# THE COURT OF THE HONOUR OF PEVEREL

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Trieste

# The Court

of the

# Honour of Peverel,

In the Counties of

Nottingham and Derby,

by

John T. Godfrey, F.R.H.S.


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1882.

# Preface.

Considerable interest having been raised in this Old Court by the appearance of an article thereon in "Old Nottinghamshire," published twelve months ago, I have complied with the suggestion of several of my friends by re-writing the same, supplying a list of the High Stewards, &c., &c., and presenting it to the public in pamphlet form.

Although the Court has only been abolished thirty-two years it is somewhat remarkable that so little is known of its history. In compiling the following pages I have consulted every authority which has suggested itself to my mind, and am afraid that very little further information can be added.

I have also, as far as possible, given the references to all the authorities quoted, and trust that these, with the Index, may be of some use to students of local history.

To Major A. E. Lawson Lowe, F. S. A., I am indebted for his courtesy in revising the list of High Stewards, and to Mr. J. P. Briscoe, F R.H.S., editor of "Old Nottinghamshire," my thanks are due for the loan of two of the blocks which help to elucidate the text.

J.T.G.

*Old Lenton,*
*Nottingham.*

# The Peverel Court.

THE parentage of William Peverel, governor of Nottingham Castle, and founder of Lenton Priory, Notts., and St. James' Priory, Northampton, has been at various times, very fully discussed. (*Vide* "*The Conqueror and his Companions*," by J. R. Planché, i. 72; ii. 69, 258-275; "*The Worthies of Nottinghamshire*," ed. by C. Brown, F.R.S.L. 1-6; and "Local Notes and Queries" in *Nottingham Guardian*, September 7, 14, 21, 1881.) The Conqueror, as a special mark of his royal favour, bestowed on Peverel 162 manors, nine of which were situated in the county of Nottingham. He died February 25th, 1113, and was buried at St. James' Priory, Northampton. "Peverelles armes ys golde, azure verrey. And his crest ys a Saresins hed, and his beste ys a lyon gueules mordrying a dragon with his mouth." (*Harl. MS.* 1499, f 42.)

Attached to the great honour or barony of Peverel in the counties of Nottingham and Derby, was a jurisdiction or court-leet known as the Peverel Court. When in the height of its power, the Honour, as the jurisdiction of the Court was named, comprised 127 towns and villages in Nottinghamshire, and 120 in Derbyshire, a list of which is given in Deering's *Nottinghamia vetus et nova*, p. 354-6, and Pilkington's *Derbyshire* ii. 15. On the flight of William Peverel, the grandson, in 1155, the king seized his lands,* and retained them in his hands until he bestowed them, with some exceptions, on his son John, Earl of Morteign and Nottingham, in 1174. The Court was now *de facto* a princely one, and continued in the hands of John until his accession to the throne in 1199, when it became merged in the crown.

In 1173 (19 Henry II.) the Honour was in the custody of Robert Fitz-Ralph, (Sheriff of Notts. and Derbyshire, 1166), and in 1185 (31 Henry II.) it was in the hands of the King. (Madox, *History of the Exchequer*, 2 ed. i. 297-8) According to the Great Roll of 1183 (29 Henry II.) Ralph Murdac, Sheriff of the counties of Nottingham and Derby rendered an account of £219 8s. 0d., of the farm of the Honour of Peverel.† In 1196-7 (8 Richard I.) the Sheriff, William Briwerre, gave account of the scutage of the Honour of Peverel of Nottingham, assessed the year before, being the second for the army in Normandy. (Thoroton,

* Vide "Old Nottinghamshire," ed. by J. P. Briscoe, F.R.H.S., p. 90

† "So also an Honor might be lett to ferm, or put into custody, like as a Manour or other estate in land." Madox, *Baronia Anglica*, p. 89.

*Antiquities of Nottinghamshire*, 1677, 207b.) In 1204 (5 John) the Honour was in the custody of Hugh Bardolf, (Madox i.. 405), and in 1207 it was in the hands of the King. In 1250 a survey of the Honour of Peverel, co. Notts., was made, a transcript of which is preserved in the British Museum, Add. MS. 25459, pp. 1-14.

"In the forty-fourth year of K. *Henry III.* (1260), in a Plea moved in the Court of Exchequer between *John de Luvetot*, Keeper of the Honour of *Peverell of Nottingham*, then in the King s hands, and *Simon de Asselacton*, Sherif of the counties of *Nottingham* and *Derby*, Search was made in the Rolls of the Exchequer. By those Rolls it was ascertained (that is manifestly proved) that *Roger de Luvetot*, Keeper of that Honor, did answer to the King upon his Account rendred in the fortieth year of that King, for the profits of View of Frankpledg, as pertaining to his Ferme of that Honor. Thereupon the Barons gave judgment for the said *John de Luvetot*." (Madox, *Baronia Anglica*, p. 89,)

The Chapter of Southwell and the Prioress of Brewood were certified in the *Testa de Nevil* to hold three parts of the town of Calverton, of the Honour of Peverel. (Thoroton, 296a.)

The next holder of the Honour was probably Hugh de Stapleford, to whom it was granted by Henry III. for life. In the 18th year of Edward I., when sir Gervase de Clifton was Sheriff, great complaint was made, and a jury of Broxtowe wapentake found, that William de Tytheby and Aunsell de Gameleston held the farm of the Baliwick of