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### **Preface to second edition**

There have been a number of printings of *Noblesse Oblige* since it was first published by the Burnley and District Historical Society in 1987. These printing were generally produced from the original typescript masters on a library photocopier and lovingly hand collated by volunteers. One fact stands out - the book has been very popular and each of these short print runs has quickly sold out.

In 2000 Mike Conroy, author of the two local history books *The Shuttleworths of Gawthorpe* and *Backcloth to Gawthorpe*, produced an index to *Noblesse Oblige* and Susan Bourne, Curator of Towneley Hall, agreed to publish a new version including the index in time for the opening of the new extension to Towneley Hall in 2002.

This new edition, taking advantage of the recent improvements in computer controlled laser printing, is the result. Apart from the addition of the index, the main change to the new version is a complete replacement of the original illustrations. Leslie Chapples' text, including the acknowledgements and introduction, has remained completely unchanged since the first edition of 1987. In a small number of instances foot notes have been added by the editor to clarify the original text.

### **Illustration Credits**

The photograph of Moorhiles on page 13 is by permission of Lancashire County Council: Burnley Library.

The following illustrations are produced from material presently on loan to Towneley from the Hon. Nino Strachey:

prints and drawings from the *Towneley Black Book* - pages 10, 11, 18, 19, 27, 29  
photographs of family portraits made prior to auction in 1939 - pages 23, 25, 31, 32  
cuttings from an O'Hagan 'scrapbook' - pages 38, 46

All the remaining illustrations are of items in the Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museums permanent collections.

[ August 2002 ]

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In assembling material for a publication so involved and diverse as this, one is indebted to many sources for facts, and in my searches I have found that no request has ever been denied and every avenue of information has been laid open to me. For these services I offer my grateful thanks, particularly to the members of the staff of the Burnley Reference Library, under the very able and courteous supervision of Miss Jean Siddall, who at all times have gone to the extreme in their efforts to satisfy my most involved queries. I can only hope that the end justifies the means.

I also owe a deep debt of gratitude to Miss Marguerite de Beaumont, who so willingly provided intimate and extensive details of her family. Mr H. Rigg, the curator at Towneley Hall museum and art gallery, and his assistant, Miss S. Bourne, also extended to me the greatest courtesy and assistance and for this I offer my grateful thanks.

Without such assistance this publication could never have come to fruition and provided a deeper knowledge of a family that is so steeped in tradition and history a family that has given to the people of Burnley and district so much pride.

Leslie Chapples

## INTRODUCTION

It is a remarkable fact that, although the Towneley family has achieved so much respect over a wide area and has close associations with many of the more distinguished families in the land, there has never been produced a complete record of these attachments. I do not claim that this publication is a fully comprehensive account or that the facts are presented with the literary skill or flair of the complete biographer. However, I have endeavoured to chronicle a history of the main line of the Towneleys and their attachments with other families prominent in history.

The family has marriage links with numerous eminent and titled houses - the Howards, the Asshetons, the Tichbornes, the Molyneuxes, the Berties, the Stanleys, the Widdringtons, the Wymbishes, the Fermors, among others. And research into the affairs of the Towneleys has revealed many fascinating characters within the confines of the family itself. There is a John Towneley who was the tutor to Bonnie Prince Charlie when resident in France, and his brother Francis who was the founder of the Manchester Regiment and who was ultimately hanged, drawn and quartered at Kennington Common for his part in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. The Civil War produced Charles, who was encouraged by his wife Mary to support the Royalists and lost his life at Marston Moor in 1644 as a consequence. There was John, the London lawyer, who married his cousin, the 15-year-old Mary, and was father of her 14 children and who suffered severely for his recusancy. And nearer the present day there was the kindly and eccentric Peregrine who was responsible for initiating the close rapport between the family and the nearby town of Burnley, and who was appointed High Sheriff of Lancashire - the first Towneley for over 300 years to attain the honour - and his son Charles who consolidated those bonds of harmony with the nearby townsfolk. And then, of course, there was Lady O'Hagan, the last member of the family to reside at Towneley Hall, who was an indefatigable worker in all fields of social welfare and was the champion of education and health for children - and she created a furore with her decision to secede from the 'Old Faith' and align herself with the Unitarian philosophy.

All these Towneleys - and many more - contributed to the colourful and sometimes controversial background of the family. In 1887 there came the challenge from descendants resident in the New World and who unsuccessfully contested the distribution of the estate in the High Court in London.

On the whole, the Towneleys had a fierce allegiance with the Roman Catholic faith and had strong Jacobite sympathies, with many of their members lending active support in the mainly ineffectual schemes to replace the Protestant heads of state with monarchs of their own denomination, although the collapse of the second Jacobite rebellion brought an end to much of the intrigue and controversy that had characterised the life of the family.

One attempts the compilation of any history with trepidation because obviously there are so many factors open to challenge and error, and a record of this nature is no exception. Early history of the family is somewhat sparse and in some cases not a little confused, with dates and occasionally even names being inconsistent, in addition to which there are minor discrepancies in some of the family pedigrees.

Nevertheless, I have endeavoured - no doubt inadequately - to piece together a patchwork of known facts in the fervent hope and faith that there may emerge if not the history at least a history of this noble and fascinating family.

So far as it has been possible I have tried to shake the dust from some facts and co-ordinate them into what may be a readable and easily digested compendium of events and associations which may be of interest. In some instances I have been guilty of straying a little from the main theme and have taken the liberty of widening the scope in my recording of the, family connections in the belief that the facts presented may be of even greater interest, and for these deviations I crave the indulgence of the reader and hope to be forgiven.

L.C.



TOWNLEY HALL.  
THE SEAT OF PEREGRINE EDWARD TOWNLEY, ESQ.

# PEDIGREE OF TOWNELEY OF TOWNELEY

Spartlingus, first Dean\* of Whalley upon record.

Liwliphus Cutwolve.

Cudwiphus.

Henry (the elder).

Robert, successor to Henry.

Henry (the younger), successor to Robert as Dean of Whalley.

William, successor to Henry. John, son of William.

Geoffrey (the elder), successor to his brother William as Dean of Whalley, had lands in "Tunleia," ante 13 John 1211-12 (the year of Roger's death). Coldcotes and Snodesworth.

Geoffrey (the younger), Dean of Whalley; alive in the time of William, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, who died 8 Henry III. 1223-24.

Henry.

Robert, who had the church of Alvertham, and afterwards of Rochdale.

Roger, the last Dean of Whalley in the time of Henry III. and Edward I.

Richard de Towneley, who held lands in Towneley, Caldecotes and Snodesworth by gift of his brother Roger about the 20th of Henry III. 1235-36. name of de "Thunlay," gave to John, son of Gilbert de la Leigh, lands in Thunlay, Bronshay, Worsthorpe and Altoft.

Peter, described as son of Richard, ob. s.p.

Alicia, heiress of one-third of Towneley, etc. s.p.

Robert, son of whom she survived. Agnes, heiress of one-third of Towneley, etc.

John del Hargreaves, dead before 1338. Cecelia, heiress of one-third of Towneley. Died before her husband prior to 1323. 17 Edw. III.

Thomas de la Leigh, 46 Edw. III. 1372, executed a deed of certain rents, etc., of the third part of the manor of Towneley and other premises which he held in trust jointly with Robert, son of Adam de Holden, and which they had by grant of Elias de Bridgetwisle, Rector of Warrington, and Robert de Boulton, chaplain. Founder of the chantry in Burnley Church.

Margeria, wife of William de Middlemore, who in her right held lands in Cliviger, called Holme.

William del Hargreaves, who 12 Edw. III. 1338 granted to Richard de Towneley, son of John de la Leigh, the lands and tenements which he had from his father in Towneley, and the reversion of those of his mother and of Alice, widow of Robert Hopkinson.

Katharine, daughter of Richard de Balderstone; settlement to Edw. III. 1336. s.p.

Gilbert de la Leigh, son and heir of John de la Leigh and Cecelia, alive in 1382; date of second marriage 1344. His seal bearing the shield of three mullets and a balliwick of Blackburnshire, the manor of Hapton, etc., and to Inquisition p.m. 4 Rich. II. 1381. s.p.

Richard de Towneley, escheator 1371 and sheriff of the county of Lancaster 1375-79, when he died. 19 Edw. III. 1345. Inquisition p.m. 4 Rich. II. 1381. s.p.

Laurence de la Leigh, also called de Towneley, named in the entail of Cliviger 1321. This name is found in a deed of Alice, widow of Ralph de Stirzaker, 19 Edw. III. 1345.

The earlier portion of this pedigree was rewritten by Mr. William Langton in 1873 from evidence collected by Christopher Towneley.  
The parts in italics have been recorded in the Royal College of Arms.

Michael de la Ley had, by gift of the Abbot and Convent of Newbo, lands in the township of Extwisle. s.d.

Gilbert de la Ley=Alice, named in the endowment of the chantry in Burnley Church by her son Thomas. Adam, a burgess of Clitheroe, named as son of Michael de la Ley in a deed by sundry burgesses. s.d.

\* These Deans were in Minor Orders only, and held the benefice. See Whitaker's "History of Whalley" and "Status de Blackburnshire." The hereditary transmission of benefices in this way was stopped by Lat. II.

A

William de Rignayden, 7th April, 2 Henry IV. 1401, had a grant of the wardship of Richard, son and heir of John de Towneley.	= Elizabeth, died 27th March, 2 Henry IV. 1401. Inq. p.m. held 3 Henry IV.	= John de Towneley, thirty-one years of age at the date of the Inq. p.m. of his father in 1381; found heir to his aunt and thirty-eight years old; died 1399. Inq. p.m. 1 Henry IV. In 1397 sealed the settlement which he made of his estates "with three mullets and a fesse," which was the seal that the De la Leghs formerly sealed withal. (Vide Chris. Towneley's MSS.)	= Isabella, who became the heiress of William, son of Matthew de Riston; marriage contract 1382; died before 1397.	Robert and Henry (both chaplains).	Alicia, wife of Edmund, son and heir of Sir Thos. Dacre; marriage contract, 30 Edw. III. 1356.
(N.B.—Inability to construe a deed in early French evidently led the first compiler of this pedigree into an error which is here corrected. The family name of this lady has not been discovered.—W. L.)		Richard de Towneley, twelve years of age at the date of his father's Inq. p.m., 1 Henry IV. At first in ward to Sir Thomas Fleming; Inq. for proof of age, to Henry IV. Inq. p.m., 33 Henry VI. 1455.	= Alice, survived alive in 1454.		
		John de Towneley of Towneley, forty years old in 1455; paid 17s. for his relief 31st May, 34 Henry VI. 1456; alive 1462; died before 1473.	= Isabella, dau. of Richard Shirburne; marriage settlement 16th April, 23 Henry VI. 1445; died before 1462.	Richard de Towneley 2nd son, the first of the house of Dutton	
Sir Richard Towneley, knighted by the Lord Stanley on Hutton field 22nd August, 1482; marriage contract, 24th September, 12 Edw. IV. 1472; died September, 1482. Inq. p.m. 19th December following.	= Joanna, dau. of Richard Southworth of Samtesbury, co. Lancs; survived alive 3 Richard III.	Laurence Towneley, 2nd son, the first of the house of Barnside, co. Pal. the Towneleys of Royle.	= Nicholas Towneley, 3rd son, 14 Edw. IV., of Greenfield, ancestor of the Towneleys of Royle.	Henry Towneley LL.D. in Holy Orders, 4th son. co. of Lancs.	Grace, wife of Roger, son and heir of Alexander Nowell of Read; marriage settlement 7th March, 8 Edward IV. 1468.
Sir John Towneley, Knight, a settlement was made on him and Isabella by his father in 1480. He was nine years old at his father's death in 1482, when his wardship was granted to Sir Charles Pilkington 31st May, 15 Henry VII. 1500; founded a chantry in Burnley Church. In his will, dated 28th April, 31 Henry VIII. 1539, he calls himself of Hapton.	= Isabella, dau. and heiress of Sir Charles Pilkington of Gayford, Kt. (1st wife); marriage contract dated 2nd August, 20 Edw. IV. 1480. (N.B.—The connexion of Sir Charles with the main line of the Pilkingtons has not been discovered by me. The arms were the same with the difference of an annulet in the dexter chief point as shown by glass in the chantry at Wakefield, founded by Sir John Pilkington, the brother of Sir Charles. Sir John married Joanna, the co-heiress of Balderstone, who survived him and their issue.—W. L.) Jennet Ingham, 2nd wife (1 son, 3 daus., all married).		= Ann, dau. of Ralph Caterall; settlement 15th July, 23 Henry VIII. 1531. She married 2ndly William Radcliffe of Hope, son and heir of Sir Alexander Radcliffe of Ordsall.	Charles Towneley, 2nd son.	Isabel, wife of Sir John Talbot of Salebury, and 2ndly of John Hopwood of Hopwood.
					Grace, wife of Thomas Hesketh of Rufford; bond of marriage 5th August, 7 Henry VII.
Richard Towneley, 40 years old at his father's death. Calls himself of Burnley in his will dated 7th February, 1555.	= Grace, dau. and heiress of Sir Godfrey Fobiamhe of Walton, co. Derby, Kt., and of Bennet, his wife. Indenture of marriage 4th July, 3 Henry VIII. 1511.	Charles Towneley, 2nd son: will dated April, 1539. Calls himself of Towneley. In 1534 had a grant of Lynrode from his father.	Helen, wife of Robert Neville of Liversedge, co. York; dispensation dated 1506.	Grace, 1st married to Sir Robert Hesketh of Rufford; 2ndly to Laurence Hackworth of Habersham.	Elizabeth, wife of John Cooke of London. Banastre of Alvertham.

B

A

B

Sir Richard Towneley, knighted at the Siege of Leith. Indenture of marriage 25th Sept., 28 Henry VI. 1536. Made his will 26th July, 1553; died 22nd Oct., 1554; Int. p.m. 10th Jan., 1-2 Philip and Mary 1555.

John. Christopher. Charles. Mary, sold heiress, thirteen years old and upwards at her father's death. Dispensation for her marriage, 1556, on the score of consanguinity.

Richard Towneley, son and heir, = Jane, eldest dau. of Ralph Assheton of Great Leas. Will dated 13th May, 1593; bur. at Burnley; died 13th July, 1634. = Mary, sold heiress, thirteen years old and upwards at her father's death. Dispensation for her marriage, 1556, on the score of consanguinity.

Richard Towneley, born 16th April, 1593; died unmarried at Lincoln; bur. at Nocton Church 23rd Dec., 1635; s.p. Ing. P. m. 30th Oct., 1636 (P.). Charles Towneley, = Mary, 2nd dau. of Sir Francis Trappes Birnam of Harrogate, 1600-1. Both died in infancy. John, John, Christopher Towneley, = Alice, dau. of John Bradavil, the indefatigable transcriber; born 9th of Portfield, re-died at St. Omer at the age of sixteen, 1622. Francis, Ann, only dau., born = John Plumpton, son of 20th May, 1611; died and heir of Sir Edge. in 1643 at Thorneton Plumpton of Plumpton, co. Yorks., Kt., died about 25th July, 1644, in Knaresborough Castle of a bruise received at Hesom; bur. at Knaresborough Church.

Richard Towneley, Esq., = Margaret or Mary, dau. of Clement son and heir, born 10th of Thorne and of Barningham, Norf., Esq.; bur. at Burnley 20th Jan., 1672 (P.). This lady has been named Margaret in some versions of the pedigree (W. L.).

Clement Towneley, Richard Towneley, Charles Towneley, 3rd son, born 10th April, 1658; died at Nocton 1st Mar., 1712; bur. at Burnley 5th Mar. (P.). Ursula, dau. of Richard Fermor of Tusmore, co. Oxfr., Esq., born 1662; died at Telsacre, co. Flint, 16th July, 1748; bur. at Llanasaph. (Both dead young.)

A

Frances, dau. and heiress of Thomas Wimbysh of Nocton, co. Lincs, and of his wife, Mary, dau. of Sir Nicholas Byron of Claydon, and heiress of her brother, Sir John Byron, who died without issue. She married, 2ndly, Alexander Radcliffe.

John, named in the entail of 1531. Bennet, wife of Thos. Nowell of Read, co. Lanes, Esq.; living 1507. Grace, wife of Hugh Halstead of Haberham Eves, co. Lanes.

John Towneley of Gray's Inn. This gentleman suffered much persecution on account of his religion. In a deed of entail, 2 Eliz., he calls himself of Burnley. In a later one of Towneley. Will dated 22nd Sept., 6 Jac. 1608. Died 1607, and bur. at Burnley. (1) Thomas. (2) Frances. (3) Charles, = Susan, dau. of ... Rose. (4) Anne, mar. Wm. Middleton of Stock-held, co. Yorks, being his 2nd wife; andly mar. Sir Edw. Osborne of Ry-ton, co. Yorks. (5) Margaret: died unmarried. (6) Elizabeth. (7) Francis.

John, John, Christopher Towneley, = Alice, dau. of John Bradavil, the indefatigable transcriber; born 9th of Portfield, re-died at St. Omer at the age of sixteen, 1622. Francis, Ann, only dau., born = John Plumpton, son of 20th May, 1611; died and heir of Sir Edge. in 1643 at Thorneton Plumpton of Plumpton, co. Yorks., Kt., died about 25th July, 1644, in Knaresborough Castle of a bruise received at Hesom; bur. at Knaresborough Church.

John Towneley, 2nd son, born 30th Aug., 1631, living 1664; bur. at Burnley Oct. 8th, 1678. Francis Towneley, Mary, eldest dau., mar. Anne, 3rd dau., born Catharine, 2nd dau., 23rd Nov., 1637; ob. born 23rd Nov., 1637; and living unmarried 1664. Philip Constable of Hough, co. Lincs, Esq.; she was born 20th Sept., 1630. the Fields.

John, John, Richard Towneley, Thos. Towneley, = Frances, = Culbert Margaret, Cecily, 3rd dau., 2nd dau., 10th April, 1664 (P.). Sept., 1666. Esq. (P.). (Nuns at Gossez, Paris.)

A

Richard Towneley=Mary, dau. of Towneley Esq., William, Lord Widdrington: born 13th June, 1689; died at Burnley 14th Aug., 1735; bur. at Burnley 18th Aug. (P.).	Charles Towneley, 2nd son, born 1690; ob. 1713.	Sir John Towneley, 3rd son, born 1708; ob. 1782; Kt. of the Royal Military Order of St. Louis.	George Towneley, 4th son, born 1708; ob. May, 1706; mar. Mary, dau. and coheir of Al. best Hodgson of Leighton Hall, relict of Ralph Standish; ob. 1786.	Francis Towneley, 5th son, born 1708; suffered 30th July, 1740; unmarried; 1740; remains bur. with his sister Mary's.	Mary, eldest dau., born 9th Aug., 1688; died in London 13th Aug., 1716; bur. in the churchyard of St. Pancras, Middlesex.	Ursula, 2nd dau., born 24th May, 1687; died at Towneley 12th Oct., 1699; Non, Burnley. 1705 (P.).	Charlotte, 3rd dau., died young; born 24th May, 1687; died at Towneley 12th Oct., 1699; Non, Burnley. 1705 (P.).	Ursula, 4th dau., born 24th Dec., 1693; a nun living at Louvain, bur. at Non, Burnley. 1705 (P.).	Margaret, young, 6th Aug., 1701; mar. Sir George Mostyn of Talacre.	Theresa, 5th dau., born 6th Aug., 1701; mar. Sir George Mostyn of Talacre.
Charles, ob. inf.; bur. at Burnley 4th March, 1717.	William Towneley of Towneley, Esq., born May, 1714; died at Walton, near Bath, 2nd Feb., 1741-2; bur. in the church of Bath Weston (P.).	Cecilia, 5th dau., and at length heiress of Ralph Standish of Standish, Esq., by Lady Philippa Howard, dau. of Henry, Duke of Norfolk (P.).	Richard, ob. inf.; bur. 1722.	Richard, ob. inf.; bur. 1729.	Charles, ob. inf.; s.p.; Burley, 1729.	Charles, ob. inf.; s.p.; Burley, 1729.	John Towneley, Esq., of Corney House, Chiswick, born 15th June, 1731; living 1766.	Barbara, 4th dau. of Edw. Deaconson of Wroughton, co. pal. Lancs, Esq.; born in Jan., 1731; mar. at Standish 8th May, 1756.	Mary Catherine, born in London Jan., 1721; mar. Thos. Hornvold, Esq., of Blackmore Park, co. Worcester; died in London 25th June, 1762; bur. at Hamley.	
Charles Towneley Esq., son and heir, born 1st Oct., 1737; ob. s.p. 3rd Jan., 1805; bur. at Burnley.	Ralph Standish=Henrietta, 6th dau. of Roger Strickland, Esq., of Calterick, co. s.p. Ebor.; born in Nov., 1741; mar. 28th Aug., 1762; living in Jan., 1766.	Edward Towneley=Anne, 2nd son, born 25th June, 1740; assumed the name of Thomas Standish; died s.p. at Standish Easter Sunday, 29th March, 1807.	Cecilia, only dau., 3rd July, 1741; died A.D. 1814.	Strickland of Sizergh, co. Wasm., Esq.; 2ndly Gerald Strickland, Esq.	Peregrine Towneley, and of Corney House, Chiswick, co. Middlesex, J.P. Parish of St. James's, and D.L., F.R.S. and F.S.A.; born at Corney House, 10th Oct., 1762; High Sheriff 1831; died 31st Dec., 1840; bur. at St. Peter's, Burnley, co. pal. Lancs.	Edward=Charlotte Theresa, 4th dau. of Robert Drummond, Esq., of Cadland, co. Southampton and Cleveland Row in the Parish of St. James's, Westminster, 6th son of Wm., 4th Viscount Strathallan; mar. April 22nd, 1794; died 11th Jan., 1847; bur. at St. Peter's, Burnley, afores.	Barbara and Mary, born 9th April, 1757, at Burghope, co. Hereford; Mary died 10th Oct. following, and bur. at Wellingbur. with her sisters.	Ursula, born at Burghope 15th June, 1759; died 10th Oct. following, and bur. at Wellingbur. with her sisters.	Frances, born 1801; mar. 1821 Thos. Stonor, Camoys.	Charlotte Mary, born 6th Feb., 1798; died unmarried 1817.
Charles Towneley, Esq., of Towneley, J.P., and D.L., born 8th Jan., 1803; Col. 1st Lanes Militia, a trustee of the British Museum, F.R.S. and F.S.A., High Sheriff of Lancs, 1857; eldest son, died 5th Nov., 1876; bur. at St. Peter's, Burnley, afores.	Lady Caroline Harriet Molyneux, dau. of Wm. Philip, 2nd Earl of Sefton; mar. 10th Nov., 1836, at St. James's, Westminster; died 8th Feb., 1866, and bur. at St. Peter's, Burnley, afores.	Alice Mary, youngest dau. and coheir, born 16th July, 1840, at Tilney St., afores.; mar. as his 2nd wife Thos. Baron O'Hagan, 2nd Aug., 1871, at St. Mary's, Burnley. died 1921.	Richard Henry Towneley, Esq., Lieut. and Life Guards, born 5th Feb., 1849; died 1877.	Theresa Harriet, born 1843; died 1926.	Lucy Evelyn, born 1844; died 1928.	Charlotte Mary, born 6th Feb., 1798; died unmarried 1817.	Frances, born 1801; mar. 1821 Thos. Stonor, Camoys.	Mary Elizabeth, born 1846; died 1922.	Mabel Anne, born 1854; died 1921.	
Caroline Theresa, born 8th Jan., 1838, at Tilney St., in the Parish of St. George, Hanover Square; mar. 18th July, 1858, at Warwick St. R.C. Church to Montague Arthur, Viscount Norreys, son and heir of the Earl of Abingdon. She died 4th Sept., 1873; bur. at Kensal Green Cemetery.	Emily Frances, born Nov., 1839, at Tilney St., afores.; mar. 6th Aug., 1863, to Lord Alex. Francis Charles Gordon-Lennox, sometime Capt. Royal Horse Guards, M.P. for Shoreham 1840-50, who died 22nd Jan., 1892, 5th son of the Duke of Richmond, K.G. She died 31st Dec., 1892; both bur. in Kensal Green Cemetery, afores.									



## Chapter One

### EARLY ROOTS

In attempting to present historical records, one is confronted by the lack of even the most basic facts from the meagre records in existence, and the early characters of the Towneley story are no exception. Historian Dr Whitaker has established that the family's early roots emerged around the year 871, following the succession of the 22-year-old Alfred the Great as King of the Saxons.

At the time Spartlingus, as Dean of Whalley, administered large areas of land which included what was later to become Towneley land. His successor was Liwlphus Cutwolfe, who, we are told, derived his name from the belief that he severed the tail of a wolf whilst hunting in the Forest of Rossendale. Whether this story is myth or fact can never be established, but his successor, Cudwlphus, may well have been a relative - most probably his son - and later administrators held the hereditaments until the victory of William of Normandy at Hastings. As a result much of England was divided between the Conqueror's barons who pledged oaths of allegiance and resident subjects who in accepting his sovereignty also took an oath of allegiance.

As the new feudal system became more established with each succeeding generation, portions of land were granted to the favourites of the overlord and frequently as marriage settlements to members of his family. A glance at the family tree tells us that the first mention of 'Tunleia' was during the reign of King John with the marriage of Geoffrey the Elder to the daughter of Roger de Lacy, the Constable of Chester.

However, in an endeavour to simplify the complexities of the very early Towneley pedigree, the family tree is herewith reproduced from the biographical study of Mary Elizabeth Towneley.<sup>[1]</sup>

As will be seen from this early family chart, Richard de Towneley was the main base of continuity of the family. He became a knight of the shire from 1361 to 1371, and at the time of his death in 1379 was the sheriff of Lancashire. He had three sons John (born in 1350 who inherited the estate), Robert and Henry (both described as chaplains) - and a daughter, Alicia, who in 1358 married Edmund Dacre, the heir of Sir Thomas Dacre, a wealthy and prominent man in the Lancaster area, who settled on his son the manors of Tatham, Over-Hesham and Hesham.

John de Towneley was 31 years old when his father died, and on the death of his aunt seven years later he inherited the remainder of the property formerly held by her. His wife was Isabella de Rixton, the daughter and heiress of William de Rixton (marriage contract 1382), and there were two children of the union, Richard and Matilda (who married William Fleming, the son and heir of the Baron of Wath, Thomas Fleming). John became a coroner for the county and obviously rose to a position of some importance for he was assigned by the reigning monarch, Richard II, to special mission that should have taken him to Calais. Paradoxically, he attended to some of his own affairs in Kent instead and thus incurred his sovereign's displeasure. History does not divulge how far the King's vexation was invoked and there is no record of any form of retribution or punishment.

John's wife Isabella predeceased him and he married a second time, his new bride being named Elizabeth - her surname is indecipherable in records. Elizabeth survived him and she also took a second partner in marriage, her husband being William de Rigmaiden, a member of an important family in the Garstang area, and William was granted the wardship of John's son and heir Richard, prior to which the boy had been in the custody of his sister Matilda's father-in-law, Sir Thomas Fleming.

Richard was a mere boy of 12 when his father died in 1399, and from his marriage - here again we are denied the surname of his wife Alice - there was issue of two sons, John, who was the elder and born in 1414, and Richard. Of course, John was the chief beneficiary of the estate, and Richard (whose wife was named Ellen and there was issue) was the founder of the Dutton branch of the Towneleys from which also emerged the Belfield Hall and Fulbourn (Cambs.) links. Richard senior, who fought at Agincourt in 1415, predeceased his wife Alice in 1454.

In 1418 John, the elder son of Richard and Alice, had been contracted in marriage to Isabel, the daughter of Nicholas Boteler of Rawcliffe, but the contract was annulled, and in 1445 he married Isabella, the daughter of Richard Sherburne of Stonyhurst. It was John who was granted a licence from the Bishop of Lichfield for the erection of a domestic chapel at Towneley.

Isabella's family, the Sherburnes, had a long tradition in Lancashire with a history dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The family seat was at Stonyhurst - now the famous Catholic college - a magnificent Elizabethan house that replaced an earlier structure. Sir Richard Sherburne began the rebuilding in 1592, and when he died two years later the house was continued by his son, who, however, stopped its reconstruction and it was left to his great-grandson to complete the structure. The estate passed to Sir Nicholas Sherburne, whose daughter married the Duke of Norfolk, and it became their home. Following her death it was inherited by Thomas Weld, who offered it for use as a Catholic school in 1794.

Local tradition maintains that Oliver Cromwell stayed overnight in the house on August 16th, 1648, and he is reputed to have described it as the finest 'half-house' he had ever seen.

[1] The family tree used in the biography of Mary Elizabeth Towneley (1846-1922) was itself derived from one produced by William Langton for *Pedigrees of The County Families of England volume 1: Lancashire* [J. Foster; Head, Hole and Co., 1873] and then updated for volume 2 of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of T. D. Whitaker's *A History of the Original Parish of Whalley and the Honor of Clitheroe* [J. G. Nichols and P. A. Lyons; Routledge, 1876]. The present edition provides a more complete version of Langton's pedigree chart.

## Chapter Two

### FAMILY BRANCHES

John and Isabella de Towneley had five sons and one daughter - Richard, Laurence, Nicholas, Henry, Barnard and Grace.

Laurence, the second son, became the forerunner of the family's Barnside branch. Barnside (or Barnsett) was situated in a somewhat bleak position on the outskirts of Colne and originally was an ancient manor granted to the monks of Pontefract by Edmund de Lacy in 1258. On the dissolution of the monasteries the manor was sold to John Braddyll of Whalley, who disposed of it to Laurence Towneley in 1545, and it eventually passed into the possession of Richard Towneley, who on his death in 1630 left the estate to a cousin of the same name. This Richard married Alice, the daughter of Francis Paslew of Wiswell (probably a relative of Abbot Paslew, the last abbot of Whalley Abbey), who died childless, and Richard remarried, his wife on this occasion being Anne, the widow of Mr J. Assheton of Cuerdale and who was the daughter of Richard Shuttleworth of Gawthorpe. Richard, however, met an untimely death when bull-baiting at Gisburn about 1655.

His son aged 14 (again named Richard) inherited the properties of Barnside and Carr, and it was his great-granddaughter Margaret - the sole heiress - who married John Clayton of Little Harwood, as a consequence of which the estate passed out of the Towneley's possession. Barnside was abandoned in the 18th century, it being suggested that the warmer location of Carr Hall was preferred.

Nicholas, the third son of John and Isabella, was named as of Greenfield and was destined to become the head of a household that eventually became the Townleys of Royle - the slight variation in the spelling of the family name appears to have been a minor identity of the generations which followed. Nicholas's first wife was Lettice, the daughter and co-heir of William Talbot, but she died childless and Nicholas remarried, his second wife being Elizabeth, the widow, of William Tempest of Broughton and daughter of Richard Catterall. There were two sons of the union, Richard and Nicholas. The latter became a chaplain in the court of Henry VIII, and Henry Whitaker, the historian, is of the opinion that this Nicholas was probably the clerk of works in the building of Cardinal College, now Christ Church College, Oxford.

The elder son, Richard, married Margaret, the daughter of John Clerke of Royle and Walshaw, and with this marriage acquired that valuable estate. A descendant of the union, another Richard, born in 1689, inherited Belfield Hall, Rochdale, on the death of the owner, Alex Butterworth, in 1728. This Richard married Jane Greaves of Gartside Hall, who was the heiress of William Greaves Beaupre Bell of Fulbourn Manor and Beaupre Hall, Cambs. Richard died in 1762, and Belfield Hall was disposed of in 1855. <sup>[2]</sup>

Through several generations Nicholas's branch also linked up with many important local families of the day - the Woodroofs of Bank Top, the Shuttleworths, the Haydocks of Heasandford, the Sherburnes of Stonyhurst, the Barcrofts, the Habberghams, until eventually, Anne, the daughter of Thomas Townley (1706-1770), married Robert Parker Esq. of Extwistle, thus bringing into existence the Townley-Parkers of Royle.

[2] In Chapter One L.C. has already told us that Townleys of Belfield were descended from the Dutton branch rather than the Royle branch, a conclusion with which their present day descendants are in agreement.

The Townley-Parkers had descendants who subsequently settled in America, a notable member being Colonel Richard Townley, who distinguished himself as a legislator in the province of New Jersey. The Townley-Parkers of Royle acquired much wealth and property, most of which eventually passed to the Parkers' Cuerden branch and the Tattons of Tatton Hall, also relatives of the Townley-Parkers.

According to Christopher Towneley, the family historian, the estate at Dutton, in the parish of Ribchester, was Towneley property in the 14th century, but it was disposed of to John White, the vicar of the Church of Preston in Amounderness. However, it was reacquired by the family, and Henry, the fourth son of John and Isabella, lived there along with his wife, Alice, the daughter and co-heiress of Abraham Colthurst Esq., of Burnley.<sup>[3]</sup> The couple were married at Ribchester and they had a substantial family of six sons and three daughters. Dutton Hall, a two-storeyed stone house on the southern slope of Longridge Fell, was erected by Richard Towneley in the 1670's, and as late as 1907 it was still in existence as a farmhouse.

The youngest son, Barnard, a clerk in Holy Orders and a doctor of laws, became the dean of faculties at York and was the president of the Consistory Court of Prerogatives.

The only daughter of John and Isabella was Grace, who in 1468 married Roger, the son and heir of Alexander Nowell of Read. A descendant of Roger and Grace, also named Roger, enlarged the Nowell estate when he purchased land sequestered from the neighbouring abbey at Whalley. This Roger was sheriff of the county in 1609-10 and it was he who interrogated some of the Lancashire witches at Read Hall prior to their trial and subsequent execution at Lancaster Castle. The Nowell family acquired Read Hall about 1364, and various alterations have been made throughout the years, and it was reconstructed between 1818 and 1825.

John de Towneley was predeceased by his wife Isabella, who died before 1462, and his death took place before 1473. His eldest son, Richard, who was granted the inheritance, married Joanna, the daughter of Richard Southworth of Samlesbury. Samlesbury Hall, now a listed building of striking architectural beauty, was rebuilt about the year 1325 by Gilbert de Southworth following the destruction of the original building by invading Scots, and this was further improved by Sir Thomas Southworth in the 16th century. The prominence of the Southworths reached its peak in the Elizabethan period when Sir John (1546-1595) held an elevated military position and was also sheriff of the county. But the family's prestige and fortunes gradually waned, chiefly, it is believed, due to their reluctance to recognise the new Established Church. Later members of the family did eventually identify themselves with the new doctrine, but nonetheless their fortunes gradually faded into obscurity with the passage of time, and in 1674 the family home was purchased by Thomas Braddyll for the modest sum of £3,150.

Richard Towneley fought in the Wars of the Roses, and in August 1482, he was knighted by Lord Stanley for his part in the Battle of Hutton Field in Scotland, along with his brother-in-law, Christopher Southworth, the heir to the Samlesbury estate. However, Sir Richard did not survive long to enjoy his newly-acquired honour, for he died a month after his knighthood as a result of wounds received in battle, being survived by a wife and five young children - three boys (John and Charles and John) and two girls (Isabel and Grace).

[3] Here L. C. appears to have mixed up Henry, 4<sup>th</sup> son of John and Isabella, with another Henry of Dutton who married Alice Colthurst around 1630. There are no records to suggest that the earlier Henry, born around 1450, was ever married.

## Chapter Three

### **SIR JOHN AND THE TOWNELEY 'BOGGART'**

Richard and Joanna's eldest son, John, was only nine years old at the time of his father's death. Of the second son, Charles, little is known, but the third son, strangely enough also named John, was named as of Hurstwood and, in fact, we find his name omitted from some of the family pedigrees. This John of Hurstwood had two children, Joanna, who became the wife of Richard Shuttleworth, and Barnard, who married Agnes Ormerod after reputedly having seized her when she was under age. Agnes was the daughter of George Ormerod of Rossendale, a relative of the nearby Ormerod House family, and Barnard and Agnes had a son, John, born in 1554. Barnard is described as a builder and is reputed to have built Hurstwood Hall. He also worked on extensions to Hoghton Tower - not without the indignity, it must be stated, of a court injunction having been issued against him by the de Hoghtons to enforce fulfilment of a contract previously made. Hurstwood Hall remained the property of the Towneleys until a descendant, Catherine (living 1743), married Richard White Esq., the deputy governor of the Tower of London, who devised the property to his nephew, Richard Chamberlain, who sold it to Charles Towneley in 1803. Barnard outlived his wife by 16 years, dying in 1602.

Isabel, the elder daughter of Sir Richard and Joanna, married twice. Her first husband, Sir John Talbot, was a member of the notable Salesbury family who because of his extreme height was nicknamed Long John Talbot. John died in 1515, thoughtfully making adequate provision for his wife and younger sons. Isabel's second husband was John Hopwood Esq. of Hopwood.

In 1501 the younger daughter, Grace, became the second wife of Thomas Hesketh of Rufford, whose brother, Sir Richard, was Attorney-General to Henry VIII. The Heskeths were a very influential family and some of their members had gained distinction in wars against the French and Scots, with their records dating back to the early 14th century. However, one member, Richard, brought family disgrace when he was executed for plotting against Queen Elizabeth I. The family home, Rufford Old Hall, situated 5½ miles north-east of Ormskirk, is a delightful timbered manor house erected in the late 15th century and presented to the National Trust in 1936, and it is a fond belief that William Shakespeare made an appearance there along with a band of strolling players in the latter part of the 16th century.

Grace had only nine years of marriage, her death occurring on June 29th, 1510. The couple had several children who died in infancy and their only surviving son, William, died without issue. However, Thomas had three illegitimate children, one of whom, the eldest, Sir Robert Hesketh, forged a further link with the Towneleys when he married Grace, the daughter of Sir John Towneley. Thomas Hesketh died in 1523.

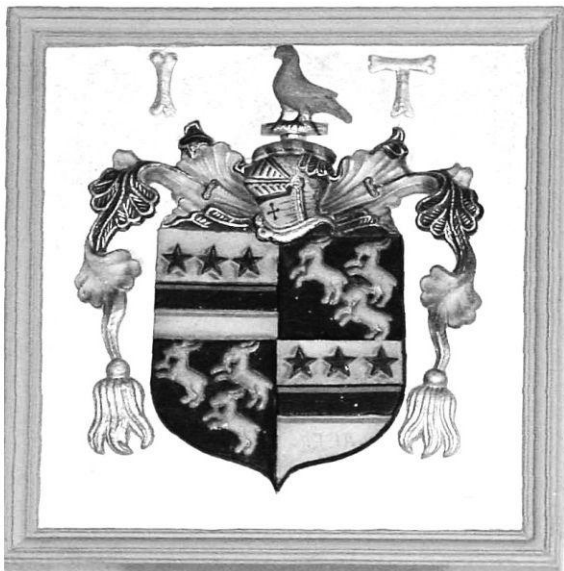
The eldest son of Sir Richard and Joanna Towneley, John was baptised at Burnley and went to school at Whalley Abbey. He was only nine years old when his father died and he was placed in the guardianship of Sir Charles Pilkington of Gaytford, Notts., who negotiated the boy's marriage to his own daughter and heiress, Isabella. John was knighted during the Scottish campaign in 1497 and he was appointed high sheriff of the county in 1531, a position he held until his death. He was an indefatigable, builder, re-erecting the Towneley chantry in St Peter's Church, Burnley, and also adding a domestic chapel,

sacristy, gateway and several turrets to the north wing at Towneley Hall. In addition, he built a fine house at Ighthenhill.

Unfortunately, Sir John's reputation became somewhat tarnished when he sought and was granted a charter by the reigning monarch (Henry VIII) to extend his already considerable holdings of land. He built a tower at Hapton and surrounded it by a huge park of about 11,000 acres, the second largest in the county, and in 1513 copy-holders at Hapton began to raise their voices in complaining that he had encroached on their privileges. He ignored the protests for a considerable time, but in 1525 he was prosecuted in the Duchy Court by Madame Ann Birtwistle, a widow, and her son Richard, of Huncote Hall, whose charges were upheld that Sir John was unlawfully holding lands in Huncote.

Protests were also forthcoming in the Burnley area, where in exercising the royal prerogative he had denied some of the local peasantry the use of grazing land and in some cases even possessed their cottages. Obviously feelings ran high and much animosity, was aroused by this insensitive, even callous, conduct, and as a result a feud developed between the inhabitants and Sir John.

Sympathy for the peasants involved became widespread at what was considered to be excessive greed on the part of Sir John, and indignation grew on the part of the local population. The outcome was an outcry against him that eventually developed into the legend that his disconsolate spirit ought to be roaming about in distress and the belief that a boggart (ghost) was to be heard nightly making mournful sounds on a bridge in the vicinity of Towneley - a belief indicating a confession of Sir John's guilt. This boggart became so real in the minds of local people that a priest was requested to lay it by means of bell and book. However, there was a proviso for the laying of the phantom, the condition being that it would not manifest itself so long as there was green leaf in a nearby plantation. As a result this area of land was planted with holly trees. Whether this story is fact or fiction, it has left the legacy of two names in the district - Boggart Bridge and Hollin Hey Clough.



The arms of Sir John Towneley, (at one time on the outside wall of the chapel), can now be seen above the fireplace in the servants' hall at Towneley.

Sir John took no part in the Pilgrimage of Grace, but his sympathies were inevitably with the Catholic Church, and he witnessed with great sorrow the death of his dear friend, Abbot Paslew, executed for his refusal to comply with the orders of Henry VIII, and it is believed that the abbot passed his vestments to Sir John prior to his execution.

In his will dated April 28th, 1531, Sir John referred to himself as of Hapton. He did, in fact, spend much time on his Hapton estate, and he administered the Towneley holdings for 60 years.

He was described as a robust man, lively, energetic and exuberant. On his death he left money for 'One hundred Masses in honour of the five wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ to be said for my soul', and one wonders whether he may have been seeking absolution for his past transgressions.

There were two sons (Richard and Charles) and six daughters (Helen, Grace, Johanna, Jane, Elizabeth and Margaret) of his first wife Isabella. John's second wife was Jennet Ingham, by whom he had one son and three daughters, and his third matrimonial partner was Anne Catterall, the settlement for this marriage being signed in 1531. Anne was the daughter and co-heiress along with her six sisters of Ralph Catterall of Catterall Hall, near Garstang, a family whose history dated back to Ralph de Catterall in the mid-13th century.

Sir John died in 1541 and his widow Anne also remarried, becoming the second wife of Sir William Radcliffe of Hope, and this union provided further interesting Towneley associations, for her husband's son by a previous marriage, Alexander, who gained a knighthood during the Scottish expedition in 1560, married the widow of Sir Richard Towneley in 1555. Sir William was the son and heir of Sir Alexander Radcliffe of Ordsall, in the Salford area, a family of immense local influence with roots dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and who at one time owned Smithills at Bolton. Ordsall Hall, the family home, accommodated Elizabeth I for a brief stay - Margaret Radcliffe was the Queen's favourite maid of honour - and the house also had some associations with Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot.

Sir William Radcliffe took part in the Scottish expedition of 1544, and in 1553 he was joint commander of the Salford contingent in the military muster of that year.

Anne died in 1551 and her husband took a third wife, Anne Bellingham of Burneside, Westmorland, the widow of Sir Robert Assheton.

Tragically, both Sir William and his son, Sir Alexander, died as a result of the plague in September, 1568.

## Chapter Four

### ACQUISITION OF THE NOCTON ESTATE

Reverting to the family of Sir John and Isabella (there was no issue of his third marriage to Anne Catterall), the eldest daughter, Helen, married into a distinguished Yorkshire family when she became the wife of Robert Nevile of Liversedge, a family whose history goes back to the middle of the 12th century when Gilbert de Nevile, the co-founder with his brother Alan of Topholme Abbey, held land in Lincolnshire. The Neviles had strong military traditions and later settled in Yorkshire, for many generations holding the manor, park and family seat in Liversedge, 11 miles west of Leeds.

The second daughter, Grace, married into the same family as her aunt Grace when she became the wife of Sir Robert Hesketh of Rufford, who was knighted by Henry VIII for valour in France. There were two boys, Thomas and Robert, and two girls, Ellen and Jane, of the marriage. The first son, Thomas, was knighted in 1553, inherited the estate and served with distinction at the Siege of Leith. Nevertheless, he served a term of imprisonment for recusancy in 1581.

Sir Robert died in 1539 and Grace remarried, this time her husband being Lawrence Habergham, a member of a wealthy and important local family that faded into obscurity due to the dissolute behaviour of John Habergham, who fecklessly mortgaged the family home to George Halsted, a Manchester doctor, and was unable to redeem it.

Johanna also married twice. Her first partner was Thomas Sherburne of Stonyhurst, a family linked with the Towneleys in an earlier generation, and her second husband was Ralph Shuttleworth of Hacking, an early branch of the Gawthorpe family, whose recorded history goes back to the year 1388, when Henry de Shuttleworth married Agnes, the daughter and heiress of William de Hacking, and they had a son, Ughtred de Shuttleworth. It was Sir Richard Shuttleworth, Chief Justice of Chester during the reign of Elizabeth I, who laid the plans for the present Gawthorpe Hall, subsequently built by his brother and successor, the Rev. Laurence Shuttleworth, the Rector of Wickford.

Jane, the fourth daughter, married William, the son and heir of Robert Dalton, whilst her younger sister, Elizabeth, married John Cooke, of London.

The youngest daughter, Margaret, became the wife of Nicholas, the son and heir of Richard Banastre of Alvetham (now Altham), a family originally of Walton-le-Dale who settled in Alvetham in the 14th century, were generous benefactors to the abbey of Whalley and active supporters of the Royalist cause in the Civil War. The Banastres figured prominently in the area until the end of the 18th century.

Charles, Sir John's second son who referred to himself as of Towneley, was granted Lynrode (now part of Brierfield district) in 1534. He married Elizabeth Kaye of Rochdale, formerly the wife of John Nowell, the son of Roger Nowell of Read, within the first year of her widowhood, a dispensation for the marriage being necessary on account of consanguinity (dated December 20th, 1525). And it was their son, John, a successful lawyer of Gray's Inn, London, who was destined to play an extremely important part in the annals of the Towneley family.



Richard, the elder son, inherited the family property on Sir John's death when he was 40 years old. His wife was Grace, the daughter and heiress of Sir Godfrey Foljambe of Walton, Derbyshire. Here again we find the Towneleys linking up with a family of distinction, for Grace's father, Sir Godfrey, served three periods as Sheriff of Derbyshire during the reign of Henry VIII, and later members of the family also served in that office.

Richard and Grace had two sons and two daughters - Richard, John, Benedicta (who married Thomas Nowell of Read and had two children by him, Grace, 1545, and Elizabeth, living in 1567), and Grace, who became the wife of Hugh Halsted of Habergham Eaves, a member of a prominent local family of yeomen farmers who throughout their long history acquired considerable land and property and in doing so became recognised as minor gentry.

It was said that Richard Towneley senior frequently ran counter to the family's deep-rooted religious persuasion and he and his elder son engaged in many fierce quarrels. In 1536 son Richard, then 18 years old, married Frances Wymbish, the co-heir, along with her brother Thomas and sisters Abraa and Jane, of Christopher Wymbish of Nocton, and young Richard was knighted in 1547 by the Protector Somerset for his part in the Siege of Leith.

Sir Richard and Frances spent much of their married life at the Towneley's Hapton estate and they had three sons - John, Christopher and Charles (all of whom died in infancy) - and a daughter Mary (born 1542). Sir Richard was appointed an executor to his brother-in-law Thomas's will in 1552; he made his own will the following year and died in 1554, a year before the death of his father. The elder Richard had appointed his nephew, John Towneley, a lawyer, as an executor to his will, and one wonders whether the father's churlishness had remained with him following his son's death, for Mary was omitted from her grandfather's list of bequests.

Nonetheless, Mary did inherit the Towneley estate, and in 1556, having received special dispensation from Pope Paul IV on account of consanguinity, John the lawyer married the youthful Mary. As to whether their marriage was arranged by the family must always remain a matter for speculation, but it is reasonably safe to assume that the union was encouraged and had the blessing of the Towneley elders, as it enabled them to keep the estate within the family. John was 15 years his wife's senior and was the son of Charles, Mary's father's first cousin. <sup>[4]</sup>

On May 5th, 1568, Mary's mother Frances settled her Nocton property on her daughter and son-in-law John, thus enhancing considerably the value of the Towneley holdings. Nocton is situated about seven miles south-east of Lincoln, and John and Mary spent much of their married life there.

The Nocton portion of the family estate included 'two parts of Nocton monastery' which in 1538-9 had been granted to Charles Brandon, the Duke of Suffolk, the grandfather of the ill-fated Lady Jane Grey, whose husband, Lord Guildford Dudley, was the fourth son of the Duke of Northumberland. Guildford's elder brother Ambrose, who was confined in the Tower of London along with him but later released, was the second husband of Elizabeth, Lady Talboys of Kyme, the widow of Sir Richard Towneley's brother-in-law, on whose death in 1552 the Nocton property had passed to Sir Richard's wife Frances.

[4] L. C. has this slightly wrong, Charles was Mary's father's uncle.

## Chapter Five

### JOHN AND MARY

The marriage of John and Mary Towneley by all accounts was a happy one, and it certainly was a fruitful one - there were 14 children of the marital bed - and there is little doubt that their marriage epitomised the steadfast piety to the Roman Catholic Church that characterised the life of the family in a period of religious intolerance and suspicion.

Richard (born 1566) was their eldest son and heir. John (1567-1632), the second son (who subsequently had one son, Eulisses), attended the English school in Douai in France; Charles (1569) died young. Christopher (1570) married Theodosia Tunstall of Thurland and they had three daughters, Dorothy, Frances and Margaret (who married Hugh Wadsworth of Preston). Christopher died at Pendle Hall in Ightenhill and was buried at Burnley. Fifth son Charles (1572-1646), named as of Braddon, married Susan Rose and they had two daughters, Ellen (who married Henry Sherborne of Ribbleton) and Susan (wife of Thomas Button, a goldsmith, of London).

Then came Thomas, Nicholas, Jane, Frances, Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth, Francis, and finally Anne, who became the second wife of William Middleton, the son and heir of a family of three sons and two daughters of John Middleton of Stockeld in the parish of Skipton, a conspicuous family with roots going back to the 13th century. William's first wife was Mary, the daughter of Edmund Eltofts of Farnhill, and he predeceased Anne and she took as her second partner Sir Edward Osborne of Ryton, Yorkshire.



**John Towneley  
the recusant**

On June 24th, 1559, the holding of Holy Mass became illegal, and the following year Mr Burgess, the Towneley's bailiff, constructed a handsome folding altar which when not in use resembled a wardrobe. This structure enabled the family to indulge in clandestine worship at the Dyneley home of Mr Burgess and thus John, Mary and their growing family heard Mass in secret for some time. In 1564 John received the first of his many periods of imprisonment for his religious transgressions, and the altar was placed in the custody of relatives of Mr Burgess at Brindle, near Preston, and through subsequent generations it was located at several venues until it finally came to rest - still in possession of the descendants of Mr Burgess - at Bolton-le-Sands.

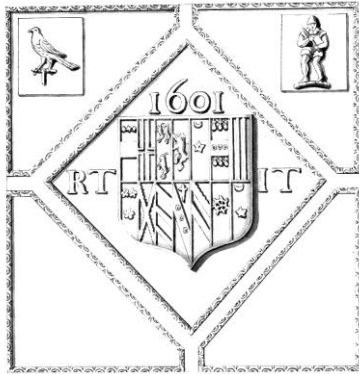
Elizabethan England was a perilous age for Roman Catholics and recusants suffered terms of imprisonment and fines for their failure to conform to the tenets of the new Established Church. But the

defiant John and Mary persistently held fast to their creed, secreted Catholic priests at Towneley Hall in order to perform Mass and were severely punished for their contumacy. They were heavily fined by Queen Elizabeth's Inquisition Council, and John suffered several terms of imprisonment in different parts of the country, and in 1584, when incarcerated in Salford Prison, he became seriously ill, so much so that Alexander Nowell, the Dean of St. Paul's a relative of John and Mary and a member of the Inquisition Council,

made an impassioned plea to the council that John be enabled to consult a physician, the request being granted. However, after further periods of detention, one period of which he spent along with one of his daughters in the Gatehouse, Westminster, John was released - sick and almost blind - a condition of his discharge being that he confine himself to a five-mile radius of his Towneley home, and it was during this restriction that he carved the door leading to the domestic chapel at Towneley Hall.

John died in 1608 and was buried at St. Peter's, Burnley, his wife having predeceased him in 1606.

As was customary, Richard (born April 20th, 1566) inherited the family estate on his death.



The arms of Richard Towneley and Jane Assheton on the door in the chapel at Towneley

He married Jane, the eldest daughter of Ralph Assheton of Great Lever, on May 25th, 1594. The Asshetons had their origins in Ashton-under-Lyne and their founder was Orm Fitz Edward in the 13th century. An ancestor, Sir Robert de Assheton, held many important posts in the government of King Edward III, including Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle, and later Sir John de Assheton was made a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of King Henry IV. Subsequent members of the family held equally important posts. In 1558 Richard Assheton (died 1581) purchased Whalley Abbey, Downham and Cuerdale and inaugurated the local link which still exists. And it was Jane's brother, Sir Ralph Assheton, who sold the Great Lever estate about 1629.

There is no doubt that Richard was among the prominent local gentry - which included the Asshetons and the Shuttleworths - who greeted the deformed King James I and his retinue on their arrival at Hoghton Tower on August 1st, 1617, on the occasion of the famous visit which almost prostrated the de Hoghton family wealth, and it is quite probable that Richard was present at the memorable banquet when the loin of beef was knighted.

Richard, cast in the same religious mould as his parents, also suffered persecution, imprisonment and fines for his recusancy, and in order to retain some of his property he transferred a portion of it to his father-in-law, Ralph Assheton. He was also responsible for enlarging the family home at Towneley and, in 1615, quoting from his son Christopher's manuscript, 'he built the great building upon the north side of the house where the kitchen is'.

Richard died in Drury Lane, London, on November 29th, 1628, and was interred at St. Clement's, near Temple Bar, whilst his wife Jane died six years later on July 13th, 1634.

## Chapter Six

### THE INDEFATIGABLE TRANSCRIBER

Richard and Jane had eight sons and a daughter. Four sons, three named John and a Thomas, all died in infancy, and Francis (born 1605) died when at school at St Omer at the age of 16. Richard the second son (born 1598), spent a considerable length of time abroad, so long, in fact, that it was said that only his old dog recognised him on his return. He never married and died at Lincoln aged 37 in 1635, being interred at Nocton Church. Charles, the third son, who subsequently inherited the family estate, born in 1600, is later referred to.



CHRISTOPHER TOWNELEY.

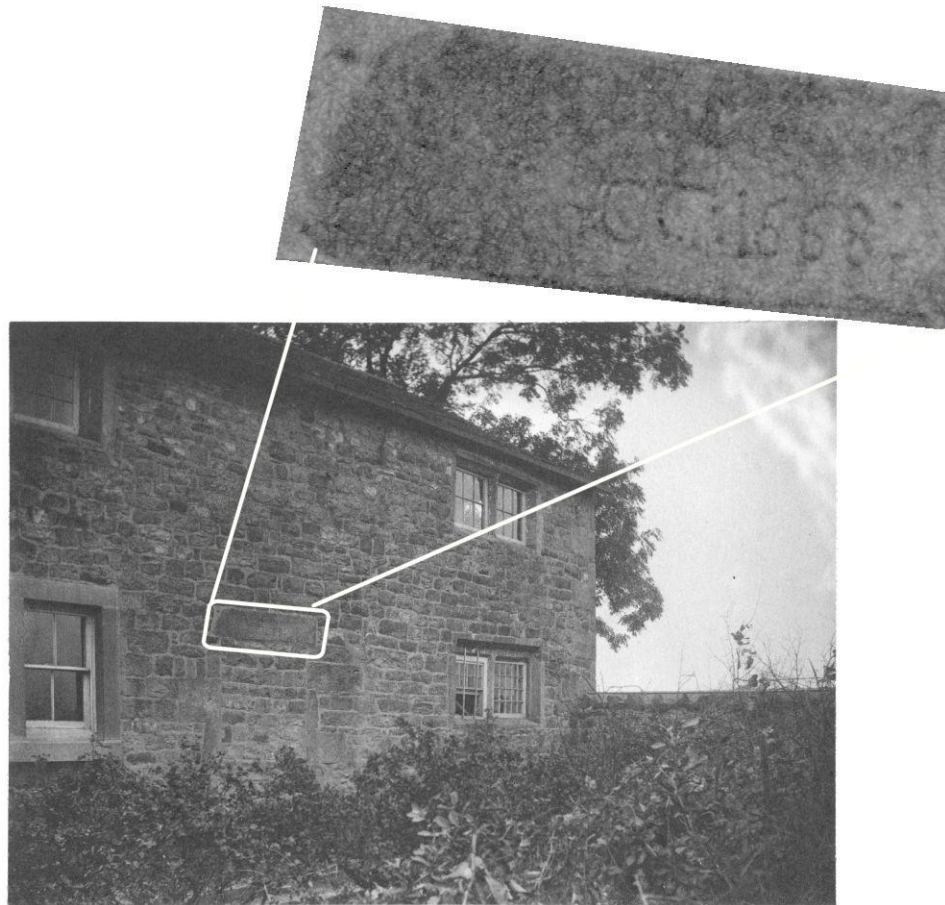
Christopher, the seventh son, born at Towneley on January 9th, 1603, who eventually came to be known as 'The Indefatigable Transcriber', was named of Hapton in his brother's will. He became renowned for his historical research and collation of family pedigrees including a comprehensive study of his own family's history, and for many years over 60 volumes of his transcripts were housed at Towneley Hall (these were sold in June, 1883). In addition to which some of his work appears in the reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

He had a shy and retiring nature, but in spite of this Christopher was named as a 'malignant' in a list drawn up by the Parliament of 1644 which authorised the confiscation of property of dissidents and he was further charged with taking up arms against Parliament. As a consequence he was fined, served terms of imprisonment, and in addition he was also fined, along with his mother, Jane, for recusancy.

Christopher married Alice Braddyll of Portfield, the widow of his cousin, Richard Towneley of Barnside, and moved into Carr Hall, Barrowford, following his marriage.

Alice's family, the Braddylls of Portfield, Whalley, was a family of some importance in the district and was linked by marriage to several of the area's more distinguished names - the Sherbornes, Catteralls, Nowells, Southworths, in addition to the Towneleys. The name of Braddyll figures prominently in many property transactions over the years, and Dr Whitaker, in his 'History of Whalley', refers in rather pointed terms to the John Braddyll of 1533 as 'a trafficker in the unsafe commodity of abbey lands to a very great amount.' John's involvement in the disposal of Whalley Abbey property is recorded frequently in local annals, and on his death his mortal remains were laid to rest in Whalley Parish Church alongside those of the ill-fated Abbot Paslew, the last head of Whalley Abbey. The Braddylls faded from the local scene in the 18th century with the passing of Thomas, who died without issue.

Following his wife's death, Christopher Towneley moved to Moorhiles, situated at Filly Close in the Reedley Hallows district of Burnley, a house that stood on Towneley land. Christopher rebuilt part of the property, an event recorded on a stone lintel over a doorway, 'C. T. 1668'. Unfortunately this was later covered up. He died intestate at his home on September 24th, 1674, and was interred at Burnley.



[This photograph of Moorhiles has been digitally modified to highlight the lintel. It was discovered in an extra-illustrated copy of *History of the Parochial Church of Burnley* by T T Wilkinson, originally published in 1856. The book was on loan from Burnley Library for the History of Whalley exhibition at Towneley in July 2001. The photograph is believed to have been taken by William Waddington some time before 1894.]

Christopher's sister Anne (born 1611), the only daughter of the family, became the wife of John Plumpton, the eldest son and heir of a family of eleven Sons and four daughters of Sir Edward Plumpton of Plumpton, Harrogate, Yorks. John, who was a firm supporter of the Royalist cause in the Civil War, was a captain with the Cavaliers at the Battle of Marston Moor and was severely wounded in the affray. He was rescued and conveyed to Knaresborough Castle but died there within a few days.

However, Anne predeceased her husband, dying in 1643 and being interred at Spofforth, and their son and heir, Robert, succeeded to the estate following the death of his grandfather, Sir Edward Plumpton, in 1654.

## Chapter Seven

### **PARTICIPATION IN THE CIVIL WAR**

Charles, the eldest surviving son of Richard and Jane Towneley, was born on April 22nd, 1600, and took over the administration of the family property at the age of 28. In his early years he was inclined to the priesthood and to that end studied at the college of St Omer in France under the Jesuits. On his return to England he lived at the family's Nocton home in Lincolnshire, returning to the Continent at Louvain in Belgium for a period and then proceeding to the English College in Rome. However, he appears to have turned his back on the priesthood, for in 1627 he married Mary (born 1601), the eldest of the 10 daughters of a family of 17 children of Sir Francis Trappes-Byrland of Nidd Hall, near Harrogate, in Yorkshire.<sup>[5]</sup> The Trappes family originally settled in Essex following their migration from Flanders during the reign of Henry III. They moved into Yorkshire following their acquisition of Nidd Hall during the reign of Elizabeth I and retained the property until 1825. Sir Francis was a barrister-at-law in Lincoln's Inn, London, and was knighted at Windsor in 1603. The family were ardent Royalists and at the outbreak of hostilities in 1642 one of Mary's brothers, Robert, became a senior officer under Prince Rupert. It may well have been that Robert's influence played some part in the role that Charles adopted in the hostility and bitter antagonism that shook the country following the King's declaration of divine right, for with the full support of his wife Mary, Charles also offered his services to King Charles I and was soon in action in the unsuccessful Royalist attack on Manchester.

He was granted permission to store arms and ammunition in his Towneley home, and some records hint that the hall may even have been the scene of some minor activity or reconnaissance, although there is no firm evidence of this. In February, 1643, Charles, along with Sir Gilbert de Hoghton, was involved in the defence of Preston, then under siege with Cromwell's forces, and when the town surrendered Charles and Sir Gilbert managed to escape. However, Mrs Towneley, Lady de Hoghton and Lady Girlington, along with a number of other ladies, were taken prisoner but subsequently released. Preston was retaken by the Royalist forces and then lost again, and it was during this period that Charles, having eluded his adversaries, returned to Towneley and then took refuge in a cottage at Dyneley until the danger had passed.

Charles eventually rejoined the forces of Prince Rupert, by this time on his way to York with an army of almost 13,000 men of the Royalists. In the vicinity of the villages of Tockwith and Long Marston, about six miles west of York, the Cavaliers faced the numerically superior forces of Oliver Cromwell, and there in the late evening of July 2nd, 1644, in the pouring rain the two armies clashed in a three-hour conflict referred to in history books as the Battle of Marston Moor, which was to be an important factor in deciding the outcome of the Civil War. Charles Towneley was slain in the battle, and on learning of her husband's fate, Mary, who had been staying with her father at nearby Nidd Hall, immediately left to make the journey to the battlefield in order to secure her husband's body. On her arrival she was greeted with the harrowing spectacle of bodies being stripped and buried, and a senior officer of the Parliamentary forces sympathetically approached her and after advising her departure provided her with an escort to ensure her safe conduct home. During the journey home she enquired of her escort as to the identity of the courteous officer who had shown her so much kindness. The reply was: 'Oliver Cromwell, ma'am.' Oliver Cromwell himself suffered wounds during the battle.

In 1651, because of the participation of Charles in the civil war with the Royalist cause, a large portion of the estate was seized, declared forfeit and put up for sale and land at Cliviger and Hapton was surrendered to pay the fines. Hapton Tower was, of course, ceded and as a consequence fell into decay following the restoration of the monarchy. However, much of the Lancashire estate was retained through the influence of Charles's mother's family, the Asshetons.

Charles and Mary had four sons and three daughters: Richard, the heir to the estate; John, born August 30th, 1631, died 1678, and buried at Burnley; Charles, born November 12th, 1632, who was an executor of his brother's will; Francis, who was born August 13th, 1641. Mary, the eldest daughter, was born on September 20th, 1630, and married Philip Constable of Hough, Lincs.; Catherine and Anne were twin girls born November 23rd, 1637 (Anne died in London in 1650 and was interred at St Giles-in-the-Fields and Catherine was living in 1664 but unmarried).

Charles's wife, Mary, died in May, 1680, at the advanced age of 91.



Charles Towneley and Mary Towneley

[5] *The life and original correspondence of Sir George Radcliffe* by T. D. Whitaker (J. Nichols, London, 1810) indicates that Charles and Mary were married in 1628. Sir George's wife and Mary were sisters and, according to the family tree published by Whitaker, Mary was the younger sister. This book is also the earliest written source for the story of Mary's encounter with Cromwell. Whitaker was told the story by John Towneley, who had it related to him by his grandmother Ursula. Ursula Fermor was the wife of Mary's grandson Charles Towneley and it was claimed that the information had been passed down to Ursula from Mary herself.

## Chapter Eight

### **RICHARD THE PHILOSOPHER**

Richard, the eldest son of Charles and Mary, was born on October 10th, 1629, and was only 14 years old when his father died at Marston Moor. A studious young man, he was educated privately in Latin and Greek and his mathematical brilliance gained him a reputation of distinction. His probings were even directed at meteorological conditions and he kept records of the rainfall at his Towneley home. He added philosophy to his talents, and he was on friendly terms with many of the great men of his day, including John Milton and Sir Christopher Wren.

Richard did not confine his pursuits wholly to peaceful studies and he was not adverse to lending support to the Stuart and Catholic cause, and in his later years, along with his eldest son Charles and members of such eminent families as the Molyneuxes, the Stanleys, the Cliftons and the Dicconsens, he became involved in the subversive operations which are now referred to as the Lancashire Plot, a conspiracy devised to restore James II to the throne by capturing the castle of Liverpool, where it was believed there was a quantity of arms and ammunition, to seize the Tower of London, Tilbury Fort and Portsmouth, and to assassinate William III. When the scheme was revealed, a warrant was issued for the arrest of the rebels, but Richard managed to escape to France.

In October, 1694, a special commission sat and many damning statements were directed against Richard, who was described at the hearing as one of the most trusted, active and determined of the accused. One of the principal witnesses was a John Lunt, who stated that he had visited Towneley Hall on the exiled King's business and had brought commissions for gentlemen who were to serve as officers following James's invasion. The Towneleys were to raise a regiment of horse, and Lunt alleged that he had enlisted 500 men for that purpose and that Richard was one of a large group involved in the plot which had met at Dunkenhall.

An Act of Indemnity was later passed by Parliament, but a small number of the conspirators, including Richard, was excluded. On his return from France he served a term of imprisonment, but was subsequently pardoned and allowed to return to his Towneley home. Richard had a great interest in education and readily sanctioned the use of premises in St Peter's Churchyard, Burnley, for the grammar school. Uncharacteristically he disagreed with the governors of the school concerning the appointment of a new headmaster and perversely denied them the use of the building, a decision which caused the governors to erect other premises.

Richard married Mary (in some records she is referred to as Margaret) Paston, the daughter of Clement Paston of Thorne and Barningham, Norfolk, a family whose name is famous for its association with the renowned Paston Letters, a series of unique documents which though mostly personal and private reveal to historians conditions of life and government prevalent in the 15th century.

There was a family of 13 children, seven sons and six daughters. Clement (born May 30th, 1654) and Richard (born 1655, died at Nieuport, Flanders) both died young. Charles, the third son, who later inherited the estate. John, born and died September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1659. Another John became a monk. Richard, born 1664, who also became a Carthusian monk at Nieuport, and Thomas (born 1660), who became a priest.



Daughter Dorothy (born 1660) married Francis Howard of Corby Castle, Cumberland, who had previously been married to Ann (died 1678), the daughter of William Gerard of Bryn, and had two daughters by her, and who was considerably older than Dorothy and they had issue. Francis was a captain in the army and he was also governor of the city of Carlisle, and his brother, a colonel in the Royalist forces, had been slain at Atherton Moor in 1643. Their father was Sir Francis Howard, a colonel in the service of King Charles I and a direct descendant of the 4th Duke of Norfolk. The Howards were a family of extreme importance with records going back to John Howard of Wighall St Peter, Norfolk, in 1267, and a family at the head of England's peerage and next to the Blood Royal, with the Duke of Norfolk holding the post of Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England. The Howard family have been prominent in history for centuries and two famous members were queens Anne Boleyn and Catherine. Howard, both of whom suffered execution on Tower Green.

Another member of the Howard family to suffer execution was Henry, Earl of Surrey, whose death in 1547 has been described as 'the last tyrannical act of Henry VIII.'

Frances, the fourth daughter of Richard and Mary, became the marriage partner of Cuthbert Kennet of Coxhold, Co. Durham, and on her husband's death in 1719 she entered a convent as a boarder, later dying in Paris, and her daughter Elizabeth became a nun in Cambrai in 1712.

Margaret (born in 1667) and Cecily Justinian (born 1664) both joined the English convent at Fosse St Victoire, Paris. Margaret eventually became a sub-prioress in the order and died in 1731, and Cecily died in 1728. There were two other daughters, Mary (who according to some American sources, married John Lawrence in 1693 and emigrated) and Anne, of whom there is no record.<sup>[6]</sup>

Richard and Mary Towneley spent their early married years at Nocton and their son Clement was born there in 1654. By all accounts, Richard was inordinately fond of his Lincolnshire home and it must have been a grievous shock when in 1660 he was compelled to surrender the property as a requital for the part the family had played in the Civil War. For 30 years he lived at Towneley Hall and then moved to York, where he died on January 22nd, 1707, being interred at Burnley and having survived his wife by over 30 years.

[6] The American sources claiming to prove that Richard Towneley's daughter Mary married John Lawrence and emigrated to America have all been found to be fictitious. See more in chapter sixteen. Richard's daughters Mary and Anne are recorded in evidence to the College of Arms in 1665 (Visitation of Lancashire by Sir William Dugdale), but it appears that Mary and Anne both died in childhood.

## Chapter Nine

### CHARLES AND URSULA

Charles, the third son of Richard and Mary, was born on April 19th, 1658, and was 49 years of age when he inherited the family estate. Here again the Towneleys produced a firm adherent to the Catholic faith and he was involved in various schemes and plots along with his father in support of the Stuarts. He was, in fact, placed on trial for his association with subversive elements but was eventually acquitted.

He married Ursula (born 1662), the eldest daughter of Richard and Frances Fermor of Tusmore, Oxfordshire, in 1685. The Fermors of Tusmore, whose original name was Ricards, were descended from the Fermors of Easton Neston in Northamptonshire. They were dedicated Roman Catholics and originally lived in Somerton, moving to the Tusmore estate at the turn of the 17th century. William Fermor, the head of the family at that time, demolished the old Elizabethan structure there and built the present Palladian mansion, but following the decline in the family's fortunes the house was sold to the Earl of Effingham in 1857. The Fermors emerged during the reign of Henry VIII, and then, presumably on account of their zealous allegiance to the Church of Rome, Richard Fermor was deprived of much of his property through the iniquitous influence of Thomas Cromwell. Richard was the first master of the celebrated Will Somers, the court jester of Henry VIII, and it is probable that Will was part of the effects pilfered from the hapless Fermors. However, the home at Easton Neston was restored to the family by Edward VI, and subsequently the Fermors appear to have regained favour, for Sir George acted as host to King James I and his queen at their home. The Civil War found the family solidly behind the King and Sir William Fermor suffered severely during the conflict, but he enjoyed the satisfaction of witnessing the restoration of the monarchy.

There were five sons and six daughters of the union of Charles Towneley and Ursula. Richard, the son and heir, was born on June 13th, 1689. Charles, the second son, was born in 1690 but died in 1713.



John Towneley  
the chevalier

The third son, John, was born on January 13th, 1696, and it was intended that he should study for the law and, in fact, he did join the office of Salkeld, a prominent advocate of the day. But John preferred a more active life and entered the French military service, taking part of the Siege of Philipsburgh in 1734 along with his younger brother Francis. He was a popular and familiar figure in the French court of Louis XV and for some time he was the tutor to Prince Charles Edward, the Young Pretender, then in exile in France. John was an accomplished scholar and indeed his fluency in the French language is evident in his translation into French verse of 'Hudibras' which was published in 1757.

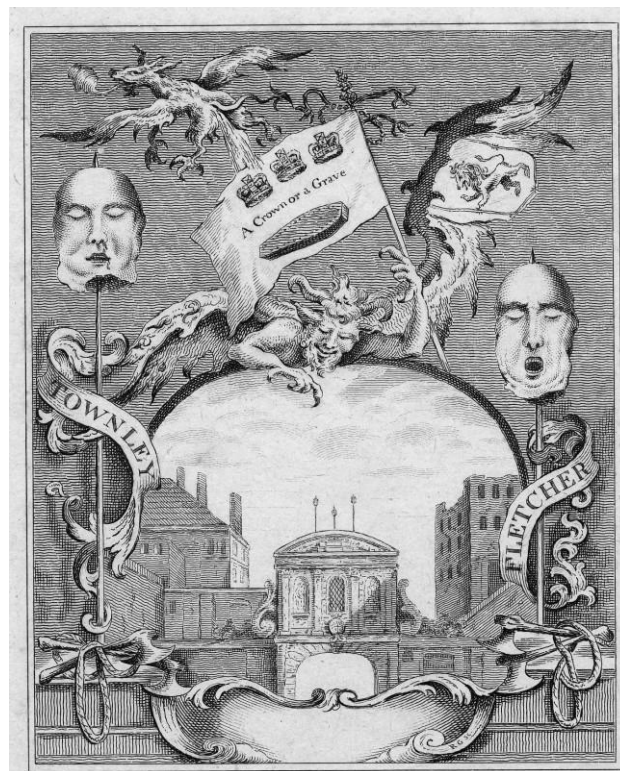
At the start of the Jacobite rebellion in 1745 he returned to England to support the rebel cause and he was fortunate in extricating himself from the massacre at Culloden to return to France, where he resumed his association with Bonnie Prince Charlie, who, of course, had also escaped. In 1746 he was awarded the Cross of the Royal Military Order of St Louis.

With the subsequent waning of the Jacobite cause, John returned to England in his later years and lived quietly in London, dying unmarried in 1782 at the age of 85. <sup>[7]</sup>

George, the fourth son, who was born on May 12th, 1706, took as his matrimonial partner Mary, the widow of Ralph Standish. She was the daughter and co-heiress along with her sister Anne of Albert Hodgson of Leighton Hall, near Carnforth. Mary's father had inherited the property through marriage into the Middleton family, but owing to his support of the Jacobite rebellion of 1715 he was arrested and imprisoned at Preston and deprived of much of his property. The Government retained possession of the hall for some years, but on March 7th, 1722, the estate was offered for sale by auction, and a Mr Winkley of Preston purchased it and generously restored it to Mr Hodgson, who lived there until 1740. However, due to the owner's enforced absence the condition of the hall had deteriorated considerably, and furthermore it had also suffered the ravages of fire, but Mary's marriage to George provided the necessary capital to restore the hall in 1763, this reconstruction including the replanting of the gardens, which, it is said, were laid out in a similar design to those at Towneley.

Neither Mary nor her co-heiress had any children, hence the property passed into the hands of George on his wife's death and he lived there until 1782, dying in 1786. He bequeathed the property to his nephew, John Towneley, who sold it four years later for £28,000 to a Lancashire banker.

[7] A more detailed description of John Towneley can be found in the Dictionary of National Biography. There is no evidence that he was ever tutor to Bonnie Prince Charlie. He returned to Paris in March 1746 with despatches from the French envoy and so was not present at Culloden in the following April.



A print celebrating the exposure of Francis Towneley's head on Temple Bar in London

## Chapter Ten

### COLONEL FRANCIS TOWNELEY

Francis, the fifth son of Charles and Ursula, born in 1708, is probably regarded as one of the most romantic and ebullient characters in the long Towneley dynasty. He was provided with an education 'suitable to his expectations' and later he was sent to school to be taught the classics. However, he had little inclination or regard for learning and consequently he paid scant attention to his lessons, although subsequent events were to prove that he had a love of music. His father had died when he was four years old and this, coupled with his own 'gay, volatile disposition', may possibly have contributed to his indulgences and subsequent life style described 'such as youth is naturally prone to and very rarely decline when ability, means and opportunity concur with the inclination to enjoy them'.

He spent a considerable fortune in a short time, being reduced to comparative poverty, and, possibly through the influence of his elder brother John, he went to France in 1727, where he was introduced into the court circles of Louis XV, who granted him a commission in the French army the following year. He took part in much military activity, particularly at the Siege of Philipsburgh where he acquitted himself with distinction. However, after serving 15 years in the French forces he went to live in Flintshire in North Wales on a small annuity. Where his home in North Wales was situated is not revealed, but one is inclined to suppose that it may well have been at Talacre, where his married sister Theresa lived and where his mother Ursula later died.

When the Young Pretender landed at Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides along with his seven companions on July 23rd, 1745, it heralded the start of the Jacobite rebellion. Following the 'raising of the clans', the Prince marched south with a force of 2,000 men, routing enemy forces at Prestonpans on September 20th. He invaded England at Carlisle and made his way south, where he was met by Francis and his regiment of volunteers at Manchester in November. Francis had previously been granted a colonel's commission by the French King to raise the regiment in Lancashire, and he had visited Manchester prior to the Pretender's arrival on several occasions to liaise with other Stuart sympathisers. During the course of these meetings, Dr Byron, a prominent member of the rebel Jacobite council, found Francis's language particularly objectionable and he repeatedly rebuked him for use of some of his more indelicate expletives, these reproaches causing Francis much amusement.

Colonel Towneley's meeting with the Prince took place towards the end of November, and on the 28th the insurgents mustered in the city. The Manchester Regiment comprised 300 men, but of this number more than a half had been recruited by another rebel commander and handed over to Colonel Towneley. It was reported at the time that this regiment comprised the only English contingent that had declared themselves openly in favour of the Prince.

On Sunday, November 30th, which was St Andrew's Day, a spectacular service was held at the Collegiate Church. The Scottish officers were colourfully dressed in plaid waistcoats with white cockades in their hats and were armed with swords and pistols. Colonel Towneley sported a Highland plaid lined with white silk, whilst the regimental flag was emblazoned with 'Liberty and Property' on the one side and 'Church and Country' on the reverse. Following the service the military contingent marched proudly out of the city en route for Derby, when it was hoped to enlist additional volunteers on the way. However,

the call did not materialise and the arrival at Derby provided further disappointment, and when news was received that the forces of the Duke of Cumberland were advancing the Prince was resolved to engage the enemy and proceed to London. His commanders opposed the idea vehemently and after hasty discussions the decision to withdraw was taken, and the dispirited rebel army began the retreat via Ashbourne, Leek, Macclesfield, Manchester, Preston and Lancaster. On the route there were many desertions, and when the Duke of Cumberland's army linked up with the forces of Marshal Wade the bedraggled rebels of the Young Pretender hastened over Shap to Carlisle, where they hoped - and indeed believed - that they would be joined by promised reinforcements from Scotland.

It was during this retirement that a brief stay was made at Lancaster. Despite his childhood indolence and neglect of early study, Colonel Francis had acquired a love of music, and during this sojourn he visited the local Priory Church of St Mary, where, according to the Rev Robert N. Whitaker, vicar of Whalley, in his 'Handbook of Whalley', published in 1882, Francis played the organ in accompaniment to a lusty Jacobite ballad. This was probably his last musical performance. This organ was installed in Whalley Parish Church in the early 19th century, and is still there although now no longer in use.

The very nature of Francis's personality and his quixotic place in Towneley history prompts many romantic narratives to emerge, and one such account relates to a transitory visit made by him to the home of the Shuttleworths at Gawthorpe, near Burnley, during this catastrophic campaign. Despite conflicting religious tenets of the families, it is on record that the Towneleys and the Shuttleworths were on amicable terms, for ancestors had been linked in marriage. However, we are assured that Francis did visit Gawthorpe Hall in early December, 1745, and when many years later window panelling at the hall was removed during alterations Spanish gold pieces to the value of about £160 were revealed. Close scrutiny of the panelling seemed to indicate that the blade of a knife had been used to lift the woodwork and the pommel utilised to hammer it back into place, dents being found in the casing. Many theories were advanced concerning the concealment of the gold, but the Shuttleworths firmly believed that Colonel Towneley was the perpetrator.

On the arrival at Carlisle on December 19th a roll-call revealed that their number had dwindled to 114 exhausted men, later reinforced by 274 Scotsmen. The expected reinforcements from Scotland had not materialised, and Colonel Towneley was ordered to defend the town to cover the escape of Bonnie Prince Charlie, with Colonel Hamilton's equally meagre forces taking over the defence of Carlisle Castle. The Chevalier de Johnstone, a member of the rebel forces, in his memoirs of the 1745 rebellion, declared: 'I could never comprehend the reason for voluntarily sacrificing these unfortunate victims left by us at Carlisle. The Prince was not overburdened by men and it could not be supposed that they would be able to defend themselves in such an untenable place.'

The Duke of Cumberland's arrival with numerically superior and better-equipped troops resulted in Carlisle being placed under siege immediately, and after a week of brave but ineffective resistance the garrison was forced into surrender, in spite of Colonel Towneley's brave, defiant and dramatic declaration that it was 'better to die by the sword than fall into the hands of those damned Hanoverians.' And so Francis and his brother officers were herded into wagons and taken to London, a journey which took approximately six months and throughout which they were insulted and abused in the towns in whose prisons they were incarcerated en route.

On reaching London the unfortunate captives were held in Newgate Prison, where Colonel Towneley appeared withdrawn, conversing only with his Catholic priest and confidante, Father Saunderson. The trial began on July 16th, 1746, at the courthouse at St . Margaret's Hill before a very elevated judiciary which included Lord Chief Justices Lee and Willes, Justices Wright, Dennison, Foster, Abney, and Barons Reynolds and Clive.

The prosecution had a strong and incontrovertible case against all nine officers, and in the case of Colonel Towneley it was alleged that his return from France and subsequent residence in North Wales had been used to 'spey upon the country' and to report upon the political climate and conditions in preparation for the Young Pretender's return. Francis's defence that as an officer of the French army he should be treated as a prisoner of war was not unnaturally ineffectual, although it was well presented by his counsel, Mr Serjeant Wynne, and it was no surprise when he was sentenced to death. He appeared unmoved by the verdict, and he conducted himself with great dignity throughout the whole proceedings, an admirable composure that he maintained right up to the barbaric procedure that accompanied his execution at Kennington Common on July 30th.

There are varying accounts of the incidence of events following the bestial ritual that succeeded the hanging of the condemned colonel. The popular theory was that the severed head was put on exhibition at Temple Bar and that after some considerable time it was procured by a family retainer by means of a hay cart and returned to the family. A further variation is that the head was placed in the coffin along with the rest of the mutilated body and buried at St Pancras churchyard and that the head retrieved by the family was that of a Captain Fletcher, one of Francis's colleagues. And yet another and possibly more credible story is that the head was buried along with the body and was later exhumed after permission had been granted for its removal.

However, the skull was in the Towneley's possession for many years, firstly at the home of Colonel Charles Towneley in Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London, and later at Towneley Hall, where Lady O'Hagan said she remembered it being kept in a basket covered by a napkin. It was subsequently encased in a wooden box and lodged behind the panelling at the rear of the domestic chapel, later removed and placed behind the altar and then finally being buried in the family vault at St Peter's Church, Burnley, in 1947.

A gruesome and yet interesting fact emerges from an inspection made some years ago when the Towneley vault at the church was opened. It was stated that the features were partially visible, some of the black hair was still intact and a hole in the top of the skull indicated that it had been pierced with a pike.

## Chapter Eleven

### THE WIDDRINGTONS

Mary, the eldest daughter of Charles and Ursula, was born on August 9th, 1686, and died on August 13th, 1716. She was interred at St Pancras churchyard, where she was posthumously joined by her brother Francis 30 years later.

Ursula, the second daughter, born in 1687, did not survive childhood, nor did Charlotte, the third girl, who was born on May 14th, 1692, and died at Towneley on October 12th, 1699, being buried at Burnley. Another Ursula, the fourth daughter, born on December 24th, 1693, became a nun at Louvain and was living in 1765, and the fifth girl, Margaret, died young.

The youngest of the daughters, Theresa, who was born on August 6th, 1701, became the second wife of Sir George Mostyn of Talacre in North Wales, his first wife Mary, the daughter of Thomas Clifton of Lytham Hall, having died childless. However, the union with Theresa proved more fruitful, for there were four sons and two daughters, with the eldest son, Edmond, becoming the fifth holder of the title (created in 1660) on the death of his father in 1746. Theresa died in March, 1765.

Charles Towneley died at Towneley on March 1st, 1712, and was buried at Burnley, and his wife Ursula later went to live with her daughter Theresa (Lady Mostyn) at Greenfield Hall, near Holywell, in Flintshire. It was here that Mrs Towneley died on July 16th, 1748, exactly two years after the commencement of the trial of her proud but ill-fated son Francis. She was 86 years of age and was buried at Llanasaph.



Richard Towneley was only 23 years old when he inherited the family estate on the death of his father. He had been implicated in a minor role along with his father Charles and grandfather Richard in various intrigues in support of their religion, and in the 1715 Jacobite uprising he was taken prisoner along with some Burnley supporters for his part in the insurrection. One cannot but feel some sympathy for the plight of the three local men involved - Joseph Porter, William Harris and Stephen Sagar. They were tried at Liverpool in January, 1716, found guilty and executed at Manchester on February 11th for their part in the revolt, for there is little doubt that they were pressed into service. On the other hand, Richard was tried in London, and his defence that he had been compelled to participate and that he had never worn the rebel badge must have appeared less convincing than that of his three illiterate subordinates who had already suffered the

supreme penalty. Nonetheless, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, but were severely rebuked by the presiding judge for their finding. Apparently much public sympathy for the

accused men had been aroused due to the brutal treatment meted out to them whilst in custody and this was said to have influenced the jury in reaching their verdict.

But the authorities appeared determined to exact some form of retribution, and harassment of Richard's family was maintained for some time and the homes of the Towneleys and his wife's family (the Widdringtons) were temporarily possessed by the bailiffs and the residents were threatened with eviction.

Richard's wife was Mary, the elder of the two daughters of 10 children of William, the 3rd Baron Widdrington, a highly revered gentleman referred to in Clarendon's State Papers as 'one of the most goodly persons of the age being near the head higher than most tall men', whose home was Newton Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland. The Widdringtons were firm Roman Catholics, ardent supporters of King Charles I in the Civil War (the 1st. Baron dying of wounds sustained during the fighting), and were in the vanguard of the Jacobite insurrection of 1715, with the 4th Baron - who was Mary's brother - being ordered to stand trial in London for his participation. Despite the fact that he had actually taken no part in the fighting, he was sentenced to death for treason, although he was later reprieved. However, his possessions were seized and his title forfeited, but the Winlaton portion of the property was later restored to the family on account of it being his wife's by right.

Eight children emerged from Richard and Mary's marriage - seven boys and a girl. But five of the sons did not survive infancy - Charles (1717), Richard (1722), Richard (1729), Charles (1729), and another Charles. The surviving sons were William (born May, 1714) and John (born June 15th, 1731), both of whom were later to inherit the family property.

The only daughter of the marriage was Mary Catherine, who was born in London in January, 1721, and she became the wife of Thomas Hornyold of Blackmore Park in Worcester on June 13th, 1748, a member of a family which held land in Worcestershire and Leicestershire. The Hornyolds were staunch Catholics and Royalists and Thomas's grandfather was one of the officers whose gallant stand after the Battle of Worcester in 1651 enabled the young Charles Stuart (later Charles II) to make his escape. Hornyold was taken prisoner and as a punishment lost much of his estate, only a fragment of which was returned to him after the restoration of the monarchy. General Monck later asserted that Thomas Hornyold was the greatest sufferer by the rebellion at Worcester.

Mary Catherine died in London on June 25th, 1762, and was buried at Handley.



## Chapter Twelve

### THE TOWNELEYS AND THE STANDISHES



William Towneley, Esq.  
W. HOARE, R.A.

William Towneley, the eldest son of Richard and Mary, inherited the Towneley property on the death of his father in 1735. His wife was Cecilia, the fifth daughter of Ralph Standish of Standish and his wife, Lady Phillipa Howard, the daughter of Henry, Duke of Norfolk, the head of the illustrious Roman Catholic family previously referred to.

There were four sons and a daughter of William's marriage. Charles (born 1737) was the eldest son and inheritor. Ralph Standish was the second son born on June 18th, 1739, and Edward, the third son, was born on June 28th, 1740. A fourth son, John, died in infancy.

The only daughter, Cecilia (born July 3rd, 1741) married Charles Strickland ofSizergh Castle, Westmorland. Two centuries earlier Sizergh had been the home of Henry VIII's last queen, Catherine Parr, the Stricklands being linked in marriage with the Parrs.



Cecilia (née Towneley) wife of Charles Strickland, Esq.  
School of A. DEVIS

Sizergh had been considered a beautiful example of Elizabethan architecture enlarged from a 14th century pele tower, but Cecilia's arrival coincided with some reconstruction, refurbishing and even remodelling of the family home, and some of the plebeian modifications introduced by Cecilia caused a certain amount of dismay. However, Charles died on April 5th, 1779, and Cecilia married her first husband's cousin, Jarrard Strickland, of Willitoft, Yorkshire. There were two sons of this marriage, and the younger son, Jarrard Edward, joined the Army, serving as A. D. C. to Sir Arthur Wellesley (later the Duke of Wellington) at the Battle of Seringpatam in India.

Cecilia died in 1814, Jarrard having died 19 years earlier.

The Strickland family featured prominently in the life of Westmorland for more than 700 years and were devout Roman Catholics. Sir Thomas Strickland, who was born in 1621, led a Royalist regiment of foot at the Battle of Edgehill, and from 1661 to 1677 he was M.P. for Westmorland, being appointed a Privy Councillor in 1669 and was Keeper of the Privy Purse to Catherine of Braganza, the Queen of Charles II. However, because of his religion he fell foul of authority, was expelled from the House of Commons and he left the country for France, where he joined King James and the Royal Family in exile. He married twice, and his second wife, Winifred, the daughter and co-heir of Sir Christopher Trentham of Rocester, became the governess to the young Prince James and Woman to the Queen's Bedchamber. There were five sons of Sir Thomas's marriage, and the youngest of these probably became one of the more outstanding members of a family that was already notable in the extreme. This son, Thomas John Francis Strickland, was born in 1679 and entered the priesthood, being known as Abbe Strickland. He became a respected member of both the English and French court circles and his influence and diplomacy were such that his services were solicited in endeavouring to secure a compromise between the English Crown and the Catholics during a most difficult period - an unsuccessful enterprise, however. Subsequently he became the Bishop of Namur and died there in 1739. Another member of the Strickland family, Walter, was among the small party which accompanied Bonnie Prince Charlie on his journey to Scotland in 1745.

William Towneley died at Walton, near Bath, on February 2nd, 1742, at the early age of 28 and was buried at the church at Bath Weston.

Charles, who was born on October 1st, 1737, inherited the family property at an early age and he was placed under the influence of his great-uncle John, who, as already recounted, had been a prominent figure in French court circles. Charles proceeded to the English Catholic school at Douai in France, a school which had been founded in 1568 by a Lancashire Catholic priest, William Allen, of Rossall, near Fleetwood, who later became a cardinal. Charles enhanced his formal education under the guidance of Abbe Turberville Needham, an eminent philosopher, and was described as an excellent classical scholar who responded admirably to his mentor.

On completion of his education Charles enjoyed a period of 'gaiety and fashion' and a descendant of the Towneleys, Mary Elizabeth, declared in her biography that she considered he had spent too much time in the 'pursuit of trifles', although she conceded that he later adopted a life style more in accordance with his responsibilities and position. Evidence of this 'gaiety and fashion' as cited by Mary Elizabeth came to light some time ago with the emergence of a number of letters written mostly in French during Charles's prolonged 'grand tour', the content of which, it must be said, amounted almost to degeneracy. Strangely, despite their contents-or maybe because of it - they brought an amazing six-figure sum when auctioned at Sotheby's.

However, some of his energies were diverted to the study of art and he became one of the foremost connoisseurs on the Continent. He resided for some time in Rome, and the Towneley reputation as ardent supporters of James II enabled him to effect an easy introduction to Roman society, which gave him a unique opportunity of examining many rare works of art. He also collected gems, terracotta, bronzes, sepulchral monuments, as well as Roman imperial coins, and he made many purchases.

Whilst in Naples he persuaded an Italian family to sell him a bust of an unknown woman that had been sculptured by an unknown artist. This work of art - which he named Clytie -

became his favourite piece and he often jocularly referred to it as his wife. This was sold to the British Museum along with the rest of his collection on his death, but two copies were made, one of which is retained in the Towneley art gallery and museum.

He returned home in 1772, bringing with him a large and valuable collection of art treasures, and he had been away for so long that his English was hesitant and on occasions he had to revert to French or Italian to clarify his statements. For a long period he housed his collection at his London residence in Park Street, but he had formulated plans to extend Towneley Hall considerably in order to accommodate his treasures - in fact, an Italian architect named Bonomi had drawn up plans to this effect. Unfortunately Charles's death in 1805 prevented the fulfilment of this scheme. His reputation in the world of art and antiquities was recognised when he was elected a trustee of the British Museum and he was actively associated with plans to extend the museum buildings. On March 30th, 1786, he was granted a fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries, and five years later, on March 10th, 1791, he was similarly honoured by the Royal Society.



Charles Towneley  
with Clytie

Charles's residence at Towneley was mostly confined to the winter months and he did not project himself or accept any administrative office within the local township of Burnley. Nevertheless his concern for poorer classes was profound, and in one year of acute distress he granted one-quarter of his income for the alleviation of poverty. Within the confines of his Towneley estate he was regarded as a kindly and popular proprietor and was generous to members of his staff, who regarded him with esteem.

Charles was unostentatious, was a regular early riser and had a vigorous constitution, and in his later years, as his health began to deteriorate, he developed a deep sense of religion. Apart from the luxury of his art

collection, his mode of life was said to be extremely modest - even frugal - and he never enjoyed the luxury of his own carriage, hiring one for his journeys to and from Towneley. A bachelor, Charles died on January 3rd, 1805, and on his death his valuable collection of art treasures and coins was sold to the British Museum for a sum exceeding £28,000.

Ralph Standish Towneley, Charles's younger brother, was the nominated beneficiary of the Standish and Towneley estates. He married into the Strickland family, as had his sister Cecilia, his wife being Henrietta (born 1741), the ninth daughter of Roger Strickland of Catterick, the marriage taking place on August 28th, 1762. Unfortunately Ralph died without issue and before his mother. Consequently his brother inherited the property and assumed his mother's maiden name of Standish on her death in 1778. Edward's wife was Anne, the daughter of Basil Thomas Ecclestone of Ecclestone and Scarisbrick.

The Standish family has a long and distinguished history dating back over 700 years to the late 12th century, and one of the more romantic figures was Ralph Standish, an equerry to the Black Prince who granted him an annuity for his services. Ralph was in attendance at

the meeting of King Richard II and Wat Tyler, the leader of the peasant revolt, at Smithfield in 1381, when, it is said, he went to the defence of the King when under threat, an action which resulted in the death of Wat Tyler and Ralph's knighthood as a consequence.

The outbreak of the Civil War was the cause of many family breaches and the Standishes were one such instance, with the Standish Hall branch of the family being firm Royalists and the Duxbury Standishes aligning themselves alongside the forces of Oliver Cromwell. A Royalist Standish, Captain Thomas, was killed at Manchester in 1654 and a Thomas Standish of Duxbury was a member of the Long Parliament which sat for 19 years.

Another member of the Duxbury branch, Myles (1584-1656), was one of the pioneers who embarked on the Mayflower in 1620 and settled in New Plymouth in America, where his outstanding character and militant personality resulted in his appointment as military captain of the colony in 1621. Such were Myles's exploits, particularly against the Indians, that poems were written in his honour by Lowell and Longfellow, and the townships of Myles and Standish were named after him. Fittingly, he died at Duxbury, New England, where a large statue of him now stands.

The Standish branch were staunch Jacobites and their home was frequently used as the venue for meetings of conspirators, and in 1757, during the course of some building reconstruction, documents were discovered which when deciphered revealed the part played by rebels who had met at Standish Hall. One of these documents reaffirming their allegiance to King James II contained the signatures of Richard Widdrington, Will Standish and Charles Towneley.

Edward Standish, who had inherited the estates of Ryton, Winlaton, Stella and Stanley from his second cousin, Thomas Eyre of Hassop, in 1795, died without heirs on March 27th, 1807, and devised the Standish portion of his property to the son of his sister Cecilia, Thomas Strickland, whilst the Towneley estate, including the Yorkshire and Durham property, was bequeathed to his uncle, John Towneley, of Chiswick, London.

John's home, Corney House, situated at the river end of Corney Road, was considered the most attractive residence in Chiswick and had formerly belonged to Sir William Russell, an ancestor of the Dukes of Bedford, and where Lord Russell had acted as host to Queen Elizabeth I in 1602, shortly before her death.

## Chapter Thirteen

### JOHN AND SON PEREGRINE

It is probable that in the early stages of his life John Towneley (born June 15th, 1731) had never seriously believed that he would eventually inherit the Towneley property. But inherit it he did, although his tenure as head of the Towneley House lasted only six years. Whilst little is on record of John's activities, he was known as an avid collector of books and had an intense interest in the arts, and it is said that he and his nephew Charles often consulted on their mutual interests.



Print of a terminus  
representing  
John Towneley (1731-1813)

He married Barbara, the fourth daughter of Edward Dicconson of Wroughton, at Standish on May 8th, 1756, and there were one son (Peregrine Edward), twin daughters Barbara and Mary (born April 9th, 1757, at Burghope, Herefordshire) and Ursula (born June 15th, 1759, and died aged four months). One of the twins, Mary, lived only a few weeks, but Barbara, the surviving twin, married Sir William Stanley of Hooton, a member of the premier house of Lancaster, a family that became possessed of the Hooton estate (co. Chester) in the 14th century when Sir William Stanley, Lord of Stourton, married Margery, the daughter and heiress of William de Hooton. From this union emerged the Baronets Stanley, afterwards Errington, of Hooton. The Stanleys had originated from Adam de Stanley (living Stephen and Henry II), and a descendant received the Earldom of Derby in the 15th century. They served on the King's side in the Civil War, and James, the 7th Earl, suffered execution at Bolton following the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

Barbara's husband, Sir William, succeeded to the title on the death of his father, but died without issue in 1792, the title reverting to his uncle.

Mrs Towneley's ancestors, the Dicconsons, were resolute Roman Catholics with deep roots in the Wigan area, although at one time the family home was Brick Hall, Eccleston. In the reign of Charles I, during the period when the monarch was endeavouring to raise money to ease the country's financial burden, two Dicconsons, William and John, were fined £10 each for declining knighthoods. A later William suffered confiscation of property for his Jacobite sympathies and was also accused of complicity in the, infamous Lancashire Plot.

The death of John Towneley on May 14th, 1813, after only a few years in charge of affairs resulted in his son Peregrine Edward moving to Towneley Hall when over the age of 50. Peregrine was born at Corney House on October 10th, 1762, and he married Charlotte

Theresa, the fourth daughter of Robert Drummond of Cadland, Hampshire, the son of the 4th Viscount Strathallan, on April 22nd, 1794.

Charlotte Theresa's grandfather, William Drummond, the 4th Viscount (1690-1746), a dedicated Jacobite, was among the first to respond to the rising of 1715. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Sheriffmuir later the same year and was fortunate in escaping punishment for his participation. However, in 1745, within a fortnight of the raising of Prince Charles Edward's standard at Glenfinnan, Drummond had joined him with reinforcements and he was appointed commander-in-chief of the Prince's forces in Scotland when the Young Pretender marched into England. At Culloden on April 14th, 1746, while in command of a squadron Drummond was unhorsed during an English charge and was subsequently killed. Charlotte's father was the sixth son of a family of seven sons and six daughters.

Peregrine and Charlotte had two sons (Charles and John) and two daughters (Charlotte Mary and Frances). Charlotte Mary (born February 6th, 1798) died unmarried at the age of 19, but Frances (born 1801) became the wife of Thomas Stonor, 3rd Lord Camoys, on July 25th, 1821, and from this marriage there emerged an extensive family of two boys and nine girls.

On April 22nd, 1863, their elder son, Thomas Edward (born 1824) married Catherine Mary, the daughter of John Nicholas and Catherine Mary Coulthurst of Gargrave Hall, Yorkshire, a family that originated from Bowland in the 15th century and moved to Gargrave in the early 17th century. However, the union was short-lived, as Thomas died two years later, and there were no children of the marriage. Catherine remarried, her second husband being Sir Archibald Keppel McDonald of East Sheen, Surrey, and there were two children, a son and a daughter.

The younger son of the Stonors, Francis, who was born in 1829, was a clerk in the House of Lords, and on September 25th, 1855, he took as his bride Eliza (or Elsie), the daughter of the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Peel, 2nd Bart, the distinguished statesman and Parliamentarian, who tragically died from the effects of a fall from his horse in Constitution Hill, London. Eliza, who was on the personal staff of Queen Alexandra when Princess of Wales, died in April 1883, and Francis died on January 10th, 1881.

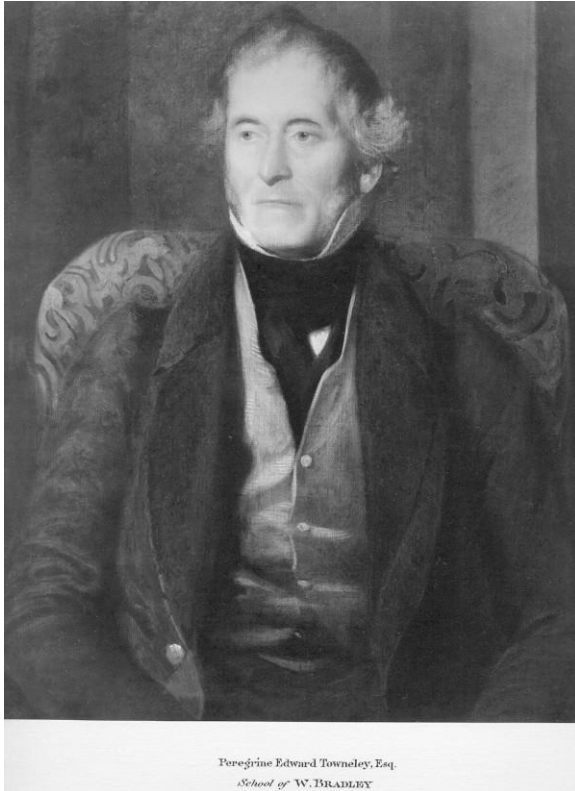
Of the Stonor daughters, four entered Holy Orders (Charlotte, Caroline, Eleanor Lucy and Agnes, who became prioress of St Mary's Priory, Rugby). Catherine Frances died unmarried.

In 1852, Elizabeth Stonor (born 1830) married Henry Charles Silvertop of Minsteracres, Northumberland, a member of a wealthy mining family, and there were two sons - Henry Thomas (born 1853) and George (1856), a priest - and a daughter, Agnes Mary, who became a nun. The family home, Minsteracres, a beautiful mansion built at the end of the 18th century, is situated about 17 miles from Newcastle-on-Tyne and is now a retreat for the Passionist Fathers. Elizabeth died in childbirth on July 24th, 1860, and her husband, who remarried, died in 1887.

The sixth daughter of Lord and Lady Camoys, Harriet, married Leopold George Frederick, the 5th Viscount Clifden, who was a major in the Kilkenny Militia and one-time A. D. C. to the Earl of Carlisle when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He was also a barrister-at-law. Harriet died on May 17th, 1914.

Margaret Anne, the eighth daughter, became the wife of Edward Pereira of Caversham Place, near Reading, on July 29th, 1862. The Pereira family trace their ancestors to Antonio Pereira of San Miguel do Antirivo, who was born in 1590. There were three sons and a daughter of the marriage.

Maria, the fourth of the nine girls, who was born in 1832, married Sir Charles Frederick Smythe, 7th Baronet, on October 17th, 1855.



With the arrival of Peregrine at Towneley came an era of rapport between the family and the people of neighbouring Burnley. Stories of Peregrine's tendency to wander around his property dressed in rough tweeds, muffler round his neck and a clay pipe in his mouth are common, and on numerous occasions he was accepted as a member of the poaching fraternity, and it is said that he allowed himself to be schooled by them in illicit trapping techniques.

And there is also the oft-repeated episode of Peregrine's purchase of a portion of the Whitewell estate when, dressed in his inelegant and ill-fitting country tweeds, the auctioneer took his ludicrously low bid as a joke and knocked the property down to him in the belief that the unkempt character in front of him would be unable to pay. The joke turned sour when the horrified auctioneer was presented with Peregrine's

card. Despite the supposed authenticity of this story, one feels that Peregrine's kindly nature would not allow the vendor and the auctioneer to suffer financial loss, and that he may have later amended his bid to a fair price after having enjoyed the joke, although there is no record that this actually took place.

The background to the sale of the property in the beautiful Bowland Forest may hold some interest and I hope some digression may be excused. Following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, King Charles II rewarded General Monck, who had been prominent in the events leading to his return to the throne, with the gift of the Royal Forest and Manors in the Honor of Clitheroe along with the title of the Duke of Albemarle. The lands eventually came into the possession of the Duke of Buccleuch, who decided to dispose of the estate, and in the early 19th century Bowland (or Bolland) was deforested, the deer slain and the farms let individually. Gradually the property was offered for sale and Peregrine Towneley purchased the whole in stages.

Peregrine made generous bequests to many local charities and gave land and money for the erection of churches in different parts of the district, even those outside his own denomination. He gave land and money for the building of St Mary's Catholic Church, Burnley, but died before its completion. He was the first president of the Mechanics Institute, the first chairman of the Burnley Board of Guardians, and in 1831 when the

emancipation of the Roman Catholics took place he was immediately honoured by being appointed the High Sheriff of Lancashire, a post denied to members of the family for over 300 years. He was a deputy lieutenant of Lancashire and his interest in the sciences resulted in a fellowship of the Royal Society on December 17th, 1812, He was a trustee of the British Museum, and on June 18th, 1812, he became a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

His shy, kind and sensitive nature, coupled with his outstanding generosity and deep religious convictions, combined to make him a popular figure who at times had been portrayed as an eccentric, due to his disinclination to accept completely the trappings of his social background.



*Charlotte (née Drummond) wife of Peregrine Edward Towneley, Esq.*  
W. BRADLEY

His death took place on the last day of 1846, his wife Charlotte following him to the grave 11 days later.



## Chapter Fourteen

### COLONEL CHARLES TOWNELEY

Peregrine's elder son Charles (born January 8th, 1803) was 43 years old when he inherited the Towneley properties, and he came up to Lancashire from London with his wife and young family of three girls - Caroline Theresa (born April 4th, 1838), Emily Frances (November 28th, 1839) and Alice Mary (July 6th, 1846). He had married Lady Caroline Harriet, the youngest daughter of the family of four boys and five girls of William Philip Molyneux, 2nd Earl of Sefton, on November 19th, 1836.

The Molyneuxes of Sefton, whose home was Croxteth Hall, near Liverpool, have roots associated with the Norman Conquest, with the name of de Moline. An early William Molyneux served with Edward II in the Scottish wars. A later William served with Edward III and the Black Prince, and yet another William distinguished himself at the Battle of Flodden Field. The second baronet, Sir Richard, was elevated to a viscountcy by Charles I in 1628, and in 1771 George III bestowed an Irish earldom on the 8th Viscount, the Earl of Sefton. Lady Caroline Harriet's father, an energetic, vigorous personality and skilled equestrian, earned for himself the affectionate nickname of Lord Dashalong and was the patron of the first Grand National in 1836. He was created a peer of the United Kingdom as Baron Sefton of Croxteth on June 20th, 1831.

Charles endeavoured to carry on the philanthropic work introduced by his father and there is no doubt that he succeeded admirably. He followed Peregrine as president of the then prospering Mechanics' Institute and laid the foundation stone for the handsome new building in 1851. He became a patron of many local organisations and was persuaded to preside at many public functions although he accepted some of these invitations very reluctantly because it was generally accepted that he was neither happy with nor accustomed to public speaking.

The Towneleys were extremely generous hosts and availed themselves of every opportunity to provide hospitality to anyone even remotely associated with the family's activities. Audits at Easter and Michaelmas were held at the Hall Inn in Burnley and these events required the tenants to pay their dues to the estate. Some of the tenants had to travel considerable distances, but all were provided with ample refreshments that ranged from sandwiches in the afternoon to a more lavish repast in the evening. Tobacco and an abundance of ale were available to all who desired these luxuries and the late meal was followed by spontaneous entertainment provided by the guests themselves.

Christmas and the New Year were obvious occasions for festivity with three parties being arranged over the Yuletide period for indoor and outdoor staffs and local tradesmen. The event arranged for the tradesmen was a particularly popular treat with invitations being extended to the local shopkeepers and their wives whose businesses were patronised throughout the year by the Towneleys.

Commencing at 9 pm, upwards of 300 guests were greeted at the entrance to the blue drawing room by Charles and Lady Caroline and the family, and the host and hostess gracefully led off the proceedings with a country dance to the strains of music provided by a quadrille band comprising a cornet, violin, bass and piccolo under the leadership of Mr Thomas Pollard, St Peter's Church organist and well-known local musician. At midnight the family retired and their departure coincided with the first of the three sittings to a

sumptuous meal for the guests. Each sitting catered for approximately 100 guests and was accommodated in the servant dining hall. The adjoining housekeeper's room was beautifully decorated with an array of food made available to the guests throughout the night, and on the party's dispersal at 5a.m., coffee was supplied to the departing company.

The outdoor and indoor staff parties were informal affairs with wives and children in attendance. Gifts of tea for wives, clothing for children and succulent portions of beef for the men proportionate to the numbers in the families were distributed by the hosts.

The occasion of daughter Caroline's marriage to Lord Norreys in 1858 heralded another spate of celebrations with parties at the Bowling Green Inn (opposite the militia barracks) for the senior staff of Colonel Towneley's 5th Royal Lancashire Militia. About 70 N.C.O.s and wives enjoyed a lively night of hospitality, with entertainment coming from the guests themselves, monologues, recitations and songs doubtless being prompted by liberal supplies of ale! A 'night out' for members of the estate staff was also held at the Hall Inn to celebrate the occasion.

The year 1857 saw the appointment of Charles to High Sheriff of Lancashire and once more his penchant for hospitality and entertainment was manifest, for prior to his departure to Lancaster for the inauguration he invited the gentry of the area to an elegant and sumptuous 'dejeuner a la fourchette' - an event which catered for over 100 guests in the red drawing room. In addition, 600 tenants and tradesmen were supplied with breakfast in a large marquee erected at the rear of the hall. The bandsmen of the 5th Royal Lancashire Militia entertained with popular music and then joined the staff sergeants, javelin men and trumpeters for breakfast in the servants' hall.

At 10.30 Lady Caroline, the Misses Towneley and guests witnessed the departure of the one-mile procession that accompanied the Towneley coach through the park and into the crowded and flag-bedecked streets of Burnley to meet the special train at Rosegrove Station.

Towneley Hall was the scene of much social activity, and visitors included many prominent members of London society and titled families, and even foreign ambassadors were entertained there. Colonel Charles and his wife were fond of amateur dramatics and went to extreme lengths in their attention to detail in order to provide their guests with desirable entertainment. The red drawing room was subtly converted into an imposing auditorium, with the performers including the Towneley girls, members of the Molyneux and Bertie families, and even members of the domestic staff were pressed into service in some of the one-act plays. The programme was completed by monologues, recitations and musical items in which Lucy Evelyn, John's second daughter, featured prominently with her delightful singing. For these evening performances, members of the area's leading families were usually invited to join the house guests.

In the quieter and more sedate privacy of the family evenings Charles and Lady Caroline encouraged the family to indulge in more impromptu soirees and musical evenings, with games and charades.

The three Towneley girls were all presented at court, and on January 20th, 1858, Charles and Lady Caroline, along with their two elder daughters, Caroline Theresa and Emily Frances, were guests at the State Ball at Buckingham Palace. The family were regularly

invited to the social events arranged by the more fashionable families of the day, and were often on the guest list at the home of Lord Derby at Knowsley.

The completion of St Mary's Catholic Church took place in August, 1849, at a cost of £15,000, and Charles promised an annual sum of £300. When a public subscription was opened to clear the outstanding debt on the building Charles offered another shilling for every shilling subscribed by the public. In addition, he donated sums of £500 annually for the upkeep of St Thomas's Mission in the Meadows district of Burnley; £100 a year to St. Hubert's at Dunsop Bridge; £100 a year to a Catholic mission at Stella, near Newcastle; £50 a year to a Catholic chapel at Todmorden, and a similar sum to another chapel at Hapton. Lady Caroline lent full support to her husband's philanthropic activities and she had a particular interest in the Burnley Wood Catholic School, housed in the building of the former Catholic chapel situated in the vicinity of Handbridge House on Todmorden Road. Her ladyship was instrumental in inaugurating tea parties for the children for many years and she visited many homes in the area in order to persuade children to attend school.

Prior to his life at Towneley Charles had been involved in a minor way with the activities of the turf, with two horses, Westpoint and Algiers, under trainer John Scott, achieving only moderate success. On his arrival at Towneley his interests waned somewhat and were taken over by agriculture. However, in the year 1859 his attraction for the sport of kings was revived and, along with his estate manager, Mr Eastwood, he bred a string of top-class horses which enjoyed considerable success on the race course. Hesperithusa, a beautiful mare, won the Hunt Cup at Ascot and Butterfly gained an outstanding success in winning the Oaks in 1860, whilst another brilliant horse, Doefoot, won 11 races out of 17 starts.

But the prelude to Charles's greatest success on the Turf began in 1859 when his trainer, William Oates, advised him to buy a chestnut colt named Kettledrum at the Doncaster sales. Kettledrum was foaled in 1858 by Rataplan out of Hybla and was bred by a Mr Cookson, and although many expert judges of horseflesh were not over-impressed by the look of the horse - considering him top-heavy - Mr Towneley purchased him.

Kettledrum was an exceptionally strong animal and stood 16 hands high. He was a darkish chestnut with a blaze face, two white forelegs and a white hind leg. His grandly-formed lean head was supported by a clean, strong and muscular neck, and he had a beautiful back and loins.

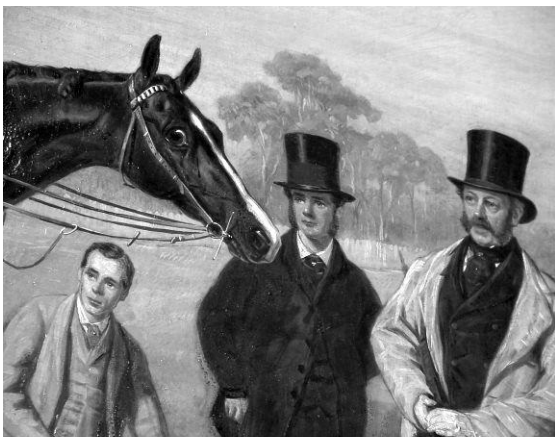
He ran only three times as a two-year-old, making his debut at York, where he won the North of England Biennial. He then ran again at the same meeting, being third in the Spalding Stakes. Kettledrum's third appearance on the track prior to being rested for the Derby was in the 2,000 Guineas, where he ran second.

It cannot be said that Kettledrum was one of the favourites to win the Epsom Derby of 1861, for the odds quoted against him were 16 to 1 in a field of 18 horses. The race got away after two false starts, and Kettledrum's jockey, a popular young rider named Bullock, settled in with the leading group. At Tattenham Corner, Dundee, the favourite, looked a certain winner with a two-length advantage over the Towneley horse. Suddenly, however, Dundee faltered in his stride and appeared to go partially lame, and Kettledrum, running strongly, overtook the leader and won by a length in what was then a record time.

Recognising his good fortune, Colonel Charles commiserated with the owner of Dundee. The race's prize money was £2,000, although it is probable that Colonel Charles placed a

wager on his entry, and one report gave the accumulated winnings as nearer £6,000. The 'Burnley Advertiser' of the time caused some eyebrows to be raised when it published a report that Pope Pius IX had benefited to the extent of £5,000 with Kettledrum's victory. According to the local journal, His Holiness had dined with Colonel Towneley some time before the race and said in jest: 'Pray back your wonderful horse for £10 for me, my dear colonel.' Jest or no, Colonel Towneley took the request in earnest, placed the bet and £5,000 - a sum far in excess of the quoted odds - was sent to the Vatican.

The fortunes of Kettledrum were closely followed by the people of Burnley and when the news of his victory was received by 'electric wire' there were scenes of unprecedented jubilation. The bells of St Peter's Church were rung in celebration, whilst at the Bull Hotel crowds of people thronged the adjacent streets, adding to the mayhem inside. Handfuls of coins were tossed through the open windows of the hostelry into the crowd and a barrel of ale placed outside was rapidly disposed of. Meanwhile the band of the local militia hurried to the scene to add to the festivities. At Towneley Hall enthusiasm was a little less boisterous, but nonetheless the staff was regaled with bread and cheese and draughts of the celebrated Towneley old ale.



Kettledrum with his trainer.  
Colonel Charles Towneley and  
nephew Richard looking on.

Kettledrum, the hero of the celebrations, ran in only one more race after his success in the Derby. This was the St Leger, and he was beaten by half a length by Caller-Ou. He was then retired to the Towneley Root Stud Farm at Dunsop Bridge, where, along with many other Towneley horses, he shared quarters with Butterfly in which can only be described as superlative animal luxury. His stud fee was 30gns., which included the services of a stud groom, but he was never a completely satisfactory stallion. Kettledrum was mated with Butterfly, and one would automatically assume that the combined strains of an Oaks winner and a Derby winner would produce outstanding progeny, but such was not the case, for Master Butterfly, born in 1864, and

Buttercup, born the following year, achieved but moderate success. Both won minor races, but gained no major honours; in fact, none of Kettledrum's bloodstock achieved the desired success on the course. He was sold and eventually ended his days in Hungary. Butterfly, however, was allowed to continue her retirement at Root, and died there in April, 1867. The success of Butterfly in the Oaks has a unique and permanent reminder in the chancel of St Mary's Church, Burnley, for to celebrate the mare's victory a high altar, reredos, pulpit and other decorative features were introduced through the combined efforts of Mr Eastwood (the Towneley steward and agent), Mr Culshaw (the herdsman) and Colonel Towneley. A carving of the horse was cut into the stonework, but this was subsequently removed during later renovations. However, butterflies and acorns with oak leaves are still prominently featured in the beautiful stained glass window over the altar.

Root Stud Farm was well in advance of its time as an animal sanctuary and catered for the inmates with an excellence unsurpassed at the time. One of the facilities provided was an ingenious Turkish bath which was so constructed to allow the animal's head to protrude through an aperture in the wall while the steam inside cleansed and stimulated its body.

Also at Root was a substantial salmon hatchery which regularly supplied the nearby River Hodder with abundant batches of high-class fish.

Most of the horse boxes at Root Farm now house cattle, the Turkish bath has disappeared from the scene and horses are no longer a feature of the Dunsop Bridge farm. Basically the layout is substantially unaltered and visitors would find it comparatively easy to visualise the day-to-day activities when under the control of the Towneley family.

In addition to his racing interests, Charles still retained his enthusiasm in the breeding of shorthorn cattle, his 'Butterfly' strain achieving national - even international - fame. The 'father' of the herd was Royal Butterfly, a magnificent bull weighing over a ton. He was the sire of several equally excellent beasts, and one of his sons, Master Butterfly, was sold to an Australian breeder and although he survived the long sea journey he succumbed to sun-stroke a few weeks after his arrival. The Towneley shorthorn stock was renowned throughout the country for its quality and enjoyed a high standard of success at the agricultural shows. In his anxiety to improve the bloodstock of local farmers, Colonel Towneley offered the services of his bulls and placed announcements in the local press to this effect.

Cattle sales at the Towneley farm were an obvious target for breeders and dealers alike, and even the general public eagerly anticipated these events. The day of the sale found the town besieged with people from all over the North, most of whom arrived by early trains, and roads to Towneley were flooded with vehicles of all types, joined by pedestrians and visitors on horseback.

The event was staged in The Croft, a large field fronting the farm, and throughout the proceedings the crowds were entertained by music from the local militia's band. Ample refreshments were available in Jacob's Laithe, a large barn suitably decorated for the occasion, with tables running the full length of the barn. As always, the quality was of the highest. Colonel Towneley welcomed the guests with a short speech at each of the three sittings and his remarks were spontaneously and generously applauded. The Royal toast and three rousing cheers for the host preceded the meal.

After 14 years as doyen of the Towneley shorthorn herd, it was decided that Royal Butterfly had passed his usefulness and when the decision to dispose of him became known an uncharacteristic gloom descended on the farm, and on the day of his departure Long Will Edmondson, the head stockman, for the first time in his long service with the Towneleys - declined to accept his instructions when he refused to escort the old bull to the station to begin the journey to Bradford, where he was to be slaughtered. A neighbouring farmer accepted the task and as Royal Butterfly was led out of the farmyard none of the staff witnessed his departure.

In the 1860s Lady Caroline's health began to cause some concern. She suffered from diabetes, and late in 1865 the colonel accompanied her to St Leonards-on-Sea in the hope that the milder Sussex climate would be of benefit. However, on February 3rd, 1866, Lady Caroline's condition declined and it was decided to return to their London home, where she died five days later. Her body was brought to Burnley by rail and lay overnight in the domestic chapel at Towneley Hall. The chapel was heavily draped in black and the walls were festooned with black and white cord which was interspersed with the cross-moline emblem of the Molyneux family, whilst on the rear wall the escutcheon of the Molyneuxes was displayed.



Lady Caroline Towneley

The news of her death aroused widespread sympathy among the townspeople of Burnley and on the day of the funeral shops and mills were closed in deference to Lady Caroline's popularity. The whole of the processional route was densely crowded with onlookers and the cortege of 14 carriages had to be headed by police officers to ensure a safe passage to St Peter's Church. Unprecedented scenes were witnessed outside the church gates, for as the coffin was being removed from the hearse the crowd pressed forward to secure a better view and many of the young people clambered on to the high wall surrounding the churchyard, hauling themselves up with the aid of the railings on the wall. Tragically, the stonework was none too safe and the extra strain caused it to collapse, resulting in many injuries and the death of two children.

After the funeral a dole was distributed to the poor of St Mary's parish, with 63 women receiving a shilling and a 4lb loaf of bread, the number of recipients representing a year of Lady Caroline's life.

Following his wife's death, Colonel Towneley restricted his public activities somewhat. His two elder daughters were both married, but he had the support of his youngest daughter, Alice Mary, until her marriage in 1871. He still found time and energy to devote to his estate affairs, and the Christmas parties at the hall were still regarded as the highlights of the year. In these events his daughters and their families supported him wholeheartedly in his capacity as host, and whereas he had previously led off the festivities in the country dance partnered by his wife, he was now accompanied by the housekeeper, followed by other members of staff and his family.

But the loss of Lady Caroline obviously affected him a great deal, and despite his brave attempts to pursue a limited form of social life, her death had created a void in his life which he found difficult to breach. During the grouse shooting season he invited groups of friends to shooting parties on the estate and it was on one of these occasions that he was involved in an incident that might well have had serious consequences. The colonel had loaded his gun and was raising it to aim when he stumbled on the rough ground, causing his finger to press the trigger involuntarily. One of the beaters, a local farmer, was in the line of fire and the shot grazed his chest and wounded his left arm. Much concerned, Colonel Towneley rushed to the man's assistance and summoned medical attention. Fortunately, the farmer was not seriously hurt, but the day's sport was suspended.

In May, 1868, Charles had a disturbing experience when being taken by gig from his home to the station en route for London. The driver of the vehicle was a friend, Major Greenwood, and as they passed through the Towneley gates the horse took fright and began to bolt down the road, with the carriage swinging violently from side to side. Major

Greenwood was thrown into the carriageway and, despite desperate attempts, Colonel Towneley was unable to reach the reins. Fortunately, a nearby workman witnessed the occurrence and, realising the danger, rushed in front of the horse and managed to arrest its progress, finally bringing it to a halt. He then took control of the carriage and drove Charles to the station. The report does not indicate to what extent Colonel Towneley was affected by the incident, but there is little doubt that he found it unnerving. One also supposes that the courageous workman was handsomely rewarded.

The first half of the 1870s saw the weight of years taking toll of Charles, and he suffered attacks of what were termed at the time apoplexy. However, he still regularly visited neighbouring Burnley in his carriage on shopping expeditions, and his last such visit was in late October 1876. On November 4th he suffered a severe seizure and his physician, Dr Coultate, was urgently summoned from his Manchester Road surgery. Following a hasty journey by cab to the hall, the physician examined Colonel Towneley at length, but sadly announced his death. None of his family were at Towneley at the time, but all arrived within a matter of hours.

His passing brought to an end a congenial era which had been inaugurated by his father Peregrine and continued with the inordinate courtesy and kindness of an extremely popular gentleman highly regarded in all classes of society. He emulated his father in becoming a justice of the peace, High Sheriff and deputy lieutenant of the county, and he was a trustee of the British Museum. His interest in the sciences gained him a fellowship of the Royal Society on November 17th, 1842, and he was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries on May 24th, 1838.

Colonel Charles's body rested in the domestic chapel at Towneley prior to the burial alongside Lady Caroline, and the scenes in the town on the day of the funeral were reminiscent of his wife's interment 10 years earlier.

As in the case of his wife, a dole was distributed with 74 6lb loaves of bread and 74 shillings being received by the poor of the parish.

## Chapter Fifteen

### COLONEL JOHN TOWNELEY



Colonel John Towneley

There being no son to inherit the estate following Charles's death in 1876, his brother John became the administrator of the property. John was born on February 16th, 1806, and spent much of his early life in London, where he was a popular member of society and enjoyed a wide circle of friends. He was a Member of Parliament for Beverley from 1841 to 1852, being one of only two Catholic Members of the House at the time, and although there is no record of any controversial political activity in John's parliamentary career, he caused a ripple in the Commons on one occasion when he reprimanded Mr Gladstone for making derogatory references to the Catholic community.

However, John did not immediately take up residence at Towneley Hall. In fact, he and his family spent little time there, and appeared to prefer the more secluded Thorneyholme at Dunsop Bridge, an

attractive property acquired by his father in the earlier years of the 19th century. When living at Thorneyholme the family attended the delightfully neat little Roman Catholic church of St Hubert's, which is reputed to have been built from the proceeds of Kettledrum's Derby win and which was further embellished by Mrs John Towneley.

John's wife was Lucy Ellen (born 1818), the sixth daughter of Sir Henry Tichborne of Tichborne Park, Hampshire, a member of one of the oldest and foremost Catholic families in the South of England and a family that had lived at Tichborne from the reign of Henry II. The family home was rebuilt in 1803.

Throughout their long history the Tichbornes have undergone many fascinating periods and have produced some colourful characters. For instance, the Tichborne Dole is an institution dating back to 1250 and emanated from the truculent Sir Roger de Tichborne, who after acceding to a request from his dying wife to set aside the produce of some of his land for the relief of the poor, cruelly stipulated that he would grant only as much land as she could walk around during the time it took a brand to burn. Incredibly, Lady Mabell superhumanly crawled round 23 acres before collapsing and that portion of land is still known as 'The Crawls', and the dole she inaugurated is still distributed - although there was a break in the tradition towards the end of the 18th century but was later restored.

The family was at the height of its fame in Tudor times, and during the reign of Elizabeth I, Chidiok Tichborne, who was a close friend of Antony Babington, aligned himself along with four others and his friend in the conspiracy to dispose of the Queen and replace her



with Mary Queen of Scots. When the plot was discovered, Babington, Chidiock and his colleagues suffered an ignominious death by execution on September 20th, 1586.

The later 19th century saw the Tichbornes in the public eye once more with a trial that lasted over 100 days and cost over £90,000 when the family successfully resisted the claim of a butcher from the east end of London who was masquerading as a member of the family believed lost at sea.

Roger Tichborne was the son of a French mother and spent his youth in Paris, completed his education at Stonyhurst College and later entered the army. In 1852 he sold his commission and went to South America, embarking for home two years later. During the course of the return voyage the ship was lost and Roger was presumed dead. The inheritance passed to a new heir, but Lady Tichborne, burdened with grief at the loss of her son, continued to cling to the belief that Roger had survived, and she placed advertisements in English and Continental papers in the hope that contact would be established. Eleven years later she believed that she had found him in the form of a claimant trading as a butcher in Australia who, it was later revealed, had emigrated from England, and she entered into correspondence with him.

The man, Arthur Orton, traded on his apparent good fortune and raised a considerable amount of money in Australia on his 'expectations'. He arrived back in England in 1866 and then visited Paris to confront her ladyship, and in spite of vast differences in appearance Lady Tichborne accepted him as her son and settled an annuity of £1,000 on him. She died shortly after and with her death the annuity ceased. Orton's friends persuaded him to take legal proceedings against the trustees of the will, and following an action in the Court of Common Pleas his case was lost. He was immediately arrested and charged with perjury, being sentenced to 14 years' penal servitude. He died an obscure death in 1898.

Lucy Ellen had a very charming and most attractive personality and the family were frequent and popular guests at many of the receptions held at the French, German and Austrian embassies, where Mrs Towneley's vivacity was much in evidence. However, their life was not wholly confined to the London society scene, for much of the summer was spent at Bushey Lodge, near Hampton Court, Cowes in the Isle of Wight and, of course, there were periodic visits to Towneley.

Colonel John and Mrs Towneley had a family of one son (Richard Henry) and four daughters, Theresa Harriet Mary, Lucy Evelyn, Mary Elizabeth and Mabel Anne, and due to Mrs Towneley's strong disapproval of boarding schools the girls were educated by governesses.

Tragically they suffered the loss of their son in 1877. Richard Henry (Dick to members of the family) was born on February 5th, 1849, and went to school at the Oratory at Edgbaston before proceeding to Christ Church, Oxford, in 1868. He was a tall, even-tempered, gentle-mannered and handsome young man, and although easy-going in his studies was extremely clever. A popular figure at school, he made many friends, among them Lord Rosebery (later to perform the opening ceremony of Towneley Hall as a museum and art gallery) and Lord Bute. On the completion of his education Richard took a commission in the Life Guards, resigning in September, 1875. He was very fond of Italy, where he spent many of his vacations, and in April, 1877, he was in Naples recuperating from illness. After a short stay he moved to Rome, where he contracted a fever and died a



Richard Henry  
Towneley

week later. Richard was unmarried, and the suddenness of his death at the age of 28 caused a great deal of surprise and shock, and some unconfirmed reports suggested that he had died as the result of a duel.

His body was brought to England and Colonel John and Mrs Towneley expressed a desire for the remains to be interred at St Mary's, Burnley. However, the Home Secretary declined the request, and a vault was constructed at St Hubert's Church, Whitewell, where the body lay for four days prior to the interment.

Less than a year later, following closely on a visit to Cowes in the Isle of Wight came the passing of Colonel John at his London home, 10 Carlton House Terrace. He had suffered a minor stroke when in his fifties and had made a good recovery, but his later years had seen a gradual decline in his health, and the early and sudden death of

his son Richard obviously had had a further adverse effect on his general condition. His final illness came when what had appeared to be a slight chill developed into pneumonia, and after a temporary improvement his condition rapidly declined and he died on February 21st, 1878, just five days after his 72nd birthday

He was a kindly man with a wide circle of friends and was a well-loved and affectionate father, but although he had been the administrator of the family property for 15 months he had actually spent only a few weeks in residence at Towneley Hall, hence he had been unable to make the impact on the people of Burnley as had his brother Charles and father Peregrine. The interment took place at St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge, where he was buried in the family vault alongside his son.

Colonel John and Lucy Ellen had proposed to complete the Towneley chapel in St Mary's Church, Burnley, as a memorial to son Richard, but even before the work was commenced John himself had died, and as a consequence Mrs Towneley commissioned the work as a joint memorial to both her son and husband. And the chapel was dedicated to Mary Elizabeth, the third daughter, a nun in the Order of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Colonel John's personal estate was sworn at a figure of under £50,000, and he made bequests to his servants, with gifts of saddle horses to two of his daughters. The remainder of his property passed to his wife, Lucy Ellen. Mrs Towneley survived him by 12 years, dying on April 8th, 1900, at her London home in Upper Grosvenor Street, aged 82. She posthumously joined her husband and son in the vault at St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge.

## Chapter Sixteen

### A CHALLENGE FROM OVERSEAS

With no male member of the family to continue the administration of the extensive Towneley property, it became necessary to apply the authority of Parliament to enable the assets to be distributed. Seven years were to elapse before the Towneley Estates Act 1885 received the Royal Assent, and this Act authorised the apportionment of the estate between the seven beneficiaries, the two surviving daughters of Colonel Charles, Emily Frances and Alice Mary plus the family of Lady Norreys, who had died in 1873, and the four daughters of Colonel John.

However, the death of Colonel John also brought rumblings from overseas in which the descendants of supposed members of the Towneley family were pressing claims to their share of the assets. No doubt many of them believed their claims were justified and legitimate, and varying reports of the basis of their challenge began to appear in the local press. In the Burnley Express of March 28th, 1885, a quotation from the New York Herald of March 13th referred to a Mrs Augusta J Pratt, of Syracuse, the widow of a former state attorney and judge, Mr Daniel Pratt, who stated that she was 'the undoubted heiress to the English estate valued at 100 million dollars,' and a similar claim came from a Mrs S. S. Brown, of Bagdad, New York. Mrs Pratt alleged that Mary Towneley, 'to whom the estate was left', was her great-grandmother, adding that she also possessed heirlooms, pictures and other documents in support of her claim.

Particulars appeared in the Burnley Express of June 12th, 1880, of yet another abstruse claim from America in the name of Stevens. The claimant on this occasion based her evidence on a statement made in 1794 by a Pamela Ingall, who said that her mother Sylvia in turn had heard her mother, Mary Stevens, say that in reality she was Mary Towneley, the daughter of 'Lord John Towneley of Lancashire', and that she had eloped to America and changed her name.

It is undoubtedly true that some Towneleys made their homes across the Atlantic, notably Colonel Richard, who went to America as A. D. C. to Colonel Howard of Effingham and whilst there married Elizabeth, the widow of Governor Philip de Carteret, settling in Elizabethtown, New Jersey. Colonel Richard, who was a member of a delegation which met the Indians in Albany in 1684, later became a prominent legislator in New Jersey. However, he was a descendant of the Royle branch and not concerned in the main Towneley estate.

Another member of the family to settle in the New World was Mary Towneley, of Stone Edge, near Colne, who was the grand-daughter of Lawrence Towneley, the great-great-grandson of John de Towneley. About 1636 Mary married Augustine Warner, originally from Norwich and recently returned from Virginia. The couple went back to America and set up home at Warner Hall in Gloucester County. Their daughter Sarah married her cousin, Lawrence Towneley, also of Stone Edge, who also made his home in Virginia along with one of his brothers John. Both brothers had families.

The name of Lawrence takes on more significance when one reflects on the details of the claims and subsequent litigation that had its roots in America. As will be seen, the American version of Mary's marriage differ somewhat from the family's records, and

possibly a more garbled account of her marriage and family has been handed down along with the name of Lawrence.

The family believed that their link was through Mary, the eldest daughter of Richard (1629-1707) and Mary (or Margaret) Towneley. According to their claim, Mary had married a John Lawrence in 1693 against the wishes of both families, presumably on religious grounds, and the couple had emigrated. And it was through the children of this marriage that the basis of the claim arose. The propriety of their view was such that an association was formed to challenge the estate's distribution. This conglomerate became known as the Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley Association and had its headquarters in Toronto with a branch at Grand Rapids, Michigan. At a meeting in Toronto in January, 1886, reported in the *Toronto News*, Mr Sturgeon Stewart, the secretary, outlined the principal elements of the challenge. He maintained that the last heir of direct line was John Towneley, who had died in 1813, and that for the next three years Jonathon John Lawrence, the grandson of John Lawrence and Mary Towneley, had held the estates, and when Jonathan died, his son Rebias, who was then in America, was not informed of his father's death and so never came forward to claim his legacy. Secretary Stewart went on to affirm that Peregrine and later his sons Charles and John were no more than life trustees. Armed with such information - ludicrous as it may now seem - two members of the Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley Association made the journey from America to represent the 2,000 member-claimants in the action which was brought before the Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Day in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice in January, 1887.

In retrospect, one sees the association as ill-advised in pressing their claims on such an inconsequential and refutable basis. The cost must have been considerable, but, on the other hand, had the lawsuit been successful the gains would have been substantial.

The depositions submitted to the learned judges were preposterously unreal and barely matched up to the established facts - stories of lost documents, negligence of lawyers, confusion of dates, names, etc. And, indeed, an outrageous allegation made by the association - although not advanced in court - even suggested that Peregrine was illegitimate and that he had spent a substantial amount of money trying to prove otherwise.

In spite of the eloquence of counsel, the possibility of the success of the claim gradually diminished with the proceedings, and when Mr Justice Day referred to a time lapse of 70 years between the alleged discrepancy and subsequent litigation the action virtually crumbled with the case being ordered to stand over.

Not to be denied, an appeal was lodged with the House of Lords against the High Court's ruling in April, 1890, but the application was summarily dismissed as 'vexatious and oppressive'.<sup>[8]</sup>

Of course, it is indisputable that there is still a large number of Towneley descendants across the Atlantic - although inevitably the blood strain is gradually weakening - and it is equally evident that the pride of relationship still exists, and many overseas visitors to the family home claim distant relationship with the Towneleys.

With the court action having been resolved, the distribution of the property was permitted to go ahead. The terms of the settlement were that the estate was divided into two halves, with the two surviving daughters of Colonel Charles (Emily Frances and Alice Mary),

along with the descendants of Caroline Theresa (Lady Norreys), who had died in 1873, sharing one-half, and the four daughters of Colonel John (Theresa Harriet, Lucy Evelyn, Mary Elizabeth and Mabel Anne) sharing the remaining half.

The local holdings of the Towneley family were extremely extensive and featured among the assets were two well-known and popular hostleries - the Old Sparrow Hawk Hotel and the Hall Inn. The Sparrow Hawk (one wonders if the falcon in the family crest has any significance with the name) was built in the 1820s and was the oldest victualling house in the town, being a combination of blacksmith shop and alehouse, the forge being situated at the rear in a separate building. On the other hand, the Hall Inn was believed to have been a town house for the Towneleys and that originally an access road ran from the inn to the hall. Charles Towneley did, in fact, have the whole frontage of the house rebuilt in 1857, and an inscription recording this was cut into the stonework. About 1888 workmen undertaking internal alterations at the Hall Inn found the remains of an oak-timbered room believed to be 'centuries old'. Historians who examined the discovery were of the opinion that the room had been the domestic chapel during the tavern's use as a town house. During the 19th century the inn was the scene of much entertainment, with dances, social activity and theatrical performances being staged there. Here again the inn's name obviously has some significance in its association with the Towneley family.

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[8] Whilst L. C. was substantially correct in his description of the affair of the American claimants, he perhaps did not fully explain the origins of the affair nor how it came to achieve such notoriety.

In the first place there is a long history of what Americans call the "Phony Inheritance Scam". Even today organisations such as US Postal Inspection Service provide advice along the following lines

*"Wouldn't it be nice if you came into an inheritance from a long-lost relative or friend? It does happen, but not very often. So if you receive a notification in the mail from an "estate locator" saying that there is an unclaimed inheritance waiting for you, beware. You could be the target of a slick con artist."*

Frank A. Hill, an American genealogist researching the case in the 1880s, found that criminals such as the self-styled Colonel J. F. Jacquess had been deceiving the public for years. Like sharks scenting blood, they had taken extracts from newspaper reports and created half truths to extract money from their victims. There never was a Lawrence-Towneley marriage and none of the supposed claimants had any genuine claim. Hill found evidence that the Towneley frauds had probably started with court cases and newspaper reports relating to the Royle branch of the Towneley family from as early as 1735. [The Mystery Solved - facts relating to the "Lawrence-Townley," "Chase-Townley," marriage and estate question by Frank Alden Hill (Rand Avery Company, Boston 1888).]

The long delay in settling the Towneley estate after 1878 was due to its complexity and in no way related to the American claimants; but the subsequent newspaper reports led to a feeding frenzy amongst the 'American sharks'. Colonel Jacquess was the leading American solicitor for the claimants and between 1885 and 1890 he paid in £25,453 (worth about £2 million today) to his London bank to support the legal proceedings. The main English solicitor assisting Colonel Jacquess was Howell Thomas. After the case was lost these two had a falling out over what remained of the money. The outcome can be seen over the page in a copy of a newspaper cutting that was preserved by the O'Hagan family at the time.

## THE TOWNLEY ESTATES CASE

drew a *P.I.P.* Artist to Bow Street to sketch the principals. The estate is one of those large affairs which are in Chancery; and it was said that the rightful heir had at one time emigrated to America. On the strength of genealogical trees and other evidence, Mr. Howell Thomas and Colonel Jacquess, the two prisoners were alleged to have got round unsuspecting Yankees and raked in the money, giving in exchange bonds which were declared to be so much waste-paper. The two prisoners had a civil action between themselves in respect of the moneys so secured, and subsequently Howell Thomas was sentenced for perjury. He is brought

### 'CUTE YANKEES DUPED



to Bow Street in charge of warders—is close-cropped and bristly about the chin, but wears ordinary clothes.

A newspaper cutting from 1894 when proceedings were taken against Joseph Fraser Jacquess for fraud in the Towneley estate case.

## Chapter Seventeen

### **CAROLINE THERESA AND THE BERTIES**

Charles and Lady Caroline's family of three girls - all born at the Towneley's London home in Tilney Street - married into titled families. The eldest daughter, Caroline Theresa, became the bride of Montagu Arthur, Lord Norreys, the son and heir of the 6th Earl of Abingdon, on July 10th, 1858, and there were five children of the union - two boys (one of whom, Arthur John, born December 26th, 1861, died on January 10th, 1862) and three girls.

The lineage of the Lindsey and Abingdon family first appeared on record in 1501 with the emergence of Robert Bertie of Bersted, Kent, and his two sons, Thomas and William. A later Robert Bertie was created the Earl of Lindsey on November 22nd, 1626, being subsequently promoted Lord High Admiral of England by Charles I, but he succumbed to wounds sustained at the Battle of Edgehill in 1642. The title of Abingdon was added when Bridget (Baroness Norris or Norreys) married Montagu Bertie, 2nd Earl of Lindsey (his second marriage) as her second husband and they had issue, their eldest son, James (5th Lord Norreys), becoming the 1st Earl of Abingdon on November 30th, 1682. The Abingdons were prominent in English court circles and Montagu, the second earl, married as his second wife the widow of General Charles Churchill, the brother of the Duke of Marlborough, on February 13th, 1716-17.

Caroline Theresa never became the Countess of Abingdon, as she predeceased her father-in-law, dying in September, 1873, six weeks following the birth of a third daughter, Cecil Josephine. Her husband, who became the Earl of Abingdon on the death of his father in 1884, remarried in 1883, his bride being Gwendoline Mary, the daughter of Lieut.-General the Hon. Sir James Charlemagne Dormer, K. C. B., and a daughter of this marriage, Gwendoline Theresa Mary, forged a further link with the Churchills in 1908 when she married Major John Strange Spencer Churchill, DSO, the son of Lord Randolph and younger brother of the illustrious Sir Winston. Gwendoline became a firm favourite within the Churchill family circle and she and Sir Winston enjoyed a friendship which stretched throughout their lives.

The Earl of Abingdon died in 1928.

The surviving son of Lord and Lady Norreys, Montagu Charles Francis (born October 3rd, 1860), married the Hon. Rose Riversdale Glyn, the sister of the 4th Baron Wolverton, on July 25th, 1885. The Hon. Rose was raised to the rank of a baron's daughter in 1889.

Montagu Charles Francis, who assumed the name of Towneley-Bertie in 1896, served as an officer with the Imperial Yeomanry during the South African War. He died on September 24th, 1919, predeceasing his father, and his wife died on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1933. Their son, Montagu Henry Edmund Cecil, eventually became the 8th Earl of Abingdon.

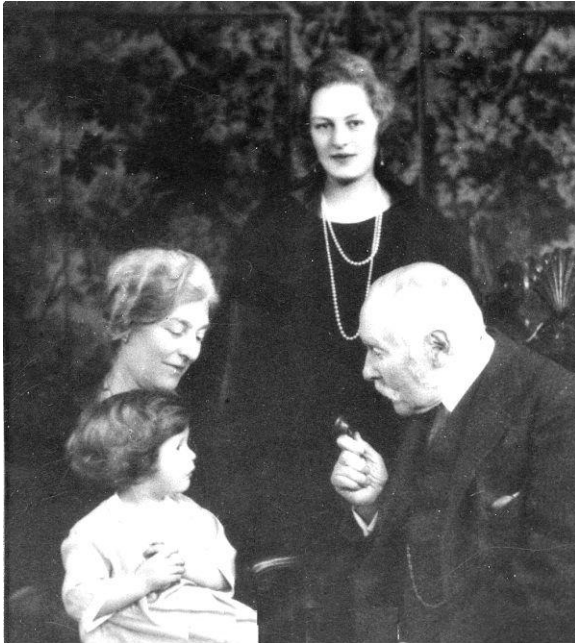
On August 5th, 1879, the eldest daughter of Caroline and Montagu Arthur, Mary Caroline (born August 11th, 1859), married the 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Fitzalan of Derwent, K. G., P.C., G. C. V. O., D. S. O., the second son of the 14th Duke of Norfolk. He was born on June 1st 1855, and was Deputy Earl Marshal of England from 1917 to 1929. As M. P. for Chichester from 1894 to 1921 he held many important Government offices, in addition to which he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland during the years 1921 and 1922. Viscount Fitzalan was a

colonel in the 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars and served in the South African War, gaining the D. S. O. and being mentioned in despatches.

There were two children of the marriage - a son and a daughter. The son, Henry Edmund Fitzalan Howard, succeeded his father to the title and had two daughters, Alatheia Gwendoline Alys Mary (born 1923) and Elizabeth Anne Marie Gabrielle (born 1934).

Mary Caroline Magdalen, the daughter of the union, was born in 1880.

The 1st Viscount died in 1947 and the title became extinct in 1962 on the death of his son and successor. Mary Caroline died on April 21st, 1938.



Priscilla

Lady Alice  
Simon

7th Earl of  
Abingdon

Four Generations

Alice Josephine, known affectionately as 'Joey' in family circles, was Lord and Lady Norreys's second daughter and was born on March 6th, 1865. She lived at Towneley Hall with her grandfather (Colonel Charles Towneley) for part of her youth, later going to stay with her father's family, the Berties. She married twice. Her first husband was Sir Gerald Herbert Portal, K. C. M. G., C.B., whom she married on February 1st, 1890, and whose ancestors were of French extraction and had settled in Hampshire. The Portal family had long been associated with papermaking, having been granted the privilege of manufacturing Bank of England notes in 1724. Sir Gerald became Consul General of Zanzibar and British Commissioner in Uganda, but the marriage lasted less than four years as Sir Gerald died on January 21st, 1894, and there were no children.

Alice Josephine remarried on October 5th, 1897, her second husband being Major

Robert Nicholas Reyntiens, of the Belgian Artillery, who was A. D. C. to King Leopold II of the Belgians. Major Reyntiens was the son of Major Robert Reyntiens of Brussels, and when he died on October 13th, 1913, Lady Alice became a widow for the second time. There was one daughter of the marriage, Priscilla Cecilia Maria, who was born in 1899.

Lady Alice had a very close relationship with her cousin, Cosmo Gordon-Lennox, and on his death in 1921 he bequeathed to her a large portion of his estate, including Dyneley, a bequest that resulted in her return to Lancashire. She immediately involved herself in the activities of the local community, and she took a great interest in farming and livestock. She was particularly concerned with the personal welfare of her tenants and their families and she also found time to work for the Girl Guide Association, being Divisional Commissioner for the movement for 25 years.



At her Dyneley home she had a beautiful chapel constructed and during the Second World War when transport conditions were difficult she invited Catholic neighbours to take part in Holy Mass in her private sanctuary.

During the First World War Lady Alice was involved in a branch of secret service work, and in the Second World War she was very active with the W.V.S. She was very fond of South Africa, which she visited often, and established a school for the children of native servants. She served as a county magistrate for many years.

Lady Alice's daughter, Priscilla Cecilia Maria, married Alexander Louis Wynand Koch de Gooreynd, the son of a banker, in 1921 at Brompton Oratory. Of German origin, the de Gooreynd family dates back to 1672, and British nationality was applied for and granted in 1883. Alexander was born in 1899 and was educated at Eton. He embarked on a military career and reached the rank of colonel in the Irish Guards, being appointed A. D. C. to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1921, following which he was awarded the O. B. E.



**Lady Norman with  
her two sons Simon  
and Peregrine Worsthorne**

Andrew Boyle, in his biography of Montagu Norman, who became Priscilla's second husband, gives an interesting account of Alexander's decision to change his name be deed poll to Worsthorne in 1922. According to Mr Boyle, he entertained a desire to offer himself as a parliamentary candidate and whilst in the Burnley area in a car accompanied by his mother-in-law, Lady Alice, he referred to his aspirations. Her rejoinder was that his chances were only slim with his unmistakably alien name. He replied that he could remedy that without much difficulty, and as they passed a signpost his attention was attracted by the name of the village and he made the instant decision to take the appellation of Worsthorne. This became the family name but in 1937 Alexander resumed his patronymic.

There were two sons of the marriage, Simon Peter Edmund Cosmo William Towneley, born in 1921, and Peregrine Gerard Worsthorne, born on December 22nd, 1923. However, Priscilla's marriage

was less than happy, and after a separation of two years it was dissolved in 1929. Alexander married a second time, his wife being Audley Dawson, and there was a son of this union. In 1934 he married yet again, his third wife being Helen, the daughter of Baron Meyendorff.

Priscilla remarried on January 21st, 1933, her husband being Montagu Collet, the elder son of a barrister, Frederick Henry Norman, and his wife Penelope, of Kensington, London. Born on September 6th, 1871, Montagu was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, and then entered the family business, spending some time in America. On the

outbreak of the Boer War he returned home and obtained a commission in the Bedfordshire Mounted Infantry and spent two years in South Africa, being awarded the D. S. O. and also being mentioned in despatches. During the First World War he was employed at the War Office censoring foreign cables and correspondence. He became a director of the Bank of England in 1907 and was appointed Governor in 1920, a position he held for 24 years. He was elevated to Lord Norman of St Clere in 1944. Although he never enjoyed robust health, he lived to the age of 79, dying on February 4th, 1950, following a seizure.

Priscilla (now Baroness Norman) met Montagu Norman in 1930 at the home of Sir William Portal, a relative of her mother's first husband, and, despite some family opposition - no doubt on religious grounds - the couple were married three years later. During the Second World War she applied herself to voluntary work and was successful in co-ordinating many of the various women's organisations. In 1944 she was appointed a justice of the peace and in 1963 she was made a Commander of the British Empire. Always interested in the nursing services, she is a vice-president of the Royal College of Nursing.

Cecil Josephine was the youngest child of the Lord and Lady Norreys and she was born on July 22nd, 1873, as previously recorded, her mother dying six weeks following her birth, presumably of complications following the pregnancy. Cecil married Paul Aloysius Kenna of India on July 18th, 1895, but she died of typhoid in the country within a year of the marriage.

Her husband, Paul, was born on August 16th, 1862, the second son of James Kenna and nephew of Matthew Kearney of Durham. He was educated at Stonyhurst before proceeding to Sandhurst as a prelude to a military career that was to demonstrate, his undoubted gallantry. At the Battle of Omdurman on September 2nd, 1898, when holding the rank of captain, he assisted Major Crole Wyndham by taking him on his horse behind the saddle after the major's horse had been killed in a cavalry charge, and then, following another charge by the 21st Lancers, Captain Kenna returned to assist another brother officer who was trying to recover the body of a junior officer. For these actions he received the Victoria Cross. Prior to this award, in 1895 Captain Kenna had been awarded the Royal Humane Society's certificate for his action in rescuing a man from drowning, and then in 1902 he was awarded the D. S. O. He eventually reached the rank of brigadier-general, but in 1915 he died of wounds received in the First World War. A portrait of Brigadier Kenna is proudly displayed in the great hall, along with other holders of the Victoria Cross, at his school, Stonyhurst.

Brigadier-General Kenna remarried, his bride being Angela Mary Hibbert.

## Chapter Eighteen

### EMILY FRANCES AND ALICE MARY

Emily Frances, the second daughter of Colonel Charles and Lady Caroline, married Lord Alexander Francis Charles Gordon-Lennox, the fourth son of a family of five sons and three daughters of the 5th Duke of Richmond, again a family with a long and distinguished history. The wedding took place on August 6th, 1863.

Lord Alexander was a captain in the Royal Horse Guards and was M. P. for Shoreham from 1849 to 1859. His antecedents were from the 1st Duke of Richmond and Lennox (1672), the illegitimate son of King Charles II by Louise Renee de Keroualle (Duchess of Portsmouth), a Breton noblewoman formerly the maid of honour to Charles's sister Henrietta and who was his mistress from 1671 to his death in 1685. The second Duke was High Constable at the coronation of George III. Later members of the Gordon-Lennox family continued to be associated with the Royal Household, and Lord Alexander's nephew Algernon, the second son of the 6th Duke, and his wife Blanche were according to the Countess of Airlie in her book, 'Thatched with Gold' - the handsomest couple in London, and they were close friends of King George V and Queen Mary. The original family name of Richmond and Lennox was given the appendage of Gordon in 1836 following the death of the Duke's maternal uncle.

There was one son of the union between Lord Alexander and Emily Frances, Cosmo Charles, who was born on August 17th, 1868. Cosmo was educated at the Oratory School, Edgbaston, whose principal was Cardinal Newman. Whilst at school he began to take an interest in the stage and later attended Sarah Thorne's School of Acting at Margate, following which he went on tour with Tom Thorne's company under the name of Cosmo Stuart. He made his first London appearance at the Opera Comique in 1894, and four years later he married Marie Susan Etherington, who under her stage name of Marie Tempest charmed London and American theatre audiences with outstanding performances. Cosmo was Marie's second husband, and she had a son by her first marriage. Cosmo concentrated on writing for the stage, but in 1908 the marriage began to fail when Marie met William Graham-Browne. On the outbreak of war in 1914 Cosmo joined the R.A.M.C. and served throughout hostilities. In the meantime Marie toured the world with her theatrical company, achieving international fame and notoriety. Cosmo died in 1921 at the cottage hospital in Marlow-on-Thames following an operation and Marie married Mr Graham-Browne six months later.

In her book, 'In the Way of Understanding', Lady Priscilla Norman, Cosmo's second cousin, describes him as 'not good-looking, of medium height and stocky' and he was always well dressed and well valeted. He was a friend of Oscar Wilde, and it can be assumed that this association led to his parents' London home in Pont Street being leased to Wilde's great friend, the celebrated Lillie Langtry, and her daughter Jeanne after the death of Lord and Lady Gordon-Lennox in 1892.

Lord Gordon-Lennox, who had been incapacitated with rheumatism for some years, died on January 22nd after an illness that lasted a month. He seldom visited the Burnley area and his last appearance in the town was in 1880 when he supported a friend, Lord Edmund Talbot, on the platform during an unsuccessful election campaign. Emily Frances's death occurred on the last day of the year following a visit to Brighton during which she contracted typhoid. Lady O'Hagan was present at both deaths which took place at their

London home, 21 Pont Street, now incorporated into the Cadogan Hotel, Sloane Street. They were interred at Kensal Green Cemetery.



Alice Mary Towneley

Alice Mary, the youngest daughter of Colonel Charles, married Thomas, 1st Baron O'Hagan, on August 2nd, 1871, at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Burnley, followed by a Mass in the Towneley domestic chapel, the only member of the family to be married in the town. Baron O'Hagan had previously been married, his wife having predeceased him in 1868 and leaving two daughters, a son (Charles) having died in 1840 aged two.

Lord O'Hagan was called to the Irish Bar in 1836 and became a Q. C. in 1849. He was M. P. for Tralee for two years, and his brilliant oratory was a feature of many famous Irish trials. He had two periods as Lord Chancellor of Ireland and was a great friend of William Gladstone. Lord O'Hagan was instrumental in the founding of the Royal University of Ireland in Dublin and was its first vice-chancellor. He was a liberal-minded intellectual and a man of great integrity and generosity.

His elder daughter, Madeleine, married Colonel John McDonnell of Kilmore, Glenariff, Co. Antrim, a member of an extremely eminent Irish family, in 1870, whilst Frances Mary, the younger daughter became the wife of Justice John O'Hagan, a prominent Irish judge and Chief Commissioner of the Land Court of Ireland.

At the time of the wedding Lord O'Hagan was 59 and Alice Mary 25. There were seven children in their 14 years of marriage - Thomas (born December 5th 1878), Maurice Herbert (February 20th, 1882), Kathleen Mary (May 13th, 1876), Mary Caroline (November 25th, 1879), Cathleen (born November 5th, 1877, died November 6th, 1877), Clara Elizabeth Mary (born November 23rd, 1880, died December 23rd 1880), and a son not named who was born August 21st, 1883, and died the same day.

Following their marriage the O'Hagans lived in Ireland and London, with, of course, periodic visits to Towneley Hall, but on February 1st, 1885, Lord O'Hagan died following a seizure at their London home, Hereford House, Park Street, at the age of 73, and it was in that year (1885) that the Towneley Estate Act received the Royal Assent, an Act which was later unsuccessfully challenged in the High Court. Lady O'Hagan received one-sixth of the estate and her share included Towneley Hall, and the family began to divide their time between London (for the season) and their Towneley home. Kathleen Mary, the elder daughter, recalled vividly and with nostalgia some of the highlights of their young life at the hall, how the children learned to milk cows, ride the farm horses and the enjoyment of eating the oatcake and drinking the fresh milk at the farmhouse. She also recalled the thrill of skating on the frozen pond in the winter, midnight Mass in the ancient oak-panelled

domestic chapel at Christmas, followed by the bell ringers and carol singers in the great hall and the brass bands in the quadrangle.



Lady O'Hagan with her children  
Mary, Katheleen, Thomas  
and Maurice

Lady O'Hagan's motto was 'noblesse oblige' (rank has its obligations) and this rule of conduct was pursued throughout her entire life. Immediately on her arrival at Towneley she began to devote much time and energy to implementing her adopted precept by inaugurating many local welfare schemes, including the provision of midwives for working mothers (at her own expense), improved child welfare and educational facilities - indeed she visited every school in the town and was a popular visitor with all the schools' staffs - and she was in the forefront of the successful struggle for the introduction of a high school for girls.

She was short in stature, clear and articulate in speech and in later years as her eyesight began to deteriorate featured a lorgnette which to the children gave her a rather formidable appearance - nevertheless, a senior schoolgirl of the day jocularly summarised her overall impression as resembling a cottage loaf, - a description that would no doubt have amused her ladyship immensely!

In 1888 Lady O'Hagan obtained the tenancy of Fulfilledge House (formerly the ancient home of the Ingham family which dated back to the 15th century but was rebuilt in 1567), and at her own expense converted it from the three dwellings it then comprised to one compact building. In her capacity of associate-general of the Congregation of Our Lady Mother of Good Counsel, she opened the convent in 1890, the consecration ceremony being performed by Father Klein, who wore the famous Whalley cope which had been secretly obtained by the Towneley family from Whalley Abbey on the dissolution of the monasteries. The object of the convent was 'to rescue young girls from bad surroundings and train them to be thorough domestic servants'. Despite the noble ideals of the project, Lady O'Hagan's intentions were challenged by her adversaries when she left the Catholic Church, it being cruelly suggested that she was simply providing her rich friends with cheap and competent domestic staff.

However, in the confines of the convent, which had been sanctioned by the Bishop of the Diocese, was displayed a document which read: 'The undersigned Maestro di Camera of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII presents his respects to the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Stonor and

begs to inform him that the Holy Father has bestowed his most special blessing upon Lady O'Hagan and also upon the pious work for poor girls which she has recently founded. (signed) F Della Volpe, Rome, August 12th, 1888.'

Lady O'Hagan actively sponsored this commendable project for eight years, termination no doubt coinciding with her resignation from the Catholic Church.

There were few facets of public welfare work in which she did not indulge or lend support. She was a compassionate woman, a champion of the underprivileged, and the blind and deaf societies benefited immensely from her patronage. Originally Lady O'Hagan's political leanings were with the Unionists, but later she became a Liberal, although she never allowed her politics to interfere with her friendships and one of her close friends was a strong Socialist adversary, Dan Irving, the local M. P. Lady O'Hagan attempted and accomplished so much in public life that it is almost impossible to enumerate her achievements, and throughout her life she was the pivot on which much local welfare work revolved.

On the outbreak of the Boer War she embarked for South Africa and equipped a military hospital at Nieuport in the Transvaal - again at her own expense. After almost a year in South Africa, her ladyship returned home at the request of her son Thomas, who was on active service in the war theatre, and in the mistaken belief that hostilities were about to cease. She arrived in Burnley on October 9th, 1900, but, sadly, on December 11th - only two months later - she received a telegram informing her of her son's illness, and he died two days later on December 13th of enteric fever, and it surely must have been a deep source of grief that she had not at least had the dubious satisfaction of nursing him during his final illness. For her services in South Africa Lady O'Hagan was awarded the South African medal.

An idealist - some opponents even regarded her as an eccentric - she believed in social reform and was a champion of women's rights, being a pioneer of female emancipation long before the emergence of Women's Lib, and she certainly became a legend in her own lifetime. She was far ahead of her time and her gift of eloquence and repartee delivered with a deep yet soft intonation made her much in demand at public functions, and a fashionable glossy magazine of the day referred to her as being one of the few ladies who could speak in public without blushing or losing her words. In her youth she caused some eyebrows to be raised when she took to riding a tricycle, and in later life she cultivated the habit of smoking cheroots - indeed her daughter Kathleen indulged in the same practice also in later life. Understandably, the habit was viewed with much disfavour by the members of the domestic staff at Towneley, for Lady O'Hagan was inclined to stub the cheroots out on the floor, and the burn marks are still visible in the red and blue drawing rooms.

In 1896 Lady O'Hagan caused some surprise and dismay when she withdrew from the Church of Rome and associated herself with the Unitarians. Her courage and independent thought had never been in question, yet friends and acquaintances expressed bewilderment at her decision. Some people believed that Dr Klein, the lapsed Jesuit and brilliant intellectual who had become a Unitarian minister and who had been an intimate friend of her late husband, may have had some influence on her revised religious opinion, and this could well have contained some particles of truth. The impending marriage of her elder daughter Kathleen and Dr Klein obviously meant further embarrassment, but it is doubtful that this was the sole reason for the change.

Divisions among the public in their appraisal of her action are evident, but her reasons were never publicly disclosed and were confined to her close family, and one can but speculate on her motives. But there is certainly no doubt that her decision was not lightly taken and must have been ruminated at considerable length.

Some members of the public applauded her ladyship for her courage, but others reviled her for what they described as a betrayal, and she endured much criticism and even ostracism from different sections of society. An unpleasant example of this became evident when Lady O'Hagan was presiding at a meeting of the Board of Guardians that had been summoned to administer the local clog fund which had been established to provide clogs for local school children whose parents found it difficult to afford the cost. Children were accompanied by their parents to present the case for such provision and obviously questions had to be answered to establish genuine need.

As chairman, it fell to Lady O'Hagan to question the applicants, one of whom responded in a most bellicose manner, accusing her of treachery to her religion and of being a turncoat. Lady O'Hagan's calm demeanour in face of these vilifications provoked further uncomplimentary remarks from her self-appointed adversary, who because of the resulting furore had to be removed by officials, still pouring scorn and acerbity on Lady O'Hagan as she made her departure.

These were indeed testing times for the O'Hagans, but despite considerable acrimony and, as here recorded, some examples of open hostility, her ladyship retained her composure and she never relaxed her efforts to improve public welfare and services, thereby gradually regaining her former prestige and affection.

On her secession from the Church of Rome she attended the only Unitarian church in Burnley, an unspectacular edifice in the equally unspectacular area of Trafalgar Street, a district now changed almost beyond recognition. For many years the church - now demolished - displayed its pride in the association by a large portrait of Lady O'Hagan. However, towards the end of her life she reverted to orthodoxy by joining the Church of England.

As the last Towneley to reside at the hall, she endeavoured to maintain the high standards set by her predecessors and she continued with the rent audits and Christmas parties inaugurated by her father. The audits catered for fewer tenants, of course, and they were held at the hall with her ladyship in attendance. She invariably addressed the gatherings, invited suggestions and lent a sympathetic ear to any grievances which she took steps to rectify.

However, mounting domestic costs and reduced revenue brought a crisis in 1896, and after consultation with her elder son Thomas it was decided to offer her Towneley home and 62 acres of adjoining parkland to the corporation of Burnley for public use at the moderate cost of £17,500. Enigmatically, voices were raised in the Burnley Council Chamber against the purchase of the magnificent hall, with protests about the likelihood of an increase in the town's rate levy, the sum of a penny was mentioned, and the suggestion that the building would eventually become a 'white elephant'. But it stands to the credit of the municipal authority that the dissenters were overruled and the offer was accepted.

And so on Lady Day in 1902 Lady O'Hagan vacated Towneley Hall and her furniture and personal possessions were conveyed by the Towneley farm carts to a more modest home, The Hollins, rented to her by the Thursbys of Ormerod House. She had been appointed chairman of the Burnley School Board in January, 1901, and when the local education became administered by the Burnley Town Council she was co-opted as a member. It was at an education meeting that she collapsed following a severe attack of asthma. Dr Clegg, a committee member, accompanied her home, where she passed away peacefully four days later on November 17th, 1921, with her family in attendance.

She had been appointed a justice of the peace for the county in 1920, and a proposal to grant her the freedom of Burnley was an honour cruelly denied by her death. The funeral procession was a quarter of a mile long and was routed through the main streets of Burnley, which were lined by school children and townspeople. After a brief pause outside the Burnley High School for Girls, the cortege proceeded to St Peter's Church, where the Bishop of Burnley conducted a funeral service, and then the procession left for the tiny churchyard at St John's, Holme-in-Cliviger, in accordance with her wish to be buried 'in or near Burnley'. In the gloom of a cheerless November afternoon a touching ceremony was given an added poignancy when the mourners surrounding the grave spontaneously sang 'Lead, kindly light,' which was the favourite hymn of both her ladyship and her elder daughter, Kathleen Mary.

Religious definition surely is unimportant when one reviews the life and analyses the character of such an outstanding personality. One can only describe her as an 'interdenominational Christian' for she never hesitated to extend help or counsel to anyone notwithstanding religious belief and was always available to devotees of all faiths.

Contrary to popular belief, Lady O'Hagan was not a wealthy woman, for her death revealed an 'unsettled' will of a modest £11 ,064 8s 4d.

Many tributes were forthcoming following her death, and Mr D. D. Irving, the Burnley M.P., one of her political adversaries, said: 'What Lady O'Hagan has conferred upon Burnley is beyond price altogether and cannot be measured in terms of money, because throughout the whole of the long number of years I have known her, whatever capacity, energy and determination she possessed have been poured into personal service for the welfare of the town in which she took so deep an interest and she has left an abiding mark far beyond anything that can be reckoned in a material sense.'



## Chapter Nineteen

### THE O' HAGANS



Thomas Towneley  
2nd Lord O'Hagan

Lady O'Hagan's elder son Thomas Towneley was born in 1878 and he succeeded to his father's title at the age of seven. Within the family circle he was known as 'T.T.' and at an early age his mother introduced him into the life it was hoped he would subsequently take up by encouraging him to accompany her when officiating at her many public engagements, and the young Baron O'Hagan, at the age of 13 years, had the honour of opening the children's ward at the Burnley Victoria Hospital, performing the ceremony with a golden key.

An extremely intelligent and competent young man, he had a generous and gay disposition and was devoted to his family. He embarked on a military career and obtained a commission in the 2nd Grenadier Guards. Coinciding with his coming-of-age were orders for his regiment to proceed to South Africa, where he contracted the dreaded enteric fever and died at Springfontein on December 13th, 1900.

He was 22 years old and unmarried, and his name is still to be seen in the beautifully illuminated memorial book in St George's Cathedral, Capetown, along with the many British Service men who died in South Africa during the Boer War.

Younger brother Maurice Herbert became the 3rd Baron O'Hagan on Thomas's death. Maurice was deeply religious and had a gentle and extremely courteous personality. He was educated at Marlborough and later proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he gained an M.A. in 1907, and the same year he was appointed Lord-in-waiting to King Edward VII. In 1909 he assumed by royal licence the additional name and arms of

Towneley, and for a year in 1906 he held the honorary position of assistant private secretary to the First Sea Lord. From 1950 to 1958 he was Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords.

Maurice's absorbing interest was in farming and he accepted the office of president of the British Dairy Farmers' Association in 1912 and he became chairman of the Central Chamber of Agriculture in 1929.

He married the Hon Frances Constance Maddalina Strachey, the only daughter of Sir Edward and Lady Strachey of Sutton Court, Pensford, Somerset, at St Margaret's, Westminster, on April 27th, 1911, and they had one son, Thomas Anthony Edward, and a daughter Helen Frances Alice.

Lord O'Hagan's wife, Frances, died on August 1st, 1931, and he embarked on a second marriage on July 30th, 1937, his bride being Evelyn Violet, the widow of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Osbert Samuel Cadogan, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Maurice, a victim of Parkinson's disease, died at Beaulieu, Hampshire, on December 8th, 1961, and he was buried in the graveyard at Holme St John's, near Burnley. His wife Evelyn Violet died four years later.

Kathleen Mary, the eldest child of the 1st Lord and Lady O'Hagan, was born, as were the other children, at 19 Chesham Place, London, but some of her youth was spent at Towneley Hall, and prior to the death of her father the family had also lived in Dublin. Kathleen's early education was under the supervision of a governess and tutor, but later she graduated to Holloway College, Egham.

On May 20th, 1897, she became the wife of Louis-Leopold Martial Baynard de Beaumont in a simple ceremony at the Unitarian Church, Little Portland Street, Marylebone.

Her husband, who was born at Saintes, France, on April 3rd, 1849, was the son of Count Klein, a native of Alsace, although he never used the title, and his mother was Marie Antoinette de Beaumont Gibaud, descended from the Comte d'Artois, the brother of King Charles X, whose elder brother had married the daughter of the pathetic Louis XVI, who along with his wife Marie Antoinette was guillotined in Paris in 1793 during the French Revolution.

In his youth Louis-Leopold showed exceptional intellectual promise and he was given the benefit of an extremely sound and comprehensive education of which he availed himself fully. He attended the Paris Sorbonne school of medicine, where he obtained his degree. At the age of 21 he was militarily involved in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71, during the course of which he was severely wounded and recommended for the Legion d'Honneur, being subsequently awarded the Medaille Militaire for bravery in the field.

After the war his education continued in North Wales and also at Stonyhurst College, where he studied for his doctor's degree in philosophy and divinity.

His mother, a devout Roman Catholic, persuaded him to take Holy Orders and as a consequence he was ordained and became a member of the Jesuits, despite some opposition from his father, a dedicated free thinker. He came to London and was domiciled at Farm Street Church, where he became acquainted with Lord and Lady O'Hagan, an

association which developed into a close intellectual understanding between his lordship and the brilliant young priest.

However, Louis-Leopold never took his final vows as a priest, becoming disenchanted with the Church's dogma in the mid-1880's. It was stated that his reasons were cumulative and personal and bore no relation to his subsequent marriage, and as his action in no way relates to our principal historical theme, one must avoid speculation and simply present the fact and ignore the reason. Suffice it to say that some disquiet was occasioned within the wider family circle when Louis-Leopold married Kathleen Mary.

Following the marriage, Louis-Leopold, who had been known as Dr Klein, changed his name to Beaumont-Klein, and later, after becoming a naturalised British subject, he again changed his name by deed poll to de Beaumont. In spite of his renunciation of Roman Catholicism, this decision in no way affected his own deep religious convictions and he continued to use his considerable intellectual talents in probing the complex religious implications of life and after-life, and in his later years he took a deep interest in astronomy.

Louis-Leopold, a reserved and very modest man, was a brilliant scholar in both the classical and scientific fields - in fact he was the complete philosopher. He was a doctor of science - indeed some of his research work rivalled that of the famous Louis Pasteur - a doctor of medicine, a doctor of physiology, a biologist, botanist, anthropologist and geologist, and his knowledge of languages, particularly Greek, Latin and Hebrew, was extensive, with English, German, French and Italian being as familiar to him as any native tongue, and at the age of 50 he added Russian to his linguistic talents.

There were three children of the marriage, Elizabeth Vera Catherine Alice (born 1898), Marguerite Julia Caroline Jeanne (born 1899) and Charles Louis Leopold Alfred (born 1902).

In 1915 the family moved to Cambridge and it was just prior to the move that Mrs de Beaumont was invited by Sir Robert Baden-Powell to become the Cambridgeshire County Commissioner for the Girl Guide movement which was then being organised. She readily accepted and occupied the position with distinction for 30 years, during which time she was ably and enthusiastically assisted by her two daughters.

During the Second World War Mrs de Beaumont's French connections enabled her to meet many escapees from the war zone, and she was responsible for arranging several meetings for the exiles, some of which were addressed by General de Gaulle.

Kathleen Mary had a deep interest in spiritual matters and her interests embraced the complex study of cosmology along with many other aspects of deep religious probing, and these themes absorbed her almost up to her death on March 26th, 1974, at the advanced age of 98. She survived her husband by 40 years, Louis-Leopold having died in 1934 at the age of 85, and both were buried in Cambridge.

Mary Caroline was the younger daughter of the O'Hagan family, being three years junior to Kathleen Mary. Her elder sister referred to her in very affectionate terms - 'a beautiful girl with a kind and generous nature and devoted to all the family.' Following Kathleen's marriage in 1897, Mary Caroline was her mother's constant companion.

On October 1st, 1912, she married Major-General Charles Carmichael Monro in Westminster Abbey. Charles was born at sea, the sixth son of a Scottish father and an Irish mother on their way to Australia. His father's family had deep roots in their native country and his grandfather held the chair of anatomy at Edinburgh University.

Charles was educated at Sherburne and moved into the military academy at Sandhurst, following which he served in the Army in India. On the outbreak of the Boer War he went to South Africa and took part in Lord Roberts's famous march to Pretoria, gaining promotion to the rank of lieutenant-colonel during the campaign.

In 1910 he became a major-general, when he was primarily concerned with tactical training. The outbreak of the First World War saw his departure for France and he was very much involved in the early fighting. In 1915 he was placed in supreme command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli in succession to Sir Ian Hamilton, and his instant appraisal of the military situation prompted him to advise the evacuation of the allied forces. His assessment resulted in Lord Kitchener visiting the Dardanelles to review the position, and he immediately concurred with General Monro.

Following the withdrawal from the Dardanelles, General Monro returned to France to take command of the First Army, and in 1916 he was appointed Commander-in-Chief, India. From 1918 to 1922 he was A. D. C. to King George V, being created a baronet and appointed Bath King-at-Arms in 1921. In 1923 he became Governor of Gibraltar and retired in 1927.

A jovial personality, his contemporaries referred to him as the best type of British officer, with cool common sense in battle and a genuine concern for the men under his command.

Lady Monro became D. B. E. in 1919, and during her husband's term as Governor of Gibraltar she became a great favourite among the officers' wives and families and proved herself to be a talented organiser and a charming hostess.

Sir Charles, whose awards included the Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, the Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India and the Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George, died at his London home on December 9th, 1929, and the baronetcy became extinct on his death as there were no children of the marriage.

During the Second World War Lady Monro put her home at the disposal of the Civil Defence authorities and she moved into the Empire Club, from where she worked actively with the Red Cross. She died in 1972.

## Chapter Twenty

### A LINK SEVERED

As previously recorded, Colonel John and his family had but a short sojourn at Towneley, and Richard predeceased his father.

Three months after Richard's death in 1877, Lucy Evelyn, the second of the four daughters, became the second wife of Colonel John Murray, 23rd Laird of Touchadam, chief of the Clan Murray and a descendant of David II's blood relation, Andrew of Moravia. Colonel Murray's first wife, Lady Agnes Caroline Graham, the eldest daughter of the 4th Duke of Montrose, had died in 1873. The Murrays had strong military traditions- an early member of the family was killed at Flodden Field, another fought for the Stuart cause at Worcester and Colonel Murray himself had served during the Crimean campaign.

Colonel Murray, who was born on July 26th, 1831, succeeded his father as clan chief in 1862, and the family home of Polmaise was a beautiful castle overlooking Stirling and the field of Bannockburn. He died on August 11th, 1903, his wife dying 25 years later on June 19th, 1928. There were no children.

In 1890 the youngest (Mabel Anne) and eldest (Theresa Harriet) daughters of Colonel and Mrs John Towneley were married. Mabel Anne became the wife of Lewis Henry Hugh, the 9th Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, the eldest son of a family of five sons and seven daughters. The Clifford family is steeped in history and first came into prominence during the reign of Richard II when Sir Lewis de Clifford was Ambassador to France. The first Baron Clifford, born in 1630, was the father of seven sons and eight daughters and was one of the five members of the inner cabinet of King Charles II - albeit a sometimes disunited body - known as the Cabal.

Formed about 1670, this clique derived its name from the initials of the five members - Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley and Lauderdale - a name that supposedly gave the English language a new word. But Lord Clifford, a fervent adherent to the Church of Rome, resigned his position in 1671, and his death occurred a few months later under suspicious circumstances, there being strong indications that he may have taken his own life.

Mabel Anne's husband, the Rt.Hon. Lewis Henry Hugh, who was born in 1851, was a barrister-at-law and he was a nephew of the Bishop of Clifton. He held the rank of honorary colonel in the 5th Volunteer Battalion, the Devon Regiment, and the family estate in Devon comprised 7,000 acres. Lord Clifford died on July 19th, 1915, and his wife survived him by almost six years, dying childless on January 24th, 1921.

Theresa Harriet, the eldest of Colonel John's four daughters, became the wife of Mr John Delacour, J.P., of the 11th Royal Hussars, and she also died childless on September 23rd, 1926.

Of the four daughters of Colonel and Mrs John Towneley probably the one who captured the interest of the local people most was the third born, Mary Elizabeth, who for over 40 years was a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Mary Elizabeth was born at the family's London home, 76 Eaton Place, on November 16th, 1846, and in her youth she was regarded as a high-spirited girl and she was a fine horsewoman.

After being presented at the court of Queen Victoria - as also were all her sisters - she sampled the delights one normally associates with a young lady of society - the theatre, balls, dinners etc - all of which she indulged with considerable zest, and her biography suggests that her ebullience was such that she was regarded - somewhat tartly - as tomboyish. So far as one is able to ascertain, she experienced no romantic involvement, but about 1869 Mary appears to have taken a long, hard look at her life style, and even though she had been a regular member of the church congregation, she began to spend more time at Farm Street Church, the family's place of worship. It is said that she was attracted by the preaching of Father James Clare, the young priest attached to the church. She visited the church frequently and after much private discussion Father Clare influenced her to become a member of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, of which he was a director. That Father Clare was an important factor in Mary Elizabeth's subsequent decision there is little doubt, for in June, 1872, she made her final resolution to align herself with the service of the Roman Catholic faith and joined the Order of the Sisters of Notre Dame, whose mother house was in Namur, Belgium.



Mary Elizabeth Towneley



Sister Marie des Saintes Anges

On learning of her decision, her parents expressed astonishment, but later accepted it with equanimity. However, they secretly believed that there was more than a possibility that after a short period she would relent and return home, and so confident were they of this that they instructed her personal maid to stay at Namur for two weeks in order that she would be on hand to accompany her home. But, despite the Spartan conditions of her new life, she settled down and became a valued and dearly-loved member of the order, remaining in the community for over 40 years until her death in 1922. She was particularly close to her brother Richard and when he was taken ill in Rome early in 1872 she accompanied her mother in order to assist in nursing him back to health.

She was in Namur when the Germans entered the town at the outbreak of the First World War and a year later she was

permitted to lead a party of young nuns back to England. In later years Sister Marie des Saintes Anges, her name within the order, instituted and financed a convent at Ashdown

Park, Sussex, and it was here that she died on March 31st, 1922, at the age of 75. Her body rested in front of the beautiful altarpiece which had been removed from Towneley Hall in 1895 and which had been installed in the convent at Ashdown Park. This exquisitely-carved altar was reinstated in the domestic chapel at Towneley in 1968 following the closure of the convent.

The apportionment of the estate after the death of Colonel John, which was followed by the sale of Towneley Hall to the local authority, did not mean the severance of the close attachment existing between the family and the town of Burnley, for Lady O'Hagan still continued to live in the area until her death in 1921. Her nephew Cosmo died earlier the same year and he bequeathed the Worsthorne portion of his estate to his cousin, Lady Alice Reyntiens, whose decision to move to Dyneley continued the family's long association with Burnley district. Lady Alice's death in 1950 and the subsequent inheritance by her grandson Simon Towneley of her estate adds yet another chapter to the local Towneley story.

Paradoxically, Colonel John's line - four girls and a boy - did not provide him with a single grandchild, but, on the other hand, Colonel Charles's three daughters produced 14 children, nine of whom reached maturity. Caroline Theresa's surviving son, Montagu Charles Francis, eventually succeeded to the Abingdon estate and title, and Alice Mary was the mother of two sons, Thomas (who died unmarried aged 22) and Maurice, whose line still survives with the O'Hagan title.

The Towneley strain also endures through the female line. Caroline Theresa's eldest daughter, Mary Caroline (as already recorded) married the 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Fitzalan of Derwent and had two daughters. The younger surviving daughter of Caroline Theresa, Alice Josephine (Lady Alice Reyntiens), had one daughter, Priscilla, whose line continues with two sons, Simon and Peregrine. And then, of course, Lady O'Hagan's daughter Kathleen had a son and a daughter who had issue.

## Chapter Twenty One

### A LINK MAINTAINED

Simon Peter Edmund Cosmo William Towneley was born on December 14th, 1921, and was educated at Stowe and Oxford, where he gained an M.A. in history and later obtained a D.Phil. During the Second World War he was granted a commission in the K.R.R.C. and was taken a prisoner of war in Italy. In 1949 he became a lecturer in the history of music at Worcester College, Oxford, but in 1955 he resigned his post at the university, married Mary Fitzherbert and went to live at Dyneley, near Burnley, a house which was part of the estate inherited from his grandmother, Lady Alice Reyntiens, who had died in 1950.

Simon's wife, Mary, who was born on February 23rd, 1935, is the second daughter of a family of three sons and three daughters of Cuthbert Fitzherbert of Claughton, whose family had acquired the Lancashire estate through marriage in 1783. Mrs Towneley's mother, Barbara Maria Mannela, who died in 1976, was the daughter of Henry A. Scrope of Danby-on-Gore, a member of a family whose background is such that one feels that no apology is necessary for a little elucidation. The name Scrope (pronounced Scroop) is believed to have emerged from an old Norse nickname meaning 'crab' that was given to a remote ancestor, and this belief is substantiated by several of the family crests which have contained a crab. The family of the Scrope of Danby is surely as colourful as any in the land.

Early members were associated with Steeton Hall, which lies three miles east of Tadcaster, originally the home of the Fairfaxes, and the arms of the Scropes were emblazoned in the east window of the chapel there, and Edmond Bogg in his book, 'The Old Kingdom of Elmet: York and the Ainsty District', published in 1902, tells us that the family also had links in the Appleton area.

An early ancestor, Robert Scrope, died at Acre in the Holy Land when crusading with Richard Coeur de Lion in the 12th century, and Richard, Archbishop of York in 1386, known in the North of England as Saint Richard Scrope, took part in a rebellion against Henry IV and was captured, tried and executed at York in 1405. The end of the 14th century saw the building of the castle of Bolton-in-Wensleydale by the 1st Baron Scrope.

Scropes of the Tudor period included Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Sir Richard and the grand-daughter of Henry, the 4th Baron, who attended Queen Catherine of Aragon at the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520, whilst her younger sister, Mary, became the second wife of Sir William Kingston, K. C., who was the Constable of the Tower of London. He is referred to in history books as 'Mr Kingston' who received Queen Anne Boleyn into his charge at Traitor's Gate following the 'guilty' verdict of King Henry's court of noblemen and escorted her to the Queen's Apartment at the Tower to await her fate. History also tells us that Mr Kingston showed her much warmth and sympathy in her predicament, and it was he who conveyed to her the news of the amended time of her execution on the fateful day and also accompanied her to the block on Tower Green, being present when the sentence was carried out.

The 7th Baron Scrope of Bolton, Henry, became a legendary leader at Flodden Field in 1513 ('all Richmondshire the lusty Scrope did lead and guide'), and along with this gallantry against the Scottish James IV was Scrope's support for Henry VIII in the sovereign's determination to divorce Queen Catherine of Aragon, for the letter urging Pope



Clement VII to grant the dissolution contained, among others, the name of the illustrious Baron Scrope. In 1524 the Baron's son, also named Henry, was suggested as husband for Katherine Parr, but nothing came of the proposal. Katherine later became the sixth and last wife of Henry VIII.

Disenchantment with the Roman Church continued, for the 9th Baron tilted before Queen Elizabeth I at her coronation tournament and he was honoured with his appointment as marshal of the field in an army sent to assist the Scottish Protestants at the Siege of Leith in 1560. The same Baron and his lady were appointed custodians to Mary Queen of Scots during her incarceration at Bolton Castle, and the Baroness, who was the sister of the Duke of Norfolk, acted in close attendance during Mary's captivity. And it was Baron Scrope who confronted the Queen of Scots during her abortive attempt to escape.

However, later members of the family were restored to the Old Faith, and one of them, Simon Scrope of Danby Hall, was strongly suspected of Jacobite sympathies in 1715.

Simon, who assumed the name of Towneley in 1955, was appointed High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1971, and in March, 1976, he was granted the unique family honour of the appointment of Lord Lieutenant of the county and as holder of this important office has accompanied members of the Royal Family on many official visits throughout the County Palatine. He has served on several committees, including the Lancashire County Council, he was appointed a justice of the peace in 1956 and has held numerous other public offices. In 1968 Mr Towneley played a leading role in the delicate negotiations that resulted in the return to Towneley Hall of the elegantly ornate altarpiece that had been removed in 1895. His many interests include music and he is the author of a book on the subject, 'Venetian Opera in the 17th century'.

Mr and Mrs Towneley have a family of six daughters - Alice (born 1956), Charlotte (1957), Katharine (1959), Victoria Mary (1964), Cosima (1967). and Frances Theresa (1969) - and one son Peregrine (born 1962).

Peregrine Gerard (Worsthorne), Priscilla's younger son, was born on December 22nd, 1923. He was educated at Stowe, Peterhouse, Cambridge (where he obtained his B.A.) and Magdalen College, Oxford. He served in the Second World War, holding a commissioned rank in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1942, later becoming attached to the G. H. Q. Liaison Regiment. At the end of the war he took up journalism as his career, serving with the Glasgow Herald, then The Times (1948-53), Daily Telegraph (1953-61), becoming deputy editor of the Sunday Telegraph in 1961, later being appointed associate editor. He is also a regular broadcaster on radio and television.

In 1950 he married Claudia de Colasse (formerly the wife of Geoffrey Baynham), of Paris, and they have one daughter, Dominique Priscilla Elizabeth, who was born on February 18th, 1952.

## Chapter Twenty Two

### PRESENT-DAY O' HAGANS

The O'Hagan links are maintained through the issue of Maurice Herbert, who became the 3rd Baron on the death of his brother Thomas in 1900. There were two children of his marriage, Thomas Anthony Edward and Helen Frances Alice.

Thomas was born on September 13th, 1917, and was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, obtaining his B.A. in 1939 and an M.A. in 1941. In the Second World War he was granted a commission in the Somerset Light Infantry and was attached firstly to the 6/12th Frontier Force Regiment (I.A.) in 1941-3, and later to the Special Forces in the Middle East and Balkans in 1943-44, where he was mentioned in despatches. He later was posted to the War Office as G.S.O. (II).

On November 11th, 1944, he married Lady Sophia Palmer, the youngest daughter of the 3rd Earl of Selborne, P.C., of Blackmoor, Liss, Hampshire, who was Lady-in-waiting to Princess Elizabeth. The emergence of the Palmers came in the mid-16th century with Ralph, of Marston in Staffordshire, and a knighthood was later granted by Charles I to William Palmer of Hill, Co. Bedford, who was carver to the Royal Household. Sir William married Margaret, the daughter of Sir Robert Gardner, Recorder of London, in 1674. The Earldom of Selborne was created in 1882.

Thomas assumed the additional Christian name of Towneley and surname of Strachey in lieu of Towneley-O'Hagan by deed poll in 1938.

Farming was Thomas's main interest and for two years he was resident land agent to the Earl of Selborne. Tragically he took his own life on December 23rd, 1955, leaving four young children - two boys and two girls. The elder daughter, Frances Towneley (born March 5th, 1953), married Mr H. M. T. Gibson, and they have one daughter, Effie Dionne, who was born in 1970. Thomas's younger daughter, Jane Towneley, was born on March 10th, 1953, and his younger son, Richard Towneley, was born on December 29th, 1950.

The elder son, Charles Towneley Strachey, became Lord O'Hagan on the death of his grandfather in 1961. He was born on September 6th, 1945, and from 1959 to 1962 he had the distinction of being page-of-honour to Her Majesty the Queen. Charles was educated at Eton and New College, Oxford, and from 1973 to 1975 he was a member of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

He married H.S.H. Princess Tamara Imeretinsky, the eldest daughter of Squadron Leader Prince Michael Imeretinsky, R.A.F.V.R., of Mentone, Southern France, in 1967. Princess Tamara was the former wife of Lieutenant-Commander Thomas Mervyn Smith-Dorrien-Smith.

Imeretinsky was the family name of the Royal Household of Imeritia, Western Georgia, the last monarch resigning his kingdom to Russia in 1810.

Lord and Lady O'Hagan have one daughter, Nino Natalia, who was born in 1969.

Helen Frances Alice, the only daughter of Maurice (3rd Baron O'Hagan) was born on March 3rd, 1912, and she served with the V.A.D. in the Second World War. On May 23rd, 1940, she became the wife of Captain Ian Desmond Curry, R.A., the second son of Mr and Mrs Thomas D. Curry, and two years later Captain Curry assumed by deed poll the additional surnames of Towneley O'Hagan. There is one son of the marriage, Padriac Desmond, who was born in 1946 and whose wife was formerly Judith P Borthwick.

## Chapter Twenty Three

### THE DE BEAUMONTS

The de Beaumonts (Kathleen and Louis-Leopold) had a family of one son, Charles Louis (born May 5th, 1902), and two daughters, Elizabeth Vera Catherine Alice (March 6th, 1898) and Marguerite Julia Caroline Jeanne (May 13th, 1899).

Charles Louis was born in Liverpool, as were his sisters, during the period of his father's ministry in a Unitarian church in the city, but the family later moved to Regent's Park, London. Charles began to take an enthusiastic interest in fencing when at Cambridge (where he gained an M.A.), and so proficient did he become that he won the epee championship of Great Britain four times - his last success at the age of 51 - and he also gained the British Commonwealth title in 1950. He captained the British fencing team at seven Olympics, and he became the deputy chairman of the British Olympic Association and the deputy chairman of the Council for England for the Commonwealth Games, as well as a Member of Honour and of the executive committee of the Federation Internationale d' Escrime. In October, 1963, he built and endowed the Salle d'Armes in the Queen's Club, London, and this institution is known as the De Beaumont Fencing Centre and is one of the largest in Europe where are held many international competitions. Charles was also the president of the Amateur Fencing Association, of which H. M. the Queen is patron.

Charles founded an antique business in 1929 and this became a prosperous enterprise, and the Antique Dealers' Association elected him as their president on two occasions, in 1966 and 1968. He also represented Great Britain on the International Antique Dealers' Confederation and was elected president in 1971.

During the Second World War he held the rank of wing commander and was involved in joint planning in the Cabinet Office. He married Guinevere Madi Grove Crofts and there was one son of the union, Robert Henri Louis Charles, born September 26th, 1926, who married Joy Daphne Pettigrew, and there are two children - Dominic Robert Charles Bell (born December 20th, 1959) and Lys Camilla Louise (August 10th, 1956).

The marriage was dissolved, however, and Charles had a second matrimonial venture, his wife on this occasion being Barbara Rosemary Paula Holdsworth, and there was a daughter of this marriage, Rosemary Anne Carolyn (born 1948), who is married to Mr Richard M Peel. Charles Louis de Beaumont died on July 6th, 1972.

The elder daughter of Kathleen Mary and Louis-Leopold de Beaumont was Elizabeth Vera Catherine Alice, who was born in 1898. Elise (her name within the family) shared her mother's enthusiasm for Girl Guide activity and she travelled extensively in her capacity as an instructor for officers of the movement. A lover of music, she attended the London College of Music to further her study of the violin in the 1920's and she became a close friend of the late Sir Malcolm Sargent and his wife. She was also an intimate friend of Sir Ernest Shackleton, the famous explorer, and Lady Shackleton, whom she met through her grandmother, Lady O'Hagan. In her youth Elise was an enthusiastic and accomplished horsewoman.

On July 19th, 1932, Elise became the second wife of Major the Hon. Richard Coke, an army officer, whose first wife was the Hon. Doreen O'Brien, the youngest daughter of the 14th Baron Inchiquin, and by whom he had one son and four daughters, a marriage that was dissolved.

Major Coke was born on August 20th, 1876, the eldest son of the 2nd Earl of Leicester's second marriage. Richard's mother was the Hon. Georgina Caroline Cavendish. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, and on completion of his education he concentrated on a military career, obtaining a commission in the Scots Guards and serving in the South African War from

1899 to 1902. He was also involved in the military action of the first world war and was twice wounded.

His ancestors originated from Norfolk and one of his early forebears, Sir Edward Coke, married Bridget Paston of Paston, a name linked by marriage to the Towneleys in the 17th century. The 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Leicester was Thomas William Coke, created on August 12th, 1835, who was M.P. for Norfolk for many years and often facetiously referred to in parliamentary circles as 'Coke of Norfolk'. The second earl, Major Coke's father, was the Keeper of the Privy Seal to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales from 1866 to 1901.

Elise and Richard had three children. Mildred Jeanne Caroline was born in 1934 and married Mr David Harms, there being two children of the union, Hera (1956) and Jane (1968). Elizabeth Charmain, who was born in 1935, gained a B.A. degree at Bedford College, London, in 1957. She became the wife of Mr Richard Francis Spickernell, of Cosford Bridge, Hadleigh, Suffolk, and they have two sons, Godfrey John Wenman (1962) and James William Richard (1965). Son Henry Francis, born in 1938, was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and in 1966 he married Marie Christina Rosalind, the second daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert W. McCrone, of Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland, and there were two children, daughters Nicola (born 1967) and Victoria (1971).

Weasenham Hall, near West Raynham, the home of Major and Mrs Coke, was utilised as a RAF field hospital for a period during the Second World War, but in 1945 the family moved to nearby Weasenham Green, where Mrs Coke engaged herself in much public service. She also became a prominent member of the St John Ambulance Association, of which she holds the long-service medal, and she became area superintendent. Major Coke died in 1964, and Elise moved to Walsingham, where she associated herself with the work at the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Marguerite, the younger daughter of Mr and Mrs de Beaumont, was born in 1899, and in common with her mother and sister took a prominent part in the Girl Guide and Boy Scout movements almost from the beginning, and she always retained a close friendship with Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. For many years she supervised the training of Guiders at headquarters, and shortly after her arrival at Shalborne Manor, a beautiful Elizabethan house, she began a Scout troop in the village, thus becoming one of the very first lady Scoutmasters in the movement. The year 1935 saw the beginning of the now-famous Shalborne stud of horses, which Marguerite began in partnership with a friend, Miss Doris Mason. The stud, which started with a small pony and a Highland Mare, now ranks as one of the foremost in the United Kingdom and its successes include three times the Horse of the Year. Miss de Beaumont does practically all her own veterinary work, and her facilities at Shalborne are a perfect example of horse management, which she couples with a dairy farm.

During the Second World War 76 children from the East India dock area of London were evacuated to Shalborne, six of whom lived at the manor with Miss de Beaumont, but the idyllic conditions at the farm were such that most of the children spent much of their free time there. And it was during the war years that Marguerite's medical knowledge was called into service when the local doctor himself was incapacitated.

Sandwiched between her innumerable activities, Miss de Beaumont has added her undoubted literary talents, her published works including 'The Life of Lord Baden-Powell', 'The Wolf that Never Sleeps', and another outstanding book, 'The Way of a Horse', a layman's guide to horse ownership and management, which has been reprinted in paperback. She has also had two books of poetry published and has had many magazine articles on horses and horse breeding published.

## Chapter Twenty Four

### FINIS

Because of the indissoluble family affiliations and events over the centuries - sombre and gay - that occurred at Towneley Hall, a student of occultism would naturally expect some reports of spectral appearance over the years. Unfortunately, the hall is not officially credited with a ghost - indeed Lady O'Hagan refuted any suggestion of such occurrence and her long association with Towneley Hall should be sufficient confirmation.

However, evidence to the contrary has emerged, although as the event has never recurred some scepticism is obvious. The incident took place immediately prior to the Second World War when the attendants were checking that the rooms were clear of visitors before closing for the day. As two of them entered the adjoining drawing rooms on the ground floor they were at first surprised and then startled to see the figure of a man, bewigged, cravated and wearing satin breeches and buckled shoes, and their bewilderment was even more complete as the figure slowly faded before their eyes.

Before the more corporeal of we mere mortals pour scorn on such an occurrence it may be well if we consider similar visitations that have taken place in much more mundane surroundings than Towneley Hall, a house which indeed must possess the necessary atmosphere to encourage such phenomena. In addition to this example, later attendants at the hall have heard footsteps crossing the floor of the domestic chapel when the building has been empty.

As has been evident throughout their long history, the family has, in the main, retained its allegiance to the Church of Rome, and for some considerable time housed Roman Catholic priests within the confines of the family home. The complicated religious problems from the Tudor to the Jacobite period made it necessary for the wealthier Catholics to maintain priests on their domestic premises at considerable peril, and consequently 'hiding holes' for their concealment became necessary. In its day Towneley Hall had several such 'holes', but now only two remain.

In 1923 a letter was forwarded to the Mayor of Burnley by the Earl of Abingdon, the son-in-law of Colonel Charles Towneley. It was a copy taken by Colonel Charles of a letter written by his great-great-grandmother, formerly Ursula Fermor. The original letter was found in a book belonging to Peregrine Towneley, the father of Colonel Charles. As the contents of the letter reveal the location of the former 'private places' - and, surprisingly, the distrust of some of the hall's domestic staff - readers may find the text of great interest.

Headed 'A Note Of Private Places In Towneley', the letter states: 'In the library over against the closet door the middle panel slides back and the same over against the window. On the floor over against the door the base slides up and takes out; in the floor is a hole in which an iron hook is to be put and will open to a large place by lifting up the whole floor. At the back side of the library door the side wainscote may be taken out, and lets you into a place where some boards may be taken up which will let you into a large place, which held all the library books; at the chapel door taking up one board which is not nailed fast will let you into such another.

In the chapel the altar table draws out, and also the upper steps, which will let you into a large place, in which may be laid all the gilding, which is only put on with pegs, and takes to pieces; care must be taken not to knock the gilding in taking down or putting up. Over the canopy of the altar in the library lies a door for the tabernacle balls for the top of the pillars, instead of the flower pots, and also capitals and bottoms instead of the gilding, so that the place may be made use of though the gilding be taken down. At the steps going from the stone stairs to the garret a step may be taken out where there is a large place over the green parlour.

In the second room in the gallery the wainscote opens in the middle of the chimney, which there is a hole in the wall not very big. In the third room in the gallery in the close stool closet, the panel towards the garden has a latch within which is opened with an iron pin put at a hole in the door, which lifts up the latch, which may be made faster by those within; it has a seat and will hold two persons.

No servants should be trusted with this, but upon some occasion some trusty servant may be made use of for some of the places to be used, but not acquainted with them all.'

Sadly there are but few intimate reminders of the family within the hall. During her occupation Lady O'Hagan spent many working hours in the red drawing room at her secretaire before the window overlooking the lake - her favourite view was across the deer park - and on the floor near to the window her obsessive cheroot smoking is recorded in perpetuity by the stub marks. The door of the domestic chapel carved by the near-blind John Towneley in the later years of Elizabeth I is still to be seen, as is the main front door associated with the Standishes. The small upstairs room referred to as the Towneley room contains pictures of some of the later members of the family, and the long gallery which formerly featured portraits of earlier Towneleys high along the panelled walls now displays only the captions under the empty spaces. However, in the art gallery, where the family bedrooms and the nursery were originally located, there are still visible several scratches on the windows made by the children, and the words 'Know thyself' are clearly to be seen, this brief message being attributed to the teenage Mary Elizabeth, the third daughter of Colonel John Towneley, later, to be Sister Marie des Saints Anges, a nun for over 40 years.

These intimate - to the less romantic possibly trifling - relics of this noble house are bland yet intrinsic symbols of past family activities which will surely charm and delight visitors possibly as much if not more than some of the excellent exhibitions regularly featured within the hall.

Towneley Hall and the adjoining parkland passed into the possession of the townspeople of Burnley in 1901. Lady O'Hagan vacated the premises on March 25th (Lady Day) in 1902, and the art gallery and museum were declared open by Lord Rosebery, a former close friend of Richard Towneley, on May 20th, 1903. In commemoration of the event Lord Rosebery planted a Swedish white beam tree in close proximity to the hall.

According to Mr C. W. Bardsley's 'Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames', the name Towneley means 'farm-meadow', and the family motto of 'Tenez le vraye' translated is 'Hold to the truth', a profound and lasting precept that has been upheld throughout their long history, and there is little doubt that this will long continue to apply.

I cannot boast that the foregoing chapters are anything more than a mere scratch on the surface insofar as Towneley history is concerned. Nevertheless, it may still fill in some of the lesser-known facts hitherto absent to the casual observer. Like most families, the Towneleys have experienced tragedy and triumph, but there is little doubt that they have borne joy and sadness with the equanimity expected of them.

The family's direct association has long been severed from their ancient home, but this is not unique in the vastly different structure of present-day society. Notwithstanding, there is little doubt that public interest will never wane in the past activity and social intercourse that has been engendered at Towneley Hall particularly in the 19th century.

Towneley Hall served the family well until the beginning of the 20th century, and since its acquisition by the municipal authority - through the extreme generosity of its ultimate occupant, Lady O'Hagan - it has served the public magnificently and there is little doubt that it will continue to do so. Thus, the name of Towneley will remain with us constantly and for this Burnley must surely be ever grateful.

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**De La Legh Family**

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graph TD
    Cecelia[Cecelia] --- John1379[John d. 1379]
    John1379 --- John1350[John ca. 1350-1399]
    John1350 --- Richard1388[Richard ca. 1388-1454]
    Richard1388 --- John1415[John ca. 1415-1472]
    John1415 --- SirRichard1482[Sir Richard d. 1482]
    SirRichard1482 --- SirJohn1473[Sir John ca. 1473-1540]
    SirJohn1473 --- Richard1499[Richard 1499-1555]
    SirJohn1473 --- Charles1539[Charles d. ca. 1539]
    Richard1499 --- SirRichard1554[Sir Richard d. 1554]
    SirRichard1554 --- Mary1541[Mary 1541-1606]
    Charles1539 --- John1528[John 1528-1607]
    Mary1541 --- John1528
    John1528 --- Richard1566[Richard 1566-1628]
    Richard1566 --- Richard1598[Richard 1598-1635]
    Richard1566 --- Christopher1604[Christopher 1604-1674]
    Richard1566 --- Charles1600[Charles 1600-1644]
    Charles1600 --- Richard1629[Richard 1629-1707]
    Richard1629 --- Charles1658[Charles 1658-1712]
    Charles1658 --- Richard1689[Richard 1689-1735]
    Charles1658 --- SirJohn1696[Sir John 1696-1782]
    Charles1658 --- Francis1708[Francis 1708-1746]
    Richard1689 --- William1714[William 1714-1742]
    Richard1689 --- Charles1737[Charles 1737-1805]
    Richard1689 --- John1731[John 1731-1813]
    John1731 --- Peregrine1762[Peregrine Edward 1762-1846]
    Peregrine1762 --- ColCharles1803[Col. Charles 1803-1876]
    Peregrine1762 --- ColJohn1806[Col. John 1806-1878  
(Last of the male line)]
    ColCharles1803 --- Caroline1838[Caroline Theresa 1838-1873  
Lady Norreys]
    ColCharles1803 --- Alice1846[Alice Mary 1846-1921  
Lady O'Hagan]
    Caroline1838 --> Bertie[Bertie family & Towneley of Dyneley]
    Alice1846 --> O'Hagan[O'Hagan/Strachey & De Beaumont]
  
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**Family of the Deans of Whalley**

*Cecelia* = **John de la Leigh**

**Richard de Towneley d. 1379**

**John ca. 1350-1399**

**Richard ca. 1388-1454**

**John ca. 1415-1472**

**Sir Richard d. 1482**

**Sir John ca. 1473-1540**

**Richard 1499 -1555**      **Charles d. ca. 1539**

**Sir Richard d. 1554**

**Mary 1541-1606** = **John 1528-1607**

**Richard 1566-1628**

**Richard 1598-1635**      **Christopher 1604-1674**

**Charles 1600-1644**

**Richard 1629-1707**

**Charles 1658-1712**

**Richard 1689-1735**      **Sir John 1696-1782**      **Francis 1708-1746**

**William 1714-1742**      **Charles 1737-1805**

**John 1731-1813**

**Peregrine Edward 1762-1846**

**Col. Charles 1803-1876**      **Col. John 1806-1878 (Last of the male line)**

**Caroline Theresa 1838-1873 Lady Norreys**      **Alice Mary 1846-1921 Lady O'Hagan**

**Bertie family & Towneley of Dyneley**      **O'Hagan/Strachey & De Beaumont**

{Chap. 24 - Finis}