

# THE SOMERSET DRAGON

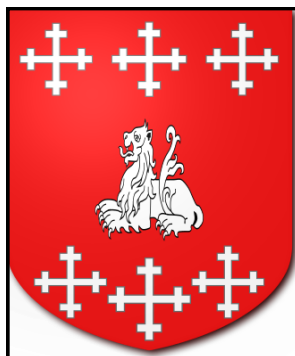
## THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

No. 52  
August 2022



Ideas for the future direction the society should take and volunteers to play a role in implementing them are always welcome. Do come primed with suggestions when we meet in Goathurst on the 11th August.

Our original plan to have lunch at the Tynte Arms (see picture!) have fallen through and we have transferred our custom to The Malt Shovel at Cannington, about five miles from Goathurst.



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## The Coat of Arms of Prince Philip as young man

### By David Vaudrey

#### Part II

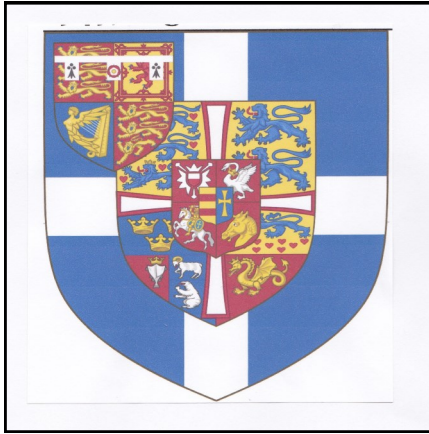
In the first part of this article we reached the second quarter of the first inescutcheon; in this section we will complete this inescutcheon, beginning with the third quarter.

Third,  
*Per fess in chief azure three crowns or two over one* for Sweden.

This is known as the Small Coat of Arms. It was first used by Albrekt of Mecklenburg in 1364 when he became King of Sweden after having banished the native Folkung dynasty that had reigned from 1250 to 1363, from the throne. In the Great Coat of Arms this shield is quartered by a cross formy throughout or with a shield nearly as ancient, namely, *Azure three bends sinister wavy overall a lion rampant or*. This arrangement of the Great Coat of Arms occurs as early as King Karl VIII Knutsson's seal of 1448. An inescutcheon of the Bernadotte dynasty has been added.

In base *Per pale, dexter,*  
*Gules a stockfish argent crowned* or for Iceland.

A stockfish is a cod that has been beheaded, eviscerated and then spread out and left in the open to dry; it can then be kept for years. Iceland has had five coats of arms in succession; this one was in use between circa 1500 and 1903. From 1903 to 1919, Iceland was represented in the Danish royal arms by, *Azure a falcon statant argent*. The arms adopted on 1 July 1944 are: *Azure a cross throughout fimbriated argent* with the unique distinction for national arms in having four supporters, namely the guardian spirits of Iceland, a bull, a vulture, a dragon and a giant.



Sinister:

*Per fess in chief:*

*Azure a ram argent langued gules armed and unguled or for the Faroe Islands.*

This coat first appears on some medieval chairs in the sixteenth century but was out of use between 1816 and 1948. The Faroe Islands are a self-governing administrative region of Denmark. They were a Norwegian province in 1035 and passed, with Norway, to Denmark in 1380; they were separated from Norway in 1709 becoming part of a Danish trade monopoly.

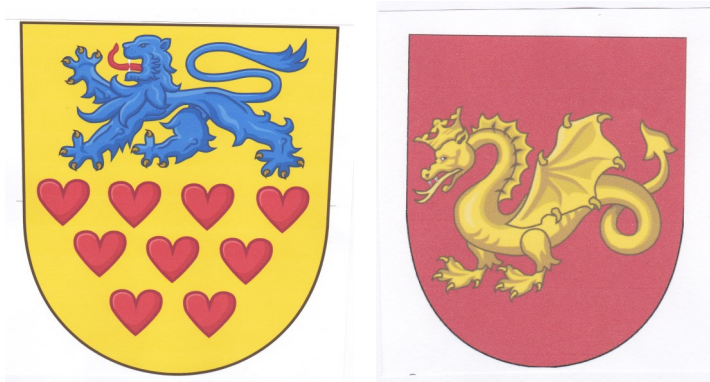


In base:

*Azure a polar bear salient argent for Greenland.*



This symbol was first introduced into the coat of arms of Denmark in 1666 and is still represented in the arms of the Danish royal family. The bear was originally shown walking naturally but an upright position was specified in 1819. In heraldry the right fore paw would normally be shown in the raised position but in the Greenlandic coat of arms the left paw is shown raised due to the traditional Inuit belief that polar bears are left-handed.



Fourth: *Per fess in chief:*

*Or a lion passant azure over nine hearts gules for Jutland or the King of the Goths.*

The first Danish king to use the title, King of the Goths, was Valdemar IV (reigned 1340 to 1375), who adopted it in 1362 after conquering Gotland the previous year. The Danish Kings continued to use the title over the next 600 years until 1972, when Queen Margrethe II succeeded. She abandoned the use of all her predecessors' titles except her title as 'Denmark's Queen', which is the royal style today. The title has also been used at various times by the kings of Norway and Sweden. These arms were originally derived from the arms of the dukes of Halland.

in base:

*Gules a lindorm crowned or for the King of the Wends.*

The lindorm, or sometimes lindworm, is a curious creature in Norwegian and Danish mythology. Marco Polo reported that he had seen them on the Steppes of Central Asia. Historically, the Wends were a people who populated the western Slavic lands of the southern coasts of the Baltic Sea. It was first adopted by King Canute VI (reigned 1182 to 1202) who conquered the lands of the Wends in Pomerania and Mecklenburg. The kings of Denmark bore the title for the next eight centuries until it was abandoned by Queen Margrethe II with other titles as mentioned above.



Overall:

*a cross potent argent fimbriated all round gules the head and arms extended to the edges of the shield, for the Order the Dannebrog.*

The arms are sometimes blazoned as 'quartered by a Cross throughout ...' but this is not strictly accurate as the foot of the cross is always shown as not reaching the bottom of the shield, thus exposing a small part of the per pale division between the third and fourth grand quarters.

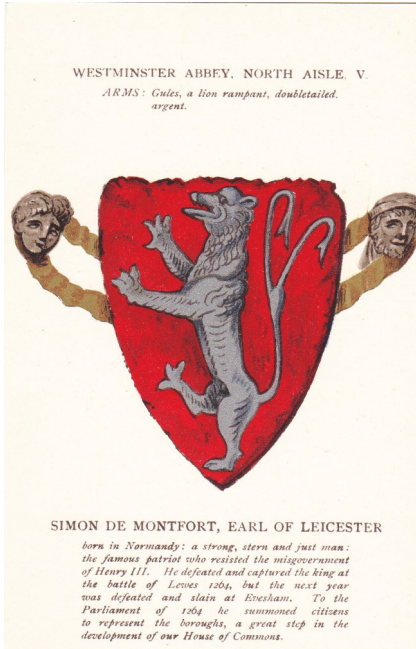
The Order of the Dannebrog was instituted in 1671 by King Christian V. Until 1808, the order was limited to fifty members of noble or royal rank who formed a single class known as White Knights to distinguish them from the Blue Knights who were members of the Order of the Elephant. In 1808, the Order was reformed and divided into four classes; the Grand Commander class is reserved to persons of princely origin. The statute of the Order was amended in 1951 so that both men and women could become members.

The Dannebrog is the Danish flag; the word probably means 'cloth of the Dane'. Legend has it that in the early thirteenth century, the Danish king Valdemar Sejr (Valdemar the Victorious) led his army on a crusade in what is present-day Estonia. During the battle on June 15, 1219, when the Danes seemed to be losing, suddenly a red banner with a white cross fell from the sky. As a result, their luck changed, the Danish army won the day and Denmark got its flag. The Danish Royal Yacht is named the 'Dannebrog'; of 1238 tons, she was built in Denmark in 1932 and has the appearance of a very handsome steam yacht of the period.



In the next and final section we will begin with the second inescutcheon.

## ANCIENT SHIELDS IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY



Gules, a lion rampant, doubletailed argent.



Simon de Montfort, in a drawing of a stained glass window found at Chartres Cathed-

The caption on shield number VII from the north aisle in Westminster Abbey, which commemorates Simon de Montfort, describes the earl as 'born in Normandy, a strong, stern and just man, the famous patriot who resisted the misgovernment of Henry III. He defeated and captured the king at the battle of Lewes 1264, but the next year was defeated and slain at Evesham. To the Parliament of 1264 he summoned citizens to represent the boroughs, a great step in the development of our House of Commons.'

# MAD JACK AND HIS HERALDRY PART 1

## BY STEPHEN SLATER



It is many years since I lectured on my 'local hero', John Benett-Stanford, of Pythouse and Norton Bavant, both estates in west Wiltshire. To local folk, both estate workers and gentry John was more often known as Mad Jack. So, when recently Stephen Tudsbury-Turner showed me a button from his splendid collection, I was thrilled to be able to tell him who it had belonged to either Jack, or his father, Vere Fane-Benett-Stanford, such was this grand collection of names, that little button was engraved with no less than 3 separate armorial crests.





Jack's main residence, Pythouse, which lies just south of Shaftesbury had been in the ownership of Jack's ancestors at least since the late thirteenth century. Confusingly, the family which originally owned the Pythouse were surnamed Bennett (spelt with two 'n's'), but the Bennetts died out in male line in the seventeenth century when the heiress married William Benett (spelt with one 'n') of Norton Bavant Manor, the two estates less than ten miles apart. Like many of the Wiltshire gentry, the Benetts of Norton Bavant had become wealthy in the late medieval period through the wool trade, the flocks on the nearby Salisbury Plain being woven in the nearby mills of Trowbridge and Bradford on Avon.



The fact that the Bennetts and Benetts were distinct families is borne out by their heraldry- the Pythouse family having the arms: *Per pale argent and or, an double headed eagle displayed gules*. The Benetts of Norton Bavant enjoyed the arms: *gules three demi lions couped argent* (often differenced by a mullet).

The Benetts gained another local estate, Boyton House when the great grandson of Patience and William, 'Long' John Benett married the heiress of the Lamberts. Long John Benett almost gained national interest when in 1830 he called in the Wiltshire Yeomanry to quell rioters intent on braking the new fangled threshing machines- the so called Pythouse Riot saw one local man shot dead and others transported to the colonies.

John Benett's eventual heir, Lucy, married in 1832, the Reverend Arthur Fane, one of several illegitimate children of General Sir Henry Fane, who, much to the delight of the general's great grandson, Jack, eloped while serving in Ireland with the wife of a senior government official. This lady, Isabella Cooke liked to be called Lady Fane, but as she and her general never married it was something of a pleasant personal conceit.

Mad Jack was fascinated in the racier details of his family relations, especially the Fanes, several of them appearing in Jack's splendidly eccentric notes, which now are deposited in the museum in Devizes (Wilts Archaeology and History Society) - therein we find pencilled notes relating to one set of Fane relatives with comments such as "bankrupt; "ran off with colonel's wife" and "forged signatures on cheques- 7 years penal servitude"!

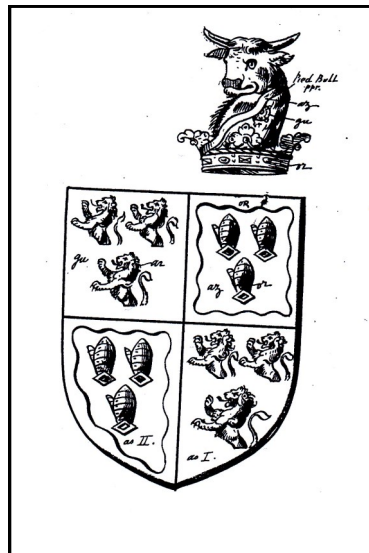
It is obvious, in reading through his notes that Jack wished at some point to write his memoirs, with a large part concerning his lineage and pedigree. He also had a fascination in the heraldry that the pedigree gave him and was gathering together coats of arms which, through heiresses, would eventually descend to his own heirs, these being his daughter Patience and son Vere.

To make sure his heraldry was correctly organised, Jack enlisted the assistance of the College of Arms, his preferred officer being Archibald Russell, then Lancaster Herald.

Despite owning several estates, Jack often claimed poverty (due he said to poor rents and crop failures) and therefore had to ask Lancaster to take a break from following up heraldic leads until Jack found the money to pay him. Elsewhere in Jack's correspondence with Russell his eccentricities shine through. In one letter he asks the herald, to which part of Pythouse should the herald's researcher should stay. Jack was quite happy that the gentleman should sit at table with him, as long as he did not pick at his teeth, a habit of which he did not approve.

One wonders whether Jack ever took the researcher down into Pythouse's cellars to see one of the house's relics, the skeleton of Molly - said to have been hung for murdering her baby, begotten by one of the squires. She vowed to haunt the place if ever her body was removed. The glass case that housed her remains would spring open when Jack activated the appropriate lever!

Jack was especially taken with the fact that the Fane heraldry that he could use was 'differenced' for illegitimacy and asked Lancaster to say how this should be shown, so, on the 23rd September 1937 the herald adds in his letter "A bordure wavy is the mark of illegitimacy now generally employed" a sketch of the Fane arms: *Azure three dexter gauntlets Or*, appears with a bordure wavy also Or and the Fane crest of a bull's head is also differenced by a bendlet sinister wavy. Jack was more than happy to make sure such marks were shown whenever needed.



Jack's more recent heraldic lineage was somewhat complex owing to the fact that his father, Vere Fane, had to change his name and arms, not once but twice, through Royal Licences to inherit certain properties. The first such licence came in 1857 when Vere Fane changed his name to Vere Benett, so as to inherit Pythouse, the arms assigned by the heralds in that year were: *Quarterly 1 and 4 Benett, 2 and 3 Fane* (now with bordure wavy).

Vere continued the family tradition in marrying another wealthy heiress, Ellen Stanford of Preston Manor, Brighton, but once again, to take an interest in the Preston estates, Vere changed his name to Benett-Stanford (eventually he called himself Vere Fane-Benett-Stanford, hence the three crests on Stephen's livery button).

The Stanford arms are rather complex: *Per pale Or and Sable, on a chevron nebuly between 3 bugles stringed as many martlets all counterchanged.*

The final arrangement of Vere's arms being splendidly painted for me, along with two other depictions by our own Roland Symons. The full description too long really to write out- just look at Roland's painting.

Part II of 'Mad Jack and his Heraldry' will appear in our December issue.



## Ralph Brocklebank

It is sad to have to record the passing of yet another member of our society and indeed one who was an original member. Ralph had not been well for many years but he did manage to attend the occasional meeting in his wheelchair. He was a generous man and picked up the bill for at least two - possibly more - of our annual lunches, which were well attended get-togethers. He was a keen reader of the *Somerset Dragon* and dropped the editor a note of appreciation of its contents on more than one occasion. He edited his own *Dragonlore* magazine, which was always entertaining reading, was a member of various heraldic societies, and was in every sense a true heraldic enthusiast. The other day, while admiring the Dacre beasts in the Victoria and Albert Museum, one of our members read the caption that explained how these four magnificent animals had found their way to the museum. He noticed amongst the short list of those who had contributed to assist in their purchase the familiar name of Ralph Brocklebank. A fitting reminder of a man whom it was both a pleasure and a privilege to have known.

### The Savile Arms



This delightful photo of the Savile Arms that adorn the former stable block at Rufford Abbey in Nottinghamshire turned up recently on ebay and caught the editor's fancy. The arms are blazoned *Argent on a bend sable three owls affrontée of the first the whole within a Bordure wavy of the second*. King Edward VII was a regular visitor at the abbey, which was very convenient for the St Leger at Doncaster.

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**SIR RALPH MILBANKE:  
HIS ARMS AND HIS ASSOCIATIONS  
BY STEPHEN TUDSBERY-TURNER**



This Adam style spade shield bookplate dates from between 1798, when Sir Ralph Milbanke inherited his baronetcy, and 1815, when he changed his name to Noel according to the terms of the will of his wealthy brother-in-law Thomas Noel, second Viscount Wentworth, whose sister Judith he had married in 1777.

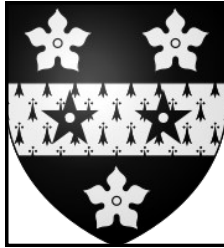
The Milbanke baronetcy dated from 1661 and had been created for Mark Milbanke, the son of a successful Newcastle upon Tyne merchant. He was sheriff of the city in 1638 and served as its mayor on two occasions. His marriage brought him an estate at Halnaby near Darlington. Sir Ralph, his great-grandson and the sixth baronet, served as a member of parliament for Durham and when not in London spent most of the time at Seaham Hall on the Durham coast.

By all accounts Sir Ralph was a boring individual. The Duchess of Devonshire described him as 'old twaddle Ralph' and the poet Lord Byron, who married his only daughter, wrote in 1815: 'My papa Sir Ralpho has recently made a speech at a Durham tax-meeting; and not only at Durham, but here, several times since after dinner.'

He is now, I believe speaking it to himself (I left him in the middle) over various decanters, which can neither interrupt him nor fall asleep - as might possibly have been the case with some of his audience.'



Above: Sir Ralph Milbanke by James Northcote. Left: The arms of Lamb.



If Sir Ralph was boring the same could never been said of his sister Elizabeth. With an eye to her social and financial advancement she engineered a marriage to Peniston Lamb, a man with little to recommend him apart from his wealth and his position. The owner of an estate in Derbyshire based on his seat at Melbourne Hall and a member of parliament for the rotten borough of Ludgershall, he had inherited his baronetcy in 1768, the year before their marriage and was created first Baron Melbourne the year after. His viscounty followed eleven years later. He remained an MP for over twenty-five years and only spoke once, and the letters he wrote to his long-term mistress, the courtesan Sophia Baddeley, whom he acquired within some ten months of his wedding, reveal him to have been a mild, easy-going and rather stupid man who avoided trouble and invariably deferred to his wife.

Having gained her entree into high society and presented her husband with an heir, another Peniston, she embarked upon a series of affairs, including a liaison with the wealthy Lord Egremont, who was almost certainly the father of her second son William, later Lord Melbourne and the future prime minister. Amongst her other conquests were the Prince Regent and Lord Byron, and it was Lady Melbourne who arranged for him to marry her niece Anne Isabella (Annabella), the Milbanke's only child. It was a disastrous match that lasted less than a year although it did produce a daughter, Ada.

The Milbanke arms are blazoned: *Gules a bend ermine on a canton or a lion's head erased of the first and the crest is a lion's head erased gules charged with a bend ermine.* On the bookplate they impale the arms of Noel which are: *Quarterly 1 and 4 Or fretty gules a canton ermine (Noel), 2 Sable a chevron between three leopards' faces (Wentworth), 3 Gules on a chief indented sable three martlets sable (Lovelace of Hurley).*

The barony of Wentworth, unusual in that it could pass through the female line, had been inherited by the Noel family in 1745. Seventeen years later Judith Milbanke's father, Sir Edward Noel, was created the first Viscount Wentworth, but upon her brother Thomas's death the viscountcy became extinct. The barony on the other hand went into abeyance until 1856, when it was revived in favour of Annabella, by then a widowed and embittered Lady Byron. The Lovelace quartering was the result of the marriage in 1638 of the younger sister of the fifth Baron Wentworth to the second Baron Lovelace - a title that became extinct in 1736.

Opposite above:- Halnaby Hall near Darlington, seat of Sir Ralph Milbanks.
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As there were no takers when it came to emblazoning the arms of the Duke of Buckingham as suggested in our last, we will pass rapidly on from one duke to another. (The hatched version of the Buckingham arms appeared in issue 45, April 2020.) Has anyone any thoughts about these arms of Richard Duke of York, killed at the Battle of Wakefield in 1460?



1st and 4th are the arms of Edmund Langley, son of King Edward III, from whom he claimed his royal descent. 2nd are the arms of his grandmother, Isabella of Castille-Leon, and 3rd are the quartered arms of Mortimer and de Burgh. Overall is an inescutcheon containing the arms of Holland, Earl of Kent.

Did he have the right to bear these arms and what about the arrangement? (Image from Wikipedia)



The Bookplate of Charles Kemeys Kemeys-Tynte (1822-91), great-grandson of Jane Hassell (see opposite). The plate displays many of the arms to be seen on the monuments in St Edward's Church

## 11TH AUGUST. GOATHURST VISIT, LUNCH AND AGM

11.00am Meet at St Edward's Church (14th century)  
Halswell and Kemeys-Tynte memorials  
1.00pm Lunch at The Malt Shovel, Cannington  
AGM

**AGM** Points to consider:

- \* Raising the subscription
- \* Future of Society
- \* Election of Officers

### **A Note on the name Kemeys-Tynte**

SIR CHARLES KEMEYS TYNTE, 5th Baronet (1710 –1785) MP for Monmouth 1745–47 and Somerset 1747–74. Sir Charles added the name 'Kemeys' to his own in 1747 upon inheriting the Kevan Mabley estate in Wales from his mother, Lady Tynte (née Jane Kemeys). Sir Charles' sister, Jane Tynte, had married Major Ruishe Hassell but died in 1741 leaving two daughters, one of whom died in 1744, the second was JANE HASSELL (1738-1824).

Sir Charles died without issue in 1785 and the estates passed to this niece Jane Hassel who had been orphaned in 1749 and brought up at Halswell. The dowager Lady Tynte continued to live at Halswell until her death in 1798, however the estates passed directly from Sir Charles to Jane Hassell and her husband Col. John Johnson (m. 1765) upon his death in 1785.

Colonel John Johnson (d. 1795) and Jane Hassell, as a stipulation of their inheritance of the Halswell and Kevan Mabley estates, changed their name to Kemeys-Tynte in 1785.

## 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.



Halswell House, Somerset.  
An old postcard