



ESCOMB SAXON CHURCH

THE MOST  
DISTINGUISHED  
SURNAME  
LING

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## ANCIENT HISTORY

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While your recent ancestors and famous people bearing your surname may be known to you, it is often a family's distant past which fades into the unknown over the centuries. Research has shown that this surname is of Anglo-Saxon origin. Few cultures have had the lasting impact on English society as that of the Anglo-Saxons. The Ling family history draws upon this heritage as the bearers of the name influenced and were influenced by the history of the English nation. Historians have carefully scrutinized such ancient manuscripts as the Domesday Book, compiled in 1086 A.D., the Ragman Rolls (1291-1296), the Curia Regis Rolls, the Pipe Rolls, the Hearth Rolls, parish registers, baptismals, tax records and other ancient documents and found the first record of the name Ling in Somerset where they held a family seat as Lords of the Manor. The Saxon influence of English history diminished after the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The language of the courts was French for the next three centuries and the Norman ambience prevailed. But Saxon surnames survived and the family name was first referenced in the 13th century when they held the village of Ling, near Bridgewater.

## SPELLING VARIATIONS

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Many different spellings of the surname were found in the archives researched. Although the spelling Ling occurred in many manuscripts, from time to time the surname was spelt Linge, Lyng and Lynge, and these variations in spelling frequently occurred, even between father and son. It was also common to find the same individual referred to with different spellings of their surname. In the 16th century the famous playwright William Shakespeare signed his own name with different spellings and legal documents added further to the possible variations. "Shakespeare," "Shakespere," "Shakespear," "Shakspere" and "Shaxspere" were all used in reference to this famous individual. Scribes, church officials and the bearers of a name spelled words as they sounded rather than adhering to any spelling rules.

## EARLY HISTORY

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The Saxons were a Teutonic tribe originally from northern Germany who began to settle in England in about the year 400 A.D. Their first settlements were in Kent, on the south east coast. Gradually, they probed north and westward from Kent and during the next four hundred years forced the ancient Britons back into Wales and Cornwall to the west. They won territories as far north as Lancashire and Yorkshire, pushing the Britons into Cumbria and Southern Scotland. The Angles, another Teutonic tribe, occupied the eastern coast, the south folk in Suffolk, the north folk in Norfolk. The Angles sometimes invaded as far north as Northumbria and the Scottish border. The Angle and Saxon cultures blended together as they came to dominate the country. For hundreds of years England was comprised of five independent Anglo-Saxon kingdoms until unification in the 9th century. By 1066, England, under Harold, was enjoying reasonable peace and prosperity. However, the Norman invasion from France and their victory at the Battle of Hastings meant that the Anglo-Saxon landowners lost their property to the invaders. The Saxons were restive under Norman rule, and many moved northward to the midlands, Lancashire and Yorkshire, where Norman influence was less pervasive. Rebellious Norman nobles frequently joined them in their flight northward.

As peace was restored, the Ling surname emerged as that of a notable English family in the county of Somerset where they held a family seat. In the 13th century they had branched to Norfolk where Henry, William and John held estates. Almost a century later Roger of Lyng was Bailiff of Norwich. They later branched to London where they became prominent businessmen. From their early beginnings, for the next few centuries, bearers of the family name acquired estates and manors as they established themselves throughout England. Major conflicts, such as the Wars of the Roses (1455-1487), and the Cromwellian Civil Wars (17th century), sometimes found family members to be in opposing camps, with conflicting interests.

## EARLY NOTABLES

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Distinguished members of the family include the Lyng family of Norfolk.

## LIFE IN IRELAND

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Over the centuries, turmoil was not unknown in England. Disputes over royal succession, baronial revolts, fear of foreign invasion, and wars with neighbors in Scotland and Wales, all created periods of strife. However, these problems had largely been resolved by the Tudor monarchs. The succession of the Stuart monarchs saw the rise of political problems which effected even the common man. Conflicts between the king and parliament, and between the Catholics and the Protestants, along with plague and the great fire in London, made the 17th century a turbulent time. It is not surprising then to find that many families were banished or willfully left England.

During this period Irish lands were granted to Oliver Cromwell's soldiers and to Protestant settlers. While some of the confiscated lands were returned to their owners during the reign of King Charles II, most remained in the hands of newcomers. As early as 1172 branches of certain family surnames moved to Ireland with the invasion of Strongbow, still more were encouraged to be a part of the Plantation of Ulster in the early 17th century. Later, the Cromwellian settlements moved other families. There is evidence that this family branched to Ulster in the early 17th century.

## THE GREAT MIGRATION

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Turmoil at home made the New World appear attractive to many families in England. They immigrated to Canada, the United States, Australia, and some moved to continental Europe. Members of the Ling family risked the hazardous voyage to start a new life in new lands. This decision to emigrate was never made casually, for while there were hardships at home, the journey across the sea was so perilous that up to 40 percent of a ship's passengers would not reach their destination.

## SETTLERS

- Jo Ling, aged 45, who landed in Barbados in 1634<sup>[1]</sup>
- Charles Ling, who landed in Virginia in 1666<sup>[1]</sup>
- Francis Ling, who landed in Maryland in 1666<sup>[1]</sup>
- Peter Ling, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1737<sup>[1]</sup>
- George Ling, who arrived in Boston, Massachusetts in 1774<sup>[1]</sup>
- Aart Ling, aged 1, who landed in New York, NY in 1847<sup>[1]</sup>
- Atrena Ling, aged 23, who arrived in New York, NY in 1847<sup>[1]</sup>
- F Ling, aged 30, who arrived in New York, NY in 1847<sup>[1]</sup>
- James Ling, aged 19, who arrived in South Australia in 1851 aboard the ship "Reliance"<sup>[2]</sup>
- Caleb Ling, aged 22, who arrived in South Australia in 1855 aboard the ship "Telegraph"

- Frank Ling, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Queen of Beauty" in 1863

As well as 13 more in the Appendix.

## CURRENT NOTABLES

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By the time of the American Revolution (1775-1783), the colonial population had reached approximately 2.5 million people. Black slaves constituted roughly 22 percent of the total; about 250,000 were Scots-Irish; approximately 200,000 were Germans. Protestants formed the overwhelming majority of white people, although approximately 25,000 Roman Catholics and about 1000 Jews also lived in the colonies. Approximately 50,000 people loyal to the British crown made their way north to Canada following the American Revolution. They were known as the United Empire Loyalists, and were granted lands in Nova Scotia, along the St. Lawrence River and along the Niagara Peninsula.

- David Ling, Canadian professional hockey player
- Eugene Ling (d.1995) American screen writer and producer
- Per Henrik Ling (1776-1839) Swedish author
- Ding Ling (1904-1986) Chinese novelist

As well as 26 more in the Appendix.

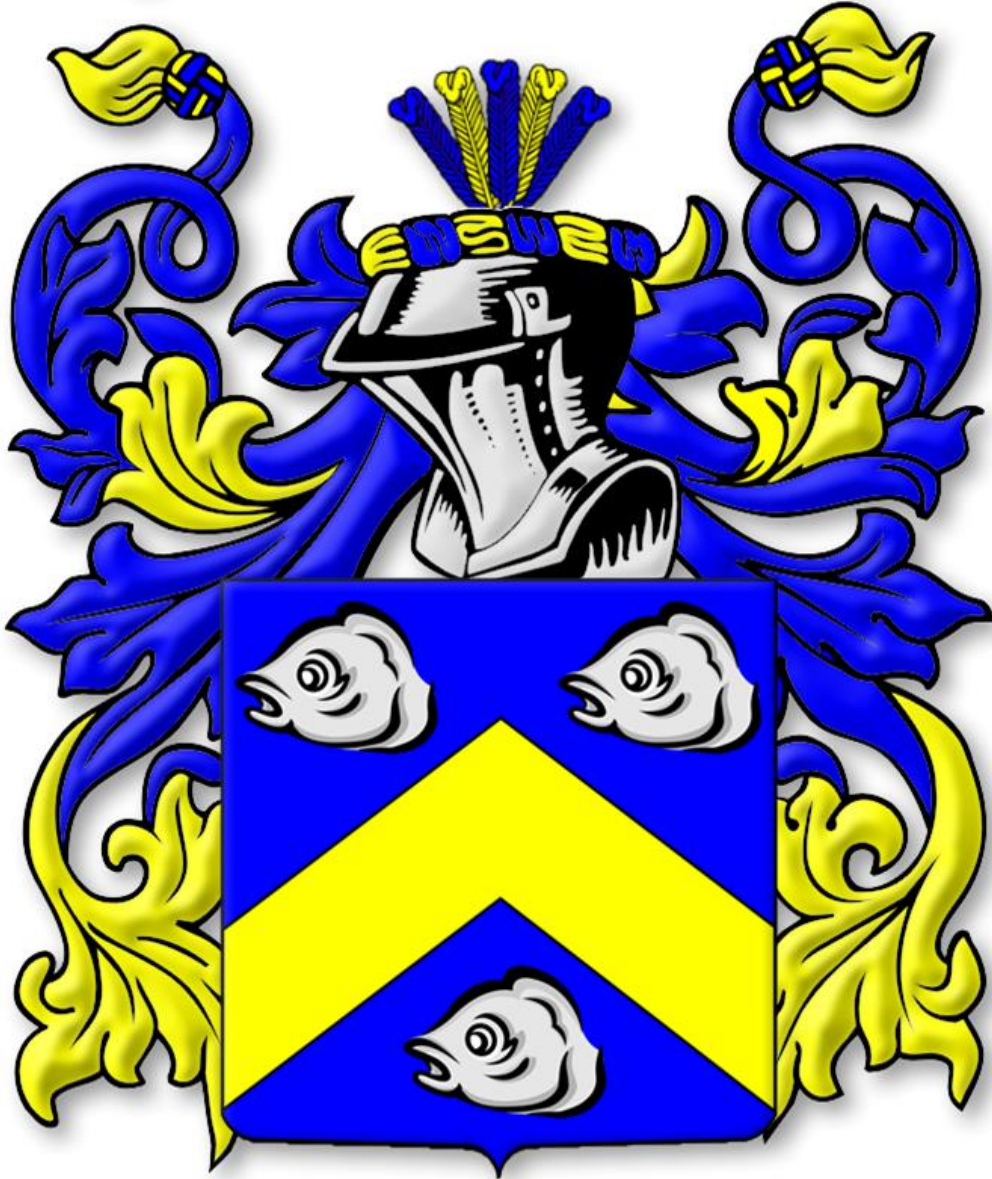
## HISTORIC EVENTS

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- Mr. Hee Ling, aged 24, Chinese Third Class passenger from Hong Kong who sailed aboard the RMS Titanic and survived the sinking in collapsible C<sup>[3]</sup>
- Mr. Leslie Walter Ling (b.1918) British Marine, who sailed into battle on the HMS Repulse and died during the sinking<sup>[4]</sup>

As well as 0 more in the Appendix.

The Ancient Arms of



Ling

# SYMBOLISM

## INTRODUCTION

The practice of representing people with symbols is ancient, and in England this habit evolved with feudal society into a system of distinctive devices on shields. The heralds developed an extensive armory that had the important function of distinguishing members of the upper class from each other, whether at court or on the battlefield. Since then, heraldry has grown into a complex field with many rules and a terminology that requires some knowledge to interpret.



An Achievement of Arms such as the Ling arms depicted on the left typically consists of these parts: the Escrolls, displaying the family motto and name, the family crest (if any) seen above the helmet, the actual Coat of arms (also known as 'arms,' or 'the shield'), the Helmet depicted below the crest, the Torse on top of the helmet, and the Mantle draped from the helmet. Each of these elements will be described below. Supporters were a later addition to the Achievement; they are somewhat rare, and are usually personal to the grantee.



The mantle was spread over and draped from the helmet and served as a protection, 'to repel the extremities of wet, cold, and heat, and to preserve the armour from rust.' The numerous cuts and slits suggest that it had been torn and hacked on the field of battle. The style or design of the mantling is up to the individual heraldic artist, and it is usually depicted in the main color and metal from the shield. The helmet (or Helm) varied in shape in different ages and countries, often depicting rank. The Esquire's Helm, as depicted here, is generally shown silver, with a closed visor and facing to the dexter (its right). On top of the helmet is a Torse or wreath which was formed by two pieces of silk twisted together. Its purpose was to hold the crest and mantle on the Helm.



## MOTTO

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The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto.

The coat of arms displayed here for the surname Ling did not include a motto.

## SHIELD

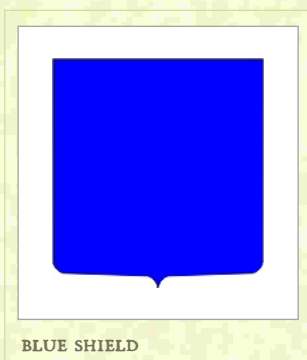
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Shields (or Escutcheons) at first were painted simply with one or more bands of color or 'ordinaries'. Later, the ordinaries were used in conjunction with other figures or symbols. The Coat of Arms for the surname Ling can be described as follows:



## LING ARMS

A blue shield with a gold chevron between three silver ling's heads erased per fesse.



## BLUE SHIELD

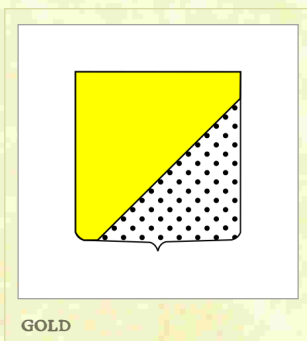
Azure (derived from the French word for "blue") represents the color of an eastern sky on a clear day. It also corresponds to the metal tin. The word, "azure" was introduced from the east during the Crusades. It signifies piety and sincerity, and is equated with autumn. In engravings it is represented by horizontal lines.

Symbolic Virtues: Blue denotes calmness and power of reflection. It infers nobility of the soul and signifies Loyalty, Justice and Courage. The color has also long been associated with purity and love, since the times when brides wore blue ribbons to the chapel.

Precious Stone: Turquoise

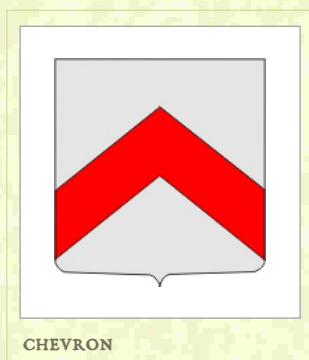
Planet: Jupiter

Obligations: Help for the servant



## GOLD

"Or" (from the French word for gold) is the tincture of gold, or in heraldic terms "or," was considered the noblest color. One of only two metals used in heraldry, it exceeds all others in value, purity and finesse. It represents the light of the sun, and was once borne only by princes. Gold is said to gladden the heart and destroy all works of magic. It is also associated with excellence and achievement, and the bearer surpasses all others in valor. It is represented on coats of arms by the color yellow, and in engravings by an indefinite number of small points.



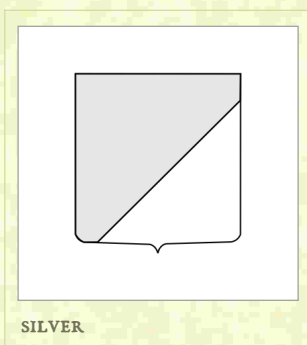
## CHEVRON

The chevron occurs frequently in British and French heraldry, while it is comparatively rare in German heraldry. The chevron represents the roof of a house, derived from the French word "chevron" meaning rafter. It signifies protection. There is much disagreement about whether this ordinary or the "bend" was the first design to appear on coats of arms.

The chevron was granted to those who had participated in some notable enterprise, had built churches or fortresses, or had accomplished some work requiring faithful service. Originally heralds drew the chevron almost reaching the top of the shield, nearly covering shield surface. More recently, the chevron is drawn lower and with a less acute inner angle to allow more devices to be represented more attractively, and the artist may draw the chevron at the height and angle that will best suit the accompanying charges. The chevronel, is the diminutive of the chevron and is much narrower. Chevronels may be stacked on top of each other or side-by-side at the same height, which is termed interlaced, or braced. A field composed entirely of an even number of chevrons is called "chevronny."

## THREE

"Three" devices, beasts or ordinaries of the same have a special significance in heraldry. First of all, there is the obvious reference to the Trinity in the design that would signify observance of the Christian doctrine. Secondly, with many Arms it brings balance that is steeped in tradition. To better understand this latter scenario, we must look at the evolution of shield in personal armory. Kite shields that were the most popular from the the 10th-14th century evolved into Heater shields that had flat tops c. 1250. This was the time of heraldry's beginnings and when "three" objects were used for balance in each corner of the shield. Later, with the advent of the "chief," "chevron" and "bend" three devices brought balance to these ordinaries too.

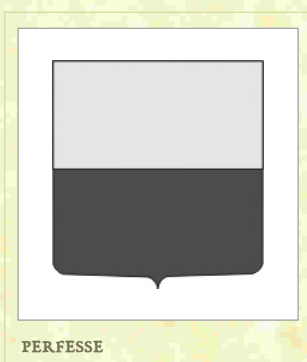


## SILVER

Argent (from the French for silver), or silver is one of the two metals used in heraldry. It is usually represented on a shield by the colors gray or white. This metal represents nobility, peace and serenity. It is associated with the qualities of purity and chastity, because the metal withstands the test of fire.

## ERASED

Erased, in heraldic terms, means that the object described has been violently torn off, leaving a jagged edge. It is a term applied to the heads and limbs of creatures; however, it really just indicates that there are wisps of fur or feathers preventing the edge from being a clean one.



## PERFESSE

Dividing a shield per fesse involves creating two equal parts of the shield using a horizontal partition line. It is thought to hold no symbolism of its own, but allows for two colors, each with its own symbolism to be displayed.

## THE CREST

The Crest was worn on top of the helmet, and was usually made of wood, metal, or boiled leather. It provided the double advantage of easy identification and the addition of height to the wearer. If a family had no crest, and many chose not to, plumes (feathers) were often displayed instead.

# CONCLUSION

## SUGGESTED FURTHER READINGS

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"Ling Surname Index" by Calvin H. Ling.

Please note: We do not have these publications in our library. They come from the catalog of Genealogical titles in the collection of the Library of Congress. Most of these Genealogies were published by their authors, probably with one small print run. You can locate these publications through the Library of Congress (<http://catalog.loc.gov/webvoy.htm>), or we would suggest trying to contact a library in the locale of publication (you may be able to use inter-library loan, through your local library).

## APPENDIX - NOTABLE LIST

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- David Ling, Canadian professional hockey player
- Eugene Ling (d.1995) American screen writer and producer
- Per Henrik Ling (1776-1839) Swedish author
- Ding Ling (1904-1986) Chinese novelist

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF LING

- Sir Henry Lingen, British Royalist commander during the English Civil War
- Tom Lingenfelter, American teacher, historian, intelligence agent, businessman, and political activist
- Lizzie Lyng, Irish camogie player and a social worker
- Steven W "Steve" Lingafelter, American research entomologist and author of numerous publications at the United States of Agriculture who specializes in beetles
- Rebecca Lingafelter, American actress, known for *Forced Entry* (2011), *The Lilac Chaser* (2013) and *Leverage* (2008)
- Peder Rasmus Lyng (1799-1863) Norwegian politician
- Ralph Robert Wheeler Lingen KCB (1819-1905) 1st Baron Lingen, English civil servant
- Ulrik Fredrik Lange Lyng (1868-1948) Norwegian judge
- Mary Rebecca Lingenfelter (b.1893) American author
- Martin Jensen Linge (1894-1941) Norwegian actor
- Evert van Linge (1895-1964) Dutch footballer
- Jakob Lyng (1907-1995) Danish fencer
- Toralf Lyng (1909-2005) Norwegian sports official
- Richard Edmund Lyng (1918-2003) American administrator
- Jan Herman Linge (1922-2007) Norwegian engineer and boat designer
- Otto Lyng (1926-2003) Norwegian politician
- John Lingenfelter (1945-2003) American NHRA driver, engineer and legendary tuner
- Jon Lyng (1945-2003) Norwegian lawyer and politician
- Dwain Lingenfelter (b.1949) Canadian businessman, farmer and politician
- Steven Rodney Lingenfelter (b.1958) retired American professional basketball player

## APPENDIX - HISTORIC EVENT LIST

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### HMS REPULSE

HMS Repulse was one of the world's fastest battleships. She participated in many campaigns during her time, but eventually sunk on the 10th of December 1941 by a Japanese Aircraft. After witnessing the explosion of the HMS Hood she took torpedo fire and quickly capsized, 508 men lost their lives.

- Mr. Leslie Walter Ling (b.1918) British Marine, who sailed into battle on the HMS Repulse and died during the sinking<sup>[4]</sup>

### RMS TITANIC

A British passenger liner en route from Southampton, UK to New York City, USA sunk in the early morning of April the 15th 1912. Operated by the White Star Line the RMS Titanic was traveling through Newfoundland when she hit an iceberg on the 14th April 1912 at 11.40pm ship's time. During the course of the night passengers and crew were evacuated to lifeboats, however of the 2,224 passenger and crew over 1,500 people died. The lifeboats could carry 1,178 people, which at the time was just over half the number on board.

- Mr. Hee Ling, aged 24, Chinese Third Class passenger from Hong Kong who sailed aboard the RMS Titanic and survived the sinking in collapsible C<sup>[3]</sup>

## APPENDIX - SETTLER LIST

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### AMERICAN SETTLERS

- Jo Ling, aged 45, who landed in Barbados in 1634<sup>[1]</sup>
- Charles Ling, who landed in Virginia in 1666<sup>[1]</sup>
- Francis Ling, who landed in Maryland in 1666<sup>[1]</sup>
- Peter Ling, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1737<sup>[1]</sup>
- George Ling, who arrived in Boston, Massachusetts in 1774<sup>[1]</sup>

#### SURNAME VARIANTS OF LING

- Henry Linge, who landed in Virginia in 1623<sup>[1]</sup>
- John Linge, who arrived in Virginia in 1623<sup>[1]</sup>
- Benjamin Linge, who arrived in New Haven, Connecticut in 1651<sup>[1]</sup>
- Mich Lynge, who arrived in Virginia in 1655<sup>[1]</sup>
- Joseph Lyng, aged 25, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1736<sup>[1]</sup>

### AUSTRALIAN SETTLERS

- James Ling, aged 19, who arrived in South Australia in 1851 aboard the ship "Reliance"<sup>[2]</sup>
- Caleb Ling, aged 22, who arrived in South Australia in 1855 aboard the ship "Telegraph"

### NEW ZEALAND SETTLERS

- Frank Ling, who arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Queen of Beauty" in 1863
- W. Ling, who arrived in Wellington, New Zealand aboard the ship "Wild Duck" in 1865
- Henry Ling, aged 18, who arrived in Wellington, New Zealand aboard the ship "Zealandia" in 1879

#### SURNAME VARIANTS OF LING

- John Lyng, who arrived in Wellington, New Zealand aboard the ship "Edwin Fox" in 1875



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Here is a listing of some of the sources consulted when researching British surnames. The resources below directly or indirectly influenced the authors of our surname histories. We have most of these titles in our library, others we have borrowed or had access to. Source materials have been chosen for their reliability and authenticity. Our research into surnames is ongoing, and we are continually adding to our source library. For each surname history, we seek and refer to sources specific to the surname; these are generally not included in the list below.

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

The National Archives (USA): <http://www.archives.gov/>

College of Arms (England): <http://college-of-arms.gov.uk/>

### MEDIEVAL ROLLS

Where available we consult Medieval rolls or use their information as reprinted in secondary sources.

Subsidy Rolls: taxation records from the 12th to the 17th centuries.

Assize Rolls: records from court sessions

Pipe Rolls: rolls of the Exchequer of accounts of the royal income, arranged by county, for each financial year. Many 12th and 13th century documents have been published with indexes by the Pipe Roll Society.

Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem: Feudal inquiries, undertaken after the death of a feudal tenant in chief to establish what lands were held and who should succeed to them. Records exist from around 1240-1660.

Roll of Battle Abbey: a list of the principal Norman Knights said to have accompanied William across the English Channel. Original roll was lost.

Curia Regis Rolls (Rotuli Curiae Regis): Rolls and Records of the Court held before the king's Justices. Various translated and published, London 1835),

Feet of Fines: Legal agreements, usually about property ownership

Register of the Freemen of York: list of freemen from 13th-18th century, published by the Surtees Society, Francis Collins (editor) in 1897.

Charters: documents recording grants, usually of land recorded by the Chancery

Historia Regum Britanniae ("The History of the Kings of Britain"): a legendary account of British history, accredited to Geoffrey of Monmouth in around 1136.

Heralds' visitations: 16th-17th century, county by county visits to regulate the use of arms; many published by the Harleian Society.

Hundred Rolls (Rotuli Hundredorum): various royal inquests, documents were held in the tower of London. Much was published in 1818  
Ragman Rolls: rolls of deeds on parchment in which the Scottish nobility and gentry subscribed allegiance to Edward I. of England, A. D. 1296.

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Extra Credit goes to hayley green at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:ASchurch.jpg> for the picture on the cover.

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