

Howard

The associated coat of arms is recorded in Sir Bernard Burke's General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884. The surname of HOWARD was derived from the Old English word HEReward - an official name 'the keeper or guardian of the fences' a familiar office in early times. It was also used as a personal name 'the son of Hereward or Haward' and was an extremely popular font name during the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. Early records of the name mention Huardus (without surname) listed as a tenant in the Domesday Book of 1086. Hewardus dil Per, was documented in the year 1273 in County Suffolk. Heward Morpeth, rector of Skeyton, was recorded in County Norfolk in 1273. John Howarde of Yorkshire, was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. During the Middle Ages, when people were unable to read or write, signs were needed for all visual identification. For several centuries city streets in Britain were filled with signs of all kinds, public houses, tradesmen and even private householders found them necessary. This was an age when there were no numbered houses, and an address was a descriptive phrase that made use of a convenient landmark. At this time, coats of arms came into being, for the practical reason that 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. Later instances of the name include Henry Hawarde Esq., son of Sir Thomas Hawarde, Viscount Bindon, married Frances Mewys in London in the year 1503. Catherine Howard (1520-1542) was the fifth wife of Henry VIII, she was beheaded. Roger Harwarde of Oxford, registered at Oxford University in the year 1539. Sir Robert Howard (1626-98) was the English Restoration dramatist, son of the 1st Earl of Berkshire. He wrote 'The Committee' in 1663, and the Indian Queen, the later assisted by his brother-in-law John Dryden. His brothers, Edward and James were also dramatists. William Howard was the sheriff of Norwich in the year 1657. Edward Howard gave a gift to the parish of St. Swithins' in County Chester of three pounds per annum for the poor to have bread in the year 1663.

ARMS - Gules a bend between six crosses crosslet fitchee argent

CREST - On a chapeau gules turned up ermine a lion passant guardant
or holding in the mouth an arrow in fess proper

MOTTO - - INSERVI DEO ET LAETARE
Serve God and rejoice