition, the head of Dom Ambrose.*

Barlow Hall remained in occupation of the family till near the end of the eighteenth century; † the last Barlow occupant was Thomas, who died without issue in March, 1773, and was buried at the Collegiate Church, Manchester. In 1785 the Barlow estate was sold by auction to the Egertons of Tatton.‡

ALBURY, SLEBECH, AND EASTON.

Two other centres which well repay a visit are Albury in Herts., and Slebech in South Wales.

Albury, three miles north of Bishops Stortford and thirty miles from London by train or car, is the home of the Herts. and Essex branch; see Albury pedigree (No. 12). In Albury Church will be found, on the south wall, the early fourteenth-century roundels§ with the

*In a recess in the wall half-way up the main oak stairway at Wardley Hall a head has long reposed covered with a glass let into the wall and a curtain drawn across. There seems strong probability that this is the head of Dom Ambrose. In November, 1930, while the Hall was standing empty before its acquisition as an episcopal residence, a thief broke in and stole the skull, but three months later it was brought back at night intact; see Hart Davis, *History of Wardley Hall and The Universe* for November 28th, 1930, and March 5th, 1931. The Bishop's secretary and the police were apparently unable to give any explanation of the circumstances attending the return of the skull, except that they were unusual and mysterious.

†For further details see *Palatine Note Book*, Vol. IV., p. 205; Booker's *Didsbury*, pp. 249-296; B.P.R., pp. 99-138.

‡Hard by, to the south of the Mersey, lies Handforth Hall, a beautiful half timber house, the home of the Breretons, whence, in 1580, Mary, daughter of Sir Urian Brereton, married Alexander Barlow: Booker's *Didsbury*, pp. 254, 291; also Chap. V. above; and *Pal. Note Book*, Vol. IV., p. 213. Seven or eight miles further south lie Prestbury and Mottram Andrew, the centres of the Cheshire branch: see Chap. V.

§See *Scroggs*, p. 99.

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arms of Barley and Pateshull referred to above : on the north wall of the chancel the benefaction plate of Anne Barley ; and on the floor in front of the pulpit the brass to Henry Barley and his wife Katherine Walden, see Plate 16.

The neighbouring churches of Furneaux Pelham, Aspenden, Elsenham and Clavering, all contain Barlow memorials of interest.

Slebech in South Wales, close to Haverfordwest, involves a day's railway journey each way. The church of Slebech lies three miles to the east of the town, close to the main road from Haverfordwest to Caermarthen ; and the mansion and remains of the Preceptory, on an arm of the Cleddaw, are reached by a side road about a mile distant from the church. The full length figures, believed to be those of Roger Barlow and his wife, together with other Barlow memorials originally in the Preceptory Church by the waterside, were removed by the then owner of Slebech, Baron De Rutzen, in 1904 (the Preceptory Church being now a ruin) and placed in the south aisle of the modern church.

Easton Church, close to Winchester, is also worth a visit : the church contains a well preserved monument to Agatha Welsborne, the wife of William Barlow, Bishop of Chichester. On the death of her husband in 1568 at Chichester* she retired to Easton, where her son William, Archdeacon of Salisbury, was for many years the parson, and where she died in 1595 "having lived about ninety years." The arms over her tomb at Easton show a rough presentation of the Lancashire arms, with the Bishop's pastoral staff as a special difference.

*The Bishop's tomb is shown in Chichester Cathedral.

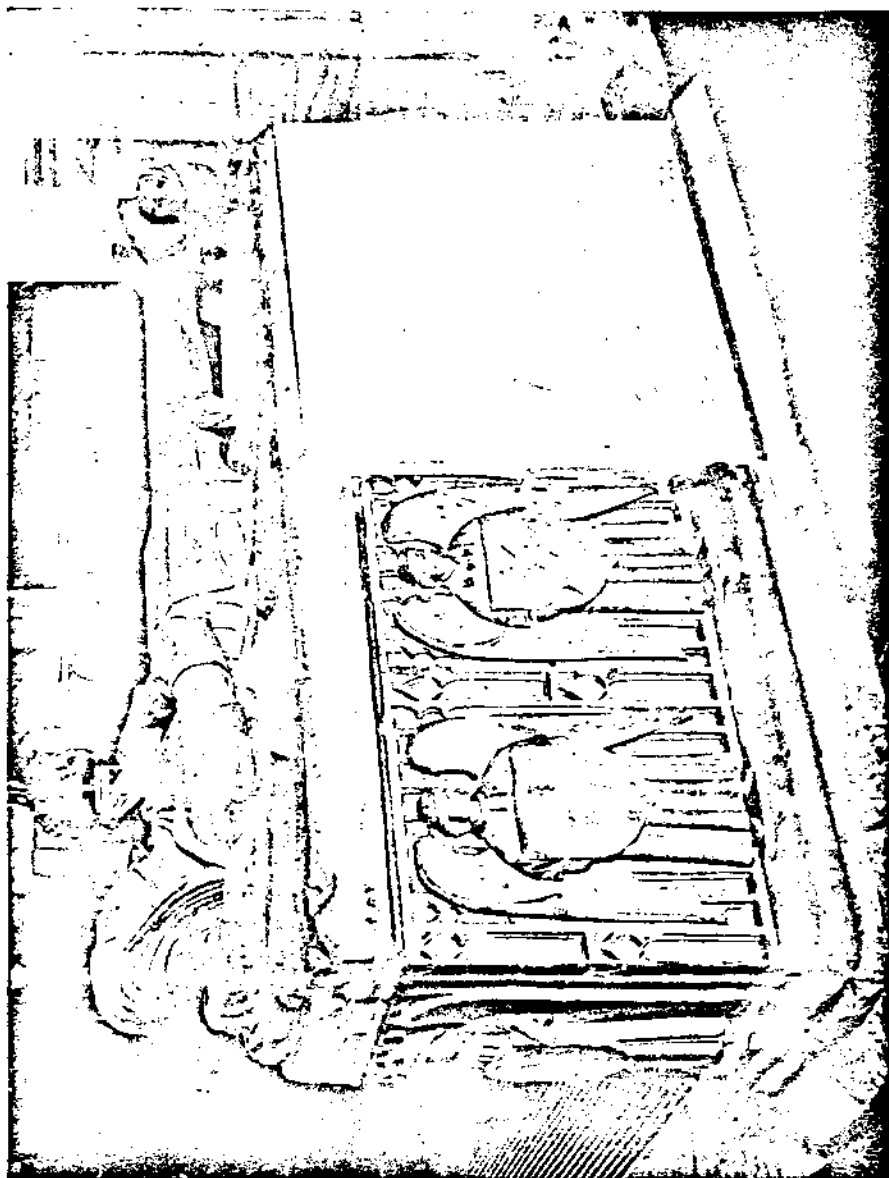
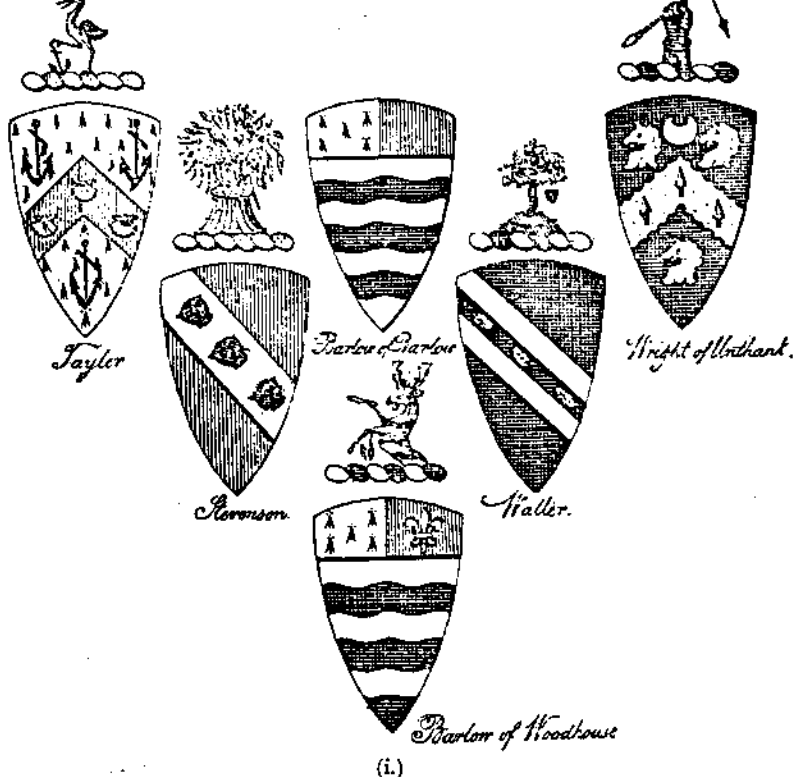


PLATE 23.

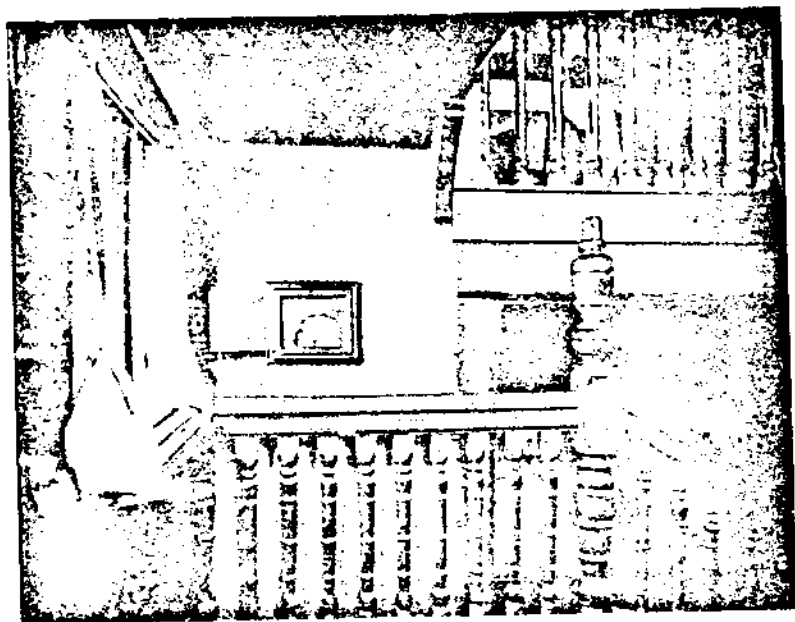
Tomb of Sir Richard Barley, of Deanfield Woodhouse, Co. Derby, in Drumfield Church: restored, according to Bossano, by James Barley of Barley in 1593.



(ii.)

PLATE 24.

- (i.) Arms of Barlow of Barlow, Barlow of Woodhouse, etc. : reproduced by permission from *Old Halls of Derbyshire*, by J. Tilley, Vol. III., p. 115.
- (ii.) Dronfield Woodhouse Hall, now a farm ; the east front.



(i.)



(ii.)

PLATE 25.

- (i.) Skull of Blessed Ambrose Barlow, in a niche beside the staircase at Wardley Hall, Co. Lancs. : reproduced from *Forgotten Shrines*, p. 208.
- (ii.) Wardley Hall, Co. Lancs., with moat, now the residence of the Bishop of Salford : reproduced by permission of the authorities.



(i.)



(ii.)



(iii.)

PLATE 26.

- (i.) The seal of Thomas Barley, of Stoke, Co. Derby, from a bond of December 1st, 1572, 15 Eliz.
- (ii.) Early sketch of arms of Barlow, Co. Lancs., from the margin of a deed of 1333-4 in Harl. MSS. 2112, f. 172; Brit. Mus.
- (iii.) Thomas Barlow, of Middlethorpe, B. 1666, D. 1713: from a contemporary miniature in the possession of Miss Barlow of Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk.