

## THE EARLY STANLEYS

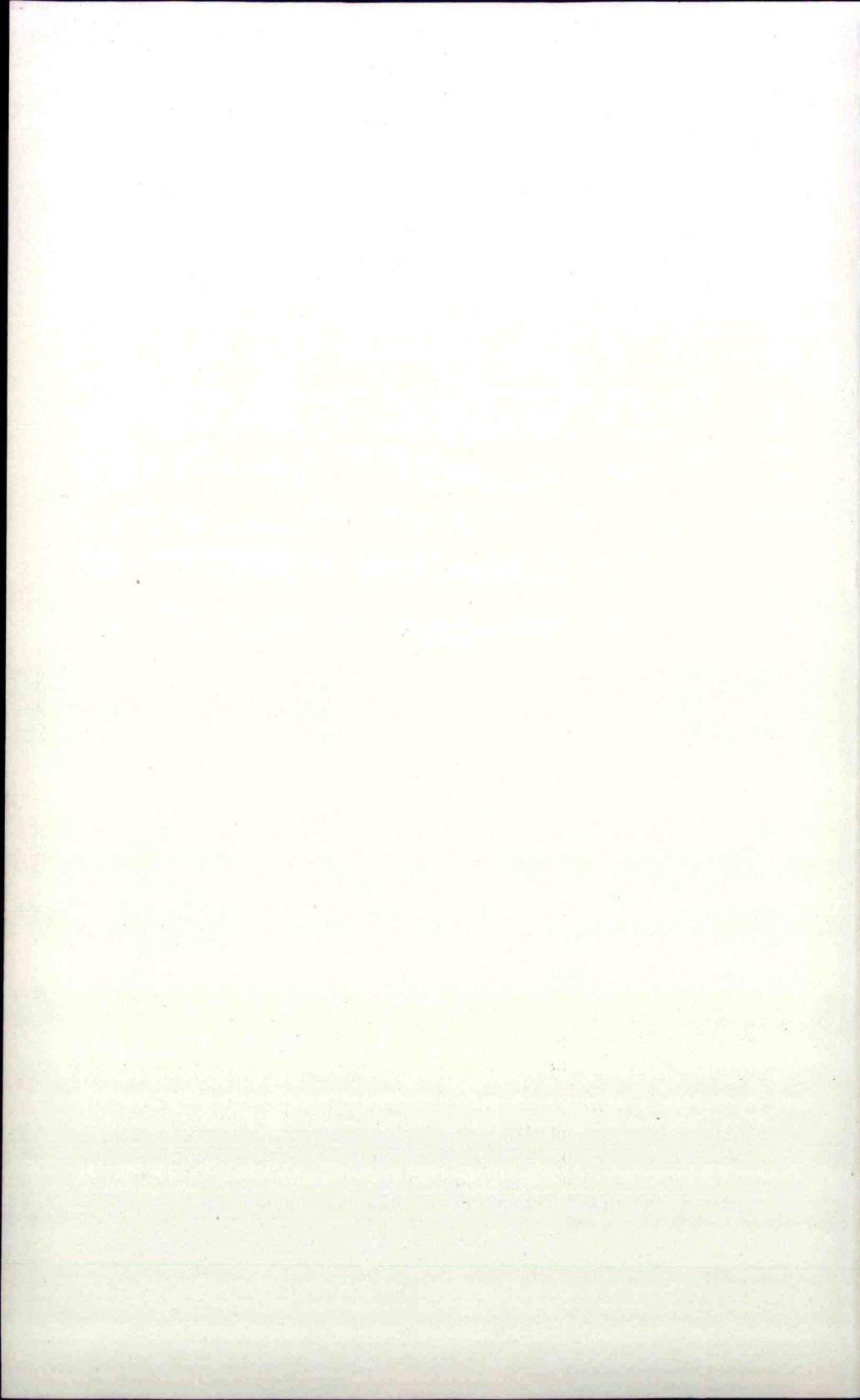
BY W. FERGUSSON IRVINE, M.A., F.S.A.

**S**URPRISE has often been expressed that there is no satisfactory history of the House of Stanley, a family which has given to England so many men of outstanding character and ability. Until recently its origin has been obscured by the fictions of most of the county histories and peerages. Even twenty-five years ago the details of the first few steps of the pedigree were mainly fabulous, and traced the ancestry of the family to Normandy or to impossible Anglo-Saxon earls. Although Horace Round in his *Peerage and Pedigree* (Vol. II, 1910) cleared away most of these errors, it was not until nearly twenty years later that the editors of the peerages brought themselves to accept Round's conclusions. There was, however, and still is much obscurity in the generations immediately succeeding those with which Round was concerned, and it is not until the middle of the fourteenth century that a continuous and accurate story is to be found in the usual books of reference.

That incomparable work *The Complete Peerage* in its most recently issued volume (Vol. XII, pt. 1, p. 243) has at last straightened out most of the tangle, though with a somewhat hesitant pen. Unhappily, however, the writer of the article, since dead, did not know of the splendid collection of Stanley of Hooton muniments now housed in the John Rylands library in Manchester. These documents, some seven hundred in number, were acquired by the library in 1933, and an excellent *Handlist*, edited by Doctor Moses Tyson, was published in 1935. These charters which cover the period from early in the twelfth century to modern times naturally throw much light on many obscure points in the pedigree. They have been used in the following pages to draw up a more exact account of this most distinguished family. It has only been possible, within the limits of this paper, to present the pedigree in skeleton form, and confined to the male descent. No attempt has been made to deal with the numerous side branches that lead away from the parent stem.

The following abbreviations have been used in references.

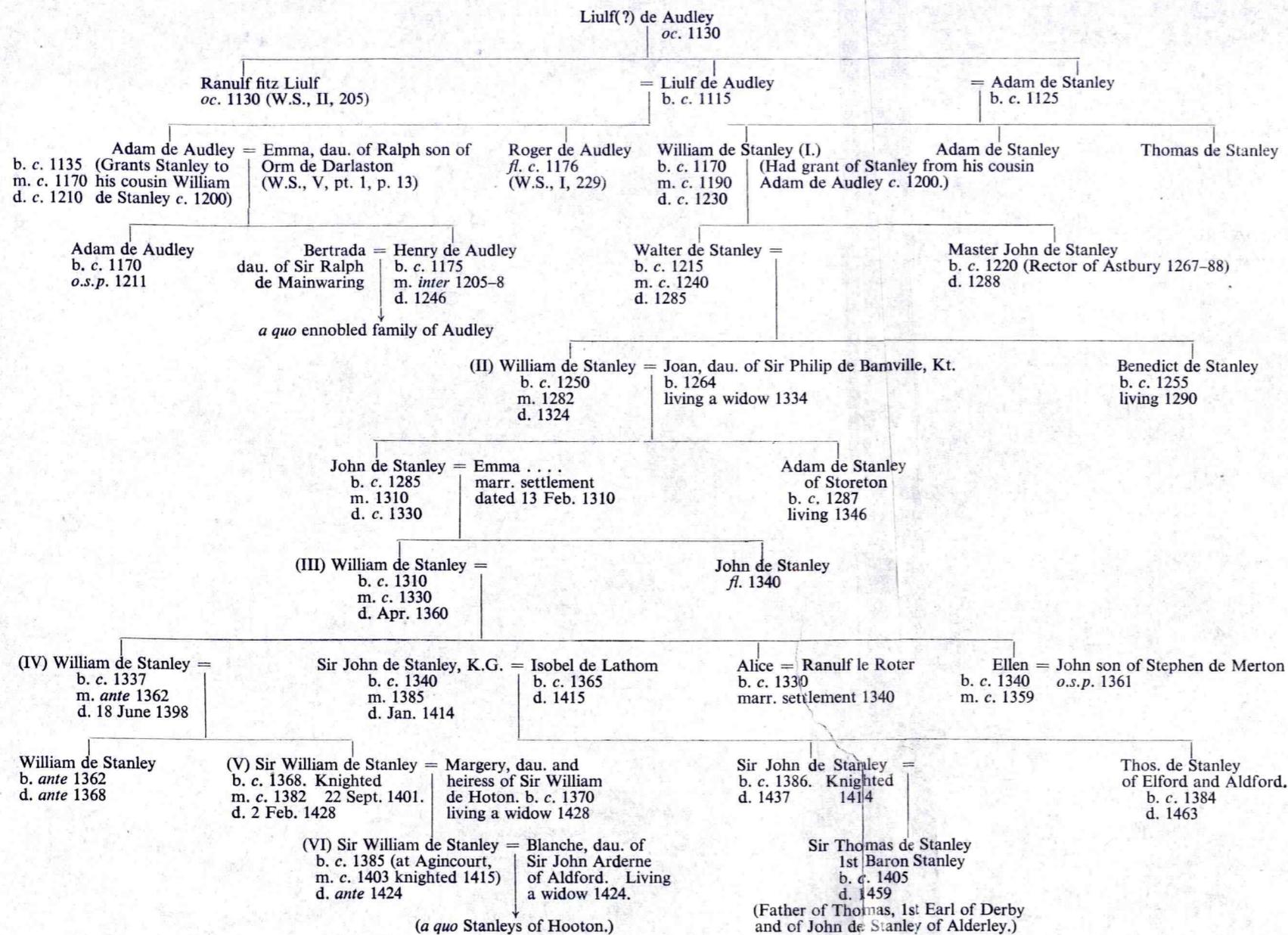
App.	Appendix of deeds printed at the end of this paper.
B.P.R.	<i>Black Prince's Register</i> , part 3, Stationery Office (1932).
C.P.	<i>Complete Peerage</i> (2nd edition, 1910-53), St. Catherine's Press.
C.S.	Chetham Society Publications.
D.K.R.	<i>Reports of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records</i> .
Earwaker.	Earwaker, <i>History of East Cheshire</i> .
Head.	Robert Head, <i>History of Congleton</i> (1887).
H.S.	Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.
J.C.A.S.	Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society.
J.R.C.	John Rylands Charters (John Rylands Library).



# OUTLINE PEDIGREE of the STANLEY FAMILY

SHOWING DIRECT MALE DESCENT ONLY

(The Williams are numbered in brackets for reference to letterpress)



- Orm. Ormerod, *History of Cheshire* (Helsby's Edition).  
 P.P. H. Round, *Peerage and Pedigree*, Vol. II (1910).  
 R.S. Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.  
 V.C.H. *Victoria County History of Lancashire*.  
 W.S. William Salt Society, Historical Collections, Staffordshire.

## I

The earliest record of the Stanley family that can be accepted with assurance is to be found in the following charter. It is summarised in a couple of lines by Sir William Dugdale in his *English Baronage* (1675, Vol. II, p. 247), and quoted more fully by Horace Round (P.P., II, 29) from a copy of the original, preserved among Dugdale's MSS. This transcript from Dugdale's MSS. was made by General Wrottesley and given to Horace Round. An abbreviated English abstract is as follows:

Adam de Aldelegh. *Omnibus etc. Sciatis etc.* Adam son of Lydulf de Aldelegha grants to William de Standlegha son of Adam de Standlegha uncle of grantor (*avunculi mei*) all Standlegh with appurtenances etc which belonged to grantor for twelve pence of annual rent *etc.* Also grantor gives to the said William half of Balterley (*Balterlegam*) and the service of Lidulf in respect of all that he held of grantor. And if grantor or his heirs are unable to warrant Standlegha to grantee, grantor or his heirs will give as much (*quantum*) to grantee *etc.* And this aforesaid land of Baltrelegh grantee shall hold by doing forinsec service. But these aforesaid lands grantor gives to grantee and his heirs in exchange for the vill of Talc (*in escambium propter villam de Talc.*) To hold *etc.* Witnesses. Henry de Preyes, Robert de Aldelegh, Adam the Chaplain, Roger de Paynell, Richard his brother, Joceram (*Joceranno*), Philip, chaplain of Leek (*Leec*) William. . . . Adam brother of William de Standlegh, Thomas his brother. *etc*

Many of the details of the early steps in the pedigree depend on the correct dating of this important charter. Round describes it as "the sheet anchor of the pedigree". As he says, "around its actual evidence has been woven a fabric of fiction, and the whole resultant production has moved up and down in time according to the date assigned to it". Round himself is non-committal on the point, but seems to lean towards *post* 1170 as the date. The writer in *The Complete Peerage* is also very cautious and suggests about 1170-90. Sleigh in his *History of Leek* (p. 153) says "*temp.* King John" (1199-1216). My suggestion is a date about the year 1200.

No one seems to have tried to trace the witnesses. This is not an easy task. A certain Henry de Preyes appears in the 1203-4 Staffordshire Assize Roll (W.S., III, 117). An Adam the Chaplain was present in 1204 in a case dealing with land in the hundred of Pirhulle, an area in Staffordshire which borders Cheshire on the east. Adam the Chaplain of Chebsey in Pirehill hundred (five miles S.W. of Stone) witnesses a gift to the Priory of Stone from Dyonisia de Darlaston, a cousin once removed, of Emma de Darlaston, the wife of Adam de Audley the grantor of Stanley. (W.S. Vol. VI, pt. I, p. 7.) Dyonisia, as a widow, occurs frequently in the records, between c. 1190 and 1208. (W.S. Vol. VI, pt. I, p. 7 *et seq.*) Ormerod (III, 26) records an Adam the Chaplain of Astbury

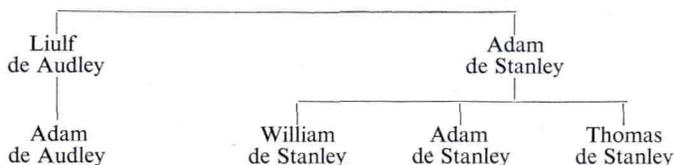
in the time of John or Henry III, but puts a query to the entry. The Rev. J. E. G. Cartlige in his *History of Newbold Astbury* (1915) makes the same statement but without the query mark. He further adds the name *Venator* in brackets to Adam, but gives no reference. There was undoubtedly an Adam the Chaplain of Astbury, but he has no official record that I can find before 1260 (C.S., LXXXIV, N.S., 10) at which date he must have been a very old man if he is the same as the first named Adam the Chaplain in 1204. His location at Astbury however makes the ascription the more likely to be correct seeing that Astbury was the centre of Audley and Stanley influence at the time. Robert de Aldelegh I cannot trace, nor can I find Roger and Richard Paynell (Paganel), but the Paganel holding was dissolving in heiresses about 1194 (W.S., II, 39). Joceram is a somewhat unusual name. A Joceram son of William occurs in 1199 in a dispute about land in Gretton, a township in which the Audleys had interests (W.S., III, 61 and 169). A Joceram, prior of Coventry, is named c. 1215 in a charter relating to Prestbury, among the Legh deeds at Adlington Hall (Bundle 24, 1). Ormerod names a Joceram de Helsby as sheriff of Cheshire c. 1216 (Orm., I, 70). Sleigh in his *History of Leek* (p. 78) dates Philip the Chaplain of Leek as 1199–1216, but, seeing that he bases this dating on his own guess as to the date of the charter which we are now considering, it is not much help. A Philip the Chaplain appears in a charter of a possible date of c. 1180 (W.S., VI, pt. 1, 7). None of the foregoing facts is in any way conclusive, but they at least do lend cumulative support to the suggestion of a date of about 1200.

The details of the life of Adam de Audley, the grantor of Stanley, are a little more helpful as bearing on the problem of the date. He first appears about 1155 (W.S., II, 235). The dating is by Eyton and so may be trusted, although he admits to some uncertainty, but it cannot be later than 1161 when Walter, Bishop of Chester, one of the witnesses, died. Adam does not occur again until c. 1160 (W.S., III, 225). It is, however, only about 1180 that the chief activities of his life find record. He appears then as taking a leading part in official life in the retinue of Bertram de Verdon the famous judge, founder in 1176 of Croxden Abbey. The Verdons were probably related to the Audleys, who held Audley itself from them. Adam de Audley was sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire in 1181 as well as in 1185, and in 1186 he acted as deputy to Bertram de Verdon in Cheshire when the latter, already sheriff of Cheshire, became seneschal of Ireland (R.S., XCII, 19). Numerous other instances of his name appear between 1180 and 1204 in the William Salt Society, Vols. II and III. He married, probably about 1170, Emma, only daughter and heiress of Ralph, son of Orm de Darlaston, an important Staffordshire landowner. They had at least two sons, Adam who died in 1211, and Henry, the founder of the ennobled family of Audley, who died in 1246. Adam and his two sons were three of the leading witnesses of a

charter dated 1194-5 (W.S., II, 266), and the two brothers again appear together in a charter of *c.* 1194. In 1199 and 1204 Adam the father acted by himself among a group of Staffordshire knights. The appearance of the two brothers in 1194 suggests that they were then both of age, which would lend some support to the date of 1170 suggested for their father's marriage.

From the foregoing evidence it is probably fairly safe to give the approximate dates of Adam de Audley, the grantor, as born *c.* 1135, married *c.* 1170, and buried between 1205 and 1210. It is also reasonable to suggest that Adam would be much more likely to grant Stanley to his cousin William, and rearrange his Balterley and Talc estates towards the end of a successful career, than earlier in his life. So I again venture to suggest 1200 as a suitable date for the grant.

As Round points out, the grant of the manor of Stanley provides a pedigree of two generations which he sets out as follows:



The name of the father of the two brothers, Liulf de Audley and Adam de Stanley is not known, but Eyton suggests that it was an earlier Liulf (W.S., II, 207). On the other hand Round states (P.P., II, 30) that Eyton assumed the existence of an Adam as the father of Liulf and Adam, but adds the rather characteristic comment, "General Wrottesley assures me that it is a complete myth"! If Eyton's first suggestion should prove to be correct, it seems possible that this earlier Liulf de Audley may have been the man who in 1130-1 incurred the heavy fine of 200 marks, 10 deer-hounds and 10 hawks in connection with the death of a neighbour, one Gamel, called by Eyton, the Thane of Betley (W.S., I, 3 and 10).

## II

The dating of the Stanley branch beginning with Adam, son of a possible Liulf, is more difficult even than that of the Audley branch that we have just been considering. So far, in addition to the original grant, only two references to Adam de Stanley have been traced, and both are of somewhat uncertain dating. Eyton, in his notes on the Fitz Alan fee, deals with the manor of Bagnall (W.S., I, 229). He quotes a grant of apparently *c.* 1176, from Ivo Pantulf to Adam de Audley and his heirs, of certain lands in Bagenholt (Bagnall). Eyton then follows with the tantalising statement, without giving any reference, "there is subsequent evidence of the Grantee in the above Deed, here called Adam son of Lydulphus de Audley, passing half of the Manor of Bagnall to Adam de

Stanley". What Eyton meant by "subsequent" does not appear, but perhaps it would be reasonable to suggest *c.* 1180. References to this Bagnall property occur several times among the John Rylands Charters a hundred years later. In 1282-3 it was in the hands of Walter de Stanley, who died in 1285, and who I shall suggest later was a grandson of Adam de Stanley (J.R.C., No. 1797, App. 5). In September 1283 a case, heard at the assize at Penkridge, was brought by Walter de Stanley against William son of William de Bagnall as to certain rights of pasture in Bagnall appurtenant to Walter's free tenement in Stanlegh. The two townships are adjacent, Bagnall lying on the southern boundary of Stanley, five miles south-west of Leek (W.S., VI, 154).

There is another mention of an Adam de Stanley (C.S. LXXXIV, N.S., 229) in a case before the eyre at Macclesfield dated 8 July 1287 concerning a claim by one John de Stanley to a share in an office in Macclesfield Forest. The facts are obscure, but they seem to show that John was the son of one Roger de Stanley, whose death seems to have led to the claim. The post had descended hereditarily to Roger from Richard de Stanley. It had been alienated from Richard in the time of Ranulf, earl of Chester (1181-1232). It is further stated that the office had "come through one Adam de Stanley". This might possibly be the Adam we are now considering; if so Richard would be a younger brother of William, the original grantee of Stanley.

Clearly the life dates of Adam de Stanley can only be guesswork. As a working hypothesis I suggest, born *c.* 1125, married *c.* 1160, buried perhaps *c.* 1200.

### III

The next step is William (I) son of Adam, the recipient of Adam de Audley's grant of the manor of Stanley. As in the case of his father Adam, there are few references to him apart from the original grant itself. In Earwaker's *East Cheshire* (II, 49) there is printed an important charter given at Macclesfield by Ranulf Blundeville earl of Chester, relating to Marple and Wibersley, in which a William de Stanley appears as one of the fifteen witnesses, mostly Cheshire men. These include several from the Macclesfield Forest area on the Staffordshire boundary. The date of the charter is between 1210 and 1217. Another example is to be found in Henry de Audley's foundation charter to Hilton Abbey, where Dugdale (*Monasticon Anglicanum*, V, 715), prints among the witnesses a William de "Stant". *The Complete Peerage* writer from whom this passage is quoted (C.P., XII, pt. 1, 246), adds, "who, as he occurs in the company of Henry's lord and neighbours, can hardly be other than an abbreviated *Stanle*. This is confirmed by Randle Holme's copy of Dugdale's transcript in Harleian MS. 2060, f. 4d. The charter is dated 1223".

As to the life dates of William de Stanley (I) I suggest, again as

a working hypothesis, that he was born *c.* 1170, married *c.* 1190 and died perhaps 1230.

Round asserts that at this point in the story there is a wide gap in the descent, a view more cautiously adopted by the *Complete Peerage*, where the writer, following Seacome, suggests that there may have been two Williams between Adam and Walter instead of only one. I venture to think, however, that the existence of a gap need not be taken for granted. Although it is true that two generations of the Stanley branch succeeded in covering almost as much ground as the three generations of the Audley side of the family I suggest that this is not necessarily fatal to the argument; it would be easy to find many similar cases.

One is bound to admit that the immediately foregoing and succeeding steps here printed present pedigree-making in its most elementary form, but when one is faced with a situation in which William and Walter each successively holds the manor of Stanley, which could only pass from one to the other by descent, and further that just at this point, documentary evidence almost completely fails, there does not seem to be any other method of tackling the problem.

#### IV

With Walter de Stanley and his brother Master John de Stanley we are on firmer ground. There is ample documentary evidence for them both except, unfortunately, as to the dates of their births.

Walter had at least two sons, William (II), of whom later, and Benedict. We find Benedict buying substantial areas of land in Congleton between 1280 and 1285 from Henry, earl of Lincoln (App. 6 and 7), as well as property in Betchton in Cheshire, an Audley manor, about the same date (App. 8). These transactions show that Benedict must have been of full age and a man of some importance by 1280. He cannot therefore have been born much later than 1250-5, which suggests that Benedict, being the younger son, his father, Walter, was probably married *c.* 1240, and was therefore probably born *c.* 1215. Walter first appears in the records in 1256 (W.S., XI, N.S., p. 255). In 1272 he and William de Bagenholt (Bagnall) with others were recognitors or jurymen at the Staffordshire assizes (W.S., IV, 204). In 1283 he sued for disseisin in respect of a wood appurtenant to his free tenement in Stanley (W.S., VI, pt. 1, 154). In this action he seems to have been successful as is shown by J.R.C. No. 1797, printed in Appendix No. 5. There are other references to Walter about this time, but it will be sufficient to give evidence of his death in 1285, when his elder son William, suing as William son of Walter de Stanley against his neighbours, Robert de Bagenholt, Stephen de Bagenholt and their brother John, with others for insulting, wounding, and ill-treating plaintiff at Stanley near Leek, claimed damages to the

amount of £40 (W.S., VI, pt. I., 157). The Bagenholt brothers must have been unsatisfactory neighbours. At the gaol delivery for the county of Stafford in 1293, they, together with several others, including two sons of Sir Geoffrey de Gresley were charged with being associated in many robberies. They had however "withdrawn"—a polite way of saying, "escaped from custody"—and were all consequently outlawed (W.S., VI, pt. I., 284).

Walter's younger brother John took Holy Orders and rose to the distinction of *Magister*. Nothing is known of his early clerical career, but between 1265 and 1267 he was presented by the abbot of Chester to the important and valuable living of Astbury. He seems to have been a special friend of Simon, the abbot of St. Werburgh, and occurs frequently in the records until his death in 1288 (H.S., LV, 52; C.S., LXXXIV, 129).

## V

William de Stanley (II), Walter's elder son, was probably born about 1250. He married, on 27 September 1282 at Astbury Church, Joan, the eldest of the three daughters and heiresses of Sir Philip de Bamville of Storeton, chief forester of Wirral. She is said by Ormerod (II, 415) to have been aged twenty, but seeing that her father married Nicholaa<sup>(1)</sup> daughter of Sir Robert de Pulford in February 1265 (J.R.C., No. 1264), she cannot have been more than seventeen. The stepmother involved in the following story was Lettice, daughter and heir of William Venables of Wincham and widow of Richard Wilbraham of Wincham. (Orm., II, 448; III, 379, corrected; C.S., LXXXIV, 36 *et seq.*). The stepson in the story, probably William de Wilbraham, can only have been about ten years old, so not unnaturally Joan favoured a gentleman of maturer years. The stepmother Lettice remained Sir Philip's widow until early in 1288, when she married a Master Robert de Crosslegh (C.S., LXXXIV, 86 *et seq.*), apparently a man of law who occurs previously as acting for the widow. The romance of the so-called "runaway match"—a little overworked by Cheshire historical novelists—is as follows:—

[4 March 1284] Cradoc de Greves sworn and examined says that William de Stanleghe contracted marriage with Joan [daughter of Philip de Baumvill] saying 'Joan I give thee my troth to have and to hold thee for my lawful wife to my life's end', and the said Joan gave him her troth by like words; it was before the death of the said Philip, on Sunday after St. Matthew two years ago, before Adam de Hoton and Dawe de Coupeland, at the church of Asteburi; for the said Philip, his wife and family, were at a banquet (*convivium*) of Master John de Stanleghe, and Joan doubting that her father would marry her to a son of her stepmother, on that occasion accepted the same William as her husband. Robert de Bebington and many others agree; Adam de Hoton, Dawe de Coupelaund and others agree, except as to the form of words used,

<sup>(1)</sup> In the marriage settlement (J. R. C., No. 1264) the bride's name appears simply as a capital N., but there is reason to believe that it represents Nicholaa, a favourite name at the time.

viz.—'I William take thee Joan as my lawful wife, and thereto give thee my troth', and the said Joan replied, 'I Joan take thee William as my lawful husband'. (Cal. of Inq. P.M., Vol. II, p. 306.)

There is no indication where William and Joan settled at first, possibly at Stanley, but, as will be seen from the John Rylands Charter No. 1407 (App. 15), they appear to have been borrowing money in 1287 from Robert de Whitmore, a Staffordshire man and Chester merchant (H.S., LXXV, 44), as Joan was still repaying part of the loan, as a widow, in 1324. About this time, June 1327, Joan was receiving payment through the Exchequer court of Chester from Richard de Mascy of Tatton of sums of money amounting to £31 . 6 . 8. (D.K.R., 36th p. 327). The incidence of the name Mascy of Tatton, makes one wonder whether this payment may not have something to do with an alleged Stanley and Massey marriage, about this period, so often referred to by "the authorities", though always without references.

In addition to the reference to William in 1285 already quoted, he appeared in two cases at the Staffordshire Assizes on 7 January 1293. In the first case he sued the prior of Trentham in respect of lands in Over Elkeston of which the prior had unjustly disseised William's uncle, Magister John de Stanley, whose heir the plaintiff was. The jury found for the prior. In the second case William de Bagenholt and others were charged by William de Stanley with unjustly disseising him of lands *etc.*, in Bagenholt appurtenant to his free tenement in Stanley. Defendant said that he had conceded to plaintiff lands for making a mill *etc.* in exchange for the land in dispute. The jury decided on a compromise (W.S., VI, pt. 1, 219 and 236). In Appendix No. 11 will be seen a short abstract of the mill site agreement to which William de Bagenholt here refers.

William had at least two sons, John his heir, of whom presently, and Adam. Adam was probably born *c.* 1287. He first appears as remainder man in fee *c.* 1294-5 in a charter granted by Adam de Hooton, of lands in Chorleton in Wirral, to Agnes Le Bole and other members of her family (App. No. 12; and D.K.R., 28th. 10). It is interesting to meet again with Adam de Hooton, one of the two witnesses at the "runaway match" of William and Joan at Astbury, and to find him possibly as a godfather, remembering his namesake, Adam. It is further pleasing to know that there is evidence that Adam lived to enjoy the gift, for the family with the unattractive name of Le Bole died out. Adam was granted a life-holding in lands in the manor of Storeton by his father and mother in 1318 (App. 14, and D.K.R., 27th, p. 115), a grant which was confirmed to him by his nephew William de Stanley in 1343 (App. 25). We also find Adam dealing with property in Staffordshire in 1329 (App. 19). In 1346 he had a lease of the bailiwick of the raglory and escheatry of the county of Flint for three years (D.K.R., 36th., 443). William (II) seems to have died about 1322: he was certainly dead in 1324 (App.15). Joan lived on for ten years or more; she was still alive in 1334 (App. 22).

## VI

John de Stanley was probably born c. 1285. He cannot have been born before 1283, nor after 1294. There is a curious absence of any records relating to him. He does not appear, so far as I have been able to discover, until 1310 when his marriage settlement, as we should now call it, is to be found among the John Rylands Charters (App. 13). After this, with the exception of a recognizance of £20 into which he entered with one John le Blount of Chester in 1313-4 (D.K.R., 36<sup>th</sup>, 443), he almost entirely escapes notice. His matrimonial affairs are equally obscure. According to all the usual authorities, he is said to have married, at an unspecified date, Mabel, daughter of Sir James de Hawkset of Stourton Parva. No one, however, quotes any authority for this statement. As *The Complete Peerage* writer says, "no authority is traceable for this marriage and the name Hawkset seems not to occur elsewhere". If by Stourton Parva Little Storeton in Wirral is meant, I have no hesitation in saying that no such person was associated with Little Storeton at this period. There are numerous documents relating to Little Storeton between 1300 and 1350, during which time it had been divided among the heirs of Sir Philip de Bamvile, but not a trace of Sir James Hawkset is to be found. It would be interesting to know where this story originated. Sir William Dugdale knew nothing of it; even Ormerod in the original edition makes no reference to it. Helsby, however, in his edition has it in full, although as Hawksket. I cannot trace it further back than John Seacome's *Memoirs of the House of Stanley* (Liverpool, 1741). The only reference he gives, and that not very definitely, is to *Heralds Office, Chester*.

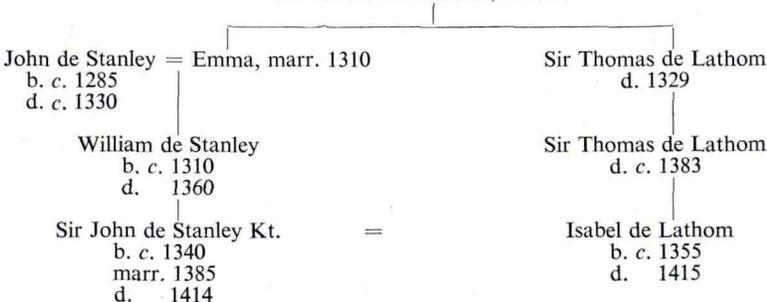
On the other hand a charter dated 13 February 1310 from the John Rylands Library (No. 1798), an abstract of which is printed below (App. 13), shows William de Stanley (II) the father of John, endowing his son with the manors of Stanlegh and Over Elkeston in the county of Stafford, to be held to the said John and the heirs of the body of the said John and Emma his wife, with a contingent reversion to grantor. This however does not end the puzzle for, most provokingly the grantor gives no hint as to who Emma was. We are therefore once more driven back on guesswork. Fortunately there are some slight hints to be found as to Emma's identity. In the first place the locale of the charter is helpful. It was "given at Sefton in the County of Lancaster". Now *Sefton* can hardly spell anything other than *Molyneux*. The match was evidently a very important one. All the witnesses were men of the first rank in the county. The first witness, Sir Robert de Lathom, lord of Knowsley (1260-1325), appears constantly in local and national affairs at this time. Of the other witnesses Sir Ralph de Bykerstath, was sheriff of Lancashire in 1314, Alan le Norris of Formby and Speke was a commissioner for array in 1307, and the rest were all important men.

The curious thing of course is that the name *Molyneux* is absent.

It is perhaps of some significance, however, that Richard de Molyneux, who died in 1320, had a wife named Emma, and the name also occurs as that of a granddaughter. (V.C.H., III, 68). This second Emma was a daughter of William de Molyneux who succeeded to Sefton in 1320 and died in 1336. (V.C.H., III, p. 68, m 6). William may have been born as early as 1270, if so, his daughter Emma could have been of marriageable age in 1310. There is another pointer. In 1332, Emma's brother, Richard de Molyneux, was engaged in a lawsuit concerning property in Sefton with one William, son of Hugh de Standish, a cousin, while in 1336 William the son of the John de Stanley, whom we are now considering, is mentioned as remainder man in some rather extensive transactions dealing with property in Standish and other manors with Richard, son of Hugh de Standish (J.R.C., Nos. 1591 and 1853, App. 24). Therefore William de Stanley may have been interested in this property through his mother Emma as her contribution to the marriage settlement (*see* Addendum p. 61). It is also worth noting that a few years later, William received a pardon from Edward III dated 15 May 1346, at the request of Henry, Earl of Lancaster (at this date Lieutenant of Aquitaine) for all trespasses committed by him before 16 June 1345. Similar pardons were at the same time granted to Otes de Halsall and Henry de Aughton (Cal. of Pat. Rolls, 1346). The association of these two men, both neighbours of the Molyneuxes of Sefton, with William de Stanley is significant. There is a second guess that can be made, but it is so fanciful that one hesitates to make it. It is possible that Emma may have been a daughter of Sir Robert de Lathom, the chief witness to the marriage settlement, who died in 1325. In 1398 Sir John de Stanley Kt., who in 1385 had married Isobel daughter of Sir Thomas de Lathom, received a papal dispensation for this marriage, they without knowledge of the fact, having married one another within the prohibited degrees. Ormerod comments, "being I think third cousins once removed" (II, 412), though he does not venture to give any reasons for this statement. Now, if the Emma who married John de Stanley in 1310 were a daughter of Sir Robert de Lathom<sup>(2)</sup> then Sir John de

(2)

Sir Robert de Lathom, d. 1325



Stanley Kt. would be his great-grandson, and so could be correctly described as within the third degree in relation to his wife Isabel, who is admitted to have been a great-granddaughter of Sir Robert. It is not easy to see how any other couple could be found to be such suitable recipients of the papal dispensation. To sum up, it looks as though Emma may have been either a Molyneux or a Lathom—with odds on Molyneux! And there we must leave the problem.

John de Stanley certainly had one son, a third William, his heir. The "usual authorities", however, credit him with a second son, another John, who is described as "M.P. for Carlisle in 1347", but I can find no evidence in support of this last statement. He does not appear in the list of burgesses printed in the Victoria County History of Cumberland. There is, however, a John de Stanley who appears as witness to a charter granted by William (III) at Storeton in 1340, so that his existence and relationship may well have been facts (Orm., II, 91 and 447).

It is probably safe to say that John, whom we have been considering in this section, was dead by 1330 if not earlier.

## VII

The third William de Stanley is much more fully documented than any of his predecessors. If Emma was his mother, as there is every reason to believe, he cannot have been born earlier than 1310. This would make 1330 the probable date of his marriage, though it was no uncommon thing for a man to marry at eighteen or even seventeen at this time. There is nothing to show whom he married; even the ingenious Helsby cannot supply a name. *The Complete Peerage* states that William "is said to have married Alice daughter of Hamon (or Hugh) de Mascy of Timperley", but adds, "there appears to be no satisfactory evidence of this marriage". As will be seen, William is on record in 1333 and in many subsequent years dealing with lands and houses in Storeton (App. 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28). A significant act is that recorded in the 1333 deed, where he is shown to be improving the amenities of his hall at Storeton by building a dovecote, apparently of considerable size. There are numerous references to him in *The Deputy Keeper's Report No. 36*, both alone and in conjunction with his son and heir William. There are also many records of his doings as chief forester of Wirral in *The Black Prince's Register*, Vol. III: a full account of his part in dealing with trespasses in the forest of Wirral was printed in *TRANSACTIONS*, Vol. 101.

William had at least two sons and two daughters: William (IV) his heir, born 1337, of whom later; John, the founder of the line of the earls of Derby, born c. 1340; Alice, born probably before the two brothers; and Ellen. Alice's marriage settlement with Ranulf le Roter of Kingsley, dated at Storeton in 1340, is printed by Ormerod (II, 91 and 447); it is probable that this was associated

with a child marriage. Ellen married John, son of Stephen de Merton, in 1359. John de Merton died without issue in 1361 (Orm., II, p. 177). William (III) died in April 1360 (B.P.R., III, 380).

John de Stanley, the younger of the two brothers, was born c. 1340. He came into a stormy world, and as a boy at Storeton he must have heard much at first hand of Crécy and Neville's Cross, and have had personal experience of the Black Death that swept Wirral in the summer of 1349, and of the disturbed social conditions which followed and reached a peak in the Peasant Revolt. Perhaps these conditions in addition to his own experiences later with the army in Aquitaine may account for the fact that the first official mention of him so far noted, is in the Cheshire Plea Rolls for 1369 (H.S., LXXV, p. 44), where a charge is entered as to an attack made on Thurstaston Hall in which John together with his elder brother William de Stanley head forester of Wirral, Sir Ralph de Vernon and others were concerned. Several of the party, armed with bows and arrows, went to the manor house. Finding the door of the Hall open they entered and told a woman who was there to go and bring the bailiff. When she had gone they shut the door and took possession of the Hall. It is perhaps not surprising to learn that they were found guilty of trespass. John de Stanley next occurs as the recipient of a pardon from Richard II for the killing at Storeton in 1378 of Thomas de Clotton, his second cousin by marriage and part-owner of the manor of Storeton (for relationship see App. 34). The king pardoned him at the prayer of Sir Thomas Tryvet, kt., and in consideration of the good done and about to be done in Aquitaine, he being about to depart for those parts in the train of Sir Thomas (D.K.R., 36<sup>th</sup>, 443). His career during the following few years must have been brilliantly successful, for when next he appears he has reached the position of deputy in Ireland for Robert de Vere, marquess of Dublin.<sup>(3)</sup> From this point in the story of his successes, details can be found in *The Complete Peerage* (XII, pt. 1, 248). He married in or before 1385 Isabel, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas de Lathom of Lathom and Knowsley, thus founding the line from which spring the earls of Derby. He died about 28 January 1414.

### VIII

The fourth William de Stanley was born in 1337. This date is fixed by the statement of his age as "50 or more" when he gave evidence in the Scrope-Grosvenor trial at Chester on 3 September

<sup>(3)</sup> The "usual authorities" sprinkle knighthoods freely over the early stages of the pedigree, but I have not found any official record of knighthood earlier than 10 July 1386 when Sir John was deputy to the Marquess (D.K.R. 36<sup>th</sup>, 444). He was plain John de Stanley "about to proceed to Normandy in the retinue of the Earl of Kent", on 19 February 1385 (W.S., XIV, p. 240). He was created a Knight of the Garter c. 1405 (C.P., Vol. II, p. 539).

1386, and is confirmed in 1397 by his calling himself "William de Stanley senior, aged 60", when testifying to the date of the birth of William de Venables of Kinderton in a proof of age case. It is interesting to note that he remembered the date of the boy's birth "at Kinderton on the vigil of Palm Sunday 1376 because on Trinity Sunday next following the Black Prince died" (Earwaker, I, 47).

William de Stanley (IV) led an extremely active life, both military and civil. He was probably the builder of the existing Storeton Hall, a portion of which provides perhaps the most interesting example of early domestic architecture in Wirral. The generally accepted date of the building is 1360 (H.S., XLIX, 63), and this finds some support from a record in the Act Book of the bishop of Lichfield of a grant, dated 22 March 1371, to William de Stanley, of permission to build an oratory at Storeton and the right to choose a confessor (W.S., VIII, N.S., 55).

It was during his lifetime, in 1376, that Wirral was disafforested. A full and interesting account of this was published by Stewart-Brown (H.S., LIX, 165). In 1377 and 1378 William, calling himself William, son of William, son of John de Stanley of Wirral, quit-claimed to various local landowners in Wirral all putures<sup>(4)</sup> etc., to which he was formerly entitled as forester.

Again we cannot supply a wife. Ormerod says that he married Alice, daughter of Sir Hamon de Massey of Timperley, but gives no authority. As will be remembered *The Complete Peerage* assigns this lady to William's father, but adds that there is "no satisfactory evidence of this marriage". The same remark applies in the present case. William must have married before 1362, as in that year he gave to his son William his manor of Stanley (App. 29). It is interesting to find that the grant was dated at Stanley, and that all the witnesses were east Cheshire or Staffordshire men, including one of his tiresome next-door neighbours, Robert de Bagenold. (See above, p. 51.) William (IV) would be about twenty-five at this date. The boy, whom we will ignore in the numbering of the Williams, evidently died early. He does not appear again, and his brother, who was born in 1368, was also called William (V). Ormerod credits William the father (IV) with a daughter, Matilda, and a son, Henry, but gives no reference. He also, wrongly, includes his brother, the famous Sir John de Stanley Kt., as a second son, though with a dotted line, and in his letterpress (p. 412) an admitted doubt about the correctness of this statement. Some idea of William's widespread activities until his death at the end of the century can be gathered by a glance through the Cheshire Recognizance Rolls calendared in the *36th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*. While his younger brother, Sir John de Stanley, was pursuing his almost incredibly meteoric career, taking in his stride such honours as

<sup>(4)</sup> Puture was the right to exact food and lodging for foresters and their horses and dogs.

Knight of the Garter, the King's Knight, constable of Windsor Castle and the lieutenancy of Ireland, William had to content himself with a grant from the king of the advowries of Cheshire, the office of the keeper of the royal park of Shotwick, and later, the rather niggardly allowance of an annuity of twenty marks, in recompense for the loss he had sustained as hereditary bailiff of the forest of Wirral, an annuity which he only enjoyed for about a year before his death in 1398. He managed, however, to consolidate his family's fortunes by arranging a satisfactory alliance with his neighbour Sir William de Hooton, by marrying his son William (V) to the Hooton heiress, Margery. The agreement for the marriage is fortunately preserved among the John Rylands Charters (No. 1673), an abstract of which is printed in Appendix 31. The settlement is dated 1376, when the boy can only have been about eight years old. It must almost certainly have been accompanied by a child marriage.

William (IV) died about 18 June 1398 (DKR., 36th, 445).

## IX

The fifth William de Stanley was born about 1368. This date is confirmed by his age given as thirty years on 16 June 1398 in his father's *Inquisition Post Mortem*. His presumed child marriage of 1376 was consummated about 1386. Seacome, who had access to documents not now available, says that the marriage took place in the tenth year of Richard II, 1386-7, and this fits in with all that we know of his later movements. He had several sons and daughters; his eldest son and heir, a sixth William, was born about 1386. William (V) appears in the records in 1387 (D.K.R., 36th, 444) when he joined in certain legal acts together with his father. He must then have been nineteen years of age. On 14 September 1396 his father-in-law, Sir William de Hooton, Kt., died, so presumably he then succeeded to this important estate by virtue of his marriage. He appears frequently after this, and in 1397, as William de Stanley junior, received a grant from the king of a life annuity of one hundred shillings, the king having retained him in his service for life. His successful uncle, Sir John de Stanley, at the same time had a gift from the king of forty marks for life. A year later, on the death of William's father, the king passed on to him the annuity of twenty marks which had been granted to his father in 1397. Evidently William was now reaching a position of importance, for in February 1399 he was commissioned to raise eighty archers for the king's service and to go with them to Ireland in the king's train. His orders were to choose eighty of the best archers between the age of sixteen and sixty in the hundred of Wirral, to have them on the road outside the Watergate in the city of Chester on the morrow of the Ascension, Friday 9 May 1399, for inspection by the king's officers, and then to conduct them to Burton in Wirral and Denwall for shipment to Ireland on Saturday

on the Eve of Pentecost following, May 17. But all did not work out according to plan. The next entry in the Recognizance Rolls, dated 15 May, states that Vivian Foxwist and John de Litherland, two Wirral men, were ordered to lead sixty archers to Ireland on the king's service, in the place of Sir John de Poole and William de Stanley who are under arrest! Obviously William de Stanley was believed by Richard then in Ireland,<sup>(5)</sup> to have sympathy with the exiled Henry of Lancaster, and we can only guess what his movements were until Richard's surrender at Flint Castle on 19 August. But it is clear that William came down on the right side of the fence. The Chester Recognizance Rolls for 28 January 1400 preserve a record of his reinstatement as conservator of the peace in the hundred of Wirral, together with Vivian Foxwist, John Litherland and ten others. On 21 February 1400 William appointed "Henry Coly of Wirale" as an attorney for himself, as he was about to depart for Ireland in the train of Sir John de Stanley Kt. on the king's service. To complete the recovery, on 22 September 1401 Henry Prince of Wales sent official letters to Cheshire announcing that Sir William de Stanley Kt. (the first mention of his knighthood) had rendered his homage to the king (D.K.R., 36th, pp. 444-5). During the next two years Sir William was extremely active. He occurs many times in the records, filling such important administrative posts as conservator of the peace and collector of subsidies. He prepared defences against the Welsh rebels under Owen Glyndwr. In this he was actively helped by his son William, though he can only have been about sixteen or seventeen years of age at that time. Such early maturity, however, need not cause surprise. The Black Prince was only sixteen when he won the battle of Crécy.

Sir William's military exploits took a new form in the summer of 1402, when he was engaged in a naval expedition (*sur la mer*) with twenty-four lances and forty-eight archers, at a wage of two shillings a day for himself, a shilling a day for his lancers and sixpence for his archers. His master mariners received the customary rate paid when on the king's service. Where they went or what they did does not appear, but the Chester Recognizance Rolls include a receipt for all the wages of the expedition *paid in advance*. (D.K.R., 36th, 380).

In the following year Sir William made a false step, for he supported the rebellion of the Percies against Henry IV. Hotspur recruited well in Cheshire, but on 21 July 1403 his army was defeated and he himself killed at the battle of Shrewsbury. In spite of his defection however Henry on 3 November 1403 granted Sir William "a general pardon for all offences committed by him whilst in rebellion with Henry Percy, the son, and other rebels" (D.K.R., 29th, 63). This must have confirmed a verbal pardon given earlier,

<sup>(5)</sup> Richard's voyage to Ireland is put both by Walsingham and "Trokelow" (Rolls Series) as "about Pentecost" (18th May). So possibly William may have been under arrest while Richard was still in England.

for three weeks before (11 October), Sir William had been re-appointed a commissioner of array for the hundred of Wirral. The rest of his career was somewhat of an anti-climax to the promise of the earlier years. His importance was perhaps overshadowed by the exploits of his son, the sixth William Stanley, the hero of Agincourt, who was himself knighted in 1415. But this takes us beyond the limits set for these notes, so we may conclude with the date of the death of Sir William (V) which took place on 2 February 1428.

ADDENDUM. Pursuing the argument on p. 55, as to the probability of John de Stanley's wife, Emma, being a Molyneux, it is worth while stressing the fact that the originals of these two Standish documents (App. 24) are still preserved among the Stanley deeds. It is difficult to see why they should have been treasured among the family archives—actually in duplicate—if they had not been considered of prime importance to William son of John de Stanley in 1336. Further it may be noted that, according to Foster (*Lancashire Pedigrees*) Emma's aunt, Alice daughter of Sir Richard de Molyneux, married Sir Hugh de Standish c. 1305.

## APPENDIX

## ABSTRACTS OF DEEDS

## 1

- c. 1278. Grant by Simon de Clifton and Elen his wife to Thomas their son of one fifth part of the manor of Hovere Elkysdon. Witnesses: Hugh de Beuerisford, John his son, Adam Basset, rector of the church of Childerlegh, Simon his brother, Benedict de Boterdon, Roger de Bagenald, William the clerk and others. (J.R.C., No. 1652).

## 2

- c. 1278. Grant by Simon de Clifton and Elen his wife to Master John de Stanl' of a fifth part of the manor of Houere Elkesdon, which Thomas, grantors' son, gave to grantee *etc.*, which the said Thomas had by grant from grantors. Witnesses: Thomas de Mapilton, Thomas Herry, Henry de Coudray, Benedict de Buttredon, John de Beuresford, Roger de Bagenholt and others. (J.R.C., No. 1420).

## 3

- c. 1278. Grant by Thomas son of Symon de Clifton to John de Stanle *etc* of an entire moiety of the whole manor (*totam medietatem totius manerii*) of Elkysdon *etc.*, which grantor had of the grant of Simon de Clifton, grantor's father, and Elen, grantor's mother. Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Robert son of William de Chetelton, Hugh de Beuresford, Henry del Couderey, Benedict de Boterdon, Roger de Bagenholt and others. (J.R.C., No. 1653).

## 4

- c. 1280. Grant by Henry lord of Becheton (*dominus de*) to Richard de Hasyldene certain lands (boundaries given) in Becheton *etc.* Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Thomas de Weloc, Richard de Bradewalle, Thomas de Hellewythe (Elworth), Ralph de Arclede, Adam de le Boye, John the clerk and many others. (J.R.C., No. 1314).

## 5

- c. 1282-3. Quit claim by William son of William de Bakenholt to Walter de Stanleya and his heirs all right and claim which grantor has *etc.* in a plot of land (*placia terre*) with wood standing and lying upon it *etc.* within bounds (stated) to the boundaries of Chetilton (mentions boundaries towards the vill of Stanley). Sealed. Witnesses: Sir Robert de Chetilton, Henry his son, Roger de Bakenolt, Richard de Stanlowe, Richard de Rodiard, Hugh King (*Rege*) de Runale, Adam his son and many others. (J.R.C., No. 1797).

## 6

- c. 1283. Grant by Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, to Benedict son of Walter de Stanley' forty acres of land with appurtenances of grantor's waste in Congilton (within metes and bounds as stated) towards the boundaries of Bydolf *etc.* Warranty. Sealed. (Large seal of the earl in green wax and small counter seal in red wax.) Witnesses: Sirs Thomas Tochet and Richard de Masy, Kts., Roger de Daveneport, Thomas his son, Ralph de Moreton, Robert of the same, Randle de Astebur', William Boydel and others. (J.R.C., No. 1266).

## 7

- c. 1283. Grant by Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln to Benedict son of Walter de Stanl' four acres of land with appurtenances of the waste of the territory of grantor's vill of Congilton which lie near a certain plot of land, which the said Benedict holds of grantor *etc.* Render sixpence at two terms *etc.* Grantee paid down forty shillings *etc.* Warranty.  
Witnesses: Sir Reginald de Grey, then Justiciar of Chester, Sirs Richard de Masey, Hugh de Dutton, Ralph de Werm[incham], kts., Roger de Dawenneport, Thomas his son and many others (from Earwaker, Vol. I. p. 6).

## 8

- c. 1280-5. Grant by Peter de Wildecathisheuede to Benedict son of Walter de Stanl' two plots of land with adjacent meadow with all the wood growing on the said land and lying in the territory of Becheton, which are called Duesnapes, which lie between the assarts which Ranulf de Budenale formerly held of Henry lord of Becheton and the land which the same Benedict holds in Haseldene (within certain bounds). To hold *etc.*, nothing to be done or rendered except one pepper-corn or one root of ginger (*nisi unum granum piperis vel unam radicem zinziberis*) *etc.* Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Sir Richard de Sondbache kt., Thomas his brother, Thomas de Weloke, Richard de Hatsale (Hassal), Adam de Bosco, Richard de Lostoke, Nicholas de Chercheleys, Peter the clerk and others. (J.R.C., No. 1315).

## 9

- c. 1285. Grant by Richard de Haseldene son of Adam de Becheton and Ysabella, wife of the said Richard, to Benedict son of Walter de Stanl' for his homage and service all the land which grantors have in Haselden' in the territory of Becheton (within certain extensive boundaries, naming Le Broc, the arable fields, several houses, Hassale, the heath *etc.*) and one acre which grantors had by demise from Henry lord of Becheton *etc.* Render 3 shillings for Hasseldene and 12 pence for a certain quitclaim for land which Henry lord of Becheton made to the said Benedict. Reference to render of pigs *etc.* Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Sir Reginald de Grey, then Justiciar of Chester, Sir Richard de Sondbache, knight, John de Wethenal, Roger de Daueneport, Ralph de Merton, Thomas de Weloc, Adam de Bosco, Nicholas de Cherchel', Ranulf de Estbur', Peter the clerk and others (J.R.C., No. 1666).

## 10

- c. 1287. Grant by Thomas, lord of Crue, son of Thomas de Crue to Adam de Hoton all lands *etc.* that grantor has in Chorelton in Wirhall. To hold *etc.* - Render usual services to chief lord, and two silver pennies and a rose on Feast of St. John the Baptist, and 30 marks of silver in hand to grantor *etc.* Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Sir Reginald de Grey, then Justiciar of Chester, Sirs Richard de Masey, Patrick de Haselwelle, Hugh de Dutton, Kts., William de Stanleya, Robert de Pulle, Henry de Hoton, James de Pulle, William de Capenhurst, William Torand, Geoffrey the clerk and many others. (J.R.C., No. 1633).

## 11

- c. 1291-2. Grant by William son of William de Bagenholt *etc.* giving permission to William de Stanleye, Joan his wife, and their heirs to build *etc.* a certain mill pool of theirs in the vill of Bagenholt *etc.* between certain places called Coltisle and the Mosymor, and leave to them to take dig and carry away earth *etc.* within certain limits. Provision as to fishery *etc.* Witnesses: Sirs William de Caresvalle, William de Nortona, kts., Thomas de Badele, Richard de Stanloue, Adam le Kenge, Peter the clerk and others. (J.R.C., No. 1535).

## 12

c. 1294-5. Grant by Adam de Hoton son of Richard Walsh (*Walensis*) to Agnes, the wife of John le Bole, and Henry the son of Agnes, and the heirs of the said Henry, all lands *etc.* with appurtenances, which grantor had in Cherleton in Wyrhale by the gift of Thomas de Cruwe. To hold *etc.* Render a rose at the Feast of St. John Baptist doing usual service to chief lords of two pence *etc.* If Henry die without heirs of his body, remainder to Richard, brother of Henry and heirs of his body, remainder to Adam son of William de Stanlegh and his heirs *etc.* Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Richard de Masey, Ralph de Vernun, John de Orreby, kts., Fulk de Moeles, James de Pulle, William de Capenhurst, William Torald and others. (J.R.C. No. 1634).

## 13

13 February 1310. Grant by William de Stanlegh to John de Stanlegh, grantor's son, his manors (*maneria mea*) of Stanlegh and Over Elkeston with appurtenances in the county of Stafford without any reserve (*sine ullo retenemento*); to hold to the said John and the heirs of the bodies of the said John and Emma his wife, *etc.*, of the capital lords of the fee, *etc.* Reversion to grantor if John dies without heirs. Warranty. Sealed. Given at Sefton in the County of Lancaster on Friday next after the octave of the Purification of the B.V.M., in the third year of the reign of King Edward, son of King Edward. Witnesses: Sir Robert de Lathum, Sir Ralph de Bykerstath, Kts., Alan le Norreys, Thomas de Osebaldeston, William Blundel, Robert son of Robert le Norreys, Roger de Haverbergh and others. (J.R.C., No. 1798).

## 14

28 January 1318. <sup>(1)</sup>Grant by William de Stanlegh and Joan his wife to Adam their son of two messuages and four bovates of land with meadows and other appurtenances, in the vill of Storton (details given), also grantors' part of a new clearing (boundaries given), also a plot of land called Le Newefild in the said vill, which grantors had by gift from Richard le Baunvile (boundaries given). To hold for the term of the life of grantee. Render a rose. Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Robert de Bebinton, William de Hoton, Ralph de Haselwalle, Alan de Prenton, William Lasseles, Hugh de Pennesby, Richard the clerk and others. Given at Storton on Saturday next before the Feast of the Purification of the B.V.M., *anno dom.* 1317. (J.R.C., No. 1438).

## 15

29 June 1324. Quittance from Robert de Witemor, citizen of Chester, having received and had from Joan, who formerly was the wife of William de Stanlegh, forty shillings sterling in part payment of twenty-five marks, in which she was bound to the said Robert by a certain recognizance made in the Exchequer of Chester (*in scaccario Cestr'*) on Thursday next after the Feast of Epiphany in the 15th year of the reign of King Edward [9 January 1287]. Given at Chester on Friday next after the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 17 Edward II. (J.R.C., No. 1407).

## 16

29 July 1325. Grant by John de Bechinton and Agnes his wife to Peter del Brom, chaplain, of their manor of Lytilstorton with appurtenances. To hold *etc.* of the chief lord of the fee for services due and accustomed. Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Robert de Bebynton, William de Hoton,

<sup>(1)</sup> Recorded in *Cheshire Plea Rolls*, 1318 (D.K.R., 27th, 115). A copy of the relative fine is recorded in J.R.C., No. 1812, including provision for reversion to grantors and their heirs.

Alan de Prenton, John de Warwic, William de Lasseles and others. Given at Storton on Monday next after the Feast of St. James the Apostle, 19 King Edward son of King Edward. (J.R.C., No. 1426).

## 17

- 2 August 1325. Grant by Peter del Brom, chaplain to John de Bechynton and Agnes his wife of grantor's manor of Lytilstorton, which manor grantor had by gift of the said John and Agnes. To hold for the whole lives of the grantees, of the chief lord for services due and accustomed *etc.*, and after the deaths of the grantees the whole manor to remain to Simon de Bechinton, the son of grantees and the heirs of his body, remainder to right heirs of Simon. Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Robert de Bebynton, William de Hoton, Alan de Prenton, John de Warwic, William de Lasseles, and others. Given at Storton on Friday on the morrow of the Feast of St. Peter in chains, 19th year of King Edward son of King Edward. (J.R.C., No. 1815).

## 18

- 6 June 1325. Tripartite indenture witnesses that *lescrit de annuite* by which Joan, who was the wife of William de Stanlegh, had granted an annual payment of thirty marks to Richard de Massi is given into the keeping of Sir Adam de Lauton, prior of Chester. Provision in case Joan should alienate any of the lands, rents and tenements held by Joan at the date of the making of this indenture, in Storton, Waverton, Clarton (Claverton) and Macclesfeld *etc.* Sealed. Given at Chester on Thursday in the feast of Corpus Christi, 18 Edward son of Edward. (J.R.C., No. 1298).<sup>(2)</sup>

## 19

- 3 November 1329. Grant by Roger son of Roger de Kareswalle to Adam de Stanlegh, lands in the fee of Stretton (*in feodo de Stretthon*), Great Dolfyn, Little Dolfyn, Berardesmor and Depemor. (Long description of boundaries, many field names). Render a rose. Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Sir John Trussel, Sir John de Suwyneforthon, Simon de Congreue, John lord de Wiston, Adam Hanry de Stretton, Adam Fremon of the same, Roger de Gaywode clerk, and others. Given at Stretton on Friday after the feast of All Saints *anno. dom.* 1329. (J.R.C., No. 1408).

## 20

- 15 January 1330. Grant by Symon son of John de Bechynton to Hawisie daughter of Roger de Greves four marks of annual rent with appurtenances. in le Greves, Storton, and Bebynton for the whole of her life *etc.* Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Sir Oliver de Igham, then Justiciar of Chester, John Dounville, William de Hoton, John de Capenhyrst, Thomas le Mascy, de Podynton, Gilbert de Podynton, John de Rachedale chaplain and others. Given at Le Greves on Monday next after the feast of St. Hilary the Bishop, 3rd year of Edward III. (J.R.C., No. 1814).

## 21

- 21 September 1333. Indenture dated on St. Matthew's day 1333. Joan de Baunville leases to William de Stanleye a plot (*placeam*) of land in her manor of Storton measuring on every side 40 feet, for one dovecote (*columbare*) to be built upon. To hold *etc.* with free ingress and egress *etc.* for the term of 39 years beginning on St. Matthew's day and the year above said. Render one penny or a pair of gloves on the Nativity of St. John the Baptist *etc.* Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: John Dounvile, Henry Launcely (*sic*), Thomas de Bannvile and others. (J.R.C., No. 1816).

<sup>(2)</sup> This rather obscure agreement is evidently associated with an entry in the *Cheshire Recognizance Rolls* (D.K.R., 36th, 327), where on the same day Richard de Mascy of Tatton enters into a recognizance for £31.6.8 with Joan, who was the wife of William de Stanley.

## 22

**15 May 1334.** Grant by Elen, who was formerly the wife of William de Laken, in pure widowhood and liege pousty to William de Stanlegh *etc.* all her part of her waste which lies between the clearing (*frussuram*) of Joan, grantor's sister and the cross (*crucem*) of Storthon next to the Oldefield of Little Storthon. To hold *etc.* for the term of 14 years beginning at the Feast of Pentecost [15 May] 1334. Render a rose at Midsummer day. Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: John Dounville, William Walays, Richard del Hoch (?Hough), Richard Starky, Adam the clerk and others. (J.R.C., No. 1818).

## 23

**9 January 1335.** Grant by John son of Robert de Wynnynton to Alexander son of Thomas de Baumvile all his lands *etc.* in the vill of Storton *etc.* and in the vill of Cleyteford *etc.* with remainder to Hawys, grantee's mother, for her life, with remainder to Hugh, brother of grantee, remainder to Robert, brother of Hugh, remainder to Joan, sister of the said Robert, remainder to Alice (or Alina), sister of Joan, ultimate remainder to right heirs of grantee. Sealed. Witnesses: Hugh de Venables, Thomas de Dutton, Richard Stot (or Scot), Richard son of Thomas de Vernon, Richard del Sagh, and others. Given at the Chapel of Wytton on Monday next after the Feast of Epiphany 1334. (J.R.C., No. 1817).

## 24

**5 February 1336.** Indenture witnessing grant by Robert del Grene to Richard son of Hugh de Standysse and his heirs male grantor's manors of Bradelegh and Hepay *etc.*, also lands in Standysse, Worthynton, Dokesbury, Hethechernock, Wygan, and Hendelegh; also homage *etc.* of Adam de Shakurley and others for lands in Hepay *etc.*, and for lands in Dokesbury *etc.* and reversion of lands in Hyndeleghe held by Adam de Culcheth with remainder of all the above if Richard dies without heirs male of his body to William, son of John de Stanley, and heirs male of his body with remainder to the right heirs of the said Richard, son of Hugh de Standysse. Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Richard de Hoghton kt., William de Faryngton, John de Standysse, William de Worthynton, William Dandurton, William del Burgh, Gilbert de Ines and others. Given at Dokesbury Monday next after the feast of the Purification B.V.M., 10 Edward III. (J.R.C., Nos. 1591 and 1853).

## 25

**23 April 1343.** Grant of William de Stanlegh that whereas Adam de Stanlegh holds of grantor's heritage (*de hereditate mea*) two messuages, four bovates and three acres of land, four acres of meadow and four acres of heath with appurtenances in the vill of Storton for the whole of his life by fine in the county (court) of Chester levied, grantor wills and concedes that grantee have and hold all the aforesaid lands *etc.* for his whole life as in the said fine more fully appears. Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Prior of Birkethed, John Dounville, Henry de Hoton, Philip de Bechington, Simon de Bechington and others. Given at Chester in the feast of St. George, 17 Edward III. (J.R.C., No. 1820).

## 26

**24 October 1346.** Final concord in the open county (court) of Chester on Tuesday next before the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude 20 Edward III, before Thomas de Ferrar, then Justiciar of Chester, John de Ardene, Peter de Thorneton, William de Baggelegh, John de Leghe, knights, William de Praers, Philip de Eggerton, Thomas Danyers and others *etc.* William de Stanlegh, plaintiff, and Thomas de Congelton and Cecilia his wife, defendants, as to six messuages, three bovates of land, three acres of meadows and two acres of turbarie *etc.* in Magna Moeles *etc.*<sup>(3)</sup> (J.R.C., No. 1711).

<sup>(3)</sup> Recorded in *Cheshire Plea Rolls*, 20 Edward III. (D.K.R., 28th, 46).

## 27

- 14 October 1351.** (French). Indenture made between William de Stanlegh, forester of the Forest of Wyrhale, and Henry de Hoton lord (*seigneur*) of the vill (*ville*) of Hoton reciting a claim made before Mr. Thomas de Ferrers and Sir (*Sire*) John de Macclesfeld, Justices in eyre, dealing with the pleas of the Forest of Wyrhale (in the matter of certain pture payments *etc.*) Given at Bebyngton Friday the day of St. Calixtus Pope 25 Edw III of England & 12 France. Witnesses: Robert de Pulle, John Dounville, Thomas de Capenhurst, John Lassels, John de Warewyke and others. (J.R.C., No. 1335).

## 28

- 1357.** (French). Indenture made between William son of John de Stanley and William de Bechinton witnesses the covenant that the said William de Bechinton has granted and to farm let to the said William son of John de Stanley one house (*mecon*) and five bovates (*sinckt boues*) together with five selions of land in Mikulstorton (gives details of location) together with five selions and a quarter part of one selion and one "land" (*lune*) *etc.*, and two bovates and a half of land which lie to the Hall (*q' gisoynt a la Sale*) of the said William de Bechinton in the vill of Litol Storton with appurtenances, for the term of 10 years next ensuing the making of this writing, commencing at the Feast of St. Martin in Winter, 31 Edward III (1357). Render 24 shillings and 6 pence. Witnesses: Henry de Hoton, Rondulph le Bruyn, Robert de Berneston and others. (J.R.C., No. 1815).

## 29

- 24 June 1362.** Grant by William de Stanley [IV] to William grantor's son and his heirs, grantor's manor of Stanley *etc.* To hold of the chief lord of the fee for services due and accustomed. Warrant. Sealed. Witnesses: Henry de Delves, Roger de Bradeschagh, William son of Robert de Bagenold, Philip del Schagh and others. Given at Stanley on the feast of St. John Baptist, 36 Edward III. (J.R.C., No. 1427).

## 30

- 21 July 1367.** Grant by Avilla daughter of Philip de Bechinton to William de Stanley the elder lands *etc.* (set out in detail) that grantor held in Mikulstorton and Lytilstorton (which she inherited through various Bechinton relatives). Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: Robert de Berneston, Henry de Litherland, Hugh de Norreys, John de Leghton, and others. Given at Storton on Wednesday next before the feast of St. James the Apostle, 41 Edward III. (J.R.C. No. 1343).

## 31

- 10 January 1376.** Covenant between William de Hoton and William de Stanlegh the elder that William, son and heir of the said William, will take to wife Margerie, daughter of the said William de Hoton, for which marriage William de Hoton will give to the said William de Stanlegh the elder four score pounds of silver to be paid to the said William de Stanlegh the elder (in certain portions beginning at the feast of St. John the Baptist next following on the date of the present writing) *etc.* The said William de Stanlegh the elder, agrees to enfeoff William his son and Margerie with his manor of Stanlegh *etc.* to descend to the heirs of the bodies of the said William and Margery begotten between them *etc.* and certain lands *etc.* in the vill of Nether Bebynton, Arowe and Prenton in Wyrhale and also the "Baile de Forestarie de Wyrhale" *etc.* and lands in the vill of Storton. (Provision made in case of certain contingencies including the return of half of the sum of £80 in case of Margerie's death in certain circumstances.) Given at Hoton on Thursday next after the feast of Epiphany in the 49th year of the reign of Edward III. (J.R.C., No. 1673).

## 32

- 13 January 1378. (French). Indenture between Hugh de Holes and William, son of William son of John de Stanley, relating to payments of certain puture rent *etc.* Given at Chester. (J.R.C., No. 1306).

## 33

- 7 February 1403. Powers of attorney from William, son of William de Stanley Kt. and Blanche his wife, to James Fare to receive seizin from William de Stanley kt. of the manor of Stanley Co. Stafford and lands in le Flaskes, Chorleton and Meles, Co. Chester. Sealed. Given on Wednesday next after the feast of the Purification B.V.M., 4 Henry IV. (J.R.C., No. 1416).

## 34

- 12 May 1410. Grant by Alicia, who was the wife of Thomas de Clotton, daughter and heir of William de Laken junior, son and heir of Elen de Laken, one of the daughters and heirs of Philip de Baumville knight, in pure widowhood to William de Stanley knight *etc.* all demesne lands and tenements *etc.* which lately belonged to William de Laken grantor's father in the villis of Great Storton and Little Storton in the hundred of Wyrehalle *etc.* to be held of the capital lords of that fee *etc.* Warranty. Sealed. Witnesses: John de Pulle knight, Hamon le Mascy, John de Whitmore, John de Capenhurst, James de Pulle, John de Lytherlond, Thomas de Bolde, John Hope and John del Meoles and many others. Given at Great Storton 12 May, 11 Henry IV. (J.R.C., No. 1826).