

CONTENTS

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CONTENTS

Clan History and the Genealogist [Part 3]	p 1-5
A Canadian Indenture (1771)	p 6-7
The Evidence from the Ground	p 8-9
Speyside Surnames 1793-98	p 10-11
Bookshelf	p 12
An Introduction to Heraldry	p 13-19
The School of Scottish Studies	p 20-21
Inverness Registrar's Office	p 22
Queries	p 23-24

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Clan History and the Genealogist

By R. W. Munro

PART THREE

There can be no doubt, I think, that the kind of book which I discussed earlier is more truly deserving to be called clan history, while the work of Mackenzie and his like is rather to be classed as genealogy. Now I come to my third theme - or perhaps it is more of a commentary on the other two - clan history and the genealogist. A knowledge of the wider aspects of which I have spoken is of course desirable for anyone who wants to know not only who his ancestors were, but how they lived. It can be a refreshing experience for one who becomes too immersed in detail suddenly to be faced with one of the broader questions - as, for example, when someone said in a letter: 'What a pity they had to spend so much of their time fighting and killing each other', and I had laboriously to try to brief her (and myself) on how to learn what everyday life was like in the 'old' Highlands. For history, both oral and written, is apt to concentrate on the unusual and exceptional, just like our daily newspapers.

But it is the second kind of book - the 'Mackenzie school' of clan history, one might call it - which will provide the best quarry for the genealogist. What, then, is needed to make the best use of it? First of all, as guides to what clan histories of one kind or another have been published, there are two books with which many of you may be familiar -

- 1) Scottish Family History (1930), by Margaret Stuart and Sir James Balfour Paul, and
- 2) Joan Ferguson's Scottish Family Histories held in Scottish Libraries (1960).

A modest addenda to the first, listing material on Highland genealogy in local publications Celtic Magazine and Celtic Monthly, and Irapsactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness and Inverness Scientific Society and Field Club was printed in the Scottish Genealogist in 1964; and the second, now 25 years old, is I gather now being updated and due for a second edition. For later books, and perhaps even articles in periodicals, I'm sure and 'good' library will be able to give advice.

There are, also, some clans which have no substantial book containing the kind of information which a genealogist will be seeking; and some good Highland names and families have no book at all about them. In that case, as in all genealogical work, it is essential to know the area in which the family being traced lived; by knowing that, it is possible to find what was the dominant clan with which they are likely to have been associated.

Here the splendid Map of Scotland of Old (1960) by Sir Iain Moncreiffe and Don Pottinger will be of assistance; but it is well to remember that this shows, not the districts in which the clan and their name exist (as one 'authority' persists in saying), but, as it says quite clearly on the map itself, 'the general sphere of influence, usually about the time of King James VI, but taking the history of each district or family as a whole'. Even these spheres of influence were by no means static, but changed from time to time and merged or overlapped at many points. Incidentally, the word 'sept' is used for a group which followed a particular chief, often adopting a different surname or a variation of the chief's. Don't take these long published lists of sept names ('If your name is here, we have your tartan'), too much at face value, however: Millers and Smiths, Whites, Blacks and Browns, and their Gaelic equivalents, are simply occupational or descriptive names which might be adopted in any part of the country, and therefore cannot all belong to any single clan. (Here again, the geographical base can be an important clue).

It is with some diffidence that I presume, at my first direct acquaintance with this Society, to offer advice on the use of the material which we have been considering. But at least I may venture to offer a few 'cautionary tales' - and if Mackenzie's works crop up too often in doing so, it is because his output was so large (I have mentioned only a fraction of it) rather than that he was more liable to error than some others.

1) Don't believe all that you see in print. This applies of course universally, and I'll have something to say about unvouched statements in a moment. But first I might mention one trap for the unwary: often in Mackenzie's books one finds the phrase 'of whom nothing (or nothing further) is known' - usually meaning simply that the source he's using tells nothing more about an individual. But what an invitation to someone seeking a lost ancestor; can't you imagine the argument? - 'we know that our ancestor who left Scotland was named X (John/Hugh/Torquill or what not), and the family tradition is that he came from Y; here Mackenzie says nothing is known of X, who belonged to the family of Y - so he must have emigrated or been lost sight of, so our X traditionally from Y must be this man', and so the whole descent follows. This may sound far-fetched, but I can assure you I've heard it stated as fact, and the deduction made in print, relating to one of the first members of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada; and a similar assumption has been made about the Scottish ancestor of the 5th President of the United States and is now incorporated as fact in a standard book of reference on the American presidents.

2) If no authority is given for a statement, and you have any reason to doubt it, ask yourself if the context reveals a likely source. Where a family chronicle or other MS is being used, the possibility of more than one copy being extant should be explored. In Mackenzie's notice of a branch of the Munros of Foulis who had the lands of Kiltearn, I had long been puzzled by mention of a son who served in Ireland 'and left a daughter who married a Mr Kelly and became the mother of the famous soldier of that name'. No one seemed to know about this gallant Kelly, and inquiries through Notes and Queries and the Journal of Army Historical Research proved unavailing (though many suggestions were offered), as all the gallantest Kellys seem unaccountably to have failed to have a Munro mother. Then, while preparing an accurate text with a critical commentary on the 1734 MS (The Munro Tree, 1978) on which most Munro genealogy is based, I found an entry under this family which named the Irish son as 'grandfather to Colonel Henry in Ireland - another version of the MS misread Henry as Kelly - and lo! the 'famous soldier' was shown up as a figment of Mackenzie's imagination, or at best no more than a rhetorical flourish. But my faith in Mackenzie's methods was severely shaken. (Incidentally, a document among the family papers rediscovered in 1933 put the identity and ancestry of Colonel Henry Munro beyond question, but Mackenzie couldn't have known that.)

3) Even if you have no reason to doubt, it's wise to try if possible to check any statement in long and detailed clan histories of the 'Mackenzie school', largely unreferenced. Two excellent books by Major Duncan Warrand, for instance, provide Some Fraser Pedigrees and Some Mackenzie Pedigrees, based on authentic record sources. Apart from downright errors, there may be important omissions. In his Chisholm book, for example, Mackenzie gave Alexander, whom he numbered as XIVth chief, only one wife - Janet, daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail, through whom (he added for good measure) the subsequent chiefs were descended from Edward I of England and Edward III, and from Robert Bruce's sister Mary. But it so happens that this Alexander was twice married, and there is plenty of direct evidence that the chief who succeeded was his son by the first marriage to Agnes Fraser, and not by Janet Mackenzie. Of the wife of the next Chisholm (Thomas XV) Mackenzie wrote naively - 'Her name must have been Janet Agnes, for she is as often called by the one name as by the other' - an easy way out of a difficulty! As Luck would have it, the compilers of a three-volume privately-printed history of The Clan Chisholm and Allied Clans, published at New York in 1935, built up a 'lang pedigree' founded on Mackenzie's error. (Luckily the marriage of Janet's great-grand-niece to a later Chisholm chief in the next century brought the same distinguished ancestry to later generations!)

4) The practice of numbering clan chiefs has come to stay, and the 'Mackenzie school' must take some of the responsibility for establishing it (although, in fairness, it had been adopted by 1679 in the Kinrara MS). I suppose that its advantages, or at least convenience, has been found to outweigh some obvious disadvantages (see Notes and Queries of Society for West Highland and Island Historical Research, No iv pp13-15). It is, surely, historically false to regard an eponymous ancestor - Leod, for example - as the first chief of the clan (which could hardly have been more than a tiny family group in his day); not only that, but the MacLeods themselves had to re-number their later chiefs when the clan historian discovered that there had been two more - or was it two less? - than had hitherto been thought. The 'Mackenzie school' even insist on numbering the heads of every cadet family as well, from the time they branch off the main stem, so we get the absurd result that a MacDonald is called 'first of Keppoch', for example, several generations before that became the territorial designation of the chief. A date, or a soubriquet if one is known to have been used, is a more correct way to distinguish two or more members of a family bearing the same name. Now reference books such as Who's Who and Burke's Landed Gentry, and even I think Lyon Court documents, have joined in the numbers game. (There is a danger of 'one-upmanship' when you count in clutches of quite unauthenticated ancestors and call them 'traditional'). I won't weary you with examples, except to mention that in his history of the Chisholms, Mackenzie included two chiefs, called Angus instead of Alexander in a long list of colonels printed in an Act of Parliament in 1648). Logan even gave him a soubriquet as the one-eyed Chisholm, which Mackenzie innocently copied!

5) You may think from the examples I've given that clan genealogy is all about chiefs; but of course it's well-known that all Campbells are 'sib' to the Duke of Argyll, and what with seventh sons of seventh sons, marriages both within and outwith the clan, and plenty of other reasons, the ramifications of any large family group is likely to include people of all degrees. But I would add one further word of caution. There's a tendency in writing of a Highland family, after tracing it from modern introductory piece on the background of the clan to which it belongs. This is quite appropriate if discretion is used - for instance, if no connection has been established with the line of chiefs or cadet branches, you wish to include a summary of the clan's earlier history, don't just lift' any old account without some attempt to check that it is authentic / present-day standards.

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I received one neat little booklet about a New Zealand family, probably unimpeachable on the modern genealogy, which offends on both counts, making it misleading on the one hand, and ridiculous on the other. I hope I have not been too destructive or discouraging, and have shown that there is much to be learned from writers of clan history. One last word of advice. Anyone who is going to write a clan history, or even to use an existing one as part of the story of a family, should remember that it requires the same discipline - the same weighing of evidence and the same clear and logical presentation - as any other kind of historical writing. But I don't suppose we'd belong to a Society like this unless we also thought that it can be great fun.

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CONTRAVENTION OF THE REGISTRATION ACT.
Hugh Lawler was charged with having given false information to the Registrar of Births, &c., respecting the birth of an illegitimate child born to his sister, on the 5th of August. He pleaded guilty to having made the statement, but said he had done so in ignorance of the nature of the offence, having been bribed to go to the Registrar to make this statement.

The Lord Justice-Clerk addressed the pri-oner, saying that the fact of his having gone to the Registrar there, and what he knew for what purpose he went and got the child married to this Hugh Maccaalum, and that his sister was married to the Registrar, was a person. This was a dangerous offence. At a future time possibly the succession to property might have depended on that register, and though he had committed the offence perhaps to hide his sister's shame, the crime was not the less aggravated, and he would inflict the same punishment as had been imposed in the last case of the kind in Edinburgh, namely, one year's imprisonment.

High Court report
Inverness Advertiser
October 6th, 1857

John Mackenzie, Wester Fisherton of Petty, was charged with a breach of the "Registration of Births, &c. Act," he having failed to register the birth of his child within the appointed time. He pled guilty, alleging in extenuation his ignorance of the law. He was fined ten shillings.

Sheriff Court report
Inverness Advertiser
October 27th 1857

A Canadian Indenture

INDENTURE AND Tack 'Twixt Donald Gilles in
Brunacory in Moror And John & Dond Macdonalds 1771

IT IS CONTRACTED, INDENTED and finally AGREED betwixt John Macdonald Esquire of Glenalladale and Donald Macdonald his Brother German ON THE ONE PART and Donald Gilles in Brunacory in north Moror ON THE OTHER PART THAT IS TO SAY The said Donald Gilles hereby becomes bound servant to the said John and Donald Macdonalds their heirs administrators and assigns for the full and complete space of six years after his entry which is hereby declared to begin and commence from and after the twelfth [?] of May last one th. and seventy one and the said Donald Gilles BINDS and OBLIGES him during this space faithfully and truly to attend and serve his said masters at any works they shall find necessary to employ him in at all times by night and by day work-day and holyday and not to absent himself during that space therefrom without his masters or their overseers leave first asked and given and that he shall cheerfully and willingly obey his said masters or overseers lawful orders and commands AND ALSO that he shall not willingly hear or see any hurt or prejudice to his said masters in their name or Effects but shall hinder and impede the same At the utmost of his powers and timeously acquaint them therewith AND FURTHER That he shall not reveal nor divulge any secrets wherewith he shall be entrusted by his said masters AND MORE OVER that he shall not embezzle or fraudulently put away any of his said masters goods or Effects and others belonging to them AND ON THE OTHER PART The said John and Donald Macdonalds BIND and OBLIGE them their heirs and Executors to pay the charges of Bringing the said Donald Gilles to the Island of S. John in North America AND LIKEWAYS to pay him THREE POUNDS Sterling besides his maintenance yearly for the first two years and FOUR POUNDS Sterling yearly during the remainder of the said term of six years ALSO At the end of said term to give him possession TWO HUNDRED acres of Land which they hereby DEMISE SELL and to farm LETT to him his heirs and assigns from and after the term of whitsunday next after the Expiry of this Indenture for the space of two thousand nine hundred and ninety six years SAVING and RESERVING to his Majesty his heirs and Successors all rights and priviledges SAVED and RESERVED in the

7
Original Grants of the Lott wherein the said two hundred acres shall happen to be given WHEREFORE The said Donald Gilles BINDS and OBLIGES him his heirs Executors and administrators to pay unto the said John and Donald McDonald their heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns on the fifteenth day of May one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight one penny sterling for each of said acres for the preceding year the like sum for each acre for the year thereafter after which to pay three pence sterling per acre yearly for seven years thereafter to pay six pence Sterling per acre yearly for seven years more at the end of which to pay one shilling Sterling per acre yearly for ten years and afterwards to pay one shilling and six pence Sterling per acre during the remainder of said two thousand nine hundred and ninety six years and that over and above the Luitt[?]-rents and Taxes imposed or to be imposed on the said Lands AND LASTLY both parties BIND and OBLIGE them to implement fullfill and perform their respective parts of the premises to each other under the penalty of Thirty pounds sterling to be paid by the party failing to the party observing or willing to observe their part of the premises. IN WITNESS whereof both parties have hereunto sett their hands and Seals and unto another Duplicate hereof this Signed Sealed and dillivered in presence of - - - -

The above was submitted by a 4-greats-grandson of the said Donald Gilles, Mr William W. Norin, 2341 Silver Tree Road, Claremont, California 91711, U.S.A. He obtained a copy of the document from the Public Archives in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. Donald Gilles had sailed to P.E.I. as a passenger on the 'Alexander'. Mr Norin would be pleased to hear from anyone who can tell him anything further about Donald Gilles, about Brinacory, North Morar, or about the Glenalladale emigrants.

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APOLOGY

The Editor would like to apologise to all members for the long delay in Journal production. You have all been very patient and understanding.

The Evidence from the Ground

Highland Regional Archaeologist, Mr Bob Gourlay, spoke to the Society in December on the theme "Highland Origins - The Evidence from the Ground", and demonstrated how family historians and archaeologists could be of help to each other.

"Once you have traced your family history back to 1800 or so, you can learn a lot more about their lifestyle by going to see where your ancestors lived, and observing what is on the ground." In the case ofcrofting settlements, these may now be deserted - but the archaeological study of the landscape can tell us something about the way of life of those who dwelt there (what trades were carried on in the village, did the crofters grow their crops individually or communally, how and where did they grind their corn, etc.?). This kind of information can help to fill in gaps in our knowledge, or help to explain otherwise perplexing evidence.

Conversely, the kind of information collected by family historians from documentary or other sources can be useful to the archaeologist in interpreting what he finds on the ground - particularly when trades and occupations can be linked with particular premises.

"If we can put our research together, we get real people living in real houses. With the two disciplines working in their own way, as so often happens, family history can become a list of names on bits of paper, while we have houses without any occupants. There are times when I could help a family historian, perhaps just by locating a place-name, and the family historian can help me to populate an archaeological landscape with real people." Mr Gourlay said this was especially valuable with some of the older abandoned settlements, pre-dating the 1841 census. "There may be parish records, but archaeologists do not have the time or the expertise to gather information from them."

Using slides, Mr Gourlay illustrated his point by reference to his recent research in Strathnairn, where aerial photography has revealed evidence of "fairly extensive 18th century depopulation."

The remains of farm steadings and the outline of field patterns can be traced, as well as evidence of associated communities. But they remain a mystery to Mr Gourlay and his colleagues. "We don't know what these places were called, how many people lived there, or why they were abandoned. This kind of landscape is particularly difficult to date. The settlements could range from the 10th century to the 18th century, but by trying to gather more information about the people who lived there, we can start to identify the later settlements from the earlier ones. This is where family history research could come in."

Mr Gourlay believed that the best way to achieve such co-operation was through contact between family history groups, local history societies, archaeological societies, field clubs, and so on. "Each will get some idea of how the others do their research work, and this will be mutually beneficial" he said. "It would be nice to see a number of groups getting together and looking at a particular area in detail, using all these different research techniques to build up a composite picture."

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A.G.M.

At the Society's Annual General Meeting on March 25th, the following office-bearers and committee members were elected for the year 1986-1987: Chairman - Douglas Stewart; Secretary -- Mrs Maclean of Dochgarroch, Hazelbrae, Glenurquhart, Inverness, (Tel. 045-64-267); Treasurer - Mrs Dorothy H. Booth, 46 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness; Librarian - Peter Reynolds, Reference Room, Public Library, Farraline Park, Inverness; Committee Members - Duncan Ross, Hamish MacLennan, John Durham, & Sandy Gillies. Mrs Barbara Tulloch was later co-opted to serve as a member of the committee. The A.G.M. was followed by a talk on "Old Inverness and its Worthies" by Mr Ian Michie, a report of which will follow in a future issue.

SPEYSIDE SURNAMES 1793-98

This list of surnames may be of interest to members searching in the parishes of Cromdale, Inverallan, Duthill and Abernethy. It is a composite list drawn from three sources relating to the period 1793-98:

- List of Officers and Men in the 1st (Grant or Strathspey) Fencible Regiment raised in 1793 - those whose parish of origin was given as above. (Therefore not including those born elsewhere but residing in Strathspey at the time of enrolment).
- A list of men in the above parishes in the year 1794, presumably prior to recruitment for the 97th Regiment. This list is particularly complete and includes place of residence (Scottish Record Office ; GD 248/213/5/6)
- A second list mainly for Cromdale and Inverallan (1798?) but also including parts of Advie and Kincairn (Kincardine) parishes. This list differentiates between those aged 15-60 and those above 60. (GD 248/213/5/54)

The census enumeration for 1801 gives under total population 4757, so the above lists must be a substantial proportion of those males of 16 and over who would have been listed had there been a full census in that year. I suspect that some of the more well-to-do families are missing from the lists, but if members would like to contact me (s.a.e. please) I will give them full details of the entries for each surname. (I may draw the line at 'Grant', there being so many, but would gladly take requests for a specific Christian name in that case).

Richard McGregor, 43 Alder Crescent, Luton LU3 1TG, Beds.

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KEY: The principal figure is that of combined lists 2 and 3. The (+) figure indicates an addition from list 1. Where two main figures are given, e.g. 1/2, this indicates that list 3 contained a different number of entries (in excess of list 2). So, in list 2 there were four McLeans, but six in list 3

ADAMS 3	HARVEY 1	NAIRN 4
ANDERSON 6 (+1)	HAY 1	NICOLSON 3
BEAN 1	HUSTON 2	PATERSON 1
BISSETT 1	INNES 1	PAUL 1
BLACK 2	JACK 1	PAULOCK ? 1
BRUCE 2	KENNEDY 3 (+1)	PIRIE 1
BURGES(S) 6 (+1)	KERR (1)	RATTRAY 2
CALDER 5/6 (+1)	KING 1	RIACH 2
CAMERON 34 (+1)	KILGOUR (1)	ROBERTSON 17
CAMPBELL 2	LAING 2	ROSS/ROSE 17 (+4)
CARMICHAEL 2	LAWSON 8 (+1)+	RUSSEL 1/2
CATTENACH 3	LESLIE 1	SANDERS 1
CHALMERS ? 1	LESTER 1	SETON 1
CLARK 4	LYMON 1	SHARP 1
COCKBURN 1	McALL ? 1	SHAW 2
COLLIS 1	McANDREW (1)	SHEARER 1
COPLAND 1	McARTHUR 1	SMITH 19 (+2)
COUTS ? 1	McBAIN/McBEAN 5 (+1)	STALKER 1
CRAWFORD 1	McCARDY 1	STEWART/STUART 48 (+7)
CRUIKSHANK 15 (+3)	MCDONALD 41 (+2)	SUTHERLAND 2
CUMMING 26 (+5)	McGILLIVRAY 7 (+1)	TAYLER 3 ?
DAVIDSON 2	McGREGOR 25 (+3)	THOMPSON 1
DICKSON (1)	McGOWAN 2	TOLMIE 1
DINGWALL 1	McINTOSH 23 (+8)+	TULLOCH 1/2
DUFF 1	McINTYRE 3	URQUHART 1
DUNBAR 7	McKAY 3	WARREN 2
ELLIS 2	McKENZIE 11 (+4)	WATSON 7
FARQUHARSON 2	McLACHLAN 1	WINSTER 2
FINDLAY 3	McLAREN 1	YOUNG 1
FLETCHER 1	McLEAN 4/6	
FORBES 3	McLEOD 1	
FORSYTH 3 (+3)	McPHERSON 12 (+3)	
FRASER 35 (+3)	McQUEEN 9 (+1)	
GEDDES 5	MELDRUM 3	
GILLICE/GILLIS 3	MENZIES 1	
GILZEAN 1	MILLAR 1	
GLASS ? 1	MILN 1	
GORDON 16 (+3)	MITCHEL 1 (+1)	
GRANT 234 (+49)	MUNRO 2 (+1)	
GUNN 1	MURRAY 6 (+1)	
		Total - 900

Anderson Families. By Michael A. Anderson. Phillimore & Co. Ltd., Shopwyke Hall, Chichester, Sussex. Price £12.50.

This book provides information not only about a number of Anderson families, but also a wide range of other families with whom they have association. It also contains a substantial amount of historical and genealogical information which is helpful to anyone interested in family and Scottish history, with special reference to the religious history of Scotland.

The author traces his family from the early 1500s in the Banff and Aberdeen areas to the present day. His early ancestors were churchmen and he follows their careers through the Reformation and the fluctuating fortunes of Scots Presbyterianism. There is some excellent background information in this section of the book, even if it is somewhat biased in favour of the Presbyterian Church.

The later Andersons followed careers in the law and military service, mainly in India. This section of the book is so packed with genealogical information as to make it extremely useful to Anderson hunters, and if you can plough through the facts and figures an excellent overall picture of the people and the times emerges.

The author also takes a speculative look at the Anderson heraldic links, but leaves the subject open for further development. Other families covered include Lindsay, Hampton, Lewis, Home, Jones and Landon.

On the whole, this is a well researched and documented book, and well worth its price ticket for anyone researching Andersons.

D.R.S.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO HERALDRY

By J. I. D. Pottinger

Heraldry was invented by the Normans as a matter of practical necessity. About the year 1100 the introduction of the closed "pot" helm rendered its wearer unrecognisable. This coincided with a time of tremendous Norman military activity throughout Western Europe, the Mediterranean and the Holy Land, and the need for immediate personal recognition in battle was urgent. But the general illiteracy of the time precluded the use of written names for identification in battle.

COAT-OF-ARMS

For practical reasons, the Norman knights wore knee-length surcoats over their armour, made of rough, unbleached linen. So they took to painting these coats in different colours and bold, simple designs so that each could be instantly recognised and its wearer identified.

This, the initial purpose, is still the core of heraldry today - IDENTITY. Worn in battle, the coat was literally a "coat-of-arms", and was then as now the visual equivalent of its owner's name.

For the system to work, each knight had to wear an individual coat, each clearly different from the others, which of course soon entailed registration and a regulating authority. This is still the basic structure of heraldry today in Scotland, where the principle is still ONE MAN, ONE COAT, with the Lord Lyon King of Arms as the controlling judicial authority and Lyon Clerk as the recording authority.

Having invented the principle and found it to work in practice, the use of variously coloured designs on the surcoat rapidly spread to any available Norman surface for the repetition and display of the owner's coat-of-arms. It was painted on his shield, his personal banner on his lance, and on his horse's coat, and soon spread to garments worn in civilian life too. Nowadays the "coat-of-arms" is conventionally shown on a shield shape, to denote that it is a coat-of-arms, but it can still, as then, be shown on any shape whatever and fill the entire shape.

CRESIS

This decorative use of the coat-of-arms for recognition soon flowered into the use of decorative heraldic "crests" worn on top of the helm. They were carved out of light wood or boiled leather (cuir bouilli) and their subjects were generally the fanciful imaginative beasts and monsters so general in the art of the period, and usually with an elaborate symbolism which is little understood today.

MANTLE

To keep the sun off the helm, a light mantle was hung down its back and sides from fixings on the crown of the helm. In early times this mantle occasioned a further surface for display of the coat-of-arms, but nowadays it is generally of the main colour of the coat-of-arms and lined with the main "metal", i.e. gold/yellow or silver/white. The two in combination are called the owner's "Livery Colours". The elaboration of this Mantle in ensuing centuries is entirely decorative, and meaningless.

WREATH

The fixings of crest and mantle to the top of the helm were decoratively concealed by a ring of twisted cloth of the same colour and metal as the mantle, known as the "Wreath" or "Torse".

It is doubtful if these cumbersome crests were much worn in battle, but their use in the formal tournaments in mediaeval times was widespread and highly popular. The display of the crested helms of the knights taking part in a forthcoming tournament was a very popular social occasion. Nowadays the crested helms of the Knights of the Order of the Thistle are still displayed above their stalls in the Chapel of the Order in St. Giles.

ACHIEVEMENT

Nowadays the conventional arrangement shows the coat-of-arms on a Shield, surmounted by the Helm, Wreath and Mantling and Crest. With the addition of a Motto or Slogan on an Escrol above, the whole assembly is called the owner's heraldic "Achievement". The "Coat-of-Arms" is usually abbreviated to "The Arms".

CREST CORONET

The Wreath is sometimes replaced by a simple coronet on top of the helm and from which the Crest issues. These are called "crest coronets", and in Scotland their use is generally restricted to Clan Chiefs and Peers.

CHAPEAU

The Wreath is also replaced occasionally by a "Chapeau", or mediaeval hat of velvet, lined with fur which shows on the turned-up brim. In Scotland these are granted only to feudal Barons and Peers, and signify Baronial rank. They are always the subject of a Grant from the Lord Lyon and, like crest-coronets, may not be assumed at personal whim.

The red velvet cap worn inside a Peer's coronet, with the fur lining turned up around the coronet's brim, is really just the same "Chapeau", denoting baronial rank. It is often omitted from depictions of coronets of rank, as its presence is tautological.

BADGES

In mediaeval times, Arms were only borne by those of knightly rank. Their followers, depending on the depth of the knight's purse, wore tunics of his Livery Colours. These were often embroidered on breast and back with a device, often quoted from his Arms or Crest, used as a badge by his followers. In thrifty Scotland, the cost of the embroidery was avoided by wearing the knight's Crest as a Badge on a metal plate which hung from the wearer's neck by a strap and buckle.

CLANSMEN'S CREST BADGES

Nowadays the strap and buckle encircle the Crest and are inscribed with the Motto. This form constitutes in well-known clansman's Crest Badge, widely worn in silver on the bonnets of Scots throughout the world. Note that the popular name "Clan Crest" is a misnomer. There is no such thing. What is depicted is the Chief's Crest and Motto, whose wearing by his clansmen denotes their loyalty and allegiance. The rights in the heraldry displayed remain exclusively the Chief's. The regulations are set out in detail in the Lyon Court's Information Leaflet No. 2 "Scottish Crest Badges", available from The Court of the Lord Lyon, H.M. New Register House, Edinburgh EH1 3VT. (* See note below).

PLANT BADGES

Most Scottish Chiefs have plant badges, whose origins are often very ancient, even ante-dating the spread of Anglo-Norman heraldry through Scotland by the early 14th century. These ancient vegetable totems were incorporated into the heraldry of the Clan Chiefs as additional badges for their clansmen's wear.

THE ADDITAMENTS

With the spread of the Italian Renaissance fashions in the 16th and 17th centuries came the general addition of Supporters to the Achievement, a "Compartment" for them to stand on, additional Latin Mottoes, and more exact heraldic definition and stress on rank and importance in the form of coronets and Peer's Mantlings lined with Ermine. The Supporters have their origin in the classical allegorical figures so popular in ancient Rome, and whose popularity was now renewed, accounting for the frequent appearance of the naked savages wreathed with laurel and carrying clubs over their shoulders as supporters in Scottish Heraldry. Their origin is the classic legendary hero, Hercules.

These extras to the Arms, or "Additaments", were shown piled upon and around the Shield in a wholly conventional way, as they still are today, and often swamp the Arms in visual importance. But the central idea, the owner's identity as shown in the Arms, still remains of central importance. Without the Arms, there can be no Additaments. And rank today is rapidly losing its significance, while the need for display of identity is apparently increasing.

THE USE OF ARMS TODAY

Arms may be shown, with or without Crest or Additaments as appropriate to the context, to mark their owner's property in innumerable ways. They still function as they did originally, as the visual equivalent of the owner's name. The accepted practice in the use of Corporate Arms by Companies and other corporate bodies today is set out in greater detail in the Lyon Court's Information Leaflet No. 1 "Notes on the Use of Arms by Corporate Bodies".

INHERITANCE OF ARMS

Arms, once Granted, are heritable property and descend to the original owner's heirs. They also descend through heraldic "heiresses", i.e. elder daughters who have no brothers.

FEMALES

Females are entitled, whilst unmarried and retaining their armigerous father's surname, to use their father's arms. These are shown, undifferenced, upon a conventional diamond shape called a "Lozenge" instead of the Shield for males.

When a female child of an armigerous father marries another armiger, it is a common and correct practice for the couple to display a shield of their marriage. The shield is divided vertically down the middle, technically "parted per pale", the husband's Arms are placed in the dexter half and wife's courtesy Arms in the sinister. The two coats-of-arms are said to be "impaled". The Latin words "dexter" and "sinister" in heraldry are used from the point of view of the owner behind the Shield, and the Latin connotation is therefore reversed. "Dexter" means "left", as you look at it from the spectator's point of view.

This impaled Shield of the marriage does not require registration with Lyon Court, as it is regarded as ephemeral, lasting only for the duration of the marriage. But it is a very popular usage, particularly on houses built by the couple, and innumerable examples from the past remain.

HERALDIC HEIRESSSES

Females who are eldest daughters and have no brothers inherit their father's Arms, and may use them as of right so long as they retain their maiden surname in which the Arms were first granted to their male ancestor. Arms and Name are inseparable.

When a male armiger marries a heraldic heiress, the Shield of their marriage is not "impaled". The heiress's father's Arms are placed on a small Shield called an "Inescutcheon" in the centre of her husband's Shield, and signifies the combination of the two heraldic properties, and probably estates, each borne as of right. The subject is continued as regards their children later in this paper under "MARRIAGE".

HEIRS

In keeping with the principle that only one man at any one time may bear the Arms, even his eldest son and heir apparent must difference the Arms for his own use during his father's lifetime. The customary heraldic difference for the heir apparent is a "label" of three points superimposed on the upper part of the Shield. Its colour is immaterial, and usually one that will show best against the Shield and its charges. There is no need to record this difference with Lyon Court as it is ephemeral, lasting only for the father's lifetime.

Similarly, on the rare occasions where an heir apparent's eldest son and heir wishes to bear the Arms during his grandfather's lifetime, a label of five points is the appropriate ephemeral difference.

The Royal Family make much use of such labels for differencing the Royal Arms borne by their descendants, and operate an internal system of differencing the labels by adding small charges to them. Each of these is the subject of an individual Royal Warrant, and is a heraldic speciality outside this general exposition. The Heir Apparent to the throne and the Royal Arms bears the usual standard plain label of three points which is the mark of an heir apparent.

On his father's death, the heir apparent succeeds to the Arms. He discards the heir apparent's label and assumes his father's undifferenced Arms. Over several generations, it is only in this sense that there is any such thing as a "family coat-of-arms". It is borne by only one member of the family, the senior, at any one time as he carries on the family's senior line.

YOUNGER SONS

Younger sons may be founders of junior lines of the family and therefore must difference their Arms to distinguish themselves and their successors from the senior line which transmits the undifferenced Arms.

- There are many methods of differencing, the most usual being:-
1. The addition of a border, coloured and varied in outline according to a set scheme of precedence of colours and outlines. This is illustrated in "Scots Heraldry" and is valid for a good many generations before it becomes too complicated in practice.
 2. By adding one of the nine accepted marks of difference, again in a prescribed order of seniority. This becomes impractical in three or four generations, where younger sons of younger sons accumulate a ridiculous number of such differences. It was very popular in heraldry's earlier days, and many of the marks of difference then allotted still survive.
 3. Varying the tinctures of the Arms. The number of such permutations is very limited, but again it was very popular in early times and many such early differences survive. The disadvantage lies in the loss of recognisability of a coat-of-arms when the tinctures are changed.

- 4. Adding an extra charge to the Arms, making new Arms which may thereafter be subject to the standard differencing schemes above as from a fresh start.
- 5. Differencing by quartering the inherited Arms with another coat-of-arms. This method is obviously only available when an extra coat-of-arms is available, such as the Arms of a fief or an heiress.

Note that the eldest son of a second son will inherit his father's differenced Arms, bearing a second son's difference. And so also will his eldest son in turn. Therefore the existence of a mark of cadency on a person's Arms does not accurately indicate his own juniority, but only the juniority of his line as descended from the originally junior ancestor.

This is particularly pertinent in the case of lines descended from an original illegitimate ancestor, where all the successive lawfully-begotten heirs to the Arms will bear them with the mark of difference for illegitimacy originally accorded to the bastard ancestor. This can, and does, persist for centuries and is no shame to the present owners. We were not our forefathers' keepers. The present Duke of Buccleuch bears a quartering of the Royal Arms of Great Britain with a mark of illegitimacy across it, the "baton sinister", i.e. inclined toward the sinister side of the Shield. This commemorates the activities of his ancestors, King Charles II and Lucy Walters, some three centuries ago. The present Earl of Moray bears a quartering of the Royal Arms of Scotland with a mark of illegitimacy, the "bordure compony, Azure and Argent", deriving from his ancestor King Robert II and his subsequent wife Elizabeth Muir, but before he married her some six hundred years ago. So far as is known, all the intervening heirs of these illustrious Arms have been lawfully begotten.

SAME NAME

In England and generally on the Continent, those who bear the same surname but cannot establish any relationship with each other are given totally dissimilar Arms, with no visual resemblance.

In Scotland it is held that those who share a surname probably share an ancestor, although the record is lost. Therefore they are granted Arms which resemble those of the Chief of the Name but are varied in a pictorial manner which differs from that of the regular cadet differencing schemes set out heretofore. They are thus recognised as belonging to the Name, the family, but their exact place in the family is not ascertained nor evinced.

MARRIAGE/INHERITANCE OF ARMS

When an armiger marries a heraldic heiress, their eldest son will inherit both his parents' Arms. They are normally "marshalled" or arranged

on a shield of four "quarters", with the father's Arms in the first quarter and the mother's in the second. They are diagonally repeated, respectively in the fourth and third quarters, thus:- 1 & 4, father; 2 & 3, mother.

When an heir to such a quarterly coat marries a further heraldic heiress, their heir's subsequent coat is divided into "grand quarters" (i.e. big ones) which may be further subdivided into quarters. So the father's already quarterly coat would appear in the 1st and 4th grand-quarters, and the mother's in the 2nd and 3rd grand-quarters.

The logical conclusion of this genealogical system is, like many other logical conclusions, absurdity. And in Scotland common sense intervenes in the person of the Lord Lyon King of Arms who declines to admit such excesses as the Arms of Lloyd in England. The principle is always borne in mind that the place for genealogical boasting is the Register of Genealogies. Arms are for recognition.

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The author of the foregoing article, Mr J.I.D. Pottinger, Islay Herald, Lyon Clerk and Keeper of the Records at the Court of the Lord Lyon, was the speaker at our meeting in November 1985.

* The Lyon Court's Information Leaflet No. 2, "Scottish Crest Badges", is reproduced in full in the next issue, Journal No. 19 (July 1986).

