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The William Salt Archaeological Society.

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The William Salt Archaeological Society.

1917.

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RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

I.—That the Society be called the “WILLIAM SALT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.”

II.—The leading object of the Society shall be the editing and printing of original documents relating to the County of Stafford, to which, however, may be added papers selected by an Editorial Committee, illustrative of the same, or coming under any of the eight following heads :—

- (a) Abstracts of the Monastic Chartularies, and of Ancient Family Deeds, with the names of witnesses and fac-similes of seals; Genealogies of Nobility and Gentry (accompanied by proofs), Heraldic Visitations, and other papers touching the general history and descent of properties and families.
- (b) Printing and editing of the Public Records relating to the County, including the Exchequer or Pipe Rolls, the Assize Rolls, Fine Rolls, Inquisitions, Perambulations of Forests, Subsidy Rolls, and Assessments, &c., &c.
- (c) History of Parishes and of Manors, and of Manorial Customs and Tenures, illustrated by Copies of, or reference to, original grants.
- (d) Church Notes hitherto unpublished, such as Ecclesiastical Surveys, Extracts from Episcopal and Parish Registers, Copies of Epitaphs, and Description of Monuments and Ecclesiastical Buildings, Abstracts or Copies of Wills, &c.
- (e) Notices of British and Roman Remains, and Roads and Buildings, and the Antiquities generally of the District.
- (f) Autograph Letters and other Documents relating to the Civil War.
- (g) Notices of distinguished Worthies, Broad-sides, Election Squibs, &c.
- (h) Correspondence, in which enquiries may be made and answered, on any of the above subjects, and miscellaneous information, including corrections of errors.

III.—The general affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council of ten, of whom five shall be trustees of the William Salt Library, and nominated by them, from time to time, and five shall be elected at an Annual Meeting of the Subscribers. The Council shall be empowered to delegate, if they see fit, the selection of the papers to be printed to an Editorial Committee. Of the Council, three shall be a quorum, and in case of equality of votes, their Chairman shall have a casting vote.

IV.—The Officers of the Society shall be a Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Auditor, to be appointed by the Council. These Offices shall be honorary, but the Council shall have power to appoint an Assistant Secretary to be paid at the discretion of the Council, as the nature of his duties may warrant.

V.—The Subscription shall be One Guinea annually, to be paid in advance upon the first of January in each year, and such annual payment shall entitle each Subscriber to the volume issued for the year of such subscription. Any Subscriber shall be permitted to withdraw from the Society by giving notice of his intention three months before the termination of any year of Subscription.

N.B.—To save trouble, it is recommended that the Members of the Society pay their subscriptions to the Society's bankers by revocable order upon their own bankers, a printed form for which may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary.

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Corrected to 30th September, 1918.

The year in which Members joined the Society is prefixed. Where marked thus * the year is that in which the predecessor in title of the present Member joined.

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ENGLISH HISTORICAL REVIEW, THE. (*Free issue for review.*)
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- 1913 PROWSE, B. A., 35, Parliament Street, London, S.W. 1.

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- 1905 RAE, The Rev. C. D., Leigh Rectory, Stoke-on-Trent.
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Private Members, 162; Libraries and Societies, 47; Honorary Members and Free Issues, 12. Total issued, 221.

The William Salt Archæological Society.

ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 21st, 1916.

THE Thirty-eighth Annual Meeting of the William Salt Archæological Society was held in the William Salt Library, Stafford, on October 21st, 1916. The Earl of Dartmouth presided. There were also present the Earl of Lichfield; Lord Charnwood; Sir Reginald Hardy, Bart.; Sir H. Wiggin, Bart.; the Revs. E. R. O. Bridgeman, G. T. Royds, S. W. Hutchinson, and D. S. Murray; Commander J. C. Wedgwood, D.S.O., M.P. (Hon. Secretary); Colonel F. R. Twemlow, D.S.O.; Mrs. Moat; Messrs. P. W. L. Adams, F. T. Beck, J. T. Homer, A. Huntbach, J. A. Lycett, J. R. B. Masefield, and W. M. Philips.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Committee have to report with deep regret the death of Mr. J. W. Bradley, their Assistant Secretary, and offer their sympathy to his family. Owing to the absence at the Front of the Hon. Secretary, and delay in printing consequent on the War, the publication of the Society's volumes has been greatly hindered.

During the past year four members have died (one of whom, Mr. W. A. Bowers, fell gloriously in France), four members have resigned, and two new members have joined.

The Committee regret that, owing to the death of the Assistant Secretary, the accounts have not been audited ; they are presented in draft and submitted subject to audit.

The Committee offer their apologies to the members for delay in the publication of the volumes.

Commander WEDGWOOD moved the adoption of the Report, and expressed his thanks to Mr. Homer for kindly carrying on the work during his absence.

Mr. HOMER, in seconding the motion, said it was proposed to issue the two new volumes as soon as they could be edited and printed. The Dean of Lichfield had written asking whether the Editorial Committee would be disposed to accept for some future volume Whitlock's *Chronicon Lichfeldensis Ecclesiae*, 1569, which has never been printed, and the anonymous *Historia Ecclesiae Lichfeldensis*, 1575, with introduction and notes. The Committee considered that these would be a valuable contribution to a future volume.

Lord DARTMOUTH, in supporting the adoption of the Report, expressed his deep regret at the death of Mr. Bradley. He thanked Mr. Homer for his services, and congratulated Commander Wedgwood on his safe return from East Africa.

Commander WEDGWOOD urged the importance of collecting full details of the history of the Staffordshire regiments engaged in the War.

Lord DARTMOUTH warmly supported the proposal, and it was decided to appoint a Committee, consisting of Lord Dartmouth, Commander Wedgwood, Colonel Twemlow, and Mr. Homer to carry out the idea.

On the motion of Mr. HOMER, Colonel Twemlow and Mr. Gerald Mander were added to the Editorial Committee, which was re-elected.

Commander WEDGWOOD proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Dartmouth for presiding. This was seconded by the Rev. E. R. O. BRIDGEMAN and carried unanimously.

The William Salt Archaeological Society.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1916.

	<i>Receipts.</i>	<i>Payments.</i>			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance at Bank, Sept. 30th, 1915	223 5 1				
„ Subscriptions for 1916	116 11 0			4 12 0	
„ „ 1915	65 2 0				
„ „ prior years	9 9 0		7 10 0		
„ Sales...	191 2 0		0 4 8		7 14 8
	1 5 6				8 7 10
				7 10 0	
				2 0 9	
					9 10 9
					1 7 4
					0 5 0
					0 5 0
					383 10 0
					<u>£415 12 7</u>

Examined and found correct.

(Signed) **WILLIAM MORGAN,**

Hon. Auditor,

November 9th, 1917.

CONTENTS OF PREVIOUS VOLUMES.

- Vol. I, 1880.—Pipe Rolls of 1180 and 1155-89; Latin Text and Notes, Liber Niger of 1166, *Wrottesley*, and *Eyton*. The Register of Bishop Roger de Norbury, 1322-58, *Bishop Hobhouse*. History of Blymhill, *The Rev. the Hon. Geo. Bridgeman*.
- Vol. II, 1881.—Pipe Rolls of 1189-1216; Latin Text and Notes, *Eyton*. Staffordshire Cartulary, *Eyton*. Part II, Obligatory Knighthood, *temp.* Charles I., *Grazebrook*. Arms taken in the Visitation of 1663-4, *Grazebrook*. History of Blymhill, *Geo. Bridgeman*.
- Vol. III, 1882.—Plea Rolls of 1189-1216, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords of 1189-1216, *Wrottesley*. Staffordshire Cartulary, *Wrottesley*. Part II. The Visitation of 1583, *Grazebrook*. The Wasteneys Family, *Parker*.
- Vol. IV, 1883.—Plea Rolls of 1216-72, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords of 1216-72, *Wrottesley*. Ronton Priory Cartulary, *Wrottesley*. Part II, History of Church Eaton, *Geo. Bridgeman*.
- Vol. V, Part I, 1884.—Burton Abbey Cartulary, *Wrottesley*. Hundred Rolls, 1255 and 1275, *Wrottesley*. Pleas of the Forest, 1262, 1271, 1286, 1300, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. V, Part II, 1884.—Visitation of Staffs., 1663-64, *Grazebrook*.
- Vol. VI, Part I, 1885.—Plea Rolls, 1272-94, *Wrottesley*. Stone Cartulary, *Wrottesley*. Plea Rolls of 1218-38, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. VI, Part II, 1885.—Capitular Muniments at Lichfield, *Dr. C. J. Cox*.
- Vol. VII, 1886.—Plea Rolls, 1294-1307, *Wrottesley*. Subsidy Roll of 1327, *Wrottesley*. Part II, History of the Swynnerton Family, *Geo. Bridgeman*.
- Vol. VIII, 1887.—Military Service of Staffordshire Tenants, 1230-1374, *Wrottesley*. Cartulary of St. Thomas', Stafford, *Parker*. Part II, History of Castle Church Parish, *Mazzinghi*.
- Vol. IX, 1888.—Assize and King's Bench Rolls, 1307-27, *Wrottesley*. Fine Rolls, 1307-27, *Wrottesley*. Part II, The Barons of Dudley, *Grazebrook*.
- Vol. X, 1889. *Coram Rege* Rolls and Pleas of the Crown, 1307-27, *Wrottesley*. Subsidy Roll of 1332, *Wrottesley*. Younger branches of Sutton of Dudley, *Grazebrook*.
- Vol. XI, 1890.—Plea Rolls, 1327-41, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords, 1327-1547, *Wrottesley*. Cartulary of Trentham Priory, *Parker*.
- Vol. XII, 1891.—Plea Rolls, 1341-59, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords of mixed counties, including Staffordshire, 1485-1558, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords, 1558-9, *Wrottesley*. Part II, Supplement to the History of Blymhill, *Geo. Bridgeman*.
- Vol. XIII, 1892.—Plea Rolls, 1360-87, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords, 1559-73, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. XIV, 1893.—*Coram Rege* Rolls, 1327-83, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords, 1573-80. Military Service of Staffordshire Tenants, 1377-99, *Wrottesley*. Part II, History of Weston-under-Lizard, *Geo. Bridgeman*.

- Vol. XV, 1894.—Plea Rolls, 1387-1405, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords, 1580-9. Muster Roll of 1640, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. XVI, 1895.—Staffordshire, extracts from the Cheshire Plea Rolls, 1327-1413, *Wrottesley*. King's Bench and *Coram Rege* Rolls, 1377-1413, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords, 1589-1603. Rydeware Cartulary, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. XVII, 1896.—Plea Rolls, 1413-35, *Wrottesley*. The Poll Tax, Hundreds of Offlow and Cuttlestone, 1379-81, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords of mixed counties, including Staffordshire manors, 1558-88. Shenstone Charters, *Grazebrook*.
- Vol. XVIII, 1897.—Final Concords, mixed counties, 1588-1603; ditto of cities, 1558-1603; ditto of Staffordshire, 1603-7. Part II, Calais and Crécy, Military Service at, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. I, N.S., 1898.—The Gresleys of Drakelowe, *Falconer Madan*.
- Vol. II, N.S., 1899.—History of Weston-under-Lizard, *E. R. O. and C. G. O. Bridgeman*.
- Vol. III, N.S., 1900.—Final Concords, 1607-12. The Swynnertons of Eccleshall and Chell, *Chas. Swynnerton*. Plea Rolls, 1435-60, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. IV, N.S., 1901.—Final Concords of mixed counties touching Staffordshire, 1603-25; of Staffordshire, 1613-7. Plea Rolls, 1456-74, *Wrottesley*. Muster Roll, 1539 (Offlow Hundred).
- Vol. V, N.S., 1902.—The Giffard Family, *Wrottesley*. Muster Roll, 1539 (Cuttlestone and Pirehill Hundreds).
- Vol. VI, N.S., Part I, 1903.—Final Concords, 1615-9. Muster Roll, 1539 (Seisdon and Totmanslow Hundreds). Plea Rolls, 1474-85, *Wrottesley*. Inventory of Church Goods, 1552, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. VI, N.S., Part II, 1903.—History of the Wrottesley Family, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. VII, N.S., 1904.—History of the family of Okeover, *Wrottesley*. Final Concords, 1618-22. Early Chancery Proceedings, 1377-1509, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. VIII, N.S., 1905.—Register of Bishop Roger de Stretton, 1360-85, *Rev. R. A. Wilson*.
- Vol. IX, N.S., 1906.—Chancery Proceedings, 1560-70. Sir James de Audley, K.G., and the Audley Family, *Wedgwood*. The Burton Abbey Surveys, *J. Horace Round*. Cartulary of Dieulacress Abbey, *Wrottesley*.
- Vol. X, N.S., Part I, 1907.—The Tenure of Draycot-under-Needwood, *J. Horace Round*. Final Concords, 1622-5. Star Chamber Proceedings, Henry VII. and Henry VIII. Forest Tenures of Staffordshire, *Wrottesley*. Alrewas Court Rolls, 1259-61, *W. N. Landor*.
- Vol. X, N.S., Part II, 1907.—Lichfield Bishopric Register, 1358-85, *Rev. R. A. Wilson*.
- Vol. XI, N.S., 1908.—History of the Bagot Family, *Wrottesley*. The place called Monetville in Domesday, *W. Fowler Carter*. The Inquests on the Staffordshire estates of the Audleys, 1273-1308, *Wedgwood*. Reviews of the P.R.O. Publications, 1350-4, 1405-8, 1429-41, *Wedgwood*.
- Vol. XII, N.S., 1909.—Chetwynd's History of Pirehill Hundred, Part I, *Parker*. Reviews, 1247-58, 1300-26, 1354-60, 1441-6, 1509-58, 1544, 1675-6, 1689-95, *Wedgwood*.

- Vol. 1910.—Star Chamber Proceedings, 1516-49. Alrewas Court Rolls, 1268-73, *Landor*. History of the Lane Family, *Wrottesley*. Notes on Staffordshire Visitation Families, *W. Fowler Carter*. Reviews, 1234-7, 1284, 1302-7, 1396-9, 1408-13, 1446-52, 1676-7, *Wedgwood*.
- Vol. 1911.—Final Concords, 1272-1327. Inquisitions Post-mortem, etc., 1242-1327.—The Testa de Nevil, 1212-1316, *Wedgwood*. Staffordshire Cartulary, 1200-1327, *Wedgwood*. Reviews, 1258-66, 1354-68, 1413-16, *Wedgwood*.
- Vol. 1912.—Star Chamber Proceedings, 1498-1553. Review of the "Lists and Indexes" of the P.R.O., *Wedgwood*. The Early Swynnertons, *Chas. Swynnerton*. Staffordshire Sheriffs, Escheators and Justices, *Wedgwood*. Reviews, 1307-35, 1546, 1615-21, 1666-70, 1669-72, 1677-8, 1699-1701.
- Vol. 1913.—Inquisitions post-mortem, etc., 1327-66. Notes on the Manors of Aston and Walton, near Stone, in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries A.D., *C. G. O. Bridgeman*. A Newcastle Cartulary of the Early Fourteenth Century, *Chas. Swynnerton*. Early Rolls of Arms and Armorial Seals of Staffordshire, *Wedgwood*. Reviews and Correspondence.
- Vol. 1914.—Chetwynd's History of Pirehill Hundred, Part II, *Parker*. Harcourt of Ellenhall, *Wedgwood*.
- Vol. 1915.—Staffordshire Incumbents, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, *Landor*.
- Vol. 1916.—Will of Wulfric Spot, *C. G. O. Bridgeman*. Staffordshire Pre-Conquest Charters, *C. G. O. Bridgeman*. Early Staffordshire History, *Wedgwood*. The Burton Abbey Twelfth-Century Surveys, *C. G. O. Bridgeman*. The Watling Street in Staffordshire, *C. G. O. Bridgeman*. Correspondence.

CONTENTS OF VOL. 1917.

STAFFORDSHIRE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY

BY

JOSIAH C. WEDGWOOD, D.S.O.

*Member of Parliament for the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and
Honorary Secretary to the William Salt Society*

IN THREE VOLUMES:

VOL. I (1213 TO 1603)

1919

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DEDICATED TO THE M.P.'S WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES

The Hon. A. O'NEILL (Mid Antrim) ..	6 Nov. 1914, at Ypres.
W. G. C. GLADSTONE (Kilmarnock)	13 April 1915, at Ypres.
The Hon. T. C. R. AGAR-ROBARTES (St. Austell)	Sept. 1915, at Loos.
H. T. CAWLEY (Heywood)	23 Sept. 1915, at Gallipoli.
Lord NINIAN CRICHTON-STUART (Cardiff)	2 Oct. 1915, at Loos.
The Hon. CHARLES T. MILLS (Uxbridge)	6 Oct. 1915, at Loos.
Lord QUENINGTON (Tewkesbury) ..	23 April 1916, before Gaza.
DUNCAN CAMPBELL (North Ayrshire) ..	4 Sept. 1916, after three wounds.
THOMAS M. KETTLE (East Tyrone) ..	1916, on the Somme.
Lord HELMSLEY (Thirsk and Malton) ..	15 Sept. 1916, on the Somme.
The Hon. GUY BARING (Winchester) ..	15 Sept. 1916, on the Somme.
WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, East) ..	20 May 1917, at Vimy.
VALENTINE FLEMING (Henley)	7 June 1917, at Messines.
The Hon. FRANCIS W. S. McLAREN (Spalding)	30 Aug. 1917, flying.
Right Hon. NEIL PRIMROSE (Wisbeach)	15 Nov. 1917, before Jerusalem.
P. K. GLAZEBROOK (Manchester, S.) ..	7 Mar. 1918, in Flanders.
PERCY A. CLIVE (Ross)	5 April 1918, at Armentières.
F. BENNETT-GOLDNEY (Canterbury) ..	July 1918, in France.
Lord ALEXANDER THYNNE (Bath) ..	Aug. 1918, at Arras.
The Hon. OSWALD CAWLEY (Prestwich)	Sept. 1918, on the Somme.

“Men that are men again, ‘Who goes home?’
 Tocsin and trumpeter! ‘Who goes home?’
 For there’s blood on the earth and blood on the foam,
 And blood on the body when man goes home.
 And a voice valedictory, ‘Who is for victory?’
 Who is for liberty? Who goes home?’”

G. K. CHESTERTON.

P R E F A C E

Mr. HORACE ROUND has opened up a new aspect of history. It has been his business to link up the records of county with national history. One has only to look at the standard County Histories to see that their object is solely to fit together a jig-saw puzzle of doubtful documents into an abiding record of parish and family. It may be a picture, but it has no relation to the history of England. As a corollary, it must be said that the average national history is often concerned merely with matters of State, as though Tom, Dick and Harry, who did the business, were lay figures, not in fact our ancestors, cursing the weather and living in the house down the lane,—the heroes of the County History pedigrees.

The history of England, or the part of it of which we are most proud, is the history of how we came to govern ourselves and taught others to do the same: it is the history of Parliament. To look at Parliament from the County point of view throws quite a new light on that venerable institution. We know everything about its acts (or at least everything that is to be known), everything about its procedure, about its constitutional position. But of the men who sat in Parliament we know very little. Who the Lords were, sitting in the Upper House, we can see now from the *Complete Peerage*—unfortunately not yet complete in its extended form. But with the exception of a few outstanding names in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the rest of the picture is a blur of squires and lawyers, even to the best of national historians. Who were they that fill in the blank? What were they worth in cash and birth and brains, even sometimes in conscience? Why did they go to Parliament? How did they manage it? What was the mind, manners, method, of the electorate? We shall know more about Parliament and about English history when we unravel “recommendations” and “nominations” and the “places” of serjeants-at-arms and at-law, of gentlemen ushers and King’s squires, of stewards and bailiffs of the great. In so doing, County

History makes its proper contribution to the country as a whole, getting beyond the pedigree hunter and the purveyor of curious "pars" to the local press.

Such a contribution can be made by the specialist in any county, now that the Patent and Close Rolls are rendered available to the public and all that other wealth of information which has been provided in recent years by the Public Record Office. The Blue Book of the Official Return of Members gives the names and Parliaments—most of them; Browne Willis supplies others—partly from trustworthy authorities and partly from conjectures of very varying degrees of accuracy; even in the missing years a careful study of the names of the Commissioners for levying the tax, or the list of Justices of the Peace, supplies a sure guide to the probable members. The County History helps the identification and may give the parentage; the Wills catalogued at Somerset House, or in the local Registry, supply indications of the man's mind; the election petitions explain the electorate. In more recent times old newspapers, old letters, the debates in *Hansard* do the rest. But the forty odd volumes of the *Staffordshire Collections* published by the William Salt Society make it obvious that this county is peculiarly well supplied with the material for piecing together a sample of the composition of Parliament. Nor have we in Staffordshire merely an unrivalled set of printed records of which to take advantage. We started with two county and four borough Members (for Stafford and Newcastle); in 1548 Lichfield added two more; in 1563 Tamworth added another two to the county total. The County had its fair share of representation; the boroughs had more than their fair share of stormy contests and petitions. Therefore we can, or at least should be able to, give a fair sample on good evidence.

With all this I would add, that the work of identification is not easy; the biographical notices are apt to be very dry and dead. If this work, on which I have spent the stolen hours of fourteen years, is so complete in identification of the person, and puts some colour into the picture, it is because and since I have received the assistance of Mr. W. Duncombe Pink and the Rev. A. B. Beaven. Both gifted with marvellous memories, the former specialises on identification of the person of any man in public office prior to 1700, the latter on identification and politics of the men of both Houses between 1660 and the present day. Mr. Beaven's

collection of contests and Poll Books is probably unique, and has enabled me to supply many particulars which were wanting in the notices of personages concerned to be found in the *Dictionary of National Biography* and other less generally known sources of information. Mr. Pink put me on the track of the Members of two missing Parliaments, 1439 and 1491-2, as well as the correcting List of 1551; for the civil war period it is no exaggeration to say that half this work is his. Mr. Beaven seems to know the initials and the day of death, not only of almost every Member, but even of almost every candidate for Parliament in the last two hundred and fifty years, and to be familiar with the political connexions of the most obscure, and the political career, however inconsistent with those connexions, of the most erratic representatives. Both these gentlemen, with a kindness I can never sufficiently recognise, have read through my MSS., they have read through my proofs, they have spared no trouble in original research to verify, supplement, or correct my original statements of fact or identifications of persons. Acknowledgments made in the text touch the mere fringe of what I owe to them. So that after all I do not think other county historians will be able to follow in my footsteps; they will hardly have my advantages.

To me, personally, Parliament is everything; the Members are the staunchest friends a man ever had; the life combines the mental gymnastics of college with the fresh wind of the outer world; only the recesses are intervals of stagnation. There is no other Parliament like the English. For the ordinary man elected to any senate, from Persia to Peru, there may be a certain satisfaction in being elected. He is to be at least among the rulers; the plaudits of supporters are in his ears; he has the envious admiration of his old associates; perhaps even nobler aspirations may be gratified. But the man who steps into the English Parliament takes his place in a pageant that has ever been filing by since the birth of English history. Men with long swords and short daggers were his predecessors, as they rode to Westminster over Dunsmore Heath, drinking ale in the taverns of Coventry and Towcester. Men with spiked shoon disputed loudly, in the terms he still uses, about the insolence of York and the profusion of Warwick. In slashed breeches and ruffed collars they denounced the bishop of Rome and clamoured for the internment of all recusants. "The country was going to the dogs" under Cromwell just as it was

under Gladstone, as the Members walked two and two into a Palace Yard that was "new" in 1600, or called for torches at "who goes home?" York or Lancaster, Protestant or Catholic, Court or Country, Roundhead or Cavalier, Whig or Tory, Liberal or Conservative, Labour or Unionist, they all fit into that long pageant that no other country in the world can show. And they one and all pass on the same inextinguishable torch—burning brightly or flickering—to the next man in the race, while freedom and experience ever grow. These men who have gone by, who have had the glimmer of the torch on them for a little time, are those whose memories I want to rescue, and in so doing reincarnate a small section of the Parliaments which made us.

From another point of view, this work is the Political History of Staffordshire and a Gazetteer of its leading citizens. It is to be regretted that Thomas Harrison did not sit for Newcastle, that my own great-great-grandfather was too radical for an eighteenth-century Parliament, and that Doctor Johnson was never given a seat by his Tory patrons. But nearly every other prominent civilian of Staffordshire has been either a Member or a candidate for Parliament. The Staffords—Sir William and Sir Richard and Sir Humphrey of the Silver Hand—Sir John Bagot who "was raised by King Richard," Hugh Erdeswick the night-rider, Mynors "the notorious robber and depredator," Robert Whitgreve the Teller of the Exchequer, John Hampton the Master of the Ordnance, Ralph Wolseley the Baron of the Exchequer, the Stanleys culminating in that Sir Humphrey who slew his colleague, Sir John Savage who fell at Boulogne refusing to surrender, Edmund Dudley and his son the ill-fated Duke of Northumberland, the "gentle Giffords," the first of the Pagets and the last of the Staffords, Sir Thomas Fitzherbert, most heroic of Catholics, and his nephew Thomas, the vilest scoundrel unhung, Sir Christopher Blount, "so prodigal of his own life," who died on the scaffold for the Earl of Essex; all these adorn or defile the long catalogue. There too are the men of the civil wars—the Cavaliers, Bagot, Sneyd, Leveson and Weston—and the Roundheads, Crompton, Bowyer, Mainwaring, Wolseley, and that gallant Colonel Leigh who charged down the streets of Eccleshall in the intervals of composing his *Critica Sacra*. Colonel John Lane of Worcester fight, and the antiquary Walter Chetwynd find their place; so too do Thomas Guy and Martin Noel the precursors of all pious founders. The

old families, Bagots, Astons, Wrottesleys, Vernons, Harcourts, Littletons, fill the Commons House till they in due course rise to a peerage. The Leveson-Gowers and the Ansons swamp the eighteenth century as they swamped the boroughs. Then in later years come Thurlow and Sheridan, Peel, Villiers, and "Jack" Campbell, and on a lesser plane Adderley, Lord Chancellor Westbury, Lord Dalling the diplomatist, Beresford Hope, Speaker Dennison, Hanbury and Fowler with Captain Gronow, duellist and diarist.

It is probably, however, the contested elections of the last two and a half centuries that will be of most interest locally. The bribery of Stafford has become traditional; and how Anson held down Lichfield, how Trentham managed Newcastle, bring us to the memories of living men. I have felt some difficulty, not unmixed with amusement, in dealing with the politics of my contemporaries; but they would not wish themselves omitted, and will readily forgive a very fallible judgment. This work would never be complete without portraits of John Ward and R. L. Outhwaite.

Of the many people who, besides Mr. Beaven and Mr. Pink, have helped me in this work I owe especial thanks to the late Earl of Lichfield, who placed at my disposal letters and papers relating to the period 1747-1865, which have proved invaluable. The Earl of Dartmouth and the Marquess of Crewe have also materially assisted me with MSS. in their possession. Mr. W. Fowler Carter, Mr. C. G. O. Bridgeman and the Rev. Charles Swynnerton have very kindly read through the proofs of those periods with which they are specially familiar.

Overleaf I give a list of the authorities that have been consulted, together with a list of abbreviations that are used in the footnotes to represent these authorities. The *Staffordshire Collections*, so often quoted, are mainly the work of that archæologist to whom Staffordshire owes so much—the late Major-General the Honorable George Wrottesley.

In reproducing Emmanuel Bowen's Map of Staffordshire, first published in 1747, I have ventured to add the names of all places mentioned in the text of the work,¹ so as to make it complete for

¹ I have put Salters Bridge in the wrong place on the Map; it should be over the Tame near Alrewas.

this purpose. An Index to the Map is also added, which it is hoped will be found generally useful for all the *Staffordshire Collections*. The Chronological Tables of the Staffordshire Peerage have been taken from G. E. C.'s *Complete Peerage*, revised by Mr. Beaven, who has also materially assisted in the compilation of the list of Lords Lieutenant.

List of Authorities consulted, and Abbreviations used.

Official Return of Members of Parliament ..	<i>Return of M.P.'s.</i>
Parliamentary History and Hansard ..	<i>Hansard.</i>
Journals of the House of Commons, MSS. ..	<i>Journals of H. of C.</i>
Privy Council Acts	<i>P.C. Acts.</i>
Calendar of Fine Rolls	<i>Fine Rolls.</i>
Calendar of Patent Rolls	<i>P.R.</i>
Calendar of Close Rolls	<i>C.R.</i>
Calendar of State Papers, Foreign and Domestic.	<i>Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.</i>
Calendar of State Papers, Domestic	<i>Cal. Pap. Dom.</i>
Calendar of Welsh Rolls	<i>Welsh Rolls.</i>
Calendar of Feudal Aids	<i>Feud. Aids.</i>
Calendar of Charter Rolls	<i>Charter Rolls.</i>
Calendar of Papal Letters	<i>Papal Ltrs.</i>
Calendar of Papal Registers	<i>Papal Regs.</i>
Catalogue of Antient Deeds	<i>Cat. Ant. Deeds.</i>
<i>Nomina Villarum</i>	<i>Nom. Vill.</i>
Return of Sheriffs, P.R.O.	
List of Enrolled Foreign Accounts, P.R.O. ..	<i>Foreign Accts.</i>
List of Antient Petitions, P.R.O.	<i>Ant. Petitions.</i>
List of Inquisitions post mortem, P.R.O. ..	<i>I.p.m.</i>
Reports of Historical MSS. Commission ..	<i>Hist. MSS. Com.</i>
Catalogue of Wills in Prerogative Court of Canterbury.	<i>P.C.C.</i>
Catalogue of Wills proved at Lichfield ..	<i>Lichfield Wills.</i>
MSS. at William Salt Library	<i>Wm. Salt Lib.</i>
MSS. Newcastle Borough Records	<i>Borough Records.</i>
MSS., Additional Charters, British Museum ..	<i>Add. Chrs. Brit. Mus.</i>
Harleian MSS., British Museum	<i>Harl. MSS.</i>
Poll Books	<i>Poll Bk.</i>
<i>Staffordshire Collections</i> , William Salt Society	<i>S.C.</i>
<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>	<i>D.N.B.</i>
G. E. C., <i>Complete Peerage</i> (Gibbs' Edition, where available).	<i>G. E. C. Comp. Peerage.</i>
G. E. C., <i>Complete Baronetage</i>	<i>G. E. C. Baronetage.</i>
Burke's <i>Landed Gentry</i>	<i>Burke, Gentry.</i>
<i>Gentleman's Magazine</i>	<i>Gent. Mag.</i>
Dod's <i>Parliamentary Companion</i>	<i>Dod.</i>
Shaw, <i>Knights of England</i>	<i>Shaw, Knights.</i>
Haydn, <i>Book of Dignities</i>	<i>Haydn, Dignities.</i>

Joseph Foster, <i>Alumni Oxoniensis</i>	Foster, <i>Alumni.</i>
<i>Archæologia</i>	<i>Archæologia.</i>
<i>The Genealogist</i> , New Series	<i>Geneal. N.S.</i>
Harleian Society, Publications	<i>Harl. Soc. Pub.</i>
Camden Society, Publications.. .. .	<i>Cam. Soc. Pub.</i>
Nicolas, Privy Council Proceedings	<i>Priv. Cl. Proc.</i>
Browne Willis, <i>Notitia Parliamentaria</i>	Browne Willis.
Parry, <i>Parliaments of England</i>	Parry, <i>Parls.</i>
Beatson, Parliamentary Register	Beatson, <i>Parl. Regr.</i>
Porritt, <i>Unreformed House of Commons</i>	Porritt, <i>Unreformed House.</i>
Stooks Smith's Contested Elections, 1841	Smith, <i>Elections.</i>
Sir Simonds D'Ewes, Journal	<i>D'Ewes Journal.</i>
Rushworth, <i>Historical Collections</i>	Rushworth.
Vicars, <i>Parliamentary Chronicle</i>	Vicars, <i>Parl. Chron.</i>
<i>Annual Register</i>	<i>Annual Regr.</i>
<i>Magna Britannia</i>	<i>Mag. Brit.</i>
Harwood's Edition of Erdeswick's <i>Survey of Staffordshire.</i>	Harwood, <i>Erdeswick.</i>
Stebbing Shaw, <i>History of Staffordshire</i>	Shaw, <i>Staffs.</i>
Helsby's Edition of Ormerod's <i>History of Cheshire.</i>	Ormerod, <i>Cheshire.</i>
Glover's <i>History of Derbyshire</i>	Glover, <i>Derby.</i>
Baker, <i>History of Northamptonshire</i>	Baker, <i>Northants.</i>
Nichols, <i>History of Leicestershire</i>	Nichols, <i>Leicester.</i>
<i>The Victoria County Histories</i>	<i>V.C.H.</i>
<i>The Ancestor</i>	<i>Ancestor.</i>
Ward, <i>History of the Parish of Stoke-on-Trent</i>	Ward, <i>Stoke.</i>
Parker, <i>History of Colton</i>	Parker, <i>Colton.</i>
Sir Reginald Hardy, <i>History of Tatenhill</i>	Hardy, <i>Tatenhill.</i>
Willmore, <i>History of Walsall</i>	Willmore, <i>Walsall.</i>
Palmer, <i>History of Tamworth</i>	Palmer, <i>Tamworth.</i>
Fortescue, <i>History of Calwich</i>	Fortescue, <i>Calwich.</i>
Sleigh, <i>History of Leek</i>	Sleigh, <i>Leek.</i>
<i>Croxden Abbey Chronicle</i>	<i>Crox. Abb. Chron.</i>
Cherry, <i>Historical Studies of Staffordshire</i>	Cherry, <i>Hist. Stud.</i>
Publications of the Staffordshire Parish Register Society.	<i>Par. Reg.</i>
Chetwynd-Stapylton, <i>Chetwynds of Ingestre</i>	Stapylton's <i>Chetwynds.</i>
Sir A. Croke, <i>Genealogical Account of the Family of Croke, alias Le Blount.</i>	<i>Croke Family.</i>
<i>Harcourt Papers</i> , privately printed	<i>Harcourt Papers.</i>
Wedgwood's <i>Letters to Bentley</i> , privately printed.	<i>Wedgwood-Bentley.</i>
Sichel, <i>Life of Sheridan</i>	Sichel, <i>Sheridan.</i>
<i>Life and Letters of Charles Darwin</i>	Darwin, <i>Life.</i>
<i>Greville's Memoirs</i>	<i>Greville.</i>
Wedgwood, <i>History of the Wedgwood Family</i>	<i>Wedgwood Family.</i>
G. Grazebrook, <i>Henry, Earl of Richmond</i>	Grazebrook, <i>Richmond.</i>
Munk, <i>Roll of the College of Physicians</i>	<i>Munk's Roll.</i>
Dasent, <i>Speakers of the House of Commons</i>	Dasent, <i>Speakers.</i>
Beaven, <i>Aldermen of London</i>	Beaven, <i>Ald. London.</i>

<i>English Historical Review</i>	..	..	..	<i>Eng. Hist. Rev.</i>
Wood's <i>Fasti</i>	..	..	..
Ramsay, <i>Lancaster and York</i>	..	..	..	Ramsay, <i>Lancs. and Yorks.</i>
Pollard, <i>Reign of Henry VII</i>	..	..	..	Pollard, <i>Hen. VII.</i>
J. R. Green, <i>History of the English People</i>	..	..	..	Green, <i>English People.</i>
Macaulay, <i>History of England</i>	..	..	..	Macaulay, <i>England.</i>
Bishop Burnet, <i>History of my own Time</i>	..	..	..	Burnet, <i>History.</i>
Monumental Inscriptions	..	..	..	<i>M.I.</i>

The following newspapers have also been consulted, some at the British Museum, some at the William Salt Library:—*Mercurius Politicus*, *Postboy*, *Domestick Intelligencer*, *The Protestant*, *Daily Courant*, *Read's Weekly Journal*, *British Journal*, *Daily Post*, *Daily Journal*, *Country Journal*, *St. James' Evening Post*, *Whitehall Evening Post*, *Penny London Morning Advertiser*, *Public Advertiser*, *Lloyd's Evening Post*, *Public Ledger*, *The Globe Newspaper*, *Lichfield Mercury*, *Staffordshire Advertiser*, *Staffordshire Sentinel*, and *The Times*.

In the list of M.P.'s the prefix of a star (*) before a Member's name indicates that he was the Member for the constituency in the preceding Parliament.

INTRODUCTION

WE have been taught in our school-rooms that the Anglo-Saxon Witenagemot was the forerunner of Parliament. Kemble says—and for the purposes of this book it is not necessary to contradict him—that between A.D. 698 and 1066 this body was called together 147 times, and that it consisted of about 17 bishops, 20 ealdormen, and the King's thegns. The Norman Conquest altered its composition and its name. The King had to consult somebody. The body consulted became the *Curia Regis*, and those who attended were generally the fief-holders, not in right of their magistracy so much as by reason of their tenure of land from the Crown. The numbers summoned or attending were continually reduced, and by 1200 the *Curia* had become a select Royal Household—executive and judicial.

It was such a Council that met at Clarendon, 1164, to draw up its famous "Constitutions"; or at Westminster, 1170, where they passed the Inquest of sheriffs. The Great Council that met at Pipewell, 1189, consisted of archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, and the *magnates regni*. While King Richard was away beyond the seas, the Justiciar held his Great Courts; and King John's General Assembly at St. Albans, 4 August 1213, seems to have involved an attempt to include inferior tenants and chosen men of the towns. To Oxford, in the autumn of the same year, each sheriff was at least directed to send four discreet knights to discuss the condition of the country. The *Parliamentum Runimedae* enacted in the Great Charter that "no scutage or aid shall be imposed except by the common council of the kingdom." The Parliaments of 1227 at Oxford, of 1236 at Merton, of 1242 at London were no longer the narrow *Curia Regis* but something wider; as yet, however, the Commons had no part. At Westminster in 1244 the assembled magnates said, for an excuse and desiring a prop, that they could do nothing without "the community." For it was always a question of money, and those who agreed to pay had to find the money. The prosperity of the country was very great,

and grievances grew in these years. The King's position in relation to the magnates was difficult. So it came about that in April 1254, mere knights were summoned to meet with the rest; and again they were summoned, not yet elected, in October 1258 after the "Mad Parliament" at Oxford.

It is with this 1258 Parliament that the list of the Members of Parliament for Staffordshire commences. Six years later the knights were being properly chosen by the County in the County Court, and in 1265 burgesses from the towns accompanied the chosen knights to the great Parliament of Simon de Montfort. Ten years later we again find knights being chosen and returned to the Parliament of 1275. Fragments of these returns have recently been discovered, but those for Staffordshire are not among them. The Writs issued for the Parliament of June 1283 direct the sheriff to return two elected knights for each county, and that twentycities and boroughs are each to send two representatives; those personally summoned by Writ are all the earls, 99 barons, and 19 officials. However, as Mr. Round has shown, this was no real Parliament.

The Parliament of 1290 passed the Statute of *Quia Emptores*, but the position of the elected knights of the shire is indicated by the fact that this Statute was passed without them, and they were only called in to vote the Supply afterwards. But here begins in 1290 the list of elected Members for Staffordshire; and here begin too the privileges of Parliament. This Assembly decreed that "a Member of Parliament shall have privilege of Parliament, not only for his servants, but for his horses or other goods distrainable." The next Parliament, 13 November 1295, called the "Model Parliament," is properly the first successor of Montfort's Parliament of 1265; for in it all estates were represented, and it took part in the redress of grievances and legislation as well as in voting supplies. The *Parliamentum* was getting regularised.

The cause of Parliament was the King's need of money. He could no longer live "on his own." Outside his own estates and feudal profits he had three sources of revenue—aids, tasks, and prises. The "aids" were established of old and were collected by the sheriffs—for knighting his eldest son, for marrying his daughter, scutages, the tallage of the Royal domains. No Parliament was wanted to bring these sums in, but the "aids" died out under Parliament in time. "Prises"; the King's idea was that these

too had nothing to do with Parliament. The term meant what sums he "took" for importing or exporting wool, etc. (customs), and also that most unpopular "prise," purveyance for the Royal Household where and when he wanted it. What he really required Parliament for was to decide the "taskys," which became "taxes," that is the votes of a tenth or a fifteenth on land and goods. He never required Parliament to tell him of their grievances; they thought of that side of the bargain and used their position.

Parliament, as a true mirror of England, has always been, above all else, a body with grievances against the ruler. When once it started growling, and by good luck got its way, a Parliament became as necessary a part of England as the sea or the Royal Family or *The Times* newspaper. The English dislike of rulers ensured the continued existence of Parliament, even as it now ensures the swing of the pendulum (more or less) at each general election. As for the voting of Supply, it was the price they paid, grudgingly. Parliament threw a tenth or fifteenth to their ruler, and with great trouble secured, bit by bit, the control of the revenues so raised. Legislation was an afterthought in the development of Parliament. Petitions were presented about grievances, and the answer to these petitions became a charter or law. It was some centuries before Parliament thought of drawing up the Law without waiting for the petition. The modern burst of legislation misleads one as to the relative precedence of the functions of Parliament. The order is—criticism of the government, supply of money, making new laws.

How were they elected—the knights of the shire and the burgesses? Of this we know lamentably little; and before we consider how and who were elected, it will be well to break up history into arbitrary periods and deal with each separately. For by finding out who were the knights and burgesses sent up from Staffordshire, what their positions and associations, their patrons, and how far they had to fight for their seats, we may get true ideas of the composition of the whole English Parliament in each period.

- I.—The Feudal Monarchy, 1290–1399.
- II.—The Rise of Parliament, 1399–1509.
- III.—The Autocracy, 1509–1603.
- IV.—The Revolution, 1603–1715.
- V.—The Oligarchy, 1715–1832.
- VI.—Representative Government, 1832–1919.

I.—THE FEUDAL MONARCHY.

1290-1399.

Before the time of knights of the shire, coroners and the knights of the jury panel (12 or 4) were elected by the county in the County Court. The same system would be adopted for electing knights of the shire, with little more formality, throughout this first period. The election took place in the open air, at the monthly Court held next after the receipt of the writ by the sheriff. At this Court anyone might be present: the freeholders came, the townspeople came, the villages and townships came by representatives, two or four; villeins would be present and could shout approval and hold up their hands as well as anyone else. Any number from 50 to 500 may have been present at the election of the shire knights.

What is supposed to have happened is, that the magnates there present proposed and seconded the sending of two knights, with whom they might or might not have arranged matters beforehand. The Lord of Stafford came, or sometimes he might send his steward instead; probably Ralph Basset of Drayton, who was related to the Lord, would come; perhaps Audley would come down from Heley, or Somery from Dudley,—while there was yet a Somery at Dudley. The steward or constable of the Earl (or Duke) of Lancaster might come. But always what the Lord of Stafford Castle said would be decisive. In the fourteenth century the stewards and constables of the Duchy were of so little importance in Staffordshire that I do not discover their names in the *Staffordshire Collections*. There must have been times when the knights selected by Stafford did not want to go. They would then have proposed someone else. Surety was taken to see that they did attend at Westminster. In nine cases out of ten the affair was a mere matter of routine. The two names were proposed and the knights unanimously elected. The election had to be unanimous. If anybody objected, anybody sufficiently important, the suggested names would be varied, till agreement was reached. The proposing and seconding by the magnate was, as one can see, the crux of the whole matter. Obviously the first M.P. for Staffordshire, Sir William Stafford, was put up by his cousin Lord Stafford, whose son Sir William had “raised from the sacred font.” Often it may be the Lord would be careless. He would tell the sheriff, “Don’t bother me; put up whom you like.” If the Lord was a minor

there would be a chance for the lesser and more distant Lords, with whom the sheriff would be on more equal terms. I expect a good deal would be left to the sheriff—28 times he returned himself.

Of course there were periods when the Earl of Lancaster was against the Crown, and matters might be more lively. At the time of the Boroughbridge rebellion the Lord of Stafford was a very young supporter of the Earl, and it is likely that someone acted for Lancaster and probably got his way. There might be a contest on such occasions. Names would be shouted out and cheered; other names would be put to the crowd. Then perhaps the sheriff would again get his way by a compromise, helping the party to which he belonged.

If it was hardly worth the Lord's while to nominate the knights of the shire, it was certainly beneath his position, before the end of the Feudal period, to interest himself in the burgesses selected for Parliament. How these were elected is a more disputed point. We know that in London, in 1296, the aldermen with four men from each ward met and chose the M.P.'s for the City, and the *communitas* confirmed the election. We know that at King's Lynn in 1433 the Mayor chose two from the Common Council and two from the 24, who co-opted other four, and yet another four; these then all chose the two members. We know that Newcastle enjoyed in the fifteenth century a Mayor and two bailiffs—one "for the XXIV," and one "for the community"; and that in 1494 there were differences as to the election of Mayor, it being finally decided that the old Mayor and the XXIV "capital burgesses" and not the populace, had the right of election. Just how early in history the oligarchical rule of the 12 or 24 began in our Boroughs is disputed. In 1200, Borough government was democratic; in 1400, a self-electing oligarchy had generally imposed itself on the Boroughs and "closed" the corporation. At the assizes held in the reign of Edward I, the towns of Stafford and Newcastle and Lichfield and several others "appeared by 12 men"; the use of this mystic number looks as though the custom was already understood of delegating to the few the administration of the towns. It would seem the natural thing too for the 12 or 24 of Stafford or Newcastle to choose or propose the Members, and then get the acclamation of the mob—as long as this could be got with certainty and ease. The men they sent up were their legislative

attorneys, whose business it was to look after the interests of the town or guild and guard the trading privileges. Only, one has the statement in the 1621 Newcastle petition, that in the time of King Edward IV the commonalty had the right of election, of which right even long user by the Council (? the XXIV) could not deprive them. My impression is that, till the local gentry wanted to be elected for the Boroughs, the close corporation elected the members with clamorous approval from the inhabitants at large; but that as soon as the gentry mixed with the elections, say about 1430, the confirmation by the crowd became decisive because the crowd was treatable, and the 24 lost their privilege till such time as they came to terms with the local gentry and relinquished the idea of sending to Parliament one of themselves.

In both town and county the honour and emoluments of the visit to Westminster were less than those attached to shrievalty or bailivy. There would certainly be less competition and fewer contests. Yet the astonishing fact remains that both county and town seem, from the first, to have chosen as a general rule the most important persons for the Parliament work. This is particularly true of the knights of the shire; during the first period we know too little of the identity of the burgesses to be equally dogmatic about the towns.

(i) *The Knights of the Shire.*

During this period, 1290-1399, 115 Parliaments were held, to each of which (except two Parliaments) two knights were sent up from Staffordshire. For eleven of these Parliaments we have no Returns for this county.¹ In the remaining 104, at different times, 84 different knights of the shire were elected. Of these 84, 50 were knights before their first election and a further 8 were knighted thereafter. The remaining 26 were squires (of whom 15 sat in one Parliament only). For the first twenty-five years of representation, actually all were knights before election. Several of the squires were men more important than the knights; such were William Walshale, M.P. nine times and Marshal of King Richard's Hall; or Simon de Ruggeley, M.P. six times, sheriff for

¹ *I.e.*, 1294, 1297, 1308, 1312 (1), 1314 (1), 1314 (2), 1318 (1), 1331 (1), 1340 (1), 1340 (3), 1357.

many years and agent for the bishop ; or Thomas Adam, six times M.P. (generally for Derbyshire), the agent of the Earl of Lancaster ; even Lutley the sheriff and Perton the collector were important, while the two Knightleys, father and son, were lawyers and the son rose to be Justice of Chester. Others, such as Delves and all those knighted after election, were heirs of knightly houses. The 58 knights were the heads of the county families of the period, all county magnates holding official positions by right of birth—J.P.'s, Commissioners of Oyer or of Array, Sheriffs, Collectors, Escheators. But, while some of the squires held these positions too—yet the knights, unlike the squires, were landlords first and administrators because they were landlords ; the squires, on the contrary, owed their return to Parliament to their usefulness as officials. In the case of some of the squires, Barr 1316, Grendon 1328, Fauld 1332, and Longridge 1388—it is possible to see examples of the original conception of the “squire,” for I think they each went to Parliament to squire their own knight. They were quite undistinguished people of small estate and their colleague was a great man from near by.

The knights were the backbone of the representation: three out of every four Members for the county were knights. Except Wrottesley, Chetwynd and Ridware, every knightly family finds a representative on the list ; there are six Staffords to attest the influence of the great Earl of Stafford ; there are four or five agents of the House of Lancaster—Rugeley, Musard, Ireton, Michel, Adam—two agents at least of the bishop—Arblaster and Adam Peshale. Ralph Basset of Sapecot and Robert de Grendon, though their blood is held by modern Peerage Law to have been ennobled by a Writ of Summons to an ancestor, were satisfied to sit in the Lower House in 1300 and 1361 respectively ; Richard de Stafford of Pipe was a Member of the Commons House before he was summoned to the Lords. It would almost appear, however, that the Ferrers, lords of Chartley, although they were no longer summoned to the Lords, declined to be elected to the Commons ; none of them ever sat in either House while the senior line of the old Earls Ferrers of Derby continued at Chartley.

During the period 1325 to 1373, the sheriffs seem to have adopted the habit of returning themselves. They did so 28 times, and that at a time when Ralph, Earl of Stafford, was omnipotent. It is possible that the pay attracted them, and as they had no doubt

business to transact in London they combined the two objects in one visit. But as they were not great landowners, this shows that the magnates did not interfere very much in elections, or that there was no great amount of competition for the post of knight of the shire. In 1372 Parliament made it illegal for a sheriff to return himself—an indication that a seat in Parliament was becoming more popular.

In any case, whether the freeholders had a fairly free choice, or whether the Earls of Stafford or Lancaster curtailed their freedom, or whether the sheriff managed the matter to his own private satisfaction, the best men were picked. And they were men of mature age—the average being 46 years. Sir Robert de Dutton was nearly 70 when he was returned for the last time, Sir Robert de Standon was 71, Sir William de Stafford was 63, Sir John de Draycot 69—old men to ride to town. The youngest was Sir James de Stafford, brother-in-law of the Lord ; one may see noble influence in the fact that he was returned at 28 years of age. Nor is there any evidence of hesitation to take up the burden. In one case only, in 1365, did the elected get excused ; they resigned for ill-health. So poor an excuse, as we must suppose a simultaneous illness to be, so easily accepted, shows that it was not common to reject the honour. It shows that Parliament was not unpopular.

One other indication there is of the popularity of service at Westminster. The duty of sheriff became at a later time something to avoid, to get through ; it was held unjust to be pricked twice for sheriff. But the elected knights of the shire were willing to come forward again and again. Sir William de Stafford sat in seven Parliaments at least, so did Sir Robert de Dutton, Sir Robert de Toke, Sir John de Hinckley, Sir John de Draycot and Sir Richard de Peshale ; Sir Adam de Peshale and Sir John Bagot sat in eight Parliaments ; while William Walshale, Sir Nicholas de Stafford and Sir Robert Fraunceys of Foremark each sat in nine different Parliaments. Many of these sat for Derbyshire or Shropshire as well as for Staffordshire, and Hinckley managed to return himself three times simultaneously for two counties. One cannot doubt that these people were pleased to be re-elected.

But Parliament was not yet attractive as a career or as a rank. These knights, though they sat often in a long life, did not sit as permanent politicians in consecutive Parliaments. All seemed willing to take their turn ; none made a career of politics. There

were as yet few "places" and no patronage to dispense. If the lawyers were already looking for seats in the House, they generally turned to the Boroughs for election. The two John de Knightleys, six times M.P. from 1373 to 1384, seem to be the only men pre-eminently lawyers to sit for the county. There is only one man sitting for the county who seems to have been a Court nomination, John del Wode, M.P. in 1369, who was apparently one of the King's household.

There were a series of political crises in the fourteenth century of which one would expect to find some trace in the Parliamentary Returns. There was Edward I's struggle with his barons—but the men of the Commons were far too obscure to be interested. There was the contest between the Earl of Lancaster and the Despencers which ended at Boroughbridge. There was the overthrow of Edward II, and then of Mortimer. There was the political struggle between Parliament and King in 1341-3; and lastly there was the feud of the Lords Appellant against Richard II, a feud which closed with Richard's life. Are these grave matters reflected in the composition of Parliament as seen from Staffordshire?

(a) *The Boroughbridge Rebellion, March 1322.*

During these troubles the Lord of Stafford was too young to take an active part, but the Stafford clan, and Trumwynes and Duttons, seem to have suffered for Lancaster and the "good old cause." Sir William de Stafford got clapped into Alton Castle, whence his grandsons, James and John, tried to rescue him *vi et armis*. Then Lord Basset of Drayton, who had held a careful line, carried off those two turbulent cadets to Scotland, to make their peace by making war on the Scots. The elder statesmen, as it were, the Bassets of Sapecot, Bures, le Rous, Gifford and Somerville, appear to have been consistent royalists—at least law-and-order men. The Swynnertons (of whom Sir Roger was in Queen Isabel's household and Sir John a frequent sheriff) allied with Sir John's next-door neighbour Bushbury, followed the fortunes of Queen Isabel. They were against Lancaster, till he fell (indeed Sir Roger was Constable of the Tower 1321-3), and then against the Despencers. All three seem to have fled to France to the Queen in 1325, whence they returned the following year to assist in the dethronement of the King.

The inconsistency of other knights of the shire is such that one

finds them on either side quite promiscuously. Sir Robert de Toke held his land under Lancaster, was M.P. 1309 to 1321 as a follower of Lancaster; yet, after Boroughbridge, in the very year of Despencer ascendancy, he is found as keeper of the escheated estates of rebels (like himself) in Derbyshire. Sir Philip de Barinton was pardoned in 1321 for being one of those who backed Lancaster against the Crown; but on the eve of the battle, in January 1322, his name appears as one of those so trusted by the King as to be ordered to arrest the followers of Lancaster. However, perhaps he did not come up to expectations, for after the battle his estates were forfeited. Then he is pardoned; then, in 1324, he is one of those elected to the Despencer Parliament!

Sir Robert de Grendon was steward of those Clare lands in South Wales which were the bone of contention; he was there as a supporter of Hugh d'Audley, who supported Lancaster. He was one of those pardoned in consequence in 1318; and then, while Lancaster was in the ascendant, he was made sheriff. He was removed from the shrievalty by the Crown before the battle (in which he took no part), and went away to Scotland. Surely, one would say, here is a thoroughgoing Lancastrian. But no! In February 1323 he is made Marshal of the King's Hall with half a dozen other official appointments. Sir John de Hinckley, Stafford's tenant, provides the same story. He was bailiff to Queen Isabel; then a follower of Stafford and Lancaster up to the eve of the battle; directly afterwards he appears as Commissioner of Array, sheriff, M.P. and Justice of the Peace. Such as it is, these records seem to show that the Despenchers were extraordinarily forgiving and broadminded; or perhaps their position was so weak that they had to try to make friends with their adversaries, to buy them.

(b) *The Dethronement of Edward II, 1326-7.*

This event leaves more mark on the Returns. Bushbury had been removed from the shrievalty in January 1326; possibly he had, like the Swynnertons, fled to France. The two members for the county in Queen Isabel's Parliament of 1326-7 were just the two refugees—Bushbury and Sir John Swynnerton. Further, Sir William de Ercall, who had replaced Bushbury as sheriff under Edward II, was during this Parliament removed and Bushbury again took his place. The subsequent overthrow of the Queen

and Mortimer only reveals itself by the temporary removal of Bushbury from the office of sheriff.

(c) *The Constitutional Struggle, 1340-3.*

Throughout these four Parliaments Staffordshire was represented by officials and, in 1340 and 1341, by the two most powerful of the Stafford clan. Lord Stafford was a pillar of the Court; he might be trusted to see that the Members from his own county had the official hue and gave no trouble. One can get a hint of the importance of having a well-packed Parliament in this crisis just from the very fact that steps were taken to bring the Earl's brother and son-in-law to Westminster as men of the Commons.

(d) *The Lords Appellant and the Fall of Richard II.*

The "Good Parliament" and its packed successor, 1376 and 1377, cause no ripple in the Staffordshire Returns. To the first, Verdon and a lawyer-like Knightley were returned by the sheriff, Sir Nicholas de Stafford; to the second, a rather new sort of sheriff returned Sir Nicholas and Sir Adam de Peshale, a knight afterwards well rewarded. The Stafford clan were probably firmly allied with John of Gaunt, under whom they had served in France.

The Lords Appellant were supreme in the 1386 and 1388 Parliaments. Shareshull and Taverner were returned to the first, and Ipstones and his squire went up to the second, or "Merciless," Parliament. Taverner was made sheriff, and these three remained of the party of the Lords. Ipstones was murdered in 1394. Shareshull was made sheriff immediately on the deposition of Richard II, 1399. In 1395 Shareshull and Taverner again sat at Westminster, through the instrumentality of Sir Robert Fraunceys, who was an adherent of Henry of Bolingbroke and the first to take a seat in Parliament in his new reign. Indeed from 1399 onwards Fraunceys was taken on as a king's knight at £62 per ann. The obedient Parliament of 1397 at Shrewsbury, which surrendered all its powers into the hands of Richard II, found Sir John Bagot and a Frenchman, Villeneuve, Members for Staffordshire. The conduct of Sir John and his brother Sir William Bagot at this time can be traced in the *Dict. Nat. Biog.* It is sufficient to say that they were trusted servants of Richard, fled, were imprisoned, and within a year were in the highest favour with Henry IV, owing, it is supposed, to disclosures that Sir William made.

It remains to mention that these Knights of the Shire were usually soldiers, and sometimes ruffians of a desperate fourteenth-century type. Many met a bloody end—Philip Lutley, the sheriff, was murdered by Wrottesley in 1352; Ipstones was slain by Roger Swynnerton treacherously and unarmed, coming from Clerkenwell to the House; Sir Richard de Caverswall died probably at Falkirk; Sir Robert Mavesyn fell before Calais, and Sir Robert Swynnerton before Brest in 1386; and Adam de Peshale died on Caynton Heath, valiantly resisting arrest; they struck off his head and brought it to Stafford.

(ii) *The Burgesses of the Boroughs.*

Stafford sent Burgesses to Parliament from 1295; Lichfield sent them intermittently from the time of Bishop Walter de Langton in 1311 to 1327, and again in 1353. After that year no more burgesses went from Lichfield for two hundred years. Newcastle was first directed to return two burgesses in 1354, and I think the reason must have been the wish of the sheriff, Sir John Musard, to benefit the borough which belonged to his master, the Duke of Lancaster. Throughout the whole of this period (1295-1399) the men returned to represent the Boroughs were Burgesses native of the town. Many can be traced as Bailiffs, Mayors or Wool Commissioners; but as early as 1305 a tendency is shown to select the successful burgess who had risen and acquired property outside the town—John de Pigstock was “of Pigstock” and lord of Dunston; Wm. de Wolaston, 1311, was of Burton by Stafford; Simon de Milwich, 1315-22, was of Milwich and related to the Pigstocks and Gilberts; the Wrydes had land in Dilhorne; Hugh Snel (1337-77) had land in Coton by Stafford; Hugh de Gunstone, who sat for Lichfield in 1353, may well have been a cadet of the House of Gifford; John de Blurton (1355) was of Blurton, and Richard de Colclough, a burgess of Newcastle (1360-85), bought the manor of Hanley from Sir Richard de Peshale. Finally, we find in 1368 a John de Wolaston sitting for Stafford, who not only served as a man-at-arms in France but was accustomed to act as attorney for “the nobility and gentry,” and owned lands in half a dozen manors.

But with the possible exceptions of Wolaston, and of one Toly who appears to have been an imported nominee, all the M.P.’s for the Boroughs seem to have been burgesses of the town at some time

or other of their lives. Those who prospered and took to land-owning, and those who prospered and stuck to wool-mongering, alike took pleasure in Parliamentary service. Hugh Snel, the Wool Commissioner, sat in 13 Parliaments; the Reyners, Wrydes, and Roters in Stafford, and the Colcloughs, Thicknesses, Podmores and Ralf del Hogh in Newcastle sat in Parliament after Parliament; and they were the aristocracy of their two towns. Yet little could be more contrary to actual fact than to imagine these fourteenth-century Members for Stafford and Newcastle and Lichfield as staid and pious merchants of a Walter Scott type. Nothing could exceed the murdering riotousness of the Stafford M.P.'s. Every list of rioters inevitably contains the names of past and future Members for Stafford; the House, or perhaps the hustings, was their apprenticeship to "breakings in," "onfalls" and "homsokens," in active or passive mood. Hugh Snel was slain in an affray at the age of 65, constant to the last. Newcastle was not such a bloody breeding ground, though Hogh and Thickness harboured murderers. But Lichfield, within the limits of its short parliamentary career, surpassed Stafford by producing Burgesses who rose to High Treason and dealings with the Scots. These were the sad and sober burgesses of the feudal ages; they carried a "swagger" to Westminster.

Two other classes are beginning to make their appearance in Parliament through the Borough Representation—Lawyers and Capitalists. I think Wm. de Hampton (1313) was a lawyer, Wolaston seems to have been one, J. Keene, 1380-8, was a lawyer in Newcastle, and Wm. Hamersley actually required a seat for his practice, otherwise he would not have gone from Stafford to Newcastle: the first example of a Burgess sitting for two boroughs, 1355-8. Later Keene sat for both Newcastle and Bridgnorth, 1380-8. These people must have actually touted for a seat. The other class is represented by Thos. Thickness, who sat nine times for Newcastle (1377-1411). He was the new sort of capitalist grazier, and leased many of the Audley estates; it is curious that the last of the Audley barons, five hundred years later, should have been his direct descendant in the male line.

A class to be very largely represented in the next period found its progenitor in John de Orwell who sat for Stafford in 1384. He came from Suffolk and was a ubiquitous King's Serjeant-at-Arms in what is now the Quartermaster-General's Department. There can be no doubt that he was nominated from outside, but

I can see no trace of Governmental nomination in any other single case before the fifteenth century.

II.—THE RISE OF PARLIAMENT, 1399–1509.

(i) *The Knights of the Shires.*

As this period covered a considerable amount of Parliamentary reform, it will be well to see how elections were made at the time. The election writs were returnable within forty days after their issue ; normally the county elections were made in the full county court next after the receipt of the writ. But "full County Court," in times when the County Court had become a purely formal survival automatically arriving at intervals wholly unsuitable for election purposes, was a matter of arrangement by sheriffs and stewards of the great. To get possession of the writ and run your election in a hole and corner, out of sight of possible competitors, where and when no man expected, was a good and fair political game. The fortunate candidates saw to it that a crowd of their supporters of the lower orders rode up to the county town and huzzaed. Normally, one imagines, the magnates did not themselves attend ; their stewards made the election in harmony with the sheriff. John Harpur, M.P. a dozen times, was himself the steward of the House of Stafford. There was keenness to be elected ; secret work was done in the Stafford taverns between Whitgreve, Harpur and the sheriff. Sometimes a Stanley interfered, or Erdeswick rode in with his train from Sandon. The nomination was still the election ; and still the election, when agreed on, had to be unanimous. All the leading squires present at the election had to seal the indenture authorising the Return. If the sheriff's decision were very much to outrage the crowd they had a simpler and more direct method of disputing the Return than by Election Petition, especially as the treating of electors can be traced back to the fifteenth century.

As for Returns that were disputed after sealing, Sir William Anson says, "disputed Returns were decided during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries . . . by the King, assisted by the Lords, though an Act of 1410 authorised the Judges to hear them" ; and again, respecting the right of the House to judge itself of these petitions, "in the reign of Elizabeth the Commons claimed the right ; in 1604 they insisted on it."¹ This refers to Goodwin and

¹ *Law and Customs of the Constitution*, I. 150.

Fortescue's case in that year, when the Commons' claim to settle such disputed Returns was allowed to pass unchallenged by the Crown.

The study of this second period is rendered difficult by the loss of many of the records of the names of the M.P.'s, especially at the end of the period. Sixty-one Parliaments were elected between 1399 and 1509; in twenty-one of these the shire knights are unknown, the burgess members are missing for twenty-five Parliaments. I am able from the Patent Rolls to supply in some cases suggestions as to the presumptive knights of the shire.

In the forty Parliaments in which we have the names of the county Members, 39 different knights or squires sat—an average of just over two (Staffordshire) Parliaments per man. Of these Members, one observes that a smaller proportion of the "knights of the shire" were titled knights than in the fourteenth century; only 13 out of 39 at the date of their first return, though 4 more were knighted subsequent to their first election. But this by no means indicates the return of men of lower status: they were nearly all heads or heirs of families that would in earlier days have been described as "knightly." Swynnertons, Erdeswicks, Egertons, Draycots, Mittons and Stanleys, were all, even more than their predecessors had been, the leaders of Staffordshire, though they often did not take the style and title of knight—a rare title in the fifteenth century. They were more supreme because the Peerage had been depleted in Staffordshire. The Dukedom of Lancaster had been merged in the Crown; the Earl of Stafford no longer lived in his county and was about to become Duke of Buckingham;¹ Basset was extinct, Audley had left Audley and was divided; the famous Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, did not live at Alton Castle even when he was in England. There were no Peers in Staffordshire save the Lord Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and after 1461 Devereux of Chartley, and after 1440 the Lord Dudley at Dudley. From 1413 to 1460 the chief stewards of the Duchy were more influential than any Peer in the county of Stafford.

So the Landed Gentry ruled. But the County Members were a younger class than they had been; not that they were as yet making a career of politics, but because wealth and position rather

¹ The Dukes of Buckingham often lived at Maxtoke Castle in Warwickshire.

than age and experience now opened the doors of Westminster. Ralph Stafford was 27, Sir Humphrey Stafford of the Silver Hand was 27 when he sat for the county; his namesake of Grafton, who fell at Sevenoaks, sat first for Worcestershire at 23; Sir John Stanley was 23; Sir Richard Vernon, sometime Speaker, was in his twenties when he sat for Staffordshire, and his son Sir William began to sit perhaps before he was of age. Sir Humphrey Savage was 26. The two Staffordshire men who, in this century, did really make a career of politics, Robert Whitgreve and John Harpur, were returned first at 26 and 24 respectively, but then they sat for the borough of Stafford as retainers of the Stafford House and did not represent the county till towards the close of their lives, Whitgreve being then 64, the oldest of any M.P. of the period.

It is these two, Whitgreve and Harpur, who are the only exception to the general statement that there was as yet no freehold in a seat. "Your old and trusted Member" was not yet a useful cliché. The Stafford of the Silver Hand sat in 11 or more Parliaments, but it was for differing counties and he often missed a Parliament. Sir Robert Fraunceys and William Walsall (as has been mentioned above) each sat in nine, but with the same qualifying comments. John Harpur sat certainly in nine, and almost continuously from 1419 to 1432; and Robert Whitgreve sat in eighteen Parliaments at least, and quite continuously from 1420 to 1446;¹ but both of these officials changed their seats, working upwards from borough to the county. John Hampton of Stourton, Master of the Ordnance, tried, I think, to sit continuously from 1436 to 1459, but he was more of a Lancastrian partisan than a Staffordshire official. This man is likely to have been defeated for election somehow both in 1447 and 1450, and perhaps in 1455. He had large grants and preferments to look after in those stormy times.

It is important to notice that these three, Whitgreve, Hampton and Harpur, who liked to sit in Parliament, were Government servants in receipt of salaries; and then we observe that more than one-half of all these shire knights were placemen or pensioners. Even that accomplished murderer John Mynors found his way into Parliament and a retaining fee. Their services and posts varied—Walsall was, as we have seen, Marshal of the Hall, Sir William

¹ In similar manner Thomas Coventry sat for Oxford fourteen times, 1403-1431.

Newport was a King's Knight, a military leader ; Vernon was Speaker and Treasurer of Calais ; Aston, Constable of the Tower ; Whitgreve a Teller of the Exchequer ; William Cumberford was proto-notary of the Court of the King's Bench ; Delves one of the Masters of the Mint ; Wolseley a Baron of the Exchequer ; and Hampton everything from Usher of the Chamber to Master of the Ordnance. But most of them were just King's Squires or King's Knights, or merely pensioners of the Crown or of the Earl of Stafford. Parliamentary "representation" was getting into its stride.

Vernon is the only knight of the shire to find his way into the *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, but two died on the field—Stafford of Grafton at Sevenoaks by the hands of Jack Cade's rabble, and Sir John Delves at Tewkesbury ; while Sir Humphrey Savage and Sir Walter Wrottesley (if he was a Member) came to an end in the Tower. Of all the thirty-nine who sat for the county, the least important was Roger Bradshaw, who sat for Derbyshire in 1406 and for Staffordshire in 1416. Yet even he could claim to have married a coheiress of the Meynells and to be nephew to an important King's Squire.

The position of "knight of the shire" was more showily filled than in the preceding century, and the first eldest son of a Peer took his seat in 1472, Sir Edmund Dudley. It is hard to say how far wealth and position otherwise acquired brought a seat in Parliament, and how far a seat in Parliament itself brought that wealth and position ; but it is noteworthy that no fewer than five historic Staffordshire families find their chief ancestor in a man who made a career in these Parliaments of the fifteenth century. Richard Lane of Bentley, Ralph Wolseley of Wolseley, John Harpur of Rushall, Robert Whitgreve of Burton, and Sir Richard Vernon of Haddon, were the real founders of all these families, though pride and research have discovered for them certain ancestors. The Harpurs have taken the name of Crewe, and some of the Vernons are called Harcourt, but all these families are still at home in Staffordshire, where they were founded by the Members of these Parliaments.

The political position of the knights of the shire during the Wars of the Roses is more difficult to determine than even in the obscure earlier revolutions. Hampton was a Lancastrian, and so were most of the gentry of the shire under the influence of the Duke of Buckingham and Earl of Shrewsbury till their death at

Northampton in 1460. That same year saw the young Audley converted at Calais by the suave tongue of Warwick to the support of the House of York ; and Gresley, Wrottesley, Astley, Harcourt, were already firmly with Warwick the King-maker. The Lord Dudley became a staunch Yorkist ; and Devereux of Chartley was called to the Peers in 1461 as a reward for his support of York. Sir Henry Stafford, in whom the practical representation of the Stafford House was vested after 1460, and the Lady Margaret Beaufort his wife, must have kept alive the sentiment and the hopes of the House of Lancaster ; yet after 1461 I find in Staffordshire no opposition to the new King, except hints of the recalcitrance of Hampton and Vernon.

When, however, the King-maker joined Clarence and the Queen in 1470 and restored Henry VI to the throne of his ancestors, he took with him Wrottesley, Grey, Delves, Draycot, and Mitton, some of whom may have been slumbering supporters of the Red Rose, for which Delves certainly died on the field of Tewkesbury.

The rising of the Duke of Buckingham in the autumn of 1483 probably affected Staffordshire more than most counties. He was their own Duke. The heads of the houses of Bagot, Basset, Egerton, Harpur, and perhaps Ferrers, were removed from the bench after the rising and may be supposed to be suspected. However, as we do not know the names of the M.P.'s in the Parliaments of Richard III, speculation as to their politics is unnecessary. The same applies to the revolution of Bosworth Field. We can only guess who were the Members of Parliament. Judging from the Commissions of the Peace, the change was bad for the Wolseleys, and good for the Wrottesleys, Egertons and Blounts, and particularly good for the Stanley clan, who from Pipe and Elford ruled Staffordshire during the succeeding reign.

(ii) *The Burgesses of the Boroughs.*

Two hints are all I can discover as to the Borough electorate in this century. The Lynn Hall Books show that at King's Lynn in 1432 a close corporation elected two of themselves to look after their own town interests. So long as we see genuine Burgesses of a Borough sent to Parliament (as at Worcester down to 1600 ; or Shrewsbury to 1603/4),¹ I think

¹ Oxford too returned few non-burgesses before 1571.

we may take it for certain that the electorate was narrow ; it may have been still narrow when the representatives were officials of the " recommended " type. Directly, however, we find local gentry with no official status sitting for Stafford and Newcastle, we may suspect that the electorate has widened. The new type of M.P. was valued because he " paid his footing." This supposition, made on general principles, is borne out by the second piece of evidence. The decision in the 1621 Newcastle Election petition was based, or so the House said, on the evidence that the " populacy " had elected in the time of Edward IV. On that account, they said, there was no prescriptive right of election vested in the Corporation alone. This is consistent with our supposition. The increasing desire for a seat at Westminster felt by the local gentry during the fifteenth century had the effect of widening the treatable borough franchise so as to eliminate the narrow co-opting corporation. Only when it became the natural thing for gentry and not burgesses to be elected, did the Borough Members allow the natural selfishness of the corporation to close the franchise again, and revive a vested interest.

At the end of the fourteenth century the gentry were just beginning to come in to represent the Staffordshire boroughs. This process continued ; but there were other claimants for seats. The Crown, or in other words the Duchy of Lancaster, wanted seats for its servants ; the Duke wanted seats for the Stafford retainers ; or it may be the other way about, and that the servants wanted the seats, and the magnates wanted to please their servants. The lawyers also wanted seats, both for their practice and for a chance at the places of honour and emolument ; they too sought the recommendation of the great.

From 1406 onwards one at least of the Newcastle seats seems nearly always to have been filled by a Duchy nominee. This discovery is of considerable importance. The claim of the Chancellor of the Duchy to nominate one of the members extended to every Duchy town. Its exercise indicates clearly a desire on the part of the Crown either to pack Parliament or to reward its retainers. The absence of protest from the Borough shows a complacency that was to be expected. A burden was suddenly becoming a distinction, almost a prize ; they were gratified at being allowed to choose one of these new " candidates," grateful for one plum for themselves. It is possible that the change was accompanied

by the opening of the franchise, a *quid pro quo* to the mob ; but things like that do not happen : change comes gradually in England.

The demand for seats created the patron who supplied them. The Earl of Stafford began, immediately after the Lancastrian succession, to recommend one of the Members for Stafford. In 1411 and 1413 both Members were Stafford's men. Thereafter only solitary burgesses appear as Members in 1416, 1447, 1448. Indeed from 1407 onwards both Members were generally Earl's men, till a time when the local gentry began to come in ; and even then it is likely that they were nominated by grace of His Grace of Buckingham. There is evidence, too, to indicate that the Duke controlled seats in the fifteenth century as far away as Bletchingley and Gatton in Surrey, and Arundel in Sussex, as well as at Stafford. No doubt the Earl or Duke himself, whether of age or a minor, whether in England or France, would personally have little to do with the "recommendations." That would be, perhaps, in the hands of the steward, John Harpur of Rushall, who was eight times M.P. for Stafford, or later of Reynold Bray, agent for the Lady Margaret. The matter would still be too small a question for direct pressure from on high.

The only local gentry, presumably outside the Earl's circle of retainers but sitting for Stafford, were such important people as John Egerton and Thomas Gresley in 1477, William Chetwynd in 1491, and John Ferrers in 1494. It will be observed that they appear late in the period. One imagines that as time went on the Freemen were getting more say in the matter : that the Duke's steward had to humour them and give them a treat at the election or the chance of a treat.

Thus one may discover twenty of the gentry sitting for the Boroughs, increasing in frequency as years go on ; and sixteen of the real burgesses, getting fewer (though two of the genuine stamp of burgess sat for Newcastle as late as 1450). The lawyers are increasing, but altogether I only discover nine, including such men as Wolseley, Needham, Cumberland, Lee, Everdon, and Stanford. The most striking new feature is the number of retainers of the minor official stamp. Some of these are nominees of the Earl of Stafford—at least one may guess so when we find them in the retinue or pension list of the Earl as in the cases of Barbour, Huntingdon, Harpur, Colclough and Edgley, or in his household as in the cases of Whitgreve, Preston and Sir Reynold Bray. The Earl

seems sometimes to have nominated for Newcastle as well as Stafford through the medium of the Duchy machinery. Then the four swashbucklers, Mynors, "Wildblood," "Hardhead" and Sandbach seem to have been retainers of the Duchy, as were perhaps many of the Crown nominees, the public servants who were provided with seats in the House.

What sort these officials who sat for the Boroughs were can be seen. Adam Edgley, 1413-23, is a good example. He was a pensioner of the Earl, and a member of the King's bodyguard Usher of the Chamber, and Keeper of Kennington Palace. He was provided with a seat at Hereford as well as at Stafford. Thomas Chamberlain, 1411-41, was a purveyor to the Royal Household, and was found a seat at Newcastle. John Parker, 1407-30, was a King's Serjeant, Usher of the Chamber, Purveyor to the Chancery, and even Deputy Admiral of England; and he got a seat at Stafford too. Thomas Baron, a Comptroller of the Customs, had seats provided for him at Newcastle, Chichester, Helston and Old Sarum. I can only suppose that William Garnett, M.P. for Lancaster, Stafford and Huntingdon, was a Royal servant. Thomas Mayne was a Royal servant in 1444/5, and sat for Newcastle and Bridgnorth, but I think Hampton found him his "place" and his constituencies. John Spencer, sheriff of Hull, sat for four places, and he was probably a protégé of the De la Poles.

It seems possible that some Returns, particularly those for the Duchy nominee at Newcastle, were made in blank and were filled in at the Treasury; the Chief Steward or Chancellor probably did not even send down the prospective Member with the "recommendation." I cannot imagine a Spencer or a William Paston travelling down to a fifteenth-century Newcastle to get elected. It is said that the filling up of "blanks" was a common practice in the Tudor period; I am not aware whether there is any more substantial evidence as to the use of "blanks" at such an early date as this.

III.—THE AUTOCRACY, 1509-1603.

This period begins with four Parliaments for which there are no Returns discoverable; and there are still two further important Parliaments of Henry VIII for which we are in like case. The Parliament of 1554-5 is the latest Parliament for which the County Members are still unknown; indirectly we know the Borough

Members even in that Parliament. Out of 33 Parliaments we have the Members almost complete in 27 of them.

From the Acts of these Tudor Parliaments one realises that they were resolutely dominated by the Crown; that in very truth Henry VIII was "cur dread sovereign." But the composition of Parliament, as we meet it in 1529, 1542 and 1545, shows it made up of the best families, rich and well-educated, at least so far as Staffordshire is concerned. William, Lord Paget, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, moved from Staffordshire seats to the Upper House. The pick of the County gentry, such as the "gentle Giffords," sat in the worst Parliaments. Walter Blount, "who spoke lightly of the Saints," and Roger Fowke, with his passion for his children's education, and Humphrey Wellys, catholic "but better learned than the rest," seem to have been recommended to Westminster rather by learning than by family. Those on either side who sacrificed all for religion gravitated to Westminster. Before the end of the period the new men made by trade, Levesons, Offleys, Craddocks, were following the fashion. A series of Parliaments that began the century on the knee to the Crown ended with puritanical principles—even if their "mission" consisted chiefly in a desire to intern all catholics in spite of their "dread" sovereign and her ministers. They were beginning to conceive of duties outside pounds, shillings and pence.

And Parliaments were getting longer or dissolutions fewer—1529-36, 1547-52, 1563-7, 1572-83—a great change from the short Parliaments of the fifteenth century. This accounts also for the emerging of the by-election. We meet them in the 1529-36 Parliament. Apparently the first by-election on record is the one that replaced Thomas Stamford, "*mortuus*" in 1530/2, by Mr. Erdeswick in the representation of Stafford. A number of other by-elections are recorded under the year 1533 in the Official Return.

(i) *The Knights of the Shire.*

There is still a difference in rank between the knights of the shire and the burgesses of the boroughs, though the first titled knight, Sir Philip Draycot, sat for a Staffordshire borough in 1553. But after this period the distinction ceases to have any importance so far as the personnel of the Members is concerned. During the Autocracy, 1509-1603, in 26 known parliamentary lists, there are to be found 28 different Staffordshire knights of the

shire. Eleven of them were knights in title before they were elected; six were knighted after election; three were Peers' sons and eight remained plain squires till their deaths.¹ Peers' eldest sons (but probably only of Peers above the rank of Viscount) were supposed to be excluded from the Commons till the reign of Edward VI, though the heir of the Barony of Dudley sat for Staffordshire in 1472-5. In 1558, under Mary, Edward Stafford, heir of Stafford, sat for Stafford; in 1559 the heir of Paget sat for Lichfield; and in 1584 the heir of Dudley sat for the county at the age of seventeen. Devereux, a younger son of the first Earl of Essex, had sat for the county as early as January 1553. These began that long line of Peers' sons which out-distanced every other sort of representative in the eighteenth century.

Of all the 28 there is not one, except perhaps Sir Christopher Blount, who was not a great landed proprietor, one of the same class of Commissioners, Justices, and Captains that had sat for Staffordshire during the two previous centuries. Even Blount, though he was no doubt forced upon the county by his step-son the Earl of Essex, had married the Countess of Leicester and lived at Drayton Bassett. The county Members of this period were even higher in class than their predecessors, yet no more servile Parliaments ever sat than those of the last Henries and the Queens. They were terrified into persecuting and prosecuting their own kind. They proscribed their friends and relations to order, and from 1571 for three hundred years no catholic sat for Staffordshire. Giffords, Fowlers, Astons, Draycots, Fitzherberts, were ruled out— for ever. It is even true that there were few placemen among these gentleman representatives. Sir John Gifford was a friend of King Harry's and had pleasant posts; so had Sir Philip Draycot; but neither of these (and still less John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, or William Paget) can be supposed to have taken a seat in Parliament to increase their emoluments. These obtained a county constituency to add to their dignity or to oblige a friend or to help control the country.

It is in this period that the Lords Lieutenant begin to rule, taking the place of the old Commissions of Array. The Earls of Shrewsbury lived too far from Staffordshire and had too many

¹ Knights were few and far between under the Tudors.

counties under their sway to leave their mark upon the Staffordshire M.P.'s; they worked through such deputies as Bagot and Aston. The first really influential Lord Lieutenant was Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex. Between 1588 and 1600 this Earl ruled Staffordshire. He "recommended" for the Boroughs and for the County; we have his letters on the 1593 election; and they give us a hint that even under Essex the country gentry could run their own man counter to the Court. They were asked to return Blount and Gerard; they did return Blount and Walter Harcourt. Some opposition there must have been. If there had been a contest going to the polls, I feel sure that some record of it would have been traceable among the many contemporary MSS. of the time. It would, doubtless, be settled by show of hands at nomination. The idea of unanimity had gone. Essex wrote to Bagot, his Deputy-Lieutenant, not apparently to the Sheriff.

Even before the time of Essex two other historical governors of England had settled in Staffordshire, and exercised influence in their home county. These were Sir William Paget and Sir John Dudley. The 1547 election was made by Paget, so far as Staffordshire was concerned; after an interval the 1559 and 1563 Parliaments of Queen Elizabeth give indications of the same hand. Dudley, on the other hand, was in the ascendant in the Parliaments of 1542, 1545, 1553 (1): particularly this last Parliament of puritans was his child. If we consider that before the time of Paget and Dudley it was Sir John Gifford who was the most influential man of his day in the county, and then observe that each of these three—Gifford, Paget and Dudley—took seats in Parliament as part of their career of power, then we shall get an idea of a new importance of Parliament.

Before taking leave of the knights of the shire, one may notice that they were generally of a respectable age. The two Giffords sat when over sixty. Later, when Essex was in the ascendant, matters were more careless and gay; Essex's cousin, Edward Dudley, the heir of Dudley, sat at seventeen, and his brother John was M.P. in his green youth. It should be noticed also that two of the shire knights, Simon Harcourt and Thomas Whorwood, were pricked for sheriff while they sat in the House; and that Leigh was made a sheriff just before his return, and obtained special leave of absence to go to Westminster. Two of the twenty-eight

died on the scaffold, Dudley and Blount ; Sir Ralph Bagnal would have shared their fate, had he not fled in time, and Fitzherbert died in the Tower, betrayed. Wingfield fell at the taking of Cadiz ; Colonel Bostock at Nieuport. There were "desperate cutters" among them, from Harcourt who copied Raleigh to Sir Nicholas Bagnal, Marshal of Ireland.

(ii) *The Burgesses of the Boroughs.*

This period saw the enfranchisement of two new Boroughs in Staffordshire. Lichfield was revived in 1548, after two hundred years of non-representation, at the instance of the then all-powerful Lord Paget. Till the Pagets were damned as "recusants" the Paget nomination was sufficient in Lichfield. Beaudesert was too close and large for any rival constellations. After the Paget outlawry, Lichfield remained for over one hundred years a singularly free and open Borough, where Dyott, Weston and puritan clashed. The other new Borough was Tamworth, which received a charter in 1560. The High Steward, two bailiffs and twenty-four formed a close corporation to elect. From the very beginning it seems that Drayton Basset had a hold upon the nominations for Tamworth as it had in the time of Peel. A Harcourt resided at Drayton Basset and sat for the county in the 1563 Parliament ; two Harcourt cadets sat for Tamworth in the same Parliament. Harcourt's rule at Drayton came to an end in 1566 ; then the new owner (Lettice, Lady Leicester, the mother of Essex) seems to have succeeded to the Drayton influence also. The only rival to Drayton was the Castle, the ownership of which, till late in the seventeenth century, was vested in the Ferrers family, and they shared the Tamworth representation. The control of Essex was increased by the issue of a new charter in 1588, which widened the franchise. It must have been granted at Essex's request and for his purposes.

There were, therefore, four Boroughs returning Members during half the period under consideration. One hundred and two different representatives, whose names are known, sat for these Boroughs. Of these not more than eight or ten were mere burgesses of the towns they represented, the last being either Richard Smith of Newcastle in the reign of Queen Mary or John Breton of Tamworth in 1584. The rest sought election for the Boroughs, being suitably recommended, either as country gentlemen (35), or knights (18), or future Peers (6). Some twenty-three out of the 102 were lawyers,

e.g., Sir William Stamford (who got his seat through Lord Stafford), Richard Broughton or Arthur Bedell (who sat for Lichfield by leave of Richard Bagot, as I believe), Craddock, Chetwynd and James Weston the Vicar-General (who all had local advantages and were placed in the seats by their families), Warburton and the future Lord Aungier (who owed their seats to Duchy nomination), Goodman, Sir Edward Stafford, Edgeocke and Dyott. Half the lawyers, and thirty in all out of the one hundred and two did not come from Staffordshire at all. The growth of external representation, which happily distinguishes our politics from those of America, dates, it will be seen, from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and it was caused partly by the existence of patrons and partly by the desire of the electorate to be treated. Payment of Members was dying out at the same time. At the beginning of this period it was universal; at the end it was rare.¹

Of course a large number of the Borough Members had or obtained places—Richard Forcett, Lancelot Bostock the colonel, Dr. James the “phisitian,” Sir Richard Browne with the doubtful career, William Fowke at the Tower, Robert Wright, the Earl’s accountant, Sir Thomas Smyth, “his servant,” Sir William Temple, Secretary, and many others who held places perhaps too obscure to be now discoverable. I judge, however, from the fact that nearly one-third of the whole number were “carpet-baggers,” that it was, as yet, the assistance to one’s own or to one’s patron’s career, rather than the love of patronage or position or power, that still tricked out the main lure of Parliament.

There is no sufficient evidence to make one suspect blank returns in more than one single case.² It seems to me that the recommendation of an Essex or a Paget or a Leicester would suit those noblemen and the constituencies better than a donation of the privilege to a clerk in Whitehall. Recommendation is enough to explain all the returns of “foreigners.” The return of blanks to the Treasury would have been so much easier to enforce in the small rotten boroughs belonging to the Crown, that one should be

¹ In 1529 Alderman Fleming promised to serve as M.P. for Oxford without pay, as did the others; but later on he sued for his money. (Williams’ *Oxfordshire Parliamentary History*.)

² Simon Lowe, for Stafford 1553(2).

cautious of ascribing this habit to such large and difficult boroughs as these towns of Staffordshire.

Knights began to sit for the boroughs in the fifties of the century and the sons of the nobility joined in also. The higher the noble, the less his age. An heir of Stafford sat under age, so did an heir of Paget; a Stafford of Blatherwick sat at twenty-three. The future Lord Knollys, a carpet-bagger, sat at twenty-four, a Fitzherbert at twenty-three, a Vernon at twenty-four, a Ferrers at twenty-one. To be in Parliament was becoming synonymous with being at Court. Place had been achieved through Parliament and now consideration was coming also.

(iii) *The Effect of the Political Crises.*

When we first meet Parliament after the blank period it is in 1529, the Parliament that dethroned Rome. There are no signs of packing in this Parliament. All the M.P.'s were Staffordshire men, led by their principal local knight, who was a personal friend of the King. As Stafford returned one who was a mere burgess, the Crown cannot have brought pressure to bear there. In December of 1541, when the next House of which we have particulars was elected, Norfolk was in power, with Seymour and Dudley close behind. Dudley took a seat for the county, but again a burgess sat for Newcastle, and all are again Staffordshire men. Blount at Stafford was a Protestant, but Draycot, Dudley's colleague for the county, was a Catholic.

The 1545 House, which must have been elected under Seymour's influence, still shows no sign of outside pressure. Fitzherbert of Norbury sat, a well-known Catholic; but all are good substantial men of the county. The Parliament of 1547 was Paget's opportunity. He had lately settled in Staffordshire, and he took a seat for the county and he put his friend in for Stafford and gave seats and Members to Lichfield. The whole caste is more Catholic than one would expect for the reign of Edward VI. Paget's man at Stafford was an importation.

It is the Parliament of 1553 that shows us the first clear indication of party. Dudley was all-powerful and had summoned the Protestant spirit to aid his schemes. Staffordshire sent a markedly puritanical group—Devereux and Aston for the county; Colbarne and Smyth, a carpet-bagger, for Stafford, both extreme, to judge from their Wills; Fowke the educationalist and a burgess from

Newcastle ; and from Lichfield Mark Wyrley, who walked out of a Marian Parliament rather than bow the knee to Baal. Young Fitzherbert, heir of Swynnerton, is the only possible Catholic and his Will shows no signs of Catholic leanings ; after all his widow had not yet married Gatacre and formed the faith of the Fitzherberts of Swynnerton.

Mary's first Parliament was a copy of those of Henry VIII. Giffords and Draycots, with one outsider from London sitting for Stafford probably because the Lord of Stafford owed him money. Nor is Mary's second Parliament remarkable. All are of the usual Staffordshire brand, save one London lawyer who got a seat at Newcastle. It should be understood that in all these Parliaments one of the Newcastle Members was in all probability nominated by the Chancellor of the Duchy ; but he generally nominated a Staffordshire man from Needwood.

The 1554-5 Parliament is noteworthy. The county Members' names are lost, but I have no doubt that Gifford sent up good Catholics as directed. The Boroughs, however, out of six Members sent three "seceders" to join the Protestant forty. These were Bagnal for Newcastle, Craddock for Stafford and Wyrley for Lichfield. This is a really striking demonstration of the Protestantism of the Staffordshire burgesses. Even in the next Parliament Newcastle did the same, and sent Sir Nicholas Bagnal, the brother of the refugee, and an alderman whose Will is Protestant. Littleton, who sat for the county, was not an extreme Catholic. Bulstrode was an importation into Lichfield, for which I suspect Paget was responsible.

Mary's last Parliament in 1558 saw two Fowlers, Catholics, sitting one for the county and one for Stafford. But again there is no Government packing. Lord Stafford put in his legitimate brother for the borough ; Paget put in Cupper for Lichfield, side by side with another local lawyer. Then came Queen Elizabeth, who got her Parliaments to her taste.

The Protestant recovery is shown in the first Parliament by the presence of Bagnal sitting for the county and by two Protestants at Newcastle. Paget, once more powerful, is responsible for Twynyho at Stafford and for his own son at Lichfield. I suspect, too, that Simon Harcourt, who sat for the county, was also much of Paget's party. The House elected in December 1562 was still under Paget's control, so far as this county is concerned. The

packing, such as it is, is his—Twynyho at Stafford, Paget and Pulteney at Lichfield, perhaps the Harcourts at Tamworth. But a new force appears ; for Goodere at Stafford was the man of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and the Harcourts may have been Dudley's nomination also. There are four or five outsiders in this Parliament.

The short unruly House of 1571 shows still more outside pressure. Five, possibly six, of the Borough M.P.'s had nothing to do with Staffordshire. Knollys at Stafford was Leicester's nominee ; Bouchier at Newcastle was put in by the Chancellor ; but what gave their seats to FitzGerald, Tymperley, Lewknor or Bullock I cannot determine. Lewknor at least was a strong puritan, for which, indeed, he was ultimately sent to the Tower. The next Parliament was even more packed with "foreigners." The county Members are what they should be—puritan ; but of the eight borough Members six had nothing to do whatever with Staffordshire. Broughton at Stafford may have owed his seat to Bagot, or, as a lawyer, he may have bought it elsewhere ; he had land not far away. Bouchier at Newcastle was at least a sitting Member. For the others there is simply no excuse ; two were lawyers and Bostock died a fighting colonel at Nieuport.

The Parliaments of the eighties pursued vigorously the persecution of the "recusants." About the first of them there is, in Staffordshire, nothing remarkably puritanical. Young Dudley sat at the age of seventeen (he was no puritan) ; and there were four lawyers, and Richard Browne, a Court nominee, at Lichfield. At Stafford the Recorder was elected, and at Newcastle a Chetwynd, being mayor, returned another Chetwynd. In 1586, immediately after the Babington conspiracy, there is still no sign of a Protestant party. Four lawyers sat for boroughs and Goodman was the only outsider ; he indeed was an extreme puritan lawyer. He too sat for Lichfield. By 1588 the Earl of Essex had begun to make his personality felt in Staffordshire politics. Tamworth returned his uncle and his servant. Five of the eight borough Members were lawyers, but the election for the county seems still to have been free, though Gerard too was of the lawyer brand.

1593 was Essex's Parliament. He nominated for all the seats, Town and County. The County dared to send Harcourt against his wish ; and Stafford still stood by Craddock the Recorder instead of taking "Edward Reynolds my servant." Lawyers declined

to three in number—perhaps Essex preferred more active friends like Wingfield of Cadiz. That Essex nominated again in 1597 the returns make obvious. For the County, Blount and Dudley were perhaps both his men, and Bouchier at Stafford, Fowke at Lichfield and Temple at Tamworth were beholden to the Earl ; but the Newcastle Members were distinguished and independent gentry of a puritanical cast of mind. The lawyers had by now fallen to two—Sir Edward Stafford and Sir George Hyde—who were both rather gentry than lawyers. Before the next Parliament was elected Essex had lost his head and there was no one to influence Staffordshire. All Members were such as would freely be elected, except that Sir Richard Browne sat for Lichfield, with which he had no connection ; Sir William Essex was put in for Stafford by his father-in-law Harcourt.

It will be seen that the Elizabethan Parliaments bear evidence of having been far more packed than previous Parliaments, even under Henry VIII. In part this may be due to the fact that we know more of the connections of the different personages. But, apart from that, the thing is obvious. Henry's Parliaments did not matter, Elizabeth's did. There was more reason for packing. And again in Elizabeth's time the leading political personages were the Earls of Leicester and Essex. These were both at home in Staffordshire ; they had more opportunity for packing, more opportunity even than Paget or Dudley, for there were more boroughs to pack. It must be remembered that the first recorded division in Parliament only occurred in the reign of Queen Mary ; and only then can the individual composition of Parliament have begun to matter seriously.

STAFFORDSHIRE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

JOHN.

Succeeded 27 May 1199.

Parliament of 1213.

Summoned to meet 15 November 1213 at Oxford. King John ordered the sheriffs to send four "discrete Knights" from each shire, "*ad loquendum nobiscum de negotiis regni nostri.*" It is not known whether any knights were actually chosen and sent up to this the first of all attempts to consult the Commons of which there is any record. The state of the kingdom was such that it is unlikely that any Parliament was held at all. The sheriff of Staffordshire, which from 1204 to 1344 was combined, as to the shrievalty, with Shropshire, was then Thomas de Erdington, and there were some thirty knights in Staffordshire who, as in the Inquest forms of that day, might have met together to select four of their number for the great assise.

HENRY III.

28 Oct. 1216.

Parliament of 1254.

Summoned to meet at Westminster 26 April 1254. The Queen and Richard of Cornwall, during the King's absence in Gascony, ordered the sheriffs to summon two knights from each shire "*ad providendum quale auxilium impendere velint.*" No Returns have been found, and there is nothing in the *Close* or *Patent Rolls* or in the *Staffordshire Collections* to indicate who were selected by the sheriff, then Sir Robert de Grendon of Shenstone.

Parliament of 1258.

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 18 October 1258. After the "Mad Parliament" at Oxford, to which no Commons were summoned, the Council ordered the sheriffs to send four knights from each county to present complaints against the old sheriffs and other Royal officers. Sir Peter de Montfort of Beaudesert, Warwickshire, had been made sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop on 27 September 1257. He was a leader on the baronial side in the "Mad Parliament," and he would naturally send up adherents of Simon de Montfort. Those he sent were :

ROBERT DE HALGHTON	..	..	..	(1)
ADAM DE BRUMPTON	..	..	..	(2)
WILLIAM BAGOT	..	..	..	(3)
PAYN DE WASTENEYS	..	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR ROBERT DE HALGHTON OF HAUGHTON.

Born c. 1205; younger son of Sir Thomas de H. of the same.¹ He had succeeded his elder brother Ralph by 1227,² and was a knight by 1233.³ In 1237 he was one of the Collectors of the thirtieth in Staffordshire, and his name is first on the Commission⁴; he was escheator for Staffordshire from February 1251 to November 1252. He was lord of Haughton on the Hundred Rolls of 1255; had a grant of Free Warren in his

¹ S.C. VI. i. 230.³ S.C. IV. 83.² S.C. IV. 44.⁴ *Close Rolls.*

manors of Haughton, High Offley, etc.; and was dead and succeeded by his son, Thomas, by 1270.¹ Agnes was his relict. His grandson, Sir Robert, bore Arms : Silver, a bend gules with three eagles gold.

(2) SIR ADAM DE BRIMPTON OF CHURCH EATON AND ORSLOW,
AND OF BRIMPTON, BERKS, OF MID ASTON, OXON, OF
LONGFORD, SALOP.

Born *c.* 1210; son and heir of Sir Adam de B. of the same, who was dead by 1236, when his son had seisin.² He held Longford in chief, Brimpton of Mortimer of Wigmore, and his other manors of the Stafford Barons. He was one of those who held £20 of land in chief in 1253. He sat in the Council of 1258; and was in the King's service, treating with Llewelyn of Wales at the ford of Montgomery, in 1261. He died and was succeeded by his son, Sir Adam III, in June 1274. He bore Arms : Gules, a lion ermine (perhaps with a forked tail). This coat is curiously like that of Simon de Montfort.³

(3) SIR WILLIAM BAGOT OF THE HYDE.

Born *c.* 1220; probably son of Robert B., lord of Hyde, Lea in Copenhall, Hilderstone, "Holedale," and of Morton Bagot, Warwickshire. He succeeded this Robert in 1248/50, and became immediately a power in the county. In 1255 he bought Patshull. His wife, Isabel, was daughter or sister of Sir Robert de Grendon, the sheriff; so he went to Parliament in 1258. He came back sheriff of Staffordshire, November 1258 to January 1260, when he became sheriff of Warwick and Leicester instead, a post which he held till 1261, again from 1262 to 1264, 1265 to 1270 and during the latter half of 1272. During 1263-4 these counties were held against him by Ralph Basset of Sapcote on behalf of the Barons; and, though he sided with the King during the war, he was always charged with large debts due to this shrievalty. After Evesham, August 1265, he had a grant of Pattingham manor from

¹ *Fine Rolls*; S.C. VI. i. 66.

² S.C. IV. ii. 7.

³ S.C. 1913, 281, 285.

the Crown, and of Ashby in Leicestershire from Edmund of Lancaster. He was at the siege of Kenilworth, 1266, and was made custodian of the escheated lands of Robert, Earl Ferrers.

Such was his position that, in the spring of 1272, the King sent him on a mission to the Holy Land to bring back Prince Edward on account of the King's illness. He retained favour at first under Edward I, for he was acting as ambassador in Wales in 1274, and he was a Justice of Assise 1281-91. He died 1299/1300, having been for the last twenty years of his life overwhelmed with debt and frequently in prison on that account. He bore Arms : Silver, two chevronels azure : arms which are taken directly from those of his father-in-law, Sir Robert de Grendon, in which the chevronels are gules.¹

(4) PAYN DE WASTENEYS OF TIXALL.

Born c. 1200 ; grandson of Robert de W. of the same. This Robert had succeeded his father, Payn, 1193-9, and had had two sons, Robert and Noel² ; he may have had a third son, this Payn. In any case Payn had succeeded to Robert by 1227.³ He does not appear to have been a prominent person and was not a knight. Though older than the other three his name appears after theirs in the summons to the 1258 Parliament. He was dead and succeeded by his son, Henry, by 1272.⁴

Parliament of 1261.

Summoned to meet at Windsor, 21 September 1261. Earl Simon had originally ordered the sheriffs to summon three knights from each shire to St. Albans. The King, adopting the idea of obtaining popular support, promptly sent out Writs for similar Returns—" *colloquium habituri* "—summoning them to Windsor instead. No Returns have been found. James, Lord Audley, had been made sheriff of the two counties

¹ S.C. XI. N.S. 128-37 ; 1913, 281.

² S.C. III. 229.

³ S.C. IV. i. 42.

⁴ S.C. V. i. 158 ; Parker's *Colton*, 396.

on 9 July 1261, and would be the returning officer—if any Returns were made, a fact of which we have no record. 'Audley was a Lord Marcher and opposed to Earl Simon.

Parliament of 1264.

Summoned to meet 24 June 1264. After the battle of Lewes, Keepers of the Peace having been appointed for 29 counties by Writ of 4 June, they are commanded to send four knights from each shire, elected "*per assensum ejusdem Comitatus nobiscum tractaturi.*" Ralph Basset, lord of Drayton Basset, was *custos* of Staffordshire and Salop. He was a strong supporter of Earl Simon and fell at Evesham, but we have no record of the knights he returned as elected.

Parliament of 1265.

Summoned, by Writs of 24 December 1264, to meet 20 January 1265; sat till 10 February 1265. This is the great Parliament of Simon de Montfort. To it were elected knights for the shires, and separate Writs were also sent to each city and borough ordering two representatives to be sent. The Writs to the sheriffs are to "return" two knights, but Stubbs thinks they were elected in the normal way in the County Court, just as was a coroner, or a jury for a great assise or for the trial of a writ of right. Ralph Basset, the *custos*, no doubt made the Return, but we cannot now tell who were the representatives in the first full Parliament.

Parliament of 1267.

Summoned to meet at Marlborough 18 November 1267. Stubbs thinks that the shires were represented in this Parliament by their chosen knights. They sat after terms had been granted to the "disinherited" rebels; but we cannot tell whether any knights, and if so who, went from Staffordshire. The sheriff was Walter de Hopton of Hopton, Salop.

EDWARD I.

20 Nov. 1272.

Parliament (?) of 1273.

Summoned to meet January 1273. This was a Convocation of the whole realm, four knights from each shire, four citizens from each city, to take the oath of fealty to the new King. It was not properly a Parliament; and in any case the Returns have not been preserved. Hugh Mortimer of Chelmarsh, Salop, was the sheriff who would have made the Returns if any.

Parliament of 1275 (1).

Summoned to meet May 1275. Stubbs said that possibly knights of the shire were present at this Parliament; and, since he wrote, some Returns, proving that this was so, have been discovered.¹ These returns do not, however, include that for Staffordshire. The sheriff was then Sir Bewes de Knovill, Lord of Whitchurch.

Parliament of 1275 (2).

Summoned to meet 13 October 1275. The sheriff is instructed to 'cause the election of two knights in full county court and by the assent of the same county,' "*ad tractandum*" with the King. Again no Returns have been found beyond those of two knights for Kent. Knovill was still sheriff in Staffordshire.

Parliament of 1283 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 24 November 1282, to meet 20 January 1283. It met in two bodies, one at York, the other

¹ *Eng. Hist. Rev.*, April, 1910.

at Northampton. The sheriff, Sir Roger Sprengnose¹ (M.P. for Salop, 1295), is to return four knights for the county, having full power to act for the community of the same, “*ad audiendum et faciendum*”; also two from each city, borough and market town. But no Returns have yet been found.

Parliament of 1283 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 28 June 1283, to meet at Shrewsbury 30 September 1283. The sheriff, still Sprengnose, was to return “two elected knights,” and twenty cities and boroughs were to send two each. Only the Returns for Gloucester County and the City of London are extant²; and this was more a Court of Justice to try David of Wales than a Parliament.

Before giving the list of those Knights that represented Staffordshire in the Parliament from 1290 onwards, it will be well to give a complete list of Staffordshire Knights extracted from the Assize Rolls of 1293 :

LIST OF STAFFORDSHIRE KNIGHTS IN 1293.

Hugh de Audley of Arley
 Nicholas de Audley of Heley
 William Bagot of the Hyde
 Ralph Basset of Drayton Basset
 Simon Basset of Sapcote, Leic., and Cheadle
 Walter Beysin of Water Eaton
 Ralph le Botiler of Almington
 Adam de Brimpton of Church Eaton
 Richard de Camvile of Clifton Camvile
 Reginald de Chetwynd of Weston by Standon
 Thomas Corbet of King’s Bromley
 Henry de Cresswell of Cresswell
 Richard de Draycot of Draycot-le-Moors

¹ Of Longnor, Salop.

² Gloucester co.—Official Return, p. 2; London—Beaven, *Aldermen of London*, i. 263.

Robert de Dutton of Maer
 John FitzPhilip of Bobbington and Barlaston
 John Giffard of Chillington
 Ralph de Grendon of Shenstone
 Geoffrey de Gresley of Drakelow
 William de Handsacre of Handsacre
 Robert Hastang of Chebsey
 Robert de Halghton of Haughton
 John de Heronville of Wednesbury
 Robert de Knightley of Knightley
 Henry de Kniveton of Kniveton, Derby
 Henry Mauvesyn of Ridware-Mauvesyn
 William de Mere of Maer
 John d'Oilly of Ronton
 William d'Oddingeseles of Weeford
 John de Okeover of Okeover
 Roger Pyvelsdon of Burston
 Walter de Ridware of Hamstall-Ridware
 Robert de Somerville of Wichnor
 Robert de Stafford of Anslow
 William de Stafford of Bramshall
 Robert de Standon of Standon
 Roger de Swynnerton of Swynnerton
 William Trumwyne of Cannock
 Richard de Vernon of Harlaston
 John de Wasteneys of Tixall
 Hugh de Weston of Weston-under-Lizeard
 William de Wrottesley of Wrottesley
 William Wyther of Ipstones

*List of Valets*¹

John Bagot of Bromley Bagots
 Ralph de Bushbury of Bushbury
 Richard de Caverswall of Caverswall
 Philip de Chetwynd of Ingestre

¹ *i.e.*, representatives of knightly families under age.

Ralph de Doxey
 William de Overton
 John de Tresel of Trysull
 Geoffrey de Wasteneys
 John de Ipstones of Ipstones

Parliament of 1290.

Summoned, by Writs tested 14 June, to meet 15 July 1290. The sheriff was directed to return two or three knights elected by the county to vote the "aid"; they met not till after the "summoned" Parliament had met and had legislated, enacting the Statute of *Quia Emptores*. No Writs were issued for the cities and boroughs. The knights of the shires only voted the "aid"—nothing more.

County—William de Stafford (1)

William de Mere (2)

returned by William de Tittle, sheriff.

(1) SIR WILLIAM DE STAFFORD OF SANDON AND BRAMSHALL AND OF AMBLECOT (*jure uxoris*), M.P. Staffs 1290, 1298, 1306, 1307-8, 1311-2, 1313 (3), 1318 (and possibly 1294, 1296, 1297, 1314 (1), 1314 (2)).

Born *c.* 1255; son and heir of Sir William de S. of Bramshall¹ (*d.* 1252/8) by his second wife, Auda (*d.* 1276/9) widow of Hugh Beauchamp of Bedford,² eldest sister and coheirress

¹ The father, Sir William de Stafford (*c.* 1225-58), had married first Ermentrude, daughter and coheirress of William FitzWalkelyn, before 1252; and was the son and heir of Sir William de Stafford (*c.* 1195-1240), who was himself the second son of the whole blood of Hervey Bagot of Bramshall and Melicent de Stafford, the heiress of the Stafford Barony. So that our Sir William, the first M.P. for Staffordshire, was second cousin to the contemporary Lord of Stafford, and his grandsons, Sir James and Sir John, were fourth cousins of the great Earl of Stafford whose sister and daughter they respectively married.

² Harwood *Erdeswick*, 46.

of Warin de Vernon of Sandon¹ (c. 1220-51), which Auda remarried 1259, as her third husband, Sir William Trumwyn, of Cannock, who died 1296. Sir William de Stafford married, before 1272, Cecily, daughter and heiress of Robert de Waure of Amblecot²; he was presented, wrongly, as of age and not yet a knight, in 1272³; knighted 1275/80; one of the Executors of Nicholas, Lord Audley, 1299; chief Commissioner of Array, Staffordshire, 1299, 1308. With Robert de Pype and William Wrottesley he was made a Justice in 1300 to secure the observance of the Great Charter in Staffordshire.⁴ Indeed he was a commissioner, justice of Oyer and of Gaol Delivery, and collector of subsidy in almost every year from 1300 to 1319. He is the first of the first three men to be made *custodes pacis*, J.P.s, in 1307, and reappears on the Commission down to the year 1320.⁵ His close association with the Stafford Earls is witnessed by his testimony that he lifted the future Earl Ralph from "the sacred font" at his christening in 1301.

In the troubles of the next reign he followed Lancaster, was taken prisoner at Boroughbridge, 1322, and imprisoned in

¹ Warin de Vernon, through whom Sandon came to this Stafford family, had three sisters and coheiresses, Auda or Ada, who married 1st Hugh Beauchamp, 2nd William Stafford, 3rd William Trumwyn; Margaret, married to Sir Richard Wilbraham, whose representative in 1273 and 1296 was Richard le Botiler; and Rose, who married, before 1269, John, son of John de Littlebury, who was dead and succeeded by his son William in 1273. The Littlebury interest in Sandon had vanished by 1284, but the Botiler interest in Sandon continued for some time. The above Warin de Vernon was son of another Warin de Vernon (c. 1195-1240) by Margaret, daughter and coheiress of Ralph d'Audeville, and grandson and heir of that Warin de Vernon (c. 1170-1249), who married Auda, a coheiress of the WichMalbanc Barony in 1190. The WichMalbanc Barony included both Sandon and Alstonefield, and William de Malbanc, the last Baron (d. 1190), got Sandon, I believe, in marriage with Auda Beauchamp; for Eyton has observed that Stephen de Beauchamp, probably the sheriff 1166-7, held Sandon. The Erdeswicks, as heirs of the Staffords, held Sandon till the reign of Charles I.

² S.C. IV. 202.

⁴ P.R.

³ S.C. IV. 209.

⁵ P.R.

Alton Castle, whence his grandsons, James and John, tried to release him *vi et armis*.¹ He was pardoned 19 March 1323.² The Stafford-Swynnerton and Stafford-Ipstones feuds, 1320-6, were principally carried on by his grandsons under his directions, and he was only not thrown into the Marshalsea in 1328 because the sheriff reported that he was "so old and infirm that he could not produce him."³ His son, William de S., junior, had married Isabel, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert de Stafford, by Gundred the heiress of Anslow,⁴ and had died leaving five sons—James,⁵ John,⁶ Edmund, William and Walter.⁷ Sir William the father was still alive in 1337 when he enfeoffed John de S., the second brother, in Bramshall, and even in 1339, when as William de S. "the elder" he was sued.⁸

He is a suitable M.P. to begin the list, for his Stafford descendants of Sandon; of Seile, Derby; of Grafton, Worces.; of Southwick, Northants; of Hook, Dorset; of Huncote, —; of Frome, Somerset, etc., supplied more M.P.s to Westminster than any other family name whatever; yet for 250 years they have been utterly extinct. He bore Arms: Silver, a chevron gules charged with five besants or.

(2) SIR WILLIAM DE MERE OF MAER AND NORTON-LE-MOORS,
M.P. STAFFS 1290, 1306, 1307-8.

Born *c.* 1245⁹; son and heir of Nicholas de M. of the same (*d.* 1263/6). He was knighted 1272/84; escheator 1290-2; Justice of Oyer 1305; *conservator pacis* 1314; sheriff, Staffordshire and Salop, 1314-5; collector of Subsidy, Staffordshire, 1319. He died in 1323, having alienated his estates

¹ S.C. VIII. 43; *ibid.* X. 49.

² *Close Rolls*.

³ S.C. XIV. 10.

⁴ S.C. IX. i. 20.

⁵ Parl. 1328 (1).

⁶ Parl. 1339 (1).

⁷ S.C. X. 40, 67; *ibid.* IX. i. 20.

⁸ S.C. XIV. 54; see also S.C. XI. 53, 62.

⁹ S.C. 1911. 349.

to the Audleys and Staffords, the last of his race.¹ In 1293 the Grand Jury present that William de Stafford, William de Mere and eighteen others are "common maintainers of false procurers in the King's Court, County Court and Hundred Courts, taking money from both sides, "*per quod veritas et justitia suffocantur.*" They were, however, acquitted, for in that day there was one law for the rich and another for the poor.

He bore Arms: Gules, a lion silver—the same arms as Simon de Montfort, save that Montfort's lion had a forked tail.

Parliament of 1294.

Summoned, by Writs of 8 October, to meet 12 November 1294. The sheriffs are directed to send from each shire four knights, two to consult and consent, two to hear and do. There is no mention of an election, and no burgesses were called for. No returns are extant. The sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop was still William de Tittle of Titley in Audlem.

Parliament of 1295.

Summoned, by Writs of 3 October, to meet 13 November 1295; prorogued, by Writs of 2 November, to meet 27 November 1295. This was the "Model Parliament," fully representative and elected. "As that which touches all must be approved by all," the sheriffs were to cause two knights, two citizens and two burgesses to be elected and returned. Thomas de Tittle was sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop.

County :	Henry de Creswall	..	..	(1)
	Richard Caverswall	..	..	(2)
	returned by Thomas de Tittle, sheriff.			
Stafford :	William Reyner	..	..	(3)
	John Beton	..	..	(4)

¹ S.C. XII. N.S. 26, and see *postea*, p. 21.

- (1) SIR HENRY DE CRESSWELL OF CRESSWELL BY STAFFORD,
M.P. Staffs 1295, 1302.

Born *c.* 1250; son and heir of Sir Thomas de C., lord of the same in 1243¹ (*d.* after 1274), by an heiress of Offley of which Sir Henry was lord in 1284.² He was knighted 1272-80³; and Coroner 1293-8.⁴ He conveyed Cresswell to his eldest son Henry by fine in 1310,⁵ and died soon after. It was probably his son of the same name who was in the wars from 1320 to 1342.

- (2) SIR RICHARD DE CAVERSWALL OF CAVERSWALL, M.P.
Staffs 1295.

Born *c.* 1255; son and heir of Sir William de C. of the same (*d.* 1292), who built the castle, by Mary, daughter and coheiress of Ralph de Dulverne (Dilhorn). He married Scolastica, daughter of Sir Robert Hastang of Chebsey. He was presented as of age and not yet a knight in 1294; knighted 1294. In 1295 he and Walter de Elmedon were appointed to collect the 10th and 15th in Staffordshire⁶; he served in Scotland in 1298; and was dead in 1299, being perhaps slain at Falkirk. He bore Arms: Silver, fretty azure, a fess gules. His son, Sir Richard C., also represented Staffordshire.⁷

- (3) WILLIAM REYNER, M.P. Stafford 1295, 1308-9, 1312 (2),
1313 (1), 1313 (3).

He was one of the "chief bailiffs" of Stafford in 1293,⁸ and is mentioned in Stafford in 1314.⁹ John Reyner of Shrewsbury was M.P. for Shrewsbury 1319, 1324, 1326, 1328 (twice), 1332; and Robert Reyner in 1353. These were probably related to William Reyner, the Stafford M.P. For his probable son, Nicholas Reyner, M.P., see Parl. 1327.

- (4) JOHN BETON, M.P. Stafford 1295. One of the Stafford
Jury in 1293.¹⁰

¹ S.C. 1911. 404.

³ S.C. V. i. 65; 1911. 174, 234.

⁴ S.C. VI. i. 256; 1911. 225.

⁵ S.C. 1911. 76.

⁷ Parl. 1313 (3).

⁹ S.C. X. 15.

² *Feud. Aids.*

⁶ *P.R.*

⁸ S.C. VI. i. 256.

¹⁰ S.C. VI. i. 256

Parliament of 1296-7.

Summoned, by Writs of 26 August, to meet at Bury 3 November 1296; dissolved January 1297. The elections for London took place 8 October 1296. This Parliament was summoned just as was that of 1295, but, except for the City of London, no Returns have been found. Sir Ralph de Shirley was sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop.

Parliament of 1297.

Summoned to meet 6 October 1297. Only representatives of the 37 counties were summoned to this Parliament which, according to Stubbs, "obtained the fullest recognition of its rights as representing the whole nation." The Returns for Salop, Staffordshire, Westmorland and Wilts are missing. The sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop was still Sir Ralph de Shirley.

Parliament of 1298.

Summoned, by Writs of 13 April, to meet at York 25 May 1298. This Parliament met before that expedition to Scotland which resulted in the battle of Falkirk, and the knights may have gone on to this battle.

County :	William de Stafford	..	..	(1)
	Henry Mauveysin	..	..	(2)
	returned by Thomas Corbet of Hadley, Salop, and of King's Bromley, sheriff.			

Stafford : marked "No Return made."

(1) SIR WILLIAM DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1290.

(2) SIR HENRY MAUVEYSIN OF MAUVEYSIN RIDWARE, M.P.
Staffs 1298, 1300, 1301.

Born *c.* 1260; son and heir of Sir Henry M. of the same

(*d. c.* 1285). He was knighted in or before 1290; served in Wales 1295; at Falkirk 1298; and again in Scotland 1301. He was lord of Mauveysin Ridware in the *Nomina Villarum* of 1316, but dead and succeeded by his son, Robert M., in 1320.¹ He bore Arms: Gules, two bendlets silver; or else, Gules, three bends silver²; *i.e.*, probably (originally) bendy silver and gules.

Parliament of 1300.

Summoned, by Writs of 29 December 1299, to meet at London 6 March; dissolved 10 March 1300. This Parliament disputed with the King over the Royal Forests, and obtained the provision that the counties should have the election of the Sheriff of every Shire where the Shrievalty was not in fee.

County: Ralph Basset	..	..	..	(1)
*Henry Mauveysin	..	..	..	(2)

returned by Thomas Corbet
of King's Bromley; sheriff.

(1) SIR RALPH BASSET OF SAPCOTE, LORD OF CHEADLE, M.P.
Staffs 1300, 1301.

Born *c.* 1260; son and heir of Sir Simon Basset of the same (*d.* 1294/5). He married (1) Elizabeth, eldest daughter and, in her issue, coheiress of Roger Colvill, Lord Colvill, by Margaret, daughter of Sir Richard Brewes; (2) 1295, Margaret, widow of Sir Urian de St. Pierre of Peckforton, Horsley, etc., Cheshire.³ He served in Scotland in 1300 and 1301 in the retinue of Hugh le Despencer, and he was summoned to the Bannockburn expedition of 1314, when the adherents of the Earl of Lancaster were omitted from the summons⁴; he was summoned north again in 1317, but I do not think he went. In 1318 he is the

¹ *P.R.*; *S.C.* 1911. 96; Hardy: *Tatenhill* I. 58.

² *Geneal.* V. N.S. 177.

³ *Geneal.* XXVIII. N.S. 128.

⁴ *S.C.* VIII. 34.

Ralph Basset "*senior*" who had letters of protection to serve in Scotland in the retinue of Sir Richard de Grey.¹ I think he was not an adherent of Lancaster. He died in 1322, and was succeeded by his son, Simon.² He bore Arms: Silver, three waves sable; and according to modern doctrines he was a peer, as his grandfather had been summoned to Simon de Montfort's Parliament of 1265.

(2) SIR HENRY MAUVEYSIN. See Parl. 1298.

Parliament of 1301.

Summoned, by Writs of 26 September 1300, to meet at Lincoln 20 January 1301; dissolved 30 January 1301. This Parliament also concerned itself with disafforestation. The Knights of the Shire were allowed their expenses; and, after they left, the Baronage sat on and sent their famous letter to the Pope. The same knights and burgesses were directed to be sent as were returned to the previous Parliament.³

County: *Ralph Basset of Sapecote .. (1)

*Henry Mauveysin (2)

returned by Richard de
Harley, the elected sheriff.

Stafford: Richard fil. Roger de Stafford.. (3)

Richard de Neuport (4)

(1) SIR RALPH BASSET. See Parl. 1300.

(2) SIR HENRY MAUVEYSIN. See Parl. 1298.

(3) RICHARD, SON OF ROGER, M.P. Stafford 1301.

Doubtless a burges of Stafford. I can find no trace of him elsewhere.

¹ S.C. VIII. 39. ² G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*: *Basset of Sapcote*.

³ The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were instructed to send (the former 4 or 5, the latter 2 or 3) persons "best versed in the civil law." There is no extant return from either, and neither received a writ again till the reign of James I (*Beaven*).

PEERAGE—

BASSET, BARON
of Drayton.

Ralph, *d.* 1211.

Ralph, *c.* 1190-125.

260 Ralph, *c.* 1220

Ralph, *c.* 1245-12

Ralph, *c.* 1280-13

Ralph Basset "*senior*" who had letters of protection to serve in Scotland in the retinue of Sir Richard de Grey.¹ I think he was not an adherent of Lancaster. He died in 1322, and was succeeded by his son, Simon.² He bore Arms: Silver, three waves sable; and according to modern doctrines he was a peer, as his grandfather had been summoned to Simon de Montfort's Parliament of 1265.

(2) SIR HENRY MAUVEYSIN. See Parl. 1298.

Parliament of 1301.

Summoned, by Writs of 26 September 1300, to meet at Lincoln 20 January 1301; dissolved 30 January 1301. This Parliament also concerned itself with disafforestation. The Knights of the Shire were allowed their expenses; and, after they left, the Baronage sat on and sent their famous letter to the Pope. The same knights and burgesses were directed to be sent as were returned to the previous Parliament.³

County: *Ralph Basset of Sapcote .. (1)

*Henry Mauveysin (2)

returned by Richard de
Harley, the elected sheriff.

Stafford: Richard fil. Roger de Stafford.. (3)

Richard de Neuport (4)

(1) SIR RALPH BASSET. See Parl. 1300.

(2) SIR HENRY MAUVEYSIN. See Parl. 1298.

(3) RICHARD, SON OF ROGER, M.P. Stafford 1301.

Doubtless a burgess of Stafford. I can find no trace of him elsewhere.

¹ S.C. VIII. 39. ² G.E.C. *Complete Peerage: Basset of Sapcote.*

³ The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were instructed to send (the former 4 or 5, the latter 2 or 3) persons "best versed in the civil law." There is no extant return from either, and neither received a writ again till the reign of James I (*Beaven*).

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLES OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE PEERAGE—THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

[To face p. 16.]

	STAFFORD, BARON OF. <i>Stafford Castle.</i>	CHESTER, EARL OF LANCASTER, EARL OF <i>(Newcastle Castle.)</i>	DERBY, EARLS OF <i>(Tutbury Castle)</i> FERRENS, BARON OF. <i>(Charley Castle)</i>	VERDON, BARONS <i>(Hill Castle)</i>	BASSET, BARONS <i>of Drayton.</i>	AUDLEY, BARONS. <i>(Holegh Castle)</i>	SOMERY BARONS <i>(Dudley Castle.)</i>	BISHOPS OF LICHFIELD. <i>(Eccleshall Castle.)</i>
1191/3	Hervey Bagot.	1181 Randle, c. 1170-1232.	1190 William de Ferrers, c. 1170-1247.	1192 Thomas, c. 1160-1199. 1199 Nicholas, c. 1165-1228.	1160 Ralph, d. 1211.	c. 1170 Adam de Audley.	1193 Ralph de Somery, d. 1210.	1198 Geoffrey de Muschamp.
1200						c. 1207 Henry, c. 1175-1246.		
1210	c. 1211 Hervey, c. 1194-1237.				1211 Ralph, c. 1190-1254/61.		1210 William, c. 1195-1222.	1215 William de Cornhill.
1220				1218 Rose (le Botiler), c. 1195-1247.			1222 Nicholas, c. 1220-1229.	1224 Alexander de Stavenby.
1230		1232 John Scot, d. 1237.	(1232 inherited <i>Charley</i> .)				1239 Roger, c. 1200-1273.	
1240	1237 Hervey, c. 1217-1240. 1240 Robert, c. 1219-1261.	1237 in abeyance		1247 John (Verdon), c. 1245-1274.		1246 James, c. 1220-1272.		1240 Hugh de Patshull. 1245 Roger de Weseham.
1250			1247 William, Earl, c. 1194-1240. 1249 Robert, Earl, 1230-1279.					1258 Roger de Meuland.
1260	1261 Nicholas, 1251-1287.	1264 Simon de Montfort, had New- castle. 1266 Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, 1245-1296 (had <i>Tutbury Castle</i> also).	(1265 lost Earldom and <i>Tutbury</i> .)		c. 1260 Ralph, c. 1220-1265. 1265 Ralph, c. 1245-1290.			
1270				1274 Theobald, 1248-1309.		1272 James, 1250-1273. 1273 Henry, 1251-1275. 1275 William, 1254-1282.	1273 Roger, 1255-1291.	
1280	1287 Edmund, 1273-1308		1279 John de Ferrers, 1271-1324. Lord Ferrers.			1282 Nicholas, 1258-1299.		
1290		1296 THOMAS, EARL, 1277-1322.			1299 Ralph, c. 1280-1313.	1299 Thomas, 1288-1307	1291 John, c. 1285-1321.	1296 Walter de Langton.
1300	1308 Ralph, 1301-1372.			1300 Theobald, c. 1280-1316		1307 Nicholas, 1289-1316.		

(4) RICHARD from NEWPORT, M.P. Stafford 1301.

Probably a burgess of Stafford. Of him also there is no trace elsewhere.

Parliament of 1302.

Summoned, by Writs of 20 July, to meet at London 29 September 1302; prorogued, by Writs of 13 September, to meet at Westminster 14 October 1302; dissolved 21 October 1302.

County :	Henry de Cressewell	..	..	(1)
	William Tromewyne	..	..	(2)
	returned by Richard de Harley, sheriff.			

(1) SIR HENRY DE CRESWELL. See Parl. 1295.

(2) SIR WILLIAM TRUMEWYNE OF CANNOCK, M.P. Staffs 1302, 1305, 1316 (1), 1316 (2).

Born *c.* 1260; son and heir of Sir William T. of the same (*d.* 1296), by Auda (*d.* 1276/9), sister and coheirress of Warin de Vernon of Sandon, and widow of Sir William de Stafford. He was half-brother, therefore, of Sir William de Stafford, M.P.,¹ of whom he seems to have held part of Sandon.² He was hereditary bailiff of Cheslyn Hay in Cannock. He was married to Emma, possibly his second wife, in 1309. He filled every public office—*Custos Pacis*, 1307–14; Collector of Subsidy, 1307–16; Commissioner of Array, 1316; all for Staffordshire. He was also *Custos* of the Castle of Criccieth and sheriff of Carnarvon 1309 to 4 November 1316.³ He died in 1317,⁴ and was succeeded at Cannock by his son, William T., then aged 27. For his brother, Sir Roger T., see Parliament of 1312, and

¹ Parl. 1290.

² S.C. VI. i. 142, 146, 276; *ibid.* 1911, 239.

³ P.R. and C.R.

⁴ I.p.m.; S.C. 1911, 340.

for his younger son, Sir John T., see Parliament of 1352 (2).
He bore Arms : Sable, a saltire engrailed, gold.

Parliament of 1305.

Summoned, by Writs of 12 November 1304, to meet 16 February 1305; prorogued by Writs of 22 January to meet 28 February 1305; dissolved 28 March 1305. "The Commons" were first mentioned in this Parliament. The king thanked "Les chevalers des countez, citizyns et burgys et autre gens qui sont venue a cest Parlement."

County :	*William Tromwyne	..	..	(1)
	Philip de Barynton	..	..	(2)
	returned by John de Acton, sheriff.			
Stafford :	John fil. William de Pikstok	..	..	(3)
	Philip le Goldsmith	..	..	(4)
Lichfield :	Vincent de Hulton	..	..	(5)
	Nicholas the clerk	..	..	(6)

(1) SIR WILLIAM TRUMEWYNE. See Parl. 1302.

(2) SIR PHILIP DE BARINGTON OF CREIGHTON, M.P. Staffs 1305, 1324.

Born *c.* 1265; son and heir of Philip de B. of the same (*d.* 1282/93), by Amabel, "the lady of Creighton" (*d.* 1316).¹ He was a companion in arms of Theobald, Baron de Verdon, in Ireland, and was knighted with him on his return to England, 24 June 1298.² He married Eleanor, who died in 1327,³ and seems to have had no issue. He took part in the attack on the Despencers and was pardoned August 1321; but on 15 March 1322 he is one of those specially ordered to arrest the Lancastrians in several counties,—specifically, Sir William Trussel.⁴ He, however, must have adhered to Lancaster,

¹ S.C. 1911. 30; *Crox. Abbey Chron.*

² *Crox. Abbey Chron.*

³ *Crox. Abbey Chron.*

⁴ P.R.

for on 20 May he is again pardoned, though his lands are escheated. He was restored to favour, for he sat in the 1324 Parliament; he took part in the Stafford-Ipstones feud 1325-6, and fought on the side of Ipstones.¹ He died 7 September 1326.² Creighton is close to Alton and was held of the Verdon barony. He bore Arms: Silver, a sable lion with-forked tail and a gold fleuret on its shoulder.

(3) JOHN DE PIGSTOCK, M.P. Stafford 1305, 1320, 1330, 1334.

Born *c.* 1270; son of William de P. Pigstock is a farm house some few miles west of Stafford. John de P. is mentioned as under age in 1289.³ He was a prosperous wool-buyer of Stafford,⁴ and lord of Dunston in Penkrige in 1316.⁵ He was a sub-taxer for Stafford in 1323⁶; an associate of the Staffords in the feuds 1326⁷; a Justice of Gaol Delivery at Stafford in 1330⁸; acted as agent for Lord Stafford while the latter was in France 1339⁹; and is mentioned continually in the rolls down to 1341. He bought an estate at Whet-hales, near Stafford, and was dead in 1348.

(4) PHILIP THE GOLDSMITH, M.P. Stafford, 1305, 1306, 1307-8.

(5) VINCENT DE HULTON, M.P. Lichfield, 1305.

(6) NICHOLAS THE CLERK, M.P. Lichfield, 1305.

I know nothing of these first two members for Lichfield; but "the clerk" may be the "Town Clerk" or "Common Clerk" of Lichfield.

Parliament of 1306.

Summoned, by Writs of 5 April, to meet 30 May, 1306; dissolved, apparently, the same day. The Prince of Wales, and 300 others, had been knighted on 22 May, and this

¹ S.C. X. 71.

³ S.C. VI. i. 191.

⁵ *Nom. Vill.*

⁷ C.R.

² *Crox. Abbey Chron.*

⁴ S.C. XII. 54.

⁶ S.C. IX. 95.

⁹ *Addl. Ch. B.M.* 19842.

⁸ S.C. XIV. 21.

Parliament was called to consider the grant for the knighting of the King's son. From 24 smaller boroughs only one representative was asked for, and Stafford only sent one.

County :	William de Stafford	..	..	(1)
	William de Mere	..	..	(2)
	returned by John de Dene, sheriff.			
Stafford :	*Philip le Goldsmith	..	..	(3)

(1) SIR WILLIAM DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1290.

(2) SIR WILLIAM DE MERE. See Parl. 1290.

(3) PHILIP LE GOLDSMITH. See Parl. 1305.

Parliament of 1307.

Summoned, by Writs of 3 November 1306, to meet at Carlisle 20 January 1307; dissolved 10 March 1307. The King was then on his way to Scotland, where he died on 7 July 1307.

County :	Robert de Staundon	..	..	(1)
	Robert de Ditton	..	..	(2)
	returned by John de Dene, sheriff.			

(1) SIR ROBERT DE STANDON OF STANDON AND FENTON-VIVIAN, M.P. Staffs 1307.

Born *c.* 1235; son (or nephew) and heir of Sir Vivian de S. of the same (*d.* 1250). He was probably a crusader in 1270-2; knighted before 1280; sheriff of Merioneth 1284¹; Justice of North Wales 1292²; one of the coroners for Staffordshire 1293; served in Scotland 1298 and 1303; elected with Sir William de Stafford and Sir Robert de Pype to assess the 15th in Staffordshire in 1301 and 1302³; M.P. 1307. He married Margaret —, ⁴ and was dead and succeeded by his son Vivian de S. ⁵ (*b.* 1262) in 1316. He bore Arms: Quarterly, silver and gules fretty gold, a bendlet azure. His father, Sir Vivian, seems to

¹ *Welsh Rolls.*

² *S.C.* VIII. 14.

³ *P.R.*

⁴ *S.C.* 1914, 53.

⁵ *S.C.* 1911. 349.

have sealed without any bendlet, and indeed these arms, with a bend instead of a bendlet, are those of the Despencer House.

(2) SIR ROBERT DE DUTTON OF MAER (part) AND ROWNALL, M.P. Staffs 1307, 1308-9, 1315, 1319, 1321, 1328, 1328-9, 1334.

Born *c.* 1265; younger son of Sir Thomas de D. of Dutton, Chester (justice of Chester, 1268, *d.* 1269/72), by Philippa, daughter of Vivian de Standon and heiress of the Rownalls and a quarter of Maer, who was living in 1295. Mention of him occurs in 1284; and he was knighted in or before 1293. He married, *c.* 1295, Agnes, daughter and heiress of Sir William de Mere, M.P., of Maer and Norton;¹ and he is reported to have murdered his brother-in-law, Hugh de Mere, in order to get the inheritance,² some time between 1307 and 1314,³ He was one of those summoned for the Bannockburn campaign in 1314; and in August 1321 he was pardoned for taking part with Lancaster against the Despenchers.⁴ He died soon after 1334. His fellow member, Sir Robert de Standon, was his uncle. He bore Arms: Quarterly, silver and gules fretty gold, a label azure of five points.⁵ These Arms may be compared with those of the great House of Despencer: Quarterly, silver and gules fretty gold, over all a bend,—worn by Hugh Despencer, the Justiciar, who was slain at Evesham.

¹ Parl. 1290.

² S.C. XII. N.S. 26.

³ S.C. 1911. 69.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ *I.e.*, his mother's arms, differenced by a label.

EDWARD II.

8 July 1307.

Parliament of 1307-8.

Summoned, by Writs of 26 August, to meet at Northampton 13 October 1307; lasted, probably, till January 1308.

County :	William de Stafford	..	..	(1)
	William de Mere	..	..	(2)
	returned by John de Dene, sheriff.			
Stafford :	Philip le Goldsmith	..	..	(3)
	Simon de Neupert	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR WILLIAM DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1290.

(2) SIR WILLIAM DE MERE. See Parl. 1290.

(3) PHILIP LE GOLDSMITH. See Parl. 1305.

(4) SIMON DE NEWPORT, M.P. Stafford 1307-8.

He is mentioned as "Simon, son of Roger de Neupert of Stafford" in 1295,¹ and 1309.² This Newport family were repeatedly M.P.s in Stafford. They too seem to have been wool merchants.

Parliament of 1308.

Summoned, by Writs of 19 January, to meet 3 March 1308. No Returns have been found at all; only a writ for expenses for two knights for Wiltshire.

Parliament of 1309.

Summoned, by Writs of 4 March, to meet 27 April 1309; dissolved 13 May 1309. This Parliament was very active in

¹ S.C. VII. 30.

² S.C. 1911. 60.

demanding redress of grievances, *i.e.*, purveyance, the granting of writs of protection and the sale of pardons. These, it will be observed, are grievances of the commons. According to Hemmingford this was an adjournment of the preceding Parliament, a conclusion confirmed by the Wilts Returns.

County :	Robert de Dutton	..	..	(1)
	Robert de Tok	..	..	(2)
	returned by Hugh de Croft			
	or by John L'estrange of			
	Knockyn, sheriff.			
Stafford :	William Reyner	..	..	(3)
	Simon de Stafford	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR ROBERT DE DUTTON. See Parl. 1307.

(2) SIR ROBERT DE TOK OF ANSLOW, M.P. Derbyshire 1302, Staffs 1308-9, 1311, 1312 (2), 1316 (1), Derbyshire 1320, Staffs 1321.

Born *c.* 1270; son and heir of Roger de T.¹ (*d.* 1287). He married, in or before 1305,² Ermentrude, daughter and coheirress of Robert de Stafford, by Gundred, heiress of Anslow, who died *c.* 1308.³ He was under age in 1287, of age in 1297. He served in Scotland 1301; and was knighted in or before 1308.⁴ He followed Lancaster, his over-lord at Anslow, but he was not at Boroughbridge, and came to terms so soon after that he is found in 1322 to be keeper of the escheated estates of the rebels in Derbyshire.⁵ He was still living at Anslow in 1332. He bore Arms: Barry, silver and sable.

(3) WILLIAM REYNER. See Parl. 1295.

(4) SIMON OF STAFFORD, M.P. Stafford 1308-9.

Simon was a common name in Stafford. He may be the Simon de Stafford of Bramshall, mention of whom occurs at Bramshall in 1327 and 1332 in the tax rolls. If so he was a retainer of Sir William de Stafford of Bramshall.

¹ S.C. VI. i. 169.

² S.C. 1911. 62.

³ S.C. I. N.S. 280.

⁴ P.R. 1318.

⁵ C.R.

Parliament of 1311-2.

Summoned, by Writs of 16 June, to meet 8 August 1311; prorogued from 10 October till 12 November 1311; and from 19 December 1311 till its dissolution 10 January 1312. This Parliament was called by the Lords Ordainers, Lancaster and the Earls, who had control of the Government. Gaveston was banished.

County : William de Stafford (1)

*Robert Tok (2)

returned by Hugh de Croft,
sheriff.

Stafford : William de Wolaston (3)

Nicholas the Barber (4)

Lichfield : Nicholas de Rothewell (5)

Reginald de Budel (6)

in the autumn session

John de Brustow (7)

was sent instead of Rothwell.

(1) SIR WILLIAM DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1290.

(2) SIR ROBERT DE TOK. See Parl. 1309.

(3) WILLIAM DE WOLASTON, M.P. Stafford 1311-2.

Born *c.* 1270. He is mentioned as on a jury at Stafford in 1290¹; and again in 1298.² He had land at Burton,³ and was summoned to Scotland as "William W. of Stafford" on 9 August, 1314.⁴ That he was summoned to the wars shows that he was not purely a burgess. Perhaps the townspeople were glad to have a volunteer for Westminster and he glad to oblige his friends.⁵

(4) NICHOLAS THE BARBER, M.P. Stafford 1311-2.

This man was bailiff of Stafford in 1325.⁶ He was the first

¹ S.C. 1911. 198.

² S.C. VII. 48. ⁶ S.C. X. 69.

³ S.C. VI. i. 50.

⁴ S.C. VIII. 34; *ibid.* IX. 19.

⁵ For his descendant see Parl. 1368. Mr. Pink refers me to the family of Wollaston of Shenton, Leic., descended, according to Burke, *Hist. of Commoners*, from lords of Wollaston, Staffs, *temp.* Ed. III. It may well be that the M.P. is the ancestor of this ancient family.

of a family that flourished in Stafford for two hundred years. Perhaps he really was a barber, the barber to the lord Stafford whom later tradition ascribed as ancestor of the house.

(5) NICHOLAS DE ROTHWELL, M.P. Lichfield 1311.

Of this man I know nothing. Rothwell is in Northamptonshire; but a John de Rothwell was "of Lichfield" in 1327.¹

(6) REGINALD LE BUDEL, M.P. Lichfield 1311-2, 1313.

Budel is very probably a corruption of Beadle, and he was certainly named after his office and not after a place.

(7) JOHN DE BRISTOL, M.P. Lichfield 1311-12, 1312 (2).

"Brustow" and "Brustollia" show that he came from Bristol to the cathedral city. It is noteworthy that he seems to have been sent in another man's place without any fresh Writ being issued. That this could be done shows that there was little or no verifying of the delegate's authority to sit, or perhaps it shows that this was no proper prorogation of Parliament but the summoning of a "repeat."

Parliament of 1312 (2).

Summoned to meet at Westminster 13 February 1312, but Summons revoked before the return.² There is one return (of two members for the county of Cornwall) extant. "The remainder of the return is torn off" (I presume the Sheriff of Cornwall's return included his boroughs.—*Beaven*).

Parliament of 1312 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 15 February, to meet at Lincoln 23 July 1312; prorogued, by Writs of 8 July, to 20 August 1312, at Westminster; held two sessions; dissolved 16 December 1312. It was summoned by the Lords Ordainers after

¹ See Parl. of 1321 under (5) Thomas de Pipe.

² *Rot. Claus.* Edward II, m 17d. and m 15d.

Lancaster's murder of Gaveston at Blacklôw Hill. It seems actually to have remained in session for nearly four months.

County :	Roger Trumwyne	..	..	(1)
	*Robert Tok	..	..	(2)
	returned by Sir Hugh de Audley the elder, sheriff.			
Stafford :	William Reyner	..	..	(3)
	John de London	..	..	(4)
Lichfield :	*John de Brustollia	..	..	(5)
	Robert Michel	..	..	(6)

(1) SIR ROGER TRUMEWYNE, M.P. Staffs 1312 (2), 1313 (1), 1313 (2).

Born 1262¹; second son of Sir William T. (bailiff of Cheslyn Hay, *d.* 1296), by Auda, sister and coheirress of Warin de Vernon of Sandon. His brother was Sir William Trumewyne, M.P.,² and his half-brother Sir William de Stafford, M.P.³ He was enfeoffed in part of Sandon in 1288—probably of Hardwick Heath.⁴ He married, in or before 1299, Jane, daughter of Sir Robert Corbet and widow of Owen ap Gryffyn de la Pole,⁵ who was still his wife in 1323, and sealed as his widow in 1333.⁶ He was constantly engaged in feuds with Gryffyn de la Pole and her relations about her lands in Wales, 1309–12.⁷ He was sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop 1307–8, 1316–7, 1317–8, his third term of office being interrupted by his imprisonment at Easter,⁸ though by May he was restored to the shrievalty.⁹ It seems he had committed certain excesses, notably the release of a certain murderer, John de Vallibus. He was pardoned for acting against the Despencers in 1321, and again made his peace with the King after Boroughbridge, 1322. He rioted in the Stafford-Ipstones feud on the side of his half-brother, Sir William de Stafford, in 1322. He died 1325/33, and was

¹ S.C. 1911. 349.

³ Parl. 1290.

⁵ C.R. 1299; Prince of Powys.

⁷ P.R.

⁹ C.R.

² Parl. 1302.

⁴ Harwood: *Erdeswick*, 200.

⁶ *Havl. MS.* 1077. fol. 21.

⁸ S.C. X. 39.

succeeded by his son Roger, Commissioner of Array in 1342, who died in 1362, leaving his sister Katherine, who was married to Sir John Musard, M.P.,¹ the sole heiress of the Trumewynes of Cannock and Sandon. From his widow's seal I judge that his arms were vair, but of the tinctures I know nothing. I am not sure that he was a knight.

(2) SIR ROBERT DE TOK. See Parl. 1309.

(3) WILLIAM REYNER. See Parl. 1295.

(4) JOHN DE LONDON OF STAFFORD, M.P. Stafford 1312 (2), 1313.

Evidently a Stafford burgess.

(5) JOHN DE BRISTOL. See Parl. 1311-2.

(6) ROBERT MICHEL, M.P. Lichfield 1312 (2).

Of this man I know nothing. A William Michel was M.P. for Derbyshire 1326, 1328, 1332, 1337; and for Roger Michel of Breaston, Derby, M.P. Derby and Staffordshire, see Parliament of 1346; but there is nothing to show that these were any connection of the Lichfield burgess.

Parliament of 1313 (1).

Summoned by Writs of 8 January, to meet 18 March 1313; held two sessions; dissolved 9 May 1313. Lancaster at this time was supreme.

County :	*Roger Trumwyne	..	..	(1)
	Robert de Bures	..	..	(2)
	returned by Hugh de Audley the elder, sheriff. (An ally of Lancaster.)			
Stafford :	*William Reyner	..	..	(3)
	John le Mareschal	..	..	(4)
Lichfield :	Reginald le Budel	..	..	(5)
	William de Hampton	..	..	(6)

¹ Parl. 1354.

- (1) SIR ROGER TRUMEWYNE. See Parl. 1312.
- (2) SIR ROBERT DE BURES OF CHARTLEY, M.P. Staffs 1313 (1), 1313 (2). (His name should be BOWERS, and he came from that place in Suffolk.)

Born *c.* 1255. By 1301 he was married to Isabel, widow of Sir Robert de Somerville of Wichnor¹; and by 1313 to Hillary, widow of John de Hudeboville.² In 1276 he had leased Chartley from Robert de Ferrers for a fee farm rent of £40 *per annum*, which manor was regranted to him in 1294 by John de Ferrers for his life in exchange for Great Bowers, Suffolk.³ He was a King's yeoman to King Edward I⁴; keeper of Cannock 1284-1306; went beyond the seas with Eleanor, the King's daughter, 1294, when she went to marry Henri, Comte de Bar⁵; and was constantly in the King's service as Justice of Gaol Delivery and Commissioner from 1302 to 1324.⁶ He was knighted in or before 1306, and served in the King's retinue in the wars of 1306 and 1307.⁷ I think he had some connection with the House of Clare, for he was steward of the Honor of Clare 1314-22; he was a Commissioner and a J.P. for Suffolk 1316-22; and he was made keeper of the escheated lands of the Honor of Clare in Norfolk and Suffolk in 1322.⁸ As "Robert de B. senior" he held Chartley in 1315,⁹ and he died in 1324, being succeeded by a son of the same name. He bore Arms: Sable, a bend vair, gold and gules—arms, it will be observed, which are taken from the vair, gold and gules, of Ferrers of Chartley.

- (3) WILLIAM REYNER. See Parl. 1295.
- (4) JOHN THE MARSHALL, M.P. Stafford 1313 (1), 1313 (3).

In 1293 John le Marshall "of Stafford" sues for land in

¹ S.C. VII. 80.

³ P.R.

⁵ P.R.

⁷ P.R.

⁹ S.C. 1911. 326.

² P.R.

⁴ C.R. 1318.

⁶ C.R. and P.R.

⁸ C.R.

Penkrige¹; and he was living in Stafford in 1327.² It is possible that he was some relation of Marshall of Aston-by-Stone, or of Marshall of Colton; but I think he was just the marshall, shoeingsmith, ironmonger of Stafford.

(5) REGINALD LE BUDEL. See Parl. 1311-2.

(6) WILLIAM DE HAMPTON, M.P. Lichfield 1313 (1).

Such a man is mentioned in Lichfield in 1306,³ and in 1315.⁴ He was attorney for Henry de Bushbury in 1314,⁵ which makes one think he may have been a lawyer; he was probably dead in 1317.⁶

Parliament of 1313 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 23 May, to meet 8 July 1313; dissolved 27 July 1313.

County :	*Roger Tromwyne	(1)
	*Robert de Bures	(2)
	returned by Hugh de Audley the elder, sheriff.	
Stafford :	John de London of Stafford ..	(3)
	Simon Trumwyne	(4)
Lichfield :	John fil. Robert de Lichfield ..	(5)
	Adam le Parmenter	(6)

(1) SIR ROGER TRUMWYNE. See Parl. 1312.

(2) SIR ROBERT DE BURES. See Parl. 1313 (1).

(3) JOHN DE LONDON. See Parl. 1312.

(4) SIMON TRUMWYNE, M.P. Stafford 1313 (2), 1327, 1328.

¹ S.C. VI. i. 298.

³ S.C. VII. 129.

⁵ S.C. 1911. 86.

² S.C. VII. i. 214; *ibid.* 1911. 226.

⁴ S.C. 1911. 328.

⁶ S.C. IX. 73.

He was *custos* of the gaol of Stafford in 1318,¹ and was probably a cadet of the knightly house of Trumewyne of Cannock.²

- (5) JOHN fil. ROBERT DE LICHFIELD, M.P. Lichfield 1313 (2).³
 (6) ADAM LE PARMENTER, M.P. Lichfield 1313 (2).

I can find nothing of these men, both burgesses.

Parliament of 1313 (3).

Summoned, by Writs of 26 July, to meet 23 September 1313; dissolved 15 November 1313. There was a reconciliation between Lancaster and the Despensers. On October 16th a general pardon was issued to the earls and to 469 named followers.

County :	William de Stafford	(1)
	Richard de Cavereswell ..	(2)
	returned by Hugh de Audley, sheriff.	
Stafford :	John le Marshall	(3)
	William Reiner	(4)
Lichfield :	William de Lichfield	(5)
	Richard de Lichfield	(6)

¹ S.C. X. 48.

² In 1314 Alexander de Swynnerton, afterwards murdered by the Staffords of Sandon, sued the following for beating and insulting him in Stafford:—Simon Rondulf of Stafford, John le Marshall, Richard Sabyn, Nicholas de Pikestock, John de Hughcesdon (Hixon), William Reyner, Simon Trumewyne and others. They were burghers of Stafford. This is not a solitary instance. Again and again the burghers of Stafford are to be found making it unpleasant for the other side; but it is not often that so large a proportion of the rioters consists of past or prospective M.P.s. We may suppose that they did not at any rate select the quietest and most worthy burgesses to represent them at Westminster. S.C. X. 15.

³ Mr. Fowler Carter suggests that he was a Swynfen, referring to Visitation of Co. Leicester (*Harl. Soc.*) and to Wrottesley's *Plea Roll Pedigrees*.

- (1) SIR WILLIAM DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1290.
 (2) SIR RICHARD DE CAVERSWALL OF CAVERSWALL AND
 DILHORN, M.P. Staffs 1313 (3).

Born *c.* 1285; son and heir of Sir Richard de C. of the same, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1298/9), by Scolastica (Hastang). He was under age in 1299; married, in or before 1309, to Jane, daughter and coheir of Sir William de Erccall of High Erccall, Salop; knighted by 1315; and dead in 1324. His grandson, Sir Peter de C., was M.P. for Salop in 1380, 1382, and 1384. He bore Arms: Silver, fretty azure, a fess gules.

- (3) JOHN LE MARSHALL. See Parl. 1313 (1).
 (4) WILLIAM REYNER. See Parl. 1295.
 (5) WILLIAM DE LICHFIELD, M.P. Lichfield 1313 (3).
 (6) RICHARD DE LICHFIELD, M.P. Lichfield 1313 (3).

I cannot identify either of these burgesses of Lichfield.

Parliament of 1314 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 26 November 1313, to meet 21 April 1314. No Returns have been found save a Writ and Return for Cornwall (County and three boroughs). This Parliament did not meet, the King being unable to hold the same. Such members as had been elected were therefore discharged from attendance.

Parliament of 1314 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 29 July, to meet at York 9 September 1314; dissolved 28 September 1314. This Parliament was held after Bannockburn, and Edward II had to submit to Lancaster. The Despencers went into hiding. No Returns have been found for Cumberland, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire

¹ Parl. 1295.

and Sussex. Hugh de Audley was still sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop.

Parliament of 1315.

Summoned, by Writs of 23 October 1314, to meet 20 January 1315; dissolved 9 March 1315. Lancaster and the earls regulated the King's household and fixed his salary at £10 a day.

County :	Robert de Dotton	..	..	(1)
	John de Perton	..	..	(2)
	returned by Sir William de Mere, ¹ sheriff.			
Stafford :	Simon de Melewys	..	..	(3)
	John le Somenour	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR ROBERT DE DUTTON. See Parl. 1307 (1).

(2) JOHN DE PERTON OF PERTON, M.P. Staffs 1315.

Born 1262; son and heir of William de P. of the same (*d.* 1280).² They held Perton by grand serjeanty of serving in Wales, and had land in Trescot and Tettenhall also.³ John de P. was a collector of subsidy in 1313, 1315, 1316, 1319⁴; Commissioner of Array in 1317⁵; chief taxer in 1323—all of Staffordshire.⁶ He supported Stafford in the Stafford-Ipstones feud 1325-6; and he died in 1331,⁷ leaving William P. his heir (*d.* 1360), the father of Sir John de P., M.P.⁸ John de P. was not a knight and does not appear to have borne Arms. But his son, William, is called a "*magister*" when he was made escheator in 1317,⁹ during his father's lifetime, and when he was but 21 years old.

(3) SIMON DE MILWICH, M.P. Stafford 1315, 1319, 1321, 1322.

Born *c.* 1260. As "Simon, son of Thomas de Milwich,"

¹ Parl. 1290.

³ S.C. IX. 89.

⁵ S.C. VIII. 37.

⁷ I.p.m.

⁹ S.C. 1913. 296.

² I.p.m.

⁴ P.R.

⁶ S.C. VIII. 95.

⁸ Parl. 1352 (1).

he was sued for dower by his father's widow in 1295¹; and in 1310 he was suing for some of his father's lands in Milwich.² He married, 1279, Alice, daughter of William Gilbert, and from 1329 to 1340 she, as his widow, was suing for the execution of a settlement made so long before as 1279.³ The families of Milwich, Gilbert and Pigstock supplied many M.P.s to Stafford, and they all seem to have had landed interests in the county at some distance from the town they represented.⁴

(4) JOHN LE SOMENOUR, M.P. Stafford 1315, 1318.

Of him I know nothing. He sounds like a municipal official.

Parliament of 1316 (I).

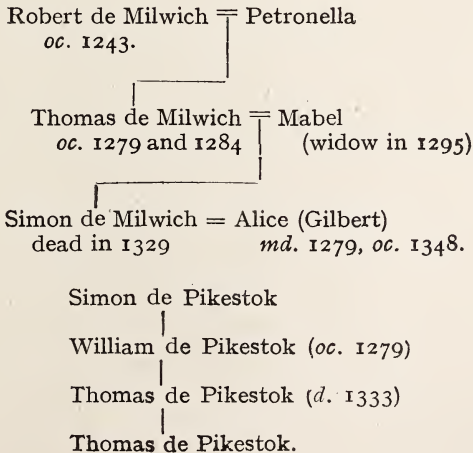
Summoned, by Writs of 16 October 1315, to meet at Lincoln 27 January 1316; dissolved 20 February 1316. Lancaster was still supreme.

¹ S.C. VII. 30.

² S.C. IX. 23.

³ S.C. 1911. 34; *ibid.* XI. 13; *ibid.* XII. 74.

⁴ The law suits connected with these lands give the following pedigrees:—



County : William Trumwyn (1)
 Robert de Tok (2)
 returned by Roger de Cheigny,
 sheriff, who fought on Lan-
 caster's side at Boroughbridge,
 1322.

(1) SIR WILLIAM TRUMEWYNE, See Parl. 1302.

(2) SIR ROBERT DE TOK. See Parl. 1309.

Parliament of 1316 (2).

Summoned to meet 25 April 1316. Lancaster was still supreme. Probably only Knights of the Shire were summoned.

County : Thomas le Rous (1)
 John de Barre (2)
 returned by Roger de Cheigny,
 of China-Longvill, Salop, sheriff.

(1) SIR THOMAS LE ROUS OF WALSALL, M.P. Staffs 1316 (2),
 1316 (3).

Born *c.* 1280; son of Margery, heiress of Walsall. From 1296 to 1300 Margery was being tried for the murder of her husband. It appears that in 1290 the half manor of Walsall had been granted to John Paynel and Margery his wife for life, with reversion, on the death of Margery, to her son, Thomas le Rous. (In 1212 William le Rous held Walsall of the Crown at a fee farm rent of £4 a year.¹) The mother was acquitted, but by 1304 her son had succeeded her at Walsall. He was knighted in or before 1316; served in all the wars from 1306 to 1345; was sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire 1321-2, and while sheriff raised, together with Sir Ralph de Grendon, a body of troops in Warwick to fight for the King against Lancaster, January 1322.² He was Commissioner of Array for Staffordshire in 1325,³ and died soon after 1345.

¹ S.C. 1911. 385.

² P.R.

³ P.R.

He bore Arms : Ermine, on a chief endented gules, two escallops silver. Cf. Arms of Okeover.

(2) JOHN DE BARRE OF LITTLE (OR PERRY) BARR, M.P. Staffs 1316 (2).

Born c. 1281 ; son of Robert de B. of the same (dead in 1292) by Cecily.¹ He is mentioned at Bart in 1303,² 1307, 1316, and 1332 ; and he is found serving on a jury in 1322.³ He was never a knight, bore no Arms, and seems altogether to have been a most inconsiderable man to send to Parliament from the county. As he came from close by Walsall I imagine that Rous took him up with him, possibly as his squire.

Parliament of 1316 (3).

Summoned to meet at Lincoln 29 July 1316 ; dissolved 5 August 1316. Only Knights of the Shire were summoned. Lancaster was still supreme.

County : *Thomas le Rous, miles (1)
 William Trumwyne, miles.. .. (2)
 returned by Roger de Cheigny,
 sheriff.

(1) SIR THOMAS LE ROUS. See Parl. 1316 (2).

(2) SIR WILLIAM TRUMEWYNE. See Parl. 1302.

Parliament of 1318 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 20 November 1317, to meet at Lincoln, 27 January 1318 ; but, by Writs of 4 January, prorogued to 12 March, and then, by Writs of 3 March, to 19 June ; revoked altogether on 8 June 1318 on account of the invasion of the Scots. Only two county Returns have come down to us (Devon and Wilts, with four boroughs in each).

¹ S.C. 1911. 36.

² S.C. VII. 107.

³ S.C. 1911. 352.

Parliament of 1318 (2).

Summoned by Writs of 26 August 1318, to meet at York 20 October 1318; dissolved 9 December 1318. This Parliament was called after the civil war between Lancaster and Warrenne; Lancaster was still supreme, but Parliament appointed Hugh Despencer, junior, to be Chamberlain.

County :	William de Stafford, miles	..	(1)
	Robert de Grendon	.. ..	(2)
	returned by Peter de Lymesy, of Arley, Warwick, ¹ sheriff.		
Stafford :	Richard Sabyn	.. ..	(3)
	John le Somenour	.. ..	(4)

(1) SIR WILLIAM DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1290.

(2) SIR ROBERT DE GRENDON OF MILWICH, M.P. Staffs 1318 (2), 1320.

Ralph, Lord Grendon, was the contemporary lord of Grendon, Warwickshire, and of Shenstone; Robert was a cadet of this house, for in 1300 he was being sued by Isabel, widow of Sir Ralph, for land in Grendon; but he owes his prominence to his services to the Crown.

Born *c.* 1275. He was knighted in or before 1298; and served in many wars from 1297 to 1324. He fought in Wales 1315, and was appointed sheriff of Glamorgan and Morgannou, March 1316, and was steward there of the lands of Clare; in September 1316 he was with the King at York.² He adhered to Lancaster and had a general pardon with the rest in November 1318, being immediately appointed sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop. Both these favours may have been due to his having been present in this 1318 Parliament. As sheriff he returned himself in 1320; and he was not removed from being sheriff until January 1322, when the King made his final effort to throw off Lancaster. Grendon seems to have kept clear of the Boroughbridge campaign and later in 1322 went off to Scotland in the retinue of John de Somery,

¹ Blakaway, *Sheriffs of Salop.*

² *P.R.*

Lord of Dudley.¹ By February 1323 he had been made the King's Marshall of the Hall; and throughout 1323-4 we find him holding official positions in Wales.² The only personal fact discoverable about him is that he was in 1313 lord of part of Milwich in right of his wife Margery.³ He must have died soon after 1324. In the Parliamentary Roll of Arms he appears under Leicestershire as bearing Arms: Silver, two chevrons gules with a label of vair. I have shown elsewhere that this Roll is of date 1308. I think he was a younger brother of Ralph, Lord Grendon. But Erdeswick says: "Philip de Nugent, lord of Milwich, died, leaving two daughters whereof one was married to Grendon, who had issue Sir Robert Grendon, Kt."⁴ Erdeswick has probably created two from one, for there was no subsequent Sir Robert de G. of Milwich.

(3) RICHARD SABYN, M.P. Stafford 1318 (2), 1320, 1321.

Mention of him occurs in Stafford in 1327, and he was one of the burgher-rioters of 1314.⁵

(4) JOHN LE SOMENOUR. See Parl. 1315.

Parliament of 1319.

Summoned, by Writs of 20 March, to meet at York 6 May 1319; dissolved 25 May 1319. This Parliament was summoned to help repress the Scottish ravages. We first hear of a contested election taking place—in Devonshire. There was, of course, no question of a Poll, but only as to whether the sheriff had not returned the wrong man. Such interest as was taken in elections at this time would be rather between rival families than between rival political parties.

County: Ralph de Rolleston	.. ..	(1)
Robert de Dutton	.. ..	(2)
returned by Sir Robert de Grendon, sheriff.		

¹ P.R.

² S.C. 1911. 80.

³ Parl. 1313 (2): footnote². The name still occurs round Bir-

mingham.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ Harwood: *Erdeswick*, 50.

Stafford : Simon de Mulewych (3)
 John de Hughcesdon (4)

(1) SIR RALPH DE ROLLESTON OF ROLLESTON, M.P. Staffs 1319.

Born *c.* 1275 ; son and heir of William de R. of the same (*d.* soon after 1297). He is on a jury 1297¹ ; is mentioned in 1299 ; a knight by 1308² ; J.P. Staffordshire 1314³ ; Justice of Gaol Delivery 1315⁴ ; Commissioner of Array in Staffordshire and Salop 1316. He died in 1324, being succeeded by his son, Thomas de R.⁵ He bore Arms : Silver, a cinquefoil azure, on a chief gules a lion passant, gold. The cinquefoil shows some connection with the neighbouring Brailsfords of Brailsford ; but what shall we say to the "leopard of England" borne in chief ?

(2) SIR ROBERT DE DUTTON. See Parl. 1307 (1).

(3) SIMON DE MILWICH. See Parl. 1315.

(4) JOHN DE HIXON, M.P. Stafford 1319, 1322, 1324, 1326-7.

John de Hixon, chaplain of Hixon, occurs in 1310.⁶ But a John de Hixon took part in the burgher riots in 1314⁷ ; and in June 1315 the Astons, coming from Aston by Stone, broke open the gates of Stafford, and beat and wounded John de Hixon and Philip his brother,⁸ so I think the M.P. was a burgess of the town of Stafford.

Parliament of 1320.

Summoned, by Writs of 5 August, to meet 6 October 1320 ; dissolved 25 October 1320. Lancaster did not attend. Pembroke and Badlesmere were in charge.

¹ S.C. 1911. 246.

² P.R. 1318.

³ P.R.

⁴ C.R.

⁵ S.C. IX. 105. Harwood : *Erdeswick* 271.

⁶ S.C. 1911. 72.

⁷ Parl. 1313 (2);

⁸ S.C. X. 52.

County :	Robert de Grendon	(1)
	John de Hynkeleye	(2)
	returned by Robert de Grendon himself, sheriff. (This is the first instance of a sheriff's returning him- self and shows both that there was keenness to be returned, and indifference as to who represented the county as knight of the shire.)	
Stafford :	John Pykestok	(3)
	Richard Sabyn	(4)
Lichfield :	William de Exton	(5)
	William le Taverner	(6)

(1) SIR ROBERT DE GRENDON. See Parl. 1318 (2).

(2) (SIR) JOHN DE HINCKLEY OF STOKE-BY-STONE AND ASTON, M.P. Staffs 1320, 1325, 1328 (1), 1328 (2); and for Staffs and Salop at the same time, 1330, 1335, 1336.

Born *c.* 1290; son and heir of John de H. of the same (*d.* 1316/8). He married, by 1318, Elizabeth —, ¹ and they were both alive in 1344. ² He died and was succeeded by his son John in 1347. ³

He was bailiff of Queen Isabel's Hundred of Ellesmere, Salop, and of her manor of Macclesfield in 1316. ⁴ He served in Scotland in 1319; began his parliamentary career in 1320; was pardoned for acting against the Despencers in 1321, but was in arms with Lancaster against the King in 1322. He seems to have surrendered before Boroughbridge, ⁵ and he was knighted in 1323/4. He became Commissioner of Array 1324; J.P. Staffs 1325-30; and sheriff of Staffs and Salop 1327-30, 1330, 1335-6, returning himself to Parliament on seven

¹ S.C. 1913. 204.

² S.C. 1913. 211.

³ For his pedigree according to Chetwynd, see S.C. XII. N.S. 119; *List of Enrolled Accounts*, p. 254.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ C.R.

occasions, three times for both counties simultaneously. I do not imagine that they let him draw double pay, so that I suppose the counties sent him dually as an economy. He served in France 1326, and in Ireland 1337.¹ In 1335, on the death of Abbot Gilbert Wood, he was made keeper of the Abbey of Roucester. His family, which was not a knightly one, came from Leicestershire. He must have been a man of ability to achieve the position he did. The Arms which he bore in 1324 were: Gules, a chevron engrailed silver—which seem to be taken from the Arms of Stafford, who was Hinckley's overlord at Aston and Stoke.

(3) JOHN DE PIGSTOCK. See Parl. 1305.

(4) RICHARD SABYN. See Parl. 1318 (2).

(5) WILLIAM DE EXTON, M.P. Lichfield 1320.

I know nothing of this man.

(6) WILLIAM LE TAVERNER, M.P. Lichfield 1320.

He may have been the father of Thomas le T. of Lichfield, and grandfather of Aylmer le T. of Lichfield M.P.²

Parliament of 1321.

Summoned, by Writs of 15 May, to meet 15 July 1321; dissolved 22 August 1321. This was called the "Parliament of White Bands." The Confederate Lords appeared in "odd party-coloured habits, yellow and green, with white bands across their breasts."³ Amory and Hugh Audley had begun to fight the younger Despencer in South Wales over the partition of the Clare inheritance. This Parliament banished the Despenchers.

County: Robert Tok (1)

Robert de Dutton (2)

returned by Sir Robert de
Grendon, sheriff.

¹ P.R.

² Parl. 1386.

³ Parry: *Parlts.* 85.

Stafford : Simon de Melewych	(3)
*Richard Sabyn	(4)
Lichfield : Thomas de Pype	(5)
John de Byrmyngham	(6)

(1) SIR ROBERT DE TOK. See Parl. 1309.

(2) SIR ROBERT DE DUTTON. See Parl. 1307.

(3) SIMON DE MILWICH. See Parl. 1315.

(4) RICHARD SABYN. See Parl. 1318 (2).

(5) THOMAS DE PIPE, M.P. Lichfield 1321.

One would like to imagine that these Lichfield representatives were the contemporary heads of the knightly houses of Pype and Birmingham. It would have shown an early and striking interest in parliamentary government; but, unfortunately, the Rolls of 1327 and 1332 show us two plain unpretentious burghers called by these names living in Lichfield at this time, who are far more likely to have gone to Westminster. The names occur in the Subsidy Lists of 1327 and 1332.

(6) JOHN DE BIRMINGHAM, M.P. Lichfield 1321.

He was doubtless a burgess of Lichfield. John de B. was a forester of Cannock in 1311.¹ "A mandate was issued by the King from York, 18 August 1327, commanding the sheriff to arrest John de Rothewell of Lichfield and John de Bernyngham, who were suspected of being bearers of letters from the King's enemy, Donenald de Mar."²

Parliament of 1322 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 14 March, to meet at York 2 May 1322; dissolved 19 May 1322. Boroughbridge had been won on 16 March, and the Despencers were now supreme. This Parliament not only repealed the Ordinances of the Lords Ordainers, but also evinced a constitutional spirit, and was used by the favourites to attempt a balance of power with the great

¹ S.C. 1911. 311.

² S.C. XIV. 10.

earls. The rate of pay for members became established at 4s. a day for the knights and 2s. a day for the burgesses.

County : John de Swynnerton (1)

Henry de Bysshebury (2)

returned by John de Swynnerton
himself, sheriff since 1 January.

(1) (SIR) JOHN DE SWYNNERTON OF HILTON, M.P. Staffs
1322 (1), 1326-7, 1327, 1328 (2), 1335.

Born *c.* 1285; second son of Sir Roger de S. of Swynnerton (*d.* 1298), by Jane, daughter of Sir John Hastang, of Chebsey. He married, 1306, Anne, daughter and heiress of Philip de Montgomery, thereby becoming steward of Cannock. He bought Hilton in 1311. He served in the Scots War of 1310, and his action in the troubles of 1322 was loyal to Edward II and Queen Isabel.¹ He had been made sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop on 1 January 1322 and he did not lose his shrievalty till his term of office expired in November; we find him knighted by the following year. In 1325 he was one of those among the enemies of the Despencers who arranged to go to Guienne with Queen Isabel, and he only came back in 1326, when as Knight of the Shire for Staffordshire he helped to dethrone the King. He returned himself to Parliament in 1322 and had linked with himself the most redoubtable man on the Royalist side, Henry de Bushbury. He died in 1340, being succeeded by his son John, then aged 30.² In 1324 he bore Arms: Silver, a cross sable, with *fleurs de lis* issuing from the end, a border engrailed gules—the Arms of his father with a border for difference.

(2) (SIR) HENRY DE BUSHBURY OF BUSHBURY, M.P. Staffs
1322 (1), 1326-7, 1330, 1331; Salop 1332 (2).

Born *c.* 1290; son and heir of Ralph de B (who held Bushbury and Over Penn of William de Birmingham³ and died 1311/4) by his first wife. By 1314 he had married Amice —, ⁴

¹ It was his cousin, John de Swynnerton of Isewall, who was taken prisoner at Boroughbridge (*Geneal.* XXI. N.S. 23).

² S.C. VII. ii. 91-5.

³ The first Bushbury was Hugh *fil.*, Peter de Birmingham.

⁴ S.C. 1911. 86.

but they were still childless in 1326,¹ when Ralph his brother and Henry his nephew were his heirs. He and his wife were both living in 1341, but his name vanishes from the Rolls after that date, and I suspect that he died 1341/2.²

Mention of him occurs in 1309; he fought with the King against Lancaster in 1321-2, and after being M.P. was made sheriff (November 1322 to January 1326) of the two counties and keeper of Conway Castle. He got into trouble early in 1326, nominally for allowing prisoners to escape, but he was again keeper and sheriff by February 1327 after he had sat in the Parliament which changed Edward II for Roger Mortimer. He was knighted in 1327 and made keeper of Dudley Castle. He served in most of the wars from 1316 to 1335, and was sheriff again 1327, 1330, 1330-3, returning himself to Parliament on two occasions. In 1331 he was one of the mainpernors of Hugh le Despencer;³ Commissioner of Array, Staffordshire and Salop, 1333, 1335; J.P. 1335; Collector of Subsidy 1338; Commissioner 1340, 1341.⁴ In 1324 he bore Arms: Silver, a fesse cottised sable, bearing 3 scallops silver. I doubt whether his predecessors bore Arms or were knights at all. His name is always spelt Bysshebury or Bushbury, but the railway junction is called Bushbury now.

Parliament of 1322 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 18 September, to meet at Ripon 14 November 1322; but, by Writs of 30 October, the place of meeting was changed to York; dissolved 29 November 1322. This Parliament met after the Scots had successfully invaded the north.

County :	John Gyffard	..	..	..	(1)
	Philip de Somervill	..	..	..	(2)

returned by John de Swynnerton,
sheriff.

¹ S.C. 1911. 102.

² S.C. XI. 191.

³ C.R.

⁴ P.R.

Stafford : John de Hughcesdon (3)
 Simon de Melewych (4)

(1) SIR JOHN GIFFARD OF CHILLINGTON, M.P. Staffs 1322 (2),
 1324.

Born *c.* 1265 ; son and heir of Sir John G. of the same (*d.* 1307/10). General Wrottesley did not know whom he married, but there is evidence that by 1320, already a knight, he was married to "Eufena de Marahon."¹ He served in all the wars from 1310 to 1324, generally in the retinue of the Baron of Dudley.² He was collector of the Subsidy in 1315 and 1316.³ He stood by the King against Lancaster and, with Sir John Swynnerton the sheriff, he was Commissioner of Array to raise forces in 1322 for the campaign that ended at Boroughbridge. He may have fought there ; certainly his younger brother, Sir Peter Giffard, keeper of Mortimer's Castle and of Chirk, Denbigh, brought the Welsh levies for the King and took part in the fight. Sir John took no more part in public affairs after the 1324 session, and died 1343/4, leaving John G., his son and heir. In 1324 he bore Arms : Azure, 3 stirrups gold.

(2) SIR PHILIP DE SOMERVILL OF WICHNOR AND OF BURTON
 AGNES, YORKS, M.P. Staffs 1322 (2), 1324 (1), 1327,
 1332, 1336 (1), 1336 (2).

Born 1277/9 ; younger son of Robert de S. of the same (*d.* 1297). The Somerville property consisted of two fees held of Ferrers—Wichnor and Sirescot ; of $\frac{3}{4}$ fee in Dunstall and Barton held of the same ; of Ingleby (Derbyshire), Cossington (Leicestershire), Stockton (Warwickshire), Burton Agnes (Yorkshire), and of other manors in Northumberland and Nottinghamshire. Some of these appear to have been conveyed to Sir Philip in 1300 by his eldest brother Edmund, who was a priest. The rest came to him on the death of his brother Roger in 1336. He had married, by 1308, Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas de Pipe of Pipe, and by her had two daughters,

¹ *Papal Letters*. II. 201.

² *S.C.* VIII. i. 34 to 42.

³ *P.R.*

Jane, who was married by 1335¹ to Sir Rhys ap Gryffyth, who became Sir Philip's heir in Alrewas and Wichnor,² and Elizabeth, who married Sir John de Stafford, M.P.,³ but was dead in 1337, leaving a daughter and heiress, Maud, who married (1) Edmund Vernon, and (2) Sir Richard de Stafford, M.P.⁴ Sir Philip's wife, Margaret, was living in 1337.

He was knighted 1308/20; served in the wars from 1324 to 1336; was Commissioner of Array, Staffordshire, 1325, 1327, 1335, and 1336; J.P. Staffordshire 1325-37; Collector of Subsidy, Staffordshire, 1337. He fought on the side of the King against Lancaster 1321-2. We read that he was "imprisoned" at Statfold, and "hunted to Tutbury Castle" by his tenants in 1340.⁵ He died 23 January 1355.⁶ In 1324 he bore Arms: Azure, sown with crosses and three eagles gold. We may note that azure, sown with crosses and a *fess* gold, were the arms of his father-in-law, Sir Thomas de Pipe, a famous warrior and the second husband of the lady Stafford.

(3) JOHN DE HIXON. See Parl. 1319.

(4) SIMON DE MILWICH. See Parl. 1315.

Parliament of 1324 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 20 November 1323, to meet 20 January 1324; prorogued, by Writs of 26 December 1323, to 23 February 1324; dissolved 18 March 1324. The Despencers were still supreme.

County :	Philip de Barynton, miles	..	(1)
	*Philip de Somervill, miles	..	(2)
	returned by Sir Henry de		
	Bushbury, sheriff.		

Stafford :	*John de Hughcesdon	..	..	(3)
	Richard de Sutton	..	..	(4)

¹ P.R.

² S.C. XI. 142.

³ Parl. 1339 (1).

⁴ Parl. 1341; S.C. XII. N.S. 281.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ I.p.m.; Hardy: *Tatenhill* I. 51-67.

- (1) SIR PHILIP DE BARINGTON. See Parl. 1305.
 (2) SIR PHILIP DE SOMERVILL. See Parl. 1322 (2).
 (3) JOHN DE HIXON. See Parl. 1319.
 (4) RICHARD DE SUTTON, M.P. Stafford, 1324 (1), 1325, 1326-7.
 Of this man I know nothing.

1324.

Later in this year an exceptional council of the nation took place; it may be that it was due to the desire of the Despencers to base their authority on popular support. All the knights in Staffordshire (and I suppose all the knights from the other counties) were summoned to consult with the King at Westminster on 9 May 1324. None of the Staffordshire barons (Stafford, Basset of Drayton, Dudley, Audley (a minor) and Ferrars) are included in the list, but so far as I can make out *all* the knights—except Sir Robert de Tok—are summoned. Twelve out of the thirty-seven had already represented the county in Parliament; moreover their Arms are all given in the Roll, so often quoted, of 1324.

TO MEET AT WESTMINSTER, 9 MAY 1324. The following Knights :—

- James de Audley (elder brother of Hugh d'Audley the younger, Earl of Gloucester)
 Thomas de Furnivall, jun. (of Alton. *jure uxoris*)
 Thomas de Pipe (of Pipe; married to the widow of Edmund, Lord Stafford)
 Thomas de Halghton (of Haughton)
 Philip de Barinton (of Creighton)¹
 Thomas de Barinton
 Walter de Verdon (of Crakemarsh)²
 Ralph Basset of Weldon (of Madeley Alfac, *d.* 1341)
 Roger de Ockover (of Okeover, *d.* 1337)
 John Gifford (of Chillington)³

¹ Parl. 1305.

² Parl. 1353.

³ Parl. 1322.

Ralph de Grendon (of Shenstone)¹
 Robert de Grendon (of Milwich)²
 Philip de Somerville (of Wichnor)³
 William de Camvile (of Clifton Camvile ; *d.* 1338)
 Roger de Swynnerton (of Swynnerton)⁴
 Richard de Vernon (of Harlaston)
 John Hamlyn (of Oakley)
 William Trussell of Cubbleston (of Kibblestone and
 Meaford, *d.* 1380)
 John de Ardernè (of Elford, *d.* 1349)
 Anselm de (le) Marshal (of Colton)
 Hugh de Meinell (of Hintes ; M.P. Co. Derby ; *d.* 1333)
 Thomas de Rideware (of Ridware Hampstall ; *d.* 1325-7)
 Nicholas de Longford (of Ellaston ; *b.* 1288)
 Robert Bek (of Hopton and Tean ; *d. ante* 1348)
 Ralph de Rolleston (of Rolleston)⁵
 Robert de Stapleton (of Great Barr)
 Thomas de (le) Rous (of Walsall)⁶
 Henry de Bisshebury (of Bushbury),⁷ sheriff
 John de Swynoferton (of Hilton)⁸
 Robert de Dutton (of Maer)⁹
 William de Stafford (of Sandon and Bramshall)¹⁰
 William Wasteney (of part of Colton)
 Richard Dracot (of Draycot ; *d.* 1316)¹¹
 John Hinkley (of Stoke by Stone)¹²
 John Hastanke (of Chebsey)
 John de Harecourt (of Ellenhall ; *d.* 1330)
 Robert de Burs (of Chartley for life)¹³

There follow also the names of thirteen "men-at-arms" who were summoned :—*inter alios* : James¹⁴ and John¹⁵ de

¹ G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*—*Grendon*. ² Parl. 1318.

³ Parl. 1322 (2).

⁴ Summoned Parl. of 1337.

⁵ Parl. 1319.

⁶ Parl. 1316 (1).

⁷ Parl. 1322 (1).

⁸ Parl. 1322 (1).

⁹ Parl. 1307.

¹⁰ Parl. 1290.

¹¹ *Sic*, but should be John Draycot, *b.* 1303. Parl. 1334.

¹² Parl. 1320.

¹³ Parl. 1313 (1).

¹⁴ Parl. 1328 (1).

¹⁵ Parl. 1339 (1).

Stafford, Henry Cresswell,¹ Hugh de Meignell,² subsequently M.P.s for Staffordshire.³

Parliament of 1324 (2).

Summoned to meet 20 October 1324; dissolved 10 November 1324. The Despencers were still in power.

County: John Giffard de Chilintone .. (1)
 Richard de Hampton (2)
 returned by Henry de Bush-
 bury, sheriff.

(1) SIR JOHN GIFFARD OF CHILLINGTON. See Parl. 1322 (2).

(2) RICHARD DE HAMPTON, M.P. Staffs, 1324.

From 1323 to 1327 one John de Hampton was escheator in the Western counties, and in 1326 Richard de H. was his *locum tenens*.⁴ Perhaps no one else was available, and so, I suppose, Bushbury sent this minor official to represent the county. Mention of him occurs in 1301⁵; he was a collector of Subsidy in 1327; A Commissioner in 1331.⁶ Both John and Richard may be of the family of Wolverhampton, predecessors of that John Hampton, M.P., who attained such importance in the next century, and Richard may have gone to Westminster as squire to the neighbouring Giffard. A Richard H. was King's yeoman, constable of Eccleshall Castle, and bailiff of the bishop's liberty in 1359-60 during the vacancy in the see of Lichfield.⁷

Parliament of 1325.

Summoned, by Writs of 10 October, to meet 18 November 1325; dissolved 5 December 1325. Queen Isabel had gone

¹ Parl. 1295.

³ S.C. VIII. 44-46.

⁵ S.C. VII. 84.

² Parl. 1337 (2).

⁴ S.C. 1911. 367.

⁶ S.C. 1913. 29. ⁷ P.R.

to France and was now openly plotting against the King and the Despensers.

County :	Robert de Knyghteleye, miles ..	(1)
	John de Hynkele, miles	(2)
	returned by Henry de Bush- bury, sheriff.	.
Stafford :	William Hunfrey	(3)
	Richard de Sotton	(4)

(1) SIR ROBERT DE KNIGHTLEY OF KNIGHTLEY, M.P. Staffs 1325.

He held Knightley of Sir James de Stafford. Mention of him occurs as early as 1280; he was married to Alice — in 1310¹; was J.P. for Staffordshire in 1325 and 1327; and died in 1327.

(2) SIR JOHN DE HINCKLEY. See Parl. 1320.

(3) WILLIAM HUMPHREY, M.P. Stafford 1325.

The name of Humphrey often occurs in Stafford about this time. He was doubtless a burgess. William H. is on Stafford Juries in 1295, 1302, 1304, and 1305.²

(4) RICHARD DE SUTTON. See Parl. 1324 (1).

Parliament of 1326-7.

Summoned, by Writs of 1 October, to meet 14 December 1326; prorogued, by Writs of 3 December 1326, to 7 January 1327; dissolved 9 March 1327. Queen Isabel and Mortimer had landed, seized the King and called this Parliament, which deposed Edward II and put Edward III on the throne. There was no consequent change in the sheriff of Staffordshire, and the officials generally seem to have had no difficulty in accepting the change.

¹ S.C. 1911. 108.

² S.C. 1911. *passim*.

County :	Henry de Bisshebury	..	..	(1)
	John de Swynnerton	..	..	(2)
	returned by Sir William de Ercal, sheriff (Ercal had replaced Bushbury in January 1326; he gave place again to Bushbury before the Parliament had ceased to sit, 4 February 1327).			
Stafford :	John de Hughcesdon	..	..	(3)
	*Richard de Sutton	..	..	(4)
Lichfield :	Stephen le Blount	..	..	(5)
	John de Eton	..	..	(6)

- (1) HENRY DE BUSHBURY. See Parl. 1322 (1).
 (2) SIR JOHN DE SWYNNERTON. See Parl. 1322 (1).
 (3) JOHN DE HIXON. See Parl. 1319.
 (4) RICHARD DE SUTTON. See Parl. 1324 (1).
 (5) STEPHEN LE BLOUNT, M.P. Lichfield 1326-7.
 (6) JOHN DE ETON, M.P. Lichfield 1326-7.

Both these Lichfield M.P.s are unknown to me.

EDWARD III.

25 Jan. 1327.

Parliament of 1327.

Summoned, by Writs of 7 August, to meet at Lincoln 15 September 1327; dissolved 23 September 1327. Mortimer was in power.

County :	Philip de Somervill, miles	..	(1)
	*John de Swynnerton, miles	..	(2)
	returned by John de Hinckley, sheriff.		
Stafford :	Simon Trumwyne	.. ..	(3)
	Nicholas Reyner	.. ..	(4)
Lichfield :	Richard atte Leyes	.. ..	(5)
	John de Bolenhull	.. ..	(6)

(1) SIR PHILIP DE SOMERVILL. See Parl. 1322 (2).

(2) SIR JOHN DE SWYNNERTON. See Parl. 1322 (1).

(3) SIMON TRUMEWYNE. See Parl. 1313 (2).

(4) NICHOLAS REYNER, M.P. Stafford 1327, 1338, 1339, 1344, 1346, 1348 (1), 1348 (2).

His name occurs on the Stafford Subsidy Lists of 1327 and 1332; he was a Wool Commissioner in 1338.¹ Probably he was a son of the William Reyner who was M.P. for Stafford in 1295, and 1313 (1), and a cousin to the Shrewsbury M.P.

(5) RICHARD ATTE LEYES, M.P. Lichfield 1327.

Of this man I can discover nothing.

(6) JOHN DE BONEHILL, M.P. Lichfield 1327.

He was the last M.P. to sit for Lichfield for twenty-seven years; he is found paying taxes there in 1327 and 1332. He took his name from Bonehill near Tamworth, and was doubtless a burgess of Lichfield.

¹ S.C. VIII. 62.

Parliament of 1328 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 10 December 1327, to meet at York 7 February 1328; dissolved 5 March 1328. Mortimer was still supreme.

County :	James de Stafford	..	..	(1)
	John de Hinkeleye	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same John de Hinckley, sheriff.			

Stafford :	Adam le Rotour	..	..	..	(3)
	— Kneygh —	..	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR JAMES DE STAFFORD OF SANDON, M.P. Staffs 1328.

Born *c.* 1300; son and heir of William de S. jun. (*d.c.* 1318) who was the eldest son of Sir William de Stafford, M.P.¹ (*d.c.* 1339/40), by Isabel, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert de Stafford of Anslow.² Sir James married (1) Mary, sister of Ralph, baron and earl of Stafford; (2) by 1337, one Isabel ——. ³ Between 1334 and 1337 he had an armed quarrel with his brother John,⁴ and with Ralph, Lord Stafford. This John is said to have married Earl Ralph's daughter, Margaret, *c.* 1335/7, and their grandfather, Sir William de S., evidently favoured his younger grandson John. In the result Sir James inherited only Sandon securely, while both he and Sir John inherited and passed on a long crop of lawsuits as to the ownership of Perton, Bramshall and Amblecot. Sir James had an only daughter, Margery, who was married by 1338 to Thomas Erdeswick and carried Sandon to that family.

Sir James took a leading part in the Stafford-Ipstones feud of 1318-25; fought with Lancaster against the King at Boroughbridge, 1322, and had his manor of Amblecot forfeited in consequence.⁵ He murdered Alexander de Swynnerton and John de Pichford, and took part in the rioting with the Ipstones 1324-5. He was knighted 1324/8, probably when he was in

¹ Parl. 1290.

² S.C. IX. 127; *ibid.* X. 40; *ibid.* I. N.S. 281.

³ S.C. XI. III, 142; P.R.

⁴ Parl. 1339.

⁵ S.C. X. 49; P.R.

Scotland in 1327 in the retinue of Roger Mortimer.¹ He and Sir Richard de Stafford were outlawed, as part of their feud with his younger brother John, in 1334; and this John de Stafford was the one commissioned to arrest them.² But Sir James appears as a special Commissioner in 1336;³ Commissioner of Array, Staffordshire, 1337, 1345, 1347; and surveyor of weights and measures 1344.⁴ He served at Créçy and Calais, and a general pardon was issued for good services at Calais, 4 September 1346.⁵ He was Commissioner of Oyer et Terminer in 1347; a Collector of the 10th and 15th in 1350,—and arrested to account for the money, 24 January 1351.⁶ He was a coroner for the county too, for in 1352 there is an order to the sheriff to cause a coroner to be elected for the county of Staffordshire in the place of James de Stafford, who has no lands in the county to qualify him.⁷ Sir James founded the house of Greyfriars at Stafford.⁸ He was still living in 1356,⁹ and probably died soon after. He sealed in 1353 with the Stafford chevron, which may have borne five bezants as did his father's shield.¹⁰

(2) SIR JOHN DE HINCKLEY. See Parl. 1320.

(3) ADAM LE ROTER, M.P. Stafford 1328 (1), 1332, 1354, 1355.

This family represented Stafford, where they were great wool buyers, for many years. Besides occasionally suing for debts Adam occurs as a wool Commissioner in 1341,¹¹ and in a riot at Bescot in 1342.¹²

(4) — KNEYGH —

I do not know who this can be unless it is a Knightley (Sir Robert de Knightley sat for the county in 1325). The official Return (appendix, p. xlvi. Corrigenda) gives *for* Kneygh . . . *read* Kneygh(teleye?).

¹ P.R.

² P.R.

³ P.R.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ P.R.

⁷ C.R.

⁸ Harwood: *Erdeswich* 144.

⁹ S.C. XII. 146.

¹⁰ *Harl. MS.* 1170, folio 88.

¹¹ P.R.

¹² S.C. XII. 18.

Parliament of 1328 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 5 March, to meet at Northampton 24 April 1328; sat till after 18 May¹; Writs for expenses 14 May.² Mortimer was still supreme.

County : John de Swynnerton (1)

*John de Hynkeleye (2)

returned by the same John
de Hinckley, sheriff.

Stafford : Robert de Brokes (? Croftes) .. (3)

Simon Trumwyne (4)

(1) SIR JOHN DE SWYNNERTON. See Parl. 1322 (1).

(2) SIR JOHN DE HINCKLEY. See Parl. 1320.

(3) ROBERT DE BROKES, M.P. Stafford 1328 (2).

Unknown. The Crofts were a Stafford Family, see Parls. 1354 and 1358. Possibly Brookhouse, a Stafford name.

(4) SIMON TRUMEWYNE. See Parl. 1313 (2).

Parliament of 1328 (3).

Summoned, by Writs of 15 June, to meet at York 31 July 1328; dissolved 6 August 1328.

County : Robert de Dutton, miles .. (1)

Ralph de Grendon (2)

returned by John de Hinck-
ley, sheriff.

Stafford : William Pecok (3)

John Gilberd (4)

(1) SIR ROBERT DE DUTTON. See Parl. 1307 (1).

(2) RALPH DE GRENDON OF GAYTON, M.P. Staffs 1328 (2),
1330 (2).

¹ Parry, *Parliaments of England*, p. 93.

² Pink.

This is not Sir Ralph de Grendon of Shenstone, and of Grendon, Warwickshire, summoned to Parliament as a baron; such an one, if a mere elected member, would have had "miles" after his name, and would have been mentioned before Dutton in the return. He was Ralph de Grendon of Gayton, M.P. in 1330, who is mentioned in 1321, 1323, 1338, was a dependant of the Grendon Baron, and had a son Thomas of full age in 1340.¹

I suspect that he was the son of John Grendon, who married Jane, daughter and coheiress of Richard Herbert of Gayton.² There was another Ralph G. who had nothing to do with the Shenstone family. He was of Grendon-in-the-Moors. He occurs on a jury list of 1333,³ and perhaps as "Ralph the son of Ralph" in 1335⁴; and lastly as attorney in Ireland for his neighbour Thomas, Lord Furnival of Alton in 1335-6.⁵

(3) WILLIAM PEACOCK, M.P. Stafford 1328 (3), 1328-9.

The Peacocks were of Cannockbury, just south of Stafford. I expect he was a burgess.

(4) JOHN GILBERT, M.P. Stafford 1328 (3), 1328-9.

See note to Simon de Milwich⁶; the Gilberts were often found among the riotous burghers of Stafford. A John son of William Gilbert occurs as of full age in 1315.⁷ For the Gilbert pedigree and their descent from Wymer, *temp.* Henry II, and their holding of the King's Fish-pond at Stafford, see *Genealogist*, New Series, XXI. 23.

Parliament of 1328-9.

Summoned, by Writs of 28 August, to meet at Salisbury 16 October 1328; the first session, if session it was, was held

¹ S.C. X. 49.

² Harwood: *Erdeswick* 53-4.

³ S.C. XIV. 31.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ P.R. For the Lord Grendon, see S.C. XVII. 295.

⁶ Parl. 1315.

⁷ S.C. IX. 56.

from 16 October till 31 October ; by Writs of 8 February 1329 the same Parliament was called again to meet at Westminster because the Earl of Lancaster would not come ; second session from 9 February to 22 February, when Parliament was dissolved.¹ Lancaster made his peace with Mortimer.

This Parliament was hindered from meeting because the parties met on Salisbury Plain and began to fight.²

County :	*Robert de Dutton	..	..	(1)
	Richard de Blythefeld	..	..	(2)
	returned by John de Hinckley,			sheriff.
Stafford :	*William Pecok	..	..	(3)
	*John Gilbert	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR ROBERT DE DUTTON. See Parl. 1307 (1).

(2) RICHARD DE BLYTHFIELD OF BLYTHFIELD, M.P. Staffs 1328-9.

Born *c.* 1270 ; son and heir of Richard de B. of the same (*d.* by 1293) by a daughter of Sir Roger de Verney. He married by 1300, Cecily —. He died 1344/5, and was succeeded by his son John.³ The Arms of Blythfield are said, in the 1614 Visitation, to be : *per pale indented, silver and sable* ;⁴ but I doubt if they bore any Arms at all.

(3) WILLIAM PEACOCK. See Parl. 1328 (3).

(4) JOHN GILBERT. See Parl. 1328 (3).

Parliament of 1330 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 25 January, to meet at Winchester 11 March 1330 ; dissolved 23 March 1330. Mortimer had seized the Earl of Kent, the King's uncle, and he had him

¹ Pink.

² Parry : *Parlts.* 93, quoting Knighton.

³ S.C. XI. N.S. 220.

⁴ A Birmingham coat (W. F. Carter).

executed under the auspices of this Parliament. This frightened Lancaster.

County :	John de Hynkele	..	..	(1)
	Henry de Byssebury	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Henry			
	de Byssebury, sheriff. ¹			
Stafford :	Roger Wryde	..	..	(3)
	William Wryde	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR JOHN DE HINCKLEY. See Parl. 1320.

(2) SIR HENRY DE BUSHBURY. See Parl. 1322 (1).

(3) ROGER WRYDE OF STAFFORD, M.P. Stafford 1330 (1), 1330 (2), 1332 (1), 1338 (1), 1338 (2), 1340 (assembly), 1341.

Born *c.* 1290. He and William Wryde were both "of Stafford" in 1327, and in 1331 Roger W. and his wife Agnes settle land in Stafford and Dilhorn on their sons, Roger and William.² In 1337 Roger, with other Stafford burgess M.P.s, —Roger Selymon, Roger Organ, Roger Snell and Hugh his son, Master John le Rotour, John Dyngull and John de Salt—riding in the train of Sir James de Stafford of Sandon, had "disseised" Ralph, Lord Stafford, "*vi et armis*."³ He was a Wool Commissioner in 1337, 1339, 1340, 1341, and 1342,⁴ when he died. He was certainly dead in 1342, for his widow Agnes was being sued by the Caverswalls in Dilhorn.⁵ We may observe that the borough members are getting more important as the county members become more purely official.

(4) WILLIAM WRYDE OF STAFFORD, M.P. Stafford 1330.

Probably a brother of the above.

¹ Probably; but, according to *Returns of Sheriffs*, Bushbury did not succeed Hinckley till 22 February 1330, and was replaced by him again 20 March 1330.

² S.C. XI. 132.

³ S.C. XI. 78; P.R.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ S.C. XII. 16.

Parliament of 1330 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 23 October, to meet 26 November 1330; dissolved 9 December 1330.¹ Mortimer and Sir Simon Bereford had been seized at Nottingham by Lancaster; the King took the reins. Ralph, Lord Stafford, was one of those in the King's confidence when the *coup* was effected. This Parliament attainted Mortimer and saw him hanged (he was Lord Audley's father-in-law); it also enacted that Parliaments should be held annually, and openly declared against the evil designs of the late ministers *in packing Parliament*, but they probably meant the Upper House. Keepers of the Peace (J.P.s) were appointed.

County: William Trussebut (1)

Ralph de Grendon of Gayton.. (2)

returned by John de Hinckley, sheriff.

Stafford: John de Pykestok (3)

*Roger Wryde (4)

(1) SIR WILLIAM TRUSSEBUT OF DRAYCOT-IN-THE-MOORS, M.P. Staffs 1330, 1331, 1332, Nottinghamshire 1348.

Born *c.* 1285; probably son or grandson of Roger T. of Nottinghamshire. By 1308 he had married Jane, widow of Philip de Draycot, and in right of his wife he held Draycot in 1327 and 1337.² He was knighted 1324/8; J.P. Staffs 1327, 1329; J.P. Nottinghamshire 1344-54. On 4 November 1332 William T. complains that, whereas he had taken prisoner four Scots in the war with Scotland, who made a ransom with him for 400*m.* for the sparing of their lives, Robert Permay and others had abducted these Scots from a ship on the coast of Baumberg, while they were in his custody, and the ransom was yet unpaid.³ In 1337 he went to France in the retinue

¹ This is the date given in *Parl. Hist.* I. 210, but it appears from the *Foedera*, n.e. II. 806, that on 22 January 1331 the Parliament was then "*instans*" (Parry: *Parlts.* 96, note).

² S.C. XIV. 4, 46.

³ P.R.

of the Earl of Northampton.¹ He was Commissioner of Array and Collector of Subsidy for Nottinghamshire in 1340.² He was with the King at Calais from August to October 1347, obtaining general pardons for various Staffordshire and Lancashire men who had done good service.³ I suppose he died soon after 1354, when his name vanishes from the Rolls. He must have left Draycot soon after his step-son, Sir John Draycot, M.P.,⁴ came of age, *c.* 1325.

(2) RALPH DE GRENDON. See Parl. 1329.

(3) JOHN DE PIGSTOK. See Parl. 1305.

(4) ROGER WRYDE. See Parl. 1330 (1).

Parliament of 1331 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 18 February, to meet 15 April 1331; revoked by Writs of 23 March. Some few Returns are on record, but no returns are extant or were made for Staffordshire.

Parliament of 1331 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 16 July, to meet 30 September 1331; dissolved 9 October 1331.

County :	Henry de Bisshebury	..	..	(1)
	William Trussebut	..	..	(2)

returned by the same Henry de Bushbury, sheriff.

(1) SIR HENRY DE BUSHBURY. See Parl. 1322 (1).

(2) SIR WILLIAM TRUSSEBUT. See Parl. 1330 (2).

¹ *P.R.*

³ *P.R.*

² *P.R.*

⁴ Parl. 1334 (2).

Parliament of 1332 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 27 January, to meet 16 March 1332 ; dissolved 21 March 1332. Sir Henry Beaumont was Speaker.

County :	*William Trussebut	..	..	(1)
	Philip de Luttleye	..	..	(2)
	returned by Henry de Bush-			
	bury, sheriff.			
Stafford :	Roger Wryde	..	..	.. (3)
	Robert le Cartere	..	..	.. (4)

(1) SIR WILLIAM TRUSSEBUT. See Parl. 1330 (2).

(2) PHILIP DE LUTLEY OF LUTLEY, M.P. Staffs 1332 (1).

Born *c.* 1300 ; son and heir of Philip de L. of the same, verderer of Kinver. Either the father or the son was Collector of Subsidy 1323 ; Commissioner of Beer and Wheat 1324¹ ; and took part in the Stafford-Ipstones feud 1324-5. Philip de L. the member had certainly succeeded his father by 1331, when Margaret, *formerly* wife of Philip de L., is referred to in connection with Lutley.² He was a Commissioner to survey Bridgnorth Castle in 1341³ ; a bailiff of Sir John de Aston the sheriff 1345⁴ ; verderer of Kinver forest ; Wool Commissioner 1347⁵ ; J.P. and Commissioner of Array 1352.⁶ While Coroner⁷ he was slain in 1352 by Sir Hugh de Wrottesley on Dunston Heath when levying a distraint for the sheriff. He married Katherine, daughter of John de Perton, M.P.⁸ ; she survived him and had an indult to choose her confessor in 1354.⁹ He was succeeded by his son Philip, afterwards M.P.¹⁰ He was never a knight but a self-made man of distinction.¹¹

(3) ROGER WRYDE. See Parl. 1330 (1).

(4) ROBERT LE CARTER, M.P. Stafford 1332.

Unidentified.

¹ S.C. XI. 131.

² S.C. XI. 26.

³ P.R.

⁴ S.C. XII. 54.

⁵ S.C. VII. ii. 28.

⁶ S.C. XII. 111 ; *ibid.* VII. ii. 76.

⁷ C.R.

⁸ Parl. 1315.

⁹ *Papal Letrs.* III. 534.

¹⁰ Parl. 1362.

¹¹ Mr. Pink thinks he was connected with Sir Philip de L. of Munslow, Salop, who lived about this time, and whose male descendants still exist in Herefordshire under the name of Barneby (Burke, *Commoners*, IV. 6 ; Visitns. of Salop).

Parliament of 1332 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 20 July, to meet 9 September 1332 ; dissolved 12 September 1332. The deliberations of the three estates were definitely separate.¹ These Parliaments are getting very short and unimportant. Sir Geoffrey le Scrope was Speaker.

County :	Philip de Somervill	..	..	(1)
	Robert le Mareschal	..	..	(2)
	returned by Henry de Bushbury, sheriff.			
Stafford :	Adam le Rotour	..	..	(3)
	Ralf de Falde	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR PHILIP DE SOMERVILL. See Parl. 1322 (2).

(2) ROBERT LE MARSHALL, M.P. Staffs 1332.

Born *c.* 1295 ; second son of Robert le M. of one-third of Aston by Stone (*d.* 1317) by Agnes —. He probably succeeded his brother Roger, canon of Lichfield, whose Will was proved 13 April 1328, in these Aston lands, though he is mentioned there in 1327, as well as in 1333 and 1336. It may be he who went on a pilgrimage to Santiago in 1350.² He probably died soon after 1351.³ He was never a knight, and I know of no Arms that he or his predecessors could have borne.

(3) ADAM LE ROTOUR. See Parl. 1328 (1).

(4) RALPH DE FAULD, M.P. Stafford 1332.

He came from Field by Kingston. He seems to have been one of the murderers of Nicholas Hody and was outlawed, in 1327—the proper qualification for representing Stafford!

Parliament of 1332-3.

Summoned, by Writs of 20 October, to meet at York 2 December 1332, and held two Sessions, being prorogued from

¹ Parry : *Parlts.* 98.

² *P.R.*

³ *S.C.*, 1913. 214.

December 9 to January 20 ; dissolved 27 January 1333. Few attended this Parliament and it was postponed to January.

County : John de Aston (1)
 Richard de Falede (2)
 returned by Henry de
 Bushbury, sheriff.

(1) (SIR) JOHN DE ASTON OF HEYWOOD, M.P. Staffs 1332-3, Salop 1344.

Born *c.* 1285 ; son and heir of Roger de A. of the same (*d* 1324/8) by Sybil ——. ¹ As "John son of Roger de Aston" he joined in the sack of Lancaster's park at Tutbury after Boroughbridge. ² In 1328 he and Emma his wife settled Heywood on their sons, Roger, John and Richard. ³ He was J.P. for Staffordshire 1341-5 ; Commissioner 1336 ; Collector of Subsidy 1344 ; sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop 1343-4 (when he returned himself to Parliament for Salop), 1344-5 ; escheator 1344-5 both for Staffordshire and Salop. He was exempted from all juries, etc., in 1348, ⁴ and died in 1353. ⁵ He was succeeded by his son Roger, afterwards M.P. ⁶ He was probably knighted by 1334, but I cannot show that the Astons at this time bore Arms.

(2) RICHARD DE FAULD, M.P. Staffs 1332-3.

He is just mentioned in 1324 and 1325, but otherwise I find nothing of this most inconsiderable knight of the shire. This was the very lowest ebb of representation in Staffordshire. There is a Fauld in Hanbury and a Field near Kingston.

Parliament of 1334 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 20 January, to meet at York 21 February 1334 ; dissolved 2 March 1334. This Parliament

¹ S.C. 1917. 61.

³ S.C. XI. 128.

⁵ S.C. XII. 119.

² S.C. IX. 96.

⁴ P.R.

⁶ Parl. 1344.

attacked the injustice of "purveyance" and limited it to the Royal Household.

County : Malculm de Wasteneys (1)
 Robert de Dutton (2)
 returned by Richard de
 Peshale, sheriff.

Stafford : John de Salt of Stafford (3)
 William Dyngel of Stafford (4)

(1) SIR MALCOLM DE WASTENEYS OF TIXALL, M.P. Staffs
 1334, 1338.

Born *c.* 1295; son and heir of Geoffrey de W. of the same (*d.* 1327/31) by Eleanor ——. In 1316 he abducted and presumably married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Henry de Salt of Salt.¹ He was knighted by 1334; Collector of Subsidy 1337, 1338, 1339, 1349; Commissioner of Array 1338, 1339; Commissioner 1346.² In 1343 he was suing Sir John Bagot and others for breaking into his close at Tixall.³ He and Sir James de Stafford were again Collectors of Subsidy in 1350, and both were arrested in January 1351 because they had not accounted for the money.⁴ He was also a J.P. of Staffordshire 1338–41. I imagine from the absence of his name in the Rolls in the forties that he was at the wars during part of this time. He died 1358/64. General Wrottesley says of him that he was an "able man, much employed in public business."⁵ He bore Arms: Sable, a lion silver, collared gules, according to Harwood,⁶ but these were the Arms of Wasteneys of Colton. He was succeeded by his son William W., whose son Roger was in turn his successor. Roger's daughter and heiress sold Tixall to Sir Thomas Littleton C.J. in 1468, through whose granddaughter it came to the Astons of Heywood.

(2) SIR ROBERT DE DUTTON. See Parl. 1307.

¹ Parker: *Colton* 397.

² *P.R.*

³ *P.R.*

⁴ *P.R.*

⁵ *S.C.* VIII. 182.

⁶ Harwood: *Erdeswick* 65.

(3) JOHN DE SALT, M.P. Stafford 1334, 1336 (1337).

He is mentioned in Stafford in 1320¹; did his share of the rioting in 1325-6, following the Ipstones against the Staffords.² In 1332 and 1333 he is indicted with Henry de Creswell for the murder of William de Pigstock at Seighford in 1328.

(4) WILLIAM DYNGEL, M.P. Stafford 1334, 1339.

Thomas, Robert and Gilbert Dyngel all occur as Squires in the retinue of Hugh, Earl of Stafford, *temp.* Richard II.³ So he was surely a burgess of Stafford.

Parliament of 1334 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 24 July, to meet 19 September 1334; dissolved 23 September 1334.

County :	John de Draycote	..	..	(1)
	Richard de Peshale	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Richard de Peshale, sheriff.			

Stafford :	John de Pykstok	..	..	(3)
	William le Goldsmyth	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR JOHN DE DRAYCOT OF DRAYCOT-LE-MOORS, M.P. Staffs 1334, 1344, 1348, 1355, 1358, 1360, 1368.

Born *c.* 1303; son of Philip de D. (died *v.p.* 1307-8), by Jane, daughter of Edmund, Lord d'Eyncourt (she married again, Sir William Trusebut, M.P.⁴); grandson and heir of Sir Richard D., of the same (*d.* 1316). He was knighted, probably by 1324, certainly by 1328; served in Scotland in 1334; was with Ralph, Lord Stafford, when he broke into Hugh d'Audley's house at Thaxstede, abducted Margaret, d'Audley's daughter and heiress, and married her against her father's wish in 1336.⁵ He was a Justice of Oyer in 1347,⁶ and fought at Créçy and Calais 1347-8. He was one of the

¹ S.C. X. 33.² S.C. X. 68.³ S.C. VIII. 233.⁴ Parl. 1330 (2).⁵ P.R.⁶ P.R.

defaulting Collectors of Subsidy in 1350,¹ and died soon after 1368. The M.P. of that year may, indeed, possibly have been his son John D., though I do not think that this son was then a knight. His widow Eva was being sued for waste in Draycot by John de D. junior, in 1383²; but she may well have been a second wife. If the Arms given in the Roll of 1324 are his (they are given for Richard Draycot who died eight years before) then he bore: Gold, three piles gules and a bend ermine. But Erdeswick says³ that these were the grandfather's Arms; that his son Philip "resumed" a coat of Verdon (Gold, fretty gules) with a canton azure charged with a silver cross;⁴ and that our Sir John left off the cross and charged the canton with the dance and gold billets of d'Eyncourt.

(2) SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE OF PESHALE (*alias* de Whethales of Whethales in Peshale), M.P. Salop 1334 (1), Staffs 1334 (2), 1337, 1338 (1), 1338 (2), 1339, 1343.

Born *c.* 1300; son of Adam de P. (*alias* de Whethales or de Swynnerton; *d.* 1307/15) by Anne —. He made an important marriage in 1328 with Aline, daughter and heiress of William de Braose, lord of Gower, and widow of John de Moubray, lord of the Isle of Axholm.⁵ He was imprisoned in the Tower at the time of his cousin Sir Roger de Swynnerton's disgrace and arrest in 1323. His offence must have been serious, for he was kept in irons (*fergez*). It was while he was in the Tower with Swynnerton (either in power, for Swynnerton had been Constable of the Tower, or in irons), that he became acquainted with the Moubrays. A party, consisting of the Lady Aline, her son and heir John, Maud daughter of Robert de Holand, and Joan Anstey in the service of Aline, had been committed to the Tower 22 February 1322, during Swynnerton's Constablenesship. Both Peshale and Swynnerton were of the party of Queen Isabel, and when they were released they soon

¹ See Malcolm de Wasteneys, Parl. 1334 (1). ² S.C. XIII. 179.

³ Harwood: *Erdeswick* 254-5.

⁴ The Malbanc coat. General Wrottesley held that the Draycots were descended from Malbanc (W. F. Carter).

⁵ *P.R.* 1328.

used their former charges to advantage. Swynnerton married his son to Maud de Holand and Peshale himself married the widow, the lady Aline, 1328.¹

Peshale had grants of Willington in Bedfordshire, and Shustoke in Warwickshire, from John de Moubray, his step-son, "for his grateful services."² This deed is witnessed by Sir Roger de Swynnerton and his son (also a knight) of the same name, by Sir Thomas de Halghton, and by William and Edward Trussel.³ Peshale's wife, Aline, died while he was employed in South Wales in 1331, leaving a daughter, heiress of Weston Corbet, Hants.³ He married, as his second wife, Margery, daughter of Hugh Knighton, and she was living in 1343.⁴

Sir Richard was knighted by 1328; escheator of five midland counties 1333⁵; sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop from February 1333 to February 1335, and from June 1338 to July 1339, returning himself four times to Parliament. A Justice in Staffordshire and Salop 1336-7.⁶ He was employed in Wales in 1335; in Scotland 1336⁷; and as Commissioner, 1339-42, in different parts of England and Wales. He was probably dead in 1348, when his nephew is called Richard de P.⁸ He had a son Richard by his second wife, and the son was living in 1343, but died without issue. He apparently bore the Arms of his relations the Swynnertons: Silver, a cross sable, adding thereto a canton gules charged with a wolf's head silver.⁹

(3) JOHN DE PIGSTOCK. See Parl. 1305.

(4) WILLIAM LE GOLDSMITH, M.P. Stafford 1334, 1336.

Possibly he was a son of Philip le Goldsmith, M.P.¹⁰

Parliament of 1335.

Summoned, by Writs of 1 April, to meet at York 26 May 1335; dissolved 3 June 1335.

¹ *Ex. inf.* Rev. Charles Swynnerton. ² *C.R.* 1331. ³ *C.R.*

⁴ *S.C.* II. N.S. 98.

⁵ *C.R.*

⁶ *P.R.*

⁷ *C.R.*

⁸ *C.R.*

⁹ *Ex inf.* C.G.O. Bridgeman.

¹⁰ Parl. 1305

County : John de Swynnerton (1)
 John de Hynkeley (2)
 returned by the same John de
 Hinckley, sheriff.

(1) SIR JOHN DE SWYNNERTON. See Parl. 1322 (1).

(2) SIR JOHN DE HINCKLEY. See Parl. 1320.

Parliament of 1336 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 22 January, to meet 11 March 1336; dissolved 20 March 1336.

County : Philip de Somervill (1)
 *John de Hynkeley (2)
 returned by the same John de
 Hinckley, sheriff.

Stafford : William le Goldsmith (3)
 Adam de Hopton (4)

(1) SIR PHILIP DE SOMERVILL. See Parl. 1322 (1).

(2) SIR JOHN DE HINCKLEY. See Parl. 1320.

(3) WILLIAM LE GOLDSMITH. See Parl. 1334 (2).

(4) ADAM DE HOPTON, M.P. Stafford 1336 (1), 1339.

No doubt he was a burgess taking his name from Hopton by Stafford.

Parliament of 1336 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 24 August, to meet at Nottingham 23 September 1336; dissolved 26 September 1336. The war with France was now imminent. Wool merchants were specially summoned to this Parliament.

County : *Philip de Somervill (1)
 Robert Mauveysyn (2)
 returned by Simon de Ruggeley,
 sheriff.

Stafford : Roger Organ	..	..	..	(3)
John de Salt	..	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR PHILIP DE SOMERVILL. See Parl. 1322 (2).

(2) SIR ROBERT MAUVEYSIN OF RIDWARE-MAUVESYN, M.P.
Staffs 1336 (2).

Born *c.* 1295 ; son and heir of Sir Henry M. of the same, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1316/20). He was knighted 1324/5 ; he went in the retinue of Ralph, Lord Stafford, to the relief of Hennebonne in 1342² ; and again to France in 1345, and served in the King's "battle" at Crécy, dying probably in the trenches before Calais in 1346/7. He left a son, Henry M. He had been a Wool Commissioner 1338-41 ; a Special Commissioner 1336-45 ; and a J.P. for Staffordshire 1341-5. He bore Arms : Gules, two bendlets silver.

(3) ROGER ORGAN, M.P. Stafford 1336 (2).

A Stephen Organ is mentioned in Leek in 1280, otherwise the name is unknown to me. See, however, Simon Organ, M.P. Stafford, 1362.

(4) JOHN DE SALT. See Parl. 1334 (1).

Parliament of 1337 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 29 November 1336, to meet at York 13 January 1337 ; but by Writs of 10 December adjourned till 9 February at Westminster ; and further by Writs of 13 January till 3 March 1337 ; dissolved 13 March 1337.

County : Richard de Peshale (1)

 Simon de Ruggeleye (2)

 returned by the same Simon
 de Ruggeley, sheriff.

(1) SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE. See Parl. 1334 (2).

¹ Parl. 1298.

² S.C. XIV. 58.

(2) SIMON DE RUGELEY OF RUGELEY, M.P. Salop 1336, Staffs 1337 (1), 1339, Salop and Staffs 1340, Staffs 1346, 1348.

Probably a son of Simon de R. who died in 1328.¹ He is described as a clerk in 1325,² and in 1327 and 1332 he appears as owning land in Rugeley. By 1326 he was bailiff of the bishop's liberty of Lichfield;³ from 1330 to 1333 he was Chamberlain of Chester;⁴ in 1335, as *Valettus Regis*, he had licence to enclose 100 acres in King's Bromley within the forest of Alrewas;⁵ he was sheriff of Staffs and Salop from March 1336 to June 1338, and from July 1339 to January 1341; and under-sheriff to the Earl of Lancaster in Staffordshire from June 1345 till his death. He was a Wool Commissioner 1341; Commissioner of Array 1342; Special Commissioner 1338-43. He had almost a habit of returning himself to Parliament whenever he was sheriff either for the pay or because nobody else was anxious to go. In 1346, still described as King's Yeoman, he had a grant of the King's Pool by Stafford, by the service of holding the King's currycomb at his first mounting of his palfrey every time he comes to Stafford.⁶ He was Collector of Subsidy in 1347. He died 9 August 1349, leaving a son Humphrey aged 14; but the stank and stew at Stafford and the service of the currycomb passed to the Earl of Stafford.⁷ He was never a knight. Among Erdeswick's transcripts of Deeds⁸ is a seal circumscribed S. G . . . *oni de Ruggeley*. The "G" is very likely an "S," in which case this is Simon de Rugeley's seal; it bears a chevron between three stars. Blakaway gives his arms as,—Argent, a chevron between three *roses* gules.

A Nicholas Ruggeley was M.P. for Warwickshire in 1432.

Parliament of 1337 (2)—Summons.

By Writ of 18 August 1337 the following were *directed* to attend at Westminster :—

¹ I.p.m.

² S.C. X. 62.

³ S.C. IX. 115.

⁴ C.R. and P.R.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ P.R.

⁷ P.R.

⁸ *Wm. Salt Library.*

Staffordshire : Rad. Basset le pier¹

Roger de Swynnerton²

¹ SIR RALPH (BASSET), LORD BASSET OF DRAYTON. Born *c.* 1280; son and heir of Ralph B. of the same (*d.* 1299) by Helewise or Hawise. Though still a minor he had livery of his lands in March 1300. From 1299 to 1342 he was summoned to Parliament. He was knighted in 1306; banneret 1341, and as such distinguished himself by his defiance of the King of France, being then Steward of Aquitaine. He married, 1304, Jane, daughter of John de Grey of Wilton and Ruthin; and died February 1343. His widow died in 1353. (Gibbs' *Complete Peerage*. II. 2.) He bore Arms in 1308: "*de or, iij peus de goules e en quarter de ermyne.*"

² SIR ROGER DE SWYNNERTON OF SWYNNERTON. Born *c.* 1280/4; son and heir of Sir Roger de S. of the same (*d.* 1298) by Jane, probably daughter of Sir Robert Hastang of Chebsey, Grafton, etc. He was knighted in or before 1306, and was in the retinue of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, 1310-20, being pardoned for assisting at the execution of Piers Gaveston in 1313, and being made Governor of Stafford Gaol in 1318, and of Harlech Castle in 1320. In the same year he was bailiff of Totmonslow. Then, partly owing to the fact that his family took a different side to the Staffords in the Stafford-Ipstone Feud that tore the county in 1320-6, partly, as Mr. Swynnerton shows, because he was of the Household of Queen Isabel and entirely in her interest, he deserted the side of Lancaster for that of the Crown. From August 15 1321 till 1323 he was Constable of the Tower of London. After Boroughbridge had been fought, in December 1322, he was made Collector of the 10th and 15th in Staffordshire. Possibly by reason of the escape of William Trussell of Northurst during 1323 (*S.C.* IX. 99.), Roger de S., while Constable of the Tower, was arrested 15 February 1323 (*P.R.*) and his goods were seized (*Pipe Rolls*, Foreign Accts.R.O.). It was probably then that he was succeeded at the Tower by Stephen de Segrave. He left the King's side in time and welcomed Queen Isabel and Mortimer, and the Queen rewarded him richly. In 1326 he was given the custody of the Despencer lands in Staffordshire and Cheshire; in 1328 he had a grant of view of Frankpledge with Infangthef and Outfangthef in his manor of Swynnerton; and in 1329 he had a grant in fee of the escheated estates of the Despensers of which he was custodian. These included Caldon, Rushton-Spencer, Quarncroft, one-third Alstonefield, and the manors of Great and Little Barrow in Cheshire. He probably assisted at the next revolution which sent Mortimer to the scaffold. For this he was made bailiff of Pirehill, and in April 1337 summoned to Parliament. Such a Writ of summons has been taken to create a peerage dignity, but his descendants were not so summoned and would have been surprised if they could have

Thomas de Hilghton¹
Rad. le Botiler²

known that they had been created hereditary legislators by that writ of 1337. Four months afterwards, as we have seen, he was directed to attend Westminster as one of the Knights of the Shire representing Staffordshire. He died in March of the following year, 1338, leaving a widow, Matilda. As this widow had not married again by 1357-8, we may assume that she was his first and only wife, and the mother of his large family. She was almost certainly Mathilda, daughter of Sir Robert de Halghton (*d.* 1303), and she died *c.* 1366 in her dower house at Acton. Sir Roger was succeeded, nominally by his second son Robert, a priest, but practically by his third son Sir Thomas de S., M.P. (Parl. 1343), whom he had married to the sister of Sir Robert Holand, a personage well likely to promote the interests of any family. He bore Arms in 1308: Silver, a cross sable "*les chefs fleuretés.*"

¹ SIR THOMAS DE HALGHTON OF HAUGHTON AND HIGH OFFLEY. Born 1286; son and heir of Sir Robert de H. of the same (*d.* 1303) by Juliana, possibly a connection of the Bagot family (S.C. VII. i. 144). He was a minor at his father's death, but served in Scotland in the retinue of the Earl of Gloucester in 1310, and was knighted before 1322. (S.C. VII. i. 21-2.) In 1324 he was one of those summoned to Westminster, and his son Robert was summoned too, as a man-at-arms; and during all the years from 1322 to 1347 he was nearly always one of the Commissioners of Array for Staffordshire. From 1332 to 1351 he was generally a *Custos* of the Peace also, and is described as "Master" on some of the Commissions. In or before 1320 he must have married Margaret, widow of John de Bracebridge, and possibly a daughter of the Ferrers family (*Addl. Charters, B.M.* 19988), by whom he had a large family all of whom predeceased him; for when he died in 1363/9 (S.C. XIII. 38) his heir was a minor (S.C. X. N.S. ii. 125). He bore Arms: Silver, a bend gules with three eagles gold, *cf.* Bagot.

² SIR RALPH LE BOTILER OF NORBURY. Born *c.* 1282; son and heir of Sir Ralph le B. (*d.* 1307/11) by Matilda, daughter and coheir of Philip, Lord Marmiun of Tamworth (*d.* 1291). The manor of Norbury, Salop, fell to his mother's share. She was dead before 1296 when he became lord of Norbury (S.C. VII. i. 36). He sailed for Gascony with his father in 1297? (S.C. VIII. i. 19) and served in all the Scottish wars 1301-35. Before 1322 he had been knighted, and with few intermissions he was, from 1320 till 1341, a *Conservator* or *Custos* of the Peace for Staffordshire. He died in 1342 (I.p.m.) leaving a grandson and heir, Ralph, *b.* 1327, the son of his son John. (S.C. XII. 22; *ibid.* XIV. 69.) His relict, Hawise, was still unmarried in 1352, and may be supposed to be the mother of his successors, but her family name is unknown (S.C. XII. 108). In 1308 he bore Arms: Gules, a fesse chequered of gold and sable, in chief two mullets of gold.

and the following were returned as *elected* under the same Writ for Lichfield :—

Rad. de Barton
William de Eyton¹
Robert in le Mor

for Stafford :—

Hugo de Snel²
John de Salt³
John le Roter⁴

Parliament of 1337 (2). Elected.

Summoned, by Writs of 18 August, to meet 26 September 1337; dissolved 4 October 1337.

County :	Hugh de Meignill	..	..	(1)
	John de Freford	..	..	(2)
	returned by Simon de Rugeley, sheriff.			
Stafford :	John le Rotour	..	..	(3)
	Hugh Snel	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR HUGH DE MEYNELL OF LANGLEY MEYNELL, DERBYSHIRE, AND OF HINTES, AND KINGSLEY, M.P. Derbyshire 1329–30, 1331, Staffs 1337 (2).

Born *c.* 1300; son and heir of Sir Hugh M. of Hintes and Langley, M.P. Derbyshire 1324, 1332 (*d.* 1333),⁵ by Jane,⁶ daughter and heiress of Robert de la Ward of Kingsley. He married (1) by 1333, Ida,⁷ the mother of his heir; (2) 1336/44, Alice, daughter of Nicholas, Lord Audley, and widow of Ralph Basset, eldest son of Ralph B., Lord Basset of Drayton. She was the mother of the last Basset, Lord of Drayton, and by her Meynell had a son Thomas.⁸

¹ Parl. 1320.

³ Parl. 1334 (1).

⁵ C.R.

⁷ P.R.

² Parl. 1337 (2).

⁴ Parl. 1337 (2).

⁶ "Hawise," *Geneal.* XV. N.S. 91.

⁸ S.C. XII. 27.

Meynell was one of the men-at-arms summoned to Westminster in 1324, and in 1325 he was helping his father to fight for the Ipstones against Stafford. He was a J.P., Commissioner and Justice of Oyer in Derbyshire between 1327 and 1357; knighted by 1337;¹ a banneret in France in 1345;² sailed with the Black Prince to Gascony in 1346;³ and was serving there with the Earl of Lancaster in 1347, so that he was not at Creçy or Calais. In 1350 he appointed attorneys and went on a pilgrimage to St. Iago di Compostella.⁴ He died 1363, leaving his son Richard aged thirty or more.⁵ He bore Arms: Vair of Silver and Sable, the coat of his maternal grandfather, Sir Robert de la Ward.

(2) (SIR) JOHN DE FREFORD OF FREFORD, M.P. Staffs 1337 (2).

Born *c.* 1305; son and heir of William de F. of the same (*d.c.* 1323/4).⁶ Freford was settled on him by his father in 1323.⁷ He married, by 1330, Margaret, daughter of Ralph de Grendon, Lord Grendon of Shenstone, by his second wife Jane. He served in Scotland as "John son of William de Freford" in 1334; and in the retinue of Ralph, Lord Stafford, in 1335; he was knighted by 1338; served in the King's battalion at Creçy, and remained in France in the retinue of William de Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon, till October 1352. He was a Commissioner in 1346,⁸ and in 1352.⁹ His son William was of age in 1352,¹⁰ and Sir John himself was dead in 1366.¹¹ His daughters ultimately became his heirs, and one, Margery, married Thomas de Lichfield, whose son, William de Lichfield, was lord of Freford in 1428.¹² His widow survived and married John de Reddyng.¹³ He sealed in 1359 with Arms:¹⁴ a bend lozengy (said to be silver), a martlet in the sinister point (said to be gold); perhaps the martlet of Sir Richard de Stafford of Pipe. His father sealed with a fretty coat.

¹ S.C. XI. 79.

² S.C. VIII. 62, 73.

³ *P.R.*; *Geneal.* I. N.S. 35.

⁴ *P.R.*

⁵ *I.p.m.*

⁶ S.C. XVI. 299.

⁷ S.C. 1911. 98.

⁸ *C.R.*

⁹ S.C. XII. 105.

¹⁰ S.C. XII. 112.

¹¹ S.C. XIII. 59.

¹² *Feud. Aids*, IV. 23.

¹³ S.C. XII. 301.

¹⁴ *Erdeswick's Deeds*, MS. Wm. Salt Library

- (3) JOHN LE ROTOUR, wool merchant of Stafford, M.P. Stafford 1337 (2), 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1344; also specially summoned on 18 August 1337.

He may have been son or brother of Adam le Rotour, M.P.¹ He took part in the rioting against Sir James de Stafford at Sandon in 1336,² and on the side of Sir James against Ralph, Lord Stafford, in 1337.³ He is called "*Magister*" in 1337,⁴ and in that year he was one of the five merchants who engaged with the King to buy wool in Staffordshire.⁵ He was an exporter of wool in 1338,⁶ and was a collector of the wool subsidy in 1338 and 1340, having a safe conduct in the latter year to take wool to Flanders to sell.⁷

- (4) HUGH SNEL, merchant of Stafford, M.P. Stafford 1337 (2), 1353, 1360, 1362, 1363, 1365, 1366, 1368, 1369, 1371, 1373, 1376, 1377 (2).

Born *c.* 1315; son and heir of Roger S. of Stafford. With his father and about fifty others he attacked Sir James Stafford at Sandon in 1336. In the following year he and many of the same burgesses are sued by Ralph, Lord Stafford, for land in Bradley, probably common town lands.⁸ He was one of the two bailiffs of Stafford in 1337,⁹ and probably returned himself to Parliament on the first occasion. His father was still alive in 1342, and had bought land at Coton by Stafford in 1329. Hugh Snel was one of the Collectors of the Subsidy for the County in 1360;¹⁰ and in 1370 he bought two shops in Stafford;¹¹ but he was murdered by William Heuster and Thomas de Hextall, who were indicted by his widow Maud in 1380.¹²

¹ Parl. 1328 (1).

³ *P.R.*

⁵ *C.R.*

⁷ *P.R.*

⁹ *S.C.* XII. 148.

¹¹ *S.C.* XI. 178.

² *S.C.* XI. 71.

⁴ *S.C.* XI. 78.

⁶ *C.R.*

⁸ *S.C.* XI. 78.

¹⁰ *C.R.*

¹² *S.C.* XIV. 150-1.

Parliament of 1338 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 20 December, to meet 3 February 1338; dissolved 14 February 1338. The war with France had begun in November 1337.

County : Richard de Peshale (1)
 Richard de Venables (2)
 returned by Simon de Rugeley,
 sheriff.

Stafford : Roger Wryde (3)
 Nicholas Reyner (4)

(1) SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE. See Parl. 1334 (2).

(2) RICHARD DE VENABLES OF WALTON BY STONE, M.P. Staffs 1338 (1).

Born *c.* 1300; son and heir of Thomas de V. of the same by Emma ——. ¹ William de V., his father's elder brother, is returned as lord of Walton in 1316, and seems to have been still alive in 1331-2. Richard de V. supported Stafford against Ipstones in 1325-6. He was a Special Commissioner 1336; Collector of Subsidy 1338² and 1339³; Collector of the Wool Subsidy 1338, 1340. On 25 September 1339 he was made escheator of the counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, Salop, Stafford and the Marches, which office he held till he died, his successor being appointed 28 May 1340. He left a son and heir William, under age in 1341,⁴ though of full age in 1346. This was not a knightly family.

(3) ROGER WRYDE. See Parl. 1330 (1).

(4) NICHOLAS REYNER. See Parl. 1327.

Parliament of 1338 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 15 June, to meet at Northampton 26 July 1338; dissolved 2 August 1338.

¹ S.C. 1913. 206.

² C.R.

³ P.R.

⁴ S.C. XI. 52.

County :	*Richard de Peshale	..	..	(1)
	Malcolm Wasteneys	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Sir Richard de Peshale, sheriff.			
Stafford :	*Roger Wryde	..	..	.. (3)
	John le Rotour	..	..	.. (4)

- (1) SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE. See Parl. 1334 (2).
 (2) SIR MALCOLM DE WASTENEYS. See Parl. 1334 (1).
 (3) ROGER WRYDE. See Parl. 1330 (1).
 (4) JOHN LE ROTOUR. See Parl. 1337 (2).

Parliament of 1339 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 15 November 1338, to meet 14 January 1339; by Writs of 26 December 1338, prorogued to 3 February 1339; dissolved 17 February 1339.

County :	*Richard de Peshale	..	..	(1)
	John de Stafford	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Sir Richard de Peshale, sheriff.			
Stafford :	William Dyngel	..	..	.. (3)
	Adam de Hopton	..	..	.. (4)

- (1) SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE. See Parl. 1334 (2).
 (2) SIR JOHN DE STAFFORD OF BRAMSHALL, M.P. Staffs 1339 (1), 1340.

Born *c.* 1302; second son of William de S. junior (who was the eldest son (*d.* 1320) of Sir William de Stafford of Sandon, Bramshall and Amblecot, M.P.,¹ who lived till 1339/40), by Isabel, daughter and coheirss of Sir Robert de Stafford of Anslow. Sir John married (1) 1325-30, Elizabeth, daughter and coheirss of Sir Philip de Somervill,² M.P.

¹ Parl. 1290.

² Parl. 1322 (2).

(*d.* 1355), she (born *c.* 1310) died in giving birth to a daughter Maud, who married in 1355 Edmund Vernon, and later Sir Richard de Stafford, M.P.¹; (2) 1337, Margaret, daughter of Ralph, Lord Stafford, by Katherine (Hastang),² when his grandfather, Sir William, settled Amblecot on the marriage. Margaret was a child at this time, and her sons, Humphrey and Ralph, were not born till 1350-5; she was surviving, as Sir John's widow, in 1374.

With his elder brother, Sir James,³ he fought for Lancaster at Boroughbridge in 1322; with James he attacked Alton Castle in an attempt to set free their grandfather, Sir William; with James he fought the Swynnertons 1319-22, and the Ipstones 1323-6; both were summoned to Westminster as men-at-arms in 1324; were committed to the Marshalsea for the murder of Pichford 1327-8; and together they went to the Scottish wars in 1327, 1333, 1334, first in the retinue of Roger Mortimer and then in that of Lord Basset of Drayton. But during 1334-7 they seem to have fought each other. Sir John was knighted 1334/5; he was his grandfather's favourite; he got the reversion of Bramshall and Amblecot; he was married to Lord Stafford's daughter while James was married to the same Lord's sister. So in September 1334 Lord Stafford and Sir John are on a Commission to arrest Sir James; riots occur at Sandon; in October 1336 Sir John was put in prison at Nottingham, but he finally got the lands,—all but Sandon. He was hardly younger than his father-in-law, Lord Stafford, and he helped him to abduct with force of arms Margaret, daughter and heiress of Hugh d'Audley, Earl of Gloucester, who thereby became Lord Stafford's second wife, 1336.

At different times, 1338-49, he was Collector of Subsidy

¹ Parl. 1341.

² She was, I believe, a daughter of Humphrey Hastang, Archdeacon of Coventry, and whether she was legally married to Lord Stafford or not I cannot say. The Christian name of Humphrey in the Stafford family comes somehow from this Humphrey Hastang, the dignitary of the Church. (See Harwood: *Erdeswick* 125.)

³ Parl. 1328.

(1338), Wool Commissioner (1340), J.P. (1346), Commissioner on Special Commissions; but chiefly he followed his father-in-law through France and perhaps Ireland. He was a Knight of the Order of the Hospital.¹ He went with Stafford to Brittany, overran the province and was perhaps taken prisoner with his lord at the siege of Vannes. But he was back in England 1343 and 1344, sailing to Gascony with Stafford in the summer of 1345. Thence they went north the next year to Creçy and Calais. He seems to have left Stafford after Calais fell and returned to England, for early in 1347 he is accused of "notorious misdeeds done at Beaumes, Co. Berks." He pleaded "not guilty," and was bailed 20 April 1347 by Sir Richard de Stafford, his uncle by marriage, brother of Lord Stafford.² In September 1347 he was appointed keeper of the castle of Rougemont in Gascony, belonging to the Hospitalers,³ but I doubt if he went, for I find him on English Commissions in 1348-9. I suspect, but have no proof, that he fought with Stafford at Les Espangnols-sur-Mer in 1350; and that he served with him in Aquitaine 1352-5. That he was Commissioner of Array for Staffordshire inclines me to think that he went with the levies from Staffordshire and with the (now) Earl of Stafford on the Scottish campaign of 1356, and on the great French foray of 1359. From 1343 to 1357 he was joint Warden of part of the Marches of Scotland.⁴ He may have gone to Ireland in 1361, but his days were drawing to a close. He was still alive in 1366, when he had a grant of an oratory at Bramshall,⁵ but he was probably dead in 1369, when his son Humphrey is described as a knight and was fighting in France; and he was certainly dead by 1374, when his widow is suing trespassers. His son, Humphrey, bore in 1377 the Stafford Arms, differenced by an engrailed border of sable.

His sons and descendants seem to have filled Parliament. Sir Humphrey (born *c.* 1350) founded the Staffords of Southwick, Hants; and Hook, Dorset; Ralph (born *c.* 1355) founded the Staffords of Grafton. All have now vanished.

¹ P.R. 1347.

² C.R.

³ P.R.

⁴ *List of Various Accounts*, P.R.O., p. 24.

⁵ S.C. VIII. N.S. 28.

- (3) WILLIAM DYNGEL. See Parl. 1334 (1).
 (4) ADAM DE HOPTON. See Parl. 1336 (1).

Parliament of 1339 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 25 August, to meet 13 October 1339; dissolved 28 October 1339. This Parliament demanded the redress of grievances, asked to consult their constituents before making a grant, and also that no sheriff or other royal officer should be eligible for election. One of the Staffordshire M.P.s was sheriff, the other was of small standing.

County : Simon de Rugeley (1)
 William Jarpenvill (2)
 returned by the same Simon
 de Rugeley, sheriff.

Stafford : Nicholas Reyner (3)
 John le Rotour (4)

- (1) SIMON DE RUGELEY. See Parl. 1337 (1).
 (2) WILLIAM JARPENVILL OF FAULD-IN-HANBURY, M.P. Staffs 1339 (2).

Born *c.* 1300; second son of William de J. of Draycot-in-the-Clay (*d.* 1309/18), by Alice, daughter of Sir Robert de Pipe.¹ About 1280 Sir Andrew and Sir Simon de J. married the coheiresses of Robert de Sydenham of Draycot, and Sir Simon was the grandfather of the M.P. William J. is mentioned as "of Fauld" in Hanbury in 1334 and 1336; he and all his relations seem to have died off in the Black Death 1349. The name of Jarpenvill appears no more after that time in Staffordshire. A Jarponville heiress married Sir Thomas de Pype *c.* 1300, and their representation passed through the Pypes to the Vernons of Harlaston.

- (3) NICHOLAS REYNER. See Parl. 1327.
 (4) JOHN LE ROTOUR. See Parl. 1337 (2).

¹ Harwood: *Erdeswick* 258.

Parliament of 1340 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 16 November 1339, to meet 20 January 1340; dissolved 20 February 1340. No returns of this Parliament have been found for Cornwall, Northumberland, Staffordshire or Warwickshire. Within six weeks another Parliament was summoned, and the time for election was short, but the names of the members, where known, are generally different in the two Parliaments. Before this Parliament assembled, the King had taken the title of King of France.

Parliament of 1340 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 21 February, to meet 29 March 1340; held two sessions; dissolved 10 May 1340. Sir William Trussell was the Speaker. This Parliament petitioned that sheriffs should remain but one year in office, and that taxes and tallages should only be levied with the consent of Parliament. Lord Stafford was now steward of the King's Household, and no doubt did what he could for the power of the King by seeing that his men were returned for Staffordshire. Rugeley returned himself for Salop also.

County : John de Stafford (1)

Simon de Rugeley (2)

returned by the same Simon
de Rugeley, sheriff.¹

Stafford : John le Rotour (3)

William de Erburton (4)

(1) SIR JOHN DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1339 (1).

(2) SIMON DE RUGELEY. See Parl. 1337 (1).

(3) JOHN LE ROTOUR. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) WILLIAM DE ERBURTON, M.P. Stafford 1340 (2), 1348.

¹ Only Rugeley's name appears on the Writ for expenses; possibly Stafford did not attend.

An Adam de Erburton appears among the Stafford burgesses in 1336. They took their name from Orberton, now in Coton by Stafford.

Parliament of 1340 (3).

Summoned, by Writs of 30 May, to meet 12 July 1340; dissolved 26 July 1340. No Returns are to be found for sixteen counties of which Staffordshire is one. Simon de Rugeley returned himself for Salop.

Assembly of 1340.

On 27 July 1340 the following merchants were directed to attend as merchants by Writ :

For the county : Roger de Neuport
 Ralph Teynterel
 William le Mortimer
 John de Bolenhull

For Stafford : Roger Wryde
 John le Rotour

Although these men were often regular M.P.s, yet this was certainly not a regular Parliament.

Parliament of 1341.

Summoned, by Writs of 3 March, to meet 23 April 1341; dissolved 18 May 1341. This Parliament was more radical than any that had hitherto sat. It petitioned, and received the King's consent thereto, that Ministers should in future be appointed by the King with the consent of Parliament, and that Parliament should elect auditors to see that the money it voted was properly expended. Immediately after its dissolution, however, the King repudiated the terms and repealed the legislation. Ralph, Lord Stafford, was Steward of the

Household at this time, and we may guess that the Staffordshire M.P.s did not press the King too hard. It will be observed that Sir Richard de Stafford, Lord Stafford's brother, and next to him the most important man in Staffordshire, was returned.

County :	Richard de Stafford	..	..	(1)
	Adam de Peshale	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Adam de Peshale, sheriff.			
Stafford :	Roger Wryde	..	..	(3)
	John le Rotour	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR RICHARD DE STAFFORD (LORD STAFFORD) OF CLIFTON, PIPE, etc., M.P. Staffs 1341.

Born *c.* 1305; second son of Edmund, Lord Stafford (*d.* 1308) by Margaret, sister of Ralph, Lord Basset (*d.* 1343); she re-married Sir Thomas Pipe of Pipe, and died in 1336. The Staffords in the intervals of their feuds with the Swynnersons and the Ipstones, followed the fortunes of the Earls of Lancaster, 1320-30, and whenever they were in difficulties, as after Boroughbridge, they were helped out by their uncle, Lord Basset of Drayton. On 16 April 1326 the outlawry was annulled of Thomas de Pipe, Kt., and Margaret his wife, Ralph de Stafford and Richard his brother, John, son of Thomas de Stafford, William and Humphrey, brothers of the said Richard, Roger de Pipe, William de Caverswall, Robert de Pipe and Robert de Slyndon, as the King learns that they are in his service with Ralph Basset of Drayton, constable of Dover Castle.¹

Sir Richard married (1) 1337, Isabel, daughter of Richard de Vernon (who was the son and heir of Sir Richard de Vernon of Harlaston and Haddon, and who died *v.p.* 1323) by Maud, daughter and coheiress of Sir William de Camvill of Clifton Camvill (*d.* 1337/8). By this marriage Sir Richard de S. obtained Clifton Camvill, though how he did so is not clear,

¹ C.R.

as not only was Maud one of five coheireses, but also she had a son, William Vernon of Harlaston (*b.* 1314) as well as this daughter Isabel. Isabel was the mother of Sir Richard's legitimate children: Sir Richard "le fitz" (*b.c.* 1339); Edmund, Lord Chancellor of England (*b.* 1344); Catherine (*b.* before 1338), and Maud, one the affianced and the other the actual wife, by 1347/9, of Sir Thomas de Arderne of Elford.¹ He married (2) 1351-7, Maud² (*b.* 1328/35), widow of Edmund Vernon and only child of Sir John de Stafford of Bramshall, M.P.,³ by Elizabeth de Somervill,⁴ heiress of part of Pipe, who died in 1337. Maud died without issue in 1400. Sir Richard had at least two illegitimate sons also—Sir Nicholas de S., M.P.,⁵ (*b.* 1331), and John (*b.* 1333). His eldest legitimate son, Sir Richard le fitz, with whom he might be confounded, married, by 1365, Alice, daughter and heiress of Sir John Blount; was knighted by 1362, and died *v.p.* and without issue.⁶

In 1337 Sir Richard obtained Pipe from his mother, the widow of Sir Thomas de Pipe, who had obtained it in 1334 from her son Sir James de Pipe.⁷ After some litigation with Sir James de Pipe, his half-brother, Sir Richard, secured the definite settlement of Pipe on himself and Isabel and their issue in 1345. He had also Campden, Gloucestershire, settled on him by Ralph, Lord Basset, his uncle, in 1343. But his position, which was considerable, came not from his lands or wealth, nor even from his relations with his brother, the Earl of Stafford; he was a warrior and above all a diplomatist, being used continually as ambassador. As such he finds a subsidiary place in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

¹ *Papal Letrs.* III. 352; *Papal Regrs.* I. 179.

² Maud was the niece or adopted daughter of Jane (Somervill), wife of Sir Rhys ap Gryffyth of Wichnor, which explains a blunder in *S.C.* XII. 170, where for John read "Joan."

³ *Parl.* 1339 (1).

⁴ *Parl.* 1322 (2).

⁵ *Parl.* 1377 (1).

⁶ *Papal Regrs.* I. 507; *G.E.C., Complete Peerage, Art. Stafford.* Harwood: *Erdeswick* 236.

He "backed" Sir James de Stafford in the feud between the brothers, and was sent to the Marshalsea in 1334 for helping at the murder of Richard de Burton; but he went the same year to Scotland in the retinue of Lord Basset. In 1336 he helped his brother, Lord Stafford, to abduct Margaret d'Audley. From 1343 to 1368 he is continually Commissioner, Justice of Oyer, J.P., and Collector of Subsidy.¹ In 1337 he was sent with others on an embassy to the counts of Hainault and Guelders and to the emperor Lewis. He shared in the victory of Cadsant, and was, in 1339, in the King's army at Vironfosse.² In 1342 he went to Scotland in the retinue of the Earl of Warwick. Being made a banneret, he sailed in the spring of 1345 to Gascony with his brother and was prominent at the siege of Bergerac, commanded the garrison at Liborne, assisted at the relief of Auberoche, and helped in the capture of La Réole in January 1346. He moved to Picardy with his brother and fought at Crécy, being sent afterwards to count the slain.² For the next eight years he remained in England; then in 1355 he went with the Prince of Wales to Gascony; returned with the Prince's letters in December 1355; but rejoined his army and fought at Poitiers in September 1356. He was in England in 1357,³ but sailed in the King's expedition to France in 1359, returning after the Peace of Bretigny 1360. In 1361 he was made seneschal of Gascony for a year; in 1362 we find him still in Gascony, this time with his son, Sir Richard "le fils." In 1366 he was appointed to go on an embassy with his son to the Papal court at Avignon. From 1362 onwards he is described as a baron and was summoned to Parliament as Sir Richard de Stafford le Piere in 1371. His brother, the earl, died in 1372, but Sir Richard was added to the Council of State on the accession of Richard II, and did not die till 13 August 1380. His sons and descendants were not so summoned to Parliament, but his eldest son had predeceased him, and the other was an ecclesiastic. His widow, Maud, died in 1400, and Nicholas Bradshaw and Sir Robert Mauveysin were her executors. We

¹ C.R. and P.R.² D.N.B.³ C.R.

see that in 1359 he was so important that the sheriff and other officials wore his livery.¹ These four Staffords—Ralph, Richard, James and John—held Staffordshire in their hands from 1320 to 1372. The *Dictionary of National Biography* is not only incomplete as to Sir Richard, but absolutely wrong as to his marriages. He bore the Stafford arms with three martlets for difference.

(2) ADAM DE PESHALE OF HORSLEY, M.P. Staffs, 1341.

Born c. 1300; son of Adam de P. (*alias* de Whethales or de Swynnerton) of Peshale and Eccleshall, by Anne ——. He married Jane, daughter and heiress of John de Eyton of the Wildmoors.² He is mentioned in 1333 as bailiff of the bishop's liberty of Eccleshall;³ from January to November 1341 he was sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop, returning himself to this Parliament. In 1339 and again in 1343 he was collector of the Priory of Ware.⁴ But on 28 October 1345 Robert de Ferrers and Simon de Rugeley, the Sheriff, were ordered to arrest him and bring him before the King and Council. They put him in Stafford Gaol; he escaped, and on 20 November 1345 the Justices of Wales, Salop and Staffordshire are, on pain of forfeiture, to arrest Adam de P., a common malefactor, lately attached by the King's command, who has broken arrest and escaped, wherever found, dead or alive, so as to have his body before the King.⁵ He was slain, resisting arrest on Caynton Heath, Salop, by John de Ipstones and William Trumewyne early in 1346. Who knows what he had done? His descendants all throve exceedingly in spite of the unfortunate accident on Caynton Heath; and his three sons all sat in Parliament. His lands were restored to his son and heir, Richard, in 1352.⁶ For his brother Sir Richard, see Parl. 1334 (2).

(3) ROGER WRYDE. See Parl. 1330 (1).

(4) JOHN LE ROTOUR. See Parl. 1337 (2).

¹ S.C. XII. 170.

³ C.R.

⁵ P.R.

² C.R. 1346.

⁴ P.R.

⁶ C.R.

Parliament of 1343.

Summoned, by Writs of 24 February, to meet 28 April 1343; dissolved 20 May 1343. Sir William Trussell was Speaker. This Parliament petitioned against grants being made by merchants, but accepted the repeal of the Statutes of 1341. It will be noticed that there was so little competition for the post of M.P., or so much "packing" of Parliament, that the sheriff, Swynnerton, returned himself for Staffordshire and Salop at the same time.

County :	Thomas de Swynnerton .. ..	.. ..	(1)
	Richard de Peshale .. ..	.. ..	(2)
	returned by the same Thomas de Swynnerton, sheriff.		

(1) R THOMAS DE SWYNNERTON OF SWYNNERTON, M.P. Staffs and Salop 1343.

Born 1313; second son of Sir Roger de S. of the same, who was summoned to the Parliament of 1337¹ and died 1338. His elder brother, being a priest, handed over Swynnerton to Thomas on Sir Roger's death. In the Tower of London, of which his father was Constable, he had, in 1323, become acquainted with, and he ultimately married, Maud, daughter of Sir Robert Holand and sister of Thomas Holand, first Earl of Kent, *cr.* 1360. I believe he was knighted before his father's death, certainly by 1341. In April 1341 he obtained an exemption from ever having to serve as sheriff or escheator against his will,² but he was escheator of Staffordshire and Salop 1341-3, and, at the same time, sheriff and M.P. for both counties—surely an unique pluralist. He was also a Wool Commissioner in 1342; Commissioner of Array, 1345, 1346. He joined the King's Household in 1345 with an annuity of 40*m.* a year.³ He remained in the Household certainly till 1353, served at Creçy as a banneret; was taken prisoner in Scotland in 1356; was on the French expedition of 1358;

¹ See footnote, p. 70.

² *P.R.*

³ *P.R.*

and died 1361/2. He was also J.P. for Staffordshire 1350-2.¹ He bore Arms : Silver, a cross flory sable.

(2) SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE. See Parl. 1334 (2).

Parliament of 1344.

Summoned, by Writs of 20 April, to meet 7 June 1344 ; dissolved 20 June 1344.

County :	Roger de Aston	(1)
	John de Draycote	(2)
	returned by Sir John de Aston of Heywood, sheriff.	
Stafford :	Nicholas Reyner	(3)
	John le Rotour	(4)

(1) (SIR) ROGER DE ASTON OF HEYWOOD, M.P. Staffs 1344, 1358.

Born *c.* 1315 ; eldest son and heir of Sir John de A. of the same (*d.* 1353),² by Emma ——. He was Commissioner of Array 1337 ; attorney for Sir Richard de Stafford in 1342³ ; went through the Gascon campaign of 1345-6 in the retinue of Lord Stafford ; was knighted *c.* 1353 ; J.P. 1355 till death ; Justice of Oyer 1357 ; served with Earl Stafford in the 1359 campaign ; and was supervisor of subsidy in 1360.⁴ It will be observed that his father returned him to Parliament in 1344 ; and on both occasions he must have represented the Stafford interest. He had married one Isabel before 1355, when he and his wife had indults to choose their confessors,⁵ and by 1364 she had married again to William de Chetwynd. Sir Roger died in 1361, and his son Thomas was then under age in ward to William de Chetwynd and his mother. He bore Arms : Silver, a fesse sable with three lozenges sable in chief.⁶

¹ S.C. VII. ii. 24.

² S.C. XII. 119.

³ S.C. XII. 5.

⁴ C.R.

⁵ *Papal Letrs.* III. 580.

⁶ Roll of 1380, S.C. Vol. III.

- (2) JOHN DE DRAYCOT. See Parl. 1334 (2).
 (3) NICHOLAS REYNER. See Parl. 1327.
 (4) JOHN LE ROTOUR. See Parl. 1337 (2).

Parliament of 1346.

Summoned, by Writs of 30 July, to meet 11 September 1346; dissolved 20 September 1346. This Parliament was held after Crécy, and the King was still in France. Stafford was abroad too, and the members for Staffordshire were unimportant.

County :	Simon de Rugele	..	..	(1)
	Roger Michel	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Simon de Rugeley, sub-sheriff.			
Stafford :	*Nicholas Reyner	..	..	(3)
	Thomas de Alrewas	..	..	(4)

- (1) SIMON DE RUGELEY. See Parl. 1337 (1).
 (2) ROGER MICHEL OF BREASTON, DERBYSHIRE, M.P. Staffs 1346, Derbyshire 1358.

He sided with Sir John against Sir James de Stafford in 1337,¹ and was squire to Lord Stafford *c.* 1345.² He was Justice of the Peace and of Oyer in Derbyshire 1349-57; sheriff and escheator for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire 1355-1356 and 1357-1358, returning himself to Parliament.³ He may have been a son of the William Michel who was M.P. for Derbyshire 1326, 1328, 1332 and 1337. He sat for Staffordshire doubtless through the influence of the Earl of Derby, then sheriff. He was dead in 1362, when his lands were seized into the King's hands.

- (3) NICHOLAS REYNER. See Parl. 1327.
 (4) THOMAS DE ALREWAS, M.P. Stafford 1346.

I know nothing of this man.

¹ S.C. XIV. 50.

² S.C. VIII. 120.

³ P.R.

Parliament of 1348 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 13 November 1347, to meet 14 January 1348; dissolved 12 February 1348. Sir William de Thorpe was Speaker.

County :	John Bagot	..	..	..	(1)
	*Simon de Rugeley	..	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Simon de Rugeley, sub-sheriff.				
Stafford :	*Nicholas Reyner	..	..	..	(3)
	Roger de Peshale	..	..	..	(4)

(1) SIR JOHN BAGOT OF BAGOTS BROMLEY, M.P. Staffs 1348.

Born 1314; son and heir of John B. of the same (*d.* 1334), by Lucy (Mountjoy of Derbyshire). He probably served at Halidon Hill in 1333, while still a minor, for he came of age in 1335, and was knighted by 1337. In 1342-3 he aided the Chetwynds of Ingestre against the Wasteneys of Tixall, and took the lead in the rioting. But he was a J.P. from 1344 till death. He fought at Créçy under Lord Stafford's banner, and before Calais 1346-7. He died 1349/50, probably of the Black Death,¹ leaving a son and heir Ralph (born *c.* 1334) and a widow Eglantine, who subsequently married William Proudfoot of Bagots Bromley; he bore a shield quarterly.

(2) SIMON DE RUGELEY. See Parl. 1337 (1).

(3) NICHOLAS REYNER. See Parl. 1327.

(4) ROGER DE PESHALE, M.P. Stafford 1348.

Probably a cadet of the Peshales of Horsley. If so, this is the first case of the cadet of a knightly house sitting for the borough. Whoever he was, he was slain in 1352 by Thomas de Crowborough and John Boughey.²

Parliament of 1348 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 14 February, to meet 31 March 1348; dissolved 13 April 1348. This Parliament and the

¹ S.C. XI. N.S. 26-30.

² P.R. 1354-8.

succeeding one petitioned that no person summoned to Parliament should be a tax collector or receiver of the fifteenth then granted. It ventured to complain of taxation. Thorpe was again Speaker.

County : John de Draycote (1)

Stephen de Ireton (2)

returned by Simon de Rugeley,
sub-sheriff.

Stafford : *Nicholas Reyner (3)

William de Erberton (4)

(1) JOHN DE DRAYCOT. See Parl. 1334 (2).

(2) STEPHEN DE IRETON, of part of Biddulph and Bucknall *jure uxoris*, M.P. Staffs 1348 (2).

He came from Derbyshire, where Ireton lies. (A Stephen de I. was constable of Tutbury and a servant of the Duchy in 1262.) But our Stephen married Jane, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert de Tok of Anslow, M.P.¹ and widow of Vivian de Verdon of Darlaston, Biddulph, etc., who died in 1340; thus Ireton enjoyed the widow's dower. He was dead, doubtless of the Black Death, in December 1349, when his brother, Richard, set up a chantry at Hatton, Derbyshire, to pray for his soul.² The sub-sheriffs to the Earl of Derby seem to have preferred to return Derbyshire men. Ireton's stepson, Sir John de Verdon, sat for Staffordshire in the next Parliament.³

(3) NICHOLAS REYNER. See Parl. 1327.

(4) WILLIAM DE ERBERTON. See Parl. 1340.

In August 1348 came the Black Death, and all judicial and legal business ceased for two years.

Parliament of 1349.

Summoned to meet at Westminster 19 January, 1349, prorogued to 26 April, and again prorogued *sine die* on account of the plague. No Parliament sat till—

¹ Parl. 1309

² P.R.

³ Parl. 1351.

Parliament of 1351.

Summoned, by Writs of 25 November 1350, to meet 9 February 1351; dissolved 1 March 1351. This Parliament enacted the Statute of Labourers, and was concerned simply to get serfs to work in their lords' idle fields. Sir William de Shareshill of Patshull, C.J., acted as Speaker.¹

County : John de Verdon (1)
 Thomas Adam (2)
 returned by the same Thomas
 Adam, deputy sheriff.

Stafford : John de Byrleye (3)
 Richard de Shelford (4)

(1) (SIR) JOHN DE VERDON OF DARLASTON, M.P. Staffs 1351, 1369, 1373, 1376.

Born *c.* 1320; son and heir of Vivian de V. of the same (dead in 1340), by Jane, daughter and coheiress of Sir Robert de Tok of Anslow, M.P.,² whose second husband was Stephen de Ireton, M.P.³ Sir Simon Degge calls him lord of Darlaston, Biddulph, Bucknall, and Anslow.⁴ He married, *c.* 1345, Eve—, and by her had coheiresses, Ermyntrude, who married Ralph de Hooton, and Jane, who married John de Whitmore. He must not be confused with Sir John de Verdon of Brixworth, Northants, nor with that man's son, Sir John de V. le fitz, nor with (possibly another) Sir John de V. of Draycote, Warwickshire—who were slightly earlier in date, sat often in Parliament and occur very frequently on the Rolls.

Very early in his career, in 1338, John son of Vivian de V. is charged with hunting in Needwood chase.⁵ He was knighted by 1353; Commissioner of Array 1351 (after he had been M.P.), 1356, and 1380; J.P. Staffordshire 1377 till death; sheriff 1373-4, 1379-80, returning himself to Parliament in 1373. Now there had been a law passed in 1372 that no sheriff should

¹ For Sir William de Shareshill see *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; and for his grandson, Sir William Shareshill, M.P., see Parl. 1386.

² Parl. 1309.

³ Parl. 1348

⁴ Harwood: *Erdeswick* 8.

⁵ *P.R.*

be eligible for Parliament, and that if returned he should have no wages ; in spite of this in 1373 Verdon returned himself. This never happened again in Staffordshire ; the sheriff ceased to return himself. Probably the following entry on the Rolls of the Court of the King's Bench pertains to the same transaction : " John Verdon, sheriff of Staffordshire, was fined half a mark because he had not returned his writs of the Morrow of St Martin (12 November) before the Octaves of St. Martin (18 November) " ; and Parliament met on November 21st. Perhaps he postponed the Returns to avoid the penalty.¹ In 1373 he and Eve his wife settled Darlaston on their daughters and their husbands,² and a further settlement was made in 1388 after Sir John's death, when Ermyntrude got Darlaston and Jane the rest. He must have died 1382/7.

- (2) THOMAS ADAM OF ASHBOURNE, M.P. Derbyshire 1337, 1339, 1343, Staffs 1351, Derbyshire 1355, 1357.

Born c. 1305. He was the Earl of Lancaster's sub-sheriff in Staffordshire 1350-1, and therefore returned himself. He had no other connection with Staffordshire, but he was a J.P. for Derbyshire from 1346 to 1357, and a frequent Commissioner and Justice of Oyer in the same county during the same years. He was dead in 1359, when his lands were seized into the King's hands.

- (3) JOHN DE BYRLEYE, M.P. Stafford 1351.

- (4) RICHARD DE SHELFORD, M.P. Stafford 1351.

Of neither of the Stafford members in this Parliament can I find anything.

Parliament of 1352 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 15 November 1351, to meet 13 January 1352 ; dissolved 11 February 1352. Sharesill again acted as Speaker.

¹ S.C. XIII. 118.

² S.C. XI. 181.

County : John de Perton (1)
 Adam le Alblaster (2)
 returned by Sir John Musard
 of Missarden, Gloucester-
 shire, sub-sheriff.¹

(1) SIR JOHN DE PERTON OF PERTON AND OF STIRCHLEY,
 SALOP, M.P. Staffs 1352 (1), 1360, 1365, 1366, 1371 (1),
 1371 (2).

Born *c.* 1315; son and heir of William de P. of Perton, M.P.² (*d.* 1360), by Margaret (de Stirchley). He may have gone to Scotland with Lord Stafford in 1336, or this may have been his uncle John who was slain by Wrottesley in 1338. He was certainly in the Gascony expedition of 1345-6, and in 1346/7 he was knighted.³ He was again in Gascony in 1355 with Sir Richard de Stafford, and may have fought at Poitiers. This war service led to the unusual result of the son's being made a knight in the lifetime of his un-knighted father.⁴

In Staffordshire he was escheator 1340-1, 1372-3; and sheriff 1363-4, 1370-1, returning himself to both the Parliaments of 1371, when the doings of Parliament, as well as the pay, made the service attractive. In 1381 John de P. chiv. and his sons, William, John and Richard, murdered Thomas Buffray of Penn, and the father is described as "*decrepitus et tali infirmitate detentus*" and he died 1388/9. The sons mentioned were illegitimate; and the illegitimate John, son of John de P., is found in 1379 murdering John le Walsh, parson of Stirchley.⁵ He bore Arms: Azure, on a chevron gules between three pears gold, as many bezants. These curious Arms were evidently taken from the Stafford coat.⁶ He left a widow Maud.⁷ Leo de Perton, the M.P. for Worcestershire in 1362, escheator 1346-68, may have been a brother.

¹ Deputy to the Earl of Lancaster and Derby.

² Parl 1315.

³ C.R 1347; S.C. XII. 133; *ibid.* XIII. 15.

⁴ S.C. XIV. 124.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ S.C. III. ii. 23

⁷ I p m.

(2) ADAM LE ARBLASTER OF HOARCROSS, M.P. Staffs 1352.

He was an attorney who became bailiff of the Bishop's liberty of Lichfield in 1346-56.¹ He was born *c.* 1310. We first find him attorney for the bishop in 1337²; in 1339 he was committed to the Marshalsea for murder³; and he is rioting against the Earl of Warwick in Lichfield in 1348.⁴ He is mentioned as an official 1356-9, and is styled "of Hoarcross" in 1369.⁵ By 1351 he was married to Elizabeth, widow of Henry Davy of Tutbury. From him, probably, the Arblasters of Longdon draw their descent. He was succeeded by his son James,⁶ and was buried at Rugeley. Thomas le A., M.P.,⁷ was probably his grandson.

Parliament of 1352 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 20 July, to meet 16 August 1352; dissolved 25 August 1352. To this Parliament only one M.P. was summoned from each county, city and borough, except the City of London, which returned two. The demand for representation was small, the cost great.

County : John Trumwyn, chiv. (1)
 returned by Sir John Musard,
 sub-sheriff.

(1) SIR JOHN TRUMEWYNE, soldier of fortune, M.P. Staffs 1352.

Born *c.* 1295; second son of Sir Roger T. of Sandon, M.P. (*d.* 1325/33).⁸ He was pardoned for taking part in Lancaster's rebellion in 1322; was knighted by 1340; went to Gascony in 1345 with Lord Audley; and to Creçy with the Earl of Arundel. He is mentioned at Sandon in 1345 and 1349, breaking in on Robert de Swynnerton, King's Clerk, there. His

¹ S.C. XII. 43.³ S.C. XIV. 54.⁵ S.C. XIII. 65.⁷ Parl. 1426.² S.C. XI. 79.⁴ P.R.⁶ Harwood: *Erdeswick* 243.⁸ Parl. 1312.

son Roger occurs as a rioter at Wednesfield in 1347,¹ but Sir John died, without living legitimate issue, in the Black Death of 1361. Sybil, widow of Sir John T., is referred to in 1361; he seems to have had no land and to have been a soldier of fortune.

Parliament of 1353.

Summoned, by Writs of 15 July, to meet 23 September 1353; dissolved 12 October 1353. This Parliament passed the Statute of *Praemunire*. Only one knight was to be returned from each of the shires.

County :	Walter de Verdon	..	..	(1)
Stafford :	Adam Rotour	..	..	(2)
	Hugh Snel..	..	..	(3)
Lichfield :	Nicholas de Rotewell	..	..	(4)
	Hugh de Gunston..	..	..	(5)

(1) SIR WALTER DE VERDON OF CRAKEMARSH, M.P. Staffs
1353, 1354, 1355.

He held for life Crakemarsh by Bramshall of Sir John de Stafford of Bramshall,² and is found in connection with Sir Nicholas de Verdon in 1342.³ The *Close Rolls* of 1318, however, show Walter de Verdon and Philip de Barinton holding Crakemarsh and Creighton of the Verdon Barony of Alton. To add to the confusion the Verdons of Darlaston seem to have had some interest in Crakemarsh, for they had a grant of free warren there in 1324.⁴ Then Chetwynd makes him a son of Vivian de Verdon and father of that Sir John de Verdon, M.P.,⁵ who lived 1320-82; but he never occurs in connection with any place but Crakemarsh, and I believe him to have been an illegitimate son of Theobald de Verdon, lord of Alton, 1278-1316.

He was summoned to Westminster as a knight in 1324;

¹ *P.R.*

² *S.C.* XII. 28, 78.

³ *P.R.*

⁴ *Charter Rolls.*

⁵ *Parl.* 1351.

certainly knighted by 1342¹; on 20 May 1354 he was awarded an annuity of 20*m.* for his services to Edward II and Edward III.² In 1355 he was attorney for Sir Thomas de Verdon, who was visiting Ireland³; and on 26 January 1356 he was about to set out with the King for Scotland.⁴ Thereafter we hear nothing more of him, and in the same year occurs the seal of Sir "Thomas de Verdon of Denstone,"⁵ and as Denstone is close to Crakemarsh I believe this man to have been Sir Walter's successor there. He bore Arms: Gold, fretty gules, with, I think, a border silver powdered with crosslets and fleurs-de-lis sable, if Sir Walter de *Audley* (S.C. III. ii, 22) is this man.

(2) ADAM ROTOUR. See Parl. 1328 (1).

(3) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) NICHOLAS DE ROTHWELL, M.P. Lichfield 1353.

Mention of him occurs in Lichfield in 1360⁶; and a John de R. is found in 1327.⁷ A man of the same name represented Lichfield in the Parliament of 1311.

(5) HUGH DE GUNSTONE, M.P. Lichfield 1353.

He and William Broun sue for land near Lichfield 1363-93, and they finally succeed as heirs of one Finch.⁸ A Chillington deed of 1313 records a grant of land in Gunstone in Chillington to Hugh, son of Henry, son of Henry, son of Hugh; and General Wrottesley thinks the earlier of these Hughs to be identical with Hugh, brother of Peter Giffard, *temp.* John.⁹ Hugh de G. occurs in Gunstone in 1330-41.¹⁰ So it appears that the landed families are beginning to come in to sit for the boroughs.

¹ *P.R.*

³ *P.R.*

⁵ *Harl. MS.* B.M. folio 80.

⁷ See Parl. 1321.

⁹ *S.C.* II. 209; *ibid.* V. N.S. 222.

¹⁰ *S.C.* XI. 7, 82; *ibid.* XIV. 20.

² *P.R.*

⁴ *S.C.* XIV. 97.

⁶ *S.C.* XIII. 6.

⁸ *S.C.* XV. 21.

Parliament of 1354.

Summoned, by Writs of 15 March, to meet 28 April 1354; dissolved 20 May 1354. This Parliament would willingly have agreed to peace. It petitioned against the Ordinances passed by the preceding Parliament, condemning them as irregular.

County :	*Walter de Verdon	..	..	(1)
	John Musard	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Sir John Musard, sub-sheriff.			
Stafford :	*Adam le Rotour	..	..	(3)
	Ralph del Croftes	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	John Lagowe	..	..	(5)
	Richard son of Jurdan de Lavendon	..	..	(6)

(1) SIR WALTER DE VERDON. See Parl. 1353.

(2) SIR JOHN MUSARD OF MISERDEN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, M.P.
Staffs 1354, Worcestershire 1355, Staffs 1361.

By 1355¹ he had married Catherine, daughter of Sir Roger Trumewyne, M.P.,² sister and heiress of Sir Roger Trumewyne (*d.* 1361) and sister of Sir John Trumewyne, M.P.³ (*d.* 1360). But his connection with Staffordshire arose from his being made sub-sheriff to the Earl of Lancaster and Derby, the titular sheriff of Staffordshire, 1351-61. It was doubtless as a servant of the Earldom of Lancaster that he called Newcastle into existence as a Parliamentary borough; for Newcastle belonged to the Earldom. As the first Newcastle members were just burgesses, representation can only have been given as a favour to the town.

Sir John served with Lancaster in Gascony in 1345-6; and from 1347 to 1357 he is found repeatedly as a Commissioner of Oyer and as a J.P. for Worcestershire; in 1360 he was

¹ S.C. XII. 134.

² Parl. 1312.

³ Parl. 1352 (2).

supervisor of Subsidy for Worcestershire.¹ In 1359 we are told that he wore the *robas* or livery of Sir Richard de Stafford of Pipe. He was born *c.* 1320, and died in or soon after 1361, probably in the Black Death of that year. He was certainly dead in 1373 when his widow Catherine is suing for trespass²; and he left an heiress, Jane, who married Sir John Washbourne, the descent from whom to the Biddulphs of Elmhurst is shown in Harwood's *Erdeswick*, page 158. The Arms of Ralph Mussard, *c.* 1290, were: Gules, three roundels silver.³

(3) ADAM LE ROTOUR. See Parl. 1328 (1).

(4) RALPH DEL CROFTES, M.P. Stafford 1354, 1358, 1361.

He, as well as John del Croftes, M.P. Stafford 1358, 1361, 1383, belonged to a family of Stafford burgesses.

(5) JOHN LAGOWE, M.P. Newcastle 1354.

He is mentioned as a rioter in Newcastle in 1347.⁴ The family is well known in Newcastle. Richard Lagou had been bailiff in 1325.

(6) RICHARD, SON OF JORDAN DE LAVENDON, M.P. Newcastle 1354, 1363, 1369, 1371.

He was Mayor of Newcastle in 1370, returning himself to Parliament. Adam de Lavendon witnesses most of the Trentham Charters 1244-74; Richard de Lavendon was prior of Trentham in 1299 and 1301; while Jordan, the father of the M.P., occurs in 1318-33 as a witness at Newcastle,⁵ and was mayor of the town in 1325.

Parliament of 1355.

Summoned, by Writs of 20 September, to meet 12 November 1355; by Writs of 22 October prorogued to 23 November, and then to 25 November 1355; dissolved 30 December 1355.

¹ *C.R.*

² *S.C.* XIV. 133.

³ *Geneal.* III. N.S. 241.

⁴ *S.C.* XIV. 68.

⁵ *S.C.* VIII. 179; *ibid.* XI. 331.

County :	John de Draycot, chiv.	(1)
	*Walter Verdon, chiv.	(2)
	returned by Sir John Musard, sub-sheriff, who returned himself to this Parliament for Worcestershire.	
Stafford :	*Adam Rotour	(3)
	William de Homeresleye	(4)
Newcastle :	John de Blorton	(5)
	Richard de Podmore	(6)

(1) SIR JOHN DE DRAYCOT. See Parl. 1334 (2).

(2) SIR WALTER DE VERDON. See Parl. 1353.

(3) ADAM LE ROTOUR. See Parl. 1328 (1).

(4) WILLIAM HAMERSLEY OF BOTTOM, M.P. Stafford 1355,
Newcastle 1358.

Born *c.* 1320. His is the first case of an M.P. for a borough changing his seat. In 1344 he appears as surety in Cheddleton, the place where the family he founded held land for 200 years afterwards.¹ He is an attorney at Cheddleton and at Newcastle in 1348; in 1354 he is attorney for Ralph, Earl of Stafford, and as such doubtless was first returned for Stafford.² He was a Royal Commissioner to enquire into the export of wool in 1354.³ Still in the retinue of the Earl of Stafford, he went to Ireland in 1371. The name comes from Ombersley, Worcestershire; but it has been naturalised as Hamersley in north Staffordshire and the Potteries since the time of this first successful lawyer M.P. His descendants were the Hamersleys of Bottom, since rechristened "Ashcombe" by the Sneyds.

(5) JOHN DE BLURTON, M.P. Newcastle 1355.

Born *c.* 1300; son of Thomas de B. He married Margaret, probably daughter of Geoffrey de Bagnall, before 1341.⁴ He

¹ S.C. XII. 36.

² S.C. XII. 117.

³ P.R.

⁴ S.C. XII. 49.

is a frequent witness at Newcastle and Trentham 1330-42. He bought land in Trentham in 1329¹; and he and his wife had a mill at Longton 1341-56.² Thomas de Blurton was bailiff of Newcastle in 1377-8.³

(6) RICHARD DE PODMORE, M.P. Newcastle 1355, 1358, 1361, 1362, 1365, 1366.

Thomas de Podmore, the M.P. for Newcastle in 1377 and subsequent years, may be his son. They were evidently a Newcastle family. They took their name from Podmore in Eccleshall. Richard de P. went bail for the Vicar of Madeley in 1360; and in 1365, when he was an M.P., Richard, Thomas, Ralph and William de Podmore, Richard de Rowley, Hugh le Bowier, John del Knol and other Newcastle people were granted protection for one year, probably in connection with some expedition or riot.⁴ William de Podmore was in 1378 a servant or minister of Nicholas, Lord Audley.⁵

Parliament of 1357.

Summoned, by Writs of 15 February, to meet 17 April 1357; dissolved 16 May 1357. No Returns for Staffordshire or for Middlesex have been found for this Parliament. The returns for all the other counties show very few borough representatives. Sir John Musard was still acting as sub-sheriff in Staffordshire for the Earl of Lancaster.

Parliament of 1358.

Summoned, by Writs of 15 December 1357, to meet 5 February 1358; dissolved 27 February 1358.

¹ S.C. XI. 144.

² S.C. XII. N.S. 59.

³ *Borough Records*; MS. Wm. Salt Library.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ C.R.

County :	Roger de Aston, chiv.	..	(1)
	John de Draycote, miles	..	(2)
	returned by Sir John Musard, sub-sheriff.		
Stafford :	Ralf de Croftes	.. ..	(3)
	John de Croftes	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	William de Homersleye	..	(5)
	Richard de Podmore	.. ..	(6)

(1) SIR ROGER DE ASTON. See Parl. 1344.

(2) SIR JOHN DE DRAYCOT. See Parl. 1334 (2).

(3) RALPH DE CROFTES. See Parl. 1354.

(4) JOHN DE CROFTES, M.P. Stafford 1358, 1361, 1383.

He was of a family of Stafford burgesses.

(5) WILLIAM HAMERSLEY. See Parl. 1355.

(6) RICHARD DE PODMORE. See Parl. 1355.

Parliament of 1360.

Summoned, by Writs of 10 April, to meet 15 May 1360 ;
dissolution uncertain.

County :	*John Draycote, chiv.	.. ..	(1)
	John de Perton, chiv...	..	(2)
	returned by Sir John Musard.		
Stafford :	Hugh Snel	.. ..	(3)
	John de Legh	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	William Gent	.. ..	(5)
	Richard de Colclough	.. ..	(6)
	returned by Richard Fenton, Mayor.		

(1) SIR JOHN DRAYCOT. See Parl. 1334 (2).

(2) SIR JOHN DE PERTON. See Parl. 1352.

(3) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) JOHN DE LEGH, M.P. Stafford 1360.

This cannot, I think, be the John de la Lee who sat on the Staffordshire Bench from 1347 to 1366, a Justice of Oyer and, till 1358, Queen Isabel's Steward; for he was knighted in 1357. The M.P. seems to have married a daughter of Sir Henry de Cresswell, and had land at Cresswell by Stafford.¹

(5) WILLIAM GENT OF NEWCASTLE, M.P. Newcastle 1360, 1361.

He was dead in 1363, when his widow Cecily had married William de Podmore.²

(6) RICHARD DE COLCLOUGH OF HANLEY, M.P. Newcastle, 1360.

This man had a house in, and was probably originally a burgess of, Newcastle; but he also bought the manor of Hanley from Sir Richard de Peshale (who had bought it from Nicholas de Kynnardsley). Colclough was sued for the manor in 1371,³ by the rightful heir of Kynnersley, and he evidently won his case, for, in 1392, John de Colclough was sued for dower in Hanley by the widow of Sir Richard de Peshale.⁴ Richard de C. was Mayor of Newcastle 1374-5; and Bailiff 1372-5. He was dead in 1385, when John, his son and heir, was suing for his father's debts.⁵

Parliament of 1361.

Summoned, by Writs of 20 November 1360, to meet 24 January 1361; dissolved 18 February 1361.

County :	John Musard, chiv.	(1)
	Robert de Grendon, chiv.	(2)
	returned by the same Sir John Musard, sub-sheriff.	
Stafford :	John de Croftes	(3)
	Ralf de Croftes	(4)
Newcastle :	*William Gent	(5)
	Richard de Podmore	(6)

¹ S.C. XII. 141; *ibid.* XIII. 9.

² S.C. XIII. 37.

⁴ S.C. XV. 90.

³ S.C. XIII. 87, 91, 99.

⁵ S.C. XIII. 192.

- (1) SIR JOHN MUSARD. See Parl. 1354.
- (2) SIR ROBERT DE GRENDON OF SHENSTONE AND OF GRENDON, WARWICKSHIRE, M.P. Staffs 1361, 1362, 1363, 1365, in which last year he resigned on account of ill-health, dying in the same year.¹

Born c. 1305; son and heir of Ralph, lord Grendon of Shenstone (*d.* 1331),² by Jane, probably daughter of Hugh Burnell. He married (1) Isabel (who in 1365 married John de Rochford), divorced her in 1355,³ and by 1360 had married (2) Eleanor, widow of Sir William Handsacre of Handsacre; and at Handsacre he lived thereafter.

Though he succeeded to Shenstone in 1331/6, yet, owing to debts, this manor remained with his feudal overlords, the earls and dukes of Lancaster, throughout his lifetime. He was knighted by 1361, when he went, after Parliament had risen, with the Earl of Stafford to Ireland. He was sheriff of Staffordshire 1362-3, returning himself to Parliament. He died in 1365 without issue.⁴ Though his father was summoned to Parliament, thereby being held to have become Lord Grendon, yet this knight was never so summoned, nor were his heirs.

- (3) JOHN DE CROFTES. See Parl. 1358.
- (4) RALPH DE CROFTES. See Parl. 1354.
- (5) WILLIAM GENT. See Parl. 1360.
- (6) RICHARD DE PODMORE. See Parl. 1355.

Afterwards in this year came the second visitation of the Black Death, August 1361 to May 1362.

Parliament of 1362.

Summoned, by Writs of 14 August, to meet 13 October 1362; dissolved 17 November 1362. Sir Henry Green, C.J.,

¹ S.C. XII. 298.

² G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

³ S.C. XVII. 296.

⁴ S.C. XIII. 41; *ibid.* VIII. N.S. 7

acted as Speaker, and addressed¹ the Houses in English, a practice continued thenceforth.¹ This Parliament declared that the levying of subsidies on wool was illegal without the consent of Parliament. They also enacted that the pleadings in the law courts should be in English, though this was not carried out.

County :	*Robert de Grendon, chiv.	..	..	(1)
	Philip de Lutteleye	..	..	(2)
	returned by John de Swynnerton of Hilton, sheriff.			
Stafford :	Hugh Snel	..	..	(3)
	Simon Organ	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	Richard de Podmore	..	..	(5)
	Thomas de Wodhull	..	..	(6)

(1) SIR ROBERT DE GRENDON. See Parl. 1361.

(2) PHILIP DE LUTLEY OF LUTLEY, M.P. Staffs 1362, 1366, 1368.

Born *c.* 1325; son and heir of Philip de L. of the same, M.P.² (slain by Wrottesley in 1352), by Katherine, daughter of Sir John de Perton, M.P.³ He married (1) Anne, widow of William, son of Thomas de Thamenhorn, in or before 1362⁴; but she was dead by November 1363,⁵ and by 1367 he had married (2) Maud, a kinswoman of John de Bottetourt of Weobley,⁶ and she was surviving as his widow in 1370.⁷ He was a royal servant, as had been his father. He was escheator of seven midland counties from March 1362 to October 1368; sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop 1364-8, twice returning himself to Parliament. In 1368 he bought Walton by Chebsey from the Giffards⁸; and he was dead by Easter 1370,⁹ leaving John de L., his brother and heir.¹⁰ He bore Arms, quarterly, four lions passant, countercharged.¹¹

¹ Parry: *Parlts.* 128, *note.*

² Parl. 1352 (1).

³ *C.R.*; see also *I.p.m.* 37 *Edw.* III.

⁴ *S.C.* XIII. 182.

⁵ *S.C.* XIII. 79.

² Parl. 1332 (1).

⁴ *S.C.* XIII. 22.

⁶ *S.C.* XIV. 121.

⁸ *S.C.* XIII. 182.

¹⁰ *S.C.* XIII. 97.

¹¹ Seal attached to Lyttelton charter No. 172, *pace* W. Fowler Carter.

(3) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) SIMON ORGAN, M.P. Stafford 1362.

It is just possible that he was the otherwise unknown father of John Organ, mercer, M.P. for the City of London 1368, 1377, 1380, 1384, 1386, sheriff of London 1385-6. And he may also have been the son of that Roger Organ who was M.P. for Stafford in 1336.

(5) RICHARD DE PODMORE. See Parl. 1355.

(6) THOMAS WOODALL, M.P. Newcastle 1362, 1365, 1366, 1373.

He was a burges of Newcastle¹; and was Mayor of that town in 1358.

Parliament of 1363.

Summoned, by Writs of 1 June, to meet 6 October 1363; dissolved 30 October 1363.

County :	*Robert de Grendon, chiv.	..	(1)
	Nicholas de Beek, chiv.	..	(2)
	returned by the same Sir Robert de Grendon, sheriff.		
Stafford :	*Hugh Snel	.. ..	(3)
	Robert le Goldsmith	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	Richard de Lavndene	.. ..	(5)
	John de Lylsull	.. ..	(6)
	returned by Robert Hunter, Mayor.		

(1) SIR ROBERT DE GRENDON. See Parl. 1361.

(2) SIR NICHOLAS DE BEEK OF TEAN, M.P. Staffs 1363, 1365.

Born *c.* 1320; son and heir of Robert de B. of the same (dead in 1347). He married Jane, daughter of Ralph, Earl of Stafford, who was the mother of his heiress.² In 1347 Tean

¹ S.C. XIII. 49.

² *Havl. MSS.* 6128. folio 59; and *Gonville and Caius MSS.* No 573. folio 107. *ex inf.* Rev. Charles Swynnerton.

was settled on him and his wife Jane,¹ his mother Mary still having Hopton in dower for life while he had only the reversion. He was knighted by 1348, being then in the household of Lord Stafford; doubtless for that reason he was put on the Commission of the Peace in 1351. He was a Commissioner occasionally 1354-61; and sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop from November 1368 to July 1369, when he must have died, as he was succeeded by the under-sheriff till November. His only surviving daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, married Sir Robert de Swynnerton of Swynnerton, and was the mother of the famous Maud Swynnerton,² who was abducted by Sir John de Ipstones. He bore Arms in the Roll of 1380: Gules, a cross ermine.

(3) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) ROBERT LE GOLDSMITH, M.P. Stafford 1363.
Unknown.

(5) RICHARD DE LAVENDEN. See Parl. 1354.

(6) JOHN DE LILLESBALL, M.P. Newcastle 1363.

He came from Newcastle,³ and was Bailiff there 1374-5.⁴

Parliament of 1365.

Summoned, by Writs of 4 December 1364, to meet 20 January 1365; dissolved 28 February 1365.

County: *Robert de Grendon, chiv. .. (1)

*Nicholas de Beek, chiv. .. (2)

returned by Philip de Lutley,
sheriff, but they resigned on
grounds of ill-health and he
returned in their place:

John de Perton (3)

William de Walshale (4)

¹ S.C. XV. 114.

³ S.C. XI. 310-24.

² S.C. XIII. 157.

⁴ *Borough Records.*

Stafford :	*Hugh Snel	..	..	..	(5)
	William Bochard (<i>vel</i> Wochard)				(6)
Newcastle :	Thomas de Wodhull	..	..		(7)
	Richard de Podmore	..	..		(8)

- (1) ROBERT DE GRENDON. See Parl. 1361.
 (2) NICHOLAS DE BEEK. See Parl. 1363.
 (3) SIR JOHN DE PERTON. See Parl. 1352 (1).
 (4) WILLIAM WALSALL OF RUSHALL, M.P. Staffs 1365, 1380, 1384, 1391, 1393, 1394, 1402, 1403, 1414.

Born *c.* 1345; called "nephew" and therefore I think illegitimate son, of William Coleson, who was lord of Rushall in right of his wife. He had married, by 1380, Margaret, widow of Sir Rhys ap Gryffyth of Wichnor, and daughter of Alan (?) de la Zouche, and she had her dower in Stockton, Worcestershire, and Newbolt and Dunstall by Wichnor.¹ By her he had a daughter Katherine, as well as a son and heir, Robert. He married this Katherine to the heir of Rusball, William Grobbere, whom he had purchased as an infant in 1378; and William Grobbere of Rushall, usually called William Rushall, became Walsall's adopted son. From 1378 to 1396, during the minority of this adopted son, William Walsall lived at the boy's house at Rushall, while he carried on his multifarious duties.

He was escheator of Staffordshire, Salop and the Marches, 1375-7, 1378-81, 1383-4, 1402-3; for Worcestershire 1404-5; sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop for a fortnight in 1377, of Staffordshire alone 1381-3, 1384-5, 1389-90, 1396-9, 1406-7. Before 1392 he had been made a Squire of the Body to King Richard II. He was joint keeper of the Audley estates in 1391; constable of Stafford Castle in 1392.² With the King he went to Ireland in 1394; and by 1395 he was Marshall of the Hall and Constable of Caermarthen.³ In 1397 he was made Constable of Dinevor Castle, receiver of Lapple Priory, and Keeper of Teddesley Hay. In 1399 he and his son-in-law, William of Rushall, went with the King again to

¹ Shaw: *Staffs. App.* 38.

² *P.R.*

³ *P.R.*

Ireland. What part they took in the events of September and October of that year we cannot tell, but Walsall obtained a regrant of his pension of £20 from Hales Owen and Rowley Regis and of £20 from the forest of Delamere from the new Sovereign,¹ and was again escheator, sheriff and M.P. In 1413 he was added to the Staffordshire Bench. He died in 1415.² His wife, Margaret de la Zouche, survived him.

He is described, *c.* 1450, presumably by John Harpur of Rushall, as: "A thrifty squyer and on of the marchallis of kinge Richardes halle, of grete power by the kinges autoritee." . . . "He dwellide at Rushale from the 3rd to the 19th of kynge Richard."³ I do not think he bore any Arms, and he was never a knight.

(5) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(6) WILLIAM WOCHARD, M.P. Stafford 1365.

A man of this name was one of the two bailiffs of Stafford in 1357.⁴

(7) THOMAS DE WOODALL. See Parl. 1362.

(8) RICHARD DE PODMORE. See Parl. 1355.

Parliament of 1366.

Summoned, by Writs of 20 January, to meet 4 May 1366; dissolved 11 May 1366.⁵

County :	*John de Perton	..	..	(1)
	Philip de Lutteley	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Philip de Lutley, sheriff.			

¹ *Ant. Petns.* P.R.O. 1101.

² *S.C.* XVII. 54; *ibid.* XVI. 49. *ibid.* XI. 219.

³ Shaw: *Staffs.* II. 63.

⁴ *S.C.* XII. 148.

⁵ There is evidence that representation was still considered a burden to be avoided. The community of Torrington, Devon, had shown the King "that they ought not to be burthened to send any men to the King's Parliament. . . . the King held the men of that town excused . . . and exonerated them thereof for ever." (Parry: *Parlts.* 130 note.)

Stafford :	*Hugh Snel	..	..	..	(3)
	William Slindon	..	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	*Richard de Podmore	..	..	..	(5)
	*Thomas de Wodhull	..	..	..	(6)

(1) SIR JOHN DE PERTON. See Parl. 1352 (1).

(2) PHILIP DE LUTLEY. See Parl. 1362.

(3) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) WILLIAM SLINDON, M.P. Stafford 1366.

Slindon is in Eccleshall; so I imagine that this was a local man.

(5) RICHARD DE PODMORE. See Parl. 1355.

(6) THOMAS DE WOODALL. See Parl. 1362.

Parliament of 1368.

Summoned, by Writs of 24 February, to meet 1 May, 1368; dissolved 21 May 1368.

County :	John Draycot, miles	..	..	..	(1)
	*Philip de Lutteley	..	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Philip de Lutley, sheriff.				
Stafford :	*Hugh Snel	..	..	..	(3)
	John de Wolaston	..	..	..	(4)

Newcastle : Return illegible. Roger Letys, Mayor.

(1) JOHN DRAYCOT. See Parl. 1334.

(2) PHILIP DE LUTLEY. See Parl. 1362.

(3) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) JOHN DE WOLASTON OF WOLASTON, M.P. Stafford 1368, 1369, 1372, and probably 1395, 1397, 1399.

Born c. 1325. Mention of him occurs from 1352 to 1386, and he may very possibly be the same as the John de Wilaston who was M.P. for Stafford in the 90's. He was an important

person for a borough member, holding land at Wolaston, Ivetsey, Blymhill and Acton Trussel.¹ He was attorney for Sir Hugh de Wrottesley in 1352,² for Sir William Trussel in 1362,³ and for Sir Robert de Swynnerton in 1385.⁴ In 1369 he served in France and again in 1373 in the retinue of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, when he is described as one of the "*scutiferi homines ad arma.*"⁵ In 1380 and 1383 he was a Royal Commissioner.⁶ He and his wife Isabel (? Eyton) pay poll Tax at Blymhill in 1380/1.⁷ His Arms, if any, are not discoverable.

Parliament of 1369.

Summoned, by Writs of 6 April, to meet 3 June 1369; dissolved 11 June 1369. This Parliament saw the war with France renewed.

County :	John de Verdon, chiv.	(1)
	William del Wode	(2)
	returned by Sir Nicholas de Beek, sheriff.	
Stafford :	*Hugh Snel	(3)
	*John de Wolaston	(4)
Newcastle :	Richard de Lavendene	(5)
	Roger Letys	(6)
	returned by Roger Letys himself, the Mayor.	

(1) SIR JOHN DE VERDON. See Parl. 1351.

(2) WILLIAM DEL WODE, M.P. Staffs 1369.

He was not a Staffordshire man, and is the first case of a crown nominee. He was of the king's household, and occurs

¹ S.C. XIII. 68, 84; *ibid.* XVII. 198; *ibid.* II. N.S. 152.

² S.C. XII. 122.

³ S.C. VIII. 107.

⁴ S.C. XIV. 245.

⁵ S.C. XIII. 117.

⁶ P.R.

⁷ S.C. XIII. 89.

as a serjeant-at-arms 1346-61.¹ He may have been from Yorkshire,² or from Berkshire, where a William del Wode was J.P. 1380-3.³

(3) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) JOHN DE WOLASTON. See Parl. 1368.

(5) RICHARD DE LAVENDENE. See Parl. 1354.

(6) ROGER LETYS OF NEWCASTLE, M.P. Newcastle 1369, 1371.

He was Mayor of Newcastle in 1366-7, 1367-8, 1368-9, and 1369-70, returning himself to this Parliament.

Parliament of 1371.

Summoned, by Writs of 8 January, to meet 24 February 1371; dissolved 29 March 1371. This Parliament met after the third Black Death. Public opinion was getting critical. The war in France had failed and was expensive. Parliament attacked the church and tried to remove the clerical ministers. A committee of this Parliament, one of each brace of members (his name being specified in the Writs to the sheriffs), was recalled, by Writs of 27 April, to meet at Winchester on 8 June 1371, and was finally dissolved 17 June 1371.⁴

County :	John de Draycot	..	..	(1)
	John de Perton	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same John de Perton, sheriff.			

Stafford : The returns are missing but
*Hugh Snel was the one recalled (3)

¹ *P.R. and C.R.* ; *List of Enrolled Foreign Accounts*, P.R.O. p. 8.

² *C.R.* 1350.

³ *P.R.* ; the Rev. Charles Swynnerton points out that a family of Wode was in Newcastle at the time of the 1327 Subsidy Roll. But I do not think that such a burgess family could have represented the county.

⁴ Those recalled in June were : John de Perton, Hugh Snel and Roger Letys.

Newcastle :	*Roger Letys	..	..	(4)
	*Richard Lavendene	..	..	(5)
	returned by Richard de Lavendon himself, the Mayor.			

(1) SIR JOHN DE DRAYCOT. See Parl. 1334 (2).

(2) SIR JOHN DE PERTON. See Parl. 1352.

(3) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) ROGER LETYS. See Parl. 1369.

(5) RICHARD LAVENDENE. See Parl. 1354.

Parliament of 1372.

Summoned, by Writs of 1 September, to meet 13 October 1372; prorogued, by Writs of 6 October, to 3 November 1372; dissolved 24 November 1372. Lancaster was in power and the country was discontented. The Parliament requested that no lawyers might be eligible as knights of the shire, and that, if returned, they should be paid no wages, as they pressed their clients' interests in Parliament instead of attending to the public weal; also that no sheriff or mayor might sit in Parliament during his term of office. It will be noticed that Verdon did so sit in the very next Parliament.

County :	John de Gresley	..	..	(1)
	William de Halghton	..	..	(2)
	returned by the same Sir John de Gresley, sheriff. ¹			
Stafford :	Robert del Mershe	..	..	(3)
	John de Wolaston	..	..	(4)

¹ Only Halghton's name appears in the Writ *de Expensis*; presumably Gresley did not get paid, being sheriff. p. 111.

Newcastle : Edmund Toly (5)
 Thomas (vel William)¹ Col-
 clogh (6)
 returned by William de
 Thickness, jun., Mayor.

(1) SIR JOHN DE GRESLEY OF DRAKELOW, M.P. Staffs 1372.

Born *c.* 1325 ; son and heir of Sir Geoffrey de G. of the same (M.P. for Derbyshire 1299-1300, 1300-1 ; *d.* 1331/2), by Margery (Gernon). He married (1), by 1346, Alice, niece of Sir Roger de Swynnerton, and she died soon after 1349 ; (2) Jane, daughter of John Toly of Wymondham and widow (1) of Sir Richard Peshale, and (2) of Sir Thomas de Wasteney of Colton. Through her and her daughter Thomassine the Gresleys got Colton. Sir John was under age and in ward to Sir Roger de Swynnerton in 1334 ; he was knighted 1349/50 ; was sheriff of Notts and Derby 1358-9 ; of Staffordshire 1371-2, returning himself to Parliament ; escheater of Staffordshire and Salop 1378 ; and Commissioner of Oyer 1379. He is found rioting against Sir Richard de Stafford at Lullington, Derbyshire, in 1355, and it is perhaps because he was opposed to the Staffords that he fills so small a place in Staffordshire history. He died 1394/6 and was succeeded by his grandson, Sir Thomas de Gresley, M.P.² He bore Arms : Vair of ermine and gules.

(2) WILLIAM DE HAUGHTON OF HAUGHTON, M.P. Staffs 1372.

Born *c.* 1345 ; grandson and heir (?) of Sir Thomas de H. of the same³ (*d.* 1363/9). He succeeded his grandfather some time after 1363,⁴ and mention of him occurs from 1370⁵ to 1379, when he was attorney for Sir Robert de Swynnerton. He was J.P. for Staffordshire 1382, in which year also he

¹ " William " in the Writs *de Expensis* ; " Thomas " in the Return.

² Parl. 1413.

³ Parl. (False) of 1337.

⁴ S.C. VIII. N.S. 6.

⁵ S.C. XIII. 182

died, for his widow Jane was suing for dower in Haughton.¹ He was probably succeeded by a brother, Humphrey, who was dead in 1388, leaving a son Thomas, a minor.² William de Haughton was never a knight nor are any Arms found.

(3) ROBERT DEL MARSH, M.P. Stafford, 1372, 1377 (1), 1377 (2).

This family were tenants of the Marsh by Stafford in the 13th and 14th centuries.

(4) JOHN DE WOLASTON. See Parl. 1368.

(5) EDMUND TOLY, M.P. Newcastle 1372.

This is not a Newcastle name at all; he may have been some relation of the masterful lady of Colton.³ A man of this name was attorney for Sir John Gresley in 1382, and for his dame Jane (Toly) in 1392.⁴ Sir John then being sheriff may well have arranged for his kinsman's return as well as for his own.⁵

(6) THOMAS or WILLIAM COLCLOUGH, M.P. Newcastle 1372.

If this is Thomas, then a Thomas C. and Agnes his wife, who were sued in Endon in this year, indicates the man. But more probably it is :

WILLIAM COLCLOUGH, M.P. Newcastle 1372, 1384 (1), 1385, 1386, 1390 (1), 1395, 1397.

This man was probably the William C. of Calverhall, Salop, who was dead in 1415, when John C. of Newcastle was his executor.⁶ He was surety for Roger Biddulph in 1390,⁷ and attorney for John Colclough, lord of Hanley, in 1393; escheator for Salop 1407; and mention of him occurs in Clayton in 1411. The family came from Colclough in Tunstall.⁸

¹ S.C. XIII. 179. 187.

² P.R.

³ Whose third husband was Sir John de Gresley, above.

⁴ Parker: *Colton* 96, 102. John Toly was sheriff of Rutland, 1330.

⁵ Among the Antient Petitions at the P.R.O. is one, anonymous but granted, for "Esmond Toly quest en allant ovesque moi devers les parties de Bretagne une chartre de pardon de la mort Will. de Burgh."

⁶ S.C. XVII, 54.

⁷ S.C. XV, 24.

⁸ See also Richard de Colclough, Parl. 1360.

Parliament of 1373.

Summoned, by Writs of 4 October, to meet 21 November 1373; dissolved 10 December 1373. The writs directed that only dubbed knights or honest squires be chosen for the counties. This Parliament made difficulties about supply.

County :	John de Verdon, chiv.	..	(1)
	John de Knightleye	..	(2)
	returned by the same Sir		
	John de Verdon, sheriff. ¹		
Stafford :	Hugh Snel	.. ..	(3)
	Nicholas Snel	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	Thomas de Wodhull	..	(5)
	Roger del Castell	.. ..	(6)
	returned by Nicholas de		
	Chaumbourne, Mayor.		

(1) SIR JOHN DE VERDON. See Parl. 1351.

(2) JOHN DE KNIGHTLEY OF GNOSALL, M.P. Staffs 1373, 1376, 1379, 1382.

Born *c.* 1335; eldest son of Robert K. of the same (*d.* 1384/95).² He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Adam de Burgh of Burgh Hall in Gnosall. He is mentioned in 1357.³ He was J.P. for Staffordshire as "John de K. of Wyrley," 1378-94; Commissioner of Oyer 1386-1404; and he died in 1414, leaving a son "John de K. junior," M.P.⁴ John de K. was the grandfather of the first Knightley of Fawsley. I suspect from the frequency of his appearance as a justice that he was a lawyer. His Will, dated 23 April 1413, was proved 1414.²

¹ Sir John de Verdon was appointed sheriff 7 November 1373; but that he did return himself, in spite of its illegality, is obvious, inasmuch as he was fined half a mark because, as sheriff, he had not sent in his Returns of 12 November by 18 November (S.C. XIII. 118). He did not send them in, one may suppose, because he had illegally returned himself.

² V.C.H. *Northants, Pedigree Vol.* "Knightley of Fawsley."

³ *P.R.*

⁴ Parl. 1383.

(3) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) NICHOLAS SNEL OF STAFFORD, M.P. Stafford 1373, 1376, 1380, 1381, 1388.

He was probably a son or near relation of Hugh Snel, M.P., and of the other members of this family who sat for Stafford.

(5) THOMAS DE WODHULL. See Parl. 1362.

(6) ROGER DEL CASTEL, M.P. Newcastle 1373.

He was, quite simply, Roger of Newcastle. I find no more of him.

Parliament of 1376.

Summoned, by Writs of 28 December 1375, to meet 12 February 1376; prorogued, by Writs of 20 January, to 28 April, 1376; dissolved 10 July 1376. This, the "Good Parliament," under the leadership of Sir Peter de la Mare, was bitterly hostile to the Court and to Lancaster, and caused the dismissal of many ministers and of Alice Perrers. During its long session 140 petitions were presented to the Crown—amongst others that Parliament might be held annually, and that knights of the shire might be chosen by common election "*de les meilleurs gentz*" of the same counties and not certified by the sheriff alone. It also petitioned that the sheriff himself should be in future elected, and not nominated.¹ Both Ralph, Earl of Stafford, and Richard, Lord Stafford of Pipe, were among those peers selected to confer with the Commons, but I cannot decide whether these two were for or against Lancaster. All the members sent from Staffordshire were the old members of the previous Parliament.

County : *John de Verdon, chiv. (1)

*John de Knightleye (2)

returned by Sir Nicholas
de Stafford, sheriff.

¹ Parry : *Parlts.* 135.

Stafford : *Hugh Snell (3)
 *Nicholas Snell (4)

Newcastle : No Returns have been found,
 and possibly this borough, as
 belonging to the Duke of
 Lancaster, had no Writ or was
 otherwise excluded. Richard
 Buntable was Mayor.

(1) SIR JOHN DE VERDON. See Parl. 1351.

(2) JOHN DE KNIGHTLEY. See Parl. 1373.

(3) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).

(4) NICHOLAS SNEL. See Parl. 1373.

Parliament of 1377 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 1 December 1376, to meet
 27 January 1377; dissolved 2 March 1377. The Speaker was
 Sir Thomas Hungerford, M.P. Wiltshire. Lancaster packed
 this Parliament, and very few of those county members who
 had sat in the previous Parliament sat in this one. Even
 the boroughs that received writs seem to have largely changed.
 The Parliament went back on all that the Good Parliament
 had done, and Peter de la Mare, the late Speaker, remained
 in prison.

County : Nicholas de Stafford, chiv. .. (1)

Adam de Peshale (2)

returned by Peter de
 Caverswall of Caverswall
 and of High Ercall, Salop,
 sheriff.

Stafford : Robert del Mershe (3)

Henry Prest (4)

Newcastle : Richard Buntable (5)

Thomas Thicknesse (6)

returned by William Thick-
 nesse, Mayor.

(1) SIR NICHOLAS DE STAFFORD OF THROWLEY, M.P. Staffs, 1377 (1), 1377 (2), 1379, 1380, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1390 (1), 1390 (2).

General Wrottesley, quoting Glover's MSS., makes him a son of Sir Richard de Stafford of Pipe, M.P.¹ A Weston-under-Lizeard deed of 1375 calls him son of the Earl of Stafford.² But an entry in the *Papal Petitions* under 1349, granting Nicholas, son of Richard de Stafford, Kt., a dispensation to hold a benefice, being then in his eighteenth year (*i.e.* born 1330/1),³ makes it clear to me that he was indeed a son of Sir Richard, but that he was not a younger son, but an elder and illegitimate son. Sir Richard de Stafford, *le fils*, the eldest legitimate son, was born *c.* 1339, and the next legitimate son, Edmund Stafford (afterwards Lord Chancellor), was born in 1344. But the position of Sir Nicholas does seem almost too considerable for a bastard. In the list of those bearing Arms, drawn up *c.* 1380, his name comes after the two lords and before that of Sir Humphrey Stafford of Bramshall, before Audley and Dudley and Basset. The Arms he bore were the Arms of the Earl, differenced only by an azure chief. And for many years he was the leader or chief of the Staffordshire bench.⁴ He married, 1349/53, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Meverel of Throwley (*d.* 1347), and had with her land in Fradswell and Ilam, as well as his chief seat at Throwley.⁵ She seems to have been an heiress also of the Daniells of Tiddeswell, Derbyshire; but she had no issue and surviving him died soon after 1405,⁶ when the lands went back to cadets of the Meverel house.

He served with the Black Prince in France in 1355,⁷ and

¹ Parl. 1341; see S.C. XI. 189.

² S.C. II. N.S. 58; but Mr. E. R. Bridgeman now corrects this from the original deed, which should run, "Earl of Stafford, *Sir Richard de Stafford*, and Sir Nicholas his son."

³ *Papal Letrs.* III. 352.

⁴ S.C. III. ii. 22; *P.R.*

⁵ S.C. XIII. 176; *ibid.* XV. 17, 48.

⁶ S.C. XV. 77.

⁷ S.C. VIII. 99.

fought at Poitiers,¹ where he was probably knighted. (He was certainly knighted between 1355 and 1359.²) After the Treaty of Bretigny he went to the wars in Ireland with the Earl 1361-2;³ and on the renewal of the French war in 1369 he went back with the Prince to Gascony.⁴ He was made attorney in Ireland for Earl Hugh in 1378; but, generally, from 1372 onwards he seems to have been busy in Staffordshire. He was sheriff 1372-3 and 1375-6; feoffee for uses for Earl Hugh in 1378; and his executor on his death in 1385. He was a J.P. 1377 till death, being in the position of chairman from 1385 onwards; Commissioner of Array 1392. After the murder of the young Lord Stafford in 1384 the whole of the Stafford clan were probably mortal enemies of the Holands, the King's half-brothers; so we find Sir Nicholas receiving a general pardon in 1393.⁵ He died *sans* issue in 1394.⁶

(2) (SIR) ADAM DE PESHALE OF WESTON-UNDER-LIZEARD, M.P. Salop 1373, Staffs 1377 (1), 1380, 1381, 1383 (1), Salop 1394, 1402, 1411.

Born *c.* 1345; son of Adam de P. of Horsley, M.P.⁷ (slain 1346), by Jane (Eyton). He married, *c.* 1362, Elisabeth, daughter and coheirss of Sir John de Weston and widow of Sir John de Whyston, and she died in 1366; he married again, 1369/70, Elizabeth (*d.c.* 1384) daughter and coheirss of Sir Philip ap Rees and relict of Sir Henry Mortimer of Chelmarsh, Salop; thirdly, he married, 1388, Joyce (*d.* 1420), daughter and eventual coheirss of Sir John de Bottetourt of Weoley, and widow of Sir Baldwin de Freville, by whom he had daughters and coheirsses: Jane, who married Sir William de Birmingham and had Tamhorn and lands at Handsacre and Rugeley; and Margaret, who married Sir Richard de Mytton, and whose son had Weston, Blymhill, etc.⁸

¹ S.C. VI. ii. N.S. 177.

³ S.C. VIII. 104.

⁵ P.R.

⁷ Parl. 1341

² S.C. XII. 167.

⁴ S.C. VIII. 111.

⁶ S.C. VII. N.S. 247.

⁸ S.C. II. N.S. 98.

He was knighted 1377/9; was sheriff of Staffordshire 14 November to 8 December 1380, when his name was evidently removed because he had been elected to Parliament; J.P. for Staffordshire 1382-6; grantee of the forests of Morf and Shirlet 1385; was retained for life to stay with the King as King's knight at £20 a year in 1390;¹ Commissioner of Array for Staffordshire 1392, 1399, and for Salop 1399 and 1403; In July 1401 he was summoned to a Council at Westminster as "of Salop Kt";² and in 1410 he was one of those appointed to raise money in Staffordshire, Salop and Hereford.³ Sheriff of Salop 1397-9, and 1418-9; and he died 26 October 1419. He lived at Peshale, where he had licence for an oratory in 1372,⁴ before he bought up the shares of the Weston estate in 1373, 1377 and 1380. He bore the Swynnerton Arms: (Silver, a cross flory sable), with the addition of a canton gules charged with a boar's head silver crowned gold.⁵ His two elder brothers also sat in the House, Sir Richard⁶ for Staffordshire and Salop, 1380-3, Sir Haminet for Salop 1386.

(3) ROBERT DEL MERSHE. See Parl. 1372.

(4) HENRY PREST, M.P. Stafford 1377 (1).

In 1392 this man appears as a retainer of Sir Thomas de Thamenhorn.⁷

(5) RICHARD BUNTABLE OF NEWCASTLE, M.P. Newcastle 1377 (1).

He was a popular mayor of Newcastle in 1375-6. In 1403 John Biddulph and Margaret his wife, widow of Richard Buntable, sued for Richard B.'s debts.⁸

(6) THOMAS THICKNES OF NEWCASTLE, M.P. Newcastle 1377 (1), 1382, 1383 (1), 1383 (2), 1388, 1391, 1397, 1399, 1411.

Born c. 1340; he was probably eldest legitimate son of

¹ P.R.

³ *Ibid.* 344.

⁵ S.C. II. N.S. 99.

⁷ S.C. XV. 48.

² *Privy Council Reg.* 162.

⁴ S.C. VIII. N.S. 62.

⁶ Parl. 1382.

⁸ S.C. XV. III.

William T. by his wife Margery de Audley, and younger brother of William de T., M.P. for Newcastle.¹ His name appears from 1359 onwards, and he seems to have been an early example of the capitalist farmer lessee. In 1361 he leased land in Betley from Lord Audley ;² in 1392 he and Richard Sneyd leased all Hillary's share of the Audley inheritance in North Staffordshire ;³ and he was grantee of a further share after the death of Elizabeth, widow of Sir Nicholas de Audley, for and during the life of Margaret Hillary.⁴ He had a house in Newcastle in 1402 worth £40 a year,⁵ but he seems to have come of a Balterley family ;⁶ and he may be the Thomas T. who heads Chetwynd's pedigree of this family⁷ and was ancestor of the Thicknes, Lords Audley. He was mayor of Newcastle in 1408 and in 1410, but was dead in 1412, leaving a widow Jane,⁸ and one of his executors was Henry Delves of Apedale.⁹

¹ Parl. 1378.

³ S.C. XI. 209.

⁵ S.C. XV. 106.

⁷ S.C. XII. N.S. 238.

⁹ S.C. XVII. 43.

² S.C. XIII. 16.

⁴ P.R. 1393.

⁶ S.C. XI. 138.

⁸ S.C. XVI. 81.

RICHARD II.

*July 1377.**Parliament of 1377 (2).*

Summoned, by Writs of 4 August, to meet 13 October 1377; dissolved 28 November 1377. This Parliament claimed to control the expenditure and the executive. Hugh, the Earl, and Richard, the Lord Stafford of Pipe, were on the Royal Council.¹ Sir Peter de la Mare, M.P. Herefordshire, was again Speaker.

County :	*Nicholas Stafford, chiv.	..	(1)
	Thomas de Thamenhorn, chiv.		(2)
	returned by Sir Peter		
	Caverswalle of High Ercall,		
	sheriff.		
Stafford :	*Robert del MerSSH	.. ..	(3)
	Hugh Snel	.. ..	(4)

¹ The following list of gentry of the county, which from internal evidence I date 1377/82, is given in *Harl.* 1415. (*Brit. Mus.*)

John Draycot, chiv.	John de Whitmore
John de Verdon, chiv.	William de Bentley
John Basset, chiv.	Ralph de Houton
Philip de Ockeovr, chiv.	Roger de Bold
Thomas de Aston, chiv.	John de Pyllaton hall
Thomas de Thommehorne, chiv.	John de Frodsame
John de Pearton, chiv.	Thomas de Hextall
John Bagot, chiv.	Thomas Mynerrs
William de Shershulle	Richard de Ruggeley
William Wastenes	Richard Jordan
John Herunville	Ralph de Okevor
Robert de Coyne	Henry de Somerford
William de Kynardesley	John Child of Burkedon (Brocton)
John de Cowley	William de Stonilowe
John de Marnham	Thomas de Eaton

Newcastle : Thomas de Podmore. . . . (5)

Henry de Erdeleye (6)

returned by William Thick-
ness, Mayor.

- (1) SIR NICHOLAS DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1377 (1).
(2) SIR THOMAS DE THAMENHORN OF TAMHORN, M.P. Staffs
1377 (2), 1382.

Born *c.* 1340 ; under age in 1350 ; called brother of William, son of Thomas de T.,¹ which Thomas de T. was recently dead in 1350.² He was sheriff of Staffordshire October to November 1380. It was on his issue by Alice his wife that he settled Tamhorn in 1398,³ but in 1399 Sir Adam de Peshale bought the reversion, and Sir Adam's daughter Jane Birmingham succeeded to Tamhorn.⁴ Sir Thomas died in 1421 ;⁵ Alice had predeceased him, and it was one Jane who was suing as his widow in 1423. In the armorial roll of *c.* 1380 he bore Arms : Silver, a bugle horn strung between three scallops sable.⁶

- (3) ROBERT DEL MARSHE. See Parl. 1372.
(4) HUGH SNEL. See Parl. 1337 (2).
(5) THOMAS DE PODMORE, M.P. Newcastle 1377, 1378, 1381,
1383, 1399.

Born *c.* 1350. He is mentioned in 1380-1 in disputes between the burgesses and the surrounding landlords as to rights of chase.⁷ He was mayor of Newcastle in 1377-8, after he had been in Parliament, and again in 1397-8. He bought land near Newcastle in 1390 ; was guardian of one Lagowe, a Newcastle infant, in 1397 ;⁸ occurs in 1403 ;⁹ and, apparently, was dead in 1411, when his widow Isabel was suing¹⁰—though there is an *Inquest post mortem* on one of that

¹ C.R. 1363.

² S.C. XI. 204.

³ I.p.m.

⁴ S.C. XIII. 158-165.

⁵ S.C. XV. 117.

⁶ S.C. XI. 161 ; *ibid.* XII. 98.

⁷ S.C. II. N.S. 90.

⁸ S.C. III. ii. 24.

⁹ S.C. XV. 79.

¹⁰ S.C. XVI. 78.

name in 1420. He may have been a son of Richard de Podmore, M.P.¹

(6) HENRY DE EARDLEY OF EARDLEY END, M.P. Newcastle
1377 (2).

He was a resident of the neighbourhood of Newcastle, and for his possible descendants see Chetwynd's *Pirehill*.²

Parliament of 1378.

Summoned, by Writs of 3 September, to meet at Gloucester 20 October 1378; dissolved 16 November 1378. Sir James Pickering, M.P. for Westmorland, was Speaker. This Parliament demanded the redress of grievances. It was held at Gloucester so as to be away from London and under Lancaster's influence.³

County :	Robert de Swynnerton ..	(1)
	John de Hynkeley	(2)
	returned by Brian de Cornewaille, sheriff of Salop and Staffordshire.	
Stafford :	John de Neuton	(3)
	John le Baxter	(4)
Newcastle :	*Thomas de Podmore ..	(5)
	William de Thecenes ..	(6)
	returned by Thomas Podmore himself, being Mayor.	

(1) SIR ROBERT DE SWYNNERTON OF SWYNNERTON, M.P.
Staffs 1378.

Born *c.* 1335; eldest son of Sir Thomas de S. of the same, (*d.* 1361), by Maud daughter of Sir Robert de Holand—so

¹ Parl. 1355.

² S.C. XII. N.S. 24.

³ It seems that in 2 Ric. II *all* the freeholders of the counties voted, as there would have been no just ground for the complaints as to assessing the wages of the Knights if the freehold tenants of lands holden by knight-service had alone voted. (Parry : *Parlts.* 141, *note.*)

that he was nephew of the first Earl of Kent, and first cousin of that John Holand, Earl of Huntingdon and half-brother to the King, who murdered Sir Ralph Stafford in 1384. He married (1) Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Nicholas de Beek of Hopton, M.P.,¹ by whom he had a daughter Maud, who was carried off by Sir John de Ipstones in 1388; (2) Jane (Hameldene) who was his relict in 1396, and by whom he had at least one son who succeeded him at Swynnerton.

He served in Aquitaine in 1369, and in the French expedition as a knight in 1374, and again with Hugh, Earl of Stafford, in 1378. Sailing with John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, to Spain in 1385, he perished at the assault on Brest in 1386.² His Arms in the roll of c. 1380 are: Silver, a cross with *fleurs de lis* at the ends, sable.

(2) JOHN DE HINKLEY OF STOKE-BY-STONE, M.P. Staffs 1378, 1385.

Born c. 1340. He is said to have gone as squire with Hugh, Earl of Stafford, to the Holy Land in 1385. The Earl died at Rhodes on 29 September 1385, and Hinkley is said to have brought back his heart and bones to be buried at Stone. This story hardly tallies with his return to Parliament on 20 October 1385, as they had not taken to electing absentees. All the Hinkleys were called John, however, and it may have been his son who performed the pious duty.

He is mentioned in 1370;³ had succeeded William de Venables at Aston-by-Stone in 1376; and went to France as squire to Hugh de Calveley in 1380-1.⁴ He was J.P. for Staffordshire in 1382. He held land at Tunstall in Abbots Bromley, and he was grandson of Sir John de H., M.P.⁵ He witnessed the Darlaston partition deed of 1388.⁶ No mention of him occurs in the 1380 Roll of Arms, and I cannot say when he died.

¹ Parl. 1363.

² S.C. XI. N.S. 195.

³ Parl. 1320; S.C., 1912. 212-214.

⁴ S.C. VII. ii. 44.

⁵ S.C. VIII. 231.

⁶ *Erdeswick*: Harwood, 8.

- (3) JOHN DE NEWTON, M.P. Stafford 1378, 1385, 1388 (1), 1388 (2), 1390, 1391.

I cannot trace this man in Staffordshire or elsewhere.

- (4) JOHN LE BAXTER, M.P. Stafford 1378, 1380, 1384, 1393, 1395.

He was burgess of Stafford,¹ and John Baxter, draper, was bailiff of Stafford in November 1382.²

- (5) THOMAS DE PODMORE. See Parl. 1377 (2).

- (6) WILLIAM DE THICKNES, M.P. Newcastle 1378, 1380, 1382, 1384, 1388 (1), 1388 (2).

Born *c.* 1330. He was mayor of Newcastle 1372-3, 1379-80, 1381-3, 1384-5, 1386-7, 1394-5, 1396-7, being described as "junior" down to 1382. His father of the same name was apparently mayor in 1371-2, 1373-4 and 1376-7.

The following is taken from the registers of the Bishop of Lichfield :—

22 September 1378, William Thicknes, of noble birth, aged 70, declared that when he was 12 he married of his own free will Elizabeth Coyney, aged 8. . . . When he was 20, moved by what spirit he knew not, he was secretly married to Katherine Swynnerton ; . . . By Katherine he had offspring, William and Eve, still surviving. All this time Elizabeth was alive and not divorced, being at once a maid and a wife, as she affirmed to her confessor at the time of her death. When Katherine died he married publicly Margery de Audley, who is still surviving, and by her he had offspring who are now regarded as his right heirs.³

This curious story may give the parentage of the mayor and M.P. The Rev. Charles Swynnerton says that the legitimate son by Margery de Audley was Thomas, the M.P. in 1377 (1).

William de T., junior, and Alice his wife sold land in Knutton in 1366.⁴ William, still called junior, was on a

¹ S.C. XIII. 94.

² P.R.

³ S.C. VIII. N.S. 135.

⁴ S.C. XI. 176.

Newcastle jury in 1376.¹ In 1385, William son of William de T. sued for debt in Newcastle.² He was acquitted of harbouring murderers in 1388 and 1389;³ and in 1400 he and his wife Alice settle lands in Newcastle, Clayton, Penkhul and Wolstanton on themselves and their issue.⁴

Parliament of 1379.

Summoned, by Writs of 16 February, to meet 24 April 1379; dissolved 27 May 1379. This Parliament passed the first Poll Tax. No Returns of members for the boroughs are extant; only eighteen boroughs are recorded in the Blue Book as making returns, to which may be added London, whose members are known from the Guildhall records.⁵ Probably Sir James Pickering was again Speaker.

County :	Nicholas de Stafford	..	..	(1)
	John de Knyghteley	..	..	(2)
	returned by William Cole- son of Walsall, sheriff.			

(1) SIR NICHOLAS DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(2) JOHN DE KNIGHTLEY. See Parl. 1373.

Parliament of 1380.

Summoned, by Writs of 20 October 1379, to meet 16 January 1380; dissolved 3 March 1380. Sir John Guildesborough, M.P. for Essex, was Speaker. Richard, Lord Stafford of Pipe, was again on the Council, appointed by the Commons.

County :	*Nicholas de Stafford, chiv.	..	..	(1)
	Thomas de Aston, chiv.	..	..	(2)
	returned by Sir John Ver- don of Darlaston, sheriff.			

¹ S.C. XIII. 129.

² S.C. XIII. 192.

³ S.C. XVI. 29.

⁴ S.C. XI. 210.

⁵ Beaven, *Aldermen of London*, I. 268.

Stafford :	Nicholas Snel	.. ..	(3)
	John Baxter	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	John Kene	.. ..	(5)
	William de Thykenes	..	(6)
	returned by William Thick- ness himself, Mayor.		

(1) SIR NICHOLAS DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(2) SIR THOMAS DE ASTON OF HEYWOOD, M.P. Staffs 1380, 1384, 1388, 1393, 1399, 1406.

Born *c.* 1345; son and heir of Sir Roger de A., M.P.¹ of the same (*d.* 1361), by Isabel, who by 1364 had remarried William de Chetwynd, in whose ward Thomas then was.² Thomas A. and Hawise his wife are mentioned in 1360,³ but by 1388 he, with Elizabeth Cloddeshall his wife and John de Aston of Salt and John de Aston of Longedon, are pardoned at the supplication of Sir John Bagot for a murder at Jeddefen, Herefordshire;⁴ and in 1397 and 1410 we find him married to Elizabeth, widow of Sir William Devereux;⁵ further Harwood calls his wife Elizabeth, sister and coheirress of Reynold de Leigh. He is called "the elder" in 1390; and his son Roger⁶ occurs as a "donzel" in 1398.⁷

He was knighted 1370/80; in June 1380 his name appears on a commission to arrest William de Lichfield, Abbot of Deulacres.⁸ But in July of the same year he sailed to France in the retinue of Ralph Basset of Drayton.⁹ Aston was one of Lord Basset's executors.¹⁰ He was a J.P. for Staffordshire 1382-1406; frequently a Commissioner; served on the general inquest of 1406 for Staffordshire and Salop;¹¹ was sheriff of Staffordshire 1409-10, and occurs down to 1412, soon after which date he must have died. His

¹ Parl. 1344.

² S.C. XII. 257.

³ S.C. XIII. 4.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ S.C. XVI. 75.

⁶ Parl. 1423-4.

⁷ *Papal Ltrs.* V. 52, 125. *Donzel*, young gentleman; *cf. demoiselle.*

⁸ P.R.

⁹ S.C. VIII. 229.

¹⁰ *Cat. Ant. Deeds* V.

¹¹ P.R.

shield is shown blank in the armorial roll c. 1380, but he will have borne the same Arms as his father.

(3) NICHOLAS SNEL. See Parl. 1373.

(4) JOHN BAXTER. See Parl. 1378.

(5) JOHN KENE OF NEWCASTLE, M.P. Newcastle 1380 (1), Bridgnorth 1380 (2), 1384, Newcastle 1388, ?Tavistock 1402.

He was the son of Nicholas K. of Newcastle, and as such was called to warranty in 1363;¹ he was Bailiff of Newcastle 1371-3, 1375-6, 1381-3, 1388-9; and in 1385 and 1387 he was the executor of the Will of Richard Colclough.² I think he must have been a lawyer, otherwise he would not have sought a seat also at Bridgnorth. Again we may assume that there was now some competition for a seat in Parliament, for why otherwise should he not have had a seat in his own town? See also, however, a grant by Earl Ralph to John, son of Thomas de Kene of Madeley 1359.³

(6) WILLIAM DE THICKNES. See Parl. 1378.

Parliament of 1380 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 26 August, to meet at Northampton 5 November 1380; dissolved 6 December 1380. Guildesborough was again Speaker. This Parliament voted the second Poll Tax, which caused the rising of Wat Tyler.

County : Adam de Peshale (1)

William Walshale (2)

returned by Sir John Verdon or by Sir Thomas Thamenhorn, while sheriff.⁴

¹ S.C. XIII. 37.

² S.C. XIII. 192.

³ *Cat. of Ant. Deeds.* VI. 106.

⁴ Thamenhorn was appointed to succeed Verdon on 18 October; but it would be some time before he would take up his duties.

Stafford :	John Bougy	(3)
	Thomas Jokery	(4)
Newcastle :	Returns not found. William Thickness was Mayor.	

(1) SIR ADAM DE PESHALE. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(2) WILLIAM WALSHALE. See Parl. 1365.

(3) JOHN BOUGHEY, M.P. Stafford 1380.

James B. was the lord of Whitmore 1405-31. John B. may have been a cadet of this family. Such a person occurs on a Stafford jury in 1445.

(4) THOMAS JOKERY or JOCCARY, M.P. Stafford 1380, 1382, 1383, 1386, 1406, 1407.

He was probably a Stafford burgess, but I cannot trace him.

Parliament of 1381-2.

Summoned, by Writs of 16 July, to meet 16 September 1381; prorogued 22 August to 3 November on account of Wat Tyler's rising; held two sessions; dissolved 28 February 1382. Sir Richard de Waldegrave, M.P. Suffolk, was Speaker.

County :	*Adam de Peshale, chiv. ..	(1)
	John Basset, chiv.	(2)
	returned by Roger de Wyrley, sheriff.	
Stafford :	Nicholas Snel	(3)
	William Broun	(4)
Newcastle :	Thomas Podmore	(5)
	Thomas Hap	(6)
	returned by Nicholas Chaumbre, Mayor.	

(1) ADAM DE PESHALE. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(2) SIR JOHN BASSET OF PARKHALL IN CHEADLE, M.P. Staffs
1381-2.

Born *c.* 1345; son and heir of John B. of the same. His elder sons, Edmund (*o.s.p.* 1430) and Ralph, were sons by a first wife; by 1375 he had married as his second wife Jane, daughter and heiress of Sir Henry Brailsford of Brailsford, Derbyshire, by Jane (l'Estrange), the heiress of the Audleys of Blore and Grendon.¹ By Jane Sir John had a younger son Thomas, whose daughter Jane took Brailsford to Sir Ralph Shirley.² By some settlement Ralph, the son of one of his first wife's children, became heir to Blore and Grendon in 1452.

He was knighted by 1367;³ sheriff of Staffordshire 1374-5; and in this latter year Jane, abbess of Ramsey and widow of Peter de Brugges, was ravished by him.⁴ He was J.P. for Staffordshire 1382-92, and was frequently a Commissioner. In 1405 he settled his estates on his eldest son Edmund,⁵ and he died 1410/11. He sealed in 1380 with: Gold, three piles gules and a canton silver charged with a griffin sable. These were the arms of Basset of Drayton (except that the canton is silver, not ermine, and bears the addition of the griffin), but he was actually a great-grandson of Ralph Basset of Sapecot.⁶

(3) NICHOLAS SNEL. See Parl. 1373.

(4) WILLIAM BROUN, M.P. Stafford 1381-2.

From 1381 to 1394 such a man occurs as a farmer at Weston-under-Lizard. But he may have been anybody.

(5) THOMAS PODMORE. See Parl. 1377 (2).

(6) THOMAS HAP, M.P. Newcastle 1381-2.

He appears to have been Bailiff of Newcastle 1377-8,⁷ but I can find nothing else about him.

¹ S.C. XIII. 122.² S.C. XVII. 105.³ S.C. VIII. N.S. 37.⁴ P.R. 1382.⁵ S.C. XI. 214.⁶ S.C. XVI. 91.⁷ *Borough Records, ex inf.* Mr. Pape.

Parliament of 1382 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 24 March, to meet 7 May 1382; dissolved 22 May 1382. This Parliament passed the first Statute against heretics. Sir James Pickering, again Speaker.

County :	Thomas de Thamenhore, chiv.	(1)
	Thomas de Stafford, chiv. ..	(2)
	returned by William de Walshale, sheriff.	
Stafford :	Richard de Staunford ..	(3)
	Richard de Mor'	(4)
Newcastle :	Thomas Thykenesse	(5)
	John Thykenesse	(6)
	returned by William Thick- ness, Mayor.	

(1) SIR THOMAS DE THAMENHORN. See Parl. 1377 (2).

(2) SIR THOMAS DE STAFFORD OF SEILE, LEICESTERSHIRE,
M.P. Staffs 1382 (1).

Born *c.* 1335; illegitimate son of Sir Richard de Stafford, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1380), own brother to Sir Nicholas de S., M.P.,² and half-brother to Edmund S., bishop of Exeter and Lord Chancellor of England, 1344-1419.³ He married by 1388, Alice, daughter and coheirress of Sir Edmund Appleby, Kt., by Agnes, sister and coheirress of Sir John Solney,⁴ with whom he had Seile in Leicestershire.⁵ He also had land at Draycot-under-Needwood, at Colton,⁶ and at Tinmore.⁷ He was alive in 1394,⁸ but in 1400 his widow Alice had married William Spenor. His son Thomas (1388-1425) became heir to his half-uncle, Edmund de Stafford, at Pipe in 1419 and married, by 1407, the daughter and heiress of Sir William Bagot of Baginton, M.P.⁹ (*d.* 1407), and was himself M.P. for Warwickshire in 1414.

¹ Parl. 1341.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁵ S.C. XIII. 201; *ibid.* XV. 44.

⁶ S.C. XV. 4.

⁸ S.C. XV. 57.

² Parl. 1377 (1).

⁴ *Geneal.* N.S. VIII. 17.

⁷ S.C. XV. 41.

⁹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

Sir Thomas became a King's serjeant-at-arms in July 1360, at 12*d.* a day;¹ he went to Ireland with the Earl in 1361, and became a Marshall of Ireland 1364.² He was a King's serjeant in France in 1372;³ superintending barge-building at Hull and Boston in 1373; seizing ships at Liverpool, Newcastle-on-Tyne and elsewhere 1369-78;⁴ again in France in the retinue of Basset of Drayton, and already a knight in 1379;⁵ and again in the retinue of the Bishop of Norwich in 1382.⁶ In 1381 he had gone to Westminster, and going or returning there was a faction fight, possibly political, as follows: "Robert and Thomas Wyse and other malefactors of Lichfield had placed ambushes of armed men in diverse parts of Lichfield to kill Sir Thomas de Stafford, and had beaten and wounded and illtreated him so that his life was despaired of, and had taken his goods and chattles to the value of 100*m.*"⁷ Still he was J.P. for Staffordshire 1382-6; J.P. for Warwickshire 1379; and frequently a Commissioner in Staffordshire and Derbyshire 1380-93.⁸ He died 1394/9.

(3) RICHARD DE STAUNFORD, M.P. Stafford 1382 (1), 1386, 1388, 1391, 1399, 1402.

In 1403 Richard S., "late King's bailiff of Stafford," was sued for the murder in 1401 of John Walshall, in company with the Ipstones gang.⁹ Mr. Pink calls him ancestor of Sir William Staunford, C.J., M.P. (1542-4).

(4) RICHARD DE MOR', M.P. Stafford 1382 (1).

Of this man I know nothing.

(5) THOMAS THICKNES. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(6) JOHN THICKNES, M.P. Newcastle 1382.

See notes on the Thicknes family, pp. 120, 126.

¹ P.R. 1378.

² G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

³ S.C. VIII. 115.

⁴ *List of Various Accounts*, P.R.O. 35, 40; *List of Foreign Accounts*, P.R.O. 11.

⁵ S.C. XIV. 227.

⁶ S.C. XIV. 237.

⁷ P.R.

⁸ P.R.

⁹ S.C. XVI. 39.

Parliament of 1382 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 9 August, to meet 6 October 1382 ; dissolved 24 October 1382. This Parliament repealed the Statute against heretics as not passed with its consent.¹

County :	Richard de Pershale, chiv. . .	(1)
	John de Knightele	(2)
	returned by William de Walshale, sheriff.	
Stafford :	Thomas Jokery	(3)
	Roger Coton	(4)
Newcastle :	William Thykenese	(5)
	Henry de Kele	(6)
	returned by William Thick- ness himself, Mayor.	

(1) SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE OF HORSLEY AND BISHOPS OFFLEY, M.P. Salop 1380 (1), Staffs 1382 (2), 1383.

Born *c.* 1335 ; eldest son of Adam de P. of the same M.P.² (slain 1346) ; and elder brother of the Sir Adam de P., M.P.³ of Weston-under-Lizeard. He married, by 1343, Jane, granddaughter and heiress of Sir John Chetwynd of Chetwynd, Salop. He died in 1388,⁴ leaving a son Humphrey married to Maud Swynnerton,⁵ and a widow Jane, who by 1399 had married William Lepe, and by 1403 Robert Heywood.⁶

He was knighted 1358/64 ; sheriff of Salop January 1376 to February 1377 ; J.P. of Staffordshire 1377-86 ; and of Salop 1380-8. In 1377 he had a feud with the Wrottesleys, and it is written that he pursued them from Weston to Wrottesley, calling out " Kill the Wrottesley robbers." ⁷ In 1371⁵ an order was issued for his arrest as " a common smiter

¹ Parry (*Parlts.* 147) notes a Writ of 6 Richard II exonerating the Burgesses of Colchester from sending Burgesses to Parliament for five years in consideration of the expenses they have incurred in fortifying their town. But they did, nevertheless, return Burgesses to all the Parliaments summoned within that period (Beaven).

² Parl. 1341.

³ Parl. 1377 (1).

⁴ I.p.m.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ S.C. XV. 90, 114.

⁷ S.C. II. N.S. 88, 98.

of monks and other religious." I think he bore the Swynerton Arms differenced by a canton with a boar's head on it. His two younger brothers also sat in Parliament, Sir Haminet for Salop in 1386, and Sir Adam for Salop and Staffordshire 1373-1411—three sons of a beheaded father.

(2) JOHN DE KNIGHTLEY. See Parl. 1373.

(3) THOMAS JOCARY. See Parl. 1380 (2).

(4) ROGER COTON or OF COTES, M.P. Stafford 1382 (2), 1384, 1385, 1403.

Of this man I know nothing save that Coton adjoins Stafford, and therefore this man was probably a native of Stafford and took his name from this vill.

(5) WILLIAM THICKNES. See Parl. 1378.

(6) HENRY DE KELE, M.P. Newcastle 1382.

I think that this man took his name from Keele and was a local man; but there was a Henry de Kele of Coventry who is mentioned in the *Patent Rolls* from 1377 to 1382.

Parliament of 1383 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 7 January, to meet 23 February 1383; dissolved 10 March 1383. Sir James Pickering was Speaker.¹

County :	Adam de Peshale, chiv.	..	(1)
	John Knyghtley, jun.	..	(2)
	returned by William de Walshale, sheriff.		
Stafford :	*Thomas Jokery	.. ..	(3)
	John Dyngell	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	Thomas de Thykenese	..	(5)
	William de Brompton	..	(6)
	returned by William Thickness, Mayor.		

¹ Beaven.

(1) ADAM DE PESHALE. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(2) JOHN DE KNIGHTLEY, JUN., OF CHESTERTON, WARWICKSHIRE, M.P. Staffs 1383 (1), 1384, Warwickshire 1414 (1).

Born *c.* 1355; younger son of John K. of Gnosall, M.P.¹ He married 1407/8, Jane, daughter of Sir John Thornbury and widow of William Peyto of Chesterton, Warw. He was a lawyer; frequently a Commissioner 1386-91; a justice of Oyer 1402-14; J.P. of Staffordshire 1386-94; and of Salop 1399-1401;² Justice of Chester 1403. He died 1414/6; his widow remarried Sir Robert Corbet of Hadley, and died in 1418.³

(3) THOMAS JOCARY. See Parl. 1380 (2).

(4) JOHN DINGELL, M.P. Stafford 1383.

A man of this name is found buying land near Stafford in 1342.⁴

(5) THOMAS THICKNES. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(6) WILLIAM DE BRAMPTON, M.P. Newcastle 1383 (1).

Probably "of the Newcastle Brampton." William B. and his wife Margery settle land in Newcastle on their two daughters in 1398.⁵

Parliament of 1383 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 20 August, to meet 26 October 1383; dissolved 26 November 1383.

County: Nicholas de Stafford, chiv. .. (1)

Richard de Peshale, chiv. .. (2)

returned by William de
Walshale, sheriff.

Stafford: John de Croftes (3)

John atte Assch' (4)

¹ Parl. 1373.

² *P.R.*

³ *V.C.H. Northants. Pedigree* Vol.

⁴ *S.C. XI.* 153.

⁵ *S.C. XI.* 204.

Newcastle : *Thomas de Thykenes .. (5)
 Thomas de Podmore .. (6)
 returned by William Thick-
 ness, Mayor.

(1) NICHOLAS DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(2) RICHARD DE PESHALE. See Parl. 1382 (2).

(3) JOHN DE CROFTES, M.P. Stafford 1383.

I cannot tell whether he was or was not the same as the M.P. who sat in 1358 and 1361.

(4) JOHN ATTE ASH, M.P. Stafford 1383.

I can find nothing as to this man, but I think that he took his name from Four Ashes, near Wolverhampton.

(5) THOMAS DE THICKNES. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(6) THOMAS DE PODMORE. See Parl. 1377 (2).

Parliament of 1384 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 31 March, to meet at Salisbury 29 April 1384 ; dissolved 27 May 1384.

County : John de Knyghtley (1)
 Thomas de Aston, chiv. .. (2)
 returned by Sir Humphrey
 de Stafford of Southwick,
 Wilts, and of Bramshall,
 sheriff.

Stafford : John Ingestre (3)
 Roger de Cotes (4)

Newcastle : William Thiknes (5)
 Ralf de la Hogh (6)
 returned by John Colclough,
 Mayor.

(1) JOHN DE KNIGHTLEY. See Parl. 1373.

(2) THOMAS DE ASTON. See Parl. 1380 (1).

(3) JOHN INGESTRE, M.P. Stafford 1384.

Evidently he took his name from Ingestre by Stafford and was a local man.

(4) ROGER DE COTES. See Parl. 1382 (2).

(5) WILLIAM THICKNES. See Parl. 1378.

(6) RALPH DEL HOGH, M.P. Newcastle, 1384 (1), 1385, 1386, 1391, 1393, 1395.

He and William Thicknes, M.P.,¹ were acquitted in 1391 of harbouring murderers in 1388 and 1389.² He seems to have been related to the Thicknes family; and he and his wife, Margaret, had land in Betley, Audley and Newcastle in 1410.³

Parliament of 1384 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 28 September, to meet 12 November 1384; dissolved 24 December 1384.

County :	Nicholas de Stafford, chiv. . .	(1)
	William de Walshale. . .	(2)
	returned by Sir Humphrey de Stafford of Southwick and of Bramshall, sheriff.	
Stafford :	John de Orewelle	(3)
	John Baxtere. . . .	(4)
Newcastle :	John Colclough	(5)
	William Colclough	(6)
	returned by John Colclough himself, Mayor.	

(1) NICHOLAS DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(2) WILLIAM DE WALSALL. See Parl. 1365.

(3) JOHN DE ORWELL, M.P. Stafford 1384.

This man was a Royal servant. He was serjeant-at-arms to the King, "attending on his standard when he is at war in person" at a wage of 12*d.* a day, 1377-85.⁴ His chief business

¹ Parl. 1378.

² S.C. XVI. 29.

³ S.C. XI. 210.

⁴ P.R.

seems to have been seizing ships for the wars, but he was also sent on foreign missions—to Brittany 1381, to Ireland 1388 and 1394, to Calais 1399—the mediæval King's Messenger and Q.M.G. combined.¹

(4) JOHN BAXTER. See Parl. 1378.

(5) JOHN COLCLOUGH OF HANLEY, M.P. Newcastle 1384, 1390.

Born *c.* 1355; son and heir of Richard C. of the same M.P. (dead in 1385).² He married Margery — and had a son John, who sued for debt jointly with his father in Newcastle in 1420.³ He was bailiff of Newcastle in 1380;⁴ mayor of Newcastle 1383-4, 1385-6, 1387-9, 1390-2, 1392, 1394, 1400, 1401-4, 1405-6, 1407-8, 1409-11. He bought land at Walton by Stone in 1397,⁵ some of which he alienated to Stone Priory in 1402;⁶ and with his wife he sold land at Chorlton in 1408.⁷ He acted as executor in 1415⁸ for the Will of his 1384 colleague, William Colclough, M.P.⁹ of Calverhall, Salop; and John occurs constantly at Newcastle and Hanley down to 1420.¹⁰

(6) WILLIAM COLCLOUGH. See Parl. 1372.

Parliament of 1385.

Summoned, by Writs of 3 September, to meet 20 October 1385; dissolved 6 December 1385. This election was held after the murder of young Stafford by John Holand, Earl of Huntingdon. The feeling against the Holands would be running high in Staffordshire.

County : *Nicholas de Stafford	.. ..	(1)
John de Hynkeley	.. ..	(2)
returned by William Wal-		
shale, sheriff.		

¹ *List of Various Accounts*, P.R.O. 40-6, 198-9; *Enrolled Foreign Accounts*, P.R.O. 16, 76.

² S.C. XVII. 71.

³ S.C. XI. 203.

⁴ S.C. XI. 217.

⁵ Parl. 1372.

² Parl. 1369.

⁴ S.C. XI. 328.

⁶ P.R.

⁸ S.C. XVII. 54.

¹⁰ S.C. XIII. 204.

Stafford :	Roger de Coton	..	..	(3)
	John de Neuton	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	*William Colclogh	..	..	(5)
	Ralf del Hogh	..	..	(6)
	returned by William Thick- ness, Mayor.			

- (1) NICHOLAS DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1377 (1).
- (2) JOHN DE HINCKLEY. See Parl. 1378.
- (3) ROGER COTON. See Parl. 1382 (2).
- (4) JOHN DE NEWTON. See Parl. 1378.
- (5) WILLIAM COLCLOUGH. See Parl. 1372.
- (6) RALPH DEL HOGH. See Parl. 1384 (1).

Parliament of 1386.

Summoned, by Writs of 8 August, to meet 1 October 1386; dissolved 28 November 1386. This Parliament, controlled by Gloucester and Arundel, nearly deposed the King, threatening him with the fate of Edward II. They appointed Lords Appellant to govern the country. Hugh, Earl of Stafford, had died in September while on a pilgrimage at Rhodes, and for the next forty years the Stafford house exercised little influence, owing to a succession of minorities; the same is largely true of the Audleys and Dudleys; and the Bassets of Drayton became extinct in 1390. During these years, therefore, there was no man in Staffordshire whose word was law, and feuds and anarchy abounded, hardly checked by the officials of the Duchy and the sheriff.

County :	William de Shareshull ..	(1)
	Adomar Taverner	(2)
	returned by Sir Robert Mauvesyn of Ridware, sheriff.	
Stafford :	Richard Staunford	(3)
	Thomas Jokery	(4)
Newcastle :	*William Colclough	(5)
	*Ralf Hogh	(6)
	returned by John Colclough, Mayor.	

(1) SIR WILLIAM DE SHARESHULL OF PATSHULL, M.P. Staffs
1386, 1395.

Born *c.* 1335; son and heir of Sir William de S. of the same, *d.* 1368/72 (who was the son of Sir William de S., C.J., *d.* 1366/7);¹ by Jane ——. ² He married (1) by 1369 one Katherine;³ and before 1386 (2) one Margaret.⁴ He died without issue, 17 May 1400.⁵

He inherited from his father all the manors that his grandfather, the chief justice, had bought: Patshull, Shareshill, the Sardons; Rousham and Dernford in Oxfordshire, and Bolinghale in Salop. He was knighted 1377/85.⁶ In 1390 he and his wife Margaret settled all their lands on themselves and their issue, with remainder to Richard Harcourt and Margaret his wife.⁷ He was J.P. of Staffordshire 1394-9; sheriff 1392-3 and 1399 to 28 May 1400, when he died. He was frequently a Royal Commissioner, and the plea rolls give a

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² S.C. XIV. 125, 132.

³ S.C. XIII. 71.

⁴ S.C. XIII. 197.

⁵ *Return of Sheriffs.*

⁶ S.C. XIII. 191. But Shaw, *Knights*, says, William Shareshull, sheriff of Staffordshire, was knighted 3 Nov. 1399, on becoming sheriff.

⁷ S.C. XI. 208

the Poll Tax of 1380/1.¹ He was J.P. of Staffordshire 1377-99. In 1387 Thomas Taverner, Aylmer Taverner, Simon de Lichfield and four others had licence to form a guild of St. Mary with a warden and chaplain in Lichfield.² He was escheator 1385-6, 1394-5; sheriff of Staffordshire 1386-7, 1393-4; and of Warwickshire and Leicestershire 1389-90, 1398-9; Commissioner of Array for Staffordshire 1392. In 1388 he was petitioning in Chancery: "while away on the King's business, John de Arderne lay in wait for him at Lichfield and beat his servants, etc."³ No doubt the sheriff was often unpopular.

He had land in Curborough in 1394;⁴ his son John is mentioned in 1402, and I think he died in August 1399, when his shrievalty of Warwickshire came suddenly to an end. Or this termination may have been political, and he may have lived on in retirement under Henry IV. He was certainly dead by 1418, when Sir William Lichfield of Abnalls is kinsman and heir of Aylmer Tavener, armiger.⁵ He bore no Arms in fact. I expect his father was an inn-keeper; these flourished when all the knights and their retinues were peacefully flocking to France along the Chester and London road, instead of cutting each other's throats and looting indiscriminately.

- (3) RICHARD STAUNFORD. See Parl. 1382 (1).
 (4) THOMAS JOCARY. See Parl. 1380 (2).
 (5) WILLIAM COLCLOUGH. See Parl. 1372.
 (6) RALPH HOGH. See Parl. 1384 (1).

Parliament of 1388 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 17 December 1387, to meet 3 February 1388; held two sessions; dissolved 4 June 1388.

¹ S.C. XVII. 168.

² P.R.

³ S.C. VII. N.S. 247; P.R. 1392.

⁴ S.C. XV. 61.

⁵ S.C. XVII. 62.

“The Merciless Parliament.” The King had desired to call a Parliament during the previous year, but had been told by the sheriffs that it was impossible to “pack” it as the Commons favoured the Lords. Ralph, Lord Basset of Drayton, refused to help Richard II against the Lords Appellant; and the Lords executed the King’s favourites, among others Burley and Sir John Salusbury.

County :	John Ipstones, chiv...	..	..	(1)
	Roger de Longrugg .. ..	..	..	(2)
	returned by Sir William			
	Chetwynd of Ingestre,			
	sheriff.			
Stafford :	John Neuton .. ..	..	..	(3)
	Nicholas Snel.. ..	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	William Thikenes .. ..	..	..	(5)
	John Kene .. ..	..	..	(6)
	returned by John Colclough,			
	Mayor.			

(1) SIR JOHN IPSTONES OF BLYMHILL AND IPSTONES, M.P.
Staffs 1388, 1394.

Born *c.* 1345; son and heir of Sir John I. of the same (*d.* 1358/64), by Elizabeth (de Beek). He married, by 1372, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Corbet,¹ who survived him. He served in France in the retinue of Hugh, Earl of Stafford, in 1373;² was knighted by 1377;³ went again to France in the retinue of Hugh de Calveley, 1380-1; and on his return attacked, with other Cheshire knights, his former patron, the Earl.⁴ He went with John of Gaunt on his Spanish expedition of 1385-6;⁵ was pardoned for the murder of Richard Thornbury, November 1387; and signalled his return to the “merciless” Parliament of 1388 by carrying off from

¹ S.C. II. N.S.

³ S.C. XIII. 142.

⁵ S.C. XIV. 244.

² S.C. VIII. 116.

⁴ S.C. XIII. 166.

"The Merciless Parliament." The King had desired to call a Parliament during the previous year, but had been told by the sheriffs that it was impossible to "pack" it as the Commons favoured the Lords. Ralph, Lord Basset of Drayton, refused to help Richard II against the Lords Appellant; and the Lords executed the King's favourites, among others Burley and Sir John Salusbury.

County :	John Ipstones, chiv...	..	(1)
	Roger de Longrugg .. ..	..	(2)
	returned by Sir William Chetwynd of Ingestre, sheriff.		
Stafford :	John Neuton .. ..	..	(3)
	Nicholas Snel.. ..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	William Thikenes .. ..	..	(5)
	John Kene .. ..	..	(6)
	returned by John Colclough, Mayor.		

(1) SIR JOHN IPSTONES OF BLYMHILL AND IPSTONES, M.P.
Staffs 1388, 1394.

Born *c.* 1345; son and heir of Sir John I. of the same (*d.* 1358/64), by Elizabeth (de Beek). He married, by 1372, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Corbet,¹ who survived him. He served in France in the retinue of Hugh, Earl of Stafford, in 1373;² was knighted by 1377;³ went again to France in the retinue of Hugh de Calveley, 1380-1; and on his return attacked, with other Cheshire knights, his former patron, the Earl.⁴ He went with John of Gaunt on his Spanish expedition of 1385-6;⁵ was pardoned for the murder of Richard Thornbury, November 1387; and signalled his return to the "merciless" Parliament of 1388 by carrying off from

¹ S.C. II. N.S.

³ S.C. XIII. 142.

⁵ S.C. XIV. 244.

² S.C. VIII. 116.

⁴ S.C. XIII. 166.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLES OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE PEERAGE—FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

[To face p. 144.]

STAFFORD. <i>Stafford Castle.</i>	LANCASTER. <i>Newcastle Castle.</i>	PERDRE <i>Chartley Castle.</i>	VERDON—FURNIVAL. <i>Alton Castle.</i>	BASSET. <i>Drayton Bassett.</i>	AUDLEY—TOUCHET <i>Heleigh Castle.</i>	SOMERY—SUTTON. <i>Dudley Castle.</i>	BISHOPS OF LICHFIELD. <i>Eccleshall Castle.</i>
(1287 Edmund.)	(1266 Edmund.) 1296 Thomas, 1277-1324.	(1279 John de Ferrers)	(1274 Theobald de Vendon.)	(1263 Ralph) 1299 Ralph, c. 1280-1343	(1282 Nicholas) 1299 Thomas, 1288-1307.	(1291 John de Somery.)	(1258 Roger de Meuland.) 1296 Walter de Langton.
1308 Ralph, 1301-1372			1309 Theobald, c. 1280-1316.		1307 Nicholas, 1289-1316.		
	1320 Henry, 1281-1345.	1321 Robert,* 1309/10-1350.	1316 Thomas Furnival, c. 1300-1339.		1316 James, 1313-1385.		1321 died 1322 Roger de Notbury,
			1339 Thomas F., 1322-1364.			1321 John de Sutton,* c. 1285-1359.	
	1345 Henry, 1299-1361.			1343 Ralph, 1334-1390.		1329 John,* c. 1306-1359.	
(1351 Earl.)	(1351 Duke.)	1350 John,* 1328/9-1367.					1359 died. 1360 Robert de Stretton.
	1361 John of Gaunt, 1330-1390		1364 William F., c. 1325-1383.			1359 Isabel,* Lady Dudley, c. 1310-1397.	
		1367 Robert,* 1360-1413.					
1372 Hugh, 1342-1386			1383 Thomas Nevill, d. 1406.				
1386 Thomas, 1368-1392.					1385 Nicholas, 1328-1391.		1385 died. 1386 Walter Skulaw. 1386 Richard Scrope.
1392 William,* 1377-1395. 1393 Edmund, 1378-1403.	1399 Henry IV, 1367-1413, merged in Crown.			in abeyance.	1391 John Touchet, 1371-1408.		
1403 Humphrey, 1401-1460.						1397 John de Sutton,* 1380-1406.	1398 John Brughill.
						1406 John, Ld. Dudley, 1400-1487.	

* Never summoned to Parliament.

the house of Jane, widow of Sir Richard Peshale at Chetwynd, Maud (Swynnerton), widow of Humphrey de Peshale.¹ He forced her to marry his son, December 1388.² He was sufficiently powerful to prevent the appointment of a Commission to enquire into this until 1390, and in that year a Papal dispensation was obtained for the marriage, not on the ground of violence, but for marrying within the degrees.³ He was on the Commission appointed to enquire into the forfeited estates of the Earl of Oxford in 1389;⁴ and he was still to the fore in 1392, when he was again a Commissioner. But when the Lords Appellant were no longer all-powerful, while he was going to attend the Parliament of 1394, Roger Swynnerton met and slew him at Clerkenwell, 23 February 1394.⁵ He probably bore: Silver, a chevron between three crescents gules, the Arms of a long dead Sir Thomas Wyther of Ipstones; but they do not appear on the Roll of c. 1380.

(2) ROGER DE LONGRUGG, M.P. Staffs 1388.

This was a man of no position, though Longridge is near Stafford, and is said to have been held by military service. All that can be found of him is that he sued breakers-in upon his close at Oaken in 1392;⁶ and that with his wife Jane he was sued by one John Foucher in 1398.⁷

(3) JOHN NEWTON. See Parl. 1378.

(4) NICHOLAS SNEL. See Parl. 1373.

(5) WILLIAM THICKNES. See Parl. 1378.

(6) JOHN KENE. See Parl. 1380 (1).

¹ P.R.

² S.C. XV. 122; *ibid.* XVI. 28.

³ *Papal Ltrs.* IV. 372.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ P.R. In Sir Henry Newbolt's novel, *The New June*, this episode takes place on Cannock Chase. Swynnerton avenged his cousin and also Sir John Salusbury, whose widow he married.

⁶ S.C. XV. 49.

⁷ S.C. XV. 86.

Parliament of 1388 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 28 July, to meet at Cambridge 9 September 1388; dissolved 17 October 1388. The Lords Appellant were still supreme. This Parliament, in the interests of society, forbade children who had been kept at the plough till 12 years of age to learn any craft or mystery, so that they might not escape the plough service. Serfdom had failed, the Poll Tax had failed, and even this failed to provide cheap labour; but the enclosures of the next century succeeded.

County :	Thomas de Aston, chiv. ..	(1)
	John de Delves	(2)
	returned by Sir William Chetwynd of Ingestre, sheriff.	
Stafford :	*John Neuton	(3)
	Richard de Staunford ..	(4)
Newcastle :	*William de Thikenes ..	(5)
	Thomas de Thikenes ..	(6)
	returned by John Col- clough, Mayor.	

(1) SIR THOMAS DE ASTON. See Parl. 1380 (1).

(2) JOHN DELVES OF DODDINGTON AND APEDALE, M.P. Staffs 1388, 1390 (1), 1390 (2), 1393 (probably).

Born *c.* 1350; son and heir of Henry de Delves of the same (*d.* 1396) and nephew of Sir John de D., Justice of the C.P. 1365, who bought Doddington, Cheshire, and died in 1369.¹ He married by 1373 Margaret, daughter of David de Calveley,² and died 1394, when his father and his widow Margaret were his executors.³ He served in France in the retinue of Hugh de Calveley in 1379 and 1380-1.⁴ He was frequently a

¹ P.R. 1390; Blakeaway, *Sheriffs of Salop*.

² Ormerod, *Cheshire* III. 552.

³ S.C. XV. 64.

⁴ S.C. XIV. 227.

Commissioner between 1388 and 1393; J.P. of Staffordshire 1391-4; sheriff of Staffordshire 1390-1 (appointed after having been returned to Parliament); escheator 1391-2. With William de Walshale he was joint keeper of the Audley barony in 1391.¹ It is strange to see one who was only an heir apparent filling so many important offices.²

- (3) JOHN NEWTON. See Parl. 1378.
 (4) RICHARD DE STAUNFORD. See Parl. 1382 (1).
 (5) WILLIAM THICKNES. See Parl. 1378.
 (6) THOMAS THICKNES. See Parl. 1377 (1).

Parliament of 1390 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 6 December 1389, to meet 17 January 1390; dissolved 3 March 1390. The King was restored in power and John of Gaunt was back in England supporting him.

County :	Nicholas de Stafford.. ..	(1)
	*John Delves	(2)
	returned by William Walshale, sheriff.	
Stafford :	*John de Neuton	(3)
	John Snel	(4)
Newcastle :	John Colclough	(5)
	William Colclough	(6)
	John Colclough himself was probably Mayor.	

- (1) SIR NICHOLAS DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1377 (1).
 (2) JOHN DELVES. See Parl. 1388 (2).
 (3) JOHN NEWTON. See Parl. 1378.

¹ *P.R.*

² For his son John (1373-1429) see Parl. 1425.

- (4) JOHN SNEL, M.P. Stafford 1390.
A member of the well-known Stafford family.¹
- (5) JOHN COLCLOUGH. See Parl. 1384 (2).
- (6) WILLIAM COLCLOUGH. See Parl. 1372.

Parliament of 1390 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 12 September, to meet 12 November 1390 ; dissolved 3 December 1390.

County :	*Nicholas de Stafford	..	..	(1)
	*John Delves	..	..	(2)
	returned by	William		
	Walshale,	sheriff.		

- (1) SIR NICHOLAS DE STAFFORD. See Parl. 1377 (1).
- (2) JOHN DELVES. See Parl. 1388 (2).

Parliament of 1391.

Summoned, by Writs of 7 September, to meet 3 November 1391 ; dissolved 2 December 1391.

County :	John Bagod, chiv.	..	..	(1)
	William Walsale	..	..	(2)
	returned by	Sir John Swyn-		
	nerton of	Hilton,	sheriff.	
Stafford :	John de Neuton	..	..	(3)
	Richard Staunford	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	Thomas Thikenes	..	..	(5)
	Ralf del Hogh	..	..	(6)

¹ See Parls. 1337 (2) and 1373.

² Delves himself was made sheriff on 7 November, five days before Parliament met. Whether or not he sat while sheriff is unknown.

(I) SIR JOHN BAGOT OF BLITHFIELD, FIELD AND BAGOTS BROMLEY, M.P. Staffs 1391, 1397, 1398, 1400-1, 1404, 1407, 1411, 1421.

Born 1357/8; son and heir of Ralph B. of the same (*d.* 1367/76) by Elizabeth, daughter and eventual heiress of John¹ de Blithfield of Blithfield; and probably elder brother of Sir William B. of Baggington, M.P. Warwickshire 1388-97, 1402, the favourite of Richard II who turned approver.² He married Beatrice, daughter of Sir John Villiers; and died 1437.

He was of age in 1379, and was probably knighted at the coronation in 1377, certainly by 1384,³ when he first served on a Commission. He went to Spain with John of Gaunt in 1385-6. He was J.P. Staffordshire 1382 and 1406-32; escheator 1406-7; sheriff 1413-4, and 1426; Commissioner of Array 1400 and 1403. Though high in favour with Richard II he became even more important with Henry IV. He fought at Shrewsbury, and was summoned to a Privy Council at Westminster in July 1401 and 15 August 1403, as "of Norfolk (*sic!*) Kt."⁴ He was lieutenant of Calais under Beaufort, June 1408 to June 1409; one of the ambassadors to treat with Burgundy in 1408; and again an ambassador in March and November 1410. In 1413 he was in the household of King Henry V, and he served with him in France in 1415 and 1420, being present, in all probability, at Agincourt. In the feuds of the Erdeswicks against the Duchy officials and Lord Ferrers he took the side of law and order, 1407-14. The men wearing the white and green, 1,300 strong, pursued him from place to place in 1407, with the more satisfaction in that he was escheator. His position was complicated by the fact that the Mauveysins had a distinct feud against him and joined in with the Erdeswicks.⁵ In the Armorial Roll of *c.* 1380 the

¹ Mr. C. G. O. Bridgeman says, "probably Richard, not John," S.C. XI. N.S. 46, 220.

² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³ *P.R.*

⁴ *Privy Council Registers.*

⁵ S.C. XI. N.S. 33-45.

Arms of "Sir John Bagot" are given as: Silver, a chevron gules between three martlets sable. His ancestors did not bear this coat. It is the coat of Richard, Lord Stafford of Pipe,¹ with the gold changed to silver. At the date when this Roll of Arms was drawn up, Richard, Lord Stafford, was the most powerful man in Staffordshire; he was on the King's Council, and we may assume that so long as he lived Sir John Bagot was attached to his policy. They were not connected by marriage, but Sir John may well have been brought up in his household, and worn his livery. I observe that Sir John's eldest son was called Richard, and for no other reason than that given by his patron's or his King's name.² He was buried at St. Augustine Friars, Fordbridge, Hereford.³

- (2) WILLIAM WALSALL. See Parl. 1365.
 (3) JOHN NEWTON. See Parl. 1378.
 (4) RICHARD STAUNFORD. See Parl. 1382 (1).
 (5) THOMAS THICKNES. See Parl. 1377 (1).
 (6) RALPH DEL HOGH. See Parl. 1384 (1).

A Parliament was summoned, by Writs of 23 July 1392, to meet at York on 14 October 1392, but it was adjourned *sine die* on 8 September, probably before the elections had been held, and it never met. No Returns have been found and it is almost certain that none were ever made.³

Parliament of 1393.

Summoned, by Writs of 23 November 1392, to meet 20 January 1393 at Winchester; dissolved 10 February 1393. The King's favorite, Sir John Bussy, M.P. Lincolnshire (the "Bushy" of Shakespere), was Speaker.

¹ Parl. 1341.

² But see footnote ¹ on p. 149.

³ *Ex inf.* Pink.

County :	Thomas de Aston, chiv. ..	(1)
	*William Walsale ¹	(2)
	returned by Sir William de Shareshull, sheriff.	
Stafford :	Henry Warylewe	(3)
	John Baxter.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	*Ralf Hogh	(5)
	John Cook	(6)
	returned by John Col- clough, Mayor.	

(1) SIR THOMAS DE ASTON. See Parl. 1380.

(2) WILLIAM WALSALL. See Parl. 1365.

(3) HENRY WARRILOW, M.P. Stafford 1393.

In 1371 such a man appears on a jury of the Hundred of Lichfield.² The name takes its origin in the moorlands of North Staffordshire. He was probably a local burgess.

(4) JOHN BAXTER. See Parl. 1378.

(5) RALPH HOGH. See Parl. 1384 (1).

(6) JOHN COOK, M.P. Newcastle 1393.

I think he was a burgess, for the Cook family have been burgesses of Newcastle from time immemorial and are still freemen of the borough.

Parliament of 1394.

Summoned, by Writs of 13 November 1393, to meet 27 January 1394; dissolved 6 March 1394. Bussy was again Speaker. Richard II, backed by John of Gaunt, was supreme, but had not yet ventured to attack Gloucester and the Lords Appellant.

¹ In the Writ of Expenses the name of John Delves is substituted for that of Walsall, so that Delves probably sat. (See Parl. 1388 (2).)

² S.C. XIV. 135.

County :	*William de Walsall	(1)
	John Ipstones	(2)
	returned by Aylmer de Lichfield, sheriff.	

No returns have been found for the boroughs. On 23 February, while going down to the House, Ipstones was ambushed and slain by Roger Swynnerton. William Thickeness was Mayor of Newcastle.

(1) WILLIAM DE WALSALL. See Parl. 1365.

(2) SIR JOHN IPSTONES. See Parl. 1388 (1).

Parliament of 1395.

Summoned, by Writs of 20 November 1394, to meet 27 January 1395; dissolved 15 February 1395. This was an anti-Church, pro-Lollard Parliament. Bussy was probably Speaker.

County :	William de Sharesull, chiv.	(1)
	Aylmer de Lichfield	(2)
	returned by Sir Robert Fraunceys of Foremark, sheriff.	
Stafford :	John Wylaston	(3)
	John Baxtere.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	William Colclough	(5)
	Ralf Hogh	(6)

(1) SIR WILLIAM DE SHARESHULL. See Parl. 1386.

(2) AYLMER TAVERNER, "DE LICHFIELD." See Parl. 1386.

(3) JOHN WYLASTON, M.P. Stafford 1395, 1397, 1399.

In 1403 he witnesses a deed of Edmund, Earl of Stafford;¹ I think he is the same man as John de Wolaston who sat in 1368.

¹ S.C. VIII. ii. 46.

- (4) JOHN BAXTER. See Parl. 1378.
 (5) WILLIAM COLCLOUGH. See Parl. 1372.
 (6) RALPH DEL HOGH. See Parl. 1384 (1).

Parliament of 1397.

Summoned, by Writs of 30 November 1396, to meet 22 January 1397; dissolved 12 February 1397. This Parliament legitimated the Beauforts and so got Lancaster firmly on the royal side, and prepared the way for Richard's *coup d'état*. Bussy was again Speaker.

County :	John Bagot, chiv.	(1)
	Robert Fraunceys, chiv. ..	(2)
	returned by William Walshale, sheriff.	
Stafford :	John Clyfton	(3)
	*John Wylaston	(4)
Newcastle :	*William Colclough	(5)
	Thomas Thicknes	(6)
	returned by Thomas Pod- more, Mayor.	

- (1) SIR JOHN BAGOT. See Parl. 1391.
 (2) SIR ROBERT FRAUNCEYS OF FOREMARK, DERBYSHIRE, M.P. Derbyshire 1384, 1385, 1388 (1), 1388 (2), Staffs 1397, 1399, 1400-1, 1404, Derbyshire 1411.

Born *c.* 1350; son and heir of Robert F. (who bought Foremark of Elias Verdon in 1360, and died in 1362/70),¹ by Cecily ——. ² He acquired his interest in Staffordshire by marrying, 1382/92, Isabel, widow of Sir Thomas de Brimpton (through whom she was life tenant of Longford, Salop, and Church Eaton).³ One of his daughters married Thomas

¹ S.C. VIII. N.S. 11, 49.

² *Geneal.* VII. N.S. 134.

³ S.C. V. N.S. 109.

Giffard, and another, Jane, married, in 1406, Sir Thomas Harcourt of Stanton Harcourt and Ellenhall.

He was knighted by 1385;¹ was J.P. for Derbyshire 1386-90; for Staffordshire 1397-1410; sheriff of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire 1389-90 and 1406-7; sheriff of Staffordshire 1394-5, 1402-3, 1404-5, 1408-9. He was repeatedly a Commissioner between 1390 and 1406.² In 1401 he was in the retinue of Edmund, Earl of Stafford,³ and in July of that year he was summoned to a Privy Council as "of Norfolk" (*sic!*).⁴ In 1402 he and Nicholas Bradshaw levy the shire against Glendower.⁵ As King's knight he had a grant of £62 a year, 3 November 1399; which grant was cancelled and replaced by one of £40 a year from Newcastle in 1406.⁶ He was a Commissioner of Array for Staffordshire in 1399 and 1403. Mention of him occurs as late as 1417,⁷ but he was dead, survived by his wife Isabel, in 1420.⁸

(3) JOHN CLIFTON, M.P. Stafford 1397.

In 1398/9 a John C. and Isabel his wife surrender land in Tillington to their Lord, Edmund, Earl of Stafford.⁹

(4) JOHN WYLASTON. See Parl. 1395.

(5) WILLIAM COLCLOUGH. See Parl. 1372.

(6) THOMAS THICKNES. See Parl. 1377 (1).

Parliament of 1397-8.

Summoned, by Writs of 18 July, to meet 17 September 1397; dissolved 31 January 1398. This Parliament, under Bussy's Speakership, was entirely favourable to the King, and repealed all the Acts of the Parliaments of 1386, 1388

¹ *Parl. Returns.*

² *P.R.*

³ *P.R.* 1403.

⁴ Privy Council Registers, *pace* Pink.

⁵ *P.R.* 1402.

⁶ *P.R.*

⁷ *S.C.* XII. 308.

⁸ *S.C.* XVII. 72.

⁹ *S.C.* XII. N.S. 143.

and 1394. It met first at Westminster from 17 to 29 September 1397, and then for a fatal three days at Shrewsbury, 28 to 31 January, where it abrogated all the powers of Parliament which had taken 150 years to build up. Richard was made absolute, and governed thenceforth without a Parliament, taxing as he would. Hollingshead states that the Lords and great men came with such numbers of armed men and attendants that there was not half lodgings within the city and suburbs of London for them. No returns for the boroughs have been found. The two county M.Ps. could not have been improved upon for the King's purposes. Bussy was probably Speaker.

County :	Rustin Villenawe	..	..	(1)
	*John Bagot, chiv.	..	..	(2)
	returned by	William		
	Walshale, sheriff.			

(1) SIR RUSTIN VILLENEUVE, M.P. Staffs 1397-8.

He was a Frenchman who married, 1388/90, Jane, daughter and coheirress of John Hastang of Chebsey, and widow of that Sir John Salusbury of Grenborough, Warwickshire, who had been beheaded by the Lords Appellant in 1388.¹ He is said to have been divorced from her through the interest of Roger Swynnerton, who, in a manner of speaking, married her and is called "of Chebsey" in November 1390.² But this divorce and remarriage were annulled, for Jane appears in 1398 as the wife of Rustin V.,³ and in 1419 Jane, described as "late wife of Sir Rustin V.," was sued by William Lee;⁴ and the I.p.m. on her lands describes her in the same way. The divorce had been connived at by Sir Rustin, and he was probably a friend of Roger Swynnerton, who had murdered Sir John Ipstones and supported the Holands against the Lords Appellant. Sir Rustin continued to serve under

¹ S.C. XV. 99.

² P.R.

³ S.C. XV. 91.

⁴ S.C. XVII. 66.

Henry IV, being in command of a force at Caermarthen and Newcastle Emlyn, for whose pay he petitioned Parliament in 1403/4.

(2) SIR JOHN BAGOT. See Parl. 1391.

When Henry IV landed and advanced into the Midlands, all the Staffordshire families hastened to make their peace with him, especially the Bagots.

Parliament of 1399.

Summoned, by Writs tested at Chester 19 August, to meet 30 September 1399; dissolved on the day of meeting, after having received the abdication of Richard II. (See next Parliament.)

HENRY IV.

30 *Sept.* 1399.*Parliament of 1399.*

Summoned, by Writs tested 30 September 1399, to meet on 6 October; dissolved 19 November 1399. This and the previous Parliament were two distinct Parliaments; but, inasmuch as it was impossible to manage a General Election within the six days between the testing of the Writs and the meeting of Parliament, the same members were called that came on the summons of 19 August. Writs for expenses were dated 19 November (which should be 45 days), but 51 days were allowed, *i.e.* back to September 30th. John Doreward, M.P. Essex, was Speaker.

County :	Robert Fraunceys, chiv. ..	(1)
	Thomas Aston, chiv. ..	(2)
	who should have been returned by William Walsall, the sheriff, but he may have been temporarily out of office, having gone with Richard II to Ireland.	
Stafford :	John Wilaston (probably Wolaston)	(3)
	Richard Staunford	(4)
Newcastle :	Thomas Podmore	(5)
	Thomas Thykenes	(6)

(1) SIR ROBERT FRAUNCES. See Parl. 1397.

(2) SIR THOMAS ASTON. See Parl. 1380 (1).

(3) JOHN WOLASTON. See Parl. 1395.

- (4) RICHARD DE STAUNFORD. See Parl. 1382 (1).
 (5) THOMAS DE PODMORE. See Parl. 1377 (2).
 (6) THOMAS THICKNES. See Parl. 1377 (1).
-

Parliament of 1400-1.

Summoned, by Writs of 9 September 1400, to meet at York, 27 October; but by Writs of 3 October it was prorogued to Westminster, where it met on 20 January 1401; dissolved, 10 March 1401. It is curious that so few of the names of Borough members have been preserved. Possibly owing to the confusion caused by the prorogation, very few members were sent up, though we are told that "the knights, citizens and burgesses were proclaimed by their names in the King's Chancery in Westminster Hall" on January 21st.¹

This Parliament demanded that redress should precede supply, and passed the Statute "*de heretico comburendo*." Sir Arnold Savage, M.P. Kent, was Speaker.

County :	*Robert Fraunceys, chiv.	..	(1)
	John Bagot, chiv.	.. ..	(2)
	returned by Sir Robert Mauvesyn of Mauvesyn-Ridware, sheriff.		

Stafford and Newcastle : Returns missing.

- (1) SIR ROBERT FRAUNCEYS. See Parl. 1397.
 (2) SIR JOHN BAGOT. See Parl. 1391.
-

Parliament of 1402 (?)

A Parliament was to meet at London on 30 January 1402, but it probably never met. No Returns have been found, or Writs for expenses, and it is doubtful if Returns were made.

¹ Pink.

A Great Council is spoken of,¹ which may have replaced this Parliament. Either to the Great Council or to this Parliament may have come some of the following. By Writ of 11 May 1402 a Commission was granted to:—J., Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, Edmund, Earl of Stafford, Hugh Burnell,² Robert Malvoysin,³ Thomas Aston,⁴ Robert Fraunceys,⁵ John Bagot,⁶ Thomas Beek, William Newport,⁷ knights; Nicholas Bradshaw,⁸ and the sheriff (Sir William Newport himself) and escheator (John Swynnerton of Hilton),⁹ to bring to the notice of the King's lieges in Staffordshire that it has always been the King's intention that the common wealth, laws and customs of the realm shall be observed.¹⁰

Parliament of 1402 (2).

Summoned, by Writs tested 19 June, to meet 15 September 1402; prorogued on 14 August to 30 September; dissolved 25 November 1402. The Percies had beaten the Scots at Homildon, but the King had been unsuccessful in Wales. A fairly liberal grant was made. Everywhere the country was in a very disturbed state.

County :	William Walshale	..	..	(1)
	John Swynnerton	..	..	(2)
	returned by Sir William Newport, sheriff.			

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* Art. Henry IV.

² Hugh Burnell was summoned to Parliament 1383–1420. He was one of the Lords who received Richard's abdication in the Tower. Through his mother he was first cousin of the contemporary Stafford Earls.

³ Sir Robert Mavesyn of Ridware-Mavesyn, was slain at Shrewsbury Field 1403.

⁴ See Parl. 1380 (1).

⁵ See Parl. 1397.

⁶ See Parl. 1391.

⁷ See Parl. 1407.

⁸ See Parl. 1416 (1).

⁹ See Parl. 1402 (2).

¹⁰ *P.R.*

Stafford :	Richard Staunford	(3)
	Thomas Barbour	(4)
Newcastle :	John Joce	(5)
	Thomas Joce	(6)
	returned by John Colclough, Mayor.	

(1) WILLIAM WALSALL. See Parl. 1365.

(2) JOHN SWYNNERTON OF HILTON, M.P. Staffs 1402.

Born 1349; son and heir of John S. of the same (*d.* 1379), by Christiana ——. He married Clemence —, who survived him and died in 1431. He went with John of Gaunt to France in 1373;¹ was sheriff 1391-2; escheator 1402-3; and he is found repeatedly on the Commissions of Oyer and Terminer and others from 1381 to 1401.² In 1403 his lands were taken into the King's hands—it may be because he was a rebel with Hotspur—it may be because he was a fraudulent escheator. He died 1426/7, being succeeded by his grandson, John S.³

(3) RICHARD DE STAUNFORD. See Parl. 1382 (1).

(4) THOMAS BARBOUR OF STAFFORD, M.P. Stafford 1402, 1411, 1413.

Born c.1375. In 1413 he is called "yeoman of Stafford," and he took the livery of the Erdeswicks.⁴ He was coroner for Stafford 1413, and for the county 1416.⁵ By 1430 he had risen to the rank of "gentleman" in the following of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford,⁶ and in 1433 he occurs in the List of Gentry; in 1434 he was escheator of Salop. William Barbour was clerk of the counting house to Anne, Duchess of Buckingham,⁷ and therefore possibly to her husband, this Humphrey, Earl of Stafford and Duke of Buckingham. Other Barbours were members for Stafford—William,⁸ John,⁹ and Humphrey.¹⁰

¹ S.C. VIII. 117.

² P.R. 1429.

³ S.C. XVII. 27, 33.

⁴ See her Will, 1480.

⁵ Parl. 1450-1.

⁶ P.R.

⁷ S.C. XVII. 6.

⁸ S.C. XVII. 123.

⁹ Parl. 1433.

¹⁰ Parl. 1495.

(5) JOHN JOCE OF HANCHURCH, M.P. Newcastle 1402.

This Joce or Jorce family were of Hanchurch and had an interest in Blurton. A John Jorce was a servant with Sir William Ipstones, M.P.,¹ when that knight was slain by Roger Swynnerton on his way to Parliament in 1394. As John Jouce he witnesses a Cocknage deed of 1403; and a John Joce of Hanchurch and Blurton was dead and succeeded by a son Thomas in 1454, leaving a widow Margaret.²

(6) THOMAS JOCE, M.P. Newcastle 1402.

Possibly a son of the above. These two were almost the last of the old burgess representatives of Newcastle. They may be connected with the family of Jorce of Burton Jorce, Notts.³

Parliament of 1403-4.

Summoned, by Writs tested 20 October, to meet at Coventry 3 December 1403; prorogued on 24 November till 14 January 1404 at Westminster; dissolved, as presumed from the Writ of Expenses, 20 March 1404. "After a delay the Commons consented to levy a tax of 1s. in the £ on land value, but only on the understanding that it should not be construed into a precedent, and that no official record of it should be preserved."⁴ This Parliament was assembled after Shrewsbury fight, where Edmund, Earl of Stafford, and Sir Robert Mauvesyn were

¹ Parl. 1388.

² S.C. VII. N.S. 251-3.

³ *Geneal.* XVIII. N.S. 29.

⁴ Dasent: *Speakers.* 66.

"The Sheriff of Rutland having returned one who was not chosen for the Shire, he is commanded to amend the Return, and is committed to the Fleet at the King's pleasure." (Parry: *Parl.* 163.)

killed,¹—"more disposed to debate than to do business."²
Sir Arnold Savage was again Speaker.

County :	*William de Walshale ..	(1)
	Ralf de Stafford	(2)
	probably returned by Sir Humphrey Stafford the younger who had been made sheriff on 3 November 1403.	
Stafford :	Roger de Coton	(3)
	Adam Heuster	(4)
Newcastle :	Returns missing; John Col- clough, Mayor.	

(1) WILLIAM DE WALSALL. See Parl. 1365.

(2) RALPH DE STAFFORD OF GRAFTON, WORCES., M.P. Co.
Worcester 1382-3, 1384, 1400-1, Co. Staffs 1403-4.

Born *c.* 1355; 2nd son of Sir John S. of Bramshall, M.P.³
(*d.c.* 1370), by his second wife Margaret, daughter of Ralph,
Earl of Stafford. He married 1373⁴ Maud Hastang, sister of

¹ The Patent Rolls of 1404 contain a List of grants made by the dead Earl before his decease. The following were to have pensions for life; John Delves 10*m.*; Thomas Greenway 10*m.*; Hugh Colleclough 100*s.*; William Howton 100*s.*; John Thicknes 100*s.*; all to be paid out of Madeley and Horton; Thomas Arblaster 100*s.*; Nicholas Leveson 2*m.*; Henry Swanne 2*m.*; Adam Eggeley 5*m.*; William Smert, 5*m.*; Nicholas Parker 5*m.*; Richard Preez 5*m.*; John Clercson 5*m.*; John Hampton 5*m.*; Agnes de la Chambre 10*s.*; Nicholas Bradshaw 5*m.*; all out of Stafford and Bradley. It will be observed that the very manors out of which the revenues were to be paid were those nearest the pensioners' homes.

Of the above Delves, Colleclough, Thicknes, Arblaster, Eggeley were at some time M.P.; Greenway was an otherwise unknown J.P.; Leveson, Hampton and perhaps Parker were the fathers of M.Ps. In fact the Stafford retainers form the pool from which the Stafford "interest" drew its members for Parliament.

² *Annales Henrici* 378.

³ Parl. 1339.

⁴ S.C. XIII. 191.

and coheir with that Jane who married Sir John Salisbury and Rustin Villeneuve, M.P.¹ Maud brought, as her share of the Hastang heritage, Grafton, Worcs., and Leamington Hastang, Warwick; on Jane's death in 1419 Ralph's son, Sir Humphrey, inherited Chebsey also.² Ralph held some land in Staffordshire of his own right, for he was Lord of Crakemarsh 1383, and it must be he who as "Ralf de Stafford of Longridge" bought land at Longridge in 1406.³

Ralph Stafford served in France 1381, in the retinue of that famous leader of Free Companies, Theodore, called Canon of Robesart; and again in 1383 with the martial Bishop of Norwich, when they stormed Dunkirk and surrendered at Bourbouch.⁴ Mr. Pink calls him Steward of the Household to King Edward III.⁵ He was a J.P. for Worcestershire in 1389, and a Commissioner in many counties from 1390 onwards. He was never knighted, and died 21 September 1409. For his grandson, Humphrey Stafford, see Parl. 1427-8.

(3) ROGER COTON. See Parl. 1382 (2).

(4) ADAM HEUSTER, M.P. Stafford 1403-4.

From his name, I think he was a burgess of Stafford.

Parliament of 1404.

Summoned, by Writs tested at Lichfield 25 August, to meet at Coventry 6 October 1404; dissolved 13 November 1404. This was the *Parliamentum Indoctum*, since lawyers were excluded. Stubbs thinks that they met at Coventry in order to avoid lawyers who used Parliament to further private suits before the courts at Westminster. Most of the names of the Borough M.Ps. are lost. Mr. Beaven is convinced that Writs were sent out and Returns made as in other Parliaments. Sir William Esturmy, M.P. Devon, was Speaker.

¹ Parl. 1397. *P.R.* 1373.

² Parl. 1427-8.

³ *S.C.* XI. 216.

⁴ *S.C.* XIV. 228, 237.

⁵ *Geneal.* N.S. XXXI.

- County : Robert Fraunceys, chiv. .. (1)
 John Bagot, chiv. (2)
 returned by Sir Humphrey
 Stafford the younger, sheriff ;
 but before Parliament met,
 though probably after the
 election, Sir Humphrey was
 replaced as sheriff by Sir
 Robert Fraunceys, 22
 October 1404. This may
 have been done to save Sir
 Robert from going to Parlia-
 ment, or to prevent his
 going ; I think there was
 still at this time a willingness
 to serve as sheriff which was
 not merely due to love of
 title.

Stafford and Newcastle : Returns missing.

- (1) SIR ROBERT FRAUNCEYS. See Parl. 1397.
 (2) SIR JOHN BAGOT. See Parl. 1391.

Parliament of 1406.

Summoned, by Writs tested 21 December 1405, to meet at Coventry 15 February 1406 ; but by Writs of 1 January 1406 the place of meeting was changed to Gloucester, and by further Writs of 9 February it was again changed to meet at Westminster on 1 March 1406. It held three Sessions, and was not dissolved till December 22nd 1406. Its actual existence lasted through 297 days, an innovation thought to be a blot on Henry's reign and said by Hollingshead to be " a great loss and damage to the Commonalty for the expense of their representatives

was almost equal in value to the sum that was demanded for the subsidy."¹ Sir John Tiptoft, M.P. Hunts, was Speaker.

This is the first "Long Parliament." It forced the King to nominate a Council containing the chief Parliamentary Leaders (what German Liberals aim at in 1917), and insisted on an audit of the accounts. One of the Petitions of the Commons that was granted was—"That sheriffs shall make open proclamation fifteen clear days before the election of a knight of the shire stating time and place of such election, and in the full County they shall proceed to the election freely and indifferently, notwithstanding any request or commandment to the contrary. And after they are chosen, whether absent or present, their names shall be written in an Indenture under the seals of all those that did choose them, and annexed to the writ of Parliament."²

County :	Humphrey de Stafford, jun..		
	chiv... .. .		(1)
	Thomas de Aston, chiv. ..		(2)
	returned by Sir William Newport of Abenale, sheriff.		
Stafford :	Thomas Jocary		(3)
	John Huntingdon		(4)
Newcastle :	Richard Fyton		(5)
	William Lee		(6)
	returned by John Colclough, Mayor.		

(1) SIR HUMPHREY STAFFORD, JUN., OF HOOK, DORSET (called "of the silver hand"), M.P. Staffs 1406, Dorset 1414 (1), 1414 (2), 1417, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1426, 1427, 1432.

Born 1379; 2nd son of Sir Humphrey S. of Southwick, Wilts (M.P. 15 times for the counties of Warwick, Wilts, Dorset and Somerset, 1383-1410, died 1413), by Alice, daughter and heiress of John de Greynville of Southwick. He married, 1401 (? as second wife), Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir John

¹ Parry : *Parlts.* 166.

² Parry : *Parlts.* 165.

Maltravers by Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir John Dynham by Maud, heiress of Hook, Dorset ; which Elizabeth Maltravers (born Dynham) had married, as his second wife, the said Sir Humphrey S. of Southwick and died in 1426. The "silver hand's" elder legitimate brother,¹ Sir John Stafford of Southwick and of Perton and Penkrige, died 1427/8,² and left a son and heir Humphrey.³ His elder illegitimate brother was John Stafford, Bishop of Bath 1425, Lord Chancellor 1432, Archbishop of Canterbury 1443-52.

Sir Humphrey junior was a knight by 1401, and is called "of the silver hand" ;⁴ he was sheriff of Staffordshire 1403-4 ; a special commissioner 1407 ; and Knight of the Body to Henry V on his coronation 1413.⁵ In the Staffordshire feuds of 1413-4 he was on the side of the Ferrers against the Erdeswicks.⁶ This was but natural as his father, as grandson and heir of Sir John de Stafford, M.P.,⁷ had just recovered from the Erdeswicks, the heirs of Sir James de Stafford, M.P.,⁸ the manor of Bramshall. But after 1406 all his public offices seem to have been in the south country. He was sheriff of Somerset and Dorset 1415-6, 1423-4.⁹

He died 27 May 1442, and was buried at Abbotsbury ; his Will is dated 21 May 1442. Though he had four grown sons, his issue in the male line became extinct when his grandson Humphrey Stafford, Lord Stafford of Southwick, for two months Earl of Devon, was executed by Warwick's orders in 1469. About 1445 John Stafford, the Archbishop, built a great hall, in the roof of which he worked the arms of his family. The hall has long since perished, but it is recorded that the Arms appeared

¹ Mr. Pink says "second son," not "elder brother." It all turns on the reading of the suit of 1474. (S.C. IV. N.S. 204-5.) I follow the pedigree given therein.

² I.p.m.

³ S.C. XI. 222, XV. 118, XVI. 54, IV. N.S. 204.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ S.C. XVII. 51.

⁷ Parl. 1339 ; S.C. IV. N.S. 204.

⁸ Parl. 1328.

⁹ According to the Pipe Rolls. The P.R.O. list gives Richard de Stafford 1423-4, but this must be wrong.

thus : Edmund S., Bishop of Exeter, the Stafford Arms in an azure border studded with golden mitres ; John S., Archbishop of Canterbury, the Stafford Arms in a sable engrailed border with a golden mitre on the chevron ; Stafford of Bramshall and Hook, the Stafford Arms in a sable engrailed border ; Stafford of Pipe, the Stafford Arms with three sable martlets on the field.

(2) SIR THOMAS DE ASTON. See Parl. 1380 (1).

(3) THOMAS JOCARY. See Parl. 1380 (2).

(4) JOHN HUNTINGDON, M.P. Stafford 1406, 1407.

These are found as esquires in the retinue of Hugh, Earl of Stafford, in France, *c.* 1380 :—

John Huntingdon, Nicholas Bradshaw, William Wildblood, Haminet Peshale and Thomas Greenway.¹ So Huntingdon was a Stafford retainer.

(5) RICHARD FITON, M.P. Newcastle 1406.

Mr. Pink writes : “ He was, I think, of Pownall, Cheshire, and son and heir of Thomas F. of Pownall (*d.c.* 1395/6), who was son and heir of Hugh F. of Pownall, the first of that line, by Margery, daughter and heiress of Robert de Pownall of Pownall. He married Margaret, one of the three daughters and coheiresses of John de Olton. Her Will, dated 20 February 1437, proved 11 May 1437, bequeaths 3s. 4d. to bretheren “ of whatsoever order in Warrington, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Lichfield, Worcester and Salisbury, and 2s. 8d. to those in Chester. He died 9 April 1437, and was buried at Sherburne, Dorset, his son and heir John being then 21 and more.”²

To this account I would add that he is mentioned as “ of county Chester ” in 1403 ;³ and as a trustee of Sir John Savage’s settlement in Rushton Spencer in 1407.⁴ He is probably the Richard Fyton who, from 1419 to 1435, was a squire and J.P. in county Dorset. Two Papal Letters

¹ S.C. XIV. 232.

³ S.C. XI. 223.

² I.p.m.

⁴ S.C. XI. 217.

incline me to believe that he was a brother of John Fytton, chancellor of Salisbury. These letters are: (1) 1413, Richard Fytton, donzel, nobleman, and . . . his wife, of the diocese of Lichfield, to have an indult to have a private altar; and (2) 1421, plenary indulgence to the same.¹

He is an early case of a Duchy nominee sitting for the Borough.²

(6) WILLIAM LEE OF ASTON, M.P. Newcastle 1406, 1413, Staffs 1420, 1432, 1435.

This must be the William Lee who was escheator 1409-10, and 1419-20; also J.P. 1422-42 as "of Aston."³ He bought Aston by Stone, but his earliest associations were with Newcastle. In 1390, with William Colclough, M.P.,⁴ he was a surety for Roger Biddulph of Keele;⁵ with Hugh Colclough, M.P.,⁶ he was feoffee in the settlement of the Delves estates in Bucknall in 1413;⁷ and a feoffee for uses in the Audley settlement in 1441.⁸ He is so often found lending money and suing for debt that I think he was a lawyer; but I think he was a Royal Servant as well. In 1414 a William Lee is made King's Serjeant;⁹ as a Royal Servant he is commissioned in 1416 to seize ships and bring them into the Orwell;¹⁰ and he frequently appears on Commissions from 1403 to 1408. He died 1443/7,¹¹ having by fine of 3 November 1442, settled his manor of Aston on the issue of himself and his wife Maud, and in default of such on his "brother," Richard Bruyn (presumably the M.P.; see Parl. 1435).¹²

It is, however, clear that Lee's heir was Sir James Lee, one of whose daughters married Sir Humphrey Stanley of Pipe, while, through another daughter, his manor of Aston descended to the Heveninghams. It was presumably Sir

¹ *Papal Letters*, 1413, 1421.

² *P.R.*

³ *S.C.* XV. 24.

⁴ *P.R.*

⁵ *P.R.*

⁶ *S.C.* III. N.S. 169-170.

⁷ See p. 184.

⁸ Parl. 1372.

⁹ Parl. 1407.

¹⁰ *S.C.* XVII. 132.

¹¹ *P.R.*

¹² *S.C.* XI. 233.

William Lee of Co. Salop that was M.P. for that county in 1397. And there was yet another contemporary William Lee—he who married Jane Knightley, heiress of the Shareshill family, and had part of Knightley. This man also sat on the Staffordshire bench, but he died in November 1426; though Jane, his widow, survived in 1442,¹ and died in 1451.

Parliament of 1407.

Summoned, by Writs tested 26 August, to meet at Gloucester 20 October 1407; dissolved 2 December 1407. This Parliament expressly vindicated the right of the Commons to originate all money grants. The Returns were for the first time made on Indentures sealed by the electors; some ten to forty seals were attached, being those of representative electors. This was done so that the sheriff could not send a false Return. Thomas Chaucer, M.P. Co. Oxford, was Speaker.

County :	John Bagot, chiv.	(1)
	William Newport, chiv. ²	(2)
	returned by William Walshale, ² sheriff, 15 October 1407.	
Stafford :	*John Huntingdon	(3)
	*Thomas Jocary	(4)
	Elected 15 October 1407.	
Newcastle :	Hugh Colclough	(5)
	John Tatenhale	(6)
	Elected 15 October 1407;	
	Thomas Bowyer, Mayor.	

(1) SIR JOHN BAGOT. See Parl. 1391.

(2) SIR WILLIAM NEWPORT, K.B., OF ABNALLS BY LICHFIELD, M.P. Staffs 1407, 1411, 1414.

¹ S.C. XVII. 100.

² Newport replaced Walshale as sheriff on 30 November 1407, while the former was still M.P. for the county.

Born *c.* 1360. He was a self-made man of unknown origin. A Thomas Newport was M.P. for Co. Salop in 1380. Sir William was a soldier, possibly a lawyer also. As "armiger" he went to Portugal in December 1384, in the retinue of the Master of the Order of St. James.¹ He was knighted at the coronation, 17 March 1400,² and at the same time, as a King's squire, received a pension of 10*m.* a year.³ Before 1405 he had married Margaret, widow of John Grendon of Kibblestone,⁴ and besides his seat at Abnalls, he was, either directly or through his wife, interested in land at Curborough, Lichfield, Rushall, Tamhorn, Wetmore and Fisherwick.⁵ In 1402 he was one of the four leading gentry summoned to a Great Council at Westminster, and he was again summoned in July 1406.⁶ He was sheriff 1401-2, 1405-6, 1407-8, being made sheriff on the last occasion while still knight of the shire, probably *because* he held that place, as in the case of Sir Robert Fraunceys in 1404.

That he was a considerable soldier is shown by Prince Henry's letter to his father, March 1405; Prince Hal mentions the valour with which "my very dear cousin, the Lord Talbot and your faithful and gallant knights William Newport and John Greindre" defeated 8000 Welsh in Glamorgan.⁷ Newport was one of those commissioned to try to stop the Erdeswick outrages in 1409-11; but he took one side and Lord Ferrers took the other, and we find the feuds in 1412 worse than ever; Newport and the Erdeswicks were giving out the Newport liveries of green and white cloth, and seeking to slay everyone who wore the green and scarlet of Ferrers.⁸ Indeed Newport seems to have given out his liveries every Christmas from 1408 to 1413, and in the following year he was fined £355 for this offence. He was of course pardoned, but he may have had to pay for the privilege of pardon. There are no murders specially charged against him.⁹

¹ S.C. XIV. 240.

⁴ S.C. XVI. 64.

⁶ P.R.; *Privy Council Register*.

⁸ S.C. XVII. 4 *et seq.*

² Shaw, *Knights*.

⁵ S.C. II. N.S. 168; XVII. 54.

⁷ S.C. II. N.S. 168.

⁹ S.C. XVII. 10, 19, 29.

³ P.R.

He died in 1417, leaving a widow, Margaret,¹ and she was still surviving in 1432.² A son William seems to have succeeded him. He bore arms—gules, on a canton sable a fleur de lis silver.³

(3) JOHN HUNTINGDON. See Parl. 1406.

(4) THOMAS JOCARY. See Parl. 1380 (2).

(5) HUGH COLCLOUGH, M.P. Newcastle 1407.

He was a retainer of Edmund, Earl of Stafford (*d.* 1403), being paid 4*d.* a day for life; and he had served in the retinue of the said Earl *c.* 1400.⁴ He was a trustee of the Cocknage settlement in 1403;⁵ and he had land at Little Chell (near which the farmhouse called Colclough still stands) in 1411.⁶ With William Lee, M.P.⁷ he was, in 1413, a feoffee for the Delves settlement in Bucknall and Fenton.⁸ If he was not a burgess of Newcastle he was one of a burgess family.

I think he may be the Hugh C. of Blurton, son and heir of Richard C., M.P.,⁹ of the Visitation; though that Hugh seems to be rather too old for an M.P. in 1407.¹⁰

(6) JOHN TATENHALE, M.P. Newcastle 1407.

Mr. Pink is inclined to think that this man is the John Tattershall of Wanstead and Little Waltham, Essex, son and heir of Robert T. of the same (*d.* 1429), by Anne his wife. If so he married Agnès, daughter of John Chichele, chamberlain of the City of London, grandniece of Archbishop Chichele; and he died in 1446 without male issue, leaving two daughters, his co-heirs. The elder daughter Anne married Sir Ralph Hastings, 3rd son of Leonard, Lord Hastings.

Richard de Tatersale was one of the 138 archers in the retinue of the Earl of Stafford *c.* 1380; others being John Wolaston and John Hampton.

¹ I.p.m.

³ S.C. III. ii. 23.

⁵ S.C. XI. 308.

⁷ Parl. 1406.

⁹ Parl. 1360.

² *Feud. Aids.*

⁴ S.C. XIV. 264.

⁶ S.C. XVI. 76.

⁸ *P.R.*

¹⁰ S.C. V. ii. 86.

I cannot trace any other Tatenhale, and it is not a Newcastle name. A Tatenhill is in the Duchy land on the borders of Needwood Forest.

Parliament of 1410.

Summoned, by Writs tested 26 October 1409, to meet at Bristol, 27 January 1410; changed to Westminster by Writs of 18 December 1409; held two sessions; dissolved 9 May 1410. Chaucer was again Speaker. This anti-clerical Parliament suggested the complete confiscation of the temporalities of the Church. No Staffordshire Returns have been found, and it is a curious coincidence that the Returns are missing for many adjoining counties in the Midlands: Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland, Cambridge and Huntingdon. Those Returns that are extant were made about 1 December 1409. At that time Sir Thomas Aston of Heywood must have been sheriff, appointed Michaelmas 1409. But John Delves had been appointed 4 November 1409, though he never accounted for the post and only took office in the November following. It is not improbable that John Delves was the M.P. returned, and—as in 1404 and 1406—that might well account for the arrangement. As he was certainly M.P. in 1425 a notice of him may well be deferred till that Parliament. John Colclough was Mayor of Newcastle.

Parliament of 1411.

Summoned, by Writs dated 21 September, to meet 3 November 1411; dissolved 19 December 1411. Those Returns which are extant (thirteen counties are missing) are dated about 18 October 1411. Thomas Chaucer was still Speaker.

County :	William Newport, chiv. ..	(1)
	John Bagot, chiv.	(2)
	returned by John Delves of Apedale, sheriff. Before Parliament was dissolved the sheriff had been replaced by Thomas Giffard of Chillington, 10 December 1411.	
Stafford :	Thomas Barbour	(3)
	Robert Whitgreve	(4)
Newcastle :	Thomas Thikenes	(5)
	William Bowyer	(6)
	returned by Thomas Thick- ness himself, the Mayor.	

(1) SIR WILLIAM NEWPORT. See Parl. 1407.

(2) SIR JOHN BAGOT. See Parl. 1391.

(3) THOMAS BARBOUR. See Parl. 1402.

(4) ROBERT WHITGREVE OF BURTON BY STAFFORD, M.P.
Stafford 1411, 1416, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1425, 1426,
1427, 1428, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1435, 1437, 1439?, 1442,
Staffs 1449. He sat in at least 18 Parliaments and in
every one recorded between 1414 and 1441. It is
probable that he was an M.P. for Stafford in 1414 (1),
1414 (2), 1417, and 1439, when the Returns are missing ;
and again in 1445-6 he may have represented Stafford
or the county. We may be sure that to be an M.P.
was no longer a burden to all men.

Born *c.* 1385; Chetwynd says, "He was son to William de W., Bayliffe of ye Borough of Stafford, 11^o Hen. IV, and, being bred up in ye study of ye municipall lawes, was much employed by Humphrey, Earl of Stafford." He was also a Royal Servant. Henry V made him a grant in 1421, and in 1423 he had £10 a year for life as King's Serjeant.¹ He is

¹ P.R.

found taking the musters of the soldiers for Ireland in 1428.¹ In 1432 he was sent to Dieppe.² He was escheator 1429, 1433, 1436, 1440, 1443; and J.P. 1439-49. In June 1443 he was at Portsmouth supervising the embarkation of the Army for France, and in 1434 and 1445 he is mentioned as one of the Tellers of the Exchequer, even then a lucrative post. At last, in 1448, he and his son were specifically exempted from all juries, etc.³

He bought Bridgford from Sir Richard Vernon in 1425/6.⁴ In 1440 he was a trustee in the Chetwynd settlement, but he does not seem to have taken much part in county affairs. He is described in the 1433 List of Landowners as "esquire,"⁵ and the next year he is called "armiger," having had from his Lord, the Earl of Stafford, a grant of Arms in which the red chevrons of Stafford figure on a golden cross. We do not know whom he married; he probably died soon after 1449, when his name ceases to be recorded on the Patent Rolls. His son Humphrey succeeded him,⁶ and his descendants in the male line are still of Burton by Stafford.

(5) THOMAS THICKNES. See Parl. 1377 (1).

(6) WILLIAM BOWYER OF KNYPERSLEY, M.P. Newcastle 1411.

Born *c.* 1380; eldest son and heir of Thomas le Bowier of Newcastle (Bailiff 1383-4, Mayor thereof 1400-1 and 1404-5), by Katherine, sister and in 1378 heiress, of William de Knypersley of Knypersley. He married, ? 1389, Margaret, daughter of Thomas Trubshaw,⁷ and I think he married again and is the William Bowyer who married Elizabeth, niece of Hugh Erdeswick of Sandon, M.P.⁸ He was dead in 1433, when his mother died, and he was succeeded by his son Thomas.⁹ He is the first of a great Parliamentary family.

¹ P.R. ² *Privy Council Proc.*, Nicholas, IV. 266. ³ P.R.

⁴ S.C. 1914, p. 98. ⁵ P.R. ⁶ Parl. 1449.

⁷ S.C. XI. 203; but Mr. Pink thinks there were two William Bowyers, father and son.

⁸ Parl. 1413 (2).

⁹ S.C. III. 54; V. ii. 48.

Parliament of 1413 (1).

Summoned, by Writs tested 1 December 1412, to meet 3 February 1413; dissolved by the King's death 20 March 1413. This Parliament certainly met, as we know from Walsingham, but we are told that nothing was done owing to the King's illness.¹ No Returns have been found, save for the City of London, preserved in the Guildhall records. Sir Thomas Dethick was the sheriff who would have made the Returns. He may have sent Newport, or he may have sent Robert Bapthorpe of Elford,² the famous engineer, who was sheriff the next year; but I think it is most probable that Gresley and Erdeswick represented the county in this as in the first Parliament of Henry V.

¹ Ramsay: *Lancaster and York*.

² ROBERT BAPTHORPE of Brackenholme near Howden, Yorks, married Margaret (Tillington), widow of Sir John de Arderne of Elford, and at Elford he settled. He fought at Agincourt as a knight; was engineer of the siege of Rouen 1417; Attorney General 1420; and exor. of the Will of Henry V in 1421. He died in 1429, his successor as Attorney General, Sir John Vampage, being appointed 28 October 1429.

HENRY V.

20 March 1413.

Parliament of 1413 (2).

Summoned, by Writs tested 23 March, to meet 15 May 1413; dissolved 9 June 1413. This was not, as has been supposed, the same Parliament as the last. It petitioned that the elections should be made in the presence of the sheriff, and not by vote or "*mandement*" of those absent; the King agreed that the electors shall be resident. William Stourton, M.P. Dorset, was Speaker till he resigned through illness, and was succeeded by John Dorewood, M.P. Essex, 3 June 1413.

County :	Thomas Gresley, chiv.	..	(1)
	Hugh Erdeswick	.. ..	(2)
	returned 27 April 1413 by		
	Thomas Dethyk of Co.		
	Derby, sheriff.		
Stafford :	Adam Eggeley	.. ..	(3)
	Thomas Barbour	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	William de Lee	.. ..	(5)
	Hugh Wyldeblood	.. ..	(6)

(1) SIR THOMAS GRESLEY OF COLTON AND OF DRAKELOW, DERBY, M.P. Co. Derby 1400-1, Staffs 1413 (2), Co. Derby 1414, 1417, Staffs 1419, Co. Derby 1421.

Born *c.* 1365; eldest son of Sir Nicholas G. of the same (*d.* 1374/89), by Thomassine (Wastneys), heiress of Colton; and grandson and heir of Sir John G. of the same (*d.c.* 1395). The possession of Colton for the next two hundred years brought the Gresley family into Staffordshire. Sir Thomas married, *c.* 1392, Margaret (Walsh); and one of his daughters Jane (Astley) was nurse to King Henry VI. He was knighted in or before 1399. During the feuds between the Erdeswicks

and the Ferrers and Bagots, 1407-14, he sided with Erdeswick, but took no active part in the killings. Almost certainly he fought at Agincourt. He was sheriff of Co. Derby 1418-9, 1426-7; and of Staffordshire 1422-3; a J.P. of Derbyshire and of Staffordshire in 1422 but not subsequently. His services were constantly called upon as Commissioner and as arbitrator and bailee.¹ I think he died 1446/7, at least the Administration of the estate of Sir Thomas Grisele was granted at Lambeth 6 January 1448.² He bore arms—Vair ermine and gules.

(2) HUGH ERDESWICK OF SANDON, M.P. Staffs 1413, Co. Derby 1419, Staffs 1421, 1433.

Born *c.* 1380; son and heir of Thomas E. of the same (*d. c.* 1406), by Helen, daughter of Hugh Venables, baron of Kinderton, Cheshire. He married Thomassine, daughter and coheiress of Hugh Meynell of Hintes and of Langley Meynell, Derbyshire, and widow of Reynold Dethick, by whom she had had two daughters, one of whom, Margaret, married Ralph Basset of Cheadle and carried Langley to that family. By Thomassine, Erdeswick had no issue, and on his death in 1443/5 his estates passed to Hugh, the son of his third brother, Henry E.

This man was for many years the terror of Staffordshire. His grandfather had married the heiress of Sir James Stafford of Sandon, M.P.,³ a turbulent race; his mother's brother brought him lawless relations from the Cheshire marches. A gang of these desperadoes, with the four Erdeswick brothers at their head, robbed, ravished, murdered and burnt with little restraint throughout the latter years of Henry IV. When pressed his men retired into the Cheshire palatinate, and escaped capture and the King's Writ. His proximity to Stafford enabled him to dominate that place; Newcastle returned his servants as M.P.'s. The Mynors from Needwood, wearing his livery, brought him the wild men of the backwoods. The great families—the Staffords, Audleys, Dudleys,—who

¹ S.C. I. N.S. 52-4.

² *Ex. inf.* Pink.

³ Parl. 1327.

usually restrained the smaller men, were all represented by minors at the time. Only Ferrers and the officials of the Duchy tried to face the storm. Erdeswick began well on 21 June 1407, by taking "malefactors" to the number of 300, arrayed in manner of war, to Mauvesyn Ridware, with a view to killing Sir John Bagot; and, not finding him there, followed him from place to place "seeking to kill him."¹ Sir John Blount, the constable of the Duchy, he chased out of Newcastle, 27 May 1409, and out of Staffordshire. With 1000 men, with prickers and hobelars as in the manner of war, he besieged him in Rocester, and challenged him to fight, man to man, six to six, or twenty to twenty.

Orders for his arrest are issued continually. Commissions are appointed to bring him in, but with the Giffards and the Gresleys behind him he had no difficulty in securing pardons in 1411 and 1415. After having disposed of the Duchy officials he turned his attention to his unsympathetic neighbour, Edmund, Lord Ferrers of Chartley, and attacked his manor house in September 1413, with 1000 armed men from Cheshire and Wales; and they slew his servant, Ralph Page, unarmed on his knees, begging for mercy—1 April 1414. Ferrers escaped and, catching the brother, Sampson, a young man of a peculiarly bloodthirsty disposition, he left him for dead, mutilated, with his toes cut off and sticking out of his mouth. Both sides, it will be seen, took the matter seriously.²

Erdeswick was reconciled to the Duchy and was their firm adherent under Henry V; he was added to the Commission of the Peace for Staffordshire 9 July 1415, and remained on till 1424, when he seems to have retired. He was also Sheriff in 1423-4.

Most of the rioters of this time surrendered; but it should be observed that men of note made a habit of getting their pardons signed and dated before they committed themselves

¹ S.C. XVII. 22.

² *Antient Petitions to Parliament*, P.R.O., 1131. Hugh Erdeswick complains of Esmond Ferrers, Esq., "touchant certaines matières de debate," that he is carrying on a sort of war, lying in wait to kill and murder the said Hugh. . . .

to the Marshalsea. In January 1416, therefore, by means of a pardon, Erdeswick completed the sowing of his wild oats and became a magistrate. He was possibly also in the King's Household, and he certainly served in the reduction of Normandy in 1420.¹ In 1422-4, he is suing for the custody of the heir of Draycot, "feloniously carried away by his mother." This must have given him peculiar satisfaction, as, not only had he no real claim (for we know that the Draycot land was held in soccage), but the boy's father had been on the side of Ferrers and had worn the scarlet and green.² In 1426/32 Erdeswick comes to our notice as a fraudulent trustee—William of Rushall petitions the Chancery, complaining that he enfeoffed Erdeswick of his manor of Rushall in order that he might re-enfeof William and his heirs, and that when he (Rushall) came back from the wars, Erdeswick refused to re-enfeof him at all.

Erdeswick was one of the two knights of the shire who drew up the List of Gentry for Staffordshire in 1433, and he is constantly on Commissions up to 1445, but his lands were taken into the King's hands, and he presumably dead in 1443.³ He bore—Silver on a chevron gules, 5 bezants; the Arms of his ancestor, Sir James de Stafford.

(3) ADAM EGGELEY, M.P. Stafford 1413, 1421, Hereford 1423.

He was a pensioner of Edmund, Earl of Stafford, at 2d. a day; and he was a member of the King's Bodyguard. In 1409 he was appointed Yeoman Usher of the Chamber at 6d. a day, which grant was confirmed in 1413, when he was an M.P.⁴ In 1419 he was made keeper of Kensington Palace.⁵ I expect he was a retainer of the Earl. The name Edgley occurs in the early Parish Registers of Aston Manor by Birmingham.⁶

(4) THOMAS BARBOUR. See Parl. 1402 (2).

(5) WILLIAM LEE. See Parl. 1406.

(6) HUGH WILDBLOOD, M.P. Newcastle 1413.

¹ S.C. VI. N.S. 198.

² S.C. XVII. 82, 86.

³ P.R.; Enrolled Foreign Accts., P.R.O.

⁴ P.R. 1409, 1413.

⁵ P.R. 1422.

⁶ W. F. Carter.

He was a yeoman of Sandon, and a servant of Hugh Erdeswick.¹ He helped at the murder of Ralph Page in 1414, and was pardoned in 1415. Afterwards we hear of him as a yeoman of Bednall in 1444.² His name was appropriate, probably assumed. He was a nominee of the Duchy, now reconciled with Hugh Erdeswick.

Parliament of 1414 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 1 December 1413, to meet 29 January 1414 at Leicester; prorogued by other Writs to meet there 30 April 1414; held its last session 20 May 1414. It met after the Lollard rising, and passed statutes against them. They also debated on war with France. The Borough Returns for Staffordshire are missing, though 34 Boroughs certainly sent Burgesses. Sir Walter Hungerford, M.P. Wilts, was Speaker.

County :	John Meverel	..	..	..	(1)
	William Walshale	..	..	..	(2)

returned by Sir John Bagot,
sheriff.

(1) JOHN MEVEREL OF THROWLEY, M.P. Staffs 1414 (1),
1414 (2).

Born *c.* 1375. In 1399 John M. the elder of Fradswell and Throwley was slain at Fradswell,³ and in 1402 John Meverel the M.P. had Letters Patent declaring him kinsman and heir to Elizabeth, widow of Sir Nicholas Stafford, M.P.,⁴ a confirmation of which Letters he obtained in 1414 when he sat in Parliament.⁵ His mother Margaret had remarried Sir Henry Delves, who was dead in 1421.⁶ He took the Ferrers' livery, and shared in the feud with the Erdeswicks, 1408-15,

¹ S.C. XVII. 8.

³ S.C. XVI. 82.

⁵ P.R.

² S.C. III. N.S. 163.

⁴ Parl. 1377 (1).

⁶ S.C. XVII. 8.

being one of those commissioned to arrest Erdeswick in 1411. He gave liveries himself, and was one of those pardoned in December 1414, being then, conveniently, at Westminster.¹

He took part in the campaign for the reduction of Normandy in 1420, but in 1423 he was again leading a riot and terrorising a local jury in Derbyshire;² while in 1438 he was pardoned for harbouring a robber.³ He died in 1442,⁴ and was succeeded by Sir Sampson Meverel.⁵ Chetwynd calls this Sir Sampson his son, but if so it is curious that the son was a knight in the lifetime of an unknighthed father.⁶

(2) WILLIAM WALSALL. See Parl. 1365.

Parliament of 1414 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 26 September, to meet 19 November 1414. It met, passed a subsidy, and was soon dissolved. Thomas Chaucer, M.P. Co. Oxford, was again Speaker.

County : William Newport⁷ (1)

*John Meverel (2)

returned 8 November 1414 by Sir John Bagot, sheriff. Two days later Sir John was replaced as sheriff by Robert Babthorp of Elford, the King's favorite.

Stafford and Newcastle : No Returns extant.

(1) SIR WILLIAM NEWPORT. See Parl. 1407.

(2) JOHN MEVEREL. See Parl. 1414 (1).

¹ S.C. XVII. 9, 19, 29.

² S.C. XVII. 99.

³ S.C. III. N.S. 138.

⁴ I.p.m.

⁵ Parl. 1459.

⁶ S.C. XII. N.S. 163.

⁷ It should be observed that these Returns do not add the "chivalier" after the name of Newport. The titles in the Returns are often omitted, and they must not therefore be taken as a sure guide as to whether a man was or was not a knight.

Parliament of 1415.

Summoned, by Writs of 12 August, to meet 21 October ; prorogued on 29 September to 4 November 1415 ; dissolved 17 November 1415. This Parliament met after Agincourt, 25 October 1415, and gave Henry V the customs on wool for life. Sir Richard Redman, M.P. Yorks, was Speaker. Henry V reached London on 23 November. Returns have been found for twelve counties but not for Staffordshire. Robert Babthorp, then of Elford, who had fought at Agincourt, was the sheriff. He could not have got back to England till November, and he was replaced by John Delves on December 1st 1415. There is no record of a sub-sheriff, and it is therefore possible that no Returns were made from the County. There were only five commoners on the bench at this time : Sir Thomas Harcourt of Ellenhall,¹ John Delves of Apedale,² Richard Lane of Bentley,³ Hugh Erdeswick of Sandon⁴ and William Lee of Aston.⁵ If there were M.P.'s for Staffordshire they would probably be found among these.

Parliament of 1416 (1).

Summoned by Writs of 21 January, to meet 16 March 1416 ; held two sessions ; dissolved soon after 10 May 1416.

¹ SIR THOMAS HARCOURT OF ELLENHALL, AND OF STANTON-HARCOURT, OXON, possibly M.P. Staffs 1415. Born 1377 ; second son of Sir Thomas H. of the same (*d.* 1417), by Maud, daughter of John, second Lord Grey of Rotherfield, and widow of John de Bottetourt. He married, probably on his elder brother's death in 1406, Jane, daughter of Sir Robert Fraunceys of Foremark, M.P. (see Parl. 1397) ; she survived him and remarried, 1424, Sir Robert Strelley of Oxton, Notts. Him too she survived, and, known as Dame Jane Harcourt of Bosworth, she is cited as instigating the Stafford-Harcourt feuds. Sir Thomas lived at Ellenhall, during his father's lifetime, was a J.P. for Staffordshire, and died in 1420, being succeeded by his son, Sir Robert H., K.G. (1410-70) M.P. Co. Oxon 1447, 1450 ; Co. Berks 1460 ; slain by the bastard of Grafton, 1470.

² Parl. 1425.

⁴ Parl. 1413 (2).

³ Parl. 1421 (1).

⁵ Parl. 1406.

I am confident that Chamberlain, M.P. for Newcastle, was a Duchy nominee, which in 1416 was the same thing as a Crown nominee. Newcastle belonged to the Duchy, and the Chief Steward of the Duchy was Roger Flower of Oakham,¹ the Speaker in the next Parliament, and evidently a man of great influence. Sir Walter Beauchamp, probably M.P. Wilts, was Speaker.

County :	Humphrey de Halghton	..	(1)
	Roger Bradshaw	.. ..	(2)
	returned by John Delves, sheriff.		
Stafford :	Robert Whitgreve	.. ..	(3)
	Henry Fenton	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	William Skytteby	.. ..	(5)
	Thomas Chamberleyn	.. ..	(6)

(1) HUMPHREY HAUGHTON OF HAUGHTON, M.P. Staffs 1416
(1).

Born c. 1360 ; probably grandson and heir of Sir Thomas de H. of the same, M.P.² He was a Commissioner of Array 1385,³ and is mentioned in 1408.⁴ During the feuds he was one of those commissioned to arrest the Erdeswicks in 1411 ;⁵ he arranged the murder of William Crofts in 1412 ;⁶ and was bail for Thomas de Swynnerton in 1414.⁷ He was an unimportant person to be a knight of the shire, but then so was his companion. He was sheriff 1419-20, and died during his term of office 29 August 1420. His widow, Isabel, survived him and was " Lady of Haughton " in 1428 ; he had apparently no issue.⁸

¹ The *Dictionary of National Biography* does not mention that he was Chief Steward of the Duchy ; nor does it mention the same fact in connection with the Speakers Sir John Tyrell and Sir Walter Hungerford.

² Parl. 1363.

³ P.R.

⁴ S.C. XVI. 65.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ S.C. XVII. 8.

⁷ S.C. XVII. 19.

⁸ S.C. XI. 149.

- (2) ROGER BRADSHAW OF MILWICH, M.P. Co. Derby, 1406, Staffs 1416 (1).

He was a son of Hugh B. from Co. Derby and therefore nephew of Nicholas Bradshaw, the King's squire, who died *c.* 1423. He is mentioned in connection with Stone Priory in 1402.¹ Before 1406 he had married Elizabeth, one of the grand-daughters and coheireses of Sir Hugh Meynill of Hintes and Langley Meynill, Derbyshire.² Whether he had some share in Hintes I know not, but in 1416 he bought Milwich and settled it in 1421 on himself and his wife. He was succeeded by a son William B.³

- (3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.

- (4) HENRY FENTON, M.P. Stafford 1416 (1).

I cannot find mention of this man, but from his name I suppose him to be of local origin.

- (5) WILLIAM SKYTTEBY, M.P. Newcastle 1416 (1).

Bailiff of Newcastle 1402-3, 1406-7.⁴ A Burgess.

- (6) THOMAS CHAMBERLAIN, M.P. Newcastle 1416 (1).

Clerk of the King's Works, 1396-7; Clerk of the King's Ships, 1399-1405. In 1411 Thomas C. is commissioned to take partridges, pheasants and plovers for the King's Household.⁵ The same man is mentioned as a Royal Servant in 1425 and 1441.⁶ I think he is not the same man as the Thomas C. of Weston-Favell, Northants, of 1407.⁷ He was a Duchy nominee.

DUCHY INFLUENCE.

Long after this time, in 1614, Fortescue, the Attorney General and Chancellor of the Duchy, stated in the House of Commons: "The prescription of the Chancellor (of the Duchy) is to have the nomination of one of the Burgesses in every one of the Duchy towns. It hath been so in his remembrance

¹ *P.R.*

³ *S.C.* XII. N.S. 160-1.

⁵ *P.R.*

² *S.C.* XVI. 55.-

⁴ *Borough Records.*

⁷ *P.R.*

⁶ *P.R.*

and is ancient. *Error temporum*. A Bill should be brought in to reform these abuses."¹

There is no doubt, from internal evidence, that this Duchy nomination took place in Newcastle Borough from the reign of Henry IV down to the time of Queen Elizabeth. It explains the Needwood men that sat for Newcastle: Tutbury, Uttoxeter, Burton and Needwood were Duchy lands. At times Tutbury and Newcastle would almost seem to be a grouped Burgh in the modern sense. Richard Fytton, M.P. 1406, a complete "carpet-bagger" so far as Newcastle is concerned, is the earliest probable case of such nomination. Tatenhale, in the succeeding Parliament, may derive his position from Duchy influence. In 1411 both members seem local, though Bowyer may have been nominated, but with 1413 and the accession of Henry V the Needwood men come in regularly to sit for one of the Newcastle seats, and the Duchy nominee is generally named second on the Return.

The fact is that under Henry V and VI the Chief Steward of the Duchy is always a powerful man; the post is a reward of merit,—sought after. The Chief Steward, or Chief Stewards (for there are generally two of them), are made Justices of the Peace in those counties where their power extends. It is a post apparently affected by the Speakers of the House of Commons. Sir Walter Hungerford, Speaker 1414, Steward of the Household and Treasurer 1424-32, was a Chief Steward of the Duchy from 5 April 1409 onward, and a J.P. in twenty counties 1423-5, because he was Chief Steward. Roger Flower, Speaker 1416, 1417, 1419, 1422 (*d.* 1427/8), was a Chief Steward in Staffordshire, Derbyshire and eight other counties from 1 December 1413 till December 1427 and a J.P. 1423-7. Sir John Tyrrell, Speaker 1427, 1431, 1437, Treasurer of the Household (*d.* 1437), was Chief Steward in Staffordshire and Salop and sixteen other counties (also a J.P.) from 10 December 1427 till April 1436. On Tyrrell's

¹ Parry: *Parlt.* 265-6.

death the office seems again to have been divided, 23 April 1436, between William de la Pole, the Earl of Suffolk, who had Staffordshire, Warwick, Derby and nine other counties, and Sir William Phelip, 1st Lord Bardolf. Bardolf was King's Chamberlain from 1437 till his death in 1441; his Stewardship was then taken by Sir Roger Fiennes, the Treasurer of the Household. Fiennes controlled the Duchy lands in the south, while Suffolk still ruled them in the north (though perhaps not in Staffordshire) up to the time of his disgrace in 1450. Fiennes was still a Chief Steward in November 1449, but the reversion of his post had been granted to Suffolk and Sir Thomas (afterwards Lord) Stanley in December 1447. About 1453 the Earl of Salisbury was made Chief Steward and Constable of the Duchy castles, including Pontefract.¹ After 1460 the Chief Stewardship as an office of profit vanished from the Patent Rolls, and Stanley is "Receiver of the Duchy," probably the more effective post; though Richard, Duke of Gloucester, held the post of Chief Steward in 1480 and 1482; Henry, Duke of Buckingham, in 1483 till his execution, when he was succeeded by Lord Howard. After Bosworth, of course, the Earl of Derby became Chief Steward.²

It will be seen at once that the Chancellors of the Duchy were small men compared with these Stewards. With the Stewards the nomination must have rested from 1415 to 1460; thereafter, perhaps, with the Stanleys, till they in turn delegated their authority to such friends and Chancellors as Sir Reynold Bray. But even before Bray's time the Chancellor has usurped the controlling position previously held by the Steward; and this high Duchy post of Chancellor becomes likewise attached to the Speakership. Tresham, Speaker 1439, 1442, 1447, 1449, was Chancellor of the Duchy 1447-9, when he was succeeded in the Chancellorship by Sir John Say, Speaker 1449-50, 1463-5, 1467-8. These men shared with the Stanleys in the control of Duchy patronage.

¹ Ramsay, *Lancs and Yorks* II. 165.

² *Ex. inf.* W. D. Pink.

So we may attribute one of the Newcastle members to Duchy patronage in Parliament after Parliament—Chamberlain in 1416, Mynors in 1419, Hardhed in 1420, Baron in 1421 (1). Of Thomas Lee 1421 (2), and 1427, and of Roger Legh 1431, we know at least that no such local men are to be found; therefore they too are probably Duchy men. Again Mynors, Sandbach and Hexstall are nominees of the Duchy. In 1426 both Woodhouse and Lilie are unknown; but as a John Woodhouse was Chancellor of the Duchy 1413-24, I will warrant that this Woodhouse was also a nominee. The Leveson of Willenhall, who sat in 1432, has rather the air of an Earl's nomination; in 1433 both the Newcastle members are local men. But thereafter there is regularly a stranger—Repingale, Needham, Needham and Cudworth, Needham, Mayne. In the Yorkist Parliament of 1450-1 there are no Duchy nominees for Newcastle; but again thereafter come regularly,—Spenser, Spenser, Norres, Paston, and at last Reynold Bray himself in 1477, bearing out the allegation of 1614. Sir Reynold Bray was himself Chancellor of the Duchy from 1485 to 1504, and in the one Parliament of which we have the Returns during this period we may know that he sent to Westminster his friend Richard Harpur of Epping.

I doubt if other Chancellors exercised as fully their prescriptive right, but the Returns are missing for forty years. The Chancellors were all great men, who have a place in the *Dictionary of National Biography*—Mordant the Speaker, 1504-5; Empson the Speaker, 1505-9; Marny, 1509-24; Wingfield, 1524-5; Sir Thomas More, Speaker, 1525-9; Fitzwilliam, 1529-33; Gage, 1533-47; Sir William Paget, 1 July 1547-7 July 1552; Sir John Gates, a creature of Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, 1552-3; Rochester, Queen Mary's favorite, 1553-8; Sir Edward Waldegrave, who had been Receiver General of the Duchy from 4 November 1553, succeeded his father-in-law, Rochester, as Chancellor 22 June 1558. Under Elizabeth there followed Sir Ambrose Cave, 1558-68; Sir Ralph Sadler, 1568-87;¹ Sir Francis

¹ Dates corrected by Mr. Beaven.

Walsingham, 1587-90;¹ Sir Thomas Heneage, 1590-95;¹ Sir Robert Cecil, 1595-1601; Sir John Fortescue, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, 16 September 1601, who was still speaking as Chancellor of the Duchy when he made the claim that of old times his predecessors had had one nomination in all the Duchy towns.

Perhaps one might put down to Tudor and Elizabethan Chancellors any of the following Newcastle members:—Rolleston from Needwood, 1547, 1553, 1554; Richard Hussey, 1558; John Longe, 1563; Thomas Grimsdich, 1572-83; Peter Warburton, 1584-5; either Humphrey or Aungier in 1588-9; and then no more. Indeed Grimsdich seems to me to be probably the last example of the Duchy's prescriptive right of nomination, even if that power lasted so long. Fortescue's parliamentary experience went back to 1572, and he had been born as early as *c.* 1531, so that he would remember Grimsdich well.

What other "Duchy towns" there were besides Newcastle I am not sure. I suppose such would be Lancaster, Leicester, Hertford, Clitheroe and Higham Ferrers; but the last three were not of old standing. It is possible that one should include in the designation all the boroughs of Lancashire and Cheshire. I am insufficiently equipped to decide whether there, too, there is trace of Duchy nomination.²

¹ Dates corrected by Mr. Beaven.

² NOTE ON THE DUCHY TOWNS.

Mr. Beaven writes:—"Between 1331 and 1491 certainly, and very probably up to 1529, there were no Lancashire Borough Members. Liverpool and Wigan do not reappear till 1544; Preston and Lancaster had been restored by 1529. Hertford was unrepresented between 1376 and 1624; Clitheroe was not enfranchised till 1559, Higham Ferrers till 1558. As regards Leicester being a Duchy Borough, Sir Humphrey May, who was Chancellor of the Duchy 1618-29, was elected for Leicester in four successive Parliaments, in one of which he preferred to sit for Lancaster.

"One of the members elected for Hertford at the first election after its restoration in 1624 was a Fanshawe who sat in several

Parliament of 1416 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 3 September, to meet 19 October 1416; dissolved 18 November 1416. For this Parliament no Returns are given in the Official Blue Book, save that for Dunwich. Roger Flower, the Speaker, sat for Rutland; and the London Members are known. During the minority of the Earl of Stafford I believe this Roger Flower had more to do with the Staffordshire elections than anyone else. The

Parliaments. I cannot find that he himself was officially connected with the Duchy, but the auditorship of it was held by various members of the Fanshawe family during the greater part of the period 1594–1670. I do not notice any other Duchy names among the list of members.

“John Purvey, who was one of the Auditors of the Duchy, sat for Higham Ferrers in the Parliaments of 1559, 1562; he was previously M.P. for the county of Hertford, where he was succeeded by Sir Ralph Sadler, the Chancellor.

“Preston was represented by Duchy officials, sometimes by the Chancellor himself, in several Parliaments extending over the latter part of the sixteenth and most of the seventeenth centuries. Sadler sat for Preston many years before, but not after he became Chancellor.

“The Chancellor is definitely stated to have nominated one of the M.P.’s for Liverpool in 1555, and no doubt the Duchy influence was exercised on other occasions, but I cannot find definite instances of it in the seventeenth century.

“Lancaster several times returned Duchy officials—three of the Fanshawes. Sir Henry May (Chancellor), Thomas Fell (the Chancellor under the Commonwealth). In the eighteenth century also some of the M.P.’s were connected with the Duchy. In Queen Elizabeth’s reign, two of Sir Ralph Sadler’s sons sat while their father was Chancellor.

“Grimsditch, M.P. for Newcastle-under-Lyme, sat afterwards for Wigan; so did a brother of Sir T. Heneage (Chancellor). One of the auditing Fanshawes sat for Clitheroe.”

Mr. Pink writes:—“Down to Stuart times the *State Papers, Domestic*, contain many references in which the right of the Chancellor to nominate one of the M.P.’s in certain Boroughs is alluded to; but it was a right allowed also to others in different boroughs not within the Duchy lands. I have always imagined that when the Stewards of the Duchy exercised the right of nomination, it was on behalf of the Chancellor, and not in their own right; but it may not have been so. Under the Crown the Lord High Steward ranked above the Chancellor.”

Staffordshire sheriff was John Delves, but he was succeeded by Richard Vernon, the future Speaker, on 30 November 1416; and if one might guess one would call Richard Vernon M.P. for the county, as he was in the next Parliament of which we have record.

Parliament of 1417.

Summoned, by Writs of 5 October, to meet 16 November 1417; dissolved 17 December 1417. The elections for this Parliament took place between 13 October and 10 November 1417. The Duke of Bedford, the King's brother and Viceroy, was supreme. This was the Parliament which barbarously murdered Sir John Oldcastle, the Lollard. Roger Flower was again Speaker. No Returns for Staffordshire are extant, nor for ten other counties. I suppose the sheriff who made the Returns was Richard Vernon,¹ but he was replaced on 10 November 1417 by John Meverel of Throwley.² I suspect, from analogies with other cases, that one or other of these was an M.P. for the county. As I rather think that Meverel was away with the king in France however, the case is very doubtful.

Parliament of 1419.

Summoned, by Writs of 24 August, to meet 16 October 1419; dissolved 13 November 1419. This Parliament was held under Bedford's Viceroyalty. Flower was again chosen Speaker. Mynors, the Newcastle M.P., was a tenant of the Duchy; Biddulph, the other Newcastle M.P., was probably Mayor. The Stafford M.P.'s show signs of Beaufort and Stafford influence.

¹ Parl. 1419.

² Parl. 1414 (1).

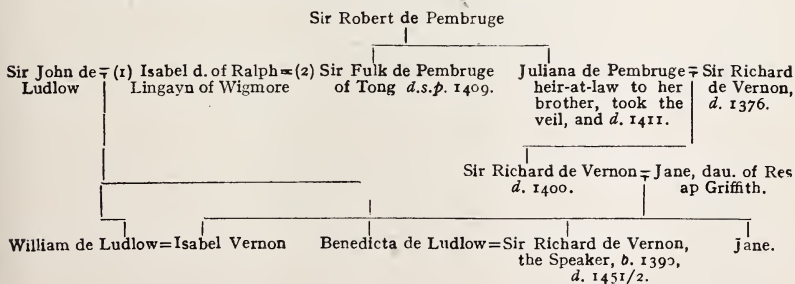
County :	Richard Vernon, chiv.	(1)
	Thomas Gresley, chiv.	(2)
	returned 5 October 1419 by Sir William Trussel, sheriff.	
Stafford :	John Parker	(3)
	John Harpur	(4)
Newcastle :	John Bedulf	(5)
	John Miners	(6)

(1) SIR RICHARD VERNON OF TONG, SALOP, HADDON, DERBY, AND HARLASTON, M.P. Staffs ? 1416 (2), ? 1417, 1419, Co. Derby, 1422, 1426.

Born 1390 ; son and heir of Sir Richard V. of Haddon and Harlaston (*d.* 1400), by Jane, daughter of Rese ap Gryffith of Wichnor, by Margaret, afterwards wife of William Walshale, M.P.¹ He succeeded in 1409 to the great estates of his grandmother's brother, Fulk de Pembridge, in Tong, Sheriff Hales and Kibbleston.² Over most of these estates he had endless litigation, though his heirs seem to have made good their title to the Trussel part of the inheritance—Sheriff Hales and Kibbleston—as well as to the Pembridge property in Tong.³ He lived at Tong, though he never sat for Salop. In or before 1410 he married Bennett Ludlow, with whom he founded the collegiate church of Tong.⁴

¹ Parl. 1365.

² Mr. Bridgeman gives the following pedigree :—



³ S.C. XII. N.S. 90.

⁴ Dugdale, *Monasticon*.

He probably served in France with Henry V ; was knighted 1418 ; served as sheriff in Staffordshire 1416-7 and 1427-8 and in Notts and Derby 1424-5 ; J.P. Staffordshire 1417-22 and 1430-2 ; he was also frequently a commissioner. On 28 February 1426 he was elected Speaker, and a fine plate of his effigy in Tong Church is reproduced in Dasent's *Speakers of the House of Commons*. The Parliament of which he was Speaker was the famous "Parliament of Batts," *i.e.* Clubs, and he must have had some trouble to keep the peace between the parties of Gloucester and Beaufort so armed. He never sat in Parliament again, and in the following year, 1427, he was Commissioner of Array for Derbyshire ; in 1448 he had a grant of 200*m.* for his services as Knight-Steward (though it was not of the Duchy lands that this Speaker was Steward). On 4 May 1445 he was made Treasurer of Calais,¹ and he died in 1451² or in 1452.³

His sons, Richard Vernon and Fulk Vernon (M.P. Co. Derby 1439-40) predeceased him, and he was succeeded by his third son William Vernon, M.P.⁴ He is the direct ancestor in the male line of the Viscounts Harcourt of Nuneham Harcourt, and of the Lords Vernon of Sudbury. His father bore arms : Silver fretty sable, a canton gules charged with a martlet silver (the martlet of Lord Stafford of Pipe).

(2) SIR THOMAS GRESLEY. See Parl. 1413 (2).

(3) ADMIRAL JOHN PARKER, M.P. Stafford 1419.

He will be the John Parker, one of the Earl of Stafford's Squires in *c.* 1400.⁵ This man was made King's Serjeant in 1407 ; Yeoman Usher of the Chamber 1409 ;⁶ Purveyor to the Chancery, appointed by the then Chancellor, who was Sir Thomas Beaufort, 1411. It will be the same John Parker who was Deputy Lieutenant to Sir Thomas when he was Admiral of England, Earl of Dorset and Duke of Exeter in 1422 ; and the

¹ *List of Various Accounts*, P.R.O., 139.

³ *S.C.* III. N.S. 200-4.

⁶ *S.C.* XIV. 264.

² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴ Parl. 1455-6.

⁶ *P.R.* 1422.

same who, after his patron's death in 1427, is described as Deputy Admiral, 1428.¹ In 1427/8 he accounts for the transport of cannon sent to France.² He was recently dead in 1438.³ Humphrey Stafford, the future Duke of Buckingham, was only 17 years old at the time; no doubt till he came of age the Beauforts could do much to influence elections at Stafford. The other member was a local man.

(4) JOHN HARPUR OF RUSHALL, M.P. Stafford 1419, 1420, 1421 (1), 1422, 1423-4, 1425, 1427-8, 1429-30, Staffs 1431 and possibly in 1459, 1460, 1461-2 or 1463-4. He therefore sat for Stafford in every Parliament between 1419 and 1430, except that of 1421 (2) and of 1426; the first of these Parliaments sat for only three days, and the second met at Leicester. It is strange that for the last 33 years of his life he never, so far as we know, went back to Parliament.

Born *c.* 1395; his father is said by Glover⁴ to have been John le Harpur, his mother Isabel, daughter of Sir Robert Appleby. But this does not explain why he sat for Stafford in 1419. There was a John H. "of Ashley" in 1421,⁵ doubtless the same man. But the M.P. acquired his principal estates and position in 1427 by marrying Eleanor (*b.* 1412), daughter and heiress of William Grobber, *alias* de Rushall, *hostiarius aulae Regis* (one of the Household of Richard II, Henry IV and Henry V, who fought at Shrewsbury and at Agincourt, *d.* 1429), by Elizabeth, daughter of John Rolleston of Rolleston.⁶ (This William de Rushall had been adopted son of William Walshale, M.P.⁷) He did not marry a second time; the tomb at Darlaston is that of his grandson, a later John Harpur of Rushall.

After he had ceased to sit in Parliament, and while Duke Humphrey was still at the height of his power, Harpur filled the following posts:—J.P. 1430 till death; escheator 1429-30,

¹ P.R.² *Enrolled Foreign Accts.*, P.R.O.³ P.R.⁴ Glover's *Hist. of Derbyshire*.⁵ S.C. XVII. 8.⁶ Shaw: *Staffs* II. 63.⁷ Parl. 1365.

1433-4, 1440-1; Steward of all the Stafford manors 1437;¹ one of the trustees of the settlement of the Stafford estates on the marriage of Duke Humphrey 1441. In 1446 he had an exemption from all juries, etc.; from 1447 to 1464 he seems to have been Chairman of the Staffordshire Bench, at least he is always named first. Finally in 1449 he was one of those to raise the Royal loan in Staffordshire.²

He died 3 July 1464,³ and was buried in the Grey Friars, Lichfield; M.I. Rushall.⁴ His son, William H., ? M.P.⁵ succeeded at Rushall, and William's granddaughter took Rushall to the family of Leigh in 1535. The M.P.'s second son, Richard, was several times M.P.⁶ and continued his father's relations with the Ducal family.

(5) JOHN BIDDULPH, M.P. Newcastle 1419, 1421 (1).

It will be this John B. who is described as "aged 57" when witnessing the full age of Robert Harcourt of Ellenhall, therefore he was born *c.* 1375. I can trace no connection with the family of Biddulph of Biddulph. A John de B. "the elder" was outlawed in 1406;⁷ this may be his father. He was bailiff of Newcastle 1407-8;⁸ escheator of Staffordshire 1408-9; Mayor of Newcastle 1418, probably returning himself to Parliament. In 1412 John B. of Newcastle and Margaret his wife, as executors of Richard Buntable, are suing for debts;⁹ and he is mentioned also in 1411 and 1424 as "of Newcastle" suing for more debts.¹⁰ In 1438 he witnesses a deed of Richard Delves respecting Cold Norton.¹¹ So for Newcastle the burgesses sent up one M.P. of their own, the other one they took from the Steward of the Duchy.

(6) JOHN MYNORS OF UTTOXETER, M.P. Newcastle 1419, Staffs 1420, Newcastle 1422, Staffs 1431, 1437.

¹ Addl. Char. 19859, B.M.

⁴ Harwood, *Erdeswick*, 406.

⁶ Parl. 1467-8.

⁸ Borough Records.

¹⁰ S.C. XVI. 7; XVII, 74, 97.

² P.R.

³ S.C. III. 105.

⁵ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁷ S.C. XVI. 53.

⁹ S.V. XVII. 43.

¹¹ Sneyd Deeds, Keele.

I have no hesitation in saying that this man was put in by the Steward of the Duchy, and he put him in wherever he could find a seat, without caring whether it was a Borough or County.

There is little doubt that it was only one John Mynors that sat in these various Parliaments, though there were two contemporary John Mynors at this time, one of Blakenhall, the other of Uttoxeter (born *c.* 1380). For in the Parliament of 1420 we find the seat at Newcastle (which Mynors had in the previous Parliament) occupied by John Hardhed, the close ally of John Mynors of Uttoxeter.¹ Moreover Mynors of Uttoxeter held an official position as bailiff of Tutbury Castle in 1408² and still in 1450;³ while in 1414 both John M. "of Uttoxeter" and his brother William are described as King's servants.⁴ The brother William is called "King's Yeoman" in 1413, and "King's Serjeant" in 1414.⁵

Therefore we have in this M.P. the "notorious robber and depredator" of the Plea Rolls, the elder brother of William and Thomas Mynors, a triumvirate whose crimes and riots fill so large a place in the records of the time. They backed the Erdeswick faction from 1407 to 1415. We first find John Mynors on the Rolls in 1407. He is then described as "of Marchington, jentylman" (probably the first man ever described in records as "gentleman"); he appears as murderer of John Atte Wood, a tax collector at Uttoxeter.⁶ Next year the killing of a man at Loxley is brought against him, and in 1409 he joins Erdeswick in an expedition to Stone to kill John Boughey. He followed Erdeswick too in his warlike siege of Rocester, with the Duchy Constable, Sir John Blount, inside the town. Parliament orders his arrest in 1410; but that same year he kills John de Wood, and gives out liveries to his servants. He surrendered and was pardoned in 1411; but before the year was over he was again in arms, with John

¹ S.C. XVII. 17, 18.

² P.R.

³ P.R.

⁴ S.C. XVII. 18.

⁵ S.C. XVI. 87.

⁶ S.C. XVII. 18.

Hardhed and his brother, breaking up mills in and around Wolverhampton, and killing one Featherstone of Featherstone. It is then that the family are so aptly called "notorious robbers and depredators";¹ but they were pardoned again 20 May 1412. The breaking of mills was a common form of agrarian rioting, and may show some popular backing. He is sued in 1413 as "yeoman of Uttoxeter" for the giving of liveries; ordered to be arrested in 1414,² and pardoned on 1 January following. Yet in 1414 he is summoned as "an honest and legal man" on a Jury.

The result of, presumably, Flower's action in turning poacher into gamekeeper was not particularly satisfactory. Mynors was breaking in and rioting at Fisherwick in 1420,³ and his son was rioting as "John Mynors jun." in 1446. Parliament does, however, seem ultimately to have turned him into a pillar of the State. He was on the Commission to arrest Thomas Fitzherbert in 1425,⁴ and he appears high up on the list of Staffordshire gentry in 1433 as "esquire." In 1437 he is one of the Commissioners appointed to supervise the management of Alcester Abbey.⁵

Mr. W. C. T. Mynors makes him a son of Richard Myners of Uttoxeter who was alive in 3 Henry IV, and gives him for a wife Margaret, daughter of William Hunt of Uttoxeter (I think she is erroneously called Mary in 1420).⁶ As Mynors gave a livery on 1st January 1415 to John Hunt of Tean, yeoman, this marriage seems probable enough; but it may have been a second marriage, as the settlement in 1420 of Margaret's 320 acres near Uttoxeter joins John M. the younger with John M. the elder in the Indenture.⁷ He was still alive as John M. "the elder" in 1456, but probably dead in 1463.⁸ I think he was the father of the John M. "junior" who was married in

¹ S.C. XVII. 17.

² S.C. XVII. 10.

³ S.C. XVII 73; VII. N.S. 242.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ S.C. XI. 227.

⁷ S.C. XI. 227, 230.

⁸ S.C. III. N.S. 221; IV. N.S. 127.

1459 to Iseult, daughter of Sir William Trussel,¹ and not the grandfather as Mr. W. C. T. Mynors believes. I feel certain that it was this man who took for his Arms: Gules, a fesse between three bezants silver; basing them on those of his patron Erdeswick—Silver, on a chevron gules five bezants.

Parliament of 1420.

Summoned, by Writs of 21 October, to meet 2 December 1420; duration uncertain; last meeting *c.* 18 December.² This Parliament was summoned and controlled by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester. Henry V and Bedford were in France. The county M.Ps. were men of smaller rank than usual; the Stafford M.Ps. were men of the Earl's Household, of quite as good a standing as the knights of the shire; the Newcastle M.P.'s seem to have been minor retainers of the Duchy or of the Crown, living, however, in the county. Roger Hunt, M.P. Beds, was Speaker.

County :	William Lee of Aston	..	(1)
	John Myners	.. .. .	(2)
	returned by John Delves, who had been appointed sheriff 16 November 1420.		
Stafford :	Robert Whitgreve	.. ..	(3)
	*John Harpur	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	Hugo de Stanford	.. ..	(5)
	John Hardhed	.. ..	(6)

- (1) WILLIAM LEE. See Parl. 1406.
 (2) JOHN MYNORS. See Parl. 1419.
 (3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.
 (4) JOHN HARPUR. See Parl. 1419.
 (5) HUGH STANFORD OF HEXTALL, M.P. Bridgnorth 1411, 1413, Newcastle 1420, 1421 (2), 1422, 1423-4.

¹ S.C. V. ii. 213.

² *Ex. inf.* Beaven.

Born c. 1365; of uncertain parentage; but he was probably related to Richard Staunford, M.P. for Stafford 1382-1402.¹ He was possibly a lawyer, as he sat so often and for two places. He is mentioned in 1402 as a feoffee for uses in Stafford;² escheator 1403-5. In 1407 he stood bail for Roger de Burton.³ He was Sir John Bagot's subsheriff 1413-4, and was outlawed for his debts to Sir John in 1414.⁴ The Patent Rolls describe him as "of the county of Stafford, *alias* de Wheathill, Co. Salop, gent.," but in the *Staffordshire Collections* he is "of Hextall, gent." in 1418. He was a Royal Commissioner in the counties of Stafford, Hereford, Worcester and Salop in 1427,⁵ and in the same year he sues a "gent." of Coventry for trying to murder him⁶—a risk that Royal Commissioners had often to run. In that year too, the last in which he appears on the Rolls, he was co-feoffee with John Stafford, Bishop of Bath, in a settlement.⁷

(6) JOHN HARDHED, M.P. Newcastle 1420.

A friend of Mynors and probably a nominee of the Duchy. He accompanied Mynors in the breaking up of Wolverhampton mills in 1412; another "notorious robber," fitly representing Newcastle. Both this man, called Hardhead, and his predecessor, called Wildblood, both ruffians, probably created and adopted their surnames—a very likely course for chronic outlaws to pursue.

Parliament of 1421 (1).

Summoned, by Writs of 26 February, to meet 2 May 1421; dissolved probably soon after 5 June 1421. The county M.P.'s are of the highest rank; Stafford sent the old members; Newcastle, one burgess and one probably from the Duchy estates in Needwood. Thomas Chaucer was again Speaker for the fifth time.

¹ Parl. 1382.

³ S.C. XVI. 57.

⁵ P.R.

² P.R.

⁴ S.C. XVII. 50.

⁷ P.R.

⁶ S.C. XVII. 116.

County :	John Bagot, chiv.	(1)
	Richard Lone	(2)
	returned 17 April 1421 by John Delves, sheriff.	
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	(3)
	*John Harpur	(4)
Newcastle :	John Bydulf	(5)
	Thomas Baron	(6)

(1) SIR JOHN BAGOT. See Parl. 1391.

(2) RICHARD LANE OF BENTLEY, M.P. Staffs 1421 (1), 1421 (2), 1423-4, 1425, 1426.

Born *c.* 1380; son and heir of John L. of Wolverhampton (*d.c.* 1411/3). He married, in or before 1414, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Ralph de la Hyde of the Hyde, Broomhall and part of Blymhill. He was escheator 1418-9, 1426-7, 1430-1; J.P. 1413-37 in Staffordshire, he was also a J.P. in Salop. As he was "of the quorum" I expect he was a lawyer. He was often a commissioner; bought Bentley in 1430, and Coven in 1434. He died 1437/8,¹ and was succeeded by his son, John Lane.²

He was the founder of the family which, now seated at King's Bromley, is still "of Bentley and the Hyde." The name is taken from "in the lone of Wolverhampton"; but the Return of Members of Parliament and the Patent Rolls have hitherto successfully concealed this gentleman under title and index of "Richard Love."

(3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.

(4) JOHN HARPUR. See Parl. 1419.

(5) JOHN BIDDULPH. See Parl. 1419.

(6) THOMAS BARON, M.P. Newcastle 1421, Chichester 1429-30.

There was also a Thomas Baron, M.P. for Helston 1450-1, and for Old Sarum 1459, but Mr. Beaven thinks the evidence insufficient to connect this man with the Newcastle member.

¹ I.p.m. as "Richard Loire" (*sic l.*),
S.C. 1910, 147-152.

The Controller of the Customs at Southampton in 1460 must be the latter M.P.¹

In 1427 a Thomas Baron and Margery his wife sue one Passemere for beating, wounding and ill-treating Margery in her house at Tutbury.² This is all I know of him, but this one fact connects him up with Mynors, Hardhed and Wildblood and the men of Needwood forest who were the men of the Duchy. I suggest that Roger Flower, the Steward, sent him to Parliament to support his causes.

Parliament of 1421 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 20 October, to meet 1 December 1421; dissolved 3 December 1421, after only three days' session. The king was still in France. Bedford was *Custos*. Edgeley was put in for Stafford as he had been in 1413 by Crown influence; one of the Newcastle members was perhaps a burgess. Richard Baynard, M.P. Essex, was Speaker.

County :	Hugh de Erdeswyk	..	(1)
	*Richard Lone	.. ..	(2)
	returned 27 November		
	1421, by John Delves,		
	sheriff.		
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	.. ..	(3)
	Adam Eggesley	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	Hugh Stanford	.. ..	(5)
	Thomas Lee	.. ..	(6)

(1) HUGH ERDESWICK. See Parl. 1413 (2).

(2) RICHARD LANE. See Parl. 1421 (1).

(3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.

(4) ADAM EDGELEY. See Parl. 1413 (2).

(5) HUGH STANFORD. See Parl. 1420.

(6) THOMAS LEE, M.P. Newcastle 1421 (2), 1427-8.

¹ P.R.

² S.C. XVII. 118.

A Nicholas and Thomas Lee occur in Newcastle in 1469,¹ so it is possible that Thomas was a burgess of Newcastle, but I do not find his name in the Borough Records. He is mentioned nowhere in the Patent Rolls, so far as such a name can be identified. I am inclined to think that, like other second M.P.'s for Newcastle, he was a Duchy nominee.

¹ S.C. IV. N.S. 166.

HENRY VI.

1 Sept. 1422.

Parliament of 1422.

Summoned, by Writs tested 29 September, to meet 9 November 1422; dissolved 18 December 1422. Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, opened Parliament. The Newcastle M.P.'s seem to have been returned under Duchy influence. The Earl of Stafford was now 20 years of age, but he retained Harpur and Whitgreve as members for Stafford. Roger Flower was the Speaker.

County :	John de Gresley, miles	..	..	(1)
	Thomas Stanley	..	..	(2)
	returned 29 October 1422,			
	by Sir Thomas Gresley,			
	sheriff.			
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	..	..	(3)
	John Harpur	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	John Myners	..	..	(5)
	*Hugh Stanford	..	..	(6)

(1) SIR JOHN GRESLEY OF COLTON AND OF DRAKELOW, DERBY, M.P. Staffs 1422, 1427-8.

Born *c.* 1393; son and heir of Sir Thomas G. of the same, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1446/7). He married (1) 1409/10, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Clarell, of Aldwarke, Yorks; (2) 1429/33, Margaret, widow of Richard Delves.² He was knighted by 1413, during his father's lifetime. He and his father both fought at Agincourt, 25 October 1415. In 1422 he was returned to Parliament by his father, who ceased to sit at Westminster in the new reign. He served in France in the retinue of the Duke of Bedford, 1435. In 1437 he is found complaining

¹ Parl. 1413.

² S.C. VII. N.S. 264.

that he has been imprisoned by Richard Lane at Abbots Bromley.¹ Lane was a J.P. of Staffordshire, while Gresley was not. In 1439-40 he was sheriff of Staffordshire. He lived at Colton till he succeeded his father at Drakelow *c.* 1447, and he died 17 January 1449,² leaving John Gresley, M.P., his son and heir.³

(2) THOMAS STANLEY OF ELFORD, M.P. Staffs 1422, ? Lancs. 1427, 1439-40.

Born *c.* 1392; third son of Sir John S., K.G., of Knowsley and Lathom, Lancs (*d.* 1414).⁴ He was therefore uncle of the first Lord Stanley, and great-uncle of Sir William Stanley, K.G., and of the first Earl of Derby. He married, in or before 1413, Maud (*b.* 1396, *d.* 1430/2), daughter and heiress of Sir John Arderne of Elford and of Aldford, Cheshire, who died in 1409;⁵ (2) before 1434, Elizabeth, who had some connection with Shenstone, and is called by Shaw "daughter of Walton Baro' of ----."⁶ He supported the Erdeswicks in the feud about 1412-14, and gave out green and white liveries, for which he was fined £60 in 1414.⁷ In 1414 Thomas Stanley and his wife obtained an indult for a portable altar.⁸ His name occurs first on the List of the Squires of 1433; he was sheriff 1433-4, 1438-9. He had taken part in the reduction of Normandy in 1420, and in 1449 he was one of the commissioners to raise a loan in the county.⁹ In 1454 he is first on the List of the 12 King's Henchmen.¹⁰ He had a house in Lichfield, which he bought in 1411,¹¹ and in 1442 the inhabitants rose against him in riot.¹² At some period he acquired or succeeded to the manors of Clifton Camvill and Pipe.¹³ He died May

¹ S.C. III. N.S. 139, 142.

² S.C. I. N.S. 54-5.

³ Parl. 1450-1.

⁴ See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁵ I.p.m.

⁶ Shaw, *Staffs.* II. 120.

⁷ S.C. XVII. 4, 6, 19.

⁸ *Pap. Letrs.*

⁹ *P.R.*

¹⁰ Nicholas, *Privy Council Acts.*, VI. 220.

¹¹ S.C. XI. 220.

¹² S.C. III. N.S. 164.

¹³ Mr. Fowler Carter says Maud de Arderne inherited Pipe and Elford through the marriage of her grandfather, Sir Thomas Arderne, with Maud, daughter of Sir John de Stafford (Parl. 1339) by his first wife, heiress of Pipe.

1463, but for twenty years before his death his son, Sir John Stanley, M.P.,¹ was a more famous man than himself. Thomas Stanley's tomb at Elford bears Arms: Stanley, silver, on a bend azure three bucks' heads, gold; impaling Arderne; gules crusilly, and a chief gold.

- (3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.
 (4) JOHN HARPUR. See Parl. 1419.
 (5) JOHN MYNORS. See Parl. 1419.
 (6) HUGH STANFORD. see Parl. 1420.

Parliament of 1423-4.

Summoned, by Writs of 1 September, to meet 20 October 1423; held two sessions; dissolved 28 February 1424. The M.P.'s are very similar to those of the previous Parliament. Another Needwood man replaces Mynors as the Duchy nominee for Newcastle. Sir John Russell, M.P. Co. Hereford, was Speaker.

County :	Roger Aston, miles et chiv. ..	(1)
	Richard Lone	(2)
	returned 30 September 1423, by Sir Thomas Gresley, sheriff. It is strange that Gresley did not again return his own son.	
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	(3)
	*John Harpur	(4)
Newcastle :	*Hugh Stanford	(5)
	William Sandbache	(6)

(1) SIR ROGER ASTON OF HEYWOOD, M.P. Staffs 1423-4, 1429-30.

¹ Parl. 1447.

Born *c.* 1380 ; son and heir of Sir Thomas A. of the same, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1412/3). He married (1) before 1414, Joyce, daughter and coheir of Baldwin de Frevill,² who died in 1420 ; shortly after he married (2) Elizabeth,³ possibly one of the Meynell coheiresses of Hintes and Langley Meynell,⁴ for according to the Harleian MSS.⁵ Alice (*sic*), daughter and coheir of Hugh Meynell, married . . . Aston and died sans issue. His successor Robert was a son by his first wife, and was born in 1414.

Sir Roger is probably the Roger Aston who sailed to Ireland in 1394 in the King's company ;⁶ he is described as " donzel " in 1398 ;⁷ a squire in the retinue of the Earl of Stafford in *c.* 1400.⁸ Like so many others of the dead Earl's men, he then entered the Royal service. Under Henry V he rose to be Lieutenant of the Tower of London ; and in 1420 he was made Constable of the Tower, which post he held till 1446.⁹ He was knighted in or before 1416 ; sheriff 1426-7, 1431-2 ; and J.P. 1430-46. In 1429 he was appointed, jointly with the bishop, the custodian of the Bohun lands in Wales.¹⁰ Though exempted from all juries, etc., in 1437, he was nevertheless one of the commissioners to raise a loan in Staffordshire in 1442.¹¹ Being a Royal servant in London, he passed peaceably through all the stormy times of the Staffordshire feuds, gave no liveries, put up no murders there, and was never pardoned. He died in 1446/7, for his lands were taken into the King's hand 15^o Hen. VI.¹²

¹ Parl. 1380.

² The suit given in *Geneal.* N.S. XXII. 85, which shows Joyce (Frevill) as his mother (not wife) is contradicted by the suit given in *Geneal.* N.S. XXV. 91 ; and I do not think there were two Rogers, father and son, after Sir Thomas.

³ S.C. XI. 242.

⁴ See Roger Bradshaw, M.P. 1416 (1).

⁵ 818 British Museum.

⁶ P.R.

⁷ P.R.

⁸ S.C. XIV. 264.

⁹ Haydn, *Dignities*.

¹⁰ P.R.

¹¹ P.R.

¹² *Enrolled Foreign Accts.*, P.R.O.

- (2) RICHARD LANE. See Parl. 1421 (2).
 (3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.
 (4) JOHN HARPUR. See Parl. 1419.
 (5) HUGH STANFORD. See Parl. 1420.
 (6) WILLIAM SANDBACH, M.P. Newcastle 1423-4:

Such a man is mentioned in Uttoxeter in 1435.¹ Hence one may guess that he was another Needwood man from the Duchy lands, sent by Roger Flower, the Steward of the Duchy.

Parliament of 1425.

Summoned, by Writs of 24 February, to meet 30 April 1425; dissolved 14 July 1425. This was a pro-Beaufort, anti-Gloucester, Parliament. The Earl of Stafford was now of age, and besides the two Stafford M.P.'s one county member, Delves, and one Newcastle M.P. seem to have been the Earl's nominees, for Hextall was a friend of Harpur. The other Newcastle man was a burgess. Sir Thomas Wauton, M.P. Beds, was Speaker.

County :	John Delves	..	..	(1)
	*Richard Lone	..	..	(2)
	returned 12 April 1425, by Sir Nicholas Montgomery of Cubley, sheriff.			
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	..	..	(3)
	*John Harpur	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	John Wode	..	..	(5)
	William Hextall	..	..	(6)

- (1) JOHN DELVES OF DODDINGTON, CHESHIRE, AND OF APEDALE AND DELVES (called "the elder" to distinguish him from a younger brother, John), M.P. Staffs, ? 1410, ? 1415, 1425.

¹ S.C. XVII. 153.

Born 1373/4; son of John D., M.P.¹ (*d.* 1394), by Margaret (Calverley), and grandson and heir of Henry Delves (*d.* 1395) of the same. He married (1) by 1410, Phillipa, daughter of Harcourt; she died in 1420,² and he married (2) Margaret, widow of Thomas Massey, who survived him and subsequently married Sir John Gresley, M.P.³ The lawsuits arising out of this match make it doubtful whether she was not married to Delves on his death-bed, in order to secure the custody of his son and heir, Richard, and to confirm the already contracted marriage between the latter and her daughter Elizabeth (Massey).⁴ However, the youth Richard Delves died 1442/6, denying the marriage and childless, and his younger brother, another John Delves,—Sir John of Tewkesbury Fight,—ultimately succeeded, and was of age in 1446.⁵

Delves was a Stafford retainer,⁶ with a seat at Delves in Needwood, and followed the fortunes of the Erdeswicks in the feud. He acquired or inherited estates at Bucknall, Fenton, Betley, and Hilderstone.⁷ He was escheator 1406, 1414, 1422; sheriff 1409–11, 1415–6, 1420–2, during which service he seems to have returned the Bagot or the other faction to Parliament quite indiscriminately. His last term of office was cut short on 1 May 1422, he having already been removed in February 1422 from the Bench where he had sat as J.P. since 1413. He had also been continually on Commissions from 1399 onwards. He died 21 April 1429.⁸

- (2) RICHARD LANE. See Parl. 1421 (1).
 (3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.
 (4) JOHN HARPUR. See Parl. 1419.
 (5) JOHN WOOD OF KEELE, M.P. Newcastle 1425, 1427–8, 1431, 1432, 1433.

¹ Parl. 1388 (2).

² S.C. I. N.S. 55.

³ Parl. 1422.

⁴ S.C. III. N.S. 169–170; VII. N.S. 26.

⁵ Parl. 1467–8.

⁶ See List on p. 162.

⁷ S.C. XI. 211; XVI. 83; *Feudal Aids* IV.

⁸ Ormerod: *Cheshire* III. 552.

A John Wood was Mayor of Newcastle in 1458. I presume that this is the same man, and that he was the first Wood of Keele. In 1425 he was suing Richard Sneyd for debt;¹ in 1432 he was accused of forgery in respect of Ashley property by his colleague at Westminster in 1425, William Hextall.² In 1435 he witnessed a deed of Henry Delves at Cold Norton. He may be the John Wood who, with John Wood jun., was a surety for a Chancery Prosecution as late as 1460/5;³ but he probably died in 1443, when the lands of John Wood in Beech and Swynnerton were taken into the King's hands.⁴

- (6) WILLIAM HEXTALL OF MILWICH AND ASHLEY, M.P. Newcastle 1425, 1429-30, Stafford 1431, 1432, Newcastle 1435, Stafford 1437, Bletchingley 1449 (1).

Born c. 1390; according to Erdeswick,⁵ his father was Hugh de Hextall of Milwich, and the name occurs at Hextall in the 13th century. He became lord of one-third of Ashley by marrying Margaret, daughter of William Bromley, and sister and coheirress of Thomas Bromley, who was dead in 1429.⁶ He is termed "esquire" in the List of Gentry of 1433; but he is sued as William H. "of Hextall, near Ronton, gent." in 1438,⁷ and in the list of Knights' Fees of 1422 it is William H. "of Hextall, gent." who holds one-third of Ashley.⁸ In 1457, his son Humphrey having died, he settled Ashley on his daughter, Jane, and her husband, Sir John Bromley of Baddington, Cheshire, through whom the manor descended to the Gerards of Gerards Bromley. Another daughter and coheirress, Margaret, married Richard Petit of Badger, Salop. William Hextall was subsheriff 1431-2; escheator 1435-6. He was still alive in 1466, when he appears as executor of the Will of John Harpur, M.P.⁹ I suppose he was a lawyer and an official of the Stafford Earls from his varied seats. He was

¹ S.C. XVII. 73.

² S.C. XVII. 140.

³ S.C. VII. N.S. 255.

⁴ *Enrolled Foreign Accts.*, P.R.O.

⁵ Willmore, *Hist. of Walsall*, 144; Harwood, *Erdeswick*, 51.

⁶ S.C. XVII. 139, 140; XII. N.S. 261. ⁷ S.C. III. N.S. 145.

⁸ *Feudal Aids*.

⁹ Parl. 1419. S.C. IV. N.S. 142; XII. N.S. 158.

buried at Walsall, where his tomb once bore his Arms, and "*Ora pro animis Willi Hextall et Margaretæ et Johanae, uxorum,*" from which we see that he had a second wife, Jane.¹ I think he was a Duchy nominee at Newcastle.²

Parliament of 1426.

Summoned, by Writs of 7 January, to meet at Leicester 18 February 1426; held two sessions; dissolved 1 June 1426. This was the "Parliament of Batts," for the two parties of Beaufort and Gloucester came armed with clubs. Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, to whose interest most of the Staffordshire M.P.'s were bound, was at this time acting as peace-maker. Sir Richard Vernon of Harlaston was Speaker. Both the Newcastle M.P.'s may have been Duchy nominees—Roger Flower, the Chief Steward, did not die till later in this year—but one knows little of them.

County :	*Richard Lone	(1)
	Thomas Arblaster	(2)
	returned 14 February	
	1426, by Sir John Bagot,	
	sheriff.	
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	(3)
	William Preston	(4)
Newcastle :	Robert Wodehous	(5)
	Henry Lilie	(6)

(1) RICHARD LANE. See Parl. 1421 (1).

(2) THOMAS ARBLASTER OF LONGDON, M.P. Staffs 1426, 1432, 1433, 1435, 1439-40, and possibly 1445 or 1459.

Born c. 1400, son and heir of Thomas A. of the same, by Alice, daughter and coheir of Leonard Worthing. He married Alice, daughter of Thomas Butler of Picklethorn, Bucks, and had issue.³

¹ Willmore, *Hist. of Walsall*, 144, where a pedigree of the family is given.

² Thomas Hexstall, who sat for the Stafford pocket Borough of Bletchingley, Surrey, in 1447, will be a relation.

³ Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 223-5.

His father was a retainer of Edmund, Earl of Stafford,¹ and after his lord's death became one of the King's Henchmen,² and was still living in 1433.³ It must be the son who sat in Parliament, and was one of the commissioners to raise a loan in Staffordshire in 1449. But it was as J.P. that he was most prominent. He sat from 1439 till March 1460, and he must have died soon after. He founded the family of Arblaster of Longdon and probably originated the Arms—Ermine, a cross bow bent gules; the ermine for the justice, the crossbow for the name.

(3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.

(4) WILLIAM PRESTON OF STAFFORD, M.P. Stafford 1426, 1449.

Born c. 1382,⁴ as he was "aged 50" in 1432, when he gave evidence in the proof of age of Richard Harcourt of Ellenhall; and "he knew it" because his daughter was married to Richard Jurdan in the Church of Stafford on that day, *i.e.* 1410. He was Under-Sheriff in 1420; and a Patent Roll of 1445 speaks of William P. "of Stafford."

He may have been the father of Thomas Preston, M.P.,⁵ of John Preston, M.P.,⁶ and of Philip Preston, Groom of the Household to Anne, Duchess of Buckingham. But is he the same as William Preston of Shrawardine, Salop, gent.?⁷ Was he the Constable of Shrawardine Castle who was arrested for rioting in 1414?⁸ Was it he that was made Chancellor of the Green Wax in the Exchequer of Ireland for life in 1400?⁸ The two first possibly, but surely not the last.

(5) ROBERT WODEHOUSE, M.P. Newcastle 1426.

Possibly a cadet of the family of Wodehouse of Wood House of Wambourne, a family that still exists at Woolmer

¹ See list on p. 162.

² Nicholas, *Privy Council*, VI. 220.

³ S.C. XVII. 143-5.

⁴ In 1398 John Preston erected at Coventry the Lists for the duel between Hereford and Norfolk.

⁵ Parl. 1436-7.

⁶ Parl. 1467-8.

⁷ P.R. 1429.

⁸ P.R.

Park, Herts. The contemporary head of the family is given by Shaw¹ as Thomas de Wodehouse, 1379-1444.

There was a John Wodehouse who was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster 1413-1424.² Mr. Pink says that the Chancellor was son of Sir Edward W., who, by his wife, a daughter of Erpingham, is said to have had several sons and daughters. The only one mentioned by Collins is the Chancellor, who is described as a younger son. He was Gent. of the Privy Chamber to Henry IV, squire of the body to Henry V, made Chamberlain of the Exchequer for life in 1414, fought at Agincourt 1415, Steward of the Duchy in the Eastern Counties 1410 to 1421, being called "Esq.,"; Chancellor of the Duchy 1413 to 1424; died 1450. He is the ancestor of the Earls of Kimberley. It is not at all improbable that the M.P. for Newcastle was one of his unnamed brothers.³

(6) HENRY LILIE, M.P. Newcastle 1426.

I cannot identify this man at all.

Parliament of 1427-8.

Summoned, by Writs of 15 July, to meet 13 October 1427; held two sessions; dissolved 25 March 1428. Humphrey Earl of Stafford, was away in France, and Roger Flower, the Steward of the Duchy, was dead; it is doubtful if Sir John Tyrrell, M.P. Essex, the new Speaker, had yet been appointed in Flower's place as Steward. There is no sign of influence anywhere, save that Stafford still returned its two "old and trusted" members. This year two M.P.'s for Nottinghamshire were unseated as improperly elected, the Justices of the county adjudicating on the dispute, and two other "knights" were elected. This shows that there was competition for a seat at Westminster.

¹ Shaw, *Staffs.* II. 216.

² Haydn: *Dignities.*

³ But a William de Wodehouse was a witness to a Needwood Charter in 1367, and Needwood men were apt to sit for Newcastle.

County :	John Gresley, chiv.	(1)
	Humphrey Stafford of Chebsey	(2)
	returned 25 September 1427, by Sir Roger Aston, sheriff.	
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	(3)
	John Harpur	(4)
Newcastle :	John Wode	(5)
	Thomas Lee	(6)

(1) SIR JOHN GRESLEY. See Parl. 1422.

(2) SIR HUMPHREY STAFFORD OF GRAFTON, WORC., AND OF CHEBSEY, M.P. Co. Worcester 1423-4, 1426, Staffs 1427-8, Co. Worcester 1447, 1448-9.

Born *c.* 1400 ; 2nd son of Sir Humphrey S. of the same (M.P. Co. Worcester 1415 ; *d.* 1419), by Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir John Burdett of Huncoat, Lancs? He succeeded his elder brother John at Grafton and Chebsey in 1422.¹ He married, 1408, both being infants,² Eleanor, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Aylesbury of Blatherwick, Northants, who survived him and was suing for dower in Chebsey in 1453.³

He was knighted 1427/30 ; sheriff of Warwick and Leicester 1423-4, 1430-1 ; of Worcester 1431-2 ; and of Beds and Bucks 1437-8. He lived at Grafton, and had little to do with Staffordshire. In his time began the feud between the Staffords and the Harcourts. In June 1448 the Harcourts attacked the Staffords at Coventry, and slew Sir Humphrey's eldest son, Richard, and William Sharp, his servant, while Sir Humphrey they left "insensible and nearly dead so that his life was despaired of."⁴ Then in May 1450 the Staffords with 300 men fell upon the Harcourts at Stanton Harcourt, drove Sir Robert and his men into the Church tower, and burnt the

¹ I.p.m.

² G.E.C. *Complete Peerage, Art. Duke of Buckingham.*

³ S.C. III. N.S. 212.

⁴ S.C. III. N.S. 186.

Church and the altar. Some explanation of the feud may be that their estates at Chebsey and Ellenhall adjoined. The feud progressed when, in 1476, Sir Robert Harcourt was slain by the bastard of Grafton; and in 1485 when Humphrey Stafford, second son and heir of this Sir Humphrey, perished on the scaffold at Tyburn.

But our Sir Humphrey perished at Sevenoaks. He and his brother William went down in command of the Royal Army against the rebels "with his bryganders set with gilt nails and gilt spurs," yet Jack Cade, the Captain of Kent, defeated and slew them both, 7 June 1450. Sir Humphrey's administration was granted at Lambeth 22 June 1450.¹

- (3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.
- (4) JOHN HARPUR. See Parl. 1419.
- (5) JOHN WODE. See Parl. 1425.
- (6) THOMAS LEE. See Parl. 1421 (2).

Parliament of 1429-30.

Summoned, by Writs tested 12 July, to meet 13 October 1429; but by Writs of 3 August the date of the meeting was changed to 22 September 1429; held two sessions; dissolved 23 February 1430. The earl was still in France and there is no trace of influence save that the old pair of members still sat for Stafford. Elsewhere the gentry get into Parliament as they like and can. The elections in the County Court were becoming riotous contests. The wealth, rivalry and liveries of the country gentry had made an election a serious affair. The members for Bucks were unseated at an Inquest. A scrutiny as to who should use the "voices" or the "hands" at the County Court had become necessary. So this Parliament limited the franchise to those who had 40s. freehold—farmers, leaseholders and copyholders were excluded. Being dominated

¹ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

by the Beauforts, Parliament put an end to Gloucester's Protectorate. William Abington, M.P. Cambs, was Speaker.

County :	Roger Aston, miles et chiv.	(1)
	Ralf Egerton of Wrimehill..	(2)
	returned 25 August, 1429,	
	by Philip Chetwynd of In-	
	gestre, sheriff.	
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	(3)
	*John Harpur	(4)
Newcastle :	William Egerton	(5)
	William Hextall	(6)

(1) SIR ROGER ASTON. See Parl. 1423-4.

(2) RALPH EGERTON OF WRIMEHILL, M.P. Staffs 1429-30, 1442.

Born 1390; son and heir of William E. of Caldecot, ? Cheshire (*d.* 1420), by Helen, daughter and heiress of Sir John Hawkestone of Wrimehill and Cheddleton. He married, by 1426, Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Mainwaring of Peover, Cheshire. He was sheriff 1432-3. In 1439 he carried off young Richard Delves from the custody of his stepmother and Sir John Gresley at Colton,¹ and married him to his daughter Helen in 1441. He died 1452/3, Hugh, his son and heir being then aged 26.² His son's tomb at Madeley bore Arms: Ermine, a fesse gules fretty gold—the Arms of Hawkestone; but his seal bears a quarterly coat. His Will, among the *Antient Deeds* at the Record Office, is epitomised as follows:

Rauff Egerton of the Wryme, esq., had settled his manors on sons Hugh, Rauff and Urien, and brothers William and Philip in succession, reserving dower for his wife Elizabeth and 160*m.* for the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth; estates to be made for his younger sons. "The testament of Raffe Egerton, the son of William," dated 21 September 1451, or 24 February 1452 ("St. Mathie").³

¹ S.C. VII. 264.

² Ormerod: *Cheshire* II. 69

³ *Cat. Ant. Deeds* VI. 54.

- (3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.
 (4) JOHN HARPUR. See Parl. 1419.
 (5) WILLIAM EGERTON, M.P. Newcastle 1429-30.

The younger brother of the above, from whom sprang the Egertons of Christelton ?¹

- (6) WILLIAM HEXTALL. See Parl. 1425.

Parliament of 1431.

Summoned, by Writs of 27 November 1430, to meet 12 January 1431; dissolved 20 March 1431. This Parliament was summoned by and favourable to Gloucester and the war party. Sir John Tyrell, the Steward of the Duchy of Lancaster, who now represented Essex, was elected Speaker. On 30 March 1430, subsequent to the last election, there had been added to the Staffordshire Bench: The Earl of Warwick, the Earl of Stafford, Lord Ferrers of Chartley, Sir Richard Vernon, Sir Roger Aston, Sir John Tyrell, the Steward; and John Harpur and Sir John Sutton, Lord Dudley, had been added in May. Mynors, from Needwood, is again sent to Parliament for the county, as demanded perhaps by the Steward of the Duchy; Harpur represents the Stafford interest, as do both members for Stafford.

County :	John Harpur	..	..	(1)
	John Mynors	..	..	(2)
	returned 11 January 1431,			
	Sir Nicholas Montgomery,			
	sheriff.			
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	..	..	(3)
	William Hextall	..	..	(4)
	elected 11 January 1431.			

¹ S.C. XII. N.S. 216; Ormerod: *Cheshire* II. 692.

Newcastle : John atte Wode (5)
 Roger Legh (6)
 elected 11 January, 1431.

- (1) JOHN HARPUR. See Parl. 1419.
 (2) JOHN MYNORS. See Parl. 1419.
 (3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.
 (4) WILLIAM HEXTALL. See Parl. 1425.
 (5) JOHN WOOD. See Parl. 1425.
 (6) ROGER LEGH, M.P. Newcastle 1431.

He may be a burgess of Newcastle ;¹ or he may be one of the Leghs, gentry of Cheshire. I cannot identify him, but think him a Duchy nominee.

Parliament of 1432.

Summoned, by Writs of 25 February, to meet 12 May 1432 ; dissolved 17 July 1432, the King "released the subsidy granted in the last Parliament on lands and tenements, so as it should never be mentioned again." The imposition of a Land Tax was then regarded as a thing too monstrous and unjust ever to be reimposed, and the work of one Parliament was deliberately reversed by its successor.² Sir John Russell was Speaker.

Nearly all the six members seem to be of the Stafford interest. Hextall was returned while serving as sub-sheriff. Wood is the only man whom one cannot connect with the Stafford House.

County : Thomas Arblaster (1)
 William Lee of Aston (2)
 returned 1 May 1432, by Sir
 Roger Aston, sheriff.

¹ See p. 201.

² Dasent : *Speakers* 78.

Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	..	..	(3)
	*William Hextall	..	..	(4)
	elected 1 May 1432.			
Newcastle :	James Leveson	..	..	(5)
	*John Wood	..	..	(6)
	elected 1 May 1432.			

(1) THOMAS ARBLASTER. See Parl. 1426.

(2) WILLIAM LEE. See Parl. 1406.

(3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.

(4) WILLIAM HEXTALL. See Parl. 1425.

(5) JAMES LEVESON OF WILLENHALL, M.P. Newcastle 1423.

This is probably the James L. of Forde and Willenhall who is mentioned 1431-65.¹ He was not of the main line of the Levesons of Willenhall from whom the Leveson Gowers are descended, but of a junior branch, son of Nicholas son of Roger L.² In the 1433 List of Gentry he is called "esquire," and I suppose he is the James L. arrested for murdering Thomas Gery in 1454.³ He had no connection with Newcastle, but I see in his father, Nicholas Leveson, the pensioned retainer of the Earl.⁴

(6) JOHN WOOD. See Parl. 1425.

Parliament of 1433.

Summoned, by Writs of 24 May, to meet 8 July 1433; held two sessions; dissolved 21 December 1433. The Earl of Stafford was now at home and opposing the Duke of Gloucester. Two Burgesses sat for Newcastle, and it is possible that Erdeswick owed his seat to Sir John Tyrell rather than

¹ S.C. XVII. 131, 143; III. N.S. 136; IV. N.S. 141.

² S.C. XVII. 150.

³ S.C. III. N.S. 218.

⁴ See footnote on page 162.

to the Earl, but the rest are obviously Earl's men. Roger Hunt, M.P. Hunts, was Speaker.¹

County :	Hugh Erdeswick	(1)
	*Thomas Arblaster	(2)
	returned 25 June 1433, by Ralph Egerton, sheriff.	
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	(3)
	William Barbour	(4)
	elected 25 June 1433.	
Newcastle :	*John Wood	(5)
	Thomas Podmore	(6)
	elected 25 June 1433.	

(1) HUGH ERDESWICK. See Parl. 1413.

(2) THOMAS ARBLASTER. See Parl. 1426.

(3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.

(4) WILLIAM BARBOUR, M.P. Arundel 1427-8, 1429-30,
Stafford 1433, 1453-4, 1455-6.

¹ In the *Archeologia* XXIV. 317, are given "Proceedings of the Corporation of Lynn" in respect of this Parliament.

17 June 1433. "The King's writ was then publicly read for electing Members of Parliament. And for electing them, ye Mayor called two of ye Twenty-four and two of ye Common Council, which four chose two more of ye Twenty-four and two of ye Common Council, and they chose four others, who all unanimously chose John Waterden and Thomas Spicer to be Burgesses in Parliament."

1 July, 1433. "Then also was seal'd ye warrant for ye Burgesses of Parlelament."

It further appears: (1) that the business committed to these elected burgesses pertained to the affairs of the borough; (2) that the burgesses made a report on their return home as to what they had done on the particular business, and as to what had been done in Parliament, which things they "ingeniously related" or "discretely and seriously declared"; (3) that the election of Burgesses was by a very limited number of persons, not exceeding twelve, who were called by the Mayor, by four and by eight, from the twenty-four of the Corporate Body and the Councillors, to the entire exclusion of the mass of the people.

I expect he was son, born *c.* 1400, to Thomas Barbour of Stafford, M.P.¹ He is even more surely the William B., clerk to the Counting House of Anne, Duchess of Buckingham. They were all—Thomas M.P.,² John M.P.,³ Humphrey M.P.⁴ and Henry (Clerk of the Peace 1458)—of the family of Barbour of Forebridge. This William does not appear in the Staffordshire Collections, but Arundel was a seat probably in the control of the Earl of Stafford, who put him in there or at Stafford, as seemed most convenient.

(5) JOHN WOOD. See Parl. 1425.

(6) THOMAS PODMORE OF NEWCASTLE, M.P. Newcastle 1433.

A different person, I suppose, from the Thomas P., who was member for Newcastle 1377-99, perhaps the son of that man. Evidently he was one of the old burgess family of Podmore. I find no trace of him in the records.

Parliament of 1435.

Summoned, by Writs of 5 July, to meet 10 October 1435; dissolved 23 December 1435. All the members seem to be Earl's men, for Lee and Bruyn were brothers-in-law. Hextall was the Duchy nominee at Newcastle; Bruyn may have been the Earl's. John Bowes, M.P. Notts, was Speaker.

County :	*Thomas Arblaster	..	..	(1)
	William Lee	..	..	(2)
	returned 15 September 1435, by Sir Robert Strelley of Co. Notts, sheriff.			
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	..	..	(3)
	Roger Clerk, <i>alias</i> Tailour	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	Richard Bruyn	..	..	(5)
	William Hextall	..	..	(6)

¹ Parl. 1402 (2).

³ Parl. 1450-1.

² Parl. 1402.

⁴ Parl. 1495.

- (1) THOMAS ARBLASTER. See Parl. 1426.
 (2) WILLIAM LEE. See Parl. 1406.
 (3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.
 (4) ROGER CLERK, *alias* TAILOUR, M.P. Stafford 1435.
 Unidentified.
 (5) RICHARD BRUYN OF BRIDGNORTH, M.P. Newcastle 1435,
 Stafford, 1442, 1449.

Probably a son of John B. of Bridgnorth, Esq.,¹ M.P. for Bridgnorth 1425, whose Arms are given on a deed of 1434 as an eagle displayed.² He is called "brother" (but was surely brother-in-law) by William Lee, when the latter settled upon him the reversion of the manor of Aston in 1442.³ Both "brothers" were members of this Parliament. (I suppose he can hardly be the Richard B. who was a squire, commissioner and J.P. in Kent, 1434-58.)⁴

- (6) WILLIAM HEXTALL. See Parl. 1425.

Parliament of 1437.

Summoned, by Writs of 29 October 1436, to meet at Cambridge 21 January 1437; by Writs of 10 December the place of meeting was changed to Westminster; dissolved 27 March 1437. Sir John Tyrell (M.P. Essex) was again Speaker,⁵ and John Mynors of the Duchy appears sitting for the county. Preston will have been a Stafford party man, but Repingale, the other Newcastle member, may have been imported by the Duchy Steward. Hampton was originally a wearer of the Stafford livery.

¹ S.C. XVII. 25.

² *Cat. of Seals*, B.M.

³ S.C. XI. 233.

⁴ *P.R.*, and Nicholas, *Privy Council*, VI. 288.

⁵ He was succeeded, 19 March 1437, by Sir William Boerley, M.P., Salop.

County :	John Hampton	..	..	(1)
	John Minours	..	..	(2)
	returned 6 December 1436, by Sir Philip Chetwynd of Ingestre, sheriff.			
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	..	..	(3)
	William Hextall	..	..	(4)
	elected 6 December 1436.			
Newcastle :	Thomas Preston	..	..	(5)
	Nicholas Repynghale	..	..	(6)
	elected 6 December 1436.			

(1) JOHN HAMPTON OF STOURTON, M.P. Staffs 1437, 1439-40, 1442, 1449, 1449-50, 1453-4, ? 1459.

Born *c.* 1400 ; son and heir of John H. of the same (*d.* 1433), by his first wife, Hawise. It is difficult to distinguish these two Hamptons, father and son ; both were King's Squires ; both were Rangers of Kinver. When John H. "the younger" is appointed Ranger of Chaspell, Wyrley and Ashwood in 1413,¹ I think it must be the son ; "senior" and "junior" occur in 1423 ;² in 1426 John H. "the younger," Boyce Hampton and two others are appointed commissioners to deal with the Chetwynd lands in Leicestershire.³ This time it must be John Hampton the M.P., for Boyce was his brother and heir in 1472. But when John H., "King's Squire and Usher of the Chamber," was made Water Bailly of Plymouth in 1425,⁴ it was, I think, the father ; and the following must refer to him too : 1428, John H., "King's Squire and Usher of the Chamber," had had £10 a year from the late Countess of Stafford, "for long service to them" ; this had lapsed, *temp.* Henry V, and the King now gives him £9 a year out of the fee farm of Kinver, although he is already Ranger of Kinver, "by grant of King Henry V."⁵ In 1437 this grant was renewed to John H., and this time it must be to the son, for the father died in 1433.⁶

¹ P.R. 1422.

² S.C. XVII. 89.

³ P.R.

⁴ P.R.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ I.p.m. as "John Hampton the elder."

Under 3 March 1434 the Privy Council orders that he is to have 50 *m.* a year, although already Ranger of Kinver by grant of Henry V, and Water Bailly of Plymouth and Sheriff of Merioneth of the gift of the present King, worth £9 a year.¹

Between 1430 and 1460 John Hampton, M.P., filled an almost infinite variety of posts. He was a trustee for the building of Eton College; Constable of Chester; Ranger of Kinver Forest; Steward of Morf and Shirlet; Water Bailly of Plymouth; Sheriff of Merioneth; Constable of Colchester; Master of the Queen's Horse; Captain of Hammes Castle in Picardy, 1449; Master of the Ordnance.² As one of those responsible for the failure of the French war he was attacked in the Parliament of 1449-50, and removed from his offices. Though he was exempted by name from the Act of Resumption of Grants in 1452, yet his petition was only granted so far as a pension of 40*m.* and the reversion of his old office of Constable of Colchester.³

He was J.P. for Staffordshire 1439-60; one of the Staffordshire Commissioners to raise money for the defence of Calais, 14 May 1455;⁴ and on the Commission of Array 21 December 1459. He was evidently devoted to the King and Queen, and fell on evil days after 1460. He is, together with his brother Boyce, to be arrested in 1468;⁵ and in 1472 he complains that certain men have broken in on him at Stourton and beaten him. He must then have been at least 72 years old, and he died in the same year and was buried in Kinver Church, where there stands an alabaster monument to him and to

¹ Nicholas, *Privy Council Proc.* IV. 197.

² The *Privy Council Proceedings* relate, under date 8 March 1430, that John Hampton, *armiger*, Master of the Ordnance, is to have delivered to him at Harfleur the surplusage of "*bombardos, lapides, bombardorum, sulphur, salpetre, gonnepoudre, malleos plumbos vangas, shoveles, piketoises, baleŕ, lanč, gables, magnas hausers et alias cordas parvas ac artillerias.*" He sends in his accounts for building carriages for the King's great cannon in the same year. (*Foreign Acct.*, P.R.O.)

³ P.R., 1453. *Antient Petitions*, P.R.O., 5836.

⁴ Nicholas, *Privy Council*, VI. 242.

⁵ S.C. IV. N.S. 162.

his wife Agnes, on which his Arms were once legible: Silver, on a chevron gules three bezants between three cinquefoils azure—a coat associating both Astley (cinquefoils) and Stafford (chevron). He was still Constable of Colchester at his death. His family was not a knightly one, and before his father's time it was of no importance, though long seated at Kinver, where a chapel is said to have been erected by them, *temp.* Edward III. They rose to prominence as servants, first of the Stafford Earls, then of the Crown; and on the death of Boyce Hampton they cease.

John Hampton married (1) Agnes, widow of Thomas Huntley, Esq., and she is said by Bishop Littleton to have died in 1444.¹ But she may have been divorced, for an Agnes, formerly wife of John Hampton, occurs in Ridware in 1456;² (2) in or before 1447, Anne, daughter of John Henham, Esq.,³ who survived him and was, with Thomas Frost, his executor in 1472.⁴ His brother Boyce, heir of Stourton and Kinver, died without issue, and the estates passed ultimately to a Southamptonsire family of Hampton.

(2) JOHN MYNORS. See Parl. 1419.

(3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.

(4) WILLIAM HEXTALL. See Parl. 1425.

(5) THOMAS PRESTON, M.P. Newcastle 1437, ? Wallingford 1453-4.

He may have been born *c.* 1412, and be a son of William P., M.P.,⁵ and brother of John P., M.P.,⁶ and of Philip P., Groom of the Household to the Stafford House. He must certainly be connected with them, and have owed his seat to the patronage of the Earl.

(6) NICHOLAS REPINGALE, M.P. Newcastle 1437.

A family of this name flourished in Lincolnshire about this time.⁷ So he may be an importation of the Earl's or of Sir

¹ Harwood, *Erdeswick*, 379.

³ *P.R.*

⁵ Parl. 1426.

⁷ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

² *S.C.* III. N.S. 221.

⁴ *S.C.* IV. N.S. 185.

⁶ Parl. 1467-8.

John Tyrell's. In any case he was probably not a burgess of Newcastle, but a Duchy nominee.

Parliament of 1439-40.

There are no Returns or Writs summoning this Parliament. It was originally summoned to meet at Oxford; by Writs tested 22 October 1439 the place of meeting was changed to Westminster; it met 12 November 1439; adjourned 21 December 1439 and met again at Reading 14 January 1440; the last meeting was on 9 February 1440.¹ But a list of those attending this Parliament exists among the Fine Rolls at the Record Office,² being a list of those commanded to apportion the subsidy granted; it has lately been brought to public notice by Mr. Pink, and is used below. William Tresham, M.P. Northants, was Speaker.

Those on the Commission of the Peace for the County, 21 February 1439, were: The Earls of Warwick, Suffolk, Stafford and Shrewsbury, Lord Audley and Dudley, Sir Roger Aston, William Lee of Aston, John Harpur of Rushall, John Hampton of Stourton, Thomas Arblaster and Robert Whitgreve. It will be observed that all those without titles were self-made men who had risen by means of the Stafford House; and that both the known M.P.'s were on the Commission of the Peace before election.

County :	*John Hampton	..	..	(1)
	Thomas Arblaster	..	..	(2)
	returned about October by Thomas Stanley, sheriff.			

Stafford and Newcastle :

No Returns found, but Robert Whitgreve³ must have sat for Stafford as usual.

¹ Ramsay: *Lancaster and York*.

² 18 Hen. VI. m. 7.

³ Parl. 1411.

- (1) JOHN HAMPTON. See Parl. 1437.
 (2) THOMAS ARBLASTER. See Parl. 1426.

Parliament of 1442.

Summoned, by Writs of 3 December, 1441, to meet 25 January 1442: dissolved March 27 1442. The party of Beaufort and Suffolk was in the ascendant. The Earl of Stafford, now Captain of Calais, may have been abroad. The Stafford M.P.'s were of the Earl's party, but all the others seem to have been servants of the Crown or independent gentry such as Egerton. Tresham was again Speaker.

County :	*John Hampton	..	..	(1)
	Ralf Egerton	..	..	(2)
	returned 28 December 1441, by Richard Archer, sheriff.			
Stafford :	*Robert Whitgreve	..	..	(3)
	Richard Bruyn	..	..	(4)
	elected 28 December 1441.			
Newcastle :	John Nedham	..	..	(5)
	William Cumberford of Cumberford	..	..	(6)
	elected 28 December 1441.			

- (1) JOHN HAMPTON. See Parl. 1437.
 (2) RALPH EGERTON. See Parl. 1429-30.
 (3) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.
 (4) RICHARD BRUYN. See Parl. 1435.
 (5) (SIR) JOHN NEEDHAM OF SHAVINGTON, SALOP, M.P.
 Newcastle 1442, 1447, 1449, London 1449-50.

Born *c.* 1415; third son of Robert N. of Cranage (*d.* 1449), by Dorothy, daughter of Sir John Savage of Clifton. He married Margaret, youngest daughter of Randle Mainwaring of Peover, and widow of William Bromley, son of Sir John Bromley of Baddington, all of which places lie in Cheshire.

He was Common Serjeant of London 1449, till appointed King's Serjeant 1453; Justice of the Common Pleas 1457, and of the King's Bench 1471; he was on the Commission of *Oyer* directed against the Yorkists, 4 February 1460, described as "knight"; K.B. at the coronation of Elizabeth Woodville, 26 May 1465; Chief Justice of Chester 1461-3. He died 25 April 1480, and was buried at Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, where there is a monument. He left no issue, and his estates went to his next brother,¹ from whom descend the Earls of Kilmorey.

(6) WILLIAM CUMBERFORD OF CUMBERFORD, M.P. Newcastle 1442, Staffs 1449, and possibly in 1459, 1460, 1461-2 or 1463-5.

Born *c.* 1410; son and heir of John C. of the same (*d.* 1434/9), by Jane ——. He married, in or before 1446, Anne ——, and left a son, John C.² He is mentioned as a surety in 1433;³ and, though his father, John, is on the List of Gentry of 1433, it is William who, in 1439, was building a house for himself at Cumberford.⁴ He had land at Wiggington as well. He was a lawyer; Protonotary of the Court of the King's Bench; J.P. 1442-71; one of the Executors of Sir William Vernon's Will 1467/8. He was one of the Commissioners to raise money in Staffordshire for the defence of Calais in 1455, and was on the Commission of Array for 1472,⁵ but must have died soon afterwards. For his son John, see Parl. 1504.

Both Needham and Cumberford acquired their seats at Newcastle as lawyers. I think the latter was most likely to have been the Duchy nominee. Their sympathies must both have been with Lancaster till the other side became that of law and order. Perhaps Cumberford originated the Cumberford Arms: Gules, on a cross engrailed or five roses gules.

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² *S.P. Wolferston's Notes to Shaw's Staffs.*

³ *S.C. XVII. 146.*

⁴ *S.C. III. N.S. 155.*

⁵ *P.R.*

Parliament of 1445-6.

Summoned, by Writs of 13 January 1445, to meet 25 February; held four sessions; dissolved 9 April 1446. Returns have been found only for Norfolk, and lists for the City of London and the Boroughs of Lynn and Dunwich. The sheriff of Staffordshire was Sir Thomas Blount of Barton Blount, Derby, a relation of Gresley, and afterwards of Yorkist sympathies. We have no guide at all as to whom he sent, unless it was Sir John Gresley.¹

In this Parliament the Commons petitioned that "every sheriff shall cause election to be made in full County, between the hours of eight and eleven a.m." The consequent Statute laid it down that "the knights of the shire be notable knights, of the shire for which they are chosen, or else such notable squires, gentlemen of birth as be able to be knights; and no man to be it that standeth in the degree of yeoman and beneath"; and we are told that formerly sheriffs frequently tampered with the returns to Parliament, substituting nominees of their own.² William Boerley or Burley, probably M.P. Salop, was again Speaker.

Parliament of 1447.

Summoned, by Writs of 14 December 1446, to meet at Cambridge; changed to Bury St. Edmunds by Writs of 20 January 1447; met 10 February; dissolved 3 March 1447. "Ye whiche parlement was maad onlie for to slee ye noble duke of Gloucestre."³ It met at Bury in order to be under the influence of the Earl of Suffolk, and attainted the Duke of Gloucester. The county representatives were quite independent gentry; Stafford seems to have sent burgesses; Newcastle, Crown servants, possibly under the influence of the Earl of Suffolk, then Steward of the Duchy. As the Earl

¹ Parl. 1422.

² Ramsay, *Lanc. and York* II. 70.

³ *Chron. Davies* 62.

of Stafford helped in the arrest of Duke Humphrey he may be said to have been on the side of the Earl of Suffolk. Tresham was again Speaker.

County :	John Stanley, armiger ..	(1)
	William Mitton, armiger ..	(2)
	returned 20 January 1447, by Humphrey Blount, sheriff.	
Stafford :	William Garnet	(3)
	Robert Atkynson	(4)
Newcastle :	*John Nedham	(5)
	John Cudworth	(6)

(1) SIR JOHN STANLEY OF ELFORD, PIPE, CLIFTON, etc., M.P.
Staffs 1447, 1450-1, 1467-8, 1472-5; and possibly
1463-5.

Born 1423/4; son and heir of Thomas S. of the same, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1463) by Maud (Arderne). He married (1) 1428 Cecily de Arderne, by whom he had his son and heir, John Stanley of Elford (1446-1508); (2) 1451 a daughter² of Sir Richard Vernon, M.P.³; (3) 1455 Elizabeth, daughter of John l'Estrange, and widow of Sir John Vampage, M.P. Worc.,⁴ Attorney General 1429-51. He bore the Stanley Arms—Silver, on a bend azure three bucks' heads gold. He died 29 June 1476; his tomb with a quartered coat is at Elford.⁵

He was made a King's Squire before 1449, when he was one of those who were put in charge of the disgraced William de la

¹ Parl. 1422.

² Called *Maud* by the pedigrees, and mother of Sir Humphrey (Parl. 1491); but Shaw (*Staffs.* I. 353) quotes two deeds:—16 February 1452, Sir John Stanley settled lands in Tamworth and Wiggington on himself and wife *Elizabeth*, remainder to Thomas, son of Sir John. 6 October 1458, Sir John and Elizabeth were seized of Clifton, Haunton and Aylestone, Leic., and had issue Humphrey. The latter deed is confirmed by the deed of 24 January 1461 (see p. 277). His three wives are done in stained glass at Elford, so presumably he had three.

³ Parl. 1419.

⁴ *P.R.*

⁵ Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 354, 383. "His head rests on a helm with the eagle and child, the cognisance of the Stanleys."

Pole, Duke of Suffolk, the Parliament of 1449-50¹ having turned against that favourite. Before the rising of the same Parliament he was made sheriff, on December 3rd, 1450. His place was taken at the normal time, 4 November 1451, by Thomas Astley of Patshull, a man subsequently of Yorkist politics. Still only heir to property, he was again sheriff 7 November 1459 to 7 November 1460; that is he was made sheriff after the Yorkist rout at Ludlow, retained in office after the Yorkists had captured the King and slain the Duke of Buckingham at Northampton—in favour with both parties, and retired at the usual time. He had been knighted, 1457/9; and in February and March 1460 he was on the commissions of Oyer and Array against the rebels, who must then have been Yorkists.² Nor was he one of those on the first Yorkist Commission of the Peace, and he did not find his place upon the bench until November 1468, after the 1467-8 Parliament in which he sat. In 1468 he and Humphrey his son (then aged 14) were granted the Rangership of Cannock.³ He was again sheriff 1464-5, 1468-9, 1474-5; and a J.P. 1468 till death, under Edward IV and Henry VI (restored) alike. Yet from this we must judge nothing, as he was certainly made a Bannerett by Edward IV in May 1471, "on the voyage from Tewkesbury"; and in March 1472 he was on the Commission of Array⁴ and again in Parliament. In a word, the whole Stanley family made a speciality of quick political expediency, unsurpassed even for that age.

(2) WILLIAM MITTON OF WESTON-UNDER-LIZEARD, M.P.
Staffs 1447.

Born 1415; son of Sir Richard M. (*d.* 1418), by Margaret (1393-1420), daughter and coheir of Sir Adam de Peshale,

¹ He sided with the Harcourts against the Staffords in the feuds of those families (*S.C.* 1914, p. 175).

² See footnote Parl. 1460. The Commission of *Oyer* appointed 4 February 1460 consisted, *inter alios*, of the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Shrewsbury, Sir John Needham, Sir Thomas Lyttleton, Sir John Stanley.

³ *P.R.*

⁴ See list, p. 257.

M.P.,¹ and grandson and heir of Reginald M. of the same (*d.* 1424). He married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Corbet of Legh, Salop; and "he came into a great estate in the counties of Stafford, Salop and Warwick, but hath made away with much of it."

He was Sheriff of Staffordshire 1442-3, 1457-8; and of Salop 1456-7; on the (Lancastrian) Commission of Array, December 1459; J.P. Salop 1453 till the Lancastrian defeat at Northampton, July 1460; J.P. Staffs 4 December 1470 to 8 July 1471, during the restoration of Henry VI. He was one of those that had raided the lands of the Lancastrian Countess of Shrewsbury in 1465,² but he must have been a Lancastrian till the accession of Edward IV, and perhaps thereafter a follower of the Earl of Warwick. He died soon after 1489, and from him descend the present Earls of Bradford of Weston-under-Lizeard.

(3) WILLIAM GARNET, M.P. Stafford 1447.

A William Garnett was bailiff of Stafford in 1459; that does not necessarily mean that he was a native of Stafford; bailiffs were, sometimes, certainly later, ambitious lawyers from outside, and I am not prepared to deny that this same man was the M.P. for Huntingdon in 1449. But I do not think that he can be the M.P. for Lancashire in 1431, nor the William Garnet who was J.P. and squire in Kent 1442-4.³ Mr. Pink thinks they may be combined in a cadet of the ancient family of Garnett, long seated at Kirkby Lonsdale.

(4) ROBERT ATKINSON, M.P. Stafford 1447.

No trace in the Records.

(5) JOHN NEDHAM. See Parl. 1441-2.

(6) JOHN CUDWORTH, M.P. Newcastle 1447.

Possibly a son of John de Cudworth, lord of the manor of Oldham, Lancs, called "seven years old and more" at his father's death in 1384.⁴ I do not think at least that he was

¹ See Parl. 1377 (1).

³ P.R.

² S.C. III. N.S. 138.

⁴ *Ex inf.* Pink.

a burgess of Newcastle, where the name is unknown, and a Lancashire origin agrees with the position of a Duchy nominee.

Parliament of 1449.

Summoned, by Writs of 2 January, to meet 12 February 1449; held three sessions; last sat at Winchester and dissolved 16 July 1449. Parliament was all for the Queen and Suffolk, and for peace with France. The Earl of Stafford was now Duke of Buckingham, a firm ally of Suffolk's, as he had had part of Gloucester's estates. All the M.P.'s,—County, Stafford and Newcastle,—are suitable officials and lawyers, fit to support their chiefs.¹ Sir John Say, M.P. Cambs, was the Speaker.

County :	John Hampton, armiger ..	(1)
	William Cumberford, gentle-	
	man	(2)
	returned 9 January 1449, by	
	Thomas Ferrers of Tamworth,	
	sheriff.	
Stafford :	Richard Broyn	(3)
	Nicholas Assheby	(4)
Newcastle :	*John Nedham	(5)
	Thomas Everdon	(6)

(1) JOHN HAMPTON. See Parl. 1436-7.

(2) WILLIAM CUMBERFORD. See Parl. 1441-2.

(3) RICHARD BROYN. See Parl. 1435.

¹ Just before this Parliament rose in July a fresh Commission was made out for the Staffs bench. The Earls of Suffolk and Stafford, the Bishop, Lords Audley, Dudley and Ferrers, Sir Sampson Meverell, John Harpur, John Hampton, Thomas Arblaster, Robert Whitgreve and William Cumberford. Suffolk and the Bishop and Meverell had been added, and Sir Roger Aston (probably dead) left off from the previous Commission.

(4) NICHOLAS ASHBY OF STAFFORD, M.P. Stafford 1449.

He was a burgess of Stafford, son of John Ashby; and he was dead in 1458, when his daughter Margaret was his heir.¹

(5) JOHN NEDHAM. See Parl. 1441-2.

(6) THOMAS EVERDON OF BUSHBURY, M.P. Newcastle 1449 and ? 1459, 1460, 1461-2 or 1463-5.

Mention of him occurs first in 1443,² and he may have been the successor of the William Everdon of Bushbury of 1421-1441, the feoffee of Henry Delves of Cold Norton, and a relation of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton. But Thomas E. held land near Wambourne and Swindon.³ He was a feoffee for the marriage settlement of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton in 1448.⁴ He was a Commissioner in 1446, and appointed to deliver Worcester Gaol in 1450,⁵ whence I assume that he was a lawyer. This is confirmed by his being a J.P. for Staffs 1456-60, and 1461-3, and for Worcester 1458-60. He was on the commission of Array of December 1459, and probably again M.P. for Newcastle in that year. I should say he was neither Lancastrian nor Yorkist, but a lawyer for settled government. He died in 1472, apparently without direct heirs.⁶ I think that he, not Nedham, was the Duchy nominee for Parliament in 1449.

Parliament of 1449-50.

Summoned, by Writs of 23 September, to meet 6 November 1449, at Westminster, but met from 4 December at Blackfriars

¹ S.C. IV. N.S. 107.

² S.C. XI. 233.

³ S.C. VII. ii. 108. S.C. IV. N.S. 127, 159.

⁴ Harwood, *Erdeswick*, 162.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ S.C. VII. ii. 105. If he was a son of William Everdon, then his sister Elizabeth married Boyce Hampton, who died childless. (Shaw *Staffs* II. 265.)

on account of the infectious air at Westminster; held three sessions; last sat at Leicester, where it was dissolved about 17 May 1450. Tresham (Lancastrian), M.P. Northants, was again Speaker. It was after this Parliament was elected that the full extent of the disasters in France became known. Then it impeached and imprisoned Suffolk and his friends. Suffolk fled, was caught and beheaded at sea. Parliament revoked the King's grants to such as John Hampton, and started the Yorkist movement. I do not believe that Hampton can have continued to sit in the last session of this Parliament.

All those sent to Parliament from Staffordshire were office holders; there was not one independent squire or even burgess.

County :	*John Hampton	.. ..	(1)
	Robert Whitgreve	.. ..	(2)
	returned 23 October, 1449,		
	by Thomas Ferrers of Tam-		
	worth, sheriff.		
Stafford :	Humphrey Whitgreve	.. ..	(3)
	William Preston	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	Ralf Wolseley	.. ..	(5)
	Thomas Mayne	.. ..	(6)

(1) JOHN HAMPTON. See Parl. 1436-7.

(2) ROBERT WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1411.

(3) HUMPHREY WHITGREVE OF BURTON BY STAFFORD, M.P.
Stafford 1449-50, 1450-1.

Born *c.* 1410; son and heir of Robert W. of the same, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1449). In 1446 he had a grant of the herbage and pannage of Cannock.² With his father he was exempted from all juries, etc., in 1448; and he was bailiff to Sir John Stanley while he was sheriff 1464-5.³ For some reason, possibly political, he was outlawed in 1472, and he died, according to the *Visitations*, in 1485, having been married to a daughter

¹ Parl. 1411.

² *P.R.*

³ *S.C.* IV. N.S. 136.

(? Elizabeth) of Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill. His views, while an M.P., would be those of the Stafford Earls, the patrons of his father, and of Sir Harry Stafford 1460-80.

(4) WILLIAM PRESTON. See Parl. 1426.

(5) RALPH WOLSELEY OF WOLSELEY, M.P. Newcastle 1449-50, Gatton 1477-8, ? Staffs 1483, ? 1484, ? 1487-8.

Born *c.* 1420; eldest son and heir of Thomas W. of the same, probably an M.P.,¹ (*d.* 1478), by Margery, daughter of John Broughton of Longdon. In 1446 he had a grant of pannage in Cannock; in 1448 he and his father were exempted from all juries. But in 1456 he is a lawyer "of London, gent." He married (1) Agnes, daughter of Sir Thomas Blount, Treasurer of Normandy, *i.e.* sister of the first Lord Mountjoy; (2) *c.* 1468, Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Aston and widow of John or Robert Kynnersley of Loxley, the mother of his heir. At least it was at this date that Ralph enfeoffed Thomas Wolseley (*i.e.* his father) and heirs in his manor of Tipton and of land in London and Dover. That he had land at Dover shows that he is the Ralph Wolseley, victualler of Calais, in 1465-6 and probably later, till he was made Baron of the Exchequer. He was fourth Baron of the Exchequer 1467 to June 1470, and 1478 to 1484, his successor being appointed 24 September 1484.

He was a strong Yorkist partisan. In 1461 he was commissioned, with the Wrottesleys, to arrest Edmund Basset; he was a receiver of forfeited estates in Essex, Salop and Cambridge;² J.P. for Staffordshire 1464 till Bosworth Field. He was then removed, restored in November 1486 till January 1496, and on the Bench again, May 1501 till death.³ It is probable that he was M.P. in 1483 and 1484, because in both years he was one of the Staffordshire Commissioners to assess the subsidies which had been granted by the Commons.³ He died 25 March 1504, leaving John his

¹ Parl. 1459.

² P.R. 1461.

³ P.R.

son and heir aged 30 and more,¹ and he was buried in the abbey church of Bermondsey.²

He enclosed 1000 acres of Cannock Chase and attached them to his park at Wolesley, which, as Baron of the Exchequer, he had licence to empark and crenelate in 1470. In consequence of his enclosures he had a long feud with Sir John Gresley of Colton and with the Bishop who owned Rugeley and Cannock, 1470/1. In 1481-3 he bought largely at Bishton and Colton.

(6) THOMAS MAYNE, M.P. Bridgnorth 1447, 1449, Newcastle 1449-50.

He was a Royal servant in 1444-5,³ allied in some way to John Hampton of Stourton, M.P., and this John Hampton doubtless found him his seats in Parliament. He seems to have married Margaret, daughter of Guy Hide.⁴ He occurs as a Commissioner in 1450, and in the same year his Will was proved at Colchester. He was probably a Duchy nominee; Suffolk and Hampton must have been close allies.

Parliament of 1450-1.

Summoned, by Writs of 5 September, to meet 6 November 1450; held three sessions; last sitting 11 June 1451.⁵ This Parliament is said to have been carefully packed with York's partisans, and declared York heir to the throne. It was elected just after Jack Cade's rebellion, and Jack Cade's complaint was that "great men send letters to their tenants to choose such men as they approve not." The Speaker, Sir William Oldhall, M.P. Herts,⁶ was a Yorkist. All the lords brought up petty armies fully equipped with badges and liveries.⁷

But there seems no very obvious packing about this Parliament so far as Staffordshire is concerned. The Stafford members have the Stafford Earl's stamp, but the Newcastle members seem to be just burgesses of the town, without a

¹ I.p.m.

² *Ex inf.* Pink.

³ P.R.

⁴ P.R. 1446, 1448. ⁵ *Ex inf.* Beaven.

⁶ *Not* M.P. Hereford Co. as stated by Dasent.

⁷ Ramsay, *Lancs and York* II. 136.

Duchy nominee at all, and the county members were of such a rank as to give promise of independence.

County :	John Stanley, armiger	..	(1)
	John Gresley, armiger	..	(2)
	returned 22 October by Humphrey Swynnerton, sheriff. John Stanley, while a member, on 3 December 1450, replaced Swynnerton as sheriff.		
Stafford :	*Humphrey Whitgreve	..	(3)
	John Barbour	.. ..	(4)
	elected 22 October 1450.		
Newcastle :	Thomas Colclogh	.. ..	(5)
	Richard Mosley	.. ..	(6)
	elected 22 October 1450.		

(1) JOHN STANLEY. See Parl. 1447.

(2) (SIR) JOHN GRESLEY OF COLTON AND DRAKELOW, M.P.
Staffs 1450-1, 1453-4, Co. Derby 1460, 1477-8, and
possibly 1461-2, 1463-5, 1483, 1485-6 for either Staffs
or Co. Derby.

Born *c.* 1418; son and heir of Sir John G. of the same, M.P.¹ (*d.* Jan. 1449), by Elizabeth (Clarell). He married, before 1455, Anne, daughter of Thomas Stanley and sister of his colleague, Sir John. Though his aunt had been the nurse of Henry VI, he was a Yorkist. That was why he was returned in 1450. Soon after the close of that Parliament he was made escheator of Staffs 3 December 1451. He took up arms with York in 1452, and was made sheriff of Notts and Derby 1453-4. He was knighted 1450/3, was on the Commission to raise money both for Staffordshire and Derbyshire in 1455, and was on the Derbyshire Commission of Array 21 December 1459. With the Lancastrian, Sir William Vernon of Harlaston, M.P.,

¹ Parl. 1422.

he had a feud, private as well as public.¹ Gresley and the Blounts are to be found on all the Commissions of 1461 and 1462. He was J.P. for Staffs 1464-87, and for Derby 1453-8 and 1460-87, remaining on the bench during the short restoration of Henry VI in 1470-1, and then removed by Edward IV till November 1475. This indicates that he had followed Warwick with Astley and Wrottesley, but recovered his position. He was, in fact, one of the permanent retinue of the Lord Hastings whom King Richard beheaded in 1483.² He died 30 January 1487, leaving his son Thomas his heir. Till 1449, while his father was alive, he lived at Colton, thereafter at Drakelow. Administration of his will was given at Lambeth, 4 October 1487.³

(3) HUMPHREY WHITGREVE. See Parl. 1449-50.

(4) JOHN BARBOUR OF FLASHBROOK, M.P. Stafford 1450-1, 1453-4.

He married Jane, daughter and heiress of Richard Jordan of Flashbrook in 1443,⁴ and from him descend the Barbours of Flashbrook.⁵ He himself was one of the Barbours of Stafford Forebridge who sent so many M.P.'s to Westminster; perhaps he was the son of William Barbour, M.P.,⁶ the Clerk to the Counting House, his senior colleague in the next Parliament, or of Thomas Barbour, M.P.⁷ In any case he was a Stafford retainer, and he was escheator 1446-7. He was dead by 1475.

Chetwynd calls him Browne *alias* Barbour, but this, I think, is only lip service to an old rumour that the founder of

¹ On 12 July 1455 he and Roger Vernon were summoned by the King to appear touching their riotous array. (Nicholas, *Privy Council*, VI. 250.)

² Dugdale, *Bar. Angl.* I. 583.

³ S.C. I. N.S. 57-61. Pink.

⁴ S.C. XI. 245. ⁵ S.C. V. ii. 29.

⁶ Parl. 1433.

⁷ Parl. 1402 (2).

the family was the Duke's barber.¹ For his son, Humphrey Barbour, M.P., see Parl. 1495.²

(5) THOMAS COLCLOUGH OF NEWCASTLE, M.P. Newcastle 1450-1, 1453-4.

He is described as "gent" of Newcastle, holding land at Blurton.³ Mention of him occurs 1442-64, in which latter year he was outlawed for debt.⁴ He was possibly a son of John C. of Hanley, M.P.,⁵ and for his pedigree see the Visitation.⁶ Richard C., his son and heir, was Mayor of Newcastle in 1478.

(6) RICHARD MOSLEY OF NEWCASTLE, M.P. Newcastle 1450-1, 1455-6.

He was "yeoman of Newcastle," and lay in wait to kill John Kingsley, armiger, in 1444.⁷

Parliament of 1453-4.

Summoned, by Writs of 20 January, to meet 6 March 1453. But the Staffordshire elections were not held till 8 March. Dissolved 16 April 1454, after four sessions. The first session was held at Reading in order to be away from the Yorkist Londoners. After Easter, Parliament came to London. The elections were well managed by the Duke of Somerset

¹ Erdeswick writes, *c.* 1600 :—"Flotesbroc *vulgo* Flashbrook was 24 Ed. I the seat of Ricardus de Pulesdone, who had issue Jordanus de Pulesdone, who had issue Thomas Jordane, in whose race by the surname of Jordane it continued till about Henry VI or Edward IV's time, when one Browne, who was barber to Henry, Duke of Buckingham, and there-of took the surname of Barbour, married as I take it to Jordane's daughter and heir." But Barbours were M.P.'s for Stafford in 1402 and 1413, while Thomas Barbour occurs among the List of Gentry in 1434.

² S.C. V. ii. 20.

⁴ S.C. IV. N.S. 132.

⁶ S.C. V. ii. 86.

³ S.C. III. N.S. 218.

⁵ Parl. 1390.

⁷ S.C. III. N.S. 168.

in the Lancastrian interest, and the Speaker, Thomas Thorp (M.P. Essex), was Lancastrian; but by 1454 the Parliament had become Yorkist in sympathy. In Feb. 1454 the Speaker, Thorp, was imprisoned and was succeeded by Thomas Charlton, M.P. Middlesex.

The influence of the House of Stafford was directed towards keeping an even peace. Gresley (Yorkist) and Hampton (Lancastrian) balanced it for the shire; the Stafford representatives were of the Stafford Household; the Newcastle M.P.'s were one a burgess, one a nominee, probably of Sir John Say, Chancellor of the Duchy; for the connection between the ill-fated William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Hull is well known.

County :	*John Gresley, miles	..	..	(1)
	John Hampton, armiger	..	..	(2)
	returned by Robert Aston of Heywood, sheriff.			
Stafford :	William Barbour	..	..	(3)
	*John Barbour	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	*Thomas Colcloghe	..	..	(5)
	John Spenser	..	..	(6)

(1) *JOHN GRESLEY. See Parl. 1450-1.

(2) JOHN HAMPTON. See Parl. 1436-7.

(3) WILLIAM BARBOUR. See Parl. 1433.

(4) *JOHN BARBOUR. See Parl. 1450-51.

(5) *THOMAS COLCLOUGH. See Parl. 1450-1.

(6) JOHN SPENCER OF HULL, M.P. Hull 1449-50, Newcastle 1453-4, 1455-6, Hull 1459, Lyme Regis 1460.

He was evidently not a Newcastle man. Mention of him occurs in Hull in 1454 and 1456,¹ when he is owed money and sued for debts. Escheator of Hull 1460.² He was probably a merchant or lawyer from Hull, possibly nominated by the Duke of Somerset, Suffolk's successor. Hull had been under the influence of the de la Poles.

¹ P.R.

² *Enrolled Foreign Accounts*, P.R.O.

Parliament of 1455-6.

Summoned, by Writs of 26 May, to meet 9 July 1455; held three sessions; dissolved or held its last sitting 3 March 1456.¹ This Parliament was summoned after York's victory at St. Albans, 22 May 1455,² where the heir of Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, was slain; and the Speaker was Sir John (afterwards Lord) Wenlock, probably M.P. Beds.¹ The Duke of Buckingham³ was, however, neutral. He was

¹ *Ex. inf.* Beaven.

² Before St. Albans, on 14 May 1455, the following were made Commissioners to raise money for the defence of Calais in Staffordshire:—The Bishop of Coventry, Lord Dudley, Sir John Griffith, John Hampton, Sir John Gresley, William Cumberford. (Nicholas, *Privy Council*, VI. 242.)

³ The Wills of Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, 1460, and of his widow Anne, 1480, and of his son, Sir Harry Stafford, give the names of so many retainers of the Stafford House at this period of their greatest power that abstracts of them are here attached. Among the retainers are to be found many of the M.P.'s for Stafford or their relations.

The Will of Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, dated 16 August 1459, and pr. 2 December 1460 (English) £100 to the Canons of Maxstoke, 100*m.* a year to the College of Plessey. John, Visct. Beaumont, and John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, creditors in his estate. to sonne Henry 400*m.* a year. Mentions Henry's wife, Margaret, Countess of Richmond. His lands, specified, to be sold for his creditors, remainder to his wife. Exors., his wife and his brother of Canterbury (Thomas Bourchier). Sealed at Makestoke Castle.

(*P.C.C.*, *Stockton* 21.)

The Will of Anne, Duchess of Buckingham, undated, proved in *P.C.C.*, 31 October 1480:—To be buried in the Collegiate Church of Plessey. Mentions: my son Buckingham; daughter Beaumont, and her son Edward Knivett; daughter Mountjoy, underage; son "of Wiltshire"; daughter Richmond (*i.e.*, then wife of Sir Harry Stafford).

To daughter Richmond she leaves: "a boke of English Legendas Saintonny and a boke of Frensh called Lukay, another boke of Frensh of the Pistell and Gaspell."

To her grooms of the household any wages owing; and to John Yerd 5*m.*, Philip Preston 5*m.*, Humphrey Cumberford 4*m.*, Thomas Grey 4*m.*, Dame Elizabeth? Agnes Preston 5*m.*, Elizabeth Garth 5*m.*, Margaret Aynsworth 5*m.*

persuaded to "come inne . . . and draw the lyne with them" (the Yorkists).¹ The two county members are probably Lancastrian; Stafford sends Duke's men; Newcastle sends again a burgess and a probable retainer of the dead Duke of Suffolk. At this time Audley and Dudley and Shrewsbury were all noted Lancastrians, and the last named was given the Treasury in October 1456. Leicester, Coventry and Kenilworth were the centres of the Lancastrian interest.²

County :	William Vernon, miles	..	(1)
	Humphrey Swynnerton		
	armiger	.. .. .	(2)
	returned by John Delves,		
	sheriff.		
Stafford :	*William Barbour	.. ..	(3)
	*John Barbour	.. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	*John Spenser	.. ..	(5)
	Richard Mosley	.. ..	(6)

(1) SIR WILLIAM VERNON OF TONG, SALOP, OF HADDON, DERBYSHIRE, AND OF HARLASTON, M.P. Co. Derby 1441-2, 1449-50, 1450-1, Staffs 1455-6, Co. Derby 1467, and possibly for Staffs 1459.

Mentions the clerks of my counting house, Richard Brown and William Barbour. (See Parl. 1433.)

Exors. : John Moreton, Bishop of Ely, Lord Hastings, John, Lord Denham, Sir Thomas Bowcgher, Kt., Sir Thomas Montgomery, Kt., William Huse, Serjt. at law, John Clopton, Thomas Gowth, Sir William Drayton, clerk, John Cornish, Richard Harpur (See Parl. 1467), Rafe Tykhill. To Richard Harpur 20m. (P.C.C. 2 Logge.)

The Will of Sir Harry Stafford, Kt. (died 1481), dated 2 October 1471, proved in P.C.C. 4 May 1482 :

To be buried at Plessy. Mentions son-in-law (*i.e.* step-son) the Earl of Richmond (Henry VII), to whom he leaves "a trappur and my newe hors herness of blue velvett." Mentions brother John Earl of Wilts. To "my receivour general Reynold Braye" "my gresilt hors." Residue to wife, Margaret, Countess of Richmond, and she sole Exor. (P.C.C. 5 Logge.)

¹ *Paston Letters* 335

² Ramsay, *Lancs and York*, II, 199.

³ Parl. 1467.

Born 1420 ; third but eldest surviving son of Sir Richard V. of the same, M.P.,¹ the Speaker (*d.* 1451/2), by Benedicta (Ludlow). He married Margaret, daughter of William de Lichfield, *alias* Taverner, by Joyce, youngest daughter and co-heir of William Durvassal, *alias* Spenor, which Margaret was heir to her mother at Spenor, Derby, in 1437.² He was knighted *c.* 1451, and succeeded his father as Treasurer of Calais, and he was the last who held for life the office of Constable of England. He was a Lancastrian partisan and had a long personal feud with Sir John Gresley, the Yorkist partisan, 1450-5. He was J.P. Derby till 1458, but not on the last four Commissions of Henry VI. He was, however, added to the Staffs Commission of the Peace (Lancastrian) on 18 March, 1460, and may have sat for Staffs in the 1459 Parliament, though he is on neither the Staffs nor the Derbyshire Commission of Array in December 1459. After the Yorkist succession, in December 1461, he received a general pardon, but he is still accused, in 1463, of acting riotously against his neighbours.³ He died 30 June, 1467,⁴ just after Parliament met, and was buried at Tong, where there is a monument to him and his wife. Will proved in P.C.C. in 1468.⁵

(2) HUMPHREY SWYNNERTON OF SWYNNERTON, M.P. Staffs
1455-6.

Born *c.* 1420 ; son and heir of William S. of the same (*d.* 1429), by Ellen (Trumwyne). He married 1449 Anne

¹ Parl. 1419.

² Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 404.

³ P.R.

⁴ Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 400.

⁵ The WILL of SIR WILLIAM VERNON, KT., dated Sunday after Peter and Paul 1467 ; proved in P.C.C. 27 June 1468.

To be buried in Tong Church ; tomb according to his degree.

To each of his daughters, Elizabeth, Margaret, Benett and Alice, 500*m.* for their marriage.

His son Henry is his heir ; son Richard to have Hasilbache manor, Derbyshire ; son William to have 20*m.* a year ; son Rauf to have Roworth.

Exors. : his wife Margaret, William Comberford, and John Penystone, priest.

(1435-1470), daughter and coheiress of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton (*d.* 1448); and so were combined the two branches of the Swynnerton family after 150 years. He was probably Lancastrian; sheriff 1449-50; escheator 1457-8. He was never on the Commission of the Peace. In December 1461 a Commission was issued to arrest him as "late of Hilton," and to bring him before the King to answer certain falsehoods.¹ He may well have died in prison, for he was recently dead in 1463, leaving a son and heir, Humphrey. His widow, Anne, married again, John Mitton of Weston Hughes.² As there is no monument to him I think it quite likely that he died in battle or in prison, at least in disgrace. For his son, Humphrey S., ? M.P., see Parl. 1497.

- (3) WILLIAM BARBOUR. See Parl. 1433.
 (4) JOHN BARBOUR. See Parl. 1450-1.
 (5) JOHN SPENCER. See Parl. 1453-4.
 (6) RICHARD MOSLEY. See Parl. 1450-1.

Parliament of 1459.

Summoned, by Writs of 9 October, to meet 20 November 1459; dissolved 20 December 1459. This was the *Parliamentum Diabolicum* which attainted the Yorkists. It was summoned after York's collapse at Ludlow,—hastily and irregularly summoned. In many cases no formal writs were sent to the Sheriff, only Letters of Privy Seal, directing them to return suitable knights and burgesses; the members were all nominated by the Lancastrian leaders and, in some cases, without even the form of election.³ The Speaker was Thomas Tresham, M.P. Northants, who was beheaded at Tewkesbury. The Returns for seventeen counties, including that of Staffordshire, are missing. The elections took place between 13 October (Hereford) and 29 November (Salop), averaging November 8th. The sheriff of Staffordshire who made the return was Hugh Egerton. He retired on

¹ P.R.

² Parl. 1510.

³ Ramsay, *Lancs and York*, II. 217.

November 7th, making way for Sir John Stanley, but one of the Petitions of the Commons in this Parliament runs: "The sheriffs of last year, having been commanded to elect the Knights of the Shires, for the good and hasty speed thereof, petition that all such elections be good and effectual as of Knights made by Writ, and that they may be discharged of any penalties."¹ Buckingham was supreme in Staffordshire, and would see that Lancastrians were returned.

I think we can get an idea who were returned from the Commission of Array issued 21 December 1459, the day after Parliament rose. The Commission consisted of:—Sir Sampson Meverell,² John Hampton,³ John Harpur,⁴ Thomas Arblaster,⁵ Roger Draycot,⁶ Thomas Wolseley⁷ and Thomas

¹ Parry, *Parlts.* 188.

² SIR SAMPSON MEVEREL OF THROWLEY AND OF TIDESWELL, DERBY, possibly M.P. Staffs 1445-6, 1459. Born *c.* 1405; probably son of John M. of the same, M.P. (see Parl. 1414 (1)), who died in 1442. He married, before 1449, Isabel, daughter and coheir of Sir Roger Leche of Beaupers. From 1437 for at least fifteen years he was engaged in perpetual feuds and bloody riots with Ralph Basset of Blore by reason of some dispute as to land at Throwley. He was knighted by 1448. From 1449-1460 he was on the bench, being chairman thereof for the last eight years; he was removed in 1460, presumably by the Yorkists. He was buried at Tideswell 1462 (Sleigh, *Leek.* 56A); and Isabel was suing as his widow in 1469 (S.C. IV. N.S. 163). He was succeeded by his son, Thomas Meverel.

³ Parl. 1437.

⁴ Parl. 1419.

⁵ Parl. 1426.

⁶ ROGER DRAYCOT OF PAYNSLEY, possibly M.P. Staffs 1459, 1460, 1470-1. Born 1412/3; son and heir of John D. of the same (*d.* 1420/1) by Agnes (? Gascon of Yorkshire), who was surviving in 1447. He was escheator of Staffordshire 1452-3; J.P. 1453-60; with Warwick, a proscribed rebel, in 1470 and 1471. He was probably still alive in 1472 (See *Staffs Cols.* IV. N.S. p. 181), and dead, succeeded by his son Roger in 1480. He married Agnes or Jane, daughter of Sir Roger Aston of Heywood, M.P. (Parl. 1423-4). (S.C. VI. N.S. i. 132; Harwood, *Erdeswick* 253). The Visitation of 1583 calls him a Knight in 4 Ed. IV, but I do not find him so elsewhere. Evidently he was a Lancastrian.

⁷ THOMAS WOLSELEY OF WOLSELEY, probably M.P. Staffs 1459, 1460, 1461-2, 1463-5. Born *c.* 1400; eldest son and heir of Ralph W. of the same (*d.c.* 1435), by Maud his wife. He married, 1419, Margery, sister of William Broughton of Longdon, and she was

Everdon.¹ Another list may help. It is the Commission of the Peace of March 1460, while Lancaster was still supreme: The Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Bishop, Lord Dudley, Sir William Vernon,² John Harpur,³ John Hampton,⁴ Thomas Arblaster,⁵ William Cumberland⁶ and Roger Draycot⁷ were commissioned. Lord Audley had, of course, been killed at Bloreheath in 1459; and his son and heir, while attempting to relieve Somerset at Guisnes, was driven by stress of weather into Calais and surrendered to Warwick.⁸

Parliament of 1460.

Summoned, by Writs of 30 July, to meet 7 October 1460; dissolved 17 October 1460. This Parliament was summoned after the King had been taken and Buckingham and Shrewsbury killed at Northampton, 10 July 1460. On 30 December 1460, the kaleidoscope again shifted and York was beheaded at his castle of Sandal by Wakefield. The second battle of St. Albans set free Henry VI, 17 February 1461. But Edward, now Duke of York, reached London and proclaimed himself King on March 4th, and on March 29th he destroyed the Lancastrians at Towton.

This Parliament must have been Yorkist;⁹ the Returns

still living in 1469. (*Deeds; Wm. Salt Lib.*) He and his more important son Ralph (see Parl. 1449-50) were strong Yorkists, and made the fortunes of the family, not without gaining some unpopularity at the same time. They enclosed and had incessant lawsuits. Thomas W. was a J.P. from 1457 onwards, and died in 1479.

¹ Parl. 1449.

² Parl. 1455-6.

³ Parl. 1419.

⁴ Parl. 1437.

⁵ Parl. 1426.

⁶ Parl. 1442.

⁷ See note ⁶ on p. 244.

⁸ Ramsay, *Lancs and York*, II. 223.

⁹ The Returns for 17 counties are extant. In ten of these counties fresh Commissions of the Peace were issued in 1460, after the Yorkist victory at Northampton. Of the 20 knights of the shire for these counties in 1460 all save three are to be found on these 1460 Yorkist Commissions of the Peace. Unfortunately no Commission of the Peace was issued for Staffordshire between March 1460 and July 1461, and on the 1461 Commissions only 22 out of the 34 known Knights of the Shire of October 1460 appear.

for Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Salop, Warwick and seventeen other counties are missing, but Sir Walter Blount and Sir John Gresley, two strong Yorkists, sat for Derbyshire; John and Fulk Stafford, Yorkists, for Worcestershire. Sir John Stanley, doubtful, was the sheriff of Staffordshire, and should have made the Returns. It is, of course, possible that none were made, for the death of the Duke and of the Earl of Shreswbury must have made politics a little difficult in Staffordshire at that time. Lords Bouchier, Berners and Audley were with the Yorkists at Northampton, but their influence was small. I think Stanley would have lost his shrievalty if he had made no Returns however. We must then look for the county M.P.'s among the Commissioners of the Peace appointed by Edward IV after his accession,¹ 8 July 1461:—The Bishop, the Earl of Warwick, Lords Audley, Dudley and Walter Blount, Lord Mountjoy, Sir Thomas Astley,² Walter Wrottesley,³ John

¹ In March 1461 the following were put on the Commission of Array against the rebels: William Hastings, Lord Hastings, Walter Blount, Lord Mountjoy, John Stanley, John Gresley, knights, Humphrey Peshale, William Basset, Philip Okeover, George Stanley, and the sheriff, Walter Wrottesley.

On 12 May 1461, John Bouchier, Lord Berners, Sir Robert Harcourt, Walter Blount, William Mitton, William Harcourt and John Harcourt are commissioned to take over Eccleshall and Stafford Castle, and the goods there of the late King, and to arrest the rebels. (*P.R.*) On July 21 1461, Walter Wrottesley, Esq., Henry Wrottesley and Ralph Wolseley are to arrest Edmund Bassett and bring him before the King. (*P.Ř.*)

² SIR THOMAS ASTLEY OF PATSHULL, possibly M.P. Staffs 1460, 1461-2, 1463-5. Born *c.* 1435; eldest son and heir of Thomas A., by Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Gresley. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Butler. He was a follower and third cousin of the Earl of Warwick; on his Council 1460-70; rose with him in 1469 and 1470; escaped, and was buried at Wolverhampton, 1 Ric. III. 1483/4. (*S.C.* III. ii. 36.) (*Shaw, Staffs.* II. 284.)

³ SIR WALTER WROTTESLEY OF WROTTESLEY, probably M.P. either 1460, 1463, 1469, 1470-1. Born *c.* 1430; eldest son and heir of Hugh W. of the same (*d.* 1464), by Thomasine (*d.* 1480), daughter of Sir John Gresley of Drakelow. He married Jane, daughter and heiress of William Baron, one of the Tellers of the Exchequer. Sir Walter

Harpur,¹ William Cumberford,² Thomas Everdon,³ Nicholas Waringes,⁴ and Thomas Wolseley.⁵

was the man of Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick, the King-maker. He and Sir Edward Grey were both knights of the Earl's Council from 1464 onwards. In 1459 Nevil made Wrottesley sheriff of Worcestershire. He fled with Warwick to Calais in the autumn of 1459. When they returned the next year and took the King at Northampton, Wrottesley was made sheriff of Staffordshire, while his brother Henry acted as his sub-sheriff in Worcestershire. He was probably knighted late in 1461. He received grants of the forfeited lands of James Butler, Earl of Wilts. In June 1468 Warwick obtained his appointment as joint chamberlain of the Exchequer.

In February 1470 Warwick instigated the rebellion of the men of Lincolnshire. On their defeat the King learnt of the treachery of Warwick, 12 March 1470; on 24 March they were proclaimed traitors; and on 25 April the names of the proclaimed are given: Sir Walter Wrottesley, Sir Edward Grey, Roger Draycot, Henry Wrottesley, James Norreys are all there. Henry Wrottesley was probably caught by Tiptoft and hanged at Southampton. Warwick and Wrottesley reached Honfleur at the end of July. With Queen Margaret they relanded at Dartmouth, 25 September 1470, and Edward IV was deserted by his army and fled. Henry VI was restored 9 October 1470. Warwick now made Wrottesley his deputy in Glamorgan, whence he issues orders as sheriff on 13 January 1471. He was then sent as Deputy Captain to Calais. But in March Edward landed in the Humber and on 14 April Warwick was slain at Barnet and the revolution ended. At last, on 6 August 1471, Wrottesley surrendered at Calais and two years later he seems to have died in prison, 10 April 1473.

¹ Parl. 1419.

² Parl. 1441-2.

³ Parl. 1449.

⁴ NICHOLAS WARINGS OF THE LEE BY WOLVERHAMPTON, possibly M.P. Staffs 1460, 1461-2, 1463-5. He was feoffee for uses in 1448; as "of the Lee" he was rioting at Enville in 1457; he was pardoned in 1459. His wife in 1460 was Clemence. Mention of him occurs in the Rolls as *armiger* down to 1475. In 1480 he was dead, intestate, and John Bagot of Bristol, merchant, was his administrator (S.C. VI. N.S. 128). Ralph W. takes his place from 1484 onwards. The William W. of Wolverhampton, whose Will was proved in P.C.C. 1444, may have been his father.

⁵ Parl. 1459.

EDWARD IV.

4 March 1461.

Parliament of 1461-2.

Summoned, by Writs of 23 May, to meet 6 July; but on 13 June prorogued to 4 November 1461; dissolved 6 May 1462. No Returns have been found. The sheriff was Sir Walter Wrottesley, and the other commoners put on the bench on 8 July 1461 were:—Sir Thomas Astley of Patshull,¹ John Harpur of Rushall,² William Cumberford of Cumberford,³ Thomas Everdon,⁴ Nicholas Warings of the Lee by Wolverhampton,⁵ and Thomas Wolseley of Wolseley.⁶ Among these (with the addition of Sir John Gresley,⁷ and John Harcourt⁸), the M.P.'s for the county in 1461, as in 1460, may with some probability be sought. Sir Walter Devereux, who had fought beside Edward at Mortimer's Cross and marched with him to London, was one of those who decided to make him King on 3 March 1461, and was thereupon recognised and summoned to Parliament as Lord Ferrers of Chartley.⁹

¹ Parl. 1460.² Parl. 1419.³ Parl. 1442.⁴ Parl. 1449.⁵ Parl. 1460.⁶ Parl. 1459.⁷ Parl. 1450-1.

⁸ JOHN HARCOURT OF RANTON, possibly M.P. 1461-2, *b.c.* 1415, third son of Sir Thomas H. of Stanton Harcourt and Ellenhall (*d.* 1420) by Jane, daughter of Sir Robert Fraunceys, M.P. (Parl. 1397). All his three brothers were M.P.'s, the eldest being Sir Robert Harcourt, K.G. He married Margaret, daughter of William Burley of Bromscroft, Salop, and widow of William Bracy of Lembridge, Hereford, and left a son Thomas (*b.c.* 1455) and daughters, three of whom married respectively, Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton (Parl. 1497), Walter Wrottesley (Parl. 1460) and Hugh Erdeswick (Parl. 1489-90). (*S.C.* 1914, pp. 208-9).

⁹ Ramsay, *Lancaster and York*, II. 270, 276.

Parliament of 1463-5.

Summoned, by Writs of 22 December 1462, to meet at York, 5 February 1463; adjourned to meet at Leicester, 7 March 1463. However, "being dissatisfied with the course the elections were taking," the King issued fresh writs summoning the Parliament to meet at Westminster 29 April; it sat till 18 June 1463, and was dissolved early in 1465, probably soon after 21 January 1465, the date of the beginning of a second session.¹ The City of London Members were elected on 8 February 1463. John Harcourt of Ranton was the sheriff and returning officer for Staffordshire, but the Returns for this Parliament have been lost. No fresh men had been added to the Commission of the Peace, and the County M.P.'s may be among those previously mentioned, with the addition of Sir Walter Wrottesley² and Sir John Stanley of Elford.³

*Parliament of 1467-8.*⁴

Summoned, by Writs of 28 February, to meet 3 June 1467; held three Sessions (one being at Reading); dissolved 7 June 1468.⁵ During this Parliament the Earl of Warwick demanded the dismissal from Court of Lord Stafford of Southwick and of Lord Audley, but before Parliament rose a reconciliation had been patched up.⁶

County :	John Stanley, miles	..	..	(1)
	John Delves, armiger	..	..	(2)
	returned 16 April, 1467, by John Harcourt of Ranton, sheriff.			

¹ Ramsay, *Lancaster and York*, II. 297.

² Parl. 1460.

³ Parl. 1447.

⁴ Porritt, in his *Unreformed House of Commons*, says that by this time the candidates at County elections had begun to entertain the electors.

⁵ Ramsay, *Lancaster and York*, II. 326.

⁶ *Ibid.* II. 328.

Stafford :	Richard Harpour	..	..	(3)
	John Preston	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	James Norys	..	..	(5)
	Robert Hille	..	..	(6)

(1) SIR JOHN STANLEY. See Parl. 1447.

(2) (SIR) JOHN DELVES OF APEDALE AND OF DODDINGTON, CHESHIRE, M.P. Staffs 1467-8.

Born *c.* 1418; second son of John D. of the same, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1429) by Phillipa (Harcourt) (*d.* 1420). He succeeded his brother Richard D. in 1446. He married Helen, daughter of his guardian Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill, M.P.² Sheriff 1455-6, and J.P. 1463-71. He was leagued with the Egertons of Wrimehill, and was one of those who raided the lands of the Countess of Shrewsbury in 1465, hence he was probably a Yorkist of Warwick's faction. Though he was not one of those rebels, followers of Warwick, who were proscribed by King Edward on 25 April 1470; yet on 9 November 1470 he was appointed by King Henry, then under Warwick's tutelage, controller of the Great Customs and of the wool subsidy; about the same time he was again made sheriff, and on 24 February 1471 he was made joint warden of the Mint.³ He was still esquire when pricked for sheriff, but was certainly knighted before his death, probably on the eve of Tewkesbury fight. There he and his son were taken fighting, and both were beheaded after the battle, 6 May 1471.⁴ His lands at Apedale were forfeited after the battle, and were in the hands of Sir James Blount in 1475,⁵ and probably till 1483, when Parliament reversed the attainder of "John D. of Uttoxeter."⁶

(3) RICHARD HARPUR OF EPPING, ESSEX, M.P. Stafford 1467-8, 1472-5, Bletchingley 1477-8, Newcastle 1491-2, and possibly at other times.

¹ Parl. 1425.

² Parl. 1429.

³ P.R.

⁴ *Paston Letters*, *pace* Pink.

⁵ P.R.

⁶ Ramsay, *Lancaster and York*, II. 452.

Born *c.* 1430; second son of John H. of Rushall, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1464), by Eleanor (de Rushall).² Richard's elder brother was William H. of Rushall.³ He married Elizabeth Booth.⁴ He was a beneficiary under the Will of Anne, Duchess of Buckingham, proved 31 October 1480, and one of her Executors. We have seen that the Harpurs were of the Household of the Duke; when he fell at Northampton in 1460 they must have remained with the Duchess, and probably with her son, Sir Harry Stafford, the husband of "the Lady Margaret," Countess of Richmond, the mother of Henry VII. The chief agent of the Lady Margaret and of Sir Harry Stafford was Reginald Bray, M.P. for Newcastle in 1477-8. To this Sir Reginald Bray, our Richard Harpur leaves his cup with a silver gilt cover, and makes him one of his Executors. Harpur's election for Newcastle in 1491 was clearly due to Bray, then Chancellor of the Duchy; that he sat for Bletchingley, Surrey, in 1477 was due to the Stafford possession of that borough also, if one may judge from the Commonplace Book of Edward, Duke of Buckingham, 1507.⁵ Previously the Harpurs had always sat for Stafford. He died 22 October 1492.⁶

¹ Parl. 1419.

² Beetham's *Baronets* I. 277.

³ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁴ Shaw, *Staffs.* II. 64.

⁵ *Archeologia* XXV.

⁶ *Geneal.* N.S. XXVII. 243.

Will of RICHARD HARPOUR, Esquire, "of Epping, Essex," dated 9 June 1492, proved in P.C.C. (15 Dogett) 18 January, 1493. To be buried at Catton, Essex; to the church of Rushall 13/4*d.* and timber from the park of Wedgenoke for the repair of the steeple there; bequests to son John and wife Elizabeth; Catton Manor to wife for life, remainder in turns to sons Richard and John, and to nephew Humphrey (son of William Harpour his brother); Manor of Chambres in taile to sons Richard and John, and to nephew Christopher Congreve (son of Richard C. by Anne, sister of testator); other lands in Essex to Richard, remainder to John then to Nicholas Harpour his nephew (son of William); other remainders to Cornelius Harpour (also son of William). To Sir Reginald Bray his cup with a silver gilt cover. Named as Exors. :- wife Elizabeth, Sir Reginald Bray, brother William Harpour of Rushall.

(4) JOHN PRESTON, M.P. Stafford 1467-8.

Born *c.* 1412; possibly son of William P., M.P.¹ In this year (1467) Philip Preston, one of the Grooms of the Household to Anne, Duchess of Buckingham, was escheator for Staffordshire. John P. was a Serjeant and was appointed Groom to the Chandlery in 1450.² He is mentioned as suing for debt in Middlesex in 1465; and he is probably the John P. who escaped from prison in Norwich in 1478 with the connivance of the bishop; also the John P. "of London" who was pardoned in 1482 for all offences committed before 1479.³ Thomas Preston, M.P., may have been his brother.⁴

(5) JAMES NORYS (probably of Lancashire), M.P. Newcastle 1467-8, possibly 1470-1.

He is described as "armiger" in 1464, when he was being distrained by the sheriff.⁵ I think he was Lancastrian, for he was one of those proscribed by King Edward on 25 April 1470; and a man of this name in Lancashire was exempted from the general pardon in 1475.⁶ According to the Will of Henry VI, dated 12 March 1448, *John Norres*, King's Squire and Keeper of the Great Wardrobe 1445-6, was one of the feoffees for the foundation of Eton College, and a John Norris of Bray, Berks, was the follower of the Duke of Clarence, executed in 1468.⁷ James N. was perhaps the nominee in 1467 of Richard Fowler, then Chancellor of the Duchy.

(6) ROBERT HILL OF HOUNDHILL, M.P. Newcastle 1467-8, Stafford 1472-5, and possibly in 1469, 1483 (1), 1483 (3) or 1484 for either Borough.

He is first mentioned in Staffordshire in 1461,⁸ and is described as "of Marchington" (in which Houndhill lies) in

¹ Parl. 1426.² *P.R.*³ *P.R.*⁴ Parl. 1436-7.⁵ *S.C. IV. N.S. 131.*⁶ *P.R.*⁷ Ramsay, *Lancaster and York*, II. 332.⁸ *S.C. IV. N.S. 120.*

1472.¹ He was escheator 1463-4 and 1484-5; J.P. 1470-85. He seems to have been a son of Robert H.² (*d.* 1448), by Agnes, heiress of Houndhill. Married 1445 Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Woodford of Ashby Fobville, Leic., and had sons Robert and William to whom he granted lands at Marchington in 1469³. He was one of the commissioners appointed to enquire into the escheated lands of the Duke of Clarence in Staffordshire in 1478. In 1481 he established a Chantry of St. Catherine to pray for his soul and that of Elizabeth his wife. His granddaughter married in turn Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill, Sir John Draycot and Sir Edward Littleton, and her arms are in Horton Church. Hill also comes from the Duchy lands in Needwood, and may have been a Duchy nominee.

Parliament of 1469.

Summoned, by Writs of 10 August 1469 issued from Northampton after the King's capture by Warwick, to meet at York 22 September. But by Writs of 7 September Warwick prorogued it *sine die*, either because his position was becoming difficult or because the elections were going badly. Some few elections took place towards the end of August. No returns have been found except those for London and Lynn. As the Earl of Warwick was then in the Midlands, close to Staffordshire, and was strong there, returns were perhaps made for Staffordshire; probably Warwick's candidates would be Sir Edward Grey⁴ and Sir Walter Wrottesley.⁵ Sir John Stanley was the sheriff.

When this Parliament was summoned both Kings were in prison, a unique occasion. Robin of Redesdale's rising, backed by Warwick, had come south and defeated King Edward's Welsh at Edgcott, Northants, 26 July 1469. The King was taken a few days later. Sir John Sutton, Lord Dudley's son,

¹ S.C. IV. N.S. 184.

³ Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 86.

⁵ Parl. 1460.

² S.C. VI. i. N.S. 142.

⁴ Parl. 1470-1.

was one of the captains in Robin's Army, and was slain.¹ Humphrey Stafford, Lord Stafford of Southwick, whom Edward had made Earl of Devon on 17 May 1469, was caught after the battle and beheaded by Warwick, 17 August 1469.¹

The *Stafford Annals* relate under this year,—“9 Edward IV, Thomas Stafford taken prisoner by the Commons and slain. Humphrey Stafford of Southwicke made Earle of Devon.”²

¹ Ramsay, *Lancaster and York*, II. 338-343.

² Worswick's MSS. at the William Salt Library.

HENRY VI (RESTORED).

9 Oct. 1470.

Parliament of 1470-1.

Summoned, by Writs of 15 October, by the Earl of Warwick for King Henry VI, to meet 26 November 1470; sat till February 1471, and ended automatically on 27 March 1471 with the restoration of Edward IV. The returns, except those for London and Lynn, have all been lost, and were apparently obliterated. The Earl of Shrewsbury had helped in the restoration of Henry VI, and the Staffordshire sheriff was John Delves,¹ from the lands of the Duchy of Lancaster, a supporter of the restored Henry and one who paid for it with his life. Moreover the Privy Seal was given on 9 October 1470 to John Hales, Bishop of Lichfield.² Staffordshire would therefore be entirely on the side of the Coalition.

The Patent Rolls of 25 April 1470 contain the appointment of a Commission by Edward IV directed to seize the lands of the "rebels" then with Warwick and Clarence. Among those "rebels" are named:—Sir Walter Wrottesley,³ Sir Robert Strelley of Oxton, Co. Notts, Sir Edward Grey,⁴ Roger Draycot,⁵

¹ Parl. 1467-8.

² Ramsay, *Lancaster and York*, II. 360.

³ Parl. 1460.

⁴ SIR EDWARD GREY OF ASTLEY, WARWICKSHIRE (VISCOUNT LISLE), possibly M.P. 1469 or 1470-1. Born c. 1440; second son of Sir Edward G., Lord Ferrers of Groby (1415-1457). He was one of the knights of Warwick's Council in 1464, and was proscribed in 1470. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Talbot, Viscount Lisle, and their daughter and heiress Elizabeth married, in 1495, the celebrated Edmund Dudley. He was struck off the Staffordshire Bench after Bosworth. In 1475 Grey succeeded in his wife's right to the Barony of Lisle. Created Viscount Lisle by Richard III, 28 June 1483; died 17 July 1492, buried at Astley; Will proved in P.C.C. 1492. The wife of his elder brother, Sir John Grey (slain at St. Albans, 1461), became Queen of England in 1465.

⁵ Parl. 1459.

Henry Wrottesley,¹ and Thomas Stafford,² esquires; John Penne and James Noreys.³ Again—while Parliament was sitting—Sir John Gresley⁴ and William Mytton⁵ were added to the bench, December 1470. We may take it that all these men were the men of the Kingmaker; Grey and Wrottesley were on his Council. It is undoubtedly among these knights and squires that one must look for the knights of the shire in 1470. Noreys may again have been M.P. for Newcastle.

¹ HENRY WROTTESLEY, possibly M.P. 1469, 1470-1. Younger son of Hugh W. (*d.* 1464) and Thomassine (Gresley). Sheriff of Worcester 1460. Proclaimed a traitor 1470, and probably executed by Tiptoft at Southampton. For his elder brother, Sir Walter, see Parl. 1460.

² THOMAS STAFFORD, possibly M.P. 1469, 1470-1. I think he must be the Thomas S. taken by the Commons (rebels) and slain in 1469/70. Who he was I know not.

³ Parl. 1467-8.

⁴ Parl. 1450-1.

⁵ Parl. 1447.

EDWARD IV (RESTORED).

14 April 1471.

Parliament of 1472-5.

Summoned, by Writs of 19 August, to meet 6 October 1472; held seven Sessions; dissolved 14 March 1475. There were very numerous Sessions in a Parliament of two and a half years; perhaps now some of them would be merely adjournments, but Parliament was certainly prorogued. The Boroughs of Wenlock, Ludlow and Coventry received writs to this Parliament, an indication of a growing demand for seats.

On 18 August 1473 a Commission was appointed to enquire into the ancient estates of the Crown in Staffordshire. It consisted of:—Sir Thomas Littleton, Justice of the C.P., *Sir John Stanley*, Hugh Egerton, John Acton, John Harcourt. Richard Bagot, William Basset, Ralph Wolseley, 4th Baron of the Exchequer, Sir Roger Bayley, Justice of the K.B., *Robert Hille*, *John Wode*, William Harpour, Richard Peshall. It will be seen that a member from each constituency had a seat on this Commission.¹

Edmund Dudley was returned, though the eldest son of a peer; but Lord Dudley had been in command at the Tower when Henry VI was murdered;² his politics were sure. John Stanley was the leading Commoner of the County; Wood was a burgess; the others were of an official hue, more or less nominees, Paston being perhaps nominated by Richard Fowler, the Chancellor of the Duchy. One curious feature

¹ *P.R.* The Commn. of Array of March 1472 included the commoners: Sir John Stanley, Hugh Egerton, John Harpur, William Cumberland, John Acton, Richard Bagot, William Basset.

² Ramsay, *Lancaster and York*, II. 386.

about the six Staffordshire M.P.'s in this Parliament is that all but one seem to have been 42 years of age.

County :	Edmund Dudley	..	..	(1)
	John Stanley ¹	..	..	(2)
	returned by Sir Walter Griffith of Wichnor, sheriff, on 24 September 1472.			
Stafford :	Richard Harpour	..	..	(3)
	Robert Hille	..	..	(4)
	elected 24 September 1472.			
Newcastle :	William Paston	..	..	(5)
	John Wode	..	..	(6)
	elected 25 September 1472.			

(1) SIR EDMUND DUDLEY, Kt., M.P. Staffs 1472-5.

Born c. 1430; eldest son and heir of John Sutton, Lord Dudley (1400-87),² by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Berkeley and widow of Edward, Lord Charlton of Powys. Mention of him occurs in 1456; he was a knight by 1467; served at Drogheda, July 1468; Deputy Lieut. of Ireland 1470. He had a grant in 1473 "in consideration of the losses he had sustained in the king's service in England, Ireland and Wales."³

¹ To none of those named in the Staffordshire returns is any description such as *miles* or *armiger* or *generosus* attached. Descriptions are given in most of the returns, but not in the cases of counties Hereford, Hertford, Lancashire, Lincoln, Oxford, Nottingham, Stafford or Worcester, nor in the case of the Cinque Ports. Dudley we know was a knight. "John Stanley" might be Sir John Stanley, Kt., or his son John Stanley (1446-1508). I have little doubt that it was the former who was elected, otherwise some qualification such as "the younger" or "armiger" would have appeared. The two Commissions quoted confirm this.

² Lord Dudley's Will, dated 17 Aug. 1487, proved in *P.C.C.* undated (8 Miles), merely gives his goods at Dudley to his grandsons Edward and John, and names his Exors., the Chief Justice Sir William Huse, Sir Reginald Bray, John, Abbot of Westminster, John Jacson, John Ryngeley, Richard Stone and John Wulf.

³ *P.R.*

He died 6 July 1483,¹ *v.p.* He married (1) before 1457, Joyce, sister of John Tiptoft, 1st Earl of Worcester; (2) in or before 1465, Maud, daughter of Thomas, Lord Clifford, widow of Sir John Harrington, who had been slain at Wakefield in 1460. He was uncle of the celebrated Edmund Dudley, and father of Edward, 2nd Lord Dudley (1459-1532).

(2) SIR JOHN STANLEY. See Parl. 1447.

(3) RICHARD HARPUR. See Parl. 1467.

(4) ROBERT HILL. See Parl. 1467.

(5) WILLIAM PASTON OF NORFOLK, M.P. Newcastle 1472-5, Bedwin, Wilts, 1477-8.

Probably the William Paston born *c.* 1430; third son of William P., Justice of the C.P. (*d.* 1444). He would certainly be the Norfolk J.P. 1465-74, and is a very likely man to jump about in his constituencies.² He was doubtless a Lancastrian, through his marriage with the Duke of Somerset's daughter, Lady Anne Beaufort; and he was probably interested in Buckingham's rebellion in 1483 and in Henry VII's invasion, as were his friends Daubeney and Poynings. He is called "knight" in the Norfolk Visitation, and by other authorities, but was not. He was buried in the Church of the Grey Friars, London, 11 September 1496, as William P., "gent." His will^{*} was proved in *P.C.C.* as William P., "gent.," of Blackfriars, London, and Norfolk.³ His cousin, the Lady Margaret, whom

¹ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*. *Dudley*.

² John Paston, writing to a brother who was apparently in the House (evidently this William), says: "God send you . . . rather the Devyll into the Parlement House . . . we sey then ye shold grante eny moe taskys" (*Paston Letters* III. 82).

³ The Will of WILLIAM PASTON of London, gent., dated 7 September 1496, proved in *P.C.C.* 28 November 1496.

To be buried in Blackfriars by his late wife Lady Anne. He provides for his daughters Agnes and Elizabeth, but most of his will is taken up with safeguarding his servant Thomas Andrews, who has been with him 19 years and knows his mind on all things. His goods in "Warwike

he names as one of his executors, probably found him his seat at Newcastle. Fowler, the Chancellor of the Duchy, is also frequently mentioned in the *Paston Letters*. None of my predecessors had ever such distinguished executors as had this "gent." of Blackfriars.

(6) JOHN WOOD OF KEELE, M.P. Newcastle 1472-5.

Born c. 1430; son and heir of John W. of the same, M.P.¹ He was J.P. Staffs. 1465-74.² He is to be distinguished from John Wood, M.P. for Sussex, who was Speaker in 1483 (1). I cannot find him in the records after 1474, and he probably died soon after the close of the Parliament.

Parliament of 1477-8.

Summoned to meet 11 December 1477; met 16 January 1478; dissolved 26 February 1478. Parliament attainted the Duke of Clarence, for which purpose it was called together.

Those on the Commission appointed in 1478 to enquire into the escheated lands in Staffordshire of the late Duke of Clarence were: Hugh Egerton, Peter Beaupie, John Harcourt, John Worsley, William Harpour, George Stanley, and Robert Hill.³ There is not one M.P. among them.

Of the Members returned to this Parliament I think both the Newcastle members were nominees, but the Stafford M.P.'s come now from the best families, and the independence and high position of the Knights of the Shire could not be improved upon. Nevertheless all four of the armigerous M.P.'s were not the heads of their houses, but all eldest sons returned in the lifetime of their fathers.

June" and in "my place called Caste Close" in Norfolk and "in my place" in Norwich to be sold.

Exors. :—My Lord Cardinal, my Lady the King's mother, Lord Daubeney, Sir Edward Poynyng my nephew (*see D.N.B.*).

¹ Parl. 1425.

² S.C. VII. N.S. 255.

³ P.R.

County :	John Ferrers, armiger	(1)
	John Bagot, armiger	(2)
	returned 11 December 1477 by Richard Bagot, sen., of Blithfield, sheriff.	
Stafford :	John Eggerton, armiger .. .	(3)
	Thomas Gresley, armiger ..	(4)
	elected 11 December 1477.	
Newcastle :	William Yonge	(5)
	Reynold Bray	(6)
	elected 11 December 1477.	

(1) SIR JOHN FERRERS, Kt. (OF TAMWORTH), M.P. Staffs 1477-8,
? 1483, ? 1484.

According to the *Paston Letters* and to Shaw's *Knights*, "Sir John Ferrers" was knighted on Tewkesbury field, 4 May 1471.¹ His son, Sir John F., was aged 34 at his grandfather's death in 1498, and cannot therefore have been the knight of 1471. Hence either the "Paston Letters" or the 1477 Return, which calls him *armiger*, must be wrong; I think the Return wrong and the "Letters" right. He is also described as "Sir" in the Commissions of the Peace.

Born *c.* 1440; eldest son and heir of Sir Thomas F. of the same (a Yorkist in December 1460,² *d.* 1498), by Anne, sister of William, Lord Hastings, the Lord Chamberlain 1461-83, who was murdered by Richard III.³ He married Maud, daughter

¹ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

² *P.R.*

³ George Grazebrook, in his *Henry, Earl of Richmond*, p. 20, says—"Sir Thomas Ferrers was then (17 August 1485), owner of Tamworth and did not die till 22 August 1498. He had been on the Commission of the Peace up to 1483, but in the Commission issued in December in that year, four months after Richard had seized the crown, his name disappears from that honour—that is he had fallen under suspicion. Previous to that he had been a staunch Yorkist. He had married Anna, daughter of Leonard Hastings of Kirby and sister of William, Lord Hastings. He had inherited Tamworth from his mother Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Baldwin de Frevile. On 13 June 1483, ten

of Sir John Stanley of Elford, M.P.¹ He was J.P. for Staffs 1477-83. In 1481 he was appointed guardian to Walter, son and heir of Sir Walter Gryffith of Wichnor. His father appears to have been removed from the Bench by Richard III after Hastings' murder; and in December, after Buckingham's rising, Sir John also was removed, but in 1484 he had a grant of 40 *m.* a year for life from the same King.² Soon after this he must have died *v.p.*, leaving a son and heir, afterwards Sir John F., M.P.³ His tomb is, or was, in Lichfield Cathedral with this inscription "*Joh. Ferrers miles fil Th . . . Ferrers et Annae ux . . . filiae Hastings miles et Matilda filia . . . Stanley ejus ux. . .*"

Mr. Pink says the father's knighthood is nowhere recorded in Lists of Knights (all most imperfect and unreliable), but his Will was proved in 1498 as "Sir Thomas Ferrers Knight."⁴

days before his usurpation, Richard III had beheaded William, Lord Hastings. Sir Thomas was suspect. . . He could not "conspire," for he kept only a few retainers, and if Henry of Richmond failed (in the Bosworth expedition) their fewness would show that he could not defend his castle against so overwhelming a force. We do not know whether Ferrers was still a Yorkist or not. Henry of Richmond knew that these cannon (at Tamworth Castle) would be of value to them, and he sent an overwhelming force accordingly, some miles out of their way, to seize them, and went himself the next morning to be sure all was right.

¹ Parl. 1447.

² *P.R.*

³ Parl. 1495-6.

⁴ The Will of Sir Thomas Ferrers, Kt., dated 10 February 1496/7, proved in *P.C.C.* 20 October 1498.

To be buried on the north side of the collegiate church of Tamworth beside his wife Anne, and a marble slab with images of himself and children to be erected.

Makes gifts to the Church of Walton and for the repairing the Lady Bridge, the Bolle Bridge, Faseslaie Bridge and Hoppas Bridge.

Masses to be sung for the souls of his father and mother and son John.

Mentions and makes bequests to :—sons, Sir Thomas Gresley, Kt., Leonard Ferrers, Roger Ferrers, Sir Rafe Ferrers deyne of Thamworth, William Ferrers and a daughter Margaret who is to have £40 from the Lord Ormonde.

To John Ferrers my heir £20 and my castle of Tamworth.

(2) JOHN BAGOT OF BLITHFIELD, M.P. Staffs 1477-8.

Born 1436 ; son and heir of Richard B. of the same (*d.* 1485) by Isabel (Aston). He married (1) before 1460 Isabel, daughter of John Curzon of Essex and widow of John Eyton ; she died in 1480 and he married (2) Agnes Kniveton.¹ It will be observed that he was returned to Parliament 'by his own father. During his father's lifetime he lived at Field, and he died in 1499. He was never on the Bench, and held no office. As his father was removed from the Bench after Buckingham's rising, the Bagots were probably both implicated in that affair.

(3) JOHN EGERTON OF WRIMEHILL AND CHEDDLETON, M.P. Stafford 1477-8, and possibly 1510, 1512-4.

Born *c.* 1454 (aged 50 at his father's death) ; eldest son and heir of Hugh E. of the same (*d.* 1505),² by Mary (*d.* 1499), daughter of John Dutton of Dutton, Cheshire. Mention of him occurs as rioting against the Wolsleys in 1466 in company with the Stanleys ; in July 1509 he was made steward of the escheated estates of Lord Audley ;³ he was J.P. 28 November 1509 to 18 October 1514 ; sheriff 1511-2 ; escheator 1515-6. He died leaving coheireses in 1518. He was succeeded at Wrimehill and Cheddleton by his brother Ralph. He married (1) 1475, — Cotes ; (2) 1478, Alice, daughter of Sir John Gresley and sister of his colleague at Westminster at that time ; (3) 1507, Eleanor, daughter of Sir Randle Brereton.

(4) (SIR) THOMAS GRESLEY OF COLTON, M.P. Stafford, 1477-8, and probably at other times for the counties of Stafford and Derby.

Born 1455 ; son and heir of Sir John G. of Drakelow, M.P.⁴ (*d.* 1487), by Anne, daughter of Thomas Stanley of Elford, M.P.⁵

Exors. :—Leonard and Roger Ferrers.

Overseers :—Sir Rafe ——— (?), Kt., Sir Thomas Gresley, Kt., John Ferrers, my heir. (P.C.C. 25 *Horne.*)

¹ S.C. XI. N.S. 60-4.

² Parl. 1483 (1).

³ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

⁴ Parl. 1450-1.

⁵ Parl. 1422.

He was knighted 1487/8; sheriff of Staffordshire 1489-90, 1497-8; he died 26 January 1504.¹ He married *c.* 1474 Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Ferrers of Tamworth and sister of his colleague Sir John, by whom he had issue.² Will proved in *P.C.C.* 1504.³ For his son, Sir George, see *Parl.* 1536.

(5) WILLIAM YOUNGE, M.P. Newcastle 1477-8.

Perhaps a second son of John Yonge of Charnes, mention of whom occurs in 1473,⁴ by Margaret, who was living and probably a widow in 1475. The contemporary Yonge of Caynton, Salop, was Sir William. But Yonge is named before Bray, and Bray was already a man of importance. No mere burgess would be named before him (unless the second place was sent up blank to be filled in at Westminster). I am inclined to look for Yonge anywhere in England as a second Duchy nominee.

(6) (SIR) REYNOLD BRAY (K.B., K.G.), M.P. Newcastle 1477-8, Southampton 1491-2, in 1495-6, and probably at other times, for these or other places.

Born *c.* 1440; son of Richard Bray of Worcester, Surgeon, by Jane (Troughton). He was receiver general and steward to Sir Henry Stafford, younger son of the first Duke of Buckingham, from about 1465. Sir Henry married (1457/60) Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond, mother

¹ *I.p.m.*

² *S.C. I. N.S.* 61-4.

³ Will of SIR THOMAS GRESLEY, *Kt.*, signed 25 January 1503/4, proved 26 April 1504:—To be buried in Gresley Monastery; provision of £40 a year out of specified estates to fulfil a covenant of marriage with Sir William Vernon, between Sir William's son and Gresley's daughter Benet, and for the marriage portions of his daughters Elyn and Mary; 10 marks a year for each of his sons John, George, Robert and James for life; bequests to a priest to sing masses for him for a whole year; Dame Anne Gresley to have all his purchased estates for life. Exors:—Sir George Hastings, the widow, and Dan Robert, priest of Gresley. Witnesses:—Geoffrey Willers, *esq.*, and John Laugharn, *gent.* (*7 Holgrave.*)

⁴ *S.C.* 1914, 27; *ibid.* IV. N.S. p. 201.

of Henry VII. On Sir Henry's death, 1481,¹ Bray continued in the service of "the Lady Margaret" and in that of her third husband, Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby, and either connection would suffice to account for his return for Newcastle in 1477. He assisted in the invasion and was knighted at Bosworth; he was made K.B. on Henry's coronation; Banneret at Blackheath, 17 June 1497; K.G. in 1501; Privy Councillor and Chancellor of the Duchy, 13 September 1485 till death. He was a trustee for Lady Margaret in 1472, and executor for John, Lord Dudley, in 1487. But his chief fame rests on his buildings. He designed and erected, among other works, St. George's Chapel at Windsor, and died full of honours 5 August 1503.² It was at one time customary to include Bray among the Speakers. But it is now generally accepted that he was not Speaker of the Commons, but President or *Prolocutor* of a Great Council at Westminster, 24 October, 1496, consisting of Lords Spiritual and Temporal, Serjeants-at-Law, and Merchants from the principal cities and boroughs. It was almost but not quite a Parliament.³

¹ Geo. Grazebrook, *Henry E. of Richmond*, p. 6.

² See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, where, however, the fact that he was M.P. in 1477-8, 1491-2, and probably in every Parliament between 1475 and 1503, is not mentioned. Also they call him "Lord High Treasurer," which Mr. Beaven shows he was not; indeed the office itself is more often called "Treasurer of the Exchequer," and Bray did not hold it. Will proved in *P.C.C.* 1503.

³ Dasent: *Speakers of the House of Commons*, p. 108; O. Barron, *Ancestor VI* 2-10.

Will of SIR REYNOLD BRAY, Kt., dated 4 August 1502, proved 1503. To be buried in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. He leaves much money for masses, for completing St. George's Chapel, for the Friary at Guildford where his mother Joan lies buried; masses for his father Richard Bray; his wife Katherine was still alive. His manors, Southmorton and Staunden, Berks, Southhering and Rogate, Sussex, and Chelheath, Middlesex, he leaves to his wife for life, reversion to his younger nephews (Edward and Reynold Bray). His brother John Bray (the younger) appears to have been dead, leaving three sons, the eldest being Edmund (afterwards Baron of Eaton-Bray), all under 21. The two younger of these three are to marry Elizabeth and Agnes,

Parliament of 1483 (I).

Summoned, by Writs of 15 November 1482, to meet 20 January 1483. No Returns are found, except in the local records for London, Southampton¹ and Lynn. The Staffordshire sheriff was Nicholas Montgomery of Caverswall and of Cubley, Derbyshire.

This Parliament levied a tax on aliens. Immediately after the King's death on 9 April 1483 Commissioners were appointed to assess the subsidy from the aliens. The Commissioners on the Staffordshire list are :—William, Lord Hastings, the Lord Chamberlain ; Sir John Gresley of Drakelow,² Sir John Ferrers of Tamworth,³ Hugh Egerton of Wrimehill,⁴ William Basset of

daughters of Henry Lovett, wards of Sir Reynold's, if they are to inherit the manors. His manor of Fryfolk, Hants, to his nephew Richard Andrews and Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heir of John Rogers. Other relatives whom he remembers are, niece Margery wife of Sir William Sandys, Kt. (afterwards Lord Sandes of the Vine), and nephew Robert the son of his sister Jane Isaak, and Jane Robert's wife, daughter of John Ottvy, who has £21 a year. He also leaves 40 *m.* a year for the Dean and Canons of St. George's to endow a perpetual charity for old men and old women.

Exors. :—William Smyth, bishop of Lincoln, John Shaa, Kt., Richard Empson, Master Hugh Oldom, clerk, Symound Digby, Humphrey Connyngesby, William Cooper, John Cutte and Nicholas Compton.

Witnesses :—Master William Atkinson, D.D., Thomas Stacey, clerk, William Heydon, Mr. Fraunces the phisition, Mr. Lenacres the phisition, Fraunces Hampden, gent., John Webbe, Richard Greene, George Hank, Thomas Glastenbury. (*P.C.C. Blamyr 26.*)

¹ Davies' *Hist. of Southampton*, *pace* Mr. Beaven.

² Parl. 1450.

³ Parl. 1477.

⁴ HUGH EGERTON OF WRIMEHILL AND CHEDDLETON, possibly M.P. Staffs 1483, 1484, 1485-6, 1487-8, 1489-90, 1495-6. Born 1426 ; eldest son and heir of Ralph E. of the same, M.P. 1429-30 (*d.* 1452/3) by Elizabeth (Mainwaring). He married Mary or Margaret (*d.* 1499), daughter of John Dutton of Dutton, Cheshire. He was sheriff 1458-9, 1476-7 ; except that K. Richard struck him off the Bench after Buckingham's rebellion, he was J.P. on all the Commissions 1471-1508, but entered on the last by mistake as he died 28 April 1505 (*I.p.m.*). Apparently he was Mayor of Newcastle 1491-2 and 1501-2. For his son, John E., M.P., see Parl. 1477.

Blore,¹ Ralph Wolseley, 4th Baron of the Exchequer,² William Harpur,³ Robert Hill of Houndhill⁴ and Robert Bayley, Justice of the King's Bench. I have little doubt but that the names of the M.P.'s for the county at least are to be found among the Commissioners for Staffordshire, probably two of the four:—Gresley, Ferrers, Egerton and Basset. Harpur and Hill may have sat for one of the Boroughs.

¹ WILLIAM BASSET OF BLORE AND GRENDON, AND OF LANGLEY, DERBYSHIRE, possibly M.P. Staffs 1483, as he appears on the list of Commissioners appointed to assess the subsidy; also possibly 1485-6, 1487-8, 1489-90. Born *c.* 1430; son and heir of William B. of the same and of Parkhall in Cheadle (*d.* 1456/65). He married Jane, daughter and coheir of Richard, son of Sir John Biron. (S.C. IV. N.S. 210, and III. 44-8.) He was a J.P. 1471 till June 1483, in December 1483 (after Buckingham's rising) he was restored to the Bench and again removed in February 1484. J.P. again 1485-97. He was sheriff 1465-6, 1472-3, 1480-1. He or his father was on the Commission of Array, evidently Yorkist, in 1460 (*P.R.*). He died 17 November 1498, and was succeeded by his second son William, then aged 24 (*I.p.m.*; see also Parl. 1515 for Sir William the son).

² Parl. 1449.

³ WILLIAM HARPUR OF RUSHALL, possibly M.P. 1483, 1484, 1485-6, 1487-8, 1489-90 or 1495-6. Born *c.* 1425; eldest son and heir of John H. (M.P. Parl. 1419) of the same (*d.* 1464), and elder brother of Richard H., M.P. (Parl. 1467-8). He was removed from the Bench after Buckingham's rising, but restored in March 1485 by K. Richard. He disappears from the Commission of the Peace during 1502, when he probably died. His granddaughter took Rushall to the Leighs.

⁴ Parl. 1467.

EDWARD V.

9 April 1483.

Parliament of 1483 (2).

Summoned, by Writs of 13 May 1483, to meet on 25 June 1483; revoked by Writs of *supersedeas* 16 and 17 June, owing to the sudden termination of the reign. Many elections had taken place earlier in June, and owing to the Writs of *supersedeas* not reaching the constituencies in time, a number of members arrived in London, and the Parliament is stated actually to have met on the day appointed; but of course nothing was done. The only known return is that for London.

RICHARD III.

26 June 1483.

Parliament of 1483 (3).

Summoned, by Writs issued in October, to meet 6 November 1483; but Writs of *supersedeas* were issued shortly afterwards owing to Buckingham's insurrection. Some elections took place in October, but only that for London is known.¹ The sheriff of Staffordshire was Nicholas Montgomery of Cubley, Derbyshire, appointed 5 November 1482. He was succeeded by Sir Thomas Wortley of Sheffield on 6 November 1483. On 1 November Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was brought in a prisoner by John Mytton, sheriff of Salop, summarily tried and executed.² John Harcourt was one of the followers of the Duke, and was punished in the 1484 Parliament.³ If any members were elected for Staffordshire they would probably be followers of the Duke, who was also Steward of the Duchy. Those removed from the Bench in December 1483, and therefore probably adherents of the Duke, were Sir John Ferrers, Hugh Egerton, William Harpur and Richard Bagot.⁴

¹ *Ex inf.* Pink.² Ramsay, *Lancaster and York*, II. 506.³ *Ibid.*, II., 517.⁴ P.R.

Parliament of 1484.

Summoned, by Writs of 9 December 1483, to meet 23 January 1484; dissolved 20 February 1484. The Speaker was Sir William Catesby who was beheaded on Bosworth Field. Lord Audley was in favour with Richard III and was appointed one of the Triers of Petitions in this Parliament.

This is the only Parliament of Richard III. No returns have been found except those for London, Southampton and Lynn. The Staffordshire sheriff was Sir Thomas Wortley of Sheffield.

During the election, on 5 December 1483, Richard issued a Commission of the Peace. For Staffordshire there were:—The Duke of Norfolk, the Lords Lisle, Dudley, Grey of Codnor, and Mountjoy; Sir John Gresley,¹ Sir Nicholas Montgomery,² Ralph Wolseley,³ Robert Hill,⁴ William Basset,⁵ and John Aston⁶ who died probably before the date of the Commission. Further names were added 18 February 1484, two days before the dissolution:—Humphrey Peshale,⁷ William

¹ Parl. 1450-1.

² SIR NICHOLAS MONTGOMERY OF CAVERSWALL AND OF CUBLEY, DERBYSHIRE, possibly M.P. Staffs 1484. Son and heir of Sir Nicholas M. of the same, M.P. Co. Derby 1414, 1416 (*d.* 1435) by Margaret, daughter and heir of Reynold Dethick. He married Jane, daughter of Sir Nicholas Longford. Sheriff, 1478-9, 1483. K.B. at the creation of Arthur Prince of Wales 1489. He was removed from the Bench after Bosworth, and he died 1494 and was succeeded by his son Sir John. His daughter Ann married Sir Lewis Bagot (Parl. 1510). The Montgomerys had inherited Caverswall Castle from the Caverswalls about 1400.

³ Parl. 1449.

⁴ Parl. 1467.

⁵ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁶ John Aston could not have sat in this Parliament as he died in 1483, and he doubtless appears on the Commission in error.

⁷ HUMPHREY PESHALE OF HOPTON, CALDON AND KNIGHTLEY, probably M.P. Staffs 1484. Erdeswick says (*Harwood, Erdeswick*, 129): "Humphrey, third son of Sir Thomas P. of Horseley by his second wife Alice, daughter and heiress of Roger Gnosall, of Knightley, had issue Richard, who had issue Humphrey."

This Humphrey was born *c.* 1430. His father, Richard P., described

Wilkes,¹ Richard Wrottesley.² Again a Commission of Array was issued in May 1484 to :—Lord Dudley, Sir Thomas Wortley, Humphrey Peshale, Nicholas Montgomery, Ralph Wolseley, Robert Hill and William Wilkes. It looks to me as though

as “late of Knightley,” was recently dead in 1458 (S.C. IV. N.S. 109), and Humphrey is mentioned as “of Alstonefield,” *i.e.*, of Caldon, in 1459. His grandfather, the first Humphrey, had married Maud Swynnerton, heiress of Hopton and Tean. Knightley he got from his great grandmother, and he is called “of Knightley” in 1469 (S.C. IV. N.S. 126). He married (1) Anne, daughter of Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill, M.P. (see Parl. 1429–30) (S.C. XII. N.S. 144); (2) Lettice (*d.* 1502), sister to Sir Robert Harcourt, Kt., and he settled on her and her issue by him his manors of Knightley, Hopton, Tean, Caldon and Waterfall, to the disherison of his eldest son. The marriage would have been made after Bosworth (at which Harcourt bore the standard), and the terms were perhaps forced on Peshale.

He served as sheriff, 1463–4; J.P. 1484–5, being removed after Bosworth Field. In 1460 and 1484 he was on the Commission of Array, and he died early in 1498 (l.p.m.). His son and heir, Hugh, had issue, an only daughter Catherine, who married Sir John Blount of Kinlet, Salop, and was by him mother of Elizabeth Blount, mistress of Henry VIII. He must be distinguished from his distant cousin Humphrey Peshale of Horsley (see Parl. 1497).

¹ WILLIAM WILKES OF AUTHERLEY, possibly M.P. 1484, 1485–6, 1487–8, 1489–90, 1495–6 or 1504. Born *c.* 1440; according to Shaw he was son of Richard W. of the same by Julian, daughter and heiress of William Wilkes (Shaw, *Staffs* II. 149). William Wilkes is described as “of Alderley” (? Autherley) in 1460. He was J.P. 1484–1504; protonotary of the Court of Common Pleas; and attorney for the Lord Dudley and others, 1465–85. He died in 1507. By his Will, dated 10 October 1505, and proved 20 October 1507 in *P.C.C.*, he directs that he be buried in St. Paul’s, Wolverhampton, and that his sons “Sir” Roger and “Sir” James W. are to pray for him with money that sends them to Cambridge. His eldest son George gets silver and goods “after the custom of Wolverhampton.” But the Will is all in favour of his second son Richard, who gets the lands at “Aldurley” and 26s. 8*d.* a year from his lands at Willenhall, Bentley, Great Bloxwich and Wednesfield. Exors. :—“Sir” William Foxall, “Sir” James Wilkes, Richard Wilkes. Overseers :—Edward, Lord Dudley, and Richard Wrottesley. It was of this stock that came the Member for Middlesex, famous for “Wilkes and Liberty” (S.C. V. ii. 318–9).

² Parl. 1497.

Peshale and Wilkes were very likely to have been M.P.'s; but Wolseley may have been so also, for though he was a Baron of the Exchequer, he might have sat in Parliament as other Barons had done.

HENRY VII.

22 Aug. 1485.

Parliament of 1485-6.

Summoned, by Writs of 15 September, to meet 7 November 1485; held two sessions; dissolved early in March 1486. This last date is supplied by Mr. Pink from an MS. in the York Archives, wherein it is stated that their two members set out from York in November 1485, returned 28 December 1485, went again in January and returned 10 March 1486.¹

No returns, except those for London, Southampton and Lynn, have been found. The Staffordshire sheriff was Sir Humphrey Stanley of Pipe; and beside him the following commoners were included in the Commission of the Peace, issued, shortly after Bosworth Field, 27 September 1485:—Sir John Gresley,² Sir Hugh Peshale,³ William Basset,⁴ Hugh Egerton,⁵ Richard

¹ Pollard, *Reign of Henry VII*, says "about February."

² Parl. 1450-1.

³ SIR HUGH PESHALE OF HORSLEY, possibly M.P. Staffs 1485-6 or 1487-8. Born *c.* 1425; son of Nicholas P. (and grandson of Sir Thomas P. of the same), by Helen, daughter of Hugh de Malpas. He married Julian Corbet. Knighted on Bosworth field 25 August 1485 (Shaw, *Knights*); he was J.P. September 1485-9, and sheriff 1488-9; dying during his term of office (Harwood, *Erdeswick* 129), in 1489, being succeeded by his son Humphrey (Parl. 1497). His Will, dated 15 February 1489, proved in *P.C.C.* 12 September 1489, is remarkable because he calls Sir Humphrey Stanley "brother." He makes bequests to two "bastard" daughters and to two "natural" daughters whom he entrusts to the custody of his wife Isabel (not Julian). Residue to Isabel and she sole Executrix. Overseers:—Sir Humphrey Stanley "my brother," Nicholas Agard and William Wynnesbury. There is no mention at all of his son Humphrey.

⁴ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁵ Parl. 1483 (1).

OF (SHREWSBURY).
Castle.

BISHOPS OF LICHFIELD.
Eccleshall Castle.

mas Nevill.)

n.)
-1406.

(1386 Richard Scrope.)

1398 John Brughill.

t, Ld. Furnival of
1453.

1400-87.

1415 John Catricke.

1420 William Heyworth.

as Ld. Talbot.)

f Shrewsbury.)

1447 William Bothe.

1460.

1452 Nicholas Cloose.
1453 Reginald Bolars.

1473.

1459 John Halse.

1538.

1492 William Smith.

1496 John Arundell.

1503 Geoffrey Blythe.

Never summoned to Pa

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⁴ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁵ Parl. 1483 (1).

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLES OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE PEERAGE—FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

[To face p. 272

STAFFORD (BUCKINGHAM). <i>Stafford Castle.</i>	CHANCELLORS OF THE DUCHY. <i>Newcastle and Tullbury.</i>	FERRERS—DEVEREUX. <i>Charley Castle.</i>	FURNIVAL—TALBOT (SHREWSBURY). <i>Alton Castle.</i>	STANLEY (EARLS OF DERBY).	TOUCHEY—ADDLEY. <i>Heltegh Castle.</i>	SUTTON—DUDLEY. <i>Dudley Castle.</i>	BISHOPS OF LICHFIELD. <i>Eccleshall Castle.</i>
		(1367 Robert de Ferrers.*)	(1383 Thomas Nevill)	(Sir John Stanley.* 1350-1414.)	(1391 John Touchet.)	(1370 John de Sutton.) 1396 John de Sutton.* -1406	(1386 Richard Scrope.) 1398 John Brughall.
1400 1403 Humphrey, 1402-1460.	1399 William Burgoyne. 1404 Sir Thomas Stanley.		1406 John Talbot, Ld. Furnival of Alton, c. 1385-1453.			1406 John, Lord Dudley, 1400-87.	
1410	1410 John Springthorpe. 1413 John Woodhouse.	1413 Edmund, 1389-1435.*		1414 John,* ?-1437.	1408 James, 1397/8-1459.		1415 John Catricke.
1420	1424 William Troutbecke.		(1421 succ. as Ld. Talbot.)				1420 William Heyworth.
1430	1431 Walter Sherrington.	1435 William, 1412-1450.*		1437 Thomas, 1406-1459.		(1440 Lord Dudley.)	
1440	1442 William Tresham.		(1442 Earl of Shrewsbury.)				1447 William Bothe.
1450	1449 John Say.	1450 Anne, b. 1438. married to	1453 John, 1413-1460.	(1456 Lord Stanley.) 1459 Thomas, 1435-1504.	1459 John, c. 1425-1490.		1452 Nicholas Cloose. 1453 Reginald Bolars.
1460	1462 Richard Fowler.	1461 Walter Devereux, c. 1430-1485.	1460 John, 1448-1473.				1459 John Halse.
1470			1473 George, 1468-1538.				
1480	1477 Sir John Say (again) 1478 Thomas Thwaites. 1483 Thomas Metcalfe. 1485 Sir Reginald Bray.	1485 John, 1463-1501.		(1485 Earl of Derby.)		1487 Edward, 1457-1531.	
1490					1490 James, 1462/3-1497. 1497 attainted till 1512.		1492 William Smith. 1496 John Arundell.
1500	1504 Sir John Mordant.						1503 Geoffrey Blythe.

* Never summoned to Parliament.

Wrottesley,¹ William Harpur,² William Wilkes³ and John Blount.⁴ From among these the county M.P.'s may well have been chosen. The Stanleys, Peshale, Egerton and Blount had been added to the Bench by Henry VII, that is, by the Stanleys, then all-powerful in Staffordshire.⁵ Sometime indeed after the dissolution, on 17 November 1486, a Commission to enquire into escheated estates was appointed:—Sir Humphrey Stanley, Ralph Wolseley, William Harpur and the sheriff;⁶ so we might perhaps add Wolseley to the list of possible candidates.

Parliament of 1487-8.

Summoned, by Writs of 1 September, to meet 9 November 1487; dissolution unknown, but after November 1488,⁷ according to Mr. Pink. This Parliament instituted the Court of the Star Chamber. No returns have been found except for the above-named Boroughs. The Staffordshire sheriff who made the returns was probably Sir Henry Willoughby of

¹ Parl. 1497.

² Parl. 1483 (1).

³ Parl. 1484.

⁴ JOHN BLOUNT OF BURTON-ON-TRENT, possibly M.P. 1485-6, 1487-8, 1489-90, 1495-6, 1497, 1504 or 1510. Born *c.* 1450; son of Thomas B. of Burton, by Agnes, daughter and heiress of John Billington (S.C. VII. N.S. 272). He married Eleanor, daughter of John Hall of Dovebridge, Derby, and had two sons, Thomas the elder and Walter of Blounts Hall (Parl. 1542-4). This Blount was probably the builder of Blounts Hall by Uttoxeter. He was J.P. 1485 till his death in 1524, and may very likely have sat for Newcastle.

⁵ At Stafford Sir William Stanley, who had three thousand "red coats" with his livery of the hart's head not far away, came to an understanding with the invader (Henry VII). Henry had a further interview with him and his brother, Lord Stanley, at Atherstone, two days before the battle of Bosworth. (*D.N.B.*, Sir William Stanley.)

⁶ *P.R.*

⁷ "Apparently before Christmas," Pollard, *Henry VII.*

Wollaton, Notts. The Bench¹ now consisted of :—Sir Humphrey Stanley,² Sir Hugh Peshale,³ William Basset,⁴ Hugh Egerton,⁵ Richard Wrottesley,⁶ Ralph Wolseley,⁷ William Harpur,⁸ William Wilkes,⁹ John Blount¹⁰ and Roger Preez.¹¹

But immediately after the dissolution, on 23rd December 1488, the following were put on the Commission of Musters :—The Earls of Shrewsbury and Derby, Sir John Savage,¹² Sir James

¹ On 19 February 1487, before the summoning of this Parliament, Sir Humphrey Stanley, Sir Nicholas Montgomery, William Wilkes and John Harcourt were empowered to enquire into Lord Mountjoy's lands in Staffordshire (*P.R.*).

² Parl. 1491-2.

³ Parl. 1485-6.

⁴ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁵ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁶ Parl. 1497.

⁷ Parl. 1449.

⁸ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁹ Parl. 1484.

¹⁰ Parl. 1485-6.

¹¹ ROGER PREEZ (*alias* PRAERS) OF KING'S BROMLEY AND BADDILEY, CHESHIRE, possibly M.P. 1487-8, 1489-90, 1495-6, 1497 or 1504. Son of William P. who bought King's Bromley from Corbet in 1466 and died 1481/4 (*S.C.* 1910. 197; VI. N.S. 132). He was a J.P. from 1487 till his death in 1508; and left a sister Alice, heir to King's Bromley, and mother of Thomas Partriche. (Parl. 1510.) His Will, dated 30 September 1506, proved in *P.C.C.* 19 July 1508, leaves his lands in "the Nampewiche" to Thomas Partriche, "my nere kinsman"; lands in Lichfield, Curboro', Elmhurst, to wife Margery for life, reversion to Partriche; lands in Ticknall, Derb., to wife for life, reversion to John Blount of Burton and Thomas his son. To Margaret Arblaster, daughter of Richard Arblaster, 20 *m.* He was a lawyer, for he leaves to Partriche "my booke of entrez of pleez with all other my bokes concernyng the common lawe." Exors. :—Margery wife, John, Abbot of Croxden, Thomas Partriche, John Blount and "Sir" Henry Hey chaplain.

¹² SIR JOHN SAVAGE OF CLIFTON, CHESHIRE, AND OF RUSHTON SPENCER, possibly M.P. Staffs 1487-8 or 1489-90. Born *c.* 1450; eldest son and heir of Sir John S. of the same (*d.* 22 Nov. 1495), and elder brother of Sir Humphrey S., the M.P. for Staffs in 1491-2. Knighted 1465; a knight of the body by 1483; Mayor of Chester 1484-5. He was in favour with Richard III, but joined the Stanleys at Bosworth, where he commanded the Left Wing. K.G. 1488; slain, refusing to surrender, at Boulogne, October 1492. He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Ralph Vernon of Haddon. (*D.N.B.*).

Blount,¹ Sir Humphrey Stanley,² Sir Henry Willoughby,³ Hugh Egerton,⁴ Humphrey Swynnerton.⁵ The County and possibly some of the Borough M.P.'s may well be among the above-named personages.

Parliament of 1489-90.

Summoned to meet 13 January 1489; held three sessions; dissolved 27 February 1490. Most of the elections must have taken place in 1488. No official returns have been found, but the M.P.'s for Reading, Ipswich, Salisbury, Southampton and several others are known. The speaker was Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam for Yorkshire. The sheriff of Staffordshire was Sir Hugh Peshale of Horsley, who died during the year. There had been no additions to the Bench since 1487, but two other Commissions appointed during the sitting of Parliament may guide us to the names of the Members. The Gaol Delivery Commission (such a Commission is usually a Committee of the Justices) appointed 10 June 1489, consisted of:—Sir Humphrey Stanley,⁶ George Stanley,⁷ Hugh Erdeswick,⁸ William

¹ SIR JAMES BLOUNT, possibly M.P. Staffs 1487-8 or 1489-90, third son of Walter B., first Lord Mountjoy, *d.* 1474. He was Lieutenant of Hammes Castle 1476; landed with Henry VII and was knighted 1485; Bannerett at Stoke, 9 June 1487; died 1493. (*D.N.B.*). He had in keeping the estates of Sir John Delves, and was known as Sir James Blount of Apedale in 1484. Will proved in *P.C.C.* as of London and Stafford

² Parl. 1491-2.

³ Sheriff, and therefore not a Knight of the Shire.

⁴ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁵ Parl. 1497; *P.R.*

⁶ Parl. 1491-2.

⁷ GEORGE STANLEY OF WEDNESBURY, possibly M.P. 1489-90, 1495-6 or 1504. Born *c.* 1440, son of Thomas S. of Elford (Parl. 1422) (*S.C. IV. N.S. 129*), by his second wife, Elizabeth. He married Eleanor, daughter of Sir John Sutton, Lord Dudley, and widow of Sir Henry Beaumont of Wednesbury, who died 1470/1 according to Shaw. George Stanley is called "of Wednesbury" in 1482. He was escheator 1469-70; Sheriff 1473-4; J.P. 1485 till his death, 1508/9. He was younger brother of Sir John Stanley, M.P. (Parl. 1447).

⁸ HUGH ERDESWICK OF SANDON, possibly M.P. 1489-90, 1495-6, or 1497. Born *c.* 1440; son of Hugh E. of the same (*d.* 3 Jan. 1474, M.I.),

Harpur,¹ Roger Preez,² William Wilkes³ and Robert Swynshead. And on 23 August 1489 a Commission was appointed to enquire into riots at Lichfield:—Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley; Sir James Blount,⁴ Sir Thomas Gresley,⁵ Nicholas Montgomery,⁶ William Basset,⁷ William Harpur,⁸ Richard Harpur,⁹ William Wilkes,¹⁰ Roger Preez¹¹ and the sheriff.¹²

Parliament of 1491-2.

Summoned, by Writs tested 12 August, to meet 17 October 1491; held two Sessions; dissolved 5 March 1492. There is a contemporary list of this Parliament (for acquaintance with which I am indebted to Mr. W. D. Pink) in the British Museum.¹³ This gives Returns for all County and Borough constituencies then existing, except Bath. The Staffordshire returns are interesting,—one M.P. was murdered, one did the murder and ended in Westminster Abbey, and yet a third vanishes from life and history in the Tower of London before reaching the age of thirty. Sir Richard Empson was the Speaker.

County :	Sir Humphrey Savage, Kt. ..	(1)
	Sir Humphrey Stanley, Kt. ..	(2)
	returned by Ralph Okeover of Okeover, sheriff.	
Stafford :	William Chetwynd, Esquire ..	(3)
	Richard Pennysbye, gent. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	Richard Harpur	(5)
	Richard Blunt	(6)

by Cecily, daughter of Ralph Basset of Blore. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Harcourt, of Ranton (Parl. 1461-2). J.P. 1485-96. He died 16 January 1501 (l.p.m.), being succeeded in turn by his sons Hugh (aged 16, who died 1510) and Sampson.

¹ Parl. 1483 (1).

² Parl. 1487-8.

³ Parl. 1484.

⁴ Parl. 1487-8.

⁵ Parl. 1477.

⁶ Parl. 1484.

⁷ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁸ Parl. 1483 (1).

⁹ Parl. 1467.

¹⁰ Parl. 1484.

¹¹ Parl. 1487-8.

¹² P.R.

¹³ Harleian 2252.

(1) SIR HUMPHREY SAVAGE, Kt., M.P. Staffs 1491-2.

Born *c.* 1465; younger son of Sir John S. of Clifton, Cheshire (*d.* 1495), Knight of the Body to King Henry VII, by Catherine, sister of the first Earl of Derby and of Sir William Stanley, K.G. In 1484 he was made a freeman of Chester with eight of his brothers.¹ He was knighted at the battle of Stoke, 1487. His eldest brother, Sir John Savage the younger, K.G., was slain at Boulogne in 1492;² another elder brother was Archbishop of York, 1501-8. Evidently the Stanley influence returned both County M.P.'s in 1491.

At the end of 1493 an informer denounced Sir William Stanley, his uncle, for traitorous dealings with Perkyn Warbeck. Sir William Stanley was hanged 16 February 1494, and Sir Humphrey Savage is said to have perished with him, also Sir Simon Montfort.³ It is not clear that Sir Humphrey was executed with his uncle; he was attainted and is heard of no more, unless it be he who, as Humphrey S. of Fekenham, Worcs., *alias* of Westminster, Knight, was pardoned 21 June 1499.⁴

(2) SIR HUMPHREY STANLEY, KT., OF PIPE, M.P. Staffs 1491-2, and probably in 1487-8, 1489-90, 1495-6, 1497 or 1504.

Born *c.* 1455; second son of Sir John Stanley, of Elford, M.P.⁵ (*d.* 1476), by his third wife, Elizabeth, daughter of John l'Estrange,⁶ widow of Sir John Vampage. He was heir of Pipe, Clifton and Haunton. He married (1) ?, by whom he had his son John; and (2) Ellen, daughter and heiress of Sir James Lee of Aston by Stone.⁷ He was on the bench 1480-3; was taken off by Richard III; fought on Henry's side at Bosworth, "being

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*: Sir John Savage.

² Parl. 1485-6.

³ Ormerod's *Cheshire*, I. 713-4, III. 894.

⁴ *P.R.*

⁵ Parl. 1447.

⁶ By a deed of January 24, 39 Henry VI (1461), Sir John Stanley entails Pipe and 570 acres "for the lives of Elizabeth his wiff and Humfrey their soon" (Harwood, *Erdeswick* 238). If the words "their son" are to be taken literally, then Sir Humfrey was the son of Sir John's third wife, Elizabeth (Vampage), and was born in or after 1455.

⁷ Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 353. 411*.

knighted (?) on the field after King Richard was slayne," August 1485; then put on the bench again 1485-96 and 1499-1505. He was, according to Shaw, knighted 5 November 1481, and made a banneret at the battle of Stoke, 9 June 1487, and Knight of the Body to King Henry VII. Undoubtedly he was the most powerful commoner in the County. He was sheriff 1481-2, 1485-6 (directly after Bosworth), 1493-4. During this last tenure of office he had William Chetwynd of Ingestre murdered by his men on Tixall Heath, riding by himself when the deed was done on the pretence of looking for a stag. On 19 September 1485 he had a grant of the office of High Steward of all the possessions of Henry, late Duke of Buckingham, in the county of Staffordshire, during the minority of the heir. In fact for twenty years after Bosworth his power in Staffordshire was overwhelming. He boasted of his friendship with the King, and none could get justice against him. He died 12 March 1505;¹ was buried in Westminster Abbey;² and was succeeded by his son, John, who died in 1514, leaving daughters.³

(3) WILLIAM CHETWYND OF INGESTRE, M.P. Stafford 1491-2.

Born c. 1450; son of Thomas C. of Alspath, Warwickshire (dead in 1455), by Ellen (); and grandson of John Chetwynd of Alspath, M.P. for Warwickshire, 1421, 1437. He succeeded to his cousin at Ingestre in about 1474. He married, in or before 1478, Alice, daughter of Hugh Egerton of Wrimehill.⁴ (She survived him and vainly sued for justice, dying in 1534.) He must have supported Henry VII at Bosworth, and after Bosworth he was made parker of the Stafford Parks, during the Duke's minority. He was also a Gentleman Usher of the Chamber, but he was never Sheriff, J.P. or Escheator. What his quarrel with Stanley was will never be known; but Stanley decoyed him with two followers on to Tixall Heath on the road to Stafford. There at Half-way

¹ l.p.m.

² Stapylton: *Chetwynds*, 116-126.

³ Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 353.

⁴ S.C. I. N.S. 252.

House on the road twenty armed men fell on him, 20 June 1494, and there they butchered him before the eyes of his son and in the presence of Sir Humphrey Stanley, then sheriff.¹ He was succeeded at Ingestre by his son William, a boy of fifteen. Chetwynd-Stapleton² suggests that his murder was political, connected with the attainder and execution of Sir William Stanley, K.G., and Sir Humphrey Savage, and Chetwynd's brother-in-law, Sir Simon Montfort in February 1494.

(4) RICHARD PENNYSBYE, Gent., M.P. Stafford 1491-2.

He seems to have been of Burton-on-Trent. At least the only reference I can find to the name is a mention of . . . Pennesby of Burton-on-Trent, gent., in 1478.³

(5) RICHARD HARPUR. See Parl. 1467.

(6) RICHARD BLUNT, M.P. Newcastle 1491-2.

I cannot place this member of the Blount family with certainty. A Richard Blunt occurs in a suit of 1504/5, but without any possibility of localisation.⁴ He may have been a nominee of the Chancellor of the Duchy, Sir Reynold Bray. In any case the following identification is sufficiently probable.

Born c. 1465; 2nd son of Sir Thomas B. (who was the 2nd son of Sir Thomas B. who was Treasurer of Normandy and brother of the first Lord Mountjoy), by his second wife, Catherine, daughter of Sir Gervase Clifton of Clifton, Notts.⁵ He is called of Maple Durham, Oxon, and of Iver, Bucks. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of William Delaforde of Iver; and he died 30 November 1508. His eldest son, Sir Richard B., was Lieutenant of the Tower and died in 1564.⁶

¹ S.C. XII. 334.

² Chetwynd-Stapleton, *Chetwynds*, 116-126.

³ S.C. VI. i. N.S. 117.

⁴ S.C. XII. 170.

⁵ The Lancastrian, executed by the Yorkists 6 May 1471.

⁶ Sir Alex. Croke's *Genealogical Account of the Croke Family*, surnamed "Le Blount," pedigree, No. 14.

Parliament of 1495-6.

Summoned, by Writs of 15 September, to meet 14 October 1495; dissolution unknown, but before the end of 1496. No Members, except those locally preserved for Southampton, Bristol, Ipswich, Lynn, and Stafford,¹ have been found for this Parliament, which met just after Perkyn Warbeck's first attempt on the Crown. The Speaker was Robert Drury, M.P. for Suffolk.

The sheriff was Sir Robert Harcourt, K.B., of Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. While this Parliament was sitting a fresh Commission of the Peace was made out, and the knights of the shire will probably be found on that Commission:—The Earls of Derby and Shrewsbury, Lord Dudley, Hugh Egerton,² Richard Wrottesley,³ George Stanley,⁴ Nicholas Agard,⁵ William Harpur,⁶ William Wilkes,⁷ John Blount⁸ and John Aston.⁹ The remarkable omission from this list is

¹ *Ex inf.* Pink.² Parl. 1483 (1).³ Parl. 1497.⁴ Parl. 1489-90.

⁵ NICHOLAS AGARD OF NEWBOROUGH, possibly M.P. 1495-6, 1497 or 1504. Born *c.* 1455; probably a son of John A. of Foston, Derbyshire (*d.* 1516, aged over 80) (Will proved at Lichfield), by Jane, sister of Ralph Wolseley, M.P. Nicholas held land in Newborough and Anslow in 1480; in 1488 he sold a house in Tutbury which John A. had bought in 1461; in 1494 he surrendered land in Tatenhill to the use of John A. and Jane his wife and Nicholas son of John; in 1498 he was witness to a grant by John A. of Scropton to trustees (*inter alios* Philip A. and Nicholas, son of John A. the younger) of land in Dunstall and the house in Tutbury; in 1508 John A. of Foston sold the house in Tutbury (*Catalogue Ant. Deeds* VI.). He was a J.P. from 1496-1508/9, being succeeded as such by Ralph Agard, 1509-1514/20. He probably died in 1508, and his brother Ralph (Parl. 1510) succeeded him.

⁶ Parl. 1483 (1).⁷ Parl. 1487-8.⁸ Parl. 1485-6.

⁹ (SIR) JOHN ASTON OF HEYWOOD AND OF TIXALL, *jure uxoris*, possibly M.P. 1495-6, 1497, 1504, 1510, 1515 or 1523. Born *c.* 1465; eldest son and heir of John A. of Heywood (*d.* 1483) by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Delves, M.P. (Parl. 1467). He married Jane (*d.* 1527), daughter and heiress of Sir William Littleton by Helen,

Sir Humphrey Stanley.¹ Perhaps this was due to his murder of Chetwynd, or possibly just because he was in London at this Parliament. At least the Commission of Array of 23 April 1496 contains again his name:—Sir Humphrey Stanley, William Basset,² George Stanley, Hugh Egerton, . . . Wolsey, Nicholas Agard, William Harpur, William Wilkes, Roger Preez,³ and John Blount.

For the Stafford Members we have certain information. The Stafford Borough records, in copies preserved at the William Salt Library, contain the following entry:—

“ This yere John Ferrers and Humphrey Barbor, beinge burgesses of the Parliamt for the towne of Stafford, received c'taine waightes out of the Kinges Exchequer, wch were appoynted to be kept here within the towne as in the Kinges Treasure.”⁴

heirss of Tixall. He was J.P. 1496–9; sheriff 1500–1, 1508–9, 1513–4; of Warwick and Leicester, 1510–1; knighted with Sir John Gifford 14 November 1501 (Shaw, *Knights*). In 1513 he was the banneret of the Staffordshire contingent in France at Tournay and Terouenne. He died in 1523; for his son, Sir Edward A., see Parl. 1539. Sir John's Will, dated 24 April (? 1513), when “intending to departe over the see with our most dradde soverayne in his armie Roiall,” was proved in *P.C.C.* 25 April 1523. To his son and heir Edward he leaves plate, etc., including a “payre of guilt salts with the bulhede uppon the topp of the cover.” He mentions the settlement made on the marriage of Edward with Sir Henry Vernon's daughter Mary. His younger son William is to have Milwich for life. Isabel and Elizabeth his daughters have £200 each. His mother Dame Elizabeth, his uncles Richard and John Aston, and his brothers Richard and Robert Aston are not to be disturbed in their pensions, etc. His wife's lands, including Uttoxeter, Cotton, Hixon, besides Parkhall, Beaudesert and Henley in Warwickshire, remain with trustees. Exors.:—Wife Jane and Richard Langley, wife's kinsman. Overseers:—Edward Lytelton, Thomas Kynnersley, John Blount.

¹ Parl. 1491–2.

² Parl. 1483 (1).

³ Parl. 1487–8.

⁴ *Stafford Annals*, MS. copied by Worswick c. 1600. The year is erroneously given as 1519 (when there was no Parliament), 10 Henry VIII, instead of 10 Henry VII, by Harwood; see Harwood's *Erdeswick*, 141.

So we have :

County : Unknown—any of the above.

Stafford : John Ferrers (1)
 Humphrey Barbour (2)

Newcastle: Unknown.¹

(1) (SIR) JOHN FERRERS OF TAMWORTH, M.P. Stafford 1495-6, and possibly 1510 or 1512-3.

Born 1463/4; eldest son of Sir John F., M.P.² (*d.* 1484), by Maud (Stanley), and grandson and heir of Sir Thomas F. of the same (*d.* 1498), at whose death he was aged 34 years.³ He married before 1488, Maud . . . ;⁴ and, according to Shaw,⁵ (2) Dorothy, daughter of William Harpur of Rushall, who was the mother of his son and heir, Humphrey (*b.* 1497). He was knighted at the Battle of Blackheath, 17 June 1497;⁶ was sheriff 1499-1500; J.P. Staffordshire and Warwickshire 1508-13. He died 16 July 1513 (? 1512).⁷ His Will, dated 6 October 1508, was proved in *P.C.C.* 13 May 1513.⁸ His

¹ According to the *Dict. Nat. Biog., Art. R. Bray*, Sir Reynold Bray was a member of this Parliament. He may possibly have sat for Newcastle, being then Chancellor of the Duchy. John Leigh was the Mayor and returning officer.

² Parl. 1477.

³ I.p.m. 14 Henry VII.

⁴ *S.C. V. ii. 79, 85.* She was probably a Griffith, see Will.

⁵ Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 425.

⁶ Shaw's *Knights.*

⁷ *Geneal.* XVII. N.S. 282.

⁸ The Will of SIR JOHN FERRERS, dated 6 October 1508. He desires to be buried in the Church of Tamworth before the image of St. Eadithe, and makes bequests to the churches of Tamworth, Walton Derby, and Barton-under-Needwood; also for the repair of "Bow bridge," Lady Bridge, and Hoppas Bridge. His manors of Heyth, Oxon, and Blunt, Essex, to be sold by Exors. to raise the money for debts and bequests. Daughters Mary to have 300 *m.*, Anne 200 *m.*, Joan 200 *m.*, for their preferment in marriage. His son Edward is to have Warton, Warw., and Buttisbury, Essex, for life. His son Thomas to have for life lands at Priours in Wodeham Ferrers, Essex, which late were held by "my uncle William Ferrers" for life. His son William was to have, after the death of Sir John's mother, Dame

tomb is in Lichfield Cathedral and is said to have borne this inscription: "Joh. Ferrers miles et Mat. filia . . . et Dna Dorathia uxor prefati Jo . . . Harpur." I.p.m. at Derby, 31 Jan. 1513/4.

(2) HUMPHREY BARBOUR OF FLASHBROOK, M.P. Stafford 1495-6.

Born *c.* 1450; eldest son and heir of John Barbour of Stafford, M.P.¹ (dead in 1475), by Jane, daughter and heiress of Richard Jordan of Flashbrook.² He was alive as late as 1528 at Flashbrook,³ leaving a son and heir, Robert, who died in 1530. He must have taken his name from Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, and he was probably brother or nephew of that William Barbour who was one of the two Clerks of the Counting House of Anne, Duchess of Buckingham.⁴

Parliament of 1497.

Summoned to meet on 16 January 1497 (Writs not found); dissolved 18 March 1497.⁵ No returns save those for London and Lynn have been found. The Ipswich election took place on 23 December 1496; Reading, 23 October 1496; London, 13 December 1496. The sheriff of Staffordshire was John Draycot of Paynsley; the Mayor of Newcastle was Richard Smyth, I think one can get a close hint as to the M.P.'s

Mawde, Champeons, Essex. Dame Mawde also held for life Ilgerse, Essex.

Exors. :—His wife (whom he nowhere names, unfortunately), and his brother Sir Walter Griffith. These witness :—Richard Breton, John Jakes, William Wyrley, Thomas Clerke, "Sir" Hugh Lytuldale priest, "Sir" Richard Hawle priest.

¹ Parl. 1450-1.

² S.C. VII. N.S. 269; also Vol. 1914, 75.

³ S.C. XI. 269.

⁴ Will of the Duchess, proved in *P.C.C.* 1480. Logge 2.

⁵ Pollard, *Reign of Henry VII, App.*

for this Parliament¹ from the Commissioners for collecting the subsidy, 12 Hen. VII. For Staffordshire they were: Richard Wrottesley,² Humphrey Peshale,³ Humphrey Swynnerton⁴ and Thomas Welles.⁵ I have not the least doubt but that two of these sat in this Parliament for the County or for a Borough.

¹ A Commission of Gaol Delivery was issued, 12 September 1497, to:—Sir Humphrey Stanley, George Stanley, Richard Wrottesley, Nicholas Agard, William Harpur, Roger Preez and John Blount. (*P.R.*)

² RICHARD WROTTESLEY OF WROTTESLEY, probably M.P. 1484, 1485-6, 1487-8, 1489-90, 1495, 1497, 1504, 1510, 1512-4, or 1515. Born *c.* 1457; son of Sir Walter W. of the same, ? M.P. for Staffs (see Parl. 1460) (*d.* 1473), by Jane (Baron). He married Dorothy, sister of Edward Sutton, second Lord Dudley. His brother William was Squire of the Body to Henry VII. He himself was sheriff 1492-3, 1502, 1516-7, J.P. 13 Mar. 1485 till his death in 1521. For his Will and life more fully, see *S.C.* VI. ii. N.S. 244-266.

³ HUMPHREY PESHALE OF HORSLEY, possibly M.P. Staffs 1497. Born *c.* 1450; eldest son and heir of Sir Hugh P. of Horsley (*d.* 1489) (see Parl. 1485-6). He married Helen, daughter of Humphrey Swynnerton, M.P. (Parl. 1455-6), and widow of Henry Delves. He was dead by 1529, and was succeeded by his son John Peshale, M.P. (Parl. 1529-36). The pedigree in *S.C.* 1914, 46, is blunderingly wrong, and should be corrected to that in *S.C.* V. ii. N.S. 240. For a contemporary and slightly earlier Humphrey Peshale (of Hopton), see Parl. 1484.

⁴ HUMPHREY SWYNNERTON OF SWYNNERTON AND HILTON, possibly M.P. 1497. Born 1452/3; eldest son and heir of Humphrey S. of Swynnerton, M.P. (Parl. 1455-6; *d.* 1464), by Anne (*d.* 1470), eldest daughter and coheir of Thomas Swynnerton of Hilton. He married Jane (? daughter of John Harcourt of Ranton (Parl. 1461-2)), the mother of Thomas S. his son and heir (Parl. 1523), whom he married to a daughter of Sir Humphrey Stanley of Pipe, M.P. (Parl. 1491-2). Humphrey Swynnerton died 1506 (*S.C.* VII. 113; 1914, p. 5). He seems to have been escheator 1474-9; a young man to be escheator, but he was never sheriff nor on the Bench.

⁵ THOMAS WELLES OF HOARCROSS, possibly M.P. 1497. Born *c.* 1440; son of John W. by Alice, daughter and heiress of Richard Aston of Hoarcross. He married Jane, daughter of William Bonington, by whom he had John W. (Parl. 1504) (*S.C.* III. ii. 145; Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 103). Died 29 July 1509.

Parliament of 1504.

Summoned to meet 25 January 1504 ; dissolution unknown. The sheriff for Staffordshire would be the same John Draycot as in 1497, now a knight. Thomas Vernon was Mayor of Newcastle. No returns at all have been found, but the members for London and a few other Boroughs are known from local records, and the Speaker of this Parliament was Edmund Dudley, so long and fervently associated with Sir Richard Empson. In the Official Blue Book Returns it is supposed that Dudley was M.P. for Staffordshire, as they have erroneously confounded him with his uncle and namesake, the Edmund Dudley who sat for Staffordshire in the 1472 Parliament. I think he is more likely to have sat for Sussex, or for Kent as did his son Sir John Dudley in 1534, but the Lord of Dudley was his first cousin and may have placed him in Staffordshire.¹ The London election took place 14 December

¹ EDMUND DUDLEY, P.C., possibly M.P. Staffs 1504, and possibly for Newcastle at any time between 1485 and 1504.

Born 1462, son of the Hon. John D. of Atherington, Sussex (younger son of John, 1st Lord Dudley ; M.P. Sussex 1477-8 ; J.P. Sussex 1486-1500, *d.* 1500), by Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas (or John) Bramshot of the same county. He married (1) Anne, sister of Andrew, Lord Windsor, widow of Roger Corbet of Moreton Corbet, Salop ; she died before 1494, when he married (2) Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Grey, Viscount Lisle (see Parl. 1470-1). He was a lawyer and a friend of Sir Reynold Bray, the Chancellor of the Duchy 1485-1504 (see Parl. 1477-8), and was therefore put on the Privy Council soon after the accession of Henry VII. How he was employed by that monarch, and how he was thrown over and executed by Henry VIII in 1510, is a matter of national history (see *Dict. Nat. Biog.*). His son was the famous Sir John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland (see Parl. 1542-5).

He was Speaker of the 1504 Parliament, but that he then sat for Staffordshire seems to me to be unlikely. His estates were in Sussex, Dorset and Lincolnshire. He occurs repeatedly in Sussex before 1500 ; from 1493 onwards he was a J.P. for Sussex ; from 1501 of Hants ; from 1503 of Surrey ; from 1506 of Essex ; and only from later years of Warwick, Wilts, Worcester, Hunts, Bucks, Middlesex, and Stafford counties. His son sat first for Kent. I suspect that Dudley sat for

1503; Ipswich, 14 December 1503; Reading, 9 January 1504.¹

The Staffordshire Bench² consisted at this time of: Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham; Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby; George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury; Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley; Sir Humphrey Stanley,³ Sir George Stanley,⁴

Sussex; but there are just these connections with Staffordshire that may have returned him for that county. He was first cousin to Edward, Lord Dudley; his wife had land in Staffordshire, and his father-in-law was closely connected with Warwickshire and Staffordshire; and on 11 May 1506 Edmund Dudley was made steward of the Manor of Drayton Basset (*P.R.*).

But I think it unlikely that the 1504 Parliament was the first in which Dudley sat. An entirely new member could hardly be Speaker; and if he had sat in previous Parliaments, nothing would be more likely than that Sir Reynold Bray, who had been the making of him, should have given him a seat at Newcastle. Bray's influence in the whole of Staffordshire must have been considerable. Indeed, when I read (*P.R.*) that in 1498 a General Pardon was issued to Oliver Dudley of Dudley, *alias* of Westminster—the uncle of our Edmund,—it seems to me possible that more than one member of the Dudley family were found seats or work at Westminster by that faithful servant of the Tudor House.

¹ The unfortunate loss of the Returns between 1477 and 1452—one of the most interesting and important epochs in our annals—is most annoying. One had hoped that the missing documents might turn up in some corner, but it now seems highly improbable that they will ever be found. The loss is not modern. They were missing in the time of Prynne (1647–69), and were perhaps destroyed in the Civil War. Willis' *Notitia Parliamentaria* helps to supply many of the later names, but one can do nothing in the missing years. The only other chance of replacing these is from local records, which, save in a few cases, are of little help beyond giving a casual name.

² Two other Commissions of that time may enshrine the names of M.P.'s. 8 February 1502, Commission to enquire into riots in Staffordshire: George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury; Thomas Harcourt, Ralph Wolseley, John Blount, William Harpur, John Draycot, Thomas Babbington and the sheriff. Again, 1 February 1503: Commission to enquire into alienated lands:—Sir John Ferrers, John Wellys, John Cumberford and the sheriff.

³ Parl. 1491–2.

⁴ Parl. 1489–90, though I do not think he was ever really a knight.

John Giffard,¹ Hugh Egerton,² Richard Wrottesley,³ Nicholas Agard,⁴ William Wilkes,⁵ Roger Preez,⁶ John Blount,⁷ Richard Littleton,⁸ Ralph Wolsey,⁹ William Bassett,¹⁰ John Cumberford,¹¹ John Wellys¹² and three judges.

¹ Parl. 1529-35.

² Parl. 1483 (1).

³ Parl. 1497.

⁴ Parl. 1495-6.

⁵ Parl. 1484.

⁶ Parl. 1487-8.

⁷ Parl. 1485-6.

⁸ RICHARD LITTLETON OF PILLATONHALL, M.P. Ludlow 1491-2, possibly M.P. Staffs. 1504, 1510, 1512-4, or 1515. Born *c.* 1449; second son of the Chief Justice, Sir Thomas Littleton (*d.* 1481) by Jane (*d.* 5 March 1504), daughter and coheir of Sir William Burley of Broncroft, Salop, the Speaker, and widow of Sir Philip Chetwynd of Ingestre (*d.c.* 1447). He was a barrister and a J.P. for Staffordshire and Salop 1499 till his death in 1517. He married Alice, daughter and heiress of William Wynnesbury of Pillatonhall (*d.* 1502).

⁹ Parl. 1449.

¹⁰ Parl. 1483 (1).

¹¹ JOHN CUMBERFORD OF CUMBERFORD, possibly M.P. 1504. Born *c.* 1440; son of William Cumberford of the same, M.P. (Parl. 1442) (*d.c.* 1472). He was a J.P. 1502-8; and died just before July 1508, leaving a son Thomas and a widow Jane (*P.R.*), daughter of John Parles (Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 434).

¹² JOHN WELLYS OF HOARCROSS, possibly M.P. 1504, 1510, 1512-4, 1515, or 1523. Born *c.* 1470; son of Thomas W. of the same (Parl. 1497). He married Anne, daughter (parentage doubtful) of John Fitzherbert of Norbury (Parl. 1515). He was J.P. 1502-1526; escheator 1512-3. He died 4 May 1529 (Shaw, I. 105), leaving a son Humphrey, then aged 26 (Harwood, *Erdeswick*, 271), who was M.P. for Newcastle 1545-6. By his Will, dated St. Chad's day 1521, proved in *P.C.C.* 5 February 1528/9, he devised the building of a chapel at the Hoarcross, dedicated to St. Stephen, to measure 40 ft. × 18 ft., and to be near the elm by St. Mary's Cross. To daughter Katherine 100 *m.*; to his sons Francis, Robert and Richard 40/- a year each; to brother Humphrey W. 40/- and "twoe kye," the like to William Wellys. His son and heir is Humphrey and his wife Anne was recently dead. Exors.:—Francis his son, Katherine his daughter, Humphrey his brother, Thomas Sprott and Richard Fletcher.

HENRY VIII.

22 April 1509.

Parliament of 1510.

Summoned, by Writs of 17 October 1509, to meet 21 January 1510; dissolved 23 February 1510. The London election took place on 19 November, Ipswich on 17 December, and Reading on 26 December 1509. This Parliament¹ attainted Empson and Dudley. The Staffordshire Sheriff who made the returns was either Sir John Aston of Heywood or Sir John Gifford of Chillington, who was appointed to succeed him on November 14, but may not have taken up office till some weeks thereafter. Ralph Delves was Mayor of Newcastle.

The first Commission of the Peace issued for Staffordshire by King Henry VIII was that of 8 July 1509. It consisted of: W., Bishop of Lincoln; G., Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield; Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham; George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury; Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley; the Justices, Robert Brudenell and William Grevyle; the President of the Council, Sir Thomas Lovell; Sir Henry Vernon,²

¹ Mr. Pink writes:—"I have quite a number of returns to this Parliament from local records, viz., London, Bristol, Hull, Winchelsea, Hythe, Bridgnorth, Salisbury, Rye, York, Ipswich, New Romney, Exeter, Reading, Bishops Lynn, Southampton, Grimsby, Sandwich, and possibly a few others. Thomas Inglefield was speaker."

² SIR HENRY VERNON OF TONG, SALOP, AND HARLASTON, M.P. Derbyshire 1477-8, 1491-2, possibly M.P. Staffs 1510, 1512-4, or 1515. Born

Sir Gilbert Talbot,¹ Sir John Ferrers,² Sir Lewis Bagot,³ Richard Litolton,⁴ Rowland Stafford,⁵ Richard Wrottesley,⁶

1441; eldest son and heir of Sir William Vernon, M.P. (Parl. 1455-6) of the same (*d.* 1467). He married Anne Talbot; K.B. in 1489; sheriff of Notts and Derby 1503-4; J.P. Staffs 1508-15, and died in the latter year, 3 April 1515, buried at Tong.

By his Will, dated 18 January 1515, and proved in *P.C.C.* 5 May, 1515, Richard his heir was to have his "coler of gould." Provision is made for son Thomas and Anne his wife, son Humphrey and Alice his wife, son Arthur, son John £1000, daughter Margaret 700*m.*, daughter Mary and her husband. It mentions that his wife was dead, and that he has a London house. Bequests to Margaret wife of his son Richard, to Margaret Breton, to Lady Corbet, and Richard Vernon of Sheyle. Exors. :—His sons Richard and Arthur, and Sir Anthony Fitzherbert. For his fourth son, Sir John V., see Parl. 1536.

¹ SIR GILBERT TALBOT OF GRAFTON, WORCS., possibly M.P. 1510, 1512-4, 1515. Born *c.* 1452; third son of John Talbot, second Earl of Shrewsbury. Knighted at Bosworth 1485; Bannerett at Stoke 1487. At Shrewsbury, on the road to Bosworth, he joined Henry VII with 2000 men, the whole power of the infant Earl of Shrewsbury his nephew; after Bosworth he had a grant of Grafton escheated from the slain Sir Humphrey Stafford. He was K.G. and Captain of Calais under Henry VII; J.P. Staffordshire 1508-1517. He died 19 September 1519, buried at Whitchurch. From him the ninth Earl descended.

² Parl. 1495-6.

³ SIR LEWIS BAGOT OF BLITHFIELD, probably M.P. 1510, 1512-4, 1515, or 1523. Born *c.* 1461; eldest son of John B. of the same, M.P. (Parl. 1477-8) (*d.* 1490), by Isabella (Curzon). He was in the Household of Henry VII,—Knight of the Sword at the marriage of Prince Arthur in 1501 (Pink),—becoming Knight of the Body 1501/7; Sheriff 1507-8 and 1520-1; J.P. 1508-34; being the first commoner on the list. In 1513 he was a Captain in France and served at Terouenne and Tournay. He was summoned as one of the knights from Staffordshire to attend the King at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, 1520. A Commissioner to collect the subsidy 1524, and therefore very probably M.P. in the preceding year. He married five times, and died 31 May 1534, leaving Thomas Bagot his son and heir, by Anne, daughter of Sir Nicholas Montgomery.

⁴ Parl. 1504.

⁵ ROWLAND STAFFORD, possibly M.P. 1510. He was a J.P. 1508-11; and he died in 1511, but I cannot place him.

⁶ Parl. 1497.

Thomas Partriche,¹ John Gifford,² John Wellys,³ John Blount,⁴ Ralph Agard,⁵ Richard Selman,⁶ Thomas Blount.⁷

But while Parliament was being elected, on 28 November 1509, a new Commission was made out from which the names of John Gifford and Ralph Agard were omitted, while there were added, Thomas Grey, Marquess of Dorset; Sir John Aston,⁸ John Egerton⁹ and Edward Grey.¹⁰ I do not

¹ THOMAS PARTRICHE OF KINGS BROMLEY, possibly M.P. 1510, 1512-4, 1515, or 1523. Born *c.* 1480; son of Thomas P., by Alice, sister and heiress of Roger Preez, of Kings Bromley (Parl. 1487-8; *d.* 1508). He married Anne, daughter of John Harcourt of Ranton, and widow of Richard Lane of Bentley (*d.* 1517); and from 1517 onwards he was guardian of the heir and lands of Lane of Bentley. J.P. Staffordshire 1509-31. He was a Royal Servant, for he seems to have been taking money to the Calais garrison, and pressing ships in 1512-4 (*Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*). He died 22 February 1530/1, leaving a son and heir Roger (1509-1571) (Harwood, *Erdeswick* 234; Shaw, *Staffs*, I. 144).

² Parl. 1529-35.

³ Parl. 1504.

⁴ Parl. 1485-6.

⁵ RALPH AGARD OF NEWBOROUGH OR DUNSTALL, possibly M.P. 1510, 1512-4, 1515, or 1523. Born *c.* 1460; probably son of John A. of Foston, Derbyshire (*d.* 1516, aged over 80), and younger brother of Nicholas A. (Parl. 1495). He was J.P. Staffordshire 1508-1514/6; dead and succeeded by his son John (aged 26) in 1516. (S.C. 1910, 291). For John's issue see S.C. 1910, 288.

⁶ RICHARD SELMAN OF MORETON, possibly M.P. 1510, 1512-4, 1515, 1523, 1536, or 1539-40. He was a connection of the Gresleys (S.C. 1914, 150). J.P. 1508-39/40. Probably he was a son of Michael S. of the same, living in 1484.

⁷ THOMAS BLOUNT OF KINLET, SALOP?, possibly M.P. 1510. He was J.P. 1508-14/20.

⁸ Parl. 1495-6.

⁹ Parl. 1477-8.

¹⁰ (SIR) EDWARD GREY OF ENVILLE, possibly M.P. 1510, 1512-4, 1515, 1523. Born 1472/3; son of Humphrey G. of Whittington and Enville (*d.* 1499/1500), by Anne, daughter of Sir William Fielding. He married Joyce, daughter of . . . Hoord of Bridgnorth (Harwood, *Erdeswick*, 380). J.P. 1509-26; Sheriff 1519-20, 1524-5. Knighted at Tournay 13 October 1513 (Shaw, *Knights*). He died 1529, leaving a son, Thomas Grey, M.P. (Parl. 1554).

The Will of SIR EDWARD GREY, dated 2 February 1529, proved in P.C.C. 4 May 1529, shows him to be a man of much property. He is to be buried in St. Peter's, Kinvare. To his wife Anne he leaves Wythybroke, Warw., and Naylestone, Leic., for life. He mentions

know that it was the custom to take the sheriff off the Commission while in office, and imagine that Gifford was taken off because he was made a Sewer of the Household and therefore resided at the Court. Ralph Agard was restored to the bench on 4 January 1510, and Gifford on 5 July 1511. It is just possible that these were the two elected members for the county; or one may be the John Mytton¹ who was added to the Commission on 14 February 1510.

Parliament of 1512-4.

Summoned, by Writs of 28 November 1511, to meet 4 February 1512; held three sessions and was still sitting in December 1513; probably dissolved about 4 March 1514. The elections took place in January 1512. Except those for London and Lynn no returns have been found.² The Staffordshire Sheriff was John Egerton of Wrimehill.³ Thomas Byrches was the Newcastle Mayor.

a deceased wife and her son Robert deceased; also sisters-in-law Dorothy Chetwynd and Anne Leycester. To his sons, Edward, William and Richard, when 21, he leaves for life, half Enville, Morf, and land at Kidderminster respectively. His brothers-in-law Robert and Aleyn Horde are trustees for Trysull and Whittington. Bequests to daughter Joyce Whorwood and her son Edward, to son-in-law William Whorwood, who had lent testator £20; other sons-in-law are Skrymsher, Anthony Rawlegh, and Richard Mitton. Exors. :—Anne wife, Thomas, heir, Aleyn Horde, brother-in-law.

¹ JOHN MYTTON OF WESTON UNDER LIZEARD, possibly M.P. 1510, 1512-4, 1515, or 1523. Born *c.* 1470 (aged 30 and more at his father's death); son of John M. of the same (*d.* 1500), by Anne, widow of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton, M.P. (Parl. 1455-6), (*d.* 1464). He married Constance, daughter of Sir Henry Beaumont of Wednesbury (Harwood, *Erdeswick* 164). He was J.P. Salop and Staffordshire 1510-4; sheriff of Staffordshire 1506-7, 1512-3. He died 16 February 1533. (S.C. II. N.S. 120-8.)

² In 1526, Robert Nethersole, as M.P. for Dover, was paid his wages 69 14s. 8d. "for the first and second Parliaments of Henry VIII" (*Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*).

³ Parl. 1477-8.

A new Commission of the Peace had been made out on 5 July 1511¹; no names were removed, but Sir Walter Griffith² and Anthony Fitzherbert³ were added. After the Parliament had risen, 18 October 1514, there was a fresh Commission. The Bishop of Lincoln, Sir John Ferrers (*d.* 1513) and Rowland

¹ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*; which also gives, under 16 June 1513, a list of the Captains going to serve in France under George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury. Those of Staffordshire are:—

Banneret: Sir John Aston and Thomas Kynersley his petty captain.

Captains: Sir John Draycote and Richard Draycote his petty captain.

Sir Lewis Bagot and Robert Cawardyn his petty captain.

Richard Astley and John Chetwynd his petty captain.

Richard Mynors and John Westcote, bearing Aston's banner jointly.

William Chetwynd and Philip Chetwynd his brother and petty captain.

Edward Lyttleton and Edmund Acton his petty captain.

Francis Craddock and Thomas Bromley his petty captain.

Also William Vernon with the banner of St. George, and Thomas Rolleston bearing the Talbot.

² SIR WALTER GRIFFITH OF WICHNOR, AND OF BURTON AGNES, YORKS, possibly M.P. 1512-4, 1515, or 1523. Born 1473; son of Sir Walter G. of the same (*d.* 1481), by Agnes (*d.* 1505), daughter of Sir Robert Constable of Flamborough, Yorks, and widow of Sir Gervase Clifton. He married Jane, daughter of Sir John Ferrers of Tamworth, M.P. (Parl. 1495); J.P. 1511-31, and for Yorkshire also; and died 1531. His sister Agnes married (1) Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill (*d.* 1529), and (2) Harry Broke, M.P. (Parl. 1542) (*Hardy, Tatenhill I.* 74-5). For his son, Sir George, see Parl. 1545-7.

³ (SIR) ANTHONY FITZHERBERT (Kt.) OF HAMSTALL RIDWARE, possibly M.P. 1512-4 or 1515. Born 1470; sixth son of Ralph F. of Norbury, and brother and heir of John F. of Norbury. He married (1) Dorothy, daughter of Sir Henry Willoughby of Wollaton, Notts, and (2) Maud, daughter and coheirress of Richard Cotton of Hamstall Ridware. He was Barrister of Gray's Inn; Recorder of Coventry 1509; Serjeant at law, 1510; King's Serjeant, 1516; knighted and made Judge of the Common Pleas, 1522; Commissioner in Ireland, 1524; and died 1538. (*Dict. Nat. Biog.*) For his son, Sir Thomas, see Parl. 1545-7.

Stafford (*d.* 1511) drop out, and William Blount, Lord Mountjoy, and Richard Astley¹ are added.

Parliament of 1515.

Summoned, by Writs of 23 November 1514,¹ to meet 5 February 1515; held two sessions; dissolved 22 December 1515. No returns, other than those for London and Lynn, have been found. The Staffordshire sheriff was William Chetwynd of Ingestre; Richard Smith, Mayor of Newcastle.

While this Parliament was sitting a Commission was appointed to enquire respecting royal Wards in the county, 20 August 1515.² It consisted of: Sir Edward Bealknap, J., with Sir John Aston,³ Sir Walter Griffith,⁴ Sir John Gifford,⁵ John Salter⁶ and John Fitzherbert.⁷ It would not be unusual

¹ RICHARD ASTLEY OF PATSHULL, possibly M.P. 1512-4, 1515 or 1523. Born *c.* 1470; son of Sir Thomas A. of the same (*d.* 1483) (Parl. 1460), by Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Butler. He married Jane, daughter of Thomas Otley of Pichford, Salop (*S.C.* III. ii. 36). He was a captain in France in 1513; J.P. 1514-31/2; Escheator 1522-3, 1526-7; Sheriff 1531; died 1532 (Pink).

² *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

³ Parl. 1495-6.

⁴ Parl. 1512-3.

⁵ Parl. 1529-36.

⁶ JOHN SALTER OF SALTER'S HALL, NEWPORT, possibly M.P. Staffs. 1515 or 1520. Born *c.* 1470; son of John S., Clerk of the Peace to the Co. of Salop (*d.* 1492). A lawyer, and a member of the Council in the Marches of Wales; Sheriff of Salop 1521 (Blakeaway's *Sheriffs of Salop*); J.P. Staffs. 1526-32; and presumably for Salop also. His only daughter married (1) Thomas Chetwynd and (2) Sir William Sneyd of Bradwell. He died October or November 1532. Will, dated 24 October 1532, proved in *P.C.C.* 12 December 1532. By it he leaves his lands equally between his two daughters, Jane wife of Thomas Chetwynd, and Margaret who has 100*m.* for her marriage. He mentions his brother Richard Salter, Roger Salter, his kinsman John Corbet of Lye, Thomas Ottley and Roger Maxfielde and Roger his son. Residue to wife Elizabeth, and she sole executrix. Overseers:—"Sir" William Brauthwayte, clerk, and Edward Leighton, clerk.

⁷ JOHN FITZHERBERT OF NORBURY, DERBY, possibly M.P. 1515. Born *c.* 1460; eldest son and heir of Ralph F. of the same, by Elizabeth

to find the Members of Parliament on such a Commission. Again, on 22 October 1516 the Gaol Delivery Commission consisted of: Sir John Aston,¹ Sir John Gifford,² Sir John Draycote,³ Richard Lytelton,⁴ John Blount⁵ and Thomas Partriche.⁶ Or again I find that in 1516 the Knights of the Body included Sir John Gifford,² Sir George (*sic*, but should be Walter) Griffith, Sir William Bassett⁷ and Sir Gilbert Talbot;⁸ the Squires of the Body included William Chetwynd⁹ and Humphrey Ferrers.¹⁰ The Members might well be found among the courtiers.

Parliament of 1523.

Summoned to meet 15 April 1523; held three sessions; dissolved 13 August 1523. The Speaker was Sir Thomas More. The elections were held in March. No Returns, except

(Marshall), and therefore elder brother of the judge. He married Bennet, daughter and heiress of John Bradborne of the Hoghe. His daughters and heiresses married: Elizabeth to Sir Philip Draycote, M.P. (Parl. 1529-37), and Anne, whom he disowned and disinherited, to John Wellys (Parl. 1504). He died 24 July, 1531.

¹ Parl. 1495-6.

² Parl. 1529-36.

³ SIR JOHN DRAYCOTE OF PAYNSLEY, possibly M.P. 1515. Born *c.* 1465; son of Roger D. of the same, by Catherine (Savage). He married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Eyre of Padley, Derby. He was sheriff 1496-7, 1503-4; knighted by 1503; a Captain in France 1513; J.P. 1520-2; and died 1522.

⁴ Parl. 1504.

⁵ Parl. 1585-6.

⁶ Parl. 1510.

⁷ SIR WILLIAM BASSETT OF BLORE, possibly M.P. 1515. Born 1473; second son and heir of William B. of the same (Parl. 1483 (1)) (*d.* 1497), by Jane (Biron). He married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Meverell of Throwley, who survived him and remarried Henry Cokayne of Ashbourne. J.P. 1501 till 1508. Died 1516/20, being succeeded by his son, William B. (Parl. 1536).

⁸ Parl. 1510.

⁹ William Chetwynd of Ingestre was the sheriff and therefore could not have been elected to this Parliament.

¹⁰ Under age—see Parl. 1523.

those for London and Lynn, have been found.¹ This Parliament is said to have been composed mostly of the King's Household Officers; the three sessions in so short a period rather confirm this.² Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, had been executed in 1521. The Audleys had ceased to be of any account in the county. The country gentry were acquiring wealth and position, succeeding the old nobility. The sheriff of Staffordshire was Sir William Smyth of Elford. John Bagnall, the father of the warriors, was Mayor of Newcastle.

In addition to high officials of State, the bench, on 20 July 1522, was constituted of Thomas Grey, Marquess of Dorset; George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury; Lords Dudley, Mountjoy, and Ferrers, with Sir Walter Griffith, Sir John Aston, Sir Edward Grey, Sir John Draycote, William Bassett, Philip Draycote, Walter Blount, Richard Astley, Thomas Partriche, John Wellys, Richard Selman, John Blount and John Vernon. When the Commission was reopened on 12 November 1523, after the rising of Parliament, Sir John Aston drops out, but there are no fresh names.

But the names of the Members of Parliament are more surely included in one or other of the two following Commissions:—30 August 1523,—Commission to collect the Subsidy granted for four years. *Staffordshire*: Sir John Gifford,³ Sir Walter Griffith,⁴ Sir Lewis Bagot,⁵ Anthony Fitzherbert,⁶ Humphrey Ferrers,⁷ Edward Aston,⁸ William

¹ Mr. Pink has a few other returns from local records.

² Wages were still drawn, as this Parliament decided that M.P.'s "shall not depart from Parliament until the Session be ended without the Licence of the Speaker under pain of forfeiture of their wages." (Parry, *Parlt.* 200).

³ Parl. 1529-36.

⁴ Parl. 1512-4.

⁵ Parl. 1510.

⁶ Parl. 1512-4.

⁷ (SIR) HUMPHREY FERRERS OF TAMWORTH, possibly M.P. 1523. Born 1497, son and heir of Sir John F. of the same, M.P. (Parl. 1495-6) (*d.* 1513), by Dorothy (Harpur); married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Pigot. He was knighted at Anne Boleyn's coronation 1 June 1533, and died 1554.

⁸ Parl. 1539-40.

Bassett,¹ William Chetwynd,² Thomas Swynnerton,³ John Blount,⁴ Thomas Gifford,⁵ Richard Astley,⁶ Philip Draycote,⁷ John Harcourt,⁸ Thomas Kynnersley,⁹ John Wellys.¹⁰ Thomas Partriche,¹¹ Richard Harcourt,¹² John Strethey,¹³

¹ Parl. 1536.

² WILLIAM CHETWYND OF INGESTRE, possibly M.P. 1523. Born 1478/9, son and heir of William C. of the same, M.P. (Parl. 1491-2) (slain 1494), by Alice, daughter of Hugh Egerton of Wrimehill. He married, 1491, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Ferrers of Tamworth, M.P., and sister of the above. He was Squire of the Body to Henry VIII in 1516; sheriff 1514-5, 1535-6; escheator 1531-2. He died 1546.

³ THOMAS SWYNNERTON OF SWYNNERTON AND HILTON, possibly M.P. 1523. Born *c.* 1480, son and heir of Humphrey S. of the same (Parl. 1497) (*d.* 1505). He had licence to enter as heir without proof of age, 27 September 1505 (*P.R.*). He married Alice, daughter of Sir Humphrey Stanley of Pipe, M.P. (Parl. 1491-2), by whom he had Humphrey S., M.P. for Stafford in 1554, the last of the Swynnertons. He was escheator 1511-2, and died either 1552/3 or 2 Philip and Mary (1555/6).

⁴ Parl. 1485-6.

⁵ Parl. 1553 (2).

⁶ Parl. 1512-4.

⁷ Parl. 1542-4.

⁸ Parl. 1547-52.

⁹ THOMAS KYNNERSLEY OF LOXLEY, possibly M.P. 1523. Born *c.* 1475 (*S.C.* 1912. 8). He was Petty Captain to Sir John Aston in France in 1513; escheator 1518-9, 1524-5. Died 32 Henry VIII (1540/1) (*Inq. p.m.*); succeeded by his grandson, Thomas Kynnersley, then under age.

¹⁰ Parl. 1504.

¹¹ Parl. 1510.

¹² RICHARD HARCOURT OF CHURCH EATON, possibly M.P. 1523. Born *c.* 1486, second son of Thomas H. of Ranton, by Isabel, daughter of Hugh Egerton (Parl. 1483 (1)). Escheator 1534. He married a Miss Braddock, and his son Thomas Harcourt was M.P. for Stafford in 1553. He died 1544. His sister married John Peshale of Horseley, M.P. for Newcastle in 1529-36.

¹³ JOHN STRETHEY OF STRETHEY, possibly M.P. 1523. Born *c.* 1475, son of Thomas S. of the same (*d.* 1521), by Elizabeth (Hopkins). He married (1) Ann, daughter of Thomas Kynnersley of Loxley (see above), and (2) Ann Clapton (*d.* 1534). He was escheator 1513-14; steward of Longcroft, and I think a lawyer. He died 31 August, 1523, and was buried in St. Michael's, Lichfield (Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 362).

Thomas Skrymshire,¹ Thomas Moreton,² John Fowke,³ John Grosvenor,⁴ and Walter Blount.⁵ *Stafford*: The bailiffs, John Daryngton, John Milles, Thomas Bukley, Robert Foster and Richard Watwode. *Newcastle*: Mayor and bailiffs.

Again,—2 November 1523,—Commission for the payment of the subsidy granted “in the last Parliament” :—*Staffordshire*: Lord Dudley, Sir Edward Grey,⁶ Sir William Smyth, Sir Walter Griffith, Sir John Gifford, Thomas Partriche and John Wellys.⁷ The names of the Commissioners are given for many of the Boroughs as well as for the Counties, but not for Stafford or Newcastle. Sir William Smyth, as sheriff, would be ineligible for a Knight of the Shire, but he and Griffith are designated as Collectors of the Subsidy.

Parliament of 1529–36.

Summoned, by Writs of 9 August, to meet 3 November 1529; held eight sessions; dissolved 4 April 1536. The elections took place in October. The Returns have been lost, but a list of this Parliament, dated *c.* 1530, has been found amongst Lord Denbigh's MSS., and is printed in *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*, of Henry VIII.

This is the first “long Parliament” on record; it was bitterly anti-clerical. “With the Commons it is nothing but ‘down with the Church,’” said the Bishop of Rochester from his place in the House of Lords.⁸ It is also the first Parliament in which we have any record of by-elections taking place—

¹ Parl. 1536.

² Parl. 1536.

³ JOHN FOWKE OF GUNSTON, possibly M.P. 1523. Born *c.* 1490, son of John F. of the same, by Cassandra, daughter of William Humphreston. He married Anne, daughter of John Bradshaw of Windley, Derbyshire, and was father of Roger Fowke, M.P. 1553 (1). He died 1547 (Shaw, *Staffs.* II. 60).

⁴ Parl. 1536.

⁵ Parl. 1542–4.

⁶ Parl. 1510.

⁷ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom., sub anno.*

⁸ Dasent: *Speakers* 124.

they are said to have been managed by Thomas Cromwell. In January 1533 a writ was issued and a Return made to fill a vacancy caused by death ; in February 1533 to fill a vacancy caused by a member being raised to the Peerage. But there is evidence in the Stafford Records of an even earlier by-election—the first of which there is any record in history. For Thomas Stamford was marked “*mortuus*” on the List of Members of 1530, and by 1532 there is proof that his place was filled by Mr. Erdeswick.

Both the length of the Parliament and the filling up of vacancies show that to be an M.P. was now a privilege to be sought after and retained.¹ Yet this and the four succeeding Parliaments must have been the most servile in English history. This Parliament deposed the Pope in England and began the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The *Dictionary of National Biography* avers that the members were the King’s nominees, “for there was no freedom of election in those days.” This is certainly not borne out by the Staffordshire list, for all the representatives were Staffordshire men.²

¹ Parliamentary service was, however, still by far less popular than at present, when it would be difficult to get Parliament to “beseech for a Dissolution in consideration of their fatigue charge and cost, that his Subjects may retire home to their own countries” (Parry : *Parlt.* 202).

² On 14 July 1530, Commissions were appointed to enquire into Cardinal Wolsey’s estates in the various counties. That for Staffordshire consisted of:—Sir John Gifford, Sir Edward Aston, Edward Lytelfon and John Vernon. Again, in October 1536, certain gentlemen of the county were written to respecting the rebellion in the North, called the Pilgrimage of Grace ; those written to in Staffordshire were : Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, Sir John Talbot, Sir John Gifford, Sir Philip Draycote, Edward Lytelfon, John Vernon, and Sir George Gresley.

It will be observed that both the Knights of the Shire were on both these lists ; they were also both of them Justices of the Peace. One sees from this that any guesses as to who were the unknown Knights of the Shire in this century can be based on the various Commissions issued during the sitting of the Parliament. In the case of nearly all the counties the Commission of 14 July 1530 consisted of four persons, of whom two were the Knights for the county.

County :	John Gyfford, miles	(1)
	Edward Lytilton, miles	(2)
	returned by Edward Aston of Tixall, sheriff.	
Stafford :	Thomas Stamford ¹	(3)
	John Bykeley	(4)
Newcastle :	John Persall (<i>rectius</i> Peshale)	(5)
	Richard Grey	(6)
	returned by Henry Delves, mayor.	

Sometime in 1530/32 a by-election was held to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Stamford, and

Mr. Erdeswick (7)

was elected. This is discovered from the following entry in the Stafford Annals :—“ 1532—this yeere Mr. Erdeswicke and Mr. Bickley beinge burgesses of the pliament for this towne were allowed their chardges from the towne.”²

(1) SIR JOHN GIFFARD OF CHILLINGTON, Kt., M.P. Staffs 1529-36, and probably in 1504, 1510, 1512-4, 1515 or 1523.

Born *c.* 1466 ; eldest son and heir of Robert G. of the same (*d.* 1486), by Cassandra, daughter of Thomas Humphreston, his second wife (*d.* 1537).

“ A noble courtier, one of the best bowmen and horsemen in England, a man in great favour with that knightly king of famous memory, Harry the Eighth.”³ Henry VIII, on his accession, made him one of the sewers of his household, and ranger of Cannock. By 1512 he was a Gentleman Usher of the Chamber. He served at the Battle of Spurs and at the

¹ “ *Mortuus* ” is written against his name in the *State Papers* 21 Hen. VIII, 1530. (Vol. IV. No. 6043 (2).)

² MS. by Worswick, *c.* 1600.

³ MS. Family of Offley, penes Marquess of Crewe, written *c.* 1620.

Siege of Terouenne and Tournay. There he was knighted,¹ December 25 1513, and there he was the King's standard bearer. By 1516 he was a Knight of the Body, and his son, Thomas G., was Gentleman Usher. Grants, wardships and custodies fell to him as well as honours. In 1510 he had the wardship of Sampson, brother and heir of Hugh Erdeswick; in 1512 the bailiwick of Wolverhampton. In 1517 he was one of the Enclosure Commissioners for Notts, Derby, Salop and Staffordshire.² He was at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, 1520; repeatedly a Commissioner of Array; and he served on the enquiry into Cardinal Wolsey's estates in 1530. He was at the coronation of Anne Boleyn, 1533, and at the reception of Anne of Cleves, 1540. Many of the monastic lands fell to his share, and he seems to have remained in favour up to the end of Henry's reign. He died in November 1556, aged 90, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas G., M.P.³ He married (1) 1483, Jane, daughter of Thomas Hoord of Bridgnorth, an heiress who died in giving birth to his heir, Thomas, in 1491; (2) 1515, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Gresley and widow of Sir John Montgomery of Cubley.⁴

Throughout the reign of Henry VIII Giffard was, with the possible exception of the Protestant Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers, the most influential man in Staffordshire. From 1501 to 1547 he was J.P. for Staffordshire; from 1515 onwards he filled the same office for Derbyshire; in 1510, 1518, 1522, 1526, 1531, and 1542 he served as sheriff of Staffordshire. From early in the reign to 1536 he was probably M.P. Every Commission—of Array, or to raise a loan, or to levy a tax—contains his name. He was closely related to Gresleys, Montgomerys, Swynnertons, Talbots, Astleys, Wolseleys and Levesons, and it must be due largely to him that the old

¹ Shaw's *Knights* says he was knighted 14 November 1501, but this cannot be so, as he is not styled "knight" in the Commissions till 1513.

² *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

³ Parl. 1553 (2).

⁴ Pardon for marrying without licence. *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

Catholic faith retained its strength among the gentry of Staffordshire so much more than elsewhere. Yet he was a member of that Parliament which did more than any other to crush the Church of Rome.

(2) (SIR) EDWARD LITTLETON OF PILLATONHALL, M.P. Staffs 1529-36, 1553 (2), 1554-5, 1555.

Born *c.* 1490; son and heir of Richard L. of the same¹ (*d.* 1517) (2nd son of Sir Thomas L., the Chief Justice²), by Alice (*b.* 1462), daughter and heiress of William Wynnesbury of Pillatonhall, who died 1502. He married (1) Helen, daughter of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton, (2) in or after 1523, Isabel, daughter and heiress of Robert Hill of Houndhill, M.P.,³ and widow of Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill and of Sir John Draycot.

The addition of "*miles*" in the List must be a mistake, for Edward L. was not knighted till 2 October 1553, at the Coronation of Queen Mary.⁴ He was escheator 1517-8, sheriff 1523-4, 1539-40, 1550-1; and J.P. 1531-40, and 1554 till death. His descendants were respectable Protestants, but I judge from his absence from the bench during a critical period that he himself remained of the old faith. He was patron of Chebsey Church; a Chantry Commissioner in 1546 and 1553—so that he cannot have been a strong Catholic. His son and successor was one of those reckoned "favourable to religion," *i.e.* the Protestant religion, in 1564. For his grandson, see Parl. 1604-11. Sir Edward died 10 October 1558. Will proved at Lichfield 23 April 1559, by his son; the other Executor, Sir Thomas Giffard, renouncing.⁵

¹ See Parl. 1504.

² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³ Parl. 1467-8.

⁴ Mr. Pink agrees, and accounts for the mistake thus; the List of M.P.'s for this Parliament is not from original Returns, but from a private MS., which may have been compiled some years later, when Littleton was a knight.

⁵ The Act Book reference only is at Lichfield.

(3) THOMAS STANFORD OF ROWLEY, M.P. Stafford 1529-30.

Third son of Robert S. by Margery, daughter and heiress of . . . Fisher of Rowley by Stafford. His name occurs on a Staffordshire Commission of 1526, and probably he lived at Rowley Park. He married a daughter and heiress of . . . Henshawe, mayor of Gloucester, and left issue. He was evidently a burgess of Stafford. He is marked on the 1530 list as "*mortuus*," but his *Inquisition p.m.* is dated 1532. For his nephew, Sir William S., M.P., see Parl. 1541.

(4) JOHN BICKLEY (OR BUCKLEY), M.P. Stafford 1529-36.

Was probably a burgess of Stafford. The name is Staffordshire. A Thomas Buckley was one of the two Bailiffs in 1512, 1519, and 1532, and he leased land in Stafford from Lord Stafford in 1537.¹ The Buckleyes appear to have been "cappers."²

(5) JOHN PESHALE OF HORSLEY, M.P. Newcastle 1529-36.

Born c. 1485; son and heir of Humphrey P. of the same. ? M.P.³ (*d.* 1499), by Helen, daughter of Humphrey Swynerton of Swynerton and widow of Henry Delves. He married Catherine, daughter of Thomas Harcourt of Ranton, by Isabel, daughter of Hugh Egerton of Wrimethill. By Catherine he was the grandfather of Sir John P. of Horseley, the first baronet of this family. He took part in the feud against the Harcourts of Ellenhall on the side of the cousins the Harcourts of Ranton, for Sir Simon writes in 1536 to Thomas Cromwell to complain of him.⁴ He was a Commissioner of Array in 1546, charged to raise 100 men; J.P. 1540-54. He probably died soon after 1554.

(6) RICHARD GREY OF TUTBURY, M.P. Newcastle 1529-33.

I cannot trace him, but Mr. Pink points, I think conclusively, to the Will of Richard Grey "of Tuttlebury, Staffs," dated

¹ Lord Crewe's *Stafford Deeds*.

² Stafford Annals. MSS. Salt Library.

³ Parl. 1497.

⁴ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.* 1536.

13 February 1533, proved at Lambeth, 2 April 1533, in which it is willed that he is "to be buried in the chancel of the Parish Church of Ottocrosse, Co. Northants." He left bequests to two daughters (of whom Elizabeth married John Heydon, "parson of Othcott"), a brother-in-law, William Heydon, a sister, Amy Wittington, and five sons, Richard, Thomas, William, Ralfe and John. A curious and unusual condition is attached to a legacy of £8 6s. 4d. to his daughter Elizabeth. It was "to be paid out the money that I must have for my costs and charges being one of the burgesses of the Parliament."

As Richard Grey died before the end of the Parliament, there would probably be another by-election, of which we have no record. He was a Duchy nominee. It almost appears as if Tutbury and Newcastle were joint burghs, from the frequency with which a Duchy nominee for Newcastle lived at Tutbury, the other Duchy town.

(7) (SAMPSON) ERDESWICK OF SANDON AND DRAYCOT, M.P.
Stafford 1530-36.

He was paid his wages in 1535 as M.P. for Stafford, and if we are to assume that the entry on the State Papers of 1530 means that his predecessor, Stamford, was dead in that year, then we have in Erdeswick the first man elected to Parliament in a by-election.

Born *c.* 1490; 2nd son of Hugh E. of Sandon (*d.* 1501),¹ by Elizabeth, daughter of John Harcourt of Ranton. He succeeded his brother Hugh in 1510, being then still a minor and in the custody of Sir John Gifford. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Humphrey Grey of Envill² (*d.* 1500); and died 21 February 1544, leaving his son and heir Hugh, aged 24.³ His grandson, Sampson E., was the antiquary; for his great-grandson, see Parl. 1625.

¹ See Parl. 1489-90.

² Parl. 1510.

³ *Geneal.* N.S. XV. 260.

Parliament of 1536.

Summoned, by Writs of 15 May, to meet 8 June 1536; dissolved 18 July 1536. The Reading election took place 2 June 1536. No Returns, except those for Lynn and the four M.P.'s for the City of London, have been found for this Parliament, which "finally extinguished Papal authority in England." The sheriff of Staffordshire was William Chetwynd of Ingestre; the Mayor of Newcastle, John Smyth.

The resident landowners on the Commission of the Peace, 3 December 1536, were: George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury; Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers; Francis, Lord Talbot; Henry, Lord Stafford (so styled); Sir John Gifford,¹ Sir Philip Draycote,² Sir John Harcourt,³ Sir George Gresley,⁴ William Whorwood,⁵

¹ Parl. 1529-35.

² Parl. 1542-4.

³ Parl. 1547-52.

⁴ SIR GEORGE GRESLEY OF DRAKELOW AND COLTON, possibly M.P. 1536 or 1539-40. Born 1494; third son of Sir Thomas G. of the same, M.P. (see Parl. 1477/8) (*d.* 1504) by Anne (Ferrers). He succeeded his brother, Sir William G. in 1521. He married (1) Margaret, daughter of John Mulsho of Finedon, Northants; and (2) *c.* 1530, Catherine, daughter of John Sutton, Lord Dudley. He was J.P. 1531-8; Knighted at Anne Boleyn's coronation, 1 June, 1533 (Shaw, *Knights*); sheriff 1537-8, 1544-5. He died 21 April 1548. His Will, dated 19 April 1548, in which he left all to his wife Dame Katherine and made her sole executor, led to litigation in the Ecclesiastical Courts, *P.C.C.*

⁵ WILLIAM WHORWOOD OF PUTNEY, SURREY, M.P. Downton, 1529-36, possibly for Staffs 1536, 1539-40 and for Downton 1542-4. Born *c.* 1495; second son of John W. of Compton (*d.* 1528). He married (1) Cassandra (dead by 1529), daughter of Sir Edward Grey (Parl. 1510-2), by whom he had Anne (*d.* 16 May 1552), who married Lord Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, eldest son of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland; (2) Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Brooke, Chief Baron of the Exchequer (*d.* 1529), and widow of . . . Sheldon. He, Aleyn Horde and Thomas Skrymsher bought Tyrley Castle and Manor in 1543 from Sir William Gascoyne. He was solicitor General 13 April 1536-November 1540 and Attorney General 8 November 1540-5. He lived and was buried at Putney (Harwood *Erdeswick*, 386). He was a J.P. (Staffs) 1531-45. He was succeeded as Attorney General

John Vernon,¹ Walter Wrottesley,² William Bassett,³
Edward Lytelton,⁴ Thomas Gifford,⁵ William Wyrley, jun.,⁶

by William Stamford, M.P. (Parl. 1542-4). By his Will, dated 27 May and proved in *P.C.C.* 9 June 1545, he leaves his wife Margaret one-third of all his manors; 100*m.* to his household servants; £100 to be divided among John Whorwood's (brother) children, Roger Fowke's (his brother-in-law) children, and his brother "Sir" Richard W. clerk. Exors. :—Wife, brother-in-law William Grey gent., William Walter my servant.

¹ (SIR) JOHN VERNON OF SUDBURY, DERBYSHIRE, possibly M.P. 1536 or 1539-40. Born *c.* 1485, fourth son of Sir Henry V. of Haddon, Derbyshire, M.P. (Parl. 1510) (*d.* 1515), by Anne (Talbot). He married Ellen, daughter and coheir of Sir John Montgomery of Cubley, by Elizabeth (Gresley), and sister-in-law of Sir Thomas Gifford. He was J.P. 1520-1545; escheator 1521-2; sheriff of Notts and Derby 1522-3, 1526-7, and of Staffordshire 1527-8, 1532-3, 1538-9; knighted 1539/40. Member of the Council of Wales. *Cust. Rot.* for Derbyshire. Died at Harlaston 4 Feb. 1544/5. For his son Henry V., M.P., see Parl. 1554.

² WALTER WROTTESELY OF WROTTESELY, possibly M.P. 1536, 1539-40 or 1542-4. Born *c.* 1486; eldest son and heir of Richard W. of the same (Parl. 1497) (*d.* 1521), by Dorothy, daughter of Sir Edmund Dudley, M.P. (Parl. 1472-3). He married, 1501, Isabel, daughter of John Harcourt of Ranton. At the dissolution of the monasteries he acquired Tettenhall College. He was second cousin and ally of Sir John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland; and he was left off the bench after Dudley's execution in 1553. He was escheator 1527-8, 1532-4; sheriff 1531-2, 1547; J.P. 1531-53. He died 1563.

³ SIR WILLIAM BASSET OF BLORE, M.P. Co. Derby 1547-52; possibly M.P. Staffs or Derby 1536 or 1539-40. Born *c.* 1495; son and heir of Sir William B. of the same (Parl. 1515-6), by Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Meverell of Throwley, jun. He married (1) Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Cokayne, the mother of his heir, and two other wives. (*S.C.* III. ii. 45.) He was J.P. 1520-53; knighted 1529/36 (Shaw, *Knights*); sheriff 1542-3, 1551-2. He died 31 October 1553; Will proved at Lichfield. For his grandson, see Parl. 1586-7.

⁴ Parl. 1529-36.

⁵ Parl. 1553 (2).

⁶ WILLIAM WYRLEY, JUN., OF HANDSWORTH, possibly M.P. 1536 or 1539-40. Born 1498; son of Cornelius W. of the same, by Claire, daughter and heiress of John Sheldon of Rowley Regis. He married Elizabeth, sister of Sir Ambrose Cave of Co. Northants. (*S.C.* III. ii. 154.) His daughter Bridget married John Breton of Tamworth, M.P. (Parl. 1584-5). He was J.P. 1536-61, and was buried at Handsworth 24 February 1561/2 (Shaw, *Staffs.* II. 115). I.p.m. 4^o Eliz.

James Leveson,¹ Walter Blount,² Thomas Skrymshire,³ John Grosvenor,⁴ Thomas Moreton,⁵ and Richard Selman.⁶

Among these the Knights of the Shire will be found.⁷

¹ JAMES LEVESON OF LILLESHELL, SALOP, possibly M.P. 1536 or 1539-40. Born *c.* 1500; third son of Richard L. of Prestwood, by Jane, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Bradbury, Lord Mayor of London. He married Margery, daughter of Richard Wrottesley (Parl. 1497), before 1518. He was a merchant of the Staple of Wolverhampton, and became the father-in-law of Sir John Gifford, M.P., and Sir Walter Aston, M.P. He was J.P. 1536-46, and acquired Lilleshell Abbey at the Dissolution. He died 1546; for his grandson, Sir Walter L., see Parl. 1586-7.

² Parl. 1542-4.

³ THOMAS SKRYMSHIRE OF NORBURY, possibly M.P. 1536 or 1539-40. He was the first of this family to settle in Staffordshire. He was a protonotary of the Court of Common Pleas, and married a daughter of Swineshead of Swineshead (but in 1529 he is called son-in-law by Sir Edward Grey). He bought High Offley from Humphrey Bouchier in 1539; one-third of Tyrley in 1543. He was escheator 1528-9, 1535-6; J.P. 1531 till death in 1551/2. His Will, as "of Norbury," is dated 26 January 1550/1, proved in *P.C.C.* 12 February 1551/2. He was evidently a Catholic. John S. is his son and heir. To his son Thomas he leaves Upton, Hereford; and Whixall, Salop. Bequests to daughter Mary wife of Anthony Astley, to his sister Selman's children, to his nephew William S., cousin Thomas Moreton, a daughter married to Francis Roos, my daughter Colyer and £20 for the preferment of her daughter; to Thomas son of my son John 15*m.*; to Thomas son of Thomas Skrymshire of Johnson 15*m.*; half his cattle to Edward Mitton and others. Many bequests of £100. Exors.:—Nephew William Skrymshire, cousin Thomas Moreton, James Woolrich, and son Thomas Skrymshire. Overseers:—Francis Roos, John S. his heir, and the parson of Norbury.

⁴ JOHN GROSVENOR (*rectius* GRAVENOR) OF BUSHBURY, possibly M.P. 1536 or 1539-40. Born *c.* 1490; son of Humphrey G. of Farmcote, Salop, by Joyce, daughter and coheiress of John Wellys, *alias* Clarke of Tipton. He married Rose, daughter and heiress of John Clayton, by the daughter and heiress of Richard Bushbury of Bushbury. He was J.P. 1531-50 and died in or before 1550.

⁵ THOMAS MORETON OF ENGLETON, possibly M.P. 1536 or 1539-40. Born *c.* 1500; second son of Matthew M. of Moreton, by Isabel, daughter and heiress of Robert Knightley of Engleton. He married Margery, daughter of . . . Sheppard of Oakley, and left issue (*S.C.* III. ii. 114). He was J.P. 1531-54/64.

⁶ Parl. 1510.

⁷ The gentlemen written to in Staffordshire to raise forces against the "pilgrimage of grace" in Oct. 1536, were:—Sir Anthony FitzHerbert, Sir John Talbot, Sir John Gifford, Sir Philip Draycot, Edward Lytleton, John Vernon, and Sir George Gresley (*Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*).

Parliament of 1539-40.

Summoned to meet 28 April 1539; held four sessions; dissolved 24 July 1540. The elections took place in March. This Parliament passed the Statute of the Six Articles ("the lash with six strings") and attainted and executed Catholics and Protestants alike. About this time wages ceased to be generally paid to members. We have only the return for the City of London. The Lynn Hall Books have a return of two members for that borough in Le Strange's *Norfolk Official Lists*,¹ 30 April 1538, which is presumably a slip of the copyist or printer for 1539. The sheriff who made the Staffordshire returns was John Vernon of Sudbury. The Mayor of Newcastle was Richard Robinson.

The Commission of Array appointed 1 March 1539 consisted of: Walter, Lord Ferrers; Henry, Lord Stafford (*sic!*); John Giffard,² William Bassett,³ Philip Draycote,⁴ John Harcourt,⁵ Edward Aston,⁶ George Gresley,⁷ and George Griffith,⁸ knights; John Vernon of Sudbury,⁹ Walter Wrottesley,¹⁰ Edward Littleton,¹¹ Thomas Giffard,¹² William Wyrley the younger of Hamstead,¹³ Thomas Holte,¹⁴ James (Leveson) of

¹ Mr. Pink has also returns for Ludlow, Shrewsbury, Lincoln, Exeter, Sandwich and some others.

² Parl. 1529-36.

³ Parl. 1536.

⁴ Parl. 1542-4.

⁵ Parl. 1547-52.

⁶ SIR EDWARD ASTON OF TIXALL, possibly M.P. 1523, 1536, or 1539-40. Born 1494 (*S.C.* 1910, 31); son of Sir John A. of Heywood (*d.* 1523) (see Parl. 1495-6), by Jane (Littleton), heiress of Tixall. He married (1) Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Vernon (Parl. 1504); and (2) Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Bowles. He was J.P. 1526-65; sheriff 1528-9, 1534-5, 1540-1, 1556-7; knighted at Calais, 10 November 1532 (*Shaw, Knights*). He died 1568. For his son, Sir Walter, see Parl. 1553 (1). I.p.m. 10^o. Eliz.

⁷ Parl. 1536.

⁸ Parl. 1545-7.

⁹ Parl. 1536.

¹⁰ Parl. 1536.

¹¹ Parl. 1529-36.

¹² Parl. 1553 (2).

¹³ Parl. 1536.

¹⁴ THOMAS HOLTE OF ASTON MANOR, WARWICKSHIRE, M.P. Warwick 1529-36; possibly M.P. Staffs 1539-40. Son and heir of

W'hampton,¹ Humphrey Welles,² Thomas Skrymshire,³ John Grosvenor of Tettenhall,⁴ Thomas Moreton,⁵ Richard Selman,⁶ Walter Blount,⁷ and the sheriff who was John Vernon.⁸

Parliament of 1542-4.

Summoned to meet 16 January 1542; held four sessions; dissolved 29 March 1544. Seymour and Sir John Dudley were in power, and the latter, being a Staffordshire man, exercised no doubt special influence in the elections. As Dudley, elected 15 December 1541, was raised to the Peerage in 1542, there must have been a by-election for the county, but no trace of a fresh Return has come to hand. Dudley would no doubt put in one of his own nominees, quite irrespective of their religious views, possibly his cousin Walter Wrottesley.⁹

County :	John Dudley, Kt.	..	..	(1)
	Philip Draycot, Kt.	..	..	(2)
	returned 15 December 1541 by Sir John Giffard, ¹⁰ sheriff.			
Stafford :	Walter Blount, gent.	..	..	(3)
	William Stamford of London, gent.	..	..	(4)
	elected 15 December 1541.			

William H. of the same (*d.* 1514). He was one of the Council of the Marches; King's Attorney in Wales 1534; J.P. Staffs, Worcester and Cheshire 1336-40/7; Justice of Wales 1542. He married Margery, eldest daughter and coheir of William Willington of Barcheston, Warwick. Died 23 March 1546. His widow married Sir Ambrose Cave, Chancellor of the Duchy, and his grandson was made a baronet in 1612 (Pink).

¹ Parl. 1536.

² Parl. 1545-7.

³ Parl. 1536.

⁴ Parl. 1536.

⁵ Parl. 1536.

⁶ Parl. 1510.

⁷ Parl. 1542-4.

⁸ S.C. IV. N.S. 215.

⁹ Parl. 1536.

¹⁰ Parl. 1529-36.

Newcastle : Harry Broke, esq. (5)
 John Smyth, yeoman (6)
 elected 15 December 1541,
 John Smyth himself being
 Mayor.

(1) SIR JOHN DUDLEY, Kt. (Viscount Lisle, 1542; Earl of Warwick, 1547; Duke of Northumberland, 1551), M.P. Kent 1534-6, Staffs 1541-2.

Born *c.* 1502; son and heir of Edmund Dudley,¹ M.P. (executed 1510), by Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Edward Grey, Viscount Lisle. He was knighted "on the River Some in France" 4 May 1523;² elected at a by-election for Kent 1534; sheriff of Staffordshire 1537; J.P. Staffordshire 1538 onwards; Commissioner of Array for Staffordshire, etc. Master of the Horse to Anne of Cleves 1539. Before 1537 he acquired Dudley Castle and many other estates of the spendthrift Lord Dudley of that day, who was so foolish that he was called "Lord Quondam." He was raised to the Peerage as Viscount Lisle soon after his election to the Lower House for Staffordshire. He put down the peasants' rising in Norfolk with great brutality 1549, intrigued against and destroyed the Protector Somerset. Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire May 1551-1553. He was, as is well known, the father-in-law of Lady Jane Grey, betrayed her basely, but suffered on the scaffold all the same, 22 August 1553.³

(2) SIR PHILIP DRAYCOT, Kt. OF PAYNESLEY, M.P. Staffs 1542-4, Lichfield 1553 (2), Staffs 1554, and possibly also in 1523, 1536 or 1539-40.

Born *c.* 1489; son and heir of Sir John D. of the same⁴ (*d.* 1522), by Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Eyre of Padley, Derbyshire. He was much at court, being named in 1546 as

¹ Parl. 1504.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² Shaw, *Knights.*

⁴ Parl. 1515.

possible Chancellor for Ireland. He was escheator for Staffordshire 1529-30; sheriff 1534, 1556; one of the Commissioners of Array 1539-46; J.P. Staffordshire 1522-47 and 1553-9; one of the Commissioners for dissolved Colleges, etc., 1546. He was knighted 1532/3, and though he surveyed many chantries with a view to their confiscation and appropriation by courtiers, yet he must have been of the Catholic party. His adherence to the old faith accounts no doubt for his removal from the bench during the reign of Edward VI, and his descendants were strong Catholics, and suffered accordingly. He married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of John FitzHerbert¹ of Norbury, Derbyshire, and died in 1559, when he was succeeded by his grandson, John Draycot. I.p.m. 1° Eliz.

- (3) WALTER BLOUNT OF BLOUNTS HALL, M.P. Stafford 1542-4, Newcastle 1559, and possibly for either Borough 1523, 1536, or 1539-40.

Born c. 1495; second son of John B. of the same and of Burton-on-Trent (*d.* 1524),² by Eleanor, daughter of John Hall of Dovebridge, Derbyshire. He married Mary, *vel* Margaret, daughter and heiress of John Sutton of Osbaston, Leicestershire, and had by her two sons, William, afterwards of Osbaston (*d.* 1592),³ and Walter. He was on the bench for Staffordshire from 1522 to 1547; Subsidy Commissioner 1525 and Commissioner of Array 1539. He was a Protestant, and in a letter of Sir John Gifford's (then M.P. for the county), preserved among the State Papers and dated 1535, there is an interesting account of how he was saved by Sir John from a prosecution for heresy—though he had "spoken lightly of the Saints."⁴ He was very probably a Duchy nominee in 1559, coming as he did from Needwood.⁵

¹ Parl. 1515.

² Parl. 1485-6.

³ Sir Alex. Croke's *Genl. Account of the Croke Family, surnamed le Blount*, ped. No. 17.

⁴ S.C.V. N.S. 116.

⁵ Mr. Pink writes of Walter Blount:—Walter Blount Esq. was M.P. for Worcestershire 1553 and 1554-5. This was Walter Blount of

- (4) (SIR) WILLIAM STANFORD (OR STAUNFORD) OF HADLEY, MIDDLESEX, M.P. Stafford 1542-4, 1545-7, Newcastle 1547-52.

Born at Hadley 1509; second son of William S., mercer of London (son of Robert S. of Rowley Park by Stafford), by Margaret (Gydney) of London. He was admitted to Gray's Inn 1528; called to the Bar 1536; in 1538 he dissolved the Austin Friars at Stafford; Attorney General early 1545 till 8 June, succeeding William Whorwood, M.P.;¹ Serjeant-at-law 19 May 1552; Queen's Serjeant 19 October 1553; Justice of the Common Pleas October 1554 till death; knighted by King Philip, 27 January 1555; died 28 August 1558, being succeeded by his grandson, William, son of Edward Stanford.² He was buried at Hadley; Will proved in *P.C.C.* 1558 by Alice his widow. By his wife Alice, daughter of John Palmer of Kentish Town, he had six sons and four daughters.³ (But by Shaw's account⁴ he married Elizabeth Cumberford, who was the mother of Sir Robert S., M.P., of Perry Hall; and on 10 Nov. 1573 administration of the estate was granted to the son Robert on the decease of Alice.) He leased Packington off Lord Stafford in 1536,⁵ and died seized of that manor. He bought Handsworth from Sir John St. Leger.⁶ It is evident from the Stafford Deeds at Crewe Hall that Lord Stafford was so deeply in his debt that Stanford might well have first call on the seat at Stafford. I.p.m. 1^o Eliz.

Soddington. They were two different men; the Staffordshire Walter was, I now think, of Blounts Hall. As he was a Protestant he would not be likely to sit in Mary's Parliaments, but would turn up again with the accession of Elizabeth.

Mr. Pink notices also that the Stafford M.P. is described as "gent," the Worcester M.P. as "Esq." He must have outlived 1559, but there is no Will in *P.C.C.*, nor can I find one in the Lichfield list.

¹ Parl. 1536.

² Harwood, *Eydeswick* 446.

³ Pink, and *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴ Shaw, *Staffs.*

⁵ *S.C.* 1912, 127.

⁶ Shaw, *Staffs* II. 109.

(5) HARRY BROKE OF LUBENHAM, LEICESTER, AND OF WRIMEHILL, *jure uxoris*, M.P. Newcastle 1542-4, 1545-7.

Born *c.* 1507; younger son of Thomas B. of Leighton, Cheshire, by Jane daughter of Meverell of Throwley.¹ He married (1) in 1529, Agnes, daughter of Sir Walter Griffith of Wichnor and widow of Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill² (*d.* 1529), and at Wrimehill they lived; and (2) Mary, widow of John Digby. His Will was proved in *P.C.C.* 1558 as "Harry Broke, esq. of Lubenham, Leices., Burton-on-Trent, etc."³ Possibly, as he came from Burton, he was a Duchy nominee.

¹ *Ex inf.* W. F. Carter, and Nichol's *Leicestershire* II. 698.

² Parl. 1512-4.

³ The Will of HARRY BROKE of Lubenham, Leices., Esq., dated 18 February 1558, proved in *P.C.C.* 27 August 1588:—

To be buried in the Church at Lubenham, near his daughter Katherine.

Provides for an alabaster stone to be made at Burton and engraved with "the pictor of me" in armour and harness, "with the Brocke under my hed," and of his daughter with the arms of Sir George Griffiths "and myne."

Mentions:—Cousin, Roger Broke; nephew, Andrew Broke, one of the gentlemen "hushers" to the Queen; kinsman, Hugh Aldersey; sister, Alice Egerton; niece, Anne Egerton; Richard Broke, "my late brother Thomas Broke's bastard son"; and Rauf Perkyn of Madeley.

To Walter Griffith, Esq., son and heir of Sir George G. of Wichnor, "for that my first wife was sister unto the said Sir George and mother unto my said daughter Katherine," £5.

Bequests to Francis, John and William Digby, sons of Mary my wife that now is; and to Mary his wife, leases of land at Kings Bromley and room. a year.

To my son-in-law (*i.e.* step son), Sir Ralph Egerton of Wrimehill, his arming sword and gauntletts and white jacke that was John Digby's my predecessor.

To nephew Richard Broke of Norton, my dagger that I wear.

To cousin Roger Partriche of Kings Bromley, my swerde.

To Katherine, daughter of Andrew Broke, his nephew, "a frenshe hood with Crepyn," which was his daughter Katherine's.

Mentions his nieces, daughters of Sir George Griffiths,—Elizabeth Griffiths, Dorothy Saintquintin, Anne Clapton.

Bequests to niece Jane Horner and her sons Thomas and Richard.

(6) JOHN SMYTH, M.P. Newcastle 1542-4, 1553 (1).

Born *c.* 1490. He was Mayor of Newcastle 1523-5, 1535-6, 1539-40, 1541-2 (when he returned himself to Parliament), 1543-5, 1549-50, 1554-5. It is just possible that he is the ancestor of the present family of Smith of Great Fenton. Richard Smyth, his son, was Mayor of Newcastle 1547-8, 1548-9. He died 1561, being succeeded by this son Richard.¹

Parliament of 1545-7.

Summoned to meet 30 January 1545 (some of the elections took place in December 1544); met 23 November 1545; held two sessions; dissolved 31 January 1547, on the death of the King. This Parliament disendowed all chantries, colleges and

To nephew Andrew Broke his lease of Melton, Northants.

To Roger, son of Roger Broke of Nantwich, and Mary his wife, all his lands in Leicester, Northants and the City of London, charged with certain sums, reversions to all the following in tail: Roger B., Andrew B., John Broke of Leighton, brother of Andrew, Richard B. of Norton in Cheshire another brother of Andrew, Alice Egerton, Hugh Aldersey, Jane Horner and her two sons, niece Elizabeth daughter of John B. of Leighton, Sir Ralph Egerton.

Overseers: Walter Griffiths, Roger Partriche of King's Bromley.
(*P.C.C.* 38 Noodes.)

¹ Will of JOHN SMYTH OF NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME, ESQ., dated 8 March 1560; proved at Lichfield 5 May 1561:—

To be buried in the Lady Chapel in the Church of St. Gylles.

Wife to have my lands, etc., for life, by the consent of my son.

To Katherine my daughter £50.

Residue to my wife Elyn, and make her and my son Richard Smythe Exors.

Witnesses.—John Cleyton gent., Roger Houghton, Rauffe Meyre, and Rauffe Beckonsall.

Debts owing to my brother Rondull, to John Parker of London, Richard Plant, John Keeling, Thomas Smyth bayley, Jhon Fenton and S^r William

Inventory, dated 3 May 1561, amount not given.

Appraisers.—Thomas Smyth, alderman, Thomas Bagnold, John Fenton, and Jhon Keelynge.

Proved by both Exors.

hospitals in 1545. Sir George Gresley of Drakelow was the sheriff who made the Staffordshire Returns. Sir John Dudley, Lord Lisle, and Somerset were more powerful than ever.

County :	George Gryffyth, miles	(1)
	Thomas Fitzherbert, armiger ..	(2)
Stafford :	Henry Stafford, armiger	(3)
	*William Stamford de London, armiger	(4)
Newcastle :	Humphrey Wellys, armiger	(5)
	*Harry Broke, armiger	(6)
	returned by John Smyth, Mayor.	

(1) SIR GEORGE GRIFFITH OF BURTON AGNES, YORKS, AND OF WICHNOR, M.P. Staffs 1545-7, and possibly 1539-40.

Born *c.* 1500 ; son and heir of Sir Walter G. of the same¹ (*d.* 1531), by Jane, daughter of Sir John Ferrers of Tamworth, M.P.² Married Elizabeth (*d.* 1584), daughter of Sir John Skeffington of London (who was son of the Sir William S. of Fisherwick who died in 1525, by his second wife). He was knighted at Calais, 10 November 1532 ;³ J.P. Staffordshire 1538-59 ; one of the Commissioners of Array in 1539 and 1546 ; died 1559. I.p.m. 2^o Eliz.

(2) (SIR) THOMAS FITZHERBERT (Kt.) OF HAMSTALL RIDWARE, AND OF NORBURY AND PADLEY, DERBYSHIRE, M.P. Staffs 1545-7.

Born 1518 ; eldest son and heir of Sir Anthony F.⁴ of the same, the Judge, by his second wife, Maud, daughter and coheir of Richard Cotton of Hamstall Ridware. He was J.P. 1540-60 ; sheriff 1544, 1555 ; made Knight of the Carpet 22 February 1547, after the rising of Parliament. He married Anne, daughter and heir of Sir Arthur Eyre of Padley, Derbyshire, but died without issue.⁵ His youngest brother

¹ Parl. 1512-4.

³ Shaw, *Knights*.

⁵ *Geneal.* VII. N.S. 131.

² Parl. 1495.

⁴ Parl. 1512-4.

married the heiress of Swynnerton, and is the ancestor of the present family.

But the great feature about Thomas Fitzherbert was his "malignant" recusancy. He made Hamstall Ridware the centre of the old faith in Staffordshire. Already in 1562 he was imprisoned as a Papist. In April 1570 he is a prisoner in the Fleet;¹ in 1577 he is listed as the most important Papist in the county, with an (understated) income of 1000 marcs a year.² I find him again in prison in 1586; again committed to the Tower on a charge of Recusancy 10 January 1591; and dying there in 1591, aged about 73. He was buried in the Tower Chapel. His Will was proved at Lichfield, 1 October, 1591, by his nephew, Thomas Fitzherbert, M.P., the renegade,³ but the Act Book reference is all that is to be found at Lichfield, because the Will disinherited the renegade, and he was permitted to destroy it.

(3) HENRY STAFFORD, armiger. A man (or men) of this name was (or were) M.P. for Stafford 1545-7, 1547-52, 1553 (2), 1555. Sir Henry Stafford was M.P. for Salop county in 1555. It is clear that this last Sir Henry S. was the eldest son of Henry, Lord Stafford, and was the man knighted at the coronation of Queen Mary, 2 October 1553. Sir Henry succeeded to the title as second Lord Stafford, 30 April 1562.⁴

The natural supposition would be that the Henry Stafford, armiger, M.P. in 1545, was the first Lord Stafford, who was summoned to the Lords in November 1548. As son and heir of the ill-fated Duke of Buckingham he had had restored to him, when he came of age in 1522, his lands in Staffordshire; he lived in Stafford Castle; he was made Recorder of Stafford in 1532;⁵ he was a J.P. for the County 1536-59. What more natural, one might say, than that he should have been elected for Stafford both in 1545 and 1547?

¹ *Cal. Pap. Dom. Eliz.*

² *S.C.* 1915, p. 374.

³ Parl. 1593.

⁴ Par. Reg., Worthen, Salop, *pace* Pink.

⁵ "This yere was Henry, Lord Stafford, sonne to ye Duke of Bockinghame chosen Recorder of ye towne" (Stafford Annals, Wm. Salt Library).

We have lists of the M.P.'s of the 1547-52 Parliament both at its commencement and its close. It is certain that Henry Stafford, the attainted Duke's son, was raised to the Peerage in November 1548. But in the List of the Parliament of 1547-52 at its close the Stafford Member is still Henry Stafford, and still named first of the two members. Again, Henry, Lord Stafford, even before his elevation to the Peerage in 1548, is always described as Henry, Lord Stafford; he is so referred to in the Stafford Annals already quoted and in the Commissions of the Peace; he is so styled in all the deeds in the Staffordshire MSS. Volume in Lord Crewe's collection. These are not, it is true, official, yet I should expect to see in the official Returns some indication that the Henry Stafford, armiger, was the son of a Duke and was commonly called Lord Stafford, had he been indeed the man elected. Lastly it would have been *infra dignitatem* for the very proud heir of the Staffords to have sat as a burgess for a borough, while the county seats were occupied by a Gryffith and a Fitzherbert; Lord Stafford's language to Richard Bagot, on hearing a rumour that he had said that the Staffords were paternally Bagots, sufficiently indicates both his insolence and the opinion he had of his worth and lineage. When Sir William Paget took a seat in Parliament in 1547 he naturally chose the county to sit for.

We are faced with two alternatives. If the first Lord Stafford was elected in 1545 and 1547, then some other Henry Stafford took his place in November 1548, his eldest son, for instance, who was barely then of age, if indeed so old. But if his son was M.P. for Stafford, November 1548-52 and 1553 (2), he cannot have been the M.P. in 1555, for on 2 October 1553 he had been knighted, and as Sir Henry Stafford he was elected for the County of Salop in 1555. The other alternative is that we have one Henry Stafford only sitting for the Borough, all the same man, 1545 to 1555. Such a man is discoverable.

Mr. Pink has searched the State Papers and the Privy Council Registers and there discovered—only that a Henry Stafford had, on 10 February 1549, a warrant to pay 28s.;

that a Henry Stafford, gent., was bound in his own recognisances in connection with some fisheries 3 April 1556. I have found no references in the Wm. Salt Collections; no Will of a Henry Stafford at Lichfield, but that of a husbandman of the name from the county of Derby. But then I found among the deeds in the Stafford MSS. Book in Lord Crewe's possession, on folio 106a, the following entry:—

(*Translation.*)

ESSINGTON IN HOLDERNESS.

Know that Henry, Lord Stafford, for love of *delecti michi in Xto.* Henry Stafford my brother, and for many considerations, by these presents give and demise to him the office of Chief Steward of all my lands etc. in my demesne of Essington in Holderness, Yorks., to have, hold and execute the said office by himself or deputy for life for 5*m.* annually.

Sealed at Stafford Castle, 30 November 33 Hen. VIII (1541).

Again, among the Bagot MSS.,¹ is a Charter, — by Henry, Lord Stafford, only son of the Duke of Buckingham, granting to George (*sic*) and Henry Stafford his bastard brother (*sic*) and John Trigg the next presentation to the Church of Worthy, Hants—dated 4 Edward VI (1550).

A bastard brother of Lord Stafford, having the same name as himself, would be a comprehensible candidate for Parliament at Stafford. If Henry Stafford, *armiger*, was one man and not three, as seems to me almost certain, then the identification will be as follows:—

HENRY STAFFORD, *armiger*, M.P. Stafford 1545-7, 1547-52, 1553 (2), 1555.

An illegitimate son of Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham. Made, by his brother, Lord Stafford, Chief Steward of the Stafford lands in Essington in Holderness in 1541; a trustee in the grant of 1550; probably still alive in 1556. His patron

¹ *Hist. MSS. Comm. 4th Report, App. I. 326.*

and brother was restored to some of his paternal lands in 1522, and restored in blood and summoned to the Lords in November 1548. The Lord Stafford was active in destroying idols and petitioning for Church estates. While Somerset was in power Stafford supported him, but he joined Somerset's enemies to overthrow him in 1551, becoming more Protestant under Dudley, Duke of Northumberland. He became a devout Catholic under Mary; and was made Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire by Elizabeth in 1558/9, only to be deprived of his offices shortly afterwards.

(4) (SIR) WILLIAM STAMFORD. See Parl. 1542-4.

(5) HUMPHREY WELLES OF HOARCROSS, M.P. Newcastle 1545-7.

Born *c.* 1502; son and heir of John W. of the same¹ (*d.* 1529), by Anne, daughter of (but paternity denied by) John Fitzherbert of Norbury,² Derbyshire—thus Sir Philip Draycot was his uncle. He married Mary (*d.* 1584), daughter of William Chetwynd³ of Ingestre and widow of John Mitton of Weston-under-Lizard (*d.* 1533). He was J.P. 1538-65; escheator 1543-4, 1551-2, 1556-7; sheriff 1559-60. In 1564 he is described by the Bishop to the Privy Council as “meet to continue in office (as J.P.); accounted of good men an adversary to religion and no favourer thereof neither in deed nor word, but better learned than the rest.”⁴ I think he was allied with the Devereux interest and broad-minded in his views. Coming from Hoarcross in Needwood he might well be a Duchy nominee. He died 9 Sept. 1565, M. I. His Will,⁵

¹ See Parl. 1504.

² See Parl. 1515.

³ Parl. 1523.

⁴ S.C. 1915. 369.

⁵ Will of HUMPHREY WELLYS of the Horecross, dated 31 August 1564, proved at Lichfield 29 January 1566.

Directs an alabaster tomb to be erected in Yoxall Church to himself and wife. He leaves sums to the parson of Yoxall for a mortuary etc.; 3s. 4d. each for the reparation of Yoxall Bridge, Wichnor Bridge, Salters Bridge, Tutbury Bridge, Uttoxeter Bridge, Wolsley Bridge and the High Bridge. To the poor prisoners in Stafford Gaol 5s. To the poor of Yoxall, Newborough, Abbots Bromley and Tutbury 40s.

dated 31 August 1564, was proved at Lichfield 29 January 1566. I.p.m. 8° Eliz.

(6) HARRY BROKE. See Parl. 1542-4.

Bequests to: Lady Draycott (his mother's sister), brother-in-law John St. Andrew, cozen George St. Andrew, cozen Sench Salt, cozen Elizabeth Asheton, brother-in-law Anthony Chatwyn (Chetwynd), aunt Margery, Sir Thomas Mason my chapleyn, cozen Thomas Repyngton and wife. Personal effects and chattels to wife, and to his brother and heir Robert Wellys.

To his Exōrs, the chantry of Yoxall and all the goods of his deceased brother Richard and his interest in lands at Hampstall Ridware, Pype Ridware, Ovyettes Hay, Blymhill, and Wheaton Aston for the marriage of Margaret, Elizabeth, Dorothy and Mary Wellys, daughters of his brother Richard. Provides for William Bonyngton, base son of Francis Bonyngton to whom he is guardian, also for Margaret daughter of cozen Joyce Marres to whom he is guardian. His burgess lands at Newborough settled on his nieces as above. Residue to wife, Mary Wellys.

Exor.: wife Mary. Overseers: Sir William Gresley, Kt., Walter Gryffith, Thomas Repyngton esqs. Witness, Thomas Repyngton, Thomas Mason, clerk, Anthony Green, physitian, Erkenwalde Wyloughbie, Thomas Adderton, yeoman. Inventory, dated 25 September 1565, amount £632; appraisers: Thomas Bassett Esq., John Chatterton, gent., John Morrey, yeoman.

EDWARD VI.

28 Jan. 1547.

Parliament of 1547-52.

Summoned to meet 13 October 1547; met 5 November 1547; held four sessions; dissolved 15 April 1552. The Duke of Somerset, Protector, Sir John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, and Sir William Paget, then the most powerful men in England, must have influenced the elections; and Sir William Paget elected to sit for Staffordshire, where his new estate had been acquired from the Bishop at Beaudesert by Lichfield. This Parliament began to sit in St. Stephen's Hall, where Parliament sat for 300 years. It was in this Parliament that obstruction by undue talking began to be practised.¹

The very imperfect Returns for this Parliament do not record by-elections, of which, in five years, there must have been many. But I am indebted to Mr. Pink for a copy of a List of this Parliament from among the Hatfield MSS., which contains internal evidence of having been made in the closing days of the Parliament. The differences between this list and the original Returns can only be accounted for by by-elections. Many of these Mr. Pink has been able to test. Below is given the Staffordshire Returns and the Staffordshire members from the List of 1552. The sheriff was Dudley's cousin, Walter Wrottesley, and Thomas Bradshawe was Mayor of Newcastle.

¹ Dasent: *Speakers*, 131-2.

	<i>Returns.</i>	<i>List of 1552.</i>
County :	William Paget, miles, K.G. .. (1)	Sir John Harcourt, miles.
	John Harcourt, miles (2)	Sir Ralph Bagnoll, miles (7)
	elected 13 Octo- ber 1547.	
Stafford :	*Henry Stafford, armiger .. (3)	Henry Stafford, armiger.
	Richard Forssett (4)	Richard Forsett.
Newcastle :	James Rolston, armiger .. (5)	James Rolston, armiger.
	*William Stamford (6)	William Stamford.
Lichfield :		William Layton "mortuus" .. (8)
		Edmund Twynes .. (9)
		Alexander Walker, vice Layton .. (10)

It will be seen that not only was there a by-election for the County, in response to a new writ ordered in 1551, because Paget had gone to the Peers, but also that at some time during this Parliament the Crown was moved to issue writs once more for the ancient Borough of Lichfield. One cannot doubt that Lichfield received its charter and its members at the instigation of Paget; the borough lay at his door; he could please and control his neighbours. The city had been governed by a guild and a guild-master from the time of Richard II. It was now incorporated, 1 Edward VI, by the style of "Bailiffs, Burgesses, Citizens and Commonalty" of Lichfield.¹ It may have been in or even before 1548 that the city began again and

¹ Harwood: *Erdeswick*, 291. Merewether and Stephens, *Hist. of Boroughs III 1152-9* for full particulars of this Charter.

regularly to send two burgesses to Parliament. During this Parliament Stafford also received a new Charter with new privileges.

- (1) SIR WILLIAM PAGET, K.G. (LORD PAGET OF BEAUDESERT),
M.P. Middlesex 1545-7, Staffs 1547-49; and possibly
1543-4 in the place of Sir John Dudley.

Born at Wednesbury, 1505; said to have been the son of William P. "of an old Staffordshire family,"¹ which "old family" the County Records completely ignore. He was supported at Cambridge by the Boleyn family, and went afterwards into Gardiner's household. He rose and was knighted, 18 October 1537; he was sworn clerk to the Privy Council 1540; ambassador to France 1541; Secretary of State and Privy Councillor 13 April 1543; one of Henry VIII's executors 28 January 1547. Comptroller of the Household February 1547; Chancellor of the Duchy July 1547 to June 1552. Thenceforward he and Somerset ruled the country. He stood by the Protector as long as it was safe and soon after his fall was created Baron Paget of Beaudesert, 3 December 1549. The property of Beaudesert he got from the lands of the See of Lichfield in 1546, together with the lands of the dissolved Abbey of Burton. He became President of Wales in 1549; and Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire jointly with Dudley in May 1551. In January 1552, however, his rival Sir John Dudley (Duke of Northumberland) procured his downfall. He was committed to the Fleet prison and all his property was forfeited, June 1552. For this he managed to compound, and on the death of Edward VI and the fall of Dudley and Lady Jane Grey, he again became a Privy Councillor under Mary. Though at heart, probably, a genuine Catholic, he was too tolerant for Mary; but he became Lord Privy Seal in 1556, and retired from the Council on Elizabeth's accession—though even she sometimes sought his advice.

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

He died 9 June 1563, being succeeded by his son Henry.¹ He had married Anne, daughter and heiress of Henry Preston of Westmorland. He was on the Staffordshire bench from 1543 till his death. Will proved in *P.C.C.* 1563.²

(2) SIR JOHN HARCOURT, KT. OF STANTON HARCOURT AND ELLENHALL, M.P. Staffs 1547-52, and possibly for Stafford in 1523, 1536 or 1539-40.

Born *c.* 1500; son and heir of Sir Simon H.³ of the same (*d.* 1548), by Agnes, daughter of Thomas Darell of Scotney, Salop.⁴ He was knighted at the coronation of Anne Boleyn, 31 May 1533;⁵ J.P. Staffordshire 1536 till death; Commissioner of Array, Staffordshire, 1539; sheriff of Staffordshire 1545-6 and 1557-8. He lived at Ellenhall till his father's death, and married, before 1523, Margaret, daughter and ultimately coheiress of Sir William Barentyne of Haselyn, Oxon. He was probably a friend of Cecil, Lord Burleigh (as his father was of Thomas Cromwell), and his three sons sat in Parliament.⁶ He died 19 February 1566, and was succeeded by his son Simon. Of Sir John and his wife, the Harcourts of Ranton—backed by John Peshale of Horseley—complain that “they bee

¹ Parl. 1559.

² Will of SIR WILLIAM PAGET, K.G., Lord Paget of Beaudesert, signed 4 November 1560, proved 1 July 1563:

To be buried at either West Drayton or Burton; *inter alia* “my greate standing cupp with the cover duple gilte weing one hundreth ounces and an half to my sonne Sir Henry Paget Kt. . . . to remayne from heire to heire as an heire lome.” The Trustees to raise money on certain estates in Co. Bucks are: George Freville Esq., Thomas Cary, serjeant at law, Edmund Twynyho, Esq., and Richard Cupper, gent.; to his daughter Gryselde £500; sister Agnes Smyth, £20; sister Margaret's daughter £10; Eleanor Palmer his daughter, £40 a year; elaborate arrangements for the education by his wife of his sons Thomas and Charles and his daughter Gryselde; Sir Henry his son, sole executor. Overseers of his Will: Edmund Twynyho, Richard Cupper, William Twynyho, Robert Jones and ?James Bedell.

³ Knighted at Tournay, 13 October 1513.

⁴ *Harcourt Papers.*

⁵ *Ex. inf.*, Pink.

⁶ Parl. 1563-7.

and alwaies have been common brekers of your lawes," 1536 ; but this was probably the common form of an appeal to the Star Chamber.¹ I.p.m. 8^o Eliz.

(3) HENRY STAFFORD. See Parl. 1545-7.

(4) RICHARD FORCETT, M.P. Stafford 1547-52, Heytesbury 1554, Bossiney 1554-5.

Born *c.* 1520 ; probably the son of Edward F., a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn (admitted 1504). He was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1540 ; called to the Bar 1552 ; Common Pleader of the City of London 1554 till death. He married Margaret, widow successively of Roger Amice of Colne Wake, Essex, and of William Massie of the Inner Temple. He died July 1561. His Will, dated 15 July 1561, was proved in *P.C.C.* 17 October 1561. Evidently he was Cecil's nominee, for by this Will he leaves Cecil £20, and makes him, Gilbert Gerard (afterwards Attorney General) and Sir W. Garratt his Overseers. His third son, Edward F. of Marylebone, a surveyor in the Office of Works, was M.P. for Wells 1601-11, and in the latter year received a grant of the manor of Tyburn, which his granddaughter and heiress carried in marriage to Thomas Austen.²

Forcett managed, through Cecil or Paget or his position in Parliament, to secure the post of Surveyor of Crown Lands and Church Ornaments in Staffordshire. This position, owing to the establishment of the new Prayer Book of 1548, gave the Surveyor plenty of pickings, of which Mr. Forcett seems to have taken full advantage—carrying away plate, robes and furniture.³

(5) JAMES ROLLESTON, M.P. Newcastle 1547-52, October-December 1553, 1554, Stafford 1554-5.

Born *c.* 1510 ; second son of Thomas R. of the Lea in Mayfield (*d.* 1529), by Elizabeth, daughter of John Turvill of

¹ *S.C.* 1910. 51.

² *Ex. inf.*, Pink ; but see *Geneal.*, XVIII. N.S. 132 ; and *Geneal.* XXI. N.S. 108.

³ *S.C.* VI. N.S. 184 ; 1915, 402-3.

New Hall, Leicestershire.¹ His name appears on a Commission of 1551.² The Will of Thomas Rolleston of Mathfelde (Mayfield), Staffordshire, proved in *P.C.C.* December 1529,³ is obviously that of the father of this James. James R. died in September 1555, and from his Will he would seem to have been a good Catholic.⁴ He was apparently unmarried. Doubtless he was the Duchy nominee for Newcastle.

(6) WILLIAM STAMFORD. See Parl. 1542-4.

(7) SIR RALPH BAGNALL, KT., OF DEULACRES, M.P. Staffs Feb. 1551-52, Newcastle 1554-5, Staffs 1559, Newcastle 1563-7, 1571.

Born *c.* 1515; eldest son of John B. (Mayor of Newcastle in 1519, 1522, 1531, 1533; *d.* 1558), by Eleanor, daughter of

¹ *Geneal.* VIII, N.S. 74.

² *S.C.* 1912. 181.

³ The Will of THOMAS ROLLESTON of Mathfelde, dated 13 August 1528; proved in *P.C.C.* 7 December 1529.

He had entailed his lands in 1523. To each daughter at her marriage he leaves £100; to sons James and Christopher each 12 "fethers of leed" (*i.e.* tons); to eldest son Francis his bellows and forge. He lived at "the leye" in Mayfield. Of his goods, one-third to wife, two-thirds equally among children. Exors.: Elizabeth, wife; James, son; William, brother. Overseers: Dan Richard Heth, Prior of Tutbury, William Dethyk. Witnesses: William Bassett, William Dedyek, Roger Grenthall, gent. (*P.C.C.* 14. Jankyn.)

⁴ Will of JAMYS ROLLESTON of Mathefeld, dated 2 November 1553, proved at Lichfield 11 September 1555.

Lease of a "ferme" at Mathefeld to brother Francis Rolleston.

Lease of Gyleshyll and land at Ashborne to Sir Thomas Mansfield "my priest" for life and £30; if he die before the term is expired then to William Woodward and his wife. Other leases and £30 to these last, for the upbringing of their children.

Bequests to Raffe Heughe and Custans Rydyng, servants, and to 13 others named. To nephew, Thomas Persall, £20 for his sustentacon and finding at Cambridge. Bequests to his godsons, Jamys Berysford, Jamys Daken, Jamys Wodward. To the reparacon of Hengynge Brygge £2; and of the church of Mathfeld £2. £10 to the poor.

Residue to his Exors as he had directed them by word.

Exors: Sir Thomas Mansfeld, clerk, Wyllam Wodward.

Supervisor: brother Francis Rolleston (of Mayfield).

Inventory: dated 10 September 1555, amounts to £301.

Thomas Whittingham of Middlewich. In some strange way this tradesman's son and his brother Nicholas¹ became ruffling courtiers of the Reformation. He was knighted at the Battle of Musselburgh by the Duke of Somerset, 29 September 1547.² In the years 1549-52 he obtained grants of the Deulacres Abbey lands and of the churches of Leek and Stoke; with Deulacres he got 12,000 acres in North Staffordshire. In October 1553 (1 Mary) he was elected Mayor of Newcastle and probably returned himself to Parliament. He married Elizabeth, third daughter of Robert Whitgreve of Burton by Stafford, died without issue in 1580 (before June)³ and left his brother Sir Nicholas his heir.

He is described in 1564 by the bishop in his report to the Privy Council as "meet to continue in office" as J.P.⁴ Perhaps this was due to the fact that he had that year rebuilt the Meerbrook Chapel and endowed it,⁵ but that might have received warmer commendation from the bishop. Erdeswick speaks of him as a "goodfellow" and a warrior; but his chief fame is as a determined Protestant.

That he sat in the 1554-5 Parliament is known from Fox's account of the Session: "Soe they all kneled down and receyved itt (the Pope's blessing), all save one, Sir Raulf Bagnall, who sayed he was sworne the contrary to King Harry the Eighth, which was a worthy prince and labourd 25 yeres before he could abolish him; and to say that I will nowe agree to itt, I will not." So runs the first report of a speech of a Staffordshire member in Parliament. He fled to France, handing over his estates to his brother, Sir Nicholas B., who, being also in difficulties, sold Deulacres in 1556. Under Queen Elizabeth, Sir Ralph returned; he rebought Deulacres for £2,111, but was in financial difficulties for the rest of his life, and had to re-sell the greater part. He served as sheriff in 1561, and was on the Staffordshire bench from before 1564 till

¹ Parl. 1559.

² Shaw, *Knights*.

³ *Cal. Pap. Dom. Eliz.* 1580.

⁴ S.C. 1915, 370.

⁵ S.C. 1915, 147.

his death in 1580. The Final Concords are full of the sales of his property, and the Star Chamber Records of the law suits that his newly acquired estates brought in their train. It is said that as his embarrassments grew, Queen Elizabeth offered him in the last resort the free run of her kitchen.

(8) WILLIAM LAYTON, M.P. Lichfield 1548.

Probably one of the 32 brothers and sisters of Richard L., Dean of York and despoiler of monasteries.¹ If so he was a son of William L. of Dalemain, Cumberland.

(9) EDMUND TWYNES OR TWYNEYHO, M.P. Lichfield 1548-52, Old Sarum 1554.

He may have been of the family of Twynho of Keyford, Somerset, of whom an "Edward" flourished about this time.² There is no doubt he was the Edmund Twynyho, Esq., who was one of the trustees named in, and overseer of, the Will of Lord Paget, signed in 1560. He owed his seat at Lichfield to Paget's recommendation.

(10) ALEXANDER WALKER, M.P. Lichfield 1548-52.

Walkers appear in the Tamworth Parish Register 1557-1612, but there is no Alexander. They also occur c. 1540 near Castern and in the Moorlands. This man was probably a burgess of Lichfield. Mr. Pink connects him with Alexander Walker of Somerset who matriculated at Lincoln College, Oxford, 1583, aged 14, and was called to the bar 9 July 1594.

Parliament of 1553 (I).

Summoned, to meet 1 March 1553; dissolved 31 March 1553. This most Protestant Parliament was elected under the influence of Dudley after the fall of both Somerset and Paget. The sheriff who made the Returns was Sir George Blount of Hopton. Edward Brett of Wolstanton was Mayor of Newcastle.

¹ See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² See Hutchins' *Dorset* III. 468.

County :	William Devereux, armiger	(1)
	Walter Aston, armiger ..	(2)
	elected 26 January 1553.	
Stafford :	Edward Colbarne, gent. ..	(3)
	Francis Smyth, gent. ..	(4)
	elected 6 February 1553.	
Newcastle :	Roger Fowke, gent.	(5)
	John Smyth	(6)
	elected 7 February 1553.	
Lichfield :	Mark Wyrley, gent. ..	(7)
	William Fitzherbert, gent. ..	(8)
	elected 8 February 1553.	

(1) (SIR) WILLIAM DEVEREUX (Kt.) OF MYREVALE, WARWICKSHIRE, M.P. (Protestant), Co. Cardigan 1547-52, Staffs 1553 (1), Co. Warwick 1572-9.

Born *c.* 1525; third son of Sir Walter, first Viscount Hereford. He was sheriff of Warwick and Leicester 1564-5; knighted at Kenilworth by the Earl of Leicester, 21 August 1565. He married in or before 1547 Jane, daughter of John Scudamore of Holm Lacy, Hereford, and died in 1579 leaving daughters only. Will proved in *P.C.C.* 1579.¹ I.p.m. 22 Eliz.

¹ Will of SIR WILLIAM DEVEREUX, Kt. of Myrevall, Warwickshire, undated, proved in *P.C.C.* 2 November 1579.

To Jane, wife, the lands settled on her by Act of Parliament 1 and 5 Ed. VI.

To two married daughters, ten cattle and ten heifers each.

Furniture to my son Hastings and my daughter Dame Barbara, his wife.

Furniture to my son Littleton and my daughter Margaret, his wife.

To my god-daughter Marie Littleton, £40.

To my dearlie beloved nephew, the Earl of Essex, a little standing gilt cup which I used to drink in myself.

Leaves large sums to charity, and even to education "to read the Bible."

Exors. : Wife, Dame Jane, and Mr. Thomas Trentham.

Overseers : Richard Devereux and Sir John Cockin, Kt.

Witnesses : Anthony Green, Richard Broughton, Thomas Hilton, Rafe Marten, Robert Holt, Roger Walton.

(*P.C.C.* 42, Baker.)

One of his coheiresses married Sir Edward Littleton of Pillatonhall about 1570. One sees from his Will, from his friends, that he was a Protestant partisan.

(2) (SIR) WALTER ASTON (Kt.) OF TIXALL AND HEYWOOD, M.P. (Protestant) Staffs 1553 (1).

Born c. 1520 ; son and heir of Sir Edward A. of the same¹ (d. 1568), by Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Bowles of Penhow Castle, Caermarthenshire. He was knighted at Berwick by the Duke of Norfolk, 18 July 1560 ; Sheriff of Staffordshire 1570-1, 1580-1 ; J.P. 1577 till death, and probably also at an earlier period. Throughout the struggle of the religions in Staffordshire, Sir Walter Aston, Mr. Bagot, Mr. Gresley and Mr. Trentham formed a sort of committee of the Staffordshire bench to carry out the repression of the Catholics and their conspiracies. They were in constant communication with the Privy Council from 1576 to 1590, and were the mainstay of the Protestant government.² Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned at Chartley and at Sir Walter's house at Tixall in 1585, which probably embittered still further his relations with his catholic neighbours. He and Richard Bagot were in 1585 made Deputies to the new Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Shrewsbury. It was he who built the famous gateway at Tixall, his father having built Tixall house in 1555. He died 1589, having married (1) Mary, daughter of Sir John Spencer of Wormleighton, who died without issue ;

¹ Parl. 1539-40.

² Sir Walter Aston was a violent Protestant. In cross-examining Father Sutton, he added point to his questions by twice striking the prisoner with his staff and knocking him down. Sir Walter committed the Father to Stafford gaol, and insisted upon giving evidence against him at the Assizes. He protested that if his evidence were not accepted he would never sit on the bench again. Shortly after Father Sutton "was put off the ladder, and cut down very lively for he stood upon his feet, and after being disembowelled spoke these words : 'Oh thou bloody butcher, God forgive you' ; then calling upon Jesus and Mary he expired."

(*Historical Studies, Staffs.* Cherry 73.)

(2) Elizabeth, sister of Sir Richard Leveson, and daughter of James Leveson of Lilleshull by Margaret,¹ sister of Sir Thomas Offley, Lord Mayor. His grandson by Elizabeth was created Lord Aston of Forfar. John Giffard, M.P. 1553, was his brother-in-law.² I.p.m. 31 Eliz.

“ Sir Walter Aston, a man in estimation with the Privy Council, a man of gravity and wisdom in his youth, insomuch that the Lord Burleigh, Lord Treasurer, upon conference with him gave him that commendation, that he deserved a better place than to be justice of peace in Staffordshire.”³ No wonder! for his son Sir Edward’s estates, according to G. E. C., “exceeded in value £10,000 a year”—an enormous sum for those days,⁴ which I do not credit.

(3) EDWARD COLBARNE OF LICHFIELD, M.P. Stafford 1553
(I).

The Colbarnes were a family from Dudley and Tipton, and this man seems to have been connected with Ridware Mavesyn in 1556,⁵ with Rugeley in 1562,⁶ and with Tamworth.⁷ But the Will of “Edward Colberne, gent. of the City of Lichfield” proved in *P.C.C.* in 1568 fixes the man.⁸

¹ Wrongly called Jane in the Offley MS. (*penes* Lord Crewe).

² MS. *History of the Offleys*, *penes* Lord Crewe.

³ MS. *History of the Offleys*, *penes* Lord Crewe.

⁴ G. E. C. *Complete Peerage*, *Aston of Forfar*.

⁵ S.C. XII. 231.

⁶ S.C. XIII. 219.

⁷ S.C. XIII. 259.

⁸ Will of EDWARD COLBARNE of Lichfield, dated 4 December 1567, proved in *P.C.C.* 13 July 1568.

To wife Katherine and her daughter, lands I bought in Colwyche.

Debts owed to John Dyott, gent. £47 8s. 4d.; to James Weston, gent. £10 for tithes; my brother Sir George C. and to George Colwiche.

Debts owed from Sir William Gresley, Lord Willoughbie, Mr. George Griffythe.

To William Colbarne, son of Roger Colbarne *5m.*, as well as the woods, bricks and tiles he sold when managing the works and woods in Hoppas Haye.

Exors. : Brother Francis Colbarne, Richard Allen, servant.

(*P.C.C.* 15 Babington.)

(4) FRANCIS SMITH, M.P. Truro 1545-7, Stafford 1553 (1).

This is probably the Francis Smyth who was dead in 1587, and whose family was of the righteous sort and friends of Walsingham.¹ A Francis Smyth, Esq., was sheriff of Warwick and Leicester in 1566-7. Or he is possibly to be determined by the Will of Francis Smyth of St. Pancras, London, proved in *P.C.C.* in 1586, though this looks like the Will of a man not more than 40 years old.² I.p.m. of perhaps a different man, 29 Eliz., as "of Derbyshire."

(5) ROGER FOWKE OF GUNSTON, M.P. (Protestant), Newcastle 1553 (1), 1553 (2).

Born *c.* 1525; son and heir of John F.³ of the same (*d.* 1547), by Anne, daughter of John Bradshaw of Windley, Derbyshire. He married Margery, daughter of Richard Moreton of Haughton, Salop, and left five daughters of whom Jane, the eldest (*d.* 1590), married her cousin Roger F. of Brewood (*d.* 1594).

He was one of those "goodly men" consulted by the bishop in 1564, and it is reported of him that "he is meet to be called to Office of Justice," and one of those "best learned in the county, and favorers of religion."⁴ He was possibly a Duchy nominee. His Will was proved in *P.C.C.* in 1576.⁵

¹ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

² Will of Francis Smyth, mercer; dated 20 July 1586; proved in *P.C.C.* 4 November 1586.

To the poor £100, to Mr. Fenis £100, Mr. Gresham £100, Mr. Parkes £40, servant Richard Heath 100*m.*, acquits Mr. Gamage of a debt of £117.

To his sister Sibbell £100, and if she marry Mr. William Lewys another £100; to nephew Francis Calthorpe £50; brother William £200; brother and sister Wilks £50 in plate; brother and sister Barnham £10; sister Calthorpe £100.

His wife Elizabeth is with child; if it be a son he to have reversion after mother's life interest, if a daughter she to have £2,000.

Exors.:—Wife, John Taylor her father, Peter Osborne, Esq. Witnesses:—Thomas Wilkes, Benedick Barnham, William Lewys, Henry Parvysle.

³ Parl. 1536.

⁴ *S.C.* 1915. 370.

⁵ Will of ROGER FOWKE of Gunstone, gent., dated 3 October 1575. proved in *P.C.C.* 26 July 1576.

(6) JOHN SMYTH. See Parl. 1542-4.

(7) MARK WYRLEY, gent., M.P. (Protestant), Lichfield 1553 (1), 1554-5.

Born c. 1500 ; second son of Cornelius W. of Handsworth, by Claire, daughter and heiress of John Sheldon of Rowley Regis. He is mentioned as bailiff of Lichfield in 1540.¹ He was one of the Chantry Commissioners in 1553.² He must have been a strong Protestant, as he was one of the seceders from the Parliament of 1554-5. He was younger brother of William Wyrley of Handsworth, who died 24 February 1561/2 aged 63,³

(8) WILLIAM FITZHERBERT OF SOMERSHALL HERBERT, M.P. Lichfield 1553 (1).

Born c. 1530 ; fourth son of Sir Anthony F., Justice of the

To be buried in the church of Brewood by his ancestors. Refers to his brothers, Francis F. of Enborne, Berks, deceased, William F. and Thomas F., trustees for a settlement on his four daughters.

Mentions his mother, Anne F., and his aunt, Mrs. Levison of Partone, and hopes she will mother his children, and John F., son of his late brother Francis.

All his evidences are "in my Studdye."

Bequests to wife Margaret, brother Gravenor, sister Joice, brother John Lane, sister Cassandra Lane, son-in-law Roger Fowke, and daughter Joan his wife, brother-in-law Richard Morton, cousin John F. of the Temple, cousin Mr. Edward Kinnersley.

Remainder : Half to wife for the bringing up of the children, and of my son-in-law Roger F. in learning ; half equally among my daughters, Elizabeth, Joan, Katherine, Jane.

Exors. : Wife, brother Thomas F., son-in-law Roger F.

Overseers : Richard Mourton of Haughton, Esq., my father-in-law, Thomas Warringe of W'hampton, James Fowler of Pendeford, gent.

Witnesses : Roger F., Thomas Cupper, Sampson Reade, Raffe Kent.

Recites deed of 20 October 1549, dealing with William Humfreston, son of William H. Esq. (dead in 1575), and Ellinor his wife.

(P.C.C. 23 Carew.)

¹ S.C. 1912, 137.

² S.C. 1915, 403.

³ Shaw, *Staffs* II. 115, and Parl. 1536.

Common Pleas,¹ by Maud, daughter and coheirss of Richard Cotton of Ridware; and youngest brother of Sir Thomas F. of Norbury and Hampstall Ridware, M.P.² He married 1550, Elizabeth, daughter and coheirss of Humphrey Swynnerton, M.P.³ of Swynnerton and Hilton, who died in 1562. His wife and son succeeded to Swynnerton. Fitzherbert himself died in 1559, and his widow married Francis Gatacre, of Gatacre, whose Catholicism carried their Fitzherbert relations with them, so that the Fitzherberts remained all through these perilous times the determined enemies of the new religion and of Queen Elizabeth. His will was proved in *P.C.C.* 4 August 1559.⁴

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* and Parl. 1515.

² Parl. 1545-7.

³ Parl. 1554.

⁴ The Will of WILLIAM FITZHERBERT OF SWYNNERTON, undated, proved in *P.C.C.* 24 August 1559:—

Devises Masses for his soul. Till his son Thomas is of age his wife to have his lands; to wife also one-third of his goods, and a maintenance allowance for his son Anthony till he be of age. But if his wife remarry she "shall have no further meddling, occupation or receipt of any of my lands."

Goods, £20 to son Thomas, rest divided between son Anthony and daughter Anne when of age. Anne to have 200*m.* for her marriage, the money to come from that obtained for the marriage of his son and heir.

To his brothers, Sir Thomas, John and Richard, bequests of books and clothes, rings for his father- and mother-in-law.

Two barrels of hearynges to be bestowed at Tottenham every year on the poor, as by the Will of his cousin Margaret Byllington, charged upon his lands in Tottenham.

Exors.:—Wife (while unmarried), father-in-law, and his brothers, Sir Thomas, John and Richard. Witnesses:—Humphrey Swynnerton, Esq., George Powre, Thomas Robynson.

QUEEN MARY.

6 July 1553.

Parliament of 1553 (2).

Summoned to meet 5 October 1553; held two sessions; dissolved 5 December 1553. Gardiner probably helped in these elections. The directions to the sheriffs were:—"Where our Privy Council shall recommend men of learning and wisdom, in such cases their directions shall be followed." So the Parliament repealed the Laws relating to religion passed in the previous reign. But it was not an extreme Catholic Parliament.

For the members for the county and Newcastle we have to rely on Willis' *Notitia Parliamentaria*, as they are not given in the Returns.

County :	Sir Thomas Giffard, Kt.	..	(1)
	Edward Lyttleton, Esq.	..	(2)
	elected 7 September 1553.		
Stafford :	Henry Stafford, armiger	..	(3)
	(Sir Anthony Browne, Kt. ¹)	..	(4)
	Simon Lowe of London	..	(5)
	elected 11 September 1553.		
Newcastle :	*Roger Fowke	.. ..	(6)
	James Rolston ²	.. ..	(7)

¹ Sir Anthony Browne, Kt., was set down first and then crossed out, and Simon Lowe written over on the Return—the fact being that Sir Anthony was returned also for Petersfield, and preferred that seat to Stafford. Whether a new writ was issued for Stafford, or whether the Return was simply amended at Westminster cannot be determined.

² Mis-written "Boston" by Willis.

Lichfield: Philip Draycot, miles .. (8)
 John Giffard, armiger .. (9)
 elected 18 September 1553.

(1) SIR THOMAS GIFFARD (Kt.) OF CAVERSWALL AND CHILLINGTON, M.P. Staffs 1553 (2), 1554-5, 1555.

Born 1491; eldest son and heir of Sir John G., M.P.¹ (*d.* 1556), by Joyce (Hoord). He married (1) 1514-15, Dorothy, daughter and heir of Sir John Montgomery of Caverswall; (2) 1531 Ursula, daughter of Robert Throckmorton of Coughton, the mother of his son and heir, John G.² With his first wife he acquired, among other lands, Caverswall Castle, where he lived till 1539. In 1539 he had a grant of Black Ladies Nunnery near Brewood, which then became his chief residence. He was in the King's Household in 1539,³ and was made a knight of the carpet 22 February 1547.⁴ He was escheator 1523-4; sheriff 1529-30, 1553-4; J.P. 1535-60. He was one of the Commissioners of Array in 1539.⁵

¹ Parl. 1529-36.

² Parl. 1553 (2).

³ Geneal. N.S. XXX. 20.

⁴ Shaw, *Knights*.

⁵ Will of SIR THOMAS GIFFORD, KT., OF CHYLLYNTON, dated 4 August 1559; proved in *P.C.C.* 26 June 1560. No mention of masses; to be buried at Brewood near the vestry door; a tomb to be made, and the altar table repaired, "if that it may then be done."

To his son and heir John he leaves, *inter alia*, "the standyng cupp of silver dubble guilt which was my father's containyng 29 ounces, and the littell goblet with the cover which my father caused to be made at Hampton," . . . the beds in "the Lord Ferrers chambre . . . and the cofer in the chambre where Erasmus Wolsley now lyeth."

Besides the settled estates John is to have the lease of Brewood which he had of the Bishop by indenture dated 16 October 1547; and the lease of Pattingham, subject to a rentcharge to 2nd son Edward. Edward to have the manors of Hyde and Plordwike; the younger sons Humphrey and Robert to have the Monastery of Blackladies. The parsonages of Dilhorn and Fosbroke to go for the maintenance of his unmarried daughters Elizabeth and Anne, who are each to have 250*m.* for their marriage. He mentions also his married daughters, Dorothy Astley, Isabel Bedulph and Cassandra Wolsley, and his sisters, Swynnerton, Shurley and Talbote, and his house at Caverswall.

John, his heir, is to keep up 100 deer in Brewood Park; and, after the death of William Egerton, gent., to have entry into the paviage of

He was a noted Catholic, and died at Chillington 27 May, 1560, being buried in Brewood Church, where there is a monument to his memory. I.p.m. 2 Eliz.

(2) EDWARD LYTTLETON, Esq. See Parl. 1529-36.

(3) HENRY STAFFORD. See Parl. 1545-7.

(4) SIR ANTHONY BROWNE, Kt., M.P. Guildford 1547-52, Stafford and Petersfield, preferring Petersfield 1553 (2), Surrey 1554.

Eldest son of Sir Anthony Browne, K.G. (Master of the Horse to Henry VIII). K.B. 20 February 1547; K.G. and Master of the Horse. He was a strong Catholic and one of the envoys sent by Mary to treat with the Pope for the reconciliation of the Anglican and Roman Churches. Created Viscount Montagu, 2 September 1554.¹ Died 19 October, 1592.

(5) SIMON LOWE OF LONDON, M.P. Stafford 1553 (2), Shoreham 1554-5.

He was clearly not a Staffordshire man. The Will of Simon Lowe, *alias* Fyfilde of Bromley, Kent, proved in *P.C.C.* 1577,²

Brewood. Elaborate arrangements are made for the upkeep of the deer, and the eldest sons of John Gifford, of Gilbert Astley, of Francis Biddulph, and of Erasmus Wolseley (evidently sons-in-law) are each to have a stag a year. There are also bequests to "the yomen that be in household with me."

Exor. :—His wife, Dame Ursula. Overseers :—John Thormorton, justice, Humphrey Swynnerton, and his heir John Gifford. Witnesses :—Humphrey Swynnerton, Esq., Edward Gyfford, gent., Roger F..... ? gent.

¹ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*; and Mr. Beaven.

² Will of SIMON FYFIELD, *alias* LOWE, of Bromley, Kent, Esq., dated 28 January 1575, proved March 17, 1577.

To be buried in the church of St. Magnus the Martyr, London.

To wife Margaret, £100 a year and lands in Surrey and Northants.

To Timothy Lowe, elder son, lands in Lincoln, Northants and Kent.

Thomas Lowe, second son, John Lowe, youngest son, and their grandmother Elizabeth Simpson mentioned.

Bequests to Elizabeth Andrews, widow, his daughter.

Refers to "my premises in London" and "my house at London Bridge."

may identify the man. If so he was the son of Ralph Lowe *alias* Fyfield of London, gent., and married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Christopher Lacy of London.¹

- (6) ROGER FOWKE. See Parl. 1553 (1).
 (7) JAMES ROLSTON. See Parl. 1547-52.
 (8) PHILIP DRAYCOT. See Parl. 1542-4.
 (9) JOHN GIFFARD OF CHILLINGTON, M.P. Lichfield 1553 (2),
 Stafford 1554.

Born 1533; eldest son and heir of Sir Thomas G. of the same (*d.* 1560), by Ursula (Throckmorton) (*d.* 1581). It will be seen that he represented Lichfield while still a minor. His father, Sir Thomas G., was sheriff in 1553-4, and his grandfather, Sir John G., was still living, and was the most powerful commoner in Staffordshire at the time. But with the days of Protestant ascendancy evil times came for the Giffards. John G. is found, it is true, as sheriff in 1573-4, and his name is still on the Commission of the Peace in 1577, though absent from all that follow. But on 9 August 1575, Queen Elizabeth stayed at Chillington, and three days later Giffard, Brian Fowler of St. Thomas', Draycot of Paynsley, Wolseley of Wolseley, Gatacre of Gatacre, Peshale of Horsley, Erdeswick of Sandon and Macclesfield of Maer—in fact all the heads of the Catholic families—were summoned to appear before the Star Chamber. From this time till his death in 1614, Giffard was constantly in prison or on parole, his estates administered by the Crown, paying a monthly fine of £40 for himself and his wife. One gathers from the Bagot correspondence in the Bagot MSS.² that public opinion held that he was left too much at liberty. Even then they cried "intern

Refers to Thomas, son to my daughter Wheler, and Thomas, son to my daughter Aldersaye.

Overseers: Henry Jones, D.C.L., John Rogers grocer of London.
 (P.C.C. 13. Langley.)

¹ Pink.

² *Hist. MSS. Comm. 4th Report, App. I, 325-30.*

them all." He was free in 1581, and later free and in charge of Mr. Philips 1588-93. Letters from Court to Mr. Bagot, the Deputy Lieutenant, explain repeatedly that he may tell the anti-Catholics that Mr. Giffard is well treated, because his son had given valuable evidence in the Babington conspiracy in 1586, and saved the life of the Queen. This son was imprisoned in Paris, and in prison he died in 1591. In 1585 the Privy Council nearly turned the great house that Sir Thomas Giffard had built at Chillington into a prison for Mary Queen of Scots; the insufficiency of the capacities for brewing beer, even more than the insufficiency of its defences, finally turned the scale in favour of Chartley. For 150 years after this no Giffard appears in any public office in the county, and the family was ruined; but John's direct descendants in the male line are still lords of Chillington, still firm in the old faith.

John G. married in 1550 Joyce, daughter of James Leveson of Lilleshull (merchant of the Staple) by Margaret, sister of Sir Thomas Offley, Lord Mayor; she died in 1608. By this marriage he became brother-in-law of Sir Walter Aston, the Protestant.

The anonymous seventeenth-century compiler of the Offley History, writing about 1615, says of him: "his sons, men of great wealth, politique, courageous, and resolute in all attempts, men of great wisdom and temperance and gentleness, so that they did deserve and continue that name of 'gentle Giffard.'"¹

His will, dated 27 August 1613, was proved in *P.C.C.* 6 July 1614.²

Parliament of 1554.

Summoned to meet 2 April 1554; dissolved 5 May 1554. This Parliament tried to persuade Queen Mary to marry an

¹ Offley MS. *penes* Lord Crewe.

² *P.C.C.* 87. Lowe. It is a mere half dozen lines, leaving all to Walter Giffard "my son executor of all not already disposed of."

Englishman instead of Philip of Spain, and she soon dismissed it. Sir Thomas Giffard was the sheriff and returning officer; Ralph Bagnall, Mayor of Newcastle.

County :	John (<i>rectius</i> Philip) Draycot,	(1)
	miles	
	Thomas Gray, armiger .. *	(2)
	elected 22 March 1554.	
Stafford :	John Giffard, armiger.. ..	(3)
	Humphrey Swynnerton,	(4)
	armiger, elected 26 March	
	1554.	
Newcastle :	*James Rolleston, gent. ..	(5)
	Francis Moore, gent. ..	(6)
	elected 20 March 1554.	
Lichfield :	Henry Vernon, esq. ..	(7)
	John Teyler, gent. ..	(8)
	elected 15 March 1554.	

(1) SIR (?) DRAYCOT. Mr. Pink agrees that this should be Sir Philip Draycot. There was no Sir John anywhere near this date. The original Return is said to be defaced, and some clerk has probably inserted John by mistake. The error is perpetuated by Willis. For Sir Philip Draycot see Parl. 1542-4.

(2) THOMAS GREY OF ENVILL, M.P. Staffs 1554.

Born *c.* 1500; eldest son and heir of Sir Edward G. of the same (*d.* 1528),¹ by Joyce (Hoord). He married Anne, daughter of Ralph Verney of Penley, Herts (*d.* 1573), and widow of Sir William Cave; she died in 1586. He died in 1560, and was succeeded by his son, John Grey, M.P.² His father's second cousin was Duke of Suffolk, and, as father of Lady Jane Grey, played a dangerous and double game on the death of Edward VI.

¹ Parl. 1510 (footnote).

² Parl. 1563-7.

For this the Duke was pardoned, but when the Spanish match was arranged the Duke joined in Wyatt's rebellion, January 1554, and was beheaded. It will be noticed that Thomas Grey was elected the same year.

(3) JOHN GIFFARD. See Parl. 1553 (2).

(4) HUMPHREY SWYNNERTON OF SWYNNERTON, M.P. Stafford 1554.

Born *c.* 1500; son and heir of Thomas S. of Swynnerton and Hilton¹ (*d.c.* 1554),² by Alice, daughter of Sir Humphrey Stanley of Pipe, M.P.³ He was one of the Commissioners of Array in 1546, charged to raise 100 men; he was escheator, Staffordshire, in 1559. In 1556 he settled a long standing dispute as to the manors of Barrow, Cheshire, and Rushton-Spencer (the old Despencer manors which his ancestor, Sir Thomas S. had had from the Crown more than 200 years before), by selling them to the other claimant, Sir John Savage of Clifton, Cheshire. He married Cassandra (*d.* 1570), daughter of Sir John Giffard of Chillington, M.P.,⁴ and by her had two daughters, coheiresses—Elizabeth, married to William Fitz-Herbert, M.P.,⁵ had Swynnerton, and Margaret, married to Henry Vernon, M.P.,⁶ had Hilton. He was the last of the Swynnertons of Swynnerton, and died in 1562. His will was proved in *P.C.C.* 1563.⁷

¹ Parl. 1523.

² *Inq. p.m.* Thomas Swynnerton 2 Ph. and M. S.C. XII. N.S. 286.

³ Parl. 1491.

⁴ Parl. 1529-36.

⁵ Parl. 1553 (1).

⁶ See (7) on next page.

⁷ The WILL OF HUMPHREY SWYNNERTON of Swynnerton, Esq., dated 6 July 1561; proved in *P.C.C.*, 9 February 1563. To be buried in the Chapel of Our Lady before the place where the image of Our Lady stood.

Bequests to John Giffard, Esq., Francis Congreve, Esq.,

Mentions daughter Margaret, wife of Henry Vernon, Esq.; daughter Elizabeth Gatacre; wife Cassandra.

Exors. : his wife, John Giffard, and Francis Congreve.

Witnesses : Sampson Bourne, priest, Lawrence Baker, priest.

(5) JAMES ROLLESTON. See Parl. 1547-52.

(6) FRANCIS MOORE, M.P. Newcastle 1554.

He was certainly not the Middle Temple Lawyer of the same name who sat for Boroughbridge in 1588; this last named man is well known, was knighted, and sat for Reading for many years. He died in 1621, aged 63, so that he was born about 1558.¹

There is, however, another Francis Moore who died 16 September 1592,² and the son and heir is another Francis aged 17.³ Will proved in *P.C.C.*⁴ He may be the man, but I know no more of him. He was probably a nominee of the Chancellor of the Duchy.

On the examination of the Earl of Northumberland in June 1572, a Francis Moore, favouring the Scottish Queen, came and said that he had discouraged her from marriage with the Duke of Norfolk.⁵

(7) HENRY VERNON OF SUDBURY, DERBYSHIRE, AND HILTON, M.P. Lichfield 1554, Co. Derby 1554-5, 1559.

Born *c.* 1530; son and heir of Sir John V. of Sudbury⁶ (*d.* 1545) (fourth son of Sir Henry V. of Haddon and Harlaston, M.P.,⁷ died 1515), by Helen (*d.* 1549), daughter and coheir of Sir John Montgomery of Cubley and Caverswall. He married, 3 May 1547,⁸ Margaret, second daughter and coheir of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton and Hilton (see above), and on the latter's death succeeded to Hilton.

¹ *Ex inf.* Pink.

² I.p.m. at Oxford 26 October 1592.

³ Geneal. N.S. XXXIII. 67.

⁴ The WILL OF FRANCIS MORE OF NORTHMORE, OXON, dated 3 August 1592, proved in *P.C.C.* 24 January 1592/3. He leaves half of the rectory of Whaddon, Camb., to his children, Katherine, Edith, Dorothie and John; 20s. to the poor of Northmore; residue to Francis his son, and he sole Exor. Overseer:—William More of Haddon, Esq., and he to be guardian of Francis till 21.

⁵ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

⁶ Parl. 1536.

⁷ Parl. 1510.

⁸ Par. Reg.; Clifton Camvill.

While sitting for Co. Derby he was one of the 39 Protestant seceders from Parliament. He was J.P. 1564-9, and died in 1569.¹ I.p.m. 12^o Eliz. His widow Margaret died in 1587, and he left two sons who died without male issue, when Hilton was brought by his granddaughter in marriage to another branch of the Vernon family—that indeed from which descend the present Lords Vernon and Harcourt.

Bishop Bentham reported on Vernon to the Privy Council in 1564: "Concerning the hurtful knot and Henry Vernon I need say no more . . . an adversary of religion." The others of "the hurtful knot" were said to be Sir Edward Aston, Sir William Gresley and Simon Harcourt.² A man who was a Protestant in 1554, and a Catholic in 1564, must have had courage if not consistency.

(8) JOHN TAYLER, M.P. Lichfield 1554.

This was John T. of Burton-on-Trent, whose name occurs there in 1556, and who is found buying land at Great Barr in 1558.³ He married, according to the Visitations, Ellen,

¹ Will of HENRY VERNON, Esq., dated 5 March 1567/8; proved in P.C.C. 11 December 1569. Made, "because I goe into the Quenes Maties warres I will my bodye to take chaunce as fortuneth to other mens bodies in warres."

A tomb is to be made, with pictures of himself and wife, and at the foot thereof pictures of John, Margaret, Mary, Dorothy and Henry his children, to be put in the church of Sudbury.

John Vernon is his son and heir. He divides his books "in my librarie at Sudburye" between his sons John and Henry. 500*m.* to each of his daughters Margaret and Mary for their marriage. To his son Henry his lease of Hasilbaçhe in the Peak with 400 sheep and the cattle and the household stuff, when he be 18; till then Margaret his wife to enjoy the same and maintain Henry. His exors. to pay son John when he comes of age £200 out of the profits of his lands.

The next presentation at Sudbury to son John; the next presentation to Leigh to son Henry. Residue to his wife and to daughters Margaret and Mary equally.

Exors. :—His wife, Richard Harpur, serjt. at law, Humphrey Bradbourne Kt. Witnesses :—Raffe Adderley, Nicholas Browne, Thomas Beddell.

(24 *Sheffield.*)

² S.C. 1915. 370.

³ S.C. XII. 196, 238.

daughter and coheirress of Ralph Okeover of Okeover by Maud, daughter of William Basset of Blore. It is probably this Taylor who was the grantee of Anslow Chantry from the Crown; and, if so, he is probably the John T. of Anslow described as "husbondman" in the Star Chamber proceedings. He was very probably a self-made man; but his descendants continued in Lichfield into the next century, and he may have been a Burgess of Lichfield.

Parliament of 1554-5.

Summoned to meet 12 November 1554; dissolved 16 January 1555. The sheriffs were commanded to "have chosen such of their inhabitants of the wise, grave and Catholic sort."¹ The Protestants withdrew from this Parliament, which re-enacted statutes for the burning of heretics. The names of the thirty-nine Protestant seceders seem generally to have been omitted from the Returns, but they are well known from the proceedings described by Coke² and elsewhere.³ They included Bagnall, Craddock and Wyrley from Staffordshire, and Henry Vernon of Hilton, M.P. for Derbyshire.

"But the Staffordshire Returns to this Parliament are a muddle which cannot altogether be cleared. Browne Willis—helpful in some cases where the Returns are lost—here rather complicates matters. His names are all guess work, as he shows, and are mostly wrong so far as can be tested. For the county he names Sir Thomas Gifford, Kt., and Sir Edward Littleton, Kt., but with his usual '?,' as mere speculation. I fancy his only ground for these is the fact

¹ Porritt: *Unreformed Parlt.*

² *Institutes* IV. 17.

³ Six members submitted and paid their fines. The death of the Queen interrupted the judgment against the rest. See Strype's *Memorials* III. 165.

that they represented the county in the next Parliament. One might be contented with them as probable, but for the fact that Gifford was the sheriff and could not return himself. For Stafford he is clearly wrong in his speculation, as proved by the fragment of return since found. He gives as members Anthony Draycot and Henry Stafford. The only Anthony Draycot was the Chancellor to the Bishop of Lichfield and Rector of Draycot, a Doctor of Canon Law.¹ He may, as a parson, be considered ineligible for Parliament, but in these times one cannot be sure. But if these men sat at all in this Parliament, I should think them more likely to have sat for the County." So says Mr. Pink.

The fragment of Return discovered sufficiently indicates the members for Stafford as James (Rolston) and (Matthew) Craddock.² There is no doubt that Bagnall sat for Newcastle; the name of the other member is lost. The names set down by Browne Willis for Lichfield seem probable enough.

Hence we get :

County :	Unknown, but just possibly Anthony Draycot ³ and Henry Stafford. ⁴	
Stafford :	James Rolleston	(1)
	Matthew Craddock	(2)
	elected 1 November 1554.	
Newcastle :	Sir Ralph Bagnall, Kt. ..	(3)
	(who returned himself and another, being then Mayor of Newcastle).	
Lichfield :	Thomas Edwardes, gent. ⁵ ..	(4)
	Mark Wyrley, gent. ..	(5)

¹ Wood's *Fasti* and *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² *Ex. inf.* Pink.

³ See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴ Parl. 1545-7.

⁵ As conjectured by Browne Willis,

(1) JAMES ROLLESTON. See Parl. 1547-52.

(2) MATTHEW CRADDOCK OF STAFFORD, M.P. (Protestant)
Stafford 1554-5.

Born *c.* 1530; son of Thomas C. of the same, who bought Brockton in 1545,¹ by Emma, daughter of Nicholas Meverel.² He married a daughter of Peake. His wife, in 1573-81, was called Elizabeth. He bought Silkmore in 1573, for 400 marks, and Shallowford in 1567 for £40; he sold Silkmore in 1578,³ and Brockton in 1581;⁴ both were sold jointly by him and his wife Elizabeth. He was living in 1584, when he was bailiff of Stafford; and was dead and succeeded by his son, George Craddock, M.P.⁵ in 1594. Indeed he was dead in 1586 when the Will of his widow, Elizabeth Craddock, of Stafford, was proved in *P.C.C.* He may have been a merchant of the staple. He was one of the seceders (Protestants) in 1555. For his younger brother Francis Craddock, M.P., see Parl. 1584-5.

(3) SIR RALPH BAGNALL, Kt. See Parl. 1547-52.

(4) THOMAS EDWARDES, M.P. Lichfield 1554-5, 1555.

I can make nothing of this man, who sat for Lichfield in two Parliaments. He was probably an importation.

(5) MARK WYRLEY. See Parl. 1553 (1).

Parliament of 1555.

Summoned to meet 21 October 1555; dissolved 9 December 1555. By 193 voices to 126, the first division in Parliament of which there is any record, this Parliament decided to restore to the Church the glebes and tithes in the hands of the Crown. The sheriff who made the Staffordshire Returns was that stalwart Catholic, Sir Thomas Fitzherbert of Hampstall Ridware.

¹ S.C. XI. 287.

² S.C. V. ii. 100.

³ S.C. XIV. 195.

⁴ S.C. XV. 132.

⁵ Parl. 1604-11.

County :	Thomas Gyfford, miles ..	(1)
	Edward Lytelton, miles ..	(2)
	elected 3 October 1555.	
Stafford :	Henry Stafford, armiger ..	(3)
	Thomas Harcourt, armiger ..	(4)
	elected 3 October 1555.	
Newcastle :	Sir Richard (<i>rectius</i> Nicholas)	
	Bagnall	(5)
	Richard Smyth, alderman ..	(6)
	elected 12 October 1555.	
Lichfield :	*Thomas Edwardes, gent. ..	(7)
	Francis Bulstrode, gent. ..	(8)
	elected 17 October 1555.	

(1) SIR THOMAS GYFFORD. See Parl. 1553 (1).

(2) SIR EDWARD LYTTLETON. See Parl. 1529.

(3) HENRY STAFFORD. See Parl. 1547-52.

(4) THOMAS HARCOURT OF CHURCH EATON, M.P. Stafford 1555.

Born *c.* 1515; son of Richard H. of the same¹ (*d.* 1544), by a daughter of Braddock. He is mentioned as selling land at Dearnsdale in Billington in 1551, and buying land near Tamworth in 1554.² He died in 1569, and was succeeded by his brother, Walter H.,³ called "of Tamworth," who died in 1598. His will, dated 1567, was proved in *P.C.C.* 1569.⁴

(5) SIR NICHOLAS BAGNAL (Kt.) OF NEWRY CASTLE, Co. ARMAGH, AND OF STOKE-ON-TRENT, M.P. (Protestant) Newcastle 1555, 1559.

¹ Parl. 1523.

² *S.C.* XII. 206, 218.

³ *S.C.* XVII. 219.

⁴ Will of THOMAS HARCOURT of London, Esq., dated 20 November 1567, and proved in *P.C.C.* 15 July 1569.

His farm of "Hetone," Staffs, to brother Walter H.; to Walter's eldest son Edward, £20; to second son Thomas, £40; £20 to my base son Thomas Harcourt and all my apparel.

To Ursula Wager "my der hostis" 20*m.*

(*P.C.C.* 17. Sheffield.)

Born *c.* 1510; second son of John B., tailor and Mayor of Newcastle, by Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Wittingham of Middlewich, and younger brother of Sir Ralph B., M.P.¹ He became a gentleman pensioner to Henry VIII, and was sent to Ireland in 1539. He had fled from justice on account of a murder in 1542, but returned to England in 1544, having "served five years with great credit." He served in the French campaign of 1544, and was made Marshal of Ireland in 1547. He defeated the Irish and the Scots, and was knighted in Ireland about January 1552,² clearly before April 1552. On Mary's accession he lost the marshalship, and he was fined £1000 as a Protestant in 1556, when he sold his brother's lands at Deulacres. He was not reinstated as marshal till 1565, but that office he then held till his resignation in 1590. In May 1577 he was appointed to hold the principal rule in Ulster, and in July 1584 he was chief commissioner there. He died towards the close of 1590 or early in 1591.³ He married, *c.* 1555, Eleanor, daughter of Sir Edward Griffith of Penrhyn, and had an important family, his sons, Sir Henry and Sir Samuel being subsequently also marshals of Ireland.⁴

(6) RICHARD SMYTH OF NEWCASTLE, M.P. Newcastle 1555.

Eldest son of John S. of the same, M.P.,⁵ Mayor of Newcastle, who returned him to Parliament. Richard Smith was Mayor in 1st and 3rd Edward VI. He is mentioned as overseer of a Will in 1577. He died apparently without issue, having married Margaret, daughter of John Dodde of Claverley, Salop.⁶ In 1564 he bought land in Tunstall Court from Lord Sheffield.⁷ He was the last Burgess of the town to be returned as Burgess for Newcastle.

¹ Parl. 1547-52.

² Pink; but Shaw's *Knight's* says November 1552.

³ *Ex inf.* Pink.

⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, which, however, states in error that he was elected in 1558 for Stoke-on-Trent, a borough which was not enfranchised till two-and-a-half centuries later.

⁵ Parl. 1542-4.

⁶ Visitns. 1583.

⁷ S.C. XIII. 230; see also Ward's *Stoke-on-Trent*, App xix.

(7) THOMAS EDWARDS. See Parl. 1554-5.

(8) FRANCIS BULSTRODE, M.P. Lichfield 1555.

Mr. Pink says :—“ The only Francis B. I can discover is the son and heir of Edward B. of Breadborough, co. Bedford, Esquire of the Body to Henry VII and Henry VIII. He married Anne, daughter of Thomas Huncks of Co. Warwick. I do not know when he died, nor can I find his Will, but his line appears to have finished with his great-grandson, Sir William B., in 1646. The M.P.'s sister, Cecily, married, in 1533, Sir Alexander Unton of Wadley, Berks, who died in 1547.¹ The earlier generations of the Bulstrodes are very obscure, but I believe that Lord Berwick has a complete Bulstrode pedigree.”

Parliament of 1558.

Summoned to meet 20 January 1558 ; dissolved, after two sessions, by the Queen's death on 17 November 1558. The sheriffs had been commanded to return “ men given to good order, catholic and discreet.” In Staffordshire the sheriff was a good Catholic, Sir John Harcourt of Ellenhall ; but the Parliament elected was hostile to the Spanish Alliance and to War. Richard Patson was Mayor of Newcastle.

County :	Brian Fowler, armiger ..	(1)
	Francis Meverel, armiger ..	(2)
	elected 20 January 1558.	
Stafford :	Edward Stafford, armiger ..	(3)
	James Fowler, gent. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	Richard Hussey, armiger ..	(5)
	Thomas Egerton, armiger ..	(6)
	elected 14 January 1558.	
Lichfield :	Dr. Robert Weston ..	(7)
	Richard Cupper, gent. ..	(8)

¹ Unton's *Inventories*, *pace* Pink.

(1) BRIAN FOWLER OF ST. THOMAS,¹ M.P. (Catholic) Staffs 1558.

Born *c.* 1520; second son of Roger F. of Broomhall, Norfolk, by Sybil, sister of Rowland Lee, Bishop of Lichfield. He obtained a grant of St. Thomas' Priory *c.* 1545, through the instrumentality of his uncle, and settled in Staffordshire. He was J.P. 1547-75, in which year he was removed as a recusant; escheator 1551. In spite of his possession of a dissolved abbey he was a strong Catholic. He was complained of by the Privy Council in 1563, for that Dr. Poole, late Catholic Bishop of Peterborough, was staying with him, "and that gave the county a bad name"; but Bishop Bentham reports of him in 1564 that he was "meet to continue in office" (as J.P.), though "accounted of good men an adversary of religion."² He was called before the Privy Council in 1575 and imprisoned—sometimes in the Fleet, sometimes in the Marshalsea, sometimes on parole in Staffordshire—right up till the time of his death in 1587, when he died at home and was buried at Baswich. I.p.m. 30^o Eliz.; no Will.

He was still described as J.P. in the Recusant Roll of 1578, when his income was given as £400 a year (an understatement). In 1585, for refusing to come to church, he was assessed to provide two lances—men and horses. He married Jane, daughter and heiress of John Hanmer of Bettisfield, Flint, and was succeeded at St. Thomas' by his son, Walter F.; but this family also, being Catholic, appears no more in the political history of Staffordshire.

(2) FRANCIS MEVERELL OF THROWLEY, M.P. Staffs 1558.

Born *c.* 1520; son and heir of George M. of the same (*d.* 1527), by Jane, daughter of Thomas Babington of Dethick, Derby. He is mentioned as of full age in 1543; he was J.P. Staffordshire 1547-64; sheriff 1547-8. He married Anne, daughter and coheiress of Sir John Denham of Kirklington,

¹ His manor is sometimes called "Sowe," being on that river.

² S.C. 1915. 370.

Notts. He died 17 December 1564. I.p.m. at Mansfield, 13 April 1565, in which we see that his eldest son Sampson M. was aged 17. Inquest also at Ashbourne, dated 17 April 1565.¹ He was not, so far as I can judge, a Catholic partisan.²

(3) EDWARD STAFFORD (THIRD LORD STAFFORD), M.P.
Stafford 1558, 1559.

Born 1536; younger son of Henry Stafford (created Lord Stafford 1548, *d.* 1562),³ by Ursula (de la Pole); he was therefore nephew to Cardinal Pole. His elder brother was Henry Stafford (second Lord Stafford), whom he succeeded 8 May 1563.⁴ He was J.P. Staffordshire 1577 to 1601, when he was removed from the bench on the recommendation of his fellow magistrates for harbouring a murderer in his "rotten castle of Stafford." He is the last Stafford to appear on these commissions, for he sold and wasted the Stafford estates all but Stafford and Forebridge. In 1581, the Stafford Annals tell us⁵ that he and Worswick the clerk were accused of treason, but were delivered.

He married Mary, daughter of Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, and died 18 October 1603, when he was succeeded by his son, fourth Lord Stafford of this second creation. Of

¹ Geneal. N.S. XXXII. 209.

² Will of FRANCIS MEVERELL of Throwley, dated 28 October 1564, proved at Lichfield 14 February 1565.

To be buried among my ancestors at Tideswell. The Holebecke in Stapeleye, Cheshire, to second son of Edward, or else lands in Frads-well. To third son George, fourth son Nicholas, and fifth son Godfrey, life interest in lands at Tideswell and Wormhill, Derby, and Calveton, Botterton and Hope Dale, Staffs. To daughter Dorothy 400*m.*, to daughter Bennett 300*m.* Bequests to Joan Delahey and Elizabeth Meverell, late wife of Homfrey Meverell. All sums to come out of his estate before his heir Sampson comes of age. To son Sampson all goods at Throwley.

Exors.: Francis Rolleston, Thomas Kinnersley, Edward Meverell my son, Andrew Meverell. No supervisors named.

Witnesses: Sir Thomas Cokayne, Kt., Ralfe Oker (Okeover), Thomas Pyat. Proved by Andrew Meverell.

³ Parl. 1545-7. ⁴ Par. Reg.; Pontesbury, Salop; *pace* H. Weyman.

⁵ MSS. *Wm. Salt Library*.

course he left no Will ; he left nothing except a certain reputation. He wrote genealogical notes about his ancestors, and the following letter to the respectable Richard Bagot :—

“Like as the High Sheriff of this Shire lately told me that you pretend my name to be Bagot and not Stafford, I do better know the descents and matches of my own lineage than any other creature can inform me, for in all my records, I cannot find that any Stafford hath married with a Bagot, or they with him. I have fair record to prove, that the lords of my house were never without heirs males to succeed one after another and therefore your pretence that Bagot married an ancestor’s wife of mine (as peradventure she married her servant) yet will I prove that neither she, nor no widow of my house did take a second husband before they were grandmothers by the children of their first husband and therefore the lady of my house was too old to have issue by yours Busse, Bagot and Green were but raised by King Richard II. and to prove that you were no better than vassals to my house MY STAFFORD KNOT remaineth still in your parlour. Surely I will not exchange my name of Stafford for the name of ‘A BAGGE OF OATES,’ for that is your name, ‘BAG OTE.’ Therefore you do me as great wrong in this surmise, as you did with your writing to the Privy Council to have countenanced that shamefaced Higons to charge me with treason, whereof God and my truth delivered me.

“Your neighbour I must be,
“EDWARD STAFFORD.”

(4) JAMES FOWLER OF PENDEFORD, M.P. (Catholic) Stafford
1558.

Born *c.* 1525 ; younger brother of Brian Fowler, M.P. for the county in the same Parliament. He lived at Pendeford, and was the patron of Bushbury Church in 1568 by cession from his brother.¹ He married Catherine, daughter of Robert (? Richard) Moreton of Haughton, Salop.² He died 21 February 1584/5, leaving issue the Fowlers of Pendeford. I.p.m. 27^o Eliz. ; no Will. I suppose Roger Fowke, M.P., was his brother-in-law.

¹ S.C. 1915. 45.

² Visitn. 1583.

- (5) RICHARD HUSSEY, OF BATTLEFORD, SALOP, M.P. Newcastle 1558.

Born *c.* 1500, son of Richard H. of Albright-Hussey, by Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Trentham. He married Ellen,¹ daughter of Thomas Oteley, of Pitchford, Salop, and bought Battleford, Salop, at the Dissolution of the Monasteries. He was bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1534, and died at Coventry 1573/4.²

This man appears to have been a landowner at Longdon.¹

- (6) THOMAS EGERTON OF WALL GRANGE, M.P. Newcastle 1558.

Born *c.* 1520; younger son of William E., "descended of a younger house of Egerton of Wrimenhill,"³ by a daughter of Welbeche of London. His father, just before the dissolution of Trentham Priory, obtained a lease for three lives of Wall Grange in Endon, 1539. Thomas E. is mentioned as buying land in Bagnall in 1566,⁴ and in 1574 he succeeded his elder brother at Wall Grange. He was a merchant of London, where many of his children settled, and he died in 1596. He is mentioned as "Thomas Egerton of London my father-in-law" in the Will of John Wedgwood of Harracles, dated 1588, proved at Lichfield, 1590.

- (7) DR. ROBERT WESTON OF WEEFORD, M.P. Exeter 1553, Lichfield 1558, 1559.

Born *c.* 1520; third son of John W. of Lichfield, by Cecily sister of Ralph Nevill, Earl of Westmorland.⁵ A fellow of All Souls, Oxford, 1536; B.C.L. 1538; D.C.L. 1556; Dean of the Arches 1559-67; Lord Chancellor of Ireland 1567; Dean of St. Patrick's 1567; Dean of Wells (though a layman) 1570. He held the Chancellorship and the two Deaneries till his death. His elder brother Richard was Solicitor-General (1557-8), which explains Dr. Robert's election for Lichfield. He married Alice, eldest daughter of Master Richard Jennings of Barr, by whom he had issue, and he died in Dublin, 20 May

¹ S.C. XIII. 220, 281, 286-7.

² *Ex. inf.* H. Weyman.

³ Visitn. London 1568.

⁴ S.C. XIII. 254.

⁵ Harwood, *Erdeswick*, 164 Chart III.

1573, and lies buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral.¹ For his younger brother James W., M.P., see Parl. 1584-5.

"By profession a lawyer, but in life a divine," says Hooker of him.

(8) RICHARD CUPPER OF WINSCOMBE, SOMERSET, M.P. Leominster 1547-52, Old Sarum 1554, Lichfield 1558.

Son of John Cupper of Lovington, Somerset. His grandson signed the Visitation of Somerset in 1623. Mr. Pink thinks he was the Cupper who was one of the six clerks in Chancery 1545-7. He seems also to have been a surveyor of Religious Houses in company with Richard Forcett in 1548. On 24 July 1536, Lord Chancellor Audley writes to Thomas Cromwell: "Last Easter the people in Staffordshire complained of Cupper for extortion, and for taking money for the acquittal of thieves." (*Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*) He probably died in 1566, when the Will of Richard Cupper, gent., of Winscombe, Somerset, was proved in *P.C.C.*² He is named as one of the Overseers of the Will of William, Lord Paget, in 1560, and no doubt he got his seat at Lichfield on Paget's recommendation.

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² Will of RICHARD CUPPER of Winscombe, Somerset, gent., dated 26 April 1566, proved in *P.C.C.* 21 October 1566.

Jane his wife to have the parsonage house at Winscombe.

John his son, other lands, tithes and leases at Winscombe and Paulet. Wife's brothers to take charge during his son's minority, in case of his wife's death (William and Richard Kingsmill).

£200 to each of his two daughters.

£100 and £8 a year to younger son Maurice C.

5*m.* each to the six daughters of sister Margaret

To William Folliet my servant and kinsman 40*s.* a year.

Exor. : his wife.

Overseers : William and Richard Kingsmill.

(*P.C.C.* 27. Grymes.)

But I doubt the identification. From Lord Paget's Will, see p. 356, Richard Cupper the M.P. would seem to have been alive in 1568.

ELIZABETH.

17 Nov. 1558.

Parliament of 1559.

Summoned to meet 23 January 1559; dissolved 8 May 1559. Sir William Sneyd, Kt., made the return for the county and showed a nice balance with a Protestant and a Catholic. The Paget influence returned at least two of the members, but except Twynyho all members were local men. Walter Blount would be the Duchy nominee for Newcastle.

County :	Sir Ralph Bagnalde, Kt. ..	(1)
	Simon Harcourt, Esq. ..	(2)
	elected 19 January 1559.	
Stafford :	*Edward Stafford, Esq. ..	(3)
	William Twyneo	(4)
	elected 19 January 1559.	
Newcastle :	Sir Nicholas Bagenall, Kt... ..	(5)
	Walter Blount, Esq. (<i>B.</i>	
	<i>Willis</i>)	(6)
	elected 12 January 1559.	
Lichfield :	Sir Henry Pagett, Kt. ..	(7)
	*Dr. Robert Weston ..	(8)
	elected 5 January 1559.	

(1) SIR RALPH BAGNALL, Kt. See Parl. 1547-52.

(2) SIMON HARCOURT, ESQ. OF STANTON HARCOURT, OXFORDSHIRE, AND ELLENHALL, M.P. Staffs 1559, 1563-7.

Born *c.* 1525; eldest son and heir of Sir John H. of the same, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1566), by Margaret, daughter and ultimate

¹ Parl. 1547-52.

coheiress of Sir William Barentyne of Haseley, Oxon. He lived at Ellenhall in his father's lifetime. He was J.P. 1564 onwards; sheriff 1566-7 (while still sitting in Parliament). In 1557 the Commissioners to levy 500 men in Staffordshire were Viscount Hereford, Sir Thomas Fitzherbert, Sir William Gresley and Simon Harcourt.¹ He was a Catholic; the bishop reports of him in 1564 as one of a "knot hurtful to justice and great maintainers."² He married (1) Mary, daughter of Sir Edward Aston of Tixall,³ the mother of his heir, Walter H., M.P.;⁴ (2) at Drayton Basset, 18 May 1563, Grace, daughter of Humphrey Fitzherbert of Upsall, Herts, and widow of William Robinson of Drayton Basset, citizen and mercer of London; and (3) Jane, daughter of Sir William Spencer of Wormleighton, and widow of Sir Richard Bruges. He died 27 July 1577,⁵ and was buried at Stanton Harcourt. Administration was granted 2 January 1578 in *P.C.* to Thomas Lewes, yeoman of London, probably a creditor.⁶ I.p.m. 19° Eliz.

(3) EDWARD STAFFORD (THIRD LORD STAFFORD). See Parl. 1558.

(4) WILLIAM TWYNYHO OF WINDSOR, BERKS, M.P. Stafford 1559, 1563-7.

Probably this was William, son of William T. of Kayford near Frome, Wilts, by Ankaret, daughter and heiress of Hawkestone. He married Catherinè, daughter and heiress of Solers, and left issue.⁷ As William Twynyho, Esq., he was one of the overseers of the Will of William, Lord Paget, in 1560; it was doubtless through Paget that he got his seat at Stafford.⁸

¹ *Privy Cl. Acts.*

² *S.C.* 1915, p. 370.

³ Parl. 1539.

⁴ Parl. 1588-9.

⁵ *Harcourt Papers.*

⁶ *Geneal.* N.S. XXXI. 93.

⁷ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

⁸ The Will of WILLIAM TWYNYHO, Esq., dated 15 March 1591; proved in *P.C.C.*, 16 October 1594, summarises thus:—

To be buried in the Free Chapel at Windsor.

All lands and goods to William Twynyho of Windsor, and appoints him executor.

- (5) SIR NICHOLAS BAGNAL, Kt. Parl. 1555.
 (6) WALTER BLOUNT. Parl. 1542-4.
 (7) SIR HENRY PAGET, K.B. (SECOND LORD PAGET), M.P.
 Arundel Oct.-Dec. 1555, Lichfield 1559, 1563.

Born *c.* 1535; eldest son and heir of William, Lord P. of Beaudesert,¹ by Anne, daughter and heiress of Henry Preston, son and heir of Lawrence, 2nd son of Thomas Preston of Levens, Westmorland. He married Catherine, daughter of Sir Henry Knyvet of Buckenham, Norfolk. He was made K.B. 29 September 1553,² and succeeded his father as Lord Paget 9 June 1563. He must have vacated his seat, but there exists no record of any by-election. He died 28 December 1568,³ leaving a daughter who died young, and was

To Mr. William Paget "my ringe with the Turkes."

Rings also to Lady Waldegrave, Lady Windsor, Mr. William Warde, my cousin Kittermaster's wife.

Small bequests to Henry Paget my servant, Ambrose and Edward Thornehall, nephews.

Witnesses: Humphrey Yeates and Henry Pyggot.

(*P.C.C.* 72. Dixy.)

¹ Parl. 1547-52.

² Shaw's *Knights*.

³ The WILL OF HENRY, LORD PAGET, dated 27 November 1568, proved in *P.C.C.* by the widow, 4 May 1569.

To be buried at West Drayton beside his father.

Trustees for a settlement: brother Thomas Paget, Henry Knyvett, John Voughan, Richard Cupper; and appoints them overseers.

To Elizabeth his daughter for her marriage £500.

All his books to his brothers Francis and Charles.

Henry, son of Sir Christopher Allen, a minor, £100.

Legacies to: Thomas Newton, children of Ellen Griffyths, Thomas Powntes, Sir Henry Lee, who had married his sister.

Leases of Staffordshire Tithes to the occupier of Beaudesert for greater hospitality; lease of land at Tutbury to Robert Wellys, gent.

To Mr. Edward Cary of the Privy Chamber a gerfalcon.

To George Throckmorton, Esq., my geldings.

Mentions his houses at Pagett Place, London; West Drayton; Beaudesert; and Burton.

Remainder to widow, Lady Katherine.

(*P.C.C.* 12. Sheffield.)

succeeded by his younger brother Thomas P., third Lord Paget, who built Beaudesert.

(8) *DR. ROBERT WESTON. Parl. 1558.

Parliament of 1563-7.

Summoned to meet 11 January 1563; held two sessions;¹ dissolved 2 January 1567. This is the "Puritan Parliament" that forced through the Oath of Supremacy—the first of the Test Acts that ruled out Roman Catholics. The elections were controlled by Cecil if by anyone. On 24 December 1560. Tamworth had received a Charter. Two bailiffs and twenty-four capital burgesses formed a close Corporation to elect,² and they elected accordingly to this Parliament. 22 January 1563: Resolved that the Burgesses for Tregony, St. Germain's, St. Mawes, Tamworth and Stockbridge shall repair to the House and show Letters Patent why they are returned to serve in the present Parliament.³ Hence Tamworth for the first time returned two members.⁴ Simon Harcourt, the M.P. for the County, was married to the widow of Robinson of Drayton Basset. The ownership of this manor of Drayton Basset has always shared with the ownership of Tamworth Castle in the control of the Tamworth seats, and Harcourt put his two brothers in to sit for Tamworth. I believe that the Harcourt

¹ One in 1563 and one in 1566/7.

² Palmer's *Tamworth*. 106; Shaw, *Staffs*. I. 420.

³ *Cal. Pap. Dom. Eliz.*; Parry, *Parlts*.

⁴ Palmer (*History of Tamworth*, p. 109) says that during Queen Elizabeth's reign the Corporation Records show that the governing, and therefore the electoral body, was the close, co-opting body of bailiffs and capital burgesses. This possibly came to an end with the issue of the fresh Charter in 1588, issued at the instigation of Robert, Earl of Essex (whose mother was then occupying Drayton Basset), immediately before the 1588 elections which sent up his uncle and his servant as members for Tamworth.

father, who had sat with Cecil in Henry VIII's Parliaments, managed to get the Charter and the representation for the borough. I suspect that William, Lord Paget, also had a hand in the matter, since he had recently been successful in restoring the two members to Lichfield, very much to his own satisfaction. Paget was the most important man in Staffordshire in 1562.

At this time the population of the whole parish of Tamworth in Staffordshire and Warwick seems to have been about 2400; but if the borough alone be taken the population cannot have exceeded 1400. At the same date Stafford Borough had about 1600, Newcastle about 1100, and Lichfield about 2500 inhabitants.

County :	*Simon Harcourt, Esq.	..	(1)
	John Graye, Esq.	.. ..	(2)
	elected in December 1562.		
Stafford :	*William Twyneo, Esq.	..	(3)
	Henry Goodere, gent.	..	(4)
	elected <i>c.</i> December 1562.		
Newcastle :	Sir Ralph Bagnall, Kt.	..	(5)
	John Long, gent.	.. ..	(6)
	returned by the Mayor, Thomas Clayton.		
Lichfield :	*Sir Henry Pagett, Kt.	..	(7)
	Michael Pulteney, Esq.	..	(8)
By :	? vice Paget succeeded to the peerage, 1566. ¹		
Tamworth :	Michel Harecourte, Esq.		(9)
	Robert Harecourte, Esq.	..	(10)

(1) SIMON HARCOURT. Parl. 1559.

¹ Lord Paget died on 9 June 1563, but the House did not sit between April 1563 and September 1566, and probably no new election, if there was one, was before the latter date. (Beaven.)

- (2) JOHN GREY, ESQ., OF ENVILL, M.P. Staffs 1563-7, 1571, 1586-7.

Born *c.* 1530; eldest son and heir of Thomas G. of the same, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1560), by Anne, daughter of Ralph Verney of Pendley, Herts.² He married Jane, eldest daughter of Simon Harcourt of Ellenhall, the other M.P. for the county. He died 1594, having sold Envill to his distant cousin Henry Grey of Pyrgo, created Lord Grey of Groby 1603. In the Journals of the House of Commons, "November 15 1566, Edward Jones complained of John Grey, knight for Stafford, that he had so misused and threatened him in Powles (St. Paul's), casting away his cap, whereby he was in great fear of his life. Mr. Grey answered at the bar that he had claimed a debt due by his father, and promised to keep the peace."³ The Greys, being rebels against Queen Mary, were probably Protestants.⁴

- (3) WILLIAM TWYNYHO. Parl. 1559.

- (4) (SIR) HENRY GOODERE (Kt.) OF POLESWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE, M.P. Stafford 1563-7, Coventry 1571.

Born *c.* 1540; son and heir of Francis G. of the same, M.P. (*d.* 1547), by Ursula, daughter of Ralph Rowlett of St. Albans. He was captain of the Guard to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester,

¹ Parl. 1554.

² Harwood, *Erdeswick* 380.

³ Harwood, *Erdeswick* 384.

⁴ The WILL of JOHN GREY OF ENVELD, undated, was proved by the widow Jane, 13 December 1594, in *P.C.C.* :—

To be buried in the porch on the south side of Enveld Church.

Sir Henry Grey of Pyrgo to pay £300 to testator's sister, Margaret. Mentions nephew, Mr. John Cave of Pikewell (son of Sir William Cave).

Whereas Sir H. Grey hath covenanted to pay £1000 to the use of Mary Grey, daughter of my brother George Greye, if no marriage be had between her and any of the sons of Sir Henry Grey, then if no marriage take place the £1,000 to niece Mary absolutely.

As he had no goods, suit arose between the widow and executrix and Edward and George Grey his brothers.

(*P.C.C.* 88. *Dixy.*)

by whom he was knighted before Zutphen in September 1586. Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard 1587-1592.¹ He married Frances, daughter of Hugh Lowther of Lowther, but died, *s.p.m.*, 4 March 1595, and was buried at Polesworth.² His will was proved in *P.C.C.* 1595.³

(5) SIR RALPH BAGNALL, Kt. Parl. 1547-52.

(6) JOHN LONGE, Gent., M.P. Newcastle 1563-7.

I cannot identify him with any reasonable degree of certainty. A John Longe, gent., represented Knaresborough in 1554, and the Newcastle member may have been identical with him.

I think he would be one of the Wiltshire Longs, probably the John Long of Marston, Wilts, whose Will was proved in 1597.⁴

Or possibly he was the John Long of Aldenham, Herts, and Fetter Lane, gent., aged 63, whose Will was proved in *P.C.C.* (37 Lyon) 1570.⁵

¹ Haydn's *Book of Dignities*.

² *Ex. inf.* Pink.

³ The WILL of SIR HENRY GOODERE OF POLESWORTHE, WARW., Kt., dated 26 Jan. 1595, proved in *P.C.C.*, 6 May 1595.

To his Exors. all his jewells, plate, stock, household goods and wardships and land bought of Edmund Temple in Warton and Polesworth, to raise £1500 for his daughter Anne; unless William G. my brother, of Monks Kirby, Warw., and Henry G. his son will covenant to buy, allowing Anne to live at Polesworth and to have £40 a year till paid off.

Exors. :—Brother William, daughter Anne, friend Richard Lee, kinsman Thomas Goodere of Newgate Street, Herts. Overseers :—Sir John Harrington of Combe, Warw., Henry Cocke of Broxbourne, Herts, Thomas son and heir of Sir Thomas Lucie of Charlecot, Warw., Robert Burgonie of Wroxhaule, Warw.

⁴ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

⁵ The WILL of JOHN LONGE OF ALDENHAM, HERTS, gent., aged 63; dated 12 Ap. 1570; proved in *P.C.C.* 6 Nov. 1570.

To be buried in the Church of Aldenham. To wife Isabel, copyholds and freehold land in Futter Lane, Holborn. To each of the following a house in Futter Lane,—daughters, Martha, Mary, Magdalen wife of Richard Monox, sons, Gabryell, Thomas and Arkenwalde

There is also a John Longe of St. Michael's, Crooked Lane, London, whose Administration was granted to his relict, Thomasine Long, 26 January 1572.¹

There seems to have been no Mayor or Bailiff of Newcastle of the name; so that he was probably not a burgess. It is quite likely that he was a Duchy nominee, and that Knaresborough was also a Duchy town to which he could be nominated.

(7) SIR HENRY PAGET, Kt. (Second Lord Paget). See Parl. 1559.

(8) MICHAEL PULTENEY OF MISTERTON, LEICESTERSHIRE, M.P. Lichfield 1563-7.

Born *c.* 1525; eldest son and heir of Francis P. of the same (*d.* 1550), by Margaret, second daughter of Nicholas, Lord Vaux of Harrowden. He married Katherine, daughter of Sir John Farmer of Easton-Neston, Northants, and died without issue in 1577 at Misterton.² Paget must have placed him at Lichfield.

(9) MICHAEL HARCOURT OF LECKHAMPSTED, BUCKS, M.P. Tamworth 1563-7; Buckingham 1584-5.

Born *c.* 1532; third son of Sir John H. of Stanton Harcourt and Ellenhall, M.P.³ (*d.* 1566), and younger brother of Simon Harcourt, at this time M.P. for the county. He married Jane, daughter of John Tillney and widow of Richard Greenway of Co. Bucks.⁴ He died without issue in 1597, and was buried at Leckhamsted Church.⁵ He was sheriff of Bucks 1594-5.

Longe, and to John Myllington, aged 7. To daughter Agnes certain rents. He mentions his son and heir John Longe, brother Redmell, Richard Cokenne son-in-law. Residue to wife, and she sole Exix.

¹ *Geneal. N.S.* XXIX, App. 2.

² Nicholl's *Leicestershire*, IV. 319.

Parl. 1547-52.

⁴ *Harcourt Papers*.

⁵ The WILL of MICHAEL HARCOURT OF LEKEHAMPSTEDD, Bucks dated 20 May 1591, proved by Executors, George and Jane Onslowe, 20 April 1597.

To George Onslowe of Walton Grange, Staffs, gent., all his lands at Leckhamsted and others in Co. Bucks.

(10) ROBERT HARCOURT, M.P. Tamworth 1563-7.

Born c. 1530; second son of Sir John H. of Stanton Harcourt and Ellenhall, M.P.¹ (d. 1566), and brother of the other two Harcourts who sat in this Parliament. He appears from the Visitations to have married a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Robins, and to have died in 1582.²

Mr. Pink, on the other hand, thinks he was the R. H. of Ronton Abbey, whose wife died in 1582 and was buried at Chebsey, and who himself died without legitimate issue in 1588 and was buried there. The Will, dated 24 March 1588, was proved June 1588.

A Robert H. occurs as holding land in Lapley in 1547,³ and in Ronton and Streethey in 1582.⁴ The fact that his name is entered after that of Michael Harcourt is against his being the latter's elder brother. Mrs. Marie Harcourt was buried at Tamworth 12 January 1603/4. The Harcourts of Tamworth lived at the Moat House on the Tame at the end of Lichfield Street.⁵

Parliament of 1571.

Summoned to meet 2 April 1571; dissolved 29 May 1571.⁶ This was a short but very important Parliament which Queen

To Anthony Greneweve "my son-in-lawe" (*rectius* step-son), all other lands charged with £700.

To Henry, John, Michael, William, Walter, Margery, Katherine, Anne and Winifred, sons and daughters of William Warde of Falcott, Northants, gent., the £700.

To Henry Barker, gent., a horse.

To Robert Harcourt, gent., a white silver goblet.

To Jane, wife of George Onslowe, the cup his brother Robert Harcourt gave him.

(P.C.C. 31. Cobham.)

¹ Parl. 1547-52.

² Harcourt Papers.

³ S.C. XII. 198.

⁴ S.C. XVII. 239.

⁵ Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 422.

⁶ Thomas Long, M.P. for Westbury, confessed that he had paid for his seat £4 to the Mayor of Westbury and another. (Parry, *Parliaments.* 221.) Seats were indeed still cheap

Elizabeth suddenly dissolved, informing the Commons that "she utterly disallows and condemns those for their audacious arrogant and presumptuous folly who, by superfluous speeches, spend much time in meddling with matters neither pertaining to them nor within the capacity of their understanding."

All the returns to this Parliament are missing, but a fairly accurate list of members is given by Willis. This Mr. Pink has compared with an unprinted list among the MSS. of the late Lord de Tabley, which supplies the corrections of a few clerical errors long suspected in Willis' list. Sir Walter Aston was the sheriff.

The Calendar of State Papers, Rome, recently published, gives a list of the affection of the noble houses towards the Church of Rome in these times. From this list I extract the sentiments of the Staffordshire nobility as follows :—

Friends (i.e. Catholics) :—

Howard, Earl of Arundel ; Vere, Earl of Oxford (? Protestant) ; Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury ; Stanley, Earl of Derby ; Lord Audley ; Lord Dudley ; Lord Paget ; Lord Stafford (well-affected).

Neutrals (i.e. well-affected towards Catholics) :—

Dudley, Earl of Leicester (Protestant), Vere, Earl of Oxford.

Protestants :—

Marquess of Northampton ; Russell, Earl of Bedford ; Devereux, Viscount Hereford ; Lord Burleigh ; Lord Grey ; Lord Sheffield.

County :	*John Grey, Esq.	..	..	(1)
	Thomas Trentham	..	..	(2)
Stafford :	Walter Stafford, Esq.	..	..	(3)
	William Knowles, Esq.	..	..	(4)
Newcastle :	*Sir Ralph Bagnall	..	..	(5)
	Ralph Bowcher	..	..	(6)

Lichfield :	Edward Fitzgarret, Esq. ..	(7)
	William Tymperley, Esq. ..	(8)
Tamworth :	Edward Lewkenor, Esq. ..	(9)
	John Bullock, Esq. ..	(10)

(1) JOHN GREY, Esq. Parl. 1563-7.

(2) THOMAS TRENTHAM, ESQ. OF ROCESTER, M.P. Staffs 1571.

Born *c.* 1535 ; eldest son and heir of Richard T. of the same (who acquired Rocester Abbey), by Mary, daughter of David Ireland of Co. Salop. He married, *c.* 1567, Jane, daughter of Sir William Sneyd of Bradwell, and by her had two sons, members of Parliament, Francis, his son and heir,¹ and Thomas.² Trentham, with Sir Walter Aston and Richard Bagot, watched over Staffordshire in the Protestant interest. They were in a sense Walsingham's spies. In the period 1578-81 the Privy Council is repeatedly instructing them to hold enquiries into the doings of papists. Thomas Trentham must have been intimate with Lettice, Countess of Essex and Leicester ; his second daughter was named after her. The Queen may have been god-mother to his eldest daughter, Elizabeth ; and it was doubtless through the Countess' instrumentality that this girl married the Earl of Oxford, and that Trentham was returned to Parliament in 1571 and was put on the Bench. He was sheriff, 14 November 1571-1572, 1579-80 ; J.P. *c.* 1570 till death. He is described in November 1580 as *Custos Rotulorum* ;³ this office during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was often held by a commoner or by some Peer other than the Lord Lieutenant.⁴ And he was one of those appointed to conduct Mary Queen of Scots to

¹ Parl. 1610-1.

² Parl. 1601.

³ *Cal. Pap. Dom. Eliz.*

⁴ Mr. Beaven says :—" Without committing myself definitely, I should say that there is no instance of a commoner Lord Lieutenant of any county in the sixteenth century." The Earl of Shrewsbury was made Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire in 1585. There was none in 1580.

Fotheringhay in September 1585.¹ He was buried 25 May 1587 at Rocester. His Will, dated 19 October 1586, was proved in *P.C.C.* 4 May 1588.² I.p.m. 29 Eliz.

(3) WALTER STAFFORD, M.P. Stafford 1571.

Born *c.* 1530; fourth son of the first Baron Stafford and brother of the second and third lords. He is said to have died without issue and presumably unmarried. The latest reference to him as living is 19 November 1570, except his return to this Parliament. He probably died soon after the close of the Parliament; he left no Will.³

(4) (SIR) WILLIAM KNOLLYS (K.G.) (FIRST BARON KNOLLYS OF GREYS), M.P. Stafford 1571, Tregony 1572-83, Co. Oxford 1584-5, 1593, 1597-8, 1601.

Born *c.* 1547; second son but ultimate heir male of Sir Francis K., K.G. (*d.* 1596), by Catherine, daughter of William Carey, Esq. He was admitted to Magdalen College, Oxford,

¹ Harwood, *Eydeswick*, 533.

² The WILL of THOMAS TRENTHAM OF ROCESTER, dated 19 Oct. 1586; proved in *P.C.C.* 4 May 1588.

To be buried at Rocester. To eldest son Francis all his lands, save a life interest in the Whitgreve and Biddulph lands to his younger son Thomas; also saving to his wife her third.

To son Francis the wardship of "my nephew" Francis Meverell, and to maintain Richard, Rauff and Anne Meverell till their brother is of age. His wife to bring up his son Thomas till he is 20.

To Elizabeth, eldest daughter, £1000; Dorothy Cooper, 2nd daughter, a silver bowle gilt; Katherine Stanhopp, 3rd daughter, a similar bowl. His sister Jane Foljambe is to continue to live at Rocester and to receive £18 a year as under the Will of her late husband Godfrey Foljambe. Bequests to his servants by name, to Richard Rogers, Miss Dorothy Ashebie niece, to neighbour John Fenne' gent. To brothers Chetwynd of Ingestre and brother Sneyd, each a gelding, and appoints them overseers of his Will. Sole Exor.,—his heir Francis Trentham.

Debts owing to Sir Thomas Stanhopp £500, and to brother Mr. George Sneyd £110. (36 *Rutland.*)

³ Beaven.

before 1564; M.A. 1592; admitted to the Middle Temple 1565; knighted at Leicester, 7 October 1586; K.G. 24 September 1615; Comptroller 1596-1600, and Treasurer of the Household 1600-16; sworn on the Privy Council 30 August 1596; created Baron Knollys of Greys, Oxford, 1603; Master of Wards 1614-8; Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire and Oxfordshire 1596-1632; created Viscount Wallingford 1616; and Earl of Banbury 1626. He sold Rotherfield Greys to his nephew, Sir Robert K., in 1631. His sister Lettice was Countess of Essex and Countess of Leicester, and exercised from Chartley and Drayton Basset great political influence.

He married (1) Dorothy, daughter of Edmund, first Baron Braye, and widow of Edmund, Lord Chandos; she died shortly after 21 December 1605, and he married (2) Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, he being aged about 58 and she 19. He died 25 May 1632, aged 85, was buried at Rotherfield, and is said on his funeral certificate to have been without issue. His Will, dated 19 May 1630, was proved by his widow 2 July 1632. His widow married, before July 1632, Edward Vaux, fourth Baron Vaux of Harrowden, and died 17 April 1658, claiming to have had two sons by Lord Banbury, as to which issue long peerage claims followed.¹

(5) SIR RALPH BAGNALL. Parl. 1547-52.

(6) (SIR) RALPH BOURCHIER^s (Kt.) OF BENNINGBOROUGH, YORKS, M.P. Newcastle 1571, 1572-83; Newport, I. of W. 1584-5; Scarborough 1586-7; Yorkshire 1588-9.

Born *c.* 1535; eldest son and heir of James B. of the same, lieutenant of Ambleteuse, by Mary, daughter of Sir Humphrey Bannester of Calais (which James B. was the illegitimate son of John Bouchier, Lord Berners, Captain of Calais in 1520).²

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; *G.E.C. Complete Peerage*.

² *Geneal.* XIV. N.S. 186.

He and his father held land at Haughton and his father died just before 1555.¹ Apparently he sold Haughton to Ralph Sneyd in 1575,² and he sold, jointly with Elizabeth his wife, many other lands in that neighbourhood 1568-75.³ He was patron of Haughton Church in 1577.⁴

He was knighted at Westminster 6 March 1584.⁵ He married (1) Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Hall of Grantham, by Ursula, daughter of Thomas Sherington and sister of Sir Henry Sherington; (2) licence dated 29 November 1577, Christian, daughter of Rowland Shakerley of London, and widow of John Harding, Alderman of London; (3) Anne, widow of Coote, who survived him. He was buried at Barking 11 June 1598; administration of Sir Ralph B. "of Barking, Essex," 15 June 1598, was granted to Anne the relict who died the following August. His eldest son William, by his first wife, was the father of the well-known Sir John Bouchier, Parliamentarian and regicide, M.P. for Ripon in the Long Parliament.⁶ He may have been a Duchy nominee in all his first three constituencies. I.p.m. 42° Eliz.

(7) EDWARD FITZGARRET (OR FITZGERRALD) OF STANWELL, MIDDLESEX, M.P. Lichfield 1571, 1572-83.

Born 1529; second son of Gerald Fitzgerald, ninth Earl of Kildare (*d.* 1534), by his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Grey, first Marquess of Dorset. He married Agnes, widow of Sir Thomas Paston of Norfolk (*d.* 1550), and daughter and coheir of Sir John Leigh of Addington, Surrey. He was lieutenant of the Gentlemen Pensioners. He died 1590;⁷

¹ S.C. IX. N.S. 29, 85.

² S.C. XIV. 176.

³ S.C. XIII. 270.

⁴ S.C. 1915, 124.

⁵ Haydn. *Dignities*.

⁶ For most of these notices I am indebted to Mr. Pink.

⁷ The WILL of EDWARD FITZGARRET of Stanwell, Middlesex, Esq., dated 1 August 1586, proved by son Garret in *P.C.C.* 15 May 1590:

To be buried in Stanwell Church near his wife Agnes, late Lady Paston.

To daughter Elizabeth FitzGarret, a maide of Honoure, £200.

his eldest son Gerald succeeded in 1599, as fourteenth Earl of Kildare.¹ I suppose he was elected for Lichfield on a Crown recommendation.

(8) WILLIAM TYMPERLEY, M.P. Lichfield 1571.

Mr. Pink thinks the name should read *Thomas* Tymperley, and that he was the M.P. for Bramber 1553 (2), and Great Yarmouth 1563-7; eldest son of William T. of Hintlesham Hall, Suffolk. He was a lawyer; Will proved in *P.C.C.* 1594. This man had, however, a younger brother William, styled a Councillor at law in Metcalf's *Visitations of Suffolk*.

(9) (SIR) EDWARD LEWKENOR (Kt.) OF KINGSTON BOWSEY, SUSSEX, AND OF HIGHAM AND DENHAM HALL, SUFFOLK, M.P. Tamworth 1571, New Shoreham 1572-83, Maldon 1584-5, 1586-7, 1593, Newport (Cornwall) 1597-8, Maldon 1604-5.

Born c. 1543; eldest son and heir of Edward L., M.P. (who died a prisoner in the Tower under charge of high treason, September 1556), by Dorothy, daughter of Sir Thomas Wroth of Enfield. He matriculated at St. John's College, Cambridge, 1559; B.A. 1561; Fellow 1562-3; restored in blood with his brother 1559. He was sent to the Tower on 2 March 1586 for a speech made on 27 February 1586; Knighted at Charterhouse 11 May 1603; sat on Committee for the Scottish Union 1604. He married Susan, eldest daughter and coheir of Thomas Higham of Higham Hall, Suffolk, with whom he acquired both Higham and Denham. She died 4 October 1605 aged 53, and was buried at Denham. He died 4 October 1605, at Denham, and was buried there on 6 October. I.p.m. 2 January 1606. He left two sons and several daughters.¹ He must have been a strong Protestant.

To son Dudley FitzGarret £20 a year.

To third son Thomas FitzGarret, £20 a year.

Mentions son-in-law, Ambrose Coppinge.

Exors.: Son and heir, Garret FitzGarret and Ambrose Coppinge.

Overseers: my ladie and sister the Countess of Lincoln.

(*P.C.C.* 28. *Drury.*)

¹ For most of these notices I am indebted to Mr. Pink.

(10) JOHN BULLOCK OF ARBORFIELD, BERKS, M.P. Tamworth
1571.

Born *c.* 1545; eldest son and heir of William B. of the same, by Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Ralph Bellot of Moreton, Cheshire. He married 1576 Amye (Pollye). He bought Great Wigborough, Essex, and died 10 February 1595, being buried in Great Wigborough Church. His widow was also buried there 20 January 1616. His descendants ultimately acquired Faulkborne Hall, Essex, where they still continue.¹

Parliament of 1572-83.

Summoned to meet 8 May 1572; held three sessions only to 1581; 8 May-30 June 1572, 8 February-15 March 1576, 16 January-18 March 1581; dissolved 9 April 1583. This ultra-Protestant Parliament was elected immediately after the excommunication of the Queen by the Pope. It passed the Recusancy Laws and began the Catholic persecution. In all the eleven years of this Parliament no Staffordshire M.P.'s died, hence there are no by-elections. At least five of the members were quite unknown in Staffordshire before their election. Except Broughton, every single Borough Member seems to be an obvious nominee. There are more signs of "packing" at this election than at any other time before or since. Thomas Trentham, the former M.P., was Sheriff.

County :	John Fletewood, Esq.	..	(1)
	Thomas Horwood, Esq.	..	(2)
	elected <i>c.</i> April 1572.		
Stafford :	Richard Broughton, gent.	..	(3)
	Thomas Purslowe, gent.	..	(4)
	elected 25 April 1572.		

¹ For most of these notices I am indebted to Mr. Pink.

Newcastle :	*Ralph Bouchier, Esq.	..	(5)
	Thomas Grimsdiche, Esq.	..	(6)
	elected 23 April 1572.		
Lichfield :	*Edward FitzGarrett, Esq.		(7)
	Arthur Bedell, gent.	..	(8)
	elected 24 April 1572.		
Tamworth :	Lancelot Bostock, gent.	..	(9)
	John Nuttall, gent.	..	(10)
	elected <i>c.</i> April 1572.		

(1) JOHN FLEETWOOD, ESQ. OF PENWORTHAM, LANCS, AND OF CALWICH, M.P. Staffs 1572-83.

Born *c.* 1520 ; eldest son and heir of William F. of Hesketh, Lancs, by Helen, daughter of Richard Standish. Soon after the dissolution of the monasteries he had a grant of Calwich Priory, and he became a fervent Protestant accordingly. He was J.P. Staffordshire 1547, but was removed from the bench on the accession of Queen Mary 1553. He was lessee of Penwortham Priory from the abbot and convent of Evesham, and afterwards purchased the reversion from the Crown,—confirmed 1563.¹ He was sheriff of Staffordshire 1548-9, 1568-9, and of Lancashire 1577-8, 1586-7. Under Elizabeth he prospered ; bought Wootton-under-Weever from Sir William Cecil in 1560 ;² bought Prestwood in 1565 ; Ellaston 1571, Quixhill 1576 ;³ in fact he is found buying land down to 1587. He married (1) Catherine, daughter of John Christmas of Colchester, who died *s.p.* and (2) Jane, eldest daughter, and in her issue heiress, of Sir Thomas Langton, Kt., Baron of Newton, Lancs, by whom he left issue the Fleetwoods of Calwich. Erdeswick writes of him in 1596 : “ A Lancashire gent. is lord thereof (*i.e.* of Calwich) ; who, as I have heard, hath made a parlour of the chancell, a hall of the church and a kitchen of the

¹ Pink.

² S.C. XIV. 207.

³ S.C. XIII. 243, 285 ; XIV. 186.

steeple." But his descendants were Catholics and Recusants in the Civil War. He was buried at Penwortham, 13 October 1590; his will, dated 6 August 1590, was proved in *P.C.C.* 1590.¹

(2) (SIR) THOMAS WHORWOOD (Kt.) OF COMPTON AND STOURTON,
M.P. Staffs 1572-83.

Born 1544; son and heir of Edward² W. of Compton (*d.* 1547), by Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Basset of Hintes.

¹ The WILL of JOHN FLEETWOODE OF PENWORTHAM, dated 6 Oct. 1590; proved in *P.C.C.* 5 Jan. 1590/1.

A puritanical exordium; and to be buried without pomp in the chancel of Ellaston Church on the south side near the wall.

Bequests to the poor of Penwortham and Ellaston. His lands had been settled by indenture between himself and his cousins Edward Standish Esq. and Nicholas Rigby gent.; and another between him and Sir Richard Shirburne at the marriage of Fleetwood's heir Thomas to Sir Richard's daughter Mary; and between him and Thomas Leigh of Eggington, Derby, on the marriage of Fleetwood's son Richard to Leigh's daughter.

Thomas had the Staffordshire lands, and Richard the Lancashire. A like division was made of the plate and household stuff, and of the tithes in which Fleetwood had largely invested. The cattle were divided in the same way. Wootou-under-Weever, with the park, the steward-fields, the Halefields, Gorstelowe, Northwood and the Fenbokes and the parsonage and tithes of Ellaston and Penwortham to his Exors. to raise money for the legacies.

Small bequests to each of his five daughters, Elizabeth wife of Robert Charnocke of Asteley, Lancs., Ellen Fleetwood (who had bedding and "fowre pare of flaxen sheetes"), Anne wife of Thomas Barton, Katherine wife of William Milward, and Jane wife of William Bradbourne. A year's wages to all his servants; and his sons are adjured not to oppress their tenants and farmers. To Anne Barton and her son Richard his lease of Barton; to Thomas son of William Milward of Eaton-upon-Dove, the parsonage of North Meiles.

Exors.—cousin Mr. Edward Fleetwood, parson of Wigan; son Thomas, son William Milward, and son Richard. Overseers,—nephew William Fleetwood, recorder of London, son William Bradbourne, Edward Standish, Edmund Fleetwood, William Fleetwood of Heskyn, son Robert Charnock, son Thomas Barton.

² Godson of Sir Edward Grey. See his Will.

In 1552, being then aged 7, he succeeded to the estate of his father's first cousin Anne, Lady Ambrose Dudley,¹ daughter of the Attorney General, William Whorwood.² He was sheriff of Staffordshire 1574-5, while sitting as M.P. for the county, and 1596-7; J.P. 1580 and 1596 onwards. He seems to have been removed from the bench for some cause between 1580 and 1595. He was patron of Envill Church. From 1565 to 1583 he appears in the Final Concords as selling land.³ He was knighted at Chatham 4 July 1604,⁴ and died 1616. He married, before 1563, Magdalen, daughter of Rowland Edwards of London, and was succeeded by his son, Gerard. From this son's name, I judge that the father was a close friend of Sir Gilbert Gerard of Gerards Bromley, Attorney-General 1559-93.

(3) RICHARD BROUGHTON OF LONGDON, M.P. Stafford 1572-83, Lichfield 1586-7, 1588-9, 1593.

Born 1524; son and heir of Thomas B. of Longdon, by Isabel, daughter and heiress of Waller of Acton Beauchamp, Worcestershire. He was admitted to the Inner Temple 3 March 1568, and is called steward of the Liberty of Lichfield in the 1583 Visitation; he was a Welsh Judge (2nd Justice of Anglesea, Merioneth and Carnarvon) 1594-1602, and appointed to the Council of Wales 27 May 1594. He married (1) Eleanor, daughter of Humphrey Rugeley of Longdon; (2) Elizabeth, daughter of John Harcourt of Ranton; (3) Anne, daughter of Richard Bagot of Blithfield. He found a seat in Parliament as son-in-law of Bagot, to whom he wrote frequently from Parliament, 1576-1593. He was a considerable antiquary, and died 1604,⁵ and his widow Anne in 1619.⁶

¹ *Geneal.* N.S. XIV. 277; her lord being then a prisoner in the Tower.

² Parl. 1536.

³ S.C. XVII. 228.

⁴ *Shaw's Knights.*

⁵ *Williams' Welsh Judges*, *pace* Mr. Beaven.

⁶ Bagot MSS., Hist. MSS. Comm., 4th Report, Appendix Vol. I, 325-345.

- (4) THOMAS PURSLOWE OF HOGSTOWE, SALOP, M.P. Stafford
1572-83.

Son of John P., brother of Robert P. of Sidbury, Salop. He married Ursula, daughter of Edward Chomeley of Copenhall¹. I find no trace of him as a Court official in the State Papers. His son was admitted to the Inner Temple 1598, and was living at the Visitation of Salop in 1623.

- (5) (SIR) RALPH BOURCHIER (Kt.). Parl. 1571.

- (6) THOMAS GRIMSDITCH, M.P. Newcastle 1572-83, Wigan
1584-5.

Mr. Pink has little doubt but that he was the Thomas Grimsditch of Budworth, Cheshire, who was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1566 and whose administration was granted at Chester in 1595. I find nothing of him at Newcastle or in Staffordshire or in the State Papers.² He was a Duchy nominee for Newcastle and afterwards for Wigan, another Duchy town.

- (7) EDWARD FITZGARRET. Parl. 1571.

- (8) ARTHUR BEDELL, GENT., M.P. Lichfield 1572-83.

Born *c.* 1535. Matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford; B.A. Oxon. 1 December 1553; M.A. 17 December 1556; B.C.L. 9 November 1565; D.C.L. 6 July 1569.³ "He was a very learned civilian in his time" (which is all that Anthony Wood says of him in his *Fasti*), but under some reserve, Mr. Pink is inclined to believe that he was the Canon of Lichfield of that name in 1564.

An Arthur B., Esq., was surety for a bond in Chancery Proceedings in 1570; an Arthur B. is mentioned as lending money in 1591; and a Mr. Bedell was the Registrar of the Court of High Commission in 1589 and succeeding years.⁴

¹ *Ex. inf.* H. Weyman.

² William Grymesdych of Grove, Notts., and Reynold G. occur in 1535 in connection with Drayton Basset (Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 412-4).

³ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

⁴ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

All these were probably the same man, and he was possibly one of the Bedells of Writtle, Essex.

(9) (COL.) LANCELOT BOSTOCK, M.P. Tamworth 1572-83.

Mr. Pink thinks he was the second son of Robert B. of Churton, Cheshire, by his second wife, Dorothy, fourth daughter of Sir George Calveley of Lea, Cheshire, by Elizabeth, daughter of Piers Dutton of Dutton, Cheshire. He served as a captain in Holland, and is styled "Colonel" in 1590, when he succeeded to the command of the Regiment previously held by his uncle, Sir William Stanley of Hooton. His wife was a Jane Royden. The date of his death is unknown; there is no Will in Somerset House or at Chester. In a letter from Captain Edward Cecil to his uncle Sir Robert, in June 1600, in describing the battle of Nieuport, after stating that Colonel Bostock was now in command of his uncle Sir William Stanley's regiment, he goes on to say that he, Bostock, and others named were all killed "by many probabilities, yet there is some doubt." Some of those mentioned were certainly not killed, and Bostock may have been one of them. In the Visitation of Cheshire of 1586 he is styled "pensioner," whatever that may mean. How Stanley was his uncle is also unascertained.¹

He was made Constable of Holt Castle, Wales, in 1585;² the "pensioner" is perhaps explained in that he is described in 1586 as "one of her Majesties servantes."³ He was made Constable of Flint Castle in 1598, and appears in Ireland under Essex in 1600.⁴ This last appearance was probably before the date of the battle of Nieuport.

There was another Lancelot Bostock, the Chester Antiquary, who I think lived about this time; but I doubt if he would be the soldier. The antiquary was descended from an illegitimate branch of the Bostocks.

¹ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

² *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

³ *Privy Council Acts.*

⁴ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

(10) JOHN NUTTALL (OR NUTHALL), GENT., M.P. Tamworth
1572-83.

He seems to be the John N. of Caton Hall, Cheshire, the son and heir of Richard N. of the same, by Alice, daughter of Thomas Harleston of Picton, ? Yorks. He died 8, and was buried at Frodsham, Cheshire, 13 February, 1586. He married Jane, daughter of Robert Newport of Sandon, and left issue.¹ He had a grant of Arms 1581.²

Parliament of 1584-5.

Summoned to meet 23 November 1584 ; held two sessions ; dissolved 14 September 1585. All those elected to this Parliament for Staffordshire were local men, such as would be elected without pressure, except Sir Richard Browne, Lord Leicester's Steward at Lichfield, and possibly Sir Peter Warburton at Newcastle. The election of the scapegrace Dudley for the county at the age of 17 was a scandal for which the sheriff, Thomas Gresley of Drakelow, must be held responsible, and which the name of Dudley may explain in the times of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. There was evidently a quarrel between the Dudleys and Sir Thomas Whorwood, the late M.P. for the county, whose daughter had married a young Dudley without her father's consent. This may have either led to or resulted from Dudley's contesting the county, and Whorwood's retirement.

County : Edward (Dudley) (Return torn,
name supplied by B. Willis) (1)
Edward Leigh, Esq. (2)
elected 19 November 1584.

¹ *Ex inf.* Pink ; Ormerod's *Cheshire*.

² *Geneal.* N.S. XXIII. 67.

- Stafford : John Stafford, Esq., son to Lady
Dorothy Stafford (3)
Francis Craddock, gent., of the
Middle Temple (4)
elected 19 November 1584.
- Newcastle : Peter Warburton, jun., of
Lincoln's Inn (5)
Walter Chetwynd, gent., of
Gray's Inn (6)
returned in November
1584 by Francis Chet-
wynd, gent., the Mayor
- Lichfield : Richard Brown, Esq. .. (7)
James Weston, Esq. (8)
elected 19 November 1584.
- Tamworth : John Breton, Esq. (9)
Clement Fisher, Esq. (10)
elected 16 November 1584.

The torn Return (probably damaged since the days of Willis) is given by him without any query note.

(1) EDWARD DUDLEY (FIFTH LORD DUDLEY), M.P. Staffs
1584-5.

Baptised 17 September 1567; eldest son and heir of Edward Sutton, *alias* Dudley, fourth Baron Dudley (*d.* 1586), by his second wife Jane (*d.* 1569), daughter of Edward Stanley, third Earl of Derby. He matriculated at Oxford (Lincoln College) 1580. He married in 1581 Theodosia, daughter of Sir James Harington of Exton, Rutlandshire. As early as 1593 his estates were in the hands of sequestrators; and he appears to have been a person of infamous conduct.¹ He died 23, and was buried 24, June 1643 at St. Edmund's, Dudley.

¹ G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

He outlived his only son long enough to marry his granddaughter and heiress to Humble Ward, the London goldsmith.

His baptism is registered at St. Edmund's, Dudley, 17 September 1567, so that he was only 14 when married, and only 17 years old when he was returned to Parliament. This is just the sort of thing the young scapegrace would have done and it was not uncommon. Sir Robert Naunton, in his *Fragmenta Regalia*, written about 1630, records that in the 1614 Parliament, "an account was taken in the House " of 40 gentlemen then about 20, and some not exceeding 16." It must be feared that it was the corrupting influence of his early politics that produced the first-class blackguard of later life.

(2) (SIR) EDWARD LEIGH, OF RUSHALL, M.P. Staffs 1584-5.

Born *c.* 1540 ; eldest son and heir of Henry L. of Shawell, Leicestershire, and of Rushall,¹ by Catherine, daughter and coheiress of Sir John Dudhan of Kirklington, Notts. He married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Farmer of Easton Neston, Northants.² He was pricked to serve as sheriff, possibly by accident, four days before the Parliament to which he had been returned met, and on the very day of his election. The Parliament therefore ordered that "he have liberty to absent himself when necessary."³ The object of the Government in so pricking him is obscure ; it is just possible that it was done to prevent his election. In 1586 he was a Commissioner to enquire concerning the concealment of the goods of the recusants ; he was added to the bench between 1585 and 1595 ; was again sheriff 1602-3 ; knighted July 1603

¹ Henry had Rushall in the right of his mother Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Harpur and sister and heiress of Robert Harpur.

² Easton Neston lies on the London road, beside Towcester, Countess M.P.'s with their trains must have ridden in through its splendid gates, breaking the journey to London.

³ Beatson : *Parl. Register* I. 459.

and died 1617. His grandson was Colonel Edward Leigh, the Roundhead M.P.¹ "Rushall is a fair seat of a house, being built about with a wall, and a gatehouse of stone, all embattled castlewise," says Erdeswick *c.* 1590.²

(3) (SIR) JOHN STAFFORD (Kt.) OF MARLWOOD, NEAR THORNBURY, GLOS., M.P. Stafford 1584-5, 1586-7, Wareham 1601.

Born *c.* 1554; younger son of Sir William S. of Blatherwick, Northants (*d.* 1554), by Dorothy, daughter of Henry, first Lord Stafford of Thornbury Castle, which Dorothy was mistress of the robes to Queen Elizabeth. He matriculated at Corpus Christi, Cambridge, 1569; was admitted to Gray's Inn 1572; knighted at Cadiz by the Earl of Essex, June 1596; gentleman pensioner to Queen Elizabeth and to James I; Constable of Bristol Castle.³ He died without issue, 28 September 1624, and was buried 30 Sept. at Thornbury. His Will⁴ was proved in *P.C.C.* 1624.

His eldest brother, Edward S.,⁵ was at this time Ambassador to France; but in 1586/8 another elder brother, William S., was engaged in concocting imaginary conspiracies against the Queen, and got lodged in the Tower. This may have led to John Stafford's retirement from public life. The way in which the return is made, mentioning the man as the son of his mother, the mistress of the robes, is unusual.

¹ Parl. 1640-60.

² Harwood, *Erdeswick* 405.

³ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

⁴ WILL of SIR JOHN STAFFORD OF THORNBURIE, GLOS., dated 10 August 1624, proved by sole Exor. 2 December 1624:—After leaving certain sums to servants, leaves residue to Richard, son of William Stafford, Esq., who was son to Sir Edward Stafford, "my elder brother"; and makes him sole Exor., giving security for the carrying out of an agreement to William, son of William Stafford. Overseers:—Sir Richard Lovelace of Hurley, Berks, and Richard Berkley of Raucombe, Glos.
(*P.C.C.* 107 *Byrde.*)

⁵ Parl. 1597-8.

- (4) FRANCIS CRADDOCK, M.P. Stafford 1584-5, 1586-7, 1588-9, 1593.

Born *c.* 1540; probably a younger son of Thomas C. of Stafford, by Elizabeth? (. . . .), and therefore younger brother of Matthew C. of Stafford, M.P.,¹ bailiff in the year of Francis' first election. He was a barrister of the Inner Temple; Recorder of Stafford and J.P. for the same before 1583; he is found buying land near Wolverhampton in 1585 and 1589,² and is then described as "armiger." His family were all burgesses of Stafford and to this he must have owed his return in 1593 in the teeth of Essex's recommendation. As his *I.p.m.* was taken in 36^o Eliz., I suppose he died 1593/4.

- (5) (SIR) PETER WARBURTON (Kt.) OF GRAFTON HALL, CHESHIRE,³ M.P. Newcastle 1584-5, Chester 1586-7, 1588-9, 1597-8.

Born 1541; only son of Thomas W. of Northwich (who was the natural son of John W., fourth son of Sir Geoffrey W. of Arley, *d.* 1448). He entered Lincoln's Inn 2 May, 1562; called to the Bar 2 Feb. 1572; Bencher 3 Feb, 1582; sheriff of Chester 1583; Queen's Attorney for Lancashire and Cheshire, 19 May, 1592; serjeant at law 29 Nov. 1593; Justice of the Common Pleas 24 Nov. 1600-21. He tried the Earl of Essex 1601; was knighted 23 July 1603; tried the Gunpowder treason plotters 1606, and died 7 September 1621; buried at Tilstone. From his daughter and heiress are descended the Lords Stanley of Alderley. He acquired large estates in Cheshire and bought land at Dilhorn in 1592.⁴

- (6) (SIR) WALTER CHETWYND (Kt.) OF INGESTRE, M.P. Newcastle 1584-5, 1586-7, 1604-11, Staffs 1614.

Born *c.* 1560; second son of John C. of Ingestre (*d.* 1592), by Margery (*d.* 1602), daughter of Robert Middlemore of

¹ Parl. 1554-5.

² S.C. XV, 162, 197.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; which, however, does not mention that he sat for Newcastle in 1584-5.

⁴ S.C. XVI. 128.

Edgbaston. He was admitted to Gray's Inn 9 May, 1582.¹ He was probably elected for Newcastle in 1584 because his uncle, Francis Chetwynd, was then Mayor of the town. He was knighted at Chatham, 4 July 1604;² when he is called Sir Walter C. "of Grendon, Warwick." He was sheriff of Staffordshire 1607-8, and he succeeded his elder brother Sir William at Ingestre 1612. He married (1) Mary, daughter and heiress of John Mullins, Archdeacon of London, and (2) Catherine, daughter of George, Earl of Huntingdon, and widow of Sir Edward Unton of Wadley, Berks, who survived him and died 1638. He died at the age of 80, May 1638.³ Will proved in *P.C.C.* 1638.⁴

(7) (SIR) RICHARD BROWN (Kt.) OF SAYES COURT, KENT, M.P. Steyning 1571, Arundel 1572-83, Lichfield 1584-5, Lewes 1586-7, Gatton 1588-9, Newtown, I. of W. 1593, Cirencester and Midhurst 1601, Harwich 1604 till decease in 1605.

Born 1539/40; third son of John Browne of Colchester, by his first wife Florence, daughter and heiress of John Chersey. He was sheriff of Surrey and Sussex 1587-8; Clerk to the Board of Green Cloth in the Queen's Household; knighted at Whitehall, 24 July 1603. He married Joan, daughter of John Vigors of Langham, Essex; and died May 1605 aged 65, buried in Deptford Church. He left a son Christopher of

¹ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

² Shaw's *Knights*.

³ Stapleton: Chetwynds 190.

⁴ WILL of SIR WALTER CHETWYND OF INGESTRE, dated 20 April 1638, proved in *P.C.C.* 5 Aug. 1639. To his daughter Digby's four children, Elizabeth, Mary, Christian and Jane £100 apiece, charged on land at Newport and Church Aston, Salop. To his godson Walter Chetwynd of Ridgley, £20. To Anne wife of Godfrey Chetwynd £6. To his grandson Walter the great gilt cup and Turkie wrought carpet for heirlooms.

Exor. :—His son and heir Walter. Overseer :—Ralph Sneyd the elder of Keele.

His brother Philip Chetwynd owes him £200; if he repay £150 he is to have an annuity of £20 a year.

Sayes Court, who was the father of Sir Richard B. of Sayes Court (the friend and father-in-law of John Evelyn the Diarist), who was created a baronet by Charles II in 1649, and died without male issue in 1683.¹

The State Papers give us some strange records of his life. In 1584 he appeals to Walsingham from prison ; by 1588 he is Clerk of the Green Cloth ; in 1589 he appears to be a spy among the Catholics ; in 1588, as one of " her Majesties servantes," he is a petitioning widower, robbed by his wife's relations ; the same year he calls himself the steward of the late Earl of Leicester (*d.* 1588), and still the same year he was " formerly a victualler in the Low Countries " ; in 1595 he writes to Lord Burghley as a Port Official at Ipswich.² Queen Elizabeth writes, undated, to the Master of the Ordnance :—" You are to cause our Almain Armourer to make a suit of good armour for our servant Richard Browne, complete for the tilt as for the field, at our price for the makeing, he paying for the stuff thereof."³ There is no doubt that he got his seat at Lichfield as the Earl of Leicester's steward. An acute commentator has observed that his knighthood, name, career and varied constituencies suggest that he had some inside knowledge of the Queen's or Walsingham's more hazardous " investments."

(8) JAMES WESTON OF LICHFIELD, M.P. Lichfield 1584-5.

Born *c.* 1525 ; fourth son of John W. of Lichfield (who was the fourth son of John W. of Rugeley),⁴ by Cecily, sister of Ralph Nevil, Earl of Westmorland ; he was brother of Richard W., Solicitor General 1557-9, and Justice of the Common Pleas 1559, and of Dr. Robert Weston, M.P.⁵ He was a

¹ *Ex inf.* Pink. Mr. Beaven says that Richard Brown in his various appearances is sometimes described as " gent," sometimes as " Esq.," but on the whole he thinks there was only one Brown M.P.—the steward.

² *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

³ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

⁴ Harwood, *Erdeswick* 164, Chart III.

⁵ Parl. 1558.

burgess of Lichfield, and the ancestor of the Westons of Rugeley. By 1564 he was Registrar of Lichfield;¹ at some later period he was Vicar General of the Diocese; he is described by Bishop Bentham in his Report to the Privy Council as "a man godly and zealous." From 1568 to 1578 he is continually to be found buying land round Lichfield. He married Margery, daughter of Humphrey Lowe of Lichfield. She died in 1587;² and he died in May 1589, being buried at St. John's, Lichfield. His Will,³ dated 2 May 1589, was proved in *P.C.C.* 24 May 1589. At his death his son, afterwards Sir Simon W., M.P.,⁴ was aged 25 years.

(9) JOHN BRETON OF TAMWORTH, M.P. Tamworth 1584-5.

Born *c.* 1530; son and heir of Nicholas B. of Sirescote (living in 1556), and grandson of John B., merchant of London, who was descended from a family of Breton seated at Tamworth *temp.* Edward II. He married (1) Bridget, daughter of William Wyrley of Handsworth;⁵ and (2) Elizabeth, daughter of John Wyrley of Dodford, Northants. He had issue by both marriages;⁶ his son Thomas was baptised at Tamworth 1566.⁷ As "armiger" he is mentioned as buying land at Wyrley in 1582;⁸ and I think he was the Captain of a

¹ *S.C.* 1915, 368.

² Harwood, *Erdeswick* 164, Chart III.

³ The WILL of JAMES WESTON OF LYCHEFELDE THE ELDER, dated 2 May 1589, proved by the executors 24 May 1589:

A puritanical tone about the exordium.

To be buried beside his wife in St. John's Church.

Mentions his son Simiand (*i.e.* Sir Simon W.), daughter Alice, two sisters and brother Christopher.

To son James rent at Burrowfordes near King's Bromley, and at Handsacre and at Armitage, up to £30 a year when he is 21.

Exors.: John Mytton of Weston, Esq., Symon Weston my son, Alice Weston my daughter.

Overseers: my brother Lowe, coosen Bardell and son-in-law Humphrey Wellys.

(*P.C.C.* 48. *Leicester.*)

⁴ Parl. 1624-5.

⁵ Parl. 1536.

⁶ Pink.

⁷ Parish Register.

⁸ *S.C.* XV. 137.

company of Foot that served in the Low Countries under the Earl of Leicester.¹ A John Breton of Lichfield was admitted to the Liberty of Tamworth² in 1452.³

(10) (SIR) CLEMENT FISHER (Kt.) OF PACKINGTON MAGNA, WARWICKSHIRE, M.P. Tamworth 1584-5.

Born *c.* 1545; son and heir of John F. of the same (*d.* 1571), by Catherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Digby of Olney, Bucks, and widow of Simon Wheeler of Kenilworth. He was Treasurer of the expedition to the Netherlands under the Earl of Leicester in 1585 while still M.P.; sheriff of Warwickshire 1597-8; knighted at Whitehall 16 November 1604. He married Mary, daughter of Francis Repington of Amington, Warwickshire; and died 23 October 1619, being buried at Packington.⁴ His son Robert was created a Baronet in 1622, which title became extinct in 1739.⁵

¹ Shaw: *Staffs.* I. 422.

² Palmer: *History of Tamworth*, 105.

³ Tamworth sends two burgesses to Parliament, one for the part in Staffordshire and the other for the part in Warwickshire. . . . Divers gentlemen have houses in this town, as Sir Humphrey Ferrers, who is lord of the Castle on the Warwickshire side. In the Staffordshire side the Bretons have a seat which they have held in very long succession from King Edward II. The Harcourts also have a house here; they are descended from the Harcourts of Ranton. (*Magna Britannia, Staffs. c.* 1650.)

⁴ WILL of SIR CLEMENT FISHER OF GREAT PACKINGTON, dated 8 April 1618, proved in *P.C.C.* 22 May 1620.

Fifteen lines of puritanical exordium. He mentions lands in Warwick, Worcester and Stafford Counties. To his wife Dame Mary for life as by indenture of 20 May 1609, Packington, Bickenall, Stonley, and the prebend of Bonehill; reversion to his grandson Clement, son of Sir Robert Fisher.

Goods to be divided between Dame Mary and Sir Robert.

Exor. :—Dame Mary. No overseers named.

⁵ Pink.

Parliament of 1586-7.

Summoned to meet 15 October 1586; held two sessions; dissolved 23 March 1587. The sheriffs were asked to "nominate in their free elections those whom they elected before."¹ Philip Okeover of Okeover, the sheriff, paid no attention to these instructions, returning instead his near neighbour, William Basset of Blore. Except the puritanical lawyer Goodman, all those elected were local men, showing no sign of outside pressure. There was certainly no Duchy nominee at Newcastle.

The following extract from the Stafford Annals² illustrates the politics of the time in Stafford:—"1587, this yeare Mr. Bailives took a seminarye priest called Sutton saying masse in ye towne, and there were taken with him Erasmus Wolseley, Esq., Will Macclesfield, Esq., Anthonye Crompton, gent., Will Mynors, Mr. Sprott and two Thornburyes." They were all condemned and Sutton was executed "in a most villainous Butcherly manner."

County :	John Grey, Esq.	(1)
	William Bassett, Esq.	(2)
Stafford :	*John Stafford, Esq...	(3)
	*Francis Craddock, Esq.	(4)
Newcastle :	James Colyer, Esq.	(5)
	*Walter Chetwynd, gent. of Gray's Inn	(6)
Lichfield :	Richard Broughton, Esq.	(7)
	John Goodman, Esq.	(8)
	elected 22 September 1586.	
Tamworth :	Walter Bagot, Esq...	(9)
	John Ferrers, Esq.	(10)

¹ Porritt: *Unreformed House.*

² MS. Wm. Salt Library.

- (1) JOHN GREY, ESQ. Parl. 1563-7.
 (2) WILLIAM BASSET OF BLORE AND OF LANGLEY MEYNELL,
 DERBYSHIRE, M.P. Staffs 1586-7.

Born *c.* 1550 ; son and heir of William B. of the same (*d.* 1563), by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert,¹ C.J. He added to his estates by buying Barlaston from the decaying House of Stafford. He served as sheriff of Staffordshire, 1587-8, and of Derbyshire 1577-8, 1592-3 ; he was J.P. Staffordshire 1582 till 1595. That he was then removed may be due to the fact that he was one of those relatives of Thomas Fitzherbert whom that worthy bribed Topcliffe to "persecute to death." He was, indignantly, found to be still prospering. He married Judith, daughter of Thomas Osten of Oxley, and widow of William Boothby. He died 1601, and his only daughter and heiress (estates worth £2700 a year) married (1) the Hon. Henry Howard, third son of the Earl of Suffolk, and (2) William Cavendish, afterwards first Duke of Newcastle. *I.p.m.* 44° Eliz.

- (3) (SIR) JOHN STAFFORD (Kt.). Parl. 1584-5.
 (4) FRANCIS CRADDOCK. Parl. 1584-5.
 (5) JAMES COLYER OF DARLASTON, M.P. Newcastle 1586-7.

Born 1560 ; son and heir of Robert C. of the same (*d.* after 1583) by Agnes, daughter of Sir Thomas Venables of Kinderton, Cheshire. He married Jane, daughter of Robert Needham of Shenton, Notts, and died *c.* 1599 (*I.p.m.* 42° Eliz.), leaving a son and heir, Francis, aged 10. He seems to have dissipated his paternal estates with the exception of Darlaston.² His sister Anne was married to Edward, fourth son of Simon Harcourt of Ellenhall and Stanton Harcourt.

- (6) (SIR) WALTER CHETWYND (Kt.). Parl. 1584-5.
 (7) RICHARD BROUGHTON. Parl. 1572-83.
 (8) JOHN GOODMAN OF LINCOLN'S INN, M.P. Lichfield 1586-7.

¹ Parl. 1512-4.

² S.C. XV. 170-92.

Born *c.* 1540; second son of William G. of Chester, by Alice, daughter of Ralph Grosvenor, Governor of Chester. He was admitted to Lincoln's Inn, 10 October 1562; called to the bar 10 February 1577. He married Alice (?) daughter of . . . Sampson. His Will was proved in *P.C.C.* 1604.¹ His son William, seated at Rushden, Herts, was ancestor of the Goodmans there.²

(9) WALTER BAGOT OF BLITHFIELD, M.P. Tamworth 1586-7.

Born 1557; son and heir of Richard B. of the same (*d.* 1597), by Mary, daughter of William Saunders of Welford, Northamptonshire. His father was the leading Protestant of the county. He matriculated at Merton College, Oxford, 1577; was collector of the loan in Staffordshire 1598; sheriff 1599-1600, 1603-4; Commissioner for raising a forced loan in 1622. He had no connection with Tamworth, but his father had relations with Lord Burghley, and he had married, before 1584, Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Cave of Stanford, Northants, the brother-in-law of Lord Burghley, so that he was nephew by marriage of the great Lord. Also we learn in a letter of 1599 that "She (the Queen) heard he was an honest man like his father." So his candidature may have been authoritatively imposed on Tamworth. He died in 1623, and was buried at Blithfield, 17 March 1622/3.

(10) (SIR) JOHN FERRERS (Kt.) OF TAMWORTH, AND OF WALTON, DERBYSHIRE, M.P. Tamworth 1586-7, 1593, 1604-II.

Born 1565/6 or 1569;³ second son and heir of Sir Humphrey F. of the same (*d.* 9 January 1607/8),⁴ by Anne (or Jane),⁵

¹ The WILL of JOHN GOODMAN OF LINCOLN'S INN, dated 29 March 1604, proved in *P.C.C.* 10 September 1604:

A very puritanical exordium.

Mentions lands in Chester and lands demised to him by Henry, late Earl of Huntingdon. Mentions daughters, Anne Snellinge, wife of John S. gent., Elizabeth and Margaret the youngest.

Executor: his wife Isabel.

(*P.C.C.* 77. *Harte.*)

² Pink.

³ *Geneal.* XXIII. N.S. 282.

⁴ Parish Register.

⁵ Harwood: *Erdeswick* 277.

daughter of Sir Humphrey Bradbourne of Lea, Derbyshire.¹ He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir John Puckering, Lord Keeper. He matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, 16 October 1583, aged 17; entered Lincoln's Inn, 28 October 1584; was knighted at Belvoir, 23 April 1603; sheriff of Warwickshire 1614-5; and died 1633. The Will of "Sir John Ferrers of Walton-on-Trent, Co. Derby, Knight," was proved in *P.C.C.* 15 November 1633, by his daughter Jane.² He left a son Sir Humphrey F., who died 2 Nov. 1633, aged 33, and a grandson John F., afterwards M.P. for Tamworth.³ For his grandfather see Parl. 1523.

Parliament of 1588-9.

Summoned to meet 12 November 1588; held two sessions; dissolved 29 March 1589. This Parliament met just after the defeat of the Armada. Bouchier, Devereux and Wright were nominations of the Earl of Essex. At Essex's instigation a new Charter, which probably modified the franchise, was issued to Tamworth on 10 October 1588, five days before the election. So Tamworth returned his uncle and his servant. The reason why Humphrey and Angier sat for Newcastle

¹ *Geneal.* VII. N.S. 12.

² The WILL of SIR JOHN FERRERS OF WALTON, Kt., dated 2 April, 1627, proved in *P.C.C.* 5 Nov. 1633. He is to be buried "without anie pompe at all." He refers to a settlement of Bradbourne, Derby, on trustees,—Sir Thomas Puckering "my brother," Sir Simon Archer and John Wightwick, Esq.,—dated 1 April 1627 to raise £2200 for Jane, "who of all my children alone remains unprefered in marriage." Sir Humphrey is his son and heir; dame Elizabeth his widow has her dower. Rings are left for his "brothers" Sir Adam Newton, bart., and Sir Thomas Grantham, for his friend and kinsman Sir Thomas Burdett, bart., and for Sir Simon Weston.

Exor. :—Jane and the residuary legatee.

Overseers :—Son-in-law Sir Simon Archer, Sir Thomas Puckering, and "my well beloved friend" John Wightwick.

³ Parl. 1661-79.

is not clear; but the other five seem to have been local men elected without pressure. The sheriff was William Basset of Cheadle, who had been county M.P. in the previous Parliament.

County	Walter Harcourt, Esq.	..	(1)
	Thomas Gerrard, Esq.	..	(2)
	elected 17 October 1588.		
Stafford :	*Francis Craddock, Esq.	..	(3)
	Henry Bouchier, Esq.	..	(4)
	elected 4 October 1588.		
Newcastle :	Thomas Humphrey, Esq.	..	(5)
	Francis Angier, Esq...	..	(6)
	elected October 1588.		
Lichfield	*Richard Broughton, Esq...		(7)
	Richard Huddleston, Esq.		(8)
	elected 17 October 1588.		
Tamworth :	Edward Devereux, Esq.	..	(9)
	Robert Wright, Esq.	..	(10)
	elected 5 October 1588.		

(1) (SIR) WALTER HARCOURT (Kt.) OF ELLENHALL AND OF STANTON HARCOURT, OXON, M.P. Staffs 1588-9, 1593, Westmorland 1597-8.¹

Born *c.* 1550; son and heir of Simon H. of the same, M.P.² (*d.* 1577), by Mary, daughter of Sir Edward Aston of Tixall.³ He was J.P. Staffordshire in 1584, but not subsequently; and was knighted by Essex at Rouen, 1591. He married, *c.* 1572, Dorothy, daughter of William Robinson of Drayton Basset, then step-daughter of Simon Harcourt, M.P.

¹ It would appear from the Bagot MSS. that Harcourt contemplated standing again for Staffordshire in 1604. He writes, 11 February 1604, to Walter Bagot:—" . . . have you the writs for the election of knights. I could not hear of any gone forth" (from London).

² Parl. 1559.

³ Parl. 1539.

She was surviving in 1610. He was apparently in financial difficulties after the French expedition, as the following indicates :—Richard Broughton, M.P., writing to his father-in-law, Richard Bagot, on 28 April 1593, says :—“After my coming from the Parliament, Sir Walter Harcourt got one Mr. Essex, a Ward of Sir John Fortescue’s (Chancellor of the Duchy). to marry his daughter ; wherewith Sir John, being greatly displeased, did angerly checke Sir Walter with bitter terms of cosener, bankrupt, etc. Sir Walter did returne some crosse words, so that Sir John did commit him to the Fleet, and the next morning the Queen caused him to be taken from the Fleet and sent to the Tower, where he yet remaineth. Sir John saith that he shall not come thence untill he be paid the double value of the marriage, and that afterwards he shall be sent to the Fleet to be subject to execution.” (Bagot MSS., *Hist. Manus. Comn.*, 4th Report, App. I. 329.) Sir Walter and his son, Robert H., sold off their Staffordshire estates to pay their debts and to provide funds for their Guiana expedition between 1601 and 1611. Sir Walter died c. 1639 (Administration granted to his grandson Sir Simon Harcourt, 8 April 1639), and was buried at Stanton-Harcourt,¹ and the family had no further connection with Staffordshire. Queen Elizabeth graciously gave him a grant of all the country of Guiana and the Orinoco, but he failed to make good his title on the spot.

- (2) (SIR) THOMAS GERARD (Kt.) (LORD GERARD OF GERARDS BROMLEY, cf. 1603), M.P. Lancaster 1584-5, 1586-7, Staffs and Lancs 1588-9, Lancs 1593, 1597-8, Staffs 1601.

Born 1563/4 ; eldest son of Sir Gilbert G., M.P.² of the same (Attorney General 1558-81, Master of the Rolls 1581-93,

¹ Pink.

² M.P. Wigan, 1553; 1555, Steyning 1554, Lancashire (not Lancaster as in D.N.B.) 1584-5.

d. 1593),¹ by Anne, daughter of William Ratcliffe of Wilmersley, Lancs. He succeeded to the Bromley property, which his father had bought from his kinsman, Sir Thomas Gerard of Etwall, Derbyshire, and lived at the great house at Bromley that his father had built. He was admitted to Gray's Inn 1577; and to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, 1580, being then aged 16. He was knighted by Essex at Rouen, 1591. J.P. Staffordshire 1595 onwards; Knight Marshall of the Household 1597;² on Essex's execution he was made, 5 March 1601, *Custos Rotulorum* of Staffordshire and created. 21 July 1603, Baron Gerard of Gerards Bromley. Lord President of Wales 1616-7. He married (1) Alice, daughter of Sir Thomas Rivet; and (2) Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Woodford of Brightwell, Berks; and he died 15 January 1618, and was buried at Ashley, near Bromley, being succeeded by his son Gilbert, Lord Gerard. His Will was proved in *P.C.C.* 1618.³

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² Pink.

³ WILL of SIR THOMAS GERARD, LORD GERARD OF GERARDS BROMLEY, dated 6 Oct. 1617, proved 11 May 1618 in *P.C.C.* (46 *Meade*). To be buried in the night, without funeral, in the chapel at Ashley, where his parents are buried.

He and Elizabeth his wife had, in 1617, by fine with John Mitton and John Frauncis, settled the manors of Tittensor, Hilderston (30 messuages and 1850 acres), Hardwicke, Aston, Gravenhunger and Rudge; also the manor of Carnforth and others in Lancashire. Sir Gilbert is his eldest son and heir apparent; William, John, younger sons. William is to have by the settlement Aston, Gravenhunger and Howeth in Wyersdale, Lancs, and Tyrley Castle; John the youngest to have Tittensor, Hilderstone and Carnforth.

His wife is to have lands in Wrymehill called Lucas Heawood, certain hammer houses and forge houses, and land at Mucleston, Ashley and Tillington.

He refers to his Willowbridge Park which he had made, to Garne-coale in Mucleston, to his tenants at Ashley,—William Roe of Ashley, Richard Hasirodine of Winnington, John Longton, Thomas Reive, William Winnington, Thomas Naylor, Robert Hunt, Thomas Underwood and Thomas Fox.

His iron mines in Tunstall and furnaces at Heyley, and the house

6019m²

(3) FRANCIS CRADDOCK. Parl. 1584-5.

(4) HENRY BOURCHIER, M.P. Stafford 1588-9, 1593, 1597-8.

A nominee of, and called my kinsman by, Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex. In 1597 he was one of those appointed on a Commission to enquire into the estates of Sir Walter Leveson.¹ His political activities did not survive the fall of his patron.

Possibly he may have been a son of Anne, baroness Bouchier, one of those bastardised by their legal father, Lord Parr, in 1543, when he divorced Anne for having three children by one Hunt or Huntly. Mr. Pink says that he was admitted to the Inner Temple 1574, and called to the bar 1584; bencher 1596; Lent Reader 1598. His Will² was proved in P.C.C. as "of the Inner Temple, London" 18 September 1599, dated August 1599.

(5) THOMAS HUMPHREY, M.P. Newcastle 1588-9.

This cannot be the Dr. Thomas Humphrey, President of Magdalen in 1588; but it may be he who, as T. Humphrey, writes a goodly letter of advice to our Ambassador at Constantinople in 1591, and sends him Calvin's *Institution of the*

there wherein one Quentin Tyler now inhabiteth to go to Thomas Broughton in trust for his younger sons.

To Viscount Fenton, K.G., one of his best horses; to Gilbert his heir another and two mares "in full satisfaction of his child's part."

Bequests to his servants Edward Lloyd £50, Henry Travers £50.

Exors.: Alexander Standish of Duxbury, Lancs, and Richard Greene of Garstange, Lancs.

Overseers: Viscount Fenton and Sir Richard Mullineux.

Witnesses: John Peshall, Walter Chetwynd, Charles Gerard, William Iremonger, Thomas Chamberleyn, and Henry Ferrars.

¹ *Privy Council Acts*.

² To "my very good lord the Earl of Essex all my bookes of historyes of Lattine, Frenche, Italion and Spanishe and such other of antiquities as he shall please to accept of."

Lands held in trust for Arthur Burghcher, Esq. deceased, and Frances his wife.

Mentions Richard Scott, brother-in-law, Jerome Armond, cousin.

Exor. and sole legatee: his wife Anne. (P.C.C. 74. Lewin.)

Christian Religion to meditate upon; for at that date the famous divine was dead.¹ Mr. Pink cannot trace him unless he was the T. Humphrey of Oxon., Gent., who matriculated at Christ Church, 20 November 1580, aged 14, B.A. 10 June 1585, and entered Lincoln's Inn 1585; an improbable identification.

- (6) (SIR) FRANCIS AUNGIER (Kt.) (LORD AUNGIER OF LONGFORD), M.P. Newcastle 1588-9; Haslemere 1597-8.

Born *c.* 1562; son and heir of Richard A. of Cambridge, by Rose, daughter of William Steward of Cambridge. He entered Gray's Inn 1577 and was called to the bar; knighted at Greenwich 23 May 1609; Master of the Rolls (Ireland) 5 October 1609 and Privy Councillor; Joint Lord Keeper (Ireland), 10 April to 13 May 1619; created Baron Aungier of Longford (Ireland) 1621. He married three times; died 8 October 1632, aged 70, and was buried at St. Patrick's, Dublin, 6 November 1632. His Will, dated 28 October 1628, was proved in *P.C.C.* 26 February 1633.²

- (7) RICHARD BROUGHTON. Parl. 1572-83.

- (8) RICHARD HUDDLESTONE OF ELFORD, M.P. Lichfield 1588-9.

Born *c.* 1535; son and heir of Richard H. of the same, by Sybel, daughter of . . . Croftes (which Richard was the second son of Sir William H. of Sawston, Cambridge, by Isabel, fifth daughter and coheir of John Nevill, Marquis of Montacute). He was sheriff of Oxfordshire 1580-1. He married Isabel, eldest daughter and coheir of John, Baron Williams of Thame (*d.* 1559), and widow of Sir Richard Wenman of Thame Park, Oxfordshire (*d.* 1572). She died in 1587 and he died (apparently) soon afterwards without issue.³

¹ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

² *G.E.C. Complete Peerage.*

³ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

(9) (SIR) EDWARD DEVEREUX (BART.) OF CASTLE BROMWICH,
M.P. Tamworth 1588-9.

Born *c.* 1540 ; fourth son of Walter Devereux, first Viscount Hereford (*d.* 1558), being the only son of Walter's second wife, Margaret (*d.* 1599),¹ daughter of Robert Garnish of Kenton, Suffolk. He was returned for Tamworth because Lettice, Lady Leicester, his sister-in-law, lived at Drayton Bassett. He was sheriff of Warwickshire 1593-4 ; subscribed £25 to the Armada Fund, 1588 ; was created a Baronet 25 November 1611, and subsequently knighted, 19 August 1612. He held land at Great Barr and at Aston Manor also.² He married Katherine, eldest daughter of Edward Arden of Park Hall, Warwick, and died 22 September 1622. His Will³ was proved in *P.C.C.* 1622. His widow died 20 November 1627. Both were buried in Aston Manor Church, where is their tomb.⁴

(10) ROBERT WRIGHT, M.P. Tamworth 1588-9, Shrewsbury
1593.

From 1590 to 1596, Robert Wright and Thomas Crompton (also M.P. for nomination boroughs), spoken of as servants of Robert, Earl of Essex, were receiving grants of land all over the country, either from the Earl or at his instigation. In

¹ Parish Register, Tamworth.

² *S.C.* XVII. 225.

³ The WILL of SIR EDWARD DEVEREUX, Kt. and Bart., dated 25 July 1622, proved in *P.C.C.* 3 October 1622.

To be buried in Aston Church.

Mentions wife Katherine, son and heir Sir Walter D, Kt., second son, George D., son-in-law, Robert Leighton, and his son, Edward Leighton.

Bequests to his grandchildren, Thomas Dilke, Walter Wrottesley, Dorothy Wrottesley, George Devereux when 21 and Blanch D. his wife.

To his daughter Grace "for her uncivil behaviour," 5s.

To Richard Weston, 40s.

To Essex Devereux, his grandchild, eldest son of his eldest son money to buy land for him.

Exor. : Sir Walter Devereux.

Overseers : His son-in-law Sir Hugh Wrottesley and Thomas Dilke.

(*P.C.C.* 88 *Savile.*)

⁴ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

1596 Wright was Clerk to the Stable in the Royal Household.¹ Both Devereux and Wright were evidently the nominees of the Earl of Essex at Tamworth. Drayton Basset, as usual, treated Tamworth, and supplied the Burgesses for Parliament.

Born *c.* 1555. Son and heir of Peter W. of Shrewsbury. Admitted to Shrewsbury School 1562, B.A. Trin. Col. Camb. 1571. He was made tutor to Robert, Earl of Essex, on the first Earl's death in 1576. Subsequently he became steward to the Earl and obtained through his patrons all his various offices and preferments. He did not share in Essex's fall, and was knighted at Richmond 27 May 1605. His Will was proved in *P.C.C.* 27 March 1610 as "of Richmond, Surrey." He married Dorothy, widow of John Farnham of Nether Hall, Surrey, which lady subsequently married Sir George Wright and died 1623.

Sir James Whitelock, writing in *Liber Famelicus*, says of Sir Robert, "He lived and died a grave and sober man, meanly born in Shrewsbury, but attained by his virtue to good estate and quality."²

Parliament of 1593.

Summoned to meet 19 February 1593; dissolved 10 April 1593. Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex, Lord Lieutenant of the County, then at the height of his power, recommended the election of the members. Essex was supposed to favour Puritanism, but the sheriff, Francis Trentham, was allied with de Vere, Earl of Oxford.

The letters in which Essex intimated his wishes are as follows, and are quoted in full as illustrating the manner in

¹ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom. ; Privy Council Acts.*

² *Ex inf.* H. Weyman.

which pressure was brought to bear by Ministers, and to whom that pressure was applied.

Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, to Richard Bagot, Esq. (Deputy Lieutenant).

Hampton Court,

31 December 1592.

“ After my hartie commendacions. I have written severall letters to Lichfield, Stafford, Tamworth and Newcastle, for the nomination and election of certen burgesses for the Parliament to be held verie shortlie; having named unto them for Lichfield, sir John Wingfield and Mr. Broughton—for Stafford, my kinsman Henry Bourgcher and my servant Edward Reynolls—for Tamworth, my servant Thomas Smith—for Newcastle, Dr. James—whome because I do greatlie desire to be preferred to the said places, I do earnestlie pray your furtherance, by the creditt which you have in those towns; assuring them of my thankfulness, if they shall for my sake gratifie those whome I have commended; and yourself, that I will not be unmindfull of your courtesie therein. So I commit you to God’s good protection.”

Your assured friend

ESSEX.

“ I send unto you the severall letters, which I praye you cause to be delivered according to their directions.”

The same to the same.

Hampton Court,

2 January 1592/3.

“ After my verie hartie commendacions; I cannot write severall letters to all those that have interest in the choyce of knights of the shere to be appoynted for the Parliament intended to be held verie shortlie. To which place I do exceedingly desire that my verie good friend sir Christopher Blount may be elected. I do therefore commend the matter to your friendlie solicitac’ons, praying you to move the gentlemen, my good friends and yours, in that countie; particularly in my name, that they will give their voice with him for my

sake ; assuring them, that as they shall do it for one whome I hold deare, and whose suffiencie for the place is well known to them ; so will I most thankfullie deserve towards them and yourselves any travel, favor or kindness that shall be shewed therein. Thus I commit you to God's good protection."

ESSEX.

" I persuade myself that my credit is so good with my countrymen, as the using my name in so small a matter will be enough to effect it. But I pray you use me so kindlie in that I have no repulse."

The same to the same.

Hampton Court,

9 Jan. 1592/3.

" After my verie hartie commendacions. As I have by my late letters commended unto you sir Christofer Blount to be elected one of the knights of that shere, for the Parliament to be holden verie shortlie, by your friendlie mediacion. So I do with no less earnestness intreate your like favoure towards my verie good friend sir Thomas Sherrerd for the other place, praying that you will employe your creditte and use my name to all my good friends and yours there, that they will stand faste to me in this requeste, and that my desire may be effected for them. They cannot give me better testimonie of their love and affection, because they are such as I hold deare, and you may assure all such as shall join with you in election, that I will most thankfullie requite their readiness, and furtherance them by any good office I can. So I committe you to God's best protection."

Your assured friend

ESSEX.

" I should think my creditte little in mine own cuntrye, if it should not afford so small a matter as this ; esspessalie the men being so fitt. Therefore I commend you all (as I have interest in your labours) effectuellie in it."

The Alrewas Parish Register records that in the autumn of 1593 1100 people died of plague in Lichfield.¹ If we are to credit these figures one-third of the population must have died, but we need not credit them.

County : ²	Sir Christopher Blount, Kt. ..	(1)
	*Sir Walter Harcourte, Kt. ..	(2)
Stafford : ³	*Henry Bouchier, Esq. ..	(3)
	*Francis Craddock, Esq. ..	(4)
Newcastle :	John James, M.D. ..	(5)
	Thomas Fitzherbert, Esq. ..	(6)
Lichfield* :	Sir John Wingfield, Kt. ..	(7)
	*Richard Broughton, Esq. ..	(8)
Tamworth :	John Ferrers, Esq. ..	(9)
	Thomas Smyth, <i>gen.</i> ..	(10)

(1) SIR CHRISTOPHER BLOUNT OF DRAYTON BASSET, M.P. Staffs 1593, 1597-8.

Born *c.* 1568 ; younger son of James Blount, sixth Lord Mountjoy. He was Captain of Horse at Zutphen 1586 ; present at the siege of Bergen-op-Zoom under Lord Willoughby 1587-8, by whom he was knighted after the raising of that siege.⁴ In 1589 he married the widow (thirty years older than himself) of the Earl of Leicester, formerly the widow of that Earl of Essex whom she was suspected of having murdered in 1576, so that Blount became step-father to the great Earl of Essex, and followed his fortunes to the scaffold. It was through the influence of Essex that

¹ Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 138.

² There was probably a contest, as Essex had recommended Sir Thomas Gerard of Gerard's Bromley.

³ There was probably a contest, as Edward Reynolds was the nominee of the Earl's and must have stood for election to some extent. In 1589 and 1592, Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Anthony Bagot were gentlemen of the Earl's household and his officers in the field.

⁴ Shaw, *Knights*, says in Ireland, 1588.

Blount was M.P. for Staffordshire. He was superintendent to the Muster Commissioners for the counties of Warwick, Hereford and Gloucester, 9 May 1587. In 1595 and 1596 the Commissioners for the Musters in Staffordshire were: Sir John Bowes, Sir Christopher Blount, Sir Edward Littleton, Sir Edward Aston, Sir Humphrey Ferrers and Richard Bagot.¹ Sir Christopher served under Essex at Cadiz as Captain of Horse and was one of the council of war, 1596. He was created M.A. Oxon. 10 July 1599, and Gentleman of the Horse to the Queen. He served under Essex again at the attempt on the Azores in 1597, and in Ireland in 1599. Here he defeated the Irish at Leix, but was wounded and became a Catholic. He assisted, and, as a Catholic, enthusiastically, in Essex's conspiracy, and was beheaded on 18 March 1601. His widow—the Countess Lettice of Drayton Bassett—died 25 December 1634, aged 95.² He left no issue. Bacon described Blount as “so enterprising and prodigal of his own life.”

(2) SIR WALTER HARCOURT, Kt. Parl. 1588–9.

(3) HENRY BOURCHIER. Parl. 1588–9.

(4) FRANCIS CRADDOCK. Parl. 1584–5.

(5) DR. JOHN JAMES, M.D., M.P. St. Ives 1584–5, Newcastle 1593.

Born *c.* 1550; son of Mark James of Newport, I. of W., merchant. He matriculated as a Sizar of Trinity College, Cambridge, 4 October 1564; B.A. 1567; M.A. and Fellow 1571; licensed to practise physic 1575; M.D. 1578; had the same degree from the University of Leyden; admitted a candidate at the College of Physicians 1583; Fellow 1584; Censor 1588, 1591, 1594. He was constituted physician to the Queen's Household with the fee of £50 a year in 1595. He married, 1570, at St. Thomas's, Newport,

¹ *Privy Council Acts.*

² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

his cousin Mary James, and died 26 January 1601.¹ He obtained, c. 1580, a grant of Arms, unusual for a doctor.²

(6) THOMAS FITZHERBERT OF NORBURY, M.P. Newcastle 1593.

It was resolved by the House, 5 April 1593, "that Fitzherbert was by his election a member thereof; yet that he ought not to have privilege in three respects, 1. because he was taken in execution before the Return of the Indenture of his Election, 2. because he had been outlawed at the Queen's suit, and was now taken in execution for her Majesties debt, and 3. in regard that he was so taken by the sheriff neither *sedente Parlamento* nor *eundo* nor *redeundo*."³ The decision would, Mr. Pink supposes, leave him an M.P. without a member's privileges. He does not seem to have been unseated. No new writ was issued, and even if there had been the Parliament was dissolved five days later, and it would therefore have been ineffective.⁴

Born c. 1550, third but eldest surviving son of John F., who died 1590 and was next brother to Sir Thomas Fitzherbert, M.P. (d. 1591), by Catherine, daughter of Edward Fleetwood. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Westby of Mowbreck, and died childless about 1600. The charitable view is that this man was imprisoned in Derby gaol, as the result of the Babington conspiracy, 1586, when he was induced to turn renegade to obtain his liberty. He betrayed his father's

¹ *Monk's Roll of the College of Physicians; ex. inf.* Pink.

² *Geneal.* XIX. N.S. 137.

³ D'Ewes' *Journals of Parliament, temp. Elizabeth*, 528.

⁴ Richard Broughton, M.P., writing to his father-in-law, Richard Bagot, on 14 March 1593, says:—"We of the Lower House have sent in a writ of *Habeas Corpus cum causa* to remove Mr. Thomas Fitzherbert to the Parliament, and if it fall out he was arrested since his election, it is like the Parliament, according to the ordinary privilege will discharge this arrest, and then the parties to catch him anew if they can."

hiding place, and John Fitzherbert only saved his life by paying the enormous fine of £10,000. Soon after John Fitzherbert died in prison, 1590. Thomas was now heir to his uncle Sir Thomas, but the old gentleman, before dying in the Tower firm in his faith, made a Will disinheriting the traitor. With Topcliffe's help Thomas Fitzherbert persuaded Archbishop Whitgift to sanction the destruction of this Will, and so recovered the inheritance of Padley, Norbury, Tissington, etc. Topcliffe was the expert hunter down of priests, an inhuman monster with a private rack and torture chamber, the use of which by him was sanctioned by the authorities. In this manner the sixteenth lord of Norbury succeeded to his inheritance; but not undisturbed.¹ It will be observed above that he was taken in execution for debt immediately after his election for Newcastle in 1593. The claimant was none other than Topcliffe, and the "party caught him anew," suing him on a bond for £5000. And the condition of the bond was this, that Fitzherbert owed the money to Topcliffe if he should "persecute to death" his father, John, his uncle, Sir Thomas, and Mr. Basset (*i.e.* William Basset of Blore his cousin). The defence actually urged by Fitzherbert, November 1594, was that his father and uncle had died a "natural" death, and that Mr. Basset was still flourishing. When this defence was made the Court ordered that the case should be heard *in camera*, as being a little too much even for that age.² So further revelations of this incredible affair are a blank; but one can surmise that Fitzherbert lost or compromised, for Topcliffe got the manor of Padley. Dr. Jessopp describes Topcliffe as "a monster of iniquity"; but the English language is quite unable to cope with Thomas Fitzherbert. He was succeeded at Norbury by Thomas Fitzherbert of Swynnerton, catholic, outlaw and exile.³

¹ Fortescue, *Hist. of Calwich*, 52-4.

² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, Art. *Topcliffe*.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

RY.	LICHFIELD. Castle.	LORDS LIEUTENANT OF STAFFORDSHIRE.
	<p>(1490 with. 1497 Jameel. ... cuted. ythe.</p> <p>1512 John, blood an</p>	
	<p>mpson. Beau</p> <p>1549 Willi</p> <p>ntham.</p> <p>1563 Henr</p> <p>1568 Thon</p> <p>erton.</p> <p>(1583</p>	<p>1547 Francis, E. of Shrewsbury.</p> <p>1551 John, E. of Warwick, and Wm., Lord Paget (joint).</p> <p>1552 John, D. of Northumber- land (alone).</p> <p>1553 beheaded.</p> <p>1558 Henry, Lord Stafford.</p> <p>1563/4 George, E. of Shrewsbury.</p> <p>1569 Walter, Visct. Hereford (<i>d.</i> 1576).</p> <p>1585 George, E. of Shrewsbury (<i>d.</i> 1590).</p>
<p>1616.</p>	<p>1590 Willi</p> <p>(1605 land</p>	<p>1594 Robert, E. of Essex (<i>d.</i> 1601).</p> <p>1601 Sir Thomas Gerard (<i>cust.</i> <i>rot.</i>).</p>

* Never sat in

hiding place, and John Fitzherbert only saved his life by paying the enormous fine of £10,000. Soon after John Fitzherbert died in prison, 1590. Thomas was now heir to his uncle Sir Thomas, but the old gentleman, before dying in the Tower firm in his faith, made a Will disinheriting the traitor. With Topcliffe's help Thomas Fitzherbert persuaded Archbishop Whitgift to sanction the destruction of this Will, and so recovered the inheritance of Padley, Norbury, Tissington, etc. Topcliffe was the expert hunter down of priests, an inhuman monster with a private rack and torture chamber, the use of which by him was sanctioned by the authorities. In this manner the sixteenth lord of Norbury succeeded to his inheritance; but not undisturbed.¹ It will be observed above that he was taken in execution for debt immediately after his election for Newcastle in 1593. The claimant was none other than Topcliffe, and the "party caught him anew," suing him on a bond for £5000. And the condition of the bond was this, that Fitzherbert owed the money to Topcliffe if he should "persecute to death" his father, John, his uncle, Sir Thomas, and Mr. Basset (*i.e.* William Basset of Blore his cousin). The defence actually urged by Fitzherbert, November 1594, was that his father and uncle had died a "natural" death, and that Mr. Basset was still flourishing. When this defence was made the Court ordered that the case should be heard *in camera*, as being a little too much even for that age.² So further revelations of this incredible affair are a blank; but one can surmise that Fitzherbert lost or compromised, for Topcliffe got the manor of Padley. Dr. Jessopp describes Topcliffe as "a monster of iniquity"; but the English language is quite unable to cope with Thomas Fitzherbert. He was succeeded at Norbury by Thomas Fitzherbert of Swynnerton, catholic, outlaw and exile.³

¹ Fortescue, *Hist. of Calwich*, 52-4.

² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, Art. *Topcliffe*.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLES OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE PEERAGE—SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

[To face p. 400.

	BOCKINGHAM—STAFFORD. <i>Stafford Castle.</i>	CHANCELRE OF THE DUCHY. <i>Newcastle and Tutbury Castles.</i>	DEVREUX—HEREFORD—ESSEX. <i>Charley Castle.</i>	TALBOT, EARL OF SHREWSBURY. <i>Alton Castle.</i>	AUDLEY. <i>Heligh Castle.</i>	DUDLEY—LISLE—WARWICK— NORTHUMBERLAND.	DUDLEY. <i>Dudley Castle.</i>	BISHOPS OF LICHFIELD. <i>Eccleshall Castle.</i>	LODS LIEUTENANT OF STAFFORDSHIRE
1500	(1483 Edward, 3rd Duke) (attainted 1541.)	(1485 Sir Reynold Bray)	(1485 John Devereux.)	(1473 George Talbot)	(1490 James, Ld. Audley) 1497 James, attainted and executed.	1494 Edmund Dudley, * married heir of Barony of Lisle, attainted 1510.	(1487 Edward.)	1494 William Sneyth 1496 John Arundel 1503 Geoffrey Blythe.	
1510		1504 Sir John Moriant. 1505 Sir Richard Empson. 1509 Sir Henry Many	1501 Walter, 1490—1558.		1511 John, 1483—1558 (restored in blood and rank).	1510 John Dudley, 1500—1553			
1520	1521 Henry (1st Lord Stafford), 1501—63.	1524 Sir Richard Wingfield, 1525 Sir Thomas More, 1529 Sir Wm. Fitzwilliam.							
1530	(1532 recovered Stafford Castle)	1533 Sir John Gage.		1538 Francis, 1500—1560.			1531 John, 1496—1553 ("Lord Quondam"). (Sold Dudley to John Dudley.)	1534 Roland Lee.	
1540		1547 Sir William Paget.				(1542 Viscount Lisle)		1544 Richard Sampson.	1547 Francis, E. of Shrewsbury.
1550	(1548 restored as Lord Stafford.)	1550 Sir John Gage. 1551 Sir Robert Rochester. 1553 Sir Edward Walgrave. 1559 Sir Ambrose Cave.	(1550 Visct Hereford.)		PAGET. <i>Beaudesert and Burton</i> 1549 William, Ld. Paget, 1505—63.	(1547 Earl of Warwick)		1551 John, E. of Warwick, and Wm., Lord Paget (joint) 1552 John, E. of Northumber- land (alone). 1553 Ralph Bane. 1558 Henry, Lord Stafford.	1551 John, E. of Warwick, and Wm., Lord Paget (joint) 1552 John, E. of Northumber- land (alone). 1553 Ralph Bane. 1558 Henry, Lord Stafford.
1560	1563 Henry, c. 1530—1566. 1566 Edward, 1539—1603	1568 Sir Richard Sadler.	1558 Walter, 1541—1576.	1560 George, 6th Earl, 1528—60.	1563 Henry, c. 1535—1568. 1568 Thomas, c. 1540—1580	(1551 Duke of Northumberland.) (1553 attainted and executed.) 1558, Lord Ambrose D., 1528—1590 (1564 Ld. Lisle, E. of Warwick.) (1564, Lord Robert D., Earl of Leicester (1532—88).)	1553 Edward, c. 1550—1586 (1554 recovered Dudley).	1559 Thomas Bentham.	1562/4 George, E. of Shrewsbury. 1569 Walter, Visct. Hereford (d. 1576).
1570		1577 Sir Francis Walsingham.	(1572 Earl of Essex) 1576 Robert, 1566—1601.					1580 William Overton.	
1580					(1583 fled and attainted.)		1586 Edward, 1567—1643.		1585 George, E. of Shrewsbury (d. 1590)
1590		1590 Sir Thomas Henenge 1595 Sir Robert Cecil		1590 Gilbert, 7th Earl, 1553—1616.	1590 William, 1572—1629.				1594 Robert, E. of Essex (d. 1601).
1600	1603 Edward, 1573—1625.	1601 Sir John Fortescue.	1601 Robert, 1591—1646.		(1605 lands and honours restored)				1602 Sir Thomas Gerard (enf. ref.).

* Never sat in House of Lords.



(7) SIR JOHN WINGFIELD, M.P. Lichfield 1593.

Born *c.* 1560; third son of Richard W. of Wantisden, Suffolk (who had lands in and near Lichfield¹ and *d.* 1591), by Mary, daughter and coheir of John Hardwick of Hardwick, Derbyshire, and sister of "Bess of Hardwick."² He served as a volunteer in the Low Countries; was a captain under the Earl of Leicester, wounded at Zutphen, and there knighted by the Earl, September 1586; governor of Gertruydenberg, 1587-9. Then he returned to England; but he was Master of the Ordnance in Brittany 1591. He was slain at the taking by Essex of Cadiz, and was buried there, 26 June 1596. He married Susan, sister of Peregrine Bertie, Lord Willoughby, and widow of Reginald Grey, fourth Earl of Kent, by whom he had issue.² As a nephew by marriage of George, sixth Earl of Shrewsbury, formerly Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, he had an additional claim to a seat in that county.

(8) RICHARD BROUGHTON. See Parl. 1572-83.

(9) (SIR) JOHN FERRERS (Kt.). See Parl. 1586-7.

(10) (SIR) THOMAS SMYTH (Kt.), M.P. Cricklade 1588-9, Tamworth 1593, Aylesbury 1597-8.

"Thos. Smith my servent" was Essex's secretary and the clerk to the Privy Council, though he wrote no memoirs in the style of Greville. He was born *c.* 1556; son of Thomas S., mayor of Abingdon. He was B.A. Oxon 1574; secretary to Essex 1584; clerk to the Privy Council 1587; clerk to Parliament 1597; knighted 20 May 1603; appointed Latin Secretary for life June 1603; Master of Requests 1608; died 27 November 1609,³ and buried at Fulham. He married Frances, daughter and heiress of William, fourth Lord Chandos; and she remarried, 1610, Thomas Cecil, first Earl of Exeter, and died 1663, aged 83.⁴

¹ Harwood, *Erdeswick*, 302.

² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³ *Ex inf.* Pink, and *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴ The WILL of SIR THOMAS SMYTH, undated, proved in *P.C.C.* 21 Dec. 1609. A puritanical exordium. He leaves his dwelling house

Parliament of 1597-8.

Summoned to meet 24 October 1597; held two sessions; dissolved 9 February 1598. This Parliament protested against the monopolies granted by the Queen. Of the Staffordshire members, Temple, Bouchier, Oldisworth and Fowke were the only outside nominees; all these, with Blount also for the county, were nominees of the Earl of Essex—though Fowke was a man of great wealth and position. Newcastle sent the local magnates, and a Leveson of Trentham begins a 250-year connection with the borough. Thomas Whorwood of Compton refused his consent to the marriage of his daughter with John Sutton *alias* Dudley; yet, as sheriff, it is Whorwood who returns this same John Dudley as knight of the shire. Did the trouble arise because Dudley failed to pay his election expenses?

County: (John) Sutton *alias* Dudley¹ (1)

*Sir Christopher Blount, Kt. (2)

elected 6 October 1597.

at Parsons Green, Fulham, to his wife Frances for life, reversion to son Robert. Also to Robert, Hartley Court, Reading, leased to "my brother" Richard Smyth for £100 a year. Barwicke-upon-Tees late bought from my friend Hugh Mydelton also to son Richard. If he die before 21 then part to "my daughter" Margaret-ab-Whitely, part to revert to "my brother" Richard and his heirs male. To brother Richard £300; to sister Eleanor Wilton £50; to her daughter Sidonie Wilton £100; to sister Mary Andrews £50; to the 2 children of my sister Thornton, deceased, £20 each. To Sir Thomas Bodley for his library at Oxford 20 *m.* £100 for the poor of Abingdon; 20 nobles for the poor of Fulham. Wife sole Exor. Overseers:—Sir John Benett, Sir Owen Oglethorpe, Mr. John Buckeridge, D.D., brother Richard Smyth and Mr. Hugh Middleton.

¹ Mr. Pink writes: "I think you have rightly named the first member *John* Dudley *alias* Sutton. But the return is damaged and the Christian name cut off. Willis has filled in 'Edward,' but I fancy he is in error. With all my respect for and confidence in Willis generally, I have found a few cases similar to this where the Christian name is wanting and he has filled it in wrongly. What he seems to have done is, in seeking for a probable name, he turned back to the Parliament of 1584 where he found an Edward, and not being great in identification of the person, he immediately jumped to the conclusion that the member in 1597 was the same man; whereas we know now that it was not so."

Stafford :	Sir Edward Stafford, Kt. ..	(3)
	*Henry Bourchier, Esq. ..	(4)
	elected 6 October 1597.	
Newcastle :	Sir Walter Leveson, Kt. ..	(5)
	John Bowyer, Esq.	(6)
	elected 1 October 1597. ¹	
Lichfield :	Joseph Oldisworth, Esq. ..	(7)
	William Fowkes, Esq.	(8)
	elected 6 October 1597.	
Tamworth :	George Hyde, Esq. ..	(9)
	William Temple, gent. ..	(10)
	elected 8 October 1597.	

(1) HON. JOHN SUTTON, *alias* DUDLEY, OF SEDGLEY, M.P.
Staffs 1597-8.

Born 30 November 1569 ; second son of Edward, Lord Dudley (*d.* 1586), by Jane (*d.* 1569), daughter of Edward Stanley, third Earl of Derby. He had a lease of Sedgley Park from his elder brother ; but the Dudley estates were bankrupt before his father's death and his brother,² the last baron of this family, was in every respect a first-rate blackguard. John D. married, without her father's consent, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Whorwood of Compton and Stourton Castle. He died 3 March 1645, leaving an only surviving daughter Anne and no property.

(2) SIR CHRISTOPHER BLOUNT. Parl. 1593.

(3) SIR EDWARD STAFFORD OF BLATHERWICK, NORTHANTS,
M.P. St. Michael 1571, Heytesbury 1572-83, Winchester
1593, Stafford 1597-8, 1601, Queenboro 1604-5.

Born 1552 ; eldest son and heir of Sir William S. of the same, by his second wife Dorothy (1532-1604), daughter of

¹ The Newcastle Borough Records have under date, 1 October 1597, Sir Walter Leveson admitted a burgess and he and John Bowyer elected M.P. by " the Mayor and Capital Burgesses."

² See Parl. 1584-5.

Henry, first Lord Stafford, Mistress of the Robes. Sir Edward was a diplomatist and ambassador in France 1583-90, and knighted 5 October 1583 on his appointment. He sat on various Parliamentary Commissions, and had a post at the Pipe Office. He was a bencher of Gray's Inn 1592; specially admitted to Lincoln's Inn by Lord Keeper Puckering 13 Aug. 1594. He married, before 1571, (1) Roberta, daughter of Alexander Chapman of Ragthorp, Norfolk; and (2) Douglass, daughter of William, first Lord Howard of Effingham, and divorced wife of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester; he died February 1604/5, and was buried at St. Margaret's Westminster, having sold Chebsey. He had a son William by his first wife, who was admitted to Gray's Inn in May 1592.¹

(4) HENRY BOURCHIER, Esq. Parl. 1588-9.

(5) SIR WALTER LEVESON, Kt. OF LILLESHELL AND TRENTHAM, M.P. Salop 1584-5, 1586-7, 1588-9, Newcastle 1597-8.

Born 7 December 1550;² eldest son of Sir Richard L. of the same (*d.* 1560), by Mary, third daughter of Edward Fitton of Gawsorth. He married Anne, daughter of Sir Andrew Corbet of Moreton Corbet, Salop, by whom he had a son and heir, Admiral Sir Richard L.³ He served as sheriff of Salop 1575-6, and of Staffordshire 1586-7, while M.P. for Salop; he was knighted 10 July 1587 at Theobalds.⁴ During the years 1577-85, and probably before and after, he was a J.P. for Staffordshire, but his name does not appear on the Commission for 1595 or later. In 1585 he was one of those appointed to conduct Mary Queen of Scots to Fotheringhay.⁵ He died 1602.

(6) (SIR) JOHN BOWYER (Kt.) OF SIDEWAY, M.P. Newcastle 1597-8, 1604-5.

Born 1557; eldest son and heir of William B. of Knypersley (*d.* 1602), by Anne, daughter and heiress of William

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² *Geneal. N.S.* XXXI. 202.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴ Shaw, *Knights*.

⁵ Harwood, *Erdeswick*, 533.

Heywood of Stonilow (she died 1603). He married Katherine, second daughter of Sir Christopher Yelverton, Kt., Justice of the King's Bench, by Mary, daughter of Thomas Catesby of Whiston, Northants. He is named on several of the Parliamentary Committees, 1597-8, and also in 1604 up to June of that year; he had leave of absence through illness 21 May 1604. He was knighted at Whitehall, 12 May 1604. He was buried at Maer, 17 March 1605.¹ Administration was granted, as "of Sidware, Staffs," to Katherine his relict, 24 April 1605, *P.C.C.* His widow was buried at Biddulph, 8 December 1642.² His son followed him as Member of Parliament.³

(7) JOSEPH OLDISWORTH, M.P. Lichfield 1597-8.

This is probably the Mr. O. who was auditor to the Earl of Essex in 1597.⁴ Mr. Pink thinks he was son and heir of Thomas O. of Paulton's Court, Glos., by Margaret, daughter of Richard Hardkin of Essex; and that he was probably a cousin to Michael O. the politician (1591-1654), who was the son of Arnold O. of London,⁵ Keeper of the Hanaper, 1604-20.

(8) WILLIAM FOWKE OF ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX, M.P. Lichfield 1597-8.

I have little doubt that this was the William F., "Keeper of the arquebusses and hand-guns" in the Tower of London in 1595. From his Will⁶ it is obvious that he was a brother

¹ M.I.

² Pink.

³ Parl. 1621-2.

⁴ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

⁵ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁶ The WILL of WILLIAM FOWKE OF ENDFEILDE, MIDDLESEX, dated 1st December 1609, proved by son Edward 15 May 1616.

To be buried without great charge beside his wife in Enfield church. Makes large bequests of plate and jewelry to eldest daughter Elizabeth, to second daughter Anne, to third daughter Mary, and to sixth daughter Bridgett, and to each daughter "a chain of pearles of thirteen ropes."

To son Edward £7000, and a cup which came from Edward's

of Sir Henry Fowke, hence third son of Robert F. of Symonds-bury, Dorset,¹ by Mary, daughter of Richard, Lord Zouche.² That he was recommended by Essex may be assumed not only from his office at the Tower, but also from his friendship with Edward Reynolds, Essex's gentleman. The Bagot MSS. record him as receiving letters from the Earl in 1589. He died 1616; buried at Enfield Church.

(9) (SIR) GEORGE HYDE (K.B.) OF SOUTH DENCHWORTH, BERKS, M.P. Tamworth 1597-8, Berkshire 1601.

Born 1568/9; son and heir of William H. of the same, by Catherine his wife. He matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, 27 October 1586, aged 18; was admitted to Gray's Inn 1590; K.B. at the Coronation, 25 July 1603. In 1617 he sold Denchworth and thenceforth resided at Kingston Lisle, Berks. He married, 15 January 1593/4,³ Catherine, daughter of Sir Humphrey Ferrers of Tamworth, and was elected for Tamworth in consequence at the next election. He died in 1623. Administration was granted to his brother Sir Robert Hyde, Kt., 24 April 1623, Dame Catherine his widow renouncing.⁴

(10) (SIR) WILLIAM TEMPLE (Kt.), M.P. Tamworth 1597-8, Trinity College, Dublin, 1613-27 (Irish Parliament).

Born 1555; youngest son of Anthony T. (younger son of Peter T. of Derset, Warwickshire). He was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge; matriculated 1573; B.A.

grandmother, Mrs. Bridgett Harington, grav'd with the Harington arms; and makes him sole executor.

Overseers: My Lord and cozen Edward, Lord Zouche; brother Sir Henry Fowke (dead in 1616); my cozen Sir William Tate, Kt.; my nephew Robert Middlemore of Enfield, Esq.; and my friend Edward Reynolds of London. (P.C.C. 54. Cope.)

¹ *Visitation of London*, *pace* Mr. Pink.

² *Geneal.* II. N.S. 101, in which see descent from Fowke of Brewood.

³ Parish Register, Tamworth.

⁴ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

1578; M.A. 1581; Fellow 1576. A philosopher who was secretary to Sir Philip Sydney 1585-6, and to Essex 1594-1601; provost of Trinity College, Dublin, 1609. He was knighted 4 May 1622, died 15 January 1627, and was buried at Trinity College. His Will was proved in Prerogative Court, Ireland. He was the father of Sir John T., Master of the Rolls.¹

Parliament of 1601.

Summoned to meet 27 October 1601; dissolved 19 December 1601. Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, had perished on the scaffold,² and Robert Cecil, afterwards Earl of Salisbury, was the most prominent personage on the Privy Council. Outside influence seems to have played little, if any, part in the Staffordshire elections. Sir Thomas Gerard had been appointed *Custos Rotulorum* on 3 March 1601.

County : Sir Thomas Gerard, Kt. .. (1)

Sir John Egerton, Kt. .. (2)

returned 1 October 1601,
by William Chetwynd,
sheriff.

Stafford : *Sir Edward Stafford, Kt. .. (3)

William Essex, Esq. (4)

elected 16 October 1601.

Newcastle : Edward Mainwaring, gent. (5)

Thomas Trentham, gent. .. (6)

elected 30 September 1601.

Lichfield : Anthony Dyott, Esq. .. (7)

Robert Browne of in

Co. Northants (8)

elected 1 October 1601.

¹ Pink, *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

² 30 April 1599, Memor that on this day Robert Earle of Essex went from Drayton Bassett towards Ireland with an Hoste of men to make warre againste the Earle of Tyroone an Iryshman.

(*Parish Register, Tamworth.*)

Tamworth : George Egeocke, Esq. .. (9)
 Robert Burdett, Esq. .. (10)
 elected 11 October 1601.

(1) SIR THOMAS GERRARD, Kt. Parl. 1588-9.

(2) SIR JOHN EGERTON, Kt. OF EGERTON AND OULTON,
 CHESHIRE, AND OF WRIMEHILL, M.P. Staffs 1601,
 1607-11, Lichfield 1614.

Born 1551; eldest son and heir of John E. of Egerton and Oulton (*d.* 1591), by Jane, daughter of Piers Mostyn of Talacre, Flint. He married Margaret (*d.* 1598), daughter of Sir Rowland Stanley of Hooton, Cheshire. He was knighted at Dublin 1599; admitted at Lincoln's Inn 1602; J.P. Staffordshire from 1599 till death. He was a courtier who acquired great wealth, and bought land throughout Staffordshire and Cheshire, including Wrimehill and Cheddleton, from Sir Ralph Egerton and his son Edward E. in 1595. He died 27 April 1614, and was buried at Madeley, near Wrimehill, leaving a son Rowland, the first baronet.¹ His will, dated 26 April 1614, was proved in *P.C.C.* 4 July 1618.²

(3) SIR EDWARD STAFFORD. Parl. 1597-8.

(4) (SIR) WILLIAM ESSEX (BART.) OF BEKKET, BERKS, M.P.
 Arundel 1597-8, Stafford 1601.

Born 1575; son and heir of Thomas E. of the same (dead in 1593), by Joan, daughter of Thomas Harrison. He

¹ Ormerod's *Cheshire*.

² The WILL of SIR JOHN EGERTON begins with 16 lines of puritanical devotion. He leaves to his wife Dame Anne his plate and goods and £3000 and, for life, his garden and garden-house in St. Gyles, Cripplegate; reversion and other lands to Edward Egerton, his cousin, and he sole Exor. He mentions his son and heir Rowland Egerton, and his second son Peter, for whom his exor. has to find estates worth £250 a year. He also left a large family of bastards to be provided for by Edward Egerton, *viz.* :—Francis Minshall, *alias* Egerton, Margaret Hall, *alias* Egerton, Mary Cartwright, *alias* Egerton, and Catherine Powell, *alias* Egerton.

In 1629 litigation arose on the Will with Elizabeth, widow of Edward Egerton, the exor.

owed his seat at Stafford to his marriage with Jane (born *c.* 1580), daughter of Sir Walter Harcourt of Ellenhall, M.P.¹ How this marriage was brought about, and how the father-in-law paid for it, is told at length under the account of Sir Walter Harcourt. Essex matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, 1586; and was created a Baronet in 1611. Having wasted his vast inheritance, he became a Captain of Foot in a Parliamentary Regiment, his son Charles being his Colonel. The son was killed and the father taken prisoner at Edgehill 1642, and he died without surviving male issue about 1645.²

(5) EDWARD MAINWARING OF WHITMORE, M.P. Newcastle 1601, 1625.

Born 1577; eldest son and heir of Edward M. of the same (*d.* 1604—hence the description of the son in 1601 as “gent”), by Jane, daughter of Matthew Craddock of Stafford, M.P.³ He matriculated at Magdalen Hall, 8 November 1594, aged 17, and entered Middle Temple 1595. He married 1600 Sarah, daughter of John Stone, citizen of London. Captain Stone, a prominent fighter on the roundhead side during the civil wars in Staffordshire, was probably her brother. He was J.P. 1615 onwards, but he was removed from the bench with the other roundheads in 1642, when Charles set up his standard at York. This removal was evidently disregarded, as he remained chairman of the bench throughout the wars until his death—the leading supporter of Parliament in the county. He was one of the Commissioners for Staffordshire for the Scandalous Ministers Act 1642; on the Assessment and Sequestration Commission 1643; one of the Committee for Defence for counties Stafford and Warwick 1643; Commissioner for General Assessment of East and West 1644.⁴ In 1646 it was his son who was sheriff, and he died 1647, being succeeded by his son Edward M., M.P.⁵

¹ Parl. 1588.

² Pink; see also *Geneal.* I. N.S. 7.

³ Parl. 1554–5.

⁴ Pink

⁵ Parl. 1661–75.

(6) THOMAS TRENTHAM, GENT., M.P. Newcastle 1601.

Born 1575; second son of Thomas T. of Rocester Abbey, M.P.¹ (*d.* 1587), by Jane (*d.* 1616), daughter of Sir William Sneyd of Keele. His father had been one of the pillars of Protestantism in Staffordshire, but it was probably the influence of his mother's family, Sneyd of Keele, which put him into Parliament for Newcastle at this early age. His sister Elizabeth, moreover, had married, as his second wife, Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford (1550-1604), whose influence was very great at this time. He died at Rocester unmarried 1605.² His elder brother Francis sat for Staffordshire in the following Parliament.³

(7) ANTHONY DYOTT OF FREFORD, M.P. Lichfield 1601, 1604-11, May to June 1614.

Born *c.* 1560; eldest son and heir of John D. of Stychbrook,⁴ bailiff of Lichfield (*d.* 1580), by Margaret,⁵ daughter of Robert Hille of Lichfield. He was admitted to the Inner Temple, November 1576; bencher 1599; Lent Reader 1602; Treasurer 1611-2; Recorder of Tamworth; J.P. Staffordshire 1609-22. He married, 1589, Catherine (*d.* 1602), daughter of John Harcourt of Ronton, by whom he had a son, Sir Richard D., M.P.⁶ He was buried at St. Dunstan's Chapel, 27 September 1622. His views were evidently those of all the Dyotts, his descendants, for there is record of a speech of his in the House in 1607, and of his having received pay from the King in 1612. And in 1614 the legal opinion of Anthony Diet, councillor at law, is given that . . . "persons accused

¹ Parl. 1571.

Rocester Parish Registers.

³ Parl. 1604-11.

⁴ In 1553 Dyott bought $\frac{1}{2}$ Freford from Robert Harcourt.

⁵ John Dyott's relict and administratrix was Katherine (*Geneal.* XXXIII, N.S. 139), daughter of John Weston of Lichfield by Cecily (Nevil), a sister of Dr. Robert Weston and James Weston, both M.P.'s; and in Harwood's *Erdeswick* (164, Chart IV) this lady is shown as mother of Anthony Dyott.

⁶ Parl. 1621-2.

of offences against the crown and state may be arrested on suspicion."¹

(8) (SIR) ROBERT BROWNE (Bart.) OF WALCOTT, NORTHANTS,
M.P. Lichfield 1601.

Son of Robert B. of the same, by Margaret, daughter of Philip Barnard of Aldenham, Essex. He married (1) Anne, daughter of Roger Capstock; (2) Elizabeth, daughter of John Doyley of Chiselhampton, Oxon.² He succeeded his elder brother, Sir William B., K.B., in the family estates in 1603; created a baronet 1621; died 1624.³ Will proved in 1624.

(9) GEORGE EGEOCKE, ESQ. OF SALFORD PRIORS, WARWICKSHIRE, M.P. Tamworth 1601.

Born 1562; son of Richard E., by Elizabeth Matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, 29 January 1580, aged 17; entered the Middle Temple 1580 as "late of the New Inn, gent."; died 1602, and was buried in St. Andrew's, Holborn. His Will⁴ was proved in *P.C.C.* in 1602 as "of Salford, Warwick."⁵

¹ *Cal. Pap., For. et Dom.*

² G. E. C. calls her Elizh, widow of Francis Harby (*d.* 1607), and sister of Sir Anthony Cope, 1st bart. of Hanwell. She mar. (3) Sir Guy Palmes, kt. The older baronetages do not give the Cope sisters, but G. E. C. is confirmed by the Cope pedigree (Pink).

³ Pink; G.E.C. *Complete Baronetage*.

⁴ WILL of GEORGE EGEOCKE OF PRYOURS SALFORD, WARWICK, gent., dated 18 March 1602, proved in *P.C.C.* 17 May 1602.

Mentions his wife Dorothy, his mother Elizabeth (still living), his deceased father Richard E., his brothers John and Edward, his cousin and servant Thomas E., his cousin John E. of Bevingtonne, Warwick.

To Elianor daughter of his cousin Thomas Cave he leaves £100 the same to Anne E., daughter of his cousin, Francis E. of Egieock, Warwick; £20 to the elder son of his cousin Francis, James E. of London.

Executors: his uncle William Combes of Warwick, Francis E., Thomas Watson of Bengeworth, Worcester, gent., William Sheldone of Brodwade (Broadway), Worcester, gent.

Overseers: Sir Oliver St. John, Kt., Philip Kekelic of Littleton, Worcester, gent. (*P.C.C.* 32 Montagu.)

⁵ Pink.

(10) ROBERT BURDETT, ESQ. OF BRAMCOTE, WARWICKSHIRE,
M.P. Tamworth 1601.

Born *c.* 1557; eldest son and heir of Thomas B. of the same (*d.* 1591), by Bridget, daughter of Thomas Curzon of Croxall, Derby; B.A. Oxford 20 January 1576; sheriff of Warwickshire 1601-2. He married Mary, daughter of Dr. Thomas Wilson, Dean of Durham, one of the principal Secretaries of State to Queen Elizabeth, by his second wife Agnes, daughter of John Winter of Lydney, Glos., and sister of Alderman Sir William Winter. In 1598 he bought Thorpe Constantine from Samuel Aylmer for £3350.¹ He died 27 March 1603, and was buried at Bramcote with a monument erected to him.² Inquisition at Warwick, 12 June 1606. His widow married Sir Christopher Lowther of Lowther, and died 31 March 1622, being buried in Penrith Church.³

¹ Harwood's *Erdeswick* 454; Shaw, *Staffs.* I. 405.

² The WILL of ROBERT BURDETT OF BROMCOTE, WARWICK, dated 20 May 1602, proved in *P.C.C.* 30 June 1603. To be buried without pomp. He is heavily in debt. He leaves lands to trustees,—George Curzon of Croxall, Walter Horton of Cutton and John Barwell of Seckington, clerk,—to liquidate his debts. Residue to wife “for the better enabling her to keepe her children together,” but if she remarry then residue to his daughter. Wife sole Exor. Witnesses:—Bridget Burdett, Thomas Burdett, John Burdett, John and Thomas Barwell.

In a Schedule he directs his son Thomas to give the next presentation of Seckington or Thorpe to John Barwell's son. To Dorothy *d.* of J. Barwell and to Robert son of J. Barwell £30 each; to Adam, Thomas and John, sons of J. Barwell, 20 *m.* each. To each of his brothers and sister Mary £10; to James Sheffield, “my sister Anne's son £10; to brother Thomas all my hawks; horses to cousin George Curzon and to Walter Horton.”

³ *Ex. inf.* Pink.

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