

The Seaxe



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Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

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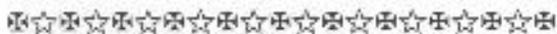
No.5

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Editorial

Kay Holmes has asked for a wider left hand margin to accommodate punched holes for filing and one of your Editors believes strongly that a two column page on A4 sized paper is easier to read than a single column format. So here goes! What do you think? Please let us know and we will do our best to meet your wishes - and whilst you are letting us know what about a short article or a snippet of information - even a problem that we are sure one of our more erudite members will be able to answer. Don't worry about the illustrations - we can usually come up with something suitable. And the 64,000 dollar question - is this the kind of newsletter you want or can you suggest any improvements?



Militaria No.3 - The Buffs

(The Royal East Kent Regiment)

The oldest regular regiment in the British army with seniority ranking only from 1665 when it was raised by Colonel Robert Sidney as **The Holland Regiment** and taken into the service of Charles II. The title recognized the fact that many of the officers and men had previously served with the London "Train-Bands" (or Militia) which had served the Protestant cause in Holland between 1572 and 1665. In 1689 the regiment became **Prince George of Denmark's Regiment of Foot (3rd Foot)** but because of its buff uniforms or facings it was also known as **The Buffs**. This was recognized in 1751 when its official title became **3rd (or The Buffs) Regiment of Foot**. Further changes occurred as follows;- in 1782 **3rd (or the East Kent) Regiment of Foot, or The Buffs**; in 1855 **3rd (East Kent, The Buffs) Regiment**; in 1881 **The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)** and finally, in 1935, **The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)**. However in 1961 the regiment merged with **The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment** to become **The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment** and in 1966



The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)



The Queen's Regiment was formed by a further amalgamation -this time with what were originally **The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Royal Sussex Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment**.

The original regiment took part in the Battle of Blenheim, the Peninsular War, the Crimean War and the Boer War - among its many battle honours are Aisne, Ypres, Somme from World War I and El Alamein, Anzio and Sicily from World War II. Five members of the regiment have been awarded the **Victoria Cross**. The origin of the "dragon" regimental badge is not known but it was officially confirmed in 1751 as its "ancient badge". Nicknames were **The Old Buffs; The Nutcrackers** (from its exploits against the French during the Peninsular War) and **The Resurrectionists** alluding to its claim to be at least as old as **The Royal Scots**. The regiment had two mottoes **Veteri Frondescit Honore** ("Ever green with ancient honour" or "It flourishes in ancient honour") and **Invicta** ("Unconquered").

The Regimental HQ is that of **The Queen's Regiment - Howe Barracks** at Canterbury and its recruitment area is, of course, Greater London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex. As we hope that this will be a long-running series it is only right, proper and courteous to quote our sources of reference at this stage.

They are:-

- A Companion to the British Army* by David Ascoli
- Handbook of British Reglments* by Christopher Chant
- Regiments and Corps of the British Army* by Ian S. Hallows
- Head-Dress Badges of the British Army* by Arthur L. Kipling and Hugh L. King
- Discovering English County Regiments* by Arthur Taylor
- Discovering British Military Badges and Buttons* by R. J. Wilkinson-Latham
- How the Regiments Got Their Nicknames* by Tim Carew
- Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* edited by Ivor H. Evans

Middlesex Heraldry Society

Constitution

Proposed Amendment to Item 11

At a Meeting on Monday, 1st May 1995 your Committee decided that a change to the Constitution is necessary and propose that the following amendment be made subject to the approval of the members.

In the event of the winding-up of the Society, the Officers and Committee at that time shall dispose of the assets, financial and other, as they deem fit. At their discretion they may offer the contents of the Society's Library and the equipment to the members for purchase. Also at their discretion they may apply the balance of the funds of the Society to any purpose, but preferably in the field of heraldry.

The amendment will be put to the vote at the - AGM on Thursday, 21st September 1995.

Congratulations

At the AGM on 22nd April, our old friend, Michael Messer, was made a Life Member of the Bath Heraldry Society. To Mike who is well known to most of our members and who is a frequent speaker at our monthly meetings we offer our sincere congratulations on his receiving this signal and well merited honour from his fellows.



Corrigendum to -

The Chester Mystery Plays

Pete Taylor writes I am often accused of not reading *The Seaxe*, but I did read Angela Dickson's article on *The Chester Mystery Plays* and would like to point out some inaccuracies. In the *Waterleaders and Drawers* assumed coat of arms, the second and third quarters are described as *Azure a fess Argent*. I know my poor old eyes are getting a bit 'dodgy', but the illustration shows two bars wavy on, presumably, a blue field. In the *Cappers* arms the blazon reads *Sable goutty d'ammunition caps Or*. Surely *goutty* is not the correct term. *Goutty* or *guttly* specifically means *strewn with drops of one tincture on another*. I think *semé* of *ammunition caps Or*

would have been more appropriate. *Semé* means *strewn or powdered with small charges to form a pattern defaced at the edges of the field*. What is an *ammunition cap*, anyway?

A contrite Angela agrees with Pete's remarks and tells us that she allowed the embroiderer a good deal of licence but that she should have checked the blazon before submitting it for publication - your Editors are equally at fault for not noticing anything amiss during proof reading. With regard to the *goutty* or *semé* question Angela is not completely convinced but accepts the logic of Pete's remarks. What do our readers think?

We then come to Pete's question - What is an "ammunition cap", anyway? Your Editors, having re-examined the photographs, were inclined to the view that it was a bullet or "round" similar to those in use in the Services today. However in discussion with your Committee it was pointed out that we are involved with a mediæval guild and that this type of ammunition was not in general use until the 19th century. It was Angela who designed the supposed arms, admittedly bogus, so we asked for her comments and she is now conducting an in depth search for information on this now extinct guild. She has promised to let us have her findings for publication in a future issue of the *Seaxe* Newsletter.



Mary Queen of Scots - from a talk by
Nan Taylor on 17th March, 1994

The execution of Mary Stewart was eighteen years away when, as Elizabeth's first captive in England, she embroidered on her Cloth of State her motto *In my end is my beginning* - almost as if she saw her place in history.

1542 - Mary was born at Linlithgow Palace on 8th December - her father was James V of Scotland and her mother (his second wife) was Marie daughter of the Duc de Guise. James died within six days of her birth and as she was his only surviving legitimate child she became Queen of Scotland at the tender age of six days! A few months later she was taken to Stirling Castle which was considered to be more secure. Henry VIII of England wanted Mary as a wife for his son, who later became Edward VI. Both parties signed the Treaty of Greenwich but when the Scots discovered it meant Mary must be brought up in the English Court they broke the treaty and, in consequence, Henry made forays into the border country.

1543 - Mary was crowned in the chapel of Stirling Castle. The *honours of Scotland* - the sceptre (a gift from Pope Alexander VI in 1494) and the sword (a Gift from Pope Julius II in 1507) were used at the ceremony.

1548 - It was agreed that Mary should go to France and eventually marry the Dauphin, Francis, son of Henry II. When she sailed for France her mother was

left to act as Regent for Scotland and Mary took with her one of her guardians, Lord Erskine, Sir George Seton and the **four Marys** who were :-

1. Mary Fleming of Biggar whose mother was also a member of the entourage as the Queen's governess.
2. Mary Livingstone, daughter of Alexander, 5th Lord Livingstone, whose seat was Callendar House near Linlithgow.
3. Mary Beaton whose home was Creich Castle in Fife.
4. Mary Seton, (who never married and stayed with the Queen until just before her execution) was the daughter of Sir George whose family seat was Seton House near Edinburgh.

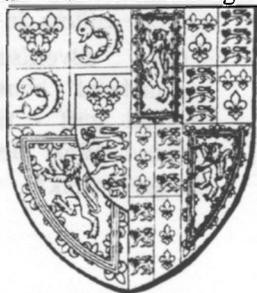
Sir George Seton was one of the Commissioners appointed by Parliament to attend the wedding. Mary's years in France were happy - she was petted, cosseted and educated to a high standard. She and Francis were married and their arms are marshalled to show that the couple were King and Queen of Scotland and Dauphin and Dauphiness of France.

1558 - Mary Tudor died and Elizabeth succeeded to the throne of England. Catholics regarded Elizabeth as illegitimate and Henry II, Mary's father-in-law, issued a proclamation declaring Mary rightful Queen of England.

1559 - Henry II died and the 15year old Francis and 16year old Mary became King and Queen of France.

1560 - Francis died.

1561 - Mary returned to Scotland as Dowager Queen of France and as Queen of Scots. A coin of that year shows a portrait of Mary with the title *Scotorum Regina* and, on the reverse, the arms of France dimidiated with the arms of Scotland. She landed at Leith and went to the Palace of Holyrood House which became her home and then to Edinburgh Castle where she took up the



Arms of the Queen of Scots
Arms after the death of
Francis II

reins of office officially - but Holyrood was her home for six years. She made a very good start by strengthening the power of the Crown against rapacious nobles and making it clear that although she was a Catholic she wanted her subjects to have freedom of worship. However it was the time

when John Knox was the leader of the Protestant Church and his hatred of Catholicism caused Protestants to turn against Mary. From this time Mary, until her marriage to Darnley, ruled Scotland alone with the Earl of Moray, the oldest illegitimate son of her father, as chief adviser. She made regular royal progresses through the country to make her presence felt and on one of these went to Inverness to "clip the wings" of the Earl of Huntley head of the Gordon family.

1565 - In February Mary's 18year old cousin Henry, Lord Darnley, came to Scotland from England where he had been brought up - in July they were married in the

chapel at Holyrood House and he was proclaimed King of Scots. This was not a popular marriage because Darnley was carried away by his position both in public and in private. The Earl of Moray and Mary's cousin and heir, the Duke of Hamilton and Chatelherault, were driven into opposition and after an abortive rebellion



fled to England leaving Darnley the first man in the Kingdom. Mary was now pregnant but her relationship with her husband had deteriorated and she began to take her secretary, Rizzio, into her confidence. This enraged Darnley who, with the help of Lord Ruthven and his men, stabbed Rizzio to death in front of Mary. She was then made a prisoner in her own palace but escaped with Darnley to Dunbar Castle where she rallied troops and returned to Edinburgh. Ruthven fled to England where he died.

1566 - Mary's son, James, was born at Edinburgh Castle in June and in August was taken to Stirling where he was christened and placed in the care of John Erskine, Earl of Mar. The breach between Mary and Darnley was now public knowledge (he was never crowned king) and Mary turned to her loyal nobles, particularly James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, for support. On a progress to the Border country, which included a visit to the Castle of Hermitage, she found Bothwell recuperating from wounds received in a fight with a member of the Eliot family. She went on to Jedburgh where she became very ill - so ill that Darnley arrived but was made most unwelcome. Bothwell also arrived - and although on a litter, was able to join the progress on its return journey to Edinburgh.

It was at this juncture that Mary began to discuss with him the problem of Darnley.

1567 - A bond signed by the Earls of Argyll, Bothwell and Huntley led to the murder of Darnley at Kirk-o'-Fields. There is some doubt about the actual scene of the crime for, although an explosion was heard and Kirk-o'-Fields damaged, there was no sign on Darnley's body of injuries caused by an explosion. He had been strangled. Bothwell now abducted Mary and took her to Dunbar Castle - he divorced his wife and married Mary on 15th May. This second marriage was also unpopular, particularly with the nobles, so Mary and Bothwell removed themselves to his Border territory.



Hepburn.
(E.Bothwell.)

On 15th June the Queen's army met the dissidents at Carberry Hill, east of Edinburgh, and after a day of parleying, Mary surrendered to the rebels and Bothwell, unable to get any help, after racing from the battlefield, escaped to Orkney, thence to Norway where he was imprisoned. Mary was taken to Edinburgh and then held prisoner in Loch Leven Castle - a castle on an island in Loch Leven. Her jailer was Sir William Douglas, half brother and supporter of the Earl of Moray - now one of the leaders of the rebellious nobles. During her imprisonment she miscarried twins and made several attempts to escape. The prospect was grim but in spite of this, and with the help of Sir William's son, also William, she did succeed and they rode to North Queensferry where, with the ever faithful Lord Seton, they crossed the Forth to Niddrie Castle (another Seton house).

1568 - Mary rallied many supporters but at the Battle of Langside, on 13th May, her larger army was out-generalled and beaten by Moray's forces. She fled southwards and on 15th May (the first anniversary of her marriage to Bothwell) arrived at Dundrennan Abbey on the North coast of the Solway Firth where she made her fateful decision to cross to England to appeal to her cousin, Elizabeth, for help. The next day she crossed the Firth and landed at Workington in England.

Here Nan's story ended but she went on to say *"She lies under a splendid monument; her body in the vault below is surrounded by many of her descendants. She, who never reigned in England, who was Queen of Scots when only six days old and who died on the orders of an English Queen, now lies, in Westminster Abbey, where every sovereign of Great Britain since her death has been crowned and all of whom came to the throne through her - starting with her son James VI of Scotland and James I of Great Britain.*

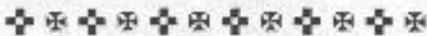
Her end was truly her beginning.

[You will no doubt remember that Nan was kind enough to hand round a comprehensive list of Mary's forebears together with a blazon of their arms and you may also be interested in the following *postscript* dates - Eds]

1578 - Bothwell died in a Danish prison

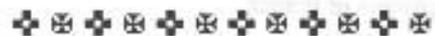
1587 - Mary was executed.

1616 - Mary Seton died in a convent in Rheims still praying for her Queen



Obituary

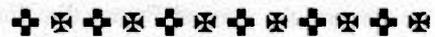
It is with sadness that we learn of the death on Tuesday, 9th May of Sir Anthony Wagner, Clarenceux King of Arms at the age of 86. He joined the College of Arms in 1931 as Portcullis Pursuivant becoming Garter King of Arms in 1961. In 1978, however, he relinquished the appointment for what he considered the less demanding post of Clarenceux King of Arms which he retained for life. He was appointed CBE in 1953, KCB in 1961 and KCMG in 1978. Sir Anthony became blind after a serious illness in 1983 but continued to work on books and articles by virtue of his excellent memory and dictating skills.



Addendum to Militaria No.2

The Queen's Regiment

Pete Taylor tells us that in 1992 **The Queen's Regiment** was amalgamated with **The Royal Hampshire Regiment** to form **The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's & Royal Hampshires)**. We are grateful to Pete for this additional information as our sources of reference take us up to 1991 only! This *addendum* applies also to the history of **The Buffs** on page 1 of this issue of **Seaxe**.



Bogus Heraldry?

This was received recently by your editors in a leaflet advertising "remaindered" books. Splendid stuff - this heraldry! What does Margaret think?



Next Meetings

On Thursday, 20th July, Marion Miles will give a talk on *The Mystery of a Welsh Heraldic Pedigree* and on Thursday, 17th August we shall have our *Members Evening* and look forward to seeing all these heraldic slides you have been amassing during the year. You might even get one or two identified if, like us, you sometimes forget where they were taken!