

**SIR GEORGE CAREW'S SCROLL OF ARMS
1588 WITH ADDITIONS FROM JOSEPH
HOLLAND'S COLLECTION OF
ARMS 1579; BEING "DEVON NOTES AND
QUERIES" VOLUME I PART II JANUARY
1900 TO OCTOBER 1901**

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Sir George Carew's Scroll of Arms 1588 with Additions from Joseph Holland's Collection of Arms 1579; Being "Devon Notes and Queries" Volume I Part II January 1900 to October 1901 by Anonymous

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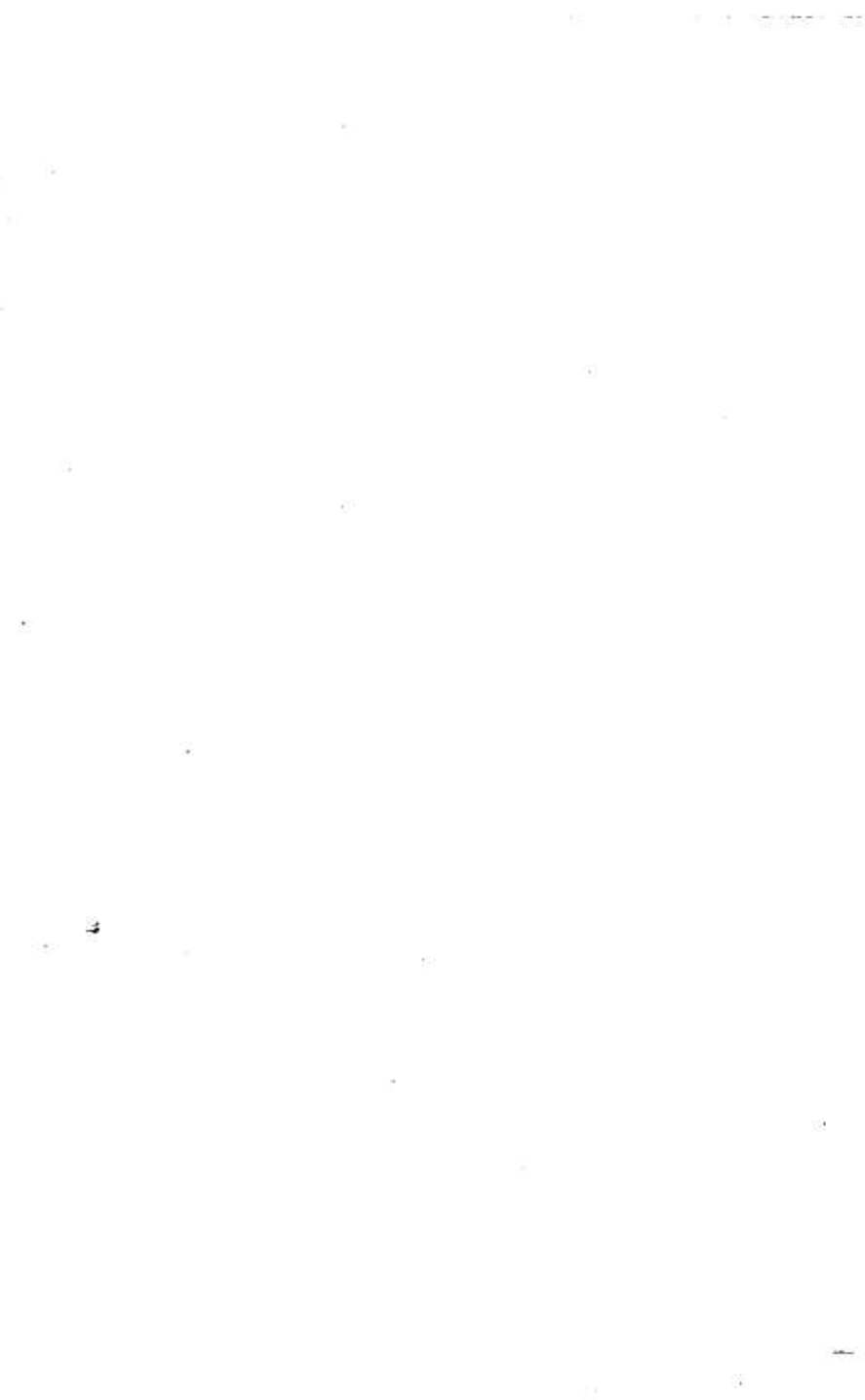
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Volume I Part II January 1900 to
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George Carew, Baron Carew of Clopton, and Earl of Totnes,
1555-1629.



SIR GEORGE CAREW'S SCROLL OF ARMS.
1588.

WITH ADDITIONS FROM JOSEPH HOLLAND'S
COLLECTION OF ARMS, 1579.

DEVON antiquaries have always taken a great interest in this Scroll of Arms, for, independently of its value as an heraldic manuscript, and on account of the many references to churches in which shields of arms were to be found at the time of its compilation, it tends to show that George Carew, Earl of Totnes, in spite of the many occupations of his busy life, did not forget the county of his birth.

There has been some confusion in the identification of the person whose name is connected with this manuscript. Some have considered that it was Sir George Carew (*cir.* 1550-1612) the diplomatist and Master of the Wards, second son of Thomas Carew, of Antony, and younger brother of Richard, the author of the "History of Cornwall," but I cannot find that he took any interest either in the County of Devon, or in heraldic or other antiquarian pursuits. But with the other Sir George Carew, born 1555, knighted 24 Feb., 1585-86, Baron Carew of Clopton, 4 May, 1605, and Earl of Totnes, 5 Feb., 1625-26, it was very different. Although an active soldier and politician, he had considerable antiquarian tastes, was the friend of Camden, Cotton and Bodley, and Sir Anthony Weldon calls Sir Walter Raleigh,

Sir George Carew and the Lord Grey, "very able men as the world had."* After a voyage which, as a youth, he made in the ship of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, he seems to have had nothing to do with his native county, but that he had not forgotten it is evident from his taking the title of his Earldom from the Devonshire town which gives the name to the Archdeaconry to which his father was collated, 28 April, 1534. Sir George Carew (particulars of whose life and career will be found in *D. N. B.*, Vol. IX., pp. 51-53, in the various authorities quoted there, and in *Prince's Worthies*, ed. 1701, p. 204; ed. 1810, p. 168) spent much of his leisure time in compiling family pedigrees, and in other literary work, and large collections in his own handwriting still remain.

In the British Museum is a folio volume [Harleian 2129] containing a collection of manuscripts, and at folio 191 begins "Sir George Carewe's Scrowl." Beyond the title, however, there is nothing, so far as I know at present, to connect the MS. with Sir George Carew. It is true that Mr. Edward Levien states† that it was prepared for him, and that the manuscript, the only copy as far as I know in existence except the one I have—which is a recent transcript—is in the handwriting of Thomas Challoner, Ulster King of Arms, who died in 1598. If this was so, it was completed before Sir George obtained his peerage, for its date is 1588. So much of the gallant knight's time having been spent in Ireland, as a soldier and administrator, might account for Sir George associating himself with the King of Arms in the compilation of this roll. But there is nothing to support this theory. The existing manuscript is a copy from the original, or a copy to which he had access, by Randle Holme. It is contained in a folio volume, entitled "Funeral Orders and Church Monuments," by R. Holme. The Carew Scroll is bound up with Church Notes, principally from Cheshire and Lancashire, in which neighbourhood Holme was specially interested. It is written on similar paper, with the same water-mark as the rest of the volume of which it forms a part, it commences part way down a page, and the heading "Sir George Carewe's Scrowl,"

* "Complete Peerage," G.E.C., Vol. VII., p. 413.

† "Jour. Brit. Arch. Assoc.," Vol. XVIII., 1862, p. 143.

etc., is squeezed into a small space.* It is, therefore, evident that this is a copy, and not in the writing of Ulster—whose widow, however, Randle Holme married—and so far, as I have said, I am unable to give any reason for connecting this Roll with Sir George Carew.

It is very certain that, although there are variations, the compiler of "Carewe's Scrowl" had before him the earlier manuscript, Harleian 5871. This is also a folio volume containing pedigrees and descents of, among those of other counties, Devon families, being the Heralds' Visitations of 1565-1574. At folio 45 commences an armorial, extending over 57 pages and containing 1,071 shields, all carefully tricked, 20 on a page. This is believed to be the earliest heraldic manuscript relating to Devon in existence. The volume has this heading: "In this booke is conteyned a collection of armes of the gentlemen of Devonshire, 5^o Jan^r, 1579. Joseph Holland, 1579. 21 El. R." Joseph Holland, was the third son of William Holland, of Weare, by Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Halse, of Kenedon.

It is curious that in some cases the earlier manuscript is more correct, in others the later. In both it would seem that the copyist was not well acquainted with the topography of Devon, and often fell into error in the writing of names of places and churches.

The frontispiece given is from Carew's Manuscript: "The armes wth the mantle, helme, and creste of Andrew Holland, of Weare, in the County of Devon, apertaine are heare sett fourth according unto the Seale of an auncient deede bearinge date 24 of Ed. 3, Anno D^o 1350, w^h deede remayneth in the custodye of the sayd Andrewe, Dom. 1588." This shield occupies the whole page, and the description given is in the same hand-writing as the rest of the manuscript. There are other drawings of Holland shields in the volume. The quarterings are:—

(1) *Ax. semée de lis, a lion ramp. gard. arg.* Holland. (2) *Per cross or. and gu. four escallop shells counterchanged.* Metsted. (3) *Ax. three bendlets arg.* Merton. (4) *Erm. a bend gu.* Walleys. (5) *Gu. a chevron or. betw. three bezants.* Baa or

* Mr. Arthur J. Jewers has been good enough to re-examine the manuscript for me, and what I have stated is the result of his careful examination.