

BEAUCHAMP Family.

A document of circa 1650¹ records that there was then “...a little chapple south belonging to Burton...” in Eardisland church, and that “... upon ye embowed head of ye chapple is 1.G. fesse int crosse crosseletts o -----Beauchamp.” Descriptions of three others follow.² Thus this armorial description is identified to the Beauchamp family - but to which individual member of that family and when and for what reason was it first displayed in the south chapel in Eardisland church?

The "when" part of this triple question can be answered, at least to the extent of "earliest possible" for one of the other armorial descriptions, by notes written on the transcript referred to in footnote (i), in the handwriting of the transcriber himself.

Referring to the first quartering of the third arms listed as being in the "little chapple south" is the note:

"Probably Valence (Earls of Pembroke)." ...and he goes on to say in relation to the second quartering, which the text itself identifies as "(Hastings lord Aburgavenny)." ..."Earls of Pembroke, inherited Earldom through mar with daur of Wm de Valence must be after 1339"

And so those particular arms were first placed there between "after 1339" and the date of Harleian Manuscript 6868, which is circa the mid 1600s. However there can be no certainty that this earliest date also applies to the other blazons of arms listed.

Before moving on to another, slightly later reference to the Beauchamp family in this parish, mention should be made that Thomas Beauchamp, 3rd Earl of Warwick (1314-1369) married Lady Catherine de Mortimer.³ She was the 5th child but eldest daughter of the Roger Mortimer who was hanged in 1330 by King Edward III having been found guilty of many misdemeanors, including "inappropriate" relationships with the King's mother. A connection with Eardisland arises in that Roger Mortimer was Lord of the Manor of Eardisland (amongst many others).

The other mention of the Beauchamp family in connection with the affairs of this parish relates also to the St Owen family, Lords of the manor of Burton (one of four manors in the parish) from early post-Conquest date until circa 1426.⁴

An Inquisition Post Mortem Thomas St Owen took place at Hereford on "*Monday after the feast of St Barnabus the Apostle 4 Henry IV (1403)*". The family circumstances of the St Owens were complicated at that time, the relevance of which is that the manor of Burton at the time of the Inquisition Post Mortem is detailed in the IPM as being held..... "*...of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, Henry Percy his son,⁵ E..... Beauchamp Lord Bergavenny, Hugh de Burnell, chivaler, and Thomas Overton, clerk, as of the Honour of Radenore...*"⁶

¹ Harleian Mss 6868 via HRO BM81/1/12 where it is in transcript..

² All heraldic arms in Eardisland church will be dealt with in a separate Paper.

³ Clifford,H. The House of Clifford. ISBN 0 85033 634 1.

⁴ My Paper on this topic is in course of preparation.

⁵ "Hotspur" of Shakespearian fame.

⁶ HRO CF58/-.

Thomas St Owen had died under age, a ward to the King and whilst it is of interest that such a high powered group of 'Trustees' was looking after his inheritance on behalf of the Crown, it is only relevant to this Paper in so far as it may shed light on the Beauchamp family in relationship to the parish of Eardisland, which is the sole objective which this Paper is intended to address.⁷

However interesting this Inquisition Post Mortem, and from it those mentioned as 'Trustees' of the Manor of Burton, may be, no further light is shed on the relationship of the Beauchamp family to Eardisland. But there is no doubt that they did have considerable involvement in political/military matters in The Marches in those times. There are various references in even very generalised history books, but I have seen none which mention this vicinity, let alone Eardisland itself.

Here, for the moment, the topic of the Beauchamp family and its involvement in the affairs of the parish of Eardisland, rests.

Later:

Whilst of later date, 15 HENRY VII, which is 1499-1500, it is still possible that a reference to the Beauchamp family at HRO CF50/112, my page 4, may be of relevance. It simply lists the name 'Beauchamp' under the heading "Inquests post Mortem tempore Henry VII." This reference, a manuscript book, is a compilation, probably 18th century, of matters of interest to historians of Herefordshire, and may not have any relevance to Eardisland. Nevertheless it is worth following up, which I have noted to do.

⁷ The Lordship of the Manor of Burton, and in that context the St Owen family, are dealt with in separate Papers.