

Where does our information come from?

This question is very often asked, and you may be asking the very same question.

First, the names listed in our Names Book – either fully researched or as a variant spelling of the name, have been added gradually over the past 25 years by customers worldwide requesting their names be researched (and paid for by those customers) by Historical Research Center International located in Florida USA. A research history can still be ordered if it doesn't appear in the Names Book now.

Second, the information which appears on the history, is correlated by qualified historians of varying language abilities (someone who reads Italian will research Italian names etc) and is gathered from an impressive library of books, some of which are quite rare. This research facility housed in the Historical Research Centre office is the most extensive of its kind in the world with books, replica documents, manuscripts and other informative research data.

SOME OF THE BOOKS USED BY OUR RESEARCHERS –

Surnames of Scotland by Black

Surnames of Ireland by McLysaght

Surnames of England by Wales and Bardsley

Dictionary of Surnames by Hanks and Hodges

Herbarz Polski by Stupnicki

Dizionario Storico Blasonico by Di Cronllanza

General Armoury of England,

Scotland, Ireland & Wales by Burke

Armorial General by Rietstap

Rollands Companion to Reitstaps

Dictionary of Mottoes by Pine

Etymologisches Worterbuch der Deutschen Famillennaamen

And so the list continues.....

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European Civic Coats of Arms – Jiri Louda 1966	Sveriges Ridderskapoch Adels Kalander – 1980
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Domesday Entries

Key to *Domesday* Entries

The photograph on page 15 is from *Domesday Book*; the script is remarkably clear, but the abbreviated Latin and the many Roman numerals make it almost impossible to read without special instruction. An entry, part of Robert de Watteville's holdings in Surrey, is shown here, with the same entry from Phillimore's edition. We have added the *Domesday* version of the place name, *Meldone*, and highlighted terms and phrases which need explanation.

Most of the phrases re-occur in the entries, although it must be remembered that *Domesday* is not consistent; the counties varied quite considerably in their use of technical terms and extra information. In addition, there is not always a consensus between historians as to the exact meaning of eleventh century words; a hide, for example, is assumed to be an arbitrary amount of land, something like 120 modern acres. But, it was not a physically-measured amount; as far as we know, it was not surveyed or paced out, but was used simply to evaluate land for tax purposes. It may also have been an estimate of the amount of land a man needed to feed his family for a year; this would mean that a

hide in a part of the country with poor and unproductive land would actually be much larger than a hide in the richer southern counties. Eventually this difference in productivity would have been handled by varying the tax value rather than the estimate of land area.

Then there are the differences in descriptive terms of class divisions. Villagers or villeins? Cottagers or slaves? We have made some arbitrary distinctions in our glossary and in these

sample entries, but again, there are many disagreements among scholars, and without a dictionary from William's scribe, we will probably never know the exact truth.

Our second annotated diagram does not describe a real place, it was devised to include additional phrases. There are precise definitions in the glossary as well, but we hope these examples will make it easy to assimilate phrases used in the main text of the book.

*Robo de Watteville ten de Ricardo MELDONE. Val. v. sol. s^g.
 Erding tenute de rege. E. te se desit p. viii. hid. modo p. iiii.
 pra. e. v. cap. In dno. e. una cap. 7 xiii. uilli 7 ii. bord. cu. iiii.
 cap. lbi capella 7 iii. serui. 7 un mobn de xii. sol. 7 iii. ac
 pra. De herbagio: un pore de vii. pore.
 De his hid ten un mulf. i. hid 7 una v. 7 lbi he. i. cap. 7 i. uillm
 7 un bord 7 i. acm pra. 100 l. h. e. ualb. vii. lib. 7 post. c. sol.
 modo. vi. lib. 7 xii. solid.*

