his services are required in the workshop.—Yours,
F. G.

Leicester, Oct. 25, 1916.

HISTORIC NEWBOLD VERDON.

A correspondent writes:—

How many readers of the "Leicester Daily Mercury" connect the village of Newbold Verdon with the now famous French fortress of Verdun, and yet it is from the Counts of Verdun that it takes its name. Bertram de Verdun— to which of the three families then residing in France he belonged is not known—was one of William the Conqueror's chief knights. He fought at Hastings, his name is inscribed on the Roll of Honour in Battle Abbey, and he was present at the Coronation of William. As a reward he received grants of land in several counties, the chief being Farnham, now called Farnham Royal, in Bucks. He held this estate, not as most Norman nobles did, by promise of military service, but on condition of finding a glove for the King's right hand at his Coronation, and of supporting his right arm during the ceremony while holding the sceptre, and it is interesting to know that at the present day a white glove bearing the Verdun arms is still presented to the King at his Coronation.

Besides this estate, there were numerous others both in Leicestershire and other counties, the Leicestershire estates in the 12th century containing over 3,000 acres. The original name of the village was Newbold or Newbolt. The manor was given with numerous others in Leicestershire to Hugo Grentmaisneli, Earl of Leicester, and High Steward of England, and he seems to have sublet it to Huardus, the entry in the Domesday Book being "Huardus tenet in Newbold 2 caracutes terre." For some reason the manor came into the possession of Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, and Nichols, the historian of Leicestershire, says that Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, gave this town to Bertram de Verdun in frank marriage with his daughter Maud, hence, as Burton says, the place is named after the Verduns. This Bertram was the grandson of Bertram, who came over with William.

There seems to be no doubt but that the original church was built either by Bertram or his son, Nicholas, for the oldest parts are of early English work, and the extracts from the Register at Lincoln concerning the first two known Rectors read thus:—"1209 A.D. Elyas, presented by Nicholas de Verdon, instituted by the Archdeacon, the see being vacant. 1226 A.D. Robert de Alstone, Sub d, presented by Nicholas de Verdun, Knt. to Ch. of Newbolt, and instituted, after inquisition made by Master Robert, official of the Archdeacon of Leicester, who was ordered to induct." At the death of Theobald de Verdun in 1317 A.D. all the English estates passed into the hands of four other families, as he left only daughters. Joan, the eldest, married Thomas de Furnivall, Lord of Hallamshire, and the advowson remained in the hands of this family until 1400 A.D. It then passed into the hands of the Earls of Shrewsbury, and remained in their hands until 1591 A.D. Joan was either the mother or grandmother of the first Earl of Shrewsbury. Thus the church and manor have been intimately connected with Bertram de Verdun and his descendants for nearly 400 years.

Gun Behind Folding Doors.

Another German gun—a 5·9in. howitzer—has been added to the list of the Canadian captures in Courcelette. This gun had been cleverly concealed in the ruins of the village by folding doors, which hid the emplacement. Recently it was discovered quite by accident, and the gun found to be practically intact, only one of its wheels being injured.

RK 165

further exemption of three months was granted.

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NEWBOLD VERDUN OR NEWBOLD-IN-BREEDON?

Mr. A. W. Whatmore, of Ashby, writes: Some of the remarks quoted in your issue of the 2nd inst. are misleading on interesting points of Leicestershire history. The town given by Robert de Ferrers with his daughter Maud to Bertram de Verdun is not Newbold Verdun, but Newbold-in-Breedon. Nicholls, quoting from the Register of Newstead, says that the place given to Bertram was held by the service of half a fee, and accounted a member of Breedon. The latter circumstance shows that the historian placed the transaction under the wrong Newbold.

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A glance at Nichells's account of Newbold-in-Breedon affords convincing proof. He there says that Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, had seven virgates in Newbold with a wood called Bassethaye all which remained to him after he had given half a fee in Worthington and Newbold to Bertram de Verdun, with his daughter Matilda ("Maud" is "Matilda" shortened).

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Proof does not stop there. The forfeited lands of Ferrers, Earl of Derby and Lord of the Honor of Tutbury, passed to Edmund Earl of Lancaster and later to the Crown; and in Ch. 4 the King granted to Thomas Maurewarde (owner of Coleorton, adjoining Newbold-in-Breedon) a pasture called Basset-haye, within the Duchy of Lancaster, in Leicestershire as of the Honor of Tutbury an Manor of Newbolde by the service of a barbed arrow and sent to the Manor of Newbolde. Other evidence might be adduced, but sufficient has been said to show that Nicholls went went much astray in his treatment of the Newbolds.

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Your contemporary seems equally unhappy in his account of the first Bertram de Verdun Behind the remarks that he was one of the Conqueror's chief knights, that his name is on the roll of Battle Abbey, and that as reward he received grants in several counties, the chief estate being Farnham, Bucks, we have the facts that Battle Abbey Roll has the name of "Verdoune" without mark or sign to identify it, and that Bertram occurs nowhere in D.B. as a servant in capite except at Farnham; while I think it would be difficult to find any other mention of him in the record, even as a sub-servant, in Bucks. or any county.

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To return to Newbold Verdun. It was never part of Lancaster Duchy or Tutbury Honor. How the chief fee came from Hugh de Grentemaionel to the Verduns does not appear. Your quotations state that Hugh seems to have sub-let the place to Huard, but Domesday Book, the only guide, does not throw any light on Huard's title. Pointing to Huard as a sub tenant, our contemporary dismisses him as if inferior; but the Domesday sub-tenantry gave manorial lords and county families to succeeding generations, and the history of Huard's estates points to a close connection with the Verduns which can scarcely be accidental. Besides Newbold Verdun we had lands in Peeking Parva, Shearsby and Stoughton and when he disappears the Verduns generally come on the scene as if they were his heirs.

Burton Chronicle Nov 16th 1916 RK 165

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HISTORIC NEWBOLD VERDON.

A correspondent writing to a Leicester contemporary draws attention to the association of Newbold de Verdon—commonly known as Newbold Verdon, which lies in the direction of Market Bosworth—with the famous French fortress of Verdun. He writes: "How many people connect the village of Newbold Verdon with the famous French fortress of Verdun, and yet it is from the Counts of Verdun that it takes its name. Bertram de Verdun—to which of the three families then residing in France he belonged is not known—was one of William the Conqueror's chief knights. He fought at Hastings, his name is inscribed on the Roll of Honour in Battle Abbey, and he was present at the Coronation of William. As a reward he received grants of land in several counties, the chief being Farnham, now called Farnham Royal in Bucks. He held this estate, not as most Norman nobles did, by promise of military service, but on condition of finding a glove for the King's right hand at his Coronation, and of supporting his right arm during the ceremony while holding the sceptre, and it is interesting to know that at the present day a white glove bearing the Verdun arms is still presented to the King at his Coronation.

—:o:—

CAME OVER WITH THE CONQUEROR.

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THE ORIGINAL CHURCH.

There seems to be no doubt but that the original church was built either by Bertram or his son, Nicholas, for the oldest parts are of early English work, and the extracts from the Register at Lincoln concerning the first two known Rectors read thus: "1209 A.D. Elyas, presented by Nicholas de Verdon, instituted by the Archdeacon, these being vacant. 1226 A.D. Robert de Alstone, Sub d, presented by Nicholas de Verdun, Knt. to Ch. of Newbolt, and instituted, after inquisition made by Master Robert, official of the Archdeacon of Leicester, who was ordered to induct." At the death of Theobald de Verdun in 1317 A.D. all the English estates passed into the hands of four other families, as he left only daughters, Joan, the eldest, married Thomas de Furnivall, Lord of Hallamshire, and the advowson remained in the hands of the family until 1400 A.D. It then passed into the hands of the Earls of Shrewsbury, and remained in their hands until 1591 A.D. Joan was either the mother or grandmother of the first Earl of Shrewsbury. Thus the church and manor have been intimately connected with Bertram de Verdun and his descendants for nearly 400 years.