

SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

Newsletter Summer 2004

NEW SOMERSET ARMS GRANTED

As foreshadowed in the last newsletter, Somerset County Council now has improved arms. The illustration below tells the story. On 17th November, Robin Bush, keen heraldist and Chairman of the County Council will give us the full story. See programme.



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS **Autumn 2004**

September, Saturday 11th: 2.00 pm Visit to Lytes Cary, a National Trust house, near the Podimore roundabout on the A303. This mediaeval house, with a great hall and a number of panelled rooms, is a joy. As for heraldry, the chapel has a frieze which includes most of the local gentry families of the period. There is also a number of armorials in the house. If you would like to meet for a meal at 12.30 pm, the Red Lion at Babcary, unlike another pub recently visited by the Society, is excellent. Honest Secretary's recommendation!

October, Wednesday 20th: 5.45 pm Annual Dinner with Stephen Slater, author of "The Complete Book of Heraldry", which was published last year, who will give a talk on a subject close to his heart, but as yet undisclosed. The venue will be the Bishop's Palace, Wells and we hope that this location will encourage a few of our brethren in Bath to join us. We shall be using the Panelled Room, on the first floor, which will give an intimate and comfortable atmosphere. The programme is:

5.45 pm A welcome drink (in all senses, perhaps)

6.15 pm Talk by Stephen Slater

7.45 pm Dinner to be served

We are charging £2 each for the talk, but are asking those who wish to attend the dinner to book and pay in advance. The cost of the full evening will be £18 per head, which will include the cost of the talk. This will therefore provide you with food, wine and entertainment.

November, Wednesday 17th: 8.00 pm Talk by Robin Bush, Chairman of the County Council, noted public speaker and a keen heraldist. He has piloted through the grant of compartment, supporters and crest to make Somerset the heraldic match of any county. He will talk about the grant and about other matters of more general heraldic interest. Please note the new later time. At the Grammar House, Langport.

SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

Officers

Chairman	Ronald Gadd, RD, MBE
Hon Secy	Alex Maxwell Findlater
Hon Treasurer	Anthony Bruce
Committee Member	David Hawkings

Subscription quoted for either ordinary or family members:

for 2004 £8/12 per annum,
for 2005 £10/15 .

Address for correspondence:

Objects The aims shall be to promote and encourage the study of heraldry especially in the historic county of Somerset.	The Grammar House, The Hill, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9PU Tel & Fax 01458 250868 email alex@findlater.org.uk
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IN THE TIME OF QUEEN DICK I

During a Norfolk Heraldry Society outing a few years ago I came across John Dent and the late Sir Richard Neville condemning the style of a small Victorian Royal Arms in one of the churches. The Lion and the Unicorn were, in the standard derogatory phrase, *peeping coyly round the shield*: but the detail of the shallow carving was beautifully done, it was possible to read innocent and mischievous pride into the tiny faces, and I found the animals, though indeed heraldically appalling, totally appealing.

I tried to explain to my two severe critics that I had fallen in love with those insupportable supporters just as I might succumb to a puppy or a teddybear; heraldry had nothing to do with it. But John regarded me disapprovingly, while Sir Richard, though polite as a gentleman should be, couldn't help looking at me as though I had two heads.

But while I have always been a serious armorist, deploring unsound heraldry as much as they, I have also, over the years, picked up an awful lot of picturesque heraldic dross. I could dismiss it with a sniff of contempt; but I feel I would be the poorer. That entrancing Lion and Unicorn are visual examples; verbal examples include the numerous 'explanations' associated with armorial bearings. These I treasure, and believe unquestioningly - with my second head!

So here I beg to offer you some of my favourites; you may entertain no doubt that they all really happened, *In the time of Queen Dick*! Like the story of . . .

TYRWHITT OF NORTHUMBERLAND

Among the younger sons who followed the Conqueror to England was one who refused to give any name, saying that he had no past, since all its honours belonged to his father and elder brother; and that he would make a future for himself. His fellows, because of his size and strength, called him simply 'Hercules'.

At Hastings Hercules fought so well that William knighted him, and promised him lands of his own. Then, looking at his great size and listening to the valorous promises still being made, the Duke turned crafty - his new knight could accept modest acres in the south, or a great estate in the still rebellious north. The latter would give him immense wealth and prestige; but only if he could hold it, if he could survive.

Hercules took up the challenge. "And somewhere in the north" he said, "I will find my name."

The new Norman order was not popular, and beyond the Humber the land was often in flames. But Hercules proved to be more than just a good soldier. For a long time no trouble came his way that he couldn't handle, and for a long time after that no trouble at all. He won the surly loyalty of his people, who appreciated the peace he made and forced them to keep; and he began to dream of marriage, and sons to inherit.

"But how can I?" he thought. "I still have no name."

Then one day, confidently riding his home acres alone but for his page, he fell foul of

a vagrant band of rebels, ripe for mischief. Swiftly Hercules bade the page ford the nearby beck, no easy matter with the waters high and savage after the spring rains, and ride for help; while he attempted to hold the raiders at the bank.

The page's return with his master's steward and twenty stout men-at-arms put the rebels to flight; but they had already started across the stream, and of Sir Hercules there was no sign. With little hope, his men began to seek their lord.

"And but for a miracle we would never have found you, sir", his steward told him afterwards. "At least, not in time. You'd fetched up hidden in the rushes half a mile downstream, unconscious, half-drowned, and bleeding from a dozen wounds. Another few minutes would have been too late."

"But the lapwings led you to me?"

"Three of them - tyrwhitts we call them in these parts - wheeling and crying above you, with the westerling sun golden on their wings. They saved you. As I said, a miracle!"

Sir Hercules smiled. Pale and painfully weak from loss of blood, he was in no state to judge if the birds were indeed heaven-sent, or just reacting as birds will to an intruder too near the nest. But if no miracle, at least a debt; and one he would gladly acknowledge.

"I think", he said, "it is time I took a wife."

And the sons of that wife, and of Sir Hercules Tyrwhitt of Northumberland, bear *gules, three tyrwhitts or*, to this very day.

Many thanks to Cynthi for permission to publish. © C. M. E. Lydiard Cannings 2004

CHOICE WINE, CHOICE LABEL

The other day I was entertaining an old friend, so I went into the coal-hole which I have converted into a wine-cellar, to look for something excellent. My eye lighted on a half bottle of Riesling from the famous 1976 vintage in the Rheingau. From the estate of the Langwerth von Simmern family, it was an Auslese short blue capsule from the Hattenheimer Mannberg vineyard. Langwerth, in common with many other aristocratic estates, make their self imposed distinction between their different quality grades by using the capsule to distinguish; thus a long capsule is better than a short, a gold capsule better than a blue, not perhaps dissimilar to the Stodart cadency system. These distinctions are not recognised by the German wine law, but they certainly are by connoisseurs.

I can report that the wine was delicious, full intense and rich, without any hint of decay, despite nearly 30 years in bottle. The balance was extra-ordinary, especially for the 1976 vintage, when the wines tended to be a little over-rich in sugar and light on acidity. But this was no Dolly Parton and the finish was long, fine and complete. I have to own that I regard a fine Riesling, whether sweet or dry, as an excellent aperitif and one of nature's greatest pleasures.

However, this is an heraldic publication, so to turn to the label, which I have been told was designed by the daughter of the famous Baron Munchausen and on which are shown the arms of the owner, the Freiherr Langwerth von Simmern. Freiherr is the German rank equivalent to baron. The Langwerths were ancient nobles from Hanover in the north of Germany, where they still have property. The history of the family in the Rheingau dates back to the year 1464, when Johann Langwerth von Simmern received 32 2/3 Morgen (approx. 25 acres; Morgen means an acre and refers to the fact that a German ploughman would plough his acre before having his meal, thus in the morning) of "Hattenheimer Mannberg" for his services as chancellor to Duke Ludwig von Pfalz-Zweibrücken. In 1472, after the acquisition of Castle Hattenheim, the family finally made the Rheingau their home. After buying Stockheimer Hof in 1711, the family moved to Eltville, the cultural centre of the Rheingau.

The arms are very simple, *Sable a fleur-de-lys Or, a label of three points Argent*. There are few arms which comprise just the one charge of the fleur-de-lys, none in Scotland, in England Digby of Sherborne Castle, *Azure a fleur-de-lys*



Argent, and Portman, an old Somerset family, *Or a fleur-de-lys Azure*, spring to mind. It is even rarer to see a label used as a permanent charge, as here. It is interesting that the shield has been hung from its guige the reverse way and that the helm faces to the sinister. It may be a simple mistake, or perhaps it is based on an old armorial on the estate in this form; certainly the form of the helm is quite antique.

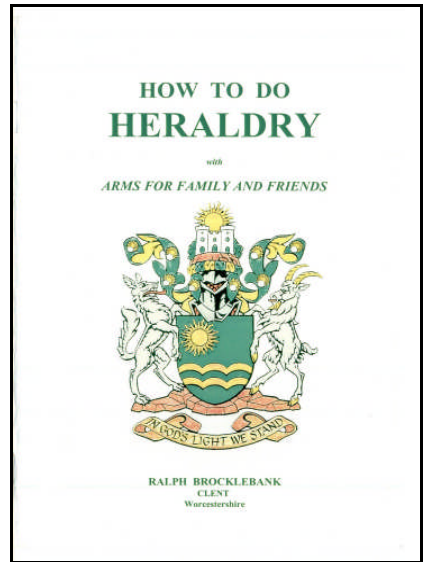
I hope that members will forgive my glowing prose describing the wine, but you can appreciate the label yourselves, but have inevitably missed on the joy within. Of course should any of you wish to visit me at home, you might find some other but equal nectar in your glass. That was my last bottle of this wine!

Alex Maxwell Findlater

HOW TO DO HERALDRY

by Ralph Brocklebank

Ralph Brocklebank has been an active member of the heraldic community for many years and indeed is also a member of the Society, as one would expect of any self-respecting enthusiast. He has written a short and well-presented booklet, the first half of which introduces heraldry in its historic and its artistic guises, but emphatically does not treat it as a grammatical subject in the style of Fox-Davies. He has a section on obtaining a lawful coat of arms, either by proving descent or by petitioning. He writes of the design of the arms, and finally comes to their use, where he has some sound suggestions and advice.



The second half of the book illustrates these themes, by drawing on his experience in designing and taking arms for friends through the petitioning process. He deals first with the Brocklebank arms, which readers may have admired already, introducing a number of renditions in various styles, including some older examples. Having completed his own armorials, he explains, "I had to turn elsewhere to satisfy my urge toward heraldic design." So he helped his old school in Canada, before the advent of a Canadian Chief Herald, to petition the College of Arms. Fortified and emboldened by this experience, he designed the arms on the cover of the booklet, for the Sunfield Children's Homes, of which he was then Principal. His design for the school was accepted without change by John Brooke-Little, then Norroy, who was his agent. He also managed to obtain supporters, not normally granted to a school, by his persuasive gift. Further arms are illustrated and discussed and this gives a good idea of the way in which arms work in practice and provides a fascinating journey through heraldic design.

The booklet (26 pages) is available from the author (Orland, Clint, Worcestershire, DY9 9QS) for the remarkably reasonable sum of £3, including postage.

From *The London Gazette* No 1196, Thursday, May 3 to Monday, May 7, 1677

Advertisement

There is Newly Published a Set of Armorial Cards, comprising in a methodical Method the whole Body of Heraldry, with Rules sufficient to instruct any Gentleman in the knowledge of the said Art, and the Blazoning of any Coat of Arms usually born. The Price 12d. And if Illustrated in Colours, 10s. a pair. Sold by Mr *Henry Brome* Bookseller at the *Gun* by the West End of St. Pauls, and by other Booksellers.

another snippet for the magazine from Adrian Webb

A TAUNTON HERALD PAINTER'S WILL

Francis Fisher of Taunton St James, herald painter 19 Jan. 1690/1...to be decently buried - unto my son James Fisher £20 - unto my sayd son James Fisher all my wearing apparrell both linnen & woollen & all my Books in which my own name is written & all the things and Implements belonging to my trade {Residue} unto my loving wife Dorothie Fisher Witnesses Thomas Standard, Nathaniell Dyer, George Wyatt, {No date of probate} *For this interesting note, many thanks to Adrian Webb*



The Halswell tomb in Goathurst Church, compare with the Phelips tomb on page 10

DIRECTIONS: THE GRAMMAR HOUSE, THE HILL, LANGPORT

Coming from Taunton: after the town square, when the road does a sharp left turn, go straight ahead up the Hill.

Coming from the East or the North: come into Langport and after Tesco, LOOK OUT. At a sharp right-hand corner, turn left round the Post Office, up the Hill.

Both: Park; walk back down until you come to the first house on the left (coming down) on the incline of the hill. Go down the alley next to the house and knock!



This page: the façade of Montacute House, peopled by members of the Society, by special request. Note the nine worthies on the second and third levels, three from the bible, Joshua, David and Judas Maccabaeus, three from classical antiquity, Hector, Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar, and three from the middle ages, King Arthur, Charlemagne and Godfrey de Bouillon.

SURVEY OF ACTIVITIES This spring and summer we have visited a number of interesting sites, including Hinton St George, Montacute, also an evening visit to West Bagborough and Goathurst, which was lead by Dr Peter Roe and which ended with an excellent meal in the Tynte Arms in Enmore. We had also enjoyed Ron Gadd's lecture on Heraldry in Peerage cases and the viewing of the film "A Knight's Tale" after the AGM. Finally, our last event was meant to be a Treasure Hunt, but because the clues would not make themselves convenient, we ended up with a sort of quiz, based on a number of churches in the Bishop's Lydeard area. We checked out Halse, Ash Priors, Combe Florey, Cothelstone and Lydeard itself. The best



church was perhaps Cothelstone, with the four wonderful Stawell monuments, two of which are chest tombs with recumbent figures on top. At Lydeard, after a rather more than indifferent lunch, we had to wait for the end of a wedding, but were able as compensation to listen to Vivaldi's "Nulla in mundo pax sincera", made so famous by Christopher Hogwood and Emma Kirkby. It was worth waiting just to listen to that and to admire the finery of the society wedding which it graced.

Left: a stained glass armorial from Montacute House, arms of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, showing sixteen quarterings, not all of which would seem to be legitimately adopted. Still, it's a fine show!



Phelips monuments in the Phelips Aisle in Montacute Church: in foreground recumbent figures from the earlier 16th century, at rear tomb of Thomas Phelips and his wife Elizabeth Smith of Long Ashton , parents of Sir Edward Phelips, builder of Montacute House.

Opposite, monuments in Hinton Church to Sir Amyas Paulet and his son Sir Anthony, who erected them. Many thanks to Anthony Bruce for the wonderful photographs.

GRANT OF ARMS TO ROLAND SYMONS

The arms are illustrated on the back page. Just over a year after Roland Godolphin Symons was granted his arms on 23rd June 2003, we are showing them to you. Given the timescale upon which heraldry works, you might well argue this was unreasonably quickly.

The blazon is: for Arms, *Or, a pall engrailed moline Azure*, for Crest, *an heraldic dolphin uriant crowned with a crown rayonny Or*. The composition is an elaborate cant, the inverted pall makes a capital Y, which is the magic letter referred to in the motto; thus the coat answers the implied question in its own motto. The crest is a dolphin, for his second name, and is *uriant*, which means diving, thus creating an S, for Symons, with a Y of course. The dolphin is crowned, as you would expect, because it is a Godolphin.

Roland is a well-known and long-standing member of the heraldic community, having served the Bath Heraldry Society for many years, recently as their Chairman and now as Vice-Chair. He is also Hon Secretary of the White Lion Society. He is himself a distinguished heraldic artist and most readers will know his series of postcards with collections of arms, Garter Kings of Arms, Clarenceux and Norroy, Lords Lyon and many others, most recently all the British Dukes.

The Herald's Office and the Great Fire of London

The following advertisement (which needs little introduction) appears in the *London Gazette* no. 130 11-14 February 1666.

We are ordered to give notice,

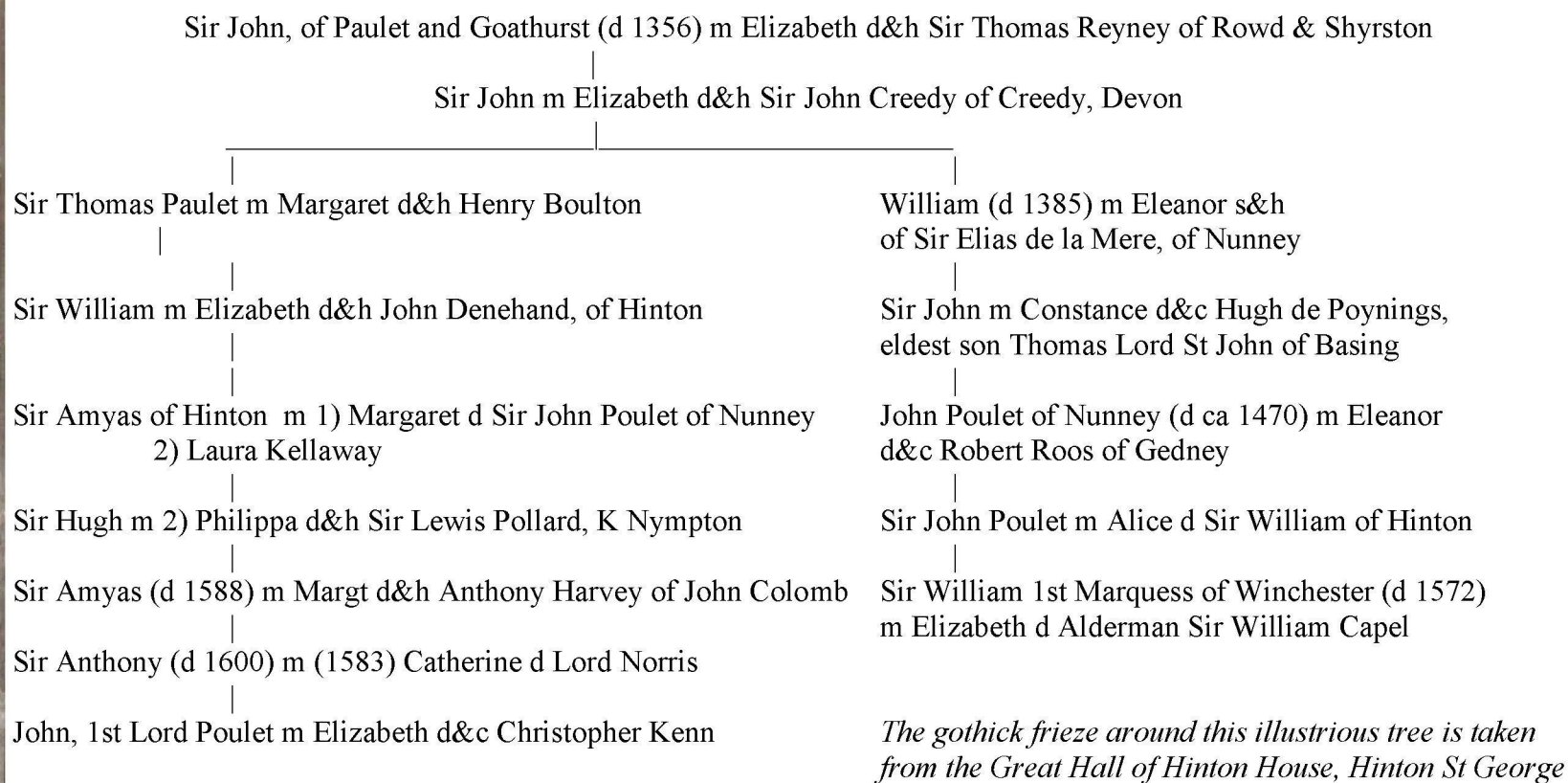
That although the Heralds Office, wherein the Descents and Arms of the Nobility and Gentry of England were formerly preserved, hath been burnt by the late dreadful Fire in London; yet the Books and Records therein kept were happily saved, and are now placed by the Kings especial Appointment, in those Rooms neer Westminster-Hall, called the Queens Court, at the lower end of the Court of Requests, where all Persons that are concerned in matters of Honour, Arms, or Descents, may repair, and receive due satisfaction, and free themselves from the Practises and Abuses of such Painter-Stainers, who calling themselves Herald-Painters, do take upon them to direct the Marshalling of Funerals, give out Coats of Arms, and make Pedigrees, that are of no Credit or Authority.

Found by Adrian Webb



JOKE The former British Attorney General, Sir Frederick Pollack, was obliged to apply to the College of Arms for a grant of arms but refused to do so on account of the fees. His reply to the request was: "You tell the Garter King-at-Arms with my compliments that he may go to the Devil sable in flames gules with a pitch-fork ardent (sic) in his backside proper." Of Scottish descent, Sir Frederick obtained a grant from the Lord Lyon at a much lower cost.

Simplified pedigree of Poulet



PAULET MEMORIALS IN SOMERSET & HAMPSHIRE

Hinton St George. In the Paulet Chapel are tombs & effigies of:-

Amyas Paulet, the elder, & his second wife Laura Kellaway

Hugh, his son, and

Amyas Paulet, the younger, son of Hugh.

In the lower floor archive room in Hinton House, there was a pedigree which showed the family back to Hercules of Tournon in Picardy, who was granted the manor of Paulett, and they took their name from it. Pawlett is a few miles North of Bridgwater.



Tomb of the eighth Earl Poulet

Nunney. William Paulet, 2nd son of Sir John Paulet of Paulet and Goathurst, married Eleanor sister and heiress of Sir Elias de la Mere of Nunney. He died on 8th August 1435 and their descendants became Marquesses of Winchester. The church contained three tombs with five effigies, but no information on them. One however does have arms which incorporated the Paulet three swords in pale.

Old Basing. On either side of the chancel are two arches, each containing a plain tomb, on each of which was a small card showing details of the occupants. Starting on the North side, & from West to East there were:-

Sir John Paulet KB & his wife Alice, c 1519

Sir John Paulet & his wife Eleanor, c 1488
while on the South side were:-

John Paulet, 2nd Marquess of Winchester, 1576

Sir William Paulet KG, 1st Marquess of Winchester, & his wife Elizabeth, c1572

The latter could also be seen from the Bolton (or South) Chapel, & on the opposite wall of this chapel were two hatchments. The one to the East showed only the Paulet arms of “sable, three swords in pale argent hilted or”, with the motto “In coelo quies”, while the other showed these arms on each side, the one on the sinister side having a gold border, with the motto “Ayez loyaulte”. This would appear to relate to Sir John Paulet & Alice who was his cousin (see below).

On the south wall of this chapel is a brass plate recording the names of later members of the Paulet family buried in the vault beneath the chapel.

The curator at the site of Basing House told me that he had a pedigree of the Paulets which claimed descent from Charlemagne.

The following notes were made several years ago, mainly from the History of the Paulets of

Basing, in Taunton Record Office & from the Dictionary of National Biography. They throw some light on the relationship of the above.

Sir John Paulet, married Eleanor Roos in 1458,

Sir John Paulet, son of John & Eleanor married his cousin Alice, daughter of Sir William Paulet the 1st holder of Hinton St George, in childhood.

Dorothy, sister of John, married Sir Maurice A'barrow of N Charford, Hants c1458. She died 1531.

Margaret, also sister of John, married her cousin Amyas, son of Sir William Paulet of Hinton.

Sir William Paulet (1485? – 1572). Eldest son of Sir John Paulet of Basing & Alice, his wife. He was the head of a younger branch of this ancient family, becoming 1st Marquess of Winchester on 11th October 1551. 1st wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Capel, (4 sons & 4 daughters), 2nd wife Winifred, daughter of Sir William Bruges, widow of Sir Richard Sackville (no issue), 3rd wife Elizabeth Seymour, sister of Jane (3rd wife of Henry VIII) & widow of 1) Sir Anthony Oughtred & 2) Gregory Cromwell. William's great-grandfather acquired the Hampshire estates by his marriage to Constance, grand-daughter of Thomas Poynings, Baron St John of Basing.

Sir John Paulet, 2nd Marquess of Winchester (d 1576) married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Robert, 2nd Lord Willoughby de Broke.

Turning to the senior line, of Paulet and later of Hinton, Sir Amyas Paulet, (d 1538) son of Sir William Paulet of Hinton St George, married 1) his cousin Margaret 2) Laura Kellaway

Sir Hugh Paulet, son of Amyas by his 2nd wife.

Sir Amyas Paulet, (1536? – 1588), son of Hugh by his 1st wife. Jailer to Mary Queen of Scots & later Governor of Jersey.

Gordon Sharp

Monument to John Lord Paulet in Hinton St George Church, originally in St Martin in the Fields



GRANT OF ARMS TO ROLAND SYMONS see page 10

