

Blaisdell Coat of Arms Discredited

by David B. Appleton

[Your Editor, R. Carter Blaisdell, and his wife, Anita, traveled to England in August and upon return posed this question to David B. Appleton, Duncanville, TX, a heraldry expert, author and lecturer on the subject, about the coat of arms on this page: “Does Bleasdale or some variant appear in the British Heraldry records? Does The Historical Research Center have any reliability? Other Blaisdell family members have researched for a coat of arms and have concluded we did not have one, so why pretend?” His response:]

I hope that the certificate you got from that shop didn't cost you too much, because whatever it cost, you were overcharged.

The Historical Research Center is a firm which sells software to aspiring merchants of names and arms, which is basically a very large database. The arms are mostly taken from Burke's *General Armory*, a listing of about 60,000 coats of arms from the British Isles.

While the information in those volumes is accurate enough, far too often (as apparently happened here) the full truth is not told, and 'extra' bits get added in to help keep the customer happy (and the revenues flowing). I've done a search through Burke's *General Armory* under Blaisdell, Bleasdell, Bleasdale, Blaisdale, Blasdel, Blasdell, the other reasonable spelling variants.

I also studied *Armigerous Ancestors* by **Cecil Humphrey-Smith**, *An Index to the Pedigrees and Arms contained in the Heralds Visitations in the British Museum* by **R. Sims**, Rietstap's *Armorial General*, Fairbairn's *Crests of the Families of Great Britain and Ireland*, and *The Ordnance Survey Atlas of Great Britain*. No Bleasdale or any variant was found, only the coat of arms for Bleas, adapted to sell to you.

David Bruce Appleton *From: Dorothy P. (Emerson) Appleton, Lester Ellison Emerson, Aaron Watson Emerson, Samuel King Emerson, III, Samuel King Emerson, Jr., Naomi (Blaisdell) Emerson – (6.153)*