

CHAPTER 1.

THE MANOR

THE ancient parish of Gawsworth in the county palatine of Chester is situated on the main road from Macclesfield to Congleton on the south eastern side of Cheshire. It forms part of the Macclesfield division of the county, petty sessional division of Prestbury, hundred, rural district, county court district, rural deanery and archdeaconry of Macclesfield and diocese of Chester. The parish contains 5,684 acres of land and inland water, with a population of approximately 1,100 in the civil and 1,450 in the ecclesiastical parish.¹ The Cheshire County Council and the farmers of Gawsworth are chief landowners. The author, Raymond Richards, is Lord of the Manor and Patron of the Living. Farming and some quarrying on the southern side of the parish are the principal occupations. The chief crops are oats, turnips, and potatoes, dairy farming being extensively pursued, principally with pedigree herds of attested cattle, Guernsey and Ayrshire herds being the most popular. Within recent years the horse which was once such a common animal on Gawsworth farms has almost entirely disappeared. The landscape is pleasantly undulating, well wooded, principally with oak, beech, chestnut and lime, and on the south side the Buxton Hills are a prominent feature of the Gawsworth scene with Shutlinslow 1,659 feet, and the bold outline of the Cloud 1,190 feet above sea level, conspicuous landmarks.

There may have been a small village colony living at Gawsworth in Neolithic times. In 1912 Mark Pearson, who passed to his rest in October 1954, ploughed up a perfectly preserved flint axe head in Church field, and this implement, dating from about 2000 B.C., is one of the best examples of its kind found in Each Cheshire.²

If this was the birth period of the village in the Stone Age, it would

¹ Figures for the civil parish are based on the 1951 census, which showed the civil parish to be 1093. This figure does not take into account the new housing site at the Western Estate, near Broken Cross, but as this part of the parish will shortly pass into the Macclesfield Borough boundaries the whole of that estate and nineteen other properties on the Gawsworth road are discounted. The ecclesiastic boundaries remaining unaltered the figure of 1450 is the usual approximation worked out on a density of 3.25 per house.

² Author's collection.

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suggest the earliest inhabitants living together in groups, subsisting on the wild animals which roamed the Macclesfield Forrest.

Although possibly prehistoric in origin, it was the yeoman and peasants of Anglo Saxon England who founded on the good earth of Cheshire the settlement or "vill" of Gawsworth, as we know it today.

The King's land, originally shires and hundreds, was subdivided by the Saxons into Vills, from which the word village is derived, and it was not until after the Norman Conquest that the land was rearranged into manors. Following the customary pattern, upon the introduction of the manorial system Gawsworth was given by William the Conqueror in 1070 to his kinsman and follower Hugh, surnamed Lupus Avranches.

Actual documentary history begins with the Domesday survey of Cheshire, compiled in 1086, when the Manor of Gawsworth was held by the Palatinate Earl of Chester; the record reads as follows:

Ipse comes tenet GOUESURDE. Bernulf, liber homo tenuit. Ibi l hida geldabilis Terra est vi. Carucatae. Wasta est. Tempore regis Edwardi valebat xx. solidos. Ibi silva ii. leuvis longa et ii. leuvis lata, et ii. haiaa.

The Earl himself holds GOUESURDE. Bernulf, a free man, held it. There is 1 hide rateable to the gelt-tax. The land is 6 carucates. It is waste. In the time of King Edward (the Confessor) it was worth 20 shillings. There is a wood 3 miles long and 3 broad, and 2 enclosures for cattle.¹

Following the introduction of the manorial system it became customary for the Palatinate Earls to grant manors into the charge of a responsible person, who as lord of the manor enjoyed many privileges. The earliest documentary evidence of this procedure being called into effect at Gawsworth occurs in the early twelfth century,² when Randle de Mescines, Earl of Chester, or possibly his son Randle, granted the Manor of Gawsworth with its appurtenances to Hugh, son of Bigod, to hold, to him and his heirs in fee simple. He was entitled to have

¹ As regards the measures of land in Domesday, the compilers' references to a hide, a yard land, a Knight's fee, &c., contained no certain number of acres, but varied in different places. It has been described to be as much as was sufficient to the cultivation of one plough, whence the term of plough-land. The Carucate, which is also to be interpreted the plough-land, was as much arable as could be managed with one plough, and the beasts belonging thereto in a year; having meadow, pasture, and horses for the house-holders, and cattle belonging to it. It appears that the hide was the measure of land in the Confessor's reign, the Carucate that to which it was reduced by the Conqueror's new standard. The hide is generally supposed to be equal to 120 acres. Money is generally estimated as at sixty times its present value.

² The history of Gawsworth from the medieval era until comparatively recent times has been explored at considerable length by J. P. Earwaker and James Croston, and much of the genealogical history in this volume is derived largely from the writings of these diligent antiquaries. See "East Cheshire" by J. P. Earwaker 1880, and "Lancashire and Cheshire" by James Croston, F.S.A., 1882.

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his own mill and his own court, with sac, toll, and theme, and to be free from pleading in the courts of Macclesfield, and the said Hugh giving to the Earl one caparisoned horse, "in my chamber" or house, at Chester (in meo thalamo Cestre') . . . ¹ Some years later (anterior to 1229), Richard de Aldford, the heir of Hugh, son of Bigod, granted the manor of Gawsworth to Herbert de Orreby, and the Lady Lucy his wife. The Manor to be free from all suit at Halmote Court of Aldredelegh (Alderley), and from all services except two parts of one knight's fee, and in time of war to provide one man with a breastplate (humblogio), in defence of Aldford Castle.

This charter was witnessed by Philip de Orreby, then Justiciary of Chester (1209-1229), Peter, the clerk of Chester, Patrick Moberlegh, Robert de Pulford, Richard de Kingslegh, Jordan de Hellesby, and others.²

The Manor would be divided into two distinct sections—the demesne, which the de Orrebys reserved for their personal needs, and the common land for the use of the village people. By way of payment for the use of the common fields all were required to work on the demesne for a certain period each week with extra days at harvest time.

Herbert de Orreby, and Lucy, his wife (probably daughter of Richard de Aldford), were the ancestors of a family who were seated at Gawsworth for some generations. Their descendant, Richard de Orreby, died about 1275, and an Inquisition post mortem was taken on March 12, 1276³ in which it was found that the custody of his lands, &c., appertained by right to Sir Peter de Ardern, Knt., because the said Richard held of the said Sir Peter the manor of Gawsworth in capite, for two parts of one knight's fee, &c. The said Richard also held of Edmund Fitton the manor of Nordclif (Norcliffe), near Wilmslow, and also held of the King, as Earl of Chester, one Forestership in the Forest of Macclesfield. He also held of Sir Geoffrey de Dutton, land beyond the Dee, and of Henry de Aldithelegh, the lordship of Snelleston (Snelston), worth ten shillings per annum.

¹ Harl. MSS. 2074. f. 184. British Museum.

² Harl. MSS. 2074. f. 184. British Museum.

³ General Inquisitions post mortem.—Record Office. The Inq. was taken at Gawsworth before Thomas Roulond, viceregent of Geoffrey de Badelesmere, then Justiciary of Chester, before Henry de Birtheles, Thomas de Davenport, Richard de Davenport, John de Sutton, William de Bulkylegh, William de Bonebury, Richard de Capesthorn, Adam Balle, Adam de Pexhul, Alan de Birtheles, Adam de Hendebury, and Adam de Aldredelegh.

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The name of his son and heir is not given, but from a deed copied into Harl. MSS. 2074, f. 184b, it is shown as Thomas de Orreby, who was then a minor, and whose lands, together with the advowson of the church of Gawsworth, were granted by Sir Peter de Arderne to Thomas de Macclesfield, until the said Thomas came of age. Thomas de Orreby died about 1289, his Inquisition post mortem being taken in January, 1290, when it was returned that he had died seised of the manor of Gawsworth, a forestship in Macclesfield Forest, the manor of Northclif, and lands in Snelleston, Lythe, beyond the Dee, &c., and that "Alice, the widow of Richard de Orreby, father of the said Thomas," held in dower the third part of the manor of Gawsworth, and that Richard, his son and heir was then 6 years of age.¹ This Richard de Orreby died without issue, probably young and unmarried, and his estates passed to his sister, Isabel de Orreby, who was three times married. Her first husband, to whom she was married before 1307, was Roger de Macclesfield, son and heir of Thomas de Macclesfield.² He died without issue, and in 1312, Sir John de Grindon, Knt., is found married to "Isabel, widow of Roger de Macclesfield."³

He died also without issue, and about 1316-17, his widow married thirdly Thomas Fitton,⁴ second son of Edmund Fitton, of Bolyn, co. Chester. This marriage is important, as the union of Isabel de Orreby and Thomas Fitton founded the family of Fitton of Gawsworth, who were seated here till the middle of the seventeenth century, and whose monumental effigies adorn the chancel of the church.

Of the early history of this distinguished family who for so many generations held the manor of Gawsworth, but few records survive, and little is known of their history beyond the slender details embodied in their Inquisitions post mortem.

The Fittons came into possession of the Manor of Gawsworth at a period when it retained all its medieval pageantry and power. Following on the tradition of the great de Orreby household, the manor would have its steward and bailiffs. The steward would dispense justice

¹ General Inquisitions.—Record Office.

² In the 1 Edward II. (1307), a fine was levied between Roger, son of Thomas de Macclesfield, and Isabel, his wife, and Andrew de Aston, Chaplain, concerning the manor of Gawsworth, &c. (Cheshire Plea Rolls.—Record Office).

³ Cheshire Plea Rolls.—Record Office.

⁴ Cheshire Plea Rolls.—Record Office.

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in the Manor Courts in the absence of the lord, and would administer the whole estate. In turn the bailiff would take his instructions from the steward, and supervise all agricultural matters—land, beasts and men alike coming under his direct charge. Immediately beneath the bailiff was the Reeve. This officer was nominated by the peasantry and finally approved by the manorial lord. The bailiff and the reeve were officially elected to their positions at the Manor Court; the post of Reeve being the most responsible in many respects of all the manorial appointments. Although the office of reeve was a promotion from serfdom he had to please the manorial lord, the steward and the bailiff, whilst keeping in close touch with the peasants. His primary duty was the welfare of the demesne, safeguarding also in his official capacity the rights and privileges of the commoners.

By the late thirteenth century the Manor of Gawsworth had been divided into two distinct sections—the Court Leet to try cases of felony and similar crimes enacted within the boundaries of the Parish, and the Court Baron, for the proper administration of the Fitton manor as a whole.



A noble head, church corbel.

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Thomas Fitton, who married the de Orreby heiress, survived his wife, who died about 1346, and is known to have been living at Gawsworth in 1352. The exact date of his death is not recorded, and it is strange that his Inquisition post mortem is not available. He was succeeded by his son and heir, Thomas Fitton,¹ born in 1322, who married Margaret, a daughter and co-heir of Peter Legh, of Bechton, thus adding to the patrimonial estate half of the manor of Bechton and lands in Lostock-Gralam. It was during the lifetime of this Thomas that the first attempt was made by the chapelry of Gawsworth to sever the tie with the mother church of Prestbury and

¹In the Black Prince's Register, under the date March 24th, 1351, Thomas de Fitton of Gawsworth and other foresters of Macclesfield Forest are directed to keep the following ordinances.

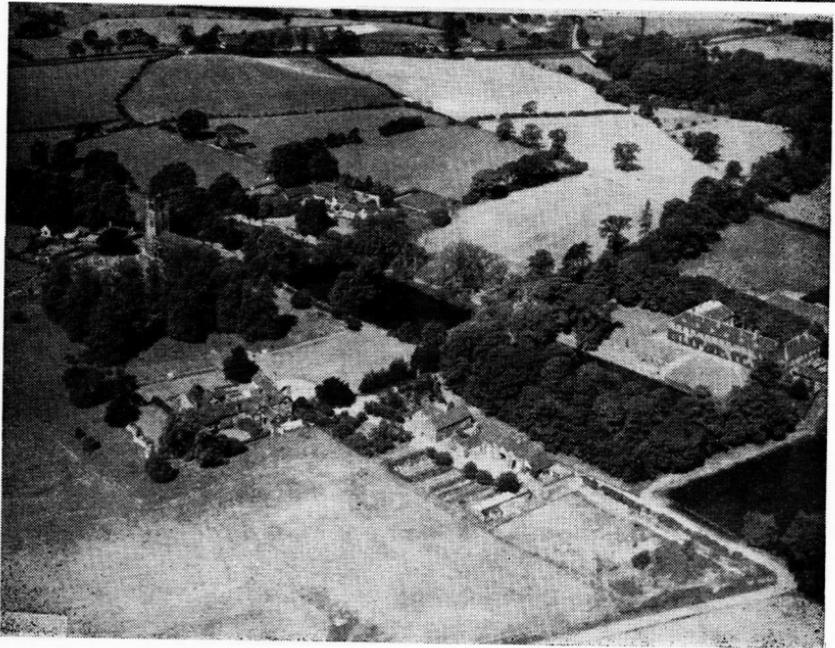
1. No man in the forests shall keep greyhounds, running hounds or the hounds called 'courtdogges,' unless they be lawed, and such lawing is to be kept and presentment of the lawed dogs made by the forester before the justice in his regard every three years, except in the forest of Delamere and Murdrem, where lawing has not heretofore been done.
2. No one in the forest shall dig turves or take heath or gorse, save that which borders on the fields of the various towns in the forest, and then only by view of the prince's foresters and not in hunting stations or coverts. This is only to be done at the time of year which the foresters shall think best.
3. No one shall take estovers in the forests except by view of the foresters and in the places where they can most conveniently be taken. Those who have the right to have estovers shall take them when best they can between Candlemas and the last day of May, so that no one except the foresters shall have cause to enter the coverts unless they be herdsmen, of whom there shall be one only for each town, who shall make oath to the master-forester; and no forester shall take fuel for his estover other than wood blown down by the wind and unsuitable for timber, and such estovers shall be taken by them in the same way as by others who have the right to estovers, and the foresters shall not cut any living branch at their peril, except by view of the justice and chamberlain.
4. No one shall carry a bow or arrows off the highway or in the covert on any pretext, and no one shall carry a bow on the highway unless the cord be removed, especially in the forest of Delamere.
5. The foresters shall hold their pleas of 'sanmotes' in the forests every three weeks, and shall make presentments of all trespasses committed in the forests to the justice of Cestre for the time being on the Monday before each county court of Cestre, so that he may be able to have what belongs to the law therefrom and cause the amercements and fines to be put in the estreats of the said county courts; but the prince wills that those who formerly paid and still pay at the 'frithmotes' shall not be bound to do suit to the 'swanmotes,' except for trespasses done by them in the forests. The justice and foresters shall each do in his degree what pertains to him according to the assize of the forest.
6. No swine shall go anywhere in the forests within the covert between 1 June and 31 July, or at any time of the year except in time of pannage for the prince's profit; and no goat shall go there at any time.
7. No keeper of woods belonging to other people in the said forests shall carry a bow in his wood, or in the forests, by pretext of his office, but only a small axe, as allowed by usage of the forest.

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become a separate parish. At this period the Abbot of St. Werburg's, Chester, held the rectory of Prestbury, and in the chartulary of this abbey it is recorded that in April, 1382, he conceded to John Caxton, rector of Gawsworth, the privilege of burying his parishioners on paying a moiety of the dues within ten days after each burial, and with a proviso that any parishioner of Gawsworth might be interred at Prestbury without any claim on the part of the rector of Gawsworth.

As explained by Croston the granting of this privilege, on the formation of a parish, the inhabitants were required to perform their parochial rites at the mother church, the "ealdan mynstre" of the parish. But as many parishes were of considerable territorial extent, those resident in the remote hamlets found it inconvenient to resort on all occasions to the mother church. To provide for the spiritual requirements of the people in such districts, private chapels or oratories, founded by the manorial lords, were allowed to be licensed in convenient situations. They were frequently attached or situated adjacent to the lord's mansion, and were designed more especially for his own benefit and that of his dependents; Gawsworth, which is distant nearly six miles from Prestbury, was of this denomination. To prevent such foundations encroaching upon the rights of the mother church, they were merely licensed for preaching and praying, the ministration of the sacrament of baptism and the performance of the right of burial being strictly prohibited. These latter were the true parochial rites, and the grant of them to a chapel or oratory severed its connection with the parish church, and converted it into a parochial chapel, or, more strictly speaking, into an independent church. In 1391 the manorial lord of Gawsworth, Thomas Fitton was appointed one of a number of influential persons in Cheshire who were constituted a commission to levy a subsidy of 3,000 marks (£2,000) in the city of Chester, on account of the King's confirmation of the old charters belonging to that city.

During the lifetime of Thomas Fitton, the Gawsworth peasantry in common with neighbouring villages developed greater freedom. Many commoners instead of giving manual service on the demesne in return for their holdings, chose to pay rentals. The few having obtained their freedom and independence encouraged the tied peasantry to greater efforts, and whereas they had previously accepted the buying of their freedom as a privilege, the casualties in population following the ravages of the Black Death in 1348 changed the whole character of rural life. Thomas Fitton almost overnight became a landlord, in the accepted sense



Aerial photographs of Gawsworth 1953.

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of today, letting out areas on stock and land leases, whilst the peasantry were paid wages. The rapid change from the feudal system had a permanent effect on village life, and with certain modifications and improvements remained in evidence in Gawsorth until well into the present century.

Thomas Fitton died March 22, 1397, the Inquisition post mortem recording:¹

Inquisition taken at Macclesfield before Adam de Kingslegh, Escheater, 7 May, 20 Richard II. (1397, by the oath of John de Vernon de Hulme, John, son of Robert de Chorlegh, Thomas Nield, Thomas de Snelleston, Thomas de Worth, Robert de Downes, Edmund de Downes, John de Cresswell, Geoffrey de Downes, Stephen del Rowe, Robert Bryan, and John de Leversage, who say that Thomas ffyton, of Gouseworth, died seised in his demesne as of fee, of certain lands, &c., in Pounale, which are called Northclyve, and lands in Chorleigh; also of a Forestership within the Forest of Macclesfield, and of the manor of Gouseworth, with the advowson of the church there, held of John de Ardern, lord of Aldford; also of land at Honbrugge (Hand-bridge) beyond the Dee, all of which he held on the Thursday next before the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary last past (i.e. March 22, 1397), on which day the said Thomas died. And he also died seised by the Law of England after the death of Margaret, the daughter of Peter de Legh, and late wife of the said Thomas, as of the right of the said Margaret, of the half of the manor of Bechton with its appurtenances, and of a piece of land in Lostock Gram, called Bancroft, with reversion of the same to Laurence, son and heir of the said Thomas and Margaret. And the said Laurence was son and heir, and aged 22 years on the day the said Thomas died. And the said Thomas enfeoffed Elizabeth, his wife,² by the name of dower of a certain annuity of 20 marks for her life.³

He was succeeded by his son, Sir Laurence Fitton, then aged 22, who married Agnes Hesketh, a daughter of the house of Rufford, in Lancashire. This Sir Laurence, knighted in 1401, held the lordship for the long period of sixty years; he fills no inconsiderable space in the records of his distinguished family, and the Fittons' connection with Irish history begins at this period.

In 1399, when Richard the Second sailed to Ireland to avenge the death of Roger Mortimer, declaring war against the Irish Chieftains who had risen in insurrection, the king commanded Sir Laurence Fitton and other neighbouring esquires to summon the best archers in the Macclesfield hundred, between the ages of 16 and 60, for service in Ireland, the soldiers to be at Chester on the morrow of the Ascension of our Lord for inspection by the King's officers. The King did not

¹ Cheshire Inquisitions.—Record Office.

² This Elizabeth subsequently remarried William de Honford, and in 1398-9, a fine was levied between them and Laurence Fitton relating to lands in Gawsorth, &c. (Cheshire Plea Rolls, Record Office).

³ This Inq. P.M. was traversed, and as recorded on the Plea Roll for 21 Richard II. (1398), some corrections were made with regard to the lands at Northclyve and at Honbrugge, and it was found that Thomas Fitton had given the Forestership to Laurence, his son, some time previous to his death.

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actually sail till the 4th of June, when he was joined by Sir Laurence Fitton, who, as appears by an entry on the Recognizance Rolls of the Palatinate, had protection granted him on his departure; and at this time, under date June 5, there is a licence to William Prydyn, parson of Gawsworth, Robert de Tounley, John Tryket, and Matthew del Mere to act as his attorneys to look after his affairs while absent in Ireland on the King's service.

History records that within a month of the King's departure Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Hereford, the only son of John of Gaunt, landed at Ravenspur and before the end of July marshalled a large army in the Severn Valley. It was not until many towns and castles had yielded to the invader that the King received intelligence of the insurrection, and by the time he arrived at Milford the revolution was virtually accomplished. On reaching England, the King started for Chester, but on reaching Flint was delivered into the hands of Bolingbroke, thence he was taken to Chester, and afterwards conveyed to London and lodged in the Tower, when, having resigned the crown, he was formally deposed, and removed to Pontefract.

Following the Revolution Sir Laurence Fitton appears to have accommodated himself successfully to the changed state in the nation's affairs, and to have gained the confidence of Bolingbroke.

Later, as a result of the insurrection, Owen Glendower raised in Wales the standard of revolt, renounced allegiance to the new King, Henry IV., and claimed to be the rightful Prince of Wales. To meet this new danger, Henry, Prince of Wales, who was also Earl of Chester, on the 11th January 1403-4, directed a writ to Sir Laurence Fitton, requiring him to repair "to his possessions on the marches of Wales, there to make defence against the coming of Owen Glendower, according to an order in Council enacting that, on the occasion of the war being moved against the King, all those holding possessions on the marches should reside on the same for the defence of the realm."

The Recognizance Rolls reveal that a few days later Sir Laurence Fitton was appointed on a commission "to inquire touching those who spread false rumours to the disquiet of the people of the county of Chester, and disturbance of the peace therein, also to array all the fencible men of the hundred of Macclesfield."

In 1416, following the victory at Agincourt, Henry V. was preparing for his second expedition to France, with the design of claiming the



The Court Fool, Church corbel. *J.A.M.*



The Bagpipe Cherub, Church corbel. *J.A.M.*

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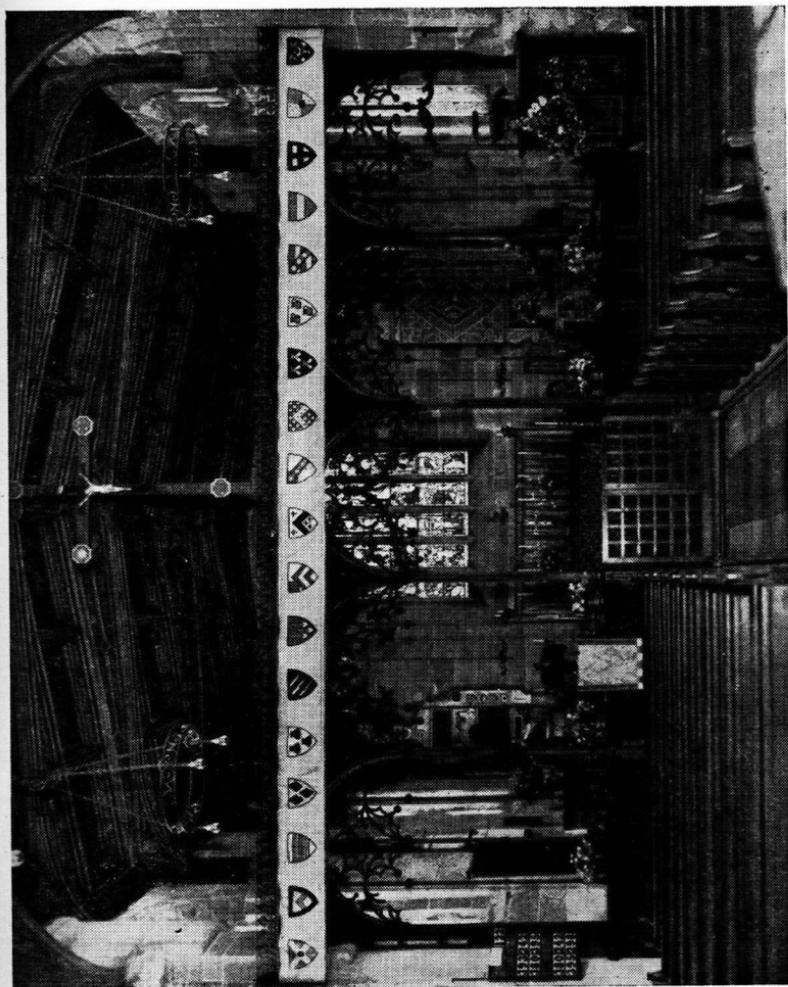
crown. Sir Laurence Fitton, with Sir John Savage, Knight, Robert de Hyde, Robert de Dokenfield, and John, the son of Peter de Legh, was appointed collector of the subsidy in the Macclesfield hundred, part of the 3,000 marks granted to the King by the county of Chester; and in 1428, together with other influential Cheshire knights and gentry, he was summoned to the King's Council at Chester, concerning the granting of a subsidy to the King (Henry VI.). His death occurred on the 14th February, 1457, when he must have been over 80 years of age, and at the inquisition taken [37 Henry VI. (1459)], his grandson Thomas, then aged 26, was found to be his next heir. As previously stated, Sir Laurence Fitton married Agnes Hesketh. This lady died in 1442, and he would appear to have re-married, for in the inquisition taken after his death mention was made of "Clemence, his wife," who was said to be then alive.

By his wife Agnes, Sir Laurence Fitton had a son Thomas, who married Ellen, daughter of Randle Mainwaring, of Over Peover. Formerly a stained glass window to their memory existed in Gawsworth church, comprising three panes, one representing Randle Mainwaring and his wife Margery, daughter of Hugh Venables, Baron of Kinderton, kneeling before desks; the second window depicting Thomas Fitton and seven sons; and the third, his wife and five daughters, all kneeling, and the inscription, "Orate pro a'iabus Thomae ffitton, filii Laurencii ffitton, et Elene ux' ejus, et om' Puerorum suorum, qui istam fenestram fieri fecerunt."

Thomas Fitton pre-deceased his father, leaving a son, also named Thomas, who succeeded as heir on the death of his grandfather in 1457, he being then 26 years of age. Sir Thomas Fitton, as he afterwards became, inherited the martial spirit of his ancestors, and was actively engaged in the wars of the Roses. He was present at Bloreheath,¹ near Market Drayton, on that fatal 23rd July, 1459—St. Tecla's Day—when Lord Audley and the Lancastrians were defeated, and was knighted on the field; and there is on the Cheshire Recognizance Rolls, under date April 29th [38-9 Henry VI. (1460)], the record of a general pardon granted to Thomas Fitton and Richard Fitton, late of

¹ There is a weathered memorial on the battlefield at Blore Heath, the property of Mr. Robert Benson, Audley Cross Farm, the inscription at the foot, now largely obliterated, recording:

"On this spot was fought the battle of Blore Heath in 1459. Lord Audley, who commanded for the side of Lancaster, was defeated and slain. To perpetuate the memory of the action and the place this ancient monument was repaired in 1765, at the charge of the Lord of the Manor, Charles Boothby Skrimsher."



Gawsworth Church, interior looking east. The arms depicted on the pelmet over the screen, reading from left to right are as follows: Neville, Scafford de Sutwick, Sir Bartholomew de Badlesmere, Baguley, Welwick, Harbottle, Bechton, Orreby, Siddington, Fitton, de Warwicke (Newburgh), Charron, Manboucher, Legh, Beauchamp, Holcroft, Stanhope, Richards.

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Gawsworth; William, son of Laurence Fitton, late of Gawsworth; Edward, brother of Thomas Fitton late of Gawsworth, some of their kinsmen of the Pownall stock, and other Cheshire gentry, with a long list of residents in Gawsworth, the retainers of the Fittons—names that are still familiar in the neighbourhood¹ “in consideration,” as it states, “of the good service of the said Thomas Fitton, Knight, and his adherents at Blore-heth.” His name also occurs under date June 10, 1463, with those of John de Davenport, of Bramhall; Hugh Davenport, of Henbury; and Christopher Davenport, of Woodford, in the appointment of collectors of a subsidy for the King (Edward IV.) in the Macclesfield hundred. He married Ellen, daughter of Sir Peter Legh, of Lyme, but this lady, who predeceased him, had no issue. He died April 27, 1494, when the estates devolved upon his brother and next heir, Edward Fitton, then aged 60 years. This Edward, by his marriage with Emma, the daughter and sole heiress of Robert Siddington, came into possession of two parts of the manor of Siddington, Co. Chester, which had been held by his wife’s family for many generations on the tenure of rendering a red rose yearly, and thus he added materially to the territorial wealth and influence of his house. There is good reason to believe that the south porch of Gawsworth Church was added by this Edward Fitton, one of the carved elaborations being a rose, in the leaves of which may be discerned two heads, evidently intended to represent Henry VII. and his Queen, who, by their marriage, had united the rival houses of York and Lancaster, and so terminated the long and bitter war of the Roses.

Edward Fitton died 15th February, 1510-11. His Inquisition post mortem being as follows:

Inquisition taken at Knottesford, March 6, 1511, before Ralph Egerton, Esq., Escheator, by the oath of William Brereton, Esq., Thomas Venables, of Kynderton, Esq., Thomas Legh, of High Legh, Esq., Thomas Leicester, of Tabley, Esq., Peter Danyell, of Over Tabley, Esq., John Mere, of Mere, Esq., John Worth, of Tyderington, John Sutton, of Sutton, . . . Bowdon, of Bowdon, Thomas . . . Thomas Henshagh, of Henshagh, William Baskervyle, Richard Davenport, of Wheltrough, William Shert, of Disley, Thomas Hale (?), of Knottesford, William Croxton, William Eulow, John Torkynton, Richard Whitmore, and Robert Hesketh, who say that Edward Fytton, Esq., died seised in his demesne as of fee, of certain burgages, &c., in Macclesfield, land in Lithe, near Honbrugge, beyond the river Dee, a messuage in Lostock Gram, called Bancroft, which by his charter dated 31 May, 1498, he had conceded to Randle Fitton, Rector of Gawsworth, and John Deane, chaplain, to hold to the use of John, younger son of the said Edward, for his life. Also, he died seised of half of the manor of Behton, part of which he had conceded to the said John, his youngest son, for his life, and by his charter dated 5 Sept., 1498, he con-

¹ The Records show that out of sixty-six Gawsworth men who accompanied Thomas Fitton in battle on that fateful day thirty-one were killed.



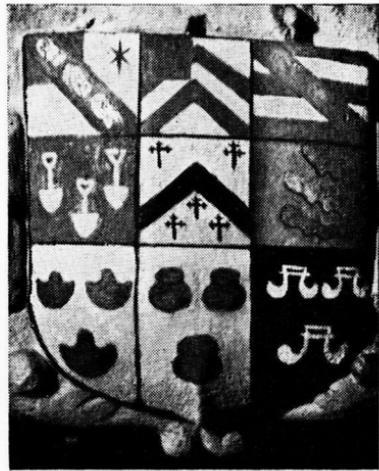
Coat Meyrick (?) impaling Fitton.
Base of Plaque commemorating Sir
Edward Fitton, 2nd Baronet.



Coat Cole (?) impaling Fitton. Base
of Plaque commemorating Sir Edward
Fitton, 2nd Baronet.



Coat on Tomb of Francis Fitton;
married to Katherine Neville.



Coat on Tomb of Francis Fitton.

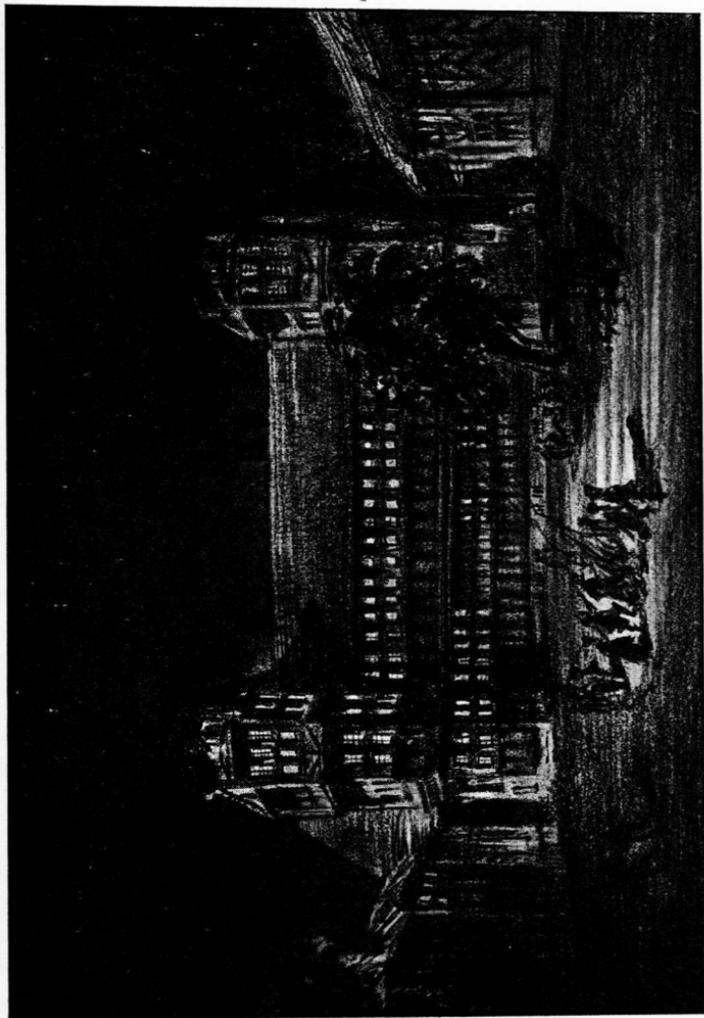
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ceded another part of the said manor to the said Randle Fitton, Hugh Smyth, rector of Brereton, and others, to hold to the use of Ellen, daughter of Sir Andrew Brereton, Knt., for her life, with reversion to John Fitton, senior (her husband), son and heir-apparent of the said Edward and his heirs. Also, he died seised of the manor and advowson of Gawsworth, held of the King as of his manor of Aldford, in socage by fealty, and also of messuages and lands in Pownall and Chorley, in Capesthorpe (formerly belonging to Alan de Capesthorpe), and in Sutton, and Sutton Downes, together with a Forestership in Macclesfield Forest, lands in Congleton, and two parts of the manor of Sydlington, with reversion to John Fitton, senior, his son and heir. And he died on Feb. 15, last past, and the said John Fitton, Esq., his son and heir, is aged 40 years and more.

This John Fitton, who succeeded as heir, as appears by the inquisition taken after his father's death, was then 40 years of age. He had married, in 1498, Ellen, daughter of Sir Andrew Brereton, Knt., the representative of a family that had been seated at Brereton from ancient times. Following the death of John Fitton, in 1525, the family estates devolved upon his eldest son Edward, who received the honour of knighthood, and in the 35th year of the reign of King Henry VIII. (1543-4) held the shrievalty of the county. He married Mary, the younger daughter and co-heir of Sir Guiscard Harbottle, a Northumberland knight, and by her had five sons and six daughters. He died on February 17, 1548, and on his inquisition, which was taken the same year, Edward Fitton, his son, then aged 21 years, was confirmed as his heir.

Edward Fitton, who succeeded to the Gawsworth estates on the death of his father, in 1548, was born 31st March, 1527; and when only 12 years of age had been united in marriage with Anne, one of the daughters of Sir Peter Warburton, of Warburton and Arley, the young lady being but a month younger than himself. He was one of the foresters of Macclesfield, and was exempted from serving upon juries and at the assizes, in accordance with the terms of a writ dated 29th March, 5 and 6 Edw. VI. (1532), addressed to the sheriff of the county. Eight years after his coming in possession of the patrimonial lands, as appears by letters patent bearing date 3 and 4 Philip and Mary (1556-7), he, in conjunction with William Tatton, of Wythenshawe, who in 1552 had espoused his eldest sister, Mary, obtained a grant from the Crown of Etchells, part of the confiscated estates of Sir William Brereton, together with Aldford and Alderley, the property being subsequently partitioned; Aldford and Alderley remaining with Sir Edward, whilst Etchells, passed to his son-in-law, William Tatton.

Subsequently his name occurs in the palatine records, with those of William Davenport, Knt., and William Dokenfield and Jasper Worth, Esquires, as collectors of a mise in Macclesfield, in 1559-60.



GAWSWORTH OLD HALL. A conjectured drawing by Bernard Miller as it appeared in Elizabethan times. before the south and west wings were lost.

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He was knighted by Sir Henry Sydney¹ about the year 1566, and was appointed by Queen Elizabeth in 1569 to be the first President of her Council for the Province of Connaught and Thomond in Ireland, where he lived until Michaelmas 1572 when the Council was dissolved. The appointment of 1569 had apparently been contemplated in the previous year, for Cecil, writing from Wallingford in that year, informed the Lord Deputy Sydney that "Sir Edward Fitton is meet for Connaught."

Sir Edward Fitton landed in Ireland from Cheshire in the year of his appointment, and by February 1570 the Earl of Thomond was in open rebellion. Fitton, writing from Galway to Cecil, stated, "Justice is fruitless without power to bridle the Insolent, and requires a force of 300 men as a constant support. The people of Connaught are not willing to embrace justice nor reform themselves to English Government. It requires valiant and courageous captains and hardy soldiers that must make a way for law and justice, or else farewell Ireland."

The conditions under which Sir Edward Fitton held his appointments in Ireland were not of the easiest, and it is not surprising that on several occasions he wrote to the Privy Council and to the Queen praying "to have his reckonings and to be recalled."

After considerable delays Fitton at last obtained leave of absence, and sailed for England in December 1572. From Hampton Court, the Queen writing in December of that year to the Lord Deputy Fytzwylliam, informed him of the appointment of Fitton to be "Treasurer at Wars and to reside at Athlone." In February 1573 Sir Edward Fitton was at Gawsworth, and shortly afterwards, in company with the Earl of Desmond, he again sailed for Ireland and reached Dublin on the 25th March.

In June of that year an affray took place in which Roden, one of Fitton's men, broke the head of a man named Burnell, and for this Roden was afterwards wilfully murdered by James Meade. The Lord-Deputy was disposed to pardon the murderer, which led to a quarrel with Fitton. On the 4th June the Lord-Deputy, acting in a hasty manner, committed Sir Edward Fitton to prison during his pleasure. Next day, in Council, he liberated Fitton, and invited him to take his seat at the Council board, which Fitton refused to do. The Lord-Deputy Fytzwylliam hereupon wrote to the Queen and to Burghley complaining of "Fitton's

¹ In 1565 Sir Henry Sydney, K.G., was Lord President of Wales, and on July 4th that year instructions were given on his being appointed Lord-Deputy of Ireland.

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haughty countenance and contempt of superiority," entreating Burghley to separate them, stating that he would "never yield to be yoked with Fitton." Fitton again wrote to the Queen complaining that he, her "Treasurer at Wars in Ireland was committed prisoner to the Common Gaol on charge of a supposed contempt and craves judgment and justice."

By the end of June the Queen replied from her manor of Greenwich to Sir Edward Fitton: "She is very sorry to understand of such disorders in the Council. Would have Fitton repute it praise and honour to have suffered trouble for doing her Majesty good service. He is to take his room and place as before these troubles."

In view of the troubled state of Ireland and the political intrigues of the day it is not perhaps surprising that the death of Sir Edward Fitton occurred unexpectedly on the 3rd July 1579, when he was buried alongside his wife in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. During the last ten years of his life he saw but little of his Cheshire estates, and when he died a contemporary account of the period naively records: "The journeys to the Brenny and Annaly bred the disease of the Country in Lord Justice Drury and in the Chief Baron, and hath brought Mr. Treasurer this night to his end." At his demise Sir William Drury reported to Lord Burghley of Fitton's "temperence, judgment, and ability to speak in her Majesty's causes."—A sincere tribute indeed to a noble Fitton.

A brass placed to the memory of Sir Edward Fitton and his wife survives in perfect condition, and is now to be found on the south wall of the choir ambulatory in the much restored St. Patrick's cathedral. The upper part of the brass depicts the kneeling figures of Sir Edward and Lady Fitton, with their fifteen children, and on the one side the Fitton arms with eight quarterings, and on the other those of Warburton with six quarterings.¹ Below the figures is the following inscription:

Glorify they name, hasten they
Kingdome; Comfote they flock;
Confound they adversaries;

¹ On the north wall of the chancel at Gawsworth is a modern brass bearing the above inscription, headed by the following lines, placed between two shields of eight and six quarters, respectively:—

"The following is an exact transcript of the inscription to the memory of Sir Edward Fitton, of Gawsworth, Knight, the second of that name and title, on a brass plate adjacent to the communion table in the east wall of the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Dublin." This was put up about 1851, at the time of the Massie restoration, but is now very much corroded by damp and difficult to read. It is in black letter.

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Ser Edward fitton, of Gauseworth, in the counte of Chester, in Englande, knight, was sent into Ireland by Queene Elizabeth, to serve as the first L. President of her highness Counsell within the province of Connaght and Thomonde, who landing in Ireland on the Ascention day, 1569, Ao. R.R. Elizabeth XI. lyued there in the rome aforesaid till Mighellmas, 1572, Ao. Elizabeth XIII; and then, that Counsell being dissolved, and he repaying into England, was sent over againe in March next following as Threasurer at Warres, Vice-treasurer, and general receyvor within the realme of Ireland, and hath here buried the wyfe of his youth, Anne, the second daughter of Sir Peter Warburton, of Areley, in the county of Chester, knight, who were born both in one yere, viz., he ye last of Marche, 1527, and she the first of May in the same yere; and were married on Sunday next after Hillaries daye, 1539, being ye 19 daye of Januarie, in the 12 yere of their age, and lyued together in true and lawfull matrymonie just 34 yeres; for the same Sunday of ye yere wherein they wer married, ye same Sondaie 34 yeres following she was buried, though she faithfully departed this lyef 9 daies before, viz., on the Saturdaie, ye 9 daie of Januarie, 1573; in which time God gave them 15 children, viz., 9 sonnes and six daughters; and now her body sleepeth under this Stone, and her soul is returned to God yt gave yt, and there remayneth in Keping of Christe Jesus, her onely Saviour. And the said Ser Edward departed this lyef the thirde daie of July, Ao. Dni. 1579, and was buried the xxi daie of September next folowing; whose fleshe also resteth under the same stone, in assured hope of full and perfect resurrection to eternall lyef in joye, through Christe his onely Saviour; and the said Ser Edward was revoked home into England, and left this land the day of Anno Domini being the yere of his age.

From the MSS. of Bishop Sterne the following interesting account of the ceremonial observed at the funeral of Sir Edward's wife at St. Patrick's Cathedral, in January 1573/74, was obtained:

The order in the presyding for buriall of the worshypful Lady Fitton, on Sunday, bein the 17 day of January, Anno 1573.

First, serteine youmen to goo before the penon with the armes of Syr Edwarde Fitton, and his wyfe's desessed; and next after them the penon, borne by Mr. Rycharde Fytton, second son to Syr Ed. Fytton and Lady, his wyfe desessed; and sarten gentillmen servants to the sayd Syr Edw. Fytton; then the gentill-hossher and the chapplens, and then Ulster Kyng of Armes of Ierland, weyring his mornyng goun and hod, with hys cote of the armes of Ynglande. And then the corpes of the sayd Lady Fytton, and next after the corps the lady Brabason, who was the principal morner, being lyd and assysted by Syr Rafe Egerton, Knyght, and Mr. Fran Fytton, Esq., brother to the said Syr Edwarde, and next after her, Mistress Agarde, wyfe to Mr. Fran. Agarde; then Mrs. Chalenor, wyfe to Mr. John Chalenor; then Mrs. Dyllon; then Mrs. Bruerton, being the other III murners. Then Syr Edward Fytton goying bytwene the Archebysshoppe of Dublin and the Bishop of Methe; then Sir John Plunkett, Chefe Justice of Ireland; then Master Dyllon, being the Chefe Baron; then Mr. Fran. Agard and Mr. John Chalenor, wyth other men to the number of XIII. gentylnen; then sarten other gentyllwomen and maydens, morners, to the number of VIII.; and then the Mayor of Dublyn, wyth his brytherne, the Schyreffes and Aldermen; and the poure folks VI. men on the one syde of the corse and VI women on the other syde. And so coming to the cherche of St. Patryke,

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where was a herse prepared, and when they cam to the herse, the yomen stode, halfe on the one side and halfe on the other, the penon berer stood at the feete of the corps; then the corps was layd upon a payer of trestels within the herse, and then the III. morners were brought to their places by Ulster Kyng of Armes aforesaid, and the cheffe morner was brought to her place at the hede of the corps, and so the herse was clod; and the tow assystants set upon tow stowles without the rayles, and then the sarvyce was begon by the Bysshope of Methe, and after sarvyce there was a sermon made, and the sermon endyd, the company went home to the house of the said Sir Edw. Fytton; and the corpse was buryed by the reverent father, the Byssshop of Methe, and when the corpse was buryed, the clothe was layd again upon the trestylls wythin the herse, which was deckyed with scochyens of armes in pale of hys and her armes, and on the morow the herse was sett over the grave and the penon sett in the wall over the grave. And Ulster Kyng of Armes had V yards of fyne blake clothe for his livery, and 50s. sterling for hys fee, and the herse with the cloth that was on the corpse wyth all the furnytur there of the herse."

It may be mentioned that the claim of Ulster King of Arms to the costly materials of which the hearse was composed was disputed by the Vicars Choral of St. Patrick's, and the matter was not settled until 1578, when a decision was given in favour of the former by the Lord Deputy of the Council. As previously stated Sir Edward Fitton who died in 1579 was interred by the side of his wife.

Of the same generation the eldest remaining brother of Sir Edward Fitton, Thomas Fitton, lived at Siddington, and dying in April, 1600, was buried at Gawsworth on the 20th of that month. The next brother, Francis Fitton, lived at Wadborough, co Worcester, and about 1596 purchased the manor of Bosley, which adjoins the manor of Gawsworth. He married Katherine,¹ eldest daughter and co-heiress of John Neville, Lord Latimer, and widow of Henry, seventh Earl of Northumberland. He died childless on June 17, 1608, and was buried at Gawsworth on June 18, his altar tomb being placed against the south wall of the chancel.

His will, which is a very lengthy document, is dated March 31, 1608. In it he mentions his sister Mistris Margaret Englefield, widow, and her son, Francis Englefield, Esq.; his sister-in-law, "Mistris Anne

Calendar of State Papers
(Domestic) Vol. CC.VI.

Dec. 1587.

Katherine Countess of Northumberland to Lord Boughley. Complains of the conduct of her son, the present Earl, who endeavoured by fraudulent means to bring about a marriage between Mr. John Wotton, a man of no good name, and her eldest daughter. Wotton has ill treated and threatened the life of her servants. Assault by the Earl upon Mr. Francis Fitton. Desires that some order may be taken for his reformation (at her house in St. Martin's).

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Welles, late wyfe to my brother Thomas Fitton deceased"; his brother, George Fitton, in 1600 holding office in the Poultry in London; his niece, "the Lady Anne Newdegate, eldest daughter of Sir Edward Fitton, Knt., my late nephew, deceased"; his cousin "Edmund Fyton sonne and heire to my late nephew William Fitton," his kinsman, Sir William Slingsby, Knt., "Dame Alice Fyton the widow of my nephew Sir Edward Fitton, Knt., deceased"; his kinsman "Edward Fyton sonne to my nephew Richard Fitton, who deceased in Ireland which said Edward doth now attend upon the right honorable Sir George Carewe Knight, Lord Carewe of Claxton now vice chamberlane to the Quenes majestie"; "Richard Fiton brother to the said Edward"; his cousin, Richard Fitton, "younger brother to my cosin and Nephew Edward Fyton of Gawsworth esquier"; his nephew, "Mr. William Polwheeler who married with my nece Mrs Marie Fitton younger daughter to Sir Edward Fitton Ktn. deceased my nephew." To the poor of the parish of Gawsworth, and of Siddington, Macclesfield, and Congleton, he left £20, and desired that his body be buried in Gawsworth, "and a faire large stone of alabaster to be laid upon my grave, with an inscription graven in brass mentionings viz. Here lieth Francis Fitton



Head of a lady, Church corbel.

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Esquier which married Katherline Countes doager of Northumberland and third brother to Sir Edward Fitton of Gawsworth Knight, deceased, lord President of Connagh and Treasurer of Ireland.”

His Inquisition post mortem was taken on Sept. 8, 1608,¹ when it was returned that he had died seised of the manor or lordship of Bosley, and of the manor of Aldford, with reversion to Sir Edward Fitton, Knt., deceased, and his heirs. He also died seised of lands at Wadborough, co. Warwick, and in Lancashire.

When the great Sir Edward Fitton died² in Ireland in July 1579, and was buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, he was succeeded by his son Sir Edward Fitton, Knt. then 30 years of age, who had married Alice, daughter and heiress of Sir John Holcroft, of Holcroft, co. Lancaster, Knt., and like his father held office in Ireland under Queen Elizabeth, being for some years Lord President of Munster. He died in London on March 4, 1605-6, and was buried at Gawsworth on April 3 in that year. At his death he was seised of the same manors and lands as his father, his Inquisition post mortem being taken on October 17, 1606.³

¹ It was taken at Knottesford before Henry Mainwaring, Esq., Escheator, by the oath of Edward Cotton, of Cotton, Esq., William Davenport, of Chorley, Esq., John Birtles, of Birtles, gent., John Wrenche, of Shurlach, gent., Francis Hobson, of Over Alderley, gent., Alexander Hulme, of Meire, gent., John Crosbie, of Over Whitley, gent., William Birtles, of the Hill, gent., John Hollinshead, of Buglawton, gent., Geoffrey Mottershead, of Mottram Andrew, gent., Thomas Harper, of High Legh, gent., Henry Bradshawe (? of Marple), gent., John Middlehurst, of Lachford, gent., and Richard Sworton of Sworton, gent.

² His Inquisition post mortem was taken on Jan. 20, 1580 at Nether Knottesford, before Peter Warburton and William Davenport, Esqs., by the oath of Peter Leicester, Esq., William Leicester, Esq., John Domvyle, Esq., Richard Massie, of Sale, Esq., John Gleave, of High Legh, Esq., Hamon Warburton, of Partington, gent., Edward Harpur, of High Legh gent., Geoffrey Mottershead, of Mottram Andrew, gent., William Antrobus, of Peover, Edward Huett (Hewitt), of Tatton, Roger Thornicrofte, of Thornicrofte, gent., John Hayes of Lyttley, gent., John Torkynton, of Torkynton, gent., Edward Fyton, of Over Alderley, Thomas Twembrookes, of Grapenhall, William Foxley, of Pickmeyre, and Alexander Holme, gent., when it was revealed he died seised of the manor and advowson of Gawsworth, lands, &c., in Bechton, Lostock Gralam, Pownall, Macclesfield, Siddington, Capesthorne, Snelston, &c., and also of the manors and advowsons of Aldford and Alderley, which he had acquired by purchase in 1557. Some of these lands had been settled by his father on his younger children for their lives, and he had also settled lands on his son and heir, Edward Fitton, on his marriage.

³ Taken at Congleton before William Leversage, Esq., Henry Maynwaring, Esq., Escheator, and others, by the oath of Edward Cotton, of Cotton, Esq., Thomas Baskervyle, of Old Withington, gent., Edmund Swetenham, of Somerford, gent., William Burges, of Chelford, gent., John Birtles, of Birtles, gent., Geoffrey Mottershead, of Mottram, gent., John Eaton, of Goostree, gent., Humphrey Page, of Yearshawe, gent., John Warde, of Munksheath, gent., John Hollinshead, of Buglawton, gent., Francis Hobson, of Over Alderley, gent., William Birtles, of Birtles, gent., William Parsons, of Macclesfield, gent., Thomas Grastie, of Warford, gent., Thomas Pigott, of Butley, gent., Peter Warde Somerforde, gent.

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His son and heir, Edward Fitton, Esq., is then described as 30 years of age, but he was in reality nearly 34. He was created a Baronet on October 2nd, 1617, died on May 10th, 1619, and was buried at Gawsworth. His monument is on the north side of the chancel, nearest the east wall. His Inquisition post mortem, the last relating to this family, was taken September 2nd, 1619,¹ and in addition to the lands, &c., held by his father, he died seised of the manor of Bosley, which had been left him by his great uncle, Francis. Edward Fitton, his son and heir, was then 15 years of age.

This Sir Edward Fitton, the second Baronet, was the last descendant of this ancient family in the direct male line. In October 1622, he married Jane, daughter of Sir John Trevor, of Plas Têg, Co. Flint, by whom he had a daughter, Margaret, who only lived for seven years, dying in 1631. Following the death of his wife in 1638, he married as his second wife Felicia, daughter of Ralph Sneyd, of Keele, in Staffordshire. There is a reference to this marriage in the Corporation books of Congleton, as follows:

1638. Paid for an entertainment for Sir Edw. Fitton, of Gawsworth, his bride, father (Sic), and mother-in-law, on their first coming through the town, and divers other gentlemen who accompanied him and his bride, on their going to Gawsworth to bring his lady. He sent his barber two days before to the mayor and aldermen, and the rest, to entreat them to bid them welcome 12s. 4d.

In the Civil War Sir Edward Fitton espoused the cause of his Sovereign, and distinguished himself in several military engagements. He raised a regiment of infantry for King Charles' service from among his own tenantry and dependents. It is interesting to note that the people of nearby Congleton not wishing to have their peace disturbed by the quartering of his troops in the town, came to an agreement with Sir Edward, as shown by the following interesting entry in the Corporation records:

1642. Wine gave to Colonel Fitton, not to quarter
500 soldiers on the town 3s. 4d.

¹ Taken at Knottesford before Henry Mainwaring, Escheator, by the oath of Thomas Baskervyle, of Old Withington, gent., John Birtles, of Birtles, gent., Richard Davenport, of Wheltrough, gent., Humphrey Page, of Yeardshawe, gent., Edward Thornicrofte, of Thornicrofte, gent., Lea Henshawe, of Henshawe, gent., Philip Downes, of Toft, gent., Francis Hobson, of Over Alderley, gent., Hugh Wardle, of Eaton, gent., Edward Lowndes, of the same, gent., Reginald Mottrum, of Mottrum, gent., Francis Acton, of Over Alderley, gent., Thomas Fitton, of the same, gent., Edward Harper, of High Legh, gent., Henry Hough, of Chorley, gent., William Stanley, of Astle, gent., Hugh Snelson, of the same, gent., Edward Alcock, of Ashton, Edward Howe, of Ollerton, gent., James Bradshaw, of Allostock, gent., Robert Alcock, of Wilmeslowe, gent., Thomas Scragge, of the same, gent., Roger Guncock (?), of Moberley, gent., and Thomas D....., of Withington, gent.



(Top left): ANNE and MARY FITTON, kneeling figures from the tomb of their parents. Anne (figure to the left) born 1574, married in 1587 Sir John Newdegate of Arbury, co. Warwick, knt.; and Mary, born 1578, a Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth, and the supposed "Dark Lady" of Shakespeare's Sonnets. (Top right): DAME ALICE FITTON, daughter and heiress of Sir John Holcroft of Holcroft, co. Lancs. Married Sir Edward Fitton, knt., buried at Gawsorth, 4th Jan. 1626/7. (Bottom left): FRANCIS FITTON, died 17th June, 1608, the son of Sir Edward Fitton, knt., married Katherine, eldest daughter and one of the four co-heiresses of John Neville Lord Latimer. (Bottom right): SIR EDWARD FITTON, the first baronet, born 29th November 1572, died 10th May 1619, created a baronet 1617; and his brother, RICHARD FITTON, who died unmarried 1610. Kneeling figures at the tomb of their parents.

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Colonel Sir Edward Fitton fought in the battle of Edgehill, and was also present with the King at the taking of Banbury, as well as in the operations at Brentford and Reading. He afterwards took part with Prince Rupert in the attack on Bristol, and when that city surrendered on July 27, 1643, Sir Edward Fitton was left in charge of the garrison, and died there suddenly of consumption in the following month, at the early age of 40. His body was first buried at Oxford, but subsequently removed to Gawsworth for interment in 1664, Congleton again providing the news on this occasion with the following entry in the town's books.

Paid for carrying Sir Edwd. Fitton through the town,
and for repairing Rood-lane for the occasion ... 4s. 0d.

Following the death of the last Baronet, his widow married secondly Sir Charles Adderley of Co. Warwick. She had only a life interest in the estates, and at her death in childbirth in January 1654/5, the manors of Gawsworth, Siddington and Bosley passed to William Fitton and his son Alexander. The claims of Sir Edward Fitton's sisters to the estates being repudiated.

After the Restoration in 1661 Sir Edward Fitton's nephew, Charles, Lord Gerard of Brandon, claimed under a hitherto concealed will of the last baronet, Sir Edward Fitton, and after long and tedious disputes with Alexander Fitton ultimately made good his claim, and became the possessor of Gawsworth and the other estates of his uncle.

Charles Gerard, the eldest son of Sir Charles Gerard, of Halsall, Co. Lancaster, Knt., by his wife Penelope Fitton (who were married at Gawsworth on Jan. 12, 1611-12), took an active part in the Civil War on the side of the King. He was present at the seige of Lichfield, the battle of Newbury, etc, was appointed Lieutenant General of the Horse, and on Oct. 8, 1645, was created Lord Gerard, of Brandon, Co. Suffolk. On July 21, 1679, he was created Earl of Macclesfield, and dying on Jan. 9, 1693-4, was buried in Westminster Abbey on Jan. 18, following. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles Gerard, second Earl of Macclesfield, who was sent as ambassador to Hanover, in 1701, and who died on Nov. 5 in that year without issue, and was

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buried in Westminster Abbey on November 14.¹ His only brother, Fitton Gerard, who became third Earl of Macclesfield, died on Dec. 25, 1702, unmarried, when the Barony of Gerard of Brandon and the Earldom of Macclesfield became extinct. Charles and Fitton Gerard had three sisters, Charlotte, Elizabeth, and Anne. Of these, the eldest, Lady Charlotte Gerard, married Thomas Mainwaring, Esq.² by whom she had an only daughter and heiress, Charlotte Mainwaring, who married Charles, fifth Lord Mohun (pronounced Moon), of Okehampton, co. Devon. The second daughter, Lady Elizabeth Gerard³ married Digby, fifth Lord Gerard of Gerard's Bromley, co. Stafford, and like her sister had an only daughter and heiress, the Hon. Elizabeth Gerard, who married James, fourth Duke of Hamilton. Lord Mohun was very intimate with Charles Gerard, second Earl of Macclesfield, who by his will dated 2 July, 1701,⁴ left him the whole of his estates in Cheshire, Lancashire, Middlesex, &c. Fitton Gerard, third and last Earl of Macclesfield, endeavoured to dispute the validity of this will, but dying

¹ He married Anne, daughter of Sir Richard Mason, of Worcester Park, co. Surrey, and Bishop's Castle, co. Salop, Knt., by his wife, Dame Anna Margareta, the marriage settlements being dated 24 April, 1683. He was divorced from her by Act of Parliament in 1698. He is said to have married for his second wife a daughter of . . . Harbord, Esq., but this is, possibly, an error, as he does not name any wife in his will dated July 2, 1701, and merely leaves a diamond to Mrs. Letitia Harbord. Sir Richard Mason's other daughter, Dorothy, married to Sir William Brownlowe.

² She subsequently married Thomas Orby, Esq., afterwards Sir Thomas Orby, of co. Lincoln, Bart., and both she and her second husband were living in 1703.

³ The third daughter, Lady Anne Gerard, married Captain William Elrington, described in 1702 as "then Captain in Brigadier Fairfax his Regiment," by whom she had a son and heir, John Elrington, and younger sons, Gerard Elrington, and Robert Elrington.

⁴ His will was made at his house in Gerard Street, Westminster, just previous to his departure as ambassador to Hanover. To his niece, the Duchess of Hamilton, he left a pair of diamond pendants and a diamond necklace, "provided she gives no trouble to my Executor." To Mistress Letitia Harbord, he left his "great diamond shaped like a heart." There are other legacies to friends and servants, and then after payment of debts, funeral charges, and legacies, "I give, leave and bequeath all my goods, chattels, and personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever, and what nature or kind soever, unto the Right Honourable Charles, Lord Mohun, and I do make ordaine and appoint the said Charles, Lord Mohun, to be my Executor of this my will. Item my will is that if I the said Charles Earle of Macclesfield shall happen to dye without issue male that then and in such case and not otherwise I give grant devise and bequeath all and every my mannors, messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever in possession, reversion, remainder or expectancy which I am or might be entitled to, unto him the said Charles Lord Mohun and his heiress, and assignes for ever, to hold the same to the said Charles Lord Mohun and his heiress and assignes for ever. (See Wills in the Raymond Richards collection of manuscripts deposited on loan with the John Rylands Library, Manchester).

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in the following year, 1702, the suit was continued by the Duke of Hamilton, and other heirs-at-law, but it does not appear that any trial took place, the evidence in favour of the will being too strong. All this caused a bitter feeling between Lord Mohun and the Duke of Hamilton, which culminated in the fatal duel in Hyde Park on Nov. 15, 1712, in which both the combatants were slain. A full account of this dispute and duel is given in the following chapter.

Charlotte, Lady Mohun, had predeceased her husband, who had married for his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Thomas Lawrence, Physician to Queen Anne, and the widow of Edward Griffith, Esq., one of the Clerks of the Board of Green Cloth. On Lord Mohun's untimely death, in 1712, it was found that he had bequeathed the whole of his estates, by his will dated March 23, 1710-11, absolutely to his wife,¹ who in consequence succeeded to them, and made Gawsorth an occasional place of residence.² Elizabeth, Lady Mohun, married in 1717, for her third husband, the Honourable Charles Mordaunt, Esq., nephew of Lord Peterborough, and the following characteristic letters written by a Mrs. Bradshaw to Mrs. Howard³ give a very naive description of the life at Gawsorth in 1722.

(Gosworth Hall), May 28th (1722).⁴

Our bells have rung ever since four this morning, which is more a proof of Lady Mohun's power than the people's inclinations.⁵

I am told you expect from me an account of the manners and customs of this place;

¹ He says, "I will give devise and bequeath all my estate, both reale and personall whatsoever, in the Kingdom of Great Brittain, Ireland or elsewhere, that is to say, all my lands and tenements, whether freehold or copy hold, and all my lands and tenements whatsoever, held by lease or leases, either for lives or yeares and also all my household goods, plate, jewells, furniture and all other my goods or chattels whatsoever unto Elizabeth late wife of Edward Griffith of St. James, deceased and now my own dearly and well beloved wife, to have and to hold the same to her the said Elizabeth, her heirs, executors, administrators and assigns for ever." He charges her to pay £1,000 "to Elizabeth (Mohun) my pretended daughter by my first wife if she be living at the time of my decease." On March 26, 1717, Lady Mohun paid to this Elizabeth Mohun, then described as "of the parish of St. James, Westminster, spinster, sole daughter and heire of the Right Honourable Charles Lord Mohun, deceased," the sum of £5,000.

² She was evidently residing at Gawsorth in 1714, on Sept. 26 of which year, Elizabeth Griffith, her elder daughter by her first husband, Edward Griffith, Esq., was married at Gawsorth church to Sir Robert Rich, Knt., and Bart.

³ Printed in "Letters to and from Henrietta, Countess of Suffolk, 1712 to 1767. London, 1824." 2 vols. 8 vo. Vol. i. pp. 91-94, and pp. 96-99.

⁴ The following notes to the letters are those given by the editor of "Lady Suffolk's Letters."

⁵ The birthday of George I. The good Cestrians were Jacobites, and would not have celebrated the Hanoverian King's birthday if Lady Mohun had not forced them to do it.

The Manor

it is impossible for me to obey your commands at present, for the weather has been so wet that none of the neighbouring nymphs or swains have been able to make their appearance; but if you can be contented with a description of the hall, and the manner of life we lead this Christmas-time (for so it is here, I do assure you), take it as follows.

We meet in the work-room before nine; eat, and break a joke or two, till twelve; then we repair to our own chambers and make ourselves ready, for it cannot be called dressing; at noon the great bell fetches us into a parlour, adorned with all sorts of fire-arms, poisoned darts, several pair of old shoes and boots won from the Tartars by men of might belonging to this castle, with the stirrups of King Charles I. taken from him at Edge-Hill.

Here leave we the historical part of the furniture, and cast your eye (in imagination) upon a table covered with good fish and flesh, the product of our own estate; and such ale! it would make you stare again, Howard.¹ After your health has gone round (which is always the second glass), we begin to grow witty, and really say things that would make your ears tingle: your court wits are nothing to us for invention (plots only excepted); but, being all of a side, we lay no scheme but of getting you amongst us, where, though I say it that should not (because I would have my share in it), you would pass your time very agreeably in our dyke, for you must know we have hardly seen dry land since we came.

Mr. Mordaunt² has once or twice made an effort to sally out into the gardens, but finding no rest for the sole of his feet, returns presently to us again; and, I must give him his due, always in good humour. Miss³ . . . had a small ray of hope last night, for Colonel Lawrence⁴ and a gentleman with him, swam to us, the last was clothed in blue, turned up with red, and adorned with plate buttons, upon which she puts me on her lutestring suit, not omitting all the little flirtation she is mistress of: if she brings it to anything you shall be sure to have notice time enough to provide another maid.⁵

Nay, I will assure you, old as I am, I have my little gallantries too. A gentleman, of three hundred per annum, fancies me extremely, and if he had not been under an engagement before I came, I have some reason to believe I might have kept a chaise of my own; however, I live in hope that a loose man may come, though it will be some time first, for all the best families in the parish are laid up with what they call the yoke—which in England⁶ is the itch. We have had a noble captain, who dined in a brave pair of white gloves, to my very great surprise, but it was when I was in my London ignorance.

I am now called upon to see a pond drawn, which will produce carp as big as some of your lords of the bedchamber. Madam Howard, I live in expectation of an

¹ Lord Harvey has hinted to us that Mrs. Howard was fond of ale.

² Lady Mohun's third husband.

³ Probably Miss Mordaunt, half-sister to Lady Mohun's husband.

⁴ Probably a brother, or other near relation to Lady Mohun.

⁵ Miss Mordaunt had succeeded the unfortunate Sophia Howe as maid of honour.

⁶ Cheshire being a border county to Wales.

The Manor of Gawsworth

epistle from you, which is the only wish I have out of my company, who are all your humble servants; but nobody is more entirely so than your slave

PEGGY.

Gosworth Hall, 26th August, 1722.

I have much oftener an inclination to be scribbling than wherewithal to furnish out an epistle, but if I should stay till that happen, you might forget you have such a friend in the world; and this would be a great mortification to me, for I own I have a good deal of pride in the proof you have given me of your good wishes and pains-taking for me since I have been out of your sight, which when I forget, may my right hand forget its cunning.

We dined last week at your fellow-servant's, Mr. Booth's, which is an extreme pretty little place; the Earl and Countess of Warrington¹ met us, which to me spoiled the feast; she is a limber² dirty fool, and her consort the stiffest of all stiff things, so that instead of an agreeable freedom which one always expects at a bachelor's house, it was as solemn as a funeral, and I was chief-mourner. They call it six miles from us; I believe it twelve; and cursed roads, as all Cheshire is: if one could fly in the air, it would be a charming country; but since there is no such machine, I would not live here (with any other family than that I am in) for the King's ransom. You will see by the flesh I have got that I have been made much of, and if your negotiation comes to a good end, as I hope it will, I shall come to town in the bloom of fifteen, and enjoy all the pleasures of that happy age.

Miss Mordaunt³ is very full of business in managing a wedding, which she has with great skill brought to perfection, between the richest tanner of the place and her maid. The man was pricked to the heart at the first glance, yet, if I may say it, I think I never saw anything young that had less to boast of; but beauty is in the lover's eye, and after this and Mrs. Wentworth⁴ nobody need despair; and our Miss (Mordaunt) has a chance still.

My lady (Mohun) and I have our rural pleasures too. The Colonel (Mordaunt) gave a smock for the young wenches to run for. The pleasure of the day ended with a prison base.⁵ All the swains from our neighbouring towns performed feats of activity,

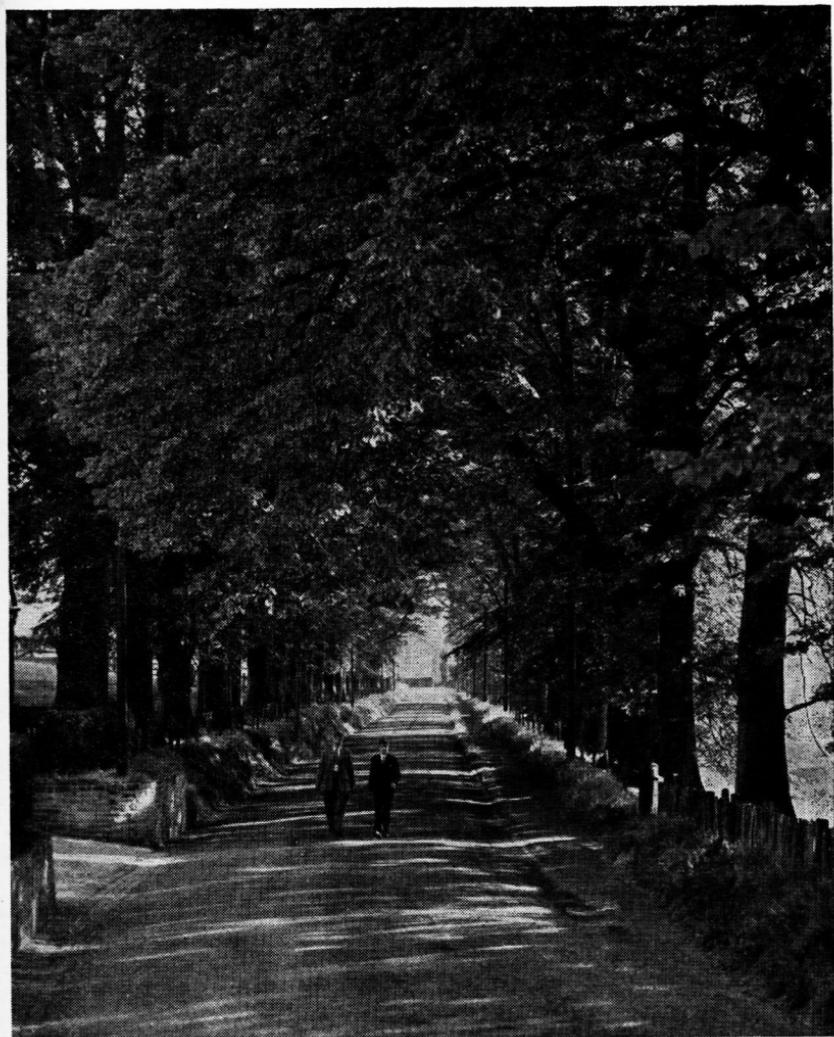
¹ George Booth, second Earl of Warrington, and his lady, Mary, daughter of Sir John Oldbury, a merchant in London. His lordship was a noble author, having published (at first anonymously) a treatise in favour of divorce on account of d'sagreement of temper, and an answer to some reflections of Bishop Burnet on his father. He died in 1758; his lady had died in 1740; it was during her life that he had published his argument in favour of divorce.

² It is not easy to explain what Mrs. Bradshaw meant by this very strange use of the word "limber."

³ Probably one of the sisters-in-law of Lady Mohun.

⁴ Perhaps Anne, sister of Lord Strafford, maid of honour to Queen Anne; married to James Donelan, Esq., of Ireland.

⁵ Since called prison bars. This rustic game had been a royal amusement. King Edward VI., in his diary tells us that on the 31st March, 1549, he offered "a challenge that he and sixteen gentlemen of his chamber would run a base, shoot, and run at the ring, with any seventeen of the court."



The long avenue of seventy-four limes planted 1827.

The Manor of Gawsworth

and run against one another with little more than a fig leaf for their clothing, and we, being in a state of innocence were not ashamed to show our faces.

Your faithful humble servant,

PEGGY.

Anne Griffith the younger daughter of Elizabeth, Lady Mohun, by her first husband, Edward Griffith, Esq., married about 1718, William Stanhope, of Elvaston, co. Derby, Esq., but died in childbirth on the 18 Dec., 1719.

In 1724, by an indenture dated Dec. 30, Lady Mohun settled her estates in trust, desiring that the trustees should as soon as conveniently might be, after the decease of the said Elizabeth Lady Mohun, make absolute sale of her all manors, lands, &c. (certain premises being excepted), and with the money so obtained pay certain specified annuities and gifts¹ including the marriage portions, &c, of her two daughters,² and the remainder to be paid to Charles Mordaunt, Esq, her third husband, if he happened to survive her. Lady Mohun died in the early part of the following year, 1725, and her estates were all sold in accordance with the above indenture, the manors of Gawsworth and Bosley being purchased by William Stanhope, Esq.

William Stanhope, who thus became the possessor of Gawsworth about 1727, was the third and youngest son of John Stanhope, of Elvaston, co. Derby. He distinguished himself as a soldier and diplomat during the reigns of George I. and II., and from 1715 to 1729 was engaged on many important diplomatic missions. On Nov. 20, 1729, he was created Baron Harrington, of Harrington, co. Northampton, and in 1730 was appointed principal Secretary of State, a position he held till 1742, when he was made Lord President of the Council. On Feb. 9, 1742, he was created Viscount Petersham, of Petersham, co. Surrey, and Earl of Harrington. He was subsequently appointed Secretary of State, and from 1746 to 1751 he filled the important office of Lord-Lieutenant-Governor, and Governor-General of Ireland. He died on Dec. 8, 1756, leaving two sons (twins) the eldest of whom, William, succeeded to the family honours. The second Earl of Harrington married

¹ Thomas Lawrence, Esq., one of the brothers of the said Lady Mohun was to have the sum of £1,500; Herbert Lawrence, Esq., another of her brothers, £1,500; Elliott Lawrence, one of her nephews, £3,000.

² By indenture dated April 23, 1717, being the marriage settlement of Lady Mohun and the Hon. Charles Mordaunt, Esq., the sum of £10,000 was to be raised for Anne Griffith (Lady Mohun's then only unmarried daughter) as her marriage portion, and after Lady Mohun's death a further sum of £10,000 was to be paid her and £4,000 to Dame Elizabeth Rich, then wife of Sir Robert Rich, Bart., the other daughter of Lady Mohun.

The Manor

on Aug. 11, 1746, Caroline, eldest daughter of Charles, second Duke of Grafton, and dying on April 1, 1779, was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles, third Earl of Harrington, born March 20, 1753, who married on May 22, 1779, Jane, daughter and co-heir of Sir John Fleming, Bart., of Brompton Park. He died 5 Sept., 1892, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles, fourth Earl, born April 8, 1780, who married 7 April, 1831, Maria, daughter of Mr. Samuel Foote. Dying without surviving male issue on March 3, 1851, his estate passed to his eldest brother, Leicester Fitzgerald Charles, fifth Earl, born 2 Sept., 1784, who married 23 April, 1831, Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of William Green, Esq., of Jamaica. Following his death on Sept. 7, 1862,¹ he was succeeded by his only surviving son, Seymour Sydney Hyde, sixth Earl, born 27 Sept., 1845, who died on Feb. 22, 1866, without issue. The estates then devolved upon the issue of the next brother of Leicester Fitzgerald Charles, the fifth Earl, and son of Charles, the third Earl. This brother, the Rev. Fitzroy Henry Richard Stanhope, born 24 April, 1787, was Dean and rector of St. Buryan, co. Cornwall, and rector of Catton, co. York. He married 8 Nov., 1808, Caroline, daughter of the Hon Charles Wyndham, and died April 11, 1864, leaving two sons, of whom the eldest, Charles Wyndham Stanhope, Esq., succeeded his cousin on Feb. 22, 1866, as seventh Earl of Harrington. He was born 16 Aug.

¹ He was interred in the family vault in Elvaston Church and shortly after his decease an address of condolence was presented to the Countess on the 3rd of October, 1862, at the request of the parties who signed it, of which the following is a copy:—

“We, the undersigned Tenant-farmers on the Estates of Gawsworth and Bosley, in the County of Chester, belonging to the illustrious House of Harrington, beg leave, with due submission and sincere respect, to approach your Ladyship, and all the members of your Ladyship’s family, with the expression of our grief and condolence, on occasion of the sudden and unexpected demise of his Lordship, our late noble proprietor and benefactor.

Without venturing to intrude on those sacred griefs which alike visit all classes of society, from the Queen on the throne to the lowest of her subjects, we indulge the hope that the universal feeling of sorrow and regret, pervading the hearts of all the tenantry in this neighbourhood, and the general gloom cast on it, evince beyond a doubt the very high estimation in which his Lordship was held; and we are sure that the warm interest manifested towards his Cheshire tenantry, shown by his personal visits, was kindly shared by your Ladyship.

“Humbly and respectfully commending your Ladyship in your deep affliction to the care of the Divine Author of all good,

“We have the honor to be, my Lady,

“Your Ladyship’s humble servants,”

(Signed by 114 in Gawsworth and 90 in Bosley).

A window was set up on the south side of Bosley Church, and Thomas Thornycroft the Gawsworth sculptor erected a monument to his memory on the south side of the large family pew in Elvaston Church, at a cost of £600.



Family group at the Old Rectory.

The Manor

1809, and married in Paris on 16 Feb. 1839, Elizabeth Still, daughter of Robert Lucas de Pearsall of Switzerland. He died on the 26 June, 1881, and was succeeded by his eldest son Charles Augustus as eighth Earl of Harrington who was born in January 1844, and married on the 5 July, 1869, the Hon. Elizabeth Carrington, youngest daughter of Robert John, second Baron Carrington.

He died on 3 Feb., 1917, and was succeeded by his only surviving brother Dudley Henry Eden Stanhope as the ninth Earl of Harrington. Born on the 13 January, 1859, he married 26 April, 1883, Kathleen, daughter of Mr. Joseph Carter Wood. Following his death on the 13 November, 1928, the estates devolved upon his son Charles Joseph Leicester, tenth Earl of Harrington, born 9 October, 1887. He married on the 23 April, 1919, Margaret Trelawney, daughter of Major H. H. D. Leaton of Bulford, Salisbury.

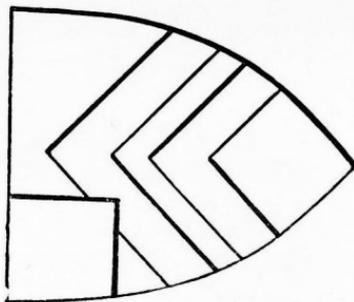
As a result of his untimely death in the hunting field in 1929, he was succeeded by his son William Henry Leicester Stanhope, born 24 August, 1922, as the eleventh and present Earl of Harrington of Elvaston Castle, near Derby, and Dooneen, Patrickswell, County Limerick, Eire.

Lord Harrington is also heir-apparent to the viscountcy of Stanhope of Mahon, and the barony of Stanhope of Elvaston.

To meet the crushing burden of taxation, the ninth Earl of Harrington was obliged to sell the greater part of the family's Cheshire estates in 1920, and it is with appreciation I record the present Lord Harrington's conveyance to the author of all the ancient rights and privileges appertaining to the Lordship of Gawsworth, together with the advowson of the church and rectory. The manorial rights form an unbroken line dating back to Norman times; i.e. the Palatinate Norman Earls of Chester, the de Orreby's, the Fittons, and the Earls of Harrington. One of the last documents completed by the former Chancellor of the Diocese of Chester, The Worshipful Humphrey King, being the transfer of the Patronage and Manorial rights to the author and his heirs as recently as 1951.¹

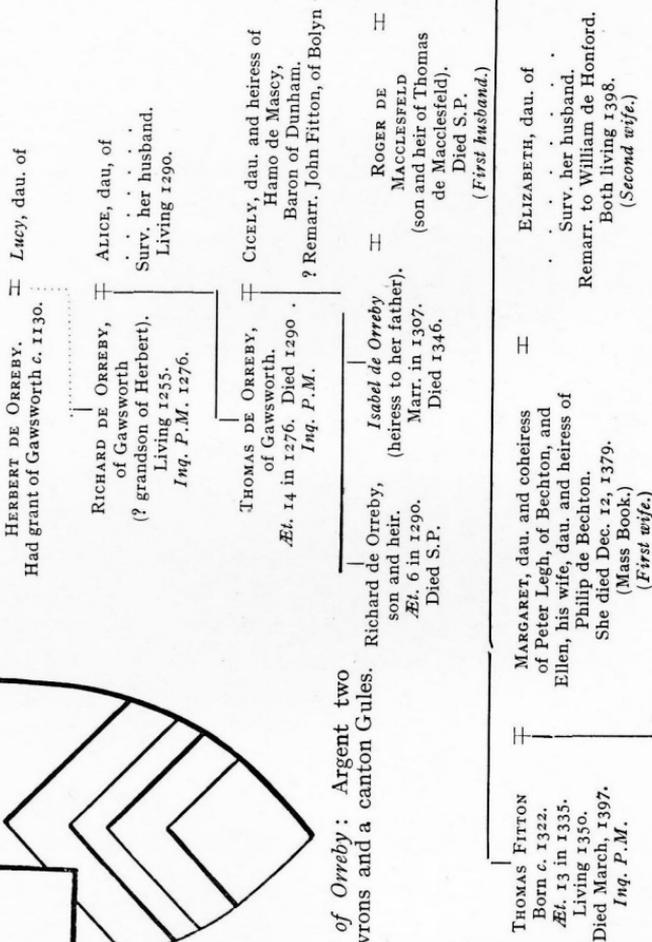
¹ For Richards Pedigree see Burke's Landed Gentry, Who's Who, &c.

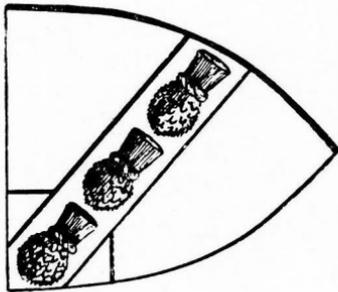
Orreby and Fitton of Gawsworth, and the Gerards, Earls of Marclesfield.



Arms of Orreby: Argent two chevrons and a canton Gules.

J. P. Earwaker,
*Authorities: MS. pedigree compiled by Sir Peter Leycester. Fitton deeds, &c. Dodsworth MSS., Vol. xxxix.; Registers at Gawsworth, &c. Monuments, wills, &c. Fitton Mass Book. The letter **M** indicates that there was old stained glass, &c., in Gawsworth church.*





Arms of Fitton of Gawsworth :
 Argent a canton Gules over
 all a bend Azure charged with
 three garbs Or.
Crest sometimes ascribed to this
 family : On a cap of mainten-
 ance Azure, turned up Ermine
 a cinquefoil, and sometimes a
 pansy, erect Argent.

A

SIR LAURENCE FITTON
 Knt. *Æt.* 22 in 1397.
 Knighted c. 1401.
 Served in Ireland under
 Richard II.
 Died 14 Feb., 1456-7, *æt* 82.
Inq. P.M.

AGNES, dau. of . . .
 Hesketh, of Rufford,
 co. Lanc.
 ♂ glass formerly in
 Gawsworth church.
 Died 3 Jan., 1442.
 (*First wife*.)

Philip Fitton.
 Living 1413-14.
 Margaret Fitton.
 Marr. to
 Sir John Burdett,
 of Seckington,
 co. Warwick, Knt.,
 1370.

Thomas
 Fitton.
 Living 1432.
 Died before
 his father on
 July 16, 1449.
 (Mass Book.)
 ♂ in the old
 stained glass
 in Gawsworth
 church.

Hugh Fitton.
 Had lands in
 Capesthorpe
 from his
 father, and
 was living
 1457.
 Richard
 Fitton.
 Living 1426-7
 Slain at Blore
 marr. 1434-5
 Edward
 Fitton,
 Slain at Blore
 Heath in 1459

Laurence
 Fitton.
 Bailiff of
 Sonning, co.
 Berks. Died
 29 March,
 1434. Brass
 formerly in
 Sonning
 church.
 William
 Fitton.
 Slain at Blore
 Heath, 1459.

Ellen, dau.
 of Randle
 Mainwaring,
 Peover, Esq.
 Died Feb. 25,
 1480-1
 ♂ in the old
 stained glass
 with seven
 sons and five
 daus.

John Fitton.
 Living 1456.
 Randle
 Fitton.
 Living 1459.
 Richard
 Fitton.
 Living 1426-7
 Slain at Blore
 marr. 1434-5
 Edward
 Fitton,
 Slain at Blore
 Heath in 1459

Ellen Fitton.
 Marr. to
 John Fitton.
 of Pownall.
 He died
 Sept., 1476.
 ♂ glass in
 Gawsworth
 church.
 Joan Fitton.
 Marr. to Esq. ↑

Elizabeth
 Fitton.
 Marr. to
 William Mere,
 Davenport,
 of Mere, co. son and heir-
 Chester,
 Robert de
 1412-13.
 Davenport,
 of Bramhall,
 Marr. to Esq. ↑

Grosvenor, of
 Hulme, s. and h.
 of Sir Thos.
 Grosvenor,
 Knt., 1415.
 Died a widow
 1480. ♂ glass
 in Gawsworth
 church.

B

SIR THOMAS FITTON, Knt. father. Born c. 1432. *Æt.* 26 in 1459. Fought at Blore Heath, and there knighted. Died 27 April, 1494. *Inq. P.M.*

EDWARD FITTON, Esq. Succ. his brother. *Æt.* 60 in 1494. Knt. Died 25 Feb., 1481-2. *Inq. P.M.* in old glass at Gawsorth and Wilmslow.

EMMA, dau. and heiress of Robert Siddington, of Siddington, co. Chester. Died 19 June, 1500. *M* in old glass at Gawsorth with five sons and four daughters.

Robert Fitton. Living 1460. Died 15 Jan., 1501-2. George Fitton near Bowdon, in Gawsorth church, in 1487-8. Died 29 Oct., 1485. *M* at Gawsorth.

Randle Fitton. Died 24 Nov., 1453. Richard Fitton. Grants land in Hale near Bowdon, to widow 1445. Died 4 April, 1501. *M* at Gawsorth.

Elizabeth Fitton. Marr. to Thos. Poole, of Poole, Poddington, co. Chester. Marr. to Thos. Massey, of Thos. Massey, of Poddington, co. Chester. Marr. to Maud Fitton. Marr. to Thos. Poole, of Poole, co. Chester. Died 4 April, 1501. *M* at Gawsorth.

Fitton. Marr. to Thos. Massey, of Poddington, co. Chester. Katherine Fitton. Marr. to Roger del Rowe, of Macclesfield.

JOHN FITTON, Esq. Boen c. 1471. *Æt.* 40 in 1511. Will dated 6 Jan., 1524-25. Died 19 Feb., 1524-5. *Inq. P.M.* in old glass at Gawsorth and Wilmslow.

ELLEN, dau. of Sir Andrew Brereton, of Brereton, Knt. Marr. arts dated 5 Sept., 1498. Died 22 Sept. 1541. *M* in old glass at Gawsorth and Wilmslow.

George Fitton. Rector of Gawsorth, 1497 to 1536. Died 23 Feb., 1535-6. Inscription formerly in the chancel.

William Fitton. Robert Fitton. Died 19 May, 1495.

Randle Fitton, LL.B. John Fitton. Living 1498, and then called, "younger son of Edw. Fitton, Esq." Living 1524.

Elizabeth Fitton. Marr. to Jane Fitton. Laurence Chantrell, of Bache, co. Chester. Died 26 Sept. 1496.

Maud Fitton. Marr. to Randle Bamvyle, of Gawsorth co. Chester.

Joan Fitton. Marr. to Norreys, ? of Gawsorth. Died 21 Feb., 1495-6.

SIR EDWARD FITTON, Knt. Born c. 1500. *Æt.* 25 in 1525. High Sheriff of Cheshire in 1532 and 1544. Died 17 Feb., 1547-8. *Inq. P.M.*

MARY, younger dau. and coheiress of Sir Guiscard Harbottle, of co. Northumberland, Knt. Died 12 Dec., 1556. *M* at Gawsorth.

William Fitton. Living 1524 and 1548. John Fitton. Living 1524 and 1548.

Randle Fitton. Living 1524 and 1548. Laurence Fitton. Living 1524 and 1548.

Thomas Fitton. Living 1524 and 1548. Cicely Fitton. Marr. to Francis Chorlton, of Apsley, co. Salop, Esq.

Matilda Fitton. Elizabeth Fitton. Marr. to Thomas Davenport, of Henbury, Esq. Marr. 25 May, 1516. she then aged 9 years. (Mass Book.)

Anne Fitton. Marr. to Sir Richard Holland, of Denton, co. Lanc., Knt. ↑ ↑

Ellen Fitton. Marr. to Sir Richard Denton, co. Lanc., Knt. ↑ ↑

SIR EDWARD FITTON, Knt. Born 31 March, 1527. *Æt.* 21 in 1546. Knighted in or before 1559. Lord President of Connaught and Thomond, and Treasurer of Ireland. Died in Dublin, 3 July, 1579. Buried in St Patrick's Cathedral there. Brass there to his memory and that of his wife. *Inq. P. M.*

2. Thomas Fitton, $\bar{\bar{I}}$ Elizabeth, dau. of Sir Edmund Trafford, of Trafford, Knt., and widow (1) of Geo. Booth, of Dunham, Esq., and (2) of Ralph Done, of Flaxyards, Esq. She was buried at Trentham, co. Stafford. (*First wife*)

3. Francis Fitton, $\bar{\bar{I}}$ Katherine, the eldest dau., and one of the four coheiresses of John Neville Lord Latimer, and widow of Henry, seventh Earl of Northumberland. Monument in chancel. *Inq. P. M.* Died S. P.

4. Anthony Fitton. Living at G. in 1548. Died in Ireland.

5. George Fitton. Living at G. in 1548. and at Paddington, co. Middlesex, in 1580. Living 1608.

6. John Fitton. Living 1608.

ANNE, dau. of Peter Warburton, of Warburton, co. Worcester, Surv. her husb'd. manor of Bosley. Remarr. to . . . Died 17 June; bur. at G., Welles, and was living in 1608. Will dated 31 March, 1608. (Second wife)

1. Margaret Fitton, dau. and co-heiress. Marr. to John Stanley, s. of Wythen-standley, and h. of Sir John Stanley, shawe, co. Chester, Esq. Knt. Marr. sett. 24 Aug. 1537.

2. Frances Fitton, dau. and co-heiress. Marr. to John Wells, of Horecross, co. Stafford, Esq. of Handforth, Chester, Esq. Knt. Marr. sett. 24 Aug. 1537.

3. Margaret Fitton. Marr. to John Englefield, Esq., 2nd son of Sir Thos. E. of Englefield, co. Berks, Knt. He died 1567. She remarr. Francis Warren, Esq., but was divorced from him. She died 29 Aug., 1612.

4. Susan Fitton. Marr. to John Poole, Esq. of Poole, Esq. Marr. sett. 22 Nov., 1545.

5. Katherine Fitton. Marr. to John Mere, of Mere, co. Chester, Esq.

6. Anne Fitton. Marr. to Sir Ralph Egerton, of Wrinchill, Knt.

Edward FITTON, Knt.
Born c. 1550.
Æt. 30 in 1580,
and then
knighthood.
Lord President
of Munster.
Died at
London,
4 March;
bur. at G.,
3 April, 1606.
Ing. P.M.
Monument at
Gawsworth.

ALICE, dau.
and heiress of
Sir John
Holcroft, of
Holcroft, co.
Lanc., Knt.
Marr. c. 1572.
Bur. at G.,
4 Jan., 1626-7
Monument
in chancel.

3. William F. FITTON.
4. John F. FITTON.
A captain in
the army.
Of Awrice,
co. Limerick,
in 1634.
Marr. Jane,
dau. of
MacBryen
O'Connogh.

5. Alexander FITTON.
6. Richard FITTON.
Living 1579
and 1606.

7. Francis F. FITTON.
Bapt. at G.,
13 Nov., 1559
Marr. Jane,
dau. of
MacBryen
O'Connogh.

8. Thomas F. FITTON.
Bapt. at G.,
9 April, 1564.

9. Richard FITTON.
1608.

10. Edward FITTON.
1608.

11. Joan FITTON.
Marr. at Prest-
bury, 22 July,
1574 to
Sir Edward
Warren, of
Poynton, Knt.
Marr. Mary F.
Bapt. at G., 12
Nov., 1562.
Marr. to Sir
Rich. Leveson,
of Trentham,
co. Stafford, Knt.

12. Margaret FITTON.
Marr. at G.,
1 Sept., 1568,
to Sir Randle
Holcroft, of
Vale Royal,
Knt.
Peover, Knt.

13. Elizabeth FITTON.
Marr. at G.,
1 Sept., 1568,
to Sir Thos.
Borough Bridge
co. York.
Anne FITTON.
Bapt. at G.,
23 July, 1561.
Died young.

SIR EDWARD FITTON, Bart.
Born Nov. 29,
1572. Created
a BARONET,
2 Oct., 1617.
Died 10 May,
1619.
Bur. at G.
Ing. P.M.

ANNE, dau.
and coheir. of
James
Barratt, of
S. Wales.
Born at
Tenby, co.
Pembroke,
c. 1571.
Æt. 38 in 1609
Bur. at G.,
26 Mar. 1644.
Will dated
30 Jan.
1643-4.

Richard FITTON.
Died in
London.
Bur. at G.,
5 June, 1610.

Anne FITTON.
Bapt. at G.,
6 Oct., 1574.
Marr. at Stepney,
30 April, 1587,
to Sir John
Newdegate of
Erbury, Co.
Warwick, Knt.
Bur. at Harefield,
Middx. 22 July,
1618.

Mary FITTON.
Bapt. at G., 24
June, 1578. Marr.
(1) *circa* 1607
William Polwhele,
Esq., of Perton,
co. Staffs., who
died 1610. Marr.
(2) Capt. John
Lougher, who d.
circa 1655. She
died 1647. Left
issue surviving.

WILLIAM FITTON, Esq., dau. of
Edward FITTON, Knt.,
of Awrice, co. Limerick, Ireland
Succ. to Gawsworth in 1643.
Living 1663, but ? died shortly
afterwards.
f. 36.

EVA, dau. of
Sir Edward Trevor,
of Brynkynalt, Knt Living 1634
(Harl. MSS. 2153,
and 1641.
ANNE, dau. of
Thomas Jolliffe
(? Jolley), of Colton
co. Worcester, Esq.
Marr. c. 1655.
Died 7 Oct., 1687.
Bur. in St. Patrick's
Cathedral, Dublin.

Edward FITTON, Knt.,
of the Inner Temple, London.
Imprisoned for many years after
his suit with Lord Gerard. Was
made Lord Chancellor of
Ireland, 12 Feb., 1686-7, and
knighthood by James II., who
also created him BARON
FITTON OF GAWSWORTH.
1 April, 1689.

Holcroft **SIR EDWARD**—
Fitton,
the second
Baronet.
 Bur. at G.,
 24 Aug., 1603.
 Gaws-
 worth, High Sheriff
 of Cheshire in
 28 March, of
 1594. Fought
 on the
 Royalist side,
 and died at
 the siege of
 Bristol, Aug.,
 1643.
 Monument
 at G.

JANE,
 dau. of
 Sir John
 Trevor,
 of Plas
 Teg, co.
 Flint, Knt.
 Marr. 13
 Oct., 1622.
 Bur. at G.,
 9 June,
 1638.
 (*First wife*.)
 S.P.

FELICIA,
 dau. of Ralph
 Sneyd, of
 Keel, co.
 Stafford, Esq.
 Surv. her
 husband.
 Remarr. Sir
 Charles
 Adderley, of
 Lea Marston,
 co. Warwick,
 Knt. Died in
 childbirth.
 Bur. at G.
 as the Lady
 Felicia Fitton
 on Jan. 22,
 1654-5.
 (*Second wife*.)

Richard
Fitton.
 Born 19 April
 (second
 daughter).
 BAPT. at G.,
 26 April, 1607.
 Served in the
 Netherlands.
 Died 31 July,
 1611-12.
 Bur. at G.,
 1 Aug., 1628.
 S.P.
 Thomas
 Fitton.
 Born 22 April
 at G.,
 11 May,
 1608; bur.
 there, 7 Aug.,
 1630. S.P.

2. Penelope
Fitton.
 (second
 daughter).
 BAPT. at G.,
 26 April, 1607.
 Served in the
 Netherlands.
 Died 31 July,
 1611-12.
 Bur. at G.,
 1 Aug., 1628.
 S.P.

1. Anne Fitton. BAPT. at G., 5. Alice Fitton. Born 7 Oct. Gerard, of Halsall, co. Lanc., Knt. s. and h. of Sir Will. Breton, of (eldest son of Breton, Knt.; and (2) to Sir Monckton, co. Pembroke, M.P. † ↑ Sir Charles Gerard, Knt. (brother of Sir Charles Gerard), and Gover- Halsall, Esq., nor of Worcester for Charles I. 6. Lettice Fitton. BAPT. at G second son of Sir Gilbert 3. Mary Fitton. Born 13 July. 1634 to John Cole, of . . . co Gerard, Knt., Attorney- General to Queen Elizabeth.) He died at York, and was bur. at Halsall. † ↑

Margaret Fitton (only child).
 BAPT. at G., 26 Feb., 1623-4.
 Bur. there, 2 Oct., 1631.

8. Elizabeth Fitton, bapt. at G. in 1626, to Henry Mainwaring, of Carincham, co. Chester, Esq. † ↑

4. Frances Fitton. Marr. at G., in 1626, to Henry Mainwaring, of Carincham, co. Chester, Esq. † ↑

CHARLES GERARD (eldest son).
 Fought on the Royalist side during the Civil War.
 Created LORD GERARD, of Brandon, co. Suffolk, 8 Oct., 1645, and EARL OF MACCLESFIELD, 21 July, 1679. Recovered the Gawsworth estates from William and Alexander Fitton in 1662-3. Died 9 Jan.; bur. in Westminster Abbey, 18 Jan., 1693-4.

JANE, dau. of Peter de Civel, a Frenchman, but she was born in England. She was dead before Nov. 1671.

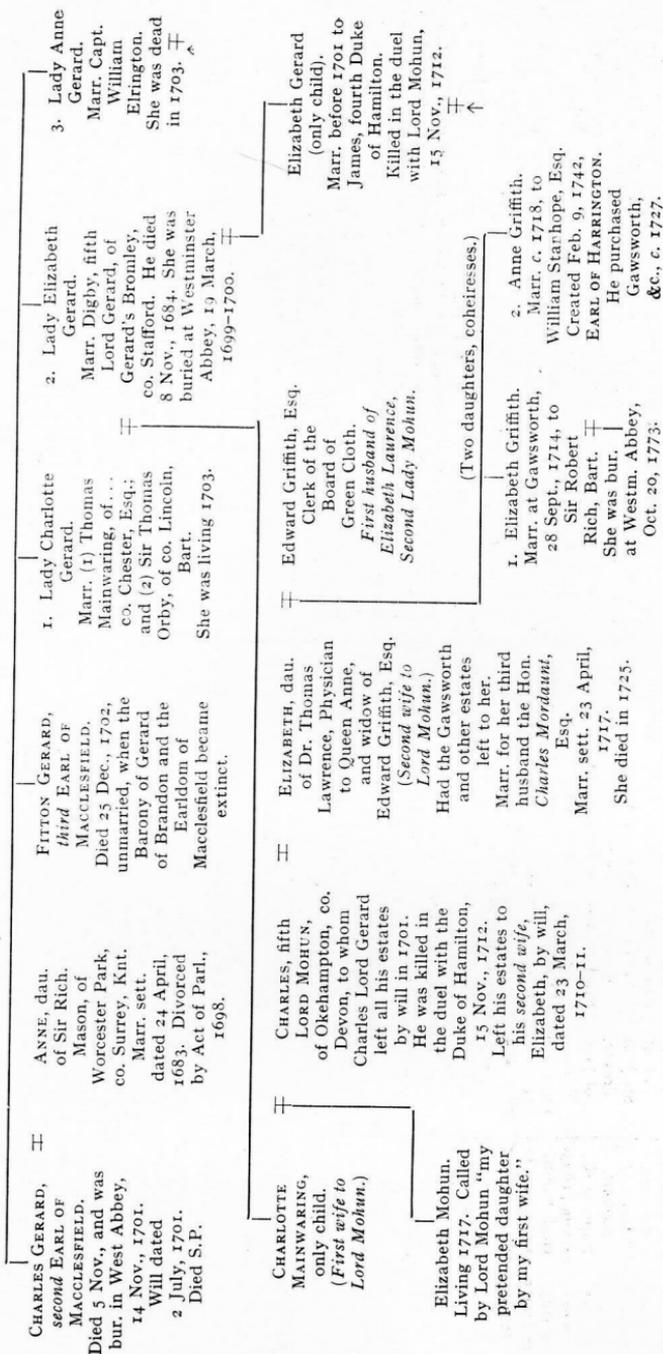
Edward Gerard.
 A Colonel of Infantry on the King's side.
 Wounded in the first battle of Newbury.

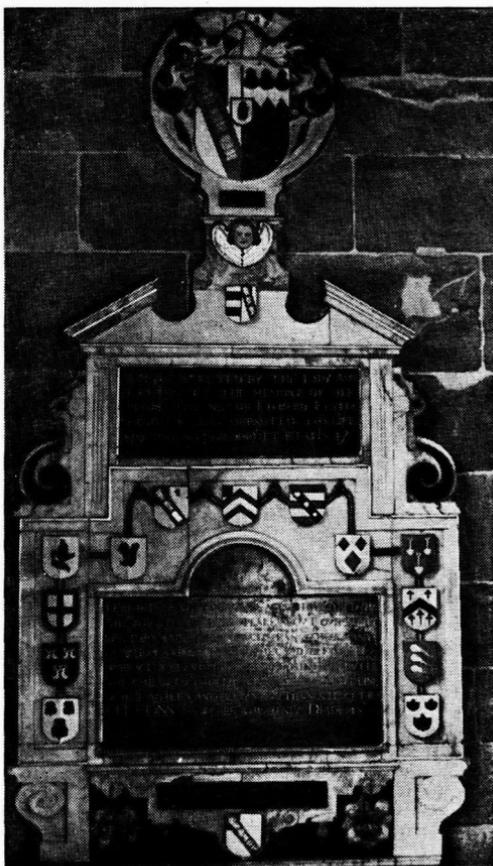
Sir Gilbert Gerard, Knt. Slain near Ludlow.

Charlotte Gerard. Marr. to Col. Roger Whitley, of Peele, co. Chester. She was bur. in Westminster Abbey, 18 Oct., 1662.

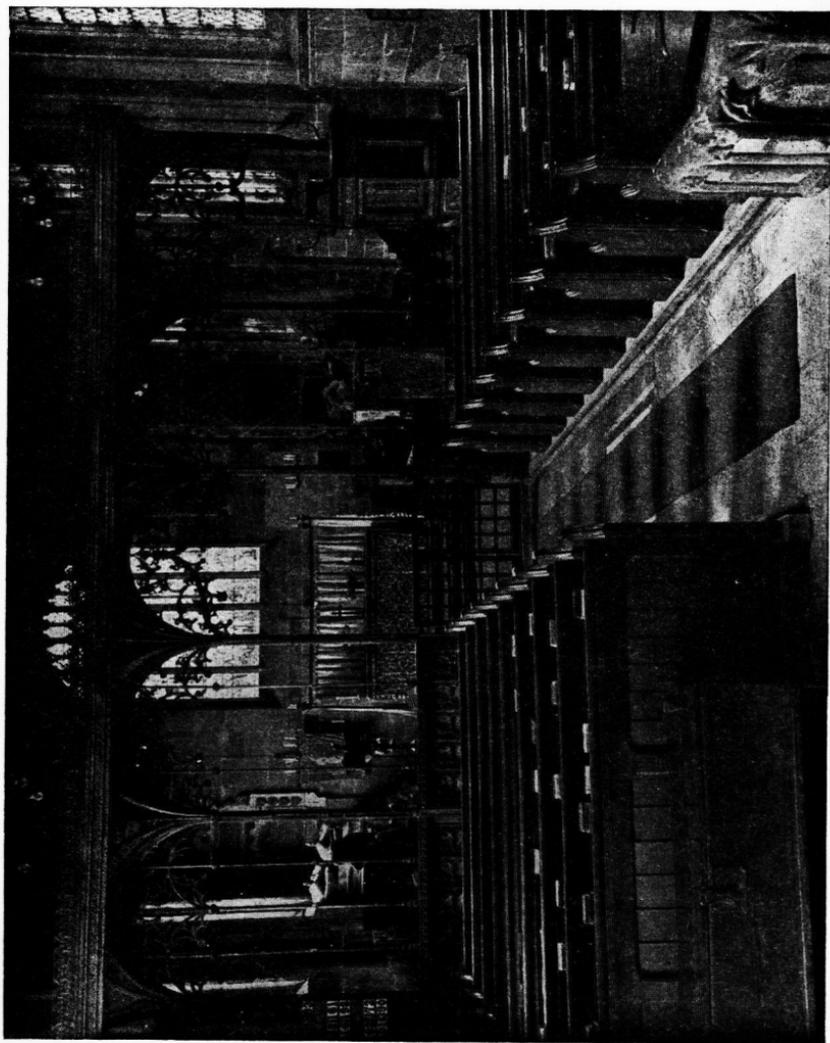
Anne Gerard. Marr. to Sir Edmund Cary, Knt. † ↑

Elizabeth Gerard. Born 17 Nov. BAPT. at G., 6 Dec., 1616. Frances Gerard. BAPT. at G., 29 March, 1618. ? Bur. at G., 19 June, 1637.





Plaque commemorating Sir Edward Fitton, 1st Baronet.



Church Interior looking East. 1939.