

in "a suit at law between Ralph de la Dene and Robert de Anvil-lors, respecting two virgates of land in East Dene, a village of Hampshire bordering on Wilts, towards Salisbury."* In Staffordshire there was a John de Dene who was sheriff. 34 and 35 Edw. I (1306-1307).† In Bucks, "the name occurs very early in the *Rotuli Hundredorum*. A William de Dene represented High Wycombe in Parliament in the reign of Edward II and Edward III, and one of the same christian and surname was party to a suit at law respecting land in Bucks (1 John). Again, Hugh de la Dene (9 John), pays a fine for certain tenements at *Cestresham* (Cesterham) in that county."‡ A member of the knightly family Deane or Dene of Huntingdonshire, was present in the army of Edward I at the battle of Broughbridge;§ and in the reign of Edward I and Edward II "there were many distinguished knights of the name Dene, who, though it is impossible to identify them with any particular families, are fixed to counties by the valuable Roll of Knights (8 Edward II), of which copies are to be seen in the Harleian Collection, in the British Museum. In that roll there are five knights of the name, viz.:

1 Sir William de Dene, of Essex: arms, Argent a fesse double dancette gules.

2 Sir Henry de Dene, of Dene, Northamptonshire: The same arms with three red crescents in chief.

3 Sir John de Dene, of Huntingdonshire: Argent two bars sable, on each bar three crosses pate or.

4 Sir John de Dyne || (or Deyne), Oxfordshire: Or a fesse sable.

5 Sir John de Dene, Leistershire: Argent a lion rampant purple.

The Gloucestershire (Forest of Dene) family is not mentioned in this roll, because William de Dene, of St. Briavels Castle, was bound only to bear arms against the Welsh, and in the counties of Gloster, Hereford and Worcester, whereas the above named knights were called out against the Scots.¶

In the preceding names the prevalence of the Norman prefix, *de*, will be noticed, this particle at first was used generally in conjunction with the name Dene, but as the Saxon element became more prominent in English society, it was gradually abandoned for the Saxon *at* and its variations, which finally became the pre-

* We here quote from MSS. letters of Rev. John Bathurst Deane, F. S. A., of London, an eminent antiquary, who was, perhaps, better acquainted with the history and genealogy of the various families of Deanes in England than any other person. We are largely indebted to him for several communications and documents of great interest. He was the author of "The Worship of the Serpent Traced," and of several valuable papers published in the transactions of the Antiquarian Society.

† Fuller's Worthies, i. 144. ‡ Rev. J. B. Deane, MSS. Letters. § *Ibid*.

¶ The following extract referring to Sir John de Dyne is copied from a "History of Essex County," England. "Dyne's Hall is the principal manor in this parish. It is now the seat of H. Sperling, Esq. On the south side of the church of Little Molestead is the chapel appertaining to Dyne's Hall. In this chapel are two costly monuments to the memory of Sir John Dyne (Deane), Knight, High Sheriff of the County, 1610, and of his wife, Anne, daughter of Sir Drue Drury."

¶ Rev. J. B. Deane, MSS. Letters.