

The several Kyd/Kidd coat-of-arms found in Franklin Kidd's archive

Four of these are hand drawn and hand coloured on art paper, each with an armorial description/definition hand lettered below. I think that these were obtained by Franklin Kidd from the Scottish arms library at the Lyon Court Edinburgh (see pp. 20-22 of his N. Irish Kidds manuscript). The handwriting of the descriptions is not Franklin Kidd's. Only two of the four are mentioned and discussed in Franklin's document. Each one of the four has a pencilled number in the upper right, but these do not correspond to the (3) and (4) he uses in his manuscript to identify (respectively) Patrick Kyd's and William Kyd's. Perhaps there is a letter in his files that I did not find which accompanied the drawings when sent to Franklin. The handwritten armorial definitions are transcribed and included below with each drawing.

The other coloured arms, also hand drawn and hand coloured, and on sturdy art board, is labelled "Kidd of Armagh" and from the text description of page 20 of Franklin Kidd's document is clearly the Figure (2) he mentions, but the drawing itself does not have any number on it.. Typed transcriptions of letters in a copy of the notebook of Lt. Col. Bertram G.B. Kidd in Franklin Kidd's archive suggest that it probably came from the office of the Ulster King of Arms (perhaps from Basil O'Connel of "the old College of Arms" in Dublin - see p. 5 of Franklin Kidd's document); the contents of these transcriptions are included below.

The arms designated Figure (1) and described on p. 20 of Franklin Kidd's document was found only as a "black & white" photo of part of a bookplate, in the file with these other five coloured drawings. Sealing wax impressions of the signet ring in the possession of Ada Kidd in 1961, whose essential armorial properties match this figure, also mentioned on p. 20, were found elsewhere in the files along with a transcription by Franklin Kidd from letters sent by Ada to him, describing the provenance of the signet ring, and this version of the story of the original French award of the arms:

Ada Kidd in a letter to Franklin Kidd 12/02/1961

"Here is the history of the [*coat of arms on the*] ring told me by my father and Uncle James. One forefather in Ayrshire had several sons. A younger son, Walter I think, decided to go to France and join the Scottish Archers. But when he came to Paris there was not a vacancy in the Scottish Archers, so he joined another Corps of gentleman at arms. His name is in the records in France. One day Henry IV (1553-1610) and his court had a big hunting party. The King became separated from his party and lost his way in the forest while chasing a wild boar. The boar attacked and killed the King's horse, but the King saved himself by grasping the bough of an oak tree & pulling himself onto it. But the boar remained in wait below. The King, after sounding his horn many times, was found by my ancestor, who killed the wild boar & rode back to the main party with the King behind him on his horse. As a reward the King gave him the fleur de lys for including in his coat of arms & the right to sit covered in the King's presence. After the death of Henry of Navarre this young Kidd returned to Ayrshire, married and settled down."

William S F Kidd 8/2013

(Figure 1 of Franklin Kidd)



The back of this illustration has written on it in Franklin Kidd's writing:
"Kidd Crest and Arms used by Irish Kidds prior to confirmation of arms to W.A. Kidd 1891 by
Ulster K.A. The outline of shield rather fancy here is plain in one of the old seals mentioned in
letter.



Impressions of the signet ring in possession of Ada Kidd in 1961. Franklin Kidd noted: "...in hands
of Ada George Kidd, b. 1890 ... daughter of George Hugh Kidd MD Master of the Croom Hospital
Dublin. [She] stated that seal was given to George Hugh Kidd (1826-1895) on his 21st birthday by a
man who was then an old man & who was "a cousin of my grandfather" (Ada - letter of
12/02/1961). The cousin [?was then, or ?lived to be] over 80. He originally had it on his 21st
birthday.

Franklin Kidd suggested the donor as William Kidd of Dundrum (John's son) on the note, but
changed this to Joseph Kidd (1800-1883), younger son of Benjamin Kidd of Armagh (1745-1823)
on p. 20 of his N. Irish Kidds manuscript. The Keady Kidds family tree shows that Henry Kidd
(1781-1865), son of "Big" William Kidd of Keady is an alternative and plausible donor. Three of
Henry's brothers had died without issue prior to 1847; the other is noted on the tree only as "in
Africa". Henry himself was also without issue, so there would have been reason by 1847 for him to
give the signet to a cousin's male descendant.

In the context of the crest and arms, the evidence is that this signet existed prior to 1847, and
probably prior to 1802 (for Henry as donor), and it shows on a plainer shield the same heraldry
symbols and motto as in Figure 1 above, and in particular the fleur-de-lys in the centre of the
"chief", not a rose as in the Kidd of Armagh arms of Figure 2. See p. 20 of Franklin Kidd's N. Irish
Kidds manuscript for his amusing description of the circumstances of this change.

Kidd of Armagh (Figure 2 of Franklin Kidd)

The armorial definition on the back (as carefully lettered as the motto and label on the front).

Arms:- Argent a tree eradicated vert, pendant from the branches a bugle-horn or, stringed gules, an a chief engrailed azure a rose between two mullets of the field.

Crest:- an increscent argent, charged with a rose gules.

the back of this also has a printed label stating (!): “This is an illustration only and must not be regarded as in any way conferring a heraldic right to use the armorial bearings depicted”

[transcribed letters relating to this version of the Arms are on the next page]

Franklin Kidd placed a handwritten note on the front with a line pointing to the scalloped lower border of the blue “chief”, saying 'not engrailed inverted' (or invected?), and a sketch showing the scallops the other way up. This annotation and the line has been edited out of the image below.



Typed transcripts of letters relating to Kidd of Armagh coat-of-arms in notebook of Lt. Col. Bertram Graham Balfour Kidd; copy in archive files of Franklin Kidd.

p17-18

"The Kidd Armorial Bearings". 16th Oct. 1891.

To all and singular to whom these presents shall come - I, Sir John Bernard Burke, C.B., L.L.D. Ulster King of Arms and Principal Herald of all Ireland, Register and Knight attendant on the most illustrious Order of St. Patrick, do hereby certify & declare that the Armorial bearings above depicted viz: Argent, a tree eradicated vert pendant from the branches a buglehorn or, stringed gules on a chief engrailed azure a rose between two mullets of the field. Crest - an increscent argent charged with a rose gules, motto "Donec impleat orbem", do of right belong and appertain unto Lt. Col. William Archibald Kidd of Armagh, late Paymaster in the Army, formerly Lieut in the 27th Regt of Foot - son of William Lodge Kidd M.D. of Armagh, retired surgeon in the Royal Navy, grandson of the Rev. Archibald Kidd M.A. Rector of Jonesborough in the County of Armagh & great grandson of Benjamin Kidd of Millmount Keady, in the said County of Armagh, and to his descendants and to the other descendants of the aforesaid Benjamin Kidd of Millmount Keady, with due & proper differences, according to the laws of Arms without the let, hindrance, molestation, or interruption of any person or persons whatever.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this 16th day of Oct in the 55th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria, by the Grace of God of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, & in the year of our Lord 1891.

p38

Decisive

Office at Arms Dublin Castle

29th Oct 1912 Ulster's Office

Dear Sir,

The Arms to which you are entitled as being the great-grandson of Benjamin Kidd of Millmount, are :- Argent a tree eradicated proper pendant from the branches a buglehorn or stringed gules, on a chief engrailed azure a rose between two mullets of the field. Crest an increscent argent charged with a rose gules.

These Arms were confirmed to Lt Col William Archibald Kidd of Armagh, late paymaster to the Army: son of William Lodge Kidd M.D. of Armagh retired surgeon R.N. grandson of the Rev Archibald Kidd M.A. and great-grandson of Benjamin Kidd of Millmount, Keady.

The Arms on the Bookplate herewith returned are evidently based on those of Kyd of Woodhall recorded in Lyon Office, but they do not appear to have been granted under authority.

Your obedient Servant,
Nevile R. Wilkinson
Ulster.

Captain G.B. Kidd
123rd Outram's Rifles
30 Field Stile Road,
Southwold,
Suffolk.

p39

Office at Arms Dublin Castle

4th Nov 1912 Ulster's Office

Dear Sir,

The reason why Col W.A. Kidd applied for a Confirmation of the Arms used by Benjamin Kidd of Millmount, was no doubt because the latter's Arms were assumed without proper authority and were not Registered.

The Arms of Kyd of Woodhall are:- Argent a pine tree eradicated ppr with a hunting horn pendant from one of its branches or stringed gules on a chief azure three mullets of the third.

The Tree in the Kidd Arms is most distinctly proper in the drawing given, i.e. with a brown trunk. I see however that it is described as vert, so my previous letter should be amended in this particular.

Your obedient Servant,
Nevile R. Wilkinson
Ulster.

Captain G.B. Kidd
c/o Henry S. King & Co.
9 Pall Mall.

Patrick Kyd of Craigie (Figure 3 of Franklin Kidd)

Argent, a pine tree eradicated proper, with a bugle horn pendant upon one of the branches or, stringed gules, on a chief azure three martlets of the third. Above the shield one helmet befitting his degree mantled gules doubled argent. The motto is on an Escroll "QUEM NON TORRET HIEMS".

Volume 1, folio 173



William Kyd of Woodhill (Figure 4 of Franklin Kidd)

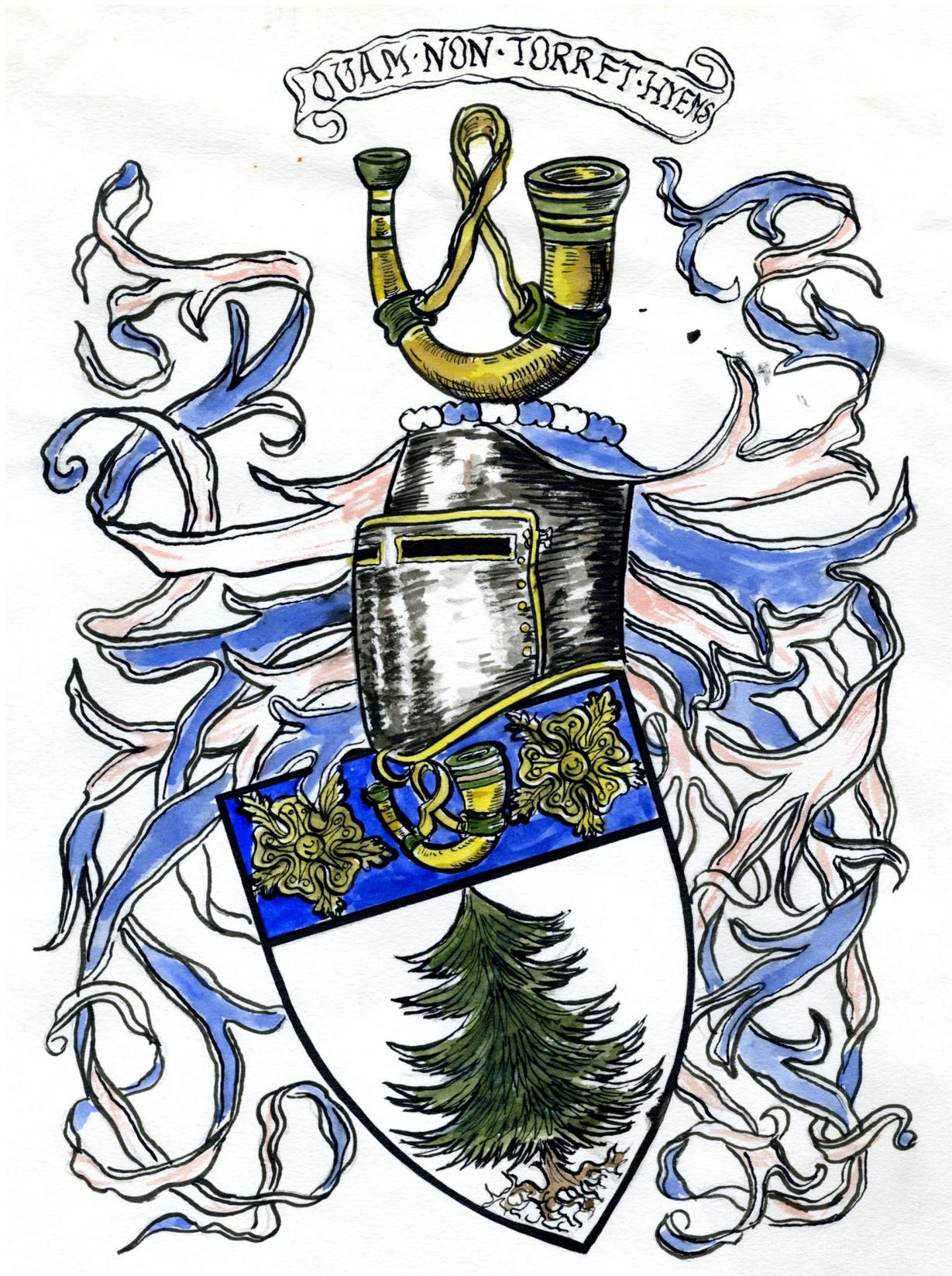
Argent, a pine tree eradicated proper, with a bugle-horne pendant upon one of the branches or, stringed gules, on a chief azure three mollets of the third, a crescent for difference. Above the shield one helmet befitting his degree mantled gules doubled argent. The motto is in one Escroll "DONEE TEMPEAT ORBEM".

Volume 1, folio 343



David Hope Kyd (not mentioned in Franklin Kidd's document)

Argent, a fir tree eradicated proper on a chief azure between two roses a Hunting Horn stringed or garnished vert. Above the shield is placed a helmet befitting his degree with a mantling azure doubled argent and upon a wreath of his liveries is set for crest a Hunting Horn as in the arms and in an Escroll over the same this motto "QUAM NON TORRET HYEMS".
Volume 14, folio 49



John Normansell Kyd (not mentioned in Franklin Kidd's document)

Argent, a fir tree eradicated, proper on a chief engrailed azure between two roses a Hunting Horn stringed or garnished vert. Above the shield is placed a helmet befitting his degree with a mantling azure doubled argent, and upon a wreath of his liveries, is set for crest, a Hunting Horn as in the arms and in an Escrol over the same this motto "QUAM NON TORRET HYEMS".
Volume 14, folio 56

