

Bedford



Description of Arms :

Argent, a lion rampant gules, on a chief sable, three escallops of the first.

Principal Title : Duke of Bedford.

Creation : England, 1694.

Subsidiary Titles : Baron Russell of Chenies (1540), Earl of Bedford (1550), Marquis of Tavistock (1694) and Baron Howland (1695).

Family Name : Russell.

Family History : The Russells form one of the great families of England. Apart from the ducal line there are the baronies of Ampthill, de Clifford and Russell of Killowan and, of course, the earldom, best known for the late Bertrand Russell, the philosopher and mathematician. These are all separate creations, though they all use approximately the same coat-of-arms.

The dukes trace their history from one John Russell (a favourite Christian name), who was prominent at the court of the Tudor kings. He profited from the dissolution of the monasteries and received, amongst others, the Monastery of Woburn - still the family seat. They worked their way up through the peerage, being raised to the rank of duke in 1694. Not all had been plain sailing, though. The eldest son of the first duke had been executed for high treason, in 1683, following the Rye House Conspiracy. He was known as Lord Russell, the courtesy title of the then Earldom of Bedford. In due course, his son succeeded and several generations followed, each being summoned to Parliament.

Fresh problems arose with the succession of the present holder of the title. He was faced with excessively punitive Death Duties, which threatened the extinction of the family's wealth. However, one should never under-rate people like this. His Grace was one of the first to open his house (Woburn Abbey) to the public, at a time when it was less fashionable so to do. So successful was he, that he became known to the media as the "Showman Duke". He saved the property. Then, with his third, French, wife he retired to France and left the management to his son. One can only hope that his new neighbours realise that the Duke of Bedford, present at the execution of Joan of Arc, was of a different creation.

Lord John Russell, the distinguished statesman and prime minister, was the son of the 6th duke and was founder of the earldom.

Bedford

William (1613-1700), 5th Earl, 1st Duke of Bedford (1694),
Baron Howland (in 1695 by wedding of his grandson, Wriothesley)

|
William (?-1683), Lord Russell,
executed for treason

|
Wriothesley (1680-1711) , 2nd Duke (attainder on Lord Russell having been annulled)
= (1695) Elisabeth Howland

|
Wriothesley (?-1732),
3rd Duke

|
John (1710-1771),
4th Duke

|
Francis (?-1802),
5th Duke

|
John (?-1839),
6th Duke

|
Francis (1788-1861)
7th Duke

|
George
= Elisabeth Rawdon

|
John (1792-1878), 1st Earl Russell,
Prime Minister

|
William (1809-1872),
(1872-1970),

|
Francis (1819-1891), 9th Duke

|
Arthur (1825-?)

|
William

|
Bertrand

|
George (1852-1893), 10th Duke
= (1876) Adeline Sommers-Cocks (?-1920)

|
Ela
(1854-?)

|
Ermyntrude
(1856-?)

|
Herbrand (1858-1940), 11th Duke
= (1888) Mary Du Caurroy

|
Hastings (1888-1953), 12th Duke
= (1914) Louisa Jowitt (?-1960)

|
JOHN (1917-), 13th Duke
1st = (1939) Clare Bridgman (-1945), 2nd = (1947-1960) Lydia Yarde-Buller (1917-)

|
Daphne (1920-)

|
HUGH (1923-)
= (1957) Rosemary Markby

|
HENRY (1940-), Marquis of Tavistock
= (1961) Henrietta Tiarks

|
RUDOLF
(1944-)

|
FRANCIS (1950-)
= (1971) Faith Carrington

|
Mark Hugh
(1960-)

|
Karen

|
ANDREW (1962-),
Lord Howland

|
ROBIN
(1963-)

|
JAMES
(1975-)