



PEEL CASTLE

THE MOST
DISTINGUISHED
SURNAME
ROLLO

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ANCIENT HISTORY

The Scottish name Rollo is derived from the ancient Viking culture originating in Norway which gained a foothold in the sea-swept Orkneys and Shetlands in the ninth century.

Later, these aggressive Viking settlers acquired territories on the mainland as far south as Inverness but not without many battles with the Scottish king and his clans.

In researching the origin of this Viking name the historians probed such documents as the Viking Sagas, the Orkneyinga Sagas, the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, the Inquisitio and translations of local manuscripts, parish records, baptismals, and tax records, found in the north at Dingwall, and in the Orkneys and Shetlands. The first record of the name Rollo was found in Perthshire (Gaelic: Siorrachd Pheairt) former county in the present day Council Area of Perth and Kinross, located in central Scotland. Rollo (c. 846-c. 932), baptised Robert, was a Viking who became the first ruler of Normandy, a region of France.

SPELLING VARIATIONS

During the early and middle development phase of the name, many different spellings were found in the archives researched. Although the name, Rollo, occurred in many references, from time to time the surname was spelt Rollo and Rollock, and these changes in spelling frequently occurred, even between father and son. It was not uncommon for a person to be born with one spelling, married with another, and yet another to appear on his headstone. Church officials frequently spelt the name as it sounded.





The surname Rollo is believed to be descended originally from the Viking Norse, now considered to be a founding race of Scotland. Their territories included the Orkneys, Shetlands and parts of the mainland, sometimes including counties as far south as Caithness. Integration with the Scots was difficult. For instance, the great feud between the Gunns, of Viking descent, and the McKays in the north west, of Dalriadan descent, was maintained as much by ethnic differences as anything else. The Norse arrived in the Orkneys soon after the year 888 when King Harold of Norway routed the northern Clans in his Norwegian Kingdom, and they abandoned their homeland in Norway forever. They settled in the Scottish northern Isles. The settlement was allowed by the Scottish King and the Kings of Man and the defaulted payment of 20,000 shillings was to cause much bloodshed in later years.

Records of the many voyages can be found in the chronicles called the Ynglinga Saga, Islands Landnamabok, Landabla Saga, and the Orkneyinga Saga. They explored Greenland and the North American coastline, Vineland, Newfoundland and Maine, from that time, about 800 A.D. onwards. For centuries, historians have wondered about the exact location of the legendary Vineland. Recently evidence was found in L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, of ancient sod-huts and further investigation has confirmed that this was the ancient location of Vineland. There are also markings on a rock in Westford, Massachusetts, identifying a warrior of the Gunn Clan with his Clan Coat of Arms. Carbon dating has confirmed the carving having been made around 1396, almost a century before Columbus arrived.

Similarly, Northern Scotland was used by Duke Rollo as a springboard to attack the eastern coast line of England. Being repulsed, they moved further south to the French coast line, thereby gaining in the 9th century the territory now known as Normandy, from which a later Duke, William, would conquer England in 1066.

Earl Sigurd was the early chief of the settlement, later to descend to the hereditary Earls of the Orkneys, the Sinclairs. Their early successes found them as far south as Northumbria in England, but King Malcolm Canmore of Scotland gathered the border clans and drove them back northward to Sutherland about the year 1057. Nevertheless,

these northern clans, always classed as highlanders, remained aloof from the central Scottish crown in Edinburgh.

The family name Rollo emerged as a Scottish Clan or family in this northern territory of Perthshire where they were recorded as a family of great antiquity descended from the greatest Rollo of all, Duke Rollo, First Duke of Normandy, the Viking from the Orkneys who subdued Charles the Simple of France. From him was descended William the Conqueror, the first Norman King of England. Junior lines of the Rollo Clan settled in Perthshire and Fifeshire. They were anciently eminent in the city of Dundee and in later years Duncan Rollo was a prominent business man Lawyer of Edinburgh. However they lost their lands in Buteland in Edinburgh. Baron Rollo, the scion of the family was of Duncrub in Perthshire. They also held territories at Powhouse.

EARLY NOTABLES

Notable amongst the Clan from early times was John Rollo, 1st of Duncrub (died 1390); Duncan Rollo, 2nd of Duncrub (died 1419); Andrew Rollo, 3rd of Duncrub (died 1481); Robert Rollo (died 1471), William Rollo, 4th of Duncrub (died 1513); Andrew Rollo, 7th of Duncrub (died 1565); James Rollo, 8th of Duncrub (died 1584); Andrew Rollo, 1st Lord Rollo of Duncrub (1577-1659); and his son, James Rollo, 2nd Lord Rollo of Duncrub (1600-169), and his son, Andrew Rollo (died 1700), 3rd Lord Rollo; and his son, Robert Rollo, 4th Lord Rollo (1679-1758), a Scottish nobleman and Jacobite.





THE GREAT MIGRATION

During the religious conflicts of the 17th century many were banished to the New World. The flow continued, some by way of the Highland Regiments, some voluntarily, as the poverty-stricken braes of the Scottish highlands became unable to support neither man nor beast. Some migrated from Ireland, but most came directly from northern Scotland and the Isles, their home territories. Some also moved to England and the European continent.

SETTLERS

- Donald Rollo, who arrived in New York State in 1820
- Mr. Matthew Rollo, Scottish convict who was convicted in Perth, Scotland for 7 years, transported aboard the "Eden" on 12th March 1842, arriving in Tasmania (Van Diemen's Island)^[1]
- Mr. James Rollo, (b. 1832), aged 25, British labourer travelling from Gravesend aboard the ship "Glentanner" arriving in Lyttelton, Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand on 3rd October 1857^[2]
- Miss Janet Rollo, (b. 1836), aged 21, British farm servant travelling from Gravesend aboard the ship "Glentanner" arriving in Lyttelton, Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand on 3rd October 1857^[2]
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- Miss Margaret Rollo, British settler travelling from London aboard the ship "John Scott" arriving in Auckland, New Zealand on 7th March 1858^[2]
- Mr. Alexander Rollo, British settler travelling from London aboard the ship "John Scott" arriving in Auckland, New Zealand on 7th March 1858^[2]
- Miss Janet Rollo, British settler travelling from London aboard the ship "John Scott" arriving in Auckland, New Zealand on 7th March 1858^[2]

- Mr. James Rollo, British settler travelling from London aboard the ship "John Scott" arriving in Auckland, New Zealand on 7th March 1858^[2]

As well as 0 more in the Appendix.





CURRENT NOTABLES

During the War of Independence some remained loyal to the Crown and moved northward into Canada, becoming known as the United Empire Loyalists.

- William Rollo (1894-1950) Scottish born, African academic from Glasgow; he taught himself Japanese so he could teach the South African pilots during World War II, Vice-Chancellors and Principal of the University of Zimbabwe (1953-1955)
- James Shepherd "Jim" Rollo (1937-2012) Scottish football goalkeeper
- Andrew Rollo (1703-1765) 5th Lord Rollo, a Scottish army commander in Canada and Dominica during the Seven Years' War
- David Rollo (b.1934) Scottish rugby player
- David Rollo (1891-1963) international Northern Irish footballer
- Lieutenant General Sir William Raoul Rollo KCB CBE (b.1978) British Army officer
- Augustus Rollo, American politician, Member of Connecticut State House of Representatives from Hebron, 1837^[3]
- Cynthea Rollo, American Democratic Party politician, Alternate Delegate to Democratic National Convention from Wisconsin, 1996, 2000^[3]
- Sir Robert Rollo Gillespie (1766-1814) Irish major-general, of an old Scottish family which acquired property in Downshire early in the eighteenth century, and was only child of Robert Gillespie of Comber, co. Down
- Rollo C. Witwer, American Democratic Party politician, Postmaster at Akron, Ohio, 1936-40 (acting, 1936)
- Rollo Smolt "Richard" Thorpe (1896-1991) American film director

As well as 5 more in the Appendix.



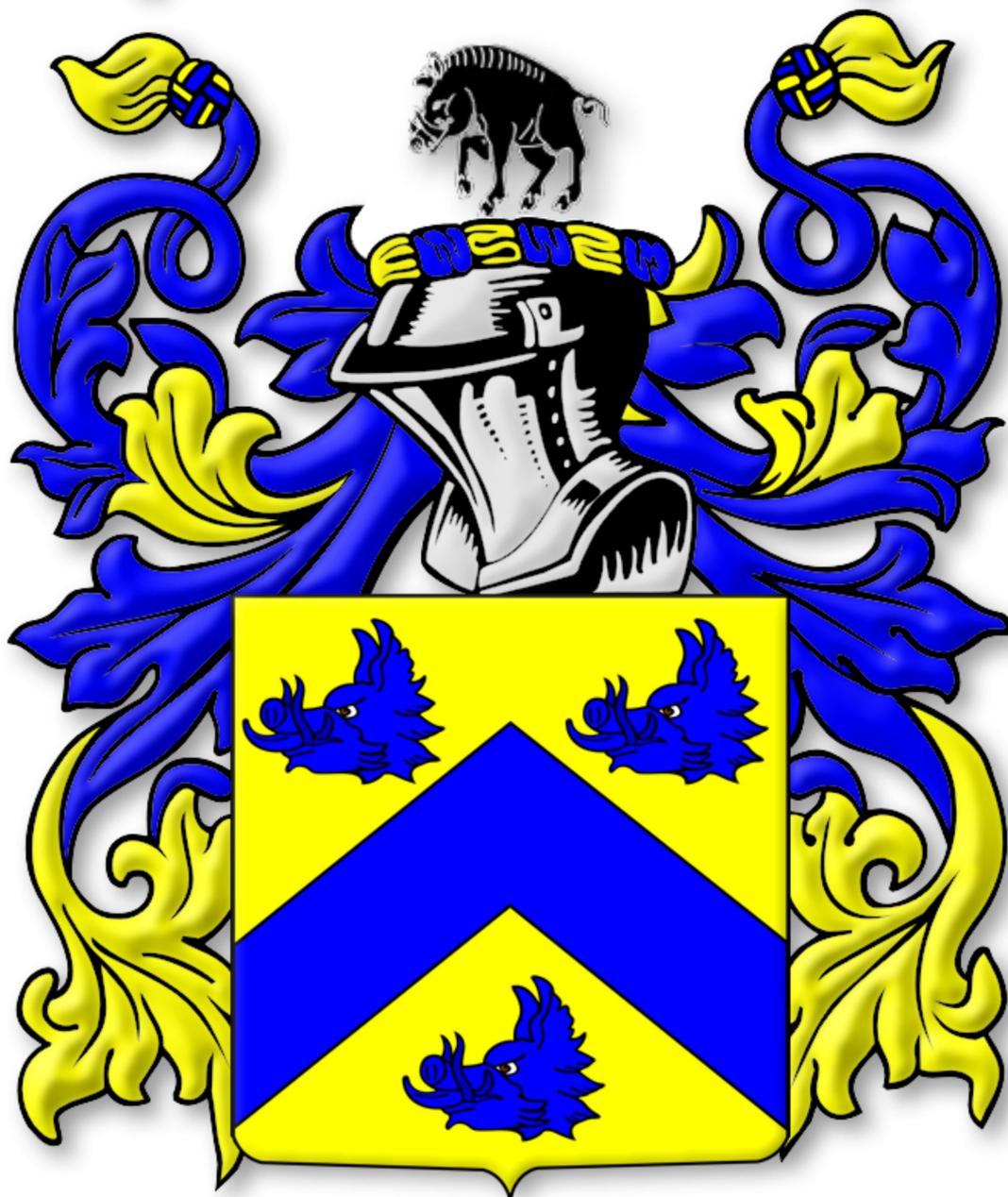
HISTORIC EVENTS

- Mr. Antonio Rollo, American mine worker from Salt Lake, Utah who worked in the Winter Quarters coal mine on 1st May 1900, when 10 of the 25lb kegs of black powder exploded; he died in the explosion^[4]
- David Rollo (1920-1939) British Able Seaman with the Royal Navy aboard the HMS Royal Oak (1939) when she was torpedoed by U-47 and sunk; he died in the sinking^[5]

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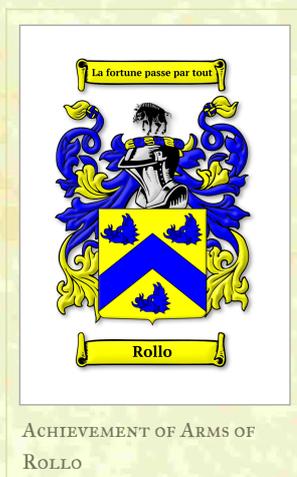
La fortune passe par tout



Rollo

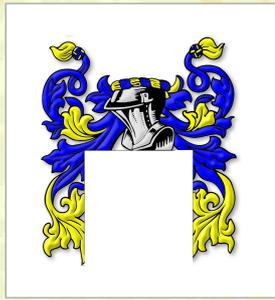


The practice of using symbols to represent people is ancient, and in Scotland it evolved into a complex system of armory. Although greatly influenced by England's example, Scotland's heraldic tradition also developed on its own, and there are many devices that are uniquely, and sometimes, exclusively Scottish.



ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMS OF
ROLLO

An Achievement of Arms such as the Rollo arms depicted on the left typically consists of these parts: the Escrolls, displaying the family motto and name, the family crest (if any) seen above the helmet, the actual Coat of arms (also known as 'arms,' or 'the shield'), the Helmet depicted below the crest, the Torse on top of the helmet, and the Mantle draped from the helmet. Each of these elements will be described below. Supporters were a later addition to the Achievement; they are somewhat rare, and are usually personal to the grantee.



MANTLE OF ROLLO

The mantle was spread over and draped from the helmet and served as a protection, 'to repel the extremities of wet, cold, and heat, and to preserve the armour from rust.' The numerous cuts and slits suggest that it had been torn and hacked on the field of battle. The style or design of the mantling is up to the individual heraldic artist, and it is usually depicted in the main color and metal from the shield. The helmet (or Helm) varied in shape in different ages and countries, often depicting rank. The Esquire's Helm, as depicted here, is generally shown silver, with a closed visor and facing to the dexter (its right). On top of the helmet is a Torse or wreath which was formed by two pieces of silk twisted together. Its purpose was to hold the crest and mantle on the Helm.

MOTTO

The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto.

The motto for the Rollo coat of arms displayed here is:

LA FORTUNE PASSE PAR TOUT

This translates as:

THE VICISSITUDES OF FORTUNE ARE COMMON TO ALL.

SHIELD

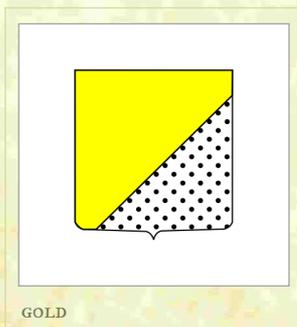
Shields (or Escutcheons) at first were painted simply with one or more bands of color or 'ordinaries'. Later, the ordinaries were used in conjunction with other figures or symbols. The Coat of Arms for the surname Rollo can be described as follows:



THE ROLLO SHIELD

ROLLO ARMS

Gold with a chevron between three blue boars heads.



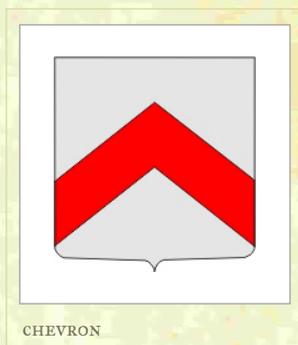
GOLD

GOLD

"Or" (from the French word for gold) is the tincture of Gold, or in heraldic terms "or," was considered the noblest color.

One of only two metals used in heraldry, it exceeds all others in value, purity and finesse. It represents the light of the sun, and was once borne only by princes. Gold is said to gladden the heart and destroy all works of magic. It is also associated with excellence and achievement, and the bearer surpasses all others in valor.

It is represented on coats of arms by the color yellow, and in engravings by a dotted pattern.



CHEVRON

The Chevron occurs frequently in British and French heraldry, while it is comparatively rare in German heraldry. Traditionally the Chevron represents the roof of a house, derived from the French word "chevron" meaning rafter. It signifies protection. ^[6]

There is much disagreement about whether this Ordinary or the "bend" was the first design to appear on coats of arms.

The Chevron was granted to those who had participated in some notable enterprise, had built churches or fortresses, or had accomplished some work requiring faithful service.

Originally heralds drew the Chevron almost reaching the top of the shield, nearly covering shield surface. More recently, the Chevron is drawn lower and with a less acute inner angle to allow more devices to be represented more attractively, and the artist may draw the chevron at the height and angle that will best suit the accompanying charges. The chevronel, is the diminutive of the chevron and is much narrower. Chevronels may be stacked on top of each other or side-by-side at the same height, which is termed interlaced, or braced. A field composed entirely of an even number of chevrons is called "chevronny."

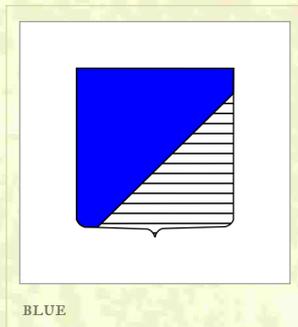
THREE

"Three" devices, beasts or ordinaries of the same have a special significance in heraldry.

First of all, there is the obvious reference to the Trinity in the design that would signify observance of the Christian doctrine.

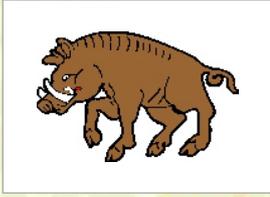
Secondly, with many Arms it brings balance that is steeped in tradition. To better understand this latter scenario, we must look at the evolution of shield in personal armory. Kite shields that were the most popular from the the 10th-14th century evolved into Heater shields that had flat tops c. 1250. This was the time of heraldry's beginnings and when "three" objects were used for balance in each corner of the shield.

Later, with the advent of the "chief," "chevron" and "bend" three devices brought balance to these ordinaries too.



BLUE

Azure (derived from the French word for "blue") represents the color of an eastern sky on a clear day. It also corresponds to the metal tin. The word, "azure" was introduced from the east during the Crusades. It signifies piety and sincerity, and is equated with autumn. In engravings it is represented by horizontal lines.



BOARS HEADS

BOARS HEADS (SANGLIER)

The boar is the symbol of intrepidity. A champion among wild beasts, he encounters enemies with nobility and courage, and has thus come to signify the traits of bravery and perseverance.

The boar "is a fierce combatant when at bay, and ceases fighting only with its life, and therefore may be properly applied as the armorial bearing of a warrior. A white boar was the badge of Richard III." [6]

Accordingly, this animal was used only by those considered fierce warriors. A wild boar is referred to as a sanglier, though there isn't actually any difference from a domestic boar in the way that it is drawn.

A boar may be drawn whole in various different positions or coupé. The head of a boar is sometimes drawn erect, with the snout pointing directly up.

Boar's heads can be borne as erased (apparently torn off with jagged pieces at the neck) , or coupé (cut off cleanly.) "These severed heads really denote the same as the bearing of the whole animal. " [6]

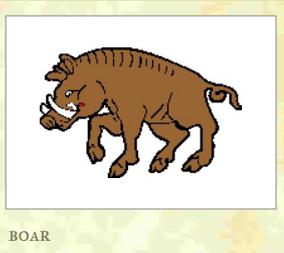
THE CREST

The Crest was worn on top of the helmet, and was usually made of wood, metal, or boiled leather. It provided the double advantage of easy identification and the addition of height to the wearer. The Crest for the surname Rollo is described as follows:



THE ROLLO CREST

A BOAR.



BOAR (SANGLIER)

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APPENDIX - NOTABLE LIST

NOTABLES FOR THE SURNAME ROLLO

- William Rollo (1894-1950) Scottish born, African academic from Glasgow; he taught himself Japanese so he could teach the South African pilots during World War II, Vice-Chancellors and Principal of the University of Zimbabwe (1953-1955)
- James Shepherd "Jim" Rollo (1937-2012) Scottish football goalkeeper
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- Cynthea Rollo, American Democratic Party politician, Alternate Delegate to Democratic National Convention from Wisconsin, 1996, 2000^[3]

SURNAME VARIANTS OF ROLLO

- Cyril Rolo, British Diplomat

NOTABLES WITH THE FIRST AND MIDDLE NAMES ROLLO

- Sir Robert Rollo Gillespie (1766-1814) Irish major-general, of an old Scottish family which acquired property in Downshire early in the eighteenth century, and was only child of Robert Gillespie of Comber, co. Down
- Rollo C. Witwer, American Democratic Party politician, Postmaster at Akron, Ohio, 1936-40 (acting, 1936)
- Rollo Smolt "Richard" Thorpe (1896-1991) American film director
- Rollo Gebhard (b.1921) German multiple single hand maritime circumnavigator and author
- Brigadier-General Rollo Curtin Ditto (1886-1947) American Assistant Chief of Chemical Warfare Service (1943-1946)^[7]
- Rollo H. Bergeson (1911-1993) American politician, Secretary of State of Iowa, 1947-49^[8]
- Rollo H. Mosher, American Republican politician, Delegate to Republican National Convention from Michigan, 1924^[9]



APPENDIX - HISTORIC EVENT LIST

HMS ROYAL OAK

On 14th October 1939 HMS Royal Oak was anchored in the Scapa Flow, Orkney, Scotland; this was considered to be a safe haven and impregnable to submarine attack. German submarine U-47 was able to navigate in through the measures put in place to torpedo the HMS Royal Oak with her 1,234 men aboard sinking the battleship and killing 833 crew. The captain of U-47 became a war hero and celebrity for his action of demonstrating the German Navy could bring war to the home waters. This prompted the British to change dockland security and construct the Churchill Barriers around Scapa Flow.



HMS ROYAL OAK

- David Rollo (1920-1939) British Able Seaman with the Royal Navy aboard the HMS Royal Oak (1939) when she was torpedoed by U-47 and sunk; he died in the sinking^[5]

WINTER QUARTERS COAL MINE

In Scofield, Utah a mining community mostly made up of Welsh, Scottish and Finnish immigrants that had moved to America for a better life, a mining accident would rock the families leaving many widows and young children without their husbands and fathers. On 1st May 1900 more than 300 miners were at work when 10 kegs holding 25lbs of black powder detonated in the number 4 section of the Winter Quarters mine, the explosion ignited coal dust in the section of the mine spreading to a further 20 kegs scattered around. The Ventilation fan blew up forcing the fan in number 1 section to start to pull the afterdamp. Miners in the section realizing what had happened attempted to escape unaware of the poisonous gas being pulled into their section. Two hundred men immediately lost their lives with many being caught unable to be rescued. It is estimated around 246 may have died.



GRAVE DEDICATION

- Mr. Antonio Rollo, American mine worker from Salt Lake, Utah who worked in the Winter Quarters coal mine on 1st May 1900, when 10 of the 25lb kegs of black powder exploded; he died in the explosion ^[4]



APPENDIX - SETTLERS LIST

AMERICAN SETTLERS

- Donald Rollo, who arrived in New York State in 1820

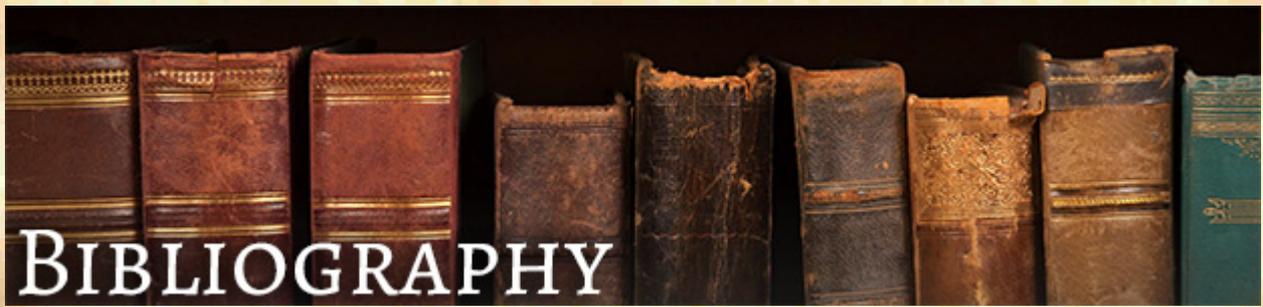
AUSTRALIAN SETTLERS

- Mr. Matthew Rollo, Scottish convict who was convicted in Perth, Scotland for 7 years, transported aboard the "Eden" on 12th March 1842, arriving in Tasmania (Van Diemen's Island) ^[1]

NEW ZEALAND SETTLERS

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Here is a listing of some of the sources consulted when researching British surnames. The resources below directly or indirectly influenced the authors of our surname histories. We have most of these titles in our library, others we have borrowed or had access to. Source materials have been chosen for their reliability and authenticity. Our research into surnames is ongoing, and we are continually adding to our source library. For each surname history, we seek and refer to sources specific to the surname; these are generally not included in the list below.

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MEDIEVAL ROLLS

Where available we consult Medieval Rolls or use their information as reprinted in secondary sources.

Subsidy Rolls: taxation records from the 12th to the 17th centuries.

Assize Rolls: records from court sessions

Pipe Rolls: rolls of the Exchequer of accounts of the royal income, arranged by county, for each financial year. Many 12th and 13th century documents have been published with indexes by the Pipe Roll Society.

Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem: Feudal inquiries, undertaken after the death of a feudal tenant in chief to establish what lands were held and who should succeed to them. Records exist from around 1240-1660.

Roll of Battle Abbey: a list of the principal Norman Knights said to have accompanied William across the English Channel. Original roll was lost.

Curia Regis Rolls (Rotuli Curiae Regis): Rolls and Records of the Court held before the king's Justices. Various translated and published, London 1835),

Feet of Fines: Legal agreements, usually about property ownership

Register of the Freemen of York: list of freemen from 13th-18th century, published by the Surtees Society, Francis Collins (editor) in 1897.

Historia Regum Britanniae ("The History of the Kings of Britain"): a legendary account of British history, accredited to Geoffrey of Monmouth in around 1136.

Hundred Rolls (Rotuli Hundredorum): various royal inquests, documents were held in the tower of London. Much was published in 1818 Ragman Rolls: rolls of deeds on parchment in which the Scottish nobility and gentry subscribed allegiance to Edward I. of England, A. D. 1296.

Charters: documents recording grants, usually of land recorded by the Chancery

Heralds' visitations: 16th-17th century, county by county visits to regulate the use of arms; many published by the Harleian Society.

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