

## CHAPTER I

### THE FIRST MILLENNIUM

"Every family has its black-sheep Duke."

- The Marquis of Blandford, in 1970.

The name of this family, whether spelt Sanders, Sander, Saunders or Sandars, is recorded by most well known dictionaries of surnames as being a diminutive version of the very old name of Alexander.

But more interesting, and perhaps lesser known, is the fact that the name has a meaning according to the Oxford English Dictionary, as Middle English deriving from the Old French 'sandre', which is a variant of sandle, meaning the sandalwood tree. The name appears as Sandre at the time when men first used surnames rather than describing themselves as of such and such a place, being their place of birth or where they lived. It soon becomes plural adding an S at the end as numbers increase. As Sanders the name stays until the middle of the eighteenth century, when a will of 1750 first alters it to its present spelling with two A's.

The earliest known forebears of the Sandars family came from Sander-stead in Surrey. Whether the family took its name from the place or the place was named after the family is uncertain, but the old chronicles of the county record Watkin de Sanderstead having given the advowson of Sanderstead parish to Hide Abbey near Winchester, during the reign of Edward the Confessor. His brother Stephen is recorded in the Doomesday Book as holding Sanderstead of the Abbot of Hide.

After the Norman Conquest, the Sanders remained in the village until the reign of

Henry III when Richard sold Sanderstead to Robert de Pirle. Richard's son Roald Sander lived at Charlwood, about 15 miles away. He was the first of a long line who lived in the same village, the last of whom died in 1910. Roald is mentioned as living at Charlwood in 1243, and the family remained in the same village for two hundred years after this before William Sander very shrewdly married Joane Carew. This was an important landmark in the family's fortunes, as Joane was the heir of Thomas Carew of Beddington, who owned large tracts of the County. This is reflected in the will of the canny William.

William's son, Richard, is commemorated in the beautiful gilded oak rood screen at Charlwood Church erected in his memory and bearing his initials, RS. Richard's brother Henry moved to Ewell, there founding a separate Surrey dynasty at Battailles Manor, and his son Thomas "went into ye warres in Flanders". Although one of Thomas's brothers was killed there and another remained living abroad, this expedition was another turning point in the family history: in Flanders Thomas met Sir William Gresley of Drakelow and on his return to England instead of going back to Charlwood (he was a younger son, so there was no obvious local future for him), he accompanied Gresley to Derbyshire. For the second time there was a successful marriage - and the impoverished returning soldier died aged 80 as lord of the manor of Lullington in 1558, having bought out the Gresleys.

Six further generations lived in Derbyshire, at Caldwell, Ireton (of which more will be said) and Mackworth before the family, now Sandars, divides - part remaining in Derbyshire until the twentieth century - and part settling at Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. John Sanders had changed the

name to Sandars - perhaps a slip of the pen, but a stroke of good luck for the family historian - by his will which was proved in 1786 when he died aged 102. His grandson, Samuel Sandars, moved to Gainsborough, there founding the malting business, and from him descend the majority of the generations of Sandars now living. Four generations later, one part of the family, having returned to London, now completing the full circle, are again living mainly in Surrey, while the other part remains in Lincolnshire. Part of the Derbyshire stock remains in that part of the country, while other parts have dispersed as far as South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The Surrey family could be traced down to 1910 when two unmarried daughters died at Charlwood, but, not having changed the name from its original spelling of Sanders, no more can be traced.

Such, in a fleeting panorama, is the movement of the Sanders and Sandars up to the present day. But a great deal can be told of particular families and particular people within this framework and it would do less than justice to our ancestors to stop at describing the lineage as a whole in these general terms.

After the marriage with the Carews the Sanders became one of the biggest land-owning families in the County of Surrey and influential members of the community. Much is known about them, the way they lived and kept in favour, their fortunes, failures and families, so a separate chapter has been devoted to this era of the history. Sanders directly descended from William Sander of Charlwood lived on at Charlwood for 450 years after William married Joane Carew, the last of whom was Mary Sanders, who died in 1909, unmarried, and making William Melanchthon Sanders of Havant her executor. Charlwood Church contains more

evidence of the family than any other church in the country, except perhaps Gainsborough Parish Church, or Great St. Mary's Cambridge.

Thomas Homer Sanders, writing on the Sander Sanders and Sandars families in 1932, explained the connections and relationships between the various branches. He not only linked up (as has been done in this volume) the Surrey, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire lines, but also remoter lineages in South Wales, Scotland and Northamptonshire. The South Wales Sanders descended from Tobias Sanders of Cilrwdyn, Carmarthenshire, and from them descended the Sanders of Alton Pancras, Dorchester (Burke's Landed Gentry, 1952). The Northampton family is documented over the past 200 years in a brief history in the British Museum, and appears to have little further connection with this history than its use of the same coat of arms of three bulls' heads - but probably without justification.

Homer Sanders carefully traced the connection with the blood royal, but suffice it here to say that this arose through the Carew connection. Nicholas Sanders of Ewell married Isabella, daughter of Sir Nicholas Carew, Lieutenant of Calais in 1521, and she was a great great great great granddaughter of Edward III! Furthermore, and even remoter, Sir James Carew was a cousin of Anne Hoc, great great granddaughter of Elizabeth I! Homer Sanders also came to the conclusion that not only Sir Thomas Sanders, Remembrancer of the Exchequer, but also Sir Nicholas Sanders, M.P. for Winchelsea, Rear Admiral Sir George Sanders, M.P., and Admiral Sir Charles Sanders, Commander of British forces at Quebec, descended from the Charlwood Family. But his book (and therefore his authority) is untraceable so that it is impossible to know on what evidence this impressive connection is based.

Although no Sanders has risen to the zenith of fame or notoriety, it has, however, been possible to trace connections with the Knightage at several different points of history. Firstly Sir William Sanders, Cofferer to Queen Mary who was sherriff of Surrey in Henry VIII's reign, was made a knight in 1564: his famous son the Jesuit Nicholas Sanders is the subject of a separate chapter. Sir William's nephew, Thomas, was Sherriff of Surrey in 1553 and Remembrancer of the Exchequer to Edward VI and Mary I between 1551 and 1554. Sir William's grandson Nicholas was knighted - after himself being cleared of suspicion of being a recusant Catholic - for services on the Surrey Commission for the detection of Jesuits. Both these two gentlemen, Sir Thomas and Sir Nicholas, were astute enough to be able to keep in favour when the religious convulsions of the Reformation shook the country and when it was impossible to keep one's lands and possessions without changing one's religion to suit the monarch. To have been Remembrancer of the Exchequer under Edward VI as a protestant required a swift change of opinion and skilful diplomacy to enable him to stay on in the same position in the catholic England of Queen Mary. Sir Nicholas, after being a strong catholic, changed his tune, very wisely, on Elizabeth I's accession, as this extract from the Commission's records shows:

"... and lykewise Sir N. Sanders, a Justice of the Peace, alsoe of the countye, that ordinarilye he cometh to the Churche, and is not suspected in anye waye to be polishe, but his wife is of a popishe disposition as we are crediblye (sic) informed."

After Sir Thomas's death in 1563, a century passed before, in the Commonwealth, Thomas Sanders of Ireton is knighted for his services to the Cromwellian cause. Nearly

three centuries later the third Sir Thomas received the knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II.

The family has been rather infrequent in representing the country in Parliament. In 1541-1542 Thomas Sanders of Charlwood "Esquyer" represented Gatton and up to 1558 was a burgess for the county. The same borough, a classic rotten borough containing two houses north of Reigate and which only ceased sending members in 1832, was represented in 1640 by Edmund Sanders. In more recent times George Sanders, son of Samuel Sanders of Gainsborough, represented the Borough of Wakefield shortly after the Reform Act gave it representation. He was returned in 1847 and 1852. Joseph Sanders, a cousin of George and son of the father of the Liverpool to Manchester Railway, was returned for Great Yarmouth in 1848.

Although the family has had no great interest in politics - except the Prime Minister's powerful Secretary at the beginning of this century - it is possible to show the predominant occupations of male members of the family. The most frequent concern of their daughters can be discerned from the fact that so many of them married clergymen!

First is surely letters. Throughout the last four centuries writing has been the most notable achievement of the Sanders. Seventeen authors have put pen to paper, writing in three languages - Latin, English and Spanish, and the British Museum Library contains over seventy publications by the family. These works cover over 400 years' span and their subjects vary from religious doctrine, to history, archaeology, verse, biography, law, natural history, bibliography, novels, dogs and German grammar: everything, in short from finance to fiction and from dogs to dogma. The most

concentrated literary family was that of "Justinian" Thomas Collett Sandars. He himself, apart from writing the textbook on Justinian's "Institutes", was a highly regarded contributor to the Saturday Review, while his brothers Edmund wrote verse, and William translated and compiled German and French primers. He had three daughters and five sons, two of whom were writers: Horace (on Spanish archaeology) and Edmund, the well-known naturalist. Also during this prolific Victorian Period Samuel Sandars was assembling his fine collection of rare books and manuscripts which he later gave to Cambridge University.

After writing, several "gentlemanly" occupations took up the time of the Sandars: the land, the army and navy and the Bar. In the nineteenth century many members of the family were called to the Bar, although few practised, using it mainly as a convenient way of avoiding Jury service; two who did, however, practice at least on the academic front, were "Justinian" Sandars, who, as well as writing, headed various commissions and enquiries, and John Satterfield Sandars who edited "Sandars on Sewers" before becoming interested in electoral law, the Constitution and finally turning his hand to politics, ultimately as private secretary to Arthur Balfour as Prime Minister. In the present century there have been four solicitors. In the nineteenth century several people took an interest in the corn trade, Joseph Sandars at Liverpool, George Sandars in Manchester and Samuel Sandars, father of Justinian, and of course Samuel and Cornelius Sandars at Gainsborough, and Owston Ferry, ten miles further along the Trent, who each founded malting businesses. Also at the same time railways interested several: Joseph Sandars at Liverpool, the subject of a separate chapter, George after his retirement from Parliament, and Justinian, who became Chairman of the

## Mexican Railway.

There have also been many Sandars who have taken holy orders; not only in England but as far afield as Toronto (a brother of Justinian) and Australia. In present generations occupations have changed little; the armed forces, the civil and colonial services, law, industry and brewing remaining the main interests of the family. Only the daughters' habit of marrying into the Church has perhaps declined.

Although, in any brief history of a family such as this, it is essential to keep lists of names, dates and statistics to a minimum - and where these are relevant or of interest they have been removed to an appendix at the back of the book - the name and arms of the family are interesting.

The name Sander, whether spelt Sander or Saunder, first appears in the mid-thirteenth century with Roald Sander of Charlwood. The spelling of the name, as with any written word of this time, alternates between Sander and Saunder for nine generations before the son of Richard Saunder, commemorated in the Charlwood screen, first spells it Sanders in 1588. The name Sandars with two a's is only two centuries old. Much more ancient, however, is the coat of arms. The arms, unquartered are "sable, on a chevron, ermine, between three bulls heads cabossed argent a rose of the field"; 'Cabossed' indicates that the bulls are facing forwards with no neck showing. This probably first appears when the ambitious William Sander of Charlwood becomes a man of substance on his marriage with Joane Carew. He must have needed a good coat of arms, and certainly his son's and grandson's memorials at Charlwood Church proudly bear these arms.

An official grant of the arms, "with



augmentations" was made by Norrey King at Arms to the father of Sir Thomas Sanders of Ireton. Collingwood Sanders was a Counsellor at Law at the Inner Temple and has been educated at Balliol College Oxford. He was a man of great resolve which was perhaps responsible for his son's ambition and in turn for his being granted a knight-hood during the Commonwealth. The original grant of the College of Arms with much other family documentation relating to this period, was traced in 1869 by Samuel Sanders to the possession of Mrs. Green of Scalby Hall, near Scarborough. These documents passed out of the family together with the Caldwell estate when Sir Thomas's granddaughter, Elizabeth, married John Mortimer (who had previously been married to Richard Cromwell's daughter).

The meaning of the family motto, Non Bos in Lingua, is an allusion to the Greek didrachm, a coin impressed with the image of the bull. This subtle reference - I have no bull on my tongue - expresses the bearer's determination not to let his tongue be in the pay of others. The earlier motto of the Charlwood Sanders family was reputed to have been "While I breathe I serve" but the origin of this is not known. Perhaps the more erudite Latin motto was not adopted until an age of greater aspiration. One nineteenth century authority, Lower's "Curiosities of Heraldry", after mentioning the enigmatical mottoes of the Dukes of Bedford and Bridgwater, illustrated the puzzling motto of non bos in lingua by comparing it with the ancient proverb "per linguam nos inambulatur".

The arms and motto of the family, like the curious spelling of the name Sanders, are a great assistance to the family historian. Although the arms appear to have been usurped from time to time, even in the early eighteenth century their use

was far-flung. In Guillims Herald, published in 1724, the arms were stated to be borne by "Sanders of Charlwood and Ewell in Surrey, of Ireton in Derbyshire, of Barton in Staffordshire and of the City of London".

Several past members of the family have taken an interest in its history and in the deeds of our more or less notorious ancestors. Samuel Sandars, who took so much interest in Cambridge, was admirably suited to the task, and indeed did some research, but never collated it. An interesting family pedigree was copied some seventy years ago by Edmund Sandars. He luckily noted on the back that it was based on information copied by Samuel Sandars from two seventeenth century manuscripts which were in the possession of a descendent of the Derbyshire branch of the family, and from information afforded by John Satterfield Sandars.

The published sources used for the present volume were largely local county histories contemporary journals, genealogical histories and of course public records. Family trees appear with great regularity in Surrey and Derbyshire annals: the earliest published trees are in the official Heralds' Visitations to Surrey in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Gradually the family of Sander acquires, over the centuries, land, some wealth, and influence, many descendants and great antiquity. Geographically the stock originates in Surrey, then settles along the River Trent at various points from Staffordshire through Derbyshire and on to Gainsborough and Owston Ferry in Lincolnshire and then turns south again. The following chapters set out to describe the lives of a few of the men and women who are part of this great antiquity, and the effect they made on their various times.