

SOME NOTES ON THE FAMILY OF
OSBALDESTON.

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THOSE who are acquainted with Sir Walter Scott's novel *Rob Roy* are not unfamiliar with the name Osbaldiston—Scott's variant of a word pronounced Osbaston, which has at least ten written forms. Osbaldeston is the form which has prevailed, but Osbarston, Osbeston, Osbalston, Osbolston, Osboldeston, Osbaldestone and Osbaldston are also found. It will be remembered that the autobiographical hero is one Francis Osbaldiston, son of a London merchant and nephew of Sir Hildebrand of that ilk, who with a family of sporting sons lived on his hereditary lordship bordering the Scottish marches in Northumberland. However, though the family of Osbaldeston must have derived from Northumbria, it was at a date far earlier than that of Scott's suggestion. Osbaldeston Hall is not on the Borders, but in Lancashire on the south bank of the Ribble; and the original Osbald who set up his "ton" there was presumably an Angle who came down the river from Northumbria when Strathclyde was invaded and the British border was pushed north to the Lake Country. This would have been about one thousand years before the reign of George I.

Scott, it is true, brings the family to its downfall mainly in Lancashire, killing one of them off at Proud Preston, and another at Warrington. There were no historical grounds, however, for this concession to the family's native county, and Scott had no more justification for seating them in Northumberland than for finding

another Lancashire family of Standish as their near neighbour in those parts. There were, it is true, Osbaldestons of Sunderland, and there is a North Sunderland near Bamburgh. That may have been sufficient foundation for Scott to work upon. But the Sunderland of the Osbaldestons is a third Sunderland, and is also an estate on the Ribble. It is probable, however, that Scott adopted the name from that of a well-known contemporary, Squire Osbaldeston, who will be mentioned in his place at the close of this paper. When *Rob Roy* was published in 1817 this great exponent of sporting life, as well known as Lord Lonsdale in our day, was already well in the public eye, and he became so renowned in the arts with which the novelist endows Sir Hildebrand and his family, that he found his way after three earlier Osbaldestons into the *Dictionary of National Biography*. A volume on his life has lately appeared. He was George Osbaldeston of Hutton Bushell in Yorkshire, of the Sunderland line, though through his grandmother, whose husband adopted the family name.

A curious sequel follows. There was in Northumberland a very powerful family in Scott's day, Mitford of Mitford Castle near Morpeth. They had an Osbaldeston connection. Robert Mitford, who died in 1755, had married a Mary Osbaldeston who shared with a surviving sister, from whom George Osbaldeston was descended, the heirship to the Sunderland line in Yorkshire. His grandson, born in 1777, became, like other members of his family, High Sheriff of Northumberland. At that time (1835) he added Osbaldeston to his name. Here clearly is seen evidence of the influence of the novel. He died without issue, and that was the first and last of the name north of the river Tyne.

The family of Osbaldeston therefore is not an imaginary one. Firmly seated on a wide estate on the Ribble, it gradually pushed further south towards the Mersey. It

was established in Sefton by the close of the fourteenth century and began to accumulate considerable property in the surrounding district. From early in the fifteenth century its cadets began to establish themselves in the South of England, in London, and in Yorkshire. The family was still famous in Scott's day, and some of its name are still living in Lancashire. From the twelfth century to the eighteenth century it was one of the best known families in Lancashire, until at last it was submerged by financial disaster. Its inter-connections with the family of Molyneux of Sefton are as striking as its subsequent alliances with that of Wentworth in Yorkshire. In Lancashire it intermarried with Molyneux, Langton, Norreys, Stanley and Talbot, and in the Visitation of 1613 thirteen quarterings are given to its coat *argent a masle sable between three ogresses.*

All this however is to anticipate. This paper owes its origin to the one which was read last year in these *Transactions* on the family of Sir Nicholas Longford, Sheriff in 1413, where there was noted for further consideration the problem suggested by the presence of cadets of a group of famous Lancashire families in the Cotswold area in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The elucidation of this problem led on to the suggestion of the desirability of sorting out the threads of Osbaldeston history, and drawing them together. The writer only pretends to set out material collected and corrected from obvious sources of reference—*Inquisitions post mortem*, the *Lancashire Visitations* of Flower, St. George, and Dugdale, the *Visitations* of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire, Abram's *History of Blackburn*, the Blackburn and Ribchester Parish Registers, the *Dictionary of National Biography*, Gregson's *Fragments*, the pedigrees in Croston's edition of *Baines' History of the County Palatine*, the *Victoria History of Lancashire*, the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, and Whitaker's *History of Whalley*. The

paper, however, must not be thought to be exhaustive. It is merely a sketch of the subject, assembling data distributed in many places and not hitherto presented in succinct form.

Proceeding by road from Preston towards Clitheroe, for several miles before Whalley is reached one passes lane after lane on the left hand posted to Balderston.¹ The name is an early corruption of Osbaldston, and the village was originally part of a moiety of the manor of Osbaldston held by original Osbaldestons whose name came to take that form. The first Osbald, as we have seen, came down the Ribble valley from Northumbria when this portion of Celtic Strathclyde was conquered; and the English thegn who held Osbaldston at the time of the Domesday survey may well have been his descendant, in view of the fact that there was no break in the family holding the manor for seven centuries after the Conquest. In the Domesday record twenty-eight freemen held the twenty-eight manors of the Blackburn Hundred, and the Englishman Ailsî, who was lord of Osbaldston before 1172, is considered by competent authorities to be descended from the Domesday thegn. From Ailsî onwards Osbaldestons continued at Osbaldston until the eighteenth century. They probably shared in more than English blood before they came to share in that of Normandy. On the opposite bank of the Ribble lay Ribchester, which, during the Roman occupation, had contributed great variety to the population of the valley. Germans of the Sixth Legion, Asturian cavalry from Spain, Sarmatian cavalry from Hungary, these and others tended to marry and settle in the district. English families coming in subsequently from Northumbria could hardly fail to become linked with strains of blood, coming from far and diverse countries. Possibly it is not realised that there were many English families persisting as

¹ Scott in "*The Bride of Lammermoor*" brings in a Balderston.

landholders north of the Mersey in early Norman times. From Testa de Nevill a long list of English or Danish names can be compiled—Siward, Thurstan, Osbert, Swegen, Orm, Ailward, Leofwin, Bernulf, Gamel, Gilmuth and Godwin among them.

We begin then at Osbaldeston, and as far as actual documentation is concerned, with Ailsi, thegn of the manor in the reigns of Henry II, Richard and John. The earliest record of him is of a grant made before 1172 by which he gave the monks of Salley or Sawley, higher up the river, wood and land in Sunderland, with liberty for swine to fatten, and licence to fish in the Ribble. In return the monastery covenanted to give him 40 marks and a charger, and a service of obsequies equal to that of a monk, and if he should desire to take the cowl, to admit him, "whether he be rich or poor, in sickness or in health." This grant was confirmed by Peter de Arches, who was mesne lord before the manor became held directly of the Honour of Clitheroe, as it did in the middle of the thirteenth century. The land and rights in question were regained by purchase by the Osbaldestons at the time of the dissolution of Sawley Abbey, as will be seen. There is record of seven sons of Ailsi and Wimara his wife. With two of them, William and Robert Fitzailsi, he was amerced in 1202 by John, Bishop of Norwich, justice in eyre. His son, Hugh Fitzailsi, succeeded him in Osbaldeston, and William in the moiety of Balderston. From this William the line of de Balderston continued. A son, Adam, succeeded to a remaining property in Sunderland, and another, Benedict de Osbaldeston, is the third recorded Vicar of Preston. A question arises as to whether Ailsi, whose father was Hugh, had a grandfather Ailsi, as he had a son Hugh, since *c.* 1160 there is a Bernard Fitzailsi who is of Cateral, near Garstang, and has the manor also of Goosnargh, near Preston. It was his granddaughter Avice who

brought a moiety of Goosnargh and Catteral to Oliver de Longford. If this Fitzailsi was of the same stock there was a Longford intermarriage with Osbaldeston long before the seventeenth century.

Hugh de Osbaldeston succeeded his father in the reign of John, and he lived till 1255. He was succeeded by a son Thomas, who was succeeded in turn before 1278 by a son Adam. Adam de Osbaldeston died before 1298, in which year his son Thomas is found to be claiming a reversionary interest in the manors of Haigh and Blackrod. This Thomas de Osbaldeston was summoned to Parliament in 1324 and he was a coroner of the county. He died in about 1335, leaving no issue, and was succeeded by his brother Sir John de Osbaldeston, whose son Alexander married Katharine, daughter of Thomas de Molyneux of the Edge, Sefton, before 1336. More will be said of this marriage afterwards. But it was a beginning of a series of connections between the families which continued for nearly two centuries. The issue of this union was Geoffrey de Osbaldeston, who married Cecily, daughter of Sir John Norreys, in 1379.

Geoffrey Osbaldeston was succeeded by Thomas, aged 29 in 1412. An account of his second son John, who founded the Oxfordshire family, will follow. Thomas Osbaldeston, was followed by another Geoffrey, born in 1490. This Geoffrey Osbaldeston married Isabel, daughter of Henry Langton, Baron of Newton. He died in 1479. He had a family of four sons and two daughters. Of the latter, Cecilia married Peter Standish in 1462. His fourth son, William Osbaldeston, migrated to Long Compton in south Warwickshire. The heir, John Osbaldeston, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Balderston, and great-granddaughter of Richard de Balderston and Agnes Molyneux. By this marriage of distant descendants of Ailsa a moiety of the Balderston manor eventually came back to the elder line. The Balderston

line came to an end in the two daughters of Elizabeth's brother William, one of whom, Joanna, married (1) Sir Ralph Langton, (2) Sir John Pilkington, and died without surviving issue. The other daughter, Isabel, married Sir Robert Harrington of Hornby Castle. Their son was James Harrington, Rector of Badsworth and Dean of York. By the will of Joanna Pilkington in 1497 the ultimate heirship of her moiety of the manor of Balderston, which included property in Mellor, Thornton, Holme, Singleton and elsewhere in Lancashire, and in Rogerthorp in Yorkshire, went to Richard Osbaldeston, son and heir of John Osbaldestone and Elizabeth Balderston. The portion which came to Dr. James Harrington, Dean of York, was escheated to the Crown in 1485 owing to the Yorkist activities of the Harrington family. He, apparently, after its restoration to himself, sold it to Dudley, of Empson and Dudley fame, and it was escheated again to the Crown on the fall of Dudley. It was in possession of John Braddyll of Portfield in 1598, whose descendant Margaret married Edward Osbaldeston in 1667.

John Osbaldeston pre-deceased his father, who was succeeded by his grandson Richard Osbaldeston, aged 17 in 1479. He lived till 1507 and was married to Grace, daughter of William Singleton of Broughton Tower. Alexander Osbaldeston, his son, aged 26 in 1507, comes more fully into prominence than any of his predecessors. He fought at Flodden Field in 1513 and was knighted after the battle. He became Sheriff of Lancashire, the only sheriff of his family, in 1527-8. His first wife was Agnes, daughter of Sir Christopher Southworth of Samlesbury, a granddaughter of Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Molyneux of Sefton. The issue of that marriage was John Osbaldeston, his heir. He married secondly Ellen, daughter of Thomas Tyldesley of Wardley. There were eleven children of this second marriage, and from

it there ultimately sprang the Yorkshire family of Osbaldeston. After the Dissolution of the Religious Houses Sir Alexander secured that portion of Sunderland which Ailsa his forbear had passed over to Sawley Abbey. Sunderland Grange was then settled upon Richard Osbaldeston, the eldest son of the second marriage, and the younger house of Sunderland then began. A daughter of this second marriage, Cecilia, married Thomas Molyneux, son of Sir William Molyneux of Sefton. Sir Alexander Osbaldeston was one of the trustees of the will of Margaret Bulkley (4 Nov. 1528), daughter of Sir Richard Molyneux of Sefton, who was killed at Blore Heath, and aunt of Sir William Molyneux, who was companion in arms of Sir Alexander Osbaldeston at Flodden. The brass of Margaret Bulkley, who founded the Bulkley Chapel, is the finest of all the brasses in Sefton Church, and the remains of her memorial window are still to be seen in the inscription in the south aisle window next to the screen. Sir Alexander died in 1544; his widow in 1560. She left direction in her will that three stones with inscribed brasses should be placed in the Osbaldeston Chapel in Blackburn Parish Church over the remains of her husband, her brother Sir Thomas Tyldesley, and herself. The Osbaldeston chapel was on the north side of the chancel of the old Parish Church, and, with all the memorials of the family, was destroyed when the present Parish Church was erected early in the nineteenth century. All that remains is some stained glass, part of the chapel's east window.

John Osbaldeston, the heir, who was 36 at his father's death, served in Scotland in 1557 and died in 1575. His first wife was Margaret, daughter of George Stanley, Lord Strange, K.G. He married secondly Jane, widow of Sir Thomas Halsall, daughter of John Stanley, nephew of Thomas Stanley, first Earl of Derby. There was no issue of the second marriage. Of his children, the second

son Thomas settled at Wigan and became a strong recusant. He was father to that Edward Osbaldeston who was active as a priest in the Romanist mission in the North, after being trained at Rheims. The period of his secret service was from 1589 until 1594, when he was betrayed by a fellow priest who had recanted. Convicted of treason, he was executed at York, where later on another Osbaldeston was to be Dean. The first step towards beatification at the hands of Leo XIII was reached in his case in 1886. He was not the only Osbaldeston to suffer for attachment to the Papacy; another was to follow at the time of the Popish Plot, though he escaped with imprisonment. But though there are examples of Osbaldestons here and there suffering legal or financial penalties on and off till early in the eighteenth century, Gillow's suggestion that the family was staunchly Romanist is hardly borne out. The recusant tendency seems to have been strongest among members of that part of the Sunderland line which remained in Lancashire, though not wholly with them. One of the Osbaldestons is found signing the Blackburn registers as curate in 1614, and his name is found again in 1629 as curate in charge of the district chapelry of Walton-le-Dale. In Yorkshire and in the South of England they conformed to the new order, and in 1650 we find the Osbaldeston of that day protesting against the charge of recusancy, though his younger brother had gone to Douai and taken orders in France. The situation was a mixed one: one brother might be educated at Oxford, and another in France.

Edward Osbaldeston, the eldest son of John Osbaldeston and Margaret Stanley, was 43 on his father's death in 1575. In 1548 he married Maud, daughter of Sir Thomas Halsall and Jane Stanley, who thus became subsequently his step-sister. He died in 1590, and by that time there are signs that the estate was becoming embarrassed. The Osbaldestons were suffering, as other

medieval families came to suffer, in later Tudor times. Properties near Liverpool which will be referred to later had to be sold ; and the manor of Cuerdale, nearer home, was sold on Edward Osbaldeston's death to the Assheton family.

Of Edward Osbaldeston's children, the third son Geoffrey was admitted to St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, and to Gray's Inn in 1577. He became a Justice of King's Bench in Ireland in 1605 and Chief Justice of Connaught in 1607. He married Lucy, youngest daughter of John Warren of Poynton,—the family which had already become possessors of the earlier Longford portion of Goosnargh, and which was ultimately to purchase the whole remaining Osbaldeston estate and succeed to their position on the Ribble. The fifth son of Edward Osbaldeston bore the curious name of Hamlet, unique in the family, though not unknown in Lancashire pedigrees in the form Hamolet. He followed earlier migrations south and settled at Hatherop (? Heythrop). His descendants will be noted later.

John Osbaldeston, the heir, was born in 1555 and married Ellen, daughter and co-heir of John Bradley of Bradley Hall. A lintel in an outbuilding of what now remains of Osbaldeston Hall carries the initials of John and Ellen, with the arms of Osbaldeston impaled with Bradley and the date 1593. They had five sons and three daughters. The fourth son John entered St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, in 1600 and Gray's Inn in 1602. Thomas, the second son, who married Margery Southworth of Samlesbury, murdered the husband of his youngest sister, Edward Walsh, apparently Vicar of Blackburn, and was convicted at the Lancaster Assizes and outlawed. This was in 1606, three years after his father's death. This shocking family disgrace was in part redeemed in 1617 when James I knighted Edward Osbaldeston, who had succeeded in 1603, at Lathom. Edward was an ornament

to the family. He is said to have excelled all other gentlemen of the county in horse- and swordsmanship, and further he was skilled in mathematics and natural science. Born in 1573, he married Mary, daughter and heir of Francis Farington of Hutton Grange. He died in 1636-7, and was buried with great pomp in the Osbaldeston chapel at Blackburn. His brass, now lost, read "Here lyeth the body of Sir Edward Osbaldeston, a charitable, courteous and valiant knight, qui obiit A.D. 1636 æt. 63."

Alexander Osbaldeston, the second son, succeeded, his elder brother with his children by two wives having predeceased. The third son Francis has already been alluded to. He became a Franciscan and was imprisoned at York for refusing to take the oath of allegiance and on suspicion of being a Romanist priest. On the accession of James II he was released and then retired to Douai. Alexander married Anne, daughter of Sir John Talbot of Salesbury, in 1645. He did not take up arms for the King, and seems to have gone abroad after his marriage. His estates were sequestrated while he was abroad, and though he petitioned for their return he was allowed only one-third, two-thirds being alienated by the Parliamentary Commissioners on the ground of recusancy; which he denied. This was the beginning of the end of the family fortunes. Alexander died and was buried at Blackburn in 1671. His son Edward, born in 1650 after his return to England, died intestate and was buried at Blackburn in 1689. He had married Grace, daughter of Thomas Braddyl of Portfield, and with his heir Alexander Osbaldeston, who wasted most of his substance, and heavily mortgaged the remaining property of his house, the sun had set, and only twilight was left. At the same time the end was coming at Chadlington in Oxford, and shortly afterwards the male line died out in Yorkshire. At the beginning of the present century there were still one or

two families of the senior line in Preston and Blackburn, but reduced through several generations to very lowly social standing.

Alexander Osbaldeston, the last to hold what was left of the family estates, succeeded in 1689 and died without issue in 1747. He resided for the most part in Preston and his way of life in his early twenties may be gathered from the diary of Thomas Tyldesley. "*Feb. 17 (1714).* Four gentlemen from Preston came purposely to this town (Lancaster) to be merry with Dalton, Strickland, Hugh Dicconson and the Recorder, viz. Alex. Osbaldeston, Tom Stanley, Tom Worton and Cecil. *Feb. 18.* The gentlemen continue their jollity. *Feb. 19.* The gentlemen stick together jolly and merry." By 1747 all the estate in Osbaldeston, Balderston and Ribchester had been mortgaged to Allan Harrison of Little Mearley Hall, and it was sold by his representatives in 1774 to Sir George Warren of Poynton. At the time of Alexander's death his chief friends appear to have been members of the Starkie family, three of whom have legacies in his will. By this he left all his remaining property to pay his debts and legacies. His kinswoman, Catherine Shuttleworth, in recompense for her care of his mother, was left £500 and his plate; but his servant Thomas was left an equal amount, with his horses, furniture and effects. Tom Stanley, his boon companion, got £50. He left to Thomas Clayton of Little Harwood "my chapples, seats, pews, burying ground and all my right in Blackburn Church, with my right of nominating a parish clerk and churchwarden there."

From this will one might imagine that all the male Osbaldestons were extinguished. But such was not the case. Alexander had two first cousins, John who died without issue, and George who lived in Friargate, Preston; grandsons of Alexander Osbaldeston and Anne Talbot. George Osbaldeston was clearly not well cir-

cumstanced. He was twice married and had four sons. The eldest, George Osbaldeston, was a thread weaver at Knutsford in Cheshire, and was known as "the claimant." He began a suit in Chancery against Sir George Warren which lasted for years, and he tried to maintain his claim to the family estates by regular cutting of sods, cutting down and selling timber, and ejecting the tenant of the Hall. He died in Manchester in 1779, having prosecuted his claim for ten years. During this time he walked 1,832 miles and rode by horse or coach 1,612 miles between his home and the Ribble valley. His brother, William Osbaldeston, living in 1762, was married and left children, as did his half-brother, John Stanley Osbaldeston of Preston, whose grandson, John Osbaldeston, was living at Farnworth in 1874.

Very short space is necessary to deal with the Sunderland line in its senior branch (arms differenced with a canton gules). The chief interest lies in its offshoot into Yorkshire. After the first generation the families were small, and only once was there more than one surviving son—John Osbaldeston, born *c.* 1612, and afterwards resident in London. After Richard Osbaldeston, its progenitor, who died in 1556, there follow in succession: Alexander + 1598, John + 1629, Alexander + 1681, John + 1684, Alexander + 1729 and Alexander living in 1747. This last was a surgeon in Preston and he sold the Sunderland estate to Piers Starkie. A junior branch, settled early in the sixteenth century at Oxendale Hall, on the higher ground above Osbaldeston Hall, came to an end as landowners in 1714, when Lawrence Osbaldeston sold the estate. He had two sons, Thomas and James; but what became of them does not appear.

II.

We have now briefly chronicled the main line of descent of this ancient family at Osbaldeston and Sunderland,

But before pursuing the branch lines there are several points of local interest which may be noticed. Through the marriages already mentioned, and in other ways, Osbaldeston possessions and influence were developing in the neighbourhood of Liverpool by the beginning of the fifteenth century. There were three intermarriages with Molyneux and two with Stanley. That itself is significant. The time came when Osbaldeston was almost competing with Molyneux in the Sefton area. Edge Manor in Sefton became their secondary seat, and though it was sold in 1589 by Edward Osbaldeston and John his son to Sir Richard Molyneux of Sefton and Croxteth, there were Osbaldestons of the Sunderland branch living in Sefton in 1599, probably at Edge.

The movement into south-west Lancashire owed its inception to the marriage of Alexander de Osbaldeston to Katharine, daughter of Thomas de Molyneux of Edge Manor in 1336. This manor, with property in Walton, was inherited by Thomas de Molyneux from his father Richard, Lord of Sefton. It passed to Katharine's brother, Thomas de Molyneux, who married Joan, daughter and co-heir of John de Cuerdale, a township and manor below Osbaldeston, on the Ribble. This Thomas de Molyneux, who had purchased the balance of the manor of Cuerdale in 1356, was killed at the fight at Radcote Bridge, on the upper Thames, in 1386. He left no issue, though an Irish branch of Molyneux claim him as their ancestor. His brother Richard's only son died before 1388; his other sister, Emma, wife of Richard Blundell of Crosby, also left no issue. His sister Katharine then succeeded to the manors of Edge in Sefton, Cuerdale, and half of the manor of Over Darwen, with other property, and this came to Thomas de Osbaldeston. It seems probable that his brother, John de Osbaldeston, came to reside at Edge, or in Linacre; for we find him Mayor of Liverpool in 1410, and a witness of two of the

Crosse deeds dated 16 and 27 June 1410. This John was the founder of the Chadlington branch, shortly to be noticed; and property in Linacre remained with his heirs till 1536. Edge Manor, since re-absorbed into that of Sefton, lay between Edge Lane, which runs from Sefton Town to Thornton, and Great Crosby. It was for nearly two centuries in Osbaldeston hands.

To this property came additions. In 1415 there is recorded a release by Thomas Wilson to the same Thomas de Osbaldeston and his heirs of all his rights in the township of Netherton. At some subsequent date Aintree came within the Osbaldeston possessions, since in 1552 we find John Osbaldeston and Joan Stanley his wife joining in a partition of the manor of Aintree with Richard Molyneux. The manor of Melling came to Edward Osbaldeston through his marriage with his step-sister, Maud Halsall; but this was sold in 1587 to Bartholomew Hesketh. Land also at Newton-in-Makerfield was sold at about the same time. It was the same story with this family as with many others: the change in money values under the later Tudors, large families, and the rise in the cost of living, drove them to part little by little with all their outlying estates. The dissolution of the monasteries gave the Osbaldestons little but Sunderland Grange, which they bought in from the property of Sawley Abbey; and what the spacious times of Queen Elizabeth had left them was all but ravished away after the great Civil War.

It has been noticed already that Sir Alexander Osbaldeston married twice, and that Sunderland Grange in Balderston was settled on Richard, his eldest son, by the second marriage, to which there was issue of eleven children. Cecilia, the fourth daughter, married Thomas Molyneux, son of Sir William Molyneux of Sefton, who was at Flodden Field with Sir Alexander Osbaldeston. In the next generation Edward Osbaldeston, a younger son of Richard Osbaldeston of Sunderland, married Mar-

garet, daughter of John Molyneux of Sefton and Melling. This Edward Osbaldeston was living at Sefton in 1599, according to the particulars given in the generally accurate pedigree of Croston. He died at Hunmanby, Yorks, in 1639, aged 80 years, and is the founder of the not undistinguished branch of Yorkshire Osbaldestons. His son Richard, who was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1604, was also living in Sefton in 1599; as also was Eleanor, the widow of the first Richard Osbaldeston of Sunderland. At Goore Houses, Altcar, there still remains a carved stone panel dated 1596 bearing the arms of Molyneux and Osbaldeston, presumably those of Thomas Molyneux and Cecilia Osbaldeston.

John Osbaldeston, Esquire, the collector of the Queen's Subsidy, who is noted in Mr. Twemlow's *Liverpool Town Books*, vol. 1, as giving a receipt on 21 December 1563 for the sum paid for Liverpool, was the eldest son of Sir Alexander Osbaldeston, and husband of Margaret Stanley.

III.

We now come more particularly to the migrant Osbaldestons who established themselves in the Cotswold area, and to the problem of the presence of the other Lancashire families within their near neighbourhood. It becomes clear that Osbaldeston migrations were the prime cause of those of cadets of the other families. No less than four families of Osbaldeston migrated between the reigns of Henry V and Elizabeth. All of them took the strain of Molyneux and of Norreys, two of them that of Langton, Baron of Newton, and the last added that of Stanley. The problem of the Osbaldestons solves itself after Sir John Osbaldeston settled at Chadlington, Oxon. Sir John Osbaldeston, like Sir Nicholas Longford and Sir Richard Molyneux, served with Henry V in France, and his adventure led to marriage with the heiress of Chad-

lington. Robert Molyneux, whom we find seized of the manor of Chipping Campden, about 14 miles away, in 6 Edward IV, was brother of Sir Richard Molyneux, and of Adam Molyneux, Bishop of Chichester, Lord Treasurer to Henry VI; and related to Sir John Osbaldeston, whose grandmother was a Molyneux. The next migration was of Richard, brother of Sir John Osbaldeston, to Coghull, where he received land held by Sir John in right of his wife. Following this came a great nephew of Sir John, William Osbaldeston, to the nearly neighbouring parish of Long Compton, Warwick.

There were two Lawrence migrations. The Lawrences were of Ribbleton and Ashton-on-Ribble, near neighbours of the Osbaldestons since early in the fourteenth century, and neighbours of standing. Several members of the family represented Lancashire in Parliament, and they were clearly in relations of friendship both with the Osbaldestons and the family of Molyneux. Elizabeth Clifton, second wife of Sir William Molyneux of Sefton, was a granddaughter of Sir John Lawrence. Her cousin, Thomas Clifton, married Helen, daughter of Sir Alexander Osbaldeston. Nicholas Lawrence, third son of Sir Robert Lawrence and Amphyllis Longford, established his family at Shurdington, near Cheltenham; and William Lawrence, grandson of Sir Robert and Amphyllis Longford, and third son of Robert Lawrence and his wife Margaret Lawrence, granddaughter of Eudo, Lord Welles, followed to Withington, near Cheltenham. He married Isabel, daughter of John Molyneux of Chorley. The presence of Thomas Longford, who also appears on the subsidy roll of 1524 at Withington, is equally easily accounted for. Finally, there comes Hamlet Osbaldeston, grandson of John Osbaldeston and Margaret Stanley to Hatherop (or Heythrop), whose granddaughter married Nicholas Longford of Withington. Family reasons were at the

bottom accountable for the presence of representatives of all the families in question in the near neighbourhood of one another, and presumably all went with the purpose of sheep farming, since wool was a very profitable commodity.

Let us first begin with the Osbaldestons of Chadlington. In the main line they continued until 1749. The founder has been mentioned already, the grandson of Alexander Osbaldeston and Katharine Molyneux of the Edge, Sefton. Knighted at Maxence before Agincourt, he was employed on and off in France until 1419. He took the arms of Cuerdale derived from Thomas Molyneux', his great-grandfather's, marriage with the heiress of Cuerdale, and was followed in this by his descendants until the seventeenth century, when the family reverted to the original Osbaldeston coat. The Cuerdale arms were *quarterly argent and sable, four leopards' faces counter-changed*. They proved a puzzle to genealogists. As already noted, this family continued to hold some property near Liverpool, since we find that as late as 1536 Richard Osbaldeston of Chadlington, at the special request of Sir Alexander Osbaldeston of Osbaldeston, granted his teneement in Linacre to William Moore of Bank Hall. This is an interesting proof of how families kept in touch with their members, though at considerable distances apart, over several generations. When Hamlet Osbaldeston, the last emigrant, went south to the Cotswold country, he would not be unaware that others of his kin had been there for more than a century and a half.

The pedigree of Chadlington is recorded in the Visitations of Oxfordshire. Little of importance can be said of the family until a baronetcy was created in 1664 in favour of Littleton Osbaldeston, son of John Osbaldeston and Joan, daughter of Sir Edward Littleton, Recorder of London. This Osbaldeston was Member of Parliament for Woodstock in 1678. The family had not long to run,

however, and its end is pathetic, and comparable to that of the older Lancashire stock. Pennant in his *Tour of Northern England in 1773* writes :

‘ Opposite to Ribchester stand several ancient seats, such as Osbaldeston Hall, once the residence of the great family of that name, sold by the last owner about 40 years ago. A younger branch of the family, a baronet descended from their house, had a fortune near Oxford. I remember Sir Charles, I believe the last of the title, when I was at the University : a poor profligate old fellow, who in all weathers went in his waistcoat only, and for a shilling would at any time leap up to his neck in water.’

This was the fifth and last baronet, and he died without issue.

The Osbaldestons of Long Compton in Warwickshire, who followed the Chadlington family south, were descended from Sir John Osbaldeston’s elder brother, Thomas Osbaldeston of Osbaldeston. William Osbaldeston was fourth son of Geoffrey Osbaldeston and Isabella Langton. He settled at Long Compton in about 1445, and the *Visitations of Gloucestershire*, 1569 and 1623, give four generations (with the Lancashire arms, and a crescent, for difference). How long the family continued in Warwickshire does not appear, because the *Visitation* is concerned with Ferdinand Osbaldeston of Oddington, Gloucestershire, second son of Alexander Osbaldeston of Long Compton. From the Oddington register Ferdinand died in 1572. John Osbaldeston, his eldest son, died in 1592. Two other sons, George and Edward, appear in the pedigree, but no other entry is found in the Oddington register. George is to be identified with the George Osbaldeston recorded in Foster’s *Oxford Alumni* as of County Gloucester, gentleman, matriculated at Trinity College, 1574, aged 11 years. The registers of Chipping Norton have some Osbaldeston entries in the seventeenth century. These are possibly of the Long Compton stock.

There remains now Hamlet Osbaldeston of Hatherop.

The fact of his migration does not appear in any Lancashire record. It is preserved in a conveyance of land in Burford, Oxon., to Joanna, late wife of Hamlet Osbaldeston of Hatherop. This accounts for the Osbaldestons of Burford, who have been inaccurately described by local historians as being cadets of Chadlington. John Osbaldeston, son of Hamlet and Joanna, married Grace, daughter of Humphrey Ashfield of Heythrop, and is commemorated in a fine brass in the Lady Chapel of Burford Church. He was survived by four sons and one daughter. Of the sons, Richard Osbaldeston continued to hold property in Burford. He is mentioned in the will of his niece, Mary Longford, of Shipton Solers, proved in 1650 by her brother, John Longford, Vicar of Cumnor. A Robert Osbaldeston continued the line in Burford till 1696, and a large family of his children is entered in the registers from 1674 onwards. Some members of this line are found also at Bampton, Oxon., during the seventeenth century.

There does not appear to be any record of descendants of Richard Osbaldeston of Coghull. The following matriculation entries at Oxford may be recorded. Francis Osbaldeston, of county Warwick, at University College, 1574; George Osbaldeston, of county Gloucester, at Trinity College, 1574; George Osbaldeston, of county Oxford, at Queen's College, 1582, and Inner Temple, 1587; Francis Osbaldeston, of county Oxford, at Queen's College, 1620.

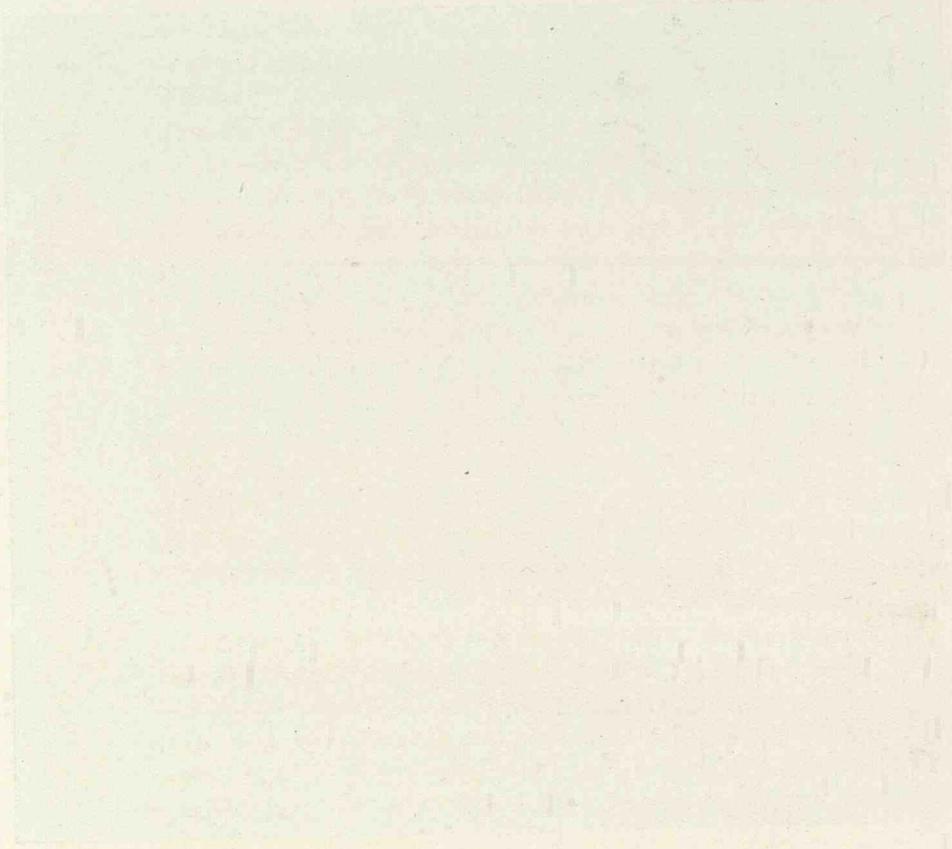
I have to thank the Rev. A. Bentley, Rector of Oddington, and Canon Emeris, Vicar of Burford, for much kind help in dealing with research on this portion of the family field.

IV.

We may now turn to consider two distinguished members of the family whose immediate place of origin was



OSBALDESTON BRASS IN BURFORD CHURCH, OXON



London. They were sons of Lambert Osbaldeston, haberdasher, of London. Both appear in the *Dictionary of National Biography*; but no indication is given as to the origin of their father. There were at that time two possible groups to which Lambert Osbaldeston might be traced. It was no unknown custom for sons of wealthy Cotswold yeomen and sheep-farmers to go into business in London. But neither, on the other hand, was such a custom unknown in regard to younger sons of northern squires. A Norris may be apprenticed to a tailor, and a Mosley to a cloth maker. An Osbaldeston may have gone from either district. There was a sufficiency of younger sons of the squires of Chadlington, and of the yeomen of Long Compton in the sixteenth century to produce a father to Lambert Osbaldeston. The pedigrees have never been elaborated in full. There was more than a sufficiency of younger sons, no further accounted for than by appearance on the pedigrees of the Lancashire families, and even the vast sheet of Croston's pedigree does not include all. There were cadets of Oxendale, of Ribchester, as well as elsewhere north of the Ribble. On the balance of probability Lancashire might seem to claim directly, without the necessity of passage through the Cotswold branches; and on the following ground. Sir Richard Osbaldeston, who will come in for later mention, son of Edward Osbaldeston, of the Sunderland line, and Margaret Molyneux, who was born before 1587, and lived as a boy and young man at Sefton, being admitted to Gray's Inn in 1604, named his first son Lambert.

There seems no reason why this name should have been given unless it was a family name in one of the Lancashire descendants of Sir Alexander Osbaldeston. Moreover, both the Osbaldestons who are now to be mentioned were entered at Gray's Inn, to which a whole succession of Lancashire Osbaldestons resorted—Geoffrey, the Irish Chief Justice, in 1577; John, brother of Sir Edward

Osbaldeston in 1602 (St. Mary's Hall, 1600); Alexander, son of Edward Osbaldeston of Lancaster, of Brasenose College, in 1695; besides Sir Richard Osbaldeston in 1604, and his son William.

Provisionally, therefore, it is held that Lambert Osbaldeston of London comes from a Sunderland source, either from Henry or from William, sons of Sir Alexander Osbaldeston and Ellen Tyldesley. The name Henry crops up again later on in London in Henry Osbaldeston, son of John Osbaldeston of London, educated at Merchant Taylors', and fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, 1637-48, and afterwards Prebendary of Wells; and again with Francis Osbaldeston, son of Henry, of London, at St. John's College in 1665. Another London Osbaldeston was John, son of John Osbaldeston of Westminster, who went to Christ Church in 1681 and became a Prebendary of Lincoln in 1691.

William Osbaldeston, the eldest son of Lambert Osbaldeston, was born in 1577, and was educated at Westminster School. He proceeded to Christ Church, where he was elected to a Studentship. He took the degree of B.A. in 1601 and continued residing on his studentship for several years. When James I visited Christ Church in 1605, Osbaldeston was one of those who contributed to the poems written in the King's honour by members of the House. He became professor of Divinity at Gresham College in 1610 in succession to George Montaigne, graduated B.D. in 1611, and D.D. in 1617. In 1616 he became rector of Parndon Magna in Essex, but he was deprived in 1643 and his benefices were sequestered by Parliament. Reference to his case is found in Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*. He died in 1645; and a Robert Osbaldeston, his son, succeeded to the rectory in 1662, when it was freed from its Puritan incumbent.

Lambert Osbaldeston, a younger son of Lambert Osbaldeston, born in 1594, lived till just before the Restora-

tion, dying in 1659. He also went to Westminster, and was elected a student of Christ Church in 1612. He was admitted to Gray's Inn in Michaelmas term 1615. He graduated in 1616, and five years afterwards became joint headmaster of Westminster School with Dr. John Wilson. He succeeded to the headmastership early in 1626. He became a Prebendary of Westminster in 1629, and in the same year a Prebendary of Lincoln also. This latter appointment was due to his friendship with Bishop Williams, Dean of Westminster, a friendship which subsequently was to cost him dear. A further prebendal stall at Wells came to him, and the rectory of Wheat-hampstead in Hertfordshire in 1637. In 1638, however, some letters written by him to the Bishop of Lincoln got into the hands of Archbishop Laud. In these letters a person unnamed was called "the little urchin" and "the little meddling hocus-pocus." The Bishop and Osbaldeston had to stand trial in the Star Chamber almost immediately. Osbaldeston was deprived of all his spiritualities, and was fined £5,000, half of which went to the King and half to Laud. It was ordered also that his ears should be tacked to the pillory in the presence of the scholars of Westminster. Osbaldeston managed to leave the court before proceedings had terminated. Reaching his study, he burnt some papers and left a note on his desk: "If the Archbishop inquire after me, tell him I am gone *beyond Canterbury*." The Archbishop did 'inquire' after him, and sent to the ports to apprehend him. However, he remained hidden in London for eighteen months, till the Long Parliament met, in November, 1640. By Parliament he was restored to all his preferments in 1641; but he soon found himself unable to acquiesce in the subsequent proceedings and his benefices were sequestrated. He died in 1659 and was buried without memorial in the south aisle of the Abbey. Richard Busby, the most famous of Westminster masters,

took his place provisionally in 1638 when Osbaldeston was deprived; and permanently in 1640. But though Busby's reign was famous, both for his work as master and for the scholars like Dryden, Locke, South, Atterbury and Hooper, who by accident of time and place are found at Westminster during his rule, Lambert Osbaldeston's reign was famous too, and probably did much to prepare the way for Busby. Fuller, who has a long account of the trouble between Laud and Williams, notes in 1638 that "he had at present above four score doctors in the two universities and three learned faculties, all gratefully acknowledging their education under him." He was not one of the least worthy of the sons of Christ Church.

V.

We now come to the Yorkshire branch. It sprang from Margaret Molyneux and Edward Osbaldeston of Sefton, fifth son of Richard Osbaldeston of Sunderland, and grandson of Sir Alexander Osbaldeston. He died at Hunmanby, near Filey, Yorks, in 1639, aged 80, and at Hunmanby this family continued in the male line till 1770, at which date the last of five brothers died either unmarried or without children; and representation of the family continued through two only of five daughters. The estate of Hunmanby was probably bought by Edward's son, Sir Richard Osbaldeston, who has been already mentioned, and who was a very successful lawyer. Reader of Gray's Inn in 1625 and Treasurer in 1635, he was appointed Attorney-General for Ireland in 1636, and was knighted by Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, in Dublin in April, 1637. He died in Dublin in 1640. He married (1) Eleanor, daughter of William Westropp, of Brunton, Yorks., (2) Mary, daughter of Thomas Nettleton, of Thornhill Lees, near Mirfield, Yorks. There was no issue by the second marriage. By the first was Lambert, already mentioned, who died young, and Wil-

liam Osbaldeston, the heir, who matriculated at St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, in 1653. He married Anne, daughter and co-heir of Sir George Wentworth, Knt., of Woolley, Yorks., dying in 1707. His son, Sir Richard Osbaldeston, Knt., was born in 1655. His eldest daughter Anne married Sir Matthew Wentworth of Bretton, while the next daughter, Elizabeth, married his son, Sir Matthew Wentworth, Bart. The Wentworth friendship obviously must have been a very strong one.

Sir Richard Osbaldeston married thrice and had fourteen children. His first wife was Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Strickland, of Boynton. He married secondly Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of John Fountayne, of Melton, by Elizabeth Monckton, heiress of Havercroft. His third wife was Catherine Hassell of Thorpe. All five sons were by the second marriage, and none of them had any issue, the name dying out in 1770 except where it was re-adopted by descendants in the female line.

Of these sons the second was Richard Osbaldeston, born in 1690. Unlike most other Osbaldestons, he went to Cambridge. He graduated in 1711 at St. John's College, and became a Fellow of Peterhouse in 1714. In 1727 he became a chaplain to the King, and in 1728 Dean of York—where one Osbaldeston in Elizabeth's reign had died on the scaffold and another had been imprisoned less than fifty years before. He was raised to the episcopate in 1747, as Bishop of Carlisle, and in 1762 he was translated to London. Before coming to London he was chiefly non-resident, and he conformed to a type only too well known in the eighteenth century. As a tutor to the future King George III his occasions probably kept him near the Court for considerable periods in every year. At Carlisle he left the Cathedral and Rose Castle in bad condition, and an illuminating correspondence with his successor, Dr. Lyttelton, is referred to in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, in which he finds a place. The

new bishop had taken over the furniture and cellar of Rose Castle at a valuation, and had much to complain of as to the bargain.

Osbaldeston's tenure of the see of London was short. He was considered by Archbishop Secker "every way unequal to the situation." He died in 1764 and was buried at Fulham; and the only act of any consequence for which he was remembered was the prevention of the erection of any statuary in St. Paul's as being contrary to Wren's intention. Wren he may have known. So vigorous was his opposition to the Dean and Chapter in this matter that no further attempt was made to commemorate famous men in this way at St. Paul's until 1796, when the statue of John Howard was set up.

We now come to George Osbaldeston, the Squire Osbaldeston so famous in his day. He was not a full Osbaldeston. His grandfather, John Wickins, Rector of Petworth in Sussex, took the name when his wife became entitled to a half of the estate of Fountayne Osbaldeston, the last male survivor, and brother of the Bishop of London. George Osbaldeston of Hutton Bushell, Yorkshire, the son of John Wickins Osbaldeston, married Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Head, and their son was George Osbaldeston, the sporting hero of popular fancy. As a good deal has been written of him, a few facts only from his biography must suffice. He was born in 1787 and went from Eton to Brasenose, and while still an undergraduate bought and hunted a pack of hounds. After leaving Oxford he hunted most of the famous packs in England, and it is said that no one ever stood higher as a Master of Foxhounds. His fame as a breeder was unequalled. His skill and strength in horsemanship was amazing. In 1831 he laid a bet of 1,000 guineas at Newmarket that he would ride 200 miles in 10 consecutive hours, the number and choice of horses to be unlimited. He accomplished the feat in $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours, having ridden at

26 miles an hour, allowing for stoppages. In the same year he had his famous duel with Lord George Bentinck, Osbaldeston putting a bullet through his opponent's hat within two inches of the brain. The Squire was a J.P. for the East Riding, a High Sheriff of Yorkshire, and for six years M.P. for East Retford. He died in 1866, leaving no heir.

So we conclude a rapid survey of the history of a family famous from before the Norman Conquest to within living memory. Two of the name figure among the "residents" of Kelly's *Directory of Lancashire*, and these are doubtless survivors of one or other branch, though probably not of the impoverished successors of the last owners of Osbaldeston Hall. This house still stands, and though now reduced to a farmhouse, it contains a number of interesting armorial and architectural features. No less than twenty-three members of the family from Lancashire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and London appear in the Oxford registers of matriculation between the days of Queen Elizabeth and Queen Anne. Five of these were members of Christ Church. Professionally they rose to eminence both in the Church and in the Law. But after the days of Queen Anne, Oxford knows Osbaldestons of full blood no more.

[NOTE.—It is impossible to say whether Hatherop (Glos.) or Heythrop (Oxon.) was the place of abode of Hamlet Osbaldeston. In sixteenth- and seventeenth-century spelling the present clearness of distinction is not made. The parish registers in both places begin too late to give any help. But the Ashfields were an ancient family of Heythrop, and the marriage of Grace Ashfield to John Osbaldeston seems to point to Heythrop as Hamlet's parish, as does the settlement of John Osbaldeston at the Upper Court, Chadlington (not the Manor house), near to Heythrop, before moving to Burford. If this be the case, it is probable that the Chipping Norton Osbaldestons were of Hamlet's stock, since the Ashfields had property there also.]

