



*Fred. W. Elwell pin.*

THE GALLERY AT THORPE



THE  
FORTUNES OF A FAMILY

(BOSVILLE OF NEW HALL  
GUNTHWAITE AND THORPE)

THROUGH  
NINE CENTURIES

BY  
LADY MACDONALD OF THE ISLES

PRIVATELY PRINTED BY  
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EDINBURGH



TO  
CELIA  
WHO MADE ME DO IT  
FROM  
HER MOTHER

*BY THE SAME WRITER*

A ROMANTIC CHAPTER IN FAMILY HISTORY

Privately printed in 1911 (HATCHARD)

THE HOUSE OF THE ISLES

Privately printed in 1925 (CONSTABLE)



## ENVOI

AT Thorpe are a quantity of old papers : deeds—little tiny slips of parchment some of them are—which go back to Edward II.'s reign ; larger and beautifully written indentures of the days of Philip and Mary, Elizabeth, and Charles II., leases, wills, wedding settlements, records of Courts Baron, old accounts, written opinions of counsel, etc. etc., and above all, *Letters*, dating back to the sixteenth century, often tattered and stained, but still legible.

When dipping into this confused mass of documents, I have often wished that others besides myself could experience the exciting little thrills and keen enjoyment with which I deciphered the old writings. At last, encouraged by my daughter, I have tried to pass on these joys by giving an account of my finds, and by quoting many of them.

I have left the spelling just as I found it, for it seemed to me that to alter anything would

be to destroy the atmosphere of their old world charm, and I have tried to let all speak as much as possible for themselves.

It has been truly a labour of love, and it is with regret that I lay down my pen.

ALICE BOSVILLE MACDONALD OF THE ISLES.

THORPE HALL,  
*November 1927.*

Since this book was ready to print I have learnt that a copy of Godfrey Bosville's *Memoirs* exists in the Wilson Collection at Sheffield, besides other old papers belonging to the family. Hunter must have consulted all these for his *South Yorkshire*, so I hope I have missed nothing of any great importance by my previous ignorance of the existence of these papers, the knowledge of which comes too late to use.

A. E. B. M.

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# THE FORTUNES OF A FAMILY

## CHAPTER I

### THE FOUNDER OF THE FAMILY— ELEVENTH CENTURY

NOT quite ten miles due south of Saint-Valery-en-Caux in Normandy is the little village of Bosville (in these days a junction on the Rouen railway), which is still famous for its market and fair and is still surrounded by the fertile *prés salés*, those good sea-mist swept meadows so excellent for cattle. Indeed, the oxen of this district were so famous that the very name of the village tells you so, *Bos* being Latin for bull and *villa* for a country dwelling. This latter syllable has been turned into the French *ville*=a town.

From this spot came, in the eleventh century, the progenitor of the Bosville family—Sir Martin de Bosville, Knight. (I.)<sup>1</sup>

No doubt he had his castle here, where the later château now stands, close to the little church dedicated to St. Samson.

For Bosville and its lord, the meeting in

<sup>1</sup> The Roman numbers refer to the heads of the family.

1065, at Lillebonne Castle, whither Duke William of Normandy summoned his vassals to consult with them as to his projected invasion of England, must have been thrilling. Most of Duke William's people were not at all anxious to make the attempt, and considered that they should not be asked to fight beyond the sea. Whether Sir Martin agreed with them or not, the meeting was big with fate for many a Norman. For Duke William prevailed in the council and presently led his barons to victory over Saxon Harold at Hastings (in 1066), and England became a mine of rich gifts for them all.

There is a paper at Thorpe written long afterwards by a descendant of the Norman knight—the fourth Godfrey Bosville—who composed *Memoirs of the Bosvilles*, a book which, alas ! appears to have vanished, but to which reference is made by the historian Hunter in a note upon page 283 of his *History of Hallamshire*. The paper at Thorpe is probably part of the first rough copy of these *Memoirs* and is a mere fragment, but even so it is a valuable source of information as to the founding and growing of the family. Its very existence, even in its mutilated state, is rather a marvel, as its pages

were all thrown about among old papers and letters in a box and were little thought of; indeed one finds upon them in several places the inscription, 'Of no Use.'

Godfrey Bosville writes in a most discursive strain, often deserting family records to soliloquise over matters such as the wickedness of monopolies, the origin of the names of village inns, etc. etc.; still, much of interest about his family can be gleaned from the few pages left. The date of these scattered leaves is fixed by the fact that one of them, used on one side for the Memoirs, is on the other side a letter not addressed to Godfrey Bosville but to Mr. Watson, his brother-in-law. This letter is chiefly a receipt for a bill of £120, and is dated 20th July 1758. But Godfrey Bosville evidently did not hurry over his writing, as Hunter, in the second volume of his *South Yorkshire*, in a note on page 349, gives a copy of the following declaration :—

'I, Godfrey Bosville of Gunthwaite, in the year 1765, finished this account of the family according to the writings and have likewise wrote the Catalogue of the writings to which it refers, because in my younger days, I employed an attorney at a guinea a day, for three

days ; to destroy such as were useless ; and I am afraid that he destroyed several that were at least curious. Since that time I have been taught, by Mr. John Wilson of Broomhead, to understand them in some small degree and have wrote upon them what they are, and have left this pedigree lest my successors should be guilty of the same folly with myself.'

Godfrey Bosville seems to have been helped by an Alexander Bosville, who, though he begins his letters to Godfrey, 'Honoured Sir,' yet signs himself, 'Your most affectionate kinsman and humble servant.' A letter of his, dated from London on July 19, 1694, is addressed to 'Godfrey Bosville Esq. at Gunthwaite Hall, to be left at Edward Firth's in Sheffield, Yorkshire.' From Hunter's pedigrees we learn that this Alexander Bosville belonged to the Braithwell branch of the family and was a printer in London (see page 207).

The Memoirs seem largely to follow a Pedigree, still at Thorpe, drawn up for Francis Bosville of Gunthwaite in the year 1586 by Glover, Somerset Herald and Marshal to Norroy King-of-Arms ; this Pedigree, emblazoned with many coats of arms, is still in excellent preservation at the present date, 1928.

From both Pedigree and Memoirs we learn that Sir Martin de Bosville was Treasurer of the Conqueror's army. This assertion is to a certain extent borne out by the Roll of Battle Abbey in the *History of Normandy* (page 1023), which is in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh,<sup>1</sup> where we are told that the Sieur de Bosville had a considerable command in the army of William the Conqueror at the memorable battle of Hastings, where King Harold was slain. Whatever post he held, we find that Sir Martin flourished and that he left children and lands behind him when he died and was buried at Missindry Abbey, which he is said to have founded. His wife was the daughter of Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, and they had issue three sons : Anthony, the eldest ; Richard, ancestor of the Scottish branch of the family ; and Clarembald, the Prior of Missindry Abbey (since called Faversham) in Kent.

And the Memoirs go on to state that in 1087 Sir Martin was Treasurer of England to William Rufus the King, and that he died in the fifth year of the same king's reign, 1092, at his manor of Chawforth in Buckinghamshire, having held the estate twenty-six years—that

<sup>1</sup> See Douglas's *Baronage*, page 307.

is, since 1066; and they go on to say that Sir Martin gave lands to his younger children, 'which was customary at that time, as money was so extremely rare,' and observe that Oxspring in Kent was most likely one of his estates, 'for it was then the method to join the name to the nature of the place, as Bosville = an ox and a town; and Oxmuir = an ox and a moor;—the place where the Bosvilles first settled in Scotland in the Shire of North Berwick, Richard his second son going there with Queen Margaret in 1068—Oxmuir was once called Bosville's land. The crest, like the name of the land, alludes to Bosville—It is a Bull in a Bush.'

Douglas in his *Baronage*, under Boswell of Balmuto (page 307), remarks, *à propos* of Richard having reached Scotland with Queen Margaret, that he more probably came to Scotland in the reign of Margaret's son David, who had been educated in England and had formed friendships with Normans there and had brought back some to Scotland with him, bestowing lands on them. The whole article in Douglas is very interesting, and so too is the one upon Boswell of Auchinleck.

## CHAPTER II

### THE FIRST YORKSHIRE BOSVILLES— TWELFTH CENTURY

(II.) ANTHONY BOSVILLE, Knight—still to quote the *Memoirs*—son and heir of Sir Martin, married Helen, daughter of Thomas Radcliff, Knight, and had three sons, William, John, and Elias. This latter gave lands to Nostell Abbey in Yorkshire, and his gift was confirmed in 1159, the fifth year of Henry II., according to Dugdale's *Monasticon* (vol. ii. page 37). This benefaction to Nostell by Elias de Bosville, the first of that surname to be found in South Yorkshire, where Bosvilles were afterwards so numerous, was confirmed by William 'de Warren,' son of Prince Henry of Scotland, Count of Northumberland, by Ada, a sister of the last Earl of Warren of the old line. This William 'de Warren' became in 1165 William the Lion, King of Scotland. Hunter, in his *South Yorkshire* (vol. i. pages 376 and 377), enters a copy made by him of this confirmation

which he found in the great Chartulary of Nostell (now in the Cotton Library, Vesp. E 19 f. 57). The name of Elias is there recorded as Helias de Bossavilla and Nostell is called Nostlat. Hunter says that this document shows that the Warren part of Barnborough was held by Elias de Bosville before the Newmarches. All this seems a proof of the old tradition that a Bosville was the friend of that Earl of Warren who became King William the Lion of Scotland.

In vol. i. page 687 of Dugdale's *Monasticon* we read that King Henry II. confirms 'from William de Bosevilla the soccage of the Fee in London and Southwark to the Abbey of Faversham in Kent, which was founded in 1148 the 13th year of King Stephen and the lands of Fey which the Abbot Clarembald bought. . . .' Thus the Bosvilles, Clarembald, son, and William, grandson, of Sir Martin, are connected with the beginnings of Faversham Abbey. Their descendant, the writer of the *Memoirs*, notes that the name of William does not appear in the Pedigree (Glover), and that the only mention of him is in the above confirmation grant, but he remarks: 'Nor is it of any signification as he had no children so was

Ancestor to no Family and Benefactor to none, for he left his Estate to Charitable Uses; that is, to other people's relations instead of his own; and from that time we hear of no Estate y<sup>e</sup> family had in y<sup>e</sup> South, where they certainly must have had their first settlement and might be y<sup>e</sup> reason why we find them so immediately settled in y<sup>e</sup> North, John y<sup>e</sup> second son having his Patrimony in Yorkshire and from him are my family descended.'

This disappointed descendant proceeds to remark dryly: 'Elias, the youngest brother, had the same religious zeal to exonerate his Father's descendants from any Incumbrance of Gratitude'!—referring no doubt to Elias' gift to Nostell—and he adds: 'The Laity grew weak but the Clergy strong' by such methods.

(III.) John de Bosville, Knight, second son of Anthony and Helen (Radcliff), married Matilda, daughter of Thomas Mounteney, Knight, Governor of the Tower of London, and had one son, Thomas, and one daughter married in the reign of King Stephen to Thomas Grimston, Knight, whose grandfather, Silvester Grimston, was Standard Bearer to William the Conqueror at the battle of Hastings, and afterwards his Chamberlain.

This John de Bosville is called of Aldersey, an evident mistake for Ardesley (Ardsley), of which land the chief part, the Manor of New Hall, was still retained by the Bosvilles when the Memoirs were written and for some time afterwards.

As the City of London was firmly attached to the cause of King Stephen, John de Bosville, by his connection with the Governor of the Tower, would no doubt share this loyalty and may have suffered in consequence, when Henry II., the son of Stephen's rival, the Empress Maud, succeeded to the throne. At any rate, we next find him giving the name of Oxspring, which had belonged to the southern estate lost to him, to a tract of barren moorland in Yorkshire; Godfrey Bosville calls this the Manor of Oxspring, and says its antiquity must be great, being very apparent from the 'Modus'<sup>1</sup> fixed on it, which was still only ten shillings in his day, and remarks 'the Manor was much more considerable at that time than it is now, for the suit and service to the Court' (which probably fixed the Modus) 'and the remaining Chief Rents show that it extended over Thurlstone, Carlecoats, Hunshelf and part

<sup>1</sup> A Modus=something paid as a compensation for tithes, on the supposition of being a moderate equivalent.—Johnson's *Dictionary*.

of Bradfield Chapelry, to Moor Hall and other places, as well as to Rough Birchworth.' He continues: 'The Townships of Oxspring and Hunshelf were not divided till 1686 when two Overseers of the Poor were appointed; Edmund Stocks for Hunshelf and Richard Willy for Oxspring, but in 1685 Jonas Broadhead was for both Townships.' The Manor, he thinks, might have been still more extensive originally, for it must have been curtailed by the practice of giving away portions to younger sons—one of these in time assumed the name of 'de Oxspring' instead of his own, which was lost; and this induced the lord of the manor, who afterwards repurchased these lands, to purchase the arms too, in case any but a Bosville should bear them. These arms, or probably crest, seem to have been, for Oxspring, a bull's *head* in a bush merely, instead of the original whole bull of the Bosvilles.

## CHAPTER III

### SETTLING DOWN—THIRTEENTH CENTURY

(IV.) THOMAS DE BOSVILLE, Knight, son of Sir John and his wife Matilda (Mounteney), married the daughter of Hugh de la Nash, Knight, of Alisbury, and had a son.

(V.) John de Bosville of Holme on Spalding Moor ‘by Riccall in Yorkshire.’ He married Agnes, daughter of John, Lord Folyot of Fenwick, and had two sons, John and Thomas.

The fact that John and Agnes did not live at Ardsley, as his ancestors had done, is probably, the Memoirs tell us, owing to Agnes having a better house upon her estate (Holme). Their second son, Thomas, had a son, William, who married the heiress of John Talun and built a house called Bosville, now Bossall, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, on the River Derwent. This William was Sheriff of Yorkshire for three years—forty-ninth, fiftieth, and fifty-first of Henry III. (1266-68). In Drake’s *Antiquities of York* (page 351) he is called William de

Bozale (49 Henry III. 1266). In Burton's *Monasticon Eboracensis* (pages 233, 234) there is a deed from William de Bosville, Knight, and Jane his wife, daughter of John Talun, giving the Manor of Kelkparva to the Priory of Burlington, which gift was confirmed at Westminster by the said William (55 Henry III. 1271). In this deed he is again named William de Bozale. In the List of Sheriffs he is called William de Boszall.

(VI.) John de Bosville, Knight, son and heir of John and Agnes (Folyot), married Alice, daughter of Hugh and Clarice de Darfield. The Memoirs remark of her : ' Glover calls her the heiress, because the following Records name two Proprietors for Darfield of the Bosville family, therefore I suppose John's brother Thomas married the other daughter and co-heiress, for William son of Thomas is joint owner with his son.' From this point onwards in the Bosville history we get the valuable help of the Rev. Joseph Hunter, who has much to say of Bosvilles in his *History of Hallamshire* and still more in his *History of South Yorkshire*, and who considers (*S. Yorkshire*, vol. ii. page 109) that with Sir John de Bosville and his wife Alice de Darfield begins 'the authentic

and established pedigree of the Bosvilles of Yorkshire, an ancient, numerous and influential family,' and quotes an existing charter by Alicia, wife of Sir John de Bosville, in which, describing herself as 'Alicia de Boysevil uxor D'mi' Joh' de Boysevil,' she grants in her free widowhood certain rights to Peter her son, 'sicut fecerunt in diebus Hugonis de Derfield patris mei.' This charter Hunter had seen in the collection of evidences made by Mr. Wilson of Broomhead.

On the same page Hunter notes that a Willielmus de Bossevilla is a witness to a charter of Humphrey de Bohun in 1125; and that Michael, son of William de Bosville, was a benefactor to the Abbey of Wardon in Bedfordshire, and the same William de Bosville is spoken of by Geffery Comes de Maundeville as his Knight in the same chartulary. Again, a Richard and a Ralph de Bosville were early benefactors to the house of de la Pré near Northampton (how old Godfrey must have groaned over these gifts away from descendants!); and in presumption that this Ralph was of the same family as the Bosvilles of Yorkshire, it is observed that the device upon his seal was an ox issuing from a holt or wood,

a badge of distinction used afterwards by the Yorkshire family. The name Ralph, too, is found later used for younger sons in the Yorkshire family. Hunter gives quite a lot of charters in which the name of Sir John de Bosville appears, and also speaks of a deed in which he styles himself ‘ Dominus Johannes de Bosevil’ and quit-claims to Thomas de Dichton, his seneschal, all demands ‘ ab initio mundi ad finem seculi ’ ! and he tells of a valuable charter making gifts of lands to Peter his son, to which John’s seal is still appended. The device is a heater shield <sup>1</sup> having the five fusils in fess but no charge in chief ; there was an inscription round it, but it is broken away. The seal of Alicia, John’s wife, is also in existence ; the device a fleur-de-lis with the inscription surrounding it, ‘ S ALIC’ D’ BOSVIL.’ Part of the deed, to which this seal is affixed is a quit-claim in her free widowhood to ‘ Peter de Boysevil, qui est Dominus feodi’ of a pound of pepper (the word is *cyminus*) which Peter ought to pay for de Bykerthorp and Scotrode.

<sup>1</sup> The large elongated ‘kite-shaped’ shields of Richard I.’s day were in Henry VII.’s reign superseded by the smaller ‘heater-shaped’ ones. Old Heraldry say that the first shield shape was copied from Adam’s spade !

Godfrey Bosville remarks that the Bosvilles attended the King, as their lands held of no baron, 'except Brierley, a manor of the King's demesne, of which a temporary gift had been made by the King to William le Flemming, one of his Low Country commanders'; and the King had also made William le Flemming patron of the living of Darfield, 'for the first Rector of Darfield upon Record was Sir William, son of Robert, instituted 1230, presented by William Flandrensis.' Hunter says (*South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. page 109) that a Swein de Darfield before 1185 gave eight acres in Ardsley to the monks of Bretton. This Swein, Hunter thinks, may be an ancestor of Hugh de Darfield, the father of Alicia, wife of Sir John Bosville, and says it is not impossible that in this line we have the progeny of Alsi, the King's tenant at Darfield at the time of the Domesday survey. Speaking of the gift to the Bretton monks, the Memoirs record that it was to make a pool or dam in the River Durr and to have a mill. Elsewhere in the Memoirs we are told that Darfield is named from this River Durr flowing through fields.

## CHAPTER IV

### LAYING ACRE TO ACRE—FOURTEENTH CENTURY

SIR JOHN and Alicia (Darfield) de Bosville had six children. John the eldest married ' Agnes,' and they had a son, Sir James Bosville of New Hall ; this son died unmarried and gave New Hall to his cousin Robert, Constable of Pontefract. In this Deed of Gift he calls himself Sir James Bosville of Middlefield (so says Hunter : Godfrey Bosville says of Micklefield), and gives to Robert, son of Peter Bosville, all his manors of New Hall and all his lands and reversions in Darfield, Wombwell, Ardsley, Barnsley and Gresbrook ; dated at New Hall on the Friday next after the Feast of the Purification, 3 Edward III. 1329. Godfrey Bosville says that James leaving so much to Robert can only be accounted for by the supposition that Robert had married the daughter and heiress of James, but Hunter says James died unmarried.

Of the other six children of John and Alicia,

the second son Robert and fourth son William, both living in 1296, seem to have left no issue. The two daughters were Matilda, who married Sir Roger FitzThomas, and Catherine.

(VII.) It was Peter, the third son, who carried on the family in the early days of the fourteenth century when Edward I. was king. He had married Beatrix de Furnivall, daughter of Gerard, Lord Furnivall, according to the *Memoirs* (and Glover). Hunter is not so sure, but adds, 'I would not say that it is on the whole improbable that such a marriage should have taken place.' Godfrey Bosville tells us that this Lord Furnivall was one of the greatest barons of England and that his father was one of those who signed Magna Charta. The Furnivalls were lords of Hallamshire, and Hunter says in his *Hallamshire* (page 31) that Joan Furnivall was the wife of Thomas Bosville of Cavil in Yorkshire, and that they have a monument in the church at Eastrington in the East Riding. Joan was the youngest daughter of Thomas Lord Furnivall (who succeeded his father and was forty years of age in 1332; he died at Sheffield in 1339 and was buried in the Abbey of Beauchief) and of Joan, the child-widow of William de Montacute and eldest

daughter and co-heir of Theodore de Verdon, a great baron in Staffordshire, by Maud his wife, daughter of Edmund Lord Mortimer. Lady Furnivall was born 1304, died in childbed 1334, and was laid with her ancestors in the church of Croxden Abbey. It seems likely that if one Bosville could marry a Furnivall—and Hunter does not dispute Thomas of Cavil's alliance with Joan de Furnivall—another Bosville's marriage with another Furnivall is not surprising.

Peter and Beatrix (de Furnivall) had many children. Godfrey Bosville's list differs from Hunter's. He says : ' Adam, Beatrice, Dionysia, Elizabeth, Robert (Constable of Pomfret), Philip (living 1325), Edmund (living 9 Edward III.), and Peter.' Hunter gives the following:—

1. Adam Bosville, Lord of Ardsley.
2. Robert Bosville, Constable of Pontefract under John of Gaunt. Godfrey Bosville says he married Jane Bosville and left only a daughter Elizabeth married to yet another Bosville, but Hunter shows four generations of his descendants : Sir Thomas Bosville, living 1369 ; his son Anthony, living 1383 ; his son, another Anthony ; and this latter

Anthony's son Robert, who married Emma, daughter and heir of John Vesci of Coningsborough, of whom the Bosvilles of that place and of Warmsworth, Braithwell and Ravenfield.

3 and 4. Philip and Edmund, both living in 1333.

5. William, living 1347.

6 and 7. Isabella and Elizabeth.

It is a disappointment to hear no more of the beautifully-named Dionysia, to say nothing of her elder sister Beatrice. Query : Can Dionysia possibly have been the wife of Elias de Midhope ? of whom we shall hear in connection with Penistone Market. In Hunter's *South Yorkshire* (vol. ii. page 195), in a deed dated at Midhope on the Sunday next after the Feast of St. Edmund the King, 1299, 'Dionysia, quondam uxor Domini Elias de Midhope' is mentioned. Hunter dates Dionysia Bosville's father 'tempus Edward I.' who reigned from 1272 to 1307, so it is just possible. There exists at Thorpe a duly attested copy, made June 10, 1698, and signed by Sir Thomas Trevor, of a deed dated 18 Edward I. (1290) which is granted by Elias de Midhope of a market for Penisale, a town which has utterly vanished.

This deed was probably copied for the third Godfrey, 'Justice Bosville,' who gave a market to Penistone in 1699 (see *South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. page 334), for his first idea was to revive the Penisale market at Penistone, but this was opposed, so he made petition for a new market at Penistone, which was granted in 1669.

To return to the children of Peter and Beatrix.

(VIII.) Adam, their eldest son, called Lord of Ardsley, married Matilda, 'who brought lands at Rykenildthorpe.' (The marriages of the Bosvilles seem ever to have been 'prudent,' as they consistently enriched the family ; let us hope they were also happy !)

Matilda was dead by 1347, as she is called Adam's 'late wife' in a deed of gift he uttered to 'Roger, son of Thomas Bosville,' in that year. This deed is witnessed by William, son of Adam de Bosville.

Adam and Matilda had two sons : Thomas, mentioned in deeds dated 1344 and 1361 ; and William, alive in 1347, as just shown.

(IX.) The eldest son Thomas married Alicia, daughter and heir of John de Gunthwaite and Christiana his wife. Hunter, speaking of Glover's 1586 Pedigree, says he has perused a large quantity of the evidences of this family

(of Bosville), which sustain the said Pedigree at so many points that it may reasonably be received as throughout correct. He adds that the afore-mentioned evidences enable him to make some important additions to this Pedigree. Thus he inserts the marriage of Thomas and Alicia de Gunthwaite on the authority of an old pedigree of the Lords of Gunthwaite, supported by the facts that the Bosvilles were allowed to quarter the arms of Gunthwaite, and that about the time of this Thomas their connection with that manor and family began.

Godfrey Bosville's *Memoirs*, speaking of Alicia de Gunthwaite, the wife of Thomas de Bosville, observes : ' Thus ended in an Heiress y<sup>e</sup> Ancient family of Gunilthweyth. The old Pedigree names five generations before y<sup>e</sup> Conquest—four before Roger ante Conquestum. The very name shows its Antiquity ; it is in the old Celtic language of a great part of Europe and of this Island before the Romans or any other Strangers invaded it.' The name means the ' thwait ' or plot of ground of Gunn. By a much later marriage (1768) the old possession of Gunn was carried again into a Celtic family—that of Macdonald of the Isles—and it is a curious coincidence that one of their line, Hugh

of Sleat, married Mary Gunn of Caithness. This old property has never been sold since the days of Thomas and Alicia, but inherited only, though twice through females—Alicia de Gunthwaite and Elizabeth Diana Bosville—and is still possessed by their descendant, Sir Alexander Bosville Macdonald of the Isles.

When Godfrey Bosville wrote his Memoirs the old mansion remained, and he describes the old motto over the door, 'TRY AND TRYST,' and the crest, also over the door and on the hall chimney, as a bird on one foot, and also speaks of the arms at the north end of the house, opposite to the stables, '3 red Bends in a field ermine,' and concludes, 'There is no Mark of the Bosvilles, though they have had it above 400 years.' The stables, however, were rebuilt by the third Godfrey Bosville, and have upon them

B  
G                  B  
1690

for Godfrey and Bridget Bosville; and at some time the stone beams of what must have been the hall have been carved at the intersections with the arms of the marriages of Bosvilles: such as Bosville with Hardwick;

with Copley ; with Hotham, etc. There has been some difference of opinion as to whether the house at Gunthwaite was a good one or not—Hunter rather gives the idea that it was not ; but a letter at Thorpe from Mrs. Clarke of Noblethorpe, the nearest place to Gunthwaite, written about 1879 to the Hon. Mrs. Bosville, tells that she has seen in past days old people who remembered the house, and that they described it as ‘ big enough for anybody, with fine rooms,’ and that ‘ there used to be great doings there.’ It was stone below, and black and white, like the barn, above, the wood much carved and decorated, it is said, with life-size figures. This interesting old house was pulled down almost entirely in the nineteenth century, so it is related, by a mad agent named Earnshaw. At Thorpe there are some pieces of painted glass which were picked up in the field below the house of Gunthwaite ; these have evidently formed part of a window with a plan of Gunthwaite upon it. On these pieces, now put together, one reads :

‘ A Ground Plot of Gunthwaite Hall  
with the outhouses containing  
3 A            1 R            15 P.  
1691.’

A bunch of fine old keys, some with curiously interwoven metal-work handles, labelled 'Gunthwaite 1717,' remain at Thorpe. Now, alas! they open nothing. An old stone summer-house remains in the pleasant garden; it has the Bosville arms, the initials G. B. B. (for Godfrey and Bridget Bosville), and the date of the year, 1688, above its door. But this is anticipating events. It was, however, to this actual house that Thomas came courting and from which he won his bride, Alicia de Gunthwaite, in the days of Edward III. Near, too, must then, as now, have been Gunthwaite Lane, a pretty stone-step path among trees leading to the 'wishing well'; and at the bottom of the field in front of the house there would then also be the same small lake as now exists, the water of which was considered very beneficial to invalids, so that later it received the name of Gunthwaite Spa, and even now the old custom of visiting it and even bathing in it is still observed on the first Sunday in May, to a certain extent. The water at the well-spring is undoubtedly sulphureous, but in former days this taste was considered to have its origin in silver ore underground, a little of that metal having been found on Gunthwaite land. At

one time 'Spa Sunday' at Gunthwaite was a festival attended by thousands of people from all quarters, who sang and danced by the edge of the water and were fed from stalls purposely erected and stocked with festival food. The old oak tree, which till the beginning of this twentieth century stood behind the old Gunthwaite Hall, must have been a glorious tree in the days of Thomas and Alicia. It is supposed to date back to very early times. This famous old tree measured thirty-six feet round the bole; but now it has, sad to say, completely vanished. There are a good many things preserved at Thorpe made from its wood by Hawley of Penistone,<sup>1</sup> a carpenter descended from the old house carpenter of Gunthwaite; the most notable of these is a frame enclosing an Address from the West Riding tenants to Alexander Wentworth Macdonald Bosville (the present owner of Gunthwaite and Thorpe) upon his coming of age in 1886. The top of this frame is copied from an old beam found under a garden seat at Gunthwaite (it now hangs under the eave of a garden barn at Thorpe), and is carved with the

<sup>1</sup> This man was employed to make all the woodwork for the wing added to Thorpe Hall in 1886.

bird on one foot and the motto, 'Try and Tryst.' The Memoirs tell us that Godfrey Bosville saw this bird upon a seal belonging to John de Gunnildthwayt, the witness of the deed on which the seal hangs. Upon this seal is inscribed 'JOH AQUILLA,'<sup>1</sup> and Godfrey suggests that the bird may be an eagle.

The Gunthwaites appear to have lived at Gunthwaite during the days of Lacis, Byrtons and Darcys, as their tenants, until a charter, now in the British Museum (49 D1), gave the manor from Henry Darcy to John de Gonnildthwaite, eighth year of Edward III. This tenancy is shown in a pedigree drawn up in the reign of Henry VII., in which there appears a series of Byrtons and Gunthwaites. The last Byrton was an heiress who married Darcy, whose grandson sold the place to John de Gunnoldthwaite. Hunter says Godfrey Bos-

<sup>1</sup> Aquila—of this surname, 'which was originally assumed from the town of Aquila in Normandy, was Gilbert de Aquila, possessed of the Honor of Pevensey in Sussex, a faithful servant of the Conqueror and of his son, William Rufus. Gilbert's son Richard was one of those who took arms against King Henry the First in behalf of Curthose (Robert, Duke of Normandy, eldest son of Henry I.). He afterwards came to accord with King Henry II., but of his Posterity very little is said after that time, and in 5 Henry III. this whole Honor was given to Prince Edward and his Heirs, Kings of England, so that it should never be separated from the Crown.'—From Collins's *Peerage*, vol. ii. London, 1714.

ville possessed this pedigree, but it cannot now be found.

Thomas de Bosville not only added a property to his family possessions, but also added to his arms. Godfrey in the *Memoirs* tells us, giving as his authority vol. i. of Rapin's *History of England*, that Thomas de Bosville fought in the battle of Poitiers in 1356, and on that field slew 'a French knight.' By itself this does not sound a great achievement on a day when so many French knights perished, but there must have been some special virtue in the deed, for on this account Thomas 'won in battle' the three black bears' heads upon the Bosville shield.

It is rather curious that, while Thomas was fighting for King Edward at Poitiers, another ancestor of the present owner of Gunthwaite was fighting there for King John of France. This was 'the good' John of Isla, Lord of the Isles, who was taken prisoner there and brought to London.

Thomas de Bosville apparently had to borrow money, for Hunter tells us (*South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. page 112) how New Hall and its possessions were 'delivered out of the hands' of Sir William de la Pole, the great merchant of

Ravensrode and Hull, who had evidently advanced cash on the security of the New Hall and Ardsley, etc., estate.

In 1371 we find Thomas called into the Court of the Honour of Pontefract to show cause why he should not do service for his lands at Ardsley; when he pleaded that the moiety of Ardsley was held of the manor of New Hall, which was held of the castle of Skipton and so not within the fee of the Duke of Lancaster; that eight bovates are held of the manor of Brierley, which is in the Duke's fee, and that the residue is held of Sir John Fitzwilliam, as of his manor of Woodhall, at the rent of a pair of spurs, and that Sir John holds the manors of the said Duke, etc.

In 1381 Thomas obtained a grant of free warren in all his demesne lands of Denby, Gunthwaite, Cawthorne, Barnsley, Keresford, Ardsley, Darfield, Wombwell and Worsborough. Truly a goodly list of lands to show for the three hundred years his family had now lived in England. After some complication of deeds (all are to be found in Hunter's *South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. page 112), New Hall was given by Thomas in 1388 to Thomas (his grandson, son of Roger de Bosville) and Margaret his wife.

This deed was made at the New Hall and must have been signed just before the death of Thomas. He and his wife Alicia de Gunthwaite had three sons and a daughter: Roger, the eldest, living in 1379; Thomas, from whom the Bosvilles of Chevet; Richard and Margaret.

The Memoirs mention a settlement made by Sir Thomas de Bosville upon Alicia, widow of his son Roger, and then on his grandson William, who got New Hall, his elder brother John having Ardsley. Thus we see that Roger died before his father and that his wife's Christian name was the same as his mother's; and upon this Alicia, whose maiden surname we are not told, Gunthwaite was settled. She and Roger had three sons: Thomas, living 1388, but must soon have died, and he left no heirs; John, the next head of the family; and William, the third son, who got New Hall. He married 'Joan,' but evidently had no son, as we presently find New Hall and Ardsley together again in the possession of William's nephew John. But he apparently had a daughter, married to Sir John Nevill of Chevet (see *South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. page 108).

## CHAPTER V

### FIFTEENTH-CENTURY HEIRESSES

(X.) JOHN BOSVILLE OF ARDSLEY, second son of Roger, married Isabel, daughter and co-heir (with Agnes, wife of John Wentworth) of Sir William Dronsfield, Knight, of West Bretton. (Again an heiress !)

They had one son, named, like his father, (XI.) John Bosville of New Hall and Ardsley. He was twice married, first, to Mary, daughter and co-heir (with Margaret, wife of John Drax) of Thomas Barley and Isabel his wife, the daughter and heir of John of the Wood Hall. By her he had one son, William, of Ardsley and New Hall, who married Matilda, daughter of Sir John Fitzwilliam of Sprotborough ; and secondly, to Isabel, daughter of Percival Cresacre of Barnborough, executrix to her husband. (She married, secondly, Henry Langton, Esq., before 1448, after whose death she took the veil of chastity. She was alive in 1480.)

This Isabel founded the Chantry of St. Mary

in Cawthorne Church ; the foundation dates from the Feast of St. Margaret (August 20) 1455, and its dissolution as a chantry took place in the first year of Edward VI. (1547). Henry Langton, Isabel's second husband, is named with her in the Deed of Foundation, and the chantry priest is to pray daily 'for our good estate and the good estate of Henry and Isabel while they live and for our souls when we die and especially for the soul of the said John Boswell and for the souls of his parents, ancestors,' etc., and 'for all the faithful' and 'to be for ever called The Chantry of John Boswell at the altar of St. Mary the Virgin in the Chapel of St. Michael at Calthorne.' The 'for ever' lasted ninety-three years ! but the chantry, though now used as the burial-place of the Spencer-Stanhope family of Cannon Hall, is still called the Bosville Chantry. The foundation ordered that the chaplain was to be constantly resident, and if he went away and remained away for twenty-two days he might be removed from his office. Such chaplains do not seem to have borne a high character, for the deed, after arranging for his duties and his emoluments and his constant residence, goes on to say : 'But if through age or infirmity he



ALL THAT IS LEFT OF GUNTHWAITE HALL



INTERIOR OF PART OF OLD BARN, GUNTHWAITE



should be unable to officiate in the chapel, or shall be thrown into prison (!) except on account of felony (!! ) or if he be addicted to frequent taverns or to play at unlawful games ; if after three admonitions he does not forbear, it shall be lawful for the said Isabel and her heirs to appoint another chaplain in his place.' The chaplain was to be a secular, not a regular, nor under the rule of any religious house. The chaplain in Henry VIII.'s reign was ' Master Richard Wygfall, cantarist.' At the suppression of the chantry, £5, 4s. was given from the endowment to the parish school, which continues to receive this grant from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.<sup>1</sup>

John and Isabel (Cresacre) Bosville had four sons and one daughter—Elizabeth, who married Thomas Anne. The eldest son, Richard, settled by his parents at ' Gunthwaite-in-Peniston,' became the ancestor of the Bosvilles of that place. The second and third sons, Percival and James, were alive in 1472. The fourth son, John, married a daughter of Rockley of Rockley ; his line became extinct four generations later (see Pedigree, pp. 228-229).

<sup>1</sup> See *History of Cawthorne*, pp. 140, 143, by the Rev. Charles Pratt (1882).

John Bosville died on the Friday after the Feast of the Assumption, 20 Henry VI. 1441. His father's marriage with the heiress of Dronsfield brought with it, says Hunter, a considerable increase of possessions, and not less his own marriage with one of the two heiresses of the Lords of Wood Hall ; this lady also brought with her the nomination to one of the two rectories of Darfield, and we find that two of the Bosvilles held this living.

In the pages of the Memoirs we find some talk about the price of food in the fifteenth century. After remarking that in a book by Bishop Fleetwood called *Chronicon Portiosum*, he found that one hundred and eighteen years ago a fat ox sold for 6s. 8d., Godfrey Bosville goes on to give the price of food as taken from a Bill of Fare belonging to the Wax Chandlers' Company, in connection with the Lord Mayor's Feast on 29th October 1478, 17 Edward IV., and quotes :

	£	s.	d.
A Loin of Beef . . .	0	0	4
A Leg of Mutton . . .	0	0	2½
Two Loins of Veal and Two Legs of Mutton }	0	1	4
A Goose . . .	0	0	6
A Capon . . .	0	0	6

			£	s.	d.
A dozen of Pidgeons	.	.	0	0	7
A Pig and a Rabbit	.	.	0	0	6
100 of Eggs	.	.	0	0	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
A Gallon of Wine	.	.	0	0	8
A Kilderkin of Ale	.	.	0	1	8

The pig and rabbit seem a very odd combination, and one rabbit in these days of hearty appetite sounds absurd. Ale, the old English drink, was, I believe, made without hops. On the addition of hops, the drink was called beer.

As this chronicle is chiefly interested in the Gunthwaite branch of the Bosville family, we will leave William Bosville (the eldest son of John Bosville by his first marriage with Mary Barley) and his wife Matilda, daughter of Sir John Fitzwilliam of Sprotborough, reigning in Ardsley, and will follow the fortunes of his half-brother Richard at Gunthwaite. (The descendants of William of Ardsley will be found in the New Hall Pedigree, pp. 228-230.) But first let us quote a letter from the fourth Godfrey Bosville (he of the *Memoirs*) written from Great Russell Street on January 3, 1782<sup>1</sup> to Mr. Wilson of Broomhead. He writes: 'Though there was never any lord in my family, yet my

<sup>1</sup> See *Notes from Letters to John Wilson, Esq. of Broomhead*, Add. MSS. 24475, folio 301, British Museum.

ancestors were ranked among the gentry when the ancestors of many a lord were of low degree. New Hall was built in Edward II.'s time, which remains with the Manor now, for the old Hall and Ardsley were given to three sons of a second wife by a Deed in which it is specified that each of the three is to have a third part of the Manor. I question whether they have not lost the counterpart of this Deed for neither Benj. Micklethwaite nor his nephew seem to know by what claim they hold the Manor. New Hall I still have, though by the purchase of my Uncle, for it was sold in that time by the last of that Branch which was then extinct, yet still it was the estate of my Ancestors and had not been long out of the Name. Since the time you first gave me some idea of old writings and pedigrees, you see I have made a tolerable progress, but without liking it myself, I should have made none at all.'

It is difficult not to regret that the grandson of the Godfrey who writes, Godfrey the third Lord Macdonald, evidently did not share his grandfather's 'liking,' for he, alas! sold New Hall finally out of the family.

(XII.) Richard, the second son of John Bosville but the eldest of those of his second

marriage with Isabel Cresacre, had Gunthwaite and 'other lands' (part of these was Cawthorne and the Chantry), says Hunter, 'by gift of his mother,' upon whom Gunthwaite must have been settled, and he tells us that Richard died in 1501 and was buried at Beighton, where his monument may still be seen in the church. He had married Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Nevill, Knight, of Liversedge, and they had three sons and four daughters. The daughters all married: Elizabeth to John Popeley; Catherine to John Swift; Edith to — Proctor and Alice to — Rowley. Of the second and third sons we hear nothing. The eldest belongs to the next chapter.

## CHAPTER VI

### IN TUDOR DAYS—SIXTEENTH CENTURY

THIS eldest son is described as

(XIII.) John Bosville of Gunthwaite, Esq., living 1516, and with reference to him and his successors the fourth Godfrey Bosville remarks : ‘ From this time there were no more knights in the Family ; nor had Knighthood been hitherto a mark of Honour, but of Property. Every man was entitled to it that had a Knight’s fee. Henceforward few took that Title, except such as were knighted by y<sup>e</sup> King, especially after the institution of the Order of the Garter by Edward III., though still Dominus or Sir was given to such as had taken a degree, which makes many Parsons in Shakespeare’s and other old Plays be mistaken for Knights, by being called Sir John or Sir Hugh. Even now, in 1766, y<sup>e</sup> custome remains of adding Dominus, which they translate Sir, tho’ it means no more than Mr. and add it to their surnames, and that only in the University of Cambridge and at Queen’s College in Oxford.’

John Bosville married Ann, daughter of Thomas Clapham of Beamsley and widow of Richard Redman of Harwood.

John is described as 'of Beighton' in 1516, when he and his son, also named John, were appointed attorneys to receive a certain charter from Henry Colombell.

Richard Bosville, his son John, and his grandson John seem all to have lived a good deal at Beighton, where, says Hunter, they were farmers of the estate to Lord Dacre of the South.

John Bosville and Ann (Clapham) his wife had three sons and several daughters. Hunter remarks disapprovingly that the daughters all married 'persons remote from Yorkshire and Derbyshire,' and gives a list as follows: Ellen married to Gibson *alias* Taylor (!); Dionysia to Henry Pigot of Croydon; Ann to — Denny; Agnes to Thomas Cook of Cambridgeshire; and Elizabeth to John Sheffield of Epworth—he at least had a Yorkshire sounding name!

The three sons were: John, son and heir; Thomas Bosville of Tickhill, who married Ann Sanderson; and Richard, a clerk.

(XIV.) John, the second of that name,

of Gunthwaite, married Muriel, daughter of Charles Barnby of Barnby, Esq. This lady's descent from William the Conqueror is shown by Baverstock in his 'Some Account of Maidstone, with genealogical tables of the Bosville family, 1822' (see Appendix I). John and Muriel's home seems to have been at Beighton, for John is described as 'of Beighton Esq.' in 33 Henry VIII. (1542) when he had a grant from John Boswell of Belhouse Grange near Welbeck, gentleman, of the wardship and marriage of his son and heir Christopher; and also in a release dated 2 Elizabeth (1560) given by Merial Bosville of London to Godfrey Bosville, son, heir and executor of the said John.

John Bosville died February 12, 33 Henry VIII. John and Muriel (Barnby) Bosville had three sons: the Godfrey just mentioned, Ralph, and Henry of London, cloth-worker and citizen. All that is known of this third son is that he was placed as apprentice to Sir William Hewet, citizen and cloth-worker, and was admitted to the freedom of his Company in the first year of Queen Elizabeth (1558), and that he was living in 1569 and 1580, when he is mentioned as executor in his brother Godfrey's will.

Ralph, the second son, was twice married,

and each time in the south. He seems to have gone to London with his younger brother Henry. His first wife was Ann, daughter of Sir Richard Clement of the Mote, Ightham, Kent ; and his second wife was Benedicta, daughter of Anthony Skinner of London.

Ralph Bosville was Clerk of the Court of Wards, a court established in 1540 to make certain inquiries, on the death of a tenant-in-chief, into the extent of his possessions and the age of his heir, in order that the King's rights might be exacted. This court was abolished in 1660. In this office Ralph made a great fortune, and employed part of his wealth to buy the rectory manor of Penistone, which he conveyed to his eldest brother Godfrey. An inventory of the dues to the Vicar of Penistone exists at Thorpe, made and settled at a meeting of the parishioners on January 17, 1719. 'It was agreed,' says this paper, 'upon a Solemn Debate and hearing of all parties . . . to put an end to all disputes for the future, that the dues hereafter mentioned shall, accordinge to Custome be taken . . . and entered in the Parish Book.' This pious resolution is signed first by 'Wm. Bosseville' and then by nineteen other parishioners—two of whom can only

make 'his mark,' and finally by the Vicar, who puts, 'I doe agree hereto, Edward Jackson, Vicar of the said Parish.' (In the two hundred years from 1500 to 1700 we notice that the rector has become a vicar.) The dues are :

	£	s.	d.
For a Marriage . . . . .	00	02	4
For a Certificate of Marriage . . . . .	00	00	6
Burial . . . . .	00	00	7
Christening and Churching . . . . .	00	00	11½

But in speaking of Ralph, Hunter tells us that 'his great purchases were in Kent, where the descendants of his two sons Henry and Sir Robert were among the principal gentry of the Country, as long as they continued.' These purchases were first Bradbourn, some time in Elizabeth's reign and after he had been knighted, then Blackhall (now in the Knole estate) and Eynsford. A wood still called Bowzell (Bosville ?), probably part of this property, now belongs to Colin Frederick Campbell, Esq., of Everlands, Sevenoaks, the father of the wife of Godfrey Bosville Macdonald, the son of the writer and Sir Alexander Macdonald of the Isles. The only paper at Thorpe referring to this property is the original and signed petition of 'Thomas Bosevile of Aynsford, in

the county of Kent, Knight,' about his estate to 'the Supream Authority of this Nation, the Parliament of the Commonwealth of England.'

Ralph's first wife, Ann Clement, was the daughter of Sir Richard Clement (the builder of the Moat-house at Ightham) and his wife Anne, widow of John Grey, brother of Thomas, second Marquis of Dorset, who were grandsons of Elizabeth Woodville (by her first marriage with Sir John Grey of Groby), Queen Consort of Edward iv.<sup>1</sup> Ann (Clement) Bosville was the mother of Ralph's children, who were: Henry Bosville, from whom the Bosvilles of Bradbourn; Sir Robert Bosville, from whom the Bosvilles of Eynsford; and Ralph Bosville, third son, on whom and his issue Gunthwaite was settled, and who was a captain of the army in Ireland, where he died. His wife was Mary, daughter of Christopher Copley of Wadworth. They were married at Sprotborough, in Yorkshire, April 10, 1592, and had a son, Godfrey, afterwards the second Godfrey Bosville of Gunthwaite. After Ralph's presumably early death in Ireland, his wife Mary Copley remarried with Fulke Greville, Esq., of Thorpe

<sup>1</sup> This information is taken from an article by Alfred Rimmer in the *Manchester Guardian* of 1st November 1890; he quotes as authority 'the Lawford Title-deeds.'

Latimer, Co. Lincoln. They also were married at Sprotborough, just ten years after Mary's first wedding, on July 15, 1602. They had a son, Robert Lord Brooke, slain at Lichfield in 1643 ; and a daughter, Dorothy, who married Sir Arthur Hesilrigge.

Before returning to the Gunthwaite line, let us see what became of the first Sir Ralph Bosville. He settled at Bradbourn in Kent, and was buried at Sevenoaks August 8, 1580.

Weever in his *Funeral Monuments* (page 797) has a notice of him. He says that the inhabitants of Sevenoaks (he calls it Sevenoke) still spoke of him as 'having whilst he lived been employed upon many occasions for the public, and deserving and having the reputation of a most worthy patriot' ; and he revives the epigram, 'written by some well-wishing versifier of the times,' in reference to Sir Ralph's grandson, another Ralph :

'Dii tibi dent, Bosville, boves, villasque Radolphe,  
Nec villa careat bosve, vel illa bove,'

which may be translated thus :

'May the gods give to thee, Bosville,  
The oxen and country-houses of Ralph,  
And may the house never lack an ox  
Nor the ox an house.'

The will of Henry Bosville, eldest son of Sir Ralph, was seen in 1917 by Mr. Charles Phillips, who contributed several articles on Kentish families, including that of Bosville, to the *Sevenoaks Chronicle* in the spring of that year. In this will, three sons and two daughters are mentioned: Ralph, Lewkner, and George; Frances (died young), and Elizabeth, who married Thomas Petley of Halsted. Their mother was the daughter of William Morgan by his wife Katherine, one of the daughters of Sir Roger Lewkenor, Knight, of Bodiam Castle, Sussex. Through Katherine Lewkenor, Ralph, her grandson, enjoyed a moiety of Bodiam Castle. 'This Sir Ralph Bosville, Knight, was born in 1578, was married to Mary Lennard in 1594, and must have succeeded,' says Lord Curzon in his 'Survey of Bodiam Castle,' published 1926, 'to his moiety not long afterwards; for I have in my possession Court Rolls showing that in 1607, 1608, 1612, 1613, 1614, and 1615 Courts were held in his name as Lord of the Manor, associated with Thomas Levett, gent.; the Steward of the Manor being Richard Amherst, who, later, in 1626 is described as Serjeant-at-Law. It is clear, therefore, that these two persons [Sir Ralph Bosville and

Thomas Levett] were joint owners of the estate.' Thomas Levett had bought his share from Constance Lewkenor and her second husband, Edward Glenham of Chichester. Constance and Katherine, Mrs. Morgan, whose daughter Elizabeth was the wife of Henry Bosville and mother of Sir Ralph, were sisters.

The Bosvilles of Bradbourn had the same arms as the Bosvilles of Gunthwaite, except that the three bears' heads appear muzzled *or*—as they are now borne by Sir Alexander Bosville Macdonald of the Isles.

Mary Lennard, Sir Ralph's wife, was the daughter of Sampson Lennard of Knole and Chevening and of Lady Margaret Dacre of the South, his wife. A very fine full-length portrait of this Sir Ralph Bosville hangs in the Leicester Gallery at Knole; it is attributed to Van Somer of Antwerp, who arrived in England about 1606. The picture measures 85 inches by 45 inches, and shows Sir Ralph in Court dress. He is mentioned in the Diary of Lady Anne Clifford, written when she lived at Knole with her first husband, the Earl of Dorset. She says he came to see her there, and that 'he played and sung to me in the afternoon,' evidently to cheer her up, as a little time

before she writes, 'I found myself weak and ill.'<sup>1</sup>

There is an old print of 'Bradborne near Sevenoke in the Co. of Kent,' of which there is a copy at Thorpe. It shows a coach and six followed by a solitary rider arriving at the Hall, which looks a good-sized, comfortable country house with a decorative low bell-tower near it on the north; the Hall is set in a lawn with trees all about it, and seems to lie west by east. On the south is a circular projection, a later addition probably to the original plan, and further south is a stretch of ornamental water which, by the description appended to the print, is supplied by 'a fast-running stream' which skirts the stable yard. The entrance porch is at the west end. The house is now (1928) all surrounded by railways, and is to be sold. No doubt it will fall a victim to the builders of bungalows, alas!

Sir Ralph's knighthood was bestowed upon him at Whitehall July 23, 1603, 'about the time of His Majesty's Coronation' (James I. and VI.), and there was once at Gunthwaite a certificate from Camden, Clarencieux, on the part and behalf of Sir Ralph, telling of his

<sup>1</sup> See Dr. Williamson's *Lady Anne Clifford*, page 129 and note.

knighting, and adding that ‘ the said Sir Ralph is a gentleman of quality and blood, and fair and antient coat armour, and of pure and undoubted lineal descent and uninterrupted derivation from antient nobility and from divers noble knights and esquires of this kingdom, his ancestors, as well of his own surname as also of other noble surnames and right worthy families ; and that by his marriage with Mary, the second daughter of the noble lady Margaret, Baroness Dacre of the South, he is allied and linked to very many of the most antient, worthy and prime blood and nobility of this kingdom. All this by the view and examination of the worthy descents and fair and far-extending pedigrees of the said Sir Ralph Bosville, Knight, and his ancestors I find plainly and evidently proved and demonstrated to me by authentic records and evidence.’ Dated Sept. 21, 1621. Hunter has preserved this in his *South Yorkshire* (vol. ii. pages 348, 349); it no longer exists, and must, sad to say, be one of the papers that the fourth Godfrey Bosville paid an attorney a guinea a day to destroy ! Later, as we know, his repentance of this fatal proceeding made him write the *Memoirs*.

There were not many more generations at

THE NORTH EAST VIEW OF BODIAM-CASTLE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX.



As it is the only one of its kind in the County of Sussex.

Prospect



THIS CASTLE WAS BUILT BY SIR THOMAS BODIAM, A KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF THE BATH, IN THE REIGN OF EDWARD I. IT WAS DESIGNED BY A MASTER MASON, AND WAS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETELY PERFECTED CASTLES OF THE MIDDLE AGES. IT WAS BUILT ON A HILL, AND WAS SURROUNDED BY A DEEP DITCH. THE CASTLE WAS BUILT OF RED BRICK, AND WAS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETELY PERFECTED CASTLES OF THE MIDDLE AGES. IT WAS BUILT ON A HILL, AND WAS SURROUNDED BY A DEEP DITCH.

BODIAM CASTLE, SUSSEX, FROM BUCK'S VIEWS



Bradbourne, so let us finish the tale of them here. Sir Ralph was buried January 22, 1634/35, and administration was granted to his eldest son Sir Lennard. This son, at the age of only fifteen, had in 1613 been married to Anne, eldest daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Ridley, Knight, by whom he had no issue. He only survived his father five years, dying February 1639/40. His wife Anne renounced the succession to Bradbourne, and it passed to Lennard's elder sister Margaret, the wife of her kinsman Sir William Bosville, whom she had married in 1629. He was British Resident at The Hague for twenty-one years for King Charles I. He died in April 1650, and Dame Margaret, well known for her scholastic benefactions to Sevenoaks, died in 1682 after a long widowhood. She had suffered eight years' sequestration of her estates by the Commonwealth, but they were restored to her in 1651, after her husband's death. She left them to her kinsman William Bosville, and he to his son Henry Bosville, who never married. Dame Margaret was buried on July 31, 1682, in St. Nicholas' Church, Sevenoaks.

We must now return to the eldest son of John and Muriel (Barnby) Bosville, who was the first

Godfrey Bosville (XV.) of Gunthwaite. He at first describes himself in documents as 'of Beighton,' but later (in 1545, on a receipt for tithes) as of Gunthwaite; and also in 1550, when he was engaged in a suit respecting lands there; and again as 'of Ganulthwayte' in a receipt given by Thomas Dawnay, for money paid to him in the parish church of Snaith, according to an award made by Sir Francis Hastings and others. This first Godfrey certainly lived at Gunthwaite and did much for the property. It was he who obtained from the Lord Mouteagle, who then represented the Nevills and through them the line of one of the co-heirs of Adam fitzSwein, a ratification of a charter from Sir Robert Nevill to John Gonniltwayte, to the effect, as there recited, that Robert granted to John the manor of Gonniltwayte with its appurtenances and an assart in Gonniltwayte called Colmanclif, with all commons and liberties, etc., to hold of the said Robert at a rent of 5d. The date of this charter is not recited, but Hunter says there cannot be a doubt that it was coincident with the grant by Darcy (see page 27), now in the British Museum—8 Edward III. (1280). Godfrey also took a grant twenty-three years later

from Sir Thomas Stanley, Lord Mounteagle, under the description of Godfrey Bosville, Esq., lord of the manor of Gunthwaite and Oxspring and Ingbirchworth. He had purchased Oxspring and also took a grant from his brother Ralph of the rectory, manor, and presentation of the church of Peniston, and in various ways advanced his family. He it was, too, who built the famous Gunthwaite Barn, still standing and in fine condition, behind the remains of the Hall. It is a wooden black and white building of eleven bays and with three threshing floors, and is 55 yards long by 15 yards wide. Mr. Wilson of Broomhead measured it and noted this over one hundred years ago. The building is all held together by wooden pegs; it contains not one single iron nail. Tradition says that an apprentice spent the whole of his seven years in bond making wooden pegs for Gunthwaite Barn! The interior with its great beams is very fine, and it and the doors are wide enough, says Mr. Wilson, 'for a wain and six oxen to turn in it.' This first Godfrey Bosville married Jane, daughter of John Hardwick of Hardwick, Co. Derby. She predeceased him, which may explain why we hear so little about her, although she was the sister of the much married Elizabeth

Hardwick, Countess of Shrewsbury, 'Building Bess,' the keeper, with her husband, for some time of Mary Queen of Scots. One mention we do find of her in a letter from Elizabeth—then Lady Cavendish—in 1552. She writes to her servant Francis Whitfield at Chatsworth, with directions about some payments, and orders him to 'Make my syster Jane prevye of itt,' and earlier in the letter she says, 'I here that my syster Jane cane not have thynges that ys needfoulle for hare to have amoungst you : yf ytt be trewe, you lacke a great of honeste as well as dyscrecyon to deny hare any thyng that she hathe a mynde to, beyng in case as she hathe bene. I wolde be lothe to have any stranger so yoused yn my howse, and then assure yourself I cane not lyke ytt, to have my Syster so yoused.' The friendly relations between the families continued after the time of the sisters, for half a century later we hear of compromising Shrewsbury papers kept at Gunthwaite by their owner's request, as is proved by a letter dated from Whitehall 'this 28th of June 1619,' from the Lords of the Council to 'our loving freinds Geo. Lassels and Fr. Cooke Esquires.' The Lords are evidently both clerical and lay, as the first signature to this letter is 'G. Cantuar.' and the next 'Hen.

Southampton,' while the eighth signs the astonishing name of 'Julius Cesar'!<sup>1</sup> The letter tells that certain evidences and writings remaining in the castle of 'Sheaffield' and manor of 'Worsoppe' have been ordered to be sent to London, and that 'one Swift, servant to the Lady Mary, Countess of Shrewsbury,' having notice of these orders, 'did secretly convey away greate number of these writings and evidences out of the Castle of Sheaffield and delivered the same to a sister of his, the wife of one Mr. Bosseville of Gunthwaite, willing her for the better conceyling thereof, to locke them in her own trunks,' where they were believed still to be, and the Lords directed their 'loving friends' to proceed to the house of the aforesaid Mr. Bosville, taking the help of any of His Majesty's public officials if necessary, and to make diligent search for the papers, which, if found, were to be sealed up and sent forthwith to Shrewsbury House in Broad Street, 'to the end that they may be viewed and disposed of as the King might desire.' But, alas! no more is ever heard of all this! The Mr. Swift mentioned was not really brother to Mrs. Bosville but brother-in-law; Mr. Swift, who was

<sup>1</sup> Since above was written, I learn that Sir Julius Caesar was a well-known judge.

afterwards a knight, having married Elizabeth Greville, a daughter of Sir Edward Greville of Harold Park, Essex, whose sister, Margaret Greville, was the wife of the second Godfrey Bosville of Gunthwaite.

The first Godfrey Bosville made his will on July 22, 1580, the day before his death. It contains so many interesting details that I follow Hunter's example (*South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. page 347) and give the following extract from it. The testator declares that he makes his will 'considering the great ambiguities, troubles, suits, traversies and questions that do daily arise and grow in last wills.' He directs that he shall be buried in the church at Beighton, without any pomp or outward pride of the world; his debts to be paid and reparation made for injuries done by him. He gives to his son Francis two great carved bedsteads of wood at 'Gonnildwhait,' a goblet of silver gilt and cover, and all other 'heirlooms, selings and stuff as hath been and is known for heirlooms at Gonnildthwaite and such as shall be set forth as heirlooms' (Room here surely for 'ambiguities, troubles, suits, traversies and questions'!); 'also bed and bedsteads at his Lodge of Oxspring and tables and forms there, with all his

harness, cross-bows, rack and artillery '—they are to descend as heirlooms to the use of his heirs male. He next gives to his son the manor of Gunthwaite and the lease of the manor of Beighton, which he has of the demise of Gregory Fynes, Lord Dacre of the South. If his son die without issue male before the expiration of the lease, the remainder to his brothers Ralph and Henry. He gives to his executors for seven years his manors of Oxspring, Peniston, Cawthorne, and Keresford, to pay debts and raise portions for his daughters. He makes his brother Henry Bosville and his son Francis executors, and his brother Ralph Bosville and cousin Thomas Barnby supervisors. The supervisors were to have the order of his son Francis, which he is the bolder to appoint, because he knows full well that he holds no manner of lands of any person or persons by knight-service; and he ends with entreating them to attend to the honest bringing up of this his only son in learning and other virtuous education. His inquisition was taken at Wakefield on October 5 following, before Francis Pover, escheator, when it was found that he died seized of :—

A capital messuage called Gunthwaite Hall,

*alias* Gummaldthwaite-hall, and tenement and mill there held by George Earl of Shrewsbury, as of his manor of Brierley, by knight-service and the rent of 3s.

A capital messuage called Oxspring Hall held of the same.

Tenements at Cawthorne, held of the same.

Lands at Thurlston, held of Edward Savile, Esq.

Lands at Barnsley, held of the Queen, as of her manor of Barnsley.

Lands and tenements at Penistone, held of the Queen, as of the manor of East Greenwich.

And that Francis is his son and heir and aged seventeen years and three months.

His four daughters were :—

Frances, married John Savile of Newhall, Esq. ; Mary, married Richard, son and heir of Henry Burdet of Denby, Esq. ; Dorothy, married John Lacey of Brierley, Esq. (a daughter of this Dorothy married John Wheatley of Woolley) ; and Elizabeth, married Will Copley of Sprotborough, Esq.

So Francis succeeded to Gunthwaite (XVI.), and it was for him that Glover drew up the Pedigree before mentioned, in 1586. In the

Memoirs we find mention of rents paid to this Francis in 1588.

George Blunt, gent., paid two pairs of broad arrows with heads.

James Bilcliffe paid annually a pair of gloves.

Thomas Wordsworth, for Roughbanks, paid 'a thwittle' (which I believe to be a knife).

In 1572, to Godfrey, father of Francis, as lord of the manor of Oxspring, from John Waynwright of Wytwell Hall, in Hallamshire (in the manor of Bolderston), 'two grett brode arrows well hedyd and barbyd ordrlly.' He received also, as rent for a farm called Unshriven Bridge in Hunshelf, the yearly payment of two broad-headed and feathered arrows, and two farms at Carlecoats in the parish of Peniston paid as rent, the one a right-hand and the other a left-hand glove; while a farm at Brook House, in Langsett, paid yearly to him a snowball at midsummer and a red rose at Christmas. These rents, or some of them, are mentioned in *Tenures of Lands and Customs of Manors*, originally collected by Thomas Blount and W. C. Hazlitt (pages 44, 57, 138, 169, and 237). It is no uncommon thing to find snow late in June in caverns and hollows

upon the high moors, and roses in Yorkshire go on blooming well into December. The present writer has often found one or two there in sheltered spots of the Thorpe gardens ; also perhaps a preserved or pressed rose might have been accepted. We shall see that in the eighteenth century this red rose payment was paid at Martinmas, that is in the middle of November.

Francis Bosville was dead before 1596. He married Dorothy, daughter of Alvery Copley of Batley ; she survived him, and married as her second husband Lionel Rolston, Esq., who lived many years at Gunthwaite. Francis and Dorothy had but one child, a daughter named Grace, who, born in 1585, died young. There is still at Thorpe the Deed of Settlement drawn up by Francis in the form of an indenture,<sup>1</sup> dated January 8, 28 Elizabeth (1585), by which his wife Dorothy had the liferent of Gunthwaite, which was left to his and Dorothy's heirs 'of his body' ; in default to Ralph Bosville of London and the heirs male of his

<sup>1</sup> An indenture is a deed drawn up in duplicate upon one sheet of parchment, the two copies being then divided by a jagged tear across the parchment. Each of the two consenting parties then has one copy which fits into the copy held by the other, by the serrated teeth-like edges fitting into the corresponding indentations.

body ; in default to Dame Isabel Savile, a sister of Dorothy's, and after her death, to Grace Savile, her daughter, for life ; after their decease, to Robert Bosville of London, gent., brother of Ralph, and the heirs male of his body ; in default to Henry Bosville of Bradborn, Esq., and the heirs male of his body ; in default to Thomas Bosville, son and heir apparent of Gervas Bosville of New Hall, Esq., and the heirs male of his body ; and finally, in default, to the right heirs of Francis Bosville, who died not long after making this ' Settlement.'

At Thorpe there is an old paper inscribed ' Examination in the Spiritual Court between Richard Wortley and Thomas Bosville 1588,' which evidently concerns questions made about Gunthwaite. This is probably the Thomas of the last ' default ' but one in the Settlement.

The widow of Francis lived long at Gunthwaite. Her second husband, Lionel Rolston, was a ' Captain of foot in Ireland ' and in other, foreign, service. At Gunthwaite he acted as a Justice of the Peace in the latter days of Queen Elizabeth. He survived Dorothy, and married as his second wife a daughter of Cressy of Birkin.

On the death of Dorothy the estates of Francis Bosville descended to his cousin Godfrey, the grandson of Francis's uncle Ralph, and son of that Ralph Bosville who is described in the Settlement as 'of London, gentleman.'

*Note.*—Another Bosville property in Kent was 'The Little Mote, Eynsford.'

Margaretta, daughter and heir of Thomas Bosville of that place, married, on December 12, 1681, Sir Robert Marsham, fourth Baronet of Bushy Hall, Hertford. Their son Robert was the first 'Baron of Romney,' whose grandson was created Earl of Romney. This family, says Baverstoke, now represents this branch of the Bosvilles of Kent.

## CHAPTER VII

### IN THE TIME OF THE COMMONWEALTH— SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

(XVII.) THIS second Godfrey Bosville was destined to play a prominent part in the troubles of his time. But he must have had a share of business in Yorkshire before he possessed his cousin's estates, for though it is the name of the first Godfrey which is found on one of the earliest 'Court barons' papers remaining at Thorpe, a court held at Oxspring by Godfrey Bosville in the seventeenth year of Queen Elizabeth (1575), there are also Midhope Court Rolls in this second Godfrey's name; and still later ones belonging to the third Godfrey in 1696, and even to the fourth Godfrey in 1741 for Oxspring and Midhope, and in 1747 for Oxspring. They appear to be simply lists of names and sums of money, but they are generally headed as 'held by Godfrey Bosville,' and under that is written 'The Homage to the Lord.' Perhaps Godfrey acted as his cousin's

agent. However that may be, he became Lord of Gunthwaite in 1619, for he is described on December 3 of 16 James I. as Godfrey Bosville of Gunthwaite, Esq., in an indenture to which Lionel Rolston was a party. He was then about twenty-three years of age.

Owing to this second Godfrey's mother having married her second husband, Fulke Greville of Thorpe Latimer in Lincolnshire, while her son was a child, he was brought up among the Grevilles, and when he became a man he connected himself still further with that family by marrying Margaret, daughter of Sir Edward Greville (uncle to his stepfather) by his wife Jane, daughter of John Lord Grey, brother of the Duke of Suffolk. His stepfather's cousin, another Fulke Greville, was created Lord Brooke, with remainder to Godfrey's half-brother. The influence of Lord Brooke and of his brother-in-law, Sir Arthur Hesilrigge, no doubt interested Godfrey in the assertion of popular rights. He fixed himself at Wroxall, in Warwickshire, with his wife, abandoning Gunthwaite as a residence, and he was returned as Member for the borough of Warwick to the famous Long Parliament in 1640 and became one of the association for the

defence of that county 'against the plundering thereof by Papists and other disaffected persons,' 1642.

In a list of the names of Members of the House of Commons who advanced horse, money, and plate for the defence of Parliament in 1642, we find that 'Mr. Bosevile will either bring in one horse or an hundred pounds.' When civil war broke out he was named one of the Deputy Lieutenants for Warwickshire, June 28, 1642; a Lieut.-Colonel, January 27, 1643; and Colonel of a Regiment of Foot, March 3 following. In the autumn of 1642 he was at the defending of Warwick Castle against the King, and also in Lord Brooke's successful action at Coventry. He was entrusted with the command of a party who recovered the Speaker's house at Besils-lee. But he seems to have kept in touch with Gunthwaite all this time. There are two letters of his at Thorpe and a third is printed by Hunter. This latter is the earlier (of the two to his agent) in date, and runs thus :—

'HONEST JOHN,—You will, before you receive this letter, further understand the present state of affaires of this Kingdome, than I can

now relate, and that I cannot bee without money to supplie extraordinary occasions. I pray therefore acquaint my tenants that I now expect them (as they value my respect) to pay in the rent without delay, wch. I would have you forthwith to pay over to my good friend Mr. Webster, who will take care to return it to me in my own time without faile. He hath oft been beforehand in disbursements and I desire now to have something in his hand aforehand. I know I can receive it from him with more safety than you can return it otherwise.

‘The Lord direct us in our loyalty to the King and care for the safety of the Kingdome. I have no more but this, that I am Yor very loving friend,

‘GODFREY BOSSEVILE.

‘LONDON, 30 *May* 1642.’

The next is still about money, and evidently his respect for his tenants has not received enough encouragement. It was written during his campaign with Lord Brooke. It, like the other, begins :—

‘HONEST JOHN,—Truely I did well hope that all y<sup>e</sup> last rents had been pay’d in to you before this, I now doubt of it.

‘ I pray send mee a note of such as are in arreare and who made default att this rent day, for I propose that if we have any law in England, I will presently make Use of yt to gett my owne of them, for I now clearly see, they grossly abuse my respect to them.

‘ I pray as my munie comes in unto you, pay it over to my good freind Mr. Webster.—I rest y<sup>r</sup>. very loving freind,

‘ GODFREY BOSVILLE.

(Dated) ‘ COVENTRY, 28 No. 1642.

(And addressed) ‘ To his very lovinge friend

John Shirt at Cawthorne. Del.’

There is still another similar letter at Thorpe from him, beginning ‘ Honest Freind.’

John Shirt was one of those who held Penistone Church when it was garrisoned by the Parliament in 1643. The others in charge there were Captain Rich of Bullhouse; Captain Adam Eyre of Hazlehead, under Sir Francis Wortley of Wortley; and Sir Thomas Wentworth of Bretton (see Captain Eyre’s *Diary*, published by the Surtees Society). So John, honest man, was not always able to go round peaceably collecting rents and distributing the landlord’s ‘ respect.’

In December 1642 Godfrey was attending to his duty in Parliament, and was deputed by the House of Commons to wait on Lord Brooke to give him thanks for the excellent speech he had delivered in the House of Peers against an Accommodation. In 1643 he was named one of the Commissioners of the West Riding of Yorkshire to put in force the Act for the punishment of scandalous clergymen and others, and also for the speedy raising and levying of money. In 1648 he was named one of the High Court of Justice for the trial of the King, at which trial, however, he never sat; and in the next year (1649) he was one of the thirty-seven Treasurers at War. This reminds us of Sir Martin de Bosville, his forbear!

There is an interesting passage in the *Memoirs of John Horne Tooke*, by Alexander Stephens (1813), where, in vol. ii. page 309, we are told that 'As he (Colonel Bosville) observed that Puritanism extended among the troops and praying came into fashion, he, like Sir Harry Vane, resolved to pray too. Perceiving that the Puritanical ministers began to possess great influence, he at length became a candidate for that office and, prevailing on his own battalion

to elect him, he from that moment governed and taught his men in the double capacity of Colonel and Chaplain.'

Mr. Stephens here implies an hypocrisy of mind which might have been the mode of the time but does not strike one as characteristic of any of the Bosville men. Colonel Bosville was, however, like all his predecessors, most tenacious of what he considered his rights, and we find him going to law with his neighbours at Denby about a right of way from Denby to the parish church of Penistone. A bill setting forth the complaints of the Denby inhabitants was exhibited in the Court of the Lord President of the North, telling that this right of way had been enjoyed until 'one Godfrey Bosville of Gunthwaite, gentleman, of his extort might and power,' stopped both this path and one leading to Thurlstone; and praying for redress on the grounds that while they themselves are poor people, their opponent is 'a man of great maister-shippe and frendshipe.' We are not told whether this petition was granted, and one might fancy that had Colonel Bosville been brought up at Gunthwaite he would have been more in sympathy with his neighbours; but as late as 1749 there was another petition

of the same sort, when another Godfrey Bosville reigned at Gunthwaite, and this time counsel's opinion was taken, and 'John Spencer's' written opinion was in favour of Mr. Bosville, and that the desired way was 'no road.'

The picture of Colonel Godfrey Bosville, which hangs at Thorpe, agrees well with the idea of the man suggested by his doings; he has a most thoughtful, firm, almost sad face, with the long almond-shaped eyes which distinguish the Bosville pictures extant and with their dark complexion. He is represented in armour; the picture is a three-quarter length full size, and gives the impression of a man very sturdy in build and about 5 feet 10 inches in height.

Some of his accounts are still at Thorpe and are interesting. I copy the following:—

For the Wor<sup>sh</sup> Captaine Boswel, his bill for your mixt  
codling collar cloth suit 13 of Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1648—

	l <sup>b</sup>	s.	d.
for 2 y <sup>ds</sup> $\frac{1}{4}$ of Cloth to a Suit at 25 <sup>s</sup> a yard	02	16	3
for 2 y <sup>ds</sup> $\frac{1}{2}$ of Scarlet coullor Taffatie to lion the doublet and face the pocckets and Lienens at 5 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> a yard . . .	00	16	3
for 1 y <sup>d</sup> of peach Coller Taffatie to the Roufs on the Sleuf bands and to the gloufs and face the gloufs . . .	00	06	0

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	lb	s.	d.
for dimitie to lion the hose . . .	00	05	0
for callicoo to the hose . . .	00	03	0
for 3 oz. of silver lace to the gloufs and sleuf-bands at 4 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup> an ounce . . .	00	14	0
for Canvis and stiffening . . .	00	04	0
for poockets, hoocks and eyes . . .	00	02	4
for gallone and Lupe Lace . . .	00	01	6
for 4 dozen $\frac{1}{2}$ of brest buttons . . .	00	01	6
for drawing of the suit . . .	00	01	4
for 2 trumpoynts . . .	00	00	8
for 3 dozoon of poynts and ribon to the hose . . .	00	18	0
for 6 yards of read and mingled skie coullor Ribon and red riben to the hose	00	03	0
for silk . . .	00	02	0
for 3 y <sup>ds</sup> $\frac{1}{2}$ of Scarlet coullor riben to bind the Lienens . . .	00	01	6
for Making the suit and gloufs . . .	00	15	0
same is . . .	07	11	7
received in part . . .	02	05	0

Rest due 5 11 1.

(The arithmetic seems odd.)

On the back is :—

Receved in foul of this bil the some of 5lb 11<sup>s</sup> by  
me Receved. ANDREW VARLEY.

The worshipful Captain Bosville evidently dressed more after the fashion of a Cavalier than a Roundhead ! The suit, with its hose and gloves, its ruffles and scarlet-bound linings,

its galloon (braid) and silver lace, its ribbons of mingled sky-blue and red, its scarlet lining to the doublet and peach colour at the wrists, sounds very smart indeed. Neither tailor nor customer seem to have been able to add up or subtract ! and the lb mark for £ looks very quaint to modern eyes.

It was not only Captain Bosville who had fine clothes. We get a glimpse of his daughter-in-law's gowns, as a bill for that Mrs. Bosville's dress has survived. This would be made at home by a tailor, as was then the fashion ; the materials all being supplied by the customer. This bill is headed, 'Mrs. Bossewill hir bil ffeb 20. 1654,' and continues as follows (the £ mark here is right) :—

Imp <sup>o</sup> for Stais for ye silke dress and wast	£	s.	d.
coate . . . . .	00	04	00
for Silke and Galome . . . . .	00	01	06
for lynings for the bodis and sleves . . . . .	00	02	03
for bordering and binding . . . . .	00	02	02
for Colored Taffaty . . . . .	00	03	00
for stiffenning for the Sleevs and Coffes	00	00	06
for making of ye sute . . . . .	00	10	00
for silke and Galome . . . . .	00	02	03
for sleve lynings . . . . .	00	01	06
for 3 yards of Ribboning . . . . .	00	01	06
for houkes and eye . . . . .	00	00	03

# TIME OF THE COMMONWEALTH 71

	£	s.	d.
for making of ye Coat . . . . .	00	08	00
for stais for ye blacke wastcoate . . . . .	00	03	06
for silke and Galome . . . . .	00	00	04
for one yard of black calico . . . . .	00	00	04
for linings for ye bodis and sleeves . . . . .	00	02	03
for steffinnings for ye sleeves and coffes . . . . .	00	00	08
for making of yat sute . . . . .	00	09	00
for silke for ye 3 mantells . . . . .	00	01	04
for lynings and galome for ye litell sleeves . . . . .	00	00	08
for making ye mantells and sleeves . . . . .	00	05	00
for 2 yards and one quarter of red lase . . . . .	00	18	00
for silke and galome for the peticoats . . . . .	00	02	00
for 2 yards of ffeurt Ribben [is this flowered ?] . . . . .	00	00	06
for 2 pockets . . . . .	00	00	06
for 2 demmety wastcoates . . . . .	00	03	04
for 3 yards of Taffaty Ribben . . . . .	00	01	06
some is £4. 4. 4			

At the bottom of this bill is mysteriously added the following :—

for 3 dozen of Candells . . . . .	0	14	0
-----------------------------------	---	----	---

Can the tailor have had to work by night ? And on the back are various other entries which seem rather to suggest that they may be a note of the tailor's board and of his expenses in coming to his work. Some of the items read amazingly to-day ; for instance :—

for a shoulder of muton . . . . .	0	2	4
for a breast of veal . . . . .	0	2	6

	£	s.	d.
for a quarte of lam . . . . .	0	2	6
for bread . . . . .	0	0	4
for oranges and lemons . . . . .	0	1	6
for milk . . . . .	0	0	1
for buter . . . . .	0	0	7
for broth . . . . .	0	0	3
for ale . . . . .	0	0	2
for laces . . . . .	0	2	0
for a comb . . . . .	0	2	0
for gloves . . . . .	0	1	4
for thrid . . . . .	0	2	8
for going by road . . . . .	0	1	0
for a coach hir . . . . .	0	1	0
for ale and bread . . . . .	0	0	2
for drink at morlack (?) . . . . .	0	0	6

The whole bill is emphatically receipted in the following words :—

*Feb. the 26th, 1654.*

Received then of William Bosseville	} £11. 4s.
Esqr the sum of eleven pounds,	
four shillings in full of this bill of all	
deeds and amounts from the begin-	
ning of the world untill the day of	
the date hereof of Febry received	
by me	
JOHN GALE	

Colonel Godfrey Bosville died in 1658. By his wife, Margaret Greville, he had one son, William, and two daughters, Elizabeth, who

married Herbert Pelham, Esq., of Fewer, Co. Essex ; and Mary, who married George James Sedascue, a Bohemian, an officer in the Parliament Army. This George Sedascue, described as of Gunthwaite Hall, Esq., gave by will £20 to the Master of Penistone Grammar School. This money lay for some time at interest, but was finally spent in part payment for the erection of a dwelling-house for the Master. The memory of this benefactor is preserved by the following inscription over the schoolhouse door :—

Georgius Sedascue, arm :  
 XX £ in usam hujus scholae legavit  
 quas Gulielmus Bosville, arm :  
 aedibus hisce reaedificandis impendit.  
 An<sup>o</sup> D<sup>ni</sup> 1717.

At Thorpe there is a beautiful parchment roll consisting of maps of all the English counties, very finely engraved and coloured by hand. This is inscribed with the name of the third Godfrey Bosville ‘ Armig: ’ and that it is ‘ ex dono George Sedascue Armig: 30th August 1678.’

(XVIII.) William Bosville of Gunthwaite, the only son of Colonel Godfrey Bosville and his successor in 1658, was aged twelve in 1632 ;

he was an officer in the Parliament Army, and is named by Ludlow in his *Memoirs* as one of a hundred gentlemen belonging to the Inns of Court who with himself were formed voluntarily into a body of horse under Sir Philip Stapleton, as guards to the Earl of Essex. William Bosville held the rank of Captain in the Parliament Army 1643, and was desperately wounded in the fight at Aylesford between Sir William Waller and Sir Ralph Hopton on March 30, 1644. He afterwards held the rank of Major, and finally of Colonel. He was employed in several Commissions during the Commonwealth, as in that for selling the fee farm rents of the duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall, and in 1656 for the sale of the forests of Sherwood, Needwood, Kingswood, and Enfield.

After the Restoration he made the Declaration required on May 25, 1660, and received his pardon. Upon this his wife and he returned to Gunthwaite.

At Thorpe there is a sheet of writing about Cromwell and some of his followers. It must be the work of a Loyalist, as he has nothing but abuse for every one he writes of. He calls Cromwell 'a man made great by other men's actions fathered on him,' and goes on to say :

‘ At Marston Moor, though Sir Thomas Fairfax, Lieut.-General Middleton, Major-General Crawford deserved farre above him, yett Cromwell must be bellowed abroad the Saviour of the three kingdoms, the Great Deliverer: ’Tis truth,’ the paper goes on, ‘ if Craford had not whispered in his ear he had delivered himself out of ye field in ye beginning of the day at Naisbee.’ After mentioning Wilson (Colonel in the Orange Regt.) as ‘ a man that hath more money than wit or Valour, but he may serve,’ and Camfield, the paper last of all mentions ‘ Captain Hey Day Boswell, a fellow lately put out for caning Train-Band Souldiers, but it seems he must come to it and this Prick-Louse employed to begin the Work.’ In spite of all this abuse the writer adds: ‘ All these I dare say will never be guilty of high Treason in raising a new Warr, nor except ye last, be angry to be kick’d or affronted in any manner.’ So we conclude that such aspersions might be written but probably left unsaid in the presence of ‘ Captain Hey Day Boswell.’ No doubt William entered with enjoyment into schemes which his father had begun at Gunthwaite, for instance the new chapel at Denby, which owed ts building chiefly to the exertions of Colonel

Godfrey Bosville. The then nearest church to Gunthwaite was at Penistone, and in the winter floods often made an attempt to reach that place of worship dangerous, though it is only three miles farther on from Denby to Penistone. A very zealous Puritan minister, Mr. Charles Broxholme, had been placed to serve Denby Chapel. He had been much patronised by the Greville relations of the Bosvilles, especially by Lady Brooke, wife of Robert Lord Brooke. A provision was made for this chapel partly by a fine out of the rectory of Seaton-Rosse, which fine gave £100 to be paid annually by Sir Edward Osborne of Kiveton (£50 to Gunthwaite and £50 to Denby). This fine, levied in 1647, was paid irregularly, and at last £1000 down was paid by the heirs of Edward Osborne 'to be placed to the augmentation of the living.' The mysterious payments which have to be made by the present owner of Thorpe and Gunthwaite *to* Seaton Ross may be the repayment of this Commonwealth fine, or rather the interest of that half-share of the £1000. These payments were evidently noticed by the third Lord Macdonald at Thorpe, as he puts down in some notes still in the house, 'The payment half yearly of the Seaton Ross curate

was Feb. 24, 1740, £12, 10s., and May 22, 1748, the same ' ; and that it has a connection with the old fine is borne out by the following letter at Thorpe to the third Godfrey Bosville, which is dated Thorpe Salvine, August 18, 1704, and is from the representative of the original person fined, Sir Edward Osborne :—

‘ SR,—I understand by the Vicar of Pocklington that upon some discourse betwixt you and him ab<sup>t</sup> the Twenty-five Pounds a yeare which you pay to the Curate of Seaton-Rosse, you owned to him that your ffather indeed Received Five Hundred pounds, for which you pay the said 25. But, that rather than Charge y<sup>r</sup> Estate therewith, you would pay in the said Five Hundred pounds ; now if you continue to be of the same mind of Paying the five hundred Pounds rather than charge y<sup>r</sup> Estate with the s<sup>d</sup> yearly Payment, I am willing and ready to receive the said sum of 500<sup>l</sup> and to settle the 25. Anned (*sic*) upon some other Family, but I desire I may speedily know yo<sup>r</sup> mind herein,—that the Church may not depend upon any Precarious Settlement.—I am Sr Yo<sup>r</sup> Most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

LEEDS.’

The ‘ your ffather ’ referred to in this letter

is William Bosville of Gunthwaite, in whose time the £500 payment for Denby and Gunthwaite Chapels seems to have been arranged.

William Bosville had presumably met his future wife when he was at the Inns of Court in London, for she was Mary Wilkinson, daughter and heir of Roger Wilkinson, citizen of London (but the possessor of a coat of arms), and step-daughter of Sir Isaac Pennington, Lord Mayor of London. In a letter, dated at Chesterfield on March 24, 1642, Mr. Webster—that friend of Colonel Godfrey Bosville to whom he told his ‘Honest John’ Shirt to send his rents—writing to that very John Shirt, adds this postscript to his letter: ‘Young Mr. Bosseville is married to the Lord Mayor of London’s wife’s daughter.’ One would like to know more of this London girl than the bill for some of her clothes; she must have had rather a chequered existence, and perhaps did not enjoy very much being taken by her husband eighteen years after their marriage to live in so remote a spot as Gunthwaite. However, they had six children, two sons and four daughters, to keep the old house alive. But they did not stay there for long, for whether it was dulness which killed the city lass or not, Mary died on June 10, 1661,

and was buried at Penistone ; and her husband did not long survive her, for he departed this life on April 3, 1662, and was buried beside his wife. In earlier days they had lived at Richmond in Surrey, as we gather from a licence granted by the Bishop of Winchester, allowing William, his wife, his family, and his guests to eat meat during Lent, dated March 2, 1660. Their children were :—

1. Godfrey, to whom we shall later return.
2. William Bosville of Heath, born 2 March 1655, who died before his elder brother. His wife was Benedicta Fisher, widow of John Hudson, both of Bristol. She died in 1719. They had two sons, Henry and William, and a daughter, Susan, who died young.

The four daughters were :—

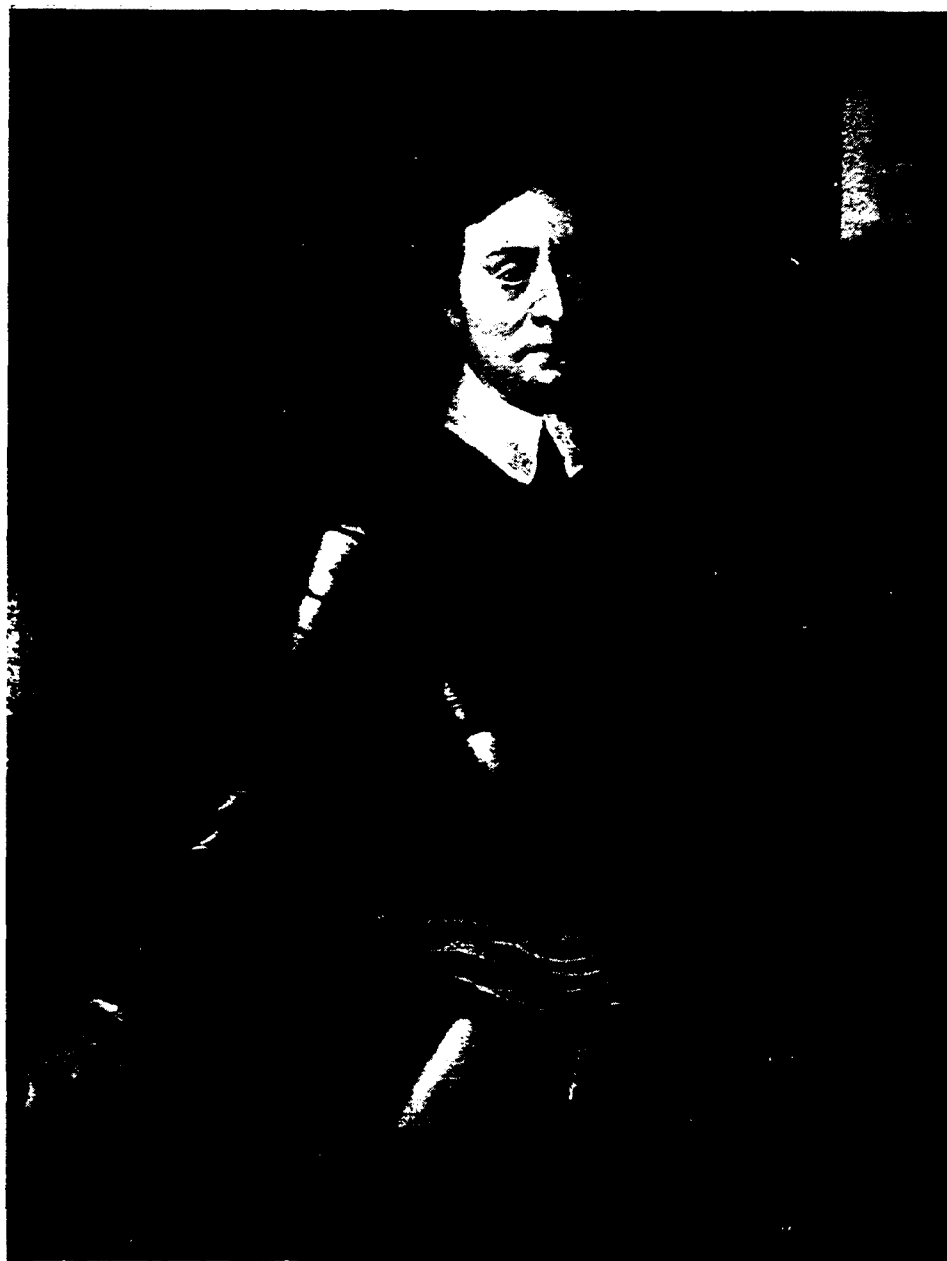
1. Mary, married at Penistone Nov. 15, 1664, to Edward Bunny of Newland, Esq.
2. Elizabeth, married, first, John Allot of Bentley, gent. ; second, Thomas Bowden of Bowden, Esq., Co. Derby, buried at Emley January 7, 1706.
3. Margaret, died unmarried after 1694.
4. Priscilla, married, first, Jervas Armitage, gent. ; second, Richard Hartley.

## CHAPTER VIII

### THROUGH RESTORATION TO REVOLUTION— SEVENTEENTH CENTURY (*continued*)

(XIX.) GODFREY BOSVILLE OF GUNTHTWAITE, Esq., well known in his time as Justice Bosville, the son of William and Mary (Wilkinson) Bosville, must have been born in 1654. He was about seven years old when left an orphan in 1662. This third Godfrey's rents were paid during his minority to George Barnby, a devoted friend of his family, and to George Sedascue, his uncle by marriage. There is a paper at Thorpe, drawn up later on by Justice Bosville himself, containing a full list of all these rents; he calls it, 'A Copy of a Rentall made since my ffather's death about ye year 1663.' The list includes rents

for Gunthwaite . . . .	£310 15 9
for Calthorn (Cawthorne) . .	127 13 0
for Oxspring . . . .	179 3 6
for copyholds in Penistone . .	2 6 10
for Chief rents in Oxspring Rough- birchworth, Thurlston and Ellswere	1 4 6



COLONEL GODFREY BOSVILLE OF GUNTHWAITE, M.P.

*(From the picture at Thorpe)*



and ends :

The summ of all y<sup>e</sup> rents, both of my  
Grandfather and father besides  
Chief rents and copyhold, is . . . £620 11 4

When he came of age he settled at Gunthwaite and busied himself in improving the place, both by building and also by the purchase of lands at Ingbirchworth and Micklethwaite fields to enlarge the Park. He also bought the manor of Midhope and the manor of New Hall, the ancient inheritance of his family but which had passed from them on the extinction of the elder branch, which occurred on the death of Thomas Bosville of New Hall, whose will was proved on December 12, 1639. The lands were then sold and were for some time possessed by the Wortleys, but by 1713 they were the property of William Marsden, who sold them in that year 'to Godfrey Bosville of Gunthwaite Esq. for £2,400.'

It must have been this third Godfrey Bosville who, on May 16, 1678, signs a paper, still at Thorpe, which is an account of the 'Rental of Lands belonging to the Free Grammar School at Penistone made by the feoffees.' This rental in all amounted to £18, 12s. yearly. Another similar paper, dated May 8 of the same year,

gives a list of the tenants occupying the above-mentioned lands or houses, in all, twenty-six persons. Some of the rents are classified as 'Improveable.' The highest of these rents is 19s. 8d., and is paid by 'M<sup>rs</sup>' (evidently the earliest contraction of Mistress) Shaw for one dwelling-house, yard, and garden, and certain parcels of land in Denby; also Stoneyhouse, barn and croft in Penistone. (In these papers there is always an 'e' at the end of Penistone, which we do not find earlier.)

This Godfrey Bosville, like his predecessors, held Court Barons, and at Thorpe there is a parchment 'admitting Francis Burdett and Rachel his wife' at one of these courts. In 1705 he served as High Sheriff for his county, and there are some pages inscribed 'Lammas Assizes 1705,' with his name following this, bound up at Thorpe in two old pieces of parchment cut from a deed *temp.* Charles II. Before Godfrey's name there is a word which looks like 'scrip<sup>t</sup>,' so these may be the notes he took during these assizes, but the crabbed old writing is too hard to make out. This Godfrey also signs a deed of gift of lands to Francis Oiley (such an odd name!), *Vicar and School-*

*master* at Penistone, 14 James I. But we are anticipating events.

On October 13, 1681, Godfrey Bosville and Bridget, daughter of Sir John Hotham of Scorbrough, Baronet, and his wife, the sister and heir of Sapcote, Viscount Beaumont, were married in the old Scorbrough Church. This church has since been pulled down and a new edifice erected. It still contains a beautiful fourteenth-century tomb to a young Canon Henry Middleton. The marriage of Godfrey and Bridget is commemorated in a stained-glass window in Penistone Church, which shows the arms of both families and the date, 1681.

We have always believed that this Bridget Hotham brought to the Bosvilles the first land ever owned by them in the East Riding; this consists of a moiety of the farms of Eastburn Warren and Battlebourn, which farms are still jointly held by the present Lord Hotham and the present owner of Gunthwaite and Thorpe. The family of the present tenant of these farms, whose name is Jordan, have held them now for three generations. They built the dwelling-house at Eastburn and have made a beautiful garden. Through the place runs the famous 'Driffeld trout steam,' which is cared for and

fished by a very celebrated club, to which, of course, the owners belong *ex officio*. There are papers at Thorpe which show that the rents and expenses of these farms have always been jointly shared by the two owners. The agent, 'Wm. Wight,' lived at Scorbrough, where the Hothams no longer dwelt, having built the large Hall at Dalton and gone to live there after the destructive fire at Scorbrough House in the eighteenth century. On Nov. 23, 1756, Mr. Wight writes from Scorbrough: 'I have carefully examined all the Eastburn documents and it appears to me that you [he is writing to the fourth Godfrey] have paid £1268=03=00 $\frac{1}{4}$  since the moiety of the estate was bequeathed.' In this letter he mentions that 'Sir Charles Hotham returned from his travels 3 months agoe.' Also there is a bill at Thorpe, paid by Sir C. Hotham and the fourth Godfrey Bosville in 1758, for 'a new pailing' (fencing) at Eastburn and Southburn; this whole bill is for £78, 17s. 3d., and each of the two owners gives £30, 8s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. There are also—to finish about this bit of property—receipts for Rotsea rents with Eastburn and Battlebourn in 1759; and in 1742, 1746, 1747, and 1748, when the tenant of Eastburn, etc., was Wm. Boyes. The

original lease to Wm. Boyes is at Thorpe and is signed by (Lady) Gertrude Hotham, Beaumont Hotham, James Gee, and Godfrey Bosville, in January 13 George II. At Thorpe, too, is another lease of Eastburn Warren, in 1773, and one in 1843; Francis Best, who says he is suffering from paralysis, sends 'Mr. Boyes' half-year's Interest Money.'

Before leaving Eastburn, etc., it must be recorded that in a List of Justices of the Peace for 1771, still at Thorpe, the name of William Bosville of Eastburn is found. This must be he who was finally the last male in the line of Bosville of Gunthwaite, and suggests that he had a house at Eastburn before his parents inherited Thorpe.

Godfrey and Bridget (Hotham) Bosville seem to have made their home entirely at Gunthwaite, and they occupied themselves partly in improving the place. It was they who added the new piece of the stables, who built the summer-house in the garden, and who planned to replace the old Hall itself with a new building. The plans for this proposed new Hall at Gunthwaite are all still at Thorpe, and are dated 1690. Perhaps the unsettled times and the disappointing fact that no children came

to bless their marriage combined to make Godfrey and Bridget give up the idea of a new home in the old place. This seems a pity, as one looks over the fascinating plans and drawings of the proposed Hall, which show a very dignified, well-proportioned, and pleasing Queen Anne house. The front has a centre with two not very prominent wings, between which extends a portico supported by graceful Ionic columns in pairs, along the top of which a pretty balustrade edges a balcony which extends across the windows of the first floor centre. The balcony serves to shelter the front door, which is at the top of seven steps inside the portico. These steps are necessary, for the house has an under-storey partly below the ground level. The top of the house has a bold Doric frieze and cornice, and the roof is high with steep gables over the wings, and the chimneys are arranged as graceful arches with frieze and cornice, a larger stack in the centre and two sligher but equally tall ones over the wings. The plans show on the top storey a long gallery running the whole length of one side of the house; this would be the 'prospect room,' where the daintily clad ladies of that date could admire the view while taking exercise,

when the country ways were too muddy for them. The other half of this storey has rooms along it. The gallery is wide and at either end has the extra breadth and the windows of the two wings under the gables. There are two staircases, one at each side of the house, in the wing parts, with a passage on each floor connecting these stairs. Charming, well-proportioned rooms are shown on the two middle floors, and in the basement enormous cellars—needed no doubt in those days—besides a good kitchen, pantry, and ‘still house.’ The building, judging from a ‘Scale of Feete,’ seems to measure about 55 feet by 45 feet, so the house is quite small, but so admirably proportioned that it gives the idea of much larger size. These plans are initialed ‘FR.’

Godfrey seems always to have been known as Justice Bosville. There is a paper at Thorpe about some dispute between him, ‘Mosley’ and others as to some legacy. The paper is labelled ‘Case,’ and tells all about this, but is difficult to decipher. However, it is interesting, as at the end is what must be a counsel’s opinion, as it begins, ‘I am of opinion’; this is signed ‘D. Ryder,’ and dated 1708.

The happy home life at Gunthwaite was

several times disturbed by war and rumours of war, as some letters at Thorpe still show ; for instance, those to Bridget from her mother's brother, Colonel John Beaumont, who seems to have adored his ' dear Neice.' From London, on July 9, 1685, he writes to her husband :—

' SR,—I got to London the Wednesday after I parted from yu. I was welcomed with the news of Monmouth's party being absolutely routed and since I came to towne its seconded with the taking of those 2 Rebels Monmouth and Gray who was both taken by the Militia horse under the command of my L<sup>d</sup> Lumley and Sir William Portman within half a mile of one another upon the edge of new forrest and both will be brought up to this towne by Sunday night to receive the rewarde of Traytors ; our army consisted not of half the number of them, they being 7000 foot and 1200 Horse. 2000 of the enemy are killed, our loss but inconsiderable, one Capt: wounded, 4 L<sup>ts</sup> killed and 9 Ensigns and near Twenty or thirty wounded men, not 60 killed, the enemy totally routed, so that we hope we shall have no further disturbance of this nature, but that we may live in peace for the future, present my affectionate

searvis to my dear Neice.—I am your ffaithful  
Serv<sup>t</sup>, JOHN BEAUMONT.'

This letter is franked 'John Beaumont,' and has an interesting address on the back of the double sheet :—

'This to Godfrey Boseville at his house in Gunthwaite to be left with Mr. Tobias Sils at his house in Wakefield and to be sent forward with speed.

Wakefield Bag.

'ffrank JOHN BEAUMONT.'

It is painful to remember how unlike a king's was the behaviour of James II. to Monmouth. He had listened to all his nephew's entreaties only to refuse them. Monmouth was equally unlike a prince or any sort of Stuart in the grovelling nature of these entreaties, which shamed him so and yet availed him nothing. He was executed in due course (on July 15). At Thorpe there is a little portrait, believed to be by Lely, painted on panel, of Henrietta, Lady Wentworth, the love of Monmouth, who died of grief a few months after his execution. He was much adored by many, and his wife, Anna, Duchess of Buccleuch, to whom Charles II. had married him in 1663, never ceased to mourn

him, though he had shown her but little affection. To mark her grief at his beheading, she cut off the heads of all the trees on the estate where she lived (Moor Park, Herts).<sup>1</sup>

Poor Colonel Beaumont's hope that after the suppression of Monmouth's Rebellion there would be no further disturbance could not be fulfilled under such a rule as that of James II., and the next letter at Thorpe shows what had happened to him by September 25, 1688 :—

‘ DEAR NEICE ’ (he writes), ‘ Of late I have been so roling about and have had such changes in my fortune, as I was unwilling to acquaint you with, least your kindness to me should give you an unnecessary trouble, it is true as yu have heard, I have lost my comand and place, but neither Honour nor a good Conscience, though I have not left so much as to live splendidly, yet I hope enough to be independant and contented, the general distraction all the Nation is in with the Alarum of the Dutch invading us, makes it difficult for me to take any measures how I shall dispose of my Selfe, being desirous to Se the Nation settled before

<sup>1</sup> However, after three years of widowhood, she married secretly Charles, third Lord Cornwallis.

I betake my Selfe to that sorte of life I propose w<sup>h</sup> is Privacy. I have freed my Selfe of all my incumbrances, dismissed my servants, sold my Goods, one Servant and my Selfe is all my family in a private lodging; and I doe not doubt but I shall find more content than ever I have experienced in my best condition, I have lost a thousand pound a yeare income within this sixteen months, doe not bemoane me for I esteem my Selfe happier than ever, I thank God my mind is equall to my fortune, and he that hath enough can never want, I thank God [you] that hath been my chiefest concern, hath a good Husband and plentifull fortune and that is satisfaction enough to me, I have not been well this 6 months but my distemper is in my lims not Harte, so soon as this Storme that threatens is bloune over (if I live) I will [at] once if able make a journey to see you, the God of Heaven preseeve you, the first North East wind we expect the Dutch will land but I hope the Business will be soon decided, and we may see Happy Dayes, Make much of your Good Husband, praise God and preseeve your Religion and reckon me to be as long as I live Your affectionate Unckle and faithfull servant,

‘ JOHN BEAUMONT.’

This leaves a sad impression, but in the next of Colonel Beaumont's letters at Thorpe, dated 'June ye 15th, 89,' we hear a different story. 'I have been in a Hurry of Business,' he says, and in spite of 'very imperfect health' he is 'now just moving towards my Regiment, which I hope to meet at Milford Haven and so to goe for Ireland.' He adds: 'I am in despaire of seeing my Deare Neice to bid her farewell; if I live to return I will see her with joy, if not, she shall have a testimony of the true effecton I have ever had for her. I pray God to bless you Both together. . . .'

Though he went to Ireland, it is doubtful whether Colonel Beaumont was at the Battle of the Boyne, fought on July 1, 1690, when William III. finally defeated James II., for we find him back in London by August, on the 16th of which month he writes from there:—

'DEARE NEICE,—You will wonder to find a letter dated from this place, but of the 3 Regiments that the King [William III.] sent out of Ireland, mine was one of them, but before I left that Kingdome all things tended to a happy reducement and I hope the next news we have from thence it will be that it 's perfected, Never since Caesar any Prince hath had the like suc-

cess, nor any prince ventured more in person than ours hath done, I hope we shall have him retourne speedily crowned with Laurell to us and that Popery will never take root again amongst us.

‘ Never Army ’ (he continues) ‘ hath suffered more fatigue in so little a time as ours. I thank God I have had my health better than I could have hoped. Bread and water (and that but ill) hath been our food for some dayes, and the bare Ground our Beds, a Soldjer’s life is a life of a prince, but a Beggar would not live it, but God be thanked, all our sufferings are well recovered in the prospect to be delivered from Popish Bondage.’

In November he writes again, full of gratitude for his safe return from Ireland, and reiterating his hope of shortly retiring into ‘ Privacy.’ He tells his niece of a terrible disaster, writing : ‘ I presume you have heard of a 3 rate ship that was blowne up in Cork Harbour, it was the Ship I went over in, the Captain my particular ffriend, with whom I had left aboard in money and Goods to the Vallew of £700, wh. with him Selfe and 420 brave seamen was all blowne up or sunk.’

In Colonel Beaumont's last letter (at Thorpe) to his niece one gathers that he has found his longed-for 'Privacy,' for the letter is dated, on March 12, 172 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 'at my house in frith street near So Hoe Square,' and in it he says: 'I dare assure you I have a wife so much to my Humour as you may promise Your Selfe all the respect and friendship in the World from her, as an earnest she desires me to present you and your Husband with her Humble Searvis.'

Two other letters, which illuminate the feelings of contemporaries as to the coming of Dutch William, are also at Thorpe. These are written to 'Justice Bosville,' and are from a neighbour, 'S. Wortley,' and both are written from Wortley and sent to Gunthwaite by hand.

The first is dated November 9, 1688, and is as follows :—

'SR,—Having received very considerable news last night, I thought you and Mrs. Boswill would be willing to share it.

'I had from very good hands that the Prince of Orange landed at Dartmouth, within twelve miles of Exeter, in Devonshire—It is said the fleet that carried him thither was a very great

one ; that he brought many land soldiers with him.

‘ Pray God send us soon rid of ill guests and that we may enjoy quietnesse again.—I am Sr Your humble servant

‘ S. WORTLEY.’

The second letter, dated November 18, 1688, and evidently written in haste, runs as follows :—

‘ SR,—I cannot possibly waite on you upon Tuesday, I know you will excuse me when I tell you the occasion.

‘ I had news this night that 8 of the King’s Regim<sup>ts</sup> were gone over to ye Prince of O. and am summoned to be at York on Tuesday next,

‘ pray come as soon as yu can possibly thither it is very necessary that all Gentlemen should be there to consider what is best to be done at this juncture.—I am Y<sup>r</sup> most obliged humble Servant

‘ S. WORTLEY.’

‘ I and all with me present you their service to y<sup>r</sup> Lady Sister and Selfe.’

No doubt this news was pleasing to the grandson of the Member, famous in the family, of the Long Parliament, and that the Hotham

wife sympathised we know by her uncle's letters. Indeed, Justice Bosville and his wife settled down happily under the new government, and, as before said, Mr. Bosville was High Sheriff in 1705; and Hunter describes him as having passed 'a busy and useful life.' He died, aged only fifty-eight, on June 18, 1714, and was buried beside his wife, who had predeceased him in December 1708, in his parish church at Penistone, where two marble monuments in the chancel commemorate them.



GODFREY BOSVILLE AND DIANA WENTWORTH WITH HER FAMILY AT BRETTON

*(From the picture by Philippe Mercier at Thorpe)*



## CHAPTER IX

### EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BOSVILLES

JUSTICE BOSVILLE was succeeded at Gunthwaite by his nephew William (XX.), the second son of his brother William and Benedicta (Fisher), their elder son Henry having died before his uncle. This Henry, called 'of Kensington' in the Pedigree, married a daughter of 'Captain Richardson of the Powder Mills on Hounslow Heath,' but apparently they had no children.

William, having been born the younger son of a younger son, 'was intended for merchandise,' which sounds as if he were to be sold into slavery, and perhaps 'merchandise' felt like that to him, for he discovered, when 'placed with Mr. Briggs, a merchant of Liverpool,' that he greatly disliked his occupation. So his Uncle Godfrey bought him a commission in Lord Shannon's Marines in 1709, and he presumably got on well as a soldier, for we find him later a captain in Colonel Stanhope's

Regiment of Foot. There are letters at Thorpe from William to his Uncle Godfrey full of gratitude to him for being so ready to pay for his commission, and also some correspondence about a commission between Godfrey and E. Burgess, dated 1710. But William seems to have left the Army when in 1714 he succeeded his uncle in his estates. These he found encumbered for the moment by his predecessor's land purchases, which, however, were in the end of great value to the family. William therefore sold Rodmore, also a share in the Aire and Calder Canal, and having, says Hunter, succeeded in his great suit respecting the right of presentation to the church of Penistone, he died at Gunthwaite in 1724, aged only forty-two. In 1722 he had made out a complete 'Rentall of Captain Bosville's estate for Martinmas 1722.' This is printed in Appendix II. p. 241.

Apparently this Captain Bosville was also known, like his uncle, by the name of Justice Bosville, for Thoresby has this entry in his Diary :—

'*June* 19, 1724.—At Mr. Boulter's, Mr. Bennet's and Mr. Bosville's; heard of the sudden death of his kinsman, Justice Bosville of Gunthwaite, of four hours' sickness.'

The 'Mr. Bosville' must have been one of the Kent family.

William's wife was Bridget, daughter of John Wheatley of Royston, gentleman, a younger son of John Wheatley of Wolley. (Actually not an heiress!) After his death she married, in Midhope Chapel, September 29, 1729, Hugh Bosville of Gray's Inn, Esq., a younger son of Thomas Bosville of Braithwell. By this second marriage she had a daughter, Mary Bosville, who afterwards married Thomas Place of Green Hammerton, Esq.

The only surviving son of Captain William Bosville and his wife Bridget (Wheatley) now inherited Gunthwaite. (XXI.) He was Godfrey Bosville, the fourth of that name. Evidently his father had named him after his uncle, for whom he felt such gratitude.

The fourth Godfrey Bosville was born in 1717, and baptized in Denby Chapel, and was only seven years old when his father died so suddenly. As the author of the *Memoirs*, he is already an old friend. His life saw many changes, and during it the family increased greatly in prosperity and possessions. During his minority his estates were managed, as he tells us himself, 'very honestly by two non-

jurors and a Roman Catholic,' to whose care he had been committed by his father. These were: Mr. Hodgson, who was steward to the Earl of Cardigan, under whose administration (says Hunter) of the Earl's affairs in Yorkshire Howley Hall was destroyed; Mr. Matthewman; and Mr. Blackburn, who was afterwards steward to the Duke of Norfolk. All encumbrances had been cleared from the property and the estate of Broad Oak, in Gunthwaite, bought, in 1720, before he succeeded. He himself in 1748 added the estate of Thurlstone, called Shepherd's Castle, to the family acres. In 1762 he succeeded to Biana, a house and estate in Staffordshire, by the will of Charles Bosville of that place, a descendant of a younger son of Ralph Bosville, Kt., Clerk of the Court of Wards; and eleven years later this fourth Godfrey Bosville also succeeded to the house and estate of Thorpe Hall in the East Riding, by the bequest of Thomas Hassell, Esq., the husband of an aunt of Mrs. Bosville, both these ladies having been born Wentworths of Bretton.

As regards Biana, this property, according to some rough notes written by the third Lord Macdonald and preserved at Thorpe, was first owned by Sir Robert Bosville, who was uncle

to Colonel Bosville of Cromwellian fame. This Sir Robert was afterwards of Eynsford in Kent.

Biana is in the parish of Eccleshall, and the Church Registers contain a good many Bosville entries, beginning in 1651 and ending in 1762, when Mr. Charles Bosville's burial is recorded.

Upon a long, narrow roll of parchment at Thorpe is written out : ' A true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods, Chattells and Creditts of Robert Bosvile, late of Biana in the Co. of Stafford, Esq.' It is not dated, but has a paper bearing Queen Anne's cipher and crown attached to it. Robert was probably the father of Charles. This inventory begins by putting down Robert's 'wearing apparell' and 'money in Pockett,' which come to £20. Quite a lot of furniture is mentioned, of which three tables and a screen are valued at £2 ; two looking-glasses and four 'glasses frontes' at £8 ; a picture at £12 ; 'Clock and the rest of the furniture' at £3, 10s. All these in the parlour. The hall furniture is all grouped together and valued at £4, but the kitchen brass and pewter is worth £10, while its 'Jack-grate and rest of the furniture' is put down at £2, the same sum being specified for the glass

in the pantry. But the 'Sellar' contains 'Beare and Ale' value £16.

The 'Parlour Chamber,' *i.e.* best bedroom, was very smart. It contained a bed and furniture value £10; 'Glasses frontes and a Dressing Box,' £2; 'Chaires, Tables and Standes' worth £2, 5s., and a 'great Chaire, Skreen and rest of the furniture' value £6. The other rooms are the hall chamber, the chamber next the parlour chamber, the 'Staire Head Chamber,' which contains 'Clok,' the kitchen chamber, and the 'Garretts.'

The 'Nappery' (linen) in the house was valued at £30, and the 'Clossett' contained furniture value £3, and silver plate worth £44, 10s.

The Brew House had two coppers and a mill, besides furniture, the whole put down at £8.

The 'Cattle,' including three saddle horses, are valued at £8; nine 'cowes' at £22, 10s.; two oxen at £9; three heifers at £4, 10s.; also 'three storkes and six calves,' ten ewes, two lambs and swine, the whole worth £51. 'A Chariott and a pair of Horses' are also on the list, value £40; so are 'things out of sight and forgott,' £6, 10s., which seems a large sum in

proportion. The whole value reaches the amount of £413, 5s, and is attested—

‘ By us JOHN CRAMNER } Prizers.  
JOHN PARTINGTON }

As the roll of parchment upon which this list of homely human possessions is inscribed curls up again, one feels that a vivid peep into a comfortable, secure home of long ago has been vouchsafed, and a regret lingers that Godfrey Bosville, only ten years later, sold the little inheritance. But he seems to have had mortgages on other lands, which no doubt the money for Biana helped to pay off. No books are mentioned in the list, but at Thorpe there are still a few volumes with ‘ Biana ’ written on the flyleaf.

Mr. Charles Bosville also owned Ulverstone Abbey in Leicestershire, which Hunter tells us was left to Mr. Thomas Bosville ‘ of London,’ one of the Braithwell branch of the family and father to William Parkin Bosville. (See the Braithwell Pedigree in Appendix, pp. 239-240.)

A note left by the third Lord Macdonald tells us that when his grandfather, the fourth Godfrey Bosville, sold Biana, it fetched £16,613, 15s.

Godfrey Bosville was also placed heir to the

estate of Bradbourn in Kent, by Henry Bosville, a man he had never seen. But he had received a letter from him, for it is still at Thorpe. It is dated from 'Bradbourne near Sevenoke, March 30, 1760,' and gives an account of the first Ralph Bosville 'of your family,' who came from Yorkshire to Kent, and was Chief Clerk of the Court of Wards in the second year of Queen Elizabeth, and tells that when Ralph's grandson sold many of his lands it was the occasion of his writings being dispersed. No doubt these were family records.

This fourth Godfrey, in the oft-quoted Memoirs, remarks how little people value old deeds until taught to understand them. He must have sighed over Henry's information as to 'writings.' He himself was evidently a man highly cultivated and even polished, and at his house in London he entertained many of the wits and wiseacres of the day. He wrote verses, some of which Hunter has thought worth quoting (in his *South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. page 198). This poem is called 'The Moors,' and shows the love of that day for dragging in every possible classical allusion while professing to write in admiration of Nature; but the lines run pleasantly, and show that Godfrey loved

his home scenery ; for instance, in talking of the landscape there which greets a traveller's view, he says :—

A cultivated vale his eye shall bless,  
Midhope, a garden in a wilderness !

And further on :—

How pleasing to the eye the meadows green,  
The rural features and the sylvan scene ;  
The frequent cottages dispers'd around  
The rising hills that villages have crown'd ;  
Here single oaks with mighty branches spread  
Invite the cattle to the cooling shade.

(This last rhyming end is not his best !)

The fourth Godfrey appears to have kept hounds. There are various references to these scattered about the old papers. 'Robin the huntsman' says he hears 'they have worried 100 sheep since Christmas, and that Echo is at last hanged.' And there are solemn papers about trespass and the right to hunt hares ; a Thomas Roebuck, convicted of hunting one, promises under his seal and signature, which are duly witnessed, never to do so again !

This fourth Godfrey, too, it was who restored the chapel at Midhope ; it is built of roughly indented stones, and has a small turret for a bell at the west end. The chapel and also a

well in the corner of the yard are dedicated to St. James. In former days the clergyman who officiated there used to say in his prayer before the sermon, 'But especially let us pray for Godfrey Bosville, Esq., and his good lady.' In 1657 the third Godfrey appointed to this chapel Nathaniel Shirt, M.A., one of the Shirts of Cawthorne, and a relation of the John Shirt of Cromwell's time who helped to defend Penistone Church in 1643, and no doubt also of John Shirt, Colonel Godfrey Bosville's agent. The living of Midhope was a donative, and belonged to the Bosvilles; but when Sir Alexander Macdonald of the Isles gave the living of Penistone to the diocese of Wakefield, Midhope was added to Penistone.

The fourth Godfrey Bosville's wife was Diana, eldest daughter of Sir William Wentworth, Baronet, of West Bretton, and sister of Sir Thomas Blckett, Baronet, who took his mother's name on succeeding to her Northumbrian property, but who lived on his Wentworth estate of West Bretton. Diana was a worthy mate, in mind as well as in other ways, for Godfrey, as may be seen from a volume which she has left at Thorpe, where it is carefully preserved, and which is an old-fashioned

parchment book filled with writings. These are in turn interesting, amusing, and historical as regards passing events. Also, in the fashion of her day, they sometimes show what seems to us a coarse humour. A delightful paper upon this 'Georgian scrapbook' has been written by Mrs. Stirling (author of *Coke of Norfolk*, *Macdonald of the Isles*, etc.), and is the first article in her book entitled *A Painter of Dreams* (published by John Lane at the Bodley Head in 1915). The second article in this book is called 'A Friend of Freedom,' and is a sketch of Diana's elder son William.

Diana counted among her friends the celebrated Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, in whose *Letters* we find a mention of her, written from Avignon on June 1, new style, 1743 (vol. ii. of the *Letters*, page 120). Godfrey and Diana had gone abroad, and passed by Avignon, where the friends met. 'Mrs. Bosville,' says Lady Mary, 'is gone to Turin, where they intend to reside; she had the good fortune to meet an English man-of-war on the coast, without which she would have found the passage very difficult. She had so much her journey at heart, that she undertook to ride over the mountains from Nissa to Savona, but I believe

(notwithstanding her youth and spirits) she would have found the execution impossible. She has chosen the most agreeable Court in Europe, where the English are extremely caressed. But it is necessary to be young and gay for such projects.'

The Bosvilles spent at least one winter at Turin, where we hear she was welcomed at the Court as a great ornament to the circle.

'Nissa' or Nice remained for long a dangerous way by which to pass over the mountains into Italy. Augustus Hare, in his *South-Western France*, tells us of the adventure of Lady Bute in the days of the great Napoleon. She was stopped by bandits in the mountains above Nice, and had all she carried taken from her—not only diamonds, but also a bottle of laudanum which she used medicinally. This was thought by the bandits to be a new kind of liqueur, and they all drank it, with the result that sleep overpowered them in a cornfield, where they were found and captured by the *gendarmérie*, much to the delight of the neighbourhood, which had long suffered from them. But judge of the shock felt by the good citizens of Nice when it was discovered that most of these brigands were young men belonging to the best

and most honoured families of the town ! Probably they had met Lady Bute at a Nice entertainment and admired her diamonds !

Diana and Godfrey settled at Gunthwaite, and also had a London house. The historian Hunter calls Diana ‘this amiable and ingenious lady’; and nearly twenty years after her eulogy by Lady Mary, another and a greater celebrity paid her his tribute—no less a person than the venerated Dr. Johnson. Boswell has recorded the meeting between these two as having happened in March 1772 at the Pantheon, where he and Dr. Johnson were walking, and where they were ‘joined by Mrs. Bosville of Gunthwaite, in Yorkshire.’ It is a pity that he has not recorded their conversation nor any utterance of the lady’s, but he does tell us Dr. Johnson’s comment upon her after she had passed on. He pronounced her to be ‘a mighty intelligent lady.’ One wishes one could know exactly how the great Doctor struck the lively lady ! Boswell claimed kinship with the Bosvilles, and later visited them at Thorpe, where still remains his gift to Godfrey of an inscribed copy of his *History of Corsica*. He had desired to be Godfrey’s son-in-law ! but the object of his devotion had married in 1768—as

we shall see. Later, too, there is a letter of his to Godfrey which will be found on page 183. Both it and *Corsica* are safely preserved at Thorpe.

When Godfrey succeeded to Biana, in 1762, he and Diana seem to have spent a good part of their time there, as well as at Gunthwaite, and in the London house in Great Russell Street. But in 1773 the home they chose to inhabit above all others was left to them. This was Thorpe in the East Riding. They seem at once to have let Gunthwaite to tenants, and to have removed to Thorpe.

This estate of Thorpe, bequeathed by Mr. Hassell, consisted in 1773 only of 1340 acres, but these lay all together and surrounded what was then considered a far more comfortable and modern house than that of Gunthwaite. Other property, however, besides Thorpe was included in Mr. Hassell's legacy ; there was some land in Brandesburton and a little in Rotsea, and two farms in Hutton Ambo, which came originally through a Mrs. Hassell, great-great-great-grandmother of the testator, who was born a Mansfield, and inherited from her childless brother the manor of Hutton Bardolph in East Hutton on Derwent, in the North

Riding of Yorkshire. (See Hassell Notes in Appendix, p. 253.)

The will of John Mansfield is at Thorpe ; it is a large deed, in parchment, with four seals hanging to it, and is dated February 18, 45th Elizabeth (1603). Another large deed is with it, which is a lease of Helmsley Castle, out-buildings, etc., to William Watson of Cockfield, co. Durham ; this is dated August 4, 16th Charles II. (1664), and is twice signed by the second Duke of Buckingham (Pope's Villiers). William Watson's wife was Elizabeth Hassell, daughter of Thomas Hassell of Hutton-upon-Derwent, Esq., and a barrister-at-law, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Barney Wood of Thorpe, in the county of York, Esq., also a barrister-at-law. Here we have the first link of Thorpe to Hutton, and so Hutton to Thorpe eventually. William Watson himself sounds a picturesque figure in the Hassell Pedigree ; he is ' Gentleman of the Horse to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and likewise one of the equerries of King Charles II.' But Helmsley Castle, unlike Hutton Bardolph, remained remote from Hassell possession. The Duke's two signatures upon the above-mentioned deed are beautiful examples of penmanship, not at all what one would

have expected from a dissolute courtier of Charles II.

Godfrey and Diana (Wentworth) Bosville had two sons and two daughters. Of the elder son William, as of the two daughters Elizabeth Diana and Julia, an account will be given presently. The second son, Thomas Blckett, entered the Army. The 'Warrant of his Commission as Captain in A Company of the Coldstream Foot Guards,' dated May 26, 1789, is signed by His Majesty's command, 'W. W. Grenville,' and is preserved at Thorpe. But by 1789 he had been some time in the Army; he served in America from April 1776 to May 1777, when he returned to England on sick leave. His death occurred in consequence of his extraordinary height, which was 6 feet 4 inches. At the battle of Liencelles in French Flanders, fought in 1793, shortly before the battle of Dunkirk, he was shot through the mouth by a bullet which had passed over the head of Captain Fitzroy, who was standing just in front of Thomas Bosville. His death excited great interest, and the contemporary poet, Montgomery, celebrated the event in very bad verse. In the following quotation from this effusion, allusion is made to the former Miss Wilson

(can her father have been of Broomhead ?),  
the wife of Captain Bosville, that lady who had

to Bosville's arms  
Consign'd the virgin treasure of her charms,  
Ere twice the inconstant moon renew'd her horn  
Saw the gay bridegroom from her bosom torn ;  
From weeping love at Glory's call he fled,  
And made a soldier's grave his nuptial bed.

There is a very bad little painting at Thorpe inscribed on the back in Diana Bosville's writing, 'Painted by Captain Bosville, 1782.' If the date were not quite so early we might suppose it to be an attempt to depict Miss Wilson. It shows a round-faced, fair, blue-eyed girl in a little low-cut blue bodice over a white chemi-sette, also low cut, and wearing what looks like a bridal veil.

Another relic of this Thomas still at Thorpe consists of two letters in the round copperplate writing of early youth, from Tommy, who writes from Cheam School in 1767 to his 'Dear Papa' and 'Dear Mama' respectively, and sending his love 'to my brother and sisters.' The letters in each case give the date of the holidays, and make request about his being sent for. It must have been a long journey from Cheam to Gunthwaite for a little boy—the 'dutiful son,' as he signs himself.

Mr. Gilpin was then headmaster at Cheam, and he has instructed Tommy to ask whether he shall be sent home by stage-coach or be fetched.

All the family seem to have been much attached to each other, and there is a charming little memento still at Thorpe of some Christmas Day when, judging by the writing on it, Diana Wentworth must have made and given it to her *fiancé*, Godfrey Bosville. It is a little envelope, very neatly cut out from stiff paper and made to close with a little loop passed through the opposite flap. It is edged round with dark painted lines on the white paper, and on the front a sprig of mistletoe is painted. Inside is still the piece of sticking-plaster which the envelope is made to contain, and across the inside of the tiny receptacle Diana has written two lines :—

With Friendship join'd, oh ! lend thy healing aid  
To cure all wounds, save those by Cupid made.

Some old accounts still at Thorpe tell us a little more about 'Tommy.'

Evidently he was not only sent to school by way of London, but had some joy in passing through, for we read—noting first the fact that James Preston was evidently a trusted

servant, whose wages (very high for that date) are put down in 1757 as £30, 'due Jany. 25' :—

James and Tommy to the Play . . .	£0	4	0
Lobby-box Doorkeeper . . .		5	0
(his tip was more than the tickets !);			

and also—

Tommy a pair of shoes . . .		3	0
Tommy Leather breeches . . .		6	0
do. kneebuckles . . .			5
Altering Tommy's Clothes . . .		2	0

(We know how very tall Tommy grew to be ; no doubt he was the despair of those who provided his outfit.) The next entry is :—

Mr. Gilpin's bill for Tommy . . .	£31	5	0
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This of course is his Cheam School fees ; and at the same time is noted—

Usher and servants at Christmas . . .	2/
---------------------------------------	----

Then comes—

Tommy a Hat . . . . .	7
Pair of Shoes for Tommy . . . .	3 6
Pair of Gloves for Do. . . . .	1

Mercifully for Tommy, we do not find the same large bills for medicine as we do for his father, when in 1734 'Master Bosville' was

unwell. Then the drugs for six months came to £1, 11s. 6d., the very same sum as is put down for the boy's 'teaching' at Gunthwaite, with 10s. 6d. for 'Cyphering book,' 1s. 8d. for pens, and 1s. 6d. for ink.

On the same page of the accounts with Tommy's shoes and gloves, we have the following entry for his elder brother Billy, now Ensign Bosville :—

Hat at Wagner's . . . . £1 2 6

There are many entries later for Ensign Bosville; the chief is for his commission as ensign, for which in 1761 the sum of £950 was paid as a deposit for it. The bills for his clothes seem to show that men of that day, like present men, loved to have lots of pairs of boots, for one reads: 'En<sup>s</sup> Bosville 14 pairs of Shoebuckles,' £4, 18s., followed by '1 pair Pumps stitched,' 8d., and by 'Mending his garters,' 1d. Julia's pair of gloves, like Tommy's, cost only 1s.

It is interesting to look over these accounts of the fourth Godfrey Bosville, comparing them mentally with present-day prices and needs. Here are some of them :—

In 1767, on April 14, wax candles come to

£1, 14s. In 1766 tallow candles are down at £3, 15s. 9d ; whereas in 1654 an older list has ' 5 dozen candles,' 14s. In 1766, ' for a Horse ' is put down at £6, 6s. ; and later, ' fetching Billy's horses from Hull,' £1, 1s. For Dr. James's Powders the large sum of £14, 14s. is paid ; it seems enormous, especially when compared with the servants' wages. In 1740 there is a list of these latter, which reads :—

Rebecka Jackson	.	.	.	£6 a year
Mary Smith	.	.	.	£5 a year
Sarah Marshall	.	.	.	£2, 10/
Sarah Howden	.	.	.	£2, 10/

This would be at Gunthwaite, and about the same date the Bosvilles gave as follows :—For grouse, 1s. each ; hares, 1s. ; woodcock and snipe, 6d. each ; butter, 6d. or 7d. per lb. ; ducks, 9d. to 1s. 2d. a couple ; chickens, 7d. and 8d. a couple ; beef, 3d. or 3½d. per lb. ; mutton, 4d. per lb. ; ' Hysonn Tea,' 18s. per lb. ; Green Tea, 14s. ; Bohea, 16s. ; coffee, 5s. 4d. per lb.

It seems so odd to us that in a country house game should have to be bought. It appears that Abraham Crossley, no doubt the tenant of the Bosville moors at Midhope, supplied the

above game, as—for October 1766—we have the following entry :—

A. Crossley :	29 Woodcocks	.	.	14/6
	16 Partridges	.	.	8/
	11 Snipe	.	.	5/6
	6 Hares	.	.	6/

But for wine—at any rate later, at Thorpe—far more money was paid. Here is a list ‘for Wines in London,’ so possibly this was for entertaining in Great Russell Street :—

Des Mages Madeira	.	.	.	£3 14 0
A Pipe Cask	.	.	.	7 6
Pardoe Pipe Port	.	.	.	38 0 0
Do. wh <sup>d</sup> Mountain (!) in bottles	.	.	.	9 10 0
One dozen Canary	.	.	.	2 0 0
Claret	.	.	.	5 0
Corks	.	.	.	11 6
Bottles	.	.	.	1 6 9

and for three lottery tickets, one of which, an Irish Free State Lottery one, is still at Thorpe, the usually sensible Godfrey paid £37. Coals cost, ‘five Chaldron coals, 35s.,’ £9; and beer, ‘15 Barrels, £7, 2s. 6d.’; while ‘Chappell Cyder’ is down at £3, 7s. 8d. (did they refresh after a long sermon?); and ‘2 Livery Hats’ at Wagner’s cost as much as £2, 14s. An interesting entry in June 1766 is, on the 23rd :

‘ Our Journey to Cambridge,’ £14, 2s. Godfrey Bosville also puts down various taxes : his Coach Tax, due April 25, was paid on November 1, 1766, and cost him £4 ; his Plate Tax for 600 oz. (where is all that plate now ?) was £1, 10s. ; his Lady Day Yearly Land Tax came to £10, 2s. 8d. in those happy days ; while his Easter offering, ‘ Dr Gally’s Easter offering,’ at 5s. hardly seems very generous. On Lady Day 1767 he pays the Window Tax, £3, 2s. 6d. That oppressive impost, at least, has vanished. Nothing seems given for the garden, except ‘ Plants and Slips,’ £1, 1s. 6d., on April 18, 1767. His year’s scavenger’s bill is 10s. 6d.

Nothing seems grudged to his wife and children ; even when Mrs. Bosville has a ‘ Bill on Cockshutt ’ for £50, no remark is made. All these later accounts, with many more items than those quoted, are upon six folded sheets of paper only ; there must have been many more once.

Before the Bosville family left Gunthwaite and came to live at Thorpe, an important family event had taken place : the marriage of the elder daughter Elizabeth Diana. Both sisters were above the average in looks ; both were painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds (Julia’s por-

trait is still at Thorpe); and both had many suitors. One of the elder girl's admirers had been, as before said, James Boswell, a kinsman although a Scot of the Auchinleck family. Her bridegroom was a Highlander and the head of a famous Celtic family, that of the Isles—Sir Alexander (later first Lord) Macdonald. They may have done some of their courting in the glades of Gunthwaite or in Godfrey and Bridget's old summer-house in the garden there, but the wedding took place in London, from the family house there, no longer in Great Russell Street but in Welbeck Street, and the wedding was solemnised in the Church of St. Giles-in-the-Fields. The bride was not quite twenty. She had been christened in Denby Chapel, July 25, 1748, and her wedding day was May 3, 1768. No one knew how much that wedding would come to mean for Gunthwaite and Thorpe. Elizabeth Diana went with her Highland chief to live in the lovely Isle of Skye, where later on, in a makeshift house which had temporarily taken the place of one burned by troopers of William III. in revenge for Killiecrankie (1689), at Armadale, they were visited by Dr. Johnson and his admiring Boswell. The fact that the latter had

aspired in vain to the hand of his hostess no doubt accounts for the ill-natured description of this visit to the home of his successful rival which is to be found in the *Tour to the Hebrides*, but his malice did not disturb the young couple's happiness, which as time went on was increased by the advent of children. Their second son was named Godfrey after his maternal grandfather. Lord Macdonald's letter to his father-in-law 'asking this favour' still exists in a rather torn condition at Thorpe. It was written from Edinburgh, where Godfrey Macdonald was born on October 13, 1776. Lady Macdonald died, aged only forty-one, in 1789; it is through her that Thorpe and Gunthwaite, Eastburn, Hutton, etc., belong to her great-great-great-grandson, Sir Alexander Macdonald of the Isles.

At Thorpe every one appears to have led a busy, occupied life: seeing the neighbours a good deal, reading the new books and pamphlets, and occasionally going abroad. Mrs. Stirling, in her *Annals of a Yorkshire House*, has some interesting sidelights on Thorpe in the days of Godfrey and Diana. She quotes letters from Mrs. Greame of Sewerby to her brother, Walter Spencer Stanhope; one of these, dated

July 16, 1779, says : ‘ We dined at Thorpe, where we met the officers [of the Northumberland Militia, come to guard the coast against the depredations of Paul Jones] and most of the neighbours in a magnificent Roothouse ; walked in a Grove which was illuminated in the manner of Vauxhall. We are engaged to dine at Thorpe on Wednesday, being Mr. W. Bosville’s birthday, when we are to have illuminations.’ The ‘ magnificent Roothouse ’ was no doubt the reception room and conservatory built close to Thorpe by Godfrey and Diana, who must have found the house in itself rather small for their large number of guests—as indeed it was at this time, until they had finished building the gallery, begun in 1778. The original house consisted of what is now the central block, and was built with a basement for kitchen, still-room, cellars, etc. ; a ground floor with four parlours opening on to a double hall, the south part of which contained the staircase ; this led up to an open room with four bedrooms round, and a stair up to a higher storey containing seven rooms. The writer is not sure exactly when the Bosvilles added the present dining-room. The gallery was begun in 1778, as one of the plans of the architect

with that date on it, also some of his letters, still exist to show this. He was named Linley. It is possible, from what his letters say of having 'at last found a proper plaisterer' for the ceiling, that the Adam work going on at Sledmere at this time may have furnished the necessary workman.

Family tradition talks of the first party held in the gallery being one to celebrate the wedding of the younger Bosville daughter Julia, which took place in St. George's, Hanover Square, London, on August 1, 1780. Her husband was William Ward, later the third Viscount Dudley and Ward.

In later days the gallery provided a home for the beautiful 'old masters' collected by the grandson of Godfrey and Diana, the third Lord Macdonald. It was he who added bedrooms above gallery and dining-room—and in his day, also, that the two parlours to east of the hall were thrown into one room and called the drawing-room. But now the whole of one of its sides is books, and it is called the library. When the change was made, the two fireplaces were removed and one larger central one made, beautiful mahogany bookcases (made by Brown, the house-carpenter of the day) filling up the

two recesses left in the wall. The ceiling was left plain until the present Sir Alexander Macdonald of the Isles married and came to live at Thorpe, when the ceiling was covered with fine plaster-work, designed by Mr. S. Weatherley and carried out by Graham & Jackson, London. It was Sir Alexander's mother who moved all the books into the room, out of the little north parlour opposite; this has now been thrown into the hall. She, too, changed the three large sash-windows in the east wall of the gallery into central doors opening out upon a flagged path leading to the Grove and its wide gravel walk beyond. Her son, Sir Alexander, added the wing, etc., beyond the dining-room, with all its pleasant sunny rooms, ending in a block like the gallery and dining-room, containing a billiard-room below and a lovely sitting-room, which has a window every way of the compass and beautiful carved white wood recesses and arches above.

There is a letter at Thorpe from Diana Bosville, dated 'Thorp, August 9, 1774,' and beginning simply 'SR.,' so as no address is on it we cannot tell for whom it was meant. She says she writes for Mr. Bosville, to acknowledge a bank post bill, value £200, as he 'set out

yesterday for Northallerton, to vote for Mr. Crowe, who is one candidate for the North Riding Register office and Mr. Wanley the other. It is expected there will be a pretty smart contest between them.' She adds, speaking of her younger daughter Julia, 'Miss Bosville and I are going in a few days to York, where we expect to meet Mr. Bosville, and shall not return here until after the Races. There is generally a great meeting just before a general Election, and I hear all the Lodgings are taken.'

Nothing is ever said in any of the old papers about Rudston Church (the Thorpe parish church), except an old Hassell note saying, 'John Whaley, Rector of Rudstone, received of Mr. Hassell 12 guineas for the year 1757 for all Tythes issuing out of Thorpe.'

At Thorpe there are two portraits of the fourth Godfrey Bosville—one quite a youthful one in blue velvet and white wig, and one painted in a large group by Philippe Mercier in 1740, at Bretton. The big canvas shows himself and Diana Wentworth in the centre; Diana, in white satin and with pearls in her dark hair, is fishing in the Bretton lake! which is just inside the foreground, while Godfrey is

trying to show her the plans for the new house at Bretton, but she waves them away and goes on fishing. Her younger sisters are in a group on the bank to right, and on left under a tree sits her father, Sir William Wentworth, with a dog. On a letter at Thorpe, Diana has noted that the writer, S. Moyle, made the plan of Bretton House, and that he was a friend of her father, who thought much of him.

Besides the beautiful Sir Joshua picture of Julia Bosville (which has been twice engraved) at Thorpe, there is a very charming portrait of Annabella Wentworth, Diana Bosville's sister, who has a delightful sympathetic face; she is dark, like her sister Diana Bosville, but has a softer expression. Her little history may be gleaned at Thorpe from letters speaking of her—wondering whether she will marry the Cambridgeshire squire, Mr. Dorril, aged forty-two, 'with an estate some 1000 years in the family,' or the rich brewer Mr. Stephenson, not much younger. Finally Annabella, wanting none of them, went abroad 'with a Female friend,' and died at Nancy at the age of thirty-nine, and was buried at Fénébranges in the Lorraine Allemande. This journey of Annabella's to Nancy is explained in a letter from

one of her sisters (Elizabeth Wentworth) to another (Diana Bosville), which is directed to Biana. It is dated from Frith Street, London, July 5, 1772.

‘DEAR SISTER’ (it runs),—‘Would you be surprised to hear y<sup>t</sup> I was going into Flanders to be a pensioner in a Convent? I am not going this summer, but Annabella is. Last Saturday morning she called upon Sir Thomas [their brother], she informed him that in six weeks she was to set out with Mrs. Conyers for Nancé, y<sup>t</sup> she proposed being a pensioner there in the same convent with Miss Rollo and did not think of returning to England of two or three years: y<sup>t</sup> her maid was to leave her, y<sup>t</sup> she designed to dismiss her Man and wished to have Tom Hassell’s Poll for to succeed Sally Hurst and believed she would write to him about her.

‘What is your opinion of this scheme? I shall not be astonished if she becomes a convert, but I shall be very sorry. From this step and her late behaviour I fear her judgment and understanding are not in their perfect sound state. I don’t know whether any of the favourite M——ds [Macdonalds] are of the

party. She made a very short stay at Lord D——s [Dudley's]. I have not had a glimpse of her since you left town, and as Sir Thomas is gone (he set out this morning) I shall hear no more of her. He thinks it a strange plan. You will see him soon at Biana. He is now at Everton, at Colo<sup>l</sup> Astell's in Bedfordshire.'

This letter is so full of talk, all amusing, that it must be continued to its end :—

'Last Monday I went with Mr. and Miss Wentworth to ye Nabob's—Tuesday dined with Mrs. Windham, Wednesday went to Ranelagh, Thursday to Vauxhall with Sir Thomas, Colo<sup>l</sup> Twistleton and Miss Gill, Friday to ye Nabob again, Saturday to Saddler's Wells. I have been to see Mount Ætna at Marylebone. The fireworks are beautiful though not so Grand as those upon tower-hill. Ye Cavern of Cyclops and flowing of ye Lava was extremely fine. I am more pleased with the Nabob than anything I have ever seen of our Aristophanes, perhaps I comprehend it better. The humorous speech on Whittington and his Cat, at his admission to be a member of ye Society of Antiquarians, was vastly applauded. You remember it.'



SIR THOMAS WENTWORTH (later BLACKETT)  
WITH HIS NEPHEW, BILLY BOSVILLE



*Sir Joshua Reynolds pinx.*

ANNABELLA WENTWORTH

*(From the pictures at Thorpe)*



We shall hear more of Colonel Twistleton and Miss Gill, but must first return to poor Annabella. Her story is continued by a letter from her at Thorpe, which is also her will. It is addressed to 'Miss Jean Rollo of Vandowre near Nancy in Lorraine,' and contains a request that 'My dear Rollo' should pay various legacies to servants and others, including £100 of 'Lawfull Money of Great Britain to my cousin Madame la Comtesse de Gastaldi,' and £500 to Mary Allot (a cousin also) 'that married Mr. Tullok' (many of this lady's letters remain at Thorpe); and to Miss Elizabeth Payne of Queen's Square, Bloomsbury, £20 for a ring. Miss Rollo, the Comtesse de Gastaldi, and Annabella appear all to have been living together at Nancy in Lorraine. A copy of the whole will of Annabella is in one of the Wentworth letters. It leaves all to Jean Rollo; this explains why Miss Rollo is asked to attend to the legacies. This will was exceedingly unpopular in Annabella's family, but in the end one hears no more of it.

Among the frequent visitors to the Bosvilles was Diana's brother, Sir Thomas Wentworth (afterwards Sir Thomas Blackett), and when the brother and sister were apart he often wrote

to her. Many of these letters are at Thorpe, and they give a delightful picture of family intimacy. These letters begin as early as 1746—addressed at that date to Gunthwaite. In the August of that year Thomas Wentworth was at Maestricht, to which place he says he has had a long and tedious journey, and has been ‘with the Army these six weeks past,’ and relates how he was ‘very civilly received by many of the Officers and was also presented to Prince Charles, Marshal Bathiani and Prince of Hesse and dined with them under the Great Tent.’ He was expecting to set out in an hour’s time ‘in the voiture to Bois-le-Duc and so directly to the Hague.’

Later, from London, he wants to know how his sister likes her new ‘Cloathes,’ and wishes her health to wear them, if approved of, which will give him courage to undertake more commissions of the sort. He hopes, too, that they came in time for Julia to show them off at Buxton. This Julia was another Wentworth sister. She married in 1760 the Rev. Dr. John de Chaire, Vicar of Horley and Hornton, Rector of Rissington, and a King’s Chaplain. There are letters of hers too at Thorpe.

In 1752 Sir Thomas goes to Newmarket races

with 'Godfrey Wentworth jr.' They went thither in a post-chaise and were 'once fairly overturned but no harm done.' He met Mr. Osbaldistone there. He did not stay in Newmarket, as the place was disagreeable from so much drinking and swearing going on in it, but he put up at Cambridge and came over for the races 'in the evening,' which seems an odd time.

It is interesting to find a letter, in 1757, written from Thorpe, where he must have been staying with his aunt, Mrs. Hassell, and her husband. Diana was then in 'Great Russel Street Bloomsbury London.' This letter is written on December 6, and begins: 'We have had fine weather since I have been here which has afforded good diversion in hauking and we are now become peaceable as junketting is over—(as Tom Hassell calls it)—for all the neighbours have been very civil in asking us to dinner, except Sir G. Boynton who has been very ill but is now a little better and Sr George Strickland, who minds nothing but planting children and trees.'

(This was Sir George Strickland, fifth Baronet, of Boynton Hall. There is a further reference to him in another letter, as follows :

‘ Sir George Strickland and his family are at Naples and live in a retir’d manner.’)

The letter of December 1757 continues: ‘ Sir W<sup>m</sup> Foulis is at Mrs. Robinson’s of Buckton laying close siege to Miss Robinson and it is generally believ’d that a Capitulation is on the Carpet. She looks very well and is in high spirits. She leads a disagreeable life with her Father and no doubt the change will suit her Inclinations as well as it would many others. Mrs. Graham [Greame] is very well and desir’d her Comp<sup>ts</sup> to you, she has now the amusement of taking care of a Gouty and Sickly Husband.’

Sir Thomas gossips away for a long time, and adds a note that Sir Griffith Boynton has just sent to ask them to dinner, and they were going. In another letter this incorrigible gossip tells us that ‘ Sir Griffith Boynton is gone to London and is to marry Miss Hebblethwaite of Bridlington, a very pretty Girl and Young.’ This Sir Griffith was the sixth Baronet, and Mary Heblethwayte was his second wife and the mother of the two next Baronets, Sir Griffith and Sir Francis.

Talking in 1766 of some York gaieties, he says of one girl Sally, that she ‘ danced like a Tub, but not with me, for I neither danced

minuets nor Country Dances.' Miss Chaloner, he says, was reckoned the beauty, and he speaks of the latter's sister, Mrs. Lascelles, dancing also, but going home early to take care of her health. By this time Thomas Wentworth was living at Bessingby (he spells it Bessonby), but says, 'I have given warning to quit this house next year to Captain Hudson.'

In 1764, when 'Dear D<sup>v</sup>' was in London and he himself at Bretton, he says of the opera—which he always seemed to look forward to much, but now seemed to consider had greatly declined in attraction: 'You gave yourselves more trouble about the Opera than I thought you would, but upon second thoughts, you only went there to see the Prince, like many others, and as to Mingotti, she never had a Voice since I knew her. She and Giardini ought to advertise that the Prince would be there every night, for I know nothing else to induce people to come, for I told you before, that the Opera was miserably bad, but the Polite Taste was to appear there; such is the Degeneracy of the Present Time, that Fashion should get the better of true Music and Merit in the performers, such are the Ears of High Quality and the Apes, I am really *bien mortifié* that such Performers are

supported, for an Opera was always my principal public Diversion and as long as Mingotti stays, for I will not say sings, I shall never go.'

There had been some idea of Sir William setting up his son Thomas in a house of his own, but in 1763 the father died, and his son succeeded him at Bretton and took up his duties there. In 1765 he was High Sheriff of Yorkshire.

We will now go back to Elizabeth Wentworth's gossip. She is still full of 'ye Nabob,' and says that one evening 'Mrs. Fearon in ye character of Lady Catherine Coldstream spoke an Epilogue ; a Gentleman who sat behind me said it was stupid, y<sup>t</sup> there was no wit in it. As it was spoken in very broad Scotch, I could not help asking ye Gentleman if he understood what she said, his answer was, hardly a word. There was barly a word I did not perfectly understand and I thought it a good one and well spoke. So here is two different opinions for yu. I wish'd yu there to judge for yourself.'

The letter continues later on : 'Monday evening—I am just returned from Kinsington Gardings [spelling is not dear Elizabeth's strong point]. I met Annabella and Captain Bosville [Billy, no doubt] walking together, we saluted *en passant*—I was with Colo<sup>l</sup> Twistleton

and Miss Gill. I set Miss Gill down, she pressed me to walk in, but on finding that Mrs. Norton had assembled her congregation and was in ye midst of her prayers, I thought it most polite to retire. They go out of town tomorrow'; then, after speaking of commissions done for her sister, she adds: 'If you have any more commands, write soon, for I hope to leave town in ten days' time. I shall stop at Meriton.' And before she ends her letter she indulges in one last bit of gossip: 'Lady Grosvener was at Marybone, her Maidservant is well dressed and goes about with her as a Companion'; concluding with: 'I expected Tommy to dine with me today—Mrs. Windham desired me to present her Comp<sup>ts</sup>. My love attends you and your family and I am your affect sister

'E. WENTWORTH.'

Having had our interest in Colonel Twistleton and Miss Gill revived, we must here quote from a letter of Elizabeth's to her sister, dated the following July 18:—

'You are right—Col. T. is paying his attentions to Miss Gill. Last Monday se'ennight Col. T. called upon me in the morning and begged to ask my opinion upon something very

interesting to him. I guessed what it was. He desired to know whether I thought Miss G. would accept of him were he to make her an offer. I said I could not pretend to say; Madam, said he, she goes out of town tomorrow morning. I see your Chariot is at y<sup>e</sup> door, and you will oblige me infinitely if you will call upon her and desire she will give me leave to waite upon her this afternoon.—I abridge his discourse—It was entertaining. 30,000 ran more in his head than anything else. Great fortunes need not be vain upon offers. I called upon Miss G.—she was not at home, I bid 'em drive to a Milliner where I had some business and there by chance I met her. I asked her to go with me to Tavistock Street, where I was going to bespeak a Habit, and in the way I executed my commission. At half past three he called upon me and I made him happy by telling him at 6 in the afternoon y<sup>e</sup> Lady would be glad to see him. He seems to have won Mrs. Norton's heart. He is gone after her into Somersetshire. Don't mention this, as I am in y<sup>e</sup> secret and perhaps it may not turn out a match. The man Mrs. C—— was anxious to marry her to was Astley. She quarrelled with her for refusing him.'

Sir Thomas Wentworth was a great deal in London, whence he continued to send all the news of the town to his 'Dear D<sup>y</sup>.'

In May 1763 he tells her he is 'setting for my Picture at Mr. Rennolds today, the 4th time.' One hopes that this portrait has not shared the fate of that of Sir Walter Blackett, about which the following lines exist at Thorpe, in the writing of Thomas Wentworth. They are attributed to Sir Walter Blackett himself when his picture, 'Done by Sir Joshua Reynolds for 170 guineas,' faded badly, and they are as follows :—

The Art of Painting was at first designed  
To call, tho' dead, our Ancestors to mind.  
But this damned Botcher hath reversed the Plan  
And made the Picture die before the Man.

In the same letter which tells of his sitting to Sir Joshua, Thomas Wentworth says : ' Billy sends his duty and love to you all,' so his elder nephew must have been with him. He always seemed very fond of this boy and was very anxious about him when his parents had him inoculated against smallpox, in York, some time in 1751 ; and when Billy was a little boy he was painted standing at his uncle's knee, the two looking much pleased with each other.

This picture still hangs at Thorpe. The uncle, very smart in embroidered blue velvet, has a flute in one hand and in the other a page of music which can easily be read and which is a minuet. He has evidently been playing a tune to Billy, and we see that his love of the Opera was not his only musical attribute.

A letter of his to Diana, on May 18, 1751, is full of amusing town talk, and in speaking of the two beautiful Gunning sisters, then the admired of all in society, he says : ‘ I met ’em at a Rout and as they don’t play at Cards it gives a good opportunity *de leur en conter des fleurettes* & being ambitious of making an acquaintance with ’em, I made a Truce with my Modesty & seated myself between ’em upon an unengaged Stool which favour’d my Happiness ; our Conversation I did not write down in my pocketbook so can’t amuse you with it, but you may suppose it to be something related to Small Talk. They are affable Girls & both so beautiful that I am yet in dispute which to become a Dangler to . . .’

In a later letter, dated merely June 21, he says : ‘ Lady Coventry has left Dr. James and now has Dr. Duncan ; he makes her eat raw cucumbers unpared. She is carried in her

Chair to the Coach.' But that Gunning beauty was fated to die quite young of a consumption which seems to have been in her family. Some say her end was hastened by the poison of white lead, from which a cosmetic was made and used by her, perhaps to tone down her too hectic cheeks. The other lived to be the bride of two Dukes in succession—Hamilton and Argyll—and we shall never know which sister counted Thomas Wentworth among her dangles! 'Dangling' was a stage of attraction which he presumably never passed, for he died unmarried in 1792 at Bretton.

When Godfrey and Diana succeeded to Thorpe in 1773, Thomas Wentworth writes on June 7 to 'Dear D<sup>y</sup>' in London from Bretton, saying: 'It must be needless to wish yu both Joy but Health to enjoy your new Estate & House, surely you may let a Body a House now except you 'll keep 'em all to remove from one to t'other like King & Queen'; and presently he talks of a 'design to shoot woodcock at Flamborough this Seasen,' and on August 16, 1773, he writes to Godfrey:—

'DEAR BOSVILLE,—As I presume this letter will find you looking over and examining your

new grounds at Thorp, rather than prancing and dancing at Scarbro', I send you four pineapples, knowing that they are not plentiful in that country, but if Miss Julia is at Scarbro' she won't want pineapples to sweeten her lips, supposing that any man had once tasted them and I heartily wish her success at that new exhibition.' Evidently Julia had just grown up. He continues: 'I hope that you have settled the Bransburton estate to your advantage. You will surely be back again for Wakefield races. . . .' Further on we get a sidelight upon grouse shooting, which sounds oddly in modern ears: 'Mr. Spencer has the gout. He was upon the moors last Thursday and *caught nothing*! I was upon Cumberworth and only got four birds; it was very hot and no wind.'

In 1778 Thomas begins to sign Blackett instead of Wentworth, so by then he must have come into his Northumbrian property.

In an earlier letter there is the following observation: 'I am glad to hear that Bos. is better of his Cough . . . for I thought he would have died last Sunday when I was at Penniston.' Perhaps this cough was asthmatic; it must indeed have been a bad one, or Godfrey Bos-

ville would not have left the directions which are still at Thorpe, and which will be found on a later page.

Her uncle Thomas Wentworth's remarks about Julia Bosville at Scarbro' recur to one when looking through a little packet of what are really love letters. One, indeed, is anonymous, but one signed Thomas Hanmer, and dated from 'Bettesfield near Whitchurch Shropshire' on June 18, 1777, makes one think that the writer considered himself engaged to Mr. Bosville's daughter. He writes to him in Great Russell Street telling him that he is advised 'to stay over the day of election,' which is 'the 26—tomorrow se'ennight,' and that he fears 'your family will leave town before I can reach it and my dearest Love gone, too, to so great a distance as Edinburgh,' and he begs to be told their route of travel. 'If I could have that favor from her it would give me still greater satisfaction as I ever wish to be with her,' so that he might perhaps manage a meeting somewhere on their road. Probably the Bosvilles were off to pay a family visit to the Macdonalds, and Skye being so far off, may have trysted with them in Edinburgh. Julia had begun to be wooed before this date, for a copy

is at Thorpe of a letter which is addressed to some elderly swain who has not been too happy in the date of his request, which Julia's father answers thus on April 8, 1772, from Great Russell Street :—

‘SR,’ he says, ‘I am sorry you should have any Complaint of a neglect from me, but as the letter was signed a name I was unacquainted with & unfortunately dated the 1st of April I took it for some fictitious thing, the produce of the Antient Mirth of that day.

‘My daughter is certainly free from all pre-deliction & your Estate I could have no possible objection to, but so great a difference in age as Twenty years is seldom attended with happiness. I take the more freedom in mentioning this objection as me nor my daughter can have any prepossessions against a person so entirely unknown to us, and whom we never made the least inquiry about, for the reason I have mentioned above. I acknowledge myself greatly obliged to you for the preference that you have given to my daughter, and am Sir your most obedient Servant                    GODFREY BOSVILLE.’

Another *prétendant* with whom certainly the family was unacquainted was a Captain R.

Shee in the French service. He describes how he first saw Julia, 'the charming Miss Bosville,' at the 'Boxes Covent Garden,' and how another day he saw her walking with two ladies and followed her home, and how since then he has not had a moment's peace or ease on her account !

Finally, however, we find the successful wooer declaring himself to 'my dear Miss Bosville whom I adore and love with as much affection and sincerity as man ever loved woman.' It was Mr. William Ward who wrote so, the son of Lord Dudley, and who before long succeeded his father as third Viscount Dudley and Ward. They were married August 1, 1780, at St. George's, Hanover Square, and anything we glean later about Julia shows that she became a typical fine lady of fashion. She had one child, a son, afterwards the Cabinet Minister created first Earl of Dudley and Ward. This child was sent into the country to be brought up and seems to have seen little of his parents. He was very eccentric as well as clever, and many diverting stories are told of his absent-minded speeches. He never married. Julia Lady Dudley lived until 1833, ten years as a widow. She was much addicted to

card-playing at Brighton, and when she died left any Bosville money she had to a distant cousin of her husband, Mr. Ward, whose son was created Earl of Dudley. Julia's own son died before his mother. Her Reynolds' picture as Julia Bosville which is at Thorpe is as fresh as the day on which it was painted : a contrast to her aunt's portrait—Annabella's—which has much faded. Lord Dudley seems to have liked his wife's people very much, and this liking was shared by his son, from whom there are letters to the third Lord Macdonald at Thorpe. One congratulates him on his daughter's engagement to Lord Hopetoun ; another of thanks for some whisky is thus expressed : ' In my taste for whiskey at least I am worthy to be acknowledged the kinsman of a Highland chief.' There is no date to this ; it may possibly be from Julia's husband.

The Wentworths were evidently great letter writers, and could discourse in most lively strains. Elizabeth tells us that ' Every lady has a Hobby horse,' and hers is riding. She bought not only a horse in London in 1772, but also ' a genteel habit,' and says she has ridden the horse twelve miles the day before she wrote to her sister at Biana, and is satisfied with her



*Sir Joshua Reynolds pinx.*

JULIA BOSVILLE, VISCOUNTESS DUDLEY AND WARD

*(From the picture at Thorpe)*



purchase. Then she tells of the visits she is about to pay. Mrs. Astell had invited her in 'a very polite letter, but as my scheme is altered, I can't accept.' Her scheme seems to have been to reach Biana, which place she had not yet seen, before the family left it, but that she has had to give up to please her 'Aunt Gordon,' who tells her she 'is very ill and has been taking medecine and is very low spirited & w<sup>d</sup> be happy to see Elizabeth at Leigh.' Elizabeth remarks: 'As she has always been extremely civil to me, I think she would take it ill if I were not to pay her a visit upon this invitation. . . . I think of setting out next Friday but how long I shall stay at Leigh is more than I can tell.' She has both her nephews, Billy and Tommy, coming to dine with her and promises to write from Leigh, but that letter is not forthcoming. When she next writes it is from North Street, Bright-helmston (Brighton), on September 5, 1773. This epistle is also addressed to her sister Diana, but this time to—or rather, *at*—Thorpe, near Bridlington, Yorkshire, and is as follows:—

'I left London the 18<sup>t</sup> of July, so your letter followed me here. Two or three days before I

set out, I agreed with Mr. Prior for his house in Charlotte Street, Bloomsbury. It is to be ready for me about Xmas. The rent is fifty guineas per Annum. You saw y<sup>e</sup> House & liked it, but may have forgot it, as you saw so many. I have a running lease for Twenty-one years. After the 24th of June was passed, I thought, & was told, y<sup>t</sup> I was at liberty to take any house I pleased, without Wilkinsons being able to hurt me. Since I came here, I have had a letter, wrote by Wilkinson's order, signed by *three* Attorneys to threaten me with a Chancery suit, if I don't immediately take his house. Upon what grounds he can file a bill, I can't divine, but this I am certain of, y<sup>t</sup> I have been extremely ill-used by these who pretended to interest themselves for me, they have not behaved like—— but I won't tire you with y<sup>e</sup> particulars.

' I am greatly obliged to Mr. Cockshutt ; he is a man of spirit and always acts as a Gentleman. I gave no answer to Wilkinson's letter. It is six weeks since I received it and I have heard no more from him.

' I believe I shall stay here till November, for I pass my time very well, and have a House all to myself, which makes me quite at home.

If you don't go to London till after Xmas I will air your bed in Russell Street for you, till I have put necessaries into my own House. There are Bath Stoves in all y<sup>e</sup> Rooms, which Mrs. Hustler will buy for me, when Capt. Storr's goods are sold. I am sorry I had left town before your letter arrived, as I should with pleasure have executed your orders. I left town abruptly in order to avoid some trouble. Mr. and Mrs. Edmonds [evidently her landlord and his wife in Frith Street] are the most infernal creatures y<sup>t</sup> any being can have y<sup>e</sup> misfortune to be under the same roof with.

'The rides out about Brighthelmston are delightful, there is a beautiful variety in y<sup>e</sup> prospects, of hills covered with sheep, rich Vales and y<sup>e</sup> Sea. The mutton is remarkably good, owing to y<sup>e</sup> fine sweet grass on y<sup>e</sup> Downs being mixed with various aromatic Herbs which perfume y<sup>e</sup> air. The Wheatear, the English Ortolan, is now in high season, 'tis a fat luscious little Bird, very excellent if dressed y<sup>e</sup> same day it is killed, but in my opinion not eatable y<sup>e</sup> next day. Perhaps you have tasted them in france where they are called Cul-blancs. Wheatear is supposed to be a corruption of W—A, y<sup>e</sup> translation of y<sup>e</sup> french Name. 'Tis

said, tho' these birds are found in other parts of England, they are nowhere else tolerable. They are caught in snares by y<sup>e</sup> shepherds. I have made some excursions ; above Twenty miles off, I met with Williamson, who married Judith Allot, and his Wife. She cried for joy to see a countrywoman. Time and sorrow have made a woeful change in her appearance, she complains of ill-health, a cross covetous Husband and an idle Son. If you leave y<sup>e</sup> turnpike, y<sup>e</sup> roads are worse than they are in Yorkshire in y<sup>e</sup> Weald of Sussex. A lady who has a pretty place fifteen miles from hence, y<sup>e</sup> shortest way, gave me an invitation to her house, I never rode worse roads, after I had got off y<sup>e</sup> Downs. I staid all night. An old lady turned of 82 was there on a visit ; she has all y<sup>e</sup> vivacity of 20 with y<sup>e</sup> knowledge y<sup>t</sup> reading and a long acquaintance with y<sup>e</sup> world gives. All her faculties are perfect, except her hearing, she is rather deafish. 'Tis a pleasure to see a person of y<sup>t</sup> age so lively, Mrs. Hoffman, y<sup>e</sup> Lady of y<sup>e</sup> House, is a very pleasing agreeable woman and has a great look of y<sup>e</sup> Dutchesse of Argile, she is delicate now and has been very beautiful when in her bloom. Her Husband, to testify his love and esteem

for her, left her his estate for ever. She has no children.

‘ There is a great deal of company here yet. This has not been reckoned a good season. Wade complains she has not got money enough and games high every night. Most of Y<sup>e</sup> Quality are gone. Lady Barrimore’s children are here, I suppose you have heard y<sup>t</sup> her Husband shot himself. They all say Lord Sefton’s pleasure is driving a set of horses. He has six beautiful little black foresters with long tails. ’Tis y<sup>e</sup> fashion here for all y<sup>e</sup> fine ladies to wear Habits in a morning whether they ride on horseback or not and to walk with an umbrella in the hand. One Sunday Mr. Petwell—he married the younger Miss Blosset—preached on y<sup>e</sup> Steine upon a Table. He is exactly y<sup>e</sup> figure Geoffry Wildgrove is described and looks like a deluded fanatic, who believes himself divinely illuminated. This town swarms with Methodists. The Sunday before last y<sup>e</sup> Dean of Peterborough gave us an excellent Sermon, ’tis rare to hear such good sense from a Pulpit, and if it happened oftener, I should be a more constant attender of a Church. Last Sunday we had a very composing discourse, I sat in y<sup>e</sup> pew with Miss

Lawes, she fell asleep before I lost my attention. I have heard from a Gentleman that you was well as you passed through York on your way to Thorp. I hope to hear from you. My love attends all your family.—Your affect<sup>te</sup> sister  
E. W.'

Only one more letter remains in the little packet of those written by this lively Elizabeth ; it is dated 6th March 1778, from the house in Charlotte Street, London, spoken of in her last effusion. Alas ! we hear no more of Colonel Twistleton and his heiress. But Elizabeth herself has changed her name ; she is a Mrs. Walker, the wife of James Walker, M.D., of Springhead near Beverley, and apparently there is a younger ' Jimmy ' also with her, possibly a stepson. It is the same gossipy, cheerful Elizabeth who writes. Nothing escapes her observation. ' T'other day,' she says, ' I saw Ward [evidently Julia's husband to be] driving a Phaeton. I was surprised to see him smoke along with a fine pair of horses—Full sails and mains ! I did not think he had it in him. I have not seen Lady Dudley [Ward's mother] this winter. 'Tis reported y<sup>e</sup> Dutchess of Chandos is going to be married to Mr.

Waters. Lady Home's concerts begin next Sunday. I hope Mrs. Row's dismals won't confine her at home. She is lately become a Widow. Lady Home will not know what to do without her. I have just heard that Luke Liliston is dead at Bath, where he went for his health.'

This must be a relation of the Brigadier-General Luke Lillingston who was the second husband of Catherine Hassell, if not he himself (see Hassell Notes on page 253). The Lillingstons were a Ferriby family and the church at Ferriby (near Hull) contains their monuments. A later Lillingston married an Innes heiress of Balmacara, Ross-shire, who was a cousin of the present writer's father: so small is this big world!

Elizabeth continues: 'The people most talked of for Commissioners to America are Mr. Poltney, Eaden & Jackson. They are thought very proper. Lord Carlisle is not to go. This day y<sup>e</sup> Lords take into consideration Lord North's conciliatory propositions. . . .'

The Bosvilles seem to have gone regularly to London; one so wishes Diana had kept a Journal and left it behind her! They seem to have gone much into society, especially after 1770, when Julia apparently was about

seventeen. A relic of this time remains at Thorpe, but with merely the tradition that 'it was given to an ancestor by Queen Charlotte.' It is a snuffbox made of a mother-of-pearl shell very gracefully mounted in silver gilt and with a crown in high relief lying upon its lid. It still contains some snuff !

Other letters preserved by Diana from her relations still at Thorpe are some from her Aunt Isabella Blackett (her mother's sister), who married, as his second wife, the ninth Earl of Buchan. They are very affectionate epistles but not quite so animated as these written by her niece Elizabeth. Their spelling is not immaculate ! The person, other than family, mentioned with most interest is a Sir Thomas Robinson, who 'makes his respects to Lady Carnarvon.' 'His assiduity,' we are told, 'is great but his Success (I believe) will end in nothing. Venus smiles not on him for he has more than once been an unfortunate Lover ; if he fails of his fair Marchiness, he is to go Governor of Barbados, this he says himself, therefor I sopose 'tis true.' This letter is dated from London, July 30, 1741. On December 4 she writes : ' Sir Th<sup>os</sup> Robinson is intirley discarded by his fair Marcheness, wh.

he does not bare with any patience, however he makes himself merry, for his Balls for people of Quality goes on as usual. I hear y<sup>e</sup> Dutchess of Beauford is to take his house if he goes to Barbadoes.' And finally we are told: 'Sir Th<sup>os</sup> Robinson embarqus very soon for Barbadoes, now it draws near his noble spirits are sadly cast down and he is become quite a melancholy unhappy Creature, he says he is sure he shall dye there and never see his friends in England more.'

This 'Aunt Blackett' tells Diana about the playhouses and the opera too, and she says: 'The town is at present [July 1741] extremely thin and excessive hot y<sup>e</sup> Diversions are as usual Park Vauxhall &c., but y<sup>e</sup> most company is at Capers Gardens, a place come lately into fashion where there is fine fire works every night. I have not been yet but am to go this evening with Lady Carnarvon.' Remonstrating in December that her niece does not come to London, where she is 'much asked for,' Aunt Isabella continues: 'I assure you we are extremely gay and have got operas in great perfection, 4 new Italian voices one a prodigiously fine one, indeed the others are much admired two but I like only y<sup>e</sup> Cheaf, the Dancers cost

£5000, there is a vast number of them & entertainment between every act, the princible man and woman are very extraordinary for high capering and the man does most wonderfull things as puts y<sup>e</sup> Audience in pain for him, one night he burst a vain in his leg and the blood ran down his Stocken, but yet he finished his dance and since to prevent y<sup>e</sup> like accident or the mussles starting, he has his legs swathed with ribons as tight as they can be drawn, he Jumps y<sup>e</sup> most prodigious height y<sup>t</sup> ever was seen and falls upon one leg, they say he will certainly snap the bones which makes people uneasy to see him run such hazard.

‘Mr. Rich is almost undon empty houses every night and often dismiss and his best players gone to Drury Lane where old Cibber acted Sir John Brute last night.’

There are many letters at Thorpe addressed to Godfrey and Diana and their children, but only one of hers, from which quotation has already been made (see page 124). But there are several by her husband Godfrey. The earliest of all in date is written to his step-father from Cambridge on April 12, 1735. The address reads : ‘To Mr Bosvile at Gunthwait near Barnsley Yorkshire,’ and the letter is as

follows (Godfrey's age at this date was seventeen) :—

‘ HON'D SIR,—I have begun to learn Algebra with Mr. Saunderson and therefore desire that my Mother will not expect me down till this 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter is ended, for I must pay, tho' I shou'd not learn : We have been [to] one Lecture and have finished Multiplication and Reduction, I shou'd be glad to take Oxford in my Way, y<sup>t</sup> I may at least see that happy Place—yesterday I rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>r</sup> Kind Letter but removing from a Colledge being a thing of the Utmost Consequence, I shou'd think three Weeks too short a time to consider in ; Oxford is a place I never yet saw, neither can I hear an exact Acc<sup>t</sup> of it, it wou'd be a lamentable thing if I shou'd chuse the worst Colledge, & almost insupportable shou'd I wish to return, a thing quite Impracticable, so that I shou'd be glad to keep this Tearn at Cambridge.

‘ Just Accounts of Colledges are very hard to be had, so that I wou'd not trust even my old Schoolfellows, for every one speaks well of his own Society. I did not desire to go to Edmund's Hall, Halls being (as I hear) in very little repute at Oxford and shou'd rather chuse Queen's

Colledge, to which it belongs and of which I believe Mr. Hutton was a Member before he removed to King's in Cambridge. The Master is very ill. I am sorry to hear of the many Calamitys. Inclosed I have sent you my Bill which you will think a long one, but considering how many things we have not but are obliged to pay for, together with the Impositions of the Townspeople, it is not extravagant. Most of my Schoolfellows at Trinity wear Wrings—Pray give my duty to Dear Mother, my love to pretty Sister and service where due. I am very much surpris'd that you shou'd never have heard any other Method of having Money at the University besides begging it of my Tutor; it is very frequent in Cambridge, more so in Oxford, for the Scholars to pay for everything themselves, & have their Tutor's bills brought in to them, but since you dare not trust me, I shall rest contented. What my Allowance shou'd be you are the best Judge and I shou'd be glad to be oblidg'd to you for it.

'I shou'd be glad also if in your Next, you wou'd send me Word what you intend to give me, as also in what Station you intend to admit me.—I am Sr Yr most dutiful son

'GODFREY BOSVILLE.'

The other letter by this youth, who shows such a human desire to grow up and be independent, and incidentally to wear a 'Wring,' and yet who seems most truly a dutiful loving son, is dated also from Cambridge, on May 20 of the same year, 1735. It must be remembered that it was not Godfrey's own father to whom he wrote. That father had died when he was quite a little boy, and a few years later his mother had married Mr. Hugh Bosville, a kinsman; the 'pretty Sister' was Godfrey's half-sister by this second marriage of his mother, and is the Mary who became Mrs. Place of Green Hammerton, near York. Godfrey, who was baptized May 20, 1717, was nearly eighteen when he penned the following epistle. Both this letter and the preceding one are franked by 'P. Caxton.'

'HOND. SIR,—Yours I rec<sup>d</sup> with the bill upon Mr. Finch. I have paid Mr. Wrigley, to whom yu say I am oblidge'd for my allowance, there remains  $26-14=10\frac{1}{2}$ . Mr. Ardern had indeed More, but this contents me very well; I wish I had receiv'd it sooner, for then I cou'd have sav'd some Impositions which now I shall be oblidge'd to pay; such as Six & Twenty

Shillings for a pair of Buckles worth about 18. Three & Sixpence for a pair of Studs not worth Half a Crown, &c. For the Townspeople, knowing our inability to change those places our Tutors use, extort from us in the things we buy, besides making us pay for these we never had. I am sorry to hear of Mrs. Herring's Condition. I believe in my letter to my Mother I let you know of ye loss of my Room ; a Chum i.e. mine is not quite so inconvenient as I imagin'd, however a single Room is far better, neither is mine so convenient as I cou'd wish. The fellow-Commoners in Cambridge are very much respected and thought fit Company for the Heads of the University. I can scarce believe that Cambridge is better than Oxford, for ye best of my old Schoolfellows go to ye latter, at which University the Westminster Lads have gained a different Character from what they have at Cambridge. Mr. Ardern was admitted Fellow-Commoner and liv'd for a good while in the same Room with Mr. Lee, who I heard was going to be married to Miss Pepper, sister to a Fellow-Commoner of that name in our Colledge ; these three have left very good characters behind them, neither do I hear of many such as Lord Blaney, who

was for w<sup>t</sup> I can hear, full as bad while he was Pensioner. Pray give my Duty to my Mother, my love to my Sister & service where due.—  
I am S<sup>r</sup> your most dutiful Son

‘ GODFREY BOSVILLE.

‘ I hear Miss Nevil had like to have made an elopement with Cornet Lee.’

The two next letters in date of this fourth Godfrey’s still at Thorpe are both addressed to his friend and neighbour at Gunthwaite, John Spencer of Cannon Hall ‘ near Wakefield.’ This Mr. Spencer died unmarried in 1775, aged only fifty-seven, when the Spencers became extinct ; but Mr. Spencer’s sister Ann married Mr. Stanhope and their descendants hold Cannon Hall. The eldest son of this couple, Walter Spencer Stanhope, kept a diary, and in its pages the name of Bosville occurs frequently, especially when he was in London ; for instance, under February 10, 1779 : ‘ Dined at Bolton House, went to Mrs. Bosville’s and Almack.’ Another sister of Mr. John Spencer was Alicia Maria, called Almary, who married Mr. Greame of Sewerby, and from whose letters to her relations at Cannon Hall quotation has already been made.

The fourth Godfrey's writing, even when a boy at Cambridge and still more later, has a very clear and determined look ; both it and the text of the letters are very characteristic of what we believe the writer to have been—a man orderly, conscientious, kind and just, fond of good things, hospitable and enjoying a joke. The first of the two letters to Mr. John Spencer is dated from London, January 28, 1765. Here it is :—

‘ DEAR SIR,—You set out this morning as they tell me and a Barrel of Oisters sets out at the same time, but Oisters are a kind of Shell-fish that are not made for travelling fast and therefore you will beat them in hollow to Cannon hall : I hope they will prove good ones, if not, I desire that you will let me know, that I may catechise the Fishmonger ; if Mrs. Hustler had not wrote me word that she receiv'd but four woodcocks I shoud always have supposd she had got seaven, the number I sent, but as she made it known to me, I got the price of them refunded. Lord Byron killed Mr. Chaworth last Saturday at the Star and Garter in Pall Mall, they disputed about which had the most Game upon his Estate till

at last one told the other he ly'd, they went into another room & decided it with Swords ; there were above a dozen people in the Room, for it was a Nottinghamshire meeting, and yet nobody perceivd their going out. You know L<sup>d</sup> Byron has been a good deal reflected on for want of Courage, which might probably induce Mr. Chaworth who they say was a strong Stout man to treat his Lordship very cavalierly ; if he was forc'd to fight, either by a Challenge or such Usage as he coud not pass by with<sup>t</sup> being contemptible, I think he did Right when he did go out, to make a duel stand for something and push home ; had he been worsted he w<sup>d</sup> have been more reflected on, they woud have said that like Nym in the Play, he winkd, and held out his Iron. I suppose he will be tryd in Westminster hall by the whole House, because L<sup>d</sup> Ferrers was, though twelve peers might try for anything but Treason. [This Lord Byron was the third, and the grand-uncle of the poet—who himself suffered at the hands of the Chaworth family, for in the little oriel room off the drawing-room at Annesley, Mary Chaworth definitely refused his offer of marriage. She married another neighbour, Mr. Musters.] The best furniture in Mr. Wildman's

Great Room his Coterie is dissolv'd into Nothing; some of their speeches are flying about in the House of Commons directly in Contradiction to what they have been talking at their Club—oh! Grief of Grievs! as Mr. Kilgel says, where is Modesty flown to? As to Change of Sentiments and Opinions, Opinions have nothing to do with it. Is a Lawyer never to make a Speech with<sup>t</sup> being of Opinion with the man that fees him? Are the solid arguments Charles Townsend gives, his Opinion? Because he has given as solid Arguments against them? Or is it that silent Argument his Place? (*sic*).

‘ You have Gardens to walk in, and Hounds to ride after, and Books to read when you are so inclin'd. We here go to Public places; but though we do, it is but a public life in appearance, for everybody's conversation is in a manner confin'd within the Compass of a few particular Acquaintance.

‘ The Nobility hold themselves as contaminated with the Commons: you seldom see a Lord & a private Gentleman together: I know a Lady, made so by Marriage, who denys herself on Sundays to the Nobility & is at home to everybody else, which favor they are not to

expect but upon the Lord's Day : by which smuggling of her small Acquaintance she keeps that nice division between Lords and Gentlemen unjumbled together. An American Indian that saw a Regiment of foot drawn up, might think the Officers & Soldiers mighty sociable. Just so is the Company at Soho Square, all together and all distinct. Dancing is almost out of fashion : they dance no Minuets at all, and Country Dances are performed by never more than ten Couple ; out of all that Number. I have bought the two new Volumes of that dealer in Sermons & Bawdy Tristram Shandy : I think he writes everything that comes into his head. The new Play of the Platonic wife is disliked, but why may not a Lady write a Bawdy Play as well as a Parson write a Bawdy Book ? What shall we come to ? When a Frenchwoman attempted to ravish, at least to force her way up to Tenducci who carries nothing Bawdy ab<sup>t</sup> him & snapt a Pistol at Robinson's Apprentice for hindering her ? Love and Murder.—I am Dear Sir Your most obedient Servant

GODFREY BOSVILLE.'

The other letter is equally interesting, and also begins about 'Oisters,' of which Mr.

Spencer must have been very fond ! It, too, was written in London, but two years later than the other one, being dated March 24, 1767.

‘ DEAR SIR ’ (it begins),—‘ Though I know you have Oisters enough for all . . . I coud think of nothing else to send you to recollect an old Acquaintance by, but a Barrel. I have had ill luck with my presents. I once sent some Partridges & woodcocks to Mrs. Bosville when she was at London with her Niece, she happend to be gone & Mrs. Hunt woud not use them, but sent them after her into Staffordsh. where they had plenty, & they must have been like most of our English Nobility, not much the better for travelling. I gave Mrs. Bosville’s Soho Square Ticket to Miss Eld last Wednesday, on Thursday she sent it back again & chose rather to go the next time. I sent it again & let her know Mrs. Bosville woud be back before then : but she returnd it me & as it was the very day I coud not offer it to a fresh Person, it would look so like a make shift, therefore I sent it to the Lady who had my daughters, & woud have had that . . . [paper torn] very glad I was to get any body that woud take it.

‘ I hope you will eat your Oisters. Mrs. Bosville and my Daughter are going to Bath, principally to see Mrs Wentworth, who declines very much. The Marquis of Tavistock has had a bad accident : there is a Hunt where many of the Nobility & Gentry go to near S<sup>t</sup> Albans, it was formerly at Dunstable, perhaps you may have been amongst them, Lord Tavistock took a leap which his horse did not clear but threw him & whether he kickd him out of Viciousness afterwards, or his legs being fastened in the Bindings he plungd & so gave him a Stroke, I do not know, but he has fractured his Skull, his Lordship is at a farm house where he was trepanned, the Duke of Bedford has been almost out of his Sences & woud have gone down but Gataker the Apothecary desird he woud not. Lord Tavistock was better yesterday, but last night he had a bad night, his Lady knows of it, but the thing has been kept out of the Paper & the Marquis is at a farm house about seaven miles on this side S<sup>t</sup> Albans : he was a Bold Rider & I am sorry for it, he had a good Character, by all accounts I am afraid he will dye. William . . . day & spends most of his time with me & I do assure you we drank your Health in a Bumper this very day. It is

always an amusement to me to have a Letter from our neighbourhood, if it is but to let me know your Trees grow well as they are an ornament to our Country, it woud please me. The Oisters I sent to Phipps I had from a different Fishmonger, I cannot guess which will be the best, my motto, you know is try & trust, therefore let me know what they really are. If both of them please, I shall be pleasd too, but if neither of them is good it will be great Mortification to, Dear Sir, Your most Obedient Servant,

‘GODFREY BOSVILLE.

‘Tom Marsden is in Town, I saw him this morning with S<sup>r</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Betterson.’

The poor Lord Tavistock of whose accident this letter tells, died of it, to the intense grief both of his father, the Duke of Bedford, and of his wife, a daughter of Lord Albemarle. Indeed, she never recovered the shock, and died of grief not long afterwards. She left two sons, later fifth and sixth Dukes of Bedford.

Another of this fourth Godfrey’s letters, also addressed to John Spencer, is now unfortunately lost, but is printed by Mrs. Stirling in her *Annals of a Yorkshire House*. It is so charming that it

must be quoted here also. It is dated January 1, 1773, and its original inspiration is again 'Oisters,' which were evidently a favourite New Year's gift. Godfrey writes :—

'DEAR SIR,—On Tuesday y<sup>e</sup> 29. of last Year a Barrell of Oisters sett out for you, which I hope will come sweet and good. The town seems to be emptier than I ever remember it at this time of y<sup>e</sup> year, I suppose in ab<sup>t</sup> a Fortnight we may expect Company & bad weather coming all together. I shall think myself very happy in not having crowded Inns, bad Roads & Floods to pass through.

'Rhodes writes me word you have sent me twenty Fish. I'm much obligd to you for them, it is a good thing to live in a good neighbourhood.

'There is one Captain Cartwright, his brother lives at Marnham, who has brought five Esquimaux, two Men, two Women & a Child, one of y<sup>e</sup> Men is a Priest : they are little round Broad-faced things, very like y<sup>e</sup> Pictures of them & y<sup>e</sup> Greenlanders, which will give me more Historical faith in y<sup>e</sup> Pictures & Books of Voyages. Y<sup>e</sup> Child is really a very pretty one & y<sup>e</sup> Mother stuffs it into a kind of a Hood

made to their Dress, like a Capuchin. They seem very Goodnaturd & are clothd in Seal-skins. The Captain has settled himself among them to carry on a Trade & has brought them here to give them a Notion of y<sup>e</sup> Power of y<sup>e</sup> English, for they think th<sup>r</sup> own y<sup>e</sup> greatest Nation in y<sup>e</sup> World, having seen no other, tho' they are not more populous than the country ab<sup>t</sup> Woodhead.

' Y<sup>e</sup> Weather continues very fine & I see Mrs. Capper's forty Cows dancing Fandangoes. If you had them at Cannonhall they woud turn y<sup>e</sup> Tables & sett y<sup>e</sup> dumb Orpheus a-fiddling.

' In ye new Building Act & Clause Mr. Frereton sent, was left out w<sup>ch</sup> is for Liverpool & every Place where he had to do, y<sup>t</sup> wherever y<sup>e</sup> Parish Engine was kept, there shoud be two or three ladders kept, long enough to reach to y<sup>e</sup> top of y<sup>e</sup> highest House & a small Reward for whoever brings y<sup>e</sup> first & second.

' Mr. Foote applied for a License to keep a Poppet Show. They were to have been as big as y<sup>e</sup> Life & one of them like Mr. Garrick. He himself intended to have taken y<sup>e</sup> Benefit of *pars pro toto* & crypt in among his wooden companions by means of his leg. At first his Scheme was listend to but there have been such

strong remonstrances from both Playhouses y<sup>t</sup> he is at last refused. Why shou'd our Diversions be monopoliz'd? The Law to restrain y<sup>e</sup> Number of Playhouses was a very absurd one & only takes place in London, for y<sup>e</sup> Country is full of them.

'Billy borrow'd a reflecting Telescope of young Tommy Cockshutt, & last night we look'd at Venus, Jupiter & y<sup>e</sup> Moon. It is astonishing y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Art of Mankind w<sup>ch</sup> cannot make Sight can improve it to such a Degree! Mr. Short has made two Telescopes w<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>e</sup> King of Spain & D. of Marlborough have got, y<sup>t</sup> carry y<sup>e</sup> Sight far beyond w<sup>t</sup> Sir Isaac Newton thought, who imagin'd it w<sup>d</sup> magnify y<sup>e</sup> Atmosphere. He thinks he cou'd make one y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>d</sup> show any Building as big as Cannon hall, or even a Man in y<sup>e</sup> Moon; probably they are differently made from w<sup>t</sup> we are.

'The Moon hath such an influence, both at our Birth & at our Death y<sup>t</sup> it is very likely y<sup>t</sup> we either came from thence, or go thither. This Star-gazing may hasten my Departure into one of these Planets; if I go into y<sup>e</sup> Moon I will bespeak a Cabbin or Rock for you to be near me!—but perhaps they have Property & then you must contrive to be born ag<sup>n</sup> a

Gentleman. The Clergy will tell us we shall be putt into y<sup>e</sup> great Furnace underground, of w<sup>ch</sup> Etna, Vesuvius, Stromboli & Hecla are y<sup>e</sup> Chimneys. Never heed; we shall be turn'd then into Camelions & burning will not hurt us.

‘Once more I wish you your Health & am dear Sir. Your most ob<sup>t</sup> Servant,

‘GODFREY BOSVILLE.’

The only other letters from Godfrey Bosville's pen, at Thorpe, are mere fragments, but two may be quoted, as each is full of a different interest. The first concerns a curious plan to prevent worms from attacking wooden ships. It is as follows :—

‘THORP, 21<sup>st</sup> Au<sup>t</sup>. 1779.

‘SIR,—I have sent you two nails as patterns by Mr. Cockshutt's directions & have order'd five hundred of each sort, half a Tun, to be sent to Hull as directed for Ellis our Pier Master: it is to make a Tryal with; they are to fill Planks with nails to keep out the Worm. I have acted once as Commissioner & finding they had their nails from Hull which came from Rotherham, I told them, I woud write to a friend at the fountain head, & I was sure they woud have them cheaper from there. Mr. Cockshutt's

answer is, that the Commissioners may certainly be supplyd cheaper from hence than from Hull as the Dealers there must have nails from this Country & sell to some Profit (a very moderate one in this Article) I believe generally less than five per Cent. You call the nails sheathing, but your description does not agree with what we call by that name (I have sent you such as Ellis gave me) & I cannot tell you the price exactly without seeing two or three of the nails ; from what you say I believe the larger nails will cost 27/6 or 28/ shillings and the smaller from 29/ to 30/ the hundredweight. It is probable some Tuns may be wanted, in which case I shou'd be very glad to supply the Commissioners, for nails are at this time in no great demand. If only a few Bags be wanted, the difference between my price as a Manufacturer & that of a whole Sale dealer at Hull will be scarcely worth the attention of the Commissioners (this is only for a Tryal, if it succeeds, more will be wanted).

‘ If you think anything more likely to be done in this business, I will beg the favor of you to take an opportunity to send two or three of each sort to Mr. Standfords at Scarborough who will forward them to me ; I can

then tell you the exact price. It will be necessary for me to know about what Quantity may be wanted & the time they will be requir'd. Please to let him know when you write that the half tun I have orderd is only for a tryal & that if it succeeds more will be wanted, but how many I cannot say.—I am Sir Your most Humble Servant

‘GODFREY BOSVILLE.’

To this letter no name and no address is appended. It is surprising to see the Lord of Gunthwaite and Thorpe describe himself as a manufacturer. Probably an explanation may be found in the fact that at Hoyland Swein, close to Gunthwaite, nails have been made for a very long time, and probably Godfrey had an interest in this industry.

The next letter is much more amusing, but, sad to say, is incomplete, and the name of the ‘Dear Sir’ to whom it is addressed is absent. The date, however, is there, ‘Sept<sup>r</sup> 1783,’ and the letter was written at ‘Thorp near Malton.’ It runs as follows :—

‘We are oblidge to you for your present ; there never was a Turtle at Thorp before, and I had the pleasure of producing to my Neigh-

bours in this Country, an Entertainment from beyond the Atlantic, and showing them, that I had friends of my own name on the other side the Pole. It came by sea from London to Bridlington, a convenience I could not have in my former habitation, where fish must come, not by water but land ; we happened to have a Cook that was used to dress them & we had not the Shell turned into a Boat, but stewed down and made like the Green fat, as I had it done in London ; it proved an exceeding good one, though not the same that you sent, for that died in the passage, but your Correspondent Mr. Hall did me the favor to send us one of his to repair our loss ; it weighed Ninety-six pounds, but I am as much obliged to you as if I had received that of One Hundred and Twenty as you intended me, for its safe arrival was not in your power.

‘ Sir Thomas Blacket is in Northumberland but his two daughters are here. Thomas is in France but William is got back to London.

‘ You can have much more variety of Climate in Jamaica than we have here ; you have excessive heats upon the sea coast, but you have Cold enough among the Blue Mountains & you may go up them as high as you please & stop at that climate which you like the best ; you

may go from the South of France into Norway in your own Island : though ours is so much larger, we have not the same variety in it, we are very deficient in warmth.

‘ I should not like to live among the Saints of New England, the sly Quakers of Pensilvania or the cruel Enthusiasts of Portugal ; their Religions are founded in Cookery, dress, & contradiction : Cookery has more to do in Religion than Morality, it directs the Mahometans Jews & Gentoos : Doctor Russell, who was born at Aleppo, where his father was Phisitian told me that Wine was a great Antidote of Corruption, & that the Christians seldom had the Plague ; the bad Turks, who drank it privately, very rarely, but the good ones that abstained died by dozens. . . .’

The mention above of Sir Thomas Blackett is the very last that the letters in Thorpe Hall yield ; but an old cutting, probably from a number of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, has been preserved among them, and there we read the following notice in the July ‘ Obituary of Considerable persons ’ :—

‘ At his seat, Bretton-hall, near Wakefield, Sir Thomas Blackett, bart., who in the year

1777 succeeded to all the valuable entailed estates, royalties &c of Lady Blackett, wife of the late Sir Walter B. bart., of Newcastle. The manner in which he has settled his immense property, which, including the mines, produce from 30 to 40,000*l* per annum, is as follows :— The Yorkshire and the greater part of the Northumberland estates are entailed on his daughters, Mrs. Beaumont, Mrs. Lee and Miss Louisa Wentworth and their issue male with remainder to Sir John Sinclair, bart and his heirs by the Hon: Lady Sinclair, Sir Thomas's greatniece, daughter of Lord Macdonald and their heirs and assigns.

‘ The Gunnerton Estate, worth about 3,500*l*. per annum is left to W<sup>m</sup> Bosville Esq<sup>r</sup> of Gunthwaite, his nephew. [A map of this Gunnerton estate is at Thorpe.]

‘ Mrs. Lee and Miss Wentworth have each a rent-charge on the estate of 3000*l*. per annum. There are also considerable sums of money bequeathed to them and several annuities to Mrs. Bosville.’

It seems strange that Sir Thomas never married the mother of these daughters. Her name is believed to have been Wordsworth.

The fragment of letter last quoted shows that some Bosville relation lived in Jamaica in 1783, but nothing is known of such an one.

Just one more scrap of writing in the fourth Godfrey's firm handwriting has yet to be transcribed : it is a somewhat grim request left by him and still preserved in his old home ; one can imagine him penning it with much satisfaction and probably with a bit of a chuckle, and yet being quite in earnest about what he wished done. We have no record that posterity carried out his directions ! This is what he wrote and left to be found after he had begun that journey which he once suggested might be to the moon :—

‘ When I am dead I woud have my Body opend, and my Lungs examind : for I have had a Cough a long time ; It may possibly be a Benefit to Mankind, but chiefly to my Posterity, as they may probably inherit any Ailment of their Ancestor, and will secure me from being buryd alive, which I am satisfyd many are ; and they must be Certain it cannot hurt a dead Body. If I leave no Posterity, but my Children dye before me, I ask not this favour of Strangers, who will probably be in too great

a hurry to get me underground, and enjoy my Estate, to trouble their heads much about the Remains of Godfrey Bosville.'

The death of Godfrey Bosville, fourth of that name, took place in Great Russell Street, London, on January 25, 1784, at the age of sixty-six. He had seen many changes in his day and led a useful, honourable life. His name in 1745 is among the subscribers 'for the Defence of the Country'—the sum he gave was £25. Like the other members of his family, he seems to have had very liberal ideas, and it is disappointing to find no reflections of his on the American War. He was eager to observe and note any new finding in Science or Natural History, and was greatly interested over the idea that his land at Gunthwaite contained silver ore. But nothing much came of the search for this. We owe any knowledge of this search to the notes of Mr. Wilson of Broomhead, whose MS. notes on the subject are in the British Museum (Add. MS. 24472, p. 48). He says that 'in August 1770, one Mr. Spottiswoode an Attorney, grandson of the Spottiswoode who wrote the History of Scotland and some others from London, obtained a grant

from the Crown for leave to search for Silver Mines. They began to work on a place called Gadding Moor, near to the water side near Gunthwaite Lane End. A pound of the silver ore was said to produce 8 oz: of silver. It was first found out in building a house there in 1731. It is said one Butterworth of Cawthorne, made a pair of Buckles of it. They also opened another mine at Woolley—Great Expectations, but came to nothing.’

Godfrey Bosville was buried in the Church of St. Giles-in-the-Field. Diana his wife did not follow him until eleven years later, in 1795, when she died and was buried at Bath. It seems sad that neither lie near Yorkshire, and that they, who were always together in life, are so far apart in their earthly resting-places. Their youthful portraits at Thorpe, however, show them side by side looking contented and happy and in the lovely setting of Diana’s early home at Bretton.

The following quotation is from a contemporary number of *The Sun* newspaper :—

‘ On Sunday morning died at his house in Great Russell-street Bloomsbury, aged sixty-six, Godfrey Bosville Esq<sup>r</sup> of Thorpe and Gun-

thwaite in Yorkshire. To those who are so fortunate as to have been acquainted with him, no eulogy is necessary, as they know his worth full well ; but to those who had not that very good fortune, we hope it will suffice to say that he was that noblest work of God—i.e. an honest man ; as also a good and indulgent husband, a kind and affectionate parent. God's peace be with him.'

## CHAPTER X

### FASHION AND GENIUS—EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

THE following letters are among those which gave most pleasure in their discovery. The first of them serves to show the immense difference in the ways of fashion between modern-day manners and those which obtained in the courtly eighteenth century. It is addressed to Miss Bosville (Julia) and has been sent by hand. It is dated May 20 merely, from Grosvenor Street, but must belong to 1773 or 1774. The writer is Neil, third Earl of Rosebery. The letter speaks for itself :—

‘ Lord Rosebery Presents his Compliments to Miss Bosville, begs she will excuse the Liberty he takes in offering her a Ticket To a Subscription Ball that is to be held at Allmacks on Wednesday First. It is out of his Power to procure her Two—which he endeavoured at & was the Reason that prevented him from send-

ing on Saturday. It is true his Subscription Entitles him to Another Ticket but It was engagd to Lady Francis Bennet from the Beginning. Lord R. is so particular with this Account, to shew, that it was not in his power to do otherwayes; and in hopes that Some of her Acquaintances are going there he now sends to inform her, that it is at her Service if she will do him the Honor to Accept of it, and which he will be obliged to her if she will be so good as inform him of Tomorrow or as soon as she has inquired among her acquaintance, if any of them go that she would Chuse to accompany. Miss Bosville may be assured that it will be one of the best & most Elegant Subscription Balls that has been Given, as it is by 60 of the first Men of Fashion in Town. That the Ticket is to be marked with the Lady's Name, who it is to Admitt, prevents him from being able to send her The Ticket till he knows her Resolution which he begs may not be Sudden, unless it be That she will go—for tho' Miss Bosville may imagine that None of her Friends are going, she will probably find it Otherwise—especially if she is going to Ranelagh tonight, where she must have a Bettar opportunity of inquiring Than anywhere else

& where he hopes to hear from Miss Bosville,  
That she is Resolved for The Ball.

‘GROSVENER STREET,  
‘Monday, 30 May.’

The missive is sealed with Lord Rosebery’s  
signet ring.

As no year is given, and no other trace of  
this ball found among the letters, we shall never  
know whether or not the lady ‘Resolved to Go!’

Who, on reading the above letter, would suppose that a ticket for ‘Allmack’s’ (that enterprising Scot, M‘Call by name, who turned his name round to use it for his ‘Rooms’) was then one of the most coveted prizes in the whole London season?

The other letter is from an acknowledged man of genius, no other than the celebrated ‘Bozzy,’ James Boswell, whose book about Dr. Johnson is so celebrated. We have already seen that he, quite justly, claimed kinship with the Yorkshire Bosvilles and called Godfrey his Chief; and that there is at Thorpe a copy of his *History of Corsica* given by him and inscribed to this ‘chief.’ His letter is written from Edinburgh, where Godfrey’s second son Thomas had evidently been with him. It is addressed to

‘Godfrey Bosville Esq. of Gunthwaite, Great Russel Street, Bloomsbury, London,’ and dated ‘13 March 1780.’ It runs :—

‘DEAR SIR,—Your last kind letter was a refreshment to my spirits in this northern desart, for so it is to me who loves London as I do. Your son Captain Thomas said he would rather be the smallest man in London than the greatest in Edinburgh. So much does he differ from Caesar who wished to be rather “*Primus Mantuae quam secundus Romae.*” I almost agree with my cousin. My Father was very sorry that an illness prevented his seeing him. I took care, however, that Lord Monboddo who has such an enthusiasm for Patagonions, and thinks that men are most wretchedly dwindled in their size, should dine with Thomas at my house ; and when I introduced him, I said, “This, my Lord, is the proper size of our Clan when you see us in perfection.” [Thomas Bosville’s height was 6 feet 4 inches.] I hope he has been well since he returned to you. As our Court of Sessions was sitting while he was here, I could not see him as much as I wished to do. My Father has been pretty well since he recovered from a fever which he had. His

spirits, to be sure, are not so good as they once were. I have secured for Mrs. Bosville his own edition of the Quaker's letter, which is indeed better than the original, though it is very well.

'You will be satisfied now with our operations at Sea. If we could go on at this rate, the Trade of War would I fancy be profitable to us. Where is your eldest son? I hope he will not quite disdain or hate his native land and climate. My brother David who has been twelve years in Spain is to come home soon. I hope he is by this time at Paris. When he comes to London he will wait upon you. He wishes to settle there as a merchant in one way or other. I am not without fear that the delightful warmth of Valencia may make him dislike this Island. We must do what we can to reconcile him to it. I shall not be in London this Spring. I have no cause before the House of Lords, and to tell you the truth, now that my young family are getting up, I find the £300 which my Father allows me together with my fees as a Lawyer will not do. I am unwilling to apply to my Father, as he might think me extravagant and be alarmed. Could you, my Chief, conveniently let me have a loan

of two or one hundred pounds for a few years without mentioning it but to your own family, it would be an essential kindness. I would draw on you for the money and send you my bill. I do not think your risk would be great.

‘My Wife joins me in best compliments to all the good family in Great Russel Street. How do you like your neighbour Beauclerc?— I am, Dear Sir, Your affectionate Kinsman,

‘JAMES BOSWELL.’

One hopes poor overburdened Bozzy’s request was granted ; but there is no more about him, and we must now return to the Bosvilles themselves.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE LAST OF THE BOSVILLES— INTO THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

WHEN the fourth Godfrey Bosville passed away all his four children were alive and well. Lady Macdonald may have been delicate, for she died in 1789, but the two sons were in the prime of life. Neither was married, but Thomas took a wife about ten years later, and no one would then have expected that he and his elder brother Billy were to be the Last of the Bosvilles. But Thomas was slain at Liencelles in 1793, leaving no child ; and William never married. He was the (XXII.) head of his family, and seems to have been very clever, if rather eccentric. In his youth he visited France and Italy, and it must be his passport which still lies at Thorpe, signed by Louis XVI. and his minister De Vergennes in 1778 at Paris. In this he is called ‘ le Sieur Bosville allant en Italie.’ But it must be a much later one than his first journey required. We get a peep of him

abroad as early as 1767, in a letter of Lord Balcarres, published in *The Lives of the Lindseys*, where we read : ‘ In 1767 I received my Ensigncy in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> under the command of L<sup>t</sup> Colonel Lindsay of that Regiment and under his tutelage I embarked in the *Æolus* for Gibraltar. We were to take up at Lisbon Major Hawke, a son of the great Lord Hawke, and Ensign Bosville, afterwards the famous Republican.’ Major Hawke was a friend of ‘ Billy,’ and the two must have been on their way to Africa, where they formed part of the suite of an English Embassy sent out to Morocco to felicitate the Emperor of that country upon his accession to the throne. Billy had been educated at Cheam and Harrow, and early in life (1760) obtained a commission in the Coldstream Guards. Later he went with his regiment to America, where he remained during the whole time of the War of Independence, and where, no doubt, he imbibed his ‘ Republican ’ sentiments. He never cared for country life, but lived chiefly in his house at Welbeck Street in London. Here he saw his friends, many of whom also visited him at Thorpe; for instance, John Wilkes, who fought so successfully for the freedom of the British

Press. Tom Payne, who has been called the Father of English Radicalism, was another of his friends, and he has left his portrait at Thorpe, where it is labelled in the Catalogue of Pictures as 'Tom Payne the Atheist.' William became, in fact, the recognised leader of a set of bold spirits who were eager to procure full liberty and progress for all British subjects. Sir Francis Burdett was one of this circle, as were also William Cobbett (letters of his are at Thorpe, but they are not very edifying!) and Horne Tooke. The latter mentions his friend in his book, *Diversions of Purley* (vol. ii. page 490), where he writes: 'Bosville and I have entered into a strict engagement to belong for ever to the Established Government, to the Established Church and to the established language of our Country: because they are established. Establish what you please, no; but Establish; and while that establishment shall last, we shall be perfectly convinced of its propriety.' These gentlemen had evidently taken to heart Pope's line, 'Whatever is, is Right.' Surely in no other age could such sentiments be termed liberal. William Bosville's Republican tastes must have been strengthened by a visit which he paid to Paris

in 1793, four years after the Fall of the Bastille and just when Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette were losing their lives and crown under the guillotine. No doubt, too, at such a time of confusion and terror any fixed 'Establishment' must have seemed desirable, no matter of what kind.

When in London, William Bosville used to dine every Sunday with Horne Tooke; Mr. Stephens, in his life of that worthy (*Memoirs of John Horne Tooke*, vol. ii. page 308), says of him: 'William Bosville never attained a higher rank than that of Lieutenant in the Guards, which is equal to a Captain in the line; but the courtesy of the public assigned to him the brevet of a Colonel, by which appellation he was more generally distinguished by his friends, than any other.' Mr. Stephens goes on to say that Mr. Bosville's manners were gentle, his conduct uniformly polite, and his natural disposition generous and obliging. When in town, he kept open table for his friends, whom he treated with the utmost liberality. Being often abused by writers, he once said, 'I hope these gentlemen are in good credit with their printers, for the world will think me of no consequence the moment they leave off abusing me.' When

William Cobbett was in Newgate prison, Colonel Bosville went in state, with four horses to his carriage, to visit him, and afterwards presented him with £1000, in token of sympathy, he said, with a persecuted sufferer. According to the account of his grand-nephew, the Rev. John Sinclair, in the memoirs of his father Sir John Sinclair, Mr. Bosville shone as an eccentric habitué of London during a large part of the reign of George III. In 1788 Sir John Sinclair took a leading part in the formation of the 'African Club,' and of this club Mr. Bosville was unanimously elected a member. 'My Grand Uncle's exterior,' says Mr. Sinclair, 'consisted of the single breasted coat, powdered hair and queue and other paraphernalia of a courtier in the reign of George III. ; but within this courtly garb was enclosed one of the most ultra-liberal spirits of the time.' His hospitality was unbounded ; for he allowed for the dinner-table alone £3000 a year. In his house in Welbeck Street every day a party of congenial souls assembled ; these never exceeded twelve in number, nor were admitted a single moment late. Had any one ventured to say, 'Better late than never,' Mr. Bosville would have retorted with his favourite phrase, '*I say,*

better never late !' The first stroke of five was the signal for going downstairs ; when Mr. Friend, the Astronomer Royal, arriving half a minute after, met the company on the staircase, Mr. Bosville addressed him thus : ' I trust, Mr. Friend, you will not fail to bear in mind for the future that we don't reckon time here by the meridian of Greenwich, but by the meridian of Welbeck Street.' Even Sir Francis Burdett suffered denial at the door for lateness. The servants entered into the whimsical accuracy of their master, says Mr. Sinclair, and when a well-known guest, out of breath with haste, one day rang the door-bell about four minutes after five o'clock, the footman, looking up from the area, informed him that ' The Colonel has taken the Chair.' Lord Donoughmore, Mr. Este and Captain James were of the party every day when in town. A slate was kept in the front hall, on which any intimate friend—and he had many—might inscribe his name as guest for the day. Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Hutchinson, Horne Tooke, Baron Dimsdale, Lord Oxford, and Mr. Clifford (a celebrated barrister) were among those who did so.

Mr. Bosville was a principal figure at the

famous Sunday dinners given by Horne Tooke in his house at Wimbledon, the cost of which was defrayed by Sir Francis Burdett, but Mr. Bosville invariably brought with him in his carriage two of the most important articles for consumption—fish and wine.

Everywhere he was known as the Champion of Freedom and the Rights of Man. He was one of Horne Tooke's chief supporters when he unsuccessfully contested Westminster in 1795, and the following toast given by him at a dinner following the election is an instance of his political utterances : ' Fellow countrymen, we have been told from the hustings that we are tied to a tree—the tree of corruption. I will give you a Toast : Pull, pull and pull again with three times three ; security for the future and justice in the past ; with three times three and the birthday of our liberties.'

Mr. Bosville also worked hard to help William Cobbett in 1806, when Cobbett made his first attempt to enter Parliament ; and it is certainly to Mr. Bosville's credit that, when persuaded that such people as Tooke and Cobbett owned the right principles to help their country, he neither limited his friendship nor withheld his admiration because one was the son of a



*Hoppner pin.*

WILLIAM BOSVILLE WITH HIS NEPHEW, CAPTAIN THE  
HON. ARCHIBALD MACDONALD, AND HIS GRAND-  
NEPHEW, SIR GEORGE SINCLAIR

*(From the picture at Bretton)*



poulterer and the other had been a ploughman. But one cannot help wishing, that instead of talking in London, he had lived upon his neglected estates and helped his people by so doing. As a fact, he avoided going into Yorkshire so as not to be worried by requests and affairs. On the whole, in this respect too he was a typical Socialist.

It is amusing to read his opinion of the ways of his fashionable sister, Lady Dudley, as retailed by Mr. Sinclair: “I always,” said Mr. Bosville, “dine punctually at five; but when I reached Park Lane after six, I commonly was forced to wait half an hour before my sister returned from her morning drive. Not till half past seven did a single soul arrive to dinner and I have often heard eight strike when we were going downstairs. Feeling ashamed to be the only performer while the rest were little better than spectators, I generally rose with an appetite. The fact is, Lady Dudley and her friends always dine at three o’clock without knowing it. At that hour she takes a beefsteak and a glass of Madeira, which she chooses to call a luncheon. Finding that Lord Dudley’s habits and my own did not agree, I at last concluded a treaty offensive and

defensive, by which each engaged not to trouble the other with invitations, nor be angry at not receiving them. Since that time, we have always lived on brotherly terms.”

It seems sad that such a lover of freedom as Mr. Bosville undoubtedly was should have died just too soon to know of the battle of Waterloo, where freedom was made secure for his country and so for Europe. His friend Horne Tooke had departed this life in 1813, and on December 16 of the same year ‘Billy’ Bosville closed his eyes upon this world. He was not quite seventy. He was buried near his father in the Church of St. Giles-in-the-Field, and the *Independent Whig* of Sunday, December 26, 1813, states that ‘Mr. Chippendall, who had long been the upholsterer of the deceased, conducted the funeral with great propriety.’ The same paper bursts forth into poetry in honour of his memory, thus :—

Lov’d by his friends, and by his foes esteem’d,  
 For even foes by goodness are redeem’d,  
 Above all meanness, for he knew no pride,  
 Unaw’d by Death, unblemish’d Bosville died.  
 With sense that only Nature could impart,  
 The smoothest temper and the kindest heart,  
 Through various scenes of chequer’d life he went,  
 His views unspotted and his end content.

Equal to him the child of low degree,  
 So honour grac'd him and his mind was free,  
 Or one that glitter'd in the pomp of birth,  
 For all he valu'd was unshaken worth :  
 Though rich in fortune, yet in morals blest  
 He felt secure of everlasting rest.  
 Mild to the last, though tortur'd by disease,  
 His only conduct was his guests to please.  
 Alas ! how fruitless did that conduct prove !  
 What heart could smile with such a wreck above ?  
 Ingenious med'cine lent a short repose,  
 And hope still linger'd as our wishes rose.  
 How vain, how transient was the gleam she gave !  
 Alas ! it only glimmer'd to the grave.  
 Pure resignation pour'd its daily balm ;  
 His frame was restless but his mind was calm.  
 No vain fantastic terrors scar'd his soul,  
 For conscious virtue occupied the whole.  
 O'er worlds to come no vague reflection rov'd,  
 His life was guiltless and his end unmov'd.  
 By slow degrees to dissolution led,  
 The good man sank and mingled with the dead.

These lines must have been written by one of the daily guests waiting on December 16 for the usual dinner, which Mr. Bosville insisted should be prepared according to custom, but which he did not live long enough to ensure to his friends. They make a sad picture of the passing of the last male Bosville. Let us hope that ' Billy ' had a better consolation and trust than the poet knew of.

The following lines, dated January 5, 1814,  
are at Thorpe :—

ON THE DEATH OF WILLIAM BOSVILLE, ESQ.

Mixt with the good in happier seats above,  
Blest in the presence of Eternal Love,  
Bosville, to thee with just, congenial Praise  
What Monument shall pious Friendship raise ?  
Thy soul through Life elate in conscious Worth  
Despis'd the Glare of Wealth, the Pride of Birth :  
E'en thy last words repell'd, to Pomp averse,  
The crowded Pageant from thy hallow'd Hearse.  
Through Life to Death the same ; thy gen'rous Plan  
Pure from its Source with even Tenour ran ;  
To social Friends an ever-open Door ;  
An ever-open Hand to feed the Poor :  
Thine be the Praise beyond the Sculptor's Art,  
Thy virtuous Life deep imag'd in each Heart.  
Soon, too, shall come thy well-appointed Heir  
The Joys of Peace, by Valour earn'd, to share ;  
To bless the faithful Love, that long deplores  
His long, long absence on Iberia's shores ;  
Yet no Complaint ; save on the Mourner's cheek  
A silent Tear ; which more than Words can speak,  
Marks to her Children's gaze their Mother's woe,  
Yet tells a Hope that only Mothers know ;  
The dear fond Hope their much-lov'd Sire to see,  
With Health, with Honour crown'd, from Danger free.  
Rich in the double Gift by Heav'n assign'd,  
The ample Fortune and the lib'ral Mind,  
True to himself, to Sacred Friendship true  
With just Selection, Bosville's Plans pursue.  
Draw from two kindred Stems one noble Line,  
Add Name to Name and Worth with Worth combine.

This well-meant tribute makes one very glad that memorial verses are no longer the fashion !

The *Independent Whig* goes into detail as to the manner in which William Bosville's estates were distributed by his will. Mrs. Beaumont was heir to one (probably Gunnerton) following her father's arrangement, and after legacies, which amounted to not above £30,000, everything else was left to his nephew, Colonel the Hon. Godfrey Macdonald and his children. Colonel Macdonald's mother, as we know, had been Elizabeth Diana Bosville, the testator's sister ; she had died in 1789. Colonel Macdonald, by the terms of the will, assumed his mother's name, and so once more there was a Godfrey Bosville, and moreover one who with his wife and family went to live at Thorpe, which they made their home, Colonel Macdonald retiring from the Army on his return from the Peninsular War with the rank of Major-General.

And now began a period of happy family life at Thorpe, where General and Mrs. Bosville, surrounded by their children, made the house lovely with beautiful pictures, and embellished the place with ponds and groves, built a charming dairy in the grounds, filled once more the

stables, and entertained a large circle of friends and relations, making music often in the gallery, where a cupboard is still filled with their string-music. General Bosville had even taken his beloved violoncello to the Peninsula, and now in times of peace he played at home, surrounded by members of his family with fiddles and viola. He also took his part in county affairs, and built a Justice Room close to the Hall, where, amidst other business, he composed village quarrels by methods of his own : rival beauties who had fiercely quarrelled being ordered and made to 'kiss friends again' in his presence. His eldest son, who had been educated at Harrow and at Cambridge, married in 1823. The eldest daughters were married and younger brothers and sisters growing up when the second Lord Macdonald died and his brother General Bosville succeeded him as third Lord Macdonald in 1824. On this event he retook the name of Macdonald. But the name of Bosville was guarded by the will of its late owner, which stipulated that the possessor of Thorpe should bear that surname ; and when in 1832 the third Lord Macdonald died suddenly from a heart attack, aged only fifty-five, it was expected that his second son should succeed to

the Bosville name and estates. This, indeed, was provided in the third Lord's will, which is still at Thorpe, and which leaves the Scottish honours and estates 'to my eldest son, Alexander William Robert.'

But the second son claimed the place of the eldest, whom he pronounced to be illegitimate. His excuse for so doing went back to the days of his parents' Scottish marriage to which they had been forced, owing to the guardians of the bride, who was under age, refusing their consent to any wedding between her and Godfrey Macdonald. It was only in 1803, nearly four years later, that Godfrey found that a doubt was thrown on the validity of this Scottish marriage. At once he wedded his wife again, in Norwich, where he happened to be quartered. By Scottish law this English wedding would naturally have legitimated any child born previously, if the father's domicile was a Scottish one. The law of domicile was then very little understood, and Godfrey's travels as a soldier were supposed, very wrongly, to have altered his original Scottish one. It was only in 1910 that this question of his domicile was finally settled by the Court of Session in Edinburgh, and all his children declared equally legitimate.

But in the meantime the third Lord's second son, Godfrey William, had become fourth Lord Macdonald, while the eldest son Alexander was known by the name of Bosville and assumed the ownership of the Bosville acres. In 1847 a private Act was passed by Parliament settling the estates in this manner. This Act did not deal with the question of legitimacy or otherwise. The wrong was finally righted and judgment pronounced in accordance by Lord Skerrington on June 4, 1910. The grandson of Alexander William Robert then recovered his name and the old Macdonald baronetcy, together with the Chiefship of Sleat and claim to the chiefship of the whole Clan Donald. The Irish barony remained with the younger branch—not being a Scottish honour and not therefore affected by the Scots law of domicile.

Thus, after the third Lord's death, the name of Bosville remained for rather over seventy-seven years at Thorpe, and that name and the arms are still legally possessed by the present owner.

The dispossessed Alexander, who had been always a most affectionate son and had grown up into a cultured, charming man, never got

over the unexpected blow of finding his birth questioned and wrongdoing attributed to his beloved parents. Hardly had the private Act passed Parliament than he died, literally of a broken heart and spirit, in 1847, aged only forty-seven. By his wife, Matilda Bayard, he left one son and one daughter—Julia, who became the wife of Henry, eighth Lord Middleton. The son, Godfrey Wentworth Bayard Bosville, married in 1864 the sister of the same Lord Middleton, the Hon. Harriet Cassandra Willoughby; but he died in little more than a year after his marriage, leaving a baby son, born September 26, 1865. It was only when this son, Alexander Wentworth Macdonald Bosville, grew up and married that doubts began to be whispered as to the correctness of the opinion hitherto held about his grandfather's birth. Finally in 1910 the wrong was righted. The present owner of Thorpe was born at Settrington House, near Malton, one of Lord Middleton's places (and oddly enough, the ninth Lord Middleton, Digby, was born at Thorpe!); but he has lived at Thorpe since he was four years old. Thither he brought his wife in 1886, and there his son and daughter were born. During his time, too, Thorpe has

grown in acreage, neighbouring farms having been acquired ; to do this, Denby and Ox-spring and some other West Riding property were sold. He has added a wing to the house, and a lovely flower garden has grown up at the back, stretching down to the ponds and stream with its waterfalls, and with a vista cut through the hanging woods on the opposite hill beyond the ponds. If the original Bosville line no longer remains, still the place is greatly loved and cared for by their descendants, who must ever be grateful for the English home which sheltered them and gave them a name when their own race and country disowned them.

## CHAPTER XII

### OTHER BOSVILLE BRANCHES

HUNTER tells us about various families of Bosvilles who lived and died as Yorkshire land-owners. Coningsborough Church holds many records in windows, monuments, and registers of a Coningsborough branch. These Bosvilles did not use quite the same arms ; they had the silver shield with the five red lozenges upon it, but above them not the three black bears' heads, but 'three mullets in chief' (a mullet looks rather like a star). The Gunthwaite arms, however, appeared in one window—that to the memory of 'Richard Bosewell and Alice his wife' ; also 'Thomas Boswell,' probably their son, 'who had this window made.' The writer of a letter about the memorials of the Bosvilles at Coningsborough, addressed to Thomas Bosville of Warmsworth in the reign of King Charles I., remarks that another Bosville window 'was broken by them which stole my grandfather's hearse'—that means a kind

of square draped tent, generally adorned with escutcheons, which used to be placed for a year over the spot where the remains of persons of eminence were buried. One general memorial to 'Multi de familia Bossviliana' has been placed near a column in this church. Hunter gives a list of others 'of this truly antient and eminent family' who were buried in Coningsborough Church. The last of the line seems to have been a Thomas Bosville; his brother George was one of the incumbents of the church and living.

The parish registers of Coningsborough also yield an account of the family of Bosville of Clifton, a place close by, which boasted a permanent beacon, one use of which was to collect the militia of the wapentake, upon its firing, at Doncaster. The Christian names in the Clifton family are William, Richard, Thomas, Gervas, and Edmund. Their records are from the sixteenth century to the middle of the eighteenth. The last-named Gervas Bosville had a daughter at school in 1760. The estate of Clifton is supposed to have passed into a family called Milwood, who married a Bosville, possibly the schoolgirl of 1760.

It is most likely that 'John Bossewell' who

wrote *Workes of Armourie* was one of these Bosvilles. He calls himself a northern man, and the arms he bore, which appear on the title-page of his book, are the same as these borne by the Bosvilles seated at Coningsborough, Warmsworth, Braithwell, and Doncaster. They are : on a silver shield five red lozenges, and above them three black mullets (starry things). His book, a copy of the 1597 edition of which is in the Thorpe library, was first published in 1572, and was dedicated to W. Cecil, Lord Burghley. Prefixed to the text is a long poem by Nicholas Roscarrocke, facetiously entitled ‘Cyllenius censure of the Author in his high Court of Heraultrie,’ from which the following lines, describing the Courts of Heraldry, are taken :—

Within these sundry roomes, through wals y-built of  
 Christal cleare,  
 Eche thing that longs to Herchault's Art doth perfectly  
 appeare.  
 There leeger bookes, of auncient gestes, y-writ by *Tallas*  
 hand,  
 There campings, mornings, musterings, there pedegrees  
 do stand.  
 There combats fierce, there Summons bold, there triumphs  
 passing brave,  
 Of crowning Kings, of dubbing Knights, the orders there  
 they have.

In the copy of this work at Thorpe the arms of Bosville of Gunthwaite are pictured at page 54, but no name is given ; on page 113 the Wentworth arms are both pictured and named.

In Godfrey Bosville's books in the library at Thorpe, his book-plates show these two coats put together—for him and his Wentworth wife.

At Warmsworth the Bosvilles had a house even before they became possessed of the manor. The earliest recorded name of this branch is that of Thomas Bosville of Doncaster, younger brother of Richard Bosville of Coningsborough, *tempus* Edward iv. His grandson, another Thomas, is described as ' of Doncaster and of Stainton ' ; he died April 4, 5 Edward vi. His eldest son first appears as ' of Warmsworth,' and was aged forty in 5 Edward vi. His second son is Thomas ' of Clifton,' and his fourth is Jasper ' of Stainton,' who became ancestor of Bosville of Braithwell. All these branches, according to Hunter, descend from Robert de Bosville who was Constable of the castle of Pontefract in the reign of King Edward iii. Warmsworth finally descended to the three co-heirs of a Thomas Bosville, and they sold it in April 14, 1688, to John Battie of Wadworth, Esq., whose descendants still held the manor

and advowsons when Hunter wrote his *South Yorkshire*.

In the Braithwell pedigree, which begins with Jasper Bosville of Stainton, brother of Thomas Bosville of Warmsworth, and whose will was proved January 6, 1557, we find the name of Hugh Bosville, died 1759, the second husband of Bridget Royston, widow of William Bosville of Gunthwaite and mother of the fourth Godfrey. Hugh and Bridget had one daughter, Mary (the 'pretty Sister' to whom Godfrey sent his love from Cambridge), who married Thomas Place of Green Hammerton, Esq.

In this Braithwell pedigree we find, too, the three elder brothers of Hugh : one, Thomas Bosville, a Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and rector of Ufford, Co. Northampton, who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Bolle, Esq., of Thorpe Hall, Co. Lincoln, co-heir of her brother of the same place ; another, Alexander Bosville of London, a printer, who wrote sometimes to Godfrey Bosville of Gunthwaite—his brother Hugh's stepson—and whose letters are at Thorpe (see page 4) ; and the third, John Bosville, who was the father of that Thomas Bosville of Braithwell who inherited Ulverstone Abbey, Co. Leicester, from his kins-

man Charles Bosville of Biana. This Thomas married his cousin Bridget Bosville, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Bolle) Bosville, and they had a son, William Parkin Bosville of Ravenfield. Neither this son nor his brother Thomas Bosville, a clerk, also of Ravenfield, left any children, and they end the Braithwell pedigree.

William 'Parkin' Bosville must have been so christened after the husband of a niece of his great-great-grandfather, who was Mary Bosville (daughter of Jasper 'of Wardsend' in the Braithwell pedigree), who married, April 25, 1673, Thomas Parkin of Sheffield. For we find a hundred years later that Ravenfield is in the possession, by purchase, of an old maiden lady Elizabeth Parkin, a granddaughter of Thomas and Mary (Bosville) Parkin, who on her death in 1766 left Ravenfield to various cousins in tail. When Osborne and Worgan cousins had died without heirs, Ravenfield went, by the will of the aforesaid Elizabeth Parkin, to William Parkin Bosville. This was in 1788. As we have seen, neither William nor his brother Thomas, who succeeded him at Ravenfield, left heirs. On the death of Thomas, Ravenfield passed to Thomas James Birch, Esq., of Thorpe Hall, Co. Lincoln, Major and



THORPE HALL IN THE EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

*(From the picture by Frederick W. Elwell at Thorpe)*



Lieut.-Colonel in the First Regiment of Guards. He was the only child of James Birch of Coventry and Thorpe Hall, Esq., and Margaret Bosville, sister of the mother of William Parkin and Thomas Bosville, and therefore their aunt. Colonel Birch, by royal sign manual dated May 22, 1824, took his grandmother's name of Bosville—which the Ravenfield family spell Bosvile.

The Bosvilles of Chevet descended from Thomas de Bosville, a younger son of Thomas Bosville of Ardsley and New Hall and of Alicia de Gunthwaite.

This younger Thomas married Alice, daughter and heir of William Monk of Chevet. Their grandson, Sir John Bosville, married Constance, daughter and heir of John Mounteney. They had three sons—Achilles, Thomas, and John 'of Stoke.' The two former died without issue. John married a Matilda, and had John, married to Joan Radcliffe of Ordsal, whose son was William, married to Elizabeth, daughter of Percival Amias. They had two daughters, Elizabeth and Alice Bosville, both of whom married Nevills, and so Bosville of Chevet turned into Nevill of Chevet.

Chevet is now the seat of the Pilkington family.

Among all these Bosvilles, I have not been able to identify 'Miss Bosville who came of age in 1727.' I think she must have belonged to Biana or else to some Kentish family. A paper at Thorpe is inscribed: 'Directions about Miss Bosville.' She was evidently an heiress, and equally evidently a young lady of decided opinions and will, for she insisted on being taken away from school and being set up in lodgings in London. The paper becomes very agitated about this, but provides several aunts to live with this impetuous young woman, and also supplies her with a coach. When she came of age she was shown her rent roll 'at Biana.' Many heartburnings are recorded as to her desire to marry a Roman Catholic (he is not named); but alas! the paper ends abruptly, and nothing more transpires about 'Miss Bosville.'

## CHAPTER XIII

### NOTES ON THE FAMILY COAT

THE silver shield of the Bosvilles, in Sir Martin de Bosville's day, had a gyronny of five, sable in fess, with five fusils gules in chief.

Bosville of Newhall and Ardsley and Bosville of Gunthwaite used the same coat (as on front of this volume) thus : Argent, five fusils in fess gules, in chief three bears' heads sable.

The bears' heads were won on the field of Poitiers in 1356 (see page 28).

When those members of the family who left Gunthwaite and settled in Kent used their family coat of arms, they did so with a difference : they put gold muzzles on to the three black bears' heads ; and when, on the failure of the elder branch, they returned to Gunthwaite, they retained this difference, which is still preserved on the Bosville coat which belongs to the present representative of the Gunthwaite family and owner of that place.

The Bosvilles of Coningsborough and other places round Doncaster had for arms : Argent, five fusils in fess gules, in chief three mullets sable.

The Bosvilles of Chevet had : Argent, five fusils in fess gules, in chief three martlets sable.

The Chevet Bosville arms in Thribergh Church show : Argent, four (not five) fusils in fess gules, and three martlets sable in chief. (See Hunter's *South Yorkshire*, vol. ii. page 43.)

The Bosville crest is a White Bull issuing from a Holt of Trees proper.

The Bosville Motto is : ' Virtus propter se.'

## CHAPTER XIV

### A CONTRAST IN BOSVILLES

IN the days of James VI. of Scotland, one of his 'chirurgeons' was George Boswell, a portrait of whom still exists in the possession of Mr. Thomas Innes, Advocate, of Learny, in the county of Aberdeen. This portrait is on a wood panel, size 39 inches by 24 inches, and it has been reproduced in the *Caledonian Medical Journal* for August 1925, where it is made the subject of a paper by David Rorie, D.S.O., M.O., D.P.H., the President of the Caledonian Medical Society; and it is to this paper I am indebted for the information I now hand on.

The portrait bears George Boswell's coat of arms, his initials, his age (forty-four), and the date, 1582. On the back of the panel is painted a skeleton and a number of verses. Round the frame is 'Georgius Boswall Medicus et Chirurgus Ætatis Suæ 44, 1582.' Dr. Rorie gives George Boswell's descent, which adds some interesting intelligence to our knowledge

of how the Scottish Bosvilles first went into Scotland. He says: 'The founder of his family was Robert, Sieur de Bossuille, whose designation is held to derive from Bosville, near Valtot in Normandy. He was a vassal and, according to tradition, a relative of Lord Warrenne, in feoff of whom he settled, after the Norman Conquest, at Castleacre, Norfolk. One of Robert's grandsons, Sir Elias, went to the Crusades with the then Lord Warrenne, and the second son of the Crusader, another Robert (1165-1220) accompanied William the Lion to Scotland and got Oxmuir in Berwick. A great-grandson of Robert, Roger by name, married a daughter of Sir William de Lochore of that ilk. His grandson, again, was David Boswell, first of Balmuto. David married twice, and by his first wife had two sons and a daughter who became spouse to John Beaton of Balfour and grandmother of the famous Cardinal Beaton.'

This connection is interesting, as the MacBeaths or Bethunes or Beatons were by appointment 'Physicians to the Lords of the Isles and Kings of Scotland.' (See the Gaelic manuscript, *Regimen Sanitates, from the Vade Mecum of the famous MacBeaths*, translated

into English by H. Cameron Gillies. Glasgow University Press, 1911.)

‘ The first Laird of Balmuto’s son, also David, married as his second wife Lady Margaret Sinclair, daughter of the third Earl of Orkney and Caithness. Their second son, Thomas, became first Laird of Auchinleck, and his descendant Alexander, eighth of Auchinleck, became Lord Auchinleck (of the Scots Bench) and father to the Bear Leader of the Great Cham of Literature. George Boswell himself, who was born in 1538, was the grandson of Sir Alexander Boswell, third of Balmuto, who fell at Flodden in 1513, and ninth son of David Boswell, fourth of Balmuto, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Moncreiffe of that ilk. He had nine brothers and ten sisters!! His father, according to Fullerton’s *Scottish Nation*, was held in great esteem by King James v., Queen Mary, and King James vi., from all of whom he had several friendly and familiar letters. He was engaged in most of the public transactions of his time and died in 1582—the year in which his son’s portrait was painted—in the eighty-fourth year of his life. His tenth and youngest son, also christened George, was parson of Auchterderran in Fife,

and wrote a genealogical history of the Balmuto family.

‘Georgius married a Janet Macgregor and had three sons and four daughters. It is probable that his descendants died out, as the portrait ultimately landed at Balmuto. He is first mentioned as Chirurgus Regis in a great seal charter confirming a charter by his brother Sir John Boswell of Balmuto and his wife Isobel Sandilands, dated 11th October 1591, and in January 1612 (nine years after King James had gone into England) he is witness to another charter of his brother’s, at Balmuto. By 11th July of that year (1612) a certain John Naismith is mentioned in the Great Seal as “Chirurgus regis,” so Georgius Boswell probably died between January and July 1612, when he would be 74 years of age.’

In his portrait Dr. George Boswell looks far older than his forty-four years. He wears a beard cut like his master’s, the King’s, and has a somewhat unwieldy figure. But his expression is kind, and one can quite imagine him the possessor of a soothing bedside manner—but not of patience to listen to any attempt to evade his nostrums. In his right hand he holds a phial, probably the medicine bottle of

the period, and the other hand holds its stopper. And one feels there will be little use in begging to be excused the dose !

This most superior and orthodox looking physician would no doubt have been perfectly horrified to hear that even a very distant relation lived with the gipsies ! But Charles Bosville, who must have been born about twenty-five years after Dr. George died, actually not only yielded to the fascination of ' the wraggle-taggle Gipsies O ! ' enough to be ' off ' finally with them, but made himself so popular among them that he was called their ' King.' A writer named De la Pryme of Hatfield describes Charles as ' a mad spark, mighty fine and brisk, and keeps company with a great many gentlemen, knights and esquires, yet runs about the country.' Hunter tells us he was a gentleman with an estate of £200 a year, yet he frequented the company of the gipsies who used to encamp on the Yorkshire moors, and he had such influence with them that his word to them was law, and his authority was so great that he was able perfectly to restrain the pilfering habits of his people, and gained for himself and for them the entire goodwill of the farmers and people around. When he died, he

was buried, as the Church Register records, close to the chancel of St. Michael's Church, Rossington, not far from Doncaster, on January 30, 1708-09. The flat stone over his grave was surrounded by an iron railing to preserve it. No gipsy, passing near, failed to come to pay his respects at the grave of him the gipsies called their king, and even now, if you ask the gipsies their name, they will be very likely to tell you they are 'Bosville's folk.' In many places, especially in Scotland, the name is pronounced Boswell, and on so recent a date as May 9, 1926, the *Daily Graphic* newspaper had a picture of the funeral, at Farnborough the day before, of Levi Boswell, the gipsy king. On this occasion the coffin was drawn by six horses with postilion as well as coachman ; and the *Daily Mail* of the same date records that 'the King went to his burial wearing, as marks of his chieftainship of the Clan Boswell' (!), bright yellow socks and a muffler of brilliant red. This gipsy king had lived at Bromley for twenty years ; one wonders whether he had in his veins a drop of the blood of Charles Bosville !

Borrow evidently had met Bosville gipsies, for he gives to the Tinman Tinker, about whom he tells us, the name of 'Blazing Bosville.'

Unlike the physician George, whose descent and honours are so carefully recorded, Charles has left no account of the branch of the family from which he sprang ; but as ‘ the King of the Gipsies ’ he remains for all time a romantic, fascinating and adventurous personality.

## CHAPTER XV

### A BUNDLE OF OLD PAPERS

AT Thorpe one day the writer was poking among the contents of a box of old papers which lay all muddled up together, having evidently been thrown anyhow into their resting-place. She lifted one of the papers and read : ‘ Heads of an Indenture between Lord Grimston and his Eldest Son of the first part and of Mrs. Arabella Pershall of the 2nd part,’ and a little examination showed that this was what in modern days is called a Wedding Settlement.

It recites that Mrs. Arabella Pershall is ‘ seized of Manours, Lands and Hereditam<sup>ts</sup> in Com: Stafford.’ Evidently she was not only the possessor of a pretty name, but also a considerable heiress ; and we read on that ‘ a Marriage is intended between Mr. Grimston and Mrs. Pershall.’ And then, after the manner of lawyers, lands in Staffordshire, lands in Herts and various moneys are solemnly settled on the

pair and on their descendants, down to the youngest daughter's portion. At last the end is reached, and then comes a bad shock, for in another hand is written, 'This marriage never took place'; and it is noted that Lord Grimston's son has gone abroad! This seemed a sad end to so much careful planning, and one longed to know if pretty Mistress Arabella minded, or whether she could possibly have changed her mind.

No date is upon the document, but later search among the contents of the box ended Arabella's story quite satisfactorily. Other papers showed that she was related to the Bosvilles of Biana, who had intermarried with the Pershalls, and that on the death of Sir Thomas Pershall of Sugnall, Baronet, Co. Stafford, his granddaughter and heiress, Arabella, had been put under the guardianship of Robert Bosville of Biana (probably her maternal uncle). That gentleman appeared to have sold a mortgage of Sir Thomas Pershall's on March 19, 1730 to His Grace the Duke of Kent (one of the Grey family); at any rate, a counterpart of the assignment of the mortgage to the Duke is still at Thorpe. There is also a paper dated 11 George I. (presumably 1725), which is a

‘Release of the Effects of John Bosville’ to Robert Bosville (evidently John’s eldest son) from his brothers and sisters—Henry, Charles, Thomas, Frances and Elizabeth. This deed is witnessed by four people, and one signature is that of ‘Arabella Pershall,’ so she must have been of age in 1725. Not till 1730 does a consoling happening come to light. But in that year another marriage is in contemplation, so we may hope that Arabella’s tears—if they had fallen for Mr. Grimston—had been forgotten, or perhaps kissed away.

The new suitor was Lord Glenorchy, the son of John, second Earl of Breadalbane. He had been married before—and now the assignment of Sir Thomas Pershall’s mortgage is explained, for the first Lady Glenorchy, we find, had been Lady Amabel de Grey, eldest daughter and co-heir of Henry Duke of Kent. The assignment had evidently something to do with fresh marriage settlements. Lord Glenorchy, who was born in 1696, had lost his first wife in 1727. He had served his country in various ways: had been Ambassador to the Danish and Russian Courts, and in 1727 was M.P. for Saltash. No doubt such a travelled and polished lover could woo well and would be indeed likely to find

favour in the eyes of his heart's mistress. There are two letters of his at Thorpe, but, alas ! not to Arabella—only to her guardian. They are written in a good bold hand and most clearly expressed, and are dated respectively 'London, 19th January 1730/1' and 'London, 6th February 1730/1.' Between the writing of these two letters, on January 23, he and Arabella had been married.

In 1752 Lord Glenorchy succeeded his father and became third Earl of Breadalbane and the last of that line ; for both Arabella's sons died—the elder as an infant. The younger lived to grow up and to marry, but had no children ; it was his widow (Willielma Maxwell) who was the Lady Glenorchy so famous in the Highlands for her good works.

Of Arabella we hear no more except that she died in 1762.

Lord Glenorchy's two letters at Thorpe are entirely about business. The only interesting bit in them is when he is discussing the manner of paying a sum due to Robert Bosville, and says :—

' I was a good deal surprised to find you make a difficulty to receive the money in Bank Notes, which tho' indeed the Law does not oblige a

Mortgagee to accept, was I believe never refused between Gentlemen, and I think it the more extraordinary since you cannot be ignorant of the difficulty in sending specie so far. I don't doubt but upon recollection you will act in this matter in the manner you might justly expect I would with you or any other gentleman, and take the money in the most convenient and natural way of paying it at this distance, I mean Bank Notes, which I can send you for small sums, that they may be the easier changed, if necessary, in the Country. If you persist absolutely in refusing them, I desire to know it by the first post, that I may try to find out some other method of paying the money.'

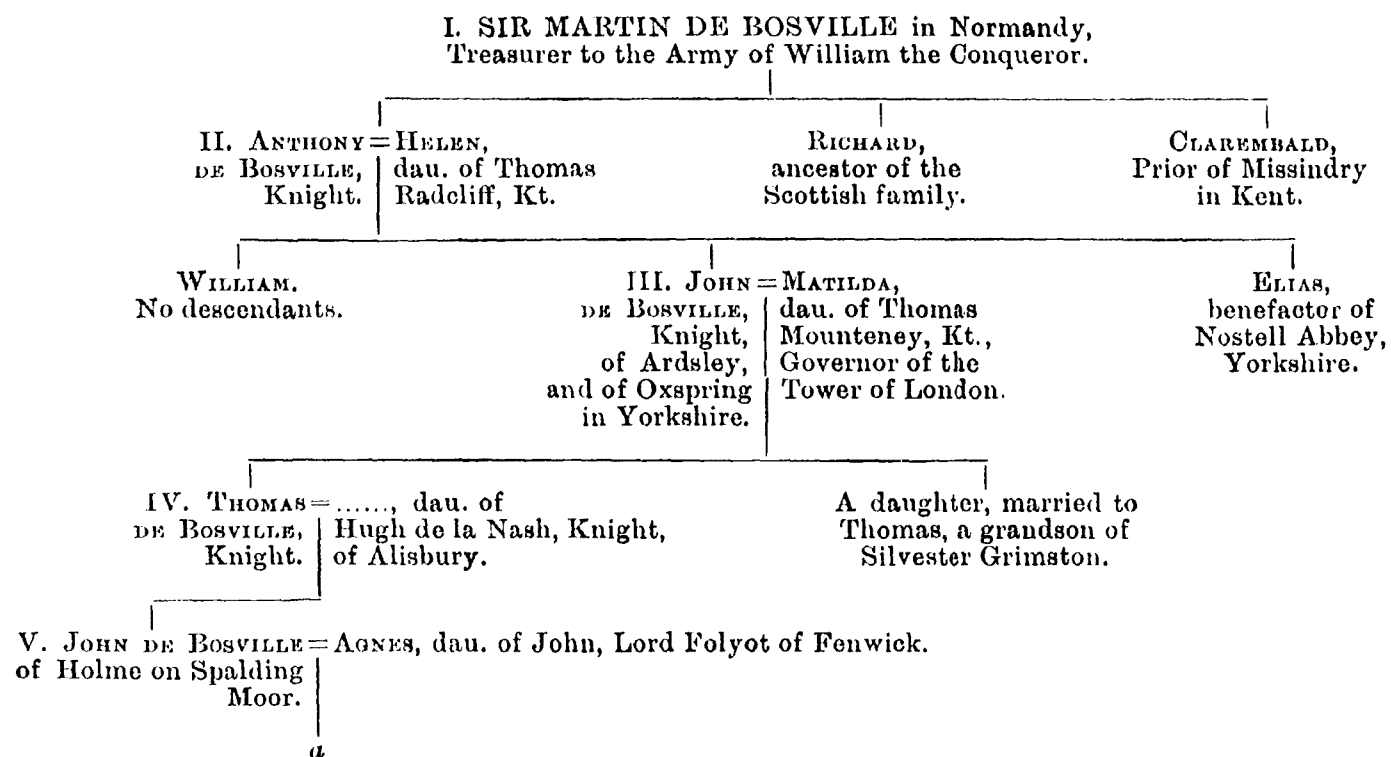
We shall never know if Robert insisted upon gold, and whether it arrived upon a string of mules or pack-horses at Biana; it could not come in 'the Stone Bag' like the letters. He must have been a little nettled by the implication that money could be hardly necessary, so far as spending it went, in the country! No doubt all Arabella's trousseau had been made in the house by a 'cunning taylour,' who needed payment, not to speak of the farm bills and servants' wages, none of which could be

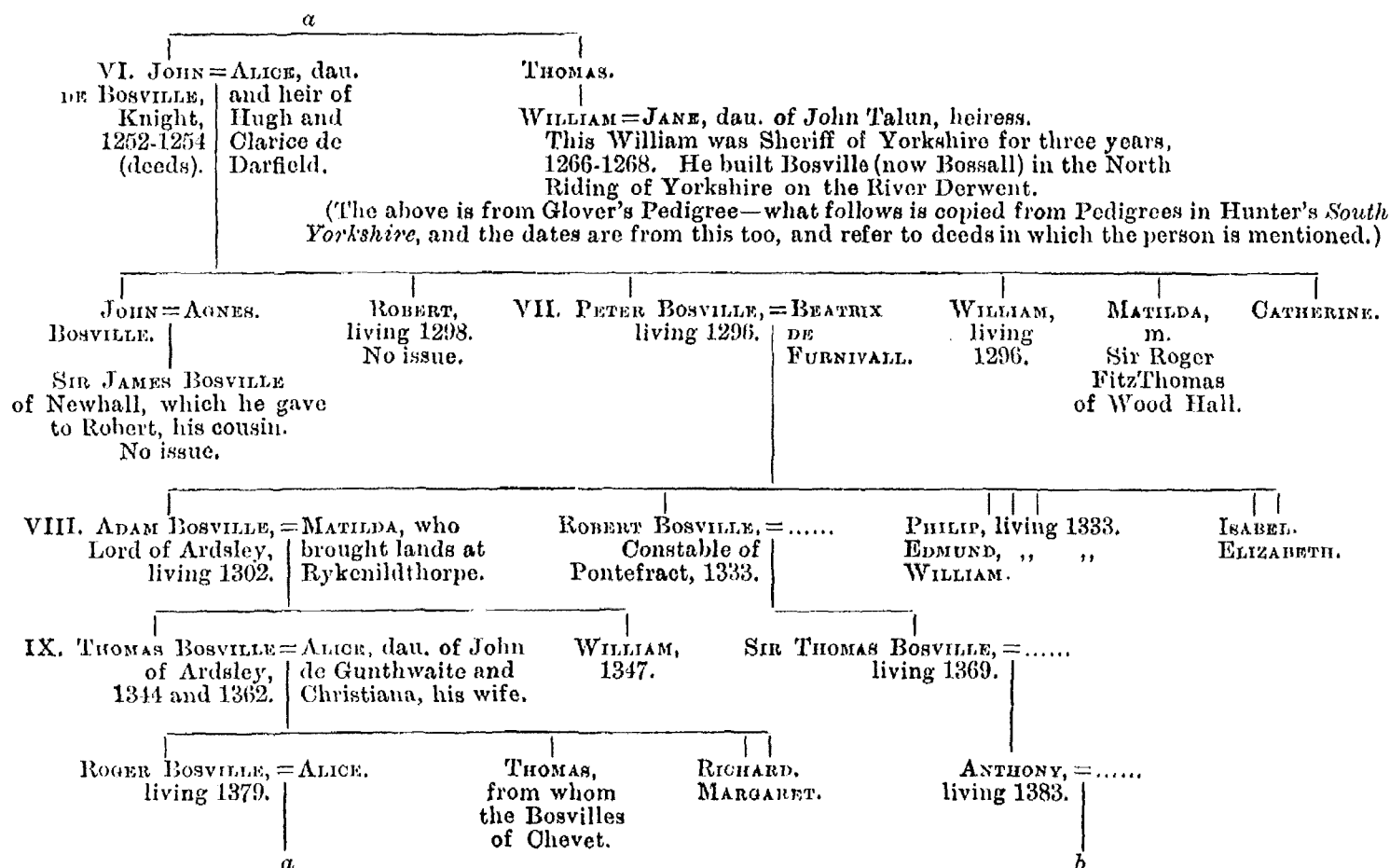
easily settled by the offer of strange bank notes instead of genuine money !

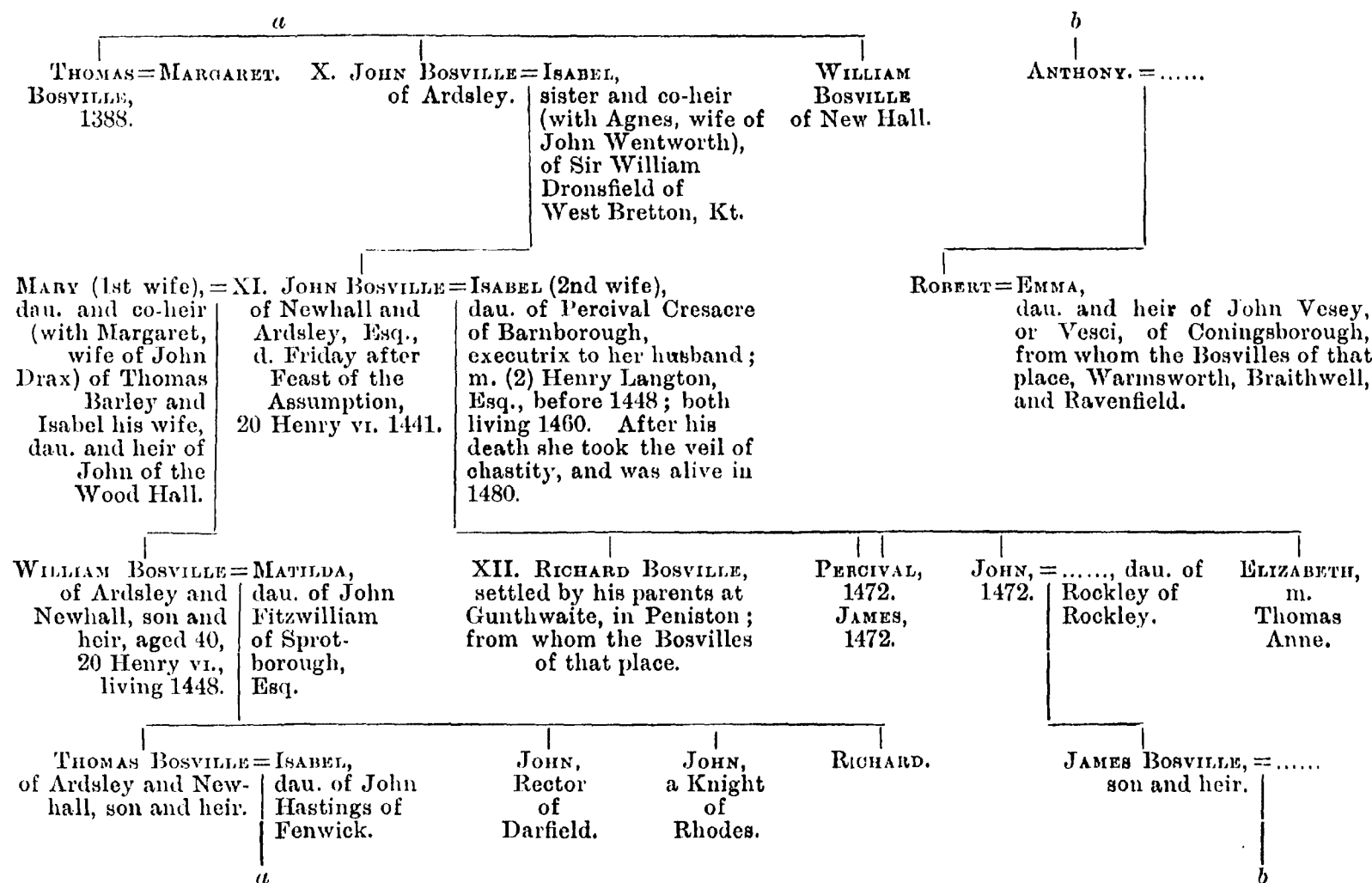
Oddly enough, it was just about the time that Arabella Countess of Breadalbane died that Charles Bosville, the last of the brothers, passed away at Biana, and the house and place became the property of Godfrey Bosville of Gunthwaite.

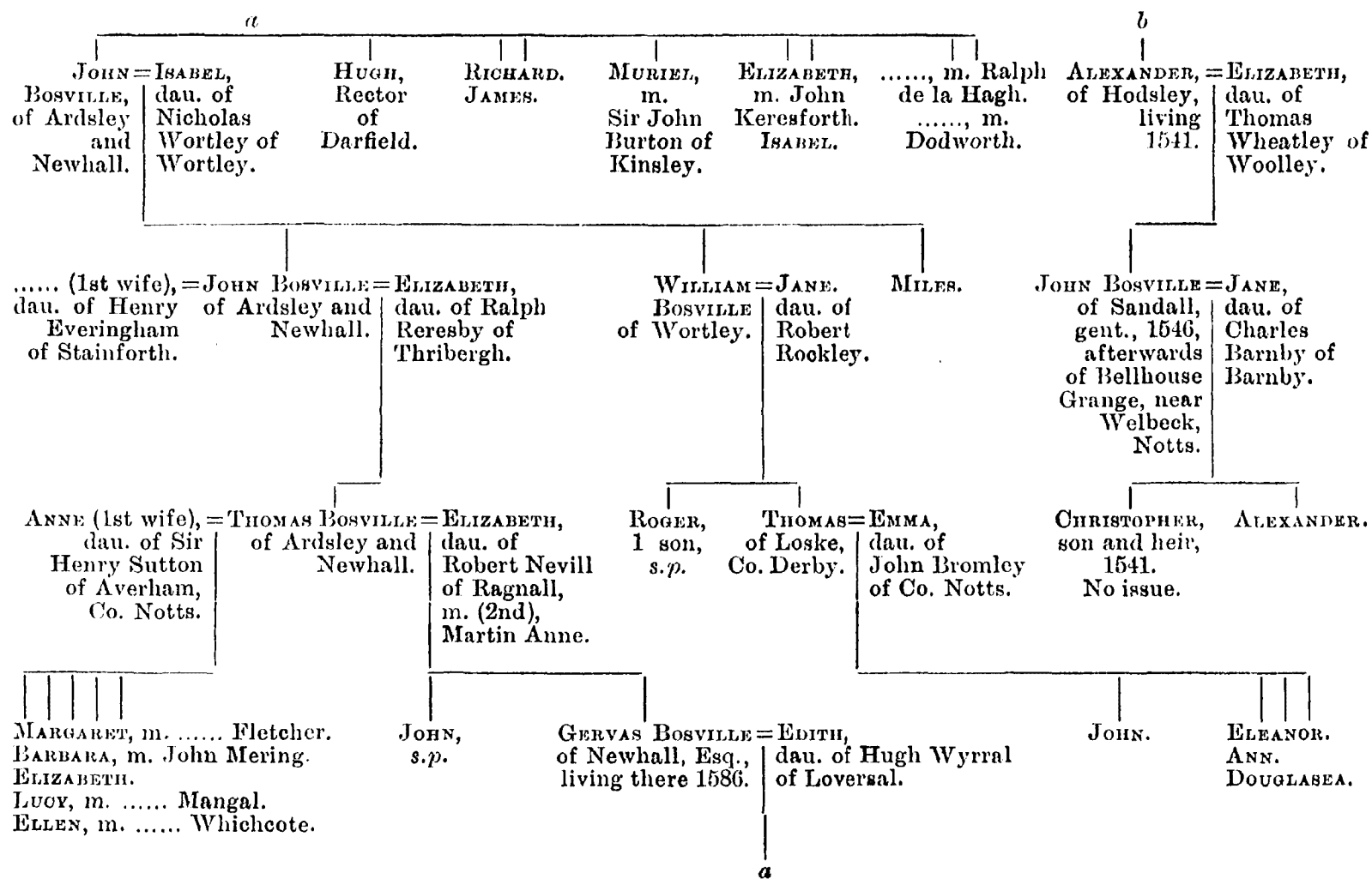
## APPENDIX I—PEDIGREES

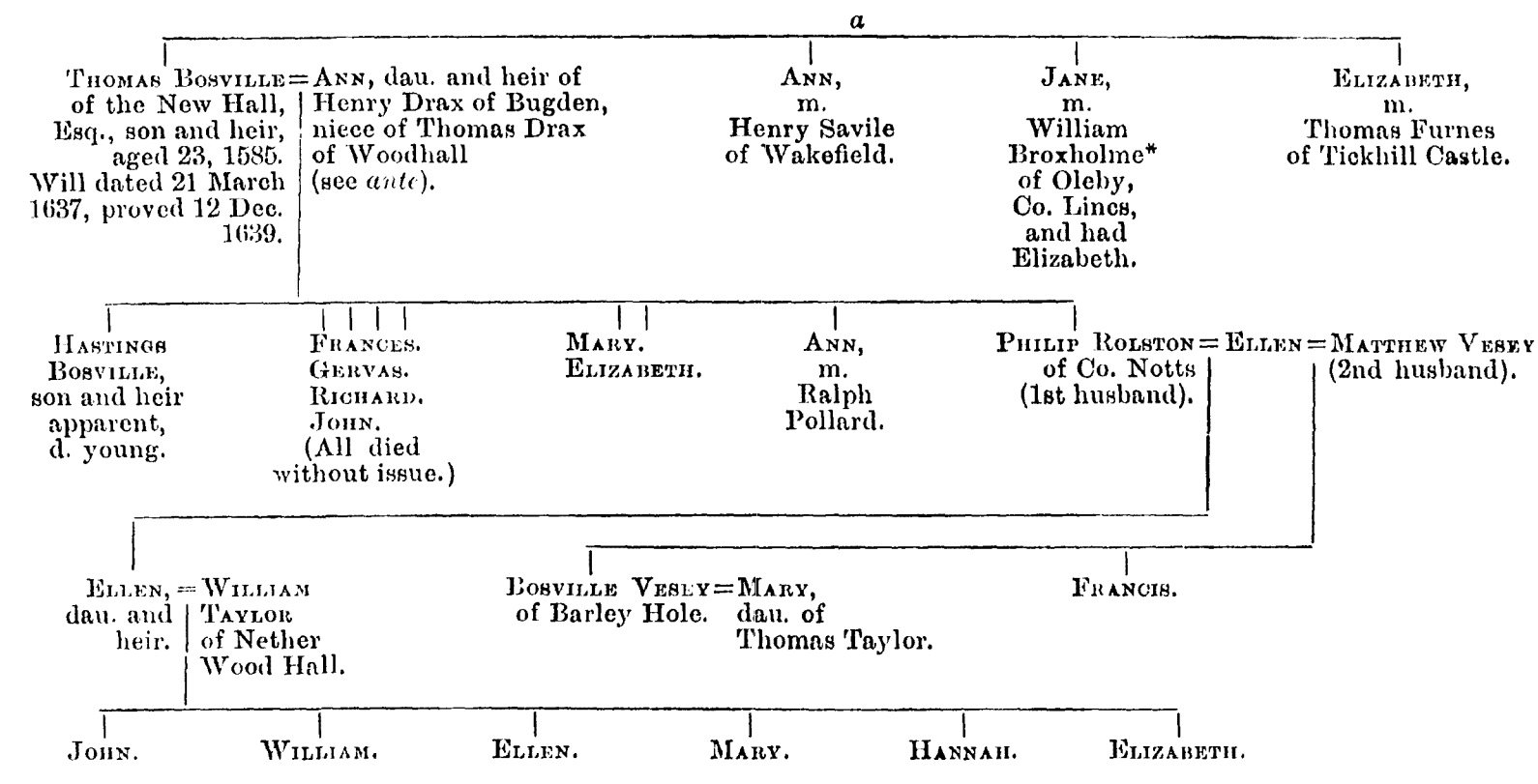
## BOSVILLE PEDIGREE









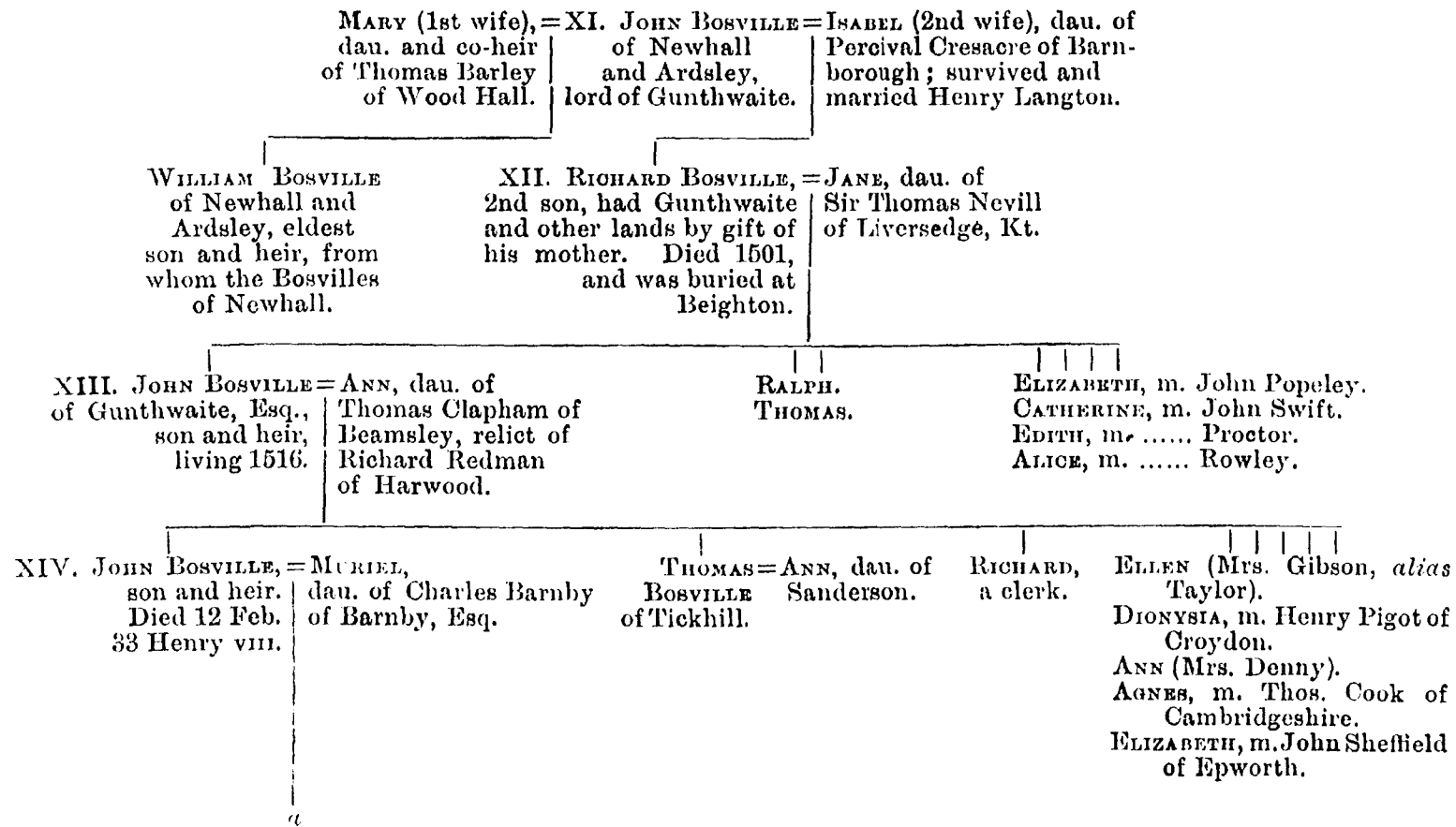


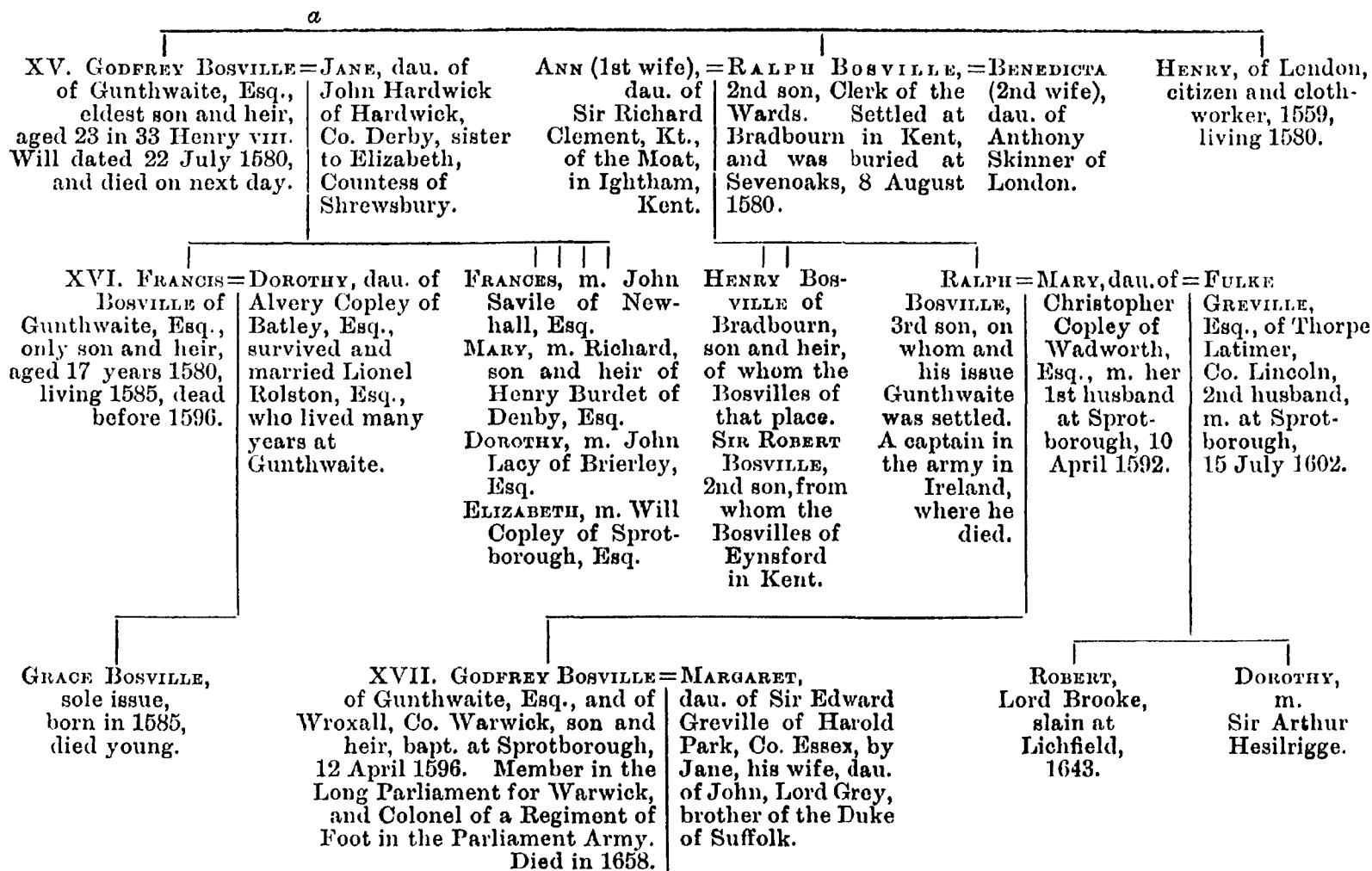
\* Broxholm married secondly Ann, daughter of William Marbury, by whom he had John and others. See Harl. MS. 5845.

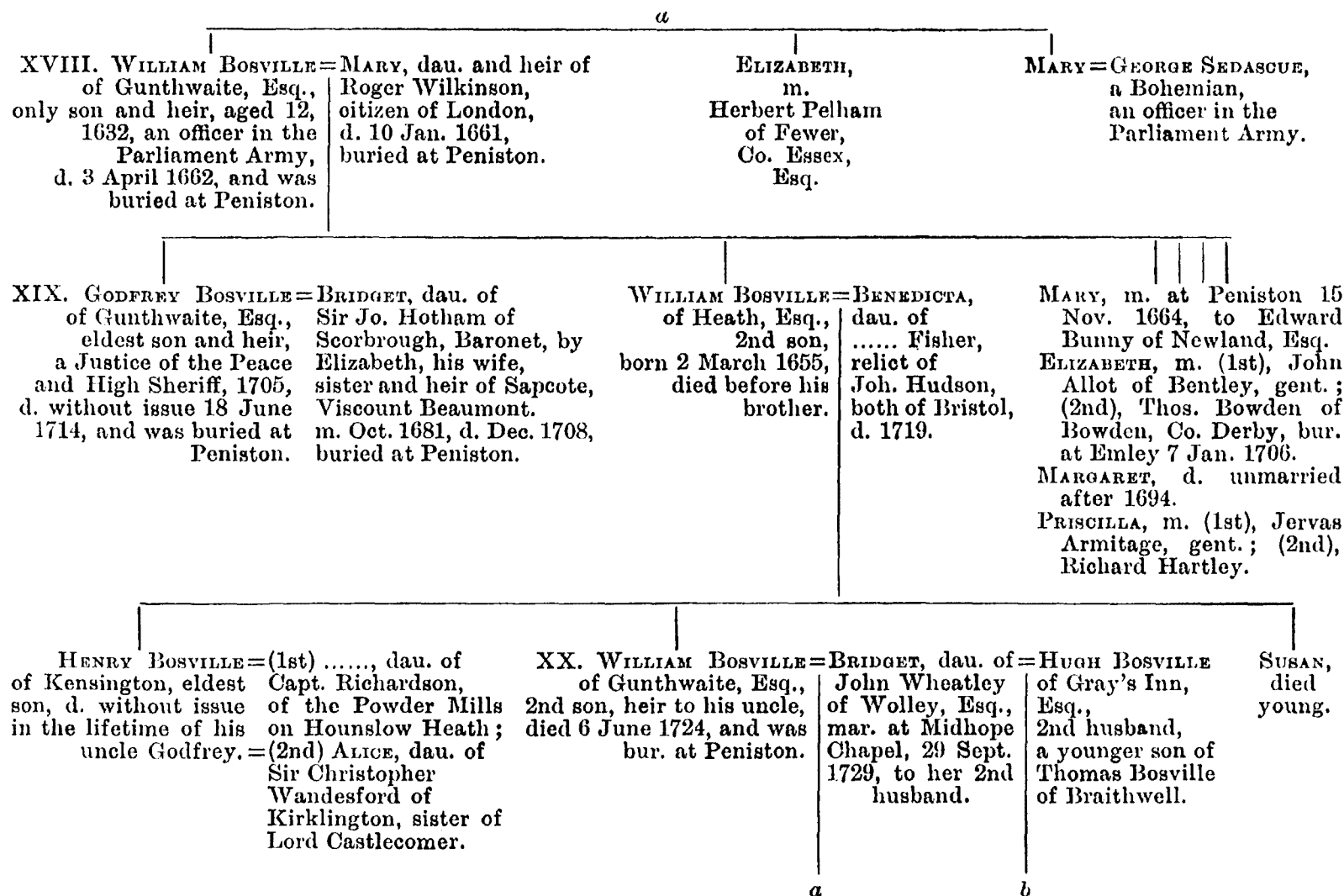
## BOSVILLE OF GUNTHWAITE PEDIGREE

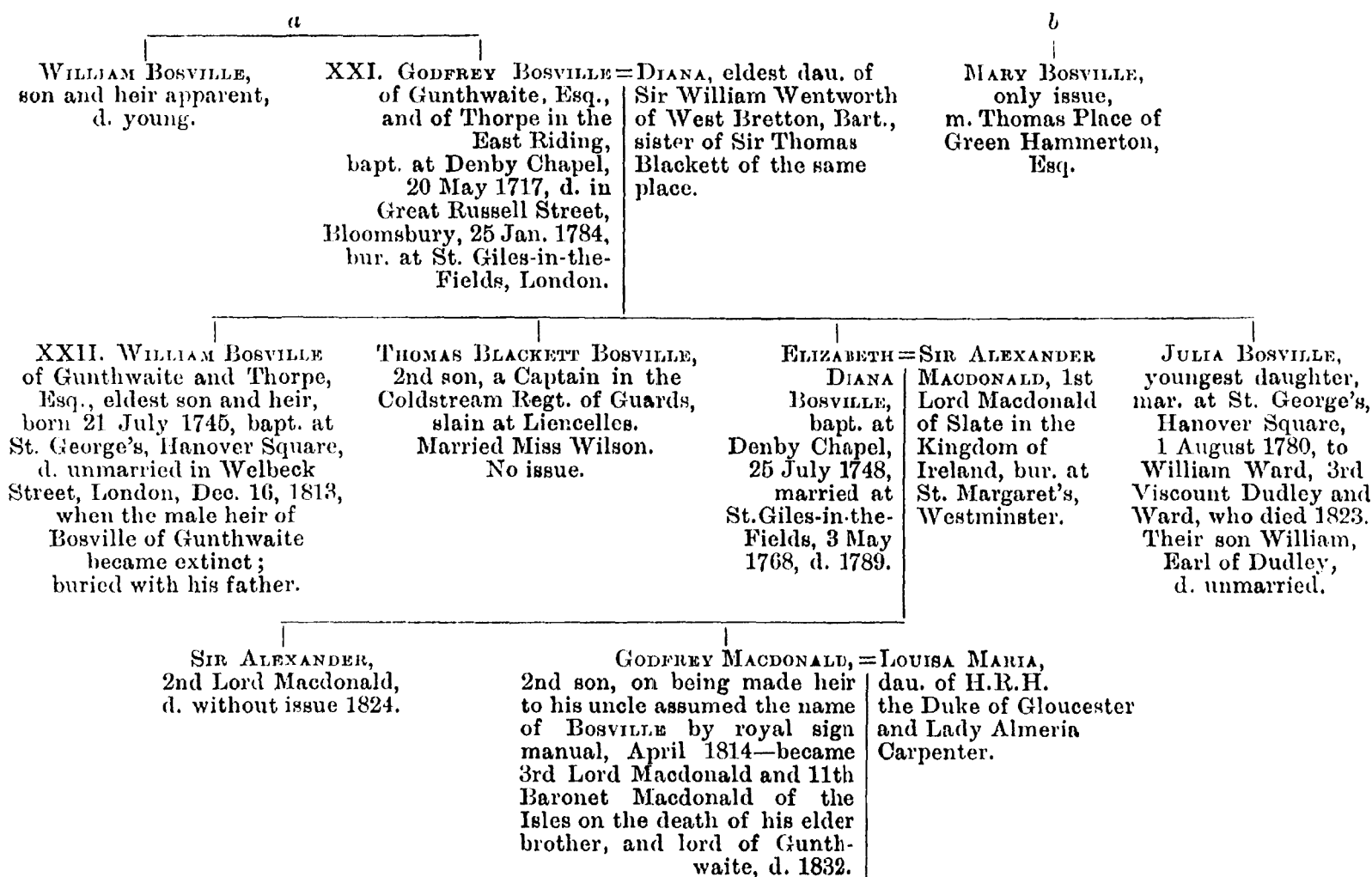
*Arms*—Argent, five fusils in fess gules, in chief three bears' heads sable.

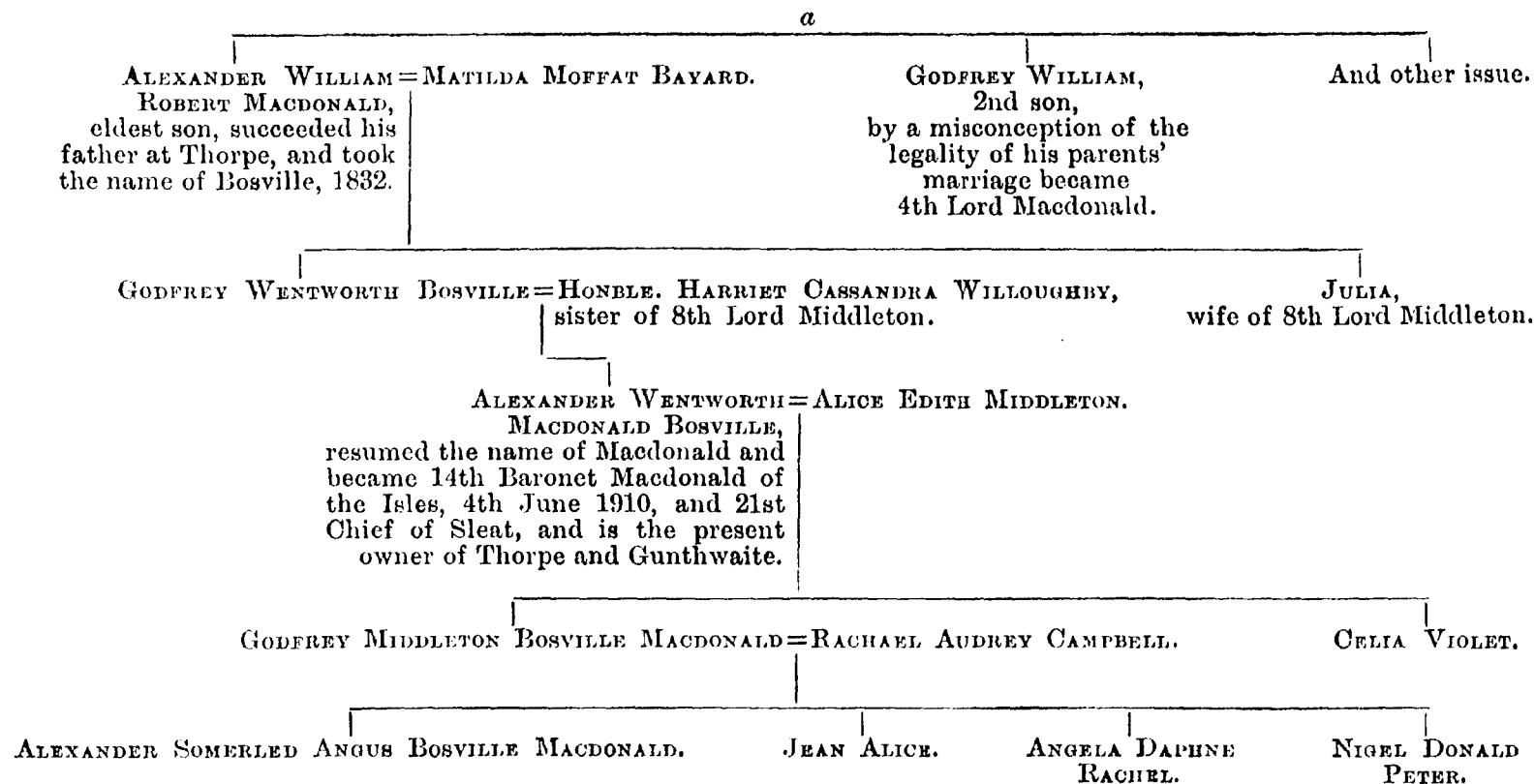
*Crest*—An ox issuing from a holt of trees proper.





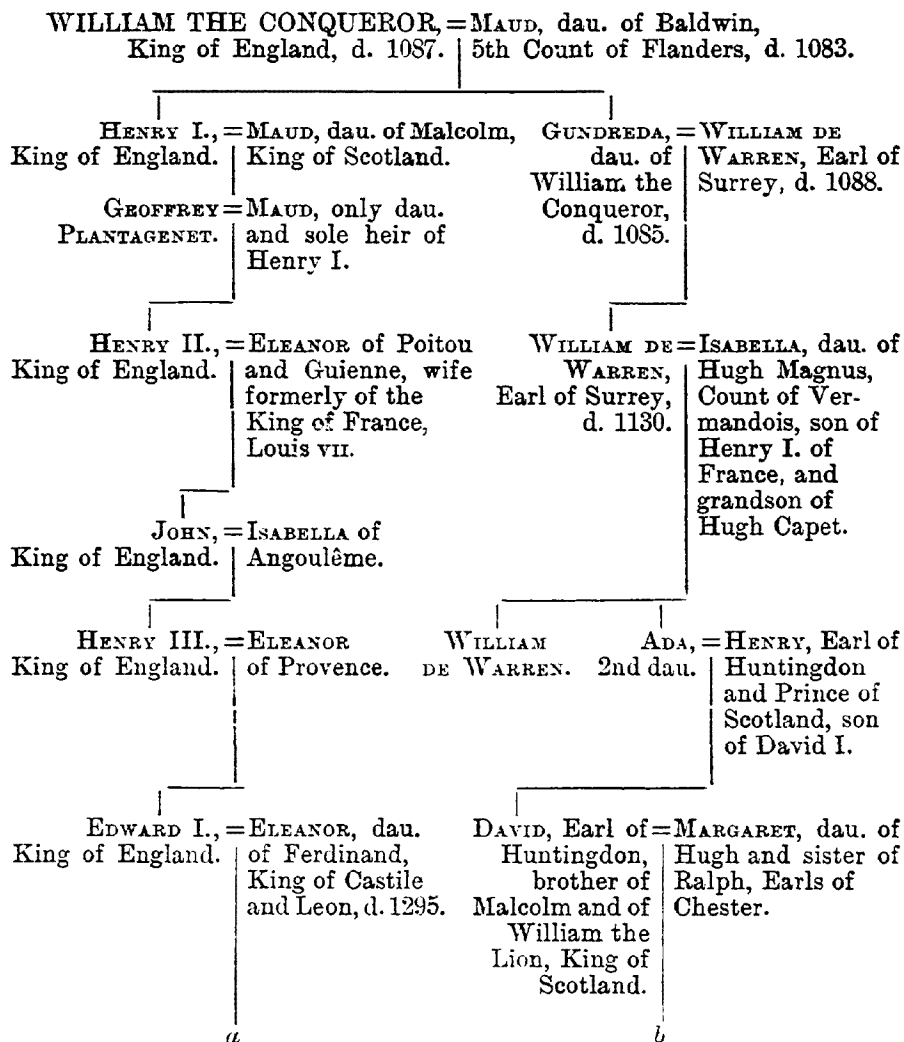




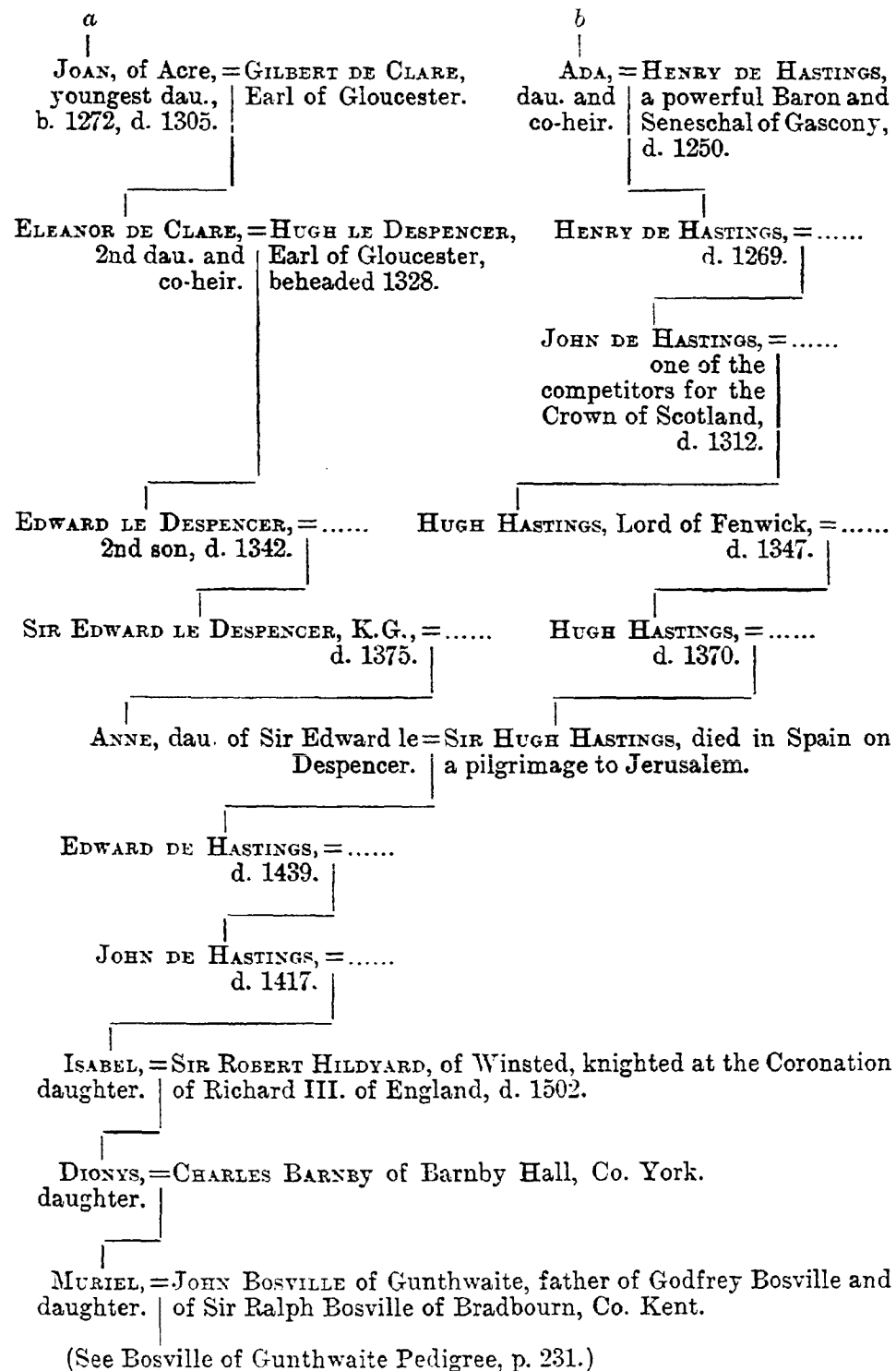


NOTE TO MURIEL, DAUGHTER OF CHARLES BARNBY OF BARNBY HALL, THE WIFE OF JOHN BOSVILLE (*tempus* Henry VIII.) AND MOTHER OF THE FIRST GODFREY BOSVILLE.

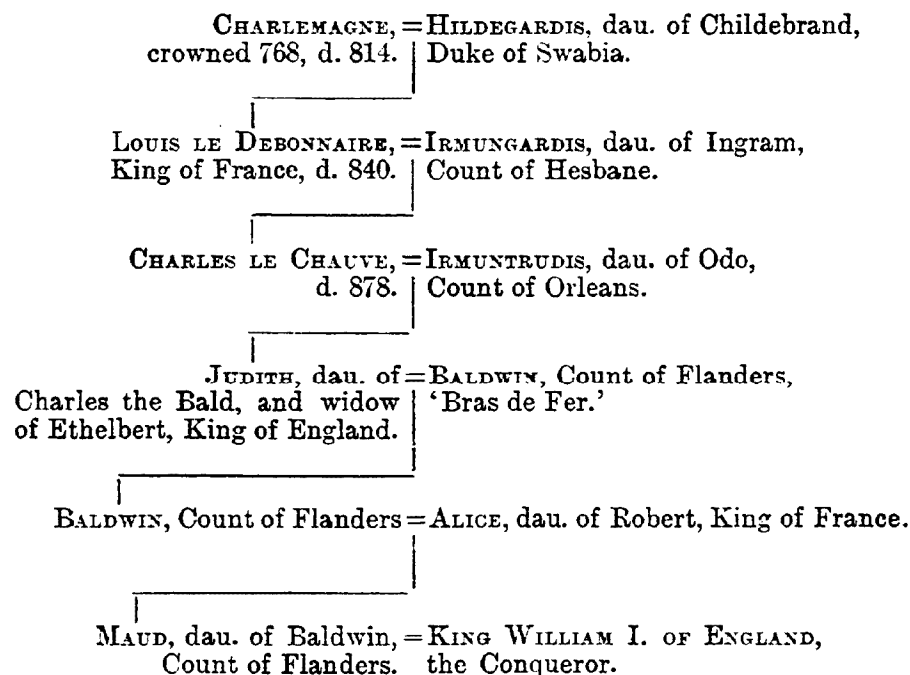
This lady, says Baverstoke (in his genealogical Tables of the Bosville Family, printed in the same pamphlet with 'Some Account of Maidstone in Kent,' published 1832), was descended from William the Conqueror, and in proof thereof gives the following Table (XI):—



# BOSVILLE OF GUNTHWAITE PEDIGREE 237



As Matilda or Maud, daughter of Baldwin, 5th Count of Flanders and wife of William the Conqueror, descended from Charlemagne, this descent also is handed on to the Bosvilles, as follows :—



#### NOTE TO JUDITH, DAUGHTER OF CHARLES LE CHAUVÉ.

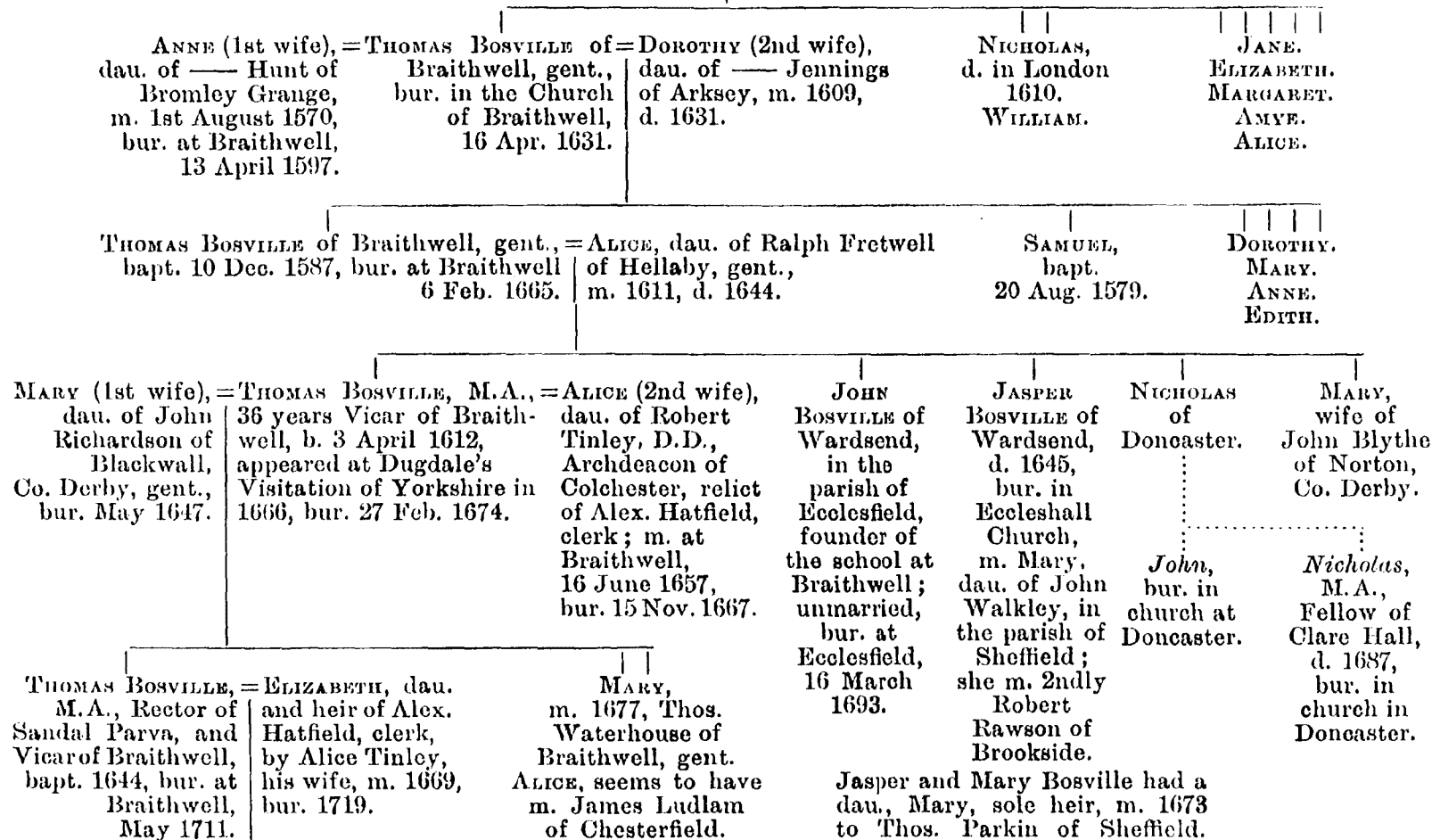
This lady's matrimonial affairs were not dull, to say the least of it. When she was twelve years old she was married to King Ethelwulf of England, and on his death, presumably soon afterwards, she became the wife of his son Ethelbald<sup>1</sup>—she was thus both step-mother and sister-in-law to the great King Alfred of England. But Baldwin Bras de Fer carried her off forcibly and made her Countess of Flanders.

<sup>1</sup> Not Ethelbert (another son), as Baverstoke says.

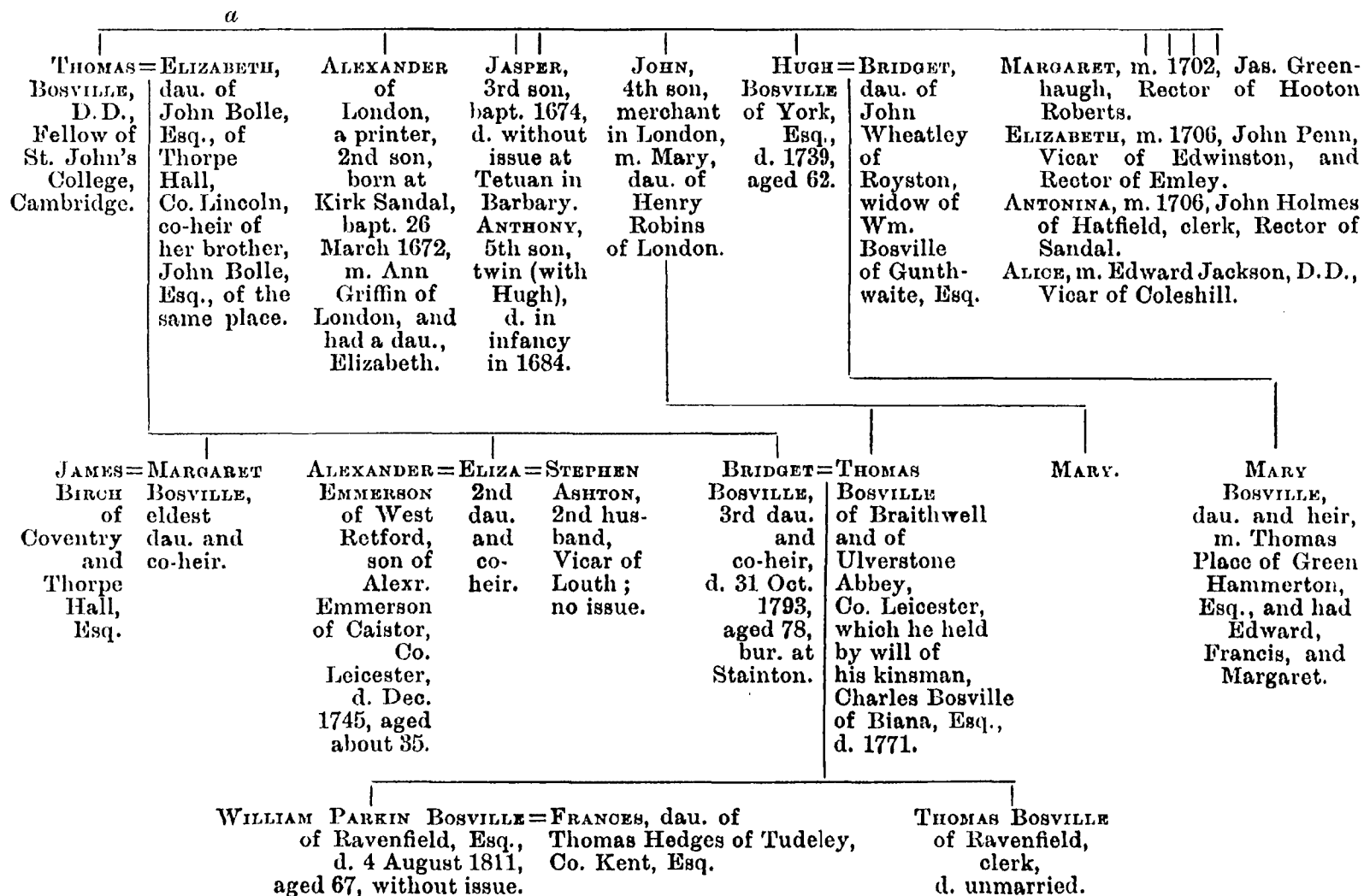
# BOSVILLE OF BRAITHWELL PEDIGREE

*Arms*—Argent, five fusils in fess gules, in chief three mullets sable.

JAMES BOSVILLE of Stainton, = ELIZABETH, dau. of — Chaloner,  
made his will 6 January 1537, proved same year. executrix to her husband's will.



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## APPENDIX II

### COPY OF A PAPER CALLED 'A RENTALL OF CAPTAIN BOSVILLE'S ESTATE FOR MAR- TINMAS 1722.'

#### GUNTHWAITE

	£	s.	d.	Land Tax	£	s.	d.
Francis Ellison . . .	13	07	02		0	9	4½
John Horn . . .	05	17	09		0	3	9
Thomas Walshaw . . .	07	05	00		0	4	6
Jim France . . .	01	13	09		0	0	0
John Lockwood . . .	09	03	08½	{	0	3	7
					0	3	6
John Rich . . .	01	07	06		0	0	10½
Wm. Gaunt . . .	13	15	06		0	8	1
John Kilner . . .	09	05	06		0	6	6
Joseph Archer . . .	02	07	06		0	1	6
Widow Micklethwaite . . .	02	00	00		0	1	3
	66	03	04½		1	19	7

#### SMAWDS

Land Tax . . .	2	5	0
To Sir R. Ashton . . .	6	0	0
To Mrs. W <sup>m</sup> Tempest . . .	0	2	6
Window Tax . . .	0	7	6
Richard Elterbeck . . .	38	17	6
Anthony Hewes . . .	3	12	6
	0	0	0

## ROTSEY

	£	s.	d.	Land Tax	£	s.	d.
Wm. Atkinson . . .	4	05	00	01	10	0	

## NEW HALL

Joseph Methley . . .	32	10	00	1	1	6	
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## DENBY

Samuel Micklethwaite . . .	03	10	03	0	2	3	
Elihu Dickison . . .	02	06	03	0	1	10	
Henry Marsden . . .	04	05	00	0	2	7	
Ab: Wood . . .	07	00	03	0	4	7	
Tobias Mallison . . .	07	03	06	0	3	11	
And for Wood . . .					5	0	
And for New House . . .				0	0	11	
Jonathan Gaunt . . .	03	02	09	0	2	0	
Joseph Gaunt . . .	06	06	01	0	4	6	
John Robinson . . .	00	05	00	0	0	0	
John Norton . . .	03	04	06	0	1	9	
John Ward . . .	02	11	09	0	1	8	
Joseph Norton . . .	01	00	03	0	0	7	
John Kilner . . .	02	05	03	0	1	9	
Joshua Gaunt . . .	03	00	03	0	2	1	
Joseph Thewlis . . .	02	00	03	0	1	5	
Widdow Beaumont . . .	09	09	06	0	5	9	
John Horn . . .	11	15	03	0	5	0	
	70	06	01	2	7	7	

## CAPTAIN BOSVILLE'S ESTATE

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## CAWTHORNE

	£	s.	d.	Land Tax	£	s.	d.
William Green . . .	0	05	00	0	0	0	
Mary Sykes . . .	04	10	03	0	2	10	
Nat: Bower . . .	07	10	03	0	5	4	
Emor Rich . . .	06	15	03	0	4	4	
Thomas Walton . . .	04	10	03	0	3	4	
John Shirt . . .	03	08	03	0	2	0	
Jim: Shirt . . .	02	08	03	0	1	0	
Richard Dobson . . .	03	17	03	0	2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	
John Wainwright . . .	04	15	03	0	3	2	
Lionel Hawksworth . . .	00	18	03	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	
John Longley . . .	00	12	09	0	0	5	
Jonathan Street . . .	01	17	03	0	1	2	
John Swift . . .	01	15	00	0	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Rd: Frith . . .	01	15	00	0	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Joseph Field { more for S'y	26	00	06	0	17	4	
{ Wood . . .				0	8	2	
John Rich . . .	07	05	03	0	4	8	
	<u>78</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>7<math>\frac{3}{4}</math></u>	

## OXSPRING

Francis Wood Senior . . .	07	08	00 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	4	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
John Wilkinson . . .	09	01	03	0	6	10	
John Earnshaw . . .	04	07	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	3	2	
William Earnshaw . . .	02	14	06	0	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Margaret Swift, Widdow	03	13	10	0	2	8	
John Balmforth . . .	04	13	00 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	3	2	
Jonas Cook . . .	07	11	08 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Wm. Wordsworth . . .	05	00	05 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	3	9	

	£	s.	d.	Land Tax	£	s.	d.
John Street . . .	07	11	03	0	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Rbt Goddard . . .	2	10	05	0	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Martin Stanley . . .	17	07	00	0	3	2	
				0	9	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
				0	0	9	
John Pashley . . .	05	01	00	0	3	9	
Jonathan Chatterton . . .	02	00	06	0	1	6	
	79	00	11	2	17	8	

## ROUGH BIRCHWORTH

Richard Ellis . . .	07	00	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
More upon ye Account of							
Walling . . .	00	02	06				
Rbt Camm . . .	05	00	08	0	3	9	
John Parkin . . .	04	05	06	0	3	2	
Francis Wood, junior . . .	00	09	00				
	16	18	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	12	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	

## MIDDOP

Jonathan Woodhouse . . .	03	03	04	0	3	8	
Ben Downing . . .	11	05	00	0	11	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
John Charlesworth . . .	11	05	00	0	11	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Jim Charlesworth . . .	03	00	00	0	3	0	
Samuel Ellis . . .	22	10	00	1	1	7	
Joseph Woodhouse . . .	03	13	00	0	3	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Joseph Hawley . . .	03	00	00	0	3	0	
Nic: Walker . . .	06	05	00	0	6	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	
	64	13	4	3	4	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	

## CAPTAIN BOSVILLE'S ESTATE 245

## COTTAGE AND CHIEF RENTS—GUNTHTWAITE

	£	s.	d.
Rebecca Brooksbank . . . . .	00	01	00

## DENBY CHIEF RENTS

Joseph Mossley . . . . .	00	03	07 $\frac{1}{4}$
Joseph Thewlis for Mason's land . . . . .	00	03	00 $\frac{1}{4}$
Richard Marshal . . . . .	00	00	03 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mrs. Ann Haigh de Aldermanshead . . . . .	00	00	03 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>		
	00	07	02 $\frac{1}{2}$

## OXSPRING COTTAGE RENTS

Edward Bramhall . . . . .	0	1	9
Ab: Gawthrop . . . . .	0	2	6
John Sylverwood . . . . .	0	2	0
Rbt Wordsworth . . . . .	0	0	9
Wm Wordsworth . . . . .	0	1	3
Jane Hall and ye Overseer . . . . .	0	2	0
Rbt Moor . . . . .	0	0	9
	<hr/>		
	0	11	0

## OXSPRING AND ROUGHBIRCHWORTH ETC.

## CHIEF RENTS

*paid once a year at Martinmas*

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Senyor, Land . . . . .	0	4	0
Mr. Green, Land in Oxspring, late Ellison's . . . . .	0	1	6
Rbt Wild of Wickersley for Wrath-house late Wordsworth . . . . .	0	0	9

	£	s.	d.
John Wordsworth of Snowden-hill for land there . . . . .	0	0	1
The Heirs of John Greaves of Hallfield for land in Hunshelf called Dunning House	0	1	4
Mr. Wilson of Broomhead for lands in Thurlstone late Beever's . . . . .	0	6	4
Francis Battye for Land there . . . . .	0	6	4
Th <sup>o</sup> Haigh for Land there . . . . .	0	0	4½
Josias Saunderson for Land there . . . . .	0	0	4½
W <sup>m</sup> Haigh for Senyor's Land there . . . . .	0	0	4½
Richard Wordsworth of Wortley for Allen House and Land in Carlecoats . . . . .	0	2	1
John Rich for Reynold-Stones and Land there . . . . .	0	1	0
Ralph Marsden of Carlecoats for L <sup>d</sup> there	0	1	0
W <sup>m</sup> Marsden for Middlecliffe and Illands	0	0	8
John Pearson for Mr. Wentworth's Land in Rough-Birchworth . . . . .	0	6	2
	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4½</u>
Joseph Broadhead for Roper's land in Hun- shelf and Bradfield . Two Broad-headed Arrows.			
John Wordsworth of Softley for Land there and Roughbirthworth . A Thwittle.			
Thomas Firth of Shepley for Land in Carle-coates . . . A pair of White Gloves			

## MIDDOP COTTAGE RENTS

Jonathan Hadfield . . . . .	0	5	6
John Morton . . . . .	0	0	8
Joseph Platt . . . . .	0	1	9

## CAPTAIN BOSVILLE'S ESTATE 247

	£	s.	d.
John Shaw . . . . .	0	5	6
Nic: Hawley . . . . .	0	0	6
Ann Wordsworth . . . . .	0	4	3
Wm Thompson . . . . .	0	5	6
George Swallow 5 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> , Chappell Intacks 3 <sup>d</sup>	0	5	9
Mr. George Walker . . . . .	0	2	6
	<hr/>		
	1	11	11
	<hr/>		

Isaac Wordsworth of Brook-house. . A red rose  
 Mr. Fenton of Underbank for Turbary in  
   Langset . . . . . A red rose  
 Mr. Nicholas Stead for More Hall . . A red rose  
 George Crawshaw of Bolsterstone for  
   Peasebloom Close . . . . . A pepper-corn  
 The cottage and Chief Rents in Middop and Lang-  
   side are collected by Jonathan Woodhouse.

## PENNYSTON MANOUR COPPYHOLD RTS

*Paid once a year, at St. Thomas's Day 1722*

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Josyas Wordsworth of Water-Hall .	0	5	7
Elyas Wordsworth of Gravills . . .	0	5	4
Timothy Ellis of Hornthwaite and John	0	6	0
Battie of Thurlstone for Mr. Elkanah			
Rich's land . . . . .			
Emor Rich of Cawthran for land at ye			
Wood-end . . . . .	0	3	6

	£	s.	d.
John Saunderson of Walton for y <sup>e</sup> Syke .	0	0	7
Thomas Marsh of Roydfield-house for Mrs. Morton . . . . .	0	10	0
John Wordsworth of Schole-hill for Mr. Eaton's land . . . . .	0	2	6
Richard Marsden of y <sup>e</sup> Chappel for y <sup>e</sup> said Chapel . . . . .	0	10	0
For y <sup>e</sup> Calf-Croft . . . . .	0	1	0
For Mr. Rich for Hasle tofts. . . . .	0	0	10
John Greaves of Penniston . . . . .	0	1	6
	<hr/>		
	2	6	10
	<hr/>		

## MIDDOP CHIEF RENTS

*Paid once a year at Whitsuntide 1723*

Emor Rich sen of Yate hous . . . . .	00	10	06
More for Intacks . . . . .	00	03	04
More for part of John Wainwright's land . . . . .	00	03	06
Th <sup>os</sup> Hattersley de Middop . . . . .	00	03	00
More for Beighton land . . . . .	00	00	06
Ralph Marsden de Middop . . . . .	00	04	11
John Greaves de Middop . . . . .	00	04	06
W <sup>m</sup> Greaves de Rowlee for Oakes . . . . .	00	02	00
Stephen West de Lane . . . . .	00	10	00
George Saunderson of Middop for his watering place in y <sup>e</sup> Hagg . . . . .	00	00	02
	<hr/>		
	02	02	05
	<hr/>		

## LANGSETT COTTAGE RENTS

*Pd. once a year and due at Whitsuntide 1723*

	£	s.	d.
Widdow Kay . . . . .	00	10	00
Jh <sup>o</sup> Platt . . . . .	00	01	00
Widdow Smith . . . . .	00	00	04
Jonathan Battye. . . . .	00	00	04
Reginald Marsden . . . . .	00	00	04
John Fieldsend . . . . .	00	00	04
Widdow Hinchliffe . . . . .	00	00	04
	<hr/>		
	00	12	08
	<hr/>		

## LANGSET CHIEF RENTS

*Paid once a year, due Whitsuntide 1723*

Francis Mortyman for Mr. Watson Land			
de Boulton . . . . .	00	00	02
Ralph Marsden and Stephen West feoffees			
for y <sup>e</sup> Royd in Langset belonging to			
Middop Chappell . . . . .	00	00	02
	<hr/>		
	00	00	04
	<hr/>		

Note by Mr. Dransfield, who printed above in a collection of papers for the *History of Peniston* :—

‘A lease from Captain Bosville to Mr. Abraham Wood, dated Jany. 31st, 1715, of 15 acres of land in Denby for £14—0—6 a year would show the rental to be 8/ per acre.’

The Land Tax evidently amounted to one shilling in the pound sterling.

## APPENDIX III

### ‘LADY MACDONALD’S WEDDING CLOATHS 1768.’ FROM A LIST AT THORPE WRITTEN AT GUNTHTWAITE BY HER MOTHER, MRS. BOSVILLE.

17½ y <sup>ds</sup> Silver ground Silver & flowers	
£3, 3/ . . . . .	£55= 2=6
22 y <sup>ds</sup> blue Brocaded Lustring 12/ .	13= 4=0
21 y <sup>ds</sup> White with Sattin Spots 8/ .	8=12=0
18½ y <sup>ds</sup> White and Gold Striped Gold	
Broc <sup>d</sup> 22/6 . . . . .	20=10=0
Making a Silver Suit of Cloaths . .	1= 1=0
Stomacher & sleeve knots made with	
silver net & flowers. . . . .	2=13=0
Silver trimming for Robings, Sleeves &c.	4= 9=2
Making a Gold Sack . . . . .	1= 1=0
Stomacher knots of gold fringe to trim it	3= 3=0
Green Bays to wrap them in . . .	0= 5=0
Making a White Sack petticoat and	
Waistcoat . . . . .	1=11=6
3 y <sup>ds</sup> of Cloth 5 doz & ½ Trimming at 5/6	
p. doz . . . . .	1=14=3
Making a Flower’d Sack & petticoat .	1= 1=0
5 doz: Trimm <sup>s</sup> at 9 <sup>s</sup> per Doz & 1 y <sup>d</sup> of	
persian . . . . .	2= 7=0
Cambrick 10 <sup>s</sup> per y <sup>d</sup> . . . . .	1= 5=7
peice of Cambrick for pocket Hand <sup>s</sup> .	3= 0=0

# LADY MACDONALD'S WEDDING CLOATHS 251

1 peice of Diaper . . . . .	£0=18=0
15 y <sup>ds</sup> & half of Corded Dimitty for petticoats . . . . .	1=11=0
3 pair of Dimothy Pockets . . . . .	0=15=0
2 Quilted Bedgowns . . . . .	2= 8=0
2 flannel petticoats . . . . .	0=13=0
Ticken Stay . . . . .	0=19=6
Long cane french Hoop & Bag for suit of Cloaths . . . . .	1=13=6
a Silver Girdle 6/6 gold for Shoes . . . . .	0=18=7
a pink Sarsnet Quilted Coat . . . . .	1=16=0
Silver shape for Shoes & trimming . . . . .	0=14=3
Sattin Shoes 3 pair & Making . . . . .	1= 7=6
a pair of Stone Buckles . . . . .	4= 4=0
a pair of Silver Buckles . . . . .	0=17=6
	<hr/>
	129=15=9
	<hr/>

[This is the end of Mrs. Bosville's first large sheet. Here begins the second—the addition is hers.]

Milliner's Bill for Lace, y <sup>e</sup> . . . . .	49=17=6½
a pair of Double Chainstitch Ruffles . . . . .	1= 6=0
a pair of Tribble Ditto . . . . .	2= 2=0
2 pair of Jesuite Ruffles . . . . .	1=16=6
2 fans one 18 <sup>s</sup> , the other 10 <sup>s</sup> =6 <sup>d</sup> . . . . .	1= 8=6
Black Silk Apron . . . . .	0=16=0
Silk & thread Stockings . . . . .	3= 9=0
a White Sarsnet Cloak & Hatt full trimm <sup>d</sup> with Blonde . . . . .	3=16=0
a Mignonette Handkerchief . . . . .	0=15=0
a fine Mignonette Handkerchief . . . . .	1=13=0

252 THE FORTUNES OF A FAMILY

12 Holland Shifts 7 <sup>s</sup> per ell	.	.	£7= 6=11
Sleeves	.	.	9= 9=0
2 ells of Lace for Little Ruffles	.	.	0= 9=0
6 Night Shifts	.	.	4= 1=0
Making & Marking 18 shifts	.	.	1= 9=5
Combs & Brush	.	.	0= 5=6

*Note.*—There is another list at Thorpe with one or two interesting differences, such as: ‘Lilley’s Bill for Point & Mocklin Lace, £49=17=6½,’ and giving Mantua Maker’s bill, Sack Maker’s bill, and Gubbin’s bill separately, but with no details, and calling the Tribble Ruffles ‘Tambour Tribble Ruffles.’ The cost of the whole is not added up to a total in the original, but the outfit comes altogether to £229, 16s. 2½d.

## APPENDIX IV

### NOTES ON THE HASSELL FAMILY

The following notes on the Hassell family may be of interest, and make references to the different members spoken of in the text clearer. They are taken from MS. notes at Thorpe, signed Thos. Watson, and dated 1st May 1757.

THOMAS HASSELL, = AGNES DE LA MOTTE,  
See Dugdale's *Visitation*, at Malton, Governor of Gravelines.  
28 Aug. 1665.

3rd son, THOMAS, = JULIANA, only dau. of Launcelot Mansfield, in the Co. of Cumberland, Esq.  
became seated at Conistrophe and Easthorpe in N. Riding, Yorks, and was Lord of the Manor and possessed considerable estates at Hutton B..... (name torn off—Bushell.?) He was also of Trimdon, Holdyke and Elvot, in the Co. Durham.  
Her brother was Surveyor General to Queen Elizabeth, and as he had no children by his wife (a dau. of the Lord Eure of Malton), she became his heir (of Hutton-upon-Derwent).  
A daughter, Ann, married John Harrison of Rudston and Wharram Priory, Gent.

SAMUEL HASSELL (eldest son), = MARY, dau. of Christopher Conyers of Hutton-upon-Derwent, Esq.,  
Barrister-at-Law.  
Norton and of Noblesworth in the Co. of Durham.  
A daughter, Mary, mar. Francis Constable of Troutsdale, and had a daughter, Mary, mar. to Allane Lamont of Burton Fleming.

SAMUEL, d. unmarried. RALPH, an alderman of Doncaster, mar. but left no issue.

THOMAS (eldest son), = ELIZABETH, dau. and co-heir of Barney Wood of Hutton-upon-Derwent, and a barrister of Gray's Inn.  
of Thorp in the Co. of York, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

*a*

THOMAS. RALPH. BARNEY. MANSFIELD. D. without issue.	ELIZABETH, = WM. WATSON of Helmsley, and Cockfield Hall, Co. Durham, Esq., Gentleman of the Horse to George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, and likewise one of the Equerries to King Charles the Second, and had issue.
---	---

SAMUEL (eldest son), = (1st) CATHERINE,  
of Hutton-upon-Derwent and Brandesburton, Esq.  
By his 2nd wife, Dorothy,  
widow of John Wyvil of  
Osgodslly, near Scarboro',  
he had no issue.

dau. and co-heir of  
Isaac Fairfax of Thornton,  
No. Riding.

SAMUEL, m. Poirsida, dau. of Mr. Doloman of Lincolnshire. <i>No issue.</i>	CATHERINE, m. (1st), Nathaniel Towray of East Kirby, Yorks. <i>No issue.</i> (2ndly), The Honble. Brigadier-General Luke Lillingston, and had 1 dau., d. young. (3rdly), Sir Richard Osbaldistone of Hunmanby, Bart. (2 daughters). Her Will is at Thorpe.	ELIZABETH, m. Rev. Knowsley of Burton Fleming, Rector of Musgrave, Co. Westmorland. With issue.
--	---	--

THOMAS HASSELL\* (eldest son), = ANN, the 2nd dau. of  
of Thorpe and Sir Matthew Wentworth  
Hutton-upon- of Bretton, Bart.  
Derwent, Esq.,  
d. 1773.

SAMUEL, Bachelor of Law at St. John's College, Cambridge, d. unmarried.	ANN, = Mr. RICHARD MOOR, of Hull. With issue.
---	--

THOMAS HASSELL (eldest son), = ANN,† one of the daughters and co-  
of Thorp and Hutton-upon-Derwent, heirs of Thomas Elwick of Stainforth  
Esq., d. before his father. in the Co. of York, Esq.  
*No issue.*

\*In 1773 this Thomas Hassell left Thorpe, Hutton, Brandesburton, etc., to Godfrey Bosville of New Hall, Gunthwaite, etc., who had married the niece of his wife, Diana Wentworth, daughter of Sir William Wentworth of Bretton, Bt., brother of Mrs. Ann Hassell.

*Note to Ann Hassell, née Elwick*

†In a letter to Thomas Hassell from his son-in-law R. Moor, written at Hull and dated 24th April 1746, we read that poor Mrs. Hassell has become ‘quite distracted’; that Apothecary and Doctor have both been employed in vain; that she must be removed and her mother, Mrs. Elwick, informed. (Her husband was already evidently dead.)

The letter continues, ‘I congratulate you on the good news of the brave Duke of Cumberland’s success in the North, of which we this day received an express.’ He had enclosed a copy of this express, but it is not with the letter. How differently the news of Culloden affected hearers in the North !



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