

Visitation of Lancashire by Thomas Benalt, Clarencieux, 1533

Thomas Hoult of Gresillhurst

Married Dorothy, daughter to Sr Raffe Loneford Knight, and they have issue Fraunces, Raffe and Ric.

The same deviation in the engraving from the blazon of the coat in the text, has been made in this case as in that of Holt of Stublely, from the younger son of which line, the family seated at Gristlehurst in the parish of Bury are said to have sprung.

The fifth quarter in the shield is clearly the caot of the family of Mancester in the county of Warwick, to one third of whose inheritance, Ralph Holt and Ellen, his wife, succeeded about the time of Henry VI. According to Dugdale (history of Warwickshire, p 762) this interest in the estate of Mancester had passed by marriage of one of three sisters and coheirness of Edmund, son of Worthyn, from whom it again passed by heir female to Holt.

Another coheir of Mancester married Geoffrey Brockholes, to whom succeeded Joane, the wife of Thomas Aspull, and Margatet, the wife of John Sumpter, as daughters and heirs.

The Lancashire pedigree which make Holt marry a daughter of Geoffrey Brockholes are manifestly inaccurate.³

From a parchment roll in the library of Chetham's hospital in Manchester,⁴ we find a different version on the authority of Dr Theo. Howarth, who makes Ellen, wife of Ralph Holt, to be daughter to John Sumpter of Colchester, by Margery, his wife, daughter and coheir of Geoffrey Brockholes. This Geoffrey had married Ellen, daughter and heiress of Sir John Roos of Radwinter, and was son of Geofrey Brockholes, who married Alicia, daughter and coheir of Guy de Mancester.

Sir John Roos is stated to have married Alice daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Asheldham, by Alice, his wife, daughter of John Clifford.

“Non nostrum tantas componere lites”

With such conflicting evidence before us we must abstain from a comment on the heraldry. We may however, remark, that the second quarter seems to be intended as a canting coat for Gristlehurst; but we have found no evidence of any family bearing that territorial surname.

³ In the next generation they give the marriage with an heiress of Abraham or Adburgham

⁴ This roll, which was given to the Chetham library by the Rev. Canon Raines, contains a history of the manor of Mancester, and gives a curious account of the litigations of the several claimants.