

BADDESLEY CLINTON

Its Manor, Church and Hall, With some Account of the Family of Ferrers from the Norman Conquest to the Present Day.

by the Rev. Henry Norris (of Tamworth)

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Pedigree of the Ferrers of Baddesley Clinton (pp. 101-106)

WALCHELINE de Ferrers, a Norman, lord of a town or district in Gastenois renowned for its iron mines, between whom and Hugh, lord Montfort, a great strife arose and an affray in which they both perished on the same day. (Roman de Rou). His son:

HENRY DE FERRERS came into England with the Conqueror, and, as an ancient inscription in Tamworth castle states "tooke his first denomination from the said towne called Ferries lying in the Dukedome of Normandie". He had 210 lordships granted him, which were scattered throughout 14 counties. His chief seat was at Tutbury, co. Stafford, which he obtained and rebuilt some time after 1071 on its resignation by Hugh d'Avranches, earl of Chester, who had previously held it. In 1080 he founded at Tutbury a religious house for Cluniac monks. He was one of the four commissioners appointed in 1085 by the king for the general survey of Worcestershire. He died according to some accounts in 1089 and was buried at Tutbury in the religious house he had founded there. By his wife BERTHA, whose lineage is unknown, he had three sons and three daughters:

1. Engenuiph, to whom his father gave the castle at Duffield, co. Derby.
2. William, who is said to have accompanied Robert, duke of Normandy, to the Holy Land.
3. Robert, his successor.
4. Amicia, wife to Nigel d'Albini
5. Emmeline
6. Gundreda, wife to Sir Robert le Blount, first feudal baron of Ixworth, co. Suffolk.

ROBERT DE FERRERS succeeded his father, but there is little on record concerning him. He married Hawisia de Vitry, whose parentage cannot for the present be determined. Andre de Vitry, a companion of the Conqueror, married Agnes, daughter of Robert, count of Mortain, and grand-daughters of Herleve, mother of the Conqueror, and there is some ground for presuming that Hawisia was the issue of this marriage. In 1125 the earl of Ferrers, Hawise his wife, and his two sons, Robert and William attested a charter by which William, the prior of Tutbury, granted the manor of Norbury to William Fitzherbert. Robert de Ferrers was created earl of Derby by King Stephen in 1138 after the battle of the Standard, and died in the following year, leaving issue:

1. Robert, his heir.
2. William, said to have been a Templar, but Glover states that he was the eldest son, and denominated earl of Tutbury, and was slain in his father's lifetime.
3. a daughter, married to Ralph Paganell, lord of Dudley.
4. a daughter, married to Walcheline Maminot.

ROBERT DE FERRERS succeeded his father as earl of Derby in 1139. In 1141 he described himself as "Robertus junior, comes de Nottingham". He founded the abbey of Derley in the reign of Stephen, and also the priory of Bredon, co. Leicester, in 1141. In 1148 he founded the abbey of Miravalle (Merevale), co. Warwick, for Cistercian monks, and gave them extensive lands in the neighbourhood. His charter of foundation was signed at Tamworth by king Henry II on March 12, probably in 1158. He died in 1162 and was buried at Merevale lying "wrapt in an oxhide" according to

his desire. By his wife Sibilla, daughter of William de Braose of "Brember, Knappe and Gower", he had issue:

1. William, his successor.
2. Walcheline, baron of Oakham by tenure 1161, ob. 1201.
3. Isolda, b. circa 1146 and married about 1170 to Stephen de Beauchamp, earl of Essex, who died 20 November 1184 (seised inter alia of Chartley) leaving a son and four daughters, ultimately his co-heirs.
4. Matilda, married to Bertram de Verdon, sheriff of the counties of Stafford and Warwick.

WILLIAM DE FERRERS. (For a period he was styled Robert.) In 1165 he was certified and holding 79 knights' fees. He was a supporter of prince Henry in the rebellion of 1172, and in the following year prince Res of Wales as an ally of the king besieged his castle at Tutbury whilst he retaliated by sacking and burning the castle at Nottingham. In 1189 he was deprived of his earldom of Derby by king Richard I., an outrage which was keenly felt by him, but not resented by any withdrawal of his allegiance. The earldom was granted to prince John, the king's brother, and William de Ferrers set out in the autumn of that year for the Holy Land. He is recorded to have made a votive offering at the shrine of St. Denys in Paris late in 1189, so that in all probability he left England with king Richard on December 11. Acre fell before the Christian arms on 12 July 1191 and William de Ferrers there lost his life. An ancient effigy in Merevale church (the earliest sepulchral effigy in armour to be found in the county of Warwick) possibly represents him, although he may not have found a resting-place there. In his early days he honourably interred the remains of his ancestor Henry de Ferrers in a new tomb on the right hand side of the high altar at Tutbury, and on the same day made a special grant to the monastic house - "Hanc donationem feci, illo die quo corpus Henrici de Ferrariis feci deferri et deponi in dextra parte majoris altaris ejusdem ecclesiae". He is said to had a wife Sibilla, but by his wife MARGARET, daughter and heiress of WILLIAM PEVEREL, earl of Nottingham, he had issue:

1. William, his successor.
2. Robert
3. Henry
4. Isabella
5. Petronilla, married to Hervey de Stafford. (Bagot

WILLIAM DE FERRERS was born about 1172. In 1191/2 he paid £49 out of the £100 due for his fine on succession. He is said to have been admitted into the earldom of Derby by king John himself girding him with the sword by his own hand in 1199, this being the first instance of the kind in England. This was possibly by way of reparation for the deprivation of his father. And he appears to have continued in close intimacy with king John, since on 15 May 1213, he was one of the witnesses to the king's surrender of his kingdom to Pope Innocent III; and on 27 June following had a grant from the king of a house in London to be held by the singular service of serving before the king at feasts without cap, but wearing a garland of a finger's breadth. On 15 January 1215/6, he was a witness to a further charter whereby John granted that the election of prelates should be free throughout England; and in 1216 was a witness to the last will of king John and constituted one of its managers and disposers. In this the last year of the king's reign he received from him the custody of the Castle of the Peak, which office he continued to hold under Henry III; and on 12 November of the same year he was a witness to the charter of king Henry whereby he renewed the Magna Charta of his predecessor. Towards the close of the year he went to the Holy Land in company with his brother-in-law, Ranulph, earl of Chester, but was in England again in 1224 when on 11 February 1224/5 he was one of the witnesses to the third great

charter of king Henry. In 1236 he witnessed the charter of foundation granted by the king by which the Dominicans established their first house in this country, viz. at Canterbury. In 1192 he married Agnes, daughter of HUGH KEVELIOK, earl of Chester, and sister and ultimately coheir of Randolph de Blondville, who died 1232. By this marriage Chartley and all the lands lying between the rivers Ribble and Mersey came into the possession of the Ferrers. He died 20 September 1247, and the Lady Agnes died in the same year as he husband after a union of fifty-five years, leaving issue:

1. William
2. Thomas, to whom his mother gave Chartley Castle before her death.
3. Hugo, who confirmed his father's and grandfather's grants to Derley.
4. Robert

WILLIAM DE FERRERS is said to have been "a discreet man, and well acquainted with our laws and constitution". He had livery of Chartley castle 32 Hen.III (1247/8). By his first wife SIBILLA, daughter of WILLIAM MARSHALL, earl of Pembroke, and sister and coheir of Anselm Marshall, earl of Pembroke, he had seven daughters:

1. Agnes, m. William de Vesci. Their son William de Vesci conveyed the honour of Kildare to king Edward I.
2. Isabella, m. (1) Gilbert Basset; (2) Reg. de Bohun.
3. Matilda, m. (1)William de Kime; (2)William de Vinonia; (3)Emeric de Rupe Canardi.
4. Sibella, m. Francis de Bohun of Midhurst.
5. Joanna, m. (1)Roger Aguilon; (2)John de Mohun.
6. Agatha, m. Hugh de Mortimer of Chelmarsh.
7. Alianore, m. (1)William de Vallibus; (2)Roger de Quinci, earl of Winchester; (3)Roger de Leyburn.

Earl William married for his second wife Margaret, eldest daughter and coheir of Roger de Quinci, earl of Winchester, by whom he had two sons and a daughter:

1. Robert, his successor.
2. William, his second son, who succeeded to the barony of Groby, co. Leicester, which he held by tenure of its lands in right of his mother, and from him the Ferrers of Baddesley Clinton directly descend.
3. Joan, m. Lord Berkeley in 1267. She died 19 March 1309/10, and was buried at St. Augustine's in Bristol.

The earl came to an untimely end. He had been from his youth severely afflicted by the gout, and falling out of his chariot whilst being driven on the bridge at St. Neot's he met with injuries which resulted in his death 5 April 1254. He too found a resting-place in the abbey of Merevale. His relict survived him for many years, since she was living in 1272.

Ferrers (4.)

The Manor of Baddesley Clinton, together with the Manor of Hanton, was given by the Conqueror to Geoffrey de Wirce; whether he died childless or was dispossed is not clear but his lands reverted to the crown and were bestowed upon Nigel d'Albini, and then passed to Roger his son, surnamed de Mowbray.

Roger de Mowbray is reputed to have been a very devout man, and amongst his benefactions were the lands of Balsall, which he gave to the Knights Templars. He enfeoffed the Ardens in the manor of Hampton and bestowed the lands of Baddesley upon Walter de Bisege some time between 1100 and 1135.

Baddesley Clinton Hall is a structure of very ancient date, but there are no records to show when or by whom it was erected. The moat was certainly in existence in 1434. Its foundations were laid in the early ages, when the Saxon Badde, who gave it his name, made his home here in a "ley" or clearance in the forest of Arden, although no one knows exactly where.

The windows at Baddesley are a treasure in themselves, and give a special charm to the place, for there is scarcely one which is not brightened by shields of arms in heraldic colouring. Therein may be read, as in open volumes, the descent and the alliances of the house of Ferrers, and others, - lords of Baddesley. Most of these shields were set up in the early part of the seventeenth century, though a few bear date in the sixteenth;

In the two large windows of the hall opening on the courtyard are twelve shields of arms surmounted by earls' and barons' coronets, and having inscriptions beneath indicating the alliances commemorated.

1. Ferrers (ancient) Sable, six horse shoes, argent, 3, 2 1.

Henry of Ferrers, lord of Ferrers in Normandy, came into England at the Conquest and was lord of Tutbury.

2. Ferrers (ancient) impaling

De Vitry (This impalement has unfortunately been lost.)

Robert of Ferrers, earle of Ferrers in Normandy and lord of Tutbury in England and Hawis De Vitry his wife.

3. Ferrers (ancient) impaling

Braose of Gower. Azure, three bars vairy, argent and gules.

Robert of Ferrers, earle of Ferrers, married Sibill, daughter of William, lord Brewse of Brember, Knappe ad Gower.

4. Ferrers (ancient) impaling

Peverel. Vairy, or and gules.

William of Ferrers, earle of Ferrers, married Margaret, Lady of Higham, daughter of William Peverel earle of Nottingham.

5. Ferrers (adopted after the marriage with Peverel.) Vairy, or and gules, impaling

Keveliock. Azure, three garbs, or.

William of Ferrers, earle of Derby, married Agnes, Lady of Chartley, daughter of Hugh Keveliock, earle of Chester.

6. Ferrers. Vairy, or and gules; impaling

Quinci. Gules, seven mascles, conjoined, or, 3, 3 and 1.

William of Ferrers, earle of Derby, married Margaret, Lady of Groby, daughter of Roger Quincy, earle of Winchester.

7. Ferrers of Groby. Gules, seven mascles, conjoined, or, 3, 3 and 1; impaling Lovaine. Gules, semee of billets, or, a fesse, argent.

William Ferrers, lord Ferrers of Groby, married Elenor, daughter of Matthew, lord Lovaine of Stanes.

8. Ferrers of Groby, impaling

Segrave. Sable, a lion rampant, argent, crowned or, langued armed gules.

William Ferrers, the second lord Ferrers of Groby, married daughter of John, lord Segrave of Caledo'.