

## Chapter 11


### Sherborne Lodge Park

**L**odge Park. It's an extraordinary place and I promise a grand surprise for those of you who manage to get all the way to the end! ;-)



First you must meet John "Crump" Dutton, grandson of Thomas Dutton the first owner of the Sherborne estate. John "Crump" was a hunchback, engaging, gregarious, wealthy, hard living, colorful, with a passion for gambling! A favorite legend tells of a card game in which Crump wagered Sherborne itself! Fortunately a faithful butler heard the cry "Sherborne is up!" and was able to restrain Crump's folly by lifting him bodily out of his chair and carrying him out of the room! During England's Civil War, 'Crump' contrived to be on both sides at the same time! At one point he offered to lend Charles I 50,000 pounds! By the end of the Civil War he had re-established friendly relations with Oliver Cromwell and even attempted to arrange a marriage between his nephew and heir with Cromwell's daughter! What a guy!

But now his attentions were directed to hunting and the sport of racing dogs and to that end he built this curious Lodge. It's purpose was different than most hunting lodges. Located just a short distance from Sherborne Hall, there was no need to provide his guests with overnight accommodations at the Lodge. The interior contained two large, richly furnished halls, each one taking up a whole floor. A monumental staircase led up to the 2nd story banquet hall. There was a balcony for the ladies and a large viewing area on the roof where the gentlemen could place their wagers and watch the sport.....thus it was called a GRANDSTAND! With ample kitchens in the basement, Crump could entertain (and impress) his friends with this marvelous little structure, entertain them with exciting races upon which they could wager and provide all manner of food and drink for their pleasure! It must have astonished his guests -- much as it did us these hundreds of years later -- to drive across several miles of ordinary open fields and farms, only to suddenly come upon this extraordinary "grandstand!" I simply am not able to describe this gem of a building for you -- the pictures will have to do that for me. All I can say is that when I look at these pictures, I am awed and amazed all over again that such a classic building should sit there in splendid isolation in the middle of the Gloucestershire countryside.



But that isn't the whole story. The sport of choice in that era was called "deer coursing." I was completely unfamiliar with ANYthing like this before our visit to Lodge Park so it was a real learning experience for me. The point of deer-coursing was to provide an opportunity for betting and to display the abilities of prized dogs. Three things needed for this ancient pastime were a park in which to corral deer, a mile-long walled-in enclosure for the chase, and overlooking the finish line, a grandstand! Crump created all three. Remains of that mile long, grassy chase can still be seen today.

Let me quote from one of the little pamphlets we got at Lodge Park ..... "A stag would be released and a "teazer" (a mongrel greyhound) would be allowed to chase the deer. Then the "Slipper" would release the 2 racing greyhounds from their collars and off they would go in hot pursuit. Within sight of the Lodge there were 2 ditches. The first was small and would probably have been situated directly in front of the Lodge. Both dogs and deer could easily jump it. The first dog to jump this ditch would be the winner. The deer would continue running and would soon reach the second ditch which was too wide for the dogs to jump. The deer, however would have been able to jump it and subsequently would be released back into the park. The mile long course was tapered, narrowing by the Lodge." The deer would have passed the people standing atop Lodge Park at 40 miles per hour...the fastest moving thing they had ever seen in their lives!

Deer coursing at Lodge Park continued for more than a century until it became out of fashion. Sherborne men were soon taking part in a brisker form of horse racing and fox-hunting. James Lenox Dutton kept extensive kennels at Sherborne and was a great breeder of horses. One of his favorite mares was named "Miss Tredegar." Perhaps you've read the account of "a remarkable run by the Sherborne hounds in 1748." (Duttons of Dutton pg. 109) The December 1748 issue of the London Evening Post carried a story of a most remarkable day out with the combined Chedworth and Sherborne hounds. "They run a Fox five hours without a Check over the finest Country in England. No chase could afford more Entertainment, no Hounds could pursue their game with more Steadiness and Resolution, no Fox could more boldly run over a fine Country, and no Sportsman could pursue with more Spirit and Judgment in Riding."

Lodge Park would go through many changes, not all good, eventually becoming the home of the 7th Lord Sherborne, Charles Dutton who died in 1982. He left the estate to the National Trust who in 1991 began to restore this unique and beautiful building to its former layout. By September 1999, the work by some of Britain's finest craftsmen was nearly finished, the fresh paint dried, tapestries hung and paintings of many of the Sherborne Lords again lining the wall up the grand staircase. We were welcomed graciously by several tour guides for a special family tour - the entry fees being waived for our visit!

We didn't quite know what to expect when we went through the front door....but came away completely enchanted. Just inside the door we were confronted with a marvelous fireplace....the beautiful Dutton arms pressed grandly into the large fire-back and we knew immediately that "we were home!" They showed us a brief video tape which explained much of what we would see and answered a lot of questions for me. There on the wall was a painting of Charles I and his wife Henrietta - old family friends! We walked through the richly paneled doorway and up that grand staircase. And there they were.....all those Lord Sherbornes we had been learning about! Byron was with us and he named them all like they were his old friends! There was Crump himself along with James and Sir Thomas Dutton --- the whole gang! Some were fierce looking...others studious. It was just wonderful! Byron, in something of an irreverently humorous mood, showed me the portrait of the first Thomas who he said "had an ear ring, long hair and looks as though he should be in the Rocky Horror Picture Show!" Sorry Thomas! ;-)

On up to the second floor hall.....with another amazing fire place and more portraits! Look, there's Sir Piers Dutton looking dapper in those pantaloons! (Be patient you'll see him soon!) Some of the restoration work continues and this large hall has received a new floor. I could hardly believe my eyes....random width planks maybe...12-14" and 15 metres long....the entire length of the room, from chestnuts felled on the Welsh border! (would that be nearly 50 feet??) Spectacular!

We walked out onto the balcony....and later climbed the stairs up to the roof for an awesome view out over the countryside and surrounding parkland. We descended to the kitchens below. Byron pointed out that a local "witch" had been tried, convicted and was buried there in the floor under the

bricks! We saw the large ovens and storerooms that could hold great quantities of food sufficient to feed all of Crumps friends! A stroll around the grounds and out to the large iron gate topped with the Dutton arms wrapped up our visit. I hated to leave this charming place....but it was getting late.




Byron had reserved a room for us at the Sherborne Arms (Pub!) where we enjoyed an evening of good food and good fun in the true English tradition. Byron showed us a rough draft of the book he hopes to publish soon and an album of pictures of the more recent Sherborne cousins. We talked about the Dutton family and pored over the Big chart! Great fun! We all learned a lot.

And now for a wonderful surprise. For those of you who could not join us on this trip because of scheduling problems or whatever, you're in luck for I am about to take you on a virtual tour of Lodge Park. Yes, I'm sending along a few scanned pictures in a separate e-mail.....but this is even better. CONNECT TO THE INTERNET and go to the URL that I will give you below. Look over the opening page...and be patient till all the pictures load, giving you a changing look at several views.

Pretty impressive yes? Well, you haven't seen anything yet. Click where it says 'click here' for an online virtual tour. You will see three buttons.....please click on the GUIDED TOUR button at the far right first. Read the instructions then hit Proceed with tour. You'll need to wait until the viewer installs but it will be worth it! Go get a cup of coffee if necessary! Then sit back and enjoy. Let it run through the whole cycle and it will take you on a quick visual tour of this amazing place. When it brings you back to the front view, hit your 'back' button and then go to the VIRTUAL TOUR button.

Now the fun really begins. Read the short instructions and then choose where you want to go first. A smaller window will open.....be patient, give it time to load. Your mouse will turn into a pointing hand and if you run it over to the left side of that picture and click.....the "camera" will follow you there! If you keep clicking on the left side of the picture.....it will give you a complete panoramic view of the entire room! You





can point UP to see the ceiling.....or DOWN to see for instance....those wide planks in the upstairs hall floor.....and when you get to the grand staircase....you can even go close-up to see some of the Dutton portraits there on the wall. Double click on the doorway icon and it'll take you into the next area! You'll get the hang of it quick.....and I promise you a fun time! Hope you have lots of time to explore it all.

Oh yes, there's a history button....and one that shows the changes the Lodge has gone through over the years. All very interesting. Enjoy!

<http://www.ntrustsevern.org.uk/sherborn.htm>

Note: I just looked back at the pictures of Sherborne Hall in Chapter 10 and find that the color snapshot that I took has scanned in a lovely shade of pink! Be advised that Sherborne Hall is not pink...but rather a nice Cotswold stone color!! Covered with black moldy stuff collected over many years, it was recently steam cleaned.....and now sparkles clean again!

Did I tell you that on one of our trips we saw a small gypsy camp along the side of the road?? With their colorfully painted wagons and dinner cooking over a fire! Gypsies used to travel about the states 70 or 80 years ago.....but I don't think there are any to be found these days....thus it was a curious sight.

What's NEXT?? Whew....I don't know if I can top this one or not! How about Sir Piers?? OK.....we'll have a look at him!

See you then....Phyllis

## Chapter 12 - MYSTERY of the two SIR PIERS

ere's a 'fun one' for a sleepy Sunday afternoon.

During our visit to Arley Hall in Cheshire, England, we were shown a wonderful old portrait of SIR PIERS WARBURTON, one of the early members of that family. This fellow caught our interest immediately since he was definitely a cousin....and his likeness appeared to be the earliest we had EVER seen of ANY Dutton ancestor or cousin. I searched his features closely looking for any family resemblance that I could detect...even after 500 years or more! <grin> We marveled at his clothing and that ruffle around his neck and noted the coat of arms painted up in the top left corner. He was quite a fellow and we went away happy having seen this very rare and ancient painting of one of our own!

You can imagine our surprise then, when next we visited Sherborne's Lodge Park and found on the wall there a nearly identical ancient painting of the same fellow --- this time, however, he was identified as SIR PIERS DUTTON! Now wait a minute.....he can't be BOTH fellows!! Could it be that no one had ever realized before that there was a conflict here? Perhaps it took a group of visitors like us -- vitally interested in the Dutton family....and visiting both places on consecutive days.....to spot the similarities and pick up on this mystery! What was the answer? Who was this guy in the pantaloons! Was it Arley Hall or Lodge Park who had identified him wrong?

I wish I could solve the mystery for you this afternoon, but we're working on it! We talked to the guides at Lodge Park who promised to do some investigating. Meanwhile, I've been working with Byron Hadley to see if he can help sort this out. He is convinced that the Lodge Park painting is of Sir Piers DUTTON - and has done a quick check of his files. Last week he sent me two attachments and gave me permission to show them to Colin and to the rest of you family researchers. The first is a close up of just the head of the portrait at Lodge Park. Keep in mind that this is a scanned image of a XEROX copy of a PHOTOgraph of that painting. The shadows become very dark and the lines in his face become exaggerated. Byron promises to show me a better photograph of that (full) painting as soon as he is able to get one. Meanwhile we'll have to go with the copy of a copy of a copy....or whatever it is! I send along this picture as Attachment #1.

More importantly, Byron sent me a copy of the cover of "The New Monthly Magazine" dated Nov. 1818. The cover holds what looks to me like an old woodcut---no doubt created and copied using the old painting as a model. It is definitely the same fellow....but in reverse image. (attachment #2) The caption under the woodcut says,

"Portrait of Sir Piers DUTTON, of Hatton, to Whom Henry the Eighth confirmed the Advowry of the Cheshire Minstrels, (handwritten date) 16 May 1534 (or 1584?) >From an original Painting, in the possession of Mr. Gunnery of Liverpool.


I think you'll agree that this is the same fellow. Colin, you'll notice that this is the same image that was used by the Chester newspaper man when he wrote those Rural Rides.

Now the plot thickens.

Attachment #3 is a copy of the Arley Hall painting. You'll notice right away that this fellow is wearing the same neck ruffle, the same design in his jacket, the same funny little hat, and wears the same mustache and goatee.

Oh yes, funny pantaloons. I suppose they have a proper name but I don't know what it is at the moment. He looks to be middle aged - his hair and beard very gray - almost white. This fellow is holding a pair of gloves.....AND LOOK, HE HAS A SWORD! Could it be Odard's??

Well, who knows!



Byron has checked an inventory list of paintings and finds that there is yet ANOTHER painting of Sir Piers DUTTON held in storage somewhere in Warwickshire (either belonging to him or to the National Trust...I'm not too clear on that.) At any rate, he tells me that one of his jobs is to periodically inspect those holdings to be sure they're safe and dry etc. and that the next time he gets there, he will try to locate that painting. Maybe even take a picture of it! Maybe that will help solve this mystery....or maybe it will make it more complicated! We shall see. (I'm not sure how Byron gets around to inspect these things -- he doesn't get his drivers license until this fall!) So this may take some time and we'll have to be very patient! He seems to be as eager as we are to solve the mystery.

Byron and I are discussing coat-of-arms at the moment. There are some beauties in the stained glass in the windows across the front of Sherborne Hall. I've asked him to check the arms painted on the top corner of the Dutton portrait at Lodge Park.....next time he goes there. That may provide a clue. Is it the same as the one painted on the Arley portrait? We shall see.

MEANWHILE, will the REAL Sir Piers Dutton please stand up!!

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Next stop, Warwick CASTLE where the archers are shooting arrows over the moat and the knights are sharpening their skills on the jousting field. Big question - will Colin make it to the top of the tower!

## Chapter 13 - WARWICK CASTLE

The towering medieval fortress of Warwick Castle holds a thousand years of English history. Our tour started outside the wall in the shadow of the great tower, along the grassy moat where a skilled archer showed off his talents with an English long bow, the most destructive weapon of that early age. Armed with one of these 6 ft. long bows - using an armor piercing arrow shot at a speed of 80 mph, a skilled Bowman could easily bring down "a man of God!" (a knight in armor!) "Give a man a bow," said our Bowman, "and he can feed his family and defend his King!" The Normans feared the English bowmen more than anything else. No wonder. This fellow hit his mark almost every time...at one point shooting 12 arrows in the span of one minute! A small, thin cross sitting there at the edge of the moat was a very important part of his training - a means to sharpen skills. It was the exact shape of those 'arrow slit' windows up there high above us on the stone curtain wall. If he could hit the center of this practice "cross" by the moat...he could also put an arrow precisely through one of those crosses up on the wall -- thus taking out an enemy soldier who happened to be standing there! Too bad he couldn't show us how that was done.....but there were too many tourists up there walking the wall! ;-)

We crossed the drawbridge and entered the gatehouse with its iron portcullis ready to drop down, capturing us inside the barbican where we could be raked with crossfire and bombarded with stones dropped down from above! Since we had already paid our entry fee <grin> they let us proceed on into the courtyard! Here again, the English really know how to show off their castles and give their visitors a grand show! Since this is a fully operating castle....we were invited to take tours of the miserable dungeons in the lowest chamber of Caesar's Tower and visit the Amory where a blacksmith was making sure the warhorses were properly shod and the armourer was polishing up the knights equipment. In another part of the castle there were ladies mending battle flags and repairing tents - all being made ready for battle!

Excitement out in the courtyard.....with the arrival of THE RED KNIGHT of WARWICK! He was marvelous! He showed us his armor and his broadsword....two-sided but not sharp.....still deadly as he swung it around in all directions (being careful not to slice off his horse's ears!) (Wonder if that's what Odard's sword looked like?) Knights used shire horses...3/4 Clydesdale and 1/4 thoroughbred. They had to be tough and strong. Carrying a fully armored knight, the horse wearing some armor himself, the pair would weigh just short of one TON! When a line of mounted knights slammed down the visors on their helmets and began to charge.....the very ground would SHAKE! It was a fearsome thing! They could move at about 14 mph.....not the 45 mph as in the movies!! "Medieval battlefields were nothing more than human slaughterhouses," he said. Our Red Knight had named his horse, "Henry of Warwick." He told us that a few years ago, with the thought of becoming a movie 'extra,' he tried to teach Henry to fall down and play dead - but Henry 'died' too slow and their chances of movie stardom died as well! "Come along," he said, "Let's go out onto the tournament field where some of my friends are jousting!" ...and away we went!

All around the field were brightly colored tents, those round kind with pointed roofs, each one flying the "arms" of the 'ancient' knight who had entered the tournament. Imagine my great delight when I found a flag carrying those familiar "Dutton frets!" (see picture) These arms belonged to a Despencer, however, and were the Dutton arms with the black slash across them. I'm still trying to figure this out and will welcome any expert help/advice! If you look at your BIG chart you'll find that Hugh, the Fifth Lord of Dutton was married to Muriel, the daughter of Thomas le Despencer. Was it one of their sons who was granted the right to carry the Dutton arms with that "difference?" Well, no, it would have to be a Despencer not a Dutton who carried these arms. I'll figure this out yet. Carole has sent me some wonderful material on the lineage of the Despenchers that may help. I've just reached the part where one of them was hung, drawn and quartered!! This is going to get interesting!

If you are subscribed to the electronic newsletter called The Feudal Herald, you may have seen their Nov. 1998 issue in which they stated the following, "The earliest baronial Despenchers held the earldoms of Winchester and Gloucester and are considered by the best authorities to be a branch of the Duttons." (This same issue explained how the Despencer arms - the Dutton frets with the black slash - was given IN ERROR to a John Spencer in 1504 and thus became the official arms - with 3 sea shells added to the black slash - of the Spencer family from which descended both Sir Winston Spencer Churchill and Princess Diana Spencer! That's why you used to see those Dutton 'frets' quartered with those of Prince Charles!) (Interesting to note that young Prince William just last week refused the arms that had been designed for him for his recent 18th birthday -- insisting on the addition of some part of his mother's "arms," in this case, he requested that her sea shells to be added in some way. It will be interesting to see how the

College of Arms responds to his request.)

At any rate....there was a family tree of sorts on sale in Warwick Castle gift shop that showed a marriage between a Despencer and a descendant of Earl of Warwick. I regret that I did not get a copy of that....it might have given us some answers....or at least some clues. We were able to spot the Dutton arms with the Despencer "difference" in many places throughout Warwick Castle - which made our visit there very interesting!

One section of Warwick Castle dates from more recent times and is furnished much like it probably looked in the Victorian era. Where other areas of the castle were primitive and rough, these rooms were lavish and extravagant. The most stunning additions to these rooms were the life-like wax figures placed in each room by the skilled craftsmen at Tussaud's Wax Works. There was a man playing a grand piano with a sweet young girl turning the page of the music.....a lady in her boudoir trying on a new frock with her maid sitting on the floor adjusting the hem.....and many many more, all so life-like that you expected them to move around the room at any moment. I especially liked the fellows playing cards....so real it was uncanny!

Castles have been magic places for me - I suppose since I was a little girl reading stories of knights in shining armor....and beautiful princesses locked in towers!! To visit Warwick Castle was rather like my little girl dreams coming to life.....and I was NOT about to miss even a minute of it - not even to have lunch! I'll eat later I thought....and went off on another tour! Along the way, however, I passed a little stand selling cokes and snacks. Ah...I thought, a coke and some chips will hold me till dinner this evening!! I ripped open the bag...stuffed a few potato chips into my mouth...and let out a shriek! Absolutely the nastiest things I've EVER tasted. I could breath FIRE!! Take my advice, NEVER buy potato chips in England that are called "Screaming Vinegar and Onion" flavored! Even the Coca Cola could not cool that taste!

But, get over it, girl.....there's a TOWER to climb! I was not really alarmed by the signs along the way advising that this tour moved one-way!! Once you had begun, there was no turning back!

What could they mean, I wondered, and kept on going. Up a fairly steep set of stairs and I found myself on the walkway that runs along the top of those curtain walls - where crossbowmen and archers could pick off the enemy from high on the battlements. Cut into the floor at intervals were openings through which could be poured boiling pitch and quicklime onto the unfortunate attackers below -- assuming, of course, that one of those skilled bowmen down below didn't put an arrow through one of those slits into the guy standing next to you!

Across the wall I went. The Tower was right ahead! I started up that narrow, dark, spiral stairway, the rise of each step higher than I'm normally accustomed to, so that I found myself beginning to huff and puff fairly soon! But I couldn't stop for behind me came a group of young French students hopping up those steps with gusto! On and on I trudged. Really Huffing and Puffing now. Haven't we reached the top YET?? On and On I went until finally, gasping for air, I had to stop for a rest. What did I hear??

All those French kids behind me panting and groaning in pain, grateful that I had finally stopped, giving THEM a chance to catch their breath too! So, on and on we went, stopping another time or two and finally pulling ourselves up those last few steps using the handrail! When I finally reached the top and stumbled out into daylight again.....I found that my leg muscles had turned completely into jello and all I could do was find a place on the floor to sit down - quick ! Right behind the French kids, appeared Colin and Liz. Colin, always the macho guy, wouldn't admit he was tired....but Liz quickly joined me on the floor where we sat for quite some time before we ventured to see if our legs would work again!! She had counted the steps..... 236 of them!

The view from the top was breath-taking. The sun had come out.....fluffy white clouds in the sky and we could see for miles! Cameras clicking everywhere! Spectacular! But finally it was time to climb back DOWN from that tower....and I can tell you that you use a whole new set of muscles to do that! Would I do it again? Oh YES! It was a golden afternoon and I wouldn't have missed it for anything!

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Before we go, I want to give you a real quick look at another of my favorite castles.

Much like Warwick, it has a drawbridge, towers, a dungeon and a great hall with knights banners and even a minstrels gallery as you'll see in the pictures. This one, however, was built about 20 years ago and sits on a table. I built it, to a one inch scale in our basement and we had to knock out a door frame to get it out of the house! Didn't I tell you I was crazy for castles?! It was on display at the Monmouth Co. Museum in New Jersey for 8 weeks when we still lived up there - and has won several blue ribbons at Miniature and Collectors Shows. I also assembled this coat of "chain

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from over 3000 soda can pop-tops - the kind that used to pull clear off a can of Coke! Remember My hubby thinks I'm wacky.....but several of my kids have worn it at Halloween time and the castle gone to more school "show and tell" days than I can remember!

I'm not the ONLY wacky one. Colin paints miniature soldiers.....and what do YOU do!! <grin>

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OK....we're gearing up for our final visit to Dutton Hall in Sussex. It was one of the main reasons for our trip and - even though I had studied Colin's earlier pictures many times.....there's just nothing like being there and walking through that door!

See you there - Phyllis

## Chapter 14 - Heraldry - and the Dutton Family

ust a brief delay before sending you the Dutton Hall story. I'm waiting on the receipt of some important photos (from England) that will greatly enhance your armchair visit to this magnificent hall that was once the family home.

Meanwhile, I thought I'd share with you a small part of the wonderful collection of Dutton Coat-of-Arms that we found on our trip to England. They were almost everywhere we looked and it soon became a game to see how many we could spot! Heraldry is serious business over there. The ruler of the country grants the right to arms to an individual as a reward for some personal service - in this case probably Knight's Service. The right to those arms can descend from the oldest son to the oldest son forever, but to no one else! (A cadency mark is sometimes added to denote a 2nd or 3rd son etc. who carry the arms.)

In England, you own the RIGHT to a coat of arms just as you own a piece of property. You MAY NOT USE IT if you have no right to it. In America, we are far more casual about these things -- going so far as to BUY newly created 'arms' from a shop at the mall! (awk!) You want them on a coffee mug or a key chain? Voila! You don't like blue -- you'd rather they were green to match the paint on your den walls?? Done in an instant with the click of a mouse! Henry VIII must be turning over in his grave!!

Fortunately as Dutton descendants, we don't have to resort to such gross treachery. <grin> We are legitimately entitled to flaunt with pride - the impressive Dutton 'frets.' Who was the first Dutton to receive these arms? It's a bit unclear....with some debate over those 4 squires who so faithfully served Lord Audley at the Battle of Poitiers.....but other historians claim that Duttons were using these arms before that event. (Read all about it in Chapter I, Odard, the Norman, "Duttons of Dutton..." pg.1-4 and also page 260.) There you will also see a good picture of the important part of the arms - the SHIELD. It is also included as the first attachment in the accompanying message.

The Dutton Arms are described as:

Quarterly, Argent & Gules, in the second and third Quarters a Fret Or. Very simply this means that the shield is divided into 4 quarters that are colored silver and red - with gold frets located in the 2nd and 3rd quarters. In many versions that I have seen, the color to represent silver metal is hard to reproduce and so is usually left white. (I found them actually hand painted silver on 2 small arms on burial memorials in the wall at the Chapel at Sherborne.....you can see them in the second picture.) While the description of GULES usually means red -- yet in every Dutton arms I have found -- it is definitely an orange color. Even in several stained glass windows (such as at Dutton Hall) where the glass craftsman had access to and used a bright red in other parts of the arms....the 2nd and 3rd quarters are still in a definite orange. The frets are GOLD -- and here again, are usually colored yellow as the color of gold metal is hard to reproduce particularly on printed pictures of the Dutton arms.

When a man got married, his arms could be divided and shared with those of his wife. Thus in the arms at Sherborne Chapel, Lt.Col. Basil Corbett (black bird on gold) was impaled with those of his wife Veronique Eleanor Dutton.

The colors of gold and silver on this burial memorial are still vibrant and were probably hand painted on the stone. (The second picture attachment.)

The CREST (top section) of the arms of Dutton was found in several variations. On our travels I found one with a crown but usually with a knight's helmet - with five feathers on top. (l.to r. white, blue, gold, black and red) The Dutton arms on your BIG chart has both a crown and a knight's helmet! Of course, there's that memorable Saracen's HEAD with 3 plumed feathers on the crest of Geoffrey de Dutton (Warburton) -- the one he whacked off during a battle during the crusades! Let's look at that one again. You'll see that the Saracens head has been added even above the knight's helmet - to indicate it's significance. The shield shows four quarterings - the Warburton arms (3 cormorants and a chevron) along with a later descendant, another Geoffrey de Warburton whose arms were 2 chevrons with a star - and of course, the Dutton frets.

I'll show you another beautiful version of the Warburton arms....this time in color. The artist has done a fine job with the Saracens head.....and the shield carries the Dutton frets, the Warburton cormorants and the younger Warburton chevron/star on the top row.....and 3 more quarterings on the second row. I'm still not sure who they belong to....perhaps the wives?....or maybe the arms of the religious order at the Warburton Chapel.

I wanted to know more about the "crusade" story and found this...portions of which I'll transcribe for

you...from  
1887.

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an old book called The Families of Lancashire and Cheshire by James Croston F.S.A. printed in Cope carries a similar excerpt on pg. 14.

"Sir Geoffrey de Dutton..... fired by the religious enthusiasm of the age in which he lived, took the went out to the Holy Land to assist in rescuing the sacred city from the dangers with which it was threatened.....The Crusades furnished an excellent field for the exertions of those adventurous spirits who possessed an ardent temperment and an avidity for glory. Geoffrey Dutton was one of them....Laurence Bostock, (there's that genealogist fellow again, the one who worked for Sir Christopher Hatton!) writing in 1572 says, " This Galfrid (or Geoffrey) lived in 1244. He was serving his Prynce and vanquished a Sarrazin in combate," an exploit commemorated in the heraldic insignia of the Warburtons at the present day. The old Crusade warrior, who was doubtless proud of his prowess, adopted the head of his vanquished foe as his helm-totem or crest, and from that time to the present the Saracen's head, surmounted by three ostrich feathers, has continued to be used by his descendants and is still borne as one of the crests of the lords of Warburton....."

The Warburtons were a chivalrous race...a later Geoffrey was not wanting in martial spirit...in 1365 was with the Earl of Chester, Edward the Black Prince, in Aquitaine, and was in the retinue of that distinguished soldier when he led the great army of English, Gascons and Normans from Bordeaux through the Pass of Roncevalles--the pass where Charlemagne and all his peerage fell - to Navarre, and achieved the brilliant victory over the army of Henry of Castile." THAT sure makes my dull high school history lessons come alive! Great stuff!

The MOTTOS under these arms, usually on a scroll or ribbon, present an interesting study also. These are sometimes a verbal expression of one's guiding principal in life. Others are ancient war cries or refer to a real or fancied ancestral achievement. SERVABO FIDEM is most often found with Dutton arms - translated roughly it means I will Serve Faithfully .....certainly appropriate for a knight!

But we found others...still to be translated. How's your French---or Latin! I'm told that a motto could be changed at any time if the bearer of the arms thought of a better one!

Good luck!

Levi Sed Constance

Bene Facito ac ne Dubita

Sapit Qui Sustinet

Pense Que Voules, Mais Garde Que Parties

Durant ma Vie

Je Voil Droyt Avoyre

Virtuti Non Armis Fido

Mens Conscia Recti

I heard another interesting one recently....can't remember where....maybe it was on TV ! The knight bowed to his lord and said..."I give you my life - use it well." Isn't that a great line!

The HATTON ARMS which you'll see in the stained glass window at Dutton Hall, is a quartering of the Dutton and Hatton arms. The Hatton shield is azure blue with a gold chevron and 3 gold sheafs of wheat. Mr. Plat has a nice rendition of that just inside his door at Dutton farm in Dutton. (See it again in Chapter 2 - pictures -The Village of Dutton - or the Dutton Hall window.)

If you have "Dutton of Duttons...." look at the picture just opposite the title page -- a gorgeous woodcut of the Arms of Dutton and Hatton. Check out that marvelous pair of GRIFFINS on either side holding up the shield. You'll see another version of them in the ancient carving of the arms on the lintel over the minstrels galley at Dutton Hall. Byron has a similar version of the Dutton arms and his Griffins are wearing collars with the Hatton wheat sheafs around them. Very interesting!

On our visit to Chester....we spent some time in the great cathedral there, marveling at the stained glass windows and the great vaulted ceilings .....and YES.....while we were looking up there...we spotted this interesting version of the Dutton frets --- high over our heads. You are looking straight UP in this picture and my camera was zoomed out as far as it would go for you to see this one! They were WAY up there!

Back to your copy of "Duttons of Dutton....." un-numbered page right before pg 15.....shows some hand drawings --- including a knight wearing a tabbard (like a vest or an apron) decorated with the Dutton arms over his armor.....and my personal favorite (same page), the horse's caparison....with the Dutton frets on it! Wouldn't one of those Dutton knights have looked sharp riding a horse adorned with those trappings - yes, as breath-taking as the Red Knight of Warwick that we saw in the last chapter!

But the Dutton arms were not ALWAYS on ceilings or windows or carved into walls etc. ---- check out the page opposite 165 in Duttons of Dutton. Hugh de Dutton signed important papers and documents using hot sealing wax and a seal of the Dutton arms! There's four of them pictured there....can you find them? Isn't that neat! My birthday is coming up.....I want one of those! haha!

The one coat of arms that has baffled me completely is the one in the stained glass window at Dutton Hall --- the one with the red rooster as the crest. Since Sir Piers Dutton built the great hall there, could they be the arms of one of his wives? He married 1st) Elinour, daughter of Thomas Legh of Adlington and 2nd) Julian, daughter of William Poyns of Worthokiton in Essex. Could they have been the arms of Julian's family - since she aided in the design of Dutton Hall? Perhaps.

Byron has promised to look into the matter next time he gets to the College of Arms in London. Meanwhile, I'm looking in all the armory books I can find here. If there are any of those in a library near you....help me look!

I've added one more picture to the list....one of a signboard outside a restaurant near Manchester, England. It's a beauty. Sometime I'd like to have lunch there. Want to join me?

Well, this was fun. Hope you enjoyed it.

The pictures have arrived.  
Next --- Dutton Hall.

Phyllis

## Chapter 15 - Dutton Hall - part I

A small stone sits here on top of my computer monitor. Colin sent it to me in the mail some time ago. "I picked it up near Dutton Hall," he said. "It's magic will bring you over to the UK someday to see the ancient homestead for yourself!" Well, Colin....the 'magic' worked!

I could hardly wait but, at last, that 'magical' day arrived and we made our way southward to the small village of Ashurst Wood near East Grinstead, West Sussex. We came first to a stone wall and gate with the words - Stoke Brunswick School - and in we went along a shady driveway. And then, through the trees, I saw it....John O' Gaunt's lovely gardens as we came upon the school from the side. A short distance further and we could see the whole school....just as in those wonderful pictures Colin sent us. At first all I could do was stare in awe and shake my head in disbelief that I was really there. Look, there's that marvelous entryway....and the big door....and look, there's the Dutton/Hatton Arms in the windows. It was awesome!

We walked over towards that entry way and I was immediately struck by its great age...how very, very old that wood appeared! So weathered and gray...and silent! If those ancient beams could only speak, I thought! We tried the big door but it wouldn't budge. The little door? Yes, it swung open and we all had to duck our heads as we stepped inside. We were cordially greeted there by the Headmaster of Stoke Brunswick who reminded us that the ancient door once belonged to the Norton Priory....and by entering through the smaller door, the priests from that monastery had to bow their heads in a prayerful attitude as they 'ducked' through the door - just as we had done! Now we knew the real reason for the small door!

How did the door of Norton Priory find its way to this house? At the time of the suppression of monasteries and the dissolution of the Catholic church, Sir Piers Dutton was appointed by his friend Henry VIII as one of the commissioners for the abbey of Vale Royal to oversee the King's orders - and as sheriff of Cheshire, he rendered service in quelling an insurrection at Norton abbey. Correspondence between Sir Piers and Henry VIII can be found in section 5 of "Duttons of Dutton." I don't have the whole story of Norton Priory or when it was dismantled but it was about that time (1530's) that the door came into the possession of Sir Piers. (I was hoping to find a picture that might show the old door in it's original setting but a letter to an address for Norton Priory found on the internet came back as 'unknown.' ) The Headmaster told us that the old door weighs over a ton and it is sobering to think what it must have taken to transport it - even the few miles to Dutton!

We know that Odard had the land at Dutton from the earliest days and that other lands were added over the years by succeeding heirs....until Sir Thomas the 10th Lord of Dutton "made the Township of Dutton entirely his own." There must have been some sort of house and barns on the Dutton land very early. By 1244, towards the end of the reign of Henry III, we read that Sir Thomas, the 7th Lord of Dutton added a chapel to the Manor-house of Dutton - showing that there was already a house there at that time.

Then we read of the failing of male line and of the "great Controversy and suits of Law concerning this fair Inheritance of Dutton." It took seven years and a final Award by King Henry Eighth dated 16 May 1534 to settle the dispute and divide the lands among the Co-Heirs and Sir Piers. He was named next Heir and became "the eighteenth Lord of Dutton since the Conquest and the fifteenth person in lineal descent from Odard."

Whatever houses and buildings were on the Dutton land, they were now his and he began the building of his own new Hall in 1539 - to be joined to the chapel - and other buildings? -already standing there. Hundreds of enormous oak logs were hauled in and turned into massive beams. Wattle and daub was applied and the windows glazed. Chimneys were built and massive fire places installed. Carpenters and bricklayers and workmen swarmed all over the place! The beautiful Norton Priory door was brought out and prepared to be re-hung. Sir Piers and his wife, Dame Julian watched over the construction very carefully. There were woodcarvers too....yes, very talented wood carvers and Julian ordered that the Dutton arms and shields be carved over the door and added to the sides of the door frame. In honor of Piers and Julian, the woodworkers carved the initials P and J entwined with lover's knots along the top beam of the porch. On the porch lintel was carved in old English:

Syr peyrs dutton knyght lorde of dutton and my  
lade dame julian his wiff made this hall and buyldying  
in the yere of our lorde god a m ccccc XLII

who thanketh god of all.

At the great hall began to take shape. Yes, it would have a big fireplace, a minstrels gallery, great arches and a cove ceiling. Oh it would be grand! It measured 49 feet long by 24 feet wide and was 25 feet high to the roof. The woodcarvers were called on again and at the upper edge of the coved ribwork - extending for 88 feet all around the hall, they carved an inscription in gothic letters 4 inches tall, commemorating the erection of this great hall and the winning of the great Dutton-Hatton lawsuit. It's still there but not easy to read being so high over your head..but this is what it says:

'in the yere of his most graciose ragn nota that this hall & all the newe chambes & tnslacons were made & finished anno MCCCCXXIX bi the especiall devising of sr piers dutton knight & dame julian his wiff doghter of william ponies of northok'gton in essex esquier memorad that aft' long sute made by the heir of the duttons against sr piers dutton then of hatton knight & now owner of this house and hatton both depending cotinueth before all the nobulls of the king most honorable coun...all the jugs of this realme bi the space of vii yeres & above the same sr piers was appioted heir malle & right inhritor of this howse & all duttons land & so adiugd bi t right honorable awarde of t' most famose prince king h viii under his brode seale allowed & cofirmed.'

And when the workers were finished, Dutton Hall was spacious and handsome - a great quadrangle overlooking the Weaver River. It even had a moat! What wonderful days it must have seen. There were 50 servants to look after your every need. There was a 'chest of viols' kept in the house and minstrels came there often. There was even a dancing school (much like some great halls kept riding schools.) Sir Walter Scott's words come to mind:

The tables were drawn, it was idlesse all;  
Knight and page and household squire.  
Loitered through the lofty hall,  
Or crowded round the ample fire.

Visitors were always welcome. Thomas Dutton of Sherborne visited there. Sir Peter Leycester was often at Dutton hall. How sad that Sir Piers only lived a few years to enjoy his new Hall, dying in 1545. Three hundred years later.... in 1859, it was described as "a very fine timber mansion of the time of Henry VIII, still having its original rich timber roof." The years took a toll on parts of the house. The old chapel had been pulled down along with additional sections of the quadrangle so that only one side remained. Some of the old oak paneling from the mansion had been carried off, some used in neighboring churches.

By the early 1900's Dutton Hall had become a simple farm house with some attempts at remodeling. The great hall had been drastically changed - basically cut in half - with the installation of a second floor and both floors partitioned into rooms. A false ceiling was installed on the second floor, hiding that fine openwork roof. All of this considered 'modern improvements' I suppose! The picture opposite page 8 in "Duttons of Dutton..." shows an upstairs hall but the pictures in my (Higginson's) reprint are so bad that I can't even scan them for you. There are other pictures taken around 1900 of the porch and entryway and the great door - before the house was moved, but in my copy.....they are nearly black. Too bad. (My hope is that I can one day get good scanned copies from an original copy. The only person I know who has a rare, original copy of this book today is Byron Hadley at Sherborne. Unfortunately, he doesn't have access to any copying equipment. Maybe LDS has an original copy....Maybe on my next trip to Salt Lake! )

Jump ahead to 1930 and meet the wealthy Dewar family of whiskey fame. were living in an old hunting cottage in Ashdown Forest that had once belonged to John O' Gaunt. He was the third son of King Edward III and the younger brother of the Black Prince. After the death of Edward III in 1377, John fulfilled his promise to his elder brother to protect the young King Richard II until he attained his majority, and was for some years probably the most powerful man in England. John's son Henry Bolingbroke, however, would later overthrow Richard II and become King Henry IV. (Isn't that a plot in one of Shakespeare's plays? ! )

John O'Gaunt's lodge was becoming too small and the Dewar family needed larger quarters. Mrs. Dewar happened upon a photograph in a London bookshop showing Dutton Manor, the seat of the Lords of Dutton since 1539. Because it was of the same style as their hunting lodge, they traveled to Cheshire where they found the

magnificent old mansion reduced to a working farmhouse. An agreement was soon reached in which they would build the farmer a new house (in which Thomas Platt now resides) and then would purchase the old Dutton Hall. As soon as the new house was finished, work began to dismantle the old one! Beam by beam it was torn down, loaded onto wagons which were pulled by a steam lorry at 10 mph. for the 250 mile ride to Ashurst Wood. They could manage only one load per week!

To move the entire building took a full year and, very slowly, with skilled workers at both ends, the old building was put back together at the new site. All modern renovations were removed and the great hall was opened up once again. No cost was spared. When they discovered rotten beams in the old Dutton Hall, they were replaced with others from the HMS Arethusa, the British Navy's last wooden battleship. Because their goal was NOT to restore the old house.....but rather to incorporate it into a pleasing whole with the buildings already there, there were many changes made. It is possible that other old buildings were brought to the site as well! Today, it is very difficult to determine where the old Dutton Hall begins and ends and where others were added and changed. We are sad, perhaps, because it has undergone such changes.....yet we rejoice that it has been cared for and is now enjoying a renewed life with a new purpose. Left as it was, it might have continued to deteriorate until it was lost forever.

A comparison of the old black and white picture of Dutton Hall (look back at Chapter 2) with a current picture is interesting. The roof line has been changed. Larger windows have been installed. Some of the exterior walls which used to be 1/2 timbered....are now stone etc. Although that entryway and big door are still the same, the window at the 2nd floor level has been exchanged for a bay window. Like a much loved, aging lady, she's still the same old house.....but with a facelift! The heart of the old house, however, is much as it always was. Come on, let's look around inside!

Watch your head and come in through the door...into an average sized room that holds two pool tables! (Don't forget it's a school!) On the wall I found a list of those students who have won scholarships and was amused that it was titled - King's Mead! Do you know what mead is? Quickly turning right, through a large heavily carved and paneled oak door, we're immediately in that great hall. The best picture of this room comes from the schools booklet, the one Colin shared with us. You've come into the room and turned around and are looking back toward the paneled oak door we just entered. The floors are of flagstone now but may have been something different in early years. The oversized chandelier is perfect for this large room. Original? Who knows.

The Sunday that we visited was Parents Day and the great hall was set up with chairs for parents and a small stage for the children to perform. We walked around them. On the wall opposite the windows is a large stone fireplace where those early Duttons warmed themselves against the nip in the air. You'll see the lovely designs that a stonemason carefully put there....the Tudor Rose.

Now look UP at that amazing Minstrels Gallery. Here again, Colin's earlier pictures are the best. If you walk under the Minstrels Gallery and keep going....you come into what I believe is called the Solar. The windows at the back of this room have the 'roundals' in them as Colin described them. I still wonder if they are religious or historical in meaning. Turn to your left and you come to a beautifully paneled stairway that takes you around and back up to the Minstrels Gallery. This is not exactly a 'grand staircase' but as you see in the picture, the railing is made from carved oak and is quite lovely. It's great fun to stand there on the Minstrels Gallery and pretend you are entertaining all those Duttons down below! How I would love to hear some of the music that poured out over that banister. (An extra board is nailed there now - probably to keep adventurous little boys from climbing up and over!)

From there we wandered along halls and around corners and opened heavy oak doors here and there to discover bunk beds in dormitory rooms, music and art rooms etc. I was suddenly confronted with the fact that most of these rooms had marvelous stone fireplaces in them. I show you 3 beauties. They had all been cleaned out and were empty -- except for one that had large comfy pillows stored in it.....for story telling sessions. The large fireplace in the 'pink' room holds one of my favorite people, Amanda Dutton!

I looked out another of those leaded diamond paned windows.....down into....a COURTYARD! Yes, folks, the building as it stands now has four sides to it....built around a small courtyard. In that courtyard is a 1 story building that appears to hold heating and plumbing equipment. No gardens or walkways....the building nearly fills the whole area! If you look at a picture of the rear of the school, that whole side is obviously either more old buildings that were brought in and added to the whole --- or new construction (made to look old) added to the rear of the school to provide necessary classroom space. I'm inclined to think they are old.....as evidenced by the fireplaces and heavy oak doors. On one of those doors I found this little sign.... a reminder that there are little boys living here now!

We walked out into John O'Gaunts garden....a beautiful area that can be seen and enjoyed from the Headmasters Quarters. We were allowed to explore the entire building on our own! The Headmaster, all the children and their parents were out on the back lawn playing all sorts of games and sports. In 1958 the school purchased 600 acres of land and this building for 30,000 pounds - a property worth well over a million pounds today. That's about \$1,500,000 US in 2000!

>>>>continued Part II

## Chapter 15 - Dutton Hall - part II

For our visit to Dutton Hall, our group of American Duttons was joined by several English Duttons. We welcomed Katherine Green and her children as well as the Charles Duttons - father and son - with their families. Byron Hadley was with us as well. Quite a nice group!

Now you're in for a special treat. From photos never before seen in the US you're going to get a glimpse of what Dutton Hall looked like when the wealthy Dewars family lived there. Byron and I were able to take some close-up pictures of a small booklet which had been placed in a picture frame. Considering that the pictures were very small and we had to deal with glare from the glass in the frame.....these are pretty good. With a little computer magic, we've made them larger for a better look and with a strong magnifying glass I've been able to transcribe the captions and other notes which you'll enjoy, as follows:

"THE ENTRANCE HALL - The entrance hall has a carved beam ceiling and floor of York flagstone. There is a cloakroom opening off it, two handbasins with antique mixer taps, two coat cupboards, heated towel rail, and door to separate W.C. down flush. (no picture)

THE GREAT HALL - This really magnificent oak-framed hall has a fine perpendicular style of oak hammer-beamed ceiling divided into squares with ribs and bosses, of which no two are alike. At Dutton it formed the usual passage-way through the house and beneath the Minstrel gallery. Here it is a comfortable Lounge Hall - facing West with a magnificent open fireplace with intricately carved antique stone surround. The gallery has been retained with its sides forming a fine screen with massive oak shaftings and capitals. Under the arch of the gallery is a heavy carved oak ceiling formed from a single piece of timber from the old H.M.S. Arethusia.

The Great Hall measures about 49 feet by 24 feet. A feature of the construction is the complete concealment of the central heating pipes under the flagstone floor."

(note from Phyllis - The picture accompanying this description shows Mrs. Dewar's use of fine furnishings, beautiful paintings and elegant, rich carpeting - which continue right on through the house. You can see once again the fine open ceiling and the paneled oak doors under the Minstrels gallery that close off the great hall from the solar.)

THE SOLAR - Facing South, this lovely room measures about 38 feet by 19 feet. It has a beamed ceiling, a broad boarded oak floor, fine carved oak doors, a carved oak surround to the open fireplace. The stone mullioned and transomed windows, one in a square bay, have diamond-paned leaded lights. (I've added a recent picture of the Solar for comparison)

THE DINING ROOM - Facing East and South, the room measures about 29' 6" X 19' 6" . There is a fine carved stone open fireplace, carved oak doors with carved lintels and an oak floor with broad boards. Door leads to the South Terrace. (check out the size of that carpet! -pr)

THE GARDEN HALL - Off the passage way past the Dining Room and the flagged hallway leading to the terrace on the South side is a cloakroom with pottery washbasin and antique mixer tap, with door to separate W.C. with low flush. Also on the First Floor are an ironing room, linen cupboards and a hanging room with ranges of dress cupboards. There are three bedrooms in the North-East Wing for visiting Ladies' maids. On the attic floor is a small flat of three bedrooms and bathroom, and six single maid's bedrooms and bathroom. The Men's rooms are on the Ground Floor on the North-West Wing, with five single bedrooms, one double bedroom and a bathroom. The Butler's bedroom is also on the Ground Floor with bathroom adjoining. There is an excellent modern Kitchen, Scullery, Staff Hall and all usual offices. (Which parts are from Dutton Hall is unclear.)

THE SMALL DINING ROOM - This room, facing East and West measures about 20 feet by 17 feet with Inglenook fireplace, beamed ceiling, oak strip floor. The approach is down a few steps from the main staircase hall. (no picture)

JOHN OF GAUNTS SITTING ROOM - Facing South and North, about 24 feet by 17' 3," with oak paneled walls, in part finely carved with large Inglenook fireplace and beamed ceiling. (We can assume that this is part of the John of Gaunt's Lodge and not Dutton Hall - but still interesting.)

BOUDOIR - South, about 16' 6" by 19' 3" with beamed walls and vaulted ceiling, fitted oak bookshelves in recesses on either side of the open fireplace with massive stone mantel. (no picture)

BEDROOM - South and East (or Dressing Room) with communicating door to the bathroom, about 20 feet by 19' 9" with vaulted ceiling and carved beams, large open fireplace with carved stone mantel and broad oak

floor. (no picture)

BATHROOM adjoining with primrose coloured bath and marble panels, handbasin with marble top and sides. W.C. with concealed flush. Two mirror-backed recesses in marble frames, glass shelves. Heated chromium-plated towel rail. (no picture)

THE GUESTS' SUITES - In the South-West wing is the first (blue) Guest Suite, consisting of two bedrooms and two bathrooms. In this wing is another large Guest's bedroom and two Batchelor's bedrooms, with a bathroom. The four other Guest's suites each contain two bedrooms and a bathroom. Two suites are in the East Wing, one in the West and one in the Southwest wing. (pictures labeled The Main Bedroom and The Paneled Guests' Bedroom)

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There were a few other pictures and captions which we were NOT able to photograph - but they were of the gardens and some exterior shots that looked pretty much like it looks today. We got all the good stuff!

Now that I read this over again - it almost sounds like it was a real estate brochure - perhaps when the house and property again came on the market. It's certainly obvious that with all those bedrooms, it was a perfect candidate for a school!

An earlier Dutton cousin has made the statement that "portions of the old Dutton Hall were destroyed by Cromwell's army during England's Civil War." I've never found much more than that one sentence on that subject .... and wonder if any of you can comment. I suppose an in-depth study of that war would tell us if there were any battles that took place in or around Dutton. Well, that's just a passing thought.

We really hated to leave --- and lingered out in the front parking area for a long time --- taking more pictures and trying to guess which part was 'ours' and which was added later. Someone suggested that perhaps the local courthouse might have some old permits or building records or even blueprints from when the Hall was brought there and reconstructed -- perhaps something for a local researcher to follow up.

I shot nearly a whole roll of film just on the front porch and door--much of it up close to see the detail in all that carving. It's a real work of art. One disappointment was that while there are smaller coat-of-arms carved across the top of the door frame.....those large arms (with the griffins) that you can see in Duttons of Dutton right before page 7....are no longer there. Were they victims of great age and deterioration---or are they stored in an attic - or a museum somewhere --- or has someone made off with them? As usual - more questions than answers. I include the best of best pictures I took. Maybe some of the others can add other/better/different pictures later. Colin, who has a great camera and takes excellent photographs....was shooting away with the rest of us! He also was taking video footage during the whole trip.....and if he can solve the British to American type of video transfer, we may yet get to see what his camera caught...of us tramping graveyards and climbing castle towers!

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Be sure to visit the Stoke Brunswick School WEBPAGE! There you'll find out what it will cost to send your child there for the next session, read about their math teacher who just won the 'teacher of the year' award and see the students at work and play. The site is nicely put together by one of their past students---who learned his skills in the school's computer lab! [www.stokebrunswick.co.uk](http://www.stokebrunswick.co.uk)

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"Did you know?? The whole village of Dutton was purchased by the Cheshire County Council in 1919 after the end of the First World War? They purchased 2355 acres for 114 thousand pounds from the Talbots of Aston. It was divided into 50 smallholdings. These were rented to ex-servicemen who created a unique village community. - The Chester Chronicle, March 25, 1992"

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Look for one more brief message from me over the weekend.....a wrap up of UK in 2K.  
It will tie up a few loose stories and end with our final banquet together. Thanks for all the nice comments you've been sending me. It's always a pleasure to share a story with an interested audience!  
Phyllis

## Chapter 16 - UK in 2K - Final Wrap-Up



Fill the glasses with champagne and raise them high!

"GOD BLESS THE KING AND THE HEIR OF DUTTON"  
 A TOAST to SIR PIERS!  
 A TOAST to our Great DUTTON FAMILY around the world!

So went the farewells at the banquet that wrapped up our journey back in time to the villages and country lanes of our homeland. The idea began with Colin and grew until, at last, the airplanes from America touched down on English soil and the fun began!

All we had to do was "show up and enjoy!" Colin did all the rest, carefully planning every detail. He was our tour guide, our bell hop - loading and unloading our bags at every stop (pant pant), our mother hen (now where did those girls go !), the lost & found department (a diamond earring!), and provider of explanations for British words and customs unfamiliar to us! Do you know what a flannel is? We can tell you that there are very FEW of them in all of England! We can also tell you never to plug an American hair dryer into an English electric socket. It will set off fire alarms all over the entire hotel -- waking up EVERY guest on EVERY floor -- at 7:10 am! (I think that was the reason Colin pretended not to know us at breakfast that morning!)

Aside from all THAT <grin> it was a truly satisfying experience for all of us. We saw much more than we have told you about, including all the famous London landmarks. We saw Hyde Park where that famous duel took place between two of our distant cousins. We drove by Buckingham Palace. The Queen was in....so we waved hello as we drove by! We saw the Millennium Wheel on which you have to make reservations ahead of time for one very slow, 30 minute revolution! We survived an awesome London traffic jam and said hello to "Big Ben!" Yes, we saw Diana's house.....and Harrods.....and rode in one of those funny little taxis.

What DON'T they have in England?? Pickup trucks! I searched in vain for the sight of even one! Oh, and souvenir T-shirts!! NONE! Strange that they haven't picked up on THAT very profitable idea as yet! TEA? Oh yes, lots of it.....but don't ask for iced tea! I think it's sacrilegious to do so! I only asked once....got a quizzical look and a small cup filled with 3 ice cubes and a pot of HOT tea! Now I suppose all of you English cousins are shaking your heads in pity at us crazy Americans! Well, we have some great fun in store for you too, when you come to the U.S!

Mostly, however, it was a delight to explore our rich family heritage. Colin took us to see the thatched roofed cottages in Tiverton...and Bunbury Church where his own ancestors lived and died. We look forward to updates on his search for that elusive "next generation back!" We shared our own links to the Dutton family as well. Sheila and I have discovered that we are VERY close cousins....her great grandfather Isaac Dutton was the brother of my great-great grandmother Maria Dutton! Maria's husband was a 49'er and went west in the Gold Rush but never came back, probably robbed and murdered for his little bag of gold. Her brother Isaac found gold too but made it safely back home. Sheila was kind enough to share with me a diary of Isaac's experiences - an extremely fascinating look at the history of a different time! Maybe we'll share that one with you someday -- it's a great "read."

I hope you've all enjoyed these 'chapters.' It's been a pleasure to share them with you and it gave me the chance to re-live it all over again as well. It was a memorable time for all of us. We arrived as 'shirt-tail' cousins, and ended up as " cousins - and fast friends! We're very sorry that you weren't with us.

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A few last things--

I hope you've received all the pictures and charts that you ordered. If not...let me hear from you and I'll get it straight! For those of you unable to get the pictures via e-mail, the last group of printed pictures will go into the mail on Monday. Be patient. "Heraldry and the Dutton Family" should have been labeled Chapter 14.

Here's one of some minor interest. On page 6 of Duttons of Dutton it says about Dutton Hall, "the

position of the great hall is easily identified as it occupied the whole of the building ...to the left of the entrance." Well, I was there folks....and I turned RIGHT when I entered that building. Any comments? Well, maybe it was a typo! ;-)

OK....I think that's a wrap. A couple of pictures of our group.....and I'm done.... and I promise I won't bother you anymore or fill up your e-mail boxes to overflowing!  
It's back to real life. ;-)

Phyllis