

1602. This document, signed by William Dethick, Garter Principal King of Arms, and William Camden, Clarencieux King of Arms,* is now, and has been for generations, in possession of the Essex family of Smythies, descended from William Smythies of Gosfields (Vicar of Belchamp Walter, co. Essex, in 1623). In March 1869, being then in possession of Francis Smythies, Esq., of Headgate House, Colchester, it was published in "*Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*" (Series I., Part XI., p. 96); it is now the property of his son. In the grant George Smythes is described as "of ye Court of Wike in the Countie of Somerset, gent., descended of that name in the Countie of Lancaster." From this it would appear that by 1602 he was in full possession of Wike Court, which by his father's will was, with all other property, except certain legacies and annuities, left jointly to George and his brother William, the inference being that William had either died or sold his rights to his brother. As regards his descent in the County of Lancaster, we find this referred to also in the Vincent MS. quoted above, and since there are frequent mentions of the name in early records of the northern counties of Northumberland, York, and Lancaster, there seems no justification for concluding that the descent was merely conjectural.†

On 12 April 1588 a licence (Mar. Lic. Chester and London) was granted for the marriage of George Smythes, described as "of St Mathew, Friday Street, Goldsmith," and "Sara Woolhouse, spinster, of St Magnus, London, da. of Anthony Woolhouse, haberdasher, deceased, gen.," also of St. Magnus, London, and of Chapwell, co. Derby.

The Funeral Certificate of George Smithes (College of Arms, Book I., 16, p. 372^b) shews that he died in July 1615, and was buried at St. Mary's Steyning on 10 August following; that he had four sons, Arthur (the eldest), William, and two named George, who died young, also a daughter Hester, who married Christopher Eyre, Esq., of Wilts, Citizen and Merchant of London, and a daughter Elizabeth, who married Edward Semster (Anne, Frances, and Goodliffe are not mentioned). His wife is described as Sara, daughter of Anthoné Wollis [*sic*] of the county of Derby, gent., late Citizen and Haberdasher of London. His son William is recorded as chief mourner at the funeral, and it is stated that he left a will.

George Smythes' will, dated 25 February 1614, is an interesting document of great length. By it he leaves, with certain provisos regarding a life interest to his wife, etc., the manors of Ladysbury and Obden, co. Worcester, to his son Arthur, and the manor of Templeton in Berkshire to his son William. No mention is made of the Wike Court estate, which had presumably been sold. To the Goldsmiths' Company he bequeaths "one guilt Standynge Cupp of the value of thirty and five pounds with my name and armes to be set thereupon" (this is no longer in possession of the Company and was no doubt melted down with other plate during the Civil War), also a legacy of forty-six pounds, and in addition he directs that a banquet shall be given at Goldsmiths' Hall on the day of his funeral. This

* A fine portrait of William Camden is preserved in the Hall of the Painter-Stainers' Company.

† The following are a few references to the name in the north which seem worth noting:—

In the Roll of Peers, Knights, and Men-at-Arms who were at Agincourt (Hen. V., 1415), Harl. MS. 782, reprinted (1827) by Sir H. Nicholas in his "*Story of Agincourt*." The Duke of Gloucester with his retynew (Lancas., cxlii.) is mentioned, and among the names, John Smythes.

In "*Letters and Papers Foreign and Domestic*," Record Office, Henry VIII., vol. iv., Part 2, 1526—1528, p. 1906. Confession of Humphrey Lisle regarding rebellion in Northumberland, 1528. The Book of the Names of the inhabitants of Ryddesdale arranged under surnames, viz., Smythes, six names. The Book of the Names of the inhabitants of Tyndaill, viz., Smythies, six names.

In "*A History of the House of Percy*," vol. i., pp. 193-4, by Gerald Brenan, the confession of Humphrey Lysle with reference to the rebellion in Northumberland led by his father Sir William Lysle of Felton and William Charleton of Shottlington, is quoted, and the names of the families in rebellion with the numbers of each in arms are given. In Redesdale, according to this account there were two members of the Smythes family amongst the rebels.

In Neve's "*Monumenta*." Death. John Smythies of York died 8 Jan. 1658, aged 38.