

Stanley, wife of Grey Bruges lord Chandos,—the earl of Jersey and the duke of Sutherland, as coheirs general of Frances Stanley, wife of John Egerton earl of Bridgewater,—and the marquess of Hastings, as heir general of Elizabeth Stanley, wife of Henry Hastings earl of Huntingdon; the said Anne, Frances, and Elizabeth having been daughters and coheirs of Ferdinando Stanley earl of Derby, who was the heir general of Joan the wife of George Stanley, and sole daughter and heir of John lord Strange and Mohun, son and heir of Richard lord Strange above-mentioned.

JOHN  
LORD  
MOHUN.

## ARMS.

Or, a cross engrailed Sable.

## XIII.

SIR HUGH COURTENAY,

*One of the Founders.*



HUGH COURTENAY, the second earl of Devon of that illustrious house, had issue, by Margaret, his wife, daughter

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of Humphrey Bohun, earl of Hereford and Essex, and of the princess Elizabeth Plantagenet, daughter of king Edward I, six sons, of whom the eldest was sir Hugh Courtenay "junior," the subject of this memoir, born 22nd March 1326-7.<sup>1</sup>

His early distinction seems to have raised a doubt whether the honour of being one of the original Knights of the Order may not more properly belong to his father; and Dugdale and other writers have accordingly divested him of it without due consideration of several known facts in his history, which are opposed to their conclusion.<sup>2</sup> In common with persons of his rank, at that warlike period,<sup>3</sup> he was probably armed at or soon after the age of fifteen; for, upon our hypothesis respecting the era of the institution, he could then have scarcely completed his seventeenth year: and his particular case adds weight to the conjecture, that personal courage and adroitness in the tilting lists mainly governed the primary elections.

Sir Hugh Courtenay attended the king in his expedition to France in 1346,<sup>4</sup> and was present, in the following year, at the siege of Calais, in the company of his uncle William Bohun earl of Northampton: for it appears that, whilst in the camp before that town, the king, upon their joint supplication, excused the earl of Devon, on account of infirm health, from attending on any military service out of the realm.<sup>5</sup> After the surrender, he probably returned in the royal suite to England; and we find him at Eltham, towards the close of 1347, distinguishing himself at a tournament, and receiving from the king, as his guerdon, a hood of white cloth, buttoned with large pearls, and embroidered with figures of men in dancing postures.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Monast. Angl. vol. i. 789<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Baronage, vol. i. 639. Hugh, the father, having been earl of Devon since 1340, would have been so described in the preamble to the statutes and the Windsor tables. Besides, he lived until 2nd May 1377: whereas the earl of Northampton, successor to Courtenay in the stall at Windsor, died in 1360; and, in the same year, Edmond of Langley, the knight who occupied the stall after Bohun, received,

according to a wardrobe account extant, robes of the Order.

<sup>3</sup> See the major part of the depositions in the Scrope and Grosvenor controversy.

<sup>4</sup> Rot. Franc. 20 Ed. 3, p. 1, m. 13.

<sup>5</sup> Rot. Cart. et Pat. apud Cales. 10 Feb. 21 Ed. 3, (1346-7); Rym. Fœd. vol. iii. 105.

<sup>6</sup> Computus Joh'is Coke Cler. magn. garderob. penes Rem. Reg.

There is no trace of our young knight in the public records after Easter term 1348;<sup>1</sup> for the citations by the historian of the family,<sup>2</sup> and by Ashmole, (who asserts that he died in 1366,<sup>3</sup> and that the inquisition taken in 1374 was consequent upon his death,) refer partly to another sir Hugh Courtenay, his son, and partly to the earl his father.

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That he died in or before 1349 is evident from two remarkable circumstances, to one of which allusion is now, for the first time, made. It appears that queen Philippa, on a progress through Dorsetshire (the king being then in Wales), sojourned at Ford Abbey from the 31st August until the 2nd September in that year; and that, on the last-mentioned day, she placed a piece of cloth of gold, as an oblation, upon the tomb of sir Hugh de Courtenay.<sup>4</sup> This interesting manifestation of feeling on the part of his royal mistress may have been naturally prompted by the recent and premature loss of a youth of high promise, who had possessed accomplishments so well fitted, in that the most chivalrous age of our history, to adorn the splendid court over which she presided.

To a question whether this tomb may not have been that of some other individual of the same name and family, it may be answered, that the sacred repository did not contain, previously to that date, the remains of any other sir Hugh Courtenay.<sup>5</sup>

Our inference derives strength from the additional fact that the earl of Northampton, who succeeded sir Hugh Courtenay in the seventh stall (on the Sovereign's side), had licence, on the 26th January following (1349-50), to assign the advowson of Dadington to the custos and chaplains of St. George's college, Windsor, and that, on the 4th May 1350, the earl completed that donation, which was made in conformity to a custom observed by knights of the Order soon after the foundation.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Exit. Pell. Pasch. 22 Ed. 3. Hugoni de Courtenay mil. in per-  
solutionem 38 lib. quas mutuo  
liberavit, &c.

<sup>2</sup> Cleaveland, in his history of  
the house of Courtenay, p. 156.

<sup>3</sup> Ashmole's Garter, p. 696; where  
it is said that he died A° 40 Ed. 3,  
upon the authority of an esc. 48

Ed. 3, n° 14, which applies to his  
son sir Hugh.

<sup>4</sup> Household book of queen Phi-  
lippa amongst the records of the  
Chapter-house, Westminster. See  
extracts from that document in  
Appendix, No. VII.

<sup>5</sup> Appendix, No. VIII.

<sup>6</sup> Regr. "Denton" in the *Æra-  
rium* at Windsor.

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Sir Hugh Courtenay "junior" died in the lifetime of his father; having married, in 1341,<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth, the daughter, as it is stated, of sir Guy de Bryan,<sup>2</sup> by whom he had a son, Hugh Courtenay, who also died before the earl his grandfather.

Hugh Courtenay, the only issue of our knight, married, about 1365,<sup>3</sup> Maud de Holand, daughter of Thomas earl of Kent, one of the Founders, by Joan "the fair maid of Kent;" soon afterwards entered upon his military career; and had the distinguished honour of receiving knighthood from the hands of the Black Prince before Vittoria, in 1367, at the same time with Don Pedro king of Spain, sir Thomas de Holand his brother-in-law, and his gallant uncles sir Peter and sir Philip Courtenay.<sup>4</sup> He is mentioned as one of the most eminent warriors at the battle of Najara in the same year.<sup>5</sup> In 1370 he was summoned to parliament amongst the barons of the realm;<sup>6</sup> and died without issue on the 20th February 1373-4.<sup>7</sup> His mother Elizabeth died on the 23rd Sept. 1375.<sup>8</sup>

Maud, the relict of Hugh lord Courtenay, married, secondly, Waleran count of St. Paul.<sup>9</sup>

ARMS.

Gules, three torteaux, differenced by a label of three points, each charged with three annulets.

CREST.

Within a ducal coronet a plume of swan's feathers, consisting of three rows, the first of eight, the second of ten, and the uppermost of eleven feathers.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fine, Mich. Term, 15 Ed. 3; and Pat. cod. anno p. 2, m. 12.

<sup>2</sup> Cleaveland, p. 157.

<sup>3</sup> The earl his grandfather had licence by Pat. 39 Ed. 3, p. 1, m. 28, (1365,) to settle the manor of Sutton Courtenay, com. Berks, and other estates, upon Maud, daughter of Thomas Holand earl of Kent, wife of Hugh son of Hugh de Courtenay son of the said earl,

and the heirs of the bodies of the said Hugh and Maud.

<sup>4</sup> Froissart, ed. Buchon, vol. iv. p. 376.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 406.

<sup>6</sup> Claus. 44 Ed. 3, m. 1 dorso.

<sup>7</sup> Esc. 48 Ed. 3, No. 14.

<sup>8</sup> Esc. 49 Ed. 3, p. 1, No. 27.

<sup>9</sup> Bibl. Bodl. K. 84, inter Cod. Cant. p. 147<sup>b</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> Plate, still remaining in the stall which the founder occupied.