

Heraldry, the study and use of coats of arms (“family crests”) and related familial insignia, has been called “the genealogist’s most colorful tool.” Yet it is an often overlooked one.

At the outset there is a curious fact in the relationship between the two subjects [of heraldry and genealogy]. While students of Heraldry do take to Genealogy and acquire a considerable knowledge of it, those who begin as genealogists seldom if ever take any interest in Heraldry. This is most unfortunate because the two subjects are necessarily connected. (L.G. Pine, *Teach Yourself Heraldry and Genealogy*, p. 145, emphasis added)



A Sampling of Recent Lectures

Collin County Genealogy Society, Plano, TX, 2019

Houston Texas Colony of the Magna Charta Dames and Barons, 2019

XXXIII International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences, Arras, France, 2018

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Arlington, TX, 2018

Toronto Branch, Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, Toronto, Canada, 2017

Permian Basin Genealogical Society, Odessa, TX, 2017

South Davis County Family History Fair, Woods Cross, UT, 2017

Williamson County Genealogical Society, Round Rock, TX, 2017

Ontario (Canada) Genealogical Society Webinar, 2016

Virginia Beach Genealogy Society, Virginia Beach, VA, 2015

XXXI International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences, Oslo, Norway, 2014

Daughters of the American Revolution, Mesquite, TX and Plano, TX, 2013



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Presentations in Heraldry and Genealogy

An Introduction to Heraldry for Genealogists

The title really says it all. Illustrating the connections between genealogy and heraldry, we demonstrate how heraldry can become “the genealogist's most colorful tool.” Included are the parts of an heraldic achievement and what clues they offer genealogical research, and ways to identify coats of arms.

The Heralds' Visitations: An Often Overlooked Genealogical Resource

“No genealogist whose interests lie in sixteenth and seventeenth century England can afford to neglect visitation pedigrees. Used with discretion, they are an indispensable section of the genealogist's library.” (G.D. Squibb,) Learn what the visitations were, what information they contain, and where to find them.

Understanding Blazon, the Language of Heraldry

“Or a bend engrailed gules.” Say what? Blazon, the language of heraldry, is a concise way of describing coats of arms without a picture. This presentation makes this technical jargon comprehensible to genealogists who may encounter it in their research.

Coats of Arms: Meanings and Myths

What do the colors and figures in heraldry mean? Is red really “the blood of a martyr?” Does a unicorn represent “purity?” Discover the real symbolism of the colors, variegated lines, and charges or symbols on a shield.

One Approach to Publishing Your Family History

A lot has been said about writing your family history, but starting such a task can seem overwhelming. Here's one method that has proven successful, along with some of the practical matters you may need to know to do it yourself.

Finding Your New England Ancestors

Genealogical research in New England may sometimes appear comparatively easy, but it is also challenging, because relevant records can be held in so many different places. We present an overview of many of the resources available for New England research, what records they hold, and where to find them.

In Their Footsteps: The Genealogical Tourist

What is “genealogical tourism?” What are its benefits; what are its challenges? What can you get from walking in your ancestors' footsteps? How do you prepare for, and successfully complete, a genealogical road trip? Here are some practical tips for planning and performing a trip to walk “in their footsteps.”

The Gore Roll: An Early American Roll of Arms

The Gore roll of arms is a unique record of individuals and their heraldry in pre-Revolutionary War Massachusetts. We present the history of the roll, its authors' place in Boston society, the individual coats of arms it contains, and some other places where those coats of arms are used.

The Search for a National Coat of Arms

The current coat of arms of the United States of America was one of several widely different designs proposed as the young nation searched for a national emblem. We look at the evolution of those designs back then, and present some of

the current uses of the national arms, including entities which incorporate the coat of arms of the United States into their own insignia.

The Winslows: An American Family and Its Coat of Arms

When members of the Winslow family immigrated to America beginning in 1620, they brought with them their coat of arms. We take a look at some of the individuals through American history from this prominent American family, and the use of their coat of arms through the years.

The Boke of St. Albans: An Introduction

The *Boke of St. Albans* (1486) is the first English treatise on heraldry, and it had a direct influence on other books on the subject published more than a century later. We present a history of the book and its author, review its heraldic sections, and discuss its place in history.

David Appleton (B.S., History) has been researching and teaching about heraldry, and its utility for genealogists, for more than thirty-five years. This on-going interest has taken him all across the United States, Canada and Europe to participate in and speak at conferences on the subject. He is a member of the Académie Internationale d'Héraldique as well as a number of heraldry and lineage societies, and has written several books and numerous articles for a variety of publications on the topic.

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