

WAS WILLIAM OF WYKEHAM OF THE FAMILY OF SWALCLIFFE?

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It is known to all who have taken an interest in William of Wykeham that there has been much doubt and controversy on the subject of his origin and family. I feel that some apology is due from me for again calling attention to a question which has been repeatedly agitated before, namely, whether he was or was not connected with the family of that name at Swalcliffe in Oxfordshire. I will therefore state my reasons for venturing to do so. In examining the previous controversies on this subject, it is evident that much stress has been laid on the armorial bearings. The right to bear the arms which were used by William of Wykeham has been asserted; it has been exercised from a very remote period; it has been repeatedly allowed by the Heralds' College to that family. It was, however, disputed by Glover the Somerset Herald, in Queen Elizabeth's reign. Upon this point I have met with a good deal of fresh information; and this forms my chief reason for again calling attention to this question. I am not, however, wholly responsible for the revival of the discussion: for a series of papers was published in the *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*,<sup>a</sup> a few years ago, illustrative of the two attempts which have been made to establish the claims of the Wykehams of Swalcliffe as founder's kin, which I cannot but consider (as one of that family) a fair challenge to renewed discussion; more especially as the contributor concludes by a deliberate expression of opinion on the question so long at issue.

It is true that the question has lost much of its practical importance to us, as connected with the right of being admitted to Winchester School, and New College at Oxford, as founder's kin, from the circumstance that the great-grandfather of Lady Wenman—the present head of the family—married Vere Alicia

<sup>a</sup> Vol. ii. pp. 225—245, 368—387; and vol. iii. pp. 178—239, 345—376.

Fiennes, the sister and co-heiress of Richard Fiennes, sixth and last Viscount Say and Sele, and acquired through that connection an acknowledged claim to that privilege. Nevertheless, the interest remains as a point of antiquarian curiosity; and the natural pride remains of claiming as one of our race so great and so good a man. And I think the removal of personal interest from this contention will naturally have a favourable effect upon the spirit in which both sides will approach the consideration of the question, assuming, as it now does, the form of a mere historical and antiquarian inquiry.

The fresh matter I have to introduce will hardly be intelligible without a slight sketch of the two previous controversies.

In 1570, Humphry Wykeham of Swalcliffe offered one of his sons at Winchester for election as of kin to the founder. His pretensions were favourably regarded by a portion of the electors, but resisted by the others. The case was referred to the Duke of Norfolk, Lord High Marshall of England, who, however, died without pronouncing a decision. A second attempt was made in 1572, and the point was on this occasion referred to Lord Burghley, who appointed Dr. Lewis and Dr. Aubrey, civilians, and Somerset Herald, to hear the allegations of Sir Richard Fiennes and Humphry Wykeham.

The report made to Lord Burghley by these commissioners was, in substance, as follows:—

First. They found on behalf of Humphry Wykeham, that there was a Sir Robert Wykeham at Swalcliffe in the second year of Edward I., from whom Humphry was descended.

Secondly. That by an old deed of entail which was exhibited, Swalcliffe was settled upon Katharine, wife of Robert Wykeham, the fourth in descent from this Sir Robert, with remainder to Thomas Wykeham for life, remainder to Richard Wykeham in tail, with a further remainder to William Wykeham, *cousin to the said Thomas and Richard*. They observe that it is inferred (*i. e.* by Humphry Wykeham) that this William Wykeham was the bishop, because there is no other William Wykeham recorded as having lived about that time; and the date of the entail was in accordance with this supposition, the age of the bishop being then about 36 years.

Thirdly. A roll of account is noticed which contains the expenses of one Richard Wykeham at New College, in the 2nd

of Richard II. (1379), he being at that time a Master of Arts, and the expenses being defrayed by William of Wykeham. This person Humphry Wykeham supposes to have been the Richard Wykeham mentioned in the deed of entail, there being only 17 or 18 years between the deed and the roll.

Also, in the 17th of Richard II. John Wykeham was admitted a scholar at Winchester as founder's kin, and in the 3rd Henry IV. Thomas Wykeham was admitted Fellow of New College, also as founder's kin. These persons Humphry Wykeham supposes to have been the Thomas Wykeham named in the entail, and his brother John, called in another instrument John Wykeham of Sheningdon.

Fifthly. There was one Perceval Wykeham admitted scholar at Winchester in the 16th of Henry VI. (1436-7) *as of the blood of the Bishop, and as of Swalcliffe*, and it appeared by a deed of entail made in the 5th of Edward IV. (1465) that Thomas Wykeham great-grandfather of Humphry had a brother called Perceval, who is also mentioned in the will of the same Thomas Wykeham, which was proved in 1465. There being only 22 years between the admission and the will, it was inferred that this was the Perceval Wykeham so elected at Winchester.

Sixthly. It was shown that William of Wykeham was "in his lifetime" parson of Swalcliffe, of which the Wykehams, residing there, were the patrons, and that the advowson was inappropriated to New College during his life.

They conclude by stating that Humphry Wykeham claims the arms used by the bishop, but they express no opinion on this point.

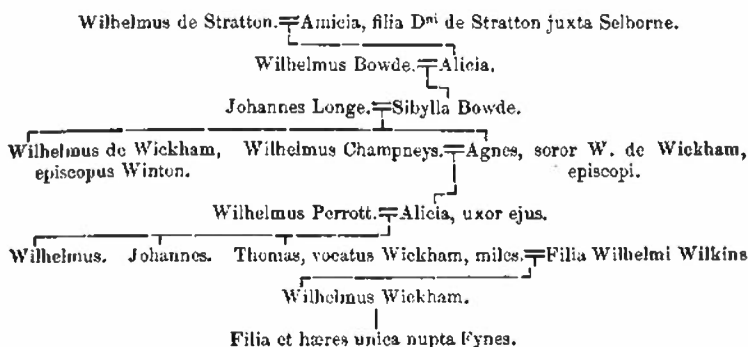
The points on which they lay most stress are the cases of Richard Wykeham, who was maintained at New College by the bishop, and of Perceval Wykeham, who was admitted as founder's kin at Winchester, and who was described in the books there as of Swalcliffe. As to Richard, I think that Lowth is right in considering him to have been of the Hampshire family, and I think he is also right in considering John and Thomas to have been the bishop's great-nephews, *i. e.* the sons of his niece Alice Perrott. I do not mean to press these cases, nor those of several other persons of the name of Wykeham, who have been recognised as kinsmen of the bishop at New College or at Winchester; but I attach much importance to that of John Wyke-

ham, which I shall notice by and by, and who is *described as of Swalcliffe, and as of kin to the founder*, in 1403, in the books at Winchester. I shall, however, draw the same inference which Bishop Lowth draws, from the fact that the bishop had so many undoubted relations of his own name, namely, that it affords a considerable presumption that that designation was that of his family rather than that of his native place.<sup>b</sup>

The objections of Sir R. Fiennes seem to have consisted first of the pedigree, of which the leading features are added, but of which, for the present, the most material point is the circumstance that the bishop's father is there termed John Longe; secondly, of the fact that the bishop does not name the Wykehams of Swalcliffe in his will; thirdly, in his not calling Thomas Wykeham of Swalcliffe his kinsman in a power of attorney, in which he gives that designation to his own great-nephew, Sir Thomas Wickham; and lastly, in the fact that Percyvall Wykeham, though stated to be of Swalcliffe in the book of swearing, is not called so in the admission book. I merely notice the last objection because I find it noticed by the commissioners; but it is hardly worth noticing, because, in addition to the circumstance that no one could suppose he would have been described as of Swalcliffe, in either place, if he were not entitled to be so described, it was shewn by numerous extracts from the admission-book, in the second controversy, that it was not usual to notice the birthplace in the admission-book; the omission, therefore, is wholly immaterial. As to the second and third objections, it will also be sufficient to say, that the connection we suppose to have existed between our family at that day and William of Wykeham was not sufficiently close to warrant the application of the word cousin, or the expectation of any notice in the will, more especially as it will be seen, on reference to that document, that those who were nearly related

<sup>b</sup> Lowth adds to the list, Nicholas Wykeham, Warden of New College, John Wykeham, Rector of Maple Durham, William Wykeham, another son of his niece Alice Perrott, and a kinsman named John Fyvyen, who, like his nephews the Perrotts, relinquished his own name for that of Wykeham; adding "Both these instances seem to make it still more probable that it was something more than a casual name taken from the place of his birth." It is right that I should add that Bishop Lowth's leaning on the whole is against our claim, and in favour of the pedigree which I am about to describe. I think, however, that I shall show good reason for attaching little importance to that document before I conclude.

were very numerous. The first and main objection, viz., the pedigree, deserves to be more carefully considered. It is as follows :



But when we come to examine even this we discover that, although it is contained in one of the early statute books of the college, it is merely *written at the end*, and forms no portion of the authoritative part of that document. It is not known when or by whom it was inserted ; but it specifies the fact that Sir Thomas Wykeham, the great-nephew of the bishop (who survived his great-uncle about 32 years), and both his brothers, were dead. This, as the bishop was 80 when he died, brings it down to at least 112 years after his birth. It therefore hardly bears out, when its authority is sifted, the expressions of the commissioners where they observe, after weighing the statements of both sides, "Yet, were not the credit of the said statute-book great, and not compatible with the tytle of Humfrey Wickham's prooffes, although grounded upon conjectures, presumptions, and probabilities, such as they bee, would sufficiently establish and prove his intent in this matter." (Coll. Top. et Geneal. ii. 238.)

On the contrary, it should rather be looked upon with suspicion than with confidence, when we consider how common it is for persons who have a fancy that they can write, but very small pretensions to real talent or information, to endeavour to exhibit their skill in anonymous efforts of this kind. The very style of the pedigree will, I think, stamp it rather with this character than with that of an authoritative document. It commences thus—

"Reverendi in Christo domini Willielmi Wikeham nuper Episcopi Winton' originem literis traditurus ex verbis beatissimi Petri apostolorum principis sumo exordium, qui beati centurionis

fidem admirans in veritate inquit, Comperi quia non est personarum acceptor Deus, sed in omni gente qui timet Deum et operatur justitiam acceptus est ei. In omni itaque ætate in omni ordine in omni gradu novit Dominus qui sunt ejus, et miseretur cui voluerit, et misericordiam præstat cui placuerit, attingens a fine usque ad finem fortiter, et disponens omnia suaviter; neque enim sui ipsius natura vel paupertas præstant vel adimunt divitiæ Divinam gratiam. Fuit igitur de quo loqui disposui Will'mus Wikham christianæ professionis hæres apud oppidum de Wikham in comitatu Southampton. felici momento enixus. Et sic a loco nomen assumpsit, et nomen cum loco elogio perpetuo decoravit. Cujus ortus primordia ex parte matris nomine Sibyllæ generosa prosapia natalibus legibus insignivit: pater vero Johannes nomine, progenitorum libertate dotatus, honestum moribus et gesturis se omnibus exhibebat. O quam felices non opibus sed virtutibus; O quam generosa chastitas cum charitate!" It goes on to say—"Alicia quæ fuit soror Johannis Long, patris Will'mi Wikeham," &c., and gives an account of the collateral relations of the bishop, using in one place the expression *secundum quosdam*, and in another *secundum alios*, which would rather point to *common rumour* as its authority.

To continue the sketch of the first controversy: Glover, the Somerset Herald, also made his report to Lord Burghley, which is given at length in the *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*. After alluding to the argument *ab identitate nominis*, and quoting the pedigree alluded to above, in which the bishop's father is called John Longe, he proceeds as follows upon the second argument, *ab identitate armorum*:—

"The second argument, *ab identitate armorum*, yf it were as well proved as it was by the sayd Humfrey Wykham aptly alleadged, it would helpe much to the prooffe of his intent, because the text sayeth: Sicut identitas cognominis inducit præsumptionem agnationis, et cetera, ita etiam identitas armorum inducit præsumptionem agnationis aut cognationis; which is fortified by this reason: quoniam sicut nomina imponuntur aut reperta sunt ad cognoscendos homines, ita etiam arma seu insignia adinventata sunt ad cognoscendas familias et agnationes.

"The sayd Humfrey [sayeth] that those armes which the bishopp used were the armes of his family, and that they do stand and are to be seene for such in the glass windows of the

parish church of Swalcliff, wher he now dwelleth, and his auncestors having boren armes by prerogative of their race, whereof two in descent have been knightes, he knew, he sayed, no other armes for his name but those. Whereunto Sir Rich. Fynes did reply, and sayd, 'That ther are also in the sayd parish church of Swaclif other arms for the name of Wykham, videlt of Ermyne, a bordure gules, replenished with molettes gould ; which the sayd Humfrey would in no wyse grant to be the proper coate for his name, but sayd that these wer the armes of the Counts of Tanquarvill, of which house (as he sayd) he is descended. Moreover the sayd Humfrey claymed those armes which the sayd bishopp used, as confirmed and allowed unto him by Mr. Hervey the late Clarentieulx, and by Mr. Clarentieulx that now is, under their handes. And it may be, because the sayd Humfrey is an auncient gentleman, and descended of knyghtes that were of his house and lordes of the mannor of Swaclif before king Edward the Third's tyme, and before the sayd bisshoppe was borne, that Mr. Hervey and Mr. Clarentieulx that now is did think the bisshoppe to have been descended owte of the house of Swaclif, and that those armes which he used had been the armes of the Wykhams of Swacliff; what other cause might move him to allow unto the sayd Humfrey those the sayd bisshoppes armes, it is to me unknown.'

"Touching this argument I note that the sayd bisshoppe bore his armes diversely at two sundry tymes, as the seales thereof shewed by Sir R. Fynes do testify. Before he was bisshoppe, when as yet he was but Archdeacon of Lincolne, he sealed with one cheveron in his armes between three roses; but after, when he was advanced to the bisshoppricke, he sealed with two cheverons between three roses; and so are generally known to this day to have been his withoute contradiction. The sayd Humfrey hath not yet made proof that any of his auncestors did use either the one or the other of these two coates. But that other coate of armes with the field ermyn which Sir R. Fynes did put him in mynde of and which he refuseth for his owne is to be seen in divers books in the office of armes with the onely inscription of the name of Wykham, without any addition of place, and are ther found to be of as greate or greater antiquity than those the bisshoppes armes.

"It hath ben demanded of me by the sayd learned menne whe-

the armes which the sayd bishoppe used were given unto him in respect of his dignity episcopall, or were boren by him before, as receyved from his auncestry and race. Whereunto I could not answer affirmatively, because I had never seene matter of the first allowance of them. But having read certayne learned wryters' opinions of the sayde bishoppe, which do agree in this, that he was *humilis conditionis*, and that he was called Wickham *a loco unde natus est, et non a parentibus*, as it is also affirmed in the chapitre of his lyf before alledged, wherein also his father, called John, is sayd to be *progenitorum libertate dotatus*, and he himself by Ranulph monk of Chester being noted to be a *libertinus, vel a libertino patre natus*, I was moved to think (as I told them) that those armes came not to him by descent. And, agayne, behouldinge the armes sometyme with one and then after with two chevrons, '*quæ quidem signa per carpentarios et domorum factores olim portabantur*,' as Nicholas Upton wryteth; and comparing them with the quality of the berar, who is sayd to have had his chief preferment for his skill in architecture, '*erat enim regi Edwardo in principio a fabricis, eo quod erat ingeniosus et architecturâ delectatus*,' as D. Caius maketh mention in his book de Antiquitate Cantabrigiensis Academiæ, I was also induced to think, *per conjecturam heraldicam*, that the bisshoppe himselve was the first bearer of them."

I will just observe in passing that it is principally to the arguments contained in this report that I wish to draw attention, as it is chiefly with reference to them that I have fresh matter to bring forward.

The following extracts from the books at Winchester and New College are certified by Robert Cooke, Clarencieux King of Armes, and Hugh Cotgrave, Richmond Herald:—

In one prothocall book of the New Colledg in Oxford, fol. 47 (addressed to the founder).

"Item, Magister Johannes Curtisius in jure civili bachalaureus et in loco civilistæ (ut præmittitur) in forma superius recitata examinatus, magistrum Johannem Wickham, vestrum venerabilem consanguineum et quondam collegii vestri consocium, in artibus reverendum magistrum, sacre theologiæ studentem, ad custodis officium nominavit."

Item in an ancient roll of account made of the expenses of the poore schollers of William Wickham, Bp. of Winton:—



“Item in expensis magistri Richardi Wickham cognati domini fundatoris pro minutis necessariis eidem emendis, x<sup>li</sup> ij<sup>d</sup> ob., &c.”

In the prothocall book of the New Colledg is found as followeth:—

“Nicholaus Wickham primus custos collegii Oxon in Winton [*legendum* Winton in Oxon.] admissus anno Ric. 2<sup>d</sup> 17<sup>o</sup>.”

“Thomas Wickham de sanguine d<sup>ni</sup> fundatoris socius collegii anno d<sup>ni</sup> 1403.”

In the prothocall book of Winchester is found as followeth:—

“Johannes Wickham de sanguine domini fundatoris dioceseos Winton admissus est anno Ricardi 2<sup>d</sup> 17<sup>o</sup>.”

“Richardus Wickham Winton dioceseos admissus est anno Henrici 4<sup>ti</sup> 2<sup>o</sup>.”

“Johannes Wickham de Swaclif *de sanguine domini fundatoris* admissus est anno Henrici 4<sup>ti</sup> 4<sup>o</sup>.”

“Johannes Wickham de Sarum admissus est anno Henrici 5<sup>ti</sup> 5<sup>to</sup>.”

“Rogerus Wickham de Oxon admissus est anno Henrici 6<sup>ti</sup> 6<sup>to</sup>.”

“Percevallus Wickham de Swacliff in com. Oxon, Lincoln dioceseos, *de sanguine domini fundatoris*, admissus est anno Henrici 6<sup>ti</sup> 16<sup>to</sup>.”

“Hunfredus Wickham (adhuc vivens) de Swaclif, in com. Oxon., Lincoln. dioceseos, admissus est anno Henrici 8<sup>ti</sup>. xxxvj<sup>to</sup>. et ætatis suæ xvj<sup>to</sup>.”

The foregoing is a summary of the documents which produced a letter from Lord Burghley to Dr. Culpeper, warden of New College, in Oxford, in which he says:—

“I have sett down an order, not defynitively, but such as seemed upon matter shewed unto me in myne opinion very reasonable and equal, and delivered the same to Mr. Kingesmille, her Ma<sup>ties</sup> Attorney in the Courte of Wardes, as a frinde to young Fynes, her Ma<sup>ties</sup> warde; soe that I can not presently send it unto you as I would, and as this gentleman, Mr. Wickham, the bearer hereof, hath greatly desyred. Yet, neverthesse, understandinge by him that the election is neare at hande, and that he expecteth some preferment at this tyme in that colledg for somme of his in respect of bloode, I have thought good at his earnest request thus much to write unto you of that I remember in my said order did seeme unto me very reasonable and congruent.

That, forasmuch as it did certeynly and very evidently appeare unto me that Syr Richard Fynes and his be of the lyne and bloode of the sayd bisshopp, and divers prooffis in apparance were produced by this gentleman, Mr. Wickham, that he should be of the same blood also, although not in soe evident a sorte as Sir R. Fynes for his bloode, you shall doe well in myne opinion to make allowance of such as shall be of the bloode of this gentleman, Mr. Humfrey Wickham, if he shall present unto you such as shall be for other respects qualesfyed according to your statutes; and as soon as I shall receive the writinge delivered unto Mr. Kingesmill, which I conceived with their advice (as I thought meet to requier advise of), I will send the same unto you under my hand and seale. And soc I bid you most hartely farewell, from the Court, this 28th day of July.

“Your lovinge frende, BURGHELEY.”

It is stated by Richard Wykeham (anno 1635), in the controversy which was renewed in that year, that a compromise was offered, the terms of which were these—that four of Humphry Wykeham’s family should be successively admitted to the college, but not as founder’s kin. This was rejected, as defeating his object, which was to establish his claim as being of kin to the founder. And thus ended the first attempt to prove the connexion between the Bishop and the Swalecliffe family.

In 1635 the claim was revived by Edward Wykeham. The proceedings in this case are extant in a much more complete form than those of the former contest. Since, however, to a certain extent, they are identical, it will suffice to notice those points only which are either altogether new, or more clearly treated than before.

The first is the testimony of Nicholas Harpisfield, in his work *Historia Anglicana Ecclesiastica*, which is of the more importance, because Harpisfield was a distinguished scholar, and a New College man.

“Upon the death of Wm. Edington, the monks of Winchester, the King soliciting the business with great care, chose for their bishop William Wicham. He was born in the year of our Lord 1324, in the diocese of Winchester. His father was John Longe, as some call him; as others, John Perrott; his mother was Sibill. The place of his birth was a village called Wicham, whence some call him William of Wicham;

but many reasons present themselves to me for which I may not be of their opinion, and which make me think that Wicham was the right name of his ancestors. For so he calls himself in his will; so in those statutes which he made for his colleges, and often in other places—*i. e.* Wicham, and not de Wicham. So the King's grants, whereby he gave him power to build colleges, and so the statutes of the realm, call him. Besides, the first warden of his college in Oxford was Nicholas Wicham, his kinsman by blood. Moreover, there were chosen into the same college John, Richard, and Thomas Wickam, as his kinsmen, who, by virtue of the statutes, were admitted to a better estate and prerogative than others chosen into the same college. Besides, in the reign of King John, there was one Ralph Wicham,<sup>c</sup> and in the time

<sup>c</sup> It may be objected that the pedigree at the Heralds' College makes no mention of Radulfus Wykeham; I therefore think it right to add some evidence on this head. In the papers belonging to the monastery of Eynsham, now preserved in the library at Christ Church Coll. Oxford, Radulfus de Wykeham is mentioned in reference to a dispute between the Abbey of Eynsham and the Rector of Banbury, as having granted to the latter, or his predecessors, the tithe of an acre of land at Wykham prior to 1238; and he is described as "tunc dominus de Wykham." This was doubtless the person intended by Harpissfield, although I find him termed Robertus in another equally authentic document, *viz.*, a short pedigree given in the Plea Rolls, 26 Henry III. (1242), where Robert Wykeham is described as claiming certain lands at Stoke of several persons. (See *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, vol. i. p. 266.) Three generations are there given:

"Rob<sup>us</sup> de Wykh'm petit v. quamplurimos terras in Stok.

Ric<sup>us</sup> Stok.

Rob<sup>us</sup> ut filius.

Rob<sup>us</sup> nunc petens."

and to identify Richard de Stoke as the grandfather of Robert Wykham of Swalcliffe, I find in Madox's *Formulare Anglicanum* a grant from him of a place called Holywell, in *Swalcliffe*, with 30 acres of land, to the monks of Bruerne. The date also coincides, as the grant is addressed to *Robert* Bishop of Lincoln, and, as it is confirmed by Henry II., the bishop intended must have been Robert de Chesney, who died in 1166. The abbey was founded in 1147. In the *Testa de Nevill* three knights' fees at Swalcliffe, Wykham, Eppewell and Fauflor, are stated to be held by Robert de Stokes. These in the *Rotuli Hundred.* are held by Robert de Wykham. It may also be as well to add in this place—to show how unsettled surnames were at this time and in this family—that Richard de Stoke is apparently called Magister Ricardus de Swaleclive, in two Charters of Confirmation amongst the Eynsham papers in Dugdale's *Monasticon* (Nos. 27 and 28); his widow is called the lady Extranea de Swalcliffe in Beesley's *Banbury*, where she is stated to have presented to the living of Swalcliffe in 1221. In the *Rotuli Hundredorum*, p. 708, Robert Wykeham, the son of Sir Robert, is said to hold, as *Robertus D<sup>ns</sup> de Swaleclive*, "tres partes unius feodi militaris de D<sup>no</sup> Roberto de Wykham patre

of Henry 3<sup>rd</sup> one Robert Wicham, knight, out of whose stock, family, and kindred came our Wicham; though, according to the changes of human affairs, his parents had but small means. And these things I the rather mention that I may take from them that blot wherewith some have stained them, as if they had been of servile condition. [That genealogie at this daie is extant.]”

A second point made prominent, if not first noticed, in the second controversy is this: It appears that William of Wykeham, as soon as he became wealthy (in 1371), invested that portion of his property which he intended for his own family in the purchase of Broughton Castle, and the manor adjoining. Now Broughton Castle is in the first place within three miles of Swalcliffe, and, further, the manor, if not the castle, had at one time belonged to the Swalcliffe family. It had been purchased about 1290, together with that of Newington Downhead, of Robert de Vere, by Robert the eldest son of Sir Robert Wykeham; Robert de Vere and Robert Wykeham having married two sisters, who were, together with a third sister who married Robert Titchmarsh, the co-heiresses of Sir Reginald Waterville. Hence the bishop not only settled in the immediate neighbourhood of Swalcliffe, but did that which looks very like redeeming a portion of the family property; more particularly as it appears by a fine, made in 1391, that it was two-thirds of those manors that the bishop purchased. As there were three sisters, and Robert Wykeham only bought *one* share, this exactly corresponds with such a supposition.<sup>d</sup> The Bishop also, in 1382, purchased of

suo.” The same person is apparently called William de Stokes and William de Wykham in the *Rotuli Hundredorum*, p. 875. And Radulfus de Swalelive and John his brother are mentioned, p. 806, as granting property to the Abbey of Oseney. I name these circumstances partly to show that there were persons from whom Bp. Wykeham might descend, though none appear in the pedigree in E. 8 14, Coll. of Arms, and also to show how readily there may have been an uncertainty as to his father's name.

The following may be interesting as a specimen of the arrangements made between a knight and his esquire. It was that of the first Sir Robert Wykeham:

“Lib. (*i. e.* liberi tenentes).

“Thom’ Unfrey ten’ ij. virg. t’re de d’no de Sualclevive faciendo d’no suo serviciū unius armig’i sup’ equo d’ni sui et ad custā [*not* castrum] d’ni sui, et eod’ m°. ibit in nuncio d’ni sui quo volu’it ip’m mitt’e in Anglia, et d’ secta’ curie d’ni sui et hundred’ de Banneb’ et dat v. sol. scutag’ quando scutū dat xl. sol’.”—*Rot. Hundredorum*, p. 708.

<sup>d</sup> *Collectanea Topogr. et Genealogica*, vol. ii. p. 368.

Thomas Wykeham, of Swalcliffe, the advowson of the family living, and made him his attorney to receive the profits.

Another circumstance may be mentioned which seems to have escaped observation. We have seen that Perceval Wykeham of Swalcliffe was admitted as founder's kin at Winchester, in 1439, but it was objected by Lord Say, that in 1405 John Wykeham, of Swalcliffe, was admitted at New College as a *probationer* fellow, whereas he would have been entitled to be admitted as *actual* fellow, if he were founder's kin. Now it was certified by the Heralds, as will be seen on reference to the extracts given above, that this very John Wykeham was admitted, in 1403, at Winchester, as "*de Swaclif, de sanguine domini fundatoris.*" (An. Hen. 4<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>to</sup>, from prothocall book, Collect. ii. 378.) How this anomaly is to be explained I cannot say. Edward Wykeham answered Lord Say's objection by saying that there had always been two families of Wykehams in that neighbourhood, who were not related to each other, and that this John Wykeham must have belonged to the other family. But this would not solve the difficulty, as we still have the contradiction of his being called founder's kin in the one place, and not treated as such in the other. That he was one of our family I have no doubt, for I find the following entry in the *Calendarium Rotulorum Patentium*, p. 263. "*Pardonatio concessa Johanni Wykham de Swalcliff, in com. Oxon, armigero, adhærenti Johanni de Cobham de Coulinge in com. Kancie militi, Regenti Lollardorum, de omnibus felonis et Lollardiis.*" (Anno 2<sup>o</sup> Hen. V., 1415.) Now as this is only ten years after the date of the admission above cited to New College, and more especially as it appears from Martin's *Life of Wykeham*, p. 129, that the doctrines of the Lollards gained a footing about that time in New College, there can be no reasonable doubt about the identity of the person. It also seems clear that Perceval Wykeham was his brother,\* or more probably, from difference of age, his half-brother, for their father was twice married, and died either about the year 1448 or 1464, (for a note in the *Collectanea*

\* John may have been the uncle of Perceval, as his father had a brother of that name as well as a son. But, the father of Perceval having been in possession of the property in 1386, it is more probable that the supposition in the text is the correct one. John and Perceval are given as sons by the same marriage in the pedigree, but, I suspect, *conjecturally*.

throws some doubt on the precise date,) and the will of Guy Wykeham, a still younger brother, was proved in 1496. All these dates so completely tallying with that of his election, and his probable age at that time, coupled with the extreme improbability of there being two Perceval Wykehams of Swalcliffe, would seem to be conclusive on this head. Whether John Wykeham was extremely young when he went off from Winchester to Oxford, and so was made probationer—whether he was in such circumstances as to care little about the emoluments of the College—whether the irregularity in the infancy of the institution crept in by accidental oversight—or whether William of Wykeham intended to restrict the privileges to his more immediate relatives and their descendants, and the authorities merely acknowledged John and Perceval as kinsmen as a compliment—I cannot, to my own satisfaction, determine. Nevertheless, the fact remains that John Wykeham was called founder's kin in the "prothocall book" *before the founder's death*, and Perceval about 34 years after. These certainly are strong facts, and cannot easily be got over.

In now passing to the question of the arms, to which so much importance was attached, both by Glover and by the Commissioners whom Lord Burghley consulted, the first new fact to which I shall advert is the discovery of a seal<sup>f</sup> belonging to Nicholas Wykeham, Archdeacon of Wilts, whom William of Wykeham himself terms "consanguineus" in No. X. Appendix to Lowth's Life of Wykeham, and whom Lowth enumerates amongst the consanguinei incertum quo gradu. The arms on this seal are [Argent,] two chevronells engrailed between three roses. This is essentially the same coat with that borne by Wykeham himself, the engrailing of the chevronells at that early period merely indicating a different branch of the same family. The seal is attached to a power of attorney in the collection of Sir Edward Dering, of Surrenden Dering, co. Kent.

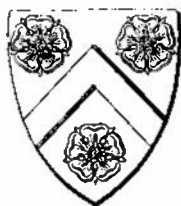
Now it is plain from this that Glover is wrong in supposing that the Bishop was the first bearer of the arms; and with this supposition, thus proved to be erroneous, it appears to me that the whole fabric falls to the ground of Wykeham's father being either *libertus* or *libertinus*. Nicholas Wykeham was evidently no *very*

<sup>f</sup> For this seal, see p. 64.

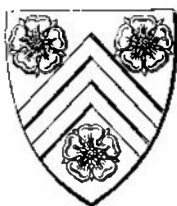
near relation: even if he were first cousin, Wykeham's *grandfather* must have borne arms. And this goes far to set up the authority of another anonymous entry in the statute books at Winchester, which is noticed by Lowth in these words—

“I meet with a note in the first register of New College, which, if it does not confirm this opinion that Wykeham was properly his family name, yet shews that it is not altogether new and unprecedented. It is in the following terms, ‘Hyt ys welles to be proved that Wyllyam Wykeham, Bisshope of Wynton, was borne in a towne in Hampchere called Wykeham, and that *hys grauntfather's name was Wykeham*, although there hathe bin some doute of hys father's name.’ This is said to be found ‘In a note at the bottom of the last page of the book called ‘Liber Albus.’ The other entries on the same page bear date 1456, 1457.” (Lowth, p. 7.)

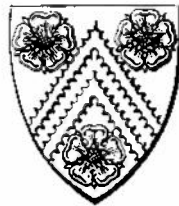
Now if we are to pay any attention at all to anonymous insertions in the books at Winchester, I cannot see why one is not as authentic as another. We know that the pedigree quoted before must be subsequent to 1436, as it mentions the death of Sir Thomas, who died in that year.<sup>s</sup> This note can hardly be said to be 20 years later at the outside. And when we take into our consideration the opinion of Bishop Godwin, that *Long* was a nickname, from the personal peculiarities of Wykeham's father, who happened to be a tall man, I think that the three facts so brought together, viz., the arms, the entry in the register, and the conjecture, serve in no slight degree to confirm and establish each other.



William Wykeham,  
Archdeacon of Lincoln.



William Wykeham,  
when Bp. of Winchester.



Nicholas Wykeham,  
Archdeacon of Wilts.

It seems that William of Wykeham, on being made bishop, made a change in his arms, and adopted two chevronells between

<sup>s</sup> See Beesley's Banbury, p. 173.

three roses instead of one chevron. At all events, seals of this character were produced by Sir Richard Piennes in the first controversy. But when we look at the seal of Nicholas Wykeham, of which an engraving is given below, I think it by no means improbable that the one chevron instead of two chevronells may have been after all only a mistake of the engraver. Or again, it may have been a mistake of William of Wykeham himself, which his appointment to the archdeaconry of Lincoln (as Swalcliffe is in that diocese), and his consequent personal intercourse with the family there, may have given him the means of correcting.



It has also been seen that the Heralds' College, though Glover professes not to know on what grounds, allowed to Humphry Wykeham, on more than one occasion, the coat thus altered from his original coat (or thus corrected) by the Bishop. The following is the certificate of Cooke in 1571, attached to the pedigree of the Wykehams of Swalcliffe in E 8, 14.

"This pedigree or descent of Humfrey Wyckham of Swalcliffe, now living, a<sup>d</sup> 1571, was traveled and set down by me Robert Cooke, Esquier, at<sup>s</sup> Clarencieulx Kynge of Armes, accordyng to the truthe of hys evydence and other proves, whereby hyt is apparente and myn oppinion is that he is of the bloude of the byshope Will<sup>m</sup> Wykham your founder, and ought to have the prerogative he claymeth amongst you, as others of the bloude of the byshope hath had hertofore. And hym I do permyt to bear and use these arms (*i.e.* those of the bishop which are sketched at the top of the pedigree, and again at the bottom, near the certificate,) for anything that may be said to the contrarye."

I now propose first to clear the ground by shewing that the arms which Glover attributed to the name of Wykeham were,



as Humphry Wykeham said they were, those of the Counts of Tankerville, and then to show some further grounds for considering the decision of Cooke, above given, a correct one.

The Counts of Tankerville were Lords Chamberlain to King Stephen and Henry II., and probably filled that office in the courts of other monarchs. When surnames were introduced in England, they assumed that of their office, and have since been known by the name of Chamberlayne. They are still divided into several branches, one of which is settled in Gloucestershire, and another in Hampshire. Their original arms were, Gules, a fess between three escallops or; but the account which is printed in vol. iii. of the *Collectanea Topographica*, of the family of Chamberlayne, after giving these as their original arms, proceeds to say that "William, Lord Chamberlayne to Henry II., subdued Robert de Bellemont, Earl of Millaine [Mellent] in Normandy, with Hugh de Montfort, his sister's son, and took them prisoners, and presented them both to the King. Whereupon the King gave the Earl of Leicester's coat to be quartered with the arms of Tankerville, A.D. 1174."<sup>1</sup> The arms thus given were, Gules, an escutcheon between eight mullets. And it appears that the Tankerville family did not in fact quarter this coat with their own, quartering not being known at that period, but abandoned their own arms, and bore ever afterwards the coat of the Earl of Leicester instead. Whether this tradition as to the origin of the coat be true or not is not very material; but it is borne to this day by the Chamberlaynes of Gloucestershire and Hampshire. The same arms are given for those of Oxfordshire, in the frontispiece to Plot's Oxfordshire; they occur, in connection with a benefaction made by a member of that family, on the door of Swalcliffe Church, with a date shortly subsequent to the second controversy. They are given as the arms of Chamberlayne in Willement's account of the stained glass in Canterbury Cathedral, with this difference, that the number of mullets is six instead of eight, which, as will be seen by the seals of the

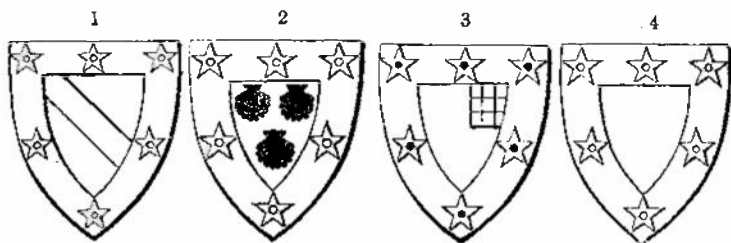
<sup>1</sup> The fact of William de Tankerville having so suppressed the rebellion of Robert de Bellemont, and delivered him to the king, is recorded by Dugdale, *Baronage*, p. 84. "In 25 Hen. I., associating to himself Hugh de Montfort (who had married Adelina, his daughter) and others, notwithstanding the former favours of King Henry to him, he entered Normandy in a hostile manner, but was encountered and taken prisoner by William de Tankerville, who delivered him up captive to the king." (Matt. Westminster, in an. 1124.)

son and grandson of Sir Robert Wykeham, which are here given from some deeds at New College, Oxford,<sup>1</sup> and which contain



only six mullets, brings them nearer to the coat borne by Sir Robert Wykeham and his sons, in right of the heiress alluded to by Humphry Wykeham. Several branches of the family seem to have adopted slight modifications by way of distinction. Thus in Segoing's Heraldry the arms given for the French branch are "De geules a l'ecusson en abisme d'argent a l'orle de 8 *quintes feuilles d'or*;" the quintes feuilles being substituted for the mullets. In Gwillim, a coat is given in which the orle is of estoiles, and another in which it is of martlets. And it is a singular circumstance, that at the Heralds' College a pedigree of one of the branches of Chamberlayne occurs in the opposite page to that which contains the certificate of Robert Cooke transcribed above, in which the inescutcheon is of ermine, the very difference which occurs in the coat mentioned by Sir R. Fynes.

In the windows of Swalcliffe Church, as appears by the affidavit of the vicar, Thomas Merriott, (in 1635,) were five coats, similar in the main points, but no two alike.



1. Argent, a bend azure, on a border gules six mullets or.
2. Argent, three escallops sable, on a border gules six mullets or.
3. Argent, a canton sinister chequy azure and or, on a border gules six mullets or, pierced sable.
4. Argent, on a border gules six mullets or.

<sup>1</sup> It is plain from these two seals that the family at Swalcliffe, as well as the Bishop, called themselves indiscriminately "Wykham" and "de Wykham."

5. There is also one other border gules, but the escutcheon thereof is broken out.

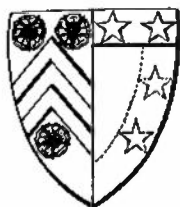
In addition to these, "In the same window [*i. e.* with the coat No. 3] there are two pieces of glass which conteyne part of a coat, which since my cominge to be vicar heare was whole, and did bear two cheverones sable between three roses in a feild argent [*i. e.* the disputed coat of Wykeham arms, engraved *ante*, p. 63; see p. 347, *Collectanea*, vol. iii.;] but which of all these coats is the more ancient I cannot conceave."

It will at once be seen that one of these coats, No. 4, is the coat acquired by William de Tankerville, in the manner described above, or at all events borne by his family. It is also evident that all the other coats, 1, 2, 3, and 5, were varieties of the same coat, the last having been very likely, when perfect, the shield with the ermine inescutcheon. None of the differences exceed what was then usual between the different branches of the same family. Now we find in the same window with No. 3, viz., the chancel window, the coat which has always, so far as we know, been considered that of our family, described by the vicar as apparently of the same antiquity. What then is the obvious inference but this—that one of our family placed them all there at the same period?

And it appears, in confirmation of this view, that the portion of Swalcliffe Church in which the windows containing these coats of arms occur was built between 1320 and 1350. In Beesley's Banbury the former date is assigned on the authority of Mr. Parker. Mr. Twopeny, whom I consider a still better authority, is inclined to place them a little later; and it appears by the evidence produced in these discussions that Sir Robert Wykeham married in 1291 the heiress of Sir John Lesore, or Lisures, whose wife was heiress of one of the counts of Tankerville. In 1327 he died, and was succeeded by his son Robert, who inherited these very arms in right of his mother. I think therefore there can be no reasonable doubt that either the husband or the son of Elizabeth de Lisures placed these arms in Swalcliffe Church; the Wykeham coat as his paternal bearing, the other as that of his wife or his mother, as the case might be. It is further stated in the books of the *Heralds' College* (E. 8, 14) that Sir Robert Wykeham bore a coat, Ermine, a border gules charged with eight mullets or. The evidence of this is not stated; but it is certain that his son Robert bore a coat re-

sembling this, for his seal is still attached to a document at New College, which is given *ante*, p. 66, together with that of his grandson Thomas, which is very similar. The date of Robert's seal is 1344, and of Thomas, 1381-2. There are only six mullets, which corresponds with the early Tankerville coats, both at Swalcliffe and at Canterbury. As to the motives which induced the sons of Sir Robert, and perhaps Sir Robert himself, to bear his wife's arms instead of his own, I think they are easily traced. We have already seen that the Tankervilles are supposed to have dropped their own coat in favour of these very arms. They were naturally proud of the circumstances under which the right to bear them was acquired, and it was common at that period for persons to adopt arms which they considered more honourable than their own, where we should only quarter them. It was natural that the Wykehams should partake of this feeling; and, even if we reject the tradition that the arms were those of Robert de Bellemont, the position of the Tankerville family was such as to account for the willingness of the Wykehams to adopt their arms in preference to their family coat, as the practice I believe was common at that period. It was also the fashion of that day, and, as I have already shown, in a high degree of that particular family, to distinguish the different branches by small variations in the bearings. Hence it was most natural that they should change the silver inescutcheon to one of ermine; and, in fact, as I have already observed, the same peculiarity is found in the case of the very branch of the Chamberlayne family whose pedigree is in the opposite page to our own in E. 8, 14. And let it not be supposed that he adopted his wife's arms because he had none of his own. His grandfather was a knight, which renders such a supposition impossible; and, besides, he was entitled to the coat of the distinguished family of Waterville through his mother, who has already been described as one of the co-heiresses of Sir Reginald Waterville. What then was this coat? There does not appear in any quarter the slightest indication of the family having at any time borne any other coat than these two. It therefore follows almost conclusively that it was the same with that of the bishop; and my own decided impression is, that the Wykehams, having dropped their original coat for one or two generations for the sake of that of Tankerville, resumed it when a still greater relative of their own race came and settled in their immediate neighbourhood.

But I have one more evidence to support this proposition.



I find recorded, on the authority of Anthony à Wood, in Beesley's Banbury, amongst sixty coats of arms which were in the windows of the old church in that place, "No. 43, Argent, two chevronells sable, between three roses gules—Wykam, impaling, Argent, on a chief gules two mullets or." Now there appears to be a slight error of some description here, as the arms given for the female are those of Lord St. John of Bletsoe; and, as there is no record of any intermarriage between that family and the Wykehams, whether those of Swalcliffe or the representatives of the bishop, and, as an alliance so creditable would not be likely to be forgotten, it is clear that *some* correction must be applied. I am inclined to think that they were the arms of Sir Robert Wykeham and his wife, the part of the bordure indicated by the dotted line having become indistinct and blended with the leading in the course of three hundred years, or that portion having been broken and replaced with common glass.

It may be said that this conjecture is vague and unsatisfactory, but, be this as it may, there are only two intermarriages subsequent to this in the Swalcliffe pedigree, in which the names of the ladies are not known; viz., Margery, the second wife of Thomas Wykeham, the *contemporary* of the bishop, and Agnes, the wife of Thomas, his eldest son, who died either a little before 1448, or, at the latest, in 1465.<sup>k</sup> The second Thomas must have been born in the lifetime of the bishop. He was the near neighbour of Sir Thomas Wykeham, the bishop's great-nephew and heir.<sup>l</sup> The arms in question are not those of Sir Thomas, for he married the daughter of William Wilkins. The only other person to whom they could have belonged was the son of Sir Thomas, whose wife's name I have never been able to learn. Hence,

<sup>k</sup> See *ante*, p. 61.

<sup>l</sup> It will be seen from the seal of Sir Thomas Wykeham that he bore the buffalo's head as his crest. This crest is still borne by Mr. H. L. Wickham, the representative of William Wickham, Bishop of Winchester, who died 1595, in which branch the use of the Tankerville coat still continues.



after giving what weight we please to this infinitesimal chance, the coat, if not that of Sir Robert, or some other person *anterior* to William of Wykeham, must have belonged to some one contemporary with the bishop or his immediate successor.

From this point the use of this coat by the Wykehams of Swalcliffe may be traced almost continuously. It is stated in the Collectanea to be engraved on the tomb of John Wykeham, Rector of Rotherfield, in Sussex, whose common ancestor was the son of the Thomas last mentioned. It was evidently borne by Humphry himself, and his immediate predecessors, so far as they could be traced, or Cooke, the Clarencieux King of Arms, could have had no pretence for allowing them as he did in 1571. They have been since ratified to my father, when he took the name of Martin in addition to his own, and to Lady Wenman, when she was created a baroness by William IV.; and, although Glover did not concur with the other heralds, and Cooke assigned, or rather granted, a different coat to William Wickham, Bishop of Lincoln in 1584, viz., Ermine, a bordure engrailed gules with eight mullets or, I have already so plainly shown that those were the arms of Tankerville, and have so fully accounted for their temporary adoption by the Wykeham family, that I do not hesitate to say that he was mistaken in this case, however high his general reputation.

But I would further ask those who accuse us of usurping the bishop's arms, at what period could we by possibility have done so, if we had been ever so much inclined? In 1377, William of Wickham purchased Broughton Castle, within about three miles of Swalcliffe. He placed his great-nephew, Sir Thomas, there long before his death, which took place in 1404. Broughton Castle still belongs to the descendants of Sir Thomas. Swalcliffe still belongs to Lady Wenman; and, until the death of her father, about the year 1800, the two families continued to *reside* thus close together. Under these circumstances concealment was impossible. Those were not times when persons looked out their names in the Heraldic Dictionary, and painted on their caarriges any arms they found attached to a name like their own. On the contrary, the right was jealously watched by individuals, and, for a great portion of this time, was controlled by periodical visitations. There can therefore be only two alternatives— either both families are entitled to the same coat, or the bishop, or his

successors, for the purpose of having it supposed that he was a man of family, although the reverse was the truth, usurped our arms, or connived at our usurping theirs. I see no ground for fixing this mean imputation upon any of the parties, and I therefore feel warranted in claiming the full weight which Glover confesses it ought to have, if substantiated, for the argument "*ab identitate armorum.*"

Such are the main features of this controversy, and such are the fresh facts which I have been able to bring into the discussion. And I think I may fairly say that I have established the following propositions: That William of Wykeham was well known at an early period of his career, *i. e.* at least as early as his 53rd year, to the Swalcliffe family; that he held personal intercourse with them; that he purchased the family living, and what was once a portion of the family property; that he settled his heir within three miles of their residence; that one of them is recorded as founder's kin at Winchester before his death, and a second about 34 years afterwards; that the arms attributed by Glover to the Swalcliffe family are, as Humphry Wykeham declared them to be, the Tankerville arms; that the bishop was *not* the first bearer of his arms, and therefore that his father was *not* of the ignoble birth usually attributed to him; that the Swalcliffe family, being descended from two knights anterior to the birth of the bishop, must have had *some* arms; that there is no shadow of evidence that they ever bore any other (as a Wykeham coat) but that which they now bear, and which is that of the bishop. I have shown evidence raising a very strong presumption—indeed almost amounting to actual proof—that they used that coat for the embellishment of the church windows at Swalcliffe, and that they impaled it with that of Tankerville in those of the church at Banbury before the bishop was born. I have shown that there was no period at which we could possibly have usurped it, from the close proximity of its rightful possessor. I have shown that the bishop had numerous relations of the same name with himself, one of whom at least bore the same coat of arms. I have shown that there were collaterals from whom he might have descended; that there was such a person as Radulfus de Wykeham from whom Harpissfield declared him to have descended. I have shown that there was a very respect-

able conjecture that his father's supposed name of Long was a nickname. I have produced a record nearly, nay possibly quite, as early as the pedigree relied on by his biographers, which asserts that his grandfather's name was Wykeham, which I have corroborated by the production of Nicholas Wykeham's arms. I have further shown that the pedigree itself has very slight claims to authority. I will only add that, with all this weight of testimony on the one side, and merely the apocryphal pedigree on the other, *the whole of the facts of the case will be accounted for, and every discrepancy reconciled*, by the single supposition, and that in itself the conjecture of a respectable authority, that Long was a nickname given to Wykeham's father from his stature. This would seem to be an easy and natural solution under any circumstances. But, when we look at it in connection with the great mass of presumptive evidence which I have here collected, all tending strongly to show a connection between the bishop and ourselves, I will not venture to assert that I have established my point by legal evidence, but I *will* say that I have produced much stronger grounds of claim than those which form the basis, in nine cases out of ten, of the received opinions of historians and antiquaries.

To illustrate this essay I subjoin the pedigree, reprinted, with additions, from the Third volume of the *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*.

#### NOTES TO THE PEDIGREE.

<sup>a</sup> The widow of Richard or Robert de Stokes presented to the living of Swalcliffe in 1221, as the Lady Extranea de Swalcliff.

<sup>b</sup> Reginald de Waterville, and Strangea or Extranea, his wife, held Marham in 25 Hen. III. He was probably the son of Hugh de Waterville. Thorp Waterville, co. Northampton, and Orton Waterville, co. Huntingdon, were a part of their possessions. They bore, Gules, three fleurs-de-lis or, a chief barry nebuly argent and azure.

<sup>c</sup> Wickham of Yorkshire probably branched off earlier, as John Wykeham of Rotherfield, of the same line with Wickham of Abingdon, is stated by Richard, 1635, to have been his nearest relation in the male line until the birth of Edward's son. See the *Collectanea Top. et Geneal.*, vol. iii. pp. 183, 367. This branch represents William Wickham Bishop of Lincoln, and for a short time Bishop of Winchester, who died 1595, and who preached, as Dean of Peterborough, the funeral sermon of Mary Queen of Scots.



The first three names are not traced by legal evidence as belonging to the Wykeham family, but there is strong ground for believing them to have been of that blood. From Richard de Stokes the proof is complete. He probably took his name from the hamlet of Stoke or Stoch, near Wykham, mentioned in Domesday, but not in Rot. Hund.

Walchelin.

Robert, the son of Walchelin, mentioned in Domesday about 1086.

Walter, the son of Robert, granted thirty acres at Shipton to Bruerne Abbey, about the time of its foundation in 1147.

Richard de Stokes,\* called also Magister Ricardus de Swaleclife, as witness to two charters (Nos. 27 and 28), amongst Eynesham Papers. See Dugdale's Monasticon. He granted thirty acres of land at Swalcliffe to Bruerne Abbey, 1147-66, and confirmed other lands, probably those above, as no others answer the description.

Robert de Stokes, called Radulphus de Wykham, 1238, in the Papers of Eynesham Monastery preserved at Christ Church, Oxford.

Sir Robert Wykham, Knt. sued for lands at Stoke 1242, still living 1279. = Anne . . . .

Robert = Maude, d. and coh. of Sir Reginald Waterville.<sup>b</sup> Sir Reginald was Thomas, parson  
Wykham. taken prisoner at the battle of Northampton by Henry III. and ex- of Swalcliffe.  
changed for some of the prisoners at Lewes. Vide Rymer, vol. i. 1284.  
pt. 2, p. 88, edit. 1745.

Sir Robert Wykham, Knt. served = Elizabeth, dau. and heiress of Sir John Lesore or Agnes.  
against the Scotch 1301, and be- de Lisures, mar. 1291; died 1327. His widow living  
yond sea 1297. 1333. [See note overleaf.]

Robert de Wykham, = Katharine, d. John = Petronel Thomas = Katharine Richard.  
probably dead in and h. of Sir Wick- (de Wa- Wickham, Perceval,  
1346; will made in William de la ham, of terville?) died about d. a child.  
that year. Le. Shening- 1385, living  
don. 1382.

Robert, no Robert, ele- Isabel, d. of = Thomas, in pos- = 2odly, Margery . . . , living in 1436, when  
known is- ricus. William D'Oyly. session of Swal- she released to her son Thomas in the  
suc. cliffe, 1326. presence of Sir Thomas Wickham, Kt.

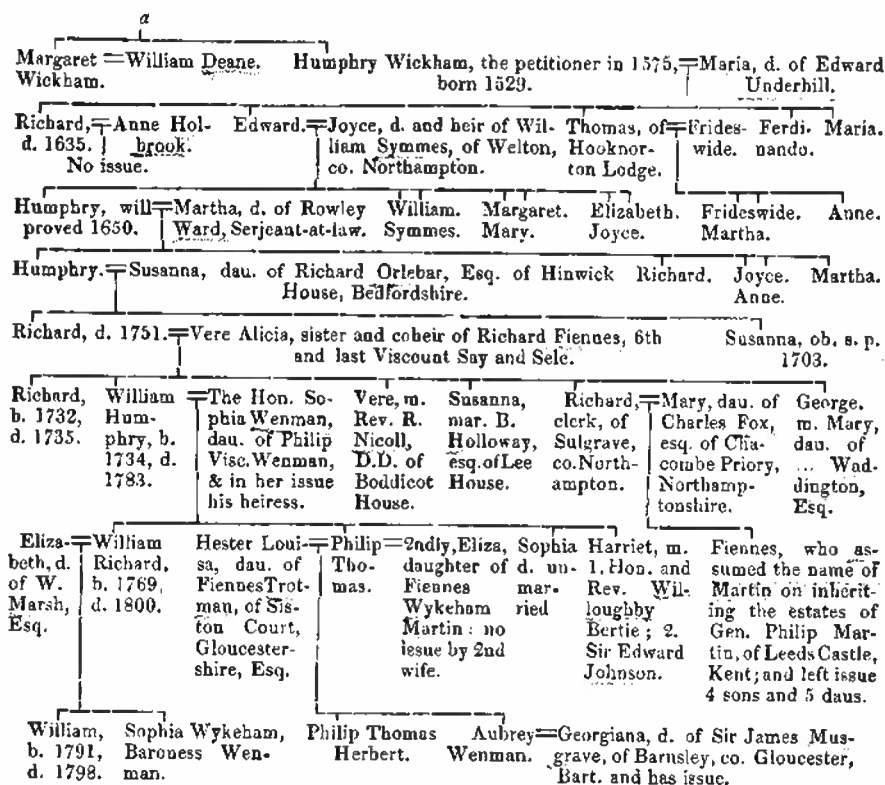
Thomas, will made 1465. = Agnes. John. Perceval. Guy, will proved 1496. Edward. William.

John. = Alice Ligyard, Lideyard, Thomas, the eldest son, died s. p. in his father's life- Robert.  
or Lidyatt, of Glimpton, time, and is not entered in the pedigree. He mar-  
Oxon. ried Anne . . . .

Thomas. = Joyce, d. of . . . . . Hanbury. Conjectured descent of Wickham of Abingdon  
and Garsington.

Edward. = Isabella, d. of Giles Poulton. Conjectured descent of Wickham of Yorkshire.<sup>c</sup>

a



Robert de Wickham, arm. of co. Northampton, was summoned 25 Edward I. to serve beyond seas. Robert de Wickham of Oxon and Berks was summoned to Berwick to serve against the Scots 29 Edward I. Robert de Wickham was Lord of Sheningdon, co. Gloucester, and of Swaccliffe and Wickham, co. Oxford, 9 and 10 Edward I.

William le Sor held Backwell (called Backwell le Sor), co. Som. 47 Henry III. The name was sometimes written Lizurs, Lisures, or de Lisoriis. They bore, Or, a chief azure, and had considerable lands in Warwickshire, Somersetshire, Northamptonshire, &c. Vide Baker, vol. i. p. 9; Collinson, vol. ii. p. 306. John Lizours held lands in Warwickshire, 44 Edward III.

A Thomas Wickham, living in 1413, and deceased in 1448, and Agnes his wife, are mentioned in a deed relating to Thenford, co. Northampton. Vide Baker's Northamptonshire, vol. i. p. 711. As the towns of Evenly and Shutford, mentioned in the will of Thomas Wickham, are both in Northamptonshire, it is more than probable that they are the same person, and that there is an error in the date of the death. Amongst the Oxfordshire gentry, 12 Hen. VI. are, Thomas Wickham chiv., Thomas Wykham de Swaccliffe, Will. Wickham, arm.