

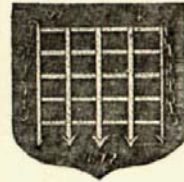
HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1912.



* KING WILLIAM & MARY
1689.



KING GEORGE III
1797

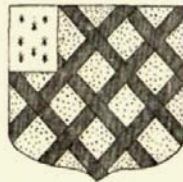


BOROUGH OF ROMSEY
1672.

HIGH STEWARDS



EARL POWLETT



EARL OF GAINSBOROUGH
1682.

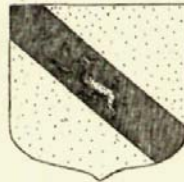


SIR JOHN ST BARBE

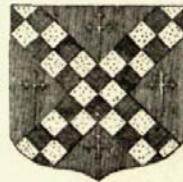
RECORDERS.



UNKNOWN.



ROGER GOLLOP.
1668.



EDWARD FOYLE
1611.



ELLIS MEWES.
1684.



JAMES CROSSE
1732.



EDWARD POORE.
1741.



JOHN MISSING.
1780.

PHOTO-LITHO. SPRAGUE & CO. LONDON.

T. S. Delt.

ARMS IN TOWN HALL, ROMSEY.

THE ARMS IN THE TOWN HALL AT ROMSEY.

BY MRS. SUCKLING.

In the Council Chamber at Romsey hang thirteen Coats of Arms, (measuring about 2 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 9 inches, which have followed the fortunes of various Town Halls belonging to the municipality, and are said to have been placed there "at the expense of the Corporation" to mark their esteem for certain "High Stewards and Recorders" who have deserved well of the town.

In Dr. Latham's collection for a history¹ of Romsey, which he commenced to write in the year 1779 (covering a period of nearly three centuries of the town's history) he gives a description of the old Town Hall said to have been in existence in 1628.

It adjoined the Hundred Bridge,² and consisted of two apartments below, one occupied by the Town Serjeant, the other, close to the water, was a cage or prison.

The room above was used as a Town Hall and measured 22 feet by 18 feet. It was entered from the street by four stone steps and appears to have been pannelled and decorated with the royal and other arms, which Dr. Latham evidently intended to properly catalogue, but he appears to have left the list uncompleted.

¹ Add. MSS. British Museum, No. 26, 774, in seven Vols. Sold after his death at Evans' in Pall Mall, on the 22nd December, 1837, for £10 15s. od., and purchased by the British Museum in July, 1866.

² Latham MSS. "Unconnected Papers."

The following is the copy of his "High Stewards of Romsey" from Latham MSS., Vol. I., p. 215 :—

- " 1608 Henricus Comes South Ord. Gartirii.
- " 1609 Earl Powlett. Marq. Winton.
- " 1682 Earl of Gainsborough. Arms painted in Town Hall.
- " 1754 Henry Lord Viscount Palmerston chosen High Steward in room of Charles Duke of Bolton, deceased.
- " 1757 Henry Lord Viscount Palmerston.
- " Henry John, son of latter."

Of the history and institution of the office of High Steward in Winchester, Alderman W. H. Jacob, J.P., of that city, has kindly communicated the following :—

" In 1582 it was agreed that for the direction, defence and maintenance of the city, and the rights, liberties, and priveledges of the same ; there shall be from henceforth elected one High Steward of this city, who shall be called and known by that name, who, for the execution of the same office, shall enjoy one annuity or yearly fee of twenty nobles, to be paid at the feast of the Annunciation of our Lady B. V. M."¹

Judging from Dr. Latham's list the oldest coat of Romsey's High Stewards is that of Paulet (" Sable, three swords in pile, points in base argent, pomels and hilts or "). The question is, did this coat really belong to the holder of the office in 1609 or to some later Marquis of Winchester holding sway when the Corporation boasted a Town Hall, and the hanging of armorial bearings in municipal buildings was in vogue ? At all events, there are several entries in the Corporation papers pointing to other High Stewards

¹ In Baigent and Millard's "History of Basingstoke" we read that towards the close of the reign of Henry VIII., Lientenants were introduced as representatives of the Crown to keep the Counties in Military order. About that time some of the oldest Boroughs placed themselves under some powerful neighbour whom they designated a "High Steward," the office being honorary and carried out by deputy.

than those in the Latham list, *vide* the following entry in the "unconnected papers" for the year 1671:—

"Item.—For painting the escutcheons of the King's Arms, the Lord Chancellor's Arms and Mr. Gollop's £6 10s. 0d."

Who was this Lord Chancellor? for the only Arms which were identified by Latham are described by him as "Sable, two scymeters crossed argent, handled or, between two leaves or. Crest a Stork on an embattled tower."

In the same year, 1671, when William Kent was Mayor, the Corporation paid "For a pickle for the Sturgeon provided for the High Steward. Also "paid Edward Day for a table for the King's Arms and Town Arms, and other wainscot at the Town Hall." The latter are still extant, viz.:—Romsey's Portcullis with the date "1672" and the initials "W. K." But the King's Arms at present in the Council Chamber bear the date underneath "1797." In 1686 there is an entry in the accounts of two and six pence "to the painter for altering the letters in the King's Arms. By this we gather that there were Arms belonging to King Charles the Second, and that the initials were altered for his brother, James. Further, in 1686-7 money was expended "On the Soldiers when the King passed through the Town," also £1 10s. 0d. for twelve yards of serge for a carpet for the Town Hall" (probably the same occasion). Also paid the Recorder for coming from Winchester when the King came through the town £1 1s. 0d.

There is also a receipt of the 13th October, 1686, from William Web "for a coat of arms for the Corporation." It is not clear if this last date is 1686 or 1688, but in the Mayoralty of Stephen Rolfe the sum of £1 15s. 0d. was spent "for beer and faggots when the King and Queen were proclaimed" and twelve shillings "on Coronation Day." Also four shillings "for cleaning the Muskets." The dates appear to have been rather carelessly entered, and this was of course for William and Mary (proclaimed 13th September 1688; Crowned 11th April, 1689). The Arms dated 1697, are said by heraldic scholars, not to be correctly blazoned for William and Mary who bore "quarterly, 1st

and 4th, England and France ; 2nd Scotland ; 3rd, Ireland. With the Dutch Arms on an escutcheon and impaled with the Arms of Great Britain and France for Queen Mary." These Arms, which in their neglected state were thought to be the Arms of James the First, were, in 1910, cleaned at the expense of Col. St. John Griffiths, when the date 1697 was discovered.

Turning to Latham's list of High Stewards, it will be seen that the Earl of Gainsborough, in 1682, followed Earl Paulet of 1609, but there is a Coat of Arms of St. Barbe, with the Ulster Badge showing that it belonged to Sir John St. Barbe created a Baronet by Charles the Second on the 30th December, 1663). These Arms are not mentioned by Dr. Latham, yet, in the Corporation papers, there is the following for 1681 :—

" Paid £2 8s. 6d. for a treat for Sir John St. Barbe at the White Horse." But whether this "treat" was in recognition of his position as Lord of Broadlands, or in the capacity of High Steward, does not appear. Possibly he held office several times, for his arms impaling those of Fiennes belong to his second marriage, after the year 1710.

In 1692 Edward, third Baron Noel, was High Steward for Romsey. He was created Earl of Gainsborough on the 1st December 1682. He married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton (sister of the unfortunate Lady Rachel Russell) and died in 1689. It is, of course, merely conjecture that Charles Paulet, second Duke of Bolton, was ever High Steward for Romsey, but he must have been well known in the town by reason of his connection with Lyndhurst and the New Forest, for according to Collins¹ he went to Holland in the reign of King James II., and came over with the Prince of Orange at the Revolution, wherein he was very serviceable. He carried the Queen's Orb at the Coronation on the 11th April, 1689, was Member of Parliament for the Borough of Southampton in 1692, Knight of the Shire in 1697, and Vice-Admiral of Hampshire. On the death of his father he became Duke of

¹ Collins "Peerage," Vol. I., p. 88.

Bolton, and on the accession of Queen Anne, in 1702, was made a warden of the New Forest, and afterwards Bailiff of Burley and the New Forest at Lyndhurst. He married secondly in 1697, the Lady Henrietta Crofts, and died in 1723."

During all that time one of the Romsey Magnates was "Walter Godfrey¹ of Lee Manor Esquire," High Sheriff in 1717, who in 1695 had married Margery daughter of Oliver St. John of Farley Chamberlayne (sister to the wife of Ellis Mewes, Junr.) and dying in 1735, bequeathed to his daughter Henrietta Godfrey his "Gold Tobacco Stopper" which was a present from her God Mother the Duchess of Bolton. The Arms of Sir John St. Barbe recall the local vicissitudes of the rebellion, for he was the only surviving son of that John and Grissell St. Barbe (whose tomb attracts so much attention in Romsey Abbey) there buried on the same day in September 1658, she at the age of 22 and he in the 42nd year of his age. He was friend of the Major's and of Richard Cromwell at Hursley. The latter laments on his "untimely decease as a loss to the nation" in a letter to his brother-in-law John Dunch of Baddesley, describing his death as a "Providential stroke" (probably some accident). Richard Cromwell's marriage had been negotiated by Colonel Richard Norton the great Parliamentary soldier whose daughter, Honor, in 1682 married John St. Barbe, who after her death in 1710 was united in marriage to her cousin Alice Fiennes, a grand-daughter of William, first Viscount Saye and Sele. Her arms, Azure three Lions rampant or, are impaled with St. Barbe in Romsey Town Hall. Apparently this was the last coat to be painted, for although the Temples did so much for the town the fashion of armorial decorations seems to have fallen into disuse. Sir John St. Barbe died in August, 1723, when his executors sold Broadlands to Henry Temple, created Viscount Palmerston (1722) who died High Steward on the 10th June 1757. He was succeeded in his title and estates and in his office of High Steward, by his grandson,

¹ Will proved 15th October, 1735.

Henry Temple, born in 1739, who died on the 17th April, 1802, when all passed to Henry John Temple, third Viscount, the celebrated premier with whom ended the High Stewards of Romsey.

THE RECORDERS OF ROMSEY.

DR. LATHAM'S LIST.

- 1608. John Moore, first recorder.
- 1652. Richard Peare.
- 1657. Mr. Hyde.
- 1658. Resigned.
- 1660. Recorder said to be dead.
- 1668. Roger Gollop (when chosen not found).
- 1681. Edward Foyle, of the Inner Temple in room of Gollop deceased.
- 1684. Edward Foyle resigned.
- 1684. 21st December, Ellis Mewes of Winchester chosen.
- 1702. James Crosse.
- 1735. Mr. Crosse still recorder.
- 1741. Mr. Crosse deceased. Mr. Poore chosen in his room.

John Missing.

R. W. Missing.

JOHN MOORE

at the time of his appointment to be Recorder of Romsey (1608) was Sergeant-at-Law, and living at North Baddesley Manor, near Romsey. In 1596 he was Recorder of Winchester, according to Alderman Jacob, and soon after must have married Dulcibella, daughter of James Pagett, of Grove Place, Nursling,¹ widow of William Paulet of Paultons, who died 1595-6. John Moore is described as "of Paultons," so probably resided there with her until her death on the 26th May, 1602, when her son, William Paulet, succeeding to Paultons, Moore removed to North Baddesley, which he purchased in that year of Chief Justice Fleming. He died on the Western Circuit in 1620, and was buried in North Baddesley Church under an Armorial Tomb described by the

¹ "Notes respecting Grove Place, Nursling," by B. W. Greenfield, Hampshire Field Club Papers, Vol. iii., p. 115, 1895.

Rev. G. W. Minns in his "North Baddesley and the Knights Hospitallers." It is interesting to note that Anne Moore (1601-1637) a daughter and eventual co-heiress of the Sergeant, married her father's "Clerk," Edward Hooper, of Boveridge (1593-1664). He was Recorder of Southampton and Lord of the Manor of Chilworth in the right of his wife, and was buried with her in Cranborne Church under the Arms of Hooper impaling Moore. A strong Parliamentarian, Edward Hooper excited the wrath of Symonds, the Dorset diarist, who calls him "a rebel and no gentleman."

RICHARD PEARE.

In the Town Chest of Romsey is a letter from Richard Peare addressed to "Mr. Mayor and gentlemen," signed "Richard Peare," and dated "8th July, 1658," in which he resigns the recordership of Romsey, remarking:—"It is now about twenty years since the Corporation was pleased to honor me their Recorder" (illegible). "And as the recordership came to me upon the resignation of a Hyde (illegible) on this my present resignation of the place (illegible) to elect and settle therein another Hyde, and oblige him that shall ever be ready to serve the Corporation."

(Signed) "RICHARD PEARE."

Latham says that he was succeeded in 1657 by a Mr. Hyde, who resigned in 1658, but who this was and also who was the Hyde that Peare succeeded is not proven.

Richard Peare was third son of Richard Peare of Gods Hill, Isle of Wight, gent, and matriculated at Hart Hall, Oxford, on the 23rd October, 1618, aged 16. Barrister of Law and of the Middle Temple he died on the 15th, May, 1668, and was buried in the Temple Church. His wife, and son Richard, died of the Plague, and were also buried in the Temple on the first of September, 1665. His legal career was closely connected with Pistor Hyde (of the family seated at Eldon near Romsey). In the "Admissions" in the Records of the Temple for May 1st, 1628, Mr. Pistor Hyde is described as "only son and heir apparent of Roger Hyde, of Romsey, Hants, Gent, specially bound with Daniel

and Edward Appleford." In 1635 " Mr. Pistor Hyde to the Chamber of Richard Peare, and John Champneys, in Brick Court, on the surrender of the former." . . . " Called to the degree of the Utter Bar 8th May, 1635, Edward Apleford and Pistor Hyde." . . . " 1659 Mr. Richard Peare, an ancient of the Utter Bar shall be admitted into the Chamber in Brick Court of Mr. Pistor Hyde, a Barrister, and Mr. Clarke, on the death of the former, during life." The Hydes of Eldon will be found in Berry's Hampshire Pedigrees, where Roger Hyde is seen to have descended from the Hydes of Denchworth, Co. Berks. He married Joan, daughter and heiress of Tristram Pistor of Eldon, and is probably identical with the " Roger Hyde, Widower aged 53 " who was licensed to marry on the 15th of June, 1635 at St. Bennetts, Fish Street, London, to " Catherine Allen aged 40, Widow." In the Romsey Chest is an Indenture, dated 1637 between Roger and Pistor Hyde and Walter Godfrey, regarding the sale of land to the latter at Eldon.

GEORGE WITHER.

In the Latham List this Recorder is said to have been elected in 1658 and to have been " deceased in 1660." In replying to a query as to identity recently put to the Rev. R. Bigg Wither he says that " He is known in the Family History as George of Winchester," and was a direct descendant of George Wither of Many Down." " He was born about 1620 and was a Barrister-at-Law of the Middle Temple. He was second son of Henry Wither of St. Olaves, Southwark, and married first in 1641 to Anne, sister of James Serle, and secondly in 1657 to Catherine Chester (sister-in-law to Nicholas Love). George Wither left her an annuity in his will desiring her to be careful and loving of his daughter Mary, who later married her cousin, William Wither of Many Down."

ROGER GOLLOP

is said by Dr. Latham to have been " the first Recorder of Romsey to have his Arms placed in the Town Hall, among those various gentlemen who, having deserved well of the Corporation have, at its expense, had their Arms painted

as a memorial of their appreciation." The date of his appointment appears to have been uncertain, but in the list of Recorders of Southampton he is said to have been there elected in 1662, and to have retained that office until his death in 1681. Also, that he was one of its Members of Parliament in 1658 and 1659 and that "when Charles the Second visited the town in 1669 he was received at the Bargate by the Mayor and Corporation, and Mr. Gollop made a long speech upon his knee." He matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, on the 18th November 1631, aged 17, as "son of Richard Gollop of North Bowood, Dorset." B.A., 11th February, 1633-4. M.A., 14th November, 1636. Barrister-at-Law and the Inner Temple 1636. In 1671-77 and 1678 there are entries in the Town Records of Romsey for payments of one pound and of three pounds "for holding the Sessions," and he also appears in various villages as Justice of the Peace for marrying persons in that capacity. He bore for his Arms "Gules on a bend or, a Lion passant guardant sable," which arms cover the remains of his son George in Romsey Abbey. In 1652 he purchased the manor of Stanbridge Earls, repairing and enlarging it in the following year, probable for the occupation of his only son George (also of the Middle Temple) who was married at Winchester in May, 1666, to Catherine, daughter of John Foyle, and there resided with her until his death in 1685. Roger Gollop died in 1681, but since his burial is not recorded at Romsey, he probably resided at Southampton, dying in the "Mansion House" bequeathed to him in 1650 by his Uncle, George Gollop, Alderman of Southampton, which "house was situated on the West side of the street called English Street, with gardens and orchards thereunto belonging, extending to the Castle walls." The will of his widow, Elizabeth Gollop, was dated at Stanbridge on the 13th of November 1688, in which she left her property to her "daughter-in-law, Catherine Gollop."

EDWARD FOYLE.

The Arms of "Foyle of Hampshire," Gules a Saltire Chequy, or and gules, between four cross crosslets fitchee

argent. Crest a cross crosslet, fitchee argent, between two wings expanded chequy or and gules, which still hang at Romsey, were painted for Edward Foyle on whose appointment in August, 1681, the Corporation expended £2 4s. 6d. at the White Horse when Mr. Foyle was chosen Recorder.

Doubtless his family connections obtained for him these honours from the municipality, for he was not only of the old family of Foyle of Kimpton, but his mother, Catharine Strange, was the heiress of Somerford Keynes (which property he later inherited), and his brother, Robert Foyle, had married Anne, daughter of Philip Leigh of Testwood, while he himself had espoused, at Timsbury on the 4th February, 1680, Mary, daughter of Edward Fleming of North Stoneham by his wife, Catharine Hooper of Heron Court. "Edward Foyle," says Latham, "resigned the office of Recorder on the 18th December, 1684, on moving from Awbridge to Somerford Keynes."

ELLIS MEWES.

Born 1670. Died 1709.

Succeeded Edward Foyle in the Recordership of Romsey on the 21st December, 1684. He also acted in his legal capacity for Oliver Cromwell (junior) of Hursley in his great lawsuit with his tenants at the end of the 17th century. He was, it is said, nearly related to Peter Mewes, the "Fighting Bishop" of Winchester (1684-1706) and bore the same Arms, namely:—Paly of six or and azure, on a chief gules three crosses pattee of the first. A very interesting account of the Mewes family will be found in *Notes and Queries* (11 s. III., February 11th, 1911, also in "O. S." XII., 369).

Ellis Mewes, who was at one time Mayor of Winchester, married (apparently as his second wife, in 1666) Christian, daughter of Oliver St. John of Farley Chamberlayne (by Constance, daughter of Walter Dawle of Lanston). He was buried beside her in Winchester Cathedral, under a slab bearing his family Arms, on the 26th June, 1702. His son Ellis Mewes, on the 6th December, 1699, married his first

cousin, Frances St. John (Obiit S. P., 25th March, 1700) sister of Walter Godfrey's wife, Margery, on whose death without male heirs, Mewes succeeded to the Farley Estates, and assumed the name of St. John, by letters patent.

JAMES CROSSE.

Recorder of Romsey from 1702 to 1741. "Matriculated at New College, Oxford, on the 28th September, 1695, aged 19. B.A., 1699, and M.A., 1702," and was of the Middle Temple in 1704. He was "son of James Crosse, gentleman, of Southampton Town," and was, apparently, of the Somerset family of that name, since he bore their Arms, Sable on a fesse in Chief two Mulletts argent pierced gules. He was also Recorder of Winchester from 1727 to 1741, and in the list of freemen for 1714 of that City he is styled "Esquire."

EDWARD POORE.

Born 1704. Died 1780.

Was "Sworn Recorder" of Romsey "before the Grand Jury Assembled" in 1741. He was son of Edward Poore of Andover by Eleanor Parker, and matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, on the 4th of December, 1721, aged 17. He was Barrister-at-Law and a Benchet in 1751, Recorder of Salisbury, and Member of Parliament in 1747-54 for Downton in 1736, dying at his house in the Close at Salisbury on the 19th May, 1780.

The Gentleman's Magazine in recording his decease says that "he was also formerly Recorder of Romsey in Hampshire." His rather imposing Arms, which hang at Romsey, will also be found on his handsome monument in Salisbury Cathedral, there erected by his daughters. The Arms are quarterly first and fourth, argent a fesse azure, between three mullets gules (for Poore of Rushall) second and third. Sable a bucks head cabossed between two flaunches or (for Parker Lord Morley). The monument says that "he derived his descent from Philip Poore, the founder of this Cathedral, A.D., 1220." On the same Tomb are the Arms

of Poore with Mullins in pretence for " Rachael, wife of the said Edward Poore, and daughter and heiress of George Mullins, M.D., of the Close, by Rachel, daughter of Strode Bingham of Melcomb Bingham, County Dorset, who derived his descent from the brother of Robert Bingham, the immediate successor of Bishop Poore." Edward Poore died May 19th, 1780, aged 76. His wife died June 16th, 1771, aged 63, without heirs male.

JOHN MISSING.

1780—1793.

John Missing, who became Recorder in 1780, was of Stubbington near Titchfield, whence he dated several letters to the Corporation relative to their legal affairs, notably in 1793, advising them to " enlarge and repair " their " Town Hall by raising a rate " (a proposition which " the Court unanimously rejected "). He would appear to have been son of Thomas Missing of Stubbington, Member of Parliament for Southampton in 1722, whose sumptuous monument in the old church at Stubbington is still surmounted by the same Arms as hang in Romsey Town Hall. A lengthy and florid description sets forth that " Thomas Missing, Esquire, died at Stubbington on the 6th July, 1733, possessed of a large fortune, acquired by honest abilities. . . . "

In the Gentleman's Magazine for that year his obituary notice describes him as having been " an Eminent Merchant and Contractor for the victualling of Gibraltar."

In the Town Chest at Romsey is preserved a letter, addressed " to Mr. Warner Attorney at Law," signed " R. W. Missing," dated on the 22nd July, 1793, announcing the death of John Missing the latter's " honored father." " An event," he says, " which I believe will cause a friendly tear." He goes on to beg Mr. Warner's kind offices to procure him the Recordship in his father's place.

This was followed, on the 5th August, by a letter to the Mayor, making the same request, and the application would appear to have been successful.

RICHARD WILLIAM MISSING.

1793—1830.

In the Law Lists Richard William Missing is described as "of Titchfield" of the Western Circuit; and in 1815 he is styled "Recorder of Romsey" until 1830 when his name disappears. In the Town Records there is an account of a Meeting held on the 5th October, 1804, "present the Mayor of Romsey, Richard Missing, Esquire, Recorder, and others"; when it was "presented that the Common Jail of this town is too small for the purpose, there being only one small apartment for the reception of all kinds of persons." . . . The Corporation met again on the 22nd of January, 1814, "at the New Town Hall," and again on the 13th of June, 1818, to pass a "resolution of thank to Lord Palmerston, Mr. Freeman Heathcote, and Mr. Fleming for their liberal offer of subscriptions towards the "New Town Hall." Richard William Missing was interred beside his father at Titchfield on the 23rd December, 1827, "beloved and deservedly regretted," and was the last of the Recorders to hang his Arms in the Town Hall at Romsey.