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INTRODUCTION

The object of this book is to make available to a wider audience an early American roll of coats of arms. Information about this unique armorial piece is rare and often difficult to find; accurate information is even rarer and more difficult to locate. This book tries to present a more complete historical record of the Gore roll in a readily accessible form, with more extensive and reliable information regarding its history and contents than has been easily available before.

The Gore Roll of Arms

The Gore Roll of Arms is the earliest known American roll of arms, depicting mostly in color 99 coats of arms dating to the early Eighteenth Century.

Though the dates given with the arms run from 1701 to 1724, the watermark of the paper used for the Roll has been dated to around 1731. From this, and from a variance from a strict chronological sequence of the arms, the Gore Roll appears to be a mid- to late-Eighteenth Century compilation from earlier sources. We cannot know for certain whether the arms are from a workbook, looseleaf designs and notes, or other descriptions.

The Format of the Gore Roll

Physically, the Gore Roll is in the form of a book, bound in full parchment. The pages measure 12½ inches by 7⅞ inches (approximately 32 cm by 20 cm), and bear the watermarks of the well-known papermaker Honig from Zaandyk in The Netherlands. (It was also Honig that made the paper on which broadsides of the American Declaration of Independence were printed and distributed in July 1776.) The first page of the Gore Roll is a fly leaf, with drawings of the arms on both sides of the next thirteen leaves, painted with the exception of the next to last page, which contains only three, four to a page. The remaining leaves of the book are blank.

The first 84 coats of arms are fully colored and appear to be by a single artist of some skill. This supposition is supported by a comparison of the handwriting of the legends accompanying most of the arms contained in the Roll. The remaining fifteen arms are by one or more other artists, less skillfully rendered, are not colored for the most part, and where colors <u>are</u> used, they tend to be muddy (for example, *azure*, which should be a bright or dark blue, appearing as more of a light blue-grey).

The majority of the arms are accompanied by an inscription beneath them describing the individual to whom the arms belong. The Roll gives, in most cases, the name of the individual (both given and surname), a notation of the person's status or rank (merchant, Esq., Captain of Marines, wife, etc.), and a date, which often coincides with the date of death of the individual. Inscriptions accompanying the later arms tend to be either the name (or sometimes just the surname) of the individual, or that old standby, "By the Name of" *Whoever*, which can also be found on many of the heraldic embroideries of the time.

The Authors of the Gore Roll

The primary author of the roll is believed to be John Gore (1718-1796), a Boston carpet and coach painter who is known to have also adapted and designed coats of arms. Advertisements for his services have been found in Boston newspapers from 1751 to 1769. John's second son, Samuel Gore (1750/1-1831), was a pattern drawer and had a shop at the "Sign of the Painter's Arms" on Queen Street in Boston. Samuel's second son, Christopher Gore, was known to have worked with his father about 1807. It is possible that Samuel and/or Christopher may have contributed some of the later arms drawn in the Roll.
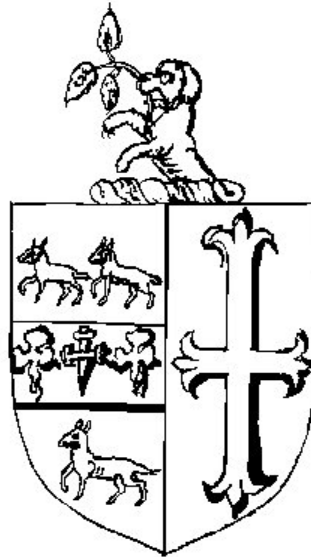
Nathell Norden Esq[r] of Marblehed
One of His Maj[s] Counsell for ye Prouin
Norden & Lattemor.

Whitmore:

12. Nathaniel Norden, Esq., of Marblehead, one of his Majesty's Council. Norden and Lat . .
Argent, on a fesse gules between three beavers passant, a cross crosslet fitchee between two fleurs-de-lys, gold.
Crest, a demi-beaver, holding in his mouth a branch of leaves.
The impalement is Gules, a cross patonce argent.
[This is the Latimer arms, and I find he married Mary, daughter of Christopher Latimer, or Lattimore of Marblehead. Norden died in 1727.]

Bowditch:

12. (12.) (10.)

NORDEN. LATIMER.

Arms: Two coats impaled. *Baron:* Silver a fess gules between three beasts passant sable on the fess a crosslet fitchy gold between two trefoils slipped silver. *Femme:* Gules a cross patonce silver.
Wreath: Silver, gules.
Crest: A demi-talbot sable holding in his mouth a sprig of three leaves vert.
Legend: Nathell Norden Esqr. of Marblehed / One of His Maj's Counsell for ye Prou- (illegible) / Norden & Lattemor.

   Notes: The beasts in the baron's coat are of an obscure species; perhaps they most closely resemble lambs, but with upstanding ears, or they might be hinds of a chubby form. The Child copy shows the following variations from the original: the beasts, which suggest short-legged foxes, are colored lemon-yellow; the trefoils on the fesse are gilded; the wreath is silver and azure; and the beast in the crest is a demi-lion vert.
   Whitmore blazons two of the charges on the fesse as fleurs-de-lys, but this is clearly a slip, for both in the original Gore Roll and in the Child copy they are trefoils slipped. Influenced, perhaps, by what he knew of the arms of Norden, he called the beasts on the shield beavers, but was surely in error when he named the

crest a demi-beaver. He states that Nathaniel Norden married Mary, daughter of Christopher Latimer or Lattimore of Marblehead, and that he died in 1727.

The arms in the Gore Roll appear to be a combination of two coats of Norden of Kent. Norden (Easthill, Kent): Silver a fess gules between three beavers passant sable on the fess three crosslets fitchy gold; Norden (Kent): Silver a fess gules between three sea-horses sable on the fess a crosslet fitchy between two trefoils slipped silver; the former family bore for their crest A hawk silver, the bells gold, preying on a partridge silver, the beak gold (Edmondson).

Edmondson gives the arms of Latimer as Gules a cross patonce (or flory) gold. In the Gore Roll it is shown as silver.

Additional Notes:

12. Nathaniel Norden [Norden and Latimer]
    Arms: Two coats impaled. Husband: Argent, on a fess gules between three beasts passant sable a cross crosslet fitchy or between two trefoils slipped argent. Wife: Gules, a cross patonce argent.
    Torse: Argent and gules.
    Crest: A demi-talbot erect sable maintaining in his mouth a sprig of three leaves vert.

Norden:
    The type of beasts around the fess is hard to determine. They look like canines of some sort, but certainly of a different type than the droop-eared talbot of the crest.
    Nathaniel Norden died in 1727. (Bolton, p. 122)
    Burke notes two similar coats for Norden, both from county Kent: *Argent on a fess Gules between three beavers passant Sable as many crosses crosslet fitchy Or* and *Argent on a fess Gules between three beavers passant Sable langued a cross crosslet fitchy between two trefoils Or.* The crest of the latter is given as *A demi-beaver Sable holding in the mouth a branch of five leaves Vert.*
    Nathaniel Norden of Marblehead, a captain and freeman in 1690, also a representative the same year. (Savage)

Latimer:
    Burke notes the arms of Baron Latimer of Danby, *Gules a cross patonce Or* (rather than the Argent in the Gore Roll), and notes several other Latimer coats, with the cross charged variously with four or five escallops, torteaux, maunches, or pellets.
    Guillim, p. 294, gives the arms *Gules, a cross fleury or, on a bend azure three fleurs-de-lys of the second* as those of Latimer, but marshaled unusually with another coat. "The first and undermost of these, was Latimer, before the bend thus charged was annexed. And that this Coat born on the bend, is also a perfect coat, you shall perceive, if by Uptons direction you reduce the bend into the form of an Escocheon, and place the three Flowers de lis in the corners of the same."
    Guillim also cites the arms *Gules, a cross patty or* as those of William, Baron Latimer, the 41st Knight of the Garter.
    Brault, vol. II, p. 250, notes the arms of William le Latimer, senior, d. 1304, *Gules a cross patonce or*.
    Christopher Latimer of Marblehead in 1648, was the father of Mary, who married Nathaniel Norden. (Savage)

AN ARMORIAL OF THE GORE ROLL

     The following is an alphabetical list by surname, with accompanying blazons, of the arms in the Gore Roll. The arms are identified by the bearer, followed by a number in brackets ([ ]) which is the numerical order of that coat of arms in the Roll. Where they are found, alternate spellings of names are found in brackets immediately following the surname (*e.g.*, "Barkley [Berkeley/Barclay]").

     Where the arms in the Roll are the marshaled of a husband and wife, both the husband's and wife's coats appear in separate entries under each name (*e.g.*, the arms given in the Roll for Mary Borden Brinley (number 73) appear twice, the sinister coat under "Borden (her maiden name), Mary" and the dexter coat (her husband's arms) under "Brinley, Mary Borden". Where the Gore Roll does not specify an individual for a coat of arms in a marshaled coat, it is identified here under the surname of that coat followed by a comma and then what identifying information there may be (*e.g.*, "Davis, wife of Charles Frost"). In all cases, the first name of an entry is the surname associated with the accompanying coat of arms. Quartered coats of arms are, in most cases treated similarly, the exception being where the individual quarters do not seem to be separable (what the English College of Arms calls "impartible coats").

Addington, Isaac [34] Per pale ermine and counter-ermine, on a chevron counterchanged between three fleurs-de-lys four lozenges all counterchanged sable and argent.

Apthorp, Mary Mansbridge] [20] Per pale nebuly argent and azure, two mullets counterchanged.

Barker, Robert [47] Per fess nebuly azure (though it looks more like vert) and sable three martlets or, a canton ermine. (See note at Section I, No. 47, above regarding the field tincture.)

Barkley [Berkeley/Barclay], John [55] Gules, a chevron between ten crosses patty six and four argent.

Beach [98] Gules, three lions passant or overall on a bend sable three stag's heads cabossed or.

Belchier [Belcher], Andrew [37] Or, three pallets gules and a chief vair.

Bell [99] Azure, a fess ermine between three church bells or.

Boarland [85] Barry argent and gules. a boar salient.

Borden, Mary [73] Argent, three cinquefoils azure.

Bratell, Edward [9] Gules, a chevron engrailed or between three battle-axes argent garnished or.

Brattell [Brattle], Thomas [30] Gules, a chevron engrailed or between three battle-axes argent garnished or.

Brindle [Brinley], Francis [58] Per pale sable and or, a chevron between three escallops counterchanged on a bordure argent eight roundels azure.

Brinley, Mary Borden [73] Per pale sable and or, a chevron between three escallops counterchanged a bordure argent semy of roundels azure.

Britton [Breton], John [49] Quarterly per fess indented argent and gules, in the first quarter a mullet sable.

Brown, John [44] Argent, on a bend doubly-cotised sable three eagles displayed argent, a crescent gules for difference in sinister chief.

Brown, Samuel [57] Argent, on a bend doubly cotised sable three eagles displayed argent.

AN ORDINARY OF THE GORE ROLL

As noted in the Introduction, above, the arms in the Gore roll have been sorted by all of the charges on the shield, no matter their size or placement. As a consequence of this, for example, under "Crescent" you will find crescents on the field, crescents on other charges, and the small crescents used "for difference". All blazons are in alphabetical order within each category of charge.

Following the blazon of each coat is the name to whom the arms are assigned in the Gore Roll, followed by the number of the arms in square brackets ([ ]), which is the numerical order of that coat of arms in the Roll. Where more than one individual in the Gore Roll is assigned the identical coat of arms, the blazon is listed but once under each appropriate category, with the names of all such individuals (and their entry numbers in brackets) following the blazon, in alphabetical order.

ANNULET

Argent, a fess between six annulets gules. Lucas, Thomas [48]

Argent, on a bend cotised sable three annulets or. Silyen [Selwyn], John [83]

Argent, three bars and in chief three annulets azure. Kilby, Christopher [90]; Kilby. Gilbert McAdams [McAdams, Kilby and Clark] [92]

Azure, a fess between three dolphins naiant argent, on the fess an annulet gules for difference. Lemon, Joseph [38]

AXE

Gules, a chevron engrailed or between three battle-axes argent garnished or. Bratell, Edward [9]; Brattell [Brattle], Thomas [30]

Gules, two battle-axes in saltire or between four martlets argent. Pickman, Benjamin [76]

BAR (*see also* FESS)

- - - two bars gemel - - - on a chief - - - five trefoils slipped, three and two, Paddock [87]

Argent, four lozenges in fess gules between two bars sable. Richards, John [10]; Richards, Thomas [33]

Argent, three bars and in chief three annulets azure. Kilby, Christopher [90]; Kilby. Gilbert McAdams [McAdams, Kilby and Clark] [92]

BARONET'S BADGE
(Argent, a sinister hand apaumy couped gules)

Argent, a chevron gules between three pine-apples vert, on a canton gules a fleur-de-lys argent, surmounting the chevron the badge of a baronet [on an escutcheon argent a sinister hand apaumy gules]. Pepperell, William [97]

BEAST

Argent, on a fess gules between three beasts passant sable a cross crosslet fitchy or between two trefoils slipped argent. Norden, Nathaniel [12]

Boar

Barry argent and gules. a boar salient. Boarland [85]

Gules, a boar passant argent collared and chained or fastened to a holly-tree atop a mount vert. Owen, John [4]

Deer (incl. Stag, etc.)

Gules, a stag trippant or. Davis, wife of Charles Frost [11]