

XXXI.

SIR RICHARD DE LA VACHE.

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At what period the family of La Vache, presumed to have been of Gascon origin, settled in England, does not appear. The name occurs in several instances in the public records during the reign of Edward I,¹ towards the close of which we find a grant of free warren in the parish of Chalfont St. Giles, in Buckinghamshire, to sir Richard de la Vache, knt.² from whom, or his son, the principal manor therein was afterwards denominated "The Vache." It is not clear, though not improbable, that the grantee was the same Richard who is frequently mentioned in the time of Edward III, and was elected into the Order upon the death of the lord Lisle in 1355.

That he was a person on whose courage and fidelity his sovereign relied in the hour of difficulty, is evident from the letters missive, directing him and others to hasten to the king when the French monarch had collected all the power of his kingdom for the purpose of giving battle, towards Pentecost in 1347.³ In 1361, he was appointed constable of the Tower of London for life.⁴ In 1363, he held a messuage within the manor of Chalfont, which had theretofore belonged to sir John de Wolverton.⁵ He had a protection to pass into parts beyond seas, dated 20th May 1362;⁶ and again in 1364.⁷

The jury, at the inquisition after his death taken on St. Ambrose's day [4 April] 1366, state that they were ignorant of the day of his decease. He must have died in January 1365-6; for, on the 29th of that month, the custody of the Tower of London was committed to sir Alan Buxhull.⁸

¹ Rot. Hundred. temp. Ed. 1, *passim*. Claus. 1 Ed. 1, cited in Vinc. No. 226, fo. 12^b.

² Rot. Chart. 31 Ed. 1, [1303,] No. 36.

³ Reading, 14th May, 21 Ed. 3. Rymer, vol. v. p. 563.

⁴ Pat. 35 Ed. 3, p. 1, m. 33.

⁵ Claus. 37 Ed. 3, cited in B 7 Coll. Armor.

⁶ Rot. Vasc. 36 Ed. 3, m. 11.

⁷ Ibid. 38 Ed. 3, m. 4.

⁸ Pat. 39 Ed. 3.

By the inquisition it appears that he died seised of the vill of Mansfield (in extent), and of lands and tenements in Sutton, Carleton, and Lyndesey, in Nottinghamshire.¹ This property he seems to have held only for life;² and his possessions in Buckinghamshire were probably not tenures in capite.

We have not discovered whom he married: queen Philippa presented, in 1349, a cask of Gascon wine to the lady Amy de la Vache.³

Sir Richard de la Vache was succeeded in his estate by his son and heir sir Philip de la Vache, who became also a knight of this most noble Order.⁴

ARMS.

Gules, three lions rampant Argent, ducally crowned Or; in the centre point a bezant.

CREST.

A cow's leg Ermine, bent towards the dexter, the hoof upwards Or.⁵

SIR
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XXXII.

THOMAS LORD UGHTRED.

THE ancestors of this knight had been proprietors, during several generations, of ample domains in Yorkshire, which devolved to him in 1309, on the decease of his father Robert Ughtred, lord of the manor of Scarborough.⁶ We find him first employed, in 1314, in the retinue of William lord Latimer, against the Scots;⁷ and he was, most probably, present in that year at the battle of Bannockburn, which terminated so gloriously for the cause of Robert Bruce. He attended the army which invaded Scotland in 1317;⁸

THOMAS
LORD
UGHTRED.

¹ Esc. 40 Ed. 3, No. 29, p. 2.

² Thoroton, p. 272.

³ Liber de exp. Phil. regine, 23 Ed. 3, in dom. cap. Westm.

⁴ See No. XCIV.

⁵ Plate, remaining in the fifth stall on the Sovereign's side. On

an escroll, under the escocheon, is this inscription: — "Mouns. S^r Richard levache."

⁶ Esc. 3 Ed. 2, No. 38.

⁷ Rot. Scoc. 8 Ed. 2, dorso. m. 8.

⁸ Ibid. 10 Ed. 2, m. 7.