

The Arms of Wytham of Wytham

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AMONG the interesting shields of arms in Wytham church, Berkshire, there are several representing the ancient family which took its name from the place and whose members buried there. The brass in the quire¹ to Robert de Wytham and his wife Juliana, daughter of Sir John Golafre, Knt., has the well-known arms of Golafre² impaled by those of Wytham, *a bend between two molets* , and the two coats are repeated separately. Both can be seen again on the roof timbers of the church, where Wytham is shown *Or a bend gules between two molets sable* (Fig. 1). This choice of tinctures and metal is not haphazard,³ but apparently cannot be accounted for other than by reference to what one might call the theory of "inherent heraldic probability." Papworth gives no colours for the arms, nor does the brass itself, and the writer has found no authority for the blazon as quoted above. On the contrary, there are several variations disclosed by the sources now to be examined. At least as regards the bend they indicate that its tincture is not gules and so to that extent it is contended that the shields on the roof-timbers require repainting. It is the purpose of this article to set out the reasons for this assertion but on the present evidence it is fair to say that whatever is suggested finally as the proper coat of Wytham can be little more than a conjecture, although a more probable conjecture than that exemplified by the arms in their present state in the roof.

The first variation of the Wytham coat, an important link in the chain of evidence, is to be found in the copy taken by Clarke, son of the author of the "Hundred of Wanting," of a Golafre pedigree, perhaps compiled by Leland's contemporary Robert Aske.⁴ It includes a long note on the Wytham family whose arms Clarke blazons as *Or a bend vairée and [?]g[ules] in chief a mullet of 5 pts. az[ure]*.⁵ (Fig. 2). This confirms the field of the roof-timbers shields as gold, but furs the bend; and perhaps the single molet is for cadency. Be it now observed that in the early fifteenth century when the persons portrayed by the brass flourished, *vair* was drawn cursively, wavy, not as in the modern style with its skins shaped like sharp-pointed little escutcheons.

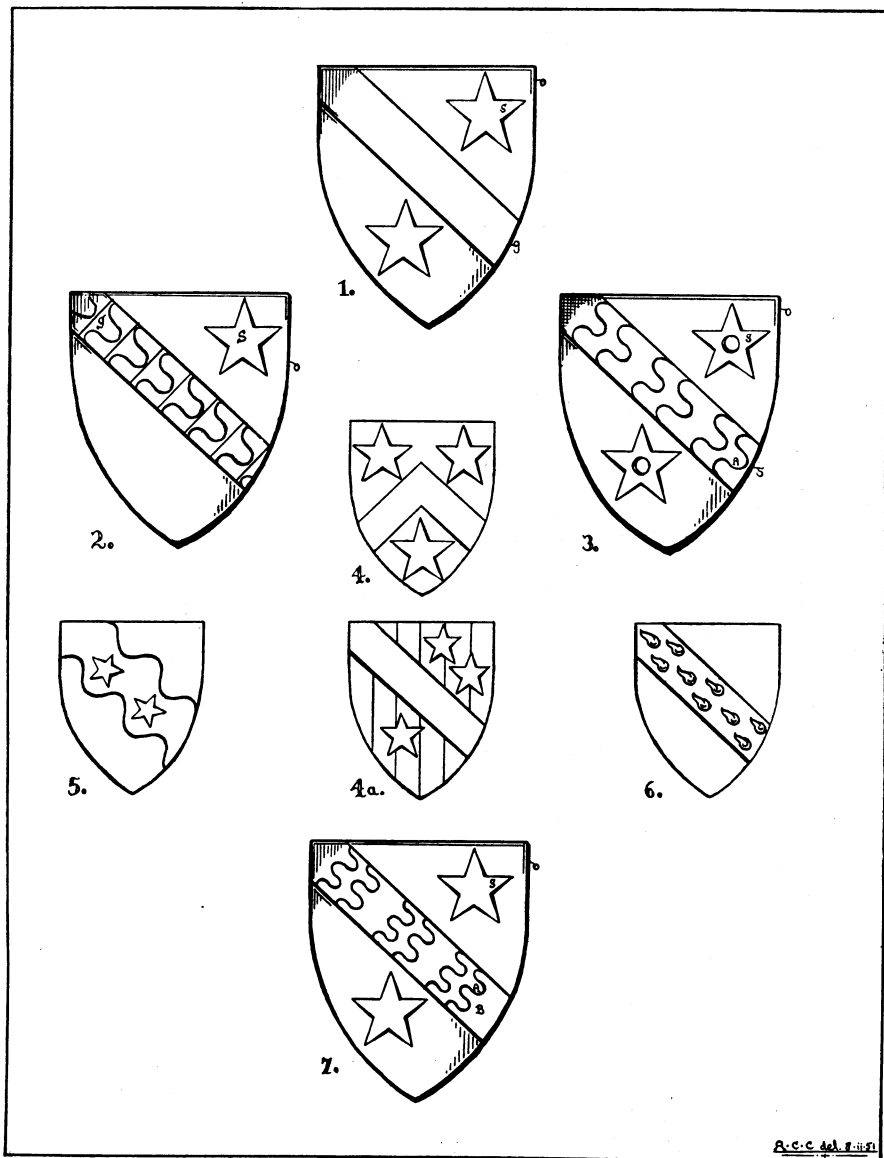
The next notable variation is that given by Wood describing the Wytham tomb then in the church: "Armes on bluestone are a chev. betw. 3 mullets of 5 points . . ." ⁶ and he gives the Golafre impalement. In the absence of tinctures this version does not help the present inquiry and the chevron must be a mistake for the bend.⁷ (Fig. 4).

Neither does Ashmole hazard a guess at the Wytham tinctures in his description of their brass.⁸

What other versions of the Wytham arms are there? Of the following none is for certain identifiable as Wytham, but it is submitted that the inference in favour of such an identification is well-nigh irresistible.

Alison, daughter of Walter Daundese and the widow of Richard de Wytham,⁹ became the wife of Thomas Denton who in 1428 held a Knight's fee in Wytham *jure uxoris*.¹⁰ In the Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Visitations¹¹ Denton quarters (7) *Or on a bend between two rowels sable three bars wavy argent*.¹² (Fig. 3). No name is given. And similarly in the shield of Thomas Denton, Treasurer of the Middle Temple in 1556 and 1557,¹³ greatgrandson⁹ of the above, tricked in a Bodleian MS.¹⁴ he quarters (7) *Argent on a bend between two rowels sable four bars wavy argent*.¹⁵ Bearing in mind the previous observations on 15th century vair, the similarity between these versions from the Visitations and that of the arms of Wytham copied by Clarke is most striking; indeed, it would be easy to mistake a bend charged with three or more bars wavy for a bend vair.¹⁶ (Cp. Figs. 2 and 3.) For these reasons it is suggested that the unidentified seventh quartering in the Denton coat recorded in the printed Visitations is meant for Wytham of Wytham, acquired together with his wife's estates by Thomas Denton and standing for lordship rather than blood; this was frequently the purpose of 15th century quartering¹⁷ and to some extent was lost sight of during the 16th century, the heyday of higgledy-piggledy marshalling.

Against this it might be argued that the additional (seventh) quartering here ascribed to Wytham of Berkshire is brought in by those preceding it, named, but not always accurately and with some omissions, in the Visitations.¹⁸ They are, in fact, (1) Denton, (2) *Argent a dance between 3 billets gules, de la Launde*, (3) *Or a lion rampant queue-fourchée sable*, Welles, (4) *Gules a dance between six cross crosslets or*, Engayne, (5) *Ermine on a fess¹⁹ gules three cross crosslets (or crosses patonce) or*, Wike,²⁰ (6) *Argent three greyhounds' heads erased sable collared gules between two pales sable each charged with three cross crosslets of the field*, Grymstedd.²¹ De la Launde brings in 3, 4, 5 and probably 6²² by the marriage of Joan, sister and coheir of Sir Thomas de la Launde, to John²³ Denton. As her brother, like her greatgrandfather, was seised of North Wytham, Lincolnshire, the seventh quartering may have been meant for that lordship.²⁴ But apart from the probability that the arms (if any) of that lordship were different,²⁵ the Dentons of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire (all of whom share a common descent) are not proved to be entitled to marshal the de la Launde quarterings. The pedigree of Denton given in the Visitations of the above counties¹⁸ bears signs of fabrication and no doubt was devised when the family was making its way in the world during the reign of the Tudors. Wood took it to be false in many places²⁶ and the claim to have matched with the de la Launde heiress is not confirmed elsewhere. In fact her husband was William Denton of Denton, Lincs., whose family²⁷ was distinct,



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Correction.—In Fig. 2, the tincture of the molet should be indicated as “B”, i.e., azure, not “S”, sable.
A.C.C.

and if Lesquier be right, bore quite different arms²⁸ from the familiar *Argent two bars gules in chief three cinquefoils sable* of the Berkshire Dentons and their derivative branches. The truth of the matter is that the Dentons of Denton sank into convenient obscurity as their namesakes rose into prominence taking the former's quarterings with them in their progress. In these circumstances, it must remain a strong probability that the seventh quartering is not related to the others but is indeed that of Wytham borne by Thomas Denton in right of his wife Alison the widow of Richard de Wytham.

If further confirmation be sought it is provided by the *Oxford Dictionary of Place Names*. Wytham is there said to mean the ham by the bend and Wytham itself lies in a deep bend of the river near Oxford. What could be more appropriate for the arms of the local family than a bend charged with three silvery bars wavy for the waters of the Isis? In such arms we see an instance of geographical armory comparable to the well-known coat of Stourton, the charges in both shields forming a map of the lands held by the family. Furthermore, the river symbolism of the Wytham coat is emphasized, perhaps by chance, by the seventh quartering probably meant for Wytham in the arms (now worn away²⁹) on the tomb of the second wife³⁰ of Alexander Denton, son of the Treasurer, situated in Hillesden church. Willis can be abbreviated thus³¹: Qly. of 8, (1) Denton, (2) de La Launde, (3) Welles, (4) Engayne, (5) Wike, (6) Grymstedd (*sans* crosslets) (7) . . . *a bend nebuly charged with two mullets* . . . , (8) . . . *a cross moline*³² . . . The bend nebuly (Fig. 5) is obviously a botched rendering of the bend charged with three bars wavy between two rows that we have met in the Visitations coats, *ante*, and again it fills the seventh quarter, as in the trick of the Treasurer's arms in the Bodleian MS.³³ And in Willis' description of the arms (also now worn away³⁴) on the Treasurer's own tomb set up pursuant to the terms of his will³⁵ in Hillesden church the bend appears in yet another guise, as witness the antiquary's blazon³⁶ which can be more accurately put: Qly. (1) & (4) Denton per pale with Mordaunt, (2) . . . *a bend guttée* . . . per pale with . . . *a cross moline* . . . (3) *party per pale engr. or and gules per pale with gules an eagle displayed argent*.³⁷ Like the bend nebuly, the bend with its drops³⁸ (Fig. 6) is a confused attempt, either due to Willis' carelessness in blazon or to a craftsman's misunderstanding, to depict the bend with its silver waves, but, nevertheless, it can hardly be doubted that all three variants are intended to refer to Wytham's riverside location.

By comparing all these variations of the arms, some authoritatively ascribed to and the rest now identified as those of Wytham of Wytham, it is possible to reconstruct the arms of the family. The field was certainly gold; the bend in Clarke's copy³⁹ is not *gules* alone, but vary of this and an unspecified colour which Aske gives as *azure*³⁹; in the Visitations⁴⁰ it is *sable* with the bars wavy *argent*. *Barry wavy argent and azure* is the conventional heraldic method of portraying water, and in view of the river symbolism of the arms, *azure* would

appear to be preferable for the bend, as indeed Aske's MS. trick in part has it.³⁹ The waves, of course, would be silver. The molets⁴¹ where tinctured incline to be *sable*. And if the bend is not to be blazoned in the alternative as a bend *bendy wavy sinister of six argent and azure* we can now render the arms : *Or on a bend azure between two molets sable three bars wavy argent.*⁴² (Fig. 7.) So reconstructed it is suggested that these arms represent those most likely to have been borne by the Wythams and as such should replace those now colourfully, but misleadingly, provided for them on the roof timbers of Wytham church.

It may not be out of place here to add a few remarks on the Wytham brass. It has had a chequered history. Ashmole describes it thus :⁴³ "In the Chancell of this Church lyes a Gravestone, whereon is the portraiture (in brass) of a Man in Armour and also of his Wyfe : The circumscription (cut likewise upon brass) is much defaced, whereof only this much remaineth

..... filia⁴⁴ dicti

Rici Wytham, quae obiit . . .

quorum aīabus propitietur Deus Amen."

And Lysons in 1806 says : "The brass figures of the Wyghtam family, mentioned by Ashmole, are now placed against the wall in the parish church, near one of the windows ; the inscriptions are lost. Montagu, Earl of Abingdon, put down a slab, in 1735 [*sic*], with an inscription to the memory of this ancient family, but it is now nearly obliterated . . ."⁴⁵

In 1950 the present writer took a note of what remains, the sense of which can be understood on reference to the accounts of the family in the Gollafre pedigrees.⁴⁶ The brass is set in the floor of the quire with a third of the Earl's slab obscured by a stall ; over the slab lies a thin film of cement, in parts worn away ; but this much can be deciphered and is here set down lest worse should befall :⁴⁷

..... AM married JULIANA,
 GOLLAFRE of FYFIELD,
 .. [wh]om he had issue RICHARD
 HE died in the year of
 ... [S]HE died in 1408
 AM married ALISON
 R DAUNDSEY by whom
 named AGNES married
 NG of SARESDEN in
 with ROBERT, [JULIANA, and RICHARD],
 .. [he]re buried a[s] appeared
 n, upon the bra[ss border]
 over them by the order
 which being decayed
 defaced, the Right
 EARL of ABINGDON
 of so good a Daughter⁴⁸
 commanded this stone to be laid in the
 year of our LORD 1730.⁴⁹

POSTSCRIPT :

Since this paper was written the author has acquired the late Mrs. Hautenville Cope's MS. relating to Oxfordshire armorials. This was intended by her as a sequel to the "Parochial Collections" of Wood and Rawlinson which were edited in three parts by F. N. Davis for the Oxfordshire Record Society. Abstracts from this MS. were published in 1929 by the Oxford Archaeological Society in its report for that year, being there entitled "Selections from Notes on the Heraldry in Oxfordshire Churches," (pp. 233-52). The Denton arms with their five familiar (and, it is submitted, usurped) quarterings occur at Hampton Gay, *ibid.*, p. 244, cp. *Vis. Oxon.*, Harl. Soc., v, 327, but Mrs. Cope is not very discriminating in her account of them, having evidently accepted the pedigree which caused Wood some misgiving, see note 26, *ante*. However, although she does not give any reason or authority for her identification, it is interesting to see that in her MS. (fol. 68) she has anticipated the present writer in attributing the additional (seventh) quartering in the Denton shield (*Vis. Berks*, Harl. Soc., lvii, 115) to Wytham of Wytham.

References

¹ Mill Stephenson, *A List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles*, p. 32. Because of the date of the brass, c. 1430, he ascribes it to Robert's granddaughter Agnes, *q.v.*, *infra*, note 3, and her husband William Browning. But the heraldry makes this impossible. See also *post*, note 44. Morley, *Monumental Brasses of Berkshire*, p. 250, sowed the seeds of error by calling the arms of Wytham those of Browning.

² *Barry wavy argent and gules on a bend sable three bezants*, Spokes, *Coats of Arms in Berkshire Churches*, *Berks. Arch. Journ.*, vol. XXXV, p. 126 (Appleton); Lamborn, *Armorial Glass of the Oxford Diocese*, pl. 63. "The Goloffres were Lords of 17 Mannors or more in the counties of Oxon. and Berks. There armes appear in several churches windowes (besides Houses) in this county . . ." MS. Wood E.1, fol. 138b. (Except where otherwise stated all references to MSS. in this paper are to those in the Bodleian Library.)

³ Evidently based on arms erroneously given for Wytham of Wytham in *V.C.H.*, Berks., iv, 428, *Or a bend gules between three eagles displayed sable*, these in turn founded, *semble*, on the arms for Witham, *Or a bend gules between three eagles close sable*, given by Clarke, *Hundred of Wanting*, 37. The Berkshire family did not bear eagles, as their brass shows, and it is unlikely that there was any affiliation with the Yorkshire family who did, see *Visitation of the North*, c. 1480-1500*, Surtees Society, cxliv, 91, a MS. whereof, MS. Ashmole 851 (fol. 48v), was perhaps the source of Clarke's confusion: "Les Armes Witham topace a trois Egles clos dyamond a une baston en bende Ruby." Compare the arms of a William Wytham in Castor church, 1618, *Or a bend with a molet theron between three birds close 1 and 2 sable*, MS. Top. N'hants. C. 13, fol. 135, a clean copy of MS. Top. N'hants. E.1, see note 14, *infra*. But by a coincidence Anne Wytham of the Yorks. family was the wife of Sir John Walter, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, fl. 1625, who was lord of Sarsden in Oxfordshire (*Misc. Gen. et Her.*, 4th Series, v, 257) and this manor was held in 1444 by Agnes Browynyng, da. of Richard de Wytham son of Robert de Wytham, above, spelt Wyghtham in her *I.P.M.*, Chan. I.P.M., Series I (c. 139), File 119, No. 27. For pedigrees of Golafre and Wytham, see Leland, *Itinerary*, (Ed. Smith), pt. iv, pp. 3-4; Lipscomb, *History of Buckinghamshire*, I, 394-5; Baker, *History of N'hants.*, II, 22; MS. Wood D. 11, fol. 86, a copy of MS. Sheldon 94, fol. 424; British Museum Add. MS.

38133, fol. 139b *et seq.* This ancient family of Wytham of Wytham, Berks., is reputedly long extinct, but at Botley near Wytham there is a tobacconist called Witham; and in 1930 Sir F. D. MacKinnon discovered a tobacconist at Nottingham called Fettiplace, see *On Circuit*, pp. 123-4; as the last male Fettiplace is recorded by the historian of the family as having died in 1832, almost a century before, it would seem that the atmosphere of a tobacconist's shop has a resurrectionary tendency as regards ancient families supposedly extinct. . .

* Attributed to Christopher Carlisle, Norroy 1494-1510; see A. R. Wagner, *Richmond Herald, The Records and Collections of the College of Arms*, 1952, p. 77.

⁴ The original, whence Leland probably gleaned his account of the Golafre family, (*Itinerary, loc. cit.*), is in the British Museum, being Add. MS. 38133, which was once the property of William Radclyffe, Rouge Croix Pursuivant. Clarke's copy of part thereof is now among his collections for a history of Berkshire in the Bodleian Library, MS. Top. Berks. B. 2. And see next note.

⁵ *Ibid.*, fol. 24. Add. MS. 38133, fol. 141 (as renumbered), has a trick of Robert de Whyghtam's arms impaling those of Golafre: Robert's molet is pierced and made *azure*, and the bend, oddly enough, is *vairée azure and gules*. This no doubt is due to the fact that Robert's death antedates the trick by more than a century and perhaps Aske had no contemporary record to refer to. The elder Clark, *op. cit.*, p. 37, gives for Wyghtham of Wyghtham (cp. note 3, *ante*): . . . *a fess between two mullets* . . ., an obvious mistake.

⁶ MS. Wood D. 11, fol. 89.

⁷ *Paly of 6 a bend between three Stars* (sic) is given (presumably for Wytham) on the tomb of Alexander Denton's first wife in Hereford Cathedral, see Rawlinson, *Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of Hereford*, 1717, p. 118. Fig. 4a. Alexander was son of Thomas Denton, Treasurer of the Middle Temple in 1556-7, *q.v.*, *infra*, note 13.

⁸ MS. Ashmole 850, fol. 88; *Antiquities of Berkshire*, vol. i, p. 142.

⁹ *Visitations of Oxfordshire*, 1566, 1574, & 1634, Harl. Soc., v, 228; *V.C.H.*, Berks., *loc. cit.*; and see pedigrees, note 3, *ante*.

¹⁰ *Feudal Aids*, vol. i, p. 59.

¹¹ Harl. Soc., lvii, 115; lviii, 37.

¹² Illustrated, *ibid.*. The bars run diagonally across the bend and could be blazoned more clumsily as *three bends wavy sinister*; or perhaps the bend could be regarded as one *bendy wavy sinister of 6 sable and argent*; in any event the wavy is not tricked with the modern shallow line, but approximates to nebuly. The version in Harl. Soc., lvii, is based, so the Editor says, on a trick of the arms of Denton with quarterings taken from Le Neve's copy of the Visitation of Oxon., but the 7th quartering, left blank by Le Neve, was supplied from College of Arms MS. G.3. 58. This particular pattern, namely a bend charged with bends wavy sinister, must be fairly infrequent in armory, but is not so rare as might be supposed: another example of it occurs in Lucy's Roll, temp. Hen. VI, College of Arms MS. Vincent 164, fol. 199b. The shield is as yet unidentified: *Ermine on a bend gules three bends wavy sinister or*.

¹³ *Middle Temple Admission Register*, vol. i, p. 14; his son Alexander, note 7, *supra*, was also a member of the Inn, but no record of the admission of either remains, *ibid.*, p. 12. Thomas is named son of James Denton, LL.D., Dean of Lichfield, d. 1533, but no authority is cited, *ibid.*, p. 14; Willis, *History of Buckingham*, p. 194, in his account of Thomas Denton the Treasurer does not give his parentage although he mentions the Dean immediately above and asserts a Cumberland origin for the Dentons of Hillesden on the *ipse dixit* of Sir Edmund Denton, *ibid.*, p. 193; and elsewhere *op. cit.*, p. 187, makes Thomas' father John Denton, *sed quaere*, of Blackthorne and Caversfield, Oxon., (add Wytham, *Vis. Oxon., loc. cit.*); Lipscomb, *op. cit.*, iii, 13, finds himself on Willis, but at p. 17 calls Thomas Denton the son or descendant of James Denton, LL.D., etc., "representative of an ancient family in Cumberland." The Dean (see *D.N.B.*) is not noted in the Denton pedigree, *Trans. Cumberland & Westmorland Antiq. & Arch. Society*, New Series,

xvi, 40 *et seq.*, but Thomas Denton was perhaps of the Cumberland Dentons, for as son of Thomas Denton of Caversfield (*i.e.*, if the pedigrees in *Vis. Oxon.*, and *Vis. Berks.*, *supra cit.*, are reliable) he was of the Dentons originating at Appleton and Eaton, Berks., whose founder may have been that John Denton of Cumberland who seated himself in the South *temp.* Edw. III and, *semble*, bore like arms. *Transactions*, etc., *ubi supra*, N.S., xxxiv, 13. Thomas Denton, a Bencher of his Inn, was one of those who reported to Hen. VIII upon the Inns of Court, their constitutions, and system of teaching law. His armorial glass is in Middle Temple Hall, see next note & note 37, *post*.

¹⁴ MS. Top. N'hants. E.1, fol. 167 as renumbered. This MS. at one end is William Belchier's collection of N'hants. armorials, c. 1600; at the other end (which includes fol. 167) there are notes and tricks of Warwickshire heraldry seemingly prepared for, or in the course of, Camden's Visitation (by Vincent) of the county in 1619 and now first noticed; fol. 167 tricks the coats set up in Huggerford's (or Higford's) house in Solihull. This family was allied to Denton, which explains the presence of the latter's arms; John Huggeford of Dickleston (Dyxtton), Gloucs., was the father by Thomas Denton's stepdaughter Elizabeth Fettiplace of that John Huggeford whose arms appear beneath Thomas Denton's in the hall, *Middle Temple Window Memorials*, p. 76. See also Dunlop, Fettiplace Pedigrees, *Misc. Gen. et Her.*, 5th Series, ii, 187, 244, 282; *Vis. Berks.*, Harl. Soc., lvi, 28; *Vis. Gloucs.*, Harl. Soc., xxi, 86; Spokes, Coats of Arms in Berkshire Churches, *Berks. Arch. Jnl.*, cxxxv, 131 *et seq.*; Lamborn, The Mordaunt Shield at Marcham, *Trans. Mon. Brass Soc.*, viii, pt. vi, 256.

¹⁵ The seventh quartering is preceded by the usual Denton quarterings, *q.v. post*, and followed by (8) . . . *a cross formy ermine* . . .; cp. the coat tricked by Lee in Mr. Denton's house at Amersdon (*i.e.* Ambroseden) in 1574 and blazoned *Ermine a cross patée gules*, *Vis. Oxon.*, *supra cit.*, p. 57. Are either or both variants of the cross moline quartered on the tombs of the Dentons, father and son, at Hillesden, and impaled by Denton on an ancient slab in Caversfield church? See *V.C.H.*, Bucks., iv, 162; Lipscomb, ii, 598-9; *Records of Bucks.*, ii, 255, evidently relying on Willis, *op. cit.*, p. 170. Might it be for the Treasurer's mother Jane Webbe? *Vis. Oxon.*, *supra cit.*, p. 229; Webb bears *Ermine a cross patée azure*, *Vis. Gloucs.*, *supra cit.*, p. 244.

¹⁶ An instance of this occurs in the arms of the West Country family of Heligan, as quartered by Reskymer; Heligan bore *Gules a bend vair between six crosslets argent*, and in an old trick of the Reskymer achievement reproduced in *Country Life* (11th January, 1952, p. 104) this coat appears as *Gules a bend bendy wavy sinister of six* . . .

¹⁷ Wagner, *Historic Heraldry of Britain*, p. 62.

¹⁸ *Oxon.*, *Berks.*, and *Bucks.*, Harl. Soc., v, lvii, and lviii, *sub. nom.* Denton.

¹⁹ MS. Wood E.1, fol. 239; correct *Vis. Oxon.*, Harl. Soc., v, 327.

²⁰ This is the coat of Auncell whose heiress married John Wike of Horbling, Lincs., *temp.* Rich. II. He bore originally *Argent three chevrons between as many fleurs-de-lys sable*, according to Parker's "True Legend of Antiquities," 1615, fol. 23, MS. owned by Major H. F. O. Evans, M.B.E., F.S.A., to whom thanks are due.

²¹ *Vis. Berks.*, Harl. Soc., lvii, 115; tricked but not named *Vis. Bucks.*, Harl. Soc., lviii, 37; MS. Top. N'hants., E.1, fol. 167; blazoned but named, Willis, *op. cit.*, p. 201, and *Vis. Oxon.*, *loc. cit.*, and p. 228; but is it another coat for Wike?

²² Although a Denton alliance with a Grymstedd heiress (36 Edw. III) is given, *Vis. Oxon.*, *ibid.*, that was before the alleged de la Launde match, *ibid.*, and so Grymstedd should precede de la Launde, which it nowhere does. Cp. also Thomas Denton's glass, note 37, *post*, the marshalling of the quarterings there supporting the supposition of the text.

²³ *Vis. Oxon.*, *ibid.*, *Vis. Berks.*, *loc. cit.*; but called Thomas, *Vis. Leics.*, Harl. Soc. ii, 2; and William, *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*, Harl. Soc., i, 295, Harl. Soc. lv, 1194, 1196.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 1193.

²⁵ *Sable two roses in chief argent in base a crescent or*, Witham of Boston, Lincs., Berry, *Encyclopaedia Heraldica*; North Wytham was held by Tye immediately before it passed to de la Launde.

²⁶ MS. Wood D.11, fol. 87.

²⁷ *Lincs. Pedigrees*, loc. cit.; Banks, *Baronia Anglica Concentrata*, vol. i, p. 452.

²⁸ *Party per pale indented sable and ermine*, Denton, *Lincs. Pedigrees*, *ibid.*, p. 1195, citing Lesquier. No doubt the indented paler line is meant to refer to the first syllable of the name. Cp. the similar pattern in the arms of Peter de Bermingham, Dapifer of Dudley, which has been ingeniously represented as the simple picture of an indenture and hence "... the obvious symbol of the office of Steward." See S. C. Kaines Smith, F.S.A., "The Arms of Birmingham," *Transactions of the Worcester Archaeological Society*, 1935, pp. 64-5.

²⁹ *Hist. Mon. Comm.*, Bucks., II, p. 150.

³⁰ Mary, da. of Sir Roger Martyn, Knight, Willis, *op. cit.*, pp. 194, 201; for the first wife Anne, da. & heir of Richard Willison, see Rawlinson, *cit.*, note 7; *Vis. Herefordshire*, 1569, Ed. Weaver, p. 77; Duncumb, *County of Hereford*, i, pp. 552-3.

³¹ *Op. cit.*, p. 201.

³² See note 15, *ante*.

³³ Notes 14, 15, *ante*.

³⁴ *Hist. Mon. Comm.*, Bucks., loc. cit.

³⁵ "To be buried in Hillesden Church . . . a fair tomb to be set up there . . . and my arms upon the same . . ." Pr. 17 Nov. 1558, P. C. C. Noodes, 77; Dunlop, Fettiplace Pedigrees, *Misc. Gen. et Her.*, 5th Series, ii, 244. Thomas Denton was grantee of the manor of Hillesden from the Crown, 1547, *V.C.H.*, Bucks., iv, 175.

³⁶ Willis, *op. cit.*, p. 199.

³⁷ Denton's arms in the east window of the hall of the Middle Temple are marshalled very differently, *viz.*, Qly. I & IV, Denton, II & III (1), de la Launde, (2) i & iv, Welles, ii & iii, Engayne (*sans* crosslets), (3) Wike, (4) Grymstedd. *The Middle Temple Bench Book*, 1912, p. 142, does not attempt to identify the coats and misblazons some of them. Dugdale, *Origines Juridicales*, 1671, p. 229, tricks the Grymstedd arms with fleurs-de-lys instead of crosslets on the pales and between the latter substitutes goats' for greyhounds' heads. Thomas Denton married Margaret, widow of Edmund Fettiplace and da. of John, Lord Mordaunt, himself a member of the Middle Temple and whose grandson's armorial glass is also in the hall there. Refer to note 14, *ante*, the end thereof, articles by Spokes and Lamborn.

³⁸ Cp. Lipscomb, *op. cit.*, iii, 17. Did the first coat in the next quarter, *i.e.*, *party per pale engrailed or and gules*, represent an attempt to hark back to the Lincolnshire Dentons and their similar arms? See note 28, *supra*.

³⁹ Note 5, *ante*.

⁴⁰ *Berks.*, Bucks., note 18, *ante*.

⁴¹ Clarke's copy has only one, but the Wytham brass has two, likewise the Visitations; whether originally there was only one molet (for difference or cadency; or symbolizing the summit of Wytham hill?) later it has multiplied itself and two occur frequently enough to be regarded as part of the coat.

⁴² For a comparatively early coat two metals and two tinctures are perhaps excessive. No great objection could be taken were it said that the bend should be *sable* (thus matching the molets) the field and the waves remaining as they are. See also note 12, *ante*.

⁴³ MS. Ashmole 850, fol. 88; cp. a slightly different version, *Antiquities of Berkshire*, i, 142.

⁴⁴ *I.e.* Agnes de Wyghtham, see her *I.P.M.*, *ante*, note 3. That the circumscription happened to mention her—in the only part of it that remained in Ashmole's day—does not mean that she was the chief person commemorated, as Mill Stephenson seems to have inferred, *op. cit.*, p. 32,

see note 1, *ante*. If the brass dates, as there is little reason to doubt, from c. 1430, that is, some 20 odd years after the death of Agnes' grandparents Robert de Wytham and Juliana Golafre (*V.C.H.*, Berks., iv, 428-9), it can still be for them, if, as seems probable from the 1730 slab (*q.v.*, *post*), Agnes commissioned it on the death of her father and mother Richard and Alison de Wytham, intending thereby to perpetuate their burial-place as well as her own memory and that of her grandparents. Moreover, she has succeeded; see the inscription, on the abovementioned slab, which tends to confirm the theory now advanced.

⁴⁵ *Magna Britannia*, i, 438.

⁴⁶ Note 3, *ante*.

⁴⁷ Dots mark the edge of the obstructive stall, square brackets contain the writer's conjecture supplemented by reference to Clarke's full account, MS. Top. Berks., C.1, ff. 51-2. The lettering of the inscription is Roman.

⁴⁸ This is probably Agnes, granddaughter of Robert and Juliana, who seems to have caused her own parents to be interred with Robert and his wife. If so, this bears out the gist of note 44, *supra*.

⁴⁹ Not 1735, as Lysons has it, *supra cit.*