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The Marital Arms of Malcolm of Poltalloch and Orme

The armorial bearings as engraved upon this George III English Sterling Covered Serving Dish by an unknown silversmith hallmarked London 1818 are those of the family of Malcolm of Poltalloch with an escutcheon of pretence for Orme. These armorial bearings denote the marshalling of a marital coat showing the arms of the husband over the entire surface of the shield, whilst the arms of the wife are placed on a small shield (known as an escutcheon of pretence) centrally on the husband's arms. These arms may be blazoned as follows:

- Arms: **Argent on a saltire azure between four stags' heads erased gules five mullets or (for Malcolm of Poltalloch) over all an escutcheon of pretence Quarterly 1st and 4th Or two chevron gules in chief as many buckles azure in base a horn of the last stringed of the second (for Orme) 2nd and 3rd Argent a fess dancetty sable between three Cornish choughs proper (for Thomas)**
- Crest: **A tower argent**
- Supporters: **On either side a stag at gaze proper collared and chains reflexed over the back or**

Mottoes:

(over the crest) **In ardua tendit** [He reaches towards things difficult of attainment]

(under the arms) **Deus refugium nostrum** [God our refuge]

These armorial bearings undoubtedly commemorate the marriage of Neill Malcolm of Poltalloch in the County of Argyllshire, 12th of Poltalloch (born 26th July 1769 died 24th January 1837 and Mary Anne Orme (born *circa* 1774 died 14th October 1830), the only surviving daughter of Dr David Orme, of Lamb Abbey (also known as Lamorbey House), near Bexley in the County of Kent and Elizabeth Thomas, whilst Neill was the eldest son of Neill Malcolm of Poltalloch, the 11th of Poltalloch and his wife, Mary, widow of Philip Houghton, of the Island of Jamaica, and daughter of John Brisset. It may be presumed from the evidence of his arms that Mary Anne's father, Dr David Orme who was a noted physician and man midwife practising in London during the late 18th Century that he was a member of the family of Orme of Magdrum in the County of Fife. Both Neill and Mary Anne along with her father and mother are buried at the Parish Church of St Mary's, Bexley.



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21st March 2017