

Allen

The surname of ALLEN was derived from the gaelic AILENE - meaning rock. One of our most popular names, said to come into England with Alan Fergeant, Count of Brittany, a companion of the Conqueror, and first Earl of Richmond of the County of Yorkshire. It was the name of a Welsh and Breton saint and was particularly popular in Lincolnshire, as a font name during the 12th Century. Early records of the name mention Alanus of the County of Suffolk, was listed in the Domesday Book of 1086. Alain of the County of Lancashire in 1183. The founder of Dulwich College in the year 1619 was Edward Allen or Alleyne. Since the dawn of civilisation the need to communicate has been a prime drive of all higher mankind. The more organised the social structure became, the more urgent the need to name places, objects and situations essential to the survival and existence of the social unit. From this common stem arose the requirements to identify families, tribes and individual members evolving into a pattern in evidence today. In the formation of this history, common usage of customs, trades, locations, patronymic and generic terms were often adopted as surnames. The demands of bureaucracy formally introduced by feudal lords in the 11th century, to define the boundaries and families within their fiefdoms, crystallized the need for personal identification and accountability, and surnames became in general use from this time onwards. The first of the name in Scotland appears to be Alan, son of Waldeve, who witnessed charters of King David I in 1139. Loughlan le fiz Aleyn, son in law of Alexander, was received to the King of England's peace in 1301. Duncane Alowne was the burgess of Aberdeen in 1446. Henry Alane was the clerk of accounts in the king's household in 1490. They are connected with Clan MacDonald of Clanranald. It has long been a matter of doubt when the bearing of coats of arms first became hereditary and it was not until the Crusades that Heraldry came into general use. Men went into battle heavily armed and were difficult to recognise. It became the custom for them to adorn their helmets with distinctive crests, and to paint their shields with animals and the like. Coats of arms accompanied the development of surnames, becoming hereditary in the same way.

ARMS - Or three greyhounds passant sable two and one

CREST - A demi greyhound rampant sable holding in his dexter
paw a crescent argent

MOTTO - - DILIGENTER ET FIDELITER
Diligently and faithfully