

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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Happy Christmas to all our readers. At the time of writing it would appear that progress is being made on the vaccine front. Perhaps some form of a meeting can be arranged for the Spring. Who knows?

The arms of Thomas Holland, Duke of Surrey, which do not appear on the tomb of Bishop Stafford. See page 11.

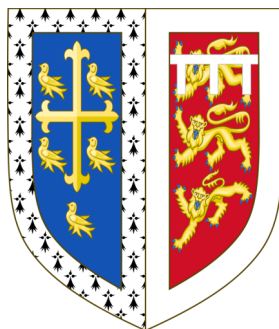


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Part II

- Elizabeth Harley and the Hungarian Connection

Alfred, the sixth Earl of Oxford and Mortimer died in 1853, he had no sons and the title died with him. Alfred was son of the fifth Earl and his countess, Jane. The fifth countess certainly 'put it about a bit', among her lovers being Lord Byron. She had quite a large brood of children, mainly daughters, society speculated on just who the fathers were and the brood was known among the nobility as *The Harleian Miscellany*!

After the death of the sixth Earl, his widow Elizabeth lived at another of the Harley family mansions, Eywood Park, near the village of Titley, twelve miles from Brampton Bryan. The last earl and countess had one daughter, Lady Jane Harley. She married Henry Bickersteth, (later first Lord Langdale). They too had one daughter, Jane, who married a Hungarian nobleman, Alexander, Count Teleki de Szek, whose family arms, *Or a 'steinbock' (goat) sable holding a Christmas tree proper* has been kindly painted and supplied by our own Roland Symons FHS

At the time when Countess Elizabeth resided at Eywood she made it home for General Lazar Meszaros, a relative of her grandson-in-law, Count Teleki. In 1848, when much of mainland Europe was ablaze with popular insurrections, Hungary too attempted to throw out its Habsburg rulers. General Meszaros was appointed for a short time, Minister of War for the independent government.



**Sandor,
Count Teleki de Szek**

However, the Austrian emperor asked the Russian Czar for military support and with the aid of a Russian army the Hungarian independence movement met a bloody end. The Austrian commander, General Haynau (known in Britain as Heyho, in Italy 'The Hangman of Brescia') being pelted with dung by London draymen when he visited the capital!

General Meszaros died at Eywood in 1858 and was interred in a grave in Titley churchyard, his dying wish was that his body would not return to his homeland until the last invader had left Hungary (he meant the Russians). And that's just what happened.

In 1991, after the fall of Communism, and only when Russian troops based in Hungary departed, did the general's ashes return to his birthplace, the town of Baja, which just happens to annually host 'Europe's largest fish soup boiling contest' - not something, even after this world returns to normal, will I be rushing to attend!



General
the
Baron Lazar Meszaros

The general's re-interment at Baja was marked with much pomp and solemnity and it is good to think that among those attending were parishoners of far off Titley and the British military attache in Budapest.

The general's monument in Baja bears his arms: *Azure on a base (mound) vert 2 lions combattant (respectant) or holding between them a laurel wreath proper-* once again we may see them through one of Roland's paintings.

After the death of Countess Elizabeth the estate of Brampton Bryan passed to another branch of the Harleys while Eywood became a home to the Gwyers (I believe they made a fortune in St. Petersburg in the 19th century). Sadly the two brothers of John Harley's wife were both killed in the First World War and in the 1950s, like so many of our great mansions, Eywood House was demolished.

With thanks to Roland Symons and Edward Harley of Brampton Bryan.

A Goss China Souvenir **By Richard Jones**

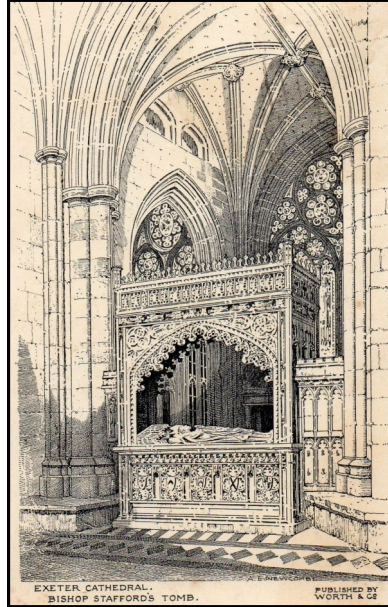


I have in my possession this piece of Goss China, probably made before the Great War as a souvenir of Street in Somerset. It is the model of a Lincoln Jack, a leather jug. The manufacturers cast around to find a coat of arms of a local large landowner as was their custom. These are the arms of the Hood family of Wootton House, Butleigh and are blazoned Grand-quarterly of four 1 and 4 quarterly i and iv Hood, ii Acland, iii Fuller, 2 Hood, 3 Periam. One can't help wondering what did the strongly non-conformist population of Street think of having an Anglican family coat of arms for their town

Bishop Stafford's Tomb in Exeter Cathedral

By Philip Hickman & Stephen Tudsbury-Turner

One of the glories of Exeter Cathedral is the splendid altar-tomb of Bishop Edmund Stafford (1344-1419). His beautiful, albeit damaged, alabaster effigy lies beneath a Perpendicular canopy, which the bishop himself designed. Around it are shields bearing the arms of members of his extended family. There are five on both the north and south sides of the tomb and a further three on each of the east and west sides, although those on the east contain crosses of St George.



The bishop was the younger brother of the first Earl of Stafford. He was of course unmarried and his closest male relative was his nephew, Sir Thomas Stafford, who appears on the west side as Stafford of Pipe. His cousin, Sir Humphrey Stafford also features on the west as Stafford of Hook, and these two Stafford shields flank a third that contains the arms of the See of Exeter.



St George
Argent a cross





W.1. Sir Humphrey
Stafford of Hook
*Or a chevron gules
within a border
engrailed gules*



W.2. See of Exeter
(ancient) *Gules a
sword in bend ar-
gent between two
keys accosted in
bend sinister or*



W.3. Sir Thomas
Stafford of Pipe
*Or a chevron gules
between
three martlets
sable*

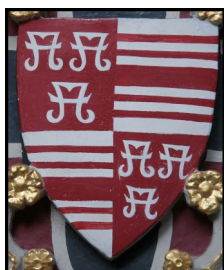


When it came to his female cousins Bishop Stafford had no shortage. Three of his first cousins, daughters of Ralph first Earl of Stafford, Elizabeth, Beatrice and Joan, had married Lords Ferrers, Roos and Charlton of Powys respectively. Their brother Hugh, second Earl of Stafford, had three daughters, Margaret, Katherine, and Joan who married Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland, Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, and Thomas Holland, 3rd Earl of Kent and 1st Duke of Surrey. (Created Duke of Surrey by King Richard II in 1397. Deprived of the title by King Henry IV two years later.)



The shields on the north and south sides of the tomb have been numbered from east to west. Lord Ferrers at the eastern end of the north side is thus N.1.

N.1. Edmund sixth Lord Ferrers, second son of John fourth baron, who had died in 1367. *Vairy ancient or and gules*



N.5. William sixth Lord Roos, second son of Thomas fourth baron who had died in 1384. *Quarterly 1 and 4 gules three water-bougets argent (Roos) 2 and 3 Argent a fess double cotised gules (Baddlesmere)*



N.4. Edward fifth Lord Charlton of Powis, second son of John third baron, who had died in 1374. - *Or a lion rampant gules*



S.2. Ralph Neville Earl of Westmorland *Gules a saltire ermine*. Here a saltire ermine not argent.



S.1. Michael de la Pole Earl of Suffolk *Quarterly 1 and 4 azure a fess gules between three leopards' faces (de la Pole) 2 and 3 Argent on a bend gules cotised sable thee pairs of wings conjoined in lure argent (Wingfield)*

ISSUE OF RALPH 1ST EARL OF STAFFORD

1st marriage

Margaret m, Sir John Stafford

Joan m. Sir Nicholas de Beke

2nd marriage

Ralph died 1347

Hugh 2nd Earl c.1342-1386

Elizabeth (d.1376) m. John fourth Baron Ferrers

Beatrice (d.1415) m. Thomas fourth Baron Roos

Joan (d.1397) m. John third Baron Charlton of Powys

Katharine (d. 1361) m. Sir John Sutton (1357)

Another cousin was Margaret Roos, descended from the bishop's aunt Beatrice, who had married Lord Grey of Ruthin.

N.3. Lord Grey of Ruthin Quarterly
1 and 4 Barry of six argent and azure (Grey of Ruthin) 2 and 3 i and iv Or a maunch gules (Hastings) ii and iii Barry of ten argent and azure an orle of martlets gules (Valence)



The final four shields on the tomb were those of Bishop Stafford himself who appears twice, his cousin Humphrey, the sixth Earl of Stafford, who inherited the title in 1403, and Courtenay, presumably for Edward Courtenay eleventh Earl of Devon. This last was the only one that was not the shield of a relative and must have been included because the earl was closely connected to the cathedral and lived at nearby Powderham Castle.



N.2. & S.3 Bishop
Stafford - *Or a chevron gules a border azure entoured with mitres proper*



S.4. Humphrey
sixth Earl of
Stafford *Or a chevron gules*



S.5. Edward Courtenay
eleventh Earl of Devon *Or three torteaux a label azure*

ISSUE OF HUGH 2ND EARL OF STAFFORD

Sir Ralph 1367-1385

Thomas third Earl c.1370-1392

William fourth Earl before 1377-1395

Edmund fifth Earl 1377-1403

Margaret m. Ralph Neville Earl of Westmorland (c.1386)

Katherine m. Michael de la Pole Earl of Suffolk (c.1393)

Joan m. Thomas Holland Duke of Surrey (1392)

It has been suggested that the arms of Duke of Surrey, the husband of the second Earl of Stafford's youngest daughter Joan, were probably in line for inclusion on the tomb. If that was the case then the duke's involvement in a conspiracy to restore King Richard II and his subsequent execution must have put paid to such ideas. The conspiracy was in 1400 and the following year Bishop Stafford was appointed Lord Chancellor by King Henry IV. The planning for the tomb probably took place c.1408. It would have been tactless in the extreme to draw attention to an unfortunate family connection, but it remains an intriguing thought and could explain why the bishop's arms appear twice on the tomb.

Photographs by PH
Text by ST-T
Research by PH and ST-T

Opposite—the face of Bishop Stafford from his tomb in Exeter Cathedral.

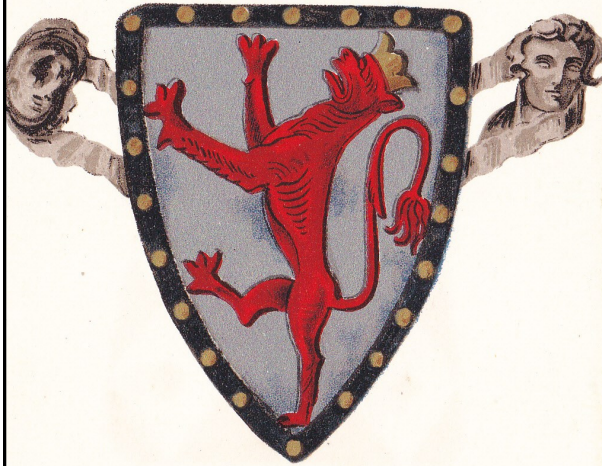


ANCIENT SHIELDS IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Our final two shields from the south aisle in Westminster Abbey contain the arms of Richard Plantagenet, Earl of Cornwall, and William, Earl of Ross.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY, SOUTH AISLE, VI.

ARMS: Silver, a lion rampant gules, crowned gold, within a bordure sable charged with 22 bezants.

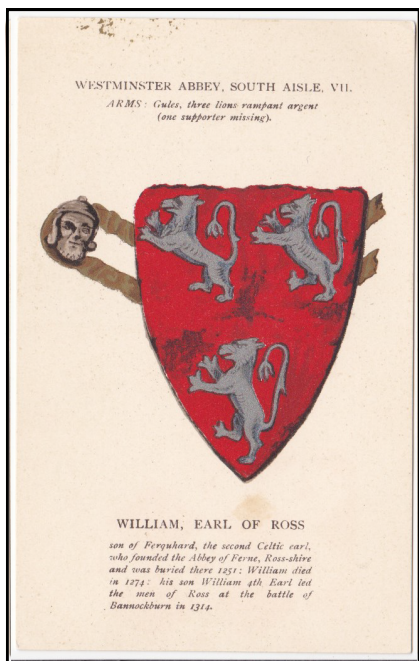


RICHARD PLANTAGENET, EARL OF CORNWALL

brother of Henry III, born in 1209: fought successfully in Palestine 1240-2: in 1257 was elected King of the Romans and was crowned at Aachen, but never came into possession of the Empire: in 1271 his son Henry was assassinated in church at Viterbo by Guy de Montfort, and his heart—"the heart that still upon the Thames is honoured," (Dante, Inf. xii. 119)—was placed in the Abbey. Richard died in 1272.

The caption on that of the Earl of Cornwall reads 'brother of Henry III, born in 1209: fought successfully in Palestine 1240-2: in 1257 was elected King of the Romans and was crowned at Aachen, but never came into possession of the Empire.' The earl died in 1272, the same year as his brother, King Henry III. His arms are blazoned '*Silver, a lion rampant gules, crowned gold, within a bordure sable charged with 22 bezants.*'

Scott-Giles points out that 'this shield illustrates the fact that in the early days of heraldry younger sons did not necessarily bear a differenced form of their father's arms. Instead of using the three lions of England with some minor addition, Richard adopted a shield containing a single lion rampant within a distinctive border.' The bezants of course were subsequently adopted by the Duchy of Cornwall.



The Earl of Ross, we are told, founded the Abbey of Ferne in Ross-shire, where he was buried in 1274. His son, the fourth earl, fought at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Scott-Giles informs us that these arms were used by Lord Darnley, the unlucky husband of Mary Queen of Scots. They are blazoned '*gules three lions rampant argent.*' Unfortunately one supporter is missing from the carving.

Observations on The Blue Boar
by
Stephen Tudsbury-Turner



This splendid pub sign from the Blue Boar Inn at Aldbourne in Wiltshire has an interesting story behind it.

The blue boar was the badge borne by retainers of the De Vere Earls of Oxford, an allusion to the fact that a previous Earl of Oxford was killed by a boar while

Credit: Inn Sign Society—Angela Panrucker

In 1485 the thirteenth earl was one of Henry Tudor's commanders at the battle of Bosworth, which resulted in the death of King Richard III, whose badge was a white boar, and the succession to the throne of the victorious King Henry VII. The boar appropriately enough, is seen trampling on the royal standard of the last Plantagenet king.

The white, or more accurately silver, boar was the favourite badge of King Richard. For his coronation in 1483 he ordered thirteen thousand cloth badges of fustian to be painted with his boar devise, presumably for distribution amongst the viewing population. About ten years ago a small silver-gilt badge in the form of a boar was discovered on the site of the battle. Robert W. Jones discussed the significance of the livery badge on the medieval battlefield in an article published in *The Coat of Arms* for Spring 2005. (No. 229, pp.25-34) In it he explained the difference between the livery badge and the heraldic arms. 'Heraldry was personal to an individual, borne solely by him, and a mark of personal identity,' whereas the livery badge 'was a token worn by the owner's servants, adherents and others with whom he had a social or political relationship.'

Fourteen years before Bosworth, the Lancastrians had been defeated by the Yorkists under King Edward IV, King Richard's brother, at the Battle of Barnet. The Earl of Oxford had also fought in that battle on the Lancastrian side. The battle was fought in the fog and we are told that the outcome of the fight was in part decided by the fact that another of the earl's badges, the star, was confused by Lancastrian troops with the Yorkist badge of the rising sun. The result was that troops belonging to the Earl of Warwick attacked their allies under the Earl of Oxford. History is silent as to whether or not white boars were confused with blue boars on the battlefield of Bosworth.

We are told by Larwood J. & Hotton J. C., in their book *The History of Sign Boards*, published in 1866, that 'after Richard's defeat and death the White Boars were changed into Blue Boars, this being the easiest and cheapest way of changing the sign; and so the Boar of Richard, now painted "true blue" passed for the Boar of the Earl of Oxford, who had largely contributed to place Henry VII on the throne.'



A splendid souvenir postcard from 1906. Cologne was once a free city but lost its independence when it was occupied by Napoleon's troops in 1794. It was ceded to Prussia in 1815 and in 1906 was the fourth largest city in the German Empire.

The Simeon Windows at St Edward's School, Oxford

**By
David Vaudrey**

As a follow-up to his article in our last issue, David Vaudrey has contributed this paragraph on the stained glass windows installed by the Rev. Barrington-Simeon in a window at his Alma Mater, St Edward's School, Oxford. Simeon, it will be recalled, was second headmaster from 1870 to 1877 and first warden from 1877 until 1893.

'I have just found something that has lain "lost" in a forgotten box-file for 15 years. It is the inside cover of an issue of the SES Chronicle for Autumn 2005. It shows 26 of the 42 shields of the families that the Rev. Algernon Barrington-Simeon claimed to be descended from or related to, and with which he decorated the windows of a school building. The arrogance is breathtaking but the result is decorative and interesting.'

It was during Simeon's time that the school moved to its current site. As the text overleaf points out, 'The Simeons were of Norman extraction, and the Warden [Simeon] was well informed on his ancestry. The building of Big School (now the Library and Old Library) in 1881 was an opportunity for this ancestry to be celebrated in stained glass . . . ' It would also have added a touch of 'authenticity' to the then newly-built Victorian Gothic building.

And celebrated it certainly was as we can see from the selection displayed overleaf. As David rightly suggests, the result of Simeon's efforts to commemorate his ancestry is eye-catching in the extreme.



Fitz Hammond



Lord Montfichet



Baard, Kt.



Robert, Baron de Harcourt



Dermot MacMurrough,
King of Leinster

THE SIMEON QUARTERINGS

The Revd Algernon Barrington Simeon, St Edward's 2nd Headmaster (1870-77) and 1st Warden (1877-93), saw the School move in 1873 from its buildings in New Inn Hall Street, Oxford, to its Summertown site.

The Simeons were of Norman extraction, and the Warden was well informed on his ancestry. The building of Big School (now the Library and Old Library) in 1881 was an opportunity for this ancestry to be celebrated in stained glass, and forty-two coats-of-arms were incorporated in the windows of the new building, being the quarterings of the Simeon family traced back to the reign of Edward III.



Enfield, Kt.



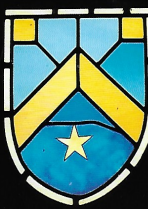
Fitz Jeffery



Neville, Earl of Westmoreland,
Salisbury and Warwick



Mandeville, Earl of Essex



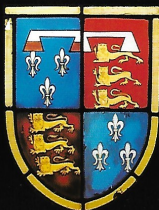
Williams of Carnarvon



Lord Monthermer



Earl of Gloucester



Plantaganet



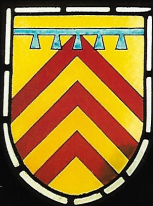
Chelwynde



Lord Grandison



Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick



Strongbow, Earl of Ogee



Simeon, Bt.



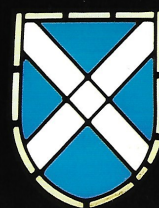
Rochefort



Holdbeck, Kt.



Barrington, Bt.



Marshall, Bt.



Robert, Earl of Gloucester



Richard Pole, Kt.



De Clare, Earl of Gloucester



Earl of Salisbury

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

As there is still nothing to report given the current situation, we thought we would sign off with another witticism, this time courtesy of Roland Symons.

An Indian prince wanted his son to go to Eton, but demanded special privileges for him. 'His name means "Son of God after all".' 'Oh, we have the sons of many famous people at the College,' came the reply.