

Walker

The surname of WALKER was an occupational name 'the walker' a fuller or thickener of woollen cloth. 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. The name was frequently noted in medieval documents, and was rendered in Old English as WEALCERE. Early records of the name mention Richard le Walkere, 1248 Wales. Robert le Walker was documented in 1260 in the County of Yorkshire. Johanna Walkere of Yorkshire was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. The name was taken early to Scotland by settlers, and Thomas dictus Walkar of Berwick, 1324, appears to be the first on record. William Walker held land in Inverrys, Scotland in the year of 1381. Johannes Walker was a juror on an inquest held in the episcopal lands of Aldrochty in 1393. Donald Walcare, held lands in St. Leonard's, Edinburgh in 1457. Johannes Walcar (hatmaker) was the burgess of Perth, 1546. A notable member of the name was George Walker (1618-90) the Irish clergyman and governor of Derry, born of English parents in Tyrone. He studied at Glasgow University, and became rector of Lissan, County Derry. In 1688 he raised a regiment at Dungannon to help garrison Londonderry for its successful resistance to the 105 day seige in 1689 by James II's forces, and became joint governor. He led sallies against the enemy and exhorted the citizens by rousing sermons. For this he received the thanks of William III and the House of Commons, degrees from Oxford and Cambridge, and was nominated Bishop of Derry. He fell at the battle of Boyne and is commemorated by the Walker Monument (1828) in Londonderry.

ARMS - Argent a fess counter-embattled
between three crescents sable

CREST - A greyhounds head couped argent
collared sable

MOTTO - WALK IN THE FEAR OF GOD