



Committee on Heraldry

Report for the Calendar Year 2025

Established on 4 February 1864 as a standing committee within the New England Historic Genealogical Society, now also known as American Ancestors, the Committee on Heraldry is the oldest organization in the United States dealing with coats of arms and their use, and the oldest non-governmental heraldic organization in the world.

Among the principal ongoing activities of the Committee are the registration and recording of coats of arms in two major series:

1. Registration of Arms in the *Roll of Arms*

Since 1915, the Committee has registered verified historical coats of arms (predating 1900) brought to the present-day United States or its colonial territorial predecessors by the country's early colonial settlers or by subsequent immigrants. These arms, compiled as *A Roll of Arms*, have been published since 1928 in installments in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (now, the *Register*) and in separate fascicles called Parts. Parts 1–10 were reprinted in 2013 in a cumulative volume. *A Roll of Arms: Eleventh Part* was published serially in the *Register* in 2022 and as a stand-alone book in 2024.

A Roll of Arms: Twelfth Part (entries 814–885), was published serially in the *Register* in 2025 and is slated for press in book form in 2026.

In 2025 the Committee registered eight coats of arms in the *Roll of Arms*. With them now is reported one additional coat registered in January 2024 but, by error, omitted from that meeting's minutes, the 2024 annual report, and the *Roll of Arms* index online. It is now placed on the Roll following the arms registered in 2025, has been minuted with the January 2026 meeting, and is added to this report as (provisional) 1002 Luke.

A notable milestone in 2025 was passing the 1000 mark (with the caveat that ordinal numbering is provisional until registrations are formally published in one of the Parts of the *Roll of Arms*). The arms registered as (provisional) number 1000 were inherited from a Haitian man of African descent who was granted the arms and titles by King Henri-Christophe: perhaps the only coat of arms so far registered in the *Roll of Arms* whose original bearer and American immigrant bearer were both of predominantly African descent.

Registrations in 2025 follow:

- [994] **Chicheley**, Sir Henry (c. 1615-1682/83), of Wimpole, Cambridgeshire; to Lancaster Co., Virginia, 1650; acting gov. of Va., 1678–80. Arms: Gold a chevron between three cinquefoils gules. Crest: A tyger passant silver holding in the mouth a man's leg couped at the thigh the foot downward proper.
- [995] **Codd**, St. Leger (1638–1706/7), of Pelicans, co. Kent, England; to Lancaster County, Virginia, by 1670, later to Maryland. Arms: Silver a fess battled between six roundels sable. Crest: A demi-lion silver pellety armed and langued gules, about his neck a mural crown sable.
- [996] **Chichester**, Richard (1658–1734), of Widworthy, co. Devon, England; to Lancaster County, Virginia, 1702. Arms: Checky gold and gules a chief vair. Crest: A stork with wings endorsed proper, holding in the beak a snake vert.
- [997] **Stott**, Ebenezer (1758-1828) and Watson Stott (1755-1822), brothers, of Minnegaff, Kircudbrightshire, Scotland; to Petersburg, Virginia, by 1772. Arms: Sable three pallets gold each charged with a roundel gules, on a chief silver a heart gules. Crest: A martlet azure. Motto: Alta petit (She seeks the heights). Merchants in Virginia, before and after the Revolution. Arms matriculated by their father in Lyon Register, 1788.
- [998] **Grymes**, William (ca 1665-by 1722), of Peckham, Surrey, England; to Virginia by 1694. Arms: Gold three bars gules each charged with a martlet silver, a chief barry nebuly silver and azure.
- [999] **Tesdorpf**, Johann Heinrich (1833–1865), of Lübeck, Germany; to Baltimore, 1860; his nephew Carl Heinrich Tesdorpf (1863–after 1930) of Rostock, Germany; to Baltimore, 1889, subsequently to New Jersey; their Danish cousin Nini 'Yoyo' Agnete Tesdorpf (1932-2017), of Gjorslev, Store-Heddinge, Denmark; to Wayzata, Minnesota, 1959. Arms: Azure a stag salient gold langued gules. Crest: A stag salient gold langued gules.
- [1000] **Béliard**, Marie Joseph Edith (1922–2005), of Cap-Haïtien, Haiti; to the U.S. by about 1950; settled in California; m. George Henry Bunbury. Arms: Sable a watering-can and garden rake in saltire silver.
- [1001] **Flowerdew**, Temperance (ca. 1587–1628), ux. [1] Richard Barrow; [2] Sir George Yeardley; [3] Francis West, of Hethersett, Norfolk, England ; to Jamestown, Virginia, 1609. Arms: Per chevron engrailed silver and sable three sea-bears counterchanged. Crest: A demi-man proper habited azure, a wreath about his head silver and sable, holding in the right hand a bunch of red roses proper.

[1002] **Luke**, George (1659–[1732?]), of Cople Woodend, Bedfordshire, England; to Westmoreland County, Virginia, by 1688. Arms entered for immigrant's great-great-grandfather in the 1566 visitation of Bedfordshire. Arms: Silver a bugle-horn sable stringed gules. Crest: A bull's head azure ringed gold.

Additions and Corrections:

422 Bland. Corrected arms.

522 Wilkes. Corrected arms. History of arms (including a second, distinct coat also granted) worthy of published notice.

618 Bathurst. Added other immigrants with same armorial entitlement.

938 Boucher. Noted: immigrant armiger is an ancestor of Pope Leo XIV.

2. Recording Modern Arms

The Committee has been recording modern coats of arms—those falling outside the chronological scope of the *Roll of Arms*—since 1935.

In 2025, the Committee accepted for record 21 modern coats of arms at its quarterly meetings. Recording of arms is made final only on receipt of a fee payable after approval. All fees have been paid for arms accepted for record in 2025.

Of the 21 modern arms recorded in 2025, two were granted or confirmed to U.S. citizens by foreign governmental heraldic authorities (England and Malta). Two were recorded by a child or grandchild in the name of a parent or grandparent.

No arms of corporate entities were presented for record in 2025.

In 2025, six modern arms presented for record were not accepted; of these, one was accepted with revisions at a later meeting. Two arms recorded in 2025 had been revised from applications reviewed in 2024.

Modern arms accepted for record in 2025:

Accepted for Record 21 January 2025:

Major **Charles A. Gorman**, USAF, of Sacramento, California, by son P. Ross Gorman of Cody, Wyoming. Arms: Quarterly azure and gules a lion silver armed sable crowned and grasping a sword in the dexter paw and laurel wreath in the sinister all gold. Crest: A diadem radiating seven straight rays gold.

Daniel Joseph Friedel of Cottage Hills, Illinois. Arms: Per pale azure and silver issuing from a fess enarched wavy three hills all counterchanged. Crest: a bald eagle rising proper.

Helene Yelena Wassa. Arms: Sable a chevron between two pomegranates slipped and leaved and a Moorish gorgon's face silver. Crest: a many-breasted Moorish melusine affronty holding in each hand a Spanish black pomegranate slipped and leaved proper, her head irradiated gold.

Accepted for Record 15 April 2025:

Nicholas Arcidy of Folsom, California. Arms: Gules, three female figures proper vested gold, the central figure affronty, hooded, holding in the dexter hand a pair of shears and in the sinister hand a thread; the dexter figure respectant holding in the sinister hand the thread and in the dexter hand a distaff; the sinister figure respectant holding in the dexter hand the thread and in the sinister hand a staff. Crest: A pair of ram's horns gold.

Mark Anthony Henderson of Manassas, Virginia. Arms: Sable three chevronels issuing from sinister braced gold, on a chief silver a lion between two fleurs-de-lis gules. Crest: A long-eared owl close guardant grasping in its dexter talons a sword enflamed proper.

George La Verne Virgil, of Vici, Oklahoma, by son Kenneth W. Virgil of Tucson, Arizona. Arms: Azure, to dexter the figure of Melpomene contourny holding in her dexter hand a dagger and in her sinister the mask of Tragedy; to sinister the figure of Thalia seated upon a Corinthian capital, resting her sinister elbow upon a pilgrim's staff and holding in her dexter hand the mask of Comedy, all proper. Crest: A bald eagle wings expanded proper head lowered regardant carrying in both claws a battle-axe fesswise silver.

Accepted for Record 22 July 2025:

Donn Cooks of Topeka, Kansas. Arms: Per pile reversed gules, gold, and vert, a palm tree eradicated sable between two Egyptian sickles gold. Crest: A demi-leopard proper holding in the dexter paw an ikakalaka sable and in the sinister a pyramid gules.

Christopher Daniel Repetsky of Sagamore Hills, Ohio. Arms: Per saltire vert and sable four Caribbean hermit crabs passant gold. Crest: A Persian cat couchant guardant sable the body, legs, and tail striped gold, resting the dexter forepaw on a fleam vert. Honorary grant by the English kings of arms, 8 January 2025.

Steven Pincus of Monroeville, Pennsylvania. Arms: Sable three pallets silver a saltire counterchanged. Crest: A fox passant sable carrying in its mouth a daisy proper.

Accepted for Record 28 October 2025:

George K. Cobb of Gastonia, North Carolina. Arms: Per fess abased wavy vert and azure a barrulet abased silver between in chief a lion gold and in base a molet of eight points silver. Crest: A flame proper.

Christian Drake of Newport, Oregon. Arms: Per bend sinister sable a square-rigged ship under sail on waves in chief three molets and a decrescent silver, and gules a wyvern silver. Crest: A gauntleted hand grasping the head of a trident silver.

James Patrick Howard II of Columbia, Maryland. Arms: Silver a tetrahedron azure pierced by a sword bendwise gold, hilt and pommel azure. Crest: A martlet sable. Grant by Chief Herald of Malta, 1 May 2024.

Christopher Huning of San Leandro, California. Arms: Per pale azure and sable a wheel between three bees volant in pall heads inward gold. Crest: Between a stag's attires a thyrsus gold, pendant therefrom a hunting-horn sable garnished gold, stringed azure.

Jeffrey Leyland King of Bethel, Maine. Revised from prior application July 2025. Arms: Sable between two lions combatant a cross coupé cantoned by four crosslets potent gold. Crest: Upon a laurel wreath vert an eagle wings displayed and inverted sable, armed and nimbed gold, langued gules.

Ben Samuel Michelson of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. Arms: Gold a lion azure brandishing a saber proper in his dexter forepaw and holding a shamrock vert in the sinister, all between a bear passant sable in dexter chief, a Latin cross azure in sinister chief, an open book proper in dexter base, and a grenade proper enflamed gules in sinister base.

Hugo Molina Vazquez of Charlotte, North Carolina: Arms: Per chevron abased, chief vert and base azure semy of molets, a chevronel abased silver between in chief a Spanish stone windmill proper, sails gold, window and door gules, in the flanks two Aztec eagles respectant gold, and in base an Aztec marigold [*Tagetes erecta*] gules fimbriated silver. Crest: A flame proper.

Anthony Schienschang of Orange, Virginia. Arms: Azure semy of caltraps a bend cotised all in a border silver. Crest: In a palisado crown gold a cat sejant guardant sable supporting with its dexter forepaw a United States Army saber silver hilted gold.

Geoffry Spangler of Seattle, Washington. Arms: Vert a grizzly bear's head caboshed proper crowned with laurel and in chief three acorns gold. Crest: Out of a mural crown sable a demi-grizzly bear proper crowned with laurel gold maintaining in its paws a banner vert charged with the constellation Ursa Minor gold.

Liliana Hikari Whitworth of Ville Platte, Louisiana. Arms: Per chevron silver and vert in chief a pentacle and a Lacy knot and in base a vegvísir all counterchanged. Crest: A quill pen erect vert. Motto: *Iustitia cum fide et honore.*

Andrew Wiederkehr of Enid, Oklahoma. Arms: Per fess gules and gold a ram rampant between three Lutheran roses counterchanged. Crest: Three ears of wheat gold before an arm embowed proper, habited gules, grasping a broken salt-hook gold.

Stevie Zeigler of South Gate, California. Arms: Sable a decrescent and an increscent in pale both bendwise sinister silver.

Since 2020, all modern arms recorded in a calendar year have been made public in the Committee's annual reports for that year. In 2025, the committee began planning to compile (with an eventual goal of publication) a thorough retrospective list of *all* modern arms recorded by the Committee since 1935.

Publications and Activities

Several publications appeared in 2025 with relevance to the Committee and to Heraldry. Of special notice are two publications which, directly and indirectly, grew out of the extraordinary event of September 2024: the hosting, by the Society and in Boston, of the 36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences, which is discussed more fully in the Committee's Annual Report for 2024.

The first of these, early in the year, was the Winter 2025 issue of *American Ancestors Magazine*, a special number titled and devoted to "Heraldry in America & Beyond." It included reportage on the Congress as well as three illustrated articles by Committee members: "Heraldry in America" by Joseph McMillan; "Arts & Artifacts of American Heraldry" by Nathaniel Taylor, and an article about the Committee, "The Committee on Heraldry" by Committee Chairman and Society CEO Ryan Woods. Other articles included three specially adapted from Congress presentations (David Lambert, Ross McEwen, and Daniel Bottino) and an interview piece by *American Ancestors* senior editor Jean Powers in conversation with (and showing examples of the work of) heraldic artists who had exhibited at the Congress, including Artist to the Committee Matthew Alderman.

The second such publication appeared late in the year: *Genealogica & Heraldica XXXVI: Origins, Journeys, Destinations: Proceedings of the 36th International*

Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences, Boston, September 24–28, 2024. This five-hundred-page hardcover contains the text of fifty studies presented at the congress and joins the printed proceedings of nearly thirty of these congresses which have been published since 1929 (not all congresses generated a published volume of proceedings).

One book of heraldic note as a heraldry-intensive ancestral study and compilation appeared in 2025 from the Society's Newbury Street Press: *Heraldry of the Howard Cox Family*. This work, researched, written, and in production over the prior four years, includes research and writing of three Committee members: Nathaniel Taylor, Joseph McMillan, and Peter O'Donoghue.

Finally, the continuing regular activities of the Committee were represented in the publication of "A Roll of Arms: Twelfth Part," appearing serially in *The Register* in the first three quarters of 2025.

Among various scholarly presentations and activities of Committee members both individually and on behalf of the Committee in 2025 might be mentioned efforts, notably by Chairman Woods and Registrar Taylor, to showcase one of the Society's greatest pre-colonial heraldic treasures, William Smith's *Promptuarium Armorum* manuscript (begun 1602), the stunning painted armorial encyclopedia with an important New England provenance and history of use, currently undergoing intensive conservation, of which two a leaf was exhibited at the 2024 Congress. These have borne fruit in substantial contributions or pledges to the Society for conservation of the *Promptuarium*, notably from hereditary societies.

Respectfully submitted,



The Committee on Heraldry

By Nathaniel Lane Taylor
Registrar

Members of the Committee in 2025:

Ryan J. Woods, Chairman
Nathaniel Lane Taylor, Registrar
Joseph McMillan, Corresponding Secretary
Bertram Lippincott III, Corporate Secretary
Julian V. Brandt III
Brady Brim-Deforest

Christopher C. Child
John Blythe Dobson
Peter O'Donoghue
John Shannon
D. Brenton Simons

Matthew Alderman, Artist to the Committee

Ex Officio:

Ryan J. Woods, President and CEO
David M. Trebing, Chairman, Board of Trustees