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A Thousand Years of High Sheriffs in Herefordshire

By Katherine Andrew FMA PACR
With original archival research by Dr Sylvia Pinches

Commissioned by Bill Jackson Esq.
High Sheriff 2016 - 17



On parade again after 50 years. High Sheriff, Bill Jackson Esq. and Sergeant of Arms, Mick Meredith. Bill was a Former Lieutenant, Platoon Commander of D Company, Hereford Light Infantry. Mick Meredith was his Platoon Sergeant.



March 2017, appointment of the Honorary Recorder of the city of Hereford, HHJ Daniel Pearce-Higgins QC, and to the Office of Chief Steward of the city of Hereford, Robert, The Lord Lisvane KCB, DL; Jim Kenyon, the Mayor of Hereford; The Countess of Darnley JP; Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire; and Bill Jackson Esq. High Sheriff of Herefordshire.

Year	Name
1999	Mrs. Rosalie Joan Dawes of Birtsmorton Court, near Malvern, Worcestershire
2000	Mrs. Thomas Hone of Bosbury House
2001	Andrew William Dyson Perrins of The Hyde
2002	Col. Sir Piers Henry George Bengough K.C.VO., O.B.E. of the Great House, Canon Pyon
2003	Georgina Sarah Henrietta Britten-Long D.L. of Hill Farm Worcestershire
2004	James Donald Nicholas D.L. of Welsh Court Yatton Herefordshire
2005	Andrew William Grant D.L. of Bransford Manor Bransford Worcestershire
2006	Lt-Gen. Sir John Paul Foley, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.L. of Eau Withington Court Herefordshire
2007	John Sarne Yorke of Forthampton Court Forthampton Worcestershire
2008	Lt-Col. Michael Robin Ogilvie Leigh of Yarkhill Court Yarkhill Herefordshire
2009	The Hon. Dr. Gilbert Greenall, C.B.E. of Bromsberrow Place Worcestershire
2010	Elizabeth Jean Hunter of Putley Herefordshire

2011 onwards

Year	County of Herefordshire
2011	Simon David Arbuthnott D.L. of Leominster
2012	Lt-Col. Charles Thwaites M.B.E. of Pisleigh
2013	Robert Tabor D.L. of Llanrothal
2014	Major Patrick James Auchinleck Darling, D.L., M.F.H. of Caradoc
2015	Edward Mortimer Hartley D.L. of Braampton Brian
2016	William James Jackson of Hereford
2017	The Reverend Lady Lisvane of Blakemere

Introduction

Despite being the longest standing civil office in England, with Sheriffs serving for only a year or two at a time from the eighth century to the present day, very little has been published about High Sheriffs in Herefordshire and archival references are sparse. This booklet provides glimpses of the High Sheriffs of Herefordshire, gleaned from published sources or where archival documents and museum objects start to fill out the picture. Pages 19-38 contain as complete a list of the holders of the office as research has been able to pull together to date, 799 individuals over a period of 982 years.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to the staff (past and present) and volunteers of Hereford Museum & Gallery, Herefordshire Museum Service for photographing a number of objects in the museum collection and supplying a number of images.

Saxon Kings' Reeves to Wicked Sheriffs and the Magna Carta

The role of the High Sheriff dates back to Saxon times, when England became a single kingdom united under one royal administration. The first references to a *scir gerefu* [shire reeve], a district officer appointed by the King, appears in documents from the reign of Aethelstan (924-939). From 991, when King Aethelred II started having to pay a tribute (Danegeld) to the Danish King, the role moved much closer to that of the later Sheriffs. Tasks included administering royal jurisdiction, ensuring a balance of power between the Earls within their local areas, and making sure that taxes were raised. By the time of the last Anglo-Saxon King, Edward the Confessor, the role of Sheriff in administering justice and government, locally, was well established.

The first High Sheriff that we have any information about was Aelfnoth, killed in battle on 6th June 1056 at Glasbury, on the River Wye. Aelfnoth was killed by Gruffydd ap Ilewlyn, King of Wales. Also killed that day was Leofgar, Bishop of Hereford. Gruffydd was the ally and son-in-law of Aelfgar, son of Leofric, Earl of Mercia and Lady Godiva. Aelfgar had been deprived of his lands as Earl of East Anglia when Harold Godwinson (later King Harold) became Earl of East Anglia. Gruffydd had sacked Hereford the previous October and destroyed its castle.

Harold, also Earl of Hereford, was given the task of regaining English control before a peace treaty was concluded and Aelfgar's lands were re-instated. Aelfgar

and Gruffydd remained allies and Gruffydd and Harold continued as enemies. After Aelfgar's death, Harold and his brother, Tostig, managed a series of attacks that led to Gruffydd being killed on 5 August 1064.

After William of Normandy defeated Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings in October 1066, he wanted to be seen as Edward the Confessor's rightful heir so, initially at least, he retained most of the Saxon Sheriffs. By 1087, however, most of the Old English Earldoms had been abolished and Norman barons were appointed across England as Sheriffs and keepers of royal castles. Except in Worcestershire and Devon, these offices were not normally held together and the military duties of the Sheriff were confined to the summoning and command of the local militia.

The Sheriff became the dominant influence in his shire and, unlike the older shire-reeves, he was usually the social and territorial equal of the strongest magnates with whom he had official contact. The financial perquisites (benefits) of a term of Sheriffdom, including a cut in the fees paid for lodging pleas, were enough to attract the richest barons to take on the role. By the time of the Domesday book (1086), sheriffs in most parts of England were using their official powers to their own advantage.

Ralph de Bernay, a Norman, is the first known post-conquest Sheriff in office in the period between 1066 and 1080. He probably served under the patronage of Earl William Fitz Osbern, first of the new Earls of Hereford (and a relative and close confidant of William the Conqueror) from whom he received the services of two riding men, funded by income from land at Martley. The Domesday survey records that Ralph de Bernay also held 'reeveland' that belonged to the King at Lugwardine; 'the value of what the Sheriff has for his use, 60s.' plus two manors in Woonton and land belonging to the castle at Ewyas Harold. Ralph de Bernay had his faults. Whilst Sheriff, he wrongfully included the Woonton manor lands in the revenue of Leominster. He is also said to have taken one hide of land from the manor of Monnington in the Golden Valley and land from the church in Worcester. He was one of 15 sheriffs accused, in the Domesday survey, of misappropriating land.

By 1127, Payn Fitzjohn, who was employed in the exchequer, was Sheriff of Shropshire as well as Herefordshire and, with Miles, Sheriff of Gloucester, had such domination over the land from the Severn to the sea that no man was said to be free from their extortion and litigation.

Year	Name
1958	Brig. Robert Peel Waller D.S.O., M.C. of Wyastone, Leys, Monmouth
1959	Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Hill O.B.E. of Orleton Manor, Near Ludlow
1960	Thomas John Hawkins O.B.E. of Wilton Oaks, Tarrington
1961	David Watkin Hamlen Williams of Angel House, Kingsland
1962	Ronald Edmund Combe O.B.E., M.C., D.L. of The Slad, Putley
1963	Richard Frederic Nevill Aldrich-Blake of Weston Hall, Ross-on-Wye
1965	J. M. Carpenter, esq.
1966	Major Philip George Verdin, M.C.
1967	R. J. G. Berkeley, esq.
1968	Captain Sir Maurice Huntington-Whitely. R.N.
1969	C. P. Norbury, esq.
1970	Thomas Raymond Dunne of Gatley Park, Lenthall Earls, Leominster
1971	Neston Dana Ord Capper of Lower Hope, Ullingswick
1972	Henry Habington Barneby of Llanerch-y-Coed, Dorstone
1973	Ernie Reginald Forester Gilbert of Bishopstone, near Hereford
1974-2010	High Sheriff of Herefordshire and Worcestershire
1974	Col. George Michael Singleton M.C., T.D. of Tustins, Colwall, near Malvern
1975	George Howard Heaton of The Tee, Martley, near Worcester
1976	David Vernon Swynfen Cottrell of Rectory Farm Cottage, Kemerton, Tewkesbury
1977	Lieut-Colonel Edward Courtenay Phillips M.C. of Chase House, Monnington-on-Wye
1978	John Sydney Birch Lea of Dunley Hall, Stourport-on-Severn
1979	Bernard Arthur Higgins of The Halesend, Storrige, near Malvern.
1980	Col. Thomas Jim Bowen M.C. of Little Blakes
1981	Richard Chevallier Green of The Whittern, Lyonshall, Kington Herefordshire
1982	John Alan Bennet Thompson of Bransford Manor, Worcester
1983	Keith Robert Henshaw James of Broadfield Court, Bodenham
1984	Lieut-Colonel Patrick Charles Britten (Rtd) of Wichenford Court, near Worcester
1985	Captain Charles Patrick Hazlehurst (Rtd) of Broomy Court, Llanwarne, Hereford
1986	William Richard Broughton Webb of Barbers, Maerdey, Worcestershire
1987	Christopher Charles Hanley of Brampton Bryan Hall, Bucknell, Shropshire
1988	Thomas Monsanto Berington of Little Malvern Court, Malvern
1989	Major David John Cecil Davenport CBE DL of Mansel House, Mansel Lacy, Hereford
1990	Michael Ashley Cecil Britton of Park Hall, Kidderminster
1991	David Edward Bulmer of Brilley Court, Brilley, Whitney-on-Wye
1992	Vanda Alexandra Clare, Lady Cotterell of Gamons, Hereford
1993	Stephen John Anthony Webb
1994	George Meysey Clive of Whitfield, Allensmore, Hereford
1995	Hugh Bernard Derbyshire of The Eades, Upton-upon-Severn
1996	Mrs. Rosemary Sally Clive of Perrystone Court, Ross-on-Wye
1997	Michael Eliot Howard of Green Farm, Sankyn's Green, Little Witley
1998	Simon William Britten Dereham of Sapness Farm, Woolhope

Gérard d'Athée, a valiant warrior who also held the castle at Bristol in 1208, was Sheriff of Hereford and Gloucester from 1207 to 1209 and Sheriff of Nottingham from 1208 to 1209, appointed by King John. However, by this time, fines, ransom demands and seizures of land from church and private landowners were common practice. Many traditional rights and charters were eroded and imprisonment and punishment were being dealt out unfairly. A group of 25 barons, supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury and other clerics, sought to rebalance power with the Great Charter of rights being the result. Kinsmen of Gérard d'Athée, including his successor as Sheriff of Hereford, Engeland de Cigogné, were amongst the barons deprived of all offices in England.

In 1215, following King John applying his seal to the Great Charter, or Magna Carta, it was the sheriff's role to have the charter proclaimed. Engeland de Cigogné, Sheriff of Gloucester and Hereford, was charged with delivering the writ to Hereford and ensuring the castle at Hereford was surrendered to the new Hereford



Bill Jackson reading a copy of the new handwritten and illuminated exemplification of Magna Carta, created by the Office of Clerk to the Crown in 2015 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the charter. Photograph K. Andrew.

Year	Name
1916	James Tudor Hereford of Sufton, Mordiford
1917	Col. John Dutton Hopton of Canon Frome Court, Ledbury
1918	Richard Harington of Whitbourne Court, Worcester, bart.
1919	Guy Rawson Trafford of Hill Court, Ross
1920	Col. Gilbert Charles Bourne of Cowarne Court, Ledbury
1921	Col. Peter Leigh Clowes C.B. of Durtou Court, Eardisland
1922	Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Marten Dunne of Gatley Park, Kingsland
1923	Capt. Laurence Nugent Hope of Whitney Court, Whitney
1924	Major Stewart Robinson of The Ovals, Kington
1925	Capt. Lionel Havercroft Green M.B.E. of The Whittern, Lyonshall
1926	Charles Andrew Rouse Boughton-Knight of Downton Castle, Ludlow
1927	Major George William Davey of Kinnersley Castle, Eardisley
1928	Captain John Ralph Henry Harley of Brampton Bryan
1929	Lieutenant-Colonel George Basil Heywood of Caradoc Court
1930	Charles Anthony Benn of Moor Court, Kington
1931	Col. H. E. P. Pateshall C.B., D.S.O., T.D., D.L. of Allensmore Court, Hereford
1932	Hubert Ronald Pettit of Castle Weir, Lyonshall
1933	Major Charles Jerome Vaughan of Courtfield, Ross
1934	E. F. Bulmer of Addenshill, Breinton, Hereford
1935	H. R. Jenkins of The Porch, Westhide, Hereford
1936	George Malcolm Kent of Garden House, Shobdon
1937	The Reverend William Marshall of Sarnesfield Court, Hereford
1938	Robert Holme Storey of Bishopswood, Ross on Wye
1939	Lieut. General Sir George Sidney Clive G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. of Perrystone Court, How Caple, Hereford
1940	Henry Howard Bulmer of Longmeadow, Hereford
1941	Eric Carnegie Romilly of Broadfield Court, Bodenham, Hereford
1942	Thomas Henry Foster of The Grange, Whitechurch
1943	Major Owen George Scudamore Croft of Hephill, Lugwardine
1944	Richard Saher de Quincey Quincey of The Vern, Bodenham
1945	Vice-Admiral Frederick Parland Loder-Symonds of Waldrist, Aylestone Hill, Hereford
1946	Colonel Cecil John Herbert Spence Colby of Donnington Hall, Ledbury
1947	Major Henry Thomas Hamilton Foley M.B.E. of Stoke Edith Park
1948	Captain Edward Francis Herbert Evans of Whitbourne Hall
1949	Major John Lewes Davenport of Yarsop House, Mansel Lacy
1950	Gerard Leigh Clay of Brockhampton Cottage
1951	John Francis Maclean of Thatch Close, Llangrove, Ross
1952	Thomas Philip Barneby of Salt Marsh Castle, Bromyard
1953	Brig-Gen. T.R.F. Bats of Glenmonnow House, Garway
1954	Brig. F.A.V. Copland Griffiths of Bircher Hall, Leominster
1955	Sir Frederick Burrows of Thrushes Nest, 37 Rope Walk, Ross-on-Wye, knt.
1956	Henry Maysey Barneby of Brockington House, Bredenbury
1957	Herbert Roy Rowlands of Brand Lodge, Colwall

Sheriff, Hubert de Burgh. The copy of the charter thought to have come from Hereford Castle is now in the library collection of Hereford Cathedral.

Following the sealing of Magna Carta, High Sheriffs became responsible for summoning the higher clergy, earls and greater barons of the shire to sit in Parliament; the origins of the House of Lords. As the 13th century wore on, those below the rank of baron began to be summoned; the origins of the House of Commons. The election of the knights of the shire was conducted by the sheriff in the county court. The role of Returning Officer for Parliamentary elections is what remains of this role to this day.

The High Sheriffs Role in Law and Order

From 1166, following the decree of Clarendon, trial by jury rather than ordeal was introduced. Circuit Judges of the Kings Bench started to travel across England to sit in judgement at Assizes (a combined investigative panel and jury of knights). Magna Carta made provision for common pleas to be held in a fixed place not to follow the royal court and for Assizes to operate four times a year in each county. The Assizes for Herefordshire were held in Hereford.

At some point after 1327, the role of keeping the peace and to pursue criminals became part of the Sheriff's duties. It remained so until the introduction of county police services in the mid-nineteenth century. The Herefordshire Constabulary was established in 1857. Sheriffs were also responsible for raising a body of armed men from the county to serve the King. Sheriffs were empowered to hear and determine legal cases brought to them on criminal matters and, from 1388, they were commanded to sit four times a year in their counties. An act of 1462 transferred much of the legal work of the Sheriff to the Quarter Sessions.

Hereford was part of the Oxford Circuit; one of the six High Court circuits covering England. The High Court Judge travelled to Hereford twice a year, at Lent, and in the summer. The Judge would preside at Shrewsbury (for cases from Shropshire), travel to Hereford and then go on to Monmouth to hear cases for Monmouthshire. In 1830, a review of the High Court circuits added Wales and Chester to the English circuit. After 1846, less serious cases were heard at the County Courts in Quarter Sessions and Petty Sessions. These courts had formerly dealt, mainly with Poor Law issues and highway repairs, matters which later became local government responsibilities. This system of Assizes and Quarter Sessions continued until they were abolished by the Court Act of 1971.

Year	Name
1874	Lieut. Colonel Thomas Powell Symonds of Pengethley
1875	Benjamin Haigh Allen of The Priory, Clifford
1876	John Harding of Tattenhall Lodge, Leamington, and The Lynch, Pembroke
1877	John Harward Griffiths of The Weir, Hereford
1878	Edward Bickerton Evans of Whitburne Hall, Bromyard
1879	Major General John Coke of Le More, Eardisley, CB,
1880	Benjamin Lawrence Sanders of Street Court, Leominster
1881	Edward Howarth Greenly of Tuley Court, Kington
1882	Theophilus William Lane of Ryelands, Leominster
1883	Robert William Dacre Harley of Brampton Bryan Castle
1884	William Henry Barneby of Bredenbury Court, Bromyard
1885	Sir Christopher Robert Lighton of Brockhampton Court, Ross, bart.
1886	Robert Henry de Winton of Graftonbury, Hereford
1887	Henry Higgins of Thinghill, Hereford
1888	Charles Archibald Hewitt of Hope End, Ledbury
1889	Richard Green of The Whittern, Kington
1890	Colonel Robert Bourne of Cowarne Court, Ledbury
1891	Benjamin St. John Attwood Mathews of Pontrilas Court
1892	Harold Charles Moffatt of Goodrich Court, Ross
1893	Hudson Latham Lutwyche of Kynastone, Ross
1894	Thomas Raymond Symons of The Mynde Farm, Tram Inn
1895	George Cresswell of Ocle Court, Hereford
1896	Henry Randolph Trafford of Michaelchurch Court, Hereford
1897	John Richard Geers Cotterell of Garnons, bart.
1898	John Riley of Putley Court, Ledbury
1899	Arthur Wellesley Foster of Brockhampton Court, Ross
1900	John Wood of Ivington, Leominster
1901	James Louis Alexander Hope of Whitney Court, Whitney
1902	George William Marshall of Sarnesfield, Weobley
1903	Joseph Verdin of Garstone Castle, Weobley, bart.
1904	William Theodore Barneby of Saltmarsh Castle, Bromyard
1905	Roger Charlton Parr of Staunton Park, Staunton-on-Arrow
1906	Paul Henry Foley of Stoke Edith Park, Hereford
1907	Charles James Paul Gwyer of Eywood, Kington
1908	Thomas Davies Burton of Eaton Hall, Leominster
1909	Ralph Tichborne Hinckes of Foxley, Hereford
1910	Captain Evans Myrde Allen of Manor House, Upton Bishop, Ross
1911	Herbert Archer Croft of Lagwardine Court, Hereford, bart.
1912	Charles Thornton Pulle of Lower Eaton, Hereford
1913	Geoffrey Cornewall of Moccas Court, Hereford, bart.
1914	George Ernest Wright of Puddlestone Court, Hereford
1915	Lennox Bertram Lee of How Caple Court, Hereford

The Shire Hall at Hereford started to be built in 1815 and opened in 1817. However, the proposed Judges' Lodgings were never built. As a consequence, over the years, the judges used several different rented properties as lodgings whilst in Hereford. The High Sheriff was responsible for the safe conduct of the judge and his accommodation whilst in Hereford, transporting him in the Judges' Coach, providing a guard armed with javelins, ensuring that the court was prepared, prisoners were ready for trial and that sentencing was carried out. The High Sheriff had a seat in court, close to the judge, still to be seen today. The Under-Sheriff, usually a practicing solicitor, normally saw to the more administrative roles connected with the courts, including attending executions.

The High Sheriff & The Civil War - 1642 Petition to The House of Commons
 The British Library Collection contains a copy of a petition of 1642 in the form of a printed handbill, the text of which is transcribed on page 8.



Left: The High Sheriff's seat in court number one at the Hereford Shire Hall. Photograph S. Knox.
 Right: Some of the 24 ceremonial javelins carried in the High Sheriff's procession in 1845 now in the museum collection. (Accession number 4600). Photograph courtesy of Hereford Museum & Gallery, Herefordshire Museum Service.

Year	Name
1832	John Freeman of Gains
1833	Thomas Dunne of Bircher
1834	Samuel Rush Meyrick of Goodrich Court, knt..
1835	Richard Webb of Donnington Hall
1836	Edward Griffiths of Newcourt
1837	Thomas Mommington of Sarnesfield
1838	Robert Biddulph Phillipps of Longworth
1839	James Phillips of Bryngwyn
1840	Thomas Heywood of Hope End
1841	Robert Lane of Ryelands
1842	John Lucy Scudamore of Kentchurch Park
1843	Edwyn Scudamore-Stanhope of Holme Lacy, bart.
1844	Thomas George Symons, Mynde Park
1845	James King King of Staunton Park
1846	John Francis Vaughan of Court Hill
1847	Velters Cornewall of Moccas Court, bart.
1848	Robert Maulkin Lingwood of Lystone House
1849	William Barneby of Clater
1850	James Cheese of Huntington
1851	Charles Thomas Bodenham of Rotherwas
1852	William Trevelyan Kevill Davies of Wigmore
1853	William Montey-Kyrie of Homme House
1854	Elias Chadwick of Puddleston Court near Leominster
1855	Richard Francis Wegg Prosser of Belmont near Hereford
1856	Charles Williams Allen of The Moor near Kington
1857	Robert Biddulph of Ledbury
1858	Richard Snead Cox, of Pembridge and Eaton Bishop, and of Broxwood near Kington
1859	Richard Yapp of The Halesend, Cradley
1860	Andrew John Rouse-Boughton of Downton Castle, knt..
1861	Robert Henry Lee Warner of Tiberton Court
1862	John Hungerford Arkwright of Hampton Court near Leominster
1863	William Bridgman of Weston-under-Penyard
1864	Colonel Robert Fielden of Dulas Court
1865	Henry Geers Cotterell of Garnons, bart.
1866	Edward Chudde Cockburn of Pennoxtan, bart.
1867	Thomas Reavey of Kimmerley Castle, near Kington
1868	Tomkyns Dew of Whitney Court, near Hereford
1869	John Morley of Moreton Jeffries, near Bromyard
1870	Edmund Smalley Hutchinson of Longworth, near Hereford
1871	Stephen Robinson of Lynhales, near Kington
1872	John Habington Barneby Lutley of Brockhampton
1873	James Rankin of Bryngwyn, Hereford

To the honourable the knights citizens and burgesses of the Commons House assembled in Parliament.

The humble Petition of the High Sheriffe and Divers of the Gentry, Ministers, Freeholders and Inhabitants of the County of Hereford.

Most humbly sheweth that with all thankfulness we acknowledge those many and great blessings we have already received through Gods mercy, the favour of our Gracious Sovereigne, the Wisdom, Councell, Solicitation, and unweareed Paines and Patience of this Honorable Assembly for the preservation of the Priviledges of Parliament, and liberties of the Subject, the removing of many of these Obstructions which hindered your good endeours; your zealous furthering of bleeding Irelands Reliefs, earnest desire of disarming Papssts, and securing of their person; your prudent care in disposing the Militia, Navie and places of Importance to this Kingdome to such persons of Trust as (by Gods blessing) give assurance of safetie to the Kings Royall person, and good subjects of all his Majesties Dominions; your Pious Care to settle a Government in the Church according to the Word of God, your godly desires to prevent the Prophaning of the Lords day, To take away Pluralities and Non Residents, and your zeale to provide Preaching Ministerie through the Kingdome, whereof this Country stands in greet neede, it now abounding with insufficient, Idle and Scandalous Ministers, whereby the people generally are continued in Ignorance, Superstition and prophanesse, and are ready to become prey to popish suducers, which Idolatrous profession hath of late yeares with much boldnesse appeared in this County: And whereas one of our cheife Commodities is the Native Wöoll of this County, the price whereof is much fallen through the excessive importation of Spanish wöolls to our impoverishing

May it therefore please this Honorable House to continue your Prudence and Pious intentions and indeavours in all the Premisses not yet Accomplished, to hasten the speedy reliefe of (di)stressed and Gasping Ireland, To remove evill Councellors, To Take away the Votes of Po(p)ish Lords, Speedily to disarme the Papssts, To settle a Godly and Learned Ministry, and to re(s)traine the excessive Importation of Spanish Wöol.

And we shall be ready with chearefulness to contribute all possible Assistance, our Prayers, lives, and livelihoods may afford for the defence of his Majesties Royall person, his Honorable House, and preservation of the priveledges of Parliament.

London, Printed for John Franke. 1642

Year	Date	Name
1803	3-Feb	Benjamin Biddulph of Burghill, esq.
1804	1-Feb	Richard Stukely Fleming of Dinmore Hill, esq.
1805	6-Feb	Leonard Parkinson of Kinnersley esq.
1806	1 Feb.	Somerset Davies of Wigmore, esq.
1807	4-Feb	Richard Salwey of Brimfield Court, esq.
1808	3-Feb	Samuel Peploe of Garnstone, bart.
1809	6-Feb	William Wall of Leominster, esq.
1810	31-Jan	Robert Higginson of Buckenhill Park, esq.
1811	8-Feb	Philip Jones of Sugwas, esq.
1812	24-Jan	James Jay of Derndale, esq.
1813	10-Feb	Hungerford Hoskyns of Harewood, bart.
1814	4-Feb	Edward Moulton Barrett of Hope End, esq.
1815	13-Feb	Edward Thomas Foley of Stoke Edith, esq.
1816	12-Feb	Kingsmill Evans of The Hill, esq.
1817	12-Feb	Tompkins Dew of Whitney Court, esq.
1818	24-Jan	John Williams of Wilcroft, esq.
1819	10-Feb	William Hanbury of Shobdon, esq.
1820	12-Feb	Thomas Perry of Eardisley Park, esq.
1821	6-Feb	John Biddulph, Ledbury, esq.
1822	4-Feb	Thomas Hampton Symons or Symonds of Mynde-Park, esq.
1823	31-Jan	Edmund Burnham Pateshall of Allensmore, esq.
1824	31-Jan	William Chute Haydon of Moreton Court, esq.
1825	2-Feb	Thomas Andrew Knight of Downton Castle, esq.
1826	30-Jan	Francis Henry Thomas of Much Cowarne, esq.
1827	5-Feb	John Griffiths of The Weir, esq.
1828	13-Feb	Edmund Higginson of Saltmarsh, esq.
1829	11-Feb	Richard Blakemore of the Leys, esq.
1829	25-Feb	William Gordon of Halffield, esq.
1830	2-Feb	Richard Blakemore of The Leys, esq.
1831	31-Jan	John Arkwright of Hampton Court, esq.

Unravelling the Story

This petition was presented by Isaac Seward, High Sheriff of Hereford and a group of un-named individuals, to the House of Commons on 4th May 1642. At first sight, the document seems to be a rather sycophantic piece of flattery linked to a complaint about cheap imports of wool. Delving deeper, this single sheet of paper reveals a turbulent back story of politics, religious tensions and the rapid pace of events on the very eve of the English Civil War, 375 years ago.

Isaac Seward seems to have been attempting to placate all, tactfully pointing out the differing roles and responsibilities of King and Parliament. The mention of disposing of the Militia and Navy to persons of Trust (i.e. High Sheriffs) is interesting although, as ordnance, they were controlled by Parliament, not the King. Seward was possibly also trying to assert his personal loyalties as he was no doubt aware that an alternative 'Herefordshire Protestation', drafted by the 'Nine Worthies', had been circulating in the county. This was a pro-monarchist declaration in direct opposition to the May 1641 'Protestation', issued by the House of Commons, expressing opposition to 'Popish Innovations' and supporting the rights and privileges of Parliament. This was to be signed by all persons aged 18 years and over throughout the country, including Ireland which, by 1642, was in a state of full-scale war.

The reality in Herefordshire was a difficult situation including a significant Catholic population, a clandestine College of St. Francis Xavier, the Society of Jesus, based in a group of remote farms at The Cwm and an ineffective Anglican Bishop who had been imprisoned by Parliament for opposing the exclusion of Bishops (largely Royalist supporters) from the House of Lords. The expectation of a vacant seat for the MP representing the city of Hereford, caused by the serious illness (and death in May) of Richard Weaver, created a power vacuum. The county had also been badly affected by the decline of the wool trade and had suffered privation from the collection of Ship Money between 1634 and 1640. This was Charles I attempt to raise funds throughout the country in peacetime by a measure which had formerly only been exercised in times of war in coastal counties.

The House of Commons log book records that, 'The House being informed, that divers Gentlemen of the County of Hereford were at the Door, who desired to present a Petition to this House' the petition was read:

Year	Date	Name
1766	17-Feb	Harcourt Aubrey of Clehonger, esq.
1767	13-Feb	John Peploe Birch of Garnstone, esq.
1768	15-Jan	Richard Gorges of Eye, esq.
1769	27-Jan	William Nourse of Weston-under-Penyard, esq.
1770	9-Feb	Price Clutton of Kinnersley, esq.
1771	6-Feb	Chandos Hoskins, of Harewood, bart.
1772	17-Feb	John Skipp of Ledbury, esq.
1773	8-Feb	Uvedale Price of Foxley, esq.
1774	7-Feb	John Strautford Collins of Walford, esq.
1775	6-Feb	John Freeman of Letton, esq.
1776	5-Feb	James King of Staunton, esq.
1777	31-Jan	James Clutton of Kinnersley, esq.
1777	14-Feb	William Edwards of Sapcey, esq.
1777	24-Feb	William Mathews of Llangarron, esq.
1778	28-Jan	John Caldecott of Holmer, esq.
1779	1-Feb	John Salway of Richards Castle, esq.
1780	2-Feb	Bell Lloyd of Presteigne, esq.
1781	5-Feb	Edmund Patteshall of Allensmoor, esq.
1782	1-Feb	Francis William Thomas Brydges of Tibberton, esq.
1783	10-Feb	Tompkins Dew of Whitney, esq.
1784	9-Feb	James Walwyn of Longworth, esq.
1785	7-Feb	Hungerford Hoskyns of Harewood, bart.
1786	13-Feb	Edward Boughton of Vowchurch, bart.
1787	12-Feb	Richard Cope Hopton of Canon Frome, esq.
1788	8-Feb	Thomas Downes of Staunton-On-Wye, esq.
1789	29-Apr	Thomas Clutton of Kinnersley, esq.
1789		William Taylor of Tillington, esq.
1790	29-Jan	John Cotterell of Garnons, esq.
1790	12-Feb	John Scudamore Lechmere of Fownhope, esq.
1791	4-Feb	Thomas Stallard Penoyre of The Moor, esq.
1792	3-Feb	Richard Chambers of Whitbourne, esq.
1793	6-Feb	John Keysall of Bourton Court, esq.
1794	5-Feb	John Miles of Ledbury, esq.
1795	11-Feb	John Moore Green of Cagebrook, esq.
1796	5-Feb	Abraham Whittaker of Lyston, esq.
1797	1-Feb	John Barnaby of Brockhampton, esq.
1798	7-Feb	John Stedman of Bosbury, esq.
1799	8-Feb	Henry Tempest of Caldwell, bart.
1800	5-Feb	Thomas Beebee of Willey, esq.
1801	11-Feb	John Skip of Ledbury, esq.
1802	3-Feb	Thomas Debits of the Apostles, esq.
1802	17-Feb	Edward Bolton Clive of Treville, esq.

The which being done, they were again called in: And Mr. Speaker, by the Command of the House, told them that this House finds their Petition full of great Expressions of Duty to his Majesty, and of Love and Respects to this House and the Commonwealth (for which they give you Thanks) and full of great Concernments to the Commonwealt; which, they command me to tell you, they will take into serious Consideration, so soon as may stand with (illegible).

Not a lot seems to have happened until 7th July 1642 when news of the Herefordshire Protestation finally reached Parliament. The House of Lords log book records:

A Paper was read, intituled, A Declaration, or Resolution, of the County of Hereford: Hereupon the House Resolved, To have a Conference with the House of Commons, and desire them to require the Knights of the Shire [the MPs for Herefordshire] to send down into Herefordshire, to know whether the County will own it.

The Herefordshire Protestation (extract from Herefordshire HER)

I,, (name), being hereunto required doe willingly and in the presence of Almighty God solemnly vow and protest as followeth:

- 1. That I believe noe power of pope or parliament can depose the sovereigne Lo. K. Charles, or absolve mee from my naturall allegiance and obedience unto his royall person and successors.*
- 2. That the two Houses of Parliament without the king's consent, hath noe authority to make lawes, or to bind or oblige the subject by their ordinances.*
- 3. Wherefore I believe that the Earls of Essex and Manchester, Sir Tho. Fairfax, Sir Will. Waller, Col. Massie, together with all such as already have or hereafter shall take up armes by authority and commission of the members of parliament of Westminster, pretending to fight for Kinge and parliament, doe thereby become actual rebells, and all such ought with their adherents and partakers to be prosecuted and brought to condigne punishment.*
- 4. That myselfe will never beare armes in their quarrell; but if I shall be therunto called, will assist my sovereigne and his armies in the defence of his royall person, crowne, and dignity, against all contrary forces, unto the uttermost of my skill and power, and with the hazard of my life and fortunes.*
- 5. That I will not discover the secretts of his Majestyes armies to the rebelle, nor hold any correspondence or intelligence with them. And all signes of theirs against our sovereignes armies, or for surprizeing or delivering uppe the cityes of Worcester or Hereford, or of any other his*

Year	Date	Name
1726	15-Dec	William Chinn of Walford, esq.
1727	22-Dec	William Skynner or Skinner of Stonehouse, esq.
1728	18-Dec	John Tyler of Dilwyn, esq.
1729	18-Dec	Thomas Davies of Newhouse, esq.
1730	14-Dec	John Capell, esq.
1731	9-Dec	John Cox, esq.
1732	14-Dec	James Walwyn, esq.
1733	20-Dec	Mansel Powell, esq.
1734	19-Dec	Robert Mynors, esq.
1736	5-Feb	William Phillips of Newtown, esq.
1737	19-Jan	Richard Gorges, esq.
1738	12-Jan	Thomas Read, esq.
1738	21-Dec	Thomas Gwillim of Whitchurch, esq.
1739	11-Jan	John Skinner of Bickerton, esq.
1739	29-Dec	Lutley Barnaby, esq.
1740	31-Jan	Bartholomew Richard Barneby, esq.
1742	2-Feb	John Whitmore of the Haywood, esq.
1742	16-Dec	James Clark, esq.
1743	19-Jan	John Simmonds or Symons of the Mynd, esq.
1744	5-Jan	William Brydges of Tiberion, esq.
1745	10-Jan	John Patishall of Puddlestone, esq.
1746	16-Jan	Richard Smyth of Bullingham, esq.
1747	15-Jan	Bensalem Edwards of Bodenham, esq.
1748	14-Jan	Henry Cliffe of Evesbatch, esq.
1749	1-Jan	John Delahay of Peterchurch, esq.
1749	1-Feb	Moore Greene of Cagebrooke, esq.
1750	17-Jan	Thomas Legge of Willey, esq.
1750	6-Dec	Thomas Gwillim of Burghill, esq.
1752	14-Jan	John Morgan of Kinnersley, bart.
1753	7-Feb	Thomas Dunne of Gatley Park, esq.
1754	31-Jan	Giles Whitehall of Leominster, esq.
1755	20-Jan	Thomas Penoyre of Clifford, esq.
1756	27-Jan	Edmund Thomas of Michaelchurch, esq.
1757	4-Feb	Robert Mynors Gouge, esq.
1758	27-Jan	William Cope Gregory, esq.
1759	2-Feb	Sir James Broome of Wittington, esq.
1760	1-Feb	James Hereford of Mordiford, esq.
1761	1-Feb	John Cotterell-Brookes of Garnons, esq.
1762	15-Feb	Howarth Cooke of Holmer, esq.
1763	4-Feb	George Terry of Hereford, esq.
1764	10-Feb	Edward Greenly of Huntington, esq.
1765	1-Feb	William Vaston of Leominster, esq.

Majestyes forts, I shall truly discover to whom it shall concern, so soon as ever it comes unto my knowledge.

6. That his Majesties takeinge up of armes for the causes by himselfe so oft declared in print is just and necessary.... and with regard to the 'Parliamentary Protestation':

8. I detest from my heart that seditious and trayterous late invented nationall covenant, and I promise never to take it. All these particular articles I vow and promise sincerely to observe without equivocation or mentall reservation So help me God.

An attempt was instigated to find out where the paper had emerged from. Thomas Lewes and Hammond the printer quickly identified as sources, were arrested and imprisoned at Newgate. The authors hiding behind the sobriquet of 'The Nine Worthies of Herefordshire' were, in fact, William Croft, William Brabazon, William Smallman, Thomas Wigmore, Thomas Price, Fitzwilliam Coningsby, Henry Lingen, William Rudhall and John Scudamore.

The following day, 8th July, the conference with the Commons occurred and a bitter argument between members ensued. Maddison called it the 'Foulest and most Scandalous pamphlet that was ever raised or published against the Parliament' and 'a libel whose author deserved to be whipped'. Sir William Botelar and Dutton, a Minister, both claimed it was fully justified. They were detained at the Gatehouse for threatening to whip and slash Maddison but were released the next day.

On 14th July, back in Hereford, a set-piece muster for the King of the trained soldiers and volunteer armed men had been successfully completed with the men cheering the 'Nine Worthies of Herefordshire'.

On 18th July, initial investigation seemed to have established that the pamphlet had been written by Bradbourne the Mercer and Venables, a Member of the House. On 20th July 1642, Lewes and Hamond petitioned Parliament and were released. On 24th July, the Commons resolved that the Sir Edward Henden (Knight and Justice of the Assizes) was to cause the declaration to be read in open court at the next Assizes. The purpose was to establish who had caused the declaration to be drawn up and whether it had been discussed at the previous Assizes. The Lords concurred with this order the following day. The summer Assizes were due to be held in Hereford in August but these were dominated by the Nine Worthies; Justices with Royalist sympathies. When the petition was presented, a disturbance occurred with Royalist sympathisers forcing the proceedings and Parliamentary supporters blaming the 'Nine Worthies' for egging them on.

Year	Date	Name
1691	14-Dec	Edward Littleton, esq.
1692	17-Nov	William Gwillym the younger, esq.
1693	16-Nov	Anthony Biddulph, esq.
1693	30-Nov	John (or Thomas) Fletcher of Laughton Hope, esq.
1694	6-Dec	Anthony Biddulph, esq.
1695	5-Dec	John Long, esq.
1696	3-Dec	Robert Unett, esq.
1696	17-Dec	Samuel Birch, esq.
1697	16-Dec	Humphrey Mayo, esq.
1698	22-Dec	James Gregory, esq.
1699	6-Jan	William Gregory, esq.
1699	20-Nov	John Hereford, esq.
1700	16-May	John Sheppard, esq.
1700	28-Nov	John de la Hay, esq.
1702	1-Jan	Robert Symonds, esq.
1702	3-Dec	John Noble, esq.
1703	2-Dec	William Barnesley, esq.
1704	21-Dec	Herbert Aubrey, esq.
1705	3-Dec	Markey Abraham, esq.
1706	14-Nov	John Skipp, esq.
1707	20-Nov	Richard Hopper, esq.
1708	29-Nov	Sir Francis Charlton, 2nd Baronet of Ludford Hall
1709	1-Dec	John Kirwood, esq.
1709	18-Dec	Joseph Kyrwood, esq.
1710	24-Nov	John Carpenter, esq.
1711	13-Dec	Bridstock or Brigstock Harford, esq.
1712	11-Dec	Robert Weaver, esq.
1713	30-Nov	Philip Jackson, sq.
1714	16-Nov	Joseph Clarke, esq.
1715	22-Nov	Thomas Mayo of Hope under Dimmore, esq.
1716	12-Nov	Thomas Berrington of Brickhouse, esq.
1717	21-Dec	Henry Jones of Maniston, esq.
1718	21-Dec	John Dutton Colt, the younger, esq.
1719	3-Dec	George Carver of Upton, esq.
1721	3-Jan	Edward Witherston, esq.
1721	14-Dec	Richard Bond of Walford, esq.
1722	20-Dec	Thomas Carpenter, esq.
1724	7-Jan	Thomas Delahay, esq.
1724	29-Jan	Richard Stephens of Leominster, esq.
1724	10-Dec	Robert Cornwall, bart.
1724	22-Dec	Thomas James of Murcott, esq.
1726	13-Jan	Herbert Trist of Hereford, esq.

Unrest was increasing across the country and attempts to recruit a Militia in areas of Royalist sympathy were underway. On 11th August news reached Parliament:

The House being informed, 'That Sir Ralph Dutton beats up a Drum, in Gloucestershire and Hereford, for Soldiers.' Hereupon it is Ordered, 'That he shall be apprehended, and brought before this House, as a Delinquent; and Lord Lieutenants, and Deputy Lieutenants, and all His Majesty's Officers [including the High Sheriff], shall be assisting to apprehend him.'

Charles I replaced Isaac Seward as High Sheriff on 18th August 1642 along with Fitzwilliam Comingsby, one of the 'Nine Worthies'. Within a week, Charles had raised his standard and the Civil War had begun.

Avoiding Becoming High Sheriff

Taking on the role of High Sheriff was an expensive affair for the post holder as they had to cover the costs associated with the role, including a procession, luncheon, entertaining the Circuit Judges and providing a guard of armed men. As collectors of taxes, such as of Charles I's Ship Money, they were often unpopular. By the nineteenth century, when court dress was regularised, this also had to be paid for by the post holder. Being nominated was not always seen as an honour and nominees frequently tried to avoid the role.

The Monarch makes the selection of High Sheriffs by pricking with a bodkin one of three proposed names on a list written on parchment. The practice was established in the reign of Elizabeth I as a hole in the parchment could not be erased or changed.

In 1669, Marshall Brydges was one of the three people due to be presented for the King to select to serve as High Sheriff. William Kempe wrote to his brother-in-law on 4th November offering to use his influence to avoid him being selected and advising against bribing officials.

Year	Date	Name
1655		Wroth Rogers, esq.
1657		William Huison or Powell, esq.
1658		Francis Pember, esq.
1660	5-Nov	John Scudamore, bart.
1661		Herbert Parrott, knt.
1662		John Handford, esq.
1663		Thomas Cocks, esq.
1664		Francis Unitt, esq.
1665	12-Nov	Thomas Rodd, esq.
1666	7-Nov	John Vaughan, esq.
1667	6-Nov	James Brydges, bart.
1668	6-Nov	Gilbert Nicholletts, esq.
1669	11-Nov	Humphrey Baskerville, esq.
1670	4-Nov	William Dancy or Dansey, esq.
1671	9-Nov	Marshall Brydges, esq.
1672	11-Nov	Richard Whitehall, esq.
1673	12-Nov	John Scudamore, esq.
1674		Henry Williams, esq.
1675	15-Nov	Robert Rodd, esq.
1676	9-Nov	William Goodyere, esq.
1676	10-Nov	Richard Snead, esq.
1676	22-Nov	Joseph Hall, esq.
1676	26-Nov	Richard Snead, esq.
1677	15-Nov	William Goodyer, esq.
1677	17-Nov	John Goodyer, esq.
1678	14-Nov	Udall Tomkins, esq.
1679	13-Nov	Rowland Baugh, esq.
1680	4-Nov	John Skip, esq.
1681	10-Nov	Thomas Hanbury, knt.
1682	13-Nov	Herbert Crofts, bart.
1682		Edward Jones, esq.
1683	12-Nov	John Kyrle, esq.
1684	20-Nov	Anthony Rowdon or Rowden, esq.
1685		John Booth, esq.
1685		Robert Symonds of Sugwas and Evesfield
1686	25-Nov	Herbert Masters, esq.
1688	8-Nov	William Matthews, esq.
1688	12-Nov	Thomas Cornewall of Stapleton, esq.
1689	18-Mar	Robert Harley, esq.
1689	18-Nov	William Finnes, esq.
1690	27-Nov	Edward Littleton, esq.
1690	29-Dec	Charles Baldwyn, Bockleton, Worcestershire

For his Loving Brother Mr Marshall Brydges at Mr Roger Boucots a Mercer in Hereford

London, the 4th of November 1669

Deare Brother

Being in towne, and understanding that you were prickt downe amongst the three that are to be presented to the Kings, for to stand for Sheriff of Herefordshire this year, I could not omit the giving you notice, that you might p[re]vent us, if you thought it worthwhile, to spend either time or money (without which nothing can be done) about it. For my part I think it to be needlesse, and the rather, because I have seene soo many spend their time and money to noe purpose, for first it is three to one whether or not the Kinge will prick your name, and if you employ a person some money might be given in hand, if you happen not to be prickt, then they will attribute it to be their interest that hath prevented it, & see a further gratuity must bee given, if you should bee prickt, then they will tell you they used the best of their interest, when perhaps they never spoke a word; however if you come upp, I shall bee glad to see you, if not I shall upon receipt of yours use my interest, you stand the last in the list. My Lodginge is at Mr Soothhakes [?] man at Halborne Bridge, this which my true to yourself and my sister not forgetting all the little ones whom I pray god blesse

I Rest Your Loving Brother

Wm Kempe

The lady Payne presents her love

Marshall Bridges' name however was 'prickt', as he served as High Sheriff in 1671.

One hundred and fifty years later, a series of letters attest to Edmund Burnham Pateshall of Allensmore attempting to get out of serving in the role. Mr Pateshall's name had first been proposed for the selection list in 1821. He immediately began a campaign of letters and interviews with members of the Privy Council including the Earl of Essex, (a previous Lord Lieutenant of the county) and Mr Peel, the Home Secretary, to escape what he described as 'a troublesome and expensive office of High Sheriff of the County of Hereford' and duties that will cause him 'exceedingly great personal inconvenience'.

The replies cautioned against using expense as an excuse since, 'Respectable country gentlemen can hardly exist on their own property' at the moment and there was a general 'difficulty of getting gentlemen of property ... in the County to fill the Office'.

Year	Date	Name
1614		Francis Smaleman, esq.
1615	6-Nov	Richard Cock or Coxce, esq.
1616	11-Nov	John Bridges, esq.
1616	11-Nov	Rowland Scudamore
1617	6-Nov	Ambrose Elton, esq.
1618	9-Nov	Richard Perce, esq.
1619	26-Nov	Herbert Westaline or Westphalinge, esq.
1619		William Umet, esq.
1620	6-Nov	Edward Lingen, esq.
1621		John Bridges, esq.
1622	7-Nov	Samuel Aubric or Awbrey, knt.
1623		James Rodd, esq.
1624		Francis Pember, esq.
1625		Giles Bridges, esq.
1626		Fitzwilliam Coningsby, esq.
1627	4-Nov	William Reade, esq.
1628		John Kirtle, bart.
1629		James Kirtle, esq.
1630	7-Nov	Walopp Brabazon, esq.
1631		Roger Danscy, esq.
1632		Philip Holman, esq.
1633	10-Nov	John Abraham, esq.
1634	5-Nov	William Scudamore, esq.
1635		Thomas Wigmore, esq.
1636	3-Oct	Roger Vaughan, esq.
1637	30-Sep	Henry Lingen, esq.
1638	4-Nov	Robert Whitney, knt.
1639		Thomas Alderne, esq.
1640		William Nicholltets, esq.
1641		Isaac Seward
1642	18-Aug	Fitzwilliam Coningsby
1645		Ambrose Elton the younger, of The Hazle, Ledbury, esq.
1647	17-Nov	Francis Kirtle, esq.
1648	23-Nov	John Scudamore, esq.
1649		John Skynner of Ledbury
1649	22-Nov	John James, esq.
1651	10-Jan	Francis Pember, esq.
1651	4-Nov	John Pateshall, esq.
1652	12-Nov	Thomas Cook of Stretton, esq
1652	7-Dec	Charles Milborne, esq.
1653	10-Nov	William Bridges, Tyberton, esq.
1654		Richard Hopton, esq.

The basis of his claim was that as he had been summarily dismissed from the Herefordshire Militia in 1803 for some unspecified misdemeanour by George III, how could the present king deem him fit to be appointed to represent his Majesty in the county? All his bluster and pleading were of no avail and he was picked to serve as High Sheriff in 1823.

The final document in the set of archives records that on 5th April 1823, as incoming High Sheriff, he paid 17 javelin men £1 each and two trumpeters £2 2s. each to lead the procession. The javelin men included the Gardener at Harewood Marsh and the Bailiff of Webtree Hundred. In terms of direct inflationary costs, £1 in 1823 is equivalent to about £850 today and its economic value is nearer to £1,500; the total cost for the procession would be £1,732 but closer to £18,000 in economic value today.

In March 1853, the substantial luncheon at the Green Dragon Hotel and a lot of alcohol (judging by the number of toasts), provided by the new High Sheriff, W. Money Kyrle, was served to 200 people. The High Sheriff also paid two banner bearers, javelin men and trumpeters. The bell-ringers welcoming the procession into the city were, presumably, also paid together with the Cathedral lay clerks and choristers.

High Sheriff Pomp and Ceremony in the 19th Century

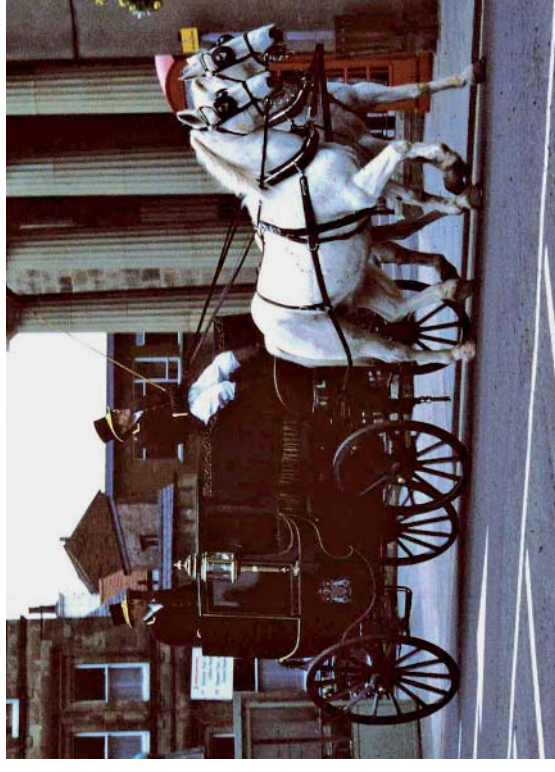
The High Sheriff's term of office commenced at Easter, coinciding with the Spring Assizes. The first event was a procession by coach from a point three miles outside Hereford, near Lugwardine Bridge, marked by an ash and an oak tree, into the City of Hereford accompanied by liveried trumpeters and javelin men. This was followed by a luncheon and, normally, a further procession to the Cathedral for a service with the Judges before moving on to the Shire Hall where the Assizes got underway.

The set of twenty four javelins donated to the museum in 1944 but first used for the 1845 procession were provided by James King King of Staunton Park when he was High Sheriff. They bear his family crest (a lion rampant, supporting two red roses and four green cinquefoils) and his family motto 'Floreo in ungue leonis' – I flourish in the lion's claw.

The coach, known as the Judges' Coach but provided by the High Sheriff, was probably purchased at the time that the Shire Hall opened in 1817. It remained

Year	Date	Name
1573	10-Nov	John Abrahall of Ingerston, esq.
1574	15-Nov	James Whitney, knt..
1575	15-Nov	George Price, esq.
1576	13-Nov	James Warnecombe, esq.
1577	27-Nov	Thomas Morgan, esq.
1578	17-Nov	Walter Baskerville, esq.
1579	23-Nov	William Cecil, esq.
1580	21-Nov	Francis Blount, esq.
1581	27-Nov	John Scudamore of Holme Lacy, esq.
1582	5-Dec	Thomas Coningsby, esq.
1583	25-Nov	Richard Walwyn, esq.
1584	19-Nov	Humphrey or Hugh Baskerville, esq.
1585	22-Nov	Roger Bodenham, esq.
1586	14-Nov	James Whitney, knt..
1587	8-Jun	William Whitney, esq.
1587	4-Dec	James Boyle, esq.
1588	25-Nov	John Berrington, esq.
1589	24-Nov	Thomas Baskerville, esq.
1590	24-Nov	Charles Bridges or Brudges, esq.
1591	25-Nov	William Rudhall, esq.
1592	16-Nov	Richard Tomkins, esq.
1593	26-Nov	Roger Bodenham, esq.
1594	21-Nov	Thomas Harley, esq.
1595	27-Nov	George or Gregory Price, esq.
1596	22-Nov	Eustace Whitney, esq.
1597	25-Nov	Nicholas Garnons, esq.
1598	28-Nov	Thomas Coningsby, knt..
1599	2-Dec	William Daunsey, esq.
1600	24-Nov	Henry Vaughan, esq.
1601	2-Dec	James Scudamore, knt..
1602	7-Dec	Richard Hyatt, esq.
1603	1-Dec	Thomas Harley, esq.
1604	5-Nov	John Blount, esq.
1606	2-Feb	John Berrington, esq.
1606	17-Nov	James Tomkins, knt..
1607	9-Nov	William Rudhall, esq.
1608	12-Nov	John Kirle, esq.
1609		Richard Hopton, knt..
1610	6-Nov	Humphrey Baskerville, knt..
1611		Humphrey Cornwall, knt..
1612		Robert Kirle, esq.
1613		John Colles, esq.

Year	Date	Name
1533	17-Nov	Edward Croft, knt..
1534	14-Nov	Michael Lister, esq.
1535	22-Nov	William Clinton, esq.
1536	Easter	Thomas Clinton, esq.
1536	27-Nov	John Scudamore, esq.
1537	4-Nov	John Blount of Grendon, esq.
1538	15-Nov	John Pakington, esq.
1539	17-Nov	Michael Lister, esq.
1540	17-Nov	Thomas Monington, esq.
1541	27-Nov	Richard Vaughan, knt..
1542	22-Nov	James Baskerville of Eardisley, knt..
1543	23-Nov	John Scudamore, esq.
1544	16-Nov	John Lingen the younger, esq.
1545	22-Nov	Stephen ap Harry, esq.
1546	23-Nov	Roger Bodenham, esq.
1547	27-Nov	John Cornwall, knt..
1548	3-Dec	Thomas Baskerville, esq.
1549	12-Nov	John Harley, esq.
1550	11-Nov	James Baskerville, esq.
1551	11-Nov	Charles Herbert, knt..
1552	10-Nov	John Scudamore the elder, esq.
1553	8-Nov	John Pryce or ap Rice, knt..
1554	14-Nov	Thomas Howard or Havard, esq.
1554	14-Nov	Stephen ap Harry, esq.
1555	10-Dec	John Baskerville, esq.
1556	13-Nov	Thomas Wynston, esq.
1557	16-Nov	Richard Monington, esq.
1558	23-Nov	Roger Bodenham, esq.
1559	9-Nov	George Cornwall, knt..
1560	12-Nov	Thomas Blount, esq.
1561	8-Nov	John Harley, esq.
1562	19-Nov	John Hubbard or Hybottes, esq.
1563	8-Nov	George ap Harry, esq.
1564	9-Nov	James Baskerville, knt..
1565	16-Nov	John Scudamore of Kentchurch, esq.
1566	18-Nov	George Price, esq.
1567	18-Nov	William Shelley, esq.
1568	18-Nov	Thomas Clinton, esq.
1569	12-Nov	Thomas Baskerville of Nethwood [Netherwood, Worcs.], esq.
1570	13-Nov	John Baskerville, esq.
1571	14-Nov	John Hubaude, esq.
1572	13-Nov	Hugh ap Harry, esq.



Top: The Judge's coach outside the Shire Hall in April 1978, following restoration, taking Mr Justice Slynn, a High Court Judge, to the Shrieval Service in Hereford Cathedral. Photograph courtesy of Hereford Museum & Gallery, Herefordshire Museum Service.

Bottom: Close up of the 1845 javelin blade showing the engraved King King family crest and motto, now in the museum collection. Accession number 4600. Photograph courtesy of Hereford Museum & Gallery, Herefordshire Museum Service.

in use until 1930. The coach was built by Offords of Oxford; the Rolls Royce of coach building and was stored at The Green Dragon Hotel in Broad Street. One of the hub caps has the maker's name on it but the other three read, 'Green Dragon Posting Company'. Although this coach may also have been used for collecting hotel guests from the station and transporting mail, the interior is largely original and shows very little wear. It is more likely that it was only used for the shrivels processions and by the Judge on his twice-yearly visits to Hereford.

In 1939, the coach, still stored in an outbuilding at The Green Dragon Hotel, was purchased for Hereford Museum & Art Gallery by the Friends of Herefordshire Museums and Arts. It had one horse-drawn outing following restoration in 1978 and is now housed at the Museum Resource & Learning Centre in Hereford, together with the coachman's uniform and a set of twenty-four ceremonial javelins.

The *Hereford Journal* of Wednesday, 30 March 1853 recorded the events around W. Money Kyrie of Homme House, Much Marcle, taking over the office in a special supplement:

The formulae commenced on Thursday last with the customary public entrée of the High-Sheriff, W. Money Kyrie, Esq. of Homme House, accompanied by his friends and a retinue of javelin men. The morning was bright and favourable, and at eleven o'clock a large retinue of gentlemen from this city and neighbourhood, and all parts of the county, were assembled by appointment at Lugwardine bridge, on the Ledbury Road. The High-Sheriff and his friends from Much Marcle and the Ledbury district having arrived, the procession was marshalled in due order. As they approached Hereford, the church bells rang out their merry peals, and the streets, already well lined with holiday folks and casual spectators, put on an appearance of great bustle.

The High-Sheriff's carriage was drawn by four beautiful greys, handsomely caparisoned, his coachman and footmen in their elegant liveries of green and gold, making together a most stylish equipage.

The procession was formed of a further thirty carriages and nearly 100 horsemen:

On arriving in Broad Street, soon after twelve o'clock, the procession drew up opposite the Green Dragon Hotel, and filing off right and left, formed an avenue through which the Sheriff's coach passed, and the High-Sheriff, accompanied by his Chaplain, the Rev. A.W. Chatfield, and other gentlemen alighted. A new feature was presented in the

Year	Date	Name
1491	5-Nov	Richard Greenway, esq.
1492	26-Nov	Richard de la Bere, knt..
1493	7-Nov	John Mortimer, knt..
1494	5-Nov	Edward Blount, esq.
1495	5-Nov	John Lingen, esq.
1496	5-Nov	Henry Harper, esq.
1497	5-Nov	John Lingen, esq.
1498	5-Nov	Richard Greenway, esq.
1499	11-Nov	Henry Mite, esq.
1500	15-Nov	Richard Mynors, esq.
1501	5-Nov	John Mortimer, knt..
1502	8-Nov	Thomas Cornwall, knt..
1504	5-Nov	Edward Croft, esq.
1505	1-Dec	John Lingen the younger, knt..
1506	27-Nov	Richard Cornwall, esq.
1507	3-Dec	Ralph Hakluit, esq.
1508	15-Dec	Henry Mite, esq.
1509	14-Nov	Edward Croft, esq.
1510	9-Nov	Richard de la Bere, knt..
1511	8-Nov	Thomas Mornington, esq.
1512	7-Nov	Henry Mite
1513	9-Nov	Edward Croft
1514	7-Nov	Thomas Cornwall, knt..
1515	5-Nov	William Herbert of Troy
1516	10-Nov	John Lingen, knt..
1517	9-Nov	Edward Croft, knt..
1518	8-Nov	Ralph Hakluit, esq.
1519	8-Nov	Richard Cornwall, esq.
1520	6-Nov	John Lingen, knt..
1522	3-Feb	Edward Croft
1522	12-Nov	Rowland Morton, esq.
1523	13-Nov	James Baskerville, esq.
1524	10-Nov	John Scudamore, esq.
1525	1525	Henry Vain of Kent
1526	27-Jan	Edward Croft, knt..
1526	7-Nov	Richard Cornwall, knt..
1527	16-Nov	Thomas Baskerville, esq.
1528	7-Nov	John Lingen, knt..
1529	9 No	Edward Croft, knt..
1530	11-Nov	Richard Vaughan, knt..
1531	9-Nov	Richard Walwein, esq.
1532	20-Nov	Thomas Mornington, esq.

procession of javelin men, by the banners (usually attached to trumpets) being borne in front by two fine-looking fellows, sergeants in the Herefordshire Militia. As the learned Judges were not expected to arrive from Shrewsbury till a later hour in the evening than usual, the customary entertainment of the High Sheriff did not take place on the arrival of the party, but was delayed for a short period.

Two hundred people sat down for ‘an elegant and substantial luncheon’, at the Green Dragon Hotel. Guests included the Member of Parliament, the Under-Sheriff, a number of Much Marcle tenantry, tradesmen of Ledbury and Hereford, tenant-farmers from different parts of the county and what the Hereford Journal described as, ‘the usual complement of the “old familiar faces.”’

The following day, at eleven o’clock, Mr Justice Williams (who arrived from Shrewsbury late on the previous evening) and Mr Justice Talford were escorted to the Cathedral, the Assize business having been suspended from a proper respect for the sacred character of the day. [Good Friday] At the great western doors their Lordships and the High Sheriff were met by the Very Rev. the Dean, the Canon in Residence (Rev. W.P. Musgrave), Hon. And Rev. Lord Saye and Sele, Rev. Prebendary A. Clive, Rev. Succentor Grettton, Rev. John Goss, lay clerks, choristers, &c. Some members of the Corporate body occupied the seats appropriated to their use, but the customary procession was dispensed with on this occasion.

The Modern High Sheriff

High Sheriffs today wear court dress, based on the fashions of the late-eighteenth century. Clothing to be worn at court (in other words, court dress) was first standardised in 1810 by the Lord Chamberlain’s office, again in 1840 and finally in 1869. High Sheriffs also wear court shoes with cut steel buckles and carry a rapier and a folding hat, known as a *chapeau-bras*; a type of cocked hat first worn at the end of the 18th century. The jacket and breeches are made of dark blue or black silk velvet with lace cuffs and a lace cravat, trimmed with cut steel buttons. The jacket also has a black silk rosette at the back of the neck; the last vestige of the bag wig of the 1740s. A number of specialist tailors are able to supply and alter court dress uniforms, including Henry Poole of Savile Row. Stocks of the cut steel buttons however are in short supply as the factory which made them closed in the 1940s.

Year	Date	Name
1451	8-Nov	Thomas Parker
1452	8-Nov	Thomas Cornwall, esq.
1453	5-Nov	William Lucy, esq.
1454	4-Nov	John Barre or Barry, knt..
1455	4-Nov	Walter Skull, knt..
1456	17-Nov	John Skidmore or Scudamore
1457	7-Nov	John Seymour, knt..
1458	7-Nov	William Catesby of Ashby St Ledgers
1459	7-Nov	William Lucy, knt..
1460	11-Aug	Sir James Baskerville of Erdisley, esq.
1461	13-Jul	John Welford
1461	7-Nov	Thomas Mornington, esq.
1463	5-Nov	Simon Melburn, esq.
1464	5-Nov	Sir John Baskerville of Weston
1465	5-Nov	John Lingen, esq.
1466	5-Nov	Thomas Cornwall, esq.
1467	5-Nov	Walter Wigmore, esq.
1468	5-Nov	Walter Baskerville, knt..
1469	5-Nov	Richard Croft
1470	6-Nov	James Brugge, esq.
1471	11-Apr	Richard Croft the elder, esq.
1471	9-Nov	John Lingen, knt..
1472	9-Nov	Thomas Mornington
1473	5-Nov	James Baskerville, knt..
1474	7-Nov	Robert Whitney, esq.
1475	5-Nov	Richard Croft, knt..
1476	5-Nov	Ralph Hakluyt, esq.
1477	5-Nov	John Mortimer
1478	5-Nov	Richard de la Bere, knt..
1479	5-Nov	Simon Melborne
1480	5-Nov	James Baskerville, knt..
1481	5-Nov	John Mortimer, esq.
1482	5-Nov	Richard de la Bere, knt..
1483	6-Nov	Thomas Cornwall, knt..
1484	5-Nov	Richard Croft, knt..
1485	5-Nov	John Mortimer, knt..
1486	5-Nov	John Lingen
1487	4-Nov	Roger Bodenham, esq.
1488	4-Nov	Henry Skydmore or Scudamore
1489	14-Oct	Richard Scudamore the younger
1489	5-Nov	John Devereux, knt..
1490	5-Nov	Thomas Mornington, knt..

Year	Date	Name
1409	4-Nov	John Brugge or Smert
1410	29-Nov	John Bodenham
1411	10-Dec	William Walwein
1412	3-Nov	Richard Arundell, knr.
1413	6-Nov	Robert Whitney
1414	10-Nov	John Merbury
1415	1-Dec	John Bodenham
1416	30-Nov	John Brugge or Brigges of Staunton
1417	10-Nov	John Russell
1418	4-Nov	Thomas Holgot the elder
1419	23-Nov	John Merbury
1421	7-Jan	Richard de la Bere
1422	1-May	John Merbury
1423	14-Feb	Richard de la Mare
1423	13-Nov	Rowland Leyntale or Lenthale, knr.
1424	6-Nov	Guy Whittington
1425		William Croft
1426	15-Jan	John Merbury
1426	12-Dec	Thomas de la Haye the younger
1427	7-Nov	Robert Whitney, knr.
1428	4-Nov	Richard de la Mare
1430	10-Feb	John Merbury
1430	5-Nov	John Skidmore or Scudamore, knr.
1431	26-Nov	Walter Hakeluyt, esq.
1432	5-Nov	Robert Whitney, knr.
1433	5-Nov	Thomas de la Haye the elder
1434	3-Nov	John Merbury
1435	7-Nov	Thomas Mille
1436	8-Nov	Robert Whitney, knr.
1437	7-Nov	John Pauncefote, knr.
1438	3-Nov	Walter Skull
1439	5-Nov	Richard Walwayn of Markhill
1440	4-Nov	William or Richard Lucy
1442	6-Nov	Henry Charleton or de Chaterton
1443	4-Nov	Thomas Parker
1444	6-Nov	Ralph Leyngayn or Radulph [Ralph] Walwain
1445	4-Nov	Thomas Mille
1446	4-Nov	Humphrey Stafford
1447	9-Nov	Walter Devereux of Wobley, knr.
1448	9-Nov	Walter Skull, knr.
1449	20-Dec	John Scudamore or Skydmore, knr.
1450	3-Dec	John Barre or Berry, knr.



Illustrations:
 High Sheriff's chapeau-bras
 High Sheriff's rapier
 High Sheriff's court shoes with cut steel buckles
 Detail of cut steel buttons and dark blue silk velvet
 Detail of Henry Poole and Co label from jacket
 Detail of Henry Poole and Co label from hat

Photographs K. Andrew

Comprehensive list of High Sheriffs

Year	Date	Name	Year	Date	Name
1370	28-Nov	Thomas Chaundos	before 1035		Bruning
1371	5-Nov	William Devereux or Deveros de Bodenham	before 1056		Aelfnoth
1372	12-Dec	Peter de la Mare	c. 1060		Osborne fitz Richard Le Scrope
1373	17-Jul	Thomas Chaundos	c. 1066 <1088		Ralph de Bernai
1374	13-Dec	Edmund de Brugge	c. 1088		Ilbert or Gilbert fitz Turolde
1375	4-Oct	Walter Deveros, knt..	c. 1127		Payn fitz John
1376	26-Oct	Thomas Bare, or Barre, or de la Barre	1129		Miles of Gloucester
1377	26-Nov	Robert de Whitney, knt..	1136		Pain fitz John
1378	25-Nov	Simon de Brugge	1154	19-Dec	Maurice
1379	5-Nov	John Walwayne or Walweyn	1155	Michaelmas	Walter de Hereford
1380	18-Oct	Hugh Carew or Carreu	1159	Michaelmas	Maurice
1381	1-Nov	Simon de Brugge	1160	Michaelmas	William de Bello Campo [Beauchamp]
1382	24-Nov	Walter Devereux, knt..	1169	Michaelmas	William de Bello Campo [Beauchamp] and Walter his clerk
1382	16-Dec	John Chaundos	1170	Michaelmas	William de la Lega
1383	12-Jan	John Walwayne	1171	Michaelmas	Gilbert Pypard
1383	1-Nov	Roger Pauncefoot	1172	Michaelmas	Gilbert Pypard
1384	11-Nov	Thomas de la Barre, bart.	1173	Easter	William de Braiose
1385	8-Dec	Andrew Herle	1175	Michaelmas	Ralph Pulcherus or Ralph Pulherius
1386	2-Jan	Nicholas Maudrin or Mawardyn	1182	Easter	Miles de Mucegros and Roger son of Maurice
1386	18-Nov	Thomas Oldcastle	1182	Michaelmas	Miles de Mucegros
1387	18-Nov	Kinard de la Bere, knt..	1183	Easter	William Torelle
1388	1-Dec	Thomas de la Barre, knt..	1185	Easter	Ralph de Arderne
1389	15-Nov	Thomas Walweyn	1189	Michaelmas	Henry de Longo Campo [Longchamp]
1390	7-Nov	Hugh de Moynton or Monington	1191	Michaelmas	William de Bratisa
1391	21-Oct	Thomas Oldcastle	1193	Michaelmas	Roger fitz-Mauricisi [son of Maurice]
1392	18-Oct	Malcolm de la Mare	1194	Michaelmas	William de Bratisa in person
1393	7-Nov	Thomas Walweyn	1195	Michaelmas	William de Bratisa
1395	8-Feb	John Walweyn	1196	Michaelmas	William de Burchhull
1395	9-Nov	Thomas de la Barre	1198	Michaelmas	Walter de Clifford and Gilbert Giffard
1396	1-Dec	Kynard de la Bere	1199	Easter	William de Braose, 4th Lord of Bramber and William Burchull
1397	3-Nov	Thomas Clanvowe	1200		Geoffrey fitz Peter
1399	3-Nov	John ap Harry	1200	Michaelmas	Hubert de Burgh and Richard de Signes
1400	24-Nov	William Lucy, knt..	1200	Michaelmas	William de Cantelupe and Walter le Puhier and Adam his clerk
1401	8-Nov	Kinard de la Bere, knt..	1204	Michaelmas	Walter de Clifford and James de Hage
1402	14-Feb	Leonard Hakeluyt, knt..	1205	Easter	Osbert son of William
1402	29-Nov	John Bodenham	1205	Michaelmas	Richard le Burgis
1404	12-Nov	Richard Arundell, knt..	1207	Michaelmas	Gérard d'Athéc or de Ates or Atia and Richard le Burgis
1405	22-Nov	John Merbury	1208	Michaelmas	Engelard de Cigogné or Ciconiaco
1406	5-Nov	Sir John Oldcastle	1209	Michaelmas	Hubert de Burgh and Nicholas de Lymesye
1407	23-Nov	Richard Arundell, knt..	1215	19-Jul	Walter II de Clifford
1408	15-Nov	Leonard Hakelut, knt..	1215	14-Aug	
1409	5-Feb	John Skydemore or Scudamore of Holme Lacy, knt..			

Year	Date	Name	Year	Date	Name
1216	8-Aug	Walter de Lascy or de Laci	1291	15-May	Walter de Ellesfield
1217	Michaelmas	Thomas de Anesey	1293	13-Nov	Roger le Rus
1219	Michaelmas	Warin de Grendon	1294	7-Aug	John le Rus, his son
1221	Michaelmas	Thomas de Anesey or Ansci	1294	10-Dec	John de Acton
1222		Walter de Laci	1299	1-Oct	Miles Picard or Pychard
1223	15-Nov	Ralph and Henry, sons of Nicholas	1303	15-Apr	Sir John de Acton
1229	8-Oct	John de Fleg	1303	22-Nov	Miles Pichard
1231	Michaelmas	John of Monmouth	1305	1-Oct	John de Acton
1232	7-Jul	Peter de Rival	1306	8-Nov	Thomas Rossal or Rosshale
1232	18-Sep	William son of Warrinus	1307	30-Sep	Walter de Haklute the younger and John de Sapy
1234	22-May	Almeric (or Aymer) de Saint Anand	1311	25-Oct	Richard de Baskervill
1236	Michaelmas	Richard Fardingstone	1312	24-Jan	Roger Chaundos
1237	Michaelmas	Mathew de Goddray	1315	20-Oct	Richard de Baskervill
1240	Midsummer	Almeric de Cancell	1316	8-Dec	Hugh Hakluit or Hakelut
1246	4-Jun	Waleranus; Walram Teutonicus	1318	23-Oct	Richard de Baskervill
1249	3-May	Hugh de Kynardesley	1318	29-Nov	Roger de Elmrigg
1250	Michaelmas	Henry de Bradlegh	1322	5-Jan	Roger Chaundos
1252	14-Oct	William de St Omer	1327	23-Oct	Roger Picard
1254	2-May	John le Breton, later Bishop of Hereford	1328	6-Oct	Roger Chaundos
1257	23-Apr	Henry de Penbrugge	1332	30-Jan	Roger Pychard
1258	3-Nov	Gilbert Talbot	1332	7-May	John de Rous or le Rous
1259	6-May	Richard de Baggingeden	1334	8-Mar	Roger Chaundos
1259	Michaelmas	Robert de Meysy	1335	4-Feb	John Manger
1261	9-Jul	John de Grey, knt..	1336	20-Jan	Richard Walwayn
1261	Michaelmas	Adam de Bideford for Robert de Meisy	1343	22-Nov	William de Radenore [Radnor]
1262	3-Feb	Richard de Bagenden	1344	4-Nov	Richard Waweyn
1263	15-Jun	John de Grey	1344	16-Nov	William de Radenore [Radnor]
1264	Christmas	Hugh de Turbeville	1346	17-Feb	William Power
1264		Richard de Bagenden	1346	8-Dec	Thomas Pichard
1265	16-May	Walter de Everis	1348	10-Feb	John Scholle or Shalle
1265	Midsummer	Richard de Bagenden	1349	10-Mar	Richard Dansy
1266	Easter	Roger de Mortuo Mari [Mortimer] and Robert de Trillek	1350	22-Oct	Thomas de Aston
1267	29-Sep	Gilbert Talbot	1352	29-May	Richard de Burges or de Brugge
1267	23-Nov	Richard de Bagenden	1354	10-Nov	Richard de la Bere
1268	Michaelmas	Richard, son and heir of Richard de Bagenden	1355	8-Dec	Thomas atte Barre
1269	Michaelmas	Edward, the King's son and Richard del Holz	1356	6-Jun	Walter Hurtesleye
1270	28-May	Bartholomew de Suly or Suthley	1356	18-Jun	Thomas atte Barre
1270	28-May	Adam le Botiler	1356	10-Nov	Edward Hakluit or Hakelut of Crokbarwe
1274	5-Nov	John de la Ware	1359	1-Oct	Thomas Chaundos
1275	12-Nov	Giles de Berkeley	1360	21-Nov	Richard de la Bere
1278	25-Oct	Roger de Burghall	1367	26-Nov	Thomas Chaundos
1291	15-May	Henry de Solers	1368	27-Nov	Richard de la Bere