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**Some Ancient Deeds Relating to the Manor of Southam, Near  
Cheltenham**

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SOME ANCIENT DEEDS  
RELATING TO THE MANOR OF SOUTHAM,  
NEAR CHELTENHAM.

BY THE REV. E. R. DOWDESWELL, M.A.

HAVING come into possession of a number of deeds relating to Southam, I propose to give a *catalogue raisonné* of them.

Before doing so it may be desirable to give a short account of the early devolution of the manor and estates there.

The manor and a large estate in Southam was held of the Bishop of Worcester in the twelfth century by Milo, Earl of Hereford, who died in 1146. His sons all died *s.p.*, and his estates were divided between his two daughters, Lucy, who married Herbert Fitzherbert, and Bertha, who married William de Brewes, whose share in the next generation passed by marriage to the De Bohuns.

Of the two estates in Southam, that of the De Bohuns was the more important, being two-thirds of the whole in extent, and including the manorial rights.

We have first to deal with the Fitzherbert estate.

Milo, Earl of Hereford, founded the Priory of Llanthony juxta Gloucester, and part of the endowment consisted of the tithes of Southam.<sup>1</sup> The convent owned an estate at Prestbury, but no land in Southam.

I. My first deed is not directly connected with Southam. It is a grant by the Prior of Llanthony, and Milo de Stowell (near North Leach), cleric, to William de Agmundesham, cleric, of all lands which he held of the said Religious in

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale, *Mon.*, vi. 136.

the parish of Cleeve, rendering 10s. per annum at the Prior's Court at Prestbury. It is dated 20 Edward I., 1291.

This deed is in beautiful condition. See below. It is not, wholly irrelevant to our subject, as the two following deeds have to do with the estate of the family of Agmundesham, in Southam, and the last one connects them with the Fitzherberts.

II. My second deed is dated 13 Edward II. (1320). By it John, son of William de Agmundesham, grants to his brother Thomas all his rights in all the lands, &c., in Southam and Cleeve that belonged to his father, William de Agmundesham, the cleric. The only seal attached to it bears the device of two crossed hands.

III. In the third deed Matthew Fitzherbert grants to Thomas de Agmundesham all his right in a half virgate of and in Southam which the said Thomas had by the gift of Herbert, the son of John, the father of the said Matthew. This deed is dated 14 Edward III., and is in excellent condition, with the seal of Mathew Fitzherbert almost intact, bearing a shield with three lions rampant, and surrounded by a legend,<sup>1</sup> "THÆI, FILII HERBERTI."

Before leaving these deeds of the Agmundeshams I may say that there is no place of that name in Gloucestershire or the neighbourhood. But the town of Amersham, in Bucks, was anciently spelled Agumdesham. Lysons (in his *Mag. Britt.*) says, "Agmundesham or Amersham, called in Domesday Elmondesham, was given by William the Conqueror to Geoffrey de Mandeville, and descended from him to the noble families of Fitzpiers and de Bohuns."

From this mention of the family of De Bohun I conjecture that possibly the William de Agmundesham who bought land in Southam from Mathew Fitzherbert may have come there with the De Bohun who married the heiress of Southam.

It is worth noting that Fosbroke says that one William Emmundesham was seized of the Fitzherbert estate *temp.*

<sup>1</sup> Sig. *Mat.*

Henry VIII. It seems probable that he was a representative of the fourteenth century Agmundeshams aforesaid.

It would be difficult, and for my purpose unnecessary, to trace in detail the ownership of the Fitzherbert estate for the next 200 years, because I have no deeds to illustrate it.

The Mathew Fitzherbert of my last deed seems to have given up all his rights in the lands to his brother Reginald in the fifth year of Edward III.,<sup>1</sup> and after that the name of Fitzherbert does not again occur as owning land in Southam.

Fosbroke does not know how William Stokes and his son became possessed of the manor *temp.* Henry VI.

The local historians trace the frequent changes down to modern times. But the name of Goodman does not appear as landowner here until Bigland quotes Leland to the effect that Sir John Huddleston, of Millom, "who had a pretty manor place at Southam," had "bought the land from one Goodman," which must have been *temp.* Henry VII. Bigland adds "that the very ancient mansion at Southam was originally detached from the manor." This, I think, is proved by one of the following documents, which shows that neither Sir John Huddleston, who built Southam House, nor Kenard Delabere, who inherited it, were "lord of the manor" at any time.

We must therefore bear in mind that the two estates in Southam were quite distinct, and that the manorial rights were attached, not to this estate, but to the other.

IV. My next deed is the will of Sir John Huddleston, Kt., which is dated 1545; he died in 1547.

This Sir John Huddleston, Kt., of Millom Castle, in Cumberland, came of a very ancient and important family. They were lords of Millom in that county from at least the twentieth year of Edward I. The lordship of Millom was an immense tract of country ten miles in length and six miles in breadth, containing in itself divers manors which are held immediately of Millom. Millom Castle is placed at the foot of the River Duddan, and the lordship comprehends the

<sup>1</sup> Fosbroke, ii. 356.

whole of the peninsula formed by the channel of the River Duddan on the east and the ocean on the west.

This great manor was given in the time of Henry I. to the De Boyvills, and was brought to the Huddlestons by the marriage of Joan de Boyvill to John Huddlestone in the time of Henry III.

The Huddlestons themselves traced their descent from Gamel de Pennington, who is said to have been seated at Pennington at the time of the Conquest.

From Sir John Huddlestone, first lord of Millom, who married Joan de Boyvill, descended a long line from father to son till we come to Sir John Huddlestone, Kt., who married Joan, daughter of Sir Miles Stapleton, *temp.* Henry VII., and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Richard. His second son, Sir John, married a daughter of Lord Fitzhugh. This Sir John was appointed steward of Sudeley Castle when on the attainder of Ralph de Boteler after the Battle of Bosworth Field (1485) that estate came to the Crown.<sup>1</sup>

It was probably at this time that he bought the estates in Gloucestershire that were inherited by his son—our Sir John—later on. He or his father also took part in beautifying the Abbey of Hayles. Three of the great bosses from the roof of the cloisters which were discovered by our secretary bear his arms. The first the Huddlestone coat alone—fretty. The second and third bear his arms impaling Stapleton; for he had married Jane, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir Miles Stapleton. He died in 1513, and was succeeded at Millom by his eldest son, Sir Richard, who married Margaret, daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick; and our Sir John, as a younger son, did not succeed to Millom till after the death of his nephew Richard, who died *s.p.* But he probably inherited the Gloucestershire estates in 1513, and added thereto, as he tells us in his will, by purchase, and built for himself

<sup>1</sup> See Patent Roll, 1 Richard III., part v., No. 148, where he is called "John Hudilston Esquire of the royal body."

that beautiful specimen of Tudor domestic architecture which we know as Southam House.

His will, which is dated 1545, deals only with his Gloucestershire estates, which he divided among his younger children. His eldest son, Anthony, who succeeded him at Millom in 1547, is not mentioned in it. Sir John was born in 1489.

He had married first Jane Clifford, who died childless; secondly the Lady Joan Seymour, aunt of the Lady Jane, the second wife of Henry VIII., who was the mother of all his children; and thirdly Joice Richley, who died without issue.

By this will (deed No. IV.) he left the house and land in Cockbury (a farm near Southam) to his son Henry, which he tells us he had lately bought of Sir William Kingston.

He left to Richard his lands in Oxenton, Pamington, Cockbury, and Eckington.

To Andrew a house and land in Guyting.

To Elynor Huddleston, my daughter (N.B.—Not married in 1545), my messuage and lands in Southam, Prestbury, Brockington and Woodmancote.

To Bridgett, Whitbecke and Millom, in Cumberland, and to Anne, his house and lands in Sudeley and Winchcomb.

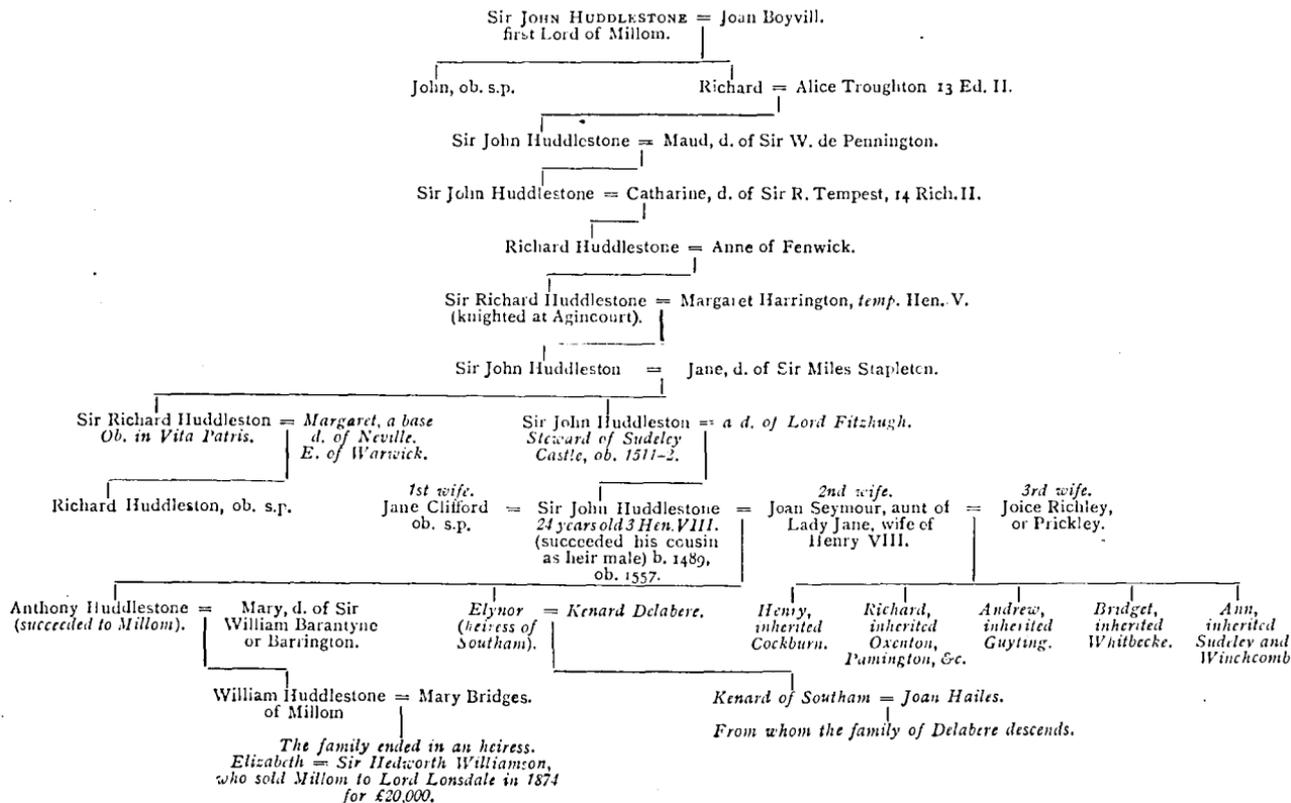
Bridgett married (1) Sir Hugh Askough of Seyton, Cumberland, (2) William Pennington of Muncaster.

Anne married Ralph Latus, of Kirkby Trelith, whose line ended in a daughter, married to William Blencowe, Esq., in 1769; while Elynor married Kenard Delabere some time between 1545 and 1554, and brought him Southam House and the lands in Southam, Prestbury, Brockhampton, and Woodmancote, which we know were left her in her father's will.

Having thus shown how large an estate in this neighbourhood Sir John divided between his younger children, we may now confine our attention to Elynor, the heiress of Southam.

(From Hutchinson's *History of Cumberland*, vol. i. pp. 527-8, with additions in Italics by E. R. D.)

The Boyvills held Millom from the time of Henry I. to the reign of Henry III. Joan, a daughter of Adam FitzHenry (a Boyvill), married Sir John Huddlestone, Kt., and brought Millom to that family.



She married, as we have seen, Kenard Delabere some time between 1545, the date of her father's will, and 1554.

V. For in my next deed (dated 1554) Francis Evans grants certain lands in Southam to Kenard Delabere and *Eleanor his wife*.

VI. In 1581 (the date of my next deed) Anthony Huddlestone, who describes himself as son of Sir John Huddlestone, Kt., of Millom, and through whom the line of Huddlestone, of Millom, was continued till 1774,<sup>1</sup> grants and confirms to his sister Elynor, now wife of Kenard Delabere, Esq., all the messuages, lands, and tenements that had been devised to her in their father's last will, "whereof they are now and have been for divers years in quiet and peaceable possession," but "since divers of the ancient deeds and writings and evidences concerning the same messuages, lands, &c., have been conveyed away from me, which may hereafter happen to breed some trouble to the occupiers of the said lands, &c.," therefore "for the avoiding of such trouble, &c., he doth grant and confirm to his sister Elynor, &c." In witness whereof he wrote "A. H." and affixed his seal bearing the arms of Huddlestone.<sup>2</sup>

VII. In like manner we have a deed dated 1614 (No. VII.), by which William Huddlestone, of Millom, son of Anthony, and Joseph Huddlestone, of Farrington, in the Bishoprick of Durham, renounce all their right and title in the lands in Southam now in possession of Richard Delabere, grandson of Sir John Huddlestone.<sup>2</sup>

VIII. Deed No. VIII. is dated 1588, by which John Wolley, of Cheltenham, confers on John Delabere the office of Seneschal of Cheltenham.

We may take it, I think, for granted that by this time the whole of that one-third of Southam which we called the Fitzherbert estate had been acquired by Sir John

<sup>1</sup> Hutchinson's *Cumberland*, vol. i., pp. 527-8.

<sup>2</sup> Note that Sir John had by his will left the property to Elynor, and her heirs male, and in default to his other children in succession, which perhaps made these Deeds of Confirmation desirable.

Huddleston, and left by his will to his daughter Elynor, who married Kenard Delabere, and to their heirs.

It remains to consider what had become of the other two-thirds of the estate, including the manorial rights, which had come to the family of De Bohun.

This estate descended from father to son for many generations till it came to King Henry V. as heir to his grandfather Humphrey de Bohun.

This king gave it in dower to his queen with the other De Bohun estates, and so it was attached to the Duchy of Lancaster.

Richard III. granted it to the Duke of Buckingham, whose attainder brought it again to the Crown, and it remained in the Crown till the fourth year of James I., 1607.

IX. to XIII. These documents are extracts from the Court Roll of the Manor of Southam from 1574 to 1824. From them we learn that Queen Elizabeth was lady of the manor in 1574, while Mr. Richard Delabere (of whom anon) and Margaret his wife held their first court as lord and lady of the manor in 1607.

XIV. Moreover, No. XIV. is an abstract of title of the manor, from which we learn that Queen Elizabeth leased the manor in 1577 to Thomas Duke for thirty-one years at a rent of £12 2s. per annum.

But James I. leased the manor in 1604 to Peter Vanlore and William Blake.

The next year they assigned the lease to Lord Cranborne (afterwards Earl of Salisbury) for £1300, the rent to the Crown being £30 12s. 6d.

At the same time Lord Cranborne had to buy the remainder of the terms of Thomas Duke's lease, which had been acquired by William Jenison.

XV. Who in deed XV. assigned the remainder of the term to Lord Cranborne in 1605 for £800.

In 1607 King James granted the manor to his great

minister free of all rents and dues, and in the next year Lord Salisbury sold the manor to Mr. Richard Delabere for £3,200.

XVI. In document XVI. we have the royal licence to alienate the manor in 1609.

XVII. And in No. XVII. a recovery and fine of the manor in favour of Richard Delabere in 1608.

XVIII. and XIX. Nos. XVIII. and XIX. are the deeds by which Lord Salisbury gave a final confirmation of his sale of the manor, and so completed the transaction in 1611.

It may be as well now to make it clear who this Richard Delabere was.

This is made out for us quite clearly in the abstract of title before mentioned, No. XIV.

The Kenard Delabere who married Elynor Huddleston was the son of Sir John Delabere, of Kynersley, in Herefordshire, which Sir John had a younger brother named Kenard. It was this Kenard's son Richard (a barrister-at-law), who bought the De Bohun estate from Lord Salisbury. He was thus first cousin to the Kenard Delabere who married Elynor Huddleston, and had so acquired the other part of the Southam estates.

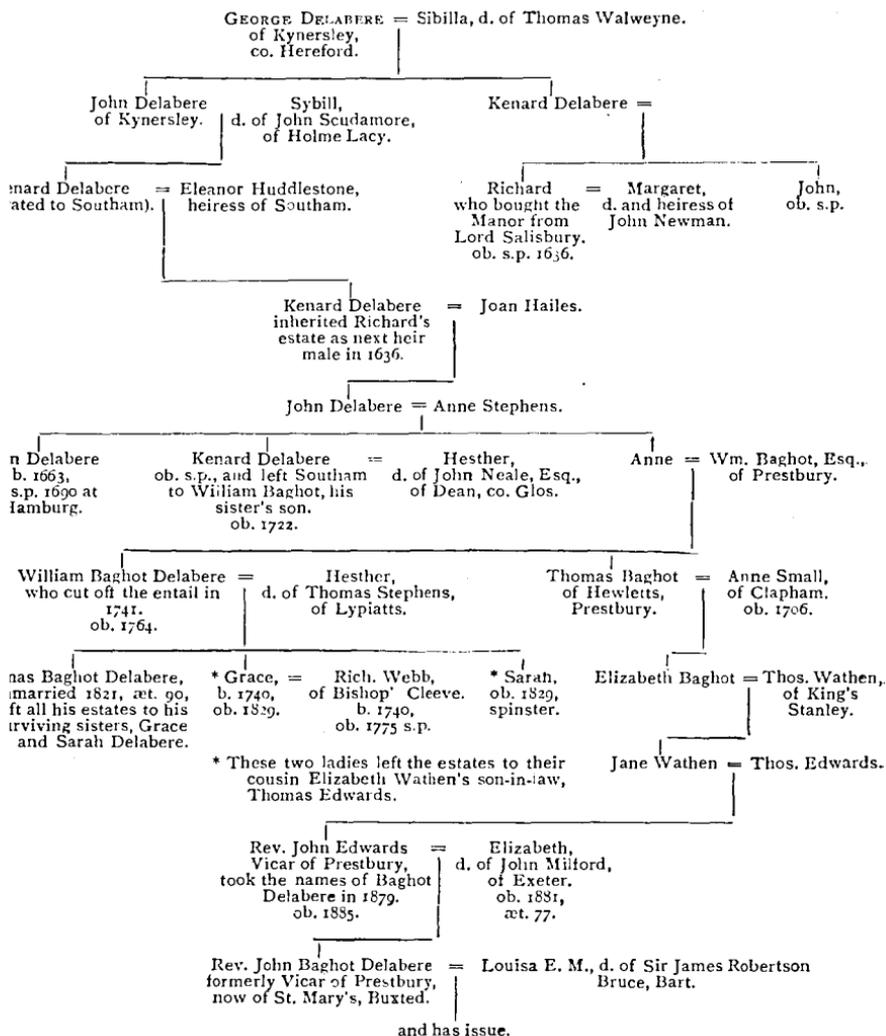
Thus we have the two cousins Kenard and Richard Delabere in possession of these two estates, which lay side by side, but still quite separate until when Richard died *s.p.*, his estate came to his next heir male, his cousin's son, Kenard Delabere.

Thus at last the two portions of the Southam estate which had been divided between the two daughters of Milo, Earl of Hereford, in the twelfth century, were re-united once more in the seventeenth century in the person of Kenard Delabere the younger.

XX. to XXVIII. During the seventeenth century certain small portions of land were bought or exchanged thus:—

XX. John Shewell assigns Hall Close to John Moore. 1621.

ABLE SHOWING THE CONNECTION OF THE FAMILIES OF DELABERE OF SOUTHAM AND BAGHOT OF PRESTBURY.



XXI. Richard Delabere exchanges a smith's shop for Queenwood. 1613.

XXII. Bond of Thomas Loring to Richard Delabere. 1624.

XXIII. Counterpart of ditto. 1624.

XXIV. Thomas Loring sells to John Carter seven acres in Hall Close.

XXV. Giles Broadway sells to Richard Delabere Upper Park Hall. 1625.

XXVI. Bond of ditto.

XXVII. John Moore and Giles Broadway lease the above to John Sparry. 1625.

The abstract of title aforesaid (deed No. XIV.) sets forth the devolution of the manor as follows:—

Kenard Delabere, the younger, married Joan Hailes, and was succeeded by his son, John Delabere, who married Anne Stephens, and by her had three children—

1. John, born 1663, who died *s.p.* at Hamburg in 1690.
2. Kenard, who married Hester, daughter of John Neale, Esq., and died *s.p.*
3. Anne, who married William Baghot, Esq., of Prestbury.

This Kenard, dying without issue, left his estates to William Baghot (the son of his sister Anne), who then took the name of Delabere. Will dated 1702, *ob.* 1735.

William Baghot Delabere in 1741 cut off the entail. My copy of the abstract of title is here deficient, but I may add from other sources that he was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas Baghot Delabere, in 1764, who died unmarried in 1820, at the age of 90, and left his estates to his sisters, Grace Webb and Sarah Delabere.

XXXII. Thomas had, however, mortgaged his estates for £7,500 to Giles Nash in 1764, on his succession, one of our documents—No. XXXII.—being a schedule of the deeds and writings deposited as security for that sum.

XXXVI. I have no further evidence of Mrs. Webb beyond the fact that she was alive in 1824, when a Mr. Little offered to purchase the manor of Pitchcomb from her and her sister, Sarah Delabere.

XXXVII. While Sarah Delabere joined with Thomas Edwards in a bond to John Terrett, of Tewkesbury, for £1,000, dated March 24th, 1829.

XXXVIII. In June, 1830, notice was given to Mr. Thomas Edwards, of Prestbury, to repay this £1,000, showing that meanwhile Miss Sarah Delabere had died.

My other deeds are not very important.

XXX. Baghot and Newman exchange lands in 1732.

XXXI. A presentment of the jury of the court of William Baghot Delabere. 1749.

XXIX. Abstract of Bayliss's right to catch rabbits in the warren. 1749.

XXXV<sup>A</sup>. Notes of evidence as to the rabbit warren.

[N.D.]

XXX. Counsel's opinion on commoners' rights in Cleeve Hill, by Anthony Keek. 1749.

XXXIV. A letter from Rich. Freeman (his lawyer) to John Delabere. [He was a brother of Thomas, the last of the family, and died in 1795, *s.p.*] 1787.

XXXV. An order to the petty constable to summon all tenants to attend the Court Leet of Thomas Baghot Delabere at Southam. 1820.

This was in the year before the death of the last squire of Southam in the direct line of Baghot Delabere.

As we have seen already, this Thomas Baghot Delabere, who died in 1821, *æt.* 90, left his estates to his only surviving sisters—Grace, who married Richard Webb, of Bishops Cleeve, and died *s.p.* in 1829, and Sarah, a spinster, who died in July of the same year.

I have no more deeds to illustrate the further history of the manor and estate; but it will be a fitting conclusion to this paper if I add a few notes concerning the present representative of the ancient families of Delabere and Baghot.

It will be remembered that Kenard Delabere, the last of the heirs male of that line, left Southam to William Baghot, the eldest son of his sister Anne, who then took the name of Delabere in addition to that of Baghot.

This Anne Baghot had another son, Thomas Baghot. Thomas Baghot married Anne Small, and left by her two children—Thomas, who died *s.p.*, and Elizabeth, who married Thomas Wathen, Esq., of King's Stanley. She left one only daughter, Jane, who married Thomas Edwards, of Bristol. Elizabeth Wathen was first cousin to the two old ladies, Grace Webb and Sarah Delabere, to whom Thomas Baghot Delabere, their brother, left the whole of his estates when he died in 1821. These two sisters in extreme old age by deed of gift made Thomas Edwards (who had married Jane Wathen) their residuary legatee, who thus on their decease in 1829 inherited Southam House and all their property.

This Thomas Edwards left the estate, then valued at £1,500 a year, to his son John Edwards in 1835. Mr. John Edwards was in Holy Orders and Vicar of Prestbury. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Milford, Esq., of Exeter. He assumed the name and arms of Baghot Delabere by royal license in 1879, and died in 1885, and was succeeded by his son, the Rev. John Baghot Delabere, formerly Vicar of Prestbury, who is yet alive, and Vicar of St. Mary's, Buxted, in Sussex.

In 1839 Southam House was sold to the late Lord Ellenborough, but a portion of the estate is still held by the Rev. John Baghot Delabere.

I shall hope on some future occasion to give in these pages a pedigree of the ancient family of the Delaberes.