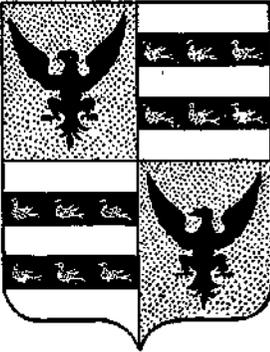


M. F. N. 12.9.02
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TEMPLE.

The descent of the Temple family has been derived from the Saxon earls of Mercia, and the fabulous arms attributed to those earls, have been, in some cases, prefixed (in the first quarter) to those originally borne by the Temples.



The origin of this family, which takes its name from residence in one of the houses of the Knights Templars, is recorded upon very substantial evidence, but the genealogical descent is obscure, as the Temples did not rise above the rank of small gentry until the latter part of the XVth century.

There are two very contradictory lines of descent of this family, both however leading to Robert I Temple, who was seated at Temple Hall, co. Leicester, in the XVth century, and with him we begin our account.

This Robert Temple left four sons: Nicholas, who succeeded him, but died without issue; Robert II, who inherited Temple Hall from his brother Nicholas; Thomas, the founder of the Line of Witney; and Henry, who left no posterity.