

CHAPTER IV.

HENRY BARLOW OF STOKE HENRY BARLOW OF ATTERCLIFFE

Report by Major A. H. S. Howard, M.C., Norroy King of Arms.

THE identity of Henry Barlow or Barley of Attercliffe, the ancestor of The Rt. Hon. Sir Montague Barlow, Bart., has proved a very difficult one to solve. This is due to the gaps in the Court Rolls of Eckington and to the fact that the will of George Barlow of Stoke, who died 27 March, 1538, cannot be found. I have little doubt that if these evidences were available we should have been able to prove whether Henry Barlow of Attercliffe was the son of George Barlow of Stoke or not.

Henry Barlow lived at Attercliffe, close to Sheffield, at which latter place he was buried in 1589. He made a will and was a man of substance. It was necessary to exhaust Attercliffe and neighbourhood, and in making searches in the lay subsidies it was found that a large and well-to-do family named Birley lived there and their ancestry can be traced several generations back in places north and north-west of Sheffield.

Although an exhaustive search *re* Birley was made, no evidence could be found to connect Henry Barlow of Attercliffe with that family.

The late Sir Alfred Scott Gatty, Garter King of Arms, made careful notes from the Court Rolls of Eckington, four miles south-east of Attercliffe, and from these we find that in 1538 George Barlow of Stoke surrenders lands* in Eckington to his son Henry. This was the first information we had that George Barlow had a son Henry.

From the pedigree as now recorded in the College of Arms, marked "A," it is seen that George Barlow had six sons, of whom five were mentioned in the Inquisition Post Mortem taken on his death 1543. Henry is not mentioned.† Thanks to the courtesy of Sir George Sitwell, the original Court Rolls have been examined. We find no record of Henry ever surrendering the lands to which he was admitted in 1538, neither was any heir admitted on his death, nor does Henry of Attercliffe mention them in his will dated 1589. We do find Thomas, the brother of Henry of Stoke, obtained a messuage and land in Eckington before 14 August, 1544‡ and was still holding it in 1569. It is possible that Henry having married an Attercliffe lady in about 1538, made his lease over to his brother and removed to Attercliffe; or he may have died young and unmarried. In either case his name should appear again in the Court Rolls, and, no doubt, it was on one of these that are now missing.

From what I have written, one would almost hesitate to put forward the theory of Henry's parentage and connection with the Stoke family, if it were not for the very strong circumstantial evidence which surrounds the case.

*Described as "Holme lying in Byelow cum Bramley," and surrendered 1st June, 1538.—M.B.

†Though Henry was not mentioned in the I.P.M. quoted, the author has now found the proceedings in the Holmesfield Manorial Court in 1543 on the death of George Barlow, and there it is expressly stated that Henry was alive at the death of his father: see *Derb. Arch.*, Vol. XX., pp. 81 and 83.—M.B.

‡Apparently also called "Holme in Bramley."—M.B.

HENRY BARLOW OF STOKE

"In the first place, Henry Barlow of Attercliffe, who was married about 1550-1555, might quite well have been born in 1518 to 1520 and would have been 18 years old when admitted to lands at Eckington. So far as dates are concerned, he could quite well be the son of George Barlow of Stoke, and there is great similarity of name in the two families: his sons' names were Thomas eldest son, Hugh and Francis, and his grandsons (with others) were Humphrey, Charles, Stephen and Alexander; similarly George Barley of Stoke had (with others) Thomas eldest son, who had a son Humphrey."

After a reference to a similar recurrence of the names Thomas, Humphrey, etc., in the Illingworth family, the report proceeds:—

"The Chesterfield register records a marriage between Humphrey Barley and Grace Shekerley, 3 February 1560 (but no baptisms of their children) and the baptism of Anthony, son of Hugh Barlow, 27 October 1588, and Nicholas, son of Hugh Barlow, 7 December, 1588. There is probably a mistake in one of these dates, but the father may have been identical with the younger son of Henry Barley of Attercliffe. Anthony occurs among the names of the younger children of George Barley of Stoke. George Barley of Stoke settled lands upon his younger sons in 1537, and made Anthony Stafford and Rowland Stafford his feoffees.* These, with their brother Humphrey, were sons of Humphrey Stafford of Eyam, who had been a defendant with George Barley in a lawsuit, *circa* 1520.

"Humphrey Stafforth of Hallfield Sheffield (possibly identical with the above Humphrey Stafford the younger) made a will in 1558 mentioning his brothers Hugh and Robert, a son William, and a grand-daughter Alice, the daughter of Christopher Wood. It has been thought that this Alice may have been the Alice who was the wife of Henry Barley of Attercliffe, and that his son Hugh may have been named after the above Hugh Stafforth.

"Henry Barley of Attercliffe in 1560 resided in a house belonging to Hugh Smythe of Attercliffe, a servant of the Earl of Shrewsbury and bailiff of Sheffield Manor, whose father, Lawrence Smythe of Attercliffe, made his will in 1548 of which Humphrey Stafforth of the Haulecar was supervisor, and a legacy was left to John Swift. Hugh Smythe mentions in his will in 1560 his servant John Swift. Humphrey Stafford held land of the Capital Burgesses of Sheffield, the reversion of which was granted to Francis Swift in 1557-8. Henry Swift of Sheffield mentions in his will in 1521-2 his sons Francis and Thomas, and brothers Alexander, John, Robert and William. The name of Alexander occurs among the younger children of Francis Barley, son of Henry Barley of Attercliffe, and in 1576, Alexander, son of Lawrence Barley or Barlowe, was baptised at Sheffield. This Lawrence Barley was married there to Helena Wight in 1562. Alice, wife of Henry Barley of Attercliffe, was legatee of Nicholas Swyft of Darnal in 1579. Thomas Barley (probably her son) was witness to the will of Widow Wood of Attercliffe in 1577.

"William Stanyforth was tenant of the messuage in Eckington in 1538 and attorney for Thomas Barley in 1544. Thomas Staniford was the tenant in 1572. Nicholas Stanyforth was witness to the will of Henry Barlow of Attercliffe 1589.†

"The above facts certainly show a very strong connecting link between Henry Barlow of Attercliffe and Henry Barlow of Stoke, and it is very unfortunate that none of these clues should have brought to light sufficient evidence to prove the connection. The whole facts were clearly put before the two examiners appointed by Chapter of the College of Arms, but they were unable to accept the evidence as sufficient proof.

College of Arms.

14 April, 1930."

*According to Pegge, Robert de Barley, Senr. and Junr., enfeoffed John de Stafford and Johanna his wife of messuages and land to the use of St. Mary's Gild in Dronfield Church.—M.B.

†Thus the Barleys of Stoke, of Barley, and of Attercliffe, were all connected in various ways with the Staffords, Stanyforths, Smythes and Swifts.—M.B.