

Chapter 1 : Sir John Oldcastle - Wikipedia

*The life of Sir John Oldcastle, [Sir John Oldcastle.] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This book was digitized and reprinted from the collections of the University of California Libraries.*

Early life[edit] Oldcastle is first mentioned in two separate documents in , first as a plaintiff in a suit regarding the advowson of Almeley church, and again as serving as a knight under Lord Grey of Codnor in a military expedition to Scotland. In the convocation which met in March , shortly before the death of Henry IV , Oldcastle was at once accused of heresy. The matter was brought before the King, who desired that nothing should be done until he had tried his personal influence. Oldcastle declared his readiness to submit to the king "all his fortune in this world" but was firm in his religious beliefs. When Oldcastle fled from Windsor Castle to his own castle at Cowling , Henry at last consented to a prosecution. In a confession of his faith he declared his belief in the sacraments and the necessity of penance and true confession, but he would not assent to the orthodox doctrine of the sacrament as stated by the Bishops, nor admit the necessity of confession to a priest. He also said the veneration of images was "the great sin of idolatry ". On 25 September he was convicted as a heretic. King Henry V was still anxious to find a way of escape for his old comrade, and granted a respite of forty days. Before that time had expired, Oldcastle escaped from the Tower by the help of one William Fisher, a parchmentmaker of Smithfield. Oldcastle Revolt Oldcastle now put himself at the head of a widespread Lollard conspiracy, which assumed a definite political character. The plan was to seize the King and his brothers during a Twelfth-night mumming at Eltham , and establish some sort of commonwealth. Oldcastle was to be Regent, the king, nobility and clergy placed under restraint, and the abbeys dissolved and their riches shared out. Apparently he was privy to the Southampton Plot in July , when he stirred some movement in the Welsh Marches. Oldcastle was no doubt the instigator of the abortive Lollard plots of , and appears to have intrigued with the Scots also. The reward for his capture was awarded to Baron Cherleton, but he died before receiving it, though a portion was paid to his widow in It is not clear whether he was burnt alive. Literary portrayals[edit] His heretical opinions and early friendship with Henry V created a traditional scandal which long continued. Though the fat knight still remains "my old lad of the Castle", the stage character has nothing to do with the Lollard leader. The chief contemporary notices of his later career are given in *Gesta Henrici Quinti* Eng.

Chapter 2 : The Life of Sir John Oldcastle,

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Sir John Oldcastle is an Elizabethan play about John Oldcastle, a controversial 14thth century rebel and Lollard who was seen by some of Shakespeare's contemporaries as a proto-Protestant martyr.

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