

# Behind the Name

## Family Name Meanings

### **Bird**

Recorded as Bird, Byrd, Byrde and Bride, this famous surname is English. It derives from the pre 7th century word "bridde" meaning a bird, and as a surname was originally given as a nickname to one thought to bear a fancied resemblance to a bird. This may have been from bright dress, or bright eyed and active, or perhaps to some one with a beautiful singing voice. The surname was first recorded towards the end of the 12th century (see below), and other early recordings include: Ralph le Brid, a witness in the Fines Court of Essex in the year 1231, and Richard Bird, a witness in the Assize Court of Cambridgeshire in 1260. The variant spelling Bride, most closely resembling the original Olde English "bridde", was first recorded as a surname in 1332, when John Bride was listed in the Subsidy Rolls of Cumberland, and later in the Century, Johannes Bridde was recorded in the 1379 Poll Tax Returns of Yorkshire. Occasionally, Bird (and its variants) may have been given as a metonymic occupational name to a bird catcher, and as such was a shortened form of the name "Birdclever", recorded in the 1427 "Calverley Charters of Yorkshire". Henry Bird was an early settler in the New World, he was recorded as purchasing a ticket for the ship "Amity" sailing to London, in July 1679 from Barbados. Recently the name has had much international notice through the famous cricket umpire 'Dickie' Bird of Yorkshire. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Earnald Brid, which was dated 1193, in the "Pipe Rolls of Yorkshire", during the reign of King Richard 1st, known as "The Lionheart", 1189 - 1199. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

### **Bland**

This name is of English locational origin from a place called Bland in the West Riding of Yorkshire. The name derives from the Old English pre 7th Century '(ge)bland' meaning a 'storm' or

'commotion' with reference to the high exposed position of the place. The surname from this source is first recorded towards the end of the 13th Century. In the 1379 Poll Tax Returns Records of Yorkshire the name is entered several times as, de (of) Bland and Bland. On May 15th 1635, one Luke Bland, aged twenty years, embarked from London on the ship 'Plaine Joan' bound for Virginia. He was one of the first recorded name bearers into America. Humphrey Bland (1686-1712) became Governor of Gibraltar (1749) and of Edinburgh (1752-1763), and commander-in-chief of forces of Scotland (1753). The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of John de Bland, which was dated 1297, The Subsidy Rolls of Yorkshire, during the reign of King Edward 1, 'The Hammer of the Scots', 1272-1307. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Bowland**

This surname is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and is a locational name from any of the various places named with the Olde English pre 7th Century "boga", bow (used in a transferred topographical sense to means "river-bend"), and "land", land. These places include: Bowland (Forest) in Lancashire and West Yorkshire, recorded as "Boelanda" in Early Lancashire Charters, dated 1102; Bowlands in East Yorkshire, and Bolland (Bolton-by-Bolland) in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Locational surnames were originally given to local landowners, and the lord of the manor, and especially to those former inhabitants who left their place of origin to settle elsewhere. The surname is particularly well recorded in the 1379 Poll Tax Returns of Yorkshire under the variant forms "de Boghland, de Bouland" and "(de) Bowland". Occasionally, Bowland may be an Anglicized form of the Old Gaelic Irish surname "O'Beollain", usually Anglicized "Boland", and formed from an Old Norse byname "Boli", meaning "Bull(-like)". The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Rogerus Bowland, which was dated 1379, in the "Poll Tax Returns Records of Yorkshire", during the reign of King Richard 11, known as "Richard of Bordeaux", 1377 - 1399. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax.

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## **Bull**

This interesting surname derives from the Old English pre 7th Century "bula" or the Medieval English "bul(l)e", "bol(l)e", meaning bull, and was given as a nickname to one with great physical strength. Occasionally the name may be occupational for a keeper of a bull, while the form, Simon atte Bole (London 1377) suggests that in addition this may be derived from a house or inn sign. The surname is first recorded in the late 12th Century, (see below). One, Hulle le Bule, is noted in the Pipe Rolls of Staffordshire (1201) and William le Bole, appears in the Curia Regis Rolls of Surrey (1214). In the modern idiom the surname has many variant spellings including Bulle, Bool, Boole etc. On November 11th 1557, Elizabeth Bull, was christened at St. Andrews, Enfield. One of the earliest settlers in the New World was Edward Bull, aged 22 yrs, who departed from London, aboard the "Faulcon", bound for the Barbados, in April 1635. A coat of arms granted to John Bull, London, depicts a silver chevron charged with three red roses between three silver bulls heads on a red shield. On the crest there is a wreath and a cloud proper, with a blue celestial sphere replenished with four gold circles inscribed with the signs Aries, Taurus, Gemini and Cancer on the cloud. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Wulfwin Bule, which was dated 1170, in the Pipe Rolls of Hampshire, during the reign of King Henry 11, known as "The Builder of Churches", 1154 - 1189. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Chamberlain**

This famous and interesting surname is of Old French origin, and is an occupational name for a chamberlain, that is an official in charge of the private chambers of his master; the term was later a title of high rank. The derivation of this name is from the Old French and Anglo-Norman French "c(h)ambrelain, cambrelane, cambrelen(c)", chamberlain. The Italian cognate "camerlengo" was

given to a manager of a pontifical court. The surname itself first appears in records in the mid 12th Century (see below), while other early examples include: Geoffrey le Chamberleng, mentioned in the 1194 Curia Rolls of Wiltshire; Robert Canberlenc, recorded in the Feet of Fines in 1195; Martin le Chamberleyn in the Feet of Fines of Cambridgeshire of 1232; and Thomas le Chamberlyn, who appears in the Assize Court Rolls of Staffordshire in 1293. Sir Leonard Chamberlain (died 1561) was sheriff of Oxfordshire and Berkshire (1547 and 1552), M.P. for Scarborough (1553) and Oxfordshire (1554), and Governor of Guernsey (1553 - 1561). A Coat of Arms granted to a family of the name in London depicts on a red shield with a silver orle charged with eight blue mullets a gold armillary sphere. Neville Chamberlain (1869 - 1940) was Conservative Prime Minister of Great Britain (1937 - 1940) who pursued a policy of appeasement toward Germany. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Henry le Camberlain, which was dated circa 1154, in "Documents illustrative of the Social and Economic History of the Danelaw", by Stenton (London), during the reign of King Henry 11, known as "The Builder of Churches", 1154 - 1189. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Cranfield**

Recorded as Cranfield and sometimes Cranefield, this is a medieval English surname. It is locational from the town of Cranfield in Bedfordshire, first recorded in the most ancient charters of the year 969 a.d. as Cranfeldinga, or the open area (feld) visited by cranes. The crane bird has been a rare visitor to the British Isles for many centuries, but as there are some thirty places which has the prefix "cran", this was clearly not so a thousand years ago. Locational surnames generally fall into two categories. They were either given to the lord of the manor and his descendants, or more usually to people who left the place, and later were given its name by their new neighbours wherever they settled, as an easy means of identification. This type of nickname (surname) still continues, although it is usually regionalised as in Jock, for a Scotsman. With Cran(e)field the name would seem to be

in both categories, with the first recording being that of Phillipa de Cranefeld of Bedfordshire in the Hundred Rolls of 1272, and Alexander de Cranefeld of Huntingdon, in the same year. Both were landowners, the first interestingly being a woman. About one in twenty of such recordings refer to women as landowners or heiresses. The name is well recorded in the city of London from an early date with examples such as John Cranfeild at St James Clerkenwell in 1606, and Thomas Cranfield at St Dionis Backchurch, in 1611.

## **Crump**

This is a medieval English surname of nickname origins. Recorded in several spellings including Crump, Crumpe, and sometimes as the overlap surnames Cramp and Crimp, it was originally a physical description of a person with a crooked back or limbs, or given the robust humour of the 12th century, the reverse! Deriving from the ancient word of the pre 7th century, crump, meaning curved, it is typical of a wide range of similar surnames such as Crook, Curtin, Pate, or Stubbs, that refer to some physical characteristic of the name-bearer. These examples are fairly polite, those that were really offensive or obscene, having now passed into history, as society has become more "genteel". This surname is one of the very earliest first ever recorded anywhere in the world, and examples of these recordings include Adam le Crumpe in the Assize Rolls for Staffordshire in the year 1203, whilst from the later post medieval church registers we have John Crump, who was christened at the church of St. Mary Whitechapel, Stepney, London, in 1599. The first recorded spelling of the family name is believed be that of Peter Crumpe, in the Pipe Rolls for the county of Berkshire, in the year 1156. This was in the reign of King Henry 11, known as "The church builder", 1154 - 1189. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Denman**

This interesting and unusual name is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and is from a topographical name for someone who lived in a valley, from the Old English pre 7th Century words "denu", valley, and "mann", man (dweller); hence, "dweller in the valley". The name first appears in written records in the early 13th Century (see below); an English family of the name can trace their ancestry back

to this source. Early recordings include: Adam Deneman, mentioned in the 1332 Subsidy Rolls of Surrey, and the Poll Tax Records of Yorkshire mention Richard le Denne, Thomas de Denne and Adam Denman in 1379. Thomas Denman, the elder (1733 - 1815), studied medicine at St. George's Hospital in 1753, he became a surgeon in the Navy from 1757 to 1763, and afterwards took the post of physician accoucheur to Middlesex Hospital from 1769 - 1783. He had a son, Thomas (1779 - 1854), who became first Baron Denman, having been educated at Cambridge, after which he entered the bar in 1806. He became Attorney-General in 1830 and Speaker of the House of Lords in 1835, carrying two bills calling for abolition of death-penalty for forgery and other offences in 1837 and spoke in favour of abolition of slave trade. He had two sons, Thomas (1805 - 1894), and George (1819 - 1896), a judge and privy councillor. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of William Deneman, which was dated 1314, in the "Feet of Fines of Essex", during the reign of King Edward 1, known as "Edward of Caernafon", 1307 - 1327. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Douglas**

This noble and distinguished surname is of Scottish territorial origin from the lands of Douglas, south of Glasgow, in Lanarkshire, situated on the Douglas Water. These waters were so named from the Old Gaelic "dubh", dark or black, plus "glas", a rivulet or stream. The original stronghold of the Douglas family and their retainers lay in this area, and the Douglases were described by the historian Lang as "the great, turbulent, daring, and too often treacherous house". The fair principal stems of the family are: the old Douglas of Douglasdale (the Black Douglas), illustrious in the War of Independence: the line of Morton who were closely connected with Mary Queen of Scots: the house of Drumlanrig and Queensberry, and the House of Angus, the Red Douglas. The family also hold the titles, Earl of Douglas, Earl of Angus and Earl of Forfar. Among the one hundred notable name-bearers mentioned in "The Dictionary of National Biography" is Sir James Douglas, "the good" (1286 - 1330), who set out on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land,

carrying the heart of the dead Robert Bruce. A Coat of Arms granted to Sir James' nephew, William, is a silver shield with a red man's heart, on a blue chief three silver stars. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of William de Douglas, charter witness in Kelso, which was dated 1175, in the "Records of Kelso Abbey", Roxburghshire, during the reign of King William, known as "The Lion of Scotland", 1165 - 1214. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Edinburgh**

This surname of famous Scottish origins is locational. According to Black's dictionary known as 'The Surnames of Scotland', it was considered to be extinct by the end of the 19th century, and certainly the last recording in its 'home place' would seem to be that of John Edinburgh of Edinburgh on April 15th 1686. However it is clearly not extinct, since it has been recorded in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and specifically in the small area bordered by the villages of Denby Dale, Shepley and Shelley, since Victorian times. To add to the curiosity, the current spellings in Yorkshire are varied, and include Edinburgh itself, as well as several families called Edinboro, Edinborough and even an Edinburgh. Locational surnames are usually 'from' names. That is to say names given to people after they left the place from which they have been named, to move somewhere else. This process often lead nationally or sometimes regionally, to varied spelling forms, but it is unusual to say the least, for a name from such a well known city, to develop varied spellings within such a small geographical area. This is particularly so as almost certainly, all name-holders descend from the same person or same original family. In the medieval period this surname was prominent in Scotland with Alexander de Edynburgh being a charter witness on behalf of the bishop of St Andrews in the year 1233, whilst Thomas de Edynburgh was a merchant freed from the Tower of London in 1396. Perhaps the Yorkshire family originate from this man?

## **Harnett**

The primary source of this interesting surname is the Norman French male given name "Arnaut, Arnott, (H)ernaut", itself coming from the Old German "Arnald, Arnold, Arnolt", a compound of the elements "arn", eagle, and "wald", rule. One Rogerus filius (son of) Ernaldi was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, and an Hernaldus de Bolonia was noted in the Red Book of the Exchequer, dated 1212. Pre 7th Century Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse baptismal names were usually distinctive compounds whose elements were often associated with the Gods of Fire, Water or War, or composed of disparate elements. The surname from this source was first recorded towards the end of the 12th Century (see below), and further early examples include: Lecia Arnet (Cambridgeshire, 1273), and William Arnold (Suffolk, 1277). In the modern idiom the name has several spelling variations ranging from Arnald, Arnaud and Arnot(t), to Harnett and Harnott. On February 4th 1639, Emblem Harnett and John Hobson were married at Westminster, London. Harnett may also be of Irish origin, and an Anglicized form of the Old Gaelic "O'hAirtneada", descendant of Artnead, a male given name from the Old Irish "art", a bear. The name is mainly found now, as in medieval times, in south-west Munster. On July 25th 1799, Daniel Harnett and Mary Rourke were married at Killarney, County Kerry. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Puntius Arnaldi, which was dated 1196, in the "Pipe Rolls of Devonshire", during the reign of King Richard 1, known as "Richard the Lionheart", 1189 - 1199. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Lines**

This usual name is one of the metronymic forms of the name "Line", or "Lina", a medieval female given name which was short form of such women's names as "Cateline", "Adeline", and "Emmeline", containing the Anglo-Norman surnames, derived from the name of the first bearer's mother, are far less common than "patronymics", since western society has generally been patriarchal throughout recorded history. The modern surname can be found as "Lines", "Lynes" and "Lynas". The surname development has

included "Linous", (1572, Yorkshire), "Lynis", (1644, *ibid.*) and "Lynus", (1663, *ibid.*). Arthur Lynas married Agnes Telzerson on October 3rd 1557 at Stainton in Cleveland, Yorkshire. The Coat of Arms most associated with the family of Tooley Park, county Leicester has the blazon of a silver shield, on a blue bend between two lion's rampant, a fleur-de-lis between two griffin's heads erased ore. The crest being in front of a fleur-de-lis a lion rampant and the motto; Foi, Roi, Droit translating as Faith, king, right. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Reginald Lynes, which was dated 1340, in the Cambridgeshire Assize Rolls, during the reign of King Edward 111, known as "The Father of the Navy", 1327 - 1377. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Lovell**

This interesting surname, with variant spellings Lovel and Lowell, derives from the Anglo Norman French "lou", a wolf (ultimately from the Latin "lupus"), plus the diminutive suffix "el", and was originally given as a nickname to a fierce or shrewd person. One Richard "Lupellus" was recorded in "Ancient Charters of Sussex", circa 1118. The surname appears towards the middle of the 12th Century, (see below). Other early recordings include Willelmus Luvell, "the Curia Regis Rolls of Oxfordshire", 1206, and Philip Lovel, "The Hundred Rolls of Oxfordshire", 1255. Richard Luvell alias Lovel or Lovel "of Kari Lovel barony" was recorded in the Somerset County Rolls of 1263. He descended from William, Earl of Yvery, whose father Robert had acquired the nickname Lupus because of his violent temper. A noble family of Lovell were established in Northampton-shire from the 13th to the 16th Century, and included Francis, first Viscount Lovell (1454-1487), summoned to parliament as ninth Baron Lovell of Tichmarsh in 1482. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of William Luell, which was dated 1130, in the "Pipe Rolls of Oxfordshire", during the reign of King Henry 1, known as "the Lion of Justice", 1100 - 1135. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every

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## **Michael**

Recorded in over two hundred spellings, some examples of which are shown below, this is a European medieval surname of Crusader, but ultimately biblical origins. Deriving from the ancient Hebrew name "Micha-el" meaning "He who is like god", it was introduced from the Holy Land by returning warriors from the various Crusades commencing in the 12th century and which continued for several centuries with minimal success. During the period of the Christian Revival at this time, the name rapidly became established as firstly one of the most popular baptismal names, and within a generation as one of the early surnames. Part of this popularity was due to the conviction that the name was originally the war cry of the archangel, in his defeat of Satan! A large range of spellings have developed in every Christian country of the western hemisphere, and these spellings include Michael, and Myatt (England), Michell and Mitchell (Scotland), Miell, Miall, Michel, Micheau, and Micheu (France), Michele and Micheli (Italy), Miguel (Portugal & Spain), Miell and Michal (Poland), Michel (Hungary), with diminutives Michelet, Michelin (France), Mische, Mish, Misch and Mische (Germany), Michalik and Mielnik (Poland), Michaley (Czech), Miko (Hungary), and patronymics such as Michaelson, Mikkelsen, Mikhalkov, Michaeliewicz, and many, many, more. It was in England that the first recordings are to be found with Michaelis de Arci appearing in the Danelaw Rolls for the city of London, in 1160, although the first surname recording would seem to be in Scotland when Magister Michael appears in the register of Scone Abbey, in 1214. A notable early name-bearer was Blaunpayn Michael, a Latin poet who flourished circa 1250, and was traditionally dean of Utrecht, in the Netherlands. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation, and throughout the centuries these have continued to "develop", often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Pardoe**

Recorded in a number of spellings including: Fardieu, Fardoe, Fardo, Pardoe, Pardue, Pirdy, Purdy, Purdey, and Perdue, this surname is English but arguably of medieval French, and later 17th century French Huguenot origins. In the first instance the

development in England is from a favourite oath, the French phrase "Par dieu", meaning "by God", and anglicized in the surname to various "sounds like" spellings. In medieval times the phrase became a nickname for a person who habitually used this expression in normal speech, and ultimately came to be called from it! There are a number of surnames which have had a similar development including Purefoy, from "Par ma foi", meaning "(God) keep me safe". The oath "Pardee" is recorded in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales as "I have a wyt, pardee, as wel as thow". The surname development over the centuries has included: Robert Pardey, of the county of Sussex in the year 1296, Henry Pardeu of Warwickshire in 1332, and Walter Perdu of Staffordshire in 1370. Later recordings include: John Fardo who married Susanna Crump at the church of St Leonards, Shoreditch, in 1692, Jean Fardieu, given as being a protestant refugee and recorded at the Huguenot French Church, Threadneedle Street, in the city of London, in 1719, and James Pardoe who married Sarah Birt at St. Georges chapel, Hanover Square, London, in 1808. The first recorded spelling of the family name is believed to be that of Richard Parde. This was dated 1228, in the tax rolls known as the "Feet of Fines" for Suffolk. during the reign of King Henry III, 1216 - 1272. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Parker**

This great and noble surname is English. Borne by the Earls of Morley and Macclesfield; the Barons of Boringdon and Monteagle, and having more than sixty Coats of Arms, it is ultimately of French occupational origins. It described an official in charge of the extensive hunting parks of a king or wealthy landowner. The derivation is from the words "parchier" or "parquier" meaning "park- keeper". The surname was first recorded in England in the latter half of the 11th Century following the 1066 Norman Invasion, and as such was one of the very earliest surnames on record. Only five percent of the entries in the great Domesday Book of 1086 show people having surnames, and this is one of them. Amongst these very early recordings are examples such as Geoffrey Parchier, in the book of 'Seals' for the county of Northumberland, dated 1145 a. d. and Adam le Parker in the Hundred Rolls of the county of Norfolk for the year 1273. The surname was one of the very first

into the new American colonies. William Parker, aged 20, who arrived in the ship Charles of London, in the year 1616, is shown in the records for January 23rd 1624 as being in the "muster" of Susan Bush, of 'Elizabeth Cittie'. Quite what his situation was is far from clear, as Susan Bush herself arrived in 1617, and was only aged 20! The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Anshetil Parcher, which was dated 1086, in the Domesday Book of the county of Somerset, during the reign of King William 1, known as "The Conqueror", 1066 - 1087.

## **Rawlings**

This interesting name is of early medieval English origin, and is one of the patronymic forms of the surname Rawling, developed from the Middle English given name "Rawlin". The personal name was adopted from the Old French "Raulin", itself a double diminutive of "Raw", with the Anglo-Norman French suffixes "-el" and "-in". Raw was one of the many variant forms of the male personal name Ralph, in origin an Old Norse name composed of the Germanic elements "rad", counsel, advice, with "wolf", wolf. This was first introduced into England by Scandinavian settlers in the Old Norse form "Rathulfr", and was reinforced after the Conquest of 1066 by the Norman forms "Raulf, Radulf". The English given name is first recorded in Yorkshire in 1277, as "Raulyn", and one William Raulyn is recorded in Oxfordshire in the Eynsham Cartulary of 1290. Among the recordings of the name in London Church Registers is the marriage of Edward Rawlings and Alice Hignett, at St. James', Duke's Place, on April 2nd 1668. A Coat of Arms granted to the Rawlings family is per pale white and black on a chevron between three martlets as many crescents all counter changed. The Crest is a black ram passant attired gold. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of John Rawlynes, which was dated 1343, in the "Ancient Deeds" of Warwickshire, during the reign of Edward 111, known as "The Father of the Navy", 1327 - 1377. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Robinson**

This is one of the most interesting and evocative surnames of the British Isles, whilst being recorded throughout the English speaking world. It is a medieval patronymic from the given name Robin, itself a diminutive of the popular Anglo-Saxon pre 7th century personal name Robert. This was originally a compound name with the elements "hrothi", and "berhta", meaning "fame-bright". As such it is first recorded in England in the famous Domesday Book of 1086. It is said that the name was originally made popular by Robin Goodfellow, whose mischievous tricks were later described in Shakespeare's, "A Midsummer Night's Dream", and perhaps even more so by Robin of Locksley, otherwise known as Robin Hood, who it is said (without too much evidence) stole from the rich to give to the poor. The surname was first recorded in the latter half of the 13th Century (see below), and one Margaret Robines appeared in the Hundred Rolls of Cambridgeshire, dated 1279. In the modern idiom, the surname can be found recorded as Robyns, Robins, Robens, Robbings, Robinson and Robens. Recordings from early surviving London church registers include: the marriage of Helen Robinson and Thomas Grene on October 1st 1548, at St. Leonard's, Eastcheap, and the marriage of Christopher Robinson and Jone Millman on November 4th 1565, at St. Mary Abchurch, London. An early settler in the New World Colonies was John Robinson, aged 26, who sailed from London on the ship "Peter Bonaventure", bound for the 'Barbadoes' in April 1635. The Coat of Arms most associated with the name is a green shield charged with a gold chevron between three gold bucks standing at gaze. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Dera Robins, which was dated 1273, in the Hundred Rolls of Cambridgeshire. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## **Sully**

Recorded in several spelling forms including Solly, Sowley, Sooly, Sooley, Sudeley and Sully, this is an English locational surname. Generally recorded in the spelling of Sully, it is an excellent example of how a local dialect completely changed the spelling of a name. The derivation is from the village of Sudeley in the county of Gloucester, first recorded in the famous Domesday

Book of 1086 in the spelling of 'Sudlege'. This translates as 'the leah meaning a farm or enclosure to the south, the inference being that this was a small farm or settlement to the south of the main village. Local dialects being in medieval times almost individual languages, the development of slang spellings such as Brummiger for Birmingham or Suthell for Southwell, proceeded at a merry pace, as they have with this name. Even the very first known recording, that of Bartholmew de Sulley in the Hundred Rolls of Gloucester for 1272, is also quantified as Bartholew de Sudeley. The surname was also well recorded in medieval Devonshire, showing how even in those times people travelled widely in search of better prospects. These early recordings include Walter de Sully and Reymond de Suley, in 1293, whilst Adam de Sullegh is recorded in Somerset in the year 1328. Later examples are those of Anthony Sowley at St Margarets church, Westminster, on April 4th 1684, and Samuell Sooly at St Botolphs without Aldgate, in the city of London, on June 18th 1686.

## **Wilson**

This distinguished surname, having more than seventy Coats of Arms, and with as many notable entries in the "Dictionary of National Biography" is of early medieval English origin although recorded throughout the British Isles. It is a patronymic form of the male given name Will, itself a diminutive of William. Introduced into England by William, Duke of Normandy, and known to history as "The Conqueror" , William soon became the most popular given name in England. The Norman form and that borne by the Conqueror, was "Willelm", a spelling adopted from the Frankish Empire of the 8th century. The name is a compound which originally consisted of the elements "wil", meaning desire, and "helm", a helmet which offered protection. Early examples of the surname recording in England include: Robertus Willelmi in the Domesday Book of 1086, whilst in 1341 Robert Wilson was recorded at Kirkstall, Yorkshire, the patronymic form of the name having emerged some seventeen years earlier (as below). One of the earliest emigrant to the New World was John Wilson, recorded on a register of "those living in Virginia on February 18th 1623". One of the most illustrious bearers of the name was Sir Robert Thomas Wilson, general and governor of Gibraltar, who in 1801 received the rank of baron of the Holy Roman Empire. The first

recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Robert Willeson. This was dated 1324, in records of the Manor of Wakefield, Yorkshire. This was during the reign of King Edward 11nd of England, 1307 - 1327.

## **Wilton**

This is an interesting English locational name from any of the various places so called in Cumberland, Herefordshire, Norfolk, Somerset, Wiltshire and Yorkshire. Wilton in Somerset and Yorkshire have as their first element, the Old English pre 7th Century "Wiell(a)" a spring or stream. The place that has given its name to Wiltshire derives its name from the river "Wylve", an ancient British river name, possibly meaning "capricious". The others, however, are named from the Old English "Wiligi" willow and "tun", enclosure or settlement, thus denoting a village where willows grew. One Hugh de Wilton, appeared in the Pipe Rolls of Wiltshire in 1162, while the Calendar of Inquisitions post mortem record one Walter de Wilton in 1273. William de Wilton (deceased 1264) was justice itinerant (1248 - 1250) and was appointed chief justice (1261) and died while fighting for Henry 111 at the battle of Lewes. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Gerald de Wiltune which was dated 1086, in the "Domesday Book, Wiltshire", during the reign of King William 1st, known as "The Conqueror", 1066 - 1087. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.