

THE
HISTORY
OF
YORKSHIRE.

BY

MARSHAL-GENERAL PLANTAGENET-HARRISON,
H.K.G.

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Preface.

THIS History of the County of York was compiled exclusively from the Public Records, and no part of it has hitherto been printed.

In order that this History may be properly understood by everybody, it is written entirely in the English language, translated from the abbreviated Latin, in which all the ancient Records are written.

I considered it useless to print copies of records in a language which so very few, even of the highest educated people, can either read or understand.

Under each village or manor will be found everything relating to it which is upon record, arranged in chronological order from the earliest times—thus giving to each place its own chronicles and separate history.

Especial attention has been paid to the genealogical part of this work, which is of the highest importance, inasmuch as the pedigrees of families constitute the history of manors, the same as the pedigrees of kings constitute the history of countries.

In this behalf I have carefully abstained from copying out of any of the fictitious pedigrees hitherto published; and I have also repudiated the genealogical MSS. in the British Museum, and all the Heralds' Visitations as worthless, being either fictitious inventions, or the erroneous result of tradition.

The Records which have supplied all this information, from which the public will be able to judge of their value, are—first, Domesday Book, which was compiled in or about the fifteenth year of the reign of William the Conqueror.

This ancient Record is simply a schedule of the lands of the King's geld, and does not mention any of the lands held by the people at large in their own right. The collectors of the King's geld in those days were, like a great many collectors of more recent times, always ready to put other people's money into their own pockets, either honestly or otherwise; and it was on account of the numerous complaints made to the King of the frauds committed by these collectors in the collecting of this revenue that the King ordered this schedule to be made, so that all the tenants of those lands might know exactly the amount which they ought to pay. This was the doomsday for these collectors, and it was thus that this survey was called the "Doomsday Book."*

Some information contained in this work is derived from Ancient Charters, made before the Norman Conquest, all of which have been at different times enrolled in the Pleas Rolls for safe keeping.

The following records have also rendered up their secrets: viz., the Patent Rolls, Close Rolls, Subsidy Rolls, Coroners' Rolls, Memorandum Rolls, Judgment Rolls, Decree Rolls, Fine Rolls, the Ladies' Roll, Escheators' Rolls, Charter Rolls, Pipe Rolls, Recovery Rolls, Military Rolls, Hundred

* Hitherto Domesday Book has been erroneously supposed to contain particulars of all the lands in England, and immense sums of public money have been at various times, at the suggestion of senseless people, expended upon it through sheer ignorance—lately including a facsimile by the process of Photozincography, which cost the public £17,000, and was simply useless, as scarcely anybody could read or understand the meaning of it.

I applied to the authorities for the use of these plates, in order that I might republish them with a verbatim translation, for the public benefit; but I was informed that those costly plates have been destroyed—a true edition of the "Dog in the Manger."

The new Domesday Book which has been devised, and which is now in progress, is simply a public swindle: if Parliament require a new Domesday Book, they must first of all abolish the Statute of Limitations, and reverse all the attainders since the time of Henry VI., calling upon all the present landholders to show their titles to their estates; then we should have a real Domesday Book; but the present attempt to waste vast sums of the public money, set about by the late Radical Government as one of their acts of retrenchment, ought not to be allowed by the present Ministry. Better give the money to the starving poor than thus throw it away amongst useless people for a useless purpose. Why should the people be taxed for the purpose of compiling a book full of errors, supposed to contain a list of the present landholders, most of whom are mere mushrooms, of the most obscure and doubtful lineage?

Rolls, Originalia Rolls, Norman, French, Scottish and Irish Rolls, Black and Red Books of the Exchequer, Books of Aids, Templars' Books, Coucher Books, Special Commissions, Inquisitions *post mortem*, Inquisitions *ad quod damnum*, Testa de Nevill, Kirkby's Inquest, Humberton's Survey, Ministers' Accounts, Receipts of the Treasury, Chancery and Exchequer Bills, and other law proceedings, and many other records the names of which at the present moment I do not remember,—all of which are invaluable, but fall into utter insignificance when I mention the Pleas Rolls, which are worth all the other records put together a thousand times told. These glorious and unique records, called the *Coram Rege*, *De Banco*, *Quo Warranto*, *Assize* and *Exchequer* Rolls, contain the history of every family, estate and church in England, and are as little known as the archives of Babylon, they having hitherto lain as pearls before swine; and it was from the contents of these priceless rolls, the examination of which occupied me daily for more than a dozen years, that I extracted the hitherto unknown facts which will be found in this HISTORY OF YORKSHIRE.

These Pleas Rolls begin in the 5th Rich. I., and are continued ever since that period, and contain millions of membranes, each one of which is numbered as a separate roll, and which, from their immensity and being unindexed, have hitherto remained as a sealed book.

An attempt was made some years ago to publish some of the early *Coram Rege* Rolls, but the transcribers could neither read them correctly, nor understand their contents; and the consequence was, they left out all the most important entries upon the records, and thus only created a vast amount of waste paper at a very great cost to the public.

I have not been able to make the recent history of some of the manors as complete as I had desired to do, because of the hostile attitude of the clergy and modern landowners, who would not render me any assistance with respect to the information I required.

I have not been allowed access to the public library at the British Museum since the year 1850,—the reason for which, according to Sir Henry Ellis, the then chief librarian, being because I claimed to be Duke of Lancaster, as heir of the whole blood of King Henry VI.; and he therefore adopted the fine old English custom of locking the stable door after the horse was stolen.

Every obstacle has been placed in my way with a view to prevent my compiling this work, which has ever been the grand object of my life, and which by the providence of Almighty God I have now accomplished; and the contents of this book I trust will teach my readers that "*tempus omnia revelat.*"

With respect to the Charities, considering that their insertion in this work would fill up too much space, and that they have all been given in full in the reports of the commissions appointed by Parliament, which can be easily obtained at the price of waste paper, I have omitted the whole of them—my object being to print nothing but such matter as has been lying dormant for so many generations.

My readers must not look for the blood of the ancient nobility and gentry of Yorkshire amongst the present landowners, but amongst the farmers and agricultural labourers, many of whose ancient names are the sole remnant of the many long lines of ancestry which will be found recorded in these pages.

My own thanks, and the thanks of all future generations which may be interested in the history of Yorkshire, are due only to two illustrious men, who, resisting all the evil combinations of my contemptible enemies, in their attempt to exclude me from the Public Records, did by their courtesy and kind consideration afford me every facility to obtain that information which has enabled me to compile this work. The names of those two illustrious men are,—The Right Honourable Sir George Jessel, Master of the Rolls, and his predecessor, the Right Honourable Lord Romilly.

G. H. DE S. N. PLANTAGENET-HARRISON.

"*Deus laus et gloriam.*"

The Natives.

THERE can be no doubt but that at some remote period the climate of Scandinavia was of a tropical nature, having been inhabited by elephants, tigers, and other animals belonging to the tropics, and was the home of the Gothic race for unknown pre-historic ages.

Eric,* King of the Goths and Lord of Scandinavia, lived in the time of Serug, the great-grandfather of Abraham, 100 generations or 3300 years from the present time.†

In the time of this King Eric, the first migration of the Goths took place out of Scandinavia, when the Chersonesus and the neighbouring islands in the Baltic Sea, and great part of Britain, were first peopled by colonies of the Gothic race.

Many generations after this, Berig, king of the Goths, finding his country in Scandinavia overstocked with people, went out with a fleet in quest of new settlements, and landing in the country of the Ulmeringians (now called Pomerania), drove out the ancient inhabitants and divided their lands amongst his followers.

He fell next upon the Vandals, whose country bordered that of the Ulmeringians, and overcame them; but instead of forcing them, as he had done the Ulmeringians, from their ancient seats, he only obliged them, because they were of Gothic extraction, to share their possessions with the new comers.

The Goths who had settled in Pomerania and adjacent parts of Germany, being greatly increased, insomuch that the country could not maintain them, went out in great numbers under Filimer "the Great," their king (their fifth prince after leaving Scandinavia), and taking their route eastward, entered Scythia, and advanced to the Cimmerian Bosphorus; and driving out the Cimmerians, settled in the neighbourhood of the Mœotic Lake.

They afterwards sent colonies into Thrace, Dacia, and Mœsia, and lastly into the countries bordering on the Euxine Sea, forcing everywhere the inhabitants to abandon their ancient seats.

In the neighbourhood of the Mœotic Lake they had Filimer for their king, a warlike prince; in Thrace and Dacia they had Xamolxis, a great philosopher; and in the countries of the Euxine Sea princes of the illustrious houses of the Balthi and of the Amali,—the Visigoths being subject to the former, and the Ostrogoths to the latter.

The Goths being in process of time greatly increased in Scythia, resolved to seek new settlements; and accordingly, taking their journey and travelling through several countries, they at length entered Germany.

ODIN, king of the Asgardians (the forty-first in descent from King Eric), was the leader of this expedition—he having previously committed the government of his kingdom to his two brothers Ve and Vitir. (This was about seventy-six years before the birth of Christ.)

He went out with incredible numbers of his people in quest of new settlements, foreseeing

* This King Eric lived about 160 years after the time of Noah.

It was always the custom amongst the ancient Scandinavians, when they put to sea upon any voyage of discovery, to take with them their wives, and their sons with their wives, as also males and females of all their domestic animals and birds. In the event of their being shipwrecked upon some unknown coast, and being unable to return home again, they could then form a settlement.

Ravens were always used by these remote people in the navigation of their ships. For instance, when they had been several days at sea they let off a raven, which being a bird gifted with peculiar instinct and extraordinary sight, after towering to a great height flew in a straight line towards the nearest land; and if the raven returned in the direction from whence they came, they knew that they were nearer home than any other land, and so continued their voyage for some days longer, when another raven was let loose, which, if flying in an opposite direction, they immediately followed in its course, and thus arrived at the land they sought.—These birds are peculiar to Scandinavia, not being found elsewhere, with the exception of those countries settled originally by these people.

There was a place called "Noatun" in Scandinavia, where "Niord the Rich," the son of Odin "the God of Battles," lived 2000 years ago. *Query.* Did Noah come from Scandinavia under the above circumstances, and encountering a great storm in the Mediterranean Sea, was shipwrecked on the coast of Syria?

† I have seen silk trees in Central America and Mexico which I have no doubt were growing in the gardens of the palaces belonging to the ruined cities in those parts long before that time.

by his magic, say some ancient chroniclers—in which art he excelled all men—that he and his posterity should reign for many ages in the northern parts of the world.

After conquering Gardarige (Russia), and Germany (called Saxland), he passed into Reidogothland (Jutland), of which he established his son Skiold as king.

This Skiold was the ancestor of the renowned warrior kings of Denmark called Skioldungr (the progeny of Skiold), who reigned in Scandinavia during what is called the heroic period, which lasted for upwards of a thousand years; Hardicanute, king of England and Denmark, being the last king of this race.

The flag of Odin, so long the famous flag of the Danes, called “the Ravager of the World” (being a yellow flag having a raven proper thereon), was for many centuries the terror of all Europe.

Leaving Jutland, Odin advanced into Sweden, where he was kindly received by Gylvo, king of that country (whose ancestors had reigned there since the days of King Eric, and whose daughter was the wife of Skiold, the son of Odin). He settled in Sweden with the remainder of his followers, and built the city of Sigtunum, where he reigned until his death; and his name having become so famous, and having reached to all countries then known, he was by the northern nations ranked amongst the gods, and worshipped with divine honours as the god of battles.

Of the children of Odin, Skiold lived in Ledia; Niord, in NOATUN; Frey, in Upsal; Heimdal, in Himinberg; Thor, in Thrudvong; and Balder, in Breidablik; and they were all kings from whom all the legitimate kings of ancient Europe were descended.

Those Goths who migrated to Britain intermarried with the aboriginal natives of the land, settled there, and became one people; and so remained in a state of independence for many centuries, until they were subdued by the Romans. During the military occupation of this country by the Romans, who held it for upwards of 400 years or thirteen generations, the Anglo-British inhabitants of the country became so degenerate that they had lost all the warlike qualities of their ancestors; and when thrown upon their own resources by the departure of the Roman armies, they were quite unable to repel the invasion of their savage neighbours the Picts and the Scots, who came down upon them with fire and sword.

Such being their miserable position, they sent over to their kinsmen the Angles of Sleswick, who had preserved all the heroic qualities of their ancestors, and spoke the same language as themselves, to come over to England and settle amongst them.

Accordingly the whole nation of the Angles of Sleswig in the year 449 migrated, with their families, cattle, and household goods, under their Prince Hengist and his brother Horsa, leaving their own country a desert, which so remained for 300 years afterwards. This migration of Angles was placed in the northern parts of the island, to drive back their ferocious invaders, which they did most effectually.

Hengist and Horsa were the sons of Witigislus, son of Witte II., son of Witte I., son of Bodo, son of Woden, kings of the Angles in Sleswig; and Woden was the son of Frothgar, son of Brand, son of Bealdeag, son of Woden, son of Bevis, son of Viglet, son of Brond II., son of Vaga II., son of Brond I., brother to Vaga I., son of Balder, all kings of the Angles; and Balder was the son of Odin, the god of battles.

Soon afterwards, in 495, another branch of the Angles, who lived in that part of Saxland (Germany) now called Hanover, and who were called in consequence the West Saxons, came over to Britain in great force, under Cerdic their king and Cynric his son.

This Cerdic founded the kingdom of Kent; and his flag was red with a white horse, which was the ancient flag of all the Angles (the same as the arms of the county of Kent and the kingdom of Hanover until the present time).

Cerdic was the son of Elesa, son of Esla, son of Gewis, son of Wig, son of Freawyn, kings of

the Angles in Hanover; and Freawyn was the son of Frothgar king of the Angles, who was ninth in descent from Balder king of the Angles, who was the son of Odin the god of battles, as has already been stated.

The ancient Scandinavian people, speaking the same language as their brethren the Angles, began at a very early period, as might be naturally expected, to settle amongst the Angles in the north of England; and about the beginning of the seventh century the celebrated Ivar Vidfadme ("the far-famed") conquered the northern parts of England, having previously conquered Sweden and Saxland (Germany) and other parts of Europe.

This Ivar Vidfadme is called King of Denmark, Sweden, Saxland and Northumberland, etc. He was the grandson of Frode VII., king of Denmark (son of the renowned Rolf Kraka, king of Denmark), by his wife Hilda, daughter of Hilderic, king of the Vandals in Africa, son of Huneric, king of Carthage, by his wife Eudoxia, daughter of the Emperor Valentinian III., by Eudoxia his wife, daughter of the Emperor Theodosius II.

Ivar Vidfadme was succeeded by his son Roric Slingeband, father of Harold Hildeland, father of Sigurd Ring, all of whom were renowned warriors and kings of Denmark and Sweden.

Sigurd Ring was succeeded by his son the celebrated and heroic warrior Reyner Lodbrok (so called because he always wore in battle a pair of enchanted breeches, made of a bear's skin with the hair outwards).

King Reyner Lodbrok having invaded England in 794, was taken prisoner by Ida, king of Northumberland, who put him to death in a very cruel manner, he being thrown into a hole full of adders, which stung him to death. And before he died he said "that the young pigs at home would grunt, when they heard how the old boar had been served."

When the news of the death of King Reyner Lodbrok reached Denmark, his five valiant sons were furious, and swore vengeance against King Ida. These sons were Sigurd ("snake eye"), afterwards king of Denmark; Biorn Jarnasida ("iron cutter"), king of Sweden; Gudrod, king of Jutland; Huitsuk "the Brave," and Ivor, afterwards king of Northumberland.

These warlike princes landed at Hull, and laid the whole of the northern parts of the county of York waste with fire and sword; and having taken King Ida prisoner, they made a spread-eagle of him. They tied him up upon cross staves, cut open his back, tore out his heart, and carved a spread-eagle upon his back, shoulders, and loins.

Ivor was now proclaimed king of Northumberland; whereupon the Danish merchants and people flocked to this part of England in great numbers, and the kingdom of Northumberland soon became almost entirely Danish, and so continued until that kingdom was broken up in the early part of the eleventh century, when it was divided into Everwickshire (Yorkshire), Richmondshire, Lancashire, Capland (afterwards called Durham), Westmoreland, Cumberland, and Northumberland.

Harold "the Niggard," king of Denmark, having married the daughter and heir of King Ethelred I., invaded England in right of his wife, and was defeated by King Alfred, who had usurped the English throne; but the Danish kings continued their claim, and Sweyn, the great-grandson of Harold, conquered, and was proclaimed king of England in 1014, and was succeeded by his son, King Canute the Great; and subsequently William the Conqueror, claiming as great-grandson of Richard, first duke of Normandy, by his wife Gunilda, sister to King Sweyn and aunt to King Canute the Great, settled the whole business at the battle of Hastings, on the 14th October, 1066.

The tales told by a set of cowardly monks, who were afraid to go outside their monasteries, about the Conqueror seizing all the lands of the natives, and invading and laying waste the northern counties, is too absurd for me to dwell upon, being simply a lie from beginning to end. William the Conqueror only confiscated the great fiefs of some of the English nobles, after they had frequently revolted against him; but he did not touch an inch of land belonging to any of the tenants

holding of these fiefs, and he never destroyed the northern parts, which belonged to a people of the same race as the Normans themselves, and who spoke the same language.* He founded a dynasty which lasted until the death of King Henry VI., who was the last sovereign of England having the blood of the Conqueror in his veins.

The people of Richmondshire † are pre-eminently of the Danish race, having a good sprinkling of the blood of the Northmen amongst them, from whom they inherit the hereditary well-known energy of their ancestors, and who were undoubtedly the most civilized and warlike people of Europe in those days, having not only an extensive literature in their own language, but such fleets as the world had never before seen, and fully equal, comparatively speaking, to anything that has since been produced in that line, even by the greatest of modern nations.

Note.

THE following are particulars of the various dynasties of the sovereigns of England who have reigned during the last thousand years:—

1st Dynasty (called Anglo-Saxon).—Egbert got the crown by conquest; Alfred “the Great” came to the crown by usurpation—Harold King of Denmark claiming in right of his wife, the daughter and heir of King Ethelred I., elder brother to King Alfred.

2nd Dynasty (Skioldungr).—Sweyn, King of Denmark, took the crown by conquest in 1014. He claimed as the great-grandson of King Harold and his wife, the daughter of King Ethelred I.

3rd Dynasty (Kent).—Harold II. claimed as grandson of Astrid, sister to King Canute the Great and daughter of King Sweyn.

4th Dynasty (Norman).—William the Conqueror claimed as great-grandson of the sister of King Sweyn, the father of King Canute the Great.

5th Dynasty (Blois).—King Stephen claimed the crown in right of his wife, who was the daughter and heir of Eustance III. Count of Boulogne, son and heir of Eustance II. Count of Boulogne, son and heir of Eustance I. Count of Boulogne by Goda his wife, sister of the whole blood to King Edward the Confessor.

6th Dynasty (Plantagenet).—Henry II. claimed as son and heir of Maud “the Empress,” daughter of King Henry I., son of William the Conqueror.

7th Dynasty (Bygod or “Spurious Plantagenet”).—Edward I. “*was a kite’s egg dropped into the eagle’s nest.*” Queen Eleanor on her deathbed acknowledged that her son Edmund (afterwards Earl of Lancaster) was the King’s only child, and that all her other children belonged to the Earl Marshal. Edmund being a sickly and delicate child, for State reasons Edward was allowed to represent the King’s eldest son. Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk and Earl Marshal of England, however, settled all his titles and estates upon Thomas of Brotherton, the King’s younger son by his second wife, and who succeeded as Earl of Norfolk and Earl Marshal. Roger Bigod would not have done this, and thereby ruined his own family, if he had not well known that the King was his own son.

8th Dynasty (Lancaster).—Henry IV., Duke of Lancaster, claimed the crown as the heir of the line of Henry III. and heir of the Conqueror, in right of his mother Blanche Plantagenet, Duchess of Lancaster, daughter and heir of Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Lancaster, grandson of Edmund Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, only child of King Henry III. according to the confession of Queen Eleanor.

9th Dynasty (York).—Edward IV. claimed the crown as grandson of Anne Mortimer, granddaughter of Philippa, daughter of Lionel of Antwerp, son of King Edward III., son of King Edward II., son of King Edward I., founder of the 7th Dynasty.

* What is called Norman-French was only the court language.

† The present inhabitants of these parts have greatly degenerated in stature within the last two generations, and are now very suggestive of the Darwinian theory.

10th Dynasty (Tudor).—Henry VII. usurped the crown: he had no claim whatever, and was simply an impostor. He was the son of Edmund Tudor (called “Earl of Richmond,” who was the son of Queen Catherine widow of King Henry V., by a common soldier, a Welshman, named Owen Tudor), by his wife, the daughter and heir of John Beaufort Duke of Somerset, son of John Beaufort Earl of Somerset, bastard son of John of Gaunt, Prince Consort to Blanche Duchess of Lancaster.

The wife of King Henry VII. was Elizabeth of York, bastard daughter of King Edward IV. by Elizabeth Woodville, whom he married illegally, he being at that time betrothed to the Lady Eleanor Talbot, and did not obtain the Pope’s dispensation.

11th Dynasty (Stuart).—James I. claimed as son of Mary, daughter of James V. King of Scotland, son of Margaret, daughter of Henry VII. and sister to King Henry VIII.

12th Dynasty (Orange).—William III. claimed in right of his wife, daughter of King James II., and by rebellion of the people.

13th Dynasty (D’Este).—George I. was elected Hereditary President of the republic *by act of Parliament*, with the title of King. He was the son of Sophia, daughter of Elizabeth, daughter of King James I.

14th Dynasty (Sax Coburg Gotha), *in embryo*.—Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, heir-apparent to the Crown, son of Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, of Australia, South Africa, Canada, etc., and Empress of India, niece and heir to William IV., brother to George IV., son of George III., great-grandson of George I. of the 13th Dynasty.

