

Alexander

Families of this name are found principally in Ulster and in particular in the south east of the province in the counties Down and Antrim, where settlers of the name came from Scotland in the 17th century. Ireland was one of the earliest countries to evolve a system of hereditary surnames. They came into being fairly generally in the 11th century, and indeed a few were formed before the year 1000. A number of persons bearing this surname are descendants of the Reverend Andrew Alexander, a Presbyterian minister from Scotland, who came to Ulster in 1618. It was the name of three Kings of Scotland. Early records of the name mention William Alexander who was connected with the accounts of the city of Edinburgh in the year 1435. Robert Alexander who was a granger in Feichly in 1438. Cecil Francis Alexander was the Irish poet and hymn writer, born in County Wicklow, the daughter of a captain in the Royal Marines, and the wife of Bishop William Alexander. She published her 'Verses for Holy Seasons' in 1846, and two years later, her immensely popular 'Hymns for Little Children' which included 'All things Bright' and Beautiful' and 'Once in Royal David's City'. She also wrote ballads on Irish History. A well known Scottish family with the surname Alexander included among their ancestors Sir William Alexander, court poet to King James VI of Scotland and I of England, who created him Earl of Stirling in 1633. Among his descendants were the Jacobite James Alexander who fled from Scotland after the 1715 rebellion, and his son William Alexander (1726-83) a distinguished general in the American Revolution.

The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884. Registered in Dublin.

ARMS - Per pale argent and sable a chevron and in base a crescent counter-changed on a canton azure
a harp or stringed of the first in the sinister chief point a mullet of the last

CREST - A dexter arm embowed holding a dagger all proper charged on the wrist with a mullet or

MOTTO - PER MARE, PER TERRAS -By sea and land