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.
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 Brember. 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 Creppon.

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 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 ⅔ of Easewrith = 14⅔;
- **Bramber** 6 plus ⅓ each of Aldrington and Easewrith and ⅔ of Wyndham = 7⅔;
- **Lewes** 9 plus ⅓ each of Wyndham, Hartfield and Rushmonden and ⅔ each of Aldrington and East Grinstead = 11¼;
- **Pevensey** 12 plus ⅓ of East Grinstead and ⅓ each of Hartfield and Rushmonden = 13⅓;
- **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 ⅔ 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 custumal 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. Originally Netherfield/Battle was one hundred of ‘Hailesalde’, later split into Netherfield and Battle half-hundreds. Guestling 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. Were 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 hideage 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 saltpans 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 that 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modern Name</th>
<th>Domesday Name</th>
<th>TRE Hidage</th>
<th>No. of Households</th>
<th>Population density in no./km²</th>
<th>Value (to nearest £)</th>
<th>Area Km²</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ninfield</td>
<td>Nerefelle</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>71 households at Hooe. Ninfield and Catsfield small but both had churches. Good farmland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Name</td>
<td>Domesday Name</td>
<td>TRE Hidage</td>
<td>No. of Households</td>
<td>Population density in no. /km²</td>
<td>Value (to nearest £)</td>
<td>Area Km²</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bexhill</td>
<td>Bexlelei</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Bexhill and ‘Bollington’ (Pebsham+Sidley) Belonged to B. of Selsey, recovered by B. of Chichester 1148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baldslow</td>
<td>Baldeslei</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Included modern Hastings west of the Priory Valley, plus Hollington, Filsham, Wilting, Crowhurst, Ore and Westfield.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guestling</td>
<td>Gestelinges</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Included Hastings east of the Priory valley, Fairlight, Pett, Icklesham, Winchelsea and Rye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gostrow</td>
<td>Babinrerode</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Brede and Udimore. Udimore had a church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldspur</td>
<td>Colespore</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Beckley, Peasmarsh, Iden, Playden, East Guldeford. Beckley named in King Alfred’s will.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staple</td>
<td>Staple</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Northiam, Ewhurst, Bodiam, Sedlescombe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Name</td>
<td>Domesday Name</td>
<td>TRE Hidage</td>
<td>No. of Households</td>
<td>Population density in no. /km²</td>
<td>Value (to nearest £)</td>
<td>Area Km²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherfield and Battle;</td>
<td>Hailsaltede</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Mostly scattered smallholdings around a large area comprising present day Battle, Netherfield, Whatlington, Mountfield, Brightling and Dallington</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Later half-hundreds of Nether-field and Battle the latter being mainly the banlieu of the abbey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foxearle</td>
<td>Folsalre</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Main foci of population Wartling and Herstmonceux. Small holdings around Ashburnham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawksborough</td>
<td>Hauches-berie</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Burwash, Warbleton and part of Heathfield. The largest hundred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoyswell</td>
<td>Shoeswelle</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Ticehurst and area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henhurst</td>
<td>Herhet</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Salehurst, Robertsbridge, Etchingham.</td>
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11
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 bazon 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 Mobray 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 Wikeshale (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:


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 wardship 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’.

18
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 Lusigan. 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 21st, 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 Gisolfe to go to the Mongol capital of Tabriz. The embassy is known in some detail because the financial accounts of it have remained.
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)*

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.


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.

[Image of arms: 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.)

Armed men as well horsemen as footmen, in the Rape of Hastings, anno Edward III. xiii, taken out of the Booke of the Abbey of Battell. (The first booke.)

Men of Armes.

- The Bishope of Chichester for his manor of Bexde (Bexhill) 1 man of armes
- The Abbot of Begeham for xx land in Bokeland and Kechenham (Kichenore in Beckley) 1 man of armes
- Thomas de Hoo for xx land in the manor of Wertyng 1 man of armes
- Sir John de Frynls for xx land in Horsemoneuse (Hertmonceux) 1 man of armes
- Edmond de Knell for xx land in Knolle 1 man of armes
- The Abbot of Tescamp for xxx landes in Brede 1 man of armes
- The Abbot of Robertbridge for xli land in Fode land Parke, Odyham, Werthe and other landes in the said Rape 2 men of armes
- Gilbert Malveille for xii land in Iwhurst (Ewehurst) 2 men of armes
- Henry de Groshurst for xii land in Aschebourgian (Ashburnham) 1 man of armes
- Theire of Richemonde for xii land in Bevyham Crouchurst, and for xx land for servis in the said Rape 1 man of armes
- Sir Symon de Echingham for xii lande in Echingham 1 man of armes
- Sir Roger de Hussey for xii lande in Odymer, Medesfield and Oxenbridge (Bredex) 1 man of armes
- Thomas de Hastings for xii lande in Nederfeld and Holyngton 1 man of armes
- John Wardeden for xii land in Bodyham 1 man of armes
- Thomas de Heringand for xii lande in Ikesleham 1 man of armes
- Sr Reynold Cobham for xii land in Hoo 1 man of armes
- John de Ore for xx marks land in Geinge 1 man of armes
- Lady Margret de Pacheley for xii land in the Mote Pacheley, Frenkisscraft and Regge 2 men of armes
- Roger de Monboucher for xii (Sic) in Fillesham and Hamerden 1 man of armes
- William de Lessingham for xii land in Piplesham and Crouham 1 man of armes

Hobiliers.

(Hobiliers=Light Horsemens for Coast Service.)

- John de Warbleton for xx marks land in Warbleton 1 hobelier
- Henry de Penhurst and his mother for xii land in Penhurst 1 hobelier
- John de Goldingham for xii land in Wiltings 1 hobelier
- The Prior of Hastings for viij land in Nederfeld, Haukesgbgh and Baldeonowe 1 hobelier
- The heire of Thomas de Codynggs for x marks land in Iwhurst 1 hobelier
- The heire of Ric. Wardeden for x marks land in Bodyham 1 hobelier
- Symon de Wigesull for xii land in Widgesull 1 hobelier
- Theirs of Aleyne de Boxhull for xii land in Boxeshull, Monkesnesse and Echne 1 hobelier
- Rycharde de Blorton for xii land in Lounefore 1 hobelier
- Sr Thomas de Aldoun for x marks land in Borghwashe (Burwash) 1 hobelier
- Agnes de Levelisham for xii marks land in Levelisham 1 hobelier
- John de Cressy for x marks land in Westfelde 1 hobelier
- Agnes at Lyra for x marks in Lyra 1 hobelier
- Raalf Eyffull for x marks in Schoeswell 1 hobelier
- John Coppeeorge and Rychard de Swasham for x marks land in Bochtolte 1 hobelier
- Henry Vynehe for xii land in Kechenore 1 man of armes
- John at Gate for x marks land in La Gate 1 man of armes
- James Echingham and John Waller for x marks lande in Glottingham 1 man of armes

Armyd Fottmen.

- Robert Alard de Iham for land in Gestlinge 1 man of armes
- John de Longe for viii land in Gestlinge 1 man of armes
- Margarett the widowe of Gervis Alard for vii land in Sneyham 1 man of armes
- Robert Aillard for vii land in Stoulynte 1 man of armes
Muster Roll of the Rape. 1339

John Fynche for v lands in Mersham. ........................................... j man of armes
Robert Allard for v lands in Dolham. ........................................ j
John Jacob for v at Frenymgham ........................................ j

Bowmen.
The Bisshope of Chichester for land in Toreserch ........................................ j man of armes
Richard de Stoner for xlv lands in Lym ........................................ j
Richard de Feplesham for xlv land in Coudem (Couden). ........................ j
John de Louensford for xlv lands in Cottesfeld ........................................ j
William Garland for xlv lands in Catesfeld ........................................ j
John de Mauvesyn for xlv lands in Cottesfeld ........................................ j
John de Coddyn for xlv lands in Coddings ........................................ j
William de Seymer for xlv lands in Marhill ........................................ j
John Waleys for xlv lands in Geyndin (Gessing) ........................................ j
Robert Sharpdun for xlv lands in Sharpdun (Shornden) ........................................ j
John de Haremre and his mother for xlv lands in Haremre ........................................ j
The Prior of Cromwell for xlv lands in Rackett ........................................ j
Thomas Padyham for xlv lands in Padyham ........................................ j
The Prior of Lewis for xlv lands in Newyke ........................................ j
Thomas Wemyse for xlv lands in Catesfeld ........................................ j
Robert Langhurst for xlv lands in Langhurst (Lankhurst) ........................................ j
Hamon at Gate for xlv lands in Dicksternes ........................................ j
John Ambreys for xlv lands in La Lee ........................................ j
James Alard for xlv lands in Goteley ........................................ j
The widow of Walter Wicham for xlv lands in Wicham ........................................ j
Symonde de Werthe for xlv lands in Werthe ........................................ j
John de Sunstynge for xlv lands Chaumbdr (Camber) ........................................ j
Henry Fynche for I land at Glasye ........................................ j
Robert de Wanton for xlv lands in Henham ........................................ j
The heire of Henry Auchere for xlv lands in Gosetrow ........................................ j
Rychard Thomas for xlv lands in Gosetrow ........................................ j
John de Beche for xlv lands in the houndrithe of Nedderfed ........................................ j
Gervels de Hilllge for xlv lands in Hillinge ........................................ j
John Reade for xlv lands in Gevesinge (Gessing) ........................................ j

Houndrithe of Haulesbergh—Walter de Rackelighie, Thomas de Horham.
	Foxshere—Walter Atwold, William de Frankwell.
	Staple—Roger le Hore, Thomas Padyham.
	Gestinge—Richard de Esshe, John Martyyn.
	Henhurst—William de Berewike, Thomas de Bokeshull.
	Nennefeld—John de Boele, John de Lounesford.
	Boxley—Walter le Clark, Robert le Beolote.
	Baldeslowe—Gervis Dyllynge, Aleyd de Foglheinge.
	Nedderfeld—John de Beche, Thomas de Sandrithe.
	Schoeswell—William de Wytherhindenn, Rychard Paynsey.
	Colespore—John Bechenore, John Glesham.
	Bello (Battle)—John Le, Adam Pessoar.

HUNDRITHE OF BALDESLOWE.

Centenari. (Centenarius=Captain of one hundred men.)
Peter Baldeslow.

Vintenari. (Vinentarius=Chief of twenty men.)
Rychard Knayt.

Sagitar. (Sagitarii=Archers.)
Roger Soytonton.
Rychard Stevene.
John de Southume.
John de Gégheiland.
John Gibelot.
Robert Kayge.
John at Reade.
Raffe at Hurst.

Wydem. (Whyndem=Sworthern.)
William Sootington.

Robert Kayt.
Stevin de Ramisborne.
William de Southynne.
William P’lyn.
Gilbert de Wedington.
John Schorte.
John Randolf.
Robert de Langrishe.
Thomas at Berhe.
John at Gate.
Rychard King.
William at Dene.

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THE BOROUGH OF

WYLYNGE.

Vintenar'.
Robert de Holington.

Sagitar'.
Robert Kinge.
William de Fylesham.
Robert at Wyne.
John Baldestowe.
John Skute.
Richard Pkein.
Roger at Hurst.
William le Rede.
James Croucbe.
Thomas Withflet.
Ric. Withflet.
William Somner.

Wydem'.
Peter Oitlande.
John Cocks.
John Avery.
Thomas Frankelyn.
Ric. de Glesye.
John de Shephard.
John Cresley.
John Cocke.
Robert at Bergge.
Rychard Gunter.

CROUHRUST.

Vintenar'.
John Crull.

Sagitar'.
William at Broks.
William Natelegh.
William Colyn.
Rychard Twynem.
Ric. de Elvingherst.

Wydem'.
Richard Awesome.
John Bartlette.
Thomas at Heires.
Wm. Crull.
William Mot.
James Kinge.
Aleyne Kinge.

Pykasteves.
Henry Nateleger.
William Chylehele.
John Natage.
Robert Cukkon.
John Grundelye.
John at Nashe.
John Hutchened.
Robert Natelegh.
Ric. de Kenta.

IN LEGHE.

Vintenar'.
William le Tailour.

Sagitar'.
Aleyne Bartelott.
John Symond.
William Martyn.
John at Wood.

Wydem'.
Robert at Hethe.
Stevin de Norton.
Thomas de Randolf.
John Colyer.
Robert Procell.
Walter Horsman.
John de Crouchurst.

Pykasteves.
John Lovell.
Roger Godhuve.
Roger Riard.
William Bartelott.
John Stevne.
William in Lighe.
Robert Blakebrok.
Stevin in Lighe.

THE HUNDRITHE OF

HAUKESBURGH.

Centenaries, Adam de Craule.
Burghers

Vintenar'.
Richard Limesey.

Sagitar' et Gisarm' (Gisarmes).
Robert Forestor.
Roger Cryspe.
Roger Genswiche.
Peter Turymory.
Richard Chessman.
William Mayna.
William de Henchers.
Morys Fitzm.
Roger de Congherst.
Aleyne Browyn.
Walter Motyn.
Stevin Highlott.
Wm. Burgherst.
John Henhurst.
Walter Maleward.
Aleyne at Weston.
John Dyn.
Roger Crouche.
John Coks.

Vintenar'.
Richard de Curry.

Sagitar'.
Robert Hobeday.
Wm. at Punks.
Wm. at Dene.
Walter at Ford.
John Birchett.
Symond at Dome.
John Daywo.
Wm. Folere.
John, sonne of John at Hole.
Walter sonne of Henry.
Geffrey de Pideleshurst.

Gisarm'.
Henry at Dene.
Robert Techerche.
Andrew Sutor.
Thomas Sellin.
Thomas Birchett.
John Hebedy.
Morys Virgeve.
Peter Bedeking.

TOOTKLEWURTHE.
(TOTTINGWORTH.)

Vintenar'.
John sonne of Aleyne.

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Sagitar 1.
Peter de Bredhurst.
John de Gotevehide.
John de Pouleswourthe.
Wm. de Mylkhurst.
Steven Stanhurst.
John de Bredhurst.
Ric. sonne of Adam.
Walter sonne of Wm.
Nycolas Bron.
Benjamin de Widderhose.

Gisarm 1.
Richard Smythe.
Richard Ponte.
Robert sonne of Walter.
Symon Tornour.
Wm. Thorrogge.
Richard Dikeknolle.
Gilbert Pres.
Robert Fishere.

HOUNDTHRITHE OF COL-SPOR, UT INFRA.

Vintenar 1.
Robert Alboteshond.

Sagitarri.
John de Oxenbrige.
Ric. at Hope.
Robert at Wade.
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 Wyselegate.
Robert de Bexley.
Stevin at Kell.
John de Devyneton.
Thomas de Belchehurst.
John, sonne of William Hope.

Vintenar 1.
Richard de Kilverthe.

Gisar 1.
Robert de Beeks.
Robert at Wade.
William de Hope.
John de Kent.
John Exeolott.
William Ave.
William Joce.
Richard Aadam.
William de Clopton.
John Kneller.

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

Vintenar 1.
John Aune.

[ ]
Walter Golspore.
Robert Mongepere.
William Gronere.
John Lot.
Ric. Roger.
John Dansell.
John at Forde.
Walter Martyn.
Stevin Tunne.
Ric. Danelli.
John Hoseldern.
Geffry Zougehe.
John Lucas.
William Wace.
John son of Stevin.
John de Lighe.
Thomas de Lighe.
John Dyn.
John Roger.
William Burghton.

HONDTHRITHE DE HEN-HURST.

Centenar 1, Richard Blurston.

Vintenar 1.
John Courtais.

[ ]
John Fynghaigh.
Elyas de Westbourne.
Raufl de Pesemarche.
Thomas de Wynekeham.
Peter Otes.
Robert Payett.
Estate Peres.
Edius at Parke.

Sagitar 1.
Roger Wyse.
Thomas Fynghahg.
Roger de Hulehule.
John Joye.
Thomas at Noks.
Thomas Breymbeland.
Walter Brunythe.
William at Wyks.
John Manyere.
John Forett.

Vinten 1.
John at Rode.

Sagitar 1.
William at Rode.
Thomas Fighkeit.
Wm. Meryfeld.
Henry Berthe.
John Lad.
John Bataill.
John de Stamede'ene.
William Brabor.
Geffrey Leman.
Thomas Symer.
Wm. de Wygeselle.
Roger at 'Tokenhurst.
John Swype.
Wm. Smite.
Raulf Hulehule.
Ric. Watern.
Peter Covelings.
Raulf Benett.
John Lorcham.

Vinten 1.
John Merwode.

Gisar 1.
Raulf Fyche.
Peter Idem.
Robert de Wydekeham.
Thomas Bereworthke.
James Newland.
Aley Manycr.
Thomas Kyng.
John Parlour.
Robert Tregg.
Walter Cungheirst.
Robert Payn.
Robert Munjoye.
Thomas Tryppe.
Ric. Clohere.
John Froboby.
Robert Cronche.
William at Burgh.
Alan Turner.

Vinten 1.
Symon Fytt.

Gisar 1.
John Wegs.
Robert Broks.
Walter Gersovye.
John Beche.
Stevin le Ram.
Laurence de Besingham.
Symon Velshge.
John de Bampton.
Wm. Colett.
**Muster Roll of the Rape.**

**HUNDRETHE DE FOXERLY.**

*Centenar*¹, John de Bassetford.

*Vintenar*¹, Lucas Haneckes.

*Sagitar* cum gladiis et cultellis, John Dyne.

John at Well.

William Hanecks.

John Stoner.

Rauf Body.

John his brother.

Hughe de Rething ad Stanclere.

John Schorte.

John Love.

John Badeckes.

John Meleward.

John Dicldond.

John Elphe.

Egidius Cocus.

John Champeney.

Stein Pukkley.

John Pimmyld.

Wm. de Condelyn.

John Redinge.

*Vintenar*¹, John at Beche.

*Baculatar* cum cultellis¹, (Staves with knives.)

Ric. Reve.

Wm. Jarvyn.

John Bertraun.

Wm. Geoffrey.

Thomas Welbyneche.

Walter Kyng.

William Bensell.

Robert Botall.

John Bothell.

Robert Grym.

John at Stocks.

Wm. Mychellet.

Stein de Wodeshell.

Thomas a Melle.

Rauf Jamyn.

John Rockere.

Symon Averay.

Reyneld Colbon.

Gilbert de Wodesone.

Bartilnewe Bothell.

**HUNDRETHE OF NEMENESFELD.**

*Decenar*¹, (Tything man, or chief of ten men (?))

John Pechard.

*Vintenar*¹, John de Thernere.

*Gisarm* cum cultellis.

Thomas Swynham.

Peter Martyr.

John Somery.

Stein le Yong.

John de Eston.

John Herne.

Robert Hamon.

Thomas de Rifford.

Stein Sand.

Robert Ingram.

Robert Broyn.

Thomas at Cheche.

**Gisarm**¹,

Adam Smyth.

Bartilnewe de Werthe.

John De Barham.

William de Stamyngden.

John Saunderv.

John de Ruford.

Robert de Corrmand.

Allen Cokkes.

John Cottings.

Allyn de Fanteregge.

**HUNDRETHE DE AUKESBURGH.**

*Bivell'me.*

(Biveham in Mayfield.)

*Vintenar*¹, Nychole Bivelhe'me.

*Sagitarii.*

John de Geneshurst.

John de Wadeherst.

Ric. at Combhe.

Laurens Scotingherst.

Stein at Frithhe.

Laurens Gregory.

William de Combun.

Henry de Wynden.

Walter Alkot.

John de Wavenham.

Walter Burden.

*Gisarm*¹, Gilbert Nashe.

Ric. Wobham.

Ric. Chilhope.

Laurens Beynden.

John de Beynden.

Stein at Rec.

John Ingelat.

Adam Colyot.

Wm. de Pepenholks.

Wm. de Wavenham.

John de Chylhope.

Clement at Farude.

William FitWillyam at Rec.

John at Heytonun.

Rychard Wallere.

John Risden.

Richard Dawe.

Ric. Wolwriche.

Stein Turner.

Ric. Fynngherthe.

Ihon Lullere.

Walter at Rec.

John Josc.

Adam de Wodeward.

Adam de Bayham.

John Crollings.

Geffrey at Heggland.

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Muster Roll of the Rape. 1339

Vintenar's.
William de Telton.

Gisarm' cum cultell'.
William Francysys.
Wm. Lonesford.
— Hope.
Wm. Mychell.
Robert Kneere.
John de Bromham.
Wm. at Broke.
Mychell Henlegh.
Symon de Aldelond.
Andrew at Conne.
John Pencloond.
Wm. at Water.
Wm. at Berge.
John Edryche.
Walter Elys.
Henry at Hethe.
Symon Telton.
John Adam.
Galfriedus Ceriche.
John de Upton.
Roger Maleward.
Roger Glyde.
John Northyn.
John de Upton.
Roger at Hole.
Gilbert Hane.
William Cobyn.
Thomas Gelding.
John de Halstrete.
Stevyn Redriche.
Robert Martyne.
Geoffrey Palmer.
Hamon Knost.
Wm. Gardner.

Hundrethe of Staple.
Centen' Richard le Hewte.
Vintenar'.
Hughes Wodehalle.
Sagitar'.
John at Grove.
Wm. Woode.
Wm. Padyham.
John Dyn.
John Golethe.
Wm. Hunt.
John Senegode.
John de Beche.
Raulf Etet.
Stevyn Benex.
Wm. Vever.
John Durant.
Thomas at Brock.

Vintenar'.
Roger Fletcher.

Gisarm'.
Wm. de Pikenham.
Roger Godegorme.
John Taillor.
Robert Fleche.
Peter Acehurche.
Robert de Sedeleescombe.
Alyn Payn.
John Frauncysys.
Peter Coppe.
John Border.
Symon Hery.
Symon Belainz.
John de Steyne.
John Sannzon.
William Berme.
Stevyn William.
John Bromeleigh.
Adam de Clopton.
Raulf Horasan.

Vinten'.
Symon at Beche.

Bacal' cum cultell'.
John son of Robert.
Thomas Jayn.
Ric. William.
Stevyn Malkin.
John Lovell.
Robert Nytyngale.
Walter Wynche.
Wm. de Bromeleigh.
Danyell at Gate.
Reynold Wynche.
Henry de Bromeleigh.
Wm. at Knolle.
Symon at Forde.
John Benetti.
John at Brocland.
John at Rede.
Adam Taillour.
John at Mele.

Vinten'.
Thomas Arundell.

Bacal' cum cultell'.
Walter Bercham.
James Bernett.
John Huchon.
Abraham Roteland.
Robert Gonnice.
Henedyke Nytyngale.
John Fous.
Symon Bertram.
Thomas Quetion.
John de Berham.
John Gentil.

William Holeman.
John Bate.
John Knoller.
Robert Danyell.
Peter Bereham.
Stevyn Desyman.

Hundrithe of Geslinge.
Centenar', William Grubh'st.
Vintenar'.
John Frenyngham.

Wyned' et Cultell'.
William de Lyndhurst.
John Grafthurst.
Thomas de Stoning.
Nychias Sedington.
John de Lydeham.
Robert Bowkton.
William Joce.
John Ignyton.
Thomas Gorwell.

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

Vinten'.
Wm. Clerke.

Sagitar'.

John Strode.
Homo Joppe.
Robert Snepe.
Walter Spugard.
John Nessleham.
Walter Martyne.
John Strode.
John Frankelyne.
William Conelard.
William Bollard.

Wyned' cum cultell'.
Ric. at Strode.
Thomas at Colle.
Wm. Portrewe.
Stevyn Jacus.
Wm. Flemynge.
John Worere.
Wm. Flemynge.
Wm. Torner.
John Gervai.
Elia Bakere.
Muster Roll of the Rape. 1339

Vintenar.
John Morys.
Bilmen.
Robert at Lyve.
Reynold Rogers.
John Silling.
John Gerold.
Wynter cum cultellis.
John de Farieghes. (Fairlight.)
Walter Koc.
Robert Coc.
Walter Houert.
John Jek.
John Gibbe.
Ric. at Wika.
Bacul cum cultellis.
Wm. Poteman.
Walter Courman.
Roger de Werthe.
John Stoven.
Ric. Mot.
John Martyn.
Stevin Wynde.
Gilbert Gerold.
William Rugger.
Vintenar.
Adam Coleman.
Sagitar.
John Adam.
William Vonler.
Robert Blankard.
Wynter.
John Frere.
John Coleman.
William Josep.
Henry Bret.
Bacul cum cultellis.
Bryan Chynysting.
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 Wreten.
Wm. Bronynge.

Hundrith of Godsetrow.
Centenar, John de Brede.
Vintenar.
Geffrey de Mere.

Sagitar.
Robert Sterre.
Gerves Bremax.
John John.
Wm. Porter.
Ric. Aley.
Phelipe de Wyks.
Robert Honten.
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. Bacheler.
Robert Bybbe.
Vintenar.
Elyas Andrewe.

Bilmen.
John Hamond.
John Henry.
Wm. le Hor.
William Gillard.
Elyas Binene.
Wm. Janekyn.
Robert Stoulak.
Walter Hog.
Roger Mot.
Robert John.
Rychard Rayson.
John Andrewe.
John Bacher.
Robert Andrewe.
John Bacher.
Robert Bacher.
Wm. de Lovenham.
Robert Heved.
John le Hove.
Aleyen Potman.
Richard Bernett.

Vintenar.
Richard Witt.

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

Hundrethe of Nedderfeld.
Centenar, Symon de Worth.
Vintenar.
Thomas a More.

Hundrithe of Godsetrow.
Centenar, John de Brede.
Vintenar.
Geffrey de Mere.

John de Henham.
Robert Tebbe.
Bartilmaw Andrewe.
John sonne of Rog.
Henry sonne of Robert.
Wm. Godard.
John Paynet.
Rauf Benett.

Vintenar.
Walter Bukstoks.

Bilmen.
Thomas at Halle.
Thomas de Hundestorre.
Robert Tebbe.
Nycholas de Hundestore.
John le Digier.
Thomas Prichell.
Benedick Choteny.
John de Hunders.
Robert Coleman.
Elys Scarl.
Phelipe at Stone.
Symon Sterall.
Robert Strall.
Robert Gillart.
John de Gatteligh.
Thomas le Weabe.
Edmond Wyte.
Peter de Byche.
Stevin de Hemham.
Wm. le Clarks.
Thomas Mayses.
James Turnep.
John sonne of William.
Walter Fynche.

Hundrethe of Godsetrow.
Centenar, John de Brede.
Vintenar.
Geffrey de Mere.
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:

![Valuation document image]
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](image)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reginald Cobham</td>
<td>Of Saint Hill, hath the Manor of Northeye</td>
<td>36 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Lord de Echyngham</td>
<td>Hath manors and lands worth yearly</td>
<td>58 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Namely—the Manor of Echynghame</td>
<td>30 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; Edmere (Udimore)</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; Pette</td>
<td>8 13 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; Pekedene</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Oxebrigge</td>
<td>Hath lands, etc. in Brede worth yearly</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Fenche</td>
<td>Hath manors, lands, etc., worth yearly</td>
<td>40 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Namely—the Manor of Eclyshame (Icklesham)</td>
<td>30 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; Nedlireld</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Swynbourn</td>
<td>Hath manors, lands, etc., worth</td>
<td>51 6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Namely—One-third of the Manor of Mote</td>
<td>11 6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With land at Borne and Pashelee</td>
<td>40 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Brechisle</td>
<td>Hath manors, lands, etc.—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Inter alia), Bixle</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Asshebournahme</td>
<td>Hath manors, etc.</td>
<td>40 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manor of Ewerst</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot; &quot; Lamberhurst</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Asshebournahme</td>
<td>Hath the Manor of Asshebournahme</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Marney and William Marchant</td>
<td>Trustees of Swinborne, one-third part of Neole aforesaid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Salerne</td>
<td>The Manor of Lye</td>
<td>40 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Chidecroft</td>
<td>Hath land at Pemersesh worth</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Prat</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>66 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countess of Kent</td>
<td>Hath a certain annuity from the said Manor of Yden as aforesaid</td>
<td>8 0 0</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Breton</td>
<td>Hath land at Borewesh worth yearly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Lunsford</td>
<td>Hath lands in Borewesh worth yearly</td>
<td>30 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean de Echynghame</td>
<td>Hath manors, etc., worth yearly—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Inter alia), Monefield (Mountfield)</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Gofte</td>
<td>Hath the Manor of Westfield, etc., worth yearly</td>
<td>13 6 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Harkeide</td>
<td>Hath lands worth yearly</td>
<td>30 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Namely—Filsham</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hamyldeine</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hall, junior</td>
<td>Hath the manor of Poplesham (Pepplesham), etc., worth yearly</td>
<td>10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerard Fyanfleet</td>
<td>Hath manors, lands, etc., 100 acres of land in Horseye.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady de Hoo</td>
<td>Hath the Manor of Wortlyne, and rents, lands, etc. in Warbolton and Bokstepe worth yearly</td>
<td>60 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Colbrond</td>
<td>Hath lands, etc., in Wortlyne and Bokstepe worth yearly</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella Playstede</td>
<td>Hath land, etc., at Playstede</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

By Wikimandia (Own work) [CC BY-SA 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

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 Ginsing (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 21st, 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 Crowtherst, 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.
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 Xlth daye of february, the yere of King Henry the sixt the xxxij, 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 Bourchier, 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.
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 Hastynge Lord de Hastynge, Knight, full and peaceable possession of and in the Lordship, Barony, Honour and Rape of Hastynge with their appurtenances in the county of Sussex, according to the true form and effect of a certain Charter to the said William Hastynge 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. Hastynge Shyght, 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 Mannoires 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 Hastynge Lord de Hastynge, Knight, full and peaceable possession of and in the Lordship, Barony, Honour and Rape of Hastynge with their appurtenances in the county of Sussex, according to the true form and effect of a certain Charter to the said William Hastynge thereto 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 Hastynge the castle, lordship, barony and honour of Hastynge, the manors of Crowehurst, Burwayssh and Bevyllham, the hundreds of Balslowe, Haukebergh and Shoezewell, and further grants to him the advowsons of the deancy and pretends of the college or free chapel within the said castle and the churches of St. Clement and All Saints, Hastynge, and St. George, Brede, and of the churches St. Thomas the Martyr, St. Giles and St. Leonard at and within the town of Wynchelse, 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 the 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 Hastinges, Knight, Lord Hastinges, 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.