

HERALDRY AT FOWLIS EASTER PARISH CHURCH

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The Gray family's origins are uncertain but may lie in those of Grey of Chillingham in Northumberland, one of whom, Sir Thomas de Grey, bore in 1300 the arms: *Gules a lion rampant Argent within a bordure indented Argent, over all a bend Azure*. The founder of the Scottish family is generally considered to be Sir Andrew Gray of Broxmouth (in Roxburghshire) who was conferred these lands ca. 1314. A later Sir Andrew Gray of Broxmouth acquired Fowlis on his marriage to Janet Mortimer ca. 1377. The arms of this Gray family are: *Gules a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed Argent*. The earliest appearance of these arms on seals is on the seal dated 1418 of Sir Patrick Gray of Broxmouth, father of Sir Andrew Gray of Broxmouth, later of Fowlis. The earliest appearances in colour are in the Armorial de Berry (ca. 1445) and the Scots Roll (ca. 1455).

Church exterior

South-west doorway.

Top. *A lion rampant within a bordure engrailed* [Gray].

It has been suggested that the ornamental moulding round the south-west doorway comes from the older parish church and shows at the top the arms of Sir Andrew Gray of Broxmouth (d. before 1441) who acquired Fowlis ca. 1377. It is more likely that the moulding dates from the rebuilding of the church in 1452 and shows the arms of Andrew, 1st Lord Gray (1390-1469). The carving of the arms is now completely weathered but were still extant in 1897 when they were described by Macgibbon & Ross in their book *The Ecclesiastical Architecture of Scotland*.

Left. *Quarterly: 1st & 4th a lion rampant; 2nd & 3rd a bend* [Wemyss of Reres].

Elizabeth Wemyss (d. after 1470), daughter of Sir John Wemyss of Reres, who married Andrew, 1st Lord Gray in 1418. The full blazon of the arms is: *Quarterly: 1st & 4th Or a lion rampant Gules* [Wemyss]; *2nd & 3rd Azure a bend Argent* [Bisset].

Skew putts.

South-west. *Quarterly: 1st & 4th a lion rampant; 2nd & 3rd a bend* [Wemyss of Reres].

South-east. *Per pale: dexter: a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed* [Gray]; *sinister: per fess, in chief a lion rampant, in base a bend* [the dexter half of the quarterly arms of Wemyss of Reres].

North-east. *A lion rampant within a double tressure flory counterflory* [Scotland].

North-west. *A lion rampant* [possibly intended for Mortimer].

Church interior

Stained glass window, east front.

Gules a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed Argent [Gray].

Stained glass window, chancel south wall.

1. *Or a cross flory Gules* [Ainslie of Pilton].

Mary Ann Ainslie (1810-72), daughter of Col. Charles Philip Ainslie, 14th Dragoons, second son of Sir Philip Ainslie of Pilton, who married John, 15th Lord Gray in 1833.

2. *Gules a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed Argent* [Gray].

John, 15th Lord Gray (1798-1867) (the inscription on the window states incorrectly that he was the 16th Lord Gray).

3. *Argent a lion rampant Sable guttée Argent* [Mortimer].

Janet Mortimer, daughter of Sir Roger de Mortimer and Margaret, daughter of Alexander of Menteith, who married Sir Andrew Gray of Broxmouth ca. 1377. This marriage brought Fowlis into the possession of the Grays. (The arms have been depicted incorrectly and should show: *Paly of six Argent and Azure, a lion rampant Sable guttée Azure.*)

Panel painting, St. Ninian.

Gules a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed Argent [Gray].

Font.

1. *Quarterly: 1st & 4th a lion rampant; 2nd & 3rd a bend* [Wemyss of Reres].

2. *A lion rampant within a bordure engrailed* [Gray].

3. *A lion rampant* [possibly intended for Mortimer].

4. *Per pale: dexter: a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed* [Gray]; *sinister: per fess, in chief a lion rampant, in base a bend* [the dexter half of the quarterly arms of Wemyss of Reres].

All of the arms on the font are quite weathered, especially the third, but details can still be made out.

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(Nomenclature in heraldry: a bordure is a band of contrasting colour forming a border around the edge of a shield; gules signifies red; argent signifies silver; azure signifies blue; sable signifies black; engrailed signifies curves with points facing inwards or outwards; a bend is a diagonal stripe running top left to bottom right (dexter) or top right to bottom left (sinister); per fess is a horizontal band dividing a shield; chief is the top horizontal third of a shield; base is the bottom horizontal third of a shield; the blazon is the formal, written description of a coat of arms; guttée describes a shield sprinkled with droplets; a double tressure flory counterflory is a narrow, inner border on a shield adorned with fleurs-de-lis on opposite sides, alternating pairs; a palé represents a vertical band.)