

ANOTHER COUNTY WHICH USED THE MARTLETS

(From <https://m.facebook.com/SussexFlag>)

There is another county which strangely made use of Sussex's martlets in the 19th century. That county was neighbouring Surrey!

In the Surrey entry of Arthur Charles Fox-Davies' 1894 'Book of Public Arms' it states "for some County purposes the Arms azure, six martlets three, two, and one, and in the chief a crescent, were made use of". That in plain English is six martlets in the pattern 3, 2, 1 with a crescent above the martlets on a blue background. This emblem featuring the Sussaxon Martlets with an added crescent can still be found used by several Surrey organisations today as shown clockwise, below; the Surrey County Golf Union, Cranleigh School and the Guildford County Club. In the 1850s the martlets and additional crescent was used by the Second (Croydon) Surrey Rifle Volunteers.



SURREY
COUNTY GOLF UNION



CRANLEIGH



The martlets and cresecent were also a decorative feature on a county court building



Why was Surrey making use of a neighbouring county's emblem?! The first definitive link between Sussex and the martlets was in 1611 when cartographer John Speed deployed them to represent the Kingdom of the South Saxons in his atlas "The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine". Within this same atlas, Speed created a map of 'The Heptarchy', the seven Kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England from the 5th century. This map



showed Surrey as part of the Kingdom of the South Saxons. For a period of time, it was indeed believed that both Surrey and Sussex together once made up the ancient Kingdom of the South Saxons aka the Kingdom of Sussex. This is where Surrey's claim to the martlets derived from.

Why was a crescent added then in Surrey? In English heraldry, there is a systematic way of distinguishing otherwise identical coats of arms belonging to members of the same family. These are called 'Marks of Cadency'. It consists of a special mark being added to the coat of arms of the head of the family, for each legitimate son in order of birth, as to "difference" the sons' own individual coat of arms from that of the head. The eldest son has his 'label', the second son has a crescent, the third son has a star, and so on. Somebody in Surrey came up with the idea of adding a crescent to the martlets to distinguish their county emblem from the plain original martlets being used for Sussex. As you can see, from the 'Marks of Cadency', a crescent is used to represent second place, a reserve if you like. By adding a crescent it implied that Surrey was the second part of the Kingdom of Sussex.

It is now understood by historians that Surrey was not a part of the Kingdom of Sussex, it was actually originally a province of the Kingdom of Essex and later the breakaway Kingdom of Middlesex. A Middlesaxon territory just to the south of Middlesex proper on the other side of the River Thames. This is highlighted by the derivation of Surrey's name which is Sūþrīge (or Suthrige) meaning "southern region".

Today Surrey makes use of the gold and blue checks which are the arms of the ancient de Warenne family who were Earls of Surrey from 1088 until 1347. A much more locally meaningful symbol for that county. You'll also notice these gold and blue checks on emblems relating to the Rape of Lewes (one of six ancient internal divisions of Sussex) as the de Warennes were also Barons of Lewes at the same time.

As for Sussex's Martlets, it seems that John Speed in his 1611 atlas was repeating an earlier association between the emblem and the County of Sussex, rather than being the inventor of the association. It is now firmly regarded that the county emblem originated and derived from the coat of arms of the 14th century Knight of the Shire for Sussex, Sir John de Radynden who bore arms comprising of silver martlets on a field of blue.

So, the martlets have always been exclusive to the County of Sussex of which Surrey retrospectively had no legitimate claim or real association.