

Collins

The surname of COLLINS was a baptismal name 'the son of Nicholas' an ancient personal name. Following the Crusades in Europe, a need was felt for an additional name. This was realized by those of noble blood, as it added prestige and practical advantage to their status. The name was popular among Christians throughout Europe in the Middle Ages, largely as a result of the fame of a 4th century Lycian bishop, about whom a large number of legends grew up, and who was venerated in the Orthodox Church as well as the Catholic. East European forms of this name are spelt with the initial M, as Mikulas in Poland. The name was sometimes borne by women in the Middle Ages. Early records of the name mention John Collin of the County of Devonshire in 1221. Colinus de Newill of the County of Lincolnshire was recorded in 1273, and William Collins appeared in 1300 in County Lancashire. Roger Collyns of the County of Somerset was documented in the year 1327, and a Johannes Colinson of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. Jacob Marsh and Mabella Collins were married at St. Michael, Cornhill, London in 1682.

The name was taken early to Scotland and Sir Thomas Colin, who was a chaplain in Perth in the year 1535, appears to be the first of the name on record there. An eminent member of the name was William Collins (1789-1853) the Scottish publisher, born in Renfrewshire. He was a weaver by trade, but opened a private school for the poor in Glasgow in 1813. In 1819, he set up in business as a bookseller and publisher. He specialized in church history and pioneered school textbooks. The Gaelic personal name COLLA was borne by a warrior in Celtic mythology; it is of uncertain etymology. 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.

The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884

ARMS - Vert a griffin segreant or a chief ermine

CREST - A griffins head erased vert crowned or

MOTTO - - PER CALLEM COLLEM

By the path the hill