



Sir William Edmund Cradock-Hartopp's  
'Crests' letter to Mrs Trevannion  
dated January 6th, 1864

by

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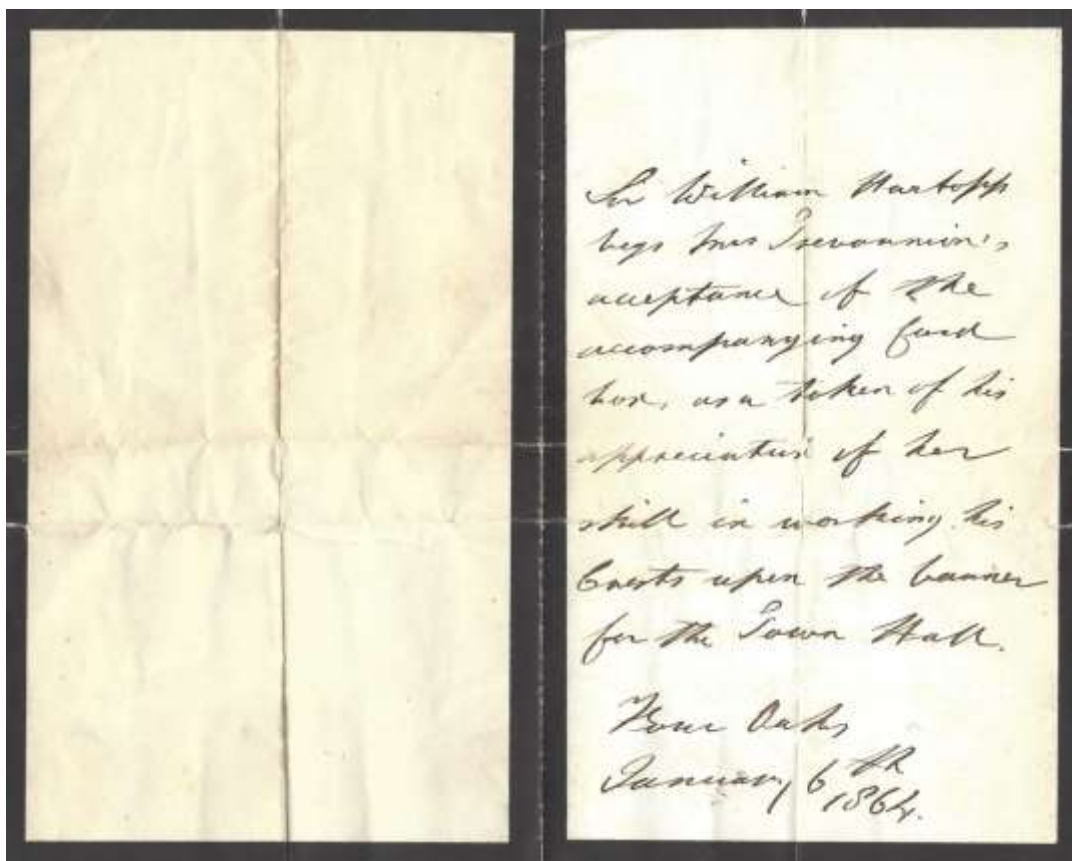
A rather intriguing letter sent by Sir William Edmund Cradock-Hartopp of Four Oaks Hall to a "Mrs Trevannion at Mr Wiggan's Sutton Park" has recently come to light from the archives of the Harwood family in Solihull, West Midlands.

It reads as follows:-

**"Sir William Hartopp begs Mrs Trevannion's acceptance of the accompanying food box, as a token of his appreciation of her skill in working his crests upon the banner for the Town Hall."**

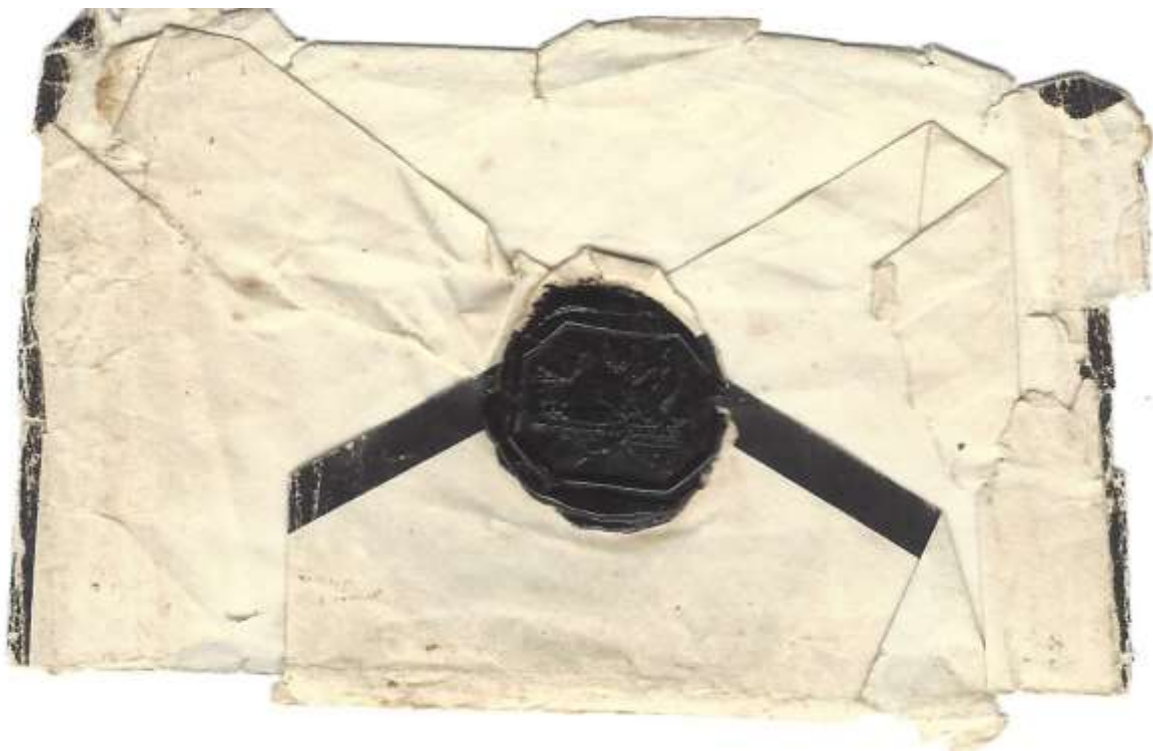
**Four Oaks  
January 6th, 1864**

Here is the letter:



It would be exciting to see the banner referred to, showing the Cradock-Hartopp crests. Could it still be lying, long forgotten, in a cupboard or cellar in one of Sutton Coldfield's municipal offices?

The envelope pictured here (actual size 6cm x 11cm) which enclosed the letter, shows a seal stamped with the family crests.



The design on the seal is very difficult to see with the naked eye, but enlargement shows it in fine detail.



It shows three symbols. They appear to be (a) a boar's head on a sword (b) a swan on top of a crown, and (c) a shield with a hand



on it. Two symbols are explained, however, on the following website: <https://www.myfamilysilver.com/pages/crestfinder.aspx> which cites "Fairbairn's Book of Crests, 1905 ed" and gives the following detailed description of the Cradock-Hartopp crests :-



(a) *An Arm In Armour Couped At The Elbow Lying Fesseways, The Hand Holding A Sword Erect Transfixed With A Boar's Head Couped, All Ppr. (For Cradock).*

The boar suggests bravery and a willingness to fight to the death.



(b) *Out Of A Ducal Coronet Or, A Demi-Pelican With Wings Endorsed Arg., Vulning Herself Ppr. (For Hartopp).*

A pelican wounding itself to feed its chicks with its blood is a symbol of charity.

There are many suggestions made by other organisations for the shield and hand symbol, although the following seems to be the most common.



(c) A shield denotes knighthood, the hand faith.

Regarding the text of the letter, a query remains as to the contents of the "food box". In 1864, one would not expect to see packets of cereal or tins of beans! Far more likely would have been some specialities of the day, perhaps even produce from Sir William's kitchens at Four Oaks Hall.

**Sir William Edmund Cradock-Hartopp**, 3rd Baronet, was a gentleman of the highest rank in Sutton Coldfield in the mid-19th Century. He was born, son of Sir Edmund Cradock-Hartopp, 1st Baronet, and Ann Hurlock, on 2nd December 1794 at Four Oaks Hall. On 28 September 1825, he married Jane Mary King Keane and they had several children. In 1835, he became Warden (equivalent to Mayor) and, in 1853, High Sheriff of Warwickshire. On 16th October 1864, he passed away at Four Oaks Hall.

**Mrs Lavinia Sophia Trevanion**, too, was a person of likely stature in the town. At the time of the 1861 Census, as widow of Rev. Frederick William Trevanion, she was sharing the home of John Wiggan and his wife, Harriet. She was also Mr Wiggan's niece. They lived at "The Park", a large gentleman's residence situated near to the Sutton Park entrance. For some reason, Lavinia's death in 1880 was recorded in the following *"Warden's" Calendar of 1899* on the 4th May, perhaps because of her family connection to John Wiggan who had been a Member of the Warden & Society.

JANUARY.		APRIL.		JULY.		OCTOBER.	
1	First Sunday after Christmas.	1	Bural Assn. to take Four Oaks Pa., 1933.	1	British Park Road, 1899.	1	Friends Unitarian Society, 1893.
2	First Sabbath School, 1893.	2	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	2	First Park Road, 1899.	2	Appointment of new Trustees by Synod.
3	Adm. of R. E. Taylor, 1893.	3	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	3	First Park Road, 1899.	3	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
4	New Church for Batten Light, 1893.	4	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	4	First Park Road, 1899.	4	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
5	Christmas—Twelfth Day.	5	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	5	First Park Road, 1899.	5	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
6	End of Calm, 1893.	6	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	6	First Park Road, 1899.	6	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
7	Adm. of R. E. Taylor, 1893.	7	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	7	First Park Road, 1899.	7	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
8	Rev. S. H. H. Taylor, 1893.	8	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	8	First Park Road, 1899.	8	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
9	Rev. S. H. H. Taylor, 1893.	9	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	9	First Park Road, 1899.	9	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
10	New Church for Batten Light, 1893.	10	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	10	First Park Road, 1899.	10	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
11	John de Holy Church, 1893.	11	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	11	First Park Road, 1899.	11	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
12	John de Holy Church, 1893.	12	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	12	First Park Road, 1899.	12	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
13	John de Holy Church, 1893.	13	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	13	First Park Road, 1899.	13	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
14	John de Holy Church, 1893.	14	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	14	First Park Road, 1899.	14	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
15	John de Holy Church, 1893.	15	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	15	First Park Road, 1899.	15	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
16	John de Holy Church, 1893.	16	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	16	First Park Road, 1899.	16	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
17	John de Holy Church, 1893.	17	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	17	First Park Road, 1899.	17	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
18	John de Holy Church, 1893.	18	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	18	First Park Road, 1899.	18	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
19	John de Holy Church, 1893.	19	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	19	First Park Road, 1899.	19	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
20	John de Holy Church, 1893.	20	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	20	First Park Road, 1899.	20	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
21	John de Holy Church, 1893.	21	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	21	First Park Road, 1899.	21	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
22	John de Holy Church, 1893.	22	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	22	First Park Road, 1899.	22	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
23	John de Holy Church, 1893.	23	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	23	First Park Road, 1899.	23	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
24	John de Holy Church, 1893.	24	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	24	First Park Road, 1899.	24	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
25	John de Holy Church, 1893.	25	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	25	First Park Road, 1899.	25	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
26	John de Holy Church, 1893.	26	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	26	First Park Road, 1899.	26	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
27	John de Holy Church, 1893.	27	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	27	First Park Road, 1899.	27	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
28	John de Holy Church, 1893.	28	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	28	First Park Road, 1899.	28	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
29	John de Holy Church, 1893.	29	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	29	First Park Road, 1899.	29	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
30	John de Holy Church, 1893.	30	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	30	First Park Road, 1899.	30	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
31	John de Holy Church, 1893.	31	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	31	First Park Road, 1899.	31	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
FEBRUARY.		MAY.		AUGUST.		NOVEMBER.	
1	Second Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.	1	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	1	British Park Road, 1899.	1	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
2	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	2	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	2	British Park Road, 1899.	2	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
3	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	3	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	3	British Park Road, 1899.	3	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
4	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	4	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	4	British Park Road, 1899.	4	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
5	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	5	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	5	British Park Road, 1899.	5	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
6	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	6	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.	6	British Park Road, 1899.	6	First Unit. Assn. of S. C. 1893.
7	Rev. W. R. E. Taylor, 1893.						

LEA & JONES, PRINTER, STATION ROAD, ERDINGTOW.

Janet Jordan  
January 2021.

*"The Warden's Calendar 1899" by George Sidwell is in Sutton Coldfield Library but, due to Covid lockdown, it has been impossible to obtain the reference.*

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