ARMORIAL SEALS AT WELLS, co. SOMERSET.

By ARTHUR J. JEWERS, F.S.A.

Belonging to the almshouses founded by Bishop Bubwith by his will, and added to by Bishop Still, are an almost unique collection of deeds.

A report on these deeds by the late Rev. James A. Bennett, B.A., has been printed by the Royal Historical Manuscripts Commissioners, it will therefore be unnecessary to make any comment on them generally, but as the Report simply mentions that there are a number of seals, and as some of them are particularly interesting, a brief notice of those that are armorial may be acceptable.

The collection is disappointing heraldically from frequent repetitions and the large number of fanciful devices. The documents are numbered to agree with a MS. abstract of them, and to these the numbers below refer.

24. To this deed dated 1320, is attached a heater shaped seal, which is an example of those semi-heraldic devices some times met with, and which it is well to mention here to distinguish from actual armorial shields. The field is charged with a hare couchant under a bush; on a chief were five letters, . . ꝴS only being legible; there is no clue as to who used it.

32. Offers another example of the same class. The heater shaped shield forming the whole of the seal, bears an eagle or falcon preying on a rabbit, both facing to the sinister side; on a narrow chief, ALASIE, that is *Alas je se pris*. Date 1334.

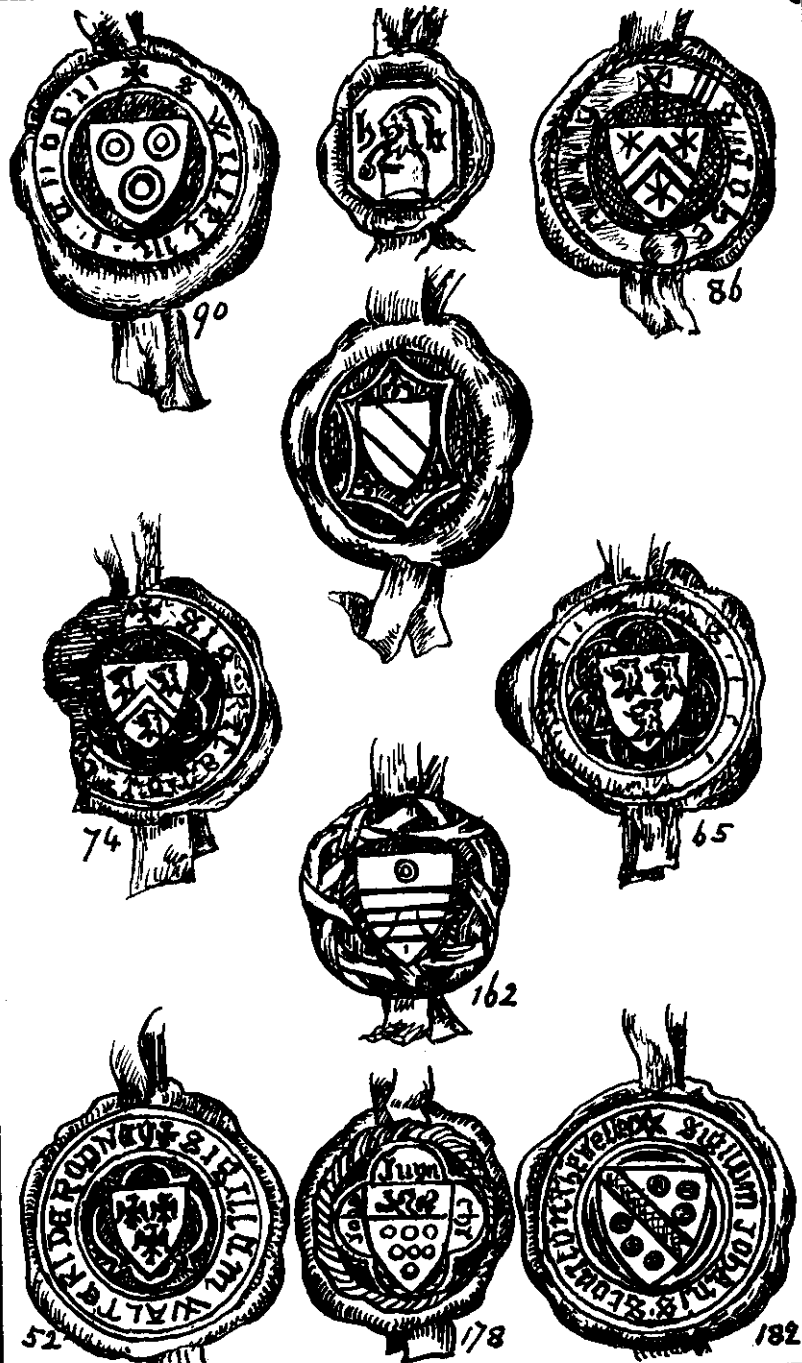
39. Another example, the charges being—A bucks head caboshed, between the horns a cross calvery, on a narrow chief the letters, LELA; *i.e.*, *del ami avet*. Date 1334.

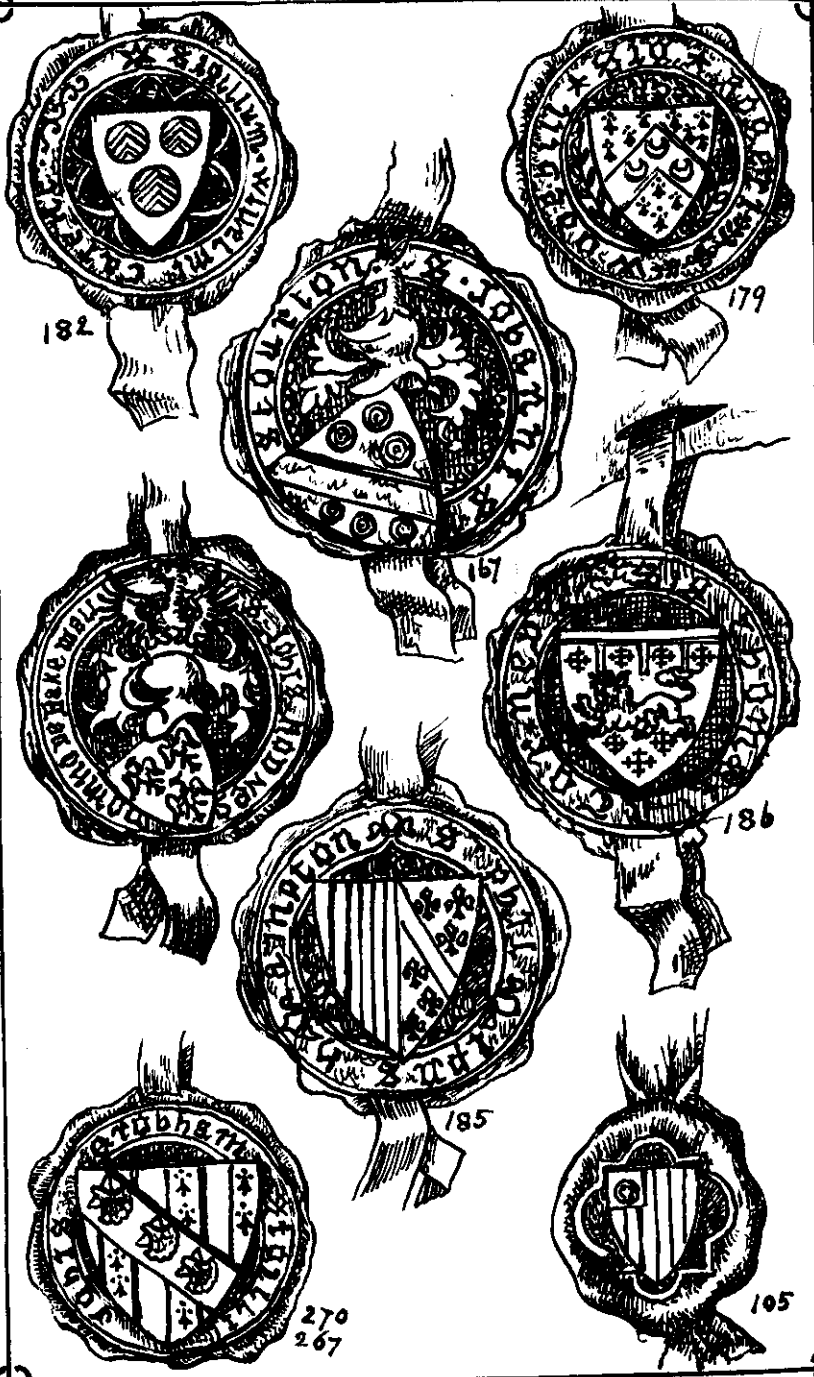
52. Here we get a very fine though small seal of Walter de Rodney, within a panel, a small shield charged with *Three eagles displ. wings depressed*. The legend is 'SIGILLUM WALTERI ✻ DE RODNE'. The deed is a transfer of certain tenements, &c., in Wells, Wookey, and Westbury, dated the Thursday before S. John Baptist's day, 1341, 15 Edw. III.

58. Here is apparently a made-up shield, *a rose betw. in dexter chief a crescent horns to the dexter, in sinister chief an estoil, and in base a martlet.* The legend round it is unfortunately quite illegible.

65. Attached to this deed is a well cut seal; within a six-cusped panel a shield charged with *three lions heads erased*. The legend is quite gone, and there are, of course, no colours to help identify the arms, nor do the names of the parties, Edmund Stodlegh, Almoner of Glastonbury, and Walter de Mony'gtes, Abbot of Glastonbury, throw light on the ownership. Date, 1361.

74. This deed has a good seal, of which a small part is broken away. Within an eight cusped panel is a shield charged with, *a chev. betw. three lions heads erased*. The legand is . Sig Ricardi Englissche. This coat does not appear to be anywhere recorded for the name of English. This deed is a grant by Joanna Bereford relict of Walter de


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Bereford, and Richard English of a rent of twelve shillings out of North Petherton (Pedistone) in trust. Dated 1375.

86. A circular seal, the legend on which is quite illegible except John and a trace of a name of six letters. The shield is charged with *a chev. betw. three estoils.* From the top of the shield is a merchant or trade mark, which projects across the legend space. It also occurs on deeds 85 and 87, that on 86 being the most perfect, the dates are respectively 24 Feb. 1381, 11 June, 1382, and 12 June, 1382. They relate to the grant of a tenement in Byesteswell on the east of Torr Lane by Alice, widow of John Cokes, mason. Witnesses and parties to the deeds are—William Lulloke, clerk; John Churchstile, burgess of Wells, and John Cokhalle. The trade mark, and remains of the legend seem to indicate that the seal was used by the said John Cokes or Cockes.

162. Appended to this document is a small seal having the twisted ring of rushes to protect it still remaining. The arms on it are, *Three bars and in chief an annulet;* from the centre bar two curved lines like flaunches go to the lower sides of the heater shaped shield. The bars are little more than lines across the shield, and there is no legend. It is very doubtful if this is really armorial, most probably it is not. The deed is a conveyance from Thomas Wayfare to Walter Dylverton, burgess of Wells of a fulling mill at Wokey Hole, dated Michaelmas 9 Hen. VI. (1430), to which John Rocke, master of Wells, and others are witnesses. There appears no reason for assigning the arms to any of them.

90. Has a small circular seal with a shield bearing, *Three annulets.* Of the legand only S Wilhem. can be deciphered.

167. There are four seals to this deed, which is dated 26 January, 1432, being letters of attorney from John Stourton, Knight, William Carent, Master Richard Stourton, clerk, and John Stourton of Preston, granting seisin of lands in Melesburgh and Wokey Hole, granted to them by John Palton, Esq., by deed dated 5 January 1432.

The first seal is a very fine one, namely, that of Sir John Stourton. The shield is charged with, *A bend betw. six fountains,* Stourton, and it is worthy of remark that the fountains are represented by rings, not by wavy lines. The crest is also noteworthy, as it differs from the one which has for a long period been used; it is, *an antelope's head erased.* The legend is, S. Johanni Stourton. This Sir John Stourton was the first Lord Stourton. Master Richard Stourton and John Stourton of Preston were his younger sons. The latter of them left a daughter and heiress, who married John Sidenham, whose arms remain in contemporary glass in the old chapel of the almshouses to which these deeds belong, they are—*Arg. a chev. betw. three rams pass. sa.*, Sidenham, imp., *Sa. a bend or, betw. six plates*; Stourton. They should be fountains, the alteration being no doubt due to the fact of the glass painters of that date having no means of painting with blue, and the charges are too small for leading in pot metal. The coat of Sydenham is interesting as having the chevron, which is omitted from the coat given in the 1573 visitation of Somerset.

The next seal is that of William Carent, but is obliterated.

Master Richard Stourton seals with, an eagle displayed between four roundels or fountains, and the letters R. S.

John Stourton has on his seal only a griffin's head erased between the letters E.S.

157 & 158. Here we have a small seal which has a shield charged with *a bend and in chief* . . . . . this charge is very indistinct, the coat is probably Pluncknett or St. Leo. The deed is dated 25 April 1430.

171. Supplies another example of the twisted reed guard, the device is a shield, but not strictly heraldic, it bears a saltire between in chief a crescent, on the sinister an annulet, on the dexter a fleur-de-lys, and in base an estoil, over the shield is a merchant's mark. The deed is a conveyance from John Godwyn, burgess of Wells, to John Palton, Esq., and John Whitele, Mayor of Wells, of a messuage near the Vicarage in S. Cuthbert Street. Dated 1433.

172. Offers an example of the seal of the Mayor of Wells in 1433. It represents a tree growing on a bank above a stream, on either side of the tree is a full faced human head, doubtless S.S. Andrew and Cuthbert, beneath are two herons, each facing the tree and apparently contemplating the capture of a fish that swims in the water below. The legend in Latin, The Mayor and Corporation of the City of Wells. This seal is evidently the origin of the tree and three fountains used as the town arms.

178. Is an agreement dated at Wells 29 Sept. 14 Hen. VI (1435) between John Forest, Dean, with the Chapter, and Sir John Juyn, Knight; John Stourton, senior, Esquire; John Storthwayte clerk, and John Reynold, clerk, as executors of the will of Bishop Bubwith; and John Coles, Mayor of Wells, for building almshouses between S. Cuthbert's church on the south and Beggar Street on the north (now Chamberlain street), where the chapel and entrance porch remain but little altered, but the almshouses themselves have been to a great extent rebuilt. In a small lancet window are the Royal Arms, and Bishop Bubwith's coat, *Arg. a fess eng. Sa. betw. twelve holly leaves vert, 4, 4 and 4 arranged in quadrangles.* The coat of this Bishop, given by Burke, Papworth, &c., is wrong. The above is often repeated, once on the Bishop's Chantry Chapel, frequently in contemporary glass in the windows of the library he built over the east cloister, on the exterior wall of that library, and on the north tower of the Cathedral. Also the coat of Bishop Stafford, *Or, on a chev. Gu. a bishop's mitre.* The bordure engrailed, the proper difference of the Bishop's line of the family is omitted, but it appears on his seal, and elsewhere in contemporary glass. Below it the coat of Sidenham impaling Stourton named above (No. 167). Four seals remain on the deed; that of Sir John Juyn has a quatrefoil panel, in which is a shield charged with *Seven roundels, three three and one, on a chief a demi-lion ramp.* The arrangement of the legend is peculiar, being within the panel, thus, on the dexter side Johñs, in chief Juyn, and on the sinister side Chr'. None of the printed authorities give these arms, they have either six or ten plates. The memorial brass in S. Mary's, Redcliffe, for Sir John Juyn, calls him Chief Justice of our Lord the King, who died 24 March, 1439. There are two shields of arms, first, the coat just as on the above seal impaling *a lion ramp.*, the other has *A fess eng. betw. in chief three unicorns heads couped and in base one of the same, all within a bord. also eng.* imp. *a lion ramp.* The

inference from these shields is that Sir John Juyn's wife married a second husband, the arms given for whom do not appear in Papworth.

179. The seal on this deed is interesting as the arms are not given by Papworth, or other printed authorities for the name, which can be clearly read on the seal, viz. "Sig. Rogeri Wodehill," the arms being, *Erm. on a chev. three crescents.* The deed which is dated 30 Jan. 14 H. VI (1436) does not contain the name of Wodehill, either as a party or witness.

182. This is a conveyance from Sir John Stourton, Knight, and William Carent to John Reynald and others, of lands in Wookey Hole, and Melesburgh in Wells Forum dated 30 Oct. 19 H. VI (1440). It has two armorial seals attached to it; that of Sir John Stourton, a circular seal of plain form, the arms are, *A bend betw. six roundels,* the wavy lines on the roundels to show that they are fountains are wanting, and the bend is cross hatched as if it were sable instead of the field. The shield is heater shaped and the small space left between it and the legend is filled by a simple curved line. It is inscribed, Sigillum*Johannis*Stourton*Chevalier. This is much less elaborate than the somewhat earlier example already noticed (No. 167). The other seal is circumscribed, Sigillum: Willelmi: Carent; and has within a six cusped panel a shield with the arms of Carent, viz. *Three roundels chevrony.*

183. Gives another example of the seal of the Mayor of Wells as in No. 172, also one of Bristol; the device is two towers, on the higher one stands a man blowing a horn, while from between the towers is the end of a ship supporting a spear carrying the royal arms—1 and 4 *Five fleur-de-lis,* 2 and 3 *Three lions pass. gard in pale.* Behind the spear is the letter B. The legend is, "Sigill: Maior et corporibus ville Bristolli." The date of the deed is 1440.

185. Gives a most interesting seal, as exhibiting, perhaps, a unique instance of displaying the arms of an heiress, from whom the owner inherited property by descent, before the general practice of quartering was introduced; and it is all the more valuable as we possess the evidence of the descent.

The seal is a fine one, and displays on a heater shield these arms, Per pale, the dexter, *Paly of six* (*Paly of six or, and az.*) Gurney, the sinister, *a bend betw. six fleur-de-lis* (*Az. a bend betw. six fleur-de-lis or*) Hampton. Around is the legend, S. Phillipus Hampton. The deed, which is dated 20 Aug. 1442, is a grant or license from Alice widow of Philip de Hampton, Esquire, to John Reynold, clerk, to give to the Dean and Chapter of Wells the manor of Melesburgh. This Philip Hampton married Alice, daughter and heir of Walter Caldecott, by his wife Joan de Gourney, the heiress of considerable estates in East and West Harptree, which thus came to Hampton. It will be seen that the arms of his wife's family are omitted altogether, while, according to modern rules of marshalling, the arms of his wife's maternal grandfather take the place of his own coat, while that is in the place which should be filled by those of his wife's family. The whole is so very clear that there cannot be the least doubt or question about it. Thus we see a man, when armorial bearings were at the zenith of their importance, give the place of honour to an older family to whom he was allied by a marriage through which he represented

them. Not that these Hamptons were a new family themselves, for in 1309 we find John de Hampton Lord of Badgeworth, and Patron of the church to which he then presented William de Hampton. Eglina de Hampton, relict of John de Hampton, presented to the living in 1337, as did her son Richard de Hampton in 1344. Philip Hampton, Esq., presented to the church in 1420 and 1429; this is the Philip Hampton whose seal we have above. In 1448 Richard Hampton of East Harptre presented, and was the last of his name to do so; his granddaughter, the heiress, carried the property and representation to the Newtons of Barrs Court.

186. We have here a fine heraldic seal, which in addition gives another coat unnoticed by any of our printed authorities.

The upper corners of the heater shaped shield, which is unusually broad in proportion to its length, project over the legend band; the latter being inscribed Sig : Thomæ Torrye. The shield is charged with, *a lion pass. gard. betw. seven crosses crosslet, in chief a label.* The deed is dated 20 Jan. 1443.

It seems remarkable that there is no record of the arms, for we find the name as patrons of Woolverton for two hundred years. In 1328 John de Torny presented to the living of Swanswick; in 1330 William de Tourney, Mil., presents to Clutton, both in the Northern part of Somersetshire and not far from Woolverton, to which last there is the following list of presentations:—1345 June 4 by Walter Torney, 1348 Dec. 2 John Torney, 1420 June 17 by Robert Olyver, Arm., 1464 March 24 Walter Turney, Arm., 1466 William Torney, Arm., 1493 May 2, 1506 Nov. 3, 1511 Oct 9 John Torny, Arm., 1531 Dec. 18 John Turney, Arm. In 1188 Stephen de Tornato was inducted to the Prebend of Whitchurch, and in 1215 to the living of Wellington. In 1318 a John de Tornay was instituted to the living of Stratton super la Foss. The above are taken from the Rev. F. W. Weaver's Somerset Incumbents.

270. To this deed, which is a lease to John Grobham, Esquire, of a tenement called Dyengham at Glastonbeery, and dated 16 April, 1483, is attached a beautifully cut and well-preserved seal, displaying a coat of arms not given by Burke or Papworth, viz., *Paly of six. . . and Erm, on a bend. . . . three escallop shells. . . .* The legend band round is divided into three parts by the angles of the heater-shaped shield coming over it, and is inscribed Sigillii John's Grobham. In a release (267) of the same land, dated 10 April, 1483, he is called John Grobham of Taunton Esquire. While a still earlier deed, relating to lands at Wellington, Bridgewater, &c., dated at Taunton 22 September, 1466, names Elizabeth Grobham, widow, and John Grobham, son of the late John Grobham, senior. All these deeds have the same seal of Arms, but the last two are not quite so clear and perfect as the one first mentioned. Brother Hugh Grobham (Confrater hospitalis de Bridgewater) was presented to the living of Halse on 23 Dec. 1457 (*vide* Somerset Incumbents).

313. This document, which is a declaration by Thomas Abbot, regarding a dispute about the manor of Mellesbury, and Wookey Hole, conveyed to Robert Long of Wraxal, Wilts, Esquire; dated 15 March 1535. The seal is an ecclesiastical one, but very imperfect, in the lower part of the seal is the kneeling figure of a mitred Abbot,

with hands lifted and face upraised in prayer between two shields, that in front of him charged with *Two keys in saltire wards in chief.* Behind him, that is on the sinister heraldically, the shield bears a griffin segreant.

Neither of the coats is that generally ascribed to Malmsbury Abbey, while, on referring to Dugdale's Monasticon, the plate (Vol I., pl. IV.) represents a different seal; in the base of the seal is a figure, but seated, while the dexter shield is charged with France (3 fleurs-de-lis) and England quarterly, the sinister shield bearing the griffin segreant, as in the example before us. Dugdale gives no clue for the appearance of the griffin. The only satisfactory suggestion that can be offered for the greater permanence of the griffin, while the arms on the other shield were changed, is that it commemorated some very considerable benefaction from the powerful family of De Botreaux.

314. This is a deed dated 20 Sept. 1535, being a lease from John Rodney, Esquire, to Richard at Wells, his wife and eldest son for lives, of a tenement and land, in Dindre Wood and Water Mill. Pendant from the deed is a very fine seal of the grantor, the legend is S. Johis Rodney Domno de Bakewell. The shield bears the, *Three eagles wings depressed,* of Rodney surmounted by helmet and mantling with this crest. *From a crest coronet a demi eagle displ.*

372. Is a grant by Richard Fortescue, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Croscombe, to Richard Wylles, to live away from a tenement held from the said Richard Fortescue. Dated 15 May, 1558. Seal, *A bend eng. plain cotised,* Fortescue, between the letters R.F. Another deed dated 3 June, 1554, is interesting rather as indirect evidence, for there is no strictly heraldic seal. It is a conveyance from William Vowll of North Crake, co. Norfolk, son and heir of William Vowell, late of Long Ashton, Somerset, to John Goodman, Dean of Wells, William Bowreman and Roger Egworth, Canons of Wells, of a cottage in Beggar Street, Wells, opposite the almshouse, to pray for the soul of the said William Vowell and Margaret his wife. Seal, on a conventional shield or panel *a cinquefoil.* Long before this date there was a family of Vowell of good position in this part of Somerset. In 1487 the Dean and Chapter granted, at the special request of King Henry, the presentation to the vicarage of Cheddar to Canon John Vowell. On the monument of Sir Thomas Rodney, at Rodney Stoke (date 1463), who married Isabel Vowell, are the arms of Rodney impaling (*arg*) *three escutcheons sa. each charged with a cinquefoil (of the first).* The cinquefoil of the seal would seem to be derived from the arms, and to indicate that the families were the same.

From the middle of the sixteenth century we pass on to the end of the seventeenth century without one example of an heraldic seal.

A lease dated 21 Oct., 1699, by Robert Creighton, D.D. (son of Bishop Creighton) and Edwin Sandys, clerk, M.A., Canons Residentiary as trustees, offers three seals namely—

I. *Erm. a lion ramp.* (az.) Creighton.

II. (*Or*) *a fess dancetté betw. three crosses crosslet fitché* (*gu*) Sandys; but the seal which is very much obliterated appears to be charged with *a fess betw. three mullets,* or with, *six mullets,* only a mullet in dexter chief and another (or rather parts of them) in base can be traced. The signature of Edw. Sandys is beneath this seal.

III. *A griffin segreant.* Crest, *A griffin as in the arms.* John Davis, Notary Public, and Steward to the Bubwith & Still Charities, &c.

A lease dated 1 Nov., 1734, is signed by the Rev. Edmund Archer, D.D., Canon of Wells; William Salmon, one of the twelve Masters of Wells, whose family is one of good standing long seated in this neighbourhood where some of them still continue; Richard Cupper, who seals with a merchant's mark; R. Comes, Esq., whose family were also of good position in Wells; John Moss, gent., a son of Bishop Moss; and Peter Davis, Esq., Recorder of Wells, a Notary Public as they were then termed. The seals are—

I. *Az., three arrows (or, feathered & headed arg.)* Crest, *From a mural coronet a dragon's head,* Archer.

II. (*Sa.*), *three salmon haurient* (*arg.*) Crest, *a swan's neck ppr.* Salmon.

III. *Erm. three lions pass. in pale (gu) in chief a label* Comes; imp. (*Sa.*) *a chev. erm. betw. three leopard's faces* (*or*) Godwyn of Wells. Crest, *An arm emb. in armour the hand grasping a sword.* This is not really the seal of this Richard Comes, but that of his father Richard Comes, who married Elizabeth Godwyn, and died in 1697, aged 78.

IV. *Erm a cross patée sa. charged with a bezant.* Moss.

V. (*Sa.*) *three buglehorns stringed* (*arg. garnished or*). This is the coat of Dodington. The seal of his father John Davis has been already given. This Peter Davis married at S. Cuthbert, Wells, 1 Jan. 1670, as Mr. John Davies, to Mrs. Margaret Dorington (*sic*) both of S. Cuthbert, by licence. She was a daughter of Christopher Dodington, Esq., but not an heiress, as she had a brother William, whose descendants are now represented by the Marriot-Dodington family of Horsington, co. Somerset. It is somewhat remarkable that her son obtained a grant of the Dodington arms, with only the addition of a cinquefoil, for himself and the male descendants of his father, ignoring the old coat of his family; his niece the heiress married a Sherston, and her son, Peter Sherston, obtained a fresh grant of the same coat for his own family, who by virtue of this singular grant are now entitled to use the arms of Dodington whom they do not even represent in the female line, with the above very small difference of a gold cinquefoil between the three buglehorns of Dodington. For a pedigree of Davis and Sherston see "Wells Cathedral, its Monuments and Heraldry."

Three other leases, dated 1729, have armorial seals, which may be all grouped together; Dr. Creighton, R. Comes, William Salmon, R. Cupper, Dr. Archer, and J. Moss, all use the same seals as before. William Hunt, D.D. seals with, *On a bend betw. two water bougets, three leopards' faces.* P. Davis in one of these leases seals with the crest of *A talbot pass.* In the other he uses the griffin coat and crest, the identical seal used by his father, John Davis. He used this griffin seal in 1710. Marshall Brydges seals with, *On a cross a leopard's face.* He is mentioned in the pedigree of Brydges in Burke's Commoners. Thomas Lessey, seals with, *A chev. betw. three bucks heads caboshed.* Crest. *A head* as in the arms; accompanied by helmet and mantling. This coat appears for Lessey in Papworth, and the seal was probably obtained either from some relative or by purchase, for he used it both in 1710 and 1729.

Richard Healy, displays in 1710 and 1729 on his seal this coat, *On a chev. plain surcharged on another eng. betw. three lions ramp. as many*

crosses patée. This was a clerical family connected with the city of Wells, in the first half of the eighteenth century. There is a monument with arms to them in the Cathedral cloisters, and in the parish church of S. Cuthbert. That in the cloisters shows—*Vert, on a chev. Arg. fimbriated engr. Or, three crosses patée Gu., all betw. as many lions ramp. of the third*, quartering, *Sa. on a chief Az. three martlets Or.*, but in S. Cuthbert's Church the quartering is, *Vert on a chief Sa. three martlets Or.* Both these last are bad heraldry. The first is probably right, the silver of the field having turned black, it would then be the arms of Frederick of London.

On a lease of 1710, we get two more armorial seals, not yet mentioned, viz., James Worvell, gent., one of the masters of Wells, has a seal with these arms, *A chev. betw. three crosses crosslet, on a chief a lion pass.* There are no colours, it is not the coat of Worrell, but Papworth gives the coat with slight variations as that of, Mablethorp, Mablethore, Mapletoft, Holden, Houden and Howden, these it will be seen are clerical variations of only two names.

The only remaining seal to be noticed is that of Guido Clinton. It is a plain round seal with a square shaped shield charged with, *Paly of six (Or and Az.) a fess Erm.* It is given by Papworth on the authority of a Roll of Arms, cir. 1277, among the Harl. MSS. There were two or three generations of Guido Clintons in Wells, two of them were Notaries Public. In 1667 is the baptism in the Register of S. Cuthbert of a daughter of Mr. Guido Clinton and Sarah his wife. In 1714 the Cathedral Register gives the burial of Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Guido Clinton, between which dates there are fifteen other entries of the name in those Registers.

The object of the foregoing notes is simply to preserve and render accessible the heraldry of the seals among these records; other seals have therefore been passed over, but every heraldic or even semi-heraldic seal has been most carefully examined, while such notes and extracts have been added as were likely to increase the usefulness of this paper for the purpose of reference.

ODARD OF CARLISLE.

I recently shewed that "Odard the Sheriff" of Northumberland, *temp.* Henry I., was not identical with Odard son of Hildret of Carlisle, and, further, that it was doubtful whether Hildret himself was really Sheriff of Carlisle[1].

Let us now examine the descent of this Odard, son of Hildret. The Inquest recorded in *Coram Rege*, 11 John, No. 41, no. 9 (Bain's *Calendar*, No. 470), taken in conjunction with the Pipe Roll of 31 Henry I., gives us this descent:—

[1] *Genealogist* N.S., v, 25-28.