

THE ARMS OF LORD LYVEDEN

Noel Cox

The Right Honourable Jack Leslie Vernon, seventh baron Lyveden, of Lyveden, in the county of Northampton, in the peerage of the United Kingdom (created 1859) is one of the peers resident in New Zealand. Born 1938, he succeeded to the title in 1999. The Vernon family have lived in New Zealand since the nineteenth century, the present baron in Te Aroha. The title has been held by members of the New Zealand branch of the family since 1969.

This family traces its descent from Robert Smith, Judge Advocate-General in India. He was born in 1770, and in 1798 married Caroline, second daughter and co-heiress of Richard Vernon. The Vernons were descended from the Vernons of Hilton, Staffordshire. The eldest son of Robert Smith and Caroline, neé Vernon was Robert, first Baron Lyveden. He assumed the arms and name of Vernon by royal licence in 1846.

The armorial bearings of Lord Lyveden is a quartering of the arms of the Vernon and Smith families. The arms of the Vernons, *Argent, a fret Sable*, are notable for their mediæval simplicity. They are recorded in armorial roll of the time of King Edward III. These are borne in the first and third quarters without any differencing.

The second and third quarters are the arms of the family of Smith, which were contemporary with the assumption of the arms of the Vernons. The Smith arms are *Gules, three bars, gemelles, Argent, a chevron, Ermine, on a chief of the second, three blackamore's heads Proper, a canton of the field charged with a battleaxe, Or, all within a bordure, counter-compony, of the second, and Azure*. The references are clear. The blackamore's heads and battle-axe suggest a more militant role in India than would actually have been that of Robert Smith, though doubtless his son was anxious to show that what they might have lacked in antiquity compared to the Vernons, they made up for in other ways.

The dexter supporter borne by Lord Lyveden is *a boar Sable, ducally gorged and suspended therefrom by a chain, an escutcheon Or, charged with a rose Gules, slipped Proper*. The sinister supporter is *a wyvern Vert, plain collared and suspended therefrom by a chain, an escutcheon Or, charged with a rose Gules, slipped Proper*.

Lord Lyveden has two crests, reflecting his joint heritage. The sinister crest is for the Smith's, and is *a cubic arm erect in armour Proper, charged with a battleaxe Sable, the hand grasping two wreaths of laurel pendant on either side, also Proper*. Again, this is a somewhat war-like symbolism. The dexter crest is that of the Vernons, and is *a boars' head erased Sable, ducally gorged, Or*.

The motto again reminds the reader that the ancient family of Vernon are still with us: *Vernonse semper viwet*.

Ronald, Lord Lyveden

- Arms:** *Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Argent, a fret Sable; 2nd and 3rd, Gules, three bars, gemelles, Argent, a chevron, Ermine, on a chief of the second, three blackamore's heads Proper, a canton of the field charged with a battleaxe, Or, all within a bordure, counter-compony, of the second, and Azure.*
- Supporters:** *Dexter, a boar Sable, ducally gorged and suspended therefrom by a chain, an escutcheon Or, charged with a rose Gules, slipped Proper; Sinister, a wyvern Vert, plain collared and suspended therefrom by a chain, an escutcheon Or, charged with a rose Gules, slipped Proper.*
- Crest:** *Sinister, a cubic arm erect in armour Proper, charged with a battleaxe Sable, the hand grasping two wreaths of laurel pendant on either side, also Proper; Dexter, a boars' head erased Sable, ducally gorged, Or.*

Motto: *Vernonse semper viret.*

Granted by the English Kings of Arms, 5 August 1845.

THE ARMS OF LORD NORRIE

Noel Cox

Lieutenant-General the Right Honourable Sir Charles Willoughby Moke, Baron Norrie, GCMG GCVO CB DSO MC KStJ, was Governor-General of New Zealand 1952-57. Born 1893, and educated at Eton, he joined the 11th Hussars in 1913. General Officer Commanding 30th Corps (Middle East) 1941-42, his last army post was as Commander Royal Armoured Corps in 1943.

Sir Charles was then appointed Governor of South Australia, where he remained from 1944 to 1952, when he came to New Zealand. After his retirement he was Chancellor of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (1960-68), the British Order associated with overseas and diplomatic services.

In 1957 Sir Charles was created Baron Norrie, of Wellington, New Zealand, and of Upton, Gloucestershire, in the peerage of the United Kingdom. He died in 1977. Lord Norrie's eldest son, the second baron, lives in England, as do other members of his immediate family.

The earliest known members of Lord Norrie's family were from Thorout, in Flanders, where they latterly lived in Wynendale Castle. Charles Moke, MD, Professor of Leyden University, was a pioneer of the coffee industry in Brazil, and was the first of the family to settle in England. Lord Norrie was his great grandson. George Moke, first of the family based in England and the United States of America, married New York heiress Margaret Norrie in 1854.

In 1915 Lord Norrie's father obtained a grant of armorial bearings from the College of Arms. When Sir Charles received an hereditary peerage, he was granted supporters. For these he chose *dark bay racehorses supporting between their forelegs a frond of New Zealand fern Proper*.

As heir to the Moke and Norrie families, Lord Norrie's armorial bearings are marshalled. First and fourth, for the Norrie family, *Ermine, on a pale Gules three helmets Argent*. Second and third, for the Moke family, *Or, on a chevron Azure between two poplar trees eradicated in chief Proper, and a mullet of six points in base of the second, a key the wards downwards of the first*.

Lord Norrie also had two crests. The first, *an elephant's head erased Sable, tusked Argent, supporting with the trunk a garb Or* (for the Norrie family). The second was *a stag's head couped, holding in the mouth a branch of poplar Proper, between the attires a key as in the Arms pendant from a chain Or* (for the Moke family).

Bibliography:

(1997) The New Zealand Armorialist no 64 p 8

Charles, Lord Norrie, GCMG GCVO CB DSO MC KStJ

Arms: *1st and 4th, Ermine, on a pale Gules three helmets Argent. 2nd and 3rd, Or, on a chevron Azure between two poplar trees eradicated in chief Proper, and a mullet of six points in base Azure, a key the wards downwards Or.*

Supporters: *On either side a dark bay racehorse supporting between the forelegs a frond of New Zealand fern Proper.*

Crest: *Dexter, an elephant's head erased Sable, tusked Argent, supporting with the trunk a garb Or. Sinister, stag's head couped, holding in the mouth a branch of poplar Proper, between the attires a key as in the Arms pendant from a chain Or.*

Motto: *Deus nobis providet.*

Granted by the English Kings of Arms, 30 October 1957 (120/18).