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The History of Kempley Manor and Church, Gloucestershire

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THE HISTORY OF KEMPLEY MANOR AND CHURCH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

BY W. ST. CLAIR BADDELEY.

THE name Kempley appears in the Norman Survey as *Chenepelei*. In the twelfth century, when the foreign scribes had learned more fully the valuations of O.E. consonants, it was spelled *Kempelee* (F.F. a. 7 Rich. I.) and *Kenpelege*; later still, in "Feudal Aids," it was written *Kempelege*, and *Kympeley* (1331). The origin of it may be found in an unrecorded A.S. personal name *Cyneþa*,¹ and the meaning is the pasture-land of *Cyneþa*. The full original form of the name, then, must have been *Cyneþanleah*.

In the Confessor's day Eadric (Eadric) and Leuric (Leofric) seem to have been joint owners of the manor, as also they were of Winestone (*Winson*), and separately of several other Gloucestershire estates. Twenty years later (toward the date of King William's demise), Roger (second Baron of Lasci, near Bayeux), eldest son of the great Baron, Walter de Laci, is found by the Survey to be in the possession of Kempley, together with twenty-six other manors, constituting part of his princeley territory, the de Laci *Honour*. This shows that he had just inherited these from his father Walter, who had died of an accident at Hereford, March 27th, A.D. 1085.

The Norman Survey reveals some rather surprising facts with regard to Kempley (cf. *The Domesday Survey for Gloucestershire*, by Rev. C. S. Taylor, M.A.). Its total acreage

¹ I take this occasion to correct the version of the derivation (printed through an oversight in proof-reading) in my *Place-Names of County Gloucestershire*. The A.S. *y* alone can give the vowels *e*, *u* and *y*, hence *Cenapa*, which is only a nom. sing. for *Cnapa* (like *Canute* for *Cnute*), should have given *Knapeley* not *Kenpeley* or *Kempeley*.

extended to 1800 acres, and all of those were cultivated. The lord had three teams of oxen there, and the tenants had twelve. There were likewise twenty-four male inhabitants, including seven bondmen, seven bordars, and ten villains. No mill was there, and no priest. Moreover, the manor was worth £1 less than it had been in 1066, it having then been valued at £5.

All this shows that the area had long been cleared of wild wood and was regarded as a productive property. But Roger de Laci did not enjoy his possessions long. Rebelling against William Rufus, he had the misfortune to be captured in 1088 by Bishop Wulstan, of Worcester, and his estates, saving the Manor of Halhagan, in Worcestershire, were transferred by the king to his brother Hugh, who held them until his own death in 1121, when he was buried at Ewyas Harold.

It was probably during the latter's ownership that the church was built at Kempley, although the paintings which decorate the chancel may date from some few years later. Hugh de Laci, who was a marked favourite with Henry I and his hospital-building queen, was a devoted church-builder. The abbey which he built at Llanthony in Wales, was consecrated by Urban, Bishop of St. David's, and Reinelm, Bishop of Hereford, in 1109. Meantime, he had completed St. Peter's Priory at Hereford, wherein his father lay buried, and his younger brother, Walter, was a monk in Gloucester.

It may be mentioned here that it is possible the two bishops who were depicted right and left of the chancel east window, standing within painted niches, may have actually represented the above, his two friends. Kempley lay within the Diocese of Hereford, and at that date the Bishops of St. David's were Metropolitans. It is equally possible, and perhaps rather more probable, that the two figures of lay dignitaries, one on the north and one on the south wall of the said chancel, may have been intended for Walter de Laci

and Roger (or perhaps Hugh himself), and painted to commemorate their piety. But, though it is difficult to surmise who else these could have been, neither of these probabilities is susceptible of proof, and must remain only surmise.

During the fourteen remaining years of the reign of Henry I, until 1135, Kempley and most of the de Laci barony was probably in the hands of the king, the rest of it in those of Pain FitzJohn (d. July 10th, 1137), Sheriff of Salop and Justiciar, who had married Hugh's niece, Sybil, mother of Cecilia, Countess of Hereford, and of Agnes de Monchensi.

The manor, some thirty years after Hugh de Laci's decease, came into the hands of Gilbert (killed near Aleppo, 1163), his fighting nephew, a son of his sister Emma. After 1163 it descended to his son, another Hugh (killed 1184), the fifth baron, of Irish fame, and Lord of Meath, and it remained in the de Laci family until the death of Walter de Laci, sixth and last baron, in 1241.

Some ten years prior to the latter date, the family of de Miners is shown by the Testa de Nevill to have held half a fee of him in Kempley. This included, as we shall see, the advowson of the Church of St. Mary.

If we turn to the Feet of Fines (v. ii, p. 77), Richard I (1195-6), we find that a final agreement concerning certain hereditaments was reached in the court at Westminster (November 17th), before the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of London, Rochester, Hereford, Ely, William de Longchamp, and others, between *Geoffrey de Longchamp*, demandant, and *Walter de Baskerville*, tenant. The main matter in it concerns the entire estate of *Emma de St. Leger* (mother of *Geoffrey*), both in England and in Normandy. This will show why and how the de Miners heiress Isabel and her husband, who presently (after 1232) gave the advowson of Kempley Church to the Hospital of St. Katherine at Ledbury, became possessed of it.

For the lands of Emma de St. Leger included the

Gloucestershire villis of Kempley and Cold Aston, which most probably had constituted part of her dower with her first husband, Hugh de Longchamp, whose mother was (it is considered certain) a de Laci (see pedigree), and possibly a sister of Gilbert, fourth baron. But it is clear, from the document above referred to, that she had married Walter de Baskerville of Eardisley, co. Hereford, after the decease of de Longchamp (before 1194), and that she owned land¹ in the vill of St. Leger, in Normandy. Moreover, it is seen that this Walter received certain lands of hers with her, which he now returned to Geoffrey, and that Walter acknowledged all these lands to belong by right to Geoffrey. Further, Geoffrey quit-claimed Walter in the matter of Eardisley (co. Hereford), which Walter had mortgaged to Roger Boin (? a Jew). And for this quit-claim, acknowledgment, and agreement, Geoffrey gave Walter thirty marks of silver.

Thus Kempley was part of the heritage of Geoffrey de Longchamp, son of Hugh de Longchamp and Emma de St. Leger. The said Hugh was brother to William de Longchamp, the famous Chancellor to King Richard; the Bishop of Ely (d. January 31st, 1197), who figured in the above court at Westminster, and their mother (the grandmother of Geoffrey) is believed to have been born a de Laci. This accounts for Kempley with its advowson coming to the de Longchamp family. Together with Wilton, or part of Wilton, therefore, it was an endowment which had been granted by a de Laci to a near relative.

To return to Geoffrey. It was some years after the date of the aforesaid agreement that he wedded Isabel, daughter of Henry de Miners² and Agnes, his wife, whom

¹ Ten librates, besides land at Kincomt (query Kiningmont) and Faningcort.

² Son of William de Miners, nephew of Gilbert de Miners, a knight of Margaret de Bohun, 1166, and perhaps of Roger de Myners, to whom Henry II gave Westbury Manor for the service of a Soar Hawk or XX shillings rent yearly (Placita Q.W. an. 15 Edw. I, n. 17d.).

we find enclosing land at Westbury-on-Severn in A.D. 1200 (Rot. de Oblatis, p. 78). The two families had been probably long intimate, for we find Hugh de Longchamp and William de Miners witnesses to a *confirmatio* of Hugh de Laci, 1163-85 (cf. *History of Ewyas Harold*, by Canon A. T. Bannister, Hereford, 1902, p. 54), son of Gilbert, to the monks of Ewyas Harold, of a right of pasture in his forest of Maischoit (1163-85).

In 1207 Geoffrey was indebted to Henry de Miners¹ for 39 marks (Rot. de Fin. 385), and in 1217 he had seizin of Westbury (Ex. e Rot. Fin. 1.4, and Rot. Claus. 2 Henry III, m. 4). He had signed Magna Charta, and thus was included among *inimicos Regis Johannis*, in 1216 (Rot. Litt. Claus. 241-6), but in the following year he returned *ad fidem*. We hear next of his wife, Isabel, on May 30th, 1223, when, with the consent of Geoffrey, she granted to the monks of Winchcomb, in return for receiving fraternity, one yard-land, value 2s., in Hatherley, held then by Roger de Bois, by inheritance. The witnesses were Richard de Miners, Alexander de Greinville, Richard and Robert de Boys and John Folliot, parson of Sherborne (cf. Landboc of Winchcomb, 1.161).

Roger de Bois² owed fealty to Henry de Miners, Isabel's father, who in his earlier confirmation of the charter of Roger's land at Hatherley (L.B.W. 1.159) calls him *homo meus*. The Fee there was held of de Miners; Roger, therefore, was his homager. From the Pipe Roll, p. 2, a. 22 Henry II, we find that *William de Miners* had the custody of Hatherley, with the daughters of Roger de Troilli, of the fee of Earl Richard (de Clare), and returned 10s. to the sheriff.

Geoffrey and Isabel de Longchamp presently gave sixteen

¹ Died 1216-17.

² His sister, Liana de Hatherley, left with her body also her land at Hatherley to Winchcomb Abbey. Cf. L.B.W. 1.156.

acres and a manor in Cold Aston¹ to the same Abbey of Winchcomb for the benefit of their ancestors' souls, with the service of Maud, the chaplain's daughter, the monks to pay 12d. a year for a light in Aston Church for all services, save the king's (L.B.W. 1.233). Geoffrey's step-father, Walter de Baskerville, we saw, had held this land at Cold Aston in 1195, no doubt in right of his wife, Geoffrey de Longchamp's mother. Isabel, in 1229, made grant of a quarter of a fee (or 10s.) in land at Culcreton, held of de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, to St. Oswald and to the Canons in Gloucester.

But these, their pious gifts, bring us back to Kempley; for in 1232 Hugh Folliot, Bishop of Hereford, founded the Hospital of St. Katherine at Ledbury, and Geoffrey de Longchamp seems to have lent his active patronage to the project from the first. He and Isabel, therefore, gave the advowson and rectory at Kempley to the hospital, and with these certain fields and tenements lying in that vill. Bishop Ffoliott later on arranged for the impropriation to the hospital, according to an Edwardian charter (Dugdale, *Mon.*, VI, 685), after the decease of Robert, the Dean-Rector, perhaps c. 1248. We learn that the incumbents there, from 1234 and onwards, were committed to pay one pound of incense to it.²

Five years later, in 1239, in an Agreement between William Maunsel and the Cistercian Abbey of Kingswood, we meet with this Robert, Dean-Rector of Kempley, and

¹ This was de Longchamp property, and had been the dower in part of Emma, Geoffrey's mother; but it was held by them from the heirs of Walter de Clifford, who had held it from the Bishop of Worcester, and the last from the king—a good instance of sub-in-feudation. In 1284-5 Ralph Pipard (d. 1309) held this fee from the heirs of de Longchamp. In 1346 Thomas de Dagworth held it, probably from the daughters of Ralph Pipard, respectively married to Edmund le Boteller and John Rodborough.

² I owe this last fact to the kindness of Canon W. Capes, of Hereford, as well as knowledge of a quit-claim of John, the vintner, of Kempley, 1286. Cf. *Charters and Records of Hereford Cathedral*, 1908, pp. 69, 73.

William de Miners acting as witnesses to it. Robert is shown by Swinfield's Register to have been already at Kempley in 1232 (see the List of Vicars appended, *Robert the Dean-Rector of Kempeley*); so that his life there was important, and it covered many years.¹

It is certain that before this time Geoffrey and Isabel de Longchamp had succeeded to Wilton Castle, where, no doubt, they chiefly resided. Henry de Longchamp, dying in 1204, had left a widow, Matilda, daughter of William de Cantelupe, and Wilton Castle, which was in the following year confirmed to his nephew, also Henry, and son of Hugh, who died 1212, leaving no issue. His brother Geoffrey consequently had then become his heir.

Linton and Wilton had (likewise with Kempley) originally belonged to the de Lacis, and they may have been given in equal shares, of the value of £16 10s. od., by Gilbert de Laci probably in 1155-6 to Gilbert Talbot and Hugh de Longchamp, both of them obviously his near kinsmen.² In 1179 the two fees were completely separated, Linton going definitely to Talbot and Wilton to de Longchamp. It was thus that the latter manor descended to Geoffrey and Isabel.³ Their daughter Maud later carried it in marriage to John, son of Henry de Grey, whose son Reginald thus became the first Baron Grey de Wilton.

In the Register of St. Katherine's Hospital (now in the Cathedral Archives at Hereford), occurs a Final Agreement

¹ The Hospital of St. Katherine at Ledbury, retaining the church, pension and tithes at Kempley, was cited to justify doing this. Nov. 12th, 1318. *Cf.* Orleton Register, f. 82.

² Perhaps the gift goes behind this date. The close connection of the de Lacis and Talbots remains, unfortunately, obscure. But in the *Gesta Stephani* (*sub anno*) the famous Geoffrey de Talbot is mentioned in 1138 as acting at Bristol with Gilbert de Laci *cognatus illius*, which might point to a sister of Hugh de Laci having been Geoffrey's mother. *Cf.* Rolls Series, *Chronicles of Stephen*, etc., iii. 38.

³ Isabella's two sisters, Elizabeth and Basilia (or Dulcia) married respectively (1) William de Gamage, (2) Pain de Burghill (co. Hereford).

effected before the King's Justices at Westminster in the Hilary Law Term of 1259 (a. 44 Henry III), between Adam the master of the hospital, and Reginald with his wife Maud (de Longchamp), regarding the advowson of Kempeley. From this it may be concluded that there had arisen a hostile suit to which this concord put an end. The hospital is forthwith to have and hold all lands and tenements in Kempley which it had hitherto held from the parents of Maud there, conceding, however, to Maud twelve acres, and all that portion known as Netherhell (? Netherhale), and giving Maud ten marks of silver. This looks as though there had been some encroachment on the part of the hospital which was now rectified honourably.

It must have been during Reginald, Lord Grey's lifetime as manor-lord of Kempley that the defensive western tower was hastily added to the west end of the church—probably c. 1281-3, when the Welsh carried fire and sword into Herefordshire, and captured Raglan. We learn from an Inquis. P.M. (April 21st, 1308) that Lord Grey held the Manor of Kempley by the service of half a knight's fee of Roger de Mortimer and Theobald de Verdon,¹ who represented their de Laci forebears. There was then at Kempley a certain capital messuage *with gardens* and ten acres of meadow, and a park of oak saplings; also forty-five free tenants, and ten *nativi*, or bondmen.

Reginald Lord Grey, first baron, became duly succeeded by his son John; second baron, aged 40 years or more. This perhaps gives us the approximate date of the marriage of Maud de Longchamp as 1252, with whom the de Longchamps personally seems to disappear from Gloucestershire history.²

We have, therefore, to picture to ourselves the old and now isolated little church and village of Kempley aglow

¹ Theobald de Verdon (d. 1316) married Maud, daughter of Edmund Lord Mortimer, and was son of John de Verdon (d. 1309) and Margaret de Laci.

² Their second cousins enjoyed the Lincolnshire estates of the family later in the same century. See Pedigree.

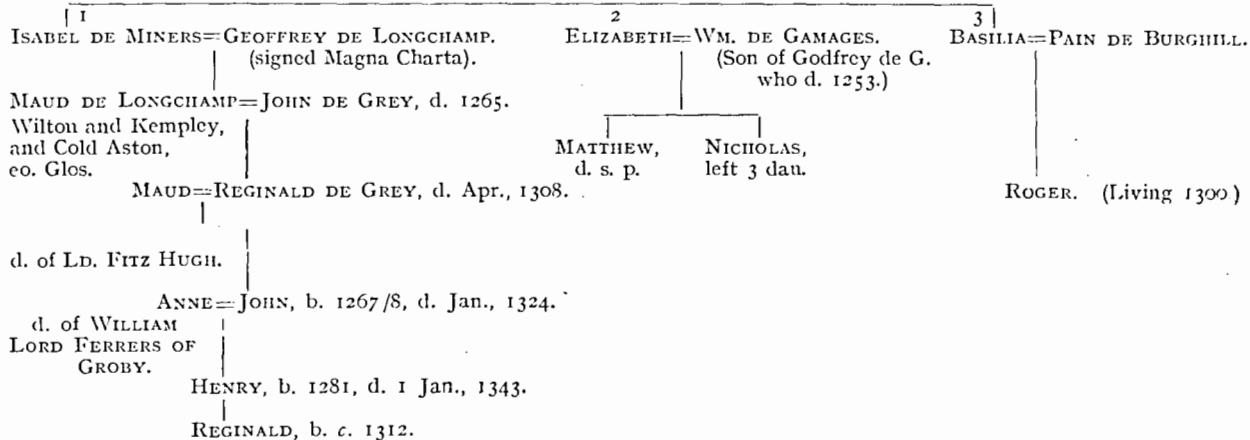
Pedigree.

DE MINERS.

Witness to a Confirmatio of Hugh de Laci, 5th Baron, to the monks of Ewyas Harold, 1163.
 WILLIAM DE MINERS, of Brenton, Co. Hereford = ? De Troilli.

HENRY DE MINERS=AGNES. . . . She married 2ndly Roger de Leybourn.

II. de Miners enclosed land at Westbury, co. Glos. Cf. Rot. de Obl., p. 78, and probably died *c.* 1217. He had held $\frac{1}{2}$ fee of the Honour of Brecknock, 1211-12.

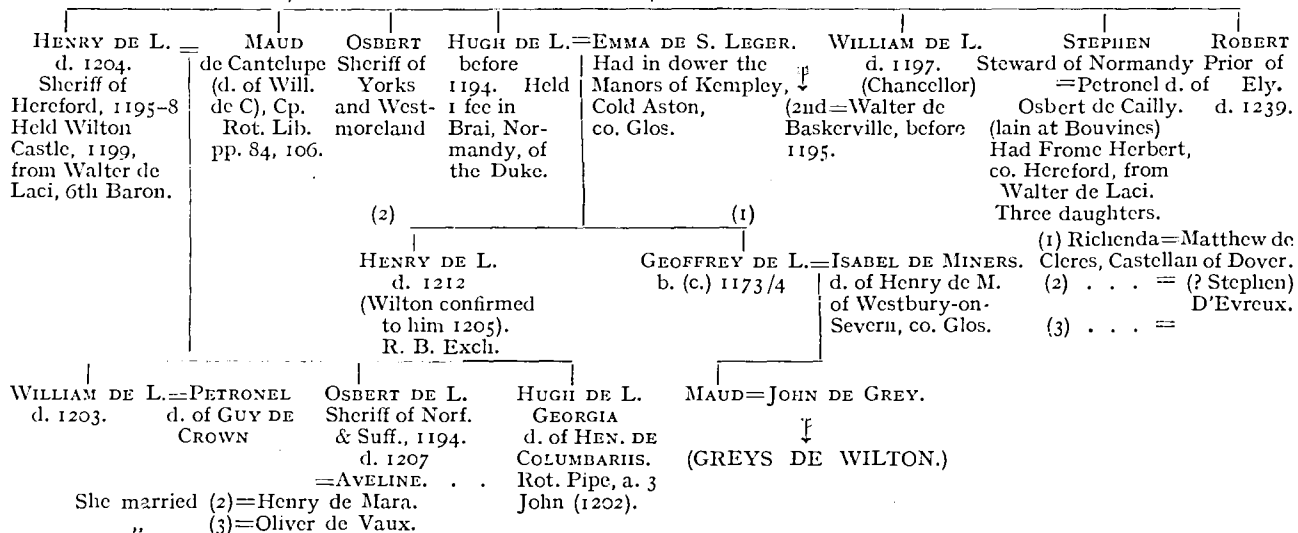


Pedigree.

DE LONGCHAMP.

HUGH DE LONGCHAMP = . . DE LACI.
d. c. 1197.

Held 1 fee at Wilton (co. Hereford) 1154, from Hugh de Laci, 5th Baron (d. 1184). Witness, with William de Miners, 1163, to a Confirmation by Hugh de Laci to the Monks of Ewyas Harold of a Charter granted by Gilbert de Laci, his father).



with its curious Norman paintings, with its neighbouring parsonage, a goodly manor house and gardens, and a small park. In 1286 occurs record of a quit-claim of John, the vintner, of Kempley.

Reginald Lord Grey de Wilton married Maud, daughter and heiress of William Lord FitzHugh, and left (besides a daughter Joan, married to Ralph, Lord Bassett) his son and successor to Wilton and Kempley, *John*¹ (who died early in January, 1324), "seized in his demesne as of fee of the Manor of *Kempleye* in co. Glouc., which he holds by the service of half a knight's fee of the king in chief" (I.P.M.).

"The capital messuage of the said manor with the gardens and dove-cote are worth per annum 44s. There are 200 acres of arable land, and they are worth per annum 40s.; also 8 acres of pasture, worth per annum 8s.; also 44 acres of wood, worth per annum 5s."

The sapling oaks of his father's day have grown into trees.

"There is there of rent of assise of the free tenants per annum £4 19s. 7d. at the Feasts of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Michael by equal portions. There are there 3½ lb. of *pepper*, price 3s. 6d., and 1 lb. of *cunmin*, price 1d., one pair of *gilt spurs*, price 6d., and one pair of *spurs*, not gilt, price 2d., at the Feast of St. Michael."

In 1308 the prices of these various rents received from the free tenants was but little different. The pepper was the same, the cunmin was ½d. instead of 1d., the two pairs of spurs were valued at 6d., and the total sum of rents £4 16s. 4½d.

The hospital at Ledbury continued to hold its fields and tenements in Kempley at a total annual value amounting in the fifth year of Henry VIII to £4 2s. 8d., which were looked after by its bailiffs. These included long leases and life leases of properties known there as Parson's-close or Parson's-field, Wodefyld, Marlay's-mede, Carters, Edwynes, Wodewardes-

¹ See Pedigree.

place, Edwardes-place (with Hall and Solar), Caterswalle, "near Robert de Bickerton's land at le vyntere street," Thynen-lype, Lecheholde, le Reye Wygge-broke, Mulfield, Bradbragge, Astfeld, Kenendersland, le Woddal-Parrocke, Cloterboke, Frerrecourte, Redole, Ffreynsshelond, Brademersshe, Akyrnburysesfeld, and long Parke. Some of the tenants are *nativi* or bondmen, others are *liberi* or free tenants. And of the latter we have the following names: Walter de Acorneburg, Richard Prancant (1324), John Geffray, Mathewe Edwyne, Isabella Janekyns, William le Holder, Robert Nicholas, fined (1331) for marrying a bondwoman of the Lord of the Manor; William Wygge, Margaret Nootes, John Whyttok, Hugh de Lynch, John Wodeward, John Goldhull (1370), Agnes Stutte (1381), William Ludby (1485), John ap Morys, John Elton *alias* Baker, William Wynyett (1514), builds a Hall and Solar at Wodewards-place; Edmund Willys, John Hooper (1555), Henry Webb (clerk), James Wynyatt, John Mayowe, Richard Milward, who "is to keep his hedge between Gloucestershire and Herefordshire in order or be fined xxs."

In 1343 Henry, third Lord Grey, died, having held Kempley from the Countess of March by the service of one-fifth of a knight's fee. The messuage is mentioned in an I.P.M. with its garden adjacent, worth 40s. per annum. The before-mentioned wood is still valued at 5s. The total rents, customary and free, amount to 50s., and the perquisites of the courts there were worth 40d. per annum. Reginald, aged thirty and more, is the son and heir. The latter was lord of the manor in 1399 (I.P.M. a. 22 Rich. II), and Feudal Aids give him also in 1402.¹

The manor continued in possession of the Greys of Wilton even to the time of that unlucky lord who held Guisnes, and was captured and kept a prisoner by the French (1552) until Wilton and Kempley and other manors of his barony

¹ "Reg. de Grey tenet de Rege *sine medio* in Kempelege." The de Lacis are extinct and represented by the king.

were sold or alienated to pay his ransom. The only temporary under-holder of the manor and the advowson of the church in the fifteenth century known to the writer was John Abrahall, Esq., in 1463-4,¹ when Roger Penley (or Penvey), and his successor, Thomas Balle, were vicars.

Few facts of interest relating to Kempley lands during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries have come down to us. In 1581 (23 Eliz.) a lease was granted by William Lord Grey de Wilton to one William Pigot of a site "whereupon in tyme past stode the Rectory or Parsonage of Kempley." There had been before the Court of Chancery two cases concerning land at Kempley in 1560. The one lay between Richard Hooper² (Pl.) and Tacye (*sic*) Hooper (Def.). In the other Margary Pyggot,³ widow of William, was plaintiff, and John Wood was defendant, together with Thomas Forthey.⁴

The Feet of Fines of 1600 shows that the manor had passed to Henry Fynche, Esq., in right of his wife, Anne Pigot (d. 1631), daughter of Henry Pigot, buried at Kempley. Her grandson, John Finch, sold it to Sir Thomas Howe. Soon after this it passed to Thomas Pyndar, of Duffield, co. Derby (about) 1680, who owned it until his decease, 1722. In 1693-4 he presented to the vicarage Rev. Sam. Birchett. In 1713 his son and successor, Reginald Pyndar, married Margaret, daughter and heiress of William Lygon, of Madresfield, whose son Reginald thereafter took the name of Lygon, and died December 25th, 1788, leaving William Lygon, who was raised to the peerage February 26th, 1806, as Lord Beauchamp of Powyck, from whom Earl Beauchamp, the present lord of the manor, is descended.⁵

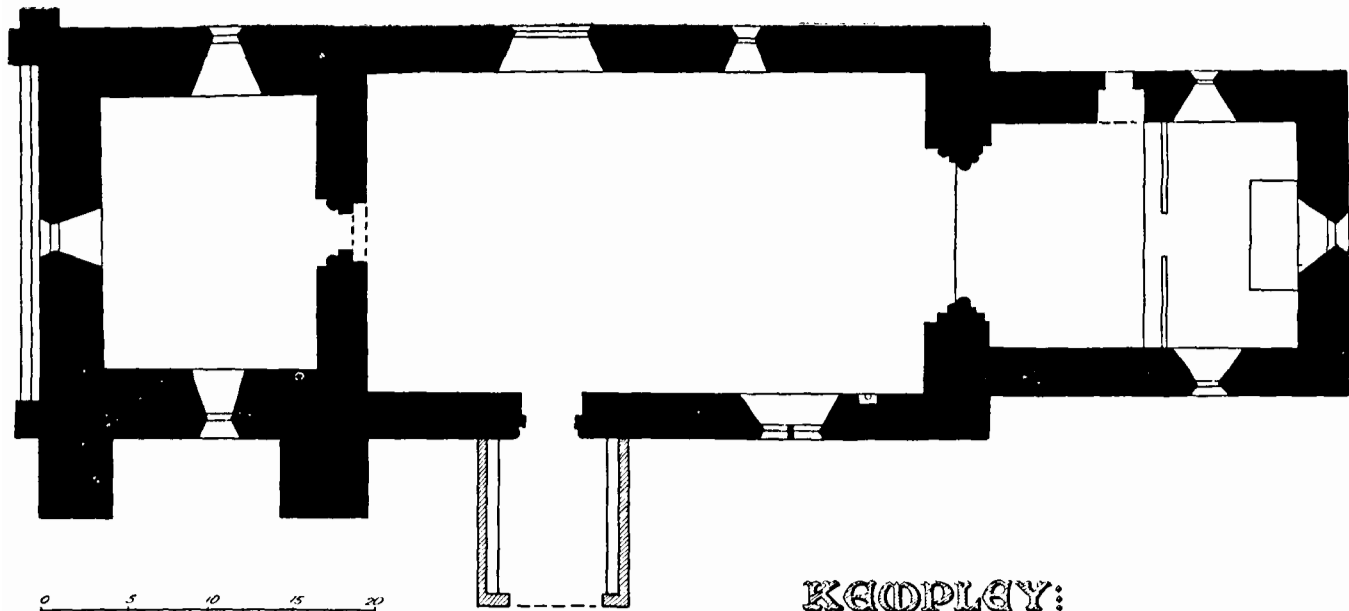
¹ I.P.M. But as we have seen that the advowson had been given to the hospital at Ledbury, it looks as though the holder of it must have represented that priory. But this was not so. The hospital had, doubtless, long ago renounced or sold the advowson.

² Cf. Early Chanc. Proc., Bundle 95, No. 37.

³ Cf. Early Chanc. Proc., Bundle 146, No. 22.

⁴ Cf. Early Chanc. Proc., Bundle 145, No. 1.

⁵ The seventeenth-century manor house is now a picturesque farm one quarter of a mile distant from the church.



THE CHURCH.

The Norman church, dedicated to St. Mary, at Kempley, exclusive of the west tower, extends in length but 55 ft., the nave accounting for 35 ft. 8 in., while the barrel-vaulted chancel is 19 ft. 10 in., the respective widths of these being 19 ft. and 13 ft. 8 in. It is, therefore, a small church, and it stands in low meadow-land surrounded by old fir trees; and the village, once near it, has long since retreated to a drier site half a mile away.¹ The late thirteenth-century tower, covering a plain Norman west door, has an interior measurement of 16 ft. by 13 ft. 4 in. From the thickness of the walls, from the height above ground of the deeply-splayed windows, and from the absence of any entrance door (save from the church), this tower was obviously built for defence. As it had been given (until 1913) no solid foundations to speak of, it is clear that it must have been run up in great haste, probably at the period of the Welsh rebellion under Edward I, when Herefordshire is known to have suffered severely. It contains two Edwardian bells² and one of the seventeenth century. In the north wall of the chancel (besides an aumbry) there is a priests' door (fourteenth century), while a late fifteenth-century door (long since walled up) discovers itself in the opposite or south wall. The east window is an unaltered Norman light, round-headed, and having a quarter-round moulding on the inner face of the frame; as also is the tiny north wall window. The fellow window in the south wall, however, has been slightly enlarged and given a trefoil head, and was otherwise altered in the early thirteenth century, the head of the splay alone remaining original.

The bold and well-preserved chancel-arch, of three

¹ The vicarage there was built by the late Professor Middleton in 1872.

² (i) *Dilige virgo pia quos congrego sancta Maria.*

(ii) *Jesu campanam tibi semper protege sanctam.*

(iii) *Thomas Felps, 1680. All prayse and glory be to God for ever.*

members, springs from original foliated caps, of a type which may be described as very debased Ionic-Corinthian, resembling those at St. Woolas, Newport. The mouldings used are the sunken-star on the inner, and chevron on the upper and outer member. All have been coloured in early days.

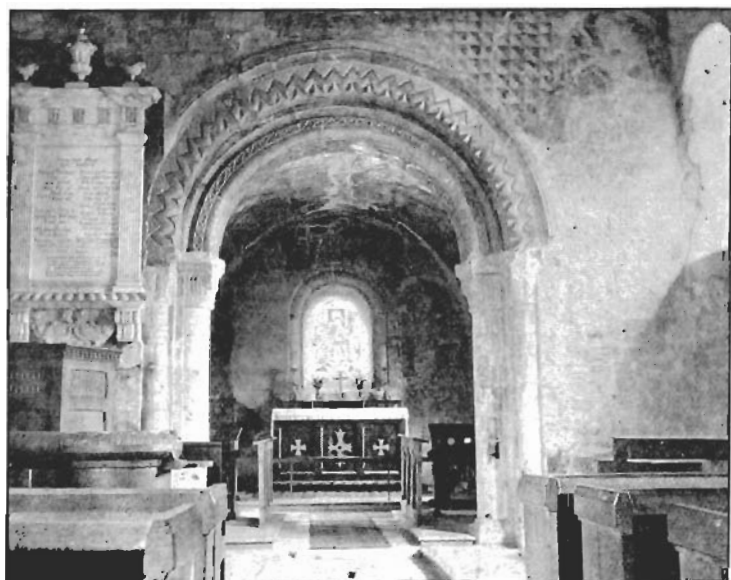
The south wall of the nave, towards the chancel, contains *in situ* a piscina with a trifoliate head, suggesting that an altar stood close by. High above it is an ugly eighteenth-century window, while between it and the Norman south door is a fourteenth-century two-light splayed window, with quatrefoil head-light. Over the Norman south door, which shows double rows of pellet and several of chevron moulding, is a tympanum like that at Dymock bearing a crude relief displaying a Tree of Life, resembling almost some archaic motif. There are the remains of a stone stoup in the east jamb of the door. The fine timbered porch dates from the fourteenth century.

The north wall is lighted by two windows, the westernmost of which is of very late character, and it has probably obliterated a much earlier one. The remaining north window is unspoiled Norman, and is deeply splayed. This window has but one small light. The roof (restored in 1670 and 1913) is of flat timber. The entire upper wall spaces north and south display oaken baluster (white-washed) "struts" throughout their length. One of these on the north side bears the initials T.H. (? Thomas Howe), 1680. One on the south side has T.T. (Thomas Taylor, d. 1684). The newest roof is inserted at ten inches above the level of the late one. North of the chancel arch stood formerly the *Pyndar* family pew, and on the east wall of the nave is set a marble frame monument of the same family. Above this is a door opening into the roof-loft in front of the chancel arch.

The west wall has above the door its original Norman west window, consisting of one round-headed unglazed splayed light, now opening, of course, into the first floor of the tower.



CHURCH OF ST. MARY (BEFORE REPAIRS).



CHANCEL ARCH (ST. MARY'S, KEMPLEY).

In spite of the lack of foundations (probably the fact was unknown to the constructors), a small steeple was perilously added to the tower at a debased period, and later crowned with a weather-cock. This, however, had the natural and disastrous effect upon the already weak structure, with result that it had to be much shortened (probably in 1731-2), and in 1824 it was finally removed.¹ The tower carries now a low pyramidal roof, recovered in 1913 with the fine stone tiles from Stow-on-the-Wold. The exterior, with several stepped buttresses, tells its tales of progressive settlement, and at the moment of the recent under-pinning there was danger of total collapse, from which nothing had saved it so much as its squared masonry. There is no string-course, but a sloped shelf occurs beneath the western belfry window. The latter is a single lancet, like its fellows, of late thirteenth-century style.

The paintings in the chancel, which are all of one period (twelfth century) and scheme, cover the barrel-vault as well as the south, north, and east walls. Of these presently. The eastern face of the chancel arch likewise bears decorative colour design, in red, white and yellow, on its upper member, as of a zigzag parapet, while the lower and inner member of the arch displays ten circular discs, painted right on to the stone. These were all brought to light when the whitewash coatings were removed in 1872. The late Mr. Micklethwaite reproduced them in *Archæologia*, xlvi. 187.

At the same date were discovered fragmentary paintings in the nave, belonging, however, for the most part to post-thirteenth century dates, together with remains of Elizabethan black-letter texts upon the west and north walls. Let us begin with these nave paintings.

The most important paintings on the north wall of the

¹ £61 10s. was paid for carrying this out, as the Churchwardens' Accounts show. The churchwarden was Richard Phelps. Barnaby Jukes was the undertaking party from Ledbury. The bells were re-hung and a low roof erected in place of the steeple, as now.

nave occur upon the two splays of the remaining Norman window. That on the western splay presents St. Anthony walking with his staff and pig,¹ upon a red background. On the opposite spray is portrayed the subject of the archangel weighing souls in the balance, the virgin interceding on their behalf; and probably the devil was also depicted trying to trick the scales. But the picture is far gone.

Perhaps an altar with dedication to St. Anthony or St. Peter, the favourite saint and patron of de Laci, headed this side of the nave. Upon the adjoining wall is depicted a large wheel of life, similar to one at Leominster, consisting of a wheel of ten spokes, each of the latter terminating in a disc, alternately a black and a red one. Probably a subject picture, representing an Age, once filled each one of these discs; no true trace, however, of any one of these has survived.²

Close examinations of the earliest coats of plaster upon this wall, in other portions of it, have revealed that at least two sets of paintings succeeded one another thereon, the later (and more friable) one abounding in traces of bright blue. The wall, like its fellow opposite, was painted right up to the present roof. Unfortunately the setting of the seventeenth-century oaken "struts" has so injured and loosened the mass of these coats of whitewash that but little can be recovered from the oblong compartments formed by their insertion. In some places a matting of cement mixed with hair causes all the coats to come away together, so that nothing can be gained at such points. The best of the surviving fragments (mid-south wall) shows a full-length female saint in a flowing black mantle, with white lining, holding a book. The head is wanting. This was uncovered on August 10th, 1913.

¹ The pig has faded into palest brown, but its head and forelegs can be made out.

² See *Archæologia*, xxxv. 167, for a coloured plate of this wheel and a paper by J. Winter Jones on "The Division of Man's Life into Stages." Cf. also Arundel MS., 83 f. 126 b, British Museum.

Below, on the eastern splay of the two-light fourteenth-century window, can faintly be made out the figure of a bishop or mitred abbot, within a pointed and crocketed niche. On the adjoining south wall is a large area discovering confused subjects painted upon different layers, some of them quite late ones, but which were all uncovered in 1872, and then thickly coated with egg-varnish. There may perhaps have been here depicted on one of the layers some legend of the Cross.

Above the west face of the chancel arch can be made out the remains of a "Doom," cut off by the roof. The figure of the enthroned Christ is faintly to be traced; likewise (rt.) St. John within a niche; while the left-hand figure (the Virgin) has been obliterated partly by a loft-door hole and partly by a monumental marble. This was probably a much earlier painting than any other left in the nave.

The paintings in the chancel (to which we now come) belong to a single scheme, that of the *Glorification of the Redeemer*, the figure of whom, seated upon a rainbow and in the act of benediction, within a vesica of a curious and unusual shape, formed by portions of three circles, occupies the entire centre of the barrel-vault. His feet, to the eastward, are seen resting upon a large and dark circular disc, or world. The two Greek monograms, I.H.C. and X.P.S., are writ large, within the vesica, on an oblong plaque or book.

He is accompanied upon each side by two symbolic figures of the Evangelists—the winged ox and eagle on the south, the angel and lion on the north side, all of these holding oblong books. Beneath these are seen large clumsy stars, some of four, some of six rays.

At His head stand two great and attenuated cherubim with six wings, and holding pennons. Each carries a book. At the south side are three tripodal candlesticks; on the north side are four more, making seven (the seven golden candlesticks of Revelation i. 12); and distributed on the

ground colour are (north) the sun¹ and (south) the moon. Beyond the head of the vesica stand two very interesting figures : on the south side St. Peter nimbed, carrying in his right hand one enormous key instead of two, and in his left hand a book. Opposite St. Peter (north) stands the Virgin, in blue, her head (with wimple) crowned, and bearing in her hands probably a little church (only to be made out in certain lights), *i.e.* St. Mary of Kempley.

The border to the east and west ends of the painting is composed of interlacing chevrons and lozenges, in red, yellow, and white. On the north and south walls, above a border (1 ft. 8 in. wide) or plinth of elongated hexagons, are depicted six of the Apostles seated side by side on canopied, circular-headed, yellow thrones.² St. Peter, on the north-east, carries his key, so that he is twice represented here. All look up in adoration toward Christ. At the east end of the vesica stand two more great cherubim, holding censers. Above the crown of each window in the chancel walls north and south is painted a many-towered city, representing Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The splays of these two windows are decorated with a dark ground, on which are red and white geometrical semi-circles, diminishing.

Between each of these windows and the east wall is a painted canopy or niche, containing a standing lay-personage, wearing a purple, but white-edged, mantle over a yellow tunic, each one bearing a drawn sword over his left shoulder, and carrying a pilgrim's staff in the right hand. He faces west, having his feet (perhaps) naked. The fair long hair and beard and the actual features of him on the south wall can readily be distinguished.³ These figures (as before suggested) may represent the de Laci founders of the church :

¹ Streams of light probably fell from these originally.

² The pilasters dividing these are pierced with long vertical slits filled in black.

³ That on the north wall holds in his right hand his staff, and his sword also is carried over the left shoulder. His cloak is yellow and his tunic white. The heads are both covered by low, dark caps.

perhaps Hugh (d. 1121) and his father, Walter (d. 1084), who were devotees to the cult of St. Peter. If that is the case, it is reasonable to infer that the paintings in the chancel may constitute an "in memoriam," carried out by their descendants.

A border of geometrical lozenges, one foot in width, overlapping like tiles, red, white and yellow, terminates the decoration of the side walls.

Upon the east wall, above the window, within three equal roundels, or discs, are seen three angels holding censers with long chains.

On the south side of the window stands, within a reddish niche, a bishop, habited in a dark chasuble, lined yellow, with a reddish collar, and grey orphrey, and alb reaching to the feet. He wears a low reddish mitre, and is represented in the act of benediction.¹ The evidence of an extended right hand on the wall of the opposite (north) side of the same window shows that a similar ecclesiastical figure was painted there.

Who, then, were represented by these two prelates? and why were they necessary?

Probably to these questions we shall never obtain completely satisfying replies; but we may conclude, at least, that they were friends of the de Laci family.²

¹ In his left hand is his pastoral staff, the blue maniple falls over his wrist, ending with broad tasselled ends. The stole falls as far as his feet. Upon the shoes were round buckles. Near the feet, on a yellow roundel, is seen a blue cross.

² I owe thanks to Rev. R. W. Goodall, Vicar of Kempley, and Mrs. Goodall for some local facts relating to Kempley, and for their ever-ready help and kindness; also to my friends, F. A. Hyett, for kindly looking through my proof, and G. McN. Rushforth, for much valuable help generously given from an inexhaustible store; and lastly to my friend the present Dean of Hereford, and to Mr. N. Steel, Clerk to the Chapter, for allowing me access to their well-sorted archives.

LIST OF CLERGY.

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1232 | Robert the Dean, Rector of Kempeley | Reg. Swinfield. |
| July 31, 1234 .. | Robert the Dean of Kempeley, Rector of Kempeley .. | Heref. Cath. Records. |
| March 7, 1248-9 | Nicholas Jakes of Kempeley was admitted to the order of sub-deacon, March 28 to the order of deacon | Reg. Trilleck. |
| Feb. 26, 1327-8 | Henry of Kempelie admitted to the order of deacon | Reg. T. Charlton. |
| March 28, 1328.. | Matthew of Kempelie admitted to the order of acolyte | Reg. T. Charlton. |
| May 8, 1448 .. | Sir Wm. Lammer instituted to vicarage | Reg. Spofford. |
| May 9, 1459 .. | Roger Penley (or Penrey), chaplain | Reg. Hanbury. |
| April 5, 1464 .. | Thomas Balle, chaplain, on resignation of Roger Penley .. | Reg. Hanbury. |
| July 25, 1471 .. | Hugh Barowe, bach. in decr., on decease of Thomas Balle .. | Reg. Hanbury. |
| Aug. 15, 1479 .. | Wm. Forest, chaplain, on decease of Hugh Barowe | Reg. Mylling. |
| Dec. 22, 1489 .. | Roger Adams, on decease of Wm. Forest | Reg. Mylling. |
| — | Sir Walter Walwyn | Reg. Mayhers. |
| Feb. 14, 1514-15 | Sir Geo. Blundell, priest, on decease of Sir W. Walweyn .. | — |
| April 10, 1527 .. | Mr. Thomas Blundell, priest, on resignation of Sir G. Blundell | Reg. Booth. |
| Sept. 5, 1531 .. | Sir John Cam, priest, on resignation of Thomas Blundell .. | Reg. Booth. |
| | With an annual pension of 20s. Value of living £5 6s. 4d. | |
| | He occurs in 1548 and 1551 | G.D.R., 4, 5. |
| Jan. 4, 1552 .. | John Richarde, compounded for first-fruits | P.R.O. |
| Oct. 21, 1552 .. | Wm. Skull | — |
| 1554 | Dr. Skull, vicar; also Vicar of Fownhope | G.D.R., 2A. |
| 1575 | (Between Aug. 4 and Sept. 23), Thomas Richardson, vicar, subscribed to Articles. | |
| Oct. 18, 1575 .. | Humphrey Cradock, alias Tayler, instituted on decease of (?) Thomas Richardson | G.D.R., 1B, 27A. |

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|---|---------------------|
| June 18, 1605 | .. | John Cradock, presented to vicarage on decease of H. Cradock | G.D.R., 1B. |
| July 24, 1616 | .. | Mandate from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Archdeacon of Gloucester, for induction of Richard Elkins, M.A., collated by the Archbishop by a lapse .. | G.D.R., 1B. |
| Oct. 5, 1607 | .. | John Cradock, instituted to vicarage, on resignation of Elkins (June 12). John Cradock remained until 1634. Query whether Paul Fressen held during interregnum .. | G.D.R., 1B. |
| Aug. 13, 1660 | .. | Richard Wilkinson, M.A., presented by the king by lapse .. | — |
| Sept. 11, 1662 | .. | Wilkinson's name occurs at visitation.. | G.D.R., 209. |
| April 6, 1666 | .. | John Lewes, instituted on decease of | G.D.R., 142A. |
| Dec. 7, 1693 | .. | Peter Senhouse, presented by Dean and Chapter of Hereford on decease of Lewes | — |
| Jan. 10, 1694 | .. | Samuel Birchett, presented by Reginald Pyndar Inquiry as to right of patronage issued. | — |
| April 2, 1694 | .. | Peter Senhouse, M.A., instituted to vicarage | G.D.R., 226A, 248A. |
| May 7, 1760 | .. | John Stephens, LL.B., on the decease of Mr. Senhouse .. | G.D.R., 9. |
| 1762 | | John Bourne instituted | — |
| Nov. 17, 1787 | .. | Robert Squire, M.A., on decease of John Bourne | — |
| Nov., 1821 | .. | Hen. Ch. Stobart, M.A., on decease of R. Squire | — |
| April 6, 1839 | .. | Wm. Servante, M.A., on decease of | — |
| Nov. 28, 1871 | .. | Arthur Hislop Drummond, B.A., on decease of Wm. Servante | — |
| May 25, 1879 | .. | J. Crawley Weaver | — |
| March 15, 1886 | .. | Edward Denny, M.A. | — |
| Oct. 15, 1898 | .. | Clifford G. Jones | — |
| Jan. 25, 1907 | .. | Robert W. Goodall | — |