

SHERMAN OF YAXLEY AND SHERMAN OF DEDHAM.—It seems probable that Henry Sherman, the Elder of Colchester, was one of the Shermans of Yaxley, Suffolk Co. If so, it may be possible to carry this line back one or two generations.

In Vol. 3 Second Series of the Proceedings of the Mass. Historical Society, 1885-1886, pp. 249-257, is a very interesting account of "Exploded" Coats of Arms. One of the "Exploded" is that of Sherman, described p. 251, as follows: "Sherman, He beareth, Argent, a Lyon Rampant, Sable, between three Holly leaves, Proper, by the name of Sherman, of this family are Samuel, John and Edward (old MS. correction says Edmond), sons of Samuel Sherman of Dedham in Essex, *originally extracted from Yaxley in Suffolk*; which Edward Sherman being of London, Merchant, hath married Jane Daughter of John Wall\* of Bromley by Jane daughter and Heire of Sayer."

This is from page 189 of the fourth edition of John Guillim's "Display of Heraldry," published in 1660, and being made by one whose business led him to ascertain such facts, is good authority for believing, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the Dedham Shermans were "originally extracted from Yaxley in Suffolk."

The will of Thomas Sherman of Yaxley, Co. Suffolk, which is dated January 20, 1550, proved November 16, 1551, mentions nine sons, among them a son Henry and a son William.

In the will of this son William, dated May 28, 1583, proved August 9th, 1583, he styles himself citizen and grocer of London, now inhabiting at Ipswich, Co. Suffolk, and he mentions a brother Henry.

It is hoped that further investigation now being made in England may result in proving or disproving the theory that Henry Sherman of Colchester is identical with the Henry mentioned in the will of Thomas and of his son William.

Thomas Sherman of Yaxley, will proved 1551, begins the Sherman Pedigree in the Visitation of Leicester 1619 (Harleian Society Pub.), which gives three or four generations of the descendants of his son William.

This "Exploded" Coat of Arms, granted by Cromwell—a rare, and to those of Puritan descent a very honorable heritage—is probably that seen on the tomb of Edmund Sherman, in the churchyard of St. Mary's, Dedham. The tomb in October, 1806, was in ruins, the sides had fallen in and the slab on which are the Arms and inscription, rests on the ground.

The Vicar of St. Mary's shows an amusing letter from General Sherman, to whom he had applied for money to restore it, in which the General declines.

The Coat of Arms thereon is similar to the Arms of the Yaxley Shermans, which are: Or, a lion rampant, sable, between three oak leaves, vert. The inscription is as follows:—

Here resteth the body of Mary  
the wife of Edmund Sherman  
of Dedham who departed this life  
January 27th in the 62nd year of her age

1733

She was the second daughter of  
Nicholas Freeman of Dedham  
Who died in the 57th year of his age

1676

Also the body of  
Edmund Sherman Gent  
who died ye 9th of January 1741-2  
aged 72 years

The reason for "Exploding" certain Coats of Arms is given on the title page of a second "fourth edition" of the "Display of Heraldry", published about 1662, where it is stated that "since imprinting of this last edition, many offensive Coats (to the Loyal Party) are exploded", and after the two dedications to Charles II., and the Duke of Somerset, comes the following:

"To The most concerned—The Nobility and Gentry.

My Lords and Gentlemen:

This inestimable piece of Heraldry, that hath passed four impressions with much approbation, had the unhappy fate in the last, to have a blot in its Escutcheon, viz: The insertion of Oliver's Creatures, which as no merit could enter them in such a Regiment but Usurpation, so we have in this fifth impression, exploded them and incerted the Persons, Titles and Dignities of such as His Majesty (since his blessed restauration) conferred honor upon. That so the Corn may be intire, of one Sheaf, and the Grapes of one Vine. R. B. (Richard Blome.)"

\* See wills of Nicholas Wall and Thomas Gippes, pp. 129 and 249 of REGISTERS, Vol. 50.