

who inherited Dudley, and founded the Priory about 1161, as has been related in another place. King Henry II. demolished the Castle in 1175 because Gervase Paganel helped this king's rebellious son Henry.

Gervase, by his wife Isabell, had only a son Robert, who died young, *s. p.*, and Hawyse, sister of Gervase, became his heir. She married John de Somery, and had a son Ralph de Somery, son and heir in 1194, who died 1208. His son Wm. Perceval de Somery was heir, and dying 1222, left his son Nicholas, heir, who died 1229 and left the inheritance to his uncle Roger. About 1262 Roger de Somery "began to make a castle of his manor house at Dudley." He was a warrior and the king gave him license to castellate his manor house. He died 1273.

After two more Baron de Somerys the Castle was carried by Margaret de Somery to John de Sutton as before related. John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, obtained the castle by purchase, about 1538, and made great improvements to it. But Queen Mary gave it back to the Suttons. After three more generations of Suttons it was carried to the Ward family by Frances, daughter and heiress of Sir Ferdinando Dudley *alias* Sutton. In the Civil war it was held for the king, till May 1646, when Col. Levison surrendered it to the Parliamentarians, who soon made it untenable and reduced it to a defenceless condition. It has remained a ruin ever since. The only building preserved is the keep. Under the keep were the vaults where prisoners were confined. There was also a dungeon under the chapel. The keep originally had four towers flanked with spacious curtains. This mighty edifice was the stronghold of the fortress and the last resort of the besieged. Its walls are pierced with port holes, and its difficult entrance was by an arched gateway, under a formidable portcullis. The ruined buildings on the east side of the court contained many apartments, gateways, sally ports, towers, halls, and colonnades. The old mouldering ruins are covered with moss and vines. The shape of the court yard is an irregular oblong, and occupies about an acre of ground. The castle grounds are about sixty acres in extent. The garrison well is six feet in diameter and 108 feet deep, and always nearly full of pure water, but is now kept covered under ground.