

Third Series Vol. III part 1.

No. 213

Spring 2007

ISSN 0010-003X

Price £12.00

THE COAT OF ARMS

an heraldic journal published twice yearly by The Heraldry Society



THE COAT OF ARMS

The journal of the Heraldry Society



Third series

Volume III

2007

Part 1

Number 213 in the original series started in 1952

The Coat of Arms is published twice a year by The Heraldry Society, whose registered office is 53 High Street, Burnham, Slough SL1 7JX. The Society was registered in England in 1956 as registered charity no. 241456.

Founding Editor

†John Brooke-Little, C.V.O., M.A., F.H.S.

Honorary Editors

C. E. A. Cheesman, M.A., PH.D., Rouge Dragon Pursuivant

M. P. D. O'Donoghue, M.A., Bluemantle Pursuivant

Editorial Committee

Adrian Ailes, B.A., F.S.A., F.H.S.

Jackson W. Armstrong, B.A.

Andrew Hanham, B.A., PH.D.

Advertising Manager

John Tunesi of Liongam

SIR HENRY SPELMAN INVESTIGATES

Richard Cust

Historians of the English gentry have long been familiar with the genealogical and heraldic fabrications of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. From the publications of J. H. Round in the early 1900s through to the recent work of Clive Holmes and Jan Broadway, scholars have been adept at exposing bogus pedigrees and invented coats of arms.¹ They have revealed how documents were forged, seals were manufactured, church monuments were tampered with and spurious descents were claimed as fact, all to the end of endowing families with a more distinguished or antique descent. Jan Broadway has made the important point that the early Stuart gentry were fairly relaxed about such fabrications as long as the claims being made were commensurate with a family's status; but historians have been less tolerant. Round took a positive relish in exposing to view the forgeries which members of the Edwardian peerage still maintained as part of their family mythology;² and, latterly, Clive Holmes has ruthlessly uncovered the crude invention of the otherwise much-admired Gregory King. Distinguished figures amongst heralds and antiquarians have been implicated in some highly questionable practices. Round has shown that William Dugdale was at best gullible and at worst deliberately deceitful in promoting the claim of his powerful Warwickshire neighbour, Basil Fielding, second earl of Denbigh, to be descended from the Hapsburgs. Holmes shows that King, as Lancaster Herald in the 1690s, colluded with the notorious fortune-hunter Elizabeth Grimes to endow her with a descent from the Grahams of Yorkshire. And Round, again, implicated John Philipot, Somerset herald, in forging documents to provide a pre-Conquest descent for Sir Moyle Finch who had recently purchased a baronetcy.³ Such revelations have left the heralds with a not altogether savoury reputation. The supposed guardians of genealogical rectitude have been shown time and again to be as inventive as any other genealogist of the day. Lawrence Stone has rubbed their noses in this with positive gusto, describing them as 'those imaginative, creative

¹ J. H. Round, *Peerage and Pedigree: studies in peerage law and family history* (2 vols., London 1910); id., *Studies in Peerage and Family History* (London 1901); F. Heal & C. Holmes, *The Gentry in England and Wales 1500-1700* (London 1994), pp. 36-7; C. Holmes, 'The strange case of a misplaced tomb: family honour and the law in late seventeenth century England', *Midland History* 31 (2006), pp. 18-36; J. Broadway, 'No Historie So Meete'. *Gentry Culture and the Development of Local History in Elizabethan and Early Stuart England* (Manchester 2006), pp. 156-8.

² Round has been described as hunting down dubious pedigrees remorselessly, 'nailing them up one by one, as a gamekeeper nails up his vermin': Edmund King, 'Round, John Horace', *Oxford DNB*.

³ J. H. Round, 'Our English Hapsburgs: A Great Delusion', *Genealogist* 2nd ser. 10 (1894), pp. 193-206; Holmes, 'Family honour and the law', pp. 18-23; J. H. Round, 'The origin of the Finches', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 70 (1929), pp. 19-31.

writers' ... 'whose duty it was to smother new wealth beneath a coat of arms and a respectable pedigree'.⁴ Even the premier historian of the profession, former Garter King of Arms, Sir Anthony Wagner, has been forced to admit that 'the conclusion that complaisance or avarice upon occasion got the better of honesty, is difficult to resist'.⁵ However, there is a danger, amidst this welter of criticism, of losing sight of the critical expertise that heralds, and their antiquarians advisers, did display on many less well-publicised occasions. A case involving Sir Henry Spelman, which came before the Court of Chivalry in 1635, illustrates this.

The case was brought by Sir John Borough, Garter King of Arms, Sir Richard St George, Clarenceux, and Sir Henry St George, soon to be promoted Norroy, against Thomas Tuckfield of Tedbourne in Devon. Tuckfield was accused of having erected a large funeral monument in Crediton church, Devon, on which 'he hath placed arms and given his father the title of esquire', in spite of the fact that his father, John, had been made to disclaim his gentility at the heralds' visitation of Devon in 1620.⁶ This was one of a number of similar cases promoted by the heralds during 1634-5. The Court of Chivalry was only established on a regular footing in March 1634 and, although the bulk of its business related to defamation, the heralds recognised an opportunity to reinforce their traditional role in authorising descents and coats of arms.⁷ There was a spate of such cases in May 1634, following the visitation of London by Sir Henry St George, at which defendants were required to provide proof of their descent and faced having to disclaim, or submit to their arms being defaced, if they failed to do so.⁸ A year or so later there was another round of cases in which Londoners were again prosecuted for fraudulent displays of arms, mainly at their relatives' funerals.⁹ The Tuckfield case was part of this second round of prosecutions and was probably instigated by Sir Henry St George, who, as Richmond herald, had supervised the disclaimer by John Tuckfield at Exeter on 12 August 1620,¹⁰ and in the 1630s made a habit of hunting down bogus displays of coat armour.¹¹

⁴ L. Stone, *The Crisis of the Aristocracy, 1558-1641* (Oxford 1965), pp. 23, 66.

⁵ Sir Anthony Wagner, *Heralds of England* (London 1967), p. 208.

⁶ The papers for this case have been calendared and transcribed as case 351, *Kings of Arms v Tuckfield*, on line at 'The Court of Chivalry 1634-1640', a fully searchable web site at www.court-of-chivalry.bham.ac.uk. The references given in this article are to the original papers at the College of Arms.

⁷ 'Introduction', in R. P. Cust and A. J. Hopper (edd.), *Cases in the High Court of Chivalry, 1634-1640* (Harl. Soc. pubns. new ser. vol. 18, London 2007), pp. x-xxxi.

⁸ Case 175, *Duck v Hurt*, and case 180, *Duck v Underwood*, at www.court-of-chivalry.bham.ac.uk.

⁹ Case 346, *Kings of Arms v Fetherstone*; case 349, *Kings of Arms v Parker*; and case 352, *Kings of Arms v Wisemen* at www.court-of-chivalry.bham.ac.uk.

¹⁰ F. T. Colby (ed.), *The Visitation of the County of Devon in the year 1620* (Harl. Soc. pubns. vol. 6, London 1872), p. 361.

¹¹ See the letter from Ralph Fetherstonhalgh of Stanhope Hall, Durham (Jan. 1634/5?): CA, Curia Militaris, 9/4/23 transcribed in case 346, *Kings of Arms v Fetherstone* at www.court-of-chivalry.bham.ac.uk.

Thomas Tuckfield (**Plate 3a**) was an upwardly-mobile Inns of Court educated gentleman who had married into the long established county dynasty of Richard Reynell of Creedy. He secured a place on the Devon bench in July 1632 which entitled him to call himself esquire.¹² It seems that on the monument which he erected to his deceased wife and father on 12 March 1630/1 he could not resist redesignating his father's status in line with his own. The monument itself was clearly intended as a statement that the family had arrived amongst the county elite. It was cut above the norm for the monuments of county justices in this period, in terms both of design and positioning (**Plate 2**). Pevsner admired the dramatic, neoclassical composition and extensive use of marble, describing it as 'uncommonly satisfactory work of its date';¹³ and it was placed prominently in the chancel at Crediton which is one of the most imposing perpendicular churches in the county. However, Tuckfield's assertion of his newly acquired status may well have rankled with his neighbours, and it seems likely that it was one of these who brought the monument to St George's attention.

The case began on 18 February 1634/5 with articles of prosecution which emphasised that 'for up to 100 years last past' Tuckfield and his forbears had been 'plebeians, and therefore had no right to bear arms', and which called for him to be 'publicly declared and proclaimed to be no gentleman, enjoined not to bear arms and condemned in costs, according to the laws of arms.'¹⁴ It was what happened next that makes this case so interesting. Tuckfield promptly presented ten deeds to the court which purported to show that his family had born arms and owned the manor at Tedbourne since Edward I's reign. The presiding judges, the Earl Marshal, the earl of Arundel, and his professional surrogate, Sir Henry Marten, seem to have recognised at once that there was something fishy about these evidences and therefore referred them for further examination to Sir Henry Spelman, Sir Edward Dering and Ralph Whitfield, Serjeant at Law. Spelman and his son-in-law Whitfield met at Whitfield's house in the Barbican on 16 May and their report offers a fascinating insight into the forensic and forgery-busting techniques of a seventeenth century antiquarian.¹⁵

Spelman was an obvious choice as expert analyst. Through his role in the founding of the Society of Antiquaries and his authorship of various scholarly treatises – the best known of which was his *De non temerandis ecclesiis* (1613), later translated as *The History and Fate of Sacrilege* – he had established a distinguished reputation as an antiquarian scholar. Moreover, during the 1620s and 30s he was appointed by the privy council to provide scholarly advice to a whole series of investigations, ranging from the 1622 commission on fees to the 1635 inquiry into Sir Robert

¹² CA, Curia Militaris 18/1a, 18/1b. For Richard Creedy and his relationship to Tuckfield, see Mary Wolfe, *Gentry Leaders in Peace and War: The Gentry Governors of Devon in the Early Seventeenth Century* (Exeter 1997), chap. 8.

¹³ N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Devon* (2nd edn., Harmondsworth 1989), p. 297. For further comment on the design, see N. Llewellyn, *Funeral Monuments in Post-Reformation England* (Cambridge 2000), p. 369.

¹⁴ CA, Curia Militaris, 7/55; 9/4/3.

¹⁵ Ibid., 9/4/6. For a transcription of this report, see the appendix, below.

Naunton's suitability to continue as Master of the Wards.¹⁶ Spelman took his commission from the Court of Chivalry very seriously, subjecting the deeds to three types of analysis. Firstly, he evaluated the physical condition of the documents, examining the inks used, the state of the parchment and the condition of the seals. Then he explored the diplomatic aspects, looking at the handwriting, the wording, the layout and the styles of address. Thirdly, he used his research into the Exchequer records to verify the content of the documents.

To Spelman's trained eye, the first document must have been a very obvious forgery. It purported to be a deed of Edward II's reign showing that Mabel, the wife of Alfred Tookfield, was owner of the manor of Tedbourne; however, as Spelman pointed out,

the inck wherwith it is written hath no other colour than some of our tyme, far differing from that of the third deed now also produced, made 17 Ed. I ... and from other of the tyme of Ed. II.

The handwriting was similarly questionable, having

no semblance of the tyme of Ed. II, as may be perceaved by comparinge it with the deed laste before menconed and those of Ed. II tyme. Nor is it the sett or ordinary hande of any man as we conceive, but affected and written by way of imitation.

Furthermore the parchment was very obviously of recent manufacture, and had

bene on the shepe's back longe since the one of us was borne, and is yet so grene and greasie as ynck may be wiped off of it without leaving the marke of letters behinde it.

And, as further confirmation that the document was a forgery, he was able to point out that the seal was an anachronism. It had

neither the shape or shewe of Ed. II tyme, nor of antiquity or workmanship: for seales of armes in those dayes (as also in the tyme we lyve) graven by workemen were generally uppon sheilds embossed or raysed, not flatt as this is... And those sheildes were comonly like a cone or sharpe at the pointe, not so rounde as this is.

Moreover, the red wax was in such a state that

a pinne will enter it mutch more easely then if it were of Ed. II: for then would it be mutch harder and crustie, apte to rise in scales and ponder [*sic*: the word could be 'powder'].

¹⁶ Broadway, *op. cit.* pp. 74-6; Heal and Holmes, *op. cit.* pp. 319-21; S. Handley, 'Spelman, Sir Henry', in *Oxford DNB*; J. Broadway, R. P. Cust and S. K. Roberts (edd.), *A Calendar of the Docquets of Lord Keeper Coventry 1625-1640* (List and Index Society, special series, vols. 34-7: 2004), p. 42.

Finally, to cap it all, he consulted the *Nomina Villarum* of Edward II's reign and ascertained that it was Walther of Honyton, not Mabel Tookefield, who owned the manor of Tedbourne.

The second deed, purporting to be of Henry IV's reign, was subjected to similar scrutiny. Again the ink and the handwriting identified it as a forgery, and to add to this there were crucial errors in the diplomatic character of the text, such as the lack of evidence of the cutting into two or more parts which was normal for indentures of the period, and the fact that

being indented, it wanteth the worde *indentata* in the beginning and misreciteth the king's stile in the ende of it, placeinge *Anglie* before *post conquestum* where it should followe.

Spelman accepted that the remaining documents were all genuine, including a deed from Edward I's reign; but, as he pointed out, they had been subjected to clumsy alterations and erasures. In the Edward I deed the name 'Gostfeld' had been very obviously changed to Tokefeld', '(by turning the first letter into a T and the st into ke)'. The deed of Henry VIII's reign had been deliberately torn to remove the title 'generosus' from one of the witnesses, lest the absence of a title next to the name of William Tuckfield, the grantor, be taken to imply that he was not a gentleman. And in another deed of 7 Elizabeth the 's' in the 'sen' appended to John Tuckfield had been changed to a 'g' so that he appeared to be a gentleman. The forger, however, had spoilt the effect by leaving the description 'John Tuckfield *sen* for *senioris*' earlier in the deed; and to remove any doubt on this score Spelman had checked the fine rolls and established that the correct appellation was indeed 'sen'. Spelman and Whitfield concluded that

one hand wrott both that of 10 Ed. II and that also of 1 Hen. 4, and made the alteracon of the worde *sen* for *seniorem* into the word *gen* for *generosum* in the cyrograph, for the fashion of the letter g is constantly the same in all the 3 places, and so generally are many other letters in the first two deedes.

They also gave it as their opinion that 'one hande graved all the seales, for that the fashion and manner of the scutchions is every where alike, without observinge any variety of ages one person.' The only thing they were not able to ascertain was the identity of the forger.

Spelman's and Whitfield's report was considered by the court on 9 and 20 June 1635 and it was accepted that Tuckfield had, indeed, been guilty of forgery. However, there was then a delay of nearly a year until Sir William le Neve, who had replaced Sir Richard St George as Clarenceux, entered fresh articles, charging Tuckfield with exhibiting 'various writings which on examination by learned men were deemed forgeries.'¹⁷ At this point Tuckfield became rather elusive and it was not until the autumn of 1637 that sentence was finally passed against him. He received

¹⁷ CA, Curia Militaris, 20/2d.

THE COAT OF ARMS

the unusually heavy fine of £100 and was bound over for good behaviour. However, in November he entered a plea for mitigation and had his fine reduced to £5, but with the proviso that the court should hang on to 'those evidences and writings that were forged, counterfeit or false' to 'justify the decree and the whole proceeding.'¹⁸ As in other cases where a defendant's own gentility could be clearly demonstrated, the court acted relatively leniently. However, there was another important element to the punishment which is disguised in the record we have of proceedings because the original sentence has not survived.

Normally in such cases there was a requirement that any displays of false arms or titles be removed or defaced; and, if we return to the monument in Crediton church, it appears that this was what happened here. In the area above the figure of Tuckfield's wife, Elizabeth (**Figure 1a**), there is a shield-shaped space where the offending coat of arms had originally hung, together with indications that it had been hacked out. And if one looks closely at the appellation 'ESQ' on the plaque commemorating John Tuckfield the surface of the marble is differently coloured and shows signs of having been disturbed. It would appear that the title had originally been scratched out and then later re-engraved (**Figure 1b**; see **Plate 3b** for detail). The long arm of the Court of Chivalry had reached out and provided a physical demonstration of its power in this corner of Devon.

Figure 1. Crediton church, Devon: details from the Tuckfield monument showing (a), left, the figure of Elizabeth Tuckfield originally under a shield, now removed; and (b), right, relief bust of John Tuckfield over inscribed plaque showing signs of alteration.



¹⁸ CA, Curia Militaris, 3/98.

Ironically, had Tuckfield delayed tampering with his monument he would probably have got away with it. Just over three years after sentence was passed against him further sittings of the Court of Chivalry were suspended by the Long Parliament and when it returned after 1687 its powers were diminished.¹⁹ The case, however, does serve as a reminder that in its heyday in the late 1630s the court took its responsibilities to the honour community of the gentry seriously, and the heralds and antiquarians who serviced its proceedings were capable of high standards of professionalism and expertise.²⁰

Appendix: College of Arms, Curia Militaris 9/4/6

Report of Sir Henry Spelman and Ralph Whitfield on Tuckfield's evidences.²¹

20 June 1635. *Reference by the Earl Marshal and Sir Henry Marten his lieutenant in the Earl Marshal's court, dated 2 May 1635, to Sir Henry Spelman and Ralph Whitfield, Serjeant at law, with Sir Edward Dering, Bt., or any two of them to inspect certain evidences relating to Thomas Tuckfield. Spelman and Whitfield met at Whitfield's house in the Barbican on 16 May 1635 and inspected ten parcels of evidences presented by Tuckfield's proctor William Elworthie:*

Touching the first parcell of the saide evidence being a release from Mabella quae fuit uxor Alfredi de Tokefeild dated die jovis post festum S. Gregory Pape anno regni Regis Edwardi fil Reg. Edw decimo which is the First for by that date it should be 318 yeares old; yet the inck wherwith it is written hath no other colour than some of our tyme, far differing from that of the third deed now also produced, made 17 Ed. I which was but about 35 yeares before it, and from other of the tyme of Ed. II.

Secondly the hande hath no semblance of the tyme of Ed. II, as may be perceaved by comparinge it with the deed laste before menconed and those of Ed. II tyme. Nor is

¹⁹ Cust and Hopper, op. cit. p. xxiv; G. D. Squibb, *The High Court of Chivalry* (Oxford 1959), chap. 6.

²⁰ As a salutary postscript, however, it should be noted that Sir Henry St George, who probably initiated the prosecution in the Tuckfield case, was himself proceeded against in the Court of Chivalry in December 1638, for having forged his father's signature on a grant of arms to a Kentish gentleman. As a result, in April 1639, he was fined and suspended from office until a pardon was issued in April 1640: Thomas Woodcock, 'St George, Sir Henry', *Oxford DNB*; case 179, *Duck v St George*, at www.court-of-chivalry.bham.ac.uk.

²¹ I am most grateful to Robert Yorke, the archivist at the College of Arms, for his generous assistance with my researches in the Court of Chivalry records, and to the Chapter of the College of Arms for permission to publish transcripts of the records in their custody. I am also grateful to the Parish Administrator, Crediton, Devon, for permission to publish photographs of the Tuckfield monument.

THE COAT OF ARMS

it the sett or ordinary hande of any man as we conceive, but affected and written by way of imitation.

Thirdly the parchment wherein it is written is so far from being 318 yeare olde as we suppose it to have bene on the shepe's back longe since the one of us was borne, and is yet so grene and greasie as ynck may be wiped off of it without leaiving the marke of letters behinde it.

Fourthly the seale (as we conceive) hath neither the shape or shewe of Ed. II tyme, nor of antiquity or workmanship: for seales of armes in those dayes (as also in the tyme we lyve) graven by workemen were generally uppon sheilds embossed or rayseed, not flatt as this is (though many such may be). And those sheildes were comonly like a cone or sharpe at the pointe, not so rounde as this is. Besides the fusills in the sheilde are peirced which is contrary to the bearinge of them. And the seale being redd wax a pinne will enter it mutch more easly then if it were of Ed. II: for then would it be mutch harder and crustie, apte to rise in scales and ponder [²²]. And whereas this Mabell, formerly the wife of Alfred Tookfield doth here affirme herselfe in 10 Ed. II to be owner of the lordshipp and mannor in Tetbourne, and to have had the same of the guifte of her father John de Tebourne, the son of John de Teborne, it doth not so appeare by a note out of *Nomina Villarum* in the Chequer, made as we take it 9 Ed. II. And by the booke there of *feoda militum*, made 24 Ed. I, it is said that *Walter de Honyton ten villa de Tetborne de Tho de Tetteborne* etc.

The second parcell is a deed dated *die veneris etc proxime post festu S. Joh ante portam latinam* (which is on 6 May) *anno regni Henrici IIII Anglie post conquestum primo (id est An. Dn. 1400)*. And this also is subject to the twoe firste, and parte of the last, objections before mencioned. Further, being indented, it wanteth the worde *indentata* in the beginning and misreciteth the king's stile in the ende of it, placeinge *Anglie* before *post conquestum* where it should followe. And though it hath scratches with a penn made uppon the indentinge, in imitacon of those in the tyme of Ed. II and Ed. III yet have they here no application to the letters of any worde, whereas in those daies they were comonly a parte of the worde *cyrographus* (or such other) cutt into 2 partes, whereof one parte remayned uppon the indentinge of the one counterpaine, the other uppon the indentinge of the other, and made out of the word being applied together.

The thirde parcell was truly a deed of 17 Ed. I, but the name Gostfeld (or such like) amonge the witnesses is defaced and in an unperfect mannor made Tokefeld (by turning the first letter into a T and the st into ke) as plainly appeareth. Yet doth it neither agree with the 2 former deeds where Tookfeld is written with a double o not a single, nor with any of the rest where it is alwaies written with Tuc or Tuck etc.

The fourth parcell is an indenture of 12 Febr. an. 28 Hen. 8 whereto William Tuckfield was a party, but whether the seale of 3 *fusills in fesse* of the scutchion, which it now semeth to have (though bruised and defaced), be the same it had at the

²² *Sic* in Ms. Read 'powder'?

firste we cannot decerne, nor whether the gravinge be according to that tyme. But we suppose that it was not then so common with many gentlemen and persons of great quality as it had bene before, and is since, to seale with sheilds and coates of armes, for that the use of them in warre was declined, leaste perhaps they should be markes for gunnes which then were very usuall. And this indenture hath bene otherwise ill delt with, for whereas it was saide in the laste lyne save one *Hiis testibus Gilberto Gale generoso* the worde *generoso* is bitten or torne out, yet not so entirely but that by some dashes of letters remayning it may be conceived. And wee take it to be done uppon this reason, that it might not appeare that Gilbert Gale, a witnesse, should be written gentleman when William Tuckfield the grantour in the deed using a seale of armes was neither stiled esq nor gentleman. Yet (to do him right) it semeth by it that he was a freehoulder of good ranck and ability, and not only an owner of divers messuages and landes, but also of some seignoriall rights, as reservinge an heriot and havinge a bailiff.

The 5th parcell is an indenture dated 16 May 2 Ed. 6 whereby Humfrey Prydeaux selleth a grove of wood and underwoode to John Tuckefield of Crediton etc. But the addition of John Tuckefield is scraped out, and to colour the matter so also is the addition of Humfrey Prydeaux, with some other wordes whereby it may seme that some of the issue or kindred of the said John, mislikinge his addition, did thus deface it. And as touching the seale of this indenture we suspect, as of the last precedent, wishing that the counterpanes of them both might be produced.

The 6th parcell is the cyrograph of a fine levied *Ter. Pasc. 7 Eliz.* by Richard Prydeaux, esq, and John Tuckfield, gent, to William Loveday; but whereas it was there saide *Inter Willmum Loveday querent et Ricum Prideaux armiger et John Tuckfield sen defor* the letter s in sen is rased and made a g that so it might be *generosum*. But the top of the s doth yet appeare in the 4th line above the bottom, it still remaineth *Johis sen* for *senioris*. To put all out of doubt the recorde itselfe in the fine office is *inter Wilmum Lovedey querent et Ricum Prideaux arm et Johem Tuckfield sen defor*. And besides it is there saide *et Tetborne be Marie*, but the words *be Marie* which was interlined betweene the 2 and 3 line of this cyrograph are scraped out.

The 7th parcell is an indenture of 8 Octob. an. 5 Jacobi, Edw Seimour, esq, and other on the firste and second parte, and John Tuckfield gent, on the thirde parte, where the seale of armes [²³] put for John Tuckfield semeth considerable both for some reasons before delivered and for that the wax is a little fresher coloured, more in quantity and otherwise moulded then that of the other seales there annexed. The rest of the tenn parcells we medle not with as conceiving them not material to the matter in hande.

To conclude, we humbly conceive under reformation that it is like enough that one hande graved all the seales for that the fashion and manner of the scutchions is every where alike, without observinge any variety of ages as namely, that of 10 Ed. 2, 1 Hen. 4, 28 Hen. 8, 2 Ed. 6 and 5 Jacobi Rex. Those also of 10 Ed. 2, 1 Hen. 4 though

²³ Ms has 'may', deleted.

THE COAT OF ARMS

by their dates the one should be 84 yeares older than the other, yet have they not only the same manner of scutcheon and gravinge, but both of them the like indented trayle rounde about the scutcheon. And as it semeth that one hand graved them all so likewise doth it seme that one hand wrott both that of 10 Ed. II and that also of 1 Hen. 4, and made the alteracon of the worde *sen* for *seniorem* into the word *gen* for *generosum* in the cyrograph, for the fashion of the letter g is constantly the same in all the 3 places, and so generally are many other letters in the first two deedes. All which (being but only as we conceive) we most humbly submitt to be reformed by this most honourable courte, craving pardon for what we have mistaken.

Signed by Henry Spelman and Raphe Whitfelde.

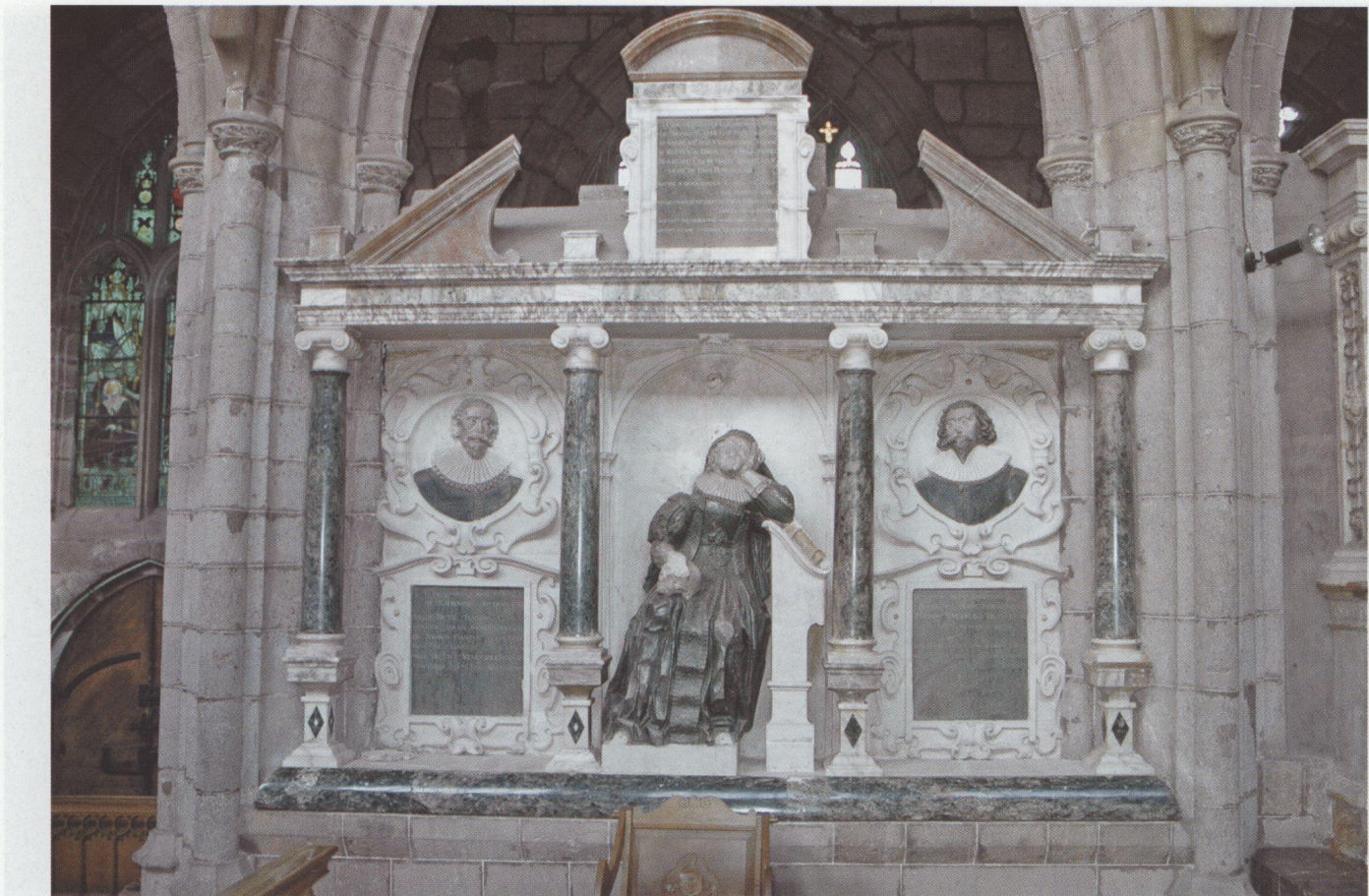


PLATE 2

Holy Cross parish church, Crediton, Devon: Tuckfield family tomb, March 1630-1. *See page 27.*

PLATE 3



Holy Cross parish church, Crediton, Devon: above (a), relief portrait of Thomas Tuckfield, March 1630-1; below (b), inscription to John Tuckfield, with the designation 'Esq' apparently defaced and then restored. *See pages 27 and 30.*

