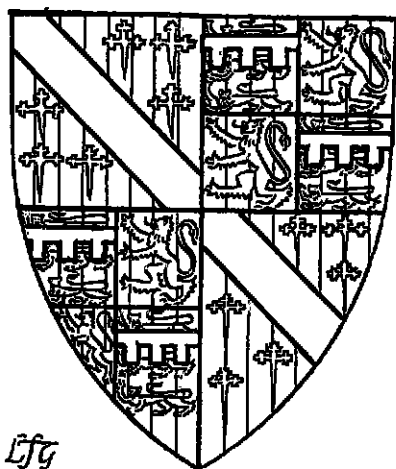


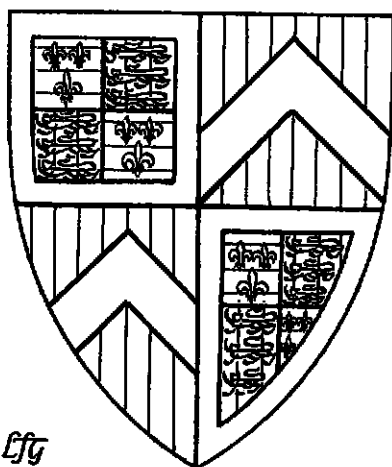
COATS-OF-ARMS OF SOME RICARDIAN CONTEMPORARIES

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Esq

HOWARD



Esq

STAFFORD

BLOOD ROYAL

It may be recalled from the "Three Tudors" article (Ricardian No. 47, December 1974) that two of them shed the Tudor arms of their father and adopted (with suitable differences) the royal arms of their half-brother, King Henry VI; the arms were quite bogus, for neither had English royal blood.

The cases of the families of Howard and Stafford are quite different: neither cast off the arms of its forbears but had acquired quarterings significant of marriage at some time into the royal family. The Howards, by marriage into the Mowbrays acquired not only the titles of Duke of Norfolk and Earl Marshal of England but also their arms, already royally quartered (such quarterings are known as grand-quarterings). Thus, they acquired, by marriage only, the royal quartering which the Mowbray heiress had inherited (through the marriage of her ancestor with Thomas of Brotherton, second son of Edward I). In the next generation of Howards there was a trace of that royal blood. The Staffords, on the other hand, inherited their royal quarterings (which came in at a later date, by which time the English royal arms had been quartered with those of France so that they too appear as grand-quarterings).

JOHN HOWARD, DUKE OF NORFOLK: 1430?-1485

John Howard "fought gallantly and fell in the thickest of the battle" of Bosworth. Throughout, he had been loyal to Richard: he was Shakespeare's "Jockey of Norfolk." He had served against Lancastrians and in Brittany, he had been envoy to France and Flanders, he had been made Baron Howard by King Henry VI, and in Richard's reign became Duke of Norfolk and Earl Marshal; he was also Admiral of England, Ireland and Aquitaine.

His arms were: Quarterly: 1 and 4: Red, a bend between six cross-crosslets fitchy (i.e. pointed at the foot) all silver (Howard); 2 and 3: Quarterly: England with a silver label (Brotherton) and Red, with a silver lion (Mowbray). There could be a query about the silver label in that it looks like (as it later came to mean) that for an eldest son, whereas Brotherton was the second son of King Edward I: this is answered by the fact that in those days (earliest 14th century) the royal sons bore their labels indifferently and not necessarily with three points; it is still so borne as a Howard quartering but the whole shield nowadays is a variant of that described.

HENRY STAFFORD, DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM: 1454?-1483

Henry Stafford came into prominence when he offered support to Richard in the period following the death of King Edward IV. He had been closer to the court while Richard had been in the North, and shared Richard's dislike of the Woodvilles: he knew them even better; he led the deputation which sought that Richard should accept the crown, and was Great Chamberlain at his coronation. There is still much doubt as to why he changed his allegiance within three months, but there was the revolt in which he, John Morton and Margaret Beaufort were all concerned. It failed miserably, Morton escaping to join Henry Tudor and Buckingham being captured, tried at Salisbury and executed.

Both Howard and Stafford are described as "cousins" of the King, but they were not first cousins. There are those who say that Stafford had a better claim to the throne than Henry Tudor, and that he had something more than a mere interest in the deaths of the Princes in the Tower.

Stafford's arms were: Quarterly: 1 and 4: Quarterly: France and England with a silver border; 2 and 3: Gold with a red chevron (Stafford). The Stafford arms seem now to have quite disappeared except in the quarterings of other arms. The royal quarterings had come in by descent from Thomas of Woodstock, youngest son of King Edward III. Henry Stafford was so proud of these quarterings that in 1473 he obtained permission from Edward IV to use them alone, on the grounds that he was the heir of Thomas, and so as not to lower the dignity of the royal coat by quartering it with others. His Garter stall plate thus consists of the arms of Thomas of Woodstock alone, without the Stafford quarterings. His son Edward reverted to the grand-quarterly arms described.