

PUCKETT

COAT OF ARMS

A GOLD SHIELD WITH THREE RED PILES MEETING IN THE
BASE

CREST

A LILY AND HOLLY BRANCH IN SALTIRE.

The practice of representing people with symbols is ancient, and in England this habit evolved with feudal society into a system of distinctive devices on shields. The heralds developed an extensive armory that had the important function of distinguishing members of the upper class from each other, whether at court or on the battlefield. Since then, heraldry has grown into a complex field with many rules and a terminology that requires some knowledge to interpret.

GOLD SHIELD "Or" (from the French word for gold) is the tincture of gold and was considered the noblest color. One of only two metals used in heraldry, it exceeds all others in value, purity and finesse. It represents the light of the sun, and was once borne only by princes. Gold is said to gladden the heart and destroy all works of magic. It is also associated with excellence and achievement, and the bearer surpasses all others in valor. It is represented on coats of arms by the color yellow, and in engravings by an indefinite number of small points.

Symbolic Virtues: Or, the heraldic name for gold, symbolizes the virtues of faith, justice and mercy. Gold is the metal for excellence, as it is the purest and most unalloyed. It offers joy, success, prosperity and longevity.

Precious Stone: Carbuncle; Topaz

Planet: Sun

Obligations: To defend good and honor, and to fight to the death for one's country, surpasses all others in valor.

THREE "Three" devices, beasts or ordinaries of the same have a special significance in heraldry. First of all, there is the obvious reference to the Trinity in the design that would signify observance of the Christian doctrine. Secondly, with many Arms it brings balance that is steeped in tradition. To better understand this latter scenario, we must look at the evolution of shield in personal armory. Kite shields that were the most popular from the the 10th-14th century evolved into Heater shields that had flat tops c. 1250. This was the time of heraldry's beginnings and when "three" objects were used for balance in each corner of the shield. Later, with the advent of the "chief," "chevron" and "bend" three devices brought balance to these ordinaries too.

RED Gules, derived from an Old French word goules or gueules meaning "throats" translates into modern English as "red" and is the military color for excellence and fortitude. It is symbolic of nobility, boldness and ferocity, and can also represent fire and summer. Some ancient laws restricted its use to princes and their families. Red corresponds to the metal copper and is denoted in engravings by numerous perpendicular lines.

PILE The pile is a large piece of wood used by engineers in fortifications and bridge construction. The image of the pile was granted to military leaders for significant deeds, or to those who showed great ability in any kind of construction. In heraldry a pile appears as an inverted triangle, issuing from the top of the shield to a point in the center of the shield, but above the base. It may, if specified, issue from the base as well, if accompanied by piles issuing from other points of the escutcheon. They may terminate in fleurs-de-lis or crosses pattée.

LILY The lily is the emblem of purity and innocence. It is also a symbol of the Virgin Mary. Though it is usually represented by the fleur-de-lis, the lily can also be in its natural form, which is not uncommonly found in heraldry.

HOLLY Holly was used to adorn temples and sacred places and its name is derived from the word holy. Holly is also an emblem of truth. Holly branches are emblazoned sheaves of holly or holly branches of three leaves. The term 'branch' is actually a bit of a misrepresentation, though, because the 'branch' is actually just three leaves tied together.

BOUGH The bough has long been associated with ceremonies of triumph and is thus an ancient and traditional is a sign of victory. Though they may not differ much visually, different types of branches often have very different symbolic meanings. Victorious princes returning from mighty enterprises often bore palm branches. The palm branch thus became an emblem of victory and justice. Acacia branches or leaves have traditionally signified eternal and affectionate remembrance. The olive branch is a heraldic emblem of peace.

IN SALTIRE Two charges in saltire placed cross each other diagonally at the center, thus forming the shape of a saltire cross. The saltire symbolizes suffering for faith and the endurance of hardships.