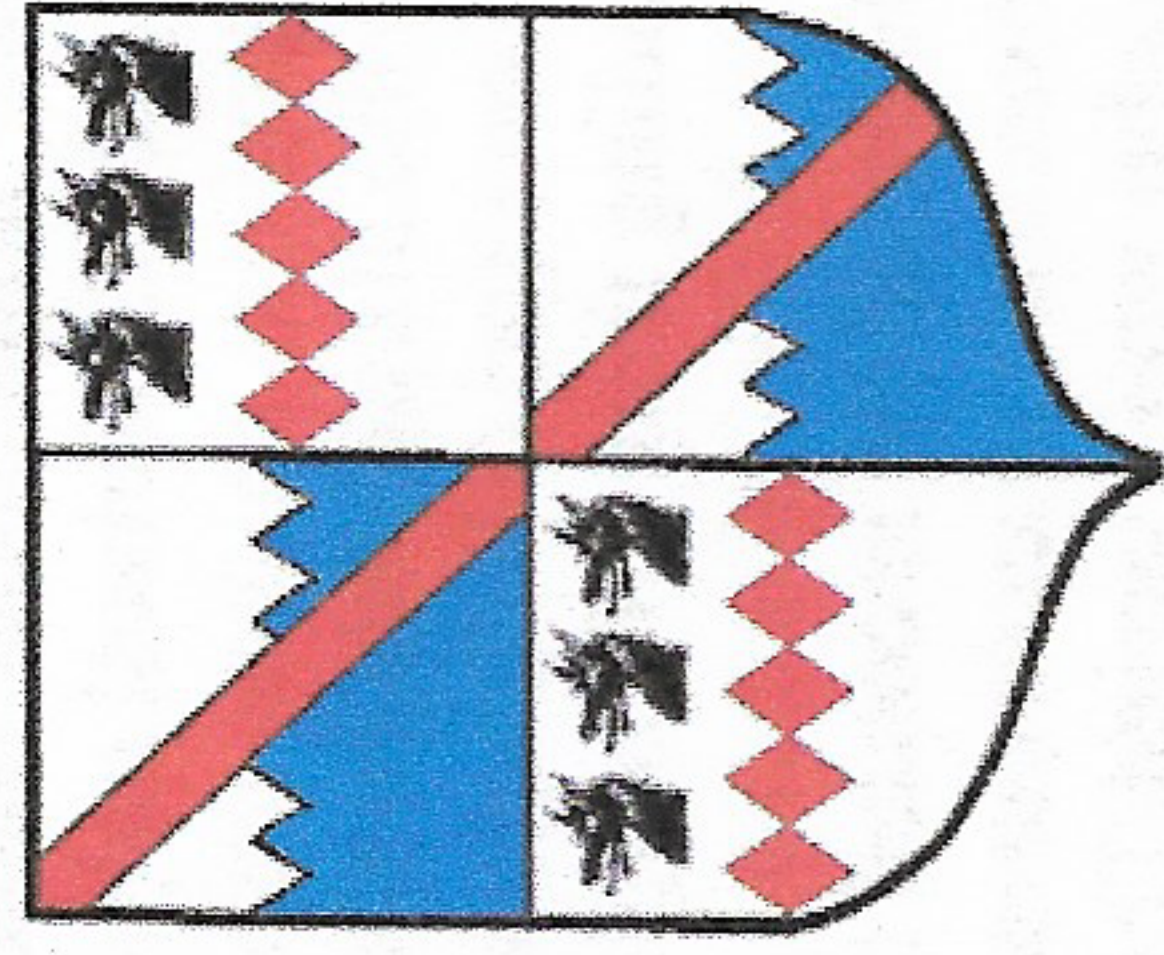
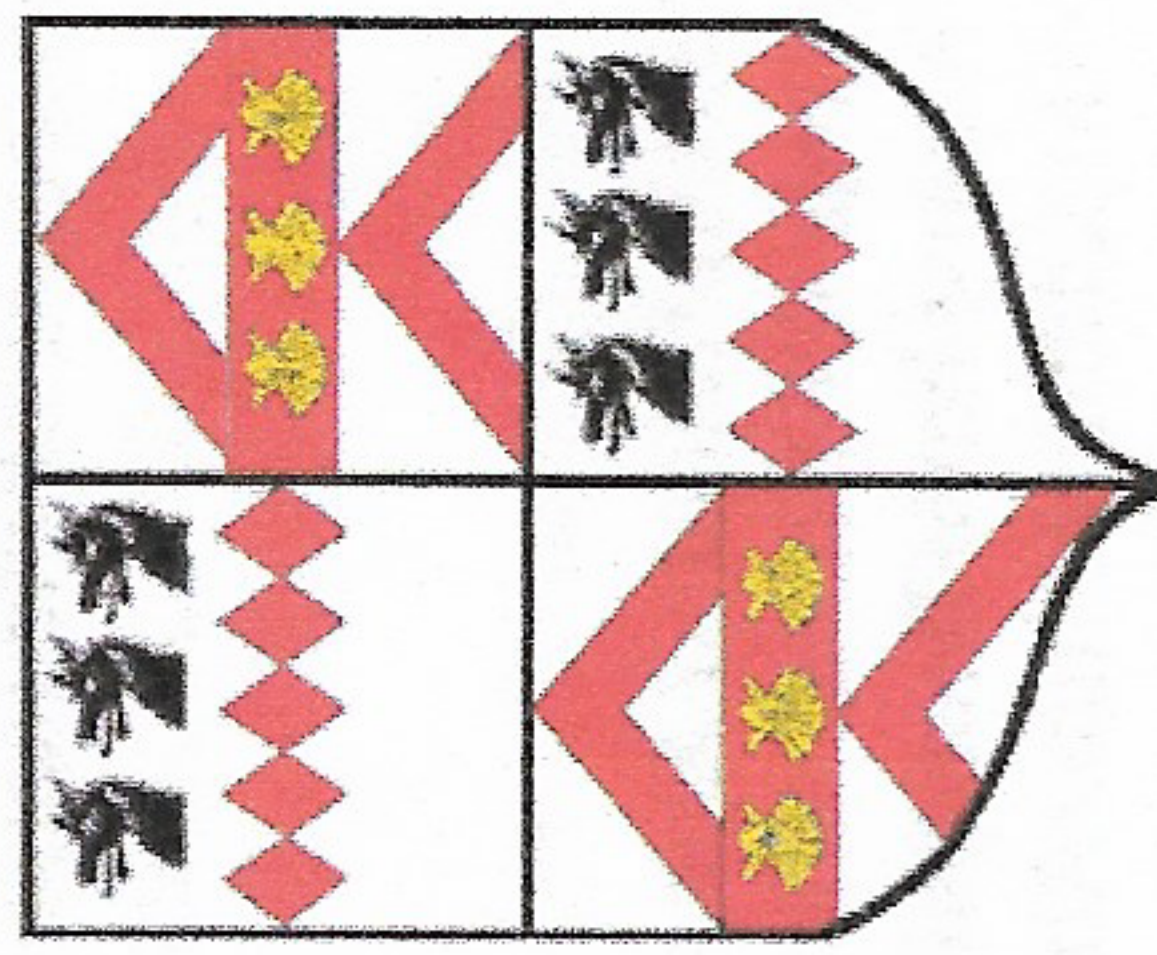


5. Most authorities give this as Blundeville impaling Ardesley but, for reasons given in No.6 it is more likely Blundeville impaling Bosville.



6. Most authorities give this as Ardesley quartering Hemenhale but there is no account of a Hemenhale heir marrying an Ardesley and no account of an Ardesley/Blundeville marriage. For this reason it is considered that it was intended for Bosville rather than Ardesley, whose arms are said to be similar sometimes identical. While Blomefield says the heads on the chief are bulls, and others say bears, the traces that remain look like wolves' heads.



Having dealt with the Blundeville heraldry it is worth reconsidering the incongruous third compartment of the monument with its brass memorial. To do so it will be helpful to give a brief description of its creator, Thomas Blundeville -

A noted Tudor poet and author he lived from 1522 to 1606, a similar time-line to his sovereign, Queen Elizabeth (1533-1603). He was entered at Gray's Inn in 1541 and married Rose the daughter of Robert Puttenham of Sherfield, Hampshire in St. Stephen's church Norwich 27 June 1554. In 1555 their son Anthony was born but unhappily died, or was killed, in the Flemish Wars sometime after 1571 or perhaps after 1576 when he reached his majority. Rose had previously died in October 1564 and was buried in Winkbourn, the home of Thomas's brother-in-law William Burnell and his sister Constance. It seems it was a welcome retreat, particularly mentioned by Thomas in his *Arte of Logicke* which he wrote 'many years past whilst I sojourned with my dear Brother in law, master William Burnell, a man of most singular humanitie and great hospitalitie in his house in Winkborne in Nottinghamshire, not far from Southwell.'

Thomas is said to have spent his early years in London and this may explain why, when the heralds made their visitation into Norfolk in 1563 he is barely mentioned, all prominence being given to his younger brother John. Indeed, it is John's coat of arms (Blundeville quartering Inglose with a crescent at mid point

to difference himself from his older brother) that is featured. In 1568 Thomas's father died and he inherited Newton Flotman Manor. He is then said to have returned to Norfolk although he is listed in the London Subsidy Returns of 1576 as being worth twenty pounds.

His ten books and pamphlets show exceptional knowledge and ability and cover a wide variety of subjects: horse riding, foreign translations, moral treatises, the art of governing, history, cartography, fortifications, mathematics, astronomy and logic. His early works were dedicated to the notorious Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester who, at the age of seventeen, came to Norfolk in 1549 to help quell Kett's Rebellion. On the journey he is said to have met Amy Robsart, also seventeen years of age whom he later married and, some say killed, in order to make the way clear for his courtship of Queen Elizabeth. All this would have been well known to Thomas as Amy's step father, Roger Appleyard, was Lord of the Manor of Rainthorpe, the other manor in Newton Flotman. Later Thomas dedicated his books to Sir Francis Windham, a judge of the common pleas whose father, Sir Edmund also played a part in suppressing Kett's Rebellion.

In 1581, being well aware of his lack of living male progeny, Thomas married again, this time to Margaret the daughter of John Johnson of Wood Norton. Again luck was against him as Margaret only provided him with two daughters. Not only this but a great dispute arose between the two daughters, Elizabeth and Patience. The problem arose when a marriage was projected between Elizabeth and Robert King of Culpho, Suffolk. According to him, while he was abroad, Elizabeth took up and left home with some unknown knight. This news was sent out to Robert King whilst he was in Italy asking him to return home and accept the hand of Elizabeth's sister, Patience, instead. This he duly did. Later Elizabeth married Rowland Merrick and the dispute between the two went on for many years.

Thomas Blundeville's problems are hinted at in his will. To his wife, Margaret he left all his manors including the manor and advowson of Newton Flotman providing she gave her daughter, Elizabeth, her portion 'so as she marry with her mother's consent.' She was also to have

'all my moveable goods, saving the furniture of my hall parlour & reserving also myne armourie both offensive & defensive & all my books of all sorts & sciences & my instruments of astronomy & geography & my books of musike which I will shall remayne for ever with my said manor house as heirs lome, hoping that some of myne heyres & of my name that shall hereafter by God's grace inherite my said manor & lands will delight in suche good scyences as I my self have done.'

Margaret lived on till 1617 when the festering dispute between her daughters and their families erupted. The wilful Elizabeth entered the manor and rifled the contents while Patience and her husband Robert are alleged to have taken away