

The Swaim Name in History

by Don Swaim

The name Swaim has a glorious, honorable, and questionable history easily traced to early England and Wales, and is heralded in books, comics, and film. The distinguished Swaim coat of arms was created by the brilliant, now forgotten, author Sir Foxworth Swaim, once ranked with Shakespeare and Marlowe. The crest survives to this day [see last page].

Sir Scrope Swaim, Master of the Horse, Stable, and Barn to King Edward IV, was the personal bodyguard and armed traveling companion to King Henry VII. Of Sir Scrope's four virgin wives, one, St. Etheidreda [see below], became a saint because of her chastity and is often depicted in liturgical art as an abbess holding a crozier, book, rod, lily, or spatula.

A descendant of Sir Scrope's, Sir Gruffudd Swaim, middle son of Sir Colclough Swaim, Second Earl of Northwestumberland, was nicknamed Sir Hotspur, suggesting his impulsive nature during the battle of Agincourt in which he personally carried to his death the banner of St. George the Dragonfly.



Sir Scrope Swaim



Sir Galloway Swaim [rear, second on left] fighting in Flanders, 1232

Sir Galloway Swaim was a great grandson, on his mother's side, of Anchetil de Greye of Cromartyshire. Sir Galloway became High Sheriff of Hereortherefordshire before undertaking military action in Flanders in 1232 [above] during which he offered himself as a sacrifice to distract Spanish mercenaries from their wine, an act gratefully accepted.

Sir Camville Swaim served King Henry II and is known chiefly as one of the assassins of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1170. Sir Camville later repented and, in remorse, poisoned himself with a combination of hemlock and carbonated water.



Sir Oldcastle Swaim (hanging by feet)

Sir Oldcastle Swaim was convicted of heresy against the Church but escaped from the Tower of London, only to be recaptured, returned in a horse-litter, flayed alive, gutted, then quartered (along with his various wives) by horses, after which he became a martyr and, centuries later, the central figure in Salman Rushdie's graphic novel *The Satantic Voices*.

Sir Bosworth Swaim attended the signing of the Treaty of Picquigny in 1475, and was unhorsed personally by Richard III at the Battle of Stoke in 1487. Like most of the prominent Swaim knights, Sir Bosworth was made a Knight of the Goiter and was called upon to serve as a member of the House of Lords, from which he resigned for reasons still unclear, but may have involved a male minor.



Sir Bosworth Swaim (left rear)

Sir Bruce Swaim was a descendant of the Bruces on his mother's side and served in King Edward III's expedition to France in 1340, fighting in the sieges of Tournai and Calais, although avoiding the Battles of Crecy and the Bulge. Sir Bruce plays a major role as one of the pilgrims in the 3-D film version of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales: The Sequel*.

Swaim Women



St. Etheidreda (see Sir Scrope Swaim)



Isabella Wharfedale (see Sir Thornham Swaim)

Sir Thornham Swaim earned a special place in the historiography of the Second Barons War of 1264 when he laid siege on London by firing incendiary chickens. He is remembered chiefly for his marriage to Isabella Wharfedale, daughter and heiress of the powerful Bunkleshire baron Akarius Wharfedale. The Wharfedale inheritance included the castle, honor, and lordship of Perthgrave with thirty-six attached knight's fees.



Perthgrave (based on original photograph)

Sir Foxworth Swaim, warrior-writer, is credited with designing the ancient Swaim coat of arms [see last page], which shows Sir Foxworth himself at work at his writing table. The three feathers emanating from the knight's helmet are representative of Sir Foxworth's three wives, all of whom were beheaded in the Tower of London for crimes for or against nature.



Two of Sir Foxworth's wives awaiting execution. NOTE: piccolo player

The only living Swaim currently knighted is Sir Ralph Swaim, founder of the Internet sites Weird Poker and Cheap T-Shirts. Sir Ralph's many awards and honors include The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Cocklebur, The Most Honorable Order of the Shower and Bath, The Royal Victorian Brother and Sisterhood, The Most Excellent Order of the Former British Empire, and The Order of the Companions of Guile and Deception. Sir Ralph, however, is reclusive and declines interviews—except to the Foxworth News channel.



The reclusive Sir Ralph Swaim



Historic Swaim coat of arms

Tha, tha, that's all, folks!

*THE SWAIM ODYSSEY TO AMERICA AS INDENTURED SERVANTS
IN A SEPARATE MONOGRAPH*

The Ambrose Bierce Site: <http://donswaim.com>