ON THE CONNEXION OF ARDERNE, OR ARDEN, OF CHESHIRE, WITH THE ARDENS OF WARWICKSHIRE.

Sedbury Park, Chepstow,
August 1, 1843.

MR. EDITOR,

PERMIT me to advert to some passages in the recent "Histories of Noble Families," (Part i. p. 6.) noticed in your "Topographer," (Part i. p. 47.) as well for the purpose of explaining some statements in my History of Cheshire which appear to have been misunderstood, as of illustrating the descent of a most ancient family from the result of a late search into records beyond the range of the Palatinate, and inaccessible when my work was compiled, thirty years ago.

I trust that the accomplished author of the splendid national work referred to, will excuse my thus stating, in my own defence, the points in which his objections appear to be untenable; and I remain, Sir, &c. &c.

GEO. ORMEROD.

MR. Drummond observes that, besides the undoubted descendants of Turchill, (surnamed "de Warwick" in Domesday, and "de Eardene" [a] in the register of Abingdon Abbey, and ancestor of the Ardens of Warwickshire,) there was a knight in Cheshire, in the time of King John, who describes himself as "de Ardena;" that there is no Ardena in Cheshire; and that "the only rational mode of accounting for his lineage is, that he also was from Warwickshire, and such appears always to have been the tradition in the family, confirmed by LYSONS and COLLINS."

In referring to HARDEN, ALVANLEY, and ALDFORD, in the History of Cheshire, it will be found that I recite as *theories* all the theories on this subject, but stop in positive deduction where evidence fails, namely, with the first Sir John Arderne of Ald-

[a] Eardene, or Arden, was the wooded district of Warwickshire in which Turchill de Warwick was allowed to retain the vast estates mentioned in Domesday, after being dispossessed of his hereditary jurisdiction in that county in favour of the Norman Earls. See Dugdale, p. 302.

ford (1209—28), and I consider the above citations of *Lysons* and *Collins* to be erroneous, as Lysons (Chesh. 483) commences his account of the Ardernes a generation lower than I do, and Sir E. Brydges in the only edition of Collins's Peerage published since the Ardernes, or (according to resumed orthography) the Ardens, were raised to the Peerage, commences (ix. 143) precisely where I do.

After citing some interesting passages relative to the Warwickshire Ardens, which are inadvertently referred to Camden instead of Dugdale's Warwickshire (edit. 1656, pp. 675, 696), Mr. Drummond observes that I think any account of the Cheshire Ardernes preferable to the old, and suppose they took their name from *Harden*, a place belonging to them, and pronounced by common people Arderne:[a] but that this supposition cannot be true, as Harden did not come into their possession till they had written themselves de Ardena for six generations: secondly, as they wrote themselves "de Ardena de Harden" as a different title; and thirdly, as "the ancient name was *Hawarden* (Lysons, 783), which Mr. O. does not state."

In reply to these objections to what I have stated on a very intricate point where condensation was both difficult and requisite, I beg to explain, that I have *not* objected to the general possibility of Warwickshire origin, but to a deduction of it by a specific pedigree interpolated in Vincent's MSS. Coll. Arm. (120), which I then disproved negatively, as I shall now do positively, by showing who Sir J. A.'s father *really was*, and that he was *not* the person there stated.

It will be found also that I *have* quoted the orthography *Hawarden* (iii. 399), from an Inq. p. m. 6 Edw. VI. and that I have conjectured the *possible* identity of the local name Harden, Hardyne, Hawarden, or Hawerdyne, with Arden, not merely on the ground of local pronunciation, but with reference to a very learned argument in Whitaker's Manchester (4to. ed. i. 26), as to its *sylvan import and origin*, as well here as in Warwickshire and elsewhere. That learned writer's argument is fanciful in some points and overstrained, but supported by various considerations, more than he probably was aware of. I allude, in the first point, to the character itself of this wild district, which, sur-

[a] As for instance, "Mr. Arderne of Arderne," in Tracts of 1642, cited by Mr. Hibbert, in his History of the Collegiate Church of Manchester, vol. i. p. 212.

rounding the Cheshire Harden, extends, within that county, to Woodhead through Longdendale and Tintwisle, and in Lancashire from Denton northwards along the Yorkshire border, abutting, to the south, on the forests of High Peak and Macclesfield, and approaching on the north the former Chaces of Holcome and Rossendale. In this wild district also will be found confirmations of its ancient forestal state in numerous local names, in the traditions relative to the wild cattle formerly found in the *woods* near Blakeley, whose descendants still exist at Lyme, [b] in a charter of Stokeport barony relative to the drift timber in the mountain streams, [c] and in proofs from *deeds* and records of exerciseof forest rights by the Barons of Manchester within Ashton and Blakeley, [d] and in the Cheshire part by the Earls Palatine. [e] All these will be found in the district already described extending northward from the Cheshire "Harden," which is asserted by Whitaker, on more general grounds, to refer to some greater and more ancient "ARDEN;" supposed by him to have been originally so named in the sense attributed to the word by Camden in the passage cited below. [f]

It was an interest in such an Arden that I considered proper to be mentioned in citing various theories as to *possible* derivation of the Cheshire name, so long as no other deduction could be proved; but it will be found, on referring to the History of Cheshire (ii. 39, and iii. 399), that I fully explained the acquisition of the *manor of Harden* by the Cheshire Ardernes to be *later* than their use of the local name, and anticipated such objection. My remarks relate to the demesne lands of Harden,

[b] See Leland's Itin. vol. vii. p. 49, edit. 1779. Hist. Chesh. iii. p. 339; and Whitaker's Craven, second edit. p. 37.

[c] Hist. Chesh. iii. 384, citing charter given in Watson's Earls of Warren.

[d] Collectanea Topographica, vol. VII. p. 13.

[e] See Hist. Chesh. as to such rights in Marple and Wyberslegh adjacent to Harden, iii. 406, and as to the present forest jurisdiction therein, and in Norbury, &c. mentioned below, iii. 283.

[f] "Sylvestrem regionem nunc perlustremus——*Arden* antiquiori nomine olim dicebatur, verum eadem plane (ut ego existimo) significatione, *Arden* enim priscis Britannis et Gallis sylvam significasse videtur, cum in Gallia sylvam maximam ARDEN, opidum in Flandria juxta alteram sylvam Ardenburg, et celebratam illam Angliæ sylvam truncato vocabulo *Den* nominari videamus; ut *Dianam* illam taceam quæ in antiquis Galliæ inscriptionibus ARDWENA et ARDOINA, id est, si quid ego video, *Sylvestris*, et eadem fuit, quæ Italiæ inscriptionibus NEMORENSIS nominata. Ex hac Turkillus de *Arden*." Camden Britann. 1607, p. 426.

and to the name now limited to them, but once not improbably extending over lands in immediate contiguity with them, in which an earlier territorial interest was possessed, not only by the first Sir John Arderne, but by his Norman predecessors the Bigods and Aldfords, Lords of Alford from the Conquest.[g] If this great fee did not include Harden itself, in its present limited sense, it certainly included Norbury, Torkinton, and Offerton, which abutted on it, and which are still in the jurisdiction of a Forest; and it was mentioned that the Aldfords themselves are supposed to have occasionally borrowed hence a sylvan appellation, and that Richard de Aldford and Richard de Harderna were considered identical.

This, or most of this, was stated, but as illustration of theories only, with explanation (ii. p. 37) that it was only clear that the deduction of the Cheshire Ardernes from Warwickshire (cited in the same column as from Vincent's MS. 120, the only Warwickshire deduction then known) was erroneous, and that the Cheshire consequence and possessions of the Ardernes were apparently referable to a connexion, through Aldford, with the Barons of Halton (in common with whom Sir John Arden used the garbs of his Suzerain, Earl Ranulph), and that the mystery could only be unravelled by disclosure of papers that had escaped the hand of time.

Such documents are now recovered by me; the real deduction is proved, and the illustration of theories referred to and expressly cited previously as theories only, are now only so far useful, as they may be interesting in themselves, or illustrate other points in Cheshire antiquities.

I am, however, obliged to Mr. Drummond for his conjecture that "Watheford," (heretofore considered to be "Widford," or "Woodford," in Aldford-fee,) might be Watford in Northamptonshire. This new clue has been steadily followed, and it is *now first proved* by the following documents, that the Cheshire Ardernes derived their male descent, name, and arms[h] from the *Watfords*, alias *Ardens*, of *Northamptonshire*.

[g] See the account of Aldford-fee, Hist. Chesh. ii. 411, Norbury, &c. iii. 404. Nordberie in the Domesday account of Bigod's lands (afterwards Aldford-fee) i. 266 b, and the enumeration of Villæ infra feodum de Aldford, Harl. MSS. 2074, 173.

[h] See this coat among the quarterings allowed in No. 2, following. It varies

The subjoined allowance by Hawley, Clar. K. of Arms (1 and 2 Ph. and M.) of arms founded on the coat of the principal Warwickshire line, and made to Burnaby as heir general of the Northamptonshire Ardens of Watford, shews his belief (which is recognised by the College of Arms) that the Watford Ardens in some line or other descended from the Warwickshire family, and there are various points of mixture of property and other connexion to strengthen this.[i] But it must be remembered that every additional confirmation of *Warwickshire descent* through the Watfords is an additional condemnation of the younger Vincent's deduction from the same source through Arden of Hampton, to which descent I originally objected, and which Records have now proved to be impossible.

ILLUSTRATIVE DOCUMENTS.

No. 1. Transcript of the pedigree of ARDEN, alias WATFORD, co. Northampton. (Vincent's Collections, 10, p. 9 b. Coll. Arm.)

Arms: Gules, on a chief or a label of three points azure.



Agnes de Arden.
Alexander de Arden.
Eustace, primus.
Eustachius de Arden.
Eustachius de Watford. — Edmundus de Watford.
Eustachius de Watford. — Margeria. — Edmundus de Watford.

Athelina, obiit sine herede.	Sara, nupta Johanni Burneb'.	Johanna, nupta Will'o Paarles.	Helena, obiit innupta.	Nicholaus de Watford, 26 Edw. III.	Margeria, uxor Roberti Crawford et Simonis Crosholme.

only in the addition of the chief from the principal coat of the Ardens of Warwickshire, which, as Mr. Drummond justly observes, appears to be founded on the arms of (their Norman successors) the Newburgh Earls of Warwick.

[i] As, for instance, the presentation to Holdenby, in 1290, by the Ardens of Hanwell, recognising alleged joint interests of Arden of Rotley and of the Brays, who succeeded to a coheir of Arden of Watford. Bridges's Northamptonsh. i. 527. See also Dugdale's Remarks on *Eustace* de Arden, of Bickenhull, Warw. p. 713.

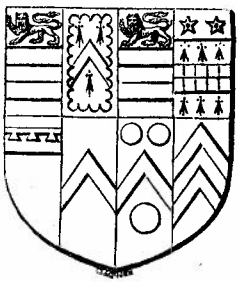
No. 2.

ARMS OF WATFORD OF WATFORD, AND ARDERNE OF ALDFORD.

Arms of Watford, and quartering of Arden, were exemplified to *Burnaby*, with a patent of Crest, by Hawley, Clarencieux, 1 and 2 Ph. & M. Oct. 21, and sketched also in margin of the Arden of Watford pedigree in Vincent's Northamptonsh. 62, p. 114.

The names of quarterings omitted in MSS. Coll. Arm. but given as follows in Harl. MSS. 1188, p. 36. 1. Burnaby. 2. Beville. 3. Burnaby. 4. Arden. 5. Watford. 6. Sayes. 7. Beseley. 8. Grendon.

The Arden coat is Ermine, a fesse checquy or and azure, in a chief of the third two mullets pierced or. The Watford coat, Gules, on a chief *argent* a label azure, but in Vincent's pedigree (in MSS. Coll. Arm. 10, p. 9.) the chief is *or*.



The arms of *Arderne of Aldford* differ only from the arms of *Watford* in the *substitution of crosslets in the field* for Watford's *label in the chief*, as *last blazoned*, and the arms of the Offertons of Offerton, co. Cest. (who were military tenants and probably collaterals of the Ardernes) differ less,—namely, in the mere substitution of three annulets in chief for the label.

The ARMS of the Aldford Ardernes occur on a seal appendant to a deed of Sir Peter de Arderne, Lord of Aldford, 7 Edw. I. 1288, engraved in Hist. Chesh. ii. p. 38, and now in possession of its author: and they are allowed in all the successive Cheshire Visitations.

The CREST is given in the Cheshire Visitation of 1566 as a "plume of five ostrich feathers erect argent, issuing from a ducal coronet or," but in the volume of Benefactors, i. 17, the plume consists of three ostrich feathers gules, tipped or, surmounted by another similar plume, and issuing as before.

No. 3.

PEDIGREE OF ARDEN OF WATFORD, DRAWN FROM RECORDS, AND CONNECTED WITH SIR JOHN DE ARDERNE, "MILES RAN' COM. CEST." AND GRANTEE OF THE HONOUR OF ALDFORD.

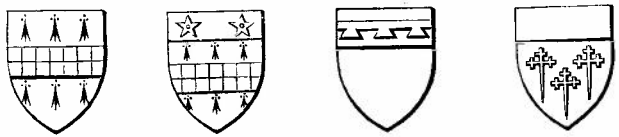
Illustrative of Vincent's *Watford* Pedigree preceding, (Vinc. MSS. Coll. Arm. 10, p. 9 b.) and of the previous Essay.

Eustace (son of Alexander de Arden, son of Agnes de Arden, Vincent's MSS. Coll. Arm. 10, p. 9 b.) to which "Eustachius de Arderne," or his son, may be referred the grant of Watford church to the Abbey of St. James at Northampton (Bridges, i. 501, quoting the register), followed by gifts to Sulby Abbey by Eustace, son of Eustace de Wathford. (Bridges, i. p. 557, and Mon. Ang. vi. 904, from Pat. 9 Edw. II.)

Eustace de Watford, impleads his tenant of Watford, William FitzAdam, 1199, 1 Joh. (Cur. R. i. 406, ii. 42, 106.) occurs 3 Johan. as paying scutage for one knight's fee in Northamptonshire. (Rot. Cancellar. p. 87.) Eustace de Arden and de Watford occurring previously in arrears of second and third scutage of Ric. I. Deceased in 1213, as by writ of Nov. 7, 15 Joh. to the sheriff of Northampton, to set out the dower of his widow *Hawysia* in Watford and Silvesworth; *the Earl of Chester* being security for her not remarrying without license. (Clause Rolls, 1213, p. 155.)

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1. *Arms of the heirs male of Arden of Warwickshire*, "Ermine, a fesse checquy, or and azure."
2. *Arms of Arden of Watford*, exemplified to Burnaby (as a Quartering) by Hawley, Clar. 1 and 2 Ph. & M, and allowed by Vincent, 10, MSS. Coll. Arm. "Ermine, a fesse checquy or and az. on a chief azure two mullets or."
3. *Arms of Watford*, previously *Arden of Watford*, exemplified and allowed as above; "Gules, a chief *argent*, thereon a label of three points azure," but in Vincent's pedigree (10, p. 9 b.) the chief is *or*.
4. *Arms of Arderne of Alvanley*, allowed in the successive Visitations of Cheshire; "Gules, three cross-crosslets fitché, and a chief or."



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Eustace de Watford, as E. de Arden, fines in xl marcs to the King for the land of which his father Eustace de A. died seised. Rot. de Fin. (Nov. 24, 15 Joh. 1213) p. 509.) Has grant of lands in *Watheford* from his brother John de Arderne (as hereafter mentioned) between 1209—1228; witnesses *Robert and Ralph de Say.** Grant of his lands (as those of Eustace de Watford) made to *Robert de Say*, during the King's pleasure, 18 Joh. 1216. (Clause Rolls, p. 281 b.) The same restored, by writ to the sheriff of Northampton, &c. 1 Hen. III. 1217, on his return to fealty. (Clause Rolls, p. 311.) died in or before 1221.

Eustace de Watford, has writ to the sheriff of Northampton for seisin of one knight's fee in Watford, late belonging to his father Eustace de Watford, on security for relief of C*s*. (Excerpt. de Rot. Fin. 5 Hen. III. 1221, p. 63.) Inq. p. m. 4 Edw. I. No. 32, when assignation of dower is made to his widow *Margery*, his estate in Watford being one knight's fee held from the Crown in capite. Extent, March 22.

Aveline, wife of William le Broun, o. s.p.	Mary, afterwards called Sarra, (Abbrev. Plac. p. 198.) wife of John de Burneby.	Jane, wife of William de Parles.	Elena, unmarried.

Daughters and coheirs, aged upwards of 30 years, Mar. 22, 4 Edw. I. 1275. Homage done and seisin given same year (Rot. Original. 4 Edw. I.) and fine paid by Aveline, Mary, and Elena, in lieu of military service against Llewelyn, 5 Edw. I. 1277. (Palgrave's Writs.)

* Robert de Say was grantee of Watford (during pleasure) from King John 1216, and Ralph de Say occurs shortly after the notice of Eustace de Watford in the T. de Neville (p. 27.) as having custody of the Northamptonshire fee of Roger de Heyford. The Says were at this time closely connected with *Geoffry de Mandeville*. Sir John de Arderne's pledge in 1213. See above.

John de Arderne (as I. de Arden) compounds with the King for acquittance from annual payment to the Exchequer of lxx*s*. formerly paid by "*Eustachius pater ipsius Johannis*," with reference to a debt of the Jews charged on land in *Watford* (co. Northampton) given by said E. to said J. in his lifetime, by undertaking to put at the King's disposal (at the feast of St. Hilary ensuing) a valuable horse, for which *Geoffrey de Mandeville* is pledge, Nov. 28, 15 Joh. 1213. (Rot. de Fin. 510.) Acquittance given, and horse rendered, Jan. 28, 1214. (ibid. 517.) Grants his lands in *Watheford* to his *brother Eustace* by deed s. d. witnessed by P. de Orreby, (Just. Cest. 1209—1228.) various Barons and landholders of *Cheshire*, and *Robt. de Say** and *Ralph his brother*. SEAL THREE GARBS. (Harl. MSS. 2077, p. 17.) Has grant of the lands of Geoffry de Sautemareis by writ to the sheriff of Worcester, Aug. 7, 1216, being described as *Joh'es de Arderne miles Ran' Com. Cestr.* 18 Joh. 1216. (Clause Rolls, p. 280.) which Ranulph Earl of Chester was absent in the Holy Land 1218—20. (Matt. Paris, 303, 309.) Has grant of the honour of Aldford from Ranulph Earl of Chester, as "*Miles* meus," by deed s. d. and grants Thornton (parcel of that fee) to Peter, clerk of the Earl of Chester, and confirms it to his son Ranulph, the Earl's godson, by deeds, s. d. *sealed with* THREE GARBS, as above, and circumscribed, + S. IO'IS DE ARDERNE. Harl. MSS. 2074. Grants lands in Wethull (adjacent to his lands in *Audley*, co. Staff.) to Pulton Abbey, in exchange for lands in Aldford, and confirms the charters of Richard de Aldford to the same Abbey, (Harl. MSS. 2060.) the charters of both being confirmed by Earl Ranulph.



Walkelyn de Arderne, Justiciary of Cheshire, succeeded his father in or before 1236, as by grant of fair at Aldford, Alderly, and Elford, and was father of *Sir Peter de Arderne*, who seals with the arms now used by the family, Nov. 30, 17 Edw. I. 1288.

Arderne of Aldford, Alvanley, and Harden, co. Cest. and of Elford, co. Staff.