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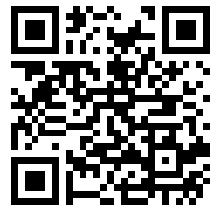
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1324. 9-10.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF BEKE
OF ERESBY, IN THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN, BY CHARLES T.
BEKE, ESQ. F.S.A.


From the Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica,
Vol. IV. 1837.

IN the Registrum de Alvingham,^a which is one of the principal sources from which Sir William Dugdale compiled his account of the family of Bek or Beke^b of Eresby, in the county of Lincoln, (the ancestors of the Lords Willoughby de Eresby,^c) the pedigree of the family is thus stated :

“Walterus Bec fuit primus, et venit cum Conquestore, et habuit hæreditatem suam in Flandriâ; et de dono Regis habuit Eresby, et multa alia maneria. Hugo fuit filius primi Walteri, et habuit quatuor fratres, Henricus Bec, Walterus, Johannes, et Thomas. Hugo, in redeundo de Terrâ Sanctâ, decessit sine hærede de corpore suo: Henricus, Walterus, et Johannes dividerunt hæreditatem, quia Henricus primogenitus non fuit multum sapiens. Thomas habuit omnes Ecclesias quæ spectabant ad donationem fratrum suorum. Henricus retenuit Eresby, Spillesby, [Kirk-]by, Wisperton; Walterus, Luseby, Wynceby, Newton et Fulestowe; Johannes, Beby [Boby] in Kesteven et alia dua maneria.

“De Henrico Walterus. De Waltero *Johannes, qui nunc est.*

“De Waltero de Luseby Henricus, *qui vendidit Stephano de Langeton manerium de Fulestowe. De Henrico Walterus Bec, qui fuit pugil, et constabularius Castri Lincolnæ.*”

Dugdale, taking for granted the correctness of the assertion that Walter Beke came to England with the Conqueror, has re-

^a In Bibl. Bodl. (Arch. Cant. F. 119) f. 147; referred to in Dugdale's *Monasticon Angl.* vol. ii. p. 804.

^b The name is spelled in a variety of ways; Bech, Bek, Beche, Beke, Beek, Bec, de Becco, del Bec, Beck, are met with in ancient records and documents; Beke, Beeke, Beek, Benk, Beake, in later times. *Beke* seems to be the most correct form, as well on account of the etymology of the name, as from the fact that it is so spelled in the only *original* document which I have seen; namely the charter of John Lord Beke of Eresby, of which mention will be made in the sequel.

^c Dugdale's *Baronage*, vol. i. p. 425.



garded John Beke, the grandson of Walter, as being the individual who, in 7 John, obtained a licence to marry the widow of William Bardolph,^d and from him he has carried down the lineal descent of the family to Henry Beke, Walter Beke, and John Beke, which last was summoned to Parliament in 23 and 24 Edw. I. In justice to that great genealogist it must, however, be stated that he has done no more than follow the example of Glover; who, having been employed for that purpose by Peregrine Lord Willoughby de Eresby in 1582, drew up the pedigree of the family in the same form.^e

The venerable antiquity of this statement in the Register of Alvingham, would alone seem a sufficient guarantee for its correctness, even had not such men as Glover and Dugdale (the former, too, having had access to the private documents of the family,) become, as it were, vouchers for its truth. Accordingly, its authority has been unhesitatingly received by all genealogists and antiquaries down to the present day. The fact, in particular, that Walter Beke came over with the Conqueror, is regarded as *established*, and as being therefore undeserving of a question. Hence we find that Sir Harris Nicolas, in his "Synopsis of the Peerage," gives the succession of the several members of the family as stated by Dugdale, with the corresponding dates, that against the name of Walter Beke being 1066: whilst Sir Henry Ellis, in his "Introduction to Domesday Book," in a note under the name *Walterus Flandrensis*, refers to Dugdale as shewing that Walter Beke came to England at the time of the Norman Conquest, and adds, "whether Walter Flandrensis and Walter Bek were the same person, remains yet to be ascertained."^f

The object of the present observations is to shew, that the foregoing statement in the Register of Alvingham respecting the first Walter Beke of Eresby, is totally incorrect, for that, so far from coming to England at the Conquest, he was not even living at that early period; that the John Beke in whose time that state-

^d Rot. Pip. 7 Joh. Linc. referred to in Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. p. 425.

^e See "Collectanea quedam tangentia stemmata et successiones antecessorum D. Peregrini Baronis Wilughby de Eresby, ex chartis antiquis et evidentiis prefati Baronis in manerio suo de Grimesthorp repositis fideliter selectis, mense Martii, Anno D'ni 1582." Harl. MSS. Cod. 245.

^f My respected relative the Dean of Bristol (Dr. Henry Beeke) suggests that *Walterus Flandrensis* should be translated *Fleming*, the name of a very ancient and considerable family.

ment was written ("qui nunc est") is identical with the John who was summoned to Parliament by Edw. I. and who has hitherto been regarded as the great-grandson of the former; and that the three following names in the pedigree given by Glover, Dugdale, and other genealogists (viz. Henry, Walter, and John) are consequently superfluous, and must be struck out.

First: that the first Walter Beke of Eresby was not living at the time of the Conquest.

Sir William Dugdale in his "Baronage," in treating of the Lords of *Tateshall*, says, "at the time of the Norman Conquest Eudo, who, together with one Pinco his sworn brother in war (although otherwise not allied), came to England with Duke William, merited so well from him in that service, as that for recompense thereof they obtained of his gift the lordship of *Tateshall*, with the hamlet of *Thorp* and town of *Kirkby*, in com. *Lincoln*, to be equally shared between them; Eudo to hold his proportion immediately of the King, and Pinco his of *St. Cuthbert of Durham*."

The *entire* correctness of this statement may perhaps not very easily be proved; but these facts, at least, are quite clear,—and they are sufficient for the present purpose, that at the time of the Norman Survey Eudo fil. *Spirewic* held large possessions in the places mentioned, namely *Tateshall*, *Thorp*, and *Kirkby*, and also in *Wispington*, *Wadingwerde*, *Berg*, *Newton*, and many other townships in *Lincolnshire*; and that on Henry the Second's levying an aid for the marriage of his daughter *Matilda* (A. D. 1167), Hugh the son of Pinco or *Pincheun* was returned by the Bishop of *Durham*,^g as holding of him seven knight's fees in *Lincolnshire*,^h *de veterē feoffamento*,ⁱ which tenements, as is found from other sources, were situate in the very townships in which Eudo fitz *Spirewic*'s possessions lay in the Conqueror's reign.^k

^g *Liber Niger Scaccarii*, p. 307.

^h The Bishop held only *sixteen* knight's fees in all. See *Surtees's Durham*, vol. i. p. cxxvi.

ⁱ i. e. "tempore *Henrici primi*, et etiam ante." Dugdale, in his account of the family of *Beke*, refers to a charter of Henry the *first*, confirming to Hugh all the lands which his father *Pinco* formerly possessed. It seems, however, more likely that this charter is one of Henry the *second*, as in 12 Hen. IV. Robert de Willoughby obtained a confirmation to him of the lands granted to Hugh fil. *Pinchionis* by three charters of King Henry the *Second*. Cal. Rot. Patent. 12 Hen. IV. m. 6.

^k *Testa de Nevill*, pp. 485, 494. Walter Bek held four knight's fees in *Tateshall*, *Thorp*, *Kirkby*, *Wispington*, *Wadyngworth*, *Burg*, *Newton*, &c.

From Dugdale's "Baronage," and from numerous other sources, we learn that Walter Beke married Alice, the daughter and heiress of Hugh fitz Pincheun; so that the possessions forming part of those belonging to Eudo fitz Spirewic, which are afterwards found in the tenure of the Bekes, and which down to the present day have continued to compose a portion of the property of their descendants, the Lords Willoughby de Eresby, can only have been acquired by Walter Beke in consequence of his marriage. This fact is, indeed, indisputable; and as Hugh fitz Pincheun (as is above shewn) continued in possession of these lands until the year 1167,¹ it is manifest that Walter Beke could not, as the Register of Alvingham asserts he did, have received them of the Conqueror's gift; and further, as it was not until *after that late period* that he can have acquired these possessions in right of his wife (Hugh's daughter), it is absolutely impossible that he should have accompanied William I. in his descent upon England, and indeed morally impossible that he should even have been *born* at the time of the Norman Conquest.

Walter Beke gave the church of Newton to the monks of Alvingham.^m An inquiry as to the *earliest possible* date at which this gift can have been made, will afford a result entirely in accordance with the conclusion thus come to.

The order of St. Gilbert of Sempringham, to which the priory of Alvingham belonged, and which in its foundation must of course have been anterior to the latter, was only established in the time of Pope Eugenius the Third, between 1145 and 1153. From the charter of Hamelinus Decanus, the founder of the Priory,ⁿ it appears that the church of Alvingham was by him given to Robert de Chesne, Bishop of Lincoln, who filled that see from 1147 to 1167, and that the latter invested therewith the monks of Alvingham at a chapter of Sempringham. Walter Beke in his deed of gift of the church of Newton^o covenants to obtain the consent of the then reigning King Henry; and as Henry the First had already been dead twelve years before the earliest possible date that can be attached to the priory's foundation, viz.

¹ That Hugh f. Pincheun was actually living at this late period, is proved by a deed of gift to Kirksted Abbey of Thomas f. Robert de Arce (Monast. Angl. vol. i. p. 809) dated 9 Hen. II. (1163) to which he is a witness.

^m Monast. Angl. vol. ii. p. 804.

ⁿ Ibid. p. 802.

^o Ibid. p. 804.

1147, this can only have been the *second* monarch of that name, who reigned from 1154 to 1189. Hence Walter Beke's gift cannot, under any circumstances, have been made previously to the former of these dates, i. e. eighty-eight years after the Conquest; so that we have here a proof entirely independent of the former one, that he was no companion of the Conqueror. I say independently of the former proof, for it must not be lost sight of that, as Newton formed a portion of the possessions of Hugh fitz Pincheun, Walter Beke's gift could not, in reality, have been made so early as the year 1167, when Hugh was still living.

The second point to be established is, that the John Beke in whose time the statement respecting the family was inserted in the Register of Alvingham, is the individual who was summoned to Parliament in the reign of King Edward the First, and not the John Beke who was living in the reign of King John.

Nothing, in fact, can be easier than to establish this; and the wonder is, not so much that the error on this point, when made, should not have been detected, but *that it should ever have been committed*, since internal evidence alone is sufficient to have prevented it. The statement itself mentions that Fulestowe was sold to Stephen de Langton by Henry Beke of Lusceby, and that this Henry had a son, Walter, who *was* (not *is*) Constable of Lincoln Castle. Now Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, filled that see from 1213 to 1228; whilst Walter Beke, the son of Langton's contemporary, was Constable of Lincoln Castle during the later portion of the reign of Henry III. and as late as the ninth year of Edward I. (1281).^p The entry in the Register was, *as itself says*, written *posterior to these events*; and, consequently, it cannot have been contemporaneous with the John Beke who in 7 John (1206) wanted to marry the widow of William Bardolph, and who, as he must at that time have been more than twenty-one years of age, would (if living) have been 100 and upwards at the time when the entry in the Register was made. The only other individual of the same name mentioned in the pedigree, is John Beke who was summoned to Parliament in 23 and 24 Edw. I. (1295-6). This John Beke was Lord of Eresby as early as 39 Hen. III. (1255), when he obtained a charter of free-warren in Spilsby;^q and as his grandson Robert

^p Rot. Hundred. 3 Edw. I. Plac. de quo Warranto, 9 Edw. I.

^q Cal. Rot. Chart. 39 Hen. III. m. 2.

de Willoughby was born in 1271,^r he must, at the very latest, have been born previously to the year 1230.^s It is he, then, and no other person, who is the John Beke "qui nunc est" of the Register of Alvingham.

It is thus seen that the separate conclusions come to with respect to the date when the first Walter Beke possessed Eresby, and gave the church of Newton to the monks of Alvingham, and to that of the entry in the Register of Alvingham itself, entirely correspond: they have both been hitherto regarded as about a century earlier than they really are. The whole pedigree has accordingly to be brought this century lower down; and the natural and inevitable consequence is, that the three generations, introduced by Glover and Dugdale after the John Beke of the Register, in order to fill up the interval supposed by them to have existed between the time of this individual and that of the John Beke who lived during the reign of Edward I. become unnecessary and superfluous.

Hence also it follows, that it was the John Beke of Boby, fourth son of the first Walter, who in 7 John obtained leave to marry the widow of William Bardolph; whilst Hugh Beke, Walter's eldest son, who is stated to have died in returning from the Holy Land, if a crusader, as is most probable, cannot have been engaged in any earlier crusade than the *third*, which took place in 1189-92.

But it may now be objected that, as the statement of the monks of Alvingham has been shewn to be incorrect in so important a point, the same becomes altogether devoid of authority. This objection, however plausible, is, nevertheless, met by proof from an entirely independent source, that, *as to the descent of the family itself*, the statement is in all material points perfectly correct. This proof is afforded by the charter of John Beke Lord of Eresby,^t by which he confirms to the abbey of Kirksted the various gifts made to the same by his ancestors from the time of its foundation by Hugh fitz Eudo fitz Spirewic in 4 Stephen, (1139), and in which he enumerates those ancestors *seriatim*,

^r In 1311, on the death of Anthony Beke, Bishop of Durham, Robert de Willoughby was found to be one of his next heirs, and at that time 40 years of age. Esc. 4 Edw. II. n. 45; in Dugdale's Baronage, tit. Willoughby de Eresby.

^s His parents, Walter Beke and Eva de Grey, were married in 1222. See the pedigree hereafter.

^t Cart. Antiq. Cotton. 54 H. 15; in Museo Britan.

and describes their relationship to him in the following precise terms: "Hugo filius Pincionis abavus meus,"—Walterus Beke "proavus meus,"—"Agnes filia Hugonis filii Pincionis, quondam uxor predicti Walteri Beke,"—"Henricus Beke avus meus,"—and "Walterus Beke pater meus." This deed is witnessed by William de Willoughby (that is, John Beke's son-in-law), and by Walter Beke (namely, of Lusceby, the above-named Constable of Lincoln Castle), and Henry his brother.

The corrected pedigree, given hereafter, will place the whole subject in the clearest light, by shewing the entire accordance of each link of the descent, with every document concerning the family to which I have had the opportunity of referring.^a

Seeing then that the statement in the Register of Alvingham, although in fault with respect to the first Walter Beke, is still entitled to credit in many important respects, it becomes desirable to consider how the error in this particular instance may have arisen.

That it did not originate with the family of Beke itself may well be conceived. They had a perfectly honourable and legitimate title, confirmed to them by several grants of their sovereigns, and held their possessions of the church of St. Cuthbert by a secure and easy tenure. They could, therefore, have had no inducement to set up a spurious title. Still less is it to be imagined that, in the short space of less than a century,^x they should have fallen into ignorance as to the real state of their pedigree. In fact, John Beke's charter to Kirksted abbey, *in which his true descent is fully set out*, entirely rebuts any such idea.

It is, then, to the monks of Alvingham alone that the error must be attributed, and the only question is whether it was occasioned by ignorance or by design. If we look to their motive for recording the pedigree, we shall find that it was (as in all other similar cases) merely to preserve a memorial of the benefactions made to their house, in order to prove *their own* title to them in

^a I may be allowed to state that I had come to the foregoing conclusions, and had drawn up the pedigree in this form, several years before the existence of the charter of John Beke accidentally became known to me.

^x The interval between the death of Hugh fitz Pincheun and the birth of John Beke of Eresby, cannot by any possibility be made to exceed *sixty-three* years, taking the *very earliest* date for the former (1167) and the *very latest* for the latter (1230). It may have been, and was most probably, much less.

case of need. This, as it has been seen, they did with scrupulous fidelity so far upwards as to include the first Walter Beke of Eresby, that is to say, just so far as their own interests were concerned, the first gift from the family (that of the church of Newton) having been made by him. Beyond this they had little (if any) inducement to concern themselves with inquiring into the origin of the family; still less had they any interest in falsifying their account of it: and it is to be borne in mind that it is only with respect to a fact *anterior to the existence of their establishment*, and consequently anterior to their connexion with the family, that their statement is found to be incorrect.⁷ That they would *gratuitously* have been guilty of a wilful and deliberate misrepresentation of facts is, of course, not to be imagined. There must, consequently, have been a substratum of truth for what is thus so distinctly and formally recorded; and we are warranted in believing that the family of Beke had really such an origin as that which is attributed to it; that, in fact, *the first* of the name was a Fleming, who came over with the Conqueror, and had several manors of that monarch's gift. The good monks could scarcely have failed to become acquainted with this traditional account of the origin of the family; for, independently of other connexions, two daughters of Walter Beke had been professed at Alvingham, and a sister of John Beke himself was actually a nun there at the time. But in their eyes Walter Beke was *the first* of the name: that is to say, he was the first whom they knew or cared to know any thing about: and hence they were led to imagine—their simplicity and good faith can be the only set-off against their consummate ignorance—that he was the individual in question, overlooking the *slight* inconsistency of making a follower of Duke William in 1066, a benefactor to their Priory, which did not come into existence till nearly, if not quite, a whole century afterwards!

The Flemish origin of the family may, therefore, be admitted on the authority of the monks of Alvingham, corroborated as it is by the fact, that the name is significant in the Low German

⁷ The Monks of Kirksted, who in that unlettered age were, doubtless, the scribes that drew up John Beke's charter, had an interest in preserving a memorial of the family as far back as it was connected with their house. Hence by them every step as high up as Hugh f. Pincheun is faithfully recorded.

dialects, in which *beke*^z means a *brook* or *stream*^a (the beck of York and Lincolnshire); and we are warranted in believing further, upon the same authority, that the first of the family really accompanied the Conqueror to England, and shared in the rewards bestowed by that leader on his followers.

Upon turning to Domesday Book we find two persons of similar name recorded, namely, Walterus Bec and Goisfridus de Bech (i. e. Bek^b). The former was a small *undertenant* in Bucks, in no particular corresponding with the monks' description, except in the coincidence of his Christian name with that of the first Walter Beke of Eresby, who, however, is shewn to have not been in existence at the time. The latter (Goisfridus de Bek) had truly "de dono Regis . . . multa maneria," not in Lincolnshire, indeed, but in Herts; and it is far from improbable that he is the individual in question, although it must be confessed that there are no actual traces by which the Walter Beke of Eresby of the succeeding century may be connected with him.

In Herts all traces of the name abruptly and unaccountably cease with Goisfridus de Bek himself; but in the next generation frequent traces of it occur in the adjoining county of Cambridge, and in Norfolk. May the Bekes of Lincolnshire have derived their origin through this channel? In the following generation (temp. Hen. II.) we find also a family of the name (whether connected with the Bekes of Eresby cannot be said) of some consideration in Kent and Sussex, Hugh Beke holding in grand sergeanty of the King "ministerium de Esnetka (?) sua de Hasting,"^c with Livingsbourn (since Bekesbourn), the chief member of that Cinque-port, by the service of furnishing one ship.^d By a curious coincidence, Hugh Beke of Livingsbourn, like Walter Beke of Eresby, whose contemporary he must have been, acquired his possessions through his marriage with the heiress of the preceding owner. Bekesbourn appears to have passed into other

^z In modern Dutch *beek*, Danish *bæk*, Swedish *back*, High German *bach*, Wendish *bec*.

^a "In lower Saxony *brooks* are distinguished by different names, according to their size. A small brook is called a *rihe*, which corresponds to the Gothic *richa*, the Anglo-Saxon *riw*, and the Latin *rivus*; one of a larger size is a *beke*. A river, in High German *fluss*, is in low German called a *feet*." Adelung's High German Lexicon, *in voc.* BACH.

^b The letter *k* is in Domesday book represented by *ch*; as *Chenth* for Kent.

^c Vide Abbrev. Placit. 4 Joh.

^d Testa de Nevill, p. 219.

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hands about the end of the 13th century; ^e but the name is met with in the neighbourhood about the beginning of the 15th century, from which time down to the present day the descent of the family is to be regularly traced.

But to return to the Bekes of Eresby. Independently of the error which has been pointed out with respect to the first Walter, there appears to exist another of some importance in the pedigree of the family as usually received. It is stated by Dugdale, on the authority of Glover, that John Lord Beke of Eresby "died 31 Edw. I." leaving issue Walter his son and heir, and also three daughters; viz. Alice, the wife of Sir William de Willoughby, Margaret, married to [Richard de] Harcourt, and Mary. Which Walter departing this life without issue, Robert de Willoughby son of Alice, and John de Harcourt son of Margaret (his sisters) became his next heirs.^f The errors here is, that Walter Beke is stated to have *survived* his father. True it is that the son was living at the date of his father's will in July 1301 ^g (and even on the 1st August,^h between two and three years previous to the latter's death); ⁱ but he must, notwithstanding, have died before his father, for on an inquisition *de quo warranto* taken 4 Edw. III. (1331), William de Harcourt, Margaret the widow of Robert de Willoughby (John Beke's grandson), and her son John de Willoughby, established their right to a market and fair in the manor of Plesley, in com. Derby, by thus tracing their title thereto by inheritance from Thomas de Bek, Bishop of St. David's (the brother of John Lord Beke), to whom the same was granted by Edw. I. "Et de prædicto Thomâ qui obiit sine hæredibus de se descendentibus prædictum manerium cum pertinentiis cuidam Johanni [Walter's father] ut fratri et hæredi, &c. *Et de ipso Johanne descendit manerium quibusdam Aliciæ et Margaricæ ut filiabus et hæredibus, &c.*^k Now it is quite clear that if Walter Beke had survived his father, (and the fact

^e See Cal. Inquis. p. Mort. 5 Edw. I. n. 55; and compare 36 Edw. III. n. 43 (2d nos.)

^f Baronage, "Bek de Eresby."

^g John Beke's will was dated "apud Eresby, die Mercurii proximo ante festum Sanctæ Margaretæ, anno 29 Regis Edwardi;" vide Collect. R. Glover.

^h "Et apud Eresby p'ntibus D'no Walt'o Bec et multis aliis, ad instantiam Joh'is Bek militis, signatu' fuit sigill. R. de Tynton, sequestr' D'ni J. Ep'i Lincoln', in signu' probationis ejusdem, kalend. Augusti 1301." Ibid.

ⁱ His will was proved 10 calend. Martii, A.D. 1303-4. Ibid.

^k Inquis. de q. Warrant. 4 Edw. III. fo. 162.

could not have been in doubt at that period, only twenty-seven years after John Beke's death,) the title of his sisters Alice de Willoughby and Margery de Harcourt must have been derived *through him as heir to his father*, and not from the father direct.

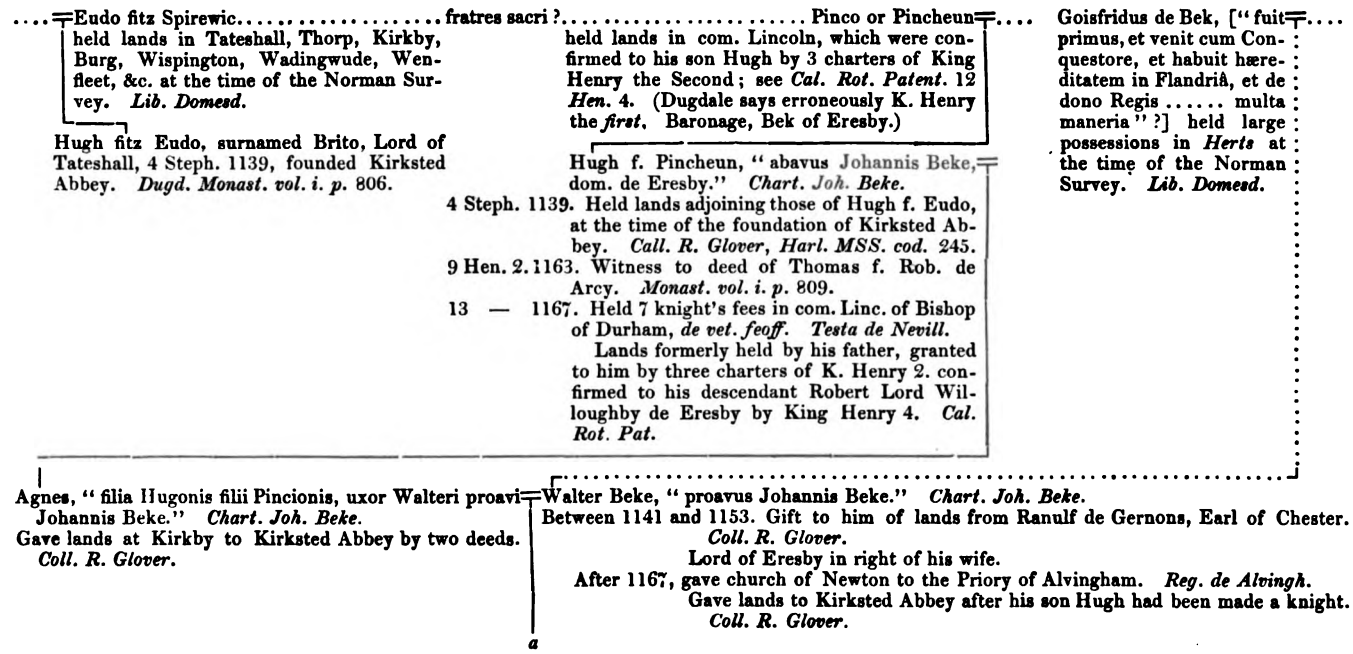
Another circumstance is to be adduced, which is totally unintelligible, if the fact be not that Walter Beke died in his father's lifetime. It is that, as Alice and Margery survived both their father and brother, the family possessions *would have descended to the sisters as coparceners*, and Robert de Willoughby (Alice's son) could have taken no estate in any portion of them until after his mother's decease. This result will be the same whether the father or the son be supposed to have died first. But in 33 Edw. I. (1305), little more than a twelvemonth after John Beke's decease, his grandson Robert de Willoughby *was seised of the entirety of Eresby*, as in that year he obtained a charter of free-warren therein.¹ Hence it is not possible that his title should have been derived by descent from his mother, unless it be assumed that she, as well as her brother Walter, had died within the twelvemonth which had elapsed since her father's death; an assumption beyond the bounds of all reasonable probability. He must, consequently, have acquired Eresby *by gift*, and not by descent; and thus we may account for John Beke's notice to his free-tenants dated 30 Edw. I. (1302).^m the year after the making of his will, in which he states that he has given his manor of Eresby to his grandson Robert de Willoughby, and desires them to attorn to him, by supposing—and there seems no other mode of reconciling all the circumstances of the case,—that Walter Beke, although living on the 1st August 1301, died in the following year in his father's lifetime; and that thereupon John Beke adopted Robert de Willoughby, the eldest son of his eldest daughter Alice, and made over to him his estates, he being at the time a very old man (his grandson himself was at the time 30 years of age), and not expecting, as the case turned out, to live much longer.

Walter Beke, consequently, had never any right to the Barony of Beke; nor has any title to it or to the estates of the family, been derived through him.

Chart. 33 Edw. I. n. 16; in Dugdale's Baronage, "Willoughby de Eresby."

^m "Johan Bek a tous ses francs tenentz salut. Purceo ke jeo a donne a Mons^r Robert de Wylughby le Manoir de Eresby, &c. ke a lui de vos services veoliez aturner et de ceo jour en avant estre entendant, &c. Doneez a Eresby l'an 30 du Roi Edward." Coll. R. Glover.

PEDIGREE OF BEKE, OF ERESBY.



Hugh Beke, eldest son. *Reg. de Alvingh.* living at the date of his father's gifts to Kirksted and Alvingham, and of his mother's gift to Kirksted. *Coll. R. Glover.* died on his return from the Holy Land. *Reg. de Alvingh.* i. e. from the 3d crusade, ann. 1189-92.

Hawse, or Alice de Multon, sister of Thomas de Multon, who gave with her, in free marriage, lands in Breitoft, Friskeny, Irby, and Wynethorp, held of Simon de Kyme. *Coll. R. Glover.*

Henry Beke, Lord of Eresby, "avus Johannis Beke," *Chart. Joh. Beke.* witness to his mother's gift to Kirksted Abbey. *Coll. R. Glover.* being weak of understanding, his brothers divided the inheritance with him. *Reg. de Ato.*
 16 Rich. 1. 1195. Defendant in an action for one knight's fee in Tateshall, Wisperton, and Kirkby. *Abbrev. Placit.*
 6 Hen. 3. 1222. Entailed Eresby, &c. on his son Walter, on his marriage, and Grebby also on the death of his wife Alice. *Coll. R. Glover.*

Walker Beke, of Lusceby. *Reg. de Alvingh.* "filius Walteri Beke" — "frater Henrici Beke." *Coll. R. Glover.*
 15 Joh. 1213. Acknowledged right of Robert de Malolacu to lands in Fulestowe. *Abbrev. Placit.*

John Beke, of Boby. *Reg. de Alvingham.*
 2 Joh. 1201. Defendant in two pleas of land in Smedeton, com. Ebor. *Abbr. Placit.*
 7 — 1206. Obtained licence to marry the widow of William Bardolph. *Dugd. Baron.*
 6 Hen. 2. 1222. Witness to deed of entail on Walter Beke's marriage. *Coll. R. Glover.*
 21 — 1237. Held a half knight's fee in Boby & Navenby. *Testa de Nevill.*

Nicholas Beke, in the *Reg. de Alvingh.* erroneously called Thomas. Most probably in Orders, as he had all the Churches which were of his brother's patronage, as his share of his father's inheritance. *Reg. de Alvingh.* Witness to deed of Henry Beke, and to deed of Walter Beke, son of Henry Beke; in the latter he is called "Nicholaus Bek abunculus meus." *Coll. R. Glover.*

Margery Beke & Emmeline Beke, nuns at Alvingham. *Reg. de Alving.* Witnesses to their mother's deed of gift to Kirksted Abbey. *Coll. R. Glover.*

Eva, niece of Walter de Grey, Archbishop of York.

Walter Beke, Lord of Eresby, "pater Johannis Beke." *Chart. Joh. Beke.*
 6 Hen. 3. 1222. Married Eva, niece of Walter de Grey, Archb. of York (who filled that see 1217—1256). *Dugd. Baronage.*
 — — Fine in Exchequer on his mar. *Coll. R. Glover.*
 21 — 1237. Held four knight's fees in Tateshall, Thorp, Kirkby, Burg, Wisington, Wadingworth, &c. of Bishop of Durham. *Testa de Nevill.*

Henry Beke of Lusceby. *Reg. de Alvingh.* "Cognatus Walteri Beke de Eresby." *Chart. Walteri Beke, in Coll. R. Glover.* Sold Fulestowe to Stephen de Langton (who was Archb. of Canterbury 1213-28).
 21 Hen. 3. 1237. Held two knight's fees of Bishop of Durham. *Testa de Nevill.*

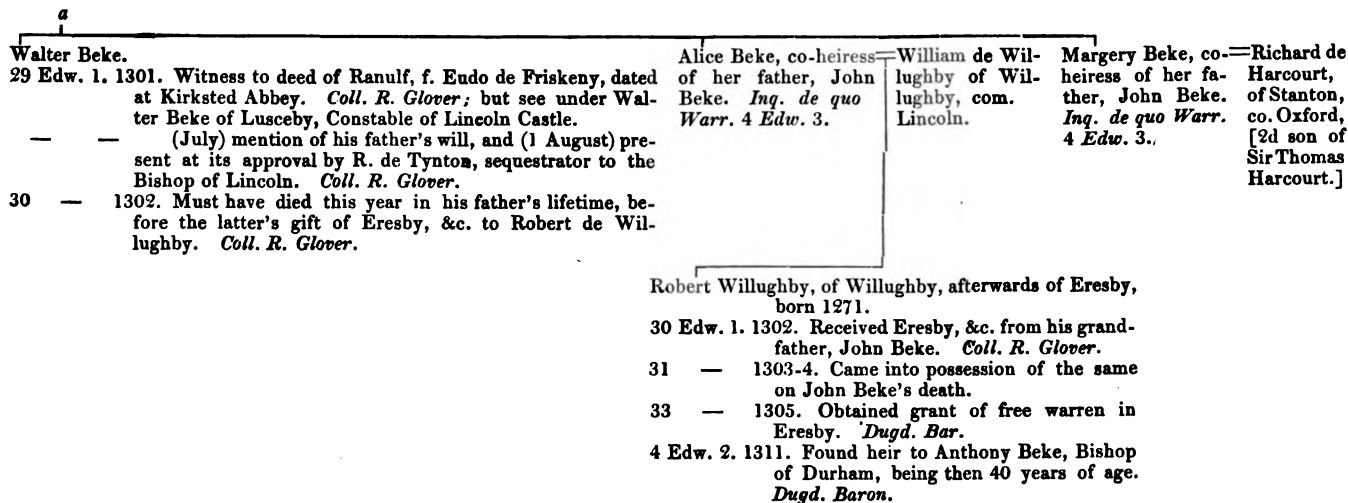
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<p>.... John Beke, Lord of Eresby, "qui nunc est." <i>Reg. de Alv.</i> born before 1230.</p> <p>39 Hen. 3. 1255. Obtained grant of market, fair, and free warren in Spillesby. <i>Cal. Rot. Chart.</i></p> <p>43 — 1259. — — fair at Suillby. <i>Cal. Rot. Chart.</i></p> <p>4 Edw. 1. 1266. — — licence to make Castle at Eresby. <i>Cal. Rot. Patent.</i></p> <p>23 — 1295. } Summned to Parliament. <i>Dugd. Baronage</i>; and see</p> <p>24 — 1296. } <i>Writs of Summons.</i></p> <p>25 — 1297. Protection for one year in Scotland, on business of the King's. <i>Rot. Scot.</i></p> <p>29 — 1301. Made his will at Eresby. <i>Coll. R. Glover.</i></p> <p>30 — 1302. Gave Eresby, &c. to his grandson, Rob. de Willughby. <i>Coll. R. Glover.</i></p> <p>31 — 1303-4. Died. <i>Coll. R. Glover.</i> His daughters Alice and Margery found to be his co-heiresses. <i>Inquis. de quo Warrant.</i> 4 <i>Edw.</i> 3.</p>	<p>Thomas Beke, Bishop of St. David's, died in John Beke's lifetime, April 14, 1293.</p> <p>Anthony Beke, Bishop of Durham, died 4 Edw. 2. March 3, 1310.</p> <p>Margaret Beke, mar. Galfridus de Thorp, living 1301. <i>Testam. Joh. Beke.</i></p>	<p>.... Beke, a nun at Alvingham, living 1301. <i>Testam. Joh. Beke.</i></p>
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<p>Walter Beke of Lusceby, Constable of Lincoln Castle. <i>Reg. de Alv.</i> "filius Henrici Beke de Lusceby, cognati Walteri Beke de Eresby." <i>Chart. Walt. Beke, in Coll. R. Glover.</i></p> <p>51 Hen. 3. 1267. Constable of Lincoln Castle eight years before 3 Edw. 1. <i>Rot. Hundr.</i></p> <p>9 Edw. 1. 1281. Convicted of taking money of prisoners. <i>Inq. de quo Warr.</i></p> <p>19 — 1291. Obtained grant of Jews' houses in Lincoln. <i>Abbr. Rot. Orig.</i> Witness to John Beke's deed of confirmation to Kirksted Abbey. <i>Chart. Joh. Beke.</i> May he not also have been the witness to the deed of Ranulf, f. Eudo de Friskeneby, and not Walter, the son of John Beke?</p>	<p>Henry Beke, "frater Domini Walteri Beke," witness to John Beke's deed of confirmation to Kirksted Abbey. <i>Chart. Joh. Beke.</i></p>
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Leipzig, 10th Oct. 1836.

CHAS. T. BEKE.

The will of Thomas Beke, Bishop of Lincoln, dated 1346, has been recently published in Testaments Eboracensia, by the Surtees Society. He mentions his sister Margaret, Margaret her daughter, William de Hiltoft his nephew, (who was his "clericus dioceseos" or Secretary,) "Henry Beek his nephew, Anthony brother to Henry; Sir John Beek deceased, brother to the testator; and John Gernoun his brother.—*Edit.*



