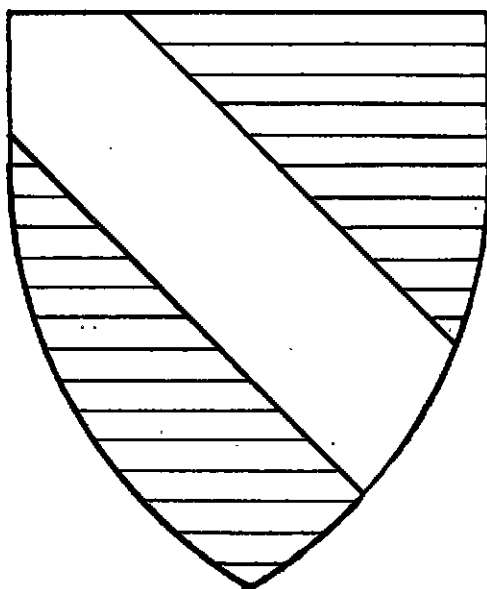


COATS-of-ARMS of some RICARDIAN CONTEMPORARIES

LAWRENCE T. GREENSMITH



THE GOLDEN BEND OF THE SCROPE

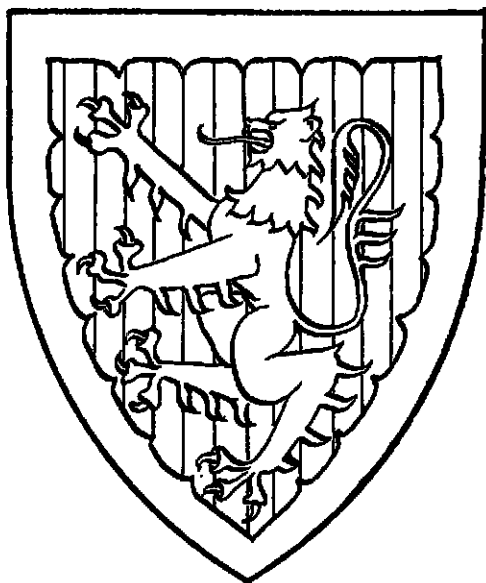
There were two branches of Scrope (often pronounced—and spelt—Scroope), of Masham and of Bolton.

John, 5th Baron Scrope of Bolton (1435-1498) was a Yorkist who fought for Warwick at Northampton in 1460. He was not only a member of Richard's Council in the North but also a neighbour Bolton Castle being not far from Middleham. He was present at the state entry of Richard into York. One of Richard's Commissioners of Array (against the threat of Henry Tudor in 1484), he was also one of the great contingent from the north at Bosworth.

The arms of the Scropes were basically very simple: *blue with a golden bend*. They were the reason for one of the great armorial "*causes celebres*" in heraldic history. It was in 1385 in the reign of the previous Richard. In a campaign, Sir Richard—first Baron of Bolton—discovered a banner *azure, a bend or borne* on behalf of a Cheshire knight, Sir Robert Grosvenor. Each decided that the other was infringing his arms: right was claimed by usage and heralds had not then established control. (It was Richard III who was responsible for the College of Arms). Scrope had had this trouble before with the Cornish family of Carminow (but Cornwall was far away): Cheshire was nearer home and he demanded the decision of the military courts. The case went on and off—for nearly four years, with plenty of witnesses for both sides. It was ruled that Grosvenor must bear a specified difference. There was an

appeal to the King in 1390. He ruled that as the families were strangers in blood a mere difference was not enough: that *bend* must go; Grosvenor changed his arms but retained the tinctures.

In York Minster, in both stone and stained glass, are the arms of Scrope of Bolton (on the *bend* or a *purple lion passant*) and of Masham (on the whole shield, a *label of three points silver*).



THE GOLDEN LION OF THE TALBOTS: EARLS OF SHREWSBURY

John, the first Earl (1390?-1450) and the most famous, was the one who accompanied Bedford to France in 1427 during the minority of Henry VI. He is one of the best remembered characters in Shakespeare's plays of that hapless king. Killed in 1453 when Richard was scarcely a year old, he hardly counts as a contemporary; but he should be mentioned. His son, the second Earl and another John, was (like Scrope) at Northampton; but there he was killed. He had been Chancellor of Ireland and then Treasurer of England.

The third Earl and another John was his son: he died in 1473, when Richard was 21. His son George (1468-1538), who became the fourth Earl, was a minor at Richard's coronation. After the Hastings affair, Richard took Hastings' widow under his protection: she had the custody of not only her own son but of young George Talbot. That he married her daughter is perhaps not surprising. He survived Richard by over fifty years.

The arms were *red, a golden lion within an engrailed border also gold*. It is stated that the Talbots, having previously had quite different arms, adopted this shield when one married the heiress of an ancient Welsh princely family whose arms they were. The present Earl of Shrewsbury and Waterford (a Chetwynd-Talbot) still bears the arms in his quarterings.