



# ARCHIVING ANCESTRY

## A silver tankard with a Waterloo connexion

*for a client in New Jersey, U.S.A.*



*Hallmarked for London, 1721, the tankard was acquired at auction with a speculative attribution to 'the family of the Duke of Wellington'. The principal identifying feature is an engraved crest on the body, well worn, but still with sufficient detail to facilitate identification. The most obvious characteristics are five lions on a cross, between four displayed eagles. The shield of Arms is surmounted by a coronet and a crest (now virtually indecipherable), and the supporters, drawn almost dog-like, are each gorged with a coronet.*

☞ The Arms, like most simple coats, are easily identified; they belong to the Paget family 'of Staffordshire'. In the form depicted on the tankard, they were granted to William Paget (c. 1506–63), son of William Paget 'of Wednesbury, Staffordshire, of humble beginnings'. The younger Paget was educated in Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and the University of Paris, rising in due course to a series of government posts. Described as 'of Bromley, County Stafford', he was knighted in January 1544, installed as a knight of the Order of the Garter on 17th February 1547, and became 'Baron Paget of Beaudesert in the County of Staffordshire' on 3rd December 1549.

☞ William Paget married Anne Preston c. 1530 and had ten children.<sup>[1]</sup> His later career was mired in controversy, and he was 'degraded' from the Order of the Garter in September 1552 only to be re-admitted a year later (replacing the attainted Earl of Essex).

☞ The Paget Arms and title descended to his eldest son Henry, and then on his death intestate to the next son Thomas (c. 1544–90). Thomas was involved in pro-Catholic plots to depose Elizabeth I in favour of Mary, Queen of Scots, and was duly attainted in March 1587. However, the peerage was restored by Mary's son, James VI of Scotland (James I of England), on 19th March 1604.

☞ William, fifth Lord Paget, fought for Charles I at the battle of Edgehill (1642); the sixth lord, also William Paget (1637–1713), supported the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688, the overthrow of Catholic James II in favour of William of Orange and Mary Stuart. William Paget was succeeded on his death by his son Henry (c. 1665–1743), who had been raised to the peerage in his own right in 1712 as 'Baron Burton' and who was to become Earl of Uxbridge in 1714. The titles descended directly to Henry's grandson Henry (born in 1719) owing to the prior death of his son, essayist Thomas Catesby Paget. But Henry, eighth Baron Paget, second Baron Burton and second Earl of Uxbridge, died unmarried on 16th November 1769. The Burton and Uxbridge titles were duly extinguished, but the Paget barony passed to its heir-general Henry Bayly of Plasnewydd (1744–1812). Bayly, a cousin of the eighth baron, duly assumed the Arms and the surname 'Paget' by a Royal licence dated 29th January 1770; the Bayly Arms were abandoned.<sup>[2]</sup> The earldom of Uxbridge was then resurrected by a new grant on 19th May 1784.

☞ The eldest son of Henry Bayly, known from 1770 as Henry William Paget, became ninth Baron Paget and the second 'new' Earl of Uxbridge on his father's death in 1812. The ninth baron had had an interesting life. Born in London on 17th May 1768, he was educated in Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford, graduating in 1786 with the degree of Master of Arts. Though two of his brothers followed bellicose callings,<sup>[3]</sup> Henry Paget determined on a life in politics and entered Parliament in 1790 as Member for Carnarvon.

☞ When the Revolutionary Wars with France began in 1793, Paget raised a regiment of volunteers in Staffordshire. This soon became the 80th Regiment of Foot under the command of Paget, who had been given the temporary rank of lieutenant-colonel. Fighting in Flanders revealed that Henry Paget had a gift for battle; he was formally commissioned into the British Army on 14th April 1795 and confirmed as lieutenant-colonel commanding the 80th Foot on 30th May. A transfer to the 16th Light Dragoons followed in June 1795, and then, as a colonel, to the 7th Light Dragoons in April 1797.

☞ Paget proved to be an outstanding leader of horsemen, rising rapidly until, as major-general (29th April 1802) and then lieutenant-general (25th April 1808), he commanded the cavalry of Sir John Moore during the Peninsular War. But his spectacular rise was undone by a *liaison amoureuse* with Lady Charlotte Wellesley (née Cadogan), sister-in-law of Arthur Wellesley

(later Duke of Wellington). Paget divorced his wife Caroline (née Villiers) on 29th November 1810, and within a few weeks had married Lady Charlotte. The scandalous relationship had effectively prevented military service alongside the future Duke of Wellington, and Paget had been relegated in 1809 to the command of infantry brigade.

¶ The ‘Hundred Days’—the period after the end of Napoléon’s exile on Elba in 1815—found Henry Paget leading cavalry under the overall command, ironically, of the Duke of Wellington himself. But a successful charge of British heavy cavalry during the Battle of Waterloo was pushed on too far, suffering heavy losses; and as Paget returned from the ensuing fray, he was struck on the right leg by a cannon-ball. His knee smashed beyond repair, Paget is said to have remarked as he passed the Duke of Wellington “By God, Sir, I’ve lost my leg!”...to which Wellington supposedly replied, after looking at the bloody mess, ‘By God, Sir, so you have!’ The leg was duly amputated above the knee, to be replaced by an articulated artificial leg. The shattered original served its time on public view in the village of Waterloo, but may then have been buried under a tree marked by a plaque which read, according to Dalton’s *The Waterloo Roll Call*, “Here lies the Marquess of Anglesey’s leg. Pray for the rest of his body, I beg”.

¶ Paget, then second Earl of Uxbridge, had been appointed Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath (‘GCB’) on 2nd January 1815. After Waterloo, he was raised to the marquissate of Anglesey on 4th July 1815, becoming a Knight of the Order of St. George (‘KSG’, Russian) and a Knight of the Order of Maria Theresa (‘KMT’, Austria) at much the same time, and Knight Grand Cross of the Hanoverian Order (‘GCH’) in 1816. Paget was then elected Knight of the Garter (‘KG’) on 19th February and installed on 2nd March 1818. He was promoted to the rank of general on 12th August 1819 and subsequently served two terms as Master-General of the Ordnance (1827–8, 1846–1852). Henry Paget was also Grand Master of the Order of St Patrick during his terms as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland (see below).

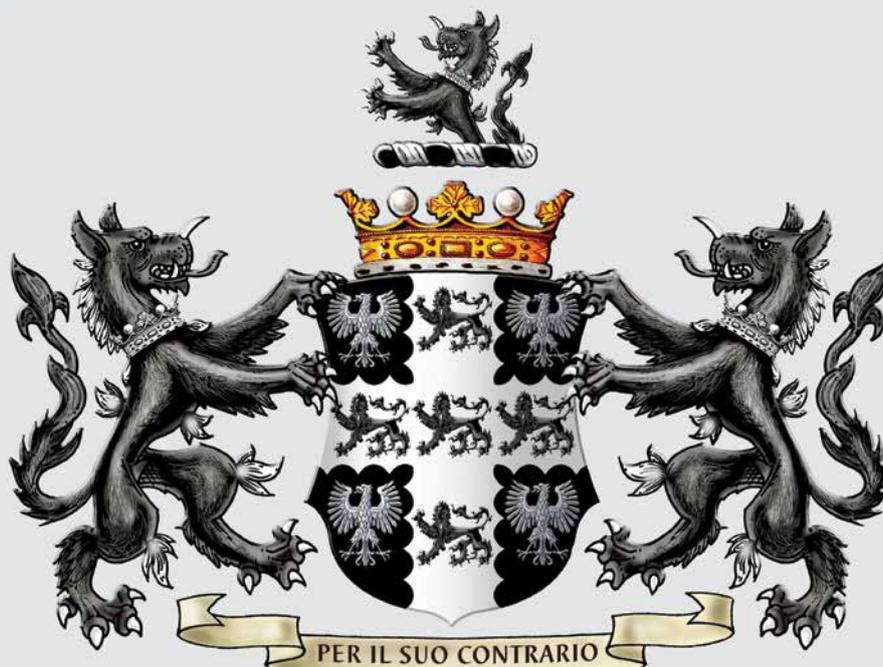
¶ His name is also linked with the so-called ‘Paget Carbine’, which was introduced for cavalry service in the British Army in 1812 and was still being made in the 1830s. This diminutive flintlock was distinguished by its sixteen-inch barrel and a swivel ramrod. However, the attribution to Paget was not contemporaneous with the gun; his contributions to its design are still contested.

¶ Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland from 27th February 1828 until 22nd January 1829, during the ministry of the Duke of Wellington (and subsequently that of Earl Grey from 4th December 1830 until 12th September 1833), he was promoted to the rank of field marshal on 9th November 1846, but retired from politics in March 1852 and died on 29th April 1854. Though his country seat, Plas Newydd, is in Anglesey, Paget was buried in Lichfield Cathedral. He was succeeded by his son Henry (1797–1869), second child and eldest son of his marriage to Caroline Villiers. There were plenty of descendants: the first Marquis had a reputation as a ladies’ man, fathering eighteen children by his wives.<sup>[4]</sup>

## THE ARMS

¶ The Arms on the tankard show clearly that they were applied after Henry Paget had been made Marquis of Anglesey in the summer of 1815: the design of the coronet above the shield is that of a marquis, not an earl or a duke. It is likely that, to celebrate the rise in status directly following the battle of Waterloo, many possessions of the Paget family were marked with the appropriate Achievement. The drawing shows this in detail. The Arms are blazoned: ‘...sable, on a cross engrailed between four eagles displayed argent five lions passant gardant of the field

[sable]’—a black shield with four silver displayed eagles, and five black lions on a silver cross with scalloped edges. The crest is ‘a demi heraldic tiger sable, maned, ducally gorged and tufted argent’: a black heraldic tiger (a distinctive beast with tusks and a horn on the tip of its nose), cut at the waist, with a silver ducal coronet around its neck, a silver mane, and silver tufts on its breast, back and legs. The supporters are also heraldic tigers, gorged, maned and tufted in the same manner as the crest. The motto is PER IL SUO CONTRARIO, ‘By its opposite’.



#### NOTES

1. These Arms were recorded in the visitation of Staffordshire made in 1583 by Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, quartered with Preston. The Preston quarters were blazoned ‘argent, two bars gules, on a canton of the last a cinquefoil or, a crescent for difference’. The crest was the Paget demi heraldic tiger, but no supporters had been acknowledged. It is assumed that these date from the grant of the marquissate in 1815, but evidence is lacking.
2. The Bayly Arms (‘azure, nine estoiles [wavy-rayed stars] three, three, two and one, argent’) were obviously still borne by other members of the Bayly family, but no longer by the part of the family that had become Paget. In other circumstances, Bayly and Paget could have been impaled or quartered.
3. The fourth son, General Sir Edward Paget (1775–1849) served in the Peninsular War under Sir John Moore and Sir Arthur Wellesley; he was made KB in 1812 and GCB in 1815. The fifth son, Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Paget (1778–1839), knighted in 1822, was made KCH in 1819 and GCH in 1832.
4. The last three of his children by Lady Charlotte all died in infancy: Lord Albert (i) (1821–2), Lord Albert (ii) (1823), and Lady Eleanor (1823).

#### Markings

What appears to be a maker’s mark may often simply be that of the assembler or finisher. The possibility of the name being that of a retailer should always be considered, and, for example, Birmingham-made items were regularly marked LONDON. Mounts made of precious metal—platinum, gold or silver—should bear the marks of an appropriate Assay Office in addition to date-letters and the marks of the smith.

#### Names

The advent in Britain of a decennial census, from 1811 onwards, facilitates the identification of individuals from the late Napoleonic period onward. Information can also be obtained from the registers of births, marriages and deaths (instigated in 1837). Pre-1800 military service is less easily investigated. Though details can be extracted from army and navy lists, the awards of orders and decorations, unit musters and parish records, this can be time-consuming.

#### Dates

Differing systems of chronology can affect the ways in which dates are given. This is particularly true in the period when the Gregorian and Julian calendars co-existed. The situation was not resolved satisfactorily in Britain until 1st January 1750.

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