

SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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HERALDRY IN MOTION THE INTRIGUING STORY OF THE WENTWORTH ARMS



Fig. 1 The Wentworth Arms

Sir Thomas Wentworth, first Baron Wentworth of Nettlestead in Suffolk, was raised to the peerage by King Henry VIII in 1529 for bravery in France. The barony was by writ of summons and as such was held to be heritable by and through females as well as males. Such baronies were often carried from one house to another by the marriage of an heiress and sometimes submerged in a higher title, only to reappear at a later date when a subsequent holder died without male issue. In such cases a daughter would inherit the barony whilst the other honours would go to the next male heir.

The arms of Wentworth, as born by Sir Thomas and his descendants, were *sable a chevron between three leopards' faces or a crescent for difference; crest: a griffin passant wings elevated argent; supporters two griffins argent collared or*. It was an achievement which would appear and reappear over the next four hundred years alongside those of an interesting selection of noble and not so noble families

On the death of Thomas fifth Baron Wentworth in 1664 the title and arms were inherited by his daughter Henrietta, the mistress of the luckless Duke of Monmouth. She died twelve years later and they moved sideways to her aunt Anne, the wife of John second Baron Lovelace of Hurley, who became the seventh baroness. Anne died in 1697, four years after her son the third Baron Lovelace, leaving three daughters and as a result the title remained in abeyance until two had died young and unmarried. It was then inherited by Martha, the survivor, who succeeded in 1702. The eighth baroness was married but childless and her heir was thus her aunt Margaret, the wife of Sir William Noel of Kirkby Mallory in Leicestershire.

Over forty years later the much travelled barony and its armorial achievement passed into the hands of the Noel family in the person of Sir Edward Noel, great grandson of Sir William and Margaret, in 1745. Regrettably for the new baron, his predecessor seems to have disapproved of his marriage the previous year and as a result he was left nothing except the barony and the coat of arms. Perhaps it was some consolation when in 1763 the ninth Baron Wentworth was elevated in the peerage to become a viscount – the reward for services rendered to Lord Bute, the new prime minister.

The arms of Viscount Wentworth were drawn by the artist Charles Catton for his three volume peerage of 1790. Catton, who doubled as coach painter to King George III, specialised in painting naturalistic supporters and his representation of the Wentworth arms complete with a lively pair of griffins is an excellent example of his work.



Fig. 2 The arms of Viscount Wentworth

The Wentworth viscountcy was to last until 1815 when it became extinct with the death of Sir Thomas Noel, the second viscount, who had succeeded his father in 1774. The barony on the other hand fell into abeyance between Lord Wentworth's sister Judith and his nephew Nathaniel Curzon. The matter resolved itself in 1856 with the death of Lord Scarsdale, as Nathaniel Curzon had become. The undisputed heiress was then Anne Isabella Milbanke, Judith's only daughter and the widow of the poet Lord Byron, who succeeded as the eleventh Baroness Wentworth.

Fig. 3 Thomas Noel tenth Baron and second Viscount Wentworth
From the portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds



In 1835 Augusta Ada, Lady Byron's daughter, had married William eighth Baron King. Four years later Lord King was elevated in the peerage to become the first Earl of Lovelace. He chose the title in deference to his wife's ancestors and conveniently the old Lovelace barony was long since extinct. On his coat of arms, which are blazoned *1 and 4 sable three spearheads argent embued proper on a chief or as many axeheads azure (King) 2 and 3 or three martlets sable (Troye)*, he placed his wife's arms in pretence. These are blazoned *1 argent three bendlets gules (Byron) 2 Wentworth 3 or fretty gules canton ermine (Noel) 4 gules on a chief engrailed sable three martlet or (Lovelace of Hurley)*.



Fig. 4 The arms of the first Earl of Lovelace

Lady Byron outlived her daughter by eight years so in 1860 the Wentworth title passed to her elder grandson Byron Viscount Ockham. He died in 1862 and is commemorated on a wall tablet in Ockham Church, Surrey. His arms are recorded there as *1 King, 2 Noel, 3 Wentworth and 4 Lovelace of Hurley*. As he was estranged from his father, held revolutionary ideas and chose to be known by the name John Okey, it is unlikely that he would have set much store by the display.

Ralph, Lord Lovelace's second son, followed his brother's example and had little time for his father. After his mother's death in 1852 he had been brought up by his grandmother, Lady Byron, and in 1861 assumed by royal licence the surname of Milbanke in lieu of King-Noel and the right to quarter the arms of Milbanke and King. Lord Lovelace had the previous year adopted the additional surname and arms of Noel, presumably to underline his right to the Noel estates as life tenant following the deaths of his first wife and his mother in law.

Ralph refused to use the Lovelace courtesy title of Viscount Ockham and his right to sit in the House of Lords as Baron Wentworth was confirmed in 1864. One thus had the unusual occurrence of a father (William King-Noel, Earl of Lovelace) and a son (Ralph Milbanke, Baron Wentworth) sitting in the House of Lords at the same time; the son, according to family legend, taking great delight in cancelling out his father's vote. Lord Lovelace's arms as displayed in an heraldic glass panel in the vestibule of Horsley Towers, his home in Surrey, were now *1 and 4 Noel, 2 and 3 King*, while those of his son as published in Foster's Peerage of 1881, were *1 and 4 gules a bend ermine on a canton or a lion's head erased of the first* (Milbanke), 2 and 3 King.



Fig. 5 The arms of William King-Noel, first Earl of Lovelace. The earl assumed the name and arms of Noel by royal licence on the 29th September 1860. His son by his second marriage, who became the third Earl of Lovelace in 1906, relinquished the Noel name and arms in 1908, by which time the Wentworth title had passed to the second earl's daughter



Fig. 6 Horsley Towers in Surrey c.1860
Seat of the first Earl of Lovelace

The first Earl of Lovelace was inordinately proud of his family connections, and armorial devices abound in and around Horsley Towers, his seat in Surrey; particularly in the Great Hall, the chapel and on the outside walls. The arms of the forbears of his own family, most notably King, Fortescue, Locke and Troye were joined by those of his first wife, and Wentworth, Lovelace of Hurley, Noel, Milbanke and Byron were all represented. The illustrations show heraldic decorations in the fireplace of the Great Hall and seven of the Wentworth shields that decorate the panelling to the right of the fireplace

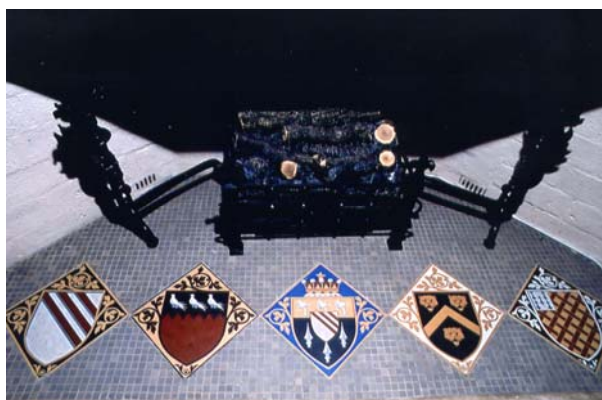


Fig. 7 Minton armorial tiles in the fireplace of the Great Hall of Horsley Towers. The arms shown are those of Byron, Lovelace of Hurley, King with the Byron inescutcheon., Wentworth and Noel.



Fig. 8 A selection of Wentworth shields in the paneling of the Great Hall in Horsley Towers.



Fig 9 Ralph Milbanke, second Earl of Lovelace, thirteenth Baron Wentworth 1839-1906



Fig. 10 The arms of Ralph Milbanke, second Earl of Lovelace. The earl married twice but his only issue was a daughter by his first wife. She inherited the Wentworth barony on her father's death in 1906.

On the second Earl of Lovelace's death in 1906 he was succeeded in the barony of Wentworth by his daughter, who never married and who died in June 1917. She in turn was followed by her aunt, who had married the poet Wilfrid Scawen Blunt. Lady Ann Blunt held the barony for a mere six months before it passed to her only child Judith, who was the wife of Neville Lytton, fourth son of the first Earl of Lytton.

Judith divorced her husband in 1923 and two years later decided to register her own arms as Baroness Wentworth. To her annoyance she was informed by Chester Herald, Registrar at the College of Arms, that in order to use the arms of Wentworth she would have to display the arms of Blunt, King-Noel, Noel, Byron, Noel, Milbanke, Noel, and Lovelace as well. The sketch he submitted was not to her taste and in the end she settled for the arms of Blunt alone. These were *per chevron barry nebuly or and sable, in base on a lozenge gules a pegasus argent*.

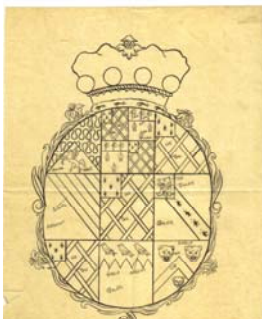


Fig. 11 The proposed arms of Judith Baroness Wentworth



Fig. 12 The arms of Judith Baroness Wentworth as they appeared in Burke's Peerage

In 1957 Judith Wentworth's son Anthony succeeded his mother as the seventeenth Baron Wentworth but as he was already the fourth Earl of Lytton the Wentworth title and indeed the Wentworth arms disappeared from public view and today, over fifty years later, it seems unlikely that they will surface again in the foreseeable future.

Stephen Tudsbery-Turner

HERALDS AT THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The sixtieth anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne fell on the 6th February and public celebrations took place from the 2nd to the 6th June. Heralds from the College of Arms were prominent during the River Pageant on the afternoon of Sunday 3rd and again on Tuesday 5th during the service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral.

Watchers on television will have spotted the heralds and their distinctive insignia on the Motor Vessel Connaught as it made its way down river in the torrential rain and again at St Paul's Cathedral where they paraded at the top of the cathedral steps and flanked the west doors.



The badges of the heralds are displayed prominently on the side of the Connaught as she makes her way downstream.

A further accolade for the College was the fact that Timothy Noad, one of its Herald Painters was chosen to design the medal that was awarded in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee to eligible personnel of the armed forces, emergency services, prison service and royal household.



The Queen stands at the foot of the Cathedral steps and talks to the Dean of St Paul's while her heralds line up behind her.

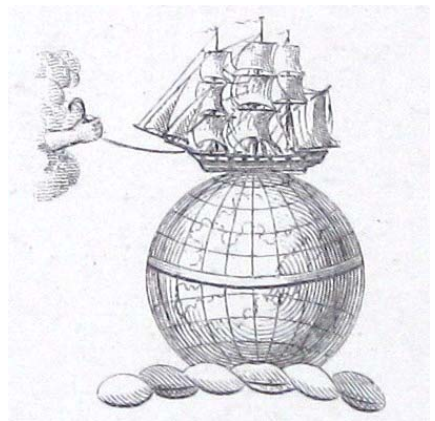
A tortoise shell and a ledger stone

On a recent visit to Orchard Wyndham, I saw a tortoise shell high up on the wall in the great hall, or dining room. On it were the impaled arms of Wyndham and Drake of Buckland Abbey, ie the arms of Sir Francis Drake, rather than the ancient family of Ashe, which bears a wyvern. Above were two crests, the Wyndham of a lion's head erased within a fetterlock, and Sir Francis' fanciful and splendid arrangement, a globe of the world surmounted by a sailing vessel, with a representation of clouds at about 10 o'clock and a powerful gust of wind issuing thence.



But there is no Wyndham Drake marriage in the family tree, so what are these arms for, if not a marriage? The answer lay on my computer, where my screen-saving device shows random photographs from my now considerable collection. One was of a ledger stone with these same arms on it. (How useful are these random programs!) But I could not find the photo in my file system, so I guessed that it must be at St Decuman's, as the name "Sr Hugh Windham of Kinsford" was inscribed beneath the arms and I guessed this to be Kentsford, which is in St Decumen's parish.

So I set off there, to find three ledger stones in front of the altar rail, that of "Edmund Windham of Kinsford Esquire" between those of Sir Hugh and his widow Joanna. The arms were from Sir Hugh's stone, so his wife had been Joan Drake. Curiously their marriage at Buckland Monachorum on 2 January 1649/50 is about the only Wyndham ceremony recorded in the IGI, as is also the baptism of their first child Christobella on 24 October 1650 also at Buckland.



The next difficulty was to discover where the Kentsford branch fitted into the Wyndham tree. Fortunately the three ledger stones had the following inscriptions:

Centre: Here lyeth the body of Edmund Windham of Kinsford Esquire who died the 12 of November an' d'ni 1616 who married Margery the daughter of Richard Chamberlayne alderman of London who had by her Thomas Edward Zacharias Frauncis George & Hughe and one daughter named Margaret

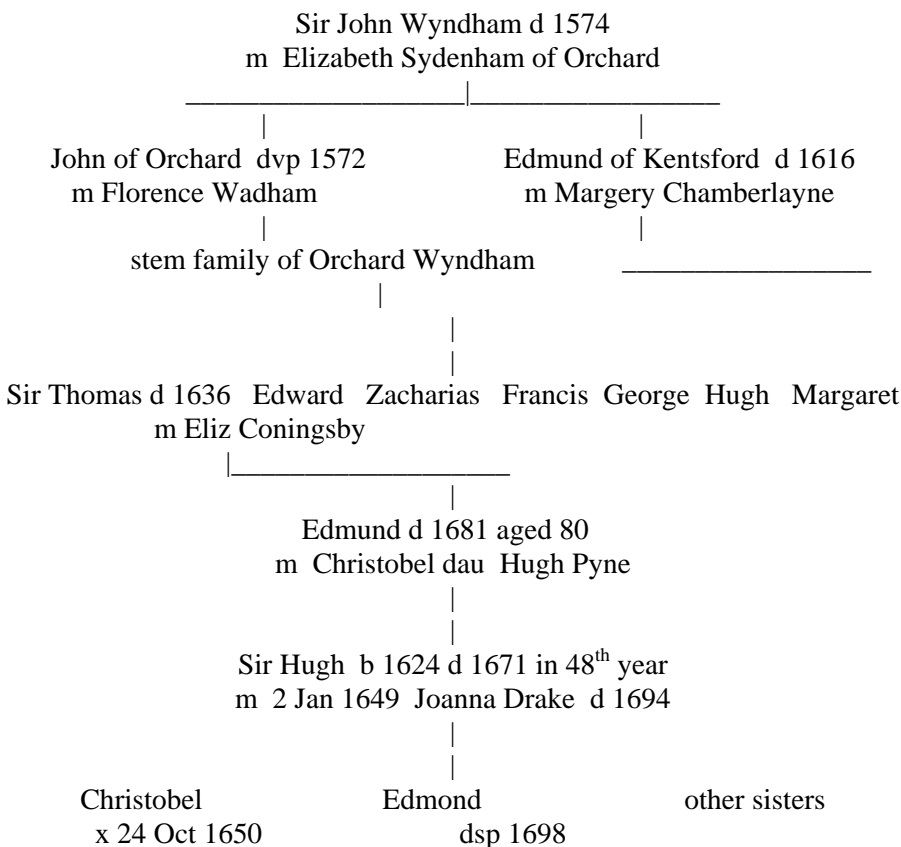
Left (looking from the altar): Here lyeth the body of Sr Hugh Wyndham of Kinsford who deceased the 20 day of July 1671 in the 48 yeare of his age. Heere lies beneath this ragged stone one more his prince's then his owne and in his marterd father's warrs lost fortune blood gaind nowcht but scars had neather countinance or regard and earth affording noe release is gone to heaven to ease his greefe.

Right: Here lyeth the body of the Lady Joanna Wyndham widow and relict of Sir Hugh Wyndham of Kentsford who dyed the 24th day of May Anno Dom'i 1694.

Edmund died in 1616, so was not Hugh's father as he was born in 1624. In fact some fossicking about on the internet, where there are many Edmunds and Hughs to confuse one, and invaluable help from David Bromwich enabled me to put together the following tree. It seems that the Kentsford branch died out with the last Edmund, although I have read that his sisters married and had children

Christobel Pyne had been the nurse of Charles II, and is recorded in contemporary memoirs as with a brother accompanying the King during the civil wars. However, the most attractive part of this story is told in "The Wyndhams of Norfolk and Somerset, 1410-1688", by the Hon. H.A. Wyndham. Hugh Wyndham was imprisoned at Pendennis Castle and "on the opposite shore at that time stood the seat of John Trefusis whose wife, Joan, was a daughter of Sir William Strode of Newnham and widow of Sir Francis Drake of Buckland Abbey.

Hugh fell in love with her fourth Drake daughter, Joan, and so chose as his wife one whose parents had been on the opposite side to him in the war ...” The father was the nephew of the great Sir Francis Drake, who himself had no issue. But apparently he did return from his travels with a tortoise shell, which was put to good use for the marriage of his great niece, and on the demise of the Kentsford Wyndhams was apparently returned to Orchard, where we were told by the guide that it was used on the lake by the children as a coracle, before it was hung up in the hall.



Alex Maxwell Findlater

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS Autumn/Winter



Arms of Sir Amyas Paulet, gaoler of Mary Queen of Scots. Sir Amyas was arguably the most famous of all the Paulets/Powletts of Hinton St George. Members might be interested in identifying the eight quarterings.

Sat 15th Sept Visit to Hinton St George near Crewkerne. Hinton House the former seat of the Earls Poulett. 12.30pm lunch at the Lord Poulett Arms. 2.15pm Assemble at St George's Church to view superb family monuments. Handout will be supplied.

Wed 10th Oct 7.00pm Annual Dinner at The Wharf, Langport. Speaker to be arranged.

Wed 14th Nov Powdered Wigs and Crested Buttons. Talk on livery buttons by Stephen Tudsbery-Turner. Slideshow followed by inspection of scores of buttons from the speaker's collection. Location—The White Hart, Somerton. Supper 6.30pm. Lecture 7.30pm

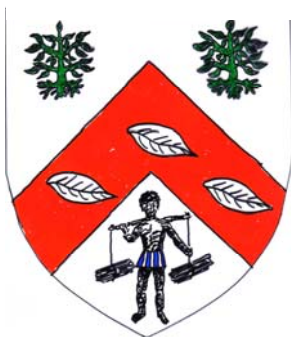


Some of the exhibits on show at the AGM on the 8th February

A Tale of Two Achievements

The Lumley Chapel in the churchyard of St Dunstan's Church, Cheam, Surrey, was formerly the chancel of an earlier church demolished in 1864. At the time of the demolition, monuments from the old church were relocated in the former chancel to join the magnificent tombs of the Lumleys, which give the present chapel its name. Amongst these memorials are three wall tablets commemorating members of the Pybus family.

John Pybus was the only son of Bryan Pybus of Dover, whose family originated in Thirsk, Yorkshire. He was a servant of the East India Company from 1742 to 1768 and was a member of the Madras Council. Amongst other things he led a mission to the King of Kandy in 1762 and was, apparently, the first Englishman to be received in a public capacity at that monarch's court. On his return to England in 1768 he lived for a time at Greenhill Grove near Barnet in Hertfordshire and was granted the rather garish although possibly appropriate arms *argent on a chevron gules three cinnamon leaves of the field, in chief two cinnamon trees eradicated vert, in base a negro girt around the waist with blue and white striped linen, carrying with a yoke of bamboo cane two bundles of cinnamon all proper. Crest: An elephant carrying in his trunk some sugar canes all proper*

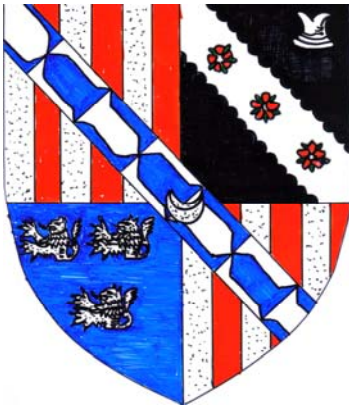


Pybus had married Martha Small, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Charles Small of Lewisham, by Rebecca, sister and co-heir of Richard Newnam. The arms of Small were *sable on a bend engrailed argent three roses gules barbed and seeded proper, in the sinister chief point a*

chessrook of the second. Rebecca (Newnam) Small's mother, another Rebecca, was the daughter and co-heir of Isaac Bennet, whose arms were azure three demi-lions rampant or.

John Pybus moved from Hertfordshire and he built himself a substantial mansion, Cheam House in Surrey, where he died in 1789, leaving two sons and six daughters.. His heir, another John Pybus, was clearly unhappy with his father's choice of armorial bearings, and in 1795 was granted a second set of arms, *paly of six gules and or a bend vair*. These arms were 'to be placed on a monument or otherwise displayed in memory of his late father and to be borne and used by the latter's descendants'.

Two of the tablets in the Lumley Chapel are those for John and Martha Pybus, who died in 1802.. The first, for John Pybus, displays the 1795 arms with Small (quarterly Small and Bennet) in pretence, while the second, for Martha Pybus, is a lozenge containing those same Small arms. The third tablet displays the arms borne by John Pybus's second son, Charles Small Pybus, M. P. For Dover and in 1793 a Lord of the Admiralty under the younger Pitt. These are quarterly 1 and 4 Pybus (1795), 2 Small and 3 Bennet.



Charles Small Pybus by Sir William Beechey Dulwich Picture Gallery

Apart from the unusual occurrence of a man, albeit posthumously, being granted arms when he already possessed an achievement, another curiosity about the arms displayed in the Lumley Chapel is the fact that the arms of Newnam, which link Bennet with Small, are nowhere to be seen and without the one we should not have the other.

Neither of the Pybus brothers had sons and on Charles Small Pybus's death in 1810 Cheam House was bought by Robert Smith, brother of Sydney, the celebrated wit and husband of Pybus's sister Kitty. On Robert Smith's death in 1845 the house was sold and with it disappeared Cheam's connection with the family of John Pybus, the man who visited the King of Kandy but who was also the possessor of two coats of arms.

Stephen Tudsbury-Turner

SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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Objects

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

Editor Stephen Tudsbury-Turner

Contributions welcome..

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