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St. Briavel's Castle (addendum)

by J. Maclean
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- TRACY CATCHMAY (of Bigswcir), Esq.
 1692. JOHN HIGFORD, Esq.
 GEORGE BOND, Esq.
 1702-10. SERGEANT POWLETT
 ROYNON JONES, Esq.
 1710-36. RICHARD MACHEN, Esq.
 WILLIAM JAMES (of Soilwell), Esq.
 MAYNARD COLCHESTER, Esq.
 1736 55. WILLIAM JONES, Esq.
 THOMAS JAMES, Esq.
 TOMPKINS MACHEN, Esq. (1741)

ADDENDUM.

The following Notes will be read with interest in connection with Lanthony Abbey, as well as with Milo Fitz Walter, the probable builder of the Castle of St. Briavels. They were communicated to the "Transactions of the British Archaeological Association at the third Annual Congress, held at Gloucester, in 1846," by the Rev. LAMBERT B. LARKING, the eminent Kentish Antiquary, under the following title :

NOTES ON THE MONUMENTS IN LANTONY PRIORY, FROM A MANUSCRIPT
 IN THE SURREDEN COLLECTION.

The following is transcribed from a thin folio paper manuscript book, in the Collection of Sir Edward Dering. The book consists of a Miscellaneous collection of similar records, burials in monasteries, pedigrees, church notes, etc., and seems to have been a sort of common-place book, in which are entered different notes picked up out of old monastic registers, cartularies, etc.,—of which monuments Sir Edward was an enthusiastic collector ; and he lived at a time when they were scattered about—easy of acquisition. The following notes were probably transcribed from some such registers ; whether they have ever been printed, or the original be still in existence, I know not.

THE NAMES OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE CHURCH OF OUR BLESSED LADY
 IN LANTHONY, WHICHE AR DEPARTID (*sic.*) THER.

Milo, the founder of the chyrch of our blessid Ladi of Lanthony w^houte Gloucester, Erle of Hereford, Lord of Brecon, and of all the fforest of Done (Dene), and also Constable of Englund, lyithe honorably in the middist of his Chapter-house of Lauthon aforseid.

At the head of the scade Milo are buried three of his sonues,—Roger, that is to sey his first begotten sonne, Erle of Hereford, Lord of Bricone, and of the forest of Done, also Constable of England,—in the myddill.

And nighe unto hym, on the right hond, lyithe Henry, lys Brother, Lord of Bricone, and of the Forest of Dene, and also Constable of Englonde.

And of the left hand, lyithe Michell, lord of Bricone and of the fforest of Done, and also Constable of Englonde.

Nyghe to Milo, the ffounder, of his ryght band, and at foote of the seid Henri, lyithe Sibbil, wiff of the seid Milo, which, after the deth of the seid Milo, did entre into Religion in the house of the seid Lanthon.

On the ryghte hand of the seid Sibbil, lyith the right worshipfull matron of Lanthon, ladi Margaret, the furst begottin daughter of the seid Milo, whiche was married to humfre of Bohun, whiche had the erledom of Hartford, and Constableshepe of Englonde, and lithen buried at the fote of the seid Sibbil.

Of the over honde, lithen Luce, the thyrd daughter of the seid Milo Erle.

Nyghe unto the veri foundre, Milo, on his left honde, and at the fote of the forseid Michell, lithen Humfre of Bohun, the iiijth, sonne and heire of the forseid Margaret, Erle of Hereford, and Constable of Englonde.

Nyghe to Humfre the iiijth, aud of his left honde, lithen Henri of Bohun, sonne and heire of the forseid Margaret, Erle of Hereford, Essex, and Constable of Englonde.

At the fote of the seid Humfre, the iiijth, lythen Maude, Doughter of the Erle of Ewes, in Normanni, first wiff of the seid Humfre of Bohun.

At the fote of the seid Maude, lithin Elionor of Brewis, Ladi and heire of the land of Bricon.

At the head of Earl Roger aforeseid, sonne of Milo, a littill within the the Chapter-howse dore, lithen Robert Braci, Prior of the Church of Lanthoni, the first.

Nyghe unto the forseid Robert, of hys right hond, lithen the Ladi Alice of Touny,¹ doughter of Humfre of Bohun the Vth

And nyghe to the forseid Robert the Prior, of his left hond, lithin Henri of Bohun, Knight, sonne and heire of the Erle forseid, and Brother of Humfre the Vth

At the fote of the seid Sibbill, nyghe vnto Henry, lithen Humfre of Bohun the ixth, sonne of Humfre of Bohun the viijth

In the middill of the Quier before the hye alter, lithen Humfre of Bohun, he second lord, Earle of Hereford and Essex, lord of Bricon, and Constable of Englonde.

Nyghe unto hym, of the left hond, lithen Maude of Avenbury Counte, wiffe of the seid Humfre the second.

Of their sowles, and all cristen, our Lord have merci upon. Amen.—

Whether or not Milo de Gloucester was the builder of the Castle of St. Briavels would seem to be uncertain. Milo was the son of Walter, Con-

¹ She was the first wife of Roger de Tony, of Flamstead, &c. Mar. Contract dated 23rd Henry III. (1239). He died 1265. Inq. p. m. 48th Henry III. No. 28. See Fed. of Tony, Hist. of Trigg. Minor, Vol. I., p. 65.

stable of England, who is said to have built the Castle of Gloucester upon his own demesne lands, and to have built also the Castles of Bristol, Rochester, and the Tower of London,¹ a man of great power and influence, at first with Henry I., afterwards with Stephen, and subsequently with the Empress Maud. Henry I., in 1121, granted him in marriage Sibella, the daughter and heir of Bernard de Newmarch, Lord of Brecknock.² On the arrival in England of Maud, he abandoned the cause of Stephen, and, together with Robert, Earl of Gloucester, her brother, adopted that of the Empress. It is stated by Dugdale³ that in the 4th Stephen (1139), when Milo received the Empress in his Castle of Gloucester she bestowed upon him the Castle of St. Briavells and the whole Forest of Dene, and that in 1141, upon the capture of King Stephen at Lincoln, by charter dated at Oxford, on the feast of St. James the Apostle, she created Milo Earl of Hereford, and gave him the Moat and Castle of Hereford, to hold to him and his heirs; and that in the same year she granted him the Castle and Honour of Abergavenny,⁴ and many other honours and lands.⁵

Milo died on Christmas Eve, 1143, leaving, by his wife, Sybil, five sons, Roger, Walter, Henry, Mahel, and William who died s.p. in the life-time of his brother Henry; and also three daughters, of whom Margaret married Humphrey de Bohun; Berta, Philipp de Braose; and Lucy, Herbert Fitz Herbert.⁶

It would appear from Dugdale's statement that the Castle of St. Briavel's existed at the time the Forest of Dean was granted to Milo, and, consequently, if Milo were the builder it must have been erected in the reign of Henry I., and for that king.

Of course the grant of the Earldom made by Maud was not recognized by Stephen when he regained his authority, and probably the grant of St. Briavel's Castle and the Forest of Dean was treated in the same manner. Dugdale states that Roger succeeded his father to the Earldom. In one sense this was so, for the Charter of the Empress was confirmed to him, after his father's death, in 1143, by Henry II. It would seem, however, to be clear from the charter of the last mentioned king, granting to Roger, Earl of Hereford, all the fee of Milo his father, and all the fee of Bernard Newmarch that the Forest was then in the king's hands for he granted to Roger all the lordships which the King's grandfather, Henry I., held "inter Sabrinam et Waye, in Gloucestrisire, excepto castello de Sancto Briavello et villa de Neweham, et foresta de Dene."⁷ Roger is stated in the peerages to have died in 1154 (1 Henry II.) but this is inaccurate, for he was alive in March, 1155, and described as Earl of Hereford, and it is stated that though previously disaffected, he placed his Castles at Gloucester and

¹ Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I., p. 357.

² Charters of the Duchy of Lanc., Deputy Keeper's Report, No. 31, p. 2.

³ Baronage, Vol. II., p. 537. The authority quoted by Dugdale is the Great Register of the Duchy of Lancaster. This Register is now in the Public Record Office, and consists of two Volumes known as "The Great Cowchers," but no such grant can be found therein. It is, however, supposed that there was formerly a third volume, but of which there is no certain record.

⁴ Charters of the Duchy of Lanc.—Dy. Keeper's Report 31, p. 2.

⁵ Dug. Bar., Vol. I., p. 537.

⁶ Banks' Baronage, Vol. III., p. 354. Dugdale, Vol. I., p. 357.

⁷ Carte Regis, Hen. II. Appendix II., to the Reports on the Dignity of a Peer of the Realm, 1829.

Hereford at the disposal of the King.¹ He also attested a charter to Mereval Abbey, on 7th July following,² and another in favour of the borough of Wilton, between the latter date and September,³ but we do not find him mentioned afterwards. He married Cecilia, daughter of Pain Fitz John, and died s.p.

On the death of Roger, his surviving brothers are stated to have succeeded to his inheritance, though Henry II. retained the Earldom in his own hands.⁴

Walter de Hereford, brother of Roger, was Sheriff of Gloucester, in 23rd Henry II., and he attested a charter to Woburn Abbey on 2nd Feb., 1156,⁵ and Matthew de Hereford, supposed to be the same as Mahel or Michel, was present at the Council of Clarendon, in January, 1164.⁶ We do not know the date of the death of either, but we find that in 1175, William de Braose, junior, slaughtered a host of unarmed Welshmen in Abergavenny Castle, in revenge for the murder of his uncle, Henry de Hereford.⁷ It will be noticed that in neither case is Walter, Matthew, or Henry, described as Earl of Hereford, which confirms the statement of Dugdale, and agrees with the document under notice, though there is no evidence that the sons of Milo held the lordship of the Forest of Dean. Nicholls states⁸ that the Royal quit-rents of the Forest were, in 5th Stephen, granted to Lucy, 3rd daughter of Milo, upon her marriage with Herbert Fitz Herbert, and that the Fitz Herbert interest was released by Henry de Bohun to King John.⁹ He quotes no authority for these statements, and we have been unable to verify them, and inasmuch as Herbert Fitz Herbert had issue by his wife Lucy, we see not how Henry de Bohun, grandson of her sister Margaret, could have inherited her lands; and it is said by Dugdale,¹⁰ citing an old MS. which, in 1640, was in the possession of Sir Hamon le Strange, of Hunstanton, Knt., that for some transgression Herbert granted and quit-claimed the whole Forest of Dene to Henry II. Henry de Bohun is shewn as Constable of the Castle in the foregoing list (p. 360).

The early History of the Forest is an obscure page of Gloucestershire history which deserves to be cleared up.—ED.

1 Itinerary., Hen. II., p. 9. 2 Ibid., p. 11. 3 Ibid., p. 12. 4 Dugdale's Baron., vol. I., p. 17. 5 Itinerary Henry II., p. 17. 6 Ibid., 67. 7 Ibid., p. 191. 8 Forest of Dean, p. 8. 9 Ibid., p. 10. 10 Monasticon Ang., Vol. I., p. 557.