

who, by marriage, increased the family estate. William, his heir, was grandson to the standard-bearer. Contemporary history mentions him as a great warrior, who was slain in a battle with the Irish in October 1303, aged seventy years. For his courage and conquests, he had the honour of knighthood conferred on him; his eldest son was also slain in a battle in Ireland, so that his youngest son, Sir John de Wellesley, Knight, became heir. His son, named after his father, Sir John de Wellesley, was summoned to Parliament as a baron of the realm. His successor was Sir William, who became one of the most influential men of the time, and represented interests of great magnitude in the South and West of England. By his first wife, Elizabeth, he had one son, Edward, who joined the Scottish army during the Crusades, and went with Sir James Douglas to Palestine, with the intentions of placing the heart of Sir Robert Bruce in the Holy Sepulchre. He died in a fight with the Saracens in 1340. This incident entitles the Wesleys to use the scallop shell in the quarterings of their family arms.

While these events were transpiring, Sir William, Edward's father, was created a peer of the realm, as Baron Noragh, and married for his second wife, Alice Trevellion, and they had issue four sons—Walrond, Richard, Robert, and Arthur. Robert was a monk and died unmarried. Each of the three other sons married, and became the head of a distinguished family, whose descendants have come down to our times. Walrond was heir to the English estates, and through him the original stock has continued to the present day. Richard became the head of the Wellesleys in Ireland by marrying the heiress to the Irish estates. He was sheriff of Kildare in 1418; he resided at Dangan Castle, where the great Duke of Wellington (as his descendant) was born. Arthur founded another branch of the family, and one of his descendants did much service for the king, who rewarded him by making him his grand porter, and gave him many lands and tenements, so he took the name of Porter, in the county of Salop, and from him descended Sir Robert Ker Porter, the traveller, and Jane and Anna Maria Porter, died 1832, celebrated authors.

Up to this period, covering four centuries, courage, heroism, and chivalry, intermixed with the form of piety which marked that age, had generally characterized most of the members of this influential family. Walrond, the heir, became the second Baron