



## BEACON GENEALOGICAL AND HERALDIC RESEARCH

53 HITCHIN STREET, BALDOCK, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG7 6AQ  
UNITED KINGDOM

Telephone: +44 (0)1462 892062 Mobile: 07989 976394

E-mail: [beaconenquiries@googlemail.com](mailto:beaconenquiries@googlemail.com) Web: <http://beacongenealogy.googlepages.com>



### The Marital Arms of Empson and Rawson

The arms as engraved upon this George IV English Sterling Silver Soup Tureen by James Barber and William Whitwell hallmarked York 1821 are those of the family of Empson impaling Rawson. These armorial bearings denote the marshalling of a marital coat showing on the dexter (the heraldic right on the left as you view the piece) the arms of the husband and on the sinister (the heraldic left on the right as you view it) the arms of the wife. They may be blazoned as follows:

Arms:

(on the dexter) **Azure a chevron between three crosses paty argent\*** (for Empson)

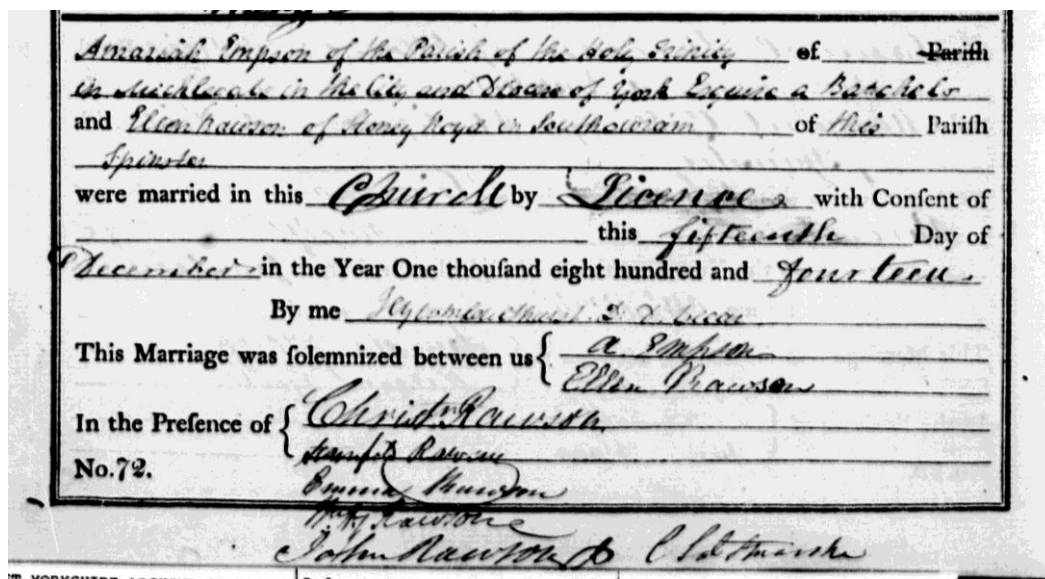
(on the sinister) **Sable a quadrangular castle argent\*** (for Rawson)

\* Both these arms were borne without authority at the time of the engraving. Later generations of both families appear to have regularized their respective arms at The College of Arms in London. The Empsons did so as late as 1950.

Crest: **A tent argent adorned or lined azure charged in the interior with a cross paty of the third** (for Empson)

These armorial bearings undoubtedly commemorate the marriage of Amaziah Empson (born 15th July 1788 died 1848) and Ellen Rawson (born 3rd June 1789 died 21st May 1864). Amaziah and Ellen were married on the 15th December 1814 at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Halifax in the County of Yorkshire. At the time

of their marriage, Amaziah was living in the Parish of Holy Trinity Micklegate in the City of York, whilst Ellen is stated as living in the parish of her marriage. Amaziah was one of the younger sons of Amaziah Empson, of Yolkfleet, near Howden in the County of Yorkshire and Ann Kelk, of Brigg in the County of Lincolnshire, whilst Ellen's parents were John Rawson, of Stoney Royd House, Halifax and Nelly Stansfeld. At the time of the proving of Ellen's Will on the 30th June 1864, the value of her estate stood under some £35,000, a very considerable sum at the time. In today's values this sum would be something in excess of £3,000,000. She was stated as being formerly of Spellow Hill, near Boroughbridge (her late marital home) and lately of Mill House, near Halifax (where she died), again both in the County of Yorkshire. Her Will also notes that her three sons, The Reverend William Henry Empson, of Wellow in the County of Southampton (Hampshire), The Reverend Arthur John Empson, of Eydon in the County of Northamptonshire and Christopher Empson, of Shadwell Grange, near Leeds in the County of Yorkshire acted as executors to their late mother's estate.



The Marriage Entry of Amaziah Empson and Ellen Rawson in the Register of Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Halifax, Co. Yorkshire 15th December 1814.

*John A. Rawson 9 Lines*

12th April 2016