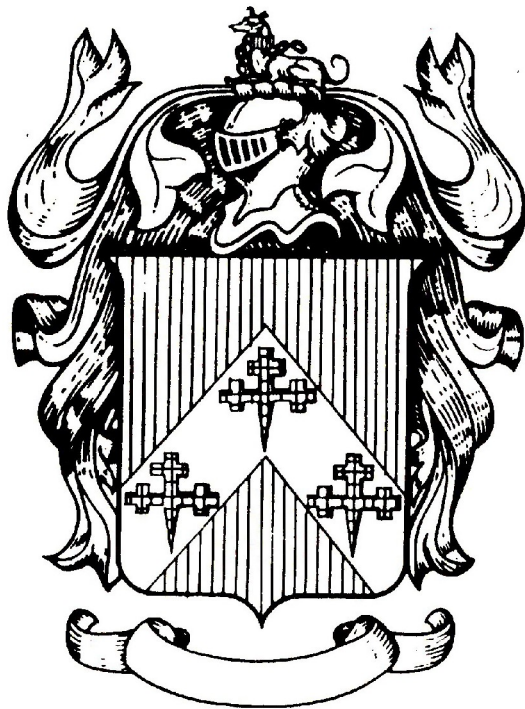


Coat of Arms

Historiography



Braithwaite

The Braithwaite Coat of Arms, illustrated left, was drawn by an heraldic artist from information officially recorded in ancient heraldic archives. Documentation for the Braithwaite Coat of Arms design can be found in [Burke's General Armory](#). Heraldic artists of old developed their own unique language to describe an individual Coat of Arms. In their language, the Arms (shield) is as follows:

"Gu. on a chev. ar. three crosses crosslet fitchee sa."

When translated into modern English, the Arms description is:

"Red, on a silver chevron, three black pointed crosses."

Above the shield and helmet is the Crest which is described as:

"A greyhound couchant ar. collared and chained gu."

A translation of the Crest description is:

"A silver greyhound, laying down, wearing a red collar and chain."

Family mottoes are believed to have originated as battle cries in medieval times; however, a motto was not recorded with the Braithwaite Coat of Arms.

Individual surnames originated for the purpose of more specific identification. The four primary sources for second names were: occupation, location, father's name, and personal characteristics. The surname Braithwaite appears to be locational in origin, and is believed to be associated with the English, meaning, "one who came from, or lived near Braitwaite (broad clearing)."

Different spellings of the same original surname are a common occurrence. Dictionaries of surnames indicate probable spelling variations. The most prominent variations of Braithwaite are Brathwaite, Breathwaite, Braithwait and Braithwaites.

Census records available disclose the fact there are approximately 500 heads of households in the United States with the old and distinguished Braithwaite name. The United States Census Bureau estimates there are approximately 3.2 persons per household in America today which yields an approximate total of 1600 people in the United States carrying the Braithwaite name. Although the figure seems relatively low, it does not signify the many important contributions that individuals bearing the Braithwaite name have made to history.

