

**DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE  
OF THE  
CHARTERS & MUNIMENTS  
OF THE GRESLEY FAMILY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649458110

Descriptive Catalogue of the Charters & Muniments of the Gresley Family by Isaac Herbert Jeayes

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ISAAC HERBERT JEAYES**

**DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE  
OF THE  
CHARTERS & MUNIMENTS  
OF THE GRESLEY FAMILY**



935 - ... LT: GRAY  
... of the  
... the Gresley  
the possession of Sir R. Gresley  
Drakelow. Facsimiles. Roy. 1  
cloth. Lond., 1895.  
*Mays' Bn. 109 Stan.*  
*No. 261 Dec 1900*

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE  
OF THE  
CHARTERS & MUNIMENTS  
OF THE  
**Gresley Family**  
IN THE POSSESSION OF  
SIR ROBERT GRESLEY, BART.,  
*AT DRAKELOWE.*

COMPILED,  
*with* Introduction and Index,  
BY  
ISAAC HERBERT JEAYES,  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS, BRITISH MUSEUM;  
AUTHOR OF THE "DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF THE CHARTERS AT BERKELEY CASTLE";  
"DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF THE MUNIMENTS OF THE LYTTLETON FAMILY";  
ETC.

LONDON :  
CHAS. J. CLARK, 4, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C.  
1895.

Br 5507.20



LONDON :

PRINTED AT THE BEDFORD PRESS 30 AND 31, BEDFORD SQUARE, W.C.

## INTRODUCTION.

---

IT is, perhaps, not too much to say that the family of Gresley of Drakelowe is one of the few families which remain that can boast of being settled at the same place and of possessing the same lands which were assigned to their ancestor in the *Domesday Record*. Its founder was Nigel de Toeni, called in *Domesday* "de Stafford", and subsequently from the place which he made his principal residence, "de Gresley", who, with his brothers Robert and Ralph, was among the followers of William the Conqueror into England. Their father, Roger de Toeni, Standard Bearer of Normandy, was descended from an uncle of Rollo, Duke of Normandy, and thus being of kin with their victorious leader, when the spoils were divided the three brothers received shares not inappropriate to their rank and position. Robert settling in Stafford, and called on that account "de Stafford", was the ancestor of that family of Stafford of which Humphrey was created Duke of Buckingham by Henry VI; Ralph was the ancestor of the Cliffords, and Nigel, to whom were allotted Drakelowe and eleven lordships in Derbyshire, with Morton and Kingsley in Staffordshire, taking up his abode at Gresley, in which township Drakelowe was, became the ancestor of the family of "de Gresley", of which Sir Robert Gresley, 11th Baronet, is the present representative.

At Gresley, thenceforth to be called Castle Gresley, William, Nigel's son, in the time of Henry I, built a castle, and near the castle founded a small priory of Black Canons of the order of St. Augustine. Other hamlets, in addition to Drakelowe, in the township of Gresley were Swadlingcote and Linton.

Besides William, Nigel had two sons, of whom Nicholas, marrying Margaret, the heiress of Longford, became the ancestor of the Longfords, and Robert, if we may conclude from a joint grant to Merivale Abbey, married Lettice de Ferrariis.

The accompanying pedigree has been compiled from the following sources, viz. (a) Nichols's *History of Leicestershire*, (b) Erdeswick's *Survey, etc., of Staffordshire* (several editions), (c) Pilkington's *View of Derbyshire*, ed. 1789, (d) The MS. in the Chetham Library, Manchester, known as the Gresley Chartulary, of which a short account will be found below, (e) a MS. pedigree by Eyton in Brit. Mus. Add. MS., 31,940, f. 211b, and (f) the Deeds in the present volume. It has, it is feared, some suspicious points about it, but it corrects a few errors made by Nichols, and goes to prove that the exhaustive account of the family given by Dr. Harwood in his additions to Erdeswick is considerably at fault; but we do not quite agree with Mr. Pym Yeatman, the learned and latest historian of Derbyshire, of whose work, unfortunately, only a few parts are yet printed, when he says that "the Gresley pedigree, like so many others, has been built up upon assumptions". Of his promise, however, to "test the truth of it" we wish a speedy fulfilment. It has been thought sufficient to carry it down to the creation of the baronetcy in 1611.

As far, however, as the present deeds are concerned, a very large majority relate to lands at Seal in Leicestershire. This place, variously spelt Sheile, Sheyle, Scheyle, etc., is divided into two townships, namely, Nether Seal, *al.* Great Seal, *al.* Church Seal, and Over Seal, *al.* Little Seal, *al.* Spital Seal. At the time of the general survey seven ploughlands in Scella and six ploughlands in another Scella were held by Robert under Henry de Ferrars. In the time of Henry I-II Nether Seal was held by a family which took its name from the place, and we find [No. 3] that about 1167 Ralph de Seila, with the sanction of his lord, William, Earl of Ferrars, sold the mill there with



INTRODUCTION.

v

NIGEL de Toeni. Called in *Domesday*, de Stafford and afterwards de Gresley.

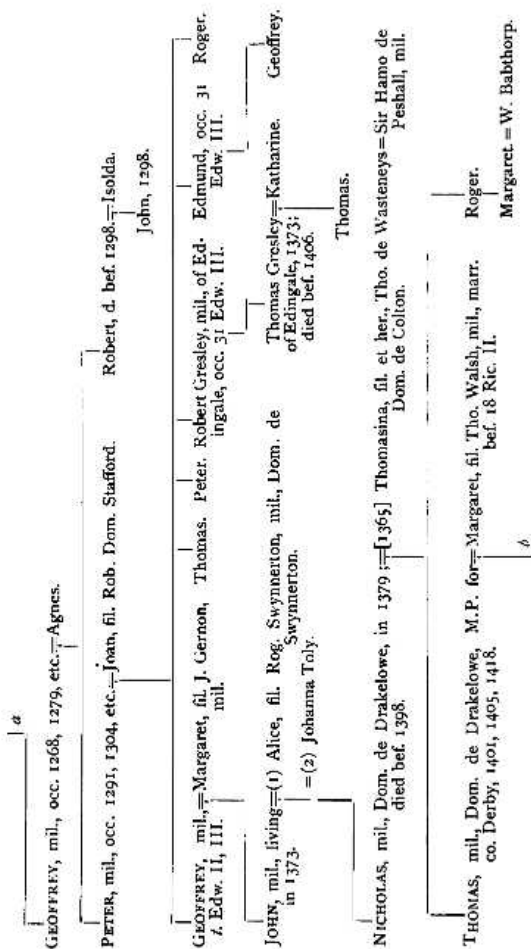
WILLIAM, fil. Nigel, *al. de Gresley*, founded Gresley = Elena. Nicholas de v. Margaret, heiress Robert, fil. = Létice de Priory, held 4 fees of Ferrars, *f. Hen. 1*, living *circa* 1163; dead in 1166. of Longford. Nigel Ferraris.

RONGER de Gresley, = Basilia. Eugenulf de = Alina de Nigel. William. Ralph de Gresley, *al. de Hethro*, occ. *circa* 1167. [Nos. 3, 4, 6, 7.]

WILLIAM, = Basilia (?) Henry. Robert de Cres- Dionisia = S. de Wuac- Hawisc = Henry Nicholas de mil., occ. 1200. ley, succ. bef. 1175. ston. de Westmore. 1190-1200.

GEOFFREY, mil., Constable "de Peco", = Margery, fil. Matild Henry, Rector of Lullington. Agatha = G. de Alice = Rich., fil. Seneschal to W. Comes de Derby, early de Somervill. Bec. Gilberti. Hen. III.

WILLIAM, mil., occ. 1243 = Elizabeth, fil. Robert. Geoffrey. Agnes, nun at Belton, 1242 Geoffrey de Lullington, Lullington. [Nos. 49, 73]; died bef. [No. 99]. occ. 1276. Bakepuz.



INTRODUCTION.

