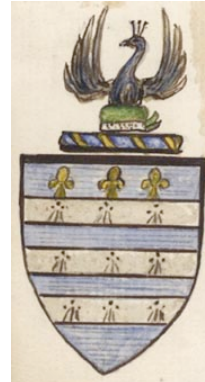


DENNE

of Denne Hill, Kent



Denne: ancient arms Thomas Denne, 1589

Ancient arms: azure, three leopards' heads affrontée, coupée at the neck, or.

Arms (for Thomas Denne of Adisham, 1589):

Azure three bars ermine in chief, as many fleur-de-lis or.¹

Crest: on a chapeau vert turned up ermine a demi-peacock, wings expanded and elevated pp.

- A. **Robert de Dene** 'was believed to be a Norman of a family established in Kent before the Conquest, who held large estates in Sussex and Kent, as well as in the Duchy, and was 'pincerna' or butler to Edward the Confessor'; he was succeeded by:
- B. **Robert de Dene**, who was father of:
- C. **Ralph de Dene**, living in the time of William the Conqueror; landowner at Romney Marsh in Kent and in Sussex as lord of the manors of Buckhurst, Chaverham, Chalvington (near Lewes), Buggeley, Horsey, and Omleford, and founder of the Premonstratensian abbey of St Mary and St Laurence, Otham, in the parish of Hailsham, 1182. He married **Sybella de Gatton**, sister of Robert de Gatton (Inquisition Post Mortem 1264, C 132 30/16), and had a son, Robert, his heir, and a daughter and co-heir:
- D1. El[is]a de Dene, m. firstly c. 1176 Sir Jordan Sackville, ancestor of the dukes of Dorset and lords Sackville,² whose family through her became possessed of property, including 'a well-built dwelling house', in Bayham (see Inquisition post mortem, 1273/4: C133/8/7); she m. secondly William de Marci. Ella, who inherited by will from her father Buckhurst and other estates in Sussex, in her widowhood endowed Bayham Abbey, near Lamberhurst, and as patroness, gave leave for the transference of the canons from Otham, founded by her father Ralph, to Bayham, 1207.
- D2. **Robert de Dene**, inherited the Kentish estates; gave his manor of Tilton in Selmeaton to augment the endowments of Bayham Abbey. He married and had with two daughters, Alice, who further endowed Bayham Abbey, and Agnes, wife of — de Icklisham, a son:
- E. **William de Denn**, the first of Denn Hill, in the Parish of Kingston on Barham Downs, East Kent, b. in the late 12th century, was s. by his son:
- F. **Sir Alured de Denn**, of Denn Hill, 'a person of great learning', seneschal of Christchurch Priory, Canterbury, and Escheator of Kent *anno* 1234, who was appointed by Henry VII to enforce, in conjunction with Sir Henry de Bath, the laws of Romney Marsh; used a seal with three leopards' heads; b. c. 1185; d. after 1256, when he was s. by his son,
- G. **Walter Denne**, of Denne Hill, living in 1256, whose son, another,
- H. **Walter Denne**, of Denne Hill, alive in the 9th Edward I [1281], enfeoffed of lands in Denne, was father of,

¹ Sir Bernard Burke, *The General Armory*, 1884

² Charles J. Phillips, *History of the Sackville Family*, 1930. A roll in Dorset papers gives Ella as co-heiress with her sister or niece Sybella. A Thomas Denne occurs on various Canterbury Cathedral charters, c. 1200 (CCA-DCC-ChAnt/A/123-6).

- I. **John Denne**, of Denne Hill, living in 1308, who was s. by his son,
- J. **Sir William Denne**, knt. of Denne Hill, who sat in Parliament for the city of Canterbury 19 Edward II [1325/6] and for the county of Kent in the 14th of the following reign [1340/1]. Sir William married **Elizabeth**, daughter and co-heir of **Hamo de Gatton**, of Boughton and Wormshill, Kent, sheriff of Kent 14 Ed. I (Inquisition Post Mortem, 1299, C 133/98/31), by his wife **Margaret**, and left a son and successor,
- K. **Richard Denne**, of Denne, living 1392/3, who m. **Agnes**, daughter of — **Apulderfield**, of Challock,³ Kent, and had four sons, **Thomas**, Michael, John, and Robert, of whom the eldest,
- L. **Thomas Denne**, of Denne Hill, m. **Isabel**, daughter and heir of **Robert de Earde**, and had (with a younger son, Thomas, who died without issue in 1468), his successor,
- M. **John Denne**, of Denne Hill, who m. **Alice**, daughter of **Richard Arderne**, and had issue,
 N1. **Michael**, his heir, who follows.
 N2. Thomas, of Kingston, who m. Agnes, daughter of William Eshehurst, and had an only daughter and heiress,
 O1. Avis, m. to John Crispe, of Quicks, in the Isle of Thanet.
 N3. Parnell, m. to William Keale.
 The elder son,
- N1. **Michael Denne**, of Denne Hill, living in the reigns of Edward IV and Henry VII [1461-1483 and 1485-1509], 'being descended by the marriages of his ancestors from the families of Apulderfield, Earde, Arderne, and Combe, among others, whose posterity spread in several branches resident not only in Canterbury and the several neighbouring parishes, but in West Kent likewise',⁴ married **Christiana Coombe**, of Lymne, her father's co-heiress, and had issue,
 O1. **Thomas**, his heir, who follows.
 O2. William, of Tilmanstone; b. Kingston c. 1470; will dated 13 Jun 1524; had sons Thomas, John, Edward and James, and daughters Helene, Crystane and Johane.
 P1. James Denne, of Tilmanstone, m. and bur. Tilmanstone (will dated 23 Aug 1557); his sons were Peter, John, William and Thomas, and his daughters were Julyan and Cyselly.
 Q1. William Denne, m. St Andrew's, Tilmanstone, 14 Dec 1570, Margaret Harvey (the manors of Great and Little Barville in Tilmanstone had belonged to the Harvey family to 1518; several branches of the family adopted the coat of arms of their female ancestor Awstyn, the same as those of Jane Austen's family); and was bur. Tilmanstone 1 Jun 1599, leaving sons Thomas and Vincent and daughters Mary, Elizabeth, Martha (m. 1576 Samuel Pittock) and Sara.
 O3. John, of Lymne, Kent, who m. and had four sons, viz.:
 P1. Michael, of Lymne, who d. in 1559, leaving issue, Henry, principal of New Inn Hall, Oxford, and Edmund.
 P2. Henry, mentioned in his brother Michael's will.
 P3. John, m. and had issue.
 P4. Peter, m. and had issue.
 O4. Isabella, m. to Simon Quilter.
 The eldest son,
 O1. **Thomas Denne**, of Denne Hill, m. firstly **Alice**, dau. of John **Eshehurst**, of Beaver, in Ashford, Kent, and by her had three sons:
 P1. Thomas, of Denne Hill, who m. Alicia (unm. 1499), daughter of Thomas Mett, and left issue, ancestor of the Dennes of Denne Hill, whose male line became extinct in the 17th century.
 P2. James Denne (third son), of Marley, Kent, m. Agnes, and d. at Kingston 1574, leaving issue.
 P3. **William Denne**, of Kingston, in Kent, b. c. 1402; received the manor of Bursted from his father; m. c. 1533 **Agnes** (d. 1588), daughter of **Nicholas Tufton** (b. c. 1475; d. c. 1 Dec 1538), of Tufton in Northiam, Sussex, grandfather of John Tufton, 1st baronet (cr. 1611; and great-grandfather of Nicholas Tufton, created

³ 'This ancient family,' says Philpot, 'descended from Henry de Apuldrefield, of Apuldrefield, in Coudham, who was in the catalogue of those eminent Kentish gentlemen who were engaged with Richard I at the siege of Acre, in Palestine.'

⁴ 'Parishes: Kingston', *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 9* (1800), pp. 338-349.

the first Baron Tufton of Tufton 1626 and first Earl of Thanet 1628), by **Margaret** (b. Cranbrook c. 1477; d. Northiam, Sussex, 1538), dau. and heiress of **John Hever**, of Cranbrook (whose arms, *gules, a cross argent*, with label, were born by Nicholas Tufton), and was bur. Kingston 21 Oct 1572 and by his will, proved at Canterbury, by John Coppyn, and Sir Henry Crisp, trustees, devised property at Adisham, Well, and Beaksbourne, to his second son, **Thomas Denne**, having by her had issue:

Q1. **Vincent Denne**, of Kingston, b. c. 1534; educ. All Souls' College, Oxon, BCL 1555, DCL 1569, fellow, LL.D.; official of Canterbury commn. by Archbishop Parker as Commissary-Gen. 1563; b. 1526; m. St Andrew's, Canterbury (where he was churchwarden 1567), 14 Jan 1565, **Joanna Kittall** (b. c. 1544; bur. Kingstone 4 May 1611; will pr. 8 May), 'of London', and he was bur. Kingstone 23 Sept 1591 (will dated 16 Jul 1591), leaving issue (mostly baptised at St Giles's, Kingstone, 1573–88):

R1. John Denne, barrister of Gray's Inn; m. Lucy, dau. of Walter Ayleworth, of St Stephen's, and had issue: Joan (youngest dau.), m. Henry Johnson, and Vincent (d.s.p.), Walter (d.s.p.), Joanna, Lucy and Anna.

R2. William Denne, of Kingston and of Burstead, Bishopsbourne, ancestor of the Dennes of Elbridge, whose male line became extinct c. 1850; he was bapt. St Andrew's, Canterbury, 13 Jan 1570; m. St Mary's, Rolvenden, 19 Apr 1596 Gilliam [?Julian] Maplesden, widow (b. Benenden ?c. 1571; bur St Mary's, Bishopsbourne, 12 Nov 1621), dau. of Edward Maplesden, and had issue, three sons and four daughters:

S1. Thomas Denne, second son, of Chislet Court, b. in Bishopsbourne on 7 Jun 1604; m. Staple, Kent, on 13 Oct 1628 Mary Franklyn (b. Goodnestone 1607; buried Bishopsbourne 23 Mar 1686); he was buried Bishopsbourne on 30 May 1681, leaving five sons and three daughters:

T1. John Denne of Littlebourne, b. Bishopsbourne 1645; married Bishopsbourne, Elizabeth Clifford (b. c. 1645; buried Littlebourne on 29 Jan 1698); he was buried Littlebourne on 16 Apr 1690, leaving four sons and two daughters:

U1. Thomas Denne of Littlebourne, second son, was baptised Littlebourne 5 Apr 1670; m. St Mary Bredin, Canterbury, on 21 Jan 1694 Mary Cousins (b. Canterbury 1670; buried Chislet on 16 May 1731); he was buried in Chislet on 29 May 1741, having had five sons and two daus:

V1. David Denne, sixth child, bapt Stodmarsh, Kent, 19 Dec 1704; m. Chislet 7 Feb 1736 Ann (b. Chislet 28 Dec 1708; d. Chislet 12 Jul 1780), dau of Rev William Young by his wife Anne Ayling; he d. Chislet Court 3 Oct 1772, having had as his sixth child:

W1. Sarah Denne, b. Chislet Court, bapt Chislet 27 Nov 1744; m. as her first husband Austin Neame (bapt. Littlebourne 29 Jun 1749; d.s.p. 1 Dec 1813); she m. 2nd John Wood, and d. Chislet 23 Dec 1835. See sub Neame.

R3. Thomas Denne, of St Asphege, Canterbury, Recorder of Canterbury; bapt. Kingston 26 Sept 1574; m. Lenham 28 Jan 1614 Susan Honeywood (b. 1584), dau. and co-heir of Arthur Honeywood, of Lenham (see Visitation, 1619), by Eliza, dau. of John Spencer, of Chard, and d. possessed of Denne Hill 1655, leaving:

S1. Mary Denne (d. 1701), dau. and co-heiress of the senior line of Thomas Denne, of Denne Hill; m. Vincent Denne, of Denne Hill, Recorder of Canterbury, Sergeant-at-Law, MP (he d.s.p.m. 1693, aged 65), and d. leaving four daus as co-heiresses:

T1. Dorothy Denne, heiress of Wenderton; m. Thomas Girder.

- T2. Mary Denne, bapt St George's, Canterbury, on 3 Jan 1659; married in St Mary's Bredin, Canterbury, on 1 Oct 1695, Stephen Nethersole, of Nethersole, son of Vincent Nethersole by Elizabeth Denne (see below); she died Womenswold in Mar 1711, aged 52.
- T3. Honeywood Denne, heiress of Tarmested; m. Gilbert Knowles.
- T4. Bridget Denne, heiress of Denne Hill; m. Robert Beake, who d. possessed of Denne Hill having acquired the interests of his sisters-in-law in 1701, and had:
- U1.-3. Thomas, Robert and William Beake, who in 1725 sold Denne Hill to Lady Hester Gray, wife of Sir James Grey Bt.
- S2. Elizabeth Denne, m. Canterbury on 13 May 1661 her cousin Vincent Nethersole (born Womenswold 29 Jun 1628; d. there Jun 1673), of Nethersole House, and died Womenswold Jun 1709.
- S3. Other issue (at 1663), William and John.
- R4. **Elizabeth Denne**, b. Kingstone, 1566; who m. her cousin 3 Jun 1588 **Vincent Nethersole**, of Nethersole House (b. Kingstone 1563/4; d. Womenswold Jun 1602), son of **Vincent Nethersole** by **Sylvester Ladd**; she d. Womenswold Sept 1637, having had issue:
- S1. **Elizabeth Nethersole**, b. Womenswold 10 Oct 1592; m. Womenswold 27 Jul 1612 **Robert Austen**, of Adisham, Kent (b. 13 Apr 1583); and her ?will proved C.C. 1629, having had:
- T1. **Bennett Austen**, b. Adisham, 1622; m. Adisham, 16 Sept 1648 **Thomas Neame** (b. 1626; d. Rowling 1664), and d. 26 Nov 1677. For issue, see *sub* Neame.
- R5. Jane Denne, m. William Denne of Bishopsbourne.
- R6. Henry Denne, of London and Dane House, d. 1613.
- R7. Vincent Denne, bapt Kingston 23 Apr 1581.
- Q2. **Thomas Denne**, a bencher of Lincoln's Inn in 1590, m. **Jane**, daughter of **John Swift**, of Essex and London, and had (with several younger children, for whom see Visitation):
- R1. Henry Denne, of Adisham, a civilian and bencher of Lincoln's Inn, living at time of the Visitation in 1619; he was b. Adisham 1574; m. c. 1600 Mary (b. 1579; d. Adisham 1623), daughter of John Hyde, of London, and had an only child, Helen or Elinor, who d. unmarried in 1669.
- R2. **John Denne**, baptized at Beaksbourne 6th July, 1578, living in 1619 at the visitation of Kent, was of Patricksborne Court Lodge, Kent. He m. Willesborough 13 Oct 1608 ?**Elizabeth**, dau. of **Robert Master** and left:
- S1. **John Denne**, of Court Lodge, Patricksbourne, b. in 1619; m. **Elizabeth** (born Worth, Kent, in 1628; and was bur. Patrixbourne on 16 Nov 1680); and he d. in 1690, and was buried at Patrixbourne, leaving with three sons, and a daughter:
- T1. **Jane Denne**, b. 1650 in Patrixbourne, Kent; m. at St Margaret's, Womenswold, Kent, 6 Jun 1672 **Laurance Neame**, (b. Fordwich, Nonington, Kent 16 Dec 1636; died Fordwich (Kent), buried 5 Nov 1692), and she d. Fordwich before 1692. For issue see *sub* Neame.
- T2. Nicholas Denne, b. 1655; was bur. Patrixbourne, 12 Nov 1732.
- T3. Elizabeth Denne, born in Worth 1661; m. Patrixbourne 23 Sep 1680 Ralph Philpot (b. Worth 1654; d. Worth 11 Nov 1704); and she was buried Worth on 5 Apr 1754.
- T4. David Denne, b. 1662; m. Sarah Osborne (b. Bishopsbourne 1675).
- S2. William Denne, baptized at Adisham, the residence of his grandfather, in 1620; m. Katherine Philpot; and was bur. Holy Cross, Canterbury, Oct 1661.
- S3. Elizabeth Denne, b. 1624.
- R3. William, of Bishopsbourne, who m. his cousin Jane, daughter of Vincent Denne, LL.D. and d. in 1616, leaving issue.

- Q3. Mary, m. 1st John Coppin, of Deal, and m. 2nd Thomas Boys, of Eythorne.
Q4. Catherine, m. to Thomas Gookin, of Ripple Court, Kent, son of Thomas Goolkyn, of Bekesbourne, Kent (died in 1599), and had ten children.
Q5. James, of Marley, who d. at Kingston 1574, leaving issue, by Agnes his wife.

Thomas Denne married secondly Margaret Naishe and by her had four children:

- P4. Christopher Denne.
P5. Michael Denne. ~~m. Alice Nethersole (bapt 5 Nov 1598).~~
P6. David Denne.
P7. Agnes A'Denne, born in 1520 at Barham, Kent; married Adisham 1536 or 1538 Richard Austen, of Adisham, Kent (born Wickhambreaux, Kent, c.1512); and died at Adisham (buried 29 March 1588). For issue, see *sub* Austen.

Sources

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The Visitation of Kent taken in the years 1619-21, R. Hovenden (ed.), Harleian Soc., vol. 42, 1898