



March 2021

Dear Member

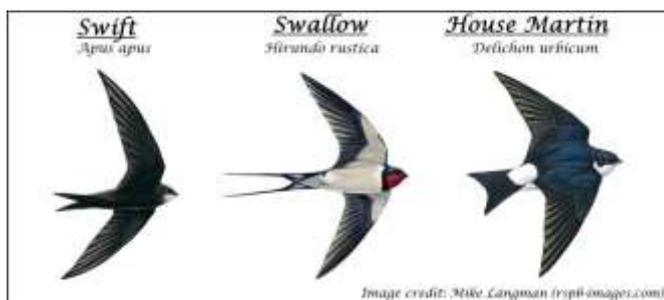
Dare one start to believe that an aspect of normality may soon return to our lives? I do hope so. It has been an awful task to cancel all of the events your Committee had worked so hard to organise, but of course very necessary. Our eyes are now on the 21st June when it is proposed and hoped that provided the indications remain positive all restrictions will be lifted. Your Committee is keeping this and other dates under review. Rest assured that your Committee will not be rushing into making bookings for Summer Visits, Field Trips or Lecture Meetings until absolutely certain that it is safe and desirable to do so. It will be wonderful to welcome you back to Lecture Meetings and share with you discoveries on Summer Visits and Field Trips. Fingers crossed.

The Forge

In last month's Newsletter I asked you to share with me your memories of visiting the forge, at one of the many open days we have enjoyed over the years. I have received only one recollection and am certain that we can do better. Please send me your memories with or without photographs, it matters not. These memories will be housed within the Archive and will be a lovely keepsake for Glynis to have to look back at her time at the forge. I have established a connection with Historic England and the local office in Leicester. At the moment a Grade II listing is not possible. The criteria, set in November 2012 are quite strict. The Market Bosworth Society Committee will keep a watching brief on any developments. In the meantime, we wish Glynis the best of luck in securing a purchaser for the forge and her home.

Swift Support

This is not, as the name suggests, the speed with which the community of Market Bosworth acts in helping friends and neighbours but a serious request sent to me by Martyn to help our Summer visitors. Swifts are



fascinating creatures and it is easy to lose an hour or two watching them swirl around in a beautiful blue sky. Historically, swifts have been known as "The Devil's Bird" - probably because of their inaccessibility and thus, just like owls, they attract more folklore than good natural history. They feed, drink, and preen in flight and are the only group of birds known who actually mate on the wing. They still need our help and in this article is what we can do to help them.

Hello Swift Supporters – are you ready for our Swifts this year?

In another two months our Swifts will be back, flying all the way up from their winter home in central Africa. Last year 'my' swifts arrived on 9 May. They settled into one of my boxes and had their young. It was fun looking up and seeing the five of them wheeling around catching insects. When they had gone, I found dry grass in the second box - I assume they plan to use both boxes this summer.

As most of you know, I started the petition, **Save our Swifts**, on 38 Degrees in January 2019. With your excellent support, it now has over 195,000 signatures! Here's the link to it: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-our-swifts>

The Petition asks that all UK house builders should be required to install Swift bricks on all new-build homes, and provide incentives for retrofitting nest boxes onto older properties.

Unfortunately, we had no success in persuading the Housing Minister to agree to this (Email 7).

Edward Mayer, of Swift Conservation (www.swift-conservation.org) believes the way forward is to forget about central government and get swift bricks and boxes into local government plans.

He says we should try to persuade architects, specifiers and their customers to have Swift facilities designed in from the very beginning - not as an afterthought or add-on. As a priority we should try and get biodiversity features, including Swift bricks, established within local development plans. That will get them into new buildings.

Edward has been very impressed with the work of Stephen Fit and the Duchy of Cornwall. And both he and Dick Newell have had excellent experiences working with enlightened housing associations in Ealing, Fulbourn, Newcastle and Cambridge.

And then there is us – the 195,000 signers of the petition, and other like-minded people. We can put up boxes and swift bricks. We can talk to friends, social groups, councillors and builders. We can campaign, or form local groups, or anything else you can think of. Together, we should be able to give an increasing numbers of homes to Swifts every summer! They'll soon be here, let's welcome them.

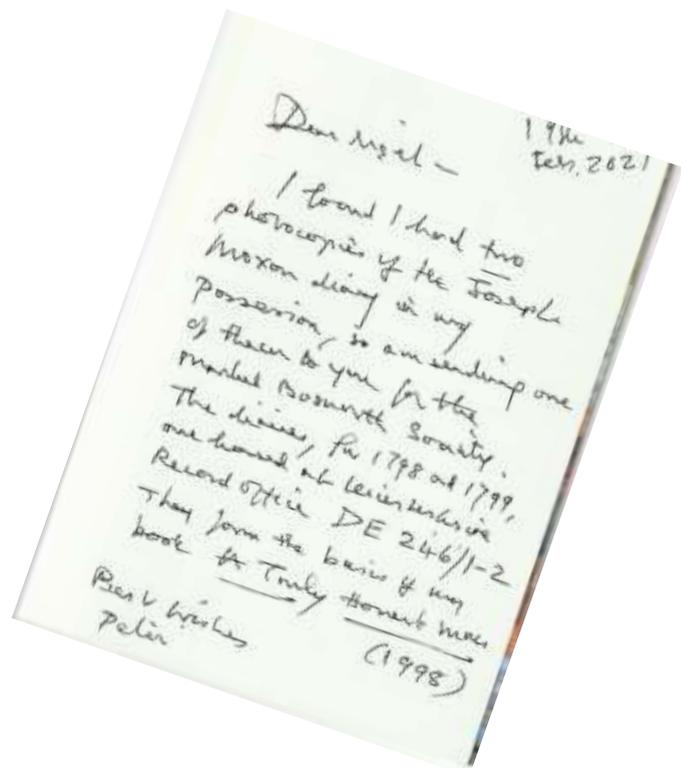
Best wishes,

Norman Pasley

The Moxon Diaries

I had a note from Peter Foss recently. Peter explained that he had a spare copy of the Moxon Diaries on which he based his book “A truly honest man: The diary of Joseph Moxon of Market Bosworth 1798-1799”

The copies are now safely in the Archive. I thought I would share the note with you, the image is of a still life painting, brushes, oil on canvas, by Peter, who is a very talented man.



George Douglas Dixie 12 Bart

As promised last month we will continue with our second and concluding part of the biography of George Douglas Dixie. Researched and written by Peter Loseby from diaries made available by Douglas's granddaughter Caroline Dixie. You will recall that Douglas was about to commence a postal course with the intention of joining the Department of Weights and Measures. Read on....

On November 14th Douglas went to see a play 'Belle of New York'. The theatre company was managed by an old friend, Maurice Robinson. Backstage Maurice offered him the chance to join the company and take part in its productions. Douglas saw this as an opportunity to supplement his income and agreed, shortly after he travelled to Kilmarnock to take part in two plays and records how much he enjoys the experience.

In March 1901 he took part in further plays but on April 4th he had a meeting with his cousin Arthur Johnstone-Douglas who managed the estates of the Earl of Mansfield from offices at Comlongon Castle (shown left).



Arthur offered a clerical position in the office on the understanding that Douglas gave up the stage for good. No doubt that Douglas's parents might well have asked Arthur to make the offer which Douglas agreed to and started work on April 24th.

Douglas continued to work in the office but regularly took time off to play representative cricket. He rarely visited Glen Stewart and when he did, he had very little to say of a positive nature about the visit and it is obvious that his relationship with his Father is fraught.

Unfortunately, Douglas's diary for 1902 is missing but in Sir Alexander's diary it simply reads that on April 8th *Douglas marries Margaret Lindsay daughter of the 8th Baronet Sir Alexander Jardine*. The wedding is noted in the diary but nothing else. Sir Alexander continued with his normal daily routine although he did not mention taking Florence out for their daily walk but at the same time did not record if she had attended the wedding.

Sir Alexander also records on April 19th that *'Bertie left for good'* which could suggest a family dispute between Sir Alexander and his children.

On April 16th Sir Alexander's mother died. Neither Sir Alexander nor his children attended the funeral in Market Bosworth.

On May 19th, the newly married couple visited Glen Stewart for the first time.

In May 1903 Douglas was due to rent a cottage called Ivy Cottage. Sir Alexander gave him £10 towards the rent and Lady Florence £3 for seeds. The cottage was in a dilapidated state and the drains were condemned by the Sanitary Inspector, so Douglas and Babs rented a house for £21 per annum in Nelson Street Dumfries called St Wolstan. It was their first house since marrying as before they had lived in rooms. They even took on a servant, but it was the start of ongoing domestic staff problems that Douglas suffered for at least the next 10 years. On recruitment of servants Douglas was always optimistic but this soon turned to dislike. On this first occasion he records August 10th *'Our 'slut' who gave notice last Saturday because we objected to (1) her mother coming here every day (2) to her wanting out every night announced to Babs that she intended leaving today, so we packed her off at once and were jolly glad to get rid of the brute'*. With the loss of the servant both Douglas and Babs were faced with doing housework and cooking for the first time in their lives!

Although Douglas had worked in the Estate Office at Comlongon prior to his marriage he is no longer in employment nor does he seek it. His days are usually filled by going for walks with Babs and their pet dog 'Bumps' and playing golf at the 9-hole course of Dumfries and Galloway Golf Club where he serves on the committee. He played off a handicap of 9.

In 1905 life continued in the same pattern, golf, walks, visiting friends, and continued trouble with domestic staff, an example of which occurred on April 8th servant Margaret dismissed for impertinence. She was replaced on the 15th by another, but she was dismissed on May 21st for amongst other things mistaking washing soda for salt when cooking vegetables! She, in turn was replaced by Elizabeth Rooney on the 29th of May.

On November 6th Douglas's life took a turn for the worse when he recorded the following: -

November 6th *'Letter from darling Mother saying she had been very ill and that she did not believe she would ever be better but forbidding me to do or say anything or it would kill her'*.

Douglas understandably records he was miserable for the rest of the day.

November 7th On returning home from the 8 o'clock mass the following was recorded *'On returning home Baby broke the news to me that my darling Mother had passed away at midnight. Wired Bertie'*

They immediately went to the Glen intending to stay but for some reason had to return to Dumfries.

November 8th *'Left for the Glen by 10:30 train. Bertie and Uncle Archie met us at Cummertrees Station. Poor old Father utterly broken and very ill. We had to get the doctor in to see him today. We all spent our time sitting with Father in turns but it was a sad and sometimes trying time'*.

Douglas and his wife accompanied by Albert returned to their home in Dumfries.

November 9th *'Uncle Archie met us at the station. Dear old Father was persuaded to go to bed Well he was tired'*.

November 10th *Father was up today but very restless and keen to get away. He left here at 10 to stay at Bournemouth with Aunt Ellie'*.

November 11th *'Darling Mother was laid to rest at Kinmount this forenoon, very quietly only Uncle Archie, Cousin Arthur, Bertie, Baby and I and a few old tenants being present. Pouring wet day. Poor old Father has arrived safely'*.

In his mother's book, 'The Songs of a Child' published in 1901, which was a collection of her poems written between the ages of seven and seventeen under the pseudonym 'Darling' and was dedicated to her friend, the famous George Earle Bulwer Lytton, Douglas wrote the following: -

*Thou art gone my brave true Darling
Well, I would thou could'st stay'd
But thy Spirits aye beside me
Never will thy memory fade*

On November 10th Douglas and his wife had moved to the Glen where they were to stay for the rest of the year apart from short visits to their own home to collect clothing.

November 20th Sir Alexander returned to the Glen looking better for his stay in Bournemouth.

1906 - 1914

Following the death of his Mother it would seem that the plan was to move into Glen Stewart to look after his Father. To this end they gave up the rented accommodation of St Wolstan. However, relations with his Father quickly deteriorated probably because his Father turned to drink once again as a reaction to his wife's death.

BREAKDOWN IN RELATIONS WITH SIR ALEXANDER

April 3rd *'trouble with that awful selfish ass at the Glen. Have had quite enough of him it's too much for Babs and I so we shall chuck the show'*.

April 11th *'wire from the Glen asking us to return. Declined with thanks'*.

April 20th They returned to Castle Street Dumfries to find that all of the belongings they had taken to the Glen had been returned. Douglas records *'trying to sort out the things sent from the Glen never have I seen anything so utterly disgraceful'*.

July 21st *'plans upset by a telephone call from Cousin Arthur saying my hateful Father had that morning married a barmaid in Carlisle'*.

The lady in question was Alice the widow of Edward John Ewert the younger son of David Ewert of Kingston, Jamaica. Her address was 40 The Esplanade Scarborough. It is a matter of conjecture if she was a barmaid in Carlisle or simply an exaggeration by Douglas.

July 23rd *'drove up to the town after lunch and interviewed the editors of the Dumfries papers to stop publication of any news of this hateful marriage'*.

August 23rd Albert wrote to Douglas *'he had heard that BD (presumably Beaumont Dixie) was going to move to Middlesbrough – Aristocratic place just about fit for the swine'*.

August 30th *'Letter from BD the meanest and most selfish I have ever read. Much upset because the Trustees are making proper allowance for me and coolly suggests I should refuse it. Selfish devil Lindsay and I might starve for all he cares.'*



December 22nd *'Poor old Father's birthday, I wonder how the poor fellow is getting on'.*

March 23rd, 1906 Douglas re-joined the 3rd Battalion of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers (uniforms shown left) with the rank of Lieutenant. He attended the annual militia training camp from May 7th through to August 4th.

On September 7th Having lodged most of the year with Babs's relations they moved into their new home called Cordova.

Douglas financial situation had also improved, it is not clear if he owned Coldova, but he purchased trees, shrubbery and climbers for the garden and the house was decorated throughout. Lady Jardine assisted with the choice of furniture and carpets, but it was not clear if she funded the purchases. For the first time since he was married, he recorded that he is

purchasing new clothes and giving his old ones to charity.

It will also be recalled that one of the reasons he had previously resigned his commission in the KOSB was that he could not afford the lifestyle, but he obviously now feels that he is able to do so.

They have also engaged a cook as well as a servant and after moving into Cordova did much more entertaining. They continued to go to church on a regular basis, Douglas had started to be a Server at communion.

Douglas will remember 1907 for three reasons:

The highlight of the year was the birth of his first child, Marie Margaret Florence Hyacinthe but any celebration was foreshortened by his wife suffering from appendicitis. Her treatment was interesting in that although she was correctly diagnosed, she was not operated on for a further six weeks. Presumably, this was to allow any inflammation to subside and there is no indication that the operation was an emergency. The operation also took place at home which must have been at the risk of further infection, so it is no wonder that Douglas had been so concerned.

His militia career seems to have become a serious commitment, he was attached to the 2nd Battalion of the KOSB in Maryhill Edinburgh for a few weeks, the annual training camp and finally he attended a musketry course at Hythe. The musketry course enabled him to give training to the troops. He was rightly pleased to have been 8th out of 108 students, passing with distinction.

He continued to play golf regularly and by the end of the year he had reduced his handicap to two.

His diaries for 1908/09 are missing but the narrative is taken up again in 1910 when they were now living at Cassalands House. According to the Post Office Directory for 1911 Cassalands was a suburb of Dumfries comprising of 25 homes for what could be described as middle-class residents. It is believed that they moved into the property in the autumn of 1909 because in early Spring Douglas commenced re-designing and planting of the large gardens. This task was to occupy him throughout the year.

On January 8th Babs was safely delivered of a son weighing 10 pounds! The child was christened Alexander Archibald Douglas Wolstan by the Bishop of Dumfries. Uncle Archie and Mrs Smith were his Godparents.

Their problems with the recruiting and retention of domestic servants continued with problems with the cook who was replaced by another cook on the 8th of February, but she only lasted until the 10th of March when she was replaced by another on the 20th of March. Yet another cook was employed on June 1st to be sacked four days later for stealing whisky! An elderly cook was recruited on July 8th in the hopes that she would be more settled but by the end of the month it was found that she was bad tempered and drank a lot.

The situation was further complicated with the departure of the nanny which meant that Babs was having to nurse and look after the children, she felt that Douglas was not supporting her which led to strained relations. Douglas recorded *It's awful living this way no nanny and no proper servants and Baby too seems to find it amusing to curse me every moment and tell me how run down she is. I feel it is almost hopeless to go on, nothing seems to go right, only God knows the struggle I have had since November 1905 without help'.* An obvious reference to his Mother's passing.

May 25th Douglas resigned his commission in the Kings Scottish Own Borderers. He gave his reason as follows; *'Resigned my commission yesterday as I feel my position under this new scheme absolutely hopeless*

no chance at all of promotion. It is perfectly sickening the way in which retired line captains are being brought in over one's head.'

Relationships with his Father momentarily improved when Douglas and the family visited him and Lady Dixie at Glen Stewart on July 4th, '*Poor old Father changed a good bit. Lady Dixie seems a decent soul*'. But on September 10th '*That ass at the Glen giving trouble again. Down at the Glen to see Lady Dixie and did not get home until 10:00pm*'

September 12th '*Insane letter from that ass at the Glen received this evening*'.

On a more positive note, Douglas continued to enjoy playing golf and was made Captain of the Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club.

During 1911 Douglas's wife had several bouts of depression which worried Douglas who could not seem to lift her spirits. He continued to play golf, work in his garden but he also compiled a book called 'Historic Gleanings in Three Famous Border Counties' which was published in November 1911. The book catalogues sites of historical interest in Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbright and Wigtownshire. Not surprisingly amongst the listed sites are Amisfield Tower, where Lady Jardine lived, and Camlongon Castle, where his cousin Arthur lived and managed the Earl of Mansfield estate. The book met with some success which prompted him to write two poems in 1912. The first entitled 'Culloden', and another prompted by the loss of the Titanic. Both poems were published in the Celtic Monthly.

Perhaps an explanation of Babs's bouts of depression in 1911 was that she was expecting their third child who was born on the 12th of March 1912 and was christened by the Bishop of Dumfries taking the names Frances Dorothy Madeline Barbara de la Motte. The last part of the name was the same as that of the late Mother Superior at the Convent. Alfred and Hettie Douglas were Godparents.

The birth of his third child put an additional strain upon his finances causing him a great deal of worry as did his continued problems with domestic staff. The nanny resigned because she could not control the behaviour of Florence and Wolstan which again put pressure on both Babs and him who had to take over the care of the children.

Relationships with his Father deteriorated further. The problem seemed to be that his Father was seeking an increase in the money paid him out of a 'Dixie Trust' drawn up in 1902. Douglas and Bertie felt that any increase paid to their Father would impact upon them. Negotiations between the Trustees and their Father were eventually concluded in 1914 with the terms of the 'Trust of 1902' being made irrevocable.

It will be recalled that Douglas got married in 1902 but his Father did not attend the service and shortly afterwards Sir Alexander recorded that '*Bertie left for good*'. It is possible that new provisions were made in the Trust to increase the allowances of both Douglas and Bertie and this caused the years of strained relationships between Sir Alexander and his sons.

In May 1912 Douglas had become disillusioned with the running of the Dumfries and Galloway Golf Club where he was a long-time committee member and former Club Captain, so he resigned and was elected to the Committee of a new golf club, the Dumfries and County Golf Club at Nunfield. He was given the task of preparing the 18-hole golf course measuring 5,186 yards to the design of the former Open Golf Champion Willie Fernie. This meant that he spent a great deal of his time overseeing the creation of the greens and fairways at the expense of time spent at home thus creating further domestic tensions.

January 5th. 1914 Douglas and the family paid a visit to the home of his Father and Lady Dixie called 'Gell'. Their home lay on the outskirts of the small village of Castle Carrock. Douglas described it as a '*nice house – scenery lovely – village close to house but well concealed. The drawback is the station being somewhat far away (How Mill 3 miles)*'.

Douglas notes that his Father seemed pleased to see them. They went for walks together every day. On the 9th and 10th of January Douglas records that he and his Father had business talks before he finally records on his return to Cassaland '*Glad in a way to be back but felt sad all the same – poor old Father I hated leaving him*'. But within a matter of three days Bertie had contacted Douglas to inform him that their Father was again causing mischief with the Trustees.

(Note by Peter Loseby: I believe that the root cause of the dispute between Sir Alexander and his children was the marriage settlement of the 2nd of April 1875. Sir Alexander made available a sum of £37,500, how he raised such a sum is not known. The money was to be invested by the Trustees with the interest that accrued

being paid initially to Sir Alexander and Lady Florence for them to live on. When the boys were born additional provision was to be made for them. Sir Alexander was able to use the interest as he wished but the Trustees could insist that he repaid any interest he had used without their permission back into the Trust. It would seem that the terms of the Trust were reviewed at the time of Douglas's marriage in 1902. However, when Lady Florence died, I believe that Sir Alexander expected to receive the same allowance that had been paid to them when a married couple but this was disputed by the Trustees and his children. It was not until the terms of the amended 'Dixie Trust of 1902' were made irrevocable as a result of negotiations between the Trustees and Sir Alexander that the dispute was, as far as I can ascertain resolved).

On June 3rd, 1914, Douglas and his family travelled to Edinburgh to attend the wedding of his brother Bertie. Also at the service were his Father and Lady Dixie so it must be assumed that there had been some form of reconciliation between the brothers and their Father since the long running dispute had been resolved.

On June 29th Douglas recorded the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo.

August 4th War was declared with Germany and Douglas although not a member of the Militia volunteered to supervise the recruitment station in the Drill Hall Dumfries.

On September 19th He received an acknowledgement of his offer of his service from the War Office.

On October 14th his diary ended abruptly, and no further diaries can be found.

From his military records he was made temporary Captain in the 5th Battalion of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers on the 26th of November 1914. According to his service record he served for two years in the 5th Battalion before joining the 4th Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders on the 30th of November 1916 as a Private but on the 11th of April 1917 he was discharged from the army as being no longer physically fit. According to his service papers he was 5 feet 41/2 inches tall with a chest size of 37 inches. He was awarded the war badge.

His service records also indicate that he was a commissioned officer in the KOSB. It seems so out of character for him to have even contemplated joining as a private never alone doing so. Furthermore, the upper age limit in 1916 for recruitment was 41. Douglas was 41 and 11 months it was not until May 1918 the upper limit was raised to 51.

In the Dixie Archive there are two letters sent by Douglas to Lady Dixie in 1924. Not for the first time Lady Dixie had had cause to leave Sir Alexander because of his behaviour. Douglas wrote that he had received outrageous letters from his Father but had refrained from responding. He congratulated Lady Dixie for having the courage to return to his Father who, he felt was a kindly man when sober.



Unfortunately, there appears to be no further records of the life of Douglas only that Sir George Douglas Dixie 12 Bart died on the 25th of December 1948 and was interred in Tower Hill Cemetery Chudleigh Devon. He was joined by his wife 'Babs' on the 19th of June 1973 having reached the age of 95.

Memorial stone of Sir George Douglas Dixie Bart and Lady Margaret Dixie.

FOOTNOTE BY PETER LOSEBY (February 2021)

Before compiling these notes, little was known about the 12th Bart other than details of his family and a very brief record of his military career.

It is thanks to Lady Caroline Dixie, the granddaughter of Douglas, that I was given the opportunity to read the diaries of both Douglas and his Father.

Although some diaries are missing this compilation is a summary of and is based upon a much more detailed record I made of the entries in the surviving diaries. Any future researcher can cross reference both records to perhaps gain a greater understanding and draw their own conclusions about the life of Douglas.

For my part, and I stress this is a personal view, Douglas comes across as a person who was reliant upon others for guidance and support. From the diaries it was his mother, Lady Florence, who was undoubtedly a greater influence than his Father who must have seemed remote to his children.

Very few letters passed between Douglas and his father, so I assume that in the main he wrote to his mother when he was in the navy or away from home.

I go into greater detail, in my review of the life of Sir Alexander, about the strained and fraught relationships between Douglas and his father. Suffice to say that I believe that Douglas never forgot that his inheritance, in the shape of Bosworth Hall, was lost to him by the drinking and gambling lifestyle of his father. He will have certainly witnessed his father drinking in excess and betting daily on races with little success.

Douglas's financial position, in which he relied upon an allowance of £100 per annum, never seemed to support the lifestyle to which he aspired. After his marriage, a 'Dixie Trust of 1902' was drawn up with at least two of the Trustees being Arthur Douglas-Johnstone and Sir John Rolleston. This improved his financial position for a short while but other than becoming an Insurance Agent he did not seek additional employment to supplement his allowance but continued to live the lifestyle befitting of someone belonging to aristocracy. This put a strain on his marriage because his wife was certainly used to a grander lifestyle than her husband could provide.

They loved their children, but I think the arrival of their third child was not planned and put a greater strain on his financial position.

It is difficult to understand if his ongoing problems in recruiting domestic staff was the result of him making too great demands upon them or if he could only afford to pay for a poor standard of staff who were either inexperienced or were unemployable elsewhere.

I believe he enjoyed his time in the Navy and like his brother might have made a successful career in the service, but this was lost to him following the scandal in Lyme Regis. He served on HMS Hood and HMS



Resolution (shown left and right respectively) very historic names in the Royal Navy. He did not seem to be prepared to make concessions to the rigours of army life but simply resigned when things were not to his liking rather than make the effort to overcome them. He resigned twice from the 3rd

Battalion of the KOSB and presumably again from the 5th Battalion before being invalided out of the Cameron Highlanders in 1917 as a Private.

Healthwise he suffered greatly with digestion which he believed was a side effect of contracting Maltese fever. In the late 19th century, the sewer systems were becoming not fit for purpose as the population increased and most homes seem to have an infestation of rats which would have also been a contributing factor to him feeling 'seedy' as he called it.

Cricket played a great part in his early life and he excelled but later he took up golf and would play every day. He went for a daily walk in all kinds of weather but like his father did not enjoy summertime when it was too warm for him much preferring the frost of winter.

Following his time at Stoneyhurst Douglas developed a strong faith which he shared with his wife who had converted to the Roman Catholic church presumably to clear the way for their marriage. Douglas went to several services each week and I understand that both he and his wife's faith remained strong throughout their lives.

It is probable that following his discharge from the army Douglas continued the lifestyle that he had adopted after his marriage.

Hopefully, further information will come to light about his life post first world war and how he came to live in Devon.

I hear that Peter has been working on another Dixie biography which with any luck he will share with us once complete. Thank you Peter for an interesting insight into the life of George Douglas Dixie Bart the penultimate Baronet.

Dixie Cup

Reading the article, Marion recalled an item in the Archive from the work done to start the Digitalisation project. A search has revealed the following:

The HMS Britannia referred to on the cup was the training ship moored off Dartmouth. HMS Britannia was the former 140 gun vessel HMS Prince of Wales and was the last officer cadet training ship before HMS Britannia transferred to the shore establishment that is still in Dartmouth. Officer cadets joined the navy at an early age and I am sure that the G Dixie engraved on the cup is in fact Sir George Douglas Dixie the 12th Baronet. He was born in 1876 and died on December 25th, 1948 at Casalands House Dumfries.



He lived at the Hall until 1885 when he went to school at the Roman Catholic Colleges at Beaumont and Stonehurst, which I believe is in Lancashire. After becoming a midshipman, he transferred to a Scottish Regiment whose name I have forgotten but could get it for you if needed. He lived most of his life in Kirkcudbright and Wigtown, both on the Solway Firth.

News from the Bosworth Festival "Laughter Lines"



Dear Festival Supporter,

We hope you are keeping well and look forward to seeing you at our summer festival. It's been a long time!

The pandemic has caused us to cancel some of the events we had planned but a number of them will be going ahead, mostly outdoors.

Our website is now updated with all available information so that you can save the dates - there are a few details to follow of course, but the main info can be found at the [EVENTS](#) page.

Tickets will be on sale shortly so please come back and check - or sign up to our newsletter to be sure not to miss out.

We are really looking forward to seeing you again after this long and difficult winter.

To keep you going till then we have planned a community art venture around the town in April, details on the poster below. The idea is simple:

Dress your window with a creative "washing line"

Take photos

Send them to us

We would love to hear from you and to see your windows! Let us know where you are and we'll come and take photos too.

Please take part if you can, and if you need any further help, inspiration or ideas, just [contact us](#).

What makes you smile?



Market Bosworth Festival
invites you to take part in:

Laughter Lines

Share what makes you happy by producing a window display in any form of artwork - drawings, paintings, photos, modelling, knitting etc.

Present your ideas on a washing line across your window for all to see!

Post on facebook and send us your pictures so we can create an online gallery.

Further info at:

www.bosworthfestival.co.uk

Dress your window over the weekend

Friday 2nd April – Monday 5th April

NB: To hang your washing you may need detachable plastic hooks or suction pads - easily obtainable from DIY stores or online - links can be found on [our website](#) Have fun!

Time for our first quiz, no cheating!

1. What did the Romans call Scotland?
2. Who was made Lord Mayor of London in 1397, 1398, 1406 And 1419?
3. Who was Henry VIII's last wife?
4. Who was the youngest British Prime Minister?
5. In which year was Joan of Arc burned at the stake?
6. Which nationality was the polar explorer Roald Amundsen?
7. Who was the first female Prime Minister of Australia?
8. Which English explorer was executed in 1618, fifteen years after being found guilty of conspiracy against King James I of England and VI of Scotland?
9. Which English city was once known as Duroliponte?
10. The first successful vaccine was introduced by Edward Jenner in 1796. Which disease did it guard against?
11. What was the name of the baker in whose bakery the Great Fire of London of 1666 apparently started?
12. The Spanish Civil War started in 1936 and ended in which year?
13. The horror of Guernica was portrayed in a painting by which artist?
14. Which US President had the middle name Milhous?
15. Which two students founded Google in 1998?
16. In 1870 the Third Republic is declared in France after which leader was deposed?
17. In 1958 the first artificial satellite launched in 1957 fell back to earth. What was its name?
18. In 1918 Finland declared its independence from which country?
19. Which iconic structure began its construction in California in January 1933?
20. Which long distance train had its first run in October 1883?
21. What colour were the pyramids at Giza originally?
22. The first televised address from the Oval Office was made in 1947 by which President?
23. In November 1921, the Japanese Prime Minister Hara Takashi was assassinated in which city?
24. Who found the entrance to Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings in Nov 1922?
25. On the 4th November 1956, Soviet troops entered which country in order to quell a rebellion?

The Dixie Grammar School (or is it?). Walter Baynes.

THE NAMING OF THE SCHOOL

In 2021 the question was put to the Dixie Grammar School Association "When did the School become The Dixie Grammar School"? A simple question to answer I thought. Turn to the first page of Hopewell's book 'The Book of Bosworth School 1320 - 1950' and there, in the second paragraph, is the answer..."When the school was founded under its name of the Dixie Grammar School, it received, as its first grants of property, all the lands of the "old school", whose trustees were in 1617 united with those of the "new school."

Not that simple, I'm afraid! You see, in the other book on the history of the School, the author, former pupil Bernard Newman ends 'The Bosworth Story' with the lines..."Soon after I returned home after the First World War, I sat for a competitive examination which included an oral section. I went up to London for the interview: the waiting-room was filled with young men sporting the ties of Eton, Harrow and other famous public schools: evidently the competition was keen —my school had no tie. My turn arrived.

"Good morning," said an elderly examiner. "Your name, please?"

I told him.

"And school?"

"Bosworth."

"Ah !" Then, in a tone almost of awe, he added: "That is indeed a name to conjure with."

So, if he refers to his old school as "Bosworth", why is that he begins his definitive history of the school like this...In 1943 a new headmaster was appointed to the Dixie School at Bosworth".

Recently it has been discovered that in his diaries, the 11th Baronet (1851 - 1924), when discussing matters relating to the school, refers to "Bosworth School...". I find it strange that he does not use his family's name in this context.

In the School Notes section of The Wolstanian, Vol. 2, No.1, September 1953 we are told that..."the licence to find The Market Bosworth Grammar School which was granted by Elizabeth 1 on May 11th, 1601 (sic) has now been deposited with the County Archivist for safe keeping". In that same edition there is an advertisement for..."Shipley's, the officially appointed outfitters to The Market Bosworth Grammar School". However, in Volume 3, No3, September 1957 we see that Shipley's are still..."The officially appointed outfitters to The Market Bosworth Grammar School", whereas we see that Wendy's House are now..."Official stockists of Girls Uniform for Dixie Grammar School".

Could it be that the School changed its name in 1957? If that is the case, why is that in the final edition of the School's magazine in 1969 on page 10 we read..."There may be those who think that a new building in a new locality indicate the death of the Market Bosworth Grammar School as it has existed for so many years". Hmm! The plot thickens...

The earliest copy of a school magazine in the DGSA's Archive dates from March 1892...it is clearly labelled "The Wolstonian, The Market Bosworth Grammar School magazine". (Note here the spelling "Wolstonian", surely this should be "Wolstanian"?) No doubt as to the name of the School back in those days though! That was the year when pupil Nigel Ward won the school prize for Arithmetic. On a specially printed Prize Award label attached to the 'fly-leaf' of the book he received was written in black ink "Market Bosworth Grammar School, Arithmetic" and signed Lewis

A. Pearson, Headmaster, dated 1892. Again, no doubt of the name. In those days the Dixie coat of arms was printed on the cover of the magazine and embossed in gold on the prize. Why, if the name Dixie was not in the official name of the School? How many people would understand its significance? Maybe because the school was called The Dixie in the locality. Sometime in the early 1900's the name of the magazine was changed to The Bosworthian, The Market Bosworth Grammar School Magazine. The DGSA has copies dating from 1908 to 1913, Again each copy carries the Dixie family coat of arms which is unidentified; it is assumed that the reader will recognise the School's connection to the family. We have been unable to find any printed magazines dated after 1913. We have anecdotal evidence that the magazine ceased publication around this time. It is thought that during the 1920's and 30's and even into the 1940's handwritten

versions of a magazine were produced. In fact, a copy dated 1949 was donated to our Archive at the 2012 Annual Reunion! Its cover carries the earliest use we have been able to find of the now familiar circular School badge which replaces the Dixie coat of arms. There is no mention of either Market Bosworth Grammar or Dixie Grammar on its cover.

We have recently received a number of pupil's School Reports the earliest of which is dated April 1943 and signed by J. Ford-Smith, Headmaster. This report is on a 'standard' printed form headed Market Bosworth Grammar School. However, this is followed by one dated December 1943 and signed by W. F. Gosling but headed The Dixie Grammar School, Market Bosworth. The forms are of the same format and even the same typeface is used. It is now beginning to look as if, upon his arrival, Mr. Gosling decided to revert back to the 1617 name of the School. If this is the case why is it that in July 1950, when the School magazine was re-introduced, there is no mention of the name The Dixie Grammar School anywhere to be found? It is recorded though that in 1949 "The Old Bosworthians' Association" was formed by former pupils.

This new version of The Wolstanian has on its cover the circular badge featuring the Snow Leopard that is used as the crest on the Dixie coat of arms. This is surrounded by a Latin quotation:- "Scholae Grammaticalis Wolstani Dixie Militis De Market Bosworth", usually translated as "The Grammar School of Wolstan Dixie, Knight of Market Bosworth". It is generally believed that this is taken from the plaque placed above the main entrance door when the School was rebuilt in 1828. If this is the case then whoever copied the Latin made a serious mistake!. The plaque reads "Wolstano Dixie, Equite Aurato" and not Militis De Market Bosworth. "Wolstan Dixie, free Knight" instead of "Wolstan Dixie, soldier". Why bring the military connection into the School badge?

The circular badge remains on the cover of the magazine until September 1964 when the design was changed radically. This was just after Mr W.F.Gosling retired in the summer of 1964 and was replaced as headmaster by Mr. T.J.G. Rogers who changed the format radically. I can find no evidence in any of these magazines of a formal naming of the School as The Dixie Grammar School.

It was in 1958 that the 13th Baronet came to live in Market Bosworth. A Dixie living in Bosworth once again! That was the year when the School's name became really confusing. In 1957 most, but not all, official documents bore the name "Market Bosworth Grammar School", whereas in 1958 more and more were entitled The Dixie Grammar School. At this point I thought I had found a solution to the problem. Maybe, out of respect, The Governors and Headmaster chose to use the Dixie name once more when referring to the School! So that was it! The name 'changed' in 1958. This assumption was backed up by the discovery of a collection receipt dated March 1958 for a printing block and embossing die to be used on School documents. 1958 is the year when School Prizes ceased to be from "The Grammar School, Market Bosworth" and were awarded by "The Dixie Grammar School, Market Bosworth".

It was in 1957 when, at Mr. Gosling's suggestion, a meeting of the Old Bosworthians' Association agreed to change their name to "The Dixie Old Bosworthians' Association". This change also affected The Old Bosworthians' Rugby Football Club who also changed their name.

In our Archive there are many press cuttings from the 1970's and 80's still referring to "the Grammar School at Market Bosworth" or "Market Bosworth Grammar School" when writing of our old School rather than the newly founded Independent School of the day. So, was it a case of trying to elevate the School to the status of such establishments as Eton, Harrow & Rugby, all of which are identified by their location rather than the name of their Founder?

All of this leaves me in no doubt that whatever is read in print, on prizes or official forms the correct name for the School has been "The Dixie Grammar School" since 1617 and the term "Market Bosworth Grammar School" merely a colloquialism!.

Very interesting and well researched Walter, thank you for allowing me to include this in the Newsletter. This is not the last contribution from Walter as you will see...

THE SCHOOL BADGE
SIG SCHOLAE GRAM WOLSTANI DIXIE MIL DE MARKET BOSWORTH
 THE SEAL OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF WOLSTAN DIXIE SOLDIER OF MARKET BOSWORTH
 (In Hopewell's book this is translated as the Grammar School of Wolstan Dixie, Knight, in Market Bosworth)



As used on the cover of *The Wolstonian*, a school magazine of 1892.



As used on the cover of *The Idiosyncratic Dixies*, an article filed in DGSA's Archive.

The Dixie family Coat of Arms

Arms: Azure, a lion rampant or, a chief of the last.

Crest: An ounce sejant proper ducally gorged or.

Motto: Quod dixi dixi. (What I have said, I have said.)

In 2007 an unusual school uniform was delivered to the School Office as a donation to the 'Records'. The DGSA was asked if there was any knowledge of such a uniform in our extensive Archive. Committee members had seen nothing like this before and doubted that it was in fact a Dixie uniform! After an appeal for information on the Website a member in the USA recalled that it was in fact the uniform of one of the Dixie Foundation's Primary Schools. These schools were situated in villages around Mkt. Bosworth in order to prepare local children for admission to the Grammar School. (*More information is available S. Hopewell's book on page 81. He also devotes a complete chapter to them starting on page 115.*)



An Appeal

If like me you enjoy the varied articles in the Newsletter, why not join the fun and send me an article. It could be on any subject (preferably connected in some way to Market Bosworth, its heritage or its history) but as we saw earlier it could also be about important news and events. Come along, do not be shy. Put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and send it to me. You can send any images separately if that is easier. Everyone has an interesting story to tell.

Quiz

For those who could not join in the fun of the Zoom Quiz earlier in the month, here are the questions. It was very hard and the joint winners managed three correct answers. I have added a clue to start you off. Good luck.



1. What is the most common colour of toilet paper in France?
2. If you dug a hole through the centre of the earth starting from Wellington in New Zealand, which European country would you end up in?
3. Henry VIII introduced which tax in England in 1535?
4. What is the correct term for a question mark immediately followed by an exclamation mark?
5. The average person does what thirteen times a day?
6. Coprastastaphobia is the fear of what?
7. What were the first ice hockey pucks made out of?
8. It's illegal in Texas to put what on your neighbour's Cow?
9. Which bird is nicknamed The Laughing Jackass?
10. Who entered a contest to find his own look-alike and came 3rd?
11. French artist Aquabouse paints cows with what material?
12. In 1978 an Iowa judge dismissed a drink driving charge for what obscure reason?
13. In which country are there six villages called Silly, 12 called Billy, and two called Pratt?
14. Native to the Caribbean, what sort of animal is the mountain chicken?
15. The UK's Dyslexia Research Trust is based in which British city?
16. What nickname was given to Rembrandt's The Night Watch after being over-restored in the 1940s?
17. True or false: You can sneeze in your sleep
18. Who invented the word vomit?
19. Which European country has 158 verses to its national anthem?
20. Which country has the most tornadoes by area?

Heraldic Shields 62 to 73



62 Sir Robert Poyntz (died 1520), lord of the manor of Iron Acton in Gloucestershire, was a supporter of the future King Henry VII at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. He was the eldest son and heir of John Poyntz of Iron Acton, by his wife Alicia Cocks of Bristol, who survived him and remarried to Sir Edward Berkeley of Beverstone Castle in Gloucestershire. Sir Robert's younger brother was Thomas Poyntz, (who died in 1501 was, an Esquire of the Body of King Henry VII at the baptism of his first-born son Prince Arthur, who married Jane, the second wife and widow of Walter Devereux, 8th Baron Ferrers of Chartley c.1432-1485, Knight of the Garter). The Poyntz family of Iron Acton were descended from John Poyntz (d.1376), a younger son of Nicholas Poyntz (d.1311), who was the feudal baron of Curry Mallet in Somerset, by his second wife Matilda (or Maud) de Acton, aunt and heiress in her issue of John de Acton (died 1362) of Iron Acton.

Our Sir Robert married Margaret Woodville, the illegitimate daughter and only child of Anthony Woodville, 2nd Earl Rivers (c. 1440-1483), Knight of the Garter (brother of Queen Elizabeth Woodville who married King Edward IV), by his mistress Gwenlina Stradling, a daughter of William Stradling of St Donat's Castle in Glamorgan, Wales. The Heraldic Visitation of Gloucestershire records that:

"A testimony of this match apered by indenture of covenant of the mariag yett extant under the hand and seale of the said Erle, by letters written by the hand of the reverend ffather Morton, Cardinall, also by the armes of the Erle impaled with Poyntz on the top of a Chappell near Bristowe where they lye buried".



By his wife he had five sons and four daughters including: Sir Anthony Poyntz (c. 1480 – 1533) of Iron Acton, eldest son and heir; John Poyntz (c. 1485 – 1544), of Alderley, Gloucestershire, second son, a Member of Parliament for Devizes, Wiltshire, in 1529, whose portrait by Hans Holbein the Younger survives in the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle. Sir Francis Poyntz (d. 1528), a diplomatist. At the request of his eldest brother Anthony, Sir Francis wrote *The Table of Cebes the Philosopher*, translated out of Latin into English by Sir Francis Poyngs, which was published in by Berthelet probably about 1530; a copy is in the British Museum Library. He died of the plague in London on 25 June 1528.

In about 1520, nearing the end of his life, Sir Robert built a fine chantry chapel as an addition to the Gaunt's Chapel in Bristol (today known as St Mark's Church, Bristol), to the east end of the south aisle, beyond the tower, known as the "Chapel of Jesus" or "Poyntz Chapel". It should be distinguished from the Poyntz manorial chapel in Iron Acton Church, the family's chapel as lords of the manor and patrons of the advowson. It is

fan-vaulted, and has two niches of unknown use on the North wall. The floor is covered with coloured Spanish tiles, probably from Seville and contemporaneous with the building. The centre boss of the vaulted ceiling comprises a shield displaying the arms of Poyntz impaling Woodville, representing his marriage. At the entrance to the chapel is sculpted in stone the canting crest of Poyntz, A hand clenched, from the French poigne, "fist" (shown above left).

He died in 1520. Two remnants of his chest-tomb survive in the Gaunt's Chapel, being wooden panels decorated with Gothic canopy-work, each showing a heraldic shield. One shows the arms of Poyntz of four quarters, the other shows the same first four quarters with an additional six quarters of the Woodville family, thus being the shield of the couple's son the 5th quarter is Woodville with baton sinister for bastardy.



63 Sir Richard Guildford of Cranbrook Kent was the son of Sir John Guildford (1430–1493), Comptroller of the Household to Edward IV, by his first wife, Alice Waller. He was relied on as a councillor by Reginald Bray, who chose him as one of the four persons to whom he first communicated the plot behind Buckingham's rebellion against Richard III in 1483. Both father and son raised forces that year for the Earl of Richmond (the future Henry VII) in Kent, and were attainted in consequence. The son, who thereby forfeited some lands in Cranbrook, fled to Richmond in Brittany, and returned with him two years later, landing along

with him at Milford Haven, where he is said to have been knighted. It is presumed he was with Henry at the Battle of Bosworth. Little more than a month later, on 29 September 1485, the new king appointed him one of the chamberlains of the receipt of exchequer, Master of the Ordnance and of the Armouries, with houses on Tower Wharf, and keeper of the royal manor of Kennington, where the king took up his abode before his coronation.



When Henry's first parliament met, his attainder was reversed. As master of the armoury, he had to prepare the 'justes' for the king's coronation. The king also made him a privy councillor and granted him various lands and some wardships which fell vacant. Among the former was the manor of Higham in Sussex. His forte lay in the control of artillery and fortifications, engineering and shipbuilding, for which various payments to him are recorded. The lands he won from the sea were called Guilford Level. In 1486 he received payment for the making of a ship in county of Kent; on 8 March 1487 he was paid as master of a vessel called the Mary Gylford, named

probably after a daughter, who, in Henry VIII's time, was married to Christopher Kempe. There were more payments for shipbuilding. Sir Richard shown above left.

In 1487 the treasurer and barons of the exchequer had seized the office of chamberlain of the receipt, which had been granted to him by the king for life; but he obtained a warrant under the privy seal to prevent them proceeding further until the king himself had examined the official arrangements, with a view apparently to greater efficiency. A little later he surrendered the office, which was then granted to Giles Daubeny, 8th Baron Daubeny. On 14 July 1487 Guildford was granted the wardship, marriage and custody of her lands during her minority of Elizabeth Mortimer, daughter and heiress of Robert Mortimer (d. 22 August 1485) of Landmere in Thorpe-le-Soken, slain at Bosworth, by Isabel Howard, daughter of John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk. Guildford later married Elizabeth to his second son, George. In September 1489 certain alterations were ordered to be made in the buildings of Westminster Palace under the direction of Guildford and the Earl of Ormonde.

In 1490 Guildford undertook to serve the king at sea with 550 marines and soldiers, in three ships, for two months from 12 July. On 20 February 1492 Henry VII made his will in view of his proposed invasion of France, and appointed Guildford one of his trustees. He accompanied the king to Boulogne, and attended him at the meeting with the French commissioners for peace immediately after. On 1 February 1493 he was given



the wardship and marriage of Thomas, grandson and heir of Sir Thomas Delamere. On 19 July he lost his father, Sir John Guildford, a privy councillor like himself, who was buried in Canterbury Cathedral. In 1493-4 he was appointed High Sheriff of Kent. About 1495 he was named one of six commissioners to arrange with the Spanish ambassador about the marriage of Prince Arthur and Catherine of Aragon (Catherine shown left) In the parliament which assembled in October 1495 he was one of those members who announced to the chancellor the election of the speaker. In that parliament he obtained an act for disgavelling his lands in Kent. About this time, he was controller of the royal household; and on 21 April 1496 he was made steward of the lands which had belonged to the Duchess of York in Surrey and Sussex.

On 17 June 1497 he assisted in defeating the Cornish rebels at Blackheath, for which service he was created a banneret. In 1499 he and Richard Hatton were commissioned by the king to go in quest of Edmund de la Pole, 3rd Duke of Suffolk, after his first flight to the continent, and persuade him to come back. He had a further charge to go to the Archduke Philip; but the priority was the bringing back of De la Pole, and he was instructed to forego that journey if the refugee would not return without him. In 1500 he went over with the king to the meeting with the archduke at Calais. In the same year he was elected a Knight of the Garter. In 1501, as controller of the household, he had much to do with the arrangements for the reception of Catherine

of Aragon. On 4 April 1506 he had what was called a special pardon: a discharge of liabilities in respect of his offices of master of the ordnance and of the armoury, and also as master of the horse.

On 7 April 1506 in the same year, he made his will. Next day he embarked at Rye along with John Whitby, prior of Gisburn in Yorkshire, on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. They landed next day in Normandy, and passed through France, Savoy, and the north of Italy to Venice, whence, after some stay, they sailed on 3 July. After visiting Crete and Cyprus on their way they reached Jaffa on 18 Aug. But before landing they had to send a message to Jerusalem to the warden of Mount Sion, and they remained seven days in their galley till he came with the lords of Jerusalem and Rama, without whose escort no pilgrims were allowed to pass. Two more days were spent in debating the tribute to be paid by the company before they could be suffered to land, so that they only disembarked on 27 August. They were forced by the Mamelukes to spend a night and a day in a cave, and when allowed to proceed upon their journey both Guildford and the prior fell ill. They did reach Jerusalem, but the prior died there on 5 September, and Guildford the next day.



64 Sir John Treffry of Fowey, Cornwall born circa 1450 and died 7th September 1500. His father was Thomas and his mother Alice nee Searle. He had one child, Anne Treffry. Sir John was attainted by Richard III for his part in the Exeter uprising, at that time he was esquire of the body, as had been his father before him, but was restored by Henry VII who he supported at Bosworth Field. The reward was to be made Lord Sheriff of Cornwall on the 5th November 1489. He was also Knighted and the family fortunes gradually increased, when Sir John died he was a wealthy man. The Treffry family was an ancient Cornish family.

They originated in Treffry in the parish of Lanhydrock. The manor of Fowey was acquired by marriage; lands formerly owned by Robert de Cardinham passed from his family to that of Boniface of Pyworthy, Devon, whose heiress Elizabeth married Thomas Treffry of Treffry. After this marriage, the family moved to Fowey, where they already held the manor of Langurthow.

The Treffry's never owned extensive estates but during the middle ages gained considerable wealth through their activities as merchants in handling exports of tin, fish and wool. By the mid-fifteenth century they had



become the owners of a fine mansion overlooking the town. It is not known exactly when Place House (Seen Left) was built; John Leland, the king's antiquary, was impressed by the house, where he stayed when he visited Fowey in the early sixteenth-century.

The direct line ended in 1658 with the death of another John.

In 1457 French marauders besieged the family's home at Place House in Fowey, to be repulsed by Elizabeth Treffry who gathered men together and allegedly poured melted lead, stripped from the roof, upon the invaders. Later, her husband Thomas Treffry is said to have built a tower to protect the building from further French attack.



65 Sir Edward Courtenay of Tiverton, Devonshire. A member of a family that had consistently supported the Lancastrian cause throughout the Wars of the Roses, Courtenay became involved with the opposition to King Richard III in the 1480s, having secret dealings with Margaret Beaufort, the dowager queen Elizabeth Woodville, and the latter's son Thomas Grey, 1st Marquess of Dorset. He acted a courier between the conspirators in England and Henry Tudor's entourage in France, and accompanied Henry on his expedition to England and fought for him at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485.

Their Lancastrian partisanship had led to the forfeiture of the Courtenay earldom of Devon under Edward IV. On the restoration of Henry VI in 1470, John Courtenay, 7th/15th Earl of Devon had been restored to the earldom, but was attainted by Edward IV on his return to power in 1471 and killed shortly afterwards at the Battle of Tewkesbury. Edward Courtenay, as the senior surviving descendant of the previous Courtenay earls, and as a reward for his support, was created earl of Devon by the new king Henry VII in 1485.



Sir Edward (left) married Elizabeth Courtenay, daughter of Sir Philip Courtenay (born 1445) of Molland, granddaughter of Sir Philip Courtenay (died 1463) of Powderham. Edward and Elizabeth his wife were third cousins once removed, sharing a common descent from Hugh de Courtenay, 2nd/10th Earl of Devon.

They had one son, William Courtenay, attainted 1504, imprisoned during the reign of Henry VII and released by his son Henry VIII but died before being formally restored to the earldom. His son Henry Courtenay, 1st Marquess of Exeter was restored in blood and honours and created a marquess in 1525, but beheaded in 1539 for conspiring to place Reginald Pole upon the throne. It seems some never learn.

Sir Edward Courtenay made his will on 27 May 1509 and died in the same month, possibly only hours later. His will was proved at Lambeth on 15 July 1509. He requested to be buried in "the chapel at Tiverton", next to his wife.

This refers to the now demolished Courtenay chantry chapel, within St Peter's Church, the parish church of Tiverton, which once contained no doubt many richly decorated Courtenay family monuments. To this chantry he left lands of the yearly value of £4 for the performance of religious rites. A fine monument, now lost, was erected in the Tiverton chapel apparently to Edward Courtenay and this wife, but was destroyed before the end of the 16th century. The historian of Devon Tristram Risdon (died 1630) wrote of Tiverton:

"In the church yard is a chapel, built by the Earls of this county, and appropriated for their burials (now demolished) where there is a tomb, under which, Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, and his countess were interred, having their effigies in alabaster, sometimes sumptuously gilded, and was about forty years ago to be seen, and which, lamenteth me to write, time hath not so much defaced, as men have mangled that magnificent monument, which had this written thereon, as some have seen:

Hoe, hoe, who lyes here?

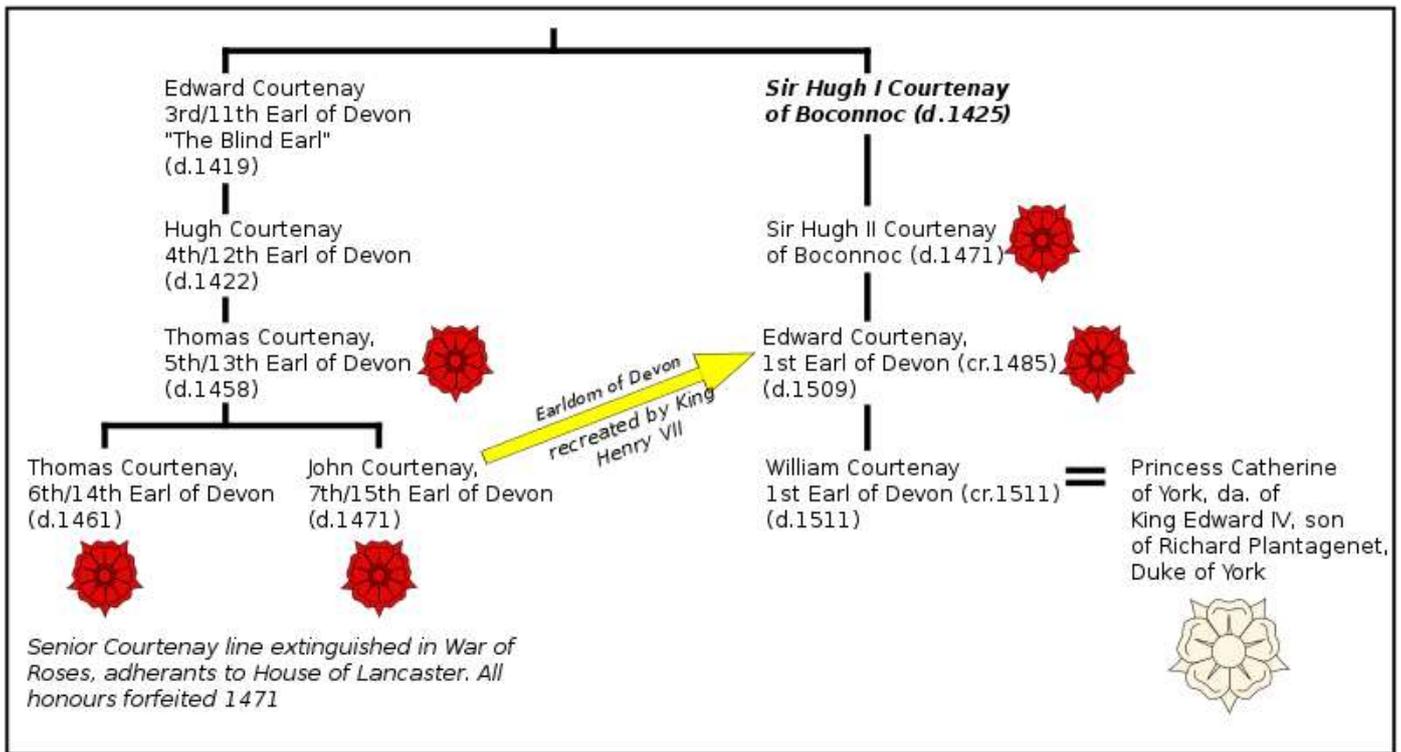
'Tis I, the goode erle of Devonshire,
With Kate, my wyfe, to mee full dere,
Wee lyved togeather fyfty-fyve yere.
That wee spent wee had;
That wee lefte wee loste;
That wee gave wee have."

The Earl's inheritance was disputed and became a celebrated Peerage Case in the 19th century. The analysis in several documents deposited at Westcountry Studies library and the Devon History Centre, Exeter, reveal how the bifurcation of the lineage caused the descendants of the female lines to claim patrimony.

The diagram below, shows the descent of the Courtenay Earls of Devon during the Wars of the Roses. Sir Hugh I Courtenay (d.1425) of Boconnoc was the link between the senior line made extinct following the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471 and the post-War creation of a new Earldom in 1485 by King Henry VII

Diagram showing the descent of the Courtenay Earls of Devon during the Wars of the Roses. Sir Hugh I Courtenay (d.1425) of Boconnoc was the link between the senior line made extinct following the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471 and the post-War creation of a new Earldom in 1485 by King Henry VII

Sir Edward Courtenay (d.1509), great-nephew of the 3rd/11th Earl, fought on the winning side at Bosworth on 22 August 1485, ending the Wars of the Roses and two months later the new King, Henry VII (1485–1509), by letters patent dated 16 October 1485, created Edward Courtenay Earl of Devon (or Devonshire), with the usual remainder to the heirs male of his body. As the son and heir of Sir Hugh Courtenay (died 1471/2) of Boconnoc, Sir Edward Courtenay was the heir male of his family, his father being the son and heir of Sir Hugh Courtenay of Haccombe, younger brother of Edward de Courtenay, 3rd/11th Earl of Devon (d.1419), "The Blind". He united the Tiverton and Powderham lines of the family, having married Elizabeth Courtenay, a daughter of a younger son of the Powderham line. He died 28 May 1509, when the earldom was forfeited by the attainder in 1504 of his son and heir, William Courtenay (d.1511).



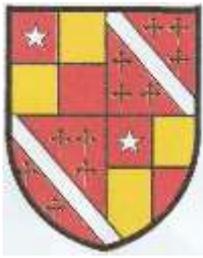
66 Sir John Turberville of West Knighton Dorset. I have mentioned before the difficulty of unpicking details of the participants in the Battle of Bosworth some 535 years later. Here is a good example of how confusions arise. Sir John's father was I believe to have been Sir William Turberville. He was born in 1394, and succeeded his father as lord of the manor in 1424 at the age of 30. His first marriage was to Joan, daughter of Nicholas Toner during which time his four sons, John, Richard, Hugh and Robert were born.

Three further children, Humphrey, John and Joan were born during his second marriage, to Edith, daughter of John Newburgh. We therefore have two Johns by the same father but a different mother. This causes quite a bit of confusion and some aspects of the Sir John we are interested in have been ascribed to his younger brother and vice versa. A nephew also called John has simply added to the confusion. I think I have managed to sort this out satisfactorily but do please bear with me. He was born in 1431 and succeeded his father as lord of the manor in 1451 at the age of 20. He married Alice, daughter of Hugh Bramshott, but their only child or children died, and at his death he was succeeded by his brother Richard. The listing of Escheators of Somerset and Dorset list John, then an Esquire as holding two terms the first being in 1476 and the second in 1479. Escheat in law is the process whereby land and property is transferred to the state upon the death of the holder with no successors. As the word is spelt or and not er it suggests his role was to oversee this transfer as the donor rather than the receiver. If there is a Latin Scholar reading this do help me out here. The next event was in 1484 when a commission was set up to investigate and enquire into alleged treasonous acts committed by him and a fellow William Colyngbourne. I have not been able to record the outcome but we know he took part in the Battle of Bosworth and was knighted there in 1485 by a grateful Henry VII. In September of that year, he was Coroner and Marshall to the household and also Constable of Corfe (Corfe Castle) and Marshall of the Household a position he held to 1502. He was also at various times Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset and also of Wiltshire (where he is often confused with his cousin another John). In 1488 he took part in the expedition to Brittany accompanying King Henry VII and between 1490 and 1502 was also treasurer of Calais. In 1491 he commissioned a Goal in Dorchester and the following year became MP for



Dorset, a position he held for a little over 12 months. In 1494 he was one of the party to receive the French Ambassador on a visit to England. He became MP for Dorset again in 1495, denounced by Warwick in 1497 but in 1499 he was again in a greeting party, this time for the emissaries of the Archduke Philip before actually welcoming the Archduke with others in 1500. He was selected to meet Charles of Aragon at Sherbourne in 1501. He would doubtless had continued as a busy and trusted servant to King Henry II had death not caught up with him on the 3rd September 1502. He was buried in the family vault at Bere Reges (shown left) and lay with his knighted ancestors and successors. In the church at Bere Regis there are also remains of three altar tombs, all with empty matrices

two in the south aisle which probably mark the last resting- places of members of the Turberville family. It is of these that John Durbeyfield, in Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles: A Pure Woman Faithfully Presented*; boasted, "I've got a gr't family vault at Kingsbere (Bere Regis) and knighted forefathers in lead coffins there."



67 John De Vere, Earl of Oxford of Hedingham, Essex, 13th Earl of Oxford KG KB (8 September 1442 – 10 March 1513), the second son of John de Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford, and Elizabeth Howard, a first cousin of John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk (2nd creation), was one of the principal Lancastrian commanders during the English Wars of the Roses.

He was the principal commander of King Henry VII's army at the Battle of Bosworth Field, and again led Henry's troops to victory at the Battle of Stoke Field two years later. He became one of the great men of the King's regime. John de Vere was born on 8 September 1442, the second son of John de Vere, 12th Earl of Oxford. In February 1462 the 12th Earl,

his eldest son, Aubrey de Vere, and Sir Thomas Tuddenham, the 12th Earl's former political opponent in

Norfolk and now a fellow Lancastrian loyalist, were convicted of high treason before John Tiptoft, 1st Earl of Worcester, Constable of England, for plotting against King Edward IV. The 12th Earl was beheaded on Tower Hill on 26 February 1462, and buried in the church of Austin Friars in London. His son Aubrey had been beheaded on the same scaffold six days earlier.



Pursuing a conciliatory policy with Lancastrian families, King Edward allowed John de Vere (pictured left) to succeed his father, and on 18 January 1464 granted him licence to enter on his father's lands. On 26 May 1465 he was created a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Edward IV's wife, Elizabeth Woodville, and officiated at the ceremony as both Lord Great Chamberlain, in the absence of the then office-holder, the Earl of Warwick, and as Chamberlain to the queen. In November 1468, however, he was committed to the Tower, and confessed to plotting with the Lancastrians against the King. He was likely released before 7 January 1469, and received a general pardon on 5 April of

that year. However, by early July 1469 Oxford had joined the discontented Yorkists led by his brother-in-law, the Earl of Warwick, and King Edward's brother, the Duke of Clarence, for the Edgecote campaign. Following the loss at Edgecote on 12 March 1470, he fled overseas to the court of King Henry VI's wife, Margaret of Anjou. In September 1470 he joined Warwick and Clarence in the invasion of England which restored Henry VI to the throne, and on 13 October bore the Sword of State before Henry in a procession to St Paul's. He was appointed Lord High Constable of England, and as such on 15 October tried and condemned for high treason the same Earl of Worcester who had in 1462 condemned Oxford's own father and brother.

In March 1471, he prevented Edward IV's army from landing in Norfolk, and was in command of the right wing at the Battle of Barnet on 14 April of that year, defeating the forces of Lord Hastings. However, this early success in the battle turned to disaster when Oxford's forces began pillaging. Oxford led his men back to the fight, but: "they lost their way in the fog and suddenly emerged on their own army, who mistook the Vere star for Edward's sun in splendour, and met them with a flight of arrows. Whereupon Oxford and his men cried "Treasoune! treasoune" and fled".

After this defeat Oxford escaped to Scotland with 40 men, accompanied by his two brothers, George and Thomas Vere, and the Viscount Beaumont. From there he went to France, where he collected ships and engaged in privateering. Although he was not attainted after leaving England in 1471, his lands were confiscated, and his wife, Margaret, is said to have been subjected to great financial hardship. On 28 May 1473, Oxford attempted an unsuccessful landing at St Osyth in Essex. On 30 September 1473, he seized St Michael's Mount in Cornwall, where he was besieged for some months by John Fortescue. After most of his men had deserted and he had been wounded in the face with an arrow, Oxford was eventually compelled to surrender on 15 February 1474, along with his two brothers and Beaumont.

Oxford was imprisoned at Hammes Castle near Calais, and was attainted early in 1475. At this time his mother, the 12th Earl's widow, was forced to surrender her property to the Duke of Gloucester. In 1478 Oxford scaled the walls of Hammes and leapt into the moat, though whether this was an attempt at escape or suicide is unclear. The new king, Richard III, ordered his transfer to England on 28 October 1484, but before the transfer could be effected Oxford had escaped, having persuaded the captain of Hammes, Sir James Blount, to go with

him to join the Earl of Richmond. It is said that Richmond was "ravished with joy incredible" at this event. Oxford immediately returned to Hammes to bring the garrison there to join Richmond. Oxford commanded the archers and Henry's vanguard using the formation called the Oxford Wedge, which penetrated Richard's army in the shape of an arrow at the Battle of Bosworth, and held Richmond's vanguard in fierce fighting in which John Howard, the Duke of Norfolk and the first cousin of Oxford's mother, who was leading the vanguard of Richard III, was killed. To celebrate the Tudor victory at Bosworth, Oxford commissioned the building of the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Lavenham.

According to Gunn, Oxford was 'immediately recognized as one of the great men of Henry VII's regime'. His attainder was repealed, he was restored to his estates and titles, and received many appointments and grants, including appointment as Lord Admiral on 21 September, and chief steward of the Duchy of Lancaster south of Trent and Constable of the Tower of London on 22 September 1485. He was also appointed the first Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard. He was sworn of the Privy Council, and recognized as Hereditary Lord Great Chamberlain of England. As Lord Great Chamberlain he officiated at the coronations of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, bearing the king's train at the coronation and setting the crown upon the king's head at the coronation banquet. By 1486 he had been invested with the Order of the Garter. He was present at most great court occasions, and stood godfather to the king's eldest son, Arthur, Prince of Wales, in 1486, bestowing on his godson a gift of a pair of basins with a cup of assay, all gilt.

Nor were Oxford's fighting days over. In 1487, he commanded the vanguard at Stoke, the last battle of the Wars of the Roses; was in Picardy in 1492; and in 1497 was one of the commanders against the Cornish rebels at Blackheath. He presided as Lord High Steward at the trial of the Earl of Warwick on 21 November 1499. By 1499, Oxford's yearly landed income had risen to £1600. He entertained the king regularly on his progresses. However, Sir Francis Bacon's story that Henry VII imposed an enormous fine on the Earl for illegally bringing together more than the allowed number of retainers to welcome the king is likely apocryphal.

On the accession of King Henry VIII Oxford continued in high favour, and officiated as Lord Great Chamberlain at the coronation. He resided at Wivenhoe and Castle Hedingham in Essex, and added to the 12th-century keep of the latter and constructed a new great hall and several towers. His jousting helm is in the Bargello in Florence. According to Gunn, he 'kept an outstanding chapel choir', and commissioned Caxton's edition of *The Four Sons of Aymon* in 1489. Oxford also kept a playing company whose recorded performances span the years 1492–1499.

Oxford died on 10 March 1513 at Castle Hedingham and was buried 24 April at Colne Priory. He had no issue by either of his two marriages, and was succeeded as Earl by his nephew, John de Vere, 14th Earl of Oxford, the second but only surviving son of Sir George Vere, third son of the 12th Earl, and his wife, Margaret Stafford, (shown Left) the daughter and heir of Sir William Stafford of Bishops Frome, Hereford.



Oxford married firstly, Margaret Neville, the daughter of Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury, by Alice, the daughter of Thomas Montagu, 4th Earl of Salisbury. Oxford's first wife was the sister of Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick, the Kingmaker, making Oxford the uncle of Isabel Neville, Duchess of Clarence as the wife of George Plantagenet, and Anne Neville, the Duchess of Gloucester and later Queen of England after her husband, Richard, was crowned Richard III. Margaret Neville died between 20 November 1506 and 14 January 1507. Oxford married secondly Elizabeth Scrope, (shown left) the widow of his colleague William, 2nd Viscount Beaumont, and daughter and coheir of Sir Richard Scrope of Bentley, the second son of Henry Scrope, 4th Baron Scrope of Bolton, by Eleanor, the daughter of Norman Washbourne of Wichenford.



They had no children. Elizabeth, Countess of Oxford, died in 1537. She mainly lived at Wivenhoe in Essex when she was not at court, and was buried there. She and her sister Mary, Lady Kingston, were members of the household of Catherine of Aragon and went to the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520. They were mourners at the funeral of Jane Seymour. The Countess bequeathed a gold cross containing a relic of the true Cross to John de Vere, 15th Earl of Oxford

The Earl of Oxford is said to have had an illegitimate daughter, Katherine de Vere (d. after 20-06-1504), who married Sir Robert Broughton, 'one of the richest non-baronial landowners in England'. Broughton appointed the 13th Earl as supervisor of his will.



68 Simon Digby of Coleshill Warwickshire Simon Digby (died 1519) was lord of Coleshill, in Warwickshire, England. He was the second son of Sir Everard Digby, Lord of Tilton and Drystoke in the County of Rutland. Sir Everard and four of his sons were killed at the 1461 Battle of Towton, also a part of the Wars of the Roses.

In 1477, Simon Digby (shown below, left with his wife Alice) was knighted by the Yorkist King Edward IV, but he fought eight years later on the Lancastrian side at the Battle of Bosworth Field. For his services, he was rewarded with extensive lands in Rutland. He also

fought at the Battle of Stoke Field in 1487, for which he received the manor at Revesby, Lincolnshire. The following year, he was appointed Comptroller to the petty customs in the port of London.



When Simon de Montford was executed in 1495 for contributing to the fund of Perkin Warbeck, who was plotting to oust King Henry VII from the throne, Simon Digby was Deputy Constable of the Tower. During de Montford's imprisonment in the Tower of London, the King granted his lands at Coleshill to Simon Digby. Descendants of Simon Digby (Wingfield-Digby) still hold the titles.

Simon Digby married Alice, heir of John Walleys of East Haddon, Devon. They had two sons and three daughters. He died in 1519, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Reginald. He was survived by his wife. They are

entombed in the church of St. Peter & St. Paul in Coleshill.



69 Sir Edward Poynings of Southwark, Surrey. (1459 – 1521)

Edward Poynings was the only son of Sir Robert Poynings (c.1419–1461) and Elizabeth Paston (1429–1487/8), the only daughter of William Paston. He was born at his father's house in Southwark, which became a public house called the Cross keys tavern, and then renamed to become the Queen's Head. His father had been carver and sword-bearer to Jack Cade, and was killed at the Second Battle of St Albans on 17 February 1461. His mother, who married Robert Poynings in December 1459, inherited her husband's property in Kent

in spite of opposition from her brother-in-law, Edward Poynings, master of Arundel College. Before 1472 she married a second husband, Sir George Browne of Betchworth Castle, Surrey, by whom she had a son, Matthew, and a daughter. She died in 1487, appointing Edward as her executor.

Sir Edwards was brought up by his mother. In October 1483 he was a leader of the rising in Kent, Buckingham's insurrection against Richard III. He was named in the king's proclamation, but escaped abroad to follow Henry, Earl of Richmond. He was in Brittany in October 1484, and in August 1485 landed with Richmond at Milford Haven. He was at once made a knight banneret, and in the same year was sworn of the Privy Council.

In 1488 he was on a commission to inspect the ordnance at Calais, and in 1491 was made a Knight of the Garter. In the following year he was placed in command of fifteen hundred men sent to aid the Emperor Maximilian against his rebellious subjects in the Netherlands. The rebels, under the leadership of Ravenstein, held Bruges, Damme, and Sluys, where they fitted out ships to prey on English commerce. Poynings first cleared the sea of the privateers, and then laid siege to Sluys in August, while the Duke of Saxony blockaded it on land. After some hard fighting the two castles defending the town were taken, and the rebels entered into negotiations with Poynings to return to their allegiance. Poynings then joined Henry VII before Boulogne, but the French war was closed almost without bloodshed by the treaty of Étaples on 3 November.

In 1493 Poynings was acting as deputy or governor of Calais. In July he was sent with Warham on a mission to Archduke Philip to gain Perkin Warbeck's expulsion from Burgundy, where he had been welcomed by the dowager duchess Margaret. The envoys obtained from Philip a promise that he would abstain from aiding Warbeck, but the duke asserted that he could not control the actions of the duchess, who was the real ruler of the country.

Meanwhile, in Ireland, a Yorkist stronghold, the struggles between the Butlers and Geraldines had reduced royal authority to a shadow even within the English Pale, and Gerald Fitzgerald, 8th Earl of Kildare, the head of the Geraldines and Lord Deputy, was in treasonable relations with Warbeck. Henry appointed Prince Henry as viceroy, and made Poynings the prince's deputy.

Poynings landed at Howth on 13 October 1494 with a thousand men, and Henry Deane, bishop of Bangor, to act as chancellor, Hugh Conway as treasurer, and others to control the courts of king's bench, common pleas, and exchequer. Poynings' s first measure was an expedition into Ulster, in conjunction with Kildare, to punish O'Donnell, O'Hanlon, Magennis, and other chieftains who had abetted Warbeck's first invasion of Ireland. His progress was stopped by the news that Kildare was plotting with O'Hanlon against his life; some colour was given to the charge by the revolt of Kildare's brother James, who seized Carlow Castle, mounted the Geraldine banner, and refused to surrender when summoned in the king's name. Poynings abandoned the Ulster invasion, turned south, and with some difficulty reduced Carlow; he then proceeded to Drogheda and summoned a parliament. Poynings' Parliament

POYNINGS' LAW was an Act of Parliament (otherwise called the Statute of Drogheda) made in Ireland by Henry VII., in the year 1495, whereby it was enacted that all the statutes in England then in force should be in force in Ireland. It was called Poynings' Law because Sir Edward Poynings was at that time Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

The parliament opened on 1 December 1494, and, after attainting Kildare, proceeded to pass for Poynings numerous acts tending to make Irish administration directly dependent on the Crown and privy council. Judges and others were to hold office during pleasure, and not by patent as hitherto; the chief castles were to be put in English hands; it was made illegal to carry weapons or make private war without license, and it was declared high treason to excite the Irish to take up arms. Further the

statutes of Kilkenny passed in 1366, forbidding marriage or intercourse between the English colonists and the Irish, and the adoption by Englishmen of Irish laws, customs, or manners, were also re-enacted.

Over the centuries, the terms "The Statutes of Drogheda", "Poynings' Law", or "Poynings' Act" have been applied variously by politicians, historians, and lawyers, either to the full set or "statute" of Acts passed by the parliament, or to one of two specific Acts.

An Act that no Parliament be holden in this Land until the Acts be certified into England meant that constitutionally, no parliament should be summoned in Ireland except under the Great Seal of England, or without notice to the English privy council, and that no acts of the Irish parliament should be valid unless previously submitted. This rendered the Irish parliament completely subordinate to that of England. Despite some amendments and promises of repeal, it was not until the Constitution of 1782 that the Irish parliament once more became independent.

While this parliament was sitting, Poynings made another expedition into Ulster, leaving a commission with his chancellor to continue, prorogue, or dissolve it as he thought fit. The Irish retreated, and the second expedition was even less successful than the first. Poynings now negotiated alliances with various septs, chiefly by money payments, and enforced on the inhabitants of the Pale the duty of protecting its borders against Irish incursions. With the help of his under-treasurer, William Hatteclyffe, with whom he was connected by marriage, Poynings endeavoured to reform the finances; but the opposition of subordinate officials largely impaired his success, and Warbeck's attack on Waterford in July 1495 interrupted the work. The lord deputy marched in person against Perkin, who blockaded Waterford with eleven ships, while Desmond, with 2,400 men, attacked it on land. The town held out for eleven days, and then, on Poynings' s approach, Warbeck fled to Scotland.

Poynings was recalled to the English court in January 1496. The Yorkists in Ireland had been dealt with, but Henry was disappointed that Poynings, through his system of subsidising Irish chiefs, and the partial failure of his fiscal reforms, had been unable to make Ireland pay her own way; and he now fell back on the cheaper method of governing by the help of the great Anglo-Irish families. Kildare, who had regained favour, was once more appointed deputy, and the Geraldine supremacy lasted till 1534.



After his return to England, Poynings (shown left) was occupied in the administration of the Cinque ports, of which he was appointed warden in succession to his brother-in-law, Sir William Scot, and Prince Henry. In 1500 he was present at the interview between Henry VII and the Archduke Philip at Calais, and in October 1501 was one of those appointed to meet and conduct Catherine of Aragon to London. He performed a similar office for the Flemish ambassadors who came to England in 1508 to conclude the projected marriage of Henry's daughter Mary to Prince Charles of Castile, and some time before the king's death became controller of the household. He was one of those trusty councillors who were recommended by Henry VII in his will to his son.

Poynings' s offices of controller and warden of the Cinque ports were regranted him at the beginning of the new reign. In 1511 he was again on active service. In June he was placed in command of some ships and a force of fifteen hundred men, and despatched to assist Margaret of Savoy, Regent of the Netherlands, in suppressing the revolt in Gelderland. He embarked at Sandwich on 18 July, reduced several towns and castles, and then proceeded to besiege Venlo. After three unsuccessful assaults the siege was raised, and Poynings, loaded with favours by Margaret and Charles, returned to England in the autumn.

He sat in the parliament summoned on 4 February 1512, probably for some constituency in Kent, but the returns are lost. From May to November, he was going from place to place in the Netherlands, negotiating a league against France. He was similarly employed early in 1513, with the formation of the 'holy league' on 5 April between the emperor, the pope, and the kings of England and Spain. With a retinue of five hundred men, he was present at the capture of Therouanne on 22 August, and of Tournai on 24 September. He was in bad health, and though made lieutenant of Tournai, on 20 January 1514 William Blount, 4th Baron Mountjoy succeeded him. But through most of 1514 Poynings was in the Netherlands, engaged in diplomatic work.

In October peace was made with France, and in February 1515 Poynings returned to England, with a pension of a thousand marks from Charles, and requested leave to go on a pilgrimage to Rome. In March he was appointed ambassador to the Pope, but the embassy never started; and on 7 May, with William Knight (1476–1547), he was nominated envoy to renew the league of 1505 with Prince Charles. On 14 September Poynings returned to England, after four months' unsuccessful negotiation. In the same month, however, the victory of France at Marignano once more cemented the league of her enemies, and Poynings, who was recommissioned ambassador to Charles (now king of Spain) on 21 February 1516, succeeded in concluding a treaty with him on 19 April.

This was the last of Poynings' s major negotiations, and now he spent most of his time at his manor of Westenhanger, Kent, where he rebuilt the castle, or the Cinque Ports. In June 1517 he was deciding disputes between English and French merchants at Calais, and in the same year he became chancellor of the order of the Garter. He is occasionally referred to as Lord Poynings, but never became a peer. In 1518 he was treating for the surrender of Tournai, and in 1520 he took part in the proceedings at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. He was also present at Henry's meeting with Emperor Charles V at Gravelines on 10 July. He died at Westenhanger in October 1521.

Poynings' will is printed in Nicholas Harris Nicolas's Testamenta Vetusta. His estates passed to Henry Algernon Percy, 5th Earl of Northumberland, the grandson of Poynings' s first cousin Eleanor, who married Henry Percy, 3rd Earl of Northumberland.



70 Edmund Hampden of Hampden Buckinghamshire 1451 - 1496

Edmund Hampden was born in 1451, probably in Woodstock Oxfordshire and was the second son to father Thomas Hampden and Mother Margery Hampden (born Popham). Thomas was born circa 1424, in Probably Hampden Hall, Great Hampden, Buckinghamshire, England. Margery was born circa 1420, in Baddesley, Hertfordshire, England.

Edmund had 11 siblings: Isabella Newdigate (born Hampden), Alice Whitney (born

Hampden) and 9 others Edmund married Elizabeth Hampden (born Beselles) circa 1476, aged 25. Hi bride, Elizabeth was born circa 1455, in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England. They had 3 children: William Hampden, his heir and 2 other children. We know little about Edmund, we do know that the Stoners a well-connected Oxford family, much in demand as witnesses and trustees assisted in a land transaction in 1461. Thomas Stonor II witnessed a land transaction for kinsman Edmund Rede, with Richard Harcourt, Sir Edmund



Hampden and others. It is also known that John Harcourt esquire was a gentleman usher of the chamber by 1478 and Edward IV's 'trusted servant', while gentleman Edmund Hampden cousin of Sir William Stonor, was also a member of the household with some powerful backing behind him. Early in the reign of Henry VII around seventy gifts were 'in consideration of the good service..' performed for duty 'beyond the sea and on this side'. Over one third of the recipients were rewarded with grants or offices in the South West, with the remainder evenly spread throughout the South, the Midlands and the North. Recipients include John Halwell, William Knight and Thomas Brown who shared Henry's exile; and others such as Edgebone, Riseley and Blount who crossed to Brittany late in 1484. In the main, however, the grantees rewarded for service 'beyond

the seas' were men not generally recognised as having lived in exile, such as attainted Newbury rebel Edmund Hampden, who of course supported Henry VII.

Edmund died on the 24th August 1496 in Great Hampden, Buckingham at the age of 46. Hampden House still stands and is a wedding venue.



71 Sir John Bicknell. Sir John was a man of war, at the same time he was also a man of God, and played an important part in civil, military and church history in Somerset County. When Parliament was summoned to meet Oct. 6, 1472, at West-minster, John Biconyll represented the United Counties of Somerset and Dorset, until the close of that Parliament, March 1475. He was also sheriff for Dorset and Somersetshire in 1472 and 1473. In 1474. John Biconyll owned the three manors of North Perot, South Perot and Pepilperis, as well as the advowsons of the first two; he also took an active interest in the religious guild founded in 1482, at Croscombe, three miles from Wells, "in honour of God, the Blessed Virgin and St. Anne."

At this time, he decided to back Henry of Richmond, and this ended in his fighting at the battle of Bosworth Field that the triumphant king knighted him on the battlefield, August 22, 1485, together with his two friends, William Courtney and the Baron of Carew.

On his return home, October 4, Sir John Byconill made a curious arrangement with the warden of the Franciscans at Dorchester, as follows:

1. The devout and venerable man, John Byconill, Kt., to be admitted as one of the founders of the Convent on account of his having first established mills on the water running thereby.

2. The Conventual High Mass to be principally granted and appropriated to him.

3. The monks to bind themselves forever to celebrate his decease on the day after the feast of their Holy Father, St. Francis.

4. The same John and such as shall by him be recommended to be prayed for by name every week in the Chapel House.

5. That these ordinances and decrees of the said John, concerning the mills, be punctually observed, namely: First. That there be yearly laid up in a chest, secured under three locks, 40s. for the profits of the mills for repairing them; the chest to be in the custody of the guardian or in the porch. Second. That the brother who is Hebdamadarius, praying for the said, shall at the end of the week receive 6d.; if he neglects to pray he shall receive nothing. Third. That every priest praying from the beginning to the end of the obsequies and Mass for the said John shall receive 4d., and laymen 2d. Fourth. That all profits, after paying the aforesaid ordinations, shall he laid out towards bringing boys into the order, and their education is good manners and learning; and that the brothers so brought up and educated to the perpetual memory of the said John be called Biconyll Friars, and that none of them be called by their surnames.

The recommendation of the said John shall he made in this form: "Pray especially for the happy state of the Devout and venerable man, John Byconill, Kt., and on account of the first erecting mills upon our water, the chief founder of this place, and for his soul, when he shall depart this life."

It is believed that Sir John Biconyll was the son of John and nephew of Chancellor William Biconyll, and the grandson of John Biconyll. In his will, written with his own hand, dated August 15, 1500, he sets apart the profits of certain lands for prayers "for my soul, the souls of Elizabeth, my wife, Johan late my wife, my father's and mother's souls, my godfather's and godmother's souls, the soul of my brother William, and all my brethren and sisters' souls."

Sir John lived at South Perot Court or Manor House, adjoining the west side of the church yard. He married Johan ,Joan or Jane Sydenham for his first wife, she died without issue, and he married second, between 1485 and 1488, Elizabeth (Chokke) Seyntmaur, widow of John Seyntmaur (Seymour), and daughter of Sir Richard Chokke, a family of considerable wealth and antiquity. The second marriage was also without issue. After assisting with the accession of Henry VII, October 1485, Sir John appears to have lived on his estates in Somerset and Dorset, a trusty servant of the crown, and taking an active part in politics. December 23, 1488, he was commissioned to examine how many archers the nobles and knights of Somerset were bound to furnish the king's army for the expedition to Brittany; and in September 1497, when Henry marched to Taunton during the rebellion of Perkin Warbeck, Sir John Bicknell accompanied his Majesty "with a large number of noblemen, knights, esquires, and valiant personages, prepared and readie with all things necessary for the fielde and battaile."

One of the last acts of Sir John Byconill's life was to establish and endow two chantries on April 1, 1501; one in the Lady Chapel of Bishop Stillington, adjoining the cloisters of Wells Cathedral, and the other in the Cathedral itself; "per nobilem virum dominum Johanum Biconell fundatas."

Sir John died August 23, 1502, and was interred "in the sepulture of Glastonbury." After naming certain gifts, he gave the body of his estate to his stepson, William Seyntmaur, making him and his mother "Elizabeth, my wife," executors of his will. His Widow, Elizabeth, died June 3rd, 1504, and her will is the complement of her husbands. One circumstance of both wills is that Sir John and his wife Elizabeth were far in advance of their day in the value they attached to college education as between them both, in their wills, they provided for the support of ten scholars at Oxford University, which was then three centuries old. In spite of their superstitious devotion to priests, as noted in their wills, they certainly regarded the possession of knowledge and sound learning excellent qualifications for life.

In reading the long details of the wills of Chancellor William Bicknell, Sir John Bicknell and his widow, Elizabeth, one is deeply impressed with the earnest spirit and the current religious sentiment of that early English type of men and women of our name and blood. One is also impressed with the utter vanity of planning and endowing for ages to come, for we find arrangements establishing chantries, obits, priests and scholars, legacies to cathedrals, abbeys churches, with ordinances solemnly enrolled, to last for all future time. And yet within a generation, the decrees of the rapacious and capricious Henry VIII, and his "harsh and dogmatic son," Edward VI, confiscated, appropriated all the moneys and artistic treasures of the churches and monasteries, and eventually despoiled and ruined the very shrines and sanctuaries. Gifts and donors were involved in one common doom, and thenceforth the history of the wealthy and powerful Paveley-Bicknells, their descendants and many of their friends, recedes into a mediaeval twilight, obscure to the genealogist. Taken from, Thomas Williams Bicknell's 1913 genealogy Book Chapter II



72 Sir James Blount (died 1493) (sometimes spelt Blunt) was commander of the English fortress of Hammes, near Calais. Born c. 1452 Blount was the second son (possibly third) of Walter Blount, 1st Baron Mountjoy, and uncle of William Blount, 4th Baron Mountjoy. In 1473 James sat in Parliament as the MP for Derbyshire. Like many a younger son, Sir James sought his fortune as a soldier. Having served in the French campaign of 1475, he was appointed captain of Hammes in the following year, which office he filled until 1484 when relieved of it by Richard III following evidence of his conspiring with Henry Tudor.

When in 1484 the Earl of Oxford was imprisoned at Hammes, Blount was apparently persuaded to switch to the Lancastrian side. Blount fled to join Henry Tudor, (the future Henry VII of England, then living in exile in France), leaving his wife in charge. She and the garrison held out for months against Richard III forces, until in early 1485 they surrendered in return for safe passage into France. James then landed with Henry Tudor's forces in 1485 at Milford Haven, where he was knighted. Blount appears as a minor character in William Shakespeare's play Richard III. After the Battle of Bosworth, Blount was given Stafford's property in Derbyshire and the Honour of Tutbury,

When his older brother, John died in 1485 leaving a seven year-old son as heir, Sir James took over the leadership of the Blount's. He was given formal charge of his nephew, the Lord William, in 1488.

In 1486 he returned to Hammes, this time as lieutenant. Blount's duties around Calais and his position as a younger son had left him with little opportunity for real advancement in the north Midlands, He never held a county office in Staffordshire and was taken off the Derbyshire bench on embarking upon his Continental career. Yet in 1485 he was chosen by Henry VII as his steward of the Honour of Tutbury (with all the concomitant offices associated with that office). This was a testimony to his ability and a reward for services rendered. Henry was insecure and needed men like Blount in control of rich sources of patronage such as the Honour and the potent garrisons at Calais. He was also Master Forrester 1485 to 1492.



73 Sir Humphrey Cotes of Cotes Staffordshire, (1428 – 1485) came from an old family. The earliest date for the Cotes family is 1225 where his ancestor Sir Robert De Woodcote is mentioned. The family name appears to change from that date to Cotes or Coates. Sir Humphrey's father Sir John Cotes mother Elizabeth Downton from Herefordshire. Born in Woodmancote or Woodcote, Sussex in 1435 he had 14 siblings. He Married Eleanora Blount and they had three children, daughter Margaretta and sons John and Nicholas. Son, John was a Captain in France in around 1514. Sadly, Sir Humphrey was slain at the Battle of Bosworth. Sir Humphrey Cotes of Woodcote joined Henry's army on route between Shrewsbury to Bosworth around 19 August, at Muster Hill near Woodcote, Shropshire. While on the winning side Sir Humphrey Cotes did not return home, he was killed during battle. He was buried at the church on the grounds of his home Woodcote Hall. Within the church, not always open to the public is an incised slab (Shown right) to Sir Humphrey Cotes and his wife Eleanora.



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Chairman.

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Answers to Our First Quiz

Answers

1. Caledonia
2. Richard (Dick) Whittington
3. Catherine Parr
4. William Pitt (The Younger)
5. 1431
6. Norwegian
7. Julia Gillard (2010-2013)
8. Sir Walter Raleigh
9. Cambridge
10. Smallpox
11. Thomas Farriner (or Farynor)
12. 1939

13. Pablo Picasso
14. Richard Nixon
15. Larry Page and Sergey Brin
16. Emperor Napoleon III
17. Sputnik 1
18. Russia
19. Golden Gate Bridge
20. Orient Express
21. White
22. President Truman
23. Tokyo
24. Howard Carter
25. Hungary

Answers to the Zoom Quiz

Answers

1. Pink
2. Spain
3. A beard tax
4. Interrobang
5. Laughs
6. Constipation
7. Frozen cow dung
8. Graffiti
9. Kookaburra
10. Charlie Chaplin
11. Cow dung

12. Too drunk to sample

13. France

14. Frog

15. Reading

16. The Day Watch

17. False

18. William Shakespeare

19. Greece

20. England

21. Turkmenistan

22. Scoobert Doo

23. A blessing

24. San Francisco

25. Zeedonk