

GERALDINE, DE LACY, and DE LONDRES DOCUMENTS.

As we have remarked, the muniment chest at Gormanston held open its cover for many documents other than the title-deeds of the lands actually held by the Prestons.

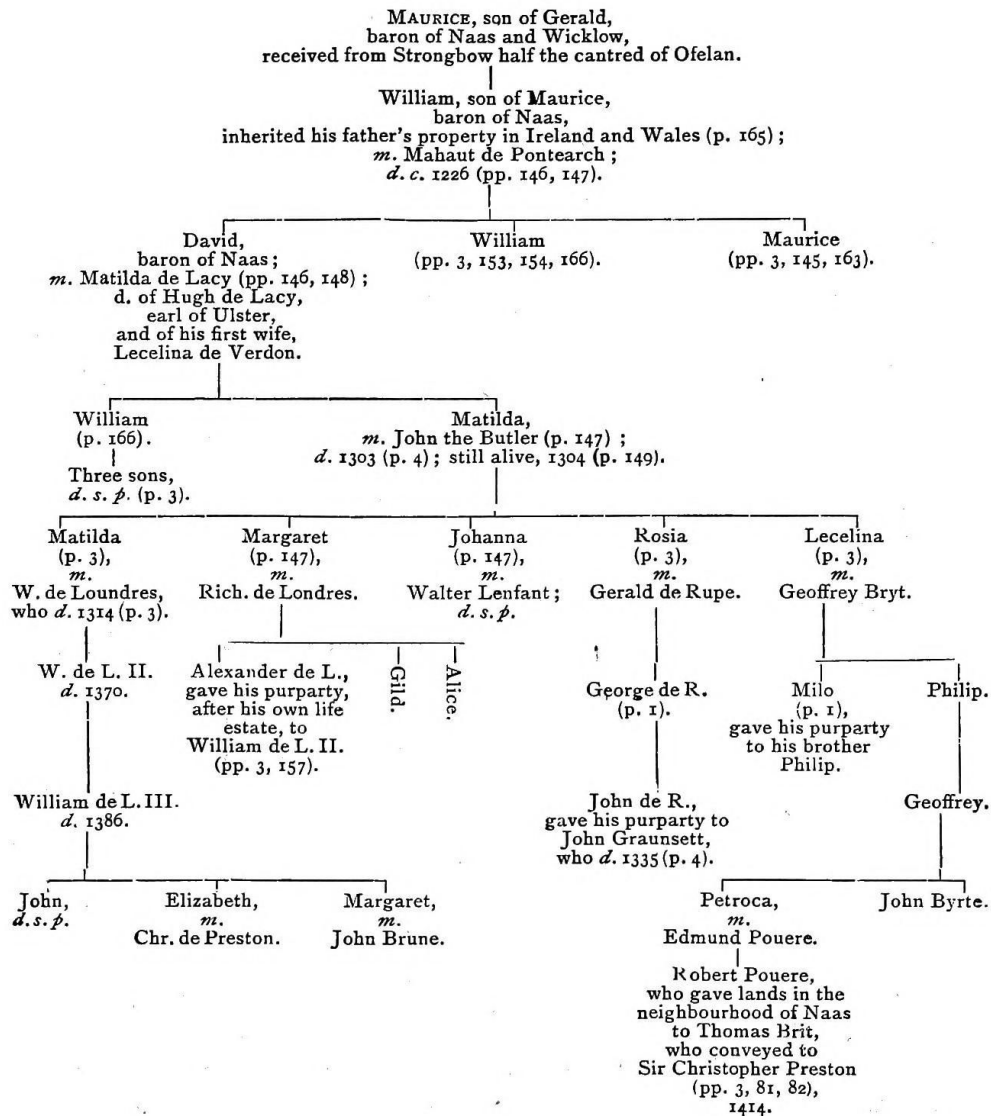
Sir Christopher's marriage with the elder co-heiress of Sir William de London was the occasion of the bringing in of many parchments of great interest. The family of De Londres, or of London, had been prominent in Ireland for the greater part of two centuries. Its descent during this time is given in the ancient genealogical table preserved on p. 16. The first of the name there, John Londyrs, is said (p. 150) to have been a nephew of the celebrated Henry de Londres, the great Archbishop of Dublin, 1214-28. Probably through the influence of his powerful uncle, who was more than once Justiciar of Ireland, John succeeded in securing as wife Nicola, the sole heiress of — Tuit, lord of Athboy. He thus took his place among the barons of the great lordship of Meath. It must have been through this connexion that the group of very interesting documents relative to Meath (pp. 4-15) found their way into the collection.

William de Londres, the son of this marriage, married Matilda, eldest co-heiress of Matilda, sole daughter and heiress of David, third baron of Naas, and thus the direct representative of the eldest son and heir of Maurice fitzGerald, hero of the Norman Invasion of Ireland. With this marriage came to De Londres, and ultimately into the Gormanston chest, the interesting documents connected with FitzGerald's (pp. 141-170), extending back, in one case, beyond even the Invasion of Ireland, to the time when Maurice obtained the stewardship of the lands belonging to the bishopric of St. David's.

The third baron of Naas had married the daughter of Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster, by his first wife, Lecelina de Verdun. From this connexion a large number of important documents of the De Lacys, De Verduns, and FitzGerald's came to be included (pp. 141-174).

The accompanying table shows the descent of the De Prestons from Maurice FitzGerald, as appears in the documents in this Register.

DESCENT OF THE INHERITANCE OF MAURICE, SON OF GERALD (p. 3).



The documents connected with the marriage of De Lacy with Lecelina de Verdun, and conveying her very extensive marriage portion, are set out at length (pp. 144 and 146). These lands were inherited by the daughter and only child of the union. But, although the grant of the earldom to De Lacy gives it to him, and "his heirs" (p. 141), the Crown appears to have treated it as a gift in tail male, for no part of the possessions of the earldom seems to have been inherited by his daughter.

Viscount Gormanston Descent

Sir Christopher Preston = Elizabeth; dau. and
heiress of William de Londres
|
Christopher = Jane
|
Sir Robert, 1st Viscount = Janet, dau. of Sir Richard Molyneux
(he died 1503)
|
Sir William = Anne (he died 1532)
|
Jenico = Catherine, dau. of the Earl of Kildare (he died 1569)
|
Christopher = Catherine (he died 1599)
|
Jenico = Margaret, dau. of Lord Howth (he died 1630)
|
Nicholas = Mary, dau. of 1st Viscount Barnewall of Kingsland
|
Jenico who having adhered to the lost cause of James II was indicted and
outlawed for treason in 1691. He was succeeded by his nephew
|
Jenico who was succeeded by his brother
|
Anthony = Mary
|
Jenico = Thomasine (he died 1757)
|
Anthony = Henrietta (he died 1786)
|
Jenico = Margaret, dau. of 2nd Viscount Southwell (he died 1860)
|
Edward = Lucretia
|
Jenico = Georgina (he died 1907)
|
Jenico = Eileen, dau. of General Rt Hon Sir William Butler
(he died 1925)
|
Jenico = Pamela, grand-daughter of the 9th Earl of Denbigh
(he died 1940)
|
Jenico Nicholas Dudley Preston, 17th Viscount Gormanton



Viscount Coronet