

A Note about the Coat of Arms above the Door of the Old Roundhay St John's School on Wetherby Road.

© By Neville Hurworth



The doorway at the old Roundhay St John's School on Wetherby Road. The Coat of Arms is to the left of the alarm box over the door.

In the last few years we have had occasional enquiries about the coat of arms above the door of the old Roundhay St John's School (now a school and a nursery) on Wetherby Road and we thought readers of 'Oak Leaves' may like to know the outcome of our search into its origin.

Thomas Nicholson, the founder of the Park, was unlikely to have had anything to do with it directly, as he was a Quaker and they abhorred all forms of ostentation. Stephen Nicholson erected the school and the almshouses after Thomas died. He was not a Quaker and it seemed odds-on that the coat of arms would have been his. The Society approached the College of Arms in London who quoted for a search to be made among their records. However, one of the Society's members, Gillian Figures, found the information we wanted on the Internet see <http://www.heraldry-online.org.uk/nicolson.html> , which shows that Stephen Nicholson had a coat of arms and it was the same as the one above the school.

The original source of this information was 'Burke's Commoners of Great Britain' 1836/1838 where the following description is given :-

Arms- Barry of six erminois and gules, on a chief azure a cross patee argent, between two suns in splendour.

Crest - On a branch of a tree fessways proper, a lion's head erased at the neck or, and charged with a cross patee gules.

Motto - Providentia Dei.

Burke's Peerage and Baronetage of 1917 shows a similar coat of arms for the distinguished soldier of the Nicholson family, Sir William Gustavus Nicholson, Baron Nicholson of Roundhay, which is described therein exactly as above. William's father was Stephen Nicholson's nephew, William Nicholson Phillips, who 'assumed by Royal Licence, 13 Oct 1827, the name and arms of Nicholson in 1827', we are told in this entry.



Coat of Arms above the doorway of the old Roundhay St John's School on Wetherby Road.
Please note that some areas surrounding the coat of arms in this picture have been changed electronically.



Left: Coat of Arms of Sir William Gustavus Nicholson, Baron Nicholson of Roundhay.
From Burke's Peerage and Baronetage (1917 Edition).

Added since published

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The original source of this information was 'Burke's Commoners of Great Britain' 1836/1838 where the following description is given:-



Arms – Barry of six erminois and gules, on a chief azure a cross patée argent, between two suns in splendour.

Crest – On a branch of a tree fessways proper, a lion's head erased at the neck or, and charged with a cross patée gules.

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