

Russell

The surname of RUSSELL was a nickname 'one with red-hair', the name was derived from the Old French ROUSEL. Early records of the name mention Russel (without surname) of the County of Suffolk in 1095. Russellus de Suberton of the County of Somerset in 1212. Miriel Russel of the County of Huntingdonshire in 1273. Robertus Russell of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. A notable member of the name was Bertrand Arthur William 3rd Earl Russell (1872-1970). English philosopher; author of many works on philosophy, logic, education, politics and economics. Following the crusades in Europe in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries, a need was felt for a family name to replace the one given at birth, or in addition to it. This was recognized by those of noble birth, and particularly by those who went on the Crusades, as it added prestige and practical advantage to their status. At first the coat of arms was a practical matter which served a function of 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 draped and flowing garment worn over the armour.

This is the name of a prominent English family originally established in Dorset. Their earliest recorded ancestor was Stephen Russell, bailiff of Weymouth in 1388, who is also known to have owned property in Dorchester. Henry Russell was a merchant in the Bordeaux wine trade in the 15th century. The family rose to prominence with his great-grandson, John Russell, who attracted the attention of Henry VIII when he accompanied the shipwrecked King of Castile to court. He was eventually created Earl of Bedford by Edward VI. The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884. 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.

ARMS - Argent a lion rampant gules on a chief sable three escallops of the first

CREST - A goat passant argent armed or

MOTTO - - CHE SARA SARA
What will be will be