

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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The arms of the Rev. Henry Parsons, Rector of Goathurst for 35 years, who died in January 1843. One of the many heraldic delights on offer in St. Edward's Church, Goathurst.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE
OF EDITORIAL ADDRESS
DETAILS ON P.20**



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THE COAT OF ARMS OF PRINCE PHILIP AS A YOUNG MAN BY DAVID VAUDREY PART III

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In the previous section we completed the first inescutcheon; we begin here with the second inescutcheon.

Thereon a further inescutcheon:
Quarterly:

First:

*Gules a Nettle Leaf Argent for
Holstein, (1).*



The stylised nettle leaf seems to take a variety of forms ranging from not much more than a multi-pointed star to the image usually seen in the Danish arms where it has a small, voided inescutcheon in the centre.

Holstein once existed as a German county (811 to 1474) and later as a duchy (1474 to 1866) but its history is closely intertwined with the history of the Danish Duchy of Schleswig. Its capital is Kiel and it was the northernmost territory of the Holy Roman Empire. Holstein is the historic and cultural region occupying the southern part of the Jutland Peninsula between the rivers Eider and Elbe, now comprising the southern half of the Schleswig-Holstein Land in northern Germany.



1.

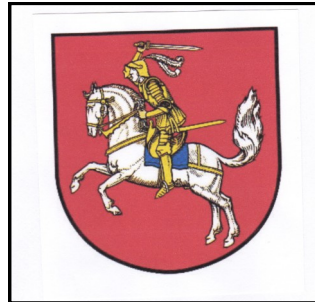
Second:

Gules a Swan Argent about the neck a Crown Or for Stormarn, (2).

Stormarn is a small district in Schleswig-Holstein, between Lübeck, Hamburg and Lauenburg. It was the home of the Saxon tribe of the Sturmarii and it became part of Holstein in the 12th century. The swan has been the heraldic emblem of Stormarn since the Middle Ages.



2.



3.

Third:

Gules a Knight armoured Or mounted on a rearing Horse Argent for Dithmarschen, (3).

The district coat of arms displays a knight of Holstein. This coat of arms was not popular for many years in Dithmarschen because it was the sign of their conquerors. These arms were used by the governors but were not accepted by the people. In 1930, when these ancient hostilities had become irrelevant, this coat of arms was re-introduced. The district is located on the North Sea and is embraced by the estuary of the river Elbe to the south and the Eider estuary to the north; today it is an artificial island surrounded by the rivers and the Kiel canal.

Fourth:

Gules the head and neck of a Horse couped at the neck Or for Lauenburg.

The district of Herzogtum Lauenburg is named after the mediaeval Duchy of Saxe-Lauenburg which was one of the remnants of the original Duchy of Saxony which was also known simply as Lauenburg. The territory comprises most of the former duchy's land north of the river Elbe. The arms given in Wikipedia are (my blazon from the illustration), *Gules the head of a Horse couped at the neck Argent [sic] a bordure chequy Argent and Sable*, (4). This is the nearest likeness that I could find.

The arms of the city are Argent a two-towered Castle Gules roofed Azure the doors and pinnacles Or at the honour point an inescutcheon per pale dexter Argent an Eagle displayed dimidiated Gules impaling Saxony.

The arms show the Lauenburg castle, built in 1181 by Duke Bernhard I of Sachsen, who named himself after the new castle. His arms are shown between the towers, (5). The village round the castle grew rapidly and received city rights in the 13th century.



4.



5.



6.

Thereon a further inescutcheon: *Per Pale:*

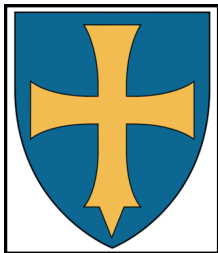
Dexter, Or two Bars Gules for Oldenburg, the arms of the Counts of Oldenburg (6).

Oldenburg is an ancient city in the small county of Oldenburg in Lower Saxony owing its importance to its being at a ford in the river Hunte; it became a Duchy (1774-1810), then a Grand Duchy (1815-1918), then a Free State (1918-1946).

Sinister,

Azure a Cross potent couped Or for Delmenhorst, (7).

Delmenhorst is an urban district six miles from Bremen and sixteen miles from Oldenburg. It was first mentioned in a charter of 1254 after the place on the river Delmen when it was bought by the Count of Oldenburg. It came under Danish ownership until Tsarina Catharine II bought it in 1767. For a short time it was part of the French Empire under Napoleon I. In the industrial age it prospered owing to its proximity to Bremen.



7.



8.

Overall,

In the first quarter, a further inescutcheon of the arms of Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Alice, who on marriage became the Grand Duchess of Hesse; they are the royal Arms of the United Kingdom differenced with a label of three points Argent charged with a Tudor rose on the centre point and an ermine spot on the outer points, (8). This inescutcheon has also passed down through the generations to other descendants of hers and is borne by the Countess Mountbatten of Burma and the Marquess of Milford Haven. Originally, these arms bore the inescutcheon for Saxony as shown here, but this was removed by the order of King George V in 1917.

We will close with the arms of Prince Philip's mother, Princess Alice of Battenberg, Greece/Denmark impaling, quarterly, 1st and 4th, Hesse (with a bordure for difference), 2nd and 3rd, Battenberg, encircled with the Order of Maria Luisa, (9). The Order was created by King Charles IV of Spain in 1792 at the request of his wife, Maria Luisa, to reward noble women who had distinguished themselves by their services and talents. It has been awarded to several members of the British Royal Family.

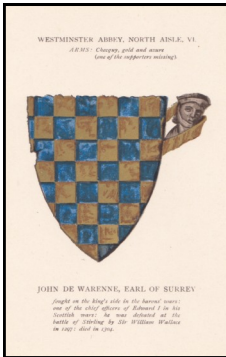


9.

Conclusion

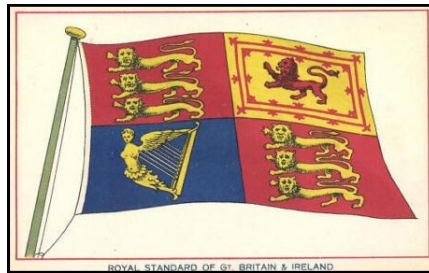
I hope that now that we have leafed through the variety of quarterings that made up the achievement that Prince Philip began life with and have looked into their origins you will agree that they really were worth further investigation. His Royal Highness must have given them up with some small pang of regret though in his new arms he was allowed to keep his crest, his supporters and, in his shield, his connection with Greece and as a bonus he was given the Battenberg quartering which he should perhaps have had from birth.

ANCIENT SHIELDS IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY



This month the arms featured are those of John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, well known to all who visit pubs bearing the legend 'The Chequers' on their signboards. The earl fought for King Henry III in the barons' wars and for King Edward I in his campaigns against the Scots. He was defeated by Sir William Wallace at the Battle of Stirling in 1297.

HER LATE MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



We thought it appropriate to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III with this picture of the royal standard. It was published as a postcard by the Excelsior Fine Art Company during the reign of King Edward VII, the late queen's great-grandfather. It is our own tribute to a monarch whose dedication and sense of duty remains an example to us all.

MAD JACK AND HIS HERALDRY PART II

BY STEPHEN SLATER

'Mad Jack' (John Benett-Stanford) left somewhat risqué descriptions of his parents, whose grand quartered shield was described in part 1 of this article. He had only vague memories of his father, Vere Fane-Benett-Stanford, who died when he was at boarding school, but he was almost fond of the frequent thrashings he got when he was home. Jack was equally open about his father's legacy, saying that his belief in 'droit de seigneur' meant that Jack was still helping to maintain his father's illegitimate children for many years after.



As for Ellen, his mother, Jack loathed her and she detested him, the last words she ever spoke to him were "damn you, get out". Furthermore, while her husband was disporting himself with the local maidens, Ellen was, to use Jack's phrase, "playing the part of Cleopatra"- her lovers were legendary in the neighbourhood of Tisbury.

Jack's continued interest in his heraldic inheritance had him look for a competent artist who could paint individual shields for him of the arms which he believed his family had amassed over the centuries. He was put in touch, with Bridget Workman, an obviously competent heraldic artist and I think in the end almost forty painted shields were commissioned by Jack from Ms Workman. These were added to a splendid framed panel which was, until a few years ago, still kept in Pythouse. Once again we are indebted to Roland Symons for having produced in black and white a sheet of several of those arms.

Jack's correspondence with Lancaster Russell included the heralds thoughts on a mark used in the centre of the arms of the Benetts of Norton Bavant, Jack had noticed that in the family chapel of Norton Bavant church, some arms were differenced with a mullet and another by a bezant- what was the correct version? In 1929 Lancaster had written to Jack saying that in the Heralds Visitation of Wiltshire, in 1565, the Benett arms were recorded as being '*Gules three demi lions argent with a mullet or*'. Lancaster therefore took it that the mullet was a permanent charge, yet two years later, having reviewed the case, Russell reversed his opinion, deciding that the mullet was indeed meant as a temporary difference mark. When Vere Fane-Benett had his first change of name and arms, the heralds had not included any difference mark.

Jack's interests in not only heraldry, but also into local archaeology and folklore were many. Among the copies of his notes I read of the 'Silton Ghost', supposedly seen in Silton church a few miles south of Pythouse. In a letter to the widow of a former rector of Silton, Jack records how he went to see an old lady, saying "Mrs J is extraordinarily like an old witch.. hatchet face.. black cat and a besom behind the door and I saw every other sign he had connection with the devil- Still, I am old fashioned"!

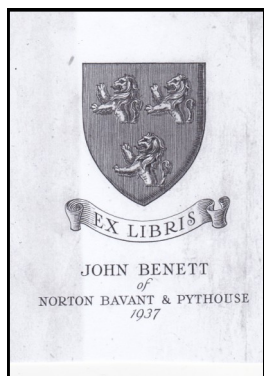
In another letter to a local landowner Jack is only too conscious of his own reputation- "I have old Jim Treadwell's hunting horn... given to be by an old farmer, who died in the Laverstock Lunatic Asylum. they said he was mad, but he was not half so mad as I am"!

Jack married Evelyn Helme, daughter of a fox hunting squire, she seems as wacky as her husband, dressing in men's clothing, both of them seemingly, in later life up to all sorts of capers, including, so it was said, illicit cigarette smuggling across the channel, in which they used their yacht.

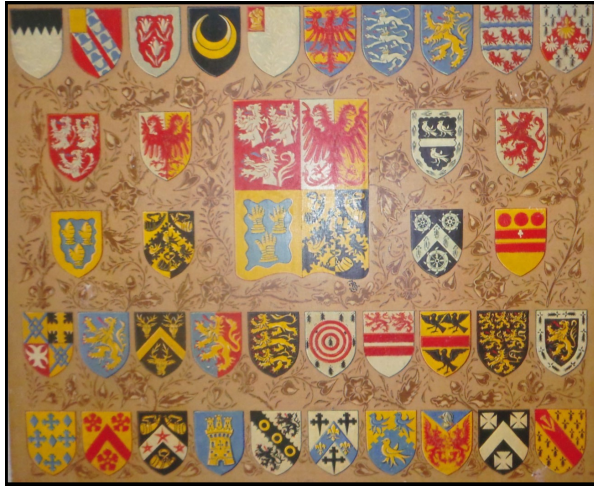
It had been Jack's intention to pass on this splendid heraldic pedigree to his two children, Patience and Vere. As events turned out Patience died young, and Vere, died in 1922, aged 28, in a Swiss sanatorium where he was being treated for TB.

So in the end, that grand amassing of heraldic honours was passed on to Jack and Evelyn's children, not as a present for their coming of age, but as part of their epitaphs in Norton Bavant church.

While Vere has a memorial looking to be of a long gone century, decorated with the arms of the four main families he was heir to- Bennett of Pythouse, Benett of Norton Bavant, Fane of Boyton and Stanford of Preston, poor Patience is recorded by a poorly etched brass plate. Jack did leave a sketch of what he had in mind for his daughter but once again was seemingly too hard up after failures on his estates to turn his ideas into reality.



Jack's own heraldic bookplate shows a simple shield of the arms of Benett of Norton Bavant (no difference), perhaps he realised there was no place for a grand display, or more like it, he was once again having money problems.



Jack died in 1947 and Evelyn died 10 years later. However she was determined that the pedigree and heraldic quarterings, which Jack had spent so many years researching, would not be forgotten. So, she commissioned a Wiltshire clergyman and heraldic artist, Reverend St. John Battersby, of Chittoe, near Devizes to paint all those thirty plus shields of arms to which her children would have borne. His work survives to this day in the Benett family chapel to the south of the church at Norton Bavant.

And, oh yes, we shouldn't forget that livery button that first started me on this 'ramble' - there are 3 crests, Fane has a bull's head charged with a rose, confusingly the Stanfords also had a bull's head caboshed and in an arched chain. The Benetts crest was a lion's head issuant from a mural coronet.



Perhaps the final end to the story should perhaps be with Jack's actual obituary, in a local newspaper, from 1947, saying he was a 'colourful character... born 300 years too late'!

THE 'OLD' AND THE 'NEW' **BY ROLAND SYMONS**

2022 is an interesting 'heraldic' year for the city of Bath. Two coats of arms with Bath connections feature and both are illustrated with rather 'unheraldic' charges. The 'Old' is the coat of arms of Sir John Herschel, son of William Herschel the astronomer who died in 1822, The arms are decorated with a picture of the 40-foot reflecting telescope which graced his garden in Slough. The 'New' is the coat of arms of Norland College. Revealed in 2022, its design is made up of blocks which can be found in Box 5 of Froebel's educational toys!

PART I WILLIAM HERSCHEL, 1738 – 1822

200 YEARS AGO, on August 25th 1822, William Herschel, one of the foremost astronomers, and a fine musician, died in Slough.

Friedrich William Herschel was born on 15th Nov. 1738, in Hanover, ruled then by the King of England, George II. William's father, Isaac, was a military bandsman in the Hanoverian foot guards. William and his brother Jacob also joined as oboists. In 1757, William was sent to England during the Seven Years' War with France. He took charge of the Durham militia band in Sunderland and used his musical talent to make his living as an oboist and violinist. He also proved popular as an organist and as a composer. In 1766 he was offered the post of organist at the Octagon Chapel in Bath and played at its opening in 1767. Before long, his annual income from concerts, teaching music and the staging of concerts, was in excess of £300.

Herschel's father had introduced him to astronomy and mathematics. In Bath, he taught himself how to construct telescopes of increasing quality and began to systematically survey the night sky. In 1772 he brought his sister Caroline to Bath, where she became his housekeeper, then singer, then general assistant. In 1777, they moved into 19 New King Street, which is now the home of the Herschel Museum of Astronomy. Caroline complained that *'almost every room was turned into a workshop'*, but there was a large garden with a clear view of the sky and this was where telescopes could be housed. The cellar was used as a kitchen and a workshop for casting speculum metal mirrors in moulds made of horse dung.

It was with his seven-foot Newtonian reflecting telescope that Herschel, on March 13 1781, noticed *'a curious either nebulous star or perhaps a comet'*. He soon detected its motion relative to the 'fixed' stars and it was not long before astronomers agreed that it was a planet: the seventh from the sun, and that Herschel was the first person to recognise it. as such He called the planet *'Georgium Sidus'* after George III, but continental astronomers resisted this and the planet was named after Uranus, the Greek god of the sky. Its two moons were called Titania and Oberon.



William Herschel
by Lemuel Abbott.
1785
Copyright NPG 98

Worldwide fame followed. Herschel was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society and was presented to George III; his telescope was tested at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. There was now pressure to enable Herschel to give his full attention to astronomy and to do so nearer London, and the King. He was given a Royal pension of £200 a year, so he and Caroline moved to Datchet and, in 1785, to 'Observatory House' in Slough. It was here that the great 40-ft. telescope was constructed. Sadly, it proved too large to be effective. While the tube lay in the garden during construction and, as Caroline notes, *'many visitors had the curiosity to walk through it, among them the King and the Archbishop of Canterbury, to whom the King gave his hand, saying, 'Come, my Lord Bishop, I will show you the way to Heaven.'* By this time Caroline was a key assistant to William's astronomy and became recognised as an astronomer in her own right.

During the remainder of his life, Herschel studied the nature of nebulae and determined that they were formed of stars. He also discovered two moons of Saturn and coined the term 'asteroid'. He discovered that the solar system was moving through space and discovered the direction of that movement. He also suggested that the Milky Way was in the shape of a disc.

In 1788, Herschel married Mary Pitt, the widow of a near neighbour. They had a son, John, who was to prove as famous as his father. In 1816 William was made a Knight of the Hanoverian Guelphic Order, although this didn't qualify him to be called 'Sir' William. However, His son, John, was created a Baronet in Queen Victoria's Coronation Honours list in 1838, and it is his coat of arms which features on the front of this card. William Herschel died on August 25th 1822, aged 84. He is buried at St Lawrence's Upton, near Slough.

Perhaps William Herschel wrote his own epitaph :

I have looked further into space than ever human being did.

The Coat of Arms of Sir John Herschel, Baronet. Granted 3rd August 1838 :

Arms : Argent, on a mound vert a representation of the 40ft reflecting telescope with its apparatus proper on a chief azure the astronomical symbol of Uranus irradiated Or.

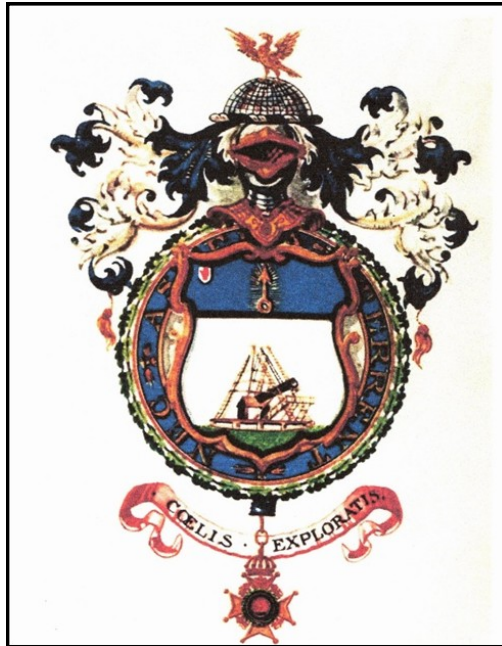
Crest : A demi terrestrial sphere proper thereon an eagle wings elevated Or.

*Motto : **Coelis Exploratis** For the heavens explored*

The Herschel Museum of Astronomy

19, New King Street, BATH, BA1 2BL

[Herschel Museum of Astronomy](http://www.herschelmuseum.org.uk)



GOATHURST 11TH AUGUST

Nine members of the society enjoyed a splendid day out on the 11th August when we had our first meeting in the flesh for over two years. The combined visit to Goathurst, our long awaited AGM and a pub lunch at The Malt Shovel, Cannington, was a great success and the general feeling was that a similar excursion, perhaps to include the AGM, should be organised for next spring.



Our day commenced at St Edward's Church Goathurst, where we were entertained and instructed by churchwarden Brenda Smith, ably assisted by David Bunney, the local historian, to both of whom we offer our grateful thanks. The coffee and biscuits they provided were also greatly appreciated.



We were introduced to the magnificent tester tomb of Sir Nicholas Haswell, the two immense memorials to the Tynte baronets by Rysbrack and Nollekens respectively in the nave of the church, which have been described as being of cathedral quality, not to mention size, and a glorious collection of Kemys-Tynte hatchments in the tower. An added bonus was a view of the Georgian silver communion set, which would not be out of place in a national museum.



For Anne, widow of Sir Charles Kemys-Tynte 5th Bt., who died 24th March 1798. Quarterly 1. Tynte, 2. Halswell, 3. Fortescue, 4. Kemys. In pretence Busby.

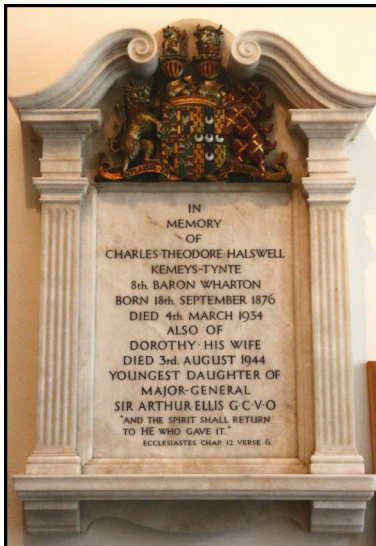
Probably for Charles Kemys Kemys-Tynte died 22nd November 1860. Grand quarterly 1. Quarterly i & iv Tynte, ii & iii Kemys, 2. Halswell, 3. Wharton, 4. Lupus.



For the Rev. Sir John Tynte 4th Bt., who died unmarried 15th August 1740. Quarterly 1 and 4 Tynte, 2 and 3 Halswell.



Lunch at The Malt Shovel was a convivial occasion to say the least. Conversation ranged from the paucity of soup, the excellence of the scampi, whether or not the last member of the party to arrive had in fact gone to a pub of the same name in Bridgwater (he hadn't, he had just taken a scenic route) to the delights we had experienced that morning.



While our meal was being served we held the AGM; the most important decision taken was to accept our treasurer's advice to increase the subscriptions to £15 single membership and £20 double. Apart from anything else this would enable us to be more generous when it comes to making appropriate donations to places of heraldic interest that we visit.



All in all it was a day to remember and one which we hope very much that we will be able to emulate next year.

Heraldists posing around the tomb of Sir Nicholas Haswell and photographed by David Bunney. Left to Right: Stephen Slater, Royston Griffey, Gale Glynn, Hilary T-T, Michael Furlong, Philip Hickman, who was responsible for all the other pictures, Hattie Maxwell-Findlater and Stephen T-T. Our President, Alex M-F appears to have gone into hiding behind Hilary!



Halswell House, Somerset.
An old postcard

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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.

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