

old-home customs becomes apparent to all who take the trouble to study the every-day history of Colonial times. There was also constant influx of Europeans into the plantations and colonies, bringing the latest news and fashions, keeping alive the interest in European life and customs. And all this helped to continue the use of official and family coat-armor.

The French Huguenots added their ancestral armes to the growing roll of American heraldry. Men who were otherwise quick to discard foolish and useless customs, respected and continued with their surnames the use of seals and armes. We accepted the common law of England through ancestors who engrafted heraldry upon this country. That it may with honor be extensively developed, there should be little doubt from the present survey of the subject.

Puritan and Cavalier both respected and looked to their fatherland. Differing in religion, they both accepted, without question, the custom long established by usage of coat-armor, as seen in their seals, bookplates, stained-glass windows and tombstones. To them a coat-of-arms was the one mark of esteem which all in a family might use, showing thereby that inseparable bond of kinship happily being revived to-day. They were animated by a pardonable pride to possess one thing, by right of lineal descent, which could not be taken away, stolen, or used by another. In a kingdom one may be dispossessed of coat-armor by royal order, but Americans are more fortunate, for no power can deprive them of the family name and its coat-of-arms.

The fact is indisputable that the different families retained their surnames as used by them before the establishment of the Republic. No thought was ever entertained of doing otherwise, and coat-armor, including the crest, is the direct personal attachment of a name.

As descendants of the European houses who used coat-of-arms, we find the settlers of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, called Puritans, with which are included many Huguenot families coming from Leyden and other ports of Holland. Then the Dutch of New Amsterdam, now known as the Knickerbocker families. All through the south, as in Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia, are found the Cavalier descendants. This list comprises the families who are known to have borne armes, not only before the Revolution, but after the Republic was established, and all of their descendants to-day who possess or are aware of this inherited right still use seals and armes upon family plate, carriages, etc. That dishonest as well as ignorant people use coat-armor belonging to others, or false armes, does not in the least affect those who bear armes by right of lineal descent which can be established beyond dispute. Unfortunately there are people who assume a thing to be theirs by right of desire. The law discourages this method of acquiring personal property, and as heraldic achievements are strictly incorporeal hereditaments, the law should protect their rightful owners.

It must not be thought that only the families mentioned have