Beginning Your Name Search for Your Persona

Bantiarna Sadhbh Bheag inghean Toirrdhealbhaigh, GdS
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Documentation:
There is no "NO"*. There is only "find us the documentation"
SCA CoA has been around for over 50 years. We have a LOT of documentation for Europe. We have SOME documentation for non-European cultures. We have a lot of specialists we lean on. You find something solid, we'll incorporate it into our knowledge set.

We have a LOT of researched articles and documentation at hand that has been poured over by hundreds of academics in the SCA. We are always finding new and better knowledge. When we know better, we do better. That is why registration trends change.
http://heraldry.sca.org/names.html

Picking your name to your culture and time period.
While people traveled great distances, they did not tend to take on multicultural names unless they had a more integrated localized trade. Certain cultures have documented mixes, some do not. Some cultures change quickly, some change very slowly.
https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#AppendixC
Naming Patterns that don't need any more documentation can be found at:
https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#AppendixA

Some of the easiest documentation sources come from the Appendix H list. These are resources our academics have verified information to be as accurate as we can currently find. Sometimes this list changes when we find better information about the sources themselves.
These are sources you only need to cite appropriately. We do NOT need copies of them. (please indicate on your forms it is on this list, new submissions heralds don't always know yet)
http://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html#APPENDIXH

Resources NOT on the Appendix H will need photocopies or screenshots of the title page (so we can see the name/date/author/editor), the section header if available, and the page itself. This way we can read what you found, and we can go look for if this author normalized spellings, where THEY got their information from and what sort of time/culture they were writing from and about. These help us assess if this is a good source or not.

Some other great places to look for names information are tax rolls, military rolls, and court documents. These are some of the most meticulously kept records. Standards for financial transactions are higher than needed for church documentations and transcriptions.

PLEASE AVOID SOURCES ON APPENDIX F or use with caution! These sources are usually problematic due to being written well after the time by people who did not care to transcribe accurately, or "normalized" spellings to modern variations instead of keeping with the spellings of the time. Some are just very hard to find good information in them.
http://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html#APPENDIXF

Some resources are…sometimes great! Sometimes….no. Family Search is one of them. Especially since they happily change up their site and make tracing your documentation path very challenging and headache inducing. This link explains what we are looking for and what we can not accept at this time without further images or documentation.
http://heraldry.sca.org/names/familysearch.html

As I was creating my handout, I was reminded to include Appendix N….for NO!!! This is one of the very few hard NO you will get in SCA Heraldry. These are the Banned and Potentially Problematic Place Names. They were discussed at length and decided there was no redeeming these for use in the SCA.
https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#AppendixN

And finally, before we move away from the SCA Heraldry Sites, here is the link for reading about definitions, standards and construction for SCA use. We require a minimum of 2 complete elements to ensure a unique to you name. A Given Name and a byname, such as a descriptive, a locative, a surname or patronymic or matronymic
https://heraldry.sca.org/sena.html#PN

The Basic Goal
http://heraldry.sca.org/names/withoutbooks.html
Name Research Without Books, Ursula Georges, ursula@yarntheory.net

From Pelican, September 2004 LOAR (http://www.sca.org/heraldry/loar/2004/09/04-09cl.html):

> First, what is the purpose of documentation and what should a summarization of documentation include? The purpose of documentation is to show the following:
>
> - that all elements of a name and all spellings used are found before 1650 (or are specifically allowed by the Rules for Submission or Laurel precedent)
> - the specific language or culture where each name element/spelling is found
> - Demonstrate that the entire name, as well as each name phrase, is constructed properly and that the grammar of each element is correct.
>
> Good summarization pulls out the main points of the documentation and shows how they support the items listed above. It also provides a roadmap that others can use to find, double-check, and evaluate documentation.

Let's take my name submission. Little did I know I was on the right track! This was in my pre-heraldic days. I lucked out! My registration was accepted on the Letter of Acceptances and Returns of August 2017, http://heraldry.sca.org/loar/2017/08/17-08lar.html#32

"Submitted as Sadhbh Bheag inghean Toirrdhealbhach, Gaelic grammar requires the father's name to be in the genitive (possessive) form when used in a patronymic. We have changed the name to Sadhbh Bheag inghean Toirrdhealbhaigh to use the correct genitive form.

Nice Gaelic name for circa 1450!"

My submission as I presented it:

All parts of this name are found in the Index of Names in Irish Annals by Mari Elspeth nic Bryan.
Sadhbh is found under Sadb/Sadhbh (http://medievalscotland.org/kmo/AnnalsIndex/Feminine/Sadb.shtml) with a wide range of dates including between 1440 and 1470.
Bheag is the post 1200 lenited version of the masculine "beag". "Beag" (which means "small") and "Mór" (which means "big") are found in the list of Masculine Descriptive Bynames (http://medievalscotland.org/kmo/AnnalsIndex/DescriptiveBynames/index.shtml). "Mhór" is found as a feminine descriptive byname dated to 1395, the lenited version of "Mór" in the list of Descriptive Bynames found in Feminine Names (http://medievalscotland.org/kmo/AnnalsIndex/Feminine/DescriptiveBynames.shtml) so it seems reasonable that "small" would also be used. The Spelling of Lenited Consonants in Gaelic by Sharon L. Krossa (http://medievalscotland.org/scotlang/lenition.shtml) says that after 1200 AD, the initial 'b would be lenited to "bh or b." and provides the example of "Brain" being lenited to "Bhrain or B.rain".
inghean is a patronymic denoting "daughter of ..."
Toirrdhealbhach is found under Tairdelbach/Toirdhealbhach (http://medievalscotland.org/kmo/AnnalsIndex/Masculine/Toirdhealbhach.shtml) with a wide range of dates including between 1440 and 1470.

Heraldry Forms:
For general knowledge and information go to the An Tir Heralds Document Library
https://antirheralds.org/document/library

For Forms for Submissions for Registration, here is the link
https://antirheralds.org/document/view/registration/forms

PS Note: Bheag was further/later documented as
The element is in toponyms, so it's showing up in Mills.
(Muine Bheag) Carlow. 'Little thicket'.
 Uamh Bheag (mountain) Stir.
'(Mountain with) the little cave'. Gaelic uamh + beag (feminine bheag).
[Mills] A Dictionary of British Place Names, A.D. Mills (NoPhotocopy)