

APPENDIX LXXV.

ON THE MORTIMERS OF ATTLEBOROUGH.

The common ancestor of the noble houses of Mortimer Earls of March, and Warren Earls of Warren and Surrey, was William de Varennes,* or de Saint Martin,† husband of one of the nieces of Gonnora Duchess of Richard the first Duke of Normandy, by whom he had two sons, Roger de Mortimer, whose descendants are now under our notice, and William de Warren, of whose family we have given an account at p. 73 of this record.

Roger the eldest was Lord of Mortemer sur Eaune in Normandy, from whence the name of his family; and was one of the commanders in the famous engagement that took place there in the year 1054, between the Normans and the French, in which the latter sustained so signal a defeat.‡ His son, Raoul de Mortemer, accompanied the Conqueror to England, was present at the battle of Hastings, and afterwards greatly distinguished himself in the subjugation of the Marches of Wales, in which district the Castle of Wigmore, which he had taken from the Earl of Shrewsbury, was situated, and was, together with the other estates of that nobleman, granted to him. The elder branch of his descendants continued in possession of it, together with the title of Earls of March, for twelve generations in the male line, which then becoming extinct, it was carried to Richard Duke of York by his mother Anne, sister of

the last Mortimer Earl of March, and wife of the Earl of Cambridge, brother of Edward Duke of York.§

Several younger branches of baronial rank have at different periods diverged from this parent stem.|| Of these the most important were the Mortimers of Ricard's Castle in Herefordshire; and, according to some authors, the Mortimers of Attleborough in Norfolk.

It is nearly impossible, at this distance of time, absolutely to fix a descent where landed property did not accompany it; and therefore the affiliation of a younger branch at these very early periods is rarely to be discovered but by a comparison of the dates of the founder of such branch with the younger sons of the parent house, his contemporaries.

The Mortimers of Attleborough are descended from Robert de Mortimer or Mortuo-Mari, who was seized of the advowson of the Church at Stanford in Norfolk, in the time of Henry II. as is proved by a trial in the reign of Edward I. when William de Mortemer, of Kingston and Attleburgh, set forth his pedigree;¶ from this Robert de Mortimer, who had issue William his son and heir, who had Robert his son and heir, who had a second William his son and heir, who had issue Robert, who was father of Sir William the demandant,

§ Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. p. 142.

|| Ibid. passim.

¶ Placit. jurat. assis. ap'd Norw. &c. Hilar. anno 14 Edw. I. Rot. 2. Blomefield in Attleborough.

* William de Jumieges.

† Orderic. Vital.

‡ Roman de Rou, edit. of Pluquet.

which is further confirmed by a plea in the 5th of John, as follows: *

"Juratores dicunt quod Robertus de Mortuomari avus Roberti de Mortuomari presentavit ultimum personam ad ecclesiam de Raveningham. Ideo habeat," &c.

In the reign of Henry II. on levying an aid to marry the King's daughter (12th Henry II.)† we find in Herefordshire, "Robertus de Mortuomari tenet xxxiii feoda in honore Castelli." Dugdale also distinctly states the existence of such a person; and calls him, on the authority of the Liber Ruber Scaccarii, son or brother of Hugh de Mortimer, of Wigmore Castle; this, therefore, may probably be the same Robert de Mortimer who was patron of the Churches of Stanford and Raveningham, and ancestor of the Mortimers of Attleborough, notwithstanding Dugdale's opinion that this Robert

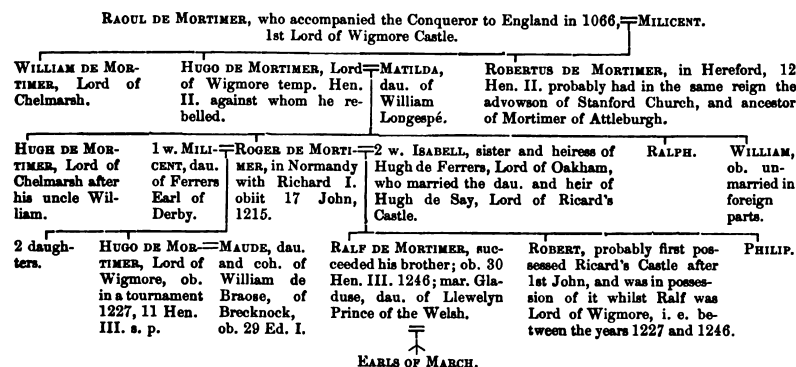
was the first possessor of Ricard's Castle,‡ in which we suspect him in error, and to have confounded the Robert living in the reign of Henry II. with Robert, third son of Roger Baron of Wigmore, by Isabella, sister and heiress of Hugh de Ferrers, Lord of Oakham, as Ricard's Castle was not possessed by the Mortimers till after 1st John; and on reference to the Testa de Neville, the authority quoted by Dugdale, we find Robert de Mortimer possessed of Ricard's Castle honor,§ and called the "novum feoff.," contemporary with Ralf de Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, which Ralf was second son of the before-mentioned Roger, Baron of Wigmore, and succeeded to the inheritance on the death of his half-brother Hugh, the 11th of Henry III. as the subjoined Pedigree of the early generations of this House of Wigmore will more distinctly shew.

* Abbrev. Placit. Term. Sancti Michs. anno R. Joh. V^o. Rot. 14 in dorso, p. 45.

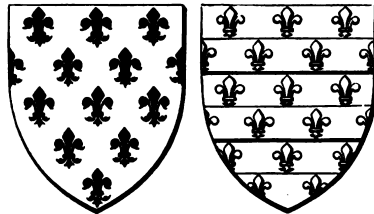
† Liber Niger Scacc. pub. by Hearne, vol. i. p. 159.

‡ Dugdale's Baronage, under Mortimer of Wigmore and Ricard's Castle.

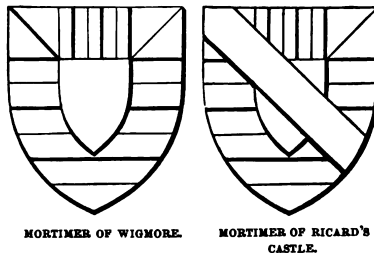
§ Testa de Neville, Hereford, Hundred of Wulfge, 309, p. 66 of printed edition.



Blomefield * considers the difference in the arms of the Mortimers of Attleborough from those of the Earls of March a proof of their being of a distinct race; in this he is probably mistaken, as many instances might be adduced of different branches of the same family bearing arms entirely dissimilar, although the common practice was certainly to use a variation of the same.



There is a great similarity between the arms of the Mortimers of Attleborough and those of Ricard's Castle; the former used, Or, semé de lis sable; the latter, Barré of six or and vert, semé de lis counterchanged, as is seen by the seal of Hugh, second Lord of Ricard's Castle,† and also formerly in the windows of Attleborough church.



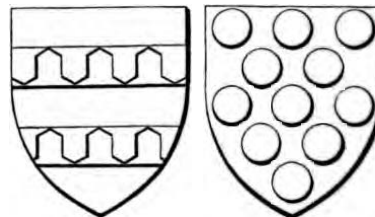
Banks, in his Extinct Baronage, asserts that

* Blomefield in Attleborough.

† Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. page 153.

Mortimer of Ricard's Castle bore for arms those of Mortimer Earls of March, viz. Barry of six, or and azure, an inescutcheon argent; a chief of the first, paly of the second, the corners gyrony, with a bend gules over all for difference.

In the siege of Karla-verock ‡ Hugh de Mortimer, last of the name, Lord of Ricard's Castle, is shown by that poem, as well as by the authority of seals of that Baron, referred to in the notes, to have been Gules, two bars vairé, on his banner; whilst his brother William, commonly called Zouche of Mortimer, bore a variation on the Arms of his mother, the heiress of Zouche, Azure bezanté.§



MORTIMER OF RICARD'S CASTLE. ZOUCHE OF MORTIMER.

A branch of the Mortimers was very early seated at Attleborough, in the county of Norfolk: the Robert de Mortimer before alluded to is considered by Blomefield to have been lord of this manor.|| Whether or not he was the same Robert de Mortimer who held fiefs in Herefordshire must be doubtful. A Robert de Mortimer witnessed the foundation deed of Castleacre Priory by William 1st Earl Warren some time before the year 1090.¶ At the Survey this manor of Attleborough belonged to

‡ Published by Nicolas, pp. 40 and 239.

§ Nicolas, Roll of Arms temp. Ed. III. p. 9.

|| Blomefield in Attleborough.

¶ Dugdale's Monasticon, new edition.

Roger filius Reinardi, who perhaps might be ancestor of the Mortimers of Attleborough, and his father, Reinardus, the same person as Raoul or Reginaldus de Mortimer, who came over at the Conquest, and was ancestor of the Earls of March. We have seen that the Warrens and Mortimers of Wales were of the same race; and there certainly existed a strong connection between the Attleborough Mortimers and the Warrens, which confirms the idea of the former being of the same family as the Welsh Mortimers.

Blomefield, however, seems to imply that he thinks the Attleborough Mortimers were a distinct race from the others; and that they came from Mortemer in Poitou; there are, however, two Mortemers in Normandy—Mortemer-sur-Eaulne, from whence the family of the Earls of March came; and another, Mortemer-en-Lions, which last may have been the berceau of the Attleborough family, if it was a distinct race: the word Mortemer, signifying stagnant lake or water, is not unfrequent.

That Robert de Mortemer was ancestor of the family is certain, from the fines already quoted. To an old deed in the Cotton Library* is the seal of Sir William Mortimer of Attleborough, Knight, being the effigies of himself riding full speed on horseback, with a sword drawn in one hand, and his shield of arms in the other.

The next person we find here was Robert, son and heir of William, whose grandfather Robert had presented to the church at Raveningham † this Robert, second of the name, was in the 6th of John possessed of Halavendon, in Lincolnshire, which had been the property of William de Mortuo-Mari; and also of

the manor of Scoulton in Norfolk. To this Robert also relates the following plea of the 6th of Richard I.

“ Robertus de Mortuomari invenit plegium quod queret pacem infra festum sancti Hilarii versus Dominum Regem per Dominum Cancellarium de eo quod ipse turniavit sine licentia. Et sunt plegii comes Rogerus Bigod, Galfridus de Sai, Willelmus de Warren. Et preceptum est vicecomiti quod faciat ei habere seisinam terrarum suarum,” &c. Rot. II.

This Sir Robert, and his son William, were both in arms against King John, in his Barons' wars ‡ in 1205; and in 1215, the lands held by them in Lincolnshire were forfeited and given by that monarch to Robert de Mortimer, of Ricard's Castle, whose son William held them in the time of Edward I. ||

In 1218 Sir William de Mortimer held one knight's fee in Attleborough, Bernham Brome, Little Ellingham, and Tofts, and half a fee in Stanford and Buckenham Parva, and half a fee in Scoulton. His son, Sir Robert, was living when the Barons rose against Henry III. in 1263, at which time his houses were burnt and his stocks wasted by Sir Henry Hastings, ¶ and he died this same year, when his son William de Mortimer was in the custody of the Earl Warren. This William claimed the advowson of the church of Stanford from the prior of Shouldham, as has been before mentioned, by setting forth his pedigree from Robert de Mortimer in the reign of Henry II. **

‡ Placit. Abbrev. apud West. Term. Sancti Michael. 6 Ric. I. Norff. page 3.

§ Claus. 17 Joh. m. 9, p. 249, 250. Blomefield ut supra.

|| Testa de Neville, page 369.

¶ Blomefield ut supra. Rot. de Rebel. 49 Hen. III. In Turre Lond.

** Placit. apud Norw. Term. Hilar. Anº. 14 Ed. I. Rot. 1.

* Blomefield in Attleborough.

† Abbrev. Placit. 5 Joh. Term. 8. Mich. Rot. 14.

In 1293 he was summoned to attend the King into Gascoigne, and in 1296 was summoned to parliament among the barons of the realm, in which year, being again in France, he was taken prisoner, carried to Paris, and died there,* when, by the name of William de Mortimer of Kingston, he was found seized of the following manors :†—

Herlaweston ten' et tene- ment'	} Lincoln'.
Grantham cur' sect'	
Kyngestone maner' extent' et advoc' eccl' et ca- pelle	} Cantabr'.
Attleburgh maner' extent'	
Sculton maner' extent'	} Norfolk'.
Bernham maner' extent'	
Kingeston eccl'ia et hundr'	} feoda Cantabr.
Winepole feod'	
Eversdone	} feoda Norff.
Hadestone et Bonwell maner'	
Atelburgh et Elingham	} feoda Norff.
Rokelondeston maner' Bernham eccl'ia	

Bikerston eccl'ia
Sculton eccl'ia } feoda Norff.‡
Atelburg eccl'ia

The 27 Edw. I. John Earl of Warren petitioned the king to have the custody of the heir of William de Mortimer restored to him, who held of him in the manor of Attleborough, and who had died whilst he, the earl, was serving the King in Scotland, and that the King's escheator had entered upon the wardship, and allotted the widow her dower. The petition was granted.§

This William founded the chapel now called Mortimer's Chapel at Attleborough, and was buried in it.||

Constantine was his son and heir, and was sixteen years old when his father died. This Constantine was, in 1307, one of the great men in the retinue of John de Warren, Earl of Surrey, who was then with Edward II. in France, on occasion of that King's marriage with Isabella, daughter of the King of France, and in 13 Edw. II. he had license to make a castle of his house at Scouton.¶

Sir Constantine Mortimer was his son, and

* Dugdale's Baron. vol. i. p. 154.

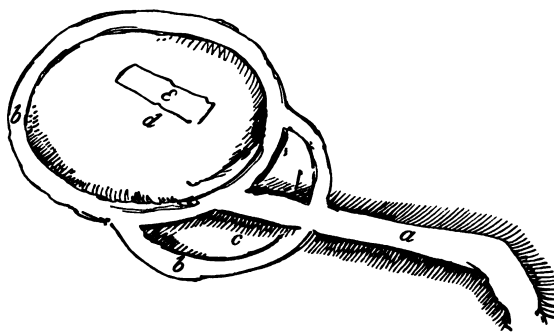
† Inquis. post Mort. vol. i. p. 135.

‡ 25 Ed. I. No. 45.

§ Placit. Term. Mich. Rot. 52. an^o 27 Ed. I.

|| Blomefield ut supra.

¶ The earth-works of this castle are now traceable in a field called Hall Hills. The plan of it is thus :—



a. Raised causeway. b b. Remains of moat. c. Outwork, or first court. d. Inner court. e. Foundations.

was, in 1335, steward of the household to Alianor, the King's sister, and Countess of Guelders; he had an allowance of £22 for the expenses of his men and horses in that service. In 1341 he was summoned to parliament among the Barons, and in 1349 he had the King's license to travel to Rome with a valet, two horses, and two servants.

Sir Robert de Mortimer was his brother and heir; he founded the chantry of the Holy Cross in Attleborough church, where many of his family and their descendants are buried.

Sir Thomas Mortimer was his eldest son, who died in 1406,* having married Mary, daughter of Nicholas Parke, Esq. who by a previous marriage was own mother to the celebrated Sir John Fastolf. Sir John Fastolf, in his will dated Nov. 3, 1459, desires his sub-

stance to be disposed of for the pleasure of God and his soul's health, "and also for the relief, socour, and helpe of the soules that I am most oblyged to prey and do preye fore, and for the soules of John Fastolf my fadir, and dam Mary (the doghtir of Nicholas Park, squyer) my modir, &c.

"Item, I wolle and ordeyne that be the avys of mine executors befor named, that provision and ordenaunce be mad that the obyte and aniversarye may be yerly kept in perpetuite with Placebo and Dirige and messe be note for the sowle of dam Mary my moder and her auncesterys in the churche of Attilburgh, and then on of the monkes or prestys in the college be me ordenid in the mancyon of Castre forseid shall syng specyally in perpetuite for the sowle of my modir, and alle here auncesteres and good

Several warlike instruments have been found on this spot; a battle-axe, cross-bow, arrow-heads, &c. and a very curious chronometer, which appears to have been a sort of portable dial, not larger than a watch, and which, by being held direct to the south, would give the hour. All these are in the possession of Mr. Weyland of Woodrising, 1838.

* Constantine Mortimer of Bernham was youngest brother of this Sir Thomas, and had a son, Robert Mortimer (see Blomefield in Bernham). Their seals are appended to deeds at Kimberley, belonging to Lord Wodehouse.



SIGILLUM CONSTANTINI MORTIMER.



ROBERT MORTIMER, HEN. 6.

doers. Item, I wole that in semelable-wise that a marbul ston of a convenient mesure be ordeynid and layd (over) dam Mary, my modir, in the chapell of the chauntry foundid in the parissch chirche of Atilburgh, with an ymage of laton (brass), accordynge to her degre, with a scripture there abowteen of the day and yeer of here obyte, with iiij. skochonys (scutcheons) whereof here iii. husbendes, Mortymer, Fastolf, and Farwelle, and the ferthe of hir auncesterys armys."*

By this Mary Sir Thomas Mortimer left 3 daughters, coheirs :

1st. Elizabeth, married Sir Ralph Bigod, of Stockton. 2ndly, Henry Pakenham. 3rdly, to Thomas Manning, to which last she gave her estate.

2nd. Cicely, married Sir John de Herling. 2ndly, John Ratcliffe, Esq.

3rd. Margery, married Sir John Fitz-Ralph, Knt.

Elizabeth had a daughter by Sir Ralph Bigod, who married William Garneys of Kenton, in Suffolk, whose son Ralph died s.p. in 1446.

From Cicely descended, by her second husband, the noble family of Ratcliffe Earls of Sussex, Viscounts Fitz-Walter, Lords of Egremont and Burnell, who retained the Lordship of Attleborough to the middle of the 17th century.

Margery, the 3rd daughter and coheir, had for her portion of the Mortimer estate the

* Blomesfield in Attleborough.

manor of Great Ellingham Hall, in Great Ellingham, Scouton and other manors, and church preferments. Her son, by Sir John Fitz-Ralph, married Alice Walesborough ; but these estates eventually fell to her daughter Maude,† who married Sir Robert Conyers, Knt. Their son married Eleanor, daughter of Sir William Yelverton, Knt. of the Bath at the coronation of Ed. IV. but had no issue, and his estates devolved on the heirs of his brother, Thomas Conyers, Esq. one of whose daughters and coheirs, Ela, was wife of Sir Robert Lovell, Knt. by whom she had three daughters and coheirs.

1st. Ursula, married Sir William Hussey, Knt. of Beauvale, in the county of Notts, Sheriff of Lincolnshire 22 Hen. VIII. 1531, son and heir of John Lord Hussey of Sleaford, who was executed at Lincoln, for rebellion, 28 Hen. VIII. Sir William had by Ursula two daughters and coheirs.

2nd. Margaret, married to Anthony Gurney, Esq. of West Barsham.

3rd. Ela, married to John Bilsby, Esq. of Lincolnshire.

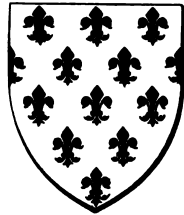
4th. Elizabeth, married to John Fitzlewes, from whom descended the Lords Mordaunt.‡

† Blomesfield, vol. i. p. 483.

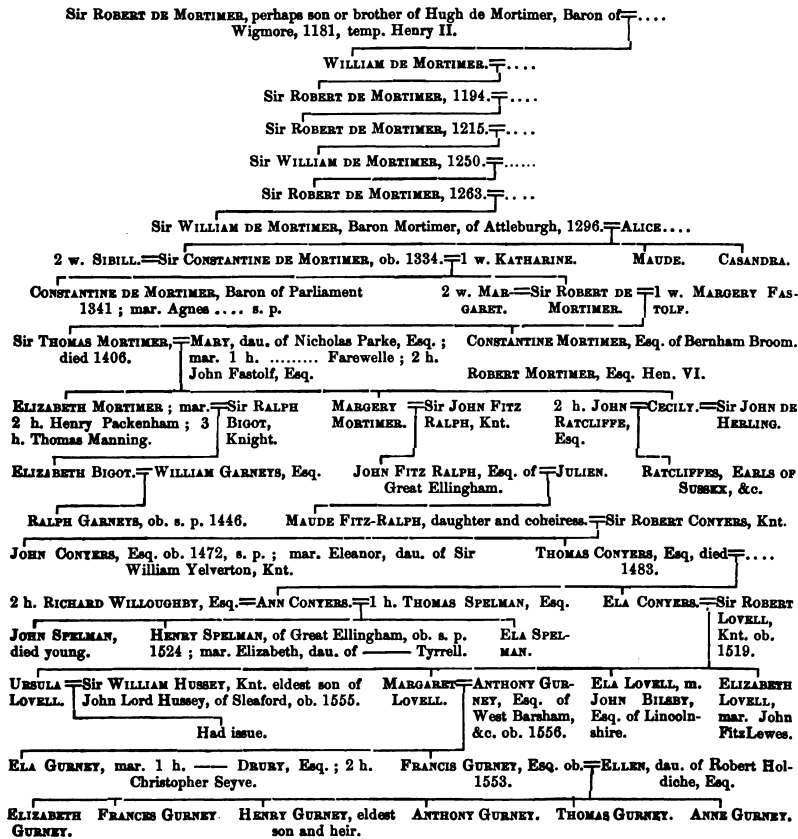
‡ Inquisitio indentata capta apud Norwicum, 20 Octr. 15 Hen. VIII. (1529,) post mortem Roberti Lovell, militis. Qui dicunt quod idem Robertus oblit seisitus de tali statu quod descendere debuisset quibuscumque Margarite Gorney, Ursule Huse et Ele Bilsby ac Thome Fitz-Lewes filio et heredi Anne Fitz-Lewes alterius filiarum et coheredum prefati Roberti. Harl. MSS. 970. Vitis Calthorpiana.

The following Pedigree of Mortimer, of Attleborough, shews the descent of the Gurneys of West Barsham from that family.

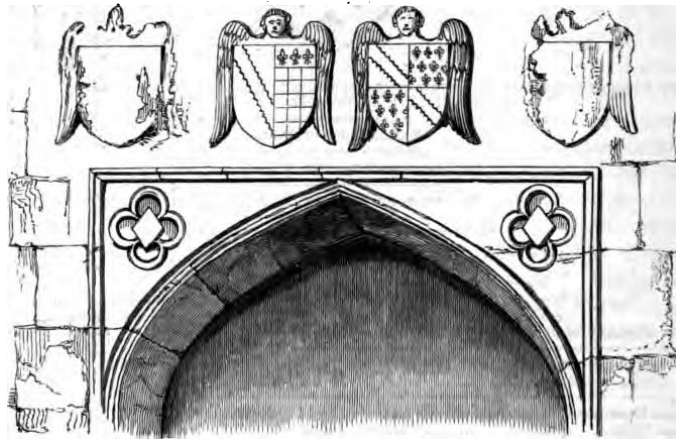
PEDIGREE OF MORTIMER



OF ATTLEBOROUGH.

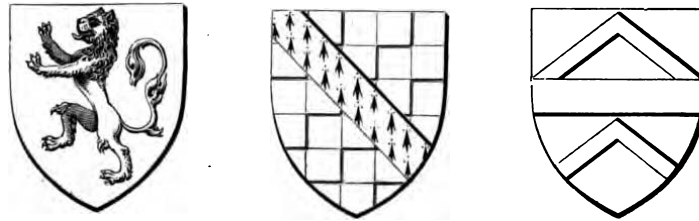


The church at Attleborough formerly contained very numerous remains of the armorial ensigns of the Mortimers and their descendants. Over the porch are carved the two following shields: Ratcliffe, impaling, Chequey a chief fleuré de lis, and Ratcliffe, quartering Mortimer.

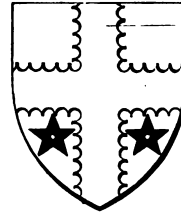
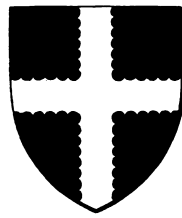


ATTLEBOROUGH CHURCH PORCH ; FROM AN OUTLINE IN THE NORRIS MSS. CHURCH COLLECTIONS, ATTLEBOROUGH.

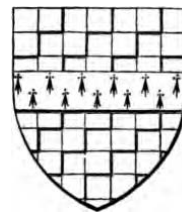
In the windows were formerly :—



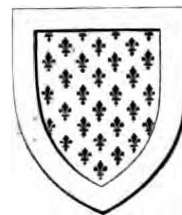
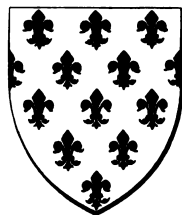
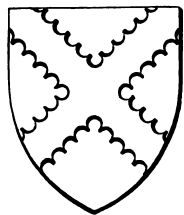
1. Albany : Gules, a lion rampant or.
2. Clifton : Chequey or and gules, a bend ermine.
3. Fitzwalter : Or, a fess between two chevrons gules.



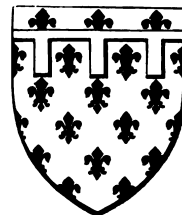
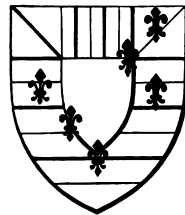
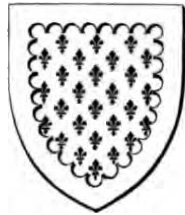
4. Clare : Or, three chevronels gules.
 5. Ufford : Sable, a cross engrailed or.
 6. Ratcliffe : Argent, a bend engrailed sable.



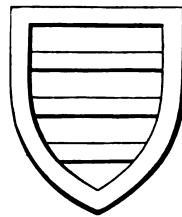
7. Wingfield : Argent, on a bend gules, between two cotises sable, three pair of wings joined in lure of the first.
 8. Herling : Argent, a unicorn rampant sable.
 9. Calthorpe : Chequey or and azure, a fess ermine.



10. Kerdeston : Argent, a saltier engrailed gules.
 11. Mortimer : Or, fleuré de lis sable.
 12. Mortimer : The same, with a bordure gules.



13. Mortimer : The same, with a bordure engrailed gules.
 14. Mortimer : The same, with a bendlet gobonné argent and gules.
 15. Mortimer : The same, with a label gules.



16. Mortimer, of Ricard's Castle : Barry of six, or and vert, fleuré de lis counterchanged.
 17. Mortimer, of Ricard's Castle : The same, barry of four only.
 18. Moulton : Three barrulets, in a bordure gules.



19. Ratcliffe : impaling Herling.
 20. Ratcliffe, impaling Clare.*

* Blomesfield in Attleburgh.