

## Seals of some Somerset Families during the Middle Ages

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THE seals which are described in the following pages are taken chiefly from two seventeenth-century manuscripts. They form only a part of the number illustrated in these collections.

The first manuscript belongs to Dr. Harold Bowditch of Brookline, Massachusetts. Dr. Bowditch is a well-known heraldic scholar. He bought the manuscript in May 1931 from Mrs. Lewis A. Barber of Brookline, whose son had bought it some years previously in New York. There is nothing known of its origin. It consists of forty-five pages, loosely bound together and looking as if they had formed the part of a larger work. The pages were numbered some time after they had been written, and pages 5 to 8 are missing.

The book consists of drawings of seals, and sometimes the charter is transcribed. It is the work of several different hands, though it is probable that some of the hands belong to one man. The chief compiler had the initials S.R. The work was done in the early seventeenth century. Page 30 is headed 'Ex Visitatione Roberti Glover Somerset Comitatus Staff. 1583'. On page 54 there is the note 'Haec carta fuit indentata et nunc 1609 est penes Tho : Dilke de Mackstok castro milite'. There are also references to Joseph Holland, Sir Hugh Cholmley, George Purefey of Drayton, 1603, and Humphrey Burton of Coventry.

The second manuscript presents no problem. It is a book of seals belonging to the College of Arms. It was compiled by Augustine Vincent (1584 ?-1626) who was Rouge Rose pur-suisant 1616, Rouge Croix 1621 and Windsor Herald 1624. A brief account of this distinguished antiquary will be found in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

Two seals are taken from the *Aspilogia* of J. C. Brooke (1748-94), F.S.A., Rouge Croix 1773 and Somerset Herald 1774.

This consists of two volumes of drawings and engravings of seals and is the property of the College of Arms. I have also referred to an interesting collection of prints of seals, compiled by Charles Combe (1743–1817), F.S.A., the famous numismatist. It is the property of H. Bradfer-Lawrence, Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries. Reference has also been made to a manuscript of Sir William Dugdale (1605–86) in the Bodleian Library.

BOWDITCH MANUSCRIPT

Page 14, no. 13. Drawing. Hand 1.

Russell and Gorges.

Elenor wyffe to Theobald Russell.

Circular Seal; within a device formed by a square and a quatrefoil, with inner border beaded, a shield; in each of the foils a lozenge.

Shield. *On a chief, three roundles*, (Russell) impaling :  
*Lozengy*. (Gorges.)

Lozenges. Top and bottom : *Lozengy*.

Dexter and sinister : *On a chief, three roundles*.

There is no date given to this seal, but there is a certain amount of information about the owner. Eleanor was daughter of Ralph de Gorges of Wraxall, who died 1323/24.<sup>1</sup> She married Theobald Russell, son of Sir William Russell of Kingston-Russell, co. Dorset,<sup>2</sup> and at the death of her brother Ralph de Gorges without issue Wraxall became her inheritance and passed to her second son Theobald Russell.<sup>3</sup> She probably married again, and in that case is the wife of John Pecche who is mentioned in a fine for land in Wraxall in 1331.<sup>4</sup> Inheriting the estate Theobald Russell assumed the name and arms of Gorges. The lozengy coat came to the Gorges through the marriage of Elena de Moreville, heiress of Wraxall, to Ralph de Gorges, grandfather of the owner of this seal.<sup>5</sup> It is not quite certain which of the Gorges first bore the lozengy coat

<sup>1</sup> Nicholas, *Siege of Carlaverock*, p. 336.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 336.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 336.

<sup>4</sup> *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xiv, p. 146.

<sup>5</sup> Collinson, *History of Somerset*, iii, p. 156; *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xv, p. 160, Gerard.



in place of the whirlpool, but it is probably the son Ralph de Gorges II who adopted it. In Charles Roll (c. 1295) Rauf de Gorges bears *Argent, a whirlpool azure* <sup>6</sup>; but in the Carlawerock Roll (1300) he is thus described.

Tout son Harnois et son atir  
Avoit mascle de or et de asur.<sup>7</sup>

The assumption of the lozengy coat led to a dispute with John de Warbleton, whose right to the arms was recognized in 1347 at the siege of Calais by a commission headed by Henry, Earl of Lancaster.<sup>8</sup> Theobald Russell, alias Gorges, differenced his arms with a chevron gules.

The arms of Russell were *Argent on a chief gules three bezants*.<sup>9</sup>

Page 14, no. 14.

Margaret, the wife of William Martin.

Circular Seal: within a triangle a shield, on each side of the triangle are three roundels. Small rosettes complete the design.

Shield. *Two bars* (Martin) impaling: *A maunch* [Hastings].

Roundels. (i) *Three leopards* (England).

(ii) *Barry an orle of martlets* [Valence].

(iii) *Chevronny* [Clare].

William Martin, Lord Martin, born c. 1294 died *s.p.* 1326. He married Margaret daughter of John de Hastings, by his second wife Isabel, who was daughter of Hugh de Despenser, Earl of Winchester, and of Alianore, daughter of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester (1243–1329), and of Joan of Acres, daughter of King Edward I. The first wife of John de Hastings was Isabel, daughter of William de Valence and Joan de Munchensi.<sup>10</sup> The appearance of the Valence arms in this seal must be regarded as unusual.

Page 15, no. 3. Drawing. Hand 1.

Martin.

Robertus Martin de Ivelton et Margaret sa femme.

<sup>6</sup> Charles Roll, ed. Armytage, no. 102.

<sup>7</sup> Nicholas, *op. cit.*, p. 74.

<sup>8</sup> Nicholas, *op. cit.*, p. 336.

<sup>9</sup> Foster, *Some Feudal Coats of Arms*, p. 169.

<sup>10</sup> *Complete Peerage*, viii, p. 538.

Circular Seal: broken.

Two shields, the third is missing.

(i) *Crusilly a chevron.*

(ii) *Ten roundles.*

Between the shields is a *lion passant*.

According to Gerard the Martins obtained Yeovilton by the marriage of Robert Martin, eldest son of Sir Robert Martin, with the daughter and heiress of Peter de Yeveleton. Gerard says that this Robert is described as Robert Martin of Evilton in a deed dated 1341/42.<sup>11</sup> A Robert Martin and Margaret his wife are party to a fine for lands in Wynfred (Winford) and Saltford in 1338.<sup>12</sup> Margaret may have been a Bisset, whose arms were *Azure ten bezants*, and who were connected with Saltford by marriage with a coheir of Edmund Bassett of Saltford in the time of King John.<sup>13</sup>

Page 16, no. 9. Drawing Hand 1.

Drokenesford.

Thomas de Drokenesford.

Circular Seal: within an irregular cinquefoil a shield couché.

*Three spreadeagles.*

Crest, out of a wreath, on helm and mantling.

*A demi-eagle rising.*

In the Braikenridge Collection of documents at Taunton Castle there is a grant of the manor of Alston, co. Somerset, to Guy de Bryan, by Thomas de Troxford, dated 12 June 1345. The seal is attached.

Circular; 1½": red wax; within an asymmetrical quatrefoil, a shield couché: cabled border. *Three spreadeagles.*

Crest, on helm and mantling: *A demi-eagle wings elevated holding in its beak a roundle.*

Legend: S' Thome de Troxford.

Seal attached by doubled tag.

This is the same seal as appears in the manuscript.

Alston was held by Thomas de Drokensford in the reign of Edward III.

<sup>11</sup> *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xv, p. 183.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, xii, p. 189.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, xv, p. 94.



This seal adds another coat to the many arms which are attributed to members of the Drokensford family.

(i) John de Droknesford bore at the battle of Falkirk 1298, *Quarterly or and azure four roses counterchanged*. Foster (*Some Feudal Coats of Arms*, p. 71) identifies him with the Bishop.

(ii) Philip de Droknesford, son and heir of Philip de Droknesford, grants lands in Oakhampton, which formerly belonged to Sir John de Droknesford his uncle, 1332. Seal armorial. Shield. *Quarterly four swans' necks addorsed and coupéd, a label (3), or as described in the Calendar of Wells Cathedral Manuscripts, Quarterly, four conical hats in chief a label of three points*. Legend . . . HILIPPI DE DROKNES . . .

(*Calendar of the Manuscripts of the Dean and Chapter of Wells*, II, p. 598.)

(iii) Drokensford, co. Essex, bore : *Or six eagles* . . . originally the arms of Tarry, whose heiress married Drokensford (Burke). Tarry is not in Burke, and is probably an error for Tanny who bore *Or six eagles sable* (Papworth).

(iv) A Tudor Book of Arms Harleian MS. No. 2169, ed. Foote, p. 41.

“a byschoppe of Bath” *Quarterly azure and or four caps counter-coloured*.

(v) The tomb of John de Drokensford Bishop of Bath and Wells 1309–24. This is described by Jewers, ‘Heraldry of Wells Cathedral’, p. 85, and in the ‘Visitation of 1591’ (*Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, v, p. 28). *Quarterly or and azure Four swans' necks coupéd counter-changed*.

Page 50, no. 6. Hand 2.

Powlett.

Noverint &c. nos Johannem Poulett filium et heredem Johannis Powlett mil. et Alianorem uxorem meam constituisse in loco nostro dilectos in Christo Rob. Halswik et Johannem Collins nostros attornatos ad recipiendum nomine nostro seisinam de maneriis de Melcombe, Milverton et Ottercombe infra hundreda de Northpederton, Milverton et Ottercombe in com. Somerset secundum formam cuiusdem cartae Edw. Hungerford mil. et Alex. Hody. Datum 35.H.VI. = 1456/57.

Two seals.

1. Circular. Shield. Quarterly 1 & 4. *On a chief two pierced mullets.* [St. John]

2 & 3. *Three water bougets.* [Ros]

Crest, on helm and mantling: *A falcon, wings elevated, gorged with a coronet.*

On either side of the shield, *two lions sejant guardant addorsed, holding banners.*

Dexter: *Three lions rampant.*

Sinister: *Two leopards crowned.* [De la Mere]

Legend: *Sigillum armorum Johannis Poulett domini de Basing et de Noney.*

2. Circular. *A peacock in his pride.* (not on a shield.)

John Paulet was son of Sir John Paulet of Nunney, co. Somerset, and Constance daughter of Sir Hugh Poynings, son and heir of Sir Thomas Poynings, Lord St. John of Basing. Constance became one of the coheirs of her grandfather after her father's death in 1426. His grandfather on the paternal side was Sir William Paulet, who married Eleanor sister and heir to Sir Elias de la Mere of Nunney. He married Eleanor daughter and coheir of Robert Ros of Gedney, co. Lincoln.

On the sinister banner the crowns may be an error on the part of the compiler.

It is perhaps not without interest that in Vincent's Seals<sup>14</sup> there is the seal of Robert Ros. Vesica seal. Shield suspended by a guige from a tree.

*Three water bougets.*

Legend. *S' ROBERTI ROS DE GEDNEY.*

Page 29, no. 2. Hand 3.

Pecche.

*Inter dominum Reginaldum Luneday et dominum Almaric*

*Pecche ex altera.*

Circular seal.

Shield.

*A gurge.*

Legend: *+ Sigillum Amarie.*

Below is written *S Amari Pecche.*

<sup>14</sup> *Vide infra.*



Sir Thomas Peche (Edw. iii Roll) bore *Ermine a gorge gules*.<sup>15</sup>

It is possible that this coat came from the marriage of Eleanor Gorges with John Peche.

The family of Peche held the forestership of Exmoor by the marriage of Nicholas Peche with Sabina de Plecetis in the time of Edward I.<sup>16</sup>

Page 54, no. 18. Hand 3.

Harptre.

John de Harptre. Temp. H.II.

Circular Seal. Shield.

*A saltire paty.*

Legend: + SIG JOHIS DE HARPTRE.

This may be John de Harptre II, son of William de Harptre (v. 12 H.II.) or else John de Harptre III, son of John de Harptre II, who died without issue.<sup>17</sup> It has been suggested that the date is too early for this coat, and that it must be an error on the part of the compiler. A John de Harptre is found in the Plea Rolls of 1280<sup>18</sup> (known also as John le Harptre). But in view of the fact that Robert de Harptre in the time of Henry III, assumed the name of Gournay, the earlier date seems more likely to be correct.

#### VINCENT SEALS

A gifte of a coate of Armes by Maximilian the Emperor to one William Knight in Hen: 7. tyme.

Page 1.

Knight.

Maximilianus diuina fauente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper Augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae Dalmatiae Croatiae rex, Archidux Austriae, Dux Burgundiae Lotharingiae Brabantiae Stiriae Corinthiae Carniolae Lymburgiae Luczembergiae et Gheldriae, Landgravius Alsatie,

<sup>15</sup> Foster, *Some Feudal Coats of Arms*, p. 156.

<sup>16</sup> Collinson, *History of Somerset*, iii, p. 56.

<sup>17</sup> Collinson, *History of Somerset*, ii, pp. 137, 138.

<sup>18</sup> *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xlv, pp. 137, 233.

princeps Sueviae palatinus in Habspurge et Hannoniae princeps et Comes Burgundiae Flandriae Tirolis Goriciae Arthesiae Hollandiae Zelandiae Ferretis in Eiburg Namurei Zutphaniae marchio sacri Romani imperii super Avasum et Burgoniae dominus Phrisiae Marchiae Sclauoniae portus Naonis et Salmarum: Honorabilis de voto nobis nobis nobis dilecto Guilielmo Knight sedis apostolicae prothonotharis gratiam nostram Caesaream et omne bonum quod nos dei optimi maximi auspicio ad hoc Romani solii fastigium ea potissimum ratione euectos arbitremur ut veluti ex alta mundi specula mortalium actiones intuentes qui se vitae ornamentis et singularibus virtutibus precaeteris illustant nostra etiam auctoritate fouere comprobare clarosque reddere studeamus quod alii ad honorata virtutu incitamenta inflament et alacriori studio spectari moribus et illustriori vita operam praestent gratiisque ac laudatis actibus indies affluant sane considerantes tuos Guiliel: Knight egregios mores et virtutes quibus predictus existis fidelemque et gratam seruitutem tuam quam serenissimo principi domino Henrico Angliae et Franciae regi et fratri et consanguineo nostro clarissimo vitam multis exponendo periculis multisque unquam percendo laboribus indefesse exhibuisti et continue adhuc non minori studio parato et constanti animo exhibes quae omnia cum fratri nostro prestiteris non secus acsi in propriam personam nostram collata forent acceptissima habemus ut huiusmodi merita tua nostro sint testimonio exornata ut nostrae fixa gratitudinis in te memoria resplendescat ut eo promptior ad euisdem fratris nostri seruicia subeunda reddaris te eundem Guilielm: Knight et meritis tuis intercedentibus animo deliberato ex certa scientia et plenitudine nostrae Caesariae potestatis, sano quoque principum procerum et aliorum rr<sup>19</sup> nostrorum et sacri Romani imperii fidelium delectorum accedente consilio in nostrum et sacri Romani imperii nobilem fecimus ereximus creauimus et instituimus ac de nouo te ad nobilium virorum gradum nobilitamus et nobilem facimus erigimus creamus ordinamus instuimus ac nobilitatis fastibus et titulis clementer insignimus presentium per tenorem teque iuxta conditionis humanae qualitatem nobilem et tanquam de nobili progenie procreatum dicimus et nominamus ac ab universi et singulis cuiuscunque conditionis

<sup>19</sup> Struck through.



status preheminentiae dignitatis etiam regalis ducalis aut alterius existant pro vero nobili haberi teneri dici et nominari volumus et etiam reputari hoc Caesario statuentes edicto et eadem autoritate decernentes et mandantes quod tu nunc in antea pro nostro et imperii sacri vero nobili nominari scribi ac ubicunque locorum terrarum in iudicio quomodocunque et extra in rebus spiritualibus et temporalibus, ecclesiasticis et prophanis quibuscunque etiamsi talia forent de quibus in presentibus nostris litteris merito specialis mentio fieri deberet necnon in omnibus et singulis exercitiis negotiis studiis et actibus tam spiritualibus quam militaribus et illis honoribus dignitatibus officiis ac iuribus tam feudalibus quam aliis ac libertatibus insignibus privilegiis immunitatibus gratiis et indultis gaudere uti et frui possis et valeas quibus nostri et sacri Romani imperii nobilis de nobili prosapia a quatuor annis paternis et maternis militaribus geniti et procreati gaudent utuntur et fruuntur et idque recipiuntur et admittuntur quomodolibet consuetudine vel de iure et ut Guilel: Knight uberiori munificentiae munere te nostrum donatum sentias statusque huiusmodi tuae nobilitationis luculentius splendescat, tibi haec infra scripta armorum insignia et insignium verae nobilitatis. Videlicet: *Scutum per latitudinem equaliter in partes duas distinctim crocei et rubri colorum in cuius medio ex diuisione Aquila nigra binis capitibus duobus aureis diadematis adornatis unum versus dextrum alterum versus sinistrum latus vergens, lingua trifulca sanguinea ex aperto rostro erecta per superiorem scuti partem croceam sese a pectore supra extollere, cui super pectus media rosa rubra quatuor viridibus foliis ex trunco ipsam rosam supermanentibus in quatuor diversas partes conuersis affixa esse ex eaque undecim radii crocei coloris oriri seque per uniuersam scuti inferiorem rubram partem late diffundere videntur.* Quemadmodum haec omnia melius pictoris ingenio hic in margine affigurata cernuntur gratosi damus et concedimus per presentes ita quod predicta armorum insignia in omnibus et singulis actibus et clenodiis quibuscunque militarium et armigerum more tam ioco quam serio et ubique pro arbitrio tuo uti verus nobilis sicuti in hastiludiis duellis singulari certamine aliisque exercitiis militaribus et indultis uti frui et gaudere possis et valeas quibus cetere nobiles huiusmodi insignium et armorum ornamentis a nobis et sacro Romano



imperio insigniti utuntur perfruuntur et gaudent consuetudine vel de iure absque alicuius impedimento et contradictione Mandantes idcirco et precipientes omnibus et singulis principibus tam ecclesiasticis quam singularibus archiepiscopis episcopis ducibus marchionibus comitibus baronibus militibus clientibus capitaneis vicedominis aduocatis prefectis procuratoribus officialibus questoribus civium magistris iudicibus consulis heraldis armorum regibus caduceatoribus civibus communitatibus et denique omnibus nostris et sacri Romani fidelibus dilectis cuiuscunque status gradus seu condicionis fuerint ut te prenominationum Guilielmum Knight dictu concessionem nostrae tam nobilitatis quam armorum insignium predictis preheminentiis gratiis et prerogatiis per totum Romanum imperium et ubicunque locorum frui et gaudere permittant, quantum gratiam nostram charam existiment et penam quinquaginta marcharum auri puri totiens quotiens contrafactum fuit quarum medietatem fisco nostro imperiali reliquam vero partem iniuriam pasci usibus decernimus applicandum maluerint euitare, Harum testimonium litterarum sigilli nostri appensione corroboratur. Datum in civitate nostra Laboca die vicesima mensis Julii Anno domini Millesimo quinquagesimo decimo quarto regnorum nostrorum Roman: vigesimo nono Hungariae vero vigesimo quinto.

This patent is in the hands of Mr. Knight in Showlane, London.

In English the arms are usually blazoned. *Per fess or and gules a demi double-headed eagle in chief sable charged on the breast with a demi rose of four petals conjoined in fess with a sun of eleven rays counterchanged.*

William Knight was employed on diplomatic missions in Spain, Italy and the Netherlands and in 1514 he was Prothonary of the Holy See and Ambassador from Henry VIII to the Emperor. He was Bishop of Bath and Wells 1541 to 1547. He was a Fellow of New College, Oxford. His arms occur in glass in the north aisle of the choir at Wells, and also in the Muniment Tower at New College.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> *Dictionary of National Biography. Stained Glass in Somerset, 1250-1830.* Woodforde, 1946, pp. 211-12. *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, The City of Oxford, 1939, p. 86a.*



Page 6.

Kingston.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presentes Literae peruenierint Thomas de Kyngeston fil. domini Johannis de Kyngeston et Matildis ux. dicti Thome salutem in domino. Noueritis nos fecisse et constituisse loco nostro attornatos nostros videlicet Richardum de Elmedon et Johannem de Bruggewater ad recipiendum nomine nostro plenam seisinam totius manerii de Foxcote cum omnibus suis pertin. et aduocationem ecclesiae dicti manerii secundum tenorem cuiusdem chartae inde nobis confectae per dictum dominum Johannem de Kyngeston Et etiam ad recipiendum intendencium nomine nostro omnium tenentium dicti manerii tam liberorum quam villanorum Et etiam ad ponendum nomine nostro ministros in dicto manerio prout melius ad utilitatem nostram vederint expedire Et etiam ad curias nostras dicti manerii tenendas quandocunque voluerint. In cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus eis patentes sigillis nostris signatas Dat apud Elmedon die mercurii in crastino sancti Valentini Anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum tertio. 1329.

Two seals.

- (1) Circular. Shield. *A lion queue fourché, impaling. A lion rampant with a border engrailed.*
- (2) Circular. Within a trefoil three shields: one missing.
  - (a) *A lion rampant.*
  - (b) *A saltire between four crosses crosslet fitchy.*

Page 6.

Hussey.

Margareta filia et una heredum Huberti Hussey domina de Stapelford concessit dedit et confirmauit domino Nicholao de Kyngeston militi nepoti suo totam partem suam unius molendini et unius dimid. virgatae terrae una cum toto iure suo quod sibi vel hered. suis per mortem Johannis Hussey auunculi eius vel aliquo alio modo accedere poterit in parua Corseleghe: habend predict. partem molendini &c. pred.

Nicholao de Kingeston et hered suis inperpetuum. Hiis testibus domino Waltero de Paveley, domino Johanne de Kingeston militibus, Rob. le Bor, Nicholao de Wyly, Tho. Mandut, Johanne Bernard, Johanne Manger et aliis. Dat apud Stapelford die dominica proxima post festum sancti Hillarii, Anno regni regis Edw. filii regis Edwardi duodecimo. 1319.

Circular Seal.

Three shields points in centre : between each shield a quatrefoil.

- (a) *Barry of six ermine and . . .*
- (b) *A fess between six martlets.*
- (c) *A fess between six crosses crosslet.*

Legend. SIGILLVM MARGARETAE HVSEY.

In *Aspilogia Anglicana*, ii, p. 155, there is a print of a seal that is almost identical ; the date 1243.

Page 6.

Kingston.

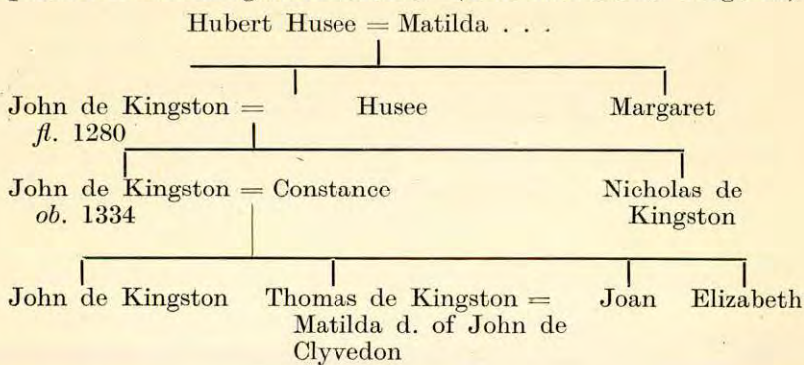
Pateat universis per presentes quod ego Johannis de Kinguston miles attornauit et loco meo constitui dilectum mihi in Christo Walterum de Folkelande vel Robertum. Osbern ad ponend. in plenam et pacificam seisinam Thomam de Kinguston fil. meum et Matild. fil. domini Johannis de Clyvedon uxorem dicti Tho : in manerio de Foxcote cum suis pertin. simul cum aduocatione ecclesiae dicti manerii. Habend. et tenend. secundum tenorem cartae quem inde de me habent dans eisdem potestatem coniunctim et diuisim ad omnia premissa faciend. et quicquid fecerint in premissis ratum habitur et gratum. In cuius rei testimonium ego pred. Johannis de Kinguston huic literae sigillum meum apposui. Dat apud Clyvedon die dominica prox. post festum sancti Petri quae dicitur in cathedra. Anno regni regis Ed. tertii post conquestum tertio. 1329.

Circular Seal.

Shield. *A lion rampant queue fourché.*



The following table shows the relationship between the persons in the Kingston charters. (Vincent's Seals. Page 13).



Page 8.

Kingston.

Ses sont les couenantes faitz a Milton le vendredi prochein apres la feste sain Vincent l'an du regne le Roy Edw. tiers apres le conq. secund entre sire Johan de Kingston d'un part et sire Johan de Cliuedon d'autre. viz : q. Tho : filz et heire le dit sire Jo. de Kingston espousera Maud la file le dit sire Jo. de Cliuedon le semaigne prochein avant la fest St Valentin &c. Et le dit sire Joh. de Kingston donna a les Tho. et Maud et a les heirs tout son maner de Foxcote et la auowson del Eglise du dit maner. Et le dit sire Joh de Kingston et Constance sa femme &c.

Circular Seal. Shield.

*A lion rampant queue fourché.*

Page 41.

St. Maur.

Ela quae fuit uxor Ricardi domini de Sancto Mauro militis fecit literas atturn. ad liberandum terr. in Swanskote Nicholao filio suo sibi et hered. masculis de corpore &c Dat 12 die Aug. Anno, 10 H.4. = 1409.

Circular Seal.

Shield. Quarterly i & iv. *Two chevrons a label* (3). [St. Maur]

ii & iii. *A lion rampant*. [Lovel]

impaling Quarterly,

i & iv. *A bend a label* (3). [St. Loe]

ii & iii. *A cross fleury*. [Paveley]

Above the shield, *A cross and the letters IHS*; dexter, *a cross surmounting an X*; sinister, *a cross surmounting an M*; below three nails.

Legend. + + SIGILLVM.ELAE.DE.SANCTO.MAVRO.  
DOMINAE.DE.CASTLECARY +

Ela de St. Maur was the daughter of John de St. Loe and Alice daughter of Sir John Paveley. She was the wife of Richard de St. Maur second son of Nicholas de St. Maur and Muriel daughter of Sir James Lovell of Castle Cary.<sup>21</sup>

Page 45.

St. Maur.

Thomas Saymoure miles dedit Ricardo Chocke Justic. de banco maner. de Babecary, Todington, Pury &c. Dat 4 April Anno 4 Ed. 4.

Circular Seal.

Shield.

*Two chevrons a label* (3) [St. Maur], quartering, *A lion rampant*. [Lovel]

Sir Thomas St. Maur was the son of John St. Maur and Elizabeth daughter of Sir Thomas Broke. He married Philippa daughter of Sir Edmund Hungerford, and his son John married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Richard Choke.

Page 46.

Sharshull.

Willelmus de Sharshull miles, Ao. 7.E.3.

<sup>21</sup> Collinson, *History of Somerset*, ii, pp. 54-5.



Circular Seal.

Shield (tricked) *Barry nebuly argent and gules a bordure sable charged with eight escallops or.*

Legend + SIG' THOME.DE.SHARESHVLL.MILITIS.

In Mr. Harecourtes house at Elenhall—Sharshall the Armes of Sharshull stand with a bordure sab. charged with estoiles gold and not escaloppes (as in the seale) one of whose heires was maryed to Harecourt.

At Coker Court there is a seal of Adam de Sharesnull of the year 1352 with a shield bearing *Barry nebuly within an orle of twelve estoiles.*

In Dugdale's Ms. 17, p. 26, in the Bodleian Library there is a drawing of the seal of William de Sharesnull 1361/62.

Circular Seal. A shield suspended from a hook.

*Barry nebuly a bordure charged with eleven roundels.*

Legend \* SIGILLVM WILLELMI DE SHARESHVLL.

Page 51.

Stradling.

Johanna uxor Johannis Stradling militis enfeoff: Walterum Hungerford dominum de Hungerford et Edwardum Dautesey et alios in maneria de Dauteseye, Smethcote et Winterborne Dautesey post mortem Walteri Dautesey militis fratris eus. Dat apud Dautesey 20 die Martii Anno 15 H. 6 = 1437.

Circular Seal.

Shield. *Barry Wavy.* [Dantesey]

Legend + S. S. 10 han Stradling dominae de Dautesey.

Sir John Stradling, son of Sir William Stradling and Isabel St. Barbe, married Joan Dautesey. After her death he probably took orders and held several church livings. He was Rector of Glynton W. Wilts, exchanged in 1448 for the Archdeaconry of Llandaff; Seneschal of Harod y Porth; for Margum 1425; Seneschal of Kenfig 1460; Rector of Chipping Tawton co. Devon 1454; Rector of Merthymawr.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> *Stradling Correspondence*, p. xix, ed. Rev. J. M. Traherne, London, 1840.

Page 51.

Stradling.

Johannes Stradlinge miles Dat Ao. 11 H. 6. = 1433/34.

Circular seal.

Shield. *Paly on a bend three cinquefoils pierced.*

Page 88.

Montalt.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Milisenta de Montealto in mea legitima viduitate dedi Nicholao Poyntz filio et heredi domini Hugonis Poyntz in libero maritaggio cum Elizabeth filia mea tota terram meam in Batecumbe cum omnibus suis pertinenciis Habend &c. reddend mihi et heredibus meis annuatim unum capellum de rosa ad festum Nativitatis Sancto Johannis Baptistae pro omni servicio &c. Et si contingat (quod absit) quod prefata Elizabeth sine herede de corpore suo in fata decedat, quod tota terra predicta cum omnibus pertinentiis mihi et heredibus meis revertatur &c. Hiis testibus dominis Alano Plokenet, Johanne Mautravers, Henrico de Lortway, Gerardo Salueyn, Petro de Wakeyle, militibus et multis allis. Dat apud Haringworth die Mercurii prox. post festum omnium Sanctorum Anno regni regis Edwardi quinto decimo. Anno domini 1286.

Vescia seal.

Lady in robe, cloak and flat head-dress holding in either hand a shield.

Dexter *A lion rampant.* (Montalt)

Sinister *Three fleurs-de-lys* (Cantelupe).

Legend S' MILLISENTE DE MONTEALTO.

In Aspilogia Anglicana (Combe) there is a rough drawing of this seal which shows the robe charged with roundles.

These are the besants of Zouche.

In Aspilogia (Broke) the sinister shield bears leopards heads jessant-de-lys.

Millicent de Montalt was elder daughter of William de Cantilupe and Eva, daughter and coheir of William Marshal,



Earl of Pembroke. She married first John de Montalt and secondly William le Zouche.<sup>23</sup>

Page 150.

De la Mare.

Philippus de la Mare dominus de Nunny demisit terr. in Truckokfeild Anno. 12. R.2 = 1388/89.

Circular seal.

Shield couchê. *Two leopards.* Crest on helm, mantling out of a coronet, *A buck's head caboshed.*

Philip de la Mere was son of John de la Mere and father of Elias de la Mere.<sup>24</sup>

Page 150.

Kingston.

Johannes de Kingston miles dimisit tenementum in Wermynster Dat Ao. 8 R.2. = 1384/85.

Circular seal.

Shield. *A lion rampant queue fourché.*

Page 152.

Hastings.

Edward Hastings, knight lord Hastynges and Hungerford and Mary his wife. 2 July Ao. 1.H.7.

Two circular seals.

(a) Crest: *A bull's head erased, gorged with a coronet.*

(b) *Three sickles.*

Edward, Lord Hastings, was the son of William, Lord Hastings, who was executed in 1483 by Richard III. He married Mary daughter of Sir Thomas Hungerford. By Letters Patent 22 November 1485 he was restored to all the Hastings estates and also received all the lands of his father-in-law.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Collinson, *History of Somerset*, ii, p. 337. Gerard, 'Particular Description of Somerset', *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xv, p. 150.

<sup>24</sup> Collinson, *History of Somerset*, ii, p. 218.

<sup>25</sup> Dugdale, *The Baronage of England*, i, p. 586.

In Somerset these were the manors of North Cadbury, Pensford, Publow and Newton St. L.<sup>26</sup> He died 1506.

Page 153.

Halswell.

William Hallsewell gave landes in Kingston Mandeuille Ayschetote Buttley &c. Anno 7 E.4. = 1467/68.

Circular seal.

Shield. *A chevron between three heart shaped leaves.* (hazel ?)

Gerard gives Halswell of Halswell for arms: *Asure, 3 barrs wave arg, a bendlett gules.*<sup>27</sup> The owner of this seal may be a member of the Halswell of Gatecombe. Hazel leaves would be an appropriate canting coat.

It should be noted that in the Bridgwater Muniments there is a seal of Nicholas Hallsewell of Goathurst of the year 1545 which bears *A chevron between three flies.* Above the device are the letters N.H.<sup>28</sup>

Brooke Aspilogia II p. 28.

John de Montealto. No date.

Circular seal.

Shield.

*A lion rampant, a label (3).*

Legend. + S . . . Johis : de : Montealto.

The Montealto family held lands in East-Coker, North Coker and Hardington.<sup>29</sup> John de Mohaut married Milisent daughter of William de Cantelupe before November 1254 but he can hardly be the elder brother of Robert de Mohaut III. as stated by Dugdale. A John de Mohaut married Elen relict of Robert de Stokeport.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Collinson, *History of Somerset*, ii, 67, 428; iii, 343.

<sup>27</sup> Gerard, *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xv, p. 44.

<sup>28</sup> Bridgwater MSS. (919); Bruce Dilks Transcript, vi. 50.

<sup>29</sup> Collinson, *History of Somerset*, ii, p. 341.

<sup>30</sup> Dugdale, *Baronage of England*, i, p. 527. Farrer, *Honours and Knights Fees*, ii, p. 113.



Brooke Aspilogia II. p. 36.

Phill : de Albynico. Ao 1292, 20 Edw : I.

Circular Seal.

Shield.

*Four fusils in fess.*

Drawing. Harl. MSS. 2044. Fol : 142.

This Philip was elder son of Ralph de Albinico who died 1292. He died 1294 without issue. His brother Elias succeeded to his estates.<sup>31</sup>

The Daubeney family held extensive estates in Somerset, chiefly at Barrington and South-Petherton.

<sup>31</sup> Collinson, *History of Somerset*, iii, p. 108.