

Extract From: **THE BATTLE ABBEY ROLL. VOL. I.**
 by
 The Duchess of Cleveland.

De La WARD : The family of **De La VARDE** long flourished in **Normandy**. The name, according to the **Societe des Antiquaires de Normandie**, is derived from a term of forest jurisdiction, "**marking the space assigned to each guard.**"

OSMOND La VARDE occurs in **1180** in the Exchequer Rolls of the province. **The De La Vardes proved their nobility in 1667, and belonged to the "Election de Bernay."** Their coat was Sable, in pale a sword Argent hiked Or; in chief two spur rowels of the same; totally different from the Vairy, Argent and Sable, borne by the English **De la Wardes**. I am inclined to believe that the two families had no connection with each other, and that the latter, first known as **Warda** or **De Warde**, derived their name from Gar or Garde, near **Corbeil, Isle de France**.

INGELRAM De WARDA is mentioned in Northamptonshire in **1130**, and **Willielmo de Garda** witnesses one of John de Hastings' deeds in the time of Henry II. In Yorkshire, "**the ancient family of the Wards,**" according to Thoresby, "**appears in possession of GUISELEY from the earliest period to which records ascend.**"

THE NUNNERY OF ESHOLT (Essheholt, the Ash wood) was founded in the middle of the 12th Century by **SIMON De WARD II**, who, "**while he freely bestowed the fairest and most fruitful portion of his estate on strangers, was content to reserve for himself and his posterity a Mansion and domain at Guiseley which no modern landowner, who had been possessed of both would have been content to inhabit for a twelvemonth.**"



SIMON DE WARD II

His descendants had, however, other and better possessions; and gave lands to **FOUNTAINS ABBEY** at Givendale, Yorkshire and **Sawley**, Derbyshire and **Sleaford**, Lincolnshire.

SIR SIMON WARD III, who succeeded his father in 1306, was one of the County magnates, and a soldier whose name long remained a household word in Yorkshire. His first campaign was against the Scots in Galloway in 1308: in 1311 he was a Supervisor of Array and Leader of the Levies in Yorkshire; and in 1313, after receiving his pardon as an adherent of **THOMAS, EARL OF LANCASTER**, Simon was taken prisoner at the battle of **Bannockburn**.

Archbishop Greenfield, of whom he held **GUISELEY**, contributed £20 towards his ransom; and in 1314 he recommenced, as **Captain of Berwick-upon-Tweed**, his harassing and life-long warfare against the Scots.

He was **High Sheriff of York** in 1316; and when the insurrection was raised by the **EARL OF LANCASTER** and his party against the King in 1321, he, being still **Sheriff**, was appointed sole **Commissioner** to assemble the forces of **Yorkshire** to resist them.



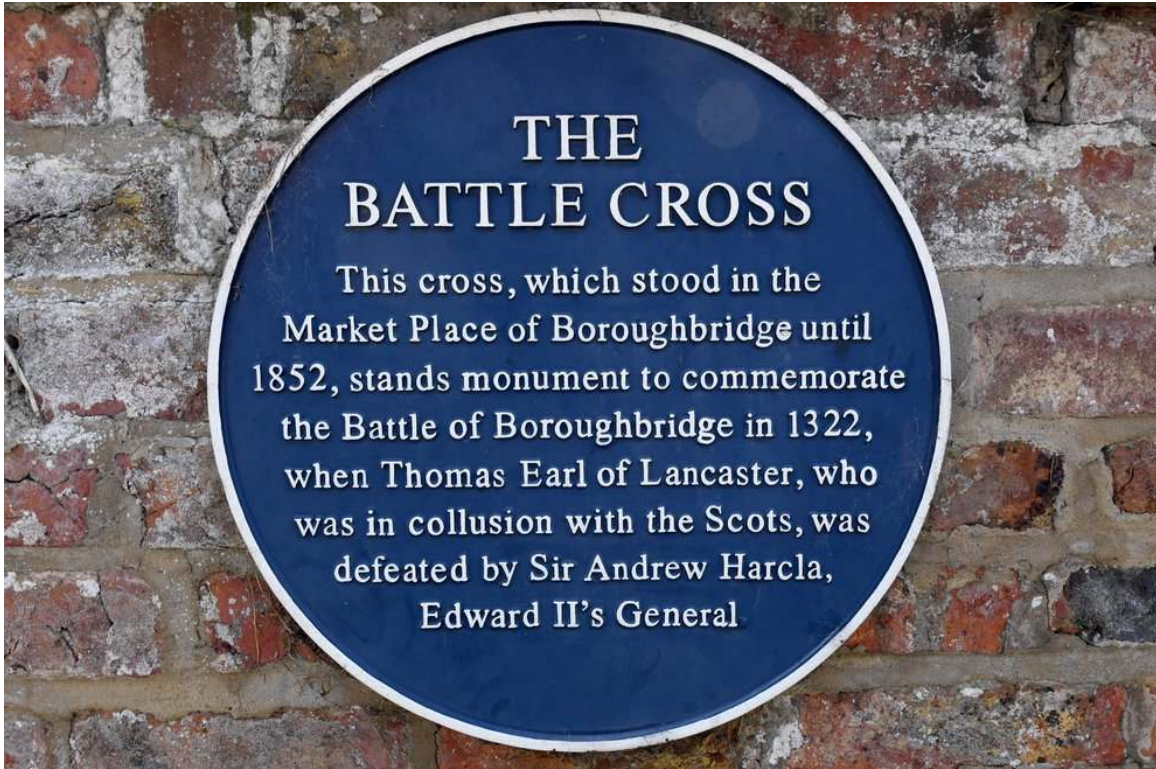
SIR SIMON WARD III

"But a far greater distinction awaited **Sir SIMON WARD III**, and within three miles of his own house. For the **EARL of LANCASTER**, after setting fire to **Burton-upon-Trent**, and fleeing from the Royal army, having been compelled, by a Council of his adherents at **Pontefract Castle**, to march to his **Castle of Dunstanbrough**, in **Northumberland**, advanced on Tuesday, the **16th March, 1322**, to the pass of the River Ure, at **BOROUGHBRIDGE**.

Here they found the forces of **SIR ANDREW HARCLA** and **SIR SIMON WARD III** drawn up to oppose their progress, and an obstinate engagement took place in attempting to force the wooden bridge, when the **EARL of HEREFORD** was slain; and on the following day, after an endeavour to pass the ford, the **EARL of LANCASTER** and the greater part of his followers were made prisoners in the town.

The parochial Chapel, a few hundred paces from the bridge, to which the Earl of Lancaster probably fled, and looking on the Crucifix, said, 'Good Lord, I rendre myself to thee, and put me ynto thy mercy,' has lately been ruthlessly swept away; but a cross of the period, no doubt commemorative of the battle, is still to be seen."—J. R. Walbran.





SIR SIMON WARD III attended the Great Council at Westminster in 1324; another of the "Magnates" of Winchester of the same date (Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs): and was busied with public affairs to the last day of his life. He died in 1334.

"Whether, after having passed through so many perils, he died at last in his bed, has not been ascertained; neither why he had incurred that extreme censure of the Church which required Abbot Coxwold to pass through the awe-stricken townsmen of Ripon, who had rejoiced in his might, to absolve the senseless corpse whose spirit had passed away to the supreme tribunal of its God. It was a form that was necessary to enable him to have Christian burial: but whether he obtained it in the CHURCH OF RIPON, or among the nuns at ESHOLT PRIORY, is forgotten."—Ibid.

WILLIAM CAMDEN (1551-1623) ([English Historian](#)) says that the WARD residence was at Grindal, a small village lying between Bridlington and Hunmanby, "of note only for being the seat of Captain SIMON WARD IV, High Sheriff in this County, 9 Edward II."

He had in addition a house at **GIVENDALE**, Yorkshire where his successors chiefly abode, and a "**faire Manor-place of stone**"—long since destroyed—remained in Leland's time. It "**stood upon the Eastern bank of the River Ure, about three miles below Ripon, commanding sweet prospects up and down the vale.**"

Here, knighted in each successive generation, the direct male line continued till 1521.



Captain SIMON WARD IV

The last heir, SIR CHRISTOPHER WARD, Master of the Hart-hounds to Richard III., fought at Flodden, and was Standard-bearer to **Henry VIII** at Boulogne. He left, according to Thoresby, "one daughter and three granddaughters—namely the daughters of his daughter Anne Nevill—his co-heirs."

A cadet of this house, **BERNARD WARD**, went to **Ireland** in 1570, and there founded the family now represented by **Lord Bangor**.

His son **NICHOLAS WARD**, was born in his adopted Country in 1606, and was the father of:

1. **Bernard Ward;**
2. **Sir Robert Ward**, created a baronet by **Charles II** for his loyalty during the Civil War, who having survived his only son, died sine prole;
3. **Thomas Ward**, a Colonel in the King's army, slain at Worcester; and
4. **Arthur Ward**, whose line expired in the following generation. **Bernard**, the first born, was the grandfather of another **Bernard**, **Sheriff of County Down** in 1690, who fell in a duel with **Jocelyn Hamilton**, where both adversaries received their death wound.

The next in succession, singularly enough, acquired **BANGOR** through a **Hamilton heiress**, and their son **Bernard** was created in 1770 **Baron Bangor Of Castle Ward, County Down**, and **Viscount Bangor** in 1781.

Contemporary with the **SHERIFF SIMON WARD III**, and perhaps his kinsman, was **ROBERT De La WARD (1252-1307)** Steward of the Household to King Edward I., who was summoned to Parliament as a **Baron** in 1299, and served at the siege of **Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfries, Scotland** in the ensuing year.

ROBERT De La WARD married **IDONEA**, daughter of **ROBERT Lord Fitz WALTER**, by whom he was enfeoffed of the **MANOR of SHOPLAND (or SHAPLAND)**.

"In 1307, they held Shopland jointly of King Edward II "in capite" (i.e. held directly from the King), as of the Honour of Bologne, by the service of one knight's fee."

Most likely **ROBERT De La WARD** was himself an Essex man, for his father, **JOHN De La WARD**, occurs in the Monasticon among the benefactors of **Little Dunmow Priory, Essex**.

In the famous letter of 1301 addressed to the **POPE** by 103 English Barons & Earls assembled at **Lincoln**, to which **ROBERT De La WARD** is a co-signatory. The letter was written by English Nobles as a repudiation to the Pope of his claim to feudal overlordship of **Scotland**, which he had expressed in a Papal bull dated 27 June 1299 at **Agnani**. (The letter was not actually sent.)

IDONEA FITZ-WARINE gave **ROBERT De La WARD** only a daughter; but by an earlier marriage he had another daughter and a son named **SIMON WARD III**, who was appointed **Governor of York**, and subsequently **Constable of Pontefract**.

It seems Robert died "sine prole" (no heirs), for his heirs were the two half-sisters already named, **Joan, wife of Hugh Meinell**, and **Margaret**, married first to **Thomas Staple**, and secondly to **John Chanceus**. The male line probably survived in collaterals. **Warde of Hinckley in Leicestershire** was a Baron; and the name, at least, travelled all over England.