

Hill

The surname of HILL was derived from the Old English HYLL - dweller by or on a hill. Local surnames, by far the largest group, derived from a place name where the man held land or from the place from which he had come, or where he actually lived. These local surnames were originally preceded by a preposition such as "de", "atte", "by" or "in". The names may derive from a manor held, from working in a religious dwelling or from literally living by a wood or marsh or by a stream. Following the Crusades in Europe a need was felt for a family name. This was recognized by those of noble blood, who realised the prestige and practical advantage it would add to their status. Early records of the name mention Gilbeit de Hil of the County of Norfolk who was documented in the year 1191. Simon Hille was recorded in the county of Worcester in the year 1273. William attehil of Canterbury, County Kent was recorded in the year 1260. Robertus del Hill of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. Richard Hill was baptised at St. James's, Clerkenwell, London in 1580. An eminent member of the name was Rowland Hill, 1st Viscount (1772-1842) the English soldier born in Shropshire. He distinguished himself in Egypt, and under Wellington in the Peninsular War. At Waterloo (1815) he swept the Old Guard from the field, and in 1828, succeeded Wellington as commander-in-chief at home, but resigned in 1842. The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884. Registered at Hill, Devon (Oliver Hill of Shilston, Devon and Richard Hill of Truro, Cornwall, sons of Robert Hill of the former, visit Cornwall in 1620. It has long been a matter of doubt when the bearing of coats of arms first became hereditary and it was not until the Crusades that Heraldry came into general use. 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.

ARMS - Argent a chevron between three water bougets sable

CREST - A dove argent in the beak an olive branch vert

MOTTO - - AUXILIO DIVINO

By divine aid