

Transcript from 'History of Chester' by G.Omerod 1819 p361

' In Neve's collection Vol 3 p312 in possession of Ralph Bigland Esq. is a singular correspondence relative to a grant of Arms to Edward(4) Thornycroft, the first baronet, during his illness, whose death is positively asserted to have been hastened by disappointment in hearing the instrument -- up in the form of a grant instead of an allowance of hereditary right. The following is an abstract of correspondence.

22nd Sept 1687. Draft of Earl Marshall's warrent to grant to John Thornycroft of St Andrew, Holborn, Barrister at law and his eldest brother, Edward Thornycroft of Thornycroft, Co Chester Esq. the following coat

Vert, a Mascle Or between four cross crosslets Argent. Crest -- on a crown, a falcon volant proper, jessed, membered and beaked Or between two palm branches Or.

The above Edward in a letter to Sir Thomas St. George, Garter, ordering the words of a grant to be adhered to but the fees of a confirmation only to be taken

26 Sept 1687. A letter from Gregory King, rouge dragon to Sir Thomas St George Kt. stating that Mr Thornycroft was dead before his Patent was granted " whereupon I could not but be troubled to hear from his lady's own mouth this very day that he had so set his mind upon it that also the disappointment hastened his end, as it was one of the last things he enquired for".

29th Sep 1687. Same to the same, stating receipt of the Earl Marshall's warrent to grant to the issue of John Thornycroft deceased and to Edward Thornycroft Esq. the arms before mentioned and praying despatch to oblige a most affected widow and son, who impute the suddenness of this disaster to the trouble of mind which the gentleman expressed for being disappointed of what he was intent upon'.

2nd Dec 1688. Reference to the King at Arms respecting what the Thornycrofts could advance touching their Arms and whether if the same offered before the passing of the said grant it might have been reasonable grounds for a confirmation. Signed 'Norfolk, Marshall.

10th Dec 1688. Thomas St George, Garter and H. St. George Clariencieux report:-

' That the seal of Arms was affixed by E. Thornycroft, gent. to a deed of settlement 8 Apr. 8 Car. 1 (8 Apr 1632) It also appears in a collection of pedigrees to be compiled by W. Smith, rouge dragon, 1613; but that they believed the said collection to be spurious and to have belonged to some herald painters'.

The Arms are omitted in an ordinary of Cheshire arms in the handwriting of said Smith; that the same are omitted in the Vale Royal by Webb and Smith. Also in the visitations of 1566 -84, 1613, 1663 and in all other collections in the library of the College of Arms, therefore it does not appear from what

was offered by Mr Thornycroft or what was entered in the books that there was any reasonable ground for confirmation before grant etc.

The above correspondence relates to the grant of Arms to John Thornycroft (1617 - 25 .9 1687) of London and Milcombe, Bloxham, Oxon who is the 'first baronet' and to his elder brother, Edward (4) who lived at Thornycroft Hall, Siddington and who died in 1697. The purport is whether the Arms were established as an hereditary right from 1632 or whether they were a new grant from 1687.

Their father, Edward (3) 1579 to 1637, married Alice Adderley in 1614 who was the third child of Henry Adderley living at Blackhaugh, near Cheadle. The Adderley's were a family of considerable antiquity in Staffs and the Norton Papers in Birmingham Reference Library (2744/5) has a chart on which the Adderley arms and those of the wives or husbands of successive generations are illustrated. No arms are shown for Edward (3) in 1614.

However Edward (4) brother of John obtained a grant of Arms from William Ryley, Morrey King at Arms which were sealed on 10 Sept. 1651 and which were exhibited on Sept 17 1663 by John Kinsey whose daughter Katherine had married Edward (4) in 1634/5. This was at the visitation in 1663 at Macclesfield, and the Arms were 'Vert, A mascle Or between four cross crozlets Argent', with a crest Or a mural crown Gules, a falcon volant, proper, jessed, membered and beaked Or between two palm branches of the last'.

At the Herald's visitation of 1663 it was reported that "a fictitious coat of arms and crest which had been granted by Mr Ryley in Cromwell's time" Source Harleian Soc Vol 93 p 110.

It appears that the dispute reflects the animosity between the Royalists after the restoration in 1660 with the Cromwellians but it is of interest that the terms of the grant of arms in 1687 are identical with those by Ryley in 1651.

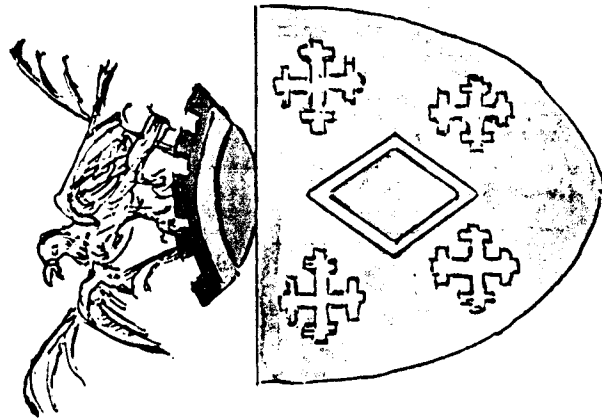
In 1712 John (4) (1687 - 1726) married Eleanor Henshaw, daughter and heiress of John Henshaw of Henshaw Hall, Siddington and so brought the Henshaw name and property into the Thornycroft family. The memorial in Gawsorth Church shows the arms of Thornycroft quartered with those of Henshaw

John (1) (1617 - 1687) referred to above and whose seat was at Bloxham, married Dorethy, daughter of Sir John Howell, Recorder of London and in the memorial at Bloxham Church the arms of Thornycroft quartered with those of Howell with the inescutcheon of pretence of Elizabeth Key, wife of their son John (2) heiress of Josiah Key of Milcomb, Bloxham

These arms are illustrated in the text.

In 1817 Edward (6) 1752 - 1817, died leaving no heir and two unmarried sisters and after their deaths in 1831 under the terms of his will the name Thornycroft and the Thornycroft Arms passed to his close friend, the Rev Charles Mytton, rector of Eccleston, Cheshire, and this transfer was confirmed by Royal Licence on Oct 29 1831. The Arms are those of the Thornycroft's with a canton ermine for difference

Thornycroft 1687



Arms Vert, a fiascle Or.

between four
cross crosslets
argent

Crest On a mural crown
Gules, a falcon
volant proper
jessed, membered
and beated Or,
between two
palm-branches
of the last.

Henshaw



Arms Argent, a chevron
between three
moorhens sable,
the legs Gules.

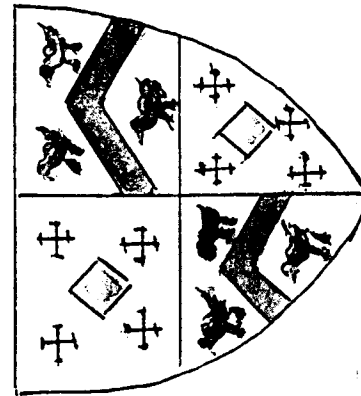
Crest An eagle proper,
jessed and
membered Or,
preying on a
wing proper.

Thornycroft Memorial
in Cawsorth Church.

Arms of Thornycroft
and Henshaw.

John Thornycroft
married Eleanor
daughter and heiress
of John Henshaw
of Henshaw

21 Oct. 1712



Thornycroft Memorial
in Bloxham Church
Oxon.

Arms of Thornycroft
and Howell

Inescutcheon of
pretence of wife
of John Thornycroft (2)
Elizabeth Key.

Fortis Que Se Vincit

Grants of Arms to other Thornicrofts

Sir John Isaac Thornicroft and his brother Sir William Hamo were sons of Thomas Thornicroft of Tidnock Farm, Gawsorth and Mary Francis, daughter of John Francis. Thomas, the first child of John (6) Thornicroft and Ann Cheetham showed great promise in carving and sculpting and was sent to London in 1835 to study under John Francis and married his daughter, Mary in 1840.

Their history is given on pages 98 to 100 together with that of their sons, John Isaac bp 1843, William Hamo bp 1850 and their sister Theresa Georgina bp 1855.

John became an eminent naval engineer and founder of the firm, now, Vosper Thornicroft. He was knighted in 1902

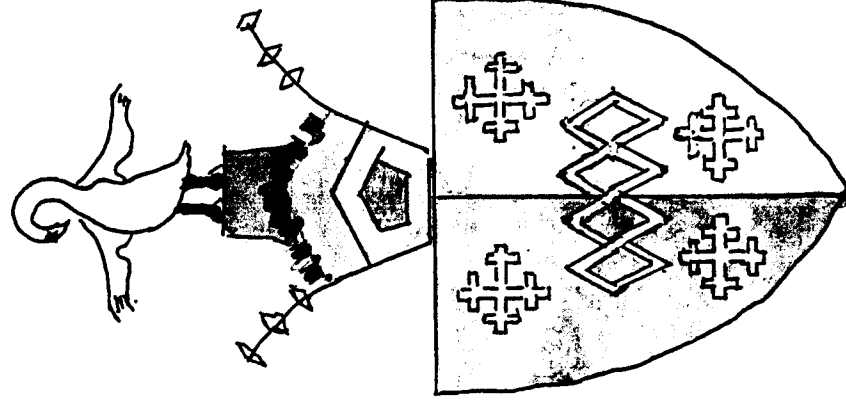
William Hamo spent his childhood at Tidnock and was educated at Macclesfield Grammar School and became a student at the Royal Academy in 1862 and produced many public statues to be seen today. He was knighted in 1917.

Theresa Georgina married Alfred Sassoon and mother of Siegfried Sassoon, the poet of the first world war 1914 -18

Arms Per pale Vert & Azure. Four mascles interlaced in fesse Or, between four cross crosslets, saltwise Argent. Mantling Vert & Or

Crest On a wreath of the colours upon the battlement of a tower, Gules, a falcon rising proper, belled and jessed Or, between two branches of a thorn tree Or.

Motto Fortis que se vincit



Fortis que se vincit

The family which had for a period fallen from its original position was restored by the energy and successful enterprise of the late eminent Ironmaster, George Benjamin Thornycroft Esq. the first Mayor of Wolverhampton. It is a branch of the very ancient Cheshire house of Thornycroft which resided for full 500 years at the old mansion of Thornycroft Hall near Macclesfield.

The pedigree appears at length in 'Omerods History of Cheshire' and the subsequent descent of the line of which we are treating is traced through Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire registers down to the present Thomas Thornycroft of Tettanhall Wood and Hadley Park, who is the only son of the late Geo. Benjamin Thornycroft Esq. of Chapel House, Wolverhampton and Hadley Park, Shropshire (who died 28 Apr. 1851 age 60) by Eleanor Page, his wife and grandson of Edward Thornycroft by Mary Bradley, his wife. Mr Thomas Thornycroft has four sisters, Mary, Emma, Harriet and Ellen all of whom are married.

Arms Vert, a mascle Or, between four cross crosslets Arg.

Crest On a mural crown, gu. a falcon volant, proper, jessed, membered and beaked Or, between two palm branches of the last. Motto Fortis qui se vincit.

Seats Tettanhall Wood nr Wolverhampton & Hadley Park nr Wellington. Occ. residence. Tong Castle

The grant of Arms is identical with that granted in 1687 to John & Edward (4) Thornycroft of Cheshire.

The claim to descent from the Thornycrofts of Cheshire is based on the pedigree by Stephen Tucker Esq. Somerset Herald 1859 as in the photostat of the table in "Tettanhall Towers" J.P. Jones 1894.

The relevant passage is "William Thornycroft, mentioned in all the pedigrees extant of the Family Only son died 1673 marr Anne, dau. of Dr Smith of the Co Derby

John Thornycroft of Brosley co Salop. who is mentioned in all the pedigrees as are also his brothers and sisters. Bur at Brosley 25 Oct 1707. = Catherine his wife. Bur at Brosley 29 Oct 1717. plus Edward (2nd son) Samuel (3rd son) Mary = Hugh Byron (or Byrom) Anne --- Hyde of Prestbury, Ches.

Macclesfield Registers On page the descent of the Macclesfield Thornicrofts from those of Siddington is

William (2) = Anne Smith at Maccelsfield 6.7.1635 of Chapel en le frith
bp 21.5.1615 at Taxal

bu 11.3.1674 of Blakelow Bur 10.2.1665 of Blakelow

Edward Samuel (1) Mary Joseph

c 1643

3.2.1650

16.7.1710

4.4.1704

marr Mary Bennett

Ann Byron

1 Margaret Mottishead

Hugh Byron

Ann Kent

27.2.1665

2 Mary Broster

15.4.1670

The information given in the pedigree by Tucker and in the Macclesfield registers agree in respect of Johns parents and of his sisters and brothers so there is no doubt about his birth at Macclesfield. His parent were buried 'of Blakelow' the farm at Sutton near Macclesfield at which they lived and the Will of John who was buried 19.1.1689 describes him as 'Yeoman of Blakelow & Downey' and he has leased premises in these places. An inventory of his goods was signed on 15 Apr 1689 by his executors who include his brother Samuel 'joyner of Macclesfield.'

The Brosley Registers which were printed by the Shropshire Record Society cover from 1570 to 1700 and from 1700 to 1750. The first 'Thornicroft' is for the baptism of John son of John & Katherine Thornicroft on Oct 18 1663, he was buried Dec 14 1666, William baptised May 8 1667 and of Jane, Mary and Elinor agree with Tuckers pedigree. John Thornicroft buried Oct 25 1707 and of the marriage of William and Elizabeth Cox, her burial in 1704 and William's second marriage agree with the pedigree.

There is no reference to the marriage of John & Katherine in the Broseley Register nor in the other Shropshire registers which contain Thornicroft entries which only contain later entries than does Broseley.

It is necessary therefore to find further information about the John Thornicroft of Brosley and his marriage in Katherine in order to establish his identity.

PEDIGREE
OF

THE THORNYCROFTS OF THORNYCROFT HALL, CO. CHESTER;

SHewing DESCENT OF

THE THORNYCROFTS OF TETTENHALL, CO. STAFF.

Compiled from the Herald's Visitations in the College of Arms; a M.S. Genealogy by Gregory King, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant at Arms in the Harleian Collection; Ormerod's History of Cheshire; Parish Registers; Family Evidence; Wills in the Prerogative Office; and other authentic sources; by the late Stephen J. Tucker, Esq., Somerset Herald, 1850.

1 Hamo de Thornicroft = Joan, dau. of William de Sydlington
circa 1270

2 Richard, son of Hamo de Thornicroft, s.d. = . . . his wife

3 Richard de Thornicroft, of Pexhull = Margery, dau. of Alan de Capesthorpe
35 Ed. III A.D. 1361 A.D. 1361

4 Richard Thornicroft, of Thornicroft, Senr. = . . . his wife Agnes
1 Hen. V, 1413

5 Richard Thornicroft, of Thornicroft, Junr. = . . . his wife
1 Hen. V and 8 Hen. VI

6 Hugh de Thornicroft, of Thornicroft = . . . dau. of . . . Ward,
14 Hen. VI of Capesthorpe, co. Chester

7 Robert Thornicroft, of Thornicroft = . . . dau. of . . . Duncalfe,
18 Hen. VII of Foxhurst, co. Chester

8 Edward Thornicroft, of Thornicroft = Isabel, dau. of George Hurst,
18 Hen. VII of Poynton, co. Chester
Buried at Gawsworth, 20 Dec. 1572

Elizabeth . . . = 9 Roger Thornicroft, = Jane, dau. of Robert Thornicroft = Elizabeth
Buried at of Thornicroft, William Ford, of Cronwell Hall his wife
Gawsworth, (son and heir) of the Marsh, Farm, in the Parish A.D. 1577
25 June, 1569 19 Elizabeth, 1577 co. Stafford of Sydlington
(1st wife) Buried at Gawsworth (2nd wife) 19 Elizabeth, 1577
20 Oct. 1600

10 Edward Thornicroft, = Margery, dau. of Anne = William Morrey
of Thornicroft, Thos. Swettenham, of Woodhouse,
(only son) co. Chester co. Staff.
19 Eliz. II James I Bur. at Gawsworth
Buried at Gawsworth 5 Jan. 1624
4 Aug. 1631 A

Isabell = Ralph Langton, Mary = Ralph Goodman,
of Whitley, of Gayton,
co. Chester co. Chester

