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A

GENEALOGICAL AND HERALDIC

HISTORY

OF

THE COMMONERS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

ENJOYING TERRITORIAL POSSESSIONS OR HIGH OFFICIAL RANK;

BUT UNINVESTED WITH HERITABLE HONOURS.

BY JOHN BURKE, ESQ.

AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF THE PEERAGE AND BARONETAGE,"

"OF THE EXTINCT AND DORMANT PEERAGE," &c.



HOUSE OF COMMONS.

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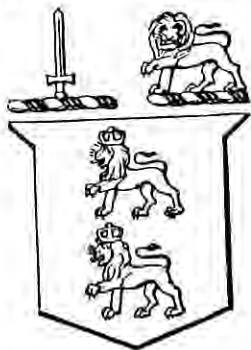
DYMOKE, OF SCRIVELSBY.

The King's Champion.

DYMOKE, HENRY, Esq. of Scrivelsby Court, in the county of Lincoln, The Honorable THE KING'S CHAMPION, *b.* 5th March, 1801; succeeded to the estates and the hereditary championship at the decease of his father, the Reverend John Dymoke, on the 3rd Dec. 1828, having previously executed the official duties of champion as deputy for that gentleman at the coronation of his late Majesty King GEORGE IV. Mr. Dymoke *m.* 14th January, 1823, Emma, daughter of William Pearce, esq. of Weasenhall, in Norfolk, and Holm Cottage, Richmond, Surrey, by whom he has an only daughter,

EMMA-JANE, *b.* 11th February, 1826.

This gentleman is the seventeenth of his family who has inherited the ancient office of CHAMPION.



Lineage.

This family ranks in point of antiquity, male and female, with the most ancient in the kingdom. It derives the singular office of CHAMPION from the celebrated baronial house of MARMYON, or MARMYON, with the feudal MANOR OF SCRIVELSBY, to which the championship is attached.

At the time of the Norman Conquest,

ROBERT DE MARMYON, Lord of Fontney, in Normandy, having by grant of King William the castle of Tamworth, in the county of Warwick, with the adjacent lands, expelled the nuns from the abbey of Polesworth, to a place called Oldbury, about four miles distant. "After which," (writes Sir William Dugdale,) "within the compass of a twelvemonth, as it is said, making a costly entertainment at Tamworth Castle, for some of his friends, amongst whom was Sir Walter de Somerville, Lord of Whichover, in the county of Stafford, his sworn brother, it happened, that as he lay in his bed, St. Edith appeared to him in the habit of a veiled nun, with a crosier in her hand, and advertised him, that if he did not restore the abbey of Polesworth, which lay within the territories belonging to his castle of Tamworth, unto her successors, he should have an evil death, and go to hell. And, that he might be the more sensible of this her admonition, she smote him on the side with the point of her crosier, and so vanished away. Moreover, that by this stroke being much

wounded, he cried out so loud, that his friends in the house arose; and, finding him extremely tormented with the pain of his wound, advised him to confess himself to a priest, and vow to restore the nuns to their former possessions. Furthermore, that having so done, his pain ceased; and that in accomplishment of his vow, accompanied by Sir Walter de Somerville, and the rest, he forthwith rode to Oldbury; and, craving pardon of the nuns for the injury done, brought them back to Polesworth, desiring that himself, and his friend Sir Walter de Somerville, might be reputed their patrons, and have burial for themselves and their heirs in the abbey—the Marmions in the chapter house—the Somerviles in the cloyster. However some circumstances in this story (continues Dugdale,) may seem fabulous, the substance of it is certainly true; for it expressly appeareth by the very words of his charter, that he gave to Osauna the prioress, *for the establishing of the religion of those nuns there, the church of St. Edith, of Polesworth, with its appurtenances, so that the convent of Oldbury should remain in that place;* and likewise bestowed upon them the whole lordship of Polesworth: which grant King Stephen afterwards confirmed." The castle and manor of Tamworth, in Warwickshire, and the manor of Scrivelsby, in the county of Lincoln, were granted by the Conqueror to this Robert de Marmion, to be held by grand

serjeanty, "to perform the office of champion at the king's coronation," (the Marmions, it is said, were hereditary champions to the Dukes of Normandy, prior to the conquest of England). Robert Marmion was succeeded at his decease by his son and heir,

ROBERT DE MARMYON, Lord of Fontney, in Normandy, where he possessed a fortified castle, which was besieged by Geoffrey, of Anjou, in the 4th of King Stephen, and demolished. This Robert having a great enmity to the Earl of Chester, who had a noble seat at Coventry, entered the priory there in the 8th of Stephen, and, expelling the monks, turned it into a fortification, digging at the same time divers deep ditches in the adjacent fields, which he caused to be covered over with earth, in order to secure the approaches thereto; but the Earl of Chester's forces drawing near, as he rode out to reconnoitre, he fell into one of those very ditches, and broke his thigh, so that a common soldier, presently seizing him, cut off his head. He was *s.* by his son,

ROBERT DE MARMION, who, in the 31st Henry II., being constituted sheriff of Worcestershire, continued in that office until the end of the four-and-thirtieth year of the same reign. He was also justice itinerant in Warwickshire, and some other counties, and again sheriff of Worcestershire in the 1st of Richard I. In five years afterwards he attended that monarch into Normandy, and in the 15th of King John he was in the expedition, then made into Poitou. This feudal lord died about the year 1217, leaving issue, by different mothers,

ROBERT, his successor.

Robert, jun., who had the estate of Wtringham and Coninsby, in the county of Lincoln.

William, of Torington.

He was *s.* by his eldest son,

ROBERT DE MARMION, who appears to have sided with the French, when they seized upon Normandy in the beginning of King John's reign, for the murder of Arthur, Duke of Brittany; but afterwards to have made his peace, for in the 5th of Henry III. he had livery of Tamworth Castle and his father's other lands. He is supposed to have returned to Normandy in twelve years afterwards, and to have died there in 1241, when he was *s.* by his son,

PHILIP DE MARMION, who was sheriff for the counties of Warwick and Leicester, from 1.

the 33rd to the 36th of Henry III.—in the latter of which years he was questioned for sitting with Richard de Mundevill, and the rest of the justices, for gaol delivery at Warwick, having no commission so to do. The next year he attended the king into Gascony; upon his return whence he was taken prisoner by the French at Pontes, in Poitou, with John de Plesssets, then Earl of Warwick, notwithstanding they had letters of safe conduct from the king of France. In the 45th of the same reign this feudal lord had summons to be at London with divers of the nobility, upon the morrow after *Simon and Jude's day*; in which year the defection of many of the barons began further to manifest itself, by their assuming the royal prerogative, in placing sheriffs throughout different shires. In this period of difficulty Philip de Marmion, being of unimpeachable loyalty, had, by special patent from the king, the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk committed to his custody, with the castles of Norwich and Orford: a well-judged confidence, for through all the subsequent fortunes of Henry III. he never once swerved from his allegiance. He was present at the battle of Lewes—and his fidelity was rewarded after the royal victory of Evesham, by some valuable grants for life, and the governorship of Kenilworth Castle. He *m.* Joane, youngest daughter, and eventually sole heiress of Hugh de Kilpec, of Kilpec Castle, in Herefordshire, by whom he had four daughters, his co-heirs, viz.

Joane, *m.* to William Morteyn, and died *s. p.* in 1294.

Margery, *m.* to Ralph Cromwell, and had an only daughter and heiress,

Joane, *m.* to Alexander, Baron Freville, whose grandson,

SIR BALDWIN DE FREVILLE, Lord Freville, claimed the championship in the 1st Richard II. by the tenure of Tamworth Castle, but the matter was decided against him, in favour of Sir John Dymoke.

Maud, *m.* to Ralph Botiller, and *d. s. p.* JOAN,* who had the manor of Scrivelsby, *m.* Sir Thomas de Ludlow, knt. and had issue,

John de Ludlow, who *d. s. p.*

* Banks, in his History of Marmyon, says, that this lady was by a second wife, Mary.

* MARGARET DE LUDLOW, sole heiress of her brother, with whom we shall proceed as wife of SIR JOHN DYMOKE.

MARGARET DE LUDLOW, upon the decease of her brother, became sole heiress (Banks makes her granddaughter of Sir Thomas de Ludlow and Joan Marmyon), and inherited the manor of SCRIVELSBY, in Lincolnshire; she espoused

SIR JOHN DYMMOK,* knt. and this gentleman thus acquired, with that baronial estate, the office of KING'S CHAMPION. In the 46th and 47th of EDWARD III. Sir John Dymoke represented with William Marmyun, the county of Lincoln in parliament, and in the 1st Richard II. he was again one of the knights for Lincolnshire. At the coronation of this monarch he executed the office of KING'S CHAMPION, and was the first person so officially employed at the coronation of an English prince.† Sir John *d.* in the 4th of the same reign, leaving Margaret, his wife, surviving, who *d.* in the 2nd HENRY V. at which time, THOMAS, her son and heir, was sixty years of age and upwards. The said

SIR THOMAS DYMMOK was one of those eminent persons who, immediately prior to the coronation of King HENRY IV. was made a Knight of the Bath, at the Tower. On the coronation day he performed the office of

* This family acquired its surname, it is presumed, from the manor of Dymok, in the county of Gloucester.

HENRY DYMMOK, living temp. EDWARD III. *m.* a daughter of — Plessetis, and had issue,

JOHN DYMMOK, who *m.* Felicia, daughter of — Harevill, and had a son,

SIR JOHN DYMMOK, the husband of Margaret de Ludlow.

† His right was, however, disputed by Sir Baldwin Freville, then Lord of Tamworth, who exhibited before the court of claims his pretensions to be King's Champion, and to the service appertaining to that office, by reason of his tenure of Tamworth Castle, viz.

"To ride completely armed upon a barbed horse into Westminster Hall, and there to challenge the combat with whomsoever should dare to oppose the King's title to the crown."

Which service the Barons Marmyon, his ancestors, Lords of that castle, had theretofore performed. But Sir John Dymoke counter-claimed the same office as Lord of Scrivelsby. Whereupon the constable and marshal of England appointed the said Sir John Dymoke to perform the office at that time.

CHAMPION as deputy to his mother, then living. And again at the coronation of the renowned HENRY V. he executed the duties of the same office, in the same manner, on behalf of his mother. Sir Thomas *m.* Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Richard Hebdon, knt. (by his wife, the daughter and heir of Rye) and dying in the last year of HENRY V. was *s.* by his son,

SIR PHILIP DYMMOK, then twenty-two years old and upwards, who officiated as CHAMPION at the coronation of HENRY VI. Upon this occasion a mandate was made by the King to the keeper of his wardrobe, to deliver to the said Philip Dymok (then not knighted) such furniture, &c. as his ancestors had been accustomed to have upon these occasions. This Champion espoused Joane, daughter of Sir Christopher Conyers, of Stokeburn, and *d.* in the 33rd HENRY VI. leaving his son, and successor,

SIR THOMAS DYMMOK, then twenty-seven years of age and upwards. This Champion made a conspicuous figure in the reign of EDWARD IV. His connection, however, with the Lords Welles, and a suspicion that he favoured the Lancastrian interest, led him to a premature death upon the scaffold (refer to *Burke's Extinct and Dormant Peerage, article WELLES*). Sir Thomas *m.* Margaret, second daughter, and eventually one of the co-heirs of Lionel, Lord Welles, by Joane, his wife, daughter and heir of Sir Robert Waterton,* and had issue,

ROBERT (SIR), his successor.

LIONEL (SIR), who *m.* Joane, daughter and co-heir of Richard Griffith, esq. of Stickford, in the county of Lincoln, and had three surviving daughters, his co-heirs, viz.

1. — *m.* to — Hopton.
2. Alice, *m.* to Sir William Skipwith.
3. — *m.* to J. Goodrich, of Bellingbroke.

Sir Lionel was sheriff of the county of Lincoln in the 7th HENRY VIII. he *d.* 17th August, 1519, and was buried at Horncastle, where a monument erected to his memory still remains. Anne, *d.* in 1462.

The elder son and heir,

* The WATERTONS were a Lincolnshire family of distinction, and were frequently sheriffs of that county.

SIR ROBERT DYMOKE was *d.* years at the time of his father's death. But he had no sooner attained maturity, than the King, as if for the fate of his father, advised him to have livery of all his inherited lands which came through his father, as of those other lands which had devolved upon him through the co-heiress of Welles and Welles, *out* any account to be taken, either of the value and extent, or of such fine which might be entitled to claim due upon such occasions.* Sir Robert was Sheriff of the county of Lincoln as Champion at the coronation of HENRY VII. and HENRY VIII. a military man, and one of the commanders at the siege of Tewkesbury after the surrender of the city of London to the King's treasurer. He was Sheriff of the county of Lincoln in the 2nd RICHARD III. 1483, and 1st HENRY VIII. This Champion espoused, first, Anne, daughter of Alexander Cressnore, by whom he had daughters. He *m.* secondly, Joane, daughter and co-heir of John Sparrow, whom he had a son,

EDWARD, his successor.

Sir Robert *d.* 13th April, 1544, and was buried at Scrivelsby. He was *s.*

SIR EDWARD DYMOKE. This was sheriff of the county of Lincoln in the life-time of his father, anno 1483, which he also filled in the 1st EDWARD VI. 2nd and 3rd of PHILIP and MARY II. reigns, as well as in that of EDWARD VI. he was repeatedly returned for county representatives to parliament, and officiated as CHAMPION at the coronation of EDWARD VI. Queen MARY, and Queen ELIZABETH. He *m.* Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Talboys, sister and heir of

* The tide of opinion and affairs were greatly changed; inasmuch as Sir Robert had married Cecily, his daughter, who was the half-sister of that very Richard III. whom he had beheaded but a few years before, and, moreover, created the said Cecily Countess of Salisbury. Thus the said John, Viscount of Hereford, maternal uncle to the young King Edward VI. through the same alliance, was nephew of the man who had taken the life of his father. *Banks's Hist. of Man.*