

# Introduction

The following sections include images of the many differing forms of Davidson and Davison arms found during our researches. These include both the regular as defined by having been formally granted in Edinburgh or London, and also the irregular and informal where no such grant of arms exists.

Whatever the legal basis for these designs, they make interesting study and provide many clues about the various families who used them.

The images have been found in many different parts of Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland as well from Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Southern Africa and the USA.

I have delved into many archives and museums and have also received many contributions from Clan Davidson Association members from across the world.

I have explored many isolated churches and kirkyards across parts of the Highlands and Aberdeenshire, often with the help of other Clan Davidson members.

We cannot possibly include copies of all the images found. However, we have attempted to show a good selection under the various sections headings.

The research project still continues. More images still keep emerging. I know there is far more material to be found and researched. I would appeal to all who read this to let us know if their family still holds armorial material which might be relevant.

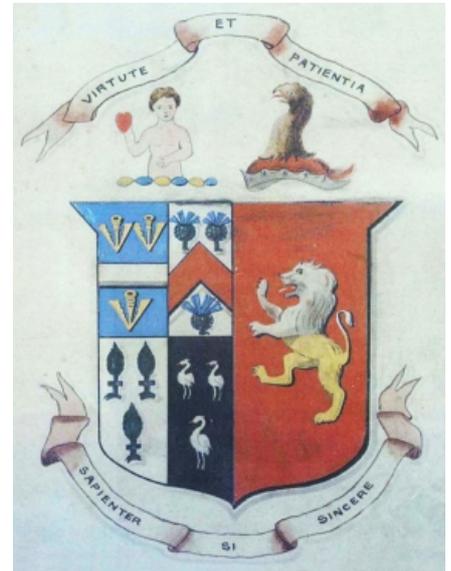
If you know of a building or monument with relevant images, please tell us.

If you see an item in a museum or library, do let us know.

We are also willing to share the wealth of family history which usually results from the discovery of some of these items. We believe it is important to share this element of the Clan history as much as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact us through our website:

[www.clandavidson.org.uk](http://www.clandavidson.org.uk)



3 Items from the same family

As an amateur researcher it has been interesting to find these items either buried in archives I never realized existed or from exploring ancient kirkyards. In one case, I only discovered the Logie-Durno items when I was editing a set of photos on my return from a research trip to Aberdeenshire. This Davidson armorial item suddenly showed up on my computer screen.

In another case, I must have walked past the entrance to St Andrew's Cathedral in Aberdeen many times, before I looked inside and made a great find on the decorated ceiling.

St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen



Davison Bookplate



The Davison finds in the churches of Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland, Lancashire and Lincolnshire have been a revelation, particularly as the quality is so good. In several cases the detail found on the monumental inscriptions and memorials has provided useful clues to the identity of some of the names on the bookplates in the collection.

The subsequent research from these finds has enabled us to piece together many incomplete aspects of the relevant families' history.

The loss of so many rural kirks in Scotland together with the erosion in the kirkyards has meant the loss of armorial items. In Northern England, the effect of industrial air pollution has also ruined many externally sited armorial items, but those inside the churches are often in pristine condition.

Some of the items have added significantly to our knowledge about particular Davidsons. Four years ago I was shown the arms of a John Davidson by another Clan Davidson member. An extraordinary story subsequently unfolded covering many generations with connections across the world. Part of this story was published in the 2005 edition of the Clan Davidson Association journal *The Pheon*.

Arms of John Davidson 1797-1836





Arms of Samuel C. Davidson, Belfast

Perhaps the greatest privilege has been to explore the Davidson, Davison & Dawson arms records in the Lord Lyon Court in Edinburgh with Charles Davidson.

To the many friends and contacts around the world who have helped me and shared with me their family items, may I say "thank you". Little did I realize what an interesting area of family history I was getting into when Charles Davidson approached me to assist in the completion of his researches.

**Nick Hide**  
**London 2008**