

The Hartwell Arms

The Aedes of Hartwellianae

Et Cetera

Compiled from various sources

By Mabel Hartwell Webster

1935

Printed for the Hartwells of American in 1941

The Hartwell Arms

(Dale Hall. Essex. Bart (baronet).)

Sable; a buck's head cabossed ar. Attired of.; between the attires a cross patte fitchee of the last; in chief a lion pass. Guard. Per pale of the 2nd & 3rd; on a canton er-mine two bars per fesse az. And gu.

Crest: On a mount vert, surrounded with seven pales, the 2nd & 5th charged with a spear's head sanguinated, ar.; a hart lodged, the dexter foot on a well of the last in the mouth a sprig of oak vert.

Motto: Sorte Sua Contentus

"He who careth not whence he cometh, careth little whither he goeth."

A coat of Armor belongs only to the ancient person for whom it was made. The only claim a descendant may have to the honor and distinctions thereon recorded is the family name, as well as the opportunity to live up to its standards.

Translation of Arms

The shield with black (diamond) field; charges of ordinaries--- figures on shield.

The first charge a buck's head, full faced with neck not visible, of silver, horns of gold; emblem of location of allotted land in Buck's County, England by William. Between the horns a cross with spreading arms flattened at edges & one arm pointed: emblem of Christianity. The most honorable charge, the point of cross, was used by the Crusaders fix cross in ground while they performed their devotions. As Sir Simon Hartwell was allotted the lands in Buck's County by William the Conqueror and thereby given privilege of appointing vicars in his territory, this cross between the buck's horns might also relate to this historical fact.

In chief (the most important part of the shield, the upper center third of the Field) is a lion, walking with face front and right foot on the canton or shield, the lion divided perpendicularly into silver and gold. This position (passant guardant) of the lion is the same as that of the tow lions on the shield of William the Conqueror and may have some significance.

The Lion, the noblest of wild beasts, is the emblem of strength, courage, and valor

The Canton, or shield within shield situated in the upper right corner, is the ermine, the fur of nobility, used by knights to cover their shields and protect them from weapons of warfare.

The stripes, blue of Sapphire & Jupiter, and the red of Ruby & Mars are honorable ordinaries and may represent the waist belt or girdle of honor which was one of the insignia of knighthood, or they might signify the rank of bearer.

The Wreath of Bandeau placed over the shield, supporting the crest from above. Wreath adopted from the Saracens by the Crusaders. It was made of two pieces of silk twisted together into six folds. The colors always being those of the principal metal and color of arms. The first fold is the color of the metal; the last fold, color of arms. Wreath usually made by the lady who chose the bearer for her knight. It was used as a bandeau to protect the head from the heat of the sun, or from the blows of the enemy.

Crest, from the French meaning "top", on a green mount surrounded by seven pales or stakes, the 2nd & 5th charged with a spear's head, bloody and of silver. Soldiers of old carried pales and stakes of wood which were fixed in the ground to encamp them.

Hart, lodged or lying down within a park, the right foot on a well (name of Hartwell). In the mouth a sprig of green oak, symbol of virtue, strength & generosity.

Motto, "Contente with your lot," the family watchword.

The crest belongs to the person of a military commander and yields in honor to none of the heraldic insignia. It is of very ancient origin and was the emblem that served as a rallying point for the knight's followers when the banner was rent asunder and the shield broken. It was distinguished one chief from another on the battlefield or in a tournament, and was a mark of his prowess. Consequently, no crest was ever allowed to be a female. Crests were made of light wood, carved, or of boiled leather, moulded, and were fastened to the helmet by the wreath. At the end of the Thirteenth Century the crest not only appeared on the helmet of the knight but was affixed to the head of his charger, thus rendering horse and rider conspicuous to the soldiers.

The right of bearing a crest was more honorable than the coat-of-arms privilege; for the latter was inherited, while the former was bestowed only upon a knight in actual service.

The first example of a crest upon the helmet among the English sovereigns was in the second great seal of Richard the Lionheart. After the institution of the Knights of the Garter, the knights adopted it.

The colors and metals of liveries are governed by the colors of the wreath. If the principal metal be silver, the lace and buttons are silver. The cloth of the livery is the color of the arms, or field, of the shield.

The knight carried the shield as a weapon of defense, borne on the arm, held in front, his right hand toward left of spectator; so what appears left is dexter, or right. Left is called sinister.

The title of honor, Knighthood, was originally conferred upon every young man of rank after he was admitted to the privilege of bearing arms.

The character of a knight was originally military and religious. The defense and recovery of the Holy Sepulcher and the protection of pilgrims were the objects to which he especially devoted himself. The knight also accompanied the King during war.

The shield was of any shape that met the fancy of the bearer. The field is the surface of the shield, and so called because it contained those marks of honor which were formerly acquired in the field.

The nobility and gentry only were entitled to armorial bearings. Family arms were the criterion which distinguished the gentleman from the peasant. No person could enter the lists to tourney or exercise any feats of arms unless they could, to the satisfaction of the king of arms, prove themselves to be gentlemen of the coat armor. The ancient gentry took particular care to have their arms embroidered on their common wearing overcoats, and would not suffer any person of lower class, although such became rich, to use tokens of gentle birth and distinction. If any such took arms, the gentlemen of blood vindicated their rights in military courts or in duel.

The gentry were the lesser nobility. Gentlemen were all above yeomen and artificers. A gentleman has either inherited his coat of arms; and thus it was the herald's duty to know the marks of the families of gentle birth.

Arms were of military origins, arising from the necessity of there being some means by which individuals, though sheathed in armor which concealed the visage, might readily be distinguished by their followers.

Heraldry is from the German *heer* (host or army), and *held* champion.

Blazon, to blow the horn

Whenever a new knight appeared at tournament, the herald sounded the trumpet, and as the competitors appeared with closed visors, the herald explained the bearings on the shield of each one. This the knowledge of the various devices were called heraldry and the announcement accompanied by the sound of the trumpet was called blazoning the arms. A color, or tincture, must never be mentioned twice in the same blazon. Should it occur again, it must be expressed as "of the first," "of the second (or third &c)," "of the last."

Shield often contain insignia of cities and towns (like Bucks).

Party or per pale: perpendicular lines dividing the shield or charges.

Fesse: horizontal lines across the shield—one of the honorable ordinaries, and represents the waist belt or girdle of honor which was one of the insignia of knighthood.

Per fesse: a shield within shield

Bars—divisions: some claim they are sword cuts.

Tinctures (metals, colors, furs):

Yellow---gold---or---topaz---sol---or.

White---silver---argent---pearl---luna---ar.

Black---sable---diamond---saturn---sa.

Red---gules---ruby---mars---gu.

Blue---azure---sapphire---jupiter---az.

Green---vert---emerald---venus---vert.

Purple---purpure---amethyst---mercury---purp.

The AEdes of Hartwellianae (2 vols) by Admiral W.H. Smyth, is to found in the Boston Public Library.

This work shows the Hartwell manor estate to be very extensive, historical and distinguished

A beautiful ancient seal of a deer slacking his thirst at a forest pool is in the front of the second volume. The seal is in the family archives. Much interesting material is therein described and illustrated.

From the AEdes of Hartwellianae

By Admiral W.H. Smyth

This is a description and history of the ancient feudal estate of Hartwell, situated in Aylesbury, Bucks County, England, forty miles northwest of London. It contains the manor house known as Hartwell House, with a famous museum (the collection of the Lee family), an observatory, church, school, ancient bridge, &c., many tenants: all the result of the development of the estate through many generations of distinguished English families. It consists of forests and fertile vales, originally owned and cultivated by Saxons from Scandinavia. William the conqueror seized this land from Thane of Alryon. He divided it among his four sons, giving to the eldest, Peverel, the Hartwell estate with 6 hides and 3 virgates (a "hide" being approximately 120 acres and "virgate" a quarter of a hide).

Upon the accession to the throne of Prince Peverel, the honor of Peverel became annulled to the Crown, in which it always afterward continued.

Hartwell was seized in 1155 by King Henry II. and granted to his son John.

Very soon after the accession of King John, the Manor of Hartwell appears in the possession of a certain tenant who derived his name from the place.

In 1201, one Walter de Hertewelle gave the Kind three marks for the scutage of one knight held by the honor of Peverel, a common practice of kings.

In 1276, the estate passed from Hartwells to Alice de Luton and son William, and finally to the present Lee family, who built the present Hartwell House in 1570 on the site of the older house.

The third-story rooms were occupied at one time by French refugees, the suite and companions of Louis XVIII., who with them was in exile temporarily. These quarters were like an attic, minus comforts of lower rooms.

William the Conqueror gave lands which were divided into baronies and knights' fees for personal service to himself.

Hartwell of Preston, Northamptonshire.

British Museum

Sir Simon Hartwell of World Hartwell (forest of the hart) in com. Northampton. Knt. William Conqueror.

This Sir Simon Hartwell was seased (seized—to give possession) in the manor of World Hartwell in com. Northampton, which the advowson (privilege of conferring benefice) of both churches of Rode and the vicarage of the sayd Hartwell likewise the sayd Sir Simon was seased in the manor of Hartwell beside Aylesbury and the manor of Little Hampden with the advowson of both churches.

In the chapter of Domesday Book assigned to a description of military tenures of lands allotted in Northamptonshire, England by William of Normandy to his followers, appears the designation of an allotment bearing the name of Hertwelle. Similar records are found in the descriptions of lands in Bucks and Wilts.

Hartwell House in Hartwell, Aylesbury, Bucks about forty miles north-by-west from London, England, passed from Sir Barnabas Hartwell through the female line to the house of Lee, later to the family of Hampden, of which the patriot John Hampden was a member. Its architecture exhibits in an interesting manner the varying styles of the period of the War of the Roses, the Elizabethan Age, and that of the Seventeenth Century. Rear Admiral W.H. Smyth has commemorated in The AEdes Hartwellianae its history, its surroundings, and its magnificent museum. He strenuously combats the former current belief that it was at any time the residence of John Hampden. For some years it was the residence of Louis XVIII. during his exile from France.

The rights of the property are still held by a singular tenure of William the Conqueror, which enjoins the lord of the manor to provide straw for the King's bed and chamber on royal visits. Beside the litter, the said lord was also bound to furnish His Majesty with three eels whenever he should come with the straw and two (?) green geese (Aylesbury ducks?) for the royal table.

An old mill called Heydun Mille belonged to the Manor House in 1300. In Weir Lane leading to this mill is the spring which, tradition says, is the "well" where the "hart" slaked his thirst and which is described by the following:

"Stay, traveler! Round thy horse's neck the bridle fling,

And taste the water of the Hartwell Spring.

Then say which offers the better cheer,

The Hartwell water of the Aylesbury beer."