

newsletter

"Wynkefeld The Saxon held honor and fee, ere William The Norman came over the sea"
... Ancient Suffolk England Rhyme

Vol. II, No. 1

Winter, 1988

Members pleased with republished 'Muniments' book...gets rave reviews

After a month delay in getting the special acid free paper we needed for republishing the *Muniments of the Ancient Saxon Family of Wingfield*. The book was on the way to subscribers in late January.

From the many reports, the recipients were more than pleased with the book. Many had not seen it before and were fascinated with the elaborate content and details of the outline of the genealogy sections that took the Wingfield family back to the

Doomsday book and 1087. Thanks to Terry and Susan Cavanagh, and their knowledge about publishing, the quality of the book is truly first rate. The 7th Viscount Powerscourt, the author, did unbelievable research and it appears he did not miss many of our ancestors up to the time it went to the press initially in 1894.

The number of books is limited. They are still available to WFS members. The price is \$150 plus shipping of \$5.



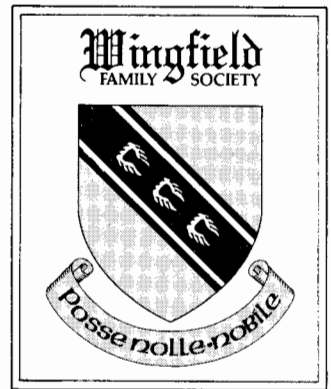
SUSAN AND TERRY CAVANAGH, members of the Wingfield Family Society, present the first copy of *The Muniments of the Ancient Saxon Family of Wingfield* to Albert Nelius (left), head of the Circulation Department, William R. Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

WFS group to present banner in London

On May 24, 1988, 45 WFS members will be in London for the start of the special Wingfield tour. Arrangements have been made for the group to present a replica banner of John Wingfield who was York Herald 1663-1674, to St. Benet's Church. John Wingfield, York Herald was the father of Thomas who sailed to Virginia in 1680 and is claimed as the ancestor of many Wingfields now in the U.S.

Wilsie Wingfield Carr, WFS organizer, was in London last year, along with Jocelyn Wingfield when arrangements were made for the ceremony. The group will be treated to a special visit to the College of Arms only a block from the church.

The banner will be displayed with about 30 others, many of which were former York Heralds.



Membership Roster Coming

Our new roster of the names and addresses of all members of the Wingfield Family Society, will be given to attendees at the meeting in Richmond. It will show the founding members (attending the first meeting), charter members (joining the year of organization, but could not attend) and regular members. It will be mailed to all dues-paying members later in the year.

If you do not want your name and address listed and publicized, please notify: WFS, 301 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, FL 34616.

Change of address

If you move notify the WFS of your change of address. Several of our last newsletters were returned due to no forwarding address. These paid up members are not getting any mailings because we don't know where they are. Don't let it happen to you.

England tour sold out!

The Wingfield England tour sold out at 40 passengers but we were able to squeeze in five more for a total of 45.

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WFS MEMBER PROFILE

Frank J. Wingfield, Mitchell, SD



FRANK J. WINGFIELD

So many things to do and so little time was little Frank's dilemma growing up in South Dakota. To be a doctor, a musician, a scientist, teacher or minister.

Born in Pierre, South Dakota on May 3, 1909 the only son of Joseph Leslie Wingfield who, at that time, was executive secretary to the governor of South Dakota. The family spent winters in Pierre and summers in Mitchell, two cities about 100 miles apart. Father Joseph was by training a teacher, but became an adventurer, later drifting into politics. In 1922/23 Joseph (father), with 39 other equally brave souls, entered Africa near Algeria transversed the dark continent emerging at South Africa. They found the

grave of explorer Mungo Park, but only 2 members of the party survived the hazardous trek, one being Frank's father.

Young Frank attended schools in Pierre, Minneapolis and Chicago. His original intent was to be a medical doctor, but switched to the educational field after a year at the University of Chicago. While in Chicago, he became a licensed embalmer and funeral director and still holds his license today. At 78, Frank doubts he will go back to Illinois to use it.

He graduated from Dakota Wesleyan in Mitchell in 1931 and began teaching high school in Parkston, SD in 1936. During the 20 years at Parkston High School, mostly teaching sciences, 13 years were as its principal. Next he spent 18 years as head of the Biology Department at Dakota Wesleyan College in Mitchell, SD. Frank reminisces fondly over his 38 years in education, feeling this was the right decision and if he had the chance to do it again, he would. The challenge of shaping the lives of young people is satisfaction that is its own reward.

The very year he graduated from college (1936), he married Dorothea Evelyn Cole. Dorothea and Frank have one son, John who is a dentist and lives across town from his parents. John has four daughters, one of whom is in the army in Germany. Both Frank and son John attended the Wingfield Family Society organizational meeting in Ashland, VA in May, 1987.

Retirement came in 1974.

Frank has several hobbies. He and his wife Dorothea like to fish and don't really care if they catch anything. He plays the violin, piano and harp, but he confesses only for his own pleasure. Dorothea and Frank like to travel and have reached about 40 of the

nation's 50 states. No visit to a state is complete without a trek to the capitol. Then Frank proceeds to climb up into the dome and look over that lantern at the very apex of the top. At 79, we think this is a grand but unusual hobby and certainly should keep he and Dorothea out of the pool hall. Someday, Frank promises, he will go to England where it all began. A few years ago, he stayed home and took care of their dog while Dorothea journeyed to Ireland and visited the Powerscourt estate outside of Dublin.

In 1951, he was named district governor for the Lions Club, a position that required tremendous travel and an understanding college president. During this year he traveled over 22,000 miles as the only district governor in the entire state. A Mason, and a past Worshipful Master of his lodge, he ascended the ranks of both the York and Scottish Rite to become a 32 degree Mason.

Frank Wingfield is a founding member of the Wingfield Family Society by virtue of attending the first meeting of the society in Ashland, VA. Those that were at the meeting will remember Frank as a charming, outspoken individual with a distinguishing beard.

There are conflicting sentiments with regard to his ancestor that first arrived from Britain. On one hand he feels he may have come through the Powerscourt line and then evidence seems to suggest a Virginia connection with Thomas of York River. This much he does know. His grandfather, Grady Wingfield, was a construction engineer, born in Marysville, OH.

Grady was sympathetic with the North during the unpleasant conflict in the 1860s. This seems to suggest that some of the Wingfields were Yankees.

Genealogy Report

It is never easy to start up something as complex as a genealogy data center, but that is one of the things we have accomplished during the past year. There are still bugs to work out; but we think we are on our way.

Our family genealogists, Richard Quarles and Lee Preston have guided us in devising a type of family profile form that will include a source for the information listed and the specific information required for entry into our computer.

One fear was that supposition would seep into the records and the result would be fiction rather than fact in some of the records. We could not have this as we expect to be

able to provide our members with information that may connect their known family members into a distant line.

There have been some comments about the complexity of the "profile" forms created for listing family information to send to the computer center. These have been reviewed and there is no way to simplify them and still get the factual information we must have. Please read carefully before preparing your family information and sending.

If you did not get your genealogy packet of forms, please request from: WFS Genealogist, 301 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, FL 34616.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Vance Wingfield of Ft. Worth, TX is providing the WFS with a hard drive computer to store this information that is carefully prepared by the members.

Ultimately we hope to have a gigantic data base of information so members can merely ask for facts on a particular ancestor, giving as many details as possible. We will be able to print out a pedigree chart filling in missing information. Don't send your requests now to the genealogy computer center as it is not prepared to answer any requests. You will be advised on how this will work when we are ready.

AN APPEAL...

We need writers and reporters for the WFS Newsletter. Out in our membership we must have a variety of talents, dormant but crying for release. If your latent or active talent is writing, please let us know as we can use your help. Many of our members are into genealogy and history with special information that may be of in-

terest to our readers, such as Josephine Wasson with an article in this issue. We need someone to do assignments for specific reports and member profile interviews. You will get a byline.

Please contact: Editor, WFS Newsletter, 301 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, FL 34616.

York Herald

Part I

by Jocelyn Wingfield

Heraldry is the science of coats of arms—hereditary symbols which came to prominence all over Europe in the early 12th century. As the soldier encase his face (the origin of expression: “shut your face!”) in armour, heraldic symbols were used on his helmet, so he was instantly recognizable in battle (his crest). And on his shield was displayed his personal coat of arms. No two people can have the same arms—it has to have “differences” on the main coat.

Heraldry and genealogy go hand in hand. From 1484 the College of Arms (corrently opposite St. Benet’s Pauls Wharf, Church, London) has regulated arms in England and Wales. Its earliest rolls of arms dating back to 1275. Today it still flourishes. The college continues rolls, genealogical records and arms.

John Wingfield, the Tickencote line, who had been a captain of horse in the Royal Army 1641-48, became Portcuillis Pursuivant—a junior herald at the College of Arms—at the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. Then, as now, you had to be someone of importance to get the job; and to be approved by the Earl Marshal (the Duke of Norfolk). Then, both those provisos permitting, one could purchase the post.

Then, as now, the officers at the College of Arms numbered about 14—including 3 kings of arms (Garter, Clarenceux, Norroy); 6 heralds (Windsor, Somerset, York, Lancaster, Chester and Richmond) and 4 Pursuivants (Rouge Dragon, Rouge Croix, Bluemantle and Portcuillis).

The heralds, or rather: “the officers of the College of Arms” were originally used by the sovereign to carry important messages or to act as ambassadors, later becoming responsible for regulating and designing coats of arms, for which the interested parties paid them handsomely.

In the 17th Century they were given the extra duty of certifying pedigrees (family trees).

John Wingfield, father of Thomas Wingfield who emigrated to the River Mattaponi in Virginia in 1680, was promoted to York Herald in 1663, a post he held until 1674, when he sold it. His friend and colleague, John Gibbon, who was “Bluemantle” at the time, went too to Virginia, but decided not to emigrate. Wingfield’s father-in-law (George Owen) and his first cousin, Elizabeth Wingfield’s husband, father-in-law and brother-in-law (St. George family) were also officers of the college at that time. There is no picture of John Wingfield, but his three St. George cousins by marriage can be seen

in Plates XXIV and XXX of Sir Anthony Wagner’s *Heralds of England* (London, HMSO, 1967). Herald’s still wear mediaeval jacket (a tabard), trows or gaiters and beret and carry a wand of office. The York Herald’s wand is black with, at the top end, a rose with the sun’s rays bursting from behind it, and a crown. Today’s heralds are responsible for ceremonial occasions such as coronations, royal weddings, funerals of royals and statesmen (such as Winston Churchill); and the opening of Parliament.

Arms can be obtained in two ways; either by proving to the college (or getting them to prove) one’s descent in the male line from someone who was legally entitled to bear arms; or by applying for a grant (and to do so one must be an eminent, respectable person!) Both ways are quite expensive, which is why I have never “claimed.” Today’s armigerous people (those legally bearing arms) tend to put them, or their crest, on their seals, signet rings, glass, writing paper, houses of castles (in stone or on a banner) and on coaches or cars. Arms where there is a play on words such as wings on a field for Wingfield, are called canting arms.

Dr. Conrad Swan, today’s York Herald, is showing 45 members of the Wingfield Family Society, round the College of Arms on May 24th.

After that visit, I’ll write Part II.

Member comments...

From time to time we get letters and comments from members that may be of interest to newsletter readers.

The following has been edited due to space limitation of the newsletter. The editing deleted additional details only and does not take away from the content or point of the letter. The views and comments are strictly those of the writer.

We would like to hear from other members with respect to their knowledge of the source of very early research of the Wingfields.

“Since the publication of the Muniments by Lord Powerscourt in 1894, a good deal of research has been done on the Wingfield Family...some of it published, some of this published research sights reviews of Lord Powerscourt’s work at the time of publication. These were highly critical of the fact that he had accepted as fact the magnificent origins of the family prior to the end of the 13 Century. (See *The Early Wingfields* by G. Andrews Moriarty: *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*: Vol. CIII, October, 1949). In this early family tree the Wingfields were allied to the great families of East Anglia. Regretfully none of this can be substantiated.

Documentary history of the family begins in the late 13th century with William de

Wingfield and Matilda, his wife in Norfolk records. From this point the family can be traced from existing records.

The later Wingfields are descended from Sir John’s brother, Sir Thomas (Ed note date: d:1390), who had the good fortune to marry Margaret, the daughter of John de Boville, lord of the manor of Letheringham, co. Suffolk, whose ancestor founded the Church of St. Mary and the Priority, at Letheringham. Lord Powerscourt appears to “get it right” from here on (with only minor errors).

Why would a family seemingly invent a line of descent? The Wingfield family rose to prominence in England during the reign of the Tudor dynasty. Family history was important to the Tudors. It was they who end-

ed the so called Wars of the Roses by combining the white rose of York with the red rose of Lancaster in their blood.

The Tudor fascination with family history and legitimacy and the growing concept of nationalism provoked by those around the monarch especially to seek family connections with England’s past. The Wingfield family was no exception. At some point, conceivably during the 16th Century, some Tudor genealogist drew the family tree that Lord Powerscourt accepted as fact. Because documentary evidence of these origins cannot be found, the Wingfield family should be cautioned in their claim to have descended from a Saxon bearing the Norman name Robert who was said to have held the manor of Wingfield at the time of the Norman Conquest.

Still and all, the work of Lord Powerscourt is a remarkable document in spite of all the questions it provokes and fails to answer. The Wingfield Society should be proud to republish the muniments in such a fine edition. Indeed, it is a treasure deserving of preservation.”

B. Franklin Reinauer III
New York City (WFS member)

Notable Wingfield Ancestors

by Josephine H. Wasson
WFS member from Birmingham

Scarcely had the Hundred Years' War ended in England when the rival interests of York and Lancaster were involved in the 30 year struggle known as the Wars of the Roses.

These civil wars came about as the descendants of Edward III claimed the throne of England...the red rose Lancastrians from the line of John of Gaunt; the white rose Yorkists from the line of his younger brother Edmund, Duke of York.

The principles of government were involved: these were conflicts between rival royal lines, each backed by strong noblemen.

In 1461 the ruling Lancastrian Henry VI became mentally ill, and the strong Yorkist pretender gained control, with the help of his uncle Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, known to history as "The Kingmaker." The pretender was crowned as Edward IV.

Intelligent, tall and handsome, an able soldier with a winning personality, he refused to be advised by Warwick, who strongly advocated a French royal marriage alliance. But Edward secretly married the English lady of his choice.

Her name was Elizabeth Woodville, and she was the young widow of a Lancastrian knight, Sir John Grey, son of Edward Grey, Earl Ferrers of Groby and his wife Elizabeth Ferrers. Elizabeth Woodville had two small sons, the elder being Thomas Grey.

The new Queen Elizabeth Woodville was

the daughter of Jocquetta of Luxembourg and Sir Richard Woodville (later created Earl Rivers.) Jacquetta had once been the Duchess of Bedford, wife of the brother of King Henry V. When the Duke of Bedford died the personable Duchess Jacquetta had married Woodville, and had many Woodville children. This was said to be a somewhat unsuitable marriage for her, though he was reportedly the most handsome man in England, and his advance was steady.

Warwick, furious over the failure of his plans for Edward IV, then allied himself with the king's enemies, the Lancastrians. In a fierce battle Warwick was killed; as was the young Lancastrian heir. The deranged ex-king Henry VI died in the Tower; and thus the whole Lancastrian line was extinct.

For 12 years thereafter Edward IV's kin were given great estates titles and riches, which incurred the wrath of many. Her oldest son, Thomas Grey was made Earl of Huntingdon and given the marquisate of Dorset; plus one of England's wealthiest heiresses, Cecily Bonville, Baroness of Harington, for his bride.

Suddenly King Edward died, in 1483, leaving two young sons. The elder, Edward V, had the shortest and saddest reign in history...from spring to summer only.

King Edward IV had appointed his brother Richard, Duke of Gloucester, as regent for his son, rather than the boys' mother Queen Elizabeth Woodville. Instead, Duke Richard acted swiftly, declared his dead brother's

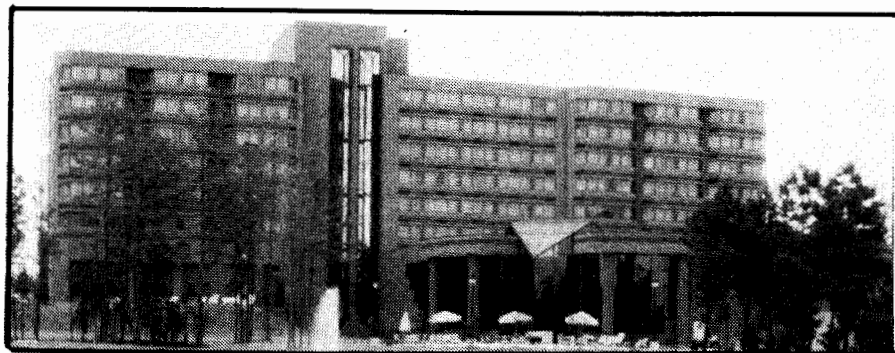
marriage invalid on a technicality, sent the two small princes to the Tower, overawed Parliament with armed forces, and had himself crowned King Edward III.

The boys subsequently disappeared from the Tower...whether murdered by their uncle Richard, or by the rebels led by Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, the future King Henry VII, has never been determined.

Richard III was defeated decisively at the Battle of Bosworth Field, leaving no close heir. Richmond himself had only small claim to the throne through his mother's line. His father was a Tudor. However, he as the new king, Henry VII, soon married princess Elizabeth of York, the sister of the princes in the Tower. By this marriage the lines of both Lancaster and York were combined and the Tudor dynasty established. Thus came to the end the Wars of the Roses. So too, one could say, did medieval England come to an end.

NOTES: Queen Elizabeth Woodville's son Thomas Grey was half-brother to the two princes in the Tower, as well as to Henry VII's gracious and loved Queen Elizabeth of York, mother of King Henry VIII. From Thomas Grey was descended Frances Cromwell who married Sir John Wingfield (d. 1631).

The only surviving male heir of King Richard III was John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, who was buried at Wingfield Church, Suffolk, where his effigy and that of his wife may be seen.



SHERATON PARK SOUTH, Richmond, the hotel for our annual meeting.

Register early for Richmond meeting

Within the next couple of weeks the registration forms for the meeting in Richmond, VA will be mailed to all members. We are getting inquiries asking for information on registration. Be patient as WFS member Dale Ruf, our meeting coordinator, is working hard and fast on this and will have information out soon. This is a big job with lots of details to handle.

The meeting will be at the Sheraton Park South in Richmond, May 20-22, 1988. Hotel

accommodations will be reserved directly with the hotel on a form that will come with the meeting registration form.

In addition to our meeting and exchange of information, we will have a visit to Jamestown on May 21. It is especially fitting that the theme of the meeting be Jamestown since the first president of the colony was Captain Edward Maria Wingfield.

You are urged to register early. We expect a large attendance.

MUNIMENTS OF THE ANCIENT SAXON FAMILY OF WINGFIELD

REPUBLISHED 1987

\$150

PLUS \$5 SHIPPING
(anywhere in U.S.)

SEND CHECK TO:

WINGFIELD FAMILY SOCIETY
1004 CHEROKEE RD.
PERRY, GA 31069-2243

ENGLAND TOUR SOLD OUT

Continued from page 1...

These lucky people, after attending the WFS meeting in Richmond, will board Pan Am's 747 in nearby Dulles for London.

The tour, escorted by Jocelyn Wingfield, will be for 7 days, visiting the historical sites of the family within England.