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Blackery End.

BY THE REV. H. FOWLER, M.A.

This house and manor have some interesting associations in connection with the parish church; these have been explained by Canon Davys in a paper written in 1885, and printed in the Society's Transactions. It appears from the inscription on the brass of Hugh Bostock that the name of the place is identical with the surname of its early possessors. The family probably derived its name from the locality. Margaret Macri commemorated on the brass as the mother of Abbot John de Wheathampstead, was no doubt brought up here, the house which existed at that time being the residence of her father's family. One of her brothers, John Macri, called in the St. Albans documents John de Wheathampstead, was a person of considerable celebrity. Being a monk of St. Albans, he was made Prior of Tynemouth, the chief of the suffragan cells of the Abbey, before 1396, in which year he was present at the election of Abbot John Moote. He died probably not long before 1458, for in that year his biography was written by John Bamborough, sub-prior of Tynemouth, who sent the book for approval to Abbot John Wheathampstead, the Prior's nephew, being his sister's son,

as the document states. This John Macri (alias Wheathampstead) has been confounded by Gibson, in his History of Tynemouth, with Abbot John; but his identity is clearly made out by the passage alluded to, in Registrum John de Wheathampstead, vol. 1, p. 311, Rolls Series. His probable connection with the chantry and reredos in the north transept has also been pointed out by Canon Davys. This Prior John was probably born and brought up here, his father, Thomas, being lord of Mackery End. It is inferred that his sister, Margaret Macri died about 1435, that being the date assigned to the brass by Mr. Boutell.

There is some reason for supposing that another distinguished ecclesiastic was a kinsman of Margaret Macri. Heraldic considerations have suggested the idea that Heyworth was another appellation of the Macri family. Abbot J. Wheathampstead's predecessor in the Abbacy was William Heyworth, who in 1420 became Bishop of Lichfield; it has been conjectured by the late Mr. Boutell that this Abbot was an uncle to his successor and brother to Margaret Macri. The heraldic indication of the identity of the families is this: in the brass referred to, over the head of Margaret is her shield of arms,—*arg., three bats volant sa.*—[The tinctures are uncertain.] This shield appears also in an adjacent brass, as the arms of John Heyworth, who died (according to the inscription) in 1520. Near this is the memorial of another John Heyworth, who died in 1558; he is described as of Mackeryende. He was probably son and heir of the last. Thus we find a family bearing the same arms as the Mackerys and occupying the same house within a century of the death of Margaret Macri. This is suggestive of the families being identical. Instances of this double cognomen are met with. That Abbot William Heyworth was of this Wheathampstead family is only a conjecture. His armorial bearings when Abbot were different from the Heyworths' of Mackery End, but the Abbots were rather eccentric in their heraldry. Abbot Heyworth's shield existing in a window of the Abbey, has a border charged with garbs or wheat sheaves; this may be allusive to Wheathampstead, as the place of his birth. If we adopt this opinion, the interest of this locality is considerable from its connection with three very eminent members of the St. Albans Fraternity. The longevity

of these distinguished natives of Wheathampstead is worthy of remark. Bishop Heyworth died in 1447, when he could hardly have been less than 90. Prior John Mackery, who was ordained priest in 1382, was, according to calculation, a centenarian; and Abbot John Bostock must have been verging upon 90 when he died in January, 1465.

The inscription on the monument of the John Heyworth, of "Mackeryend," who died in 1558, informs us that he and Joan, his wife, having lost their children in infancy, adopted as their daughter and heiress Margaret Hoo. She became the wife of Nicholas Brockett: their son John Brockett erected the monument. The inscription is as follows:—"Directly underneath this place lyeth buried John Heyworth of Mackerye End Esquire and Joane his wife. They had 3 children buried in their infancie: wherefore they booth did adopte Margaret Hoo theire soule heire. Her firste husbände was Jerram Reynolds; by whome shee had no issue: Her second husbände was Nicholas Brockett Esq., who lyeth buried next to Mr. Heyworth. They had issue John, who at ye commandement of ye saide Margaret did erekte this monument. The saide John Heyworth deceased the xxv<sup>th</sup> daye of Decemb. anno D'ni 1558."

We learn from our host, Mr. R. L. Howard, that the present owner of the estate and manor is Mrs. Drake Garrard, of Lamer.

With regard to the etymology of the word *Mackery* or *Macri*, I would suggest that a guttural has been dropped from the end; it was *Mac-ricg*, and may be derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Mucian*—to make, and *ricg*—a stack or *rick*, and signifies *make-rick* or *rickmaker*. Mackery End is either the rickmaker's end, or the corner where the *ricks* were made, belonging to a primitive plough-land.

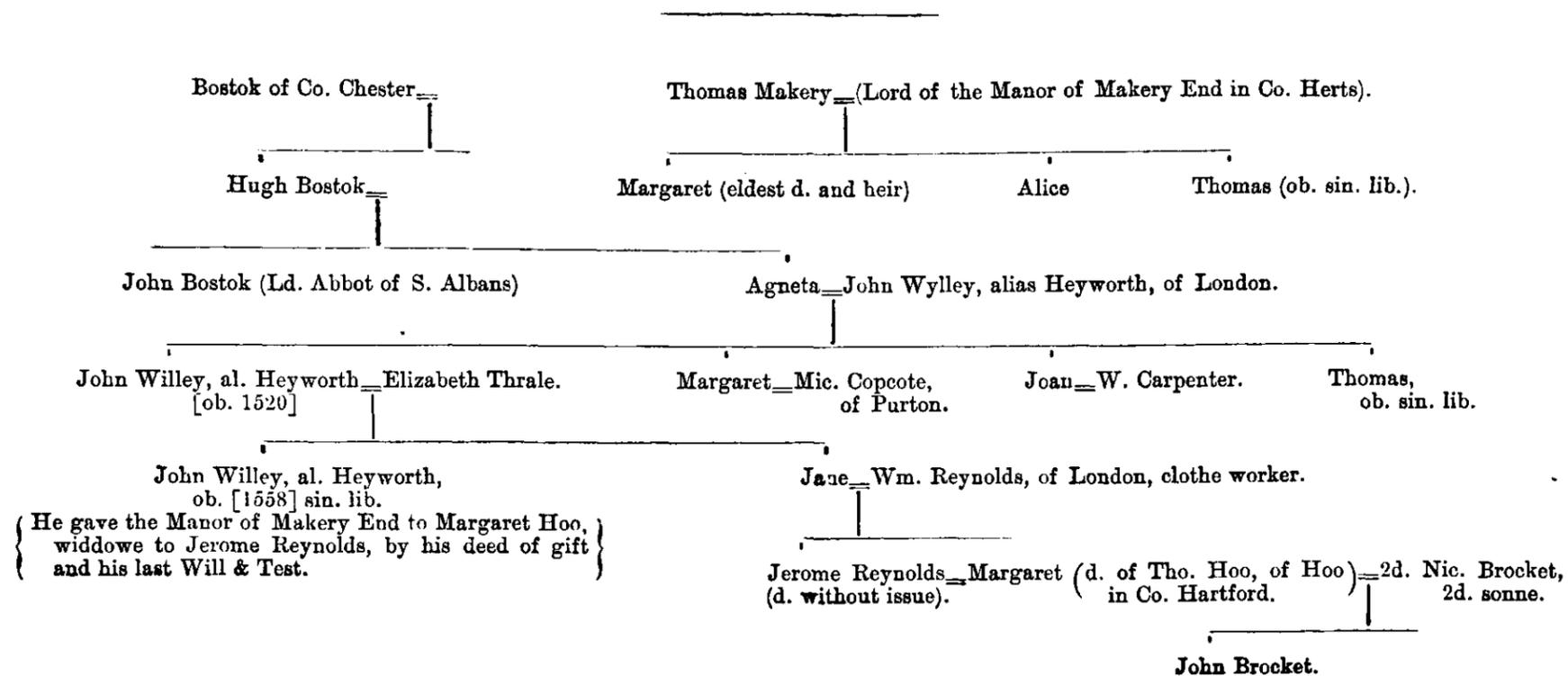
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Since writing the above I have inspected in the British Museum the "Pedigree of John Bostok, Abbott of S. Albans," which is here transcribed from Harleian MS. 139, fo. 97 (see p. 25).

The MS. is an Elizabethan compilation of records relating to the County Palatine of Chester.

The pedigree was compiled in the year 1579 (as

"PEDIGREE OF JOHN BOSTOK, ABBOT OF ST. ALBANS."



TRANSACTIONS.

stated in the MS., fo. 95), by Lawrence de Bostok. He was a descendant of the ancient Bostoks of Cheshire, and an eminent Antiquary.

It will be observed that the document does not bear out the conjectures made above respecting the origin of the Heyworths. We have to note, however, that it is defective in omitting John, brother of Margaret Macri, the Prior of Tynemouth, vouched for as stated above. It is also incomplete in omitting Joane, wife of John Heyworth, No. 3, who is authenticated by the mural tablet in the Church. Notwithstanding these defects, I suppose we must accept its testimony, that the Mackery and Heyworth families were not identical, and that the latter became owners of Mackery End by the marriage of John Wylley, alias Heyworth (of London), with Agnes, sister of Abbot John Wheathampstead, and heiress to the estate. It would appear from the heraldry of the monumental brass, that John Heyworth, No. 2, assumed the "arms" of Macri in right of his mother, Agnes, heiress of the Macris. In the quartered shield on the monument we should have expected to find the "coat" of Bostock; as significant of descent from the heiress of that family; but here we are at fault. The shield of Hugh Bostok is unfortunately missing from his brass. At the top of the pedigree is sketched, apparently by a later hand, the coat of arms borne by the Bostoks of Cheshire, viz., *Suble, a fesse humettée arg., a crescent in chief (for cadency)*. This is not found among the quarterings of the Heyworth shields.

The author of the pedigree is probably correct in deriving the Bostoks of Wheathampstead from the old Cheshire family, although he fails to give the Christian name of the ancestor who was the connecting link, and we have now no means of verifying his authority.

The shield of Abbot John in the Abbey Church, being charged with wheat ears, appears to have been adopted by him as his heraldic cognizance in allusion to the place of his birth, not as his family "coat armour."

It appears that the ancient family of Bostok derives its name from a township in the parish of Davenham, which is a subordinate manor of the Barony of Shipbrook, in Cheshire; the manor house has still the appellation of "Bostok Hall." In Ormerod's "History

of Cheshire" (vol 3, p. 134) is a family pedigree traced up to Sir William Bostok, Kt., temp., Henry III. (supposed to be descended from Osmer, a Saxon lord of Bostok and Shipbrook). It descends to the reign of Elizabeth, comprising Laurence de Bostok, the compiler of the Wheathampstead pedigree. In this document the name of the father of Hugh Bostok of Wheathampstead is not found: thus a link in the evidence is wanting. It seems probable, however, that this Hugh Bostok was the first of his name domiciled at Wheathampstead, and that he came here to marry the heiress of Mackery End, a few years before the close of the reign of Edward III.

We may note that Lawrence Bostok's pedigree affords no clue to the parentage of Abbot William Heyworth. His surname is written "Hecheworth" in Pat. Roll. 3 Henry IV.

The Rev. H. Cobbe, Rector of Mauldon, Beds., has kindly communicated to me the following information extracted from Hardy's *Fusti*.

John Heiworth was Archdeacon of Coventry from 18th July, 1422, to 12th May, 1433. He became Prebendary of Dernford, Lichfield, 7th Sept., 1424, also Treasurer of Lichfield (Cathedral), 28th May, 1433, till 1436.

Henry Heiworth became Prebendary of Eccleshall, Lichfield, 1st May, 1431; resigned the same year.

It is probable that these were relations of Bishop William Heyworth, having preferment in his Cathedral. No light is thrown on their extraction.

From the S. Albans document, An. Amundesham, vol. 1, 44, we learn that a monk named John Heyworth was buried in the south transept of S. Albans Abbey. He is described (in the "Annotations on the Monuments") as Batchelor in Decretals, Penancer of the Monastery, and Confessor and Chancellor to Abbot Thomas de la Mare.

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