

Excerpted from **Genealogy of the Bliss family in America, from about the year 1550 - 1880**  
by John Homer Bliss, January 1, 1881

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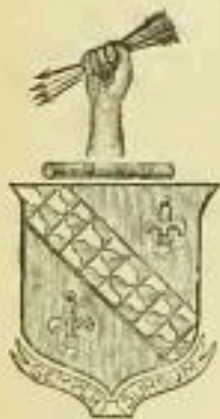
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## COAT OF ARMS.

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Coats of Arms were long regarded as "indispensable appendages of gentlemen," but on the decline of the feudal system, about 1688, and the rise of the Reformation, they were treated in a measure as idle trappings of aristocracy, and lost the prestige originally attributed to them. In America they soon came to be regarded as "relics of former family vanity;" and the staunch old Puritans would not allow themselves to tolerate even a thought that could remind them of the vain-glorious display and pomp of their persecutors in England; and so their children and descendants born in America grew up in ignorance of the heraldic standing of their ancestors in the mother country.

In Edmondson's Heraldry, and also in Vol. II of "Encyclopedia Heraldica," by William Berry, of London, England, we find the following description of the Coat of Arms of the Bliss family:

"Gules, a bend vair, between two fleurs-de-lis, or."

As to the construction of this shield, it appears that gules [red] is a royal color, as Gerard Leigh says "it hath long been used by emperors and kings for an apparel of majesty, and of judges in their judgment seats." Spelman observes that the color red was honored by the Romans as it had been before by the Trojans, for they painted their gods with vermilion, and clothed their generals who triumphed, with garments of that hue. This color denotes martial prowess, boldness, hardihood, valor and magnanimity; it is considered the noblest of all colors, and in Heraldry is assimilated to the planet Mars in the heavens, to the ruby among stones, and among flowers to the rose.

The origin of vair (or vaire) is from the fur of a beast called varus, [MACKENZIE, p. 23,] whose back is a blue-gray, its belly being white, and therefore heralds have expressed it white and blue in colors; and when the head and feet of the animal are taken away, the skin resembles in figure

a little cup or bell. The skins are used alternately blue and white, and in ancient times were much in vogue for lining the robes and mantles of senators, consuls, kings and emperors, and thereupon were termed "doublings." The first use of them in Heraldry is said to be from LE SEIGNEUR DE COUCIES, fighting in Hungary, and seeing his army fly, pulled out the doubling or lining of his cloak, which was of those colors, and hung it up as an ensign; whereupon the soldiers knowing his courage and confiding in it, returned to the battle and overcame their enemy.—[COLOMB., p. 58.]

The fleur-de-lis has been from the first bearing the charge of a regal escutcheon originally borne by the French kings, and was until late in the nineteenth century the insignia of royalty in France. The lily, which of all flowers is most esteemed by the French, has been of old and still is represented by a rudely drawn fleur-de-lis. As before stated, it was the heraldic device or emblem of the royal family of France, and was so borne from the time of Clovis until the accession of Louis Phillippe;—and whether this badge came to our family by royal descent or by royal favor, we are unable to judge.

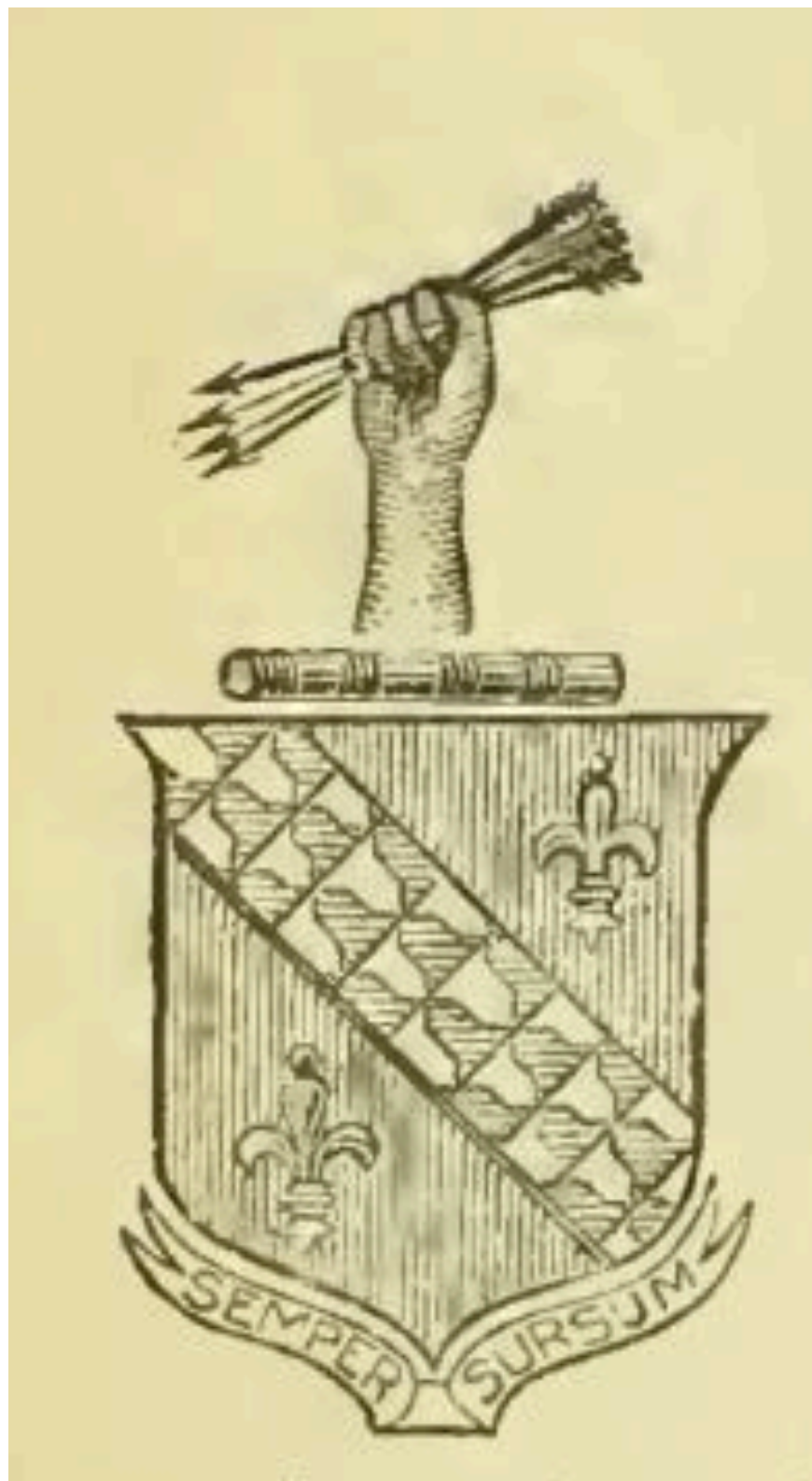
In English Heraldry different marks of cadency were used to indicate the various branches or cadets of one family:—the oldest son, during the life time of his father, bore a "label;" the second son a crescent; the third a mullet; the fourth a martlet; the fifth an annulet; and the sixth a fleur-de-lis. Thus it would appear that the original grant of arms to a Bliss, by whoever given, (if in England,) was to a sixth son. Some writers have fancied that a significant symbol might be drawn from the fleur-de-lis as to the flowers of literature which younger sons were led to cultivate in the schools to fit them for the church, the senate, and the bar; but Newton thinks the adaptation was originally intended to be only personal, an accident in arms, exhibiting the degree of consanguinity of the bearer to the living head of the family.

Or, (gold)—"Such is the worthiness of this color that none ought to bear the same in arms but emperors and kings, and such as be of the blood royal; and as this metal exceedeth all others in value, purity and fineness, so ought the bearer endeavor to surpass all others in prowess and vertue."—GUILIM.

The significance and appropriateness of the crest will be fully understood after a perusal of the Traditional History of the family.

The motto, "SEMPER SURSUM," translated, means, "ever upward," and signifies that the bearer should always endeavor to excel in his undertakings, aiming at goodness rather than greatness, in every deed or motive.

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6599. ELIZA A., b. at Euclid, O., May 12, 1842, m. in 1865, F. B. Arnold, mail agent, Cleveland, where she died Feb. 26, 1874.  
6600. LUCY L., b. at E., Aug. 21, 1844, m. in 1869, P. E. Blood, machine agent, Grand Rapids, Michigan.  
6601. EMMA S., born at E., Feb. 26, 1846, married in 1867, Chandler Waters, railroad engineer, Collingwood, O.  
6602. WILLIAM HENRY, b. at E., Oct. 22, 1848, belonged to the Ambulance Corps of an Ohio regiment during the great rebellion, and died at Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1865, un. m.  
6603. ADELA A., born at Willoughby, O., July 24, 1850, died at Euclid, in 1865.

## 3486.

ALBERT GALLATIN, of Strafford, Vt., tanner and shoemaker, (son of Samuel Bliss, jr., and Sarah Young, of Strafford,) was born in that place, Feb. 24, 1804, and married Jan. 1, 1830, to Elmira B. Preston, who was b. in Strafford, Jan. 11, 1807. He died in September or October, 1879. Issue, all born at Strafford :

6604. FRANCES E., b. Oct. 28, 1831, m. Feb. 26, 186 . . . , Otis Adams, farmer, of Pomfret, Vt.  
6605. HANNAH A., born April 9th, 1833, m. April 16, 1874, Benjamin B. Bowen, gun-smith, of Tunbridge, Vt.  
6606. A SON, born Dec. 24, died Dec. 25, 1835.  
6607. SAMUEL A., born Feb. 12, 1836, died May 9, 1865,—a shoemaker, at S.  
6608. LOTHROP, born April 24, died Sept. 26, 1838.  
6609. DAVID C., born Aug. 12, 1841, died Sept. 15, 1842.  
6610. LYDIA R., b. Dec. 13, 1842, m. Nov. 15, 1877, William P. Morse, contractor, and builder, West Randolph, Vt.  
6611. SARAH E., b. Dec. 12, 1844, m. Nov. 26, 1867, George W. Preston, farmer, of Tunbridge, Vermont.

## 3487.

PELEG YOUNG, farmer, of Aurora, (Sugar Grove P. O.) Illinois, (son of Samuel Bliss, jr., and Sarah Young, of Strafford, Vt.,) was b. at Strafford, April 8th, 1806, and married Feb. 3, 1842, to Hellen L. Mather, who was born at Lodi, N. Y., July 9, 1822. Issue, born at Sugar Grove :

6612. JANETTE, born June 29, 1844.  
6613. JEDEDIAH HARRIS, born Nov. 5, 1847,—farmer, at Sugar Grove.

[From the Vermont Watchman and State Journal, of Sept. 17, 1879.]

A GENUINE VERMONT.ER.—We have recently had the pleasure of a visit by a remarkable man, a native of Vermont, who has resided for many years at Sugar Grove, Illinois. Peleg Y. Bliss was one of "God's poor," but by industry, temperance, integrity, wit and wisdom, he has become wealthy ; and what is best, he is a father to other poor boys of the present generation. At nine years of age he visited an aunt at Montpelier, the wife of the late Dr. Sylvester Day, of the United States Army. He was then indentured to the late John Howes, of Moretown, and, after an unfortunate experience for a short time, he ran away, and turned up at Strafford, where

he was very lucky in gaining the favor of the late Hon. Jedediah H. Harris, under whose patronage he got into business that has been for himself and for the heirs of Mr. Harris remarkably prosperous. With no education but that of the Vermont district school to begin with, Mr. Bliss has made himself a good writer, and has contributed much to the press in New York City and Chicago, and always for useful purposes. He claims to be the originator of the policy, recently adopted by the United States government, of granting prairie lands to settlers who plant trees and thus stock that portion of the country with timber. Among his contributions to the Chicago press is a very touching tale entitled "John Leniel's Revenge." It is the story of a boy who was adopted and educated by Bliss, and enlisting in the Union army was the first of his company to fall by disease. We hardly know whom to honor most, the patriotic boy or his foster father. It is not a remarkable thing for natives of Vermont to have an affectionate remembrance of their native State, but Mr. Bliss has a remarkable way of remembering not only Vermont, but her children. In a book he obtains a sentence of some sort and the signature of every Vermonter he meets, and on the walls of a room prepared for the purpose in his house, he puts these memorials of the children of his native State. We cannot help honoring Mr. Bliss as a worthy "Green Mountain boy."

3488.

LUCIAN B., of West Springfield, Mass., (son of Samuel Bliss, jr., and Sarah Young, of Strafford, Vt.,) was born at Strafford, Sept. 25, 1809, and married Sept. 19, 1837, to Sarah M. Folger, who was born at Nantucket, Mass., Jan. 27, 1815. Issue :

6614. HENRY C., b. at Norwich, Vt., May 5, 1846, is a lawyer, residing at Washington, D. C., (1427 F st., N. W.)

6617. Three children in this family died at. two, seven and twenty-six years respectively,— names not given.

3492.

HENRY C., farmer, of Nottingham, N. H., and of (Maplewood,) Melrose, Mass., (son of James Bliss and Anna Walbridge, of Stanstead, P. Q.,) was born in Compton, P. Q., Jan. 2, 1817, and married April 8, (S. R., 3d,) 1852, to Martha A., daughter of Jonathan Wyeth. She was born in Moretown, Vt., March 3, 1828. Issue, born in Nottingham :

6618. CHARLES S., born Oct. 15, 1856, died in N., April 12, 1858.

6619. WILLIAM IRVING, born July 23, 1859, book-keeper, at 272 Devonshire st., Boston, Mass.

3496.

QUARTUS, farmer, of Compton, P. Q., (son of Lyman Bliss and Sally Chamberlin, of Compton,) was born in that place, March 13th, 1823, and married July 8, 1858, to Ellen, daughter of Hazen Pomeroy. She was b. at Stanstead, P. Q., Sept. 16, 1831. Issue, all born in Compton :

# Vermont Watchman & State Journal.

BY J. & J. M. POLAND.

MONTPELIER, VT., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1879.

VOL. 74.—3805. NO. 49.

events of the second day of racing of the Barnes Hose Company of America. The company, 100 offered by the directors of the Agricultural Society, undertook to make a time—sixty-two and one-half minutes—was witnessed by a vast number of people on either side. The race was a fine appearance. At the start the horse was in right gallant style and the judges' stand flying. Few of the horses ever, were prepared for the race which had been achieved. It was announced as *fifty-two and one-half* minutes the fastest time ever made.

The second heat was made in thirty-four seconds, after an interval of thirty seconds. The average of the two heats was one-fourth—a most brilliant record. Afterwards the boys gave a performance in hurdle-racing, jumping, etc., in which they acquitted themselves well. Just before the race Colonel George A. Merriam, of the State Agricultural Society, made a speech, congratulating the Barnes Hose Company on having surmounted their record and thanking them for their performance on the present occasion; to which he was responded by three cheers.

The accident was surprisingly small, and a dense crowd. The most disastrous accident happened to James Wade, of Montpelier & Wells River, who was backed up to the park station when the engineer was put on. The air brake was put on and the car stopped. Wade was thrown out of the rear car of the train and fell a few feet from the end of it. The fall was so great that he turned a somersault behind the car. Both wheels of the car, though the wheels did not stop as at first supposed. He was taken to the hospital in town and from there

**A GENUINE VERMONTER.**—We have recently had the pleasure of a visit by a remarkable man, a native of Vermont, who has resided for many years at Sugar Grove, Illinois. Peleg Y. Bliss was one of "God's poor," but by industry, temperance, integrity, wit and wisdom, he has become wealthy; and, what is best, he is a father to other poor boys of the present generation. At nine years of age he visited an aunt at Montpelier, the wife of the late Dr. Sylvester Day of the United States Army. He was then indentured to the late John Howes of Moretown, and, after an unfortunate experience for a short time, he ran away, and turned up at Strafford, where he was very lucky in gaining the favor of the late Hon. Jedediah H. Harris, under whose patronage he got into business that has been for himself and for the heirs of Mr. Harris remarkably prosperous. With no education but that of the Vermont district school to begin with, Mr. Bliss has made himself a good writer, and has contributed much to the press in New York city and Chicago, and always for useful purposes. He claims to be the originator of the policy, recently adopted by the United States government, of granting prairie lands to settlers who plant trees and thus stock that portion of the country with timber. Among his contributions to the Chicago press is a very touching tale entitled "John Leniel's Revenge." It is the story of a boy who was adopted and educated by Bliss, and enlisting in the Union army was the first of his company to fall by disease. We hardly know whom to honor most, the patriotic boy or his foster father. It is not a remarkable thing for natives of Vermont to have an affectionate remembrance of their native state, but Mr. Bliss has a remarkable way of remembering not only Vermont but her children. In a book he obtains a sentence of some sort and the signature of every Vermonter he meets, and on the walls of a room prepared for the purpose in his house, he puts these memorials of the children of his native state. We cannot help honoring Mr. Bliss as a worthy "Green Mountain boy."

G. L. Reynolds, heifer, 1-year-old  
G. L. Reynolds, heifer calves, 1

**AYRSHIRE**

I. T. Parris, Fairfax, herd, 1st...  
Curtis Wheeler, Fairfax, 2d...  
Curtis Wheeler, Fairfax, bull, 3...  
I. T. Parris, Fairfax, bull, 2-year...  
Curtis Wheeler, Fairfax, bull, 1...  
I. T. Parris, Fairfax, 2d and 3d...  
I. T. Parris, Fairfax, cow, 3-year...  
Curtis Wheeler, Fairfax, 2d and...  
I. T. Parris, Fairfax, heifer, 2-year...  
Curtis Wheeler, Fairfax, 3d...  
I. T. Parris, Fairfax, heifer, 1-year...  
Curtis Wheeler, Fairfax, 3d...  
Curtis Wheeler, Fairfax, heifer...  
I. T. Parris, Fairfax, 2d and 3d

**DEVON**

Edwin House, Waitsfield, herd...  
E. House, Waitsfield, bull, 3-year...  
I. & S. S. Walker, Hartland, bull...  
I. M. Willard, East Montpelier, bull...  
Chas. L. Stevens, North Danville, bull...  
Edwin House, Waitsfield, 2d...  
Edwin House, Waitsfield, bull...  
George Davis, East Montpelier, bull...  
Edwin House, Waitsfield, 3d...  
Geo. Davis, E. Montpelier, cow...  
Edwin House, Waitsfield, 2d...  
George Davis, East Montpelier, bull...  
Edwin House, Waitsfield, 2-year...  
C. L. Stevens, North Danville, bull...  
Edwin House, Waitsfield, 3d...  
Edwin House, Waitsfield, yearling...  
George Davis, East Montpelier, bull...  
Edwin House, Waitsfield, 3d...  
Geo. Davis, E. Montpelier, heifer

**GRADE OR NATIVE**

A. D. Arms, East Montpelier, cow...  
over, 1st...  
A. D. Arms, East Montpelier, bull...  
H. H. Martin, East Montpelier, bull...  
J. A. Shedd, Burlington, heifer...  
H. H. Martin, East Montpelier, bull...  
J. A. Shedd, Burlington, 3d...

**TOWN TRADE**

East Montpelier, 1st...  
Marshfield, 2d...

**FAT CALVES**

Stephen Greeley, East Montpelier...  
Orrin Cummings, East Montpelier...  
G. L. Reynolds, Burlington, fat...  
Orrin Cummings, East Montpelier...

**WORKING OXEN**

A. J. Hollister, East Montpelier...  
and over, 1st...  
S. L. Gilman, Marshfield, 2d...  
Willis Lane, Marshfield, oxen, 1...  
3d...  
L. R. Joslyn, Waitsfield, oxen, 1...  
H. H. Martin, East Montpelier, bull...  
L. A. Piersons, East Montpelier, bull...  
C. P. Whitney, Westminster, bull...  
L. A. Piersons, East Montpelier, bull...  
S. L. Gilman, Marshfield, 3d...  
C. P. Whitney, Westminster, bull...  
L. R. Joslyn, Waitsfield, 2d and...  
H. H. Martin, East Montpelier, bull...  
C. R. Whitney, Westminster, 2d...  
J. A. Shedd, Burlington, steer...  
H. C. Waldo, East Randolph, 2d...