

T H E   N A M E   A N D   F A M I L Y  
O F  
H O L L I N G S W O R T H

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## THE NAME AND FAMILY OF HOLLINGSWORTH

The name of HOLLINGSWORTH is derived from the residence of its first bearers at a place called Hollingworth, meaning "the farm among the holly bushes", in Cheshire, England. It is found in ancient English and early American records in the various forms of Hollingworth, Hollynworth, Holynworth, Hollyworth, Holymworth, Hollinworth, Holinworth, Hollynsworth, Hollinsworth, Holingsworth, Hollingsworth, and numerous others, of which the last-mentioned spelling is that most generally used in America today.

It is believed that the ancestors of this family were of Saxon origin and were settled in Cheshire about the year 1022 A.D., long before the time of the Norman conquest of England by William the Conqueror. As early as the latter part of the thirteenth century the family was represented by one Thomas de Holynworth, of Chester, who was the father of two sons, John and Thomas. Of these, the first had a son named John, who was the father by his wife Amery of John and Thomas.

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Of the last-mentioned brothers, John was the father of another John, who married Maude Holt, of Lancashire, and had issue by her of a son named Laurence, who was the father by his wife Joan, daughter of Robert Massey or Mascy, of Reynold or Reginald and John. The elder son married Emma, daughter of Richard Medow(e)croft and was the father of Laurence, John, Vane, Andrew, William, and Isabel, of whom the son John was the father by his wife Anne, daughter of Thomas Greene or Grene, of a son named John, who married Katherine, daughter of Edmund Heywoode or Heywood, and had issue by her of Reginald, Richard, William, and Jane. Of these, the first married a Miss Newton and was the father of John, William, George, and Edward Holling(s)worth, of whom the first left only female issue. George, third son of Reginald, married Margaret, daughter of Edward Bore, and had issue by her of John, William, Robert, Thomas, George, Francis, Arthur, Reginald, Edward, Ralph, Elizabeth (died in infancy), Elizabeth, Anne, and Ellen. The son Arthur was the father in the early seventeenth century of at least one son, named Arthur, who made his home at London, and was the father there by his wife Annabella, daughter of William Buckeridge, of Arthur, Jacob, George, and Elizabeth.

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Thomas, younger son of John and Amery de Holynworth, was the father by his wife Joan of a son named Hugh, who was the father of a son named Alexander, who married a daughter of Sir John Ratcliffe and was the father by her of at least one son, named Reginald. This Reginald had a son named John, who was the father by his wife, Katherine Holt, of Robert Hollinworth, who married Ellen Clayton and had, possibly among others, a son named Reginald, who was the father by his wife, Elizabeth Compton, of Alexander. This Alexander had issue in the early seventeenth century by his wife Anne, daughter of Edward Hyde, of Robert (died young), Ellen, Martha, Mary (died young), John, Robert, and Mary. Of these, John first married Margaret, daughter of John Lowndes, and was the father by her of Alexander, Randle, and Anne (died young). His second wife, Anne, gave him three daughters, Anne, Margaret, and Mary; while his third wife, Elizabeth, gave him further issue of Arthur and Dorothy. Randle, son of John and Margaret, left issue by his wife Martha of Higham, Alexander, Benjamin, Randle, Zenobia, Margaret, Katherine, and Rachel.

One of the younger branches of the Hollingworth family of Cheshire was represented about the middle of the sixteenth century by John Hollingworth, who had, among others,

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a son named Thomas, who settled in Derbyshire and married Ellen Lee, cousin to Sir Robert Lee, Mayor of London. Thomas had a son named Daniel, who settled at London and married Jane, daughter of Thomas Dowling, of Northamptonshire.

Among the other early records of the descendants of this line in England are those of Johannes or John de Holynworth, of Yorkshire, in 1379; those of Rogerus or Roger Holymworth, of about the same time; and those of John de Holynworth, of East Cheshire, in the early fifteenth century, about the year 1438.

Ralph Hollingworth, who was living in Lincolnshire, in the early sixteenth century, was the father by his wife, Isabell Shawe, of a son named Ralph, who resided in Leicestershire and married three times. His first wife was Susan or Susanna, daughter of John Whitby; the second, Emmet Carre; and the third, Frances, daughter of Thomas Sanderson and widow of William Ashby. By the first wife, he had issue of Ralph, Patience, Ellina, Susan, and Elizabeth.

Although it is not certain from which of the lines of the family in England the original emigrants of the name to America traced their descent, it is generally believed that all of the Hollingsworths were derived from a common ancestor of a remote period.

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Possibly the first of the name in England was Richard Hollingworth or Hollingsworth, who came from London to Salem, Mass., in the Blessing in 1635, bringing with him his wife Susan and four children, William, Richard, Elizabeth, and Susan. It is probable that he had further issue in America of at least three more children, Joseph, Abigail, and Caleb.

As early as 1638 one John Hollingsworth and his wife Sarah made their homes in James City County, Va., but no definite record has been found of their children, if any.

In 1682 Valentine Hollingsworth, who was possibly the son of Henry Hollingsworth, of Ireland, although some historians say he came from Cheshire, England, emigrated to Pennsylvania and settled in what is now New Castle County, Del. According to one writer, his first wife was Ann Ree, of Ireland, while others say she was Catharine Cornish, daughter of Henry Cornish, High Sheriff of London; but it is generally agreed that his second wife was Ann Calvert and that they were married in 1672. By his first wife, he was probably the father of Thomas, Henry, Mary, and Catharine; and by his second wife, he had further issue of Samuel, Enoch (died young), Ann, Valentine, John, Joseph (records not at hand), and another Enoch (also died young).

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Thomas Hollingsworth, eldest son of the immigrant Valentine, resided in New Castle County and was the father by his first wife, Margaret, of a son named Abraham. In 1692 Thomas married a second wife, Grace Cook, by whom he had issue of Isaac (died young), Elizabeth, Hannah, Thomas, Ann, Jacob, Sarah, Joseph, and Grace.

Abraham, eldest son of the first Thomas of Delaware, removed to Cecil County, Md., and thence to Frederick County, Va., and was married in 1710 to Ann Robinson. Their children were George, Margaret, Lydia, and Isaac.

Thomas, son of the first of that name in Delaware, was married in 1732 to Judith Lampley, by whom he had issue in Maryland of Susanna, Grace, Thomas (died in infancy), Thomas, Isaac, Nathaniel, Rachel, Emmor or Amor, Christopher, and Judith.

Jacob, son of the first Thomas of Delaware, married Elizabeth Chandler in 1729 and was the father by her of seven children, Elias, David, Ruth, Jacob, Zebidee, Jephtha, and Rachel.

Joseph, youngest son of the first Thomas of Delaware, removed to Virginia. He probably left issue by his wife, Martha Haughton, whom he married in 1730, but the names of his children are not in evidence.

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Henry Hollingsworth, second son of the immigrant Valentine, made his home at Elkton, in Cecil County, Md., as well as in Chester County, Pa. He married Lydia Atkinson in 1688 and was the father by her of Ruth, Stephen, Zebulon, Catherine, Abigail, and Mary.

Stephen, elder son of the first Henry of Maryland, had a first wife named Anne, but the names of his children are not known. He removed from Maryland to Orange County, Va., about 1734 and has numerous descendants in the Shenandoah Valley.

Zebulon, younger son of the first Henry of Maryland, married Ann Maulden, of Cecil County, in 1727 and left issue by her of Elizabeth, Stephen (died young), Jesse, Zebulon, Henry, and Levi. By his second wife, Mary Jacobs, whom he married in 1741, Zebulon had further issue of Jacob, Lydia, Thomas, Stephen, John, David, and Samuel.

Samuel Hollingsworth, third son of the immigrant Valentine, resided in Chester County, Pa. By his wife, Hannah Harlan, whom he married in 1701, he had issue of Enoch, John, Samuel, George (records incomplete), and Betty.

Enoch, the eldest of the sons of Samuel and Hannah, first married Joanna Corwley in 1725 and had a second wife named Betty. His children, probably by the first marriage,



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were Hannah, Abigail, Jehu, and Enoch.

John, second son of Samuel and Hannah, married Mary Reed in 1732, but the names of his children are not known.

Samuel, third son of Samuel and Hannah, married Barbary Sherwin in 1738 and was the father by her of Samuel and Jacob, both of whom removed to North Carolina.

Valentine Hollingsworth, son of the immigrant of that name, resided chiefly at Kennett, Pa. By his wife, Elizabeth Heald, whom he married in 1713, he was the father of James, Rachel, Valentine, Elizabeth, and Sarah.

James, eldest son of the second Valentine, was the father by his wife Mary of Valentine, Abner, Betty, Ann, Sarah, Susanna, Mary, Hannah, and Rebecca.

Valentine, second son of the second of that name, married Elizabeth Harlan in 1743 and had issue by her of George, Samuel, Aaron Harlan, Charity, Mary, and Elizabeth.

John Hollingsworth, son of the immigrant Valentine, was married in 1716 to Catherine Tyler, but the names of his progeny, if any, are not known.

The descendants of these lines have been characterized in general by their integrity, fortitude, independence of spirit, and courage. Many lines have also been known for their literary ability and high intellect.

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Among those of the name who fought in the War of the Revolution were Lieutenant Charles Hollingsworth, of North Carolina; Colonel Henry Hollingsworth, of Maryland; William and Thomas Hollingsworth, of Virginia; and numerous others from the various States of that period.

Thomas, John, Laurence, Reginald, George, Robert, Edward, Arthur, Ralph, Richard, Joseph, Henry, and William are some of the Christian names favored by the family for its male progeny.

A few of the many members of the family who have distinguished themselves in America in more recent years are:

John McHenry Hollingsworth (1823-1889), of California, military officer.

Jonathan Erskine Hollingsworth (nineteenth century), of Indiana, author.

Ralph Hollingsworth (nineteenth century), of Minnesota, astrologist.

Samuel L. Hollingsworth (nineteenth century), of Pennsylvania, physician.

Samuel S. Hollingsworth (nineteenth century), of Pennsylvania, lawyer.

William B. Hollingsworth (nineteenth century), of Maryland, genealogist.

David Adams Hollingsworth (b. 1844), of Ohio, soldier, lawyer, and Congressman.

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Charles Mahlon Hollingsworth (1848-1915), of Washington, D.C., political writer.

Alice M. Hollingsworth (latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), of Indiana, editor.

Amor Leander Hollingsworth (latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), of Massachusetts, bibliophile.

Edward Everett Hollingsworth (latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), of South Carolina, poet.

Jesse Gentry Hollingsworth (early twentieth century), of North Carolina, historian.

Tracy Hollingsworth (early twentieth century), of Florida, historian.

An ancient and well-known coat of arms of the Hollingsworth or Hollingsworth family of England is that described as follows (Burke, Encyclopaedia of Heraldry, 1844):

Arms.--"Azure, on a bend argent, three holly leaves vert."

Crest.--"A stag lodged proper."

Motto.--"Disce ferenda pati."

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## WHY YOU HAVE A FAMILY NAME AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, although the date of their first use is lost in the darkness of ages preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter, first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and in the dawn of historic times, when the world was less crowded than it is today and every man knew his neighbor, one title of address was sufficient. Only gradually, with the passing centuries and the increasing complexity of civilized society, did a need arise for more specific designations. While the roots of our system of family names may be traced back to early civilized times, actually the hereditary surname as we know it today dates from a time scarcely earlier than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or Christian name for the purposes of making it more specific and of indicating family relationship or descent. Classified according to origin, most surnames fall into four general categories: (1) those formed from the given name of the sire; (2) those arising from bodily or personal characteristics; (3) those derived from locality or place of residence; and (4) those derived from occupation. It is easier to understand the story of the development of our institution of surnames if these classifications are borne in mind.

As early as biblical times certain distinguishing appellations were occasionally employed in addition to the given name, as, for instance, Joshua the son of Nun, Simon the son of Jonas, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In ancient Greece daughters were named after their fathers, as Chryseis, the daughter of Chryses; and sons' names were usually an enlarged form of the father's, as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civiliza-

tion, met the need for hereditary designations by inventing a complex system whereby every patrician traced his descent by taking several names. None of them, however, exactly corresponded to surnames as we know them, for the "clan name", although hereditary, was given also to slaves and other dependents. This system proved to be but a temporary innovation; the overthrow of the Western Empire by barbarian invaders brought about its end and a reversion to the primitive custom of a single name.

The ancient Scandinavians and for the most part the Germans had only individual names, and there were no family names, strictly speaking, among the Celts. But as family and tribal groups grew in size, individual names became inadequate and the need for supplementary appellations began to be felt. Among the first employed were such terms as "the Strong", "the Hardy", "the Stern", "the Dreadful-in-battle"; and the nations of northern Europe soon adopted the practice of adding the father's name to the son's, as Oscar son of Carnuth and Dermid son of Duthno.

True surnames, in the sense of hereditary designations, date in England from about the year 1000. Largely they were introduced from Normandy, although there are records of Saxon surnames prior to the Norman Conquest. Perhaps the oldest known surname in England is that of Hwita Hatte, a keeper of bees, whose daughter was Tate Hatte. During the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) there were Saxon tenants in Suffolk bearing such names as Suert Magno, Stigand Soror, Siuward Rufus, and Leuric Hobbesune (Hobson); and the Domesday record of 1085-1086, which exhibits some curious combinations of Saxon forenames with Norman family names, shows surnames in still more general use.

By the end of the twelfth century hereditary names had become common in England. But even by 1465 they were not universal. During the reign of Edward V a law was passed to compel certain Irish outlaws to adopt surnames: "They shall take unto them a Surname, either of some Town, or some Colour, as Blacke or Brown, or some Art or Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some Office, as Cooke or Butler." And as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century a similar decree compelled Jews in Germany and Austria to add a German surname to the single names which they had previously used.

As stated above, family names may be divided into four general classes according to their origin. One of the largest of these classes is that comprising surnames derived from the given name of the father. Such names were formed by means of an added prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or a diminutive. English names terminating in son, ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the innumerable names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac, the Norman Fitz, the Welsh ap, and the Irish O'. Thus John's sons became Johnsons; William's sons, Williamsons or Wilsons; Richard's sons, Richardsons or Richardses (the final "s" of "Richards" being a contraction of "son"); Neill's sons, MacNeills; Herbert's sons, FitzHerberts; Thomas's sons, ap Thomases (ap has been dropped from many names of which it was formerly a part); and Reilly's sons, O'Reillys.

Another class of surnames, those arising from some bodily or personal characteristic of their first bearer, apparently grew out of what were in the first instance nicknames. Thus Peter the strong became Peter Strong, Roger of small stature became Roger Little or Roger Small, and black-haired William or blond Alfred became William Black or Alfred White. From among the many names of this type, only a few need be mentioned: Long, Short, Hardy, Wise, Good, Gladman, Lover, and Youngman.

A third class of family names, and perhaps the largest of all, is that comprising local surnames--names derived from and originally designating the place of residence of the bearer. Such names were popular in France at an early date and were introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates. The surnames adopted by the nobility were mainly of this type, being used with the particles de, de la, or del (meaning "of" or "of the"). The Saxon equivalent was the word atte ("at the"), employed in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William atte Bourne. A vestige of this usage survives in the names Atwell, Atwood, and Atwater; in other cases the Norman de was substituted; and in still others, such as Wood, Briggs, and Lane, the particle was dropped. The surnames of some of the Pilgrim fathers illustrate place designations: for instance, Winthrop means "from the friendly village"; Endicott, "an end cottage"; Bradford, "at the broad ford"; and Standish, "a

stony park". The suffixes "ford", "ham", "ley", and "ton", denoting locality, are of frequent occurrence in such names as Ashford, Bingham, Burley, and Norton.

While England enjoyed a period of comparative peace under Edward the Confessor, a fourth class of surnames arose--names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Mayor, Fawcett (judge), Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter), Marshall, Sumner (summoner), and Parker (park-keeper). Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were of somewhat later origin. Currier was a dresser of skins, Webster a weaver, Wainwright a wagonbuilder, and Baxter a baker. Such names as Smith, Taylor, Barber, Shepherd, Carter, Mason, and Miller are self-explanatory.

Many surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms which have become disguised almost beyond recognition. Longfellow, for instance, was originally Longueville, Longshanks was Longchamps, Troublefield was Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, and Snooks was Sevenoaks. Such corruptions of family names, resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation, or merely from the preference of the bearer, tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespeare's name is found in some twenty-seven different forms, and the majority of English and Anglo-American surnames have, in their history, appeared in four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

In America a greater variety of family names exists than anywhere else in the world. Surnames of every race and nation are represented. While the greater number are of English, Scotch, Irish, or Welsh origin, brought to this country by scions of families which had borne these names for generations prior to emigration, many others, from central and southern Europe and from the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice, present considerable difficulty to the student of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who possess old and honored names—who trace the history of their surnames back to sturdy immigrant



ancestors, or even beyond, across the seas, and into the dim mists of antiquity—may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While the name, in its origin, may seem ingenious, humble, surprising, or matter-of-fact, its significance today lies not in a literal interpretation of its original meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a word, a convenient label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as a part of the bearer's individuality; and as it passed to his children, his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol not of one man but of a family and all that that family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, it grew inseparably associated with the achievement, the tradition, and the prestige of the family. Like the coat of arms—that vivid symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle—the name itself, borne through every event of a man's life and through the lives of scores of his progenitors, became the badge of family honor—the "good name" to be proud of, to protect, and to fight for if need be. As the worthy deeds of the marching generations have given it dignity and splendor, it has become an institution, a family rallying cry, and the most treasured possession of those who bear it.

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