

rushed over the lias after its elevation, and destroyed the huge animals which occupied the country at that period; the power and duration of the current is evidenced by the deep accumulation of large stones, borrowed from the formations it passed over, and its far spreading and destructive action is exhibited by the bones of elephas, elk, bos, which have been found in the gravel bed; this is the second page in the history of this slice of earth. The third is found in the shallow layer of alluvial soil which rests on the surface, and in which repose the bones of our early ancestors. (I omitted to mention that the shallowness of the graves was probably owing to the occurrence of the gravel bed, between two and three feet below the surface; rude people with inferior tools would not be able to break up the compact bed of stones.)”

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Ingram for his interesting communication.

MR. G. C. NEALE exhibited watercolour drawings of Skeffington Church (interior) and Billesdon Church (exterior) before their recent restoration.

MR. SARSON exhibited a Roman coin—inscription undecypherable—and a bronze ring found in S. Nicholas Street, Leicester.

MR. G. H. NEVINSON exhibited several broadsides formerly among the papers preserved in the magazine, Leicester; these, however, with a cartload more, were removed as worthless about thirty years ago.

THE REV. J. H. HILL read the following Paper upon the Langtons of Lincolnshire, which he illustrated by two worked pedigrees of that family.

THE FAMILY OF LANGTON.

THE ancient and distinguished family of Langton derives its name from the pretty village of Langton, situated upon the South Wolds of Lincolnshire, between three and four miles from the town of Spilsby. At a very early period this family appears to have been divided into at least three branches, from which circumstance some degree of confusion exists in the details which have come down to us respecting it. In the county of Lancaster one portion of the family settled; they possessed the parish of Newton for many years. Leland speaks of Newton thus:—“On a brok a little poore market whereof Mr. Langton has the name of his Barony.” Camden speaks of the Langtons of Haughton Tower, Lancashire; and we find in Blome’s Britannia, in his list of Lancashire gentlemen, the name of Abraham Langton of Lowe, who was a descendant of the Barons of Newton. In Gregson’s fragments part 2 p. 278, an extract from Mr. Percival’s papers makes Langton to be Baron of Newton and Macerfield. Stowe, in his

survey, gives an epitaph concerning this family. The Langtons were also Barons of Walton.

Another branch of this family settled some three centuries back in the county of Somerset at Newton Park, and another portion of them at a later period took up their residence at Teton in Northamptonshire. The pedigrees of the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire families I have now the pleasure of laying before you. (See pages 103 and 104.)

The first person worthy of note descended from the Lincolnshire family was Stephen de Langton, who, like the Greek poet of the olden time has had various places assigned to him for his birth, yet I see no reason to despise the tradition which has been handed down from age to age, that he was born at Langton by Spilsby, in Lincolnshire, and I am confirmed in this opinion by Dean Hook, Britton, &c., although Weever, in his *Funeral Monuments*, says he was of an ancient family in Leicestershire, and Martin Tupper claims him as a Surrey man. Stephen de Langton was educated in the University of Paris, where he distinguished himself as a student, and was very much esteemed there by the King of France and all the nobility for his great learning. He became Chancellor of Paris, and was afterwards created by the Pope a Cardinal under the Title of St. Chrysogonus (so called, I suppose, from his having an excellent voice, vide Juvenal, 6, 74). Matthew of Westminster speaks of Langton as a man of deep wisdom, elegant person, faultless morals, and a fit and sufficient person as far as man can be to govern the Universal Church. A contest having taken place about the election of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the room of Hubert Walter, King John insisted that his favourite minister, John de Gray, Bishop of Norwich, should be elevated to that see, but Pope Innocent determined that Stephen de Langton should be consecrated, which took place at Viterbo, June 17, 1207. Upon this King John drove the Monks of Canterbury out of the kingdom, and confiscated their goods; John Harding (cap. 142) mentions the circumstance as follows:—

Bishop Hubert of Canterbury tho died,
Whereof King John unto the Convent sente,
To chose his Clarke,* which they refused and denied,
Whereof the Kyng was wroth in his entente:
For they disobeyed the lettre which he sente,
For they had chosen Mayster Stephan Langton,
An worthy Clarke, of all disposicion.
Whom Kyng John then wold not admytte
For Romayn Bull, ne for Prelates prayer,
But poisoned some and some to death commytte,
Some he exiled, and their eyen clere,
And all personnes and prelate in fere.
He then put out, and seized theyr benefice
Through all the lande, as his mortal enemies,
The Romysh Byshophe cursed him openly;
And all the realme fully did interdite
That sacraments none therein should occupie.

H

* John Gray, Bishop of Norwich.

VOL. II.

It was in the year of Grace, 1213, that this open struggle commenced between one of the ablest priests that ever wore a tiara, and the meanest and basest king that ever disgraced the English throne. This rupture between the Pope and King John led to the compulsive conduct of the barons afterwards. Langton was a true patriot, for he, together with six other bishops, formed the association which resisted the tyrannical proceedings of King John, and ultimately obtained Magna Charta. It was Langton who at the meeting of the heads of revolt at London, August 25th, 1213, suggested the demand for a renewal of the Charter of King Henry I., which demand was persevered in, until 1215, when Magna Charta was obtained. According to Mat. Paris, Stephen de Langton crowned Henry III. at Westminster, 17th May, 1320. It was in this year he removed the bones of Thomas à Becket at a vast expense, with great magnificence in a golden chest; so great was the expense of the translation of Becket's bones, that neither he nor four of his successors were able to recover the debt he cast his church into. (Godwin de Præsul Ang.) In 1222 Langton held a solemn council at Oxford, at which many regulations were made for the reformation of the Anglican Church. It should not be forgotten that it was through the resolution of Langton that he induced the young King Henry to give a third ratification of Magna Charta. This celebrated prelate died July 9th, 1228, at Slyndon, Sussex (the favourite retirement of the Archbishop), and was buried at Canterbury; his tomb is singularly fixed in the wall of St. Michael's Chapel, and is marked with a sculptured cross at the top. He bestowed much upon his palace in Canterbury, and upon a "faire Horologe" in the south cross aisle of the Cathedral (Godwin).

Langton is said to have been the first who divided the Bible into chapters. He wrote commentaries on most of the Books of Scripture, of which there are many MS. copies in our public libraries. Archbishop Parker says that Langton wrote many things elegantly and judiciously, and in particular the History of the Reign of King Richard the First. One of the earliest miracle plays (a Theological Drama) is supposed to have been the production of the Archbishop.

He bore for his arms—Quarterly Gules and Or, a bend argent, or according to Parker,

Per pale, Azure and Gules, a bend, or.

Simon de Langton was the only brother of Stephen Langton; he was elected to the Archbishopric of York, but taking part with his brother against the King, the Pope, at the King's instance, made void the election. Matthew, of Westminster, says that the King was afraid that if Stephen, being Archbishop of Canterbury, bore rule in the southern provinces, and his brother Simon, being made Archbishop of York, governed the northern districts, as they

would then be the two chief prelates of England, every thing would be regulated by their will, and one would be supported by the other. Simon was not a man who had much favour with the people, but through his brother's patronage he obtained the archdeaconry of Canterbury, and in favour to him Stephen de Langton much amended the archdeaconry. With the consent and confirmation of the Chapter, he annexed and united to it not only the parishes of Tenham and Hackington, but the whole jurisdiction of the diocese, with an exception and reservation only of some causes and churches. (Vide this instrument in Battersby's Somner Appendix, No. IX. A.) Louis, the French Dauphin, also in recompense of the disappointment, caused by the loss of the archiepiscopal see of York, constituted him his chancellor of Dauphiny (M. Paris). Simon de Langton founded a hospital for poor and infirm priests in the parish of St. Margaret, Canterbury. This was valued at £28. 16s. 1d. in the 28th of Henry VIII., and was dissolved 17th Elizabeth. He built a mansion at St. Stephen's, Hackington, in which successive Archdeacons of Canterbury lived for the space of three hundred years afterwards. He also built and beautified the Parish Church of Hackington. (Antiq. Rep. 122, 3.)

William de Langton is the next person worthy of remark belonging to the aforesaid family. He was the sixteenth President of Magdalen College, Oxford (from 1610 to 1620), and was distinguished for his profound learning. He married Mary, daughter of Sir W. Stonehouse, Bart., of Radley, co. Berks. He died in the year 1626.

Peregrine Langton, another descendant of the same family, was remarkable for his benevolence and hospitality. He died February 19th, 1766. The local papers of the day speak of him as follows:—"Last week was interred in the family vault the remains of Peregrine Langton, Esq., in whom all the poor within reach of his benevolence have lost a most humane and generous benefactor, and his friends and acquaintance lament a cheerful companion and a shining example of every virtue."

Next to him comes the celebrated Bennett Langton, the intimate friend and companion of Samuel Johnson. He was born at Langton in the year 1737, where he was privately educated; from whence he removed to Trinity College, Oxford. By his diligent pursuit of learning he became well skilled in the Greek language. In 1764 he was chosen a member of the Literary Club, which consisted of the most brilliant men of the day, and he had the good fortune to number among his most intimate friends, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Burke, Garrick, Beauclerk, Goldsmith, Wharton, and Chamier. George III. appointed Bennett Langton to the Professorship of Ancient Literature in the year 1785, as a fit successor of Johnson. To Mr. Langton Dr. Johnson left his Polyglott

Bible; and once, speaking of him to Boswell with affectionate regard, exclaimed, "The world does not bear a worthier man than Bennett Langton." In Boswell's *Life of Johnson* a great number of the Doctor's letters to Mr. Langton are printed, and several pages of Mr. Langton's recollections of the memoranda of the learned sage. Johnson died in 1784, and Langton soothed the last years of that great man by the most pleasing and affectionate attention. Johnson is said to have seized Langton's hand a short time before he breathed his last, and to have exclaimed, "Te teneam moriens deficiente manu." Dr. Bennett Langton died in 1801, æt. 64. He was the last survivor of the original members of the Literary Club. He married Mary Dowager Countess of Rothes, daughter of Gresham Lloyd, Esq., by Mary Holt, his wife, great niece of Lord Chief Justice Holt. His grandson, John Stephen, was celebrated for his scientific researches; he obtained a patent for preventing dry rot in timber. John S. Langton was born 1794, and died at the early age of 37, in 1833. The present owner of the estate is Bennett Rothes Langton, who was born in 1840.

William Henry Powell Gore Langton, M.P. for West Somerset from 1851 to 1859, is a descendant of William Langton, of the above named family. William Langton married Dorothy, daughter of John Littlebury, Esq., who was the son of John Langton (ob. 1530) by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Wm. Quadring, Esq. Wm. Gore Langton married, 1846, Anna Eliza Mary, only daughter of the late Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

The arms of Gore Langton, of Newton Park, are:—Quarterly, first and fourth grand quarters. Quarterly, first and fourth ar.; three chevrons gu. Second and third arg.; a cross moline sa. for Langton. Second and third grand quarter, gules a fesse between three cross crosslets, fitchée, or.

Gervase Holles visited Langton Church, and left the following notes respecting it:

Ecclesia sanctorum Petri et Pauli Apostolorum
In insula Boreali
Fenestra
Falconem tibi do piâ virgo mei memor esto
Effigies viri gestantes Falconem
Tumulus Lapideus.
Hic jacet Elizabetha uxor John Langton, Arm., et filia
W. Quadring.
Arm. quæ obiit 4 die Maie, A.D. 1524.

(N.B.—The top of this tomb is still in existence, having been placed as a flooring slab in the body of the church, which was rebuilt some years back in the Palladian style of architecture. It is greatly worn, and it is a pity that it is not taken up, and restored.)

Fenestra Australis
Effigies scorum Petri et Pauli Apostolorum.

A plain cross.

Quarterly, sa. et arg.; a bend or, Langton.
Impaled, three Fleurs de lis, in chief, a lion passant.
A fesse Nebule between three roses.

In insula Boreali.

Hic jacet Rich. Ligh, generosus servus, Dom. reg. Hen. 8.

Hic jacet Johannes Wortes, istius ecclesie Rector, qui ob. 6 Sep., 1582.

The registers of Langton Parish commence in the year 1558.

At Langton (in Leicestershire) was born the celebrated Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. He was consecrated to the see in 1296. He was Lord Treasurer of England, and was in great favour with Edward I., King of England, who, in the thirty-fifth year of his reign, granted liberty of free warren to him at West and Thorpe Langton. Bishop Langton was deprived of his office of Lord Treasurer for no other reason than his having reproved the Prince (Edward II.), and refused him money for his extravagance during his father's lifetime; no legal proceedings, however, were resorted to in this case. Bishop Langton was a great benefactor to Lichfield Cathedral, having built the stately and sumptuous Lady Chapel there, at an immense expense. He also gave plate, jewels, copes, and vestments of great value to the Church, and procured thereto many charters and great privileges. The bishop died November 16, 1321, and was buried in the Lady Chapel of his Cathedral.

There was also a Thomas de Langton, who was Bishop of Winchester from 1493 to 1500, in which year he died of the plague, having been previously elected Archbishop of Canterbury. The chapel dedicated to him is on the southern side of Winchester Cathedral; it is profusely enriched with carvings in oak of armorial subjects. Amidst the ornaments Bishop Langton's motto, "Laus tibi Christi," is frequently repeated. The rebus of his name—"a musical note called 'long,' inserted in a 'tun,'" occurs on the groining, amidst a profusion of others. Near the centre of this chapel is the Bishop's tomb, originally extremely elegant, but now entirely deprived of its ornaments. Whether this Thomas de Langton was born in Leicestershire I know not.

John de Langton was presented to the rectory of Langton in 1306, by Sir Thos. de Latimer, but he resigned the living in 1337. A second John de Langton was presented to the living of Church Langton by the Archbishop of Canterbury and others, November 9, 1440. He was twice Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge, 1437 and 1444, and also Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, from 1428 to 1447. He resigned the living of Langton in 1446.

The Langton family spoken of by Weever, and possibly descended from the Lincolnshire family, held lands at Hemington, in the parish of Lockington, in Leicestershire. At Church Langton, in this county, we find that in the 2nd of Henry V.

(1414), Thomas de Langton held lands there, and from Wyrley and Burton mention is made of a monument in Langton Church. This, I am sorry to say, has disappeared, although there are persons living who remember its position in the church. The monument had the following arms and inscription:—

1. Azure, an eagle displayed with two heads, or, a bend sable—Langton.
2. Argent, on a band sable, five bezants, or—Palmer.

Of this family was John de Langton, a Carmelite Friar in London. Bale styles him "Bacchalaureus ordinis Carmel," and Tanner says of him "Scholas frequentavit et inter supremos theologios merito commemoratus est." This John de Langton, when Courtenay, Archbishop of Canterbury, and other prelates, assembled with King Richard II. at Stamford, in 1392, condemned the heresy of William Crump, a Cistercian Monk of Ireland; he wrote a book called the Trial of Henry Crump, D.D.; another against the errors of Dr. Crump; and also a book concerning the ordinary acts of the Carmelite Friars. He died 1400.

The family of Langton, at Teton, Northamptonshire, was probably an offshoot of the family of Langton, of Langton by Spilsby.

Upon the north side of the Parish Church of Ravensthorpe (Northants) is a marble table with—

Arms Quarterly, sab. and or; a bend arg., Langton.

Impaling arg. on a cross, five bezants, Stratton.

Crest of Langton two winged serpents, V. interwoven and erect on their tails, V.

In this place rest the remains of

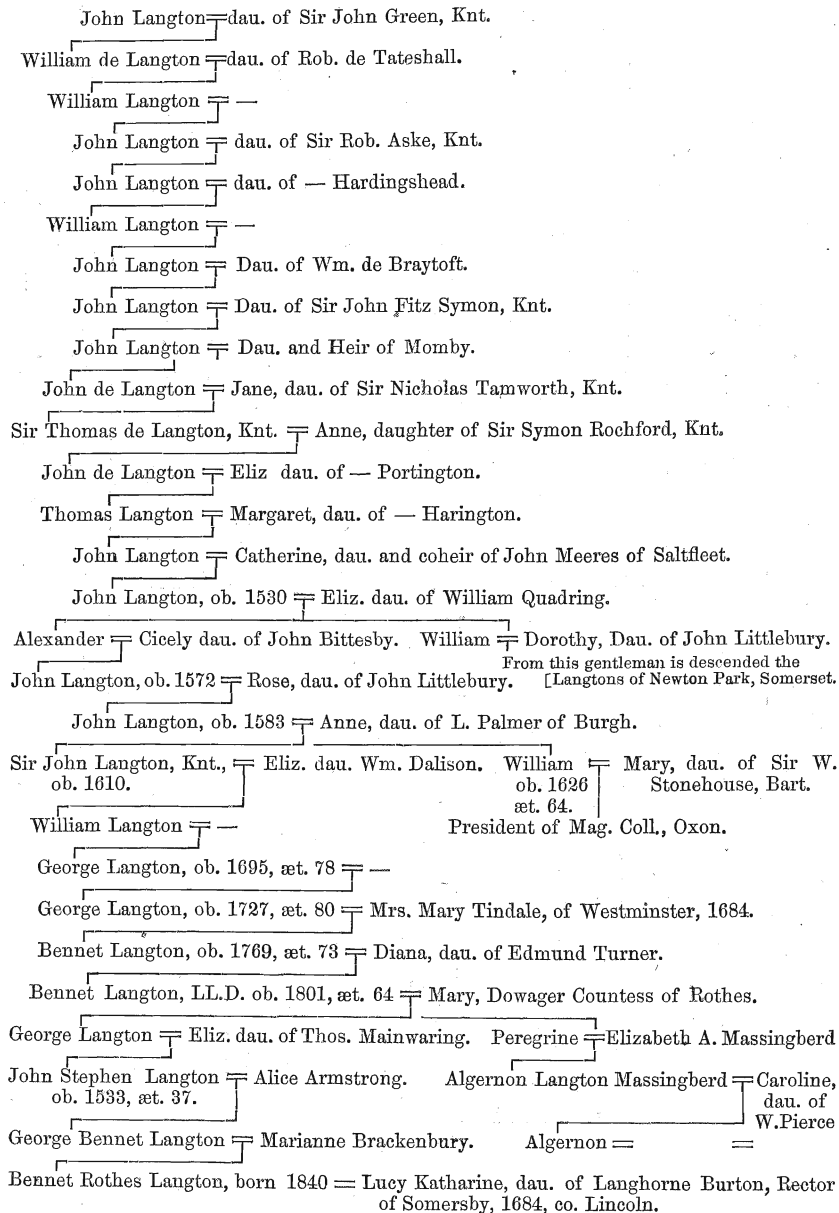
Thomas Langton, of Teeton, Esq., who died August 21, 1662, aged 70 years.

And also of Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Langton, Esq., who died Sep. 2, 1762,
æet. 60.

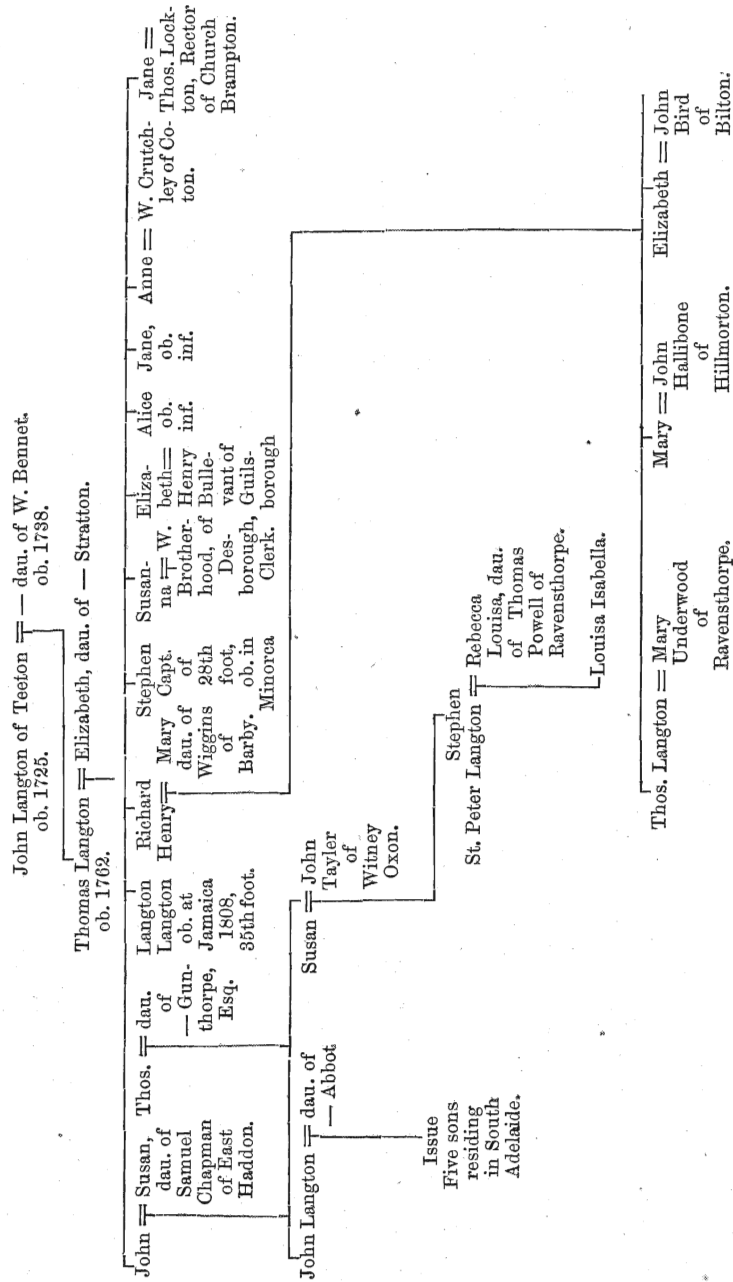
The aforesaid Thos. Langton was High Sheriff of Northamptonshire in the year
1735.

Mention is made of a Robert Langton, LL.D., who founded a school at Appleby, Westmoreland; nor should be forgotten William de Langton, Dean of York, who died 1375, the marble slab of whose tomb is still in existence at York Cathedral, which has been placed on the tomb of Archbishop Thomas Rotherham, second founder of Lincoln College, Oxford.

Pedigree of Langton, Lincolnshire.



Langton of Northamptonshire.



*Publications of the
Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society.*

Its Transactions (Illustrated), Parts I., II., III., IV., with Index, completing Vol. I., 3s. 6d. each; or Vol. I. bound in cloth antique, price 16s.

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Leicester: Crossley and Clarke.