

Earwaker. This book seems not to be very well known, and is now seldom to be met with. It contains many particulars about the "old Border Fortress" of Chirk Castle, and its owners not found elsewhere. A MS. pedigree of Middleton, co. Denbigh, among the Sloane MSS. (British Museum) No. 3977, is stated to be "done by Thomas Chaloner, late of Chester, gent., and student in the law of Armes," probably about the year 1620. This, with additions by H. R. Hughes, Esq., of Kinmel, has supplied me with much valuable genealogical information. I have also to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. A. D. Middleton, of New York, who is making researches into the history of this family, and who has furnished me with a second pedigree, together with several interesting notes. Other sources of information will be acknowledged in the text.

The MIDDLETONS OF DENBIGHSHIRE are a branch of the Middletons, of Middleton, co. Salop. The first of the name known with any certainty in the border county is Sir Alexander de Middleton, who lived in 1282. He is thought, but upon very doubtful authority, to have been related to Sir Richard de Middleton, Chancellor to Henry III., and to William de Middleton, consecrated Bishop of Norwich, in 1272. His wife was Alice, daughter of Hugh, Lord Audley, by whom he left a son, Sir Thomas de Middleton, living in 1294. Sir Thomas was father of Robert de Middleton, who by a daughter of Evan ap Meredith, had a son Sir Alexander de Middleton, of Middleton, Constable of Montgomery Castle, who by his wife Margaret, daughter and heiress of Hugo de Bowdler, had issue a son Philip de Middleton, the last male of his family, and who, apparently, predeceased his father.

The heiress of the line was Cecilia de Middleton, but whether the daughter or sister of the last-named Philip de Middleton is not clear. She married in 1396 Birid ap David ap Flaidd, the head of one of the 15 Tribes of North Wales, and a lineal descendant of King Beli Mawr. Birid and Cecilia had four sons, viz., Philip, Piers, John, and Robert, all of whom took the maternal name of Middleton, and from them descend all subsequent Middletons both of Shropshire and Wales.