

Descendants of Hamon Aux Dents (Obit 1047 at Valesdunes)

Hamon was killed in the battle of Valesdunes in Normandy in 1047, leaving two sons, Robert FitzHamon and Haimon who accompanied William the Conqueror to Britain in 1066.

For their service to William, to whom they were related through Rollo, their common ancestor, they were rewarded the Baronies of Thorigny and Dunham Massey of Cheshire (Vide: "A genealogical Research of Hamon de Mascy" in 1928 by the Genealogical Society of Utah)

Haimo, the first Baron of Dunham Massy, according to Ormerod in his "History of Cheshire" tells us that this Haimo ".....held also in Maxfield Hundred, Bromale and Poddington in Wirral Hundred".

The third Baron of Dunham (in Henry II) confirmed Matthew de Bromale "the Manors of Bramall, Duckenfeld and eleven parts of Baggeley which had been previously held by his father" who was probably a younger son of a near kinsman of Haimo de Masci, the Norman Grantee. (Vide Ormerod p.823)

Richard de Bromale obtained release for himself and his tenants in Bromhall, Duckenfield and 11 parts of Baguley from Hamon de Massey, for being impleaded in the courts of Dunham. He is called Sir Richard in the pedigrees of his family, "son of William, son of John, son of Edward, and is allowed for his armorial bearings, Sable, a lion rampant d'or, as in the early seals of the Lords of Dunham. His son, Sir Geoffrey de Bromale had a daughter, Alice, married to John de Davenport to whose family Bramhall passed. Bramhall remained the property of the Davenport family after their deaths..

Some genealogies of the Bramhalls of Bramhall have been published but never without the essential "leap of faith" linking the medieval Bramhalls across the centuries with Georgian and subsequent Victorian Bramhalls.

In the "General Armory" (Burke's I believe) you will find the Bramhall lineage dealing with the Rev'd. John Bramhall, born at Pontefract in Yorkshire in 1593 of an ancient family, descended from the Bramhalls of Bramhall, in Cheshire, became eminently distinguished as a theologian and divine.

(This is a reference to the Archbishop of Armagh, son of Peter, son of John Bramhall, the Alderman of Pontefract whose arms are also discussed in the same Armory: "Bramhall (granted by Segar, Norroy, to John Bramhall, Alderman of Pontefract, co York, 1602) sa. a lion ramp. Or. Crest – a lion pass.or."

On that same page in the "General Armory" the next item reads:

"Bramhall (granted by Segar, Garter, 1628, to John Bramhall of Ripon, co York, eldest son of Peter Bramhall, and grandson of John Bramhall, of Pontefract in the same co., descended from the ancient family of Bramhall of Bramhall, co. Chester) Same arms and crest. Motto – Sanguine Christe tuo."

The next item a clear reference to the previous one:

"Bramhall (Cheshire and London; confirmed 21 Nov 1628). Same arms. Crest – A lion pass. or, on the shoulder a crescent upon a crescent for diff."

Peter, who was the second son of John Bramhall the Alderman uses the Crescent in his arms for he has an elder brother, Richard (Dick) Bramhall who is entitled to the label as befits the eldest son.

It is just this Richard (Dick) Bramhall who departs for the Netherlands who is from then on referred to as Dirck of (van) Bromale, Brumley, or just “the Englishman”.

Bramale, Bromale, Bromley, Brumley (all proven and used variants of Bramhall) soon developed into “Van Brummelen” whose coat of arms was set into the window of the church he helped to rebuild, in Ravenswaay.

He made a good marriage as is to be expected from someone who is conscious of his not insignificant background. His wife’s coat of arms was (new) Chatillon (Vair) however on their grave it seemed right to have the (old) Chatillon Lion courteously facing the Lion of Bramhall, complete with label.

Cp. With the stones which once formed their tomb but, now broken into seven pieces are scattered throughout the Zoelmond Church.