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BERNERS

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BARONY BY WRIT. I. SIR JOHN BOURCHIER, 4th s. of Sir William BOURCHIER, COUNT OF EU in Normandy, by Anne,<sup>(b)</sup>

da. of Thomas (surnamed "of Woodstock"),<sup>(c)</sup> DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, 6th s. of Edward III. He was knighted 19 May 1426, at Leicester, by the Duke of Bedford, and was sum. to Parl. from 26 May (1455) 33 Hen. VI to 19 Aug. (1472) 12 Edw. IV,<sup>(d)</sup> by writs directed *Johanni Bourghchier de Berners chivaler*, whereby he is held to have become LORD BERNERS.<sup>(e)</sup> K.G. before 23 Apr. 1459. Constable of Windsor Castle 17 Dec. 1461-74. He m. Margery, widow of John FERREBY (who *d. s.p.*; will dat. 1 Oct., pr. 12 Nov. 1441), and da. and h. of Sir Richard BERNERS, of West Horsley, Surrey (said to have been usually spoken of as LORD BERNERS),<sup>(f)</sup> by Philippe, da. of Sir Edward DALYNGRIDGE. He *d.* 16 or 21 May 1474, and was *bur.* at Chertsey Abbey, Surrey. Will dat. 21 Mar. 1473/4, pr. 21 June 1474.<sup>(g)</sup> His widow *d.* 18 Dec. 1475. *Inq. p. m.* 30 Apr. (1476) 16 Edw. IV.

II. 1474 to 1533. 2. JOHN (BOURCHIER), LORD BERNERS, grandson and h., being s. and h. of Sir Humphrey B., by Elizabeth,<sup>(h)</sup> da. and sole h. of Frederick TYLNEY, of Boston, co. Lincoln, which Humphrey was s. and h. ap. of the last Lord and *d. v.p.*, being slain at the battle of Barnet (on the Yorkist side),

<sup>(a)</sup> In Collins's *Baronies by Writ*, pp. 331 *sqq.*, there is an elaborate account of the Barony of Berners, to prove the claim thereto of Katherine Bokenham, drawn up by Peter Le Neve, Norroy, in 1717. This account has been used in the text. V.G.

<sup>(b)</sup> She was sole h. to her br., Humphrey, Earl of Buckingham, and thus transmitted to her representatives the right of quartering the royal arms as differenced in the grant thereof to her said father.

<sup>(c)</sup> As to his supposed name of "Plantagenet," see *ante*, vol. i, p. 183, note "c." V.G.

<sup>(d)</sup> There is proof in the rolls of Parl. of his sitting.

<sup>(e)</sup> "But in 2 Edw. IV he was sum. as *Dominus Berners*, and from 6 Edw. IV to 10 Edw. IV (inclusive) as *Johannes Berners*" (*ex inform.* J. Horace Round). According to the first writ however (that in 1455) the title would seem rather to have been LORD *Bourchier* OF BERNERS, there having (apparently) been no previously acknowledged Barony of Berners of which he (*jure uxoris*) was a representative. It has however always been spoken of as "Berners," and accordingly is so given here. He sat in the House of Lords with his 3 brothers, *viz.* (1) Henry, *cr.* Earl of Essex, (2) Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, (3) William, *cr.* Earl Fitz-Warine. For similar cases see note *sub* BOYLE OF KINALMEAKY.

<sup>(f)</sup> "In the reign of Henry V, Richard Berners 'had the reputation of a Baron of this realm, though nothing of his creation or summons to Parliament that I could ever see,' says Dugdale, 'doth appear thereof;' *ob.* 1421, *s.p.m.*" See *Nicolas*, reproduced by *Courthope*.

<sup>(g)</sup> *Test. Vet.*

<sup>(h)</sup> This Elizabeth was afterwards the first wife of Thomas (Howard), Duke of Norfolk, and ancestress of the succeeding Dukes.

Easter day, 14 Apr. 1471. He, who was aged 7 at his grandfather's death in 1474, was distinguished as a soldier, a courtier, and an author of considerable note.<sup>(a)</sup> K.B. 17 Jan. 1477/8. He was sum. to Parl. from 14 Oct. (1495) 11 Hen. VII to 9 Aug. (1529) 21 Hen. VIII.<sup>(b)</sup> In 1513 he was at the capture of Théroutenne, and soon after was Marshal of the Earl of Surrey's army in Scotland. In 1514 he went to France as Chamberlain to the Princess Mary, wife of Louis XII. Chancellor of the Exchequer 1516-27. In 1518 was on an embassy to Spain, and in 1519 was at the field of the Cloth of Gold, and in 1520 was Deputy of the town and marches of Calais. He *m.* Katharine, da. of John (HOWARD), DUKE OF NORFOLK, by his 2nd wife (whose only child she was), Margaret, da. of Sir John CHEDWORTH.<sup>(c)</sup> He *d.* at Calais, *s.p.m. legit.*, 19 Mar. 1532/3, and was *bur.* in the parish church there, aged about 67. Will, dat. 3 Mar. 1532/3, pr. 4 Feb. 1533/4.<sup>(d)</sup> His widow *d.* 12 Mar. 1535/6.

After his death the Barony<sup>(e)</sup> lay *dormant* for the long period of about two centuries, till its existence was established in 1720. Those who under that decision were entitled to it are as under.

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(<sup>a</sup>) He translated *Froissart*.

(<sup>b</sup>) According to Dugdale, "In the 25th Henry VIII, 5 January 1534," the name of "Humphrido Bouchier de Berners, Chel'r," occurs in the writs of summons. This supposed writ, which puzzled Nicolas and other peerage writers, has been proved by J. H. Round to be one of a series of writs for Jan. 1534 concocted by Dugdale. See *Peerage Studies*, p. 340. V.G.

(<sup>c</sup>) In Glover's *Visit. of Yorkshire*, (ed. 1875, p. 63) he is stated to have been divorced from his 1st wife, and to have *m.* Elizabeth Bacon. This woman was his concubine, and whether he *m.* her or no, all his issue by her were illegitimate. G. W. Watson's comment is as follows:—"He could not have married her. In his will he beseeches the King's highness to accept in payment of a debt of £500 'after the decease of my lady my wief the mannors of Houghton Ofsley and Doxey,' which manors had been settled on Katherine by deed of jointure 1 May 7 Hen. VII.\* And 'Kateryne Bourghier widdow late the wyff of Sir John Bourghier kt. Lord Barnes' held these three Staffordshire manors 8 Apr. 24 Hen. VIII, as appears by her deed of that date. See the documents in *Collins, ut supra*, pp. 337-8." V.G.

(<sup>d</sup>) *Test. Vet.*

(<sup>e</sup>) According to the usual account, the Barony fell into abeyance, which did not terminate till about 1550, on the death *s.p.*, of the elder da. of the last Lord, *viz.* Mary, wife of Alexander Unton, of Wadley, Berks. This is incorrect. The manors of Ashwellthorpe, etc., had been settled on Mary by deed dated 10 June 1510, 2 Hen. VIII. Immediately after the last Lord's death, *viz.* on 24 Mar. (1532/3) 24 Hen. VIII, the King agreed to grant special livery to "Edmund Knyvet esq. and Johane his wife da. and h. of John Bourghier kt. Lord Berners," not only of the manors settled on Joan, but also of those settled on Mary, proving that the latter had died *v.p.* and *s.p.* Moreover the settlements made on Alexander Unton's 2nd marriage were dated 14 and 16 July 25 Hen. VIII. † (Documents in *Collins, ut supra*, pp. 340-44; *ex inform.* G. W. Watson). V.G.



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III. 1533. 3. JANE, 2nd but only surv. da. and h. of the last Lord, who, on his death, became his sole representative, and consequently *suo jure de jure* BARONESS BERNERS,<sup>(a)</sup> but never assumed that dignity. She inherited the estate of Ashwellthorpe, Norfolk, and *m.* Edmund KNYVETT, Sergeant Porter to Henry VIII, who *d.* Apr. 1539,<sup>(b)</sup> and was *bur.* at Ashwellthorpe. *Inq. p. m.* 30 Sep. (1539) 31 Hen. VIII. She *d.* his widow, 17 Feb., and was *bur.* 2 Mar. 1561/2, at Ashwellthorpe. M.I. Will dat. 6 Apr. 1560, pr. 9 Mar. 1561/2.

IV. 1562. 4. SIR THOMAS KNYVETT, *de jure* LORD BERNERS,<sup>(a)</sup> grandson and h., being s. and h. of John K., by Agnes, da. of Sir John HARCOURT, of Stanton Harcourt, Oxon, which John K. was s. and h. ap. of Jane *de jure* Baroness Berners abovenamed, and *d. v. m.* He was *b.* about 1539; knighted Aug. 1579; Sheriff of Norfolk 1579-80. He obtained, about 1616, a certificate from the Commissioners for the office of Earl Marshal of his *right and title to the Barony of Berners*, but *d.* before obtaining the King's confirmation thereof. He *m.* Muriel, sister and coh. of Sir Thomas PARRY, of Welford, Berks, and da. of Sir Thomas PARRY, Treasurer of the Household to Queen Elizabeth. She *d.* 25, and was *bur.* 26 Apr. 1616, at Ashwellthorpe. He *d.* 9 Feb. 1617/8, and was *bur.* there the same day, aged about 78. Will dat. 30 Jan., pr. 6 Mar. 1617/8. *Inq. p. m.* 26 Aug. (1618) 16 Jac. I.

V. 1618. 5. THOMAS KNYVETT, *de jure* LORD BERNERS,<sup>(a)</sup> grandson and h., being s. and h. of Sir Thomas K. (the younger), by Elizabeth, 2nd da. and coh. of Sir Nathaniel BACON, K.B., of Stiffkey, Norfolk, which Sir Thomas was s. and h. ap. of Thomas, *de jure* LORD BERNERS abovenamed, and *d. v. p.*, and was *bur.* 20 Sep. 1605. He was *bap.* at Ashwellthorpe, 10 June 1596. He *m.*, 28 Feb. 1620, at St. Mary le Strand, Katherine, 4th and yst. da. of Thomas (BURGH), LORD BURGH (of Gainsborough), by Frances, da. of John VAUGHAN, of Golden Grove, co. Carmarthen. She, w<sup>idow</sup>, as coh. to her br., Robert, the last Lord, was *bur.* at Ashwellthorpe, 1 May 1646. He *d.* at Henham Hall, Suffolk, 30 June, and was *bur.* 2 July 1658, at Ashwellthorpe, aged 62, being styled in his M.I., *Armiger Baro hereditarius de Berners*.

VI. 1658. 6. SIR JOHN KNYVETT, *de jure* LORD BERNERS,<sup>(a)</sup> s. and h., K.B. at the coronation of Charles II, 23 Apr. 1661. He *m.* (cont. 7 June), 13 June 1655, at Darsham, Suffolk, Mary, 1st da. of Sir Thomas BEDINGFIELD, of Darsham. He *d.* 28, and was *bur.* 30 July 1673, at Ashwellthorpe. M.I. Will dat. 16 May 1673, pr. 13 Feb. 1673/4. His widow *d.* 18, and was *bur.* 21 Apr. 1713, at Ashwellthorpe, aged 79. M.I. Will dat. 16 Oct. 1710, pr. 5 Aug. 1713.

(a) According to the decision of 1720.

(b) According to his *Inq. p. m.*, he *d.* "primo die Maii ultimo preterito," but the statement appears to be inaccurate, as on 30 Apr. (1539) 31 Hen. VIII, "Johanna Knyvet vidua nuper uxor Edmundi Knyvet" surrendered Thetford to her s., John. (Deed in *Collins, ut supra*, pp. 345-6; *ex inform.* G. W. Watson). V.G.

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