

SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

Journal No 18 Summer 2010

DEATH OF SIR PETER GWYNN-JONES KCVO

Sir Peter died in hospital in London on Saturday 21st August. Some four weeks earlier, he had a bad fall at his flat, probably caused by a brain haemorrhage, and was found by his housekeeper. He had only recently retired as Garter, having reached 70. He was knighted just before retirement, sadly not living long to enjoy the honour, although he had just returned from one of his legendary expeditions.

Sir Peter joined the College soon after coming down from Cambridge; he had previously had a short stint in insurance and found it unrewarding. In all he had completed 40 years of service to the Crown and nation, fifteen of which were as Garter. In the College, although in his time both computers and a new telephone system arrived, he valued continuity rather than innovation, and during his reign the College sailed serenely on.

As a herald he was particularly good at reviving ancient simple charges with a modern twist, and his own arms were an example of this, as were the arms of Mead, *Or three bars Vert two flaunches counter-changed*; one also remembers the dancing legs in the arms of a certain judge.



Sir Peter and Ralph Brocklebank



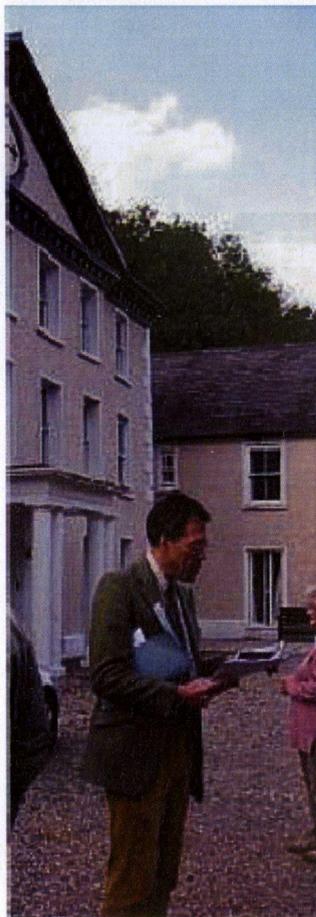
He was also a scholar, interested in early Tudor grants of arms, although the characteristic fussiness of Tudor arms was not for him. He published four books, *The Bigland Pedigree Index*, in 1990 with Susanna Tovey; *Heraldry*, in 1993 with Henry Bedingfeld; *The Art of Heraldry: Origins, Symbols, Designs*; in 1998 and finally his autobiography, *The Coat of Sable*, in 2010.

Sir Peter was in private life a man of many parts, an inveterate traveller, a bon viveur, one who always appreciated the qualities of the opposite sex, without feeling impelled toward marriage. However in his autobiography he discloses that he gave a signet ring bearing his crest to Ginny Clegg. This is surely for

an herald a most romantic and tender gift. It is a cruel blow of fate, that having so very recently retired, he should be deprived of a long period in which to enjoy his non-heraldic pursuits.

We were particularly lucky that he agreed to host our visit to the College of Arms in October 2008. He gave us an interesting address in the Library and showed us a wide **range of medieval manuscripts from the College's collection. He was genial, welcoming, erudite, indeed fulfilling the ancient ambassadorial role of the herald perfectly.** Our thoughts go to his wide circle of friends and to his family at this sad time. AJMF

NEW WALES HERALD EXTRAORDINARY



Tom Lloyd addressing the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society at Cilgwyn

It is still all change at the College of Arms. A recent **announcement on their website reads as follows: 'On 30 June 2010 Dr Michael Siddons, F.S.A., retired as Wales Herald Extraordinary after nearly sixteen distinguished years in office. He was succeeded the following day by Thomas Lloyd, O.B.E., D.L., F.S.A.'**

Thomas Owen Saunders Lloyd is aged 55, and went to Radley and then Downing College, Cambridge, where he read law. He is a solicitor and was in practice in London until 1987, since when he has become involved in heritage matters.

He joined the Historic Buildings Council for Wales in 1985 and served as its Chairman from 1992 to 2004. Elected an FSA in 1991 and an honorary member of the Royal Society of Architects in Wales in 1993, he has served on the British Historic Buildings Trust, the Buildings at Risk Trust, Cadw, that is the Welsh Historic Monuments Advisory Committee, the Architectural Heritage Fund, and the Historic Houses Association. He was appointed Royal Commissioner on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales this year.

He was a non-executive director of the Dyfed Family Health Services Authority and served on the Wales Tourist Board.

In private life he is member of the Pembrokeshire Historical Society, the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, the Cambrian Archaeological Association and the Picton Castle Trust. He is also a consultant to Sothebys. He has written *The Lost Houses of Wales* and was co-author of *Pembrokeshire, and Carmarthenshire & Ceredigion* in the Pevsner Buildings of Wales series.

He was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Dyfed in 2001, and an OBE for services to Heritage in 2004.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Autumn 2010

Mon 13th to Fri 17th September **XXIXth International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences, Stuttgart** hosted by Pro Heraldica, for details see <http://www.congress2010.info/english/>

Wed 13th October **Annual Dinner, at the Old Wharf, Langport**
Guest of Honour Adrian Ailes
5.45 pm Meet for drinks
6.30 pm Address by Dr Adrian Ailes FHS
7.30 pm Dinner
Cost: £25 including wine

Sat 16th October 2.30 pm **Molland and North Molton Churches**, to see some wonderful armorial carvings and quite a few monuments. Meet for lunch at the London Inn next to Molland church 12.30 pm

Wed 24th November 7.30 pm **The Development of entails and the Name and Arms Clause** 6.30 pm supper on the normal basis, The Grammar House

I am sorry that the September meeting is happening in October and also that it has been moved. This is because of the Congress, which is strongly recommended, and because we were not vigilant enough about clashes of dates!

SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

Officers

Chairman Alex Maxwell Findlater
Hon Secy Hattie Findlater
Hon Treasurer Anthony Bruce
Hon Librarian Ronald Gadd, MBE, RD
Committee Members David Hawkings
Mary Rose Rogers

Objects

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

Address for correspondence

The Grammar House,
The Hill, Langport,
Somerset, TA10 9PU
Telephone 01458 250868
email alex@findlater.org.uk

Annual Subscription

for ordinary members £10 pa
for family members £15 pa

OBE FOR ALASTAIR BRUCE OF CRIONAICH

In the Queen's Birthday Honours List, Colonel Alastair Bruce of Crionaich, Fitzalan Pursuivant Extraordinary, was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Military Division, for services to the Territorial Army.

He was for four years a regular in the Scots Guards, seeing active service in Northern Ireland and in the Falklands War of 1982. He is still a reserve, serving as a Colonel in the Territorial Army. In 2004 he took command of the Media Operations Group, which handled the media representation of military activity. In March 2004 he completed his period of mobilised service on active operations in Iraq, serving in Operation TELIC.

He is co-author with Julian Calder and Mark Cator of the book, *Keepers of the Kingdom. The Ancient Offices of Britain*. This is a wonderful cornucopia of information, beautifully presented with many photos. He is a documentary maker, with *Days of Majesty*, *Nicholas and Alexandra* and *Victoria and Albert* to his name. He recently worked as historical adviser for the film *The Young Victoria*, starring Emily Blunt.

He has worked for Sky News for 16 years and has commentated on most big events, including the funerals of the Queen Mother and Diana, Princess of Wales, as well as events from the Vatican. He is now looking ahead to the coming Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

A descendant of the Bruces, Earls of Elgin, and so cousin of the Hon Adam Bruce, Unicorn Pursuivant in the Court of the Lord Lyon of Scotland, he was confirmed in the territorial designation 'Crionaich' by Lyon in 1984. He is a member of the Royal Company of Archers, the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland.





The Bruce chest-full of Medals

He is wearing the small oval of an Extraordinary, together with the star of the Order of St John at the collar. Above is an enlargement, almost full size, of his medals. Working from the left, ie the from the most important to the least important, they are:

- 1 General Service Medal with Northern Ireland clasp (from 1962 for GSM, 1969 for Northern Ireland)
- 2 South Atlantic Medal (Falklands) (from 1982)
- 3 Iraq Medal (from 2003)
- 4 Golden Jubilee Medal (from 2002)
- 5 Volunteer Reserve Service Medal
- 6 Order of St John Service Medal

The Volunteer Reserves Service Medal (VRSM) is a medal awarded, from 1 April 1999, to all members of the reserves of all of the branches of the British Armed Forces - the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Marines Reserve, the Territorial Army and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force. It replaced the separate medals awarded to officers and other ranks in each of the services - the Royal Navy's Reserve Decoration and Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, the British Army's Territorial Decoration and Efficiency Medal (Territorial), and the Royal Air Force's Air Efficiency Award. The only other medal which requires explanation is the St John Service medal, which is for active service, not for membership and starts at twelve years, and then has additional bars for every five years. By now he will have one bar. AJMF

VISIT TO DOWLISH WAKE CHURCH AND ROWLANDS

We were met at Dowlish Wake Church by Peter Speke, the head of the family of Speke, a family which has been in the West Country since the 11th century and in Somerset since Sir John Speke married about 1420 Joan daughter and heiress of John Keymes of Dowlish Wake. Sir John died in 1442. His son John married Alice daughter and heiress of John Beauchamp of White Lackington and Ashill, descended from the ancient Beauchamp barons of Hatch, often in early rolls of arms called plainly Beauchamp of Somerset.

The senior line ended in an heiress, Anne, daughter of Sir George Speke, who married in 1756 Frederick Lord North, later to succeed as 2nd Earl of Guildford. They had issue, but did not maintain a presence in Somerset. At this point the representation of the family devolved onto the Spekes of Jordans, probably best known to us from the explorer John Hanning Speke (1827-1864), a younger son of William Speke of Jordans (1798-1887) who is five generations before Peter. Many of the Speke eldest sons did not produce children, and this was the case in the two generations after William, so that when Walter Hanning Speke of Jordans died in 1944, his heir would have been **his nephew, William Maitland Speke, Peter's father, but that he had been killed on active service in North Africa in 1941.** So the representation devolved onto Peter when still an infant. Peter was brought up in Northumberland, where cousins looked after William's widow Joan, and in Canada, where she remarried.



The left window at Rowlands, showing ancient arms from the Espes of Northumberland and early arms of the Spekes of Dowlish Wake and White Lackington

Peter was thus largely educated in Canada and he married there. Meanwhile his mother returned to England and lived at Jordans. However, the house was taken down in the 1960s and Joan lived in the converted stable block. Mary Rose Rogers, a cousin of Peter, remembers visiting Jordans and seeing the window in the hall above the stairs. It is indeed through Mary Rose that we were lucky enough to arrange this visit and she has continued to help in the identification of the arms in the window, which I rashly promised Peter I would undertake when we were at Rowlands, the house in which he now lives. He told me that a tenant farmer wrote to him

in Canada in the mid 1960s to say that the estate was going to rack and ruin in the hands of the trustees and that he needed to return to take it in hand. Until then, he had been largely unaware of the estate and indeed of his family background, except in the most general way.

On his return, he found that the farmer had not been wrong. With Jordans demolished, he chose to move into Rowlands, but first he had to put a roof on the building. He told me that the farmer who lived there had used only the great hall with a night bed on one side of the fireplace and a day bed on the other. Until we learned this tale, we were all quite convinced that Peter and his forebears had been happily living at Rowlands for many year!



The right window, with all the difficult arms, which don't fit!

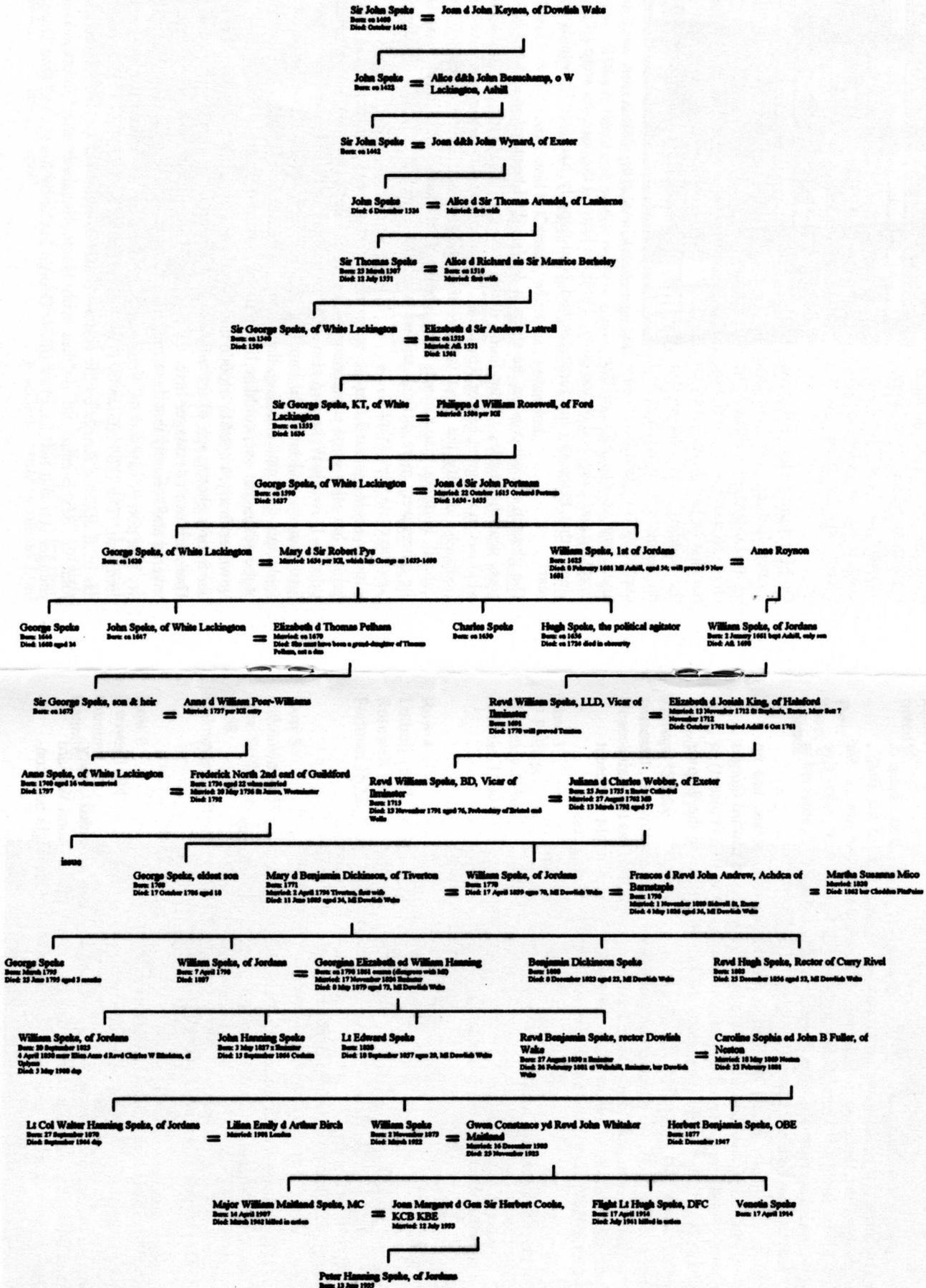
The glass in the window on the stairs at Jordans had been saved and left in the long grass near the stables. Peter found it and recovered it, putting it into the two main windows in the great hall of Rowlands. When we saw these windows, we could immediately identify the most famous of the coats, Beauchamp, Berkeley, Arundel, Luttrell, Portman, also Keymes from a brass of the same coat in the church. However the others were more difficult and we would have needed to look at a pedigree to see how the coats were related.

Initially I had assumed that we were looking at a series of marriages in the Jordans family, but after some comparison of the names and occasional bits of funerary heraldry in Dowlish Wake and also Ashill Churches, it became clear that although the final coat was indeed Speke impaling Hanning, representing the marriage of William Speke and Georgina Hanning, the parents of John Hanning Speke, the explorer, none of the others, bar one, could be linked to the Jordans descent.

However firstly, I need to explain that I shall not work from the two present windows, but from a photograph of the window as it was when originally installed at Jordans. There are two advantages here, the first that it shows that all the coats have been recovered and secondly that the arrangement then can assist in the identification.

My first port of call was the Somerset Visitations, but unfortunately these are not very complete. The 1885 edition by F W Weaver shows both 1531 and 1573 combined and has been updated further by the editor. Under de Beauchamp the pedigree starts with John de Beauchamp and finishes with Hugh, Elizabeth and Dorothy, who are a younger son and two daughter of Sir George Speke by his second wife Dorothy Gil-

Descendants of Sir John Speke



bert. Elizabeth is married three times, and Dorothy only once to 'Edw. Gorge of Wraxall'. Their elder half-siblings are also included, as Anne, Barbara and 'Sir Geo., K.B. to K. James'. This Sir George was clearly the heritor of White Lackington, who died in 1636.

The early Harleian Society Visitation of 1623 also has this family, but under Speke, but a much shorter pedigree starting with 'Sir Tho. Speake Knt.' married to 'Anne d. of Rich. Barkley of Stoke', they have one son, 'Sir Geo. Speake Knt. of the Bath', with two marriages as in the Beauchamp pedigree. His eldest son is shown as 'Sir Geo. Speake Knt. of the Bath, of Whitelackington co. Som. living 1623', with five daughters, all well-married and one son 'Geo. Speake s. and h. living 1623', married to 'Joane d of Sir John Portman Knt. and baronet'. Signed 'G SPEKE'.

The 1672 Visitation, excellently edited by Squibb for the Harleian series, has no Speke pedigree, only including two daughters, Dorothy married to Sir Edward Gorges of Wraxall (1564-1624) and Mary married to Thomas Jennings of Burton (Pinsent) in Curry Rivel (1649-1679). Lady Gorges is evidently the Dorothy shown in the Weaver volume, while Mary is of a later generation.

After George Speke, living 1623, we have no contemporary evidence. However, the window shows the marriages in what seems to be broadly the same order as the visitations. In fact there are dates shown below each of the shields, which might represent the date of each marriage. These Visitations taken together give us a succession:

John Speke m (1413) Joan heiress of John Keines

|
Sir John m Alice cousin and heir of Thos Beauchamp

|
Sir John m a Spanish woman

|
John m (1500) Alice d Sir Thomas Arundel

|
Sir Thomas Speke m (1530) Anne d Richard Berkeley of Stoke Gifford

|
Sir George m 1) (1560) Elizabeth d Sir Andrew Luttrell

| 2) Dorothy d Edward Gilbert of London, m 2) Sir John Horsey

|
Sir George m (1592) Philippa d William Rosewell of Ford, Devon

|
George, living 1623 m (1623) Joan d Sir John Portman

With the exception of the Spanish woman, this is followed by Burke's Landed Gentry; for her generation they have a marriage to Joan daughter and heiress of John Wynard of Exeter. I have not checked on this generation, but the two accounts might be recon-

The dates, where shown below the achievement, are noted below.

Row 1
Three coats of
l'Espece

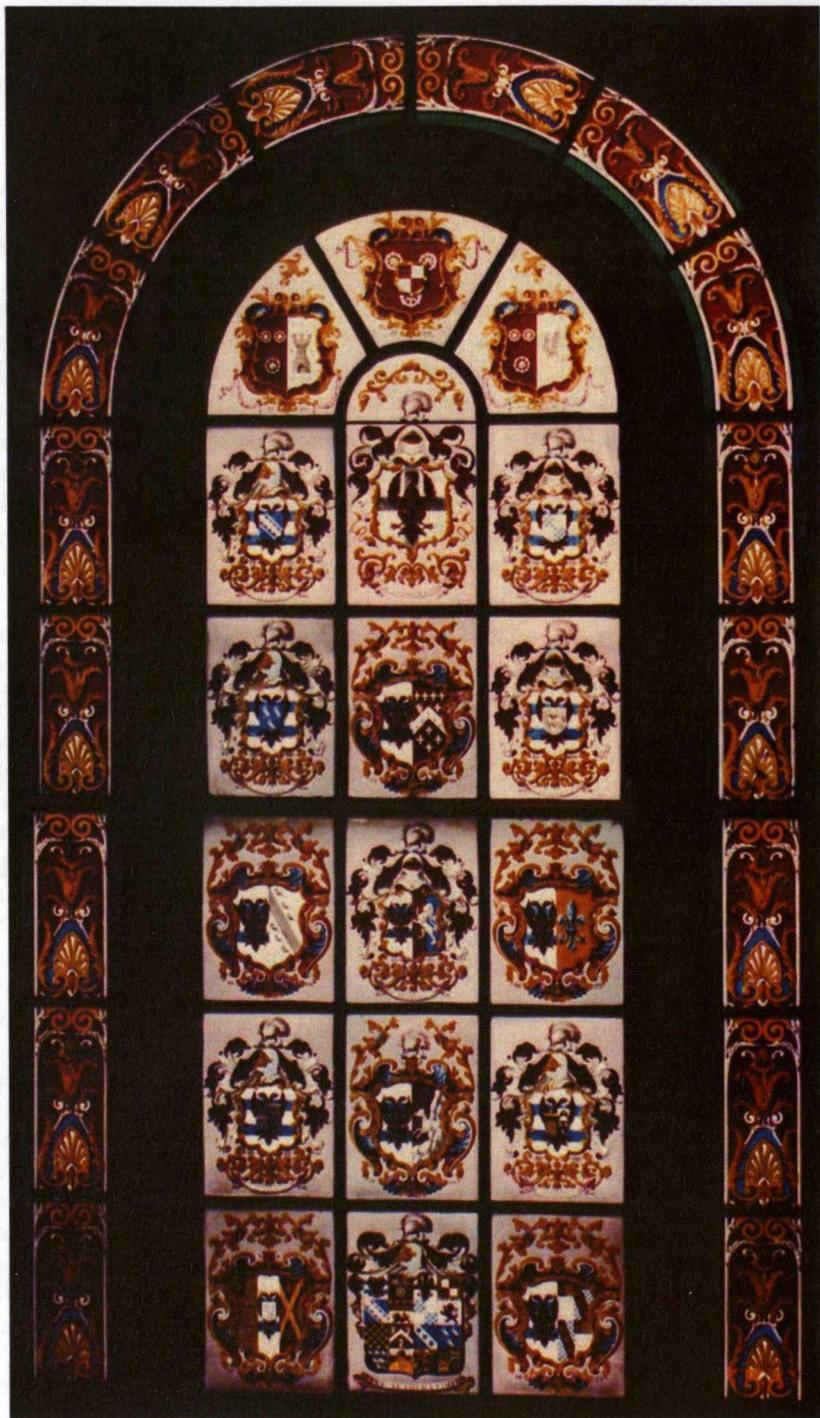
Row 2
Keymes 1413
Perhaps "Speke
ancient"
Beauchamp

Row 3
?? Pelham
Berkeley 1530
Arundel 1500

Row 4
Luttrell 1560
Rosewell 1592
Portman 1623

Row 5
Unknown 1657
Peer-Williams
1668
Unknown 1670

Row 6
3 wives 1794
Cummulatio
Hanning 1824



ciled assuming two wives. Burke's then continues on with the Jordans line, which is derived from a younger son of George Speke and Joan Portman, without giving the detail of the senior line. Some detail may be gleaned of the senior line from the entry in the Complete Peerage under Guildford, which shows that :

'Frederick (North) Earl of Guildford, b 13 Apr 1732 m 20 May 1756 at St James's Westm (lic Bp of London 14 May he as of St James's Westm, bachelor, 22, she of same parish, 16, with consent of her mother, Dame Anne Drake, widow), Anne ('a lady of great fortune'), d and h of George Speke, of White Lackington, Somerset, by his third wife Anne, d of William Perr-Williams. He d ... 5 Aug 1792. ... His widow, who was ranger of Bushey Park 1771 till her death, d 17 ... Jan 1797.' A note says 'She brought her husband, among other property, the Wynard estate in and about Exeter, which he afterwards sold 19 Nov 1789, to William Kennaway. VG (for Vicary Gibbs, the second compiler)'

In fact the Guildfords seem to have lived fairly high, and Dillington, an estate attached to White Lackington, was mortgaged to William Hanning, which is how the Hannings acquired it, later marrying a daughter to Speke of Jordan as is shown by the last shield in the window. Both White Lackington and Dillington are now owned by Euan Cameron, ennobled as Lord Cameron a few years ago, whose mother was a Hanning-Vaughan-Lee of Dillington.

However, there is still a large gap between George and Joan Portman, married 1623 according to the window, but 1615 according to the IGI, and their descendant Anne Countess of Guildford, born 1740. Her parents were married in 1737 per the IGI, and Stirnet, an internet site, has the intervening generations as

George Speke m 1615 Joan d Sir John Portman

|
George m Mary d Sir Robert Pye, and a younger son William 1st of Jordans

|
George b 1644 d 1668 aged 24

John, of White Lackington, b ca 1647 m Elizabeth d Robert Pelham

Charles b ca 1650, executed by Judge Jeffreys 1682

Hugh, the political agitator, b ca 1656, d in obscurity ca 1724

William of Shepton Beauchamp.

Of these John had a son

|
George of White Lackington m 1) Alice Brooking

2) Jane Hickmore, widow of William Pitts

3) Anne (Peer-) Williams, d William (Peer-) Williams

|
Anne b 1740, Countess of Guildford

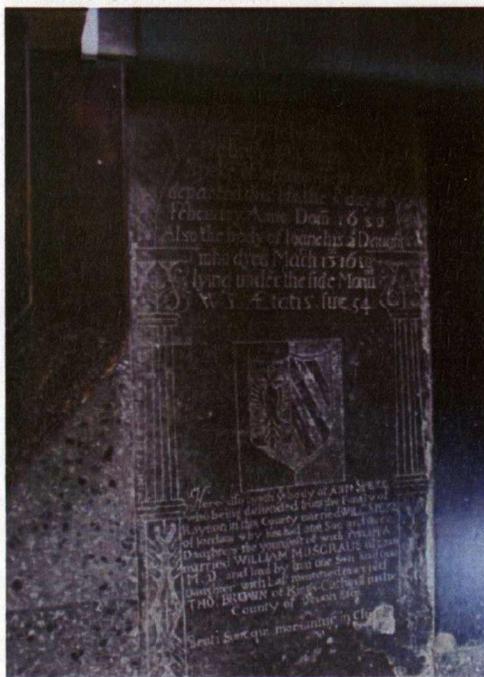
Among these names the only for which arms are shown in the window are Pelham, with the well-known and distinctive three pelicans in their piety and Peer-Williams, with it even more distinctive Welsh coat, *Gules a wolf issuing towards dexter out of a rock all Argent*. However there are no arms for Pye, *Ermine a bend fusilly Gules*. Whether this pedigree is accurate, I am unable to discover, but there is no prima facie reason to distrust it.

The two shields on the same row in the window as that of Peer-Williams I cannot identify. They are certainly not part of the Jordans descent, and my suggestion is that they are for the two other wives of George Speke of White Lackington, especially as the dates on the window of the three are very close together. Mary Rose has also had a look at the College of Arms, but has turned up nothing.

Finally we come to the Spekes of Jordans. All the coats bar one have now been mentioned, and that coat did cause me quite a bit of difficulty. It is at the bottom left of the original arrangement. It is Speke in the centre with either side an impalement, and also an inescutcheon of pretence over just the Speke coat. The blazons are as follows:

Speke: Argent two bars Azure overall a double-headed eagle displayed Sable
 Left: Or two horses trotting proper on a canton Gules a trefoil Argent
 Right: Gules a saltire between four crosses crosslet Or
 Surtout: Argent three saracen's heads Sable

Of these that on the left I cannot discover. The second is probably for Andrews, and we do find, from a memorial in Dowlish Wake that a William Speke of Jordans did marry Frances daughter of the Revd John Andrews, Archdeacon of Barnstaple. Mary Rose has found at the College, in a new book by Michael Siddons, a pedigree of Mico of Taunton, who bore *Argent three saracen's heads Sable*. She has also found in the College in MS N 12 a record of three marriages of William Speke, firstly to Mary daughter of Benjamin Dickinson of Tiverton, in 1794, secondly to Frances daughter of Revd John Andrew DD of Exeter in 1809 **and thirdly to 'Susan daughter of — Mico of Hortman, in Co Somerset in 1828'**; she died April 1862, death recorded as Martha Susanna Speke, and was buried at Cheddon FitzPaine. This William was the father of Wil-



Brass memorial to William Speke 1st of Jordans, died 1681, and Anne Roynon, his wife

liam Speke, who married Georgina Hanning, so that we can see the two last achievements being for the William who installed the window and for his father. That there were less shields than generations might be for the lack of either space or evidence.

The pedigree of the Jordans branch is quite complex and requires a chart. Essentially the first William (1625-1681) married Anne Roynon; their impaled arms are before the chancel step in Ashill Church on a brass plate. They had a son William, baptised at Ashill 2 January 1661, last record 1698, no wife recorded (found in a College of Arms **MS by Mary Rose; Burke's misses out this generation altogether.**) **His son was Revd William LLD, Vicar of Ilminster (1691-1770),** who married Elizabeth daughter of Josiah King, for whom no arms are as yet known. She was married 13 November 1712 and was buried 6 Oct 1761 at Ashill. Their son Revd William BD, Vicar of Ilminster (1715-1791) was also a Prebendary of both Bristol and Wells. He married Juliana daughter of Charles Webber of Exeter and on a memorial in Dowlish Wake Church there is a small coat of arms for Webber, *on a chevron between three roundels three annulets*. The field is hatched vertically, so Gules.



Bottom of the monument to William Speke and Juliana d of Charles Webber of Exeter

Burke's General Armory shows two similar Webber coats, one Gules and Or, the other Argent and Azure, with annulets on the chevron and roundels on the field. There are no armorials after these generations, so you need read no further!

AJMF

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT THE COLLEGE

Peter O'Donoghue, Bluemantle, has been appointed Librarian of the College, in succession to Thomas Woodcock, now Garter of course. Clive Cheesman, Richmond, has been appointed Officer in Charge of the Conservation Department..

Timothy Duke, Chester, is the new Honorary Genealogist of the Order of St Michael and St George, while David White, Somerset, becomes Honorary Genealogist to the Royal Victorian Order, following Hubert Chesshyre. William Hunt, to complete the trinity of new genealogical officers, becomes Genealogist of the Order of St John.

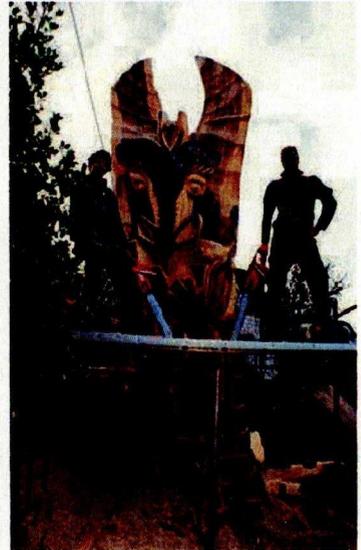
Hubert Chesshyre, on reaching the age of 70, has retired from the College, and it is understood that the new Clarenceux will be Patric Dickinson, presently Norroy and Ulster, which office he has graced for a comparatively short period, for that was **Thomas Woodcock's post before his appointment** as Garter. An announcement is expected soon.

THE DRAGON OF HUISH EPISCOPI

Langport has its Girt Dog of Langport, and now Huish Episcopi, which almost surrounds Langport, has its Dragon. The Dragon lives by a house called the Beeches and is in fact a beech himself, a real Ent.

Your intrepid reporter went to discover about the Dragon. Anne Cook, our neighbour, discovered that her beech tree was rotten and dying; in fact it shed a limb right in front of, almost on top of, our daughter Leo, when she was driving past. Anne tells me that she has always been interested in dragons, from childhood. Arriving here, she knew already that the dragon was the beast of Somerset and given the dead beech and the legend of the local dragon of Aller, she was fired to create another.

In Aller, the dragon is a male, he was obsessed with milk, so he followed the milk-maids and curiously they did indeed disappear, while he made off filled with copious drafts of the excellent milk of the Levels. It has always been maintained locally that the milk was what drove him, but I suspect that there might have been a Jonah in his belly, who had a fancy for the milk maids. Since the demise of dairying in Somerset, the milk-maids and the dragon are gone. So Anne decided that Huish could do with a dragon and so Rory was conceived.



The Tree Pirates, experts with the chain-saw and also vegetarians

A local team of tree-surgeons carved him from the standing tree, and he has now aged for a year or so, and no longer looks so fresh, having already acquired a silver tone.

Anne says that the bark will eventually all fall off, when the beast will gain an additional visual unity. When doing the work the tree-surgeons asked whether she wanted a male or female, and she thought a male, but they told her that it was already a little bit feminine, but they would do their best, which they did, but as a coup-de-grace they added eyelashes: should any self-respecting male dragon have eyelashes? She now thinks that he might become more feminine as he ages, and rather than being a true Rory, will develop into a Clary instead.



Somerset County Council arms

The photograph shows him with the Hanging



Chapel behind him. The Chapel used to be a chantry chapel over the East Gate of the ancient walled town of Langport, but since the Reformation it has been many things, a Grammar School, a Museum and now a Masonic Temple. So perhaps we should see Rory as our guardian deity in this godless age.

AJMF