

THE ARMS OF THE EARL OF ONSLOW

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The Right Honourable Sir William Hillier Onslow, GCMG, 4th Earl of Onslow (Peerage of the United Kingdom 1801), Viscount Cranley (United Kingdom 1801), Baron Onslow (Great Britain 1716), and Baron Cranley (Great Britain 1776), Baronet (England 1660), was born in 1853, and died in 1911. He succeeded his great-uncle to the family titles in 1874.

The Earl of Onslow was successively Lord in Waiting, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, Vice-President of the 1887 Colonial Conference, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade.

Appointed Governor of New Zealand in 1889, he maintained excellent relations with his Ministers, and his interest and influence remained ever at the service of New Zealand Ministers visiting London. He retired in 1892.

Lord Onslow was subsequently Under Secretary of State for India 1895-1900, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies 1900-1903, and President of the Board of Agriculture with Cabinet rank 1903-1905. His last official posts were as Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords 1906-11.

The family seat was Clandon Park, near Guildford, Surrey. Rebuilt in early eighteenth century, the house itself now belongs to the National Trust. There is a Maori meeting house in the grounds of the House, which was taken to Great Britain as a souvenir by the 4th Earl at the end of his tour of duty New Zealand. Clandon Park has one of the grandest English interiors of the eighteenth century.

The present Earl (the 7th) lives in Temple Court, on the Clandon Park estate. The Rt Hon Sir Cranley Onslow, KCMG, a Member of Parliament 1964-97, and a junior Minister under Lady Thatcher's Government, was a member of the family.

The arms of the Earl are "*Argent a fess Gules between six Cornish choughs Proper*". The Cornish Chough (or simply chough) only differs from the corbie (the crow or raven) in having red beak and legs. In keeping with a avian theme, the supporters are "*Two falcons close Proper, belled Or*", and the crest "*An eagle Sable, preying on a partridge Or*". The arms are of some antiquity, Roger de Ondeslow, active in the time of King Edward I, bore the identical "*Argent, a fess Gules between six Cornish choughs Proper*".

One of two mottoes is the well-known *Semper fidelis* ('Ever faithful').



William, Earl of Onslow, GCMG

Arms: *Argent a fess Gules between six Cornish choughs Proper.*

Supporters: *Two falcons close Proper, belled Or.*

Crest: *An eagle Sable, preying on a partridge Or.*

Mottoes: 1 *Festina lente* ('Be quick without impetuosity'). 2 *Semper fidelis* ('Ever faithful').

[illustration: *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage* 106th ed, reproduced with permission]