1st 3 generations ours

THE NAME AND FAMILY

OF

REMINGTON

Compiled by

THE MEDIA RESEARCH BUREAU

Washington, D.C.

THE NAME AND FAMILY OF REMINGTON

The surname of REMINGTON is derived from the residence of its first bearers at a place of that name in the West Riding of Yorkshire, England. The actual meaning of the name is "town or estate of the Hremm family", the word hremm being the Anglo-Saxon equivalent of raven. In ancient English and early American records the name is found in the various spellings of Remmington, Rimmington, Rimington, Rymyngton, Remyngton, Riminton, Reminton, Remington, and others. Of the forms mentioned, the last is that most frequently used in America in modern times.

Although originating in Yorkshire, families bearing the name were also to be found in early times in the English County of Lancaster and in the city and vicinity of London. These lines were, for the most part, of the educated and landed classes of the British Isles.

Among the earliest definite records of the name in England are those of Alan de Rymyngton, who was among the Freemen of York in the year 1335; those of Matilda de

Remyngton, of Yorkshire, in 1379; and those of Robertus or Robert de Rymyngton, of Yorkshire, in 1379. These records are not, however, complete.

The Yorkshire line was represented in the early sixteenth century by one Richard Remington, who resided at Raskelfe, in the forest of Galtress, in that county, and was Gentleman of the Horse to Henry Fitz Roy, Duke of Richmond. This Richard was the father of another of that name, who made his home at Garraby, in Yorkshire, and left issue there by his wife, Agnes Little, of three sons, John, George, and Richard. Of these, John, the eldest son and heir, was the father of Sir Robert Remington, of Saxby, who died without issue, and also of a younger son, named John; the second son, George, married Joane, daughter of William Hungate, of Saxton, but died without issue; and Richard Remington, the third son, became Archdeacon of the East Riding of York about the year 1612 and was married before 1592 to Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew Hutton, Archbishop of York. To this union were born ten children, Richard, Timothy, Henry, Robert, John, Mary, Beatrix, Elizabeth, Thomasine, and Ann.

Richard Remington, eldest of the last-mentioned brothers, married Mary, daughter of Sir John Hotham, of Scarborough, before 1610 and had issue by her of Sir Thomas,

Margaret, Elizabeth, Mary, and Timothy. Of these, Sir Thomas resided at Lund, County York, and was married about the year 1630 to Hannah, daughter of Sir William Gee, of Beverley, in Yorkshire. To this union were born thirteen children, Richard, William, John, Thomas, Christopher, Charles, Mary, Hannah, Elizabeth, Margaret, Susanna, Jane, and Martha.

According to some historians, Sir Robert Remington, who became President of Munster, in Ireland, before the beginning of the seventeenth century, was a brother of Richard Remington, Archdeacon of York, mentioned above. The family records of this branch are not, however, available.

Before the year 1551 one Matthew Remyngton was living at Melling, County Lancaster, and in 1599 the will of Reginald Remington, of Melling, was recorded at Richmond. The records of this line are not complete, but sometime before the end of the seventeenth century the family was represented by Henry Remington, who was the father of Reginald Remington, who married Elizabeth Wilson and had issue by her of another Henry Remington, of Melling. This Henry married Isabel Bainbrig or Bainbridge, of County Westmoreland, and was the father by her of at least one son, Reginald Remington, who made his home at Aynsome, in Lancashire, toward the end of the eighteenth century.

The members of the family who settled in early times in America were of English descent. The exact connections between the early emigrants and the before-mentioned lines are not, however, in evidence.

D John Remington (also recorded as Rimmington), the first of the name in America, was living at Newbury, Mass., in 1637 and was made a "freeman" in 1639. He removed to Andover, to Rowley, and, finally, to Roxbury, Mass., where he was buried in 1667. By his wife Elizabeth, he was the father of John, Thomas, Jonathan, Daniel, Hannah, Elizabeth (died in infancy), another Elizabeth, and Mary.

John Remington, son of the immigrant John, removed from Rowley to Haverhill, Mass., as early as 1661. By his wife Abigail, he had at least five children, John, Abigail, Prudence, Daniel, and Hannah.

Thomas Remington, son of the immigrant John, had issue at Rowley by his wife, Mehitable Walker, whom he married in 1658, of Thomas, John, Jonathan, Mary, Sarah, and, possibly, Samuel. This family removed about 1672 to Windsor, Conn., where Thomas and Mehitable had further issue of a son named Joseph; and before 1677 the family was living at Suffield, where another son, named Benjamin, was born.

Of the sons of Thomas and Mehitable, Thomas died in

1683, probably unmarried; while John was first married in 1687 to Margaret Scott, by whom he had issue of a daughter named Sarah. In 1700 he married a second wife, Hannah Hale, who gave him further issue of Thomas, Daniel, Samuel, Stephen, and Hannah.

Jonathan, son of Thomas and Mehitable, was first married in 1701 at Suffield to Sarah Hovey, who died in 1716, leaving four children, Sarah, Jonathan, Elizabeth, and Abigail. By his second wife, the Widow Mary (née McLaughlin) Rising, whom he married in 1723, he had no progeny.

Joseph, son of Thomas and Mehitable, was first married in 1703 to Elizabeth Dudley, of Suffield. This wife died in 1718, after having had six children, Joseph, Dudley, Isaac, Elizabeth, Mary, and another son who died in infancy. Joseph's second wife was the Widow Thankful (née Hitchcock) Bush, of Westfield, Mass., but he had no issue by this union.

Jonathan Remington, son of the immigrant John, settled at Cambridge, Mass. He married Martha Belcher in 1664 and was the father by her of Martha (died young), Jonathan (died young), another Martha, another Jonathan, Samuel (died young), Anna, John (died young), Mary, Elizabeth, and Sarah. The elder Jonathan was a prominent man, serving at various times as selectman, town clerk, and treasurer at Cambridge.

Jonathan, only surviving son of the first of that name, married Lucy, daughter of the Reverend Simon Bradstreet, of New London, Conn., in 1711. To this union were born Lucy, Jonathan, Mary, John, Simon (probably died young), and Ann. The father was graduated from Harvard College in 1696 and later was admitted as an attorney-at-law to the Superior Court of Massachusetts. He also served as Councillor, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Judge of the Probate Court, and Judge of the Superior Court.

As early as 1669 another John Remington settled at Jamestown, whence he removed to Warwick, R.I. He is said also to have resided at an early date at Haverhill, Mass. By his wife Abigail he was the father of John, Joseph, Daniel, Hannah, Stephen, and Thomas. The relationship, if any, between this family and the before-mentioned line is not in evidence.

John, eldest son of John of Rhode Island, resided at Newport and Kingstown, in that colony, and was married in 1679 to Abigail Richmond, by whom he had four daughters, Abigail, Martha, Elizabeth, and Hannah.

Joseph Remington, second son of the first John of Rhode Island, left issue at Jamestown, R.I., of an only son, named John, but the name of his wife is not available; and Daniel,

next younger brother of Joseph, left issue at Jamestown of an only child, named Abigail.

Stephen Remington, fourth son of the first John of Rhode Island, left issue at Jamestown, R.I., by his wife Penelope of eight children, Mary, Sarah, Gershom, Phebe, Stephen, Alice, Hannah, and Penelope.

Thomas Remington, youngest son of the ~~first~~ 2nd John of Rhode Island, married Mary Allen. He resided for a time at Portsmouth and later settled at Warwick, R.I., where he died in 1710. He left ten children, William, Thomas, John, Daniel, Joseph, Stephen, Matthew, Jonathan, Mary, and Prudence. Of these, the son Thomas was married in 1710 to Maplet, daughter of Captain Benjamin Gorton, of Warwick. His children were Maplet, Mary, Stephen, and Thomas.

Yet another early settler in New England was Thomas Remington, of Hingham, Mass., before 1687. He was married about that year to Remember Stowell, by whom he had four children, Jael, Joshua, Mary, and Abigail.

Joshua, the only son of Thomas of Hingham, had issue in that place by his wife Elizabeth of nine children, Joshua (died young), Elizabeth, John, Elisha, Mary, Sarah, Thomas, Olive, and Joshua.

The first of the name in the South included one Remington

(Christian name unknown), who settled in James City County, Va., in 1643; and Silvester Remington, who settled in Westmoreland County, Va., in 1654. Nothing is definitely known concerning the immediate families of these early settlers.

Generally intelligent, the Remingtons have been engaged in many and varied lines of endeavor, chiefly professional. They have shown themselves to be resourceful, quick of perception, and possessed of sympathetic understanding of human nature. Members of the family have occasionally demonstrated considerable literary capacity.

Among those of the family who served with the Colonial forces during the Revolutionary War were Benedict, Lieutenant John, Jonathan, Ruel, Daniel, Thomas, and Stephen Remington, of Rhode Island; Benjamin, Daniel, Sergeant Elisha, Elisha Jr., "Jabin", Jesse, John, Jonathan, Joseph, Jotham, Meshach, Oliver, Peleg, Reuel, Seth, Simeon, Stephen, Thomas, Thomas Jr., and Uriah Remington (also recorded as Remmington, Rimington, etc.), of Massachusetts; Abijah, Elijah, Nathan, Nathaniel, Rufus, Stephen, and Josea Remington, of Connecticut; Josiah Remmington, of Connecticut; Clement and John Remington, of New Jersey; and probably others as well.

Richard, John, Henry, Robert, Stephen, Thomas, Joseph,

Jonathan, Daniel, and William are among the Christian names most frequently used by the family for its male progeny.

A few of the many bearers of the name who have been prominent in America in comparatively recent years are:

Stephen Remington (1803-1869), of New York, missionary and author.

Philo Remington (b. 1816, deceased), of New York, inventor and philanthropist.

Henry Williams Remington (1823-1902), of Ohio and Wisconsin, missionary, lawyer, and legislator.

Joseph Price Remington (b. 1847), of Pennsylvania, educator and author.

Frederic Remington (b. 1861), of New York, artist and author.

Harvey Foote Remington (b. 1863), of New York, lawyer.

Franklin Remington (b. 1865), of New York, contractor.

William Procter Remington (b. 1879), of Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Oregon, bishop.

Harold Remington (latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), of Illinois and New York, lawyer.

An ancient Remington coat of arms is described in heraldic terms as follows (Burke, Encyclopaedia of Heraldry, 1844):

Arms.--"Barry of twelve, argent and azure; over all a bend gules."

Crest.--"A hand erect, holding a broken tilting-spear, all proper."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bardsley. English and Welsh Surnames. 1901.
Harrison. Surnames of the United Kingdom. 1918.
Foster. The Yorkshire Visitations. 1875.
Surtees Society. Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire. 1859.
Burke. Encyclopaedia of Heraldry. 1844.
Burke. Landed Gentry. Vol. 2. 1875.
Savage. Genealogical Dictionary of New England. Vol. 3. 1861.
Essex Institute Historical Collections. Vol. 23. 1886.
Munsell. American Ancestry. Vol. 3. 1888.
Dewey. Thomas Remington, of Suffield, Connecticut. 1909. Supplement. 1910.
Paige. History of Cambridge, Massachusetts. 1877.
Austin. Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island. 1887.
Fuller. Warwick, Rhode Island, History. 1875.
Lincoln. History of Hingham. Vol. 3. 1893.
Greer. Early Virginia Immigrants. 1912.
Heitman. Officers of the Continental Army. 1914.
Cowell. The Spirit of '76 in Rhode Island. 1850.
Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. 1905.
Connecticut Men in the Revolution. 1889.
New Jersey in the Revolutionary War. 1872.
Herringshaw. American Biography. Vol. 4. 1914.
Who's Who in America. 1936-1937.

WHY YOU HAVE A FAMILY NAME AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, although the date of their first use is lost in the darkness of ages preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter, first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and in 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 a time scarcely earlier than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or Christian 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 categories: (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, Simon the son of Jonas, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In ancient Greece daughters were named after their fathers, as Chryseis, the daughter of Chryses; and sons' names were usually an enlarged form of the father's, as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civiliza-

tion, met the need for hereditary designations by inventing a complex system whereby every patrician traced his descent by taking 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 appellations began to be felt. Among the first employed were such terms as "the Strong", "the Hardy", "the Stern", "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 designations, 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. Perhaps the oldest known surname in England is that of Hwita Hatte, a keeper of bees, whose daughter was Tate Hatte. 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 or Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some Office, as Cooke or Butler." And as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century a similar decree compelled Jews in Germany and Austria to add a German surname to the single names which they had previously used.

As stated above, family names may be divided into four general classes according to their origin. One of the largest of these classes is that comprising surnames derived from the given name of the father. Such names were formed by means of an added prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or a diminutive. English names terminating in son, ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the innumerable names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac, the Norman Fitz, the Welsh ap, and the Irish O'. Thus John's sons became Johnsons; William's sons, Williamsons or Wilsons; Richard's sons, Richardsons or Richardses (the final "s" of "Richards" being a contraction of "son"); Neill's sons, MacNeills; Herbert's sons, FitzHerberts; Thomas's sons, ap Thomases (ap has been dropped from many names of which it was formerly a part); and Reilly's sons, O'Reillys.

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. From among the many names of this type, only a few need be mentioned: 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 popular 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 mainly 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"), employed in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William atte Bourne. A vestige of this usage survives in the names Atwell, 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: for instance, Winthrop means "from the friendly village"; Endicott, "an end cottage"; Bradford, "at the broad ford"; and Standish, "a

stony park". The suffixes "ford", "ham", "ley", and "ton", denoting locality, are of frequent occurrence in such names as Ashford, Bingham, Burley, and Norton.

While England enjoyed a period of comparative peace under 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, Fawcett (judge), Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter, Marshall, Sumner (summoner), and Parker (park-keeper). Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were of somewhat later origin. 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.

Many surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms which have become disguised almost beyond recognition. Longfellow, for instance, was originally Longueville, Longshanks was Longchamps, Troublefield was Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, and Snooks was Sevenoaks. 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 America a greater variety of family names exists than anywhere else in the world. Surnames of every race and nation are represented. While the greater number are of English, Scotch, Irish, or Welsh origin, brought to this country by scions of families which had borne these names for generations prior to emigration, many others, from central and southern Europe and from the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice, present considerable difficulty to the student of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who possess old and honored names--who trace the history of their surnames back to sturdy immigrant

ancestors, or even beyond, across the seas, and into the dim 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 original meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a word, a convenient label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as a 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 that family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, it 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, borne through every event of a man's life and through the lives of scores of his progenitors, became the badge of family honor—the "good name" to be proud of, to protect, and to fight for if need be. As the worthy deeds of the marching generations have given it dignity and splendor, it has become an institution, a family rallying cry, and the most treasured possession of those who bear it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson. Genealogy and Surnames. 1865.
Bardsley. English Surnames. 1875.
Bardsley. Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames. 1901.
Baring-Gould. Family Names. 1910.
Encyclopedia Americana. 1932.
Finlayson. Surnames and Sirenames. 1863.
Grussi. Chats on Christian Names. 1925.
Harrison. Surnames of the United Kingdom. 1912-1918.
Lower. Dictionary of Family Names. 1860.
McKenna. Surnames and Their Origin. 1913.
Moore. Surnames and Place-Names. 1890.
Weekley. Surnames. 1927.
Woulfe. Irish Names and Surnames. 1923.

REMINGTON Family

Donated by
Dorothy Cutts