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**Old Catholic Families of Gloucestershire. I. The Pauncefotes
of Hasfield**

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OLD CATHOLIC FAMILIES OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

by J. N. LANGSTON

I. THE PAUNCEFOOTES OF HASFIELD

FEW families (says Fosbrooke) were of equal note with that of Pauncefoote, or de Planco-pede, which was (Burke adds) of great antiquity and knightly pre-eminence in this kingdom. The surname derives from a locality, 'de Pauncevote,' and is probably of Norman extraction. 'In charters it is latinized De Pede Planco, that is, "of the Splay Foot," but for this rendering there appears to be no authority.'

The name was written in a great variety of ways down the centuries. The first of the name on record is Bernard Pancevolt, who is named in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as holding several manors in Somersetshire and Dorsetshire, and as the tenant *in capite* of one manor in Wiltshire. Younger sons of his, or of his heirs, founded the branches of the family which flourished for many generations in Gloucestershire at Hasfield, and in Somersetshire at Compton-Pauncefoot, so called to this day (2). Humfrid Paunceuot and Eustace Pancevot were feudal tenants of Henry de Newmarch in 1166, and there seems little doubt that Eustace's four hides, that is, four-fifths of a knight's fee, were at Hasfield, where Henry held a fee of the abbot of Westminster. Henry's certificate is given in the *Liber Niger*, or Black Book of the Exchequer, and the fact that he returned Eustace as a knight 'of the old feoffment' proves the latter's possession of the lands prior to the death of Henry the First in 1135 (3).

The first of the family, however, actually named as Lord of Hasfield, was Richard Pancefot, who, in 1200, released to St. Peter's Abbey in Gloucester his right of pasture of Langridge in Maisemore (4). In another grant of his, undated but attributed to the same year, which is still preserved among the

records of the Gloucester Corporation, he described himself as Richard Pancefot, son of George Pancefot of Hesfold (Hasfield), when he gave an acre of meadow in Widehamme (in Hasfield) to the Leper Brethren of St. Sepulchre, Gloucester, for the health of his soul and for the souls of his father George, and of his mother Isabel. The witnesses to the deed included John Pancefot, brother of the donor, William Pancefot, and Milo Folet, parson of Hesfold (5). This Richard was with King John at Carrickfergus in Ireland in 1210 (6), and in the same year Geoffrey de Pauncefote, who was steward of the King's household, married Sybilla, daughter of William de Cantelupe (7). Another Richard Panceuot, son of the foregoing Richard, was Lord of Hasfield in 1220, when he confirmed his father's gift of four acres in Widenham to John of Sudwick, a witness being Reginald Panceuot (8). A year later Richard Pancefot was sued by Walter Toky for illegally distraining his goods (9), and about 1230 Richard Pancefot, Lord of Hasfield, was a witness to a grant (10). Among the Gloucestershire knights in a Roll of the Names and Arms of Knights and Esquires in the camp of Henry III in 1220 is 'Grymbald Pauncevod, Chivaler: Goulis III Lionceles Argent (11).'

The manor of Hasfield was granted by Henry III in 1248-49 to Richard de Planco-pede, from whom it passed to his son, Grimbald (12), who took to wife Constance, daughter of Sir John de Lingeyne. She was the undaunted lady, so tradition asserts, whose tomb stood in Hasfield church for nearly 600 years before being swept away during some so-called restoration. Upon the tomb lay a female figure without her right hand, illustrating the time-honoured story that Constance, having long sought in vain the release of her husband, a captive in the hands of the infidels, was finally told that her request would not be granted unless she sent her right hand, whereupon with a singular courage, she ordered it to be cut off (13). In 1255 the manor passed to Richard Pauncefot, son of Grimbald, who, on 15 May of the same year, obtained the grant of a weekly market on Thursday at his manor of Couern (Cowarne) in Herefordshire, and of a yearly fair there on the vigil, feast

and morrow of St. Michael. He was also allowed free-warren in the demesne lands of his manors of Hersefeld (Hasfield), Cuern, Hesel', and Benetle (Bentley) in Worcestershire (14). This last-named manor he gave, two years later, to Henry de Wengham, king's clerk and dean of St. Martin's, London, for life or for a term of 20 years if he died within that term (15). In September 1259, Richard Pauncefot, a serjeant of the bishop of Norwich, accompanied that prelate on his visit to France as an envoy of the king (16). He and his wife, Isabella, paid a mark for a writ in 1263, but Isabella is named as his widow three years later (17).

Their son, Grimbald, who occurs as Lord of Hasfield in 1264, was the knight mentioned in the metrical chronicle of his contemporary, the monk Robert of Gloucester, under the name 'Grimbaud Pauntefot and Pauncefot.' He at first threw in his lot with the Barons in their revolt against Henry III, and it was under his leadership that the garrison of Gloucester Castle repelled Prince Edward's first attack. He was again in the castle when it was further attacked and compelled to surrender, whereupon he transferred allegiance to the Prince and was rewarded with a knighthood (18). To signalize this honour, Grymbald Pancefot, knight, Lord of Hasfield, made a gift in 1264 to St. Bartholomew's Hospital at Gloucester, in pure and perpetual alms, of two parcels of his meadow at Hasfield in the meadow of Winhale (19). The Pauncefootes were great benefactors of this hospital, and Rudge says that under an arch between the old church and the little south aisle was the raised tomb of one of the family, probably the tomb mentioned by Leland, who noted in his *Itinerary* of 1535-43 that 'one Pancefort, that was livinge in the Mind of ould Men, is buried in the Chappell of this Hospital.' Grymbald Paunesfot was one of fifteen knights captured by the king at Northampton in 1264 (20). On 19 October 1265, Grimbald de Pauncefot was granted a capital messuage in the street of the Thames near Billesgate, which had belonged to William de la Cornere, sometime citizen of London and the king's enemy (16); and on 6 July 1268, he received pardon for having been, in the

time of the disturbance in the realm, of the household and fellowship of John Giffard (of Brimpsfield) (16).

During the next twenty years Grimbald took a prominent part in West Country affairs and is frequently mentioned in State documents. He was an assessor of subsidy in Gloucestershire (1270) (16); keeper of La Musardere (Miserden) manor, late of Ralph Musard (1272) (21); holder of half a knight's fee in Wichebaud, Worcs., late of Hugh de Mortimer of Richards Castle (1274) (22); a commissioner in Wales to collect a fifteenth from tenants of the honour of Bergevenny (1275) (16); a commissioner of array in Monmouth and the Welsh Marches (1283) (23). He had gifts of three bucks from Kynfare Forest (1278) and of twelve oaks from Kanok Forest (1279) (24); a grant of free-warren in all his demesne lands in Hildrichesham (Hildersham), Cambs., and in Langeford, Laghton, Couerne and Monesle (Munsley), Hfds. (10 February 1281) (14); and another grant that, in his manor of Bentley in the Forest of Feckenham, he might 'make a rabbit warren and enclose the places for the dwellings of the rabbits with a little dike and a low hedge, so that the king's deer may have entrance and exit' (16 November 1281) (14). On the same day he was appointed Warden or Keeper of the Forest of Dean for a term of eight years, and became Constable of St. Briavels Castle, for a yearly rent of £1.40 (25). The duties of these offices, quite apart from his military obligations, must have kept him busy. Only a week later he was given a mandate to take under the king's special protection, for three years, the abbey of Flaxley, which was burdened with debt and impoverished, both by murrain amongst the sheep upon which the monks mainly depended for their subsistence, as well as by sheriffs, bedels, foresters, and others, consuming their goods by faculties, so that the abbey could no longer perform its customary distribution of alms or its other works of mercy, and was in danger of dispersion (16). A dispute arose between the abbot and Grimbald with regard to a metal mine on abbey lands at Ardlonde in the Forest of Dean. The digging had begun when Thomas de Clare was keeper but ceased on an inquisition

finding that the land did not belong to the king. Grimbald took it upon himself to re-open the mine against the abbot's wish, and he appropriated £6 of the issues for his own use, besides making gifts of 10s each to William de Staura and William Hathewy, and to eight miners. On succeeding Grimbald as keeper, Hathewy continued the working of the mine, and at another inquisition made at Gloucester on Monday in the morrow of the Exaltation of Holy Cross, 1287, the jurors found that the yearly value of the mine could not be estimated because the metal was found casually and more often failed (26). In 1282 the Severn weirs needed renewal and Grimbald was allowed timber from the Forest for the purpose (27). In the next year he was required to survey all weirs and nets in both Severn and Wye, as well as interview the fishermen (16), while he was instructed to sell underwood in the Forest to the value of £25 for the king's use (21). For his own personal use he was licensed to take kids in the Forest as long as he had custody of St. Briavels Castle, and received gifts of twelve oaks for timber from the Hay of Hereford, and four does and two bucks from Dean Forest (27).

Grimbald's neglect as Warden to render to the Exchequer the required yearly accounts was not realised by the officials until 1285, though even then no account was submitted, and only one payment of £30 'of the firm of St. Briavels' occurs in the Receipt Roll of that year (28); and at his death it was calculated that the debts amounted to the big sum of £803 3s 8d. Fourteen years later his son and heir was pardoned half of such debts and was permitted to pay the residue at ten marks per annum during the life of his mother Sibilla, whose heir he was, and at £20 per annum afterwards, though he would be allowed any part of such debts that he could show that his father had paid (27). Even after this son's death, in 1315, the executors were charged with a sum of £10 8s, being the expenses of 100 Forest wood-cutters and charcoal burners whom Grimbald the Warden had been required, 33 years earlier, to choose and send to Brecknock to serve under Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, and Richard Talbot, together

with the expenses, at 3*d* a day each, of 100 men he was ordered to supply from Crickhowell for service in Edward's second Welsh campaign (28).

During the year 1282 Grimbald was staying continuously with Roger de Mortimer in defence of the county of Montgomery against the Welsh, and, on Roger's death, he and Bogo de Knovill were given charge of the king's castles in Wales, and ordered to help the young Roger de Mortimer in the care of the garrisons stationed there, and to assist Hugh de Turberville in levying foot soldiers (29). It is stated that in October 1283, the king had granted Grimbald £120 from Jewry, and that he owed £117 os 2½*d* to the Exchequer; the account was to be balanced by 12 November (24). At the time of Kirby's Quest (1285) Grimbald Pauntefot and John de la Boxe held a fourth part of a fee in the hamlet of Box in the hundred of Blideslow (Bledisloe) in the Forest Division, of the Earl of Hereford (Humphrey de Bohun), and the Pauncefootes long held shares in that place (30). On 30 April 1286, Grimbald was appointed to the custody of the office of sheriff within the liberty of Malvern, which, with other things belonging to the Crown, William de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, was claiming against Gilbert de Clare (16).

Sir Grimbald died in 1287 (28), leaving three sons, Grimbald and Emeric (both successive heirs) and Hugh, by his wife Sibilla, daughter and heiress of Sir Hugh de Turberville, lord of the manor of Crickhowell, through whom that property passed to the Pauncefootes and was held by them until the reign of Henry VI, when Hugh Pauncefoot, dying without issue, bequeathed it to the king. On 15 February 1292, Sibilla was given livery of the manor, of which she and her husband had been jointly enfeoffed by Hugh de Turberville (27). It was stated in 1310 that she held this manor of the king in chief as four knights fees by the gift and assignment of John FitzReginald (31). In 1295 a grant was made to her, at the instance of Edmund of Lancaster, the king's brother, that she might marry whomsoever she would of the king's allegiance (16). Shortly afterwards she built a new church at Crickhowell,

which was dedicated to St. Edmund the Martyr, and in August, 1303, the bishop of St. Davids drew up a statute authorising the appointment of a rector and a vicar for the church, in which he said: 'We have thought fit that an arrangement, sound, useful and beneficial, should be made concerning the state and advancement of the Church of the Blessed Edmund of Crickhowell and the Chapel of the Blessed Mary of the same place, with the consent of the noble lady, Dame Sibilla Pauncefoot, widow, lady and heiress (of the manor) of Crickhowell, and true patroness of the said Church of St. Edmund and of the Church of Llangattock, with the express consent of Sir Grimbald, son and heir of the same (32).' Down to this time Crickhowell, which belonged to the parish of Llangattock, had been served by a small chapel-of-ease dedicated to St. Mary (Llanfair, as it was named in the Welsh language), while a private chapel in the castle was also served from Llangattock, the rector of which was then Master Emmeric Pauncefoot, who may have been Dame Sibilla's brother-in-law (32). When Sibilla died in 1326 (21) she was buried at Crickhowell in the church she had founded, and her effigy in the dress of the period is on the south side of the chancel. Nearby another effigy of a knight in chain armour, with the Pauncefoote shield, commemorates her husband or perhaps her son, both Sir Grimbald (33). Her youngest son, Hugh, became rector of Lampeter and Llangattock, and an entry in the Papal Register dated 24 May 1309, shows that a dispensation was granted to Master Hugh, son of Grimbald Pauncefoote, knight, allowing him to retain those livings which he had obtained, whilst under age without dispensation (34).

Grimbald, the son and heir, is first mentioned in 1284 when the king made him a gift of eleven oaks for timber from the Forest of Dean (27). In the spring of 1289 he went overseas with Thomas de Staunton, and five years later, when he was going to Gascony on the king's service, he was permitted to sell 100 marks worth of timber out of such parts of his wood at Bentley, within the bounds of the Forest of Feckenham, as would be to the least damage of that forest (16). As owner of

lands or rents worth £40 yearly or upwards he was summoned from Gloucestershire to Carlisle to serve against the Scots in 1300, and from Herefordshire to Berwick in the following year; and in 1305 and 1306 he received Parliamentary Writs as a Knight of the Shire for the county of Hereford (23). In 1308 the manor of Witton, Worcs., was held by Grimbald by service of half a knight's fee, late of Maud, widow of Hugh de Mortimer of Richard's Castle (31). An Inquisition at Newnham in 1309 found that William de Staure held in his demesne as of fee on the day that he died of Emeric Pauncefot twelve acres of land at la Boxe by the service of 12*d*, which were worth per annum 3*s*, the price of the acre being 3*d* (35). Grimbald was the first lord of Hasfield on record to have presented to the rectory there (36). He died towards the end of May, 1314, and on 2 June the escheator was ordered to take his lands into the king's hand (21). At the Inquisitions held at Gloucester, Worcester and Hereford in August, it was found that Grymbald Pauncevot alias Pauncefot held nothing of the king in chief in county Gloucester, but held in his demesne, as of fee in that county, the manor of Hasfield of the heirs of William Russel, minors in the king's ward, by the service of rendering a sparrowhawk yearly at the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula for all services, such manor being worth, clear, per annum £12; a messuage, 300 acres of land, 30 acres of wood, and 8 acres of meadow, at Bentley, of the earl of Warwick, by the service of one knight's fee; and two parts of a moiety of the manor of Much Cowarn, held of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, for half a knight's fee. It was also found that his next heir was his brother, Emericus or Almericus Pauncevot, who was aged 30 and more (31). On 24 October the escheator was ordered to deliver the manor of Hasfield to Amaury, brother and nearest heir of Grimbald, and of full age, as he had done fealty; and he was instructed to meddle no further with the lands held of other lords (21).

Emeric (also called Emery, Almaric, Aymer and Amaury) was allowed, 24 January 1315, certain sums already allowed to his father Grimbald as Custos of St. Briavels castle and Dean

Forest, and for his expenses in attacking Welsh rebels (27). As a lord of the townships of Hildersham and Much Cowarne he received Parliamentary Writs in 1316 as Knight of the Shires, and, in the same year, by a deed dated at Madresfield on the vigil of Pentecost, Sir Emeric Pauncefoot, knight, granted to Walter de la Mor of Cowarne, a messuage, land, and common of pasture in Wydenham (37). Although he was pardoned, 20 August 1321 (38), for having sided with the Despensers against the king, he was soon in trouble again, this time, presumably, for aiding Thomas of Lancaster, who led the barons against the king and was defeated at Boroughbridge in 1322; for the sheriff of Worcester was ordered to take into the king's hand and to keep safely until further order all Emeric's castles, lands, goods and chattels, and a few weeks later a similar order was issued regarding his castles, etc., of Crickhowell and Stradiou in Wales and his lands in Ireland (21), though this was shortly followed by a mandate to restore the castle, town and lands of Crickhowell, as well as her lands in Powys, to Sibilla, as she was faithful to the king (39). Emeric, having made a fine in 200 marks, was again pardoned, 11 July 1322, for his rebellion, and a month later he was released on bail from imprisonment in Bristol Castle (21). Next year a grant was made to him that the 200 marks wherein he made fine for having adhered to the king's enemies and rebels, and which he ought to pay at Easter, might be paid in two instalments at Midsummer and the Easter after that. Three years later he was still owing the second instalment and was allowed to pay it at the rate of ten marks a year (21). Sir Emeric was returned by the sheriffs of Worcestershire and Herefordshire, in 1324, as summoned to attend the great Council, and at the beginning of the next year he was summoned to perform military service in Guienne, it having been a condition of his pardon that he should serve the king in his wars (23).

The escheator was ordered, 21 March 1326, to take into the king's hand the lands of Sibyl, late the wife of Grymbald Pauncefot, deceased, a tenant in chief (21). This was Emeric's mother, and on 16 December of the same year a Close Roll

records that it was sought to replevy Clemencia, widow of Grimbold Pancefot (Emeric's brother), her lands at Sok Denys taken for default.

An Inquisition of 13 June 1330 found that two parts of the manor of Dulverton in Somerset were held in fee of Emery Paunsefoot as of the honour of Kyrkehowel in Wales by service of two parts of half a knight's fee, and that a third part was similarly held by service of a third part of half a fee (40). In 1332 Emeric sought the annulment of a recognizance in £40 which he had made with Hugh le Despenser the younger, by force and duress (16). In the same year, on 15 September, he was licensed to alienate two marks of rent in Bentley Pauncefot to Bordesley abbey. The convent had been bound, in ancient time, to find a chaplain to celebrate divine service in the chapel in Bentley manor every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday, and on all feast days. The present gift was to provide a chaplain to celebrate on the remaining days of the week (16).

In less than three months Sir Emeric died, holding Crickhowell castle and manor, and also the manors of Great Cowarne, Bentley Pauncefot, and Hasfield, and leaving a widow Sibyl and two sons, Grimbold and Hugh, both successive heirs. Inquisitions were held in pursuance of a writ issued 15 December 1332. At Hereford, on 14 January, it was found that the castle and manor of Crickhowell, including three water-mills, toll of the market, a fishery in the Usk, and a custom called 'Comorth' which ought to be paid every third year at 'Kalemay,' were held by Emeric Pauncevot or de Pansfot for his life of the gift of Geoffrey de Stoke and Adam Esgar, parson of the church of Hasfield, and by fine levied in the king's court, of the king in chief, as of the castle and lordship of Blenlevenyth, which was in the king's hand by the forfeiture of Roger de Mortuo Mari, late Earl of March, by service of finding four armed men and four barded horses for forty days in time of war in Wales, at Blenlevenyth castle, at his own charges. All he held in his demesne as of fee in the Marches of Wales was one water-mill. The manor of Great Cowarne he held for life of the gift of the

aforesaid Geoffrey and Adam, by the same fine, of the Earl of Hereford by service of finding an armed man and a barded horse for ten days in time of war with Wales, at his own charges. All he held in his demesne as of fee in the county of Hereford was 40s yearly rent. At Worcester it was found on 8 April 1333 that he held the manor of Bentley of the Earl of Warwick by service of a knight's fee, whereof his wife Sibyl was enfeoffed jointly with him of the gift of Master Thomas de Esegar, who enfeoffed them and their heirs by fine in the king's court, 4 March 1322 (40).

Grimbald Pauncefot, the heir, was aged 14 years on the feast of the Annunciation, 1332 (40). He was appointed collector of wools in Worcestershire, 1347 (21). He died in his 44th year, and the escheator was ordered 4 December 1375 to take into the king's hand the lands of Sir Grimbald who held by knight's service of the heirs of Humphrey de Bohun, late Earl of Hereford, minors in the king's ward (21). Grimbald had married twice, his first wife being Ellen, daughter of Sir Alan de Cherleton (7), and the second an unknown lady whose christian name was Pernell, who survived him until about 1390 (21). Leaving no issue by either wife he was succeeded by his brother Hugh, who was given delivery of his lands, 28 January 1376 (27), and died three years later leaving a ten-year-old son, John. On 2 May 1379 Katherine, late the wife of Hugh Pauncefot, was licensed to cut down and sell wood to the value of 100 marks in her manor of Bentley (16). She died in 1382. Two-thirds of the manor of Cowarne, which she had held of Margaret Bohun, a minor in the king's ward, by knight service as of the honour of Brecknock, were committed to Richard Ruyhale the younger, 20 May 1382, to hold during the minority of John, son and heir of Katherine. On 1 July following Ruyhale was also given the keeping of a third part of the manor of Crickhowell, with a rent of five marks yearly called 'newerent,' held by Katherine in dower of Roger Mortimer, another minor in the king's ward, to hold from the time of Katherine's death until the lawful age of her son John (21). This occurred in 1390, and on 5 May, after the king

had taken John's fealty, he was given full seisin of the third part of Crickhowell previously held by his mother in dower, and two-thirds of Cowarne, together with the reversion of the other third part also held by her after the death of Pernell, widow of Grimbald (21). Four years later, John, who had been knighted, accompanied Roger Mortimer, Earl of March and Ulster, on war service to Ireland, where he was wounded. On 12 September 1397 Mortimer granted 'Sir John Paunsfot his bachelor' for life a yearly rent of £20 from the issues of his castle, lands and lordships of Clifford and Glasbury in the march of Wales; and because John was maimed in the king's service he received a royal grant of £40 for life from the farm of the castles and lordships of Pembroke, Tynby and Kilgarron, and the commote of Osterlowe (16).

The Percies, having quarrelled with Henry IV over the ransom of Scottish captives, joined Owen Glendower, but the Welsh were defeated at the battle of Shrewsbury and Henry (Hotspur) Percy was slain. The sheriff of Hereford, wrongly accusing Sir John Paunsfot of having risen with the Earl of Worcester and Sir Henry de Percy in insurrection against the king, arrested and detained him. The king, assured that he did not so rise but in fact repaired to the royal presence at Shrewsbury, ordered the sheriff, 5 August 1403, to de-arrest Sir John, the king's knight, his men and servants, horses, goods, property and harness, and suffer him, his men and servants to go their way (27). A month later Sir John was ordered to see to the furnishing and safeguard of Crickhowell castle with fencible men, victuals, armour, artillery, etc., in view of the recent rebellion of Glendower and others (27). He was sheriff of Gloucestershire several times between 1421 and 1434, and of Herefordshire in 1437 (41); he represented the county in Parliament, 1413 and 1421 (42), and was a Justice of the Peace from 1432 to 1438 (16). On 5 November 1431 (16), he received confirmation of three charters granted to his ancestors, Richard (1255) and Grimbald (1281).

By a release dated at Hasfield, 20 September 1442, Sir John Pauncefoot brought to an end a contention that had lasted

for more than 180 years between the Abbots of St. Augustine's, Bristol, as lords of Ashleworth, and the Pauncefootes as lords of Hasfield. The dispute arose soon after 1255 between Richard Pauncefoot and the then abbot concerning divers works demanded by Richard of the abbot, his men and tenants of the manor of Ashleworth, and concerning common of pasture in the common pasture of Hasfield for such men and tenants dwelling from the house of Arnald, son of Arnald, to the town of Hasfield. A composition was effected between them whereby Richard granted to the men of Ashleworth dwelling as afore-said free common in all his common pasture of Hasfield, where the men of Hasfield had common, for all manner of beasts of their own, after the meadow was mown and the hay carried; and for this grant the abbot and men gave Richard five marks of silver, and agreed to pay 2s a year at St. Peter's Chains, and every year at the sowing of wheat to do one ploughing with seven ploughs at Hasfield to his poture, one hoeing with 32 men, with or without poture at his choice, one days work at carrying hay with 32 men without poture, and one reaping in autumn with or without poture; if with poture working the whole day and if without until noon. Nevertheless, disputes continued between the parties until Sir John agreed to the release of all actions, suits, plaints and demands under the composition and made a quitclaim of the 2s rent, in consideration of a rent of 50s granted out of the manor of Asleworth by the abbot (27). More than a century later the Pauncefootes were receiving this rent of 50s (16). This release of 1442 controverts Atkyns's statement that John Pauncefoot died seised of the manor of Hasfield, 3 Hen. V (1415-16), for John is there said to be son of Hugh, son of Aymer, son of Grimbald, son of Richard.

During the first quarter of 1444 Sir John gave the castle, manor and lordship of Crickhowell, by charter, to his son, Hugh, Miles Scull of Much Cowarne, John Clerke, rector of Llangattock, William Tracy of Toddington, and Thomas Mull of Harescombe, who were to grant same to the king after the decease of Sir John and Thomas his son, and the heirs of the

body of Hugh, John's father, which grant was ratified by the king. On 11 March, Richard, Duke of York, petitioned the king on the ground that Crickhowell had been held from time immemorial of the duke and his ancestors as of their castle and lordship of Blanluey and Dynas, by knight or other services, and that Sir John Pancefort and his feoffees, by making to themselves other services and reversions and granting them to the king, would disinherit the duke; and the king gave him licence to sue by his counsellors and servants in the high court of Parliament for restitution of his rights (16). Apparently his action was unsuccessful, for, on 27 September, the grantees above-named demised to Sir John and his son Thomas, in survivorship, the castle, manor and lordship of Crickhowell; with its demesnes, homages, services of free men, villeinages with villeins, tenants and their issues, meadows, pastures, waters, stanks, mills, forests, parks, stews, fisheries, mines, moors, turbaries, wards, reliefs, and advowsons, to hold at the rent of one red rose at Midsummer, and by the service of one knight's fee, with remainder to heirs of the body of Hugh, Sir John's father, with reversion to the demisors and their heirs (16). William Tracy and Thomas Mull having made a quit claim of the rent and service to the other grantors, they proceeded, on 28 October, to demise to the king the rose rent and service and the reversion of the premises in default of heirs of Hugh's body, and this grant was inrolled in chancery, 4 November (27).

Sir John, who apparently died in 1448, was twice married; first, when he was 47, he took to wife Margaret, daughter of Sir John Beauchamp of Holt in Norfolk, and later, Alicia, daughter of Sir Andrew Herle. By his first wife he had two sons, successive heirs, and a daughter, Margaret, who became the wife, first, of John Giffard, and then of William Tracy of Toddington. The elder son, Hugh, dying childless not long after his father, was succeeded by his brother, Thomas, who was M.P. for Gloucestershire in 1447 and 1449. The abbot of Gloucester complained in 1457 of riots and injuries done to him by Thomas Pauncefot, Esq., and others, and the king

issued several writs under the privy seal summoning them to appear before the king's council on a certain day to answer the charge. As they disappeared, however, before the writs could be served, the king caused proclamation to be made by other writs under the great seal, in London and the county, that they should attend before the council or the chancellor within a month. When they failed to do so, the sheriffs of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire were ordered to arrest them (16). The result is not known. In 1467 mention is made of Paunsfottes Court in the parish of Monesley, co. Hereford (16).

The last mention of Thomas occurs 1471, when Thomas Pauncefot of Hasfield, Gos., Esq., gave letters of attorney, on 21 November, for delivery of seisin of his lordships and manors of Harescombe and Duntisborne, and a third part of his manor of Newbury, Berks., to Nicholas Stonywall, Gervase Tempsetur, and Thomas Irlond, clerks; and on 30 November he quitclaimed them of all rights in those premises (43). Thomas, who married thrice, left a son and heir, Henry, by his first wife, Agatha, daughter of Sir Henry Owgan (Wogan). By his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Swinford of Kettlethorpe, Lincs., he had two daughters, while his third wife, Eleanor Brydges of Cubberley, Gos., gave him two sons and a daughter, Anne, who wedded Richard Mead, brother-in-law of Maurice, Lord Berkeley (44). His eldest son, Henry, who succeeded, married, first, Elizabeth Grevill, and, secondly, Katherine, daughter of Sir William Guise, by whom he had a son and heir, John, and another son who may have been the Grimbald Pauncefote of Hasfield whose daughter, according to a Worcestershire Visitation of 1634, married John d'Abitot of Redmarley. The Pauncefoote family are named in the old register of Redmarley d'Abitot church.

John, Henry's elder son, who served on the Commission of the Peace for Gloucestershire between 1504 and 1517, and also for Worcestershire in 1513, and was sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1506-7 (45), had no issue by his first wife, Agnes, daughter of Sir John St. Low, but his second wife, Bridget, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert Tate (Lord Mayor of London, 1488),

provided two sons and a daughter, Richard, the heir, John, and Eleanor. This John was presumably the John Pauncefort who was one of the Gentleman Ushers at the funeral of Henry VII in 1509, and the John Pauntsfote, a Gentleman Usher of the Royal Household in 1526 (46). Eleanor became the first wife of her cousin, Bartholomew Tate of Delapre abbey, Northants.

Upon the accession of Henry VIII John Pauncefote (senior) of Hasfield, Glos., Sutton, Som., Cowarne, Hfds., Bentley, Worcs., and London, received a general pardon (46). In 1517 John met a violent death while carrying out his duties as a Justice. Details are not known but it appears from the State Papers that several men were involved. William Horton of Staunton, Worcs., was outlawed for his part in the murder, and all his and his wife's possessions were seized and granted away, 19 February 1518, during his life. Another participant comes to light in 1527, when Richard Stokke of Hanley, Worcs., Normanton, Derbys., and of Westminster, was pardoned for the murder. Ten years later, a lease of certain manors was granted to Dame Elizabeth Savage, the circumstances being thus stated: 'Sir John Savage, junr., now dead, was indebted to the king, both on account of certain debts of John Savage, senr., and John Savage, junr., on account of the murder of John Pauncefoot by the said John Savage, junr., and his confederates. Certain manors were recovered "late of John Savage for the payment of 1,000 marks to Bridget, late wife of the said John Pauncefoot, to be expended in pious works of charity for the soul of the said John Pauncefoot (46)."'

John was succeeded by his elder son, Richard, who held the manor of Hasfield in 1517. No reference to him has come to light before 10 August 1547, when Richard Pauncefote, Esq., of Hasfelde, presented an incumbent to the parish church there (47). Under Queen Mary he was appointed a justice of the peace in 1554, and three years later a justice of oyer and terminer (16). On 7 February 1558 he paid £3 14s 5½d for a licence to grant certain premises to Humfrey Broke of London, gent., including 'a tymber yarde' with a tenement, without

Algate in the suburbs of London; a tenement in Cornewell in the city of London called 'the signe of the Plowe'; two tenements in Soperlane and one in Olde Fysshestrete, London; and a tenement upon the footbridge of London called 'the signe of the Nonnes heade' (16). He died early in 1559, within two months of the death of Queen Mary, and his will was proved in the Gloucester Consistory Court on 21 January, when his widow, Dorothy, was ordered to exhibit an inventory by 3 February (47). Dorothy, who was the daughter of John Ashfield of Heythrop, Oxon., died in 1568, and on a raised tomb in the chancel of Hasfield church (the only Pauncefoote memorial remaining there) are the Pauncefoote arms (Gules, three Lioncels rampant, Argent) with an unfinished inscription round the verge: 'Here lyeth Dorothy Pauncefote late the wydowe of Pauncefote' (48) There were five children of the marriage: John, son and heir, and four daughters, one of whom, Jane, was married, 22 January 1564, at Elmore, to John Gyse of Elmore and Brockworth, Glos., and was buried there 27 June 1587 (49).

John had livery of Hasfield and his other lands on 3 November 1559 (16). He was appointed, 22 February 1565, a justice for surveying and repairing the banks, ditches and weirs of the water called 'Leddon,' then out of repair and obstructing the passage of ships (50). On 20 December 1570 he presented to the rectory of Hasfield (47). He married Dorothy, 5th daughter of Lord Windsor of Bradenham, Bucks., and both suffered much persecution because they would not forsake the Catholic Faith in which they were born and bred, and conform to the new religion. In the same year that John inherited the family estates Queen Elizabeth restored the Protestant religion by the Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity and thenceforth the only legal services were those of the new Prayer-book. Severe penalties were incurred by anyone who said or heard Mass: for the first offence a fine of 100 marks (£133 6s) to be paid in six weeks, otherwise six months' imprisonment; for the second offence 400 marks or one year's imprisonment; for the third offence, forfeiture of goods and chattels,

and life imprisonment. Moreover, fines were also imposed for failure to attend the new church services. Even after 14 years, the Hasfield churchwardens presented in July 1572, that 'Mr Pauncefote, esquier, and Mrs Dorithie his wieffe dothe not frequent their parishe church,' and again in the next year that 'Mr John Paunsett and his wyfe do not keepe his church' (47). In compliance with an order of 1577 the Gloucester bishop, Richard Cheney, supplied the Privy Council, on 20 November, with a list of all persons in his diocese who refused to attend church to hear divine service, with the annual value of their lands and goods, and under Hasfield parish he named 'Mr John Paunsfoote and his wyffe, worthe, in lands £20, and in goods £100' (51).

Around Christmas 1582, John received at his Hasfield house Thomas Alfield, the Gloucester-born seminary priest and subsequent martyr, who, only a few months earlier, had been released from the Tower after wavering to some extent under the cruel torture of the rack. About this time, after nearly a quarter of a century's persecution, John was pondering the idea of selling up and quitting the country so that he might live in a land where he could freely practise his religion. After 1580, refusal to attend the new church services incurred a fine of £20 a month (13 months to the year) for each person; and it was now punishable with loss of property, or perpetual imprisonment, to hear Mass, receive the Sacraments, educate children as Catholics, even to wear or possess a rosary, cross or Agnus Dei, blessed by the Pope. At John's request John Mynors (Thomas Alfield's brother-in-law) journeyed to Hasfield from London at Michaelmas, 1583 'to make a wryghtinge,' which may well have concerned the disposal of the Pauncefoote house and estates. Apparently, however, Dorothy was not prepared to accompany him abroad, for before the end of November, when they were at Mynor's house in Aldersgate Street, London, the two 'fell at varyaunce . . . towchinge a wryghtinge,' and shortly afterwards John left to go to Mr Luson's in Shropshire, while Dorothy went later to Mr Edward Goodrich's in Oxfordshire (52).

John left England in 1584 (53), and his eldest son followed him early in the following year, for, on 15 February 1585, Thomas Dodwell, the apostate and spy, reported that 'Pancefoote sonne and heire of Mr Pansefoote of Glocestresheire' had been conveyed over within this month by Thomas Alfield, the priest (52). The sheriff discovered John's flight in October, when he was called upon to visit houses of prominent recusants in the county to find and requisition light horses. A fruitless search at Hasfield enlightened him that 'John Pansfoot was a fugitive,' as he reported to the Privy Council. Retaliation quickly followed, and his wife was arrested solely because she clung to the old Faith. The Prison Lists disclose that 'Dorothy Paunsford wyff of John Paunsford of Glocestershire was committed unto Newgate the xijth daye of December 1585, by the Arche Bishopp of Canterburye for the Romish Religion,' and she was still imprisoned there on 13 June 1586 (54).

The son who joined his father abroad was apparently also named John, because his father, in a book translated by him from the French and printed at Antwerp in 1590*, described himself as 'John Paunchfoot the elder, Esquire, in the tyme of his banishment.' He was living in exile at Rouen in 1596 (53). Inquisitions as to the possessions of John Pancefoot, a fugitive, were held in 1591 and 1596 (55). Another son, Richard, who stayed behind at Hasfield, afterwards sold the family estates at Hasfield (after over 450 years uninterrupted succession), and at Bentley, Compton Pancefoote, and Cowarne. The Feet of Fines records a transaction in the Michaelmas term of 1598, whereby Richard Pancefoote, Esq., and Anne his wife, together with Edward and Mary Blount, and Richard and

* The Firme Foundation of Catholike Religion against the Bottomlles pitt of heresies, wherein is showed that onlye Catholikes shal be saved, and that all heretikes of what sect soever are excluded from the Kingdome of Heaven. Compyled by John Caumont of Champanye, and translated out of Frenche into Englishe by John Paunchfoot the elder, Esquire, in the tyme of his banishment. Sm. 8vo., pp. 120, besides licence of censor, Antwerp, 1590. Possibly an edition was privately printed in England three or four years earlier—Pollen, *Acts*, 239. One edition was printed at the secret press at Lostock Hall, *vide Gillow's Lostock Hall in Philips' Old Halls of Lancs. and Chesh.*, p. 67 (Gillow, *Bibl. Dict.*).

John Parker, were given £500 by Edward and Susan Barker, in respect of the manor of Hasfield, with 20 messuages, common of pasture for all kinds of cattle, and £23 rent, in Hasfield, Corse Wood and Corse Lawn, and free fishery in the water of Severn, view of frankpledge in Hasfield, and also the advowson of Hasfield church (56). Before 1608 Paul Tracy of Stanway was seised of the manor, which had been demised by John Pauncefoot and Richard Pauncefoot his son by deed to any persons in possession (57).

On 5 December 1608, 'Henry Pauncefoote, son of Richard, late of Hasfield, co. Glouc., Esq.,' was apprenticed to Thomas Morley of the Skinners Company, for 10 years (58). Some land in Hasfield was evidently retained by one of the family, for Atkyns wrote in 1712 that Edward Pauncefoot had a good house and estate there. Who he was does not appear, but he probably conformed to the new religion as he did not register any property as a 'papist' under the Act of 1715. Another of the family, no doubt, was John Pauncefoote, Gent., whose wife, Sophronia, died 28 August 1615 in her 55th year, and was buried in Ashleworth church. The inscription on a flat stone records that she bore her husband 15 children, of whom four sons and five daughters were still living with him (11). One of the sons, 'John Pauncefoote, son of John, of Ushelworth, co. Glouc., Gent.,' was also apprenticed, 5 December 1608, to Thomas Morley, and in 1617 he was granted the Freedom of the Skinners Company (58).

The Pauncefoote crest was a lion rampant *arg.*, crowned with a ducal coronet *or*, holding between the paws an escutcheon of the second charged with a wolf's head *proper*. Their motto was *Pensez forte* (59).

All that remains of the ancient Pauncefoote Court, the family seat, would appear to be a large portal or gateway, with several blank escutcheons, of considerable antiquity, which stands near the church at Hasfield. When the old house was built is not known. Burke (*Commoners and Landed Gentry*) quotes Camden as stating that the Richard Pauncefoote of 1249 'built a fair house at this Hasfield, called Pauncefort

Court, and his ancestors were possessed of fair lands there in the Conqueror's time'; but Camden, writing in 1610 of this Richard, actually said: 'whose successors built a fair house here, and whose predecessors were possessed of fair lands in this Country before, and in the Conqueror's time in Wiltshire.'

NOTE. The Rector of Hasfield (Rev. W. S. T. Parker), writing in *The Vale Churchman* for November, 1952, states that 'Hasfield Court, as the old Manor House is now called, the stately Georgian mansion and home of Mrs Beaman, stands in close proximity to the Church. Portions of this house date from the reign of King John. In the 15th century Hasfield Court is spoken of as Hasfield Moat House, the present lake being a remnant of the old moat, and even today the stone archway which formed the entrance over the drawbridge may be seen incorporated in the stable buildings.' Mrs Beaman, writing in the *Gloucester Citizen* in the same month, says that the Court was the Pauncefoot House and that her late father-in-law, Mr William Meath-Baker, said that his dining room panelling at the Court bearing Richard and Dorothy Pauncefoot's initials was dated 1516. Bigland (1792) mentions Hasfield Court as the manorial house, built in the style of the 17th century, but near it stands a large portal or gateway, with several blank escutcheons, and apparently of much higher antiquity.

REFERENCES

ABBREVIATIONS

BG. *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.*

GC. *Calendar Records of the Gloucester Corporation.*

- (1). C. W. Bardsley; *Dict. Eng. and Welsh Surnames* (1901); Lower, *Pat. Brit.* p. 259.
- (2). BG, iv (A. S. Ellis, 'Domesday Tenants of Glos.').
- (3). BG, xiii (Sir H. Barkly, 'Testa de Nevill'); BG, xiv (Sir H. Barkly, 'Liber Niger').
- (4). *Cart. S. Petri Glouc.*, I, 98, 354; II, 5.
- (5). GC, no. 95.
- (6). *Rot. de Praestito*, p. 200.
- (7). Burke, *Commoners*, III.
- (8). GC, no. 149.
- (9). *Pleas of the Crown for Co. of Glouc.* (ed. F. W. Maitland), p. 25.
- (10). GC, no. 250.
- (11). Bigland, *Glos.*
- (12). *Ibid.*
- (13). Burke, *Commoners*, III, IV.
- (14). *Cal. Charter Rolls.*
- (15). Atkyns, *Glos.*; *Cal. Patent Rolls.*
- (16). *Cal. Patent Rolls.*
- (17). *Excerpta e Rotulis Finium*, II, 398, 400.
- (18). *Robert of Gloucester's Chronicle* (Oxford, 1724), II.
- (19). GC, no. 558.
- (20). *Rishanger's Chronicle* (Camden Soc.), p. 125.
- (21). *Cal. Fine Rolls.*
- (22). *Cal. Inquisitions*, Edw. I.
- (23). *Parliamentary Writs.*
- (24). *Knights of Edw I* (Harl. Soc.), IV.
- (25). *Chan. Inq. Misc.*, File 144; BG, xxxiii (M. L. Bazeley, 'Forest of Dean').
- (26). *Chan. Inq. p.m.*
- (27). *Cal. Close Rolls.*
- (28). BG, xxxiii, loc. cit.
- (29). *Welsh Roll; Parl. Writs.*
- (30). BG, xi (Sir H. Barkly, 'Kirby's Quest').
- (31). *Cal. Inquisitions*, Edw. II.
- (32). *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 5 Ser. x.
- (33). *Arch. Camb.*, 6 Ser. iv.

- (34). Bliss, *Entries in Papal Registers*.
- (35). *Chan. Inq. p.m.*, 2 Edw. II, no. 49.
- (36). Atkyns, *Glos.*
- (37). *Cal. Charter Rolls in Bodl. Lib.* (Turner and Coxe, 1878).
- (38). *Parl. Writs; Cal. Pat. Rolls*.
- (39). *Cal. Pat. and Close Rolls*.
- (40). *Cal. Inquisitions*, Edw. III.
- (41). *Cal. Fine Rolls; Rudge, Glos.*
- (42). W. R. Williams, *Members for Glos.* (1898).
- (43). BG, LX ('Glos. Deeds-Shrewsbury (Talbot) MSS.').
- (44). Burke, *Commoners*, III; *Visn. of Glos.* 1623; Fosbrooke, *Glos.*
- (45). *Cal. Pat. Rolls; L & P, For. & Dom. Hen. VIII; Atkyns; Rudge.*
- (46). *L & P, For. & Dom. Hen. VIII.*
- (47). *Hockaday Abs. (Hasfield)*, Glouc. Pub. Lib.
- (48). *Visns. of London and Oxford* (Harl. Soc.); *Glos. Wills, 1541-1650* (Brit. Record Soc.); Bigland.
- (49). Fosbrooke, *Glos.*
- (50). GC, no. 70.
- (51). BG, v (Rev. R. H. Clutterbuck, 'Bp. Cheney's Return of Recusants')
- (52). *Cal. S. P. Dom.* 1581-90.
- (53). Gillow, *Bibl. Dict. Eng. Caths.* (1885).
- (54). *Cath. Record Soc.*, II, 248, 253 (*Prison Lists*).
- (55). *P.R.O. Lists and Indexes*, no. xxxvii.
- (56). BG, xvii (Sir J. Maclean, 'Pedes Finium, 1588-1612').
- (57). *Inq. p.m. dat.* 28 July, 1638.
- (58). *Misc. Geneal. et Herald.* (ed. J. J. Howard), 3 Ser., I, III.
- (59). Fairbank, *Book of Crests* (1905), I.

