

A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland, enjoying Territorial Possessions or High Official Rank; but uninvested with Heritable Honours.

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The name of Harwood is of Saxon origin, and was anciently spelt Herward, Horwode, and Whorwood.

According to Domesday, Hereward had lands in the counties of Lincoln and Warwick previous to the conquest. He was son of Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and Lord of Brune, in Lincolnshire, and the marshes adjoining, and was chosen by the prelates and nobility, who retired to the Isle of Ely after the Conqueror's invasion, to be the general of their forces. In the Saxon period he was called "The Mirror of Knighthood," and Ingulphus dwells minutely on the incidents of his life.

Hereward was the last Earl of Mercia, who resided at Bourne, and was buried in the abbey there. Hume, in speaking of the Conqueror's subjugation of the Isle of Ely, says, "Hereward alone forced his way, sword in hand through the enemy, and still continued his hostilities by sea against the Normans, till at last William, charmed with his bravery, received him into favour, and restored him to his estate." And Camden states that "Horland, in Lincolnshire, was granted by William I. to Joy Talbois, of Anjou, whose insolence Herward, a hopeful and spirited Englishman, son of Leofric, lord of Brune or Bourn, not being able to brook, as his own and his family's safety was now concerned, having obtained knighthood from Brens, abbot of Peterborough, whose aversion to the Normans had already shewn itself, made war against him, and after giving him several overthrows, at last took him prisoner, and allowed him to run himself, on condition that he himself should be restored to the king's favour, and die in his allegiance and protection: such was the effect of merit even in an enemy." Camden also states, under the title "Cambridgeshire," A.D. 1071, "many English, unable to bear the Conqueror's oppressions, came hither, under the conduct of the Earl Edwin, of Chester, Morchar, and Siward, and of Egsider, bishop of Durham, ravaged the adjacent country under the command of Hereward, an English nobleman, and built here in the marshes a woode castle, called Hereward's Castle in Matthew Paris time.

William having this, besieged the island, made roads of great length in the marshes, built many bridges over the bogs, and erected a castle at a place called Wipberum, on which all but Hereward, and his followers, submitted." In the time of Edward I. in the "No mina Nobilium Equitumque, &c., de North folk"

Sir Robert Herward is mentioned as bearing the following arms, "d'azure a une fesse, gabonne de goules et de vert iij hewtes d'argent."

This family continued in the county of Lincoln and in the immediate vicinity of Bourne, for many centuries. One of the last of this line was George Harwood, a merchant, of London, who entered his pedigree in the visitation for Cornhill, in 1634. He was son of William Harwood, of Thurlby, near Bourn, in the county of Lincoln, and was brother of Sir Edward Harwood, knight, of whom Fuller says, "his birth was gentile, and from a root fit to engraft his future education and excellency." Sir Edward was one of the four standing colonels in the low countries in the long war, in support of the King of Bohemia, and was killed at the siege of Mastricht, in 1632.

In the visitation of London, in 1634, this George Harwood is recorded as bearing the same arms as were borne by the above Sir Robert Herward, and in the "nomina nobilium,

equitumque &c." temp. Edward I. Sir Robert Hereward de Cauntebrigeschir is mentioned as bearing "Che' ker de or et d'azure a une bende, de goules iij Egles d'Argent."

Families, of this line, were settled in the counties of Stafford and Oxford, spelling their names Horewode, Whorwood, and Harwood, and bore for their arms "arg. a chevron be tween three stags' heads caboshed sa.." and were of Compton, Sandwell, and Stourton castle, in the former county, and of Holton, in the latter.

Of the Staffordshire family was Sir William Whorwood, knight, Attorney-general to King Henry VIII., whose only daughter and co-heiress by his first wife (a daughter of Edward Grey, esq. of Enville) married Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, and whose only daughter and co-heiress by his second wife (Margaret, daughter of Lord Chief Baron Brooke) married the eldest son of Sir Robert Throgmorton, knight.

The name of Whorwood is extinct in Staf fordshire, and the Sandwell estate is now the property and residence of the Earl of Dartmouth, and Stourton Castle, passed by purchase, to the Foleys.

In the 16th of Elizabeth, William Thomas Harwood, arm, in the 17th of Elizabeth, William Harwood arm. and in the 16th of James I., Thomas Horwood arm. were sheriffs of Staffordshire.

Willus de Horwode, another descendant of the Herwards, of Lincolnshire, held the Manors of Stevenbury, Preston Candover, Fremantel, and Polhampton, in the county of Hants, and of Bradfield, in the neighbour ing county of Berks, in the time of King Edward III., and the family of Horwode and Harwood continued in possession of these manors for many generations.

There is a family of Harwood (descended from these Horwodes) living in Hampshire, and at this time possessed of estates in the neighbourhood of Preston and Fremantel. And a branch of the Hampshire Herwards (descended from Robertus Hereward, of the counties of Lincoln and Cambridge who, temp. Edward I., bore for their arms "chi' ker d'or et d'azure une bende de goules iij egles d'argent,") resided at Nicholas-Pres, near Whitchurch, county of Salop, temp. Henry WI., and continued there for six generations, when they returned to Odiam, county of Hants, and they bore, during the whole of the time they were in Shropshire, the ancient coat of Sir Robert Hereward, of Cambridgeshire.

But the branch of this family, of which we shall have chiefly to treat, settled them selves at a very early period in the county of Berks, bearing the Staffordshire coat, but distinguished by a different colour, the Berkshire branch having the bearings gules instead of sable. They were of Hagbourne, in that shire, and were settled there four or five hundred years from the time of King Edward III, if not from an earlier period.

About 1314, John Hereward was a juror on an Inquisition touching some land at Chesterton, (juxta Goring), which was decided in favour of the abbot of Ose ney." In 1332, Robert Herward was arch deacon of Taunton, and prebendary of Lin coln; and in 1330, Robert of Ely, and Thomas Harwoode or Whorwode, were sheriffs of London. William Hereward was Abbot of Cirencester, anno 1346, and Robertus Hereward gave by grant, dated in the 19th of King Edward III., (1345), certain lands in East Hackbourne, county of Berks, to the Abbey of Cirencester, to which Abbey the church and rectorial tithes of Hagbourne belonged.

From him descended Johannes Horwode, (whose name was re turned amongst the gentry of Berkshire by the commissioners for the preservation of the peace, for the year 1433, 12th Henry VI.) ancestor of Harwood, of Hagbourne, father of John Harwood, the elder, of East Hagbourne, who was buried there, and whose widow afterwards married John Bunce, of Hagbourne.

This John Harwood, the elder, m. at Cholsey, county of Berks, in 1560, Joane, daughter of Hadham, of Cholsey, and had issue,