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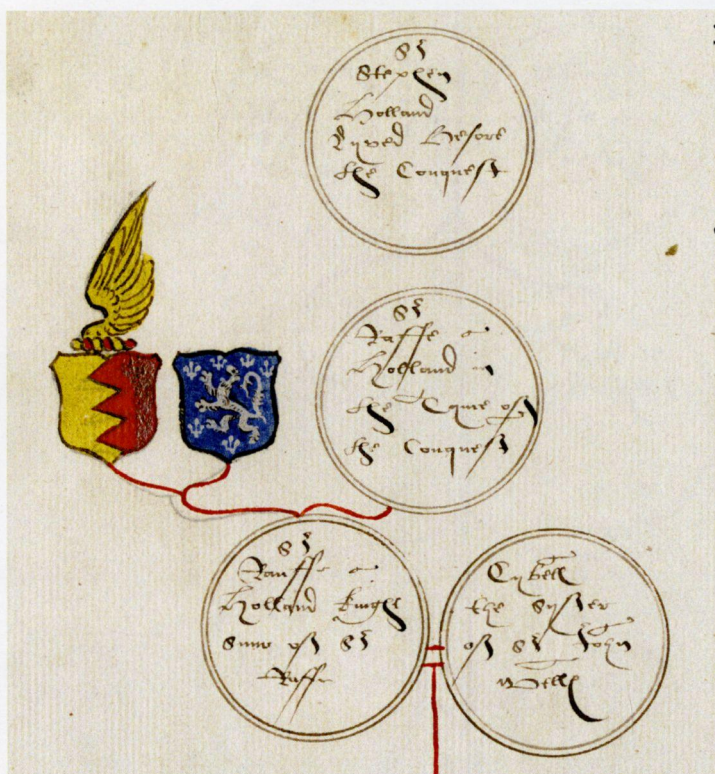
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PLATE 1

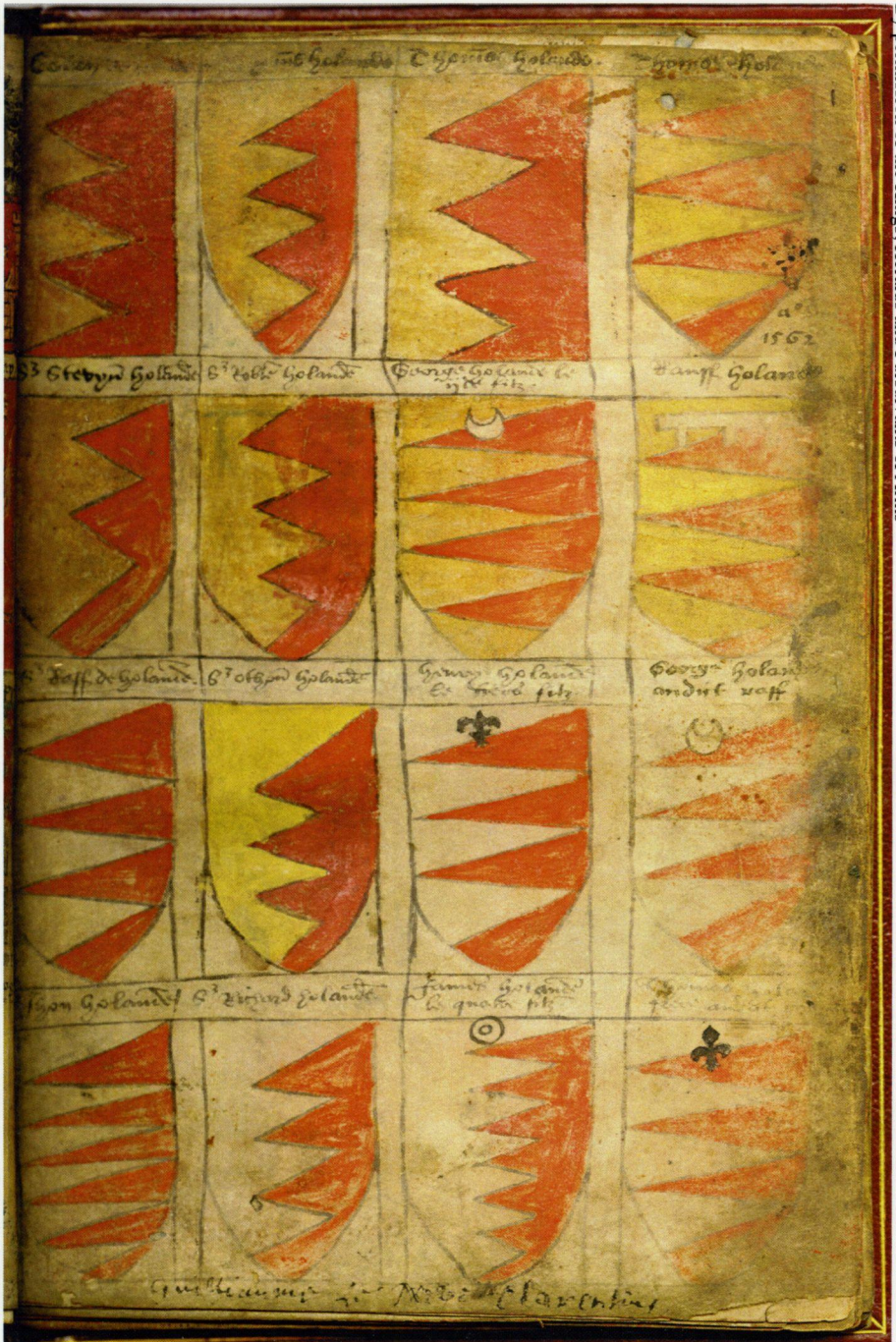


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Top (a), privy seal of Margaret de Hoyland, found near Swineshead in Lincolnshire. Scale 2:1. Bottom (b), upper part of pedigree of Holland with alternative coats of arms. *Heralds' Visitation of Lincolnshire, 1562-4: CA record Ms D8 / 26v.*
See pages 23-4.

PLATE 2

By permission of the Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of Arms



The arms of members of the Holland family of Lincolnshire.
CA Ms Jenyns Ordinary, fo 1r (bound out of sequence): an addition dated 1562 to a manuscript of c.1380. See page 24.

SHORTER NOTES

The seal of Margaret de Hoyland. *Clive Cheesman writes:* A fine medieval seal matrix found in the area of Swineshead near Boston, in Holland, one of the 'Parts' of Lincolnshire, and declared under the Portable Antiquities Scheme, sheds light on the Holand, Holland or Hoyland family of Estovenig (Stenning) and Swineshead. The matrix is PAS database object LIN-D258E4 and can be viewed online at finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/195565. My thanks to Michael Lewis and Helen Geake of the PAS and Adam Daubney, the Lincolnshire Finds Liaison Officer who recorded the item and provided further information, and to Nigel Ramsay, Shaun Tyas and Michael Stansfield for very valuable comments on a draft version of this note.

The object (see **Plate 1a**) was found by a metal detectorist searching on agricultural land with the landowner's permission, and is a cast copper-alloy matrix of pointed oval or lenticular form, 35.8mm long, 22.8 mm at its widest point and 3.8mm at its thickest. The rear is flat and undecorated, with a damaged suspension loop at the top. The face bears a very well preserved design, showing a front-facing standing female figure with draped headdress and long gown, holding in each hand a shield. The shield in her right hand (which would appear on the left in an impression taken from the matrix) is *Per pale indented*; that in her left is *A chevron between three escallops*. The legend starts at the top and runs round the whole border in a clockwise direction, reading SECRETV' MARGARETE DE HOYLAND ('Privy seal of Margaret de Hoyland'). The style of the object dates it to the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century.

The find spot could scarcely be more appropriate. In the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the family of Hoyland, Holand or Holland, who presumably took their name from the district (*Hoiland* in Domesday Book), were prominent landowners with estates at Swineshead and the nearby lost village of Estovenig or Stenning, on which see C. W. Foster and T. Longley, *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey* (Lincoln Rec. Soc. vol. 19, Lincoln 1924), p. lxxvii; also www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=352468. At least one of the family was buried in the nearby Cistercian foundation of Swineshead Abbey (sometimes called Holland Abbey), at Baythorpe to the east of the village. For the Abbey and the house built there in 1607, incorporating its remains, see the National Heritage List (list.english-heritage.org.uk) no 1165368; for the schedule of the site and contextual background on the Abbey, see no 1018687. Gilbert of Holland or Hoyland, abbot in the later twelfth century (on whom see *Oxford DNB*), was doubtless so named from the abbey and should not be presumed a member of the family; but Stephen 'de Hoilandia', listed among the foundation's early benefactors (Dugdale, *Monasticon* ed. Caley et al., London 1825, vol. 5, p. 337), was perhaps remembered as an ancestor (see below).

Heraldically the seal is conclusive evidence that the medieval Hollands of Lincolnshire bore the red and gold *Per pale indented* or *Barry pily* arms often ascribed

to them in armorials, and not *Azure semy-de-lys and a lion rampant* (sometimes *guardant*) *argent* as used by Thomas Holland (d. 1360), the husband of Joan, the 'Fair Maid of Kent'. Thomas Holland, whose ancestors lived at and took their name from Upholland in Lancashire, was Earl of Kent in his wife's right, and was (with his brother Otto or Otes) a founding knight of the Garter; his descendants – Earls of Kent and Dukes of Exeter – remained in the front rank of the nobility until well into the fifteenth century. At a later date the heraldic distinction between the two families was obscured, under the influence of the false belief that they were of common ancestry. This belief is reflected in the pedigree of the family in the 1562-4 Visitation of Lincolnshire (CA record Ms D8/26v-29v; draft at E1/30r-32r: see **Plate 1b**) and is central to an important narrative left by George Holland of Crowland (d. 1568), excerpted in Francis Blomefield's *Norfolk*, ed. and cont. C. Parkin (London 1805), vol. 1, pp. 342-4, from which many subsequent published accounts derive. A younger son of the Swineshead family, George Holland firmly believed himself kin to the Earls of Kent, just as other Hollands in Lancashire, Norfolk and no doubt many other places have done. His error was in some respects understandable: not only had one junior line of the noble Hollands had settled at Thorpe Waterville in Northamptonshire, not too far from Lincolnshire, but – as George Holland himself noted – several of the nobles were entombed in the neighbourhood, in Bourne Abbey and the Greyfriars' church in Stamford; by their name and their physical proximity these great men of a former age called out for inclusion in the ancestral roll-call.

The pedigree of the Hollands given by A. S. Larken (d. 1889 as Richmond Herald), CA Ms Lincolnshire Pedigrees 2, pp. 220-3, still registers the false kinship with the Earls of Kent. In A. R. Maddison's *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* (vol. 2 = Harl. Soc. Pubns. 51, London 1903), pp. 504-7, otherwise based on Larken, it has disappeared. There are, however, two residual traces of the misapprehension: the pedigree starts not just with a pre-Conquest ancestor called Sir Stephen Holland – perhaps a recollection of the benefactor of Swineshead Abbey – but with this Stephen's father, suggestively named Otto like the founder knight of the Garter; and the Lancashire family's arms are still given as an alternative to the *per pale indented* arms. The present seal matrix makes it clear that, around 1300 at least, they were actually using the latter.

The evidence also suggests that these arms survived in use into the sixteenth century, whatever beliefs were held about the relationship with the Earls of Kent. Notes made in Swineshead church in 1592 record that the memorial window for George Holland's own parents and on their gravestone showed the male line arms as *Per pale indented or and gules* (CA record Ms H11(cn) / 4v: see **Figure 1**). A striking page of shields apparently added to the fourteenth-century 'William Jenyns' Ordinary' in 1562 shows the same basic design sixteen times over, in some cases with marks of cadency, ascribing each version to a member of the Lincolnshire family: see **Plate 2**. It has been posited (*CEMRA*, pp. 69-71) that one of those named here, Thomas Holland, was owner of the Ms and responsible for the insertion. In fact it seems likely that this is George Holland's elder brother Thomas; several of the names on the page closely match up with the living male members of the family recorded in the Herald's Visitation that began in that year, 1562. Perhaps inspired by the heralds' genealogical enquiries, and also by emulation of a page of lions on blue *semy-de-lys* shields later

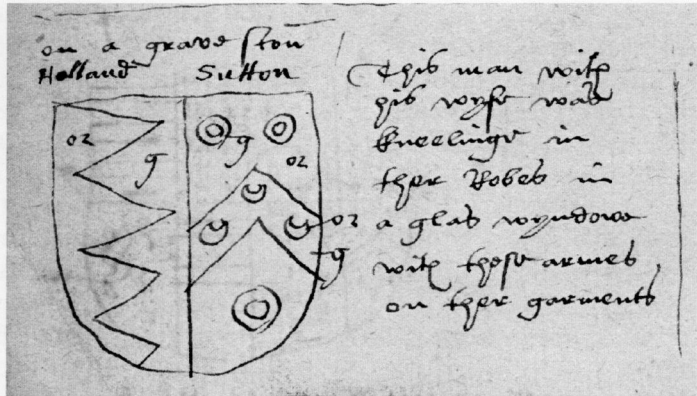


Figure 1: Holland impaling Sutton - the parents of George Holland of Crowland (d. 1568). Note of arms seen on a gravestone and in a memorial window in Swineshead Church, Lincolnshire, in 1592: CA record Ms H11 (c.n.) / 4v.

on in the volume, all attributed to members of the noble Holland family, Thomas appears to have filled up a page with the arms of a mixed batch of his close kin and distant, shadowy ancestors such as 'Sir Stevyn' and 'Sir Other'. Tellingly, it is the *per pale indented* coat of arms that he records for all of them.

All this has implications for the history of a fine illuminated English psalter, now Ms Q II 6 in the Escorial in Spain, but written in the Premonstratensian priory of West Dereham in Norfolk at some point in the early fourteenth century (though after 1316). On this Ms and its heraldic illumination see Lucy Freeman Sandler, *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 42 (1979), pp. 65-80, especially at 70-1 where five unlabelled shields in the margins of folio 15r are ascribed to families with Lincolnshire associations, namely Bardolf, Bussey, Holland, Welle(s) and Buckminster. The arms Professor Sandler ascribed to Holland are *Azure semy-de-lys and a lion rampant guardant argent*; she believed these to refer to the Swineshead family. This probably needs to be reconsidered. If the psalter and, more importantly, its heraldic illumination are securely dated to the early fourteenth century, it seems unlikely that this coat of arms can indicate the Hollands of Swineshead. It is true that at this time the Lancashire Hollands had no association with the district; so maybe one should consider the possibility that the patronage behind the creation of the Ms was drawn from a broader geographical area than previously thought, or that the arms refer to a different family altogether. It is just possible that already in the early fourteenth century the Swineshead Hollands believed they were kin of the rising Lancashire family and used their arms – but this strikes me as improbable.

Returning to the seal matrix, it is highly likely that the Margaret de Hoyland whose name appears and who is herself portrayed there can be personally identified. TNA SC8/266/13272 and SC8/2/55 are a pair of petitions to the king in parliament by Margaret widow of John de Holand or Hoyland, seeking reapportionment of a large debt owed by her late husband to the Crown. John's debt had been incurred when acting as collector in Lincolnshire of several taxes raised in the 1290s; subsequently

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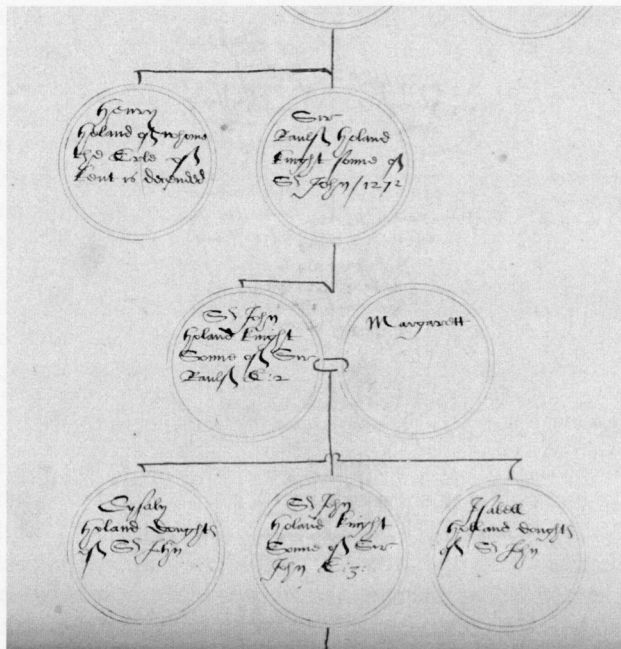


Figure 2: The marriage of Sir John Holland and Margaret, with the former's uncle shown as ancestor of the Earls of Kent. Margaret's surname and parentage unrecorded. CA record Ms E1/30v: Lincolnshire pedigrees, 1562-4.

he had alienated the manor of Wyberton near Boston to Adam de Welle or Welles, who then obtained a writ exempting that manor from distraint for the debt (TNA E 159/79). Margaret now petitioned the king to cancel that writ and apportion the debt against all the lands John had held when it arose; for the text and a translation of the petitions as they appear on the parliamentary rolls, see *PROME* Ed. I roll 12 no 120 and *vetus codex* 1307, app. no 100. Despite the issue of writs to enquire into the matter, it was not resolved, and after the accession of Edward II on 7 July 1307 the cause was taken up by her son John: TNA SC 8/326/E780. Margaret also had to defend her dower property in Wyberton from encroachment by Adam de Welle: *CCIR* 1302-7, p. 430.

Adam de Welle was a man of substance and power, regularly summoned to parliament from 1297 onwards: on his rise, see GEC vol. 12, p. 439, and *Oxford DNB*. Margaret de Hoyland has so far escaped historical notice in her own right – she is marginally too late to figure in Louise J. Wilkinson, *Women in Thirteenth-century Lincolnshire* (Woodbridge 2007) – but as a widow with significant financial interests to defend, she will have had every reason to seal in her own name.

George Holland's narrative and the pedigrees deriving from it, though erroneous in regard to the wider kinship of the family, may be good for the main line at Swineshead and Stenning. They indicate that John Holland son of Ralph (d. 1262

– see above) was buried with his wife Margaret in the quire of Swineshead church. George Holland did not know her maiden name, however, and by his day the tomb inscription was already illegible: ‘the scripture of his burial being in French, the date worn out, he married Margaret, but further appears not’ (Blomefield, *op. cit.* vol. 1, p. 344). The 1562-4 Visitation is likewise unable to furnish anything more than her Christian name (see **Figure 2**).

The seal offers hope of identifying Margaret better – but sadly it has not yet been possible to convert this hope to reality. The shield she holds in her right hand seems to show a chevron between three escallops. It is likely that these are the arms she bore before her marriage, but as Adrian Ailes has pointed out to me they could be those of a former husband rather than her father’s. Furthermore, while *DBA* 2, pp. 331-5, offers several medieval families to whom such arms were regularly ascribed, there is no very good reason to select one over the others. Some, such as the Chamberlains of Sherborne in Oxfordshire and Denton in Northamptonshire, or the Melbournes of Derbyshire, seem unlikely on geographical grounds; while one family with strong East Anglian associations, the Garneys or Garnish family of Kenton in Suffolk and Boyland Hall, Morningthorpe in Norfolk, seem to date from a later age than Margaret de Hoyland; for a pedigree see Blomefield *op. cit.*, 3, pp. 194-6.

However, there are several other names to whom similar arms are ascribed more than once without any geographical association, and any of these may repay further enquiry. Additional evidence may also emerge from some other source which, taken together with this seal, will shed light on the full identity of this independent medieval woman, who was defending inherited interests in southern Lincolnshire at a time when the Hollands of Lancashire had yet to establish any connection with that district and their greatness still lay in the future.

The arms of Sir Reynold Carnaby at Hexham Abbey House, 1539. *Peter F. Ryder writes:* Hexham Abbey House comprises a complex of buildings on the west side of the cloister of the ‘abbey’ which have served a variety of uses over the years and are currently undergoing renovation to serve as a visitor centre for the Abbey – work which has afforded the opportunity for detailed archaeological recording. The medieval buildings of the Abbey, whilst incorporating the crypt of St Wilfrid’s seventh-century cathedral, are basically those of an Augustinian Priory founded in 1113. Following the Dissolution of the Priory in February 1537, in November 1538 the Crown granted the monastic buildings to Sir Reynold Carnaby, who had become bailiff and general administrator of Hexham in 1536: see A. B. Hinds, *History of Northumberland* vol. 3 (*Hexhamshire* part 1: Newcastle 1896), p. 52. Carnaby added an L-plan block to the medieval complex; now known as ‘The Carnaby Building’, this is very much a self-contained ‘strong house’, built in the angle between the west range of the cloister and the Prior’s House range which extended to the west, and thus strategically set in the south-east angle of the monastic outer court.

The arms of Carnaby are displayed on the north front of his building. An illustration of these was published by Charles Hodges in his *Ecclesia Hagustaldensis*: