

# Manorfield History Detectives.

## The Oldest Coat of Arms in St. Georges Chapel, Windsor Castle.



On the left is the Coat of Arms of Sir Ralph Bassett, Lord of the Manor of Stoney Stanton or Stanton as it was sometimes called. The shield, you can see is repeated in the Order of the Garter on the right. Sir Ralph's crest is the black boar with gold tusks rising through the jewelled crown and there is also a roundel with 8 gold arms ending in fleur-de-lis with a bleeding heart at the centre.

The Bassett family were Lords of the Manor of Stoney Stanton from 1292 -1378. Not only was Sir Ralph a Lord of the Manor of our village, he had many titles, including 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Drayton.

Sir Ralph was a true knight and fought throughout his life. Amongst other battles, he fought in the Battle of Crecy in 1346 along side King Edward III, in the Battle of Poitiers in 1356 with the son of Edward III, the ominously named 'Black Prince'. These were battles within what is known as the 100 Years War.

The 100 years War raged from 1337-1453, they were a series of battles between the Plantagenet royal family of England and the House of Valois in France. They were fighting over who should rule over France.

In 1361, after the 100 Years War had ended, Sir Ralph then fought in one of the many Crusades in the Holy Lands.

As a reward for his valiant efforts on behalf of the Crown, Ralph was made a **Knight of the Order of the Garter in 1368.**

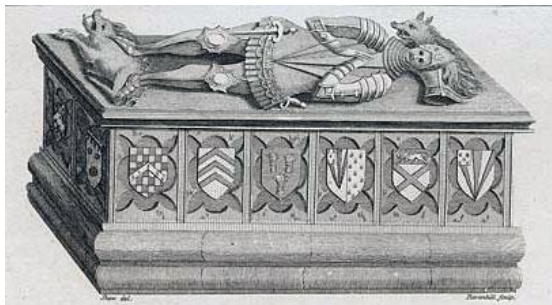
This Order was instigated by Edward III and is still considered the oldest and most senior order of chivalry in Britain today over 700 years later.

<https://www.royal.uk/order-garter>

Ralph Basset was assigned Stall 11, and this is where **his Stall-Plate is still to be found.** The Stalls line the walls around the choir or quire of St. Georges Chapel.

As is the tradition, his Stall-Plate was only fixed to the back of his stall after his death, on May 10<sup>th</sup> 1390 aged around 55.

Sir Ralph was buried in Lichfield Cathedral



Take a virtual tour of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle and see if you can see the stall-plate of Sir Ralph Basset.

<https://www.stgeorges-windsor.org/about-st-georges/experience-st-georges/360-virtual-tours/>

If you can't spot it try counting from the Kings seat (on the left), include his seat and count 11, you should see the stall-plate at the top of the stall. Get detecting!