



A Family Tree For Me
Trace your roots without the digging

Heraldry Research

Here at A Family Tree for Me we will in the near future be able to give you an option to researching your heraldry and coat of arms by providing the services of professional heraldic Researchers.

The study of coats of arms is the profession or study of the devising and granting of coats of arms and of determining who is entitled to bear them. Depending on where you look and in what books you research from, the start of heraldry will range from 800 to 900 years ago. Even today the use of heraldic symbols and crests, coats of arms. This is still in evidence because of their use in modern society by the many towns and cities around the world.



Why the use of coats of arms, they became to be used as a symbol hereditary England around about the twelfth century. The main purpose at that time was to give the means of identification on the battlefield. As the medieval period drew to a close we find that it was the landowners' people in manors that tended to bear the coats of arms.

It is through generations by which there is inheritance of these arms. From taking the whole aspect of heraldry does it then make it of use to us the genealogical researchers?

Each coat of arms belongs to a particular family - not, as some modern 'commercial heralds' would have us believe, to a surname - and no two families are allowed to bear the same arms. This means that a coat of arms, for example on a funeral monument or a seal, should in principle identify the associated family unambiguously. The arms passed to younger sons as well as the eldest, though they were often altered (or differenced) in some way to indicate this - eventually an elaborate system of marks of cadency was developed to indicate the arms of younger sons (and also those of the eldest son during his father's lifetime).



As heraldry developed, the coat of arms acquired a number of accessories. The crest, supposed to be worn on top of the helmet, may be so depicted above the shield of arms. Later developments included mottoes, supporters (human figures or beasts supporting the shield on either side) and other embellishments, together known as the achievement of arms. It is the coat of arms that is unique to a family, and therefore most useful to the genealogist, although some lists of family crests have been published.

If these services are of interest to contact us by completing the Heraldry form, you can use the contact form link below, where you will be able to specify your personal requirements, if we need any other information we will discuss these requirements with you and give you a firm quotation and await your confirmation before we proceed.