

Dale. 2. Anne, who married sir Alexander Cave. 3. Elizabeth, married to George Carleton. 4. Helen, married sir Richard Spencer: and 5. Mary, married sir Thomas Reade.

SIR
RICHARD
FITZ
SIMON.

ARMS.

Argent, three inescutcheons, two and one, Gules.

XVII.

SIR MILES STAPLETON,

One of the Founders.



Émte de Stapleton

DUGDALE and Ashmole are both in error respecting the filiation of this knight; the former describing him as the son of Nicholas lord Stapleton; and the latter of sir Miles Stapleton, of Bedale. He was, in truth, the eldest son and heir of sir Gilbert Stapleton, by Agnes, daughter and coheir of Bryan lord Fitz Alan, of Bedale.

His military career commenced, like those of many of his contemporaries, in the expedition of Edward III. into Brittany in 1342; he was employed in the campaign of 1346 at Cressy and before Calais; and, in 1349 and 1354, his name occurs again amongst those who were on service in the wars of France.

SIR
MILES
STAPLE-
TON.

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TON.

In the last-mentioned year he was, by the description of "Dominus de Ingham et de Bedale," one of the nobles empowered to propose for the arbitration of the pope the matters in dispute between England and France.¹ In 1356, he accompanied Philip of Navarre in his operations in Normandy against the French monarch.² He was appointed in 1360 one of the guardians of the truce concluded by the treaty of Bretigny;³ and was joined in commission with sir Richard Stafford and sir Nele Loryng to ascertain and punish infractions of the truce of Chartres.⁴ About the same time his fidelity and valour were rewarded by a pension of 100*l.* out of the exchequer for life, or until lands of that annual value should be assigned to him.⁵ He had also licence to found a perpetual chantry, in honour of the Holy Trinity, in the parochial church of Ingham.

He died on Wednesday next before the feast of St. Nicholas, 4th December 1364,⁶ and was buried at Ingham, in Norfolk.

By Joan, his wife, second and youngest daughter and coheir of Oliver baron of Ingham, he had issue sir Miles Stapleton, his heir, whose grandson and heir, of the same name, died in 1466, leaving, by Catherine de la Pole, his second wife, two daughters and coheirs, viz. Elizabeth, who married, first, sir William Calthorpe (in her right) of Ingham; secondly, sir John Fortescue, chief justice of England; and, thirdly, sir Edward Howard, lord admiral: and Joan, who married, first, Christopher Harcourt, of Stanton Harcourt, esq.; and, secondly, sir John Hudleston. The former of these ladies is represented by the heir-general of the body of her son sir Francis Calthorpe, of Ingham: and the heir-general of Joan Harcourt is George-John lord Vernon; her heir male being George-Simon Harcourt, esq. of Ankerwycke, M.P. for Buckinghamshire.

ARMS.

Argent, a lion rampant Sable.

CREST.

A Saracen's head in profile Sable, wreathed about the temples.⁷

¹ Rymer, vol. v. p. 798.

² Ashmole, p. 699.

³ Rymer, vol. vi. pp. 175. 178.

⁴ Ibid. p. 208.

⁵ Pat. 21 June, 34 Ed. 3, p. 2, m. 30.

⁶ Esc. 1 Ric. 2, No. 32, and mon. inscription at Ingham.

⁷ Plate, extant in the ninth stall on the Sovereign's side.