

Long

The surname of LONG was a nickname 'one who was tall' from the stature of the bearer. The name was originally derived from the Old English word 'lange'. Following the crusades in Europe in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries, a need was felt for a family name to replace the one given at birth, or in addition to it. This was recognized by those of noble birth, and particularly by those who went on the Crusades, as it added prestige and practical advantage to their status. At first the coat of arms was a practical matter which served a function of the battlefield and in tournaments. With his helmet covering his face, and armour encasing the knight from head to foot, the only means of identification for his followers, was the insignia painted on his shield, and embroidered on his surcoat, the draped and flowing garment worn over the armour. Early records of the name mention Aetheric oes Langra, 972, County Northumberland. Leofwine Lange, 1070, County Suffolk. Henry le Long, 1273 County Buckinghamshire. Nicholas le Long was documented in County Surrey in 1297. Adam ye Langge, County Sussex, *ibid*. Johanna Long of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. Thomas Bolton and Mary Long were married in London in the year of 1536. The bulk of European surnames in countries such as England and France were formed in the 13th and 14th centuries. The process started earlier and continued in some places into the 19th century, but the norm is that in the 11th century people did not have surnames, whereas by the 15th century they did. The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884. 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 - Sable a semee of crosses crosslet a lion rampant argent

CREST - Out of a ducal coronet or a demi lion rampant argent

MOTTO - - PIEUX QUOIQUE PREUX

Pious although chivalrous