

Milverton, and Peter Lymesey, lord of Arley and a whole cluster of estates around Long Itchington and Radford Semele; and many more similarly prominent figures from Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire: Robert Holland, who enjoyed the privilege of a special chamber reserved for him in Kenilworth Castle, Roger Beler, Hugh Cuilly and several members of the Northamptonshire Segraves. Many of these had already proved their political credentials by joining Guy of Warwick and Thomas of Lancaster to destroy Gaveston in 1311, been pardoned for supporting Thomas again in further disruption in 1318, and were quite ready to act against the new favourites in 1321.¹⁹

There was yet a third, more imponderable factor in attempting to characterise Warwickshire's political complexion at this time. Lacking any geographical unity and highly fractured in its manorial structures, the entire county presented an intricate patchwork of small estates representing the territorial ambitions of competing gentry, made even more complex by the universal practice of sub-infeudating or sub-letting: Brailes and Tanworth, for example, comprised five and eleven sub-manors respectively leased by the earl of Warwick to rival lords.²⁰ Few medieval barons cohabited easily or for long with their neighbours, and normal tensions easily degenerated into vicious feuding with a political edge as rivals lodged cheek-by-jowl. The ultra-loyalist Pecche family had long-standing interests in Honiley, bordered on one side by the earl of Warwick's Wedgnock Park and on the other by Thomas of Lancaster's Kenilworth Park. Studley's twin lords, loyalists Peter

¹⁹ Marlowe, *The Plays*, p. 233. The definitive and wide-ranging study of Earl Thomas is J.R. Maddicott, *Thomas of Lancaster, 1307-1322*, London 1970, cf. pp. 32-5, 40-66 etc. See also McKisack, *Fourteenth Century*, pp. 47-9, 67-8; Miller and Hatcher, *Medieval England*, pp. 299-30; J.F. Baldwin, 'The household administration of Henry Lacy and Thomas of Lancaster', *EHR*, xlii, 1927, pp. 193-4; G.A. Holmes, *Estates of the Higher Nobility in Fourteenth Century England*, Cambridge 1957, App. 2, pp. 134-42; *VCH, Warwickshire*, ii, p. 290. The rebel pardons granted in 1318 and 1321 are listed in *Parliamentary Writs and Writs of Military Summons (PW)*, 2 vols, Record Commission 1827-34, ii, pp. 164-8; and Thomas Rymer, *Foedera (RF)*, 4 vols, Record Commission 1816-30, ii, pp. 230-1.

²⁰ B.K. Roberts, 'The historical geography of moated homesteads in the Forest of Arden, Warwickshire', *Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society (TBAS)*, lxxxviii, p. 65n. The dauntingly complex Fig. 3 of this article illustrates the problems in studying landholding patterns, c.1315. Such split manors were often recognised by name (e.g. Shustoke Mowbray and Shustoke Cuilly, Pailton Cuilly and Pailton Lymesey), some remaining to this day (Wellesbourne Hastings and Wellesbourne Mountford).