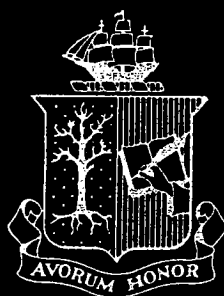


Genealogical
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Sketch



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39 W. 32 STREET, SUITE 704
N.Y., N.Y. 10001

THE NAME AND FAMILY
OF
MEANS

ROOTS RESEARCH BUREAU, LTD.
BUSINESS OFFICE
39 West 32 Street
Suite 704
New York, NY 10001

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THE NAME AND FAMILY OF MEANS

The name of MEANS is said by some historians to be a variant of Mayenne or Maine and to be derived from the residence of its first bearers in the territory so called in Normandy. Descendants of the Norman lines early settled in Scotland and England: but in Ireland the name, generally spelled Mayne or Maine, was probably derived from the Irish personal name of Maon, meaning "a hero". One writer states that Mean is from the Celtic and means "little". However this may be, the name is found in the ancient records of the British Isles and in the early American records in the various forms of Mayne, Maine, Main, Meane, Mean, Meen, Meene, Meenes, Meens, Meanes, Means, and others. Of these, the last is the spelling most frequently found in America in modern times, while several of the others are also occasionally in evidence.

In the early Irish records are found the names of Maine, son of Niall, who died in the year 440 A.D.; of Maon, son of Muireadach of the O'Neills, who was living

about the year 527 A.D. of Maine, son of Gearbhal, who was killed in 531 A.D., in defense of the hostages of Ui Maine of Connaught: and of Maine, Abbot of Aendrum, who died in 532 A.D. Of these, Maon, son of Muireadach, had a son named Colman, who was the father of Faolan, the father of Endalach, the father of Teandalach, who had a son named Gairmleadach. To the last was born Dalbhach, the father of Maolmithidh, the father of Cathmhaol, the father of Gairleadach. Gairleadach was the father of Macrath, the father of Meanman, the father of Domhnall, the father of Conchobhar, who had two sons, Endalach and Domhnall. Of these, Endalach was the father of Niall, the father of Conchobhar, the father of Sithreach, the father of Maol, who was the father of Conchobhar O'Maon or Mayne, of Ireland.

Some of the Irish families of the name were of Scottish descent, the Scottish lines asserting Norman origin. It is recorded that Enulphus de Maine was standard bearer with William the Conqueror, who led the Normans into England in 1066 A.D. Joel de Mayne, possibly descended from Enulphus, owned property in Devonshire, England, in the year 1140. A younger branch of this Devonshire family was early seated in the County of Kent, England, where, in 1512, was born John Mayne, who died in 1565, leaving issue of Walter, Cuthbert, Alexander, and Alice.

Of the Scottish lines, Sir Walter Maign had a charter of lands in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1370; Jasper Main received land near Edinburg about 1511; and William Mayne, Esq., had lands near Sterling, Scotland, in the latter part of the sixteenth century. This William was the father in 1586 of a son named John, who first married Catherine Ker and had issue by her of John, Margaret, Janet, and Mary. By his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Hall, John had no further issue. The younger John married Margaret Anderson, by whom he was the father of William, Edward, and others. By his first wife, Eupham Christie, William was the father of John, Edward, Charles, Catherine, and Margaret; and by his second wife, Helen Galbraith, he had further issue of William, Robert, and four daughters.

Later records of the family in Scotland mention John Mean, a merchant at Edinburg, who was living as early as 1613; and Robert Mean, of Edinburg, before 1679, who was imprisoned in 1685, for "writing a false report to London, although his intention was good". He was soon liberated and allowed to resume his office.

There are records of other families of the name of Mean in Brittany, in the Province of Vand, in the Province of Liége, and in other parts of France, as well as of a

family called Meene, in Germany. These lines belonged, for the most part, to the landed classes. However, most, if not all, of the families of the name of Means in America are thought to be of English, Irish, or Scotch-Irish descent.

As early as 1635 one John Meane or Means came from England to America and made his home at Cambridge, Mass. By his wife Ann he was the father of John (died in infancy), Sarah, Mary, and another John, who also died young. There were, therefore, no male descendants of this early settler.

The first of the family in the South were Samuel Mayne, who settled in York River County, Va., in 1648; Susan Mayne and Gregory Maine, who settled in Northumberland County, Va., in 1650; and John Mayne, who made his home in Lancaster County, Va., in 1655. The records of these lines are, however, only fragmentary.

Robert Means came from Ireland to America in 1718, being then sixteen years of age. He settled at Falmouth, whence he later removed to the Scotch-Irish settlement at Saco, Me. He married a Miss Armstrong and was the father by her of Thomas, John, and, probably, Mary.

Thomas Means, son of the immigrant Robert of Maine, settled at Freeport, in that colony. He was killed by the Indians in 1756 and left two children, whose names are not of record.

John Means, son of the immigrant Robert of Maine, married Eleanor Johnson in 1748 and resided in the Saco Valley. He was the father of George, Robert, Jane, James, John, Thomas, Eleanor, Margaret, Dorcas, Mary, and Hannah.

Of the last-mentioned brothers, George married Hannah Banks before 1786 and left issue by her of Elias, Mary, John, George, Hannah, Olive, Joseph B., Mary, Cyrus, Elizabeth, and Dorcas; Robert left issue by his wife Molly of Jane, Eleanor, James, and Thomas; and Thomas had issue by his wife Dorcas of at least four children, Eleanor, Sarah, James, and Thomas.

John Means, possibly a brother of the immigrant Robert mentioned above, came from County Fermanagh, Ireland, to America about 1720 and settled in Bucks County, Pa. It is also believed that Hugh Means, of the same vicinity, and Samuel Means, of Dauphin County, Pa., were brothers of the immigrant John. By his first wife, who died in Ireland and whose name is not known, John was the father of William, Robert, and Nancy; his second wife, the Widow Mary Kelley, gave him another son, Alexander.

William, son of the immigrant John, settled in what is now Lebanon County, Pa., and left issue there of at least two sons, Robert and John Means, of whom the former

settled in North Carolina. The name of his wife is not certain, but this North Carolina settler left twelve children, William, James, Robert, Rebecca, Jane, Mary, Elizabeth, Nancy, Flemina, Martha, Rachel, and Ann.

Robert Means, second son of the immigrant John, was married in 1748 to his step-sister, Nancy Kelley. Their children were John, Margaret, Robert, James, Jane, Joseph (died young), Mary, George, Nancy, and William. Of these, John removed to Kentucky and left issue there by his wife Jemimah Scudder, whom he married in 1770, of John, Nancy, Margaret, Amos, and Robert; Robert died near Lewiston, Pa., leaving issue by his wife Hannah McKee, whom he married in 1791, of George, Margaret, William, Andrew, Robert A., Nancy, Mary Ann, Eliza, and Hannah; James left issue in Pennsylvania of James, Joseph, George, and John, of whom George resided in Ohio while the others settled in New York; and George settled in Kentucky, where he left issue by his wife Betsy Elton, of Robert, John, George, Joseph, Anthony, Elton, Amos, Margaret, Nancy, and Rachel, many of whom resided in Illinois.

Samuel Means, probably a brother of the immigrant John, died in Dauphin County, Pa., in 1746. He had issue by his wife, Grissell, of Nellie, Margaret, Jane, Isabella, Andrew, Samuel, John, Mary, and Adam.

Andrew, son of the immigrant Samuel, removed to North Carolina, thence to Tennessee, and finally to Missouri. He married Nancy Gray and was the father by her of Andrew, Benjamin, Abijah, Adam, Clemmon, Nancy, Katie, Nellie, Jennie, Mary, and Henry.

Samuel Means, son of the immigrant of that name, resided in Northumberland County, Pa., and married a Miss Clark. His children were William, Betsy, Ellen, Jane, and Mary.

John Means, son of the immigrant Samuel, married Martha Ramsey before 1780 and had issue by her of Jean, Nancy, Nathan, John, James, and Joseph.

Adam Means, youngest son of the immigrant Samuel, settled in Alleghany County, Pa. He married a Miss Hutchinson and had issue by her of John, Benjamin, Samuel, Clark, and Eleanor.

Another John Means made his home at Boston, Mass., as early as 1763, if not before. He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, about 1727. By his wife, Isabella Harper, he was the father of Isaac, Martha, Mary, Rebecca, John, Samuel, Sarah, Thomas, Jacob, Isabella, and Robert.

Of the last-mentioned brothers, John settled in South Carolina and left issue by his wife, Mary Milling, of

Isabella, Sarah, (Dr.) David, John, Henry, Martha Caroline, Robert Alexander, and Mary Ann: Thomas left issue in South Carolina by his wife, Sarah Milling, of John, Isaac, Samuel, David Harper, (Reverend) Robert, Thomas Jefferson, Edward, William Barney, Henry, John Hugh, and several daughters; and Robert settled at Bearfort, S.C., where he left issue by his wife, Mary Barnwell, of Robert, (Dr.) Thomas, William, Edward Barnwell, and others.

The brothers James and William Means came from Ireland to Pennsylvania about 1763. Of these, James removed to Virginia and thence to South Carolina; while William made his home first in Pennsylvania and then in South Carolina. James first married Sarah Foster, who gave him two sons, Hugh and Joseph, and several daughters. By a later wife, Rachel Kelso, he had further issue of Rachel and James.

William, brother of the immigrant James, died in Union County, S.C., and was the father by his wife, Nancy Simonton, of, among other children, James C., Hugh, William Jr., and John.

Robert Means, son of Thomas Means, of Stewartstown, Ireland, came to America in 1766 and landed at Boston, whence he removed to Merrimac and later Amherst, N.H. He married Mary McGregor in 1774 and had issue by her of Thomas,

Mary, David McGregor, Elizabeth, Robert Jr., and Nancy.

Bartholomew Means, whose ancestry is not certain, was living in Accomack County, Va., before 1775. His children were David, Comfort, Betsy, Samuel, Jonathan W., and Henry.

Chiefly engaged in professional pursuits, the descendants of the Means families in America have shown themselves to be, for the most part at least, intelligent, resourceful, and possessed of the courage of their convictions.

Among those of the family who served with the Colonial forces during the Revolutionary War were Adam, Daniel, George, Hugh, James, John, Joseph, Robert, Thomas, and Williams Means (sometimes Mean or Meanes), of Pennsylvania; Francis, John, Isaac, Patrick, Philip, Robert, and William Means (sometimes Maines), of Virginia; Captain James, Captain John, Thomas, and William Means (also Mains, Manes, and Meanes), of Massachusetts; and many more.

Thomas, James, John, Robert, George, Joseph, Samuel, Andrew, Henry, David, William, Hugh, and Alexander are some of the male Christian names favored by the family for its progeny.

Bearer of the name who have been prominent in America in comparatively recent years include:

Thomas Herbert Means (b. 1875), of Virginia and California, consulting engineer.

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Rice William Means (b. 1877), of Missouri, Colorado, and Washington, D.C., lawyer, judge, and military officer.

Eldred Kurtz Means (b. 1873), of Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, and Texas, clergyman and author.

James Howard Means (b. 1895), of Massachusetts, physician and author.

George Hamilton Means (b. 1866), of Kentucky, dentist.

Florence Crannell Means (b. 1891), of New York and Colorado, author.

Philip Ainsworth Means (b. 1892), of Massachusetts and Connecticut, historian.

One of the several coats of arms of the ancient family of Mayne, from which some of the Means families of America are thought to be descended, is described in heraldic terms as follows (Burke, General Armory, 1884):

Arms.--"Argent, a chevron gules, voided of the field, between two pheons in chief sable and a fleur-de-lis in base azure, a bordure wavy of the last."

Crest.--"A dexter hand, holding a plain cross gules."

Motto.--"Virtuti fortuna comes."

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WHY YOU HAVE A FAMILY NAME AND WHAT IT MEANS

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, in the dark ages long preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and at the dawn of historic times, when the world was less crowded than it is today and every man knew his neighbor, one title of address was sufficient. Only gradually, with the passing centuries and the increasing complexity of civilized society, did a need arise for more specific designations. While the roots of our system of family names may be traced back to early civilized times, actually the hereditary surname as we know it today dates from scarcely more than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or given name for the purposes of making it more specific and of indicating family relationship or descent. Classified according to origin, most surnames fall into four general groups: 1) those formed from the given name of the sire; 2) those arising from bodily or personal characteristics; 3) those derived from locality or place of residence; and 4) those derived from occupation. It is easier to understand the story of the development of our institution of surnames if these classifications are borne in mind.

As early as Biblical times certain distinguishing appellations were occasionally employed in addition to the given name, as, for

instance, Joshua the son of Nun, Azariah the son of Nathan, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In ancient Greece a daughter was named after the father, as Chryseis, daughter of Chryses; and a son's name was often an enlarged form of his father's, as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civilization, met the need for hereditary designations by inventing a complex system whereby every patrician took several names. None of them, however, exactly corresponded to surnames as we know them, for the "clan name", although hereditary, was given also to slaves and other dependents. This system proved to be but a temporary innovation; the overthrow of the Western Empire by barbarian invaders brought about its end and a reversion to the primitive custom of a single name.

The ancient Scandinavians and for the most part the Germans had only individual names, and there were no family names, strictly speaking, among the Celts. But as family and tribal groups grew in size, individual names became inadequate and the need for supplementary designations began to be felt. Among the first employed were such terms as the Hardy, the Sterns, the Dreadful-in-Battle; and the nations of northern Europe soon adopted the practice of adding the father's name to the son's, as Oscar son of Carnuth and Dermid son of Duthno.

True surnames, in the sense of hereditary appellations, date in England from about the year 1000. Largely they were introduced from Normandy, although there are records of Saxon surnames prior to the Norman Conquest. During the reign of Edward the Confessor

(1042-1066) there were Saxon tenants in Suffolk bearing such names as Suert Magno, Stigand Soror, Siuward Rufus, and Leuric Hobbesune (Hobson); and the Domesday record of 1085-1086, which exhibits some curious combinations of Saxon forenames with Norman family names, shows surnames in still more general use. By the end of the twelfth century hereditary names had become common in England. But even by 1465 they were not universal. During the reign of Edward V a law was passed to compel certain Irish outlaws to adopt surnames; "They shall take unto them a Surname, either of some Town, or some Colour, as Blacke or Brown, or some Art of Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some office, as Cooke or Butler." As late as the beginning of the nineteenth century a similar decree became effective compelling Jews in Germany and Austria to add a German surname to the single names that they had previously used.

As stated above, family names fall into four general classes according to their origin. One of these classes comprises surnames derived from the given name of the father. Such names were formed by adding a prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or a diminutive. English names terminating in son (or the contraction s), ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the innumerable names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac, the Norman Fitz, the Irish O, or the Welsh ap. Thus the sons of John became Johnsons; the sons of William, Williamsons or Wilsons; the sons of Richard, Richardsons or Richardses; the sons of Neill, MacNeills; the sons of Herbert, FitzHerberts; the sons of Reilly, O'Reillys; and the sons of Thomas ap Thomases (ap has been drop from many names of

which it was formerly a part). There are also German, Netherlandish, Scandinavian, and other European surnames of similar formation, such as the Scandinavian names ending in sen.

Another class of surnames, those arising from some bodily or personal characteristic of their first bearer, apparently grew out of what were in the first instance nicknames. Thus Peter the strong became Peter Strong, Roger of small stature became Roger Little or Roger Small, and black-haired William or blond Alfred became William Black or Alfred White. A few examples of names of this type are Long, Short, Hardy, Wise, Good, Gladman, Lover and Youngman.

A third class of family names, and perhaps the largest of all, is that comprising local surnames—names derived from and originally designating the place of residence of the bearer. Such names were employed in France at an early date and were introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates. The surnames adopted by the nobility were chiefly of this type, being used with the particles de, de la, or del (meaning "of" or "of the"). The Saxon equivalent was the word atte ("at the"), found in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William Atwood, and Atwater; in other cases the Norman de was substituted; and in still others, such as Wood, Briggs and Lane, the particle was dropped. The surnames of some of the Pilgrim Fathers illustrate place designations. Winthrop, for instance, means "of the friendly village"; Endicott, "an end cottage"; and Bradford, "a broad ford". The suffixes

"ford", "ham", "ley", and "ton", denoting locality, are of frequent occurrence in such English names as Ashford, Bingham, Burley and Norton.

Commencing about the time of Edward the Confessor a fourth class of surnames arose -- names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Mayor, Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter), Marshall, Sumner (summoner), and Parker (parkkeeper). Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were a slightly later development. Currier was a dresser of skins, Webster a weaver, Wainwright a wagonbuilder, and Baxter a baker. Such names as Smith, Taylor, Barber, Shepherd, Carter, Mason, and Miller are self-explanatory.

Some surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms that have become disguised almost beyond recognition. For instance, Troublefield was originally Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, Sinnocks and Snooks were Sevenoaks, Barrowcliff and Berrycloth were Barraclough, and Strawbridge was Stourbridge. Such corruptions of family names, resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation, or merely from the preference of the bearer, tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespeare's name is found in some twenty-seven different forms, and the majority of English and Anglo-American surnames have, in their history, appeared in four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

In the United States a greater variety of family names exists

than anywhere else in the world. Surnames in every race and nation are represented. While a substantial number are of English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, and Western European origin, brought to this country by scions of families that had borne these names for generations prior to immigration, many others have come from Central and Southern Europe and the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice. Some families had no fixed surname until after their arrival in America; and in other cases emigrants from Continental Europe or their descendants have translated or otherwise modified their names. These factors contribute to the difficulties encountered by students of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who possess old and honored names -- who trace their surnames back to sturdy immigrant ancestors, or beyond, across the seas and into the mists of antiquity--may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While the name, in its origin, may seem ingenious, humble, surprising, or matter-of-fact, its significance today lies not in a literal interpretation of its initial meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as part of the bearer's individuality; and as it passed to his children, his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol not of one man but of a family and all that the family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, the surname grew inseparably associated with the

achievement, the tradition, and the prestige of the family. Like the coat of arms--that vivid symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle--the name itself has become a badge of family honor. It has become the "good name" to be proud of and to protect as one's most treasured possession.

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