ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH

I.—Architectural Notes on the Church
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II.—Extracts from the Parish Register
BY
HENRY HARTOPP

III.—The Descent of the Manor
BY
S. H. SKILLINGTON

IV.—Manorial Notes
BY
GEORGE F. FARNHAM, M.A., F.S.A.
I.—THE CHURCH

By A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A., F.S.A.

The church of St. Helen consists of a chancel with a north chapel of two storeys and a south transeptal chapel, a clerestoried nave of four bays with north and south aisles, to which outer aisles have been added in modern times, and west tower. The whole building has been much modernised, and most of the older work is of the fifteenth century, when the church was largely rebuilt. The whole exterior, with the exception of the tower, is practically new, the older walling having been thoroughly refaced.

The chancel is wide and spacious. The east window is of five lights, with a broad four-centred arch. South of the altar is a three-light window with a four-centred head and mullions crossing flatly at the top. In the wall below is a small piscina, with an ogee head cut in a single stone, and to the west are triple sedilia, set on one level, the ogee heads of which, with trefoil cusping, are cut in large stones after a similar fashion. To the north of the altar there is a doorway with a four-centred head and chamfered arch and jambs. This led to the sacristy probably contemporary with the rebuilding of the chancel, which may be approximately dated about 1480. The older sacristy, however, was superseded sometime after the beginning of the sixteenth century by the large two-storied chapel which covers the north side of the chancel and communicates with it by a very broad four-centred arch, with shafting to the inner order. This arch, which has been much restored, cut into the lower part of a four-centred window, the upper portion of which, with a chamfered arch and part of the jambs, remains near the west end of the north wall and opens into the room on the upper floor of the chapel.

The ground-floor of this addition, used as a vestry, has a five-light window in the east wall, set in square moulded framing, with blunt uncusped heads to the lights. In the north wall there is a fireplace, above which is a piece of wall dividing two
four-light, or rather two pairs of two-light windows, of similar character to that in the east wall, from one another. The whole work is thoroughly characteristic of the plain but picturesque type of late Gothic in vogue during the reign of Henry VIII. There is some later panelling in the east wall. In the north-west corner a segmental-headed doorway leads to the newel stair to the upper room. This chamber, probably intended for the use of the parish chaplain, has an old wooden ceiling, plain and much restored. There is a window of five lights, rising in height from the sides to the centre, in the east wall. In the north wall are two small splayed openings and a plain fireplace, the last now blocked. The remains of the older window already mentioned form an opening towards the interior of the chancel on the south side.

From the south side of the chancel projects a large transeptal chapel, which opens into it through a wide drop-arch, moulded with two swelled chamfers. This is apparently of the fourteenth century, but the semi-octagonal responds were cased in the fifteenth century with trefoil-headed panelling. The responds of the narrow arch which opens on the west side into the south aisle of the nave are similarly cased. There is a five-light window in the east wall, and one of three lights in the south wall, both of the fifteenth century. The chief monuments which this chapel contains will be described later. Beneath the arch on the west side is a handsome metal grille.

The process of recasing to which reference has been made in connexion with the responds of the transept arches was applied in the fifteenth century to the piers of the nave arcades, each face of which is treated as a framed panel with a cusped head. The capitals are battlemented. The arches are of two orders, with an ogee in the outer, and a wave in the inner order, and appear to be contemporary with the recasing of the piers, which was probably taken in hand after the arches had been rebuilt. In any case, they cannot be much earlier. The clerestory has fifteenth-century windows of two lights. All this work was done about 1480. The lofty chancel arch was adapted to the additional height given by the clerestory to the nave, and its responds are panelled in two stages. The method of panelling the pier-surfaces which is employed at Ashby may be compared with the similar feature at
Syston, which is about the same date. The best example of its use in England is at Sherborne Abbey in Dorset, where the panelling, unbroken by capitals, runs round the arches as well, and the recasing of the earlier piers and arches in the nave was in progress during the last quarter of the fifteenth century.

The roof of the nave is contemporary with the clerestory, and those of the inner aisle appear to be partly of the same date. The tower also seems to have been entirely rebuilt. The arch from the nave has very broad and coarse hollow mouldings. The responds are plain and solid, with a panel corresponding to each of the two orders of the arch, and a narrow intermediate panel beneath the recess between them. This looks like recasing of an earlier arch, and the east wall of the tower for part of its height was probably retained. The rest, however, was reconstructed. The ground-floor is vaulted with ribs converging upon a bell-hole in the middle. The stair is in the south-west corner. Externally there are diagonal angle-buttresses with noticeable offsets, which are complete to the ground at all four angles. The west doorway and window above are in their present state modern: the window is of four lights with a transom. In each face of the belfry there is a single light of poor detail. The buttresses rise into pinnacles, which, with the parapet, are old work. In the south wall of the lowest stage a carved stone is built up, which may possibly be of the twelfth century: the carving is a circular medallion, divided by an internal cross into four parts, in each of which a foliation springs from the centre of the cross to the circumference of the circle.

The outer aisles of the nave, for which the older walls were removed, follow the architectural character of the rest of the church, and the whole of the restored work is handsome, though of no great interest. The north doorway, in the west bay of the aisle, with a crocketed hood, contains some old stonework and appears to follow the design of its predecessor.

The church contains several tombs of importance. At the west end of the inner south aisle there is an incised slab, representing a man and his two wives. The inscription ORATE PRO ANIMABUS ROBERTI remains, but the rest is nearly obliterated. The date appears to be 1526.
In the wall of the outer north aisle, near the east end, is a canopied recess, much mutilated, of the end of the fifteenth or beginning of the following century. This contains an alabaster effigy of a man in a long gown, with a broken pilgrim's staff in his left hand. He has straight hair and is bare-headed: a pilgrim's hat with scallops on the up-turned brim lies beneath his right shoulder. He wears a collar of SS. His gown, tied by strips crossing the shoulders and crossed in front, has short sleeves which show the close-fitting sleeves of the tunic below. This pilgrim or palmer is supposed to have been a member of the house of Hastings, and, when the monument was moved to its present situation, a shield with the Hastings maunch was added at the back of the recess. The effigy, with its cinquefoiled segmental canopy, probably belongs to the reign of Henry VII.

The middle of the transeptal chapel is occupied by the splendid table-tomb of alabaster, with the effigies of Francis Hastings, second earl of Huntingdon, and his wife Katherine, elder daughter and co-heiress of Henry Pole, lord Montague. The inscription round the edge of the tomb runs: Here lyeth ye corps of Franceys late erle of Huytingdon lorde Hastyngeus Hungerford Botreaux Molyns & Hayles knight of ye honourable order of ye garter whiche deceased ye xx th daye of June a° d'ni 1561 and of ye lady Katherin Countisse of Hutyngdon his wife whiche deceased ye xxiii d day of Sepbr Anno d'ni 1576. The date of the earl's death is a year wrong, as he actually died in 1560. The earl and countess wear coronets: above armour he wears the mantle of the Garter, coloured, however, red, and has the garter and George. The countess wears a widow's veil and wimple. The tomb has pilasters carved with early Renaissance detail at the angles. On the east side are two large crowned shields with a niche between. On the north side are four great shields and figures of five sons standing within small fringed canopies let down, so to speak, from a line of looped curtain above. Beneath each figure is a name: WALTER, FRANCIS, EDWARD, WILLIAM, GEORGE. On the west side is a sixth son, HENRY, in a niche between two crowned shields, beneath which are medallions with crests above. On the south side are four more shields and five figures of daughters, inscribed KATHERIN, FRANCYS, ANNE, ELIZABETH, MARY. On the east wall of the chapel, near the tomb,
is a great armorial achievement which appears formerly to have stood at its head.

Eight earls of Huntingdon of the Hastings family lie buried at Ashby, but of the other monuments in the chapel the only one of great artistic interest is that of Theophilus, the ninth earl, who died in 1746. This, by Rysbrack, has a medallion portrait of the earl upon the side of an urn, over which his widow bends in tears. The widow herself, Selina, second daughter and co-heiress of Washington Shirley, second earl Ferrers, is celebrated as the foundress of the dissenting body known as the countess of Huntingdon’s connexion, and is commemorated by a modern brass in the middle of the floor of the chancel. On the west wall of the chapel are the monuments of George, second, and Reginald, third marquis of Hastings, who died in 1844 and 1851 respectively.

Apart from the tombs, the most striking feature of the church is the fine wooden reredos and panelling at the east end. This, which belongs to the following of Wren and Grinling Gibbons, was erected in 1679. The composition is crowned by a rounded pediment, broken to admit an armorial achievement adorned with swags of foliage. The whole effect is excellent and stately. The windows of the chancel and Hastings chapel contain a large number of heraldic medallions, brought to the church from Ashby castle, together with a collection of German and Swiss roundels, which were removed here from the castle chapel at Farleigh Hungerford, on the borders of Somerset and Wiltshire. Each shield has a name below it, but these appear to have been selected at random, and have no actual relation to the shields themselves.

At the west end of the church is an old finger-pillory. There is a modern alabaster font, which superseded a smaller one, also comparatively modern, which remains close by. In the vestry are preserved two early printed books, viz., a perfect copy of the rare York Breviary, ‘printed at Venice by Joh. hāman de Landois dictus herizog : limpidissimis vt cernis caracteribus, 1 May 1493,’ and a Primer of 1545, ‘imprinted at London in Aldersgate strete by Jhon Herforde’, and published in ‘Fletestrete at the signe of the Sunne, ouer agaynst the conduyte, by Edward Whitchurch, the xix day of Iune MD.XLV.’
II.—EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

By Henry Hartopp.

The early extracts of Ashby de la Zouch, like those of most parishes, contain, in addition to the usual baptisms, marriages and burials of the forefathers of the town, a few entries of especial interest. There are, however, at Ashby no entries referring directly to outstanding national or local events, such as the siege of the castle or visitations of the plague, and no remarks upon weather conditions. The first volume contains classified entries of baptisms from 1561 to October, 1718, of marriages from 1561 to December, 1719, and burials from 1561 to 1672, and, except for a few breaks, the entries are continued in later volumes to the present time. The volume relating to the earlier period consists of vellum leaves measuring 16½ inches by 6 inches, bound in rough calf, and is estimated to contain six thousand, five hundred entries. Among the names frequently encountered before 1650 may be mentioned the following:—Appleby, Ash, Aspinshaw, Bainbridge, Blackleach, Dipsy, Giffard, Grundy, Hall, Haltless, Hassard, Hastings, Hood, Joyce, Newton, Pemberton, Prestbury, Sheppard and Sherwood.


The following are entries from the register of baptisms concerning members of the Hastings family:—

1592. Edward son of Francis Hastings. 5 Oct.
1597. Francis son of Henry Hastings. 20 March.
1606. Alice Hastings daughter of the Right Honourable the earl of Huntingdon was baptized. January 4.

1612. Elizabeth daughter of the same Earl, born May 2 and baptized 22 May.


1633. Mrs Elinor Hastings daughter of the Right Hononourable Ferdinand Lord Hastings was baptized the seven and twentieth day of Oct. 1633.

1635. Elizabeth the daughter of Ferdinand Lord Hastings was baptized Feb. 22.

Other entries of interest are:—


1600. Timothy son of the above, bap. — May.


1640. Henry son of George Chetwinde, gent., and Dorothy his wife, baptized July 7.

1641. Francis son of Francis Legary, gent., and Mary his wife, baptized November 9.

The entries of burials in the earlier book are perhaps the most interesting from the fact that in many cases particulars and descriptions of the deceased persons are frequently recorded. A few selected entries follow:—


1568. Giles the Dutchman, armorer. 28 May.

1568. Otwell Hollingshed, esquire. 15 Aug.

1570. Thomas Bainbrig, bailiff of Ashby. 6 Jan.


1580. Humphery Tailer, yeoman, slaine with his sheppard. 11 Sept.

1584. Anthony Gilby, a detester of Popery from his youth and a preacher of the gospel. [He was probably curate of Ashby or a domestic chaplain to the earl of Huntingdon but certainly not vicar of the parish as stated by several writers.—H. H ] 31 Dec.
1589. Richard Blacklag, textor. 11 Nov.
1593. Thomas Widdowes, pastor of Ashby. 30 June.
1601. Mrs Widowes. 11 Apr.
1607. John Sknow, the girl boy. 11 May.
1608. Mr. Robert Salsberi, servant to the Right honourable the Earl of Huntingdon, an oldeeman. 22 Apr.
1608. John Hall, the Beallyf of Ashby de la Zouch. 17 May.
1609. A. Strainger, which disseced in Callys "suspeted to dy of the plage". 5 Feb.
1612. The Lady Katherine, daughter to George "Earle of Huntingdon, and wife to Sir Walter Chetwin, was buryed". 18 Dec.
1617. Roger Luther, a stranger, servant to "the Mr. of Requests". 19 Sept.
1618. John Ferdinand Chetwin (crossed out). 19 May.
1624-5. Mr. Tho. Peryns. 3 Feb.
1624-5. Margaret Holmes "infant and vagrant" (sic). 15 Feb.
1627. Mr. Edward Pilkington, esq., father to Mr. Edward Pilkington. 28 Mar.
1631. Mr. Arthur Hildersam (Minister of Ashby), "a worthy and faithful servant of God, a famous Divine and a painful preacher, the comfort of God's people in his time. Departed this life ye 4 of March and was interred in the Chauncel of our Pish Church in Ashby the sixt of March, 1631".
1632. Mr. Timothy Hildersam. 4 Mar.
1634. Leonard Fossbrook. 30 May.
1634. Mr. Robert Benbrig, senex. 8 Mar.
1636. Alce. Hastings d. of the Honorable Lord Ferdinando Hastings, buried the 7 June.
1642. George Chetwind, gent., buried. 9 Jan. [Three soldiers were buried in 1642, and twenty seven in 1643].
1643. Mr. Joseph Willmore, gent., buried. 30 July.
1643. Mr. Phillip Chetwind, esquire, buried. 21 Feb.
1644. [Another heavy year of burials including a number of persons of note and many officers and soldiers who died during the siege of Ashby Castle].
1644. Mr. While Gild, minister. 21 Apr.
1644. Mr. Anthony Watson, Vicar of Ashby and Abraham Smith, his clerk. 23 Apr.
1645. Joynes that was slane yt came from hartshorn. 15 May. [No entries after June 18, 1645, till May 29, 1646, by which time more normal conditions prevailed. The burial of “souldiers” ceases with John Nough, 6 Dec., 1648].
1649. Henry, Lord Hastings, the eldest and last surviving (sonne and here apparent of ye Earle of Huntingdon), was buryed att Ashby. July 7.
1661. Mr. Ithiel Smart, Minister of Ashby, a worthy and faithful servant of God, a famous Divine and a painful Preacher, ye comfort of God’s people in his time, departed this life ye 22nd of November and was interred in the Chauncel of our Parrish Church in Ashby ye six and twentieth of November, 1661.
III.—THE DESCENT OF THE MANOR

By S. H. Skillington

Ashby de la Zouch is a quiet and pleasant little town, on a stream called the Gilwiskaw, a tributary of the Mease, in the north-west corner of Leicestershire. Early in the nineteenth century a spirited attempt was made to turn the place into a fashionable health resort, and to this end the Ivanhoe Bath House, a Doric building with a pump-room beneath its dome, and the Hastings hotel, in the same style of architecture, were erected. The medicinal water for the baths was brought in iron tanks from the Moira colliery, a distance of three miles. In his *Topographical History of Leicestershire*, published in 1831, the Rev. J. Curtis, who was headmaster of the Grammar School at Ashby and perpetual curate of Smisby, a village about two miles away, over the Derbyshire border, after describing the building mentioned above, and formulating the saline constituents of the spring, says: "Central as the situation of Ashby is, and remote from the sea coast, few situations can boast of a more salubrious atmosphere. It fortunately confers the acknowledged benefits of sea bathing, hot or cold, upon a very populous inland district; and standing on a rather elevated table land, between the wolds and Charnwood Forest, is singularly exempt from any contiguous means by which the purity of its air can be vitiated. With such obvious advantages, it merely waits for the impulse of fashionable patronage to give its valuable spring, and elegant accommodations, that established celebrity they so pre-eminently deserve." The impulse of fashionable patronage not proving to be sufficiently strong and continuous, the enterprise did not fulfil Mr. Curtis's expectations, and, as Mr. J. B. Firth says in his recent book on the county, "Ashby remains what it has been for centuries, a retired country town". This, according to our way of thinking, is a not unhappy fate. We must not, however, enlarge upon the agreeable and tranquillising features of modern Ashby, our

1*Highways and Byways in Leicestershire* (London, 1926).
present business being to introduce Mr. Farnham's notes on the place as it was in the middle ages, and to set out in narrative form the chief facts to be deduced from them concerning the medieval manor and its lords.

The Domesday Book tells us that about the year 1086 the manor of Ascebi (Ashby) was held by Hugh de Grentemaisnil, and that fourteen carucates of land (roughly about 1650 acres) were held under Hugh by a subtenant named Ivo. Among other particulars noted by the compilers, it is stated that there was woodland, one league (about one modern mile and a half) in length and four furlongs in breadth, sufficient for the maintenance of a hundred swine. From the Leicestershire Survey of 1124-29, we learn that three carucates of land were held in Assebia by the earl of Leicester. Mr. F. M. Stenton, in commenting upon this entry, suggests that the fourteen carucates held by Ivo in 1086 may have included some of the land in the centre of the (Goscote) wapentake, which, though entered elsewhere in this survey, cannot be identified in Domesday.

Hugh de Grentemaisnil, the Domesday tenant in chief, was a valiant Norman feudatory, one of the founders of the abbey of St. Evroult, who, after distinguishing himself in his own country, had formed one of the council of war that planned the invasion of England, had fought at Hastings, and had subsequently helped the Conqueror to establish his English gains. For these services, besides other rewards, he was granted the lordship of Leicester and of more than seventy manors in the county, of which Ashby was one. After the death of Hugh, and the disgrace of his son Ivo, who had inherited them, these estates, known collectively as the honour of Leicester, came into the hands of the powerful family of Beaumont, four of whom, all named Robert, were successively, from father to son, earls of Leicester. The second of them, noted as a capable and prudent statesman, and as the founder of Leicester abbey, was the earl mentioned in the Survey as holding three carucates of land in Ashby.

When Robert Fitzparnel, the fourth and last of the Beaumont earls of Leicester, died without issue in 1204, his estates were divided between his two sisters, Amicia and Margaret. Through Amicia, the elder of these co-heirs, who was the relict of a French baron called Simon de Montfort, the earldom of Leicester and a
moiety of the lands descended to her grandson, the famous Simon de Montfort that was killed at Evesham in 1265. The other moiety, which included Ashby, went to the younger sister, Margaret, whose husband, Saer de Quincy, was created earl of Winchester in 1207, and so became part of the honour of Winton. It is desirable, as will appear later, that this fact should be kept in mind.

The earliest of Mr. Farnham's extracts from the original records shows that in 1202, by means of a fine levied at Westminster, all claim to one virgate of land in Ashby was remitted by Robert de Lawenden and others to Roger la Zouch and his heirs for a consideration of two marks. This Roger, who in 1230 was pardoned five marks, due from him to the exchequer for having a market at his manor of Ashby, belonged to a family that appears already to have enjoyed proprietary rights there for several generations. Nichols states that, soon after the Conqueror's time, the manor of Ashby was held by Robert Beaumeis, a Norman; that Philip de Beaumeis, whose brother Richard was bishop of London from 1152 to 1163, gave to the abbey of Lilleshall, Staffordshire, four yardlands in Ashby, with his demesne lands called Suartcliffe and the advowson of the church, and six acres of land at Blackfordby; and that the same Philip left as his heir one daughter only, who married Alan la Zouch and brought him the manor of Ashby, as appears from the records of the abbey of Lilleshall. 2

The Complete Peerage, by G. E. C., on the authority of Courthope, says that the Roger la Zouch of 1202 was the brother and heir of William la Zouch, surnamed de Beaumeis, who died without issue in 1199, and that William and Roger were the sons of Alan la Zouch, whose father was Geoffrey de Rohan. Nichols, following Burton, the earlier historian of Leicestershire, adds the information that "the family of Zouch descended from Geoffrey, second son of Alan, viscount of Rohan, in Little Britaine in France, by Constantia, his wife, daughter of Conan le Grosse, earl of Britaine, and Maud, his [Geoffrey's] wife, a natural daughter of king Henry the First". According to Burke's Extinct Peerage, 3 it is admitted by all genealogists that the Zouch

2 Nichols, Leicestershire, iii, 561. Lilleshall is actually in Shropshire.
3 Page 586.
family branched from the earls of Brittany, though there is no general agreement about the exact line of descent. Sir Harris Nicolas states that William la Zouch was succeeded in 1199 by Roger, who, according to Nichols, in 1219 agreed to pay the king a fine of one palfrey for a fair to be held yearly on the eve and day of St. Helen, and a market to be held weekly, on Wednesday, at his manor of Ashby.

The notes now presented do not tell us anything of the personal character of Roger la Zouch; but they show that he led the usual life of men of his rank, and that he held lands in other counties besides Leicestershire. Like his successors and those who held the manor before him, he must not be thought of as residing continuously at Ashby, though he probably visited the place from time to time when he was in England. From the Patent Roll we learn that on the 23rd of May, 1217, the king commanded the sheriff of Norfolk to give Roger la Zouch seisin of Costessey to hold during pleasure, and there is a similar order to the sheriff of co. Cambridge relating to the manors of Fulbourn and Swavesey, all of which had belonged to the viscount de Rohan. The Patent Roll also tells us that the manors of Fulbourn and Swavesey were granted to Roger in exchange for his land in Brittany. In 1220, he had leave to go on pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James of Compostella in Spain, provision being made for the payment of his debts in case he died abroad. In May, 1228, he had letters of protection for his men, lands, rents, etc., to last six months, while he was away in Brittany, and in 1230 he was granted similar protection, on going across the seas in the king's service. Four years later, he was ordered to send one of his knights, with horse and arms, to Portsmouth, whence the knight was to proceed by ship to the earl of Brittany, who would instruct him further on the king's behalf. Roger la Zouch died before the 14th of May, 1238, and his son Alan was found to be his heir.

Alan la Zouch, who did homage for the lands he held of the king in the counties of Salop and Devon on the 16th of June, 1238, was a man of sufficient importance for his public life to be

4Peerage, ii, 709.
5It will be seen that the day of the weekly market was in 1261 changed from Tuesday to Saturday.
commemorated by an article in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, where it is stated that he was made justice of Chester and of the four cantreds (groups of a hundred villages) in North Wales in 1250; justice of Ireland under prince Edward in 1255; sheriff of Northamptonshire and justice of the forests south of Trent in 1261; one of the arbitrators, selected at Kenilworth, to re-establish the peace of the realm in 1266; and warden of London and constable of the Tower in 1267. Particulars of the above appointments can be read in the *Calendars of Patent Rolls* issued by the deputy keeper of the Public Records. In the barons' war, as is implied by his employment on the commission of 1266, Alan was on the side of king Henry III. Other references which occur in the Patent and Close Rolls to Alan la Zouch tell us that, on the 19th of September, 1242, he was given protection from distraint for as long as he might remain abroad (in Gascony) on the king's service, and that, on the 26th of October, he was guaranteed a hundred pounds, to be paid out of the first consignment of money from England, as he would remain away until the following Easter. In April, 1243, the king pardoned him a hundred and ten marks that he owed to the exchequer for the debts of his father. In May, 1261, he was granted a weekly market on Saturday, in lieu of the one formerly held on Tuesday, at his manor of Ashby, and the right of free warren in all his demesne lands there, as well as a yearly fair at his Cambridgeshire manor of Swavesey. In December, 1263, he was appointed keeper of the counties of Devon, Somerset and Dorset, with authority to call upon their military resources. Alan la Zouch died in 1270, apparently from wounds inflicted by John de Warenne, earl of Surrey, who made a violent attack on him in Westminster Hall. The story is thus told by Burton, on the authority of Thomas Wykes, the thirteenth century chronicler of Oseney abbey, near Oxford: "One of this family, namely, Allen de Zouch............, having authority granted unto him by king Henry the Third, amongst other Commissioners of the Nobility, to convene certain persons to be examined upon several articles, but especially, by what right and title they held their lands, John, earl of Warren and Surrey, was summoned amongst the rest; who being demanded by the said Commissioners, by what title he held certain

\[D.N.B., lxxiii, 414.\]
lands then in his possession, suddenly drew out his sword and said, *That by this my grandfather held his lands, and with this I will keep them*. And being reproved by the said Alan le Zouch for this his misdemeanor, after some interchange of words passed between them, made an assault upon the said Allen, and sorely wounded him, as he sat at Westminster Hall, 1270, 45 Henry III, of which wound he shortly died*. Two notes from the Patent Rolls relate to this affair: the first, dated 4 August, 1270, shows that Alan appealed his assailant before the king; the second, dated 15th February, 1272, that the earl was allowed to pay his fine of ten thousand marks for this offence by annual instalments of two hundred marks. John de Warrene, who married the king's half-sister, joined forces with Simon de Montfort in 1260; but he returned to his allegiance in 1263, and it appears to have been Henry's wish, or policy, to treat him leniently.*

At the inquisition taken after the death of Alan la Zouch on the Sunday before Michaelmas, 1270, the jury found that Alan died seised of the manor of Ashby, held of the heir of the earl of Winchester by service of one knight's fee, and of North Molton, co. Devon, held of the king in chief by service of one serjeanty. Roger, his son, age variously stated as twenty-eight and thirty, was his heir. In the inquisition post mortem of Roger de Quincy, second earl of Winchester, who had died in 1264, though the extent of fees is dated in 1270, it was returned that the earl died seised of four fees in Ashby, Blackfordby, Culverby, Overton, Glen, Carlton and Rolleston held under him by Alan la Zouch. Alan la Zouch married Ellen, one of the three daughters and co-heirs of Roger de Quincy, and in 1270 an agreement was made between Alexander Comyn, earl of Buchan, and Elisabeth, his wife, on one part, and Margaret de Ferrers, countess of Derby, and Ellen la Zouch, sisters of the same Elisabeth, on the other part, relating to the apportionment of the lands inherited by them from their father Roger de Quincy. Early in 1271, protection was granted until Michaelmas for Ellen, late the wife of Alan la Zouch, going to Scotland for her business. This concerned her paternal inheritance in that country, where most of her lands and manors were situated. Ellen's father, Roger de Quincy, held the office

*D.N.B.*, lix, 364.
ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

of constable of Scotland in right of his wife, Helen, the daughter of Alan, lord of Galloway.  

Roger la Zouch, son of Alan and Ellen, married Ela, daughter and co-heir of Stephen de Longspec, by whom he had a son named Alan. Roger was present in Westminster Hall when his father was attacked by the earl of Surrey, and is said to have been wounded on that occasion. In 1276, he was discharged from liability for certain arrears due to the exchequer from his father's estate, and in June, 1277, protection was granted him until the following Michaelmas, as he was going to Wales on the king's service. His death occurred before the 14th of November, 1285, and in the inquisition taken after his death, the jury found that he died seised of the manor of Ashby, held of the honour of Winchester for one knight's fee, and that his son and heir Alan was eighteen years old. The inquisition for proving Alan's age was taken in 1289, when the jury returned that Alan was born at North Molton and baptised in the church there, and was twenty-one on the 9th of October, 1288. This was verified by the abbot of Lilleshall and the priors of Repton, Swavesey and Ulverscroft. In an order of the 10th of January, 1290, addressed to the executors of Richard le Brus, concerning the issues of the manors of Ashby and North Molton, which had been in Richard's custody, it is stated that Alan attained his majority on the feast of St. Denis, 1288, when he offered to the king his homage for all the lands which descended to him in any way, and prayed the king to render them to him, as to one of full age; but the king, because he wished Alan to remain in Gascony, where he was then on service, deferred receiving his homage, and promised that he would "hold him harmless in this behalf".

Letters of protection show that this Alan, who is said to have married Eleanor, daughter of Nicholas Seagrave, was in Scotland with Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, in the latter half of 1291, and that in April, 1294, he went beyond the seas with Eleanor, countess of Bar, the king's daughter. In 1296, his grandmother, Ellen la Zouch, died, and, Alan having been found to be her heir, the escheator beyond Trent was ordered to cause him to have

9 D.N.B., xlvi, 115.
10 These and other genealogical facts of the same order are taken from the pedigree of the Zouch family compiled by Mr. Farnham.
seisin of the lands that she held in her demesne as of fee at her death. In February, 1299, he set out for the court of Rome, and John Barcolf and Roger de Cotes were appointed to act as his attorneys for one year. At Easter, 1304, he was summoned by Agnes, wife of Robert de Norton, for seizing two oxen and two heifers, belonging to her, in the king's highway at Norton, driving them to Shepshed, and there detaining them, by which she was damaged to the amount of forty shillings. Alan admitted the capture and stated a defence, printed in the Appendix, and the matter was referred to a jury for decision. Whether the case was ever concluded does not appear; but the record shows that Alan had inherited from his grandmother the lordship of the Leicestershire manors of Norton and Little Stretton, and of the third part of the manor of Shepshed, in the same county, mentioned in the finding of the jury at the inquisition taken after the death of Ellen la Zouch. From three other records, we learn that in 1312 he was appointed constable of Rockingham castle and steward of the royal forests between the bridge of Oxendon and the bridge of Stamford. He died before the 25th of March, 1314, on which day the escheator was ordered to take into the king's hand "the lands late of Alan la Zouch, deceased, tenant in chief"

As Ashby was not included in these lands, the escheator was ordered, on the 10th of June following, to make inquisition whether Alan held that manor of the king or of some other person, and, if of the king, by what services he held it, what was its annual value, and who was his next heir. The inquisition was made in due course, and the jury returned that Alan held the manor of Ashby for life, by a fine levied in the king's court, excepting homage, services of all free tenants and view of frankpledge, "of which services and view the said Alan died seised in fee, of John 'Comyn, sometime earl of Buchan, by service of two knights' fees, and that the manor, excepting the services and view aforesaid, ought to remain to William la Zouche, of Richard's Castle". This return is in one respect inaccurate, because as Mr. Farnham points out, John Comyn had died in 1308.

The William la Zouch (or Mortimer) who succeeded to Ashby at this time was the son of Robert de Mortimer, of Richard's Castle, near Ludlow, by his wife Joyce, daughter of William la
ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

Zouch, younger brother of Alan's grandfather, the Alan la Zouch that had married Ellen de Quincy. The Alan who died shortly before the 25th of March, 1314, left no male issue, his heirs being his three daughters, Ellen, the wife of Sir Nicholas de St. Maur; Maud, the wife of Sir Robert de Holand; and Elisabeth, a nun. Not long after her father's death, Ellen became a widow, and by 1319 had married a second husband, whose name was Alan de Cherleton. Maud, the second daughter, succeeded to the third part of the manor of Shepshed that Alan la Zouch had inherited from his grandmother.

Upon coming into possession of Ashby, William de Mortimer assumed the name of Zouch, and about two years later married Alice de Tony, widow of Guy de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, who had died in 1315.

An order for the adjournment of an action against him and his wife, for the recovery of a tenement in Elmley Lovet, tells us that in September, 1318, William was on the point of "setting out with Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, marshal of England, to repel the invasion of the Scots". He next appears as the victim of an official error. After the battle of Boroughbridge, Robert de Gaddesby, keeper of forfeited lands in Leicestershire, seized certain services of free tenants in Ashby, Blackfordby and Glen, in the mistaken belief that they were the property of Robert de Holand, who had actively supported Thomas of Lancaster, and whose Leicestershire possessions it was therefore the duty of Robert de Gaddesby to forfeit to the Crown. By an order of the 16th of May, 1323, Gaddesby was instructed to restore to William "such estate in the premises" as he formerly enjoyed, from the time when they were erroneously taken into the king's hand. Five months later, William was appointed justice in eyre for the pleas of the forest in Essex, and in October, 1326, he made one of the assembly of prelates, lords, and knights by whom Edward, the king's eldest son, was chosen to figure as regent. In May, 1328, for services rendered to queen Isabella and Edward III, the keeping of the Tower was committed to him for life and he was made justice of the forest on this side Trent, with the usual emoluments. Early in 1329, both these grants were rescinded, and in March, 1330, at the instance of a parliament summoned at Winchester, the sheriffs of Surrey, Sussex and other counties
were commanded to "take the body of William la Zouch of Mortimer for certain seditions and to keep him safely in prison, so that they might have him before the king at Wodestok on the morrow of the close of Easter to answer touching the said seditions". After the death of his first wife, which occurred in 1324, William married Eleanor, daughter of Gilbert de Clare and widow of Hugh le Despenser, the younger, and an order of the 24th of January, 1332, to a certain Benedict de Fulsham, concerns the removal of a quantity of treasures and jewels from the Tower of London by the said Eleanor. Benedict was forbidden to leave London until he had accounted to William la Zouch for these valuables, as William had promised to satisfy the king for the jewels and other things eloyed by Eleanor, and had given him to understand that a great part of them went into Benedict's hands. How William fared with Benedict does not transpire; but it appears from a grant of the 5th of April, 1332, to William and Eleanor, who by royal command were then about to go abroad with the king's sister, that of £3,666 13s. 4d., arrears of £10,000, acknowledged by them to be due to the king, they were "to pay at the exchequer 250 marks at Michaelmas next and Easter following, and so on yearly 500 marks".

William died in February, 1337, and Eleanor four months later. On the first of March, 1337, the lands in various counties that William had held in chief, by the courtesy of England, of the inheritance of his first wife, Alice de Tony, were ordered to be taken into the king's hand, and sixteen days later the escheator this side Trent was instructed to deliver these lands, with the issues that had accrued from them since William's death, to Thomas de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, Alice's son and heir, whose homage had been taken. At the inquisition after William's death, it was found that Alan, his son by Alice de Tony, then aged nineteen and more, was his next heir.

All we know of Alan la Zouch, the son of William, in connection with Ashby, is that he held that manor until November, 1346, when he died seised of it, held under Alice de Beaumont, countess of Buchan, by service of two knights' fees. This Alan married a certain Eleanor, by whom he had a son called Hugh, who, in February, 1347, was declared to be his next heir and more than seven years of age. An assignment of dower,
which she tried to get increased, was made to Eleanor, after she had sworn, in the presence of John de Beauchamp, the heir's guardian, not to remarry without the king's leave. Some interesting particulars concerning Ashby are printed in the Appendix, in the allocation of dower. Hugh came of age before the 2nd of July, 1360, when the escheator was ordered to cause him to have seisin of all the lands in Leicestershire that his father had held at his death in his own right. A deed of defeasance, dated 29th July, 1360, concerning the payment by instalments of a sum of money due from Hugh to Sir Nicholas Dammory, makes it clear that Eleanor, who was then dead, had married Sir Nicholas after the death of Hugh's father. Eight years after Hugh la Zouch had succeeded to his inheritance, the authorities heard that he had died abroad, and an inquisition post mortem was taken at Ashby on the 28th of October, 1368. The jury found that he held in Ashby eight messuages and eight virgates of land of the king in chief, and the manor itself, with its appurtenances, of Henry Beaumont, chivaler, in each case by knight service. The details of the manor are printed in the Appendix. The jury further stated that Hugh "died in foreign parts on Saturday after St. Matthew last", and that Robert la Zouch, his father's brother, then aged fifty-three, was his next heir. Later in the year, Hugh proved the inaccuracy of the report that he was dead by arriving in England, and, on the 1st of December, William Catesby, the escheator in Leicestershire, was ordered to "restore fully to Hugh la Zouch, tenant in chief, or to his attorney, all the lands which William atte More, the late escheator, took into the king's hand", the king being "now informed of a surety that the said Hugh is alive and well". Hugh continued to be alive, and, so far as we know, tolerably well, until the 11th of July, 1399. The inquisition post mortem, taken at Ashby on the Tuesday before the 5th of August following, found that he held the manor of Ashby as tenant in chief, that he left no issue, and that his kinswoman Joyce, aged thirty and more, the wife of Hugh Burnell, was his next heir. Hugh was the last of the lords of Ashby who bore the name of Zouch.

Joyce, the wife of Hugh Burnell, who succeeded Hugh la Zouch at Ashby, was the great grand-daughter of William la Zouch of Mortimer and Alice de Tony, the grandparents of Hugh
William and Alice had a daughter Joyce, who married John de Botetourt, by whom she had a son, also named John, who died in his father's lifetime. This John de Botetourt married Maud, daughter of John de Grey, second lord Grey of Rotherfield. John and Maud de Botetourt were the parents of Joyce Burnell, Hugh, lord Burnell, of whom Joyce de Botetourt became the second wife in 1386, had first married Philippa, daughter of Michael de la Pole, earl of Suffolk, by whom he had a son, Edward, who was killed at the battle of Agincourt. Edward Burnell left three daughters; Joyce, who married Thomas Erdington, lord of the manor of Barrow on Soar; Katherine, who married (1) Sir John Ratcliffe, and (2) John Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury; and Margaret, who married Edmund Hungerford.

Joyce Burnell, Hugh's wife, died without issue on the 1st of January, 1407. At the inquisition post mortem, taken at Ashby on the 12th of the following April, it was returned by the jury that she held no lands in co. Leicester of the king in chief on the day of her death. Her heirs were her aunts and their descendants.

About four years before Joyce's death, Hugh Burnell started a suit against Robert Goos, John Howe and John Fisher, all of Ashby, in that the said Hugh, lord of the town of Ashby la Zouch, "ought to have, as all his predecessors, lords of this town, have had, from a time when memory does not exist, a certain market on Saturday in each week, the said defendants with threats attacked those men who came near there with their victuals and other things to buy and sell, so that for a long time they were afraid to come, to the great damage of the said Hugh Burnell". It will be remembered that the day of the weekly market at Ashby was changed from Tuesday to Saturday in 1261.

In 1411, Matilda, the widow of John Lovel of Tichmarsh, the great grand-daughter of Robert de Holand and Maud, his wife, one of the daughters and co-heirs of the Alan la Zouch who died in 1314, claimed the manor of Ashby. Matilda's case was that, by a fine levied in 1303, the manor of Ashby was granted to Alan la Zouch for life, and then to William la Zouch (of Mortimer) and his issue, or, in default of issue, to his right heirs. She alleged that William died without issue, that Hugh Burnell had entered on the manor and held it contrary to the fine aforesaid, and that the property ought to remain to her, as daughter of Robert (de
Holand), son of Robert, son of Matilda (Maud), daughter of the
said Alan la Zouch. Hugh Burnell answered that William la Zouch
did not die without issue, but had a daughter and heir named
Joyce, who left issue three daughters, Katherine, Joyce and Alice,
sisters of John de Botetourt, the father of Joyce Burnell, Hugh's
late wife. Joyce, the second daughter, who married (1) Sir Bald­
win Frevill and (2) Sir Adam Peshall, was still living; Katherine,
the eldest daughter, who married Maurice Berkeley, of Stoke
Gifford, near Bristol, was represented by her grandson, Maurice
Berkeley; and Alice, the youngest of the three, who had married
John Kyriel, was represented by Agnes and Joyce Wykes, the
the children of her daughter Joan. Matilda then declared that
Joyce de Botetourt was a bastard; but Hugh maintained that she
was the legitimate daughter of William la Zouch of Mortimer. The
suit was adjourned several times, and no decision is recorded. It
will be seen, however, that Matilda did not gain possession of
Ashby.

Hugh Burnell died on the 27th of November, 1420, nearly
fourteen years after the death of his wife. At the inquisition post
mortem, taken at Leicester on the Thursday before St. Hilary,
1421, the jury said that, on the day he died, Hugh did not hold
any lands in Leicestershire of the king in chief; but that he was
formerly seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Ashby la
Zouch. "And afterwards a certain fine was levied in the king's
court at Westminster in one month from St. Michael, 5 Henry V,
1417, between Joan, who was the wife of William de Beauchamp
de Bergavenney, knight, Philip Morgan, clerk, John Bath, clerk,
Bartholomew Brokesby, esq., William Boteler, of Yatton, esq.,
Nicholas Sauter, esq., and Richard Pepur, esq., now deceased,
plaintiffs, and Hugh Burnell, by the name of Hugh Burnell, of Holegate, knight, by which fine Hugh acknowledged
the said manor to be the right of the said Joan, as that
which Joan and the other plaintiffs had of the gift of the
said Hugh, to hold to Joan and the other plaintiffs and the heirs
of Joan for ever." The manor having been thus conveyed, it
was regranted to another set of feoffees, who transferred it to still
another set, by whom and their heirs and assigns it was doubtless
held to the use of Joan and her heirs, who were the real bene­
ficiaries. It is not clear by what right Hugh Burnell parted with
Ashby, in which, apparently, he had no more than a life interest, derived from his wife, who had died without issue in 1407; but the fact remains that he did part with it.

Joan, the plaintiff in the fine of 1407, who was born in 1375, was a sister and co-heir of Thomas Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, and had married William Beauchamp de Bergavenny, fourth son of Thomas, earl of Warwick, by Katherine, daughter of Roger Mortimer, earl of March. William died in May, 1411, and his widow held the castle and honour of Abergavenny until her death in November, 1435. Her daughter Elisabeth married James Butler, earl of Ormonde, by whom she had a son James, who was created earl of Wiltshire in July, 1449, and three years later succeeded to the earldom of Ormonde. This James fought on the Lancastrian side in the wars of the Roses; he was taken prisoner at the battle of Towton on the 4th of November, 1461, and is said to have been beheaded at Newcastle on the 25th of April following, in the forty-first year of his age. He left no issue. At the inquisition post mortem, held at Leicester in September, 1464, the jury found that "James, earl of Wiltshire, was convicted of high treason by Act of Parliament dated 4 November, 1 Edward IV, 1464. He was seised of the manor of Ashby de la Zouch in his demesne as of fee on 4 March, 1 Edward IV, 1461, and, being so seised, on 14 October, 37 Henry VI, 1458, he had enfeoffed therein Ralph, lord Sudeley, William St. George, knight, and Richard Byngham, one of the king's justices, and others, to hold the said manor to the use of the said earl and his heirs. The manor is worth £29 4s. 0d. and should devolve on the king by the Act of Parliament aforesaid".

The manor of Ashby de la Zouch having come into the hands of king Edward IV, as above, the king, by his letters patent dated 17 February, 1462, granted it to William Hastings, knight, lord Hastings.

The heirs of Joyce Burnell, however, put in a claim to the manor of Ashby, which is printed in detail in the Appendix, from the Patent Roll of the 18th of February, 1467. This claim was settled by a fine between the parties, levied in the octaves of St. John the Baptist, 1467, by which the manor of Ashby was declared

11D.N.B., viii, 51.
to be the right of William, lord Hastings, and his issue, and in
default of such issue, the reversion was to go to Leonard
Hastings, knight, father of the said William, and his issue,
and in default of such issue, one moiety would remain to
William Berkeley and his heirs, and a third part of the other moiety
to Margaret Byngham and her heirs, a third to Thomas Ferrers
and his heirs, and a third to John Aston and his heirs.

The claim originally set up in 1411 by Matilda Lovel, the
great grand-daughter of Maud and Robert de Holand, was finally
renounced, for himself and his heirs, by a charter executed on the
5th of February, 21 Edward IV, by her descendant, Francis, lord
Lovel.

William, lord Hastings, was executed, in circumstances that
are well known, on the 13th of June, 1483, and it was found that
he died seised of "the manor or lordship of Ashby de la Zouch
(interc alia) and 20 messuages, 6 virgates of land, 40 acres of
meadow, 100 of wood and 100s. rent in Ashby ". He was attainted;
but, according to Nichols, his son, Edward Hastings, was restored
in blood and estates by Henry VII on the 22nd of November, 1485.
Edward, lord Hastings, died in 1506, and on the 1st of May, 1509,
his widow married Sir Richard Sacheverell, knight, of Ratcliffe on
Soar, Nottinghamshire. George, lord Hastings, son and heir of
Edward, was created earl of Huntingdon on the 8th of December,
1529.

The castle, or castellated mansion, the picturesque ruins of
which stand a little to the south of Ashby Church, was erected by
William, lord Hastings, whose successors probably made additions
to the original building. There is no need for us to describe the
architectural remains, because a detailed account of them and their
interesting associations, illustrated with drawings and photographs,
was contributed by Mr. Fosbrooke to the thirty-first volume of the
A.A.S. Reports and Papers, which was published in 1911. Ashby
castle was the chief residence of the Hastings family until the civil
war of the seventeenth century, when it was fortified and held for
the king by Henry Hastings, who was created lord Loughborough
in 1643, the second son of the fifth earl of Huntingdon.12 In
November, 1648, several members of a committee (appointed by the
House of Commons) then sitting at Leicester visited Ashby and
decided that the castle should be slighted, \textit{i.e.}, rendered useless. This decision was forthwith put into effect under the supervision of William Bainbridge, of Lockington, a general in the Parliamentary army. Mr. Fosbrooke says that "the method adopted by him seems to have been the usual one, \textit{viz.}, the destruction of one side of the building from the roof to the foundations, thus preventing an enemy from obtaining any shelter within. By undermining one wall, and exploding heavy charges of gunpowder, the south wall of the great tower and the west wall of the kitchen, in each case their longest sides, were utterly destroyed, bringing in their fall the whole of the floors and roof. At the same time the spiral staircases were destroyed in a similar manner, and other portions of the ruins still standing to-day show large fissures, testifying to the violence employed". The sixth earl of Huntingdon took up his residence at Donington Park, about two miles from Castle Donington, which for many generations continued to be the principal seat of the family.

It is commonly believed that the castle built by William, lord Hastings, stood on the site of an earlier castle of the kind suggested by Sir Walter Scott in the fourteenth chapter of \textit{Ivanhoe}. There is, however, no evidence or likelihood that anything so impressive existed at Ashby before the end of the fifteenth century. The manor house, some portions of which may have been incorporated in the later building, was in all probability the "capital messuage worth nothing beyond reprises"\textsuperscript{13} mentioned in certain of the medieval inquisitions post mortem.

The manor itself has remained in the possession of the earls of Huntingdon and their descendants to this day. We do not feel called upon to enumerate its successive holders, as these are given by Nichols and in \textit{The Story of Ashby-de-la-Zouch}, by Mr. W. Scott, which was published in Ashby in 1907.

\textsuperscript{12}Memorials of Old Leicestershire (London, 1911), pp. 201-227.
\textsuperscript{13}Reprises = outgoings.
IV.—MANORIAL NOTES

By George Farnham, M.A., F.S.A.

Fine. Westminster, on the morrow of St. Martin, 4 John. 1202.

Between Robert de Lawenden and Aliva, his wife, and Hugh —— and Hawise his wife, and Mabel, sister of the said Hawise, plaintiffs, and Roger de la Zuche, tenant of one virgate of land in Esseby (Ashby). Robert and Aliva, Hugh and Hawise and Mabel quitclaimed all right to Roger and his heirs for ever, and for this Roger gave them two marks.

Patent Rolls 1216-1225, p. 64. 23 May, 1217.

The king to the sheriff of Norfolk. Know that we have committed to our beloved and trusty Roger la Zuche, Costeseye, with appurtenances, which was of the viscount de Rohan, to hold during our pleasure. We command you therefore to give him seisin without delay.

Similar order to the sheriff of co. Cambridge to give the same Roger seisin of Fuleburn and Swaveseye, which were of the same viscount de Rohan.

Patent Rolls 1216-1225, p. 87. 14 August, 1217.

The king to Faukes de Breaute. Know that we have granted to Roger la Zuche, the manors of Fulleburn and Swaveseye, with appurtenances, which were of G. viscount de Rohan, in exchange for his land of Brittany, for as long as it pleases us. Order to give Roger seisin without delay.

Ibid. p. 246. 6 August, 1220.

The king to all, etc. Know that we have given to Roger la Zuche licence to go on a pilgrimage to Saint James. So that should it happen that he die on that journey, he may have all his chattels and all issues of his lands from the feast of St. Michael in the fourth year of our reign, for one whole year, to satisfy his debts, saving to Margaret, the wife of Roger, her marriage and her dower.

N.B.—One of the earliest and most famous sanctuaries was that of Compostella, where the relics of St. James the Great were said to be discovered in 816, and, after being again hidden for many centuries, to have been discovered afresh in 1884. This was one of those most frequented by English pilgrims, no fewer than 2460 licences being granted for the journey in the year 1434. (Encyclopaedia Britannica).

Close Roll. 26 April, 1230.

The king has pardoned Roger la Suche 5 marks which are demanded of Roger at the exchequer for having a market at his manor of Essebi (Ashby de la Zouch) co. Leicester.


Grant, at the instance of Alan la Zuche and in aid of the marriages of Orabilla and Margery de Harecurt, daughters of William de Harecurt and nieces of Alan, to his said nieces, of the ransom of the value of the manors of the said William, of Tonge and Ayleston with the Soke of Stretton, belonging to the King by occasion of the
trespasses of the said William, who was against the king in the time of the disturbance had in the realm; to hold according to the Award of Kenilworth.

Ibid. p. 451. 4 August, 1270.

Whereas John de Warenna, earl of Surrey, for himself and his men, has put himself in the king's mercy to tax him at will for a trespass and wounds lately inflicted, as it is said, upon Alan la Zuche and Roger, his son, in the king's hall of Westminster, whereof the said Alan appealed the said earl before the king himself; the king has remitted to the said earl and all his men, and all those who can be charged with the said trespass and wounds, all his indignation and rancour of mind by occasion of the said trespass, and has pardoned them the suit of his peace for the said trespass, whatever may happen in the way of death or other mischief to the said Alan or Roger through the said trespass or wounds.

Ibid. p. 625. 15 Feb., 1272.

Grant to John de Warenna, earl of Surrey, that he shall pay the 10,000 marks in which he was bound to the king for a trespass which he was said to have done in the king's court by occasion of a contention between the earl and his men and Alan la Zuche and his men, at the rate of 200 marks yearly, as above, under date of 10 Feb., Mandate to the barons of the exchequer to cause this to be enrolled.

Curia Regis Roll 200. B. Mich., 54/5 Henry III, 1270, m. 3.

Agreement made between Alexander Comyn, earl of Buchan, and Elisabeth, his wife, on one part, and Margaret de Ferrers, countess of Derby, and Ellen la Zouche, sisters of the same Elisabeth, on the other part, concerning the reasonable purparty accruing to them in divers counties of the inheritance of Roger de Quincy, formerly earl of Winchester, whose heirs they are, in manner following, namely, that the said Alexander for himself and Elisabeth, his wife, as much as the said Margaret, have amicably granted that all lands and tenements which they hold of the said inheritance on Friday the vigil of All Saints, 55 Henry III, shall remain entirely to the said Alexander and Elisabeth and Margaret, saving nevertheless to the said Alexander and Elisabeth and to the heirs of Elisabeth the park of Berdon, with appurtenances, which the said Margaret granted to Alexander and Elisabeth, etc. And thereupon the said Ellen la Zouche comes and grants that if she have more of the inheritance aforesaid in her holding than pertains to her purparty by an extent of the escheator of the king thereof made, she will restore the amount to the said Alexander and Elisabeth and Margaret.


Writ dated 20 August, 24 Edward I, 1296.

The jury say that Ellen died seised in co. Leicester of a third part of the manor of Shapeshewede (Shepshed) held of the king in chief for a ninth part of a knight's fee, doing the scutage thereof when it happens; and 4 virgates of land, worth 9s. 3d. yearly for each virgate, held of William de Ferrers, to whom she renders as much yearly. Alan la Zouch, her grandson, is her next heir and of full age.

N.B.—Ellen la Zouch, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Roger de Quincy, earl of Winchester, seems to have received a very small share of her father's property in Leicestershire. Her manors and lands were mostly in Scotland.
Order to the escheator beyond Trent to cause Alan la Zouche to have seisin of the lands whereof Ellen la Zouche was seised in her demesne as of fee at her death, as the king learns by an inquisition taken after her death by the escheator, that Ellen, at her death, held divers lands of the king in chief, and that Alan is her next heir and of full age, and the king wishing to show Alan special favour, as he is staying in Gascony in the king's service, has rendered them to Alan. It is provided that Alan, when he returns to England, shall come to the king to do homage for the said lands and to pay his relief.

De Banco Roll 151. Easter, 32 Edward I, 1304, m. 135 d. Leyc.

Alan la Zuche was summoned to answer Agnes, who was the wife of Robert de Norton, in a plea of taking her cattle on Wednesday the feast of St. Valentine, 30 Edward I, at Norton, in the king's highway, to wit, 2 oxen and 2 heifers, and driving them to Shepshed, and there detaining them against the gage and pledge, by which she is damaged 40s.

Alan comes and well acknowledges the capture, and rightly, but not in the king's highway, but in a certain place called "Wellewellesyk", for he says that a certain Thomas de Hendesover held of a certain Elena, the grandmother of Alan, whose heir Alan is, the manors of Norton and Stretton, by homage, fealty and service of one knight's fee, and by paying to the scutage of the king 40s. when it happens, and by doing suit at the court of Elena, of the honor of Wynton, at Leicester, every three weeks, of which services the said Elena was seised at the hands of the said Thomas, and because the homage and fealty of a certain Richard de Hershull, kinsman and heir of the aforesaid Thomas, were in arrear for the said tenements on the day of capture, he ordered the said cattle to be taken in the place aforesaid, in his fee, as is lawful for Alan to do to Richard. Agnes repeats that Alan took the cattle on the king's highway and not in his fee. Order to the sheriff to summon a jury.

N.B.—The manors of Norton and Stretton are Norton by Galby and Stretton parva.

Inquisition p.m. Alan la Zouche. File 33/6, vol. v, p. 255.

Taken on Saturday after the Assumption, 8 Edward II, 1314.

The jury say that Alan held the manor of Assheby la Zouche for life, by fine levied in the king's court, excepting homage, services of all free tenants, and view of frankpledge, of which services and view the said Alan died seised in fee, (held) of John Comyn, sometime earl of Buchan, by service of two knights' fees. The manor excepting the services and view aforesaid, ought to remain to William la Zouche, of Richard's castle.

His heirs were Ellen, aged 26, the wife of Sir Nicholas de St. Maur; Maud, aged 24, the wife of Sir Robert de Holand, and Elisabeth, aged 20, who has taken the garb of the nuns at Brewode.

N.B.—Alan la Zouche also held manors, lands and fees in some 14 counties of England. William la Zouch was second cousin to Alan, his real patronymic was Mortimer, and he assumed the name Zouch. As John Comyn had died in 1306, it was scarcely accurate to say that Alan held of John in 1314. Although the manor of Ashby de la Zouch went to William la Zouch (Mortimer) of Richard's castle, the third part of the manor of Shepshed which had descended to Alan
from his grandmother Ellen, the daughter and co-heiress of the Quincy inheritance, went to Alan’s daughter Maud, the wife of Robert de Holand, kt., while Ellen, Alan’s elder daughter had the manor of North Molton, co. Devon, etc.


To Robert de Gaddesby, keeper of forfeited and other lands in the king’s hand in co. Leicester. Whereas the king lately ordered the keeper to certify him of the reason for taking the hamlets of Glen, Blackfordby and Assheby in the manor of Assheby la Zouche into the king’s hand, and the keeper has certified that he took the service of certain free tenants of the hamlets aforesaid which pertain to the said manor into the king’s hand, because he was given to understand that Robert de Holand had the said services on the day of his forfeiture, and that William la Zouche said that he was seised of the said tenants’ services........the king orders the keeper not to intermeddle further with the aforesaid services, and to permit William la Zouche to have such estate in the premises as he had in the time of the aforesaid Robert de Holand from the time when they were taken into the king’s hand.

N.B.—Sir Robert de Holand, of Upholland, co. Lancs., became a favourite official of Thomas, earl of Lancaster. He was summoned to parliament from 1314 to 1321 by writs directed “Roberto de Holand” whereby he is held to have become lord Holand. He took sides with his patron the earl of Lancaster in his various contentions with the king, being pardoned in 1318 for complicity in the death of Piers de Gaveston, and in 1318 was again pardoned for adherence to the earl. In the earl’s final rising in Feb. and March, 1321-2, he is said to have played a treacherous part. On the earl’s flight northwards, before the battle of Boroughbridge, he surrendered to the king at Derby, and was sent to Dover castle. He appears, however, to have fought at Boroughbridge, surrendering after the battle, and was treated as a rebel, all his lands being taken into the king’s hand. He was imprisoned in various places. At the accession of Edward III he petitioned for the restitution of his lands and this was granted to him on 23 Dec., 1327. On 7 Oct., 1328, he was captured in Boreham wood, Herts., by some adherents of his late patron, Thomas, earl of Lancaster, who, for his treachery, cut off his head. He married, about 1311, Maud, daughter and co-heir of Alan la Zouche, by whom he had with other children, a son Robert, aged 16 at his father’s death, who was restored to some, at least, of his patrimony. [G.E.C. Complete Peerage].

Lay Subsidy 133-2. 6 Edward III. 1332.

From William la Zouche 17s.
William de Roteby 4s.
Robert Adnyet 4s. 4d.
Richard Adcok 6s. 8d.
Henry Bydoun 4s. 4d.
Robert Tryan 6s. 6d.
John le Warde 6s. 8d.
John le Taillour 4s. 4d.
Roger de Crophull 6s. 8d.
John Bercar’ 6s. 8d.
Robert Persoun 6s. 8d.
Richard son of Richard Palmere 5s. 4d.
The wife of Roger de Shakerston 5s. 4d.
William de Tykenhale 3s. 6d.
ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

From John Isaac 3s. 10d.
John de Ingwardby 5s. 8d.
Agnes Joye 5s. 8d.
Henry Adecock 6s. 8d.
Ralph de Irland 3s.
William Balle 4s.
Robert Chapman 5s. 4d.
Ingelram le Mareschal 4s. 5d.
Robert Dalirost 6s. 8d.
Walter Graunt 6s. 8d.

Sum £7 Os. 0Jd.

Inquisition p.m. William la Zouche. File 50-23. 11 Edward III, 1337. Taken at Leicester on 29 May, 1337.

The jury say that William la Zouche held the manor of Assheby la Zouche. There are there a capital messuage worth 3s. yearly, a dovehouse worth 2s. yearly, a common oven worth 6s. yearly, a market with a fair on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross worth 12s. yearly, 120 acres of land by the lesser hundred, of which 80 can be sown yearly, worth 40s. yearly at 6d. per acre, and 40 acres are not extended (i.e., valued) because each acre lies waste each (third) year, i.e., one third lies fallow every year. There are 12 acres of meadow worth 18s. yearly at 18d. per acre. There is there a certain park, the agistment of which is worth 13s. 4d., the underwood is worth nothing, because it was cut the last year past.

The rents of the free tenants amount to 101s. 0Jd. payable at the feasts of St. Thomas the Apostle and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist by equal payments.

The rents of the villeins amount to £17 14s. 8Jd., payable by even portions at the feasts of St. Martin, the Purification B.V. Mary, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

There is there the farm (rent) of the demesne lands set to farm at Swartclyf beyond the aforesaid demesne lands 11s. 4d.

The pleas and perquisites of the courts are worth 20s. yearly.

William la Zouche also held 7½ virgates of land in Kylwarby held of the king in chief, as of the Crown, by service of a fourth part of a knight's fee.

William la Zouche died on 28 February last.

Alan, his son, aged 19 years and more, is his next heir.


The jury say that Alan la Zouche died seised of the manor of Assheby la Zouche, including a park, rent of the borough, and a market with a fair of one day at the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, held of lady Alice de Beaumont, countess of Boghan, by service of two knight's fees.

And of seven and a half virgates of land in Culwardeby held of the king in chief, as of the Crown, by service of a fourth part of a knight's fee, which land was demised to farm to divers free tenants for 100s. yearly.

Alan la Zouche died on the morrow of St. Martin last.

Hugh, his son, aged 7 years about the feast of St. Peter ad vincula last, according to what the jurors have been able to enquire, is his next heir.
On page 524, in the Cambridge inquisition the jury say that Alan held the manor of Swaveseye jointly with Eleanor, his wife, who still survives, to hold to them and their joint issue, with remainder to the right heirs of Alan. The manor was held of the earl of Richmond in socage.

Assignment of dower to Eleanor, late the wife of Alan la Zouche, who has taken an oath not to marry without the king's licence, in the presence of John de Beauchamp the guardian of the heir. File 88 (10).

April 14, 1347. Assheby la Zousche.

Within the dwelling-house (mansum) of the manor, a ruinous old hall, a new chamber not yet roofed, to be removed so that the soil there may remain in the possession of the lord, and the said chamber to be rebuilt elsewhere on the soil of the said Eleanor, a long house called "the bakery" "breshouse and kitchen" with an oast-house (toral) in the same and a well near the said house, so that the lord and his servant may have the use of the said well at their pleasure, a house called "le Longstable" opposite the grange, with a piece of orchard lying in breadth from the grange to the way leading towards Pakynton below the said orchard with free ingress and egress to the great outer gates, and in length from the said Longstable to certain boundaries near the ditch of the rabbit warren, and a third part of a stone dovecot; a third part of the profits of views of frankpledge and of the market and fair of Assheby, bakehouses, etc., in common, but of whatever she shall take in common she shall find a third part of the expenses; also a third part of a certain yearly rent of 3s. called "Ilmor rent" to be taken in common from certain burgages in the town, and the pleas and perquisites of court issuing from all her men and tenants aforesaid, and a third part of two fish-ponds and of the fishery thereof. There are no other lands, etc., there, from which she can be dowered, saving, nevertheless, on the petition of her attorney, her actions, if she has the right to seek her dower from 53s. 4d. yearly rent, issuing from a virgate of land demised to Robert Person, 2 virgates of land demised to John son of John de Ingwardby and a virgate of land demised to Roger le Messager and Eleanor his wife for their lives, by Sir William la Zousche, deceased; and from a messuage and virgate of land demised to Walter Truant and Margaret his wife, and from two burgages, a virgate and 4 acres and 2 acres of land and meadow demised to James de Assheby by the said Alan la Zousche, deceased, and from 2s. yearly rent from tenants not yet found.

N.B.—Evidently Eleanor pursued her claim for further dower for in the De Banco Roll 356, Mich., 1348, m. 432, Walter Truant and Margaret his wife offered themselves against John de Beauchamp, guardian of the body and land of Hugh, son and heir of Alan la Zouche, knight, in a plea that he warrant them a third part of a messuage and virgate of land in Assheby le Zouche which Eleanor, who was the wife of Alan la Zouche, claims as dower against them.

Inquisition p.m. Hugh la Zouche, chivaler. File 203 (60). Taken at Ashby la Zouche on SS. Simon and Jude, 42 Edward III, 1368.

The jury say that Hugh la Zouche, chivaler, held of the king in chief 8 messuages and 8 virgates of land in Assheby la Zouch by knight service; and the manor of Ashby la Zouch with the appurtenances, of Henry Beaumont, chivaler, by knight service.
In the manor of Ashby there is a capital messuage worth nothing beyond reprisals, 4 carucates of land worth 40s. yearly, £14 of assised rents, 3 mills, one of which is a windmill and two are water-mills, worth 100s. yearly beyond reprisals, one park containing 60 acres, of which the herbage is worth 20s., the pleas and perquisites of the court are worth 3s. yearly.

Hugh la Zouche died in foreign parts on Saturday after St. Matthew last.

N.B.—In another inquisition on Thursday after St. Bartholomew.

Robert la Zouche is his uncle and next heir and aged 53 years.

N.B.—Unfortunately for uncle Robert, Hugh did not die in foreign parts, but turned up in England alive, claimed and got his inheritance, and lived until the year 1399. Nichols and other writers following him make the mistake of killing this Hugh in 1368, and inventing another Hugh as heir of Hugh, which is a double error. The true facts are proved by the following entry on the Close Roll.

Cal. Close Rolls 1364-8, p. 454. 1 December, 1368.

Order to William de Catesby, escheator in co. Leicester, to restore fully to Hugh la Zouche, tenant in chief, or to his attorney, all the lands which William atte More, late escheator in co. Leicester, took into the king's hand, as being lately informed that the said Hugh had died over seas, the king had ordered the said late escheator to take into his hand and safely keep until further order all the lands whereof Hugh, at his (reported) death, was seised in his demesne as of fee; but he is now informed of a surety that the said Hugh is alive and well.

Inquisition p.m. Hugh la Zouche, chivaler. Taken at Assheby la Zouche on Tuesday before St. Thomas the martyr. 1 Henry IV, 1399.

The jury say that Hugh la Zouche, chivaler, held the manor of Assheby la Zouche of the king in chief, in which there is a capital messuage worth nothing beyond reprisals, etc.

Also 7½ virgates of land in Culwardeby held of Richard, late king of England, in chief, by a fourth part of a knight's fee, worth 57 shillings.

Hugh la Zouch died on 11 April last without issue.

And Joyce, the wife of Hugh Burnell, chivaler, is kinswoman and next heir of the said Hugh, and aged 30 years and more.

N.B.—The death of Hugh la Zouche without issue brings to an end the connection between Ashby and the Zouches.

De Banco Roll 568. Hilary, 4 Henry IV, 1403, m. 269, Leyc.

Hugh Burnell, chivaler, v. Robert Goos, John Howe and John Fissher, of Assheby la Zouche, in a plea wherefore, since the said Hugh, lord of the town of Assheby la Zouche, ought to have, as all his predecessors, lords of this town, have had, from a time when memory does not exist, a certain market on Saturday in each week, the said defendants with threats attacked those men who came near there with their victuals and other things to buy and sell, so that for a long time they were afraid to come, to the great damage of the said Hugh Burnell.
Inquisition p.m. Joyce, who was the wife of Hugh Burnell, chivaler. File 60-64. Taken at Coleshull, co. Warwick, on 11 April, 8 Henry IV, 1407.

The jury say that Joyce held the manor of Bordesley conjointly with Hugh Burnell, her husband.

Joyce died on 1 January, last past.

Her heirs are Joyce the wife of Adam de Peshale, knight, aged 40 and more. Matilda Botetourt, a nun in the abbey of Polesworth, aged 40 and more. Agnes Botetourt, a nun in the abbey of Elstow, co. Beds., aged 40 and more. Maurice Berkeley, son of Katherine, sister of John Botetourt, father of Joyce Burnell, aged 7 years. Agnes Wykes and Joyce Wykes, daughters of Joan late the wife of John de Wykes, the daughter of Alice Kyriel, sister of John Botetourt, the father of Joyce Burnell, aged 9 and 7 respectively.

The Leicestershire inquisition was taken at Ashby la Zouche on Tuesday, 12 April, 8 Henry IV, 1407. The jury say that Joyce who was the wife of Hugh Burnell, chivaler, held no lands in co. Leicester of the king in chief on the day she died.

Her heirs are as above.

De Banco Roll 600. Hilary, 12 Henry IV, 1411, m. 104, Leyc.

A fine was levied in 32 Edward I (1303) between Alan la Zouche, plaintiff, and William For of Swaveseye, chaplain, defendant, of the manor of Ashby la Zouche, co. Leicester. William For granted the manor of Ashby to Alan la Zouche for life, then to William la Zouche and his issue, in default to the right heirs of the said William. And now, on the information of Matilda who was the wife of John Lovell, chivaler, kinsman and heir of the said Alan, the king learns that the said Alan is dead, and that William is dead without issue, and that a certain Hugh Burnell, chivaler, has entered on the manor of Ashby la Zouche and holds it contrary to the fine aforesaid, the sheriff is therefore ordered throughout the honor of Wynton to cause Hugh Burnell to be summoned to be here in the octaves of St. Hilary next to show cause wherefore the manor of Ashby la Zouche should not remain to the said Matilda, who says that she is the daughter of Robert (de Holand) son of Robert, son of Matilda, daughter of the said Alan la Zouche.

Hugh Burnell says that William did not die without issue, but had a daughter and heir named Joyce who had issue Katherine, Joyce and Alice; Katherine had issue a certain Maurice, Maurice had issue Maurice, still living; Joyce married a certain Baldwin Frevill, which Joyce daughter of Joyce is still living; and Alice had issue certain Agnes and Joyce who are still living.

Matilda says that Joyce was a bastard.

Hugh says that Joyce was the legitimate daughter of William la Zouche.

N.B.—The suit was adjourned several times and no decision recorded.


John Botetourt, son of Joyce, the daughter of William la Zouche, had three sisters, viz:

1. Katherine, married Maurice Berkeley of Stoke Giffard, co. Gloucester, who died in 1361 leaving a son Sir Maurice, who died in 1400, who had a posthumous son Maurice.
2. Joyce, married 1stly Sir Baldwin Frevill who died in 1388, and 2ndly Sir Adam Peshall, who died s.p. Joyce died in 1420.
3. Alice, who married John Kyriel, of Eynesford, Kent.
The jury say that Hugh Burnell, knight, held no lands of the king in chief in co. Leicester on the day he died which could be taken into the king's hand, but they say that formerly the said Hugh was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Ashby la Zouche. And afterwards a certain fine was levied in the king's court at Westminster in one month from St. Michael, 5 Henry V, 1417, between Joan, who was the wife of William de Beauchamp de Bergavenny, knight, Philip Morgan, clerk, John bath, clerk, Bartholomew Brokesby, esq., William Boteler, of Yatton, esq., Nicholas Sauter, esq., and Richard Pepur, esq., now deceased, plaintiffs, and Hugh Burnell, by the name of Hugh Burnell, of Holegate, knight, defendant of the manor of Ashby la Zouche, by which fine Hugh acknowledged the said manor to be the right of the said Joan, as that which Joan and the other plaintiffs had of the gift of the said Hugh, to hold to Joan and the other plaintiffs and the heirs of Joan for ever. By virtue of which fine the aforesaid plaintiffs were seised of the said manor in their demesne as of fee, and afterwards the said Joan and the other plaintiffs, so seised, gave and by their charter confirmed the said manor to John Garlethorpe, Thomas Huys and John Northern, clerks, Robert Keleby and William Aubray, to hold the said manor to them, their heirs and assigns for ever. By virtue of which grant and confirmation the said John Garlethorpe and the others were seised of the said manor in their demesne as of fee. And afterwards the said John Garlethorpe and the others, by their charter, granted and demised the said manor to William Kenewolmerssh, Master Philip Morgan, John Bathe, clerk, Bartholomew Brokesby, John Russell, Nicholas Sauter, Walter Kebbyll, John Daundesey, Richard Pepur and Thomas ap Llewellyn, their heirs and assigns for ever. By virtue of which grant the said William Kenewolmerssh and the others were seised of the said manor in their demesne as of fee, and those of them who still survive are yet in seisin.

The manor of Ashby la Zouche was held of the lord de Beaumont by knight service, and was worth 20 marks.

Hugh Burnell, knight, died on 27 November last. (1420).

His heirs are Joyce, the wife of Thomas Erdington, the younger, Margery the wife of Edward Hungerford and Katherine Burnell, viz., daughters and heirs of Edward Burnell, knight, son of the said Hugh Burnell (which Edward Burnell had died in his father's lifetime. Joyce is aged 24 and more, Katherine 14 and more and Margery is 11 and more.

N.B.—It is difficult to see by what right Hugh Burnell made any fine of the manor of Ashby, his interest being through his wife Joyce, who had died in 1407 without issue.

William Beauchamp de Abergavenny, 4th son of Thomas, earl of Warwick, by Katherine, the daughter of Roger Mortimer, earl of March, was summoned to Parliament from 23 July, 1392, to 18 Dec., 1409, as a baron, and died on 8 May, 1411. He had married Joan, the plaintiff in the fine of Ashby manor of Mich., 1417, mentioned above, sister and eventually co-heir of Thomas Fitzalan, earl of Arundel, she was born in 1375 and held the castle and honor of Aberavenny as dower until her death on 14 Nov., 1435. Her daughter Elisabeth was married to the earl of Ormond, by whom she had issue a son James, who was created on 8 July, 1449, earl of Wiltshire during his father's lifetime. The earl of Wiltshire fought on the Lancastrian side and was taken prisoner at Towton field on 29 March, 1461, and is said to have been beheaded at Newcastle on 25 April following
the battle. He died without issue, and having been attainted on 4 Nov., 1461, all his honours were forfeited. He was born on 24 Nov., 1420. He obtained the manor of Ashby de la Zouch, possibly through his maternal grandmother Joan, lady Bergavenny, by virtue of the fine of Michaelmas, 1417.

Inquisition p.m. James, earl of Wiltshire. Taken at Leicester on 15 September, 4 Edward IV, 1464.

The jury say that James, earl of Wiltshire, was convicted of high treason by Act of Parliament dated 4 November, 1 Edward IV, 1461. He was seised of the manor of Ashby de la Zouch in his demesne as of fee on 4 March, 1 Edward IV, 1461, and, being so seised, on 14 October, 37 Henry VI, 1458, he had enfeoffed therein Ralph, lord Sudeley, William St. George, knight, Richard Bynggam, one of the king’s justices, and others, to hold the said manor to the use of the said earl and his heirs. The manor is worth £29 4s. 0d., and should devolve on the king by the Act of Parliament aforesaid.

N.B.—The manor of Ashby de la Zouch having come into the hands of King Edward IV, as above, the king, by his letters patent, granted the manor to William Hastings, knight, thus “Grant in fee simple to William Hastings, king’s knight and chamberlain, whom the king has lately raised to the rank of baron, of the manor and lordship of Ashby de la Zouche, co. Leicester, late of James, earl of Wiltshire, and all his lands and possessions in the county of Leicester in the king’s hand by reason of an Act of forfeiture in Parliament at Westminster on 4 November last” (Patent Roll, 17 Feb., 1462).

The heirs of Joyce Burnell, however, put in a claim to the manor of Ashby, as will be seen in the Patent Roll of 18 Feb., 1467. But whatever rights these heirs may have had in the manor were evidently settled in favour of William, lord Hastings, by the following fine levied in the octaves of St. John the Baptist, 1467, between William Stephens, plaintiff, and William Hastings, knight, Richard Bynggam, knight, and Margaret, his wife, Thomas Ferrers, knight, John Aston, esq., and William Berkeley, esq., defendants of the manor of Ashby de la Zouch.

The manor is declared to be the right of William Hastings and his issue, and if he die without issue, the manor will remain to Leonard Hastings, knight, the father of the said William, and his issue, and in default of such issue one moiety of the said manor will remain to William Berkeley and his heirs, and a third part of the other moiety to Margaret and her heirs, Thomas Ferrers and his heirs and John Aston and his heirs respectively.

The claim which had been advanced by Matilda who was the wife of John Lovell in 1411 to the manor of Ashby was set at rest by Francis Lovell, great great grandson of Matilda, in 1482 by a charter enrolled on De Banco Roll 880, Easter, 22 Edward IV, m. 1. "To all the faithful of Christ, etc., Francis Lovell, lord Lovell, etc., greeting. Know ye that I the said Francis have remised and altogether for me and for my heirs have for ever quitclaimed to the Rev. Father in God Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas, archbishop of York, John, bishop of Ely, William Hastings, knight, lord Hastings, John Gunthorpe, dean of the chapel royal, Thomas Burgh, kt., William Huse, kt., chief justice of the Pleas, Thomas Bryan, chief justice of the Bench, Richard Neel, kt., one of the justices of the Bench, John Donne, kt., Richard Pigott, serjeant at law, William Chauntry, dean of the College of the Newarke, Leicester, William Moton, William Grymesby, esquires, William
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH

Bland and Thomas Kebeell, their heirs and assigns, all my claim and interest in the manor or lordship of Ashby de la Zouch, with a clause of warranty against John, abbot of the monastery of St. Peter, Westminster, and his successors. In witness of which I have affixed my seal to these presents. 5 February, 21 Edward IV.

N.B.—This charter is also among the muniments belonging to the countess of Loudoun.


Commission to Richard Neel, Thomas Palmer and Robert Staunton to enquire into the following claim of Richard Byngham, knight, and Margaret his wife, Thomas Ferrers, knight, John Aston, esq., and William Berkeley, esq., and to return their inquisitions into Chancery. The petitioners have shown that a fine was levied at York at Mich., 32 Edward I, before Ralph de Hengham and his fellows, then justices of the Bench, between Alan la Zusche, plaintiff, and William Por, of Swaveshey, chaplain, defendant, touching the manor of Ashby la Zusche, by which the said Alan acknowledged the manor to be the right of the said William of his gift, and the latter granted the said manor to the said Alan for life with remainder to William la Zusche of Richardes Castell and the heirs of his body, and the said Alan was seised of the manor and received the esplees thereof and after his death the said William la Zusche was seised of it in his demesne as of fee tail in time of peace in the time of Edward III, and received the esplees thereof, and the right of the manor descended from him to Alan, his son and heir, and from Alan to Hugh, his son and heir, who died without issue, and then to Joyce the sister of Alan the father of Hugh, and from her to John, her son and heir, and from him to Joyce, his daughter and heir, who died without issue, and then to her aunts Joyce and Katherine, sisters of the said John, and the right of the last named Joyce descended to Baldwin, her son and heir, and from him to the said Margaret, one of the petitioners, and Elisabeth and Joyce, her sisters, as his daughters and heirs, and the right of the said Elisabeth descended to the said Thomas, one of the petitioners, as her son and heir, and the right of her sister Joyce descended to Robert, her son and heir, and from him to the said John, one of the said petitioners, as his son and heir, and the right of the said John to Margaret, one of the petitioners, as his son and heir. And in Parliament at Westminster, 4 November, 1 Edward IV, 1461, it was ordained that James, late earl of Wiltshire, should be convicted of high treason and forfeit all the possessions which he had on 4 March, 1 Edward IV, in England, Ireland, Wales and Calais and the marches of the same, etc. And by an inquisition taken at Leicester on 14 September, 4 Edward IV, 1464, before William Assheby, then escheator in that county, by virtue of his office, it was presented that the said earl was seised in his demesne as of fee on the said 4 March of the manor of Ashby de la Zouch, co. Leicester, worth £29 4s. 0d. yearly, and by another inquisition taken at Leicester on 18 September it was presented that the said earl on 14 October, 37 Henry VI, 1458, being seised of the said manor, enfeoffed Ralph, lord of Sudeley, William Seyntgeorge, knight, Richard Byngham, one of the king's justices, Robert Stonham, Lawrence Cheyne, William Alyntaght, William Brounyng, William Curwyn, William Harper, esquires, Richard Neel, Thomas Littelton and Thomas Everdon and others, deceased, of the same to his use, and by another inquisition taken at Leicester on 16 September it was presented that the said earl was
seised of the said manor until John Lovell, knight, expelled him before the said 4 March; and the petitioners further say that the said Joyce, the daughter of John, and Hugh Burnell, knight, her husband, were seised of the said manor by force of the said fine, and granted it to William Gascoigne, John Rome, clerk, John Rede, John Joynour and John Burgoign the younger, and the hear of the latter, and the said William, John, John, John and John were seised of the same, and the said earl had their estate in the manor, and was seised of it in his demesne as of fee before the said 4 March; and by virtue of the said Act, and the inquisition of the said 14 September the manor was taken into the king’s hand until 26 Oct., following when the king by letters patent of that date granted it to William Hastings, king’s knight and chamberlain, who entered into it and is still seised of it in his demesne as of fee; and the said manor is not within the liberty of the bishopric of Durham, nor is any parcel of it, and the said petitioners have not been attainted by the said Act, nor has any of them; wherefore they pray that justice may be done.