

THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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THE SOMERSET DRAGON

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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

Sat 31st May	Visit to Bristol Cathedral & Lord Mayor's Chapel
Sat 28th June	Visit to Crowcombe, Cothelstone & Bishop's Lydiard
Tues 15th July	Visit to Powderham Castle

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.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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Editorial

Since our last issue the society has enjoyed a fascinating if somewhat macabre exposition by Stephen Slater on *The Heraldic Funeral* and another excellent dinner at The Wharf in Langport, followed by *The Confessions of a Copyist*, an intriguing talk by Roland Symons. Our AGM in February was attended by twelve

Following the business there was a presentation by the Secretary entitled *The Buckingham Arms—Reflections on a Doomed Dukedom*. As a follow-up to this talk, observations on the arms of the 1st of the Villiers Dukes of Buckingham appear later in this journal. We have organised visits this summer to Bristol Cathedral and the Lord Mayor's Chapel; to three churches in the Quantocks; and to Powderham Castle, seat of the Earls of Devon.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2. The Berkeleys of Pylle by Stephen Tudsbury-Turner
6. The Arms of the Duke of Buckingham
8. Notes & Queries
9. Observations on an Absurd Escutcheon by Gale Glynn
11. The Heraldry of Edwardian Somerset— 5. Wincanton
12. The Armorial Bearings of the 1st Baron Glastonbury
An original painting by Roland Symons
14. Ex Libris 1. The Arms of the Duke of Somerset
16. Officers of the Society. Dates for your diary

THE BERKELEYS OF PYLLE

By Stephen Tudsbery-Turner

In our last issue Alex Maxwell Findlater introduced us to the world of the Berkeley family in both Gloucestershire and Scotland. We now return to the village of Pylle in Somerset where that indomitable family also had significant connections.

When King Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries in 1539 and the last Abbot of Glastonbury met his gruesome end on Glastonbury Tor, Pylle was granted to Edward Berkeley, third son of Sir Henry Berkeley of Bruton, a direct descendant of Sir Maurice Berkeley, the second son of Lord Berkeley of Berkeley Castle, who died in 1326.. Sir Edward, as he became, built a house at Pylle and his descendants were to remain in the village for over two hundred years and to be associated with it, albeit under another name, for almost another two centuries.

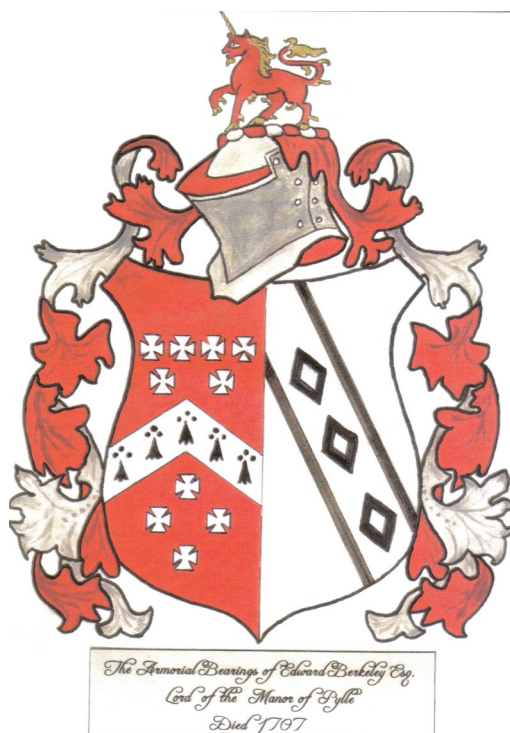


Fig. 1 The armorial bearings of Edward Berkeley of Pylle and his wife Elizabeth Ryves.

Bookplates, or 'ex libris' as they are often called, are designs or labels usually pasted inside the front covers of books to indicate ownership. They have been used in this country since the sixteenth century and have been made by copper-engraving, etching, steel or wood engraving, lithography or one of the forms of process printing which reproduce multiple copies from an original drawing. The majority of bookplates until recent times showed the owner's arms or crests, but sometimes pictorial subjects have been used instead, and these are more common than armorials today.

The bookplate illustrated opposite is that of the Duke of Somerset, an appropriate choice for our first venture. Judging by its style, the plate probably dates from the early years of the 19th century. The arms are blazoned *Quarterly 1st and 4th, Or on a pile gu. between six fleurs-de-lys az. three lions of England passant guardant or (being the augmentation granted by Henry VIII on the marriage of Lady Jane Seymour). 2nd and 3rd, Gu. Two wings conjoined in lure or (Seymour). Crest: Out of a ducal coronet or a phoenix ppr. Supporters: Dexter an unicorn arg. ducally gorged per pale az. and or, chained of the last. Sinister, a bull ducally gorged and chained or.*

The ensemble was completed by the ducal coronet and the motto *Foy Pour Devoir* or *Fidelity for Duty*. The purist might complain that the two supporters are a little too naturalistic for heraldic taste, but they certainly have a sprightly look about them.

None of the duke's homes were located within the county of Somerset but his chief seat, Maiden Bradley, was just over the border in Wiltshire.

Reminder: Annual Subs are now overdue. £10 single and £15 for joint membership.

EX LIBRIS

It has been suggested that as various members of our society are interested in heraldic bookplates (ex libris as bookplates are rightly called) *The Somerset Dragon* should run a regular feature on such items. Never let it be said that we are not receptive to new ideas, so here goes with our first offering—to be repeated if it goes down well with our readership.



Sir Edward was succeeded by his son Edward, who in turn was succeeded by his son, another Edward. This third Edward was followed by his two sons, Maurice and then William, and it was either of them who must have built the present manor house. The third Edward is commemorated by a splendid shield of arms that remains to this day on the wall of a cottage to the south of the village. It depicts the arms of Berkeley, on the spectator's left, impaling those of his wife, Elizabeth Ryves.

Maurice Berkeley commanded a regiment of the Somerset militia at the Battle of Sedgemoor in 1685, when the army of King James II defeated a rebel force led by his nephew, the handsome but ill-fated Duke of Monmouth. Maurice died without issue in 1717, leaving his estates to his brother William. This William Berkeley succeeded to the fortune of Sir William Portman Bt., and in 1735 he assumed the name and arms of Portman.

William Berkeley Portman had a son Henry, who died in 1761 and who was the ancestor of the Lords Portman, a second son Edward, who died in 1778, and a daughter Laetitia. On the death of William, two years after his name change, his elder son Henry inherited the Portman estates while the younger, Edward, inherited Pylle. He lived at Pylle until his death when the estate passed to his sister Laetitia.

There is a brief mention of Edward Berkeley in the diary of Parson Woodforde on the 10th June 1762 when the cleric noted that, 'Brother Hughes came and we went to Colonel Berkeley's of Pill where we spent part of the afternoon with the Colonel and Mr William Overton, his steward.'

Laetitia Berkeley had married Sir John Burland, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, in 1747. She survived her brother for a year and died, according to her memorial in Pylle Church, 'possessed of this Manor (which on her decease reverted to the male branch of her family) on the 29th June 1779 in the 69th year of her age.'

The Portmans were a family of distinction in Somerset in the reign of King Edward I when Thomas Portman owned an estate in the county. A direct descendant of Thomas Portman was Sir William Portman, Lord Chief Justice of England, who died in 1555, and his grandson Sir John Portman of Orchard Portman was created a baronet in 1612. Sir John's great-great grandson was William Berkeley of Pylle.



Fig. 2 The armorial bearings of the Viscounts Portman. Quarterly of four, 1 and 4 Portman, 2 and 3 Berkeley.

The Pylle estate was inherited by Henry Portman, Laetitia Burland's nephew and it was his grandson, Edward Berkeley Portman of Bryanston in Dorset and Orchard Portman in Somerset, who was created the first Baron Portman in 1837 and the first Viscount Portman in 1873. Lord Portman served as Lord Lieutenant of Somerset from 1840 to 1864 and as he had a choice of several houses in which to live, including Bryanston House, Orchard Portman, Wentworth Lodge near Bournemouth and a town house at 22, Portman Square in London, it will be readily appreciated that his appearances at Pylle were few and far between. The second viscount died in 1919 and the following year the 1,585 acre Portman estate was sold. Pylle and the Portmans had parted company.

St Leonard's Church in Butleigh contains brass plaques bearing the shields of arms of Lord Glastonbury and his father and a window in the north aisle edged with shields in stone commemorating Lord Glastonbury's descent on both the Grenville and Temple sides of his family.

What is slightly surprising is that the bearings on Lord Glastonbury's coat of arms, as printed in George Kearsley's *Complete Peerage* of 1799, seem to be those of his cousin, the 1st Marquis of Buckingham. The four quarterings shown are 1 Grenville, 2 & 3 Temple and 4 Leofric; all appropriate for both men. The Nugent escutcheon in pretence is on the other hand accurate only for the marquis, who married the heiress Mary Nugent in 1775 and succeeded as Earl Nugent in 1788. The 1809 edition of Kearsley contains the same arms minus the inescutcheon, while we have been informed that an even later edition contains arms similar to those illustrated in Fig. 1. All very mysterious.

Roland Symons's picture gives this more accurate representation of Lord Glastonbury's achievement. Eagle eyed readers will note that the standard Grenville crest of a garb has been charged with a mullet, as in Fig. 2, presumably acknowledging the fact that his lordship's father was the third son of Richard Grenville.



Fig. 3 Lord Glastonbury's arms from Kearsley's *Peerage* of 1799.

The Butleigh estate had been left to Lord Glastonbury's father in 1738 and he inherited it himself in 1783. On his own death in 1825 the property passed to a distant cousin, the Rev. George Neville, later Dean of Windsor.

THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF JAMES GRENVILLE 1st BARON GLASTONBURY 1742-1825



Fig. 1 The arms of the 1st Baron Glastonbury. An original painting by Roland Symons.

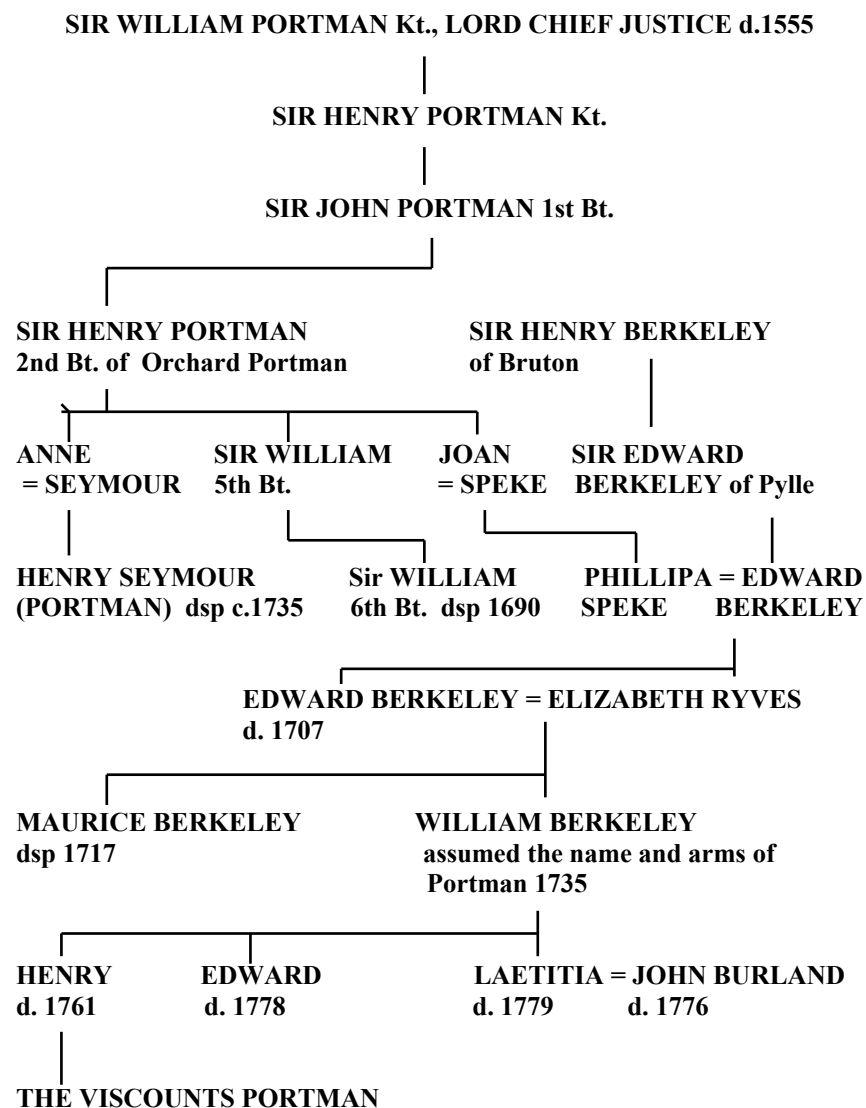


Fig. 2 Lord Glastonbury's bookstamp.

While we are on the subject of the Dukes of Buckingham and Chandos (p. 7, fig. 4) Stephen Slater has drawn our attention to the fact that one of the 1st duke's cousins (once removed!), lived here in Somerset and was in fact raised to the peerage in 1797 as the 1st Lord Glastonbury. An 1810 encyclopaedia gives appropriate details.

'James Grenville, Baron Glastonbury, of Budleigh (sic) in the county of Somerset; a general in the army; born July 6, 1742; and was a privy councillor, and a lord of the treasury in 1782, and a lord of trade and plantations. His lordships's father,' the encyclopaedia goes on, was 'third son of Richard Grenville, esq., by Hester, countess Temple, his wife.' His mother was 'Mary, the daughter and heir of James Smith of Harden, in Hertfordshire'. We are further informed that Lord Glastonbury's residences were 'Burleigh (sic) court, in the county of Somerset' and a town house in Conduit Street.

THE PORTMANS OF ORCHARD PORTMAN & THE BERKELEYS OF PYLLE



dsp = died without issue

THE ARMS OF THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM



Fig. 1

The third example shows the duke's stall plate as a Knight of the Garter in St George's Chapel, Windsor. Gone are the quarterings of the Leicestershire gentry and in their place appear the arms of the great and the good from English medieval heraldry. Villiers in the first and twelfth quarters have been joined by illustrious arms such as those of Roos (3), Fitzwarren (5), Beauchamp (6), Berkeley (8) and Lisle (9).

The armorial bearings illustrated here are those of George Villiers 1st Duke of Buckingham and they pose an interesting heraldic problem. The first is relatively straightforward. The arms are those of Villiers impaling Manners, for the duke married Katherine Manners, daughter of the Earl of Rutland.

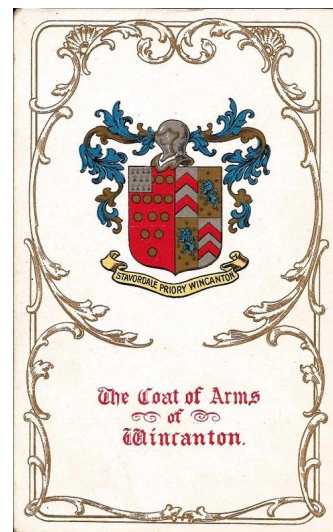
The second example shows six quarterings. Villiers modern and Villiers ancient are joined by the arms of four Leicestershire gentlemen from whom the duke presumably claimed descent. So far so good.



Fig.
2

THE HERALDRY OF EDWARDIAN SOMERSET

Once again we are presented with arms credited to a town that did not possess them, this time Wincanton. They are in fact the arms of William 5th Baron Zouche (c.1402-1462), who married Alice St Maur, the daughter and heiress of the 6th Lord St Maur. Their grandson John, a Yorkist supporter who fell upon hard times, lived at nearby Stavordale Priory in the latter years of his life.



It was a tenuous connection but obviously good enough for C. E. Watling of the Market Place, Wincanton, who sold the postcard bearing the arms—clearly produced by the same company that was responsible for those of Frome (issue No. 26).

Our picture features the arms of Zouche impaling the quartered arms of St Maur. The 6th Baron Zouche, John's father, inherited the baron of St Maur and John himself was thus 7th Baron Zouche and 8th Baron St Maur. These impressive titles were not enough for him to avoid the ignominy of being styled as a mere knight in the French campaign of 1492 as a result of his straitened financial circumstances.

The legend beneath the shield, 'Stavordale Priory Wincanton' is also misleading for the priory, like the town, never actually possessed armorial bearings.

DYRHAM PARK—ITS ARMIGEROUS OWNERS

The first of two articles on this subject by Tony Ryan will appear in the next issue of The Somerset Dragon.

Above the shield is placed a mural coronet in the position of a coronet of rank (!!!) [I have taken upon myself to omit the coronet. - Ed] And above this is placed upon a wreath showing nine twists a locomotive engine and tender! (Upon the notepaper the lines of the rails is placed, which causes the absence of a signal-post to be noticed.) The Motto is “never behind.” This, as a delightful piece of sarcasm, will doubtless be appreciated by anyone constantly using Crewe Railway Station. One eagerly awaited new quarters for the motor-car and aeroplane.



Ermine, a wheel Or; on a chief wavy azure a maunch between two garbs or.

Crest: On a wreath Or and azure, A demi lion argent holding between the claws a cog-wheel Or.

Motto Semper contendo.

Perhaps this stinging commentary was drawn to the attention of the Borough as in *Civic & Corporate Heraldry, compiled and edited by Geoffrey Biggs FRSA FSA (Scot), 1971*, it is stated that in 1955 the Borough was granted the following arms:

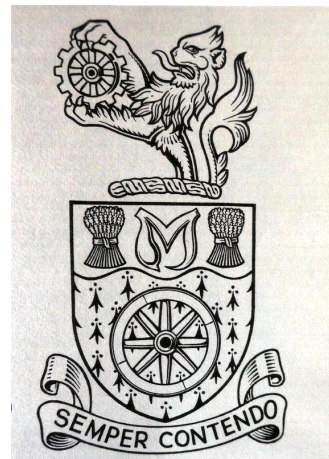


Fig. 3

The arms in Fig. 1 are to be found on an oak panel in Osterley Park, Middlesex. Those in Fig. 2 adorn a pub signboard in Westminster, and those in Fig. 3 were discovered on line. Any observations on this interesting state of heraldic affairs will be gratefully received

These images all appeared during the course of the talk *The Buckingham Arms—Reflections on a Doomed Dukedom* at our AGM. A further illustration was the splendid representation of the arms of the third and last Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, who died in 1889, as depicted by Roland Symons. For the benefit of those who missed the AGM the arms are on show here as Fig. 4.



Fig. 4

The quarterings on display are 1 and 4 Grenville, 2 Chandos, 3 Brydges, 4 Nugent and 5 Temple. The crests from left to right are those of Nugent, Chandos, Grenville, Brydges and Temple.

NOTES & QUERIES

Carol Haines has pointed out that the ‘milk picks’ referred to on page 5 of issue no.25 are surely ‘mill picks’ - which seems most likely. Further research has shown that *or three mill picks sable*, that were credited to the Gamul family, could be inaccurate. Burke has the Gamul arms as *or three mullets sable*. More work clearly needs to be done here!



Fig. 1 Overdoor arms at Nonsuch Park, Surrey. Farmer impaling Gamul, give or take the occasional mill pick!



And while on the subject of the arms of the Farmer family, Cathie Constant has submitted these pictures of arms from Easton Neston Church, Northants, burial place for the Fermor-Heskeths. The Fermor arms are most clearly seen in the 16th quarter in Fig. 2.

Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Thanks also to Ralph Brocklebank for noticing that the dragon supporters on the Frome arms referred to on page 15 of issue No. 26 were in fact griffins.

OBSERVATIONS ON AN ABSURD ESCUTCHEON

By GALE GLYNN

The note on the arms of Frome Urban District Council in *The Somerset Dragon No. 26* has prompted me to wonder if members of SHS are familiar with Arthur Charles Fox-Davies' critique below. It is taken from *The Book of Public Arms, 1915*:

CREWE (Cheshire). Has no armorial bearings. The ‘picture’ in use is another of these “Illustrated Bits,” absurdities which pass the wit of man to understand. Whoever was responsible (*sic*) for its concoction and conception has raised up a lasting memorial to his own ignorance, to put it mildly; and that any Corporation composed of a Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors should contain no one with sufficient heraldic knowledge (and very little would have sufficed), or even artistic taste, which is a much more general commodity, to have objected when such a design was submitted is difficult to believe. The said design consists of an escutcheon quarterly of four. As the Town-Clerk, in writing, guilelessly puts it, the design of Crewe ‘represents the present and the past means of locomotion, one panel (!) representing the stage-coach, another the canal-boat, another the pack-horse, and the last the pillion; and a locomotive steam-engine at the head.’ The illustration is a very accurate representation, and to sum it up I should like to say the shield contains seven horses, ten men, one woman, a stage-coach, a canal-boat, a canal, a towing-path, a road, two ranges of mountains, four trees and incidental surroundings. A few of the people are omitted on the notepaper, presumably for the sake of convenience.