

# Introduction

Some years ago, when examining gravestones of my forebears in St Clement's, Footdee, near the harbour of Aberdeen, my wife noticed an old stone carved coat of arms built into the kirkyard dyke with an accompanying inscription.

*"GEORGE DAVIDSON ELDER BURGESS OF ABD. BIGIT THIS DYK ON HIS OYIN EXPENSES 1650"*

It was this stone carved statement that started my interest in family arms and in heraldry.



George Davidstone's Restored  
Memorial Plaque on the Kirkyard Wall,  
St Clement's, Footdee, Aberdeen

- Why have such a Coat of Arms?
- Why a deer and three arrow heads or pheons?
- When did it start?
- What arms did other people use?

Over the subsequent years, my researches into the Davidsons and their heraldry have continued across Scotland. In recent years it has been possible to access records more easily and as a result far more material has come to light, not only in Scotland, but also from the rest of the UK and the world. This book is an attempt to document these findings and the variance in the images used and their possible historic sources.

The following chapters include something of the background to arms, and the legal nature of the granting of arms. The Scottish references pre-dominate the early records, because of the Scottish roots of the Davidsons. However English and some Irish information have also been included.

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