

his wife Blanche, daughter of Sir William De la Pole of Kingston upon Hull and sister of the celebrated Michael De la Pole, Earl of Suffolk. (1)

The unfortunate Earl of Wiltes seems to have inherited the brilliant bravery and abilities of his father, who was one of the most distinguished men of his day as a soldier and as a statesman. From his early youth he served with distinction in the wars of his time in France under John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster—the “Hundred Years’ War”—and was knighted for valour in the field. In the 6th of Richard II. (1383) he was appointed to the high office of Seneschal of Aquitaine, and the men-at-arms and archers to form his retinue mustered in England in July, 1384. In the 9th of Richard II. he was appointed Governor of the Castle and Town of Cherbourg. Although occasionally in England he held office in France until 1392. As further marks of royal favour he was appointed Constable of the Castle of Queenborough, 1389, Governor of Beaumaris Castle, and Chamberlain of Ireland. In 1391 he had a grant of the Castle of Bamburgh for life, which on his resignation of the office five years later was granted to Sir Stephen Scrope, his brother, during his life. On the 2nd of July, 1394, the King granted to him the Castle, Town, and Barton of Marlborough, to hold during his life, in lieu of a fee of 200 marks which the King had granted to him on the 30th of May preceding, on *retaining him to abide with Him, the King, during his whole life* (Queen’s Remembrancer’s Roll, Exchequer, 17th Richard II., Rot. I.). In 1393 he acquired the Isle of Man by purchase from William de Montacute, second Earl of Salisbury, and became Sovereign Lord of Man, with the style and title of King, and with certain regal prerogatives. In 1394 he was elected a Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, and in the same year was appointed Vice-Chamberlain of the Household, and in 1396 Lord Chamberlain.