

Coleman

This surname of COLEMAN was an occupational name 'a charcoal burner'. The small villages of Europe, or royal and noble households, even large religious dwellings and monasteries, gave rise to many family names, which reflected the occupation or profession of the original bearer of the name. Early records of the name mention Coleman (without surname) who was listed as a tenant in the Domesday Book of 1086. Richard Coleman was documented in the year 1166 in County Yorkshire. William Colman of County Somerset, was documented during the reign of Edward III. (1327-1377) and Matilda Colman of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. Thomas Tanfelde and Margaret Colman were married at St. Michael, Cornhill, London in 1551, and Johane, daughter of George Coleman was baptised at St. Michael, Cornhill, London in 1595. Prior to the Invasion of William the Conqueror in 1066, no one had surnames, only christian or nicknames in England. Based on this, and our physical attributes, we were given surnames incorporating tax codes to show trades, areas in which we lived, as today we have street names and numbers. Surnames were used in France and like speaking countries from about the year 1000, and a few places had second names even earlier. Even early monarchs had additions to show attributes and character, for example Ethelred (red-hair) the Unready (never prepared). Edward I. was named 'Long shanks' because of his long legs, and Richard III. was called 'Crouchback' owing to his deformed shoulder. The name was taken to Ireland by settlers during the 17th century, and became in Irish O'Colmain meaning 'dove'. They are a sept located in County Sligo. About the year 890-93, a body of Norwegians from Ireland entered Yorkshire and were followed by a greater number, probably between 919 and 952. These Norwegians had been settled in Ireland sufficiently long to become partly Celticized and they have left their mark on the modern map of Cumberland and North Yorkshire in a series of place-names containing Irish loan-words. This is such a name. The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884.

ARMS - Per fess argent and sable a cross patonce
between four mullets counter-changed

CREST - A greyhounds head sable gorged with a collar
and ring argent charged with three mullets sable

MOTTO - - MORS NON TIMENDA EST
Death is not to be feared