

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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Editorial This has been a quiet summer for the society although we did have a *Somerset Dragon* in August. If members would like to have more in the way of meetings or outings please contact the secretary—particularly if you would be prepared to organise same! We have one or two potential speakers but they need to know that they have an audience before committing themselves. The Fountain Pub at Wells is another possible venue if people prefer a more central location for a get-

together.

And now for another pub worthy of attention. The Greyfriar at Chawton in Hampshire (opposite Jane Austen's Cottage) boasts an extremely interesting heraldic sign as can be seen by our illustration. For the story behind this intriguing image note the article on pages 2-5.

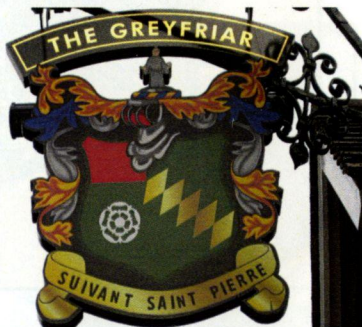


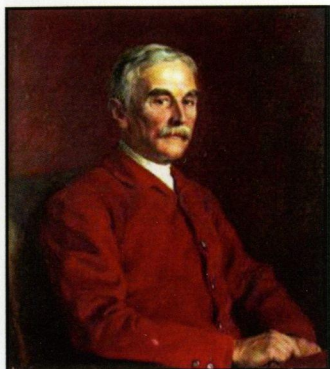
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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE
BY STEPHEN TUDSBERY-TURNER



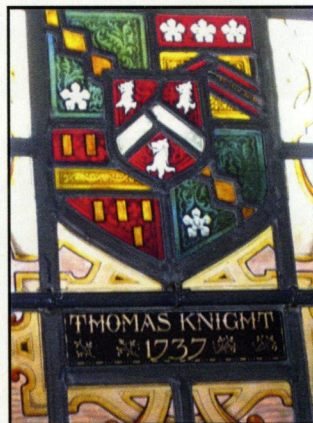
The bookplate illustrated above is that of Montagu George Knight of Chawton House, Hampshire. It contains the arms of Knight impaling those of Hardy of Chilham Castle, Kent. Montagu George (1844-1914) married Florence the fourth daughter of Charles Hardy in 1870. He was a keen genealogist and heraldist and Chawton House provides a wealth of heraldry for inspection both in the panelling and in the stained glass. His home, of course, is famous for the fact that it was once occupied by his grandfather Edward (Austen) Knight, brother of Jane Austen, and it was through Edward's generosity that Jane, her mother and her sister Cassandra settled in Chawton Cottage across the road, where Jane was to write some of her greatest works.



Montagu Knight of
Chawton House

The arms as displayed by George Montagu on his bookplate reveal a fascinating story for the armorist. Edward Heffer, the authority on the Knight grants, has pointed out that the arms *vert a bend lozengy* or had been used by the Knights of Chawton since the middle years of the seventeenth century, although an official grant does not appear to exist before 1738 when the traditional arms appear albeit with a crucial difference.

Sir Richard Knight, who used the traditional arms, died without a male heir in 1679 and his name and estate passed to kinsmen; first to two brothers named Martin, then to their sister Elizabeth – none of whom left male heirs. Chawton then passed to another descendant of Sir Richard, Thomas Brodnax, who decided to regularise matters. On the 14th May 1738 Brodnax obtained a grant from Garter King of Arms. The grant recorded his original arms (*or two chevrons gules on a chief of the second three cinquefoils argent*), the fact that he had adopted the maiden name of his heiress mother (Anne May), and the crucial information that as a result of the will of his cousin Elizabeth (Martin later Knight) he had adopted the name of Knight.



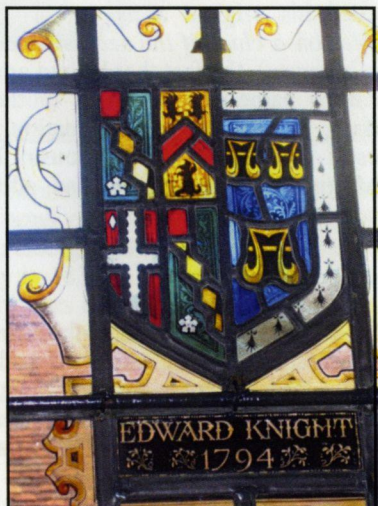
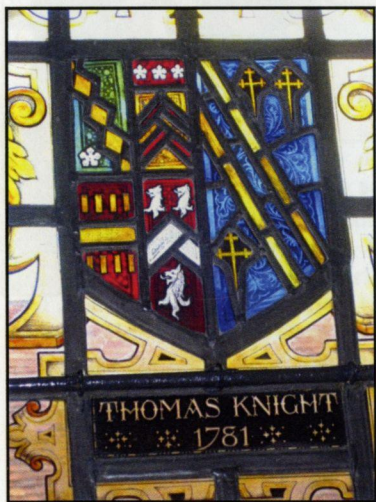
Accordingly he was granted the arms originally born by Sir Richard with a significant difference, namely the addition of a cinquefoil argent in base; a device taken from the Brodnax arms. A further touch was the fact that the demi-friar, the traditional Knight crest, no longer bore a lantern in his right hand as he had done in Sir Richard's day, but rather a slipped cinquefoil.

Thomas, first Brodnax then May then Knight, left a son who followed the family tradition by leaving no male heir. In his turn he bequeathed the Chawton estate to a distant cousin Edward Austen, then a boy of twelve. Edward succeeded Thomas Knight in 1794 and in 1813 he too obtained a grant of arms. This grant noted Edward's change of name from Austen to Knight and awarded him another difference to acknowledge the fact that he was not a direct descendant of his predecessor; in this case it took the form of a *canton gules*.



Edward (Austen) Knight
c.1789

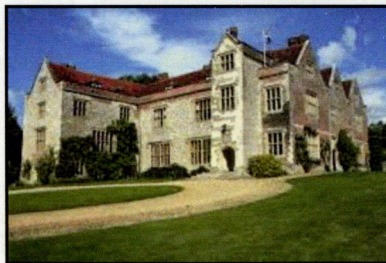
A glance at the two pieces of stained glass below makes the point very clearly. Thomas displays the Knight arms with the cinquefoil whereas Edward shows the addition of the canton. The two impalements are for Knatchbull and Bridges. Thomas Knight married Catherine Knatchbull and Edward married Elizabeth Bridges in 1791.



Both the canton and the cinquefoil are clearly visible on George Montagu Knight's bookplate, which like Edward Knight's arms on the opposite page also displayed the quartered arms of Austen, *or a chevron gules between three lions' gambes erect erased sable armed of the second*, and Leigh, *gules a cross engrailed argent in the first quarter a lozenge of the second*. Edward (Austen) Knight's father, the Rev. George Austen, had married Cassandra Leigh in 1764.

The impaled arms of Hardy are blazoned *argent o a bend invected plain cotised gules three Catharine wheels or on a chief of the second as many leopards' faces of the third*. The bookplate also displays three other shields. Those on the left and right are Austen according to the 1738 grant. That immediately to the right of the main shield contains the arms of a family of long gone Knights to whom Montagu Knight felt the Chawton branch were connected, although such a link has never been established. These arms are blazoned *per chevron argent and sable three cinquefoils counter-changed*. Some commentators have even suggested that the cinquefoil addition of 1738 was inspired by this ancient coat of arms but most prefer the Brodnax option.

Montagu Knight inherited Chawton on his father's death in 1879 and lived there until his own death in 1914. For the next seventy-five years his descendants remained at Chawton but the ravages of time and death duties took their toll. Parts of the house became derelict, the roof leaked, timbers were rotting and the gardens were overgrown. The decline was halted with the sale of a 125 year lease to a new charity, Chawton House Library. From 1996 to 2003, extensive restoration work was carried out on the house and estate, prior to the opening of Chawton House Library as a UK registered charity in 2003. The house is regularly open to visitors, alongside library readers, for tours and during public events.



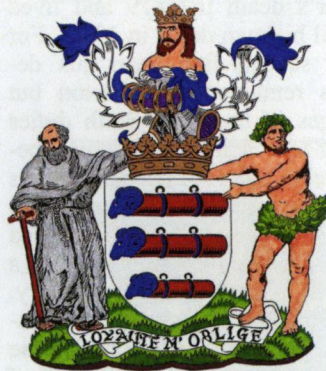
Chawton House as it is today.

Grateful thanks are extended to Edward Heffer and Stephen Slater for their help in the preparation of this article

ANNUAL LUNCH



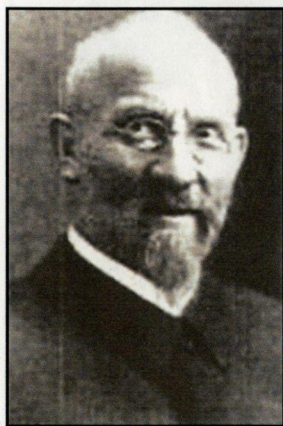
This year's annual lunch, held at the Fountain Inn, Wells, was deemed a great success by all who attended. A wide variety of dishes were on offer, the company was excellent and members were treated to a view of Roland Symons' artwork; an introduction to the heraldic artwork by the Austrian artist Otto Hupp, courtesy of Stephen Slater, and a few choice words about the fourth Duke of Ancaster, who died on the 8th July 1779, by Stephen Tudsbury-Turner.



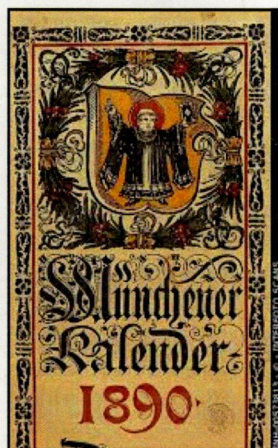
According to the eulogy on his memorial tablet in Edenham Church, Lincoln, the duke was a paragon of all the virtues,. 'In his person manly gracefulness was united to natural dignity; his manners were elegant without affectation, his affability was the genuine fruit of universal benevolence.'

These were qualities not observed by Henry Angelo, a Soho resident, who noted in his journal, 'my attention was much attracted about three in the morning by the misbehaviour of a party of bucks of the higher order, well primed with champagne, one of these being the late Duke of Ancaster', and Horace Walpole, in a letter to Sir Horace Mann written on the 9th July 1779, noted sadly that 'the Duke of Ancaster is dead of a scarlet fever contracted by drinking and rioting, at two and twenty.'

The painting of the duke's arms reproduced opposite is another reminder of Roland Symons' talents.

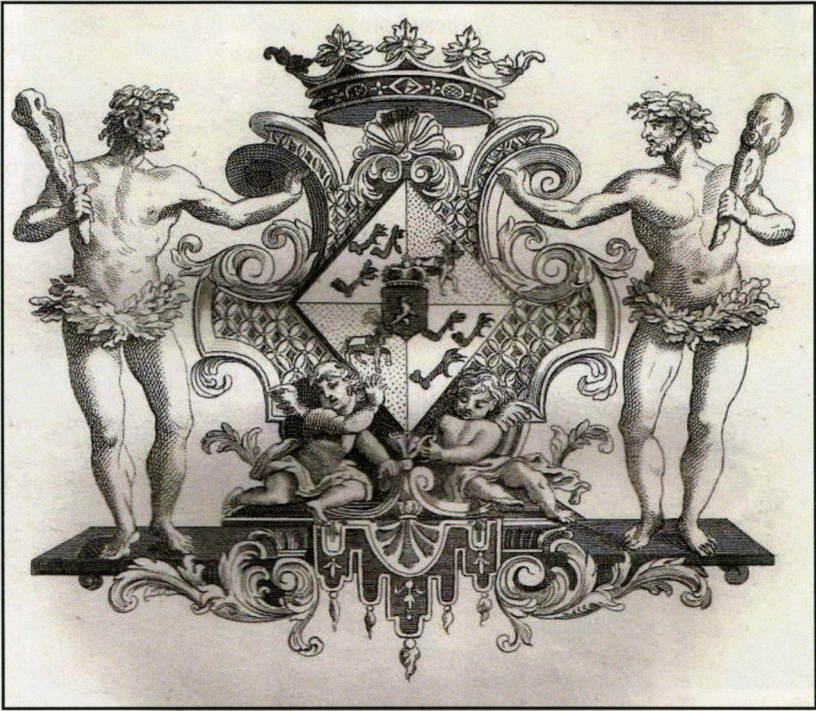


Otto Hupp's main field of work was heraldry, as Stephen Slatyer pointed out, and he painted more than 6,000 coats of arms as well as writing books on heraldry. His *Coats of Arms and Seals of German Cities, Places and Villages* book series was started in 1895, but of the originally ten planned volumes only five were finished.



finished. 3,300 of his paintings of coats of arms were published as a collecting set from the coffee company Kaffee HAG from 1913–18 and 1926–38. This publication helped to make heraldry better known to the general public. Another important heraldic publication by Hupp was the *Münchener Kalender* (*Munich Calendar*), of which 51 issues were published from 1885–1936 (the issue of 1933 was omitted). Along with painting existing coats of arms, he also created many drafts for municipalities which were applying for new arms. Possibly his most important coat of arms was the 1923 version for the state of Bavaria, which, however, was replaced with a new version after World War II.

HERALDIC QUIZ NO.6



Why should the owner of the coat of arms above not be associated with the two livery buttons below?

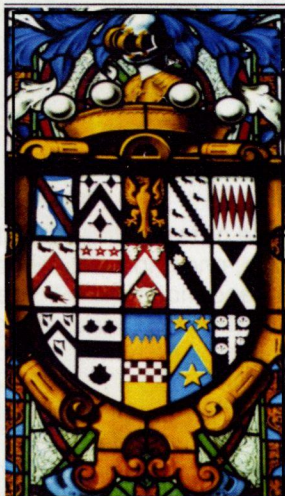


NOTES & QUERIES

Thanks go to Eleanor Yeoman, churchwarden at Ditchat Church, who points out that the dedication is to St Mary Magdalene and not to All Saints as was stated in our article *The General's Lady* in August's issue of *The Somerset Dragon*. Profuse apologies for the error..

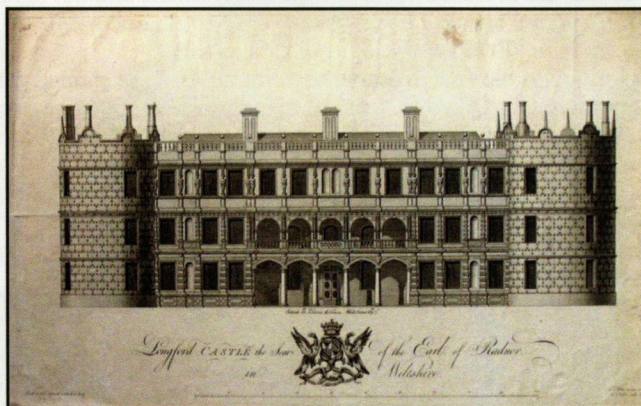
Richard Jones was the first member to point out that the stained glass window below right that Quiz No. 5 asked readers to identify came from Ripon Cathedral and contained the arms of the Lords Grantley. He correctly identified the missing ninth quartering as that of Radcliffe.

A reader in Oregon USA has asked us to identify the arms below left. Any thoughts?



The two stray sheets displayed at the annual lunch have been identified by Michael Furlong. He explained that the heraldic shields came from Ralph Bigland's *Historical, Monumental and Genealogical Collections, relative to the County of Gloucester*. The first sections were published in 1791 (John Nichols, London) and the work took nearly a century to complete. It was published in folio size. The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society republished the work in 4 volumes between 1989 and 1995 in a smaller size. Many thanks, Michael. Another mystery solved.

THE ARMS OF THE EARLS OF RADNOR BY STEPHEN SLATER



A mile or two to the east of Salisbury in Wiltshire sits an enchanting castle, once home to a beautiful Swedish countess. She had her husband model their home on a castle back in her native Sweden, it is unique in England, being triangular, each of the three towers at its corners being named after the Holy Trinity.

In 1717 a wealthy London silk merchant was said to be passing the castle. He fell in love with it and had to have it. The saddlebags of his steed were packed with money, he rode up to the castle entrance and asked to see the owner, Lord Coleraine. His Lordship was given an offer he could not refuse and that is how Longford Castle passed in to the ownership of the Bouverie family, and has remained so ever since. Its a nice story and I am not going to challenge it.

The Des Bouveries (later simplified to Bouverie) heralded from the Hapsburg Netherlands, one of them, John De La Bouverie was Chancellor to the Duchy of Brabant in 1493, he bore the simple arms of *gules a bend vair*.

By the end of the 16th Century at least one of the Bouverie family had espoused the Protestant cause and fearing the increased persecution of the Catholic governor of the Netherlands, the Duke of Alva, he took ship to England. That gentleman was Laurens Des Bouveries who was engaged as a silk merchant and eventually, through his own abilities helped to found the family fortunes here in England. Laurens Des Bouveries' grandson, Edward des Bouveries, born in 1611 became an eminent Turkey merchant (I had thought this to be an early predecessor of Bernard Matthews!) engaging in silks and other costly fabrics for which the rich classes in England clamoured.

Edward Des Bouverie was knighted by King James and died in 1694. . The Bouveries continued to advance up the English aristocracy, being created baronets in 1713-14, (it was the second baronet who purchased the Longford estate in 1717), a viscountcy (Folkestone) in 1747, and finally the Earldom of Radnor (1765).

By 1694 the Bouveries had reached a position in society whereby they applied for a grant of arms from the College of Arms. Although the family had long borne arms abroad they obviously felt an English grant applicable to their increasing 'Englishness'. The English heralds looked to the Bouverie's roots in the Hapsburg Netherlands and thought an imperial double headed eagle sable as a most suitable charge



The imperial connection was further accentuated by placing the eagle on a field *per fess argent and or*. The crest granted in 1694 is a *demi double headed eagle, ducally gorged or, on its breast a cross crosslet argent*.

Whilst enjoying their new English grant the Bouveries tended to quarter it with their old Flemish arms and then they achieved a unique distinction. On 26th February 1768, William first Earl of Radnor was granted by Royal License of George III the right to place the ancient arms of Bouverie (*gules a bend vair*) upon the breast of the eagle (English grant 1694). This document, along with the English grant now resides in the Radnor Collection in the Wiltshire County Record Office in Chippenham.



Earl William married Harriet, the wealthy heiress of Sir Mark Pleydell, of Coleshill, Berkshire and shortly after the family hyphenated their arms as Pleydell-Bouverie, they also quartered the new version of the Bouverie arms with those of Pleydell (*argent a bend gules goutty d'eau. between two Cornish choughs sable, a chief chequy or and sable*). The result is the coat of arms used today by the current Earl of Radnor.

I have several bookplates for the Pleydell-Bouveries and the one I enjoy most is that for the splendidly named Eglantine Pleydell-Bouverie (died 1925) and her husband, Sir Augustus Stephenson KCB. Sir Augustus was son of one of the many illegitimate children of Charles, eleventh Duke of Norfolk. Miss Stephenson, the lady in question, was the companion to the Duchess of Norfolk, who was at the time insane! [Not altogether surprising, given her husband's behaviour—Ed.]

Duke Charles was Earl Marshal of England and as such oversaw the work of the College of Arms, he saw that institution as a useful place of work for some of his illegitimate brood of sons, one being Henry Frederick Stephenson (1790-1858). It was said of HFS, that he was so proud of his lineage it was if his mother was the Duchess!.

Henry Stephenson was appointed Falcon Herald Extraordinary and in 1815 was part of the mission to give the Garter to Tsar Alexander of Russia. On that occasion the emperor gave a gem ring to Stephenson, who was so pleased with this mark of favour that he was granted a supposed 'augmentation of honour' to his arms of a canton charged with the letter A within a gem ring. Stephenson's arms is full of allusions to his paternity and office, they include a white lion of Mowbray, white roses and for crest a falcon within a herald's collar.

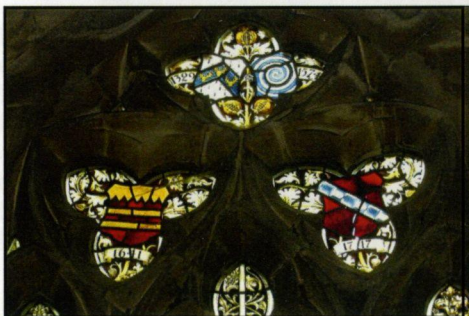
The Earls of Radnor still reside at Longford Castle and their splendid arms adorn several churches in the area. More recent members of the family have been buried at Alderbury Church but earlier members were interred at nearby Britford Church where the Radnor Mausoleum has, what I believe, one of the finest armorial carvings to be found in England. The full arms include the eagle supporters and up to 50 quarterings built up by the family over centuries



In nearby Salisbury Cathedral there is a fine armorial plaque in full colour to a twentieth century earl and this is opposite the magnificent Hungerford Chantry, purloined by the Bouveries for their own use in the eighteenth century (the family claiming through heraldry, a descent from the Hungerfords in three separate lines).

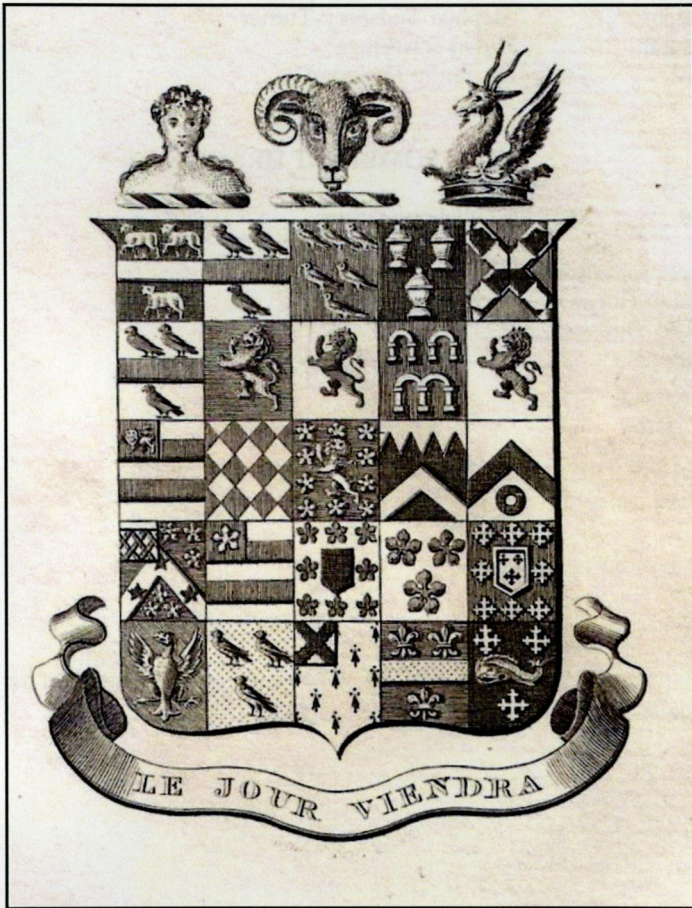


Finally, back at Britford Church the Bouveries placed a window therein, commemorating the ownership of the Longford Estate. The shields in the window start with those of Cervington (1329-1574) *ermine on a chevron azure three stag's heads cabossed or*. Gorges (1574-1641): *argent a gurge (whirlpool) azure*. Hare (1641-1717): *gules two bars and a chief indented or*. Bouverie (1717- current day): *gules a bend vair*.



Had an interesting heraldic experience recently? Then do let us know about it. *The Somerset Dragon* welcomes articles, pictures, letters, snippets for N&Q. Contact the editor for details.

EX LIBRIS



This magnificent bookplate recently came into our possession. No prizes for identifying the family but does anyone feel like listing the twenty-five quarterings? Answers will be supplied in our next., as they say.

THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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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

It is hoped that the proposed visit to Ewelme will take place in the Spring.

Wed 25 Jan Committee Meeting Monteclefe Cottage

Wed 22 Feb AGM & Talk on *The Proud Duke and the Percy Inheritance*
by Stephen Tudsbury-Turner

Wed 22 Mch Meeting—Speaker and Location to be announced

Further details will follow but keep the dates free.