

The Seaxe



Robin Clayton

Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

Joint Editors - Don & Marjorie Kirby, 2 Jamnagar Close, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2JT (0784 456049)

No.4

(Founded 1976)

April 1995

Militaria No.2 - The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)



The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

In the second regimental history we find ourselves writing about a unit that no longer exists as an independent body. It was raised by the Earl of Peterborough in 1661 as the **Old Tangier Regiment of Foot** until given the title **The Queen's Regiment of Foot** in 1684. There were a number of changes in the title until 1751 when it became **The Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot**. Further changes occurred as follows:- in 1855 the **2nd Queen's Royal Regiment**, in 1881 **The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)** and finally, in 1921, **The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)**. However in the great shake-up of 1959 the regiment merged with **The East Surrey Regiment** to become **The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment**. Worse was to come and in 1966 **The Queen's Regiment** was



The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

formed by a further amalgamation - this time with what had originally been **The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)**, **The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment**, **The Royal Sussex Regiment** and **The Middlesex Regiment**. [Sadly at this stage the Paschal Lamb appears to have been consumed by the Dragon of The Buffs!].

The original regiment took part in the Defence of Tangier, the Peninsular War, the Crimean War and the Boer War - among its many battle honours are Mons, Ypres, Somme, and Gallipoli from World War I and Tobruk, El Alamein, Anzio, Monte Cassino and Kohima from World War II. Six members of the regiment have been awarded the **Vittoria Cross**. The regiment was raised



The Queen's Regiment

for service in Tangier which had become a British possession as part of the dowry of Charles II's Queen, Catherine of Braganza, and being opposed by Moslem forces adopted the Christian symbol of the Paschal Lamb as its regimental badge. After Monmouth's rebellion in 1685 the regiment under Colonel Percy Kirke gained its nickname **Kirke's Lambs** - no doubt sardonically, as it was known for its ruthless suppression of the defeated rebels in Somerset and nearby areas. Other nicknames were **The Tangerines** alluding to its origin and **Mutton Lancers** because of its badge. The regiment has two mottoes *Pristinae virtutis memor* (Mindful of former virtue but sometimes translated as "Mindful of the gallant actions of the past") and *Vel exuviae triumphans* (Even in defeat there can be triumph or alternatively, "Even in defeat triumphant"). The regimental HQ is now Howe Barracks at Canterbury and its recruitment area is Greater London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex.



A Tremendous Honour

We read a letter to the editor of the *Daily Telegraph* recently the contents of which were scarcely believable - **SIR** - *The charming Lieutenant Kerry Straughan is to be congratulated and applauded on becoming the first woman naval officer to serve aboard HMS Victory. But it is something of a mistake to think that the sailors' seaborne wives of a bygone era only 'did chores and made coffee'. On at least one occasion another function intervened. The appropriately named Daniel Tremendous McKenzie was born on board HMS Tremendous just before the battle of the Glorious First of June in 1794. Present throughout the battle, he was later awarded the relevant Naval General Service Medal with his rank listed as 'Baby'. Needless to say there is no record of his mother receiving any recognition of her labours.*

Beastly Heraldry - from a talk by Margaret Young on 20th January, 1994

Margaret began by saying that man's imagination has always created mythical animals such as the dragon, unicorn, griffon and yale and has also woven stories around real animals. He has also given the elements animal symbols such as the lion for earth, the eagle for air, the salamander for fire and the dolphin for water. Then followed a resumé of animals commonly found in heraldry.

1. **The CAT** - worshipped by the Egyptians, lived in temples and was waited on by priestesses. *Bubastis*, a cat-headed god, in Rome was a symbol of liberty. *Diana*, the moon Goddess was depicted with a cat on her shoulder. In mediæval times the cat was regarded as a devil or a witches' familiar. In Scotland the wild cat is used as the crest in the arms of the **Dukes of Sutherland** and tabby cats have an "M" on their foreheads - the mark of **Mohamet** who showed his favour by touching them.



Wild Cat Crest of the
Dukes and Earls of
Sutherland

2. **The LION** - *king of the beasts*. A sick lion, it was believed, was cured by eating a monkey and his worthy spirit would not allow him to attack a fallen man - he feared nothing but a cock, especially a white one - harassed by a scorpion's sting and killed by a snake's poison - his tail enabled him to obliterate his tracks and also, by swinging it over himself, made himself invisible. Lion cubs are born dead but after three days the father comes and breathes life into them - symbolic of Christ's three days of death.

3. **The UNICORN** - symbol of Christ with his horn an antidote for poison and so is emblematic of conquering sin. His size is in doubt but he is a creature of great antiquity and is present in the hieroglyphics of ancient Egypt and eastern legends say he is to be found in Abyssinia. He is called the "water conner" of wild animals none of which will drink from a pool until he has purified the water by stirring it with his horn - ground horn was put to medicinal use. The image of the unicorns has, over the years, changed from a dainty magical goat like creature to a sturdy horse with a horn.



The Unicorn

4. **The PANTHER** - described as a beautiful gentle animal who would sleep for three days after eating (three again!) and wake withas the *Exeter Book* says *a lofty sweet ringing [which] comes from his mouth and with the song a most beautiful stream of sweet smelling breath, more graceful than all the blooms of herbs and blossoms of trees*. All other animals, except the dragon which flees, follow the sound. In 1656 a sweet smelling drug called *Panther* was sold at £2 per lb. In later years the breath was taken to be smoke and fire so he now appears with multi-coloured measles and flames issuing from his mouth.

5. **The BEAR** - produces formless cubs then *licks them into shape*. In Bavaria and other thickly forested parts of Germany the bear replaces the lion for boldness, courage and majesty. The Latin for bear is *ursa* and the town of *Ursen*, in Switzerland, has a bear on its arms. The bear of **Warwick** relates to an ancestor of the Earl - **Arthur** - possibly a corruption of *Ursus*, a Knight of the Round Table whilst the *ragged staff* represents a tree from which the branches had been torn, uprooted by a giant and used to attack another member of the family.

6. **The GRIFFON** - an imaginary beast hostile to horses - a composite creature its forequarters made from the head and legs of an imperial eagle with large, sharp ears and the body, hindquarters and tail of a royal lion. He is the symbol of strength and



The Panther



The Bear



The Griffon



The Tygre

vigilance and is the guardian of gold and treasure. The griffon's claws were supposed to have medicinal properties and its feathers could restore the sight of the blind.

7. **The TYGRE** - wild and ferocious - has powerful jaws and the body of a wolf - can travel at great speed and is usually shown as *Gules* (red).



The Yale

8. **The YALE** - is the size of a horse - has the tusks of a boar and long horns which it can swivel to meet aggression from any angle. Perhaps the Beauforts whose badge it is felt they needed this kind of protection.



The Pegasus

9. **The PEGASUS** - the beautiful flying horse of Greek mythology captured by *Bellerophon* (hero of Corinth) when it came down to drink - he tamed *Pegasus* and then flew on him to destroy the monster *Chimera*. However when *Bellerophon* tried to fly to heaven he incurred the wrath of the Gods and *Zeus* sent a gadfly to sting *Pegasus* who threw his rider, flew to the stables of *Zeus* and has drawn his thunder chariot across the heavens ever since.

10. **The EAGLE** - king of birds - has very keen sight. As he grows old his wings become heavy and his eyes become misty - he flies to the sun which singes his wings and evaporated the mist and then plunges into a fountain **three times** emerging completely renewed. An eagle is the symbol of explorers and empires - Charlemagne used an eagle on his shield as did the Holy Roman Empire but double headed symbolising the sacred and secular parts of the Empire.



Phoenix Crest (medieval) of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

11. **The PELICAN** - lived on the River Nile and was excessively devoted to its children but as they grew they became unruly and flapped their wings in their parents faces - the enraged father striking back accidentally killed them. After **three days** (three again!) the mother returned and, piercing her breast (wounding herself) poured her blood onto the nestlings and restored them to life.



Pelican

12. **The PHOENIX** - bird of the sun - it was thought to live to be 500 years old when it would become young again - only one was alive at any one time - it lived in Egypt and when the time to change arrived it fled to Arabia to hide and to build a nest of the rarest spices which burst into flames from the heat of the sun when fanned by the bird's wings and from the ashes the new bird would arise. It became the synonymous with eternal youth and was adopted by the Christians as the symbol of resurrection and immortality. It appears in a window in the Guildhall commemorating the destruction of the building during the last war and its rebuilding afterwards.

13. **The COCKATRICE** - king of the serpents - a little monster hatched from a cock's egg by a serpent - it has a cock's crested head, dangling wattles, glittering eyes barbed tongue and serpent's tail - it is so venomous that its look or breath can kill. When **nine** (3 x 3) years old it will lay a single egg on a dunghill where a toad will come to hatch it and produce not another cockatrice but



The Cockatrice

14. **The BASILISK** - as evil as its parent but also with the head of a dragon on its tail - its appearance is so dreadful that if it looks into a mirror the basilisk will burst asunder in horror at its own likeness.



The Salamander

15. **The SALAMANDER** - a harmless little type of lizard which Pliny said seeks out the hottest fire in which to breed, but extinguishes the fire with the extreme frigidty of its body. It has become the symbol of enduring faith which triumphs over the ardour of passion. It was the crest of Francis I and can be seen over the fireplace in the Chateau of Blois. The salamander is also used in the arms of the Insurance Institute as a safeguard against fire.

16. **The SERPENT** - worshipped in ancient Greece - guardian of the temples and the Oracle at Delphi. Aesculapius, son of Apollo, god of medicine, assumed the form of a serpent when he appeared in Rome during a pestilence which he conquered. In consequence the serpent entwined around a rod has become a symbol of healing and is much used in medical heraldry. In Christianity, however, the serpent is a symbol of the fall of man and is often depicted with one ear pressed to the earth and the other covered by its tail so that it can only hear the voice of the underworld and is deaf to the teachings of the Church.

17. **The WYVERN** - a two legged dragon - the original dragon of Wales but has become the symbol of pestilence. The wyvern supporters of the arms of Carlisle relate to the ancient kingdom of Cumbria which stretched from Wales to South West Scotland.

18. **The DRAGON** - in the East a benevolent creature associated with water and rain also taking care of the sun at night and returning it each morning. In the West he is somewhat of an enigma - an enormous scaly monster both malignant and destructive. A seventh century dragon is supposed to have ravaged Rouen and, as a result, gargoyles or water spouts began to appear on churches and cathedrals. Many dragons seem to be far from malevolent - on a house at Shere in Surrey and on a church at Finchley they are shown as guardians and those who lived in the Thames guarded the entrance to London and for this reason others stand guarding the road entrances. Dragons are used as supporters of the arms of the City of London.



The Wyvern

19. **The HYDRA** - a dragon which lived on the islands of Lerna in Arcadia - whenever one head was cut off three grew in its place. Many families have hydra in their arms with varying numbers of heads - e.g. a crest of a seven headed hydra was granted to Alexander Crispin, Lord of the Manor of Dodbrook in Devon.

Margaret ended her talk by reminding us that **St Francis** is the patron saint of birds and animals.

The Chester Mystery Plays - by Angela Dickson

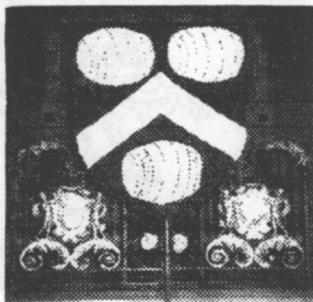
For the past two years, Doug and I have been involved with the production of a Mystery Play Cycle given by *The Players of St. Peter* at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square, London. These productions are scenes from the Mediaeval Mystery Plays, including both Old and New Testament, up to the birth stories of **Jesus** and the visit of the Kings. They are part of a four yearly cycle - **York, Wakefield, Chester and Coventry**. This year [1994] is the **Chester** selection. In Mediaeval times the vast majority of people were unable to read so, apart from the Latin Bible and services read by priests they had to rely on wall paintings, statues, stained glass and the mystery plays to help their understanding of religion. Each guild of a particular town was responsible for one play in the cycle. In the **Chester** cycle twenty-four plays still survive, of which we are using six:-

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Noah's Flood | - | The Waterleaders and Drawers |
| Moses and the Law | - | The Cappers |
| The Nativity | - | The Wrights |
| The Shepherds | - | The Painters |
| The Three Kings from the East | - | The Vintners |
| The Offerings of the Kings | - | The Mercers |

This is where the fun starts!

The brilliant idea of the producer was to parade the guild banner before the start of each play. Those of you familiar with the **London Guilds** will recognize the *Mercers* and the *Vintners* and even the *Painters* - but the *Wrights* - ship, wheel or play? And *Cappers*? What about *Waterleaders and Drawers*? Where can blazons and/or descriptions be found? Are they similar to **London**? Are *Cappers* felt workers? [A *Capote* is a long, hooded cloak from Capua in Southern Italy - then hoods on to hats all made of felt?] Intrigued and wanting to be as authentic as possible, I phoned **Pete Taylor** for help. He referred me to **Kay Holmes** who very kindly offered to make a search at Museum Street. In the meantime, during a chat with my choir conductor (one of many!), who happens to be also Music Librarian at The Barbican, he suggested that I contact the librarian at **Chester**. So, next afternoon, having obtained the telephone number from Directory Enquiries, I found myself talking to the **Chester Librarian**. After I had explained that I was phoning from **London** and the reason for my call she agreed to ring me back with whatever information she could find. When she returned my call she told me that *The Waterleaders and Drawers of Dee* became extinct in 1750 but gave me a number for *Chester Heritage* and mentioned a Guildhall Museum. Her final suggestion was that I should contact the Mayor's secretary. *Chester Heritage* was unable to help - they didn't really know what I was talking about - and there was no phone number for the Guildhall Museum. **Kay** phoned to say that he could find nothing at Museum Street but told me of a Heraldry Centre. (Unfortunately it turned out to be a "bucket shop"!)

The following day, via Directory Enquiries, I phoned **Chester Town Hall** and asked for the Mayor's secretary. She was most helpful and put me on to the Archivist who listened to my request for information and promised to ring back. Within a very short time he came through and gave me the number of the man responsible for producing the **Chester Cycle** at **Chester** every fourth year. He was out when I phoned his number at Cheshire College but I did find out that the *Wrights* (or workers) were *Wheelwrights* and had confirmation of the demise of *The Waterleaders and Drawers of Dee* in 1750. The job of the latter had been to collect and sell water from the Dee and, in passing, I wonder if the separate tower, called the Water Tower, outside the walls of **Chester** is where they operated. I was also given the name of the Hon. Treasurer of *The Freeman and Guilds of Chester* but, alas, no phone number. There was nothing more I could do until I heard from **Mr Cheesman** of Cheshire College. When he returned my call a few days later he gave me the phone number of his accountant who would be able to tell me from where all their 'props' had come, but as I didn't think he would be able to help me with the Guild arms I didn't phone him! I next wrote to the Hon. Treasurer himself and received a phone call a couple of days later. Having ascertained exactly what I was after he told me what I already knew, that *The Waterleaders and Drawers* were defunct and that no record of arms had survived and also that none of the arms had been registered with the College of Arms. He offered to photograph the Guild arms I wanted and send them to me along with a booklet about the **Guilds of Chester**..... unfortunately he would be away for a week.....

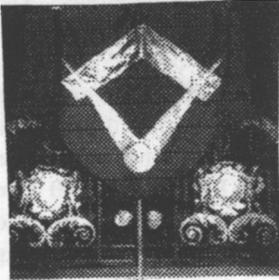


Vintners

The photographs and the booklet have now arrived! The *Mercers* is as the **London Guild** - a familiar coat of arms. The *Vintners* has become *Innkeepers* - a different coat of arms altogether! The *Painters* is the phoenix head part of the **London Painter-Stainers**. The *Wrights* is an early inverted *Masonic* arms and the *Cappers* are not felt workers but ammunition cap makers!!! And, of course, there is no mention of *The Waterleaders and Drawers*. Taking all my newly acquired booty to the next rehearsal and, after discussing the banners with the producer and the girl who was going to make them, it was decided that the *Mercers* and *Wrights* and *Painters* would stay but the *Innkeepers* would revert to the **London Vintners** - more easily recognized.



The *Cappers* had amalgamated with so many other guilds that it was impossible to visualize the composition of the original arms - so we decided to invent arms for them as we were going to be forced to do for the.....yes, you've guessed it - the *The Waterleaders and Drawers*! For the latter I designed a *Quarterly coat - 1 & 4 Argent a water bouget Sable 2 & 3 Azure a fess*



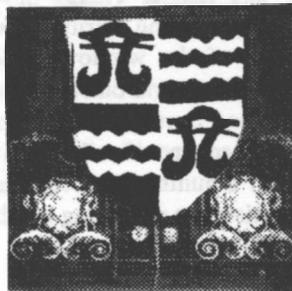
Wights

Argent. The Cappers was a little more difficult, as an ammunition cap can resemble a phallic symbol!! We compromised on *1 & 4 Or a chevron Azure 2 & 3 Sable goutty d'ammunition caps Or = (an overall pattern of gold caps)*. In execution, the maker, a non-heraldist, has slightly changed some coats for aesthetic reasons.

We have now had our week of nightly for five days). The carried on at the beginning - all and each standard bearer which guild he was

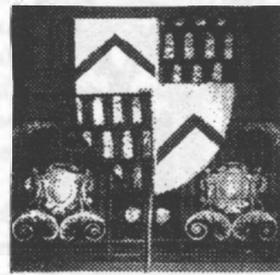
and in which play they would be performing. Then the that play was in progress together with signs also showing most impressive and colourful sight.

We, Doug and I, were very much involved with the music story!!



Waterleaders and Drawers

plays (twice banners were six of them - proclaimed representing-appropriate banner was displayed whilst the Guild and the play. They made a



Cappers

for the plays - but that is another

[Unfortunately, Our black and white scanner and printer do not do justice to the actual lovely colours (tinctures!?) of the banners but we feel sure that Angela would be happy to show members the original photographs from which we obtained our black and white scans - Eds]



News of Faraway Places - from Arthur and Gerry Aird who "emigrated" to Cornwall in 1987



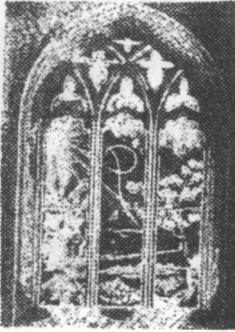
Madron Church

Arthur and Gerry were already senior members of the *Middlesex Heraldry Society* when your editors joined more years ago than they care to remember - and, despite the lack of retentive memory associated with advancing age, we still remember, quite vividly, Arthur's talk on the *Times Masthead*. Probably a more permanent reminder is his article, in the 1987 *Seaxe*, on the *Madron Parish Church* and its patron, *St. Maddern*. We were fortunate enough to be given a conducted tour of this church and others by the *Airds* when we were holidaying in the area shortly after they had moved to Lelant. However a recent letter received from them thanks us for sending a copy of the *Seaxe* newsletter and continues *sadly, heraldry is one of the activities that Gerry and I miss in Cornwall. We find that the Cornish are very insular about even their own culture, the only people with any interest are the members of the Cornish Gorsedd, and they*

are a law unto themselves not recognizing the C of A but having an affinity with Lord Lyon. I suppose it's the fact that they are both Celts. Arthur then goes on to detail their many and various activities and, not surprisingly, says that *we can see that with the usual household, gardening and shopping chores we have little time to spare for heraldry except giving the odd talk to clubs, Probus W.I., National Trust, Rotary and Inner Wheel and I am also Treasurer for the White Lion Society.* Arthur sends a cheque for Society funds and concludes with a request that *we give all members of the M.H.S. our very best wishes, and tell them that if ever they are in God's Country, as the Cornish refer to it, please look us up. We have moved (see new address) only down the road, a bungalow with two bathrooms and showers and a spare bedroom, if anyone would like to stay they would be welcome.*

[The new address is *Suddenly*, 16, Lelant Meadows, Lelant, St. Ives, Cornwall TR26 3JS ☎ 01736 754823 - Eds]

Habe Dou Been?



To **St. Nicholas' Church, Moreton in Dorset** - where you can see some marvellous windows. The booklet says it is almost certainly the only church in the world where the windows are entirely of **engraved** glass - there are twelve of them and they are the work of **Lawrence Whistler** and date from 1955 to 1984. The original five were paid for out of war damage compensation because in October 1940 a bomb fell in the churchyard of this remote village destroying all the existing windows and most of the interior decoration. Light - physical and spiritual - was the artist's theme and as you enter the church the lightness is breathtaking. One of the windows is a memorial to an airman killed over France in 1940 (see illustration) and there are several others amongst which are emblems of the Passion, the Christmas tree and the seasons of the year. Some were produced by sand-blasting and others by the artist himself using scribe and drill. We went specifically to see the windows but there was a bonus - a ring binder absolutely full of the heraldry of a number of local families - each one the work of a different individual - lavishly illustrated and not necessarily by talented artists but not losing anything by that! If you are within striking distance it is a must.



Did Dou Know?



Tottenham Hotspur A.F.C. was formed in 1882 by a group of cricketers from the area who called themselves **Hotspur F.C.** The name was chosen because of the fiery reputation of **Harry Hotspur** the 14th century ancestor of the **Percy, Dukes of Northumberland**, landowners in the **Tottenham** area in the 1880s. The team played on public pitches on Tottenham Marshes until 1888 when they moved into their first enclosed ground at **Northumberland Park**, a playing field behind the **Northumberland Arms** public house on Trulock Road, only about a hundred yards from the present ground.



Corrigendum

Soon after the publication of Seaxe Newsletter No.3 (and very soon after his return from Malta!) we had a call from **Ron Brown** pointing out an error of 200 years in the report of the talk *Going to & fro on the Face of the Earth - Heraldry of the Templars and the Knights of St. John*. After being driven out of the Holy Land in 1292 the Knights fled to Cyprus but set up their own sovereign state in Rhodes in 1309 where they stayed until forced out in 1522. They returned to Cyprus but left again in **1530** to take over the island of Malta. We apologise to the **Revd. Alfred Pryse-Hawkins** and to our members for this ridiculous error and thank Ron for reading the newsletter so carefully and for taking the trouble to tell us where we had gone wrong!



Next Meetings

On Thursday, 18th May, **Fay Robson** will give a talk on *Coughton Court and the Throckmortons* and on Thursday, 15th June, **Steve Slater** will give a talk on *The Hungerfords - a Medieval Wiltshire Tribe and its Heraldry*. We have, on several occasions in the past, listened spellbound to both of these speakers - so the anticipation is something to be savoured.