

**DE WYRHALE; A TALE
OF DEAN FOREST, IN
FIVE CANTOS**

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De Wyrhale; a tale of Dean forest, in five cantos by P. J Ducarel

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P. J DUCAREL

**DE WYRHAE; A TALE
OF DEAN FOREST, IN
FIVE CANTOS**

DE WYRHALE:

A

Tale of Dean Forest.

IN FIVE CANTOS.

By P. J. DUCAREL, Esq.

AUTHOR OF "A PARAPHRASE ON THE PSALMS," IN BLANK VERSE.



In Newland Church-yard.

LONDON:

LONGMAN, REES, ORME, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMAN.

1836.

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PREFACE.

THE family of De Wyrhale is descended from Matthew, High Sheriff of the County of Gloucester, in 1259. It enjoyed high privileges and immunities in the Royal Forest of Dean. This is ascertained from an ancient manuscript, now in the possession of a descendant of the family still resident within the precincts of the forest. The same MS. goes on to say, "it is a circumstance somewhat particular, that we have not any one deed or paper extant in which the name of Jenkyn is to be found, nor any in which any one of this family surname is mentioned for as much as thirty-three years previous to the time assigned for his death, the last being a deed in 1436, from Staunton to John Wyrhale, his predecessor. We cannot, therefore, help believing that all the papers and deeds, which belong to our little history, have, by some accident, passed into other hands and been lost. It is probable, that when Jenkyn died, he was not an old man; for in 1467 we find a John Wyrhale, the successor of Jenkyn, &c. A tomb in Newland churchyard,

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which is in the limit of the ancient forest, has a man cut in stone upon it, lying on his back at his length, having a lion under his head for a pillow, and a hound at his feet. Iron points are leaded in round the figure, and the inscription which is on the two sides under the cornice, is as follows :

“ Here lyeth Jenk. Wyrat :
 God have mercy on us.

MDLXVII.”

Mr. Atkins, in his “ History of Gloucestershire,” decipheres the characters to be as follows :

“ Here lyeth Jenkyn Wyrat, chief forester in fee,
 A braver fellow never was, nor never will there be.”

An ancient monument, with a male and female figure cut in free-stone, occupies one side of a chapel, or chantry, in Newland church, in memory of Sir John Joyce and his dame ; and a tradition is handed down, that a Joyce lived in a small religious house, or hermit’s cell, in the vicinity of the village. The foundations of the house still exist, but the moat was filled up only ten years ago—it may be yet easily traced. The family of the Joyces were anciently in possession of *Clearwell*, or *Clarewall*, in the same parish of Newland.

DE WYRIALE.

Canto 1.

For whylome he had been a doughty Knight
As any one that lived in his daies,
And proved oft in many perillous fight,
Of which he grace and glory wonne alwaies,
And in all battles wore away the baies ;
But being now attacht with timely age,
And weary of the world's unquiet waies,
He took himself unto this hermitage,
In which he lived alone like carelesse bird in cage.

SPENSER. CANTO IV.

