

The Rapes of Sussex, Hundreds of Hastings Rape and the people of the Rape of Hastings to 1538



Part One

History and Formation of the Rapes

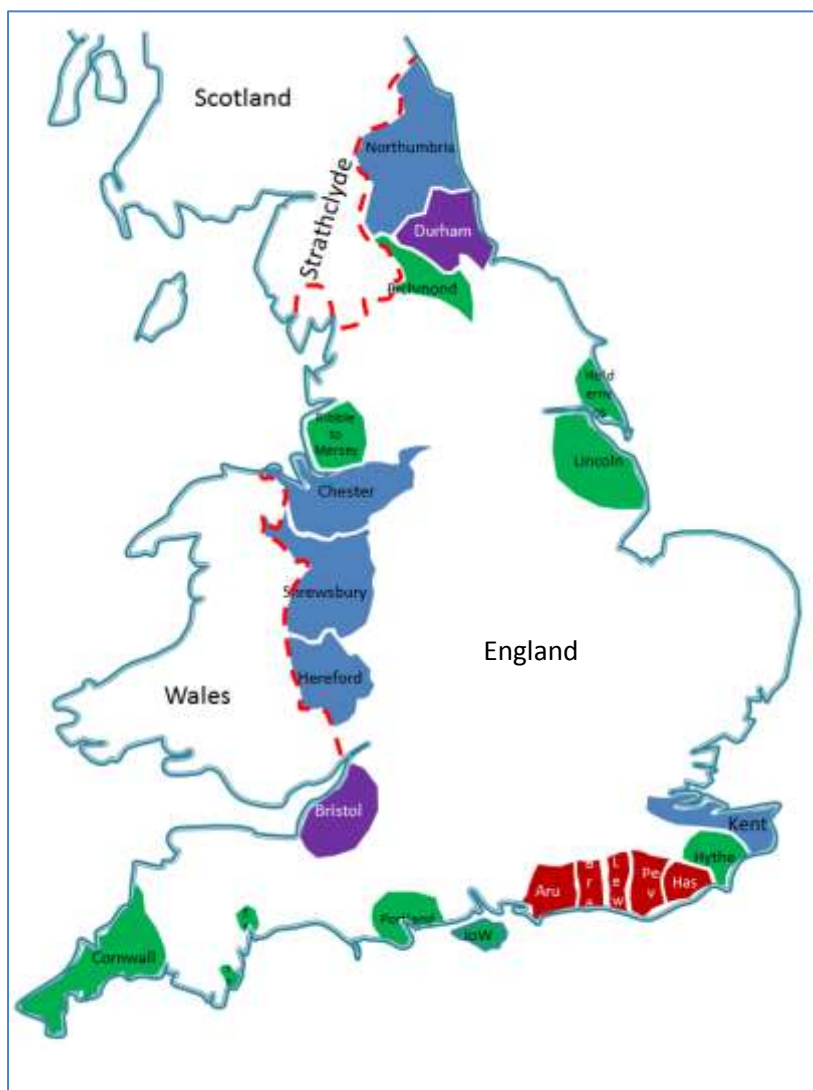
The Rapes of the county into which William the Conqueror divided Sussex after 1066 were part of William's early defensive strategic moves, with similar areas elsewhere in England – except that they were not called 'Rapes'. The concept also lasted for a very long time.

Saxon precursors to the Rapes have been proposed, possibly formed along the same lines as the Lathes of Kent, although the latter appear older and were well defined areas pre-Conquest. But Lathe courts persisted in Pevensey and Hastings Rapes post Conquest, which indicates a possible persisting Kentish influence. As always in Sussex (it seems to the author) the pre-1066 concept is historically vaguer and therefore historically controversial, although Domesday definitely refers to their existence in some form 'in the time of King Edward' with references of fragments of Sussex manors allocated to adjacent Rapes. The system may have also its roots in the Burghal forts system of King Alfred with areas of supporting hidage to each fort, which in turn may have had even earlier roots. Even the origin of the name is obscure – although an early North Germanic precursor is possible as the word 'hreppr' in Old Norse can mean 'a share or an estate held in absolute ownership'.

Domesday shows that the English possessions given to William I's barons were usually very scattered, something which was quite common in Normandy and may have been a deliberate method of ensuring that local landowners worked together and did not easily plot together. But Domesday also demonstrates that in certain frontier and coastal districts blocks of territory were granted to single individuals. Best known are the Scots and Welsh border areas and the Sussex Rapes. All can be better termed 'Castelries' for general discussion.

The frontier zone (or 'Marches') against Wales was split into the three marcher earldoms, Chester, Shrewsbury and Hereford, the Scots border was covered by Richmond (the land of Count Alan [Alan Rufus] of Brittany, before 1071), Northumberland and the Bishopric of Durham (the first Prince-Bishop appointed 1071 by William was William Walcher). On the east coast the mouth of the Humber, vulnerable to Danish invasion, was covered to the north by Holderness, and the south by Barrow on Humber and other parts of Lincolnshire, both held by Drogo de Beuvriere, Count of Aumale, possibly married to a niece of William. The Dee and Wirral coast east of north Wales, protecting against possible Norwegian or Danish invaders via Ireland, was covered by the northern Welsh march with Hugh d'Avranches as Earl of Chester, then there was 'the land between Ribble and Mersey' with Roger of Poitou as tenant in chief. Similarly facing Ireland to the south of Wales Bishop Geoffrey of Coutances held grouped estates around Bristol and stretching into Somerset

and Gloucestershire. Cornwall was with William's half-brother the Count of Mortain. To the west of the Sussex Rapes the Isle of Wight, which protected the two arms of the Solent and had often featured in potential invasion plans was held in single ownership by William fitz Osbern (who was also Earl of Hereford, the southern Welsh march) then his son Roger until 1075, although they were physically based at Winchester. The sole ownership here did not persist however following Roger's revolt and imprisonment in 1075 when it appears that William resumed direct over-lordship of the Island, which in the recent past had acted like an 'aircraft carrier' for invasions by Vikings and the Godwin family. In addition Sussex was flanked further west by grouped single ownership manors granted to Robert de Mortain around Portland – protecting Dorset, Poole harbour and the River Frome, with further smaller groups or 'honours' around Exeter and around Totnes, although William retained much direct over-lordship in this area, probably secondary to Exeter's earlier resistance. There were similar grouped holdings in Kent to the east, with Bishop Odo (aka Earl of Kent) holding Dover and extensive areas around Sandwich, Folkestone and north Kent, and with a smaller coastal zone around Hythe – 'the divisio' of Hugh of Montfort with a castle at Saltwood, not held directly from William, but from the Archbishop of Canterbury.



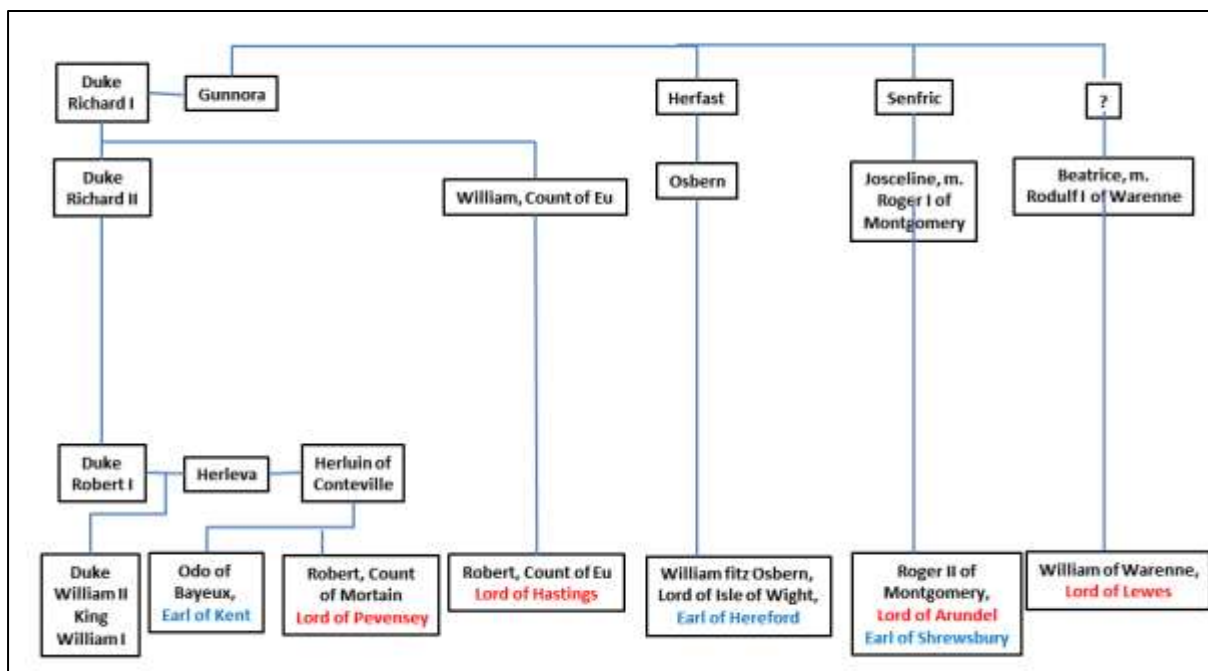
William's defensive zones

- Blue** zones are earldoms,
- Green** 'divisios'
- Purple** 'warrior Bishops'
- Red**, Sussex Rapes

Borders all indicative only

It has been estimated that in the 7th century Sussex consisted of about 70 ‘hundreds’ containing 3200 or so ‘hides’ which were divided fairly equally between eastern and western Sussex as divided by the River Adur, which runs north-south halfway through the Rape of Bramber. The Adur was later the ecclesiastical division between the archdeaconries of Chichester and Lewes. Larger groupings of hundreds into district divisions evidently existed by the early tenth century, although they may not have been called Rapes, and the names and boundaries were not always the same. To complicate matters some of the imposed Norman Rape boundaries cut through the middle of hundreds, particularly Easewrith, Windham and Fishergate (aka Aldrington) and hundred boundaries cut through villages. One-third of the town of Lewes lay in Pevensey Rape, but Lewes and South Malling manors were held as tenant-in-chief by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The names, borders and numbers of the internal divisions of Sussex were repeatedly adjusted, and Domesday reported how they were at one instant in time in 1086.

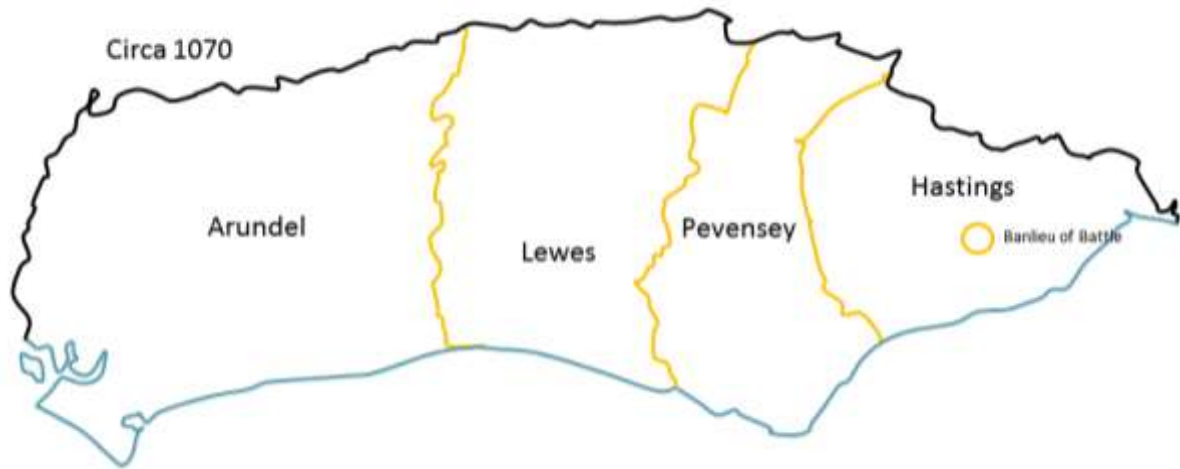
William I’s initial Sussex Rapes were formed at an early stage after the Conquest, probably after William’s return from Normandy and landing at Winchelsea in December 1067 and certainly by 1071. Eu received Hastings in May 1070. Each was also a ‘Castelry’ centred on a castle, and held by a tenant in chief, all of whom were Normans and kin or trusted friends of William, each of whom appointed a non-royal sheriff.



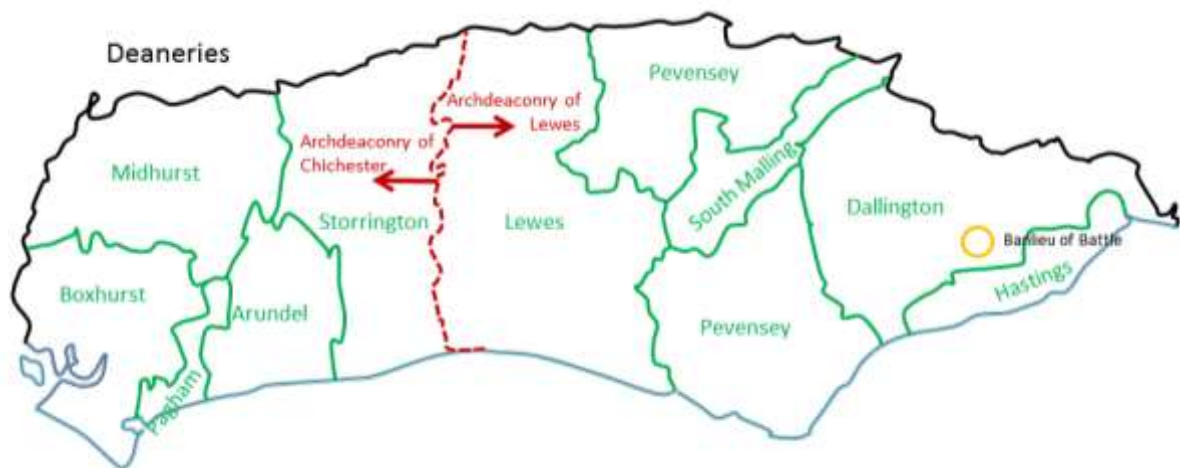
Many key Castelry grants were to relatives of William I, who had supported him in Normandy. Robert, Count of Eu was a cousin. Odo and Robert of Mortain were half-brothers, a number were related via his great-grandmother, Gunnora de Crepon.

This gives rise to the entirely logical conjecture initiated by Salzman and agreed with by Mason that initially Sussex contained only FOUR Rapes before 1073 – Arundel to the west covering the whole of western Sussex to the Adur, the Rape of Lewes from the Adur to the Ouse, Pevensey (coincident with the deaneries of Pevensey and the Archbishop of

Canterbury's deanery of South Malling) and Hastings (coincident with the deaneries of Hastings and Dallington).



The first of William's Rapes. The Banlieu of Battle was a Royal Peculiar, responsible directly to the crown with abbatial administration and justice and not part of Hastings Rape. The number of hides counted at Domesday west and east of the Adur was almost equal at around 1600 hides each



For comparison the old ecclesiastical deanery boundaries of the see of Chichester are shown. There was some concordance, particularly with the archdeaconry boundary being the river Adur, as was the initial Lewes/Arundel rape boundary and the Dallington deanery boundary corresponded with the Hastings/Pevensey rapes boundary. But William would happily ignore ecclesiastical boundaries. The Banlieu of Battle was free from the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Chichester. Modern coastline shown.

A fifth rape, Bramber, was therefore created out of the eastern end of Arundel (possibly to reduce the burden on Earl Roger de Montgomery, who was also well compensated by becoming earl of Shrewsbury, the middle Welsh march, therefore receiving most of Shropshire on the Welsh border by 1072) and the western end of Lewes, leaving the ecclesiastical boundary stranded mid-Bramber. These plus losses of further manors from north Lewes to Pevensey caused William to give to Earl de Warenne some manors in

Norfolk, some described in the Norfolk Domesday entries as 'of the exchange of Lewes' in compensation for his loss of Sussex manors.

So the initial rapes would have been were initially four in number and mainly corresponded with ecclesiastical deanery boundaries. The tenants in chief and their geographical extent were:

Earl Roger de Montgomery (The Rape of Earl Roger, later of Arundel and by 1275 to be divided into two called Rape of Arundel and Rape of Chichester. This covered western Sussex eastwards to the Adur)

William de Warrene (Rape of Lewes, from the Adur to the Ouse, plus the 28 or so manors north of the deanery of South Malling, the last later transferred to Pevensey, possibly at the same time as the creation of Bramber)

Robert, Count de Mortain, (Rape of Pevensey, Ouse to the ecclesiastical boundary of the deanery of Dallington, later added to by the manors north of the deanery of South Malling)

William, Count of Eu (Rape of Hastings, from the ecclesiastical boundary of the deanery of Dallington to the Kent-Sussex border, but not including the banlieu, lowey or sometime Rape of Battle, given by William to the abbey of St Martin at Battle, without compensation to local Norman land holders)

The last Rape to be formed, with modifications to neighbouring Rapes, only three years later in about 1073 was held by William de Briouze or Braose (The Rape of William de Briouze, was initially centred on Steyning, later on Bramber castle and only after 1187 called the Rape of Bramber). This creation entailed the transfer of about 17 valuable manors from Lewes and further manors from west of the Adur from Arundel).

So in 1086 there were 49 hundreds in Sussex and the number of hundreds in each Rape was:

Arundel 14 plus $\frac{2}{3}$ of Easewrith = $14\frac{2}{3}$;

Bramber 6 plus $\frac{1}{3}$ each of Aldrington and Easewrith and $\frac{2}{3}$ of Wyndham = $7\frac{1}{3}$;

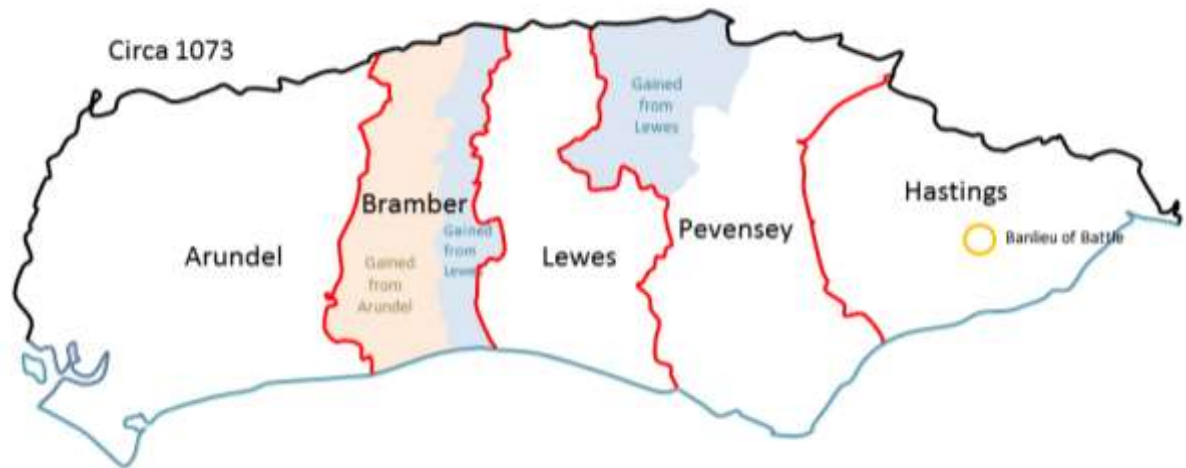
Lewes 9 plus $\frac{1}{3}$ each of Wyndham, Hartfield and Rushmonden and $\frac{2}{3}$ each of Aldrington and East Grinstead = $11\frac{1}{3}$;

Pevensey 12 plus $\frac{1}{3}$ of East Grinstead and $\frac{2}{3}$ each of Hartfield and Rushmonden = $13\frac{2}{3}$;

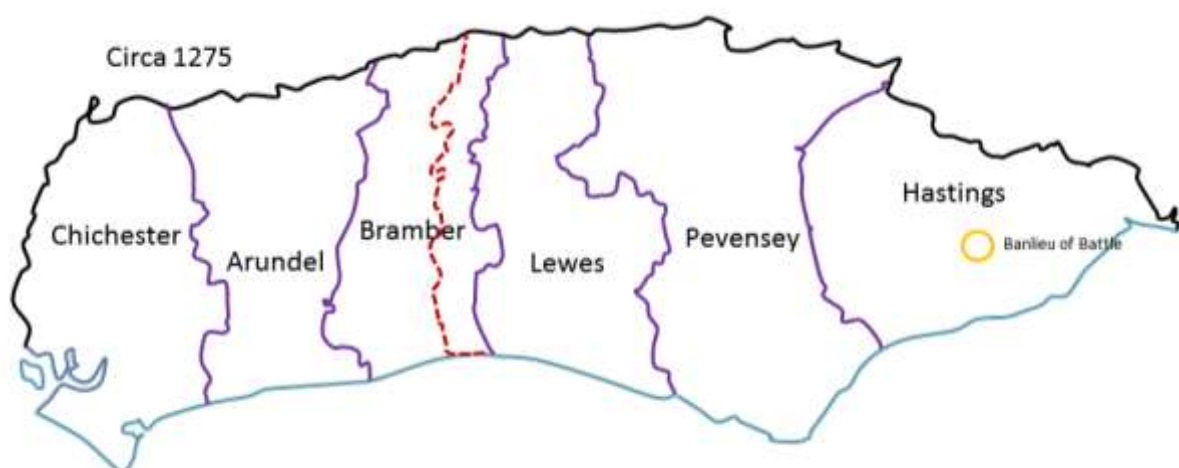
Hastings 12 not including the banlieu of Battle.

The Rape structure is described in a fragmented way in the Sussex entries of the Domesday Book of 1086 but Mason valiantly untangled with some degree of certainty the major exchanges required to create Bramber – with reference to the manors gained in Norfolk by William of Warrene. Sometime post creation of Bramber and by 1275 Arundel was divided into the two Rapes of Arundel ($4\frac{2}{3}$ hundreds, all quite large), and Chichester (10 hundreds). The Rapes then persisted, with minor changes and rationalisation of outlying manors as semi-administrative units until the 19th century.

The sequence of the events is clarified in the maps above and below. A full coincidence of all deanery and administrative boundaries is unlikely given changes over the centuries and the maps are indicative only



The fifth Rape is added, with transfers of manors and hundreds (not necessarily whole ones) from Arundel and Lewes to make up Bramber on either side of the Adur. Some manors also transferred to Pevensey from Lewes. Although the number and value of the hundreds and manors 'donated' varied it appears that the total area from each neighbour may be roughly equivalent. William of Warenne was given manors in Norfolk to compensate for his losses. Earl Roger of Montgomery got most of Shropshire. Hastings Rape was unchanged.



The later division of Arundel into two rapes, Arundel and Chichester. The old archdeaconry division (dashed line) is also shown for interest

Given the changes described above it is clear that the rapes as then constituted to the west of Pevensey could not have been exactly the same as any pre-Conquest Rapes. But Hastings and Pevensey could have pre-existed as they were little changed except for enlargement of Pevensey, indeed Hastings may have been completely unaltered barring sorting out outlying manors. It is tempting to think that this may represent at least in part the semi-autonomous Hæstingas area, known since at least the eight century. This may also be why these two

rapes remained for some centuries with some Kentish local legal structures with Lathe (not Rape) courts to settle local matters, although these courts became more and more anomalous as they gradually fell between the hundred courts and the Justices' petty and quarter sessions. Lewes might also have existed as a Rape before 1066 as a comment is made in the pre-Conquest customal of Lewes concerning buying slaves within the 'rape'.

Clearly the coastal Castelries covered zones which controlled inlets, harbours, estuarine routes and landing beaches giving access to the littoral of Sussex, they also had hinterlands for some distance allowing defence in depth and a degree control of westwards and eastward movements. By 1086 there were at least five stone castles in Sussex, one each in the Rapes of Hastings, Lewes, Bramber, Pevensey and Arundel (the first castle at Chichester is not noted until 1142). As Sir Henry Ellis asserted in 1833 the re-organisation / recreation / establishment of the Sussex Rapes should be seen as creating defensive military districts or Castelries rather than being seen as pre-Conquest administrative areas adapted for defence by William I. Although there was significant disregard of the manorial structure of Anglo-Saxon Sussex the name 'Rape' may also have just been conveniently absorbed as a local convention by William. As has been noted elsewhere place name changes were rare.

Their original *raison d'être* of a strong coastal defensive line disappeared quite quickly as the Norman state took full and firm control, and North Sea neighbours thought long and hard before taking them on, the last big scare to William I being in 1085, when he rapidly deployed an army from Normandy to counter a Danish threat. But Rapes continued to exist for a very long time, at first being used for local government and exchequer purposes in the collection of Subsidy Rolls, as judicial areas and for mustering and militia recruitment. They became mostly obsolete in 1889, following the Local Government Act 1888, when the three western Rapes became West Sussex and the three eastern ones East Sussex. By 1894 most administrative functions of the rapes had ended, but it is noted that Hastings had a franchise Coroner until 1960 under a rather complicated arrangement detailed in ESRO ref. SHE/2.



The six martlets (stylized birds similar to a house martin or swallow) on both East and West Sussex coats of arms are often said to represent the six Rapes, linking to the past. Another theory suggested that the emblem was linked to the 'Arundel' family, but this has been confused with the Arundel family of Lanherne, Cornwall who bore arms that were black with six silver

swallows (the family associated with Arundel, Sussex was d'Aubigny whose arms were red with a lion rampant!) The most likely precursor is the arms of Sir John de Radynden, who from 1316 served as commissioner of array, who recruited men for military service. John de Radynden's daughter Alice married Sir Roger Dallingridge, who built Bodiam castle in 1385 on whose gatehouse are seen the six martlets.



Other recent administrative changes have continued to seriously confuse the historic structures.



Administrative map of the county of Sussex in 1832. Showing Rapes, Hundreds and Boroughs. There were still some 'outlying' bits of some hundreds By XrysD (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>) or GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>)], via Wikimedia Commons



Enlarged view to show the Hundreds of Hastings Rape.

Originally Netherfield/Battle was one hundred of 'Halesaltede', later split into Netherfield and Battle half-hundreds. Guesting incorporated Winchelsea and Rye plus the 'old town' area of Hastings. Baldslow incorporated the rest of Hastings. The superimposed dark blue boundaries show these differences from later boundaries. Hastings Rape borders are unchanged historically apart from slight changes to the Kent-East Sussex border and coastal changes (neither shown). See Part 2 below for modern vs. Domesday names.

Part Two

The Hundreds of the Rape of Hastings

These will be described by modern name in tabular form. Where necessary hidages etc. are added from numbers recorded in the Rape of Pevensey.

The number of households is as recorded in Domesday and the population density is calculated as 4x the household density divided by the size of the hundred in square kilometres, rounded to the nearest whole number. The value is rounded to the nearest £ and area is as stated in Brandon.

In terms of pre-Conquest value Bexhill, Baldslow and Guesting were the most valuable in terms of hidage which represented a valuation of cultivated land. The first will reflect the ecclesiastical management of the area which has some good agricultural land. The second is probably due to the large holding by the king, and the presence within this hundred of the pre-cursor of modern Hastings ('Hæstingaceastre'). The last also had a higher overall value in monetary terms probably because of the ownership and active management of the large Rameslie manor by Fécamp abbey since the early part of the 11th century and the large number of valuable salt pans in their ownership.

The poorest areas include the area now around Battle which is hilly and at relatively high level with poor soils and some of the other poor areas contained either significant marshland or significant amounts of forest.

The population density* is a better measurement of numbers of people on the ground. It is a slight surprise to note that Gostrow and Goldspur hundreds are slightly lower in population density than the more inland larger heavily forested zones, but they both include low lying wetlands which may account for this.

Population density is calculated as number of households x4 divided by area in km². Hundreds visually ranked for value, size etc. by colour below:

Highest	High		Mid	Low		Lowest	
Modern Name	Domesday Name	TRE Hidage	No. of Households	Population density in no. /km ²	Value (to nearest £)	Area Km ²	Notes
Ninfield	Nerefelle	16.5 Of which 12 held by Harold Godwinson	100	13	38	32	71 households at Hooe. Ninfield and Catsfield small but both had churches. Good farmland.

Modern Name	Domesday Name	TRE Hidage	No. of Households	Population density in no. /km ²	Value (to nearest £)	Area Km ²	Notes
Bexhill	Bexlelei	25	131	18	26	29	Bexhill and 'Bollington' (Pebsham+Sidley) Belonged to B. of Selsey, recovered by B. of Chichester 1148
Baldslow	Baldeslei	36.5 Of which 15 at Filsham held directly by King Edward the Confessor	181	15	45	49	Included modern Hastings west of the Priory Valley, plus Hollington, Filsham, Wilting, Crowhurst, Ore and Westfield.
Guestling	Gestelinges	31.5 Of which 20 were in 'Rameslie'	165 107 in 'Rameslie'	13	74	49	Included Hastings east of the Priory valley, Fairlight, Pett, Icklesham, Winchelsea and Rye
Gostrow	Babinrerode	6.5	25	4	9	26	Brede and Udimore. Udimore had a church
Goldspur	Colespore	6	50	3	9	70	Beckley, Peasmarsh, Iden, Playden, East Guldeford. Beckley named in King Alfred's will.
Staple	Staple	12.5	115	9	25	52	Northiam, Ewhurst, Bodiam, Sedlescombe

Modern Name	Domesday Name	TRE Hidage	No. of Households	Population density in no. /km ²	Value (to nearest £)	Area Km ²	Notes
Netherfield and Battle;	Hailsaltede <i>Later half-hundreds of Nether-field and Battle the latter being mainly the banlieu of the abbey</i>	7	118	6	24	83	Mostly scattered smallholdings around a large area comprising present day Battle, Netherfield, Whatlington, Mountfield, Brightling and Dallington
Foxearle	Folsalre	15	147	11	37	55	Main foci of population Wartling and Herstmonceux. Small holdings around Ashburnham
Hawksborough	Hauchesberie	21 95% being 'managed' by manors in the Rape of Pevensey	101	5	18	86	Burwash, Warbleton and part of Heathfield. The largest hundred
Shoyswell	Shoeswelle	10.5 57% being 'managed' by manors in the Rape of Pevensey.	54	6	17	34	Ticehurst and area.
Henhurst	Herhert	12.5 65% being 'managed' by manors in the Rape of Pevensey	101	10	21	42	Salehurst, Robertsbridge, Etchingham.

Part Three

People of the Rape of Hastings

After 1066, Sussex was governed and taxed through the lords of the Rapes and their sheriffs (previously known as viscounts in Normandy and with the alternative name stewards). In Sussex the Lords of the Rapes appointed their sheriffs until about 1157, maybe just after in Hastings, and we have some of their probable names and dates. There were also county sheriffs whose role gradually changed and became more important after that time and evolved into the local king's representatives dealing with the king's business in the shires. This office, much modified continues to this day as Lord Lieutenants, the monarch's representative in the county since 1557.

This third part of the paper covers only the Rape of Hastings from 1070 until 1538 and tries to untangle the way in which the Rape evolved. The secondary sources on this are not numerous and sometimes contradictory and where possible cross checks have been made to primary information available via Pipe Rolls etc. If errors are perceived the author would be grateful to receive information including references and will make acknowledged corrections as necessary.

This collection tries to bring together the basic data that can be found about the people of the Rape of Hastings before the Reformation. This encompasses the lords of the Rape, the sheriffs of the rape and the occasional glimpse through local taxation and military musters of the sub-tenants, knights and 'ordinary' people of the Rape.

With respect to the lords of the Rape these seem to be grouped roughly in three phases:

The first encompasses the post-1066 founding House of Eu, from the appointment of Robert d'Eu in 1070 to Countess Alix d'Eu who voluntarily forfeited the Rape in 1243.

Then there is a second phase where the Rape of Hastings becomes entwined with the Earldom of Richmond and the two 'Honours' are used as 'bargaining chips' between England and Brittany, until the Dukedom of Brittany has the Rape taken away and permanently forfeits its right to it.

Finally the Rape starts to be granted as a result of favours to a monarch and passes through a number of hands, including a couple of Pelhams (of buckle fame, subsequent to the story from 1356 at the Battle of Poitiers when a local knight Sir John Pelham together with Sir Roger de la Warr captured Jean the King of France, and because of this that Sir John was given the King's belt buckle), ending up at the finish of the period of interest (i.e. 1538) in the hands of the Hastings family, who have their roots in the Midlands and no real connection to the area at all.

The holder of the Rape paid scutage tax, also known as 'knight's fees'. The Rape was initially assessed for 60 'knight's fees', but by 1148 the Bishop of Chichester had recovered his lands

at Bexhill lost to Robert d'Eu in 1070 which accounted for four 'knight's fees' and when the Abbey of Robertsbridge was founded that absorbed four 'knight's fees, so the Rape was left to find 52.

The sections below follow in chronological order the holders of the Rape. The dates indicated are those between which the named person held the Lordship of the Rape, not their dates of birth and death although the latter in particular may coincide.

Robert d'Eu (*Lord of Hastings 1070-1089/93*)



The blazon of Eu

The Lordship of Hastings Rape and Castelry was given by William I to Robert, Count of Eu in about May 1070. The Hastings area and the building of a stone castle on the 'West Hill' of Hastings had since October 1066 been in the supervision of the strong hands of Humphrey de Tilleul, son of Thurstan le Goz, viscount (i.e. sheriff) of Avranches.

Robert's father was William, Count of Eu, his mother Lesseline of Harcourt and wife Beatrice of Falaise. His paternal grandmother was Gunnora of Creppon, also great-grandmother of William I, as shown on page 3.

Robert was one of the chief counsellors of William, and had fought alongside William at the Battle of Mortemer in 1054. He was summoned to the Council of Lillebonne, when William asked his vassals for assistance to invade England and Eu contributed sixty ships towards William's invasion fleet. And not only did he fight at the Battle of Hastings, but he was a constant supporter of William throughout his subjugation of England. So the Rape of Hastings was in safe hands.

Robert of Eu rapidly seized the lands of the second most powerful lord in the Rape, the Bishop of Chichester, taking extensive lands at Bexhill and Bullington (Pebsham/Sidley). But he had to concede the banlieu of Battle, which had the same status as the Rape that it lay within, to his own overlord, William I. Robert was told by William 'to do right by the monks as you would do for myself', but there was still some discord amongst the Norman underlings who had already moved onto the lands to be occupied by the banlieu before it was established, more so as apparently they were not compensated and were expected to give up the lands 'for love of William'.

Much of the administration of the Rape of Hastings was in the hands of the sheriff, Reinbert who was not only steward but also Robert's largest tenant, with lands at Wilting, Hollington,

Whatlington, Bexhill, Udimore, a hide of land in Henhurst hundred that was probably Etchingham, Salehurst. Mountfield, land in Hooe and Boarzell in Ticehurst, from which his descendants were to form the core of the future Etchingham family estates. As he was so well 'embedded' with many lands by 1086, it is likely that he had been appointed quite soon after Robert d'Eu was granted the rape. He appears to have held the post until about 1101 or maybe as late as 1106 into Henry d'Eu tenure of the Rape.

Reinbert would hear cases brought before the Lathe court which met three weekly and later in the 12th century alternated its venue between Netherfield and Sedlescombe. The lathe court reflected the military needs of the 11th century, and continued until the 15th century when its functions were superseded. The jurisdiction was the Count's but any profits from crown cases went to the King.

King William I at his death in 1087 had bequeathed Normandy to one son, Robert Curthose and England to another, William Rufus. This caused consternation amongst the barons who held lands in both Normandy and England and they began to take sides, many supporting the supposedly 'weaker' Robert Curthose, which may have suited their own ambitions.

Robert, Count of Eu, was still alive and is reported to have listened to Rufus's speech at Winchester. He also seems to have played an active part in the early stage of the dispute between Rufus and Robert of Normandy. Owing fealty to both in respect of his English and Norman estates he, in common with the other nobles, found himself in a dilemma by reason of his dual allegiance. In 1090, Robert, Count of Eu, appears to have fully transferred his allegiance to Rufus.

The College of St Mary in the Castle at Hastings was founded in about 1090 by Count Robert of Eu. A collegiate college, within the castle itself, and with its own dean and canons etc. it was independent and was outside of the See of Chichester. The college remained in the patronage of the founder's descendants until 1267, when, on the death of Alix, countess of Eu, it became a royal chapel – until 1446 when it was granted, along with the Honour of the Rape of Hastings to Sir Thomas Hoo.

Bishop Odo, Duke of Kent and half-brother of William the Conqueror plotted against Rufus in 1088 and according to some sources concerning the lords of the rapes of Sussex only William de Warenne of Lewes was for William Rufus. Odo was joined by Earl Robert of Mortain and Cornwall, Lord of Pevensey and Montacute, Earl Roger of Montgomery, and Bishop William of Durham (William of Calais). The following were also among the rebels: Robert, Earl of Northumberland, Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury, and Bishop Geoffrey of Coutances assisted by Robert of Mobrai and a 'William of Eu'. This last person is puzzling as although there is some confusion concerning the date of the death of Robert of Eu which was between 1089-1093, but more likely between 1091-93. There is more about this 'William of Eu' below.

So he was alive and still Lord of Eu and Hastings in 1088 and does appear to have supported Rufus. Rufus clearly used Hastings Castle as a base as in 1091, before sailing to Normandy,

and he summoned his nobles there to swear fealty. And again in 1093 his army mustered at Hastings to cross the Channel, but was detained by contrary winds a whole month, during which the king lodged in the castle. In the following year, 20,000 men were encamped around the area preparatory to a war with France, but William II, decided against this and dismissed them, first of all taking from them the ten shillings (50 pence) a head travelling money they had received from their counties. This account of using Hastings as a base is also rather against the proposition that the Lords of Hastings, Counts of Eu were against Rufus – although Rufus did take the next door Lord of the Honour of Pevensey, Robert de Mortain's Pevensey castle by siege!

On his death Robert d'Eu was buried at Tréport Abbey.

William II d'Eu (*Lord of Hastings 1089/93 -1096*)

Robert of Eu was succeeded by his son William II of Eu who only survived him by a few years, soon passing the lordship on to his own son Henry. But William supported the third son of King William I, Henry, in Brittany vs Robert Curthose and his son Henry of Eu may have also taken part in this Brittany campaign.

Past authors including Dugdale, Stubbs, Freeman and those of VCH Vol.9 have counted a 'William of Eu' in Odo's conspiracy and have therefore presumed that the holder of the Rape of Hastings was part of it. This 'William of Eu' should not be confounded with William, son of Robert, Count of Eu. A 'William of Eu' is separately referred to in Domesday of 1086 as holding manors in Gloucestershire and other parts of western England. He was a supporter of the Bishop of Coutances against Rufus, and he came to an unpleasant end in about 1097 after being accused of treason.

Douglas also disputed the identification, basing this on the genealogical researches of Edmund Chester-Waters, and Searle and Dawson also realised that different men were being referred to.

While the West Country estates of 'William of Eu' were confiscated by the Crown in 1095, the strategically important Rape of Hastings was left in the hands of Robert, then William, Counts of Eu. Surely this would not have happened if William had been a traitor to William Rufus.

William was buried in the Collegiate Church of Hastings castle. His Eu antecedents and descendants were all buried in Normandy.

Henry d'Eu (*Lord of Hastings 1096-1140*)

Henry Count of Eu, married Marguerite, daughter of William of Sully who was the eldest son of Stephen, Count of Champagne, Brie and Blois, and the elder brother of the Stephen who would become king of England after Henry I. Henry of Eu survived King Henry I by two years.

After Rufus' death in 1100 and Henry I became king, Henry of Eu is found siding with Rufus' brother Henry against Robert, Duke of Normandy in 1104-5, when the former undertook his campaign to Normandy with a view to repressing the anarchy in the dukedom and re-uniting his father's dominions. This he achieved in 1106 at the Battle of Tinchebrai at which his brother Robert was captured and imprisoned.

From about 1101 a man called Hugh, possibly Hugh Arbalistarius, who held lands at Hollington, Cortesley, Frankwell in Ashburnham and Welland in Ewhurst starts to attest charters and had probably taken over as sheriff from Reinbert or was acting as his deputy. A man called William son of Wibart is also mentioned around this time but as a county sheriff. His father held lands at Westfield, Herstmonceux, Warbleton, Bucksteep in Warbleton and in Ewhurst

Some years later in 1119 Louis VI, King of France, invaded the Duchy of Normandy, but was defeated at the battle of Brémule at which both Henry of Eu and William de Warenne were involved.

Between about 1107 and 1120 Ingleram de Hastings/d'Eu mentioned in Domesday as holding lands at Wilting, Baldslow and Hooe is noted as sheriff. He was probably followed by Drogo of Pevensey from about 1120 to 1129. There is then a gap in knowledge of the names of possible sheriffs until about 1153

Henry, Count of Eu, had several sons and daughters : 1. John, his successor; 2. Hugh, Archdeacon of Cornwall in 1135, and of Totnes in 1143 and may have been the Hugh, the Dean of Hastings College Church, mentioned in the Confirmation Charter of Henry, Count of Eu; 3. William, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Exeter and 4. Beatrix and possibly 5. Matilda

John d'Eu (*Lord of Hastings 1140-1170*)

John became count of Eu in 1140 on his father's death. We are told that he was in favour with King Stephen, and a frequent visitor to the English Court. The number of 'knight's fees' to be paid was now 56. Among the Battle Abbey deeds are two charters of King Stephen, the first of which is witnessed by Bishop Hilary of Chichester, who held the See from 1146-49. The second was issued on behalf of the king from Hastings, but we have no evidence of a visit by Stephen to the Rape. From a charter we know that John was in Normandy in 1151-2 and for some time after this dealing with the affairs of his lands at Eu, and in founding and augmenting religious establishments at Tréport, Foucarmont, and Eu.

A man called Gilbert is mentioned as sheriff or viscount in about 1153 when he witnesses a charter by John d'Eu. He is reckoned to be the son of one Gencelin whose lands at Sedlescombe were later granted to Robertsbridge abbey.

John issued a Charter in 1167 responding to an order from King Henry II who wanted to know the number of knights fees in his realm, so that he could extract the tax called

'scutage' from his tenants-in-chief according to the number of knights within his tenancy, and this gives us an early picture of his tenants and their relative wealth.

Charter of John, Count of Eu (circa 1167): John, Count of Eu, to Henry, King of the English, Duke of Normandy, and Aquitaine and Earl of Anjou, Greeting.

" Know ye that I have of old enfeoffment in the rape of Hastings 56 knights' (fees), but my father in the time of King Henry, your grandfather, used to have 60 knights in the same rape, 4 knights whereof the Bishop of Chichester now has, whereof you have the service. Of these 56 knights, holding in the aforesaid rape of the old feoffment, the names are these:

Humphrey de Willecheres, holding 7 knights' (fees).

William de Hekingham (Etchingham) 7 knights.

Matthew de Baelum 10 knights.

Roger de Bodiham 4 knights.

Hurste de Warbertone (Warbelton) 5 knights.

Gilbert de Balliol 4 (3 ?) knights.

Robert de Ricarville (Ricarwell) 10 knights.

Reginald de Oseburnham (Ashburham) 2 knights.

Walter Morlay (Morley) 1 knight.

William de Wikesdale (Wekeshall) 1 knight.

Hugh de Chekenora, 1 knight.

And besides these knights I have upon my lordship 6 knights and a half whereof the names are these:

Alured de St. Martin, 1 knight.

Robert Strabo, 1 knight.

Robert del Broc, 1 knight.

William de Bosco, half a knight (knight's fee).

William de Lancinges, half a knight.

Daniel de Crevequer

Roger de Freham (Trocham)

Robert de Hastings, half a knight.

Of the new feoffment I have no knight enfeoffed.'

John, Count of Eu retired to the Abbey of Foucarmont and died there in 1170. He had married Alix d'Aubigny who was daughter of William d' Aubigny, Earl of Arundel and Alix de Louvain, Dowager Queen of England, the widow of Henry I. After John's death she married Alured de St. Martin, credited with founding Robertsbridge Abbey.

John had three sons, Henry, Robert (who witnessed a grant by his mother Alix to Robertsbridge Abbey in 1178, but died before Henry), John (Lord of Billington), and three daughters, Matilda, Margaret and Ida, who married William de Hastings.

Henry II d'Eu (*Lord of Hastings 1170-1183*)

Became count of Eu in 1170, but was a minor under the ward-ship of the Earl of Arundel, who was his grandfather He married Matilda Plantagenet, widow of Osbert de Preaux, the

daughter of Hamelin Plantagenet (Earl de Warren and Surrey, who was a 'natural' brother of king Henry II) They had two sons, Raoul who died a minor in 1186 and Guy who also died a minor in 1185. Only one child grew of age to succeed him, a daughter, Alix.

The sheriff in 1175 may have been the above Alured de St. Martin, who was possibly related in some way to Ingleram a previous sheriff. Also an Ingelram de Monceux 'viscount' witnesses a grant to Battle Abbey from Henry II d'Eu, which must have been towards the end of Henry's life. After this date county sheriffs probably took any residual sheriff duties within the rape. King Richard II dismissed all sheriffs, putting the office 'up for sale' and King John also interfered mightily with the sheriffs, undoubtedly for pecuniary gain. In the future the county sheriffs would be prime.

A complete list of the sheriffs of Sussex since 1086 is given on the website of the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex's website

Temporary Resumption (*Lordship of Hastings 1183-1191*)

As Henry II of Eu died in March 1183 Alix (Alice) must also have still been very young, but a husband was inevitably found for her by Henry II, who will have resumed the Rape for a while, sometime before 1190. Certainly he retained the castle in royal hands.

Ralph de Lusignan - Earl of Eu by marriage to Countess Alix d'Eu (*Lord of Hastings 1191-1201/2*)

This was Ralph (Raoul) de Lusignan. He was distantly connected with the kings of both England and France. By marriage he became 7th Count of Eu, Baron of Hastings. He and Alix had two sons, Raoul (or Ralph) 8th Count of Eu and Guarin, and two daughters, Maud and Joan.

There was then an involvement in crusades with Richard I followed by severe difficulties with King John to survive. Interestingly Ralph had made a specific oath of loyalty to king John in January 1200, together with his brother Hugh, Count of March, but later in 1200 John had determined on marrying Isabella of Angouleme, possibly for strategic reasons. One difficulty of this was that she was already betrothed to Hugh of Lusignan, count of la Marche, the brother of Ralph. This made things very complicated. The Lusignan lands provided another key strategic route for John.

John, unsurprisingly, handled this matter very badly and treated Hugh with contempt, from which followed a Lusignan insurgency that was then crushed by the English and John also suppressed Ralph both in the Eu lands of Normandy as well as seizing the Rape of Hastings.

John issued instructions in 1201 seizing the Rape and giving notice, that his lieutenants had permission to *do 'what harm they could'* to Ralph, Count of Eu and *'we have commanded and willed to be taken to our use, the woods, stock, and all the chattels of the count of Eu in England'*.

Seizure of the Rape (in 1201/2-1214), when King John granted it to John of Eu, uncle of Alix

King John had seized the Rape of Hastings into his own hands, and then had granted it to John of Eu, uncle of the Countess Alice of Eu. When John of Eu died in 1207 the Rape reverted to the crown

Ralph de Lusignan - Earl of Eu restored (1214-1219)

But in 1214 John had a change of heart after he had besieged Lusignan. Lusignan surrendered and after he had submitted and given homage to John we see –

Witnessed at Parthenay, in the sixteenth year of our reign (23 May, Trinity Sunday, 1214): By this treaty John guaranteed to Ralph, Count of Eu, the whole inheritance which his wife (the Countess Alice) ever possessed or was entitled to possess in England.....

This if fact gave him more than he had lost in 1202; for he obtained the Honour of Tickhill as well as the Honour and Rape of Hastings. Then Ralph, Count of Eu was appointed on April 2ist, 1216, as one of the commissioners to meet with the King of France to make a truce. King John was always dangerously fickle and Lusignan skated on thin ice.

Following King Henry III's accession in 1216 the Close Roll, 1 Henry III. 1217 says.

'The sheriffs of Nottingham and Sussex are commanded to take care that the Count of Eu have full and peaceable possession of all his estates (i.e. Tickhill, then in Nottinghamshire and Hastings) as he had before the war began between King John and the Barons.'

Countess Alix d'Eu holds the Rape (1219-1243)

Ralph of Lusignan died at Melle in Poitu in 1219 and after this Alice, Countess of Eu, with the exception of the loss of the castle and the college, which she ceded to King Henry III in 1225. The castle was in poor condition and already being lost to the sea but she retained her other property in the Rape of Hastings. As late as 1242 Henry III had by letters patent undertaken

" the protection and defence of the men, lands, goods, and all the other possessions of her the said Countess.'

Only a year later in 1243 King Henry III after a disastrous campaign in Poitu, France and after losing the Battle of Taillebourg ordered all his vassals who had taken the side of King Louis IX of France to forfeit their lands. The Dauphin who had fruitlessly invaded England at the end of John's and beginning of Henry III's reign had become Louis IX of France.

House of Eu forfeits the Rape (1243-4)

Alix elected to retain her possessions in France and the Eu ancestral estates in England were never again to be held by the house of Eu. Apparently the representatives of the Eu family tried in 1259 and 1290 to obtain a reversal of the decree of forfeiture of their estates, but without avail. The Rape reverted to the crown

Peter II of Savoy (*Lord of Hastings [from 1249-1254] and Richmond [from 1241-1268]*)

In 1249 King Henry III then granted the castle and honour of Hastings to Peter II of Savoy, uncle of his queen, Eleanor of Provence in 1249. This was with the instruction to re-fortify the castle and to fortify Rye. Peter had already been given the Honour (although apparently not Earldom) of Richmond in 1241 and the Rape of Hastings now became associated with that Earldom.

In the 1250s he had repaired Pevensey Castle. He seems to have been very faithful to the King, and beyond some oppressive measures towards the church nothing much is recorded against him. He accompanied Henry III on his expedition to Gascony in August, 1253. On capturing the castles of La Reole and Bazas the King gave possession of them to Peter.

In 1254 Peter of Savoy released the Rape and Henry III granted it to his son.

Prince Edward (*also Lord of Eu, including the Rape of Hastings, 1254/5 – 1268*)

It seems that at this point Henry III as part of his long standing war with France decides to bring the Rape of Hastings 'back in house' and grants it and the French lands of Eu, over which he then had control, to his son Edward. The lands were placed under the command of Geoffrey de Langley as Edward was busy elsewhere as we shall see below.

38th Henry III. 1254-5

Mandate of Lord Henry the King. Whereas the King has given to Edward, his son, the lands which formerly belonged to the Countess of Eu and other lands formerly belonging to the Normans, and the King is unwilling, on account of the danger which might threaten his crown in the course of time, if those lands should be returned to the right heirs, through peace or in any other manner, that any other liberties should be levied or used in the lands aforesaid than were accustomed in the said lands in the times of the lords thereof, command is given to Geoffrey de Langley that no other liberties shall be used in the lands aforesaid than were used in the same in the times of the lords aforesaid.

According to Coss, Geoffrey de Langley, was a servant of the Crown, with a long and eventful, if somewhat less than illustrious. He was to achieve notoriety as a forest justice and as steward to the Prince Edward when he precipitated the Welsh rising of 1256. In May 1243 he had been appointed to the keeping of the honour of Arundel for a year, following the death of the young Earl Hugh. And Philips quotes that Geoffrey of Langley, possibly the above Langley's son, went on the crusade of Edward I of England in the Holy Land in the years 1270-71. Much more unusually he was later sent to the Mongol Il-Khanate court of Ghazan in 1291. Geoffrey left from Genoa, where he was joined by the Khan's ambassador to the West Buscarel of Gisolfè to go to the Mongol capital of Tabriz. The embassy is known in some detail because the financial accounts of it have remained.



Coat of arms of Geoffrey of Langley

By Teoretik - https://img0.etsystatic.com/000/0/5276420/il_570xN.224157312.jpg, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64339843>

Edward must have irritated his father for he had to mortgage the Rape back to him to cover very large loans he had received from the King of France and from the Archbishop of Canterbury! In 1262 he restored the Rape back to the king who gave it to Peter of Savoy to look after again.

Peter II of Savoy (*Lord of Hastings [from 1262-1268] and Richmond [from 1241-1268]*)

But firstly Peter needed to retrieve the Honour of the Rape which had been seized by the Barons, which he did by 1265. He died in 1268 and by his will, Savoy left Richmond to his niece, Eleanor, who promptly transferred it to the crown.

Duke John I of Brittany (*Duke of Brittany 1237-1286*) **receives Honours and passes Richmond/Hastings to his son John of Dreux who later becomes John II of Brittany** (*Lord of the Rape of Hastings and Earl of Richmond, 1268-1305, + Duke of Brittany 1286-1305*)



Blazon of John of Richmond (Duke John I of Brittany)

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The Dukes of Brittany had been the very first Earls of Richmond from the time of the Conquest and this was a restored second creation of the Earldom. Hastings had been associated with Richmond since it was attached to that Honour for Peter of Savoy and now passed with the Earldom being it seems fully enmeshed with the Earldom of Richmond.

The conjoint Honours, along with a couple of English princess's marriages became bargaining chips between kings of England and the Dukes of Brittany for or against France during the One Hundred Years War. The politics of the making and unmaking of the medieval Duchy of Brittany are far too complex to describe in this paper, but at the end of the sections concerning Brittany after 1399) a chart attempts to clarify for the reader the

positions of the Dukes of Brittany with respect to the Earldom of Richmond and Rape of Hastings until 1399.

In 1268 Henry III granted the Earldom to John I, Duke of Brittany (1217–1286), who additionally became Lord of the Rape of Hastings. But John I almost immediately resigned the earldom and it passed his son, John I de Dreux, the future Duke John II. So in 1268 John of Dreux, as he was then, became Earl of Richmond.

In 1260 John I of Dreux had married Beatrice, Henry III's daughter. This marriage was meant to ally Brittany with England under the "shield of England" during the reign of Henry III as tensions rose with France. They had at least three sons, the eldest of which was Arthur and the second son was another John II of Dreux. The third was Peter of Leon.

Beatrice died in 1275 in London, before John I of Dreux became Duke John II of Brittany.

In both 1290 and 1295 the Rape was briefly in the kings hands firstly for not fully supporting England in Wales and secondly for briefly siding with the French. In 1296 we get a glimpse of the people of the Rape through the Sussex Lay Subsidy Roll of 1296: The rape of Hastings. This can be viewed at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/suss-record-soc/vol10/pp3-19>. The subsidy of 1296 was an eleventh; that in 1327 a twentieth, and that in 1332 a tenth and fifteenth of the value of 'moveables'. The three Rolls are of value for their information of the names of contributors to this tax, which was the first form of general taxation. Two years after the last one of them, i.e. in 1334 a fixed sum was assigned to each township, but then the names of the contributors are no longer recorded. Later taxes, for which the names of contributors are recorded, are based on different principles.

John II Duke of Brittany died in 1305.

Duke Arthur II of Brittany (*Duke of Brittany 1305-1312*) passes Richmond to his brother John II of Dreux, who becomes Earl of Richmond (1305/6-1334),

The first son of John II of Brittany and Beatrice of England was **Arthur II** (1261 – 1312), of the House of Dreux, who became Duke of Brittany from 1305 until his death in 1312.

Arthur was campaigning against England at the time and instead of becoming Duke in 1305 the Earldom of Richmond was passed to his brother John who became Earl of Richmond in 1306 and became active in King Edward I of England's service. He briefly lost his lands in 1325 after aligning himself during Edward II's reign with Edward's Queen Isabella as part of the move to force the abdication of her husband (Edward II) in favour of her son Edward III. The lands were subsequently restored by Edward III.

Although he married three times he failed to produce an heir and the Earldom of Richmond and Rape of Hastings passed to his nephew, John III of Brittany, son of Arthur II by Mary of Limoges, his first wife. The offspring of his second marriage to Yolande, Countess of Montfort would later cause problems and spark the War of Breton succession, within the Hundred Years War.

There were now two more Lay Subsidy Rolls: Sussex subsidy of 1327: The rape of Hastings <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/suss-record-soc/vol10/pp205-222> and just five years later Sussex subsidy of 1332: The rape of Hastings <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/suss-record-soc/vol10/pp317-334>

Towards the end of his life in 1333 he very briefly leased his English lands to his niece Mary, Countess of Pembroke, but he died in 1334.

Duke John III of Brittany (*Duke of Brittany 1312-1341 and Earl of Richmond 1334-1341*)

John III, son of Arthur II, was duke of Brittany, from 1312 to his death and Earl of Richmond from 1334 to his death. Towards the end of his life in 1339 we find a Muster Roll of the Rape of Hastings. This is particularly interesting; perhaps more than the Lay Subsidy Rolls, for it must list all the men of arms bearing age from across every hundred of the Rape, mostly with surnames. On John III's death, childless, in 1341 the inheritance of the duchy of Brittany and the earldom of Richmond became disputed. John III's niece, Joanna of Dreux, daughter of John III's eldest brother Guy, and married to Charles de Blois, claimed the duchy without apparently claiming to also be hereditary Countess of Richmond.

John III's half-brother, Jean de Montfort, disputed Joanna's claim to the Duchy of Brittany. Their dispute was judged by the French king in a court of peers at Conflans, France. From that Charles of Blois, Joanna's husband, became Duke of Brittany. This all unsurprisingly led to international complications. The adjudication raised the question of whether the Duke of Brittany and/or the Earl of Richmond, whether one and the same or not, owed homage to the French king. Mid the One Hundred Years War he was unlikely to get any homage from Richmond or Hastings!

Jean de Montfort fled Conflans and re-joined his troops who occupied a number of castles from Nantes into Brittany – the French king then seized the county of Montfort from Jean de Montfort and caught and imprisoned him. He was freed in 1341, but died in 1345, leaving his son claiming the Dukedom. During 1241-5 Jean de Montfort had used the title **John IV of Brittany**. But Joanna of Dreux and Charles de Blois, using his right of marriage continued as de facto Dukes of Brittany until his death in 1364, at the end of the Breton War of Succession which extended from 1341-64. After this the house of Montfort ruled again through John V, but with difficulty



In 1316, John III simplified his coat of arms to plain ermine. This blazon is still the arms of Brittany

Muster Roll of the Rape. 1339

13 EDWARD III. (1339-40) (Ex. College of Arms MS. L. 17.)

Armyd men as well horsmen as footmen, in the Rape of Hastings, anno Edward III.
xiiij, taken out of the Booke of the Abbey of Battell. (The fyrst booke.)

Men of Armes.

The Bisshope of Chichester for his maner of Bexle (Bexhill)	. . . . .	j man of armes
The Abbot of Begeham for xx ^l land in Bokeland and Kechenham (Kitchenore in Beckley)	. . . . .	j " "
Thomas de Hoo for xx ^l in the maner of Wertlyng	. . . . .	j " "
Sir John de Fyenlis for xx ^l land in Horsemouuse (Herstmonceux)	. . . . .	j " "
Edmond de Knell for xx ^l land in Knelle	. . . . .	j " "
The Abbot of Fescamp for xxx lande in Brede	. . . . .	{j " " and one hobelier
The Abbot of Robertsbridge for xl ^l land in Fodeland Parke, Odyham, Werthe and otheir landes in the said Rape	. . . . .	2 men of armes
Gilbert Malevile for xx ^l land in Iwhurst (Ewehurst)	. . . . .	j man of armes
Henry de Groshurst for xx ^l land in Aschebournham (Ashburnham)	. . . . .	j " "
Therle of Richemonde for xx ^l land in Bevyllham Cronchurst, and for xx ^l land for servis in the said Rape	. . . . .	j " "
Sire Symon de Echingham for xx ^l lande in Echingham	. . . . .	j " "
Sir Roger de Hussey for xxx ^l lande in Odymmer, Mudefield and Oxenbridge (Brede)	. . . . .	{j " " and one hobelier
Thomas de Hastings for xx ^l lande in Nederfield and Holyngton	. . . . .	j man of armes
John Wardeden for xx ^l land in Bodyham	. . . . .	j " "
Thomas de Heringand for xx ^l lande in Ikeslesham	. . . . .	j " "
Sr Reynold Cobham for xx ^l land in Hoo	. . . . .	j " "
John de Ore for xx marks land in Geslinge	. . . . .	j " "
Lady Margaret de Pacheley for xx ^l land in the Mote Pacheley, Frenkiscourt and Regge	. . . . .	2 men of armes
Roger de Monboucher for xx ^l (Sic) in Fillesham and Hamerden.	. . . . .	j man of armes
William de Lessingham for xx ^l land in Peplisham and Crouham	. . . . .	j " "

Hobeliers.

(Hobilers=Light Horsemen for Coast Service.)

John de Warbleton for xx marks land in Warbleton	. . . . .	j hobelier
Henry de Penhurst and his mother for x ^l land in Penhurst	. . . . .	j " "
John de Goldingham for x ^l land in Wiltings	. . . . .	j " "
The Prior of Hastings for viii ^l land in Nederfeld, Haukesbgh and Baldeslowe	. . . . .	j " "
The heire of Thomas de Codynggs for x marks land in Iwhurst	. . . . .	j " "
The heire of Ric. Wardeden for x marks land in Bodyham	. . . . .	j " "
Symon de Wigesull for x ^l land in Wigesull	. . . . .	j " "
Theirs of Aleyn de Boxhull for x ^l land in Bokeshull, Monkesnesse and Echme	. . . . .	j " "
Rycharde de Blorton for x ^l land in Lounefore	. . . . .	j " "
Sr Thomas de Aldoun for x marks land in Borghwashe (Burwash)	. . . . .	j " "
Agnes de Levelisham for x marks land in Levelisham	. . . . .	j " "
John de Cressy for x marks lande in Westfelde	. . . . .	j " "
Agnes at Lye for x marks in Lye	. . . . .	j " "
Raulf Eyfoull for x marks in Schoeswell	. . . . .	j " "
John Coppecorge and Rychard de Swasham for x marks land in Bocholte	. . . . .	j " "
Henry Vynche for x ^l land in Kechenore	. . . . .	j man of armes
John at Gate for x marks land in La Gate	. . . . .	j " "
James Echingham and John Waller for x marks lande in Glotingham	. . . . .	j " "

Armyd Fottmen.

Robert Alard de Iham for land in Gestlinge	. . . . .	j man of armes
John de Longe for v ^l land in Gestling	. . . . .	j " "
Margarett the widowe of Gervis Alard for v ^l land in Sneyllham	. . . . .	j " "
Robert Aillard for v ^l land in Stoulynte	. . . . .	j " "

Muster Roll of the Rape. 1339

John Fynche for v^l lande in Mersham j man of armes
 Robert Aillard for v^l land in Dolham j " "
 John Jacob for v^l at Fremyngham j " "

Bowmen.

The Bisshope of Chichester for land in Toreserch j man of armes
 Richard de Stonner for xl^l land in Lym j " "
 Richarde de Peplesham for xl^l land in Coudem (? Couden). j " "
 John de Lounesford for xl^l land in Cottesfeld j " "
 William Garland for xl^l land in Cattesfeld j " "
 John de Mavvesyn for xl^l land in Cattesfeld j " "
 John de Coddynge for xl^l land in Coddings j " "
 William de Seymer for xl^l land in Marhill j " "
 John Waleys for xl^l land in Geyndin (Geusing) j " "
 Robert Sharpdun for xl^l land in Sharpdun (Shornden) j " "
 John de Haremer and his mother for xl^l land in Haremer j " "
 The Prior of Cromwell for xl^l lande in Rackett j " "
 Thomas Padyham for xl^l lande in Padyham j " "
 The Prior of Lewis for xl^l lande in Newyk j " "
 Thomas Wemyle for xl^l land in Cattesfeld j " "
 Robert de Langhurst for xl^l land in Langhurst (Lankhurst) j " "
 Hamon at Gate for xl^l land in Dicksterne j " "
 John Ambreys for xl^l land in La Lee j " "
 James Alard for xl^l land in Gotteley j " "
 The widow of Walter Wicham for xl^l land in Wicham j " "
 Symonde de Werthe for xl^l land in Werthe j " "
 John de Suntyng for xl^l land Chaumbr (Camber) j " "
 Henry Fynche for l^l land at Glasye j " "
 Robert de Wanton for xl^l land in Henham j " "
 The heire of Henry Auchere for xl^l land in Gosetrow j " "
 Rychard Thomas for xl^l lande in Gosetrow j " "
 John de Beche for xl^l lande in the houndrithe of Nedderfeld j " "
 Gerveis de Hillinge for xl^l land in Hillinge j " "
 John Reade for xl^l lande at Gevesinge (Geusing) j " "

Houndrithe of Haukesbergh—Walter de Rackelighe, Thomas de Horham.

" Foxsherle—Walter Atwold, William de Frankwell.
 " Staple—Roger le Hore, Thomas Padyham.
 " Gestlinge—Richarde de Esshe, John Martyn.
 " Henhurst—William de Berewike, Thomas de Bokeshull.
 " Nennefeld—John de Bole, John de Lounesford.
 " Boxley—Walter le Clark, Robert le Bochole.
 " Baldeslowe—Gervis Dyllyng, Aleyn de Fogheling.
 " Nedderfeld—John de Beche, Thomas de Sandrithe.
 " Schoeswell—William de Wytherhindenn, Rychard Paynsey.
 " Colespore—John Bechenore, John Glesham.
 " Bello (Battle)—John Le, Adam Pessoner.

HUNDRITHE OF BALDESLOWE.

Centenari'.

(Centenarius = Captain of one
hundred men.)

Peter Baldeslow.

Vintenari.

(Vintenarius = Chief of twenty
men.)

Rychard Knyft.

Sagitar'.

(Sagitarii = Archers.)

Roger Sotynton.

Rychard Stevens.

John de Southume.

John de Gegheland.

John Gibelott.

Robert Knyge.

John at Reade.

Ralfe at Hurst.

Wydeni'.

(Whyniardemen = Swordsmen.)

William Sotington.

Robert Knyft.

Stevin de Ramisborne.

William de Southynne.

William P^lkyn.

Gilbert de Wedington.

John Schorte.

Pibesteves.

John Randolf.

Robert de Langrishe.

Thomas at Borghe.

John at Gate.

Rychard King.

William at Dene.

Muster Roll of the Rape. 1339

THE BOROUGH OF WYLTYNGE.

Vintemar'.
Robert de Holington.

Sagittar'.
Robert Kinge.
William de Fylesham.
Robert at Wyne.
John Baldeslowe.
John Skute.
Richard P'kin.
Roger at Hurst.
William le Rede.
James Crouche.
Thomas Withflet.
Ric. Witheflet.
William Somener.

Wydem'.
Peter Otlande.
John Cocks.
John Avery.
Thomas Frankelyn.
Ric. de Glesye.
John de Shephard.
John Crosley.
John Coks.
Robert at Bergge.
Rychard Gunter.

CROUHURST.

Vintemar'.
John Crull.

Sagittar'.
William at Broks.
William Nateleghe.
William Colyn.
Rychard Twynem.
Ric. de Elvingherst.

Wydem'.
Richard Auncell.
John Bartelott.
Thomas at Heires.
Wm. Crull.
William Mot.
James Kinge.
Aleyn Kinge.

Pykesteves.
Henry Natteleger.
William Chyllehele.
John Natege.
Robert Cukkon.
John Grundelye.
John at Nashe.
John Huchened.
Robert Nateleghe.
Ric. de Kents.

IN LEGHE.

Vintemar'.
William le Tailour.

Sagittar'.
Aleyn Bartelott.
John Symond.
William Martyn.
John at Wood.

Wydem'.
Robert at Hethe.
Stevin de Norton.
Thomas de Randolf.
John Colyer.
Robert Prodell.
Walter Horsman.
John de Croushurst.

Pykesteves.
John Lovell.
Roger Godhuve.
Roger Ricard.
William Bartelott.
John Stevene.
William in Lighe.
Robert Blakebrok.
Stevin in Lighe.

THE HUNDRITHE OF COLSPORE.

Centenarius.
John Oxenbrigg at Gate.

Vintemar'.
Ryc'. Joce.

Sagittar'.
Roger de Hope.
John Clarke.
Robert at Revere.
Richard Bone.
William Godwyne.
William at Grave.
John Aleyn.
John sonne of Stevin.
Symon Joce.
Stevin sonne of William of
Pedelisham.
William sonne of William of
Sellingham.
William de Bykenold.
John de Hope.
Thomas Pants.
Geffrey Gate.
Ric. Quainterell.
Richarde de Tillingham.
John Paynot.
Alexander Togharn.
John Stevin.

THE HUNDRITHE OF HAUKESBURGH.

Centenarius, Adam de Craule.
BURGHERST.

Vintemar'.
Richard Limesey.
Sagittar' et Gisarm' (Gisarmes).
Robert Forester.
Roger Cryspe.
Roger Gendwishe.
Peter Turymory.
Richard Chessman.
William Mavyn.
William de Henchers.
Morys Fitzw^m.
Roger de Congherst.
Aleyn Browyng.
Walter Motyn.
Stevin Highlott.
Wm. Burgherst.
John Henhurst.
Walter Maleward.
Aleyn at Weston.
John Dyn.
Roger Crouche.
John Coks.

Vintemar'.
Richard de Curry.

Sagittar'.
Robert Hobeday.
Wm. at Panks.
Wm. at Dene.
Walter at Ford.
John Birchett.
Symond at Done.
John Deywode.
Wm. Folere.
John, sonne of John at Hole.
Walter sonne of Henry.
Geffrey de Pideleshurst.

Gisarm'.
Henry at Dene.
Robert Techere.
Andrewe Sutor.
Thomas Selkin.
Thomas Birchett.
John Hebedy.
Morys Virgeve.
Peter Bedeking.

TOTELWOURTHE.
(Tottingworth.)

Vintemar'.
John sonne of Aleyn.

Muster Roll of the Rape. 1339

Sagitar'
 Peter de Bredhurst.
 John de Gotreshelde.
 John de Pouleswourthe.
 Wm. de Mylkhurst.
 Steven Stanhurst.
 John de Bredhurst.
 Ric. sonne of Adam.
 Walter sonne of Wm.
 Nycholas Bron.
 Benjamin de Widderhose.

Gisarm'
 Richard Smythe.
 Richard Ponte.
 Robert sonne of Walter.
 Symon Tornour.
 Wm. Thornregge.
 Richard Dikeknolle.
 Gilbert Prest.
 Robert Fishere.

HOUNDRITHE OF COL- SPOR, UT INFRA.

Vintemar'
 Robert Alboteshond.

Sagitarii.
 John de Oxenbrige.
 Ric. at Hope.
 Robert at Wode.
 John Smythe.
 John sonne of Ric.
 John Rust.
 John Lovekin.
 John at Knell.
 John sonne of John.
 Walter de Bredenehexte.
 Stevin de Bredenehexte.
 Benedicke Bredenehexte.
 Hugh at Wydegate.
 Robert de Bexley.
 Stevin at Kell.
 John de Devyngton.
 Thomas de Bellehurst.
 John, sonne of William Hope.

Vintemar'
 Richard de Kilverthe.

Gisar'
 Robert de Beeks.
 Robert at Wode.
 William de Hope.
 John de Kent.
 John Exselott.
 William Ave.
 William Joce.
 Richard Adam.
 William de Clopton.
 John Knellere.

Stevin Maken.
 Stevin Bartelett.
 Geffry Adam.
 Robert Benett.
 John Adam.
 Edmond Bailly.
 Robert Mot.
 Thomas Bartelett.
 John de Clopton.

Vintemar'
 John Aune.
 []
 Walter Golspore.
 Robert Mongepere.
 William Gronere.
 John Lot.
 Ric. Roger.
 John Dansell.
 John at Forde.
 Walter Martyn.
 Stevin Turne.
 Ric. Daniell.
 John Hoeslern.
 Geffry Zoughe.
 John Lucas.
 William Wace.
 John son of Stevin.
 John de Lighe.
 Thomas de Lighe.
 John Dyn.
 John Roger.
 William Burghton.

HONDRITHE DE HEN- HURST.

Centemar', Richard Blurston.

Vintemar'
 John Courtais.
 []
 John Fynghaigh.
 Elyas de Westbowrne.
 Raulf de Pesemarche.
 Thomas de Wynekeham.
 Peter Otes.
 Robert Payett.
 Estace Peres.
 Edius at Parke.

Sagitar'
 Roger Wyse.
 Thomas Fynghagh.
 Roger de Hulehole.
 John Joye.
 Thomas at Noks.
 Thomas Brembeland.
 Walter Brunethe.
 William at Wyks.
 John Manyere.
 John Poret.

Vintemar'
 John at Rode.

Sagitar'
 William at Rode.
 Thomas Fighkeit.
 Wm. Meryfeld.
 Henry Berthe.
 John Lad.
 John Bataill.
 John de Stamede'ne.
 William Brabor.
 Geffrey Leman.
 Thomas Symer.
 Wm. de Wygeselle.
 Roger at Tokenhurst.
 John Swype.
 Wm. Smithe.
 Raulfe Hulehole.
 Ric. Waterer.
 Peter Covelings.
 Raulf Benett.
 John Lorcham.

Vintemar'
 John Merwode.

Gisarm'
 Raulf Fyche.
 Peter Idem.
 Robert de Wydekeham.
 Thomas Bereworthe.
 James Newland.
 Aleyn Manyer.
 Thomas Kyng.
 John Parlour.
 Robert Tregg.
 Walter Cungherst.
 Robert Payn.
 Robert Munjoye.
 Thomas Tryppe.
 Ric. Cohere.
 John Frebody.
 Robert Cronche.
 William at Burghie.
 Alan Turner.

Vintemar'
 Symon Fytte.

Gisarm'
 John Wegs.
 Robert Broks.
 Walter Gersevyce.
 John Beche.
 Stevin le Ram.
 Laurence de Besingham.
 Symon Velaghe.
 John de Bampton.
 Wm. Colett.

Muster Roll of the Rape. 1339

Adam Smyth.
Bartilmewe de Werthe.
John de Burgham.
William de Stamyngden.
John Saunder.
John de Ratford.
Robert de Comerand.
Allen Cokkes.
John Cottings.
Alyn de Funteregge.

HUNDRETHE DE HAUKESBURGH.

BIVELH'ME.
(Biveham in Mayfield.)

Vintemar'.

Nycholas Bivelhe'me.

Sagitarii.

John de Geneshurst.
John de Wadeherst.
Ric. at Combe.
Laurens Shotingherst.
Stevin at Frithe.
Laurens Gregory.
William de Combdun.
Henry de Wynden.
Walter Alkott.
John de Wavenham.
Walter Burden.

Gisarm'.

Gilbert Nashe.
Ric. Wobenham.
Ric. Chilhope.
Laurens Beynden.
John de Beynden.
Stevin at Rec.
John Ingelat.
Adam Golyot.
Wm. de Pepenhoks.
Wm. de Wevenham.
John de Chylhope.
Clement at Farude.
William FitzWillyam at Rec.
John at Heytonun.
Rychard Wallere.
John Rиден.
Richarde Dawe.
Ric. Wolwriche.
Stevin Turmory.
Ric. Fynnygherthe.
Ihon Lullore.
Walter at Rece.
John Josex.
Adam de Wodeward.
Adam de Baylham.
John Crollings.
Geffrey at Heggland.

HUNDRETHE DE FOXERLY.

Centemar'. John de Battesford.

Vintemar'.

Lucas Hanecoks.
Sagitar' cum gladijs et cultellis.
John Dyne.
John at Well.
William Haneks.
John Stonner.
Raulf Body.
John his brother.
Hughe de Rething ad Stanclere.
John Schorte.
John Love.
John Badecoks.
John Meleward.
John Diclond.
John Elphe.
Egidius Cocus.
John Champeney.
Stevin Pukkley.
John Pimmyld.
Wm. de Condeyn.
John Redinge.

Vinten'.

John Russell.

Sagitar'.

John Colkyn.
Elyas de Ennyngham.
Stevin at Sythe.
William Dounyng.

Gisar'.

John Mychell.
John Manchall.
Wm. Gendings.
Wm. Jayrer.
Wm. Poncy.
Stevin Pother.
Wm. Bakere.
Andrew Coupere.
Ric. Kersy.
Austyn Dyne.
Robert Ifeld.
Robert Lyne.

Vinten'.

Thomas Frankwell.

Gisarm'.

John Barholt.
Adam Newman.
Wm. de Red.
John de Wilsham.
John Fitzwilliam.
Wm. Brett.
John Brett.

Aleyn Shott.
Robert Scot.
John Scot.
John Collingham.
John Ponte.
Raulf Brikedun.
Stevin Rons.
Ric. de Birstrode.
Wm. Fitzw'm.
Ric. Ponte.
Aleyn Werthe.

Vinten'.

John at Beche.

Bacularij cum cultell'.
(Staves with knives.)

Ric. Reve.
Wm. Jarvyn.
John Bertram.
Wm. Geffrey.
Thomas Welbynche.
Walter Kyng.
William Bemsell.
Robert Botall.
John Bothell.
Robert Grym.
John at Stocks.
Wm. Mychellot.
Stevin de Wodeshell.
Thomas at Melle.
Raulf Jamyn.
John Rockere.
Symon Averay.
Reynold Colbon.
Gilbert de Wodesone.
Bartilnewe Bothell.

HUNDRETHE OF NEMENESFELD.

Decenar'.

(Tything man, or chief of ten men (?))

John Pechard.

Vintemar'.

John de Therne.

Gisarm' cum cultell'.

Thomas Swynham.
Peter Martyn.
John Somery.
Stevin le Yong.
John de Eston.
John Herne.
Robert Hamon.
Thomas de Rifford.
Stevin Sand.
Robert Ingram.
Robert Broun.
Thomas at Cheche.

Muster Roll of the Rape. 1339

Vintemar'.

William de Telton.

Gisarm' cum cultell'.

William Franceys.
Wm. Lonesford.
— Hope.
Wm. Mychell.
Robert Kneer.
John de Bromham.
Wm. at Broke.
Mychell Henlegh.
Symon de Aldelond.
Andrew at Conne.
John Penclond.
Wm. at Water.
Wm. at Berge.
John Edryche.
Walter Elys.
Henry at Hethe.
Symon Telton.
John Adam.
Galfridus Ceriche.
John de Upton.
Roger Maleward.
Roger Glyde.
John Northyne.
John de Upton.
Roger at Hole.
Gilbert Hane.
William Cobyn.
Thomas Gelding.
John de Holstrete.
Stevin Redriche.
Robert Martyn.
Geffrey Palmer.
Hamon Knost.
Wm. Gardener.

HUNDRETHE OF STAPLE.

Centen', Richard le Hewite.

Vintemar'.

Hughe Wodehalle.

Sagitar'.

John at Grove.
Wm. Woode.
Wm. Padyham.
John Dyn.
John Golethe.
Wm. Hunt.
John Senegode.
John de Beche.
Raulf Bate.
Stevin Benex.
Wm. Vever.
John Durant.
Thomas at Brock.

Vintemar'.

Roger Fletcher.

Gisarm'.

Wm. de Pikenham.
Roger Godegrome.
John Tailler.
Robert Fleche.
Peter Atchurche.
Robert de Sedelescombe.
Aley Payn.
John Fraunceys.
Peter Coppe.
John Border.
Symon Hervy.
Symon Belainz.
John de Steyne.
John Sannzon.
William Bomer.
Stevin William.
John Bromleigh.
Adam de Clopton.
Raulf Horsman.

Vinten'.

Symon at Beche.

Bacul' cum cultell'.

John son of Robert.
Thomas Jayn.
Ric. William.
Stevin Malkin.
John Lovell.
Robert Nytyngale.
Walter Wynche.
Wm. de Bromleigh.
Danyell at Gate.
Reynold Wynche.
Henry de Bromleigh.
Wm. at Knolle.
Symon at Forde.
John Benett.
John at Brocland.
John at Rede.
Adam Taillour.
John at Melle.

Vinten'.

Thomas Arundell.

Bacul' cum cultell'.

Walter Bercham.
James Bernett.
John Huchon.
Abraham Roteland.
Robert Gonnce.
Benedyke Nytyngale.
John Fouks.
Symon Bertram.
Thomas Quetilon.
John de Berham.
John Gentil.

William Holeman.
John Bate.
John Knollere.
Robert Danyell.
Peter Bereham.
Stevin Desyman.

HUNDRITHE OF GESLINGE.

Centenar', William Crouh'st.

Vintemar'.

John Frenyngham.

Wyned' et Cultell'.

William de Lyndhurst.
John Grafhurst.
Thomas de Stonling.
Nychilas Sedington.
John de Lydeham.
Robert Bowkton.
William Joce.
John Igynton.
Thomas Gorwell.

John Steven.
John Watte.
John Gibbe.
John Lindhurst.
John Warin.
Peter de Henley.
John Symon.
Ric. Tressher.
Stevin Frenyngham.
Henry Benet.

Vinten'.

Wm. Clerke.

Sagitar'.

John Strode.
Homo Joppe.
Robert Snepe.
Walter Spugard.
John Nesslesham.
Walter Martyn.
John Strode.
John Frankelyn.
William Conelard.
William Bollard.

Wyned' cum cultell'.

Ric. at Strode.
Thomas at Colle.
Wm. Portreve.
Stevin Jacus.
Wm. Flemyng.
John Worere.
Wm. Flemyng.
Wm. Torner.
John Gervais.
Elias Bakere.

Muster Roll of the Rape. 1339

Vinten'
John Morys.

Bilmen.
Robert at Lyve.
Reynold Rogers.
John Silling.
John Gerold.

Wyned' cum cultell'.
John de Farleghe. (Fairlight.)
Walter Koc.
Robert Coc.
Walter Hiourt.
John Jek.
John Gibbe.
Ric. at Wiks.

Bacul' cum cultellis.
Wm. Poteman.
Walter Courtman.
Roger de Werthe.
John Stoven.
Ric. Motz.
John Martyn.
Stevin Wynd.
Gilbert Gerold.
William Rogger.

Vintemar'.
Adam Coleman.

Sagitar'.
John Adam.
William Vonler.
Robert Blankard.

Wyned'.
John Frere.
John Coleman.
William Josep.
Henry Bret.

Bacul' cum cultell'.
Bryan Chyntyng.
Wm. Blankard.
William at Noks.
Robert de Esshe.
Adam Smythe.
Wm. Chesman.
John Godeheue.
John Justys.
John Juster the Yong.
Thomas Porter.
Robert Sire.
John de Wrethe.
Wm. Bronyng.

HUNDRITHE OF GOSETROW.

Centenar', John de Brede.

Vintemar'.
Geffrey de Merle.

Sagitar'.
Robert Sterre.
Gerves Bremax.
John John.
Wm. Porter.
Ric. Aleyn.
Phelipe de Wyks.
Robert Honton.
John Hamonde.
John de Merle.
Henry le Smythe.
Robert Border.
John Broun.
Henry Austyn.
Peter Potesterf.
John de Salesbury.
John Gervays.
Stevin Lovenham.
John de Lovenham.
Ric. Bachelor.
Robert Bybbe.

Vintemar'.
Elyas Andrewe.

Bilmen.
John Hamond.
John Henry.
Wm. le Hore.
William Gillard.
Elyas Binere.
Wm. Janekyn.
Robert Stoulak.
Walter Hog.
Roger Mot.
Robert John.
Rychard Rayson.
John Andrewe.
John Bachelor.
Robert Andrewe.
John Bachelor.
Robert Bachelor.
Wm. de Lovenham.
Robert Heved.
John le Hove.
Aleyn Potman.
Richard Bernett.

Vinten'.
Richard Witt.

Sagitar'.
William de Wyks.
William de Wyks sonne.
Robert Wymond.
Wm. Edmond.
Wm. Hemham.
Wm. Prichell.
Thomas Edeston.
Henry Lewyks.

John de Henham.
Robert Tebbe.
Bartilmew Andrewe.
John sonne of Rog'
Henry sonne of Robert.
Wm. Godard.
John Paynet.
Raulf Benett.

Vintemar'.
Walter Bukstoks.

Bilmen.
Thomas at Halle.
Thomas de Hundestorre.
Robert Tebbe.
Nycholas de Hundestore.
John le Digher.
Thomas Prichell.
Benedick Choteny.
John de Hundestor.
Robert Coleman.
Elyas Scarl.
Phelipe at Stone.
Symon Sterall.
Robert Strall.
Robert Gillart.
John de Gateligh.
Thomas le Webbe.
Edmond Wytte.
Peter de Byrche.
Stevin de Hemham.
Wm. le Clarks.
Thomas Mayses.
James Turner.
John sonne of William.
Walter Fynche.

HUNDRETHE OF NEDDERFELD.

Centenar', Symon de Worth.

Vinten'.
Thomas a More.

Sagitar'.
Wm. de Hodesdale.
John de Smalfeld.
Wm. de Foxley.
John de Capenore.
Robert Herengw'th.
Wm. de Hucstepe.
Geffrey at Holt.
John at Pirry.
Walter de Tunstall.
Walter le Rede.
Robert at Rede.
John de Tunstall.
Robert Martyn.

Titles of Earl of Richmond and Honour of Rape of Hastings revert to King Edward III, who bestows them on Robert of Artois (1341)

So in 1341 the title to Richmond reverted to Edward III and he bestowed it on Robert of Artois, who promptly lost his life less than a year later near Vannes during the Breton War of Succession.

John of Gaunt (Lord of the Rape of Hastings and Earl of Richmond, 1342-1372)

Edward III then passed the lands in 1342 to his fourth son, John of Gaunt, to be Duke of Lancaster, who would have only been three years old when he received the Earldom of Richmond and Lordship of Hastings. In 1350, when 10, John was present at the naval Battle of Winchelsea. He was created Duke of Lancaster in 1362. John campaigned with his elder brother the Black Prince, mortgaging the Rape of Hastings to cover his costs, and participated in many battles of the Hundred Years War. He held the lands of Richmond and Hastings for 30 years and then for political reasons, again associated with Brittany, John of Gaunt surrendered the earldom and honours back to Edward III in 1372. He died in 1399.

Prior to the start of his ownership his father caused a valuation of the Rape to be made in 1342, with some individual's names of local interest:

An Inquisition taken at Berghersshe before Andrew Peverel, Escheator of our Lord the King in the counties of Surrey and Sussex, the sixth day of September, in the sixteenth year of the reign of King Edward the Third since the Conquest over England, and of France the third by the oaths of William de Berewyke, John Haremerc, John de Bokeshulle, John de Beche, Thomas de Sandrugg, Richard de Southame, Robert de Bothel, Thomas de Birchette, John Parker, Alan Fothelynge, Alan Bertilot, William de Hodesdale, Alan Kyng, John Grul, John Coupere, Geoffrey Atte Dene, and Gilbert de Wanbourne, who say upon their oath that John late Duke of Brittany and Earl of Richmond, held in fee the day that he died the Rape of Hastings, in the county of Sussex, of our Lord the King *in capite* by the service of two knights' fees and a half. And they say that there is in the said Rape a certain manor called—

	£	s.	d.
Burghersshe, and also a certain Chase called Dalynghton whereof the herbage is valued at <i>per annum</i> 13s. 4d. In the whole <i>per annum</i>	8	19	0
A manor called Bivelham. There also is a certain waste place called Combe Wood, etc.	13	3	2
A manor called Crowherst, etc., valued at <i>per annum</i>	11	0	2
Also they say that the common fines of all the tenants of the said Rape are valued at <i>per annum</i>	1	2	9
Surplusage of Albe Farm or Blanche Ferme, valued at <i>per annum</i>	1	0	2
The Castle Guard belonging to the said Rape is valued at <i>per annum</i>	20	0	0
The Farm of Codyng and Lastage of Winchelse is valued at <i>per annum</i>	8	0	0
Pleas and perquisites of the Hundreds and Lastage of the said Rape	6	0	0
Resolved Rent and Assize therefrom to Hastings Castle	1	19	0
From Albe Farm or Blanche Ferme payable to our Lord the King by the hands of the Sheriff	2	0	0
Also the said jurors found that the said Duke held in the Rape of Hastings the advowson of the church of Burghchurshe (Burwash), of which the extent was <i>per annum</i>	20	0	0
Also that he held 52 knights' fees belonging to the Rape of Hastings, which were divided among the following tenants to wit, Thomas Hoo Knight held in Wertlinge, Coudenne, and Sokernersshe 5½ knights' fees, valued <i>per annum</i> at	24	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Robert de Sharndenne, one knight's fee in Sharndenne and Bourne, valued <i>per annum</i> at	6	0	0
John Waleys, Adam Atte Combe, and other persons in Bayndene, Wadehurst, and Maghefeld—2 knights' fees, valued at <i>per annum</i>	11	0	0
James Echingham, in Echingham, Salehurst, and Mundifeld, 5 knights' fees, valued at <i>per annum</i>	24	0	0
Robert de Passele, in Tycchurst, 1 knight's fee, valued <i>per annum</i> at	4	6	8
Robert de Wanton in the same, half a knight's fee, valued <i>per annum</i> at	3	0	0
Reginald Mounboucher in Hamerdenne 1 knight's fee, valued <i>per annum</i> at	6	0	0
William de Ore, 1 knight's fee in Tycheshurst and Seddlescombe, valued at <i>per annum</i>	4	5	0
John de Ore, in Gestlyng, half a fee, valued <i>per annum</i> at	2	6	0
John Rede of Genesyng, in Gestlyng, the 4th part of 1 knight's fee, valued <i>per annum</i> at	1	5	0
Our Lord the King, in Iklesham the 4th part of 1 knight's fee, valued <i>per annum</i> at	1	5	0
Nicholas Atte Beeche, 3 parts of 1 fee in Iden, valued <i>per annum</i> at	4	0	0
James de Echingham, Robert de Passele, and Robert de Wanton, in Crowhurst, Mundifeld, and Brightlyng, 1½ knights' fees, valued <i>per annum</i>	5	0	0
Robert de Wanton, in Mundifeld, the 4th part of 1 fee, held by the service of 1d. <i>per annum</i> for all services, and valued <i>per annum</i> at	1	2	0
Thomas de Hasting, in Iklesham, Cattesfeld, Nedderfeld, Seddlescombe, and Burghersshe 5½ knights' fees, valued <i>per annum</i> at	18	0	0
Thomas de Passele, in Farleghe, 3½ knights' fees, valued <i>per annum</i> at	18	0	0
John de Goldingham, in Wiltinge, with its members 3 knights' fees, valued <i>per annum</i> at	16	0	0
John Wardedeu and the heirs of Richard Wardedeu, in Bodiham and Penhurst, 4 knights' fees, valued <i>per annum</i> at	20	0	0
John de Fynnes, in Hurst, Gotelee, and Lourdyng street, 1½ knights' fees, valued <i>per annum</i> at	12	0	0
John de Warbelton, in Warbelton, Brightlyng, and Westfeld, 2½ knights' fees, valued <i>per annum</i> at	10	0	0
Henry de Grothurst in Ashbournham 2 knights' fees, valued <i>per annum</i> at	11	0	0
Reginald de Mounburchier, in Filesham, 1 knight's fee, valued <i>per annum</i> at	5	0	0
Henry Fynche, in Kaechnore, 1 knight's fee, valued <i>per annum</i> at	5	10	0
The heirs of Richard de Codyng, in Iwhurst, 6 knights' fees, valued <i>per annum</i> at	2	10	0
Edmund de Knelle, in Morehalle, 1 knight's fee, valued <i>per annum</i> at	5	10	0
The Abbot of Battle, in Watlyngton and Seddlescombe, 2 knights' fees, in pure and perpetual alms ¹			
The Abbot of Robertsbridge, in Salhurst and Seddlescombe, 1½ knights' fees, in pure and perpetual alms			
The Bishop of Chichester in Buxle (Bexhill), in like manner 2 knights' fees—held in pure and perpetual alms			

1342 Valuation of the Rape (Extract from Dawson)

Duke John V of Brittany (*Duke of Brittany 1364-1399, Earl of Richmond 1372-1381/2*)

The earldom was then restored to the Ducal house of Brittany and was given to John IV, Duke of Brittany, who was been forced into exile in England in 1373. But there were still difficulties between England, Brittany and France. Mary the Duchess of Brittany, Richard II's sister, was separated from the Duke by the King's Council was refused permission for her to re-join her husband, on account of the Duke's breach of faith with the English in Brittany

In King Richard II's hands (1381/2 -1387)

The Patent Rolls of March, October and November 1382, indicate that the King was in possession of the Duke of Brittany's earldom in England. This continued and Anne, Queen of Richard II de facto held the Rape between 1384-1394 when she died but the titles remained resumed to the crown.

Restoration to Duke John V of Brittany (1387)

In March 1387/8 Richard restored John V, Duke of Brittany, to the honour of Richmond, but this was not to last long.

Resumption to England and Final Forfeiture of the rights to the Earldom of Richmond and Rape of Hastings by the Dukes of Brittany (1388 - 1399)

The lands were briefly passed to Joan Basset, sister of the Duke of Brittany and widow of Lord Basset of Drayton, but then promptly resumed to the crown again in 1388. But by 1390/1 we find:

In the Parliament 14 Richard II. (1390-91) , the Earldom and Lordship of Richmond, with the appurtenances thereof, were adjudged by the King and Lords as forfeit to the King, by reason of the adherence of John, Duke of Brittany, formerly Earl of Richmond, to the King's adversary of France.

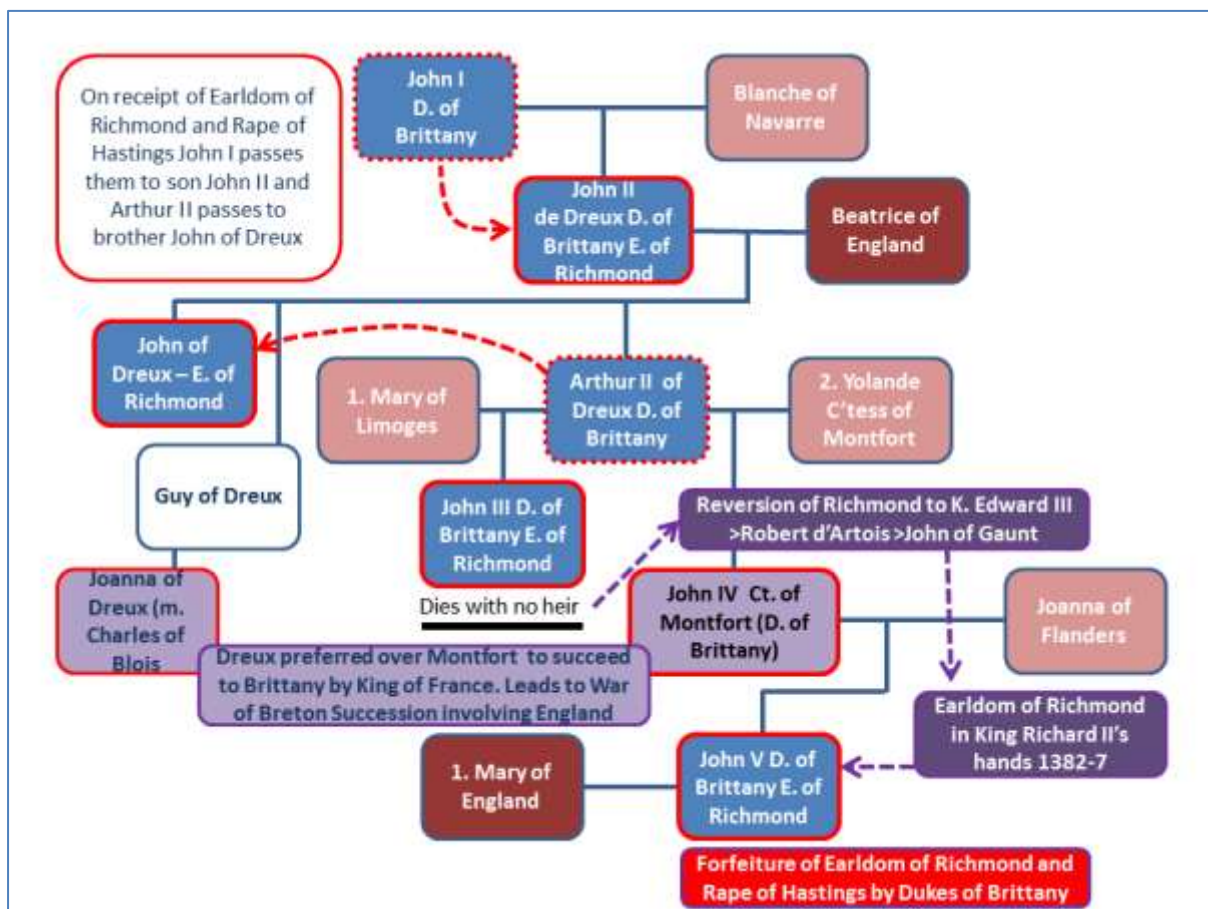
On July 20th, 1397, a safe-conduct was granted to John, Duke of Brittany to come to England and soon afterwards by what appears a technical move Richard II once more granted Richmond to Joan of Dreux, sister of the John V of Brittany, and widow of Ralph, Lord Basset of Drayton.

Richard, by the grace of God King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to his Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Dukes, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Reeves, Ministers, and all his bailiffs and faithful subjects, Greeting. Know ye that for certain reasonable causes us and our Council specially thereto moving, we do grant, and by this our present charter confirm, unto Joan, who was the wife of Ralph Basset, of Drayton, Knight ... the earldom, castle, town, and honour of Richmond

But things were not quite over. On Christmas Eve, 1398, King Richard II ordered his officers in the lordship of Richmond to return to the Duke of Brittany the rents which they had collected – but then on St. George's Day, April 23rd, 1399, the Duke released to the King all sums of money due from the earldom of Richmond.

Richard II was deposed on 30 September 1399 and died on 14 February 1400. Henry Bolinbroke became king of England and almost the first thing that Henry IV did on gaining the throne of in September 1399 was to remove Richmond and Hastings from Joan Basset and to give the Honours to his new Earl Marshall.

England would refuse to recognize the use of the title Earl of Richmond by the Dukes of Brittany ever again



This chart plots the involvement of the House of Brittany with respect to the Earldom of Richmond and Honour of the Rape of Hastings. For dates and context see text

Grant of the Rape to Ralph Nevill, Earl of Westmoreland (1399-1408)

The king had resumed the Honour of Richmond (but not the Earldom) from Lady Joan Basset, He granted Richmond and Hastings to his new Earl Marshal the Earl of Westmoreland (Ralph Nevill) in the following terms:

Henry, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to all to whom these present letters shall come, Greeting. Know ye that we, inwardly considering the gratuitous care, labour, and expenses which our dearest brother, Ralph de Nevill, Earl of Westmoreland, Richmond, to have for the term of his life.....

Eight years later Ralph Nevill granted the Rape of Hastings to one John Norbury. This temporarily divorces Hastings Rape from association with the Earldom of Richmond for the first time (excepting some royal reversions) since 1243.

Rape granted to John of Norbury (1408-1412)

The Rape of Hastings was granted to John of Norbury, 9 Henry IV: 12 March 1408 by Ralph Nevill, Earl of Westmorland. John Norbury was a younger son of Thomas Norbury of Nantwich, of relatively lowly birth. He had a varied career, including military and diplomatic service in Brittany described in detail on the History of Parliament website. Although the text of this entry is extensive this does not mention his involvement with the Rape of Hastings

After Henry IV ascended the throne Norbury achieved high office and was made Lord High Treasurer of England (1399–1401), Keeper of the Privy Wardrobe (1399–1405) and a member of the Privy Council. In 1406 he was acting as an ambassador to negotiate a further truce with the French. He retired in 1409 and died in 1414.

A Subsidy Roll of the Rape was taken in 1411 which shows valuations within the Rape and some valuations lying outside the Rape by landholders within the Rape, including Norbury's holdings elsewhere in Sussex.

Subsidy Roll of the Rape, 1411		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>John Norbury</i> hath manors, lands, etc., worth yearly, etc.					120	0	0
Namely—the Manor of Borwersh		16	0	0			
" " Bevyngname		10	13	4			
" " Crowherst		13	6	8			
" " Petworth		40	0	0			
" " Dunketon		15	0	0			
" " Sutton		5	0	0			
" " Hyhshete		20	0	0			
(There were certain annuities payable out of these four last-mentioned in the Roll.)							
<i>Hugh St. John</i> hath the Manor of Bernham, worth yearly.					20	0	0
<i>John Kirkeby and others</i> (probably trustees of the Westminster family in whose inquisitions, <i>post mortem</i> , these names appear)—							
(<i>Inter alia</i>), the Manor of Ewherst					6	0	0
<i>Joan Dalynregge</i> (wife of Sir John Dalynregge, knight,) hath manors, lands, etc., worth yearly, etc.—					100	0	0
(<i>Inter alia</i>), the Manor of Bodyham					15	0	0
" " Holyngton					2	0	0
<i>John Halle, senior</i> , hath manors, lands, etc., worth yearly, etc.					44	13	4
(<i>Inter alia</i>), namely—the Manor of Ore					8	0	0
" " Genesyng					5	6	8
" " Gestelyng					4	0	0
<i>Nicholas Selwyn</i> hath land worth yearly—							
(<i>Inter alia</i>), Northyham					3	6	8
<i>Richard Levet</i> hath land worth yearly (<i>inter alia</i>), lands, etc., in Cattisfeld and Yelding					10	0	0
<i>Richard atte Dene</i> hath land worth yearly—							
(<i>Inter alia</i>), lands in Pydynghoe					6	13	4
<i>John Waleys</i> hath manors, lands, etc. (<i>inter alia</i>)—							
In Hawkisberg Hundred					6	13	4

<i>Reginald Cobham</i> , of Saint Hill, hath the Manor of Northeye	36	0	0
<i>William Lord de Echyngham</i> hath manors and lands worth yearly	58	13	4
Namely—the Manor of Echynghame	30	0	0
" " Edmere (Udimore) ¹	10	0	0
" " Pette	8	13	4
" " Pekedene	10	0	0
<i>Robert Oxebriige</i> hath lands, etc. in Brede worth yearly	20	0	0
<i>Vincent Fynche</i> hath manors, lands, etc., worth yearly	40	0	0
Namely—the Manor of Eclyshame (Icklesham)	30	0	0
" " Nedirfeld	10	0	0
<i>William Swynbourn</i> hath manors, lands, etc., worth	51	6	8
Namely—One-third of the Manor of Mote	11	6	8
With land at Borne and Passhelee	40	0	0
<i>Joan Brenchisle</i> hath manors, lands, etc.—			
(<i>Inter alia</i>), Bixle	10	0	0
<i>John Asshebournhame</i> hath manors, etc.	40	0	0
Manor of Ewherst	20	0	0
" " Lamberhurst	20	0	0
<i>John Asshebournhame</i> hath the Manor of Asshebournhame	20	0	0
<i>William Marney and William Marchant</i> , trustees of Swinborne, one-third part of Neole aforesaid	8	0	0
<i>John Salerne</i> , the Manor of Lye	40	0	0
<i>John Chidecroft</i> hath land at Pesemersh worth	10	0	0
<i>Richard Prat</i> hath the Manor of Yden subject to an annuity of £8 to the Countess of Kent, with which the Countess is charged as below, and the manor is worth besides the annuity	66	8	0
<i>Countess of Kent</i> hath a certain annuity from the said Manor of Yden as aforesaid	8	0	0

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>William Breton</i> hath land at Borewersh worth yearly	30	0	0			
<i>John Lunsford</i> hath lands in Berwersh worth yearly	20	0	0			
<i>Joan de Echynghame</i> hath manors, etc., worth yearly—						
(<i>Inter alia</i>), Monefeld (Mountfield)	16	0	0			
<i>Henry Gotlee</i> hath the Manor of Westfeld, etc., worth yearly	13	6	8			
<i>William Harbotel</i> hath lands worth yearly	30	0	0			
Namely—Filsham	20	0	0			
Hamyldene	10	0	0			
<i>John Hall, junior</i> , hath the manor of Poplesham (Pepplesham), etc., worth yearly	10	0	0			
(<i>Gerard Fyenlees</i> hath manors, lands, etc., 100 acres of land in Horseye.)						
<i>Lady de Hoo</i> hath the Manor of Wortlynge, and rents, lands, etc. in Warbulton and Bokstepe worth yearly	60	0	0			
<i>John Colbrond</i> hath lands, etc., in Wortlynge and Bokstepe worth yearly	20	0	0			
<i>Isabella Playstede</i> hath land, etc., at Playstede	20	0	0			

Henry IV grants the Rape of Hastings to Sir John Pelham (1412-1428)



Pelham coat of arms. Azure (blue) three pelicans argent (silver/white), quartering gules (red) two buckles argent.

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When Ralph Nevill died in 1412 the gift of Hastings Rape must have reverted to the king as we find this grant of the Rape to Sir John Pelham, Constable of Pevensey Castle from 1394 to 1415. At the same time he was granted many manors within the Rape of Pevensey, including Laughton, which was for many years the home of Pelhams.

His father's smallholding at Warbleton and his mother's part of the manor of Gensing (in present day St Leonards on Sea) were the only properties he inherited. In 1376 he was brought to trial for an alleged trespass on the land of a royal clerk at Brede and for assaulting a carpenter. However he gradually gained very great influence as can be read in his history on the History of Parliament website. He was a member of Henry V's council in England from about July 1417-August 1422.

On November 2ist, 1412 (14 Henry IV), the King, in consideration of the acceptable services of his faithful servant Sir John Pelham, Knight, granted to him, on the death of Ralph, Earl of Westmoreland, the reversion of the Rape of Hastings, together with the manors of Crowhurst, Burwash, and Bivelham, with all profits and privileges appertaining thereto.

In 14 Henry IV (1412-13, the last regnal year of Henry IV's reign) the poor remains of Hastings Castle were granted to Pelham, but in the same year he was involved in the removal of the Priory of the Holy Trinity from Hastings to Warbleton where he provided the land:

"Whereas the church of the Holy Trinity of Hastyngs, and the dwelling of our beloved in Christ the Prior and Convent of the aforesaid church of Hastyngs, have been inundated and laid waste by the sea, so that they could no longer dwell there, as the said prior and Convent have given us to understand. For which reason our beloved and faithful knight Sir John Pelham, by our licence hath given and granted to the same prior and convent certain lands (at Warbleton, Sussex), etc., on which lands a new church and dwelling hath been begun, as it is said, etc."

He died in 1529

Sir John Pelham grants his son, Sir John Pelham, junior the Rape of Hastings (1428-1445)

In the sixth year of Henry VI. (June 17th 1428) Sir John Pelham, senior, made a grant to his (illegitimate) son, Sir John Pelham, junior, of the above manors and Rape. The younger Sir

John had already by 1415 become Constable of Pevensey Castle. His legitimate daughters were seemingly ignored.

To all the faithful in Christ to whom these present letters may come, John Pelham, senior, Knight, Greeting. Know ye me to have given, granted, and by this my present charter to have confirmed unto John Pelham, Knight, my (only) son, my lordship of the Rape of Hastings, with the manors of Crowherst, Burghersh, and Bivelham

This was a bit of a 'faux pas' on behalf of Sir John senior. This was done without the king's licence, and it was deemed an intrusion, and the Rape reverted to the king. Pelham junior was compelled to pay a fine of 100 marks (£66.67) to release the Rape and he was pardoned for the intrusion.

(7 Henry VI: April 1429 – it should be noted that Henry VI was only eight or nine at that time and the decision on this would have been taken by the Regency Council}

John Pelham, junior, that the aforesaid manors and Rape that he may again have and hold, to him and his heirs of us and our heirs by the services thence due and accustomed for ever, without let or impediment, etc. In witness, etc. Dated at Westminster, April 30th, 7 Henry VI.

John Pelham, junior, in the eighth year of Henry VI (1430), had to grant to Battle Abbey a general release from all rents, dues, and services owing to him from the monastery as lord of the same for their estates within that honour ; a copy of which release was entered in the abbey rental and is as follows :

To all the faithful in Christ to whom this present writing may come. Sir John Pelham, Knight, Lord of the Rape of Hastings, sends greeting. Know ye that I, for the health of my soul and of the soul of Sir John Pelham, my father, and for the souls of all my ancestors, have remitted, released, and in all things quitted claim, and do hereby for myself and my heirs and all other in our names, for ever remit and release unto Thomas, Abbot of the Monastery of St. Martin of Battle, in the county of Sussex, all right, claim, and demand which I have in all lands and tenements held by the said Convent of me within the Rape of Hastings ; together with all rents and services issuing from the same, etc. In witness whereof I have to this present writing put my seal. Witness Robert Oxebregge, John Thamworth, Robert Arnod, William Arnod, John Penherste, and others. Dated at Battle aforesaid, the 24th of July, 8 Henry VI. (1430)

He had obviously transgressed against the Abbey's ancient charter and they made sure he knew it!

This episode is followed up by another interesting tale which may have been a result of Henry VI's known problems with decision making and susceptibility to influence. In the early 1440s the Council had become concerned about how he distributed political favours. The King came of age in 1442, and in 1444 a truce had held with France for two years. A permanent peace was desired and on 22 April 1445 Henry VI married Margaret of Anjou, a girl of sixteen. A Sir Thomas Hoo had been involved in arranging the marriage, and he, to the dismay of Sir John Pelham, junior, suddenly received the Honour and Rape of Hastings.

The Rape is suddenly given to Sir Thomas Hoo (1445-1455)

Then held by his half-brother Thomas Hoo (1455-1461)

The grant to Sir Thomas Hoo, in 23 Henry VI (1445) seems to have been awarded because of the king's wish to reward Sir Thomas for the services which he had rendered in his wars with France. Also it was found that there was a defect in his grandfather's grant to Sir John Pelham, a grant which described the Rape as something that it was not at that time, i.e. "parcel of the Honour of Richmond." This error had caused the Rape never to have been officially out of the hands of the Crown!

This opportune error gave the King (or more likely someone else of influence) the chance to remember the previous slight and reward Sir Thomas Hoo, whose recent services superseded the memory of the services rendered by Sir John Pelham to his grandfather, Henry IV.

Sir John Pelham junior, feeling aggrieved by this grant to Hoo, presented a petition against it, quoting the grant by Henry IV to his father, Sir John Pelham, of the Manors of Crowherst, Burwash, and Bivelham, and the Rape of Hastings, after the death of Ralph, Earl of Westmoreland

The result of this petition is not recorded, but we can guess as Sir Thomas Hoo continued holding the Rape and was subsequently created Lord Hoo and Hastings.

In 1446 another Muster Roll of the Rape of Hastings was called, but this is less detailed than the previous example.

RAPE OF HASTINGS.			
Armed men, Hobelars and Archers to be found by the Lords of Manors within the Rape of Hastings at the time of Richard II., Henry IV., V. and VI.			
(From the Pelham Manuscripts.)			
	<i>Men at Arms.</i>	<i>Archers.</i>	<i>Hobelars.</i>
The Abbot of Battle for Battell, Bernehorne, Merlegh and Ludelyld	6	12	-
The heirs of the Lord of Echynggham, late of Godard of Oxynbrygge, Clotyng, Mundefeld and Udymer	3	4	-
The Manor of Nedderfeld, late Will Fynche, Yclesham, Cattesfield	2	4	-
The heirs of the Lord Edward of Pashlegh, late of Thomas Vic. Rochford for Pashlegh et Lez	1	2	-
The heir of Wardew, late of Roger Lewkenor, Knight, for Bodyam and ffokyngton	1	2	-
The heir of Selenges (St. Ledger), late of Richard Carew, Knight, for Wartelyng, Brokesmaylle and Bukstope	2	4	-
The heir of the Lord John Monneaux (Monceaux), lately the Lord of Saye for Herstmonceaux, Oldcourt	2	4	-

The heir of the Lord William of Warbleton for Warbleton	-	1	1
The heir of Lord John de Ashbourneham, lately of Will. Ashburnham for Ashburnham and Ketchenham	1	2	-
The heir of William Penherst	-	1	1
The heir of Nicholas de Beech	-	1	1
The Lord de Hoo, late Master of the College of Ashford	1	1	-
The Bishop of Chichester for Bexhyll	1	2	-
The Lord Edward Geldyngham	1	2	-
The Lord William of Heer, late Robert Hall, for Heer and Gessling	1	2	-
The Lord Brianus Monbocher, late Henry Willughby, Knight, for Ffylsham, Chichelhurst, Cotteslegh	1	2	-
Gervase Lunsford, for Lunsford and Wokenolle	1	2	-
The Lord Wills de Bukkeshyll, late Oxenbrygge, for Bukkeshyll and Sokenershe	1	1	-
The Abbot of Robertsbridge for ffordrelend, Thefodur and Eryks, with other within the Barony	-	-	-
The Prior of Hastyng for Haselden, Ticcherst, Ashebornham, Sti. Michell and Forlegh, with other within Barony	1	2	-
The heir of Ralph Crepy for Westfield with its appurtenances	-	1	1
Gilbert de Gensyng, late Hall, for Gensyng with appurtenances	-	-	1
Sisno . . . de Peplesham, late Johes Deneshe, Knight, for Peplesham and Croppeham	1	2	-
Stephanus Coden, late Deean Stephani, for the same	-	-	1
John Fsygett for Lyme, Bogleght	-	1	1
Wills de Megham for Megham and lez Weld	-	-	1

RAPE OF HASTINGS (continued.)			
	<i>Men at Arms.</i>	<i>Archers.</i>	<i>Hobelars.</i>
Adam de Cralle for the ffee de Bateherst	-	-	1
Jacobus de Deygehill and Wigehyll	1	-	-
The heir of the Lord Thomas de Northie, late Lords of Saye for Northie	1	1	-
The heirs de Keriell, late Henry Wyllughby, Knight, for Kechenor	1	-	-
The Lord of Breed, late the Abbot of Syon	2	4	-
The Lord of Cattesfeld	1	2	-
The Lord Bartholomeus Burghersh for Burghersh and Totyngworth	1	2	-
The Abbot of Begham for Rokeland	1	2	-
The heir of Hamond atte Gatte for Gate and Dyxterbe	1	2	-
Codyng	1	-	-
Malviles, late of the Lord Fynes for Ewherst	1	-	-
Sebannes for Morehall	-	1	1

In the year 26 Henry VI (June, 1448) the king appointed Sir Thomas Hoo, Baron of Hoo in the County of Bedford, and of Hastings in the County of Sussex, to have the entailed title.

Now we, of our special grace and certain knowledge and mere motion have erected, raised and created the aforesaid Thomas a Baron of our Kingdom of England give and grant unto the said Thomas the name, style, title, and honour of Baron of Hoo and of Hastings; and further we assign whatever of the Lordship of Hoo is within the County of Bedford and the Lordship of Hastings which is within the County of Sussex, to have and to hold, etc., to him and his heirs male for ever. Dated June 2nd, in the 26th year of the reign of Henry VI (1448).'

Lord Hoo and Hastings was on the King's business in Normandy, in 1448 and 1449, and was Governor of Mantes when it fell to Charles VII, although he was not actually present at the surrender. Following on from this Normandy was lost between the years 1449 and 1450. On 1 October 1449, Lord Hoo and Hastings returned to England and ceased to be Chancellor of France. He remained in England, and was repeatedly summoned to attend Parliament until his death.

Cade's Rebellion in 1450 was an uprising against the policies of Henry VI. Although led by property owners, most participants were peasants from Kent and eastern Sussex. It has been seen as another key moment in the growing political consciousness of the country as a whole, as unlike the Peasant Revolt of 1381, Cade's rebellion was not instigated by the peasantry, although the poorest in society were caught up in it. The protesters objected to forced labour, corrupt courts, land seizures by the nobility and heavy taxation, directly linked to the crass royal management of the 100 years' war which had dragged on interminably. Afterwards Cade himself was inevitably hunted down, caught near Heathfield and mortally wounded. He mercifully died whilst being taken to London, but his corpse was still hung, drawn and quartered, before his head was placed on a pole by London Bridge.

It is notable that Robertsbridge Abbey did not support Cade and that its fair had been the subject of an attack by Cade's supporters in 1449. This suggests that this abbey was not very supportive of its community at that time.

Battle's Abbot Richard Dertmouth and his abbey did support the Cade Rebellion as did Lewes Priory, and afterwards received a Royal pardon, as did many others. The number of pardons was very high as to have meted out capital retribution to the large numbers involved across the whole spectrum of society would have damaged the country irrevocably and significantly reduced royal income. The latter was probably the more important factor with the royal council. Below is a list of those from Hastings Rape who supported Cade, a wider list from across Sussex is given by Durrant-Cooper. Numbers of whole communities were involved.

From mid-1453 until the end of 1454 King Henry VI became mentally incapable and the Duke of York was appointed Protector during the king's illness. Lord Hoo and Hastings seems to have excluded himself from public affairs. On 24 May 1454 he pleaded that he was too sick and feeble to attend the Parliament. Nevertheless the Rape was confirmed to Lord Hoo and his brother (his half-brother was also called Thomas) on 10 January 1455, just over five years after he returned from France. He died on 13 February 1455 and was survived by his half-brother also Thomas. His will was proved at Lambeth, on 11 December 1456.

I, Thomas Hoo, Knyght, Lord of Hoo, and of Hastings, the Xllth daye of february, the yere of King Henry the sixt the xxxiiij, beyng in good mynde, make this my wyll and ordenaunce etc .

The executors named in the will were his wife Eleanor and his half-brother Thomas Hoo; but they renounced this right, and letters of administration with the will were granted at Lambeth on 7th December 1455, to one Richard Lewknor. This was entered in the register of

Archbishop Thomas Bouchier, but there is no copy of the will. He died in possession of the Rape of Hastings, having a deed of conveyance from Sir John Pelham

Jack Cade's Adherents in the Rape

A list of those of the insurgents who resided in the Rape of Hastings is now given as follows :

Gabriel Berword, Tysherst, } The Constables of	John Snaylcham, of Britlyng, labourer.
yoman, } Shoeswell	Thos. Hert, " "
John Holbeme, Tysherst, yoman, } Hundred.	Richard Bayly, " "
Richard Chyntyng, Petyngnow, husbandman.	John Wodcman, " "
John Porter, " "	Thos. Godesole, " yoman.
And others.	Stephen Crotehole, " labourer.
John Mabsyn, Cattysfeld, } Constables of the Hun-	Walter Martyn, " "
John Parker, Hoo, } dred of Nenfeld.	Wm. Smalefeld, " "
Henry Mabsyn, Cattysfeld, with others.	John Kenne, " "
Richard Beche, Sedelscombe, } Constables of Hun-	Wm. Haylok, " "
ycoman, } dred of Staple.	John Adam, " "
Robt. Morfoll, of Enherst, } draper, and others.	John Godehyne, " "
Robt. Pepeden, of Salehurst, } Constables of Hun-	And all and singular of the same hundred.
husbondman, } dred of Hen-	Stephen Wyt, of Mundefeld, senior, yoman.
Robt. Braban, husbandman. } hurst.	Stephen Wyt, " junior, "
Thos. Fynhawe, of Westfeld, } Constables of Hun-	Wm. Westbourne, " labourer.
Christofer Halle, of Crowhurst, } dred of Baldeslowe.	John Norman, " "
Richard Oxenbregge, of Pese- } Constable of Hundred	Richard atte Wode, " yoman.
marsh } of Colspore, etc.	John Kempe, " labourer.
Wm. Howlette, of Brede, } Constables of Hun-	Wm. Cropwode, " yoman.
Wm. Hunte, of Odemere, hus- } dred of God-	William Crecy, " labourer.
bondmen, and others, } stowe.	John Cropwode, " yoman.
Robt. atte Mille, Wartlyng, } Constables of Hun-	Thomas Smyth, " "
yoman } dred of Hun-	John Smyth, " "
Robt. atte Wode, Warbylton, } dred of Fox- } herle.	Richard Riche, " labourer.
husbondman, and others.	John Horsman, " "
Robert Abram, of Robertsbrugge, and the dwellers of that town.	John Hukstepe, " yoman.
Thomas Stevens, Dalynnton, yoman.	John Hukstepe, junr., " labourer.
John Hogge, " labourer.	Robt. Loke, " yoman.
John Lambe, " yoman.	And all and singular of the same parish.
Thos. Hunte, " "	William Hampton, Balliff of Pevensec, yoman.
Wm. Tayllour, " clerk.	John Morley, of Westham, gentleman.
Adam Wodsill, " yoman.	Richard Porter, " yoman.
Wm. Sterlyng, " labourer.	Richard Motard, " "
Stephen Alfrye, " "	And all and singular the men in the towns aforesaid.
Simon Rook, " yoman.	Thomas Colbrond, of Wortling, gentleman.
Simon Croucher, " labourer.	Richard de Lay, " draper.
And all and singular of the same town.	John Barward, Warbulton, yoman.
Thomas de Dene, of Dalynnton, yoman.	William Peggan, " "
John Martyn, " labourer.	John Jamyn, " husbandman.
Richard Cok, " "	Richd. Wellis, " carpenter.
Thos. Polyngworde, " "	Richd. Brette, Eshpernham, yoman.
Thos. Russell, " yoman.	Richd. Ladde, " husbandman.
Simon Russell, " labourer.	Wm. Write, Wortlyng, yoman.
John Prior, " "	Thos. Briksnode, " "
And all and singular of the same parish.	Thomas Austin, clerk.
John Batys, of Bridling, gentleman.	John Pynfowle.
John Erle, " labourer.	Alan Tysherst, Ashburnham, carpenter.
John Martyn, " "	Thos. Hole, " "
Thos. Twyford, " "	John Russell, " "
Nicholas Jolyf, " "	John Lampain, junr., Wratlyng, butcher.
Wm. Meryfeld, " yoman.	Thos. Burgeys, " husbandman.
John Bele, " labourer.	John White, " "
John Fouke, " "	John Roser, of Eastlyng (Guestling), Constable of
And all and singular of the same town.	Guestling, and other men of the Hundred.
Wm. Burford, of Britlyng, } Constables of	William Mason, of Hastings, mason.
yoman, } the Hundred of	Wm. Wytton, " dyer.
Richd. Wyker, of Bataill, yoman, } Netherfeld.	John Bychet, " carpenter.
	John Mayhewc, " yoman.
	Richard Hughson, " "

James Lok, of Hastings, helyar.	Wm. Martyn, Battle, labourer.
John Adam, " syngleman.	Thos. Colyn, Ashburnham,
Robt. Knight, " tailor.	Wm. Byrchet, Cattesfeld, "
John Clypsam, " carpenter.	John Byrchet, " "
Osbert Watte, " husbandman.	John Parker, of Hoo, yoman, Constable of the
Edmund Letherland " yoman. Etc.	Hundred of Hoo.
John Lounsford, of Battle, gentilman.	John de Wellys.
Richd. de Neve, " labourer.	Thos. de Brooke.
Wm. Atte Held, " "	John Knelles.
John Ideyn, " "	William Scotte, of the Hundred aforesaid, and
John Fermesham, " "	John Broke, etc.
Simon Martyn, Ashburnham, "	

Thomas Hoo passes Rape of Hastings to William, Lord Hastings (1461-1483)



Arms of the Hastings family, earls of Huntingdon:

Argent, a maunch sable. A maunch is detachable lady's sleeve with a wide pendulous cuff

By Jimmy44. Image created for the Blazon Project of the French Wikipedia. [GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>) or CC BY 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Thomas the brother of Thomas, Lord Hoo and Hastings then passed the Rape of Hastings to Lord Hastings on 11th November 1461 (1, Edward IV). William, Lord Hastings had married Katherine Nevill of the powerful Nevill family. There is no indication of why the Rape was granted to William Hastings as his base was the Midlands, and he was already wealthy, but it may be that he just wished to become Baron Hastings of Hastings. There is little indication that either he or his two sons who succeeded to the title showed any interest in Hastings at all.

To all the Faithful in Christ to whom this present writing may come, Thomas Hoo, Esquire, Nicholas Husee Esq., Thomas Hanwell clerk, William Gaynesford, Henry Pole citizen and goldsmith of London, Thomas Hertley clerk, and John Wodye, Greeting in God everlasting. Know ye us to have made, constituted, and in our place to have put our beloved in Christ Bartholomew Bolney, and William our true and lawful attorneys conjointly and separately to deliver for us and in our names, unto William Hastynges Lord de Hastynges, Knight, full and peaceable possession of and in the Lordship, Barony, Honour and Rape of Hastynges with their appurtenances in the county of Sussex, according to the true form and effect oi a certain Charter to the said William Hastynges thereof made ; hereby ratifying and confirming all and whatsoever they our aforesaid attorneys, or any of them, shall do or cause to be done in the premises. Witness, etc. Dated 16 November, 1 Edward IV.

The manors of Crowherst, Burwash, and Bivelham, the hundreds of Baldeslow, Hawkesburgh, and Shoeswell, and the other premises excepted in the grant from Sir John Pelham, Junior to Thomas Hoo (with the Castle and Rape in the preceding grant from Edward IV to Lord Hastings) were included in the above grant. This as might be expected this caused dispute. So a release was executed by Lord Hastings to Sir John Pelham.

5 Edward IV. "This Indenture made the 28th day of Marche the fifth yere of the reigne of King Edward the IV. (1465) betweene William Ld. Hastynges Knyght, on that one partie, and John Pelham Knyght, on that other partie witnesseth that whereas divers variaunces have ben between the said parties, for the title and possession of the Manniores of Crowherst, Burgherst, and Thomas Hoo Grants the Rape to Lord Hastings

There was a letter of attorney from Thomas Hoo to Lord Hastings delivering:

unto William Hastynges Lord de Hastynges, Knight, full and peaceable possession of and in the Lordship, Barony, Honour and Rape of Hastynges with their appurtenances in the county of Sussex, according to the true form and effect oi a certain Charter to the said William Hastynges thereof made; hereby ratifying and confirming all and whatsoever they our aforesaid attorneys, or any of them, shall do or cause to be done in the premises. November 18th, I Edward IV

And then final confirmation from King Edward IV, which also returned the Collegiate church of St Mary in the Castle (Patent Roll 1Edward IV part 5, No. 75). The extract below was preceded by a long preamble which clarified the confusing issue of Richmond mentioned above. Within the same Patent Roll is a grant of previous possessions of Fécamp abbey, within the Rape to Syon Abbey.

Dated 6 February 1462 Pat. Roll 1 Edward IV part 5

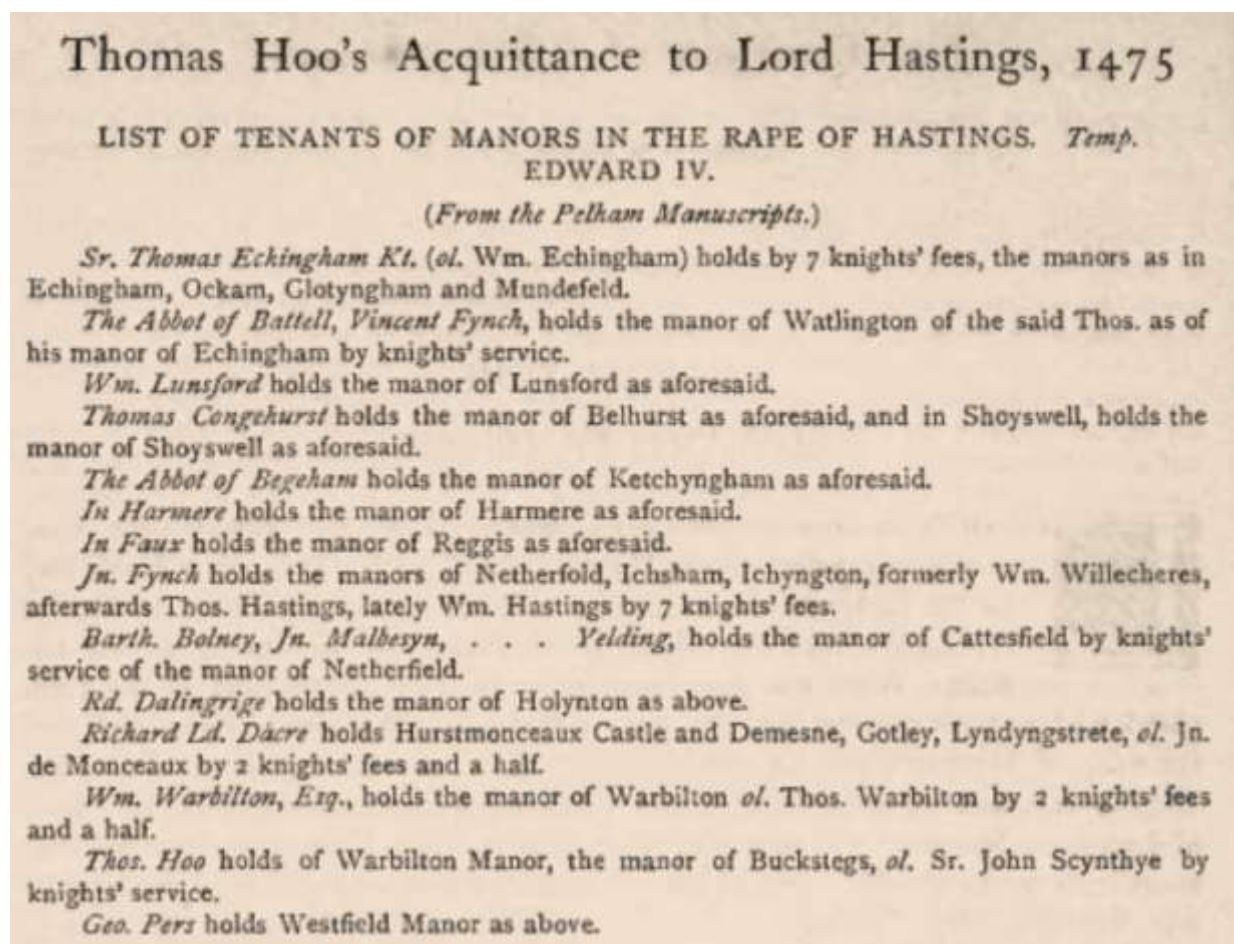
The king confirms in fee simple to the said William Hastynges the castle, lordship, barony and honour of Hastynges, the manors of Crowehurst, Burwayssh and Bevyllham, the hundreds of Balslowe, Haukesbergh and Shosewell, and further grants to him the advowsons of the deanery and prebends of the college or free chapel within the said castle and the churches of St. Clement and All Saints, Hastynges, and St. George, Brede, and of the churches St. Thomas the Martyr, St. Giles and St. Leonard at and within the town of Wynchelsee, sheriffs' turns held yearly at Derfold, return of writs, wreck of sea and numerous other specified rights. By p.s.

So who was Lord Hastings? The following is a very brief and incomplete summary collated from numbers of sources. His story is complex and the interested reader is referred to texts on the reigns of Edward IV and Richard III and the Wars of the Roses:

William Hastings, 1st Baron Hastings, (circa. 1431 – 13 June 1483) was an English nobleman who succeeded to the family estates in Leicestershire and Warwickshire, and was sheriff of both counties. He supported the House of York and fought alongside Edward at the Battle of Mortimer's Cross and was present at the proclamation of Edward as King Edward IV in London on 4 March 1461 and also when Edward secured the crown at the Battle of Towton.

Hastings became a key figure in the realm, notably as Master of the Mint and Lord Chamberlain. Whilst Master of the Mint he introduced the coinage of gold nobles worth 100d*, and two other gold pieces worth 50d and 20d, which appears like an early attempt at decimalisation! He also undertook some ambassadorial duties in France, Brittany and Burgundy. When Warwick drove Edward IV into exile in 1470, and Henry VI was briefly restored Hastings went with Edward, and accompanied him back in the following spring. He raised troops for Edward and served as one of the captains of the Yorkist forces at both Barnet and Tewkesbury.

In 1475 Hastings was sent to France with an invading force. A treaty of peace followed [the Treaty of Pecquigny]. Hastings became more important during the second half of Edward IV's reign. He continued to serve as Chamberlain and was also appointed Lieutenant of Calais, which created a link with France.



Hastings swore loyalty to King Edward's eldest son, but he was apparently not on good terms with Queen Elizabeth Woodville. When, however, Richard of Gloucester tried to obtain Hastings support, Hastings seemed disposed to join the queen's party, but eventually supported Richard's formal installation as Lord Protector and collaborated with him in the

royal council. Suddenly on 13 June 1483 during a council meeting at the Tower of London: Richard of Gloucester, supported by the Duke of Buckingham, accused Hastings and other council members of having conspired against his life with the Woodvilles with Hastings's mistress Jane Shore (formerly also a mistress to Edward IV), acting as a go-between. Hastings was immediately beheaded in the Tower courtyard without any formal trial. Gloucester acceded and reigned from 26th June being crowned Richard III on 6 July 1483.

Richard did not issue an attainder against Hastings and his family. So his wife and sons were eventually allowed to inherit his lands and properties. The death of Lord Hastings was covered by Shakespeare in 'Richard III'.

Richard III died at the Battle of Bosworth 22 August 1485.

Rape held by default by King Richard III and the Crown (1483-1466)

Richard III's rule lasted only two years, until his defeat and death at Bosworth Field. During that time the Castle and Rape of Hastings remained, by default, in the hands of the Crown.

Edward Lord Hastings holds the Rape (1466/7-1506)

Edward was born in November 1466.

One of Henry VII.'s earliest measures was to pass an Act of Resumption, with a view among other things of reversing the ruination inflicted on adherents of the cause of Lancaster. This might be seen as just but in fact he held on to much of the property himself, but fortunate 107 attainders of Lancastrians were reversed.

In this Act of Resumption a particular note was made by Henry VII in favour of his faithful follower, Edward, the son and heir of Lord Hastings, to resume the Castle and Rape of Hastings, etc.

It was noted that

'That William Hastings of Hastings, Knight, held at his death the Castle, Lordship, and Rape of Hastings, in the county of Sussex, and that he died on June 13th, in the first year of the reign of King Edward the Bastard " (Edward V), and that Edward Hastings, Knight, Lord Hastings, was the son and heir of the said William, and was aged seventeen years and upwards.'

Edward appears to have 'kept his nose clean and was High Steward of Leicester and constable of Leicester Castle in 1485. He was appointed a Privy Councillor in 1504

He died in November 1506

George, Lord Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, holds the Rape (1506-1544)

George, Lord Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, born in 1486/7 succeeded his father Edward, and seven years afterwards we find the following documents from the reign of King Henry VIII relative to the Rape, Castle, etc.

5 Henry VIII. (February 24th). A grant from John Heron and others to Richard Sacheverell and others, to the use of George, Lord Hastings, of the Manor, Rape, Castle, etc., of Hastings, with a Letter of Attorney for the possession of the same, as follows :

(1513-14, 5 Henry VIII.)

Henry, by the Grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to all to whom these present letters shall come, Greeting. We have seen the letters patent of Confirmation of our Lord Henry the Seventh, late King of England, our father, in these words: Henry, &c. (Here follows a verbatim recital of the Charters of Henry VII. and Edward IV.).

Now We, the said Letters and Charters, and all and singular contained in them, have ratified, and of our grace for us and our heirs as far as in us lies, do accept and approve and the same do confirm and ratify unto our beloved George Hastings, Knight, Lord Hastings, and his heirs, according to the tenour of the same presents, and as in such letters and charters aforesaid is reasonably witnessed. In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness the King at Westminster, the 21st day of November in the 7th year of his reign.

For forty shillings paid into the Hanaper.

He served with King Henry VIII's army in France during 1513, including when both Therouanne and Tournai, near the present French-Belgium border, were besieged and taken. He was created Earl of Huntingdon on 8 December 1529.

In 1533 Katherine of Aragon's marriage to Henry VIII was declared null and void by Archbishop Cranmer. Henry created Anne Boleyn Marchioness of Pembroke, and on 10th October took her with him to Calais with many followers, including Lord Hastings, the new Earl of Huntingdon. She was crowned on the Whitsunday following. Two days before the coronation Lord Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, received the order of Knight of the Bath.

George, Earl of Huntingdon, 3rd Baron Hastings, 5th Baron Hungerford, 6th Baron Botreaux and 4th Baron de Moleyns died in 1544.

Keith Foord ©BDHS March 2018, updated March 2019

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- This is the Charles Dawson of Piltdown infame. The referenced book is essentially a vast collection of data from many historic sources. This has proven valuable in this study, although obviously data has been crossed checked with other sources, including Patent Rolls and VCH, which have shown that the basic data has integrity. Some historians warn against using Dawson's work, but in fact this is a useful compendium, although with some 'interpretations' which may be outdated or fanciful. Used carefully and double checked it is a useful secondary source.