

*We can trace pedigrees from these Dudleys of Clapton, but not so well from other branches, bearing the same arms. I call all the lords of Dudley Castle "Barons."



View of Dudley Castle from the Priory Ruins.

It is well known that some of them were never summoned to Parliament. There was discovered an ancient owner of the castle in the Saxon days named "Dudd," or "Dudde" and so, in time of the Tudors, the name was spelled "Duddeley." Northumberland and Leicester wrote it in that way. I have seen several of their original autographs. Poor members of the family could not afford to use up so many letters. One of the sons of a baron was named "Dudd Dudley" about 1650. Dudd the Saxon died A. D. 725. He was Duke of Mercia.

as follows; Az. a chev, or, between three lions' heads erased, argent. Crest, on a ducal crown, or, a woman's head with a helmet thereon and her hair dishevelled, and her throat-latch loose, all proper. He says the first who settled at Clopton, was Thomas de Dudley, son of the above Sir John de Sutton, and this Thomas was one of the Lords of Clopton Manor, and his grandson married a daughter of Hotot, thereby becoming sole lord of that manor in 1395. Their lineal descendant was Wm. Dudley, Esq., of Clopton, the great, great grandfather of Sir Wm. Dudley, Bart. All this information coming from the said Baronet.

After much investigation I have concluded that the Baronet did not descend from Sir John de Sutton, but from the widow of his son, that is, Isabel de Charlton, by her second husband, Richard de Dudley,* This "Richard de Dudley" I find in the records of his time, not called "Sutton" although he is styled "lord of Dudley." He was a Knight.