

HOPTONS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

In the course of my study, I have found a great number of vicars, junior grade English Army officers, some merchants, many Hoptons holding the title of Esquire (one who did military duty in the service of a knight) several members of parliament, 16 county sheriffs and 40 knights.

1. Sir Walter de Hopton, (ca. 1240-1305). Knight during the reign of King Edward I. King's Justice for Wales and western England. Sheriff for counties of Shropshire and Staffordshire (1281).
2. William de Hopton, King Edward III's Yeoman. Keeper of the King's estates and fees for eight counties in the year 1362 and for several years thereafter.
3. Sir William Hopton, Knight, (?-1484). Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk counties 1465-67 and 1479-80. Treasurer for Edward IV and Privy Councillor to Richard III.
4. Sir George Hopton, (ca. 1461-1490). Dubbed Knight Banneret by King Henry VII on the field of the Battle of Stoke-on-Trent for distinguished service.
5. John Hopton, Naval Captian for King Henry VIII during the French wars of 1512-13.
6. John Hopton, (?-1558). Dominican Monk. Received Doctor of Theology degree at the University of Bologna, Italy, 1532. Private Chaplin and confessor to Princess Mary. As Queen, Mary was influential in having him appointed Bishop of Norwich, 1554. Famed as a persecutor of Protestants, he had 46 burned at the stake.
7. Sir Owen Hopton, Knight. Lieutenant of the Tower (royal prison) of London for Queen Elizabeth I (ca. 1580).
8. Sir Robert Hopton, Knight, (brother of Sir Owen). Marshall of the Household (commander of palace guard) for Queen Elizabeth I.
9. Arthur Hopton, Astrologer and mathematician, (1588?-1614). Called "the miracle of his age for learning." His book of mathematical measurements and rules "Speculum Topographicum" is still to be found in university library collections.

10. Sir Arthur Hopton, Knight, (1588-1650). English Ambassador to Spain 1637-1650.
11. Sir Ralph Hopton, Baron (Knight of the Bath), (1598-1652). Member of Parliament 1642. Lieutenant General and Commander of King Charles I's forces in western England during English Civil War.
12. Susanna Hopton, (1627-1709). Devotional authoress. Wife of Richard Hopton, a judge in Wales during the reigns of Charles I & II.
13. William Hopton. Nineteenth century mining engineer. Author of the book "Hopton's 'Conversation on Mines'", a treatise on mining which was published in nine editions.
14. Sir Edward Hopton, Knight (Knight of the Bath), (1837-1912). Decorated for service in Crimea, the Indian Mutiny and the Kaffir and Zulu campaigns in South Africa. Lieutenant Governor of Jersey.