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The Crest of the Family of Pilkington

The crest as engraved upon this George IV English Sterling Silver Three Piece Tea Service by Charles Thomas Fox hallmarked London 1822 is that of the family of Pilkington. It may be blazoned as follows:

Crest: A mower with his scythe proper habited per pale argent and sable¹

¹Other branches of the Pilkington family often blazon their crest as follows:
'A mower with his scythe proper habited per pale argent and gules'.

The Pilkington family are found in the predominately in the Counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire, although other families bearing the name are found further afield and a similar crest. Whether these families are genealogically connected is not known. The Pilkingtons, of Rivington in the County of Lancashire are probably the more ancient and senior line. Legend has it that a member of the family (which was said to be one of repute prior to the Norman Conquest of 1066) disguised himself when sought by Norman soldiers as a mower and escaped. A similar legend adheres to another Lancashire family, the De Traffords or Traffords in which a member of that family avoided capture by the Parliamentarians during the Civil War of the 17th Century by disguising himself as simple-minded thresher wielding a frail rather than the Pilkington's scythe.

There is certainly a possibility that this tea service was in the possession the baronetcy family of Pilkington, of Stanley in the County of Yorkshire who descended from Sir

Alexander de Pilkington who held lands at Rivington during the reign of King Henry III. The baronet at the time of the manufacture of this tea service was Sir William Pilkington, the 8th Baronet (baptised 14th November 1775 died 30th 1850).

The crest in my opinion is certainly contemporaneous with this tea service.



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MSc, FSA Scot, Hon FHS, QG

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