

Miller

The surname of MILLER was an occupational name 'the miller' one who ground corn, a baker of bread. This surname is found in the records of every county in England. Early records of the name mention Ralph Muller, 1296 County Sussex. Achard Molenddinarius (frequently spelt this way in the Hundred Rolls of 1273). John Millare, was documented in the year 1300 Yorkshire. John Millare was a juror on an inquest relating to fishing on the Tweed in 1467. Robert Millare held land in Irvine in 1509. George Miller of County Warwick, registered at Oxford University in the year 1572. At first the coat of arms was a practical matter which served a function on 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. 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. The mill, whether powered by water, wind or (occasionally) animals, was an important centre in every medieval settlement; it was normally operated by an agent of the local landowner, and individual peasants were compelled to come to him to have their corn ground into flour, a proportion of the ground corn being kept by the miller by way of payment. Occupational surnames originally denoted the actual occupation followed by the individual. At what period they became hereditary is a difficult problem. Many of the occupation names were descriptive and could be varied. In the Middle Ages, at least among the Christian population, people did not usually pursue specialized occupations exclusively to the extent that we do today, and they would, in fact, turn their hand to any form of work that needed to be done, particularly in a large house or mansion, or on farms and smallholdings. In early documents, surnames often refer to the actual holder of an office, whether the church or state.

ARMS - Ermine a fess gules between three wolves heads erased azure

CREST - A wolfs head erased azure collared ermine

MOTTO - MEA SPES EST IN DEO

My hope is in God