

Dear Sir,

I have now made a search in the Records of the College regarding the family and Arms of Coombs, Combs, etc.

In the Herald's Visitation of Co. Warwick made in 1619, there is a pedigree showing John Combe of Ashley, who had a son John of Ashley, who had John of Old Stratford, who had sons Edward, John, Thomas and George. (It does not follow there were not other sons in the earlier generations. These pedigrees were not entered to prove a right to Arms by descent.)

The Arms allowed to this family were:--Ermine three lions passant in pale gules tied around the arm, holding in the hand a broken tilting spear. This was originally granted to John Combe of Stratford upon Haven (modern Avon), the date being uncertain but late 16th century. This is one of the Coats about which you asked.

In the Visitation of Co. Buckingham made in 1634, there is a short pedigree from Richard Combe of Hemel Hempstead, Co. Hertford, who had Francis, who had Tobie of Cheddington, Co. Bucks, living 1634 with son Richard. The Arms allowed are the same as above but no Crest is shown. There is a motto under the shield "Nil temere nec temere". (A Motto at that time was rare, they did not come into general fashion until later). The Visitation of Co. Herts of 1572 shows that the first mentioned Richard had three generations of ancestors at Newington, Co. Middlesex (now Stoke Newington, a north-eastern suburb of London.) The Visitation of Co. Herts. of 1669 shows that Tobie's son became Sir Richard Combe of Hemel Hempstead, Knt., who had sons Richard and Thomas. They were allowed the same Arms as before, with four quarterings.

In the Visitation of Co. Somerset made in 1623, there is a short entry showing Edward Combe of Tisbury Co. Wilts, who had William of Horton Per cres (in the parish of Kilmington) Co. Wilts, but on the borders of Somerset. William was living 1623, with sons Edward and Thomas. No arms are shown with this. At this distance of time one cannot tell why, but probably there was uncertainty about them which was not resolved on the spot.

In modern times, however, a descent has been proved and registered in the College Records from the first Edward Comb, coming down to about 1912. Owing to the fact that there were not Arms with the early entry, however, the entrant Charles Combe, of Cobham Park Surrey, son of Charles James Fox Combe of Bognor, and grandson of Harvey Christian Combe, Lord Mayor of London 1799 and M.P. 1802-17, had to apply for a new Grant, which was a differenced version of the old Warwickshire Arms -- Azure on a pale ermine between two tilting spears erect or, three lions passant in pale gules. Crest, upon a mount vert gules, the hand grasping a broken tilting spear proper, between two flag staves flowing from each a pennon gules. This Grant was made 26 July 1883, and was to include all the descendants of the Grantees's father, C.J.F. Combe.

It would appear, however, that a younger son of C.J.F. Combe was not satisfied with this, as on 13 May 1914 a Grant was made to Major-General Boyce Albert Combe, C.B., (Charles Combe's brother), who was

already entitled to Charles's Grant. The text of the Grant sets out that the General was '8th in descent from Edward Combe of Bridsor in Eisbury,' and that the Arms long used by his ancestors were as in the Warwickshire Visitation. He seems to have pressed to be allowed something nearer the original, or possibly he was able to produce new evidence of long usage, for he was granted:---Ermine three lions passant in pale gules within a bordure engrailed gules. Crest the same was Warwickshire but issuing from a Crown Vallary. This Grant was made to include all the descendants of his grandfather Harvey Christian Combe, thus bringing Charles into the new Grant as well, if he had chosen. Incidentally, there is no evidence that this family ever spelled themselves Coombe, although spelling was not standardized in earlier times.

There is one other entry in our Records of different Arms. In July 1603, a Grant was made to John Comb of London, son of Richard Combe of Co. Devon:- Argent on a bend raguly gules a lion passant argent. Crest, out of a ducal coronet a lion's jamb (paw) argent holding a staff raguly gules. No pedigree was entered; but oddly enough this Coat appears in the 1666 Visitation of Co. York of Sussex, and settled at Rawmarsh Co. York. However, the Heralds have put a note against it, "He referreth himself to the Visitation of Sussex for proofs of these Arms." When you look at the Visitation of Sussex, you find the Goodwyns of East Grinstead with quite different Arms, so that I am sure the Heralds never confirmed these Arms to any Goodwyn. I think, however, I see a clue to what may have happened. One Thomas Goodwyn of Combe in Co. Gloucester, was disclaimed at the Heralds' Visitation of that County in 1682. Combe was probably originally owned by a family of Combe who may have had the Devon Arms, and some Goodwyn in Co. Gloucester, either by marriage or in error took to these Arms. Before the Visitation, in mediaeval times, Arms did sometimes tend to go with the land rather than the name, and became transferred automatically to the husbands of heiresses; but this was put a stop to at the Visitations.

In the Visitation of Co. Devon of 1620 there is an extremely ancient reference to the name there. Eleven generations back from a man living in 1620, in the Pedigree of Estcott there is shown a Walter at Combe, who had a daughter and heiress who married Totworthy, and four generations later the Totworthy heiress married Estcott.

In 1850 a Royal License was granted to Richard Thomas Maddison of Ernshill, Co. Somerset, and late of Lincoln's Inn, London, Barrister-at-law, to take the surname and Arms of Combe only, in compliance with the Will of Richard Thomas Combe late of Ernshill. He was granted:--- Per pale argnet and or three lions passant in pale gules within an orle of mullets sable. Crest, a morion in front of a dexter arm embowed in armour holding a sword proper and charged with a pheon sable. (Even if R. T. Combe had been entitled to old differenced Arms some slight difference is always made in them when they are transferred like this.

There is also in our Records a Pedigree from Thomas Coombs of the Greyhound Inn, Ceren Abbas, Co. Dorset, who died 1741, down to 1960 all in Dorset. This family did not appear to claim Arms.

There is also a continuation linking with the family at Hemel Hempstead, showing Richard Combe of Hemel Hempstead (d. 1595), who had a son Francis (d. 1625) who had Tobias, William, Richard and John. This John Combe went to Flymouth, Massachusetts, and was later of Hempsted, New York, was admitted a Freeman of Flymouth, Mass., in 1646, married Sarah, dau. of Degory Priestly or Priestby, and had a son Francis, and

"other issue". This is the sole American connection, and does not seem to apply to your ancestors.

Turning to the other Coat about which you ask, "Gules a saltire entrailed voided argent," I cannot trace it as existing at all. Coats given in Burke's or in Papworth's Armorial (a somewhat similar book but worked the other way, listed under changes instead of names) are always very dubious where no source or place is given. They are sometimes very old extinct Coats, or more often taken from a Quartering on some old tomb and mistakenly named. Papworth always gives his source if known, and is more reliable than Burke's.

I do not find this Coat either in our Records or in Papworth. But Papworth gives: Argent a saltire per fesse and per saltire or and azure counter-changed, for MacComb or MacCoombe (no source).

If this exists, it will be either Irish or Scottish. Since the institution of the Republic of Eire, the Records of Ulster Office, have been kept here, and I do not find anything for Coombs, Combe, MacComb, etc. The name occurs there, but no connected pedigree or in any special place.

The College has no jurisdiction over Scottish Arms, which come under the Court of the Lord Lyon, H.M. Register House, Edinburgh 2. But we have lists here of Scottish Arms, and I find nothing for Coombs or MacComb. The only entry is a Grant to Henry James Combe of London in 1847 (who must have been a Scotsman or he could not have had a Grant from Lyon):--Sable on a chevron between three combs argent a bear passant sable all within a bordure or. There is a name MacCombie, but I am certain this is quite distinct and so are the Arms.

I am sorry that I can throw absolutely no light on your ancestors. I think, however, they must have been Scottish because Alister is the Scottish form of Alexander. But of course a Coombs might have migrated to Scotland and married a Scottish wife; it does not strike me somehow as a native Scottish surname. It is an extremely common name in England particularly in the West, being simply the old British word, cwm--a valley. For every Coombs belonging to an armorial family here must have hundreds who did not. It is rather like looking for a needle in a haystack. I think your best chance (if not already done) is to concentrate first on the American side and work back with certainty to find all possible information about the first one in America. Mills or Land Deeds sometimes give a clue, so do Naturalizations if not too early.

Yours truly,

Windsor Herald"

College of Arms  
Queen Victoria Street  
London, E. C. 4  
England.

(This letter was in answer to Lt. Whitney Coombs. Lt. Whitney Coombs is compiling Genealogy of Anthony Coombs.  
Anthony Coombs, Maine.

11/20/1916

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Sage, and information where a full history of the Sage family may be consulted, are especially wanted. Sarah Sage was probably from Connecticut.

2. Moore, Kidder. Anna Moore, daughter of Elder Francis Moore, and his wife, Katherine of Cambridge, Mass., married James Kidder in Cambridge, probably in 1649. James Kidder died April 10, 1676, and his widow Anna married William Underwood of Chelmsford, Mass., March 27, 1685. Information is wanted of the pedigree of Anna Moore. Her dates of birth and death, place of burial and information where a full history of the Moore family may be consulted, are especially wanted. C. E. S. S.

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(\*5988.) Coombs. Wanted, record of the children of Francis Coombs. The following Mayflower line through him is submitted for the acid test of criticism: Digory Priest of Leyden, Holland, married there Sarah Allerton Nov. 4, 1611, widow of John Vincent of London and sister of Isaac Allerton of the Mayflower. Priest came on the Mayflower, leaving wife and children in Holland. He died at Plymouth Jan. 1, 1621. His widow married in Leyden, Nov. 18, 1621, Cuthbert Cuthbertson and came with him and her Priest children in the Ann to Plymouth, 1623.

John Coombs, of Plymouth, married, 1630, Sarah, daughter of Digory Priest by his wife Sarah Allerton; Coombs was admitted a freeman at Plymouth, called gentleman. He is on the lists there in 1634 with wife Sarah and son Francis. Perhaps died before 1645 and perhaps

wife returned to England, for in that year the Court appointed his former servant, William Spooner, guardian of his children. Who were they?

Francis Coombs, born about 1634, one of the surveyors of Plymouth, 1662, constable; 1667, received a grant of land in Plymouth, 1686, in right of his father John; selectman, of Swansea, 1674, of Middleborough with wife Mary, 1676. He was invited to settle at Newtown, L. I., 1676, and serve the town as a cooper, selectman of Marshfield, 1680, 1681, 1682, a patentee of Governor Durgan's English charter to inhabitants of Newtown, L. I., Nov. 25, 1686. He had issue at least sons Thomas and Francis, said to have settled in Hopewell, N. J., and a daughter Elizabeth, and what others?

Elizabeth Coombs, daughter of Francis, was born 1672, where? She died at Great Neck, L. I., 1736; married in Hempstead, about 1697, Daniel Klissam of Great Neck, L. I. H. S. K.

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(\*5989.) 1. Parker. Jeremiah Parker was born at Taunton, Mass., 1741. His eldest daughter Hannah, born Dartmouth, Mass., March 15, 1772. Son Steamtown July 7, 1770. About

1. Carpenter. Jenkes Rittenbur of Providence, R. I., married Betsy Carpenter at Providence, according to family history. She died 1810, aged forty-two, probably in Wayne County, New York. Their eldest child, Timothy, was born at Providence, May 11, 1786. Timothy and Deborah were new names in Rittenbur family, apparently from Carpenter side. William Carpenter of Providence, 1636, had son Timothy and grandson Timothy, died 1726, Pawtuxet, R. I., who had sister Elizabeth. Wanted, ancestry of Betsy Carpenter. Was she descendant William Carpenter?

5. Beal. William Beal married Lydia Bent 1739. They lived for a time at Natick, Mass., and subsequently went to Vermont. Among their children were Aaron (eldest) and Othniel. These same names appear among the descendants of William Beal of Marblehead. Joseph Winch of Framingham, Mass., married Mary Beal of Wayland, Mass., who died 1812. Wanted, ancestry of William Beal and Molly Beal.

6. Nutting, Proctor. James Proctor of Westford, Mass., married, May 19, 1747, Hannah Nutting. Among their children were: Josiah, Lydia, Stephen, Silas, not Proctor names. Josiah and Lydia are Nutting names. Wanted, ancestry of Hannah Nutting. A. S. E. A.

ANSWERS

\*2997. 10. Starr. F. D. C., Jan. 29, 1918. The correspondent states that "Dr. Thomas Starr of Charlestown lost his first wife, Rachael Harris, and had a second wife, Hannah —" and a reply by "Mason" to a Starr query, evidently the same as that above mentioned, says the full name of Dr. Thomas Starr's wife "was Rachael Harris, her parentage unknown to me."

These statements are so contrary to those made by other authorities that the writer feels called upon to request the authorities therefor.

The "Starr Family," by Burgis Pratt Starr, says, in part, Oct. 19, 1648, General Court held at Boston:

"Whereas Mr. Thomas Starr, deceased, having left a desolat widow and eight small children . . . the Court judgeth it meete to grant fower hundred acres of land to the said widow and children, and doe hreby impower ye treasurer and Capt. Norton to make sale or otherwise dispose of the said land as best may conduce to ye benefit of the widow and children, as they shall see meete."

"There is some difficulty in tracing the history of Dr. Thomas, for another Thomas Starr was contemporary (see appendix A), but there is no question as to his children, for the colony records give the births of all but one. The will of his uncle Jehoshaphat in 1659, at Ashford (A page 11), confirms the record, and the disposition of the above grant of the land settles it beyond dispute. The land . . . 1633-4, recorded at length

devised in about four lines only: (1) wife to be executrix; (2) eldest son to have double fortune; (3) books to son. Comfort Starr deposed and signed to effect that to his remembrance the wife to have half the estate. Administration

to widow Dec. 20, 1658. Hebra, viz Samuel, Thomas, Comfort, Benjamin, Jehosaphat.

Under Hicks, in Wyman's Charlestown, we find John Hicks, Hempstead in North Riding of Yorkshire, Long Island, married Rachael Starr, who gave power to Richard Russell to sell house of former husband, Thomas Starr, and 600 acres. Also letter to Rachael Russell, naming her two sons Comfort and Benjamin Starr and Aunt Smedley; 1664.

Mather's Long Island Refugees has a short account of a John Hicks, one of the patentees of Flushing in 1645, and at Hempstead, 1647. He was a delegate from Hempstead 1663 and 1665.

Now either all of the above authorities are all wrong or else it is clear that Dr. Thomas Starr did not have a second wife Hannah —, and that whether or not his first and only wife was named Rachael Harris is unknown. Whether the John Hicks of Wyman's Charlestown is the same as the John Hicks of Hempstead, Long Island, is also open to question, for the John Hicks of Hempstead, L. I., was there as early as 1647, whereas the John Hicks of Wyman's Charlestown was evidently there in about 1656-59, possibly for a season only, to marry the widow, Rachael Starr. C. D. F.

\*4845. 2. Soule, Cobb. G. C. H. Sept. 5, 1916. George Soule of Duxbury came in Mayflower. He died in 1680, "very aged," and his wife in 1677. He married Mary Becket. John (2) Soule, born 1632, Duxbury, married Esther Deane, born about 1638. He died 1707. Rachael Soule, born about 1652-3, died Sept. 11, 1725, married John (3) Cobb, Jr. Henry (1) Cobb, Barnstable, one of first settlers had been in Plymouth, 1620; settled 1623; was probably from Kent. He married, 1631, Patience Hurst of Plymouth. He died 1676. John (2) Cobb, born 1637, 1632, married Martha Nelson, 1657. John (3) Cobb married Rachel Gage, Sept. 5, 1685. He died Oct. 8, 1727, and died Sept. 16, 1727, aged sixty-five. M. I. R. G.

\*5745. 2. Hartwell. J. H. C. M., Oct. 11, 1916. In answer to "Colorado," J. E. C. M. says, regarding the family of Abner and Carpenter, that Dr. Samuel Starr married for his third wife, "Bridget Carpenter, sister to his first wife, Anne." Now, among the marriages of foreigners that were registered at the Statehouse city hall, Leyden, between 1611 and 1620, we find the following, printed in "The Story of the Pilgrim Fathers," Vol. 1, March 15—April 20. Samuel Fuller, Tailor Maker of London, in England, accompanied by Anne

9755: It has been generally supposed that Francis Combe, son of John Combe of Plymouth, went to Middleboro and there married, first, Deborah (3) Morton, daughter of John (2), about 1672; second, Mary (Barker) Pratt, widow of Samuel Pratt. Children of these two marriages are recorded in Middleboro Town Records. The records further disclose that "Mr. Francis Combe died the last of December, 1682." His five children were all daughters, and the fact that the last was named "Frances" can perhaps be taken as a clue that there was no son to bear the father's name.

However, it appears possible that the supposition that the man who died at Middleboro in 1682 was the son of John Combe of Plymouth and Duxbury may perhaps be erroneous. John Combe married before 1633, and probably about 1630, Sarah Priest, daughter of Degory Priest, and they definitely did have a son Francis, who acquired by a deed from his mother's half-brother, Samuel Cuthbertson, a title to lands formerly his father's at Rocky Nook, this deed being dated Dec. 2, 1656. As an obligation for future payment of part of the consideration appears in this instrument, it may be fairly assumed that at the date of the deed (1665), Francis Combe, son of John, was of full legal age; hence born before 1635. He may have been born even earlier, it would seem. On Dec. 31, 1668, "Francis Combe of New Plymouth, Yeoman," sells to Edward Gray for 95 pounds several plots including "my own dwelling house," and "all the right unto a Lott graunted to my father Mr. John Combe by the town of Plymouth in 1641." This clearly identifies the grantor as the son of John of Plymouth. It would appear, from the number of parcels conveyed, that Francis Combe sold to Edward Gray for 95 pounds about all the land he then owned.

**Grey**

On the same date as the above deed Edward Gray sells to Francis Combe of Plymouth for 36 pounds "my 3 shares or lots—westward of Namasackett River," and, also, on the same date Edward Dotey of Plymouth for 10 pounds sells to Francis Combe of same land on the westerly side of Namasackett River.

If this had been an exchange of lands between Edward Gray and Francis Combe it would have been proper and customary to record that fact. As cash consid-

erations were apparently paid in both deeds, and also in the one from Dotey, it is conceivable that perhaps this was not an exchange, but a deed from one Francis Combe to Edward Gray, and a deed from Edward Gray to another and different person, Francis Combe. It would be entirely possible for the one to be the father of the other, and indeed, for the father to have made possible the purchase by his son, through a gift of part of the money he got for his holdings.

Francis Combe, the son of John Combe, would, in 1668 be at the very least 35 years of age (perhaps 38), and, if married at an early date, he could have a son 17 or 18 years old. If we are to assume that the Francis who died at Middleboro 1682 is the same person as the son of John Combe of Plymouth, we must believe that he, at the probable age of 42, married in 1672 as his first wife Deborah Morton, a girl not over 20 at that time, and, further, that he lived alone at Rocky Nook from 1656 to 1668, and later at Namasackett from 1668 to 1672, before his marriage. It is curious that in no record, after an extensive search, has mention of "Sr." or "Jr." been found in connection with the name. But it is, I believe, highly significant that in the existing records of Middleboro, in the list of "Proprietors of the Liberties of Middleberry" taken 1677 before the resettlement of the Town after Phillip's War, the name of "Francis Combe" carries "two Propriations," no other name having more than one, while also, in 1679, in the list of original proprietors of the 16 Shillings Purchase, the name of "Francis Coombs" appears twice, as holder of lot No. 35 and again as holder of lot No. 66. No other name is duplicated. And, in 1695, 13 years after the death of Francis Combe, the name of Francis Combs appears on a list of "Inhabitants and Proprietors" of Middleboro. This, as I understand it, does not necessarily mean that the Francis of the list was a resident, but would indicate that he was living.

**Coomes**

There are a number of Combes, Coomes and Coombs families in the general vicinity of Middleboro at about the same period, notably at Rochester. They could, if we admit the possibility of there being two Francis Combes, father and son, be considered as probable sons of the senior Francis, and brothers of the Junior. These families number at least six, and with no other indicated parentage.

The foregoing is an outline of a theory on which much research with a view to proof or disproof has been had. If any correspondent can aid in adequate proof, or actual disproof of the idea, his criticism will be most welcome. Further extension of the above theory is available, together with a mass of references for all statements herein made, to anyone interested.

W. L. H. W.  
Feb. 4, 1940.

5988. Coombs. S. P. M., March 12. 17. According to the Plymouth Colony records "John Combes, gent." was fined three shillings for non-appearance in court, Dec. 4, 1638, and on Sept. 3, 1639, "Mr. John Combe" was disfranchised of his freedom "for being drunk." It appears to me that the date of 1636-7 is taken from the list of freemen of Plymouth for that year on which, according to the records, a marginal notation to the effect of his disfranchisement was made later than the original date. He was readmitted a freeman, June 5, 1644. John Combes seems to have been sued for debt at various times: by Thomas Cushman, July 1634, by Ralph Gearume, April 5, 1642, and by his wife's uncle, Isaac Allerton, Aug. 1, 1648.

In connection with this last suit I wish to call attention to some curious facts. Thomas Morton, who was rather violently ejected from New England and sent in chains back to England for trial about 1634, returned some time later to New England with Isaac Allerton, who had been sent to England as the agent of the Plymouth Colony in an effort to obtain a charter. Allerton seems to have incurred the displeasure of the Plymouth people by bringing Morton back with him. He not only brought him back, but made Morton his secretary, and some time later we find that Allerton left Plymouth and went to New Amsterdam, where he became an official under the Dutch. Morton, however, seems to have remained in New England, where he again got into trouble with the magistrates. The following order appears in Massachusetts Bay Records, vol. 2: "Nov. 3, 1644. For answer to Thomas Morton's petition ye mātrats have called him publiquely & layde diverse things to his charge which hee denies & therefor they think fit yt further evidence be sent for into England & yt Mr. Downing may have instructions to search out evidence against him & hee to lye in prison in ye mean time." In Plymouth Colonial Records, vol. 2, page 95, is the following: "March 3, 1645. It is ordered that Major Gibbens shall take order to answer Mr. Combes declaracon against Morton and Mr. Combs attorney to write unto him."

Was this the evidence sent for into England? It seems so to me. At the same time as the last order another also appears: "Mr. Allerton upon a motion by Thos. Cushman is allowed a year's time for recovering debts in this gov't." On Oct. 27, 1646, a power of attorney from "Isaac Allerton of New Amsterdam" to "My wellbeloved sonne-in-law Thomas Cushman," to collect all claims, etc. of a "certain debt of one hundred pound sterling due from John Combe, gent., & for which his land was engaged to me."

Now on Oct. 15, 1646, William Spooner, who had been an indentured servant of John Combes of Plymouth, gave a bond to save the Town of Plymouth harmless from charges "by reason of a child that Mrs. Coombs left with him when she went for England." It does not say that John Combes also left for England, nor is the date of her going given, but where was John in 1645, when the Morton declaration was made, if not in England? It seems to me that John left for England soon after being readmitted a freeman, possibly to avoid creditors, and that his wife followed him later, leaving lands and children in the hands of Spooner, a trusted servant.

On Aug. 1, 1648 the Court ordered the children of Mrs. Combe, now with Wm

Spooner, to be kept by him, and on the same day ordered Spooner to pay to Thomas Cushman one third of the increase of corn due to Mrs. Combe. On Aug. 5, 1648, just four days later, Thomas Cushman, as agent for Allerton, obtained an order that he receive the profits from land of John Combe at Rocky Nook, as payment of debts. John is not mentioned as deceased, which again lends color to the theory that he was not dead, but had left. On May 6, 1656, Cushman gave a receipt and accounting for the moneys received through the above order, and shows that the debt was satisfied in 1654.

It seems curious that John's wife's uncle should be so keen to collect from him, but when we consider that John Combes had made a declaration against Thomas Morton, a friend of Allerton, which had caused his detention in jail for some time, it does not seem so curious. Let us now consider that Francis, believed to have been the son of John Combes, married Deborah Morton. Was she related to Thomas? If so, the marriage of these two would furnish material for a romance.

The names of the remaining children of John Combes are unknown, apparently, but in view of the facts as shown above, does it not seem possible that a search in England might reveal data which might be very important?  
G. D. A. C.

Allerton Suit Mar. 12 - 1917-5-988

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Francis Dr

# Questions

## COMBE

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