

Watson

The surname of WATSON was a baptismal name 'the son of Watt' an ancient although now forgotten personal name. It was one of the great fontal names of the 13th and 14th century. Early records of the name mention William Wattes, 1273, County Oxford. Richard Watson, 1324 Wakefield, Yorkshire. Thomas Watteson was documented in 1327 in the County of Worcestershire. Johannes Watte of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. Thomas Chamberlayne married Jane Watts, St. Mary, Aldermay, London in 1598. Thomas Watson (1557-1592) was the English lyric poet, born in London. He was educated at Oxford and studied law in London. Coming to Marlow's help in a street fight, he killed a man in 1589. He excelled in English 'sonnets' which were very probably studied by Shakespeare. 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. A notable member of the name was Sir William Watson (1715-87) who was the English scientist born in London. He was one of the earliest experimenters on electricity, being the first to investigate the passage of electricity through a rarefied gas, and did much to help the Linnaean system to Britain. The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884. The origin of badges and emblems, are traced to the earliest times, although, Heraldry, in fact, cannot be traced later than the 12th century, or at furthest the 11th century. At first armorial bearings were probably like surnames and assumed by each warrior at his free will and pleasure, his object being to distinguish himself from others. It has long been a matter of doubt when bearing Coats of Arms first became hereditary. It is known that in the reign of Henry V (1413-1422), a proclamation was issued, prohibiting the use of heraldic ensigns to all who could not show an original and valid right, except those 'who had borne arms at Agincourt'. The College of Arms (founded in 1483) is the Royal corporation of heralds who record proved pedigrees and grant armorial bearings.

ARMS - Argent an oak tree growing out of the base proper surmounted
of a fess azure charged with a crescent or between two
mulletts of the field

CREST - A crescent or

MOTTO - - CONFISUS VIRIBUS - Confident is my own powers