

Lord Ward of Dudley Castle. This John Ward, Esq., was second cousin to the father of Ferdinando Dudley Lea, the last Baron of Dudley; and he was created Viscount Dudley and Ward in 1763, dying in 1774. His two sons held the honor successively, and a grandson, John Wm. Ward, Earl of Dudley, who dying unmarried in 1833, Rev. Wm. Humble Ward, his nephew, became his heir and was Baron Ward of Birmingham. This Baron's son, Wm. Lord Ward, b. 1817, was created Earl of Dudley and Vis. Ednam in 1860.\*

#### JOHN SUTTON, FIRST BARON OF DUDLEY OF THIS NAME.

This nobleman assisting Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, against the ministers of Edward II. was for this cause compelled, in order to save his life, to convey all his right and title in the castle and manor of Dudley, with many other large estates, to the rapacious minister of Edw. II., Hugh le Despenser, son of Hugh, Earl of Winchester; but in the first year of Edward III. A. D. 1325, he obtained restitution of them all.—*Dugdale—Bio. Brit.*

Blore, in Hist. of Rutlandshire, date 1811, page 203, says:

"Hugh le Despenser, [one of the king's ministers] exercised oppression upon John de Sutton, who in right of his wife (Margaret de Somery), was Baron of Dudley on account of his adherence to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster; compelling Dudley by hard imprisonment and threats to transfer to Hugh le Despenser, his father, the manor of Eykering, in the County of Nottingham and, to himself, the Castle of Dudley, with the manor of Sedgeley, Swinford, Rowley, Somery and Prestwood in the County of Stafford, the Town of Dudley, in the County of Worcester, and the manor of Bradford, in Berkshire; and, to Oliver de Ingham, the castle of Shocklach and Lordship of Malpas in Cheshire.

All these estates being of the inheritance of Margaret, Lady Dudley, would have produced no forfeiture to the crown by the execution of her husband."

17 Edw. II. 1323, John de Sutton, son of Richard de Sutton, lord of Malpas and Shocklach, gives to David de Egerton and Isabella, his wife, all his right to lands in Duckington.—Given at Malpas 17 Edw., son of Edw. the King.—Seal, a cross fleury.(?)

Dugdale says, that Margaret de Somery's portion when she was married to Sutton was the castle and town of Dudley with the manor

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\* Twamley's Hist. of Dudley Castle.