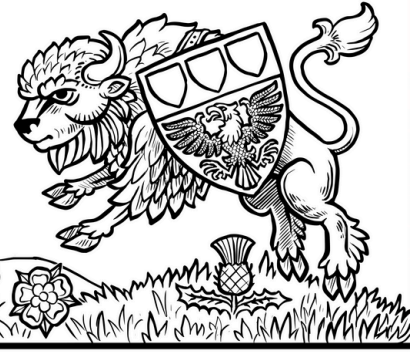


COURANT



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN HERALDRY SOCIETY

JULY/AUGUST • VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 2



EDITOR'S NOTE

I apologize for the delay in this issue of *Courant*, our Board and Volunteers have had a long summer with many challenges.

The publication of this piece has been temporarily on the shoulders of the members of our Publications Committee who have also been working on the next Journal issue, as well as website content. We would like to find an editor to take then newsletter on full time if possible to allow those other volunteers the time to fully dedicate themselves to their primary work. If this interests you please contact them at: publicationscommittee@americanheraldry.org

Sincerely,
E. L. Roberts-MacDonald

SCOTTISH INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN INFLUENCERS: BADGE OF THE 8TH PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS GROUP

BY WILLIAM DONE

Within the heraldry of the United States Army, there have been significant depictions of Native American, Greek, and Roman figures and motifs, but Scottish heritage has been only rarely depicted.⁽¹⁾ This is despite the considerable impact Scottish individuals have had on the military history of the United States, from the famous example of John Paul Jones, considered to be the father of the U.S. Navy, to the countless other soldiers, officers, and political leaders who have served from the Revolution to the present day. ⁽²⁾ This article examines the badge of the U.S. Army's 8th Psychological Operations Group and the Scottish origins of its insignia, discussing both the development and symbolism of the badge.

In 2011, the 8th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) was activated as the 8th Military Information Support Group (Airborne) and would receive its present designation in 2013.⁽³⁾ Assigned to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, the Group currently serves as one of two active-duty psychological operations groups in the U.S. Army. Their primary mission is to provide culturally and politically relevant capabilities to analyze, persuade, and influence foreign targets in support of U.S. operations and interests.⁽⁴⁾...



Figure 1. Distinctive unit insignia used by the 8th Psychological Operations Regiment.

To that end, the unit members took it upon themselves to create an insignia that symbolizes their stated mission and unique culture.

After the unit's activation, the development of the insignia, depicted in Figure 1, began quickly, with a small group of non-commissioned officers from the 9th Psychological Operations Battalion working on the project. Green, which would be used for the scroll, was quickly identified as being of importance for the design process, with the color both being the primary color of the Psychological Operations Branch and alluding to the Group's lineage to the Office of Strategic Services during World War II and the U.S. and U.K. special operations forces. The connection to Scotland, however, would be more complex. One of the design members, Staff Sergeant Patrick Smith, touched on this point in a discussion with Majors Ed Rouse and Herb Friedman:

"One was influenced by the creation of the Scottish PSYOP tartan at the time, as well as General McClure's heritage. The other was we thought there was a tradition of unconventional warfare in Celtic cultures that hadn't really been represented in comparison to the Native American or Greek and Roman allusions we see on other crests...

(continued on Page 5)

ICGHS 36: BOSTON

The 36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences will be held for the first time in the US from September 24th-28th in Boston, and is sponsored by American Ancestors; especially the NEHGS Committee on Heraldry; the Academie Internationale d'Heraldique; Family Search; and Brady Brim-Deforest of Balvaire.

Society Members Joe McMillan and Nat Taylor have been working hard in anticipation of the event and are involved in the planning and implementation of the Congress. Several AHS Members were selected to present their research, and the Board of Governors recently announced that Michael McCartney and Fr. Guy Selvester were selected to receive travel bursaries to attend.

This historic event, which has been held biannually since 1929 is an opportunity you will not want to miss.

To register or for more information please visit our website.

SOCIETY PROGRAMS 2024

We have a number of great in person and virtual events coming up in the second half of this year, for more information see our calendar below and our website.

The Carolina Nobility: with William Done ~ ~ ~ 8/17/24

The 36th International Congress of Genealogical & Heraldic Sciences: Boston, MA ~ ~ ~ 9/24-28



The Annual General Meeting of the A.H.S. (to be held virtually in October, date TBA soon)

From Ashes to Ashes: A Case Study of the Phoenix in Select Scholastic and Ecclesiastical Arms with Dr. Chad Krouse ~ ~ ~ Date TBD

December "E Pluribus Unum" lecture being rescheduled. New date TBA in next issue.

We are also already filling up our calendar for 2025, if you have topic you would like to be presented as a part of our 'E Pluribus Unum' series or in our mini symposium please send an email to: president@americanheraldry.org

Society Website Update

Arms	Name	Blazon
	Abbadie, Jean Vincent d' (of Penobscot, Me, 1687)	Or a tree eradicated Vert in base a greyhound Gules gorged and chained to the tree Argent, on a chief Azure a crescent Argent between two mullets Or
	Abbot, George (of Boston, 1728)	Argent a cross Sable fimbriated Or between four eagles displayed Sable

As you may have seen, we have a new website! It is the result of several months of work both by society members and volunteers, but also by the very talented Jillian "Jill" Anderson, who has been the computer genius behind the amazing features built into this new website.

As a part of ongoing site development we are happy to announce that the Early American Roll of Arms is now live! This roll has over two thousand entries thanks to the hard work and research by our Members under the direction of Society Fellow Joe McMillan.

He and his team have now turned their attention to revising and expanding the current roll, these updates will appear over the next several months, with all entries under "A" and "B" updated, the rest are soon to follow. We will bring updates here in our Society newsletter as they appear and there will also be a note on that webpage as to revision status.

We have finished the process of moving the articles on the arms of Presidents of the United States, and are now looking to have articles on the arms of Founding Fathers, Military Leaders, and other prominent Americans. If you have an American Armiger that you would like to research, please contact us and we can get you set up with the resources to do so.

In the meantime we invite you to log on to your member profile, upload your arms to the Member's Roll (currently around half of our members have uploaded their arms), and take a look at this new creation which has brought our society into the modern age.

Membership News

With so many exciting developments underway for the Society, our membership continues to grow at a steady pace. As of the date of publication, we note the following: 107 paid members (all classifications), 22 life members, & 16 members in arrears.

Our new website has a membership management program and each member should have received by now either an email with new account login information or a reminder for annual dues. Dues can now be paid through the new website. As a reminder, membership dues are as follows:

- \$25/year Individual membership
- \$15/year Individual student membership
- \$35/year Family membership (all members residing in same household)
- \$300/one time for Individual lifetime membership

We are developing new membership packets that will be mailed to each member, including such items as a lapel pin of the Society's arms and membership certificate. These should be in the mail in the coming weeks. If you are attending the Boston Congress we can also have them ready for pickup at the AHS Table (please send us an email so that we make sure they are brought to the event)

We are pleased to share some great news about our members:

- Nat Taylor and Joe McMillan are working assiduously to deliver high quality programming for ICGHS in Boston. We are proud of their leadership and contributions to make all of us shine as we welcome the world to Boston in September.
- Michael McCartney and Chad Krouse were selected to present their research at the upcoming Congress, and several Members will be serving on panels.

For AHS,
Dr. Chad Krouse, Director of Membership

New Members

Michael Farnsworth
George Farfour
Antonio Lamanna
Neil Ipsen
Jake Dumas
Robert Fales
Jimmy Melancon
Dohrman Byers
Emmett Mercier
Robert Schatz
Brent Durken

New Life Members

Hugh Brady
Randy Potts
Barry Howard
Benjamin Allen
Alexandre Van-Dievoet

Welcome all!

Scottish Influence on American Influencers, Cont. from Page 2...



Figure 2. Tartan of the Psychological Operations Regiment.
(Source: *The Scottish Register of Tartans under Crown Copyright*).

Additionally, with Cumberland County [where Fort Bragg is located] having a strong presence of Scottish and Irish colonists, we thought it was an opportunity to be different by connecting the regiment to North Carolina and Celtic heritage in the same way the Special Forces [Branch] is connected to Native American iconography with the crossed arrows [symbol].”(5)

Major inspiration for the colors used in the badge was drawn from the tartan pattern of the U.S. Army Psychological Operations Regiment, with the colors in the final design being those used in the tartan, as depicted in Figure 2.(6) The design of the tartan, created in 2012 and registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in 2013, applies to all soldiers and units under the Psychological Operations Branch of the U.S. Army (for which the term ‘Psychological Operations Regiment’ is another name). (7,8) Developed with the input of psychological operations troops from the United Kingdom, the tartan has been used to produce kilts and other items for soldiers and

veterans of the Branch, and although it is not utilized in uniforms, it has helped in reinforcing the culture of the unit.(9)

As for the symbolism of the elements, the Sgian Dubh knife takes prominence in the center of the design. It is said to represent the Group’s constant readiness in a time of war, with the reputation of the Sgian Dubh being a hidden knife representing the unit’s resilience and versatility. The shofar to the left of the knife, an ancient horn made from a ram’s horn, symbolizes the ability of the unit to broadcast its message to ordinarily inaccessible peoples. The enflamed wooden torch carries with it the commonly used meaning of knowledge and truth. However, according to Staff Sergeant Smith, who served on the design team, the combination of the shofar and torch in this design references the biblical story of Gideon. Finally, the lightning flashes signify the ability of the Group to transmit its message and critical information quickly and effectively.(10,11)

The final design for the Group’s distinctive unit insignia was approved by the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry (TIOH) on April 14, 2015. (12) The following suggested blazon (since TIOH provides no heraldic blazon) could describe this insignia: A Sgian Dubh point up proper hafted Sable bearing three rivets Argent two lightning flashes radiating from the blade tip Or ending at the top to the dexter of the knife a shofar and to the sinister a wooden torch enflamed both proper and below all a scroll Vert inscribed “DECISIVE INFLUENCE” Argent.

Sources:

(1) Ed Rouse and Herb A. Friedman, “The 8th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne),” *psywarrior.com*, n.d., <https://www.psywarrior.com/8thPSYOPGroupA.html>.

- (2) "Scotland and the American Revolution," Revolution Around the World (Museum of the American Revolution, n.d.), <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/scotland-and-the-american-revolution>.
- (3) "8th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne)," United States Army Special Operations Command, n.d., <https://www.soc.mil/8thMISG/8thPOGhome.html>.
- (4) "ARSO Fact Book" (Fort Bragg: United States Army Special Operations Command, July 20, 2022), 8, <https://www.soc.mil/USASOCHQ/USASOCFactBook.pdf>.
- (5) Rouse and Friedman, "The 8th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne)."
- (6) "8th Psychological Operations Group," The Institute of Heraldry, n.d., <https://tioh.army.mil/Catalog/HeraldryMulti.aspx?CategoryId=10139&grp=2>.
- (7) "Tartan Details - Psychological Operations Regiment," The Scottish Register of Tartans, April 26, 2013, <https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/tartanDetails?ref=10822>.
- (8) David Cowan and Chaveso Cook, "What's in a Name? Psychological Operations versus Military Information Support Operations and an Analysis of Organizational Change," Military Review, Online Exclusives, 2018, no. March-April (March 6, 2018), <https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/Online-Exclusive/2018-OLE/Mar/PSYOP/>.
- (9) Doug Elwell, "PSYOP Tartan Products Available," The Leaflet Drop: The Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans Association (POVA), September 1, 2017.
- (10) "8th Psychological Operations Group."
- (11) Rouse and Friedman, "The 8th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne)."
- (12) "8th Psychological Operations Group."

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Hello everyone,

I hope that you have had a good summer, and have been able to enjoy some heraldry along the way. Be that via online channels, your research, or on your travels.

There are a number of Society updates I would like to bring to your attention here, as well as some details pertaining to our official presence at the upcoming International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences in Boston at the end of September. If you are able to attend we would love to have you!

Firstly, in Society operations news, I am happy to report that Mr. John Shannon has accepted the post of interim Treasurer. John is a Life Member of the Society and is active in a number of organizations including the NEHGS Committee on Heraldry, the College of Arms Foundation, and the Society of Cincinnati. We are privileged to have his organizational and financial knowledge here at the AHS.

As said above there will be an official AHS presence at the Congress. The Board of Governors, along with a great many Members, Fellows, and friends will be in attendance. There is still time to register if you would like to attend. We are also looking for members to help man the table at various points throughout the event, this is fairly easy work involving greeting and sharing information with attendees. We will also be selling society merchandise and recruiting.....

...new members. If you are willing to lend a hand please contact me.

We are still actively seeking a volunteer to serve in the capacity of Editor to this newsletter. This position will require the ability to use a home computer and to work with the chair of the Publications Committee. We use a fairly simple program for typesetting which is paid for by the Society, you will also be given an official email address. If you have any questions or would be interested in this role please contact myself or the publications committee.

In the next few weeks we will have two more emails sent to all members, one will be a follow up to the Heraldic Congress, the other will be information on our Society Annual Meeting. The latter will also include information on elections for the coming year, an agenda for review, and a copy of any issues to be voted upon by membership. This meeting will take place in early October, and will be announced with the required month of notice as per the bylaws.

As always I am happy to see the progress we are making as a group, and I am eternally grateful to our members for all their support and hard work. If there is ever anything I can do to assist you please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Ethan L. Roberts-MacDonald
President, AHS
president@americanheraldry.org
(269) 873-7369

Call for Papers: 'The American Herald' Vol 1 Issue 2 - 2025

The publications committee and editorial staff of the American Heraldry Society are pleased to issue a standing call for papers, inviting authors to contribute to The American Herald, the academic journal of the Society, which is published annually on or about International Heraldry Day (June 10th). This is a peer-reviewed journal that has been published intermittently since 2007.

We encourage contributions from all walks of researchers and heraldic scholars - by sharing your expertise and scholarly findings, you can help contribute to expanding the academic knowledge of heraldry in America. While articles should focus on heraldry and its auxiliary sciences, article topics are NOT restricted to American heraldry.

All submitted work should be your original unpublished work on the subject. However, if you wish to submit a reworked or previously published article that has been published in another heraldic or historical journal outside the United States, we ask that you provide a letter of permission to publish the work from the original publisher, a copy of said original work, and why it should be republished in *The American Herald*.

Articles and Book Reviews may be submitted at any time, however, the cut-off for possible inclusion in the 2025 Edition will be January 31, 2025. More detailed information about submissions can be found on the Society's webpage.

For questions or to submit an article to the journal, please contact the editorial staff at journal@americanheraldry.org.

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