

FURTHER REMARKS
ON THE
Ancient Shields in Yarmouth Church.

ACCOMPANIED BY
A PEDIGREE.

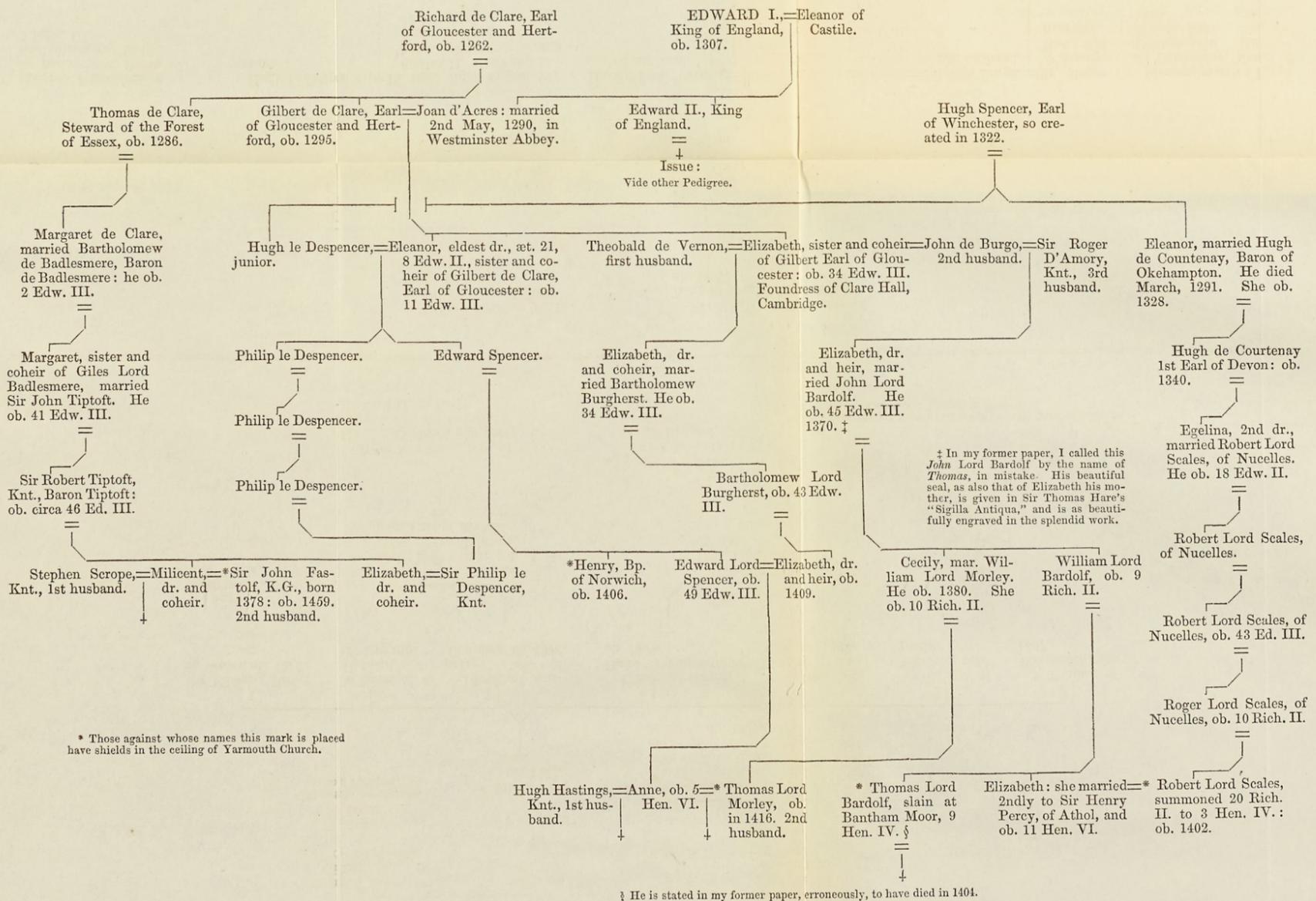
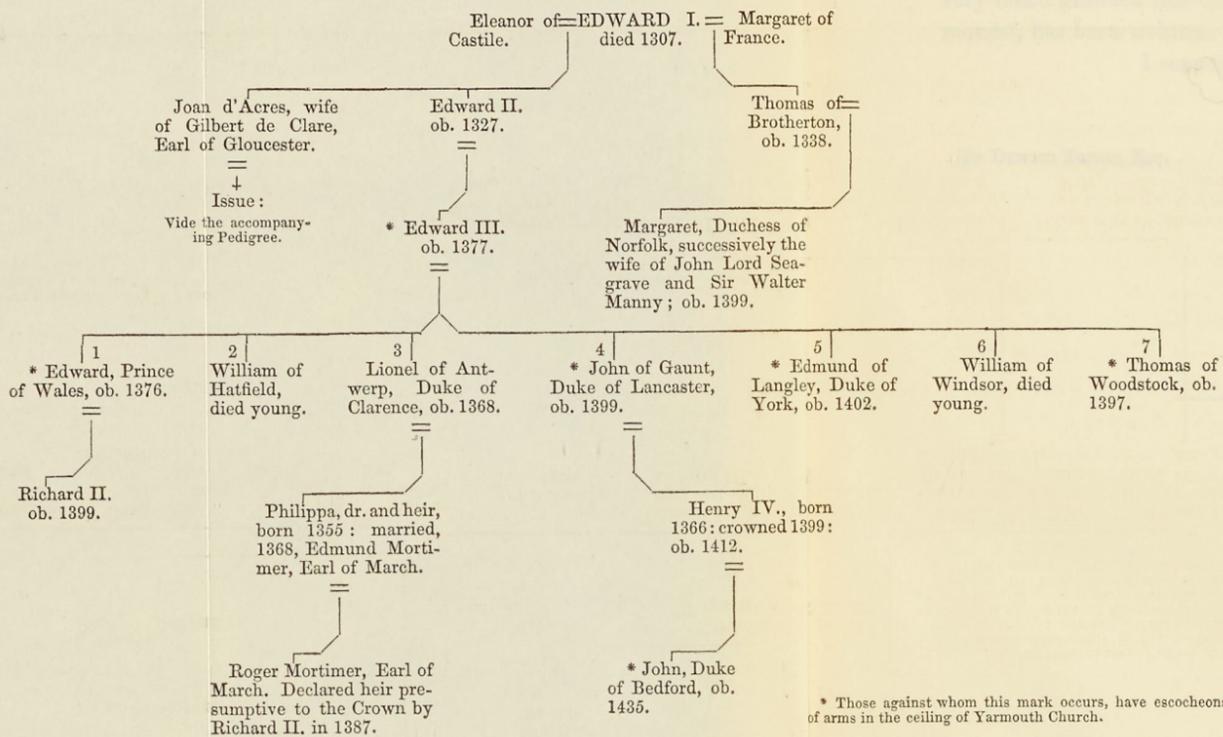
BY THOMAS WILLIAM KING, ESQ.,
York Herald.

IN offering the accompanying Pedigree to the notice of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, I avail myself of the opportunity it affords me of presenting a few additional remarks on the supposed date of the ceiling of the South aisle of Yarmouth Church; it having been suggested that its erection took place about 1376 or 1377; being some few years earlier than I assumed it could have been erected, from the richly emblazoned shields with which it is decorated: namely, between 1399 and 1406.

Firstly, with regard to the Prince of Wales's shield, I beg to observe that it could scarcely have been placed in the ceiling for Richard of Bordeaux, as it has been lately supposed, to reconcile such supposition with the above-mentioned earlier date, as he was only created Prince of Wales in January, 1377, and succeeded his grandfather, as King of England, in June of the same year. There was no Prince of Wales from 1377 until Henry of Monmouth was so created in 1399. I would, therefore, rather assume that it was placed in memory of the Black Prince; as those of other sons of Edward the Third appear with the other royal shields.

Upon a similar principle, it has also been recently surmised that the shield which I have considered to belong to the famous John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, might have

P E D I G R E E .



been placed in the ceiling as representing his father, Henry (afterwards Henry the Fourth), as they both bore the same distinguishing label in their arms. It is, however, to be remembered, that as Henry was born in 1366, he was only about ten years of age in 1376 or 1377; and at that time was very remote from the line of succession to the Crown, and remained so until he usurped the regal authority; upon which the Duke of Bedford became the son of the reigning sovereign.

Henry, while Earl of Derby, married Mary, daughter of Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford; and John, Duke of Bedford, his third son, was born 20th June, 1389,* being, therefore, about seventeen years of age in 1406, my latest date. He presided as Constable of England in the Court of Chivalry, at the controversy between Reginald, Lord Grey de Ruthyn, and Sir Edward Hastings, about the right of bearing the arms of Hastings; upon which judgment was given on the the 9th day of May, 11th Henry IV., 1410. † At this time he could not have been of age, though entrusted, as it were, with the judicial decision of a matter which caused an imprisonment of many years to Sir Edward Hastings. I have merely mentioned this incident of his early life, to shew what position he held as a member of the Royal Family, and as a statesman. From Bedford's early association with Fastolf, who was eleven years his senior, though said, in Fuller's "Worthies," *sub Norfolk*, to have been a ward of the Duke's, I think we may presume that the arms of these cotemporary illustrious men would be found in such a place as Yarmouth

* The date of the birth of this Prince is taken from the *Cott. MS., Vespasian*, dxvii. 80^b. "*out of ye Duke of Bedford's cronicle*;" where also the dates of the births of the other sons of Henry IV. are given; and perhaps this is the only authority to be found for this information. *Query*.—Could the Chronicle here referred to, be the Bedford Missal in the possession of Earl Spencer?—Vide Nicolas's *Testamenta Vetusta*, p. xxxi.

† An account of this Controversy was edited by the present Sir Charles Young, Garter; and privately printed at the expence of Lord Hastings, in 1841.

Church, in the neighbourhood of which—nay, in the same town—the brave Fastolf had landed estate. Fastolf was twenty-eight years old in 1406.

A remarkable coincidence of dates occurs in the periods of the death of several of the individuals whose armorial insignia are in the gorgeous roof of Yarmouth Church.

Thomas of Woodstock	died in 1397
John of Gaunt	„ 1399
Edmond of Langley	„ 1402
Robert, Lord Scales	„ 1402
Spencer, Bishop of Norwich	„ 1406
Thomas, Lord Bardolf	„ 1406
Thomas, Lord Morley	„ 1416

being, with the exception of two of them, within the period I have assigned to the ceiling. Margaret, Duchess of Norfolk, daughter of Thomas of Brotherton, also died in 1399; by which it may be inferred that her arms were placed up to her memory in the last royal shield in the series. The event of this lady's death and burial is thus noted in the Cott. MS., Vesp. dxvii. 77^b.: “1399, y^e 24 marche died Margaret, Duchesse of Norfolk and Countess Mareschall, and S^r John Ffastolf, Knight, was her *berver*, and remained wth her and rode to London wth her, to se her buried at y^e fires minors there, and she was doghter of S^r Thoñs of brotherton.” This shows Sir John Fastolf's early connection with the Royal Family; and the office which he held near the person of the royal lady, whose remains he sedulously attended, was probably in her household; but I have not yet discovered its nature. He was then about twenty-one years old.

In the MS. just quoted, there is also the following passage relating to a member of the Spencer family: “Anne, daughter of Lord Spencer, married first Hugh Hastings, who died in Spain, and had issue Edward Lord Hastings; she re-married to Thoñs lord Morley, that was in y^e viage wth John, Duke

of Bedford, on the Carrecks, died at Calice, and is buried at y^e Austen ffriere in Norwich." (Vide *Pedigree*.)

From the original position of the royal shields of the House of Plantagenet, in the centre line of the ceiling, which formed one unbroken series, in the following order: Edward III., the Black Prince, John of Gaunt, Edmond of Langley, Thomas of Woodstock, The Duke of Bedford, and Brotherton, immediately followed by the shields of the Bishop of Norwich, Morley, Scales, and Bardolf,—I am of opinion that we have all the royal shields that were ever placed there; as I think it would be unlikely that any containing the arms of Princes of the Blood Royal, would have been arranged in the lower or collateral lines of bosses. We may conclude, therefore, that as an *historical* series it is complete; and thence deduce the period when those shields were put up, and, consequently, that of the roof itself. At the same time, I should be glad to find my opinion corroborated by such observations on the architecture and style of ornament, so rich and profuse as that of the numerous bosses are, as may be safely given by those fully experienced in such matters.

THOS. W. KING,

Herald's College,
22nd Feb., 1849.

York Herald.

P.S.—It may not be uninteresting, nor, indeed, irrelevant to the subject of the foregoing remarks, to mention, that a short time ago a small copper shield, having the arms of Henry, first Duke of Lancaster, was found in a field at Market Lavington, in Wiltshire, the label of difference having three points, each of which was charged with *two* fleurs-de-lis, instead of the ordinary number of *three*; being the only instance which has come under my notice, except those occurring in the shields in Yarmouth Church.