

MILLS

Several origins of the name.

1st—"Mills" is a local place name, meaning "at the mill," from residence thereby. The final "s" stands for "son of."

2nd—Mills also means "son of Miles," a once popular font-name.

3rd—Mills also means "son of Millicent," from the nickname "Mille" or "Milly." Millicent was a popular girl's name in the 13th century.

The final "s" in Mills is common to all monosyllabic local surnames, such as Brooks, Briggs. Styles, Dykes, Holmes, etc.

The name is now mostly confined to the southern half of England. Its chief homes are in Essex, Kent, Sussex, Hants and Warwickshire. It is rare in the southwest of England, where, especially in Devon and Cornwall, its place is to some extent occupied by Mill.

Previous to the 13th century surnames were practically unknown. When it became the custom, during the 13th and 14th centuries in England and Scotland, to assume surnames, many people took names from their residence or occupation. In this way those living at the mill or "myln." as it was then spelled, became "Mill." In the same way the miller became "Mylner."

The name "Mill," and eventually "Mills" is found in many parts of Britain, wherever there were mills for grinding grain. The "mylner" or miller was an important man in those days, second only to the Chief or