

land clans. But in the course of the proof it was shown, and I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the assertion, that the Macraes came originally from Clunes, a place a little to the west of Inverness. Now this is just the part of the country where armorial bearings having stars or mullets as their chief charge might be expected to appear. The great house of Moray bore azure three stars argent, while that of Innes reversed the tinctures and bore argent three stars azure. The Dallas family, too, who were inhabitants of the neighbouring district, bore stars in some form or other on their shield, and the coat assigned by Lyon to General Sir Thomas Dallas, K.C.B., in 1815, bears a close resemblance to that of Macrae as given by Porteous, argent a fess between five mullets of six points, three in chief and two in base gules. This is exactly the Macrae coat, save that a lion rampant has been substituted for the mullets in base. The presumption, therefore, is that some person of the name of Macrae bore that coat before the family left Clunes, and this shows (as indeed is admitted by both parties) that the date of 1200 given for the migration of the Macraes from Clunes to Kintail by the Rev. John MacCra must be much too early, as armorial bearings were at that time entirely unknown in the Highlands. By whom these arms were originally borne has not come out in the evidence; the first person of the name of Macrae who assumed them was probably a vassal of some of the great families who bore somewhat similar charges on their arms. It was quite a common practice for the arms of vassals to be founded on those of their superiors, even though there was no blood connection whatever.

Accepting Porteous's blazon of the arms as that of a coat to which some Macrae had a right or had assumed, I may point out that before the Petitioner can prove his right to it, he must show that it belonged to a person of whom he is now the senior male representative. He cannot come here and say: 'This is a Macrae coat or the Macrae coat, and in virtue of my being the chief of the clan, I claim to have it recorded in my name.' There is no such thing, strictly speaking, in Scottish Heraldry as a 'family' coat of arms, that is, a coat which may be used indiscriminately by all the members of one family or clan. The head of a house bears a certain coat of arms, but all younger sons can only bear these arms of their ancestor with a certain difference, such differences being assigned by the Lyon. And further differences must be assigned to younger sons of younger sons in all generations. This indicates how jealous the statutory armorial law of Scotland has always been of any infringement on the rights of the main line of the family. Such being the case, I cannot find that the Petitioner has proved, or even attempted to prove, that any of his ancestors, the representatives of the house of Inverinate, have ever borne the arms given by Porteous, or indeed any other, except in comparatively recent times. Had they done so it is almost inconceivable that some relic denoting such use should not have survived to the present. No seal, no tombstone, no article of domestic use, is known to exist with these arms upon them. The only things of the kind that have been produced as belonging to the Inverinate family are two seals, the one bearing the arms as given by