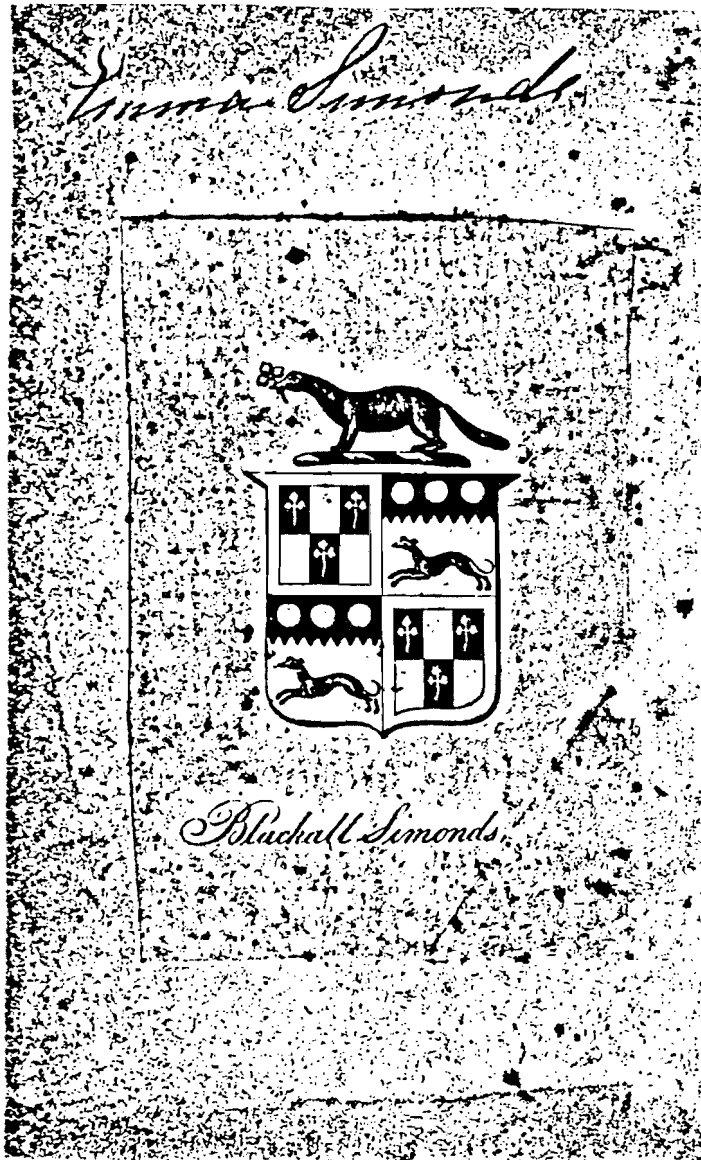


APPENDIX 2

THE ARMS OF THE SIMONDS FAMILY



This is the earliest representation that I can find of the Crest and Arms of the Simonds family. It is taken from the fly-leaf of a book owned by Emma Usborne, wife of the first Blackall Simonds, eldest son of William Blackall Simonds (1784-1875). The book is dated October 27 1813. The Arms are familiar to you because they formed the silk banner used to hang from the trumpets blown outside the Assize Court in Reading to greet the Judge during the period when my father was High Sheriff. This banner is now at Winloed.

A letter from Somerset Herald in 1984 suggests that the Arms are "an unofficial variation of a 16th century grant quartering a 15th century coat" and that "there are many cases where families rose into the ranks of the gentry, and rather than have a new grant of arms which would proclaim the comparatively recent establishment of the family, they chose to use the arms of another family of their name without authority".

In our case the Arms in the first and fourth quarters (the trefoils), and the crest (the ermine with trefoil in its mouth) appear to have been first granted to a William Simons of Lyme Regis in 1587, who may or may not have been a relative.

The Arms in the second and third quarters (greyhounds) were granted in 1494 to Richard Blackwall, of Blackwall in Derbyshire. There must be a strong supposition that the two sets of arms were quartered in this way because the Blackall family of Henley, whose daughter Mary married William Simonds in 1765, were descendants of the Blackwalls of Derbyshire. However, further research would be needed by the College of Arms to establish this assumption with any certainty, and such research is costly.

Written by Duncan Simonds in 1985