

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

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The original colours
of the Hopton
Achievement in
Ditchat Church

THE HOPTON ACHIEVEMENT



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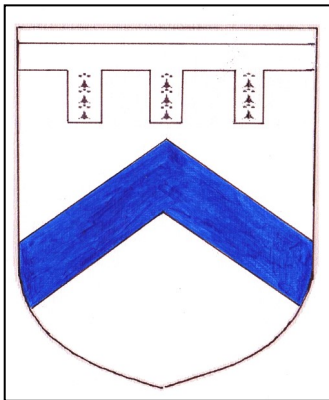
THE HOPTON ACHIEVEMENT
BY STEPHEN TUDSBERY-TURNER



The magnificent Jacobean armorial achievement that graces the north wall of St Mary Magdalene's Church in Ditcheat commemorates 'That worthy GENTLEMAN ROBERT HOPTON of Wytham Esq'.- who was the Patron of the Living, and Lord of the Manor of Ditcheat.'

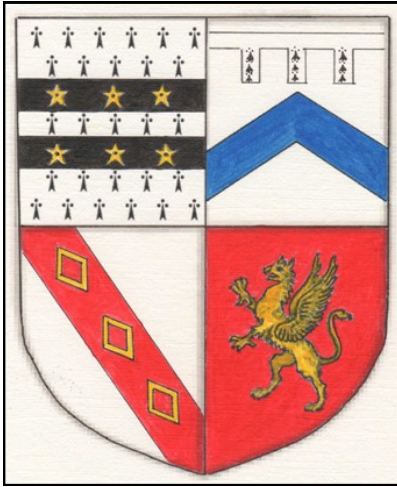
The carving bears the date 1610 and boasts no less than sixteen quarterings, all bearing the armorial devices pertinent to the Hopton family. The ten quarterings on the spectator's left hand side of the shield celebrate Hopton's forbears while the six quarterings on the spectator's right pay tribute to those of his wife, Jane Kemys.

The Hopton family owed its beginning to a Yorkshire knight, Sir Robert Swillington, who died in 1391 and owned estates in both Yorkshire and Suffolk. He was twice married and had a son by both his wives. He also had a mistress, one Joan Hopton, and it was his son Thomas, by this lady, who was the founder of the Hopton dynasty of Ditcheat fame.



During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the Hoptons based themselves in Suffolk and established themselves as a leading county family as well as playing a significant part on the national stage.

The arms of Swillington



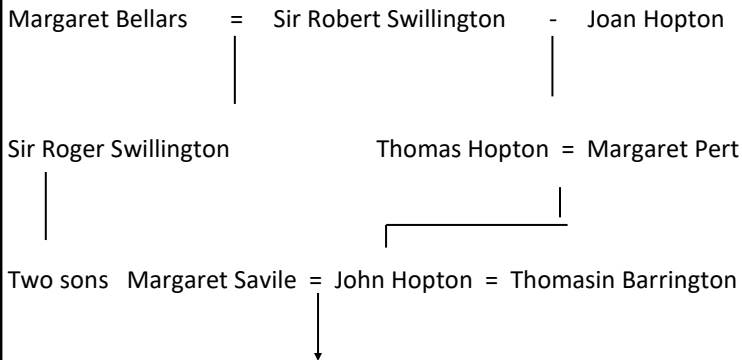
It is interesting to note that in 1513 Sir Arthur Hopton bore the arms of Hopton quartered with Swillington, Pert and Rous. His great-grandfather John Hopton would have adopted the Swillington and Rous arms when he inherited his estates in 1430, and so it seems that Sir Arthur's armorial display was perfectly in order. Such was not the case when his son was called upon to produce his coat of arms at the time of the heraldic visitation of Suffolk in 1561

The Arms of Sir Arthur Hopton -
Hopton, Swillington, Pert & Rous

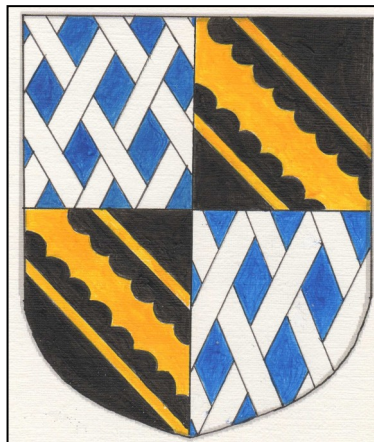
Sir Owen Hopton was clearly anxious to disguise the fact that his ancestor Thomas was illegitimate, yet he had no intention of relinquishing his Swillington quarterings. His answer was to make a few judicious additions to the Hopton pedigree. He introduced a spurious Sir John Hopton between the genuine Thomas and John, and married the interloper to an Anne Swillington, supposedly the daughter of Sir Roger Swillington and his wife, the Roos heiress – thus legitimising two sets of armorial bearings. (Joan Bertram, the Rous heiress, had actually been married to Sir John Swillington, last but one of the legitimate members of that family.)

To make matters worse, Sir Owen also claimed the arms of the Barrington family, the genuine John Hopton's second wife. The fact that Owen Hopton was descended from John Hopton's first wife seemed to be of little moment to him. Indeed, he was perfectly happy to quarter his genuine grandmother's arms, both Savile and Thornhill, as well, even though she was not an heraldic heiress.

THE HOPTON DESCENT



The seven quarterings on Sir Owen's half of the shield produced in 1561 (Hopton, Pert, Swillington, Rous, Savile, Thornhill and Barrington) impaled the arms of his wife, or rather his wife's father. He had married Anne, the daughter of Sir Edward Etchingham, a co-heiress, and the Etchingham arms themselves were quartered with Willington. (See opposite.)



Presumably no visiting herald would have dared to challenge the given version of his family history, for Sir Owen, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth the same year as the visitation, was a rising star at the Tudor court. He served as High Sheriff of Suffolk and Norfolk in 1564-65 and was returned as Knight of the Shire for Suffolk in 1559 and 1571 before representing Middlesex in 1572 and 1584. To cap it all he was appointed Lieutenant of the Tower of London, a position he retained until his death in 1595.

Sir Arthur Hopton had many legitimate children besides his heir but several years before Sir Owen's birth his father had sired an illegitimate son Ralph. Knowing full well that the Suffolk estates would ultimately pass to his legitimate younger brother, Ralph Hopton was forced to make his own way in the world, a task he accomplished with singular success. He began his career in the household of Thomas Cromwell, the king's chief minister, before moving to that of King Henry VIII himself.

He married the sister of Sir William Willoughby, a favourite of the king, he was knighted in 1544 and, largely through his brother-in-law's influence, he was appointed Knight Marshal of the Household, a post he was to retain during the early years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth when he served alongside his younger half-brother Robert.

As a result of his court appointment and his judicious marriage Ralph Hopton became a wealthy man and was able to purchase extensive properties in Somerset that had become available following the dissolution of the monasteries. In 1544 he bought the estate of Witham Friary, two years later he acquired Ditchat, once the property of the Abbot of Glastonbury, and later still he obtained Evercreech Park.

Sir Ralph had money and land in abundance. What he did not have was a son. As a result he took responsibility for the upbringing of Lady Hopton's niece, Rachel Hall, and arranged for her marriage to his brother Owen's son Arthur, whom he made his heir. By the time of his death in 1571, the Hopton dynasty in Somerset was thus secured, and it was left to Arthur Hopton to dispose of the Suffolk estates.



The arms of Hopton impaling Hall for Arthur Hopton and his wife, Rachel Hall. They are still to be seen in the church at Witham Friary.

Robert Hopton was Sir Ralph's grandson. He succeeded his father, who died of gangrene of the toe, in 1607. He was an active Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for Somerset, served as its High Sheriff in 1618-19 and sat for the county in parliament in 1621. He completed the building of Evercreech Park, which bore the date 1619 over its front porch, and although he spent most of his time in his new mansion and Witham House, he also spent money on Ditchet Church, panelling the chancel, adding a rood screen and pulpit and creating a gallery on the north side. Then, to cap it all, he was responsible for the splendid heraldic achievement which, unlike the panelling and the rood screen, still survives within the church.



The heraldry, unfortunately, was suspect. The ten quarterings on the Hopton half of the shield correctly include the arms of Hopton, Pert, Swillington and Rous, plus those of Etchingham and Willington.

The arms of Barrington, on the other hand, still appear, although those of Savile and Thornhill do not, and there was a final indignity. Robert Hopton appears to have included the arms of Hall for his mother Rachel, who was not an heiress and whose family arms had not been inherited. To add insult to injury the arms he displayed were those of a Hall family from Devonshire while Rachel's father was the armigerous Edmund Hall of Gretford in Lincolnshire.


His son Ralph had a more spectacular career than his father, serving as King Charles I most successful general in the west. It gained him the title of Lord Hopton of Stratton, but lost him his Somerset estates, which were sequestered by the republican government after the Civil War. His sisters and co-heiresses were able to recover Witham and Ditcheat after the war, but, to round off our story, Ditcheat itself was sold in 1669.

THE HOPTON QUARTERINGS ON THE DEXTER SIDE OF THE SHIELD.


1. Hopton
2. Pert
3. Swillington
4. Rous
5. Barrington
6. Pakenham ?
7. Etchingham
8. Willington
9. Hall
10. Unidentified (Ideas welcome!)

A further article on the sinister half of the shield containing the Kemys quarterings will appear in the next issue of *The Somerset Dragon*.

If No. 6 is Pakenham there should be an eagle displayed gules in the first quarter. It has yet to be established why these arms have been included. Any observations would be gratefully received.



THE HERALDRY SOCIETY
THE HERALDRY ARCHIVE
HERALDRY SOURCES IN DIGITAL MEDIA



The Heraldry Archive seeks to make accessible in digital media the essential tools of heraldic scholarship, such as learned journals, essential reference works, heraldic surveys, and conference proceedings.

A full list of the titles published so far can be found in the shop on the Heraldry Society's website, at <https://www.theheraldrysociety.com/shop/category/archive/>, where they can also be purchased.

With the assistance of the Somerset Heraldry Society and the City of Bath Heraldic Society the Heraldry Archive has digitised:

- Somerset Church Armorial by Peter Roe (CD)
- Heraldry in Glamorgan by Anthony Jones (CD)
- Journals of Heraldry Societies in South and West England (CD), including:
 - Somerset Dragon from 2003 to present
 - Tabard (Bath) from 1975

These discs can be purchased through the Somerset and Bath Societies

The collections are generally presented in HTML (web) format, with the actual documents in searchable PDF format. Usually there are tables of contents and often a search facility.

All are offered for sale in UK at £20 each (elsewhere £25) including postage and packaging.

Enquiries and suggestions to the project editor: Andrew Gray (archive@theheraldrysociety.com)



Now for another engraving from *The Universal Magazine*. This print of the arms of the Earl of Lincoln dates from 1769, the year after the earl succeeded his uncle as second Duke of Newcastle under Lyne. From that date until the death of the last duke in 1988 the Lincoln earldom was used as a courtesy title by the eldest son of the reigning duke. The title was then inherited by the eighth duke's tenth cousin, an Australian with a somewhat colourful past, having worked as a boilermaker, a welder's and machine minder's assistant as well as a butcher at the Kalgoorlie gold mine. The new Lord Lincoln said to reporters that he had been aware that he might inherit the title but had forgotten about it. Lord Lincoln's grandson, the nineteenth and present earl, is a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London and lives in Perth.

RESURRECTED WINDOWS BY MICHAEL FURLONG

Out of the blue, just before Christmas 2018, I was approached to identify some coats of arms in windows taken from a church local to Bristol. That the church was not familiar to me would be an understatement, as it would be to most Bristolians. Hallen was and is a rather isolated hamlet which belonged to the parish of Henbury, on the northern outskirts of Bristol, now sandwiched between the junction of the M4 and M49 motorways. With the expansion of Bristol to include Henbury in 1935 Hallen was detached to the Parish of Almondsbury, though the church's ceremonies were from first to last recorded in the parish registers of Henbury. The church in question was St John the Evangelist, built as a chapel of ease to St Mary's Henbury in 1854 by C.S. Fripp, becoming redundant in 1988 it is now a private residence.





Below:
Sawyer impaling
Van Westrenen.

Sawyer impal-
ing Butterworth.

See pages 13
and 14.

At some stage the windows were removed from the building & currently reside at The Glass Centre at Ely Cathedral where they are undergoing restoration. The windows themselves sixteen lancets in all would have illuminated the nave in pairs, eight to each side. The glass for the east window we know was supplied by the firm of Bell in Bristol. One imagines that the families whose arms are to be found in these windows were generous enough to fund the building of the church (or at least the windows), and represent for the most part, prosperous families with homes relatively close to Hallen and Henbury.



BUTTERWORTH: *Gules on a chevron between two lions rampant in chief and a double headed eagle displayed in base or, three cross crosslets azure* impaling
 KAYE: *Argent two bendlets sable*. Rev. George Butterworth (1822-1909) married Francis Maria Kaye daughter of John Kaye, Bishop of Bristol latterly Bishop of Lincoln. These two people were grandparents of George Butterworth, the composer of *The Banks of Green Willow*, *Two English Idylls* and *A Shropshire Lad*.



SAWYER: *Azure a fess checky or and sable between three seapies argent* impaling (possibly either Van Cappelen, or Hilhouse ?) *Argent a chevron between two molets in chief gules and in base a heart gules irradiated or*.

SAWYER: *Azure a fess checky or and sable between thee seapies argent*. The Sawyers lived at Ison (alt. Izon) Hill, Henbury. (BLG 1937 Sawyer of Heywood). George Sawyer married a daughter of Van Cappelen, their son George Anthony Sawyer b.1791 married daughter of van Westrenen (see below). Their eldest son George Cappelen Sawyer b. 1815 married Mary Rebecca daughter of George Hilhouse of Bristol.



BUTTERWORTH: *Gules on a chevron between two lions rampant in chief and a double headed eagle displayed in base or, three cross crosslets azure* Quartering (?) STOCK: *Gyronny of eight vert and argent (also argent and vert)* (Possibly unofficial - variant of the Stocker coat of arms which is *gyronny of six argent and vert*). Joseph Henry Butterworth married Mary Ann Stock daughter of Thomas Stock, of Henbury Court, sugar refiner at Henbury 1813, parents of Rev. George Butterworth. (See page 13) Stock lived at Henbury Court.



SAWYER: *Azure a fess chequy or and sable between three seapies argent* impaling VAN WESTRENEN: *Argent a wolf (?) passant, in chief three fleur-de-lys all sable*. George Anthony Sawyer of Ison Hill Henbury b1791 married 1813 in Utrecht , Johanna Justine, daughter of Baron van Westrenen. Their Son Charles Richard John Sawyer married 1846 Ellen Butterworth at Henbury (See page 12)

DAUBENEY (of Cote, Bristol): *Gules four fusils conjoined in fess argent*.

DANIEL: *Paly of five gules and argent a lion rampant also argent.* impaling CAVE: *Azure fretty argent on a fess or a greyhound courant sable collared of the second, a bordure or pellety.* Thomas Daniel 1762 - 1854 an Alderman of Bristol, married Susanna Cave (b.1767) daughter of John Cave of Arnos Vale, Bristol.

MILES (an imperfect rendering): *Azure a chevron paly of six ermine and or between three lozenges argent each charged with a fleur-de-lys sable* impaling NAPIER: *Or a saltire engrailed between four roses gules barbed vert.* Phillip William Skynner Miles (1816-1881) of Kingsweston, son of John Philip Miles (See page 17) married Pamela Adelaide Napier daughter of General Sir William Francis Patrick Napier. Their son Philip Napier Miles (1865-1935), amateur composer, last squire of Kingsweston & friend of Ralph Vaughan Williams. The first performance of *The Lark Ascending* (for solo violin & piano) was performed at Shirehampton Hall, Bristol in 1920 whilst Vaughan Williams was staying at Kingsweston House.

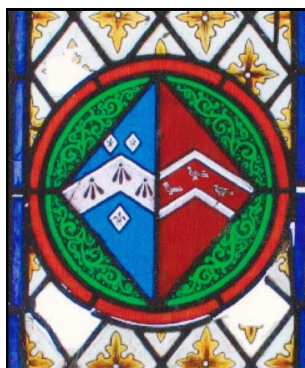




ROBLEY (possibly): *Barry of ten argent and gules, on a canton also gules a lion passant or* impaling FRANKLYN: *Argent on a bend engrailed between two lion's heads erased gules, a dolphin niant between two martlets argent*. The Franklyn family, resident at Henbury Hill were the proprietors of Franklyn Davey and Morgan a snuff and tobacco manufacturing firm that merged in 1901 with W. D. and H.O. Wills and number of other firms to form Imperial Tobacco. Henry Robley married Mary Elizabeth Franklyn, the only daughter of James Narrowway Franklyn in 1825. The Robley family appears to have originated in Cumberland, several families from that county adopted variations of the arms of the Lancaster family (*Argent two bars gules on a canton a lion passant or*).

HARFORD: *Sable two bendlets argent, on a canton azure a bend or* impaling HART-DAVIS: *Quarterly 1 and 4 Gules a chevron between three boar's heads couped argent (Davis) 3 and 4 Per chevron azure and gules in chief a fountain in base two harts counter-trippant or (Hart)*. John Scandrett Harford 1785 - 1866 of Blaise Castle, Henbury married 1812 Louisa Hart- Davis daughter of Richard Hart-Davis MP.

SAMPSON: *Per bend gules and or a cross patonce between in the dexter chief and sinister base an escallop and in the sinister chief and dexter base a billet all counter changed of the field* impaling WAY: *Azure three lucies haurient argent*. Edward Sampson of Henbury (High Sheriff of Gloucestershire 1867, d. 1897) married 1839 Belinda Way (d. 1881) daughter of Benjamin Way, of Denham Place, Bucks.



MILES (an imperfect rendering): *Azure a chevron paly of six ermine and or between three lozenges argent each charged with a fleur-de-lys sable* impaling PEACH: *Gules three martlets between two chevronels argent*. John Philip Miles (1773 - 1845) of Kingsweston married Clarissa Peach daughter of Samuel Peach of Tockington, Gloucestershire.

The windows I am glad to report are being looked after by The Stained Glass Centre at Ely Cathedral, (who supplied the photographs) and are to be installed in Christchurch, Hampstead Square, London, a large Victorian gothic edifice erected between 1850-1852, Samuel Daukes, architect. The church embarked in 2015 on its first ever extensive renovation in one hundred and fifty years, being restored where appropriate with items complimentary with the original design.

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE PRESIDENT

On Wednesday 17th July eight members and one dog assembled at The Grammar House, Langport to consume a splendid lunch in idyllic surroundings and to hear our president, Alex Maxwell Findlater, give a talk on the Armorial of Sir David Lyndsay of The Mount, the subject of his recent book. A delightful and instructive time was enjoyed by all as we were transported back to the Scotland of King James V. Interestingly enough, although the armorial itself is safe and sound in Edinburgh, arguably the best portrait of the monarch, by Corneille de Lyon, is lurking in a stately home in Surrey.



Pictures are of Alex and Hattie Maxwell Findlater, our host and hostess, Ron Gadd, the society's first chairman, and Lucy, an interested visitor. The hand clutching a glass is courtesy of David Vaudrey.





The Coat of Arms of Sir David Lyndsay of The Mount.

Gules, a fess chequy azure and argent between in chief three stars in fess and in base a man's heart of the last

HERALDIC QUIZ NO.10

This is a puzzle with a difference. What is the story behind the achievement opposite? The dates 1844, 1845 and 1873 might be of some assistance!



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 to hold our annual lunch in the Fountain Inn, Wells in November. The lunch would be preceded by an heraldic tour of Wells Cathedral led by Philip Hickman. Further details will be emailed to members in due course.