

**Totley History Group
Totley Library
Wednesday, 26 January 2011**

Present: 35 people

Roy Yates attended the meeting and gave a fascinating presentation regarding the history of surnames.

First surnames 1066 – 1400:-

Alfred
Athelred
Athelbeort
Ecgbort
Athelstan
Wulfstan
Wulfric
Eadward
Eadmund
Hrothgar

They arose for tax records/legal and court proceedings/property transactions and employment/church records.

The categories they fall into are relationship, occupational, descriptive and geographical.

Relationship:-

Williamson – means son of

MacDonald – The Mac part means son as does the O' in O'Connor

In Welsh AP or AB means son of so many Welsh names start with an A or B.

Fitz also means son of

Occupational:-

Baker, Butcher, Webster (female weaver), Baxter (female baker), Smith (metal worker), Smythe, Wright, Tallboys, Fuller (wool making), Tucker, Walker (walking on the cloth), Ambler (nickname for walker on the cloth), Pinder (enclosure), Milner (miller), Turner (turned material on a lathe), Parker (man in a deer park).

Descriptive:-

Long, Small, Grant, Whitehead, Head, Hand, Legge, Foot, Kennedy (ugly head), Ponsford from Pauncevolt (man with big belly over the centuries consonant change lead to the name change)

Morris – From the Latin meaning black, dark skinned
Nature – Meek, Wylde, Peace, Shakespeare, Murray, Jolley, Pleasance,
Gulliver (French meaning gluten), Oliver, Olivier, Laurence (Latin
meaning laurel symbol of victory)

Geographical:-

Hyl (on the hill)

Dael, Denu (valley), Hole (hollow), Cumb (dale)

Gryfig – Bottom, Hop (in the valley), eg Hope Valley, Hopton, Glossop
Ramsbottom (lives in the valley with the sheep)

Broc, Beck, Wells, by the stream

Sic (wetland), Bourn (stream), Keld (spring), Font (fountain)

Woods – Wudu, Shaw, Hurst (wooded hill), Holt, Forest, Graf
Ford

Burh (man-made feature fort and given name borough), Castel, Cestre
(big fortress eg Chesterfield), Bridge, Cairn, Gates

Citrice, Kirk, Eccles (different words for church)

Hlinc (undurlating hill), Holm (dry area in marshy country), Hlith, Clif,
Crag, Knah, Knoll (top of a hill), Edge, Ridge, Tor, Pic (peak), Bank,
Side, Chef (headland eg Beauchief beautiful headland), Ness, Beorg,
Mont, Penn (Pennines) Mellor, Ross, Don, Ofer

Influences our names come from – Celts 3500 BC, Romans 43 AD,
Anglo Saxons, Vikings, Normans 1066

Celtic Surnames – Carrick (store), Keld, Kelly, Penn, Ross, Mellor, Walh

Latin names – Yates, Grainger

Anglo Saxon – Ham, Tun, Worth, Feld, Leah, Royd

Scandinavian – Thorp, Thwaite (clearing), By (large village, eg Whitby)

Norman – Daubney, Bellamy, Beaumont, Beauchief, Bonser

Items:

None discussed.

Date and Time of Future Meetings

23 February – A sharing our research meeting.

23 March – Why the T'allistone, Majorie Dunn (An insight into what
inspired the speaker to use Sheffield as a backcloth for her books. A peep
into a very old Sheffield).

April – AGM followed by a speaker. Please note this date may be 3rd
Wednesday of the month due to Easter, to be confirmed.

25 May – A sharing of research meeting.