

# KING HERALDRY

By Paul Campbell

John Shannon and I previously wrote an article on fifteen pieces of early 20<sup>th</sup> century color artwork of arms which appeared as "Heraldry Renderings in Color from the NYG&B, 1910-20," TAN, Autumn 2011. While researching that article, I found that George Austin Morrison Jr. authored a long, illustrated article on the arms belong-



King of London achievement of arms sans crest.

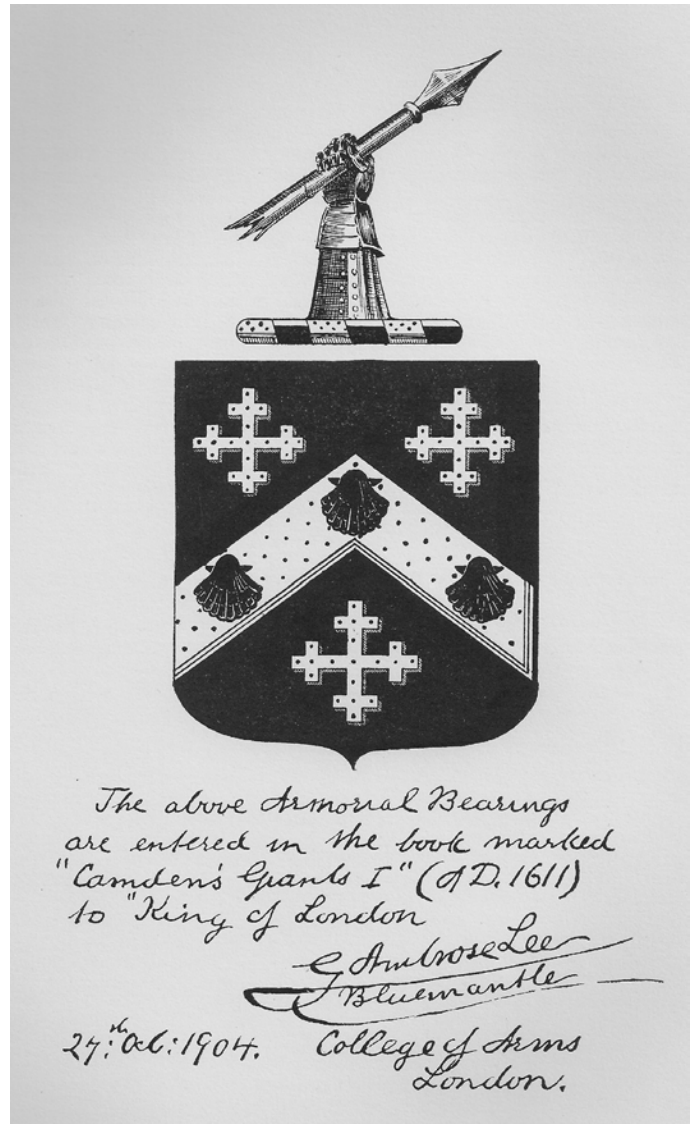
ing to some Kings, that is people with the surname King as opposed to various Royals, along with genealogical notes, sometimes extensive, connecting them to American families in a few cases. His article, "The King 'Family' Heraldry," appeared in the October, 1910, issue of the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*. Interest in this article was such that it prompted a reproduction as a separate booklet with 100 copies printed. Included with the article were a large number of illustrations which may be of possible interest here.

The arms, mostly English in origin, are not required to have the common theme found in most Scots arms. Indeed, no two need be alike. That said, there are small pockets of commonality as will shown.

Morrison gave primacy to the arms of King of London which he records as being granted by Camden by 1591. Similar arms were born by other King families, one of which was from Urborough in Devon, from which descends the American family of King from Suffield, Connecticut. The escallops which appear on the chevron are repeated in a couple instances.

There are a few other features which repeatedly appear. Crosses crosslet appear in a couple illustrations and are referenced in other not illustrated arms Morrison mentions. Ducal crowns make a couple of appearances. Lions, mostly rampant, feature in the coats and crests of a number of the achievements. One crest even has a lion with an escallop. And a number of the arms incorporate none of the above.

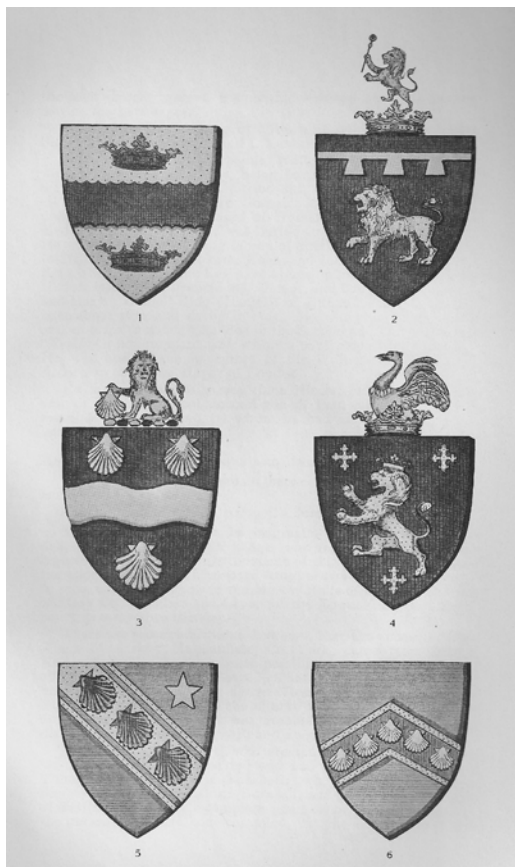
The commonalities such as they are in King arms become apparent when reviewing an invitation card issued by Robert King, Gent., James King, Herald Painter, and John King, Vintner, who served a Stewards for a "General Meeting of the Surname of KING," held to commemorate the Restoration.



King of London coat of arms and crest as granted by Camden to King of London 1611.

Morrison mentions a Scots King, King of Barra in Aberdeenshire has a shield which includes a lion – well, a lion's head anyway. They are *Azure on a fess Argent between a lion's head erased in chief and a mullet in base Or three buckles erect Gules on a chief Ermine an imperial crown within a wreath of trefoils both Proper*. Although blazoned, the chief is not illustrated in the article. No arms for a King "of Barra" appear in either volume of the Ordinaries. The arms as described, again without the chief, appear for King of Newmiln (1700-54) and of Lessmurdie (1810) save that the lion's head and mullet is Argent. A few other Scottish King arms replace the charge in base. So, it can be said that the commonality for Scots arms with the King surname have the blue shield, the fess as described, and in chief a lion's head erased tintured metallicly. Lt. Col. Robert King-Clark received arms quartering Clark with King; his King quarters reflect the arms which appear immediately to the right of the Royal Arms in the surname invitation, *Gules two lions rampant combatant supporting a dexter hand couped at the wrist Argent*, but the Colonel's quarters also addition of a canton voided Or. The invitation identifies this King coat as being of Kingston in Ireland.

When not on arms, Morrison's long article consists mostly of genealogical breakdowns of the various King families. Of course, it would have this article longer but perhaps less interesting to include the entire genealogical record here, so if anyone is interested in any particular armiger, the author may be contacted at [paulcampbellus@gmail.com](mailto:paulcampbellus@gmail.com). (illustrations continue next page)



Clockwise from upper left:

Six King arms: (1) Oliver King, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Somersetshire; (2) Sir John King; (3) King of Sherbourne, Dorcetsshire; (4) King of Devonshire and Torcester, Northhamptonshire; (5) King of Audley End; and (6) King of Orsett. Sir John's arms appear as an option for 'your family arms' from one of the online bucket shops, a sad heraldic fate. Note the lion with escallop in Sherbourne's crest.

Six King arms: (1) King of Blackhall, King's Prior, Herefordshire; (2) King of Barra, Aberdeenshire, Scotland; (3) King of Kirby Muxloe; (4) King of Oxfordshire; (5) King of London, Middlesex; and (6) King of London and St. Albans, Hertfordshire. Despite appearance of similarity, the arms for King of London and St. Albans seem to be not derived from the Scottish arms; the London and St. Albans family is said to originally be French with the surname LeRoy.

Three King arms: (1) King of Ockham, Surrey; (2) King of Exeter, Devonshire; and (3) King of Ware, Hertfordshire. Although the arms for Ware are recorded for King in the Harleian MSS Collections, these arms are also listed for Clarke of Hereford in the Visitation of Hertfordshire, Harleian Collection 1545.

This hatchment from America showing Charnock impaling King was made by Elisabeth Charnock (1707-before 1733). Her father was Captain John Charnock who married Mary King, daughter of Captain Ralph and Elizabeth (Walker) King. The version of King arms here, *Sable a lion rampant between three crosses-crosslet Or*, is apparently claimed by a number of King families and appears as a common version available online as 'generic' King arms, the lion sometimes crowned.

An invitation for a "General Meeting of the Surname of KING" on 29 May 1703. This card was found in an MSS Volume of Coats-of-Arms and was being preserved, as of 1910 anyway, in Guildhall Library.

