

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

No. 30
APRIL 2015



Editorial

At the recent AGM (see page 10) it was proposed that the names of those attending society visits should be listed in advance and that entrance fees and the like should be collected at the same time. It was also suggested that the society should make a donation of £25 to any church visited on outings. To the treasurer's delight both proposals were carried unanimously. A further recommendation was that the society should try and interest local schools in matters heraldic. Once again the meeting was in favour and the committee is working on the idea.

The arms illustrated opposite are those of the Earls of Egmont (article on pages 7-10). Earls numbers 2, 3 and 4 had as their seat Enmore Castle near Bridgwater, and a full account of the vicissitudes of the earldom, now extinct, will be the subject of the talk at our November meeting. Stephen Slater's article on *A Tichborne Miscellany* is particularly appropriate given our summer visit to Hampshire.

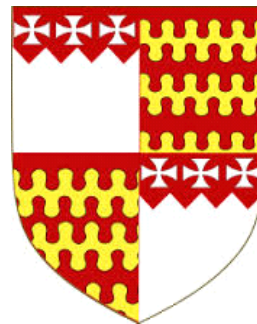


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A TICHBORNE MISCELLANY BY STEPHEN SLATER

Later in 2015 we will be visiting the church in Tichborne, Hampshire, the village gave its name to one of England's oldest Catholic families, and the parish church still contains a Catholic family chapel, one of only 3 in the country.

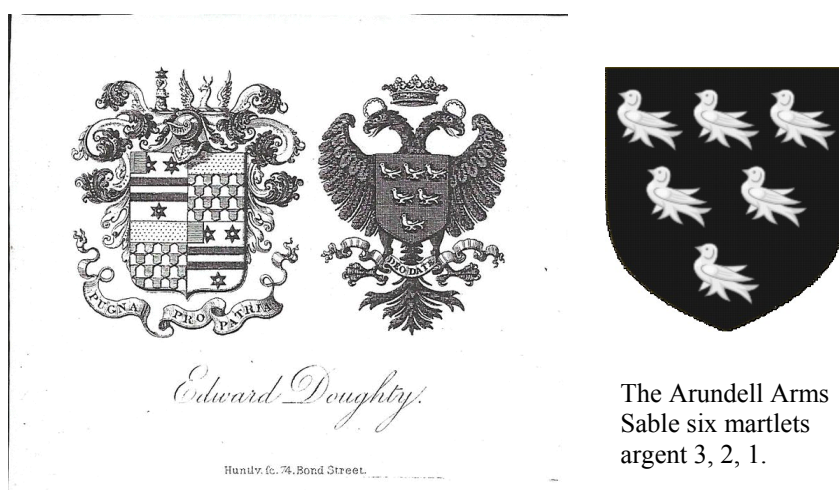
I have in my little collection of bookplates 3 plates which feature the arms of the Tichborne and related families, here then is the brief story of them.

By far the most curious plate is that of Edward Doughty, later 9th baronet of Tichborne. Sir Edward was born a Tichborne but in order to succeed to the estates of Miss Elizabeth Doughty, of Snarford, Lincs, he took the name and arms of Doughty. Edward's bookplate has a quartered shield, the 1st and 4th quarters bear the arms of Doughty (Argent 2 bars between 3 six pointed mullets sable pierced or), as Edward was not of the blood of Miss Doughty he differenced his arms with a canton azure (the canton is a favoured mark used by the English heralds when someone takes the arms of a person not related directly by blood).

The 2nd and 3rd quarters bear the arms of Tichborne (Vair a chief or).

The curious thing about Edward Doughty's plate is that 2 separate coats of arms appear side by side on it.

The other shield of arms is borne on the breast of a double headed eagle, a very rare combination to be found here in England, its story follows.



Edward Doughty (Tichborne), later 9th baronet, married Katherine, daughter of James, 9th Baron Arundell of Wardour, in Wiltshire. The Arundells were yet another of England's oldest Catholic families, and like the Tichbornes, tended to marry into their religion. In the 16th Century Thomas Arundell, went to fight for Rudolph II, Holy Roman Emperor, against the Turks. During the storming of Gran (now Estergom in Hungary) Thomas Arundell was amongst the first through the breach, he tore down the Turkish standards and replaced it with the Imperial eagle. The actual helmet he wore in battle (supposedly) now hangs above the family vault in Tisbury parish church (Wilts).

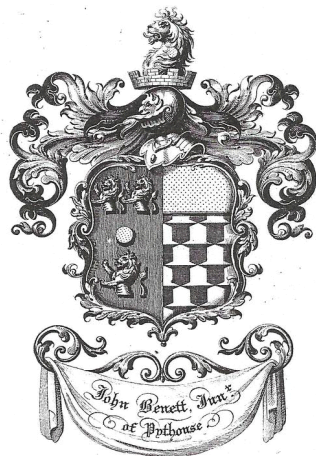


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury Wilts., from a photograph c.1920

In 1595 Rudolph II created Thomas a count of the Holy Roman Empire, and in common with many similarly titled families the Arundells from thence placed their arms (Sable 6 martlets argent 3-2-1) on the breast of the imperial double headed eagle. Elizabeth I of England was none too pleased when she heard the news of Thomas's ennoblement and had him thrown into prison, she supposedly shouted that she would have none of her sheep branded by a foreign shepherd! In 1605 James I created Thomas, Baron Arundell of Wardour. The family believed that the countly title was bestowed on all male and female members of the family, and along with it the double headed eagle. As a countess in her own right Katherine Doughty (Arundell) placed her arms alongside those of her husband (who would not be entitled to the countly status and heraldic rights.)

Sir Edward and Lady Doughty had no surviving children and the baronetcy passed in time to Edward's younger brother (Sir Edward died in 1853) James (died 1862).

Sir James Doughty -Tichborne (this was how the family later called itself) married Miss Henriette Seymour, illegitimate daughter of Henry Seymour of Knoyle, Wilts. Henriette's mother was thought to be a daughter of the Prince de Conde (therefore a junior member of the French royal family). In time Sir James and Lady Henriette had a son, Roger, the heir to the baronetcy. Roger Tichborne went to sea and was thought to have perished in a ship wreck. His mother believed Roger had survived, and when a man turned up on her doorstep claiming to be her long lost son Lady Henriette took him in. Here is not the place to discuss the 'Tichborne Case' but it turned out that 'Roger' was in fact a butcher from Wagga Wagga in Australia, he later served 10 years for perjury!



The Tichborne arms also appear in another bookplate of my collection. This belonged to John Benett, jr. of Pythouse, Wilts. The Benetts had long been settled in Wiltshire and were near neighbours of both the Arundells of Wardour and the Seymours of Knoyle. John Benett converted to Catholicism and married Emily Blanche Tichborne, she was daughter of Sir Henry Tichborne, 8th baronet, he also happened to be elder brother to both the 9th and 10th baronets.

The Benetts of Pythouse (and Norton Bavant) had arms of Gules 3 demi lions argent, often they differenced the arms with either a mullet or a bezant (the mark was dropped by later members of the family). The plate of John and Emily have an impaled shield for Benett and Tichborne. The last Benett of Pythouse and Norton Bavant was John 'Mad Jack' a noted eccentric who loved his heraldry, but that's for another article.



The 3rd and last plate I feature here is that of another Arundell of Wardour. James Arundell, 10th Baron Arundell, married the Lady Mary Nugent-Temple-Grenville, daughter of George, 1st Marquess of Buckingham. Lord Arundell's shield impales Arundell with Grenville (Vert on a cross gules 5 torteaux).

Lady Mary Nugent-Temple-Grenville
Lady Arundell of Wardour
By John Hoppner



Included in His Lordship's arms is a coronet, supposedly of an imperial count (but the British engraver shows it as a ducal coronet) and the spectral owl of the Arundells. The white owls were said to fly round Wardour Castle when one of the family was about to die. The birds were last seen in 1944 when John, 16th and last Baron of Arundell was repatriated from Colditz with TB. His mother and sisters had been told John was coming home but they did not know how ill he was. He died in Chester and that same night the owls were sighted at Wardour. With his death the barony became extinct.

As for the Tichbornes, their baronetcy became extinct on the death in 1968 of Sir Anthony, 14th and last baronet. It is nice to know however, that the Tichborne estate still continues to be held by the family in female line.

THE ARMS OF THE EARLS OF EGMONT BY STEPHEN TUDSBERRY-TURNER

The Percevals in the shape of two brothers arrived in England with the Conqueror in 1066 and were granted extensive lands in Somerset; indeed the grandson of one of the brothers founded the castle at Castle Cary. The senior branch of the family adopted the surname Lovel and its was a descendant of this branch who became a staunch supporter of King Richard III and who disappeared mysteriously after the Battle of Stoke in 1487.



Fig. 1. The arms of Sir John Lovel
5th Baron Lovel KG. 1341-1408

In Tudor times Richard Perceval, a representative of the junior branch of the family, quarrelled with his father and left England for Spain, where he lived for four years. On his return his familiarity with the Spanish language enabled him to enter the service of Lord Burghley and he was used to decipher intercepted dispatches at the time of the Spanish Armada. As a result he was rewarded by Queen Elizabeth with a pension for life as well as several lucrative appointments.

In 1616 Richard Perceval was nominated Registrar of the Court of Wards in Ireland by King James I. He sold his family's property in Somerset and invested the proceeds in Irish land. His son Philip built upon these foundations increased the family's landholdings in Ireland and was knighted by King Charles I. John Perceval, Richard's grandson, managed to serve Oliver Cromwell before switching sides in time to make his peace with King Charles II, who granted him a baronetcy.

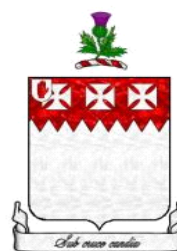


Fig. 2. The arms of Sir
John Perceval

Sir John Perceval and his descendants lived at Kanturk Castle in County Cork, and it was the fifth baronet who was created a baron in 1715 by King George I. He received a further elevation eight years later when he became Viscount Perceval of Kanturk in the Irish peerage.



The earl was a keen genealogist and with the help of James Anderson D. D. (1662-1728), the compiler of a voluminous but uncritical work on *Royal Genealogies* (1731 and 1736), he produced a marvellous *Genealogical History of the House of Yvery; in its Different Branches of Yvery, Luvel, Perceval, and Gournay* (1742), deducing the Percevals from ancient houses with which they were in fact unconnected.'

Perceval's career, both private and political, was by eighteenth century standards exemplary. He entered parliament as MP for Cork in 1715 and in 1722 was elected as member for the borough of Harwich. Initially he was a supporter of Sir Robert Walpole, although his increasing independence made him a great favourite in court circles and in 1733, the year after he was appointed first President of the Colony of Georgia in North America, he became first Earl of Egmont.

Figs 3 & 4 Kanturk Castle and the 1st Earl of Egmont.

Fig. 5. The bookstamp of the 1st Earl



His son, the second earl, succeeded his father in 1748. He was a Lord of the Bedchamber to Frederick Prince of Wales, and he later became a great favourite with King George III, who succeeded in 1760. He occupied various posts both at court and in government and in 1762 was granted an English peerage to accompany his inherited Irish honours. He became Lord Lovel and Holland of Enmore – a nod to his illustrious if collateral forbears.



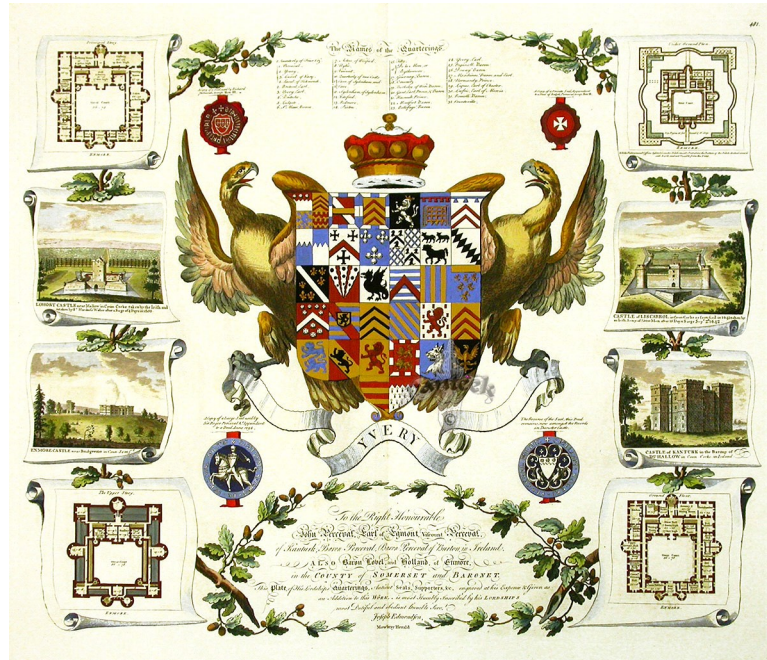
The Enmore connection came about because the earl, like his father before him, was based in England rather than Ireland and they both leased Charlton Park, a fine Jacobean mansion in Kent. The second earl had grander ideas and decided to settle in Somerset, his family's ancestral base. In 1752 he bought the manor of Enmore near Bridgwater and there he built for himself a magnificent castle.



Like his father the earl was keenly interested in both heraldry and genealogy and in 1764 his arms featured in the *Baronagium Genealogicum*, or the *Pedigrees of the English Peers* ... a five volume work originally compiled by Sir William Segar, and continued by Joseph Edmondson, the Mowbray herald. The work was originally published in numbers, and when completed sold for twenty-five guineas.

Figs 6 & 7 The 2nd Earl of Egmont & Enmore Castle

The *Baronagium* has been considered by many as a work of infinite labour, but based upon unreliable information, and the earl's arms, seen opposite, bears this out. Critics have also maintained that the plates of arms, although very well executed, are in dubious taste.. The first earl, one suspects would not be of this opinion, and would probably have been delighted with his son's handiwork.



The second earl married twice and had two sons by each of his wives. His second wife, Baroness Arden, was a peeress of Ireland in her own right and on her death her elder son inherited the barony while the younger, Spencer Perceval, rose to become prime minister and to be assassinated in the lobby of the House of Commons in 1812.



Figs 8 & 9 The arms of the 2nd Earl according to Edmondson and the arms of the earl with those of his second wife in pretence



Fig. 10 The arms of the 2nd Baron Ardern. Note the barons coronet, the crest, *out of a ducal coronet or a bear's head sable muzzled gold* and the supporters, *two griffins axure semee de lys or, beaked, ducally gorged and chained gold*, which all differ from those of the Earl of Egmont illustrated on the previous page.

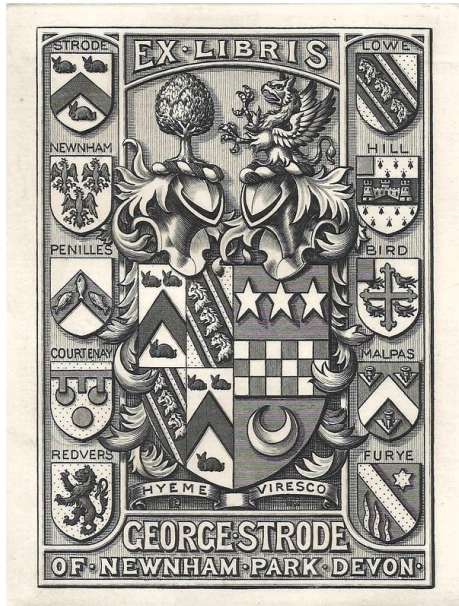
On his death in 1770 the second earl was succeeded by the elder son of his first marriage and the third and fourth earls were succeeded by only sons in 1822 and 1835 respectively. Unlike the third earl's illustrious half brother neither made a mark on the national scene, although the third was MP for Bridgwater from 1762 until 1769 and was a short lived Lord Lieutenant of Somerset from February 1773 to March 1774. The fourth earl was a wastrel, who left the management of his Irish estates to his solicitor and who sold the Enmore estate, lock, stock and barrel in 1833 and 1834 in order to settle his debts. His son, who inherited in 1835 and died six years later, was a confirmed alcoholic. He chose to spend his days in obscurity in Wiltshire and he left what remained of the family estates in Ireland to the family solicitor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Eleven members attended a convivial AGM on Valentine's Day at Monteclefe Cottage. Nine are pictured here, Roland Symons, the tenth, took the photo while number eleven, who must surely remain anonymous, slipped away before the end of the meeting to watch the Rugby International on the television. Doubtless in order to salve her conscience she volunteered to return later to collect the rubbish.



EX LIBRIS



George Strode, born George Lowe, the possessor of this magnificent armorial bookplate, inherited the Newnham Park estate from his aunt, Dorothea Strode in 1897. In accordance with the terms of his inheritance he changed his name by royal licence to Strode and adopted the arms of Strode. He married Anna Fielding Boyd, daughter of Thomson Boyd of Edinburgh, by whom he left two daughters and co-heiresses. The estate is currently owned by his great-grandson and has been developed as a corporate entertainment business including shooting, archery, carriage-driving and off-road vehicles and motorcross.

OBITUARIES

It is with regret that we have to record the deaths of two former members.

Hermione Hobhouse, who died last year, was extremely well known as an architectural historian. She was a member of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, Chairman of the Royal Albert Hall Fabrics Committee and for a number of years ran the Victorian Society. Hermione was a highly regarded author and among her best known works were *Lost London*, a record of buildings lost through destruction or neglect; her biographical studies of Prince Albert and Thomas Cubitt; and her books on the Crystal Palace and Regent Street. She came from a noted Somerset family, and was keenly interested in both its history and its heraldry.



James Grinter, who lived in Victoria, Australia, was our furthest flung member. He too came from an old Somerset family and in December 2013 submitted an article to *The Somerset Dragon* on the ideas behind his own coat of arms.

NOTES & QUERIES

I was particularly interested in the article on the Border Arms [Somerset Dragon No. 29] and note you say that the first Earl of Douglas (the Black Douglas) added a man's heart to the traditional Douglas shield.

My Douglas friends would be a little miffed at that because, according to them, it was not just a man's heart but the heart of Robert Bruce. The King, unable to go on crusade himself, had charged Douglas to take his heart on the next crusade which the clan lore says he did and was wearing it around his neck as he lead the cavalry charge in which he was killed.

The heart was later recovered and re-interred in Scotland. Both Barbour and Froissart support this story.

[Our thanks to Iain Swinnerton for contributing this piece and our apologies to Robert Bruce for dismissing his heart in such an off-hand fashion. Ed.]

HERALDRY AND OTHER CLUES A GENEALOGIST'S JOURNEY

Members were treated to an intriguing genealogical journey by our speaker Ann Ballard (right) at the meeting on Wednesday 18th March at Monteclefe Cottage. Our thanks go to Ann for such an interesting talk and as always to our Chairman Mary Rose Rogers for allowing us to use her home as our venue. The photo below right shows Mary Rose Rogers, Janet Uncles and Philip Hickman considering some of Ann's more telling points, while to the left John Uncles and David Hawkings relax after the meeting.



A SOMERSET CHURCH ARMORIAL

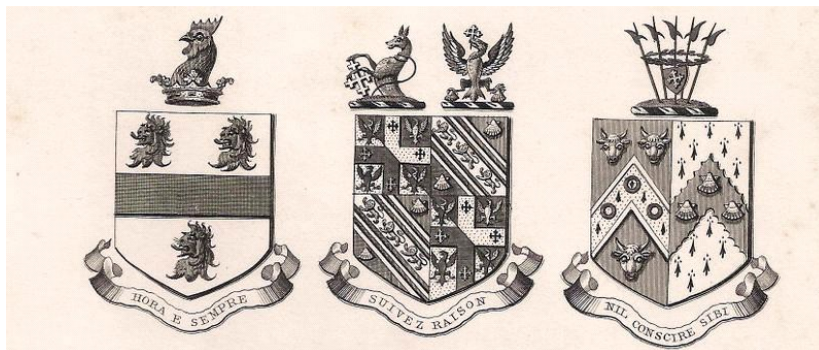
For anyone interested in the heraldry available to be seen in Somerset churches this disk, produced by the Heraldry Society, is an amazing not to say indispensable resource.

It is largely the work of one man, Dr Peter Roe, who over a period of the best part of twenty years produced a comprehensive survey of the church heraldry of the historic county of Somerset. His survey was deposited in the Somerset Record Office in five typescript volumes, volume four dealing with churches in the short-lived county of Avon and volume five covering the heraldry in Bath Abbey. Dr Roe's hand-coloured plates illustrate all five volumes but the last also features illustrations produced by Somerset Heraldry Society member, Roland Symons.

This digitised version of the Armorial has been produced in two parts, the first covering volumes 1-3 and the second volumes 4-5. They have been reproduced as PDF files and have been complemented by the addition of a county map, based on one produced by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies.

The disk costs £15 and if purchased through the society a large part of this will go towards our own funds. I cannot recommend it too highly. (Ed.)

HERALDIC QUIZ NO. 1

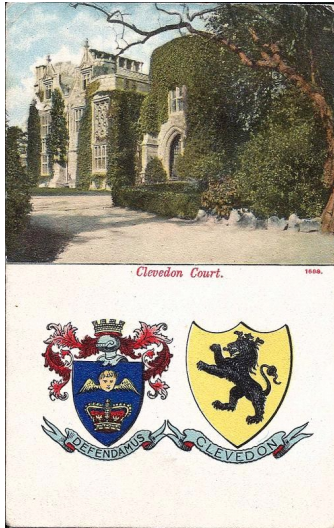


Blazon and Identify !! Answers in our next issue



From *The Universal Magazine*. Francis Seymour-Conway 2nd Baron Conway was created 1st Earl of Hertford in 1750 and 1st Marquess of Hertford in 1793.

THE HERALDRY OF EDWARDIAN SOMERSET



Clevedon Court in North Somerset is a romantic medieval manor house set within a beautiful terraced garden. Since 1709 it has been the home of the Elton family. Three families have dominated the 700 year history of Clevedon Court, which is still in essence the de Clevedon's medieval manor with its fine Great Hall and remarkably small chapel, remodelled by the Wake family, who owned the house from 1432 to 1630, and further modernised by the Eltons. This description of Clevedon Court is taken from the National Trust Guidebook, for the Trust took over the ownership of the property in 1960, although the family still lives there.

The arms displayed on our first illustration, a card posted in 1907, are those of Taunton on the left (note the unauthorised royal crown that was replaced by a Saxon crown in 1934) and those of Clevedon (owners from 1066 to 1432) on the right. These are blazoned *Or a lion rampant crowned sable*.

Somewhat surprisingly the arms of Elton, *Paly of six gules and or on a bend sable three mullets of the second*, do not appear on the card, although they were the owners of the property in 1907. The arms of Sir Abraham Elton (1755-1842), the first member of the Elton family to live permanently at Clevedon, are taken from an eighteenth century Somerset armory by James Harris, which will be the subject of an article in our next issue.



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 (Times to be announced)

Thurs 21 May Cleeve Abbey and Orchard Wyndham Visit
Tues 28 July Exeter Cathedral Visit
Thurs 17 Sept Froyle and Tichborne Visit
Tues 27 Oct Annual Dinner (Lunch!)
Sat 21 Nov Meeting: *The Rootless Earls: The Vicissitudes of the Noble House of Egmont* by Stephen Tudsbury-Turner

Meetings take place at Monteclefe Cottage, Somerton. 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch, followed by 2.00 pm talk. Finish by 3.30 pm.