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Additional Notes on the Manor of Daglingworth

by H. Barkly
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of the heirs of Sir H. Poole, and Allen Lord Bathurst bought it of the family of Sir Robert Atkyns.

The following very interesting remarks on the Bluet family have been sent to me since the meeting by the President for 1886-7, Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B., &c.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE MANOR OF DAGLINGWORTH.

By Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B., G.C.M.G. (President).

The Bluets do not appear among the Domesday Tenants *in capite*, but the surname is ascribed to Ralph, one of the feoffees of William de Ow, in Hampshire, viz: "Ipse Will^s (de Ow) tenet Silcestre in Holsete Hundred et Radulfus (*sic*) de eo Alestan tenuit de rege E. in alodium," &c., &c.

Later records prove that it must have been this same Ralph who held Hinton (Blewett), in Somersetshire, and Lacham, in Wiltshire, under William de Ow. It is not so certain that he was the Ralph who held under him at Duntisborne, in Gloucestershire, but it is probable enough.

This Ralph Bluet speedily acquired a direct holding from the King, for we learn from the Cartulary of St. Peter's, Gloucester, that, in the reign of Rufus, he gave or confirmed to that abbey the manors of *Rodley* and of *Bulley*, in the Forest of Dean. It has hitherto, I believe, escaped notice that both these manors belonged at the date of the Survey to *Walter Balistarius*, whose heir therefore Ralph had in some way become. Most probably he had married his daughter, but it is at least possible that Walter, whose profession alone is indicated, was Ralph's father or uncle.

It is noteworthy, at any rate, that besides the foregoing manors Walter held that of Frampton (Cotele), the only one of the possessions of the great Saxon thane, Alestan of Boscumbe, which had not gone to William de Ow. It had presumably been assigned to Walter by Earl William Fitz Osbern, William's predecessor in most of his estates, and the presumption that there was some connection between the Earl and the Military Engineer

(as Mr. A. S. Ellis renders *Balistarius*) is strengthened by our finding in Domesday that the latter had received a grant near to the Castle of Striguil, as well as a tract of waste land lying between the Usk and Wye rivers. Both the latter, there is reason to suppose, passed to Ralph Bluet.

After William de Ow was put to death for treason in 1093, his forfeited possessions were divided, and, for a time, the Bluets had more than one overlord. The Honour of Striguil was given by Henry I. to a younger branch of the De Clares, with whom their relations must have been friendly, since we know that in the reign of Henry II. Richard fitz Gilbert granted the Manor of Raglan to Walter Bluet to be held as one Knight's fee.¹ Probably this was rather a confirmation than a grant, for some time previously a Walter Bluet had confirmed to the Abbey of Lire in Normandy, for the good of his father's soul, all the lands, &c., which William fitz Osbern had given it in the Vill of Ragtham, and in his charter, which is addressed to all his homagers (*hominibus*) French, English, and Welsh, no allusion is made to the Clares.

According to a paper in the Journal of the British Archaeological Society, Vol. X., for 1854, by Mr. Wakeman, the Walter who got Raglan from Richard Strongbow was "one of the younger sons of Bloet, of Lacham, in Wilts, and Silchester, Hants, whose elder brother Ralph held the Manor of Langstow, in Monmouthshire"—near to Newport, on the Usk. No authority, however, is given for this statement.

Some of William de Ow's fees in Gloucestershire are stated by Sir Robert Atkyns to have been given to Gilbert, Marshal of the King's household;—Badgworth and Down Hatherley being specially named, though it would seem probable that all his lands in Gloucestershire and in Wiltshire were included. Whether Daglingworth had at that time been severed from Stratton is uncertain,—but it probably was so during the reign of Henry II. There is no truth in Atkyns' assertion that in the grant of free warren from Edward I. to the Ralph Bluet of that day, his ancestor Ralph Bluet is admitted to have held the manor in this

¹ Pat. Roll, 1st Henry IV.

King Henry's reign, nor does the scandal to which the same historian alludes—connecting the monarch's name with that of Sir Ralph Bluet's wife, rest on better authority than Speed's ;—but that the family held it under the Marshals some time before the close of the 12th century seems beyond doubt. Owing, however, to the strange chapter of accidents, whereby William, the younger brother of the Marshal of the Household, became, through marriage, before 1189, with Isabel, daughter and heiress of the last Strongbow Marshal of England, possessor of the whole re-united estates of William de Ow, the clue is lost just prior to the period when records as to tenure become generally accessible, and all we learn then amounts to no more than that both Lacham and Daglingworth were held by the Bluet family of this William when shortly afterwards created Earl Marshal.

Since writing the foregoing, I have found at the Record Office the Register of Godestow, referred to by Dugdale in the *Monasticon*, which he supposed to be the original from which the English translation, now preserved in the Bodleian Library, was made in the reign of Edward IVth. for the use of the nuns.

It contains, under the heading "Daglingworth," eight copies of documents, which suffice to establish the identity of that Vill with the Dantesborne held by William de Ow at the time of Domesday, and to place beyond doubt that the Ralph who then held it of him was the first Ralph Bloet.

I append copies of the most important of these, in the order in which I believe they ought to stand.

No. 6 "Ecclesia de Daglingworth."

Johanni dei gratia Wigornensi episcopo et Archidiaconis suis et decanis, Radulfus Bloet, et Mater ejus, et fratres sui. Salutem et filialem dilectionem. Notum facimus nos concessisse Monasterium de Dantesburne, Deo et S^{cte} Marie et S^{cto} Johanni et Conventui Godestowie in elemosinam, quod Monasterium de meo patrimonio et de meo feodo est, et precamur pro amore Dei ut hoc concedatis et eos inde scisiare(ri) precipiatis, q(uia) ibi p̄suimus quendam sororem nostram ad serviendum Deo et S^{cto} Johanni."

John (de Pageham) to whom the Bloet family thus appeal, was consecrated Bishop of Worcester on 4th March, 1151, and died at Rome on 31st March, 1157 (Le Neve's Fasti). The petition was no doubt necessitated by the fact that Godestow was in another diocese, that of Lincoln.

No. 1 "Carta Radulphi Bloet de Daglingworthe" }
 No. 2 "Carta Radulphi Bloet de Dantesborne" - } folio 27

"Notum sit omnibus tam futuris quam presentibus quod ego Radulphus Bloet dedi et concessi Deo et S^{cto} Marie et S^{cto} Johanni Baptiste et Ecclesie de Godestowe et Sanctimonialibus ibi Deo servientibus.—Ecclesiam meam de Daglingworthe (in No. 1) de Dantesburne (in No. 2) cum omnibus suis pertinenciis in perpetuam elemosinam pro salute animæ mee et predecessorum meorum liberam et quietam ab omne seculari servicio. Hiis testibus—Matheo Archidiacono Gloucestriæ, et capitulo Cyrencestræ in quorum preseneia hæc donacio facta fuit, et Roberto de Meisi Roberto de Euerci et Giffardo fratre ejus, et Ricardo Capellano, et Reimbaldo Clerico et Martino Capellano et Thoma Clerico de Godestow Adamo Michel Ricardo de Valiniis et fratre Nicolao.

These two Charters agree verbatim, excepting that the one speaks of Daglingworth, the other of Dantesborne, and as the witnesses to both were the same, they were presumably executed simultaneously, in consequence of some doubt as to which Dantesborne had been previously given by this Ralph or his father. Mathew became Archdeacon of Gloucester at some time after 1155, and died in 1177, but it must have been in the latter year that he was present in the Cirencester Chapter, for it is stated in a subsequent deed (No. 8), by Ralph Prior of Worcester, that it was during the time that he ruled over that diocese in the stead of Bishop Roger, who is known to have gone to Rome about that period on a mission to persuade the Pope of Henry II.'s non-complicity in Beckett's murder, and to have died abroad in 1179.

What rights the Chapter of Cirencester possessed over the church we know not. The monastery of Dantesborne appears to have existed in Saxon days, and may have been a Prebend of the Collegiate Church of the adjacent town.

Down even to the Dissolution the abbey had an interest in the parish, for an annual customary rent of nine shillings, as well as £3 a year from the ferm of pasturage, at Daglingworth, are included in the "Computu Ministrorum" (*Dugdale*, Vol. IV. p. 182).

The other charters are, No. 3, confirmation by Walter Bloet of his brother's gift of Daglingworth (the name of Duncesborne is henceforth dropped): No. 5, confirmation by Mauger, Bishop of Worcester (1200 to 1212), of the charters of both Ralph and Walter: No. 4, confirmation by William Bloet of Daglingworth, of the Church of Daglingworth, as given by his uncles Ralph and Walter. This must have been executed after the final concord in 9th Henry III. (1225), between William and Felicia Abbess of Godestow, a copy of which is entered later on in the register, the original still remaining among the Gloucestershire Fines at the Record Office. (*Pedes Finium*, Glouc., No. 80)

The only other document is an agreement between an Abbess of Godestow and John de Gundeville, Clerk, who is to serve the Church of Daglingworth for a stipend of one bezant and two shillings; but in case he relapses this agreement is to be void, and the Abbess is free to revive all the complaints she had before against him!

This shows that the nuns did their best to administer the patronage properly, and renders it probable that they still had a Cell at Daglingworth.

H.B.

THE ADVOWSON.

The Advowson of the Church was held by the nuns of Godstow for many centuries before the dissolution of the monasteries. Since that time it has been held by the crown. At the time of the visit of the British Archaeological Association to Daglingworth in 1869, the following extract was read by Mr. Blashill from a MS. in the Bodleian Library (Rawlinson MS., B. 408, fol. 152 b):—