

The Seaxe



Robin

Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

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The Saga of the Swan

It was gently pointed out to us by **Leslie Pierson** that in the centre of the badge of the Chiltern Heraldry Group there is a swan (representing Buckinghamshire) with a gold ducal coronet about its neck and attached thereto a gold chain. The water is the River Isis from the arms of Oxford as also is the bull on one banner, whilst the other banner displays a lion



passant guardant from the Berkshire arms. One thing **Les** told your editors is that the chain on the swan on the water leads to the open "C". If that isn't "canting" - what is? We understand that **Les** designed the badge and that **Frank Smith** drew it.

Your editors also discovered that **South Warwickshire Health Care** of the National Health Service use or did use a

swan as their logo..... and just before going to print your editors received through the door a missive from **H M Customs & Excise** regarding the evasion of VAT. It suggests we should be tackling the **Shadow Economy Together** and uses a swan and its shadow as a logo.



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Rorke's Drift Ring Stolen

A rare gold ring presented by **Queen Victoria** to a soldier who won the **Victoria Cross** for gallantry at **Rorke's Drift** has been stolen. The signet ring, one of only ten given by the **Queen**, bears the emblem of a Zulu shield and spears. It was taken from the home of the great-great-grand-daughter of a private soldier who was one of seven members of the 24th Regiment of Foot, (now the Royal Regiment of Wales), who were awarded the **VC** after the battle. The soldier's family have asked not to be identified.

[A short account of the battle appeared in **SEAXE** No.14 of October 1996]

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Did You Know?

According to **Kwasi Karteng** of the Daily Telegraph the kilt is a comparatively modern invention - he writes - *a lot of these "traditions" are self conscious inventions, often very recent. The most obvious example of this sort of myth-making is the kilt. The kilt, as we ought to know, was invented by an Englishman. Thomas Rawlinson, a Quaker ironmonger from Lancashire, devised it because the traditional dress of his Highland factory workers got in the way. It was a cumbrous, unwieldy habit.*



*He sent for a tailor to abridge the dress and make it handy and convenient for his workmen: thus the kilt was born. All this **Hugh Trevor-Roper** tells us, happened in 1727. It is, therefore, mildly irritating to see films such as **Braveheart**, in which 13th century warriors are clad in an 18th century piece of folly.*

The AA Touring Guide to Scotland has more to say on the subject - *the kilt was not always used in its present form. In the days of the clans it was the **breacon-feile**, the belted plaid, a sort of tartan blanket two yards wide by five or six yards long. One end of this was wrapped round the body like a modern kilt, and the rest thrown over the shoulder and pinned in place. The plaid could be used as a blanket at night. Highlanders delighted in bright colours and, those who could afford it wore plaids that were striped in hues, generally in both warp and weft, but sometimes in one direction only. They called such cloth **breacon** or **variegated**. Our word **tartan** comes from the French **tiretaine**, which referred to a kind of cloth. **English and French - it's unbelievable! Scots wha hae?***

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Data Protection Act

We hold on our word processor, on behalf of the **Middlesex Heraldry Society**, the names, addresses and, in many cases, the telephone numbers of readers of **Seaxe**. Under the Data Protection Act we are obliged to inform you of this fact but, at the same time, we hasten to assure you that the information will not be divulged to any other persons than members of the **Middlesex Heraldry Society** or readers of **Seaxe**. If you have any objection to this arrangement please let us know as soon as possible and your details will be deleted from the list.

The Tail of a Tale of a Tally in Italy

In September last year we asked Tony, the eldest son of our great friends **Tom & Margaret Backhouse**, if he could get hold of a line drawing in black and white of the badge of **HMS Agrippa**. As **Commander A. W. Backhouse RN** he is a very busy man so we bore ourselves in patience until February when we decided to do the best we could with what we had and you saw the result in *Seaxe* No.21. Recently we received a large coloured representation of the badge together with the blazon by **Thomas Woodcock**, *Norroy and Ulster King of Arms*, an apology for the delay and for the fact that it was not black and white. We think it gives our readers much more of an idea than that scanned from a newspaper and we are grateful for the "update".



Blazon: Barry wavy Argent and Vert a Roman Helmet affronty Bronze lined and with a plume Gules and charged with an anchor Azure.



Arms of the Devon County Council

Your editors realised as soon as *Seaxe* No.21 was published that they had forgotten to illustrate the arms of the **Devon County Council** and are amazed that only the authoress herself noticed or, at least, was the only one to take us to task. Our sincere apologies Fay.



Arms - Argent a lion rampant Gules with a Golden crown a chief wavy parted fesswise Azure and barry wavy Silver and Azure and thereon an ancient ship also Silver. The motto translates:- as By divine aid.

Militaria No. 19 -

The Royal Irish Regiment

William III's Flanders campaign produced a single victory at the **Siege of Namur** in 1695. To mark the occasion the King, probably as a political gesture, singled out the **Earl of Granard's Irish Regiment of Foot (18th)** raised in 1684, redesignated it **The Royal Regiment of Ireland** and awarded it the badge of the **Lion of Nassau** and the motto *Virtutis Namurcensis Praemium*. [Reward of Virtue at Namur] (The motto is borne on the regimental colour of the **Royal Irish Regiment** alone and it was not until 215 years later that the thirteen other regiments present at the siege were granted the honour **Namur 1695!**).



The badge was described as - a strap inscribed *Royal Irish surmounted by the Lion of Nassau standing on a wavy scroll. In the centre the Sphinx superscribed Egypt* over the numerals 18.* In 1751 it became the **18th (The Royal Irish Foot)** and in 1881 the **18th or Royal Irish Regiment** - a title they kept to the end of their days.



From 1855 to 1861 they wore a head-dress badge described as:- a circllet inscribed *Namurcensis praemium virtutis* - in the centre the Harp and Crown within a wreath of shamrocks.



From 1881-1914 they wore, as a helmet plate centre:- On a circllet - **Royal Irish:** in the centre the **Irish Harp** surmounted by an **Imperial Crown**.

Sadly this fine old regiment, one of the oldest in the British army, was disbanded in 1922 when the Southern Irish counties broke away from the UK to become the Irish Free State.

The regimental battle honours include **Blenheim 1704**, **Ramillies 1706**, **Oudenarde 1708**, **Malplaquet 1709**, **Egypt 1801**, **Sevastopol 1854-55** and **Tel-el-Kebir 1882**. The Regiment fought in the **Maori Wars** in New Zealand [1863-66] and in the **Boer War**. There is an illustrious list of honours from the **Great War** which includes **Mons, Marne, Aisne, Ypres, Somme, Delville Wood, Messines, Cambrai and Gallipoli** - the **Landing at Suvla**.



The regimental badge was described as - *The Erin Harp ensigned within the Crown.*

*Permission to incorporate the Sphinx in regimental badges was granted to all regiments which took part in the Egyptian campaign of 1801.

Nicknamed "**Paddy's Blackguards**" - probably an accurate

description of its 17th century members but, because of their heroic storming of the Castle of Namur in 1695, they acquired additionally the more complimentary nickname of "The Namurs".

The motto of the regiment was: *Virtutis Namurcensis Praemium*. [Reward of Virtue at Namur] and its acquisition was described earlier.

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A Postscript

One of your editors was aware that in 1968 the **Royal Irish Rangers** had been formed by the amalgamation of the **Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers**, the **Royal Ulster Rifles** and the **Royal Irish Fusiliers** but he was more than a little surprised to read in the D.T. that *the Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Irish Regiment presided at a Colonel-in-Chief's Dining Club held last night in Dungannon*. On referring to the National Army Museum in Chelsea he was informed that the **Royal Irish Rangers** had amalgamated with the **Ulster Defence Regiment** to form the **Royal Irish Regiment** but quite uniquely in the British Army there was no connection between this regiment and the "Old Eighteenth".

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In the Time of Queen Bick

by Cynthia Lydiard-Cannings

4 - Kynaston of Shropshire

Popinjay! barked **Richard Neville**, Earl of Salisbury, the Yorkist commander.

No, my lord, returned the squire irrepressibly, *you are thinking of my friend Poyner; he bears a popinjay*. I am Kynaston. I bear.....*

You'll bear yourself out of my sight, sir, upon the instant or.....!

Roger Kynaston bowed low in the saddle and, still grinning, reigned his horse away from the earl's charger.

Why do you bait him so, Roger? asked his friend, trotting up beside him. *One day you'll go too far.*

I like him. And he's worried. The enemy is close and we're outnumbered. His advisers tell him it's madness to go on and cowardice to retreat. I give him a rest from it, that's all.

I don't think he appreciates it. Why aren't you like the rest of us? A comfortable anonymity is what we strive for where great lords like Salisbury are concerned. They can be dangerous, Roger.

Anonymity is fine if you don't need - look, John, this is just an interlude for you. When this is over you'll go home to lands and rents that will one day be yours. You have a future, I have nothing. If I want a future I must earn it.

How? By annoying our lord?

By ensuring he knows who I am. Then, when I cover myself in glory

And how are you going to do that?

Once we meet the Lancastrians, in whatever way I can.

Roger, You're crazy; we've never.....! A few skirmishes, that's all we know! This is going to be a battle; you'll get

yourself killed.

Don't panic, John. I'm in no hurry, there'll be other meetings. He laughed. *But my first battle will surely be the best chance. I shall be so bewildered I shall be unaware of danger. That will make me look very brave and impress my lord of Salisbury tremendously!* And he laughed again at his friend's anxious expression.

Afterwards, my lord of Salisbury was never sure whether he found the Lancastrians or whether the Lancastrians found him. But he was right in one thing; he was outnumbered.

Kynaston! You're a Shropshire man; what is this place?

I believe Blore Heath, my lord.

Then at Blore Heath I fear our cause will suffer its first defeat.

Is that certain, my lord?

Aye, certain, boy. We are too few and of that few too many are already down. Only one thing could demoralise them now.....

Tell me.

Their commander, Lord Audley. Were he to go down - but he is too well protected and I have lost too many trying to reach him. I will send no more.

I will try, my lord.

Fool boy. Would you throw your life away? an unfledged squire against..... But he was talking to himself. Eighteen months later, hopes realised, the victorious **Edward of York** mounted the throne. **Kynaston**, whose hopes had died with his great patron, was surprised to find himself sent for.

Do you realize how short a time it is, said the king since all seemed at an end at Wakefield? My father and my brother killed and my uncle of Salisbury executed. And yet my father left me the throne and my uncle - he spoke of you once. He said that in any crowd of boys you were the one he would recognize; was that a compliment, do you suppose?

I do not know, Your Grace, I hope so. He was a good man and a feardome commander. If I may say it without disrespect, I was fond of him.

He told my father that you won us the fight at Blore Heath. Is it true?

Kynaston smiled, remembering the old earl, but shook his head. *No, sir. He believed that Lord Audley, their commander, was the key; that if we could bring him down we could still win. So, too inexperienced to know what I did, I charged off to become a hero. He followed, roaring at me to come back; and our people, thinking he was mounting a final charge, gathered their last strength and followed him. The outcome Your Grace knows.*

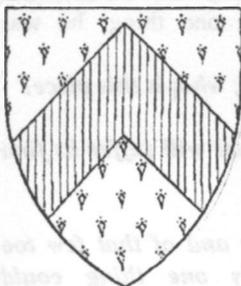
And Audley?

Sir?

Who killed Audley?

I did, Your Grace, the Lancastrians, who thought we were already beaten were taken by surprise and in the confusion I managed to reach him. I called on him to fight but he was far more worried about what was happening behind me where my lord was charging and bellowing; our people had taken fresh heart and his were falling back. He thought to dismiss a foolish boy but even a boy can break through a careless guard. It was he who was foolish and he paid for it with his life.

Edward laughed. *We are much of an age, you and I, and I too have killed men who thought me only a boy. But hear now why I have summoned you. My uncle gave you the credit for that day's work and desired my father to knight you; his obligation falls on me. Kneel! and rise Sir Roger Kynaston. This paper - take it! - authorizes you to assume the arms of Audley, whom you slew, and contains a grant of land once part of the Audley estates.*



No! If you wish to thank me remain loyal to the House of York; though, as I hope for peace, I hope never to call on you more.

Edward's hopes were vain; but wherever he was needed Sir Roger Kynaston bore his king's gift of Ermine a chevron Gules as do his descendants to this very day.

(First published in the Norfolk Standard of January 1998 and reprinted with permission.)

[*Popinjay is a parrot and when blazoned proper is depicted with green feathers and red legs and beak. The arms of Poyner are:- Or a parrot close Vert legged Gules]



News from Norwich

Member **John Dent** - recently sent us copies of the September 97 and January 98 Norfolk Standard - he has decided to revert to the A5 booklet format from January onwards and very good the first issue looks. He sends his best wishes to all members of the Middlesex and says that he hopes to meet us on 30th May and will act as a guide to Norwich Cathedral. **John** regrets that as it is a Bank Holiday weekend a number of the members of the Norfolk Society will be away but he

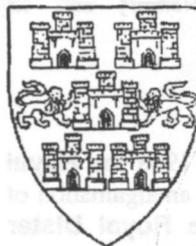


hopes there will enough remaining at home to be able to split us into small groups to guide us round the Cathedral. There are many other sights to see in Norwich such as the Castle, the Royal Norfolk Regiment Museum, the churches of St Andrew and St Peter Mancroft and the one time church of the Dominican friars - St Andrews and Blackfriars Halls. Did I hear someone say don't forget the Erpingham Gate? Sorry, **John**! It promises to be a great day out but let us hope that **Nan's** propensity for taking good weather with her returns to normal - we don't want another Arundel day! The arms of Norwich are:- Gules a Silver castle and below it a Gold lion passant guardant. [The Castle was built by King Stephen on the site of a fortress erected by William the Conqueror and the lion is to have been granted by Edward III].



From Wivenhoe to Winchester (or nearly)

Bill Burgess writes to tell us that, although they thought they were settled for life at Wivenhoe, an offer was made to Rita which she could not possibly refuse and lo and behold they are in Alresford, near



WINCHESTER

Winchester! Rita is now able to combine her administrative skills with her training as a lay reader in the Church and is the Assistant Warden at Old Alresford Place. Whilst she is settling in to her new post Bill has been "sussing" out the area for heraldry - at the moment he is working on the church in Old Alresford where there is not a lot of heraldry but it was the home of Admiral (Lord) Rodney the famous eighteenth century sea dog. Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union, was the wife of the Rector and lived in Alresford for many years. Bill intends to visit the new Alresford Church where he believes there is more heraldry.

Bill has been introduced to Canon Keith Walker who is in charge of the archives at Winchester Cathedral and very interested in heraldry. He has invited Bill to visit the Cathedral to see the documents - some of which are heraldic. There are no fewer than four military museums in Winchester, with its very impressive coat of arms, and Bill has promised us some future contributions to Seaxe. They both send their best wishes to all members of the Middlesex and say that they would be delighted to see any of them who happen to be in the area.

Their new address is :-

The North Wing Flat,
Old Alresford Place,
Alresford, Hampshire.
SO24 9DH

and the telephone number is:- 01962 733284

The rather splendid arms of Winchester are:- Gules five Silver castles the middle one supported by two Gold lions passant guardant. [Scott-Giles suggests that the lions are appropriate to the City which anciently vied with London for the position of capital of the Kingdom].



More Beauty from Bath

As forecast last month Roland Symons has produced The Bishops of London but in addition he offers The Insignia of the Heralds. Both are available in A4 or A5 size and cost £1.00 for a single copy or 50p each if the total order is for two or more. Post and packing is included. Orders and remittances should be sent to:-

Roland Symons, Esq.,
20, Southdown Avenue,
Bath BA2 1HY



