



# The Seaxe



Robert

## Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

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### Saint Thomas

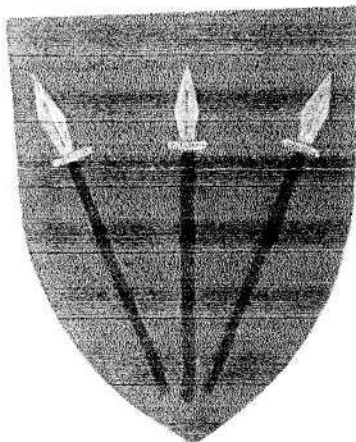
It is becoming a tradition that the lovely hand painted greetings card that Sedge & Hazel Smith send to us each year should be shared with our fellow readers and we feel sure that they will approve.

"Saint Thomas is the patron saint of the old and the young. In past times they followed the custom of 'a Thomasing' when they went round on 21<sup>st</sup> December, the Saint's Day, collecting money to buy food for their Christmas dinner - a custom we may well need to revive. Thomas Didymous is mentioned in all the Gospels, but is

best remembered as the Doubting Disciple (John, 20).

Tradition has it that he carried the Word to the Parthians and as far as India. Here he met with considerable success, but eventually was killed with a spear and is buried near Madras.

His arms are blazoned - *Gules*



*three spears in their proper colours.*

The background to the shield is the blood of martyrdom and the charges represent the instrument that caused his death, increased to three to echo the Trinity he worshipped".

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### Saint Stephen

One of the seven chosen to manage the finance and alms of the early church. Tried by the Sanhedrin for blasphemy, Saint Stephen was stoned to death - the first Christian martyr. During medieval times and more recently, he was considered a patron of horses

which were often bled by their owners on 26<sup>th</sup> December - the Feast of Saint Stephen. These arms of French origin are



displayed at Dijon - the stones represent the manner of his death and the palm to his spiritual victory. *A Gold palm branch, Silver stones, on a Red field.*

### The Mantequero

Referring to Richard Strachey's letter of last week, I would like to add that the *Mantequero*, or *Manticorca* is known outside Spain. It is one of the monsters of English heraldry. It was a device of the Norfolk family of **Ratcliffe**, and **Robert Ratcliffe**. **Lord Fitzwalter**, had it in his standard on entering France in 1513.



As borne by the **Ratcliffes** the monster had a lion's body and mane, a man's face, bearded, wore a cap "turned up ermeline," and fingers and toes instead of claws. In Cottonian MS. Cleopatra Vc, it is called a "Babyon, wyth a hatte upon hys hed . ." but the

close correspondence with Florio's description quoted by Mr. Garnett shows that this was a wrong identification.

There are three sixteenth-century illustrations of the monster in MS. 12 in the College of Arms, reproduced in Foster's *"Banners, Standards, and Badges . . ."* De Walden Library, 1904, but in only one is it sexed. It is not unlikely that these, and other attempts to portray the creature, were based on mistaken etymology, "manticora" being 'englished' as "man-tiger."

**A. Colin Cole**, Fitzalan Pursuivant Extraordinary.

(By a strange coincidence, after the article in *Seaxe* No.44 of December 2002, we came across a copy of this letter to either *The Daily Telegraph* or *The Times* dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 1954 ).

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### Thought for the Day

*Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.*

*- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

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## My Home Town - Huddersfield Pt III

by **Stuart Whitefoot**

### Back to the Local Scene - Three Influential Families.

Sykes in his *History of Huddersfield and its Vicinity* (1898) notes that three families stand out in local records. He suggests they illustrate three aspects - the feudal, the pastoral and the commercial. One of the great houses was founded by a Norman soldier, another by an English yeoman and the third by a far seeing speculator knowing nothing of the knightly sword or the peaceful arts of husbandry. He meant, of course, the **Beaumonts** of Whitley, the **Kayes** of Woodsome and the **Ramsdens**. We have met the **Ramsdens** and I now turn to the other two. First the **Beaumonts**:

### The Beaumonts of Whitley Hall.



Trust, but see whom you trust.

*Gules, a lion rampant Argent langued and armed Azure between eight crescents.* (The arms we have shown are those of Wentworth Beaumont, Viscount Allendale - Eds)

The **Beaumont** family traces its history back to the days of the Plantagenets, and had been settled at Whitley, near modern Huddersfield, since the

reign of King John.

The founder of the family fortunes appears to have been one **William de Bellomonte**, who lived in the reigns of King John and Henry III. This ancestor of the **Beaumonts** of Whitley Beaumont, received ten oxgangs of land in Huddersfield and Whitley from Roger de Laci, Lord of Pontefract and Constable of Chester, circa 1206. William accompanied Roger de Laci and Richard I on the Third Crusade and was also present at the siege of Acre. (1191).

William's son, William is mentioned in a Deed circa 1235 whereby John, son of Roger de Laci, granted the Whitley Lands, for service and on payment of one pair of white gloves per annum, and also the payment of ten shillings, to the heirs of Peter Birkethwaite and one pound of cummin to William Dransfield... (Cummin was cultivated for its medicinal property of relieving flatulence. The seed was also placed in the eyes of decapitated human heads to prevent birds pecking out the eyes).

His grandson, a younger son, **Sir Richard de Bellomonte** died in 1293, but the family remained in high favour with the Lord of the Manor as his widow, Anabella, received a grant of lands in Huddersfield from Henri de Laci.

At the end of the reign of Edward II we find the estates

in the possession of **Sir Robert de Bellomonte** who had married Agnes, daughter of John de Quernby (Quarmby) Lord of several manors and influential in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. He was Commissioner of Array for the Wapentake of Agbrigg and a Knight of the Shire for Yorkshire. By 1354 there were estates at Crossland Hall and Whitley. His grandson Robert was at Crossland and became involved in the Elland feud when it is alleged the the Quarmbys murdered Sir John Elland.

Another grandson, **Henry de Bellomonte** was indicted for murder at York in 1389 for the murder of John Darcy of Clifton but was acquitted. Sir John Assheton had quarrelled with Henry and had attacked his castle and Darcy, one of the attackers, was killed by the sword of Henry.

Several generations on, a **Richard Beaumont** paid £5 to be released from being made Knight of the Bath. He sought release twice - once in the reign of Henry VII and again when Henry VIII's son was to be inducted as Prince of Wales. In 1573 he added by patent a crest to his coat of arms - a bull's head erased quarterly Argent and Gules as illustrated. This Richard married a daughter of Sir John Harrington.

Elizabeth, eldest daughter of this **Richard Beaumont**, married in 1501, John Wode of Longley Hall. John Wode was the father of Johanna Wode who married William Ramsden. John Wode's grandfather, Lawrence had married Jane, daughter of an ancestor, **Adam Beaumont**, and because of the canonical laws of consanguinity, special licence was necessary for the marriage of Elizabeth and John.

In 1571 **Edward Beaumont** of Whitley married Elizabeth daughter of John Ramsden of Longley thus connecting two prominent local families.

**Sir Richard Beaumont** of Whitley was born in 1574 the son of the marriage of Edward and Elizabeth. He was knighted in 1609 and created a Baronet in 1628. An MP for Pontefract in 1625 he was nicknamed by James 1st *Black Dick of the North*. Amongst other offices he was treasurer for lame soldiers of the West Riding. He died in 1631 and his monument can be seen in Kirkheaton Church. He died unmarried and having no legitimate heir the estate passed to a cousin **Thomas Beaumont** and the baronetcy became extinct..

Richard's great-great grand father, also Richard, as mentioned earlier, married as a second wife Elizabeth Stanley, widow of John Stanley, and the daughter of Sir John Harrington of Hornby Castle, thus bringing in the arms of **Harrington** - *Sable a fret Argent a label of three points Argent*. With all the quarterings shown marshalled on the Beaumont tomb:-



With a firm knot.

Morvill:- *Azure semee de lis a fret Or.*

Moulton:- *Argent, three bars Gules.*



Copley:- *Argent a cross moline Sable.*  
 English:- *Sable three lions passant Argent.*  
 Neville:- *Gules a saltire Argent.*  
 Clifton:- *Sable a bend Argent thereon three mullets Gules*  
 Wastley:- *Argent a cross raguly Gules....*  
 and although these arms are displayed,

Richard was not entitled to quarter them.

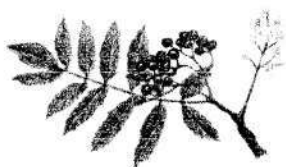
Thomas fought for King Charles I and defended Sheffield castle, but forced to surrender he was heavily fined. At the Restoration he was knighted and died in 1668. His son **Adam Beaumont** married Elizabeth daughter of John Kaye of Woodsome thus linking with another prominent local family.

Two later **Sir Richard Beaumonts of Whitley**, became High Sheriffs of Yorkshire, one in 1713 and the other in 1793. The latter died unmarried in 1810 and his



hatchments (apparently two) are in Kirkheaton Church quartered with **Holt**:- *Argent, on a bend engrailed Sable three fleur-de-lis Argent.* There is also a hatchment for his mother, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of William Holt. The Holt arms are in pretence on **Beaumont** on a curvilinear lozenge - she died in 1791.

Richard Henry, born 1805 commissioned William Radcliffe, Rouge Croix, to prepare an heraldic manuscript relating to the family, compiled over the period 1806 to 1828. He died in 1857 as a widower and his hatchment is also in Kirkheaton. He had married Catherine, daughter of Timothy Wiggin of USA. (The impalement is *Argent on a chevron Azure between three quatrefoils slipped (each foil in fess being per fess Or and Vert), and each in pale being per pale Gules and Vert), three bezants.* She outlived him. (**Wiggin** is a dialect term for Mountain Ash whose berries were worn as protection against witchcraft.)



His son Henry Frederick continued this interest and by Royal sign manual the arms of the family were confirmed and exemplified in his person. This **Beaumont** entertained HRH The Duke of Albany and HRH The Duke of Cambridge when the park he donated to Huddersfield in 1838 was opened by the former. Not surprisingly this noted MP for the West Riding and popular sportsman was made Freeman of Huddersfield in 1894.

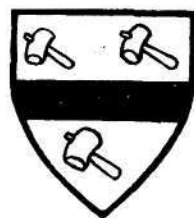
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## The Kayes of Woodsome

The other great line is that of the **Kayes of Woodsome** (or Farnley Tyas) and we can look at their predecessors and successors in what is now part of Huddersfield.

**Sir John Kaye** was living at the time of the Conquest presumably of English stock. We can dismiss the legend that he was descended from the Sir Kay, the Steward at Arthur's Court. One of his sons went into Lancashire marrying the heiress of the Crompton family and was founder of the Lancashire line but we don't see Kayes at Woodsome until the reign of Richard II.

We hear first of **Henricus Teutomcus** or by corruption



**Tyas** who had lands from Roger de Laci. His son Baldwin, living in 1235, by marriage inherited Woodsome. The **Tyas** arms were: *Argent, a fess between three hammers each in bend sinisterwise Sable.*

Around 1370 the Tyas Woodsome estates were conveyed to the "their heirs by the spindle line" - the Finchenden family Sir William and his Lady Alice. Their punning arms were *Argent between two chevronells three finches Sable.* Their crest of a goldfinch is still to be seen on the fallpipes of Woodsome Hall. Alice when widowed granted Woodsome in 1378 to **John Cay** who had married her daughter Elizabeth and thus did the **Kayes** come to Woodsome. The **Kaye** arms - *Argent, two bendlets Sable*, can be seen quartered with those of Finchenden in a window of the **Kaye** chapel of Almondbury Church. Nearby are the impaled arms of a later **John Kaye** with Laci - *Argent, six roundels Sable.* He had married c1460 Jane Laci of Cromwell Bottom.

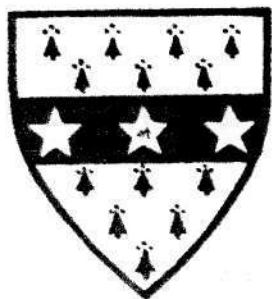


Their great grandson, Arthur married in 1517 Beatrice Wentworth of Bretton (*Sable a chevron between three leopards faces Or*) and over the fireplace in the hall at Woodsome are their initials. Nearby is a clock surmounted by the **Kaye** arms but the crest is that of the Dartmouths. Their son John, living about 1585 married Dorothy Mauleverer. In their time two Heraldic paintings, each two sided, were hung on cranes in the great hall. They are now in the Tolson Museum at Huddersfield. One shows John, full face, surrounded by nine scrolls with mottos appropriate for men and three scrolls with suitable homilies for women. Over his head are the **Kaye-Finchenden** arms. On the other side are displayed 66 shields, 33 relevant to John's kin and the other 33 to Dorothy's kin. The Motto - *Kynd kynn knawne kepe* (Keep your own kin-kind) can be seen. The second painting shows Dorothy full face at the age of forty four with over her head **Kaye-Finchenden** impaling Mauleverer - that is - *Sable three greyhounds*



*courant in pale Argent.* On the other side is a family tree springing out of John's father, Arthur, who is shown as an old man of seventy six lying on his back.

John's son, also John, was knighted at Whitehall in 1641. He staunchly supported the King but his baronetcy cost him dear as he had to pay £500 redemption money when the Parliamentary Commissioners assessed loyalty at a price. He survived to witness the restoration.

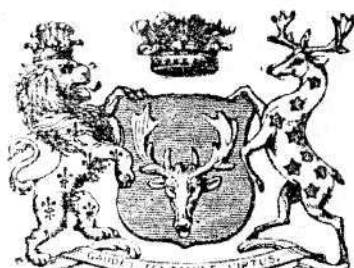


The second baronet, Sir John again, sat in four Parliaments for the County of York. He married Anne, daughter of William Lister of Thornton in Craven, sister and heiress of Christopher Lister. This brought in the **Lister** arms - *Ermine on a*

*fess Sable three mullets Or.*

When the 3rd baronet, Sir Arthur, died in 1726 he left an only child and daughter, Elizabeth. The baronetcy passed to his nephew, an MP for the city and an Alderman (York?). He took the name **Lister-Kaye** and had an estate at Denby Grange. When he died in 1789 his bachelor son became 5th baronet but having no legal heir the title was extinguished on his death in 1776. His estates passed to a natural son who in 1812 was created baronet in his own right.

The Woodsome estate passed to the **Legge** family on the death of the 3rd Baronet. His daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, had married **George Legge**, the son of the **1st Earl of Dartmouth** in 1726. George died in his father's lifetime but enjoyed the courtesy title **Viscount Lewisham**. The **Legges** were an old family. **Thomas Legge** lent £300 to Edward III for French wars. He married Lady Elizabeth Beauchamp daughter of Thomas Earl of Warwick. His son John was beheaded by Wat Tyler's rebels.



*Virtue rejoices in trial.*

Charles I before his execution recommended his son, Prince Charles 'to take care of honest Will Legge' for he had served the King so well and had even shared his exile.

The 1st Baron Dartmouth commanded a line of battleships from 1667 to 1672 and was later Admiral of the Fleet. As a staunch supporter of

James II he was sent to intercept William of Orange but with the change of monarchs he was sent to the Tower where he died. His son, a confidant of Queen Anne, became Lord Privy Seal and also the 1st Earl of Dartmouth. The Dartmouth arms are - **Azure, a stags head cabossed Argent** and can be seen at Woodsome although it was not until 1879 (more than 120 years after its acquisition) that the 6th Earl made Woodsome his country seat.

The arms in Almonbury Church, are impaled with **Aylesford**. - **Argent a chevron between three**

**griffins passant**

**Sable.** The 5th Earl married in 1846 a daughter of Heneage Finch, 5th Earl of Aylesford.

The **Dartmouths** left Woodsome in 1911 and the estate became a



golf club as it is today.

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## Militaria No.37 – The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Another regiment which has undergone many changes of title since it was first raised in 1702 as **Fox's Regiment of Marines**. The regiment became the **32nd Regiment of Foot** in 1751, the **32nd (Conwall) Regiment of Foot** in 1782 and the **32nd (Conwall) Light Infantry** in 1858. In 1741 Colonel John **Price's Regiment**, was raised, beca  
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the **46th Regiment of Foot** in 1751 and the **46th (South Devonshire) Regiment of Foot** in 1782. These two regiments became the 1st and 2nd Battalions of **The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry** in 1881.

As described in **Seaxe** No.17 of April 1997 the regiment merged with the **Somerset Light Infantry** in 1959 to become the **Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry**. Worse was to come and in 1968 they joined with the **King's Own Yorkshire**



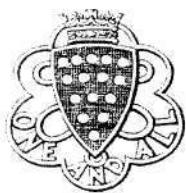
**Light Infantry, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, and the Durham Light Infantry** to form the current faceless unit called **The Light Infantry**. The ultimate insult came in the same year when the so called "large regiment" was reduced to three battalions.



**The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry** acquired most of its noms de plumes during the American War of Independence but "Murray's Bucks" from the name of their

Colonel at Prestonpans during the Jacobite Rising of 1745. In 1777, during the American War of Independence - "Red Feathers" after inflicting a humiliating defeat at Brandywine in 1777 on a group of American rebels who swore vengeance. The regiment's reply was to make identification more easy by staining their feathers red and thereafter the regiment wore a red feather in the tropical helmet and a patch of red behind the cap badge. Also "The Lacedemonians" whose origin is obscure but the Colonel is supposed to have made a long speech under heavy fire on Spartan discipline and the military system of the Lacedemonians. "The Surprisers" as the outcome of a daring guerilla style raid also in 1777 in the American War of Independence. Another nickname is "The Docs." for obvious mnemonic reasons.

The regimental badge of **The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry** is described as: - *A stringed bugle-horn with above a ducal Coronet. upon a scroll CORNWALL all upon a red cloth backing.*



As one of the titles of the Prince of Wales is Duke of Cornwall the coronet of the Duke is on the badge and the arms of the Duchy on the collar badge. The motto of the regiment was *One and All*.

The **32nd** and **46th Regiments** have fought

individually or as a single unit after amalgamation - at Dettingen and in the Peninsular War which added Corunna, Nivelle, Orthes and Vittoria to the regiment's battle honours. The regiment fought at Waterloo and, during the Indian Mutiny, at Lucknow, Mooltan, Goojerat and Punjaub. The Crimean War brought the battle honour Sevastopol. and Paardeberg came from the Boer War. Among its many other battle honours are Retreat from Mons, Marne, Aisnes, Armentieres, Ypres, Albert, Cambrai, Somme, Arras, Vimy, Menin Road and Passchendaele which were awarded in the Great War. In WWII the regiment earned the battle honours Cassino, Advance to Florence and the Rimini Line.

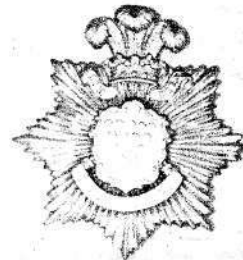
The **Victoria Cross** has been won by eight members of the regiment - four in the Indian Mutiny, two in Somaliland (1903-4), one in the Great War and one in Korea. The first award was to **Corporal W. Oxenham**, at Lucknow on 30th June 1857. The single **VC** awarded in the Great War was to **Bandsman T. E. Rendle** who, on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1916 near Wulverghem, in France, attended wounded under very heavy shell and rifle fire and rescued many men who had been buried in collapsed trenches.

The Regimental Museum of the **The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry** is The Keep, Bodmin, Cornwall.

The Regimental Headquarters of **The Light Infantry** is at Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, Hants and the recruiting areas are listed in **Seaxe** No.17.

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Additional badges:-The Militia - 1861-69 - Shako-plate - An eight pointed star the topmost point

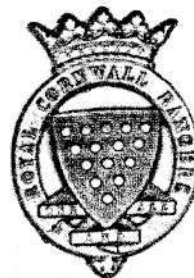
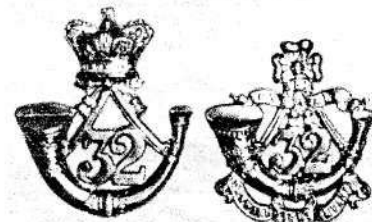


displaced by the Prince of Wales's plumes, coronet and motto. On this a shield bearing fifteen bezants (the arms of Cornwall). Below a scroll inscribed *One and All*.

1874-81 - Glengarry - (a) a bugle with strings the

tassels being on the outside surmounted by a Victorian crown. In the centre the numerals 32.

(b) a bugle with strings the tassels hanging down the centre surmounted by a bow resting on a three part scroll inscribed *One and All*. In the centre of the bugle strings the numerals 32. Below the bugle a scroll inscribed *Cornwall Light Infantry*.



1874-81 - Glengarry - A strap inscribed **Royal Cornwall Rangers** surmounted by a coronet. Within this a shield bearing fifteen bezants (the arms of Cornwall). And below a scroll inscribed *One and All*.

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## Did You Know

There is a peer of the realm in charge of the Metropolitan Police Royal Security Squad that protects the Royal Family and diplomats.

**Peter St Clair-Erskine, the 7th Earl of Rosslyn** joined the "Met" over twenty three years ago before he succeeded to the title was using the courtesy title – **Lord Loughborough**. He has always been known to his fellow officers as **Peter Loughborough** and was appointed to head the squad last month. The Earl, 44, now holds the



rank of commander and was switched from the Police Training School at Hendon.

The **Rosslyn** arms are:- *Quarterly - 1st Argent a cross engrailed Sable (St Clair); 2nd Argent a*

*pale Sable (Erskine); 3rd Azure a bend between six cross crosslets fitchée Or (Mar); 4th Argent on a chevron between three roses Gules a fleur-de-lis of the field (Wedderburn)*

*Crests:- 1st A demi-phoenix in flames proper and over it the device Rinasco piu glorioso (I rise again more glorious); 2nd For Wedderburn - An eagle's head erased proper with the words Illaeso lumine solem (To behold the sun with sight unhurt) – an illusion to ancient belief that an eagle could look at the sun without blinking..*

*Supporters:- Dexter an eagle wings inverted proper gorged with a plain collar Argent thereon a rose Gules; Sinister:- a griffin wings elevated proper beaked and membered Or.*

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## Christopher Columbus

In an article in the **Daily Telegraph** last September Isambard Wilkinson wrote from Seville:-

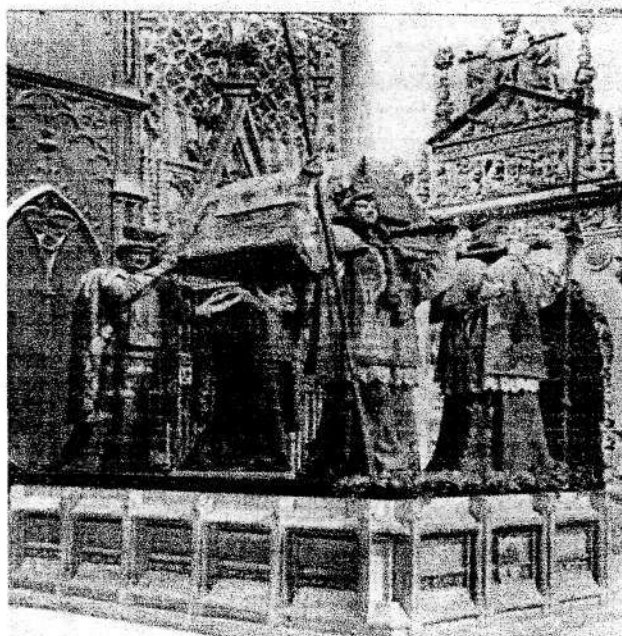


Spanish scientists have begun work opening two ancient graves in the hope of solving the mystery of the final resting place of **Christopher Columbus**.

One of the graves, in the cavernous Gothic interior of Seville Cathedral, is held aloft by four figures representing the old regions of Spain. The

other lies under a large monument in Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, where he landed in 1492 after leaving Spain for "God, gold and glory".

Scientists and historians plan to exhume remains from the tombs on both sides of the Atlantic and those of



**Columbus's** relatives and conduct DNA tests to resolve the 125-year-old debate as to which is his real tomb. In doing so they also hope to resolve another bone of contention - whether **Columbus** was Spanish or Italian. In particular was he the son of a Genoese wool trader or the bastard son of the Spanish Prince Viana, the half-brother of the Catholic monarchs Fernando and Isabel who financed **Columbus's** voyage?

It has been said that **Columbus** travelled more after his death than in his life. Despite his wish to be buried in Santo Domingo, he was initially buried in the Castilian city of Valladolid in 1506, in what is now a pool hall. His remains were then disinterred and moved to Seville's Carthusian monastery for three years, from where they were transferred to Santo Domingo in 1537. In 1795, the French took control of the island and Spaniards moved **Columbus's** bones to Havana, Cuba.

Since his son, Diego, was buried near him at the altar, it is possible that the wrong remains were removed and that the tomb in Seville could be Diego's. The spade-work began on Tuesday when the tomb of **Columbus's** brother, who was also called Diego, was opened in a former Carthusian monastery in Seville.

The investigation was opened at the instigation of an amateur enthusiast, Marcial Castro Sanchez, a history teacher from Seville who was inspired by the work of an Oxford-based academic, Bryan Sykes.

"If the remains in Seville are not his it does not really matter. We will have perhaps solved the mystery of which is his real tomb and the tomb in Spain will remain as an important monument to **Columbus**," said Mr Castro.

Anunciada Colon, a descendant of Columbus and author of a book on the explorer, is convinced that the real tomb of **Columbus** is in Seville. "The Spanish did not make a mistake in 1795 when they evacuated the island and took his remains to Cuba," she said.



But Francisco Espinel, the Dominican Republic consul in Seville has no doubt of **Columbus's** whereabouts:

"There is no mistake about it. His remains are where he wanted them to be: in the Dominican Republic." Some historians even suggest that the truth may lie in the middle. His remains could have been divided into two. **Columbus** perhaps still has a foot on both continents.

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**Steve Kibbey** during his course of treatment wrote an article about **Christopher Columbus** which he illustrated with photographs he took when he visited Seville. He has given us permission to publish his work.

"In 1899, part of **Christopher Columbus'** remains were brought back from Cuba and laid to rest in Seville Cathedral. The monument built to contain the remains of this great explorer was begun by Antonio Melida in 1891 and was intended for the Cathedral of La Habana (Havana) - but because of the independence of Cuba in 1898 it was never taken to the island. His tomb is a magnificent display of Spanish heraldry.

*Standing on a four-foot high plinth are four life-size heralds, each supporting on his shoulder one end of a staff, each staff supporting one side of a coffin. The coffin is draped with a black cloth which is intricately decorated in gold. The underneath of the coffin displays a beautiful gilded and enamelled royal arms of Ferdinand and Isabella - Grand Quarterly 1 and 4; i and iv, Castille ii and iii, Leon, 2 and 3 Aragon impaling Sicily enté en point a pomegranate Or. Above the shield is a gold coronet all surmounting an eagle displayed Or.*



The four heralds are dressed in long robes and are each wearing a crown. The two at the back are Aragon herald and Navarre herald. Both are wearing plate armour, over a full-length black gown, on the chest and on their arms and hands. On top they are wearing a half length black cloak with sleeves reaching to the knees. The cloak is beautifully decorated with a golden floral design, and over this is a bib with the arms of the herald's province.. The arms



borne by Aragon are those of his kingdom - *Or four pallets Gules*. The arms are on a lozenge above which peers the head of a bat with its wings extended. In the Armorial de Gelre can be seen the arms of Aragon with the head and wings of a dragon issuing from a coronet.. Over time this dragon developed into a bat and subsequently became the crest of Valencia. The lower part of the black gown is strewn with bats with their wings fully extended all in gold. Aragon's coronet consists of lozenges of three pallets alternating with bats displayed.

On Aragon's left side stands Navarre herald. Navarre wears the arms of his kingdom: *Gules a cross saltire and a double orle of chains linked together Or*. Traditionally the origin of these arms are said to be derived from the occasion of the victory by Sancho 'the Strong' over the Moors in 1212. The Moors' camp was defended by a strong barricade of chains through which Sancho and his followers had to cut their way. On Navarre's black gown a gold chain runs spiral fashion around his body up from the bottom of the gown to his waist. His coronet consists of chain links with a fleur-de-lis attached to every alternate upper link.

Carrying the front of the coffin are the two magnificent figures of Castile herald and Léon herald. Léon and Castile heralds wear no armour. They have a full-length black gown over which they wear a white blouse, the lower edging of the blouse being finished off with a gold floral design. Over the blouse they wear a tabard with the arms of the kingdom they represent.

The gown of Castile is strewn with coronets and the coronet he is wearing consists of what appear to be castle towers each alternate one being higher than the rest. He carries the coffin on his left shoulder whilst in his right hand he holds an oar. Presumably this is in token of **Christopher Columbus** holding the title of 'Almirante mayor del Mar Océano' (Admiral of the Ocean Sea).

Léon Herald stands to the left of Castile herald. On his tabard is the beautiful red Lion of the kingdom of Léon on a golden field. Léon has for me, the most attractive black



gown of all the four heralds. The lower section of the gown has a border of pomegranates growing half way up the gown. Between the top of the pomegranates and the



bottom of his blouse are escallop shells. As we all know the pomegranates represent the Kingdom of Granada and the escallop shells represent St James of Compostella. In his left hand he carries a corsesca, known in France and England as the corséque. The tip of the corsesca has been plunged into a pomegranate; the opposite end of the staff terminates in a cross, a clear allusion to the Christian victory over the Moors in Granada. Léon's coronet is a circlet of gold pomegranates.

#### NOTES

1. Armorial de Gelre, f62v°. See also **Ottfried Neubecker's *Heraldry — Sources, Symbols, and Meaning***, p.34

2. The corséque was developed in Italy in the 15th century. It consists of a long tapering blade mounted on a long staff. At the base of the blade were two smaller blades that curve inwards and upwards.

3. Victory in Granada occurred in 1492, the same year that **Columbus** discovered America.

4. **Christopher Columbus'** arms are not seen anywhere on his tomb. He was originally granted the following: *Tierced in mantle: 1. Castile; 2. Léon; 3, in base Azure representing the sea, studded with islands Argent bearing trees proper and the soil strewn with golden grains.* His crest was the Royal Orb with cross. On his return from the discovery of America he was granted: *1. Castile; 2. Léon; 3. Azure semé of islands and half surrounded by terra firma Argent all bearing tropical trees Vert and semé with golden grains; 4, Azure five anchors in saltire Or, the whole escutcheon entado en punta barry wavy Argent and Azure.*

5. Poor **Christopher Columbus** spent nearly as much time travelling when he was dead as he did when alive. He died on 20th May 1506 at Valladolid. He was laid to rest there in the Franciscan friary. He was then transferred to the family mausoleum at the Carthusian monastery of Las Cuevas in Seville. By the will of his son, Diego, he was moved to the Cathedral of Santo Domingo, Hispaniola\* and buried there with his son. He was then moved again to the Cathedral of La Habana before making his final journey back to Seville in 1899. There is still controversy regarding the bones brought back from Havana. Some historians believe that the bones brought back are not his but those of his son. Consequently nobody is really sure of the whereabouts of **Christopher Columbus**.

\*Hispaniola is now the Republic of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Columbus named the island 'La Isla Espanola' which was Anglicised to Hispaniola. It was also known by its capital city, Santo Domingo.

6. In 1992 a bronze statue of **Christopher Columbus** was erected in the south corner of Belgrave Square. It was a gift from Spain and is dedicated *to all the peoples of the Americas in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the encounter of the two worlds.*

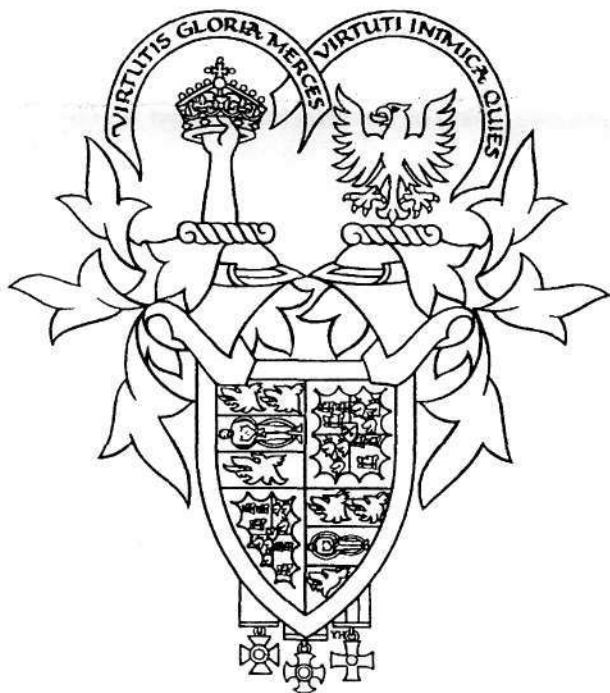


## From the Far North

We learn that our good friend and country member **Joe Sutherland** from Aberdeen gives several talks among which are ***The Constable and the Gordon Highlander*** and ***Harlaw or Heraldry that never happened.***

In correspondence your editors have received a number of illustrations in which they feel sure the readership of **Seaxe** will be intrigued. Perhaps **Joe** might even be persuaded to enlighten us on Harlaw!

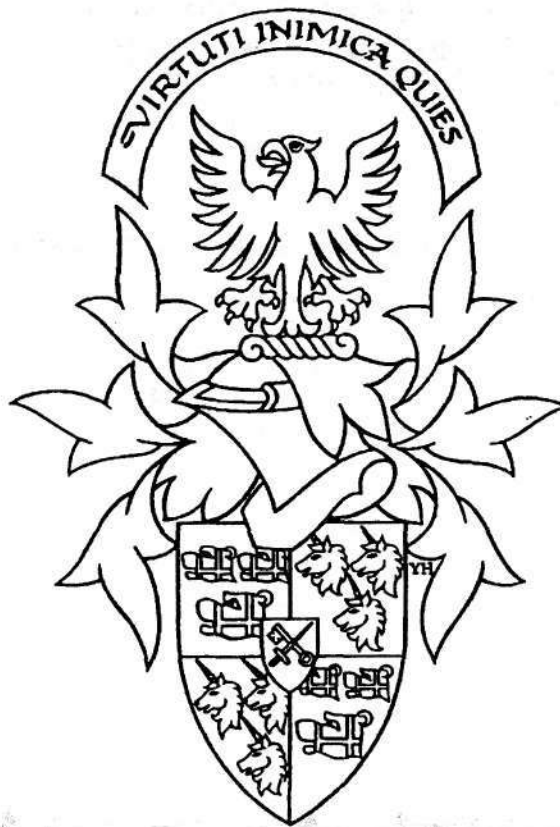
**Lt.Col. James Forbes-Robertson VC DSO MC** – although he won his VC and DSO with his parent unit, the Border Regiment, he commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn The Gordon Highlanders from 1926 to 1930. **Gerald Gliddon** in his series ***VCs of the First World War - Spring Offensive 1918*** describes in detail the one day "series of extraordinary exploits that that won him a well earned VC" whilst in command of 1st Bn. The Border Regiment. His arms are:- *Quarterly: 1st & 4<sup>th</sup> Gules on a fess between three wolf's heads erased close to the skull Argent a man lying in chains all proper. 2nd & 3rd Forbes of Waterton.* (Note the representation of his three decorations for valour)



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*William Forbes of Hazelhead assumed the additional name of Robertson on inheriting the Hazelhead property c1850. Quarterly:-1st & 4th Azure three bears heads couped Argent muzzled Gules 2nd & 3rd Argent three unicorns heads erased Sable on an escutcheon of pretence Argent a sword and key Gules as Constable of Aberdeen.*

Motto: *Virtuti inimica quies* (Inactivity is an enemy to virtue). Crest: *An eagle displayed proper.*



(Perhaps **Joe** can put us right on the blazons! Eds)

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## Did You Know

When Dr Rowan Williams was installed as Archbishop of Canterbury it had been suggested that he would still be Archbishop of Wales on entering St Paul's Cathedral but Archbishop of Canterbury when he left – so why not appoint a virger representing the Church in Wales to lead the Archbishop into the ceremony and, as St Benet's, Pauls Wharf, the Metropolitan Welsh Church was just down the road why not invite their virger to perform this duty.

It came as a great surprise to St Paul's that St Benet's did have a virger but he lived 100 miles away in Bath, he was English and his spoken Welsh amounted to a couple of phrases. It was, of course, our good friend **Michael Messer** of the **Bath Heraldic Society** who led the formal procession and conducted the Archbishop to his place. There are two interesting points – one is that the Archbishop signed Mike's Order of Service ***Rowan Cambiensis (only just)*** and it was one of the last documents he signed as Archbishop of Wales. The other is that, in company with St. Paul's, St Benet's still use the old spelling of virger – so it is correct!

It is with great sadness that we have just heard of the death on Friday, 14th February of longtime Committee Member

### **Roger Matthews**

The funeral will take place at  
**St. Lawrence's Church, Eastcote**

at noon on

**Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February**

A full obituary will be published  
in the next issue of **Seaxe**

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### **Officers and Committee**

We offer our sincere apologies to

**Steve Kibbey**

for failing to announce that he became a  
member of the Committee in 2002.

We are pleased to welcome him and feel  
sure that his heraldic knowledge and fighting  
spirit will serve us well in the future.

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### **Spurious Heraldry**



We are rather surprised that members  
of the Society who were former  
teachers at the school were unable to  
recognise the badge of what was The  
Manor County Secondary School,  
Ruislip.

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### **Editorial**

This issue of **Seaxe** has had possibly more trials and tribulations than most others – time has been lost on the failure of an unfinished ink cartridge – after all one cannot lightly throw away a third of the contents when the cost of a replacement is around twenty five pounds! Then the mouse expired – A “freebie” we had in reserve lasted for a few days and we then had to purchase a proper replacement locally. Just when we thought we might get this issue out soon after our last the “dreaded lurgie” struck and one of your editors has spent a couple of days in bed with an unrecognisable but very debilitating disease. So, with apologies for lateness, here is the **Seaxe** at last!

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### **Next Meetings**

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*Continental Heraldic Melange*

by **Stephen Kibbey**

on **Thursday, 20th March**

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*The Moravian Church in Chelsea*

by **Peggy Foster**

on **Thursday, 17th April**

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*Heraldry in Australia*

by **Keith Pocock**

on **Thursday, 15th May**

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*All meetings are held in the Library*

*Ruislip Manor at 8.00pm*

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### **The Chiltern Heraldry Group**

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*A Personal View of Heraldry*

by **E. N. (Pete) Taylor**

on **Saturday, 15th March**

in **The Rossetti Hall, Holmer Green**

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*Heraldry in the Ashmolean*

on **Saturday, 5th April**

in **The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford**

Time, fee and other details to be announced

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*Heraldry in Sport*

by **Roland Symons**

on **Saturday, 26th April**

in **The St John Ambulance Brigade Hall,  
Amersham-on-the-Hill**

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*Meetings begin at 2.30pm and are followed  
by a light tea provided by members*

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*Visitors welcome*

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