

## Origins and meanings of selected names.

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Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

Naming practices developed differently from region to region and country to country. Names tend to fall into one of four categories: patronymic (name from father), occupational, nickname, or place name.

In patronymic names, prefixes or suffixes are often added, such as *-son* or *-ing*, such as Peterson or Browning, in English, Scottish, or Swedish. Irish would add a prefix *O'* and Scottish *Mac* or *Mc*. Italian prefix of *De* or *Di*.<sup>1</sup>

Occupational names are usually obvious; Miller, Taylor, Smith; and place names also; Hill, Brook, Dale. Nicknames "an eke names", or added name, which might describe a person, as in Tallman, Little, Russ (read haired).

Spellings were not consistent. Usually the name was phonetically spelled and may have changed even within the same family, or at the whim of a census taker or other record keeper. So, different spellings may be related or may be from completely different families. Some immigrants changed the spelling to fit better in their new American home, or misunderstandings at immigration may have changed the spelling or the name completely.

### Armstrong



After William 1 conquered England in 1066, he rewarded his followers with land grants. Amongst these followers were ones known as "Forten Bras" which literally translates as "strong in the arm", itself a rare surname, and from these people developed the Armstrangs or Armstrongs. The clan has always been centred in Liddesdale in Cumbria, where its fierce and warlike members were enlisted by the Scottish and English kings in turn. The terms "Moss Troopers" and "Border Reivers" were applied to the clan Armstrong, the history of the clan being the history of "The Border" and the wars between England and Scotland. As examples of their "strength", in 1342, Richard Harmestrang made a loan to King David 11 (1329 - 1371) of Scotland, whilst in 1363, William Armstrong was not only steward to the king, but ambassador to England. However, it is in the field of (literally) private enterprise that the Armstrongs made their mark, Armstrong of Gilnockie, a well known "free booter", being executed by James V of Scotland in 1529, whilst in 1596, Kinmont Willie (Armstrong), another "pirate" was seized by the Scots from Carlisle Castle, his subsequent fate is "unknown". Another unfortunate was Sir Thomas Armstrong (1624 - 1684), a well known monarchist, who fell foul of Judge Jeffreys and was executed. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Adam Armstrong, which was dated 1235, arrested and imprisoned for murder and later pardoned at Carlisle, during the reign of King Alexander 11 of Scotland, 1214 - 1249.

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Source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Armstrong>

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<sup>1</sup> *Surnames: Family Search Tips and Surname Origins, What's in a Name, Family Tree Magazine*

## **Budlong**

In English, the name Budlong is a Surname or Lastname gender name. And in English, the Surname or Lastname name Budlong means English : of uncertain origin; said to be an Anglicized form of a French Huguenot name. It may be a variant of Beadling. It is also found as a surname in the Philippines. The name was brought to Warwick, RI, some time in or before 1668, probably from England, by Francis Budlong (died 1675).

Source: <http://namemeaningsdictionary.com>

## **Greenwood**

Greenwood in this family is the English translation of the french Boisvert. The original family name was Boisvert meaning Green from Vert and Wood from Bois.

The earliest ancestor we have recorded in this family line is Jean Baptiste BOISVERT, born 1776, Yamaska, Pierre-De Saurel, Quebec, Canada. The name changed to Greenwood with the next generation, Maxime Boisvert GREENWOOD. – JOR

## **Hitchings**

This surname is derived from the name of an ancestor, 'the son of Richard,' from the nickname Hitch (v. Hitchcock), diminutive Hitch-in; not to be confounded with Hutchins (which see) and Hutchinson. The 'g' in Hitching and Hitchings is, of course, an excrescence; compare Jennings for Jenins, itself also a diminutive (Jen-in) like Hitchin.

Source: <http://forebears.io/surnames/hitchings>

The surname Hitchings was first found in [Hertfordshire](#) at Hitchin, a market town and parish, and the head of a union, in the [hundred](#) of Hitchin and Pirton. <sup>[1]</sup> The place name pre-dates the [Norman Conquest](#) as the first record the place was found c. 945 as Hiccum. By the time of the [Domesday Book](#), the town was known as Hiz, and literally meant "place in the territory of the tribe called Hicce." <sup>[2]</sup> The river Hiz is nearby and no doubt the river's name was derived from the same. As far as the surname is concerned, the first record of the name was John Hichum who was listed in the [Rotuli Hundredorum](#) of 1279 in [Oxfordshire](#). A few years later, the name Hichoun was listed in the Assize Rolls of [Cheshire](#) in 1286. <sup>[3]</sup>

Source: <https://www.houseofnames.com>

I have a letter signed by the parents and children of the same family where the parents spell the name Hitchings and the children sign the letter Hitchins.

## **Hunt**

This ancient surname is of pre 7th century English origins. It is usually an occupational surname for one who hunted wildlife for a living. In the Middle Ages the term "hunter" was an official title, and there were different categories from game hunters on foot to the mounted huntsmen, who pursued stags and wild boar. The penalty for hunting without permission in the royal parks, could be death. The word "Hunta" was sometimes used as a personal name. It appears in the placenames "Huntingdon" and "Huntingfield". These translate as "Hunta's Hill" and "the land of the Hunta people". Amongst the interesting surname recordings over the centuries, is that of Leonard Hunt, who was one of the earliest emigrants to the new Virginia colony. He embarked from London, England, on the ship "Mathew" on May 15th 1635. Examples of notable namebearers listed in the "Dictionary of National Biography for Great Britain" include Roger Hunt, the Speaker of the House of Commons in 1433, Sir John Hunt, knighted by King James 1st in 1611, and James Henry Leigh Hunt, who first published the works of Keats and Shelley in 1816. The first recorded spelling of the family



name is shown to be that of Humphrey le Hunte. This was dated 1203, in the charter rolls of the county of Sussex, during the reign of King John of England, known as "Lackland", 1199 - 1216.

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source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Hunt>

## **King**

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This ancient and distinguished surname belongs to that sizeable group of European surnames that were gradually created from the habitual use of nicknames. These nicknames were given with reference to a variety of personal characteristics, such as physical attributes or peculiarities, mental and moral characteristics, and to habits of dress and behaviour. The derivation, in this instance, is from the Middle English "king", ultimately from the Olde English pre 7th Century "cyning", king, used to denote someone who conducted himself in a kingly manner; one who had played the part of a king in a medieval pageant, or perhaps won the title in some contest. This surname has the rare distinction of being recorded prior to the Domesday Book of 1086 (see below). Further early recordings from England and Scotland include: Geoffrey King (Cambridgeshire, 1177); Wuluricus le King (Suffolk, 1182); and Robertus dictus King (Aberdeenshire, 1247). When found in Ireland, the surname may be either of English origin, introduced following the Anglo-Norman invasion of 1170, or of Gaelic derivation. In the latter case, King is an Anglicized form of the Old Gaelic "O'Cionga" or "O'Cingeadh" (first Anglicized O'Kinga), a family which in medieval times were seated on the Island of Inismor in Lough Ree. Robert King, second Earl of Kingston (1754 - 1799), was M.P. for County Cork in 1783, 1790 and 1798. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Aelwine se Cyng, which was dated 1050, in the "Old English Byname Register", Devonshire, during the reign of Edward the Confessor, a Saxon, 1042 - 1066.

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Source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/King>

## **Lathrop**

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Earliest records are of Robert de Lowthorpe of the village of Lowthorpe near Cherry Burton, York, England. This is alleged the the Huntington book about Lathrop/Lothrop family history. England, with possibility of Anglo-Norman influence

Source: <https://www.ancientfaces.com>

English: probably a variant of Lothrop. Alternatively, it may be a habitational name from Layerthorpe in York, which is named from Old Norse leirr 'clay' or leira 'clayey place' + þorp 'outlying farmstead'.

Source: Dictionary of American Family Names ©2013, Oxford University Press

## **Lobdell**

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Recorded in England as Lobb, Lobbe, and diminutives Lobel, Lobell, and Loble, and Lobe and Lube in Ireland, this is an English surname. It has two possible interpretations. The first and most likely is that it is locational from the place called Lobb in Devonshire. This is recorded as "Loba" in the Domesday Book of 1086. The placename derives from an Olde English pre 7th century topographical term meaning a small hill. This appears to be born out by the fact that the village of Lobb is at the bottom of a hill. There is also a place of the same name in Oxfordshire, recorded in 1208 as "Lobbe", but early records of the distribution of the surname suggest that this place is an unlikely source for the modern name. A second possible derivation of the name is from the Olde English word "lobbe", meaning a

spider, and used as a medieval nickname presumably for somebody who was a good climber. Early examples of the surname recording include Philip de Lobbe in the Book of Fees for Devonshire in 1242. The early surviving church registers include recordings such as Ann Lobel who married John Wolfe at St Dionis Backchurch, city of London on July 27th 1609, Theophilus Lobb, christened at Fetter Lane church also city of London on August 17th 1678, and Frederick Loble christened at St Andrews Enfield, Middlesex, on January 30th 1858. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Godric Lobbe. This was dated 1130, in the Early London Personal Names list, during the reign of King Henry 1st, known as "The Lion of Justice", 1100 - 1135.

## Dell

This very unusual name is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and is a topographical name given in the first instance to someone who lived in a dell, or small valley. The name derives from the Olde English pre 7th Century term "dell", a dell, deep hollow or vale, which is also found in placenames such as Arundel in Sussex, "hoarhound valley". Topographical names were among the earliest created, since both natural and man-made features in the landscape provided convenient and easily recognisable distinguishing names in the small communities of the Middle Ages. The modern surname from this source can be found as Dell, Delle, Della, Deller and Dellar. Recordings of the name from London Church Registers include the christening of Edward, son of Henrie and Elizabeth Dellar, on September 7th 1617, at St. Botolph without Aldgate, and the marriage of Thomas Dellar and Suzan Carter, at St. Michael Queenhithe, on August 27th 1657. The Coat of Arms most associated with the name is silver, a lion rampant black debruised by a saltire red. The Crest is a hand erect issuing from a cloud, holding a garb. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Ralph Dellere, which was dated 1275, in the "Hundred Rolls of Norfolk", during the reign of King Edward 1, known as "The Hammer of the Scots", 1272 - 1307.

Source: <https://answers.yahoo.com>

## Lockwood



This interesting surname is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and is an ancient locational name which derives from the village of Lockwood, now a suburb of Huddersfield in the (former) West Riding of Yorkshire. The placename is derived from the Olde English pre 7th Century "loc wudu", translating as "one resident at the wood enclosed by fencing". Like most locational names it was given either to the lord of the manor, or to a former inhabitant who moved to another area. In the case of Lockwood it may be a case of "both", as the original nameholder was granted a Coat of Arms in Staffordshire! The name recording includes Thomas de Loke - Wood in the 1379 Poll Tax Rolls of Yorkshire. Church recordings include John Lockwood, who married Jane Taylor on May 19th 1555, at St. Mary Magdalene's, Old Fish Street, London, and their daughter, Ellyn, who was christened on May 26th

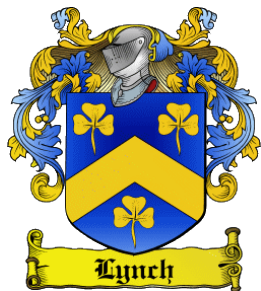
1556, also at St. Mary Magdalene's, Old Fish Street. Elizabeth Lockwod was christened on April 28th 1560, at St. Martin's, Pomeroy, London. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Henry de Locwode (knight), which was dated 1294, in the records of the Staffordshire Courts, during the reign of King Edward 1, known as "The Hammer of the Scots", 1272 - 1307. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

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Source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Lockwood>

## Lynch

Recorded in various spellings including Linch, Lynch, Lynche, which can be of either English or Irish origin, or Linskey and Lyskey which are both Irish and mainly from County Mayo, and the West of Ireland. The English name originates in the pre Anglo-Saxon era, and is a topographical surname denoting residence on a slope or a hillside. Derived from the Olde English pre 7th Century word 'hline', meaning hill, it may also be locational surname from the villages called 'Lynch' in Somerset or 'Linch' in Sussex, both of which have exactly the same Olde English origination, and are (literally) built on hills. As an Irish surname, 'Lynch' is far more confusing, nethertheless it is one of the most important clans, being particularly associated with County Galway. In general the surname is said to derive from an Anglicized form of the Gaelic O' Loingsigh, which translates as 'The descendant of the mariner', an unusual description in itself as the ancient Irish were rarely sailors, or as another Anglicized form, this time of the Gaelic 'Linseach', itself confusingly Gaelicized from the Anglo-Norman 'de Lench', which entered the country in the 12th century with the army of Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke. In effect this takes us back to the beginning again and the Olde English 'hline', of which 'de Lench' was another spelling. Thomas Lynch (1749 - 1779), whose Irish family emigrated to America, was one of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence, whilst Jack Lynch was Premier of Ireland in 1970. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Geoffrey Linch, which was dated 1228, in the "Fine Court Records of Suffolk", during the reign of King Henry 111, known as "The Frenchman", 1216 - 1272. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.



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Source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Lynch>

## McLusky (McClusky)

This Irish Sept (Clan) are a branch of the O'Cahans, the former Lords of Keenaght, and one of the leading Clans of Ulster before the 16th century Scottish colonisation. The MacCloskeys are from Co.Derry and descend from one Bloskey O'Kane, slayer of Murtagh O'Loughlin heir to the Irish Throne in 1196. The names as McCloskey or McCluskey is also well known in America, Dr. K MacCloskey being Cardinal of New York in 1875. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Mac Bhloscaidh which was dated C1659, All Ireland Census during the reign of Richard Cromwell, The Lord Protector, 1658 - 1659



Source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/McCluskey>

Greetings to all of the McCluskey clan, steeped in history and honour since 1196, John, in reply to your request about the origins of our Clan, please find below a potted history, hope you find it informative and interesting.

The Irish surname McCluskey is an English pronunciation of the Irish Gaelic surname MacBloscaidh (which in its anglicised form encompasses the names McCloskey, McLusky, McLoskie and many other variations) which is derived from the Gaelic word "bloscach" which means "loud, strong".

The bearer of the name originally was therefore a man who was fierce and able to make himself heard in the throng of battle.

The founder of our sept (or clan) was Donagh son of Bloscaidh O'Cahan who slew Murtagh O'Loughlin the heir to the Irish throne in 1196 at the bidding of the Owen clan.

The ancestors of the McCluskey clan, because of this service, became important in the O'Cahan clan and ruled the area of Duviggen in Derry.

The McCluskey's formed part of the Hy Niall tribe who can be traced as far back as the revered Irish hero Niall of the Nine Hostages, who were part of the noble clans known as the "Milessians" whose ancestor Milesius, king of Spain invaded Ireland known as Ennis Ealga at the time.

The McCluskey Blazon of arms or shield is a bowed naked arm grasping a pear tree pulled out by the roots.

The Family Crest is a Pear Tree as in the Arms.

the family motto is "Felis Demulcta Mitis" which means "A stroked cat is gentle"

There are many well known McCluskeys in Scotland which is my part of the world, but a notable McCloskey (different spelling, same clan) was John McCloskey who became the first American Cardinal in 1875, also Senator David McCluskey who is the House of Representative senator for Hartford and one of the more recent McCluskey success stories is Bernie McCluskey from Reading in England who became the first ever World Bar Billiard Champion on 5th August 2001 in Normandy, France.

-Brian McCluskey.

Source: <http://www.genealogy.com>

## North



This is an English surname of antiquity and nobility. It is the hereditary surname of the Earls of Guildford, and during the 18th century was amongst the most prominent in the world's political circle. It has several possible origins. It could simply describe a person who came from the north (of England), but this seems unlikely as the name is prominent in the North country, as are the surnames West, East and South. The most logical explanation is that it was locational from a "lost" medieval place called North in the county of Norfolk, or from one of the more than a hundred places which include North in their title. Other possible explanations are that it was residential for a person who lived to the north of a town or village, or that it was nationalistic and probably sarcastic, describing a

Norseman, literally a man from Norway. What is certain is that the name has been well recorded since the very beginning of surnames in the 12th century. These early recordings include John de North in Cambridge in 1257, William North of Sussex in 1296 and Agnes Bynorth in the rolls of Essex for the year 1301. Amongst the many important name holder was Brownlow North (circa 1580), one of the first translators of books, and Frederick North, Second Earl of Guildford (1732 - 1792), and most commonly known as Lord North. He directed the policy of King George III which directly led to the loss of the American Colonies in 1776. The coat of arms granted to the family has the blazon of a blue field charged with a gold lion passant, between three silver fleur de lis, signifying victory over the French. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Aylmar del North. This was dated 1230, in the Pipe Rolls of the county of Suffolk, during the reign of King Henry II of England, 1216 - 1272.

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Source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/North>

## Olley

Recorded in a number of spellings including Dolley, Dolly, Duley, Duly, Olley and Ollie, this is an English surname but of genuine French origins. Introduced by followers of William, The Conqueror, after the battle of Hastings in 1066, it is locational and perhaps correctly should be spelt d'Ovilly or

similar, as it originates from any of the five villages called Ovillys, Ovilly Le Basset or Ovilly Le Vicomte in Normandy. The later surname development in England from the early medieval period includes: Robert Oilgi in the Domesday Book of 1086, Henri de Olli of Oxford in 1135, Henry de Oly also of Oxford in 1212, Reginald Duly of Yorkshire in 1267, and Robert de Doley of Oxford in 1279. Amongst the many recordings in the diocese of Greater London is the marriage of Robert D'Oyly and Mary Langley on June 2nd 1745 at St. Paul's church, Covent Garden, Westminster. Probably the most famous nameholder was Richard D'Oyly Carte (1844 - 1901), the English impresario noted for his productions of the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Robert de Oilleio. This was dated 1086, in the Domesday Book for Oxford, during the reign of King William 1st of England, 1066 - 1086.

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source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Olley>

Possible connection: Oilly, Robert d' - Probably from Ouilly-de-Gasset, near Falaise. Probably married daughter of Wigot of Wallingford; daughter married Miles Crispin. Sworn brother-in-arms of Roger d'Ivry; held some estates jointly with him. Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1080s; also of Oxon. and perhaps of Berks.; Constable of Oxford Castle. Lands, with those of Miles Crispin became Honour of Wallingford. Holdings in 8 Midland and Home counties. Source: <http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk>

### **Rienhardt (Reinhardt)**



Recorded in some forty spelling forms from Reynard, Reinhard, Renhard and Reignard, to Reinaert, Raardot, and Reintsema, this interesting surname is ultimately of pre 7th century Germanic origins. However spelt it derives from the male personal name "Raginhard", composed of the elements "ragin", meaning counsel, with "hard", hardy, brave, strong. The given names "Rainardi" and "Rainart" are noted in the Domesday Book of Norfolk (1086). This name was borne by the cunning fox in the popular medieval cycle of beast-tales, with the result that from the 13th Century the Old French "goupil", fox, was replaced by the modern form "renard", fox. This suggests that the surname may also have originated as a nickname for crafty individuals, referring to the fox's reputation for cunning. The surname is first recorded in the early 13th Century (see below), and recordings of the surname from medieval times include Heinrich Reinhard of Bonnigheld, Germany, in the year 1286, and Heinrich reinhart of Homburg, Germany, in 1315. Church register recordings in England include: the christening of Beatrice, daughter of James Reynard, on July 29th 1571, at St. Botolph without Aldgate; city of London. The first recorded spelling of the family name anywhere in the world is shown to be that of Elias Reynardi, which was dated 1205, at St. Benet Holme, Norfolk. This was during the reign of King John of England, known by the nickname of "Lackland", 1199 - 1216.

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source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Reinhardt>

The Reinhardt surname is of pre 7th century Germanic origins. It is a German and Jewish surname that comes from a male personal name Raginhard, composed of the elements ragin, meaning counsel, with hard, hardy, brave, strong. This name was borne by the cunning fox in the popular medieval beast tales, with the result that from the 13th century the Old French goupil, fox, was replaced by the modern form renard, fox. This suggests the surname may also have originated as a nickname for crafty individuals, referring to the fox's reputation for cunning.

The Americanized spelling of Reinhardt is Rinehart.

Variations include: Reinhold, Rhinehart, Reinholdt, Reinholt, Reinolt, Reinold, Reynolds, Rhineholdt, Rhinehold, Rinehold, Reinholtz, Raynehart

Source: <https://www.geni.com/surnames/reinhardt>

I was told by my father that the original spelling was Reinhardt, but it was changed after some family dispute. This change must have happened before or at the time of John Rienhardt. – JOR

## Renner

This unusual surname has three distinct possible sources, each with its own history and derivation. Firstly, Renner may be of Anglo-Saxon origin, and an occupational name for a messenger or courier, normally a mounted and armed military servant. The derivation is from the Olde English pre 7th Century "renn(an)", Middle High German "rennen", to run, with the addition of the agent suffix "-er". In its original sense "a man who has to do with", the "-er" designates persons according to their profession or occupation. Job-descriptive surnames originally denoted the actual occupation of the namebearer, and later became hereditary. The second possibility is that Renner is of early medieval Scottish origin, deriving from the Old Gaelic "rannaire", literally "the divider". In Old Gaelic sagas, the "rennairi" carved or distributed portions of food to individual guests. The exact analysis of the word is "rannaim", "I divide" (now "roinn"), plus the agent suffix "-aire". Finally, Renner may be a variant form of "Rayner", itself coming from the Old French personal name "Rainer, Re(i)ner", ultimately from the Old German "Raginhari", a compound of the elements "ragin", counsel, and "hari", army. One Elwynus Renner was noted in the "Register of Dunfermline", Scotland, in 1153, and in 1319 a Richard Renner was recorded in the Subsidy Rolls of Essex. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Aluuinus Rennere, which was dated circa 1134, in the "Episcopal Register of Glasgow", during the reign of King David 1 of Scotland, 1124 - 1153.

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Source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Renner>

Two possible crests were found for Renner



## Seely

This interesting name is of early medieval English origin, and is primarily a nickname surname from the use of the Olde English pre 7th Century word "saelig", a derivative of "sael", meaning happiness, good fortune, used as a term to describe someone with a cheerful, happy disposition. The Middle English development was to "seely", meaning happy, fortunate, which became a surname as early as the 13th Century (see below). Occasionally, the word was used as a female personal name during the Middle Ages, recorded as "Sela" in 1219, and as "Sely" in 1221, and this may have been the source for some bearers of the modern surname, which has at least seventeen variant forms, ranging from, Seal(l)y, Seel(e)y and Sill(e)y, to Ceel(e)y and Zeal(e)y. The sense of "pitiable", which developed into the modern English





"silly", is a later 15th Century usage. On October 3rd 1566, Isaak, son of Nicholas Seeley, was christened at Holy Trinity in the Minories, London, and William Seely, aged 29 yrs., was an early settler in the New World Colonies, leaving London on the "Alexander", bound for the Barbadoes in May 1635. A notable namebearer was Sir John Robert Seeley (1834 - 1895), who was chief classical assistant at the City of London School in 1859, and was professor of modern history at Cambridge from 1869 - 1895. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Richard Seli, which was dated circa 1200, in the "Gilbertine Charters of London", during the reign of King John, known as "Lackland", 1199 - 1216.

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Source: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Seely>