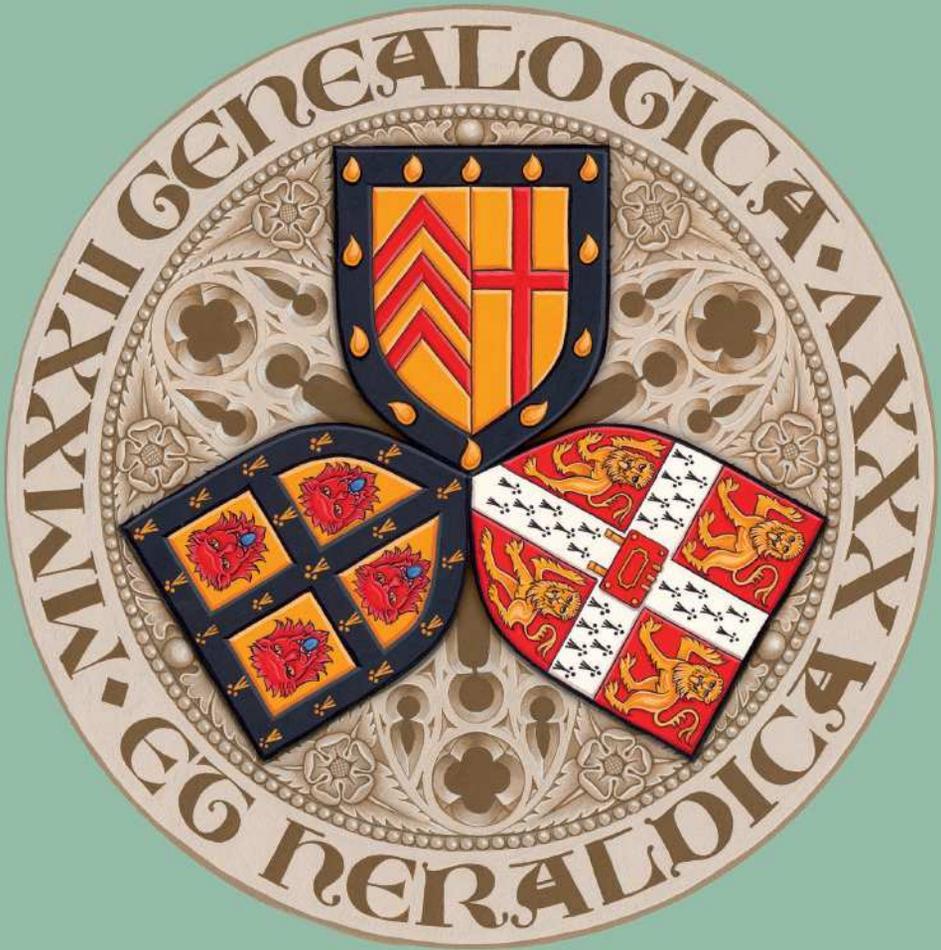


# GENEALOGICA & HERALDICA XXXV

REFORMATION REVOLUTION RESTORATION



CAMBRIDGE  
2022

© The Heraldry Society and the authors for their individual articles, 2023

ISBN 978-0-904858-07-5

The responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information published herein, including the source and legitimacy of the illustrations lies exclusively with the respective authors, and the Heraldry Society denies any liability in relation thereto

Congress logo by Tania Crossingham

Photographs on the rear cover: Congress banners in Clare College Scholars' Garden by Jack Sain, plaque created for the Congress baton by Paul A. Fox

Printed in Great Britain by 4word Ltd, Bath

Correspondence to [coatofarms@theheraldrysociety.com](mailto:coatofarms@theheraldrysociety.com)

[www.theheraldrysociety.com](http://www.theheraldrysociety.com)

# A HERALDIC AMERICAN COUNTER-REVOLUTION: HONORARY GRANTS OF ARMS TO AMERICANS BY BRITISH HERALDIC AUTHORITIES, 1916–1960

Dr. NATHANIEL LANE TAYLOR, F.A.S.G.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society, founded in 1845, is the oldest and largest American genealogical organization, with New England roots but a national focus; it now also bears the by-name “American Ancestors,” which is the address of its website.<sup>1</sup> The Committee on Heraldry was established within the society on 3 February 1864, “to collect and preserve information in regard to heraldry.”<sup>2</sup> A history of the Committee on Heraldry has recently been published in the introduction to the newest installment of its longest-running project, the *Roll of Arms*, begun in 1914.<sup>3</sup> Put most briefly, the *Roll of Arms* is a compilation of the arms of colonists on land that is now part of the United States, or of immigrants to the United States, either in colonial times or more recently, which were borne by right according to the laws or customs in their mother countries.

Registration in the *Roll of Arms* began on 6 January 1916, with John Washington of Westmoreland County, Virginia (*Roll* #1),<sup>4</sup> colonial immigrant ancestor of President George Washington (although it is the project of a New England learned society, the *Roll* has always been national in scope, as evidenced by the fact that the first entry was for a Virginian, not a New Englander). As of August 2022, the *Roll of Arms* contains 968 entries from twenty different countries of origin.<sup>5</sup> It is this century-old *Roll*, along with related records and files of the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, that permits an historical overview of the phenomenon of grants of ‘honorary arms’ to Americans (or similar actions worded differently) by British heraldic authorities.<sup>6</sup>

The wording of the original 1914 mandate for the *Roll of Arms* is particularly relevant here. As originally conceived, the *Roll* could contain “any original settler in this country” [with an inherited coat of arms from their mother country], or “any inhabitant of this country [who] received a grant of arms.”<sup>7</sup> In 1914, grants of arms to Americans by British heraldic authorities – honorary or otherwise – did not exist. The phrase “received a grant of arms” was intended to encompass those resident in the colonies when they received a grant, or colonists falling within the limitations of a grant to a relative. An analogous category is that of colonists falling within the recorded pedigree of from a seventeenth-century visitation.

Within the following ten years, a new phenomenon was born: the grant of ‘honorary’ arms.<sup>8</sup> Through the *Roll of Arms* it is possible to trace something of the origin and evolution of honorary grants of arms to Americans by British heraldic authorities. The first such grant was registered in the *Roll* in 1926. The grant was to a member of the Committee on Heraldry, Dr. Arthur Adams of Hartford, Connecticut, in 1923; the arms were registered as no. 23 in the *Roll* (**Figure 1**).<sup>9</sup> Although Adams’s 1923 grant was the first such act registered in the *Roll*, in the next few years the *Roll* included several others, of which the most important set were grants to John Ross Delafield, whose armorial activities with British authorities predated Adams’s and will be considered here first.<sup>10</sup>

NATHANIEL LANE TAYLOR

Together these two men were largely responsible for both instituting and promoting, from the American side, the practice of honorary grants to Americans.

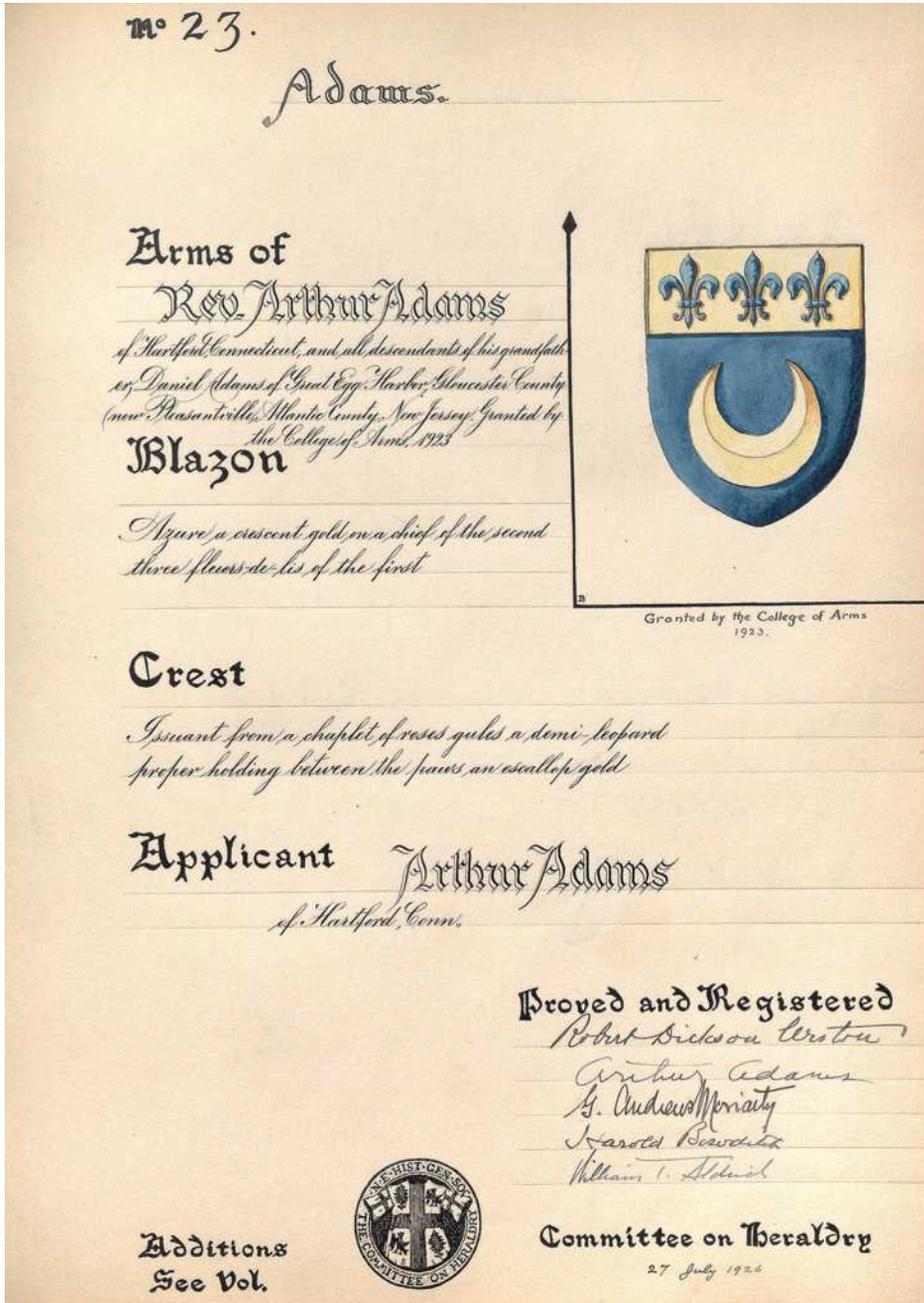


Figure 1: Arthur Adams: Roll of Arms, no. 23 (hand-painted certificate), 1926. Courtesy of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

## AMERICAN HONORARY GRANTS

In all, over ninety modern honorary grants or confirmations from British authorities were recorded in the *Roll of Arms* from 1923 to 1972. In 1972, the decision was taken to exclude modern honorary foreign grants from further registration in the *Roll*. By this time the practices of granting or matriculating honorary arms to Americans had become standard for the College, Lyon, and the Chief Herald of Ireland.<sup>11</sup> After that date, while no longer added to the *Roll of Arms*, they have been separately recorded by the Committee on Heraldry.<sup>12</sup> The majority of the modern foreign grants recorded in the *Roll* were acts by officers in the College of Arms; a small minority were by Lyon, and a smaller remainder concerned acts by Ulster and then the office of the Chief Herald of Ireland. In lieu of a statistical approach, it seems most instructive to focus on the cases of Delafield and Adams, as it is with them that the practice originated.

John Ross Delafield (1874–1964) was an New York attorney (**Figure 2**). Patrilineally English, Delafield's ancestry also included politically and socially prominent New York families of Dutch and Scottish origin. Delafield was active in New York hereditary societies and other social organizations.<sup>13</sup> He crowned decades of genealogical and heraldic interest by publishing a copious genealogy of his Delafield family in 1945.<sup>14</sup>

Delafield's first known interactions with British heraldic authorities date to 1916. But first it is instructive to jump ahead to something he wrote three years later, in 1919. In emulation of the New England Historic Genealogical Society's Committee on Heraldry, a younger sister society, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, founded in 1869, had established its own Committee on Heraldry about 1900.<sup>15</sup> For that committee, in January 1919, Delafield published a three-page essay entitled 'Arms and Crests for Americans' in the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*.<sup>16</sup> The essay was based partly on his own experiences with Scottish and English heraldic authorities (as will be seen), and partly it projected what he hoped would come true. The opening sentence sets the tone: "As the United States has made no provision for the grant or registration of arms or crests, it is of interest to note under what circumstances Americans may bear them."<sup>17</sup> He went on to summarize the jurisdictions of the British authorities as he understood them. He stated that "Americans have sometimes been made armigerous through a confirmation of arms to their British ancestor;" he noted that Ulster King of Arms had already confirmed arms to Americans. Concerning Dutch arms – of abiding interest to New Yorkers – he wrote,

*"Holland has never had an official herald;.. as a result there are many families of Holland origin which have borne arms for centuries, and yet can show no grant or official recognition. The official heralds of Great Britain and Ireland would, no doubt, confirm these arms to members of these families who became British subjects, and as quarterings to the descendants of British subjects who had married heiresses from these families."*

In some of these particulars, he was writing of things he had already brought about.

A timeline of Delafield's British heraldic interactions can be fleshed out through the files of the Committee on Heraldry.<sup>18</sup> Delafield's first actions concerned the Livingstons.

NATHANIEL LANE TAYLOR

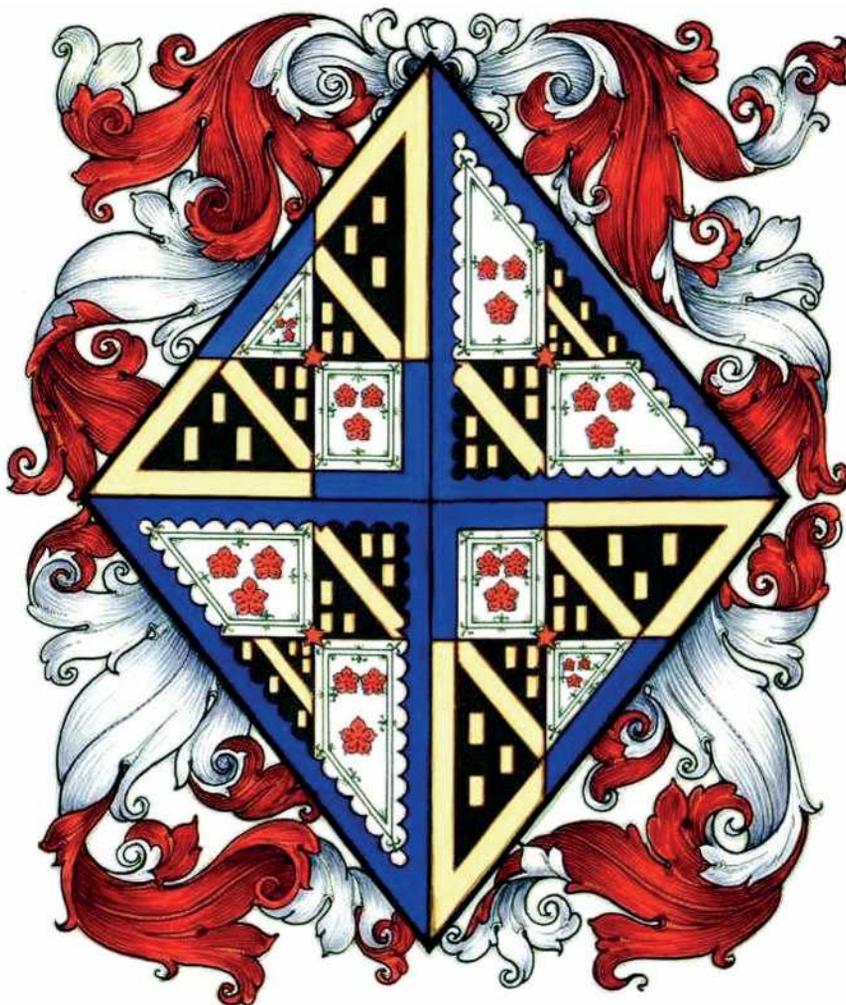
Date	Surname	Action
1916	Livingston	Lyon matriculation (to his mother)
1917	Delafield	College grant (to a male-line cousin)
1917	Livingston	Lyon matriculation (to a cousin)
1919	Hallett	College grant as quartering
1920	White	College honorary grant (to wife's brother)
1923	Wetmore	College honorary grant (to wife's brother) as quartering
1927	Schuyler College	grant as quartering
1927	Beekman	College grant as quartering
1932	Vanbrugh	College grant as quartering
1932	Hawarden	College grant as quartering

Delafield descended through both parents sides from the New York Livingstons – a prominent family whose seventeenth-century colonial founders, Robert Livingston “the Elder” and “the Younger,” uncle and nephew, were descendants of the 4th Lord Livingston.<sup>19</sup> In 1916, Delafield’s mother, Mary (Livingston) Delafield, matriculated arms with the Lord Lyon. She was descended from a Livingston-Livingston marriage through which, under English custom, she was entitled to quarter Livingston with Livingston. The matriculated arms are complex since the stem arms, Livingston of Callender, had been grand-quartered since the fifteenth century; Mary’s two Livingston quarters are distinguished by different bordures, presenting a kaleidoscopic aspect, especially in lozenge form (**Figure 2**).<sup>20</sup> In 1917 a Lyon matriculation followed for Delafield’s first cousin once removed – Julia Livingston, a niece of his paternal grandmother.<sup>21</sup> These two Lyon matriculations, other than stating the petitioners’ domicile in New York and descent from (pre-1672) Scottish armigers, do not include any language drawing attention to the foreign citizenship of the petitioners, nor how their standing before Lyon was established; nothing appears to distinguish the matriculations from those for British subjects.<sup>22</sup>

The arms of Delafield have an awkward history.<sup>23</sup> The family’s use of arms goes back to a memorial (extant) in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, erected for Delafield’s male-line ancestor who had died in 1763, and whose son subsequently emigrated to the young United States.<sup>24</sup> The memorial is quite likely later than 1763 – perhaps by 20 years – since these arms for this family were unknown in the visitation period and any time before the first textual source in which they appear, in Edmondson’s *Complete Body of Heraldry* of 1780. Oswald Barron wrote about this case in *The Ancestor*:<sup>25</sup> Edmondson indexed a cross flory for the surname *de la Feld*, based on a seventeenth-century manuscript derived from Glover’s Ordinary.<sup>26</sup> Barron suggested, convincingly, that the odd surname *de la Feld* associated with these arms came from a copyist’s error, since these arms belonged to the Lascelles family, whose surname, as *de Lasels* – especially with a long ‘s’ – had probably been misread as *de la Feld*, or *Delafield*, in one or more later copy.<sup>27</sup> Delafield’s ancestor, a son of the man memorialized at Aylesbury, came over in the 1780s and began using the cross flory, based on surviving seals, bookplates, and silver.<sup>28</sup>

What Delafield sought from the College, presumably in 1916, was a confirmation of the cross flory, long in use. But at that time the College did not grant arms to those who were not subjects of the Empire. The method Delafield settled on was to engage as a proxy a British male-line cousin, descended from a son of Delafield’s first New York

## AMERICAN HONORARY GRANTS



*Figure 2:* the Lyon office exemplification of arms matriculated for Mary Coleman (Livingston) Delafield, mother of John Ross Delafield, 1916.

ancestor in a line that had returned to England. On 10 February 1917, the College did “grant and confirm” to Arthur John Lewis Delafield of Naples, Italy (a British subject), with extension to all descendants of the original New York Delafield ancestor, a *new* coat of arms combining the Lascelles cross flory with a different charge found on the arms of another (Anglo-Irish) Delafield family: a lion rampant.<sup>29</sup> The resulting coat, a cross flory charged with a lion, infelicitously shrinks the lion onto the cross. And it may have rankled Delafield that, in seeking a confirmation of the coat his ancestors had long used, he got something else: a patent contradicting his family tradition.



Figure 3: John Ross Delafield. Portrait published in *Delafield: The Family History*

Family silver handed down from Delafield's earliest American male-line ancestor, John Delafield, bore the cross flory impaled with arms representing John's wife, Ann Hallett, the daughter and heraldic heiress of a New Yorker named Joseph Hallett. Her arms – *Two bars wavy between three eagles wings expanded* – do not appear in standard references and their origin and prior use, if any, are not known. On 7 July 1919, the English kings of arms did "grant and assign" these same arms "to be placed on a monument or otherwise to the memory of the said Ann Delafield (formerly Ann Hallett) and to be borne as a quartering by her descendants."

Having set a precedent for quartering, Delafield next sought arms to impale. He enlisted a brother-in-law, Alain Campbell White of Litchfield, Connecticut, to petition for arms. On 16 November 1920, White received a grant of "honorary arms" – probably the first grant to use the term "honorary" in this way – with limitation to other descendants of his father (including his sister, Delafield's wife).<sup>30</sup> A grant of honorary arms for Wetmore to Alain White as a quartering for his mother's family followed in 1923.<sup>31</sup>

With the White grant fresh in hand, in July 1921 Delafield published a supplement to his "Arms and Crests for Americans." He reported volubly on certain developments, again overstating generalizations from his recent experiences:

*"During the recent war the rules governing grants and confirmations of arms by the College of Arms were modified...An American may now...obtain from the college a confirmation or a grant of arms." "Confirmations...will not be made....except in cases where... the arms were in use by the ancestor in the male line prior to 1783...Grants may be obtained in any case where the proven use does not extend back to 1783... [or] where the family has not used arms at all."*

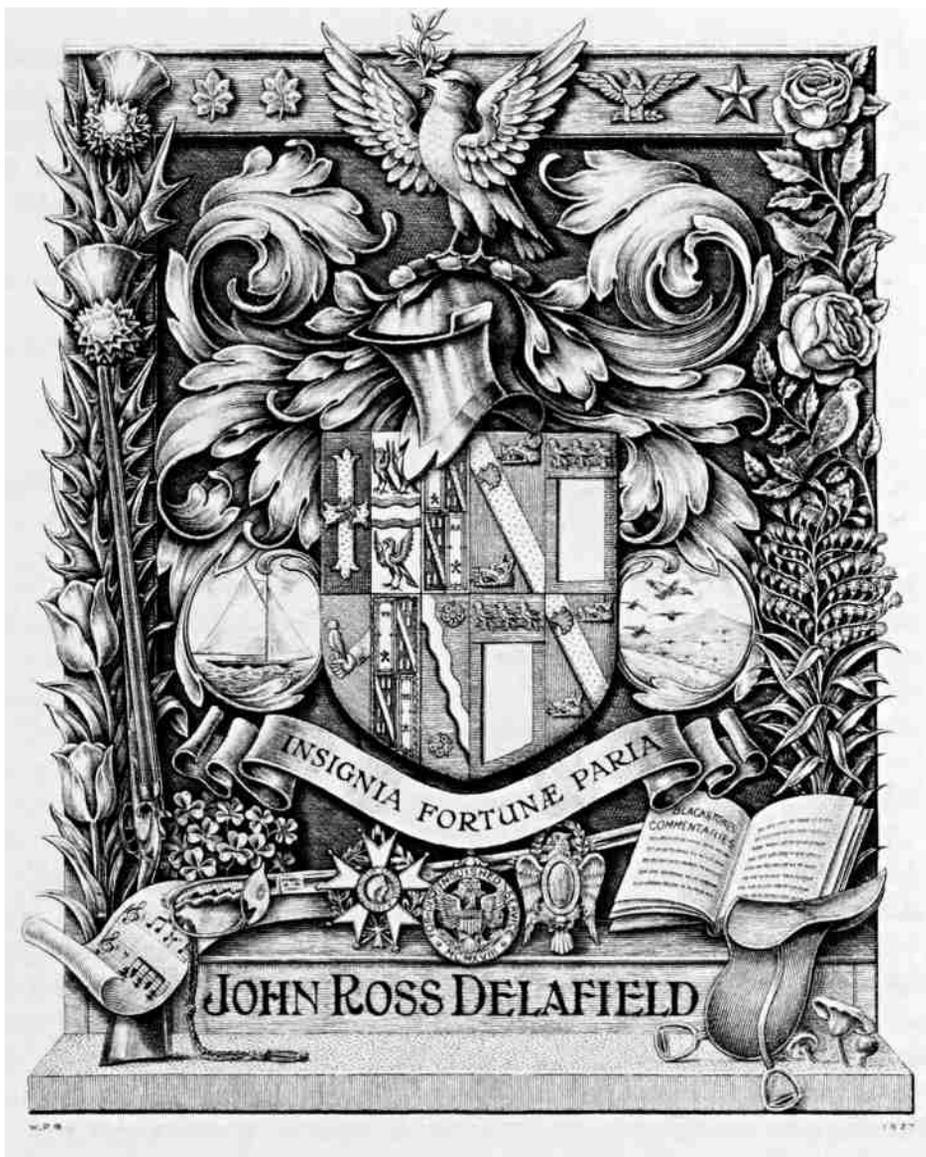


Figure 4: Delafield bookplate, 1927. Bound into (from original plate) *Delafield: The Family History*

On who may obtain such, he said: “[T]hese privileges extend to anyone whose ancestor in the male line was a British subject before 1783.” And further, that “Americans of the families of the Dutch and French and other nationalities who became British subjects are in the same position as those descended from English stock.”<sup>32</sup>

This last passage presaged Delafield’s efforts to obtain College patents for arms representing Dutch ancestors. Two actions for Dutch arms came on 14 April 1927,

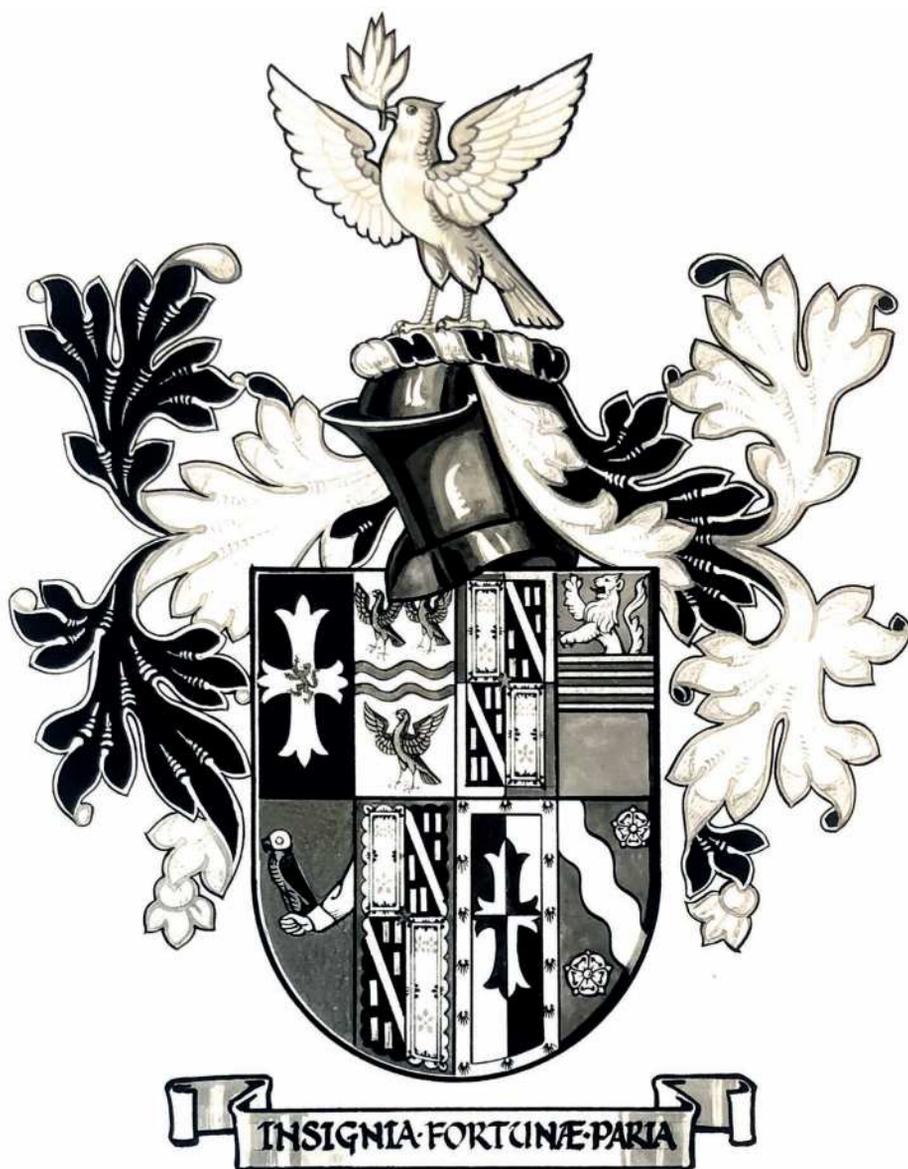
when the College did “grant and assign” coats of arms for two Dutch New Netherland colonists. One was Beekman, consisting of *A bend wavy between two roses*, to be borne as a quartering by Delafield or other descendants of his mother, Mary (Livingston) Delafield, through whom the descent was derived. That these same arms had been borne by these Beekmans in the Netherlands before emigration to the colonies did not deter Delafield from seeking sanction by the English heralds in the form of a new grant.<sup>33</sup> On the same day the College also granted arms for Schuyler, another prominent Dutch New Netherland family. Unlike Beekman, the Schuyler arms have not been proved to antedate emigration: they date only to 1656, when the arms were painted in an armorial window in the church at Beverwijk [now Albany, the state capital].<sup>34</sup> As this was (just) before the Dutch ceded New Netherland to the English, a case can also be made for the Dutch tradition of free assumption. Delafield sought to register both Beekman and Schuyler in the *Roll of Arms* in 1932.<sup>35</sup>

Delafield’s success in securing matriculations, confirmations, or grants of arms through 1927 is beautifully summed up in his engraved bookplate (by William Phillips Barrett) featuring impaled arms for Delafield, quarterly of six: Delafield, Hallett, Livingston “of Teviotdale,” Schuyler, Livingston “of Clermont,”<sup>36</sup> and Beekman; impaling, for Delafield’s wife, quarterly White and Wetmore (**Figure 4**). But this 1927 bookplate did not mark the endpoint of Delafield’s armorial odyssey. Two more College actions followed in 1932, for Hawarden and Vanbrugh. Hawarden was an English family, with new arms granted as a quartering in the now-customary manner. Vanbrugh was the same Dutch family that produced the famously un-heraldic herald, Sir John Vanbrugh, Clarenceux in the early eighteenth century. An allied branch of the same Haarlem family had gone from the Netherlands to New York in the seventeenth century. Delafield received a patent by which the same arms that had been confirmed to Clarenceux Vanbrugh in 1714 were “granted and confirmed” as a quartering for Delafield. Evidence was later found that the arms predated the 1714 patent and had been borne in Haarlem by the common ancestor of the English and New York lines.<sup>37</sup>

A 1932 exemplification with all eight quarterings, signed by Windsor Butler, is shown here (**Figure 5**).<sup>38</sup> There is no evidence that Delafield commissioned a new bookplate in or after 1932; the 1927 bookplate was included in his 1945 *Delafield: The Family History*, and remains the best visual clue to Delafield’s armorial aspirations. His ancestors had been prominent for generations, using armorial display in abundance. For Delafield, arms made him the equal of those prominent ancestors; marshaling allowed him to claim and display his diverse English, Scottish, and Dutch armigerous ancestry together (following English custom for quartering Dutch and Scottish heraldic heiresses).

Delafield’s essays on “Arms and Crests for Americans,” together with his armload of patents, all testify to his firm belief that the only morally correct way for Americans to bear arms, whatever the nationality of their ancestors, was through the evolving actions of the College of Arms, Lord Lyon, or Ulster King of Arms. This held true even in the case of the pronomial Delafield arms, where the heralds “granted” him a coat distinct from that engraved on generations of ancestral plate. The imposition of the lion on the cross flory might exemplify the aphorism “be careful what you wish for.” The 1917 Delafield arms were registered by the Committee on Heraldry in its *Roll of Arms* in 1932, with the entry, published in 1936, stating that the arms had been “granted.”<sup>39</sup> As late as 1950, Delafield was asking the Committee to alter its language to indicate the arms had

AMERICAN HONORARY GRANTS



*Figure 5:* exemplification of the arms of John Ross Delafield, 1932.  
Photograph courtesy the New England Historic Genealogical Society.  
(Committee on Heraldry files).

been “confirmed,” he was overruled.<sup>40</sup> One wonders whether his 1917 experience with the hybrid Delafield arms had spurred Delafield to atone in quantity of quarterings for what he may have deemed a fumble with the paternal arms.

NATHANIEL LANE TAYLOR



*Figure 6:* Dr. Arthur Adams. Photograph courtesy of The American Society of Genealogists.

The Revd. Dr. Arthur Adams (1881–1960, **Figure 6**), unlike Delafield, was a member of the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. And also, unlike Delafield, he was primarily identified as a scholar (of both genealogy and philology);<sup>41</sup> he was the only American to edit a Harleian Society visitation volume<sup>42</sup> and was for many years editor of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. Dr. Adams’s armorial timeline has fewer episodes than Delafield’s, but both men seem to have helped to define Americans’ interactions with British heraldic authorities.

On 17 May 1923, the College did “grant and assign” to Dr. Adams “honorary arms,” with extension to all descendants of his grandfather.<sup>43</sup> Adams’s paternal grandfather had been born a British subject in the Province of New Jersey in 1773, so in 1923 he had an unusually short distance to travel back to a pre-independence British subject: three generations. The arms were new as Dr. Adams was not aware of any connection, however distant, with any other armigerous Adamases, nor of any prior use of arms in his family.

From the outset, Adams sought the compass of his grant to extend as far back as possible. “I was much grieved,” he wrote, that “I could not have the College register the coat of arms for all the descendants of Jeremy” [his male-line ancestor Jeremy Adams, born about 1604, who settled in New England in 1633].<sup>44</sup> So Adams enlisted the aid of a nonagenarian maiden aunt. On 8 July 1930 the College granted the same arms, but with a different crest, to Hannah Adams, whose grandfather – Arthur’s great-grandfather – had been born in 1730,<sup>45</sup> extending the armorial umbrella by a generation.

On 7 November 1940, Adams matriculated with Lyon a compound coat combining the English Adams coat with arms newly devised to represent his mother’s (Scottish) family.<sup>46</sup> The Scottish arms were not registered with the Committee on Heraldry, suggesting that Adams, both personally and in his role on the Committee, was above all interested in the scope of English sanction for his arms.

Finally, on 30 December 1957, Adams secured a special patent extending the limitation of his 1923 grant to all descendants of his ancestor, Jeremy Adams, the immigrant of 1633. Adams knew this was special: “Wagner tells me that this was a very unusual act of grace. Certainly I never heard of a similar case. It took me about three years

## AMERICAN HONORARY GRANTS

to persuade them to do it.”<sup>47</sup> By this time, Adams had known members of the College for decades as a consulting scholar, not as a client. This act was perhaps sought, and certainly granted, as a personal favor, but it is likely that Adams had sought a precedent for a way in which Americans descended from non-armigerous colonial families could acquire a unifying heraldic identity.<sup>48</sup> Like many genealogists of his generation, he was above all interested in the original colonial founder of his family, and by extension, other colonial founders of families.

For all American petitioners other than Delafield and Adams, there is less in the files of the Committee on Heraldry through which to discern motives and aims, or other aspects of the processes by which arms were sought and granted. Copies of patents, as well as correspondence around these registrations, permit some observations to be made. From the 1920s to the 1960s, the few Lyon matriculations also registered in the Committee’s *Roll of Arms* suggest that in many cases, if not most, the American petitioner was able to recite descent from a known Scottish armiger. This is consistent with the requirement, since 1672, that all armigers individually matriculate arms even if ancestors had borne them. One 1947 matriculation, for George Linkeletter of New York, includes a separate definition of the “proper armorial tinctures of the arms of Linkletter of that Ilk” while also granting and matriculating a differenced coat to the American petitioner.<sup>49</sup> For Ulster, unfortunately, no actions in Committee on Heraldry files are accompanied by any original patent images; only very few Ulster actions are noted at all, mostly from correspondence between the Committee and members of the College, and based on copies of Ulster records made for deposit there. It was only in 1921 that Delafield, in his “Arms and Crests for Americans,” had noted Ulster’s readiness to grant arms to Americans. Events of 1922 meant that relatively few American petitioners would contact Ulster thereafter; and furthermore, those who had dealings with Ulster, and then the Chief Herald of Ireland, may have been somewhat less cognizant of the Committee on Heraldry’s *Roll of Arms* than those of English and Scottish descent. The earliest patent with a grant of arms from the Chief Herald of Ireland on file with the Committee on Heraldry dates to 10 October 1951, with arms confirmed to descendants of James Donnell of County Tyrone and Philadelphia.<sup>50</sup>

By 1960, the date of death of Arthur Adams, processes for actions by Lyon and the College with regard to American petitioners for arms were well set on precedents dating back to 1916–1923, although continued brainstorming is evident in correspondence and memoranda in the files of the Committee on Heraldry through to 1960 and even beyond. Accessible English records reveal continued creative discussion of such processes into the 1970s,<sup>51</sup> and of course these practices continue to evolve today.

---

<sup>1</sup> John A. Schutz, *A Noble Pursuit: The Sesquicentennial History of the New England Historic Genealogical Society* (Boston, 1995); François Weil, *Family Trees: A History of Genealogy in America* (Cambridge, Mass., 2013), pp. 66–68. Website: [americanancestors.org](http://americanancestors.org).

<sup>2</sup> *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* [NEHGR] vol. 18 (1864), p. 215 (proceedings), p. 386 (amendment to by-laws).

<sup>3</sup> ‘A Roll of Arms Registered by the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society: Eleventh Part,’ NEHGR vol. 176 (2022), pp. 97–116, 213–228, 326–344, at 97–103. (*A Roll of Arms... Eleventh Part* is forthcoming as a book in late 2022 or early 2023.) See also Henry L. P. Beckwith (ed.) *A Roll of Arms Registered by the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Parts 1–10, with Additions and Corrections and a History of the Committee on Heraldry* (Boston, 2013); reprinted, with additions and corrections, 2014), pp. 291–300.

## NATHANIEL LANE TAYLOR

<sup>4</sup> The Roll of Arms consisted originally of hand painted folios, one for each entry, with a painted emblazonment and bearing the committee members' signatures and registration date. The certificates are online (member access only) at [americanancestors.org](http://americanancestors.org), database "Roll of Arms Registered by NEHGS, 1915–1945." This practice was discontinued in 1945; thereafter, Roll entries were typeset for publication with no hand-painted certificate original created. Published entry: *A Roll of Arms . . . Parts 1–10* [note 3], 8; NEHGR vol. 82 (1928), p. 151. Reference is also made to the Roll of Arms files in the records of the Committee on Heraldry (CoH Roll Files) in the archives of the Society, housed with the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

<sup>5</sup> A name index to the Roll of Arms, online at [americanancestors.org/committee-heraldry](http://americanancestors.org/committee-heraldry), shows entries through no. 968 Jernigan (numbering is provisional for entries not yet published). Entries are currently published through no. 813 Dunlop ("A Roll of Arms . . . Eleventh Part," NEHGR vol. 176 [2022], p. 336).

<sup>6</sup> This phrase began to be used in the patents of the College of Arms from 1920 (see below), but is here used to indicate also the broadly equivalent (though differently worded) actions by other British heraldic authorities, principally the Lord Lyon.

<sup>7</sup> Printed in 1915 from a report dated 1914: "Special Report of the Committee on Heraldry," NEHGR vol. 69 (1915), supplement, pp. xii, xvi–xxiii.

<sup>8</sup> As will be seen, this became the customary formula used by the College of Arms as the practice evolved; the term "modern honorary grant" is used to refer generally to analogous actions by both English and Scottish (and, later, Irish) authorities throughout a period of evolution in language and practice.

<sup>9</sup> Enrolled 27 July 1926 (*A Roll of Arms . . . Parts 1–10* [note 3], 10; NEHGR vol. 82 [1928], p. 151); CoH Roll File, 23 Adams.

<sup>10</sup> While the *Roll of Arms* had begun compilation in 1916, applications to register arms brought from outside the Committee began in earnest with the publication of the *First Part* of the *Roll* (entries 1–72) in April 1928.

<sup>11</sup> The change in criteria for the *Roll of Arms* was briefly defined, in the 1979 introduction to the Roll's *Ninth Part* (*A Roll of Arms . . . Parts 1–10* [note 3], 227), as excluding any application "in which the claim does not predate the twentieth century;" the change was said to be due to "a feeling of the Committee that such material was not appropriate for publication in the journal of an antiquarian society." In effect this was also to lessen the appearance that the Committee was extending preferential treatment for modern honorary foreign grants that would appear to elevate them, in American heraldic custom or law, over frankly assumed arms; and to lessen the potential that foreign honorary grants using such ambiguous double terms as "grant and confirm" might mistakenly be taken as evidence for an historical right to arms when no independent evidence was known.

<sup>12</sup> Only since 2020 has the Committee published all recorded modern arms in its annual reports; discussions are underway for cumulative publication of arms created by modern foreign grants recorded as far back as 1972, and other modern arms (newly assumed, etc.) recorded from the 1930s onward.

<sup>13</sup> Some of his many affiliations are listed in his entry in *Encyclopedia of American Biography*, new ser., vol. 27 (New York 1957), pp. 392–395. (This series was a commercial enterprise in which subjects wrote their own blurbs and paid for their appearance.)

<sup>14</sup> A magnum opus encompassing both heraldic and genealogical research is John Ross Delafield, *Delafield: The Family History*, 2 vols. (privately printed, 1945).

<sup>15</sup> The organization of this committee seems to be noticed in "Announcements," *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* [NYGBR] vol. 31 (1900), p. 122.

<sup>16</sup> "Arms and Crests for Americans," NYGBR vol. 50 (1919), pp. 4–6.

<sup>17</sup> Delafield, "Arms and Crests for Americans" [note 4], 4. Here, as elsewhere, Delafield does not envision that assumed arms have any validity.

<sup>18</sup> Some of these are mentioned in [Sir] Thomas Woodcock and John Martin Robinson, *The Oxford Guide to Heraldry* (Oxford, 1988), pp. 168–169; Woodcock and Robinson mentioned White but without noting his relation to Delafield (p. 169); White's two grants (White and Wetmore) were at Delafield's instigation.

<sup>19</sup> The family was by then well studied in print, with careful placement of the New York branches, by Edwin Brockholst Livingston in *The Livingstons of Callendar and Their Principal Cadets: A Family History*, 2 vols. (Edinburgh, 1887–1890) and *The Livingstons of Livingston Manor* (New York, 1910).

<sup>20</sup> Lyon Register 23:6A-B, 23 Oct. 1916.

<sup>21</sup> Lyon Register 23:24A-B, 2 April 1917. With its *bordure engrailed azure*, Julia's coat resembles the second quartering matriculated to Mary the prior year, giving the armorial impression that Julia was closely connected to Mary's second Livingston line. But Julia's male-line immigrant ancestor was Robert Livingston "the Younger," nephew of Robert Livingston "the Elder," who was the progenitor of both of Maria's Livingston lines (which descended through two sons of Robert "the Elder").

<sup>22</sup> The Livingston arms were registered as no. 96 in the *Roll of Arms* on 17 Jan. 1929 – not on Delafield's initiative, but through Arthur Adams for another descendant. Arms matriculated with differences for different descendants of an American immigrant were not separately registered in the *Roll*. Delafield brought the two Livingston matriculations for registration in the *Roll* early in 1932, but was notified that Livingston had already been registered (published later in 1932).

## AMERICAN HONORARY GRANTS

- <sup>23</sup> As an aside: Delafield had in 1913 registered his Delafield arms with a private body, misleadingly titled “The College of Arms of Canada,” apparently the creation of a man named Frederic Gregory Forsyth (on which see Yves Drolet, “The Aryan Order of America and the College of Arms of Canada, 1880–1937” [typescript, Montreal, 2015], citing, among other sources, F. E. Barber, “College of Arms of Canada,” *CoA* no. 26 [1956], pp. 57–60).
- <sup>24</sup> Photographed in *Delafield: The Family History* [note 9], opposite 1:246.
- <sup>25</sup> Oswald Barron, “The Delafields and the Empire,” *The Ancestor* vol. 11 (1902), pp. 97–128, at 117–118.
- <sup>26</sup> Joseph Edmondson, *A Complete Body of Heraldry*, 2 vols. (London, 1780), vol. 1: [Glover’s Ordinary], p. 105.
- <sup>27</sup> Delafield reproduced a 17th-century tricked manuscript of Glover corroborating this at *Delafield: The Family History* [note 9], opposite vol. 2, p. 470 (depicting British Library, MS Harley 1407). The caption bears both “de la Felde” and “Lasels.”
- <sup>28</sup> Photographs of armorial silver, seals, and bookplates in the collection of John Ross Delafield are on file CoH Roll Files: 170 Delafield, and in *Delafield: The Family History* [note 9], plates opposite vol. 1, p. 246 etc.
- <sup>29</sup> Patent photostat, CoH Roll File, 170 Delafield; published in *Delafield: The Family History* [note 9], plate opposite vol. 1, p. 246.
- <sup>30</sup> Patent photostat, CoH Roll File, 172 White. Noted as “an early example” in Woodcock and Robinson, *Oxford Guide to Heraldry* [note 17], p. 169; it is certainly the first such patent recorded in the files of the Committee on Heraldry. One prior twentieth-century grant registered in the *Roll of Arms* had suggested a possible earlier precedent: the arms of James Atkins Noyes, a United States citizen and native of Cambridge, Massachusetts were registered on 15 May 1951 as no. 434 in the *Roll*. Noyes had a grant from the College on 6 Jan. 1915, in which he was described as “of Suffolk Street in the Parish of St. James in the County of London;” he had apparently been living or visiting only briefly in England. Later correspondence suggests that the heralds had not been aware that Noyes was not a British subject: the grant was an anomaly, not a precedent (Bowditch to Wagner, 9 April 1951, CoH Roll File, 434 Noyes).
- <sup>31</sup> Patent photostat, CoH Roll Files, 172 White and 422 Wetmore. White was registered in the *Roll* in 1932; Wetmore not until 1949. In 1932, Dr. Bowditch (Secretary of the Committee) wrote to Delafield that “the registration of arms to be used as a quartering is new to me,” and furthermore, some of the actions of the English heralds in granting the Wetmore arms to be used as a quartering were surprising to him. This presumably accounts for the Committee’s delay in registering Wetmore arms until Delafield pursued it again in 1949.
- <sup>32</sup> John Ross Delafield, “Arms and Crests for Americans,” *NYGBR* vol. 52 (1921), pp. 229–230.
- <sup>33</sup> William J. Hoffman, “Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent,” *NYGBR* vol. 64 (1933), pp. 358–362; repr. *Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent*, ed. Francis J. Sypher Jr. (New York, 2010), pp. 39–43.
- <sup>34</sup> Hoffman, “Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent,” *NYGBR* vol. 65 (1934), pp. 101–2 (contributed by Delafield); repr. *Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent*, ed. Francis J. Sypher Jr. (New York, 2010), pp. 60–62.
- <sup>35</sup> Beekman, like Livingston, had previously been registered in 1929 on the initiative of Adams (CoH Roll File, 95 Beekman); Schuyler was registered in 1932 (CoH Roll File, 163 Schuyler).
- <sup>36</sup> The two distinct Livingston coats are those matriculated for his mother in 1916. The toponymic distinctions are those captioning the 1935 exemplification (cited below, note 38).
- <sup>37</sup> Correspondence, Bowditch to Delafield, and memoranda to file, CoH Roll File, 184 Vanbrugh; Hoffman, “Armory of American Families of Dutch Descent,” *NYGBR* vol. 66 (1935), pp. 178–179.
- <sup>38</sup> Two exemplifications, dated 30 Nov. 1932 and 4 March 1935, both signed by A. T. Butler, Windsor, are in the CoH Roll File, 170 Delafield (black-and-white photographs).
- <sup>39</sup> (Roll no. 170)
- <sup>40</sup> The phrase had been “grant and confirm” (CoH Roll file, 170 Delafield). Memoranda on file include correspondence between Bowditch and Wagner on the College’s use of the phrase “grant and confirm.”
- <sup>41</sup> With a Ph.D. in English literature, he was a long-time professor of English and librarian of Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut; he was also an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church (Biographical entry, *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, vol. F [New York, 1942], pp. 268–269; obituary, *NEHGR* vol. 115 [1961], pp. 3–7, by Harold Bowditch). Both Adams and Delafield were Fellows of the American Society of Genealogists. Adams was the principal founding fellow in 1940; Delafield was elected in 1956 (Roll of Fellows, [fasg.org](http://fasg.org)).
- <sup>42</sup> Arthur Adams (ed.), *Cheshire Visitation Pedigrees*, Harl. Soc. vol. 93 (London, 1941). Another American, Joseph Lemuel Chester (1821–1882), had edited volumes in the Harleian Society’s Registers section.
- <sup>43</sup> Patent photostat, CoH Roll File, 23 Adams. The arms were registered in the *Roll* in 1926, immediately following those for his colleague Dr. Harold Bowditch (Roll, no. 22) (Bowditch’s arms were inherited from a Dorset visitation family).
- <sup>44</sup> A. Adams to H. Bowditch, 6 Aug. 1926, CoH Roll File, 23 Adams.
- <sup>45</sup> Patent photostat, CoH Roll File, 23 Adams.

## NATHANIEL LANE TAYLOR

<sup>46</sup> *An Ordinary of Arms Contained in the Public Register of all Arms and Bearings in Scotland*, vol. 2: 1902–1973 (Edinburgh, 1977), 404, citing Lyon Register 34:22. Special thanks to Elizabeth Roads, formerly Snawdoun Herald, for consulting on this matriculation.

<sup>47</sup> Typescript of patent, made by Richmond Wagner (as College Librarian); Adams to Bowditch, 16 Aug. 1957, CoH Roll File, 23 Adams.

<sup>48</sup> An idea to encourage the systematic assumption of coats of arms to be borne by all (or all personally qualified) male-line descendants of non-armigerous colonial founders was floated within the Committee on Heraldry in 1912 (William Sumner Appleton to William S. Richardson, 11 May 1912, CoH Files). A parallel matter, beyond the scope of this paper, is the evolution of corporate devisals, by both the College and Lyon, for American family associations and other corporate bodies. The Committee on Heraldry began recording modern corporate devisals (or assumptions) in the 1930s: mostly to schools, churches, and clubs. These records are unpublished.

<sup>49</sup> Patent photostat, CoH Roll Files, 406 Linkletter. Linkletter had not appeared in Lyon Register prior to 1905, suggesting the novelty of the arms. George Linkletter had previously received a grant of honorary arms in 1924 from the College of Arms (mentioned by not present in CoH Roll File; the difference, if any, between the arms in the two patents is therefore unknown; the 1947 Lyon matriculation correctly makes no reference to any action by the College).

<sup>50</sup> Patent photostat, CoH Roll Files, 444 Donnell. Mistakenly published as a grant in 1953, the notice was amended in 1958 to indicate a confirmation of old arms (*A Roll of Arms... Parts 1–10* [note 3], pp. 150, 169). The language in the patent was for “a full confirmation of such armorial ensigns as...have been long used and borne by the said family of Donnell, which do not appear to have been heretofore recorded in my office...with such distinctions as I think proper.”

<sup>51</sup> See, for example, the correspondence between Garter Wagner and others in Government in the papers of the Foreign and Colonial Office from 1969–1970 in The National Archives (TNA) FCO 7/1851, file titled “Designing Arms for Citizens of United States of America” (thanks to my Committee on Heraldry colleague John Shannon for bringing this file to my attention).