Beggs, or Grant; small, Pettitt, Pettye, Petty; Young, Yonge; Oldman; Armstrong; crooked shanks, Cruikshank. A man's gait produced Swift, Golightly (the name of the heroine in Breakfast at Tiffany's), Ambler, and Proudfoot. Complexion: Sorrel, Burnell, Grey, Blake or Black; blond produced Blount, Blondel, Blundell. Dispositions evolved into surnames like Wise, Makepeace, Truman, Curtis (courteous), Smart, Sharp, Hardy, Meek, Boons (good), and the like.

Animals and birds added to nomenclature: Oliphant, elephant; Lyon, Martin, Bullock, Nightingale, Swan, Heron. The list of these is endless

English names are truly imbedded in the amber of history.


The Elements of Heraldry is a slim volume containing a wealth of information on the science of heraldry, "which treats of the classification and description of certain hereditary emblems, and the rules which govern their use," and which is presented to show how, "by certain easy rules, a system of emblems has been formed, capable of almost infinite expansion, and yet susceptible of easy comprehension."

The book, when considered with reference to its "slant" toward American readers, becomes especially interesting. In fact, it was brought about through the endeavors of the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society to publish all coats of arms used here before the Revolution. But since the Committee found that Americans had little understanding of Heraldry in general, they found it necessary to compile this basic book.

Americans visiting the British Isles or the European continent, where heraldic symbols abound, will find this slim book valuable.

The author warns American readers that "whoever uses a coat of arms, by that act proclaims his lineal descent from the person who first assumed it . . . . The sole value or interest of our American coats-of-arms consists in the remembrance of an honorable ancestry. We cannot afford to insult our real progenitors by a false claim to others."

At the end of the book is an essay on "Heraldry in America," Gore's "Heraldic List of New England Families," and an alphabetized list of heraldic terms.