

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

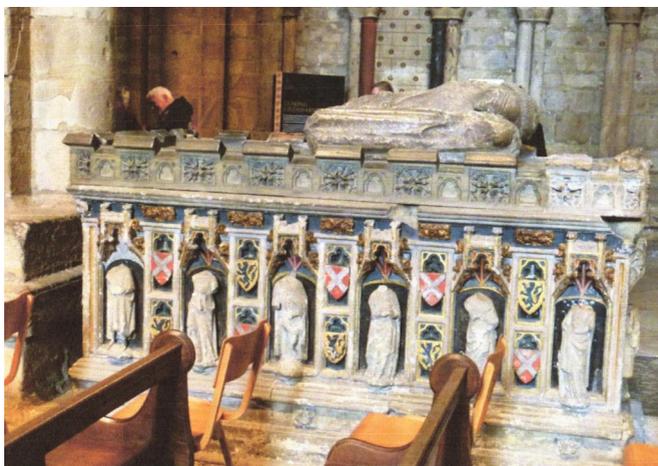
No. 39
April 2018



Below—the tomb of Ralph Neville in Durham Cathedral. See article on page 2.

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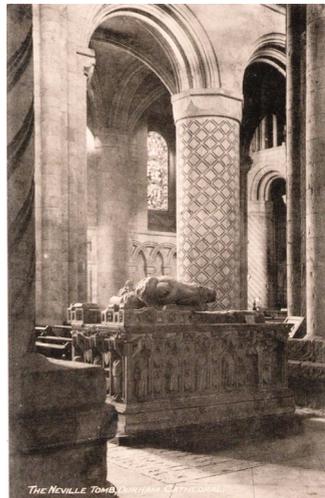
REFLECTIONS ON A 14th CENTURY ALTAR TOMB

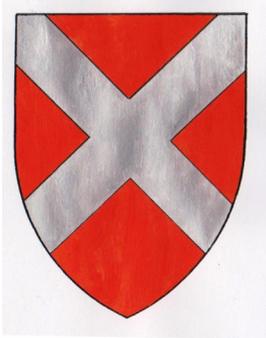
By STEPHEN TUDSBERY-TURNER



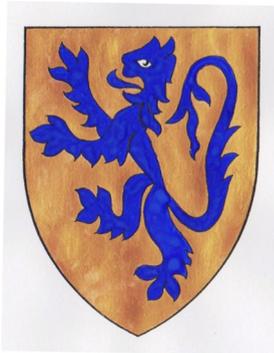
The altar tomb of John third Baron Neville of Raby and his first wife, Maud Percy, daughter of the renowned warrior Harry Hotspur, is to be found in the south aisle of the nave of Durham Cathedral, once the location of the Neville Chantry.

It is a magnificent albeit tragically damaged monument. Figures of headless weepers occupy all but two of the canopied niches which surround it, separated by trefoiled panels that contain alternately the Neville saltire and the lion rampant of Percy modern. All that remains of the recumbent alabaster effigies are misshapen lumps of stone, although faint traces of the saltire of Neville can still be made out on what remains of the barons surcoat.





The third Lord Neville was the son of Ralph Lord Neville, the commander of the English forces that overwhelmingly defeated the Scots at the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346 and captured the Scottish King David, and his wife Alice Audley. Ralph died in 1367, when John succeeded him, and Alice followed her husband seven years later.



Neville's public career was as active as his father's had been. He fought against the Scots at the Battle of Neville's Cross as a captain under his father, was knighted about 1360 after a skirmish near Paris, and fought in [Aquitaine](#) in 1366, and again in 1373-4.

From 1367 on he had numerous commissions issued to him, including in 1368 serving as joint ambassador to France. He was made a [Knight of the Garter](#) in 1369. For the next several years he served in Scotland and the [Scottish Marches](#). In 1378 he had licence to fortify Raby Castle, and in June of the same year was in Gascony, where he spent several years on active service. On his return to England he was again appointed Warden of the Marches. In May 1383 and again March 1387 he was a joint commissioner to treat of peace with Scotland, while in the summer of 1385 he served in the army of King Richard II that invaded that country and burnt Edinburgh.

Lord Neville died in 1389, having lavishly provided for his funeral. Furthermore he stipulated that twenty-four poor men carrying torches and dressed in russet gowns were to attend upon his remains and the coffin containing his body was to be covered with a woollen cloth of the same colour and charged with the appropriate white saltire. The dead man's armorial accoutrements were borne by two mounted men-at-arms whose horses were afterwards presented to the cathedral.

The Neville chantry itself was constructed in 1416 and at the request of the first Earl of Westmorland (below), John's son and Ralph's grandson, the bodies of his grandparents were removed from their original resting place before the Jesus Altar and

reinterred in a tomb close by that of his parents. They were joined in 1457 by the earl's son Robert, Bishop of Durham, but in his case he had to make do with a marble slab. Interestingly enough the earl himself occupies a magnificent alabaster tomb in St Mary's Church, Staindrop, rather than in the chantry he had created at Durham..



from Doyle's "Baronage" 1886. 629.



His tomb is at the back of the south aisle by the door, surrounded by wrought iron railings. The earl died in 1425 and lies alongside his two wives, Margaret of Stafford and Joan Beaufort, daughter of John of Gaunt. The tomb was probably donated by John of Gaunt using stone from his quarry at Tutbury in Staffordshire. The arches round the base may have contained small weepers.

The mutilation of the two Neville tombs in Durham Cathedral occurred in 1650. Oliver Cromwell's defeat of the Scots at the battle of Dunbar resulted in Scottish prisoners being marched south and incarcerated in the cathedral. Not unnaturally, given the appalling conditions in which they were kept, they wreaked havoc in their ecclesiastical jail. One wonders whether they realised that two of the figures that they smashed were likenesses of their former conquerors. Indeed, of the four effigies, only Alice Lady Neville survives as a recognisable although faceless human being.

The chantry itself disappeared in 1849 when the south aisle was re-faced and restored in an act of vandalism that included the removal of a Perpendicular window of five lights, complete with heraldic glazing, and the installation of a sham Norman replacement.



Raby Castle, seat of the Nevilles, remained in the hands of the family until 1569 when the failure of the revolt of the northern earls against the government of Queen Elizabeth put paid to their influence in the

area. The castle was taken into royal custody and the sixth Earl of Westmorland fled to live in penniless exile on the continent.

Our thanks go to Roland Symons for alerting us to the existence of the Neville tomb following a talk on the heraldry of the Percy family by your secretary and editor to the Bath Heraldic Society in November; our own society heard the same talk some months earlier. Roland had indulged in a little 'nave-gazing' in Durham Cathedral while working in the cathedral city; hence his memories of the tomb and its heraldry. His artistic talents have been displayed once again for he also supplied the Neville and Percy shields that illustrate page 3. Thanks again.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting held at The Malt House on Wednesday 7th February was attended by nine members and apologies were received from a further seven. Our new treasurer, Carol Haines, was confirmed in office—and immediately started collecting subs—and the existing committee was re-elected unanimously. It was decided that this year's visits should be visits to Wells Cathedral (Philip Hickman) and Salisbury Cathedral (Stephen Slater). There would be a talk in November, provided that we can find a speaker, and it is hoped to organise an Annual Lunch, probably at the Fountain Inn in Wells, where we had an enjoyable get-together in 2016. .



Opposite chairman May Rose Rogers discusses a salient heraldic point with Stephen Slater while below new treasurer Carol Haines surveys the scene of her first AGM in office.

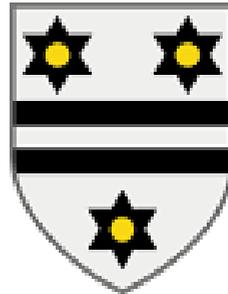
Carol confirmed that our bank account had been switched from Barclays in Taunton to the TSB in Somerton. Grateful thanks were extended to our retiring treasurer, David Hawkings, for his many years of service to the society. We are all in his debt—if that is the appropriate way of putting it to a retiring treasurer! The meeting was preceded by a cottage pie lunch, courtesy of Hilary Tudsbery-Turner, and was followed by a selection of ten minute talks.



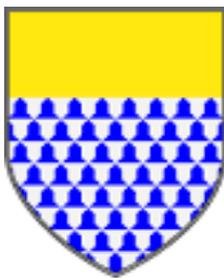
THE TICHBORNE QUARTERINGS

Heraldic Quiz N.9 asked members to put names to the twenty quarterings displayed on a nineteenth century bookplate supplied by Stephen Slater. (As seen on page 14 of issue No. 38), The bookplate in question was that of Alfred Doughty Tichborne Bt., and the quarterings were as follows:

1. Quarterly Tichborne and Doughty
2. De Lymmerston
3. Syferwast
4. Loveday
5. De Rake
6. Wandesford
7. Martin
8. Wallis
9. Wrythe
10. White
11. Forster brought in by White
12. Bradley brought in by White
13. Tichborne
14. Waller
15. Lansdale brought in by Waller
16. Brudenell brought in by Waller
17. Dypdem brought in by Waller
18. Hampton brought in by Waller
19. Dutton
20. Quarterly Tichborne and Doughty



Doughty



Tichborne

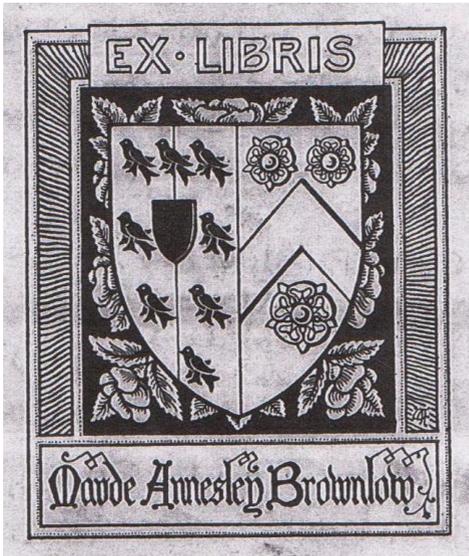


THE COLONEL'S LADY

By Stephen Slater



Maude Annesley

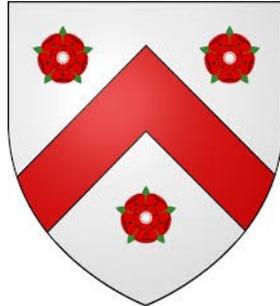


Keen readers of *The Somerset Dragon* will have long since discovered how much innocent enjoyment I have had in researching the personalities and their foibles behind my little collection of heraldic book plates.

Recently I was given a rather insignificant little plate which bears just an impaled shield of arms and the name Maude Annesley Brownlow. Nothing to suggest anything out of the ordinary about the person for whom the plate was created. However I was soon to be somewhat surprised by the character of both Maude Brownlow and her husband.



I soon found out that Maude Annesley Brownlow was the daughter of George Webster-Wedderburn (born in 1871) , a member of a branch of an ancient Scottish family which had a complex history and included baronets among their ranks, the arms used by the family being *argent a chevron between three roses gules seeded vert*.



In the early 20th Century Maude enjoyed some fame as an author, who in the main wrote about the occult - there being a particular interest in this and spiritualism following on from the carnage of the 1st World War. When writing she used the pen name 'Maude Annesley' (the surname coming from an ancestor). It seems that Maude's interest started to get her into very iffy circles, according to one source, "she hung around with the Golden Dawn Boys", took drugs and was one of Alesteir Crowley's 'girls' taking part in the 'Great Beast's' orgies.

Maude married three times, her last husband whom she married 1915 and whose arms are on the bookplate, was Major Harry Blaikie Brownlow of the Royal Artillery.

Harry was born in India in 1861, but I have been unable to find out very little about his lineage except that his father was also a career army officer. Harry's parents were Captain Henry Brownlow and Jane "Jeannie" Blaikie, daughter of Sir Thomas Blaikie, Lord Provost of Aberdeen.

Although I have no proof as of yet, I think Harry BB was of the Brownlows of Northern Ireland who bore as arms: *per pale or and argent an escutcheon within an orle of martlets sable*. The paler line can be seen clearly on Maude's bookplate (the Brownlows of Belton in Lincolnshire do not have a divided shield).

Harry did his initial artillery training in England before being sent in 1889 to India. Posted to Abbotabad he was treated as a son by the local commander, Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Gaselee and his wife Alice. The colonel and his lady had no children and Gaselee asked Harry Blaikie Brownlow to look in on his wife from time to time while the colonel was 'up country'. Lieutenant Brownlow was more than attentive to the lonely 'mehsahib' and according to one account showed her his "evident prowess with his cannon".

Mrs Gaselee became pregnant, her husband was somewhat surprised as they had no children, or none he could remember! Lieutenant Blaikie Brownlow took ship back to England and Mrs Gaselee told her naive husband that the daughter born to her might have "an element of Brownlow blood"! The colonel was, not surprisingly was outraged that a fellow officer had cuckolded him so, he promptly started divorce proceedings and packed Mrs G back to England (the baby girl died). He also wrote to Harry Brownlow, telling him he was a cad and ought to do the right thing by marrying the ex Mrs Gaselee. This Harry had absolutely no intention of doing.

So in 1915 Harry and Maude married. There were no children born to the couple and it seems that Maude Brownlow's former adventures with Crowley's 'coven' had had a lasting and damning effect on her character,. By the 1920s she was lapsing into madness, so much so that, in 1923, Harry had his wife committed to an asylum in Peckham. Maude Annesley Brownlow died in Camberwell House, Peckham on 6th November 1930, Harry died 2 years later in Harrow.



As for poor Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Gaselee, he married another Alice and went on to become General Sir Alfred Gaselee, GCB, and in British imperial history he's recorded as 'The Hero of the Boxer Rebellion'!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subs remain at £10 for a single member and £15 for a double and our new treasurer is Mrs Carol Haines. Her address is Soundings, Water Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset, TA10 OJH. Do please let her have your sub ASAP if you have not already done so.

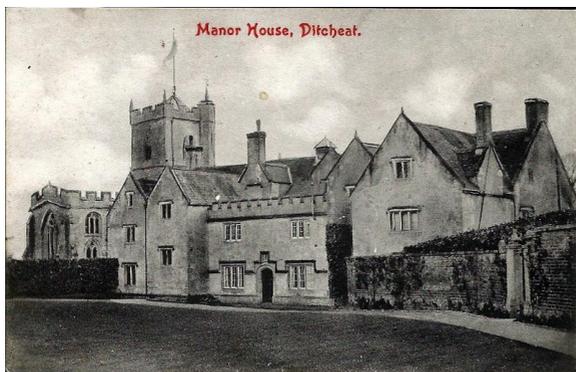
This issue has been sent to all recent members in the hope that everyone will sign up for 2018. It is appreciated that many members are not able to attend meetings or outings, usually for geographical reasons, but we do hope that *The Somerset Dragon* will keep everyone in touch as well as providing some interesting heraldic reading.

And don't forget—contributions, large or small, are always welcome. Illustrations are not vital and the editor is adept at producing something appropriate if required to do so.

Carol is awaiting a flood of cheques!

THE DAWE ARMS
TO CORRECT OR NOT TO CORRECT





The arms of the Dawe family, lords of the manor of Ditcheat during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, are blazoned *argent on a chevron gules between three cross crosslets of the first*, as can be seen in our main illustration opposite, a stained glass panel from the hall in Ditcheat Manor. Our problem is that on a monument in Ditcheat Church a long-gone painter has reversed the colours and introduced some sable for good measure. Do we conserve what is there and has been for over a century or go for the correct version? Any observations on this tricky situation would be very welcome.

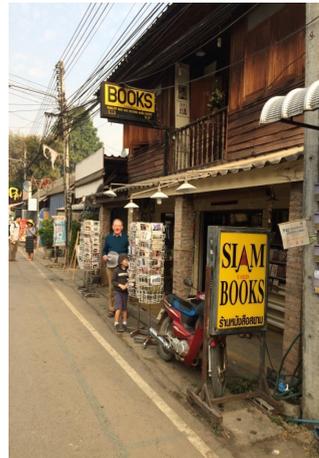


A HOLIDAY SNAPSHOT!



Found, in a second-hand bookshop in a small town in northern Thailand, a copy of volume II of Thomas Carlyle's letters published in 1883—and it contained the bookplate illustrated opposite. Goodness knows how it found its way to Siam Books, but a happy hour or two was spent in working out who F. C. Foster-Barham was and the reason for the quartered arms.

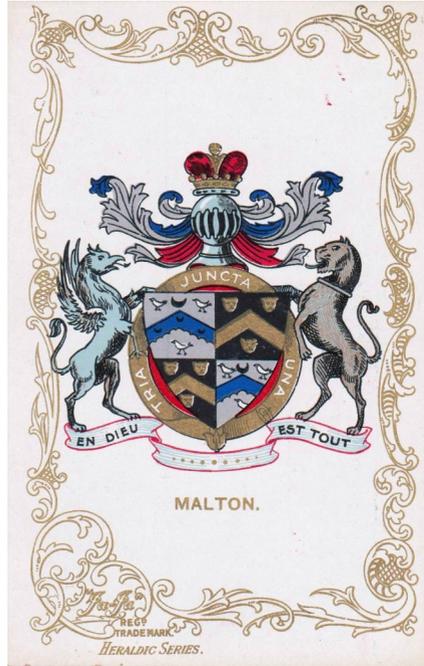
The two family names came together when Joseph Foster, son of Colonel John Foster (1681-1731) of Egham House Surrey and Jamaica, and stepson of Dr Henry Barham, adopted his stepfather's name in accordance with the latter's will. Henry Barham, like Joseph Foster, owned extensive estates in Jamaica, acquired through his marriage,. He returned to England in 1740, and settled in Staines in Middlesex. He died in 1746. Joseph Foster-Barham had two sons, Joseph II and Thomas. The latter had a large family and four of his sons appear in the Dictionary of National Biography. One of these, Charles (1804-1884) also had a large family and one of his sons, F. C. Foster-Barham must have been the owner of our bookplate.



Or A TALE OF
BEARS AND
BUGLEHORNS!

CIVIC ARMS WITH PERSONAL REFERENCES THE ARMS OF THE TOWN OF MALTON

The small market town of Malton in North Yorkshire has a coat of arms officially granted in 1957 to Malton Urban District Council and transferred to Malton Town Council twenty years later. In 1905, however, the town seemed to have made use of the arms illustrated here on this Ja-Ja postcard produced by the Halifax firm of Stoddart & Co.



The authorised arms of
Malton Town Council

These arms were in fact those of Thomas Watson-Wentworth Baron Malton later Marquess of Rockingham. The arms of Watson are in the first and fourth quarters and those of Wentworth in the second and third. Watson-Wentworth was created Baron Malton in 1728 (note the baron's coronet) and in 1734 he was elevated to become Earl of Malton. He assumed the marquessate of Rockingham in 1746.

THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

OFFICERS

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Chairman	Mary Rose Rogers, MBE
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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. 21st April—Bath Heraldic Society Meeting. Professor Peter Fleming on The Battle of Nibley Green..

Dates for our own society outings have yet to be finalised and details when ascertained will be emailed to members as soon as possible.

The Bath Society meets at 2..30pm in Manvers Street Baptist Church Hall.

Do make contact if you need further details.