



HISTORY OF THE DUDLEY FAMILY.

NOTE.—The crest borne by these Clapton Dudleys has been described on page 36, “a woman’s head with hair dishevelled,” &c.

The occasion of its adoption by the one who married the daughter of Hotot is thus recorded in a manuscript written A.D., 1390, by a monk named “Martin of St. Ives,” who was parson of Clapton.

“The father of Agnes Hotot, the great heiress, who married Dudley, having a dispute with one Ringsdale about the title to a piece of land, the competitors agreed to meet on the debatable ground, and decide the affair by combat.

Hotot, on the day appointed, was laid up with the gout; but his daughter Agnes, rather than the land should be lost, armed herself cap-a-pie and, mounting her father’s steed, went and encountered Ringsdale, whom, after a stubborn combat, she unhorsed; and when he was on the ground, she unloosed her throat-latch, lifted up her helmet, and let down her hair about her shoulders, thus discovering her sex.

In commemoration of this exploit, the crest of the female head was ever afterwards used.”