

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

No. 32

December 2015



Editorial

If anyone has any thoughts about next year's programme do please contact a member of the committee. This year we had three visits, an AGM, an annual lunch and two talks. Lunchtime meetings on a weekday at Monteclefe Cottage, courtesy of Mary Rose Rogers, seem to suit most people, but nothing is set in stone. Volunteers to give talks, including the ten minute variety to accompany the AGM and the lunch, and to organise visits would be welcomed with open arms!

The year 2015 has been a good one for battle anniversaries. Waterloo was won in 1815 and Agincourt likewise four hundred years earlier. Waterloo gained a mention in our last issue and this time we do rather better with a whole article on the subject of Agincourt. In honour of his famous victory King Henry V features opposite. Not one suspects a true likeness. But for more on the subject of that monarch's physiognomy read on!



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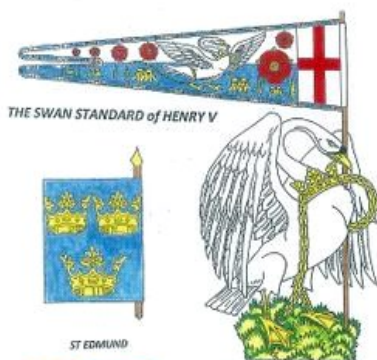
THE HERALDRY OF AGINCOURT BY ROLAND SYMONS

One of the qualifications for being a hero is that you die young. Henry V qualified in that category because he died when he was only 34. You would have been shocked to have met him. The traditional portrait doesn't show the scar of an arrow wound which had penetrated six inches into his right cheek at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403.

Henry of Monmouth was the eldest son of Henry IV and his first wife, Mary of Bohun. The Bohun badges of the antelope, swan and fire-beacon featured on the banners flown at Agincourt. He was fighting for his father from the age of 13 first in Wales and then against those who would have dethroned his father

From the outset of his reign in 1413, Henry V was intent on the conquest of France of which he saw himself as rightfully King, thanks to the claim of Edward III – hence the quartering of the French Royal arms with those of England from 1340 onwards. The moment was opportune for such a campaign. Charles VI of France was periodically insane and the Royal House was divided between the Orleanists and the Burgundians. Henry's pitched his demands for a settlement so high that war was inevitable.

Funding for Henry's war was raised by taxation, borrowing and by pawning the crown jewels. The army of 2500 men-at-arms and 8000 archers was raised through indentures at fixed rates (Dukes at 13/4d a day down to archers at 6d a day).



THE SWAN STANDARD of HENRY V



ANTELOPE STANDARD of HENRY V



ST EDMUND



ST EDWARD the CONFESSOR



EDWARD, DUKE of YORK (V) *Vegetard*



HUMPHREY, DUKE of GLOUCESTER



HENRY V, KING of ENGLAND



RICHARD de VERE, EARL of OXFORD



SIR JOHN CORNWALL



THOMAS, LORD CAMOYS *Baraguard*



SIR THOMAS ERPINGHAM *Archer*



MICHAEL de la POLE, EARL of SUFFOLK (V)



THOMAS MONTAGU, EARL of SALISBURY



JOHN HOLLAND



GILBERT, 5th BARON TALBOT



SIR WALTER HUNGERFORD



CHARLES VI, KING of FRANCE



THOMAS STROZLAND



SIR ROLAND CENTVILLE



CHARLES, DUKE of ORLANS



JOHN, DUKE of BEDFORD



JEAN d'ALENCON



CHARLES, DUKE of FLANDERS



ANTHONY, DUKE of BURGUNDY



ARTHUR, COUNT of RICHEMONT

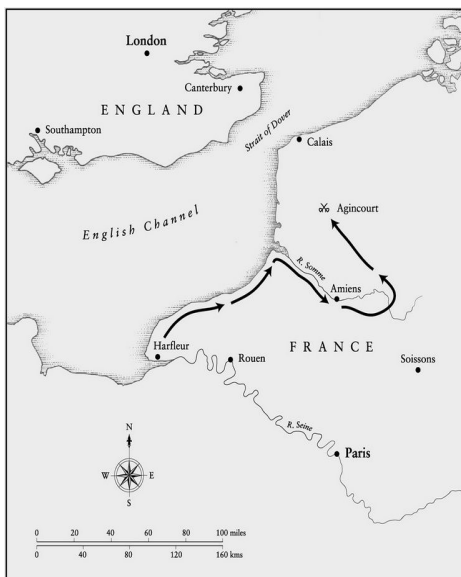
THE BATTLE of AGINCOURT. OCTOBER 25TH 1415

The aristocracy came out in force : 33 of the 43 peers, 15 of the 25 Knights of the Garter, 90 knights and 73 MP's. In July a fleet of 1500 ships, together with the army, assembled in Portsmouth and Southampton. Then, on 31st July, Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, revealed a plot to assassinate the King. It was led by Richard, Earl of Cambridge, (Mortimer's cousin and brother of the Duke of York), Lord Scrope of Masham, Henry's Treasurer, and Sir Henry Grey of Heton. With the assembly of so many nobles, were they hoping for support ? The plot was something of a hangover from the rebellions against Henry IV. All three ringleaders were executed, but Cambridge's son, Richard, was to inherit the York title . . . and the Yorkist claim to the throne.

On August 11th Henry's fleet set sail lead by the flagship, *The Trinity Royal*, and accompanied by a flock of swans, Henry's badge. The fleet made landfall at Harfleur at the mouth of the Seine: a good base for any advance on Paris and reinforcing Henry's claim to Normandy. An anticipated eight-day siege turned into one of 40 and the army began to suffer from dysentery. By the time the town surrendered on 21st Sept, some 2000 troops had been invalided home, including Henry's brother, Thomas, the Earl Marshal, John Mowbray, and the Earl of March. Some of Henry's best advisors died such as Richard Courtney, Bishop of Norwich, and the Earls of Arundel & Suffolk. With only one town captured, Henry could hardly return home and claim a triumph. It would be hard, too, to persuade his backers to give more money for any future campaign. He decided to emulate Edward III by marching across Normandy, using the Blanchetaque ford to cross the Somme and so reach Calais having proved that the French couldn't stop him.

What were the French doing ? They had sent no relief to Harfleur. In truth, the French were leaderless. The King and his heir were not capable of making important decisions and the Royal Dukes, Orleans, Burgundy, Bourbon, Alençon, Bar, Anjou & Brittany were divided, lukewarm and ineffective. The two best commanders, the Constable, Charles d'Albret, and Jean le Maingre, the Marshal, could give good advice but they lacked the status and authority of royalty. While the main French army assembled at Rouen, d'Albret was to block the ford at Blanchetaque while le Maingre would shadow the English army. The 'block' was in place by Oct.11th.

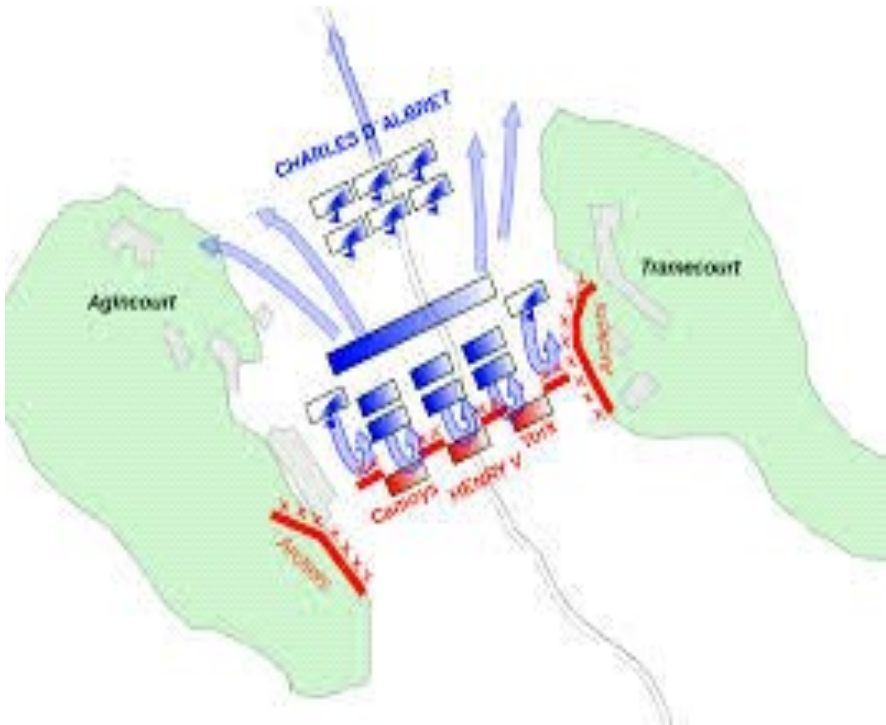
Henry set out from Harfleur on Oct. 8th with 1500 men-at-arms and 7000 archers. He left behind a garrison of 1200. With minimum baggage & 'feasting' on a diet of dried beef and walnuts, he aimed reach Calais, 144 miles away, in eight days. All went according to plan until Oct 13th when he was told that there were 6000 French guarding Blanchetaque, which was also staked. He could not turn back for Harfleur because the main French army would cut him off. He had to move up the Somme to seek another crossing. The initiative had passed to the French. They could now choose where to fight. Henry found causeways across the Somme at Voyennes on Oct 18th, but the main French army was now ahead of him and it cut the road to Calais at Agincourt. A wet and bedraggled English army tried to camp on the 24th knowing that they were outnumbered by a fresh force.



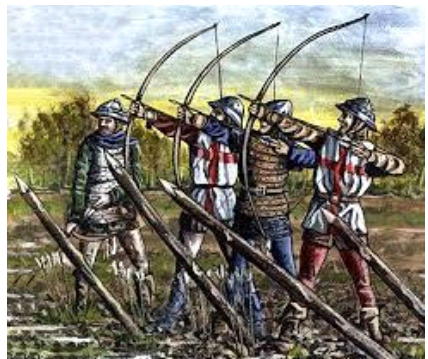
Friday 25th Oct, St Crispin's Day. The French drew up on a narrow front between the villages of Agincourt on the left and Tramcourt on the right. There were woods on both sides of a field which had recently been sown with winter wheat and so was wet and very sticky, especially for men in 60lbs of armour.

The French front line was overcrowded as men-at-arms shoved their way into it in the hope of taking English prisoners, especially, the king. Fresh troops arriving all the time made the line even more overcrowded. There were two mounted wings and another mounted line behind the main body. The English drew up 1000 yards from the French. In the centre were three 'battles' of men-at-arms. That on the left was commanded by the 65-year-old Lord Camoys, that on the right by the Duke of York and that in the centre by Henry himself. Two bodies of archers were on either flank protected by thickets of stakes.

For three hours each side watched the other, The English under the banners of the Trinity, St George, St Edward and St Edmund; the French under the banners of St Denis and St Martin. There was no need for the French to move – the English had to reach Calais. The English, with so many archers, wanted the French to attack them.



At 11 am. Henry took a gamble by moving his whole force forward to within bowshot of the French. This took the French by surprise and when Sir Thomas Erpingham threw his baton in the air as a signal for the archers to open fire, the French were hit by 60,000 arrows a minute.



The two French mounted wings were provoked into attack while the main French line lumbered forward. A combination of arrows, mud and the thicket of stakes protecting the archers defeated the initial charge and wounded frightened horses counter-charged the main body of the French. This line crowded in against the English men-at-arms. They hardly had room to handle their weapons while the arrows made them duck their heads which, combined with closed visors, didn't allow them to see where they were going. Men toppled over creating a hazard for those coming up behind. There was chaos. Only on the right did the French gain any success when the Duke of York and some 90 of his battle were killed. Sir John Cornewall & Sir Gilbert Umphraville managed to steady the line. The French spilled out to the sides of their line, but there they encountered the archers, no longer shooting, but attacking them with leaden mauls, falchions and other hand weapons. There was no honour to be gained in fighting archers. . and no profit either. The French began increasingly to look for a way of evacuating this killing field.

At midday, the Duke of Brabant arrived on the battlefield. He, with a few men, had ridden 30 miles in order to reach the battle. The Duke needed to borrow armour from his chamberlain and placed a trumpet banner, fitted like a poncho over his head, for a surcoat. His charge failed and he, not being recognised, was killed instead of being taken prisoner. This was what the English were now doing – searching through the bodies for live prisoners worth ransoming. But then a raid on the English baggage train by the Lord of Agincourt halted this process while Brabant's charge seemed to have shamed the final French mounted line into advancing.

There was a danger that the English would be caught front and rear and if the prisoners got loose, then there were sufficient weapons on the battlefield for them to re-arm themselves. Henry ordered the slaughter of the prisoners, something his men-at-arms were reluctant to do. This 'massacre' stopped when the French finally left the field around 3.00pm.

Henry had won an amazing victory, but not a surprising one – not with God on his side and in a just cause. French losses were enormous : three Royal Dukes, nine counts, 32 barons 600 knights and several hundred men-at-arms. 1500 prisoners were taken, too providing rich ransoms. English losses were minimal: the Duke of York, The Duke of Suffolk, a handful of knights and Davydd Gam of Brecon who was supposed to have been knighted just before he died and who had told Henry when the French army was first sighted that there were enough French *'to be killed, enough to be taken and enough to run away'* !

Following the battle, Henry created a new King of Arms – Agincourt - to add to the likes of Guyenne King, Leicester King, Ireland King, Hereford Herald and Antelope Pursuivant, who had all accompanied Henry to France.

An illuminated manuscript from around 1430 showing William Bruges kneeling before St George. Bruges was probably created Guyenne King of Arms on the accession of King Henry V and was created Garter King of Arms in 1415.



NOTES & QUERIES

The reason why the dragons on the arms of the Earl of Guilford (Somerset Dragon NO. 31 p.10) turned themselves into mastiffs is a simple one. The first earl (1752) was also Baron North (1554) and Baron Guilford (1683). The death of the fifth earl and the extinction of the senior line in 1827 resulted in the disappearance of the North barony and with it the North dragon supporters. The sixth earl and his successors had no choice but to use their Guilford mastiff supporters.

Valerie Keen has responded to **David Vaudrey's** query regarding the mystery cartouche in St Peter's Church, Wapley. It is probably connected to the Cordington family from nearby Doddington Manor. Perhaps we will have more news about the six quarterings in No. 33. Valerie is currently researching the Stone family of Wedmore and in particular a coat of arms blazoned **1 and 4 per pale or and gules an eagle displayed with two necks counterchanged** (Stone) **2 and 3 gules a chevron ermine between three escallops or** (Unknown) **impaling argent a fess vert (?) between six annulets gules** (Lucas). She would welcome any leads that members might care to share, particularly the family that bore the arms in the second and third quarters.

Regarding the arms of Robert Anderdon and John Lockyer (Somerset Dragon No. 31 p. 7) **Ralph Brocklebank** points out that 'I am not sure that shacklebolts are the same thing as fetterlocks, which are generally shown with a hinged bar opening at one end.' One lives and learns.

Cathie Constant asks if any member can recall which Somerset church displays a shield blazoned *vert three snails argent* fixed to a metal screen – and for that matter which family bears those arms.

The annual lunch on Tuesday 27th October at Beah in Wells was deemed a great success by all nineteen members who attended. An excellent meal was preceded by short talks on subjects as varied as bookplates, bookstamps, family heraldry and firemarks. The location, captured by David Vaudrey in the photograph opposite, was just right and the experience was one which I am sure will be repeated.

ANNUAL LUNCH

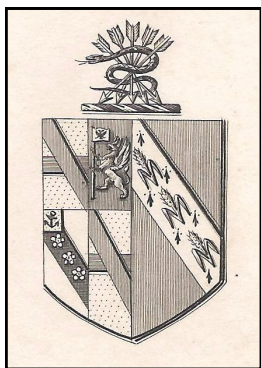


THE HERALDRY OF EDWARDIAN SOMERSET

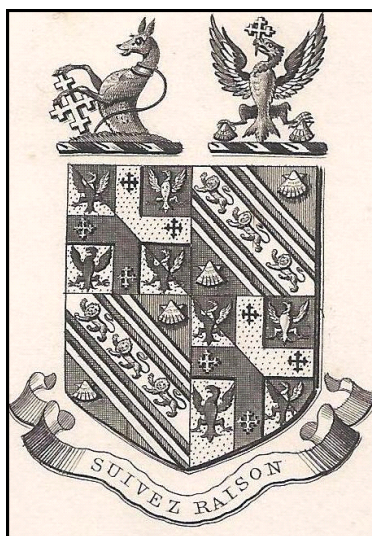


The seaside town of Weston-Super-Mare was not granted arms until 1928 and so Edwardian publishers had to use ingenuity when using heraldic devices on their picture postcards. The publisher of the top example simply borrowed the arms of the city of Bath. The bottom card also used the barry wavy field – blue and silver having a suitably nautical flavour – and in the upper half of the shield displayed a sun in all its splendour (wishful thinking?) on a red field. Unofficial but doubtless it pleased the customers.

HERALDIC QUIZ NO. 3



The answer to Quiz No. 2 was Baron Le Teissier of Woodcote Park, Surrey. Here are two more teasers from the same source—and try blazoning them at the same time!



SUMMER VISITS—A PICTORIAL REMINDER

Since our August issue the society has enjoyed two successful visits; the first to Exeter Cathedral and the second to the Hampshire churches of Froyle and Tichborne. Grateful thanks are to be extended to Philip Hickman and Gale Glynn for organising the trips and to Gale and David Vaudrey for supplying the society archives with a wealth of interesting photographs.



So, we will sign off the summer with a few choice pictures. Our chairman, Mary Rose Rogers, enjoys the sunshine outside Exeter Cathedral with Philip Hickman and John and Janet Uncles.

Froyle Church supplies us with two splendid hatchments, one tucked away in the organ loft but kindly made available to us by our guides.



Not to mention a delightful heraldic stained glass roundel containing the arms of the Plantaagenet Kings of England.



Finally, Tichborne reminds us that the blazon of the family arms is vair a chief or, as can be seen on a Jacobean bench end, a carved escutcheon topping a marble wall monument, a page from the superbly illuminated family history, made available to us by the present owner of the Tichborne estate, and the inevitable hatchment.



A COTTERELL HYBRID

BY STEPHEN SLATER

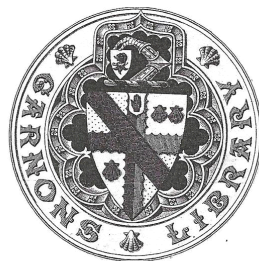
A few weeks ago I received in the post two rather splendid bookplates from the library of the Garnons Estate, near Hereford; an estate which has been in the ownership of the Cotterell family since the second half of the eighteenth century when Sir John Brookes Cotterell married Anne, daughter and heiress of John Geers of Garnons. The two bookplates both include the arms of the Cotterell baronets, which I long wondered at, as being 'not quite right!'

It was my old buddy and 'heraldic hero', Russ Fletcher of Pershore, Worcs, who was able to put me right on the matter, for, surely enough, the Cotterell arms are a bit of a 'hybrid'. The arms of Cotterell of Garnons being in fact an amalgamation of the arms of Cotterell and Brookes. Indeed, it was the similarity to the Cotterell arms (Garnons) to those of Brooke/Brookes that had long aroused my curiosity. These usually appear as (with variants) *or, a cross (sometimes engrailed) per pale gules and sable*.

The arms of Cotterell of Garnons have a shield quartered *or and argent upon which is a cross engrailed per pale sable and gules*, the cross however is surmounted by *a bend between 3 escallops sable*. I then looked at my tattered copy of Papworth and there it was- for Cotterell- *argent a bend between three escallops sable*.

Now back to Sir John Brookes Cotterell, he was grandson to John Brookes of Broadway, Worcs, who married Anne, daughter and heiress of Edward Cotterell of Saintbury, Glos.

I have not been able to find the dates of births and deaths for John and Anne, but I know that their son, also John (unfortunately, nearly all heads of the Cotterell family were called John!) died in 1763. John Brookes took the surname of Cotterell instead of Brookes for him and his descendants (through requests in the will of his maternal uncle, Thomas Cotterell).



In such cases often the Cotterell arms would have been assumed (by Royal Licence) in lieu of Brookes but it seems that the Brookes Cotterells decided to combine the elements of both family arms on the one shield, and that is how they have stayed to this day.

The exact blazon is: *quarterly or and argent, a cross engrailed per pale sable and gules; in the second quarter two escallops, and in the third quarter one escallop, all of the third (sable); over all a bend also sable*. I have to say that heraldically, it is not the perfect marriage.

Sir John Brooks Cotterell died in 1790, having had by Anne Geers a son, Sir John Geers Cotterell who happened to marry a local heiress. He was a force in local politics and a rabid anti Catholic to boot, but he made sure the local populace were well fed during electioneering, so he was very fondly remembered in Hereford. For this and for his efforts on behalf of the local militia, in 1805 John Geers Cotterell was created a baronet. He died in 1845.



My two Garnons bookplates are by one and the same artist, and follow a design commonly found on late medieval seals. The smaller plate has the Cotterell arms alone, whilst the larger plate has the impaled arms of Sir John Richard Geers Cotterell, fourth baronet impaled with those of his wife, the Lady Evelyn Godon-Lennox, daughter of the seventh Duke of Richmond, Gordon and Lennox.

The Dukes of Richmond descend from Charles II through his French mistress Louise de Keroualle (Mistress Carwell to the London mob), Duchess of Portsmouth. The dukes use the Stuart royal arms differenced by a *bordure compoy argent and gules, the first charged with roses of the second, barbed and seeded proper*. They have amongst their several titles, the Dukedom of Aubigny in the Kingdom of France, this appears in their arms as *an escutcheon gules charged with three buckles or*.

If you look closely at the Garnons plate you might notice a small mistake by the artist, for the roses appear as annulets; something you would not normally realize, unless, as with me, you take a magnifying glass to the artwork. Even so, I think you will see the end result as a splendid creation. Today, Garnons is lived in by the son of Sir John (yet another one!) Cotterell, the sixth baronet of Garnons.

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 5th Dec.. Meeting—*The Rootless Earls: The Vicissitudes of the Noble House of Egmont* by Stephen Tudsbery-Turner

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.