

The History and Development of English Surnames

by David Flint

History

Jutes, Angles and Saxons invaded Britain in 5th and 6th centuries.

Norman Conquest 1066 by William, Duke of Normandy.

Development of hereditary surnames in England complete by about 1450.

Middle Ages (500-1500)

Middle English (1100-1500)

Names

Examples of Anglo-Saxon names:

1. (a) Cuthbeorht – Leofwine – Ethelnoth; (b) Penda – Offa
2. Cerdic – Creoda – Ceawlin – Ceolwulf
3. (a) Aelle – Beda – Penda – Ine; (b) Cyneric – Oswald – Sigebeorht

Examples of Norman names from Domesday Book:

- Aubrey de Vere
- Geoffrey de Mandeville
- Hugh de Montfort
- Roger de Busli
- William de Falaise
- Hugh de Beauchamp (Beecham)

Categories of Surnames

- local place-names
- relationships
- occupation or office
- nicknames

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