

Harris

The surname of HARRIS was a baptismal name 'the son of Henry' which was the pronunciation of the name in the middle ages. The name is found in medieval documents in the Latin form Henricus. The name was brought to England in the wake of the Norman Conquest of 1066. The name was also locational 'of Harris' a district, forming together with Lewis, the largest island in the Outer Hebrides, where the hand woven harris-tweed is made. Early records of the name mention Henricus (without surname) listed as a tenant in the Domesday Book of 1086. Henry Carpenter of County Oxford, was documented in the year 1273. Edward Harris of Yorkshire, was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. John Harris of Wales, registered at Oxford University in 1510. Edward Broke married Ann Harrys at St. George's Chapel, Mayfair, London in 1547. Mrs Harris, in Charles Dicken's 'Martin Chuzzlewit' the mythical friend of Mrs Gamp. A notable member of the family was James Harris (1709-80) the English scholar born in Salisbury. He studied at Oxford and Lincoln's Inn. On his father's death he was left a considerable fortune and devoted himself to the classics, but in 1761 entered parliament and in 1763 became a lord of the Admiralty and of the Treasury, and in 1764 was made secretary to Queen Charlotte Sophia. Both Harris and Harrison are extremely common English surnames; the former tends to be more common in the West Midlands and South West England, whereas the latter is commonest in the North of England. A large and influential American family are descended from Benjamin Harrison, who emigrated from England to Virginia in 1633 or 1634. Ancestors include another Benjamin Harrison (1726-91) who was an activist in the American Revolution and a signatory of the Declaration of Independence. His son William Henry Harrison (1773-1841) and great grandson Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901) both became president of the United States. The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884. The eagle depicted in the crest is emblematical of fortitude and magnanimity of mind. The Romans used the figure of an eagle for their ensign, and their example has been often followed. It is the device of Russia, Austria, Germany and the United States of America.

ARMS - Sable three crescents argent

CREST - An eagle displayed or

MOTTO - UBIQUE PATRIAM REMINISCI

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