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THE COBHAM FAMILY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF ENGLAND, 1200-1400

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IN the government of mediæval England landed families throughout the country played a vital and necessary part. At the centre the king had a staff of professional administrators, but an increase of trained officials in the Crown's pay to cover the whole of the country was, as yet, unthought of. Both when the central government wanted to pursue a particular national policy and when it dealt with the day-to-day administration of the shires, it relied not on a professional cadre of civil servants but upon capable amateurs who were willing to leave their own affairs and attend to whatever had to be done.

For the administrative work of the shires the crown used ecclesiastics, magnates and lawyers; magnates because the barons were the king's natural advisers, lawyers because they knew the law and had had a chance to prove themselves capable in the law-courts. For less important work, such as collecting taxes or arraying shire levies, where the commissioners would follow explicit directions from the central government, prominent local gentry were also used. The Cobhams, therefore, being both lawyers and local gentry, and later, barons, were eminently suited for the work of local government. They formed a valuable link between the central government and the shires; as lawyers practising in the capital yet having extensive possessions in the country, as local gentry attending parliament as knights of the shire or barons or sergeants-at-law.

It seems that the rise of the family was due to their training in law. The first Henry Cobham and his sons, John, Reginald and William all acted as justices itinerant, though Henry's first recorded office was the comparatively humble one of sergeant to the sheriff of Kent (1). They must have shown their abilities in the law-courts, and the government evidently thought they would prove equally capable in other fields.

From this time, when three Cobham brothers were in the king's

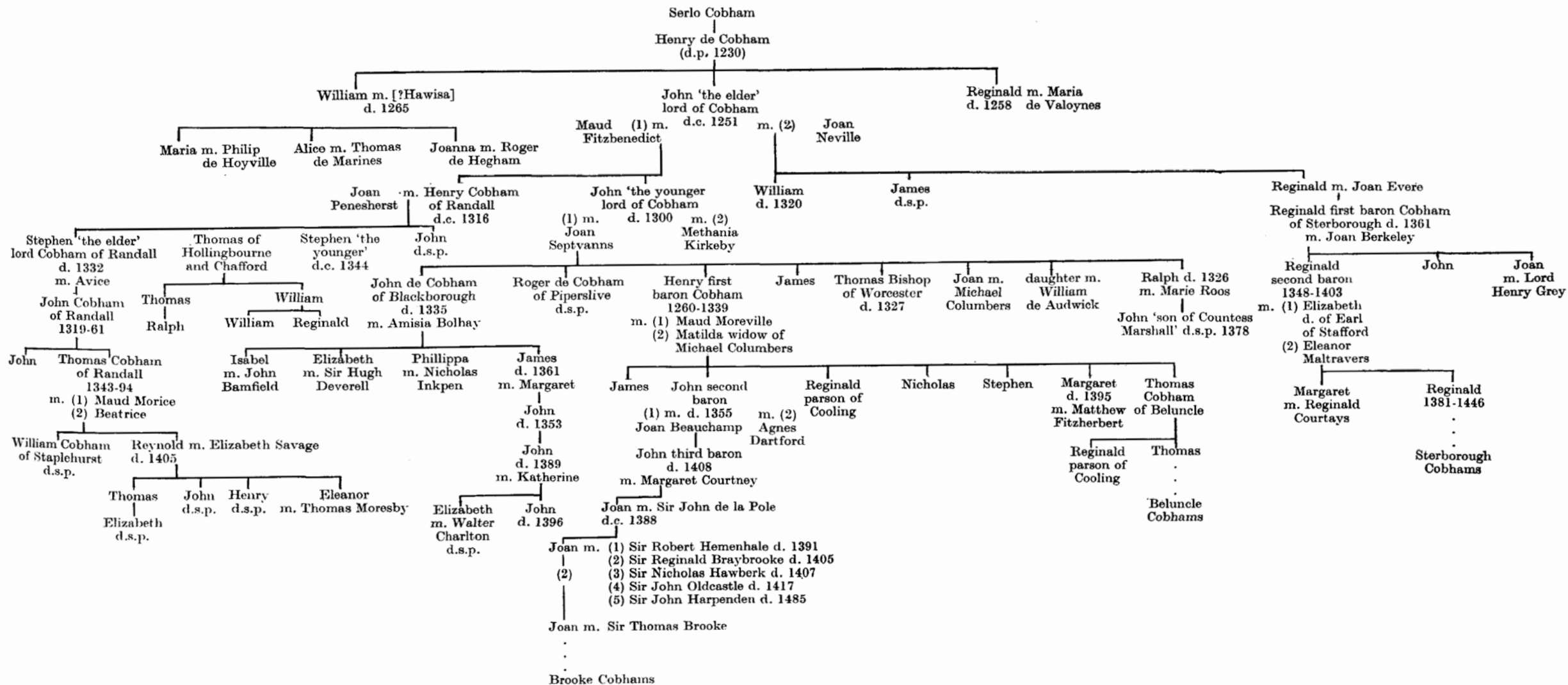
service, the family's reputation was high and its members employed in a great variety of tasks. There was hardly any 'specialization' in medieval government, and the same person was expected to do equally well as a warden of a port, a justice in a court of law, a knight leading his contingent in battle or an ambassador treading the slippery paths of diplomacy. It would be tedious to enumerate every work which the Cobhams performed; there is, therefore, a summary of their commissions in the tables at the end of this paper.

The summary, although imperfect, does indicate the nature of the work performed by local gentry during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The offices they were called upon to fulfil most frequently were: keepers of castles, cities, manors and temporalities; justices itinerant, on circuit or for special cases; sheriffs; commissioners of array; conservators of the peace; assessors and collectors of taxes and commissioners on every kind of commission. What did these offices involve, what were their duties, their rewards, their difficulties?

The most onerous office was undoubtedly that of sheriff, and it was unusual for it to be held as Reginald Cobham held it, for nine years, two or three years was the norm. It declined in importance during this period; perhaps this is why no Cobham held it after 1261.

The volume of the sheriff's work makes only a rough outline of it possible. Generally he was responsible for maintaining law and order in his shire. Thus he held county and hundred courts, arrested and imprisoned offenders, was responsible for the execution and return of writs from the central government and the empanelling of juries, aided other officials and official bodies, such as justices itinerant and commissioners of the peace, collected a large part of the king's revenues and debts and disbursed the funds in hand according to directions. For the day-to-day execution of business the sheriff had a staff, but close supervision was only wise since the sheriff was held personally responsible for all that was done. W. A. Morris in his article on the sheriff in *English Government at work, 1327-36* (ii, p. 125) has computed that a minimum of 90 full days per year were necessary to fulfil those parts of the sheriff's work which could not be delegated. The office carried no salary—'whenever the sheriff farms the county the old presumption is that he finds his own reward' (2).

The patent rolls give us a few glimpses of the Cobhams acting as sheriffs. John Cobham 'the younger' presents a dignified picture as sheriff of Kent receiving fealty of knights, freemen and others on behalf of the king (3) and the vital role of the sheriff is well illustrated by the order to John Cobham 'the elder' to arrest all ships of a certain size in the Cinque Ports and take security from them that they be ready to go on the king's service (4). Collecting supplies for the Royal



Abbreviations: d. = died or daughter; m. = married; d.p. = died after; d.c. = died about; d.s.p. = died without issue.

table was a less dignified and troublesome aspect of the work—Reginald Cobham in 1249 had to find six swans, eight peacocks, two dozen pheasants, eight dozen partridges, forty hares, forty rabbits, five boars, twelve kids and two thousand eggs and deliver them at Westminster for the feast of St. Edward (5).

An office frequently held by the Cobhams was that of Warden (or Constable or Keeper). Their custody of Rochester was almost hereditary; it was held by John 'the elder' from 1236 to 1241, by his son John 'the younger' from 1280 to 1300, by his grandson Henry between 1304 and 1339 and by his great-grandson John from 1334 to 1354 (6). Other important custodies entrusted to the family included the Cinque Ports together with Dover castle; the islands of Guernsey and Jersey held by Henry Cobham, 1294-97; the city of Calais, held by Reginald Cobham, Lord of Sterborough, in 1354 and 1355; the confiscated lands of the Templars and the lands of the rebels after the civil strife of 1322 in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, given to Henry Cobham 'the younger' and others too numerous to mention.

The duties of a keeper of manors or temporalities of vacant sees consisted mainly of supervision—seeing that rents and services due were received, that rents and charges due from the property were paid, that the value of the property was maintained and its resources conserved, that justice was properly administered in these lands. The keeping of castles, and ports, in addition to the above duties, had a military character; the castle must be stocked with provisions, the fortifications and garrison must be maintained or improved according to directions, often a watch must be kept on ships entering or leaving a port. The ports tended to be unruly and troublesome places, difficult to keep in a state of peace. The mandate to Reginald Cobham as keeper of the Cinque Ports in 1257 is typical: '... inasmuch as the king has heard previous complaints of robberies and other injuries inflicted upon the good men of Gernemuth and Donewyc and the barons of the Cinque Ports contrary to the form of the peace provided between them . . . he [the keeper] is to go to the said several ports and cause proclamation to be made that the barons keep the peace as they wish to keep their liberties' (7). In times of war the duties of a keeper of a castle or port increased in number and urgency. Thus Henry Cobham, who was warden of the Cinque Ports in 1306 and 1307, during the Scottish Campaign, was ordered to proclaim the prohibition of the export of victuals, horses, armour, money, silver, etc., without the king's special licence and to incite men to send victuals and other necessities to the king in Scotland and thereafter to keep strict check on the ports (8). He was to keep a watch on persons arriving or leaving the city, which involved, on one occasion, searching 'circumspectly and prudently'

the baggage of Haakon, chancellor and envoy of the king of Norway, and abstracting any letters injurious to the king (9).

Castles were convenient stopping places for foreign envoys, king's messengers and members of the royal family and these guests had to be suitably entertained by the keeper. Thus Reginald Cobham received Eleanor, wife of Prince Edward, when she landed at Dover in 1255, entertained her at Dover castle and escorted her to London (10). Hostages were often lodged in castles and then a strict watch must be combined with courteous treatment to obscure the reality of imprisonment. An important prisoner such as Elizabeth, wife of Robert Bruce, who was committed to the care of Henry Cobham 'the younger' when he was keeper of Rochester must have demanded all his tact and diplomacy (11). The castle also served as a convenient gaol for ordinary prisoners.

A keepership was not a full-time office. In each city, castle or manor there was an executive staff, who attended to the day-to-day business. Henry Cobham 'the younger' held Rochester for twenty-six years, during which time he attended to many other public affairs; in 1323-24 he had the custody of Rochester concurrently with the honour of Tonbridge, the Templar's lands and the lands forfeited by rebels in Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

The financial rewards of the office are difficult to estimate. For really important custodies of estates, such as Bishoprics, the keeper had to answer at the Exchequer for all issues of the property and then he was allowed expenses. The Cobham cartulary (12) contains the account which John Cobham and Thomas Faversham rendered for their custody of the see of Canterbury; for their expenses during three and a half months they were paid 40 marks. Another such account is given on folio 41r, of John and James Cobham for the see of Worcester; for five months they were allowed 60s. for expenses. Otherwise the keeper farmed the property rendering a fixed rent and presumably making a profit. Keepers of towns also seem to have rendered a fixed rent, based on custom; while keepers of castles received an allowance for their expenses which included their wages. Henry Cobham received £300 yearly when he was the keeper of Dover castle and warden of the Cinque Ports from 1305 to 1307: 'For his [the keeper's] sustenance and the chaplains, serjeants and watchmen and a carpenter staying in the castle and for their robes' (13). The drawback was that money, so easily allotted in writing, was often difficult to obtain in practice. In 1324 the same Henry Cobham was still petitioning for 87 l. 13s. 4d. arrears of the £300 yearly he should have received for that keepership.

A large proportion of the Cobham's public work was judicial. Not all designated as 'justice' in the records were trained lawyers; for the most part they were either judges of the central courts or

professional lawyers but some were local personages added to reinforce a judicial commission with their local knowledge and prestige and it is often difficult to decide which were which. The Cobhams who acted as justices before 1339 were definitely professionals. Foss says that John Cobham 'the elder' and his brothers Reginald and William sat on the judicial bench, John 'the younger' is mentioned as one of 'the king's justices in the king's court at Westminster' in letters close (14) and Henry, first baron Cobham, presided at Canterbury in 1322 when Lord Badlesmere was arraigned—a task unlikely to be performed by anyone other than a professional judge (15). There was, therefore, a tradition of legal training in the family and it is reasonable to assume that those of its members who acted as justices were trained lawyers.

As justices itinerant they had a wide and variable jurisdiction, as justices of assize they dealt mainly with possessory cases, as justices of gaol delivery they were assigned to try prisoners in a particular gaol, as justices of the forest they dealt with offences against the forest law. By far their most frequent judicial commission was justice of oyer and terminer, which varied from a general commission to try cases for a whole county to one for one particular case; the cases that most frequently came up were robbery, theft, assault, homicide, warren-breaking, complaints against officials, property pleas, piracy, dissensions and riots. After rebellions, justices of oyer and terminer would be sent throughout the country to try the rebels. All these different judicial commissions had one essential characteristic in common: they consisted of justices sent out by the central government to the localities to impose a uniform system of law throughout the realm.

Most commissions of oyer and terminer were appointed to deal with a particular case and those of gaol delivery for the delivery of a particular prisoner; their work would probably take a day, though to this one has to add travelling. Eyres and assizes were normally held three times a year 'within three weeks', sessions lasted a day but several sessions might be held within one county, so 'within' could well mean 'throughout' three weeks. A justice of eyre or a justice of assize might be appointed to take eyres and assizes in a county for the year or for one session. For a professional lawyer, such as John Cobham 'the younger' an itinerant justice's work might be onerous. In 1285, for example, he was appointed to take assizes, juries, and inquisitions three times a year for the counties of Essex and Hertford (16). Calculated on the preceding premise this would mean about 18 weeks of full-time work. Together with his work in the four law terms of the central courts, let us say 12 weeks, his duties as keeper of Rochester and at least four other judicial commissions, it must have been a full year.

More often, however, the Cobhams would be sent on just one eyre in various counties in a particular year. Thus the same John Cobham 'the younger' in 1271 had been sent as justice of eyre to four counties: to Kent in April (17), to Sussex and Surrey in July (18) and to Southampton in November (19). In the following February he was sent to the county of Cambridge (20) and in October of that year to Hertfordshire (21). In 1273, he apparently had a rest from eyres, though he was appointed to a commission of gaol delivery (22), but in October, 1274, he was appointed to take assizes, juries and certificates in the counties of Sussex, Surrey, Kent, Essex, Hertford, London and Middlesex (23). Judicial work therefore *could* be onerous, but in fact it seldom was, such busy years are exceptional. Likewise the inconvenience *could* be great; justices itinerant might be sent far afield. John Cobham 'the elder' was sent on eyres to York in 1246 (24), to Northumberland, Westmorland, Cumberland and Lancaster in 1247 (25), and to all these five counties in 1251 (26). While John 'the younger' was sent to Wales in 1287 to examine the process between Robert Tybotoet and Rees, son of Mereduc (27). But usually justices were sent to counties reasonably accessible to their homes.

The judicial work the Cobhams performed was professional and accordingly they received a salary for it, which seems to have been £40 per annum. Their salary as justices itinerant generally came out of the profits of the eyre; otherwise it came from various sources of the king's revenue, for example in 1269 John Cobham 'the younger' was granted £40 a year while in the service of the king as a justice 'de banco' and in part payment given 25 marks 2s. 4d. out of the money which William Fitzheal left after he hung himself (28).

I have not mentioned the Cobhams' work as Justices of the Peace since this falls into a rather different category. Normally judicial commissions were staffed by magnates and lawyers and had wide powers, the commissions of the peace were staffed mainly by untrained local gentry and had very limited powers. The Cobhams, however, as being both lawyers and local notables, were eminently suitable for commissions of the peace and were often appointed to them. In these successive appointments we can trace the process by which the Conservators became the Justices of the Peace.

The first commission of the peace on which a Cobham served was in 1314 (29). Consequent on the disorder which broke out during the king's absence in Scotland, Henry Cobham was appointed one of the Conservators of the Peace for Kent. The Conservators were to find out who had offended against the peace and arrest those indicted. Thereafter the king's justices would be sent to try the offenders and check up on the work of the commissioners. Shortage of trained personnel resulted in the same Henry Cobham being appointed one of

these king's justices. Thus he not only received indictments and arrested offenders but he also tried the offenders as a justice. It was not unnatural, since he had often acted in both administrative and judicial capacities; some of his offices, indeed, such as sheriff or keeper of the Cinque Ports combined both aspects. It is not surprising therefore that the Conservators of the Peace who at first were only responsible for receiving indictments of malefactors eventually became the Justices of the Peace responsible for their trial and sentence.

We notice the change when John, second baron Cobham, already acting as justice of oyer and terminer in Kent (30), was further appointed, in 1332, as one of the keepers of the peace in Kent 'to arrest all disturbances of the king's peace therein and to *hear and determine* whereof they are indicted' (31). Powers of hearing indictments were increasingly combined with powers of trial until from 1350 onwards this became the regular procedure (32). The jurisdiction of the Justices of Peace varied with different commissions but by the beginning of Richard II's reign it had become more or less standardized to cover trespasses and felonies at common law, the great peace statutes of Winchester, Northampton and Westminster and a gradually increasing list of statutory offences; mostly economic matters such as wages, prices, weights and measures.

The work involved in sitting on a commission of the peace seems to have been light. '... it would involve, at the most', writes Bertha Putnam (33), 'taking part in sessions of a few days several times a year, putting pressure on the sheriff and his subordinates and perhaps going with the "*posse comitatus*" to arrest the indicted; occasionally trying to check breaches of the peace, and also seeing that the records of the presentments were kept and were sent to the justices of gaol delivery or to the king's bench as the case might be'. Even if to this is added their later duties of trying the persons indicted, the time involved seems slight.

The interest of the justices of the peace with regard to the Cobham family is that for the first time a uniform system utilized the energies of local gentry for the maintenance of law and order. Within this system we can see more clearly the part played in local government by the family; for instance, in 1381 after the Peasants' Revolt we find John, Lord of Cobham and Sir Thomas Cobham of Randall serving on the commission of the peace for Kent and Reginald Lord Cobham, of Sterborough, on that for Surrey (33). Again, in 1389, a nation-wide commission of the peace included Lord Cobham and Reginald Cobham of Randall for Kent and Lord Cobham of Sterborough for Surrey (34).

Similarly, other nation-wide commissions would generally include one or more Cobhams, such as the commission of array in 1380, which

appointed John, Third Baron Cobham and Thomas Cobham of Randall for Kent and Reginald Lord Cobham of Sterborough for Surrey (35). In times of national emergency, such as 1380, when war appeared imminent, when the coasts had to be defended, taxes collected and county levies arrayed, a family like the Cobhams was inevitably involved. Thus in 1335, during the Scottish campaign, John, second baron Cobham was acting as one of the two admirals of the king's fleet guarding the English coast (35), and in the same year he was appointed with two others to assess and levy the 200 l. in Kent granted for the war in the last parliament (36). When war against France was declared in 1337 John was again collecting the tenth and fifteenth in Kent (37). His son, John, third baron Cobham frequently served on commissions of array and received mandates for the defence of the realm, such as the commission of 1369 'to survey the coasts of the Isle of Thanet and to have all places, in which ships or boats can put in, defended by walls and dykes, where possible, and all other necessary measures taken for the defence of the island' (38). Other members of the family, Reginald, second baron Cobham of Sterborough and Sir Thomas Cobham of Randall also served on commissions of array, during this time.

The task of commissioners of array was to select a specified quota of men for military service, out of all male adults in a county who, in theory, were liable (39). The quota might be chosen at a general assembly of the levies of the whole shire, brought together at one time and one place, but usually it was found more practical to utilise for the purpose subdivisions of the county—hundreds, townships and liberties. The arrayers first apportioned to each of these divisions its share of the whole county contingent. Then, at 'days and places convenient' for the array, the constables or bailiffs of the hundreds, townships or liberties summoned the array of all able-bodied men. The arrayers, singly or jointly, in person or by deputy, passed from hundred to hundred and township to township, armed and arrayed the levies in 'centenaries' or 'vintenaries' and then proceeded to pick from the strongest and most vigorous of them the number required from that district. There were 62 hundreds in Kent and usually three commissioners. If they divided the county between them and if we allow them a day for each hundred plus a day for travelling, this makes a rough average of 40 days. Afterwards it was usual for some or all of the arrayers to conduct the men to the king. The commissioners, aided by the sheriff were, also normally responsible for raising funds for the wages and equipment of the arrayed forces, which would come from the men not chosen for service, who would make a money payment as their contribution, the actual collection would be done by deputies. There are many complaints in the records

of extortion and misappropriation in the carrying out of this duty, the temptation must have been the greater since the commissioners seem to have been unpaid.

The same situation existed with regard to assessors and collectors of taxes. They received allowances but these were so slow in arriving that the collectors must have been out of pocket unless they had other sources of profit. More or less legitimate were the customary fees or 'courtesies' exacted during assessment and collection, but besides these, cases of corruption, bribery and embezzlement were common. One can understand why the principal qualification required of men employed in local government was property. Men of wealth would be less tempted to dishonesty, they could bear the expense of travel involved in such commissions and the threat of distraint would serve as some kind of guarantee of their efficiency: a man cannot be threatened with distraint if he has no property to be distrained.

The procedure for assessing and collecting taxes was similar to that of array. The commissioners made a tour of the districts within a county, summoning before them the best men from each city, borough or vill and selecting four or six as sub-assessors in each district. These made the assessment by oath of a jury in each township and recorded the value of the movables owned by each person taxed as at Michaelmas last. The results were written on an indented roll part of which was delivered to the commissioners, the other part retained by the sub-assessors and used for the collection of the tax. The collection seems to have been made by the sub-assessors also. Meanwhile the commissioners, having made their tour of the districts, resorted to one of the principal towns of the county and waited for the sub-assessors to bring the money to them. It would be stored in a safe place till there was a convenient opportunity for the commissioners to take it to the Exchequer, and there account for it. The whole process took a long time. 'As a rule', writes C. Johnson, 'accounts were cleared within a year and a few months of the appointment of the collectors' (40).

There remains to be described that large part of the Cobhams' work designated in the Tables by C for commissioner. The variety of these commissions is too great to be easily classified. Most frequently the commission was to investigate one of the following crimes: homicide, theft, assault, warren-breaking, piracy, dishonesty of officials. Other commissions which frequently occurred were those to investigate offences such as illicit export, evasion of taxes or customs, debasing or counterfeiting coinage, riots, trespasses or unlawful confederacies, or the extent of the rights and liberties of the king; to make extents or view the state of castles, roads, bridges, walls, etc., or the damage caused by floods; to inspect the work of other officials, auditing accounts or supervising commissioners of array; to inquire into

property cases or to deal with the Jews, usually to extort money from them.

The Cobhams had to be prepared to deal with any problem that arose. John Cobham 'the younger' was sent in 1285 to investigate 'certain lime-kilns constructed in the city and suburb of London and at Southwark of which it is complained that whereas formerly the lime used to be burnt with wood it is now burnt with sea-coal whereby the air is infected and corrupted to the peril of those frequenting and dwelling in those parts' (41). The clean-air problem obviously is not exclusively a modern one. Nor is the cornering of markets. In 1370 John, third baron Cobham, and others were directed to inquire 'concerning persons in Kent who have presumed to embrace, forestall or buy wheat, malt or other grain, whereby the dearth of corn in those parts is daily growing and to arrest all those who have embraced or forestalled any grain in granges or heaps before it was brought to fairs or markets and exposed there for sale . . .' (42). The work on such commissions was not necessarily onerous, probably a day or a few at most would be given to it, plus travelling, but a flexible mind was needed to deal with the variety of problems.

What were the rewards of performing these various public services? They do not seem to have been financial, though from the scanty records, it is impossible to deduce whether the Cobhams made a profit or loss in the course of their work. In their most professional role, as justices, they were paid a salary, 40 l. (43) a year seems to have been the norm, and for occasional judicial work payment was by the day. Reginald Cobham, while serving on a commission of oyer and terminer touching alleged oppressions by king's ministers, was paid 'one mark a day out of the issues of the fines and amercements adjudicated before them' (44). The wages were not a clear gain, they were 'to maintain himself in the king's service'. A grant of 20 marks to John Cobham 'the younger' as a Justice Itinerant for trespasses of money was made 'in aid of his expenses in that office' (45). Apart from this and from service as knight of the shire which was paid at the rate of four shillings a day, remuneration is unassessable. As keepers of castles, the Cobhams had large sums of money passing through their hands, out of which they were expected to deduct their salary; as keepers of lands they either received expenses or were expected to make a profit in the farm of them. For service on commissions of all sorts, of array, assessing taxes, etc., only expenses seem to have been allowed.

Even when a salary was due there was no certainty of its being promptly received. Henry Cobham as keeper of Dover castle and the Cinque Ports was allotted 300 l. a year for his own and his staff's wages from 1305 to 1307 (46) but in 1324 he was still trying to obtain 87 l. 13s. 4d. arrears of this sum (47). Thomas Cobham, Bishop of

Worcester, died with the king in his debt to the amount of 86 l. 3s. 8d. 'for his expenses in going to France and for expediting divers affairs there and in the Duchy of Aquitaine, which sums still remain to be paid' (48).

The most rewarding field of service, financially, was military. John, third baron Cobham, was granted an annuity of 100 marks when he was made a banneret (49), while Reginald, first baron Cobham of Sterborough received 400 marks yearly to support that dignity. The way in which Reginald's grant was paid, however, illustrates the hand-to-mouth character of medieval governmental finances.

In 1337 Reginald received a grant of 400 marks yearly for life 'for his better maintenance in the estate of a banneret which he has taken at the king's command' (50). The grant was to be paid in cash until such a time as the king could provide Reginald with land and rent to that amount. The first instalment was paid out of the collection of the tenth and fifteenth in Kent, 200 marks at Easter and 200 at Michaelmas (51). In the same year Reginald was granted the manor of Chippenham in Buckinghamshire, as part of the land and rent promised (52), evaluated at 64 l. This still left 200 l. to be paid in cash and in 1338 it was paid by the grant of the farm of Great Yarmouth amounting to 55 l. (53) and 140 l. from the sheriff of Surrey and Sussex (54). This arrangement seems to have continued throughout the years but it did not always work smoothly. In 1341 the sheriff was ordered to pay arrears of the 140 l. per annum (55) and the payments had fallen in arrears again in 1345 (56). After the English invasion of France of 1346-67, marked by the battle of Crècy and the siege of Calais, in which Reginald played a notable part, his grant was increased to 500 marks yearly 'in consideration of his good service and especially in parts of France from the last passage of the king in those parts . . .' (57). Soon afterwards he was granted the Manor of Westcliffe, in Kent, and the forfeited lands of Thomas Arderne (58), their value being deducted from the money grant. But the 500 marks seems never to have been completely exchanged for land or rent.

A grant such as this was not simply a reward. As a banneret, Reginald had to have plenty of money in hand to advance for the hiring of troops or lending money to the king, and he had to be able to bear long delays in repayment. This could involve long waits and great sums of money. For instance, the king in 1339 (59) ordered the treasurer and chamberlains to deliver to Reginald Cobham 1,440 l. 12s. or to give him an assignment for it, as the king owed him 1,799 l. 5s. 4d. for his wages and those of his men-at-arms with him during the Brabant campaign and for his winter robe in the twelfth year of the reign and his summer robe in the thirteenth year of the reign and for replacing his horses and for crossing and recrossing between

Brabant and England. Reginald had already received 358 l. 13s. 4d. of that sum and now the king wished him to be satisfied for the residue.

Money owing was not necessarily paid in cash, and it came from various sources. In 1342 Reginald was assigned 54½ sacks of wool collected in Kent for wages for himself as a banneret and for '40 men-at-arms, nine knights, 30 esquires and 40 archers on horse about to set out to parts beyond the sea on the king's service' (60). The following year Reginald, together with Robert Ferrers, was granted the wardship of the lands of the heir of John Beauchamp, with all the issues and profits '... the king being bound to them in great sums of money ...' (61). While the deviousness of medieval finances gave rise to such orders as the writ 'to the abbot of Faversham to pay Reginald Cobham 100 l. . . . as Reginald paid 100 l. for the king to William Beskel of Brocle in part payment of 260 l. which the king was bound to him for his wages and for replacing horses lost in the king's service' (62). The abbot pleaded that he could only pay 52 l.

Reginald, however, was an exception in receiving large grants of money, the rest of the Cobhams who were employed in 'local government' work had to be satisfied with expenses or a small wage. The general impression is that officials made their profit on the side, in gifts and 'courtesies', according to fairly accepted convention, without necessarily going in for bribery or peculation of which there are many complaints. Enforcing honesty and efficiency was one of the great problems of this kind of 'unprofessional', if not amateur, government. All that the central government could do was appoint commissions of inquiry when complaints became too loud and, in the meantime, use officials to check on each other. One of the first duties of Henry Cobham 'the younger' as keeper of Dover castle and Warden of the Cinque Ports, was to investigate the conduct of his predecessor, Robert Kendale (63); whereas when he laid down his Wardenship of Guernsey and Jersey, master Robert Leyssset, the king's clerk, was sent to audit Henry's account and to hear and determine complaints against Henry and his bailiffs (64). However, the Cobhams do not seem to have made their profits by corrupt practices. We can only assume that they did not suffer a loss in the performance of their duties, otherwise they would hardly have lent themselves to so much public service.

If the financial rewards for public service were not great, neither, necessarily was the work involved. The amount of time devoted to the king's service depended on individual energy and initiative. A man like Reginald Cobham who made fighting his career would have most of his life taken up with campaigns, negotiations and embassies. An exceptionally active administrator like Henry Cobham might in one and the same year act as Constable of Rochester, Warden of the

castle of Tonbridge, Keeper of the Templar's lands, keeper of the forfeited lands of the rebels, justice of gaol delivery, a commissioner investigating complaints of the poor, Conservator of the Peace and on six occasions, a justice of oyer and terminer.

More typical was John Cobham 'the younger', who had some very busy years such as 1285, when he was Constable of Rochester, commissioner of oyer and terminer, justice itinerant and three times commissioner. As justice itinerant in that year he had to make circuits of two counties three times a year, presumably (see page 5) this would take about 18 weeks; the commission of oyer and terminer concerning a case of robbery would surely not take more than a day or two, plus, say, two days for travelling, since it is unlikely he would be sent very far away on a case of this sort; of the three commissions, one was to inquire about certain lime kilns befouling the air in London and Southwark (two or three days?) another to seize gold in the house of a Jew (one day?), the third to audit the account of the fifteenth from the clergy (by analogy with the Exchequer, not more than three weeks); the keepership of Rochester, judging by the number of offices it could be combined with (65), probably did not provide work for more than, say, two months during the year. This adds up to a total of about seven and a half months, but this was an unusually heavy year and would still leave John four and a half months to attend to his own affairs. Some of the family, of course, were employed in the government in only a few years; others, as far as we know, not at all.

Probably the greatest drawback to public service was not the time involved but its inconveniences, dangers and difficulties. A justice in eyre might be sent as far as Northumberland or Wales. A keeper of a vacant see had to account for every penny that passed or should have passed through his hands, and if there was a deficit he had to make it up out of his own pocket. Methods of enforcing service were harsh: John, third baron Cobham, was distrained for not acting as keeper of the peace although, as it was later discovered, he was 'too aged to travail about the premises and the said commission was not delivered to him nor had he any knowledge thereof' (66). Inefficiency or dishonesty were punished by large fines and if the offender was dead, then his heirs or executors were held responsible. An upright administration was no guarantee against complaints and investigation; it seems to have been presumed that an office-holder was guilty until he had proved himself innocent. An inquiry in 1331 into the grievances of the citizens and commonalty of Rochester against Henry Cobham as keeper of that town (67) found that he 'raised no money from the said citizens by extortion; he gave to his bailiffs yearly 10 marks and to some 10 l. and robes so that they had no necessity for extortion; he did not unjustly embrace any merchandise nor sell any by retail'.

Earlier on, Henry had had a harder task to prove his innocence. He was keeper of Guernsey and Jersey from 1294 to 1297. In 1295 complaints were lodged against his administration and he was ordered 'to be before the king in his own person in the next Parliament . . . wherever the king may be in England . . .' (68). However, the matter was still unsettled in 1297, when Henry laid down his office, for the king sent Master Robert Leyset, his clerk, to audit Henry's account and hear and determine complaints against him and his bailiffs (70). Robert Leyset found it impossible to proceed because Henry was now campaigning with Edward I's army in Flanders and it was not till 1302 that Henry came before the king's council to answer the complaints of the men of Guernsey and Jersey (71). How the matter ended is not known, but since later he had a brilliant career as an administrator, presumably he was either cleared or paid a fine and was pardoned.

Despite all the dangers and inconveniences of public service the Cobhams seem to have been willing and even eager to take part in it. Apart from the presumed financial gain, it must have conferred prestige and power, and the variety and interest of the work itself must have been an inducement at a time when there was, perhaps, little variety and interest in life. The head of a family like the Cobhams, if he remained a mere country squire, would pass his days managing his estates and providing for his children, with only the pastime of hunting to break the monotony of the daily round. But if he trained in the law, practised in the courts and attracted the notice of the administration, an interesting career would be open to him. He would travel all over the country on a variety of business, be welcomed and deferred to wherever he went as 'the king's justice'; or 'the lord constable'. He would mix with the magnates and the king's most trusted servants in councils and parliaments, carrying home the aura of being involved in great affairs to dazzle the neighbouring gentry. In his own district he would be an important man, consulted in all the business of the shire, perhaps having the deciding voice.

It was well for the king that such inducements were enough. Without a host of reliable and experienced men, who could be called upon to act whenever necessary the government could not have kept a hold on the localities—justice would not have been carried to the farthest corner of the realm by justices in eyre, nor armies mustered by local commissioners of array, taxes would have been uncollected, far-lying lands in the king's hand unadministered, the king's writ would not have run. The Cobhams, riding on their way to investigate a complaint, to deliver a gaol, to inspect the levies or check on a port's administration, were a vital part of the government of later medieval England.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- (1) Memoranda Roll, 10 John, 75.
- (2) W. A. Morris, 'The Sheriff . . .', *The English Government at Work, 1327-1336*, ed. Morris and Strayer, ii, 78.
- (3) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1258-66*, 153.
- (4) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1232-47*, 270.
- (5) N. F. Ticehurst, 'The Mute Swan in Kent', *Archæologia Cantiana*, xlviii, 57.
- (6) Between 1334 and 1339 Henry and John held Rochester jointly.
- (7) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1247-58*, 599.
- (8) *Cal. Close Rolls, 1302-07*, 472.
- (9) *Cal. Close Rolls, 1302-07*, 515, 517.
- (10) *Cal. Close Rolls, 1254-56*, 136.
- (11) Rymer's *Foedera* (1818), ii, pt. i. 244.
- (12) Hatfield MS. 306, f. 51r.
- (13) *Cal. Fine Rolls*, i. 544.
- (14) *Close Rolls, 1268-72*, 145.
- (15) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1338-40*, 208.
- (16) *Cal. Close Rolls, 1279-83*, 365.
- (17) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1266-72*, 528.
- (18) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1266-72*, 551.
- (19) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1266-72*, 606.
- (20) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1266-72*, 624.
- (21) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1266-72*, 711.
- (22) *Cal. Close Rolls, 1272-79*, 52.
- (23) *Cal. Close Rolls, 1272-79*, 136.
- (24) *Close Rolls, 1242-47*, 473.
- (25) *Close Rolls, 1242-47*, 554.
- (26) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1247-58*, 114.
- (27) *Cal. Charter Rolls*, vi, 298.
- (28) *Close Rolls, 1268-72*, 145.
- (29) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17*, 122.
- (30) *Cal. Close Rolls, 1330-34*, 537.
- (31) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1330-34*, 287.
- (32) Except for two brief periods, 1364-68 and 1382-89.
- (33) B. Putnam, 'Shire Officials: Keepers of the Peace and Justices of the Peace', *The English Government at Work, 1327-37*, edited by J. F. Willard, W. A. Morris and W. H. Dunham (1950), iii, 216.
- (34) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85*, 77.
- (35) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1389-91*, 137.
- (36) *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81*, 474.

- (35) *Rotuli Scotiæ*, i, 358.
- (36) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1334-38, 132.
- (37) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1337-39, 27.
- (38) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 343.
- (39) According to the Statute of Winchester, 1285, all males between fifteen and sixty years were liable for military service.
- (40) *The English Government at Work, 1327-37*, ed. by W. A. Morris and J. R. Strayer, ii, 226.
- (41) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 207.
- (42) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 474.
- (43) An amount which would do little more than cover expenses.
- (44) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1341-43, 19.
- (45) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1272-79, 519.
- (46) *Cal. Fine Rolls*, i, 544.
- (47) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1323-27, 90.
- (48) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1330-32, 193.
- (49) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1354-60, 45.
- (50) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1334-38, 346.
- (51) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1334-38, 27, 53.
- (52) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1334-38, 401.
- (53) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1339-41, 200.
- (54) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1338-40, 152.
- (55) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1339-41, 603.
- (56) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1343-46, 439.
- (57) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1346-49, 250.
- (58) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1346-49, 407.
- (59) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1339-41, 292.
- (60) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1341-43, 570.
- (61) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1343-45, 122.
- (62) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1339-41, 490.
- (63) *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1313-17, 308.
- (64) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1296-1300, 51.
- (65) Henry Cobham could hold it and Tonbridge, the Templar's lands, the rebels' lands and during the year act as justice of oyer and terminer six times, justice of gaol delivery, Conservator of the Peace and a commissioner. If we divide the year by six—four keeperships, one part for judicial, etc., work and one part for his own affairs, this gives us two months.
- (66) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1385-89, 106.
- (67) *Cal. Inquisitions (Miscellaneous)*, ii, 307.
- (68) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1288-96, 429.
- (70) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1296-1300, 51.
- (71) *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1296-1302, 592.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC WORK OF THE COBHAMS

HENRY Cobham, son of Serlo.

1208 Sergeant of the sheriff of Kent ¹	1218 Justice Itinerant ²	1223 J. It. ³	1224	1225 J. It. ⁵
1226 J. ⁷	1227	1228	1229 J. Assize ⁶	1230 J. Assize ⁶

¹ *Memoranda Roll*, 10 Jo., 75.

² *Patent Rolls*, 1216-25, 208.

³ *Patent Rolls*, 1216-25, 480.

⁵ *Patent Rolls*, 1225-32, 563, 577.

⁶ *Patent Rolls*, 1225-32, 283, 292, 307, 355.

⁷ *Rotuli Litterarum Clausurum*, ii, 147.

JOHN 'the elder', son of Henry (d.p. 1251).

1236 Keeper of Rochester Castle ¹	1237 K. Roch. c. ²	1238 K. Roch. c. ²	1239 K. Roch. c. ²	1240 K. Roch. c. ²
1241 K. Roch. c. ²	1242 Sheriff ³	1243	1244	1245
1246 J. It. ⁵	1247 J. It. ⁶	1248 J. It. ⁷	1249 J. Common Pleas ⁸	1250 J. Common Pleas ⁸

1251
J. It.⁹

¹ *Close Rolls*, 1234-37, 403.

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1232-47, 265.

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1232-47, 270.

⁵ *Close Rolls*, 1242-47, 473.

⁶ *Close Rolls*, 1242-47, 544.

⁷ *Cal. Liberate Rolls*, 1245-51, 215.

⁸ Dugdale's *Baronage* (1676), ii, 65.

⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 114.

Abbreviations: J. It.—Justice Itinerant.

J.—Justice.

K. Roch. c.—Keeper of Rochester castle.

REGINALD, son of Henry (d. 1258)

1242 Commissioner ¹	1246 J. It. ²	1247 J. It. ³	1248 J. It. ⁴	1249 J. It. ⁵ C. ⁶ Sh. ⁷
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¹ *Close Rolls*, 1237-42, 485.

² Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1808), iv, 779.

³ *Close Rolls*, 1247-51, 99.

⁴ *Close Rolls*, 1247-51, 115.

⁵ *Close Rolls*, 1247-51, 215.

⁶ *Close Rolls*, 1247-51, 151.

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 37.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

REGINALD, son of Henry (*continued*)

1250 (Sh.) ¹⁸	1251 (Sh.) ¹⁸	1252 Sh. ¹⁹	1253 Sh. ⁷	1254 (Sh.) ¹⁸
1255 Sh. ¹⁰ K. Dover castle and Cinque Ports ¹¹	1256 Sh. ¹² C. ¹³ K. Dover c. and C.P. ¹⁴	1257 Sh. ¹⁵ K. Dover c. and C.P. ¹⁶	1258 Sh. ¹⁷	

⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 160.

¹⁰ *Close Rolls*, 1254-56, 186.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 418.

¹² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 491.

¹³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 511.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 478.

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 545.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 599.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 609.

¹⁸ There is no record of Reginald being Sheriff in these years, but his tenure of office seems to have been a continuous one.

WILLIAM, son of Henry (*d.* 1265).

1255 J. It. ¹ C. ²	1256 J. It. ³	1257 J. It. ⁴
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¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 428.

² *Ibid.*, 435.

³ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1254-56, 399.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1247-58, 602.

JOHN 'the younger', son of John 'the elder' (*d.* 1300).

1259 Sh. ¹	1260 Sh. ¹	1261 Sh. ²	1262 Sh. ³	1263 Sh. ³
....	1267 J. It. ⁴	1268 C. ⁵	1269 J. ⁶ C.(2) ⁷	1270 K. of priory of Hingham ⁸ C.(2) ⁹
1271 J. It. ¹⁰	1272 J. It. ¹¹	1273 J. gaol delivery ¹²	1274 J. It. ¹³	1275 J. ¹⁴

¹ *Close Rolls*, 1259-61, 19.

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1258-66, 153.

³ Hasted, *History of Kent*, i, 181.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1266-72, 255.

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1266-72, 278.

⁶ *Close Rolls*, 1268-72, 145.

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1266-72, 320, 475.

⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1266-72, 412.

⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1266-72, 436, 481.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1266-72, 528.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1266-72, 624.

¹² *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1272-79, 52.

¹³ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1272-79, 136.

¹⁴ Dugdale's *Baronage* (1676), ii, 65.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

JOHN 'the younger' (*continued*)

1276 J. It. ¹⁵ J.g.d. ¹⁶ K's Co. ⁴⁷	1277 C.(2) ¹⁷	1278 C. ⁵²	1279 C. ¹⁸ J. It. and of oyer and terminer ¹⁹ Baron of Exchequer ²⁰	1280 K. Roch. ²¹ J. It. ²²
1281 K. Roch. ²¹ C. ⁵³	1282 K. Roch. ²¹ Commis- sioner of terminer(2) ²⁴ C.(2) ²⁵	1283 K. Roch. ²¹ C.o.t.(3) ²⁶ C.(2) ²⁷ K's Co. ⁴⁷	1284 K. Roch. ²¹ C.o.t. ²⁸	1285 K. Roch. ²¹ C.o.t. ²⁹ J. It. ³⁰ C.(3) ³¹
1286 K. Roch. ²¹ J.g.d.(2) ³²	1287 K. Roch. ²¹ J. It. ³³	1288 K. Roch. ²¹ J. It. ³⁴ J.g.d. ³⁵ K's Co. ⁴⁷	1289 K. Roch. ²¹	1290 K. Roch. ²¹ J.g.d. ³⁶ C.o.t.(2) ³⁷
1291 K. Roch. ²¹ C.o.t. ³⁸	1292 K. Roch. ²¹ C.o.t. ³⁹ C.(2) ⁴⁰	1293 K. Roch. ²¹ C.o.t. ⁴¹ C. ⁴² J.g.d. ⁴³	1294 K. Roch. ²¹ C. ⁴⁴	1295 K. Roch. ²¹ K's Co. ⁴⁷

¹⁵ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1272-79, 271.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inquisitions (Miscellaneous)*, i, 589.

¹⁷ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1272-79, 392, 400.

¹⁸ *Holinshed's Chronicles* (1808), iv, 782.

¹⁹ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1272-79, 519.

²⁰ *Dugdale's Baronage* (1676), ii, 65.

²¹ Hatfield MS., 306 f., 36v.

²² *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1279-88, 46.

²⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 44.

²⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 10, 46.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 96, 98, 100.

²⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 58, 103.

²⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 143.

²⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 209.

³⁰ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1279-88, 365.

³¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 184, 185, 207.

³² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 282.

³³ *Cal. Charter Rolls*, vi, 298.

³⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 294.

³⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 307.

³⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 402.

³⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 407, 408.

³⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 454.

³⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 522.

⁴⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281-92, 519, and *Rolls of Parliament*, i, 85.

⁴¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1292-1301, 49.

⁴² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1292-1301, 10.

⁴³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1292-1301, 108.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

JOHN 'the younger' (*continued*)

1296	1297	1298	1299	1300
K. Roch. ²¹	K. Roch. ²¹	K. Roch. ²¹	K. Roch. ²¹	K. Roch. ²¹
C.o.t.(2) ⁴⁵	K's Co. ⁴⁷	C.o.t. ⁴⁸	C.o.t.(2) ⁵⁰	K's Co. ⁴⁷
J.g.d. ⁴⁶		C. ⁴⁹	C.(3) ⁵¹	
		K's Co. ⁴⁷	K's Co. ⁴⁷	

⁴⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1292-1301*, 110.

⁴⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1292-1301*, 192, 217.

⁴⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1292-1301*, 218.

⁴⁷ Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs* (1827), i, pt. 2, 540.

⁴⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1292-1301*, 378.

⁴⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1292-1301*, 377.

⁵⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1292-1301*, 458-67.

⁵¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1292-1301*, 431, 435, 474.

⁵² Rymer's *Foedera* (1816), vi, pt. ii, 560.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, i, pt. ii, 598.

Abbreviations: C.—Commissioner.
 K. Dover c. and C.P.—Keeper of Dover castle and the Cinque Ports.
 K.—Keeper.
 J.—Justice.
 J.g.d.—Justice of gaol delivery.
 K. Roch.—Keeper of Rochester.
 C.o.t.—Commissioner of oyer and terminer.
 K's Co.—Member of the King's Council.

HENRY Cobham 'the elder', of Randall (*d.* 1316).

1297	1298	1299	1300	1301
French wars ⁵			J. Forest ⁶	C.o.t. ⁹
			Sh. ⁷	Sh. ⁷
			Sc.W. ⁸	
1302	....	1305	....	1307
Sh. ⁷		?Sh. ¹⁰		Sh. ⁷
				Knight of the Shire ¹¹
1308	1309	....	1311	....
	C. ¹²		Kn. Sh. ¹¹	
	C.a.l. ¹³			

⁵ *Cal. Close Rolls, 1296-1300*, 65.

⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1292-1301*, 506.

⁷ E. Hasted, *History of Kent*, i, 184, 185.

⁸ *Cal. Close Rolls, 1296-1300*, 381.

⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1292-1301*, 626.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1301-1307*, 452.

¹¹ Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs* (1834), ii, pt. 3, 693.

¹² *Cal. Close Rolls, 1307-13*, 106.

¹³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13*, 183.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

HENRY Cobham 'the elder' (*continued*)

1313	1314	1315	1316
Kn. Sh. ¹¹	C. ¹⁴	C.o.t. ¹⁷	Mil. serv. ¹⁹
	Mil. serv. ¹⁹	?J. Forest ¹⁸	
	Conser-	Kn. Sh. ¹¹	
	vator of		
	Peace ¹⁵		
	K. Canterbury		
	castle ¹⁶		
	Sh. ¹⁵		

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 152.*

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 107.*

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 243.*

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1317-21, 405.*

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 296.*

¹⁹ Palgrave's, *Parliamentary Writs* (1834), ii, pt. 3, 693.

Abbreviations: Mil. Serv.—Summoned for military service.
C.a.l.—Commissioner to assess and levy taxes.
Kn. Sh.—Knight of the Shire.

WILLIAM, son of John 'the elder', went to Ireland with Roger Mortimer, on the King's service in 1316.¹

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 620.*

HENRY, first baron Cobham (1260-1339).

1294	1295	1296	1297	1298
Keeper of	C. defence ¹	K.G.J. ⁶³	K.G.J. ⁶⁴	Mil. serv. ³
Guernsey	K.G.J. ⁶²		Mil. serv. ²	
and Jersey ⁶¹				
....	1300	....	1302	1303
	Mil. serv. ²		C.o.t. ³	C. ⁶
			C. ⁴	
1304	1305	1306	1307	1308
K. Roch. ⁵	K. Roch. ⁵	K. Roch. ⁵	K. Roch. ⁵	K. Roch. ⁵
	Keeper of	K.D.c.	K.D.c.	C. wallis
	Dover castle	& C.P. ⁷	& C.P. ⁷	et fossatis ⁹
	and Cinque			
	Ports ⁷			
	J.g.d. ⁸			

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1292-1301, 152.*

² Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs* (1827), i, pt. 2, 540.

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1301-07, 183.*

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1301-07, 184.*

⁵ Hatfield MS., 306 f., 55v.

⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1301-07, 271.*

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1324-27, 90.*

⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1301-07, 351.*

⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13, 166.*

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

HENRY, first baron (*continued*)

1309 K. Roch. ⁵ C.o.t.(2) ¹⁰ C.(2) ¹¹	1310 K. Roch. ⁵ C.(2) ¹³ J. Assize ¹⁴ & J.o.t. ⁵⁹ C.a.l. ¹⁵	1311 K. Roch. ⁵ C.o.t.(2) ¹⁶ C.(3) ¹⁷ Kn. Sh. ¹⁸	1312 K. Roch. ⁵ C.o.t. ¹⁹ K. Templar's lands ²⁰ C.(2) ²¹	1313 K. Roch. ⁵ C.(2) ²³ K.T.I. ²³
1314 K. Roch. ⁵ K.T.I. ²⁴ C.(2) ²⁵ J.g.d. ²⁶ Cons. P. ²⁷ J.o.t. ⁵⁸	1315 K. Roch. ⁵ K.D.c. & C.P. ²⁸ C. ²⁹ K.T.I. ²⁴ Sh. ³⁰ K. Cant. c. ³⁰ Sc.W. ⁵⁸	1316 K. Roch. ⁵ C.a.l. ³¹ K.T.I. ²⁴ Sh. ³⁰ C.(2) ³² C.o.t.(3) ³³ Mil. serv. ⁵⁸	1317 K. Roch. ⁵ K.T.I. ²⁴ C. ³⁴ J.g.d. ³⁵ K. see of Worcester ³⁰ Mil. serv. ⁵⁸	1318 K. Roch. ⁵ K.T.I. ²⁴ J.g.d. ³⁷ C.o.t.(3) ³⁸ C(2) ³⁰ Cons. P. ⁵⁹ Mil. serv. ⁵⁹
1319 K. Roch. ⁵ K.T.I. ²⁴ C. ⁴⁰ Mil. serv. ⁵⁹	1320 K. Roch. ⁵ K.T.I. ²⁴ Cons. P. ⁵⁹	1321 K. Roch. ⁵ K.T.I. ²⁴ J.g.d. ⁴¹ & J. It. ⁶⁵ C.o.t. ⁴¹	1322 K. Roch. ⁵ K.T.I. ²⁴ J.g.d.(2) ⁴² Mil-serv. ⁵⁹	1323 K. Roch. ⁵ K.T.I. ²⁴ J.g.d. ⁴³ C.(3) ⁴⁴ K. Tonbridge ⁴⁵ C.o.t.(8) ⁴⁶ Mil. serv. ⁵⁹

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13, 117, 238.*

¹¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13, 127, 248.*

¹³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13, 313.*

¹⁴ *Cal. Close Rolls, 1307-13, 281.*

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13, 230.*

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13, 364, 424.*

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13, 329, 365.*

¹⁸ *E. Hasted, History of Kent, i, 236.*

¹⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13, 474.*

²⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13, 497.*

²¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13, 473, 545.*

²² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 67.*

²³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 7.*

²⁴ *Cal. Close Rolls, 1323-1327, 117.*

²⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 152 and Rolls of Parliament, i, 324.*

²⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 226.*

²⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 122.*

²⁸ *Cal. Fine Rolls, ii, 231.*

²⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 350.*

³⁰ *Cal. Fine Rolls, ii, 262.*

³¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 529.*

³² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 492, 585.*

³³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 503.*

³⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1317-21, 96.*

³⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 683.*

³⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1313-17, 52.*

³⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1317-21, 108.*

³⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1317-21, 98, 172, 176.*

³⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1317-21, 301.*

⁴⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1317-21, 462.*

⁴¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1321-24, 59.*

⁴² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1321-24, 149, 157.*

⁴³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1321-24, 309.*

⁴⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1321-24, 369, 375, 383.*

⁴⁵ *Cal. Close Rolls, 1323-27, 9.*

⁴⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1321-24, 259, 310, 313, 317, 318, 371, 325, 385.*

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

HENRY, first baron (*continued*)

1324	1325	1326	1327
K. Roch. ⁵	K. Roch. ⁵	K. Roch. ⁵	K. Roch. ⁵
K.T.l. ²⁴	K. Tonb. ⁴⁷	K. Tonb. ⁴⁷	
K. Tonb. ⁴⁷	K. forf. l. ⁵³	K. forf. l. ⁵²	
K. forfeited lands ⁴⁸	C. ⁵³	K. coast ⁵⁵	
C(2) ⁴⁹	C.o.t. ⁵³	C.A. ⁵⁶	
C. Array ⁵⁰	C.A. ⁵⁴	C. ⁵⁷	
C.o.t.(5) ⁵¹		C.o.t. ⁵⁷	
Mil. serv. ⁶⁰			

1328-39—Keeper of Rochester⁵

- ⁴⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1324-27, 275.
- ⁴⁸ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1323-27, 86.
- ⁴⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1327-30, 7, 8.
- ⁵⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1327-30, 10.
- ⁵¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1321-24, 444, 449, 452.
- Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1324-27, 67, 72.
- ⁵² *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1323-27, 402.
- ⁵³ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1323-27, 419.
- ⁵⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1324-27, 216.
- ⁵⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1324-27, 210.
- ⁵⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1324-27, 309.
- ⁵⁷ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1323-27, 476.
- ⁵⁸ Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs* (1834), ii, pt. 3, 694.
- ⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 695.
- ⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 696.
- ⁶¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1292-1301, 73.
- ⁶² *Ibid.*, 126.
- ⁶³ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1296-1300, 2.
- ⁶⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1292-1301, 295.
- ⁶⁵ Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs* (1834), ii, pt. 3.

Abbreviations: K.T.l.—Keeper of Templar's lands.
K. forf. l.—Keeper of forfeited lands.
Cons. P.—Conservator of the Peace.
K. Tonb.—Keeper of Tonbridge.
C.A.—Commissioner of Array.

JOHN Cobham of Blackborough (*d.* 1335) was summoned for military service against the Scots in 1324.¹

¹ Cecil Spiegelhalter, 'Surnames of Devon', *Reports and Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, lxxi, 293.

His son, JAMES Cobham of Blackborough (*d.* 1361), served on a commission appointed to levy and collect the wool-tax in 1357² and on a commission of array in 1359.³

¹ *Cal. Fine Rolls*, vii, 44.

² Rymer's *Foedera* (1825), iii, pt. 1, 415.

RALPH Cobham (*d.* 1326) fought at Boroughbridge⁴ in Scotland in 1323² and in France in 1325.³ He procured an exemption from jury service in 1322.⁴

¹ Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs* (1834), ii, 187.

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1321-24, 237.

³ Dugdale's *Baronage* (1676), ii, 69.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1321-24, 63.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

STEPHEN Cobham, lord of Randall (*d.* 1332).

1313 Kn. Sh. ¹	1314 Mil. serv. ¹	....	1322 ?fought at Borough- bridge ²	1323 C.A. ¹
1324 C.A. ³	1326 Cons. P. ⁴			

¹ Palgrave's *Parliamentary Writs*, ii, pt. 3, 697.

² *Ibid.*, ii, 187.

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1324-27, 8.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1324-27, 285

STEPHEN Cobham 'the younger' of Randall (*d.c.* 1344): was knight of the shire in 1337 and 1338,¹ Sheriff of Kent, 1334-36.²

¹ Rev. J. Cave-Brown, 'Knights of the Shire for Kent', *Archæologia Cantiana*, xxi, 208, 209.

² Hasted, *History of Kent*, i, 186; *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1333-37, 527.

THOMAS Cobham, Bishop of Worcester (*d.* 1327).

1303 Embassy ¹	....	1306 Emb. ²	....	1309 C.(2) ³
1310 Emb. ⁴	1311 Emb. ⁵ C. ⁶	1312 Emb. ⁸ C.(2) ⁷	1313 Emb. ⁹	....
1317 C. ¹⁰	1318 C. ¹⁰	1319 C. ¹⁰	....	1321 Emb. ¹¹
1322	1323 C. ¹²			

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1301-07, 206.

² *Ibid.*, 437.

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1307-13, 130, 240.

⁴ E. H. Pearce, *Thomas de Cobham* (1923), 17.

⁵ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1307-13, 36.

⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1307-13, 338.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 437, 544.

⁸ *Treaty Rolls*, 1234-1325, 201.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 204.

¹⁰ E. H. Pearce, *Thomas de Cobham* (1923), 230-32.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1317-21, 554.

¹² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1321-24, 371.

Abbreviation: Emb.—Embassy.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

REGINALD, first baron Cobham of Sterborough (d. 1361).

....	1328 Emb. ¹	....	1337 Emb. ² C. ³ Fl. W. ³¹	1338 K. royal manors ⁴
1339 Fr. W. ⁵ Emb. ⁶ K. royal manors ⁴	1340 Emb. ⁷ C. ⁸ K. Leeds castle ⁹ R. royal manors ⁴ Fr. W. ¹⁰	1341 C.o.t. ¹¹ Emb. ¹²	1342 C. ¹³ Fr. W. ¹⁵	1343 Emb. ¹⁶
1344 Admiral ¹⁷	1345	1346 Fr. W. ¹⁸	1347 Neg. ¹⁹ Fr. W. ²⁰	1348 Admiral ²¹
1349 Neg. ²²	....	1353 Capt. of Calais ²³	1354 Captain of Calais ²³ Neg. ²⁷ Fr. W. ²⁴	1355
1356 Fr. W. ²⁸	1357 Neg. ²⁹	....	1359 Fr. W. ²⁵	1360 Neg. ³⁰

Abbreviations: Fl. W.—Flemish War.
Neg.—Negotiator.

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1327-30*, 300.

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1334-38*, 421.

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1334-38*, 416.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1340-43*, 79.

⁵ Froissart's *Chronicles*, ed. G. C. Macaulay (1908), 53.

⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1338-40*, 388.

⁷ Rymer's *Foedera* (1739), ii, pt. iv, 85.

⁸ *Cal. Close Rolls, 1339-41*, 451.

⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1338-40*, 555.

¹⁰ Dugdale's *Baronage* (1676), ii, 67.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1340-43*, 111.

¹² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1340-43*, 280.

¹³ *Cal. Close Rolls, 1340-43*, 396.

¹⁴ *Cal. Close Rolls, 1340-43*, 570.

¹⁵ Rymer's *Foedera* (1821), ii, pt. ii, 1228.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1343-45*, 259.

¹⁷ Froissart's *Chronicles*, ed. G. C. Macaulay (1908), 93.

¹⁸ Rymer's *Foedera* (1825), iii, pt. i, 136.

¹⁹ Froissart's *Chronicles*, ed. G. C. Macaulay (1908), 116.

²⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1348-50*, 162.

²¹ Rymer's *Foedera* (1825), iii, pt. 1, 182, 184, 185.

²² *Cal. Close Rolls, 1354-53*, 32, 45.

²³ *Black Prince's Register*, iv, 338.

²⁴ Holinshead's *Chronicles* (1808), iv, 307.

²⁵ Rymer's *Foedera* (1825), iii, pt. 1, 259.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 275.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 323.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 348.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 486.

³⁰ Froissart's *Chronicles*, ed. G. C. Macaulay (1908), 43.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

JOHN, second baron Cobham (d. 1355).

1314 Mil. serv. ⁴³	....	1320 K.D.c. & C.P. ²	....	1324 C.A. ⁴⁸
1325	1326 C ³ C.A. ⁴ C. def. ⁵	1327 Kn. Sh. ⁴⁸	1328 C.o.t.(2) ⁷	1329 Cons. P. ⁸
1330	1331 C.o.t.(2) ⁹ C. Peace ¹⁰ C. wallis et fossatis ¹¹	1332 C.o.t. ¹³ C. Peace ¹⁴ C.a.l. ¹⁵ C. ¹⁶	1333	1334 K. Roch. ¹ K. See of Canterbury ¹⁸
1335 K. Roch. ¹ C.o.t.(2) ¹⁹ C.a.l. ²⁰ C. ²¹ C. Peace ²² Admiral ¹⁷	1336 K. Roch. ¹ C.(2) ²³ C.a.l. ²⁴	1337 K. Roch. ¹ C.o.t. ²⁵ C. ²⁶ C. to collect taxes ²⁷	1338 K. Roch. ¹ C.A. and def. ²⁸	1339 K. Roch. ¹ C.o.t.(2) ²⁹

¹ Hatfield MS., 306 f. 41v.

² Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1808), iv, 785.

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1324-27, 220.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1324-27, 327.

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1324-27, 310.

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1327-30, 290, 355.

⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1327-30, 422.

⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1330-34, 133, 138.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1330-34, 137.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1330-34, 63.

¹³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1330-34, 353, 387.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1330-34, 287.

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1330-34, 356.

¹⁶ *Cal. Inquisitions (Miscellaneous)*, ii, 302.

¹⁷ *Rotuli Scotiae*, i, 358.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1330-34, 537.

¹⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1334-38, 140, 147.

²⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1334-38, 132.

²¹ *Cal. Inquisitions (Miscellaneous)*, ii, 354.

²² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1334-38, 208.

²³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1334-38, 360, 363.

²⁴ *Cal. Olose Rolls*, 1332-37, 588.

²⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1334-38, 513.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1334-38, 504.

²⁷ *Cal. Olose Rolls*, 1337-39, 27.

²⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1338-40, 139.

²⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1338-40, 275, 363.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

JOHN, second baron Cobham (*continued*)

1340 K. Roch. ¹ C.a.l. ³⁰	1341 K. Roch. ¹ C.o.t.(3) ³¹	1342 K. Roch. ¹ C.o.t. ³² C. ³³	1343 K. Roch. ¹ C.o.t.(2) ³⁴	1344 K. Roch. ¹ C.o.t.(2) ³⁵ C.(2) ³⁶ C. Peace ³⁷
1345 K. Roch. ¹ C.o.t. ³⁸ C. ³⁹	1346 K. Roch. ¹	1347 K. Roch. ¹	1348 K. Roch. ¹ C.o.t. ⁴⁰	1349 K. Roch. ¹
1350 K. Roch. ¹	1351 K. Roch. ¹ C. wallis et fossatis ⁴¹ C. Peace ⁴²	1352 K. Roch. ¹	1353 K. Roch. ¹	1354 K. Roch. ¹

1355

K. Roch.¹

³⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1340-43, 25.*

³¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1340-43, 314, 364, 365.*

³² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1340-43, 411.*

³³ *Cal. Close Rolls, 1341-48, 408.*

³⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1343-45, 166, 167.*

³⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1343-45, 184, 278.*

³⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1343-45, 262, 282.*

³⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1343-45, 395.*

³⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1343-45, 583.*

³⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1343-45, 584.*

⁴⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1348-50, 177.*

⁴¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1350-54, 206.*

⁴² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1350-54, 85.*

⁴³ *Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs (1834), ii, 696.*

Abbreviation: C. def.—Commission for the defence of the realm.

JOHN Cobham, lord of Randall (1319-62): ?Knight of the Shire for Kent, 1326
1330, 1335-37.¹ Fought in French Wars.²

¹ Rev. J. Cave-Brown, 'Knights of the Shire for Kent', *Archæologia Cantiana* xxi, 206-09.

² *Cal. Close Rolls, 1341-43, 683.*

?THOMAS Cobham of Beluncle: On commission to assess the ninth on movables
1340, 1341.¹

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1338-40, 499.*

Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1340-43, 151.

JOHN Cobham, 'son of the Countess Marshall' (c. 1327-78): Fought in the French Wars, 1359-60.¹ On commission concerning a breach in the bank of the Thames
1360.²

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1358-60, 386.*

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1358-60, 484.*

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

JOHN, third baron Cobham (d. 1408).

1356 C.o.t.(3) ¹	....	1359	1360 C. ³	1361 C. peace ⁴ C. ⁵
1362	1363 C.(2) ⁶	1364 C.(2) ⁷ C. peace ⁸	1365 C. peace & o.t. ⁹ C.w.f. ¹⁰ C. ¹¹	1366 C. peace & o.t. ¹² Fr. W. ¹³ C. ¹⁵
1367 Fr. W. ¹³ Emb. ¹⁵ C.A. ¹⁶ C. ¹⁷	1368 C. peace ¹⁸ C.w.f. ¹⁹ C.o.t. ²⁰	1369 C. def. ²¹ C.w.f. ²² C. ²³	1370 C.A. ²⁴ C.(2) ²⁵ C. peace ²⁶	1371 C. def. ²⁷ C.c. tax ²⁸
1372 C. def. ³⁰	1373	1374 C. peace ²⁹ C. ³⁰	1375 C. peace & o.t. ³¹ C.w.f. ³² Neg. ³³	1376 C.(2) ³⁴ C.A. & def. ³⁰ Neg. ³³

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1354-58, 386, 455, 456.

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1358-61, 484.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1361-64, 63.

⁵ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1360-64, 150.

⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1361-64, 451; Rymer's *Foedera* (1830), iii, pt. 2, 701.

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1361-64, 525, 543.

⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1361-64, 528.

⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1364-67, 144.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1364-67, 136.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1364-67, 209.

¹² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1364-67, 371.

¹³ Dugdale's *Baronage* (1676), ii, 66.

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1364-67, 407.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1364-67, 430.

¹⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1364-67, 436.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 191.

¹⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 139.

²⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 138.

²¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 343.

²² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 260.

²³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 343.

²⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 473.

²⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 470, 474.

²⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 418.

²⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1370-74, 108.

²⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1370-74, 119.

²⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1370-74, 478.

³⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1370-74, 488.

³¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1374-77, 135.

³² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1374-77, 161.

³³ Rymer's *Foedera* (1830), iii, pt. ii, 1024.

³⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1374-77, 412; Rymer's *Foedera* (1740), iii, pt. iii, 50.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

JOHN, third baron Cobham (*continued*)

1377	1378	1379	1380	1381
C. peace ³⁵	C.o.t.(3) ⁴⁰	C.A. &	C. peace ⁴⁴	C. peace ⁴⁶
C.o.t. ³⁶	C. ⁴¹	def. ⁴²	C.A. ⁴⁵	C.A. ⁴⁷
C. def. ³⁷		C.o.t. ⁴³		C. ⁴⁸
C.A. ³⁸		Neg. ⁴¹		Neg. ⁴²
Neg. ³⁹		C. ⁴⁴		
1382	1383	1384	1385	1386
C. peace	C. peace ⁵²	C.o.t. ⁵⁶	C. peace	C. def. ⁶²
& o.t. ⁴⁹	C.o.t.(3) ⁵³		& o.t. ⁵⁷	C.A. ⁶³
C.w.f. ⁶⁰	C. ⁵⁴		C. def. ⁵⁸	
C. ⁶¹	Emb. ⁵⁵		C.A. ⁵⁹	
C. ⁶⁷			C.c. tax ⁶⁰	
			C.(4) ⁶¹	
1387	1388	1389	1390	1391
C. peace	C.A. ⁶⁷	C. peace ⁷⁰	C. peace	C.(2) ⁷⁶
& o.t. ⁶⁴	C.w.f. ⁶⁸	J. crt.	& o.t. ⁷²	J. crt.
	C. ⁶⁹	chivalry ⁷¹	C.(2) ⁷³	chivalry ⁷⁶
			J. crt.	
			chivalry ⁷⁴	

- ³⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 44.*
³⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 53.*
³⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 4, 7.*
³⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 38.*
³⁹ Rymer's *Foedera* (1830), iii, pt. ii, 1073.
⁴⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 128, 253, 307.*
⁴¹ *Cal. Inquisitions (Miscellaneous), iv, 88.*
⁴² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 360, 577.*
⁴³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 416.*
⁴⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 514.*
⁴⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 471.*
⁴⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 572.*
⁴⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1377-81, 574.*
⁴⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 81.*
⁴⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 138, 248.*
⁵⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 195.*
⁵¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 136.*
⁵² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 346.*
⁵³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 201, 261, 354.*
⁵⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-84, 262.*
⁵⁵ Dugdale's *Baronage* (1676), ii, 66.
⁵⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 425.*
⁵⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 508.*
⁵⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 519.*
⁵⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 590.*
⁶⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 588.*
⁶¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1381-85, 592, 599.*
⁶² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1385-89, 90, 167.*
⁶³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1385-89, 103.*
⁶⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1385-89, 176.*
⁶⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1385-89, 253.*
⁶⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1385-89, 547.*
⁶⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1385-89, 551.*
⁶⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1385-89, 483.*
⁶⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1385-89, 137.*
⁷⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1388-92, 40.*
⁷¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1388-92, 341.*
⁷² *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1388-92, 249, 356.*
⁷³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1388-92, 355.*
⁷⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1388-92, 439, 528.*
⁷⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1388-92, 412.*

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

JOHN, third baron Cobham (*continued*)

1392	1393	1394	1395	1396
C.A. ⁷⁷	C.o.t. ⁸¹	C.A. ⁸⁴		C.A. ⁸⁶
C. ⁷⁸	C.w.f. ⁸²	C.o.t. ⁸⁵		
Neg. ⁷⁹	C. ⁸³			
J. crt.				
chivalry ⁸⁰				
1397	1398	1399	1400	
		C. peace ⁸⁷	C. peace ⁸⁹	
		C.A. ⁸⁸		

⁷⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1391-96, 88.

⁷⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1391-96, 85.

⁷⁹ Rymer's *Foedera* (1740), iii, pt. iv, 77.

⁸⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1391-96, 71.

⁸¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1391-96, 235.

⁸² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1391-96, 294.

⁸³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1391-96, 237.

⁸⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1391-96, 435.

⁸⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1391-96, 410.

⁸⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1391-96, 728.

⁸⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1396-99, 560.

⁸⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1399-1401, 209.

⁸⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1399-1401, 960.

⁹⁰ Rymer's *Foedera* (1830), iii, pt. ii, 1045.

⁹¹ Rymer's *Foedera* (1830), iii, pt. ii, 1048, 1053, 1054.

⁹² Rymer's *Foedera* (1740), iii, pt. iii, 121, 132.

⁹³ Rymer's *Foedera* (1830), iii, pt. ii, 1059.

⁹⁴ *Rolls of Parliament*, iii, 57.

⁹⁵ *Rolls of Parliament*, ii, 291.

⁹⁶ Rymer's *Foedera* (1830), iii, pt. ii, 952.

⁹⁷ *Rolls of Parliament*, iii, 146.

Abbreviations: C.c. tax—Commission to collect tax.

C.w.f.—Commission 'de wallis et fossatis'.

J. crt. chivalry—Justice in the court of chivalry.

REGINALD, second baron Cobham of Sterborough (1348-1403).

1369	1370	...	1374	1375
Fr. W. ¹	Fr. W. ¹		Emb. ²	C. peace & o.t. ³
1376	1377	1378	1379	1380
C.A. ¹³	C. peace ⁴		C.A. &	C. peace ⁹
	C.A. ⁵		def. ⁸	C.A. ¹⁰
	Fr. W. ⁶			
	Emb. ⁷			
1381	1382	1383	1384	1385
C. peace ¹¹	C. peace	C.o.t.(2) ¹³	C.o.t. ¹⁴	
	& o.t. ¹²			

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1367-70, 413.

² Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1808), iv, 807.

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1374-77, 136.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1377-81, 45.

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1374-77, 499.

⁶ Dugdale's *Baronage* (1676), ii, 68.

⁷ Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1808), iv, 808.

⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1377-81, 360.

⁹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1377-81, 514.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1377-81, 474.

¹¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1381-85, 85.

¹² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1381-85, 253.

¹³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1381-85, 352, 354.

¹⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1381-85, 429.

THE COBHAM FAMILY IN ADMINISTRATION, 1200-1400

REGINALD, second baron Cobham of Sterborough (*continued*)

1386	1387	1388	1389	1390
			C. peace ¹⁵	C. peace & o.t. ¹⁶

.... 1401
Fr. W.¹⁷

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1389-92, 137.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1389-92, 341.

¹⁷ Dugdale's *Baronage* (1676), ii, 68.

¹⁸ Rymer's *Foedera* (1830), iii, pt. ii, 1045.

THOMAS Cobham, lord of Randall (1343-93).

1372	....	1376	1377	1378
Fr. W. ¹⁴		Kn. Sh. ¹	Sh. ² C. ³	Sh. ⁴

1379	1380	1381	1382	1383
C.(2) ⁵	C.A. ⁶	C. peace ⁷	C. peace ⁸ Kn. Sh. ⁹	

1384	1385	....	1394	
C. ¹⁰	C.A. ²		Sh. ¹²	
Kn. Sh. ¹¹				

¹ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1374-77, 429.

² Rev. J. Cave-Brown, 'Knights of the Shire for Kent', *Archæologia Cantiana*, xxi, 215.

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1377-81, 93.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1377-81, 167.

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1377-81, 416, 423.

⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1377-81, 471.

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1381-85, 77.

⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1381-85, 138.

⁹ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1381-85, 133.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1381-85, 506.

¹¹ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1381-85, 600.

¹² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1381-85, 590.

¹⁴ Rymer's *Foedera* (1830), iii, pt. ii, 958.

?WILLIAM Cobham of Staplehurst.

1371	1372	....	1375	....
Kn. Sh. ¹	Kn. Sh. ³		C. peace	
C.c. tax ²	C. ⁴		& o.t. ⁵	

1399	....	1406	
Irish expedition ⁶		C. ⁷	

¹ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1369-74, 289.

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1370-74, 119.

³ *Cal. Close Rolls*, 1369-74, 475.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1370-74, 169.

⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1374-77, 136.

⁶ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1396-99, 538.

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1405-08, 235.

N.B.—The tables are not a complete guide since not every task performed by the Cobhams is necessarily noted in the printed records on which they are based. Also, many of the Cobhams had the same name so that it is sometimes impossible to decide which one is meant.