



# A Catalogue of the Names of the Speakers of the Commons House of *Parliament.*

**I**N the Reign of *William Rufus* there was a great Council of Parliament held at *Rockingham*, as may be collected out of the History of *Eadmerus*, for he termeth the same; *Totius Regni Adunatio*, and saith, that a certain Knight came forth and stood before the people, and spake in the name and behalf of themall, whereby the mind and consent of the people was understood, who (as is conceived) was the Speaker of the Commons; but the Author nameth him not: this is mentioned onely because of the antiquity thereof.

*Petrus de Mounif rd.* 44 H. 3.

That he was Speaker of the House of Commons may be collected out of the Register of *St. Albane*, *Fol. 207.* where it is said, that he *Vice totius communitalis* consented to the banishment of *Adomer de Valence*, Bishop of *Winchester*; by which also it may be conceived, that the Lords and the Commons in that time sat in several Houses, or at leastwise gave their assents severally.

*Scrope.* 6 Ed. 3.

*Monsieur William Trussel.* 13 Ed. 3.

The Commons answer by his mouth, and therefore it is conceived he was their Speaker, though not so named in the Record.

*Sir Peter de la Mare.* 49 Ed. 3.

*Sir Thomas Hungerford.* 51 Ed. 3.

This is the first named Speaker upon Record. 51 Ed. 3. n. 89.

*Sir Peirce de la Mare.* 1 Rich. 2.

Sir

<i>Sir James Pickering.</i>	2 Rich. 2.
<i>Sir John Gildesborough.</i>	3 Rich. 2.
<i>Sir John Gildesborough.</i>	4 Rich. 2.
<i>Sir Richard Walgrave.</i>	5 Rich. 2.

He was the first that made excuse, desiring to be discharged (for ought appearing in Record;) but the King commanded him upon his allegiance to accept the place, seeing he was chosen by the Commons.

<i>Sir James Pickering.</i>	6 R. 2.
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No Speaker recorded from 6 R. 2. to 17.

<i>Sir John Busley.</i>	17 R. 2.
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He was presented to the King in full Parliament by the Commons, the first I find so presented; he was a special Minion to the King.

<i>Sir John Busley.</i>	20 R. 2.
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There are many Parliament-rolls of R. 2. which mention no Speaker, as 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18.

<i>Sir John Busley.</i>	21 R. 2.
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This Parliament was held in the Palace yard of *Westminster*, in a long house built with Timber of purpose, left open at both ends; both the Houses sat together therein, an especial place made for the Speaker: the cause of this extraordinary meeting was the impeachment of the Duke of *Glan-  
cester*, the Earl of *Arundel* and *War-  
wick*.

Sir *John Cheyney*.

1. H. 4.

He is stiled in the Roll not onely *Parlour*, but *Procurator de les Com-  
mons*: the next day after he was pre-  
sented he grew sick, and the *Commons*  
made choice of Mr. *John Dormood* in  
his place; and yet he came up with  
the *Commons* to the *Lords House*,  
and prayed to be discharged, by reason  
of his infirmity, declaring whom the  
*Commons* had made choice of, and  
prayed he might be accepted, which  
was granted; and he made the like  
Protestation as Sir *John Cheyney* had  
done, which was, that he might have  
liberty to amend any mistaking in  
that which he should deliver from the  
Com-

Commons, and made none of the other requests now usual.

*John Dirwood* Esquire. 1. H. 4.

He made no excuse, for ought appeareth.

Sir *Arnold Savage*. 2. H. 4.

The first time appearing upon any Record that the Commons were required by the King to choose a Speaker, but afterward it is still continued, only omitted 16. of *Henry* the Fourth.

Sir *Henry de Redeford*. 4. H. 4.

Sir *Arnold Savage*. 5. H. 4.

After he had made the ordinary protestation concerning his own mistakings, he further desired the King in the names of the Commons, that they might freely make complaint of any thing amiss in the Government, and that the King by the sinister information of any person would not take offensively that which they should

should complain of in that behalf; which Petition was yielded unto by the King. 5. H. 5. 11. 8.

Sir *VVilliam Scurny.* 6 H. 4.

Sir *Tobn Cheyne.* 6 H. 4.

*Parliamentum ind. Forum*; so called, because in the writ of Summons there was a Clause no Lawyer should be chosen.

Sir *John Tiptot.* 7 H. 4.

He desired to be discharged, because of his youth, but he was nevertheless allowed of; but having forgotten to make the usual protestations upon the day of his allowance, he came up the next day and made it, and added further (which never any Speaker did before or since) that if any writing were delivered by the Commons in this Parliament, and they should desire to have it again to amend any thing therein, it might be restored to them; which was granted, *R. Par. 7. Henry 4. n. 6.* he was the son of *John Lord Tiptot*, and in the tenth year of *Henry*

*Henry* the fourth was made Lord Treasurer of *England*, and created Earl of *Worcester* by *H. 6.* while he was Speaker he signed and sealed the Deed of the intailing of the Crown, *7 H. 4.* with these words, *Nomine totius Communitatis.*

<i>Thomas Chancer</i> Esq.	9 H. 4.
<i>Thomas Chancer</i> Esq.	10 H. 4.
<i>Thomas Chancer</i> Esq.	13 H. 4.
<i>William Sturton</i> Esq.	1 H. 5.

This Speaker, without the assent of his Companions, did agree before the King to deliver in Parliament certain Articles; but about three dayes following, the Commons finding themselves agrieved therewith, sent unto the Lords (the King being then present) Mr. *John Denevood*, and divers of the Commons with him, and declared to the King that their Speaker had no authority from them to yield thereunto, and therefore they desired to be excused therein, which the King was pleased to accept: about 2. months after the Commons coming before the King did present for their Speaker.

Speaker the same Mr. *John Dorwood*, because their old Speaker being sick in his bed was not able to execute the place, whom the King allowed of.

<i>John Doreward</i> , Esquire.	1 H. 5.
<i>Thomas Chaucer</i> , Esquire.	3 H. 5.
<i>Walter Hungerford</i> , Esquire.	2 H. 5.
<i>Richard Redman</i> , Esquire.	3 H. 5.
<i>Sir Walter Beauchamp</i> .	3 H. 5.
<i>Roger Flower</i> , Esquire.	4 H. 5.
<i>Roger Flower</i> , Esquire.	5 H. 5.
<i>Roger Flower</i> , Esquire.	7 H. 5.
<i>Richard Baynard</i> .	9 H. 5.
<i>Roger Flower</i> , Esquire.	1 H. 6.
<i>John Russel</i> , Esquire.	2 H. 6.
<i>Sir Thomas Wanton</i> .	3 H. 6.
<i>Richard Vernon</i> , Esquire.	4 H. 6.
<i>John Tirell</i> , Esquire.	6 H. 6.
<i>William Allington</i> , Esquire.	8 H. 6.
<i>John Tirel</i> , Esquire.	9 H. 6.
<i>John Russel</i> , Esquire.	10 H. 6.
<i>Roger Harst</i> , Esquire.	11 H. 6.
<i>John Bones</i> , Esquire.	14 H. 6.
<i>Sir John Tirrel</i> .	15 H. 6.
<i>Sir John Tirrel</i> .	17 H. 6.

The King taking notice of the sickness of the Speaker, and that by reason



son thereof he could not intend the affairs of the Parliament, commanded the Commons to make choice of a new Speaker; who accordingly did make choice of one Mr. *William Boerly*, and did by one *John Hody* (Knight of the Shire) inform the King thereof, who thereupon was allowed of by the King without any more ceremony.

<i>William Boerly</i> , Esquire.	17 H. 6.
<i>William Tressam</i> , Esquire.	18 H. 6.
<i>William Burley</i> , Esquire.	23 H. 6.
<i>William Tressam</i> , Esquire.	25 H. 6.
<i>John Day</i> , Esquire.	27 H. 6.
<i>Sir John Popham</i> .	28 H. 6.

His excuse by reason of his age and impotency by his service in the war, was allowed of by the King, and the same day the Commons presented Mr. *William Tresham* for their Speaker, and he was allowed.

<i>William Tresham</i> , Esquire.	28 H. 6.
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He made no excuse at all, for ought appearing on the Record.

Sir William O. Adams. 29 H. 6.

He made no excuse.

Thomas Thorp, Esq. 21 H. 6.

Thomas Thorp, Esq. 31 H. 6.

He was arrested in execution at the suit of the Duke of York between two Sessions of Parliament; wherein the opinions of the Judges being demanded by the Lords, they answered, it belonged not unto them to judge of the liberties of Parliament; whereupon (without them) it was adjudged that he was not to have privilege; which was signified to the Commons by some of the Lords and the Kings pleasure for present choosing of a new Speaker was declared unto them; whereupon they forthwith chose Sir Thomas Charlton. *1. Seld. Baronage. 115.*

Sir Thomas Charlton. 31 H. 6.

Sir John Wenlock. 33 H. 6.

Thomas Tresham, Esq. 38 H. 6.

John Green, Esq. 39 H. 6.

Sir James Strangways. 1 Ed. 4.

John Say, Esq. 7 Ed. 4.

William

<i>William Allington, Esq.</i>	12 Ed. 4.
<i>William Allington, Esq.</i>	17 Ed. 4.
<i>John Wood, Esq.</i>	22 Ed. 4.
<i>William Catesby, Esq.</i>	1 R. 3.

In these times the Lord Chancellor, Speaker of the Lords House (being for the most part a Bishop) took a Text out of Scripture or some other Theme, and grounded his Oration thereupon, therein declaring the cause of the Summons of the Parliament; and in conclusion thereof, as the use now is, declared to the House of Commons the Kings pleasure, that they should repair to their House and make choice of a Speaker, not naming any day when they should present him (as is now used;) and when the Commons had chosen their Speaker, they sent up some of their House to the Lords to desire them to intimate to the King that they had made choice of a Speaker, not naming whom, and to move the King to appoint a time when they should present him, and (commonly the King having been formerly spoken unto) the day agreed upon by the K. was declared to them

them; at the day appointed, the Commons presented their Speaker, who prayed that he might be excused; but his excuse not being admitted, he maketh the common protestation touching his own mistakings, without any petitions in the behalf of the Commons, as is now usual.

*Thomas Lovel, Esq.*

1 H. 7.

After Knighted and made of the Privy Council to King *Henry 7.* and *Henry 8.*

*John Mordant.*

3 H. 7.

*Sir Thomas Fitzwilliams.*

4 H. 7.

*Richard Empson, Esq.*

7 H. 7.

Learned in the Laws, Recorder of *Coventry*, afterwards of the Privy Council to *Henry 7.*

*Sir Reginald Bray.*

11 H. 7.

He made the usual protestation for himself, but there is no mention at all upon the Record concerning any petition for the liberty of the Commons.

*Robert*

<i>Robert Drury, Esq.</i>	11 H. 7.
<i>Thomas Inglefield, Esq.</i>	12 H. 7.
<i>Edmond Dudley, Esq.</i>	19 H. 7.

Learned in the Laws, he was afterward of the Privie Council to *Henry 7.*

<i>Sir Thomas Inglefield.</i>	1 H. 8.
<i>Sir Robert Sheffield.</i>	3 H. 8.

*Recorder of London.*

<i>Sir Thomas Nevil.</i>	6 H. 8.
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The Speakers presentment, excuse, and protestation were only entered on Record before this time, but no oration of theirs till this time.

<i>Sir Thomas More.</i>	14 and 15 H. 8.
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Chancellor of the Dutchy of *Lancaster*, after Lord Chancellor of *England*; he was Speaker of the House of Commons in this Parliament, and Speaker of the Lords House the next; he made the usual protestation for himself, and prayed if any of the  
Com-

Commons should in debate of matters speak more largely then they ought, that it might be pardoned by the King; which the King granted.

*Thomas Andley.*

21 H. 8.

Serjeant at Law, Chancellor of the Duchy of *Lancaster*, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal; in 24 H. 8. made Lord Chancellor of *England*, and lastly created a Baron: he made the usual protestation for himself, but there is no mention upon the Record of any petition by him made in the behalf of the Commons.

I have not found any Speaker named in the Record or Chronicles in these years of H. 8. viz. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.

*Richard Rich.*

28 H. 8.

Afterwards made L. Chancellor, and created a Baron; the first that is recorded to have made request for access to the King: from him are descended the Earls of *Warwick* and *Holland*, now living.

Sir

*Sir Nich. Hare.* 31 H. 8.

Afterwards Master of the Rolls, and after that Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of *England*, after which he lived but fourteen days.

*Thomas Moy's Esq.* 34 H. 8.

The first that is recorded to have made petition for freedom of speech; the petition for privilege from arrest is of latter dayes, but it appears in the first of *H. 4.* that *Sir John Cheney* then Speaker made a general request that the Commons might enjoy their ancient privileges and liberties, not naming any liberty in particular; and he is noted to be the first that is recorded to have made that request, but they all make the usual request or protestation touching themselves.

In the latter end of the reign of *K. H. 8.* there is no mention made in the Parliament-Roll of the presenting of any Speaker, nor in the time of *E. 6.* or Queen *Mary*, nor during the reign  
of

of Queen *Eliz.* when Sir *John Packer* was Speaker, but the memories of the Speakers names of those latter times is onely presented in the Journals of both houses.

Sir *John Baker.* 1 *Ed. 6.* to 5.

Four Sessions. Chancellor of the Augmentations.

Sir *James Dyer*, Knight. 7 *Ed. 6.*

Serjeant at Law, afterwards Kings Serjeant, and Lord Chief Justice of the Common-Pleas.

*John Pollard*, Esq. 1 *Mary.*

Learned in the Laws, he continued Speaker during two Sessions.

*Clement Higham*, Esq. 1. & 2. *P. M.*

Learned in the Lawes, and one of the Privie Council afterward Knighted, and made Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.



*John Pullard, Esq.* 2. and 3. *P. M.*

Learned in the Lawes, afterward made Serjeant.

*William Cordal, Esq.* 1. & 2. *P. M.*

Master of the Rolls and one of the Privie Council; he was Knighted the day he made his Oration, and was Master of the Rolls when he was chosen Speaker; as may appear by comparing the date of his Letters Patents, with the time of his being chosen Speaker.

*Sir Thomas Gargrave.* 1 *Eliz.*

Learned in the Lawes, and one of the Queens Council in the North: he made the four Requests, ever since and now usually made by most Speakers, as appears by his Oration.

First, for free access to the Queen.

Secondly, liberty of speech.

Thirdly, for priviledge from Arrests.

Fourth-

Fourthly, that his mistaking might not prejudice the House.

*Thomas Williams Esq.* 5 Eliz.

Learned in the Lawes.

*Richard Onslow Esq.* 8 Eliz.

The Queens Solicitor ; he was first chosen Member of the Commons House, and then being made Queens Solicitor had a writ to attend in the upper House , and upon the death of Mr. *Williams*, at the request of the Commons, was sent unto them , and they chose him their Speaker, but so, as the House was divided upon the question.

*Christopher Wray Esq.* 13 Eliz.

Learned in the Lawes, afterwards Lord Chief Justice of the Kings Bench.

*Robert Bell Esq.* 14 Eliz.

Learned in the Lawes, after made Ser-

Serjeant and Lord Chief Baron.

*John Popham Esq.* 23 Eliz.

Solicitor to the *Queen*, chosen in place of Sir *Robert Bell*, who was made Lord Chief Baron, and died also before this Session. Mr. *Popham* was afterwards made the *Queens* Attorney, and after Chief Justice of the Kings Bench, and one of the Privy Council; when he was chosen Speaker he was an Assistant in the Upper House, and lent for as Mr. *Ousloe* was.

Mr. Serjeant *Puckering* 27 Eliz.

Till twenty eight during two Sessions: afterwards made the *Queens* Serjeant and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

Mr. Serjeant *Snag.* 31 Eliz.

Afterward made *Queens* Serjeant.

*Edward Cook Esq.* 35 Eliz.

Solicitor general, afterward made  
L. *Queens*

Queens Attorney, and Knighted; Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, a Privy Councillor, and lastly made Lord Chief Justice of the Kings Bench.

Mr. Serjeant *Yelverton.* 39 *Eliz.*

Afterward made Queens Serjeant, and after that one of the Judges of the Kings Bench, and Knighted.

Mr. Serjeant *Crook.* 43 *Eliz.*

Recorder of *London*, afterwards made Serjeant to King *James*, and one of the Justices of the Kings Bench, and Knighted.

Mr. Serjeant *Phelips.* 1 *Iac.*

He was, during the time he was Speaker made Master of the Rolls, and yet sate as Speaker.

Sir *Ranulph Crew.* 12 *Iac.*

Serjeant at Law, afterwards made Kings Serjeant and Chief Justice of the Kings Bench. Sir

*Sir Thomas Richardson.* 18 *Iac.*

Serjeant at Law, afterwards made Kings Serjeant and Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and after Chief Justice of the Kings Bench.

*Sir Thomas Crew.* 21 *Iac.*

Serjeant at Law, afterwards made Kings Serjeant.

*Sir Thomas Crew.* 1 *Car. Reg.*

*Sir Heneage Finch.* 1 *Car. Reg.*

Recorder of *London*, Serjeant at Law.

*Sir John Finch.* 3. & 4. *Car.*

Queens Attorney, afterwards made one of the Kings Council at Law, then Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and lately Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

*John Glanville Esq.* 16 *Car.*

Ser.

Serjeant at Law, at the Parliament begun the 13. of *April* 1640. and was dissolved *May* 5 following; and so continued but twenty two days, afterwards he was made the Kings Serjeant.

*William Lenthall* Esq. 16 Car.

Learned in the Laws, one of the Benchers and Readers of *Lincolns-Inne* at the Parliament which begun *November* 3. 1640.

Sir ~~H. Little~~ *H. Little* Grimston Bar. 12 Car. 2

A Bencher of *Lincolns-Inn*, the publisher of *Sir George Crokes* Reports at the healing Parliament which began the 15 of *April* 1660. afterwards Master of the Rolls.

Sir *Edward Turner* Kt. 13 Car. 2

Learned in the Laws, a Bencher of the Middle Temple, at the Parliament begun *May* 8. 1661. afterwards His Majesties Solicitor Generall.