

Cars



Description of Arms :

De gueules au pal de vair.

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Principal Title : Duke des Cars.

Creation : France, 1816 and 1825.

Subsidiary Titles : Count (1817).

Family Name : de Pérusse des Cars.

Family History : In 1561, the *seigneurie* des Cars was raised to the rank of a county, though this particular branch died out in 1626. Another branch was given the honour of Marquis de Merville but this, also, came to an end in 1780. That the family was close to the throne is evinced by the number of times, ten, that they were honoured at Court between 1754 and 1783.

What happened next has given rise to some confusion. Jean-François de Pérusse, 1737-1832, was created a duke in 1816 but this title died with him. However, Amédée-François (1790-1868) was given the personal rank of duke in 1825. This was followed by the grant of an hereditary dukedom, in 1830, by the king Charles X. The Letters-Patent for this were prepared in July of that year but, before they could be sealed, Louis-Philippe came to the throne and Amédée-François refused to take the oath of loyalty to the new king. He asked for the Letters-Patent to be withdrawn and then became the representative, in France, of the legitimist Count de Chambord.

His heirs, all the same, have perpetuated the title. The French *Juge d'armes* could not, in view of all this, recognise the title as "regular". However, the august Almanach de Gotha did list the Pérusse family as being of ducal rank. We do the same. It is quite clear that the intention of honouring the family was there and it was only an accident of timing that prevented them from being more generally recognised.

Belonging to the clan is the well-known writer, Guy des Cars, who died recently at the venerable age of eighty-three.

Cars

Jean-François of Perusse des Cars (1737-1832),
1st Duke des Cars (1816)

Amédée-François (1790-1868), Life Duke (1825), Hereditary Duke (1830), Letters-Patent never sealed
= Augustine du Bouchet-de-Sourches-de-Tourzel (?-1870)

