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Genealogy Notes - Blanton Family

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Notes from Gordon Gill, London, England.

The Blantons were a Lancashire family and the arms ascribed to them date back to 1558. Queen Elizabeth awarded them to John Blanton of Lancashire for bravery. The tradition is that Blanton is an early (about 15th century) corruption of the ancient Scotch name Ballentine, thus Ballentine, Blanten, Blantun, Blanton.

I find reference of this family in two old manuscripts dated 1459, and one earlier. All of the standard heraldic authorities record two coats of arms for Blantons, viz: (1) Blanton (Lancashire) Argent on a bend sable, three lions rampant (another guard) of the field, and (2) Blanton (Lancashire) Argent a bend sable.

The fact of the arms being recorded and of Lancashire, clearly shows that the family was of consequence at that early day.

Arms dating back to time of Queen Elizabeth in 1558.

In 1574 Queen Elizabeth awarded a coat of arms to John Blanton for bravery. He lived in Lancashire, England.

Printed and manuscript records of the County of Lancashire, of the 16th century, give two coats of arms for "Blanton of Lancashire" and Robert Glover, Somerset Herald from A.D. 1571 to 1588, includes in his ordinary of arms two coats for Blanton of Lancashire, as sketched at the head hereof. The simplicity of the first coat points to great antiquity. The 2nd coat is of later date and adopted by a descendant of the family bearing the first coat.

The bearing of such coats at such a period clearly denotes that the family then occupied a position of consequence - for the Heralds of that day exercised great vigilance in preventing unauthorized bearing of arms, and possessed considerable prowess which they did not hesitate to employ as occasion required.

The absence of this name in later records indicates that the family left England during the late 16th or early 17th century, and the Virginia records show that Blantons were living in Stafford County, Virginia, in 1662.

By Mrs. Egbert Jones.
Holly, Miss.

*By Mrs. Egbert Jones
Holly, Miss.*