

## Scottish Family and Name of Sharp.



There are in America three families bearing the name Sharp—one of Scottish and one of English origin, while there is a third to which we may give no consideration here, it being of direct German descent, originally "Sharpenstein" now shortened to "Sharp." The English and Scottish families are probably very distantly related, and it is interesting to note that the perhaps most distinguished member of the Scottish family, James Sharp, was Archbishop of St. Andrews, hence Primate of Scotland, while at nearly the same time a member of the English family, John Sharp, was Archbishop of York and Primate of England.

As to the origin of the name, authorities appear to differ. Such dictionaries of British family names as Ferguson's "The Teutonic Name System" regard the name as being one of a class descriptive of personal characteristics. "Sharp," says Ferguson, "is from the Anglo-Saxon, Scearp; Old High German, Scharf; Modern German, Scharf,—sharp, quick, acute; simple forms: English, Sharp, Sharpey, Sharpus, Scarfe, Scharb; German, Scharpff, Scharf; diminutive, Sharpley."

Sir George Mackenzie, on the other hand, in his "Science of Heraldry," states that the word "fesse" in Heraldry, from the Latin "fascia," a scarf, represents the scarf of a warrior "en escharp," and "from bearing 'argent a fesse azure' the first of the Sharps, who came from France with King David, was called Monsieur de Escharp, and by corruption, Sharp." Elsewhere the same author mentions a William Escharp, who came early from Normandy.