



RATTRAY

RATTRAY adopted the Lindsay Act in 1873, and under the Burgh Police Act of 1892, took for the Common Seal of the Burgh an adaptation from the Coat of Arms of Sir James Clerk-Rattray of Craighall-Rattray, out of respect to him and his family. The Seal is as follows:—

In the centre is a shield bearing three cross-crosslets. Above, as crest, is one cross-crosslet between two five-pointed stars. The shield is supported by two serpents, and on the outer side of each is a five-pointed star. The Coat of Arms of the family of Rattray of Rattray are "*azure*, three cross-crosslets, fitchée *or*; crest—on a mullet a flaming heart proper; supporters—two serpents, and the motto is "*Super sidera votum*," meaning "My desires are above the stars."

Rattray takes its name from the family of Rattray, who had been in possession of lands in the parish for over eight hundred years. The first of the family upon record was one Alanus de Ratteriff, who lived in the reign of King William the Lion, and King Alexander II., and who, in 1170 obtained a site of an old fort, which he occupied and built upon, and the surrounding lands were called in consequence "de Rattrief." Nisbet remarks, regarding the name—"In the reign of Malcolm III., amongst the old surnames, Hector Boece mentions this, the principal of which was Rattray of that ilk, in the shire of Perth. In the register of the abbacy of Arbroath, there is a perambulation of the date 1250, between that convent, and *Thomas de Rattray*, about the lands of Kingledrum; and, in the reign of King Robert the Bruce, *Eustachius de Rattray* was falsely accused in the Parliament of Perth for treason against that king, but was fairly acquitted."

Mr John A. R. Macdonald, Architect, Blairgowrie, to whom I am much indebted, informs me that an old manuscript contains the following note: "There is a parish and kirk called Rattray and the castle of Rattray hath a pleasant situation; there is in a plain valley a little green mound, that would seem to be artificial, but will be a quarter of a mile in length, rising high with a ridge, upon the east end thereof stood the castell, with a chapel lower down. It overlooks the plain, with a river running within a quarter of a mile called the water of Rattray, and in Irish 'Erich,' because

it rises soon after rain." Mr Macdonald, in his interesting communication to me, then goes on to say: "There is traditionary and documentary evidence that several successive Rattrays of Rattray took part in the Crusades, this would account for the crosses, the special symbol of the Crusaders. Serpents as symbols were not always regarded with antipathy, yet the serpentine supporters of the Rattray shield may be derived from some of those mythical reptiles fabled to have been slain by British heroes, or they may represent the Scriptural figure."



RENFREW

RENFREW existed in the days of King David I. and was erected into a Royal Burgh by King Robert III. in 1396. Up to the seventeenth century the town stood upon the banks of the river Clyde, and in a charter of 1644 it is described as the principal seaport on the river, but after a time the river changed its course, and now the Burgh is at some distance from it. When the town was on the Clyde vessels of considerable size were built close to it, and the Seal of the Burgh shows an ancient lymphad with furled sail, and a pennon flying from the mast. From each end of the spar bearing the sail is suspended a shield. The shield on the right bears a lion rampant, being the Royal Coat of Arms of King Robert, while the shield on the left bears a fesse cheque, being the Coat of Arms of the Stewart family. Both these refer to the erection of the Royalty by King Robert. On the prow of the lymphad is placed the sun, and on the stern the crescent moon with a face in profile. What these luminaries and their respective positions indicate, it is now impossible to say, unless the meaning is that the Stewarts rose from obscurity (the moon representing night) to the days of royalty (the sun representing day), the moon being beneath the Stewart Arms, and the sun beneath the Royal Arms. In each upper corner of the shield is a cross crosslet fitchée. The motto of the Burgh "*Deus Gubernat Navem*" (God rules the ship) appears above the whole.

Chalmers derives the name of the place from two Welsh words—*Rhyn*, meaning a point of land, and *Frew*, a flow of water, the name thus meaning the point of land near the junction of the rivers Clyde and Gryfe.



ROSEHEARTY

THE town of Roseheartly seems to have come into existence during the fourteenth century, some buildings or cots having been erected then in the vicinity of the present town, and inhabited by crofters. Tradition says that a company of Danes were shipwrecked on the rocks in the neighbourhood, and having no means of returning to their own country, or perhaps not wishing to do so, they settled down among the inhabitants and instructed them in the art of fishing. In course of time fishing became the principal industry of the place, which increased in size through others coming and settling down to the same pursuit. The then Knight of Pitsligo, the proprietor, to encourage them, built a harbour and gave other facilities, and a new town gradually grew up in the course of the sixteenth century. By a Royal charter dated 13th July 1681 the town was erected into a Burgh of Barony in favour of the second Baron Pitsligo, and this was supplemented by a second charter dated 1st October 1684. Eventually the superiority of the Burgh passed to the Dingwall-Fordyces of Brucklay, in whose possession it now is.

The name is considered to be derived either from the Gaelic *Ros*, a promontory, and *Ard*, a height, or from a compound Gaelic word *Ros-achdair*, meaning promontory and anchor, the name thus meaning anchorage ground near the promontory.

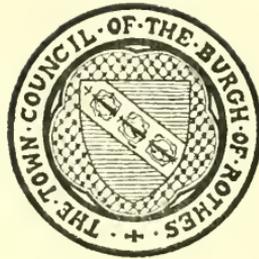
In 1893 Roseheartly came under the provisions of the Burgh Police Act of 1892, and as was requisite under that Act a Common Seal was adopted as follows:—

The centre of the Seal bears the Coat of Arms of the family of Forbes, Barons Pitsligo. It is a shield divided into four. The first and fourth quarters are *azure* three boars' heads couped, argent and muzzled for Forbes. The second and third quarters are *gules*, argent three cinquefoils *azure* for Fraser. The tinctures in the above illustration are omitted. The supporters are two bears proper, muzzled *gules*, and beneath is the motto of the family, "*Altius ibunt qui ad summa nituntur*" (They will go higher who strive to the utmost). Above the shield is a coronet, and above that, as crest, taking the place of the hand and dagger, the crest of the Barons Pitsligo, is a heart on a rose, with the motto "*Cordo et Manu*" (Heart and hand).

At some period in the history of heraldry a mistake seems to have occurred in the emblazonment of the Arms of the Barons Pitsligo, as well as in the Arms of

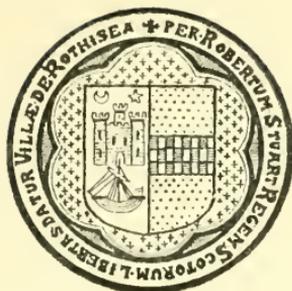
Urquhart of Meldrum (*see* Old Meldrum). The Arms of Baron Forbes, from whose family the Barons Pitsligo were descended, bear three *bears'* heads, couped, *argent*, muzzled *gules*, and not *boars'* heads as above. As is mentioned under Old Meldrum, the family of Forbes is said by Sir George Mackenzie to be descended "originally from one Ochonacher who came from Ireland, and for killing a wild bear took the name *Forbear*, now pronounced *Forbes*." The name Ochoncar is still a family name of the Barons Forbes. The above story may be true, but it is said that the antiquity of the family of Forbes is sufficiently attested by a grant from King Alexander II. about 1250 to Fergus, the son of John, of the lands and tenements of Forbes in the county of Aberdeen, and that from thence is derived the surname according to the custom of these days, as it was in the south. The first of the name on record was Alexander Forbes, who in 1304 defended his castle of Urquhart near Elgin against King Edward I. The castle however was taken and he and his garrison slain. His wife had a posthumous son, Alexander, who was killed in battle. This latter's son, Sir John Forbes, had four sons, of whom the eldest was created Baron Forbes, and the other three were knighted. The second son, Sir William, married Agnes, daughter and heiress to Sir William Fraser of Philorth, an ancestor of Lord Saltoun, and with her he obtained the barony of Pitsligo. On account of this marriage he quartered the three cinquefoils, the Fraser Arms, with his own.

In Pratt's "Buchan" we are told that about the middle of the sixteenth century two large houses were erected in Roseheart. One of them, still standing, was called the "Jam," and on a stone in the wall the date of its erection, 1573, is carved. The other one was built as a residence for a dowager Lady Pitsligo, and was called the "Lodging-House," but it is now demolished. Above the entrance was a stone with a rose and a heart carved on it, evidently a play upon the name of the place, which devices were adopted for part of the Seal of the Burgh. The stone also bore the inscription "*Nunc Troia ubi seges*" (Troy now stands where corn waved), an inversion of the classic line "*Jam seges est ubi Troja fuit*" (Now corn grows where Troy was), which appears to have referred to the rise of the town. The date 1760 was also carved on it, but this date is said to have been inserted in place of the original one.



ROTHES

ROTHES adopted the Lindsay Act in 1884, and under the Burgh Police Act of 1892 the Town Council took as the Common Seal part of the Coat of Arms of the Earls of Rothes, viz., on a shield, three buckles, the origin of which will be found under Leslie. The ancient seat of this family was Rothes Castle, situated on the summit of a hill near the town. It was one of the most ancient fortalices in the country; was defended by a wall, moat, and drawbridge; but now the only vestige remaining is a part of the surrounding wall. As said under Leslie, the ancestor of the Leslies, Earls of Rothes, came to Scotland with Margaret Atheling, and in 1457 his descendants were created Earls of Rothes by King James II. These Earls seem to have resided at Rothes till 1620, when they removed to Fifeshire, and in 1700 they sold their remaining possessions in the north to the Grants.



ROTHESAY

KING ROBERT III. erected the town into a Royal Burgh on 12th January 1401, which is commemorated in the wording round the Seal. The Seal bears, on an ornamental background, a shield divided vertically. On the right hand side is the representation of a castle, with the crescent moon and a star above, and a lymphad with furling sails and pennon displayed beneath. The left hand side is described heraldically as *or*, a fess chequy, *azure* and *argent*.

The castle represents Rothesay Castle on the shore of Rothesay Bay. This castle is said to have been one of those erected by Magnus Barefoot, King of Norway, in 1098, to secure his conquest of the western islands of Scotland. It was a favourite residence of King Robert III., and in it he died. A village rose under its walls, and the name of the Burgh is said to be derived from the Gaelic *Riogh-suidhe*, meaning the King's seat.

At a Parliament held by King Robert III. at Scone on 28th April 1398, he created his eldest son, David, Duke of Rothesay, being the first introduction of this title into Scotland, and it is still held by the eldest son of the British sovereign.

It is not known what the meaning of the lymphad is, unless it has the same significance as the Galley of Lorne, mentioned under Campbeltown, but probably it refers to the herring fishing industry at one time engaged in by the inhabitants, and in which they were very successful. The meaning of the crescent moon and star is equally uncertain, but probably they are emblems of the night during which the herring fishery was prosecuted.

The fess cheque is the principal feature of the armorial bearings of the Stewart family, King Robert having been descended from the union between Marjory Bruce and Walter, the High-Steward of Scotland. Erskine says—"This officer was in ancient times of the highest dignity and trust; for he had not only the administration of the crown revenues, but the chief oversight of all the affairs of the household, and the privilege of the first place in the army, next to the King, in the day of battle.

Some antiquarians affirm that he had the hereditary guardianship of the kingdom in the sovereign's absence ; for which reason he was called *steward*, or *stedeward*, from *ward*, guardianship, and *sted*, vice or place. From this the royal house of Stuart took its surname ; but the office was sunk on their advancement to the crown, and has never since been revived." One of the household duties of the High-Steward was to wait upon the King when he was at table, on which occasion he carried a napkin, and the fess cheque is supposed to represent the dambrod pattern which is to be seen upon old linen, and thus was indicated the official duties of the High-Steward (*see Paisley*).

Legend asserts that the Stewarts are descended from Fleance, son of Banquo. The "Scots Peerage," published in 1826, says that Macbeth having murdered Duncan and Banquo, because the latter pretended to understand by sorceries that his issue should enjoy the crown of Scotland, Fleance, the son of Banquo (to avoid the like fate, which threatened all his race), fled into North Wales, where he married a daughter of Griffith ap Lewellin, the prince of that country, and by her had a son, named Walter, who returned to Scotland after the death of the tyrant Macbeth, and the restoration of King Malcolm III. For his valour and good conduct against the rebels in Galloway (besides his being the nearest branch of the royal family), King Malcolm created him Seneschal, or Lord High-Steward of Scotland ; so that from the name of his high office is derived the royal surname of Stewart.



RUTHERGLEN

THIS ancient Burgh, popularly known as *Ruglen*, was created a Royal Burgh by King David I., probably about 1126. The original Burgh bounds comprehended ancient Glasgow, but that town was excluded in 1226. At that time Rutherglen far excelled Glasgow in size and enterprise and was a place of great importance, but now it practically forms a suburb of Glasgow. In ancient times there was a fortress in the centre of the Burgh which contributed to its importance and prosperity. This fortress is said to have been built by a King Reuther, from whom the town is believed to have taken its name.

Laing, in his "Catalogue of Scottish Seals," describes the old Seal of Rutherglen as follows: "This, as well as the counter seal, seems to have been a very fine seal, but unfortunately is in bad preservation. The design is a galley with two men, one engaged in rowing, the other furling the sails. The inscription seems to be 'Sigillum communitatis de Rugleninse.'

"*Counter Seal of the last.* The Virgin sitting with the infant Jesus, and at each side an angel waving the thurible."

In 1889 the present Coat of Arms and Seal of the Burgh were adapted from the above. The following is the extract of matriculation of the Arms, which was kindly furnished to me by the Town Clerks: "Wm Mitchell, Esq., Provost, and other magistrates of the royal burgh of Rutherglen,—Having by petition to the Lyon King of Arms, dated the 7th day of February last, represented that the burgh of Rutherglen was a royal burgh as far back as the reign of King David the first; that while prior to the Act of 1672 c. 21, the magistrates of the said burgh used on their seal for corporate purposes certain armorial ensigns, these arms had by inadvertency after the passing of that Act not been recorded in the public register of all arms and bearings in Scotland; and that the petitioners were desirous of having legal authority given to the arms in question by their being matriculated in the said public registers, and also of having the further distinction accorded their supporters in respect of the importance of the said royal burgh of Rutherglen in earlier as well

as in later times ; the Lyon King of Arms by interlocutor of this date, assigned the supporters underwritten to the said petitioners, the Provost and the other magistrates of the royal burgh of Rutherglen and to their successors in office, and to the said royal burgh, and grants warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in their names the following ensigns armorial viz. : Argent, in a sea proper, an ancient galley sable flagged gules ; therein two men proper ; one rowing, the other furling the sail. Above the shield is placed a suitable helmet with a mantling gules doubled argent, and on a wreath of the proper liveries is set for crest a demi figure of the Virgin Mary with infant Saviour in her arms proper ; and on a compartment below the shield on which is an esrol containing the motto *ex fumo fama*, are placed for supporters, two angels proper, winged. Matriculated the fourth day of April 1889.

“ Extracted furth of the public register of all arms and bearings in Scotland.”

(Signed) J. W. MITCHELL,
Lyon Clerk Depute.

The ancient galley would appear to refer to the navigation of the Clyde, and the Virgin to the old church of Rutherglen, which was dedicated to her. The oldest account of this church is found in the “ Life of Joceline, Bishop of Glasgow,” who granted it, along with others, to Paisley Abbey. He died in 1199. On 8th February 1297, just before the rise of Wallace, a peace was concluded between Scotland and England in this church, and in it Sir John Monteath agreed to betray Wallace to the English. The church was rebuilt in 1794.

The motto of the Burgh means “ Out of smoke [comes] fame,” and exactly expresses the sense of the old and well-known saying “ Let Ruglen's lums reek briskly.”