

all residents<sup>a</sup>; and the lands of his abbey in Chelford and Asthulle were valued, after the dissolution, at viii. vis. iiii<sup>b</sup>. The said manor, as parcel of Barnshaw, passed subsequently to the Dean and Chapter in their first grant, but after the suits with sir Richard Cotton, was confirmed generally to the fee farmers by patent 22 Eliz.<sup>c</sup> being then held [with certain lands here and in "Astleye,"] by Henry Mainwaring of Carincham in fee farm from the Dean and Chapter, as part of Barnshaw, before mentioned<sup>d</sup>.

The manor subsequently passed to the Mainwarings of Peover in the same manner with the paramount royalty of Barnshaw, of which it is still an appendage, and the constables are [1819,] sworn in that court<sup>e</sup>. [But the lands were probably sold by the fee-farmers, to various purchasers.

The most interesting notice of smaller proprietors is that of one whose descendants, the Snelstons, were afterwards settled here. There had been disagreements between the abbot of S. Werburgh and William lord of Snelleston and Ralph de Modburlough' (the last two, it seems, being parceners in Snelston) respecting the boundaries of Chelford and Snelleston. These commenced at the aqueduct under Chelford mill, and ascending by the valley, called the Mreclough, to certain heys between the Town fields, passed thence beyond the enclosure of Snelleston, continuing by the deep moss against Fandon, and so following to the Lathe and the divisions of Chelford, Fandon, and Old Werford. The lands within these boundaries, the lord of Snelleston, and Modburlough, sold to and renounced in favor of the abbot, by their charter; "et ipm̄ in pleno Com̄ Cestr' recitatū in rotulo q3. vocat' Domesday." Test. Reg' de Gray tunc Justic', Jō de Asthull, &c. Harl. MSS. 2074.]

ASTLE, or Asthulle, in this township, has been noticed in the preceding extracts from the chartulary of St. Werburgh, and gave name, at an early period, to its mesne lords, one branch of which assumed the name of Birtles, and has been mentioned in that township. The lords of Chelford had demesne and quit-rents in this hamlet, which passed with Chelford to the Abbey of St. Werburgh; but Asthulle itself continued in possession of these local lords, [from a very early period,] as appears [by the following account. They are first noticed temp. Ric. I. or king John, see p. 579, a charter to which Henry de Hesthul occurs as a witness. There can be no doubt that at this period and for many generations, Astle was of manerial rank, but subordinate to Chelford, and held by a much more considerable family than has hitherto been supposed, who were most likely a branch of that of Pigot the paramount lords. But considerable lands here were also held by the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, perhaps of the grant of the Asthulls as next noticed; and by charter s. d. Robert Pygot grants to William son of Roger de Wythinton, "all the land between the two waters of Chelleford and Hasthul," held by the said Robert of the said Hospital. Inrolled, Rec. Ro. 36 and 37 Eliz. m. 2d, at whose instance does not appear, but certainly at

that of the owner temp. Elizabeth, and this land perhaps corresponds with the site of the residence of the later Snellestons.

William de Astehull is the next to occur, who by an undated charter gave lands in Astehull to the brethren of St. John of Jerusalem, for the soul of his son Hugh, for the health of himself and wife, the souls of his father and mother, and for the souls of his ancestors, in francalmoign; test. William de Astehull, John de Astehull, and others. Harl. MSS. 2074, f. 197.

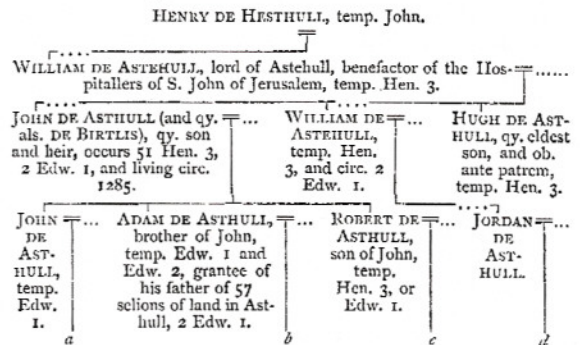
John de Asthull occurs in the already quoted Chelford charter of Robert son of Jordan de Worth, 54 Hen. III. and was probably father of Robert fit Jō de Asthulle,] as appears by a deed quoted [in the Harl. MSS. and] in the Villare Cestricense, by which Robert son of John de Asthulle gave to Adam, his son, all his land here to be held of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, by the yearly render of xiii. [Test. John de Baskerville, Ric. lord of Syndindon, John son of John de Asthull, Adam de Asthull<sup>f</sup>, John his son, and Roger de Aldredlegh.

2 Edw. I. Adam de Asthull (supposed uncle of the last named Adam) grants to John his father 39 selions in cāpis de Asthull, of which his father had enfeoffed him, and 18 selions in the fields between Asthull and the chapel of Chelleford, and the fourth part of the great meadow, for the term of thirty years, commencing in 1274; test. John rector of the church of Govesworth, Ric. de Falibrom, Ađ de Pexhull, Ada. de Aldridley, Alano de Birchlis, Hen' de Faluis. Harl. MSS. 2074, f. 197.

The manor appears to have suffered numerous family subinfeudations; but the chief part probably passed to John elder brother of the last named Adam, who about this time grants to John de Asthul, his son and heir, the fee of all his lands in or without the town of Asthul, for the yearly service of 3s. Test. John de Winkel then bailiff of Macclesfeld, Wm. Pigot, John de Baskerville, Adam de Snelleston, &c. (Enrolled at instance of James Baxter of Astle—perhaps a trustee for the then proprietor—in Recog. Ro. 4 and 5 Car. I. m. 5.)

Piers de Astelle next occurs, whose son Robert served in Gascony, and for whose services, especially at the battle of Poitiers, the Black Prince, in 1357, granted him a pardon for the death of John le Koo, of Knotesford. Rec. Ro.

Nicholas de Asthull occurs 6 Hen. VI. and in 4 Hen. V. Thomas de Asthull<sup>g</sup>. Such meagre traces of this impoverished line as are discoverable are given in the following descents:<sup>h</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Vol. I. p. 238, [now 286.—H.]

<sup>d</sup> Ibid. 242, [now 290.—H.]

<sup>f</sup> Richard, son of Adam de Asthull, by charter s. d. grants to Roger de Gostre the fee of all his lands in the territories of the town of Asthull; habend. of the chief lord. Among many other Astle charters of about this date, is one (s. d.) of John, son of Robert de Asthull, who gives to Jordan de Asthull, all his lands in the town of Asthull; and to John, son of Jordan de Asthull, reversion of lands which Margery late wife of ..... de Asthull, held of him, in dower, in Asthull, and which by her death would revert to the grantor, with remainder to the said John son of Jordan, in fee; habend. of the chief lord. Test. Jo. de Baskerville, Jo. de Sutton, Jo. le Baron, Jo. de Asthull, Ada. de Snelleston.—H.

<sup>g</sup> He was sued by Matild widow of Robert de Legh of Adlyngton, for dower of a messuage, and 36 acres, in Fulshagh. Pl. Ro.—H.

<sup>h</sup> See also Harl. MSS. 2099. f. 260-1.—H.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. 227, [now 275.—H.]

<sup>e</sup> See this volume, p. 75, [now 132.—H.]

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. 241, [now 289.—H.]