



## BEACON GENEALOGICAL AND HERALDIC RESEARCH

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### The Arms of the Family of Donaldson of Bannachra in the County of Dumbarton

The armorial bearings as engraved upon this George III English Sterling Silver and Ivory Handled Queen Anne Style Four Piece Tea and Coffee Service by various makers and hallmarked London between the years 1800 – 1802\* are those of the family of Donaldson. They may be blazoned as follows:

Arms: **Quarterly 1st and 4th Or a two headed eagle displayed sable beaked and membered gules surmounted of a lymphad of the second flagged of the third in dexter chief a sinister hand coupéd of the last (for Donaldson) 2nd and 3rd Gules two arrows in saltire argent surmounted of a fess chequy of the second and first (for Macaulay) all within a bordure indented azure charged with eight buckles or**

Crest: **A dexter hand holding a dagger proper**

Motto: **‘Aut pax aut bellum’** [Either peace or war]

These arms undoubtedly pertain to an unnamed younger son of the family of Donaldson of Bannachra as indicated by the use of indented bordure in the arms. It would appear that the family acquired for second time in 1770 the lands and castle of Bannachra which found at the southern end of the Parish of Luss, they were originally part of the ancient kingdom of the Lennox. It is unknown who built the castle or when it was built, but it was in Colquhoun hands in the 16th century and remained so until 1770 when it was sold to James Donaldson, of Glasgow, who was also stated by

one authority to be a linen draper of London by Sir James Colquhoun whose grandfather Sir Humphrey Colquhoun had previously sold the lands of Bannachra to James Donaldson, grandfather of James Donaldson, the linen draper. Today, Bannachra Castle, the former seat of the Donaldsons is a picturesque ruin.

- \* Coffee Pot by Thomas Robinson, London 1800
- Cream Jug and Sugar Bowl by John Robins, London 1800
- Tea Pot by Stephen Adams, London 1802

*<http://clankilpatrick.com/colquhoun/bannachra.htm>*