**Heraldry Symbols and their Meanings**

**Colors:**

**Gold:** Understanding, respect, virtue and majestic – generosity

**Red/Gules:** Eagerness to serve his country; warrior & martyr

**Blue/azure:** Steadfastness, strength and loyalty

**Black/sable:** Grief and resistance

**Green/vert:** Freedom, beauty, joy, health and hope

**Purple:** Majesty, justice and sovereignty

**Orange:** Rewarding ambition

**Maroon:** Victorious – persevering in the battle

**Some Common Symbols and their Meanings:**

**Acorn:** Independence, strength and antiquity

**Anchor:** Salvation, hope and religious steadfastness

**Angel:** Bearer of goodness as well as dignity, honor and glory

**Ant:** Strong worker, wise and foresighted in all his affairs

**Antelope:** Harmony, peace and political wisdom. Also symbol of purity and speed.

**Anvil:** Symbol of honor.

**Bear:** Emblem of strength, cunning and cruelty in protection of his clan. Also a symbol of healing and personal health and bravery.

**Boar:** Symbol of courage. Champion with the wild animals; he is a fierce fighter.

**Bee:** Sign of industry, creativity, wealth, diligence and eloquence. Egyptians used this as a sign of royal power.

**Crescent Moon:** Symbol of hope; generally used as the sign of the second son.

**Crow:** Sign of permanent settlement and a quiet life.

**Dove:** Symbol of the soul and Holy Spirit. It means peace and purity.

**Dragon:** Guardian of treasures; bravest of all creatures.

**Elephant:** Symbol of huge strength and stature, wisdom, courage, happiness, royalty and ambition.

**Fish:** Symbol of bravery/steadfastness. They can also be symbols of economy, science, and Christian faith. Constitutes a genuine spirit.

**Grapes:** Symbol of happiness, bliss, and peace. Considered proof of God’s goodness.

**Griffin:** It is a mythical creature. Symbolizes bravery, strength, alertness and endurance.

**Hand:** Credibility, sincerity and justice.

**Harp**: Well tempered person of good judgment.

**Key:** Symbol of knowledge, guardianship and dominion.

**Lamb:** Symbol of faith, innocence, gentleness, purity and resolute spirit.

**Mermaid:** Symbol of eloquence.

**Nail:** Passion.

**Owl:** Symbolizes vigilance and repartee.

**Peacock:** Symbol of resurrection and immortality. Can also represent beauty, power, and knowledge.

**Raven:** Collector of bright objects, and thus a symbol of knowledge. Symbol of divine providence; bringer of death.

**Scythe:** Hope for fruitful harvest.

**Snail:** Symbolizes deliberation and perseverance.

**Tree:** Symbolizes strength. In Ireland the oak tree is the noblest of all trees.

**Tower:** Emblem of grandeur and of society. Symbol of defense and individual fortitude.

**Unicorn:** Symbol of purity and virtue.

**Wheat Sheaf:** Meaning of abundance and hope.

**Wings:** Symbolizes swiftness and protection.

**Wolf:** Means valor and guardianship; however, also considered to be cruel and merciless.