

## The Man – Balchen Connection.

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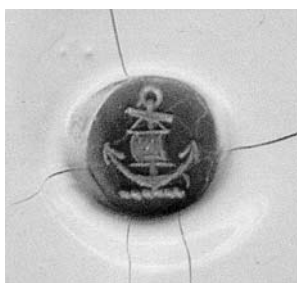
The aim of these notes is to present examples of the claims that have been made by the Man and Cumberland families that a relationship exists between the Balchen family of London, represented by Mary (Balchen) Man and her sister Elizabeth Cumberland, and that of Admiral Sir John Balchen.

These claims can be overt such as claiming in a marriage announcement that so-and-so is a niece of the admiral's or covert such as using the armorial shield of the Admiral's.

And yet in spite of all these claims it is safe to conclude that the admiral was **NOT** the uncle of Mary and Elizabeth and that at best one can say only that the Admiral and the Balchen sisters had some form of distant kinship relation but it is not possible to say what that was.

Mary Balchen was born in 1721 in London, the third daughter of Richard and Martha (Hitchcock) Balchen, and was baptized on 26 April 1721 at St. Mary Aldermary, London. She married John Man on 26 February 1746/7, two years after the admiral had drowned. Mary died in October 1798 at the home of her son James in Walworth Common, St Mary Newington, Surrey, but was buried on 23 October at St. Mary Matfellow, Whitechapel, Middlesex.

In the possession of the descendants of James Man (1755 - 1823), the youngest son of John and Mary Man, are many pieces of silver in the form of spoons, knives, plates, coffee pots, etc. Engraved on each of these items is a crest which is known as James Man's "ship crest" and which looks as follows:



In other words, what we see here is a large anchor with a sail or banner across it and on the banner or sail are three small objects. Given the size of the crest on the silver it is not possible to know what exactly the three small objects are.

After Admiral Sir John Balchen's unfortunate death on 4 Oct 1744 at the age of 77, his widow Susannah, aided by public donations, paid for a monument to be erected in her husband's memory in the North Transept of Westminster Abbey (see below).



Sir Robert Balchen has written the following description of the Admiral's monument:

“When I first saw this memorial in the 1960s, I was surprised to notice that, although on top of the coat of arms there was a knight's helmet (visor open and facing front), *there was no crest on top of it*. One day I took advantage of a wooden stepladder, which someone had left nearby, to investigate further. It was then obvious that there had been a crest at some previous time: clearly visible was the hole in which it would have fitted, and the stone was ragged at that point. I wrote to the Dean and Chapter about it, and their records revealed that the crest had been knocked off and damaged by the erection of scaffold poles for the Coronation of William IV in 1830! It took a little research to find that, appropriately enough, ***John Balchen's crest had been an anchor, and from its cross bar depended a blue banner bearing three fleurs de lis, probably symbolising three sea battles with the French fleet***. In 1970 I paid for its reconstruction in memory of my father Leonard George Balchin who had died not long before, and for the repainting in the correct colours of the coat of arms below. Thus it appears in its true glory today.[see picture below]”

It is interesting that Robert Balchen expended so much time and energy on a person to whom he was related in a way that neither he nor any other member of the Balchen family has been able to properly describe. It seems that Mary and Elizabeth are not the only ones who have felt the need to lay claim to the admiral.

When one compares the crest of James Man with that of the Admiral's they are virtually identical, each consisting of an anchor with a banner forming a sail, etc. This then raises a question as to whether James may have freely helped himself to the crest.



Another piece of evidence that has been used to claim a possible relationship between the London Balchens (Mary Man's family) and the Admiral's comes from notes made by Hubert Man (1876 – 1956). These notes were made while Hubert was looking at an old silver coffee pot, which had been in the Man family for some time.

But first some background: on 17 May 1777 Eleanor Ann Thompson married Henry Man (1748 - 1799). Henry was the eldest son of John Man and Mary Balchen, and hence James Man's brother. James Thompson, the father of Eleanor Ann Thompson, after the death of his wife Ann Eastham, married Susannah Balchen in 1752. Susannah was the sister of Mary and Elizabeth Balchen. Hence James Thompson, the father-in-law of Henry Man, married Henry's maternal aunt.

Here are Hubert's notes:

***“A silver Coffee Pot***

*Presumably it was inherited, but I first saw it in possession of Mrs. William Lionel Man (widow of Uncle Bill), thence it passed to his brother Edward Garnet Man, thence to the latter's son myself Hubert William Man. The date was given by Rouge Croix of the Heralds College as 1755 but Stenhouse, art dealer of Folkestone, said that it is an old tankard beaten into an old coffee pot, the tankard dating from a date between 1650 & 1700. The coffee-pot bears a coat of arms added Stenhouse says when it was converted into a coffee-pot, the arms are;*

***For Thompson: Quarterly - First & Fourth - A lion passant guardant between three crosses crosslet. Second & third three lozenges.***

The Thompson arms on the coffee pot are the same arms as those born, by the family of Eleanor Ann Thompson who married Henry Man.

*For Balchen: Impaling: A crescent with a bordure of eight estoiles [stars] of six points.*

Note that Stenhouse dates the coffee pot around 1750, which is close to the marriage date of James and Susannah. The Balchen half of the shield as described by Hubert Man bears an almost identical resemblance to the arms shown on the monument to Admiral Sir John Balchen in Westminster Abbey. In fact the Admiral's arms as described by Sir Robert Balchen are:

*"... vert a crescent within eight mullets in lozenge or (eight gold stars surrounding a crescent on a green background)."*

Here they are side by side:

1. A crescent with a bordure of eight estoiles of six points. (Hubert Man)
2. ... vert a crescent within eight mullets in lozenge or (eight gold stars surrounding a crescent on a green background) (The Admiral's memorial).

Hubert Man goes on to note that:

*"The arms show that a male Thompson married a female Balchen".*

Since Hubert is looking at an engraved silver coffee pot there is no color so he cannot supply 'vert' for the Balchen background or 'gold' for the stars.

The Balchens were of humble origins and probably did not have a crest or shield until these were granted to the Admiral. It is therefore more than likely that the London Balchens were freely borrowing from what belonged to the Admiral.

A third and much more direct example of a claim of a relationship comes from Richard Dennison Cumberland's memorial at Driffield church (see below). Richard's mother was Eliza Balchen, Mary (Balchen) Man's sister.

Beneath the alter of this chancel are deposited the remains of the Revd RICHARD DENISON CUMBERLAND L.L.D. Vicar of this parish, and Rector of Harhill adjoining: who during forty eight years administered its sacraments in commemoration of the sufferings and death of his redeemer, on whose intercession and merits alone were founded his hopes of Salvation. He died 31st January, 1825, aged 72.

His descent was from honourable ancestors, being grandson to JOHN CUMBERLAND, whose life and fortune were devoted to his country in producing that invaluable discovery the bending ship-timbers by steam.

By blood he was connected with Richard Cumberland a learned divine, author of several classical productions, a mild and pious priest, who without suspecting or soliciting promotion was called to the see of Peterborough, in 1668, solely for his eminent virtues.

**On his mothers side he was lineally descended from the gallant Admiral BALCHEN, to whose memory having perished in the Victory, his country has dedicated a monument in Westminster Abby.**

He married SUSANNA TIMBRELL, youngest daughter of ROBERT and REBECCA TIMBRELL, of Ewen in Wiltshire, by whom he had issue CHARLES DENISION (who died young and reposes near his father) and SUSAN WILLET, wife of the Revd. JOHN JONES A.M. of Brecon in South Wales.

A fourth example comes from two notices placed in newspapers announcing the marriage of George Cumberland to Elizabeth Balchen. Unfortunately the printer made an error and named Elizabeth's sister Ann as the wife of George. The first notice is from the Whitehall Evening Post or London Intelligencer and the second (I believe) from the Gentleman's Magazine.

Last Wednesday was committed to New Prison by William Withers, Esq; one Mary Cowel, on Suspicion of stealing an Iron Stay, supposed to belong to a Sign.

Some more of the Gang which infested the Fields near Kentish Town, Pancras, &c. and are supposed to be of the same Gang who lately robbed Mr Bently, Fishmonger, have been taken up on the Information of an Accomplice.

**MARRIED.** On Thursday Mr. Cumberland, of the South-Sea House, was married to Miss Ann Balchen, Niece to the late Admiral.

On Thursday was married at St. Thomas's Chapel. Mr. Reed, a Baker in the Borough of Southwark, to Miss Boddington, only Daughter of Mr. Boddington of Newington.

Yesterday Mr. Ryder an Attorney at Greenwich, was married to Miss Sherwood, of Thames-street.

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Britain, unto his grace Algernon duke of Somerset, by the name, style, and title of baron Warkworth, of Warkworth-castle in the county of Northumberland, and earl of Northumberland; to hold the same to him, and the heirs male of his body; and, in default of such issue, to Sir Hugh Smithson, of Stanwick in the county of York, barr. (son-in-law to the said duke of Somerset) and the heirs male of his body by the lady Elizabeth Smithson his present wife (daughter of the said duke of Somerset) and, in default of such issue, the dignities of baroness Warkworth, of Warkworth-castle, and countess of Northumberland, to the said lady Elizabeth Smithson, and the dignities of baron Warkworth, and Earl of Northumberland to her heirs male.

His majesty has also been pleased to grant unto his grace Algernon duke of Somerset, the dignities of a baron and earl of the kingdom of Great Britain, by the name, style and title of baron of Cocker-moath in the county of Cumberland, and Earl of Egremont in the said county of Cumberland, to hold the same to him, and the heirs male of his body; and, in default of such issue, to Sir Charles Wyndham, of Othard-Wyndham, in the county of Somerset, barr. (nephew to the said duke of Somerset) and the heirs male of his body; and in default of such issue, to Percy Wyndham O'Brien, of Short-Grove in the county of Essex, esq; (brother to the said Sir Charles Wyndham, and nephew to the said duke of Somerset) and the heirs male of his body.

MARRIAGES.

Sept. 7. Was married at St. Lawrence's church by Gualshall, the rev. Mr. Wilkes, rector of St. Bride's, to Miss Lasbroke, sister to Sir Robert Lasbroke.

16. Thomas Plummer Boyde, Esq; of Ware park in Hertfordshire, was married to Miss Hope, Daughter of the late Andrew Hope, esq; a brewer at Nerton Falgate.

19. The rev. Mr. Archerfon, chaplain to the right hon. the lord Windsor, was married to Miss Matthews, sister to — Matthews, esq; of Hampton.

A few days ago lieutenant Paul Ourty, of his majesty's ship the Monmouth,

a brave and experienced officer, was married to Miss Charity Treby, eldest daughter to the late hon. Charles Treby, Esq; formerly secretary at war, master of the household to his majesty, and one of the lords commissioners of the treasury, and niece to her grace the dutches dowager of Leeds; a young lady of beauty, merit, and fortune.

A few days since the right hon. the Lord Kinnaird, son to the countess of Newburgh, was married to Miss Kemp, one of the Coheiresses of — Kemp, Esq; of the county of Suffolk.

We hear from Scotland, that the right hon. the earl of Balcaras was lately married there to miss Dalrymple, sister of sir Hugh Dalrymple, baron-member of parliament for North Berwick, Jesburg, &c.

21. Mr. Cumberland, of the South Sea house, was married to miss Ann Balchen, niece to the late admiral.

DEATHS.

Sept. 2. Died, aged near 100, at her house in Goswenor-street, the countess dowager of Uxbridge.

The same day died Mr. John Cabbell, at his house in the Poulsry, a merchant of this city.

4. Died Mr. Barton, a mercer at the seven stars on Ledtate-hill, and common councilman of Farringdon without.

Died at Ilington an ale-seller, who, before he was thirty-five, by excessive drinking, deprived himself of his sight; but notwithstanding, continued his excess, till at length he deprived himself of his life also.

15. Came advice from Stowe in Buckinghamshire of the death of the Rt. Hon. the Lt. Viscount and Baron Cobham, Colonel of a regiment of dragoons, Field-Marshal, and Ranger of Windsor-Forest, and one of the Lords of the Privy-Council.

His Lordship, in the seventh of King William (then Sir Richard Temple) was chosen Member of Parliament for the town of Buckingham; and on the 12th of April, 1703, was constituted Lieutenant of the town of Buckingham, and county thereof, for which town he served in Parliament whilst he continued a Commoner, and was elected, in the 4th of Queen Anne, one of the Knights of the shire for that county;

Note that Richard Dennison Cumberland's memorial says his mother was a *direct* descendant from the Admiral (not possible) and the newspapers say she is a niece.