

a murder has more fascination than the home or tomb of a saint; the anchoret's fame faded before that of the assassin, and the cave of St. Robert's became known as Eugene Aram's.

Meanwhile, fuller light was being thrown on the Saint's story and the shrines that bore his name by the Roxburghe Club's publication (1824) of the *English Metrical Life*, by Walbran's account and extracts in the *Memorials of Fountains* (Surtees Soc., 1862, xlii, 222), and by Dr. Collins' researches among the Castle records. When in 1916 these ancient shrines came into the market for the first time since the Reformation they were acquired by the Catholic body and partially restored to their original purpose. A cross has been set up on the altar of Holy Rood Chapel, the empty niche in Our Lady of the Crag is again filled with a stone figure of the Madonna and Divine Child, and religious services are occasionally held in both places.¹ The true story of the sanctuaries is gradually making its way into the more literary guide-books, if not yet into popular usage; it only needs the high authority of the Yorkshire Archæological Society to restore these venerable shrines to their rightful owners, Eugene Aram's Cave to St. Robert, and St. Robert's Chapel to Our Lady of the Crag.

¹ *Knaresburgh and its Rulers*, by William Wheeler, 1907, is valuable for facts and details laboriously collected from the Court Rolls, though not trustworthy for inferences and theories.

**Major-General Thomas Martin Corker,
'Corker, An Old Northumbrian Family',
Yorkshire Archaeological Journal,
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CORKER: AN OLD NORTHUMBRIAN FAMILY.

The Abbot James, or Maurus Corker, whose life is sketched in the *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*, was a Yorkshireman, born 1636, died 1714. He was President-General of the Benedictines in England. He stated that his father was the Rev. Francis Corker, whom we know as the fighting parson of Pontefract, and that his great-great-grandfather was James Corker, of Huntwicke Grange, near Nostell Abbey, whose will and inquisition, which have lately come to light, indicate that he was married c. 1544, and died 1573.

In 1703 Edward Corker, a barrister of Gray's Inn and intimate with the Abbot—a relation, wrote a series of letters to Rob. Corker, M.P. for Bossiny, in Cornwall. They embodied the Abbot's knowledge of his family, and the barrister's researches. Copies are in the possession of the Rev. John Hume Townsend, D.D., who is of Corker descent. These letters formed a basis for our own researches and those of Dr. Chambré Corker Vigurs.

From various sources I collate the following brief notes.

The barrister stated that in deeds one hundred years prior to 1700 the name Corker was spelt "Corcor" and "Coeur Coeur," and he deduced a Norman origin. It seems equally likely that the name was Saxon or Scandinavian, and became Normanised. These deeds were also said to have the Corker arms "stampt in the margin." If still existent they may be in the archives of Henshaws, Bromleys, or Thornleys. The Rev. Saml. Corker, of Alderley, in Cheshire, married a Henshaw, and his sister a Bromley, and Edward's grandson, and only known descendant, was Corker Thornley. Jacksons of Macclesfield and Pinders were other relations of this Cheshire group.

One ancestral source of the Corker stock was in Northumbria, although members are found elsewhere. In 1284 John Corker is found in Ireland. In 1350 Corkers were burgesses in Manchester, and a John Le Corker was a chaplain in Liverpool. In 1430 died Thos. Corker, Coroner of Furness, and Canon Bardsley, in his *Chronicles of Ulverston*, allots the Corker family five centuries of existence in that region. In 1632 the Court Leet Records of Manchester include Charles Corker as one of the two constables. It is very important to trace this Charles, as I believe him to be a link

between the later branch in the south of Ireland and the branches in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.

I discovered two old deeds in the P.R.O., Chancery Lane, both of 1471. One is a grant by Blevett of Houghton, co. York, to Bellingham, Walles, and Beltoft, of lands in Lagton (Laughton), and the attorneys to deliver possession are Poppylwelde and John Corker. In the other a John Corker, clericus, demises property to Margery Walbelton, "nuper uxor" of Wm. Walbelton. Included were five manors in Berks., Oxon., and Kent. Magister John Corker was a trustee from 1447 as other deeds indicate.

In 1696 a grant of arms was made by Ulster (testified by Chester) to Edward Corker, of Dublin: "Argent a lion rampant azure and two hearts in chief gules, and for his crest, on a helmet a wreath of his colours, a heart gules, crowned with a ducal crown or, between two laurel branches proper, with this motto, 'Sacrificium Deo Cor Contritum.'" (Cork Hist. and Arch. Society, July, 1894, cites a copy.) Edward Corker, the barrister, was indignant because his uncle in Dublin accepted this as an original grant.

The Abbot had much to record as to James of Huntwick. He had held a "Command," and Henry VIII granted an eagle as an addition to his arms, as he had captured a standard from troops of Charles V, then in alliance with Scotland. The barrister writes in 1703 that he had then a letter lying by him from a Mr. Johnson, who had seen this eagle carved on James Corker's tombstone. Search at Wragby has not yet revealed the tombstone, but it may still be there, or in some neighbouring churchyard.

From James Corker's will and inquisition of 1573, it is clear he married c. 1544. His wife, Elizabeth, was probably a Cotton or a Gargrave, as one son was called Cotton and Sir Cotton Gargrave was one of the guardians. Some entries should appear in the registers of Wragby, copied in full by the Rev. E. H. Sankey (*Yorks. Arch. Journal*, 1893). Who is the present possessor of these copies?

In 1573 a Thos. Corker, a priest, was concerned in plots to free Queen Mary of Scots. His life, like that of Francis and of James, throws sidelights on history. He appears in Dr. Venn's *Alum. Cantab.* I found Francis' appeal to King Charles II in the P.R.O. This Francis married Ann Hippon, but when and where has not been discovered. The entry should be in or near Featherston.

There is a Francis Corker, of Badsworth, who is very puzzling. He received properties near Nostell Abbey upon his father, James', death in 1573. There may be, extant still, MSS. or deeds that would greatly add to our knowledge of this Yorkshire branch.

Huntwick Grange became Saltershall property in 1600, and is probably in their hands at present.

A young officer, Edward Corker, was fighting at the Boyne in 1690, and at Namur in 1695 in Sir John Edgeworth's regiment, afterwards 18th Royal Irish. He was later Col. Ed. Corker, of Ballymaloe, co. Cork. His portrait in armour hung in the house of my grandfather, Major John Corker, and is in our possession, together with a gold medal presented to the latter 'for merit' after the Irish rebellion of 1798 by Lord Longueville, Commanding the Royal City of Cork Regiment.

The writer of these notes will be grateful for any information or suggestions addressed

Major-General T. M. Corker,

Junior United Service Club,

Charles St., London, S.W. 1.

Will of James Corker, of Huntewicke, in the county of York, gent.

To my sons, Leonard Corker, Lionell Corker, William Corker, and Cotton Corker, the Lease of the Hall and Mylne of Ackworth and the corn and fulling mylnes in Castleford, co. York, and also the Parsonage of Pennington, co. Lancs. To John Corker, my eldest son, my lands and tenements in Fournes, co. Lanc. To my son Thomas Corker, the lease of a close called "Nourode" in the parish of Guiseley and a moiety of the parsonage of Whitkirk. To Elizabeth Corker, my wife, the Lease of Little Southwode for life and after her decease to my son, Francis Corker. To my son, Francis Corker, the corn Mylne in Sharlston, and on his decease to his heirs male, and for default of such issue to my son Cotton, then to my son William, then to Lionel and then to my son Thomas. To my son, John Corker, my lands at Ulverston, co. Lanc., which I had of the grant of William Heaton and John Bolde, also all my goods and chattels at Ulverston. To the repair of Castleford Brige 26s. 8d. To the Common Box of the Parish of Wragbie 10s. To Mr. Cotton Gargrave one white mare. To Thomas Holgate, the younger, son of Henry Holgate, one silver spoone. To James Leverage and James Sterling a wether. To my daughter Ann over and besides 20 marks I owe her, £6 13s. 4d. To my son-in-law, Thomas Crosbie, one gold ring. The rest of my goods to be into three parts, one part I give to my wife, another to my children, Leonard, Lionel, William, Cotton, Francis, Thomas, Mary, and Jane Corker.

Guardians of my son Francis to be Mr. Cotton Gargrave, of sons William and Cotton Xpofer Mather and Cuthbert Flemynge, of son Thomas and daughters Mary and Jane my wife and Thomas Crosbie. To my son, John Corker, £20 to be paid out of a debt owing by Xpofer Anderton.

Executrix, Elizabeth my wife.

Supervisors, John Flemyng, Thomas Holgate, Henry Holgate.

Witnesses, Richard Pollard, Thomas Crosbie, Robert Dobson, clerk, Thomas John Whitaker.

Dated 9 July, 1573.

Proved 22 February, 1573, by Elizabeth the relict the sole executrix.

(Prerogative Court of York, vol. xix, f. 567.)

Will of Elizabeth Corker of Huntwicke in the parish of Wragbie, co. York, widow.

To the poor men's box of Wragbie 3s. 4d. To Thomas Crosbie, my son, £10. To my son-in-law, Allen Kustwerke, £3 6s. 8d. To my son-in-law, Robert Lovell, £3 6s. 8d. To Thomas Hollings 12s. To Isabell, wife of Richard Okes, 10s. To Thomas Fell 12s. The sum of £20 to be bestowed upon my funeral and the poor people in Wragbie and Whytkerke, of which £20 I give £3 to the poor of Wragbie and 40s. to the poor of Whitkerke. The residue to my son, Thomas Corker, whom I make sole executor.

Witnesses, Henry Scolye, clerk, Thomas Fell.

Dated 20 March, 1590.

Proved 11 June, 1592.

(York Wills, vol. xxv, f. 918.)

THE PARENTAGE OF WILLIAM DE PERCY.

BY THE REV. S. P. H. STATHAM, B.A.

Mr. Ellis,¹ in his description of William de Percy, states that "he came from Perci in the *Département* of La Manche, a seigneurie owned by the Paynells." As a statement of fact this is correct; but it is also a statement which clouds the issue raised, viz. the paternity of William. Whilst it is true that the fief of Percy belonged to the Paynells it is also true that it did not come into their hands until 1214. Before this it had been in the possession of Jordan Taisson and his son, Ralph, from about 1139. A reference to the chart pedigree attached will explain this statement at a glance. This chart has been compiled from Delisle² and other authorities, which need not be given here in detail as they are fully discussed in a volume now in the press entitled the "Descent of the family of Stathum." The dates above mentioned throw no light upon the ownership of Percy in 1086; but in a *pancarte* quoted by Delisle (*Preuves*, 59), which must be dated prior to 1138, we find the following:

"*Nigellus vicecomes Sancti Salvatoris, qui Abbatiam inchoavit, dedit in Perceio eidem abbacie ecclesias cum decimis earundem, et decimam totius redditus ejusdem ville. Postea, quando Rogerus vicecomes patriam rehabuit, ecclesias cum decimis et redditibus omnibus sancto Salvatori reddidit.*"

The Nigel referred to herein was, I think, Nigel III, who in 1049 suppressed the Collegiate Church of Saviour the Vicount founded by his ancestor and established in its place an abbey of Benedictines (*Histoire des Evêques de Coutances*; M. Lecanu, 124; and *Mémoires, Société des Antiquaires de la Normandie*, ii, 46). It may, however, refer to Nigel IV, who was viscount in 1073. In either case it proves that the fief of Percy belonged to the family of S. Saviour at a date previous to the compilation of Domesday.

Having established this highly important fact, it remains to consider, (a) the date on which it was granted out, and (b) to whom it was granted.

¹ *Yorkshire Domesday Tenants*, Yorks. Arch. and Top. Journal, iv, 1877, f. 153.

² *Histoire du Chateau etc. de Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte*. L. Delisle. Valognes, 1867.