

Introduction to Heraldry for Genealogists

Class 3: Using a Coat of Arms in Genealogy

Joseph McMillan and Nathaniel Lane Taylor, FASG

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THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenters



Joseph McMillan, AIH



Nathaniel Lane Taylor, FASG

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Flow charts & *A Roll of Arms*
 - Case studies
 - How to Get a Coat of Arms
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

Flow Charts & *A Roll of Arms*

Researching Armigerous Ancestors: Flow Chart 1

Subject with associated coat of arms:	
Where do you find the arms?	book or article online artifact
Subject in <i>Roll of Arms</i> ?	yes no
Ancestry of subject alleged / discussed?	yes no
If yes, how good is the genealogy?	scholarly unscholarly
Arms said to be used by subject?	yes no
With specifics?	yes no
Other rationale for source displaying arms?	yes no

Researching Armigerous Ancestors: Flow Chart 2

Coat of arms used by subject:	
Used where?	tomb seal decorative arts
Appropriate to time period (not anachronistic)?	yes no
Arms blazonable?	yes no (worn / damaged)
Arms match descriptions of artifact?	exactly somewhat no
Arms match arms in reference works?	exactly somewhat no

Researching Armigerous Ancestors: Flow Chart 3

- Resources: Tier 1: Arms in America
 - Committee on Heraldry, *Roll of Arms*
 - Hoffman, *Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent* (scholarly survey of arms used in New Netherland and New York)
 - American Heraldry Society, “Roll of Early American Arms” (online meta-index of Bolton, Cozier, Matthews, Vermont, etc.)
 - Bolton’s *American Armory*
- Resources: Tier 2: Before Immigration
 - For British Isles: Burke *General Armory*; *Dictionary of British Arms*; Papworth’s *Ordinary*; visitation sources (session 2 handout)
 - For Continental Europe: various sources (session 2 handout)

Committee on Heraldry: *Roll of Arms*

- 963 entries to date
- 1–963: name index on Committee website (committeeonheraldry.org)
- 1–741: in single-volume *Roll of Arms*, 2013
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- All: committee minutes and case files have further information



Committee on Heraldry
of the New England Historic Genealogical Society

CommitteeOnHeraldry.org

HOME NEWS ABOUT **ROLL OF ARMS** MODERN ARMS RESOURCES AMERICANANCESTORS

Index to the Roll of Arms

This index provides each subject's name, year of immigration, nationality, colony or state of residence in America, and entry number in the *Roll of Arms*. Nationality and year of immigration, ordinarily not published in the early parts of the Roll, have been supplied here to better identify the subjects.

Key to immigration date codes: a — arrived in or after that year; b — arrived in or before that year; c — circa or century; d — year of settler's death; g — grant of arms in that year to a colonist already settled here; mg — modern (20th-century) conferral of arms by a foreign governmental authority to an American (not recorded in the Roll after 1972).

Key to nationality codes: AU — Australia; B — Belgium; C — Canada; E — England; F — France; FI — Finland; G — Germany (or any German principality); H — Hungary; I — Ireland; LT — Lithuania; LX — Luxembourg; M — Mexico; N — Netherlands (or Low Countries generally); NO — Norway; O — Austria; P — Poland; R — Russia; S — Scotland; SP — Spain; SV — Sweden; SW — Switzerland; W — Wales.

Numbering: The *Roll* has been published down to number 741. Numbers from 742 forward are provisional, pending publication.

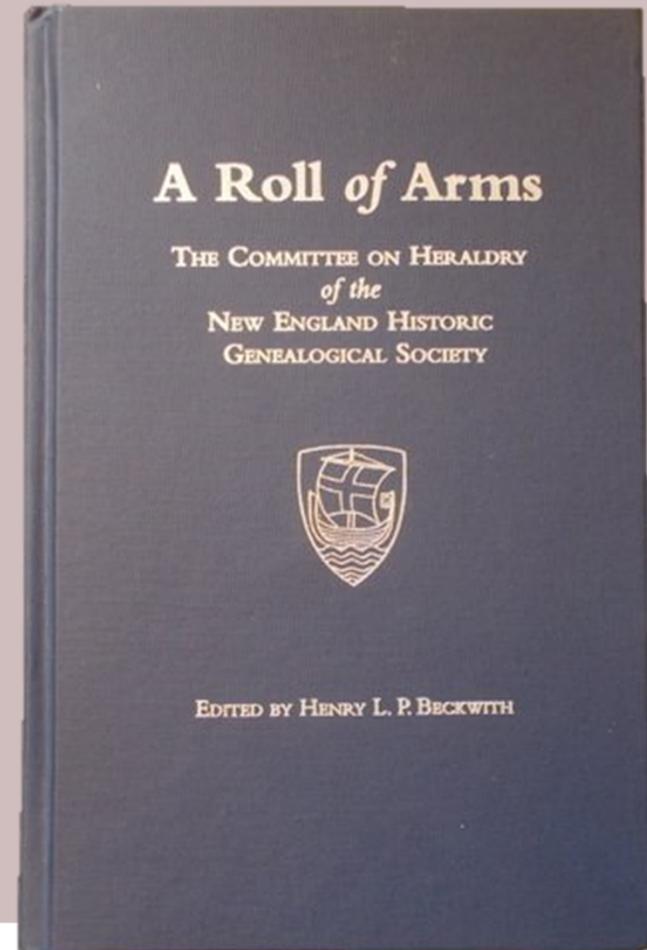
Recent additions: A detailed list of entries added to the *Roll of Arms* in 2020, not yet formally published in the *Roll*, is included in the Committee's Report for the Year 2020.

Search:

ROLL	SURNAME	GIVEN NAME(S)	COLONY	YEAR	ORIGIN
319	Abbadie (d')	Jean Vincent, Baron de Saint-Castin	ME	1687	F
168	Abell	Robert	MA	1630	E
107	Abercrombie	John Joseph	SC		
847	Abney	Dannet & brother George	VA	1700 b	E
023	Adams	Rev. Arthur	CT	mg	E
382	Agassiz	Jean Louis Rodolphe	MA	1873 d	SW
158	Alexander	James	NJ		

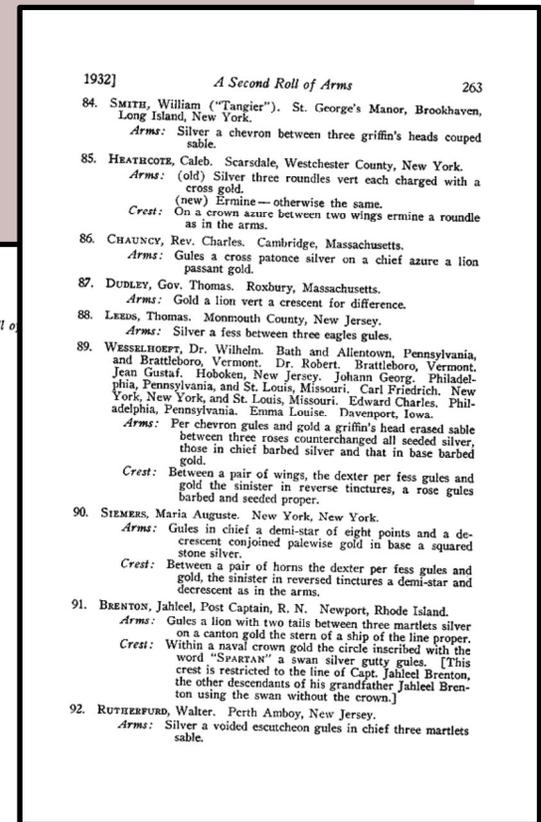
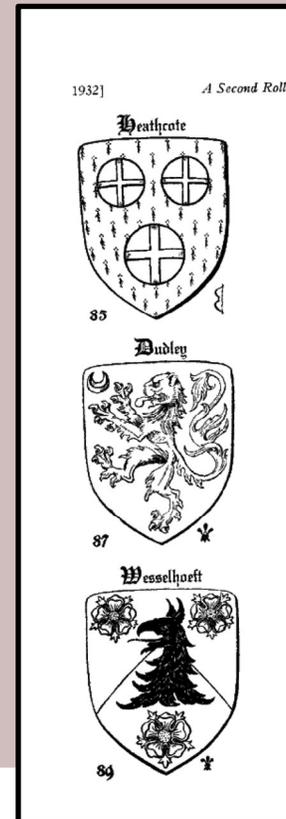
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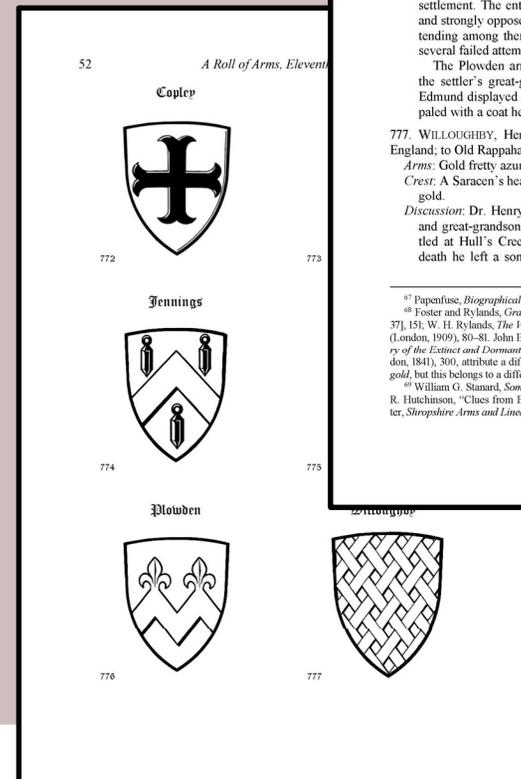
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Committee on Heraldry: *Roll of Arms*

- Earliest published entries not detailed
- Some painted certificates (1–378) include more detail than published entry
- Newer entries (685–) have more detail
- Newest entries (742–), to appear 2022, footnoted



A Roll of Arms, Eleventh Part 23

6.⁶⁷ The arms were granted to Thomas Laurence, goldsmith of London, by William Dethick, Garter, in 1594. The immigrant's father appears on the pedigree submitted when the arms were entered at the 1634 visitation of Buckinghamshire.⁶⁸

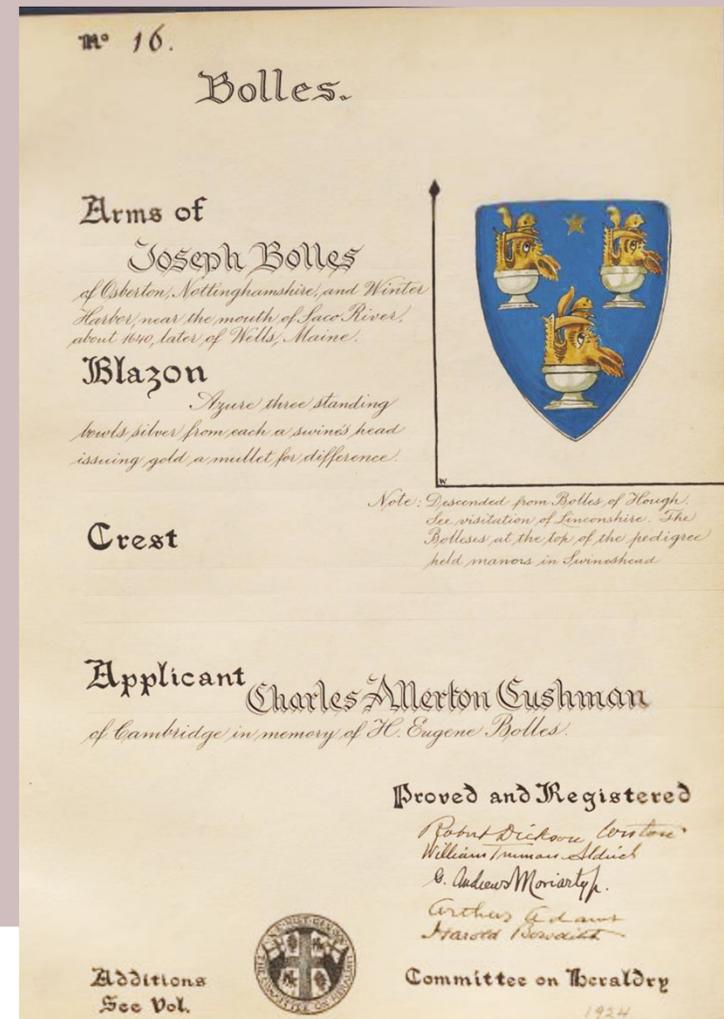
776. PLOWDEN, Sir Edmund (1590–1659), of co. Northampton, England; to Virginia, 1641.
Arms: Azure a fess dancetty of two upward points terminating in fleurs-de-lys gold.
Discussion: Sir Edmund was the recipient of a 1634 charter from Charles I to establish a proprietary colony, which Plowden called New Albion, between Long Island and the mouth of Delaware Bay. He came to Virginia in 1641 intending to use it as a base to launch his proposed settlement. The enterprise was ill-equipped, under-funded, badly led, and strongly opposed by the Swedes and Dutch who were already contending among themselves for control of the Delaware Valley. After several failed attempts, Plowden gave up and returned to England.
The Plowden arms are of medieval origin and were confirmed to the settler's great-grandfather, Humphrey Plowden of Plowden. Sir Edmund displayed them on his seal as proprietor of New Albion, impaled with a coat he had devised to serve as the arms of the province.⁶⁹

777. WILLOUGHBY, Henry (1626–1685), of Stevkeley, Buckinghamshire, England; to Old Rappahannock [now Northumberland] Co., Virginia, 1675.
Arms: Gold fretty azure.
Crest: A Saracen's head affronty couped at the shoulders proper crowned gold.
Discussion: Dr. Henry Willoughby was the son of Edward Willoughby and great-grandson of the 2nd Baron Willoughby of Parham. He settled at Hull's Creek in Old Rappahannock County by 1675. At his death he left a son, Henry, in England, and a daughter, Rebecca in

⁶⁷ Papenfuss, *Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature* [note 62], 2:519.
⁶⁸ Foster and Rylands, *Grantees of Arms ... to the End of the Seventeenth Century* [note 37], 151; W. H. Rylands, *The Visitation of the County of Buckingham, 1634*, Harleian Soc., 58 (London, 1909), 80–81; John Burke and J. Bernard Burke, *Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Scotland, and Ireland*, 2nd ed. (London, 1841), 300, attribute a different coat to the Iver baronets, with the chief gules a leopard gold, but this belongs to a different family of the name.
⁶⁹ William G. Stuard, *Some Emigrants to Virginia* (Richmond, 1911), 68; J. H. Lea and J. R. Hutchinson, "Clues from English Archives," *NYGBR* 40(1909):80–84; F. W. Kittermaster, *Shropshire Arms and Lineages* (Shrewsbury, 1869), 55.

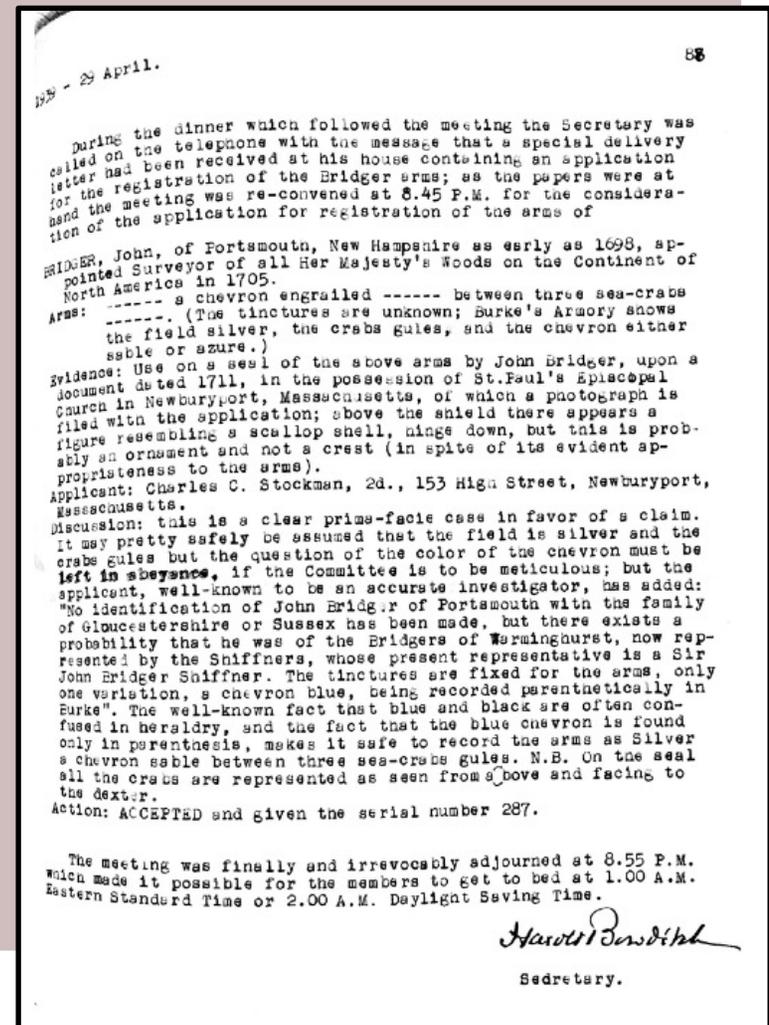
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American Ancestors: Gore Roll database

- Famous early Boston heraldic manuscript, early 18th century
- Only ca. 100 entries
- Limited to arms of prominent New Englanders (Bostonians) of the early 18th century
- Can be consulted as a database
- Worth checking for New England colonists
- Some Gore Roll entries are in *Roll of Arms*; some are *not*





QUESTIONS?

Case Studies

Simple case: Hugh Brent

Hugh Brent book, 1939

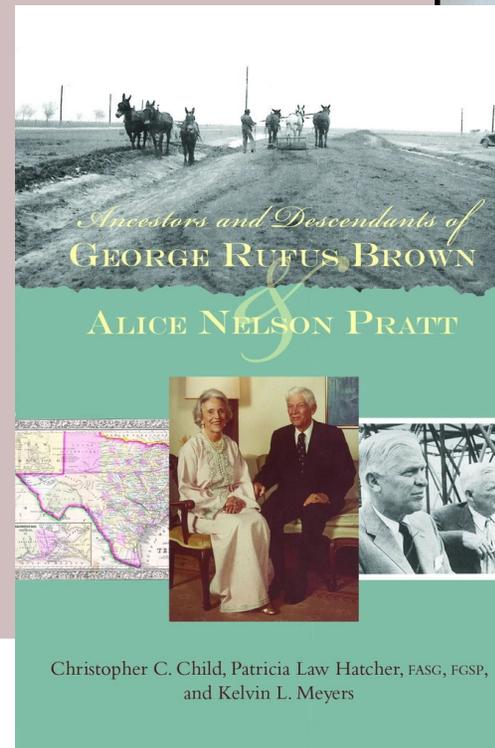
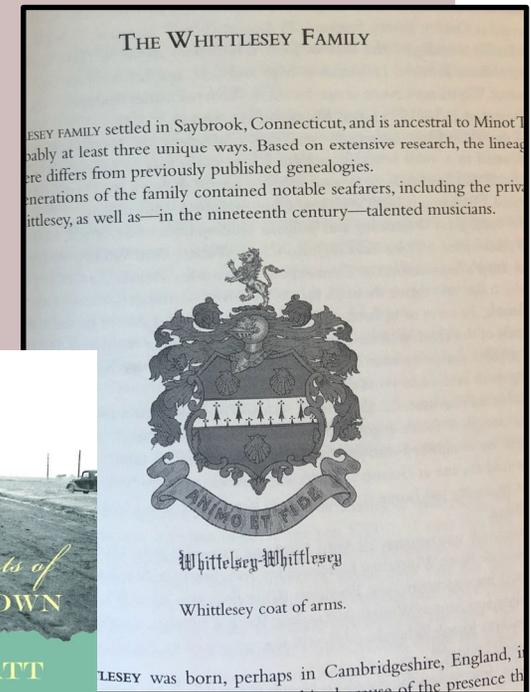
- No source of arms
- Ancestry unknown
- Old arms (in DBA, 15th c.)
- Other Va. Brents (Giles Brent etc.) have royal descents but no known connection to Hugh
- Use of arms is dead end
- Typical for book published 1930s or earlier



Simple case: John Whittlesey

Brown–Pratt book, 2013

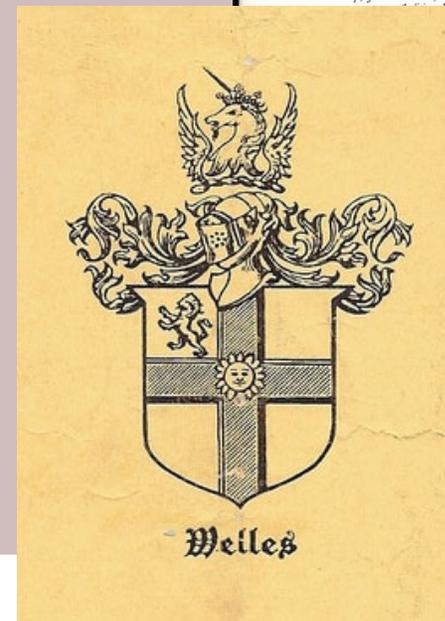
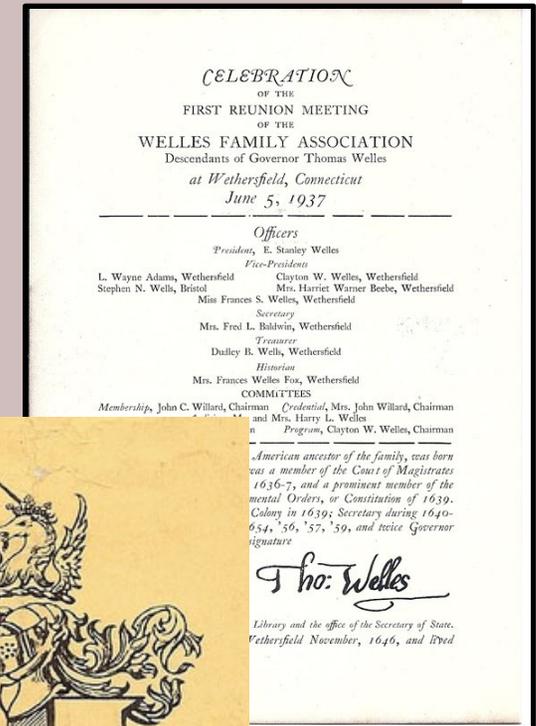
- No source of arms
- Ancestry of immigrant admitted unknown
- Use of arms is dead end
- Modern genealogical works should not do this!



Gov. Thomas Welles

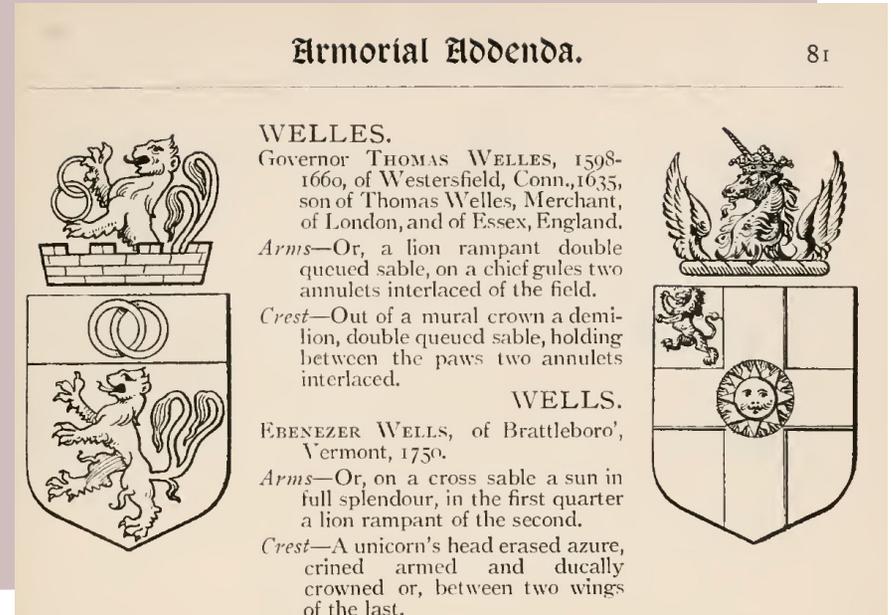
Welles Family reunion booklet, 1937
(descendants of Gov. Thomas Welles of
Connecticut)

- Arms: on a cross a sun in splendor and in dexter chief a lion rampant
- *Dict. British Arms* (pre-1530): no arms like this, but other Welles arms (lion rampant)
- Burke, *General Armory*; HSP *Grantees of Arms*: this coat granted 1614 to “George or Thomas” Welles of Gaius College, Cambridge



Gov. Thomas Welles

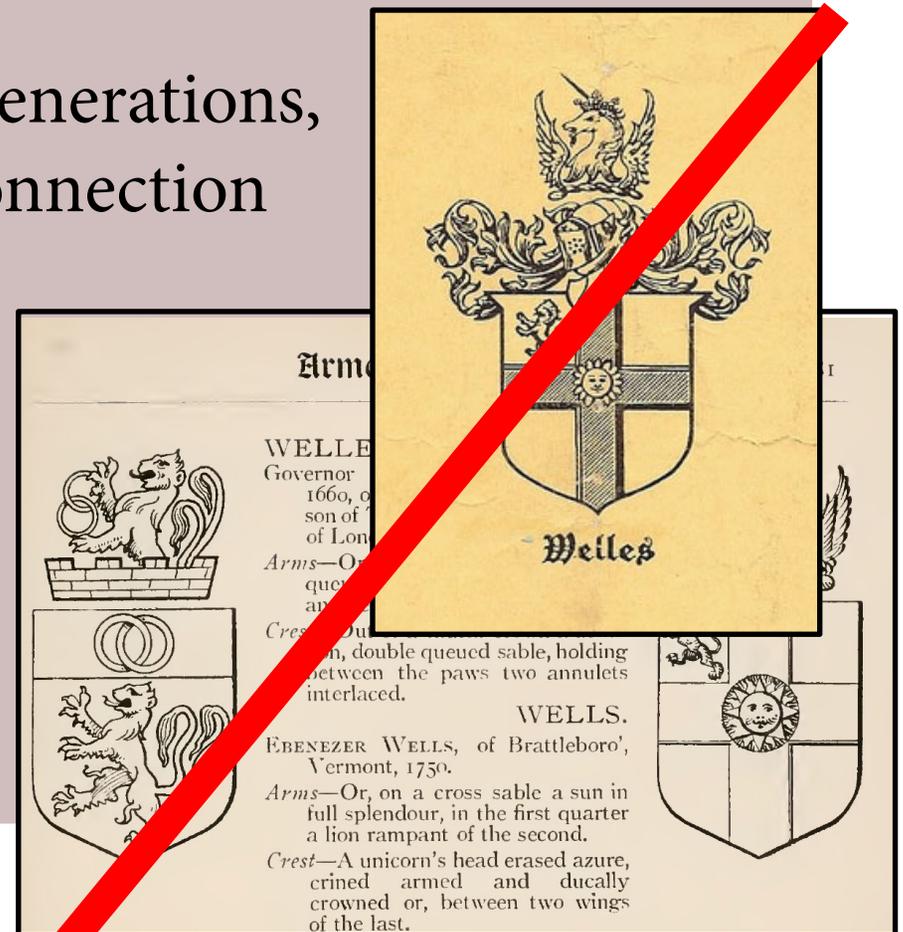
- *Matthews' American Armoury* (1907)
- Arms: a lion rampant and on a chief two rings interlaced
- This coat granted to a minister in Devonshire in 1830 . . .
- Sun on cross arms assigned in *Matthews* to another American Wells . . .



Gov. Thomas Welles

Thomas Welles (d. 1666): what is known:

- Ancestry known for 3–4 generations, but no visitation gentry connection
- No entry in *Roll of Arms*



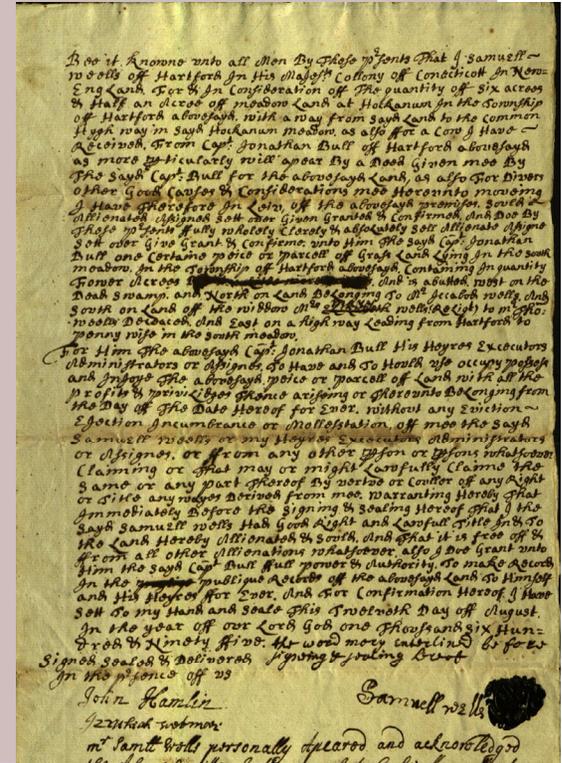
Gov. Thomas Welles

Thomas Welles (d. 1666): what is known:

- documented arms: a grandson used (on a seal, 1690s)—

“a stripey thing running from upper left to lower right and three crows on it”

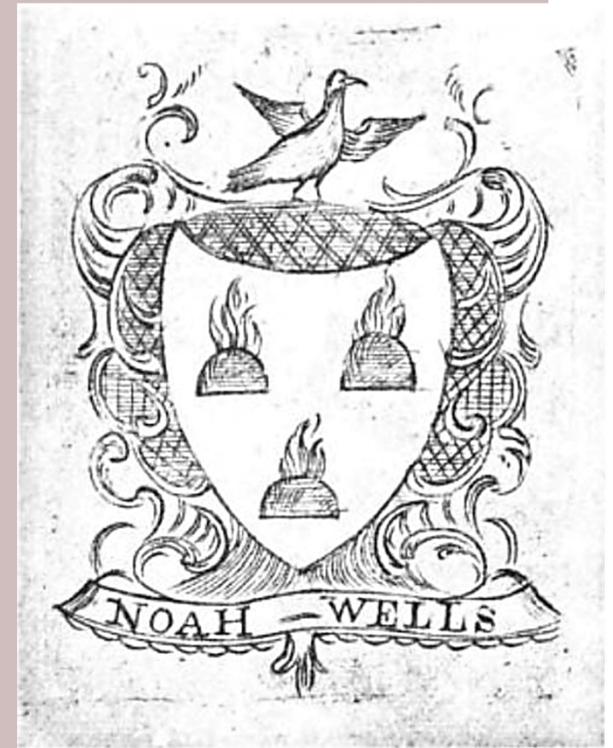
—not like either attributed coat; not like any known English Wells coat



Gov. Thomas Welles

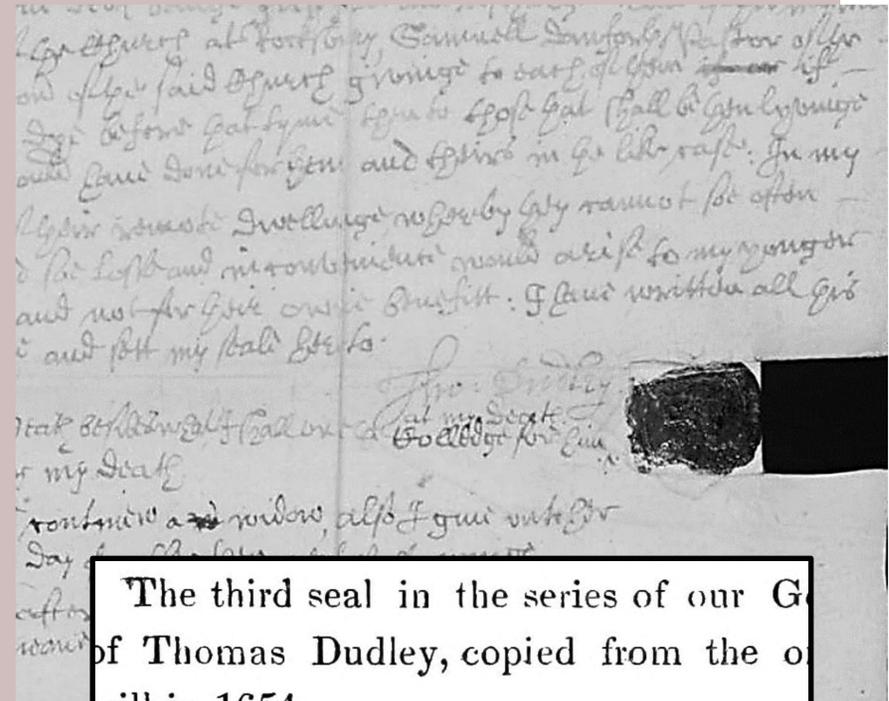
Thomas Welles (d. 1666):
what is known:

- Arms of a Connecticut Wells not known to be related: Noah Wells (flourished 1790s), from an engraved bookplate
- Unique design, not associated with any other known Wells/Welles coats



Gov. Thomas Dudley

- Father's parentage *unknown*
- Used arms on seal of his will
- Old arms of baronial Sutton-Dudleys
- A lion rampant and a crescent—for cadency?



The third seal in the series of our Gov. of Thomas Dudley, copied from the original will in 1654.



Of his pedigree little is known, although in a book on the subject published in

Gov. Thomas Dudley

- Son Joseph Dudley (also governor) used different armorial seal: arms with lion double-tailed and no crescent; also in Gore Roll
- Q1: does either coat of arms, or both, contribute evidence to understand Dudley's ancestry?
- Q2: what arms can we consider "his"?



the series of our G
copied from the o



Of his pedigree little is known, althou
n a book on the subject published in

Gov. Thomas Dudley

- Marshall Kirk asked: would an upright man (not a *fool* or *liar*) have used these arms that did not belong to him by descent?
- Dudley is in the *Roll of Arms*

n^o 87
Dudley.

Arms of Governor
Thomas Dudley
of Roxbury, Massachusetts



Blazon
*Gold a lion vert, a
crescent for difference.*

Crest

Applicant Eben Putnam
of Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts.

Proved and Registered
Robert Wilson Weston
Harold Davidson
G. Andrew Moriarty
Arthur Adams
William Huntington

Additions
See Vol.



Committee on Heraldry
31 July 1928

Bridger (N.H. and Virginia)

1939 *Roll of Arms* entry for John Bridger based on seal use: “prima facie case”

- Ancestry unknown: “presumably of co. Sussex, England”
- Arms in a visitation of Sussex
- Seal on a 1711 document from Newburyport, Mass.
- Virginia family, same generation, also used seal

n^o 287

Bridger

Arms of John Bridger
*presumably of co. Sussex, England;
of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as
early as 1698; appointed Surveyor of
all Her Majesty's Woods on the Continent
of North America in 1705.*

Blazon

*Silver a chevron engrailed sable
between three sea-crabs gules.*



Crest

Applicant

Charles C. Stockman 2^d, Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Proved and Registered
*Robert Dickson Weston
G. Andrew Morristy
Arthur Adams
Harold Brewster*
29 April 1939

Committee on Heraldry

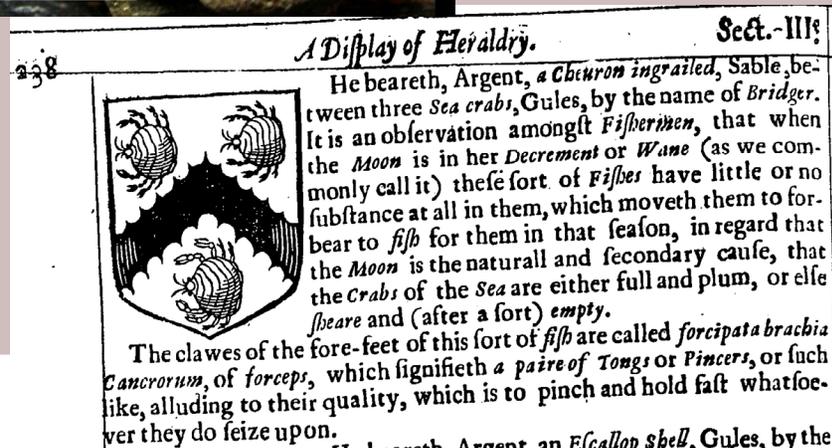
Additions
See Vol.



Bridger (N.H. and Virginia)

Use of arms of Sussex Bridgers:

- John Bridger, seal on a 1711 document from Newburyport, Mass.
- Joseph Bridger (d. 1686), of Isle of Wight Co., Va., same arms on his wine-bottle seals (recently excavated)
- Both should be considered equally potentially entitled to these arms by descent, but in both cases no parentage is known
- Coat in 1666 ed. of Guillim



Allen–Bassett (Surry Co., Virginia)

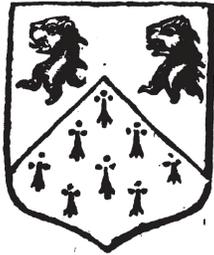
Armorial tomb, 1744, Allen impaling Bassett

- Neither side matches known English arms
- Engrailed partition line, Allen; chief (and crescent), Bassett



Allen–Bassett (Surry Co., Virginia)

- (Guillim, 1724, has plain chevron line for Allens in different county from known father of Allen immigrant; medieval baronial Basset coat is barry wavy)
- American reference works (like Crozier's *Virginia Heraldica*) blazoned this tomb to match the known English coats, ignoring the differences



He beareth
Chevron G
mine, in Chie
Heads erased
Name of Allen
did belong to
of Utoxeter in
ty of Stafford, and to Francis
Allen of London, Mer-
chant, his Brother

to Richard Allen of Bretford in
Derby and his Brother Thomas, S
Allen of Utoxeter, which Willsa
Thomas Allen of Newbold, Father
len of Utoxeter, Father of the f
John and Francis.

Note, That the Predecessors of
of Newbold were seated in this Co
Garring-hall for two, and at Buck
Generation.

M. S. of A

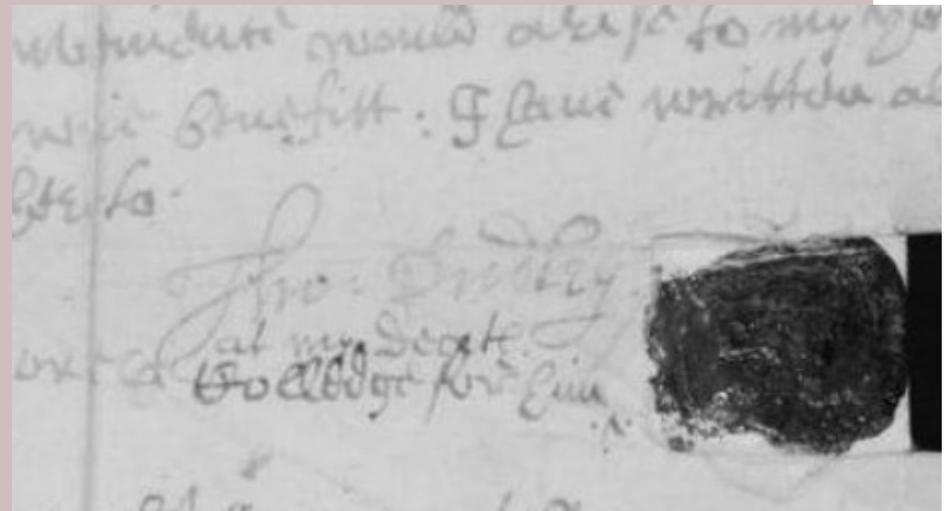


Use of arms in America: room for a scholarly project

- Online availability of older works of local history allows for more systematic collection of evidence of armorial *usage* (if we ignore falsely attributed arms)
- Gravestones: new availability of gravestone images on findagrave is a good example
- Armorial seals on documents are earliest and largest repository of armorial usage in colonial era (conventional image sets insufficient)
- Decorative arts (like Coles' watercolors, embroideries, etc.) can be added to visual database for 18th century, but 18th-century usage increasingly corrupted by same-name arms

Armorial seals on deeds

- need raking light
- microfilm scanning or overhead imaging for text insufficient
- Gov. Thomas Dudley: 1865 engraving and original will from microfilm set



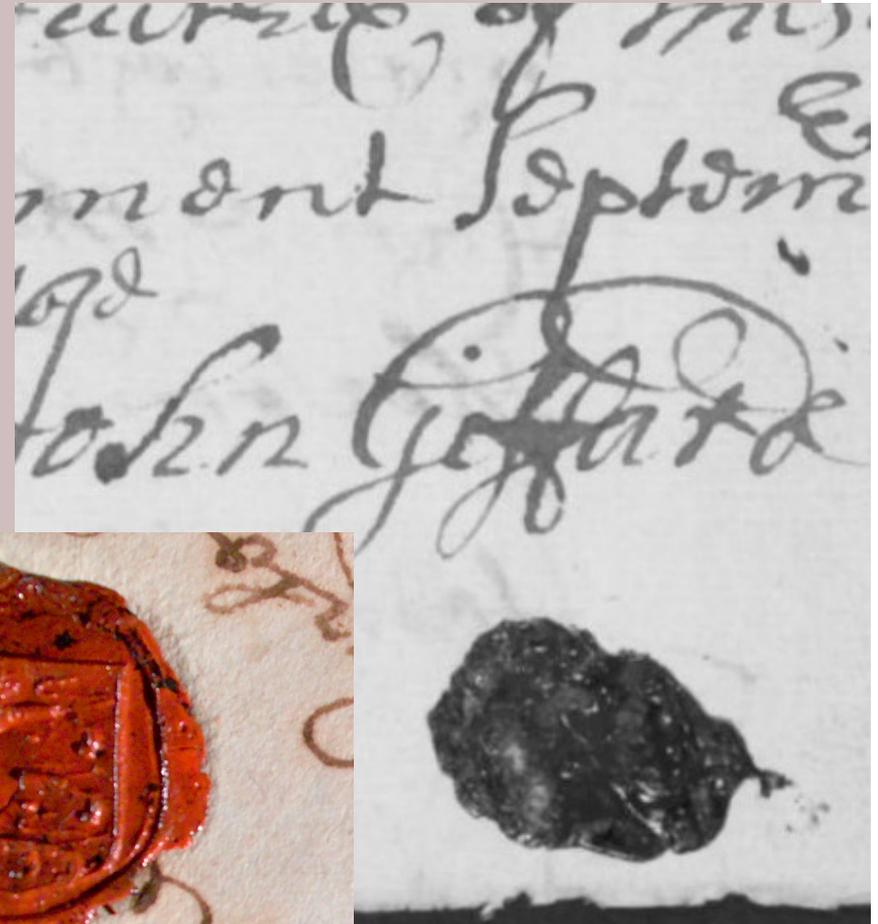
The third seal in the series of our Gov. of Thomas Dudley, copied from the original will in 1654.



Of his pedigree little is known, although in a book on the subject published in 1865.

Armorial seals on deeds

- need raking light
- microfilm scanning or overhead imaging for text insufficient
- John Giffard (Lynn, Mass.): 1686 will (B/W) and 1681 letter (color)



Key concepts—reprise

1. Flow chart allows systematic assessment of what one can glean from coats of arms associated with an ancestor
2. Ignore “arms of the name” ornamenting poor genealogies; instead rely in the first place on the Roll of Arms and similar works
3. For arms as actually used, begin with a careful description; beware anachronisms; and be conservative about using such arms as evidence of genealogical connections
4. Even without resolving a genealogical puzzle, arms enrich what we know of our ancestors and how they perceived themselves

QUESTIONS?

How to Get a Coat of Arms

Helpful Hints for Americans

What We'll Cover

- The legal stuff
- Grants (and equivalent) from foreign heraldic authorities
- Doing it yourself—or with help
 - What to consider
 - Tips on design
- Putting the new arms on record

The Legal Stuff

- The *legal* value of any coat of arms depends on:
 - The laws of the place it was created
 - The laws of the place where it's used
- A grant of arms confers rights that are enforceable in the country of origin
- These rights are usually not recognized—and therefore don't exist—in other countries

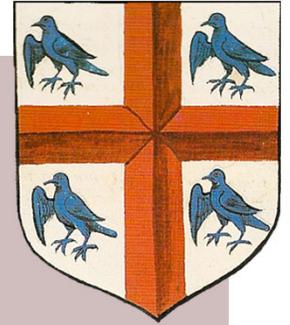
Foreign Grants for Americans

- Grants
 - College of Arms (England)
 - Lyon Office (Scotland)
 - Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland
 - Chief Herald of Malta
 - Others
- Official registrations/certifications
 - South Africa

Foreign Grants: Why?

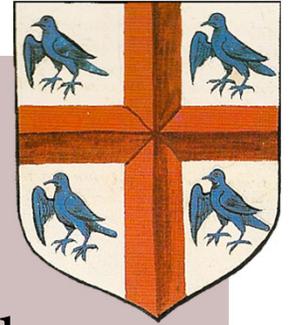
- Plausible reasons
 - Expecting to use the arms in the granting country
 - Member of an organization that restricts heraldic display to officially granted arms
 - Possibility of “extended destination” to encompass wider family
 - Emotional connection to ancestral homeland
 - Assurance of original, high-quality design
- Dubious reasons
 - Assuming arms is illegal
 - Granted arms are more “real”
 - A grant of arms confers gentle or noble status

College of Arms (England) Organization



- Corporate body established 1484 bringing together royal “Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of Arms”
- College consists of up to 13 (currently nine) officers
 - Three kings of arms (Garter, Clarenceux, Norroy & Ulster)
 - Up to six heralds (currently four)
 - Up to four pursuivants (currently two)
- Headed by Garter Principal King of Arms under general supervision of the Earl Marshal of England
- Kings of arms make grants to “eminent” persons by warrant of the Earl Marshal

College of Arms (England) Process

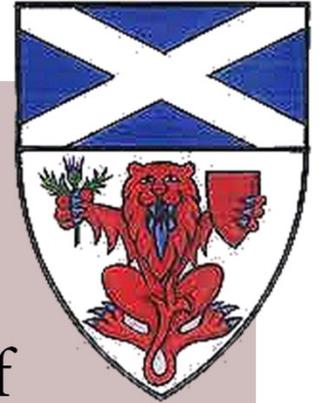


- Grants to Americans and others not subjects of the Queen are *honorary*
 - Eligibility requires proven descent from a British subject through either male or female lines
- Official certification of right to existing arms requires recording a pedigree proving male line descent
- Either process begins by approaching an officer of arms, who becomes the agent for the case
- Current fee for a grant: £6,700 (\$8,980)

English Honorary Grant of Arms (John McC. Shannon)

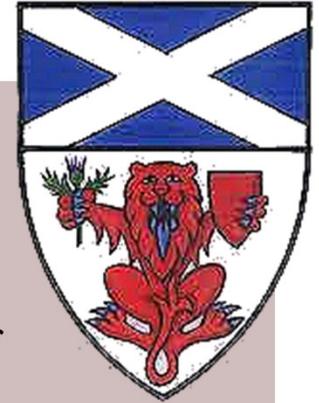


Lyon Office (Scotland) Organization



- More commonly called “Lyon Court” because of parallel judicial functions
- Office consists of Lord Lyon King of Arms, Lyon Clerk, and a small staff
 - Funded by Scottish government with costs partially recovered by fees
- New arms granted to “virtuous and well-deserving” persons meeting eligibility criteria
 - Scottish domicile or significant property ownership
 - Most Commonwealth citizens of Scottish descent

Lyon Office (Scotland) Process



- Americans of Scottish descent can petition on behalf of male-line ancestor in Britain or colonies
 - Grant is to the ancestor, not the applicant
 - No concept of honorary arms as in England
 - Descendants from junior lines must then rematriculate the newly granted arms with difference (additional fee)
- Male line descendants of people entitled to Scottish arms get a matriculation rather than a new grant
- Process begins with a petition addressed to Lord Lyon
- Current fees for shield and crest:
 - Grant: £2,825 (\$3,785)
 - Matriculation: £1,435 (\$1,918)

Scottish Extract of Matriculation

EXTRACT of MATRICULATION of the Arms of STEPHEN JAMES FITZHERBERT FLOWMAN



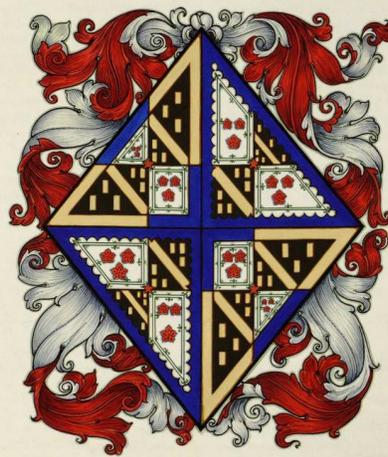
STEPHEN JAMES FITZHERBERT FLOWMAN, sometime Author, the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (Volunteers), holder of the Territorial Decoration, Frequenter of the City of London, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, residing at
Flax in the County of Hampshire, married by Proxies unto the
the Lord Lyon King of Arms of date 7 September 2010: **MARION THAI** nee the Fleetham, both Flaxham 24 September 1950 (some sources London 12 November 1951) Katharine Marjorie, Holder of the Degree of Bachelor of Science from Surrey University, daughter of Captain Peter Malcolm Carver, Royal Naval, sometime under Treasurer to the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, and has issue by her an elder son (born London 9 April 1995) Christopher Malcolm Fitzherbert Flowman, a younger son (born Flax aforesaid 5 July 1996) Alexander James Carver Flowman, and an only daughter (born London aforesaid 29 September 1991) Frances Mary Elizabeth Flowman) is the only son of the late Ronald Joseph Fitzherbert Flowman, holder of the Degree of Bachelor of Arts of the University of Cambridge, sometime Squadron Leader, the Royal Air Force, and his wife (married London 9 January 1957) Marilyn Marjorie nee Fleetham, only daughter of Commodore Stanley Robert James Fleetham, Royal Naval, **THAI** the Fleetham's said father (born Edinburgh 10 July 1925) was the great son of a different William Fitzherbert Flowman, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in the commission of the Prince, sometime Secretary to the Government of British Somaliland, and his wife (married London 1 June 1924) Mary Margaret Fleming, only daughter of George Alfred Fleming, Indian Civil Service District and Sessions Judge: **THAI** certain Esquires Armigeri were appointed under the hand and seal of a certain King of Arms of date 24 May 1955 in name of the Fleetham's late father: **AND** the Fleetham having proved that the aforesaid Esquires Armigeri might be matriculated of new in his own name without difference, the Lord Lyon King of Arms by letters under of date 28 September 2010 directed writeth to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in name of the Fleetham the following Esquires Armigeri, *videlicet*: - **Armeri**, three anchors sable each entwined by a serpent Orles on a chief quarterly subalt Azur: three martlets argent or. **Armeri** the shield is placed on helmet bearing his degree, Azure doubled Argent, and on a wreath of the crown having seven verticoster arms each arm wreathed about the neck and hand with laurel proper guillemots salt and pommel or and in his Escut over the same has **ARMO**.

Matriculated this 23rd day of August 2011.
Extracted from the 17th page of the 921st
Volume of the Public Register of All Arms and
Bearings in Scotland this 28th day of August 2011.



John M. H. ...
Lyon Clerk and Keeper of the Records

Matriculation Entry in Lyon Register (Mary Coleman Livingston Delafield, 1916)



Mistress Mary Coleman Livingston or Delafield

*Mistress Mary Coleman Livingston or Delafield wife of Mathurin Livingston Delafield of Shelton, New York, in the United States of America, having by Petition unto the Lord Lyon King of Arms of date the second day of March last, Represented that she was born on the seventeenth day of August 1847 and is the only surviving child of Eugene Augustus Livingston of Berot, New York, and his first wife Harriet (married the seventh day of December 1841) daughter of Edward Coleman; that the said Eugene Augustus Livingston, who was born the thirtieth day of August 1813 and died the twenty second day of December 1893, was the eldest son having issue of Robert L. Livingston of Bermont, New York, and his wife Margaret Maria (married the tenth day of July 1799) second daughter and co-heiress of Robert R. Livingston of Bermont, Chancellor of the State of New York; that the said Robert L. Livingston who was baptised the sixth day of May 1775 and died the seventh day of January 1845 was the third son of Walter Livingston of Berontdale and his wife Cornelia (married 1797) daughter of Peter Schuyler; that the said Walter Livingston, who was born the twenty seventh day of November 1765 was the third son of Robert Livingston, Lord of the Manor of Livingston, and his wife Maria Hong, (married the twentieth day of May 1783); that the said Robert Livingston, Lord of the Manor of Livingston, who was born the sixteenth day of December 1708 and died the twenty seventh day of November 1799, was the eldest son of Philip Livingston Lord of the Manor of Livingston and his wife Catherine Van Rugh of Albany, New York, (married the nineteenth day of September 1704); that the said Philip Livingston, who was born the ninth day of July 1680 and died the third day of February 1709, was the eldest surviving son of Robert Livingston first Lord of the Manor of Livingston, and his wife Made Schuyler, widow of Nicolas van Keneslaer (married the ninth day of July 1679); that the said Robert Livingston, who was born at Anorum the thirteenth day of December 1629 and died the first day of October 1728, was the third son having issue of the Reverend John Livingston, minister of the parish of Anorum, and his wife Janet (married the twenty third day of June 1668) daughter of Bartholomew Fleming; that the said Reverend John Livingston, who was born the twenty first day of June 1603 and died at Rotterdam in August 1670, was the eldest son of the Reverend William Livingston, minister of the parish of Monysbrook, and his wife Agnes Livingston; that the said Reverend William Livingston was the only son of the Reverend Alexander Livingston, rector of the parish of Monysbrook and his wife Barbara Livingston; that the said Reverend Alexander Livingston by the family tradition, as said to have been a grandson of William, fourth Lord Livingston; that the said Robert L. Livingston of Bermont, Chancellor of the State of New York, was the eldest son of Robert R. Livingston of Bermont, Judge of the Supreme Court of the Province of New York, who was son of Robert Livingston of Bermont, third son of Robert Livingston, first Lord of the Manor of Livingston, before mentioned; that Arms have been used by the Petitioner's family from a period anterior to the passing of the Act of Parliament 1672, cap. 47, but that the same were omitted to be recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in terms of said statute: And the said Petitioner having prayed that the said Arms might now be matriculated in her own name in the said Public Register with a suitable difference and quarterly with Arms indicative of her descent from Chancellor Robert Livingston, the Lord Lyon King of Arms by Interlocutor of this date granted Warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in name of the Petitioner, Mistress Mary Coleman Livingston or Delafield, the following **Ensigns Armorial**, viz. Quarterly, first and fourth, grandquarters counter-quartered, first and fourth, Argent, three cinquefoils Gules, within a double tressure fretty counter fretty Vert; second and third, Sable, a bend between six billets Or, the whole within a bordure quarterly Azure and Or, in the centre of the quarters a mullet Gules; second and third grandquarters counter-quartered as the first and fourth and within a bordure engrailed Azure, in the centre of the quarters a mullet Gules.*

Matriculated the twenty fourth day of October 1916.

Manuscript
Lyon 648

Chief Herald of Ireland Organization



- Republican successor (1943) to Ulster King of Arms (created 1552)
- Also known as the Genealogical Office, part of the National Library of Ireland
 - Repository of original records of Ulster Office
- Empowered by Irish Government to grant arms, 1943; reaffirmed by statute, 1997
- Funded by Irish government with costs partially recovered by fees

Chief Herald of Ireland Process

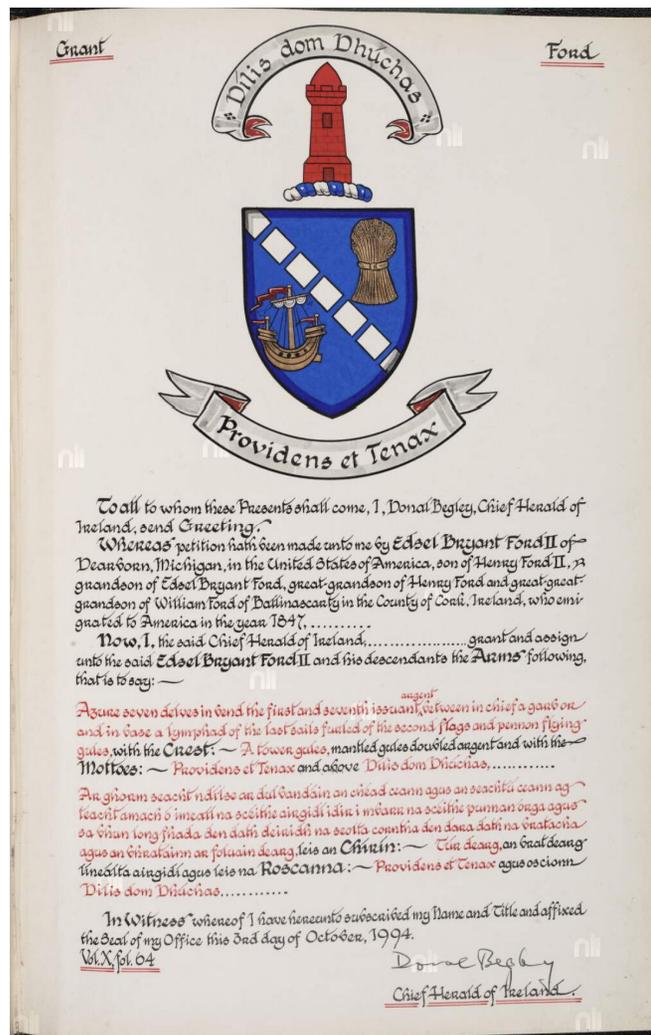


- Grants made to Irish citizens and residents and others with substantial connections to Ireland
 - For Americans this is typically genealogical, through either male or female lines
- Process begins with submission of application form and payment of deposit
 - A staff herald is then assigned to work with the applicant on the design
- Current fee : €4,400 (\$5,050)

Irish Grant of Arms (President John F. Kennedy)



Irish Grant of Arms (as Recorded) (Edsel Ford II)

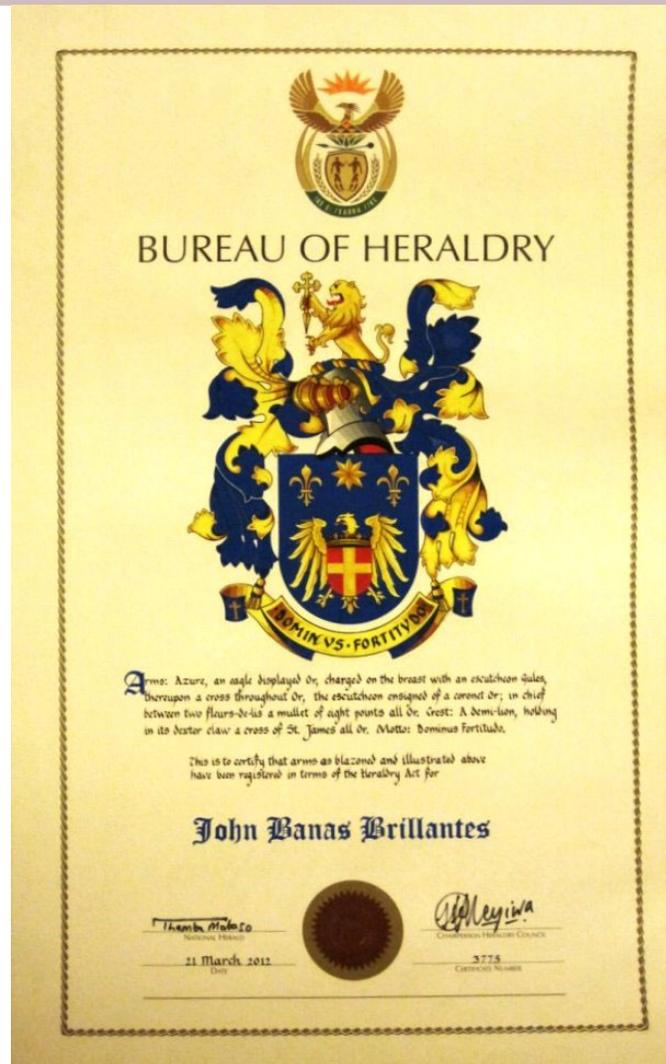


South African Bureau of Heraldry Organization and Process



- Established 1963 by act of parliament
- Part of National Archives and Records Service
 - Staffed by civil servants
 - National Herald, Assistant National Herald, 2-3 artists, and administrative assistant
- Registers arms and related symbols for all comers
 - Applicant can register own design if it meets heraldic standards
 - Or SABH will assist in design process
 - Arms published in register—available online
- Fee for shield and crest (2011): R5,915 (\$328)

South African Registration Certificate for a citizen of the Philippines



Assuming Arms on Your Own *Why?*

- Not eligible for a foreign grant
- Less expensive
- Because you can

Assuming Arms on Your Own *How?*

- Study heraldry books—not just the text, but the pictures
- Get involved in heraldry groups on social media
- Contact an organization that provides heraldic design advice
- Hire a heraldic artist—but check the reviews first
- Start sketching ideas and ask for feedback

Design Guidelines for Americans (I)

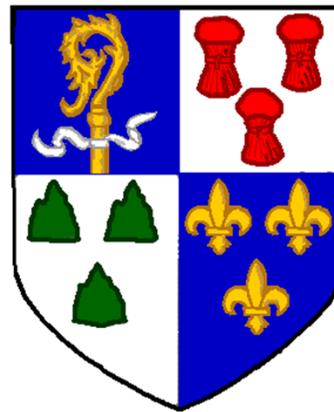
- Keep it simple enough to be recognized at a distance or at small scale; less is more
- Ensure that it can be accurately reproduced from a written blazon without an illustration to work from
- Compose a single unified design, not several distinct designs combined by marshaling
- Limit yourself to the classical heraldic tinctures and use as few of them as possible
 - Minimize use of “proper” charges
- Respect the spirit of the tincture rule

Design Guidelines for Americans (II)

- Charges on the shield should be recognizable in silhouette form and all placed in the same plane
- Avoid different charges symbolizing the same idea; try to represent several ideas with a single charge
- Shun hackneyed, stereotyped allusions—a shamrock for Irish ancestry, a rose for English
- Choose a crest that could realistically be mounted on top of a helmet
- Remember that it isn't entirely about you, but about your descendants as well

Armorial Design Before and After Examples

Diocese of Vermont
(Episcopal)



21st U.S. Infantry
Regiment



Sources of Design Ideas

- Puns on family name—time-honored heraldic tradition
- Family history, such as:
 - An ancestor's most notable achievement
 - A turning point in the family's fortunes
- Emblems of patron saints or other admired figures
- Unusual personal interests, occupation, or accomplishments
- Arms used by other families of the name



Registering Arms: Pros

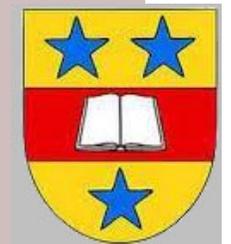
- Force yourself to stabilize the design
- Validate the quality of the design
- Establish a date certain for the arms' adoption
- Provide a record from which descendants and relatives can later find the arms
- Prevent unintentional usurpation
- Provide an example for future designers

Registering Arms: Cons

- Widespread publication can make arms more vulnerable to usurpation
- Varying reputations of registries
 - Beware of affiliations with self-styled orders of chivalry, bogus royal pretenders, promises of noble status
 - Watch out for scams
- Is the price of registration worth the benefit?

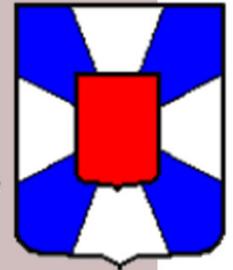
Recording/Registering Arms in America

- Committee on Heraldry, NEHGS (1864)
 - Recording of assumed arms began 1934
 - Thus far assumed arms have not been published
- Augustan Society (1957)
 - Registrations began 1966; 400 coats to date
 - Published in *Augustan Society Roll of Arms*
- American College of Heraldry (1972)
 - > 1,000 coats published in 17 installments of *Heraldic Register of America*
 - New registrations published online
- U.S. Heraldic Registry (2005)
 - Internet-based registration service—no fee to register verbal blazon online
 - Small volunteer staff overwhelmed by demand; acceptance of new applications currently suspended



Some Foreign Options

- *Deutsche Wappenrolle*
(Der Herold, Berlin)
- Conseil Français d'Héraldique
- Nederlands College Heraldiek
- *Skandinavisk Vapenrulla*
(Scandinavian Heraldry Society)
- The Armorial Register (UK)



QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat

Search

Events

Membership

Give

Publications

Expert Help

Tools

Signature Projects

Activities & Initiatives

Home | [Introduction to Heraldry for Genealogists 2021](#)

Introduction to Heraldry for Genealogists 2021

Welcome!

Thank you for registering for the online course, Introduction to Heraldry for Genealogists!

Heraldry is an ancient and compelling visual expression of personal and family identity. Heraldry can also be a useful lens through which to view or research family history.

In this three-week course, you will gain a systematic historical, visual, and textual introduction to heraldry and a coat of arms; a familiarity with the most important types of heraldic art, artifacts, and evidence coming from different heraldic traditions; and specific research tools and methods for evaluating heraldic evidence in the context of family history.

Instructors Joseph McMillan and Nathaniel Taylor are members of the Committee on Heraldry of NEHGS, a group of specialist staff and volunteers concerned with the study of heraldry since 1864.

This course includes three 90-minute classes; exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation; and in-depth Q&A sessions with the instructors. This program will be hosted via Zoom. Access information will be sent to participants prior to the first broadcast.

AmericanAncestors.org/education/online-classes/heraldry-course-2021



THANK YOU!

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NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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