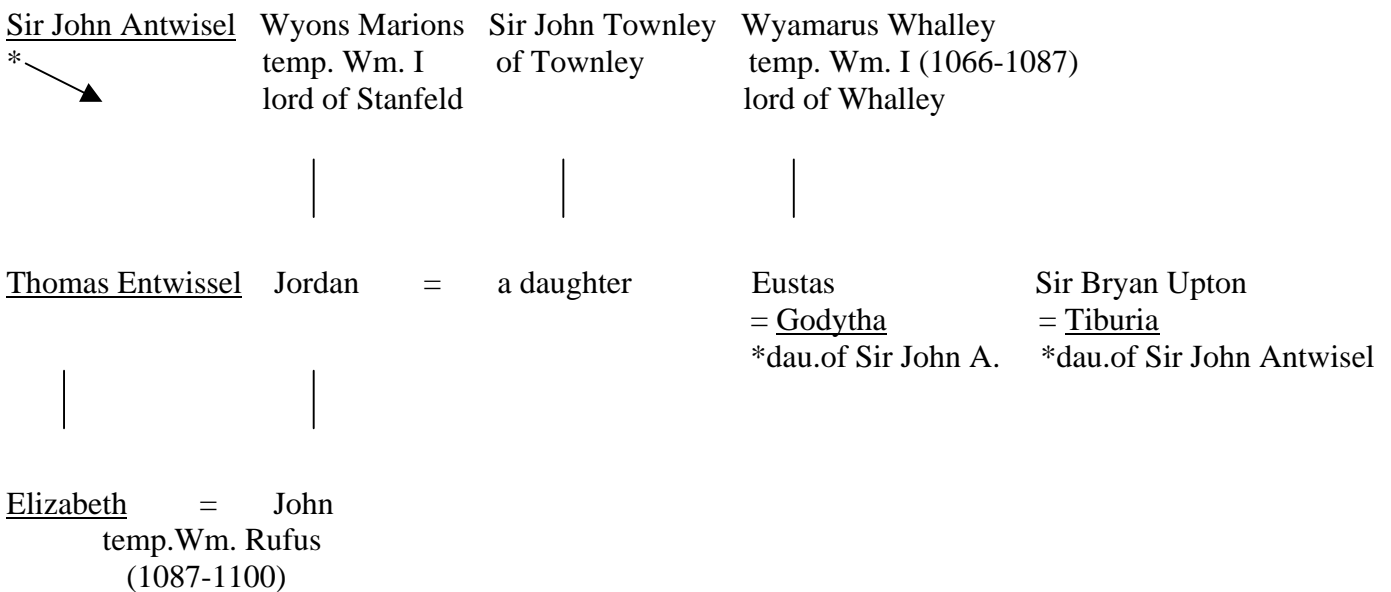


THE ENTWISLE FAMILY – Their ancestry according to B. Grimshaw

By Peter Stanford in continuation of his earlier Review of the above work. This will attempt to follow the indicated lines of descent in more detail.

Part I - The Early Ancestors?

A speculative chart based on the information given by Grimshaw from claimed pedigrees of other families. In an attempt to aid examination and analysis, this has been arranged by the three generations mentioned so that apparent contemporaries appear on the same line.



(GAP: From this point there is a gap in Grimshaw’s narrative until Robert de Entwissel of 1212. I will pick up from there in Part 2.)

Locations and communications: The most obvious meeting point between these various places would be in the vicinity of Burnley, which is where Towneley is situated, on its eastern side, twelve miles from Entwistle “as the crow flies”. Horses don’t fly, but it still looks like a short enough journey for a lusty young man on horseback using cross-country tracks; or a combination of them and the Roman road which runs right through Entwistle. There is a track of prehistoric origin, since much upgraded following much the same line, and which seems to have remained in continuous use, running from Whalley to Burnley, Towneley, Mereclough, then skirting Stansfield Moor and on to Heptonstall and beyond. I cannot now find Stansfield on the map, but Stansfield Moor is little more than four miles from Towneley (and Worsthorne which we will meet later), only just on the Yorkshire side of the county boundary.

Analysis: Old family traditions often contain a grain of truth, frequently like the core of an onion overlaid by many skins. The challenge lies in stripping these away to reveal the essential truth. Although it may call for reasoning more akin to archaeology than genealogy, as the above is the only information immediately available we must make the best of it. Assuming, for the moment, that the information is reliable (which is a very big assumption), then the marriage said to have taken place in the time of William Rufus gives us a near-exact date – a period of fourteen years – to start with. If Elizabeth was, say 21, at the time of her marriage, then we could put her date of birth at 1066-1079, or 1072 plus or minus seven years.

Taking a generation of a man's children to be, on average, 25 years younger than himself, a similar calculation puts Thomas's date of birth at around 1041-1054, or 1047 plus or minus seven years. This could make him anything from a child of about twelve years to a man in his prime at the time of the Conquest. The next question is Thomas's relationship, if any, to John. Well, it seems reasonable to suppose that two near-contemporaries who shared the same "handle" (we can ignore the spelling variants), and apparently lived in the same area were, at least, related. Of course, they might have been brothers, but analysed as in the chart above, alongside the other people/relationships specified by Grimshaw, they do fit in most neatly as father and son, or at any rate as of two successive generations.

Taking them to be father and son, then, and applying the same 25 year yardstick, Sir John *could* have been born about 1016-1029, or 1022 plus or minus seven years. This would put him at between 37 and 50 at the time of the Conquest – realistically too old for a fighting man.

The obvious way to test the veracity of the given information would be to go back to source. Unfortunately the vague reference to "very ancient documents which are said to have been preserved in the British Museum for a very long" time doesn't give us much help towards identifying them. Indeed it is the kind of claim that raises my suspicions. Another restricting factor is my very limited mobility, which means that I am reliant on my own collection or what I can get hold of locally with help. However –

Upton: Nothing found, save a summary of references to other sources.

Whalley/Towneley: From Baines' *History of Lancashire*, third edition, I find that the lordship of Whalley was vested in the deans, who were (quoting Dr Whitaker) "a compound of patron, incumbent, ordinary, and lord of the manor". Their names are given, in suggested unbroken hereditary succession, from about 170 years before the Conquest to more than 200 years after it. I reproduce all of those given, and their stated relationships, below:

Deans of Whalley –

Spartling(us) living circa 896

Liwlfh Cutwulph, son

Cudwolf, son

Henry the elder, heir

Robert, son

Henry the younger, son

William, brother

Geoffrey, brother. Married a daughter* of Roger de Lacy, constable of Chester, between 1193 and 1211

"... and had in free marriage land in Tunleia (i.e. Towneley), Coldcotes and Snodeswerth". (*Alice in Bennett's *History of Burnley*, Part I)

Geoffrey, son, died 8 Henry III (1223-4)

Roger, son, the last dean of Whalley, living temp. Henry III (1216-1272) and Edward I (1272-1307)

"... who during his lifetime transferred to John de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, the Church of Whalley".

If the essence of this is true – that this office passed by hereditary male succession - then it would have remained in the hands of a line of Englishmen throughout. But there are a couple of problems. Firstly, there were only eight generations of deans in *at least* 376 years (896-1272), an average of 47 years. Secondly, the names change from the English to the Norman sort; not in itself unusual amongst the upper classes, but in this case only three generations from Spartling, living about 896, to Henry the elder. This, and the use of "heir" for Henry, rather than a stated relationship as in all other cases, suggests a gap at that point. Be that as it may, these deans seem to have been the actual freeholders of the church at Whalley – St Mary's, formerly "White Church under the Legh" – with its attached lands. We also see above that an important lord of Norman stock thought Geoffrey a fit husband for his daughter around 1200.

These deans would no doubt have been called “de Whalley”. Note, however, that the above is also the paternal ancestral line of the Towneley family. About 1235 the abovementioned Roger, the last dean, gave the lands at Towneley etc. descending from their grandfather Geoffrey to his brother Richard, who thus became known as Richard de Towneley. One of his three daughters and heirs married a de la Legh, whose second son, having, I assume, settled there, became known also as de Towneley, and this became fixed as a family name from his sons onwards, the first of whom was born circa 1350. It is thus apparent that the partners of Goditha Antwysel and Elizabeth Entwissel would have been related. There is no surviving evidence of any earlier actual residents at Towneley, but from the above we now seem to have an earliest date for this as a family name of circa 1235.

Wyamarus is actually an independent name, but it is easy to see the possibility of it being interpreted as William. There is one so named in the list of deans (and, therefore, lords) of Whalley, but he could hardly have been involved in the Conquest as he had a younger brother who married around the year 1200. So perhaps Wyamarus, if he existed, fits into the apparent gap between Cudwolf and Henry the elder?

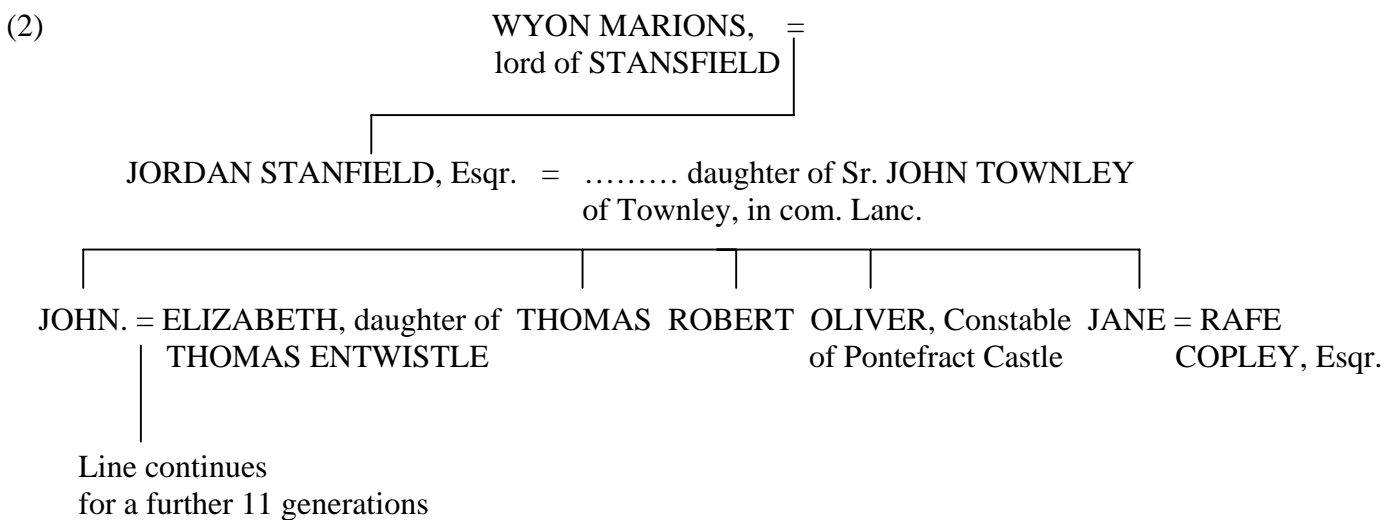
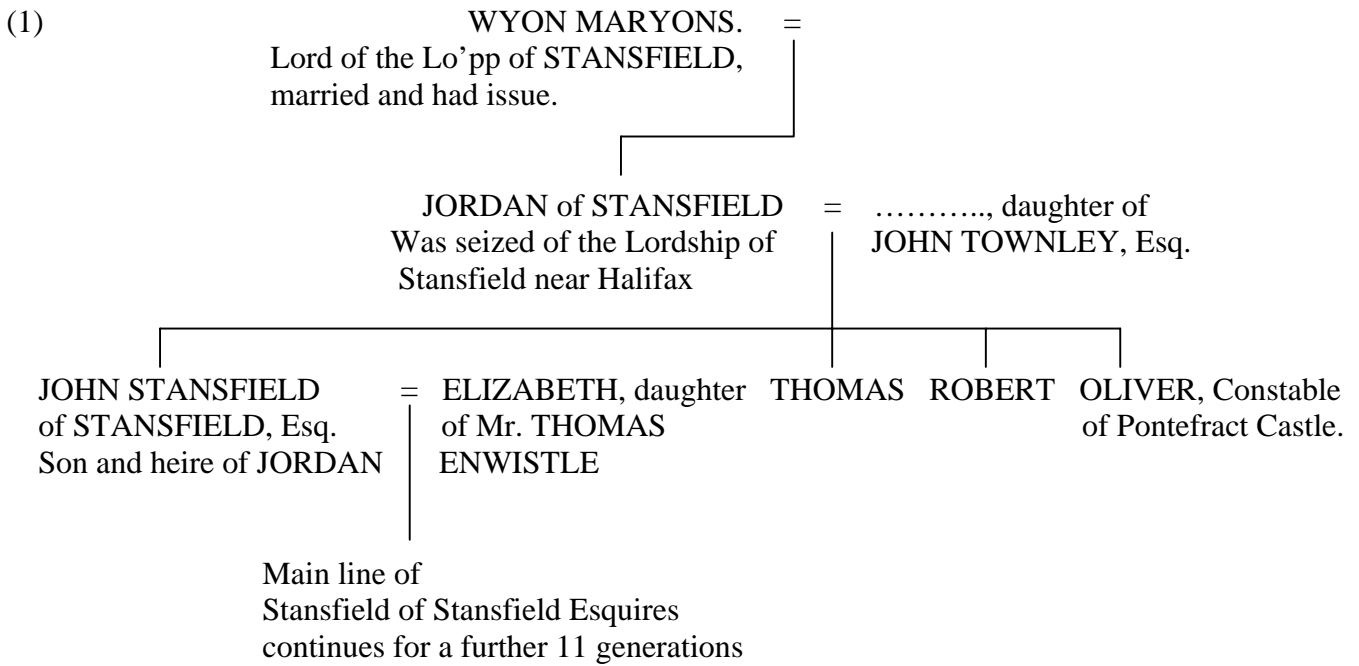
The bottom line is that, from Baines’ evidence, the lords of Whalley are suggested to have been English, which in pre-Conquest times raises no doubts. Whether their post-Conquest successors remained so must be open to question, though their tenure seems to have continued on the same liberal terms. However that may have been, the male line blood descendants of at least the last few generations of these Whalleys, who became the Towneleys, acquired some Norman blood around 1200 from the de Lacys. (Who had, however, died out in the male line two generations before Roger de Lacy. He adopted that name being heir to his grandmother Albreda, daughter of Robert son of Fulk de Lizours and heir to her cousin Robert de Lacy.) I cannot find a relevant John Towneley, with or without a title, and the earliest knight appearing on their pedigree is Sir Richard Towneley, knighted on the field in 1482 and thus a “real” knight.

Stansf(i)eld: I remembered having read a privately printed book of this family’s history quite some years ago and recalled that it was one of the best written family histories I had ever seen. As I knew the whereabouts of the same copy I hoped that my reputation might stand me in good enough stead for obtaining a short loan of it, which I did, but only after my wife agreeing that it would be the first thing she would grab if our house went up. And bingo! It contains some very helpful pedigree charts and much other useful information. The charts are, in order of appearance –

- (1) “Stansfield of Stansfield, near Halifax, in the Wapentacke of Agbrig and Morley. From Harleian MS. 4630, folio 582 in British Museum” (Is this the “ancient documents ... preserved ... for a very long time?”)
- (2) “Heralds’ College Pedigree No. 1 – Stansfield of Stansfield, near Halifax”. This has a footnote “From a MS. Entitled ‘The Pedigrees and Descents of the Nobility and Gentry of the County of York, collected by the Revd. John Brooke,’ in the Colln. of John Charles Brooke, Somerset Herald.” (I established that J C Brooke was appointed to this office in 1777) It also has the reference “[I.C.B. No.1, p.339B. HER: COLL:]” (Now known as the College of Arms)

Both are certified as correct copies by officials of the two repositories in 1885 – the date of the Stansfield book’s publication (which, of course, doesn’t necessarily make their content correct). They are so similar as to obviously have had a common origin, perhaps the collection of the Revd. John Brooke, whom we might suppose to be a relative of the herald of the same name and an eighteenth century clergyman. I feel that the spelling of Entwistle with a second ‘t’ in both charts points to about 1750 at the earliest – though, of course, we don’t know the nature and date(s) of the Revd. Brooke’s sources.

Both agree with each other, and with Grimshaw, in all essentials with regard to the Stansfield/Entwistle marriage and I reproduce the relevant sections (the first three generations in each case) below –



In '1' we see that Thomas Entwistle is described as "Mr." – an abbreviation of Magister/Maister, the style of a gentleman.

What dates can we winkle out? Well, there are none whatsoever on '1'. '2' has only one – James Stansfield living 1536, twelve generations from Wyon Maryons. Applying my rule of thumb of 25 years per generation (probably an overestimate in this case as we are dealing essentially with a line of first sons) takes us back to 1236. Very often pedigrees start with a semi-legendary ancestor followed by some such words as "descended from ... said to have ...", followed by a gap represented by a broken line, though not in this case. However, I suspect that there is one (or more) and that it is most likely to be at or near the beginning. John Stansfeld, the author, agrees, pointing out that the name Jordan would have been derived from the Crusades (the first of which was 1095-1099, the second and third in the mid and late 1100s and subsequent ones in the 1200s). Stansfeld says "...it is evident that he (Jordan) must have lived at a period much posterior to the Conquest, and two or three generations, as is not unusual, may have been omitted".

Fortunately we have more information on Oliver, shown as Jordan's youngest son, by which we can get a check. He appears in a grant of the manor of Worsthorne by Henry de Lacy to Oliver de Stanisfeud in 1292, in other documents of 1292 and 1294, in two grants of land etc. at "Wortheorne" (Worsthorne) and "Clivacher" (Cliviger), respectively, from him to John son of Gilbert de la Legh in 1306, and on the de Lacy inquisition of 1311 following the death of the aforementioned Henry. On another pedigree (which I shall show presently), of the Stansfields of Burnley, of which Oliver was the founder, he is said to have survived to 23 Edward III (1349-50). Like Towneley, Worsthorne is on the east side of Burnley.

It is evident also from the Worsthorne grant that Oliver had already been widowed from his first wife at that date (1292). From which evidences we must presume that he was already of mature years by then. If it is also true that he lived to 1349-50 he must have lived to a good old age. Had he survived into his mid-eighties by then he would have been born about two centuries after the Conquest, gaining Worsthorne at, say, about 28. This also gives us an approximate indication of the possible date of birth of his eldest brother, John, at about 1260, and of their father, Jordan, perhaps about 1240. The same, then, ought to be approximately true of Thomas Entwistle. A John de Stansfeld appears as a witness to seven deeds etc. between 1288 and 1313. Richard son of John de Stansfeld (as in the pedigree) witnessed a deed of 1305.

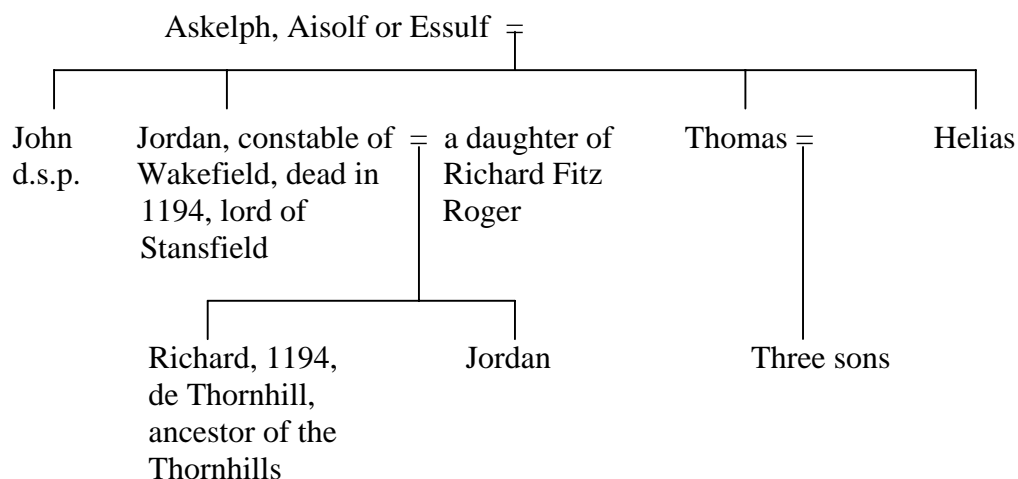
It seems very obvious from the notional annual rent of only one penny in the 1292 grant of Worsthorne (He also held nearby Heasanford, where he resided, on the same terms) that it must have been a reward for his work as Constable of Pontefract Castle, a very demanding and responsible office. This was the seat of a large barony, of which de Lacy was the overlord, in addition to his extensive estates in Lancashire and elsewhere – including the Honor (i.e. a large Barony) of Clitheroe, of which Burnley was part. At the time of Oliver de Stansfield's acquisition of Worsthorne it wa

I think with the above pedigree we begin to glimpse the truth about Wyon Marions – “a follower of *one of the Earls of Warren*” In commenting on this John Stansfeld quotes also from Dr Whitaker’s *Whalley*, 4th edition: “ The original of them (the Stansfields) was one Wyan Maryons, *probably* of Norman extraction, and *in all likelihood* a follower of Earl Warren, on whom this Lordship was bestowed.” (Stansfeld’s italics)

Rodulf de Warenne was a kinsman of Duke William (The Conqueror) in France. His son, William de Warenne was created Earl of Surrey in 1088, dying in the same year, and from him descends the line of the subsequent Earls of Surrey. That a Warenne was amongst Duke William’s barons in Conquest times is not in doubt. There is also no doubt that the manor of Wakefield, of which the Stansfield area was anciently a part, was granted to an Earl Warren. A subsequent earl produced a charter dated 1253. However, Stansfeld says –

“Hamelyn Plantaginet, earl Warren, who succeeded in 1163, to the manor of Wakefield, granted to Jordan, son of Askolf, his inheritance in Sowerbyshire; and the said Jordan granted the fourth part of the said inheritance to his brother Helias, and his heirs, and seven oxgangs of land in Stansfield, and in Rottenstall (which, by the way, takes us nearer to Entwistle. PS), to hold of Jordan and his heirs, as of the first begotten, by right of foreign service. And in Dodsworth’s MS. is a deed without date:- ‘I John son of Essolf have given to Roger son of Warin and to Amabella his daughter, 5 Oxgangs of land in Stansfield ...’ ”

He then shows the pedigree of the Thornhills, which begins as follows –



Stansfeld appears to suggest that Jordan son of Askelph may be the same as the Jordan already met, but the dates are at odds with the ones already known for the latter’s youngest son Oliver, the Constable of Pontefract who acquired Worsthorne in 1292. Nevertheless, according to Stansfeld’s evidence the above was clearly lord of Stansfield in 1163, so perhaps this supplies a missing part of the Stansfield pedigree.

Returning to the matter of the origins of Wyon Maryons, Stansfeld, quoting from Burke’s *Heraldic Illustrations*, says that the arms *argent, three fleurs-de-lis gules* were confirmed to Claude Marion, Seigneur de Kerhouel in 1669. Also that the name Kyriell appears on the Roll of Battle Abbey as one of the conquerors of Hastings. (Though not on my copy, which claims to be a composite of all known versions. PS)

“Robert Duke of Normandy, the Conqueror’s father, in order to keep in check the people of the Pays de Dol, built in the year 1030, a castle at Cazel or Cheruel, upon the Coesnon, a river which divided the provinces of Normandy and Brittany. This gave the name to a family which became highly distinguished in succeeding generations on each side of the channel, in different branches.”

From this and the other evidence from the same source we gather (a) that the family surnamed Marion and described as de Kyriel, which became their hereditary name, were one and the same, (b) that, although allied to, and since much intermarried with, the Normans they were actually a noble family of Brittany – a fact which I have confirmed from another source. Several men of Herefordshire as late as the 19th century, of the name of Kyrle, claiming descent from an ancestor of 1295, bore arms featuring three fleurs-de-lis, which could be a differenced version of the above.

It may or may not be of significance that fleurs-de-lis are the royal arms of France, but it probably is no coincidence that this flower of the Marions, a name derived from Mary, is also the symbol attributed to the Virgin.

Conclusions: Wyon Maryons, or his ancestor, *might* have come from France, *perhaps* in the retinue of Warenne, as has been suggested, and been rewarded with lands at Stansfield. But it seems unlikely as Warenne territory was in Normandy whereas the Bretons who came to Hastings were a distinct large contingent under their own leader. Also, there must be a gap of the best part of 200 years between the Conquest and Wyon's "son" Jordan, which is perhaps partly filled by the pedigree showing two earlier Jordans, the elder of whom is indicated to have been alive just about a century after the Conquest and to have been the son of Askelf. That Jordan granted land in Stansfield and Rawtenstall to his brother Helias – of whom we hear no more.

That having been said, it is naïve to assume that all of the Normans, and their allies, who came to England did so in 1066 and fought at the Battle of Hastings. There must have been recorded supporters who gave substantial help in many other ways, though there were also another estimated 12,000 unrecorded "other ranks" who actually did fight there and, if they survived, perhaps gained a minor "living". However, it is one thing to speculate that an ancestor might have been one of those, and quite another to claim that one of his name was actually recorded if it was not.

And there were certainly followers who came later, some long after the Conquest. There was still much suppressing to be done, and lands to be gained or inherited. In after years the throne of England was by no means secure. There was much internal feuding and limited political stability, plus the Welsh and the Scots and the Irish to face. Then there were the claims of the (other) French to deal with, and the Islamics. In light of which it seems almost a wonder that any ordinary domestic and civic activity managed to take place at all.

But seen in the perspective of the times, these were a succession of opportunities whereby a man might make his fortune and prove his nobility of character, whether he stemmed from English (or indeed "Welsh") stock, a younger branch of the Norman etc. nobility or one of its footsoldiers – and, in any case, amounted to a set of circumstances wherein all of these intermingled. However, to continue our story -

Oliver Stansfield and the Towneleys were amongst the leading freeholders, indeed it would seem *the* leading freeholders, of the Burnley area in the early 1300s, both holding directly from de Lacy, the overlord of this and other large territories. Oliver's estate at Worsthorne was close to the semi-independent estate of Towneley, so that they must have been well known to each other at that time; and quite likely in earlier generations, being comparatively close neighbours of comparable class at a time of quite sparse population. We have seen that the Whalleys and Towneleys were the same family, as also were, eventually if not earlier, the de la Leghs, whose male line *became* the Towneleys. I mention also in passing that there were numbers of Radcliffes (whom we find in Grimshaw's book associated with the Entwistles) who were neighbours of the Stanfields at their Yorkshire base.

Although there is only the one mention of William Entwistle and his daughter, there seems no reason to suppose other than that they were real people. However, they, and others, have been transposed in time.

My calculations show that, as a very approximate indication, William may have been born around 1240, so that his daughter's marriage could have been around 1265.

In looking for a possible candidate in Grimshaw's book I find "1292: William de Edgworth, was non-suited in a claim against Hugh, son of Ellis de Edgworth concerning a tenement there". And "1309: Adam and Robert, sons of William de Edgworth, are named".

I have found nothing of "Sir John Antwisel", but if his daughter, Goditha, married the son of the William, dean of Whalley, then, from the date of William's younger brother's marriage in the period 1193-1211 we would have to place Goditha's at around 1218-1236, and her father's birth at around 1193-1211 also – which happens to fit in rather nicely with the calculations for William Entwistle. But Wyamarus Whalley, if he existed, might have been earlier. We have no record of a John A/Entwisel, or Edgworth etc., at that date, though I suppose he may yet be found amongst other records of the Whalleys and of the Uptons. Should anyone come across these I would be very pleased to hear about it.

Finally, to express one niggling doubt, because if I do not others no doubt will: Extwistle is very close to Worsthorne, and not far from Towneley. Only sight of the original documents (i.e. from which Antwisel and Entwistle come) could clear this up. That having been said, however, I have never come across any reported reference to Extwistle as a surname or 'of' name in the period dealt with above.

I hope to indicate the main line of descent of the Entwistles, at less length, in Part II.

■ Peter W Stanford, Aug. 2001