

TURNER HARVEY (abt. 1485 abt. 1610)

Turner Harvey is our ancestor who was a close friend of King Henry VIII. He was the son of Humphrey Harvey and was born about 1485. He became a noted archer and warrior, according to family tradition and as recorded in "Reminiscences of the Harvey Family."

From these "Reminiscences," as well as from certain family documents, Oscar Jewell Harvey, in 1899 wrote:

"Turner Harvey was the mightiest man with the longbow in all England, and that at his death (well over 100 years of age) there was no man in the country who could spring his bow. Because of his remarkable strength, his skill with the bow, and his bravery in battle, it is said that Turner became a favorite henchman of his Lord the King, Henry VIII. And it is further related that once, after a very sanguinary battle which ended in the capture by the King's soldiers of an important fortified town, Turner, who had been in the hottest places during the battle and had fought valiantly and effectively, was found to be missing by the King, who was there in personal command of his soldiers.

"Fearing that Turner had been killed, and desiring to show due respect to his memory by giving his remains a decent and honorable burial, the King caused the bodies of the dead soldiers on the field to be so placed that he might readily examine them and identify his dead favorite. But Turner was not dead, for he soon appeared with a pair of hams slung over his shoulders, he having been foraging about the town for provisions of which the troops were in great need.

"The King, annoyed because of the trouble to which he had been put by supposing Turner to be dead reproved the latter for his dereliction; but in recognition of the deeds of prowess performed on that bloody day by his chief archer, the King presented him not many days thereafter with an archer's shield or escutcheon of metal, upon the obverse of which were emblazoned in the french language an "inscription" - and the device of a leopard holding in one of his paws three shafts, or arrows.

"This escutcheon, together with the mighty bow of Turner, prized and preserved as heirlooms, were in the possession of some of the old warrior's descendants in Somersetshire certainly as late as the year 1640." ¹

We have come to minimize the value of a coat of arms since so many forgeries in the past do exist but Rev. J. Wm. Knappenberger from Niantic Conn. in 1914 said: "His (Turner's) Coat of Arms, was not, however, bestowed as a royal favor alone, which sometimes happened, nor was it purchased by money, which was frequently done, but it was won by military achievement, by bravery and sacrifice - real merit - which commanded respect and attention because of the quality of his acts." ²

"To Turner Harvey was born, about 1510, a son who was named William." ³

The next four Harvey's in line of father to son, carry the line through that many generations until a maternal ancestor is reached.



ARMS BORNE BY TURNER HARVEY

Rev. Knappenberger describes the presentation of the Coat of Arms: "The King presented him . . .with an archer's shield, or escutcheon of metal, upon the obverse side of which were emblazoned 3 long bows, 3 phaons, or barbed arrow heads, a motto in the French language: 'Faites le que l'honneur exige,' which means, 'Do what honor demands,' and the device of leopard holding in one of his paws 3 shafts, or arrows." 4

1. #46 p. 16,17
2. #48 p. 5
3. #46 p. 17
4. #48 p. 9