



The Use of Heraldry in Genealogical Research

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11 October 2018



Topics

- What is heraldry?
- How heraldry can help solve genealogical problems.
- Misuse of heraldry and “folk heraldry.”
- Examples of heraldry evidence from my own research in Ireland, England, Scotland, France, Italy, and Belgium.
- If time permits, then I will address registering arms and grants of arms.

What is Heraldry?

- Heraldry has come to mean the system of arms involving the use of particular devices centered on a shield that has become hereditary symbols passed down through a family, normally through the eldest son.
- In some countries it is tied to social stratification and is a mark of nobility, in other countries heraldry is also used by non-nobles.
- Although there are some general rules of heraldry that apply everywhere, some heraldry practices do vary from country to country.
- In America, where many of our founding fathers used armorial bearings, it is more equalitarian and does not imply nobility.
- For genealogists, heraldry is a tool that can be used to solve genealogical problems and to provide background for our research.

General Rules of Heraldry

- We will not be reviewing the rules of heraldry in detail here or the technical terms involved in heraldry.
- See the handout for some of the technical terms and for a bibliography of works regarding heraldry.
- There is one rule that I would like to very clear: *It is bad form, and in some countries illegal, to use the arms of others without a right to them though inheritance.*

Use of Heraldry in Genealogy

- Heraldry is not just something of esthetic interest, but of practical value when doing genealogy on bourgeois, gentry, and noble ancestors in Europe.
- Heraldry was also used in North America.
- There are several ways in which heraldry can be helpful in your research and I will be showing you several examples from my research.
- Most importantly it is a tool that can be used to establish the identity of an ancestor and to verify links between generations.
- Arms are also visual guideposts that can assist the researcher in spotting relevant information.
- There are several published and online tools you need to use to find and understand heraldry information regarding your ancestors. Many of them are listed on the handout.

Sources for Locating Arms

- Rolls of Arms: Medieval heralds compiled lists of arms, usually drawings, based on an event or region.
- Armorial: Usually blazons for arms arranged by surname and limited to a nation or region.
- Ordinary of Arms: A special tool that lets you look up the owner of an arm based on the blazon.
- Sigillography: This is the study of seals. Publications dealing with seals often provide the name of the owner, the type of document the seal was attached to, the date, and a description of the seal including any text. However, they usually lack information on tinctures.
- Visitations, funeral entries, and proofs of noble status: These are formal collections of heraldry information used to establish the right to arms or to verify noble status.
- Artifacts including church windows, tombs, plates, jewelry, and other architectural features.
- Illuminated manuscripts and engravings.

Heraldry Online and on CD/DVD

- Many of the basic publications needed to identify and study arms are now freely available online.
- Others that are still under copyright can usually be purchased on CD/DVD.
- Some official heraldry documents can now be found online, for example, the National Library of Ireland is digitizing the heraldry records of the Genealogical Office, formerly, the Ulster King of Arms.
- In particular, check out the digitized armorials linked at <http://heraldica.hypotheses.org/1770>.
- Hopefully, more rolls of arms will be digitized and made available online.
- Some rolls of arms have so far only been published in book form, for example, Gelre roll of arms.

Arms as Guideposts in Research

- It helps to know the arms of your ancestors because:
 - Can indicate their social status.
 - Can reveal honors.
 - Can be used to help sort out branches of families when similar arms are differenced between branches.
 - Can suggest the birth order of the armiger.
 - Can be used to understand the relationship between different families over generations when arms are quartered through marshalling.
 - Can help differentiate unrelated families with the same surname in a particular region.
 - Can be used to hint at a distant common ancestry when arms are similar between different families.
 - Most importantly, arms are a visual clue, especially helpful when trying to find a family in a difficult to read manuscript.
- I will be showing you examples of these uses of arms in genealogical research in this lecture.

Using Heraldry to Prove Links between Generations

- Heraldry sources that may include genealogical information:
 - English visitations.
 - Irish funeral entries.
 - Scottish matriculations of arms.
 - Grants and confirmation of arms in the United Kingdom and Ireland.
 - Manuscripts of the Judge of Arms (*Juge d'Armes*) and the Genealogist of the King's Orders (*Généalogiste des Ordres du Roi*) in France.
 - Armorial rolls.
 - Published heraldry records.
 - Other heraldry sources available in particular countries.
- Some of these sources mention parents, grandparents, siblings, and children.

Misuse of Heraldry

- Hope you understand that it is *inappropriate to use arms that you are not entitled to* usually through patrilineal primogeniture descent.
- Most online website that offer arms for sale are bogus and should be avoided.
- It is amateurish to use arms that you do not understand and that are not even closely related to your ancestors.
- There are many rules regarding heraldry, for example, the tincture rule, or how to blazon, when supporters and crowns can be used, etc.
- There are a standard set of rules across Europe and then variations of the rules found in each country.

Folk Heraldry

- There are rules and then there is behavior. I call the way our ancestors actually used arms, whether in compliance or violation of the rules, “folk heraldry.”
- Some of our ancestors used heraldry in their life in ways that would be considered inappropriate and in some cases illegal:
 - Family members using the same arms without differencing or cadency.
 - Individuals assuming arms without proper authorization and getting away with it. Often done to pass as nobles.
 - People using arms of prestigious or important families without descending from them or adopting similar arms without justification.
 - Changes in arms because of a family dispute or for any other reason, breaking the hereditary principle of arms.
 - Violating the tincture rules.
- Keep in mind that it was not uncommon in some countries for non-nobles and non-gentry to have arms, for example, in France.
- Some arms in France were assigned to people for tax reasons and are easily identified when compared to others assigned at the same time.
- Some times the violation of the rules of heraldry can benefit your research because the rule breaking makes the arms stand out as unique.

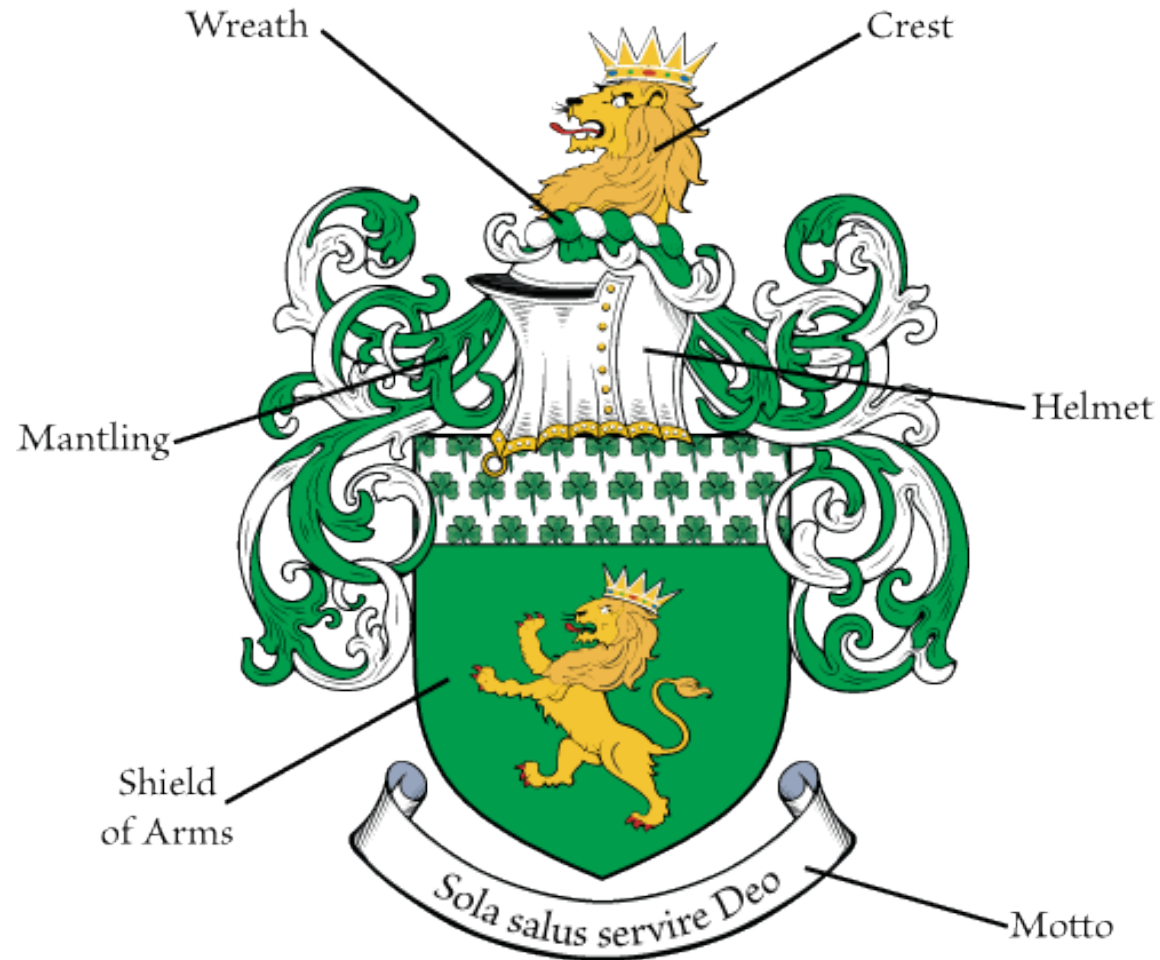
Working with Heraldry

- Must not abandon your analytical skills you learned doing genealogy.
- Some arms are simply wrong, completely or in part. Our ancestors violated the rules of heraldry sometimes with wild abandon!
- It is always best to track down examples of the arms used in original documents. Often they differ from what is presented in published armorials.
- Do not be surprised to find changes in crests and mottos over time. These were not as standardized as the design of arms on shields.
- Keep track of quarterings as these are clues to other related families the armiger descends through a heraldic heiress.
- Remember that armorial practices vary by country so make sure you learn how the land of your ancestors commonly used arms.

Heraldry Examples from Genealogical Research

- In the course of researching the Anglo-Irish and Scottish ancestry of my wife, Patricia McGuinness, and doing my own French research, I have often found ancestors using arms.
- I have collected information about arms of our ancestors in New France, France, Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, Belgium, and Italy.
- Here I will be presenting some of my findings and show how the heraldry information we found helped to solve genealogical problems or at least added interesting color to the history of our ancestors.

Typical Elements of an Achievement of Arms



1908 Palmer Confirmation of Arms



The Palmer arms were the first piece of heraldry my wife and I encountered doing genealogy. We knew that her ancestor, Major James Palmer, was the Inspector General of Prisons and Lunatic Asylums in Ireland and that his office was at Dublin Castle from old family letters. On a visit the Genealogical Office then in Dublin Castle in 1980, on a lark, we asked if there was any Palmer arms and we were shown this 1908 confirmation of arms.

These arms were confirmed to my wife's first cousin three times removed, the confirmation mentions her Palmer ancestors in several generations, but leaves out her connection to the Palmer family undoubtedly because her ancestor, Thomas Palmer, was illegitimate!

Palmer Arms in 1816 and 1908



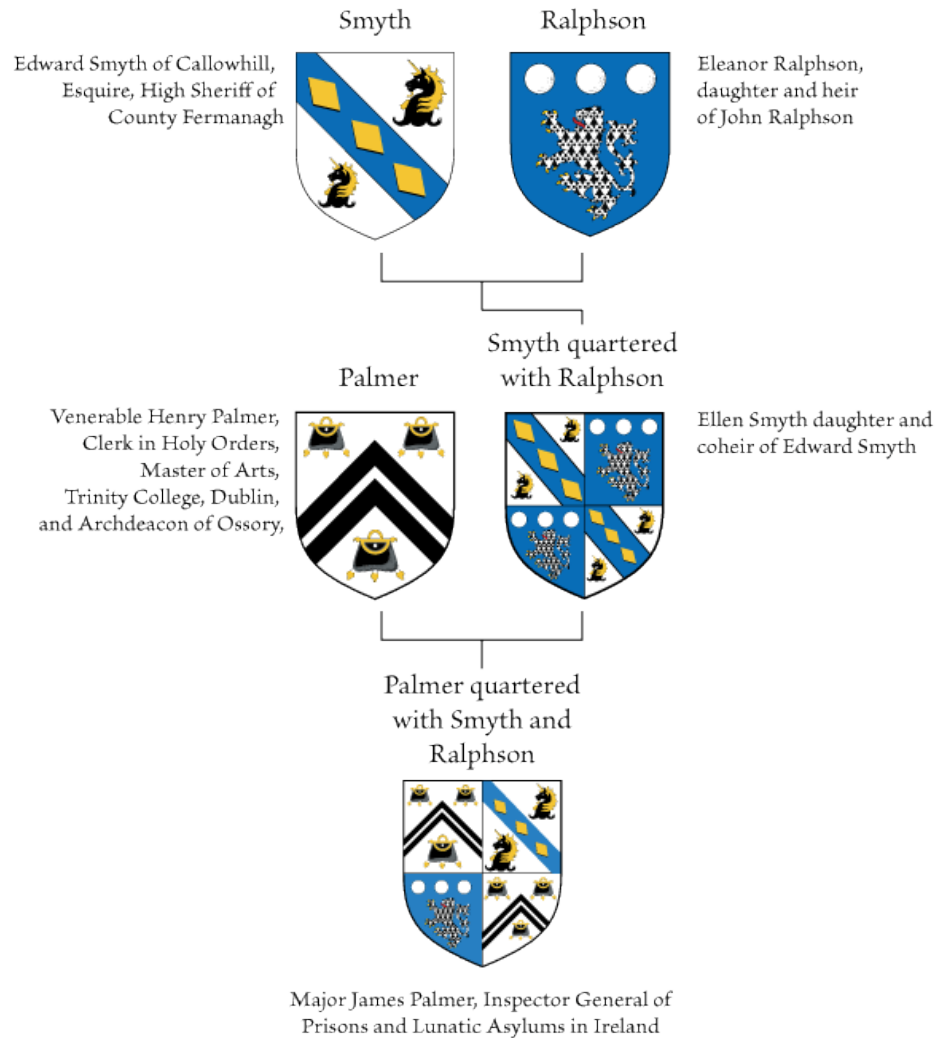
Palmer Arms
per Patrick Kennedy, 1816



Palmer Arms
per the 1908
Confirmation of Arms

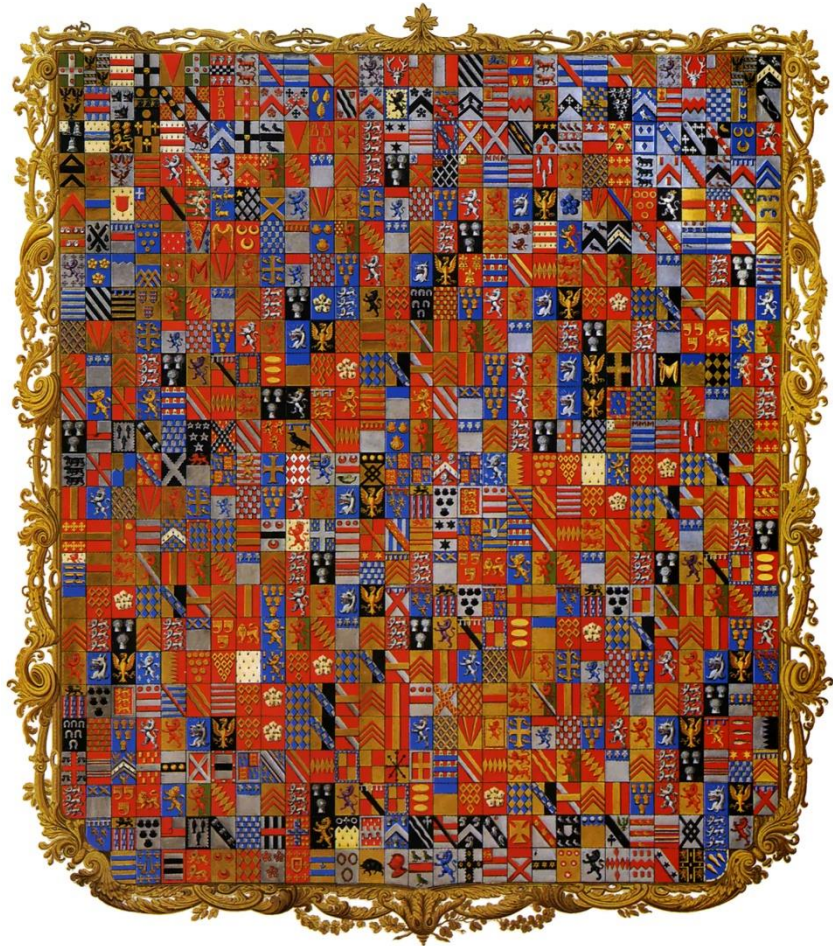
Major Palmer and his father, the Venerable Henry Palmer, Archdeacon of Ossory, probably used the arms recorded in 1816 by an Irish engraver. The 1908 confirmation issued to the Major's grandson corrected the Ralphson 3rd quarter, and differenced the Palmer 1st and 4th quarters as well as the Smyth 2nd quarter.

Marshalling of the Palmer Arms



When an armiger is survived only by daughters, they become heraldic heiresses and their children are allowed to quarter their mother's arms. This is called marshalling. When arms are marshalled you see a visual genealogy.

Quartering Gone Wild



An armiger can quarter more than just four arms.

Some quarterings get very complex.

Richard Plantagenet, Marquis of Chandos, and the son of the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, claimed that he was entitled to 719 quarterings!

Comparison of Select Palmer Arms



In Deo est mihi omnis fides
Palmers of Co. Longford
(1st and 4th quarters)



Sic bene merenti palma
Palmers, Baronets of Castletacken,
Co. Mayo (1st and 4th quarters)



In Deo est mihi omnis fides
Palmers of Summer Hill,
Co. Mayo



Honor virtutis praeium
Palmers of Rahan,
Co. Kildare



Palmers of Dublin



Par sit fortuna labori
Palmers of Kenmare,
Co. Kerry



Palma virtuti
Palmers, of Dorney Court, Baronets
of Wingham, Kent, and the
Earl of Castlemaine, Co. Mayo



Palmers of Howlets,
Kent

It is tempting to assume that several of these Palmer families are related given the similarity of their arms. However, it could also be the case that they all consulted the same seventeenth century heraldry book showing the Palmers of Howlets arms!



Palmer of Howlets arms appeared in print as early as 1638 in Guillim's *A Display of Heraldie*.

Blazon Example: Dod



Arms of the Right Rev. Dr. Roger Dod, Bishop of Meath (?-1608).

Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Argent, on a plain fess between two cotises wavy Gules three bezants Or (for Dod);

2nd, Sable, an eagle displayed Argent armed Gules (for Edge);

3rd, Or, a cross pattée fitchée Sable (for Broxton); over all a crescent for difference (a second son).

Using a Published Armorial



An armorial list armigers for a country, region, or event. If you are lucky, then the armiger is named, particulars are given about the grant or confirmation of arms, the blazon of the arms and crest are provided, the family motto is stated, and in some cases historical facts for the family are recorded.

If you are unlucky, then the armorial will just show a surname and a blazon.

The example here is Burke's *The General Armory* which covers England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

M U R THE GENERAL ARMORY.

M U S

stars ar. a double treasure fess counterfess of the second, all within a bordure company of the third and gu. Crest—A dead lion gu. holding a Lochaber axe ppr. betw. his paws. Motto—Virtute bloque.

MURRAY (Clermont, co. Fife, bart., 1635). Or, a fetherick ar. within a bordure embattled gu. on a chief of the second three mullets ar. Crest—A Dexter hand brandishing a flaming sword ppr. Motto, ever crest—Bound time.

MURRAY (Fennyland, co. Caithness) heiress in. BREAK THERLAND, of Fingask. Ar. a bend betw. three stars ar. Crest—A normal holding a sword in her dexter hand ppr. Motto—In utrumque paratus.

MURRAY (Capt. James MURRAY, R.N., 1812). Ar. a martlet or, betw. three stars ar. a bordure of the second, on a canton eris. a sword ppr. surmounted by a redent saltireways sa. Crest—A lion ramp. guard. gu. collared and chained, supporting an anchor erect or. Motto—Virtute bloque.

MURRAY (Vice-Admiral George MURRAY, 1814). Ar. an anchor erect or, betw. three mullets ar. all within a double treasure fess counterfess of the second. Crest—A demi savage ppr. wreathed head and middle vert. in his dexter hand a dagger ppr. pommel and hilt or, in his sinister an anchor of the last.

MURRAY (Birmingham). Ar. a hunting horn sa. stringed gu. a bordure of the second charged with three escallops or, on a chief sa. as many stars of the first. Crest—A telescope on a stand or. Motto—They by perils are slain.

MURRAY (Dunstable, co. Bucks). Quarterly, 1st and 4th, ar. a halibut ppr. stringed gu. on a chief sa. three mullets of the first, for MURRAY, of Philiphaugh; 2nd and 3rd, or, on a bend sa. an eagle betw. two crowns and on a border engr. sa. eight escallops of the first, for SCOTT. Crest—A demi savage wreathed about the temples and loins, holding a halibut ppr. for MURRAY, a flag tripartite, for SCOTT. Motto—Hinc unguis superius venator.

MURRAY-SHEWART. See SHEWART.

MURRAY (Gerrards-Murray, Col. Charles Edward MURRAY, J.P. and D.L., of Whiston Park, Twickenham, assumed by royal licence, 1815, the surname and arms of SICKNEY in addition to GERRARDS). 1st and 4th, MURRAY (see above of above); 2nd and 3rd, GERRARDS.

MURRAY (Castle Murray, co. Down). Exemplified in ALEXANDER MURRAY, Esq., upon his assuming by royal licence, 1812, the surname of MURRAY, in compliance with the will of James MURRAY, Esq., of Broughton. Ar. three stars ar. Crest—A griffin segreant ppr. Motto—Imperio.

MURRAY (granted to George Moore MURRAY, of Merfoll, Ar. a chaplet of oak or, betw. three mullets ar. within a bordure nebule of the second. Crest—But of a present or, a demi savage affronted ppr. wreathed about the temples or and sa. holding in the dexter hand a sword erect also ppr. and in the sinister a key, the point upwards, gold.

MURRAY. Or, a bend gu. in base a cross crescent of the last. Crest—A demi lion ramp. ppr. pale ar. and sa. collared, counterchanged, holding in the dexter paw a bunch of flowers of the first stalked vert.

MURTHE (Murthe and Talant, co. Cornwall; John MURTHE, Esq., of Talant, Vice-Corps 1820). Signal in descent from RICHARD MURTHE, Esq., of Murthe, temp. Richard II.). Ar. a lion ramp. betw. three fescue-ills gu.

MURTELL. Sa. on a fess wavy betw. two mullets ar. as many wings gu.

MURRAY (Stevy, co. Derby). Or, two chevrons sa. a bordure of the last.

MURRAY (son, Derby and Devon; the heiress in. FLEWELL). Gu. three plates. Crest—A hawk's head couped and falling drops of blood ppr.

MURRAY (son, Devon). Gu. a lion ramp. ar. crowned or.

MURRAY (London). Ar. a bend gu. a border engr. of the last.

MURRAY. Ar. a fess ar. betw. three cinquefoils or.

MUSCHAMP (Fendal Green, co. Northumberland); descended from ROBERT DE MUSCHAMP, who obtained divers lordships from Henry I., left an only son and heir, CECILY MUSCHAMP, m. Sir Stephen de Bricase, second son of RICHARD, of Sheriff Hutton, co. York, and her descendants assumed the name of MUSCHAMP; ROBERT DE MUSCHAMP, Baron of Wootton, great-grandson of Sir Sybrian and CECILY, d. 1285, leaving three co-heiresses: CECILY, m. OSWALD DE FANE, MARY, m. VALINE, Earl of Strathmore, in Scotland; and ISABELLA, m. WILLIAM DE HERTFORD. A deed of ROBERT DE MUSCHAMP's, relating to certain grants of land in Howburn to the monks of Durham, bears his seal, "or, three bars gu." but the more ancient engins of the family were: Ar. a chevron betw. three discs ppr. The charge in the arms are in some authorities called bees, in others butterflies or beetles, but they are obviously "discs" allusive to the presumed derivation of the name from "musca."

MUSCHAMP (Barrow, co. Northumberland); descended from Sir WILLIAM DE MUSCHAMP, Knt., of Barrow, 1281, son of STEPHEN DE MUSCHAMP, third son of THOMAS DE MUSCHAMP, Baron of Wootton, and grandson of Sir Sybrian Bricase by CECILY MUSCHAMP, his wife. Or, three bars gu. Crest—A martlet die ppr. collared or.

MUSCHAMP (Berthelme, co. Durham); descended from JOHN MUSCHAMP, fifth son of GEORGE MUSCHAMP, Esq., of Barrow, High Sheriff co. Northumberland, 1286. Ar. a chevron betw. three discs ppr. Crest—A lion ramp. gu. holding in the dexter paw on a banner sa. a cross or.

MUSCHAMP (Canterbury, co. Surrey); allowed at York, London, 1568, to THOMAS MUSCHAMP, goldsmith, of London, son of WILLIAM MUSCHAMP, Esq., of Canterbury. Or, three bars gu. a martlet for diff. Crest—A woman's head ppr. tied round the neck with a scarf ar. charged on the breast with a martlet for diff.

MUSCHAMP (Horsley, co. Surrey). Or, three bars gu. Crest—A martlet die ppr. collared or.

MUSCHAMP (Dunlin and Cork); granted by Queen, 1582, to ERIC MUSCHAMP, Esq., of the city of Dublin, Master Master General of Ireland, son of Major ANTHONY MUSCHAMP, of the city of Cork, who was second son of Sir ANTHONY MUSCHAMP, Knt., of Bohernac, co. Kerry.

The created heiress of the family, MARY MUSCHAMP, dau. of the Master Master General, m. Hugh Barr, Sir Thomas VANE, Bishop of Ossory, ancestor of Foreman de Fane) Or, three bars gu. on a canton sa. a harp ar. Or, the first. Crest—On a canton royal mounted or, a cro-won-crown ppr. guard. ppr. Motto—Quit you my name.

MUSCHAMP (Fen, Esq. Ulster's Office, 1681). WILLIAM MUSCHAMP, Esq., descended from MUSCHAMP, of Barrow, co. Northumberland). Sa. three discs ar. quarterly; ar. three bars pass. sa. steel and holed or, for SWIRE, and sa. a chief indented or, for DENHAM.

MUSCHAMP. Ar. a fess engr. or, betw. three talbot heads erased ar.

MUSCHAMP. Ar. three butterflies volant or.

MUSCHAMP. Or, a chief ar.; another, Or, three bends gu.; another, Gu. two bars or, a fess in chief of the last.

MUSCOTE (Baron and Wolsy, co. Northampton). Gu. sa. a cross engr. ar. five roses of the first.

MUSCHAMP. Ar. a cross gu.

MUSGRAVE (Baron Musgrave; Sir ADAM MUSGRAVE, temp. King John, whose ancestor came to England with William I., was successor of Sir THOMAS MUSGRAVE, a commander in the English army, in Edward III., 1346, which defeated David II. of Scotland at Durham. He was summoned to Parliament 1350, but the writ was not renewed to any of his descendants). Or, six annulets or. Crest—Two arms in armour embowed ppr. the gannets grasping an annulet or. The following tradition has been handed down as the origin of the arms of the family—"The Emperor of Germany had two generals, who both wooed his daughter at the same time. Having had experience of the good services of each, he did not care to prefer one to the other, but, to decide the matter, ordered the rival generals and lovers to "run at the ring"—a favorite test then—for his daughter. Musgrave, a Lord Marcher, one of the Bishops, had the fortune to pierce the ring with the point of his spear; and as a reward of his dexterity and valor, obtained the lady as his bride, and had "six annulets or" given him for his coat of arms, and "two arms in armour holding an annulet" for his crest.

MUSGRAVE (Kilmall, co. Cumberland, bart.; descended from Baron Musgrave). Same Arms and Crest. Motto—Sans changer.

MUSGRAVE (Hayton, bart.; descended from Kilmall, Same Arms. Crest—Two arms in armour embowed grasping the sun ppr.

MUSGRAVE (Growth, co. Waterford, bart.). Same Arms and Crest. Motto—Sans changer.

MUSGRAVE (Ashby Musgrave, co. Westmoreland). Same Arms. Crest—Two arms in armour embowed ppr. grasping an annulet or.

MUSGRAVE (Hartley Castle, co. Westmoreland). Same Arms and Crest.

MUSGRAVE (Barton, co. Kent, and Shillingham Manor, co. Bedford). Same Arms and Crest.

MUSGRAVE (Fairbairn, or Musgrave Hall). Same Arms and Crest.

MUSGRAVE (Crookdale, co. Cumberland). Same Arms and Crest.

MUSGRAVE (Sagar-Musgrave, Sandford House, Leich, co. York). Exemplified to JOHN MUSGRAVE SAGAR, Esq., upon

Armorial Entry

Here is the section on the Irish Muschamps, which you can see is very detailed.

Muschamp (Dublin and Cork; granted by Carney, Ulster, 1685, to DENNY MUSCHAMP, Esq., of the city of Dublin. Muster Master General of Ireland, son of Major AGMONDISHAM MUSCHAMP, of the city of Cork, who was second son of Sir AGMONDISHAM MUSCHAMP, Knt., of Robarnes, co. Surrey. The eventual heiress of the family, MARY MUSCHAMP, dau. of the Muster Master General, m. Right Rev. Sir THOMAS VESKY, Bishop of Ossory, ancestor of *Viscount De Veski*.) Or, three bars gu. on a canton az. a harvest fly displ. of the first. *Crest*—On a cannon royal mounted or, a cat-a-mountain pass. guard. ppr. *Motto*—Quid gens sine mente.

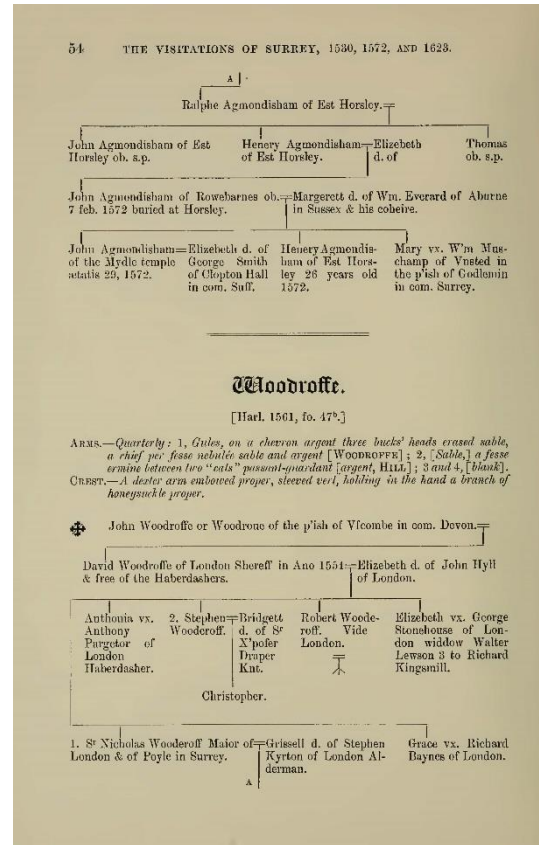
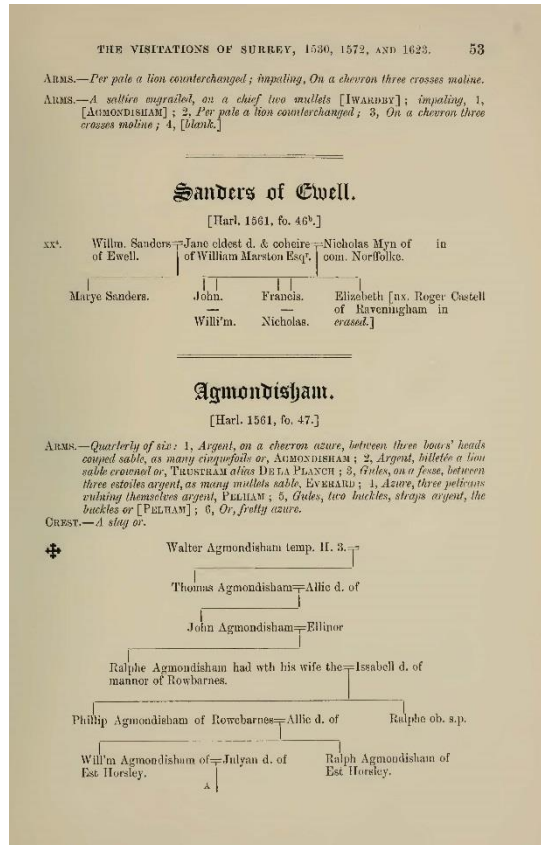
Muschamp (Fun. Ent. Ulster's Office, 1661, WILLIAM MUSCHAMP, Esq., descended from MUSCHAMP, of Barmore. co. Northumberland). Sa. three flies ar. quartering ar. three boars pass. sa. armed and hooped or, for SWYNE, and az. a chief indented or, for DUNHAM.

1685 Muschamp Confirmation of Arms

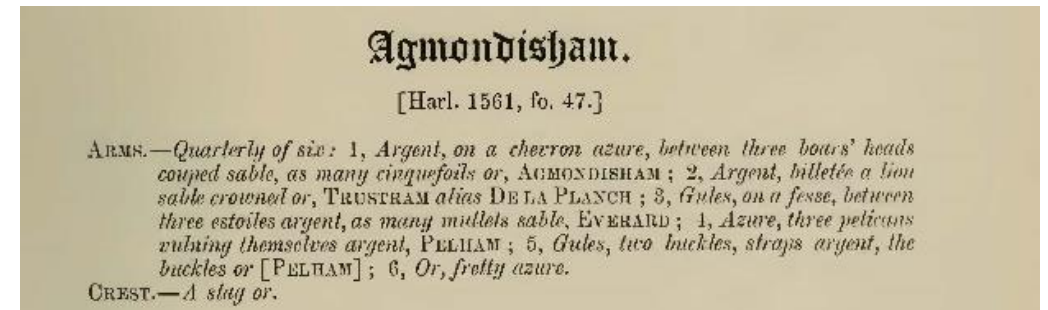


Many arms are in the form of Canting arms, that is the arms are based in whole or part on a pun involving the surname of the bearer. Here is a good case, for the canton of these arms contains a fly or a *mouche* in French.

Visitation: Agmondisham, Extending a Pedigree



The Muschamps descend from the Agmondishams.
Using visitations it is possible to extend a pedigree.



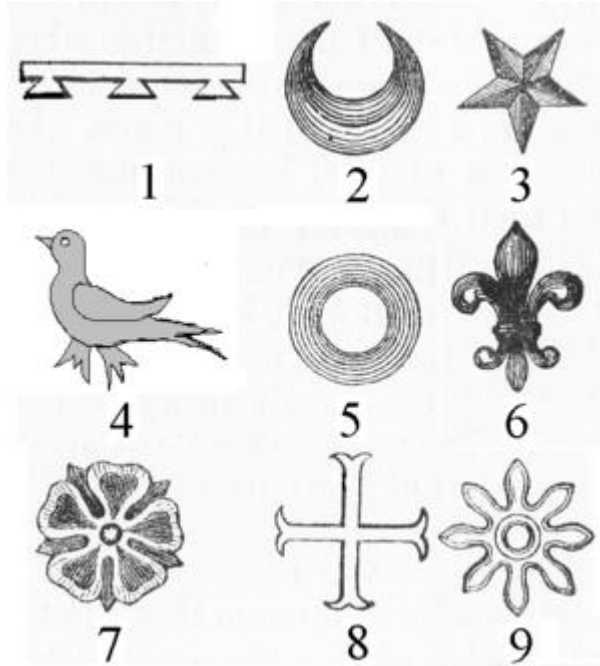
Visitation: Povey Arms Disclaimed in England, But Used in Ireland



In 1664, a relative, John Povey of Woodend, Shropshire, disclaimed arms, meaning he admitted he had no right to use arms, while in Ireland Sir John Povey, the Chief Justice of the King's Bench, was using the Povey arms.

Many with the surname Povey use the same arms and it is yet to be determined how, if at all, they are all related.

Cadency: Distinguishing Arms Between Siblings



English and Irish Cadency System:

1st son: label of three points, removed at the father's death;

2nd son: crescent;

3rd son: mullet;

4th son: martlet;

5th son: annulet;

6th son: fleur-de-lys;

7th son: rose;

8th son: cross moline;

9th son: octofoil.

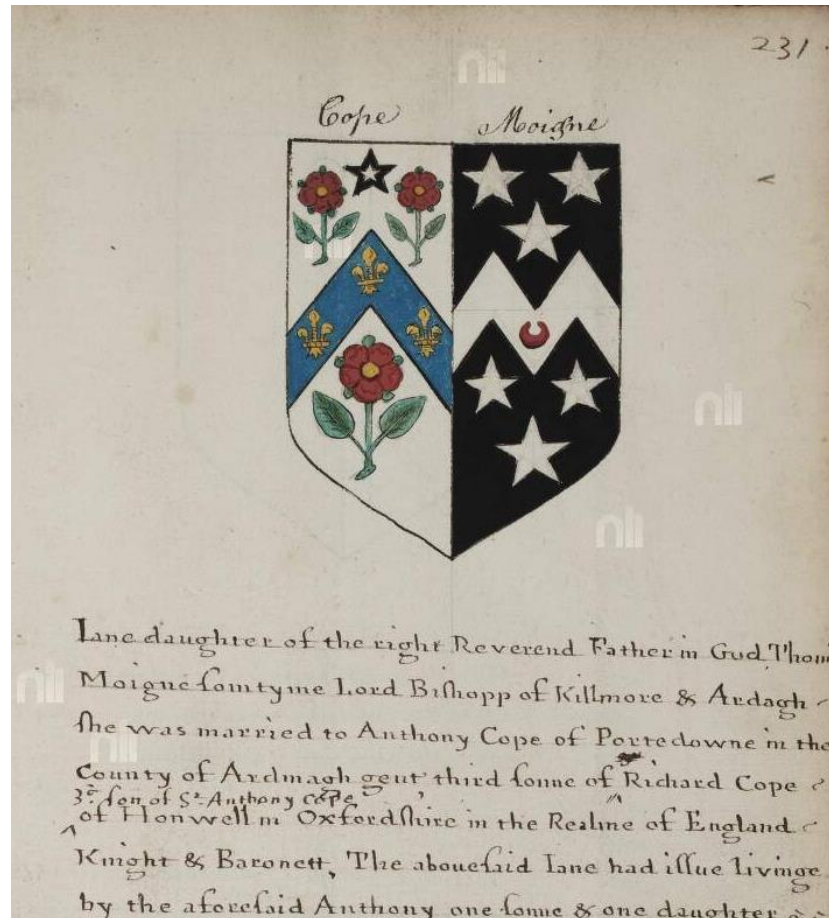
The Canadians have established a similar cadency system for daughters.

Scotland uses a more elaborate system for cadet branches relying on borders and other differences.

Funeral Entry: Cope and Moigne Arms with Cadency Marks



Arms of
Anthony Cope,
the third son of
a third son.

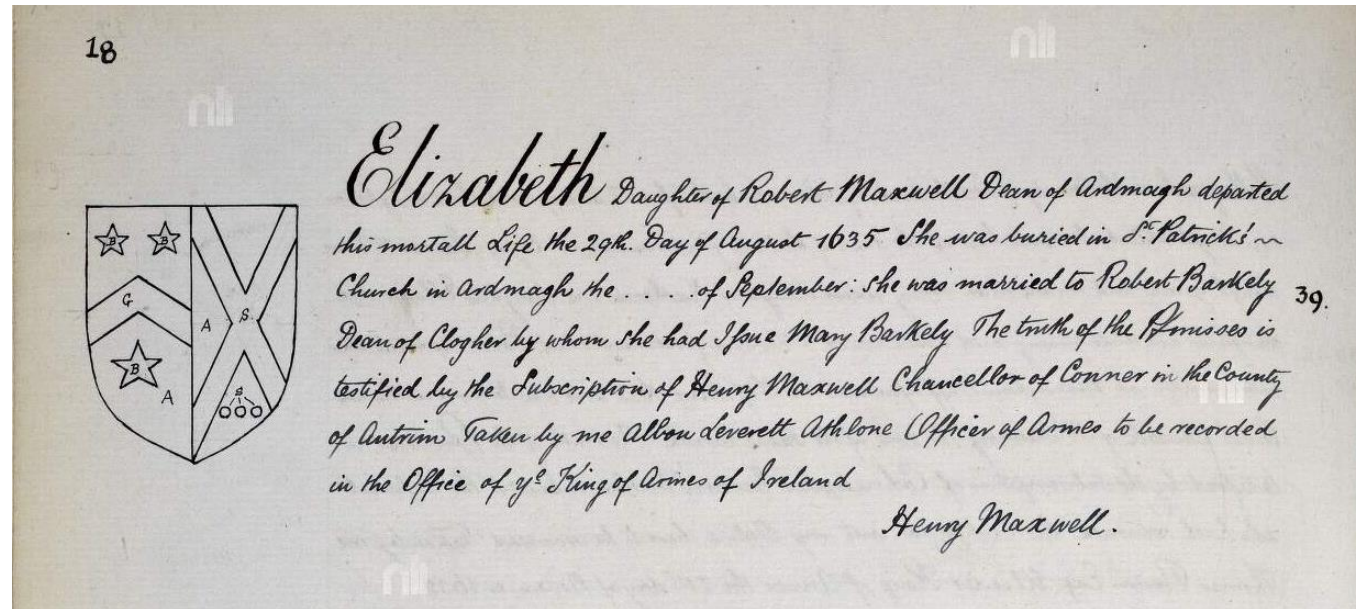


Arms of the Right Rev.
Thomas Moigne, Bishop
of Kilmore and Ardagh,
a second son.

Funeral Entry: Barclay and Maxwell Arms, Even Heralds Make Mistakes



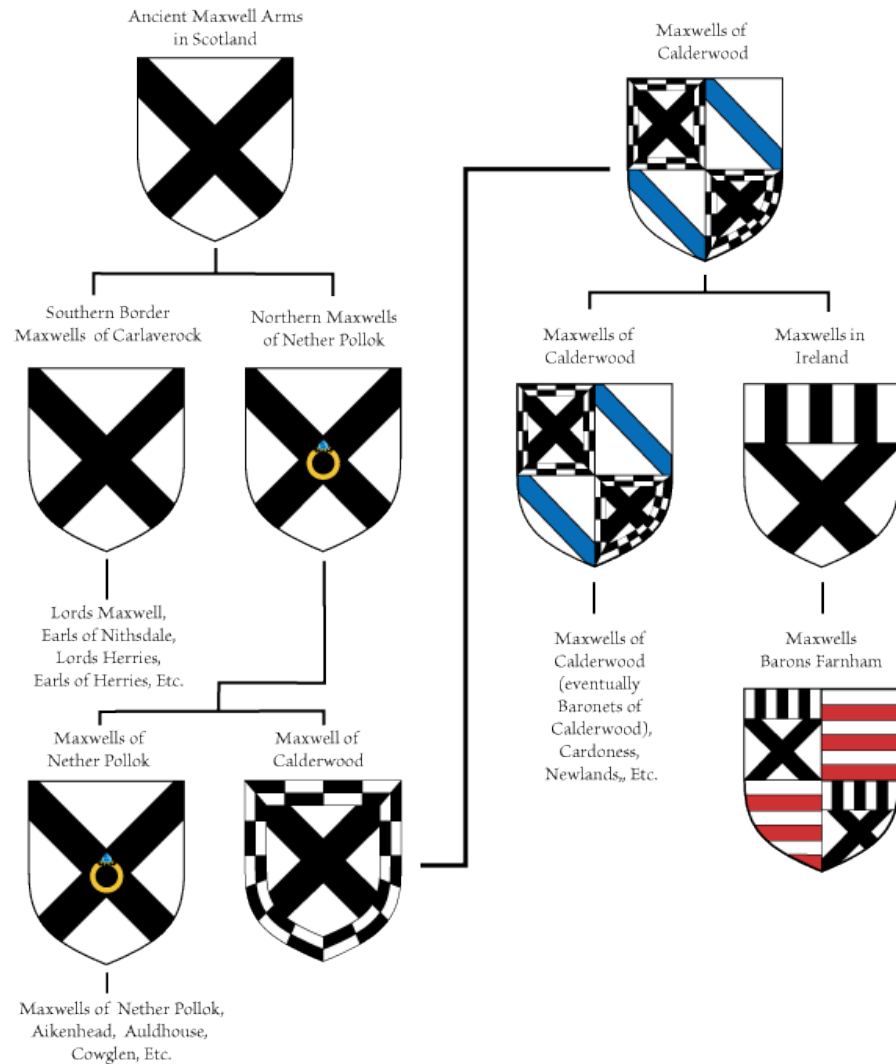
Arms of the Very
Rev. Dr. Robert
Barclay, Dean of
Clogher



The correct arms
of the Very Rev.
Dr. Robert
Maxwell, Dean of
Ardماغh

Maxwell: Argent a saltire Sable a chief paly of six of the first and second, not three pellets Sable in Base.
Barclay arms match Brodie arms, I suspect the three mullets Azure should be three crosses pattée Azure which is what is found on most Barclay arms.

The Maxwells of Scotland and Ireland



In Scotland, there are laws that protect arms and require that arms be matriculated and differenced between eldest and cadet branches. The Maxwells are a good example of how arms change over time with this system. This is a simplistic view, the actual Maxwell arms used by all the branches is very complex.

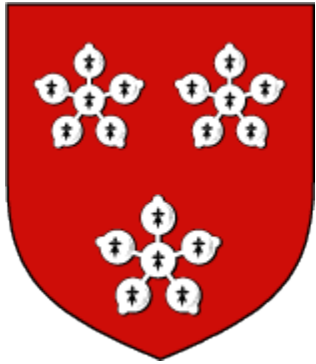
In Ireland, the rules are not a rigid, but marshalling of arms has led to changes in the Maxwell arms there.

See: <http://www.maxwellsociety.com/history/heraldry.htm> and <http://www.heraldry-online.org.uk/maxwell.html> for more Maxwell examples.

Illegitimacy

- In some cases arms can help establish the parents of an illegitimate child.
- There is no such thing as a “bar sinister” as found in old romance novels, but there is a bend sinister to mark illegitimacy.
- The riband (a bendlet) and baton (a truncated bendlet) sinister are also used to show illegitimacy.
- In England, a wavy border is now commonly used to indicate illegitimacy.
- In Scotland, a company border is often used to show descent from an ancestor who was illegitimacy.

Illegitimacy and the Augmentation to the Arms of Hamilton of Finnart



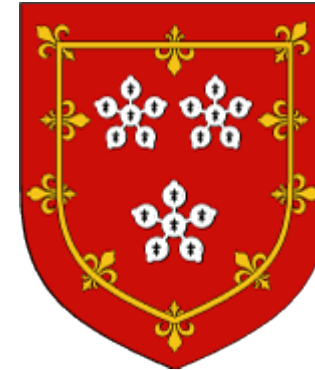
Hamilton
Ancient Arms



James Hamilton,
2nd Lord
Hamilton, 1st
Earl of Arran



James Hamilton
of Finnart, "the
Bastard of
Arran," a sable
ribbon sinister
(a thinner
version of the
bend sinister)



James Hamilton of
Finnart, after
legitimization and
royal tressure
augmentation in
1531



James Hamilton,
2nd
Earl of Arran,
Duke of
Châtellherault in
France, and
Regent of
Scotland

Unlikely Claims: The Vesey Case



De Vesci, Normans
living in Medieval England
and Scotland, extinct



Vesey of Ireland,
later Viscount de Vesci

The Most Rev. Dr. John Vesey, Archbishop of Tuam, received a confirmation of his arms on 2 Dec. 1698, just about two months after his son the Rt. Rev. Sir Thomas Vesey, Bishop of Ossory was made a baronet. There is no known descent from the Norman de Vescis to the Veseys of Ireland families despite the claims of past Viscounts de Vesci.

Ecclesiastic Heraldry



- Catholic and Anglican church officials also use heraldry.
- An official's personal arms are usually impaled with the arms of their diocese or archdiocese.
- Example: The arms of the Most Rev. Dr. John Vesey, Archbishop of Tuam, impaled with the arms of the archdiocese of Tuam.

Heraldry for Places and Institutions

- Related to ecclesiastic heraldry, you should be aware that places (villages, cities, provinces, regions) and institutions (monasteries, guilds, universities, regiments, etc.) also used arms. You might want to track down these arms as your ancestors would have been familiar with them.
- For example, many of my wife's Anglo-Irish ancestors were graduates of Trinity College, Dublin, and they would have often seen the arms of the school.



Importance of Sigillography

- Not all seals use arms, but it is often the case.
- Several guides to seals have been published.
- Plaster casts of seals are often preserved in archives.
- I found the impaled Gavre d'Escornaix and Le Bouteillier seal on a visit to the Archives nationales de France. This seal became an important clue in the ancestor of Catherine de Baillon.

Catherine de Baillon and the Heraldry of Her Ancestors

- Catherine de Baillon was a young noble woman who immigrated to New France in 1669 as one of the *filles du roi* (daughters of the king).
- My colleagues and I found that her ancestry leads back to Philippe II, *Auguste*, King of France, and Theodore II Doukas Laskaris, Emperor of Nicaea.
- Many people in Canada and the United States descend from Catherine.



de Baillon

The Parentage of Catherine Gavre d'Escornaix

Using a seal to prove the parentage of Catherine Gavre d'Escornaix, the wife of Guillaume Le Bouteillier, seigneur of la Roche-Guyon.

The seal was used on several 1439 documents and bears the legend "S. Katherine le boutellier dame de la rochegniõ."



Le Bouteillier arms impaled with Gavre d'Escornaix arms, normally the husband's arms are on the dexter side and the wife's on the sinister side.

The Marguerite Gavre d'Escornaix Plaque



This commemorative plaque was created for Marguerite de Gavre d'Escornaix, the Abbess of Ste-Gertrude, Nivelles, in modern-day Belgium. It displays Marguerite's ancestral arms and the images of the Madonna and child, Ste-Marguerite, a crouching dragon, and a kneeling abbess Marguerite in the middle, 1461.

Most importantly, it shows the arms of Marguerite's parents and grandparents.

Marguerite is the sister of Catherine Gavre d'Escornaix.

Arms on the Nivelles Plaque



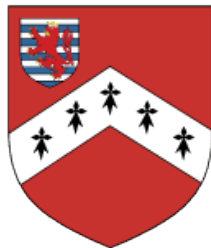
Gavre impaled
with Ghistelles



Gavre



Roye



Ghistelles



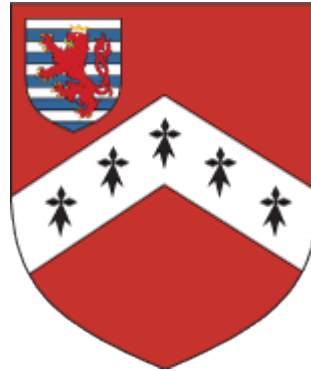
Dudzele

The arms displayed on the memorial plaque of the Abbess
Marguerite de Gavre d'Escornaix,
Ste-Gertrude, Nivelles, Belgium, 15th Century

Luxembourg Pretense of the Ghistelles, Royal Gateway to the Kings of France



Ghistelles Ancient
Arms



Ghistelles Arms
modified with an
escutcheon of pretense
showing a relationship
to the dukes of Luxembourg



Duke of Luxembourg
Arms

Using an Ordinary of Arms

- Needed to find which families used Gueules, une bande d'argent.
- Consulted Renesse's *Dictionnaire des figures héraldiques* (1892-1903), vol. 5, p. 497-498, under Bande d'argent sur gueules, found 57 families using this pattern, eventually narrowed it down to Roye (de).
- It is surprising how many families used the same general arms.
- Using an ordinary of arms is difficult and you must understand blazoning.
- The more complex the blazon, the more challenging it is to use an ordinary of arms.

Differentiating between de Marle Families using Arms



de Marle,
Picardie



de Marle,
Paris

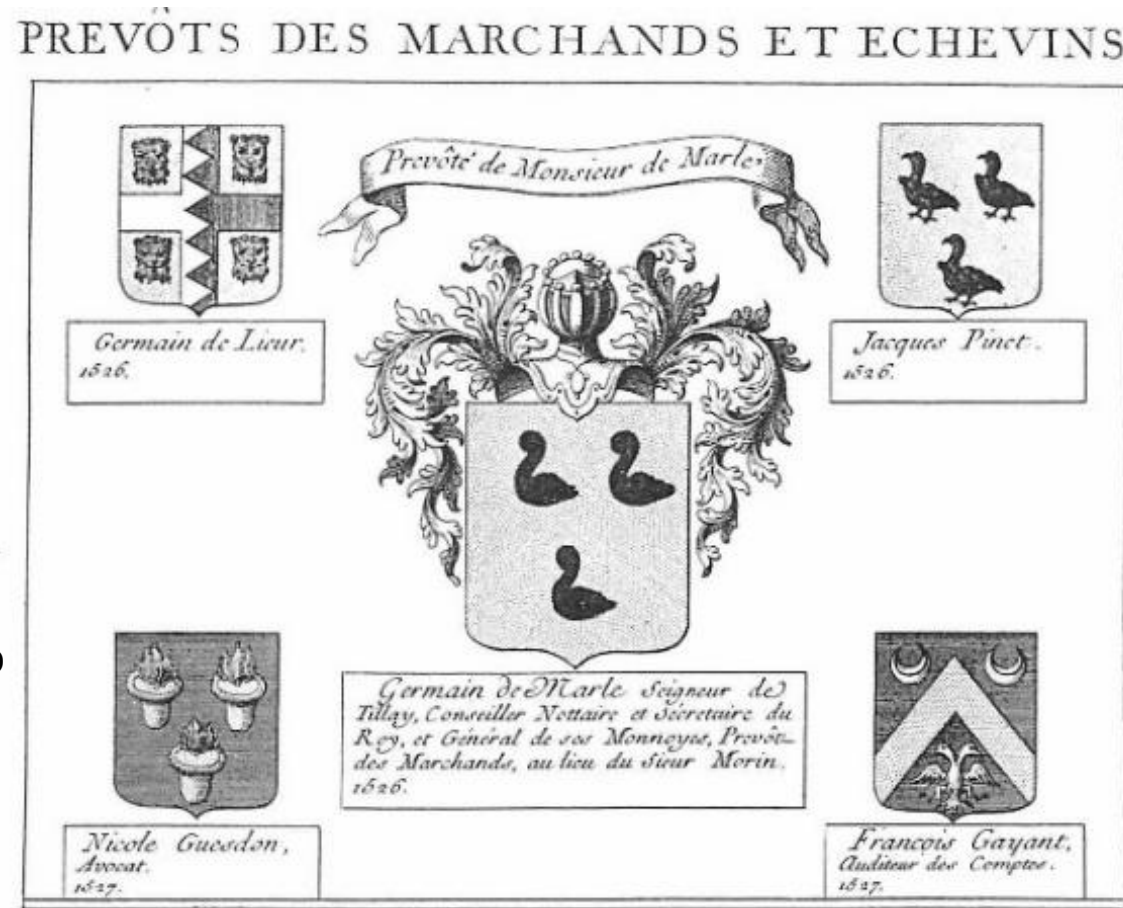


de Marle de Versigny,
Paris

Engravings of the Arms of Parisian Officials



Arms mistakenly assigned to
de Marles of Paris.



Arms actually used by
de Marles of Paris.

Bourgeois Arms

These are just some of the bourgeois arms I have found among Catherine de Baillon's Parisian ancestors.



Boucher



Braque



Culdoë



Marigny



Des Landes



Gaillard



Gentien



Le Sueur



Lhuillier



Villebresme

Differentiating between Branches of the Same Family: The Grimaldi Family

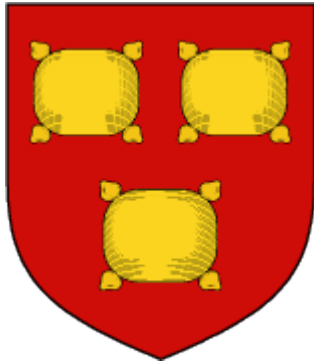


Grimaldi, Later
Princes of Monaco



Grimaldi de Beuil

Shared Arms, Bogus Arms, and Assigned Arms: The Case of the Le Neuf Arms



Le Neuf arms shared
between cousins in France
and New France without
differencing.



Arms of Hérison from Brittany,
assigned to Michel Le Neuf,
sieur du Hérison, of Normandy
without justification.



Arms assigned to Jean Le Neuf,
merchant, bourgeois of Caen, for
taxation, ca. 1696.

Example of Generated Arms from the *Armorial general de France*, 1696



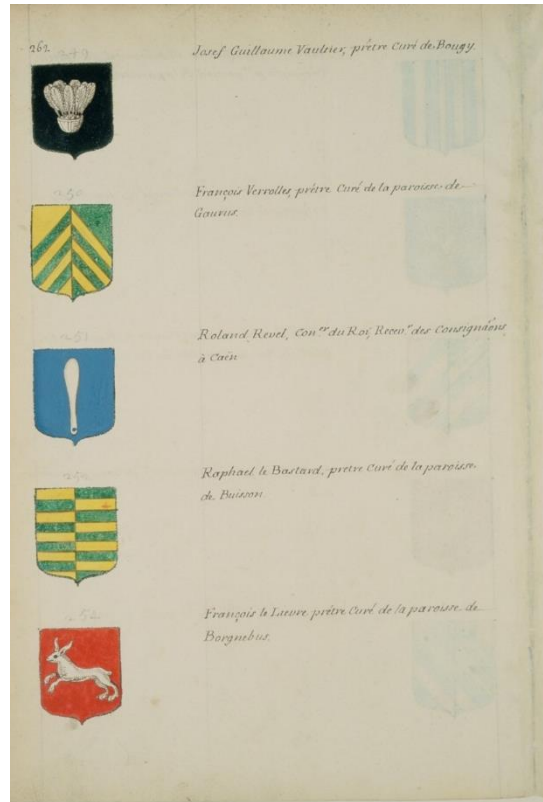
In 1696, King Louis XIV needed to raise funds for his wars so he decided to tax people for the use of arms. This was to become the *Armorial general de France*. Many of the arms are legitimate, but clerks would assign arms to wealthy bourgeois and peasants in order to raise funds. These assigned arms are easy to spot since they are often repetitive, sometimes hideous, and sometimes cruel.

This is the largest collection of French arms used in seventeenth century France.

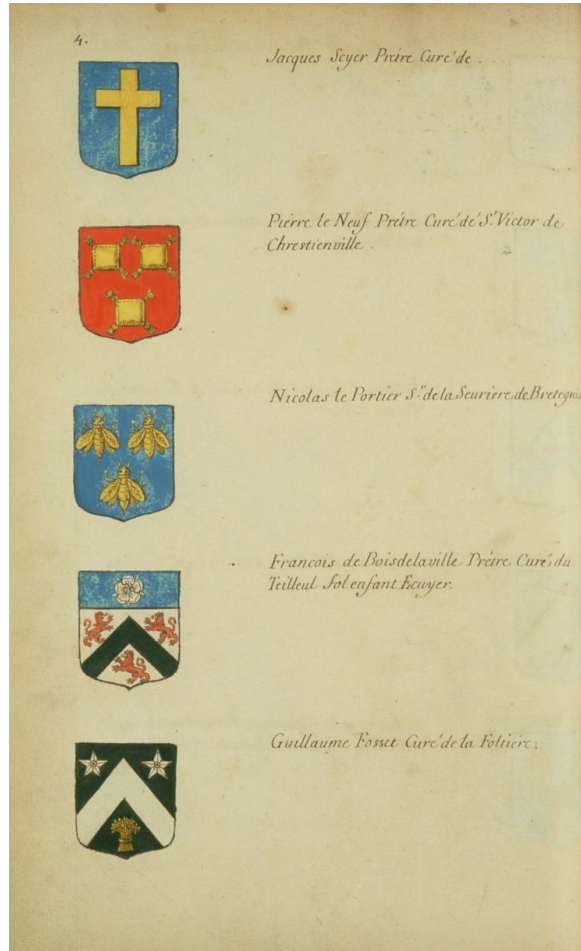
All the original *Armorial general de France* manuscripts can now be downloaded and searched for free from Gallica. See <http://habitant.org/tools/agf.htm> for a guide in English.

More Generated Arms from the *Armorial general de France*

Can you spot the generated arms?



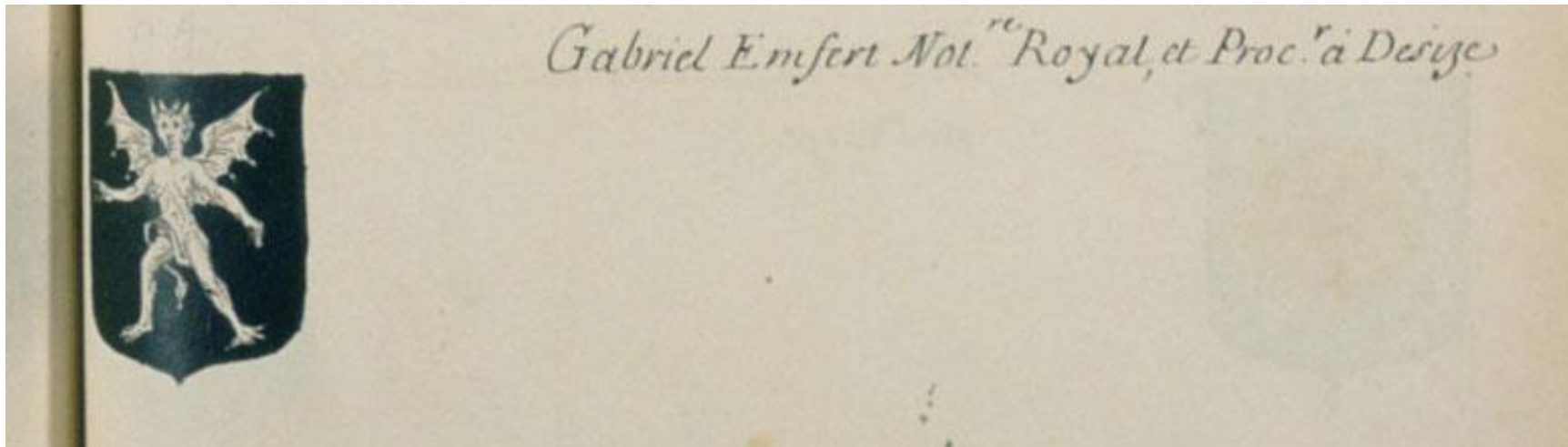
Example of Authentic Arms from the *Armorial general de France*



- Despite the generated arms found assigned to some people, most of the arms recorded in the *Armorial general de France* are authentic.
- For example, here are the Le Neuf arms properly recorded.
- However, you should not assume any arms displayed were authentic without doing more research in original documents to verify them.

Example of Cruel Generated Arms from the *Armorial general de France*

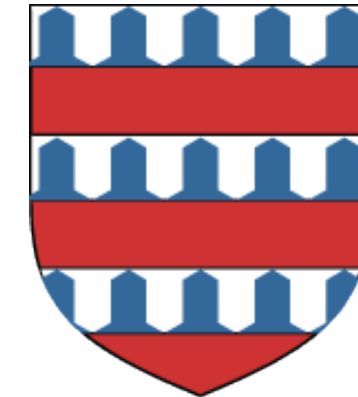
Most generated arms were rather mundane, but some could be cruel. For example, the royal notary Gabriel Emfert was given "*de sable, a un Diable d'argent*" (a silver devil on a black field) for his arms as a pun on his surname, emfert = enfer = hell = devil (see Bourbonnais, Ms. Fr. 32197, f. 477, no. 24 and Ms. Fr. 32231, f. 275).



Tombs and Effigies: Roucy and Coucy

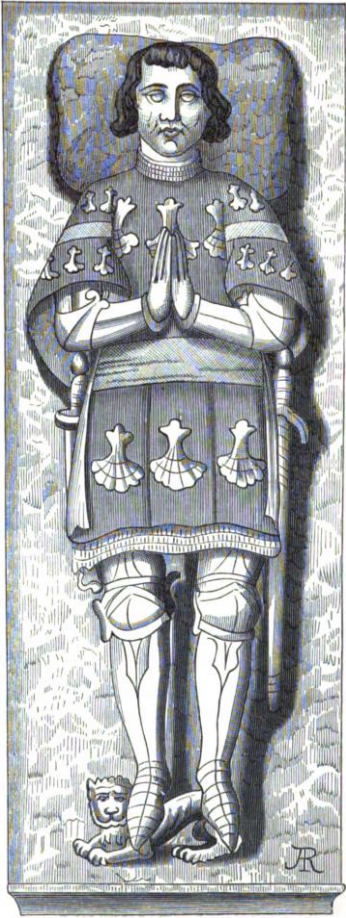


Hugues II, count of
Roucy and of Braine



Blanch of Coucy,
Dame of Montmirel

Illustrations of Arms: Morhier



Morhier

Etching of a tomb effigy for Guillaume Morhier, seigneur de St-Piat. He was probably the uncle of Simon Morhier, the Provost of Paris. They used the same arms. Simon is an ancestor of Catherine de Baillon.

Stained Glass: Montfort



Chartres Cathedral,
France



St. John the Baptist
Church, Fladbury,
Worcestershire,
England



Montfort

The Le Neuf brothers descend from Simon V, seigneur de Montfort, duke of Narbonne, viscount of Béziers and Carcassonne, and 5th earl of Leicester, a participant in the 4th Crusade, and leader of the Albigensian Crusade.

Rolls of Arms: Bellenville Roll based on Gelre Roll



Here we have the Count of Flander's arms, supported by a griffin wearing a helmet with the count's crest. Below are the arms of Ghistelles and Gavre d'Escornaix.

Many medieval rolls of arms are now being digitized and made available online. One of the best rolls of arms for my research purposes is the Gelre roll of arms which has not yet been digitized, but the Bellenville roll of arms is based on the Gelre roll of arms.

For Medieval arms, verifying them on a contemporary or near contemporary roll is particularly helpful.

Roll of Arms: Toison d'or

Jean de la Clite, seigneur de Comines, chevalier de la Toison d'or, died 1475:



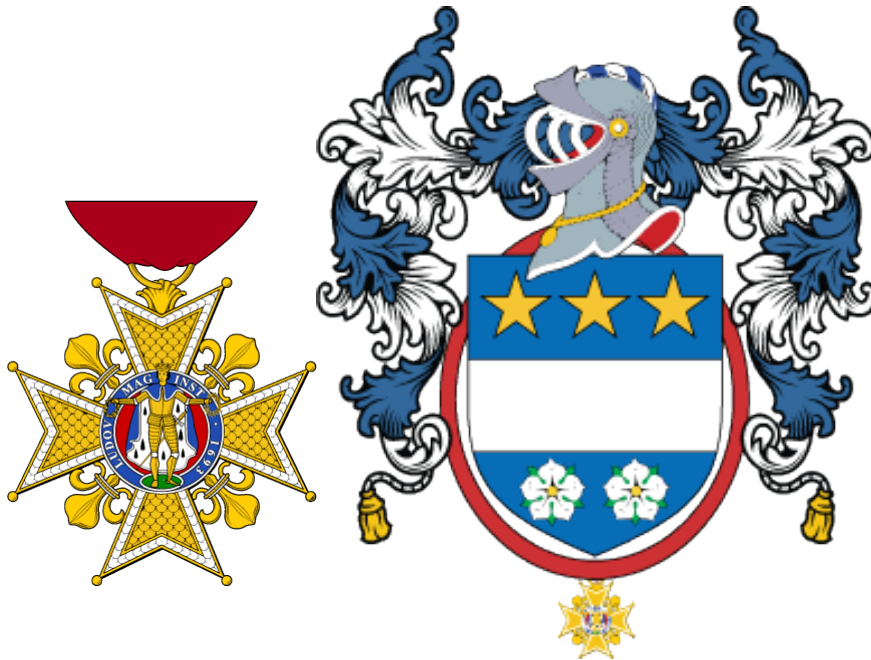
One of the nicest illustrated roll of arms has mounted figures for the members of the Toison d'or.

The Toison d'or (the Order of the Golden Fleece) was one of the most prestigious knightly orders in Europe. It was the order created by the Duke of Burgundy.

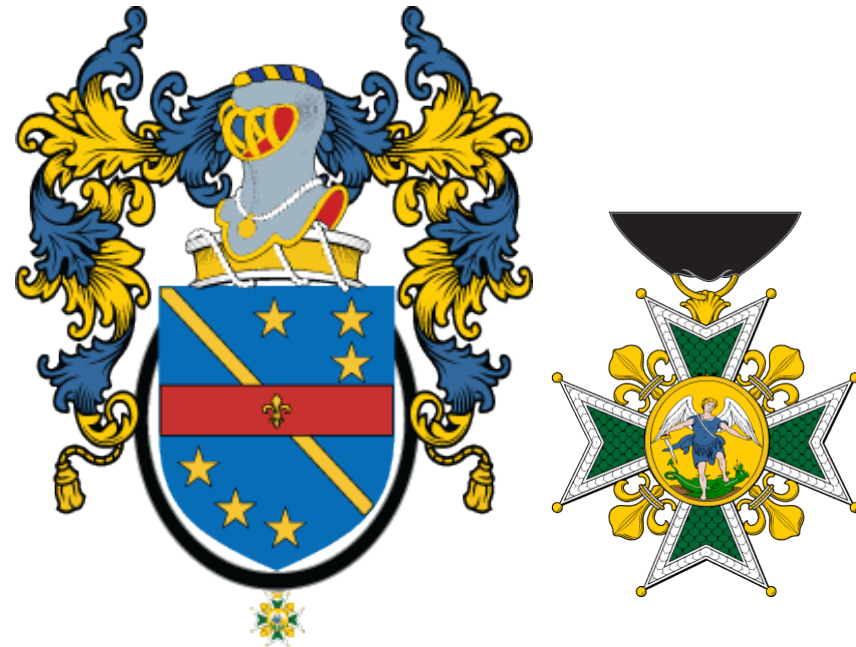
Here I have included the chain and medal of the order surrounding the shield of Jean de la Clite.

Orders of Chivalry

If your ancestor was in an order of chivalry, then his arms might indicate his membership in that order.



François de Jordy,
Knight in the Royal and Military
Order of St. Louis



René Robineau,
Baron de Portneuf
Knight in the Order of St. Michel

Social Rank and Heraldry

- The style of helmets and crowns used in a full achievement of arms can indicate the noble status of an ancestor.
- Supporters were reserved for titled nobles in the United Kingdom and France.

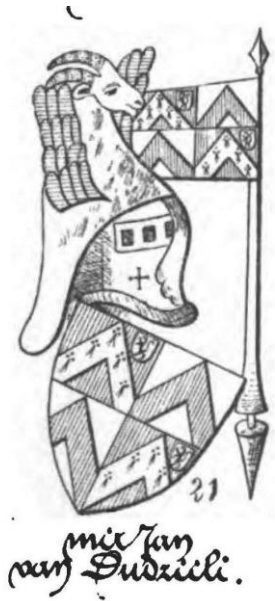


The arms of the Viscount of Iveagh, the chief of the McGuinness clan

Tournament at Bruges, 11 March 1392/3

- Several of Catherine de Baillon's Flemish relatives participated in a famous tournament. The challenger with a team of 49 knights was Jan van der Aa, Lord of Gruuthuse, and the defending team with 48 knights was led by Jan van Ghistelles (another distant relative).
- Note that Jan van Dudzeele was not a Ghistelle, but as his mother was a heraldic heiress, he has quartered her arms with his fathers and he used her surname. Also, observe that he too has an "*escutcheon of pretense*" containing the arms of the dukes of Luxembourg. This is more support for the royal gateway for Catherine de Baillon.
- The Dudzeeles are also related to the Stratens.

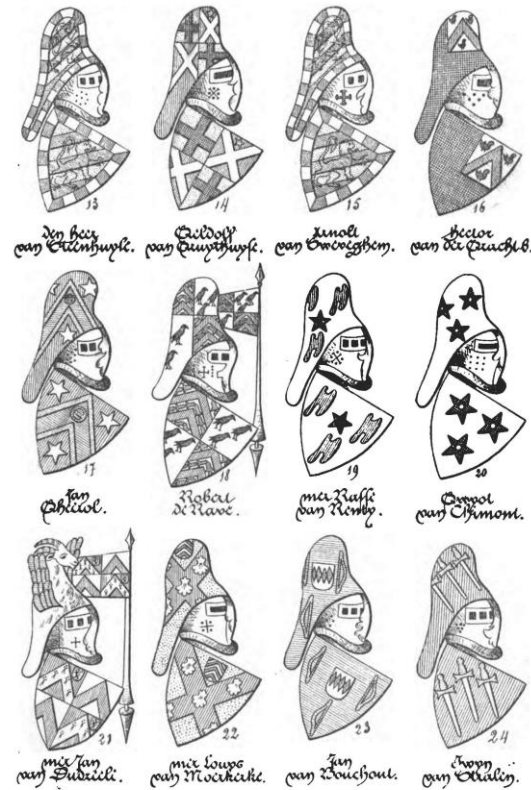
Participants in a Famous 1393 Tournament



Jan van Dudzeele



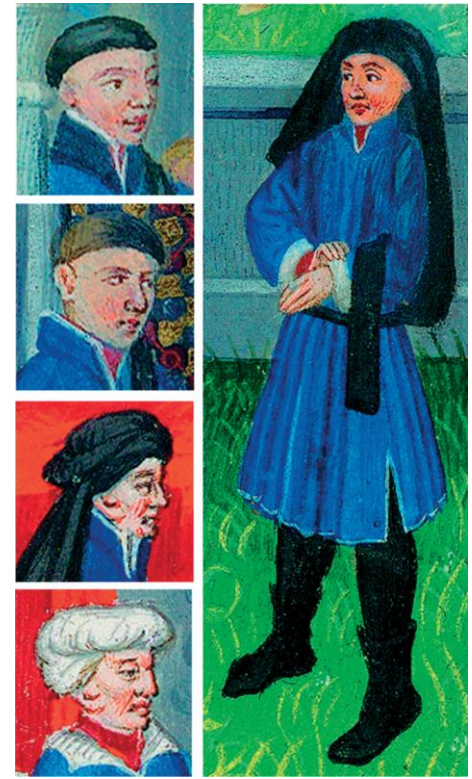
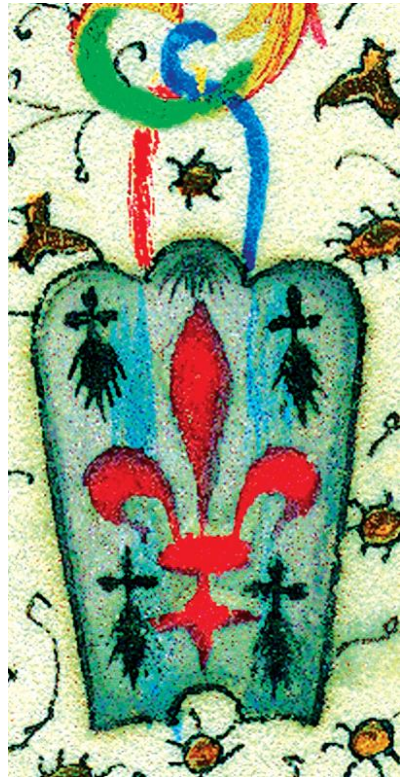
Iwin van Straten



Illuminated Manuscripts: Le Bouteillier and La Roche-Guyon



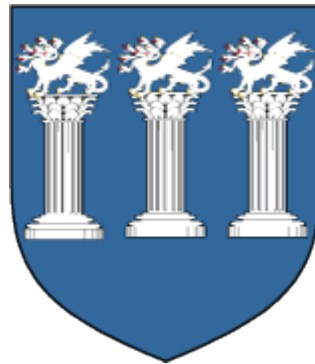
Le Bouteillier



Illustrate a Family Dispute: Joyeuse and Chabot Examples



Joyeuse, count
of Grandpré



Joyeuse, seigneur of
Champigneulle

Father disapproved of son's marriage
to a less than socially acceptable woman.



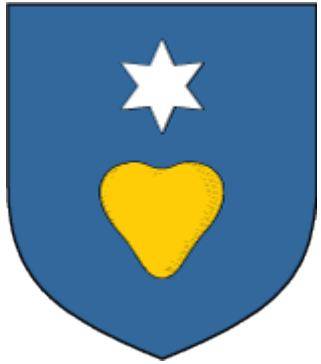
Chabaud, seigneur of
Tourrettes, etc.



Chabot, sieur
of La Fond

Son abandoned the Order of St. John
of Malta and became a Protestant.

Abrupt Arms Change Just Because: Le Maistre Arms



Old Le Maistre
Arms



New Le Maistre
Arms

On the left are the arms of Jean Le Maistre, advocate general of the Parlement of Paris. On the right, the arms used by his descendants who were also in the Parlement of Paris and other administrative positions in Parisian government.

Why the change? We do not know, but might be related to a proverb.

D'azur, à trois soucis d'or. Proverb: "*Si les valets ont les peines, les maîtres ont les soucis.*" "If the valets have sorrows, then the masters have worries." Souci meaning both marigold and care, anxiety, or worries. This is another example of canting arms.

Adopting a Mother's Arms

Although rare, a son might adopt a mother's arms if her family was more prestigious. For instance, Raoul Paynel took the surname and arms of his mother, Tesson



Paynel



Tesson

Attributed Arms

Attributed arms are arms assigned to historical persons before the age of heraldry. Attributed arms have been assigned to biblical figures, mythical heroes, Charlemagne, Arthur and his knights of the round table, etc.



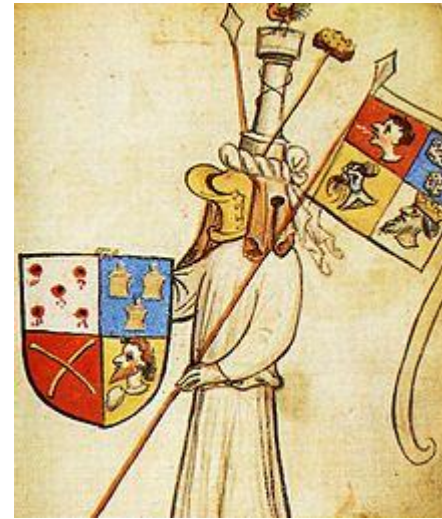
Attributed arms of William the
Conqueror



Attributed arms of Matilda,
the daughter of the Count
of Flanders, wife of William
the Conqueror

Arms of Christ

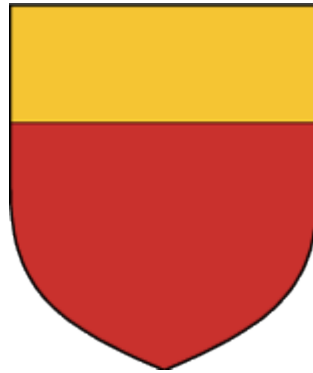
Even Jesus Christ was attributed arms, though there apparently was no agreement of what his arms really looked like:



Attributed Arms and a Royal Gateway: The Lascaris Case



Lascaris



Vintimille or
Ventimiglia



Vintimille
de Lascaris

The Byzantines did not really use heraldry, they did use insignia and flags. The double headed eagle is often seen as a Byzantine symbol. However, the Lascaris arms are likely attributed arms. The Franco-Italian Vintimille family quartered the attributed Lascaris arms because of their ancestor married a daughter of Theodore II Doukas Laskaris, Emperor of Nicaea from 1254 to 1258.

Recording Your Heraldry Findings

- Important to record the following information:
 - The source of the arms.
 - Whether it is granted, confirmed, matriculated, or assumed.
 - The blazon (I prefer to leave it in the language I find it except I expand any abbreviations).
 - And preferable a drawing of the arms.
- You can use this heraldry information to:
 - Include in your genealogy software, image instead of a photograph of an ancestor you provide the arms next to your ancestor's name.
 - Compile what I call an ancestral armorial, that is, all the arms of your ancestors. For example, see the Baillon Armorial or the Palmer Armorial at my website, <http://habitant.org>.
 - Prepare a lineage between an ancestor and an illustrious ancestor providing arms for each generation. For example, see the Baillon, Couvent, or Le Neuf ascending lineages to famous royals at my website.
- *You may not use the arms of your ancestors as if they are your personal arms unless you can prove a direct male descent based on primogeniture.*

Arms in the Americas

- Heraldry was not just used in Europe. It was also used in the American colonies, Canada, and Mexico.
- The American Heraldry Society offers a “Roll of Early American Arms, “ at <https://www.americanheraldry.org/heraldry-in-the-usa/roll-of-early-american-arms/a>.
- On a recent trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico, I witnessed a heraldry display of local Spanish family arms at the Governor’s Palace.



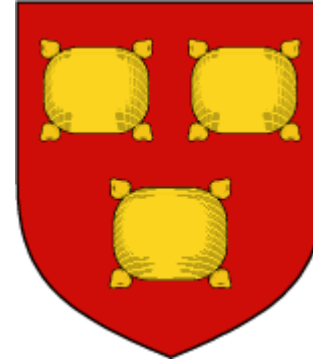
Arms Associated with Families in New France



de Jordy



Robineau



Le Neuf



Marchant



Le Gardeur



de Corday



de Baillon



Hertel

Example of Misused Arms

The Canadian Amiets were not armigers. However, the Honorable Georges-Elie Amyot (1856-1930), industrialist and member of the Legislative Assembly of Québec, used the following arms: "*D'azur, à la bande d'argent chargée de cinq mouchetures d'hermine.*" These are the arms of the unrelated Amyot de Moyencourt family said to be of Normandy and Picardy. He apparently assumed these arms as his own around 1912. There is no indication that these arms were used by his Amiot ancestors either in France or Canada. In fact, in France, the surname was not Amiot, but Hameau! Nevertheless, many modern-day Amiets mistakenly use these arms.



Right to Armorial Bearings

- In general, in most countries, the right to bear a particular coat-of-arms descends through the eldest male heir.
- Most countries do not allow family arms. Arms belong to individuals.
- In most countries, if you do not descend through the eldest legitimate male heir of an armiger, then you do not have a right to use a particular coat-of-arms. However, you might be able to get a differenced version of the arms confirmed or matriculated.
- In some countries, particularly Scotland, arms must be granted, in other countries assumed arms or prescriptive arms (assumed arms used over many generations) are acceptable.
- In American we do not have any laws protecting arms, but you can still use them because they are not tied to nobility here and they do not violate our Constitution. Many of the Founding Fathers were armigers.

Registering Arms

- If you are so inclined, would like to have arms, and you are not entitled to inherit arms, then I would urge you to consider registering assumed arms.
- This could be the start of a valuable family tradition and your registration lays claim to your arms.
- Several organizations will help you design and register arms:
 - American College of Heraldry
 - Committee on Heraldry, New England Historic Genealogical Society
 - Augustan Society
 - United States Heraldic Registry
- American Heraldry Society offers excellent: “Guidelines for Heraldic Practice in the United States Recommended by the American Heraldry Society.”
- Minimal costs, only \$350 via the American College of Heraldry, but no legal protection.

Grant or Confirmation of Arms

- If you are of English, Scottish, or Irish ancestry, then it may be possible to get a grant of arms, or if you can prove descent, a confirmation of arms.
- There are some other options for other countries that you can investigate, see the American Heraldry Society dealing with “Foreign Armorial Grants and Registrations for Americans.”
- A grant of arms can be very expensive (several thousands of dollars) and time consuming, but the end product is magnificently illustrated patent.
- There is no legal protection for granted arms in the USA or outside of the country in which the arms are granted.

Example of Registered Arms: DuLong and McGuinness



Conclusion

- If you find any ancestors with arms, then it is worthwhile learning more about heraldry in general and their arms in particular.
- Heraldry practices like impaling, marshalling, and cadency can help you learn more about your ancestors.
- Heraldry sources will occasionally record genealogical data, for example, visitations and funeral entries.
- Keep in mind that heraldry customs do vary from country to country.
- Remember to document your heraldry findings like you do your genealogical findings.
- Registering your own arms is a neat way to create a family symbol that can be passed down to your descendants.

Heraldry Artwork

- The drawings of arms in this presentation was done using Armorial Gold Heraldry clipart and Adobe Illustrator by John P. DuLong. Please do not use any of these drawings without the permission of John P. DuLong.
- Screenshots of several arms examples from multiple sources including the National Library of Ireland, Archives nationales de France, and the Bibliothèque nationale de France.



This is what a real graphic artist can do with heraldry and computer software.

This is the full achievement of arms of Louis XIV, King of France and Navarre.

Done by Sodacan and available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Sodacan>