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Dear Sir.,

I must apologise for the delay in following up our correspondence of July, concerning the Armorial Bearings of the Templer family of Stover, of which you sent me two illustrations. The first shows the Arms carved on a chimneypiece: in this example, the Templer coat impales the device of a parrot (representing the Parlby family), with the Templer Crest above. The other example, the bookplate of George Templer, shows the Templer coat impaling Arms of two bars and a canton (representing the Paul family), again with the Templer Crest.

The necessary research has now been carried out and I am able to send my report.

TEMPLER of Stover:

Armorial Bearings were granted on 3 May 1763 to James Templer of Stowver [sic] Lodge. co. Devon, esquire, son of Thomas Templer late of Exeter, gentleman, deceased. The text recited that the grantee 'and his Family for many years have borne a Coat of Arms and Crest', but since these had not been found on official record at the College of Arms, a new grant was made to James Templer and his male-line descendants [College of Arms ms Grants 10, p. 475].

The Arms were blazoned: Quarterly Azure and Gules the Perspective of an Antique Temple Argent on the Pinnacle and exterior Battlements a Cross Or in the first quarter an Eagle displayed and in the second a Stag trippant regardant of the Last. This indicates that the background is divided into four, the upper left and lower right quarters being blue, the upper right and lower left quarters red. The temple is white, with three small gold crosses — one on the

pinnacle, the others at the outer edges of the battlements. The eagle displayed and the stag in the upper part of the shield are gold. The Crest was blazoned: On a wreath of the colours (that is, Argent and Azure), A Mount Vert thereon an Holy Lamb Argent in the Dexter foot a Penon Silver, charged with a Cross of St. George, the Streamers Wavy Azure and Gules, and Staf [sic] Or under an Oak tree fructed gold. The white Paschal Lamb stands on a grassy mount; the staff is gold, the white pennon bears the red cross of St. George. and its waving ends are blue and red. The tree is described in the blazon as simply an Oak tree fructed [i.e. with acorns] gold', which implies that the entire tree is gold; but the painting which accompanies the text of the grant shows the tree in its natural colours — with brown trunk and green leaves and this would more correctly be blazoned 'an Oak Tree proper fructed gold'. No motto was shown.

The colours of the Arms in the painting accompanying the text of the grant differ from the blazon. In the painting, the background of the Arms is depicted quarterly sable and gules (that is, black and red), whereas the blazon specifies azure and gules (blue and red). In such discrepancies, College of Arms practice is to give preference to the written blazon.

Both the Arms and the Crest are depicted incorrectly in the examples you sent me. The Arms on the chimney piece omit the small crosses which should appear at the outer ends of the temple battlements; the Crest omits the grassy mount, and shows the cross on the pennon at the wrong angle — making it a cross of St. Andrew (termed in heraldry a saltire) rather than a cross of St. George. The bookplate has more errors than the chimneypiece. In the Arms, the temple stands on a grassy base, which is not in fact part of the design and should not be there; the small crosses on the battlements are omitted, and the pinnacle appears to terminate in a weathervane rather than a cross, while the stag has its forefeet placed side by side as if standing still, rather than in the correct 'trippant' (walking) position. In the Crest, the lamb supports the staff with the left foreleg, rather than the right, and the pennon lacks the cross. In other respects, however, particularly the way in which the temple is depicted, the differences in appearance are a matter of artistic licence, rather than actual changes to the Arms or Crest. A certain amount of latitude is allowed in the presentation of Armorial Bearings, and an experienced heraldic artist knows what variations are permissible when producing such designs.

As explained in my letter of 1 July, the reasons for the choice of a particular design are never entered in our registers. However, in some cases it is possible to suggest the ideas behind the use of certain objects, and I think we can make informed guesses in this instance. The main charge in the Arms, the 'antique temple', is obviously a reference to the family's surname. It is also an appropriate symbol for a man whose fortune was founded on building. The main device in the Crest is another allusion to the surname; the Paschal Lamb, or Agnus Dei, was a badge of the Knights Templar, and now identifies the Middle Temple, one of the Inns of Court.

The other objects in the design cannot be so readily explained. However, an eagle appears in the coat of the ancient family of Temple of Stowe, and may therefore also have been adopted by other families of that and similar surnames. The text of the grant to James Templer does not describe the design which the Templer family had previously been using, but I think it possible that it formed the basis of the Arms and Crest actually granted in 1763.

In your first letter, you stated that the school's Board of Governors 'wish to establish the accurate circumstances surrounding the grant of arms to James Templer. Grants of Arms are of course made on specific occasions, such as at the time of a knighthood or on the creation of a baronetcy. However, a man of substance with a large estate would have an obvious use for Arms, and might therefore seek a grant. In this case, it appears that the family adopted Arms without authority, and rectified the situation by applying for a grant.

There are several pedigrees of this family of Templer in the official registers of the College of Arms, which can be summarised as follows.

1) A pedigree was recorded here at the time the grant of Arms was made in 1763, but it is of two generations only; it shows James Templer the grantee (born on 17 April 1722 at Exeter) and his wife Mary, daughter of John Parlby of Chatham, Co. Kent. They were married on 4 September 1745 at Greenwich, and at the time the pedigree was recorded they had six sons and a daughter [College of Arms ms 5.D.14, p. 159]. The Arms and Crest are painted at the head of the pedigree; the background of the shield is again depicted quarterly sable and gules, rather than azure and gules as in the written blazon.

2) A pedigree recorded in 1926 shows further issue of James Templer and Mary Parlby (who died in 1782 and 1784 respectively), and some descendants of their son George Templer of Shapwick and of Stover Lodge (born 1755, died 1819), who married Jane Paul in 1781. George and Jane had (with other issue) a son Rev. James Acland Templer (born 1797, died 1866), Vicar of Puddletown in Dorset. His son Lieutenant-Colonel James George John Templer of Lindridge, Bishopsteignton, Devon (born 1829, died 1883); his eldest child Captain John George Edmund Templer of Lindridge, JP. died in 1924 leaving two daughters [College of Arms ms Surrey 10, p. 187].

3) A pedigree is on record showing descendants of James Mortimer Templer of Brampford House, Brampford Speke, co. Devon, Civil Engineer on 'the Indian Rail Roads'. He was born in 1858, younger brother of Captain John Templer mentioned in (2) above; there were a number of male-line representatives of his branch of the family in about 1983, when this pedigree was registered [College of Arms ms Surrey 27, p. 61].

As you are probably aware, the Templers of Stover and Lindridge appear in various editions of Burke's Landed Gentry, down to the 15th edition (1937). I have not enclosed copies of these entries, as I gather you have already investigated the family in some detail.

PARLBY:

James Templer to whom the grant was made in 1763 married Mary, daughter of John Pariby of Chatham, co. Kent, and the carving on the chimneypiece shows the Templer Arms impaling a coat with a parrot. This represents Mary's family (the Arms Argent a Parrot Vert having been attributed to Parlby in the past), but I am afraid it is of no authority. No Arms were registered for any family of this name prior to the twentieth century; the family of John Parlby of Chatham is not on record, either with or without Arms, and the device must therefore have been adopted unofficially.

PAUL:

The Arms on the bookplate of George Tempter of Shapwick and of Stover (born 1755) bears a martlet — a small heraldic bird without feet — which is the cadency mark of a fourth son. This is quite correct, because we know that he was in fact the fourth son of James Templer. However, such marks are normally placed upon the paternal Arms themselves, rather than in the centre of an impaled shield.

George Templer married Jane Paul in 1781, and the Paul Arms on the sinister side of the shield in the bookplate are Argent two Bars Azure a Canton Sable (that is, a white background with blue bars and a black canton). These Arms were recorded, with a Crest, for a Richard Paule of Norfolk in the late sixteenth century [College of Arms mss including F. 13, f. 35v]. However, there is no evidence in our official registers that Jane Paul was descended from this family; it is possible that (as in the case of the Parlby's) her family had adopted Arms without authority.

TEMPLER of Salmon Pool:

Armorial Bearings were granted on 5 August 1815 to Thomas Templer of Salmon Pool in the parish of Alphington, co. Devon, gentleman, eldest son and heir of Thomas Templer of Salmon Pool and of St. James' Abbey, Exeter, deceased. The Arms and Crest were to be used by Thomas himself and his male-line descendants, and also by his brothers and sisters, listed in the text of the grant: John Templer of Cullompton, co. Devon, Clerk [that is, Clerk in Holy Orders]; Henry Templer esquire, late a Commander in the service of the East India Company; James Templer of Bridport, co. Dorset, Solicitor; Charles Templer of Honiton, co. Devon, Clerk [in Holy Orders]; William Henry Augustus Templer of the Inner Temple, London, Solicitor; Barbara, wife of William Force of Honiton, gentleman; Anne, wife of Dennis O'Kelly, esquire, Major in the Army; and Mary Templer, spinster [College of Arms ms Grants 29, p. 59].

The Arms are blazoned Azure an Antique Temple Argent on a Chief Or an Anchor erect between two Bulls' Heads erased at the neck Sable. The Crest is:
On a wreath of the colours (that is, Argent and Azure), A Lamb passant Argent under a Coffee-tree proper (but the lamb is painted statant — standing still — rather than passant or walking). The motto 'Favente Deo' was depicted on a motto-scroll below the shield.

Since the Arms and Crest were to be borne not only by the grantee himself and his male-line descendants, but by five brothers and their male-line descendants, it is possible that the entitlement eventually spread to many branches of the family. However, the only pedigree of this family on official record here, recorded comparatively recently, shows just one branch — that descended from the grantee's brother James Templer of Bridport (died 1858 aged 71) and his wife Katherine Lethbridge, who were married in 1811. Their son Robert Baron Templer of Cloveneden, Loughall, co. Armagh, Barrister (born 1830, died 1886) married Geraldine Taylor

in 1860; their three sons all left male issue. The second of these sons, Walter Francis Templer (died 1942) was the father of the distinguished military commander General Sir Gerald Templer, GCMG, born in 1898 [College of Arms ms Knights 2, p. 65].

As you are probably aware, there is an article on this family in Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland, 1958.

There are obvious similarities between the Arms of Templer of Stover and Templer of Salmon Pool, but the pedigrees on official record here do not show any link between the two families. The recorded information on Templer of Stover begins with Thomas Tempter of Exeter (father of the grantee), but gives no genealogical particulars about him other than the fact that he had died before the grant was made in 1763. The recorded information on Tempter of Salmon Pool also begins only with the father of the grantee, who was Thomas Tempter of Salmon Pool and of St. James' Abbey, Exeter (died 1796 aged 59); nothing is on record about his wife, apart from the fact that her first name was Alice.

I hope that this is a sufficient explanation of the Templer Arms, and will prove useful in preparing your Conservation Management Plan.

Yours faithfully,

Chester Herald