



Clan CRAIG

ARMS

Ermine, on a fess Sable three crescents Argent

CREST

A chevalier on horseback in full charge grasping a broken lance in bend Proper

MOTTO

Vive Deo et vives (Live for God and you shall have life)

The surname derived from the Scottish word for a steep or rocky cliff, found as a prefix to place names throughout the realm. It is, therefore, impossible to identify any particular point of origin. Black states that in the fifteenth century there were three families of that name styling themselves 'of that Ilk'. Whatever the origin, the Craigs of Riccarton were to become the most noted family of this name. Sir Thomas Craig of Riccarton was a great institutional writer on feudal law in Scotland. Born around 1538, he studied at the University of St Andrews before proceeding to Paris where he studied both civil and canon law. His great work, *Jus Feudale*, is still referred to by Scottish lawyers today. Anderson records that he was admired by James VI and was present at the royal entry into London and the coronation of James as King of England. The name of Craig continued to be associated with the law, and William Craig was raised to the Supreme Court Bench with the title, 'Lord Craig'. He retired from the Bench in 1812. The estate of Riccarton passed, through marriage to a daughter of Sir Thomas Craig, to the family of Gibson, who assumed the additional surname of Craig. Sir James Gibson-Craig was an eminent Edinburgh politician who was created a baronet for political services. He was a great supporter of the work of Sir Walter Scott. Sir James Craig, his family and followers, left Scotland for Ireland in 1610, as part of the plantation of Ulster. His descendent, James Craig of County Down, was the son of a self-made whiskey millionaire and was a main organizer of the Ulster Volunteer Force in the struggle against Home Rule in Ireland in the 1920's. He became the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland in 1921 and was elevated to the peerage, taking the title, 'Viscount Craigavon'. The new town of Craigavon in County Armagh was named after him. He died in 1940.

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

Clan genealogists: Clan Craig Association of America
has a mutual assistance agreement for genealogy with the
publisher of Craig Links
Home Page: <http://www.certech.net/clancraig>

Ann Burton
Craig Links
43779 Valley Rd.
Decatur, MI 49045

This clan information sheet has been prepared by
The Scottish Society of Louisville, Inc.
PO Box 32248
Louisville, KY 40232-2248

Visit our website at www.scotsoflou.com