



THE LONG SURNAME

Chronicles of England, shrouded by the mists of time, reveal the early records of the name Long as a Norman surname which ranks as one of the oldest. The history of the name is interwoven in the colorful fabric which is an intrinsic part of the history of Britain.

Careful research by professional analysts using such ancient manuscripts as the Domesday Book (compiled in 1086 by William the Conqueror), the Ragman Rolls, the Wace poem, the Honour Roll of the Battel Abbey, The Curia Regis, Pipe Rolls, the Falaise Roll, tax records, baptismals, family genealogies, and local parish and church records show the first record of the name Long was found in Wiltshire where they were seated from early times and their first records appeared on the early census rolls taken by the early Kings of Britain to determine the rate of taxation of their subjects.

Many alternate spellings of the name were found. They were typically linked to a common root, usually one of the Norman nobles at the Battle of Hastings. The name, Long, occurred in many references, and from time to time, the surname included the spellings of Long, Longe, and many more. Scribes recorded and spelled the name as it sounded. It was not unlikely that a person would be born with one spelling, married with another, and buried with a headstone which showed another. All three spellings related to the same person. Sometimes references for different spelling variations either came from a division of the family, or, for religious reasons, or sometimes patriotic reasons.

The family name Long is believed to be descended originally from the Norman race. They were commonly believed to be of French origin but were, more accurately, of Viking origin. The Vikings landed in the Orkneys and Northern Scotland about the year 870 A.D., under their chief, Sturgud the Stout. Later, under their Jarl, Thorfinn Rollo, they invaded France about 940 A.D. The French King, Charles the Simple, after Rollo laid siege to Paris, finally conceded defeat and granted northern France to Rollo. Rollo became the first Duke of Normandy, the territory of the Northmen. Duke William who invaded and defeated England in 1066, was descended from the first Duke Rollo of Normandy.

Duke William took a census of most of England in 1086, and recorded it in the Domesday Book. A family name capable of being traced back to this document, or to Hastings, was a signal honor for most families during the middle ages, and even to this day.

The surname Long emerged as a notable English family in the county of Wiltshire where they were recorded as a family of great antiquity seated with manor and estates in that shire. They were descended from a Norman noble of Preux in Normandy. This distinguished name settled in Wiltshire and Henry Long, Assistant to the Lord Treasurer of England, Hungerford, settled at Wraxall. By the 13th century they had branched to Symington, Rowde Aston, and Whaddon, and Beckington in Somerset, Monkton Farley and Bainton in Wiltshire, Preshaw in Oxford, and in the county of Norfolk. This prolific name had branched by the 16th century to Gloucester, Middlesex, and many other southern counties. They were elected to the peerage through Baron Farnborough but this line became extinct in 1838. Notable amongst the family at the time was Baron Farnborough.

The surname Long contributed much to local politics and in the affairs of England or Scotland. During the 12th century many of these Norman families moved north to Scotland, following Earl David of Huntingdon who would become King of Scotland. Later, in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries England and Scotland was ravaged by

religious and political conflict. The monarchy, the Church and Parliament fought for supremacy. The unrest caused many to think of distant lands.

Settlers in Ireland became known as the "Adventurers for land in Ireland". They "undertook" to keep the Protestant faith, and were granted lands previously owned by the Irish. In Ireland they settled in county Wexford at Newross.

The attractions of the New World spread like wildfire. Many sailed aboard the fleet of sailing ships known as the "White Sails".

In North America, migrants which could be considered kinsmen of the family name Long, or variable spellings of that same family name, included Edward Long settled in Virginia in 1649; along with Henry in 1774; James in 1642; Jane in 1624; Catherine in 1635; Ralph in 1638; Richard in 1642; Robert, his wife and two sons in 1643; Captain Long settled in Boston in 1768, David Long in 1765; John in Boston in 1635, and many more to the ports of Philadelphia, Maryland, San Francisco, Delaware, Barbados. From the port of arrival many settlers joined wagon trains westward. During the War of Independence some declared their loyalty to the Crown and moved northward into Canada and became known as the United Empire Loyalists.

Meanwhile, the family name was active in the social stream. There were many notables of this name, Long; Augustus Long, American Company director; Clarence Long, American Economist; Ernest Long, Canadian Clergyman; Franklin Long, American Educator; Gerald Long, American Lawyer; Russell Long, American Attorney; William Long, British Politician.