



Clan FLEMING

ARMS

Quarterly, 1st & 4th, Gules, a chevron within a double tressure flory counterflory Argent; 2nd & 3rd, Azure, three fraises Argent

CREST

A goat's head erased Argent, armed Or

MOTTO

Let the deed shaw

SUPPORTERS

Two harts Proper attired with ten tynes Or, each gorged of a collar, Azure charged with three fraises Argent

Fleming, derived from the French, 'le Fleming', indicates the origin of the family as Flanders. The once-powerful medieval principality is now split between the Netherlands, Belgium and France. The Flemish were enterprising merchants who traded with England, Scotland and Wales in the latter part of the Twelfth century. Baldwin, a distinguished Flemish leader, settled with his followers in Biggar in Lanarkshire, under grant of David I, and he became sheriff of Lanark under Malcolm IV and William the Lion. This office appears to have been hereditary for some time. Nine Flemings signed the Ragman Roll, swearing fealty to Edward I of England in 1296, Although one of the signatories, Sir Robert Fleming, was among the first to join Robert the Bruce and assist him after the death of the Comyn at Dumfries in 1306. Sir Malcolm Fleming of Cumbernauld was created Earl of Wigton in 1342 by David II for his help in keeping him safe from Edward Balliol and the English. His grandson, Thomas, sold the earldom to Archibald Douglas, Lord of Galloway, in 1371, which was confirmed by Robert II. Sir Malcolm Fleming of Biggar and Cumbernauld was knighted by Robert III and was one of the hostages for release of James I from his English captivity in 1423. He was a friend and counselor of William, sixth Earl of Douglas, and was a member of the party which went to Edinburgh Castle on the invitation of Governor Livingstone and Chancellor Crichton in November 1440. Douglas, his brother David, and Fleming were summarily arrested, briefly and hurriedly tried and then beheaded. His younger son, Sir Robert, had the forfeited lands returned to him by James II when it was held that his father had 'died at the faith and peace of His Majesty'. He was created a Lord of Parliament some time before 1460. His grandson, John, the second Lord Fleming, was one of the lords appointed as guardians to James V in his infancy in July 1515. John became Chancellor of Scotland in 1517. He was assassinated on 1 November 1524, while out hawking, by John Tweedie of Dummelzier and others. The third Lord Fleming, Malcolm, was Great Chamberlain of Scotland, and married Janet Stewart, the natural daughter of James IV. He was killed at the Battle of Pinkie in 1547. The fourth Lord Fleming accompanied the young Queen Mary to France in 1548 to marry the heir to the throne. He continued as Great Chamberlain of Scotland for life, and was one of the eight commissioners to the royal wedding in 1558. He was among those taken ill at Dieppe on the return journey, supposedly poisoned. Three of the party died immediately and Fleming a fortnight later in Paris. John, sixth Lord Fleming, was recreated Earl of Wigton in 1606. The family were Jacobites and the earl attended James VII after the Revolution of 1688. He opposed the Treaty of Union, voting against every article in the Parliament of 1706. At the rising of 1715 he was arrested by the governor of Edinburgh Castle. The title became dormant with the death in 1747 of Charles Fleming, who had succeeded his brother in the earldom. The most distinguished bearer of this name in recent times has been Sir Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin.

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