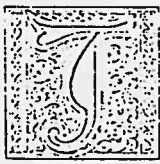


CHAPTER XII.

JAMES I'ANSON, VINTNER, OF CORNHILL, AND HIS DESCENDANTS.



JAMES I'ANSON, Vintner, of Cornhill, younger son of John I'Anson, Captain of a Man-of-War in the reign of Henry VIII., was born in the year 1505, and apprenticed to a member of the Vintners' Company, afterwards entering into business as a Vintner in Cornhill. He married Agnes, or Anne, Carlyll, daughter of William Carlyll, one of the family of Carlyll of Sewarby, Co. York, and related to Alexander Carlyll, a member of the Vintners' Company, and its Master in 1561, the year of his death. It has already, in an earlier chapter of this history, been recorded that James I'Anson took his nephew, William I'Anson, son of his older brother Christopher, as apprentice in his business, to which he appears afterwards to have succeeded.

According to his Will, James I'Anson had five children—two sons and three daughters. Two of the daughters had died in the lifetime of their father, and were buried in the churchyard of St. Gregory, in "Powles Churchyard," London. The children who survived him were—

Sons—

1. Bryan, baptised 18th August, 1560.
2. Henry, baptised 14th February, 1568.

Daughter—

Margery, baptised 4th July, 1563.

Anne, wife of James, survived him, and he left his estate, after payment of debts, &c., to her, and to his two sons, making his wife and eldest son, Bryan, executors. An abstract of the Will is to be found in a later chapter.

BRYAN I'ANSON, eldest son of James I'Anson, baptised at St. Gregory's on 18th August, 1560, became a Draper in the City of London and amassed a considerable fortune. He was an Alderman and Sheriff of the City of London, purchased the Manors of Bassetbury near High Wycombe, in the county of Bucks, and of Southy, near Ockingham (Ockingham is the old name for Wokingham, Co. Berks). He also purchased the Manor of Ashby St. Ledgers, in Northamptonshire, and had lands at Binfield, and houses in Reading of good value. He was High Sheriff of the County of Bucks. He married Anne, daughter of Robert Lee, of Beaconsfield, Co. Bucks, a nephew of Sir Henry Lee, of Lees Rest, Co. Bucks, and Ditchlee, in Co. Oxon, Knight of the Garter, Privy Councillor, and Champion to Queen Elizabeth. Bryan I'Anson obtained, on 27th May, 1605—being then resident at Bassetbury, Co. Bucks—a grant of arms, which is the first record we have of arms borne by the family subsequent to the settlement in England of John I'Anson, grandfather of Bryan. The arms borne by the family in France were never recorded to the Heralds by Bryan or any of the other members of the family in this country.

An account of the estates of Bryan I'Anson appears later, illustrated with a reproduction of an old print of the Manor House, Ashby St. Ledgers, and with photographs of the gateway to the Manor House (celebrated as the meeting place of the Gunpowder Plot Conspirators), and of Bassetbury Manor House, near High Wycombe.

Bryan died on 10th November, 1634, aged 74, and on the 13th day of the month was interred in the chancel of the Parish Church of Ashby St. Ledgers. He made his Will on 5th November, 1634, and it was proved on 13th December. Therein he gives a legacy to the poor of St. Margaret Moses and of Beaconsfield, and leaves to his son-in-law, Robert Thorpe, and Anne his wife, his lands in Oxfordshire, and his rights in land in Ireland belonging to the Drapers' Company. No mention is made of his other children, who had, in his lifetime, already been provided for.

From the Appendix to the Verney Papers the following extracts, which refer to Bryan I'Anson, have been taken:—

THE VERNEY PAPERS.—APPENDIX No. 1.

ACCOUNT OF MONEY RAISED ON PRIVY SEALS IN BUCKS, A.D. 1604.

A Book of the King's Majesties Privy Seales, sent into the county of Bucks, the second yeare of his highnes reigne, 1604, unto the severell persons herunder written, for the loan of the particular summes of money in them conteyned, delivered unto Sir Alexander Hampden, Knight, at severell times, as herin is sett downe.

Brian Ironson, Gent., £20.

These persons heareunder written remaine out of the sheare, and, therefore, the privie scales to them directed are re-delivered to Mr. Thomas Kerry.

Bryan Ironson, Gent.

ACCOUNT OF MONNY RAISED ON PRIVY SEALS IN BUCKS, A.D. 1626.

Thomas Waller of Becomsfeild, ar. £13.

Bryan Janson, *de cadem*, ar. £10.

According to the very handsome monument in the Church of Ashby St. Ledgers, Bryan I'Anson had ten children, five sons and five daughters.

Sons—

1. JOHN I'Anson, of Ashby St. Ledgers. Of whom presently.
2. BRYAN (afterwards Sir Bryan), born in 1590, ten months younger than his brother John. Of whom presently.
3. James, ob. s.p.
4. Clement, ob. s.p.
5. Richard, ob. s.p.

Daughters—

1. Elizabeth, died young.
2. Hannah.
3. Margaret.
4. Elizabeth.
5. Anne, referred to in the (frequently inaccurate, as in this instance) records of Heralds' College as "onely daughter of Bryan I-anson, married to Robt. Thorpe, Councillor-at-Law, and Bencher of the Middle Temple, and hath issue 3 sons and 5 daurs." These children are recorded on the large Pedigree bound in this volume.

THE ESTATES OF BRYAN I'ANSON.

BASSETBURY, CO. BUCKS, appears to have been purchased not long after the death of James I'Anson. The Manor House was, at that time, a considerable structure, and had, on more than one occasion, been visited by Royalty, Queen Elizabeth sleeping here one night *en route* for London. From the illustration of the house, it can be seen that a wing has evidently been pulled down, having probably fallen into decay, and a new chimney stack

has been erected, the builder apparently having made use of much of the old stone and brickwork. The old window frames have also been pulled out, and ugly modern ones substituted. Even now the place is of picturesque appearance, and occupies a very charming situation. It is not recorded at what time the property passed out of the hands of the I'Anson family. It appears to have descended to Sir Bryan (second son of Bryan I'Anson by his wife Anne Lee), and as Sir Bryan was reduced to a state of poverty through his zeal in the support of the cause of King Charles I. (it being on record that he and his son Henry took to the King at Edge Hill £10,000 and a regiment of horse), he probably sold the property.

ASHBY ST. LEDGERS.

THE MANOR HOUSE forms one of the most beautiful specimens of an Early Tudor Manorial House extant. It is approached from the village by two drives, each with gateway, guarded by a massive pair of stone pillars. The main drive enters the grounds on the western side of the residence; while the other approach traverses an enclosed courtyard of considerable area and passes through an old Gate House, in which is the room where, according to tradition, the conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot were wont to meet.

For many centuries the residence was in the hands of the Catesby family, one of whom, William Catesby, the favourite of Richard III., was taken at the Battle of Bosworth, and afterwards executed, by Henry VII. in 1485.

The house, which has been extended from time to time, dates back to the 14th Century, and the oldest portion is still in excellent substantial condition. The principal front is supposed to have been erected in the time of Edward III.; an addition was made about 1640; and a further extension has been made during recent years. The materials employed vary somewhat with the different periods, but the walls are principally formed of local stonework with freestone dressings, now creeper or ivy clad, and with tiled roof. Although thus built at different periods, the house in its entirety is, nevertheless, in perfect harmony with the surroundings, the slight variations in style being such as, by contrast or comparison, to balance the clearly-defined characteristics of the original building. Taken in conjunction with its fine old oak fittings and panellings, the residence undoubtedly represents one of the best specimens of an Early Manorial House to be found in the Kingdom.

On nearing the residence from the village, the charm of the old-fashioned grounds, with their fully-matured specimen trees, the picturesque effect of the clearly defined outline, and detailed characteristics of the building, with its diversified coped gables, clustered chimneys, bell tower, pierced parapets, and vane-topped finials, together with the delightful contrast in colour afforded by the ivy-clad walls and the open-weathered stonework, all combine to produce that stately yet withal cheerful repose that is associated with the finest old historical houses in England.

The residence, which stands on gravel soil, occupies a charming situation, about 450 feet above sea-level. Although thus standing at a considerable altitude, it nevertheless enjoys an exceptionally sheltered position, the well-formed plantations and natural configuration of the surface being all-sufficient for that purpose.

The two carriage drives, before referred to, terminate in a bold circular sweep on the Western side of the mansion, whence access is gained through a massive stone porch of Tudor design, with finely-wrought escutcheon, to the large reception hall (28 feet by 18 feet 6 inches), fitted with massive stone fireplace and nicely-moulded open beam ceiling. The apartment is lighted by two mullioned and transomed windows, and the walls are fitted throughout with fine old oak fittings, the more prominent panels of the wainscotting being in many cases embellished with oil paintings; while the whole is surmounted by a handsome oak frieze, composed of finely executed carvings in "Napkin" and other patterns. This apartment affords access to the principal reception rooms and to the main staircase. On the polished oak door leading to the cellars is a life-size oil painting of a herculean figure guarding the way with a massive club. On the right of the entrance hall is the noble dining-room, said to have been built by John I'Anson, measuring 27 feet by 23 feet, including large bay mullioned windows on two sides, by which the apartment is lighted. The room is fitted throughout with fine old dark oak panelling, surmounted by a boldly carved frieze of appropriate design, and with a polished oak floor. The open fireplace (fitted with a dog grate) is enclosed by a handsomely shaped and carved overmantel, the two central panels of which are filled with the I'Anson escutcheons, finely wrought, and having their armorial bearings finished *in relief*.

The library, inclusive of deep bay mullioned window, which commands most delightful views of the garden, measures 25 feet by 19 feet. The apartment has a finely-moulded ceiling in bold relief, the walls being lined with wainscotting, while the raised open fireplace has a dog grate with grey marble mantelpiece and elegantly carved overmantel.

The inner drawing-room, measuring 31 feet by 19 feet (including deep bay window), has a handsomely moulded ceiling and cornice. The room is also fitted with open fireplace, having dog grate and marble mantelpiece. This room is approached from the pleasure grounds by a side entrance, and communicates with the principal bedchambers by means of a private staircase.

The study (16 feet by 16 feet 3 inches) is well lighted by two windows, and fitted with oak panelling, oak floor, and open-moulded beam ceiling.

The bedrooms are approached from the entrance hall by a well staircase. There are many large oak bedrooms, with walls covered with wainscotting. Another large bedroom (27 feet by 23 feet) has a delightful old mullioned bay window and oak panelled walls and decorations. This room communicates with a powdering chamber. One of the panelled bedrooms has a large and curiously constructed cupboard, with secret hiding-place.

The estate had for many generations, before its purchase by Brian I'Anson, belonged to the family of Catesby. Sir William Catesby, the father of Robert of Gunpowder Plot fame, was convicted of harbouring Jesuits, and was buried here on 11th April, 1598. Robert lived, for the most part, at Lapworth, and his widowed mother, Lady Catesby, had the Manor House here.

It is in connection with Robert Catesby that the interest of many in the village and Manor House arises. The house is said to date, in part, from the time of Edward III, when the Catesbys first settled at Ashby St. Ledgers. The front of the house, facing West, and looking across the large court, is for the most part Elizabethan. The wing of the house, which faces South over the court, is perhaps older, and some of the outbuildings may be the same. The North part of the garden front, facing East, is modern. The general effect of the house and its surroundings is extremely picturesque, and there is

much to please the eye, whether you stand in the court and have the church tower and gatehouse in sight, or look from the garden on to the South and West fronts. Over the gateway, near the church tower, is the room in which, according to local tradition, Catesby and his fellow-conspirators occasionally met to arrange the details of their plan. It is a room of timber and plaster, with a staircase which is said to be later than the Catesbys' days.

After the arrest of Guy Fawkes, Winter and others of the conspirators rode hastily to Ashby St. Ledgers, expecting Catesby to follow them. Catesby and four companions started from Loudon at about eleven in the morning of 5th November, 1605, and travelled with such haste that they reached Ashby at about six that evening, a distance of some seventy-five miles. They then obtained fresh horses and made for Dunchurch, and a few days later Catesby lost his life at Holbeach, in Staffordshire, being shot while fighting back to back with Percy against the Sheriff and his force.

The manor, lordship, and advowson of the vicarage were then granted to Sir William Irwing in fee, and sold by him to Bryan l'Anson.

In 1616 Bryan purchased the advowson of the rectory of Sir Clement Fisher, to whom it had been conveyed in 1605.

The fine Jacobean monument to Bryan, his wife, and five sons and five daughters, an illustration of which appears in this book, was erected by his executors in the church some time after his death, and they have omitted to record the date, which was 10th November, 1634.

Bryan was succeeded by his eldest son, John, whose widow, Thomasine, gave a yearly charge of £10 10s. to endow a lectureship, and, in accordance with her directions a lecture is delivered in the church on the first Tuesday in the month.

John's son, Bryan, sold a portion of the Estate to Thomas, second Lord Leigh, for £4,400, including the lodge and grounds, various old enclosures, with the impropriated tithes arising therefrom, and Follom Wood, in Braunston parish.

The burden of the charge on the Estate to raise funds to aid the King (Charles I.) was continued to be felt, and in 1703 the Manor was sold to Joseph Ashley, when the l'Ansons' connection with the Estate ceased.

In the Parish Church of Ashby St. Ledgers, on the North wall, over the communion rails, is a monument surmounted by the arms of l'Anson. Under two arches, flanked by pilasters, are Bryan l'Anson and his lady, kneeling opposite to each other before a desk, on which is a shield, but the bearings are obliterated. Beneath, on two compartments, are five sons, in the same posture, labelled Richard, Clement, Sir Brian, John, James; and five daughters, Eliz., Hanner, Anne, Margaret, Eliz. On a shield below, which divides the inscription into two tablets, are Janson, impaling a fess between three crescents.

Here lieth the body of Brian
Janson, Esquier, sometime citizen
& Draper of London, and fined for
Alderman and Sheriff
riff of the same citty, and
afterward High Sheriff of
ye countie of Buckingham, and

was the first purchaser of
this Manor of Ashby Ledgers,
with the parsonage and vovson
of the vicaridge; whose soul
resteth in heaven, and departed
this miserable world the
— daye of —

Jacta cogitatum in domino & ipse te inubriet.

Opposite to the last is a monument of white marble to John I'Anson, Esqr., a half-length of whom, holding a glove in his right hand, is introduced in a circle wreathed with flowers. Above are three shields; in the centre, (1) I'Anson and crest; on the dexter side, 2. O. on a pale Az. three escallop shells of the field (Stone), and on the sinister side, 3. O. on a pale Vt. three garbs of the field (Oldfield).

P. M. S.

Sub hoc tumulo requiescunt ossa Johannis Ianson, armigeri
 Qui primo duxit uxorem Susannam d'ni Gulielmi Stone, equitis
 Aurati Londinensis, filiam; ex qua suscepit liberos (adhuc superstites)
 Annam Thomæ Essington (De Brightwelly in agn. Suffolciensi), armigero
 Nuptam, et Bryanum filium ejus unigenitum, ac heredem, Mariæ
 Unicæ Edvardi Williams, mercatoris Londinensis (ab antiqua
 Williamsiorum familia de Wollaston in agn. Salopiensi oriundi).
 Filix, conjugem; postea, Thomasinum, filiam Josephi Oldfield, Mer-
 catoris Ilden Londoniensis; deiu 69^{um} ætatis suæ annum agens
 Die 9^o Decembris an^o d'ni 1657: senis ex vita hac in patriam cœleste

Demigravit.

Optimi patris in memoria pius filius B. I. hoc monumentum posuit A^{no} 1663.

On slabs in the Chancel:—

Here lyeth interred the body of Hester, the wife of Bryan Ianson, Esquier, of Ashby Ledgers in the County of Northampton, and daughter of William Sanders, Esquier, of Brixworth, in the same County, who departed this life the 15th June, anno domini 1680.

Here lyeth the body of John, the youngest son of Bryan Ianson, Esqr., and Mary, his wife, who departed this life the 15th day of Jan, 1692.

JOHN I'ANSON, of Ashby St. Ledgers (eldest son of Brian I'Anson and Anne Lee), was ten months older than his brother, Sir Bryan, who was born in 1590. He succeeded to the Ashby St. Ledgers Estates. He married twice—firstly, in 1613, Susan, daughter of Sir William Stone, Merchant, of London, “and of the coheire after the death of her brother, Thomas Stone, who died without issue.” By her he had two children.

Son—

BRIAN, born in 1616. Of whom presently.

Daughter—

Anne, who married Thomas Essington, of London, a Hanburg merchant.

And, secondly, in the year 1617, Thomasine, daughter of Joseph Oldfield, of London, and sister of Oldfield of Gatton, Co. Surrey, by whom he had three children.

Sons—

1. John, baptised 4th April, 1619; buried 19th November, 1657.
2. James, baptised 3rd September, 1622; died young.

Daughter—

Mary, baptised 4th October, 1620; died young.

John I'Anson died in London in December, 1657, and we find recorded in Smyth's Obituary—

1657, December 17th.—Mr. Ianson's corps carried out of Finsbury into Northamptonshire to be buried.

His Will was made on 28th November, 1657, and proved, 23rd February following, by his son Brian, the executor. Thomasine, his second wife, survived him, and died in December, 1658, being interred at “Katherine Creechurch, in the chancel.” She was sister of Lady Katharine Oldfield.

In the year 1663, Brian I'Anson, eldest son of John, erected on the wall of the chancel of the church at Ashby St. Ledgers the handsome monument to his father, an illustration of which appears in this volume.

BRIAN I'ANSON, of Ashby St. Ledgers (the eldest son of John I'Anson by his first wife, Susan Stone), was born in 1616, and was, in the year 1634, apprenticed by his father to the Skinners' Company. He married, in the year 1647, Mary, daughter of Edward Williams, of Wollaston, Co. Salop, Esquire. He died in February, 1681, aged 65. It is recorded that his wife Mary survived him, and was living in 1682. By her he had thirteen children.

Sons—

1. John I'Anson, born in 1649, matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, 12th December, 1665, aged 16. He became a student of Inner Temple in 1669, and died unmarried.
2. BRIAN, born 28th January, 1657. Of whom presently.
3. Edward I'Anson, of Wadham College, Oxford, matriculated there 16th January, 1677-8, aged 15. B.A. from St. Alban's Hall, 1682 (as I'Anson). Baptised 21st February, 1661-2; died 18th July, 1683; buried same day in Merton College Chapel.
4. Thomas I'Anson, baptised 7th September, 1663; aged about 18 in 1682, and described as "now gone a Merchant to the East Indies"; recorded as dead 1693.
5. George, baptised 3rd April, 1665.
6. Charles, baptised 25th November, 1667; died young.
7. William, baptised 10th April, 1670.
8. John, baptised 19th April, 1675, died 15th January, 1692, and buried within the rails of the altar in the Church at Ashby St. Ledgers.

Daughters—

1. Mary, died unmarried.
2. Susanna, baptised 3rd August, 1654.
3. Anne, baptised 1st November, 1655.
4. Elizabeth, baptised 29th July, 1660.
5. Barbara, baptised 24th July, 1673.

BRIAN I'ANSON, of Ashby St. Ledgers (eldest surviving son of Brian I'Anson and Mary Williams), Justice of the Peace for the County of Northampton, was born on 28th January, 1657, and baptised the following day at Ashby St. Ledgers. He married Esther (or Hester), daughter of William Saunders, of Brixworth, Co. Northants, by whom he had four children.

Son—

Bryan, baptised 26th May, 1696.

Daughters—

1. Esther, baptised 7th July, 1686. Married, in 1707, Robins Bradley, of Buckby, Gent.
2. Sarah, baptised 11th November, 1687. Married, at East Haddon, on 19th November, 1711, the Rev. Thomas Hind. Died and was buried at East Haddon 13th August, 1712.
3. Silena, baptised 26th May, 1690. Married, at East Haddon, 10th July, 1728, Ambrose Monck, of Coventry, Gent.

BRYAN I'ANSON (only son of Brian I'Anson and Esther Saunders), baptised 26th May, 1696. Had four daughters. Nothing is on record of the three youngest of these, but Mary, his eldest daughter, married John Bromwich, of Fawsley, Co. Northampton, and Husbands Bosworth, Co. Leicester. The following announcement appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in October, 1818:—

1818, October 12th.

At the house of her brother, in Bridgnorth, county Salop, aged 73, Mrs. Esther Bromwich, a maiden lady. She was a twin and the second daughter of the Rev. John I'Anson Bromwich, formerly Vicar of Worfield.

Her descent is highly respectable, from two very ancient and wealthy families, *viz.*: Bromwich of Hillmorton, county Warwick, and P'Anson of Ashby Ledgers, county Northampton.

Her common ancestor, John Bromwich, Gentleman, seated himself at Hillmorton, upon his newly-purchased estate there, in Henry VI., 1422. Her paternal grandmother, Mary, wife of John Bromwich, of Pawsley, county Northampton, and Husbards Bosworth, county Leicester, was the eldest of the four daughters of Bryan P'Anson, Esq., late of Ashby Ledgers, and descended from P'Anson, of Hawkwell, in Richmondshire, county York, Captain of a Man-of-War in the Reign of Henry VIII.

The Estates at Ashby St. Ledgers remained in the hands of the P'Anson family through the reigns of James I., Charles I., Charles II., William and Mary, and were finally parted with, in the second year of the reign of Queen Anne (1703), to Joseph Ashley, Esq., citizen and Draper of London.

According to Baker's *Northamptonshire*, the Rectory was purchased by Bryan P'Anson from Sir Clement Fisher in 1616, and thus became united in ownership with the advowson of the Vicarage.

ASHBY LODGE ESTATE.—The Manor or manors, impropriate Rectory, advowson of the Vicarage, and entire Lordship of Ashby centred in the P'Ansons, but, becoming deeply encumbered with heavy mortgages, Bryan P'Anson, senior, Esq., and Bryan P'Anson, junior, Esq., his son and heir, joined in vesting the whole in the hands of Trustees for certain specified uses; as to "the Lodge ground, with the Lodge therein standing," and various other old inclosures, with the impropriate titles, arising therefrom, and Follom Wood, in Braunston parish, in trust, to sell towards the liquidation of the incumbrances.

In May, 1680, Thomas, second Lord Leigh, of Stoneley, in Warwickshire, entered into an agreement to purchase this Estate for £4,400, "the money to be received and counted and sealed up at Rockingham, and my Lord to be at the hazard of any robbery between that and Daventry." It was accordingly, in September following, conveyed by the two P'Ansons, their Trustees and Mortgagees, to his Lordship in fee.

The following are notes of Chancery proceedings connected with the Ashby St. Ledgers Estate:—

6th June, 1682. Janson v. Janson. Reynordson IV. No. 76.

Complainant. BRYAN JANSON son of Bryan Janson of Ashby Ledgers Co. Northampton and grandson of John Janson of Ashby Ledgers.

Defendant. MARY JANSON relict of Bryan Janson the elder.

In consideration of a marriage shortly to take place between Bryan Janson the elder now deceased and Mary Williams daughter of Mary Williams widow. John Janson Complainant's grandfather did by indenture dated 20th October 1647 grant a life interest of some lands in Ashby Ledger to Mary Williams the younger for life. Mary Janson has now taken more than she is entitled.

30th November 1692. Janson v. Janson. Mitford 437. 32.

Complainant. BRYAN JANSON of Ashby Ledgers Co. Northampton.

Defendants. WILLIAM JANSON, BARBARA JANSON by Mary her Mother and EDWARD BRONWICH and others.

By indenture dated 5th February 1679 made between Bryan Janson the elder of Ashby Ledgers Co. Northampton Complainant's father deceased and Complainant of the one part and Christopher Goodfellow William Palmer of Ladbroke Co. Warwick William Shortgrave and Halston Co. Northampton Ambrose Holbeck of Mollington and Edward Bromwich all the lands with the Manor of Ashby Ledgers with the Advowson of the Vicarage of the Parish Church of Ashby Ledgers in trust to those of the second part. They to pay certain portions to Susannah Ann and Elizabeth daughters of Bryan Janson the elder also Barbara Janson another daughter of Bryan Janson £400 on her coming of age. Also to pay Edward Thomas George Charles William and John six of the younger sons of Bryan Janson £400 when they reach twenty-four. Also to Mary Janson relict of Sir Bryan her widow's portion and the rest to Complainant. Defendants say their portions have not been paid.