

**COKE OF TRUSLEY, IN THE
COUNTRY OF DERBY, AND
BRANCHES THEREFROM: A
FAMILY HISTORY**

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Coke of Trusley, in the Country of Derby, and Branches Therefrom: A Family History by John Talbot Coke

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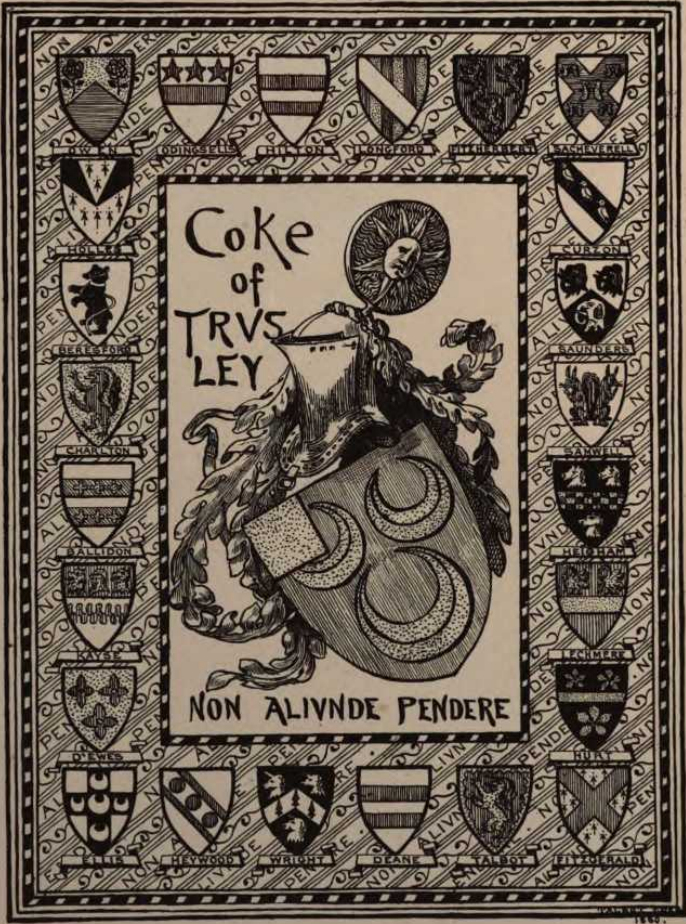
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JOHN TALBOT COKE

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COKE *of* TRUSLEY,

In the County of *Derby*, and *Branches*
therefrom:

A Family History.

Compiled by

Major JOHN TALBOT COKE.

"He (Dr. Johnson) agreed with me that there should be a chronicle kept in every considerable family, to preserve the character and transactions of successive generations."—*Boswell's Life of Johnson*.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

IN compiling this History it has been my desire simply to arrange all evidence relating to the Family in proper order. Nothing is given which is not from perfectly authentic sources; and I have been careful, as far as possible, to retain all original wording.

I have been assisted in the early part by notes made in 1810 by my Grandfather, D'Ewes Coke, of Brookhill Hall.

J. TALBOT COKE.

YORK, *January*, 1880.



INTRODUCTION.

THE Manor of Trusley was held by one Hugh, under Henry de Ferrars when the Survey of Domesday was taken, then called "Toxenai."

Two Vellum Pedigrees of the Cokes, procured at different times from the College of Arms, give undoubted authority to the family history as far as they extend. The most ancient was prepared in the reign of Elizabeth, and is signed by Robert Cooke, Clarendieux King-at-Arms. The later one was drawn up in 1772, and is signed by Mr. Bigland and Sir Isaac Heard, the Lancaster and Somerset Heralds. It is stated to have been taken from the Register Howard, folio 34, 35, existing in the College of Arms. Some variations in these two Pedigrees appear in the Arms of the females with whom the Cokes intermarried. These will be noticed in their proper places, but the descent is uniform in both.

The earliest part of the history depends not only on these Pedigrees, and the evidence possessed in the College of Arms, but it is also confirmed by the possession of property obtained through the intermarriage of the Cokes with the heirs female of several ancient families. The Parish Registers of Trusley, Kirkby, Pinxton, &c., with inscriptions on tombstones and achievements in those churches, corroborate the

descent as far as these go back, and deeds in the possession of different branches of the family form the last species of evidence which has been resorted to.

The Pedigrees are silent as to the residence of the first of the Cokes, but the earliest intermarriage with an heir female is that with Owen of Marchington. Marchington is a village on the very border of Derbyshire, but situate in the county of Stafford, on the bank of the Dove, and within three or four miles of Uttoxeter. It is not more than six or eight miles from Trusley, where the second intermarriage with the heir female of Odingsells took place, and, as marriages in those early days were in general contracted amongst neighbours, the presumption is that the Cokes lived somewhere between the two places.

A tradition in the Trusley family states that the founder of it was one Cook or Coke, who was employed in the service of Henry de Ferrara, Superintendent of William the Conqueror's horse armourers and farriers. They are said to have been located near Tutbury Castle, in some office or other.

Whether their original residence was in Derbyshire or Staffordshire, it appears that on the marriage with the Owens they resided in the latter county, and continued there till they changed their residence for Trusley, soon after their marriage with the Odingsells.

It is generally supposed that the crescents on the Coat-of-Arms, and the Sun as crest, were adopted by the family at the time of the Crusades to Palestine, when Richard introduced the custom of wearing armorial coats, and of having them engraved upon seals. His own broad seal, when he embarked for the Holy Land, contained two crescents (the Turkish ensign), and they seem not to have been uncommon emblems, as we read of another Prince (according to Speed) who, going against the Turks, adopted a crescent, with this

motto, "PLENIOR REDIBO"—("I will return more full"). Richard I., after his return from captivity in Germany, ordered a new broad seal to be engraved, bearing a full moon, which Speed thinks was done emblematically. The adoption also of one of the heavenly bodies as a crest strengthens the probability of the Coat of Arms originating with the family in the manner described, and that they took arms from the Badges of Richard—the moon and stars—which were emblazoned upon all his standards, and cut upon his great seals.



