

BEATRICE FETTIPLACE (ANCESTRESS OF GOV. THOMAS DUDLEY): A SUMMARY

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1. EVIDENCE

The evidence for her parentage falls into two categories: the various statements in English genealogies and records, and the heraldry used by herself, her husbands and descendants.

The earliest dated statement of her parentage is in the 1566 Visitation of Berkshire (s.n. Fettiplace), which states that Sir Thomas Fettiplace of East Shefford married "the ladye Beatryce, countesse of Shrewsburye, and daughter to Alphoncius King of Portingall." Paul Reed pointed this out in a post last year. The informant for this pedigree was probably [Sir] John Fettiplace, great-grandson (living in 1566), or one of his two married sons. [Harleian Society, 56:28]

The 1623 Visitation of Berkshire has a stemma showing Thomas Fettiplace of Shefford married to Beatrix 'filia Johannis regis Portugaliae', in her third marriage. It shows her first husband as Thomas, Earl of Arundel, and her second as Gilbert, lord Talbot. Descent is traced through a third son, John, to Edmund Fettiplace of North Denchworth, a great-great-great-grandson and signatory of the pedigree. [Harleian Society, 56:90-91]

Dugdale's *_Baronage_*, 1:328, published in 1675, shows (according to Planché), "apparently on the authority of a document of 11 Henry VI [i.e. of 1432/3] that Beatrice lady Talbot 'was an illegitimate daughter to the king of Portugal, who surviving him ... became the wife of Thomas earl of Arundel'" (Planché, 146). The 1432 document doubtless refers to the other Beatrice.

Dugdale's confusion, Planché notes, was the source for proliferated confusion of the two Beatrices in various subsequent peerages; but it repeats the error from the 1623 visitation.

In a post Chico Doria forwarded to s.g.m. on 2/6/00 Edward Morgan noted that certain Cholmondeley 'estate archives' state that Beatrice, wife of Gilbert Talbot, was daughter of Ferdinand, King of Portugal; according to the 'archives' their daughter Anne Talbot m. Richard Cholmundleigh, leaving issue who passed down various estates. This tradition suggests an interesting corruption of tradition in the Cholmondeley family concerning the true source of the estate, which may have been what was actually granted to Richard Cholmundleigh, Talbot's seneschal, by (then widow) Beatrice Talbot in the 1420/21 document cited below. Note that Fettiplace was also a steward or seneschal on Talbot estates before he married Lady Talbot--an interesting parallel to the spurious Talbot-Cholmundleigh marriage. Query: what are the Cholmondeley 'estate archives', and precisely when, how and where does this particular claim for Beatrice's parentage appear?

Of the first three statements, only the visitation of 1566 does not imply confusion between the two Beatrices (i.e. between Beatrice, Lady Talbot & Lady Fettiplace, and Beatrice, countess of Arundel & Huntingdon). The visitation is wrong to call Beatrice 'countess of Shrewsbury', but that is an understandable confusion because Gilbert Talbot's brother and heir was created first Talbot earl of Shrewsbury in her lifetime (in 1442). The mention of the Portuguse king 'Alphonsius' is interesting because, while it is chronologically impossible for her to be daughter of any real king Affonso (Affonso IV d. 1357), the statement would make some sense if it reflected the tradition that Beatrice was *descended* from a King Affonso, which fits pleasingly with the fact that her arms *appear to represent* a variant of the

family of devices used by the Sousa descendants of Affonso III (d. 1279). This reflects the 'telescoping' model that Chico has proposed to explain her identity as daughter to 'Alphoncius'.

Beatrice's own seal (as Lady Talbot) has been described and engraved by Nicolas (p. 87), based on two copies of the seal in antiquarian manuscripts (BL Cottonian MS Julius C.vii, f. 193; and MS Harl. 338, f. 7). The seal appeared on a grant of property, in 1420/21, to Richard Cholmundleigh, seneschal of the Talbot manor of Blakemere (and other manors). Her arms are Talbot [i.e., Talbot quartering Strange] impaling, quarterly, 1 and 4, five escutcheons in saltire, each charged with five plates in saltire (i.e., Portugal ancient--according the Planché, the arms borne by the kings of Portugal down to Affonso III) and 2 and 3, five crescents in saltire.

To this seal Nicolas and Planché add at least eight other contemporary renderings of Beatrice's quarterings, many of them tintured (unlike the seal, of course). Portugal ancient invariably appears properly tintured (though sometimes with field and charges reversed). The five crescents in saltire are, as Planché notes, variously argent or or, on a field variously azure or sable. The earliest tintured example, on the monument apparently erected (before 1418) by Gilbert Talbot himself in Whitchurch, Salop., bear the crescents argent on an azure field (matching the Portuguese colors). The known achievements are described fully below (in the heraldic appendix), from Nicolas and Planché.

2. PLACEMENT IN PORTUGAL

There is no obvious solution to the identity question based on heraldic evidence, and there has been no other Portuguese evidence yet put forward to assign Beatrice a place.

The first step is to seek a precise heraldic match, searching for Portuguese families or alliances from which members could quarter Portugal ancient with five crescents in saltire, as Beatrice used in England. Sir N. H. Nicolas claimed that the Portuguese Pinto family is the only one that bore five crescents in saltire. Chico Doria has pointed out other Portuguese families bearing crescents on their arms: the 'Pinto, Queiroz and Homem families'. However, there are no known liaisons (marital or otherwise) between any members of these families and any member of the Portuguese royal families known in this period.

The other major family bearing crescents at this time, and one which did also quarter Portuguese royal arms, were the Sousa descendants of Affonso III's illegitimate son, Affonso Diniz--known as the 'Sousa de Arronches' line. Placing Beatrice among these Sousas would conform appealingly to the statement in the 1566 visitation of Berkshire that she was daughter of [recte descendant of?] 'King Alphoncius of Portingall'. Planché notes that the common Sousa colors are gules, four crescents argent (arranged points inward in a pattern of quatrefoil, or 'lunel'). Chico has noted that an azure field was also occasionally used; and Planché claims that five crescents (in saltire) were also an old Sousa variant. Planché suggested that Beatrice could be found among the granddaughters of Lopo Dias de Sousa (d. 1373), rico homem, lord of Carresedo, alcalde major of Chaves, whose wife was named Beatriz:

Affonso III (d. 1279) had by concubine Mariana Pirez de Enxara
Affonso Diniz (d. 1310) = Maria Paes Ribeiro de Sousa
Diego Affonso de Sousa (d. 1344) = Violante Lopes Pacheco
Lopo Dias de Sousa (d. 1373) = Beatriz

Planché noted that although some sources gave this Lopo Diaz no issue (including ES NS 3:467), there was legit. issue (p. 153). Last July Chico stated "No lineage book that deals with the early Sousas de Arronches mentions

this Beatriz among the grandchildren of D. Lopo Dias de Sousa and his wife Beatriz."

In addition, both Chico and William Addams Reitwiesner have spoken of another Lopo Dias, nephew of the first one, as a possible candidate for Beatrice's father: Dom Lopo Dias (1360-1435), Grand Master of the Order of Christ, who had many illegitimate children, of whom several were legitimized by royal decree (ES NS 3:467 lists nine illeg. children, not including a Beatrice).

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Affonso Diniz (d. 1310) = Maria Paes Ribeiro de Sousa
Diego Affonso de Sousa (d. 1344) = Violante Lopes Pacheco
Alvaro I de Sousa (d. ca. 1377) = Maria Telles de Meneses
Lopo Dias de Sousa (1360-1435)

While the 'Sousa de Arronches' hypothesis is enticing, it is not a perfect fit with the known arms, based on the difference between five crescents in saltire (which Beatrice bore) and four crescents lunel (which they did).

3. CONCLUSIONS

From the heraldry, as well as the 'King Alphoncius of Portingall' reference, it looks very likely that Beatrice belongs among the Sousa descendants of Affonso Diniz, illegitimate son of King Affonso III. It would be good to investigate further the early English documents (including the Cholmundleigh record cited by Mr. Morgan) and the sources of the early visitations, to search for other early references, and to see how the confusion between the two Beatrices was first introduced. Apparently the Close and Patent rolls have yielded no clue about her parentage, as checked by Bradford Wilson (see Chico's post of 1/26/00).

It would also be good to get a systematic bibliography of Portuguese armorials which deal with these Sousas. What are published sources which deal with this family at all? Where can be found the fullest descriptions of individual heraldic achievements of different members of this Sousa family, which might turn up a variant close to those used by Beatrice Talbot/Fettiplace?

Until an English or Portuguese record comes along unimpeachably naming Beatrice's parentage, the question is unresolved. In picking odds between the two Lopo Dias give here as possible candidates for Beatrice' father, I'd like to know the names and careers of the elder Lopo Dias' sons before pinning the tail on the donkey.

APPENDIX. ADDITIONAL HERALDIC EVIDENCE:

1. Whitchurch, Shropshire, parish church. Monument, probably erected by Gilbert, Lord Talbot, in memory of his mother (no longer extant), i.e. by 1418. Arms included Talbot (quartering Strange) impaling, quarterly, 1 and 4, argent, five escutcheons *in cross* [?] azure, each charged with five plates in saltire; 2 and 3, azure, five crescents in saltire or (Nicolas cites Lansdown MS 874, f. 24, for this). This is how Nicolas gives it (p. 87); on the other hand, Planché (p. 149) says that the arms were 'exactly corresponding with those on the seal', implying the escutcheons were in saltire.

The other arms are discussed by Planché, 149-150 and engraving opposite. As sources he merely cites "copies of them preserved amongst the heraldic manuscripts in the British Museum, and the church notes of Ashmole appended to the Visitation of Berkshire (marked C.12) in the College of Arms."

2. East Shefford, Berkshire, Fettiplace manor house.

a. Hall window (no tinctures): Quarterly, 1 and 4, five squares [i.e. corrupted escutcheons] in saltire, each charged with five plates in saltire; 2 and 3, five crescents in saltire. Planché's fig. 1.

b. Kitchen window. Beatrice impaling Fettiplace (i.e. the wrong way round); Beatrice's party per fess. 1, azure, five squares in saltire argent, each charged with five plates in saltire; 2, five crescents in saltire (no tinctures given). Planché's fig. 2. N.B. Fettiplace: gules, two chevrons argent.

3. Childrey, Berks. Church window. Fettiplace impaling Beatrice. She party per fess; 1, as above (in 2.b); 2, blank. Planché's fig. 3.

4. Childrey, Berks. Manor House, hall windows. Beatrice impaling Fettiplace (Fettiplace here having the addition of a martlet in chief). Beatrice party per fess; 1, as above (2.b), but with tinctures reversed (i.e. azure on argent); 2, sable, five crescents in saltire or, *each with points down*. Planché's fig. 4.

5. Compton House, Compton Beauchamp, Berks. ceiling bosses (painted wood):

a. Talbot impaling Beatrice (Talbot: party per fess, Talbot and Strange, though Strange here has three lions passant, not two; and Talbot has no burdure); Beatrice, party per fess: 1, azure, five escutcheons in saltire argent, each charged with five plates in saltire; 2, sable, five crescents in saltire or. Planché's fig. 5.

b. Fettiplace impaling Beatrice, as in (a). Planché's fig. 6.

6. Marcham church, window (on south side), Berks. Beatrice impaling Fettiplace. Beatrice, party per fess; 1, azure, five clusters of five plates each in saltire argent, all in saltire (i.e. the escutcheons are missing but

their plates are there); 2, sable five crescents in saltire or. Planché's fig. 7.

SOURCES.

J. R. Planché. "On the Monument of a Supposed Princess of Portugal in East Shefford Church, Berkshire." *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 16 (1860), 145-57; 201-204 & fold-out.

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The Four Visitations of Berkshire (vol. 1), ed. W. H. Rylands. Pubs. Harleian Society, 56. London, 1907.

Europäische Stammtafeln. Neue Folge, ed. Detlev Schwennicke. Marburg, 1978-. 3:462-467 (illegitimate descendants of Affonso III), cited as deriving from 'manuscripts of Rev. Heinzwolf Buck, Lindau, Bavaria'.

New Complete Peerage, 2d ed., s.n. 'Talbot'.