

PREFACE

This book is the third of three volumes which cover all the main nobles, knights, etc associated with the period known as the Wars of the Roses, 1455-1487.

The basic material for these books was provided by Thomas Coveney, a citizen of the USA, who sent me a huge computer print-out consisting of a list of names, biographies and heraldic blazons which he had amassed from various contemporary sources, 19th century county histories, pedigrees etc. This print-out, nick-named "The Python" by the editors, was dissected and cross-checked with many other sources too numerous to list, then amended and added to, arriving at the finished article some "years" later.

Anyone who has researched this period of English history will understand that in many cases the contemporary, let alone the more modern sources, often contradict one another so it is very difficult to arrive at a definitive answer to one's research. This becomes particularly apparent when dealing with the family pedigrees, where the son, father and in some cases grandfather, as well as other members of the same family used the same first name, and were all alive at a particular point in time, making it a nightmare to unravel who held which title, commission, etc. For this reason, the editors have had to come to an arbitrary decision in some cases based on the information available, in order to arrive at what we consider is the most likely answer. Also, it will be apparent that a similar decision has been made in

placing certain characters in one county or another when their sphere of influence covered a wide area. The editors are well aware that the reader may disagree with a particular entry or part of an entry, or have information which they consider should be added. We therefore invite them to write to the publisher (me) with their amendment so that future editions can be updated, but please quote your source as it may have already been considered during the research.

In one or two cases Thomas Coveney attributed wrong or ambiguous coats of arms to individuals. Where noticed these have been corrected, but it is possible some minor errors may still remain. The task of identifying and checking all Coveney's sources would have involved many months, possibly years, of full-time research.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank my co-editors for their time and contributions. Rod Erskine-Riddell for his work on the heraldic blazons and suggestions. Graham Harrison for his patience and assistance with the biographical notes and for putting the whole thing on computer, which has meant that the final transcript did not have to be typeset.

PAT MCGILL.