

Dean House, Midgley

By H. W. HARWOOD

PART II

More entries about the family appear in the Record Series by Lister and Kendall, where they give attention to the Poll Tax return of 1379. This return uses the name "Dene", with variations of spelling among the tax-payers of Halifax-cum-Heptonstall, Midgley, Shelf and Warley. Thus we find a father and son alluded to in this wise: Johannes de Dente (? Den alias Dean. This John, the son of Thomas, is described in the Midgley section as a textor, that is, a weaver, and he had to pay 6d. instead of 4d. paid by his father and others. This indicates that John was a wool man of substance, comparatively better off than his father. A further comment in this Poll Tax interpretation reads: John de Melsa grants to John, son of Thomas de Den, of Midgley, all the land and meadow, etc., which John, the son of Thomas, held by charter in Myggeley, from Lyddingdenhead, etc., 30 Edward III (1356-57).—Watson, in 1371 and again in 1372-3 John del Deane is fined for not attending the election of Greave, but in 1379 he officiates on the jury at the Halifax Tourn. This fine can be read to mean that he could afford to pay the fine rather than give of his time to the office of greave (or greave—it is given both ways), and that he was of sufficient importance to sit on the jury.

I think it can be taken that when Den, Deane, etc., are mentioned it applied to the home of the Deans. Other Midgley references merely have the name of the township, and especially to qualify the person as of Dean indicates that the family was of sufficient importance to be tied in name to their residence.

A John Deyne in 1471 witnessed the will of Edmund Pykington, up to then of Ewood, and in many instances during the 15th and 16th centuries Deynes are witnesses to all sorts of Midgley documents.

A Dean figures in an event of unusual interest, mentioned by Watson in his History of Halifax (page 314). Watson says that at "Dean House in Warley (surely a mistake) there lived a family of the name Dean, one of which, Richard, is said to have killed, in a duel, one Brooksbank, of Bankhouse, in Warley." A little further on (page 665) when dealing with charities, he is more detailed: "Richard Deyne, of Deynehouse, son and heir of John of Myggeley, gave to John Myggeley the son and heir-apparent of Robert Myggeley, Richard Sladdin of Myggeley the younger, Richard Patchett of the same, William Ferroure son and heir apparent of Henry Ferroure, Robert Shawe, son of James Shawe, and Robert Thomas, of Myggeley aforesaid, one yearly rent of 13s. 4d., issuing out of the messuage with lands and tenements, called Herrebothlegh (Arrowbutt Lee), in Luddingden, within Myggeley aforesaid, to the use of John Robynson, Capellane (chaplain) in the Chapel of St. Mary of Luddingden aforesaid, and his successors in the same Chapel, for the time being, for ever, and payable on the Feasts of Pentecost and St. Martin in winter, by equal portions, or within 40 days after each of the said Feasts, with power of distress to the above Trustees, and their heirs, if the said yearly rent is unpaid for 40 days after it becomes due as aforesaid." Watson says he got this from the original Latin deed lent by the late curate of Luddenden. It was dated at Myggeley, March 6, 17 Henry VIII (1526), and was in the form of a charter. He adds: "It is said that Richard Deyne left the above, because he had killed in a duel one Brooksbank, of Bankhouse, in Warley." No more detail of this affair is to be found. The Brooksbank family, by the way, frequently comes into affairs 300 and 400 years ago, and a branch of it held Booth Fold before the Midgley family settled there in 1687.

In a short history of Luddenden Church, written in 1924 and inserted in the handbook of a bazaar, the late Rev. W. E. Bartlem gives the date as March 16, 1526 (Watson says March 6). So many old bequests have been lost that it was rather wonderful that Mr. Bartlem could write 400 years later that this rent charge in Arrowbutt Lee, continued to be paid! Alas! Upon inquiry for this paper I was told that since Mr. Bartlem's time the payment has been compounded for. It was but a small sum in our eyes but its long continuation certainly had a romantic touch and that is why I exclaim "Alas!"

The two printed volumes of births, marriages and deaths of Halifax Parish Church registers, covering from 1538 to 1593, contain upwards of 400 references to the Dean family. The places given of residences are of townships only, and include Exley, Hipperholme, Ovenden, Midgley (very many),

Northowram and Warley. While not venturing to quote any of them, which refer to 65 persons, they at least show that the numerous Dean family had spread about. It is generally agreed that family names, when tied to the earliest known place, had their origin there. As years passed the Deans extended beyond the township of Midgley. Indeed, very early in existent records they owned land as far as Upper Saltonstall in Warley, and John Longbottom the antiquary, who collected a great deal in the years he lived at Booth, writing 60 years ago of the Deans of Upper Saltonstall, says that they had branched from the Deans in Midgley. Tom Sutcliffe, the Warley historian, in his paper on Upper Saltonstall (H.A.S. Trans., 1903) shows the Deans of Dean House and of Saltonstall, not far from each other, were not only inter-related, but married into the Saltonstalls, the Midgleys, the Oldfields, the Wades and other local families. Almost half-way between Dean House and Saltonstall is Arrowbutt Lee which must have been the property of the Deans when as a penance for his duel Richard Dean left an annual charge out of the estate. The first two or three deeds of Dean House show that included in the estate was the farm known as Hawksclough. There were large families in those days, and they had to spread out to make a living. In whichever township they lived the names of Deans have a plentiful crop of Gilberts, Richards, Johns and Williams.

(To be continued.)

ON SCREEN AND STAGE NEXT WEEK

Regal.—To-morrow and all week: "Please Turn Over," a domestic comedy about a teenage girl who, because she is dissatisfied with the way her parents treat her, writes a best-selling novel exposing them and prominent people in her district—Ted Ray, Julia Lockwood, Tim Seeley; "The Desperate Man."

Odeon.—To-morrow and all week: "That Kind of Woman," concerns a beautiful Italian woman in New York who has been having a romance with a rich man. During wartime, however, she meets a paratrooper and has to decide between love and riches—Sophia Loren, Tab Hunter; "Thunder in the Sun."

Gaumont.—To-morrow and all week: "The Shakedown," a film inspired by the recent Street Offences Act. The grim business of the white slave traffic is camouflaged behind a photography racket until a policewoman stumbles on a vital clue and exposes the set-up to the authorities—Terence Morgan, Hazel Court; "Destiny of a Man."

Royal.—To-morrow and all week: "First Man into Space." Possible dangers ahead for the explorers into the unknown are given an original touch in this film. A spaceman returns to earth as a terrible monster instead of a handsome young man, and there reigns a rule of terror in the land—Marshall Thompson, Maria Landi; "High School Confidential."

Palladium.—To-morrow: "Brute Force"; "The Hornets' Nest." Monday: "Yesterday's Enemy," army drama, enacted in Burma, about a young captain with a big decision to make—Stanley Baker; Thursday: "I'm All Right, Jack," comedy about trade unionism—Peter Sellers, Ian Carmichael.

Ritz, Ovenden.—To-morrow: "Submarine Command." "The Winning Way." Monday and all week: "Follow a Star," about a singing pants-presser who falls into the clutches of a slick and scheming agent but eventually becomes a star through his own initiative—Norman Wisdom.

Cosy.—Monday: "Friends and Neighbours," a bus conductor wins a raffle prize and as a result he and his wife have to entertain two Russian visitors at their home; first-class comedy—Arthur Askey. Thursday: "Upstairs and Downstairs."

Rex, Elland.—To-morrow: "Ten Thousand Bedrooms." Monday: "Al Capone," graphic film about Chicago's most famous gangster and underworld king. Set in the prohibition era it is full of action and excitement—Rod Steiger. Thursday: "Rio Bravo."

Roxy, Sowerby Bridge.—To-morrow: "The Amazing Colossal Man"; "The Looters." Monday: "Monster on the Campus," horror-thriller about a huge fish