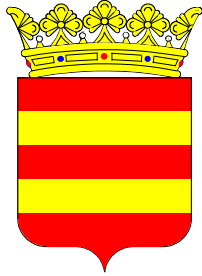


Harcourt



Description of Arms :

Fascé de gueules et d'or en cinq pièces.

Principal Title : Duke of Harcourt.

Creation : France, 1701.

Subsidiary Titles : Duke of Beuvron.

Family Name : Harcourt.

Family History : It is hard to imagine a more distinguished and enduring family than this one. Its origins, lost in the mists of time, are Scandinavian. When the invading Normans swept down from the North, members of the Harcourt clan were there and they have made Normandy their base ever since. One branch followed William the Conqueror to England and have settled there, ever since, playing as distinguished a role in that country as have their French cousins. Close contact between the two sides has been maintained for centuries since.

Of these, the senior branch passed, through the female line, into the House of Lorraine, when the heiress, Marie, married the Duke of Lorraine.

Of the two main branches left in France, it is with the junior that we are concerned, because it there that the dukedom lies. Mostly known as soldiers, Harcourts served on the crusades under Richard *Coeur de Lion* and St Louis. Of these, one became *maréchal and amiral* of France. Another was killed at the battle of Crécy. Though originally, their suzerain was the king of England, they later served against England in the forces of France. From time to time, the succession becomes rather complicated, passing through the Beuvron branch. Finally, Henri (1654-1718), became Duke of Harcourt in 1701 and *maréchal* soon afterwards. Four holders of the title quickly passed until the recent line established itself and still flourishes. Four Marshals of France, six knights of the Saint-Esprit, two of the Golden Fleece, one Admiral etc ... ; a record not to be underestimated.

This family, in more modern and less agitated times, has played an important part in politics and the arts.

Harcourt

