

Committee on Heraldry, New England Historic Genealogical Society

Report for the Year 2020

to the Council and Members of NEHGS

Established in 1864 as a standing committee within the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Committee on Heraldry is the oldest organization in the United States dealing with coats of arms and their use, and arguably the oldest non-state heraldic body in the world. The year 2020 was the Committee's busiest in recent decades, both in registering and recording coats of arms, and in other related activities. The Committee met four times in 2020—the first year since 2016 to have four quarterly meetings—, three of them entirely by videoconference.

Roll of Arms

Since 1915 the Committee's principal corporate activity has been the registration of verified historic coats of arms brought to the present-day United States by the country's early European settlers and subsequent immigrants. The "Roll of Arms" registered by the Committee has been published in occasional installments in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* since 1928, reprinted in separate fascicles, and in 2013 in a cumulative volume edited by the former secretary, Henry L. P. Beckwith.

In 2020 the Committee registered 22 historic coats of arms in the *Roll of Arms*, originating in nine different countries—Denmark, England, France, Germany, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Spain, and Sweden. In chronological terms, the subjects of the registrations covered a span of more than three centuries, from Dorothy (Bedell) Wingate, who settled in Virginia in 1633, to Prince Nicholas Wladimirovitch Orloff, who came to New York in 1940. The past year's work brings the total number of entries in the Roll to 951. Two of the coats registered in 2020 were done so on application from outside the Committee—the highest number in decades, a testament to the Committee's increasing public visibility.

Entries in the *Roll of Arms* registered in 2020 (provisional numbers).

930. Bedell, Dorothy (Mrs. Roger Wingate), to Virginia from England, 1633 - *Gules a chevron engrailed between three escallops silver.*
931. Gyllenhaal, Anders Leonard, to Illinois from Sweden, 1865 – *Gules an arm vambraced proper holding upright a standard azure*
932. von Hagemeister, Ludwig Karl August, to Alaska from Livonia (Russia), 1817 – *Per bend gold three roses azure and sable an arrowhead point upward gold*
933. Holford, Thomas, to Virginia from England, 1663 - *Silver a greyhound courant and a canton sable*
934. Rising, Johan Classon, to Delaware from Sweden, 1654 – *Azure upon on a grassy mound a palm tree proper*
935. Aylmer, Rev. Justinian, to Virginia from England by 1660 – *Silver a cross between four sea-aylets sable beaked and legged gules*

936. Hone, Theophilus, to Virginia from England by 1648 – *Sable a leopard's head razed between three molets silver*
937. Beauchamp, Edmund, to Maryland from England, 1655 – *Sable a chevron between three lion's heads razed silver crowned gold (on the chevron a crescent for difference)*
938. Boucher de Montbrun, Jean-Baptiste and François, to Illinois and Louisiana from French Canada, 1727 – *Azure a chevron silver surmounted on the point by a lily proper between two acorns, in base a rock surmounted by a cross gold*
939. de Escandón y Helguera, José, Conde de Sierra Gorda, to Texas from Spain, 1747 – *Quarterly: 1, Gules a castle triple-towered silver; 2, Silver an eagle displayed with wings inverted between two roses in bend sinister gules (Escandón); 3, Azure upon a staff issuant from a cook-pot gold a forked pennon gules; 4, Vert a castle triple-towered silver; overall in chief point a cross coupé gold*
940. Dunbar, William, to Pennsylvania from Scotland, 1771 – *Quarterly: 1 & 4, Gules a lion rampant and on a border silver eight roses gules; 2 & 3, Gold three cushions within a double tressure flowered and counterflowered gules; all within a border parted quarterly azure and gules and overall a stag's head caboshed azure*
941. Balluet d'Estournelles de Constant, Henriette, to Massachusetts from France, 1929 – *Per fess, silver an eagle displayed sable and gules a saltire silver*
942. de Bardeleben, Arthur Franz Ferdinand, to South Carolina from Germany, 1776 – *Silver three battle axes palewise blades to dexter sable*
943. Cameron, Roderick William, to New York from Canada, 1852 – *Quarterly: 1 & 4, Barry gold and gules on a pile silver a maple leaf slipped proper; 2 & 3, Azure a castle triple-towered silver masoned sable windows and porch gules within an orle gold*
944. van Deurs, Rev. George, to Pennsylvania from Denmark, 1853 – *Azure upon a terrace in base vert a lapwing close silver.*
945. Riddell, George and John, to Virginia from Scotland by 1755 – *Quarterly: 1 & 4, Silver on a chevron gules between three ears of rye slipped and bladed vert a molet silver; 2 & 3, Silver a fess between three bay leaves vert*
946. Rye, Karl Wilhelm, to Michigan from Norway, 1906 – *Quarterly 1 & 4 gold a lapwing sable; 2 & 3 azure three stars of six points gold; an inescutcheon azure a fleur-de-lys gold*
947. Orloff, Prince Nicholas Wladimirovitch, to New York from Russia, 1940 – *Quarterly: 1 & 4, Gold a two-headed eagle displayed sable beaked, membered, and each head imperially crowned gold on a chief azure the Russian imperial crown gold; 2 & 3, Gules a lion rampant ermine anciently crowned gold, charged on the shoulder with a shield azure a cross patty gold, tearing apart a seven-headed hydra vert; overall, ensigned with a princely crown, an inescutcheon per fess, the chief gold charged with the full imperial arms, the base azure five bars gold surmounted of an eagle displayed gules*
948. Papegoja, Johan Jöransson, to Delaware from Sweden, 1643 – *Silver a popinjay perched on a ragged branch proper*
949. Pendleton, Philip and Rev. Nathaniel, to Virginia from England, 1674 – *Gules an escutcheon silver between four escallops in saltire gold*

950. Rodes, Charles and Francis, to Virginia and Maryland from England by 1695 – *Silver between two bendlets counterermine a leopard bendwise gules between two acorns azure*
951. Scott, George and Dr. Andrew, from Scotland to Maryland, about 1730 – *Gold on a bend azure a star of six points between two crescents gold, in base an arrow bendwise proper feathered, headed, and barbed silver*

These, and entries in the Roll not yet formally published, appear as yet only in the Roll name-index on the Committee website. See below on publication progress of the *Roll of Arms*.

Modern Coats of Arms

The Committee accepted for record sixteen modern coats of arms, including four recently granted to U.S. citizens by foreign heraldic authorities (one substantive and two honorary grants by the English kings of arms and one by Lyon), as well as twelve coats newly assumed within the United States.

In October, the Committee voted to restore a policy that a standard must be met in order for modern arms to be accepted for record. A requirement for heraldic correctness was part of the Society's original 1933 authorization for the Committee to begin recording assumed arms, but the policy had been changed more than once subsequently. With this vote, the Committee has returned to its original procedure.

Early in 2020, an index of all modern arms placed on file since 1935 was compiled from Committee records. This index is as yet available only for internal use.

Modern arms accepted for record and placed on file in 2020:

Altnau, Christopher
Barger, Joshua
Brim-DeForest, Brady (grant, Lyon Office)
Buffenbarger, Harvey Milton
Buffenbarger, Quiller
Casey, Lawrence King, Jr. (honorary grant, College of Arms)
Caudill, Jason
Donovan, Ned Dahl (grant, College of Arms)
Grudzien, Edward Adam
Hricik, John
Ottevaere, James
Randisek, Peter J.
Simons, D. Brenton (honorary grant, College of Arms)
Swanstrom, Adolph
Swanstrom, Justin
Whippo, Vance L.

Additional Activities

Events: an invited talk by one of the English heralds, Peter O'Donoghue, York Herald, was postponed due to the pandemic. Scheduled public events will resume in 2021, at first virtually.

Committee records: In January 2020, several linear feet of files of the Committee on Heraldry were indexed and digitized, and deposited at 99-101 Newbury Street. These included the hand-painted certificates corresponding to the First through Fifth Parts of the *Roll of Arms*, which have been put online at AmericanAncestors.org. Committee records digitized for internal use include bound Committee reports from 1865 to 1940, bound meeting minutes from 1926 to 1989, selected other files, and a name index of all modern arms accepted for record since 1935.

Illustration of arms: the appointment of Matthew Alderman as Artist to the Committee, with illustration work supported financially by the Society, marks a return to the illustrated tradition of the *Roll of Arms* as published from 1928 to 1992. Mr. Alderman has made significant progress in illustrating the backlog unpublished in the *Roll of Arms*, with the first new illustrated continuation set to begin publication in 2021. In addition to line art destined for the published *Roll of Arms*, the Committee voted to offer individual emblazonments of either historic arms from the *Roll* or modern arms accepted for record, to be developed in conjunction with Mr. Alderman.

Publications: As noted above, work continued on the *Roll of Arms, Eleventh Part*, with projected publication to begin in 2021. The publication of photographs and descriptions of some of the Society's most important heraldic artifacts in *Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic Genealogical Society*, while not directly involving the Committee, helped to bring general attention to heraldry in the Society.

Volunteering milestone: October 4, 2020, marked sixty years of volunteer service on the Committee by our Treasurer, Rodney Armstrong (deceased 14 April 2021). A notice appeared in *American Ancestors*, vol. 21, no. 3 (Fall 2020), p. 13.

Members of the Committee:

Ryan J. Woods, Chairman
Nathaniel Lane Taylor, Registrar
Joseph McMillan, Corresponding Secretary
Rodney Armstrong, Treasurer†
Bertram Lippincott III, Corporate Secretary
Julian V. Brandt
John Blythe Dobson
Henry B. Hoff
John Shannon
Scott C. Steward

Matthew Alderman, Artist to the Committee

Ex Officio:

D. Brenton Simons, President and CEO

David M. Trebing, Chair, Board of Trustees

† Deceased 14 April 2021