

**THE
DAVY HATCHMENT
IN
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,
DOYNTON**



By
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2nd Edition, September, 2006, amended April 2009 and January 2021



Plate I. Portrait of Gen. Sir William Davy after being created KCH

Source: Royal Green Jackets Museum – www.rgjmuseum.co.uk

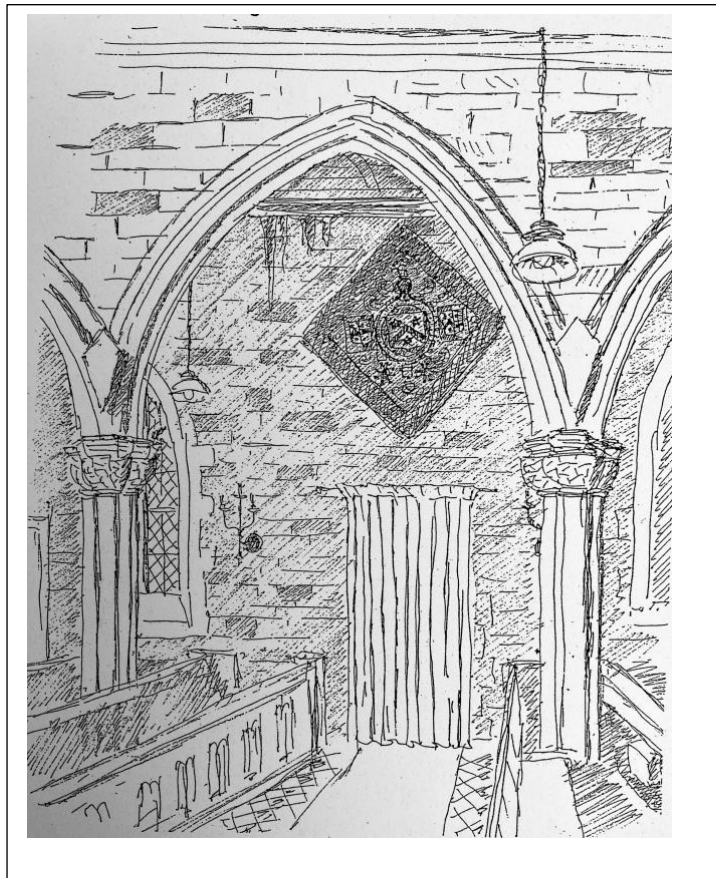
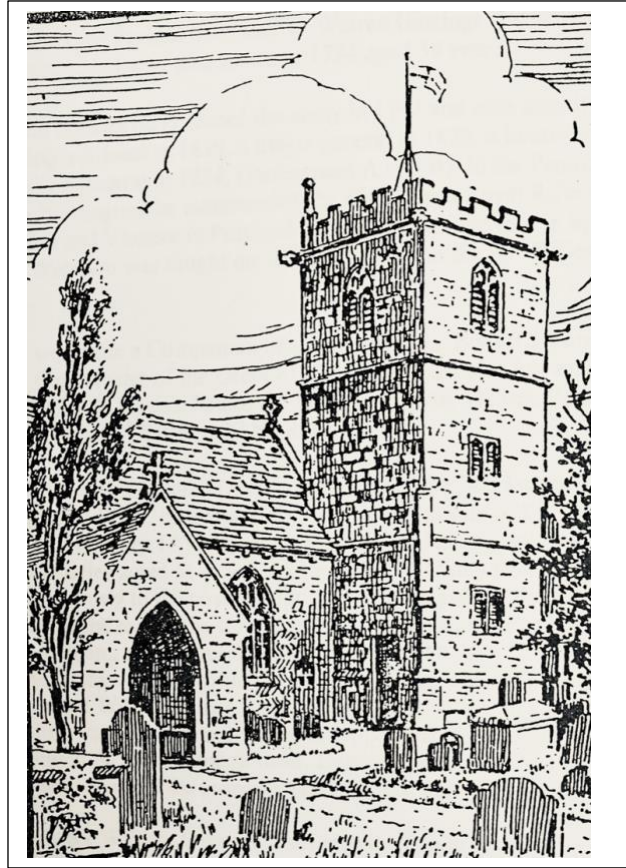


Plate II. The Hatchment in the north aisle in Holy Trinity Church, Doynton

THE DAVY HATCHMENT

IN HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, DOYNTON

Introduction

The large funeral hatchment that you can see on the far wall directly in front of you as you enter Holy Trinity Church, Doynton (and on the cover), was made for Gen. Sir William Davy, KCH, CB, of Tracy Park near the village, when he died in 1856 aged 76. His portrait is shown in Plate I. The church and the hatchment's location are shown in Plate II and a short explanation of hatchments in general and their use is given in Annex 1. This document gives a brief history of the Davy family followed by a description of the hatchment itself.

The Davy Family

From 1820 to 1910, four generations of the family of Davy lived at Tracy Park in the parish of Doynton about seven miles north of Bath and about the same distance east of Bristol.

William Gabriel Davy was born in 1779 at King's Holm, near Gloucester, eldest son of Major William Davy of the Honourable East India Company Service, who was at some time Persian Secretary to Warren Hastings (Governor General of India, 1771 - 1785) and who died at sea in 1784 aged 39 years.

William Gabriel Davy joined the army in 1797 and rose steadily through the ranks, becoming a colonel in 1819, a major general in 1830, a lieutenant general in 1841 and finally a general in 1854 (References A and B). In the Peninsular War, serving under Wellington, he commanded the 60th King's Royal Rifle Corps at the battles of Rolica and Vimiera in Portugal in 1808 and of Talavera in Spain in 1809. The battle of Waterloo was fought on 18th June 1815 but the 60th Rifles were not present there.

Davy was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) on 4th June 1815 and a Knight Commander of the Order of Hanover (KCH, also known as the Royal Guelphic Order) at St James's Palace on 23rd March 1836. He was Colonel Commandant of the 60th Rifles until his death. A more detailed note of his career is given in Annex 2.

In 1820 the then Colonel Davy bought Tracy Park, the Jacobean and Queen Anne mansion near Wick, from one Robert Bush for the sum of £12,818-17s-0d. He died there on 25th January 1856, aged 77, leaving it to his only son, the Rev'd Charles Raikes Davy. Charles acted as vicar's warden at Holy Trinity Church, Doynton, and contributed generously to the cost of building the north aisle of the church following the bankruptcy of the rector, the Rev'd Lewis Clutterbuck. Charles was succeeded by his only son, William, also a churchwarden, who died on the 1st February 1915 and is commemorated with a small marble plaque on the south wall near the pulpit. His only son, 2nd Lieutenant William James Davy, was killed in action on 18th August 1916, and thus the line was extinguished. His name appears on the World War I memorial

outside the church. William James's sister, Helen Augusta, who had secretly married a Mr Hodges, then inherited the property (Ref. B). See Fig. 1 for the pedigree.

General Sir William Davy was buried in the family vault in the south walk of the cloisters of Gloucester Cathedral (Ref. C). There is a badly chipped ledger stone (engraved floor slab) recording his death and that of Mary Anne, his first wife. It is next to that recording the death of his father and his two sisters (see Figs. 2 and 3 for the full texts). Nearby, on the wall, there is a brass plaque commemorating the General (see Fig. 4 for the full text and Plates II and III for the location). This draws attention to a fine stained glass window in the nave, also commemorating the General; in the window, 'The Passion', Christ is depicted in the tracery with four angels. In the main light He is seen at His trial, Ecce Homo, wearing a crown of thorns. Below is a shield showing General Davy's arms impaling those of his second wife (Ref. D). Below this window there is an impressive monument to the Rev'd Richard Raikes, AM, of Gloucester, 1743-1823. This juxtaposition and the fact that Sir William gave his son the name Raikes give a hint to the possibility that he may have had a Raikes ancestor.

Tracy Park stood empty for some years, looked after by a caretaker, until Charles Samuel Clarke (1873-1947) rented it in 1910 and purchased it in 1926. In 1937 he presented Doynton with its fine Village Hall. His widow, Elsie Margaret, died in 1972. They are buried in the churchyard here in Doynton. Their daughter, Eileen, widow of the late Christian Pitman, lived in Doynton House (Ref. E) until she died on 5th April 2009 aged 108. Tracy Park itself is now a golf and country club.

The Hatchment

The arrangement of the shields on this hatchment shows that General Davy married twice, see Fig. 5. In the centre are the arms of Davy encircled with the light blue cirlet of the Order of Guelf (the House of Hanover being a branch of the line of Guelf) inscribed with the motto of the Order, *NEC ASPERA TERRENT* (which can be translated as 'Difficulties do not daunt'). To the left is a box containing a small shield showing Davy impaling the arms of his first wife, Mary Anne, daughter of Thomas Arthington of Arthington Hall near Leeds (Ref. F). The black background behind her side of the shield shows that she had died first. To the right of the main shield is another box with a small shield showing Davy impaling the arms of his second wife, Sophia, daughter of Richard Fountaine Wilson of Melton Park, York, sometime MP for York and High Sheriff in 1807, and his wife Sophia, daughter of George Osbaldeston, well known in his time as a hard living master of foxhounds. She died on the 5th December 1866 and, as she had survived the General, her side of the shield is on a white background and his on a black. She was clearly well connected as the third and fourth quarters of her arms suggest a relationship with the Montagu Dukes of Manchester and Earls of Sandwich, (Ref. G).

The three shields on the hatchment can be blazoned (described in heraldic terms) as follows (from Refs. H and I):

Main Shield: *Argent, a chevron Sable between three mullets pierced Gules* (Davy), the shield surrounded with the Order of Guelf with the badge of the Order pendent

below, together with the badge of the Order of the Bath and a gold medal inscribed *ROLICA, VIMIERA* and *TALAVERA* with a clasp also inscribed *TALAVERA*.

Dexter Shield: Davy impaling *Or, a fess between three escallops, Gules* (Arthington) (Fig. 6).

Sinister Shield: Davy impaling *Quarterly, 1st, Sable, a wolf salient and in chief three mullets pierced Argent; on a canton Or a cross formy Gules* (Wilson); *2nd, Argent, a fess Gules between three elephants' heads erased, Sable,* (Fontaine); *3rd, Argent, three lozenges conjoined in fess Gules, a bordure Sable* (Montagu); *4th, Or, an eagle displayed Vert, beaked and membered Gules* (Monthermer) (Fig. 7).

Above the main shield is, on a wreath, the **Crest**, a Paschal lamb, (upon a helm, affrontee with the visor open, as is appropriate for a knight).

The three **Medals**, shown in Fig. 8, are, from left to right (Ref. J):

- (i) The **Order of Guelf**, instituted in 1815 by the Prince Regent but which became a totally Hanoverian award on the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837. In the centre is the white horse of Hanover surrounded by the motto *Nec aspera terrent* mentioned above;
- (ii) The gold **Medal**, described above;
- (iii) The **Order of the Bath**, instituted in 1725, bearing the motto *Tria juncta in uno*, 'Three joined in one' (England, Scotland and Ireland).

The Davy Arms elsewhere

The Davy coat of arms can also be seen on the columns on each side of the northern entrance to Tracy Park; here they are shown impaling (joined side-by-side) the arms of Catherine, wife of the Rev'd Charles Raikes Davy, viz. *Or, a Chevron between three lions' gambes erect and erased Gules* (lions' legs, upright, shown as if torn from the body) (Refs. K and F), see Fig. 9. She was the daughter of Alexander Powell of Hudcott House, near Salisbury, sometime MP and High Sheriff of Wiltshire, and Joanna, daughter of the Rt Rev'd George Henry Law, Bishop of Bath and Wells. The arms of Powell can also be seen on the wall on the east side of the house, encircled with the family motto *SPES MEA CHRISTUS ERIT* (Christ will be my faith), with the date 1863 below. On the same wall the Davy arms can also be seen, surrounded by the family motto *AUSPICE CHRISTO* (Under the guidance of Christ) (Ref. L), with the date 1859 below. There is another representation of the Davy arms, also encircled with the family motto, in the great hall of the house. A few miles away, there is a fine carving of the Davy arms over the entrance to Toghill House Farm, with the motto, the initials 'C R D' and the date 1862, to commemorate the restoration and enlargement by Charles Raikes Davy of this old house that dates back to 1671; In days gone by, it was used by monks as a resting place on their journeys between Malmesbury and Glastonbury. This farm was one of several in the district that formed part of the Tracy estate until it was sold in 1973, (Ref. M).

Some years ago Joan, Mrs Fred Cottrell, found in her garden in Doynton a well-preserved livery button bearing the Davy crest of the Paschal lamb, shown in Fig. 10. There was an old washhouse attached to her cottage (now Hoddes Cottage)

and one might speculate that at some time an earlier occupant took in washing from the big house and that a button was lost there. She died on 27th December, 2008, aged 91.

There is a fine carving of the Davy crest, the Paschal Lamb, in the pediment over the portico in the south front of the house over the motto, 'In hoc signo vinces', 'under this sign thou shalt conquer', see plate V.

Acknowledgement

The author is indebted to Roland Symons, Vice-Chairman of the City of Bath Heraldic Society, who read the manuscript and made valuable suggestions and corrections. The 2021 Version was reformatted with additional photographs and content by Ron Ritchie OBE in collaboration with the original author.

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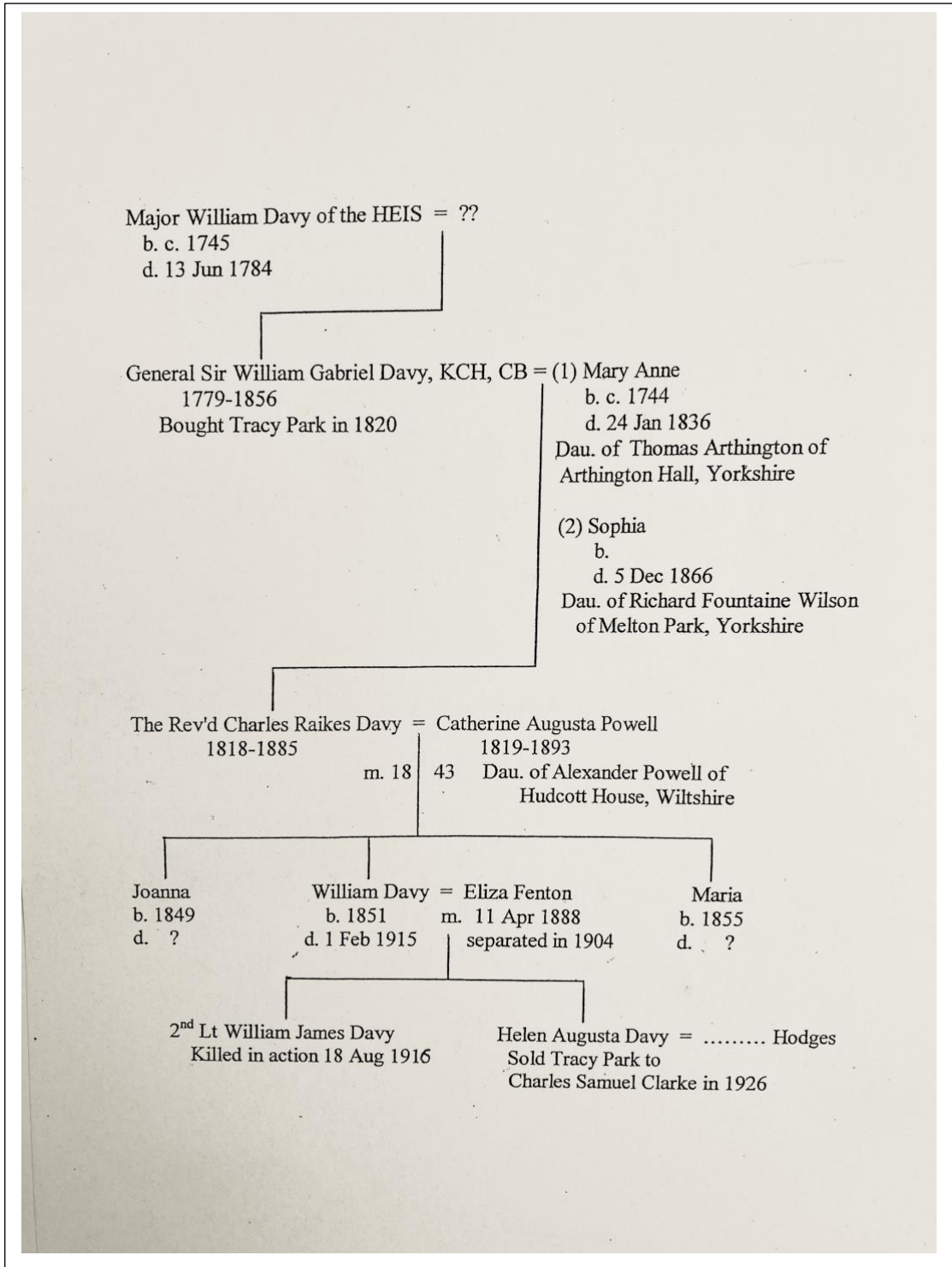


Fig. 1. Pedigree of Davy

Under this Stone
Lies the heart of
Major William Davy
Who died at Sea June 13th 1784
Aged 39 Years.

It was committed to the care
of Major Mackilwain
and brought to England by him.

The remains of Harriet Davy,
are also here interred.

She died at the age of 19,
In the year 1796.

Also Elizabeth Davy who departed
this life Nov 22nd 1835,

Aged 57 years;

She was the Second and Youngest
Daughter of the above Major
William Davy, of the HEIS.

Fig. 2. Ledger stone for Maj. W. Davy

Under this stone are deposited
the remains of Mary Anne
the daughter of Thomas Arthington
of Arthington Hall, Yorkshire
and wife of Major General Davy CB
of Tracy Park, Gloucestershire
who departed this life Jan^{ry} 24th 1836
Aged 60 years.

And also the above mentioned
Major General Davy
Afterwards, General Sir William
Gabriel Davy, CB and KCH and
Col^l of the 1st Battⁿ 60th Reg.
Who departed this life Jan^{ry} 25th
1856 aged 76 Years.

Fig. 3. Ledger stone for Gen. Sir W. Davy and his wife Mary

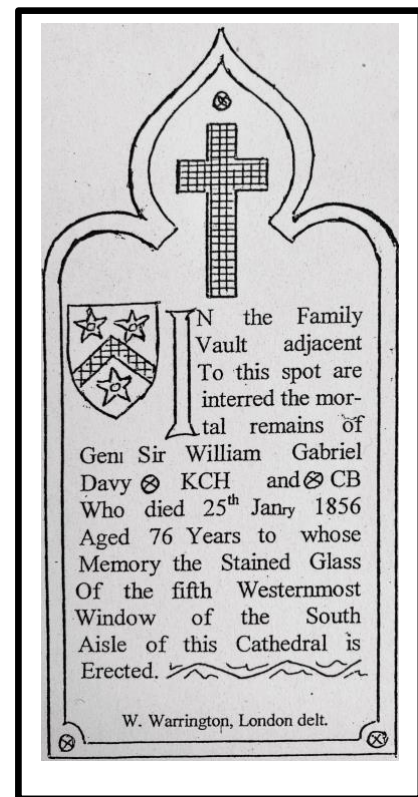


Fig. 4. Brass plaque for Gen. Sir Wm. Davy

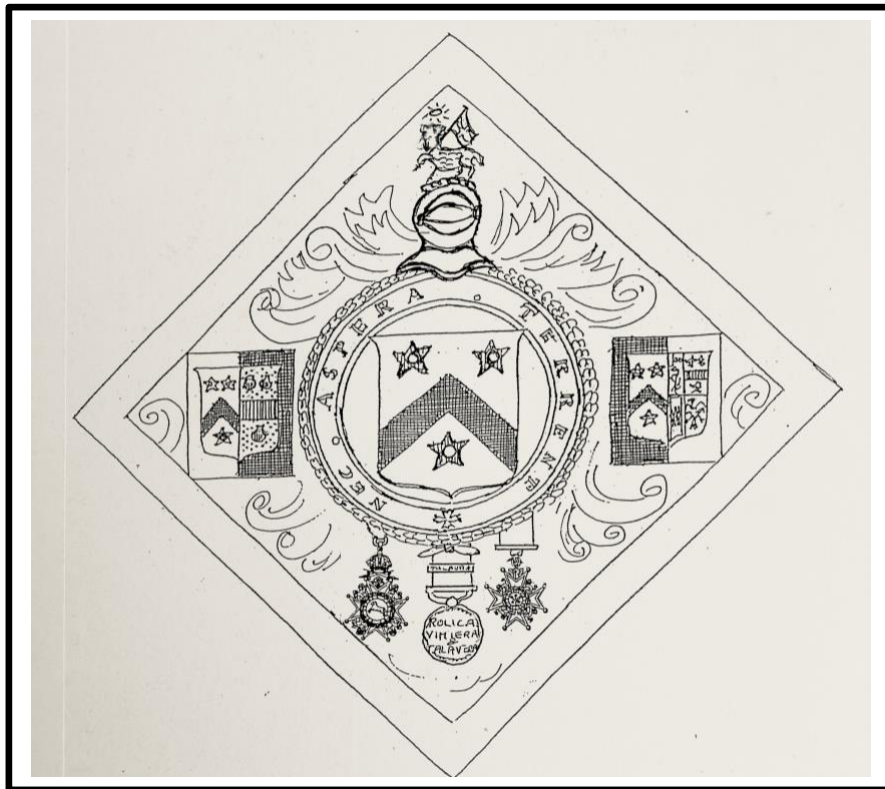


Fig. 5. The Hatchment for Gen. Sir Wm. Davy

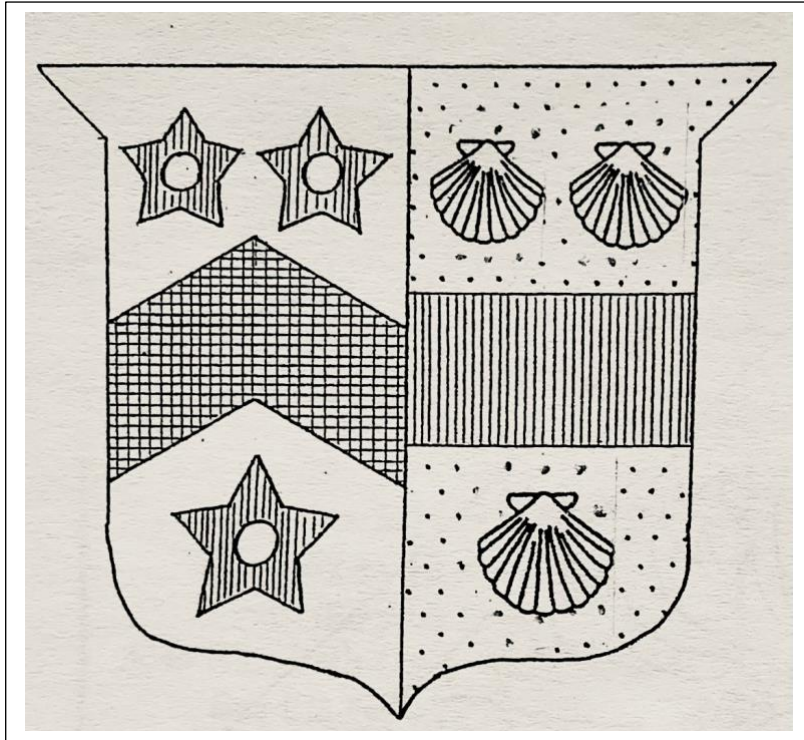


Fig. 6. Davy impaling Arthington

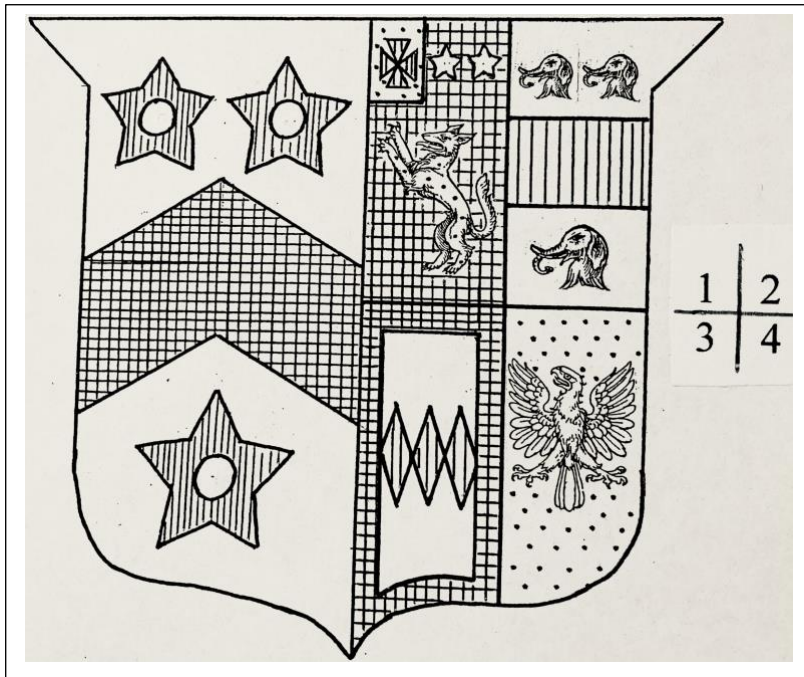


Fig. 7. Davy impaling, quarterly, (1) Wilson, (2) Fontaine, (3) Montagu and (4) Monthermer



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

Fig. 8. Medals:

- (i) Gen. Davy's complete set of medals and insignia, including the breast star of the Royal Guelphic Order for a Knight Commander of the Order of Hanover, with swords in gold and enamels, and breast star with swords in silver, silver-gilt, gold and enamels;
- (ii) The Royal Guelphic Order, KCH (Military), Knight Commander's neck badge with swords silver, silver-gilt, gold and enamels;
- (iii) Field Officer's Gold Medal 1808-14, for Rolica (spelt Roleia in English), Vimiera & Talavera;
- (iv) The Most Honourable Order of the Bath, CB (Military) Companion's breast badge in gold and enamels, hallmarked London 1815, maker's mark 'IE' for John Edwards, complete with wide swivel-ring gold straight suspension and gold ribbon buckle.

Photograph acknowledgment. Dix Noonan Webb Auction House, London, where the collection, formed by the late R. W. Gould. MBE, was sold in 2012 (for £46,000). www.dnw.co.uk

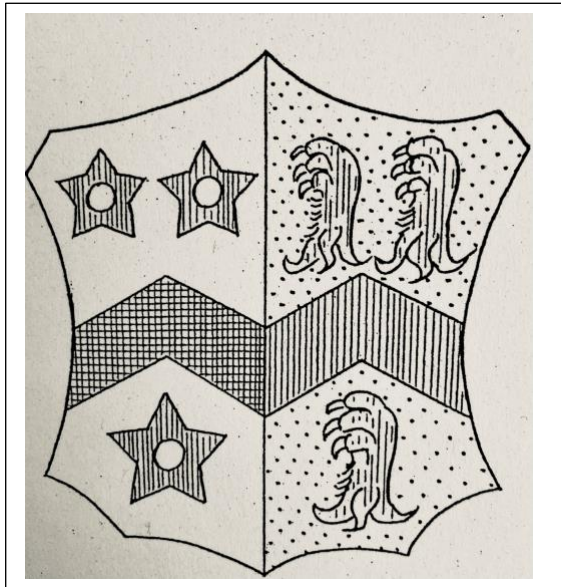


Fig. 9. Davy impaling Powell



(i)

(ii)

Fig. 10. Livery Button bearing the Davy crest of the Paschal Lamb
(i) obverse and (ii) reverse

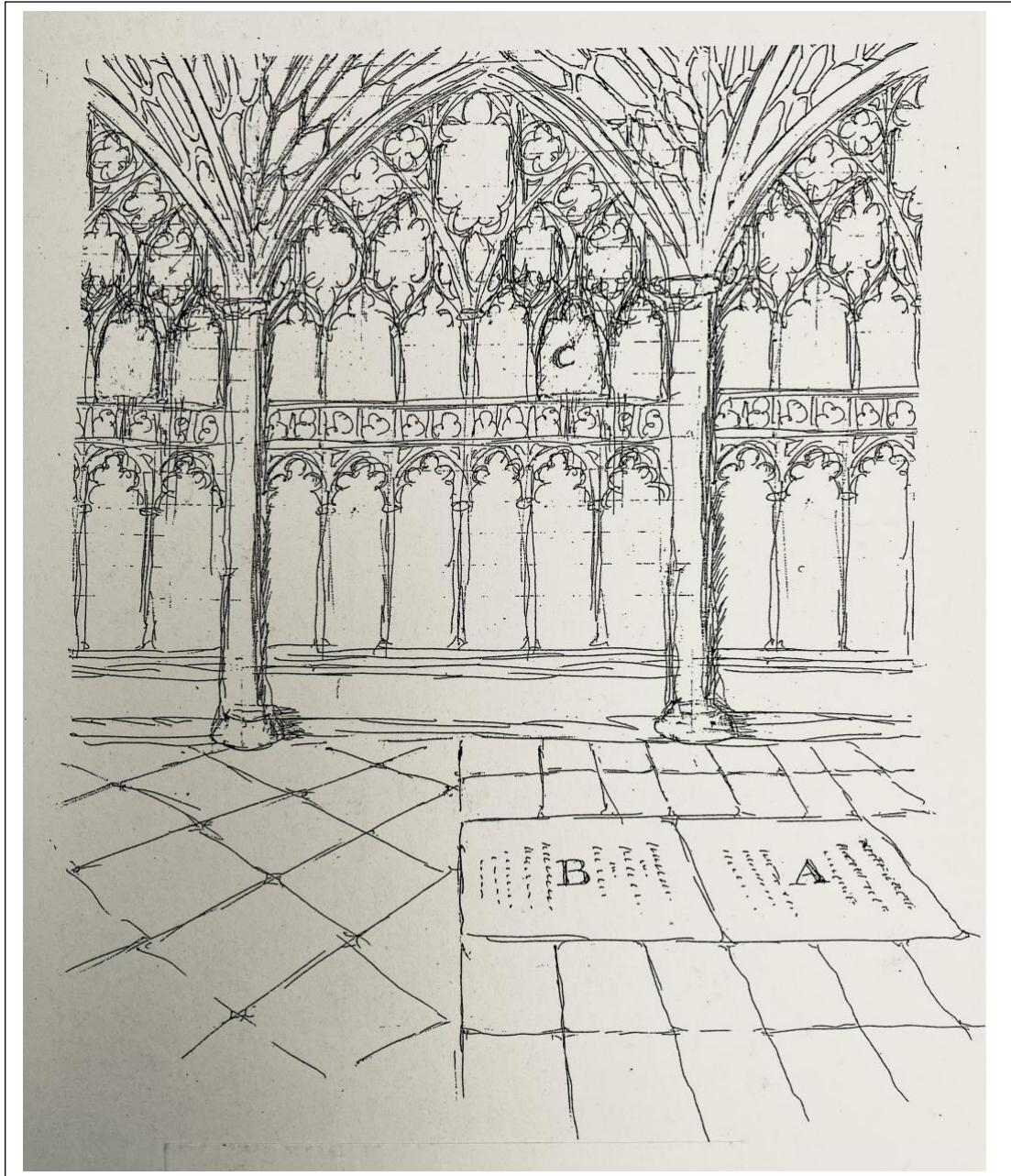


Plate III. The south wall of the south aisle of the cloisters of Gloucester Cathedral

- A. Ledger stone for Maj. W. Davy;
- B. Ledger stone for Gen. Sir Wm. Davy;
- C. Brass plate for Gen. Sir Wm. Davy.

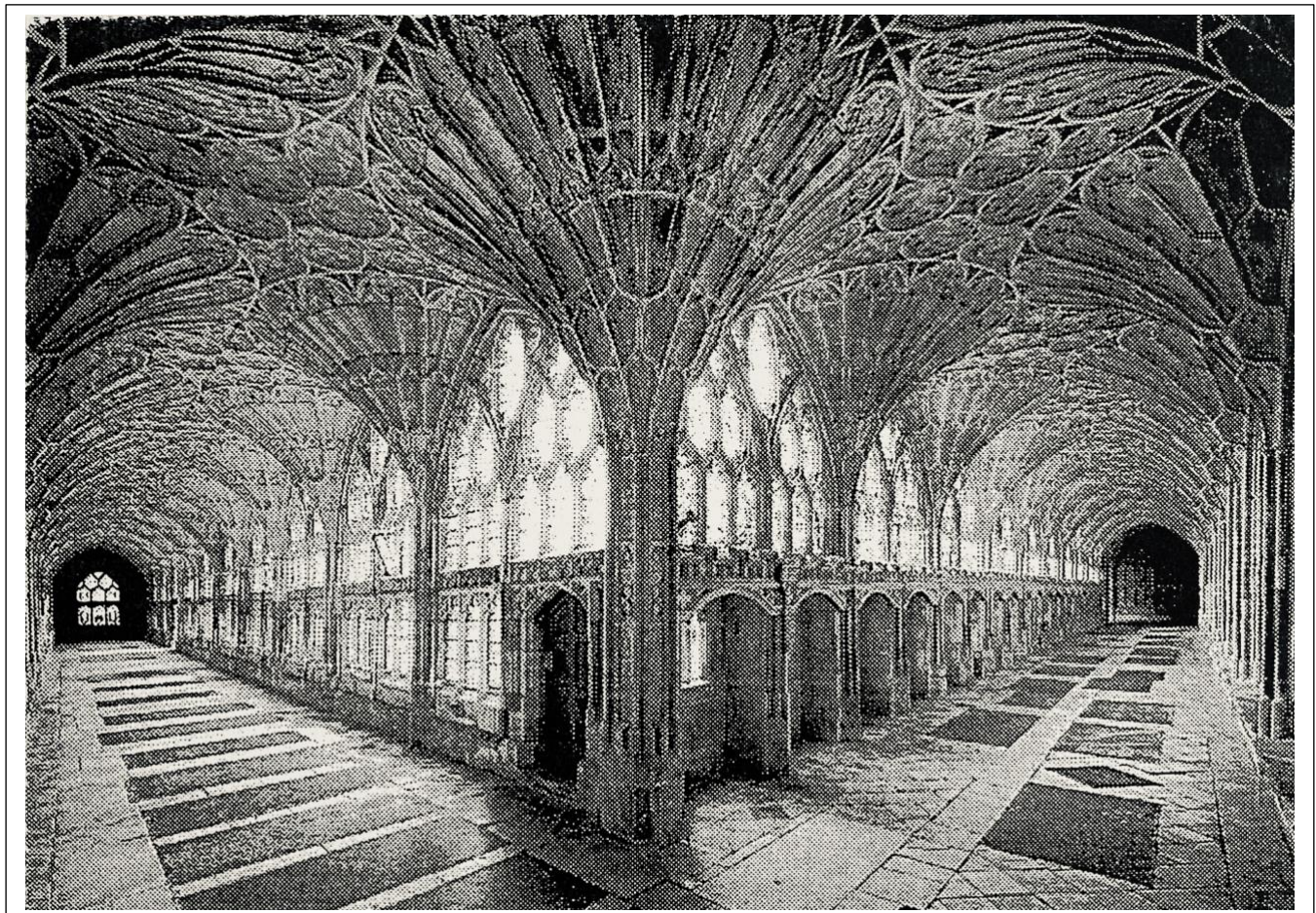


Plate IV. Gloucester Cathedral - the Cloisters



Plate V. The Paschal Lamb, the Davy crest, in the pediment over the doors in the south facade, Tracy Park.

Photo acknowledgement: Tony Ryan

ANNEX 1 Funeral Hatchments

When a prominent person died, a Funeral Hatchment was often prepared and hung over the entrance to his mansion, and at the end of a period of mourning it would usually be set up in the parish church. The Hatchment consisted of a painting of the coat of arms of the deceased on a wooden board or on canvas in a diamond-shaped frame.

In heraldry, the usual practice is that on marriage the husband impales his wife's shield with his own, that is to say, he places the two coats of arms side-by-side on a single shield divided down the middle, with the husband's arms on the 'dexter', or right-hand side, as seen by the carrier of the shield. When these conjoined arms are painted on the hatchment, the background is painted black on the side pertaining to the deceased and white on the side of that to the survivor, if there is one.

There is a fine series of nine hatchments for members of the Blathwayt family in St. Peter's Church, Dyrham.

ANNEX 2 Major (later General) William Davy, 5/60th Foot

William Gabriel Davy was born in 1779 at King's Holm, near Gloucester, eldest son of Major Davy, of the Hon. East India Company's Service, who was Persian Secretary to the Right Hon. Warren Hastings. Davy was educated at Eton, and in 1797 received a commission in the 61st Regiment. In January 1802 he became captain in the 5th Battalion of the 60th Foot, and in February 1807, major, passing over the heads of thirteen captains who were presumably too poor to purchase the step of promotion. Upon Lieutenant Colonel Baron de Rothenburg being appointed to the staff in May 1808, Davy assumed command of the battalion. The 5/60th Foot, who were the first Regiment to wear the famous green uniform, embarked at Cork for the Peninsula on 12 July 1808, and landed at Mondego Bay on 1 August, being the very the first unit ashore.

The 5/60th were in the thick of the action near Roleira and, whilst halted at Vimiera, Sir Arthur Wellesley ordered the 5/60th Foot to supply at least one company to each brigade to act as advance guard and skirmishers. This reorganization meant that there were no battalion actions fought by the 5/60th, but men of the Battalion were present at almost every fight. In the subsequent victory at Vimiera the Battalion lost 14 men killed, and two officers and 22 men wounded. But their skill in marksmanship and light infantry tactics had indeed vindicated their *raison d'être*.

For his part Davy received high praise from the likes of Lord Castlereagh, the Secretary of State, and others, as evidenced by a letter from Baron de Rothenburg, who naturally wrote in terms of delight: 'My dear Davy, ... You may easily conceive how highly I have been gratified by reading in the papers of your distinguished conduct in the field. The Duke of York spoke to me in high terms of the Battalion, and I must sincerely congratulate you on the honour and glory you have acquired. I always told you that you might depend upon the bravery of my disciples...'

The closing months of 1808 were, however, marred by an incident that caused a dark shadow to fall over the reputation hard gained by the Battalion in Portugal. Subsequent to the Convention of Cintra, whereby the French army was evacuated from Portugal back to France, Major Davy applied to the Commander-in Chief for

permission to enlist in his Battalion deserters from the French army. Unfortunately, as soon as the men recruited from Junot's Army got an opportunity, they deserted back to their old friends. Major Davy was ordered to concentrate the whole Battalion in Portugal and himself undertook the task of restoring the efficiency of the Battalion.

In May 1809 the issue of the following General Order gave evidence that the confidence of Sir Arthur Wellesley in his Riflemen was in no way diminished by the cloud which had momentarily shadowed the Battalion: 'The Commander of the Forces recommends the Companies of the 5th Battalion of the 60th Regiment to the particular care and attention of the General Officers commanding the Brigades of Infantry to which they are attached. They will find them to be most useful, active and brave troops in the field, and that they will add essentially to the strength of the Brigades. Major Davy will continue to superintend the economy and discipline of the whole Battalion, and for this purpose will remain with that part of the Army which will be most convenient to him with that object.'

At the ensuing battle of Talavera, Davy's riflemen performed with great distinction, six of their officers being wounded, and Davy was mentioned by name in Wellesley's subsequent despatch. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in December 1809 and transferred to the 7th Garrison Battalion. The Battalion was reduced in 1810 and Davy was placed on half pay; he never again went on active service. He was created a CB in June 1815 and received the honour of a knighthood from King William IV in 1836, as a Knight Commander of the Royal Guelphic Order. Promoted to major general in July 1830 and to lieutenant general in November 1841, he was appointed Colonel Commandant of the 1st Battalion of the 60th Foot in November 1842. He received his final promotion to full general in June 1854, and died at Tracy Park, Gloucestershire, on 25 January 1856.