

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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Editorial

If any reader has a memorable heraldic experience this summer we would love to hear from you. Articles in our *Heraldry to Write Home About* series would be particularly appreciated. Stocks of lead articles are rather low at the present moment and we need at least one for each journal. Now is your chance to set pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard. We await contributions with anticipation. Have an armorially inspired holiday and don't forget to keep the date of the Annual Dinner free.

This rather splendid achievement belonged to John Moss of the City of Wells and is blazoned *Quarterly 1 & 4 Ermine a cross pattee sable pierced of the field, 2 Argent three mullets gules, a bordure engrailed of the last, 3 Argent three leopards' faces jessant de lys gules. Crest—Out of a mural coronet or a griffin's head ermine charged on the neck with a cross pattee as in the arms.* It is the work of James Harris, herald painter of Bath, and dates from 1770. See pp. 2-8



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AN UNOFFICIAL VISITATION BY STEPHEN TUDSBERY-TURNER

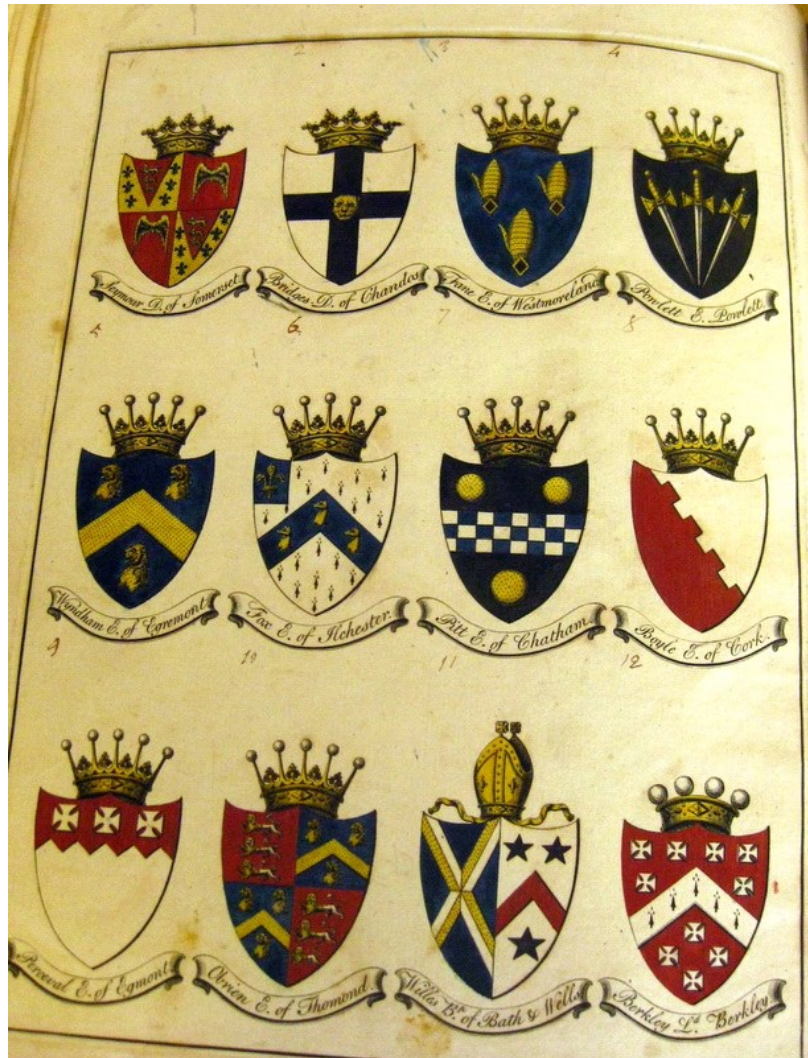
The eighteenth century armory mentioned in *The Somerset Dragon No. 30* on page 15 is one of the lesser known treasures in the archives of the Somerset Heritage Centre. It is a manuscript bound in contemporary marbled boards and it follows in the footsteps of the official Visitations of the county, which came to an end nearly a century earlier. There is a title on the fly-leaf that reads 'The Paternal Coats of Arms and Crests of the Nobility, Baronets, and Gentry Resident in or who have Seats in The County of Somerset collected from Authentic Manuscripts and other Authorities by James Harris Herald Painter at Bath 1770'.

Following the title there is an index after which comes fourteen sheets, each containing twelve shields. Pages 1 to 9 are full, page 10 contains nine shields and the final four pages contain blank shields. The first page, illustrated opposite, contains the arms of peers surmounted by the appropriate coronet and identified by names and titles inscribed upon ribbons beneath the shields.

The manuscript was given to the Somerset Archaeological Society in 1924 by St. David Kemys-Tynte, who inherited it from his grandfather Colonel Charles Kemys Kemys-Tynte (1778-1860), whose name appears on the corner of the front cover. It is not known how the armory came into the hands of Colonel Kemys-Tynte but he had an excellent reason for acquiring it in that the arms of his forbear, Sir Charles Tynte appear on its second page.



Sir Charles, former M. P. for Somerset, died childless in 1785. He was succeeded by his niece, Jane Hassell, only surviving child of his sister Jane Tynte. Jane Hassell married Colonel John Johnson, who obligingly changed his name to Kemys-Tynte on his wife's succession. Colonel Kemys-Tynte was their son. The arms quarter Tynte, Kemys, Fortescue and Halswell and are surmounted by the crest *a unicorn sejant argent armed, crined and unguled or* for Tynte. James Harris noted that they were to be supported by Gryphons.



The arms of the peers that appear above include such interesting names as Boyle, Earl of Cork (No. 12), whose seat was at Marston near Frome, Percival Earl of Egmont (No. 13), who lived at Enmore Castle near Bridgewater and perhaps most famous of all, Pitt Earl of Chatham (No. 11), who had been presented with the Burton Pynsent estate by an admirer. No. 1 and No. 2 are both dukes. The Duke of Somerset lived at Maiden Bradley in Wiltshire, but his lands extended into Somerset, and the Duke of Chandos whose west country home was at Keynsham Abbey near Bristol.

The prize for the most unusual name to appear on Harris's list must surely be awarded to Sir Onesiphorus Paul, a successful clothier whose chief seat was at Rodborough in Gloucestershire, he was that county's High Sheriff in 1760, and who was created a baronet two years later. He seems to have been included as he also possessed a property at Norton Malreward near Bristol. A close neighbour was Sir Jarrit Smyth of Long Ashton and another was Sir Abraham Elton of nearby Clevedon.



Two knights were included by James Harris. This compares with fourteen peers and nine baronets. The two in question were Sir Henry Gould of Sharpham Park, a Judge of the Common Pleas, and Sir Thomas Gunston of Upcott near Taunton.



Further down the social scale came the Esquires, and no less than 118 gentlemen were listed as such in the armory, commencing with John Acland, whose chief seat was at Paxton, to Matthew Worgan of Wolley.



Richard Hippisley Coxe, whose seat was at Ston Easton near Wells, was of particular importance as he was one of the two Members of Parliament for the county. John Wood of Bath was favoured with the added note in pencil describing him as 'The Bath Architect'. Henry Fownes Luttrell would be regarded today as being of particular significance as he was the owner of Dunster Castle, while Thomas Horner of Mells is another name that has stood the test of time as he was the descendant of Little Jack Horner of nursery rhyme fame.



Another MP to appear in the armory was Matthew Brickdale, one of the members for Bristol. His seat was at Knowle on the outskirts of the city and his arms were blazoned *azure, a chevron or between three sheaves of five arrows of the second, flighted and pheoned argent, banded gules with a crest out of a ducal coronet or a demi-lion rampant supporting a spear proper, thereon a standard azure fringed gold, charged with a sheaf of five arrows as in the arms.*



Two famous names appear on James Harris's list, one on two occasions. The arms of Lord Berkeley of Stratton are to be found on the first page of illustrations as his home was at Bruton. Lord Berkeley died in 1773, three years after Harris produced his armory, and the barony became extinct. The arms appear again on a later page as being borne by Edward Berkeley of Pylle, a distant cousin whose crest, like that of his noble kinsman was *a unicorn passant gules*. The second name to have national significance is that of Grosvenor, in this case borne by Henry Grosvenor of Swell near Langport. The arms, *azure a garb or* with the crest *a talbot passant or* was borne by the head of the family, Baron Grosvenor, ancestor of the future Dukes of Westminster, whose seat was at Eaton Hall in Cheshire.



When it came to charges an interesting and slightly unusual one was that of the shackle-bolt, presumably another word for fetterlock. The charge appears twice in Harris's armory. Robert Anderdon, whose seat was at Henlade near Taunton, bore *sable in chief two single shackle-bolts and in base a double shackle-bolt argent*. John Lockyer of Ilchester blazoned his arms as *argent on a bend sable three single shackle-bolts*. The fetterlock, to give it the more usual name was a device for hobbling horses, as any competent horse hobbler knows!



The arms of Henry Walters of Batheaston near Bath were *Quarterly 1 and 4, azure a squirrel (? proper); 2 and 3 azure three pairs of crossed keys or*, and the crest was a squirrel devouring a nut (? proper). It looks as if the squirrel charges were also devouring nuts, whether proper or not who can say! The squirrel was also the crest of the Revd. St Aubin, whose seat was at Alfoxton, and who sported a *squirrel ermine, collared, lined and ringed or*.

Interesting crests abound in the Somerset Armory. Besides the Revd. St Aubin, we have George Speke of Curry Rivel, who boasted a porcupine proper. John Gore of Barrow near Bristol displayed *on a mount vert, an heraldic tiger salient argent collared or* and Hubert Hussey of Charlton Horethorne near Wincanton topped them all when it came to the unusual with *a boot sable, spurred or surmounted by a heart supported by two hands proper*. The two hands were connected by a ribbon on which the motto *Cora Immobile* was inscribed.



It is not certain whether or not James Harris ever intended to publish his armory but whatever the case we must be extremely grateful that his manuscript survived in the Kemys Tynte family and that is now available for inspection at the Somerset Heritage Centre. It is filed under the title Somerset Arms and the reference is DD\SAS\C/795/FA/19. *Notes on An Eighteenth Century Armory of Somerset* by A. W. Vivian-Neal, was published in the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society—Vol. LXXXV (1938), pp. 134-150, but this was not illustrated.



IN SEACH OF THE WYNDHAMS



On Thursday 21st May twelve members of the society, ably led by Gale Glynn, paid a visit to Orchard Wyndham, ancestral home of the Wyndham family, near Watchet. The days started at St Decuman's Church, on the hill just outside the town, where the Wyndham Chapel contains spectacular family monuments, including the table tomb, which supplies four of our illustrations, and the chancel floor is covered with medieval heraldic tiles, probably taken from Cleve Abbey, the next port of call on the outing. More medieval tiles were to be discovered at the abbey, where the party took lunch in the splendidly appointed Education Room, then it was on to the house itself. The enthusiasm of our guides was only matched by their wealth of knowledge and fund of fascinating anecdotes. All in all it was a day to remember and our thanks go to Gale herself for organising things and to our guides in all three of our locations. The Rev. Clive Gilbert at St Decuman's, Mark Densham,

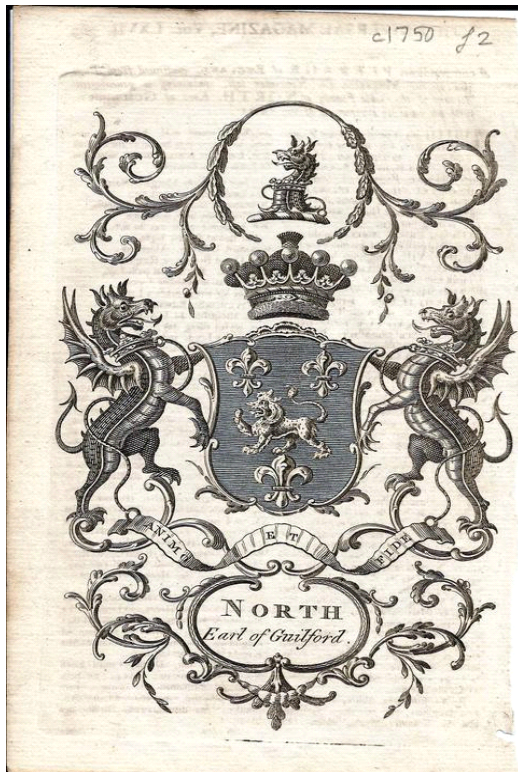
site manager at Cleve Abbey, Sylvia Chandler, who was brought up at Orchard Wyndham, her colleague Priscilla Boddington and Ronnie Bourouba, the estate secretary.



Our luncheon illustration features Royston Griffey, Gale Glynn, Mary Rose Rogers and Tony Ryan while behind them lurks the ominous figure of treasurer David Hawkings.



THE UNIVERSAL MAGAZINE



The arms seen here are those of Francis North 1st Earl of Guilford, a British peer and politician who became 3rd Baron North in 1729 and was elevated to become 1st Earl of Guilford in 1752. He died in 1790 and was succeeded as 2nd Earl by his better known son Frederick who as Lord North was Prime Minister at the time of the American War of Independence. The arms of the Earl of Guilford are blazoned *Azure a lion passant or between three fleurs-de-lys argent. Crest - A dragon's head erased sable ducally gorged and chained or. Supporters - Two mastiffs proper. ***

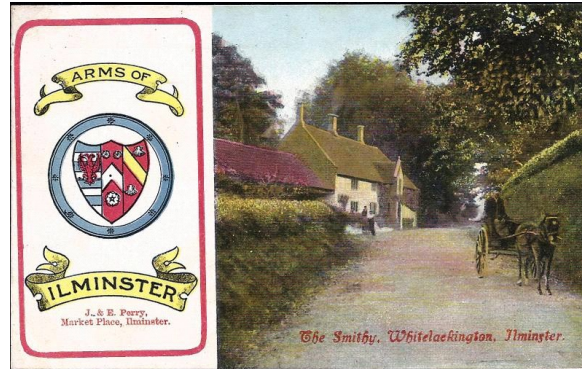
NOTES & QUERIES

David Vaudrey writes to ask if anyone has information about the six quarterings on this mystery cartouche that adorns the walls of St Peter's Church, Wapley near Yate, in Gloucestershire. All suggestions will be very welcome.

****** So why are these dragons? Help!



THE HERALDRY OF EDWARDIAN SOMERSET



This Edwardian picture postcard written on the 2nd September 1907 was marketed by Messrs J. & E. Perry of the Market Place, Ilminster. As that town has no coat of arms itself the publishers in time honoured fashion have borrowed the arms of two important local families. The arms are displayed palewise on the shield and are *Barry of eight azure and argent a double-headed eagle displayed gules* for Speke, *Gules a chevron between three roses argent* for Wadham and *Gules a bend or between two escallops argent* for Petre.

The Speke family – its most famous member was the Victorian explorer John Hanning Speke – lived at nearby Jordans, now sadly demolished, although the magnificent heraldic stained glass from the house has been rescued and now adorns the great hall of the family's present home. Memorials to the Wadhams, who lived at long gone Merrifield, decorate Ilminster Church. The arms displayed here are actually those of Nicholas Wadham impaling those of Petre. His wife Dorothy was the daughter of Sir William Petre, Privy Councillor from the reign of King Henry VIII to that of Queen Elizabeth. Nicholas and Dorothy were the founders of Wadham College, Oxford, and in recognition the college has adopted their

By a curious coincidence the Speke family was connected to that of the North Earls of Guilford, whose arms are shown on the opposite page, for Anne Speke, daughter of George Speke M. P. , married Lord North, later 2nd Earl of Guilford.

THE HERALDRY AT SHERBORNE CASTLE

The society was well represented at the June White Lion Society visit to Sherborne Castle in Dorset, seat of the Wingfield Digby family. Originally the home of Sir Walter Raleigh, the castle was acquired by the Digby Earls of Bristol, from them it passed to the Barons Digby of Geashill (later Earls Digby) and finally to the Wingfield-Digbys. The section on the family at the foot of this page should sort things out a little!



Members of both societies were enthralled by the magnificent overmantel in the Red Drawing Room. The arms are those of the first Earl of Bristol and the achievement alone would make a visit to the castle worthwhile for any heraldist.

THE CASTLE

1592 12th century Norman Castle leased to Sir Walter Raleigh
1594 The Lodge built by Sir Walter Raleigh
1617 Following the fall of Raleigh Sherborne granted to Sir John Digby
1625 Sherborne Lodge enlarged by Sir John Digby, now Earl of Bristol H style house.
Central section Raleigh, Wings Digby.



THE FAMILY

1618 Sir John Digby created 1st Baron Digby of Sherborne
1620 Robert Digby (nephew) created 1st Baron Digby of Geashill, King's Co.
1622 Sir John Digby created 1st Earl of Bristol
1698 Death of 3rd Earl of Bristol – Extinction of title (Tomb in Abbey)
1765 7th Baron Digby of Geashill created Earl Digby of Sherborne
1856 Death of 2nd Earl Digby. Extinction of earldom. Barony to cousin, Sherborne Castle to nephew, George Wingfield-Digby. (Sister of 2nd Earl, Lady Charlotte Digby = William Wingfield)



:

1. Azure a fleur-de-lys argent (Digby)
2. Gules a chevron argent between three crosses botonnee fitchee of the last (Pakeman)
3. Gules a chevron between three mullets of six points or (Danvers)
4. Gules a fess ermine (Wallis)
5. Argent on a bend gules three martlets vert legged or (Danvers)
6. Ermine on a bend gules three chevrons or (Bruley)
7. Argent on a fess between three martlets sable as many mullets or (Pury)

ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF BARON DIGBY OF GEASHILL

Azure a fleur-de-lys argent

Crest: An ostrich argent in the beak a horseshoe or

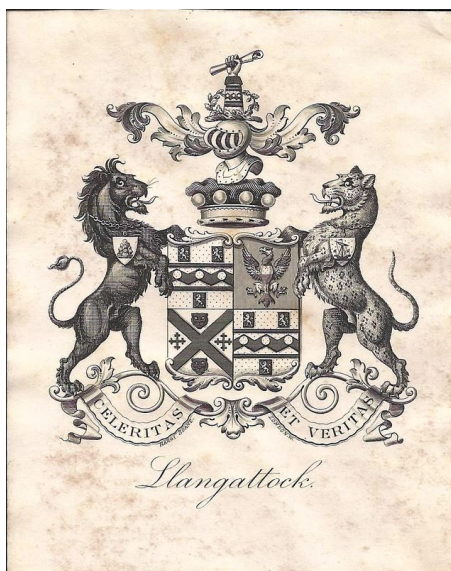
Supporters: Two monkeys proper environed about the middle and lined or. (Monkeys - supporters of the Fitzgerald Dukes of Leinster - as a result of the marriage of Sir Robert Digby to Lettice Fitzgerald, which brought him the Geashill estate in Kings Co., Ireland.)



ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner this year is actually a lunch and it will be held at the BE-AH Restaurant in Wells. There will be no speaker but five members have volunteered to set up display tables containing items of personal and heraldic interest. They will each talk for no more than ten minutes about their contributions. It should be a most entertaining—and instructive—occasion so please keep the date free. **Tuesday 27th October**

EX LIBRIS



This rather splendid albeit slightly stained bookplate comes from the library at The Hendre, a vast late nineteenth century mansion on the outskirts of Monmouth.



Baron Llangattock, of the Hendre in the County of Monmouth, was a title in the Peerage of the United Kingdom. It was created in 1892 for John Rolls, Member of Parliament for Monmouthshire from 1880 to 1892. He was succeeded by his eldest son, who was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The title became extinct on his death. The Hendre estate ultimately passed to the Harding-Rolls family, descended from Patricia Rolls, sister of the first Baron. This branch of the family lived at the estate until 1987. The Hendre is now the home of the Monmouth Golf Club.

There is some splendid heraldic stained glass in a rather cavernous first floor room that the club does not currently use – well worth a visit if you are passing and can persuade whoever is on duty in the golf club shop to let you in.

The Honourable Charles Rolls, third and youngest son of the first Baron, was the co-founder of the Rolls-Royce car manufacturing firm.

WATERLOO HERALDRY

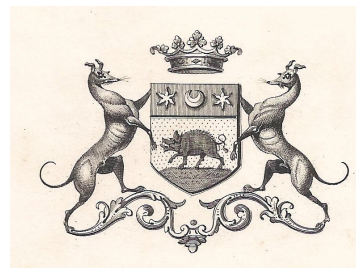


Roland Symons of *Confessions of a Copyist* fame, has produced another of his magnificent heraldic postcards. This one commemorates the Battle of Waterloo, fought as we all know on the 18th June 1815. The card depicts the arms of the commanders of the various British units that took part in the battle as well as the badges of the different regiments involved. These cards are rapidly becoming collectors' items, so if there are any members of the society who have yet to purchase one (or more!) please contact Roland directly on rolandsymons@btinternet.com or on 01225 837308.

HERALDIC QUIZ NO. 2

Can you identify the arms opposite?

The answers to Quiz No. 1 were Farmer of Nonsuch Park, Surrey; Dixon of Unthank Hall, Northumberland; and Bullock of Huntsham Court, Bampton, Oxon.



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

Thurs 17th Sept.	Froyle & Tichbourne Visit
Tues 27th Oct.	Annual Dinner (Lunch!)
Sat. 21st Nov.	Meeting— <i>The Rootless Earls: The Vicissitudes of the Noble House of Egmont</i> by Stephen Tudsbury-Turner

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.