

American coat-armor. On the contrary, many have found them in later times through pedigree research and genealogical records, and these are American armes just as much as the achievements brought over by the early settlers.

Some will doubtless ask how Americans can use that which belongs to a kingdom and connected with titled rank. In answer, first look at the Republic of Switzerland, which has had a regular established heraldry for centuries, its families being proud of their ancient descent, which coat-armor often denotes as well as proves to those who understand it.

Up to 1775 the United States was under the crown, having royal governors for each colony. Thus, all official business, deeds, records and papers requiring seals were impressed with the governor's coat-of-arms, and in private matters with the armes of those interested.

Deeds to estates, personal property, etc., were in all cases, with a few Tory exceptions, allowed to hold as legal. Coat-armor, being personal property, was naturally included in this acceptance of things, once connected with a kingdom. We have the proof of this in the continued use of armes by the founders of the Republic, as Washington, Adams, Clinton, Franklin, and Jay.

But most conclusive of all the mass of proof of the American right to use coat-armor is set forth in these words of Washington:

“ It is far from my design to intimate any opinion that heraldry, Coat-armor, etc., might not be rendered conducive to public and private use with us, or that they can have any tendency unfriendly to the purest spirit of Republicanism. On the contrary, a different conclusion is deducible from the practice of Congress and the States, all of which have established some kind of Armorial Devices to authenticate their official instruments.”—From page 22 J. F. Schroeder, D.D., “Maxims of Washington, Political, Social, Moral and Religious.”

Heraldry, though applied to coat-armor, is in truth a term for the work of the herald, and is much more than blazoning and marshalling armes. The coat-of-arms is literally a dignified trade mark, in the genealogical sense, or badge of the name and family to which it pretends. It is useful for the identification of persons and property, and is more to be relied on in research than the family names, which, by reason of variations in spelling in old records, etc., are difficult to follow, while the accuracy of a coat-of-arms can always be relied on. It shows connection, descent and important marriages—being a guide to historians, genealogists and pedigree compilers. It began seven hundred years ago as an aid to the identification of persons, and to-day it exists exactly in the same sense. The use of heraldic bearings is not indicative of rank or title. It is, and always has been, the distinction of a house, whether commoners, gentles or nobles. In all countries is this true to-day, and in them all men, if gentlemen—as we in America understand the term—are entitled to this name distinc-