

# The Putman Coat of Arms

Our Putman, Potman, or Pootman ancestor's coat of arms that was passed down to us included three silver boars' heads at the top of a blue shield.

The silver boar's heads were also above a large, green, upside down "V" or chevron.

At the base of the shield was a silver lion rampant or an erect or standing silver lion.

Likewise, at the top above the shield was a closed tilting helmet that was customarily granted to a burgher. . . there as well was no coronet or crown displayed in the space between the helmet and the shield.

The helmet in our arms was a tilting helmet that was closed that tells us that our early ancestor who originally owned the arms was a non-noble but free citizen.

A free citizen, a burgher, was called in England a bourgeois, and was typically a wealthy person.

An open barred helmet at the top of a shield indicated that its owner was an aristocrat, a royal, or a noble.

A coronet or crown between the helmet and shield likewise meant that the owner was a knight or a noble.

In coats of arms, the boar's head often indicated hospitality.

Perhaps, the boar's heads on our early ancestor's arms meant our ancestor owned an inn and housed and entertained guests and visitors.

Burgher arms often showed everyday objects such as those used in trades usually tools, particularly.

Perhaps, though, our early ancestor the original owner of our coat of arms may have hunted, bred, or worked with swine or boars.

The issuance of heraldry to burghers only occurred in Germany and began in the middle-ages in the 13th century.

In Germany, the most common heraldic symbols or charges were the cross, the eagle, and the lion.

It seems certain that our family originated where burgher arms and the charge of a lion commonly were granted and that was the Holy Roman Empire and early Germany.

On our Putman, Potman, or Pootman arms, our early ancestor, the owner, was granted the charge of a lion.

In the Holy Roman Empire and early Germany, the eagle and lion often were used as symbols that were political in nature.

The symbol or charge of a lion often represented the feudal lord while the charge of an eagle represented an emperor.

The type or kind of coat of arms that our early ancestor was granted indicated that the owner was a burgher or perhaps a lord.

Likewise, the original owner of our coat of arms also may have been a follower of Henry the Lion, a Duke of Saxony and Bavaria, a leader of the House of Guelph, and a well-known and well-noted lord.

As you may see, you may decipher much from The Putnam Coat of Arms!



## TYPES OF HELMETS



**TILTING HELMET**



**same en face**



**BARRED HELMET**



**same en face**