

# Brown

This ancient English surname of BROWN was a baptismal name 'the son of Brun' a nickname for one with dark hair and a swarthy complexion. Surnames having a derivation from nicknames form the broadest and most miscellaneous class of surnames, encompassing many different types of origin. The most typical classes refer adjectivally to the general physical aspect of the person concerned, or to his character. Many nicknames refer to a man's size or height, while others make reference to a favoured article of clothing or style of dress. Many surnames derived from the names of animals and birds. In the Middle Ages ideas were held about the characters of other living creatures, based on observation, and these associations were reflected and reinforced by large bodies of folk tales featuring animals behaving as humans. The surname was borne by the Dukes of Saxony (in the form of Bruno) among others in the 10th century. It was also the name of several medieval German and Italian Saints, including the founder of the Carthusian order (1030-1101) who was born in Cologne. Early records of the name mention William Brun, 1182, County Suffolk. Brun (without surname) was documented in the year 1185 in Wales. Robert le Brun of Yorkshire, was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. Surnames as we know them today were first assumed in Europe from the 11th to the 15th Century. They were not in use in England or in Scotland before the Norman Conquest, and were first found in the Domesday Book. The employment in the use of a second name was a custom that was first introduced from the Normans. They themselves had not long before adopted them. It became, in course of time, a mark of gentler blood, and it was deemed a disgrace for gentlemen to have but one single name, as the meaner sort had. It was not until the reign of Edward II (1307-1327) it became general practice amongst all people. A notable of the name was Lancelot BROWN (1716-83) Capability Brown, the English Architect and reviver of the natural style of landscapes gardening, laid the gardens at Kew. At first the coat of arms was a practical matter which served a function on the battlefield and in tournaments. With his helmet covering his face, and armour encasing the knight from head to foot, the only means of identification for his followers, was the insignia painted on his shield and embroidered on his surcoat, the flowing and draped garment worn over the armour.

ARMS - Argent on a bend sable cotised azure between two six pointed mullets pierced sable three lions rampant of the field

CREST - A demi lion rampant or between two elephants trunks proper

MOTTO - PERSEVERA DEOQUE CONFIDE  
Persevere and trust in God