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Cover illustration: The Philipot Pedigree Roll, see pp. 16-40

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CAROLINA HERALD AND ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF NOBILITY IN THE PROVINCE OF CAROLINA

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Abstract

Carolina Herald, the first and only heraldic authority in what is now the United States, is a unique and relatively unexplored part of early American heraldic history. Laurence Cromp, serving as Carolina Herald, was appointed by the Lords Proprietors of the Province of Carolina in 1705 after previously serving as York Herald, and became the first English officer of arms appointed outside of Europe. Cromp's new role included granting arms and overseeing the unique heraldic elements associated with the province, which included a badge, neck and chain insignia, and coronets of rank. The two surviving grants of arms by Cromp are discussed, and the continuing impact of Carolina Herald's work is explored. It has continued to influence heraldry, with examples noted from the Confederate States of America as well as from the present day.

Introduction

Heraldry has been part of the cultural heritage of the United States since the initial European colonization of North America.[1] Recognized as an important part of family history and personal identity, many founders of the United States themselves used heraldry, continuing the armorial traditions from their homelands.[2] Despite significant research into the heraldic practices of the nation's founders, relatively little scholarly work has been undertaken concerning the country's first and only heraldic authority, Carolina Herald. Serving as the heraldic authority for the Crown, the College of Arms in London had statutory control over all heraldic matters in England and the British Empire's overseas colonies.[3] In the early eighteenth century, however, no officers of arms either directly facilitated colonial heraldry or were officially assigned to overseas jurisdictions.[4] Carolina Herald, appointed in 1705, served as the first English officer of arms appointed outside of Europe and would remain the only overseas herald until the appointment of Delhi Herald of Arms Extraordinary in 1911.[5] Unlike the later Delhi Herald, whom the Crown appointed, Lawrence Cromp was appointed by the Lords Proprietors of the then Province of Carolina as Carolina Herald, serving as the heraldic authority of the Province of Carolina, and granting arms to the Carolinian nobility.[6] Concerning armorial bearings, Carolina Herald was given authority to oversee the use of several unique heraldic elements, specifically a badge, neck and chain insignia, and coronets of rank.[7] While the unique aspects of Carolinian heraldry have since faded from

[1] David Robert Wooten, 'Why would Americans want armorial bearings?', *The Armiger's News* (2006).
[2] Dom William Wilfrid Bayne, 'Heraldry in the United States of America', *CoA* no. 55 (1963).
[3] 'Colonial Empire (Municipal coats of arms)', *House of Commons* vol. 328 no. C914 (1937).
[4] Walter H Godfrey and Anthony Wagner, *Survey of London - Monograph 16, College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street* (London, 1963), pp. 229–306.
[5] 'Delhi Herald Extraordinary', *Academic Dictionaries and Encyclopedias*, online at en-academic.com.
[6] Thomas Woodcock and John Martin Robinson, *The Oxford Guide to Heraldry* (Oxford, 1988), p. 159.
[7] Woodcock and Robinson, op. cit., p. 159.

modern practice, understanding the unique office of Carolina Herald allows for a greater appreciation of early American heraldic history.

Early nobility and heraldry in the Province of Carolina

In the Charter of Carolina of 1663 the eight men who sought to cultivate and use the land of the present-day North and South Carolina received powers not dissimilar from that of a vice-regal representative, able to manage their affairs as they best saw fit.[8] These men were significant figures in British society, consisting of a duke, three earls, a baron, and three knights, and were each presented with the title of Lord Proprietor by King Charles II.[9] All of the original Lords Proprietors were armigerous, with their arms being the first heraldic bearings associated with the Province of Carolina.[10]

Arms of the Province of Carolina

Dating 1663, the arms of the Province of Carolina (**Figure 1**) were designed by Thomas Simon, chief engraver of the mint, and were displayed prominently on the province's seal. Impressions of the seal used by the Lord Proprietors survive on a wide array of letters patent, grants of land, and other official documentation.[11] The first appearance of these arms on an object other than a seal came in 1709, accompanying a newly published map of the province.[12] With all of the aforementioned depictions, the arms were only ever displayed monochromatically (either via relief on physical objects or ink on paper representations), without even heraldic hatching, and the majority of depictions since have continued in similar vein. The first colourized version of the arms is found on a map produced in 1711. While it is not clear if the colours used in that depiction are accurate to the wishes and intentions of the Lord Proprietors, the dedication of the map to them suggests their cognisance.[13] This cartograph, being the only documented example of the arms in colour provides crucial evidence.

The arms contain many of the same references and allegories as other arms and seals of British lands in the New World. Notably, they share many similarities with those of Jamaica, which came into use just one year previously, in 1662.[14] The use of cornucopias went on to become popular in American arms to illustrate the bountiful land of the settlement.[15] The motto, '*domitus cultoribus orbus*', which translates 'tamed by the cultivators of the world', reflects the justifications made for colonial authority, and especially the notion that Native Americans had not been making proper use of the fertile land on which they lived.[16] The buck on the crest may be an allusion to the arms of the City and Corporation of Raleigh in Virginia, the first English colony in North America,

[8] The Avalon Project at the Lillian Gold Law Library: King Charles II, 'Charter of Carolina' (1663).
[9] Office of the North Carolina House Principal Clerk, 'Tapestries in House Chamber: coats of arms of eight Lords Proprietors' (2004), p. 7.
[10] Office of the North Carolina House Principal Clerk, op. cit., pp. 6–7.
[11] Benjamin Justice, 'The art of coining Christians: Indians and authority in the iconography of British Atlantic colonial seals, 1606–1767', *Journal of British Studies* vol. 61 (2022), pp. 124–126.
[12] University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library VC970.2 L42 c.2: John Lawson, 'Lawson map of North Carolina' (London, 1709).
[13] Edward Crisp et al., *Complete description of the province of Carolina in 3 parts* (London, 1711).
[14] Justice, op. cit., pp. 123–124.
[15] Ben Marsh, 'The meanings of Georgia's eighteenth-century great seals', *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* vol. 96 no. 2 (2012), p. 203.
[16] Justice, op. cit., p. 124.

located on land which would later become part of the Province of Carolina.[17] It is the use of Native Americans as supporters, though, that is the most richly symbolic aspect. A Native American of Manhattan later went on to feature in the 1686 seal of New York City, while New York and other colonies used supporters of non-native men and women; but the depiction of a family unit was unique, and has drawn various interpretations, including a wish to represent something distinctive and local, to signal the stability of society, or indeed the bringing of tribute.[18]

The Nobility and the Fundamental Constitutions

While the Lords Proprietors had significant authority over the Province of Carolina, there was uncertainty about how the province would be administered, and how the new nobility would be structured. Enlisting the assistance of philosopher John Locke, the Lords Proprietors crafted a founding document for the province called the *Fundamental Constitutions*, which was implemented in early 1669 (although the Carolinian Assembly never ratified them). While the document contained sections addressing almost every aspect of life in the province, it also created a new system of nobility unique to the Province of Carolina.[19]

Below the Lords Proprietors there was to be a hereditary nobility, styled as landgraves (a German title, the feminine form being landgravine), with similar standing to earls in England.[20] Landgraves were to receive a significant amount of land, usually more than 48,000 contiguous acres for which they would hold the responsibility for farming, administration, and other economic activity.[21] There was to be only one landgrave per county. It was stipulated that upon the death of a Lord Proprietor with no suitable heir one of the landgraves would be chosen by the remaining Lords Proprietors to assume the vacant role and title. Below landgraves, and with a status similar to that of a viscount ,were cassiques (also spelt caziques and caciques). Two cassiques were to be created per county, and by extension, per landgrave, with similar responsibilities to the landgraves, and a grant of land consisting of approximately 24,000 acres.[22]

These two main categories of nobility, landgrave and cassique, were granted seats in the provincial parliament, and they thus often took on various legislative duties. Below the higher nobility were the lesser titles of baron, and of lord of the manor. Each county was to be divided into eight 12,000-acre baronies. Of those, four were to be directly subservient to the landgrave of the county, with the remaining four assigned to the two cassiques. Lords of a manor were to have contiguous landholdings of between 3,000 and 12,000 acres.[23] Neither barons nor lords of the manor have been identified in the surviving records, and indeed very few individuals ever received titles of nobility.[24]

[17] Woodcock and Robinson, op. cit., p. 156; John D. Neville and National Park Service, 'Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, North Carolina, The First English Colony' https://www.nps.gov/fora/learn/education/the-first-english-colony.htm

[18] Two particularly noteworthy sources on this topic are: John Bryan Grimes, *The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina: 1666-1909* (Raleigh, 1916), p. 4.; Justice, op. cit., pp. 123–125.

[19] Julian Vic Brandt, 'The curious Carolina nobility', *Charleston Mercury* (Charleston, 2020).

[20] John Locke, 'The fundamental constitutions of Carolina' (1669); CA Ms I 9, f. 200: 'Robes and insignia of the nobles of the province of Carolina' (1705).

[21] Brandt, op. cit.

[22] Locke, op. cit.; Brandt, op. cit.

[23] Locke, op. cit.

[24] Brandt, op. cit.

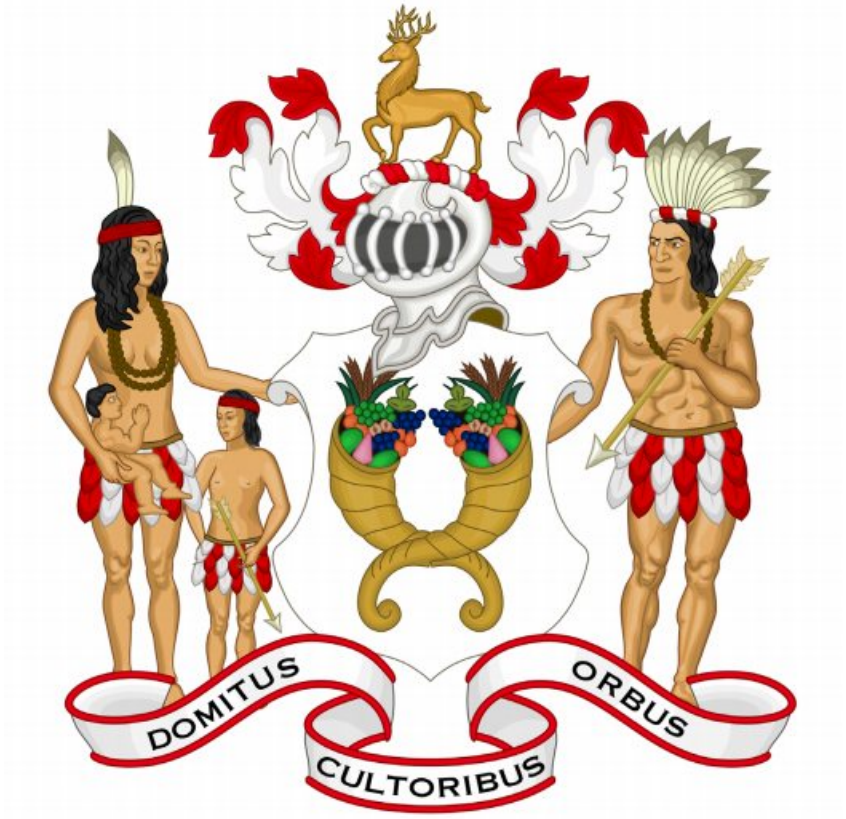

Figure 1: arms of the Province of Carolina, source: Wikimedia Commons.

Blazon of the arms of the Province of Carolina
Arms: *Argent two cornucopias proper in saltire, mouths upwards*
Crest: *A buck trippant*
Supporters: *On the dexter side a Native American woman proper girt about her waist with feathers alternately gules and argent, on her head a feather, holding a baby in her arms, and at her side a small Native American boy holding an arrow all proper; On the sinister side a Native American man proper, girt about his waist with feathers alternately gules and argent, on his head a crown of feathers, and holding a large arrow, all proper.*
Motto: '*Domitus cultoribus orbis.*'[25]

[25] The general blazon for the arms of the Province of Carolina was extracted from: Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, *The Book of Public Arms* (London, 1915), p. 158.; with modifications made based on additional depictions and modern sensibilities. The additional depiction utilized to establish the tinctures was: Crisp et al., *op. cit.* Various sources were also used to verify the blazon, including: CA Ms I 9, f. 194: 'The arms, Crest and Supporters of the province of Carolina drawn from the impression of the Great Seal of that province' (1705); Grimes, op. cit., pp. 4–5; South Carolina Department of Archives and History P 900099-3: The Lords Proprietors of Carolina, 'Great Seal of the Lords Proprietors' (1672); His Majesty's Stationery Office, *Flags, Badges, and Arms of the British Dominions Beyond the Seas* vol. II (Arms) (London, 1910), p. 33(a).

Figure 2: left: pendant insignia of the Carolinian ruling elite; middle: the Cap of Honour of Landgraves and Cassiques; right: associated neck ribbon and collar.

Laurence Cromp, Carolina Herald

In order to implement the newly created system of nobility in the Province of Carolina Laurence Cromp, at the time York Herald, was selected in 1705 to serve as the Province of Carolina's principal herald by the Lords Proprietors. Before this post Cromp had begun his career as a herald-painter in Worcester, before joining the College of Arms as Portcullis Pursuivant in 1690. He was promoted York Herald in 1700.[26] Appointed on 1 June 1705 as Carolina Herald, Cromp would be responsible for the investiture of the Carolinian nobility, granting arms to individuals residing within the Province of Carolina, and prosecuting those seeking to usurp another's legitimate arms. Presumably it was in order to carry out the prosecutorial aims of his position that Cromp was additionally appointed as "President of [the Lord Proprietors'] Court of Honour", though whether this Court was ever formed or convened is unknown.[27] His work as Carolina Herald will be explored further, with the two grants he created discussed, and the various insignia to be used by him described.

Included within Cromp's letters patent creating him as Carolina Herald was the creation of insignia for members of the Carolinian nobility, sometimes referred to as the Order of the Sun of Carolina.[28] In all likelihood this was intended as a badge of rank or office for Carolina's nobility, intended to be worn by landgraves and cassiques. The insignia comprised a purple ribbon (or sash) with a sun pendant attached, and a gold collar with the same pendant (**Figure 2**). They provided a means of visual recognition for these noblemen. There does not appear to be any distinction made between the purple ribbon and the gold chain, suggesting that a nobleman could choose to wear either depending on the occasion.[29]

The quasi-order was given a motto: '*viditque deus hanc lucem esse bonam*'(And

[26] Godfrey and Wagner, op. cit., pp. 182–193.

[27] South Caroliniana Library 63670781: The Lords Proprietors of Carolina, 'Carolina herald appointment of Laurence Cromp' (1705).

[28] Hugh Brogan and Charles Mosley, *American Presidential Families* (New York, 1993), p. 758.

[29] The Lords Proprietors of Carolina, op. cit.

God saw the light that it was good).[30] This likely refers to the belief that the colonisation of the New World was not only a noble endeavour, but one which pleased God, and thus served to convey divine approval to both the Province of Carolina and to those who would lead it. The pendant suspended from both forms, the sun in its splendour, with a motto surrounding it, serves as one of the few elements that remained consistent in its visual depictions across the various letters patent issued by and for Cromp.[31]

A badge of the Carolinian nobility was also to be used in the heraldic achievements of landgraves and cassiques since, as specified in the patent, the arms Cromp granted were to have their shields placed "upon the Face of the Sun in its Glory."[32] Using the sun as a heraldic badge upon which the arms were placed may also prove an interesting connection to the College of Arms, considering Cromp's previous post as York Herald (which uses a rose upon a sun as the badge of office), but it could just as likely be a coincidence. The specifics surrounding this badge, though, are unknown. Considering the two documented grants of arms issued by Cromp, it may have been intended to be borne only by landgraves and cassiques, similar to the use of supporters by peers in the United Kingdom.[33] But with only grants made to members of the new Carolinian nobility, and with little evidence providing insight into Cromp's thoughts on the matter, it is unclear whether the intention was to grant arms upon the sun badge to other prominent Carolinians who were not nobility.

An alternative interpretation would be that the sun badge was not intended to act as an adorning badge in the traditional sense, but to act as a regional identifier, differentiating arms granted in the Province of Carolina from those granted in the United Kingdom.[34] This theory is supported by a depiction in **Figure 3** showing the sun badge used by an heir of a landgrave. The eldest sons of peers in the United Kingdom bearing courtesy titles may not use supporters, and it would follow that Cromp, having experience as an English officer of arms, would abide by the same principles.[35]

It is unknown to what extent Cromp was involved in the design or establishment of the insignia that he was charged with regulating, to what extent this system of heraldry was ever utilized in Carolina, and whether either the Lords Proprietors or Cromp ever produced any of the insignia depicted. Cromp's involvement in the design is questionable since the descriptions of the insignia within the patent creating Carolina Herald do not conform to the rules of blazonry, most notably concerning the names of tinctures, which would be surprising for an individual with as much heraldic experience as a sitting officer of arms.[36]

[30] *Fairbairn,* vol. 2, p. 88.

[31] See: The Lords Proprietors of Carolina, op. cit.; State Archives of North Carolina PC.450: Laurence Cromp, 'Manuscript copy of Christopher de Graffenried's grant of arms by Carolina Herald' (1709); CA Ms I 9, f. 200.

[32] The Lords Proprietors of Carolina, op. cit.

[33] Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry* (London, 1909), pp. 419–420.

[34] outh Carolina Genealogical Society, 'Carolina Heraldry', *The Carolina Herald,* vol. 1, no. 2 (1972).

[35] Fox-Davies, *A Complete Guide,* op. cit., pp. 424–425.

[36] Ibid.

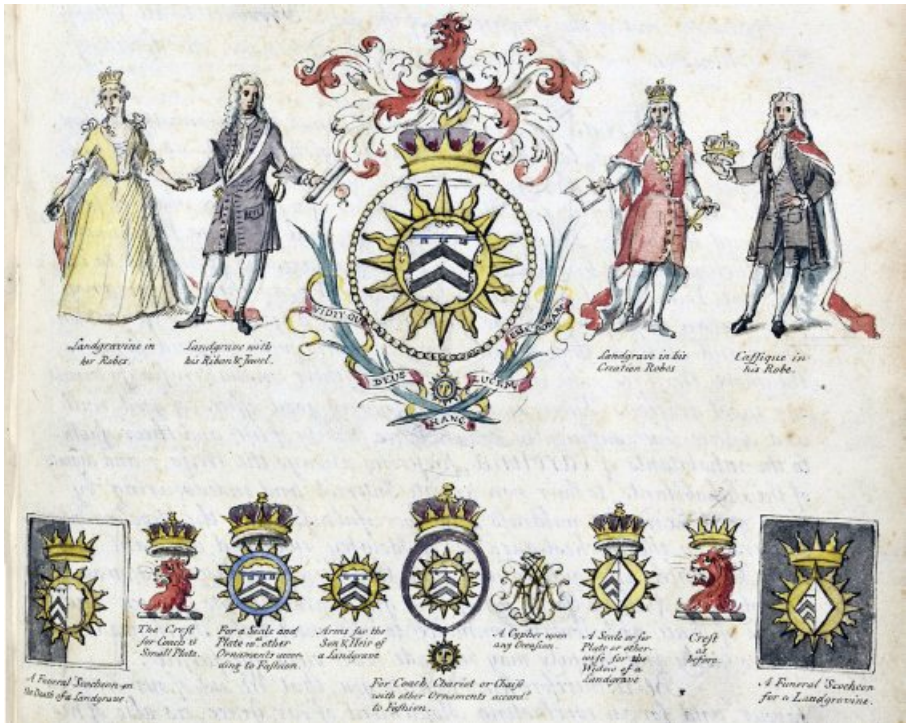

Figure 3: Robes and insignia of the nobility of the Province of Carolina. Courtesy of the College of Arms, MS I. 9, fol. 200r. Reproduced by permission of the Kings, Heralds, and Pursuivants of Arms.

Blazon of the insignia of the Carolinian Nobility
Pendant Insignia: *The sun in its glory [with sixteen rays alternating straight and wavy] or and about the face of said sun an annulus azure fimbriated and inscribed with the words 'vidit que deus hanc lucem esse bonam' or.*
Ribbon Insignia: *A neck ribbon purpure with as a pendant the Pendant Insignia.*
Chain Insignia: *A chain collar or with as a pendant the Pendant Insignia.*
Badge: *The sun in its glory [with sixteen rays alternating straight and wavy] or.*[37]

Blazon of the Cap of Honour of Landgraves and Cassiques
Cap of Honour: *A coronet of eight rays alternating straight and wavy or with a cap purpure turned up with ermine and surmounted by a tassel or.*
Coronet: *A coronet of eight rays alternating straight and wavy or.*[38]

[37] The general description was extracted from: The Lords Proprietors of Carolina, 'Carolina herald appointment of Laurence Cromp'; with modifications made to conform to the regulations of blazonry. Additionally consulted to ensure accuracy were Cromp, op. cit., and CA Ms I 9, f. 200.
[38] No textual description or blazon was provided for the Cap of Honor of Landgraves and Cassiques; thus the following sources additional to those in n. 40 were consulted in the creation of the blazon and visual depiction: Graffenried, op. cit., p. 185; and, The Lords Proprietors of Carolina, op. cit.

Moreover, as a result of these imprecise descriptions of the insignia, it has been difficult to ascertain precisely how such insignias, chains, and caps of honour would have been depicted in reality. It is based on consulting various letters patent, depictions of landgraves' arms, and wax seals from the time that the depictions of the insignia have been created which appear below.

Whether the scheme was ever properly implemented is to be doubted. Several published armorials have included at least one entry with an individual's arms being placed on the pendant insignia of the Carolinian nobility, although Carolina is never mentioned.[39] The publication of these armorials was a significant time after the Carolina Herald went into abeyance, and so the reliability of such depictions is unclear. Cromp's appointment, and the office of Carolina Herald, did not last long. In June of 1715 Cromp died, insolvent, with no replacement ever being appointed.[40] Whether or not this was in part due to the Lords Proprietors being displeased with the performance of Carolina Herald remains unknown, but given the multitude of issues facing the Province of Carolina at the time, including a war against the Yamassee tribes in 1715, and an armed rebellion against the Proprietary government in 1719, it is more than likely that filling the office was simply not a priority.[41] Few records appear to have been created by Cromp during his tenure as Carolina Herald, and even fewer have survived to the present day in libraries, special collections, or archives.

Grants of arms

Despite some previous sources finding no evidence that Cromp created any letters patent during his time as Carolina Herald, it has been possible to identify two instances, one a grant of arms (to Landgrave Christopher de Graffenreid, Baron of Bernberg), and the other a confirmation of armorial bearings (to Landgrave Abel Ketelby).[42] The heraldic achievements of these two noblemen, depicted in **Figure 4**, provide illustrations of the unique badge and cap of honour granted to members of the Carolinian nobility.

Landgrave Christopher de Graffenried, Baron of Bernberg

Christopher de Graffenried was a nobleman from Switzerland, also holding the title of 1st Baron of Bernberg, on whom was bestowed the title of landgrave by the Lords Proprietors on 8 July 1709.[43] Shortly after his creation as landgrave, he was granted arms by Cromp in letters patent dated 8 August 1709, which served as a matriculation of the arms he used as Baron of Bernberg, but with the addition of the sun in its splendour as an adorning badge and the cap of honour of a landgrave placed above the escutcheon (**Figures 4b** and **5**).[44]

[39] Blazons depicting the badge of the Carolinian nobility used to adorn coats of arms can be found in: Fairbairn, op. cit., p. 88.; Walter Isaacson, *The British Herald* vol. 2 (Sunderland, 1830), p. 423.

[40] Godfrey and Wagner, op. cit.

[41] David M. Ramsay, *Ramsay's History of South Carolina* (Newberry, S.C., 1858), p. 31.

[42] Brandt, op. cit.; Joseph I. Waring, 'The Carolina Herald', *The South Carolina Historical Magazine* vol. 72 no. 3 (1971); Woodcock and Robinson, op. cit., p. 159.

[43] State Archives of North Carolina PC.450: The Lords Proprietors of Carolina, 'Original patent from the Lords Proprietors creating de Graffenried a landgrave of Carolina' (1709). Special thanks to the State Archives of North Carolina for its assistance in procuring this document.

[44] Cromp, op. cit.

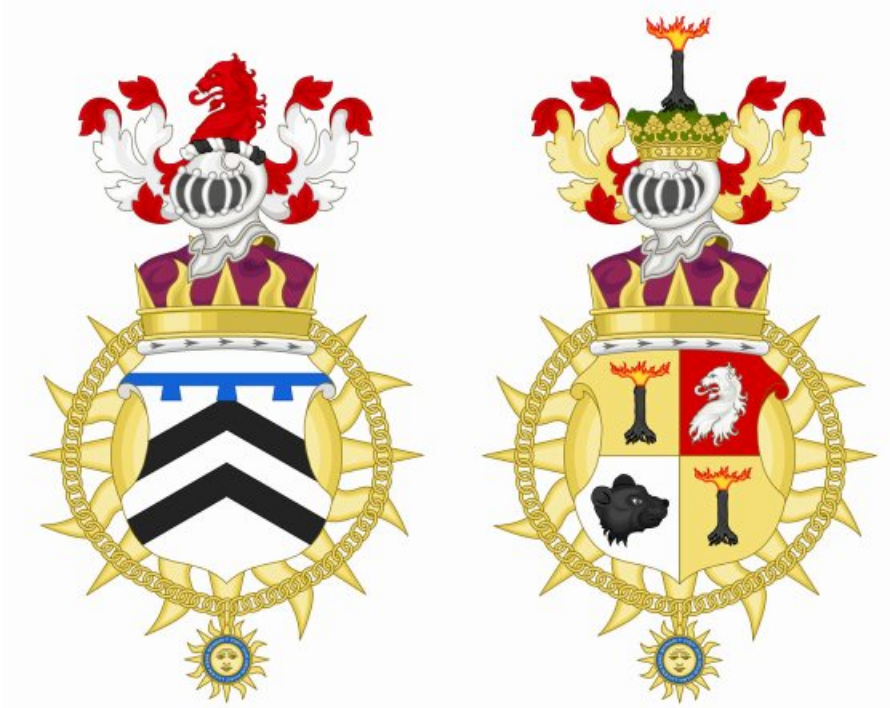

Figure 4, left, 4a: arms confirmed to Landgrave Abel Ketelby; right, 4b: arms granted to Landgrave Christopher de Graffenried, Baron of Bernberg, utilizing the heraldic elements as befitting of their titles and status. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Blazon of the arms of Landgrave Abel Ketelby
Arms: *Argent two chevrons sable a label of three points azure*.
Crest: *A lion's head erased gules*.
Adorned: *The arms placed upon the face of the sun in its glory.*[45]

Blazon of the arms of Landgrave Christopher de Graffenried, Baron of Bernberg
Arms: *Quarterly: first and fourth the ancient arms of his family (Or a ragged staff in pale and fired at the top proper); second, Gules a lion's head erased argent; third, Argent a bear's head erased sable.*
Crest: *Out of a ducal coronet a trimount vert and upon it a ragged staff in pale and fired at the top proper.*
Adorned: *The arms placed upon the face of the sun in its glory.*[46]

[45] The blazon for the arms of Landgrave Abel Ketelbey was extracted from: Robert Tresswell and Augustine Vincent, *The Visitation of Shropshire taken in the year 1623* vol. 2 (London, 1889); with the visual representation based on the depiction in: CA Ms I 9, f. 200.
[46] The blazon for the arms of Landgrave Christopher de Graffenried was extracted from: Cromp, op. cit.; with the Crest being that of the de Graffenried family as used by Christopher de Graffenried: Graffenried, op. cit. Where differences exist between the blazon presented in the letters patent issued by the Carolina Herald and other sources, the blazon in the letters patent was given precedence.

Figure 5: Manuscript copy of the grant of arms to Landgrave Christopher de Graffenreid by Carolina Herald. Courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina.

It was these arms that Graffenried would utilize for the remainder of his life, seemingly preferring the landgrave's cap of honour, reflecting his New World exploits and achievements, to the baronial coronet of his homeland.

Landgrave Graffenried made considerable use of his new heraldic bearings, with several notable uses of his arms, adorning badge, and complete achievement in Carolina and Switzerland. While Graffenried was in Carolina, he often carried a necklace with his arms displayed on a gold sun and, in at least one instance, impressed members of a local Native American tribe with the piece.[47] However, it is unclear from historical sources whether these arms were displayed on a landgrave's adorning badge (sun in its splendour) or the pendent of the Carolinian nobility (sun in its splendour with an annulet *azure* and motto *or*). Graffenried additionally had a seal commissioned utilizing the heraldic achievement granted to him by Carolina Herald, displaying both the adorning badge and cap of honour prominently and using it on various personal and official documents as landgrave.[48] Nevertheless, the most elaborate use of Landgrave Graffenried's achievement came after his death in the form of a memorial in his ancestral hometown. Located in the Reformed Church in Worb (in the canton of Bern, Switzerland) and installed in 1926 by one of the Landgrave's descendants, the stained glass window prominently displays Graffenried's arms displayed upon a sun within a mantle and the crest upon a baronial coronet.[49] While the mantle, coloured *or* and lined *gules*, does not appear in any of the letters patent issued by Cromp, the remainder of the achievement serves as one of the most extravagant depictions of a landgrave's heraldic achievement still in existence.

Landgrave Abel Ketelby

Much less is known about Abel Ketelby, with little material available to document his life before he was created a landgrave on 24 March 1709.[50] His arms appear in the most comprehensive reference document on Carolina heraldry endorsed by Cromp (**Figure 3**). Such a prominent depiction suggests that he was of some importance either to the Lords Proprietors or to Carolina Herald personally. This document has served as the foundation for much of our current understanding on the topic of Carolina heraldry with its depiction of different styles of achievements for landgraves and cassiques.

An interesting aspect of Ketelby's arms is that they were passed on through his daughter to the Rundle family.[51] The Rundles quartered *Argent two chevrons sable,* but which the label unaccountably modified to one of eight points, the whole "enclosed by a garter, irradiated by sixteen rays of a star or, the garter [azure] bearing the words, in gold letters, *Viditque Deus hanc lucem esse bonam*"(**Figure 6a**).[52] Though minor errors in the blazon of the achievement were made, such as describing the annulet as a garter, the arms registered in the roll contain key hallmarks of those of a landgrave or cassique. Here is a rare instance in which the motto of the Carolinian nobility was published and associated

[47] S. M. Brinson, 'The early history of Craven county', *The North Carolina Booklet* vol. X no. 4 (1911), p. 184.

[48] Graffenried, op. cit., p. 185.

[49] A photograph of the window is lodged in the Berne Burgerbibliothek, Ref FN.K.A. 1101.

[50] CA Ms I 9, ff. 200-201: The Lords Proprietors of Carolina, 'Letters Patent of the Proprietors of Carolina creating Abel Ketelbey a landgrave' (1709). Special thanks to Thomas Johnston, Rouge Croix Pursuivant, for his assistance in procuring this document.

[51] Woodcock and Robinson, op. cit., p. 160.

[52] *BGA* under Rundle.

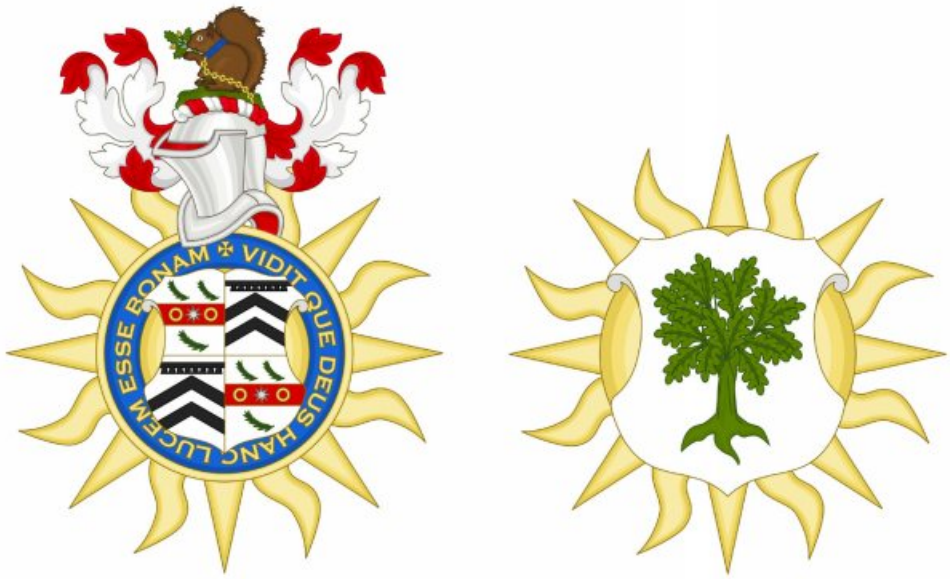

Figure 6, left, 6a: published arms of Rundle; right, 6b: assumed arms of the South Carolina Genealogical Society. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

with heraldic bearings, albeit not with the Carolinian nobility explicitly.[53]

Carolina as a crown colony and beyond

Following the transition of the former Province of Carolina (split into the Provinces of North and South Carolina in 1712) away from proprietorship and towards its new status as a crown colony, the College of Arms once again assumed sole heraldic authority over the divided Province of Carolina.[54] The case of the Ketelby arms may suggest that the College was prepared to recognise at least some of the bearings granted by the Carolina Herald. The number of subsequent patents granted was very limited,[55] while the unique heraldic traditions of the province have fallen mostly to history.

It has been speculated that the heraldic traditions of Carolina influenced the short-lived Confederate States of America, with symbolism seen on one of their flags. The proposed flag, submitted for consideration in 1862, contained a blue escutcheon charged with a golden sun in the centre, utilizing the same colours and symbolism as was present in the Province of Carolina. Of some interest in the draft bill establishing this flag is the symbolism included, which includes mention that "the sun manifests… dominion, generosity and stability", language not dissimilar from the mottos of both the Province of Carolina and the Carolinian nobility. Some historians have taken this line of thinking further, theorizing that perhaps, had this design been adopted, the insignia of the

[53] *Fairbairn*, vol. 2, p. 88.
[54] South Carolina Genealogical Society, 'Carolina Heraldry', *The Carolina Herald*.
[55] Woodcock and Robinson, op. cit., pp. 161–164.

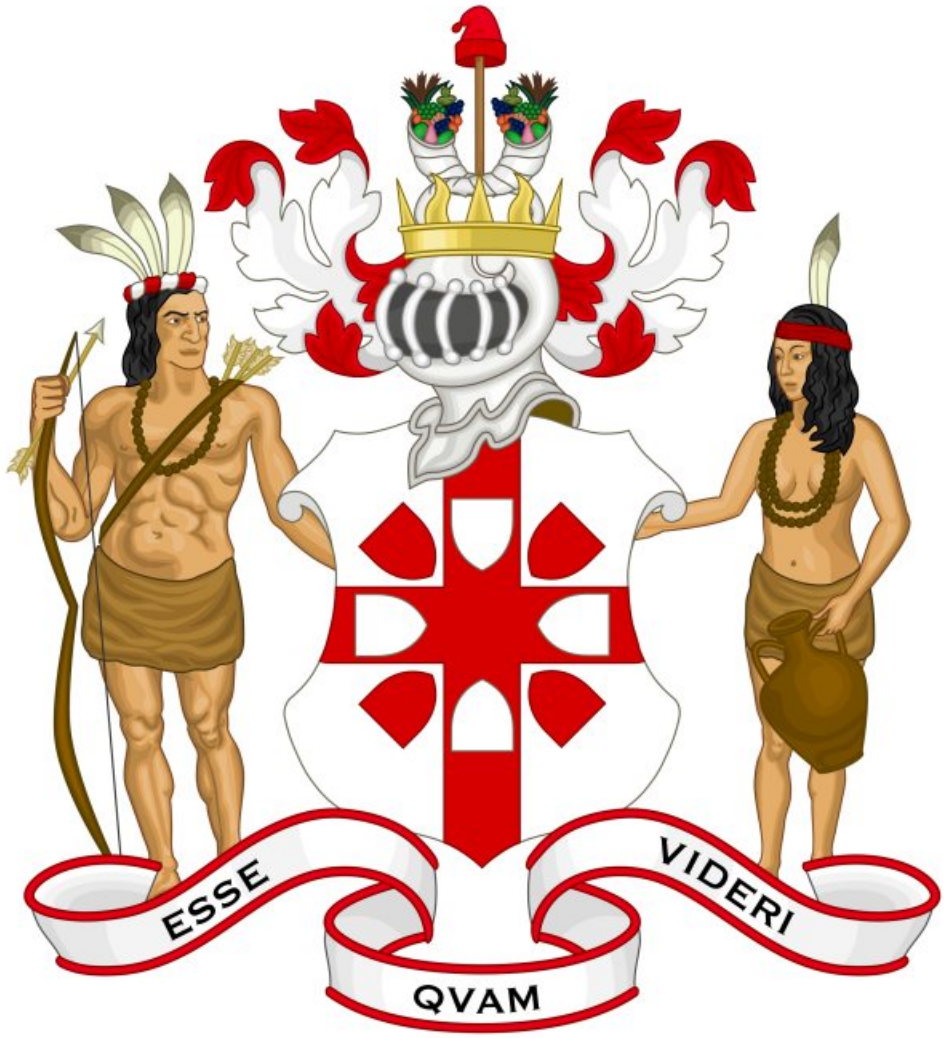

Figure 7: Coat of arms granted to the Senate of the State of North Carolina. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Carolinian nobility might have been used to establish a decoration or order of merit in the Confederate States of America.[56]

The tradition of placing one's arms on a sun has not been completely lost in the years since the dissolution of the Province of Carolina. In 1972 the South Carolina Genealogical Society opted to utilize this tradition in preparing the organization's assumed arms, placing the shield (*Argent a tree vert*) upon the same sixteen-rayed gold

[56] Brogan and Mosley, op. cit., p. 763.

sun (***Figure 6*b**).[57]Another interesting use of the heraldic elements of the Province of Carolina can be seen in the arms of the Senate of North Carolina (***Figure 7***). Granted in 2005 by the College of Arms, the heraldic achievement uses several features of both the arms of the Province of Carolina and of those elements used by Carolina Herald. The crest of the achievement prominently features two cornucopias in saltire, taken from the escutcheon of the arms of the province. The use of red and white as the achievement's main tinctures is also retained, as is the inclusion of Native Americans although their placement, clothing, and accoutrements have been changed. Finally, the coronet used on the arms directly correlates with that used by landgraves and cassiques, information on which has been preserved in the College of Arms archive.[58]

Despite the significant amount of time since the office of Carolina Herald was left unfilled, there is some interest in the possibility of bringing back the office to regulate heraldry in the Carolinas, and to provide a heraldic authority in the United States. The idea of bringing the office out of abeyance has been discussed primarily within the framework of an interstate compact encompassing both North and South Carolina. Under this basis the Carolina Herald, renamed to the Carolina Heraldic Authority, would grant arms to United States citizens by classifying them as personal decorations or honours (since titles of nobility are prohibited in the United States) and would be protected by trademark and copyright law. Nevertheless, while existing research points to a legal means of calling the office out of abeyance, there has been little public interest for such an authority to exist. Despite some public interest surrounding heraldry, especially as the internet makes heraldic resources more accessible, the desire for such regulation appears minimal, with little enthusiasm for creating another ancillary governmental entity.[59]

Conclusion

Carolina Herald, serving as the first and only officer of arms in what is now the United States, inhabits a unique place in the heraldic history of the country, but it is one now largely overlooked. Despite this fact the office has had an impact on history which is still being felt. It is hoped that further research in archives may lead to the discovery of additional grants or other documentation that would help to illuminate the brief North American career of Laurence Cromp as Carolina Herald.

[57] South Carolina Genealogical Society, 'Front Matter', *The Carolina Herald*, vol. 1, no. 1 (1972).

[58] College of Arms, 'Senate of North Carolina', *Newsletter* no. 8 (2006).

[59] 'A Southern call to arms: an armorial compact', *William Mitchell Law Review* vol. 16 no. 5 (1990).