

Jones

This surname of JONES was a baptismal name 'the son of Jone' meaning the Gracious gift of Jehovah. An ancient Welsh personal name which was spelt originally as Iwan. The surname was derived from the Hebrew given name YOCJANAN (Jehovah has favoured me with a son), and was adopted into the Latin (via Greek) as JOHANNES. This name has enjoyed enormous popularity in Europe, being given in honour of St. John the Baptist, precursor of Christ and of St. John the Evangelist, author of the fourth gospel, as well as others of the nearly one thousand saints of the name. There are numerous variant spellings of the surname, and it is known to every country in the world in different forms which include JOHNES, JOHNYS, JOAN, JOANES, JONE, JOYNES, FITZJOHN, GIANNONE, GIACALONE, GIACOBBE, GIACEOMELLI, GIACOMINI, GIACOMO, GIACONE, GIACIMO, GIAMBRONE, GIAMPAOLO and GIANCOLA, to name but a few. Early records of the name mention Johannes (without surname) 1140 Wales. Willelmus filius Gene was recorded in London in 1275. Richard le Fitz Joan was documented in 1327 in County Surrey. Ricardus Jone-son of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. 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 that was worn over the armour. In many parts of central and western Europe, hereditary surnames began to become fixed at around the 12th century, and have developed and changed slowly over the years. As society became more complex, and such matters as the management of tenure, and in particular the collection of taxes were delegated to special functionaries, it became imperative to distinguish a more complex system of nomenclature to differentiate one individual from another. A later instance of the name includes Jane Jonesson (widow) who was listed in the Wills at Chester in the year 1605. Notables of the name include Inigo Jones (1573-1651) the famous English architect and masque-designer, and Henry Arthur Jones (1851-1929) Playwright of Welsh origin; author of some 60 plays.

ARMS - Sable a chevron between three spear heads argent

CREST - A cubit arm erect in armour proper holding in the gauntlet a spear of the first headed argent embued gules

MOTTO - ASGRELAN DIOGEL EL PHERCEN
A good conscience is the best