

vassal, servitor, retainer or peasant. When he had gained or assumed a surname then the possession of coat-armor soon followed. As to the right of inheriting a name that is so established as to be understood and never disputed. A grant of coat-armor indicates an attachment to name, and implies that it is a hereditament—never going with a title or estate, but strictly and solely with the name to the immediate heir. As we accepted the right of inheriting family names, and through usage the right to bear arms jointly, naturally it follows that the right still exists, only ending when all branches of the house are extinct. In fact, the right cannot be vacated by disuse on the part of a family in the line of descent, as is often the case, and any generation after, first establishing the right by connecting the lineage thus broken, can claim and bear the coat-of-arms.

Another positive proof of the American use of armes is the Gore Roll, a collection of ninety-nine coat-armors, painted by hand, and once the property of Gore, a Boston carriage-maker, dating from 1701 to 1724.

We now come to the official seals and coats-of-arms of the United States and the several States. The following will show most effectively that coat-armor has been and still is officially used and, consequently, recognized by the National and State Governments.

The Department of State published, in 1892, an account of the formation and adoption of the Great Seal of the United States. In 1776 Dr. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were a committee to adopt a form for an official seal. The one they devised was finally refused—quarterly of six, one each for England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany and Holland. After passing through several stages of modification the present form was adopted in 1885. The President has a semi-official seal. The State Departments, the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives, and the Department of Justice also have their proper official arms. Each State, on being admitted to the Union, adopted an official seal and coat-of-arms.

The arms of the thirteen original States underwent various changes, some coming from the royal or colonial governors' coat-armor and seals. William Penn's arms were on the early seals of Pennsylvania and Delaware. Lord Baltimore's arms were also used for the same purpose in Maryland. The royal seal of England was used for Massachusetts until 1775. New Jersey used, in 1664, the seal of Berkeley and Carteret. The history of these seals is an interesting proof of the official recognition of the growth of American coat-armor.

The ecclesiastical and corporation seals form another distinct proof, sanctioned by use, of the right to bear coat-armor in this country. First is the great seal of the House of Bishops, the members having diocesan seals for official use, as the Bishops of California, Minnesota, New Jersey, Maryland, and Bishop Coxe of New York. Bishop Potter of this city impales his family arms with those of the State—dexter. The city of Philadelphia has an