

Chapter 5

Shakespeare & the Swans

We pulled into Stratford-on-Avon on a brisk, breezy morning! This village runs along the River Avon and has lots of quaint shops and eatery's. Our time was short so we headed directly for Shakespeare's House. I must admit that my knowledge of the Bard is minimal....but his house was a real treat to visit. I enjoyed that very much. The English really know how to put together wonderful tours of historic places....and this was no exception. I only wish there had been fewer people (we stood in a long - slow - line!) and that we had had lots more time to browse the displays and see all the items on display from Shakespeare's time. What we did see was fascinating and if you are a Shakespeare-aficionado, it should definitely be on your 'must see list.' Get there early to avoid all those annoying American tourists (!) and be sure to allow time for a paddle boat ride on the Avon!



One really curious thing I learned there - is that all the many swans swimming along so gracefully on the River Avon belong to the Queen! In fact EVERY swan in all of England....belong to the Queen--so don't mess with'em or you'll find yourself tossed into the "Tower!" We came upon a really lovely metal sculpture of several swans - a perfect photo-op as you'll see.

A quick fish & chips and we were on our way again. (Did you know that you have to pay extra for all those little catsup packets in England!! We learned quick not to grab a handful like we do at home at Wendy's!! ;-)

FUNNY (to us, Americans) English ROAD SIGNS. (YOU figure out what they mean!)

- Give Way
- No Hard Shoulders
- Concealed Exit
- Worn out Roads
- Welcome Break
- Blind Summit
- When red light shows - wait here!
- Elderly Crossing
- Motor Way
- Car Park
- Turning Bay

and my personal favorite from our hotel.....Mind Your Head
(I didn't see a chopping block nearby so I felt safe!)

Chapter 6

Our 'cosins' Castle

Cotcha scratchin' your heads on this one, eh? ;-) Well, get out your Big charts.....and right above the coat of arms is.....
"Cousin William!"

The history books tell us that on Christmas Day 1066, William Duke of Normandy was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey. This was some two months after his victory over the Saxon King Harold at the Battle of Hastings. Almost immediately, William ordered the building of fortifications to help secure London, the chief city of his new kingdom. One of these earth-and-timber castles was erected in the south-east corner of the Roman city walls to command the River Thames as well as the city. Over the next few years William and his supporters were engaged in building hundreds more castles, first to conquer, then subdue and finally to colonize the whole of England. Sometime later, by then in full control of England, William determined to transform this simple fort into a massive palace-fortress. A great stone tower castle was built which immediately became known as the Tower of London. It was intended to protect the river route from Danish attack but also and more importantly, to dominate the city physically and visually. It is difficult to appreciate today what an enormous impression the Tower made on the native Londoners.

Cousin William no doubt spent some time here although he kept on the move a lot, spending most of his later years in France. The castle was completed by his son, William Rufus and in later years was encircled by two towered curtain walls and a great moat. (During World War II, the moat was drained and Victory gardens planted in the rich soil. What a neat idea!)



The Tower still dominates the skyline. Colin let us all out of the bus right by the Tower ---turning us loose to do and see what we wanted for a few hours. We scattered in all directions! Several of us crossed the drawbridge to explore William's castle. We had been told not to miss the Crown Jewels which are housed there. We found the long line (it's a very popular attraction) and were pleased to discover that it moved right along. We soon found ourselves enjoying brief video clips on large screens of Elizabeth's coronation as we passed by right into the huge (bank) vault which held all manner of coronation regalia! The silver trumpets to herald the event, jewel encrusted ceremonial swords, gold encrusted robes, the Sovereign's Ring, gold chalices, goblets and salts, an

assortment of spectacular crowns used by various Kings and Queens.....and the Royal Scepter....which nearly stopped me dead in my tracks.....except that I couldn't stop because I was being swept along with the rest of the crowd! The golden scepter---with a diamond set in its top that is the largest cut diamond in

the world, the First Star of Africa weighing some 530 carats! In trying to describe for you something comparable in size to this diamond.....I can only come up with maybe a 100 watt light bulb!! Or maybe a tennis ball although this diamond is pear shaped! It was absolutely stunning.

Coming away from all that brilliance and wealth.....we then stopped by to listen to a guide telling about the chopping block where so many famous folks lost their heads! o my!

One of the most poignant stories was that of Lady Jane Grey who with her husband were both beheaded on the same day. She declined watching his execution from her upper window, stating that she would see him again in just a little while! Oh my!



Chapter 7

Hampton Court

hAMPTON COURT -- the residence of King Henry VIII. Well, some of the time anyhow! Our guide told us that Henry and his court would stay there until the "privies got full," then they'd move on to another of Henry's 60 Royal residences, hunting lodges etc.! Bathrooms then were called "great houses of easement!"

Hampton Court is situated along the River Thames....and depending on the high tides, Henry and his entourage in their elegant barges would sail right up to the dock and disembark.

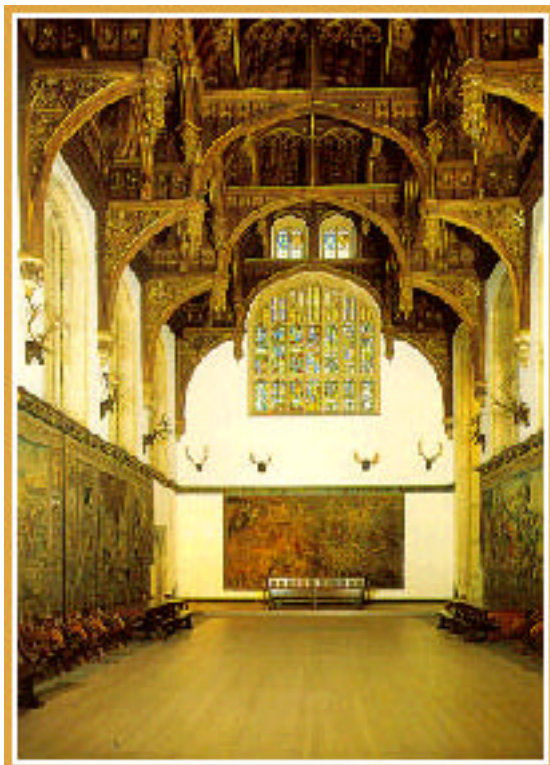


Hampton Court, as you see, is a magnificent palace, one of Henry VIII's favorites since it was away from all the hustle and bustle of London. It originally was the home of Cardinal Woolsey. This was in the time before Copernicus....when everyone thought the sun went around the earth. The palace was the setting for a number of important events in English history. Perhaps most famous was the 1604 Hampton Court Conference which resulted in the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible, published in 1611. Henry VIII spent three of his six honeymoons at Hampton Court.



It has been changed and renovated and many additions made to the buildings and the gardens over the years. We joined a tour of Henry's State Apartments, led by a young fellow dressed as a "gentleman's man" of that era - with a short, broad shouldered, full sleeved coat much like Henry wore....to show strength and toughness and power! And he planted his feet on the ground in an arrogant manner much like the pictures we see of Henry VIII. Oh he was great, this young guide! His velvet cap, his coat and stockings were all black - of imported Italian silk. He welcomed us to Hampton Court with great flourish and a deep bow, telling the hushed group that his name was Sir Guy! "HI GUY!" piped up Gina...one of our Dutton group.....bringing much merriment to the entire tour!

Henry III loved to show off his wealth and style. When Henry VIII was in residence, dinner was served at Hampton Court at about 10 am., to all his aristocratic guests as well as members of the court. He preferred lots of fresh killed meats - lots of venison. These were 'heavy' meals.....hardly any vegetableswhich were considered "peasant food!" Dinner was then topped off with lots of sweets. He loved desserts....especially those made of marzipan. Even the dishes were made of marzipan....and he ate it all! Needless to say, he had bad teeth! And in the end he got fat and even lost the use of his legs. Poor Henry!



The Great Hall is the largest and most impressive room in the palace (106' x 40') and provided a great communal dining room where 600 or so members of the court could eat in two sittings twice a day. It also provided a magnificent entrance to the state apartments which lay beyond. There used to be a pit in the center of the floor where all the meat was cooked....filling that high ceiling with smoke! Hidden up there among the beams was a vent or louvre which let out the smoke! The hall is hung with priceless Flemish tapestries and the ceiling is richly decorated with pendants and royal arms. (I've forgotten now, if any of us spotted the Dutton arms but they were probably there!)

It is well within the realm of probability that our SIR PIERS DUTTON visited Hampton Court. We know that he was knighted by the King. We have copies of the correspondence between Sir Piers and King Henry (Duttons of Dutton - Section V. Sir Piers Dutton of Dutton and Hatton - pgs 23-24) when the Dutton lands were being divided among the various heirs. And there must have been some personal communication between the King and Sir Piers when he was assigned the duties connected with the dissolution of the Catholic Church. Norton Priory, you will remember was closed down at the direction of Sir Piers (see also

Duttons of Dutton) who managed to save the great door which was later installed in his own house! There is nothing left of the Priory today. From a quick check of the internet we learned that there are archaeological digs going on there at the present.

My only further thought on Sir Piers at Hampton - is the great distance he had to travel to get there. No doubt on horseback. I know, I know....they were quite accustomed to that mode of travel.....but it must have taken days. It was a long afternoon's journey....even in our little bus whizzing down the Motorway!

Chapter 8

Odard's Sword

By the year 1615, ODARD'S Sword, which had been handed down from father to son for almost 600 years, was now in the hands of the 18 year old Eleanor, the sole daughter and heir of Thomas Dutton, the last of the Duttons of Dutton. It was a family treasure, even then, and was preserved with great care. Some say Odard had wielded this sword at Senlac, but who knows!

Eleanor married first Gilbert Gerard and after his death became the wife of Robert Nedham, Viscount Kilmorey. Lady Eleanor Viscountess Kilmorey survived both of her husbands, dying in 1665 at the age of 69. (Find this family along the left hand side of the chart about 3/4 down. Some of her descendants are listed in Cope pg. 28. Lady Eleanor & some of her family are buried at Great Budworth Church in the Dutton or Lady Chapel.) I've misplaced an e-mail....I think from Nick Blackhurst, who is quite familiar with these descendants and made the educated guess that if Odard's sword continued to be handed down in more recent times, it would probably be with the Hamilton family today. That family is connected to the ancient manor house of GAWSWORTH HALL, Cheshire. (I believe Colin said he was familiar with the current owners and promised to contact them with a query on this subject! We've sure given Colin a long "to do" list!!)

At any rate, Gawsworth Hall deserves a quick look. It is a magnificent "black and white" wrapped in romance, intrigue and great charm. Here lived Mary Fitton, the possible Dark Lady of Shakespeare's Sonnets. The hall was the subject of the most famous duel in English history. In 1712 Lord Mohun and the Duke of Hamilton fought over the estates and both were killed in a duel in Hyde Park. (Read lots more about THAT story in Duttons of Dutton -

XI. The First Baron of Dutton! pg 64)

The grounds around Gawsworth Hall today have been transformed into an open air theater where the 2000 season includes appearance by Abba, Andy Prior, a Beatles Tribute evening, the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra, and presentations of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Pride and Prejudice and the Barber of Seville. Other special events include a Classic Car Rally, an Antiques Show and the beautiful Christmas Yuletide Season at Gawsworth.

Has ODARD'S SWORD survived for nearly 1000 years....and is it at Gawsworth Hall? Stay tuned....our sleuths are on the job!

Subject: News Flash from our British Correspondent (Colin!)

Just a quick note regarding Gawsworth Hall. We walked around the Hall, it is beautiful, not as big as Arley as quite a lot was demolished in the 1700's, however, there was plenty to see, but alas, no Dutton bits. I asked at the reception in the Hall which was manned by a very official looking lady, she hadn't heard of Odard's Sword, but she advised me that when the Richards were given possession of the Hall in 1962, it was empty and on reading their handbook, Liz discovered that they had been scouring various places to obtain the original artwork and other antiquities that originated in the building as the Title to Gawsworth and everything else was left to Timothy's father by Lord Harrington who's family now reside in Ireland. This lady said that perhaps I should try contacting the Earl as they had had the house for many years.

The handbook said that the Hall was originally in the possession of the Fitton Family. At the end of the Civil War a long legal battle began between Sir Charles Gerard (do you recognize this name?), later the 1st Earl of Macclesfield, and Alexander Fitton over the Gawsworth estates. This was finally settled in 1663 but events came to a head again in 1701 with the death of Fitton Gerard, 3rd Earl of Macclesfield, who left no male heirs.

The estate was left to a niece, Lady Mohun and was contested by another niece, the Duchess of Hamilton. The dispute culminated in a famous duel of 1712 between Lord Mohun and the Duke of Hamilton where both combatants were killed! Lord Harrington bought the estate in 1725 but he kept his main residence at Elvaston Castle near Derby. Lord Harrington had married the 2nd Lady Mohun's daughter, Anne Griffiths, and he purchased the estates at Gawsworth in 1725 following the death of Lady Mohun.



Chapter 9

Sir Christopher Hatton

Christopher Hatton, handsome and tall, first caught the attention of Queen Elizabeth I with his skillful dancing. He had spent several years in a halfhearted study of the law but in 1564 he enrolled as one of the queen's bodyguards. Charming and accomplished, he quickly won her affection and by 1572 had become the captain of her bodyguards. She owed her life to him and he was a loyal protector. She liked his eyes and liked to dance with him! In 1577 he was made vice chamberlain of her household, a privy councilor and a knight. Regularly elected to Parliament from 1571, he became a leading spokesman for Elizabeth in the House of Commons. A commissioner for the trial of Elizabeth's prisoner Mary, Queen of Scots, he would prod Elizabeth's secretary to dispatch the warrant for Mary's execution. He was appointed as lord chancellor in 1587 and despite his lack of extensive legal knowledge, he handled the office competently. In 1588 he was made a Knight of the Garter and chancellor of Oxford University. He was a personal friend of Sir Walter Raleigh.



I was delighted to make the discovery that Sir Christopher was afflicted with the same bug as you and I. He wanted to know more about his ancestors! In 1572 he wrote a letter to Ralph Dutton of Hatton, informing him that he was sending Mr. Laurence Bostok (a local genealogist?) to him and requesting that he be welcomed and shown "suche Auncient Records monuments ensyngnes and escochens as may lead me to such descent of the howse and lyne whereof I myselve am dycended." Apparently Mr. Bostok was well received and the desired "family tree" (with the Dutton connection) was forthcoming. Sir

Christopher must have been pleased with the report for his next correspondence to Ralph Dutton began with "my Lovinge kinseman!" (Next time you visit the Records Room at the British Museum, ask for the Harlein MS, 1500, folio 7 and you will see an elaborate pedigree of Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Chancellor, derived from the Hattons of Hatton, County Chester with a tricking of the crest and arms of 6 quarterings (1 and 6 Dutton) with a crescent for difference! It could very well be the same pedigree that Mr. Bostok put together!)

We get a glimpse of Sir Christopher's compassionate side from a letter he wrote at Hampton Court in 1584 to the Bishop of Chester in which he asked the Bishop to attempt a reconciliation of the marital problems between John Dutton of Dutton and Eleanor, his wife. It's unknown if he was successful in that venture.



In 1583, Sir Christopher built Holdenby Palace, the largest house in Elizabethan England - but he refused to live in the house until the Queen came to visit! Elizabeth showered gifts on him — including

Corfe Castle. It was described at the time as "A very fayre castell" with a gatehouse, a great stone wall and six acres of gardens and walks. (Built originally by Wm the C.) It comes the closest to what one might imagine the legendary Camelot looked like, even in its current state of dignified ruin. Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester and the Queen's favorite also gave him gifts. In 1585, Dudley ordered a special SUIT OF ARMOR from a Greenwich armorer - specially custom made for Christopher!



Corfe Castle

Sir Christopher Hatton never married or had children. At his death, he was buried at Westminster Abbey. We made our way to Westminster on our afternoon in London, hoping to find the memorial to our cousin Christopher. We arrived just as the Evensong service was about to begin. The thrilling sounds of the organ and the sweet voices of the boys choir filled those vaulted ceilings with marvelous music. It was a very special time for us and we enjoyed it immensely. We spoke to the man at the information desk who checked his listings of burials and told us that Sir Christopher's memorial was 'way up there,' about 4 levels above our heads! We did not make it up there.....but we're attempting to contact a Hatton "cousin" who also visited there recently and was allowed to take a picture. We'll share it with the list if we're successful.

What happened to Sir Christopher's suit of armor? (You're gonna love this!)

The scene shifts to Westminster Hall where great coronation banquets were held all those many years ago. Those banquets for George I and II and George IV in 1821 - and perhaps others, included a unique and very dramatic event, the entrance of "The KINGS CHAMPION." A knight on a horse, wearing Sir Christopher Hatton's armor, would ride triumphantly right into the banquet hall, throw down his gauntlet and challenge anyone there to deny the new sovereign his right to the throne! What an incredible moment that must have been! The hushed assembly must have been awed and thrilled!

By 1901, that dramatic ceremony was discontinued and the elegant suit of armor presented to Edward VII. It was then placed on display as part of the Royal Collection in St. George's Hall at WINDSOR CASTLE. And there it remained until November 20, 1991, the 45th wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.



FIRE! Do you remember those horrific scenes on the evening news -- of Windsor Castle on fire? 109 rooms covering an area of 9000 square meters or approximately one-fifth of the Upper Ward of Windsor were damaged or destroyed by a fire which burned 15 hours before it was finally extinguished! It took 250 firefighters from five fire brigades using one and a half million gallons (the equivalent to the amount of water flowing over Niagara Falls every 2-1/2 seconds to put it out!

Yes, St. George's Hall was badly damaged. Was Sir Christopher Hatton's suit of armor reduced to a pile of slag, as one of our cousins suggested? Apparently not! The restoration project that followed the fire was the greatest project undertaken in England in this century. It took five years of intensive work by the finest craftsmen in the country. And Sir Christopher's armor? It stands today - restored and on glorious display on the east balcony of St. George's Hall.

Carole found a web page awhile back, showing a conservator working on the Hatton helmet. This will give you an up-close look at this spectacular piece of family history!! St. George's Hall is one of the most historic rooms in Windsor Castle. Queen Elizabeth gives State Banquets here. For six centuries it has been associated with the Order of the Garter and the great vaulted ceiling holds the coat of arms of all those who have been given that honor, including Sir Christopher. In another picture you'll get an idea of the size of this room with all the knights armor -- with their long lances -- standing along the walls. It's small in this picture but look at the balcony on the far end wall and you'll see Sir Christopher's armor mounted triumphantly on his steed! (with some sort of circle and sunburst on the wall behind him.) We're hoping to get a picture soon that shows this closer - and with more detail. For the moment, this one will have to do. Time was short when we arrived at Windsor Castle. Some of us made it inside for a quick tour...others of us found the neatest little sandwich shop called The Crooked House! It was built in 1718.....of unseasoned or green wood.....and it soon developed a noticeable 'lean!' I had to chuckle at the front door....cut with strange angles....to fit the jam!



Windsor Castle is vast! It goes on for blocks and blocks!! You'll see the best view here....with Queen Victoria standing grandly out front! Yes it even has a moat!

You'll remember that when the Dutton estates were divided between the heirs in 1534....that Sir Piers Dutton became Sir Piers.....of Dutton and Hatton! I haven't figured out the earliest Dutton-Hatton connection just yet (it's not on the chart). The 1580 Visitation book shows Sir Christopher in a brief 5 generational chart, going back to Peter Hatton of Kirstybirches, Cheshire. It also shows a different Peter Hatton who married Alice Dutton, the daughter. of Peter Dutton....but the dates would make them cousins. We're missing some data.

If I could only talk to Laurence Bostok.....he'd straighten us out! <grin>

READ MORE ABOUT IT --

Duttons of Dutton.....IX - Sir Christopher Hatton and the Duttons - pg. 41. "Neither Fire Nor Steel - Sir Christopher Hatton" by Alice Gilmore Vines. (I haven't seen a copy of this yet....if you have - tell me about it!) "The Armour of Sir Christopher Hatton, the Dymoke Suit" - G. F. Loking Connoisseur, 1902. "The Visitation of Cheshire in the year 1580," see pg 115 for a brief Hatton family tree.



The Crooked House

Next time you're in London, you might want to stop by that traditional English Ale house, "The Sir Christopher Hatton." You'll find it at 4 Leather Lane. From the internet.....order your Sir Christopher Hatton towels from Hatton Textiles in Exeter!! Custom designed jacquards in all sizes and colors.....this summer's special, the Sydney Olympics Towel!

Enuf fun for today. Next time we'll head to Gloucestershire to visit Sherborne House and the amazing Lodge Park! (This one gives a whole new meaning to the word 'grandstand!')

See 'ya' there.....Phyllis

Chapter 10

Sherborne Hall



Cet comfortable---this is going to be a long one! <grin> This chapter begins with THOMAS DUTTON, the first owner of the Sherborne estate. Get out your BIG chart and find him on the RIGHT hand side...about 2 inches below the half-way down mark. (Sort of opposite Sir Piers who is on the left side.) (I've yellow hi-lighted some of these special fellows on my own chart - or else I can't find them again the next time I look!)

What we have learned about Thomas and how he acquired land at Sherborne comes mostly from the little booklet we purchased during our visit there. It includes a reprint of two articles in *Country Life*, March 13 and 20, 1986 written by Clive Aslet and tells us that.....

"Thomas purchased the estate from Christopher Alleyn in 1551. He was the heir of Sir John Alleyn, a merchant who was twice Lord Mayor of London. Sir John Alleyn's interest in Sherborne was in the form of a lease granted by the Abbot of Winchcombe in 1533, Sherborne being the monastery's largest estate. The lease was clearly a ruse by the desperate Abbot to pre-empt the effects of the Dissolution of the Monasteries." The resulting confusion would involve Thomas Dutton in a long legal wrangle—a prominent feature of Tudor landownership.

The Elizabethan splendor of the great mansion which we see today is the result of a series of renovations and additions over many years. During the large scale rebuilding in the 1820's, some of the family papers, charters, deeds, etc. were entrusted to the vicar of Windrush for safekeeping. Unfortunately, "he burned those of an ecclesiastical nature in case they were put to base uses....and a servant seems to have disposed of the others to whomever would buy them! The village shoemaker was discovered cutting up ancient parchments and black letter folios as patterns for shoes!" So much for some of the early family archives!

Whatever the first hall looked like, it was there that Thomas entertained Elizabeth I for six days in 1574. Even then it must have been of substantial size and importance - and the Sherborne staff must have been equal to the care and feeding of the great number of people that would have traveled with Elizabeth. It must have been a glittering affair....and quite an 'event' for the local folks! It was not the only time this elegant house would entertain royalty. Elizabeth I would visit there a second time, as well as George III in 1788. The family seemed to get on well with the royals. The family collection in the possession of young Byron Hadley includes correspondence with Queen Victoria, Queen Alexandra and King Edward. James, the 1st Lord Sherborne was present at 3 coronations and John, 2nd Lord Sherborne became master of the House of Lords.

You can follow the line of descent on your BIG chart beginning with Thomas Dutton, to his son William Dutton, then to his oldest son John "Crump" Dutton who had no sons....so then to his brother

Ralph Dutton and to his son William Dutton and to his son Sir Ralph, then to his son Sir John, who died without issue. The line then jumped to the son of his sister Anne who was James Lenox Naper (who then added the name Dutton to his own.) His son James became the 1st Baron of Sherborne, and his son John was then the 2nd Baron of Sherborne.

From young Byron Hadley we learned that the line continued to James the 3rd Baron....to Edward the 4th Baron.....to Frederick the 5th Baron.....to James the 6th Baron....and finally to Charles the 7th Baron who died in 1983, thus bringing to a close the male line of the Barons of Sherborne. Charles the 7th Baron had a sister Julia....who took a liking to little Byron and told him many stories about the family and Sherborne Hall....and at her death in 1986, bequeathed to him a collection of books and pictures and documents on the family. He has become something of a 'walking family historian' and is quick - and competent - to tell you about any of the Duttons you inquire about! He reminds me of some of our American teenagers who are DEEP into stamp collecting....or sports.....or Nintendo! He "eats and sleeps" his love for Sherborne Hall and the Dutton family - not a bad thing for those of us who are gathering details on the family history! One expects that his interests will widen as he gets older and discovers cars and girls!! (He developed quite a crush on one of our younger tour members!) Byron and I have had lively e-mail exchanges since I returned.

One of the more colorful members of the family that he described to me was a recent Lady Sherborne who bought an airplane...learned to fly and was often a flying companion of Lucy Faulkner, an early English (female!) aviator! The land holdings of this Dutton branch grew to immense proportions...both by purchase and by dowries from judicious marriages until by the 1870's it included pieces of the following: Sherborne, Windrush, Aldsworth, Northleach, Eastington, Bibury, Coln St. Rogers, Coln St. Aldwyns, Clapton on the Hill, Haycroft, Turkdean, Standish, Twigworth, Coberley, Rissington, Bourton on the Water, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Ablington, Barnsley Park, Hinton Ampner and Harley Mauditt in Hampshire, Kingley near Alton, Timbsury in Southampton, Michelmersh near Romsey, Bedhampton near Havant, Wootton Courtney, Oxford in Oxfordshire, Randwick, Aschurch, Bramdean, Moreton Valence and Charlton Park in Malmesbury. An enormous estate/empire - no matter how you look at it! Income was derived from rents, timber, wool (sheep EVERYwhere!), quarrying rights, and farm income among other sources.



Sherborne Hall commands magnificent views over open countryside in all directions. If you and your lady had visited there 200 years ago, you would have entered the great hall, your lady being invited into the great parlor on the right....and you would have joined the gentlemen having a drink and a smoke in the Horse Parlor off to the left! The walls there were covered with paintings of favorite horses...and hunt scenes. Guy-stuff, you know!

Parts of the estate were sold over the years. The last Lord of Sherborne made his home in nearby Lodge Park (the hunting lodge connected with Sherborne) and the great hall was taken over for a time by a group best described as a "hippie commune." Some of the transient members who lived there during the 60's included a few pop singers as well as Sean Connery (!) whose son Jason attended a local school. Even Byron's mother joined the group at some point! By the 1970's however, Sherborne was sold out of the family and has since been turned into 35 very posh (read that pricey) flats. The parking lot had a nice collection of Mercedes, Jaguars and a Bentley or two! Of course, we couldn't see any of those private apartments, but one of the tenants was kind enough to show us through the main Hall and those areas that we could visit. What we did see was very impressive—just what you'd expect! I liked the very large, gorgeous, fresh, English flower arrangement on a table in the center of the entry hall -- no doubt assembled and placed there by the single gardener who looks after the 13 acres of grounds immediately surrounding Sherborne. You'll see some of his work in the flower beds in the pictures.

We visited the stables---a long and elegant building with a courtyard enjoyed by the current tenants. The horse 'grooms' were housed upstairs in the early days. In more recent times the stables held an assortment of carriages which were sold to a movie production company....and probably are stored to this day in a movie "prop" building somewhere! The stables were much damaged during WWII.

Other buildings on the property hold an Olympic sized swimming pool, a sauna and a full complement of exercise equipment for the use of the tenants.



One of my favorite spots was the L'Orangerie....with it's gardens and pond (above). I could spend a lot of time there! Along one of the walkways, nearly hidden by the flowering vines climbing the wall....were memorials to several of the family's favorite hunting dogs— faithful to the end!

As you will see in the pictures, there is a chapel on the property, placed unusually close to the Hall itself. The Duttons of Sherborne were never a very religious family and the first chapel on the property was used as an art studio and gallery for a time before it was pulled down! It was rebuilt in 1855 and is still a functioning church today. It holds many memorials to the various Duttons, placed in the walls and sitting around the sanctuary. The Dutton coat of arms can be found on many of them.

The tiny spiral stairway up to the churches bell tower was too much of a challenge and several of our group started the climb! Up and up they went.....found nothing but cobwebs at the top.....not even a window to survey the countryside.....so they came back down.....huffing and puffing and nursing sore leg muscles! Ah well.



I, on the other hand, couldn't resist the graveyard just outside in the churchyard. Burial grounds are some of my favorite places and this one was a classic. Ancient tombstones and crypts, covered with lichen and ivy, marking the resting places of some of our earliest 'cousins.' It was marvelous! I found a great epitaph for my collection also"Her eyes closed at page 31 of the Book of Life."

Byron showed us the special Dutton crypt inside an iron fence where, underneath a great slab of cement and down some stairs, are buried many of the earliest Duttons---their coffins placed on a shelf along the wall. The First Baron of Sherborne who died in 1820 is buried here, his coffin draped with crimson velvet and adorned with "Glory and Urn, 12 cherubs and 3000 brass nails."

No we didn't go down there!



I know you'll enjoy seeing a marvelous painting which hangs in Sherborne's Lodge Park. It is entitled THE DUTTON FAMILY PLAYING BACKGAMMON. Please keep in mind that this is the sharing of a family picture among family members.....and NOT for profit...and NOT for publication other than to add to our own personal collections. Under those conditions, there are no copyright issues.



We were quite thrilled with our visit to Sherborne Hall.....but there was lots more to come. A quick ride a few miles up the country road brought us to Lodge Park...Sherborne's hunting lodge. For me this was one of the most amazing highlights of our whole trip. Since this chapter is so long, I've split it in half and you'll read all about Lodge Park in Chapter 11.

Meanwhile....look what I just found in "Duttons of Dutton"..... (Top of page 162...list of items found in the British Museum) 'Pedigrees of English Nobility' (Harl. MS. 1417). Fol. 33b gives a Dutton pedigree from Hugh de Dutton down to Hugh Dutton who married Jane, daughter of sir William Bothe. Fifteen generations without dates; THE NAMES DISPLAYED WITHIN CIRCLES." Could this be our Circle chart?? Or could there be a different one that also uses Circles?? As usual...more questions than answers! ;-)

(FYI - Cope mentions the Sherborne branch of the Dutton family in the notes on page 24.)