

Carter

The surname of CARTER was an occupational name 'the carter', derived from the Old French CHARETIER. Occupational surnames originally denoted the actual occupation followed by the individual. At what period they became hereditary is a difficult problem. Many of the occupation names were descriptive and could be varied. In the Middle Ages, at least among the Christian population, people did not usually pursue specialized occupations exclusively to the extent that we do today and they would, in fact, turn their hand to any form of work that needed to be done, particularly in a large house or mansion, or on farms and smallholdings. In early documents, surnames often refer to the actual holder of an office, whether the church or state. The name was taken to England in the wake of the Norman Conquest of 1066. Early records of the name mention Fulco Carettarius of the County of Cambridgeshire in 1177. Robert le Carter of the County of Essex was documented in the year 1246. Thomas Bell Carter of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. Robert Carter and Margaret Byllynge were married at St. Dionis Backchurch, London in 1570. Richard Carter and Cecilly Ellmar were married at St. James's, Clerkenwell, London in the year 1574. The names introduced into Britain by the Normans during the Invasion of 1066 were of three kinds. There were names of Norse origin which their ancestors had carried into Normandy; names of Germanic origin which the Frankish conquerors had brought across the Rhine and which had ousted the old Celtic and Latin names from France, and Biblical names and names of Latin and Greek saints. These names they retained even after the customs and language of the natives of Northern France had been adopted by them. After the Norman Conquest not only Normans, but Frenchmen and Bretons from other parts of France settled in England and quite a few found their way north into Scotland. A notable member of the name was Elizabeth Carter (1717-1806) the English scholar and poet, born in Deal in County Kent. She contributed verse to many publications. Among her friends were Dr. Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Horace Walpole. The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884.

ARMS - Argent a chevron between three cart wheels vert

CREST - On a mount vert a greyhound sejant argent sustaining a shield of the last charged with a cartwheel vert

MOTTO - - A POSSE AD ESSE

From possibility to being

The arms were registered in London in the year 1612.