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On the Manorial History of Clifton

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ON THE MANORIAL HISTORY OF CLIFTON.

BY ALFRED S. ELLIS.

THE importance of Clifton, as the chief suburb of Bristol and as a fashionable "watering place," is of so recent a date that the history of a rural parish such as it was before, can hardly be of much interest. Such interest, however, as there may be, is certainly enhanced by its present remarkable development. When Sir Robert Atkyns wrote his History of Gloucestershire, he did not foresee the future of this parish, which, probably, did not interest him much, because there was no ancient resident family of any importance nor historic seat, within its bounds. He did not take any trouble about tracing the descent of *the* manor; and no other work contains anything but a few unconnected statements, except Fosbrooke's history of the county, which is confused and incomplete.

The present paper is an attempt to supply the deficiency to a certain extent.

I have said "the" manor, for although there appears to have been another manorial estate within the parish, I refer to the lay one, with the patronage of the church of St. Andrew, anciently annexed to it, showing that the foundation and endowment was made by one of its early possessors.

As might be expected, the first record, which mentions this manor, is that venerable and minute survey of the realm called "Domesday Book," ordered by William the Conqueror, completed and laid before him at Winchester, apparently when keeping Easter there in 1086

Under Gloucestershire, in Vol I., folio 170, column 2, we read :—

LXXV. *Land of Roger fitz Ralph.*—In Sineshoved Hundred.

by name Clistone

Roger fitz Ralph holds one manor, [^](of the king in capite), which Sewin, the provost of Bristou, held of King E(dward), and had been able to go with this land where he wished, nor did he owe thence any feorm. There (are) 2 hides. In demesne are 3 plough-teams and 6 villanes, also, 6 bordars, with 2 plough-teams. There (are) 3 serfs and 8 acres of meadow. It was worth 100s., now 60s.¹

Such are the interesting particulars which the first record, referring to Clifton, gives, and it is evident, therefrom, that the township had a very small population, even at this date. We may infer that the first settlement here, whether by a single family or by two or more, from the name it acquired, did not take place until post Roman times. There is no evidence to show that there were any descendants remaining here of those pastoral tribes to whom the earthworks may be attributed.

These settlers made the first *tân* or enclosures near *the cliff* meaning, rather, that one over-hanging the river at Mardyke than St. Vincent's rocks; and the position first cultivated was, probably, that round about where the church stands. It cannot

¹ In Sir Robert Atkyns' history of the county, and subsequent books, another passage in the Survey has been supposed to relate to Clifton; and the above was overlooked, perhaps, because the name had been spelt, by clerical error in that instance, Cliston.

The Survey mentions "In Chire and in Clifton, x hides." (fol. 163) which seem by the context, but it is by no means clear, to have been acquired by the abbey of Corneilles in Normandy. This is supposed to refer to Clifton and Shirehampton—but I think rather to Clifton (upon Teme) and Clir (Kyre), which, with other lands thereabouts, are mentioned in the Register of Worcester, as having been unjustly wrested from the see by the Danes in the time of King Ethelred (Mon. Angl., orig. ed. I., 128). If so, this passage is strangely misplaced in the Survey, and the 10 hides registered as if parcel of the royal lordship of Westbury (on Severn, *not Westbury-on-Trym*). Shirehampton would rather have been 'Hampton' than "Shire," had it been mentioned in the survey.

be told now, whether in remote times there had been a community here with equal share rights over the arable fields, the common of pasture, the meadow down by the river, and the waste; or, whether from the first there had been a proprietor or lord, with dependants. •

Clifton, we learn from the Survey, had belonged to King Edward the Confessor, and was held of him by Sewin the reeve ('provost' 'prepositus', the Norman scribe wrote) of Bristow, with the special privileges of being non-resident if he chose, and of not making any return in the way of rent, or providing a night's entertainment, or rendering any share of the produce of the land as "*feorm*."

I do not think this estate belonged to Sewin in his official capacity as burgh-reeve of Bristow, but it may have been a royal reward for special service, or even an estate of inheritance. It seems to have been held of the King rather than of the crown. Sewin had privileges which "freemen" did not usually enjoy, for in the Survey we read of two who held two hides in Barton (Regis) of that royal lordship, but yet were *not free* (!) to leave their lands and retain possession, which was just what Sewin was at liberty to do, if he liked. Of course the estate was subject to Danegeld, and was rated for this tax at 100s. Sewin, however, if non-resident, would have a bailiff here, and the inhabitants and lands were in his time, no doubt, much what they were when the Survey described them. The dwellers were of three classes, but none of them free to move out of the manor. The lowest grade the serfs (*servi*), were the servile labourers on the demesne, who, would pass in transfer with the land, they and their children, like the cattle. The villans, a name introduced by the Normans, were *originally* the farm servants of the Roman *villa*. The bordars were rather so called because they were tenants of cottages '*bords*,' than because they provided the lord's table, '*board*,' with poultry, eggs, and the like, as Bishop Kennet and others have supposed. There were 6 *bordars* here, and they had two ploughs, with which, no doubt, they worked 'the field' of the township.

The villans and bordars were represented long after by the copyholders of the manor. The town shepherd and the neatherd belonged to one of these classes.

At some remote date, the surrounding waste or "no man's land," between this township and the neighbouring ones, was being lessened gradually—except, of course, on the river side—as more land was required for the wants of the increasing community, until it was, at last, necessary to define those limits where they *met* their neighbours; thus, 'metes and bounds' were naturally developed, and then mutually determined by old trees, or stones, and other lasting memorials. The neighbours, in this case, were the tenants of Henbury—a member of the Bishop of Worcester's great lordship of Westbury—and the men of the township of Billeswyck, afterwards included in the bounds of the liberties of Bristow, probably, in the time of Henry II., when the abbey of St. Augustine was founded in this suburb. The boundaries of the township have remained, probably, for ages unaltered, and are described as:—down the river Avon, from the Sandbrook to "Walcame," or rather Walcombe Slade, as "the gully" was, in former days more appropriately called, *i.e.*, the slippery path through the combe of the (hot) well. Then up the combe and over Durdham down, as still indicated by merestones, to a spot indicated by a remarkable hawthorne, and thence to a merestone between the chapel of St. Lambert and the king's highway. This chapel must have stood somewhere not far from the "Black Boy," and a few cottages were on the road-side. The boundary then followed the road towards Bristol, as far as "Smockacre," where it crossed over the fields, from the White style to "Dedystone style," on the road from Bristol to Clifton then along the road, westerly, to where it separated from Woodwell lane—which the boundary now followed down to the river—past the wood-well or St. Jacob's-well, and, side by side with the "Sandbrook," which was, no doubt, mainly the overflow of this spring.

It appears, at the date of the Survey, that Clifton was in the hundred of Swineshead, but these component parts of counties

were afterwards much simplified; and when this was done this parish must have been transferred to the hundred of Barton Regis.

It seems in 1085-6, the commissioners learnt from the jury of the hundred and others, that a manor, by name Cliftoe, was then held of the king, by one known in the neighbourhood simply as "Roger fitz Ralf," a Norman beyond all doubt, and himself or his father the grantee. He was returned, also, as holding another manor in this hundred, but no one appeared to give either its value, or even its name, which makes it very clear that the possessor himself was not present, even the name of Clifton was a subsequent interlineation. This, it seems, was the whole estate held *in capite*¹ by Roger, who was, probably, a younger son of Ralf de Berchelai (Berkeley), and if so, therefore nephew of a very important and trusty personage in this county, namely, Roger de Berchelai, who, besides having acquired a considerable estate of his own, farmed the King's Barton near Bristol, and also the great royal estate of Berkeley, of which he was provost, and where he resided. There is no evidence that the elder Berkeleys were a "Saxon family" as Smythe styles them. The probability is they were not; but as no local Norman name has been used by any of the family we cannot tell where they came from. But Roger de Berchelaico and Rissa, his wife, were about this time benefactors to the Abbey of St. Martin d'Auchy, near the town of Aumâle, in Picardy, giving vestments, a silver chalice, a golden cross, and two bells, besides other things (Archæologia, vol. 26, p. 359.)

Roger fitz Ralf, we find, resided at Clifton, for he kept 3 plough-teams in demesne, therefore, the usual amount of arable for the oxen to work. There were also six villans and 6 bordars with two more teams. The 8 acres of meadow must have been down by the river in Rownham Meads.

The manor was rated at 60 shillings, 40 less than in the Confessor's day; showing that the country had not yet settled down, though nearly twenty years had elapsed since the Conquest,

¹ Roger, a vassal of Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances, lord of Bristol, may be the same person. He held lands of the bishop in Dodington, also in Somersetshire, among them, 7 hides in Long Ashton.—D.B.

and the land here was not fully cultivated. The Survey does not speak of a church here, or a priest, or a wood. The silence of the record is not always proof. The advowson, however, is spoken of in the next record, so the township had become a parish. Whether Roger left heirs or not, cannot now be discovered; nor what relationship, if any, the next recorded possessor of the manor bore to him. This was William de Clifton who gave the advowson to the Abbey of St. Augustine, recently founded in the immediate neighbourhood by the local magnate of the time Robert fitz Harding.¹ We may reasonably suspect, from his goodwill to the institution and its founder, that William de Clifton had espoused, like him, the side of the Empress, with the Earl of Gloucester, in the recent struggles.

This gift was confirmed to the canons by his son and heir, John de Clifton,² but he, too, was dead before 1168; for by the Black Book of the Exchequer, we find Elias de Clifton, who will have been John's brother or son, then returned by William, Earl of Gloucester, as holding of him 3 knights' fees of the old feoffment, that is, he or his ancestors had held the same, at least, from the year and day when King Henry was alive and dead, namely, Sunday, 1st Dec., 1135; but nothing it appears had been added since.³ We thus learn, that in the time of Henry I., Clifton had become parcel of the honor of Gloucester. The services of some of the lesser tenants *in capite* had, it would appear, been transferred to the Honor, when it was formed in endowment of the earldom, created by Henry I. for his natural son Robert. The three knights' fees, held by Elias de Clifton, we find, by a later document, were lands and manors in Clifton, and Radstock, and Easton-in-Gordano, in Somersetshire.

Elias died before 1199 and left an heir, who being a minor, his wardship had been purchased by William la Warr, but he

¹ Abbey Reg., quoted by Fosbrooke (fol. 18, 23), preserved at Berkeley Castle.

² *Ib.* fol. 25.

³ Liber Niger Saccarii (fol. 70), Hearne's ed. altera. I., p. 162.

dying that year his son Thomas la Warr, fined 40 marcs to have the further custody of the lands and heir until of age.¹

From the la Warrs, who were a rich Bristol family, related to Robert fitz Harding, sprung a baronial house and the founder of St. Bartholomew's hospital in Bristol. This heir was Roger de Clifton, who, as "lord of Clifton, and son and heir of Elias," gave, by charter, to the Canons of St. Augustine, common of pasture in his manor of Clifton, and all the water courses between the croft and the house, which Adam his bailiff held, as far as the hill, and all the courses which were upon (or led to) the Canons' conduit at Wodewell, towards the hill, which they were at liberty to draw to their conduit from his land at Clifton; also liberty to have stone from his quarries at Clifton, to build anything within the abbey gate, provided they did no injury to his arable land or wood² By this very interesting document, we find that the Canons had already their water supply from a conduit on the Brandon hill side of Woodwell lane; but that the amount of water, it would seem being insufficient, they thus obtained licence to divert additional water courses from the other side of the road. The Sandbrook, no doubt, being greatly diminished by this abstraction. At this date, the woody and rocky valley, from this point down to the river, with its lane, side by side, with a lively brooklet and springs, must have been very picturesque; how different now!

At the top of the lane, near the old road from Bristol to the village of Clifton, must have stood the house of Adam the bailiff, close by the old quarry (now a closed burial ground), whence, probably, the stone was to come, which the Canons were at liberty to take.

The successor of Elias de Clifton, his son, probably, was Ignatius de Clifton, who, on the vigil of the Annunciation, 1239, was one of the witnesses of the important Covenant, made between William de Bradstone, Abbot of St. Augustine, and Richard

¹ Excerpt. e Rot. Fin. I., 29, Rot. Cart, p. 25.

² Abbey Reg, fol 212.

Ailward, the Mayor and the Commonalty of Bristol, whereby the former agreed to sell that part of the Canon's marsh required for the proposed new channel for the river Frome.¹ But four years before, Ignatius appears to have been already in possession of the manor, for he gave to the hospital of St. Mark, at Billeswyck, then recently founded, a messuage, curtilage, and also a fountain of water, to be brought through his land, whither the brethren pleased.² When an inquest or survey of the honor of Gloucester was made, about this time, it was found that Ignatius de Clifton held 3 knights' fees of the same, in Radstock, Eston, and Clifton.³ All else I have discovered about him, is, that in 1269, with Maria, his wife, he gave half-a-marc for an assise, to be taken before the justices *in itinere* in Devonshire, and a writ issued to the sheriff of that county.⁴ Before this date, however, it seems the manor of Clifton had passed into the hands of Sir John St. Lo, of Newton St. Lo; for being dead in 1254, the custody of his heir and lands was granted to Master Roger de Cantelupe.⁵ In 1275, we find a jury of the burgesses of Bristol, saying, in answer to one of the inquiries being made by certain royal commissioners, "that Roger de Cantelupe, formerly 'custos' of the manor of Clifton, twenty years ago, made there a certain warren, where the men of Bristol were accustomed to enjoy the right of common for the working cattle, by giving two-pence for each."⁶ These were the oxen used in plough-teams and other farm work. It appears this warren had

¹ Seyer's Memoirs of Bristol, vol. II., p. 19.

This was the first time the Bristol people attempted to straighten either of their rivers. The old course of the Frome, before this alteration, is rather doubtful, but Seyer, who discusses the matter at length (chapter XII.), is, probably, correct in saying, that the old tradition known to Will. Wyrcestre, of the river having previously flowed by the line of St. Stephen and Baldwin Streets, is unlikely. The old river, no doubt, had been turned eastward by the hill on which the abbey stood, and this was cut through for the new channel. Previously, this hill seems to have been a gradual slope into the marsh, as far as the Merchants' Hall, as indicated in the map. The spur of St. Michael's Hill, opposite, probably, also caused another bend in the river.

² Barrett's Hist. Bristol, p. 367.

³ Coll. Top. et Gen. 2, p. 169.

⁴ Excerpta e Rot. Fin. II., 489.

⁵ lb. II., 197.

⁶ Rot. Hund. I., p. 177.

been illegally enclosed in 1255. It was the result of these investigations which provoked the more famous *Placita de quo Warranto*.

Sir John St. Lo, who died in 1280, was the heir who had been a minor in 1254. There is nothing to say about him, in connection with Clifton, nor of his son, Sir John, who died in 1313.¹ The latter was the father of a fourth Sir John "Seyntlo," who, in 1346, obtained from Edward III. a charter of freewarren in Clifton (Newton and Publow, as well.)² He was one of the knights of the shire for the county of Gloucester, 1319 and 1322, but in the next parliament was returned for Wiltshire. His wife was Joan, sole child and heiress of Alexander Cheverel, of Maiden Newton in Dorset, who was 26 years old, and already married to him when her father died in 1310.

Their son and heir, Edmund, although a priest and parson of Backwell, in 1375, obtained from Richard II, in 1382, a new charter of free warren in Clifton, Newton St. Lo, and Publow, also Maiden Newton.³ When he died, I have not discovered, nor whether Sir John St. Lo, his brother, outlived and succeeded him; but the three surviving daughters and co-heirs of the latter inherited the manor of Clifton among the rest of the property, and it was held by their descendants in undivided thirds. It appears, by the fine of 1509, that the lands in Clifton, held by the lord of the manor, amounted to 300 acres of land, or arable, 60 acres of meadow, 100 acres of wood, and 200 acres of pasture, or two-thirds, nearly, of the area of the entire parish, namely, 910 acres. No mention is made of a capital messuage, or manor house; but there can be no doubt the de Cliftons resided here, if not the St. Los. The wood was, apparently, in that part still called "Clifton wood."

¹ Collinson's account of the St. Los, of Newton St. Lo, in Somersetshire, is here followed without verification. Among the Additional Charters in the British Museum, may be found a few of their deeds. This Sir John's seal bears a shield with a bend, and label of 3 points; Sir John, his son, as appears by his seal, used a label of 5 points. The name is derived from St. Lo in Normandy.

² Cal. Rot. Cart, p. 179.

³ Rot. Pat. p. 2, m. 4.

To return to the three daughters and co-heirs of Sir John St. Lo, who inherited thirds of the manor. The two elder, Joan and Ela (with Elizabeth, another, who had died young), had been found in 1361, Alice, their mother, being then dead, to be co-heirs also of their maternal grandfather, Sir John de Paveley, of La Broke, Westbury, Wilts, and then respectively aged 11 and 6 years. The third and youngest daughter of Sir John St. Lo Elizabeth, was by the second wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir John de Clevedon, junior, of Clevedon.

The esneey, or eldest sister's share of the manor fell to Joan, who married first Sir John Chideock, of Chideock, in Dorset. After his death in 1391 (14th R. II.), she re-married John Rache; and they levied a fine of one third of the manor *and advowson* to Sir John Moigne, 15th R. II. He died seized of this third in right of his wife in 1410 (11th H. IV). She, however, survived till 1423, when her grandson and heir, Sir John Chideock, succeeded to this third, the further descent of which is obscure, and so unlike the second daughter's share, which we will now trace.

Ela, born in 1355, was first married when young to Thomas de Bradstone, grandson and heir of a Gloucestershire baron, and ward to Queen Philippa, and of the same family as an abbot of St. Augustine, who has been incidentally mentioned before. The Bradstone arms:—Arg., on a canton, gu., a rose or—may still be seen in a window of the Cathedral. He, however, died in 1373, when just of age, but Ela had a posthumous child by him, a daughter and heiress, married to Sir Walter de la Pole, nephew of Michael, first earl of Suffolk. Ela married, secondly, Sir Richard Seymour, lord Seymour, by whom, who died in 1401, she left three sons, Sir Richard, Sir John, and Nicholas. Ela survived him also, and by her will, dated 28th Nov., 1409, desired to be buried in Stavor-dale priory, near her lord.¹ Her son and heir, Sir Richard Seymour, died the same year, but an only child and heiress was posthumously

¹ A rough tracing of Ela's seal is given in Drummond's Brit. Families, 'Percival,' with the arms of Seymour, quartering Lovel, impaling St. Lo, quartering Paveley, with this circumscription:—"Sigillum Elac de Sancto Mauro domine de Castlecari."

born to him in the house of Thomas Cressy, citizen and mercer of London, in Cripplegate, 23rd July, 1409.¹ She was named Alice, and was married to William, 5th lord Zouche of Harryngworth, but at that time her uncle, Nicholas Seymour, it seems, was holding the manor of Clifton under some settlement, or for a term of years. This third is, therefore, not named in the Inquisition held on the death of Lord Zouche, in 1463, but Katherine,² the widow of their son, lord Zouche and Seymour, held it in dower after the death of her husband, 8th January, 1469. Their son John, lord Zouche, aged then 8, was attainted, though a very young man, by Henry VII., in 1485, for his adherence to Richard III., even to the Battle of Bosworth. His honours and estates were declared forfeited at the same time, and the third of Clifton, among other lands, was granted to William Willoughby; but in 1509, after he had been restored to some of his estates by Henry VIII., soon after his accession, he, by the style of "John Zouche de Zouche, knight," being seized of one third of the manor of Clifton, and one third of 300 acres of land, 60 acres of meadow, 100 acres of wood, and 200 acres of pasture parcel of the manor of Clifton, with the appurtenances, conveyed the same to John Brook, and Joan, his wife, by fine, dated on the morrow of the feast of St. John the Baptist, 1509. This document closed the existence of this third, as will be seen, and we return to the share of the third daughter and co-heir of Sir John St. Lo.

Elizabeth married William de Botreaux, of Cornwall,³ who died seized of this share in her right 25th May, 1394, aged only 26, nor did she survive him many years. They, however, left a son, William, born 20th February, 1390, who was summoned a baron by writ, from not long after he came of age until 1461, a space of nearly 50 years. We find this nobleman as "lord of Clifton," allowing the claim of the master and brethren of the hospital of St. Mark, at Billeswyck, to common of pasture for a bull, six

¹ Prob. *Æt*: Claus. 2nd H. VI., m. 12.

² She died 1471. Inq. p.m. 11th. Edw. VI., No. 40.

³ For pedigree of the Baronial family of de Botreaux, see Sir John Maclean's *Hist. of the Deanery of Trigg Minor in Cornwall*: Vol. I., p. 641.

cows, and twenty-four sheep within the manor.¹ The seal of this rich and fortunate baron shows he used as supporters 2 *buttresses*, evidently in allusion to his name.² He died 16th May, 1462, aged 72, leaving by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of John lord Beaumont, K.G., an only daughter and heiress, Margaret, then more than 40, and wife of Lord Hungerford, but I cannot find that any interest in the manor of Clifton descended to her, though on the old church tower, built, apparently from the style, about this time, were two shields, one bearing the arms of Hungerford, 2 bars, and in chief 3 roundels; the other, "an eagle," but quere if not rather a griffin, the coat of Botreaux.³ The advowson of Clifton, which so many years before this had been given to the abbey of St. Augustine, about this time was acquired by John Carpenter, bishop of Worcester, a great benefactor to the collegiate church of Westbury-on-Trym, his native place, and by him given to it, with certain lands in this parish, which were styled a manor.

The manor, however, afterwards appears to have been in the hands of lawyers or lessees. William of Worcester, the early topographer, of Bristol, writing apparently in 1480, says ".....Broke, lord Cobham, is lord of the villule of Clyffton;" and Dallaway, his editor, in a note states that the "manor was afterwards granted to Sir John Chokke, the Chief Justice."⁴ I cannot prove the correctness of either statement. From William of Worcester's most interesting, but desultory note book we get the first particulars about the hermitage and chapel of St. Vincent, but so far as I am aware, the exact site is now unknown, and, unfortunately, our venerable topographer is rather vague. We gather, however, from his memoranda, besides the dimensions of the buildings, taken when he was there, Sunday, 26th Sept., 1480, that they were erected on some platform of rock in Ghyston cliff—about two-thirds of the way up, or 40 fathom above low water, or 124 steps, or thereabouts—and reached by a steep path from below. He speaks of a certain rock of Ghyston cliff, called "Breke faucit," standing out in the river and very dangerous to the navigation;

¹ Barrett, Hist. Bristol, p. 367. ² Archæol. Journal., Vol. X., p. 335.

³ Bigland's Glou. Collections. ⁴ Dallaway, Itin. W. of Worcester, p. 56.

as being "a bow shot from the rock and chapel of St. Vincent, towards Bristol."¹ "Ghyston cliff begins near the houses of Rownham passage,"¹ he says, "and extends to the hermitage and camp;" afterwards, he speaks of the camp as "not more than a quarter of a mile from Ghyston cliff."² Some site above the houses called the Colonnade, seems indicated by these statements.

There are, probably, some documents about the hermitage to be found in the Registers of the bishops of Worcester.³

Returning after this digression to the history of the manor. We find, in 1470, one third, probably Chideock's, in the possession of a wealthy citizen of Bristol, named Richard Amerycke, who had also been purchasing large estates in Somersetshire. However, by charter, dated the last day of August that year, he conveyed the same to John Broke and Joan, his wife, and the heirs of John, remainder to the right heirs of Hugh Broke. This John was a lawyer, and Joan, his wife, was one of the daughters and co-heirs of Richard Amerycke, who died 9th June, 1501. About this time, many shared lands with the involved interests of co-heirs, and entails were brought up by lawyers. John

¹ It seems the Canons of the abbey desiring a nearer way, than by Bedminster, to the Manor of Leigh, given them by Robert fitz Harding, established the passage of the river at Rowham, to which point there, no doubt, existed a bridle road from "Lymotes." The Canons must have obtained a grant or licence for this from the lord of the manor. This passage remained in the possession of the Canons until the dissolution, held as parcel of their manor of Blacksworth, in Kingswood. Rowham, probably, signifies the weedy, or stubby enclosed pasture (Rowen-ham.) All the lands the Canons ever seem to have had in Clifton were three acres-and-a-half, given them by Abbot Burton (1534-7). Barret, p. 309 n.

² Itin., W. of Worcester, p. 47 and p. 57.

³ The wooded heights with the umbrageous valley between, on the other side of the river, opposite the rocks, and so well-known in connection with Clifton, were in the Middle Ages possessed by two religious houses of Bristol. As early as the reign of Henry III., Alexander de Alneto, of Long Ashton, gave "Burwalls, on Ashton cliff," to the Hospital of St. Catherine at Bedminster (Collinson's Somerset, vol. II., p. 290). In the reign of Edward III., Edmund de Lyons, of Long Ashton, granted "Stokeleigh" to the abbey of St. Augustine. The camp on the northern headland bears this name still, and Nightingale Valley was formerly called Stokeleigh Slade (ib. p. 291). All this seems little known, though in the County history.

Broke was son of Hugh Broke, named above, the 8th son of Sir Thomas Broke, of Holditch court and Broke Ilchester, by the heiress of Cobham, in Kent.¹ Dallaway tells us "Canynges place," in Redcliff street, was the residence of John's father.

After the death of his father-in-law, from whom he had in right of his wife, the manor of Ashton-Philips, and other estates in Somersetshire, he bought another third of the manor of Clifton of Sir John Zouch, in 1509, conveyed by a fine as before mentioned; but the year previously, by charter dated 12th December, he acquired of John Oldemixon, demesnes, lands, and tenements in Clifton, held of the king as of the honor of Gloucester, at a rent of 7 shillings per annum, but worth £10, which, possibly, was the remaining third, or part of it, but not so stated. John Oldmixon, was of an old Somersetshire family, taking their name from Oldmixon, near Weston-super-Mare, where they remained long after this date. I believe it was the last family "of that ilk," as the Scotch say, in Somersetshire.²

John Broke, who thus became, apparently, lord of the entire manor of Clifton, was, as we learn from his brass, chief steward, or seneschal of Glastonbury Abbey, a serjeant-at-law to Henry VIII., and a justice of assize in the western circuit. He died on Christmas day,³ 1525, and was buried in the chancel of St. Mary Redeliff, where his brass remains, representing him in the robes of a serjeant-at-law; also, until recently, the arms of Cobham and Brook, quarterly, with a crescent for difference, as well as Brook impaling Americk, viz.—Paly of six, or, and az. on a fess gu. three mullets arg. It is worthy of remark here, that the Brookes, as well as the Cobhams, are notable for their patronage of the Memorial Brass artists. The very spacious chancel of Cobham church, Kent, is literally covered with their brasses; there is, also, a fine one in Thorncombe church, near Axminster, to Sir Thomas

¹ Glover's Ped. Harl., MS. 645.

² In Ealing ch., Middlesex is a Monument to the last of the family—the son of the historian, "George Oldmixon, Esq., of Oldmixon, who died 15th May, 1779, æt. 63."

³ Inq. p.m. says 26th Dec.

Broke, and Joan, his wife, the rich widow of Robert Cheddar, of Bristol.

It will be recollected that Sir John Oldcastle, the ill-fated Lollard, was one of the husbands of the heiress of Cobham, but not the father of her only child who married Sir Thomas Broke.

On the 25th September, 1526, an inquest¹ was held, after the death of John Broke, by the king's escheator for the county, pursuant to a writ of "diem clausit extremum," at "Barton Hundred, near Bristol;" as to the lands in the county of which he died seized. The return is very full, and most of the particulars about the manor of Clifton have been derived from it. The jurors say Thomas Brooke is his son and heir, and aged 36. Another inquest as to his lands in Somerset had been already taken at Bridgwater, on 16th September. Besides Thomas and two daughters at least, John Brooke left Arthur Brooke and Sir David, afterwards Recorder of Bristol and Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

Under the terms of the settlement and entail, John Broke's widow, Joan, succeeded to the two-thirds of the manor of Clifton, as well as to the lands acquired of John Oldmixon. And it appears, by the inquest after her death, taken at Chipping Sodbury, 11th Dec., 1539, that she died seized of this estate on the penultimate day of September, 1538; Hugh Brooke being her grandson and heir.² Hugh Broke was the son and heir of Thomas Broke, who had died in his mother's lifetime, on 9th December, 1537, seized of lands in Long Ashton, Backwell, Portishead, and other places in Somersetshire, by Joan, his wife, daughter of Sir John Speke, of White Lackington, who had died on the 3rd November preceding her husband's death. By two inquisitions, taken at Keynsham, on 20th March, 1538, Hugh, was found the heir of his father and mother, and then 22 years of age, and upwards.³

¹ Inq. p.m., 15 H. VIII., No. 85.

² Inq. p.m., 31 H. VIII., No. 37.

³ Inq. p.m., Thome Brooke, Arm. 29. H. VIII., No. 24—Inq. p.m. Johannæ Brooke, nuper ux., Tho. B. defuncti. A Thomas Broke, was sheriff of Bristol, 1512; mayor, 1526.

Hugh Brook lived at Lower Court, in Long Ashton, died in Feb. 1588, and was buried in the parish church, where there is a monument to him without inscription, over which, says Collinson, "hang his helmet and gloves." I have not found any inquisition after his death ; but he left four daughters and co-heirs, who, with their husbands, severally sold their shares in Ashton Philips manor, about the end of the century, to Sir Hugh Smyth.

"*Three-fourths*" of the manor of Clifton, held of the Honor of Gloucester, by military service, and rent of £3 6s. 8d., were held by Andrew Whittington, gent. on the day he died : viz., 2nd May 1634 ; as we find by the inquisition taken, after his death, at Axbridge, on 18th Dec., following ;¹ but how acquired, I have not been able to discover ; but, probably, the shares of three of the above named co-heirs, and purchased from them. The heir was his son John, æt. 18.

Andrew, resided at Ivythorne, in the parish of Street, Somersetshire, and descended from a branch of the old Gloucestershire Whittingtons, originally of Whittington, near Cheltenham, of which was Richard, *four* times Mayor of London.

I have no further information about the history of the manor, but as the Society of Merchant Adventurers of Bristol, have been in possession for more than two centuries, it was, without doubt, purchased by them not long after this date.

At the dissolution of Monasteries, the manor and lands in Clifton, belonging to the College of Westbury, were, with it, granted by Henry VIII., to Sir Ralph Sadlier and Ellen, his wife, and the heirs and assigns of Sir Ralph, by letters patent, dated 24th March, 35th year (1544), to be held as the 20th part of a knight's fee, and 20s. rent for Clifton rendered at Michaelmas. Sir Ralph was a man highly favoured by fortune, he had been in the employ of the commissioner, Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, and obtained grants of the lands of other dissolved religious

¹ I owe this to Coles' "Escheats" in the British Museum, and discovered in that useful abstract, by means of the index to places. The original return in the Record office, is illegible from decay and damp.

houses; the site and lands of the Hospital St. Lawrence, without Lawford's gate, Bristol, among the rest. Henry VIII. appointed him master of the great wardrobe, afterwards a member of the privy council and secretary of state. He was made a knight banneret at the battle of Musselburgh, in 1547. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, we read of him as custodian of Mary, Queen of Scots, when at Tutbury Castle, in 1585, and of being reprimanded for allowing her to go out hawking—sport, in which it appears, he himself, had great delight. He built a fine house for himself at Stondon, in Hertfordshire, where he died, aged 80 years, 2 years after. In 1546, he obtained an act of parliament, to legitimatise his children by Ellen Mitchell, "his wife," who had been a laundress in the service of Cromwell, his first patron; Matthew Barré, her former husband, being found to be alive.¹

Sir Thomas Sadlier, his eldest son, succeeded to this estate, and died 5th January, 1606, leaving a son and heir, Ralph Sadlier, who, about 1659, sold the manor to Frances Chamber, widow. She subsequently married John Good, of Clifton, whose two sons, John and Arthur Good, sold it, in 1668, to Gabriel Deane, of Bristol, merchant, and Abel Kelly; and their descendants, sold the manor and manorial rights—retaining the lands—to the Society of Merchant Adventurers of Bristol.²

All public sources of information have not been exhausted for this paper, and many interesting particulars may yet be found by diligent research at the Record office. The Subsidy Rolls would give the names of the inhabitants at various dates. The institution of the vicars or curates, and, probably, some licenses referring to the chapels and hermitages, must be among the diocesan records at Worcester.

There are also, without doubt, charters, court rolls, and other ancient documents in the archives of the present possessors of the manorial rights, which, it would be desirable to see printed in the Transactions of this Society.

¹ See portrait of Sir Ralph, pedigree, and other particulars, in Clutterbuck's Herts. III., p. 226. Barrett's Hist. of Bristol, p. 539; and life, by Sir Walter Scott.

² Hand-book of Clifton, by A. J. Knapp, p. 14.

As to the old parish church, entirely removed in 1822, we learn from Bigland's Historical, Monumental, and General Collections for the County, that it was dedicated to St. Andrew ; consisted of a nave and two aisles, rebuilt in 1654 ; but that the old tower remained, and had on it two shields, one, with two bars and, in chief, two roundles ; the other, an eagle displayed. From a drawing in Skelton's Etchings of the Antiquities of Bristol, this tower was evidently an ordinary Perpendicular one, of, say, the latter part of the 15th century, and may, very probably, have been built by Margaret, Lady Hungerford as has been suggested in this paper. Bigland gives the monumental inscriptions in the church and churchyard, but none of them are of any interest or antiquity. He also states that "the parish register is a very fair manuscript, commences in 1538, and has been since kept with laudable accuracy." On the first folio, was the memorandum of the metes and bounds of the parish ; quoted in this paper. The first volume of the register, however, is now only an old attested copy of the original, and was given to the parish by a Mr. Skelton, of Oxford.

In the accompanying map, I have indicated the old paths which led to the church, from the four corners of the parish, but as I had no ancient Survey to guide me, I was not able to put in any more detail, such as sub-divisions of the land. The portion of Bristol included, is shown as it was previous to the Reformation, with the help of William of Worcester's most curious note book.

In former days there were two routes to Clifton from Bristol, by Frome-gate, the only exit from the town on this side. However, the more usual one, taken by those on horseback was, after passing through the dark, narrow, long vaulted archway of the gate, and by the west end of the hospital church of St. Bartholomew, instead of keeping straight on through Hore Street, they turned sharp to the right at the angle of the garden of the Carmelite Friars, where the image of the Blessed Mary stood, up Stype Street, so called from its abrupt rise. Turned to the left at the top, leaving on the right the cross and well, the chapel of the Magi, or the three kings of Cologne, the Maudlin Priory, and the parish church of St. Michael just above it, with its holy recluse.

Took the rough terrace road up the "stony hill" side, called by William of Worcester¹ "Stanley," where there would be a fine view of the town over the abbey and priory, which lay beneath, the famous gardens of the latter coming up to the wall of the road. Reaching the top of the slope, the road bore over the high ground, leaving, some distance to the left, the outlying peak, with its chapel and hermitage of St. Brendan, standing on the summit, bleak and lonely; then dipped into the head of the woody valley, met Woodwell Lane, and mounted the hill side to Clifton Church.

Those who took the other route would go to the end of Hore Street, which was the only way to the abbey, the priory, and St. Mark's Hospital, pass the priory church, with its spire, then round by Pipe Lane, down through Frogmere Street and Frog Lane, where there are a few ancient houses yet remaining, then by the path over Brandon Hill, some distance below the hermitage to the Conduit of the Canons, opposite St. Jacob's Well. Crossing Woodwell Lane, and passing on the right the stocks which stood till lately, ascend the steep path by Clifton Wood to the church.

¹ The author of this paper, and those of some of the other papers in this volume, had written the name of this old author as "William Wyreestre," but for the sake of uniformity and to avoid an appearance of pedantry, we have, throughout, adopted the more usual form of "William of Worcester." He would seem to have been a native of Bristol, and wrote his own name "W. Wyreestre," without the "de," and speaks of *W. Wyreestre pater meus*; moreover, Dallaway, his Editor, quotes a deed, dated as early as 1368, of W. "Wyreestre," glover of Bristol.—ED.

PEDIGREE—ILLUSTRATING THE DESCENT OF THE MANOR
OF CLIFTON.



