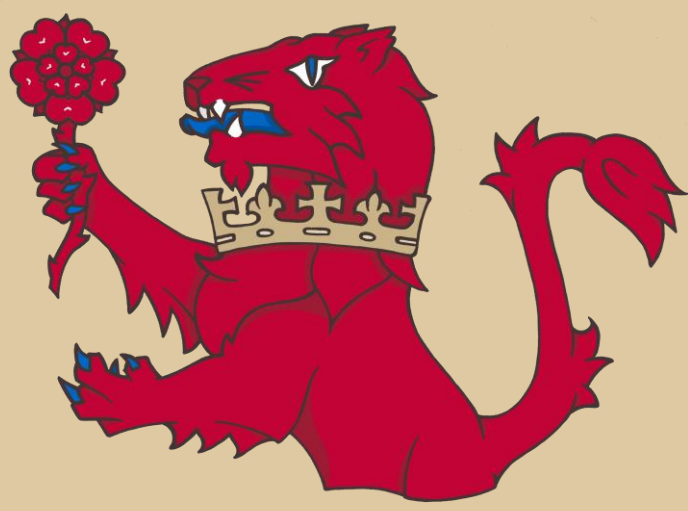




The Symbols of Scotland



The National Flag
A symbol of allegiance
available for anyone to use



The National Banner
To identify the monarch's
authority

The Purpose of Heraldry

Heraldry is a centuries old system of graphic design, focussed on symbolism and visibility. It developed when it was vital to communicate identity on the mediæval battlefield. Such symbols would allow people to be identified individually, or to show their allegiance to a lord or nation. On the battlefield it was important for leaders to not be mistaken, hence why the Lion Rampant was only for use by the monarch. Whereas the Saltire was a symbol that could be used to show national unity.

Symbols had existed earlier, such as Roman military eagles, but heraldry developed a legal character. Symbols could be owned by individuals (or corporations) and inherited by direct descendants. After shields stopped being used on the battlefield, heraldry continued to be a popular way of showing identity. With visibility being less important, it became more fashionable for multiple shields to be displayed simultaneously in order to show the pedigree of individuals and their dynastic ties.

Heraldry continues to be popular today, allowing people to develop their own identity, demonstrate their heritage or bring communities together.

Anatomy of a Coat of Arms

A full coat of arms may be comprised of a number of elements, not all of which may be depicted.

Motto: Derived from the slogan war cries of old. Often the motto of an individual clansman will be a response the chief's motto. They are depicted on a scroll, usually above the shield in the arms of Scottish individuals.

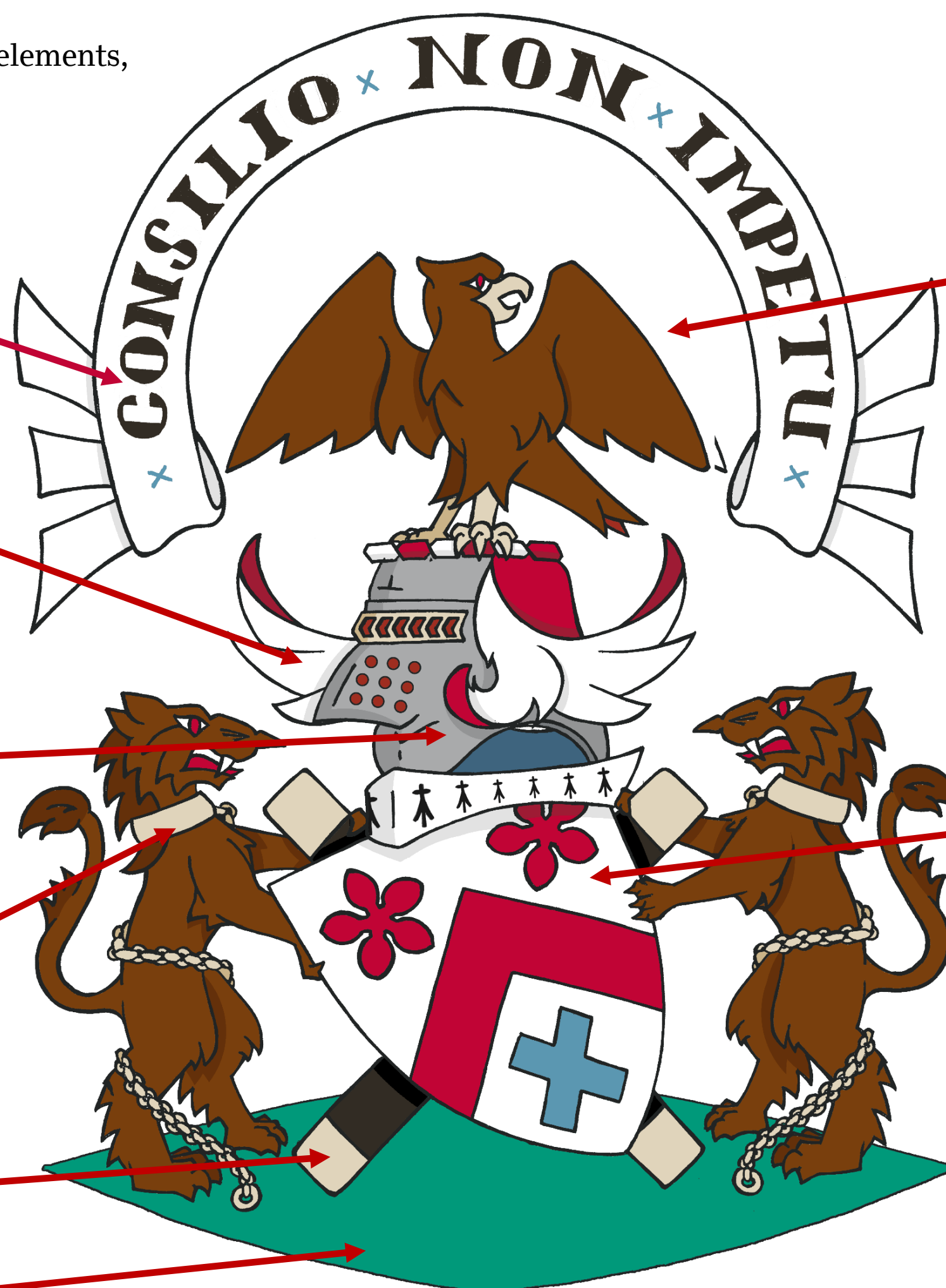
Mantling and Torse: The torse sits on the helm with mantling hanging from it. The fabric mantling kept the sun off the metal. They appear in the 'livery colours' which are the main 'metal' of white or gold and the other dominant colour. In this case the white of the shield and the red of the chevron.

Helm & Coronet: The style and ornamentation of the helm, and the type of any coronet present, may indicate the rank of the chief. In this case a baron.

Supporters: These are the people, beasts or objects that may sometimes be found beside the shield. These are only granted when certain conditions are met.

Insignia: Sometimes symbols are placed behind the shield to denote a public office or dignity. Here are the batons of an officer of arms.

Compartment: Supporters may stand on a piece of terrain, which may feature other symbols.



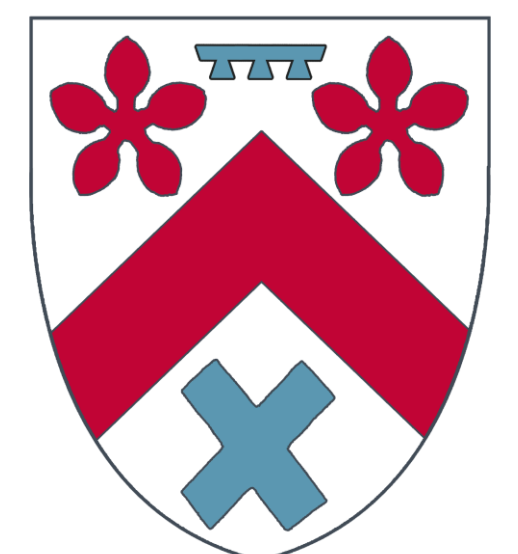
Arms of the Chief of Clan Agnew

Crest: Only the symbol at the top is called a crest. It comes from identifying knights in the days of jousting. In Scotland, a clan chief may allow clansmen to use the chief's crest when surrounded by a belt & buckle to indicate allegiance



Crest Badge of Clan Agnew

Shield: May only be used by the owner of the design. Direct descendants may be allowed to add a temporary label until they inherit the arms themselves as a courtesy.



Shield of the Chief's Heir

The design of arms are governed by various rules. For instance the rule of tincture governs colour. White and yellow must be used to separate other colours but may never be together themselves. In the white Agnew shield the shapes and symbols cannot be yellow, though yellow symbols could be added into the red chevron.

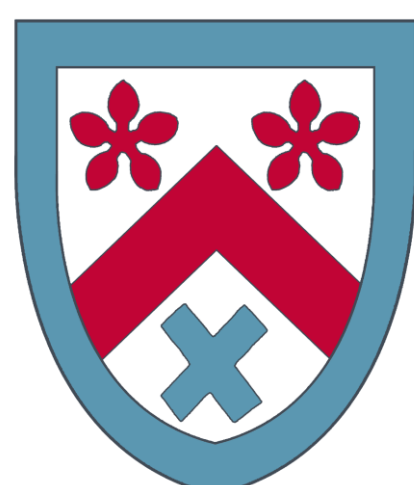
Heraldry in Scotland

A full coat of arms may be comprised of a number of elements,

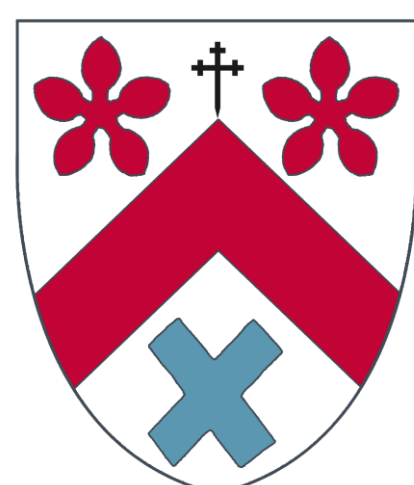
Scottish Characteristics

Scottish heraldry has many unique characteristics to it, including several graphical distinctions such the aforementioned placement of the motto. The way that arms are designed is also unique to Scotland. Scottish heraldry is designed to serve the clan system.

In England two individuals of the same surname could have completely different arms. In Scotland they are assumed to be apart of the same clan and will have arms that show a connection to that. Relatives with a proven connection to the Chief may have arms with fewer differences, like having a border, whilst others may have a greater difference, such as adding or swapping symbols and colours.



Agnew of Croach



Agnew of Sheuchan

The historic uptake of heraldry in Scotland has been noted as being particularly high as a percentage of population. This has likely been fuelled by the association with clans and the system of design unique to Scottish heraldry. Together with symbols like tartans, this has contributed to Scotland having one of the richest symbolic and ceremonial traditions in the world. The popularity of heraldry in Scotland continues to grow with record numbers of arms being legally registered with the Court of the Lord Lyon.



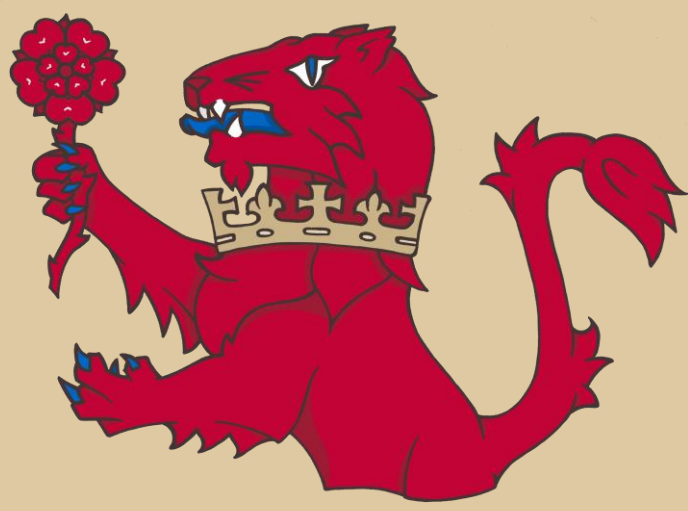
Philip Tibbetts
March Pursuivant Extraordinary
At the unveiling of a community flag

The Court of the Lord Lyon

Also known as the Lyon Court, this is the body responsible for recording and protecting the heraldic symbols of Scotland. It was established by the pre-union Scottish Government. The role of the head of the organisation, the Lord Lyon, is known to date back to the time of Robert the Bruce and likely earlier. This makes the Lyon Court one of the world's oldest intellectual property organisations and it still operates as an active legal court. The Court ensures that heraldry continues to be used in accordance with Scottish law and custom.

The Court also contributes to state ceremonial events in Scotland and beyond. In this capacity it attends such events as the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, opening of the Scottish Parliament and the Order of the Thistle service. The Lyon Court was on duty in Edinburgh and London to support the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II and the coronation of King Charles III. When on duty the officers of arms from the Lyon Court can be identified by their tabards featuring the Scottish royal arms; this tabard is the origin of the term 'coat of arms'.

As well as the Lord Lyon, the Court has a number of Officers of Arms; usually known collectively as heralds, there are separate ranks of heralds and pursuivants. Each herald has a historic office name, such as Unicorn Pursuivant. In 2021 Lockerbie resident, Philip Tibbetts, was appointed as the March Pursuivant Extraordinary. The office, which dates back to 1515 and whose badge features at the top of these boards, is named for the border marches of the South of Scotland. Philip's role is to support local communities across Scotland in developing their own official symbols, especially town and county 'community flags' for the use of the public, like the Saltire.



Arms In and Around Annandale

Local Heroes

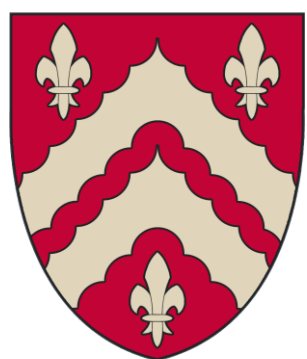
The Upland Marches of the South of Scotland have been an important place for the use and development of the nation's heraldic character. Much of this was due to being the country's principal military frontier at a time when battlefield identification was crucial. From here both the defence of the nation and marshalling for attacks into England would be undertaken. The wide use of heraldry is shown here in Dumfriesshire, where the siege of Caerlaverock Castle in 1300 saw a major documentation of heraldic bearings. The complex allegiances on both sides of the border saw arms of both English invaders and their local Scots allies recorded.

In addition to the practical importance of heraldry, the families that controlled territories here and contributed to the defence of the nation received significant political and social power. Heraldry became a way of signifying the power of a family. Initially this could be done through signifying allegiance through the design of your arms and later by marshalling different designs into one shield in order to demonstrate how broad a pedigree an individual may have.

Reiver Shields

Examples of the historic arms of families and clans in and around Annandale.

Some like Corrie had several different variations in mediæval sources. Others like Bruce and Carruthers would change as the Chiefship moved to different branches of the family.



Current Chiefly Arms for Clan Carruthers
Carruthers of Holmains

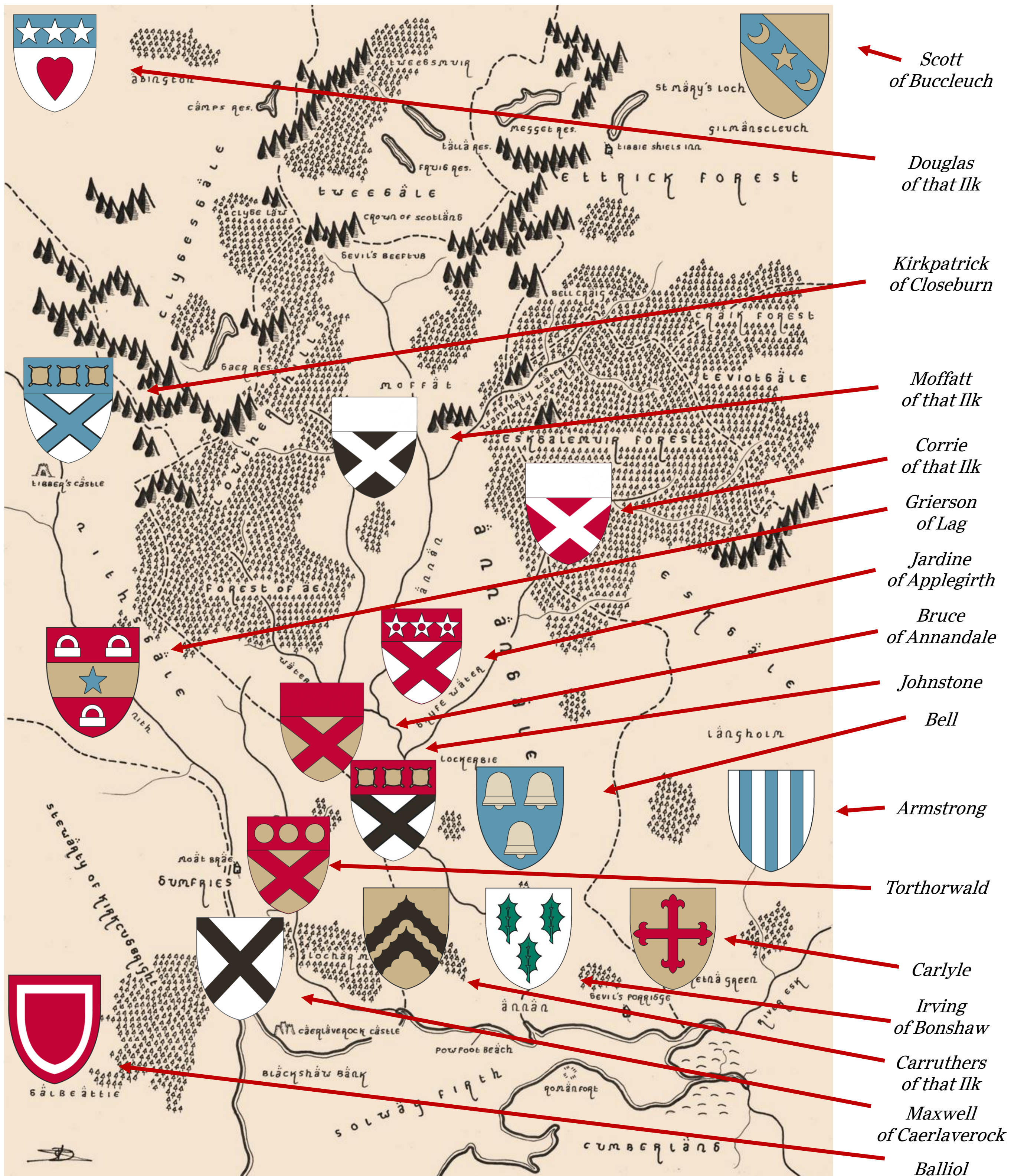
Early heraldry was focussed on graphical distinctiveness and as such designs are quite basic; focussing on simple symbols or geometric shapes and few colours.

The importance of the Bruce family can be seen in the way many of the neighbouring families of mid- and upper-Annandale emulated the saltire and chief design of their arms. This was done to either show allegiance or signify comparable strength. Kirkpatrick uses this same format but interestingly uses a colour scheme evocative of the nearby Douglas'.

In addition to English and Scottish international warfare, the local inter-clan rivalries led to development of Reiver warfare. Such as the great rivalry of the Johnstones in Annandale with the Maxwells in Nithsdale, which lead to the bloody Battle of Dryfe Sands just to the west of Lockerbie. These reiver families continued to make such symbols of identity and allegiance important on and off the battlefield.

This symbolic show of allegiance or emulation might only last for so long. Despite the similar design of their shields, Clan Johnstone and Moffat would have a fierce feud resulting in the former almost wiping out the latter.

Annandale Map background courtesy of
Dan Bell from Fellographer.com



An Eternal Legacy

Even after the union of the crowns brought peace to the marches, the continuing local appetite for heraldry is prominently seen in the regions graveyards. Hoddom has well signposted heraldry in its old graveyard but carved arms can be found in plenty more including but not limited to; Applegarth, Dalton, Dumfries, Ecclefechan, Hoddomcross and Kirkconnel.

Examples of this graveyard heraldry obviously do include the arms used by those with official heraldry. However there are also plenty of examples of unofficial heraldry used by the wider populace, showing the importance of heraldry across a wide spectrum of the populace.

This intense and broad use of heraldry prompted by the martial history of the area, prolonged over several centuries, is part of what makes the Upland Marches such a culturally distinct region of Scotland.

An example from Dalton Old Kirk
Can you identify the family it is associated with?

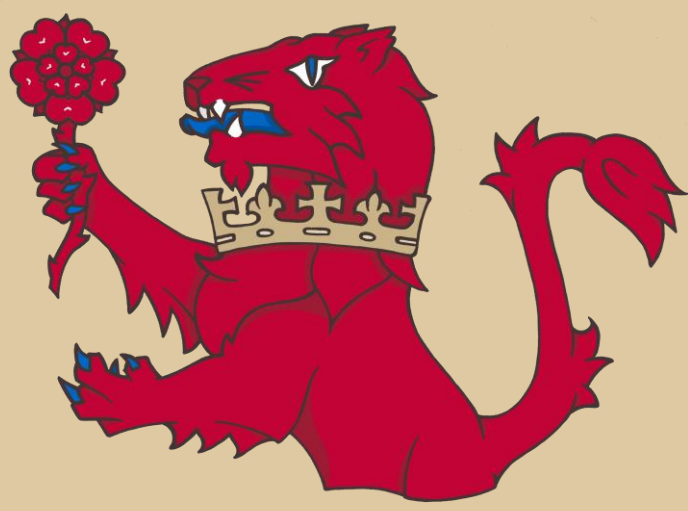


At the Lyon Court the current Linlithgow Pursuivant Extraordinary, Edinburgh law professor Dr Gillian Black, runs accounts dedicated to Scottish graveyard heraldry on social media. She finds the quantity and quality of such heraldry in the churchyards here to be nationally notable.

"Coats of Arms provide essential – and very poignant – evidence of the importance of heraldry over time. The graveyards of Dumfriesshire are exceptionally rich in excellent examples of shields, which have survived both war and Scottish weather"

Professor Gillian Black
Linlithgow Pursuivant Extraordinary

Answer:
Carruthers of Holmains

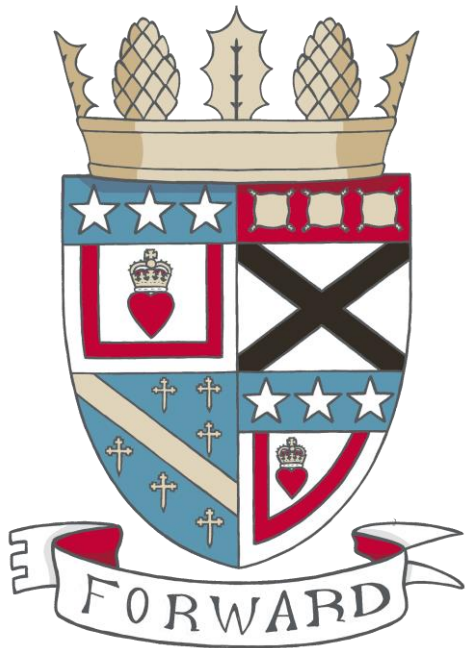


Unpicking Lockerbie's Heraldry

Spot the Difference

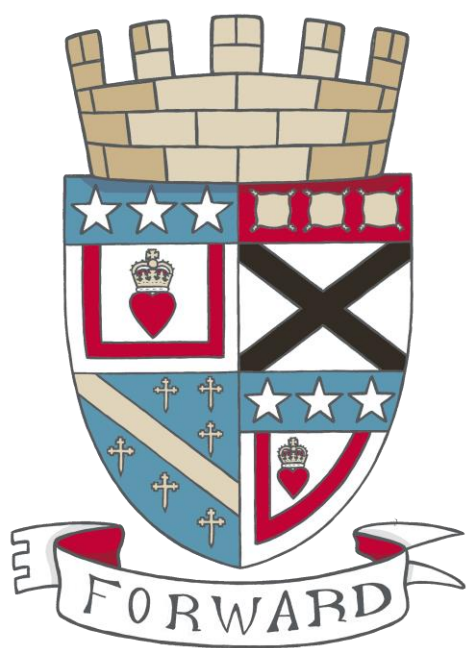
Step back through the stages of Lockerbie's coat of arms

2005-Current



These are Lockerbie's current official arms, which were regranted in 2005 after the town council was resurrected. The only change being a new coronet to denote the status of the new body as a community council.

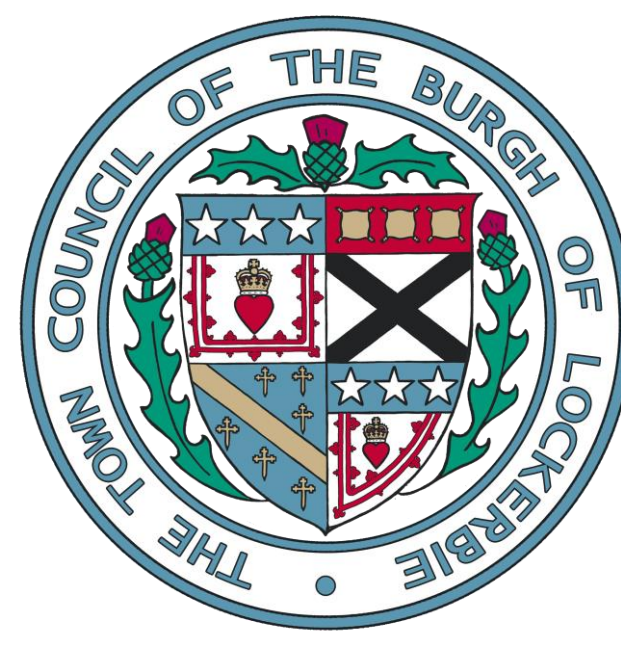
Like the lion rampant is for the Scottish crown, these arms are legally only for the use of the town council. Use of these arms implies the identity of the council, there are no symbols of allegiance for the community.



1930-1975

Lockerbie officially registered arms with the Lyon Court for the first time in 1930. No crest was registered, but the design has a brick crown denoting its status at the time as a Burgh.

The design features a quartered shield of three different arms, the first of which is repeated in the final quarter. Quartered arms are traditionally used for families to display multiple inherited coats of arms. So where did this come from and why was it done?



1892-1930

Before the town's legal grant of arms it used a shield as part of its seal. The only difference being the border around the heart being the royal tressure. Use of this is a special honour in Scottish heraldry and likely why it was not used in the official heraldry.

Local records indicate that the arms in the seal were taken from those of a Mr Arthur Henry Johnstone-Douglas, at his own suggestion. So how similar were these and why were his arms relevant and acceptable to the town council of the time?

Searching for the Origin of the Shield

Civic heraldry often draws on local aristocratic arms, but Lockerbie's is a carbon copy.



Shield on Arthur's 1894 memorial to his brother Cecil, featuring a English style crescent symbol to indicate the second son of Arthur's father
Photo courtesy of Dryfesdale Church

Arthur Johnstone-Douglas

Arthur had a career in the British Army before he became active in local administration as a Dumfriesshire Justice of the Peace, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant and convenor of the County Council.

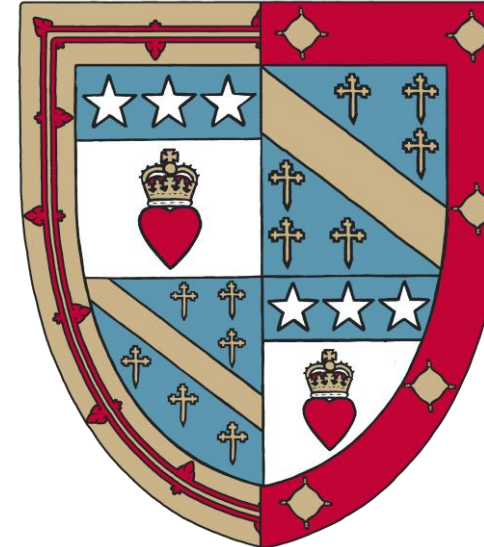
He lived in Lockerbie Manor, now Manor Adventure. This had been built by his great-great-grandfather, a Douglas of Kelhead, following his marriage to the heiress of the Johnstone lairds of Lockerbie. Arthur's father would add Johnstone to his surname.

The arms of the historic lairds of Lockerbie would seem appropriate to Arthur and the town council. However, these arms were not officially recorded in Scotland, nor anywhere else in Britain. Indeed, different arms are legally recorded with the Lyon Court for both his great-great-grandfather and his own son...

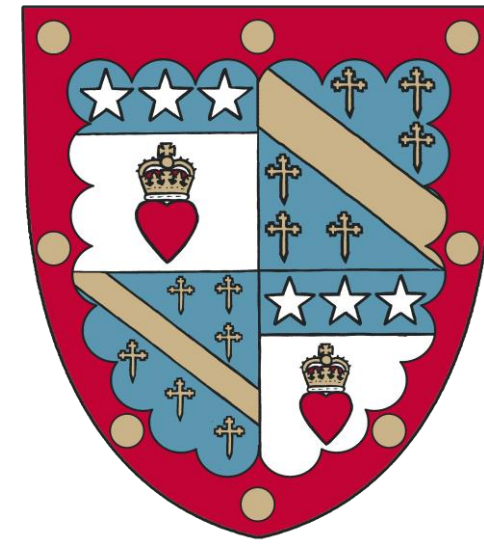
Arms of the Johnstone's & Douglas' of Lockerbie

Arthur's son, the noted artist Robert Sholto Douglas, would later have arms legally granted to him following a request by his daughter as she regularised her heraldry when marrying the 6th Earl of Craven. The arms he received were not a variation on those of his fathers, which had become the basis for the civic arms of Lockerbie. Instead the design is based more on the arms of Douglas of Queensbury, to which they were related, and the arms of Douglas of Kelhead from whom they directly descended.

As part of the registration no request was made to consider the unregistered arms as used by Arthur. Indeed these were not mentioned at all. Requests were made to see if the Johnstone lairds of Lockerbie had used arms which could be officially included as a quarter. However no verified arms were found, only a reference to unseen records elsewhere. It appears that Arthur's arms were neither official, legal or even historic.



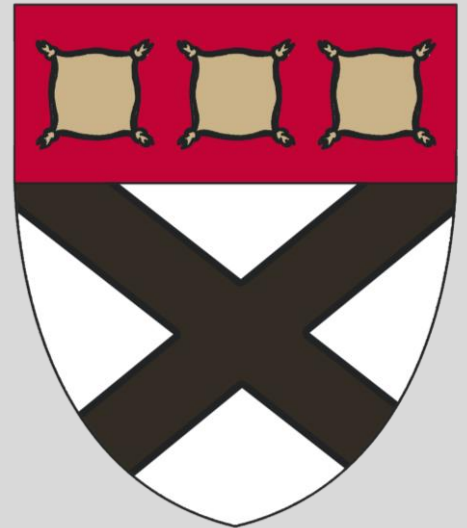
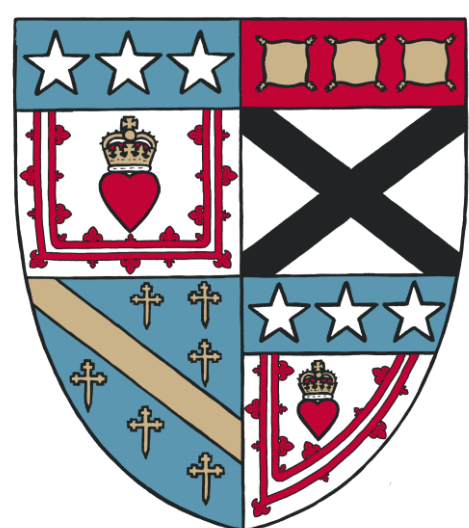
Robert Sholto Douglas



Douglas of Kelhead

Armorial Autopsy

Where do the symbols in Lockerbie's arms come from and what do they mean?

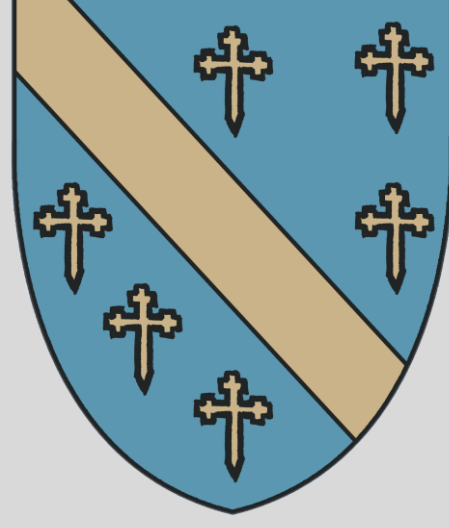


Johnstone Saltire & Cushions

Without specific arms for the Johnstone's of Lockerbie, Arthur used the chiefly arms. In the official arms of his son this was not allowed but the Johnstone cushions are used as a reference in the border.

Cushions were a symbol of wealth in early heraldry, with other families also using them on their shields.

Johnstone

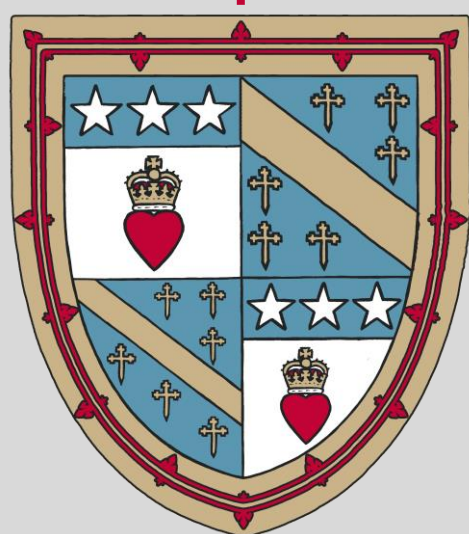


Marr

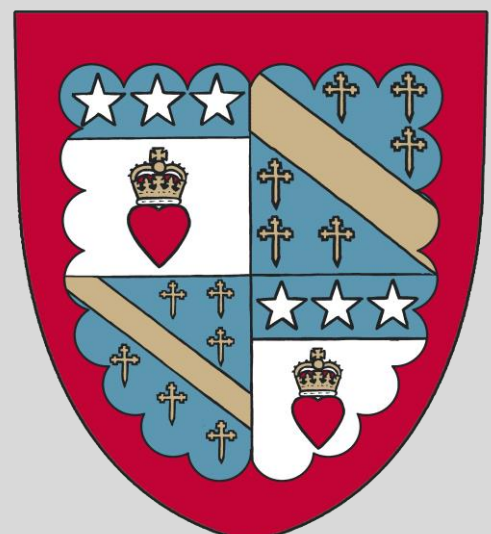
Marr Crosses

Marr is the name of both a clan and the region along the River Don with which they are associated. These arms appear as a quarter in the civic arms of Aberdeenshire.

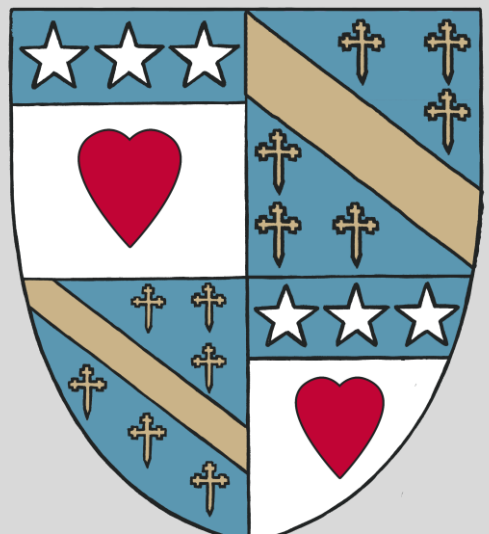
The symbols of these arms are a cross with its arms in turn formed of smaller crosses and the lower arm tapering to a spike. This represented a level of Christian faith that could be staked into the ground.



Douglas of Queensbury



Douglas of Drumlanrig



Douglas and Marr

Douglas Colours, Stars and Heart

Douglas arms in the first quarter make the livery colours of the town blue and white. As such the colours of Lockerbie's Gala are derived from those of the Douglas's.

The blue and white stars themselves may derive from Clan Murray. The Douglas shield did not originally feature the heart, which was added to signify Robert the Bruce's heart which the Black Douglas took on Crusade.

Douglas

Royal Tressure

The tressure around the heart is likely inspired by the arms of Douglas' of Queensbury, who were a close and prestigious branch of the Douglas Clan. The tressure in border would be used in the legal grant of arms to Arthur's son.

Motto

'Forward' is a common civic motto indicating progress. In Lockerbie's case it came from Douglas of Drumlanrig who passed it to both the Kelhead & Queensbury branches. The Bruce's crown appears on the heart.

Quarterings

The general format of the quarterings date back to the arms of the Earls of Douglas & Marr. When both a mother and father are the heirs to a coat of arms their own heir may display both of these coats quartered on one shield.

Legacy

The 1930 grant of arms unequivocally makes Lockerbie's civic arms official and legal. However, the premise upon which Arthur Johnstone-Douglas' arms were first used – that being they were the traditional arms of the lairds – does not hold up to scrutiny.

The arms are instead a testament to the perceived centrality of one family to the town, and the unofficial heraldry assumed by one individual. An unofficial coat of arms that did not even survive one generation within that family before being replaced.