

We can accept the fact however, that most official surnames are of occupational origin. Here are a few examples: King, Prince, Duke, Earl, Baron, Knight, Marshall, Constable, Sargent, Summoner or Sumner, Burgess, Bailiff or Bailey, Bishop, Priest, Abbott, Clerk or Clark, Squire, Forrester or Foster, Parker, Woodward or Woodruff, Hayward, Smith, Carpenter, Mason, Baker, Barber, Taylor, Cooper, Carter, Chapman, Miller, Shepherd, Wright, etc., etc.,

While thousands of surnames referred to above may be said to explain themselves, there are multitudes of others of which the meaning is, to most persons, entirely hidden. Words obsolete for centuries in our language are still retained in our family nomenclature, fossilized, as it were. Many curious corruptions resulted from mutilations of such names due to illiteracy and space does not permit more than a few examples which we give at random below.

The attempt to anglicize foreign spellings have resulted in endless confusion. Records prove that the following are identical of origin: Physick-Fishwick, Snooks-Sevenoaks, Nobbs-Hopps, Higginson-Dixon, Philbrick-Fellbridge.

While some names may seem humble in their literal interpretation, more often than not such beginnings may be surprising in its implication to some event of which we know nothing; it may have only been a convenient designation to distinguish some person from another who lived nearby but as time progressed established its bearer or his descendants as an individuality because of some outstanding accomplishment, thereby achieving distinction, honor and respect.

The foregoing data have been compiled chiefly from the following sources:

Wade--"The Symbolisms of Heraldry", 1898.
Burke--"Encyclopaedia of Heraldry", 1851.
Coe--"Robert Coe, Puritan", 1911.
Lower--"Dictionary of Family Names", 1860.
Bardsley--"Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames, 1901.
Harrison--"Surnames of the United Kingdom", 1912.

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
26 J 7 volume 26) Genealogy - Mackenzie -
Charts, etc. n.d., 1925-1958

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