

Charlotte's Heraldic Plates

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Heraldry is an extensive and complicated subject. Three of my grandchildren and one of their spouses gave me for Christmas a copy of *Simple Heraldry*. Published in 1978 the authenticity of the work (and perhaps the complexity of the subject matter!) are indicated by the grandeur of the authors' titles: **Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk BT., O.S.T.J., PH.D., F.S.A., Advocate, Albany Herald of Arms and Don Pottinger, O.S.T.I., M.A.(Hons), D.A Unicorn Pursuivant of Arms**. Nevertheless, the book tells us that the component parts of a full 'achievement' are correctly called, from the top down, the Crest, the Helmet, the Mantling, the Coat of Arms, and the Motto. Some have Supporters on either side and Supporters stand on a mound called a Compartment. Not all Coats of Arms have all components.

Over time variations creep in but as far as we can deduce the coat of arms shown here (1) as Cobbold are pretty much what the original family arms looked like. The Mantling appears above the helmet whereas it should perhaps be below.

Charlotte Bampton née Cobbold (1817-1914) #141, a daughter of **John Wilkinson Cobbold** and **Harriet Chevallier** was an accomplished artist with a leaning towards family history, who recorded the marriages of seven of one of her brothers and six sisters on plates. In the language of heraldry, a union is called 'impaling' and is indicated by a vertical line down the centre of the shield ('per pale'). As we look at it, the husband's coat is always on the left (dexter or baron) and the wife's father's coat on the right (sinister or femme).

In 1827 **John Chevallier Cobbold (1797-1882) #114** married **Lucy Patteson (1800-1879) #115**

In 1832 **Katherine Georgiana Cobbold (1806-1885) #125** married **Rev. William Charles Fonnereau (1806-1855) #126**

In 1833 **Emily Cobbold (1809-1902) #129** married **George Read Dixon (1808-1839) #130**

In 1835 **Harriet Anne Cobbold (1811-1864) #132** married (secondly) **Edward Hanbury (1808-1850) #133**

In 1842 **Agnes Cobbold (1807-1895) #127** married **Rear-Admiral Frederick Chevallier Syer (1799-1874) #128**

In 1843 **Jane Octavia Cobbold (1819-1888) #143** married **Rev. O Thomas Preston (1817-1897) #144**

In 1855 **Harriet Anne Cobbold (1811-1864)** #132 married (thirdly) **Borlase Hill Adams (1817-1885)** #135

Charlotte had another eight brothers and sisters and we have some unidentified heraldic plates but to date we have failed to find more matches.

Footnote: Having consulted the family's classical scholar, we believe the original motto was 'Repungo' being translated as 'Prick back' (holly leaves) suggesting a defensive stance. It is thought to have been changed to 'Repugno' in Victorian times translated as 'Fight back' or 'Retaliate' to give an altogether more aggressive feel.

Anthony Cobbold