

PAROCHIAL TOPOGRAPHY.

Church-Lawton Parish.

"LAUTUNE," (anciently called Lauton under lyme,) before and after the Conquest, was divided into two unequal portions; both of which were possessed by Godric in the time of the Confessor, and both became the property of Hugo de Mara, and occur together in the Domesday survey as follows. It may however be doubted whether one of these references does not refer to the neighbouring township of Buglawton, [which, down to a comparatively late period, was often simply called Lauton.]

"Hugo (de Mara) tenet de comite Lautune. Godric tenuit & liber homo fuit. Ibi i. hida geldabilis. Terra est III. carucata. Wasta est. Silva ibi i. leuva longa, & una lata, & una acra prati. Tempore Regis Edwardi, valebat XVI. solidos.

"Hugo tenet de comite Lautune. [Godric tenuit.] Ibi dimidia hida geldabilis. Terra est III. carucata. Wasta est. Silva ibi [II. leuvis] longa, & i. lata. Tempore Regis Edwardi valebat XX. solidos."

This Hugo de Mara or Fitz Norman, who was the founder of the barony of Montalt, gave Lawton to the abbey of St. Werburgh in Chester, [with the advowson of the chapel of Lawton.] The gift is recited in the general confirmation charter by earl Richard,^a and was confirmed to the said abbey by Roger de Montalt.^b

In the [early part of the] reign of Henry III. *one moiety* of this township was possessed by a family which bore the local name, who occur in the 'chartulary of St. Werburgh, in numerous grants to the abbots of St. Werburgh, their superior lords. Among these grants are specified half the manerial site, the tithes and offerings, land for the abbot to make a foss in for the protec-

tion of his buildings, and other minor donations. Adam de Lawton, of this family, occurs in the time of abbot Walter (Picebeck); William, son of William de Lawton, his grandson, in the time of abbot Roger (Frend); and Ranulph, brother of this William, in the time of abbot Thomas (Capenhurst). This Ranulph had [among others,] a daughter and heiress, Cecilia, wife of Roger de Crosslegh, to whose issue [some of] the estates of her family appear to have descended.

[The descent of the moiety of the manor seems to have been from Adam de Lauton (first known ancestor) to William his son, whose son the above named William (perhaps the priest of that name), is described in Harl. MSS. 2074, as lord of the moiety of Lauton, under which description, circ. 9 Edw. I. he gives all the moiety of the town to the abbot and convent above named. He again occurs as Wiltms filius Witti de Lauton quondam dñs de medietatis de Lauton in a release to abbot Simon of all claim to a bovate of land. Harl. MSS. 2071. He probably died issueless; but from him, or from one of the younger lines of this family, descended the Lautons of Wigland. In the Harl. MSS. however, there is a confused account of the descent of the manor of Lauton to the latter branch, who could only have possessed lands here; and in the same MSS. 2071, is a note of a license granted in the 14th century to William Lauton for his oratory of Wigland and Lauton,^c for which there can be no good authority.

From Adam de Lauton, a younger brother of the first William son of Adam de Lauton, descended another line of this family, which also occurs in the Abbey Chartulary. Adam son of Adam, and grandson of the first

^a Vol. I. p. 17.

^b Harl. MSS. 1965. 24, [or fol. 27,] Chartulary of St. Werburgh. In the index to this Chartulary, Lawton is not placed in Northwich (Northwich) but Wych (Nantwich) Hundred. P. 36.

^c Lawrence Bostock, in the pedigree of Bostock of Bostock, goes so far in his mention of the marriage of Isabel de Lauton of Wigland, to sir Raphe de Bostok, as to call her daughter of "William Lawton of Lawton, lord of Lawton and Wigland." See for the Wigland Lawtons, Vol. II. 663.—II.

•• From the Plea Rolls:—

5 & 6 Edw. II. William son of William de Lauton, occurs in a plea.

7 & 8 Edw. II. Robert de Lauton, with Rics. de Marchulegh, surety in a suit for lands in Kingsley.

27 Edw. III. Richard de Childwell, parson of the church of Lauton, and William son of Thomas de Rode and Margery his wife, and Robert Pike, chaplain, parties to a Fine of tenements in Chirchelauton.

6 Ric. II. Thomas Cheyne, and Margaret his wife, who was the wife of Thomas le Smyth, v. Ralph le Smyth, & Margery his wife, for dower of a messuage, & 30 acres in Chirchelauton.

10 Hen. V. Margery who was the wife of Thomas Wolfe, v. Edward de Legh of Chirchelauton, and Felice his wife, for dower of 3 messuages, 100 acres of land, 20 of meadow, and a third of a moiety of a messuage, in Chirchelauton, and Rode.

9 Hen. VIII. John Lawton, clerk, occurs (as trustee?) in a Recovery of lands in Nantwich, & other places, by John Fitton, esq.; and also 19 Hen. VIII. with William Lawton (whose brother he probably was), in a recovery against the Davenportes of Chorley.

From the Recognizance Rolls:—

1311. William son of William de Lauton, et al. to the Lord Ralph de Vernoun jun. in £10.

1316. Adam de Lauton, William de Wylberham, et al. to the Abbot & Convent of St. Werburgh, in £22.

1318-19. Robert de Lauton, Will. de Alsach, Tho. de Crosselegh, & Adam son of Adam de Lauton, to Will. de Burstowe, in 5 marks.

Adam de Lauton, appears to have been father of Richard de Lauton (living temp. Hen. III. and Edw. I.), a witness to various charters, including one of the Moretons, mentioned by Flower in his pedigree of Lauton. In the Harl. Coll. is the abstract of a settlement, dated 3 Edw. III. by which Ricus filius Ricī de Lauton dedi Ricō filio meo et Cicelie fit Wittmi de Astburie uxori dcī Ricī t'ras in Lauton, &c. (Addonal. MSS. 6032.) From this marriage it is believed descended the second and existing line of the family, as will presently be seen.]

With respect to the *other moiety* [of the manor,] (which [if it could be shown that it had been granted out,] must also have been held under Chester abbey), it appears from a laboured pedigree of the Davenports, drawn from original evidences (Harl. MSS. 2119), that Robert de Davenport, younger son of Vivian de Davenport, settled on lands in Lawton, 56 Hen. III. and assumed the local name. The pedigree states him to be ancestor of the Lawtons of Lawton, and the assertion is borne out strongly by the armorial bearings of the Lawtons, which differ only from those of Davenport in the substitution of a fesse charged with a cinquefoil for the Davenport chevron. [These arms seem to have been substituted for a coat of earlier date, in which appear the chevron and two of the three cross crosslets of the Davenports, the third charge in base being a dolphin for difference, taken from the bearings of the original family of the local name, who bore a chevron between three dolphins.^a But as to this "second moiety" of the manor descending as above indicated, there is not only no evidence to show that it had ever been granted out, but on the contrary, it is quite clear that the abbey held this moiety in hand from the earliest times, and that it passed with the other moiety granted to the abbot by William de Lauton, down to the time of the dissolution of the abbey as hereafter mentioned. There is no evidence whatever that Robert de Davenport either "assumed" the local name or even had lands here. But the male line of descent of the present family of Lawton from the Davenports is now almost put beyond a doubt by the following grant, probably in frank-marriage, from the father of the last mentioned Richard de Lauton of the original family of that name: "Sciāt, &c. quod ego Ricardus de Lauton dedi, &c. Thome filio Jordani de Davenport et Agnete filie Ricardi Lauton filii mei totum illud messuagium meum, &c. Testibus Galfridus Byron, Rob. Tuchet, jun. Will. de Astbury, Adam de Knypsley, &c." William de Astbury, witness to this charter, there is reason to suppose, was maternal grandfather of this Agnes de Lauton. But it is noticeable that in the pedigree of Astbury, Somerford, and Oldfield, John de Astbury, son evidently of this William, is given as

husband of "Ellen daughter and heir of Jordan de Davenport," 9 Edw. III. This is most probably incorrect as to the heirship, at least by *descent*; and, as very often the case with the genealogists, it is most likely that the conclusion was jumped at in consequence of some gift in francmarriage or settlement in tail. These marriages bring down the descent of the Lawton estate here to about the middle of the reign of Edward the Third.]

There is nevertheless a [now very small, if any] chasm from this period to the reign of Henry VI. when [it cannot however be said that] the [later] Lawton pedigree commences, [when, in fact, in that reign a second descent had been cast,] and [from which the pedigree] proceeds in an unbroken chain. [For there can be no manner of doubt that Hugh de Lauton, the first acknowledged ancestor of this line, was an adult and living about the end of the reign of Edw. III.^b and everything short of absolute proof, is in favour of his being the direct issue of Thomas de Davenport, who most likely occurs often enough as Thomas de Lauton, but who cannot be distinguished from others of the earlier family of that name. The identity of the 14th century and some of the 15th century members is rendered very perplexing from the numerous diverging lines of descent, through which the genealogist will have great difficulty in threading his way. Early divisions and subdivisions of the paternal estates established several yeomanry families, and one of these in particular, the Lawtons of Snape, continued to reside in this township from the days of Edw. II. down to about the end of the last century.^c But as affording some further and not inconsiderable evidence of the descent of the present family, their estate in the neighbouring township of Alsager may perhaps be traced from Adam de Lauton and Alice his wife (qy. an Alsager), who 26 Edw. I. were sued for dower of 24 acres of land in that township; and in 2 Edw. II. Adam son of Adam de Lauton was also sued for dower there. There cannot, perhaps, be very much doubt of the identity of this estate with part of that which occurs in ampler form in the only two extant Inqs. of the family; but the Lautons of Wigland^d appear also as proprietors in Alsager, and a difficult question is thus raised as to whether this small estate passed from this Adam partly to the Lautons of Wigland and partly to the Davenport Lawtons. A Thomas de Lauton, possibly identical with Thomas son of Jordan (though scarcely probable), may be mentioned as occurring in the Recog. Rolls, 18 Ric. II. with William de Brereton, jun. for the farm of a moiety of Malpas church; and who seems also to have held lands of the Breretons within the

1325-6. John son of Adam de Lauton, Adam de Lauton, Adam his son, et al. to the Earl in 4 marks.

1326. Adam de Lauton & Adam his son, to the Earl in 26s. 8d.; also in 1328 Adam the son to John de Wrennebury in 16 marks; and in 1329 the same, with William de Alsager, John de Laddissone, and Alice who was wife of Adam de Lauton, to John de Wrennebury, sheriff, in £8 13s.

1377. William son of Richard de Lauton, John de Lauton, Tho. de Chedle, et al. grantees of pardons by Richard, Prince of Wales, on finding sureties to keep the peace towards the abbot and convent of Vale Royal.

1396. Beatrice wife of Richard de Lauton of Chirchemunshull, lessee of tenements there.

1397. Randle de Lauton, appointed an archer of the livery of the Crown, with 6d. a day for life; and in 1398, David de Lauton had a similar grant.

1399. William and Thomas de Lauton were appointed conservators of the peace in the Hundred of Broxon.

1406. Robert de Lauton, with Peter de Bulkelegh of Chedle, appointed a Commissioner for the seizure of all merchandize passing through the Hundred of Broxon for the purpose of being sold to the rebels. And in the same Hundred, Henry de Lauton was appointed collector of a fine.—II.

^a From an Elizabethan MSS. Volume penes Mr. R. Wood, of Manchester, and obligingly communicated by Dr. Renaud, F.S.A. of Manchester.—II.

^b Circ. 1330-40. Robert son of Hugh de Lauton grants to Thomas his brother, son of the said Hugh, the land of Crouther in Wich Malbank; test. Rob. fil. Magri, &c. Thomas, son of Hugh, in the reign of Edw. III. gave the same land to his son Hugh; test. Hugh de Fouleshurst. Harl. MSS. 2022, fo. 126. These must refer to some collateral branch; also Thomas de Lauton, vicar of Eastham, 1332, and Roger de Lauton, rector of Thurston, 1327.—II.

^c Information and evidences of the family communicated by Dr. Renaud.—II.

^d But it is nevertheless not improbable that the Lauton of Wigland estate, or part of it, was purchased by the present family about the time of Hen. VIII. from either the Bostocks or the Savages, to whom it had passed by heirship. This inference is drawn from the fact of an ancient copy of the Inq. p. m. of sir John Savage being among the muniments of the Lawtons.—H.

barony of Malpas, and occurs as a juror as late as 8 Hen. IV.*

I. Hugh de Lauton (presumed son and heir of Thomas fitz Jordan de Davenport) may, perhaps, be identified as one of the archers of the principality of Wales, appointed an archer of the livery of the crown, Nov. 5, 21 Ric. II. He appears to have married Isabell, daughter of John Madoc, or Maddock, and widow of Bekynge Bernys, or Barnes, and to have had issue Hugh de Lauton, eldest son, who died issueless; John de Lauton, second son;^b Isabell, wife of — Dod; and Amice, wife of — Shelton. He died before his wife, who seems to have succeeded to the estate, most probably under a settlement upon her and her husband, and to the survivor of them, for life.

II. John de Lauton, son of Hugh, married Beatrice, widow of Thomas Madoc, and held the office of bailiff, at Lawton, of the abbot and monks of St. Werburgh, at an annual stipend of 6s. 8d. the entire revenue of the manor then being £10 14s. 10d. On the dissolution of the monastery, sir William Brereton was bailiff. This John Lauton held the office from 1413 to 1434 (qy. 1429), and was probably thirty years of age in the former year. A compotus of his, dating from 10 Hen. V. to 8 Hen. VI. gives his wife's name, and mentions the payment of 6s. 8d. p. a. to the rector of Lawton church. A branch, it is presumed, of the family of Lees of Lees, held land in Lawton, temp. Hen. V. and 5 Hen. IV. Margaret del Leges occurs (Harl. MSS. 2038) as late wife of John de Lauton, in a settlement of lands by her in Sydinton, to which Nicholas de Davenport was a witness. It is possible that this John was really the son of the above named Hugh de Lauton, and father of John, the bailiff; but the difficulty already mentioned (in the existence of the collateral line of Snape and other descendants of the early lords), renders the adoption of this theory impossible. John, son of Hugh de Lauton, appears to have died in the lifetime of his mother, having had, perhaps among other issue, John Lauton, who died issueless; Richard Lauton, apparently heir to the family estate; and Agnes Lauton.

III. Richard Lauton, on the decease of his grandmother, Isabel Maddock, seems to have succeeded to the property, as heir either to his father, or his brother, or, at all events, under the presumed entail. In 31 Hen. VI. an action in detinue occurs in the Plea Rolls by Laurence Thikness against Richard Lauton, of Chirchlauton, yomon, which again perhaps introduces us to one of the line of Snape. Richard Lauton of Lauton occurs 12 Edw. IV. in an Award^c made at Lauton, Jan. 6, by Thomas Swetenham of Swetenham, of lands in Bartomley, in a case of disputed ownership between this Richard and Hugh Pole. The award was in favour of the latter, subject to a payment of 13 marks

to Lauton, "as a mark of the inward love and faithful friendship they were to bear towards each other," and not as the Award states, as a matter of profit. Richard Lauton again occurs, 16 Edw. IV. as commissioned to collect a subsidy in the Hundred of Northwich, with Thomas Knottesford, and others. He had issue

IV. John Lauton of Lauton (erroneously called James, in the pedigrees), who was most probably the controller, of that name, of all fines, amercements, &c. received before the justice of Chester, for life, 2 Ric. III.; and there can be little doubt that out of this and other offices, of which he was most likely farmer, he created very considerable wealth. He also appears to be identical with John Lauton, who, with William Tatton, was surety for a Welshman, Tudor ap Ithel ap David, lessee of lands in Wales, 1 Hen. VII. He further occurs as co-surety for Thomas, abbot of Basingwerk, lessee of escheated lands in Flintshire, 2 Hen. VII. All these latter facts are of much support to the early part of the pedigree, giving to it a consistency that is of much value. This John Lauton is stated to have married Eleanor More, of Hall o' th' Heath, a neighbouring hamlet. Hall o' Heath, now a farm house, anciently a residence of the Hethes passed to the Mores by marriage. The coat of the latter family was "Ermine a fesse Gules between three moor cocks proper; and not, as has been supposed, Argent, a moor's head in fesse between three fleurs de lis Sable."^d The son and heir of John Lauton was William Lauton, who will presently be mentioned as purchaser of the manor with which his ancestors had for so many centuries been connected, as lords and bailiffs.]

The capital rights [and, in fact, as already shown, the whole manor itself] continued vested in the abbot of Chester, who in his plea 31 Edw. III. claims to have court-leet and view of frank-pledge at his manor house of Lawton, and had free warren in his demesne lands here, by grant from Edw. I.

After the dissolution the manor and the patronage of the church were purchased from the crown 33 Hen. VIII. by William Lawton of Lawton,^e [for the sum of £232. 14s. 2d.

V. William Lawton of Lawton (son of the before mentioned John Lawton) was grantee by the king's letters patent of "tot' dominiu' ac vill' et man' de Churchlawton" (together with the advowson aforesaid); and the general words show the grant to be perfectly co-extensive with the well-ascertained rights of the abbots in every age since at least the days of William, lord of Lawton mediety; such as "courts baron, views of frankpledge, the assizeing, assaying, and levying of fines on bread, wine, and wheat, with right of free warren, heriots," and all other general words which came to be used at that period in the conveyance of a

* He was, however, most likely the same with Thomas de Lauton of Stokton (who with Huxleghs and others of the Hundred of Broxon, occur in a recog. 1396), and if so, there can be no doubt of his being a collateral of the first line of Lauton.—H.

^b 5 Hen. VII. Hugh Lauton, late of Chirchelawton yomon, son of John Lawton, occurs in the Plea Rolls (*membr.* 18), in an indictment for having with many others, on Monday next after the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, 3 Hen. VII. at Chirchlauton in a tenement and 16 acres entered and disseized one John Smyth of Congleton, vi et armis. The said Hugh pleaded that one Thomas Lawton was seized, &c. and gave the same by the name of all his messuage, land, &c. in Lauton, to John Lawton his son, in tail; with remainder to Agnes daughter of the said Thomas, in tail; with remainder to John Lawton, son of Thomas Lawton of Lawton Lidgate, in tail; with remainder to his (the settlor's) own right heirs. John son of the said Thomas the settlor, entered & ob. s. p.; the said Agnes entered and ob. s. p. after whose death John Lawton son of Thomas of L. Lidgate entered, and of the same was seized in his demesne as of fee tail; and so being seized the same demised to the same Hugh Lawton (the defendant) on the Monday next after the Feast of Corpus Christi 1 Hen. VII. at Chirchelawton, for 8 years, and the same Hugh entered and expelled the said John Smyth.

It is observable from this piece of evidence, that with the exception of one name (Thomas instead of John), it partly concurs with the corresponding descents in the annexed pedigree; but there can be no doubt that it refers to the family of Lawton of Snape, then, and for long afterwards, the only known surviving male heirs of the original lords of the mediety of Lawton.—H.

^c The original at Lawton Hall.—H.

^d Communicated by Dr. Renaud, F.S.A.—H.

^e Williamson Vill. Cest. [and original grant penes William John Percy Lawton of Lawton, esq.—H.]

manor. It was granted to be held of the king, in capite, by knight's service, viz. by the twentieth part of a knight's fee, and the annual payment into the king's exchequer of 24s. 4d. (*sic*), and 7s. p. a. to the rector of the church. It has been suggested that this William's first wife was Mary, a daughter (and co-heir) of Ralph Birkenhead of Crowton; but as her mother married secondly, George Wood, justice of Chester, whose daughter married this William Lawton's grandson William, as hereafter mentioned, it is in the highest degree improbable; and we must look elsewhere, probably to one of William Lawton's brothers for the husband of this lady, particularly as there appears to be no evidence of his baptismal name. See Done and Birkenhead of Crowton pedigree.]

Inq. p. m. 6 Edw. VI. William Lawton, gent. held the manor of [Churchelawton,] with court-leet and free-warren in the same, and the advowson of the church of Church-Lawton; [also 12 mess. 12 cott. one water mill, 1000 acres of land, 200 of mead. 50 of past. 50 of common and turbarry, 40 of waste, heath, &c. 50 of land covered with water, 50 of wood and underwoods, and 6s. 1d. frankrent, in Churchelawton, lately of the monastery, &c.] from the king in capite, by [knight's] service, as the twentieth part of a knight's fee, and the render of XXIVs. [and IXd.] per ann. Val. XII. xs. VIII. p. a.; also [a chief messuage and 4 other mess. 4 cott. 50 acres of] lands, [300 of pasture, 100 of mead. 40 of wood, and underwood, 10 of land covered with water, uno miner' carbonu', & unu' fabric' vocat' ablome Smythe, 100 acres of moss, moor, and turbarry, 100 acres of heath, &c.] in Churchelawton, [all specified in the Letters Patent of the king and held of him in socage by fealty, also a cottage, garden, an acre of land, and 2s. frankrent in the same town; also 40 acres of pasture, 20 of wood and underwood, and 40 of moor, heath, and turbarry, in] Alsager, [of total] Val. XI. xis. p. a. He died Dec. 28, 5 Edw. VI. John Lawton son and heir, [aged 32 years.

VI. John Lawton also like his father acquired considerable property, chiefly by purchase. The manerial estate of Trubshaw, in Tunstall, co. Stafford, passed into his hands, 1 Phil. and Mary, by mortgage, from Thomas Trubshaw of Trubshaw; and it seems to have been a property of small acreage, but of much mineral wealth, and included in the under-mentioned *Inq.* This John Lawton also occurs with Charles Maynwar yng, and others, as collector of a mise in Northwich in 1559-60. By the Calendar of Pleadings, 20 Eliz. he was a defendant with George Rowley (in right of Lord Audley), the Lord Bathe, and others, at the suit of the attorney-general, respecting lands in Wolstanton, Tunstall, and Wedgwood, in Staffordshire; and was plaintiff in an action, 27 Eliz. against Hugh Eaton, touching lands in Over Whitley, and Halton barony. The settlement referred to in the next *Inq.* seems also to have included lands in Laleham, (qy. Littleton), and Brixton, in Middlesex.

Inq. p. m. 41 Eliz. John Lawton of Lawton, esq. Seized of the manor and town of Church Lawton, and advowson of the Church, together with all the lands, and held as mentioned in the preceding *Inq.* Val. p. a. £11 10s. 8d.; also the manor of Balterley, co. Stafford, and lands therein, and in Tunstall, co. Staff.; also lands in the parish of Littleton, co. Middlesex; 4 messuages in Holburne within the parish of St. Giles in the fields, and 5 messuages in the parish of St. Clements Danes, without the new Temple barr, London, co. Middlesex,

and settled same by Indenture, 17 Oct. 29 Eliz. in tail male. Total val. p. a. £27 18s. 4d. (including this manor). Oblit apud Church Lawton octavo die Martij ultimo, Willmus Lawton est filius et heres propinquior & etatis quadragint' sex annor' et amplius.

VII. William Lawton of Lawton, esq. is said to have married to his first wife Mary, daughter and heir of George Wood of Balterley, esq. justice of Chester, 1557, of a family who for a considerable period held the manor of Balterley, and from whom it is supposed to have passed to William Lawton's father, under the terms of some agreement on this marriage. (The manerial rights of Balterley, and the small landed estate attached were sold in 1800 by John Lawton, esq. for £300.) William Lawton appears to have died in 1617, and left issue by his second wife a son and heir.

VIII. John Lawton of Lawton, esq. a minor, whose wardship was vested in Ralph Sneyde of Keele, esq. to whose daughter he was married. Being early involved in the politics of the times he seems to have compromised himself by some breach of fealty, and did not receive seizin of his estates until June 19, 1632, when he had a special Livery, which embraced in its terms any acts of his own or of his father, contrary to the service which they respectively owed to the king. But in 1647 Mr. Lawton appears to have been once more involved, and in that year compounded for his estates, at Goldsmith's Hall, in the sum of £680, when he received a further pardon under the Great Seal, for levying war against the king from May 20, 1642, and previously. He added to the family estates by purchase, and acquired the Snape property in 1654, from John Lawton of Snape, by way of exchange for other lands. He was succeeded on his death, in 1654-5, by his son and heir.

IX. William Lawton of Lawton, esq. who became a staunch cavalier, although his youth must have precluded him from taking for any long period a very active part in the warfare of the times. He had, however, to compound with the Parliament in the sum of £680, whilst his remote kinsman of Snape, paid £50 in the same royal cause. No better example, perhaps, in this county exists of the uncertainty of the fortunes of those days; but something is traceable, no doubt, to the position in which this William's father was left at an early age at such a period. Before the Restoration it appears (from a probable tradition, particularly considering the situation of the house and the necessity of avoiding the residence of a more conspicuous royalist), that King Charles the Second was concealed in the Hall of Lawton for some time, during which period he stood sponsor at the baptism of his host's "eldest son," who, if the same, was born in 1656, which would about fix the date of the royal visit. The drinking-cup presented by the king to his godchild on that occasion (with the remark that he had nought else to offer), is still in existence, but the mother of the infant heir in her widowhood having removed it from Lawton, through family intermarriages the relic finally passed into the hands of the earls of Longford. A curiously carved boxwood snuff-box, bearing the royal arms and cipher, and as a memento of the occasion, the coat of Lawton, was also left by the afterwards Merry Monarch, at Lawton, where it still remains. Subsequently the king appears to have presented to the family his own portrait by Lely, and that of the duke of Monmouth, by the same master, both of which are preserved at Lawton. William Lawton was appointed

* The Littleton property evidently, by this *Inq.* formed part of the abbey estate, as it appears to have passed by the patent of Hen. VIII.—H.

sheriff of Cheshire, Dec. 13, 23 Car. II. He added to his estates by purchase, and whether acquired by him or not is uncertain, held Betley, in Staffordshire, or some manerial interest in it, which was afterwards sold, in 1718. This William died in 1693, leaving by his wife, Hester Longueville,

X. John Lawton of Lawton, esq. by whose first wife, Ann, sister of the first earl of Halifax, and daughter of the honourable George Montague (younger son of Henry, first earl of Manchester), he had ten children, of whom John, the eldest surviving son, must have succeeded to the estates, and of whom it remains briefly to speak before the conclusion of this account. John Lawton, esq. the son, was returned to Parliament as Member for Newcastle-under-Line. No account is given in the pedigrees of his marriage; * but there is a statement in the pedigree of Moreton of the marriage of sir William Moreton, whose wife Jane is identified by Dr. Renaud, as widow of this John Lawton. To what family she belonged (though it is unimportant to this history to enquire, since Robert, the half brother of this John, undoubtedly succeeded to the estates), there is no evidence to show, beyond a hatchment to sir William Moreton, formerly in Astbury church, which, according to Dr. Renaud's account (supposing the coat did not belong to some other wife of sir William Moreton), bore a shield of pretence quartering Jones.^a

The second wife of John Lawton, the father, was Mary, daughter of Edward Longueville, esq. and widow of sir Edward Longueville, her cousin. The latter was killed by a fall from his horse, as was his father, sir Thomas Longueville, the brother of the before-named Hester, mother of this John Lawton. The son, and ultimately, heir of John Lawton, by Mary Longueville, namely Robert Lawton of Lawton, esq. shared a much similar fate, having, in 1777, whilst acting as steward of Newcastle races, been killed by the kick of a horse, whilst in conversation with a group of friends.^b

The annexed pedigree brings down the descent of property from this period to the present time. A court-leet and court-baron are [no longer] held for the manor.^c

Lawton-hall is a handsome and spacious building of brick [standing on a natural terrace]; the offices are disposed as wings. [Its architecture is chiefly of the reigns of Jac. I. and Geo. II. New wings were built about half a century since; and the interior of the house has undergone several alterations within that period. A small oak-pannelled dining-room is said to have been used as a bed-chamber by Charles the Second, and must

therefore have formed part of the older residence. Beneath a passage leading from the lesser drawing-room to the library, exists an apartment (approached by a trap-door), to which tradition points as the hiding-place of that monarch, who has already been referred to as having taken refuge here sometime before his accession to the throne. The pictures in Lawton-hall of interest are chiefly portraits. Those by sir Peter Lely of Charles the Second and the duke of Monmouth (which have been mentioned in these pages as presentation portraits), hang in the large dining-room. There are others of sir Edward Longueville, and Mary his wife, and of her son, Robert Lawton, esq. In the library are two small full-length paintings of Charles Crewe of Warmincham, esq. and Sarah his wife, daughter and heiress of John Bourne of Chell. One by Romney of Mrs. Crouch, and another of John, first lord Crewe, may be mentioned; and among several other family portraits is that of Anne Crewe widow of John Lawton, esq. who is represented as holding in her hand a scroll inscribed "Rights recovered," which is chiefly interesting as commemorative of an incident which occurred in 1809, by which the courage and presence of mind of this lady led to the security of a portion of the estates of the family, which otherwise would have been lost.^d

In front of the house is a sheet of artificial water, (about a third of a mile in length,) and the grounds extend to the parish church at the back of the mansion. The natural surface of the country in the immediate neighbourhood possesses considerable undulations, and in the distance of a very few miles rises into the wild chain of hills which form the boundary of the county. The appearance of the greater part of these are naked and monotonous, but the view is agreeably varied with a wooded hill in Staffordshire on the right, and the artificial ruins and plantations on Mole Cop on the other side of the prospect. [The mineral wealth of Lawton is considerable, and consists of coal, ironstone, and salt, which have been worked for many generations; and some time ago an extensive contract (subsequently abandoned), was entered into for the pumping of brine up a shaft purposely sunk here, for conveyance by pipes from two to three miles, into Staffordshire, where there were conveniences for its conversion into salt.

Lawton Lidgate, situated on the borders of this township, and which barred the road into Staffordshire, belonged to the earldom, and was frequently farmed out, among other lessees, by several of the early members of the ancient family of Lawton.^e

* He is said to have married "Mrs. Cooper, a widow gentlewoman, of £30,000 fortune," in July 1733. "He was clerk of the securities of the Excise office, and afterwards, Teller of the Exchequer. His ancestress was lady Hester Temple, of Stowe, who died in 1654, having had twelve children, and lived to see 700 descendants from her own body." He died June 7 (sic) 1740. *Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Register*.—H.

^a Of the Ranelagh family, apparently. The first quarter appears, from a rough sketch, to be 3 bars gemelles, with 4 Ermine spots in chief. A note will be found in the Addenda at the end of this volume should the name of the presumed heiress (the bearer of this coat), in the meantime be discovered.—H.

^b To complete the chapter of accidents, it may be mentioned that in 1721, June 13, Charlewood Lawton of Northampton (cousin of the above-named Robert), died by a fall from his horse in a fit of apoplexy; and in 1833, William Lawton (great-grandson of Robert), was killed in a bone-mill, having become entangled in the machinery. I am indebted for this, and a variety of interesting information, to Dr. Renaud, F.S.A. of Manchester, and Alderley, whose lucid and able compilation of a history in MS. of this family has also been of much valuable assistance.—H.

^c Information of C. B. Lawton, esq.

^d For many years previous to the date mentioned, the Lawton estates became seriously charged, chiefly through negligence, of which the then-steward took advantage. Some parts of the property were alienated, and the whole greatly deteriorated. In 1809, five years after the death of Mr. John Lawton, the steward (whose dishonesty had led to this state of affairs) was found dead in his office chair, with all his papers spread around him. The lady represented in the picture (Mr. Lawton's widow), on being informed of the event immediately proceeded to the steward's house, entered the office where the dead steward sat, and locking herself in the room, secured the whole of the papers, which eventually led to the "recovery of certain rights," (more especially relating to colliery leases of great value), which by connivance and fraud practised during a long series of years, were in imminent danger of sharing the fate of other parts of the property. She died in 1810, aged 63 years.—H.

^e A list of these farmers will be found in a note at p. 20.—H.

LAWTON OF LAWTON.

From [the chartulary of the abbey of St. Werburgh, and family documents (abstracted by Frank Renaud, esq. M.D.), the Plea and Recog. Rolis, and Inq.] a pedigree roll by Dugdale, [apparently copied down to the year 1590, from one by Glover, now at Lawton Hall,] collated with Booth's pedigrees, and continued from the information of the family and the Lawton registers.



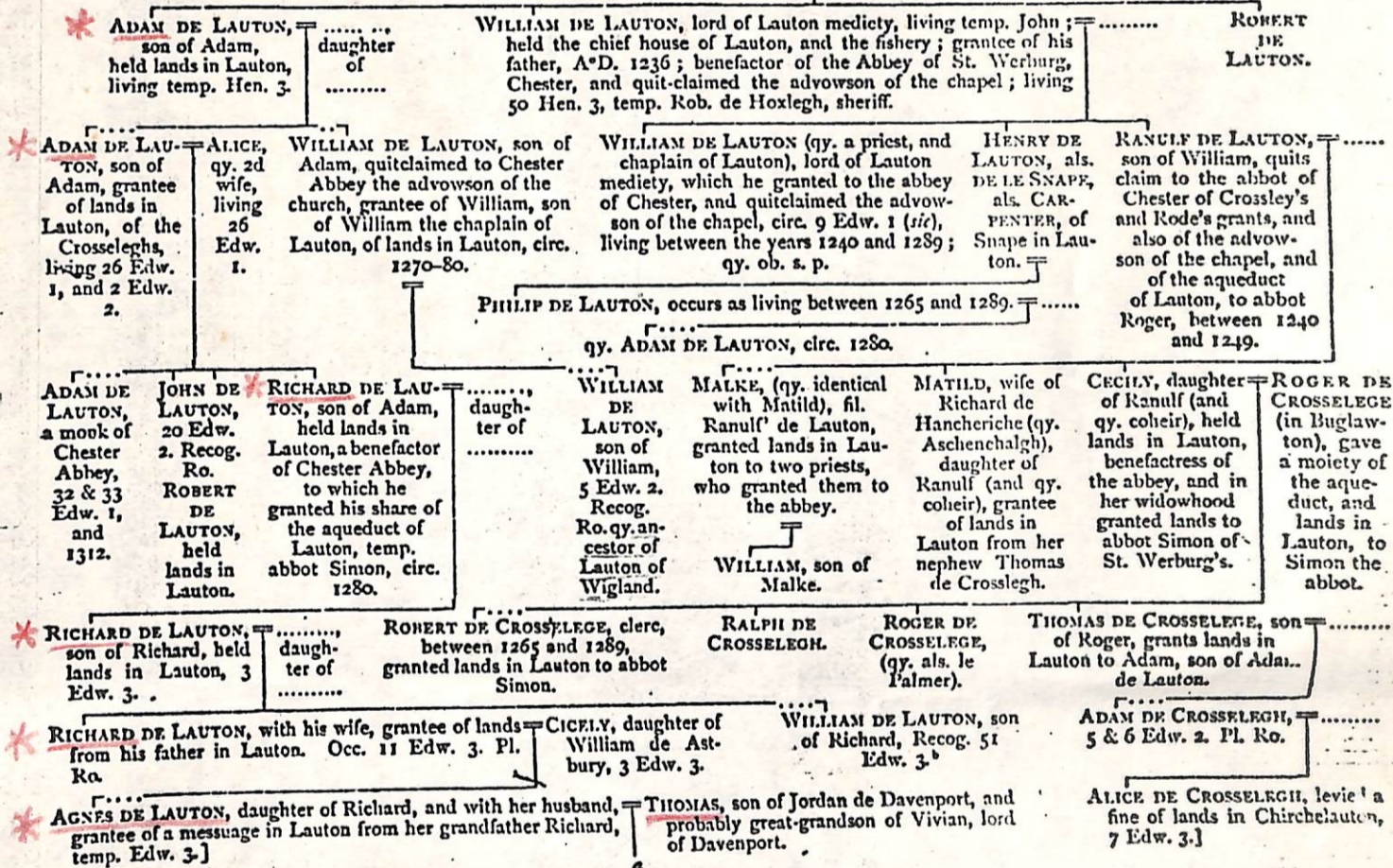
ARMS. Argent, a fesse Sable between three cross crosslets of the second, on the fesse a cinquefoil Argent. [The original coat, however, was Or, a chevron between two cross crosslets in chief, Gules, and a dolphin in base, Azure,* being a combination of the coats of the early Lawtons and the Davenports. The mantle of the present coat, given in the annexed engraving, is copied from the Arms of the family, carved on a snuff-box formerly of Car. II.]

CREST. On a wreath a demi-wolf rampant Argent, licking a wound in the right shoulder, Gules.

[ARMS. Or, a chevron between three dolphins Gules, for Lawton ancient.



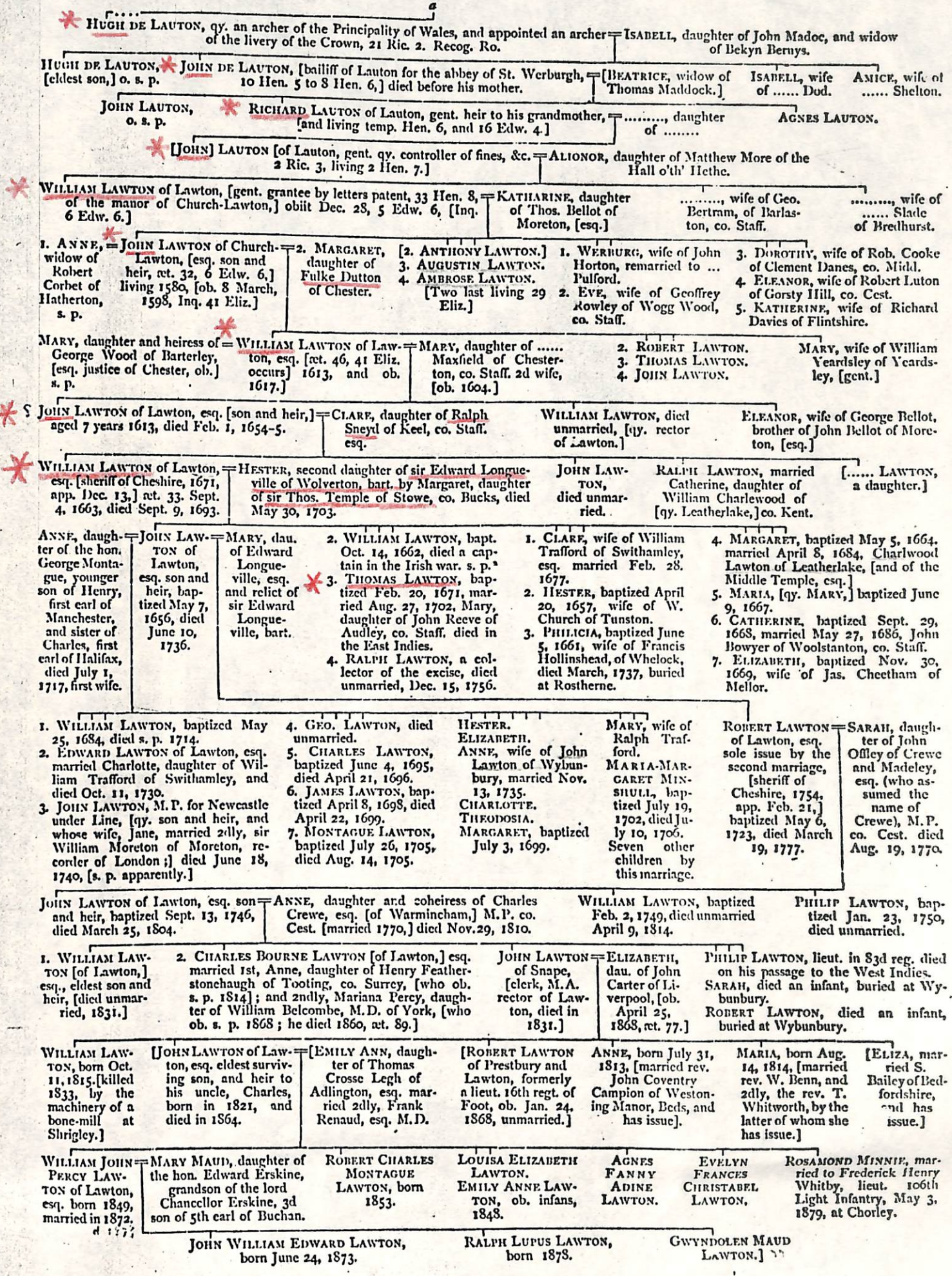
* ADAM DE LAUTON, lord of Lawton mediety, living temp. John, and Hen. 3.



* Information of Dr. Renaud, F.S.A., from an Elizabethan MSS. volume, penes Mr. R. Wood of Whalley Range, near Manchester, in whose possession is also an ancient pedigree with the following heading, which is good secondary evidence of the early descents:—"Nonnuella Cestrescyensium Scuta Gentilitia ex variis reverendae antiquitatis et autoritatis monumentis descripta sequuntur.

"That w^{ch} followeth ys copied out of a broade booke of parchmente, w^{ch} booke sometyme belonged to Marche King of Armes in y^e tyme of Kyng Edward the 4 after y^e Conquest, but nowe in this p^{re}sent yeare of o' Lord 1588 remayneth in the handes of Robert Cooke Esquire Clarenceulx King of Armes and principall herald of the South p^{te} of this realme of England." Cooke also says "Lawton of Lawton, on a fess between 3 cross crosses a flower, but the ancient arms of Lawton are a chevron between 2 cr. ss crosses in chief goules, and a dolphin in base blue"; and the Crest, "a demi wolf rampant silver, licking a wound on his shoulder goules"; which is probably a grant of about the time of Hen. VIII.—II.

* 51 Edw. III. Assisa mortis anct' quam Wilfrs de Lawton senior in xer' c^um Regis hic arravi v'sus Wilfrs de Lawton r. archal & Beatricem uxem. Jus de ten' in Chirchelauton, &c. Mem. 16. Ricus de Lawton also occurs Mem. 21, Pl. Ro. 51 Edw. III. and 1 Ric. 2.—II.



CHURCH.

Ded. to All Saints.

Omitted in the Tax. Eccl. Val. Eccl. £47 7s. 6d.

The descent of the advowson of this church has been already given in the account of the manor. [The foundation seems to be of about the close of the eleventh

century, when a chapel was probably originally erected here by Hugh de Mara, then lord of Lawton. The early ancestors of the Lawtons afterwards appear to have held an interest in the church, as it was soon afterwards called, when Ranulf, son of William, and William, son of Adam de Lawton, quitclaimed the advowson to abbot Simon, or Roger, and the convent of St. Werburgh.

* "William Lawton, esq. one of the Assistant Clerks of the Treasury," died Dec. 17, 1733. *Gentl. Mag.*—H.

On the petition of Abbot Robert, a burial ground had been consecrated, subject to the yearly payment of 12d. to the mother church of Astbury. The payment in 1700 (according to Gastrell) was 18d.] The church itself has been rebuilt in a plain manner with brick, with the exception of the tower, which is of stone, and embattled, and an ancient semicircular doorway on the south side, enriched with mouldings in a style of early Norman architecture. [The tower was erected by John Bybber, priest, whose remains were interred beneath it, under a recessed altar tomb, surmounted by a low crowned arch. Above the arch are the initial letters of the founder's name, and sculptured figures of a chalice and breviary; the two latter being also at the head of a long short-headed cross, carved in relief on the tombstone. There were four bells, and two chalices here (one chalice being then in "gage" for 20s.) in 1548.

There is now a peal of five bells, all made in 1713. The eighteenth century pews (or boxes) were all demolished in 1874, and replaced by benches. During these alterations a thirteenth century tile was discovered, forming a fourth part of a geometrical design, part of the date being MCCL] The site of the building is at a short distance from Lawton-hall, on a circular mount, which has every appearance of being artificial. In the chancel are memorials of J. Cartwright of Lee-hall in this parish, [now the property of J. M. Tolcr, esq.] and of Charles Shaw, rector of Lawton. [Since this date the only other memorial erected is a small brass, bearing the arms of Lawton, impaling Legh of Adlington, and inscribed

"To perpetuate the memory of John Lawton of Lawton Hall who died June 9, 1864, this brass was erected by Emily Anne his widow."

RECTORS OF LAWTON.

INSTITUTED.	RECTORS.	PATRONS.	VACANCY.
Circ. 1180	Edwardus, clericus,	Roberti Abbatis Cestrie; temp. Ricard. covent' Episcopus.	
Circ. 1220	Willielmus de Mascy, clerk,	Hug' Abbatis Cestrie; temp. W. covent' Episcopus.	
Circ. 1250	Willielmus de Lauton, presbiter.	Willielmus, lord of Lauton mediety?	
1306, xvj die Januari.	Magr' Wiif de Meles.	Abbas & Con. S ^c æ Werburgæ.	
1336, xvij k ⁿ Novēbr'.	Wiifs de Tamworth, p'sbr'.	Abbas & Con. S ^c æ Werburgæ.	p mortem Magri Wiifi de Meles, uli rector'.
1348, ij noñ Septembr'	Johes Juge.	Abbas & Con. S ^c æ Werburge.	p resig. ult' rector' ex causa p mutacionis vicar' eccl' prebend' de Allerwas.
1349, ij Id Septembr'	Ric' de Chilwel, clicus.	Abbas & Con. S ^c æ Werburge.	p m. dñi Johnis ult' r'tor' iij Id Augusti.
1360, xj kalend Maij	Dñs Thomas de Chalmundesley,	Abbis & Convent' de Cestr',	p resign. dñi Ric'i de Chillewell, ex cā p mut' vicar' eccl' de Astanesfeld.
1369, ij Id Novembr'.	Thomas de Craven, pbr,	Abbis & Con. S ^c æ Werburge,	p dimissionem dñi Thome de Cholmelegh ult' rector'.
1377	Mags' Johes Dutton		
1377, sexto die Augusti.	Johes Hallum, pbr.	Abb & Cōvent' Moñ S ^c æ Werbgæ Cestr'.	Vacavit & vacare incepit die M'cur' in Sept' Pasch ult' de ins' eo qd Mags' Johes Dutton ipam eccliam ult' unū annū non ordinat' infā sacros occupavit.
1402, vicesimo s ^c do die Decembr'.	Dñs Johes Bakford, cap ^{uus}	Abbat' & Conv. Moñ S ^c æ Werburge Cestr'.	p resig. dñi Johis Hallum ult' rectoris ex cā p ^{mu} de ipā cū Cantar' de Wolsley ad Altare bñe Marie in ecclia p'bendali de Colewych.
1403, vicesimo quinto die Novembr'.	Dñs Johannes Horseley, capellanus.	Abbt' & Coñ Moñ S ^c æ Werburge.	p resig' Magr' Johannis Bakford ult' rectoris ex cā p ^{mu} facte de eadē cū canonicatū et p'bend. quos idē Johes Horseley nup obtit in ecclia Colleg' S ^c i Cedde Salop.
1407, vicesimo sexto die Februar'.	Dñs Elias de Wovr', capellanus.	Abbat' & Coñ Moñ S ^c æ Werburge.	(p. m.) Dñi Johis Horseley, ult' rectoris.

* The following curious entry occurs in the margin of an erased Institution, immediately below Cravens. The erasure is of a coeval entry, but has a very fresh appearance. In a hand of some years later date, is a—"M^d qd ista abrasura ex opposito p'sent' cicfacolis ut bene liquet sit in ablacione actor' Institutionis poch' ecclie de Byrton vacant' A^o dñi sup'dco et malesicut' qui sic abras q'a fraudulent' & s'bdole ipse fec'. Thm. bache. Registri' p. titl. p'dca."—H.

Thomas de Cholmondeley (called Chalmondesley, and Cholmelegh, in the Registers), most probably a scion of the family of Cholmondeley; and

John Dutton, an unidentified member of the family of Dutton of Dutton, are not mentioned in Mr. Ormerod's Calendar of Rectors.

John Bacford, chaplain of the Wolsey chantry in the great prebendal church of Colwich, was the next year following his admission to Lawton, instituted vicar of Audlem, and on the same day resigned Lawton in exchange for the canonry of the collegiate church of Shrewsbury; and in 1404, also held the living of Blythfelde, Staffordshire. He was most probably a descendant of the early family of Backford of Backford, noticed in the account of that parish.

William Lawton, and his immediate successor of the same name, were most likely of the present family of the lords of Lawton; but in the face of evidence of the existence of collateral descendants of the original male line of Lawton down to a late period, their identity is rendered more doubtful.

John Latham was ancestor of the present line of Latham of Bradwall.

Charles Crewe was of the later family of that name, kinsmen by marriage, of the Lawtons.

Lancaster Wettenhall was brother, of the half-blood, of Thomas Wettenhall male ancestor of the present family of Mainwaring of Peover, and descended from the Wettenhalls of Nantwich, whose pedigree will be found under the account of Hankelow. He was buried Dec. 11, 1824.

John Lawton, of Snape, was ancestor of the present lord of the manor, and owner of the church advowson.

Frederick Forde was of the family of Ford, or Forde, of Abbeyfield, Sandbach. This rector was a graduate of Trinity Coll. Camb. 1826, and took his M.A. degree in 1831. His services for fifty years may perhaps be reckoned to rank among the most varied of those of the clergy of the English Church. After holding several

curacies in Cheshire, Hampshire, and Staffordshire, he was preferred to this rectory, which he resigned eight years afterwards, on conscientious grounds, and was presented on his retirement with a present of plate by the parishioners. In the autumn of 1839, he accepted a curacy in Gloucestershire; and subsequently took duty in some of the poorest localities in London. He held the vicarage of St. Peter's, Malvern Wells, in 1842; in 1845, became secretary of "The Irish Society of London." In 1846, he was rector of St. Peter's Chester, and lecturer of St. Mary's; and, in 1856, became English chaplain at Heidelberg; in 1859, chaplain at Cannes; afterwards did duty as British chaplain in Interlaken, and also in Algiers; was again rector of St. Peter's in 1861; again resigned, and finally accepted the chaplaincy of St. John's without the Northgate, which he still holds. This very brief record might be supplemented by a long detailed account relating to his other appointments and duties, and various works of charity, if within the scope of this work.]

The following burials of rectors appear in the registers. William Lawton, Jan. 27, 1640. Ralph Sillitoe, Aug. 30, 1662. Joseph Hall, Aug. 10, 1679. John Latham, Jan. 5, 1705. Charles Shaw; June 24, 1732. John Ley, Feb. 23, 1757. Charles Shaw, Jan. 6, 1777.

The registers commence in 1559, [and contain an entry (also noticed by Burghall and Newcome) of the death of eleven young men killed in the church by lightning, during the sermon on Sunday, 21st June, 1652.

The rectory house and glebe, near the church, were many years ago exchanged by the Rev. John Lawton with Charles B. Lawton, esq. for Snape House, and lands adjoining. This old residence was thus converted into the parsonage, after having been for many generations the dwelling of the ancient Lawtons of Snape. The living is now worth about £360 p. a. house and grounds inclusive. Schools were erected at Lawton Gate in 1843, in which there is accommodation for one hundred children.]

* * The following occur in the Recognizance and other Palatine Rolls, as lessees of Lawton Lidgate, referred to at page 15—The "Floodgates" situate here, is a farm, on the boundary of which is a small brook dividing this county from Staffordshire.

30 & 31 Edw. I. Adam de Lauton was "farmer of the passage of Lauton." He also held the office 33 & 34 Edw. I. Chamberlain's accounts.

5 Edw. II. William de Bechinton, and William Bulkilegh enter into a recog. in £4 for farm of the passage for one year.

13 Edw. II. Adam de Lauton, William de Alsach', and Thomas de Crosselegh, to the earl in 5 marks, for the passage of Lauton.

20 Edw. II. Thomas de Coton & Gralam de Brydenhale, in 20s. for the passage of Lauton and Huggebrugge; also 4 & 5 Edw. III. in 40s. for the farm of the passage of Lauton and Nantwich.

6 Edw. III. Thomas de Coton, Richard de Lauton, and William de Arclyde, farm the passage.

9 Edw. III. Henry de Bramburgh, of Chester, Bartholomew de Norworthin, Thomas de Ideshale, and William de Rushton, enter into a recog. for the farm of the passage of Lauton and Wich Malbank.

21 Edw. III. John de Rode lessee of the passage of the town of Lauton for 3 years, at 46s. 8d. yearly.

24 Edw. III. Robert le Heyward of Lauton, lessee of the bailiwick of the passage of Lauton and Wich Malbank, for 3 years at 25s. yearly.

30-31 Edw. III. William de Lauton, mareshall, and Robert le Heyward of Lauton, lessees of the passage of Lauton and Wich Malbank, from Arthull to Huggebrugge, for 4 years at 36s. 8d. yearly. In 31 Edw. III. Heyward seems to have been appointed sole "keeper of the passage of Lauton & Wich Malbank, during good behaviour," & died in Sep. 35 Edw. III.

39 Edw. III. William le Marshal of Lauton, lessee of same for 3 years, at 36s. 8d. p. a.

41 Edw. III. William de Lauton, David de Wevere, and William de Fouleshurst, lessees for 12 years at 40s. p. a.

3-4 Ric. II. William de Lauton, lessee of the passage of Lauton for 12 years, at 40s. p. a.

13 Ric. II. Thomas de Horton grantee of the king, of the passage of Lautonlydeyate, of the annual Val. of 40s.

7 Hen. IV. Richard Castell (esq.) grantee of the passage of Lauton-Lydeyate, for life.

8 Hen. V. Roger Mason grantee for life of an annuity of 40s. to be received of the issues of Lauton-Lydeyate, as Roger Draycote, deceased, received the same. Confirmed 7 Hen. VI.

10 Hen. VI. John Alsacher commissioned to receive the toll at Lauton-Lydyate and Hokebrugge, during pleasure.

14 Hen. VI. Roger Praers lessee of the passage of Lauton-Lydeyate for 4 years, at 43s. 4d. p. a.

15 Hen. VI. Robert Sely, yeoman of the king's chamber, lessee of the custody of the passage of Lauton-Lydyate, at 40s. p. a. during pleasure. In 30 Hen. VI. this lessee, then called "valectar' saucer' n'ie," had a re-grant for life of the wardenship of Lautonlydeyate, the former grant having been "resumed into the king's hands by virtue of an Act of Parliament 28 Hen. VI."

33 Hen. VI. David Thomasson grantee, during pleasure, of the custody of the passage of Lautonlydeyate, vacant by the death of Sely, the said David to receive 40s. p. a. of the issues & profits. He had a grant for life, in the following year.

5 Edw. IV. Thomas Gillowe lessee of the passage of Lautonlydeyate for 4 years at 13s. 4d. p. a.

12 Edw. IV. Thomas Crve, of Wich Malbank lessee of the passage of Lautonlydeyate for 5 years, at 13s. 4d. p. a.

21 Hen. VII. Roger Mainwaring lessee of certain escheated lands together with, inter alia, the passage of Lautonlydeyate for 31 years at £4. 8s. 4d. p. a.—H.

INSTITUTED.	RECTORS.	PATRONS.	VACANCY.
1409, penultimo die Septembr',	Dñi Wifms Drap,	Abbtē & Conventū Moñ Sēc Werburg.	p resig. Elie Wov' &c. ex cā pmu ^{ls} &c. cū Magist' sū custos Hospitat' Sēi Johis Baptē Stafford.
1411, die undecima Septembr',	Dñi Thomas Cullurdouse,	Abb. & Con. Moñ Sēc Werburge.	p resig. Wiff Drap ex cā &c. cū ecclie poch de Dysworth, Lincoln.
1435, quinto die Aprilis.	Wifms Hyldych, clericus,	Prioris & Con ^{ts} Monast'ij Sēc Werburge.	p m. dō Thome ult'i rectoris.
1439, vice ^{mo} t'cio die Aprilis.	Dñs Wifms Lolle, ⁿ p'sbr',	Abbatis & Cont ^s Moñ Sēc Werburge,	p m. dñi Wiffi Hyldych ultimi rectoris.
1455, xvj die Sept'.	Dñs Johes Marleston, capella's,	Ven'ablis viri Johis Downe de Utkynton, armigi hac vice p donacōem religiosor' viror' Prioris & Conventus Moñ Sēc Werburge.	p m. dñi Thome Lelly ultimi r'toris.
1469, ultimo die Aprilis.	Dñs Henricij Marleston, capellā,	Abbtis et Conventus Moñ Sēc Werburge.	per mortem dñi Johis Marleston ultimi rēors.
1478, xiiij ^o die Octobris.	Dñs Johnes Lanner, capellanus.	Abbatis et Convent ^s Moñ Sēc Werburge,	p resignacōem Magri Henrici Marleston ultimi rēoris.
1481, xxiiij ^o die Marcij,	Dño Ranulpho Vaudrey, p'sbrō,	Epis Cov. & Lich p laps',	p m. dñi Johis llaner, ultimi rēoris.
1499, xxiiij die Septembr'.	Dñs Johes Bowker, capellan'.	Abbat's Moñ Sēc Werburg et ejusd loci Cōventz.	p resignacōnem Ranulphi Vawdrey, ultimi rectoris.
1530, in, et ante?	Dñi Richardi Grey.	Abbats et Cōvent ^s Moñ Sēc Werburge.	p resignac' dñi Richardi Grey ult' rēor'.
1530, xvij ^{mo} die Junij,	Dñm Johis Bybe, cap ^{mo} .	Johis Lawton de Church Lawton arm ^{it} 20 June.	p mortem dñi Johis Bybbe.]
1555, xxij ^o die Junij.	Richardus Byrches, clericus,		
1559, ante.	William Lawton.		
1583, 10 Jan.	William Lawton.	John Lawton, esq.	D. of last incumb.
[1640, in, et ante?	Ralph Sillitoc.		
1662, in, et ante?	William Upsham.] ^b		
1674, 15 June.	Joseph Hall.	William Lawton.	Cess. of Will. [Upsham.]
1679, 25 Aug.	George Grey, A.M.	William Lawton.	D. of Joseph Hall.
1682, 6 Oct.	John Latham.	William Lawton.	Cess. of [George] Grey.
1705, 20 Oct.	Charles Shaw.	John Lawton.	D. of John Latham.
1733, 23 April.	John Rowlands, ^c A.M.	John Lawton, esq.	D. of Charles Shaw.
1743, 17 Nov.	Nathaniel Hudd, LL.B.	Robert Lawton, esq.	D. of John Rowlands.
1744, 21 March.	John Ley, A.B.	Robert Lawton, esq.	Res. of Nath. Hudd, LL.B.
1757, 4 May.	Charles Shaw, A.B.	Robert Lawton, esq.	D. of John Ley.
1777, 4 March.	Charles Crewe, A.B.	Robert Lawton, esq.	D. of Charles Shaw.
1782, 27 Dec.	Lancaster Wetenhall.	John Lawton, esq.	Cess. of Charles Crewe.
[1825, 11 Jan.	John Lawton, A.M.	William Lawton and Charles Bourne Lawton, both of Lawton Hall, esquires, James Caldwell of Linley Wood, co. Staff. esq. and Henry Jones of Leek and Wheelock, gent.	D. of L. Wetenhall.
1831, 7 Sep.	Frederick Ford, M.A.	Charles B. Lawton, esq.	D. of John Lawton.
1839.	Vernon Tipping, B.A.	Charles B. Lawton, esq.	Res. of F. Ford.
1864, 30 Jan.	Samuel Nunn, M.A.	John Lawton, esq.	Res. of V. Tipping.]

To this list may be added, [as above,] on the authority of the chartulary of St. Werburgh, *Willielmus*, presbyter, called also Will's fil. Will'i, capellanus, who occurs in a composition with Simon abbot of St. Werburgh relative to the tithes of Lawton. [He also occurs as Wiff fit Wiffmi de Lauton. The name of *Edwardus*, clericus, is also added on the same authority, and who occurs in

the chartulary quitclaim by Ranulph and William de Lauton, of the advowson of the church.

Willielmus, clericus, of Rosthorne, also occurs in the same entry of the quitclaim as being presented (temp. William, Bishop of Cov. and Lich.) by H(ugh) abbot of Chester, who died 1226. He appears to be identical with William de Mascy, rector of Rosthorne.

^a 1438, 23 April, *Thomas Colley*, according to Ormerod; but his name appears to be Lilley—spelled Lollē, and Lelly, in the Lichfield Registers.—II.
^b From Mr. Piccope's notes. Mr. Ormerod gives "William *Uxsham*?"—II.
^c Also called Rowland; he was chaplain to lord Mountjoy, and in Nov. 1738, had a Dispensation, under the great seal, to enable him to hold with Lawton, the rectory of Checkley, co. Staff. *Historical Register*.—II.