

## IDEN FAMILY.

THE Iden family were large landowners certainly as early as the middle of the thirteenth century, owning land about Iden in Sussex and Rolvenden and elsewhere in Kent. About the beginning of the fifteenth century they were resident at Westwell, where was born Alexander, who killed Cade the Rebel in 1450. This exploit occurred at Heathfield in Sussex, and not at Ripley Court in Westwell, as is often supposed. The Exchequer payments and other documents have fully established this. Previous to Alexander the Sheriff's time the old arms of the family had been, Azure, a fesse between three close helmets or ; but the latter seems to have borne a chevron instead of a fesse, and to have used also a plume of feathers as crest, the blazon remaining the same. His son Thomas resided at Malmains in Stoke, and this branch was known as "Iden of Stoke," and is so called in the Heralds' Visitation. With reference to the Pedigrees numbered 1 and 2, and the Miscellanea of Iden, there is no doubt but that all were closely related. Thus William Iden who died in 1561, and was great-grandson of Alexander the Sheriff, mentions cousin Shelley's son, who was a great-grandson of Thomas Iden, whose arms were the old fesse. It seems therefore likely that Paul Iden's father Thomas and Alexander Iden the Sheriff were brothers. If this were not so, the Shelley relationship of the William Iden aforesaid must have been of a less remote date, and in consequence of some marriage.

Heralds' College references contain in Visitation of Kent, 1574, "Iden of Stoke," four descents—Arms: Azure, a chevron between three close helmets or ; and in Philipot's MS. pedigree of "Iden of Sandwich" three descents, time of Queen Elizabeth to James I. Also a funeral certificate of Henry Iden of Islington, 1568—Arms: Azure, a fesse between three close helmets or. These records contain very meagre accounts. There is also a grant of arms to T. Brown, 1626, giving marginal descent of Cecilie Iden.

An Inquisition Post Mortem of William Iden of Wye 12 Edward IV. (1472). Owned two messuages, 120 acres of land, 3 of meadow, 30 of wood, and one water-mill in Wye, Westwell, and Godmersham, held of the King by rent of service of 12 pence p. a., etc. And that William Geotley, Sen., is cousin and next heir, being a son of Alice, sister of said William Iden, and aged 52 years and more. That John Iden, husbandman of Wye, occupies the premises and receives the rents, but by what right the jurors know not.

JOHN IDEN of Westwell. Will proved in Consistory Court of Canterbury 1488. "To be buried in the Church of Our Lady the Virgin of Westwell, before the image there of St. Christopher." "To the Fraternity of Mary Magdalen there." Robert Style, Vicar of Westwell.

THOMAS IDEN of Westwell. Will proved in Consistory Court of Canterbury 1498. "To be buried in the Church Yr<sup>d</sup> of S<sup>t</sup> Mary of Westwell." Sir Robert Taylor, Vicar there. "My wive's father Thomas At Wode." "My children Richard, Robert, Margaret, Thomasyn, & Joane; Alexander my eldest son."

ALICIA IDEN of Westwell. Will proved in Consistory Court of Canterbury 1504. To be buried in the Churchyard of Westwell. "Thomasyn my daughter." "Joane my daughter."

ALEXANDER IDEN of Westwell. Will proved in Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1515 by George Young. To be buried at Westwell, and bequeaths money to the poor until two daughters Margaret and Joyce are 18 years of age. Margaret to have his manor of Schotyngton (in Chilham) and Joyce lands in Wye and Godmersham. If both die, then the manor to go to brothers Richard and Robert and heirs.

ROBERT IDEN of Challock. Will proved in Consistory Court of Canterbury 1518. "The Church of Westwell, where my Father & Mother lie buried." "Richard Iden my brother." "My sisters." "My sister Margaret."