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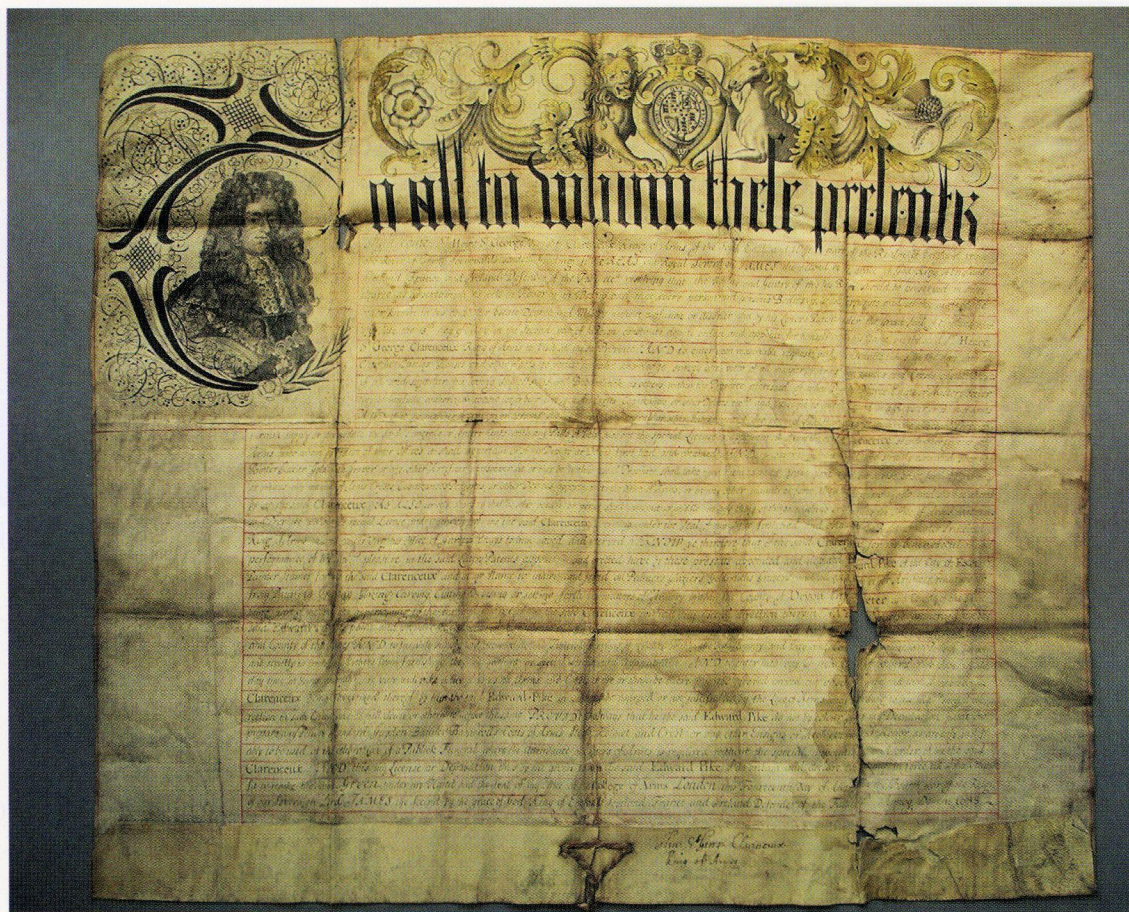
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Letters patent dated 14 August 1688, appointing Edward Pike
Deputy Herald for Devon. See page 103.

LETTERS PATENT APPOINTING EDWARD PIKE DEPUTY HERALD FOR DEVON, 1688

Adrian Ailes

The College of Arms has recently been given the original letters patent appointing Edward Pike a deputy herald for the city of Exeter and the county of Devon (see **Plate 3**). The document is dated 14 August 1688 and is signed and sealed by Sir Henry St George, Clarenceux King of Arms. It was given to the College by Mrs Jeanne Francis in memory of her father, George Hyde. It is not known how her father acquired the document.

The story of deputy heralds in this country has been fully covered by Sir Anthony Wagner, sometime Garter King of Arms, and George Squibb, Norfolk Herald Extraordinary, in an essay published in 1976.¹ The register of deputy heralds in that valuable work does not, however, include Pike. Wagner and Squibb trace the history of deputy heralds back to the 1560s, a decade that witnessed a remarkable reformation and positive renaissance in the heralds' visitations. The royal commission, dated 27 June 1561, granting Lawrence Dalton, Norroy King of Arms, power to visit his northern province included for the first time a clause allowing the visiting king of arms to appoint a local deputy to assist him in his duties either during or between visitations. Thereafter, a number of local men were appointed nationwide on an *ad hoc* basis, in particular to police the activities of rogue arms painters who were producing heraldry without the knowledge and consent of the College of Arms. Some of these deputies may have conducted visitations on behalf of the kings of arms. Full blown deputy heralds created by letters patent signed and sealed, like that of Pike, by a king of arms do not, however, appear until 1598 though such men may have been created earlier for Wales.²

The first known appointment for a deputy herald for Devon and Cornwall is that of John Estcott of Launceston, Cornwall, in 1619. He probably helped at the visitation of Cornwall in 1620 but 11 years later he was in trouble with the College for having donned a herald's tabard. He died in about 1646. Sometime before 1634 a Henry Davy of Beaford, Devon was created a deputy herald for the two counties. On 7 May 1634 Sir Richard St George, Clarenceux, appointed Richard Hornebrooke, painter stainer of Exeter, to produce funeral escutcheons and paint the royal arms in churches and chapels in Devon and Cornwall under Davy's direction. On 7 November 1637 Hornebrooke himself became a deputy herald. His will, proved on

¹ A. R. Wagner and G. D. Squibb, 'Deputy Herald' in *Tribute to an Antiquary: essays presented to Marc Fitch by some of his friends*, edd. Frederick Emmison and Roy Stephens (London 1976), pp. 229-64. Unless otherwise stated much of what follows on deputy heralds and the Hornebrooke family is taken from this invaluable work.

² For possible earlier Welsh appointments see Siddons, *DWH*, vol.1, pp.309, 314.

17 April 1657, refers to his three sons, Richard (the eldest), John and Thomas.³ Richard (junior) does not appear in Wagner and Squibb's register but on 9 February 1660 licence was granted to Richard, son of Richard Hornebrooke, late of Exeter and arms painter, to produce escutcheons in Devon and Cornwall during the indisposition of Sir William le Neve, Clarenceux, then insane. He was also licensed to deface arms used by usurpers. Richard appears to have continued working in this capacity to at least 1665.⁴ In 1667 he was created Bluemantle Pursuivant but the following year shot himself at Newmarket.⁵

John Hornebrooke, Richard's brother, was very probably also a painter stainer. On 22 June 1663 a John Hornebrooke painter, and apprentice of Richard Horenbrooke, was made a freeman of Exeter.⁶ He died sometime between 16 December 1678 (the date of his will) and 4 March 1679 (when his will was proved)⁷ and it appears that his eldest son, John, also a painter, took over the business. On 4 April 1681 an apprentice of this same John, was made a freeman of the city. His name was Edward Pike, the recipient of Sir Henry St George's patent dated 14 August 1688 creating him a deputy herald for the city of Exeter and county of Devon.⁸

According to the letters patent Pike was to inhibit all painters, glaziers, goldsmiths, gravers, and other artificers and to paint escutcheons and supply arms for heraldic funerals. He could also deface arms usurped in churches. It may be that a visitation was planned for the south west; Devon had not been visited for nearly 70 years. On 13 May 1686 James II had granted a new visitation commission to St George to visit the south and as late as 30 April 1688 he had granted a similar commission to Sir John Dugdale, Norroy, to visit his northern province.⁹ But, as the officers of arms lamented at the time, the days of visitations and heraldic funerals were in fast decline and even grants of arms were gradually drying up. In December James II fled the country. Devon and Cornwall were never again visited. It is not known what happened to Pike. In 1690 Charles Stanway painter stainer of Exeter was appointed deputy herald for Devon. He was the son of Simon Stanway apprentice of Richard Hornebrooke back in 1658. He had been summoned before the earl marshal on 10 May 1689 for wearing a tabard of the royal arms and officiating at the proclamation of the new king and queen, William and Mary, at Exeter. In 1699 both he and

³ NA PROB 11/263.

⁴ Soc. Ant. Ms 354 fos.12, 65.

⁵ Godfrey and Wagner, *CA*, p.198.

⁶ *Exeter Freeman 1266-1967*, edd. Margery M. Rowe and Andrew M. Jackson (Devon and Cornwall Record Society Extra Series 1, 1973), p.172.

⁷ NA PROB 11/359 (not 4 May 1678 as quoted by Wagner and Squibb, op. cit., p.259).

⁸ *Exeter Freeman 1266-1967*, loc. cit. In January 1688, very probably in preparation for this appointment, St George copied out the licence dated 7 May 1634 to Richard Hornebrooke granting him licence to paint under Davy's direction (CA Ms Heralds VII, p.35).

⁹ NA C66/3287 no.3 on dorset; C66/3303 no.2. St George issued at least one set of instructions to a deputy herald on 11 May 1688, only three months before Pike's appointment (*Munimenta Heraldica 1484-1984*, ed. G. D. Squibb (Harleian Society, new series vol. iv, 1985), pp. 145-47).

Pike were assessed on the poor rate for the city.¹⁰ Deputy heralds were still appointed particularly over the turn of the century but as far as is known no more were created for Devon.

Pike's letters patent are a valuable addition to the records and collections of the College of Arms. They are rare surviving example of original letters patent creating a deputy herald and they provide the only evidence for Edward Pike holding this office. They are also further proof of the way in which such appointments were kept within a family or family business.

¹⁰ *Exeter in the Seventeenth Century: tax and rate assessments 1602-1699*, ed. W. G. Hoskins (Devon and Cornwall Record Society, new series 2, 1957), pp. 92, 104.

Appendix: Letters patent appointing Edward Pike a deputy herald

(Transcript by courtesy of the College of Arms)

To all to whom these presents | shall come, S^r Henry S^r George Knight Clarenceux King of Arms of the South East and West part of the Realm of England from | the River of Trent Southwards sendeth Greeting WHEREAS our Royal Sovereign JAMES the Second by the grace of God King of England | Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the Faith etc^a resolving that the Nobility and Gentry of this his Realm should be preserved in every | degree as appertaineth as well in Honor as in Worship and that every person and persons Bodies-politick Corporate and others might be the | better known in his and their Estate Degree and Mistery without confusion or disorder did by his Letters Patents under the Great Seal of England bearing date the 13th day of May in the Second year of his Reign constitute depute ordain and appoint for himself and in his Name me the said S^r Henry | St George Clarenceux King of Arms to visit all the said Province AND to enter upon reasonable request and at reasonable times in the day into all | Churches Castles Houses and other places to peruse and take knowledge survey and view of all manner of Arms Cognizances and Crests or other Devices | of all and singular his loving Subjects as well Bodies-politick as others within the Province aforesaid of what Dignity Degree Estate or Mistery soever | they be lawfully authorized to have use or bear any such Arms Crests Cognizances or other Devices etc^a and the same to enter of Record in a Register or Book of Arms | AND that no manner of person or persons shall at any solemn Funeral or other Interrment of any person of Quality or otherwise within the aforesaid Province | furnish supply or accomodate the said Funerals or Interrments with any Palls of Velvet without the special License or appointment of me the said Clarenceux or such other Officers of Arms unto whom by reason of their offices it shall appertain or of my Deputy or Deputies first had and obtained. AND moreover to prohibit forbid and straitly command That no | Painter Glazier Goldsmith Graver or any other Artificer whatsoever he or they be within the said Province shall take upon them to paint grave glaze carve cut devise or set forth by any ways | or means any manner of Arms Crests Cognizances Pedigrees or other Devices appertaining to

the Office of Arms, or in any other manner or form than they may lawfully do and shall be allow'd | by me the said Clarenceux. AS ALSO strictly charging that no other person or persons shall intromit or meddle in any thing or things touching or concerning the Office of Arms within the | said Province without the special License and Authority of me the said Clarenceux writing under the Seal of my Office first had and obtained (the Right of Garter Principal | King of Arms in and concerning his Office of Garter always to him saved and reserved.) KNOW ye therefore that I the said Clarenceux for the better execution and | performance of his Ma^{ties} pleasure in the said Letters Patents appointed and directed have by these presents appointed and deputed Edward Pike of the City of Exeter | Painter Stainer for me the said Clarenceux and in my Name to inhibit and forbid all Painters Glaziers Goldsmiths Gravers and all and [?every] other Artificer whatsoever | from Painting Graving Glazing Cutting Carving Devising or setting forth any manner of Armory within the County of Devon City of Exeter and County of the same | being part of the Province appertaining to the care and charge of me the said Clarenceux without my special direction therein. AND [have] likewise authorized him | the said Edward Pike to paint and prepare such Funeral Escutcheons as have been anciently born or may justifiably be born [within the] said County and City | and County of the same AND to furnish supply and accomodate the Funerals of persons of Quality within the said County and City and Count[y of the] same with Palls of Velvet | and strictly to prohibit all others from furnishing the same without my special License and Appointment AND to enter into any Church Ch[...] or other Publick place in the day | time at hours seasonable, to view and take notice of any such Arms and Crests as are or shall be there painted graved carved cut or set up [to] the end that I the said | Clarenceux being advertized thereof by him the said Edward Pike in case they be usurped or not justifiable by the Law of Arms may [acc]ording to his Ma^{ties} special di|rection in such Cases reverse pull down or otherwise deface the same PROVID-ED always that he the said Edward Pike do not by colour of [this] my Deputation paint or | prepare any Penon Standard Guydon Banner Bannerolls Coats of Arms Shield Helmet and Crest or any other Ensigns or Atchievements of Honor as are only justifi|ably to be used at the celebration of a Publick Funeral where the attendance of Officers of Arms is required without the special appointment and order of me the said Clarenceux. AND this my License or Deputation thus by me given to him the said Edward Pike I do ordain and declare to continue in force till I shall think | fit to revoke the same Given under my Hand and the Seal of my Office at the College of Arms London this Fourteenth day of August in the Fourth year of the Reign | of our Sovereign Lord JAMES the Second by the grace of God King of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the Faith etc^a Annoq Domini 1688.

[signed] Hen: St George Clarenceux
king of Arms