

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**The Family of Scrupes or Crupes of Whittington,
Gloucestershire**

by C. T. Clay
1944, Vol. 65, 129-140

© The Society and the Author(s)

THE FAMILY OF SCRUPES OR CRUPES OF
WHITTINGTON, CO. GLOUCESTER

by C. T. CLAY, C.B., F.S.A.

AT Michaelmas 1165 Robert Escrupe or Escrope paid 2 marks for a fugitive in Gloucestershire (1). In 1166, among the tenants in chief in that county, Robert de Scrupa returned his *carta*, stating that he held 3 knights' fees of the king and that he had made no new feoffment since 1135, the names of his knights (of old feoffment) being Thurstan the dispenser, Geoffrey the chamberlain 'de Clintone', and Simon de Ordington (2). The evidence given below shows that these 3 fees can be identified as one fee each in Childrey and Odstone, Berkshire, and Baldon St. Lawrence in Toot Baldon, Oxfordshire; and that the fee of Thurstan the dispenser lay in the latter place. As it can be assumed that Simon de Ordington's fee lay in Odstone (3), the fee of Geoffrey de Clinton can be assigned to Childrey. Moreover, it will be seen that the *caput* of the Gloucestershire holding lay at Whittington in that county. At the Domesday survey Whittington was one of the five places in Gloucestershire where William Leuric held lands as a tenant in chief, his predecessor in the time of King Edward being Osgot in each place (4); and among the three places in Berkshire where William son of Richard held lands, his

¹ *Pipe Roll*, 11 Hen. II, p. 13.

² *Red Bk. of Exch.*, p. 295, where it is noted that in *Liber Niger* the form of his name is *Crupa* on an erasure.

³ For Odstone or Ordeston, par. Ashbury, and the family taking its name therefrom, see *V.C.H. Berks.*, iv, 508. The Domesday spelling is Ordegeston.

⁴ *D.B.*, I, 167b; his holding in Whittington was 3 hides.

predecessor T.R.E. also being Osgot in each place, were Childrey and Odstone (5). Round made the suggestion, giving additional evidence which can be regarded as conclusive, that William Leuric and William son of Richard were the same person (6); and it can be stated definitely that certain Domesday holdings of William Leuric *alias* William son of Richard in Gloucestershire and Berkshire, and presumably also his holding in Oxfordshire, had passed before 1166 to Robert de Scrupa. It has been suggested that William son of Richard may have been the latter's ancestor (7); but no evidence for this can be adduced; and the fact that William's other holdings in Gloucestershire, besides his holding in an unidentified place in Essex (8), did not pass to Robert de Scrupa is an argument in the contrary direction.

At Michaelmas 1168 Robert Descrube or Escrupa paid 40s in Gloucestershire for the aid for the marriage of the king's daughter (9); and 60s for scutage there at Michaelmas 1172 (10). His successor was named Richard, who as Richard de Scropes or Descrupes paid 30s scutage at Michaelmas 1190; 60s scutage at Michaelmas 1194; and was holding 3 knights' fees at Michaelmas 1196, as recorded on the Gloucestershire rolls (11). Payments for

⁵ *V.C.H. Berks.*, I, 353; at Childrey his tenant was Godfrey. In Oxfordshire William Leuric held rather more than 3 hides in an unspecified place, his tenant being Godfrey (*V.C.H. Oxfordshire*, I, 421); and it can be suggested that, although other holdings in Baldon St. Lawrence are recorded in the Survey, William Leuric's holding lay there.

⁶ *V.C.H. Berks.*, I, 320.

⁷ *ibid.* iv, 508.

⁸ This was the large holding of 8 hides in 'Scilcheham' or 'Sciddeham', where significantly the tenant T.R.E. was named Ansgot (*V.C.H. Essex*, I, pp. 557. 574).

⁹ *Pipe Roll*, 14 Hen. II, p. 123; the payment at a mark per fee was for 3 k.f. He was presumably the Robert de Estropes who paid 5 marks for 2½ knights in Gloucestershire in 1160-1 (*Red Bk. of Exch.*, p. 24).

¹⁰ *Pipe Roll*, 18 Hen. II, p. 121.

¹¹ *ibid.* 2 Ric. I, p. 57; 6 Ric. I, p. 239; and *cf.* p. 258, for his scutage in Berks.; *Chancellor's Roll*, 8 Ric. I, p. 109.

his scutage are recorded on the rolls for the next few years. At Michaelmas 1199 the sheriff of Berkshire had to answer for the scutage of Richard de Scrupes of 2 marks for a fee of 2 knights and the sheriff of Oxfordshire for a fee of one knight as the sheriff of Gloucestershire had reported (12). At Michaelmas 1200 Richard Descrupes accounted in Worcestershire for 50 marks and a palfrey 'pro habendis heredibus' (13); a payment due for having the heirs of Osbert Estreg' in his custody with their lands and bailiwick and their marriage (14). Instalments of the debt were paid by him down to Michaelmas 1205, being entered originally on the Worcestershire roll and duplicated later on the Gloucestershire one (15). In the year ending at Michaelmas 1204 he had quittance of scutage in Gloucestershire, and made a payment in respect of money borrowed from the Jews of Gloucester (16). In that year Henry de Escropes gave the king 60 marks for the relief of his land, the sheriff of Gloucestershire being ordered to cause him to have seisin of the land of which his father died seised, and make this known to other sheriffs concerned (17). At Michaelmas 1205 Henry paid scutage in Gloucestershire, apparently on 4 knights' fees; and in the following year on 3 fees, when he was responsible for the balance of his father's debt of the 50 marks

¹² *Memoranda Roll*, 1 John, Pipe Roll Soc., p. 42.

¹³ *Pipe Roll*, 2 John, p. 32, where the heirs are given as those of Osbert Lestrangle.

¹⁴ *Rot. de Obl.*, p. 65, with the heading Worcestershire. Osbert Estrech or de Estrech' occurs on the Worcestershire rolls in 1199 and 1200 (*Pipe Roll*, 1 John, p. 80; 2 John, p. 30). In 1255 Richard Strechee held a serjeanty tenure in that county (*Bk. of Fees*, p. 1290). A connexion between the two families is perhaps shown by the fact that in 1221, when Richard Estrech' of Astwood [Bank], co. Worcester, was acquitted for the murder of Alice his wife, the name of Alice's mother appears as Maud de Crupes (*Rolls of the Justices in Eyre for . . . Worcestershire*, 1221, Selden Soc. vol. LIII, no. 1145).

¹⁵ *Pipe Roll*, 7 John, p. 95, and the intervening rolls.

¹⁶ *ibid.* 6 John, pp. 150, 152.

¹⁷ *Rot. de Fin.*, p. 235. Henry paid 38 marks by Mich. 1205 (*Pipe Roll*, 7 John, p. 98).

and a palfrey (18). In 1211-13 Henry de Scrupes was holding Whittington, co. Gloucester, in demesne, and owed the king the service of 3 knights for his holdings in Berkshire and Oxfordshire (19).

On 18 June 1221 Henry de Crupes gave the king half a mark for having a writ of *pone* before the justices itinerant in Gloucestershire against Miles Pichard' and Maud his wife and others for half a knight's fee in Sapey, co. Worcester (20). Subsequent proceedings show that the claim made by Henry de Scrupes or Crup[es] against Peter de Kelum and Sibyl his wife for a quarter of a knight's fee in Sapey was postponed, it being stated by John Esturmi, Sibyl's son, that he had held the land for the past seven years (21); and that the jurors in a great assize at Warwick in the following year to declare whether Henry de Scrupes, the plaintiff, had the greater right in a moiety of the vill of Sapey than Miles Pichard' and Maud his wife, the tenants, stated that Miles and Maud had the greater right (22). Unfortunately the basis of Henry's claims is not known; nor does there appear to be any record of the parentage of Maud and Sibyl, who, it may be supposed, were daughters and coheirs of a previous holder (23). It may, however, be significant that in 1086 Osbern son of Richard Scrupe held 3 hides in [Lower] Sapey (24) among his many holdings in several counties. Osbern's barony, known as the honour of Richard's Castle, descended to his son Hugh and thence to the latter's male descendants, who took the name of Say, until the death of Osbern's great-grandson Hugh the

¹⁸ *ibid.*, p. 100; 8 John, pp. 11, 15.

¹⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, p. 50.

²⁰ *Exc. e Rot. Fin.*, 1, 66.

²¹ *Rolls of the Justices in Eyre for Gloucestershire . . .*, 1221-2, Selden Soc. vol. LIX, no. 225.

²² *ibid.*, no. 1416.

²³ For an account of Lower Sapey or Sapey Pitchard, see *V.C.H. Worcestershire*, IV, 328.

²⁴ *ibid.*, 1, 313.

third, from whose daughter and heir Margaret de Say descended the family of Mortimer (25). Although the evidence for such a suggestion is extremely faint it is not impossible to suppose that Robert de Scrupa, the Gloucestershire tenant in chief in 1166, and ancestor of Henry de Scrupes, had some blood connexion with Osbern's family, and held an interest in Sapey as a tenancy of the honour of Richard's Castle (26). In the same year 1221, among the pleas of the crown for Gloucestershire, it was recorded that Lettice de Berkele, widow of Roger de Berkele, in the king's gift, had been married to Henry de Crupes or Escrupes, not known by whom; and Henry made a fine for 100s (26a). It is clear that as Henry's son Richard was of age in 1230 Lettice was his second wife.

On 2 Oct. 1230 Ralph son of Nicholas was granted the custody of the lands which had belonged to Henry des Escrupes with the wardship and marriage of his heirs (27); and on 21 Nov. 1230 it was recorded that Richard de Scrupes, son and heir of Henry de Scrupes, had done homage to the king for 3 knights' fees, the sheriff of Gloucestershire being ordered to give him seisin after taking security for his relief (28). In 1235-6 the collectors of the aid in Gloucestershire for the marriage of the king's sister rendered account of 6 marks owed by Richard de Crupes in respect of his 3 fees (29); in Oxfordshire

²⁵ A detailed account of Richard Scrupe or Scrob and his descendants, with a chart pedigree, is given in Eyton, *Shropshire*, IV, pp. 302 *et seq.*

²⁶ It is unfortunate that no *carta* returned in 1166 for this honour is now in existence.

^{26a} *Bk. of Fees*, p. 1339, from the Assize Rolls (271 and 272), previously pd. by Maitland, *Pleas of the Crown for the County of Gloucester*, p. 74 (also p. 127, where the name of Lettice's previous husband Roger is given). Henry also occurs on the same roll, his servant having slain a man (pp. 11, 120); and again when at the sheriff's command he and others took goods of a lady unwilling to let her daughter marry one of the marauders (p. 63). A Hugh Scrop also occurs (p. 102).

²⁷ *Pat. Rolls*, 1225-32, p. 402.

²⁸ *Exc. e Rot. Fin.*, I, 207.

²⁹ *Bk. of Fees*, p. 442.

2 marks were received for Richard Desscrup's fee of one knight in Baldindon' [Baldon St. Lawrence] (30); and in Berkshire a mark each (for a moiety of the aid) for Richard de Scrupes's fee of one knight in Ordeston' [Odstone] and his fee of one knight in Cherl' [Childrey] (31). In 1242-3 William de Kampan [*recte* Rampan] (32) held a fee in Childrey of the fee of Richard de Scropes, and Simon son of Hugh (33) a fee in Odstone of the same fee, as of the barony of Scrupes (34); and in Oxfordshire Robert de Scrupes and others held a knight's fee in Baldon St. Lawrence of Thurstan the dispenser, who held of the king in chief (35). This last reference shows that Thurstan the dispenser had become the tenant in chief of the holding there which his grandfather Thurstan (36) had held as an under-tenancy of Robert de Scrupa in 1166; and suggests that Robert de Scrupes represented a younger line of the family enfeoffed there by the Dispensers (37).

On 13 Sept. 1257 Richard de Crupes and his heirs were granted a weekly market and a yearly fair at his manor of Whittington (38); and in 1273-4 it was returned that Sir Richard de Croupes was holding the manor of Whittington for a fee of one knight in chief (39). Following a

³⁰ *ibid.*, pp. 449, 457.

³¹ *ibid.*, p. 458.

³² For the manor of Rampayns in Childrey and the family of that name see *V.C.H. Berks.*, iv, pp. 275-6.

³³ Clearly the descendant of the under-tenant Simon de Ordington of 1166 (see above).

³⁴ *Bk. of Fees*, pp. 846-7, 858.

³⁵ *ibid.* pp. 827, 842.

³⁶ See the pedigree in Round, *The King's Serjeants*, p. 187.

³⁷ A Robert de Scrupes occurs with Richard de Scrupes on the Gloucestershire Pipe Rolls in the period 1190-4. Possibly he was this Robert's predecessor. In 1254-5 and 1278-9 a William de Scropes was a tenant of Adam the dispenser in Baldon St. Lawrence (*Rot. Hundr.*, II, pp. 39, 724).

³⁸ *Cal. Charter Rolls*, 1226-57, p. 473.

³⁹ *Rot. Hundr.*, I, 166. It seems likely that Whittington had originally been held by serjeanty, the service being the provision of 2 serjeants,

writ dated 5 May 1278 an inquisition at Gloucester found that Richard de Crupes *alias* de Croupes had held Whittington in chief by the service of one knight, Richard his son, aged twenty-eight being his next heir (40). Richard the son, who had done homage for his father's lands by 22 May (41), held Whittington by the same service in 1284-5 and 1303; and in 1316 the lords of the vill were Richard de Crowpes and John de Shipton (42). In 1310 Richard de Croupes, in consideration of good service to the king and his predecessor, had licence to make a settlement of the manor of Whittington, to hold to himself for life with remainders to his son Richard and his right heirs (43). The date of his death is not known. It was evidently his son Richard de Croupes who on 19 July 1333 was exempted from service on assizes, etc., and specified appointments against his will (44), and who died on 11 Nov. 1336, leaving as his heir a son Edmund aged four years and more, and having held the manor of

continued from previous page

normally equivalent to one knight; on which point see Miss E. G. Kimball, *Serjeanty Tenure in Medieval England*, p. 69. There may be an allusion to this tenure in an entry at Mich. 1193, when an account of Richard de Scrupes for 3s 4d in Gloucestershire due for licence to make an agreement was discharged 'in liberatione predictorum seruiantum' for the army of Wales (*Pipe Roll*, 5 Ric. 1, p. 116); and the serjeanty tenure is clearly stated in the inq. of 1336-7 given below. There is no reference in the inq. of 1278 to the 3 knights' fees in Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

⁴⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, II, no. 262.

⁴¹ *Cal. Fine Rolls*, 1272-1307, p. 96.

⁴² *Feudal Aids*, II, pp. 238, 246, 271. In 1309 a Sir Richard de Croupes witnessed Gloucestershire deeds (*Cat. Anc. Deeds*, I, no. A931; IV, no. A6902). In 1326 a Richard de Croupes held 20s rent in Venn, par. Marden, co. Hereford, by the service of $\frac{1}{4}$ k.f. of Alan Plukenet, lately deceased (*Cal. Inq. p.m.*, VI, no. 688).

⁴³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1307-13, p. 223. He had served in Wales in 1287 and 1288, and in Scotland in 1303 (*ibid.* 1281-92, pp. 276, 301; 1301-7, p. 117); and for his earlier service in Wales with Alan Plugenet in the company of William de Valence see *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1296-1302, pp. 30, 42.

⁴⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1330-4, p. 459.

Whittington in chief by grand serjeanty, namely by the service of finding for the king two armed men in every war at his own charges for forty days, and also 8 *li* rent from free tenants in Long Whatton, co. Leicester, of Henry de Beaumont by the service of a twentieth part of a knight's fee (45). The latter holding is explained by a record that 'lord Basset of Drayton gave 11 yard lands and 3 cottages [in Long Whatton] to Richard de Croupes in frank marriage with Maud his daughter (46)'. On 2 Dec. 1336 John de Ravenesholme, king's yeoman, was granted the custody of the lands lately held by Richard de Croupes, tenant in chief, with the marriage of the heir; a grant which was extended on the following 8 Aug. to include the knights' fees and advowsons pertaining to the custody (47). On 5 March 1340-1 a pardon was issued for a fine of 10 *li* to William Hasard and Isabel his wife, sometime wife of Richard de Croupes, tenant in chief, for her trespass in marrying without the king's licence (48). Edmund, Richard's son and heir, died on 24 Sept. 1361; and it was found by the ensuing inquisition that he held the manor of Whittington of the king in chief by knight service, together with a messuage in Dowdeswell held of the lord of that place and a messuage in Brockhampton held of the bishopric of Hereford, his heir being Alice his sister aged thirty years and more, wife of Thomas Baskerville (49). It is probable that Alice in her widowhood was

⁴⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, VIII, no. 26, following writ dated 10 Jan. 1336-7.

⁴⁶ Nichols, *Leicestershire*, III, 1104, which also shows that the tenure of Basset in Long Whatton was subordinate to that of Beaumont. There is no indication of the date of the gift, or to which Richard it was made.

⁴⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1334-8, pp. 345, 485. In 1346 John de Ravenesholm paid 40s for a knight's fee in Whittington, formerly held by Robert de Croupes, for the aid for the knighting of prince Edward (*Feudal Aids*, II, 278).

⁴⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1340-3, p. 140.

⁴⁹ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, XI, no. 56. Edmund had alienated the manor in Feb. 1355-6 without licence, and in 1386 the donee's daughter was

the Alice Croupes who held a knight's fee in Whittington in 1402 (50). With her the family connexion with Whittington appears to have ended (51).

The notes printed above were primarily due to an attempt, which is at present only partially successful, to discover documentary evidence of a conclusive kind for the origin and early generations of the Yorkshire family of Scrope. The history of that family was given in detail by Sir Harris Nicolas in his edition of 'The Scrope and Grosvenor Roll (52)'; but it is clear that some of his statements require further consideration. Although he issued a warning 'that it has been conjectured, and with some probability, that the Scropes of Yorkshire were a distinct branch from those who held knights' fees in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire (53)', he confused them in his subsequent account. Thus, in his notice of Henry son of Simon le Scrope, who was without any reasonable doubt the ancestor of the Yorkshire Scropes, and who was given land in Wensley by his parents in the period

continued from previous page

confirmed therein (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1385-9, p. 66; and *cf.* p. 255). The history of the manor at this period is complex. On 1 Dec. 1378 William Bardehurst and Alice his wife (see the note below) had licence to alienate the manor, subject to a yearly rent during Alice's life (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1377-81, p. 290). But neither of these alienations can have had permanent effect.

⁵⁰ *Feudal Aids*, II, 299.

⁵¹ At her death before 6 Nov. 1404, as widow of William Barndhurst or Baudhurst (presumably her second husband) she held the manor for life, with remainders as to two-thirds and one-third to members of the Despenser family, by virtue of a fine levied in the reign of Richard II (*Cal. Close Rolls*, 1402-5, p. 390; *Cal. Fine Rolls*, 1405-13, p. 5). For the subsequent tenure of the manor by the Despensers see Atkyns, *State of Gloucestershire*, 2nd ed., p. 428.

⁵² Published in 1832, 2 vols. The first vol. contains the proceedings in the controversy between Sir Richard le Scrope and Sir Robert Grosvenor, 1385-90, for the right to bear the arms *azure a bend or*. The second vol. contains the history of the Scrope family and biographical notices of many of the deponents in Sir Richard's favour.

⁵³ *op. cit.*, II, 5n.

1224-6, he recorded Henry's payment of 60 marks for his relief in 1205, which certainly refers to Henry son of Richard de Scrupes of Gloucestershire. In his notices of the Yorkshire William le Scrope, father or grandfather of the two chief justices Henry le Scrope of Bolton and Geoffrey le Scrope of Masham, he gave references to a William holding an interest in Baldon St. Lawrence, co. Oxford, who was quite a different person; and he suggested that Richard 'le Scrope', the Gloucestershire tenant in chief who died in 1278, was an elder brother of the chief justices' father. Such suggestions as these must be abandoned (54).

Although evidence is at present lacking to determine the parentage of Simon le Scrope, father of Henry le Scrope mentioned above, his association and that of his elder brother Philip with Flotmanby near Bridlington in Yorkshire, and Barton on Humber in Lincolnshire, make it probable that they were younger members of the family which held interests in Barton on Humber as a tenancy of the Gant fee. That family descended from Richard Scrop, who by Agnes his wife, daughter of Richard FitzGilbert of Clare and sister of Gilbert and Roger earls of Hertford, had a son Robert Scrop, to whom Alice de Gant, 'comitissa' and daughter of Gilbert de Gant, confirmed all the land which his ancestors had held of her ancestors and of her in Barton [on Humber], namely a quarter of the vill; to hold by the service of half a

⁵⁴ Another statement, of some importance, requires correction. Nicolas, *op. cit.*, II, 8, stated that in 2 Hen. III Henry 'le Scrope' paid 6 marks scutage for 3 knights' fees which had belonged to "Robert le Scrope, his grandfather" (the inverted commas are his), citing Rot. Pip. 2 Hen. III. Glouc. (cited in Dugdale, *Baronage*, I, 654). On that roll, m. 4d, giving the scutage due from Henry de Scrupes, there is no reference to Robert his grandfather (*ex. inf.* kindly supplied by the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records). Had there been such a reference it would have afforded proof that Richard, Henry's father, was the son of Robert, the Gloucestershire tenant in chief in 1166. This, though reasonably probable, is not proved by the record cited by Dugdale and Nicolas.

knight's fee (55). The grantee can be identified as the Robert Scrop or Scropes who held a knight's fee of old feoffment of earl Simon (husband of Alice de Gant) in 1166 (56). From Robert the tenancy in Barton descended in the male line through his son Walter to his great-great-grandson Joice le Scrop who died in 1304 (57).

It is certain that Robert son of Richard Scrop, the Gant tenant of 1166, cannot be identified with Robert de Scrupa, the Gloucestershire tenant in chief at the same period. If they were related (58) the only source of relationship which imagination can suggest, unsupported as it is by satisfactory evidence, is a possible common descent, each of them representing a younger line, from Richard Scrupe the father of Osbern who held lands in

⁵⁵ Farrer, *Early Yorks. Charters*, II, no. 1217, where the date 1184-5 is assigned; but a date nearer 1156 is more likely; four of the witnesses occur in a charter of Gilbert de Gant, Alice's father, (*ibid.* no. 1219), who died in that year. A pedigree of the Gant family, showing Gilbert's wife as Rohaise dau. of Richard FitzGilbert of Clare (sister of Agnes, wife of Richard Scrop) is given *ibid.* p. 433. In Alice's charter Agnes is described as her maternal aunt (*matrtera*). Farrer's copy of the charter was printed from MS. Dodsworth, VII, f. 310, from the original formerly in St. Mary's Tower, York; it had previously been printed from the original in the Hemingway MSS. in *Bradford Antiquary*, I, 213.

⁵⁶ *Liber Niger Scacc.*, p. 272; *Red Bk. of Exch.*, p. 384. Half the holding clearly lay in Barton on Humber; and the other half probably in Flotmanby and its neighbourhood; *cf.* Farrer, *op. cit.*, II, p. 430n.

⁵⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, IV, no. 294, where the steps in the descent are given, with a precise reference to the charter of Alice de Gant to Robert Scrop.

⁵⁸ This is only a hypothesis. It can be suggested that the name of the Gloucestershire family which usually has the 'de' prefix was territorial in origin, whereas the early form of the Lincolnshire and Yorkshire families is usually Scrop, Escrop, or le Scrop, indicating a personal or nickname origin; and that therefore there was no connexion between the two. As against this argument the 'de' is occasionally missing and present respectively in early authentic records relating to the former and latter families; and no place can be proposed from which the former family took its name. Although the use of the 'de' ordinarily indicates a territorial origin, examples are not unknown of its intrusion in the name of a family having a personal origin. Whatever may be the relative value of considerations of this kind there appears to be no direct evidence on which a proof can be built that the two Roberts were actually related.

Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, and elsewhere at the Domesday survey. On the one hand, however, the only evidence that the Gloucestershire family had a connexion with the family of Osbern son of Richard Scrupe is, as has been suggested above with reference to Sapey, co. Worcester, of a nebulous description; and on the other hand the only evidence that the Yorkshire Scropes were descended from Richard son of Scrob or Scroby, Osbern's father (which Richard was living in England in the time of the Confessor), seems to be a statement by the prior and one of the monks of Bardney, two of the deponents in favour of Sir Richard le Scrope in 1386, that there was a tradition to that effect in their house (59). There the matter must be left for the present. But it is to be hoped that definite evidence, perhaps derived from an unexpected source, may become available to throw light on these problems, and in particular on the ancestry of Robert de Scrupa whose tenancy in chief of Whittington passed to his successors in the male line for six generations.

⁵⁹ *Scrope and Grosvenor Roll*, 1, pp. 229-30.