The origin of the very ancient Lancashire families of Butler is not yet exactly determined. Mr. Langton, in his annotations to Flower's Visitation of Lancashire, 1533, refers to Mr. Hulton's note in the Coucher Book of Whalley Abbey, and says:

The descent of the chief lords of Amounderness, who bore the office of the King's Butler in Ireland in the reign of Henry II, has been carefully elaborated by Mr. Hulton, tracing them from Herveus Walter, whose surname was doubtless a title of office. The presumption of both the Lancashire families of Butler being offshoots of that stock is there discussed, and the probability of their relationship to each other is pointed out from the interlacing of tenures in North Lancashire, &c. Mr. Beamont, in his Annals of the Lords of Warrington, vols. lxxxvi. and lxxxvii. of the Chetham series, has drawn an opposite conclusion as to the origin of their title of Butler, which he contends was derived from office held under the Earls of Chester. The patriarch of this race "founded an abbey for monks of the Cistercian order at Pultune in Com. Cestr., in anno 1158 (4 Henry II), which abbey was afterwards translated to Delacres, in Com. Staff." (Dugdale's Baronage.) His son, Richard, is represented to have

1 Chetham Soc., xcvi.
2 Ibid., xi. 414-418.
3 Pulton, or Poulton, in Pulford parish. Ormerod's Hist. of Cheshire, ii. 860.
4 Dieulacres; Tanner's Notitia Monastica, Cheshire xvi. and Staffordshire ix. Tanner says that Robert, the founder, was pincerna or butler to Randal second, Earl of Chester, who was poisoned A.D. 1153, and disputes the date 1158 as being too late.
Butlers of Bewsey and Kirkland

married Beatrice, a co-heiress of Matthew de Villers, or Vilars, whose ancestors were the first Norman barons of Warrington. The barony of Warrington remained in the family of Butler until the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Writing, in the same volume, of the Butlers of Rawcliffe, Mr. Langton says:

The surname of Butler (in Latin, Pincerma) being a title of office, has been held by families entirely unconnected in relationship, and is found in various parts of the country. It has generally been assumed, however, that the two lines of Butler in Lancashire were of the same stock, and many circumstances render it not improbable that they were so. The grant of Out Rawcliffe, temp. Henry III, to Sir Richard le Botiller by Theobald Walter, the chief lord of Amounderness (who held the office of Butler to the Kings of England in Ireland, and was ancestor to the noble families of Butler in that island), being made to him under the description of "his beloved kinsman," might lead to the inference that the name originated with the grantor's office; but Sir Richard is represented by the Lancashire genealogists as a younger son of Almeric le Botiller, baron of Warrington. The Butlers of Kirkland have evidently been an offshoot of the Butlers of Rawcliffe.

The most recent account of the Butlers, Barons of Warrington, will be found in the first volume of the Lancashire Victoria County History, where Dr. Farrer has printed an account of the Lancashire "Feudal Baronage," which bears evidence of deep research, and adds much to our knowledge of these early barons. The history of the barony is traced from Robert de Villers, who was created Baron of Warrington between 1118 and 1123, down to the extinction of the Butler family in the latter part of the sixteenth century.

Dr. Farrer refers to the marriage of Beatrice, daughter and heiress of Mathew de Villers, to Richard Pincerma, "generally supposed to have been a younger brother, but more probably a cousin,

1 William le Boteler of Warrington was summoned to Parliament as a Baron (Lord le Botiller de Werington) by writs in 1295 and 1299. None of his descendants appear ever to have been summoned as Barons to Parliament. (G. E. C.'s Complete Peerage, i. 381.)
of Robert, the earl of Chester's butler;” and he mentions that William, the son of this marriage, “about the year 1205 attested a charter of Ranulf, earl of Chester, as the latter's butler.”

The Butlers of Bewsey, titular Barons of Warrington, entered pedigrees at the Lancashire Visitations of 1533 and 1567, and the Butlers of Kirkland in 1567, 1613, and 1664–5.¹

Mr. Beamont, in his Annals, has dealt very fully with the history of the Butlers of Bewsey.

There is no satisfactory pedigree of the Butlers of Kirkland in print, but many particulars of them will be found in the Visitations of Lancashire,² the Lancashire Victoria County History, vii. 313, Gregson's Portfolio of Fragments, p. 266, the Tyldesley Diary, p. 50, and Fishwick's History of Garstang.³

Like many other ancient families in the sixteenth century, the Butlers of Bewsey and the Butlers of Kirkland had no crests appertaining to the arms that had long been borne by their respective ancestors, hence the occasion for the patents which are printed below.

The device on a number of the earlier seals of the Butlers of Bewsey⁴ is a single covered cup, sometimes on a shield, in allusion to their name, and the first actually armorial seal that has come under observation was used by William le Boteler of Warrington in 1327; it is engraved with a bend between six covered cups, and is inscribed S' Willi le Boteler.

On a seal, inscribed S: Willi: le Botiller de Weryngton, and used in 1367, the same arms appear, and on the helmet above the shield is a covered

¹ All of these Visitations have been printed by the Chetham Society.
² Chetham Soc., lxxi. 43; lxxii. 74; and lxxiv. 63.
³ Ibid., cv. 223.
⁴ Casts of the Butler seals may be seen at the Warrington Museum, and many are figured in Beamont's Annals.
cup between two doves, but this is probably nothing more than an emblematic ornament taking the place of a crest.

On the seal of the weak and unfortunate Edward Butler of Bewsey, the last of his race, who died in 1586, the Butler arms and a quartering, to be mentioned presently, are blundered, and on an esquire's helm there is a bird, with wings raised, for a crest. Out of twenty-one known seals of this family, extending from the reign of Henry III to that of Elizabeth, not one displays the unicorn crest mentioned in Norroy's patent of 1561, and it is hardly unsafe to conclude that he designed it.

Elizabeth, the wife of Sir William le Boteler, used a seal in 1346, inscribed S' ElizaU le Boteler, which bears the bend between six covered cups impaling a lion rampant.

This lion appears to be the coat, Argent, a lion rampant, sometimes double queued, Gules, which has puzzled many antiquaries. It was allowed to Sir Thomas Butler of Bewsey, as a quartering at the Visitation of 1533, the lion being depicted with a forked tail; it appears in the patent of 1561 as a lion "salant" [salient] with a plain tail; again, at the Visitation of 1567, it has a forked tail. Sampson Erdeswicke saw it in glass in the windows of Warrington Church, quartered by Butler, and also alone, in 1572. An anonymous visitor saw in a window in the same church, in 1582, the Butler arms on one shield, and the red lion, with a forked tail, on another shield; and Randle Holme noted the same two shields in 1640.

The arms, quartering, and crest were allowed to Richard Butler of Coventry, a descendant of the

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Footnotes:
1 A drawing of this seal is given in Beamont's Annals, p. 149.
2 An Attempt to identify the Arms formerly existing in the windows of the Parish Church and Austin Friary at Warrington, by W. Beamont and J. P. Rylands, 1878.
This quartering has been variously attributed to Legh, Reddish, Hulton, and Lostock. There is no known marriage with any of the families of Legh, Reddish, or Hulton that would account for it, and the only Lostock marriage was that of Sir William le Boteler and Dionysia de Lostock in the fourteenth century. There is no direct evidence to show that this lady was an heiress, though Beamont says that her husband acquired "with her the right to impale and quarter with his own arms those of her family, argent a lion rampant gules." This lion rampant, however, is unknown as the coat of any family of Lostock. Gregson, in his *Portfolio of Fragments*, boldly calls it Lostock, and Beamont refers to it as Lostock in two places in his *Annals*. At page 149 he says:

Between the years 1558, when Dalton was created Norroy King-at-arms, and 13th December 1561, when he died, he granted to the third Sir Thomas Boteler of Bewsey these arms: 1st and 4th, azure, a bend or between six covered cups or; and 2nd and 3rd, argent, a lion rampant gules with the crest of a unicorn in full speed argent, armed, hoofed, maned, tailed and bearded or, about his neck a scarf argent; and the herald assigned the 2nd and 3rd of these quarterings to Lostock.

Again, at page 471, he says:

On the 25th September 1557 Bewsey was visited by Norroy, the herald at arms, who allowed its owner, by whom he had been courteously received, these arms (here the blazon of the quarterings and crest is repeated, and the 2nd and 3rd quarters are attributed to Lostock); which arms are said to have been afterwards confirmed.

There was a Visitation of some northern counties in 1558, which included parts of Lancashire. The account of it is headed—"Mem: That Lawrence

1 *Harleian Soc.*, xii. 356.
2 Beamont's *Annals*, pp. 124 and 127.
3 Ibid., p. 151.
4 3rd edition, p. 333*.
Dalton alias Norroy, Principal Herauld & King of Armes of the Northe Este and Weste partyes of England from the Ryver of Trent Northward, began his Visitation at Newcastell upon Tyne the 8th day of Marche 1557, and in the 4th & fyfthe yeres of the Reignes of our suffereynes Lord & Ladye Kinge Phyllypp & Quene Mary &c. & continued the same tyll the death of the said Quene, An: 5 & 6.” There is no copy of this Visitation at the College of Arms, but it is printed in “Visitations of the North, Part I., edited by Frederick Walter Dendy,” page 95 of volume cxxii. of the publications of the Surtees Society, 1912.

Again, whence came the exact date “25th September 1557”? 

At some time in the year 1567 William Flower, Norroy, made his Visitation of Lancashire; Canon Raines, in the introduction to that Visitation, says: “It is not known when this visitation of the county of Lancaster commenced, how long it continued, nor where the heralds held their courts.”

William Harvey was created Norroy 2nd February 1549–50, and Clarenceux 6th September 1557; he died 27th February 1566–7. Lawrence Dalton was appointed Norroy by Letters Patent 6th September 1557, so created on 8th or 9th December 1558, and died 13th December 1561. If, therefore, the visit of Norroy to Bewsey on 25th September 1557 was by Dalton, he must have been in Warrington very quickly after his appointment on the 6th of the same month, and before he was actually created Norroy, which seems somewhat improbable. If the year 1567 is intended, Flower was Norroy at that time. In either case we have not accounted for the date “25th September.”

1 Chetham Soc., Ixxi., introduction, p. vi.
2 Rymer’s Fœdera (1713), xv. 477.
3 William Flower became Norroy 8th February 1561–2; he lived to be very old. (Noble’s Hist. of the Coll. of Arms, p. 172.)
These conflicting particulars are thus fully stated on the possibility that some reader of these pages may be able to refer to the source whence Beamont obtained his information. My brother and I have recently made a careful search into the history of the arms of the Butler family, and it was this search that brought forward the two interesting patents which are here printed. There is no other patent of arms to the Lancashire Butlers to be found among the records in the College of Arms.

The identification of the red lion quartered by the Butlers of Bewsey is due to the research of Dr. Farrer. In his account of the Lancashire Feudal Baronage he says: 1

William the butler, the father, married Sibyl, whose family and parentage are unknown, and died in 1329. In 1332 two-thirds of the manor of Warrington and other lands were settled upon his son and heir William, and Elizabeth his wife, and their issue. This lady appears to have been sister and co-heir of Richard, son of Nicholas de Havering, who died in 1335, in whose right her husband acquired half of the manor of Chalkwell, co. Essex, which Thomas Butler, kt., alienated in 1498.

In a footnote Dr. Farrer refers to the seal of Elizabeth, mentioned above, and to the arms of Havering in Nicolas’ “Roll of Arms,” printed in 1829. These arms appear at page 18 of this Roll, under “Wilteschire & Hamtesschire,” thus:

Sire Johan de Haveringe, de argent, a un lion rampaund de goules, od la couwe forchie e un coler de azure.

In “St. George’s Roll,” printed in Archaeologia, vol. xxxix. p. 440, we have:

Richard d’Haveringes: Argent a lion rampant tail forked guules.

Foster, in “Some Feudal Coats of Arms from Heraldic Rolls, 1298–1418,” London, 1902, gives several references to the Havering lion; the tail in every case is forked, but the collar is sometimes wanting.

1 Victoria County History, Lancashire, i. 344.
We may now fairly conclude that the long-vexed question of the identity of the Butler quartering has at last been disposed of.

Confirmation of Arms and Crest, by Lawrence Dalton, Norroy King of Arms, to THOMAS BUTLER, of Bewsey, Esq., Baron of Warrington, 20th May 1561.

To all & singuler &c. Be it knowen that I Norrey Kinge of Armes abouesaid being desyred by Thomas Butler of Beawsaye in the countye of lanc: Esquier, (called barron of Warrington) whose Auncesters haue longe contynued in noblenes beering

Armes (tokens of honor) not oneley to make serche in my recourdes & ratyfy unde seale the sayd Armes but also the lynyall descent of his predecessors whose request beinge so just & reasonable I cold not lawfullye denye the same but found them to be Azuere a bend betwene vj cupps cou'ed golde the ijde q'tre Argent a lyon salant g[ules] & so q'teriye & uppon thelme on a wreath Or & b[ule] a Unycorne standinge on the hyndre legges wth a towell about his necke hanginge on his backe ar[gent]
garnysshed horned maned berded cleyd & the tayle flased or. mant[led] g[ules] do[ubled] ar[gent] but[toned] or as more playnlye &c w\textsuperscript{th} armes & crest w\textsuperscript{th} the ap’tennces I the sayd Norrey &c haue ratyfyed & of ryght confyrmed &c.

And for hys descent or pedegree I fynde the sayd Thomas to be the son & heyre of S\textsuperscript{r} Thomas, w\textsuperscript{th} was the son & heyre of S\textsuperscript{r} Thomas; who was the son & heyre of S\textsuperscript{r} John, w\textsuperscript{th} was the son & heyre of S\textsuperscript{r} John who was the son & heyre of S\textsuperscript{r} Wyllm w\textsuperscript{th} was the son & heyre of S\textsuperscript{r} John who was brother & heyre of Rycharde; w\textsuperscript{th} was son & heyre of S\textsuperscript{r} Willm, who was son & heyre of S\textsuperscript{r} Wyllm w\textsuperscript{th} was son & heyre of S\textsuperscript{r} Henrye who was son & heyre of S\textsuperscript{r} Willm Butler Knight w\textsuperscript{th} was brother & heyre of Gawen Butler of Beawsey aforesaid all the w\textsuperscript{th} seu’allye bare the name & were called barrons of Warringtone. In wytnes &c 20 May A. iij° &c Regne 1561.

Copied from a volume marked “1 H.6. or 2 H.6.” p. 60, now remaining in the College of Arms.

[Signed] EVERARD GREEN,
Somerset Herald-of-Arms.

Dec: 21, 1914.

Exemplification of Arms & Grant of Crest, by Lawrence Dalton, Norroy King of Arms, to JOHN BUTLER of Kirkland, gent., . . . December 1560.

To all & singler &c aswell nobles & gentles as all Kinge Herald\textsuperscript{e} & officers of Armes w\textsuperscript{th} others w\textsuperscript{th} theys presente shall see reade or heare laurence Dalton Esquier als Norrey Kinge of Armes & Principall Heraulde of the Easte West & North pties of England from the Ryu’ of Trent northwarde sendeth due & humble Comendaçons w\textsuperscript{th} greatinge as awncentlye from the begynnynge, not w\textsuperscript{th}owt great deliberaçon equytie & reason y\textsuperscript{t} hathe ben by the most noble & famose Pryncys constytuted & ordeyned, that men of vertue, wysedom, lernynge & knoledge, or of noble lyefe & Corage, w\textsuperscript{th} haue ben notoriuslye comended to the worlde by theyre vertuose & valyant actes, shuld w\textsuperscript{th} sundrye moniment\textsuperscript{e} & tokens of honor accordinge to theyre desert\textsuperscript{e} be had in remembrance as amonge the Greekes by the inscriptyon of trophees, amonge the Romayn\textsuperscript{s} by the erection of Statues Images & Arces w\textsuperscript{th} Tyltes and Appellaçons of honor accordingly And of more later daies also amongst the most pte of all natyons by beringe of Shyldes w\textsuperscript{th} Signes & tokens of honor called Armes, w\textsuperscript{th} be the demonstrations & evidences of noblenes, vertue, learninge & worthynes, that to euerie man accordinge to theyre desertes be dyu'slye dystrybuted, wherbye the vertuouse,
lerned, worthye, faithfull & coragyous, myght appeare in estymacon & honor before the vnworthye cowarde & Ignorant. Euen so yt ys yet iuged right & reasonable and by renowned princes allowed and obs'ued that suche as haue don comendable s'ucose to theyre Prince & countrey eyther in warre or peace or by theyre worthye & lawdable lyfe demeanor or lernyng euerye man in hys vocation by daylye increase in vertue, valyance, lerninge & wyse- dom do meryt well should receue due w'shippe & honor in theyre lyves & to deryve the same successuyelye to theyre posterytie, howebeyt consyderinge no worldlye thinge can possyblye contynue w'th'owt alteracon nor worthye vertue or valyant acte remayne alwayes in remembrance w'th'owt forgetfulnes & seyng hyt hathe ben & yet ys not w'th'owt great consyderatyon & prydence ordeyned that for mens desert honor shuld be assigned. Therfor emonge
other thing offices & heralds of Armes were & arre appoynted 
to whose office it shuld be appropryate not onelye to keepe in 
Regestre & recorde the Armes pedegrees & descent of nobles & 
gentles with theyre woorthy vertuouse & valyant actes, but also 
shuld haue power & authoryte to sett forthe Ratyfye & allowe 
unto the woorthy som advancement augmentacion token or 
remembrance of honor & noblenes for theyre sayd woorthynes 
wherby the desert of the sayd woorthy & vertuose myght not 
be forgotten ner drowned in the bottomlys pyt of oblyvyon but 
rewarded with som token or remembrance for that theyre woorthynes 
the rather to move & styrrre other to the Imytacion of lyke 
vertue lernyng & woorthynes. Knowe ye therfor that I Norrey 
Kinge of Armes abouesayd consydering that John Butler of 
Kyrkland in the Countye of Lancastre gentleman whose aun-
estors haue longe contynued in Noblenes bearinge Armes 
be Azure a Cheu'on betwene iij cupps cou'ed golde yet wanting 
a Crest badge or Coygnoyssance desyred me the sayd Norrey to 
devyse sett furth appoynt & assigne one convenyent Creste vnto 
hym whose request beinge so juste & reasonable consyderinge 
the woorthy verteous & lawdeable lyfe & dyspocycon of the 
sayd John I cold not lawfullye denye the same, but by power & 
aucthorytie to my office annexed & to me graunted and attributed 
by fres patente vndre the greate Seale of England haue deuised 
ordeyned assigned geuen graunted and allowed & by thses present 
do geue graunte assigne & allowe vnto & for the sayd John 
Butler & hys posterytie thys Creste or Coygnoyssance as hereaftre 
that is to say vppon the wreathe golde & azur a horsse passant 
argent pellettet rayned & bydeled sable mantled geules doubled 
argent buttoned golde as more playnlye appeareth by the pycuture 
therof in thys margent To haue & to holde the sayd Creste wth 
thap'tennance to the sayd John & his posterytie wth theyre due 
dyffERENCE the same ordrelye to vse beare or shewe in shilde cote 
armor or otherwise & therin to be Reveست at his or theyre 
lybertye & pleasure for eu'more In wytnes wherof I haue Sub-
scrybed my name & hereunto Sett the Seale of my Offyce & the 
Seale of my Armes the day of Decembre in the iijd yere of 
the Reigne of our most dread sou'aigne ladye Elizabeth by the 
grace of god Queene of England Fraunce & Ireland defender of 
the fayth & Vndre god of the Churches of England & Ireland 
supreme gouvernor & in the yere of our lord god 1560.1

Copied from a volume marked “1 H.6. or 2 H.6.” p. 55, 
now remaining in the Heralds’ College, London.

[Signed] EVERARD GREEN, 
Somerset Herald-of-Arms.

1 In the Visitation of Lancashire, 1613 (Chetham Soc., lxxii. p. 74), 
it is stated that John Butler of Kirkland had a patent, from Lawrence 
Dalton, 8th January, 3 Eliz., 1560-61.