

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

No. 34
August 2016



Editorial We must commence this issue with some thanks. First to our founder and president Alex Maxwell Findlater and his first lady Hattie, who hosted a splendidly convivial lunch at The Grammar House on the 29th June. A great time was had by all who attended. Then our gratitude goes to The Heraldry Society for a most generous grant of £300 towards the costs of producing *The Somerset Dragon*. Finally thanks to Ron Gadd for his years on the committee. Ron and Sue have now moved to Pembroke. Luckily they will still remain members of the society. Best wishes to them in their new home.

And for those feeling European after the excitements of the referendum we have this interesting stamp on the right. For more details see the article on page 11. The Annual Lunch on Wednesday 26th October will be held at the Fountain, Wells. It is hoped that once again there will be five display tables and five ten minute talks regarding the heraldic items on display. Do keep the date free as these occasions are great fun.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 Murder in the Palace by Stephen Slater
- 6. Obituary: Tony Ryan
- 7. Notes & Queries. Heraldic Quiz No.5
- 8. The Arms of the Earls of Buckinghamshire
- 11. The Arms of the City of Paris
- 12. The General's Lady by Stephen Tudsbery-Turner
- 16 Officers of the Society. Dates for Your Diary

MURDER IN THE PALACE

BY STEPHEN SLATER

Recently I renewed my acquaintance with a most unusual heraldic document now housed with the Hampshire County Archives and Records Office in Winchester. It concerns a tale that is a heady mixture of sex, possible murder and the Royal Family, and oh yes, a little bit of heraldry, what more could the readers want!?

The document in the Hants Archives is the grant of an 'augmentation of honour' to Everard Home (later Sir Everard Home, Baronet, of Well Head Manor, Co. Southampton), who at the time was Sergeant Surgeon to King George III. Augmentations of Honour are heraldic marks of great favour, usually on behalf of the Monarch, which often take the form of an addition to the family shield, but in Everard Home's case the mark was added to the Home crest. Furthermore, while most augmentations were gained by an act of valour in battle, Everard Home's action took place in the Royal Palace of St. James in the heart of London.

On the night of the 31st of May, 1810, the staff at St. James's were awakened by cries of "Murder" from the apartments of no lesser person than Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, one of the King's younger sons.

On entering the Duke's bedroom his staff found the duke collapsed in a pool of blood, a bloodied sword nearby. The duke had suffered multiple wounds to his head and one ear had been nearly severed. Among the medical staff summoned immediately to attend on the duke was Everard Home. He managed to staunch the duke's wounds and was in constant attendance on his patient for days afterwards. It was through his care (and that of Sir Henry Hallford, another royal medical officer) that the Duke of Cumberland was able in time to make an almost full recovery from his wounds.



Sir Everard Home
by Thomas Phillips

One person who somewhat surprisingly did not rush immediately to his master's side on that dreadful evening was the duke's valet, Sellis. The duke noticing this asked his valet to be sent for. Sellis's bedroom door was found to be locked,, and after no reply was heard the door was forced and yet a more awful scene was found. Sellis was found lying on his bed, his head nearly severed by a cut from one ear to the other, some distance way was found a cut-throat razor, a basin of bloodied water was also found nearby,

It was assumed that Sellis had temporarily gone insane, tried to murder the Duke of Cumberland and then killed himself with his razor. Not many people were buying the story, particularly because the duke was at that time the most unpopular member of the Royal Family.

The King was immediately made aware of the incident at St. James and took a close and fatherly concern as to his son's recovery. Impressed by Everard Home's care of the duke he asked Garter Arms to draw up the document now deposited in Winchester . The Grant of the Augmentation of Honour is dated 2nd December 1810, and the wording and singular distinction of honour I now relate in full from the actual document.

The grant of augmentation looks for most purposes as a normal English grant of arms, signed and sealed by the Kings of Arms and bearing the Royal Arms and others relating to the College of Arms in the heading. Within the wording of the document we find the following passage:

"Testimony to the service of Everard Home, particularly of the skill and attention successfully manifest by him in the cure of the wound inflicted on Our Most Dear Son Ernest Augustus Duke of Cumberland received from the



Ernest Augustus Duke of Cumberland, fifth son of King George III

hand of an assassin within Our Royal Palace of St. James on Thursday the thirty first day of May 1810".

The augmentation was actually by way of an addition to the Home family crest, a *lion's head erased proper gorged with a collar sable thereon a fleur de lis or*. For the augmentation the collar was dropped in favour of a singular mark of royal favour, this being the personal distinction of the Duke of Cumberland a label of three points argent, the middle point charged with a fleur de lis azure, and the other points a St. George's cross.



Everard Home had matriculated arms with Lord Lyon in 1788, these being: *vert a lion rampant between two piles engrailed issuant from the chief argent, all within a bordure engrailed of the last charged with 6 popin-jays of the field, beaked and membered gules.*

A further honour came his way when Home was created a baronet in 1813 and was then further granted supporters to his arms of *two lions rampant regardant argent*. Sir Everard died in 1832 and was succeeded in his baronetcy by his son James. When the latter died in Australia in 1853 the baronetcy became extinct.



Ernest Augustus later King of Hanover by George Dawe 1828

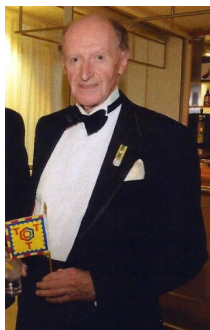
As for Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, he later became King of Hanover (1837-51), where he seems to have been fondly remembered by his subjects, somewhat of a change from his earlier days in London.



Just what the truth of that ghastly night at St' James back in 1810 was, we will probably never know. Many in London believed that the duke was having an affair with his valet's wife and that Sellis in a fit of jealousy had attempted to murder his master, then he took his own life. Others liked the story that the duke was in fact caught in a compromising act with another valet by Sellis, the duke then murdered Sellis to silence him. It was this suggestion which led to two journalists being heavily fined and sentenced to spells in prison. Whatever the truth of the matter it is curious to tell that experts believed the fatal cut to the valet's throat could have only been executed by a right handed person- Sellis was left handed!!

This article has only been made possible through access to "The Hampshire Record Office: Bolton Archive: 11M49/F/O45 and 11M49/F/O46. The Bolton Archive was purchased with the support of the Victoria and Albert Purchase Grant Fund".

Furthermore I would like to say a personal thanks to David Rymill, Archivist at the Hants Archives and his staff for their kindness and help. I also received a great amount of kindness and assistance from the staff of the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle, who allowed me copies of the correspondence which passed between the medical staff and the Royal Family on and after the 31st of May 1810.



OBITUARY

**Anthony Thomas James Ryan
1937-2016**

We were all shocked and saddened to learn in March of the sudden and unexpected death of Tony Ryan.

Although Tony came to heraldry relatively late in life he certainly made up for it by his boundless enthusiasm. He was a member, not only of the Somerset Heraldry Society, but also of the Bath Heraldic Society and the Heraldry Society. Tony was deeply committed to activities in the city of Bath where he was a Bath Abbey guide and a member of the Bath Shakespeare Society. He was also closely involved with the Catholic Church and in 2015 was invested as a Knight of Magistral Grace of the the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, an honour of which he was greatly proud.

As far as our own society was concerned, Tony was a valued contributor to *The Somerset Dragon*, indeed he was in the process of putting the finishing touches to his second article on the heraldry of Dyrham Park, one of his favourite heraldic places, when he died. He also regularly entertained us with his talks.

Tony was born in Wales but was brought up in the Republic of Ireland. He studied chemistry at University College, Cork, and settled in Bath when he was appointed Chemistry Master at Prior Park School, from where he retired in 1995. His interest in chemistry and in particular his research into the benzene molecule allowed him to use its symbol in his grant of arms, which he obtained in December 2000. His arms also included Tau crosses as a reference to his Christian name.

His funeral took place at St John's Catholic Church in Bath and Tony's armorial banner was draped over his coffin. It was a fitting send off for an erudite and keen heraldist. He will be greatly missed by his many friends.

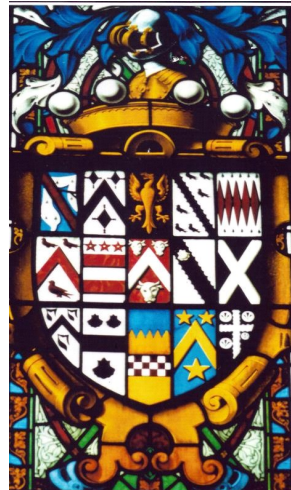
Notes & Queries



Thanks to Roland Symons, who pointed out that the magnificent achievement, which is located above a shop in Stonegate, York, number 37 to be precise, contains arms that are in fact spurious.. Hugh Murray, who published his *Heraldry and the Buildings of York*, in 1985, suggested that they could be allusive of the arms of Queen Mary, consort of King George V, who used to visit the building in the days when it was an antique shop Well, well, well!

HERALDIC QUIZ NO.5

The answer to Quiz No.4 was of course Ferrers and as so many members correctly identified the quartering here is something a little more time-consuming. Where is this magnificent stained glass window and which family does it commemorate? Then there is the added attraction of identifying the fifteen quartering. Bonus points if you get number nine.



THE ARMORIAL ACHIEVEMENT OF HOBART EARL OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The Universal Magazine has turned up trumps again. This time we can admire the armorial achievement of the Earl of Buckinghamshire, *sable an estoile or between two flaunches ermine*, crest *a bull passant per pale sable and gules*, supporters, *dexter a stag proper and sinister a talbot proper*, both proper and regardant, each gorged with a collar radiant and lined or.

The earldom has a fascinating history, including several name changes and an interesting assortment of residences for the various earls. It was created in 1746 for John Hobart, first Baron Hobart, who had served as Treasurer of the Chamber, as Captain of the Honourable Band of Gentlemen Pensioners and as Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk. In 1728 he was raised to the Peerage of Great Britain as Baron Hobart, of Blickling in the County of Norfolk, and in 1746 he was further honoured when he was made Earl of Buckinghamshire, also in the Peerage of Great Britain.

On his death in 1756 the titles passed to his son, presumably the man commemorated by *The Universal Magazine*. The second earl served as Comptroller of the Household, as Ambassador to Russia and as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The earl was the most distinguished member of his family to own Blickling Hall, a magnificent Jacobean mansion, now the property of the National Trust, built by his ancestor, Sir Henry Hobart, Lord Chief Justice, who had been made a baronet by King James I when that monarch founded the order in 1611.



John Hobart 2nd Earl of Buckinghamshire



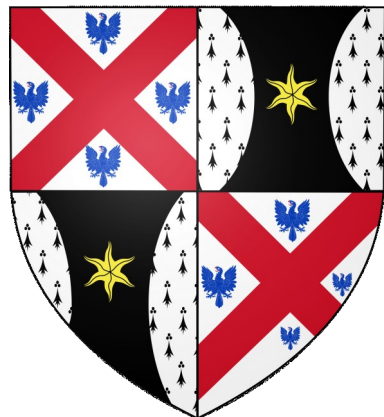


The second Earl of Buckinghamshire died without male issue in 1793 and the title passed to a half-brother while Blickling Hall itself went to his daughter. According to Horace Walpole the

Blickling Hall, Norfolk

earl 'suffered from gout in his foot, dipped it in cold water and so killed himself.' The third and fourth earls decamped to Nocton Hall in Lincolnshire but in 1816 on the death of the fourth earl the same thing happened again as regards the succession. A daughter succeeded to the property while the title went to a kinsman. The fifth Earl of Buckinghamshire made up for the loss by inheriting in 1824 the estates of his distant relative the third and last Viscount Hampden. The Buckinghamshire seat from then on became Hampden House near Great Missenden, appropriately enough in the county of Buckinghamshire, and the fifth earl became Hobart-Hampden and quartered the newly acquired Hampden arms with those of Hobart.

Hampden House itself was sold by the eighth earl in 1938. After a spell as the headquarters of Hammer Horror Films it is now a hotel and conference centre.



Hampden House, Buckinghamshire

THE ARMS OF THE CITY OF PARIS



The ship or galley that dominates the arms of Paris first appears on an early 13th century seal of the city and indicates the importance of shipping on the river Seine. During the 14th century the image of the seal was transferred to a shield. The chief, with the fleur-de-lys of Bourbon France were granted in 1358 by the dauphin Charles, later King Charles V. This design has remained essentially unaltered since the 14th century but the size and type of vessel has altered as has the number of fleur-de-lys in the chief



The arms were officially recognised in the *Armorial de France* on 27th February 1699. They were granted without supporters but during the years many different supporters and ornaments have been used in literature or on decorations in the city. There has been no consistent official use and no supporters were ever granted.

In June 1790 the nobility was abolished and that November a decree was published by the revolutionary government stating that all use of arms in the city was prohibited.

This situation remained until the rise of Napoleon. During the First Empire the city arms were revived and changed. The fleur-de-lys on the chief were replaced by three Napoleonic bees. In addition the ship was described as having the goddess Isis sitting in the prow and a star was added on the shield. These arms were officially granted on 29th January 1811. Like all cities of the first rank, Paris was also entitled to use a mural crown with the Napoleonic eagle as a crest, and the shield could be surrounded by laurel leaves.



The version shown here was the work of the artist Guilbert and dates from 1853, during the days of the Second Empire of Napoleon III. Interestingly enough there was no attempt to replace the fleur-de-lys with bees nor to revive the use of the goddess Isis and the star. Guilbert has provided two interesting supporters; on the dexter side a knight dressed in a surcoat and on the sinister a Parisian worker with his foot on four stone blocks

THE GENERAL'S LADY
BY STEPHEN TUDSBERY-TURNER



The armorial bearings of the Leir family, who lived in Ditchat for the best part of two centuries, dominate the chancel of All Saints Church. They are blazoned *azure a fesse raguly between three unicorns' heads erased or with a crest a demi-unicorn rampant holding between the legs a staff raguly*. One particular shield, that commemorating General Richard Leir-Carleton, is of particular interest because it tells the story of a lady of particular determination, who successfully petitioned for the title of Baroness Dorchester and whose arms *ermine on a bend sable three pheons argent* together with her baron's coronet appear in pretence on her husband's shield.

Henrietta Carleton was the elder daughter of Guy Carleton, third Baron Dorchester of the first creation. She married firstly Francis Paynton Pigott and secondly in November 1887 Major General Richard Langford Leir. Both her husbands adopted the name Carleton on their marriages, General Leir in 1888. It has been noted that the new Mrs Leir was a woman of great beauty and illustrious descent and was fully conscious of both, and it was this second quality that led to her efforts to have the Dorchester title revived in her person following the death of the fourth baron in 1897



The title had been created in the Peerage of Great Britain on 21 August 1786 when the soldier and administrator Sir Guy Carleton was made Lord Dorchester, Baron of Dorchester, in the County of Oxford. He was succeeded by his grandson, the second Baron, who in turn was succeeded by a first cousin, the third baron, Henrietta's father.. He had no sons and was succeeded by another cousin. The fourth Lord Dorchester, a Colonel in the Coldstream Guards, was childless and the title became extinct on his death on 13 November 1897.

Mrs Leir-Carleton must have had friends in high places for on the 3rd July 1897 Lord Salisbury, the prime-minister, informed her that Queen Victoria had been pleased to 'direct that the Barony of Dorchester shall be confirmed upon you and your heirs male in recognition of the distinguished military service rendered to her and her predecessors by so many of your family'. Consequently on the 2nd August 1899 the Honourable Henrietta Leir-Carleton was made Baroness Dorchester, of Dorchester in the County of Oxford, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and that same year she assumed by Royal licence the surname of Carleton.



Ditchheat Priory
South Front
Somerset Home of
General Leir-
Carleton and Lady
Dorchester

The Leir-Carletons had acquired what is now Ditchheat Priory in unusual circumstances in 1891 on the death of the general's father, the then rector. The Ditchheat estate was left to his elder son, General Leir-Carleton, but the Rectory itself to his younger son, the Rev. Charles Leir, who succeeded him in that capacity. As he was saddled with a large house but with no estate to maintain it, two years later the new rector exchanged houses with his elder brother and moved into the more manageable Ringwell House in the village, which thus became the new rectory. The old rectory was re-christened Ditchheat Priory – a nod to its antiquity even though it had never ever fulfilled that purpose.

Lady Dorchester and General Leir-Carleton spent most of their time at the Dorchester seat, Greywell Hill, Winchfield in Hampshire. On the death of Lady Dorchester in 1925 the Dorchester title and the Greywell Hill property passed to her son from her first marriage. He had two daughters but no sons and on his death in 1963 the title became extinct. Following his wife's death, the general retired to Ditchheat Priory where he died on the 18th December 1933 at the age of 92.



The general's heir was his nephew Hugh, who had emigrated to British Columbia as a young man. Hugh re-named Ditchheat Priory Abbey House and periodically visited it although his permanent residence remained in Canada. It was only as an old man that he returned to live permanently in his ancestral home. Hugh Leir died in 1971 and four years later the property was sold.

THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President	Alex Maxwell Findlater
Chairman	Mary Rose Rogers, MBE
Secretary	Stephen Tudsbury-Turner
Treasurer	David Hawkings
	Dr. Philip Hickman

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

Editor Stephen Tudsbury-Turner

Address for correspondence
The Malt House,
The Old Threshing Mill,
Hedge Lane,
Pylle,
Somerset,
BA4 6SP
Tel: 01749 830538
Email: tudsburyturner@tiscali.co.uk

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

Wed. 26th Oct. 12.00 mid-day Annual Lunch at The Fountain, Wells.
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE—The upper room at Beah Restaurant is no longer available.

Meetings generally 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.