

SIR RICHARD DE WYNDESORE,
OF STANWELL, MIDDLESEX.

BY

C. O. BANKS.

SIR RICHARD DE WYNDESORE, who died in 1326, was fortunate enough to win the appreciation of his countrymen as well as the recognition of his sovereign, for he was elected at the County Court a Knight of the Shire for Middlesex and summoned by the Sheriff to serve in the parliaments of 1297, 1298, 1300, (March) 1306, 1309, 1311 and 1313. He was also elected to serve in a similar capacity for Berkshire in 1295, 1297, 1300, (May) 1305, 1306, 1311 and 1320. Possibly he attended other parliaments. Though he was certainly a very busy man he took a conspicuous share in the administration of government.

The Manor of Stanwell is described in the Domesday Survey. In the reign of Edward the Confessor it was then the property of Azor, a domestic of the King. Stanwell lies in the Hundred of Spelthorne, two miles from Staines and fifteen miles from London. Walter FitzOther held the manor in 1086. William, his eldest son, being Warden of Windsor Castle and Keeper of Windsor Forest, assumed the name of Windsor. His son, William de Wyndesore, procured from Henry II a confirmation of all the lands which belonged to Walter Fitz Other, his grandfather. (Collins, *Peerage*, and Lysons, *Environs of London*.) This William de Wyndesore died about 1194; he had two sons, Walter and William (18 years old in 1185), who divided between them the barony of Windsor (*ibid.*, 44). The Manor of

Stanwell, later on, was being held by another William de Wyndesore, who died seized of it in 1279 (*Esch. 7 Edw. I, No. 23*) and it continued in the Windsor family till 1543. Richard de Wyndesore was probably the son of William de Wyndesore.

Little is known of the early life of Richard de Wyndesore or that of his wife Joan. On the 25 April, 1294, John de Sancto acknowledged owing him 100/-^s (*Cal. of Close Rolls, 22 Ed. I, m 10d*). He had possibly previously held some civil position such as a Knight of the Shire for which no returns have been found, for on the 12 November, 1294, he was one of the Assessors and Collectors of the Royal Subsidy for Berkshire (to obtain money for the several engagements pending). (*Cal. of Patent Rolls, 22 Ed. I, m 2* schedule and Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs*.)

In August, 1295, Sir Richard de Wyndesore appears to have been further engaged with the King in preparing to resist the enemies that were gathering around him on every side. The King's best answer to the Scots and the French was the convention of the "*model parliament*" of November, 1295. To avert his peril, Edward I caused two Knights from every shire as well as Burgesses from every borough to be elected. These were summoned by the Sheriffs to Parliament as the representatives of the freeman of the county. The Earls and greater Barons were summoned personally. Moreover the lower clergy were also required to take part in the assembly and the archdeacons and deans in person. Thus, the assembly became so systematic a representation of the three estates (the Barons or Nobles or Magnates, Knights of the Shire, and Clergy), that after ages have regarded it as the type upon which subsequent popular parliaments were to be modelled. It was summoned to meet at Westminster on the 13 November, 1295, and was prorogued to the 27 of November, 1295. Sir Richard de Wyndesore was there as one of the Berkshire representatives, as possibly he

was at the previous Shrewsbury meeting. Each estate, deliberating separately, contributed its quota to the national defence. The barons and knights offered an eleventh and the boroughs a seventh. The clergy making a tenth. Enough was, however, obtained to equip the two armies, which in the spring of 1296 were to operate against the French and the Scots. The Knights of the Shire received a writ for their expenses (*P.W.*). Sir Richard soon commenced his "Military Service."

On the 1 March, 1296, as a Knight, he was ordered to perform Military Service in person against the Scots and to meet at Newcastle (*Parl. Writs*) and, as such, possibly attended parliament on the 3 November, 1296, at Bury St. Edmunds.

In 1297 he was returned for Berkshire as holding land there of the value of £20 yearly and upwards, and as such was summoned under general writ to perform Military Service in person, with men, horses and arms, etc., and to muster at London on 7 July, 1297 (*Parl. Writs*).

After many long altercations, Edward announced that neither the feudal tenants nor the £20 freeholders (Knights of the Shire) had any legal obligation to go with him to Flanders, and offered to pay all who were willing to hearken to his "affectionate request for his services."

In September, 1297, Sir Richard was returned as Knight of the Shire for Middlesex and summoned to meet Parliament at Westminster in eight days—6 October 1297. He was also returned for Berkshire and ordered to meet Parliament at London on 6 October, 1297. The sheriff distrained upon his chattels to the amount of £10 for the purpose of ensuring his appearance at the return of the writ. (*Parl. Writs.*)

At this Parliament the opposition leaders came armed, and declared that there could be no supply of men or money until their demand for the confirmation of the charters was granted. They drew up the so-called

statutum de tallagio non concedendo, which seventeenth century parliaments and Judges erroneously accepted as a statute. The helpless regency accepted their demands and on the 12 October issued a confirmation of the charters to which fresh clauses were added. On the 5 November, 1297, the King at Ghent ratified their action, and thus the constitutional struggle was ended, which was reckoned as one of the great turning points in the history of our constitution.

On 14 October, 1297, Sir Richard was Assessor and Collector of the Royal Subsidy in Middlesex for the ninth granted for the confirmation of the Charter. (*Parl. Writs.*)

In May, 1298, Sir Richard was returned for Co. Middlesex and summoned to meet Parliament on Whit-Sunday, 25 May at York. (*Parl. Writs.*) The Scots barons were summoned to this assembly, but as they neither attended nor sent proxies, their absence was deemed to be proof of contumacy. A month later a large army was concentrated at Roxburgh.

On 14 January, 1300, Richard de Wyndesore, the Sheriff of Oxford and Berks., was ordered to cause all and singular other knights and esquires of his bailiwick, who have £40 yearly of lands, to be ready on the King's behalf with horses and arms, and to be with the King at Carlisle. (*Cl. R. 28 Edw. I, m 14d.*) (*Parl. Writs.*)

In 1300, as Knight of the Shire for Middlesex, Sir Richard was summoned to meet Parliament at Westminster on the 6th March, 1300, and a Writ for his expenses was tested on 20 March (*Parl. Writs.*); the King promised to grant the Perambulation of the Forests and appointed a Commission.

On 11 April, 1300, there was a Writ tested at St. Albans, for Sir Richard de Wyndesore to enforce muster of the levies of men at arms in Oxford and Berks. and to return the name of the defaulters into the wardrobe. (*Parl. Writs.*)

On May 10, 1300, Richard de Windsor was appointed

a Commissioner for Berkshire at the request of prelates, barons and others for the better observance of "Magna Carta" and the Forest Charter of Henry III and to hear and determine complaints of transgressions against the said charter. (*P.R. 28 Edw. I, m 14.*) (*Parl. Writs.*)

On 20 May, 1300, he attended Parliament as the Knight of the Shire for Berkshire. The summons states that the meeting was "Concerning the Observation of 'Magna Carta et Carta de Forests.'" (*Parl. Writs.*) Longtoff (ii, 320) calls this assembly "the Parliament of the Perambulation."

On the 14 February, 1301, the last confirmation of the charters concluded the long chapter of history which had begun at Runnymede.

In 1301 Sir Richard was summoned as a Knight of the Counties of Middlesex, Oxford and Berkshire to perform Military Service against the Scots. (*Parl. Writs.*)

On 21 March, 1304, Licence was granted to Richard de Wyndesore to grant in fee simple to John de Drokenford, King's Clerk, 4 acres of land in Stanewell with the advowson of the Church. (*P.R. 32 Ed. I, m 18.*)

In February, 1305, Sir Richard de Wyndesore, as Knight of the Shire for Berks was summoned to attend parliament on 16 February, 1305, at Westminster, which was prorogued to the 28 February, 1305, and again to the 21 March, 1305. The proceedings of this assembly are known with a fulness exceeding that of the record of any of the other parliaments of the reign. Among the matters enumerated in the writs as specially demanding attention was the "establishment of our realm of Scotland." (For particulars see *Memoranda de parlamento* (1305) Maitland. *Rolls Series.*)

On 16 March, 1305, Sir Richard was appointed a Justice of gaol delivery. (*P.R. 33 Ed. I, m 15.*)

On 4 November, 1305, there was a Licence, by consideration of fine before the Council by Richard de Wyndesore for him to enfeoff John de Drokenford of

the Manors of Westhaleburn and Stanewell and advowson of the Church; and for Drokensford to regrant the same to the said Richard and Joan his wife and the remainder to Richard his son—at present a minor. (*P.R. 33 Ed. I, m 4.*) Sir John de Drokensford was Chamberlain of the Exchequer and the manors were held of the King in chief as of the Castle of Windsor.

On 30 May, 1306, he appeared as Richard de Wyndesore, *Miles* and was summoned, as the Knight of the Shire for Berkshire and also for Middlesex, to the parliament held on that day at Westminster. He received a writ for his expenses for Berkshire. (*Parl. Writs.*)

On 1 December, 1306, a Writ of Aid was issued to the sheriffs, freemen and commonalty of Middlesex for Richard de Wyndesore and Wm. Pountz, of South Mimms, Middlesex, and a Clerk, to assess and collect one 30th on goods granted by the commonalty of the realm and the 20th granted by the tenants of the King's demesne. (*P.R. 35 Ed. I, m 45.*)

On 24 December, 1307, Richard de Wyndesore, William de Brok and the Sheriff of Middlesex were Keepers of the Peace for the county during the King's absence beyond the seas. (*P.R. 1 Edw. II, m 3.*) The same arrangement was made in March, 1308.

On 12 February, 1309, Richard was Justice of gaol delivery for Windsor and took two persons to the Church Yard there. (*Cl. R. 2 Edw. II, m 12.*) (On 5 April, 1309, he appears as J.P. for Windsor. (*Cl. R. 2 Edw. II, m 7.*))

On 27 April, 1309, Richard de Wyndesore, *miles*, as Knight of Shire for Middlesex, attended parliament at Westminster, the sheriff made a Special Return of the election, having been made by the "Communitas" of the whole county.

The King was granted a much needed supply, but the barons and knights drew up a long schedule of grievances in which they complained of the abuses of purveyance,

the weakness of the government, the tyranny of the royal officials and the delays in obtaining justice. They also refused point blank the King's request for the recall of his favourite, Peter of Gaveston.

On the 13 May, 1309, Sir Richard received his Writ of Expenses for attendance, together with his charges for coming and going. (*Parl. Writs.*)

On 28 November, 1307, and August, 1309, Sir Richard was a Commissioner for assessing and leveying a Royal Subsidy in Middlesex. (*P.R. 3 Edw. II, m 37.*)

In March, 1310, a Parliament of barons and knights was held in London. They came in military array and the King was at their mercy. The conditions of 1258 exactly repeated themselves. Once more an armed parliament made itself the mouthpiece of the national discontent against a weak King, an incompetent administration and foreign favourites. The magnates and knights wanted more than the banishment of Gaveston. They were ready with a constructive programme of reform, and they went back to the policy of the Mad Parliament.

On 1 April, 1310, Sir Richard was a Commissioner for Middlesex to execute Statute of Winchester and keep the peace there with diligence, otherwise the King would enquire into his neglect. (*Cl. R. 3 Edw. II, m 7, and Parl. Writs.*)

On 21 April, 1311, he was a Middlesex Commissioner for "Oyer and Terminer" (*P.R. 4 Edw. II, m 15d*) and again on the 12 June, 1311, to enquire as to a felony at Stanmore, Co. Middlesex. (*P.R. 4 Ed. II, m 7d.*)

On 25 May, 1311, he was a Commissioner for Surrey of "Oyer and Terminer." (*P.R. 4 Edw. II, m 10d.*)

Sir Richard may have attended the parliament of 8 August, 1311, for Middlesex; he was summoned as Knight of the Shire for Berkshire and Middlesex to meet parliament at Westminster on 12 November, 1311. The Sheriff of Middlesex made a special return of the election. As Knight for Berkshire he obtained the Writ

for his expenses on the 18 December, 1311 (see particulars of Richard de Rous for further particulars of this Parliament).

On 8 January, 1313, Richard de Wyndesore *Miles* was again elected (so the sheriff's return to Parliament states), by the whole County of Middlesex and was summoned later as Knight for Co. Middlesex to meet Parliament at Westminster on 18 March, 1312-13 and on 10 May, 1313, received the Writ for his expenses "from the return day until 7 April and from Sunday in 3 weeks of 6 May to Wednesday then next following 9 May, at the rate of 4s. per day together with the charge of coming and going." (*Parl. Writs and Cl. R. 6 Edw. II, m 5d.*) Parliament granted no money and Edward only met his daily expenses by loans, contracted from every quarter, and by keeping a tight hand on the confiscated estates of the Templars. Both the knights and the leading earls made every excuse to escape attending the ineffective parliaments at that miserable time.

On 13 April, 1314, and 22 January, 1324, Sir Richard was appointed Conservator for Middlesex, to preserve order, as there were no adequate police. (*P.R. 7 & 17 Edw. II, m 14 & 4a.*)

On 6 May, 1314, Sir Richard was Commissioner of "Oyer and Terminer" for Berkshire. (*P.R. 7 Edw. II, m 17d.*) And again in June, 1314, and on 23 April, 1315, for Oxford. (*Ibid.*)

On 1 September, 1315, Richard was Commissioner for array of arms in Middlesex. His duties were to choose men and lead them to the frontier or place of embarkment. The County was ordered to pay for each foot soldier. (*P.R. 9 Edw. II, m 22.*)

On 5 March, 1316, Sir Richard was returned as Lord of West Hagborne and Upton, Berkshire and Stanwell and Westbedfort, Middlesex. (*Nodemina Villarum & Parl. Writs.*)

On 26 March, 1316, Sir Richard was appointed "for

the general hoisting of the War against Scotland for one foot soldier in every town of Berkshire and to muster them at Newcastle-on-Tyne with Lancaster for the King." (*Parl. Writ. and P.R. 9 Ed. II, m 19.*)

On 8 June, 1316, he was an assessor for a subsidy for Berkshire. (*P.R. 9 Edw. II, m 12.*) At this period great floods had swept away the hay from the fields and drowned the sheep and cattle and a great famine raged.

On 5 August, 1316, Sir Richard, as collector of the Oxford Subsidy, was granted permission "to purchase exoneration from the aid of soldiers for the Scotch War and to obtain a confirmation of the perambulation of the forests." (*P.R. 9 Edw. II, m 27.*)

On 7 June, Sir Richard acknowledged he owed 50 marks to Richard de Abbesbury Berks. (*Cl. R. 11 Edw. II, m 4a.*)

On 20 May, 1319, he was Assessor for the Oxford Subsidy. (*P.R. 12 Edw. II, m 6.*)

On 29 August, 1319, Richard de Wyndesore and other knights were accused by Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hertford, that they took and drove away 20 horses, 40 oxen, 60 cows, 600 sheep, 200 swine of his, price £200, at Horsley, Surrey and other goods, and also assaulted his servants. (*P.R. 13 Edw. II, m 35a.*)

In September, 1320, Sir Richard de Wyndesore was returned as Knight for Berkshire and summoned to meet Parliament at Westminster on 6 October, 1320 and on 25 October received a writ for his expenses. (*Parl. Writs.*)

On 21 January, 1321, a Commission of "oyer and terminer" was granted to Sir Richard touching a breach of free warren at Kenynton, Co. Middlesex. (*P.R. 14 Edw. II, m 25d*); and on 22 February, 1322, he received another Commission to deliver the gaol of the town of Oxford. (*Parl. Writs.*)

On 2 December, 1322, "Writ of Aid" was granted Sir Richard de Wyndesore *Knight* for the collection of the 10th and 6th Subsidy in Oxford. (*P.R. 16 Edw. II,*

m 12.) He was also on same date Assessor for Berkshire. (*Parl. Writs.*)

In September, 1323, a Commission was granted for Sir Richard to deliver John de Burgh, detained in Oxford for murder (*P.R. 17 Edw. II, m 14*) and on 22 January, 1324, he was Commissioner of the Peace for Middlesex. (*Parl. Writs.*)

On 30 May, 1324, Sir Richard was returned as a Knight of the Shires of Middlesex and Berkshire, and was summoned for each County to attend the *Great Council* of the realm at Westminster. (*Parl. Writs.*)

On 7 November, 1324, a Commission was granted to Richard de Wyndesore and William de Bradewell on complaint of men and tenements of the hundred of Isleworth, touching the behaviour of John de Enfield and Roger de Brok, late Justices of array (and Knights of the Shire for Middlesex) as they are charged with "extorting money, and using the same to their use, and they have spared able bodied men for what these gave them, and compelled the weak and poor, who have nothing to give them, to labour every day at divers places," etc. (*P.R. 18 Edw. II, m 13d, & Cl. R.*)

On 14 January, 1325, Richard de Wyndesore held land in Hardemed by Knight's service. (*Cl. R. 19 Edw. II, m 15.*)

On 27 March, 1326, the Berkshire Escheater was "ordered not to intermeddle with the Manor of Westhakebourne, in Berkshire and to restore issue thereof to Joan, late the wife of Richard de Wyndesore, as the King learns that Richard and Joan de Wyndesore were enfeoffed by John de Drokensford, to have them for their lives with remainder to Richard son of the said Richard, and to his heirs, and the manor is held by the King by the service of a moiety of a knight's fee for all services, saving to the King Joan's fealty, in this behalf."

Further order was issued to the Escheater for Middlesex, and a like order was granted concerning the Manor of Stanewell and the advowson of the Church of that

Manor, to the effect that the Manor is held of the King in Chief as of the Castle of Wyndesore by service of the moiety of a Knight's fee, and of rendering 16s. 8d. every 40 days to the Warden of the said Castle. (*Cl. R. 19 Edw. II, m 9.* See also *Esch. 19 Edw. II, No. 54.*)

In 1328 Joan, wife of Richard de Wyndesore died, seized of the Manor of Stanwell. (*Esch. 2 Edw. III, No. 17.*)

RICHARD DE WYNDESORE the son and heir of Sir Richard and Joan de Wyndesore was a minor in 1305. Upon the death of his father in 1326 and his mother in 1328 he became possessed of their property. (*Cl. R. 19 Edw. II, m 9 & Esch. 2 Edw. III, No. 17.*)

In November, 1330, Richard was elected at the County Court and returned as Knight of the Shire for Middlesex and was summoned to attend the parliament held at Westminster on the 26th November, 1330. Its chief business was the trial of Mortimer before the Lords. Richard de Wyndesore also attended the Parliament at Northampton on 26 July, 1338, in a similar capacity. (*Parl. Writs.*)

On 6 July, 1338, he was a Justice of Array and was appointed to Keep the Peace in Middlesex. (*Cl. R. 12 Edw. III, m 16d.*)

On 16 December, 1338, Richard was a Witness to a Deed. (*Cl. R.*)

On 24 August, 1340, Richard, as taxer of the 9th of sheaves, lambs and fleeces in Middlesex was granted and appointed as surveyor of same. (*Cl. R.*)

On 4 April, 1341, Richard and his fellow Keeper of the Peace in Middlesex, were instructed to use greater diligence. (*Cl. R. 15 Edw. III, m 22d.*)

On 20 January, 1346, he was charged with others with felony at Bermondeye. (*Cl. R. 20 Edw. III, m 4d.*)

Richard de Windsore appears to have died about 1367. (*Cl. R. 41 Edw. III, m 9.*)

Other members of the same family are Sir James de Windsore, who died in 1370. (*Escheater 44 Edw. III, No. 67.*)

Sir Miles de Wyndesore died in 1387; (*Escheater 10 Rich. II, No. 46.*) Alice his widow, in 1395. His grandson, another Sir Miles de Windsor, who was born in 1418, married Joan, daughter of Walter Greene, who was for 40 years M.P. for Middlesex, and was owner of Staple Inn, Holborn and Keeper of the Seal called the Cocket used at the Staple for Wool. From this Sir Miles and his wife, Joan Greene, are descended the present Earls of Plymouth.

The Manor of Stanwell, which was their principal property, remained in the Windsore family from soon after the date of Domesday Book till 1543.

NOTE.—The early pedigrees of the Windsor family are to be seen in *The Ancestor* of January, 1809, No. 5, p. 47. Sir F. Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs and Writs of Military Service for Edward I and II*, and the blue books of *Parliaments of England*, published in 1879, are very helpful. The Harleian Society's *Knights of Edward I* contains many references to Knights of the Shire. In the particulars of the other early Middlesex Knights of the Shire which I have been able to procure are many references to other counties. The above particulars are not to be considered complete. Daniel Lysons in his *Historical Account of the Middlesex Parishes which are not in the Environs of London* gives further particulars of Stanwell.