

## THE QUARTERINGS OF BOOTH OF DUNHAM MASSEY FOR GEORGE, 2ND EARL OF WARRINGTON (1675-1758)

In the Dunham Chapel of St Mary's church, Bowdon, Cheshire, are two elaborate monuments to the Booth family of Dunham Massey who were elevated to the peerage as Lords Delamere and later Earls of Warrington. The two monuments were created by the French sculptor André Carpentière (1672-1737). Both contain heraldic achievements. Of the two, that which is positioned against the east wall of the chapel is perhaps the most interesting in having 48 quarterings – the most of any shield of arms in the county. What follows is an attempt to describe the armorial display.

The monument, dated 1727, is to the memory of the Honourable Langham Booth MP (1684-1724) and his brother the Honourable Henry Booth (1687-1726), both sons of Henry Booth, the first earl of Warrington and his wife, Mary Langham, daughter and heiress of Sir James Langham, Baronet, of Cottesbrooke, Northamptonshire. Portrait medallions of the brothers are positioned either side of a black obelisk which bears the coat of arms.



1. Argent, three boars' heads erect and erased Sable, langued Gules, a crescent for difference.
2. Argent, a fess engrailed Gules [Barton].
3. Azure, two bars Argent and in chief two mullets of the second [Venables of Bollin].
4. Argent, on a bend Azure, three garbs Or [Fitton of Bollin].
5. Quarterly, Gules and Or, in the first a lion passant Argent [Mascy of Dunham].
6. Paly of six, Or and Gules, a chief Vair [Whitney].
7. Argent, on a bend Gules three escarbuncles Or [Thornton].
8. Vert, a cross engrailed Ermine [Kingsley].
9. Argent, a bugle-horn stringed Sable, in dexter chief a cinquefoil [Kingsley forester's coat].
10. Or, a saltire Sable [Helsby].
11. Azure, a chevron between three garbs Or [Hatton].
12. Bendy of ten Or

and Azure [Mountford]. 13. *Argent, a lion rampant between ten billets Sable* [Gisors] 14. *Argent, on a chief Azure two fleur-de-lis Or* [Clinton]. 15. *Argent, fretty Azure* [Samby]. 16. *Argent, three fleur-de-lis between six crosses crosslet fitchy Sable* [Hillarie]. 17. *Gules, a fess between six crosses crosslet, Argent* [Peache]. 18. *Argent, a pale engrailed Sable* [Daniell]. 19. *Ermine, a fess chequy Or and Azure* [Arden]. 20. *Azure a lion rampant double queued Or* [Stapleton]. 21. *Argent, a mullet Sable* [Ashton]. 22. *Argent, a chevron engrailed Azure* [Stayley]. 23. *Argent, on a chief Gules, a lion passant Or* [Brey]. 24. *Argent, a lion rampant Gules between three pheons Sable* [Egerton]. 25. *Azure, six garbs, three, two and one Or* [Kevelioc, earl of Chester]. 26. *Azure, a wolf's head erased Argent* [Lupus, earl of Chester]. 27. *Sable, an eagle displayed Or* [attributed to Leofric, Saxon earl of Chester]. 28. *Argent, a cross flory Azure* [Malpas, baron of Malpas]. 29. *Or, three piles meeting in base Gules, on a canton Argent a griffin sergeant Sable* [Basset]. 30. *Azure, a wolf's head erased Argent* [Lupus, earl of Chester]. 31. *Gules, a cross Ermine* [Beck]. 32. *Argent a fess vairy of one row Or and Gules between three water bougets Sable* [Dethick]. 33. *Per chief Argent and Gules, on a bend Sable three escutcheons each Argent, a chief Gules* [Allestry]. 34. *Or, on a chevron Gules three bezants* [Stafford]. 35. *Azure, six martlets, three, two and one Or* [Appleby]. 36. *Paly of six Argent and Gules, on a bend Azure three horseshoes Argent* [Meignell]. 37. *Vair, Argent and sable* [Meynell]. 38. *Sable, a lion rampant, Argent* [Williams/Cromwell?]. 39. *Argent, three bendlets enhanced Gules* [Byron]. 40. *Argent, a cross engrailed Sable between four torteaux* [Clayton]. 41. *Argent, a cross flory Sable* [Adlington/Clayton/Swinnerton?]. 42. *Argent on a bend Azure three annulets Or, in sinister chief a cross paty fitchy Sable* [Bentley?]. 43. *Argent, three bear's heads couped Sable, muzzled Or* [Langham]. 44. *Ermine, a chevron Gules with a bordure engrailed Sable* [Revell/Mallory?]. 45. *Per chief Azure and Argent, two bendlets of the second* [?]. 46. *Gules, two lions passant in pale Argent* [Strange/Pedwarden?]. 47. *Azure, ten estoiles, four, three, two and one Or* [Alston]. 48. *Sable, three nag's heads Argent, bridled Gules, a canton Ermine* [Jones of Chiswick?].<sup>1</sup>

The Booths descended from the Booths of Barton, Lancashire, and hence the second quartering. From here on the quarterings of the family fall into five groups: (i) those derived from the marriage between Booth of Barton and Venables of Bollin in the 15<sup>th</sup> century (quarters 3 – 11); (ii) those from the Booth-Montfort marriage in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century (quarters 12 – 20); (iii) the Booth-Ashton marriage (quarters 21 – 23); (iv) the Booth-Egerton marriage of 1619 (24 – 42) (v) the Booth-Langham marriage of 1670 (quarters 43 – 48).

Sir Robert Booth of Barton and Douce daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Venables of Bollin in the time of Henry VI. The Venables of Bollin had inherited from the Fittons of Bollin who had inherited from the ancient Masy family parts of the barony of Dunham Massey. The Fittons had previously inherited Thornton property from the time when Hamon Fitton married Elizabeth Thornton heir of the Thornton and Helsby families.

In the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century George Booth married Katherine, daughter and heiress of Robert Montfort, lord of Bescote, Staffordshire, and Monkespath, Warwickshire, hence the next group of quarterings twelve to twenty.

Quarters twenty-one to twenty-three are from the marriage of George Booth (d.1519) to Margaret daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Ashton of Ashton under Lyne who had inherited the lordship of Stayley [Stalybridge].

The next group of quarterings come from a marriage to an Egerton heiress. In May 1619, William Booth (d.1636) married Vere, daughter and a co-heiress of Sir Thomas Egerton [son of Lord Chancellor Egerton]. It was their son George (1622-1684) who was ennobled in April 1661 as Baron Delamere of Dunham Massey. This is the largest group of quarterings, nineteen in all, but have been

unable to verify all of them other than that many seem to be Leicestershire coats. There seems to be no reason for the repeat of the arms of Hugh Lupus, the first Norman earl of Chester at position 30.

The final set of quarterings, the last six, are from the marriage of Henry Booth, 2<sup>nd</sup> baron Delamere, and later 1<sup>st</sup> earl of Warrington (1651-1693), to Mary Langham (1653-1691). She was the daughter and heiress of Sir James Langham, baronet, and her mother Mary, daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Alston, at one time President of the Royal College of Physicians; they married on 7 Jul 1670.

Interestingly, when this achievement is compared with that on the monument to the 1<sup>st</sup> earl and his wife which is on the south side of the chapel there are a few noticeable differences: the arms displayed are Booth (nine quarterings) impaling Langham (six quarterings). The Langham arms seem to show the erased heads of birds rather than those of bears and the third quartering has no chief, simply *Azure, two bends Argent* (see 45 above).

An illuminated manuscript family tree at Dunham Massey Hall records 46 quarterings omitting Stanby (15) and the second Lupus quartering (30).

When the first half of the achievement is compared with that given in the *Visitation of Cheshire 1580* there are a few points of variance. The 1580 version is:

1. *Argent, three boars' heads erect and erased Sable, langued Gules, a crescent for difference.*
2. *Argent, a fess engrailed Gules* [Barton].
3. *Quarterly, Gules and Or, in the first a lion passant Argent* [Mascy of Dunham].
4. *Azure, two bars and in chief two mullets of the second* [Venables of Bollin].
5. *Paly of six, Or and Gules, a chief Vair* [Whitney].
6. *Argent, on a bend Azure, three garbs Or* [Fitton].
7. *Argent, two chevrons and a canton Gules* [Orreby].
8. *Argent, on a bend Gules three escarbuncles Or* [Thornton].
9. *Vert, a cross engrailed Ermine* [Kingsley].
10. *Argent, a bugle-horn stringed Sable, in dexter chief a cinquefoil* [Kingsley forester's coat].
11. *Or, a saltire Sable* [Helsby].
12. *Bendy of ten Or and Azure* [Mountford].
13. *Argent, a mullet Sable* [Ashton].
14. *Argent, a chevron engrailed Azure* [Stayley].
15. *Gules, a cross engrailed Ermine, within a bordure gobony Or and Azure* [?].

The Booth arms have a crescent for difference which was dropped by the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The arms of Orreby were not included which is appropriate given that the Booths do not descend of the particular marriage which saw the beginnings of the Fittons of Gawsworth. The final quarter omits the border.

## Postscript

In April 2012, an episode of BBC's *Antiques Road Show* featured a splendid framed armorial panel displaying the achievement of George Booth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Warrington (1675-1758) The arms, complete with lion passant crest, coronet, helm, two boars as supporters, mantling and motto *Quod Ero Sperro*, were painted on canvas and mounted on an early 18<sup>th</sup> century carved and gilded frame measuring 37 by 32 inches. On the programme it was revealed that the painting once hung in the chancel of Mottram parish church, due to the fact that the earl's family had possession of the chancel as lords of the manor of Stalybridge and had repaired the south side. In 1854, when the lordship and the chancel were acquired by a wealthy mill owner, the painting was removed to a local mill. Subsequently the mill became a biscuit factory and the painting then hung in the reception area. At the *Road Show* the expert valued the painting at between £12500 and £1500.<sup>ii</sup> Three years earlier, in January 2009, a similar painting had been sold at Christie's for £12500.<sup>iii</sup> Another similar canvas hung in the chapel at Dunham Massey once the seat of the Booth family.

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<sup>i</sup> Alternative identifications may be found in research done by Harold Storey and used by Martin Goldsmith in his web-site article about the arms, see [http://cheshire-heraldry.org.uk/gallery\\_image48.html](http://cheshire-heraldry.org.uk/gallery_image48.html) . In quarter 13 the

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lion perhaps ought to be *crowned Or* giving de la Planch as identification. In quarter 23 the chief may contain a dragon.

<sup>ii</sup> <http://cheshire-heraldry.org.uk/weblog/2012/04/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.christies.com/lotfinder/Lot/the-arms-of-booth-quartering-others-for-5169080-details.aspx>