



# CLAN CRANSTOUN

## ARMS

Gules, three cranes passant Argent

## CREST

A crane Proper dormant holding a stone in her claw

## MOTTO

Thou shalt want ere I want

## SUPPORTERS

Dexter, a lady of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Proper, richly attired Vert, slashed and ribboned Gules, holding in her exterior hand a bunch of strawberries Proper; sinister, a buck Proper, armed and unguled Or

## STANDARD

Azure, a St Andrew's Cross Argent in the hoist and of two tracts Gules and Argent, upon which is depicted the Crest three times along with the Motto 'Thou shalt want ere I want' in letters Or upon two transverse bands Sable

## PINSEL

Argent, bearing upon a Wreath of the Liveries Gules and Argent the said Crest within a strap of leather Proper buckled and embellished Or inscribed with this Motto 'Thou shalt want ere I want' in letters Or, all within a circlet  
Or fimbriated Vert bearing the title 'Cranstoun of that Ilk' in letters Gules and in the fly an Escrol Sable surmounting a bunch of strawberries Proper bearing this Slogan 'Corehouse' in letters Or

## PLANT BADGE

A bunch of strawberries Proper

**T**he origin of this name is territorial, from the lands and barony of Cranstoun in Midlothian. The lands may have been named from the Anglo-Saxon for 'place of the crane', a bird which appears both on the shield and as the crest of this noble family. Another suggestion is the 'tun' or 'dwelling place' of Cran or Cren, which both appear as forenames in Saxon chronicles. Elfrick de Cranstoun was witness to a charter by William the Lion to the Abbey of Holyrood. He also appears in a deed between Roger de Quinmcy and the Abbot of Newbattle around 1170. Thomas de Craystoun is recorded, in the reign of Alexander II, as making a donation of lands near Paiston in East Lothian to the Church, for the welfare of his soul and those of his ancestors and successors. Hugh de Cranstoun appears on the Ragman Roll of Scottish barons swearing fealty to Edward I of England in 1296. Randolpus de Cranston, son and heir of 'dominus de eodem', made a donation to the Abbey of Newbattle in 1338. Thomas de Cranston received a charter to his lands of Cranston from David II.

The Cranstons of that Ilk prospered until the late sixteenth century, when they became embroiled in the volatile contemporary political situation. Thomas and John Cranston, descendants of the house of Cranston of that Ilk, were among those accused of treason in 1592, for assisting the Earl of Bothwell in his attack on the Palace of Holyrood House. In June 1600 Sir John Cranston of that Ilk was indicted for harboring his kinsmen, forfeited traitors, and only obtained a stay of the proceedings against him on the intervention of the king. On 23 August 1600, another Thomas Cranston, the brother of Sir John Cranston, was executed at Perth for complicity in the Gowrie conspiracy to kidnap James VI. Sir John Cranston of Morristoun, captain of the Guard to James VI, was raised to the peerage with the title of 'Lord Cranston' on 17 November 1609. Around the same time the Reverend William Cranston was minister of Kettle in Fife. He was a staunch Presbyterian who resisted the attempts of the king to introduce bishops into the Scottish Church. He fell into great disfavor with the authorities, and they attempted to prevent him preaching. He was in the middle of a sermon when the king's commissioners charged him to cease, advising him that another had been appointed to preach in the church. Cranston, noting daunted, replied, 'But the Lord and his Kirk have appointed me, therefore, beware how you trouble this work'. He continued his sermon without interruption but he was formally 'put to the horn', i.e. declared in contempt and an outlaw. On 10 May 1620, John Spottiswood, Archbishop of St Andrews, convened a full ecclesiastical court and Cranston was deprived of his charge despite his advanced age and obvious sincerity.

The third Lord Cranston supported the royalist cause in the civil war and fought at the Battle of Worcester in 1651 where he was taken prisoner. He languished in the Tower of London and his estates were sequestered, save for a small portion which the Commonwealth allowed to his wife and children for their support. William, fifth Lord

Cranstoun, sat in the last independent Scots Parliament where he was a supporter of the Treaty of Union. George Cranstoun, a descendant of the fifth Lord, was an eminent lawyer and judge. He had originally been intended for a career in the army, but after studying the law he became an advocate and, ultimately, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates in 1823. In 1826 he was elevated to the Bench, taking the title, of 'Lord Corehouse'. He was an excellent scholar who was particularly well versed in the classics, and a friend of Sir Walter Scott, with whom he had studied at Edinburgh University. He entertained the great author at his seat of Corehouse in Lanarkshire. James, eighth Lord Cranstoun, was a distinguished officer in the Royal Navy who commanded HMS *Bellerophon* in a squadron of only seven ships which was attacked on 17 June 1795 by a French fleet three times larger. After a running battle which lasted more than twelve hours, the French were completely defeated, and eight ships of the line were destroyed. Lord Cranstoun was later appointed Governor of Grenada, but before he could set foot upon the island, he died, it is believed of lead poisoning, in 1796.

Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Cranstoun of that Ilk and Corehouse was recognized as chief in 1950. He was a distinguished soldier and holder of the Military Cross, and was military attaché in Lisbon. He died in 1990, when he was succeeded by the present chief who still lives at Corehous.

*Taken from "Scottish Clan & Family Encyclopedia", by Collins, HarperCollins Publishers 1994*

#### **Clan CRANSTOUN Septs**

CRANSTO(U)N  
GRANSTON

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