

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

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Editorial

Our most recent visit was to Powderham Castle, seat of the Earls of Devon, on the 15th July. It was preceded by an hour at nearby Kenton Church. A brief account of the Earldom appears on p. 10 of this issue and it is hoped that a discussion of the heraldry and, in particular, the family's use of the label, will appear in a future number.

Kenton Church provided us with a superb rood screen, some interesting heraldic memorial tablets and three hatchments. Our illustration shows one of them. The arms are those of Swete impaling Beaumont. Thanks go to Philip Hickman, who introduced us to the delights of both church and castle.



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ARMIGEROUS OWNERS OF THE MANOR OF DYRHAM

C.1250 – 1571

ANTHONY T J RYAN

When in 1086 at a gathering of his knights on Old Sarum, King William I received copies of the Domesday Book, he was being given the title deeds to his kingdom. His tenants-in-chief now had obligations to the monarch commensurate with the land they held.

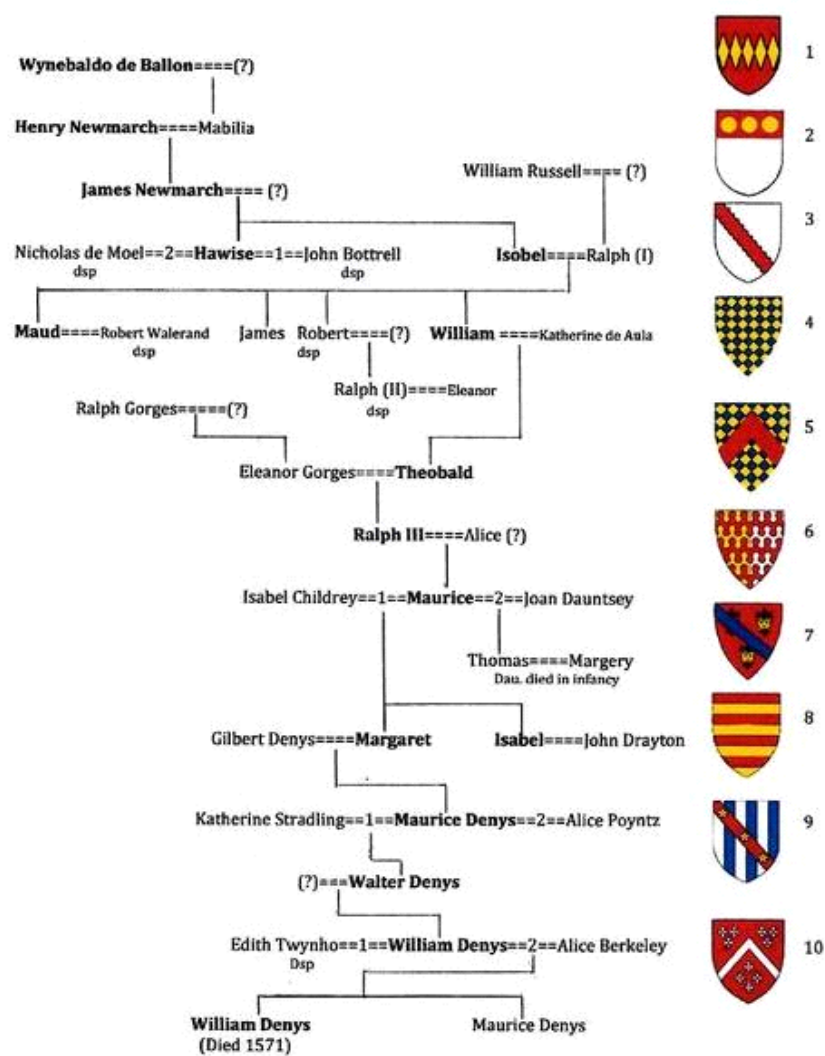
The Domesday Book records William Fitwildo holding 7 hides (approx. 840 acres) at Dyrham in Gloucestershire.

About 1088 the manor was held by Wynebald de Ballon. His daughter, Mabilia, married Henry de Newmarch. As Henry acquired extensive lands in North Cadbury, Somerset, he was raised to baronial rank.

Their only son, James, died leaving two infant daughters: Isabel and Hawise. Henry III granted Sir William Russell of Kingston Russell, Dorset, the marriage rights of both these daughters with the condition that, the moiety of the Dyrham estate should go to their husbands. An effective way of reducing the powers of tenants-in-chief.

The Russell Family acquire the Dyrham estate

Shrewdly, Sir William married Isabel to his son eldest Ralph (I) (born 1204). Hawise's portion passed to her first husband, Sir John Moels.



The names in **BOLD** held the Manor of Dyrham either in their own right or as co-heiresses.
 1. Newmarch 2. Russell 3. Walerand 4. Gorges 5. Gorges (mod) 6. Dauntsey 7. Denys 8. Poyntz
 9. Stradling 10. Berkeley

Isabel's and Ralph's daughter, Maud/Matilda married Robert Walerland (+1270) – Henry III' Justiciar – Dyrham being her dowry. On Robert's death, without issue, the estate reverted to her deceased father, Ralph (I), who had three sons: James, Robert and William.

In the legal document, known as the Close Rolls dated 4th May 1273, the escheator - responsible for the disposal of manorial lands reverted to the monarch – mistakenly recorded, that the Dyrham estate was held by Walerland in his own right.

Of Ralph's three sons: James died without issue. Robert had a son Ralph II, who died (1303) aged 18, though not before marrying a certain Eleanor, there were no children of the marriage. Thus William, the youngest son, inherited Dyrham.

Sir William Russell (1257-1311)

William was the most outstanding member of this branch of the Russell family.

He found favour with King Edward I, being appointed Constable of Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight. By his marriage to Katherine de Aula, daughter of Thomas de Aula, William, on the death of his father-in-law, succeeded to the wealthy lordship of Yalerland.

Summoned by the king on his expeditions to hammer the Scots, William was present at the Battle of Falkirk in 1298 when William Wallace was defeated. He was also at the Siege of Caerlaverock, 1300. On both occasions his name and arms appear on the great armorial rolls prepared by the heralds.

On his death in 1311, Sir William was succeeded by his son, the seven year old Theobald (I) Russell.

Sir Theobald (I) Russell (1304 – 1349).

Like his father, Theobald (I) remained at the family seat on the Isle of Wight. He sub-enfeoffed the Dyrham estate to a Roger de Cantock of Bristol. “Cantock’s Close” in Bristol is now occupied by buildings of the University.

He married Eleanor Gorges the second daughter of the 1st Baron Gorges by whom he had two sons, Ralph (III) and Theobald (II). Theobald (I), following the decision of a Court of Honour held at Calais in 1347, adopted the Gorges arms modern, on the death of his father-in-law.

His younger son Theobald (II) changed his name to Russell-Gorges on inheriting the bulk of the Gorges lands, including Wraxall, from his uncle, Ralph, the 2nd Baron Gorges who died without issue in 1330/1.

Sir Theobald (I) died in 1349 leading a local force against a French invasion on the island.

His heir, Sir Ralph (III) Russell (+ 1375) married Alice (parentage not recorded) and they had one son, Maurice

Sir Maurice Russell (1356 – 1416).

Before his death Sir Ralph (III) gave the manor of Dyrham to his son Sir Maurice on his marriage to his first wife, Isabel Childrey (+1410) . The couple settled at Dyrham. The first of the Russell family to reside on the estate. Their funerary brass can still be seen in St. Peter’s Church, adjacent to the manor house. The Childrey and Russell arms are depicted in the spandrels of the gothic style tabernacles enclosing the figures.

In the marriage settlement of Sir Maurice's first marriage, the manor of Dyrham and other manors were entailed to their progeny, Margaret and Isabel.

By his second marriage to Joan Daunstey, Sir Maurice had a son, Thomas, who died aged about 18 in 1432, 16 years after his father's death. While still a Royal ward he had been found a wife, Margery by whom he had a daughter. Her death in infancy, extinguished the male Russell of Dyrham and Russell Kingston lines.

Dyrham and all Maurice's estates being entailed on his daughters, Margaret and Isabel, now coheirs of all the Russell manorial lands.

Isabel and her husband, Sir John Drayton of Nuneham Courtenay, Oxfordshire, sold their moiety of her father's estate to Margaret and her husband Sir Gilbert Denys of Siston (+1422). The Dyrham and Russell Kingston estates now passed to the Denys family, which held Kingston Russell until 1543 and Dyrham until 1571.

Sir William Denys (1470 – 1533)

William was the first member of the Denys family who forsook his ancestral manor of Siston to reside at Dyrham. He was the son of Sir Walter Denys (+ 1505), who is depicted on the Denys monumental brass in the Church at Olveston.

Sir Walter was the grandson of Margaret Russell and Sir Gilbert Denys, from the marriage of their only son Maurice to Katherine Stradling.

In 1511, the new King, Henry VIII, appointed William as an Esquire of the Body. Probably at the same time as granting him the Royal licence to enclose *500 acres of Dyrham with exclusive hunting rights. This charter with Henry's Great Seal, now framed, can be seen today beneath the main staircase of Dyrham Park. Interestingly, the witnesses who signed the charter at the Palace of Westminster were among 'the great and the good' of Henry's early reign.

In 1520, Sir William was one of the seven Gloucestershire knights, among the 100 nobles, who attended Henry VIII at the Field of The Cloth of Gold.

William married twice. His first marriage, in about 1482, was to Edith Twynyho daughter of John Twynyho, a wealthy cloth merchant of Cirencester and MP for Bristol. There were no children from the marriage. William's second wife was Anne Berkeley, daughter of Maurice Berkeley the 3rd *de jure* Baron Berkeley. An alliance greatly improving William's standing in the county. They had two sons: Walter and Maurice.

From Denys to Wynter

Shortly before his death in 1571 Sir Walter was forced to sell the Dyrham estate to the Wynter family. This was to pay off debts incurred by Maurice's speculation in the purchase of monastic lands following the Dissolution of the Monasteries and in developing Siston Court.

*The present size of the parkland is c. 275 acres.

The Russell's Marriage Alliances

1



(1) Newmarch: In the reign of Edward III rolls of arms record the Newmarch arms as: *Gules five fusils conjoined in fess or.*

2



(2) Russell: The arms of the Russells of Kingston Russell are recorded in the reign of Henry III as: *Argent on a chief gules three bezants.*

(3) Russell: The ducal family erroneously claimed descent from the Russells of Kingston Russell. From the 15th century they adopted the arms: *Argent a lion rampant gules on a chief sable three escallops of the first.*

(4) Gorges: The original arms of the Gorges family were: *Argent a gorges (whirlpool) azure.*

(5) The 1st Baron Gorges adopted the arms of de Moville in lieu of his ancestral arms (above): *Lozengy or and azure.* In 1347 these arms were contested before a court of honour in Calais as being properly the arms of Warbleton.

(6) Gorges modern: Arms adopted by Sir Theobald Russell in 1347: *Lozengy or and azure a chevron gules.*

(7) Childrey: The Childrey arms impaled with the Russell arms are seen on the funerary brass of Sir Maurice Russell, Dyrham Church
Quarterly, 1st and 4th. on a bend a ribbon wavy, 2nd and 3rd. three concentric annulets.

9



(8) Dauntsey: In the time of Richard II the Dauntsey arms were: *Per pale or and argent three bars undy.*

The Denys's Marriage Alliances

(9) Denys: The 3 leopard faces or jessant-de-lys were the arms of the Cantelope family of Candleston, Glamorganshire. They were granted to the Denys family probably as a feudal "arms of patronage" to a tenant.



3



4



5



6



7



8

(10) The Cantelope arms, with the leopard faces reversed were adopted by the dioceses of Hereford in honour of their Bishop St. Thomas Cantelope, canonised in 1320



10

In or about 1258 the Glamorganshire branch of the family differenced their arms with a *bend engrailed and fleur-de-lys azure*.

In the introduction to his book "*Introductio ad Latinam Blasonium*", John Gibbon quotes the Denys arms as an exception to the heraldic law '*a colour must not be placed on a colour*'

(11) The Denys family was probably of Danish origin. An important branch in Somerset used the arms: *Azure, three Danish axes or*.



11

(12) The arms of a Hugh Poyntz are recorded in the rolls at the Battle of Falkirk (1298) and the Siege of Caerlaverock (1300): *A barry of eight or and gules*.

(13) The Stadling family were closely related to the Grandisons. In the time of Edward I their arms are recorded as: *A paly of six argent and azure on a bend gules three cinquefoils pierced or*.



12



13

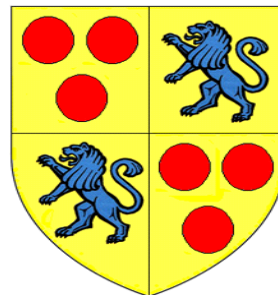


14

(14) The arms of Thomas Berkeley carved on the effigy on his tomb in Bristol Cathedral (1243): *Gules a chevron argent between ten crosses patée six in chief four in base*.



Arms of William Courtenay, 1st Earl of Devon (1475–1511): Quarterly 1st & 4th, Courtenay; 2nd & 3rd Redvers, as sculpted on south porch of St Peter's Church, Tiverton, Devon, impaling the arms of King Edward IV, the father of his wife Princess Katherine

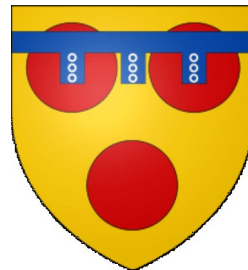


THE EARLDOM OF DEVON

Originally of French origin, the Courtenays came to England in 1152 and were granted honours in Devon by King Henry II. By marriage and inheritance they acquired considerable estates and eventually inherited the Earldom of Devon from cousins, the De Redvers, who died out in 1293.

The senior branch of the family died out in 1471 when the then earl (the 8th) was killed at the Battle of Tewkesbury. His cousin was created Earl of Devon by King Henry VII in 1485 but the four earls of this next creation lived a chequered existence. The second was imprisoned in the Tower of London and attainted in 1504. He was released and restored by King Henry VIII in 1511. The third was created Marquess of Exeter in 1525 but was attainted and beheaded in 1539. His son Edward aged 12 was imprisoned in the Tower but was released by Queen Mary and created Earl of Devon in 1553. He died unmarried at Padua three years later.

The extinction of the junior branch of the senior line of the Courtenays did not, however, mean the end of the earldom for in 1831 William 3rd Viscount Courtenay of Powderham, head of a cadet branch of the family, claimed the title. The claim was allowed because of the rather unusual wording of the Letters Patent of 1553. Instead of the new creation being in favour of Edward Courtenay and the 'heirs male of his body', it read 'heirs male' only. Viscount Courtenay thus became the 9th earl of the 1553 creation



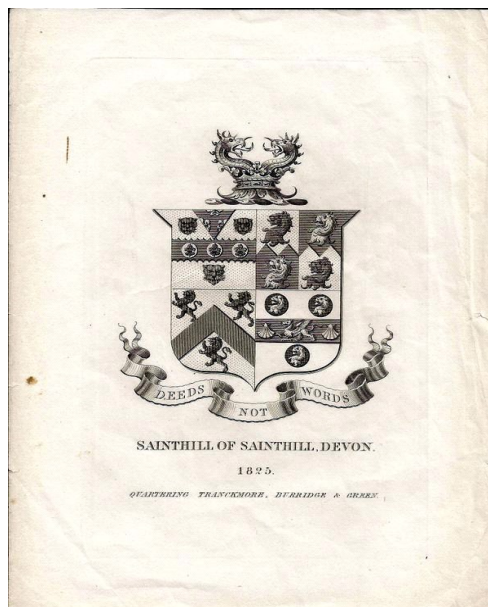
Arms of the later Earls of Devon, with the label azure further differenced by annulets or plates



Arms of Henry Courtenay, 10th Earl of Devon, KG: Quarterly, 1: Royal arms of England (for his father-in-law King Edward IV), within a bordure counter-changed; 2 & 3: Courtenay; 4: Redvers. These arms are seen (with faded azure tincture) on his mantle in the procession of Garter Knights in the Black Book of the Garter, c.1535, Royal Collection, Windsor Castle and are reproduced as an engraving in the 1724 transcript of it entitled "The Register of the Most Noble Order of the Garter" by the herald John Anstis.

EX LIBRIS

For this number's Ex Libris we stray across the border into Devonshire whence this rather splendid bookplate had its home. According to Burke's General Armory, the Sainthills of Topsham were 'descended from Edward Sainthill Esq., of Rockbere co. Devon, second son of Richard St Hill, in the same shire, and



younger brother of Peter St Hill, who settled at Bradninch; this branch was resident at Topsham for several generations. Richard Sainthill, Esq., Commander Royal Navy, baptised at Topsham, 2 Aug. 1789, d. at Valebrook, near Cork, in 1829, leaving four sons: Richard; Alfred, Lieutenant R. N.; George Augustus, Commander R. N.; and John. Same arms, &c., quartering Tranckmore, BurrIDGE and Green.' Given the date of 1825 on our bookplate, Richard, the naval commander, was clearly its proud possessor. For those wishing to hone their blazoning skills the Burke version will appear in our next!

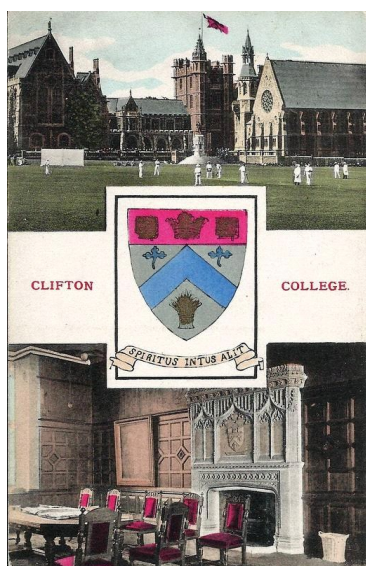
The arms of Trinity College, Cambridge.
*Argent a chevron between three roses
 gules barbed and seeded proper and on a
 chief gules a lion passant gardant between
 two closed books all or.*



NOTES & QUERIES

Richard Jones points out that the quarterings on the arms of the Duke of Buckingham as depicted in Fig. 3 on p. 7 of issue no. 27 come from the Manners family. The duke married Katherine Manners, daughter of the Earl of Rutland, in 1620. The arms in Fig. 2 are also to be seen on the duke's memorial in Portsmouth Cathedral. Portsmouth, of course, was where the duke met his end at the hands of John Felton in 1628. Finally, he suggests that the confusion over the Gamul arms, as discussed on p. 8, could have arisen because someone has mistaken mullets for mallets.

THE HERALDRY OF EDWARDIAN SOMERSET 6. CLIFTON COLLEGE



No we are not in Somerset, but one must not be pedantic? The shield that appears on this postcard, which was produced for the Clifton Down Hotel, contains the arms of Clifton College. The college was founded in 1862 and initially used the arms of the Diocese of Bristol quartered with a trefoil, apparently an allusion to the Clifton family, Elizabethan owners of Barrington Court (definitely Somerset!). In 1894 matters were regularised and the college was granted its

own arms. Retaining the trefoil (symbol of the Holy Trinity) as a guide, its new arms are based heavily on those of Trinity College, Cambridge in terms of the tinctures and positions of the charges. The blazon would appear to be *argent a chevron between in chief two trefoils azure and in base a garb or and on a chief gules a crown between two closed books all or*.

THE WESTERN QUANTOCKS

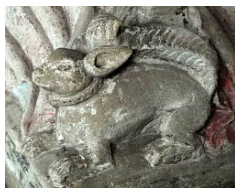
CROWCOMBE, COTHELSTONE & BISHOPS LIDEARD



An excellent day's heraldry under the inspired leadership of Gale Glynn was enjoyed by members of the society on Saturday 28th June. The day started at Crowcombe Church where we were faced with a superb series of hatchments of the Carew family, who held the nearby manor house alongside much other property in the West Country. We were also treated to some delightful anecdotes from Anthony Trollope-Bellew, a member of the family, who kindly opened up the Carew Aisle for us.

Other items to catch the eye included a magnificent heraldic stained glass window in the Carew Aisle and some Tudor bench ends in the nave, which contained excellent shields of arms.,





After lunch at the appropriately named Carew Arms it was on to the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury at Cothelstone, where the chest tomb of Sir Matthew de Stawell and his wife Eleanor was of particular interest. Recently restored shields of arms were a feature as were the squirrels upon which Lady Stawell rested her feet.



Next on the agenda was St Mary the Virgin, Bishops Lydeard where, amongst other treasures, we were introduced to another fine series of bench ends, not to mention a superb screen and a fine hatchment (Lethbridge). All in all a splendid day in a beautiful part of the country and many thanks to Gale for organising our visit.

THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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Contributions welcome

Objects

The aims of the society are to promote and encourage the study of heraldry especially in the historic county of Somerset.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

28th Oct. (Tues.) Annual Dinner at The Bow Wharf, Langport.
6.30pm for 7.00pm. Speaker Anthony T. J. Ryan.
Subject: *Burgundy: More than a Vintage*.
22nd Nov. (Sat.) Meeting. Speaker Ronald Gadd.
Subject: *Do We Need Esquires?*
Meetings take place at Monteclefe Cottage, Somerton. 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch, followed by 2.00 pm meeting. Finish by 3.30 pm.