

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

No. 46
August 2020



Hard on the heels of issue No. 45—which reached you as a hard copy about a month ago—we have our August number. With a bit of luck, when the December Dragon makes its appearance, life might have resumed some form of normality. In the meantime, we hope all goes well with everyone, take care and here's to some future heraldic activity.

The arms of Pulteney of Leicestershire ; *argent a fess indented gules in chief three leopards heads sable.*

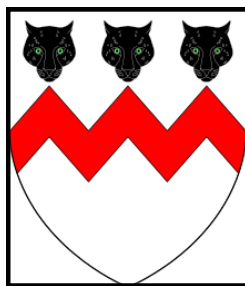


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How St Edward's School got its Coat of Arms by David Vaudrey



The main buildings of St Edward's School, my Alma Mater, are on the right hand side, the east side, of the Woodstock Road as you leave Oxford heading north, in the suburb of Summertown. The playing fields, which extend down to the Oxford Canal, are on the other side of the road and are connected by a subway. Many years ago the school was nearly stopped in its tracks; the land belonged to the then Duke of Marlborough and his agent suggested developing it for housing. The Duke intervened and sold it to the school for a modest sum. The earlier buildings, in a red-brick Victorian Gothic style form a large and attractive quadrangle with a stone-built chapel in one corner. Later buildings, in a simplified Georgian style, were added before the Second World War. Nothing further was added until the mid-fifties since when building has hardly stopped and the site has become somewhat overcrowded with some rather less attractive structures.

The school was founded in 1863 by the Rev'd Thomas Chamberlain, close to the centre of Oxford but was moved to the present site ten years later, the chapel with its clock tower and squat steeple being one of the first buildings to be erected. The school seems to have got off to slow start, partly because of the eccentric religious views of the founders.

The first Warden, or headmaster, was the Rev'd Algernon Barrington Simeon, a grandson of Sir Richard Godin Simeon, second Baronet. Barrington was added to their surname when Sir Richard married Louisa, daughter and heiress to Sir Fitzwilliam Barrington, tenth baronet of Barrington Hall, Essex and Swainston in the Isle of Wight. When Sir John Simeon was created the first baronet in 1815 he was granted the same arms which his family had been using that had been confirmed to another family of the same name at the Herald's Visitation of Oxfordshire in 1634 but without proof of any connection. The Simeons are listed in Debrett, 1960, among the baronets entitled to quarter the Royal Arms. Simeon clearly enjoyed heraldry as he incorporated the arms of the forty-two families that he claimed descent from in the stained-glass windows of the school assembly hall. Twenty-eight of these were handsomely illustrated in the school magazine in 1995. It seems odd that a family with such a splendid lineage should have not have been already armigerous long before this.

A good school should have a coat of arms so Algernon's younger brother, Hugh, who was an assistant master at the time, designed one. He did this rather well, taking what he thought were the attributed arms of King Edward the Martyr, the school's patron Saint, impaling the Simeon arms, resulting in quite an attractive design. He also devised a crest consisting of a gold cup with a dagger pointing downwards into it, alluding to the murder of the patron saint while drinking from a cup or chalice. These arms may have been intended for use only during Simeon's wardenship but the school continued to use them for the next 150 or so years.

These arms, although not granted, were widely used by the school in badges, brochures, writing paper, monuments in the chapel and even in the stained glass windows of the warden's study.

I long felt uneasy about the fact that the school was using arms that had not been granted and, as the school's sesquicentenary approached, I suggested that a good way of celebrating it might be by applying for a grant. The then warden was sympathetic to the idea but the governors said 'maybe sometime, but not now' and there the matter rested until an 'old boy' or Old St Edwardian (OSE), Sir David Lewis, a former Lord Mayor of London, came up with the money, and a grant was applied for, was duly granted and signed on the 5th December 2017 by Garter, Clarencieux and Norroy and Ulster and the agent was John Petrie, Rouge Croix. The names of both Sir David Lewis and the Warden, Stephen Jones, appear in the text of the grant. The College accepted the arms just as they were but with the addition of a gold border overall, so that it would not have the appearance of a marital coat. The crest/badge had not previously been granted so this was allowed unchanged.



Before I started campaigning, I had been advised by an expert friend to 'let sleeping dogs lie' but I thought it was worth the risk, and the outcome was entirely satisfactory. I would be glad to hear from anyone whether these arms really are those attributed to Edward the Martyr. In some contexts, OSE are referred to as 'Martyrs', eg, 'SES 1st XI vs. Martyrs XI'.

In the grant the arms are blazoned:

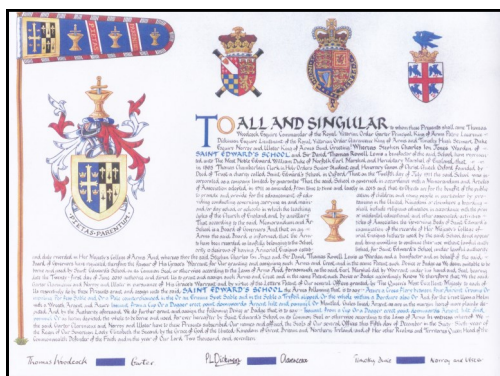
Shield: *Azure a Cross flory between four Ancient Crowns Or impaling Per fess Sable and Or a Pale counterchanged in the Or an Ermine Spot Sable and in the Sable a Trefoil slipped Or the whole within a Bordure also Or.*

Crest: *Upon a Helm with a Wreath Argent and Azure Issuant from a Cup Or a Dagger erect point downwards Argent hilt and pommel Or.*

Badge: same as the crest but without the wreath.

I asked John Petrie why the tinctures of the wreath and mantling were not derived from any of those in the shield: there was no particular reason, it was just that he took the tinctures from those in a drawing supplied by the school.

Now I can look at the brochures, magazines, etc, put out by the school with quiet satisfaction in place of the queasiness that I previously felt.



Reflections on a piece of Chinese porcelain

By Stephen Tudsbery-Turner



This highly decorated circular dish is to be found in the Museum of East Asian Art in Bath., which has given permission for its reproduction. It is one of very few services with this design with four crests on the rim.

It is described by the museum as 'a dish decorated with the arms of Pulteney in the centre and the crest of Pulteney four times on the rim, interspersed with fine flora gold decoration. Jingdezhen, late Kangxi period, Qing dynasty, China 1722.' The service was made for Sir William Pulteney, later Earl of Bath. Other pieces from this service are to be found in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, Raby Castle in Durham, and in various private collections.

The Pulteneys were a wealthy Leicestershire family and Sir William himself owned substantial property in London. He acquired the manor of Bathwick on the outskirts of Bath in 1727. Sir William was an English [Whig](#) politician who sat in the [House of Commons](#) as M.P. for Middlesex from 1707 to 1742 when he was created the first [Earl of Bath](#) by King George II.

Sir William was initially a close confidante and ally of Robert Walpole, but the two parted company in 1725 and Pulteney then formed the patriot Whigs to oppose his former friend. He had a formidable reputation as an orator and Walpole is said to have remarked that he feared Pulteney's tongue more than any man's sword.



Pulteney is thought by some to have been Prime Minister, for the shortest term ever (two days) in 1746, when he attempted to form a government to oppose Henry Pelham, who had been forced out of office by King George II. He kissed hands and received the great seals on a Tuesday and returned the seals to the king on the Wednesday, thus paving the way for Pelham's rapid return to power.

As an active politician Pulteney spent most of his time at his London home, latterly Bath House in Piccadilly. He lived there in great style and, interestingly enough, an inventory of the contents made in 1779 included armorial porcelain bearing his arms—doubtless including our rather special example

The earl died in 1764. His only son had predeceased him and his fortune was inherited first by his brother Harry, who died in 1767, then by Frances Johnstone, the daughter of his cousin Daniel, who had died in 1731. Frances's husband, William Johnstone of Dumfriess-shire, who changed his name to Pulteney when his wife came into her fortune, was responsible for developing the Bathwick estate and building Pulteney Bridge to the designs of his friends James and Robert Adam.

Sir William Pulteney, who inherited the baronetcy in 1794, also possessed examples of Chinese armorial porcelain and as can be seen by the charger below containing the arms of Johnstone of Westerhall, Dumfries-shire, namely *argent a saltire sable on a chief gules three cushions in base a man's heart ensigned with an imperial crown proper with the crest a spur between two wings or leath-*



Pulteney, reputedly the richest commoner in England, died in 1805, leaving as his heiress his daughter Henrietta Laura, who survived him for three years and whose portrait by Angelica Kauffmann now hangs in the Holburne Museum. She was created Baroness of Bath in 1792 and Countess of Bath in 1803. His own portrait (above) by Gainsborough, is in the Yale Centre of British Art.



HERALDIC QUIZ No. 12

Heraldic Quiz No 12 asked readers to identify the shield opposite, to locate it and to identify the eighteen quarterings. The answers are that it commemorates John de Vere thirteenth Earl of Oxford (1443-1513), the famous Lancastrian commander, who distinguished himself at the Battle of Bosworth. The shield is to be found in Lavenham Church, Suffolk and the quarterings seem to be as follows:



1 & 18 Vere, 2. Bulbeck, 3. Samford, 4. Baddlesmere, 5. Howard, 6. Scales, 7. Plaise. 8. Unknown, 9. Bavent or Walton, 10. Clare, 11. Unknown, 12. Ufford, 13. Unknown, 14. Warenne, 15. Glanville, 16. Fitzalan, 17. Unknown impaling Welles. Your thoughts on 8, 11 and 13 would be gratefully received.

HERALDIC QUIZ No. 13

We are sticking with the Earldom of Oxford for more identification of quarterings, although it is a different creation, namely the third. The de Vere creation was the second. This time we have twenty quarterings on offer. The shield is that of Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, and it is to be found on page 16. We were unable to do full justice to the other Earl of Oxford but perhaps will have better luck this time!

The title Earl of Oxford and Earl Mortimer was created in the Peerage of Great Britain for Robert Harley in 1711. It became extinct in 1853.

The Weld Bookplate by Richard Jones

I have in my possession two volumes of 'The Baronetage of England' by E. Kimber and R. Johnson printed in 1771.

They were originally bought by Thomas Weld of East Lulworth, Dorset, who in 1772 married Mary the eldest daughter of Sir John Stanley of Hooton, Lancashire. Thomas Weld died on the 1st of August 1810 so this book plate can be dated to the period 1772 to 1810.

The arms are as follows:

Quarterly 1st Azure a fess nebuly between three crescents ermine (Weld)

2nd Quarterly 1 and 4 - Argent a lion rampant guardant Vert (Sherborn) 2 and 3 – Vert an eagle displayed argent (Bayley)

3rd Quarterly Or and Gules a bordure engrailed Sable charged with escallops Argent (Heveningham)

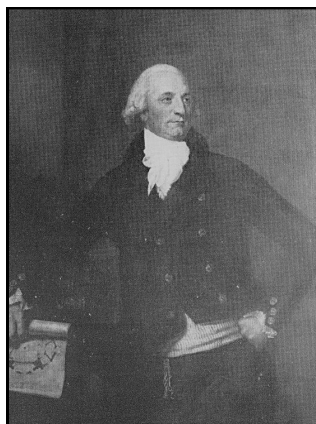
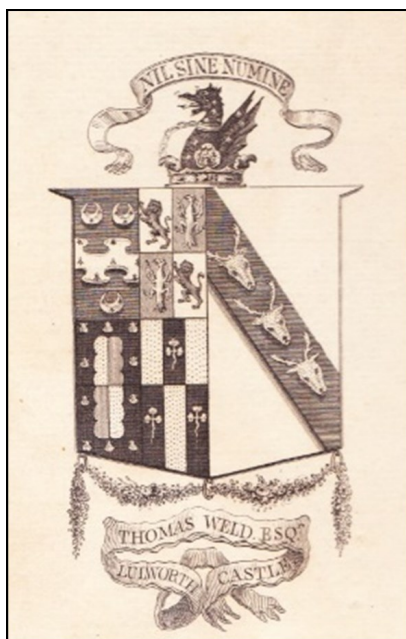
4th Quarterly Per Fess Or and Sable a pale countercharged and 3 trefoils slipped Or (Simeon)

Impaling Argent on a bend Azure 3 stags heads cabossed Or (Stanley)

Crest: From a Ducal coronet Or a demi-Wyvern Sable Ermined Or, collared and chained Or



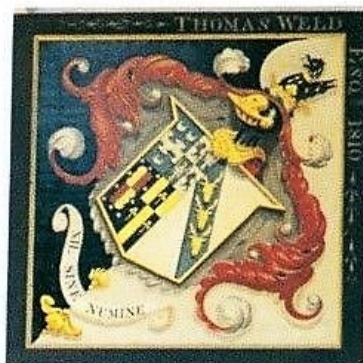
Lulworth Castle
as it is today.



Thomas Weld
by
Sir William Beechey

These were two of the volumes rescued from the fire at Lulworth Castle in 1929 when the castle, really are fortified hunting lodge, was destroyed by fire. English Heritage has since re-roofed the house, replace some of the floors and opened it to the public.

Thomas Weld is very unusual in having had three hatchments, displaying these arms, made when he died and all surviving to the twenty-first century. There are only one or two places in the country where this has happened.



Sometimes hatchments for the same person can be different, but his are all identical and can be found at:

The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Martyrs and St Ignatius, Chideock, Dorset

The Roman Catholic Chapel, St. Mary, at East Lulworth (Castle) and

the Parish Church of All Hallows, Great Mitton West Riding Yorkshire.

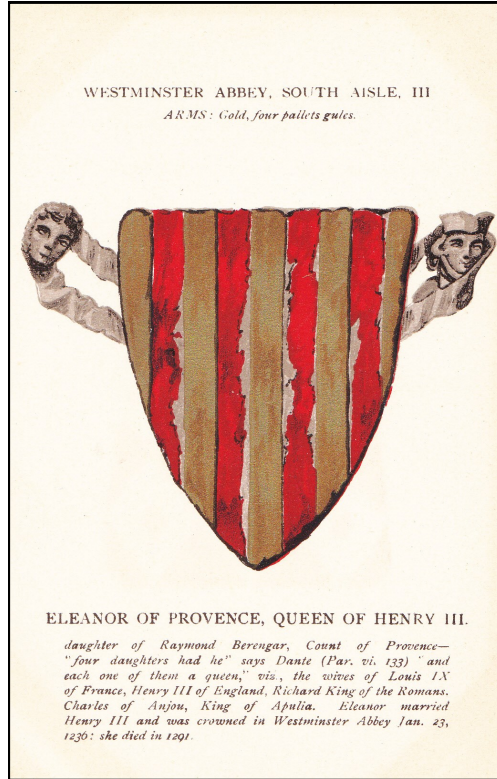
Lulworth, Chideock and Great Mitton being estates of the Weld family



Thomas inherited the large sixteenth century house named 'Stonyhurst', Lancashire but as this was not required he gave it to the Society of Jesus. Today it is a famous Roman Catholic Public School (above).

It was while he was in retreat at Stonyhurst he had a massive stroke and died. It is probably because he died here that his hatchment is at Great Mitton, a neighbouring parish. Thomas's body was brought home to Lulworth where he was buried in the family vault under the Chapel at Lulworth which he had built.

ANCIENT SHIELDS IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY



This issue's offering are three shields in the south aisle. The first commemorates Eleanor of Provence, Queen of King Henry III. The legend in the card reads 'daughter of Raymond Berengar, Count of Provence—"four daughters had he" says Dante (Par. vi. 133) "and each one of them a queen," viz., the wives of Louis IX of France, Henry III of England, Richard King of the Romans, Charles of Anjou, King of Apulia. Eleanor married Henry III and was crowned in Westminster Abbey Jan. 23, 1236: she died in 1291.'

WESTMINSTER ABBEY, SOUTH AISLE. IV.

ARMS: *Gules, seven mascles or lozenges, gold (both supporters missing)*



ROGER DE QUINCY, EARL OF WINCHESTER

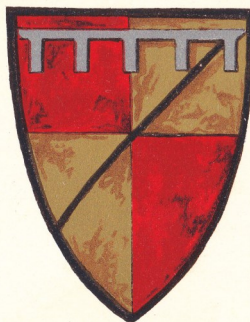
married Helen, daughter of Alan, Lord of Galloway; became Constable of Scotland in right of his wife; took part in the struggle between Henry III and the barons; died in 1265.

Next we have Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, who was involved in the barons' war against King Henry III and who died in 1264. Below we have Henry de Lacy Earl of Lincoln after whom Lincoln's Inn in London is named as it was built on the site of the earl's town house. He died in 1311 after a distinguished military career in the wars in Wales, Scotland and France.

Scott-Giles makes the point that this shield provides an early example of differencing with its use of the black baston and the white label. As things turned out the earl rejected these arms in favour of a purple lion on a gold shield a few years after the arms shown here were placed in the south aisle of the abbey.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY, SOUTH AISLE. V.

ARMS: *Quarterly gules and gold, a bend sable and a silver label of five points (both supporters missing).*



HENRY DE LACY, EARL OF LINCOLN.

"the closest councillor of Edward I" (Stubbs) fought in the king's wars in Wales, Scotland and France: Lincoln's Inn derives its name from and is built on the site of Lincoln House, his London residence; he died in 1311.

A Harleian Miscellany by Stephen Slater

Part I

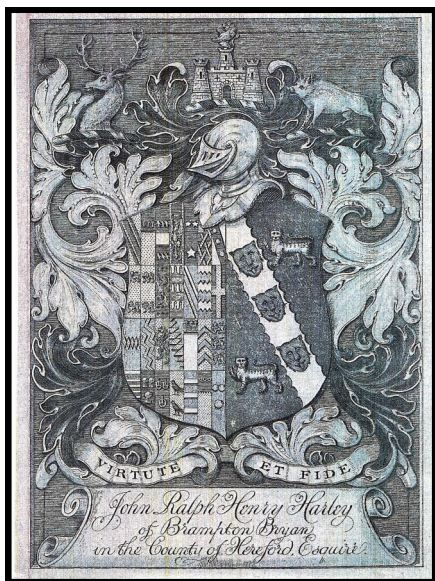
The Bookplate of John Harley of Brampton Bryan

I am never quite sure where my heraldic 'ramblings' might take me to next, a case in point being this article for the Dragon which saw me finding my way to a remote village in the wilds of Herefordshire, and then on (in spirit only) to Europe's largest fish soup cooking contest- in remotest Hungary!

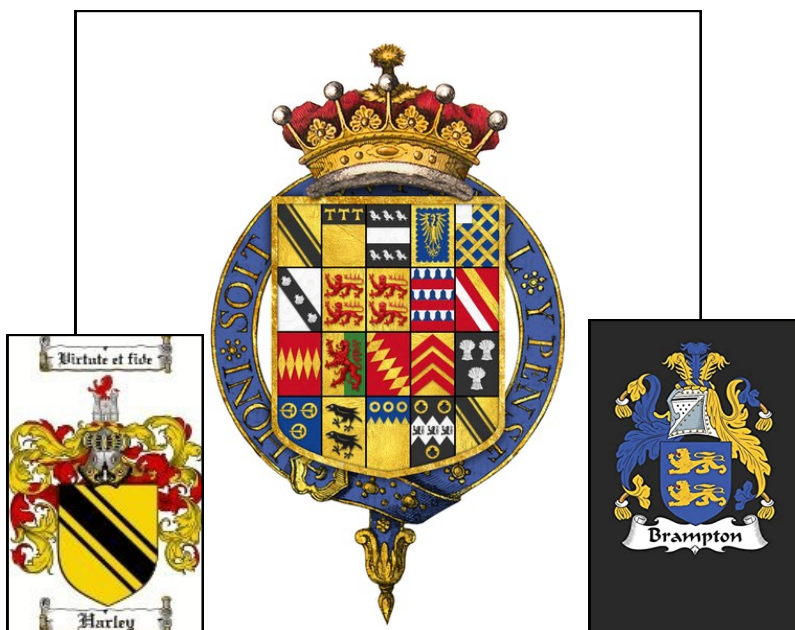
I shall explain-

In North Herefordshire, close to the borders of Shropshire and Wales, lies the village of Brampton Bryan. Therein are the ruins of a medieval castle, it stands hard by a fine mansion. The estate here at Brampton has passed through the hands of just two families- the estate nigh on a thousand years old.





The twenty quarterings on Robert Harley's shield below are more readily identifiable than the twenty eight quarterings on John Harley's bookplate opposite. For example, the three chevrons of de Clare, which can just be made out as No. 25 on the bookplate appear as No. 14 on Robert Harley's shield. [Ed.]



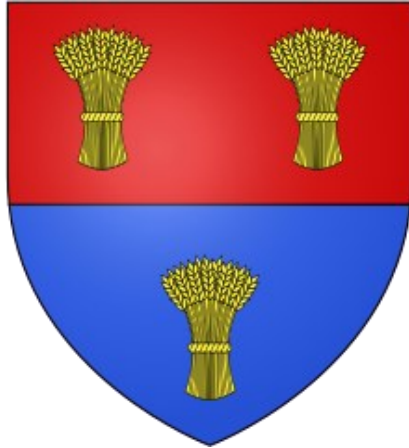
Not so long ago, I wrote to the current owner of Brampton estate, Mr Edward Harley, asking if he might have a bookplate as a 'souvenir' of my visit to Brampton Bryan. He kindly sent me a splendid plate made for his grandfather, John Harley, the plate dating from the first half of the twentieth century. The shield on the bookplate shows the arms of Harley impaling those of Gwyer- Mr Harley having married, Rachel, daughter of Charles Gwyer (of St. Petersburg, Russia).

The thrill of the plate for me is that on the Harley side there are no less than twenty-eight quarterings, many of them belonging to the great feudal families who held sway over the Welsh Marches from shortly after the Norman Conquest. So we can see the three chevrons of de Clare (No 25), the lions passant of de Giffards (26), the bendlets of Milo (Miles), Earl of Gloucester (12), and to top it all, the lion rampant of that greatest of medieval warriors, William the Marshal (17).

The first quartering on the plate is of course for Harley, *or a bend cotised sable*, and soon after we find the arms of other ancient families who long held estates near to Brampton- Mytton (4) and Pulesd(t)on (5).

Quarterings No 8 and 9 intrigued me, initially I thought them identical, but with the aid of a magnifying glass I saw that the two lions of the first are simply 'passant', but those in quarter 9 are 'passant guardant'. No 8 represents perhaps the second most important family in the Brampton Bryan history, it is for the Bramptons themselves, they living on or near the village at least from the reign of Henry I (d. 1135). Perhaps the Bramptons who took arms based on those of St. Valery (9), yet another of the Anglo-Norman lordlings, or was it the other way round? The two families were indeed closely related.

So it was that in the early 1300s, Margaret, heiress of Brian de Brampton married Sir Robert de Harley, sheriff of Herefordshire, his own family taking its name from a village up the road from Brampton, in Shropshire. From that time onwards (except for slight hiccups—such as the English Civil War) Brampton has continued in the ownership of the Harleys.



The Arms of the de Braose family

In reading of the lives of those martial men who fought their way into Wales, setting up their castles along the Welsh marches, none so seem as ruthless and unpleasant as the de Braose (Briouze) family, lords of Bramber, in Sussex. Margaret de Brampton's mother was daughter of a William de Braose, but various accounts are confused about which; second, third or even fourth. Which ever the case they were not people I would like to know. The fourth lord was responsible for the 'Abergavenny Massacre' of Welsh chieftains who had gone in good faith to dine at the castle there. The fourth lord's wife and a son are said to have starved to death, either in Windsor or Corfe Castle, through the orders of King John, while another family member was hung by Llewellyn the Great after being found in the prince's chamber with Llewellyn's wife, who also happened to be a daughter of King John! As I say, not the nicest of families.

The Braose family seem to have made use of several totally different arms at a period when heraldry was in its infancy. For example, on John Harley's shield we see two different coats (No's 10 and 11) both being shown as 'de Braose'.

The Harleys seemed to have led a happy enough existence in their little corner of middle England, that is until the Civil War came upon them,. The castle was held for Parliament at the time by the splendidly named Lady Brilliana Harvey , who managed to send the Royalists packing after a hectic siege of several weeks, but she died soon after.

The Royalists soon returned and exacted a heavy revenge, setting fire to the castle and leaving it a smoking ruin. Further great damage was done to the fine park at Brampton by a great storm, the date being September 3rd, 1658- the day Oliver Cromwell died. Every year since then, on the anniversary of the two events, the devil is said to ride through Brampton carrying the soul of Cromwell.

Despite siding for Parliament it seems to have had no great impact on the Harleys fortunes and in 1711 Robert Harley, who had been (among numerous great offices), Speaker of the Commons, was raised to the peerage as Earl of Oxford and Mortimer. His lordship narrowly escaped assassination at the hands of a French nobleman, the Marquis de Guiscard (perhaps a double agent). The latter armed with a penknife stabbed at Oxford, but His lordship was dressed in thick brocade and the hurt was small. The Marquis was not so lucky and died of wounds sustained in the subsequent skirmish not long after.

John Harley's bookplate is splendid in itself, but I do suggest, dear reader, you go online, tap 'Quarterings of Harley, Earls of Oxford' and there you will find displayed one of the magnificent plates from Joseph Edmondson's 'Baronagium Genealogicum' also known as 'the Pedigrees of the English Peers', this extraordinary work, in 6 volumes was published in 1764- a recent hand painted set was sold for over \$30,000! The Harley plate from this work has no less than 99 quarterings.

With thanks to Edward Harley of Brampton Bryan.

Part II of The Harleian Miscellany will appear in issue No. 47

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

As there is nothing to report given the current situation, we thought we would sign off with a witticism.

‘The Aga Khan is held by followers to be a direct descendant of God. An English Duke takes precedence.’ (Letter from the College of Arms, quoted in *Housewife* and in *Their Noble Lordships* by Simon Winchester 1981)