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**THE ESCUTCHEON**

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**The Journal of the Cambridge University  
Heraldic & Genealogical Society**

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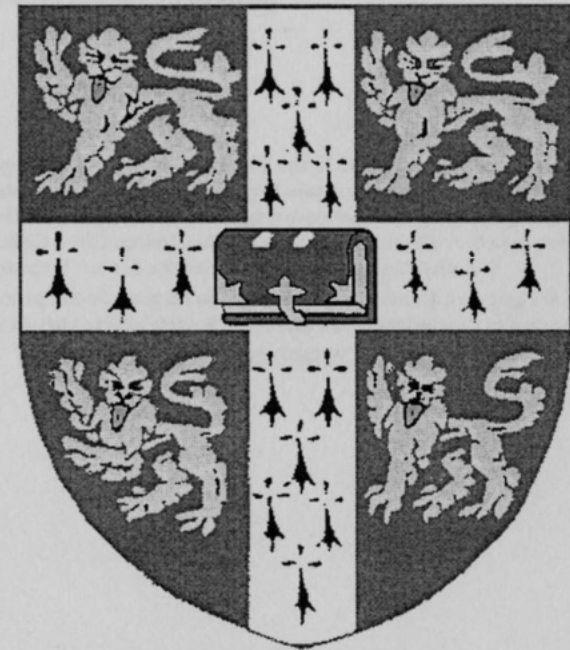
# The **ESCUTCHEON**

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Volume 9 N° 3

Easter Term 2004

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**The Journal of the Cambridge University  
Heraldic and Genealogical Society**

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CAMBRIDGE

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## Society Programme Easter Term.

22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2004	<i>College Probate Courts</i> Peter Jones (King's College)
6 <sup>th</sup> May, 2004	<i>Family Reconstitution</i> Stuart Basten (Selwyn College)
8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2004	<i>Annual General Meeting</i> 3-00 p.m. Thirkill Room, Clare College followed by Tea and Croquet
5 <sup>th</sup> June, 2004	<i>Accession Banquet</i> Peterhouse

Meetings are normally held in the Thirkill Room, Clare College, at 8.45 p.m. unless shown otherwise. It is the custom for members to wear academic gowns to meetings.

Members and guests are encouraged to dine in Hall with the speaker, in which case they should meet in the Thirkill Room, Clare College, at 7-00 p.m. but please give advance notice to the Senior Treasurer:

Dr G Wright (Tel: Cambridge 356388) before 5 p.m. on the preceding Tuesday.

For up to date information about the Society please visit its website at :

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/societies/cuhags>

## The Escutcheon

Journal of the Cambridge  
University Heraldic &  
Genealogical Society



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### *A message from the President*

Easter Term proved a fine end to the year for the Society, with two splendid speaker meetings being capped off in traditional style with the Accession Banquet. It was especially pleasing to see so many members from far a field coming up for the Annual General Meeting.

There are a great many people who contributed to making the previous year so successful, both on and off the Committee. I would like to single out for particular thanks, Dr Gordon Wright, our Senior Treasurer and newly elected Honorary Vice-President, and Mr Derek Palgrave, our Minute Secretary, for their tireless efforts.

It has been a great pleasure to act as President over the last twelve months, as it is to welcome my successor, Mr Tom West of Trinity College. I am sure that the Society will thrive under his presidency and will suitably mark what is the fiftieth anniversary of the CU Genealogical Society. I look forward to seeing you at the festivities! With best wishes,

*Daniel Coughlan*

## CECIL R HUMPHERY-SMITH, O.B.E.

*This year's Birthday Honours List includes our Honorary Vice President, Cecil Humphery-Smith, who has been honoured as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for his services to Education in Genealogy and Heraldry. We offer him our warmest congratulations. We reproduce below a message of appreciation which he sent to his colleagues in which he makes it clear that what has been achieved was really as a result of their joint efforts in these fields.*

After more than 45 years leading the Institute's school of family history forward with its academic and cultural work as a volunteer, it has given me more gratification than I ever could have imagined to have found that the hobbies of my childhood now receive world-wide interest and recognition. Work to raise supporting funds with our research team and artists of Achievements Limited has similarly provided much interest and enjoyment.

The pioneer efforts in which my many friends and colleagues have shared with me through The Institute and in associated organisations in the U.K. and elsewhere have been reaping a wonderful harvest that may one day fully justify the dream passed on to me by my late Godfather, Archdeacon Julian Bickersteth. Julian challenged me to establish the school for the study of the history and structure of the family. That is what our Institute has become.

It has been Her Majesty's pleasure to approve my appointment to an honour that is a significant recognition of the work that my colleagues, Alice and I have done together over so many years. My best thanks to fellow Trustees, members and students, past and present. I shall wear the insignia of an Officer of The Order of The British Empire as a representative of our team, past and present in recognition of our services to education in genealogy and heraldry.

Long live Family History.

God save the Queen.

## THE PROBATE JURISDICTION OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Peter Murray Jones - Fellow & Librarian, King's College, Cambridge

*Dr Jones addressed the Society in the Thirkill Room at Clare College on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2004. This article is based on his remarks on that occasion.*

From the beginning its founder Henry VI seems to have intended to erect in the College of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Nicholas a peculiar jurisdiction, independent of Cambridge University. To this end he procured no less than nine papal bulls from Pope Eugenius IV, dated 29 November 1445, exempting the College from the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop and Archdeacon of Ely, the Chancellor of the University and all other judges ordinary, and placing it under the sole jurisdiction of the Bishop of Lincoln. Jurisdiction included cognizance of personal actions, corrections, and probate, and defined the precinct of the College as all the soil of the College enclosed within stone walls on the south, north, and west, and on the east still to be enclosed, 'as it lies on the west side of water called 'Le ce''. No other college in Oxford or Cambridge claimed such a jurisdiction.

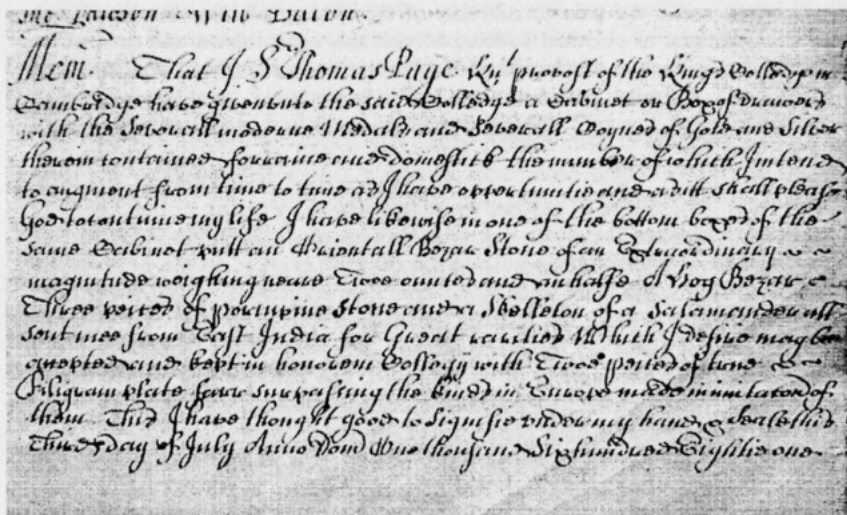
The first recorded exercise of probate jurisdiction by the Provost took place on 22 February 1451/2, when the 1449 will of a William Roskyn was proved. At first business was slow, only fourteen wills in the fifteenth century. In the next century things picked up, though there were never more than eight wills proved per decade. For the seventeenth century the average per decade rose to twelve, and even the Civil Wars did not affect the figures drastically. After the 1720s though there is a distinct tailing off in the number of wills proved, and the very last will is that of Edmund Holt Esquire, late Senior Fellow of King's, proved in 1794. Why did people want to make use of the College jurisdiction in the first place? Convenience for those living in the precincts was no doubt part of it, as perhaps was cost, though we do not know what the Provost charged for his services. Many of those whose wills were proved in King's wanted to remember individuals connected with the College, or the College itself, in their bequests, or to take advantage of Chapel burial and post-mortem masses and prayers, before the Reformation swept all that away.

There are in all 221 wills and letters of administration in the Ledger Books at King's, spread over nearly 350 years of probate jurisdiction. The original wills do not survive, only the copies made as a record of probate. Probate jurisdiction applied to College tenants as well as members, plus perhaps some servants who worked rather than lived there. Not everybody at King's chose to have their wills proved



there, for between 1504 and 1729 there are 62 wills and administrations for King's people registered at the Vice-Chancellor's Court.

The most important people whose wills were proved in King's were six Provosts; they lived very well by Cambridge standards in palatial housing on King's Parade. The first is John Argentein, doctor to royalty and alchemist. He described himself in his will, dated 25 January 1507/8, as 'unworthy priest and penitent sinner'. The main purpose of the will seems to have been to specify the brass memorial still to be seen in the Chapel. He wanted to be shown in front of a crucifix praying, with the verses, 'crucified redeemer of humanity, son of the virgin and of God, remember me' and with a legend stating that 'here lies the body of John Argentein, student of art, medicine and of scripture, let whoever passes by say a prayer that Argentein may live in Christ'. Most spectacular of all Provosts' wills was that of Sir Thomas Page, made 3 November 1680. He left lands in Harrow to relatives, and many valuable cups and jewels to Fellows. The most intriguing item was in a codicil, leaving the College a cabinet of curiosities with a huge bezoar stone, three pieces of porcupine stone, and the skeleton of a salamander, all from the East Indies. Alas there is no trace now in King's of Sir Thomas Page's cabinet.



Codicil to will of Sir Thomas Page, Provost, 1681. Ledger Book 7, fol. 6.

Before the Reformation, there was often quite a lot of liturgical detail, as with Vice Provost John Sampson, whose will of 3 August 1517 requested masses to be said in the 'new church' at the altar of 'scala celi' (we do not know exactly where that was in the Chapel), and made bequests to a fellow, conduct, scholar, and chorister. After the Reformation there were no more masses, but there were still requests for

particular priests or fellows to give a funeral sermon. Wills were uniformly written in Latin before 1517, when we find the first example of a will written in English for Steven Woode.

Bequests of clothing and of beds are the most common sorts of mobile property represented in the King's wills; gowns of various colours and feather beds go to relatives or sometimes to fellow scholars, but books and musical instruments also turn up quite often. The will of John Node 'clerke of the kingis college ...seke of body and hoole of mynd' in 1519, is one of the most elaborate examples. He left service books to Trumpington, Grantchester, and St Botolph's churches, medical books to Dr John Grey, and 'all my tools a stillatory a serpentyne a gryndyng stone with a mortar and all my bookis save those that be bequethed' to Mr Dussing, astronomer and alchemist. The College was left all his pricksong books, and John Glasier his clavichord boards with their plan, and a painting frame.

Sometimes we get glimpses of the academic business of the College. In the year 1560 George Smythe, B.A., left books to his colleagues that included his own notebooks of divinity and philosophy. He must have thought these compilations would be useful for their studies. Most often though we see in these bequests the desire to be remembered by friends. The wills recorded in the Ledger Books can give us invaluable insights into the ways of life and death in the college, as well as glimpses of the townspeople and college servants who had close ties to the college.

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## INFORMATION ON LINE

New websites relating to heraldry, genealogy and related topics are appearing almost daily. Listed below are some of the more useful URLs:

Access to Archives: [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk)  
Free access to Civil Registration Indexes: [www.freebmd.com](http://www.freebmd.com)  
Free access to Directories: [www.historicaldirectories.org](http://www.historicaldirectories.org)  
Commonwealth War Graves Commn: [www.cwgc.org/cwgcinternet/search.aspx](http://www.cwgc.org/cwgcinternet/search.aspx)  
DNA (family Tree): [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)  
Imperial War Museum (London) Collections: [www.collections.org.uk](http://www.collections.org.uk)  
Proceedings of the Old Bailey: [www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org)  
The National Archives: [www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk](http://www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk)  
The London Gazette: [www.gazettes-online.co.uk](http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk)  
Immigrants to the USA: [www.ellisland.org/search/index.asp](http://www.ellisland.org/search/index.asp)  
Burkes Peerage, etc: [www.burkes-peerage-baronetage.com/sites/](http://www.burkes-peerage-baronetage.com/sites/)

## A DATABASE FOR A CHURCHYARD

Harold Hopkins

I started out originally to try and make a database for the churchyard, so that I could access information readily whenever relatives called and wanted to know about their forebears, but it ended up in fact as a database of not only their dates of death but of births, marriages, etc. I wanted to have all the information on one line across a landscape A4 page.

The first field is for the **surnames** plus a comma and **christian names**. Field two is for the **register number**. Here I had a problem because I had a lot of Bishop's transcripts which did not have register numbers recorded. I did a quick count of the transcripts and found that there were 2376 names involved. So from the first of the Bishop's transcripts at 1599, I started with 0001 and continued through to 2376. Then for the old register, the one before our current one, the numbers went from 3000 to 3800. Then 4000 upwards for our current register. As is always the case one learns about names that have been omitted from the registers for some reason or other and here I have decided to add a suffix 'X' to indicate that it was 'ex' or not in the register.

The third field is for the **date of death**, this is something which is now being recorded but wasn't done in all churches before 1990 so one can only get such info from memorials and relatives. The fourth field is the **date of burial** here one has to be careful of the old calendar when dealing with the months January to March. The fifth field is for the **memorial inscription** number and this is followed by the sixth field which is for the **buried with register number**.

Then field number seven is for the **age**, and this in turn is followed by the **date of birth** and then field eight is for **date of baptism**. Field 10 is for the **names of parents or remarks**, while field 11 is for **date of marriage**. Finally the 12th field is for the **spouse/maiden name**. Thus we end up with a complete historical span about those who are in our churchyard. Because I have the advantage over most researchers in that I have personal photocopies of all the transcripts and registers from 1599 up to the present day. I can use them to work out and check for dates of baptism/birth and even marriages.

As far as the churchyard is concerned I keep a running transcript of all the entries, as it helps to prevent relatives being deposited in the wrong grave. It is also essential to keep a records of whether a grave is a double or not. One grave that was recorded as a double actually has three people in it with the top most person, just two feet from the surface. A concrete slab was put on top to prevent any problems, then it was grassed over. The delight about doing it on a database and including a register number sequence, means that I can enter any date group whenever I like and get the database in date order by sorting of the register numbers. When the database is complete, printed copies will be made available to interested bodies.

## FAMILY HISTORY AND CONSERVATION

Derek Palgrave

Progress in family history studies usually depends on gaining access to the necessary evidence, usually extracted from archives but occasionally from archaeological sources like artefacts, buildings, and, perhaps more importantly, monuments and gravestones. As family history has gained in popularity over the last thirty or so years, original archives have come under a great deal of pressure. More and more researchers have been seeking out original documents, such as parish registers, and their condition has been gradually deteriorating.

Whilst a number of individuals, either working on their own or in conjunction with newly established family history societies, have transcribed and indexed much of this type of material, many manuscripts remained at risk. It soon became clear to archivists that a comprehensive programme of microfilming needed to be introduced so that researchers could use copies of microfilms instead of original documents. The Mormon Church was a pioneer in this field and it has taken the initiative in arranging for specialist teams to microfilm a very wide range of archives all over the world. Literally millions of films are held in a special safe repository in Salt Lake City, but copies are freely available virtually anywhere in the world through a local Mormon Family History Centre. Incidentally There are around 100 such centres within the U.K.

The availability of microfilm and microfiche has very much facilitated the process of transcription and indexing because this activity no longer needs to be undertaken in a Record Office or Library. Volunteers often can carry out this task at home, frequently using home computers from which printed versions of an archive can be reproduced. Computerised data can also be transferred to a CD-ROM or even placed on a website. The generation of surrogates in this way can achieve the objective of ensuring the conservation of the original records but it does require meticulous transcription of the data at every stage of its transformation. Perhaps the next step, now under way, involving the digitisation of data so that searchers can view images of original documents, will resolve difficulties which may have been introduced as a result of transcription errors.

In general the measures, outlined above, introduced to conserve archives have been remarkably successful, but there are no straightforward parallels which apply to artefacts, buildings and monuments. Of course many artefacts become heirlooms which are handed down through the family and, as long as they are not too fragile, may survive many generations. However their significance can be lost so they become prime candidates for disposal by later descendants. As far as buildings



associated with particular families are concerned, much depends on the nature of the structure, the economic circumstances of those involved and modern planning decisions. Descendants are often able to identify an ancestor's residence from a Census Return only to find that it had been demolished when the area was redeveloped. As for monuments, there is an expectation that they will last indefinitely and there are many thousands of gravestones in churchyards and cemeteries which will bear this out.

Regrettably, graveyards and cemeteries can no longer be regarded sacrosanct. Natural erosion and vandalism have damaged many monuments quite apart from pressures associated with burial ground maintenance which have often led to the removal and relocation of headstones, etc., to facilitate regular mowing. There is also a growing tendency to consider burial grounds as *nature reserves* requiring very little or no maintenance: under these circumstances the whole area can become overgrown, with trees and bushes forcing stonework aside and causing widespread damage. It is therefore important that family history societies and local conservation groups maintain their current initiatives to record monumental inscriptions in all burial grounds before it is too late.

One would have thought that monuments inside churches might have fared rather better than those outside. One the whole this is indeed the case but both in urban and in rural situations many churches are being declared redundant. The Pastoral Measure of 1968 made provision for churches which were no longer in use to be removed from the Parochial System. There were three options. Firstly the church could be sold or otherwise disposed of for some other purpose. At least one church became an Archive Repository, whilst others became private houses. Secondly the church could be demolished and the site used for a new purpose. Thirdly the church could be vested in the Redundant Churches Fund set up by the government to maintain and care for those churches which were of outstanding architectural or historical merit.



In 1969, my attention was drawn to the plight of the Church of St Peter North Barningham which rarely had been used for regular worship since World War II. The incumbent at nearby Matlaske who was responsible for several churches in the vicinity indicated that a redundancy petition had been lodged with the Diocese. Furthermore a number of residents in the area were of the opinion that the best course of action was the demolition of North Barningham Church. They also had recommended that the monuments inside the building, erected to various members of the Palgrave Family during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, be transferred to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

The ultimate outcome was very much up to the church authorities both in the Diocese and beyond and the views of the Trustees of the Redundant Churches Fund.

It seemed to me that it was important for the views of the Palgrave family to be expressed. The Palgraves were essentially a Norfolk based family and had been associated with North Barningham from the 14<sup>th</sup> century through to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. They had lived in the nearby Hall, managing the land and almost certainly would have been involved in maintaining the church for almost 500 years.

These points were made in a pamphlet which was circulated to bearers of the Palgrave name throughout the U.K. The general consensus was that the church should be conserved and the monuments left in situ. These views were conveyed to the church authorities and other bodies having an interest in the matter. Among the latter was the Norfolk Society which, in the early 1970s set up a Committee for County Churches, under the chairmanship of Lady Harrod. She suggested that it was important to demonstrate that there was a lot of interest in North Barningham Church by organising services there. Following her advice a Patronal Festival Evensong was organised to celebrate St Peter's Day in 1973. The event was well supported by local people, members of the Norfolk Society, members of the Palgrave family and the Press who provided excellent coverage in the local newspapers which subsequently generated quite a lot of correspondence.

Within a few weeks the Palgraves met again and formed themselves into a Society in order to pursue the issues in a more formal way. The following year the Diocesan Pastoral Committee began a detailed consideration of the future of North Barningham Church. Its secretary indicated that vesting in the Redundant Churches Fund was the preferred option but the matter had to be approved by the Church Commissioners who in July 1974 formally recommended this course of action to the Privy Council. An architect was appointed to initiate urgent repair work which was sanctioned in February 1975. Work began in May that year and continued intermittently until early 1976. In August, the Advisory Board inspected the completed work and the church was finally vested in the Redundant Churches Fund on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1976.

Throughout this period and every year since one special service has been held at North Barningham usually on or close to the Feast Day of St Peter in June. The Fund has always taken the view that its churches should be used for occasional worship and other appropriate events. The fact that so few people lived near the church had been the main reason for the redundancy petition so when it came to preparing the church and churchyard for the annual service it has devolved upon the members of the Palgrave Society to undertake cleaning, simple maintenance and grass-cutting. The Society has been carrying out this task for over 30 years. It seems a small contribution in order to ensure the continued conservation of the church and its magnificent monuments.



## BOOK REVIEWS

**Hugh Montgomery, *The Montgomery Millennium* (London-Berlin-Tokyo: Megatrend International Expert Consortium Ltd, 2002).**

Throughout Normandy there are place-names which evoke many of the principal families of medieval England: Bohon, Beaumont-le-Roger, Vernon, St. Germain de Montgommery. But the Montgomery family, uniquely among the Anglo-Norman aristocracy, gave their name to a county. Around 1070 Roger de Montgomery, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury, built a motte and bailey castle (Hen Domen) to guard the Rhydwhiman ford in Powys, and around this developed the town and county of Montgomery.

Dr. Hugh Montgomery, President of Megatrend University of Applied Science, Belgrade, has produced an interesting collection of material relating to his family name, in a supplement to *A Montgomery Genealogy*, published in 1992. In particular, the genealogical tables covering the Montgomeries of Comber, Ballyrush and Hillhead provide information that is otherwise difficult to obtain. The earlier genealogies have to be handled more circumspectly. At the start of the Montgomery story are several unsupported family trees of the type to which J.H. Round took an axe. Even the most imaginative of Elizabethan heralds would not have dared to produce a descent like that on III-7, which relies upon the crackpot notions of Yuri Stoyanov, author of *The Hidden Tradition in Europe*.

Although they gave their name to a Welsh county and left their mark on Shrewsbury, principally by founding Shrewsbury Abbey, it was in Scotland that the Montgomeries, like another Anglo-Norman family, the Bruces, principally established themselves. A curiosity of heraldry is that the arms used by the Scottish Montgomeries were *Azure three fleur-de-lis or*. Like the French royal arms, these derive from a pre-armorial device, in this case a single fleur-de-lis on the seal of John de Mundegumbri of Eaglesham. The charter to which this attached has been dated c. 1170, but in fact dates from after 1204. The confused history of the early Scottish Montgomeries is dealt with by Sir James Balfour Paul in vol. III of *The Scots Peerage*, published in 1906, where he dismisses much of the speculative genealogy in Sir William Fraser's *Memorials of the Montgomeries, Earls of Eglinton*. He states that the first member from whom the descent is clear is John Montgomerie of Eaglesham, who fought at Otterburn and died c. 1400. The earliest member of the family settled in Scotland was Robert de Mundegumbri, an associate of Walter FitzAlan, the first High Steward of Scotland, who is recorded in the 1160s. It is likely that he was a descendant of Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury, but there is no direct evidence to support either Sir William Fraser's claim of a descent from Roger's fifth son Arnulf, castellan of Pembroke Castle, or Dr. Montgomery's assertion of descent from Roger's eldest son, Robert de Belesme.

Following the plantations, the Montgomery story is also an Irish one. The author traces his descent from one Col. Alexander Montgomery, who went to Ireland about 1640. He was a younger son of Alexander Seton, 6th Earl of Eglinton, who had taken the name, arms and title of Montgomerie after the death of his cousin Hugh Montgomerie, 5th Earl of Eglinton, in 1612. Col. Alexander Montgomery was also almost certainly the ancestor of Field Marshal Montgomery, although clear evidence only takes the line back to an eighteenth-century rector of Moville Inishowen in Co. Donegal.

The family tree of Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, as given in table 35, is woefully inadequate, and can be filled out from readily accessible printed works. For the record, the children of Rt. Revd. Henry Montgomery by his wife Maud Farrar were: 1, Sybil Frances (Queenie) (1882-1889); 2, Harold Robert, Senior Provincial Commissioner, Kenya (1884-1958); 3, Donald Stanley, K.C. (1886-1970); 4, Bernard Law, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein (1887-1976); 5, Una (1889-1936), md. Andrew Holden; Desmond (1896-1909); Maud Winifred (Winsome), md. 1stly Lt. Col. William Holderness, 2ndly Maj. Gen. Sir Godwin Michelmores; 8, Brian Frederick, Lt.-Col. (1903-1989); 9, Colin Roger, rector of Vryburg (1901-1959). The genealogy of the Earls of Eglinton in table 20 omits the date of death (21 April 1966) of the 17th Earl. There are numerous typographical errors, and if I were to be Hans Sachs to Montgomery's Beckmesser, the sound of hammering would be constant.

In his foreword Dr. Montgomery remarks: 'I believe that there is an obligation on the part of great and noble families to keep a history and genealogy of their ancestors and their deeds for posterity, particularly at this time when there seems to be a concerted effort to either forget our history or to distort it in the name of political correctness'. This aim is a laudable one, and is best achieved by scrupulous attention to historical evidence. It is to be hoped that in due course Dr. Montgomery will produce a fuller history of the Montgomery family, which is an ideal case for a one-name study.

*Nicholas Rogers*

**Graham Bartram, *British Flags and Emblems* (The Flag Institute and Tuckwell Press, East Linton, Scotland, 2004 ). ISBN 1-862232-297-X**

Flags and their usage are changing quite rapidly to reflect corresponding political and cultural changes. Consequently the appearance of this new book by Graham Bartram, Secretary of the Flag Institute, is most timely. It has attracted a Foreword by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh who quotes from the Service of Consecration when Colours are presented to military units, where the flag is described as "*an abiding symbol of our duty ...and a sign of our resolve to guard, preserve and sustain the great traditions...*" quite apart from its principal function as a means of identification.



The book starts with a short history of the Union Flag referring to its evolution from in terms of design and specification from 1606 onwards. It then deals with U.K. national flags, those of Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories. There are ten pages devoted to flag etiquette including where and when they should be flown, their use as funeral palls, their display on uniforms and vehicles, etc.

Royal flags, standards, banners and, indeed, coats of arms and cyphers, are featured at some length including examples of their use in Commonwealth countries. Naturally there are some references to Royal and personal heraldry. However military flags and insignia tend to dominate the rest of the book. Not only are there detailed illustrations of naval, army and air forces colours and emblems, but also flags reflecting the joint services and the Ministry of Defence. Where military operations involve units from several nations then it is appropriate to fly flags signifying, say, N.A.T.O. or the United Nations so details have been included.

Government Departments and officials are shown to have their own characteristic flags mostly based on the blue ensign with departmental emblem or cypher. This design appears to have been adopted by Police, Fire Service and Coastguard. However the Environmental Agency and the Forestry Commission have opted for a plain flag with a modern logo and title in words.

There are several pages of examples where local authorities in the form of county, city, town and district councils have adopted their own flags. These are matched by the Church with Archbishopial and Diocesan flags, and also Nonconformist and various non-Christian groups with their own flags. Furthermore, associated youth groups like Boys' and Girls' Brigades, Scouts and Guides, Cubs and Brownies, etc. have their own flags and pennants.

Quite apart from the Royal Navy the book reveals that there are many specialist maritime authorities and other organisations which use flags, including signalling flags. Among these are Trinity House, the R.N.L.I., the Port of London Authority, Eastern Sea Fisheries, Aberdeen Harbour Board, major shipping companies like Cunard, P & O and Caledonian-MacBrayne, and a very substantial number of established yacht clubs including the Royal Albert Yacht Club, the R.A.F. Yacht Club, the Army Sailing Association, the Medway Cruising Club, the House of Commons Yacht Club, etc

The author has drawn our attention to several other groups and individuals who regularly use flags, singling out examples of flags for special awards such as the Queen's Award for Enterprise and the Queen's Anniversary Prize. In fact he has provided us with an extraordinarily comprehensive survey of contemporary British Vexillology, which is extremely well illustrated in full colour on virtually every one of the 122 pages. The cover price of £30-00 for a specialist publication of this nature is not unreasonable, and I would like to think it will find a place on many of our members' bookshelves.

*Derek Palgrave*

**Donald Roger Barnes, *Armorial Bearings of the Surnames of Scotland, Volume 1*, Panther Incensed, Auckland, NZ, 2004. ISBN 0-476-00511-6**

This small A5 booklet is the first in a series planned by the author. It features coloured illustrations of just 52 shields which are very well drawn and reproduced in the 20 pages available. On the rear inside cover is a map of Scotland showing the geographical distribution of names in terms of their places of origin, the locations of the Chiefs, traditional territories, etc. There is also a glossary explaining the meanings of the terminology used in the blazons, and there some notes on the spelling and pronunciation of certain Scottish surnames.

The author has cross-checked the data that he has presented against 17 standard sources all of which are quoted. He points out that virtually all the entries in the booklet are undifferenced arms of named Chiefs even if there is no current Chief, in which case the design has been inferred from ancient records.

This booklet is well produced and well presented: it was a great pleasure to read. There seems little doubt that ultimately the series will develop into a first class work of reference for those with more than a passing interest in Scottish heraldry.

*Derek Palgrave*

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

Date	Event
14 July, 2004	<b>Heraldry Society Summer Reception</b> St Brides, EC1
6-8 August 2004	<b>Our Heraldic Heritage</b> Residential Course at Madingley Hall
26-30 August, 2004	<b>Family History Festival Loughborough</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference hosted by the FFHS Details P.O. Box 2425, Coventry, CV5 6YX



- 3 September, 2004      **Heraldry Society Visit**  
Charterhouse, EC1
- 4 September, 2004      **Family History Fair**  
Conference Centre, Llandudno
- 6-11 September, 2004      **Heritage for the Future**  
International Congress for Genealogical & Heraldic Science - Bruges
- 11 September, 2004      **Great North Fair**  
Family & Local History  
Gateshead
- 17-19 September, 2004      **Heraldic Weekend**  
Heraldry in the Province of Norroy  
International Hotel, Derby  
Details from Heraldry Society
- 22 September, 2004      **Heraldry Society Lecture**  
Irish Heraldry: Royal Roots, Republican Inheritance
- 25 September, 2004      **Yorkshire Coast  
Family History Fair**  
Scarborough
- 30 October, 2004      **Family History Day  
Conference**  
Sussex
- 19-21 November, 2004      **Land & Manorial Records**  
Weekend Residential Course  
Canterbury
- 29 Nov -4 Dec 2004      **The National Archives**  
Kew  
Closed for Stocktaking
- 1-3 April, 2005      **Heraldry Conference;  
Sherborne**  
Details: S Friar, Glebe House, Folke, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 5HP

## NOTICES AND GENERAL NEWS

### NEW RESOURCES GUIDE AND APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The University of London, together with the Greater London Archives Network (GLAN), has received generous funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) Active Community Fund to produce a brochure *Looking at the past: a guide to resources*. This brochure is designed to meet the information needs of family and local historians, genealogists, archaeologists, Friends and supporters of libraries and archival repositories and independent researchers, who are keen to explore the widest possible range of document and electronic resources available to them in their fields of study.

Copies of the brochure are available from the University of London Library at Malet street, London, WC1E 7HU, but may be seen on the website <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/awardpast.shtm#>. The University of London Library (ULL) is keen to foster links with regional and local groups in this field. A group visit to the Library, to see its resources at first-hand could be arranged for those who are interested. The ULL website contains full information about current research and special collections in the broad arts, humanities and social sciences, including early printed books, manuscripts and manuscript studies and there is a currently an exhibition for visitors.

Any individuals who may be interested in volunteering opportunities at ULL, to work with original archival documents and manuscripts should contact Christine Wise, Head of Special Collections (email: [cwise@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:cwise@ucl.ac.uk)).

### COLLEGE OF ARMS NEWSLETTER

The first edition of the College of Arms Newsletter appeared in May 2004. It is scheduled to be published at quarterly intervals and will be available to anyone who enters his or her name and email address on the mailing list.

Its purpose is to keep interested members of the public up-to-date with the activities of the College and its Officers. It is the intention to publish details of new grants and to this end 14 of the most recent ones are listed, five of which were to institutions. Where any of the officers have been in the news this will be reported so it was interesting to read that Rouge Croix, David White, a CUHAGS Vice President, had appeared on the television programme, *Medieval Lives*, discussing chivalry with the presenter, Terry Jones.

Contributions to books and periodicals will be noted as in the case of an article about the College of Arms in the magazine, *Despatches*, written by former CUHAGS President, Peter O-Donoghue, now undertaking researching for the College.

## CUHAGS SCARVES

Some years ago, largely as a result of the enthusiasm of Society committee member, Isobel du Bois, a scarf was commissioned and a small stock produced for sale to the membership. The scarf, like those for most of the Cambridge Colleges, was made up of coloured stripes of varying widths. The colours in sequence were Gules, Or, Argent (fimbriated Purpure), Or, Gules. The result was very striking and so popular that the stock was soon exhausted.

Following recent enquiries from members, the Executive Committee has decided to acquire some new stock. The retail price will be £16-00 so if you would like to place an order please contact Dr G.Wright at Clare College, Cambridge.

## Editor's Postscript

The Society has been very fortunate this Academic Year in that many of our speakers have generously contributed articles featuring the subject matter of their talks. This worked out very well in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms, each with four speakers, so there were several articles forthcoming. During the Easter Term there were only two speaker meetings so it has been necessary to supplement our contributions with additional material provided by members of the Society. I am most grateful to those who offered their services in this way.

I hope that other members will take advantage of the opportunity to write about some aspect of genealogy or heraldry in which they have become involved. This is your magazine and should reflect the interests of its membership. One of my other activities is the compilation of the *Family History Digest*, which is a collection of short abstracts of articles published every six months by the Federation of Family History Societies. It is my task to enter these into a database and sort them by topic to provide a convenient current awareness guide which is incorporated in the FFHS house magazine.

Recently I have noticed that several societies are running articles submitted by their own members entitled "My Favourite Ancestor". I am sure everyone could write about at least one such a person in his or her family line. After all genealogy is not just about drawing out a family tree and placing ancestors on the appropriate branch or twig. It is more to do with biographical accounts of real people. It is fascinating to discover what they were like, what they did for a living, what made them tick, did they have any traits which you can recognise in yourself?

You may need to consult more archival and other sources than hitherto but I believe that it will be a worthwhile challenge and I look forward to hearing from more of you next term.

Derek Palgrave <palgrave@one-name.org>

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*Earl Marshal*

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