



**THE COURT OF THE LORD LYON  
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***Information Leaflet No. 4***

***PETITIONS FOR ARMS***

# Petitions for Arms

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## Introduction – Applying for Arms

On behalf of The Sovereign, the Lord Lyon King of Arms exercises the Royal Prerogative committed to him by the Acts of 1672 cap. 47 and 1867 30 & 31 Vict. Cap. 17, to grant Arms to “*virtuous and well deserving persons*”. The Court of the Lord Lyon is a court of law, and applications for Arms are made by a formal “Petition”. This is done on the initiative of the person wishing to obtain Arms who submits a Petition to the Lord Lyon stating who they are and asking for Arms to be granted.

The process is not complicated, and there are three main varieties of Petition which are listed on the opposite page and are set out in detail in this leaflet. Advice on any special difficulties or any matters not covered can be obtained by writing to the Lyon Clerk at the Court of the Lord Lyon, H.M. New Register House, Edinburgh, EH1 3YT, and to whom all completed Petitions should be sent. All such correspondence is “**CONFIDENTIAL**”.

Once Arms have been granted and recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland they are protected under the Laws of Scotland. Any infringement of a person’s armorial rights in Scotland may be drawn to the attention of the Procurator Fiscal to the Court of the Lord Lyon who may mount any necessary prosecution of the offender.

In return for this permanent legal protection and for the maintenance of the permanent registration of Arms in the Court of the Lord Lyon fees are charged to the Petitioner. These fees are made up of the dues to H.M. Treasury, Herald Painter’s fees and costs of materials in preparing the Petitioner’s Letters Patent. This is the formal deed granting Arms written in a formal script on vellum illustrating the Arms in full colour, and sealed with the seal of the Lord Lyon King of Arms. The fees are fixed by Statute, and rise from time to time. The current scale is enclosed with this leaflet.

All statements made in Petitions must be accompanied by legal proof, which should be either original or certified copies of Certificates of Birth, in the long form giving parents’ names, and Certificates of Marriage for statements of parentage and ancestry. Birth Certificates for those born in the United States of America must, where possible, be Certificates of Live Birth. It is the Petitioner’s responsibility to provide this proof. Neither the Lord Lyon nor the Lyon Clerk may take any part in providing the proof. Petitioners may employ their own genealogists to provide the proof. They may employ any of them directly at their own responsibility, or with the assistance of an Officer of Arms.

Petitioners requiring assistance in preparing the Petition may write to the Lyon Clerk at the Court of the Lord Lyon stating their requirements and objectives. If an Officer of Arms is engaged he will provide an advance estimate of his fees for professional assistance. If required by the Petitioner he will take charge of any genealogical research needed, employing the researchers and supervising their work on behalf of the Petitioner, and will periodically report on its progress as the Petitioner may require.

# Specimen Petition for a New Grant of Arms

## COURT OF THE LORD LYON

UNTO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE LORD LYON KING OF ARMS

The Petition of **JOHN THOMAS AUGUSTUS BLANK, D.S.O.**,  
Merchant in Glasgow and Major (retired)  
The Blankshire Highlanders, residing at  
Blankbrae, Blanktown in the County of  
Blankshire.

HUMBLY SHEWETH

1. THAT the Petitioner was born at Blankbrae, Blanktown 20 March 1919, and is the eldest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Andrew Blank, D.S.O., M.C. and Bar, sometime commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Blankshire Highlanders, and his wife (married Bridge of Earn in the County of Perth 3 February 1918) Corisande Helen, daughter of Henry Macdonald;
2. THAT the Petitioner married at Glasgow 25 March 1949 Letitia Mary, daughter of Thomas Atkins and his wife (married Swetipore, Uttar Pradesh, India, 2 July 1920) Hannah Johnson Smith, and has issue by her a son and heir apparent John Everly Blank (born Blanktown 3 September 1955) and two daughters Mary Hannah Blank (born Blanktown 2 April 1951) and Heather Letitia Blank (born Edinburgh 14 May 1954);
3. THAT the Petitioner's father, Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Andrew Blank (born Blanktown 13 December 1890) was second son of Thomas Augustus Blank, Naval Architect, and his wife (married Bexhill in the County of Sussex 4 July 1885) Polly, daughter of Josiah Perkins, Haberdasher;
4. THAT the Petitioner is desirous of bearing and using such Ensigns Armorial as may be found suitable and according to the Laws of Arms;

MAY IT THEREFORE please Your Lordship  
to Authorise the Lyon Clerk to prepare Letters  
Patent granting unto the Petitioner and his  
descendants such Ensigns Armorial as Your  
Lordship may find suitable and according to the  
Laws of Arms.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray,

Signature.....

Date.....

## Applying for a New Grant of Arms

The person wishing to apply for a new Grant of Arms should do so by submitting a formal Petition to the Lord Lyon King of Arms drawn up as in the fictitious SPECIMEN on page 3 opposite. At the top the Petitioner should state the Christian names in full and surname, followed by any rank, decorations, qualifications, and profession or occupation, and end the paragraph with “residing at” followed by the address. Beneath “HUMBLY SHEWETH” the Petitioner should set out the ancestry, or as much of it as it is wished might be included in the Grant of Arms and can be prove. The Petitioner should set out the details of the ancestry in numbered paragraphs, one per generation. The proofs required are original or certified copies of Certificates of Birth, in the long form giving parents’ details, or Certificates of Marriage for each fact stated, or Certified Extracts from appropriate Registers, Census Records, Wills, Sasines, etc.

The Certificates should be accompanied by a separate “SCHEDULE OF PROOFS”, with the Certificates numbered as per the paragraphs in the Petition and listed according to the facts they prove. A “SPECIMEN SCHEDULE OF PROOFS” for the “SPECIMEN PETITION” opposite is given on page 11 of this leaflet. The Petition should then be signed and dated and sent with its accompanying Certificates and “SCHEDULE OF PROOFS” to the Lyon Clerk at the Court of the Lord Lyon together with a lodging fee, this being part of the total Exchequer Dues. It should be accompanied by a covering letter from the Petitioner indicating any views and wishes.

The Letters Patent which the Petitioner will receive when the Arms are granted is a formal title deed from the Crown. It is permanent in effect, granting the Arms for ever and protecting them in the Laws of Scotland. The Arms granted are heritable property, and will be inherited by the Petitioner’s heir, normally his eldest son, and by his eldest son in turn, and so on for ever. Younger children inherit only a right to matriculate the Arms with a slight difference added, and they must petition separately for this to be done, as is set out on pages 7 and 8 of this leaflet. The form and content of the Arms should therefore be very carefully considered before the Petitioner is permanently committed to them. The Lord Lyon is pleased to consider the Petitioner’s own suggestions, and will write and discuss them once the Petition is being considered.

The Petitioner should also carefully consider whom he wishes to inherit the Arms or a different version of them. This wish is set out as a “destination” for the Arms, destining them to all his descendants, or the descendants of the father, or to any other such limitation. The Lord Lyon will be pleased to discuss this too with the Petitioner, and will advise as need be.

When these matters have been agreed the Lord Lyon will pronounce his judgement and instruct Lyon Clerk to prepare the Petitioner’s Letters Patent. The Petitioner will then receive from Lyon Clerk a draft text of the Letters Patent to check and approve, and a note of the fees which must now be paid.

Once the draft text has been approved and the fees paid by the Petitioner, the Lyon Clerk will in due course send him the Letters Patent granting the Arms. A copy of the Arms and the text of the Letters Patent is placed on record in name of the Petitioner in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, and the process is complete.

# Specimen Petition for a Grant of Arms to an Ancestor

## COURT OF THE LORD LYON

UNTO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE LORD LYON KING OF ARMS

The Petition of **JOHN THOMAS AUGUSTUS BLANK, D.S.O.**,  
Merchant in Glasgow and Major (retired)  
The Blankshire Highlanders, residing at  
Blankbrae, Blanktown in the County of  
Blankshire, for and in memory of his  
grandfather **THOMAS AUGUSTUS BLANK**.

HUMBLY SHEWETH

1. THAT the Petitioner was born at Blankbrae, Blanktown 20 March 1919, and is the eldest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Andrew Blank, D.S.O., M.C. and Bar, sometime commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Blankshire Highlanders, and his wife (married Bridge of Earn in the County of Perth 3 February 1918) Corisande Helen, daughter of Henry Macdonald;
2. THAT the Petitioner married at Glasgow 25 March 1949 Letitia Mary, daughter of Thomas Atkins and his wife (married Swetipore, Uttar Pradesh, India, 2 July 1920) Hannah Johnson Smith, and has issue by her a son and heir apparent John Everly Blank (born Blanktown 3 September 1955) and two daughters Mary Hannah Blank (born Blanktown 2 April 1951) and Heather Letitia Blank (born Edinburgh 14 May 1954);
3. THAT the Petitioner's father, Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Andrew Blank (born Blanktown 13 December 1890) was second son of Thomas Augustus Blank, Naval Architect, and his wife (married Bexhill in the County of Sussex 4 July 1885) Polly, daughter of Josiah Perkins, Haberdasher;
4. THAT the Petitioner is desirous that such Ensigns Armorial as might be found suitable and according to the Laws of Arms might be granted for and in memory of his said grandfather Thomas Augustus Blank.

MAY IT THEREFORE please Your Lordship  
to Authorise the Lyon Clerk to prepare Letters  
Patent granting unto the Petitioner's said  
grandfather and his descendants such Ensigns  
Armorial as Your Lordship may find suitable  
and according to the Laws of Arms.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray,

Signature.....

Date.....

## Applying for a Grant of Arms to an Ancestor

This procedure may be used for nationals of other countries who wish Armorial Bearings.

The applicant is called “the Petitioner”, and should submit a formal “Petition” to the Lord Lyon King of Arms, drawn up as in the fictitious SPECIMEN on page 5 opposite. At the top the Petitioner should state the Christian names in full and surname, followed by any rank, decorations, academic qualifications, profession or occupation, ending with “residing at” followed by the address in full and the words “for and in memory of” the chosen ancestor for whom the Arms are being sought. Beneath “HUMBLY SHEWETH” the Petitioner should set out his ancestry back to the ancestor for whom the retrospective Grant is being sought in numbered paragraphs in the way explained on page 4 of this leaflet. The proofs required are original or certified copies of Certificates of Birth, in the long form giving parents’ details, or Certificates of Marriage for each fact stated, or Certified Extracts from appropriate Registers, Census Records, Wills, Sasines, etc. and a separate “SCHEDULE OF PROOFS” listing them as explained on page 4. Birth Certificates for those born in the United States of America must, where possible, be Certificates of Live Birth. Beneath the last paragraph of the ancestry a final paragraph (No. 4 opposite) should state the Petitioner’s wish in the wording shown. This is repeated in the Prayer at the end after “MAY IT THEREFORE”, in the wording shown opposite.

The Petition should then be signed and dated and sent with its accompanying Certificates and “SCHEDULE OF PROOFS” and lodging fee to the Lyon Clerk at the Court of the Lord Lyon, with a covering letter setting out any ideas the Petitioner may have about what might be included in the Arms to be granted. The Lord Lyon will later write and discuss these with the Petitioner.

When these matters have been agreed, the Lord Lyon will pronounce his judgement as to the form of the Arms, and instruct Lyon Clerk to prepare the Letters Patent which is the formal title deed to the Arms. The Petitioner will then receive from Lyon Clerk a draft text of the Letters Patent for him to check and approve, and a note of the fees due which must now be paid. Once the draft text has been approved and the fees paid, the Lyon Clerk will in due course send the Petitioner the Letters Patent granting the Arms to him. A copy of the Arms and the text of the Letters Patent is placed on record in name of the Petitioner in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, and the process is complete.

NOTE:- In the SPECIMEN opposite, the Arms sought for and in memory of Thomas Augustus Blank will NOT have descended to the Petitioner, because his father Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Andrew Blank was NOT the eldest son of Thomas Augustus Blank. Lieutenant-Colonel Blank was the second son, and the direct inheritance of the Arms of Thomas Augustus Blank will have gone off to Lieutenant-Colonel Blank’s elder brother. Thus the Petitioner will have to apply further for a Matriculation of Arms as set out on pages 7 and 8.

All his male cousins will be in the same predicament, except the eldest son of the eldest son of Thomas Augustus Blank. It is not unknown for such groups of cousins to club together to share the cost of the retrospective Grant to the ancestor, because thereafter they are all entitled to Matriculate cadet Arms off the ancestor’s which is much less expensive as is set out in the Scale of Fees.

# Specimen Petition for a Matriculation of Arms

## COURT OF THE LORD LYON

UNTO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE LORD LYON KING OF ARMS

The Petition of **JOHN HENRY AUGUSTUS BLANK**, University  
Lecturer, Holder of the Degree of Master  
of Arts with Honours in Fine Art of the  
University of Edinburgh, residing at  
52 Moray Place in the City of Edinburgh.

HUMBLY SHEWETH

1. THAT the Petitioner was born at Edinburgh 20 March 1930, and is the only son and heir of the late Fergus William Blank, sometime Major the Blankshire Highlanders, and his wife (married Edinburgh 4 April 1918) Martha Elaine, daughter of Frederick Elsan Johnston;
2. THAT the Petitioner married at Edinburgh 11 January 1943 Agnes Constantia, daughter of Aristotelos Hadjidakis Spiros, Merchant in Athens, and his wife (married Korinthos, Greece 10 May 1920) Irene Koucoutas, and has issue by her a son and heir apparent James Aristotelos Augustus Blank, born Edinburgh 2 May 1950;
3. THAT the Petitioner's father, Major Fergus William Blank (born Blanktown in the County of Blankshire 14 January 1891) was third son of Thomas Augustus Blank, Naval Architect, and his wife (married Bexhill in the County of Sussex 4 July 1885) Polly, daughter of Josiah Perkins, Haberdasher;
4. THAT certain Ensigns Armorial were recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland (Volume 16, folio 204) of date 2 January 1901 in name of the Petitioner's said grandfather Thomas Augustus Blank;
5. THAT the Petitioner is desirous that the foresaid Ensigns Armorial might be matriculated of new in his own name with a suitable difference.

MAY IT THEREFORE please Your Lordship  
to Grant Warrant to the Lyon Clerk to  
matriculate of new in the Public Register of All  
Arms and Bearings in Scotland in name of the  
Petitioner the foresaid Ensigns Armorial with a  
suitable difference.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray,

Signature.....

Date.....

## Applying for a Matriculation off Existing Arms

Arms are heritable property, and on the original owner's death they descend in terms of the destination, but usually to his eldest son, and in turn to his eldest son, and so on for ever. A younger brother may inherit his father's Arms if the elder brother dies first and leaves no heirs of his own. Otherwise younger sons and their descendants inherit a right to apply for a Matriculation of their ancestral Arms with a small mark of difference added appropriate to their place in the family.

A descendant applying for Arms is called "the Petitioner", and should submit a formal Petition to the Lord Lyon King of Arms should be set out drawn up as in the fictitious SPECIMEN on page 7 opposite. In it the descent from the ancestor who had recorded Arms should be set out and the petitioner should ask for the Arms to be "matriculated" in his or her own name with a suitable mark of difference.

At the top the Petitioner should state the Christian names in full and surname, followed by any rank, decorations, academic qualifications and honours, profession or occupation, and "residing at" followed by the address in full. Beneath "HUMBLY SHEWETH" the Petitioner should set out the ancestry back to the ancestor who had recorded Arms. This should be done in numbered paragraphs, one to each generation, in the way explained on page 4 of this leaflet and shown opposite. Proof of each fact stated is required in the same way as on page 4 and accompanied by a "SCHEDULE OF PROOFS" as shown on page 11. Beneath the last paragraph of the ancestry, in a separate paragraph (No. 4 opposite), the Petitioner should set out the record of the ancestor's Arms in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in the way shown. Finally he or she should formally state his or her wish in the wording shown in paragraph 5 opposite, and repeat this wish in the formal Prayer at the end in the wording shown opposite.

The completed Petition should then be signed and dated and sent with its accompanying Certificates of Birth and Marriage and the "SCHEDULE OF PROOFS" (see pages 4 and 11) together with the lodging fee to the Lyon Clerk at the Court of the Lord Lyon. While the Arms will resemble the ancestor's, the Crest and Motto can vary considerably from the ancestor's, perhaps reflecting the Petitioner's own occupation and outlook on life. The Lord Lyon will welcome the Petitioner's own views, and will discuss them with the Petitioner.

When these matters have been agreed, the Petitioner will receive for approval a draft text of the Matriculation document, which is the title deed to the Arms, and a note of the fees due at this point.

Once the draft text has been approved and the fees paid by the Petitioner, the Lyon Clerk will in due course send him his Extract of Matriculation. A copy of the Arms and the text of the document is placed on record in name of the Petitioner in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, and the process is complete.

It should be remembered that a descendant seeking a Matriculation of Arms must bear the same surname as the armigerous ancestor or relevant collateral relation.

# Specimen Petition for a Grant of Arms to a Company

## COURT OF THE LORD LYON

UNTO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE LORD LYON KING OF ARMS

The Petition of **JOHN THOMAS AUGUSTUS BLANK**,  
Chairman, and **ANDREW JAMES  
BUGGINS**, Secretary, for and on behalf  
of **THINGUMMY PRODUCTS  
LIMITED**, having Head Office at  
240 Princes Street in the City of  
Edinburgh.

HUMBLY SHEWETH

1. THAT the said Company, Thingummy Products Limited, has Registered Office at 315, Stafford Street in the City of Edinburgh, and trades with Registered Number 0123456789;
2. THAT the said Company was established in Edinburgh aforesaid on 5 January 1949 pursuant to the Companies Act of 1948;
3. THAT the said Company is engaged in the manufacture of Thingummies, and in their world-wide distribution and sale, with accompanying ownership of its sites in many countries and a considerable transport network;
4. THAT the Petitioners are desirous that the said Company might bear and use in its lawful trading activities such Ensigns Armorial as might be found suitable and according to the Laws of Arms.

MAY IT THEREFORE please Your Lordship to Authorise the Lyon Clerk to prepare Letters Patent granting unto the said Thingummy Products Limited such Ensigns Armorial as Your Lordship may find suitable and according to the Laws of Arms.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray,

Signature.....

Date.....

## Applying for a Grant of Arms to a Company

Corporate Bodies such as local authorities, corporations, companies, limited companies, partnerships, schools or any other formally established group of people banded together for a common purpose may apply for Arms. When granted the corporate body may then use its Arms in the same way as a private person to signify its identity and to mark its property or its products. The Arms are the visual equivalent of the corporate body's name, and may be used wherever the written name would be appropriate, either instead of the name or accompanying it. Guidance on the correct usage of corporate Arms may be obtained from the Court of the Lord Lyon.

The application for Arms should be made as a formal Petition to the Lord Lyon King of Arms, drawn up as in the fictitious SPECIMEN on page 9 opposite. At the top, the Petition should state the full Christian name and surname of an office bearer or official of the organisation concerned, then "for and on behalf of" and the corporate body's name, ending with "having Head Office at" and the address. Beneath "HUMBLY SHEWETH" a brief account of the corporate body's history, activities and standing should be given in numbered paragraphs, one fact per paragraph. The Petition should be accompanied by proofs of these facts, such as Articles of Association and Annual Audited Accounts. The proofs should be listed and numbered as they are in the paragraphs setting out the facts they prove in a separate "SCHEDULE OF PROOFS", as shown in the genealogical SPECIMEN on page 11 of this leaflet. Beneath this account, a final paragraph (No. 4 opposite) should state the Petitioner's plea in the formal wording shown. This is repeated in the Prayer, after "MAY IT THEREFORE", in the wording shown.

The completed Petition should be signed and dated by the Petitioners and sent with its proofs and "SCHEDULE OF PROOFS" and lodging fee to the Lyon Clerk at the Court of the Lord Lyon. Arms are granted only to proven reputable corporate bodies, and generally they are required to have been successfully in existence for at least five years before they can be granted Arms. Arms are not granted to transient bodies or associations.

A covering letter with the Petition may set out the Petitioners' own ideas of the form of the Arms preferred which should be relevant to the corporate body's activities, and which the Lord Lyon King of Arms will discuss with them.

When these matters have been agreed the Lord Lyon will pronounce his judgement and instruct the Lyon Clerk to prepare the Letters Patent. The Petitioners will then receive from Lyon Clerk a draft text for the Letters Patent for them to check and approve, and a note of the fees which must now be paid.

Once the draft text has been approved and the fees paid the Lyon Clerk will in due course send them the Letters Patent granting the Arms. A copy of the Arms and the text of the Letters Patent is placed on record in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in name of the Petitioners, and the process is complete.

# Specimen Schedule of Proofs for the Petition on Page 3

## COURT OF THE LORD LYON

Petition of JOHN THOMAS AUGUSTUS BLANK

### SCHEDULE OF PROOFS

TO PROVE:

1. (a) Birth Certificate, John Thomas Augustus Blank.
- (b) Photocopy, Army List 1923, page 201, Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Andrew Blank, D.S.O., M.C., rank and decorations.
- (c) Marriage Certificate, Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Andrew Blank and Corisande Helen Macdonald.
  
- 2 (a) Marriage Certificate, John Thomas Augustus Blank and Letitia Mary Atkins.
- (b) Marriage Certificate, Thomas Atkins and Hannah Johnston Smith.
- (c) Birth Certificate, John Everly Blank.
- (d) Birth Certificate, Mary Hannah Blank.
- (e) Birth Certificate, Heather Letitia Blank.
  
3. (a) Certified copy birth Certificate, Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Andrew Blank.
- (b) Certified copy Marriage Certificate, Thomas Augustus Blank and Polly Perkins.

Signature.....

Date.....