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The Arms of Family of Lee

The arms as engraved upon this George III English Sterling Silver Soup Tureen by Lewis Herne and Francis Butty hallmarked London 1758 are those of the family of Lee quartering Browne. These armorial bearings may be blazoned as follows:

Arms: **Quarterly 1st¹ and 4th Azure two bars or a bend chequy² or and gules (for Lee) 2nd and 3rd Argent a pellet between two bends sable (for Browne)**

Crest: **A bear passant sable muzzled and chain reflexed over the back argent (for Lee)**

¹ The 1st quarter displays the cadency mark of a mullet for a third son.

² The engraver has inadvertently omitted a line of 'checks' making the bend 'compony' rather than 'chequy'.

Given the date of manufacture of this tureen it was undoubtedly in the possession of one of the sons of Colonel John Lee (died 1760) and his second wife, Mary Browne (born 21st April 1717). Colonel Lee was the third son (hence the use of the cadency mark of a mullet as noted above) of Sir Thomas Lee, the 3rd Baronet of Hartwell in the County of Buckinghamshire and his wife, Alice Hopkins, the daughter and heiress

of Thomas Hopkins, of the City of London; whilst Mary Browne, was the daughter of Samuel Browne, of Arlesey in the County of Bedfordshire. After the death of John, Mary married Colonel John Schutz. Given that there are no further cadency marks shown upon the arms, we may presume that the arms are those of John and Mary's eldest son, Thomas Lee, of Hampton Court Palace in the County of Middlesex who served at one time as an Equerry to HRH Prince William Henry, the Duke of Gloucester and Edinburgh. The younger son (whose arms would have ordinarily borne a crescent as a second son), John Lee, an Ensign serving with the Guards died unmarried at a date not known.



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