

The General Armory

These are lists of Coats of Arms for various Leigh families. I will include at the beginning a glossary of selected terms.

Glossary

Abbreviations:

or.	gold or yellow
ar.	argent or silver, white
az.	azure or blue
gu.	gules or red
vert.	green
purp	purple
sa.	sable or black
erm.	ermine
ppr.	proper
chev	chevron
engr.	engrailed (drawn with wavy lines)
ramp.	rampant
pass.	passant
ppr.	proper
visit	visitation of a county by a herald.

Terms

armed All birds which have talons and bills that aid them to seize and rend their prey are in blazon said to be armed when those weapons differ in tincture from their bodies. Beasts are also described as armed when their horns and hoofs are of another color than their bodies.

crined Crined is used when the beard or hair differs in tincture from the body.

compony describes a border, pale, bend or other ordinary made up of one row of squares consisting of metals and colors alternating.

couped when a head gives the appearance of having been cut cleanly from the body.

erased when a head gives the appearance of having been torn from the body.

escutcheon The shield itself on which the arms are shown.

escutcheon of pretence is the shield on which a man carries the arms of his wife if she be an heiress or co-heiress. It is borne in the center of his own shield and is usually of the same shape.

fess The Fess is formed of two horizontal lines drawn across the field comprising the center third part of the escutcheon. It is emblematic of the military girdle worn on the body over the body armor.

habited clothed, sometimes blazoned, vested.

lozenge A parallelogram which can have other figures applied to it.

maned said of a unicorn, horse or other animal when the mane is of a different tincture than the body.

paly A field or charge is said to be paly when divided into any equal number of pieces of alternate tinctures by perpendicular partition lines and the number of divisions must be named also, as paly of 6 or paly of 8.

tuft a bunch of grass.

unguled applied to the hoof of the stag, hind, horse, bull, &c. when of a different tincture from the body.

vested habited or clothed.

The Leigh Arms

- (1)**Baron Leigh** of Stoneleigh, descended from Rowland Leigh, County Gloucester, descended from Thomas Leigh, Knt, Lord Mayor of London. gu. a cross engr. ar. In the first quarter a lozenge of the second. **Crest:** a unicorn's head, erased ar. armed and crined or.
Supporters: on either side a unicorn ar. armed, maned, tufted and unguled.
- (2)**Baron Leigh** of Stoneleigh, extinct 1806, created 1643 descended from Thomas Leigh, Bart, son of Thomas Leigh, Knt., Lord Mayor of London. **Same arms.**
- (3)**Leigh**, Earl of Chichester extinct 1667, descended from William Leigh, Knt, of Newnham Regis, co. Warwick, 3rd son of Thomas Leigh, Knt, Lord Mayor of London. **Same arms**
- (4)**Leigh** (Charleston, South Carolina, bart.) or, a lion ramp. gu. **Crest:** A cubit arm erect, habited, grasping a tilting spear in fesse, all ppr.
These were the arms of Sir Egerton Leigh who held office in SC before and during Revolution and who refused to surrender to "rebels against my King" and returned to England after the war ended.
- (5)**Leigh** (Whitley, co. Lancaster, bart.) Gu. a cross engr., ar. betw four lozenges erm
Crest: a demi lion ramp. Gu. holding a lozenge arm.
- (6)**Leigh** (West Hall in High Leigh, co. Chester; descended from Thomas de Leigh, of West Hall, Lord of a moiety of Lymme in 1305, eldest son of Richard de Lymme by Agnes his wife, daughter and heir of Thomas de Leigh). **Leigh of High Ligh, of the Westhall**
Arms: Quarterly of nine
1 & 9 Or, a lion rampant Gules
2 Per pale Argent and Sable, three boars passant in pale counterchanged [called Swineyard]
3 Gules, a pale fusilly Argent [Lymme]
4 Quarterly Gules and Or, in the first quarter a lion passant of the second, a label of five points Ermine [Massy]
5 Quarterly Argent and Gules, a label of five points Azure [Tatton]
6 Gules, a lion rampant (per fess) Ermine [and Ermines Timperley]
7 Gules, a chevron between three lozenges Argent [Sale]
8 Barry lozengy Argent and Gules [Wincham]
- Crest:** A cubit arm erect, habited paly of five pieces Or and Sable, cuffed Argent, hand proper, grasping the upper and lower portion of a broken tilting spear of the first, point downwards. **Another crest:** A demi lion ramp or. Holding a pennon displ. az.
Charged with two bars or. inscribed "**Force avec vertue** " and with a shield of the arms of Leigh of West Hall in High Leigh, co. Chester on which are three escutcheons of pretence with the arms of the three husbands of Agnes de Leigh of West Hall.
- (7)**Leigh** (Outrington, co. Chester a branch of Leigh of the West Hall in High Leigh)
Quarterly, 1st and 4th or. a lion ramp. gu. 2nd and 3rd ar. a bend lozengy sa.
Crest: A cubit arm erect vested paly of 6 or. and sa. cuff ar. holding in hand ppr a broken tilting spear of the third.

- (8)**Leigh** (Borough of Northam, co. Devon; derived from Leigh of High Leigh; the co-heiresses married Bassett and Bury) Ar. a lion ramp. gu. on a sinister canton of the second an escallop or. **Crest:** A demi lion ramp, erminoise holding an escallop ar.
- (9)**Leigh** (Belmont, co. Chester) Gu. a cross engr. ar. in the 1st quarter a lion ramp. or. and in the 2nd a lozenge of the second. **Crest:** A lozenge gu. charged with a unicorns head couped ar. armed and crined or. **Motto: *Leges Juraque Servo.***
- (10)**Leigh** (Lord Mayor of London, 1602) Ar. a fesse betw. two pellets in chief and a martlet in base sa.
- (11)**Leigh** (Rushal, co. Stafford) Gu. a cross engr. ar. in the dexter quarter and escutcheon of the second charged with two bars az. And a bend on the field. **Crest:** A unicorns head erased sa. armed or. crined an collared ar.
- (12)**Leigh** (Addington, co. Surrey, 1609) or. on a chevron sa. three lions ramp. ar. in the in the dexter quarter an annulet of the second. **Crest:** On a mount vert a lion couchant guard ar. charged on the breast with an annulet sa.
- (13)**Leigh** (co Warwick) Gu. a cross engr. ar. a bordure of the second, in the dexter quarter a lozenge or.
- (14)**Leigh** (Sir Thomas Leigh, Lord Mayor 1558, Visit London 1663) Gu. a cross engr. ar. in dexter chief a lozenge or. **Crest:** A unicorn's head couped or.
- (15)**Leigh** (Ridge, in Bishops Morchard, co. Devon, 10 descents given in Visit 1620) Ar two bars az overall a bend compony or. and gu.

These are less than half of the Leigh Coats of Arms given in the General Armory but they appear to be those which are most likely to be pertinent to our research. When illustrations of these arms become available, I will post them to this page.

Leigh Mottos

Below are some Leigh family mottos.

Force avec vertu Strength with virtue

La vie durante During life

Leges juraque servo I observe the laws and ordinances

Legibus antiquis By the ancient laws

Pour Dieu, pour terre For God, for earth

Tout vient de Dieu All comes from God

6. *Arms of High Leigh, West Hall*

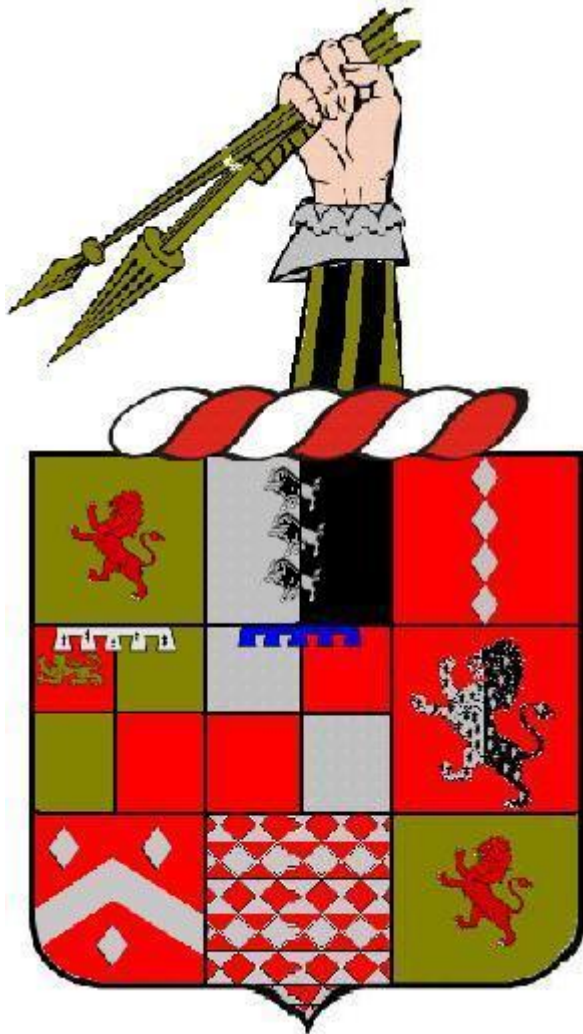


Figure 1 . This rendering of the arms of the family of High Leigh, West Hall was by Martin Goldstraw of Whitecairns and can be found on the webpage at <http://www.cheshire-heraldry.org.uk>