

The WILLEMENT Glass at Charlecote Park

Thomas Willement designed many things at Charlecote but perhaps his most obvious is the heraldic stained glass. This glass traces a line for the Lucy family back to King Edmund, known as Ironsides and starts with King Edmund in the left-hand panel of the south window in the Dining Room and goes clockwise through the Library and then to the window in the Great Hall nearest the entrance porch. The windows were put in when the Dining Room and Library were added in the 1830s. In verifying the information in the windows some interesting items emerged.

In the Great Hall he appears to have used the style of the Tudor glass by Eyffler, but in the Dining Room and Library he has used his own style. In some of his windows in the Great Hall he has added his initials each side of the head above the shield.

In looking at the shields, where a panel shows a shield in two parts, as in all the panels apart from that of King Edmund, the left-hand half shows the arms of the husband and the right-hand the arms of the father of the wife. This is called impaling.

I will now describe the windows, starting with the left-hand panel of the window on the south wall of the Dining Room.

This panel (Dining Room 1) shows the arms of Edmund Ironsides. His attributed arms are:-
Azure a Cross flory between four Martlets Or.

The next panel (Dining Room 2) shows the arms of his son Edmund (or Edward) the Exile impaled with those of his father-in-law. He married Agatha, daughter of the Emperor of Germany. The arms of Edmund are on the left, those of the Emperor of Germany on the right, which are:-
Or a double headed Eagle displayed Sable Armed Gules.

Their daughter Margaret married Malcolm, King of Scotland, so the next panel (Dining Room 3) shows her father's arms on the right and Malcolm's on the left. Margaret was canonised in 1250, becoming Saint Margaret of Scotland. The arms of the King of Scotland are:-
Or a Lion rampant in a double tressure flory counter-flory Gules.

Moving to the bay window, the south facing panel (Dining Room 4) is for the marriage of the son of Malcolm and Margaret, David, with Maude, the daughter of Waltheof. The text in the window describes him as Earl of Northumberland but he was also Earl of Huntingdon and Northampton, titles which his daughter inherited. His arms are:-
Argent a Lion rampant Azure a Chief Gules.



Willement's initials in one of the windows in the Great Hall



Dining Room 1
Edmund Ironsides



Dining Room 2
Edmund Ironsides/
Emperor of Germany



Dining Room 3
King of Scotland/
Edmund Ironsides



Dining Room 4
King of Scotland/
Earl of Northumberland



Dining Room 5
Earl of Huntingdon/
de Warren



Drawing Room 6
Earl of Huntingdon/
Earl of Chester



Dining Room 7
Hastings/
Earl of Huntingdon



Dining Room 8
Hastings/
Cantelupe

The next window (Dining Room 5) shows the marriage of their son Henry, who took the title of Earl of Huntingdon, and Ada, daughter of William, Earl de Warren. The arms of the Earl of Huntingdon are:-

Or three Piles in point Gules

And those of Earl de Warren:-

Chequy Or and Azure.

This is followed by Dining Room 6, showing the marriage of David, son of Henry and Ada, and Maude, daughter of the Earl of Chester whose arms are:-

Azure six Garbs Or.

We now have another instance of the line passing through the female side (Dining Room 7) with the marriage of the daughter of David and Maude, Ada, marrying Henry de Hastings. His arms are:-
Or a Maunch Gules.

Their son Henry wedded Joan, daughter of William de Cantelupe (Dining Room 8). The Cantelupe arms are:-
Gules three Leopards heads jessant-de-lis Or.

Finally, in the Dining Room (Dining Room 9) there is the marriage of John, son of Henry and Joan, with Isabel de Valance. Her fathers arms were:-
Barry Argent and Azure ten Martlets in orle 3 2 2 3 Gules.

The windows in the Library (Library 1) start with the line going through the female side, showing the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter of John and Isabel, and Roger de Grey, Baron of Ruthin. On this window the death of Roger is shown as 1313, but it was actually in 1359. The de Grey arms are:-
Barry Argent and Azure and in chief three Torteaux.

Their son Reginald married Eleanor, daughter of Roger Strange (Library 2). The Strange arms are:-
Argent two Lions passant Gules.



Dining Room 9
Hastings/
De Valance



Library 1
De Grey/
Hastings



Library 2
De Grey/
Strange



Library 3
De Grey/
Astley



Library 4
Lucy/
De Grey



Library 5
Lucy/
Brecknot



Library 6
Lucy/
Ludlow

The son of Reginald, also Reginald, married Joan, daughter of Baron Astley (Library 3). The Astley arms are:-
Azure a Cinquefoil pierced Ermine.

In the following window (Library 4) the line again goes through the female side when Alianore, daughter of Reginald and Joan, marries William Lucy and the Lucy name appears for the first time. The Lucy arms are:-
Gules semy Crosses-crosslet three Lucus haurient Argent.

William, the son of William and Alianore married Margaret, the daughter of Thomas Brecknot (or Brecknock), treasurer to Henry VI (Library 5). The Brecknot arms are:-
Argent a Chevron between three Lions Gambs erased Sable.



Library 7
Lucy/
Empson



Library 8
Lucy/
Fermore

The final window (Library 6) in the bay shows the marriage of Edmund, son of William and Margaret, and Jane Ludlow whose father's arms were:-
Azure three Lions passant gardant Argent.

Moving to the north window of the Library (Library 7) we see the marriage of Thomas, son of Edmund and Jane, and Elizabeth Empson. The Empson arms are discussed later.

The next window (Library 8) is for the marriage of their son, William, and Anne Fermore whose father's arms were:-
Argent on a Fess Sable between three Lions heads erased Gules three Anchors Or.

The final window in the Library (Library 9) is for the marriage of Thomas, later Sir Thomas Lucy I, son of William and Anne, and Joyce Acton. The text on the window shows her as Jane Acton. Joyce was a rich heiress and her money allowed them to build the present house. The Acton arms are:-



Library 9
Lucy/
Acton

Gules a Fess Ermine within a bordure engrailed of the second.



Great Hall 1
Lucy/
Arnold



Great Hall 2
Lucy/
Kingsmill



Great Hall 3
Lucy/
Spencer



Great Hall 4
Lucy/
Davenport

From the Library we move to the window in the Great Hall which is the right of the bay window. The panels in these windows are read across the top from left to right and then across the bottom from left to right. The first two of these windows are for the two marriages of Sir Thomas Lucy II, son of Sir Thomas I and Joyce.

The first of these (Great Hall 1) celebrates his marriage to Dorothy Arnold. The Arnold arms are:-

Gules a Chevron Ermine between three Pheons Or.

His second marriage was to Constance Kingsmill (Great Hall 2) whose father's arms were:-

Argent semy Crosses-crosslet fitchy Sable a Chevron Ermines between three Mill-rinds Sable a chief Ermines.



Great Hall 5
Hammond/
Lucy



Great Hall 6
Hammond/
Morley

Their son, Sir Thomas Lucy III married Alice Spencer (Great Hall 3) and the Spencer arms are:-

Quarterly Argent and Gules on the 2nd and 3rd quarters a Fret Or over all on a Bend Sable three Escallops Argent.

Finally, on the top row (Great Hall 4) there is the marriage of their son Fulke, and Isabella, daughter of John Davenport whose arms were:-

Argent a Chevron between three Crosses-crosslet fitchy Sable.

The sons of Fulke and Isabella had no issue and so the line passed through their daughter Alice who married Rev. John Hammond. In the next window (Great Hall 5) the Lucy arms are on the right and Hammond arms on the left. The Hammond arms are:-

Argent on a Chevron Sable between three Pellets each charged with a martlet of the field as many escallops Or all within a bordure engrailed Gules.

Their son, also Rev. John, married Sarah Morley whose father's arms were:-
Argent a Lion rampant Sable crowned Or.

The next generation took the name Lucy so that they could inherit, and the son of John and Sarah, also a Rev John married Maria Lane, so in the next window (Great Hall 7) we see the Lucy arms on the left and the Lane arms on the right being:-
 Per fess Or and Azure a Chevron Gules between three mullets counterchanged a Canton of England.
 The canton was granted to the Lane family as a 'canton of honour' for the part that the Lane family played in the escape of King Charles II.



Great Hall 7
 Lucy/
 Lane

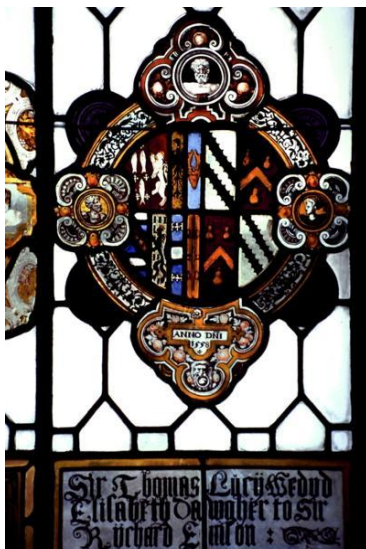


Great Hall 8
 Lucy/
 Williams

Finally (Great Hall 8) there is the marriage of George, the son of John and Maria, with Mary Elizabeth Williams. This is the couple who had the house modernised and, among other changes, arranged for Willement to install the stained glass described here. The Williams arms are:-
 Argent two Foxes salient counter-salient in saltire Gules.

When describing the window for the marriage of Thomas Lucy and Elizabeth Empson I said the Empson arms would be explained later.

Here Willement appears to have made a mistake, which has been perpetuated. The left-hand panel of the north window in the Library (Library 7) is for the marriage of Edmund Lucy and Elizabeth Empson. Unfortunately it shows the arms of Abbot. The correct arms for Empson is on the lower-right of the four panels in the centre of the bay window in the Great Hall where the Empson arms are quartered with the Abbot arms. This error was repeated by Mary Elizabeth's granddaughters who painted the shields in the Great Hall. Just to the left of the Dining Room door, you will see the Abbot arms quartered with Empson. The same error appears in the family tree on a deerskin, which is in the gatehouse, painted by Edith Hinchley in 1923.



Original glass by Eynfler showing, on the right, Empson quartering Abbot



The window by Willement showing Abbot (on the right) where it should be Empson



One of the painted shields in the Great Hall showing Abbot quartering Empson

The arms of Empson and Abbot are:-

Empson:-

Argent two Bends engrailed Sable.

Abbot:-

Gules a Chevron between three Pears Or.

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