

Genealogical and Historical Sketch



ROOTS RESEARCH BUREAU, LTD.

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

THE NAME AND FAMILY
OF
LAKE

Manuscript Number: 1513

Copyright 1984 Roots Research Bureau, Ltd.
All Rights Reserved

THE NAME AND FAMILY OF LAKE

The name of LAKE is of topographical origin and was probably given to or adopted by its first bearer because of his residence near or at a lake. This theory is more fully borne out by the fact that the name was first used with the addition of the prefixes de and le, meaning "of the". In ancient records the name appears in the various spellings of Lak, Lacke, Leak, Leake, Laic, Lac, Lack, Like, and Lake, of which the form last mentioned is that most generally found today.

Some of the ancient spellings of the name might seem to suggest a French origin of the family. but, while it is possible that some of the name may have gone into England with William the Conqueror at the time of the Norman invasion in 1066, many writers assert that the family was resident in England long prior to that time and give it a Saxon origin. It is, of course, possible that the French

Lake

spelling of the name was merely due to the influence exerted by the Norman conqueror during the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

Families of the name of Lake were resident at early dates in the Counties of Southampton, Lincoln, York, Middlesex, Bucks, Hertford, Stratford, Devon, Hamps, and Kent, of which the York County line is believed to be the parent stock. All of these branches had many distinguished members and the families were, for the most part, of the landed gentry and nobility of the British Isles.

The Southampton line of the family was represented in the middle of the sixteenth century by Almeric Lake, who was the father of, among others, two sons named Arthur and Thomas. Arthur became Bishop of bath and Wells and died in 1626. His brother, Sir Thomas, was knighted in 1603 and was Secretary of State to King James the first Sir Thomas died in 1630, having had issue by his wife, Mary, daughter of Sir William Ryder, of seven children, one of whom, Lancelot, was the progenitor of the renowned English General, Sir Gerard Lake.

Lake

About the end of the sixteenth century, Richard Lake, of the Lincolnshire line of the family, had issue of his eldest son Sir Edward Lake. This line was directly descended from the Yorkshire branch. Richard of Lincolnshire was also the father of two younger sons, Thomas and John, who emigrated to America at an early date, and of several other children.

Thomas Lake, next younger brother of Sir Edward Lake, came to New England about 1641 and settled first at New Haven, Conn., and later removed to Boston. He married Mary Goodyear, daughter of the deputy governor of Connecticut, and had issue by her of Stephen (died in early manhood), Thomas, Mary (died in infancy), Mary, Edward (died young), Edward, Ann, John, Nathaniel, Rebecca, and Sarah, of whom the daughter Ann married, first, the Reverend John Cotton and, second, the Reverend Increase Mather.

Thomas, son of the immigrant Thomas, returned to England, where he inherited the estate of his uncle Sir Edward Lake. He married Elizabeth Story, by whom he had a son named Biby and several other children.

Lake

John, younger brother of the immigrant Thomas, made his home at Boston, Mass., and was the father there by his wife, Mary Coy, of Caleb, and possibly other. He is known to have had a second wife named Lucy but it is thought probably that there were no children by this marriage.

Another John Lake was at Gravesend sometime prior to the year 1645. By his wife, Anne Spicer, he was the father of at least six children, John, Daniel, Margaret, Elizabeth, Micheal, and William.

John, eldest son of John of Gravesend, married Neltje Claessen. Their children were Jan, Daniel, Thomas, Nicholas, and Mary.

Daniel, second son of John of Gravesend, was married in 1683 to Alice (Stillwell) Holmes, a widow, and it is thought possible that she was his second wife. His children were Daniel, John, Abraham, Elizabeth, Thomas, and Ann.

William youngest son of John of Gravesend, removed to Cape May, N.J., he was the father by his wife Sarah of Nathan, Daniel, and several other children;

Two brothers, Henry and Thomas Lake, made their homes at Salem and Dorchester. The second of these brothers is

Lake

known to have had a wife named Alice but is thought to have had no children. Henry, the elder of the brothers, had a large family but the names of his children other than that of the eldest, Thomas, are not certain.

Still another Thomas Lake emigrated to America at an early date and settled at Stratford, Conn., about 1695. By his wife Sarah he had issue of John, Charity, David, Joseph, Sarah, Thomas, James, and Edward, of whom the first is believed to have died young.

David, son of the immigrant Thomas of Stratford, married Abigail Booth and had issue of David, Benjamin, Joseph, Ebenezer, Abigail, Hannah, and Andrew.

Joseph, son of Thomas of Stratford, was married to Deborah Jackson in 1732 and had issue by her of Mary, Phebe, Eunice, Phineas, Anna, Joseph, Naomi, and several others who died young.

Thomas, son of Thomas of Stratford, was married in 1727 to Elizabeth Walter. Their children were Lucy, Jabez, Elnathan, and Phebe.

Lake

James, son of Thomas of Stratford, removed to Milford, in the same colony. He had at least one son, James Jr., and probably other children as well.

Edward, youngest son of Thomas of Stratford, married Anne Leavenworth and was the father by her of Abiah, David, Ruth, Mathew, Edward, Gershom, Ann, and Sarah.

Others of the name who emigrated to America at early dates but left few records of themselves were Mrs. Margaret Lake of New London in 1646, who died at Ipswich in 1672, leaving two daughters, Hannah and Martha; James of Massachusetts in 1647; William of Salem in 1665, who was possibly the son of Henry of the same place and who had a wife named Ann; John of Boston in 1691; and Lancelot of Boston in 1694, who married the Widow Catherine Child in 1708 and died a few years later.

The history of the Lakes in America is that of an enterprising and progressive race. Ambitious and strongwilled, and possessed of keen mental ability and initiative, they have won prominence in the political, industrial, and professional life of the nation.

Lake

Among those of the name who fought in the War of the Revolution were Captain Ephraim Lake, of New York; Joshua, Abraham, and Collins Lake, of New York; Captain Henry Lake, of Maryland; George, John, Nicholas, Samuel, Thomas, and William Lake, of Pennsylvania; Andrew, Benjamin, Daniel, Garret, George, Isaac, John, Joseph, Nathan, Spencer, Thomas, and William Lake, of New Jersey; William Lake, of Virginia; Benjamin, Eleazer, Eleazer Jr., Eli, Elisha, Elnathan, James, Jeremiah, Joseph, Joshua, Josiah, Laban, Thomas, and William Lake, of Massachusetts; Daniel, David, Nathan, Phineas, Reuben, Roger, Timothy, and William Lake, of Connecticut; and many more from the various other States of that period.

Thomas, John, Henry, Edward, Daniel, William, James, David, and Joseph are some of the christian names most favored by the family for its male progeny.

A few of the members of the family who have attained distinction in America in comparatively recent times are:

William Lake (1787-1805), of New York,
author.

Lake

William A. Lake (1808-1861), of Maryland and Mississippi, lawyer, State Senator, and Congressman.

Edward Ralph Lake (b. 1860), of Washington, D.C., government official and author.

Edmund Francis Lake (b. 1863), of New York scientist and author.

Everett John Lake (b. 1871), of Connecticut, merchant and statesman.

Kirsopp Lake (b. 1872), of Massachusetts, theologian, editor, and author.

Charles Henry Lake (b. 1879), of New York, scientist and author.

George Burt Lake (b. 1880), of Illinois, psychiatrist and medical editor and writer.

Gleason Chandler Lake (b. 1883), of Washington, D.C. surgeon, physician, and author.

Silva (Tipple) Lake (b. 1898), of Massachusetts, editor.

John Lake (b. 1870), of South Carolina, missionary.

Simon Lake (b. 1866), of New Jersey and Connecticut, naval architect and mechanical engineer.

Probably the oldest of the several coats of arms which have been granted at various times to the Lakes is that

Lake

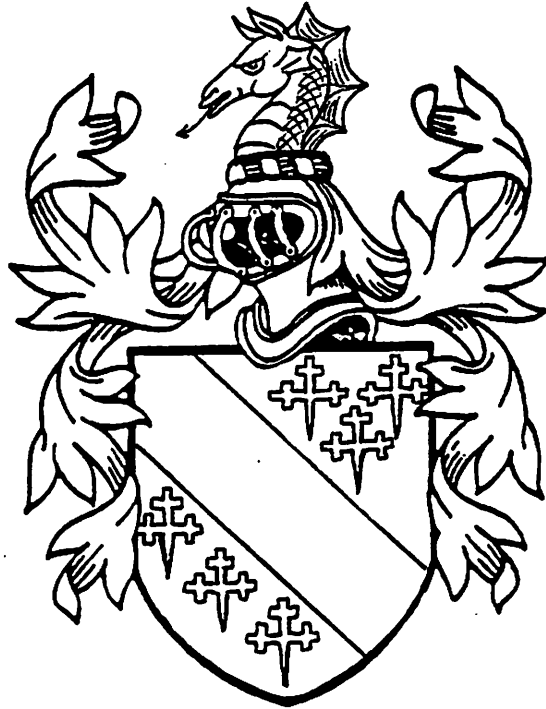
described in heraldic terms as follows (A. Adams and S.A. Risley, Lake Family Genealogy; and Burke, Encyclopaedia of Heraldry, 1844):

Arms.--"Sable, a bend between six crosses-crosslet fitchy argent."

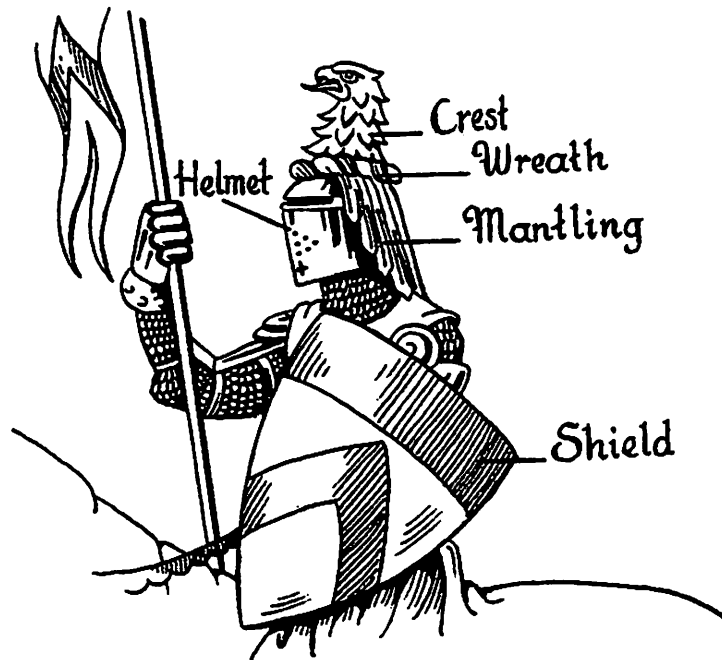
Crest.--"A sea-horse's head argent."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Burke. Encyclopaedia of Heraldry. 1844.
Burke. Landed Gentry. 1925.
Savage. Genealogical Dictionary of New England. 1860.
Lake. Descendants of Thomas Lake. 1908.
A. Adams and S. A. Risley. A genealogy of the Lake Family. 1912 and 1915.
Heitman. Officers of the Continental Army. 1914.
New York in the Revolution. 1887.
Supplement. 1901.
Pennsylvania Muster Rolls. 1907.
New Jersey in the Revolutionary War. 1872.
Virginia Revolutionary Soldiers. Supplement. 1913.
Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. 1902.
Connecticut Men in the Revolution. 1889.
Herringshaw. American Biography. Vol. 3. 1914.



Lake



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.

Bardsley. Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames. 1901.

Encyclopedia Americana.

Ewen. History of Surnames of the British Isles. 1931.

Harrison. Surnames of the United Kingdom. 1912-1918.

Lower. Dictionary of Family Names. 1860.

Weekley. Surnames. 1927.

Woulfe. Irish Names and Surnames. 1923.