

Explanation of Design

The design of this Diploma consists of the Coat of Arms of the Wentworth family; the likeness of LaSalle and of Governor Simcoe; the Armorial Bearings of Ontario; the Lamp of Learning; and a cluster of Union Jacks gracefully draped, the whole being enclosed in a border of Maple Leaves.

The County of Wentworth was organized in 1816, when the Gore District was formed. The District was named after the Governor, Francis Gore, Esq., and the County after his wife, Annabella Wentworth. The coat of Arms of Sir Thomas Wentworth was selected because he was one of the most distinguished members of that illustrious family.

It consists of a crest, a shield with heraldic bearings, and a motto. The crest is a gryphon, a fabulous monster that guarded the mines of gold, silver and precious stones in Asiatic Scythia. The fore part of this monster was an eagle, and hind part a lion. Some writers state that the tail was a serpent. In heraldry the eagle is the symbol of swiftness, the lion of strength, and the serpent of wisdom. By a moderate stretch of the imagination this crest may be looked upon as the emblem of vigilance.

The symbols emblazoned on the shield are three leopards heads, a chevron with inverted keys, and

an open hand on a small shield. The three leopard's heads occupy the dexter chief point on the right, the sinister chief point on the left, and the middle base point on the lower part of the shield. The hand on the small shield occupies the middle chief point, and the chevrons extend across the shield and meet at the fesse or heart point.

The leopard's head is the symbol of courage, and as there are three, they may be said to represent physical, mental and moral courage; physical, not afraid of manual labor; mental, prepared to grapple with the problems of life; moral, to do the right thing in the right way and at the right time. The hand in the small shield on the middle chief point is "The Red Hand of Ulster", and is worn only by baronets of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The chevron represents a pair of rafters of a castle.

When the Revolutionary War began, Sir Thomas Wentworth was Governor of New Hampshire and Warden of the King's Forests, an honourable and lucrative position. During this trouble he espoused the cause of the loyalists, sacrificed his official position and had his estates confiscated. These misfortunes reduced him to poverty. In 1796 he was appointed Governor of Nova Scotia, and King George the Third ordered that a chevron with two inverted keys should be em-