

IV.

SOME NOTES ON SIR WILLIAM DE ALDEBURGH. BY JOSEPH BAIN,
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The monumental brass of this knight, dated about A.D. 1363, is very fitly noticed in the *Proceedings* for 1893-4 (p. 123), for his family often appears in the Scottish wars of Independence. The name interested me for this reason; and besides, till of late I had never seen any account of them elsewhere than in the public records, consulted officially for the *Calendar* edited for H.M. General Register House (vols. ii., iii., and iv.), and in Dugdale's *Monasticon*, as benefactors to the Carthusian Priory of Beauvale, in Nottingham. But chancing to ask Mr Paley Baildon, of Lincoln's Inn, who is well versed in Yorkshire antiquities, he was kind enough to show me in his collections some interesting references to the Aldeburgh family, besides a paper in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* some twenty years ago. To these I shall presently refer, first giving what I have myself found in the records.

The first of them who appeared in Scotland was Ivo de Aldeburgh, "vallettus" in the garrison of Roxburgh Castle in 1298, where he lost two horses. Soon after, as Sir Ivo, he and the Abbot and Convent of Jedburgh offered to keep the castle of Jedburgh for Edward I. for five years. When that king was (as he hoped) making a final settlement of Scotland in 1305, he appointed Sir Ivo de Aldeburgh to the important office of sheriff of the three Lothians. Under Edward II. he was warden of Roxburgh, and also a justice in eyre. In March 1326-7 he was empowered by the young Edward III., along with the Abbot of Rievaulx, to treat with the victorious Robert Bruce. For his long and good services, Edward Balliol, in October 1332, gave him the lands of Broxmouth, forfeited by Andrew Gray. He must have died before 3rd October 1341, when Edward III. confirmed these lands to William de Aldeburgh, his son and heir. This William is probably the same who was in Edinburgh Castle in 1335 under Sir John de Strivelyn, an eminent English captain, and certainly is the Sir William

de Aldeburgh to whom Edward Balliol, between 1348 and 1352, gave the baronies of Kirkanders, Balmaghie, Kells and others, in Galloway. During Edward Balliol's exile, Sir William was the ex-king's close companion about Knaresburgh in 1357-8. On 30th May 1363 Edward III. gave to "Edward, King of Scots" and William de Aldeburgh, a £10 rent in reversion from Willey "Hay" in Sherwood Forest, that they might give it in mortmain to Beauvale Priory. The last notice I have in these records is a licence granted by Richard II. at Beverley, on 6th September 1393, to Elizabeth, widow of Sir Brian de Stapilton, junior, and Sibella her sister, wife of Sir William de Ryther, to found a chantry in Beauvale Priory for two monks, saying a daily mass for the souls of Sir William de Aldeburgh knight, and Elizabeth his wife, their father and mother, Sir William de Aldeburgh knight, their brother, and of Sir Edward de Balliol knight. What their connection with Beauvale was does not appear. It was then a recent foundation, dating only from 16 Edward III. (1342), the founder being Nicholas de Cantelupe of Ilkeston, according to Dugdale.

Turning now to Mr Baildon's notes, I find from several inquisitions *post-mortem* in 11 and 15 Ric. II. (1387 and 1391), the originals of which I have examined, that Sir William de Aldeburgh "senior" died on 1st October 1387, and his son and heir Sir William de Aldeburgh was then 30 years of age and upwards; that the latter died on 20th August 1391, possessing lands in Lincolnshire as well as Yorkshire, his two sisters Elizabeth and Sibella being his heirs in the Lincoln lands. He and Margery his wife had been seized by his father Sir William in his Yorkshire estate of Kelfield, with remainder, failing issue, to the father's right heirs; and as Margery, the widow, survived her husband only a few weeks, dying issueless on 10th October 1391, the sisters Elizabeth and Sibella succeeded to it also, at the ages respectively of 28 and 25.

The paper in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* (vol. vi. p. 418), to which Mr Baildon referred me, was written by a well-known antiquary, Sir George Duckett, Bart. It shows the same succession, beginning with Sir Ivo, and some particulars not in the inquisitions, mentioning also the great friendship between the Balliol family and

that of Aldeburgh. But its chief object was to treat of a curious change in the family arms, and it makes no mention of the extensive grants of land in Galloway to Sir Ivo's son. Having got thus far, I happened to look at the *Complete Peerage* by "G. E. C.," and found that Sir William de Aldeburgh, Lord of Harewood, co. York, was summoned to parliament by writ from 1370 to 1386 as "Lord Aldeburgh," and died in 1388. His son and heir Sir William (II.) was never summoned, nor were any of his descendants. This barony, moreover, is not noticed in Dugdale's *Baronage*.¹ The father and son, with their wives, were buried in the church of the Dominican Friars at York. So says "G. E. C.;" and being a high official, he speaks with authority.

This raises an interesting question as to the monumental brass which has suggested these remarks. If it is correctly assigned to A.D. 1363, it must represent a *third* Sir William de Aldeburgh; if not, it must be ante-dated by thirty years or more, as the two Sir Williams survived nearly that length of time, and monumental brasses were not, I think, usually prepared in a man's own lifetime. Then if, as the *Complete Peerage* tells us, these two Sir Williams and their wives were buried in the Dominican (or Black) Friars' church at York, how does the monumental brass come to be in the church of Aldeburgh? The Black Friars' church at York has been long in ruins, and the brass may have been removed from thence to its present site. But be this as it may, the actual date of the brass should be determined by one skilled in the armour of the fourteenth century, before the question can be settled, even conjecturally.

¹ See *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, vol. viii. p. 80.