

ART. VII.—*The Heraldry of the Cumberland Statesmen.* By
the PRESIDENT.

*Read at Carlisle, August 20, 1891.**

The "statesmen" or small landed proprietors in the north of Cumberland, now alas few and dwindling in number, yielded to none in pride of pedigree; they boasted their family arms as proudly as ever did Dacre or Howard. Herald, there was none to say them nay: bold man must have been any official of the College of Arms to venture into Bewcastle and to meddle with the tombstones of the Armstrongs and the Routledges, and the strange armorial achievements sculptured thereon. His probable fate would have been to be "spatchcocked" with his head in a rabbit hole, and his legs pinned down with a stake.† The favourite place for the display of these armorial achievements during the last and early part of the present century, was the parish churchyard, and the back of the tombstones rather than the front was the place most affected: this was done with the economical motive of leaving as much space as possible on the front of the stone, available for the purpose of recording the deaths of connections of the person to whom the stone was originally erected, though buried in distant places, even far over the sea. Thus in the churchyard of Arthuret in Cumberland, is a tombstone on whose front is the following:—

In memory of
Margaret wife of William Ferguson of
Bush-on-Line who died Aug. 5th 1745

* This paper was also read before the Royal Archæological Institute and is printed in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. lxviii, p. 77.

† The writer can recollect this being done to a troublesome gamekeeper: he died.

Aged

Aged 32 years and also the above named
 William Ferguson who died Sept. 13, 1804,
 Aged 94 years. Also John Ferguson,
 of Westlinton his Brother who died
 Dec 15th 1785 aged 79 years.

On the back of the stone is an achievement of arms boldly carved in high relief and in good preservation—Three human hearts, 2, 1. Crest, on a wreath on a full-faced and grated helmet, a fleur-de-lis. That this achievement of arms does not belong to any family of Ferguson within my knowledge is nothing to the point: when “Willie Fargison of the Bush-on-Lyne”, as his neighbours called him, erected this monument to his wife he put on its back her family arms, and not his; who she was is not known, but in all probability a Hewheart, or Hewart from the neighbouring parish of Stapleton, who bore hearts on their shield. He thus left plenty of room for himself and any other members of the family to be commemorated at some future date. To some, the thus using his wife’s family arms, without impaling them with his own, may seem contrary to the rules and practice of heraldry, but the characteristic of the heraldry of the “statesmen” is its freedom from all rules and practice; they did as they pleased, tempered by the ignorance of the stonemason.

Thus certain families were associated with certain charges in their shields, *e.g.*, Graham of Esk and Netherby bears Or, on a chief Sa, 3 escallops of the field. The essentials are the escallops: all else can be dispensed with, as on a monument at Kirklington to a Graham, where are three escallops, 1, 2, no shield at all, nothing, simply three escallops carved on the stone. In the same churchyard a monument to Edward Graham of Moorhouse, 1753, shows the three escallops in chief and a very narrow fess below them (probably intended as the lower edge of the chief), all within a shield like a horse shoe,
 formed

formed by a ribbon whose ends hang loose and are connected by a crest wreath, which is below the shield instead of above it. This same device is adopted by another Graham in the same churchyard, with the addition of a boar's head (pig's face better expresses the object), over a four leaved flower in the lower part of the horse shoe, and as a crest, a hand flourishing a whip. Some clue to these additions may be found on a neighbouring stone, on which is:—

Here lies the body of
Janie Graham daughter of
Gracie and John born
Soughtrees in 1751.*

and a "square shield"† on which a fess charged with three roundels, and in chief a circular object which may be a rose or a catherine wheel, or anything, but probably is the stonemason's version of the flower in the third Graham monument just mentioned, as the three roundels are his version of the Graham escallops. The boar's head, or pig's face, appears here as a crest, turned to the sinister. These last two instances point to a marriage between a Graham and a member of a family, associated in the local mind with the bearing of a boar's head, or a boar, possible a Chamber of Wolsty, in Holm Cultram, whose crest was a boar, and one of whom married a bride from Bewcastle. (See Nicolson's Visitation of the Diocese of Carlisle p. 25). The crest of a hand brandishing a whip may be some personal allusion.

Mention has already been made of the hearts carried by Hewheart, or Hewart, thus in Stapleton churchyard on a stone dated 1727, Hewart displays a shield on which two swords crossed in saltire between three seven-petalled-

* Janie Graham clearly died young.

† I adopt the nomenclature in Mr. Grazebrook's "Dates of Shields," his No. 7.

Downed

ROSES

roses (?) and three hearts in chief. This looks like a composite coat, recording an alliance between Hewart and some family that bore the crossed swords: it was adopted by the late Sir Simon Hewart, of Carlisle, who came from the vicinity of Stapleton, and rose to high rank as a surgeon in the Indian service; he died *circa* 1840. His arms are blazoned in Papworth as, Or two swords in saltire ppr, hilts and pomels Sa. between two cinquefoils in fess, and another in base, and three hearts in chief Gu., all within a bordure Az. In the same churchyard Hewheart of Linemill, displays a shield, on which is a heart pierced by an arrow head. This bears out the notion that the original arms of Hewheart, or Hewart [or Ewart] are one or more hearts. Dodson of the Clough, in Stapleton churchyard displays an arrow head point downwards between two hearts in base, No. 7. There is probably some connection in legend or alliance between Hewheart of Linemill, and Dodson of the Clough.

Forresters and Forsters abound in Stapleton church and churchyard. On a heavy ledger stone is:—

HOB
HER LIES ROBERT FORRESTER OF ST.
ONEGARTH SIDE 1598 IF IF.

The arms of Forrester or Forster of Stone, or Stane garth side, are:—Arg. a chevron vert between three bugles Sa, stringed Or. In the church is a stone on which is inscribed:—

Here lieth the body of
Arthur Forester late of
Kingfield Gentleman who
departed this life Anno Dom.

August 24. 1680

Aged 79 years.

His arms are simply a chevron ermine between three bugles, but others of the name are much more liberally dealt

dealt with in the churchyard :—thus W.F. has three stag's heads caboshed in chief, three arrow heads points downwards in fess, and three bugles in base ; I.F has the same, but his stag's heads are in profile, and his arrow heads point upwards. Nicol Johnson of Sorbys, 1758, has on his shield a chevron between three bugles, the coat of the Foresters : if not a Forester by descent, Nicol Johnson was probably one by profession, as were the Foresters originally : it is a come-down-in-the-world, as well as in heraldry, to find on the tombstone of John Forester of Leversdale Lane End, who died December 12th, 1806, aged 22 years, a jack-plane, a pair of compasses, and a carpenter's square, enclosed with two sprigs of willow within an oval frame.

The variations between the arms carried by different families of the same name are curious—take the Routledges for instance. The essential parts of the Routledge coat of arms are a chevron, a garb, a sprig of willow and a sword, which last may be indifferently within or without the shield, either in chief, or over the shield. There are seven examples at Bewcastle, which display the charges just mentioned ; they are differenced by having in base a mullet, a holly leaf, an escallop, a heart voided, a rose, a fleur-de-lis, etc. The garb, by the way, is a sore trial to the masons, who make very queer work of it—a bear's paw, a human hand : in one case it appears as a hand with proper allowance of fingers and thumb. The sword of Routledge seems copied from that of a modern officer of infantry, or rather from the tin sword of childhood.

The variants of Armstrong in Bewcastle churchyard are curious. The arms of Armstrong are three dexter arms vambraced and proper, and the crest is a dexter arm vambraced and proper. In Bewcastle churchyard, in 1762, we find these arms displayed with some attempt at heraldic accuracy, knightly helmet, and the crest thereon.

Hard

Hard by is another stone on which are the arms of Armstrong, but the dexter arms are naked with clenched fists, and the knightly helmet becomes that of an eighteenth century dragoon. Another of the clan displays sinister arms, naked, turned to the sinister, and his helmet becomes a mere curl to the sinister. Until I saw these three coats at Bewcastle I was much puzzled by the objects I found surmounting shields of arms on tombstones in North Cumberland. Thus, for long I could make nothing of the object over the shield on the back of the Ferguson stone at Arthuret, and took it to be a bush on a mount. It was not until after I had visited Bewcastle that I recognized it as a full-faced and grated helmet, with crest wreath and crest of a fleur-de-lis. In another instance I at first took the helmet for a celestial globe and frame, such as our great grandmothers were taught the stars upon; but the helmet most frequently degenerates into a simple crook, like the head of a walking stick, or into a bird's head, as on a stone to one Noble at Kirklington.

The variants of Baty are worthy of record. At Arthuret Richard Baty of Stonehouse, who died June 11, 1738, has on the back of his stone a shield with nine rows of chequers; over the top of the shield is a mascle between two keys fesswise, bits inwards and downwards. In Stapleton churchyard is a stone to a Baty with the same chequy shield, and over it the keys in saltire, bits uppermost and outwards. The same churchyard boasts a very odd and modern edition of Baty. The shield *tierce in pale*, and bears two mascles in chief and a third in base; also a dagger or broad-bladed knife in fess between two keys, fesswise, bits to sinister and outwards. Kirklington possesses a very modern variant of Baty, viz., within an oval border, between three horse-shoes, a hammer, and pair of pincers in saltire:—

My

My sledging hammer lies reclined
 My bellows too, have lost their wind
 My fire's extinct, my forge decayed
 And in the dust my vice is laid
 My coals are spent, my iron gone
 My nails are driven, my work is done.

Richard Baty of Redhous

1812.

In Arthuret Churchyard is an altar tomb, on which :—

Here lies the body of Mary wife of
 David Story of Knowe, who died May
 6th, 1767, aged years.
 And also of (nine more of the
 family)

This bears a coat of six pieces, 1, 3, and 5, an ostrich-like bird passant to the sinister, probably a stork or crane, of which Story bears three; 2, a pale floree; 4, vairee; 6, a bend. At Kirklington, Richard Story, 1746, has a shield with three triangular objects in chief, and three birds (the storks or cranes just mentioned); the three objects may be bells, and indicate an alliance with the family of Bell. A very curious shield to Story occurs at Kirklington under date of 1697--two mullets in chief, a crescent in the honour point, and in base an object like a blunt shaped wedge.

Some single coats yet deserve mention. At Kirklington Luke Black, aged 98, in 1738, has his shield charged with a bend sinister, chequy of five pieces, but no imputation on his fame; sinister or dexter, inside a shield or out, was all the same to the heraldic mason of North Cumberland. Carruthers of Foulton, 1783, has three fleur-de-lis, 2, 1. Irving, of Jerrieston, who died September 26, 1772, has a circular shield, on which is a chevron between three holly leaves in chief, and an unknown object in base; the stone is further decorated with a skull,

skull, a pair of cross bones, and an hour-glass. Christopher Routledge has a blank shield underneath a cherub like a wooden doll. This pattern was kept in stock by masons, and instances abound. Janet, the wife of Christopher Jackson, is commemorated by a shield bearing a pair of scissors and a tailor's goose.

At Bewcastle, Scott of Cruckbarn bears, in a circular shield on a bend, a star between two crescents, the arms of Scott of Buccleuch, of whose clan he would probably be a member. Wilson bears a chevron between three roses; in chief a meek animal, which may be the wolf which figures in Wilson coats. There is a Wilson at Arthuret:—

Here lyes
Gorg Wilson son
to Gorg Wilson in
Moot who departed
this life December,
1693 of age 29.

On the back of the stone is a shield with three wolves' heads coupée, crest, a crescent issuing flames of fire—the arms and crest of Wilson of Dallam Tower in Westmorland. In the same churchyard, Arthuret, is a stone with an effaced inscription, and on the back on a shield, a pale charged with three roundels, a coat not known to me as a local one. The shield is of an extraordinary shape. Andrew Holliday of Hudskill, also in Arthuret churchyard, charges his shield with a simple chevron; his date is effaced.

At Stapleton, Gillespie of Upper Luckens, 1718, has also the simple chevron. At Stapleton, also, William Carruthers bears the same shield as Carruthers of Foulton at Kirkclinton, but differenced with a mullet in the honour point. The wife of Thomas Routledge of Smithstead, 1727, has a coat of arms with three mullets in chief, and three objects (? garbs) in base. A stone with-

out

out inscription bears a circular shield, charged with three leopard's faces on a bend, to the sinister to which are three cocks. Three leopard's faces on a bend are Stevenson or Stephenson of Cumberland.

In the churchyard of Over-Denton are a remarkable series of monuments to one family.

(i.)

Here lieth the Body of
Bridget Teasdale of
Mumps hall who Died
October 7th, 1779 aged 59
years.

On the back is a shield of arms, on which 3 piles issuing from the chief and meeting in the base point. Underneath this verse :—

Altho' in death's cold arms I make my Bed,
I only wait until the great assize
When the last trumpet shall awake the dead.

(ii.)

Here lieth the Body
of Margaret
Teasdale of Mumps
Hall who died, May
the 5th, 1777 aged 98
years.

What I was once some may relate
What I am now is each one's fate
What I shall be none can explain
Till he that called call again.

The same coat of arms is on the back.

(iii.)

Here lieth the Body of
George Teasdale of
Mumps hall who Died Apr.
the 27th, 1753 Aged 25 years.

Underneath

Underneath same verse as on No. 1, and at back same coat of arms.

(iv.)

Here lieth the Body of
John Teasdale of Mumps
hall who Died Nov. 1
1788 aged 73 years
Being the last male heir
of the Teasdales of Mumps hall.

Same coat of arms at back. At foot of (ii.) is a flat slab nearly illegible—

(v.)

Margaret Carrick who died 4th Dec. 1717.

The second of these inscriptions commemorates a fearsome woman, Tibs Mumps of Mumps Ha, embalmed in fame by Sir Walter Scott in *Guy Mannering*.

Instances might easily be multiplied of statesmen's arms, viz., in Brampton churchyard the Bowmans display their three long bows, and the Hetheringtons their three griffins, on the back of their several stones. From such sources, and from lintels in farm and other houses a curious ordinary of arms for Cumberland might and should be compiled, and at once, for decay works havoc with tombstones and lintels, and, since the imposition of a duty on armorial bearings, the frugal, though proud, statesmen of Cumberland have ceased to use their armorial bearings, and they are falling into oblivion.

The pedant in heraldic rules will no doubt despise the whole system, if system it may be called, but it is a survival of the early heraldic practice of combining in one shield the charges of *baron* and *feme*. Thus, when Wharton of Wharton, who bore a saltire of lions' paws in a golden field married in the time of Edward III. the heiress of Hastings of Croglin, who bore a maunche argent in a sable field, he took the lady's coat bodily, and encircled

encircled it with a border of gold charged with saltires of lion's paws; so, when a Hewheart of Stapleton in the time of George III. married a Bell of Kirklington, he charged his shield with his own hearts and his wife's bells.

APPENDIX.

The above paper has excited considerable interest in the subject: a few contributions are therefore given towards such an ordinary as is suggested. To these the society is mainly indebted to Miss Kuper.

BOWMAN. Or, a chevron between three long bows erect. Crest a dexter arm embowed grasping an arrow. This is on a tombstone in Kirkoswald churchyard "In memory of Thomas Bowman of Field Garth, who died July 28th 1798 aged 55," and of others of his family.

DAWSON of Penrith. Az. a chevron Ermine: on a chief Ar. three Cornish crows ppr. These arms granted in 1761. See Papworth's Ordinary p. 379.

DENTON of Warnell.—two bars and in chief three cinquefoils—Crest, on a helmet a bird rising.

This occurs twice, alone, on a monument to Thomas Denton of Warnell [d. 1616] in Sebergham Church, and twice impaling Aislabie of Yorkshire and its quarterings, 1, and 4, a fess between three martlets 2 an eagle displayed, 3 a bend.

Denton of Warnell, Arg. two bars gu and three martlets in chief sa. Papworth's Ordinary 26. Aislabie, Aslakeby, Az. a fess between three martlets arg. *Ibid* 732.

HENDERSON. Arg: three piles issuing from the dexter side sable: on a chief of the first a crescent between two ermine spots of the last (?) Crest, an eagle's head, couped ppr. holding in its beak an ermine spot.

These arms are on a book plate, marked "Chris: Henderson of Biglands Cumberland" taken from an old book of travels in Barbary, published in the early years of the last century, and having written on its title page "Christopher Henderson Longburgh."

Papworth's Ordinary p. 1029 gives three similar coats for name of Henderson.

MORRIS of Bellbridge.—two battle axes in saltire between four ragged staffs: on a chief—a fleur-de-lis between the stump of a tree eradicated and couped at the top and a . . .

From

From brass plate at Sebergham Church on which

Here lieth interr'd
the remains of Captain
Thomas Morris who
paid nature debt at
his seat in Bellbridge
November 19 1721 aged 49.

Transactions vol. vii. p. 246.

The arms of Morris as given in Papworth's Ordinary p. 10 are Az. a battle axe in bend sinister surmounted of a tilting spear in bend dexter between four canons or: on a chief of the second a fleur-de-lis of the first enclosed by a demi rose coupé in pale gu: radiated, to the sinister, and by the stump of a tree eradicated and coupé at the top as the third.

RAILTON. —three beast's heads with short ears—Crest, a demi-beast with short ears, holding in its paws a stick.

From a tombstone in Caldbeck churchyard of 1759.

ROBSON. Az. a chevron erm. between three boar's heads coupé or, Papworth's Ordinary 434. See also under Sibson.

SIBSON. —on a fess—, three moons decescent— Crest, a falcon rising. Motto *Nunquam obliviscar.*

These arms are on a tombstone in Grinsdale churchyard, impaling a coat,— a chevron between three beast's heads with short ears coupé,—. The monument commemorates George Sibson, son of Thomas and Isabella, who died in 1720 aged 27. As her maiden name was Robson, the impaled arms will be intended for those of Robson, Az. a chevron erm between three boar's heads coupé or. Papworth's Ordinary p. 434.

SIMPSON of Lonning Head. —on a chief three crescents. Crest a falcon rising. Motto *Alis Nutrior.*

From a tombstone to John Simpson died 1767 aged 84 in Sebergham churchyard. The arms of Simpson of Lonning Head are Argent: on a chief vert three crescents of the first: these arms are given in Papworth's Ordinary p. 570 to Simpson of Udock, Scotland, and to Henry Simpson or Sympson of London 1716.

STORY. Or, a lion rampant within a bordure azure. Motto *Tout pour l'amour rien par force.*

From monument to Richard Story M.D. at Penrith, 1821, where these arms impale Az. a chevron ermine: on a chief argent three Cornish crows ppr for Dawson of Penrith, arms granted 1761. Papworth's Ordinary p. 379.

STUDHOLME of Abbey Holme, co. Cumberland. Vert a horse arg. caparisoned or: on a chief of the second three spur rowels gu. Papworth's Ordinary p. 101. *temp.* H. II.

THOMLINSON of the Gill, Dalston. In a MS. book of the 17th century inscribed "Liber Robert Thomlinson de Gill" is a pencil memorandum. "Name of Thomlinson Bears azure a Cross Moline argt. in a chief gules 3 Cinquefoils or. Crest a Bear's head erased proper. This was done by his own hand, which was found out after long search, and the lowest expense that he can do it for will be half

half a Crown upon Canvice, which is cheapest. But he can do it upon wood to more perfection but it will be dearer." Gatesgill Chronicle vol. iii. p. 37.

VAUX of Brownrigg in the parish of Caldbeck.

Or, a fess checky, or 2 gules, between three garbs bended or. From a lintel over a dwelling house at Brownrigg, on which is Robert Vaux and the date of 1722. See Lysons' History of Cumberland, p. 992.

