

The Heynes Coat of Arms

In "The Visitation of Shropshire 1623" (page 234), the Heynes family coat of arms is shown along with the coats of arms of Gatacre, Blyke, Filylode and Astley. However according to the London College of Arms the Heynes coat of arms was quartered (1 & 4) along with the coats of arms of Gatacre (2) and Blyke (3). This was most likely the coat of arms used by Thomas Heynes, Gent. But who was the first individual to use the Heynes coat of arms? I believe it may have been John Heynes, the father of Thomas Heynes, Gent, who received this Coat of Arms from Henry VII sometime after 1485.

Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, was the first Welsh King of England. Henry landed in Wales in 1485 and marched east and many Welshman flocked to his cause. Henry and his troops landed at Mill Bay, Wales and proceeded up the coast of Cardigan Bay. Henry then turned eastwards and stopped at Mathafarn, the home of a loyal poet Dafydd Llwyd. Then Henry continued eastwards towards Welsh Pool, and it was near there that substantial contingents from all parts of Wales joined him. Fought on 22 August 1485, the battle of Bosworth Field marked the end of the War of the Roses. Henry Tudor by his victory became Henry VII, the first English monarch of the Tudor dynasty.

John Heynes was born around 1440 in Forden, Montgomeryshire. According to the "Stemmata Botvilliana" he was the first member of the family to relocate to Church Stretton. Church Stretton is located just 16 miles from Welsh Pool and only 60 miles from Bosworth Field. I believe that John was among the many Welshman who supported Henry Tudor's cause, either in battle or financially. And that for his support John was knighted and awarded a coat of arms by the king.

The Heynes COA is as follows, "Or, on a fesse gules three bezants, in chief a greyhound sable, collared of the second"

Although John Heynes had married an obscure welsh woman, John's son and heir Thomas married into a prominent norman family. Joyce Gatacre, the wife of Thomas Heyens, was the daughter of Humphrey Gatacre, the Esquire of the Body to Henry VI.

Edmund Tudor was the father of Henry VII and the half-brother of Henry VI. In 1453 Henry VI summoned his half-brother to court as the 1st Earl of Richmond. The Honor of Richmond had long been associated with a white greyhound. Edmund Tudor's son Henry VII was the only English king to choose a greyhound as one of his royal supporters.

I believe the marriage of John's son Thomas Heynes to the daughter of a retainer of Henry VI may offer proof that John Heynes had supported Henry Tudor's cause and for his support was awarded a coat of arms. And that John Heynes then placed a greyhound on his coat of arms as a sign of loyalty to Henry VII.