



DUNNOTTAR CASTLE

THE MOST  
DISTINGUISHED  
SURNAME  
DURANDIS

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Though shrouded by the mists of time, the chronicles of Scotland reveal the early records of the Norman surname Durandis which ranks as one of the oldest. The history of the name is interwoven within the colorful plaid of Scottish history and is an intrinsic part of the heritage of Scotland.

### ANCIENT HISTORY

The surname Durandis is an old Scottish surname of Norman origin. Its history is, nevertheless, deeply rooted in the history of the land these ancient invaders made their home.

Analysts have examined ancient manuscripts such as the Domesday Book (compiled in 1086 by William the Conqueror), the Ragman Rolls, the Honour Roll of the Battle Abbey, the Curia Regis Rolls, the Pipe Rolls, the Falaise Roll, the Black Book, the Inquisitios, tax records, baptismals, family genealogies, and local parish and church records. Our research indicates that the surname Durandis was first found in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Salop, where they held a family seat from very early times and were granted lands by Duke William of Normandy, their liege Lord, for their distinguished assistance at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 A.D.

## SPELLING VARIATIONS

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Different spellings were found in the archives researched, typically linked to a common root that may have been the surname of one of the Norman nobles at the Battle of Hastings. Although your name, Durandis, occurred in many references, variations included Durand, Durant, Durande and Durrane, and these changes in spelling could occur often, even between father and son. Scribes recorded and spelled the name as it sounded and it was not impossible for a person to be born with one spelling, married with another, and buried with yet another on his or her headstone. Sometimes a particular spelling distinguished a certain branch of the family. At other times, spellings were adopted for religious or political reasons.







The Normans were descended from the Vikings that raided Northern France in the late 9th and early 10th centuries. The French King, Charles the Simple, achieved peace in 911 by creating the Duchy of Normandy, named after the Norsemen, and granting it to Rollo, their chief, who ruled as a vassal of the French King. However, rather than transforming that portion of France into another Scandinavia, the Viking settlers adopted the culture of the natives and merged with them. Rollo himself, married Charles's daughter and converted to Christianity. So though they had Viking roots, it was French speaking, Christian people that invaded England, and not Norsemen.

The impact that the Normans had was so extensive that the Battle of Hastings has become a mark in time, dividing British History into the two halves of before and after the Normans came. Duke William's English throne was threatened on many fronts after the conquest, so the society that he established was necessarily a military one in order to prevent the Anglo-Saxon population from rebelling, and at the same time, to keep the country united under his leadership and strong against outside threats of invasion. The Norman castles that were built then and afterwards, are testaments of the feudal society that was introduced to England at this time to achieve this. Duke William also granted his Norman followers much of the land that he had won to maintain their allegiance and to firmly establish Norman control throughout England.

It is difficult to assess whether or not England benefitted from the political and social restructuring that it underwent due to the Normans, and many opinions exist about it. Whatever the case, though, it is undisputed that the Normans were successful in their invasion and over time they became integrated into the fabric of the British Isles. Through intermarriage they eventually ceased to be a distinct race. In this era, according to available research materials, the Durandis surname could be found in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Salop, where they held manors and estates. They were originally from Durand in Normandy, and settled in the above counties where they were granted lands by King

William. By the year 1140 they had moved north with the Earl of Huntingdon (later to become King David of Scotland) and acquired the lands of Clerkington in East Lothian in Scotland by a grant from King David. Andrew and Michael Durand succeeded the original settler, and Walter Durand rendered homage to King Edward I of England on his brief conquest of Scotland in 1296. They also acquired territories in Dumfriesshire. Malcolm Durand held a stall in the Church at Lochmaben.

## EARLY NOTABLES

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Notable among the family at this time was Malcolm Durand of Lochmaben; Sir John Durand; and George Durant (1632-1692), English-born, American Attorney General and Speaker of the House of Burgesses in the Province of Carolina, often called the "Father of North Carolina."



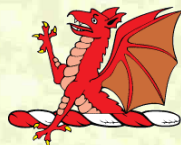




As the New World beckoned, many Scots answered the call: some went from Ireland but most went directly from Scotland to the colonies.

## SETTLERS

There are 176 settlers with similar origins in the Appendix.





## CURRENT NOTABLES

From the ports of entry into North America, many people joined wagon trains to the prairies or over the Rockies to the west coast. During the War of Independence, many loyalists made their way north to Canada and became known as the United Empire Loyalists.

There are 50 notables with similar origins in the Appendix.







# HISTORIC EVENTS

There are 4 historic event entries in the Appendix.



The Ancient Arms of



Durandis

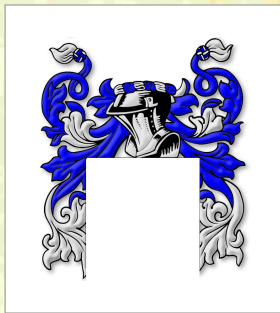




The practice of using symbols to represent people is ancient, and in Scotland it evolved into a complex system of armory. Although greatly influenced by England's example, Scotland's heraldic tradition also developed on its own, and there are many devices that are uniquely, and sometimes, exclusively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



An Achievement of Arms such as the Durandis 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 DURANDIS

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

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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 coat of arms displayed here for the surname Durandis did not include a motto.

## SHIELD

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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 Durandis can be described as follows:

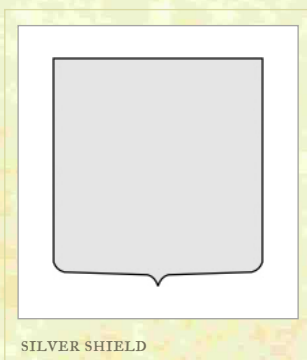




THE DURANDIS SHIELD

## DURANDIS ARMS

A silver shield with a blue chevron between three black hunting-horns.



SILVER SHIELD

## SILVER SHIELD

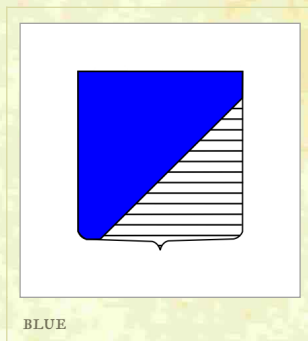
Silver, known by the French term "argent," is one of the two metals used in heraldry. It is usually represented on a shield by the colors gray or white. This metal represents nobility, peace and serenity. It is associated with the qualities of purity and chastity, because the metal withstands the test of fire.

**Symbolic Virtues:** It guards innocence and gives celestial happiness. It denotes virginity in maidens and chastity in widows. It also lends justice to judges and represents the virtues of Humility, Innocence, and Happiness. Celestially, the color represents the moon.

**Precious Stone:** Pearl

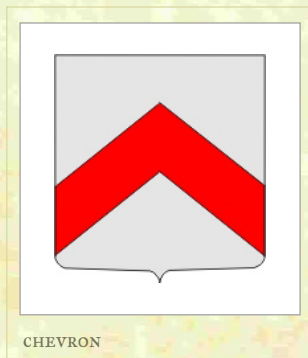
**Planet:** Moon

**Obligations:** Help maidens and orphans.



## 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.



## 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. <sup>[1]</sup>

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."



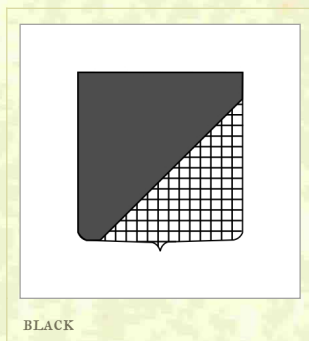
## THREE

"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.



## BLACK

Sable (Archaic or literary English for black) or black, the coldest of the colors, corresponds to lead. Black, or "sable," is symbolic of sadness. It also corresponds with winter and is a humble color, suitable for the deeply religious. It denotes the qualities of knowledge, piety, serenity and work. Engravers represent it with numerous horizontal and vertical lines crossing each other.



HUNTING-HORNS

## HUNTING-HORNS

The Hunting Horn, or Bugle was adopted as a symbol of the chase. It was the sign of a hunter and it generally indicated a man fond of high pursuits.

"The word[bugle] is derived from the Latin buculus, the diminutive of bos, an ox." [2]

The chase was considered the most noble of employments next to war. Musical instruments are heraldic symbols that, in general, signify festivity and rejoicing.

"The families of Forster, Forester, Hunter besides many others, bear hunting horns. It should be in keeping with the ancient symbolic spirit to suppose that this bearing means " Follow me, the hunt has begun!" [1]

## 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. If a family had no crest, and many chose not to, plumes (feathers) were often displayed instead.







## APPENDIX - NOTABLE LIST

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF DURANDIS

- William James Durant (1885-1981) American author who shared the 1968 Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction with his wife Ariel and later was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Ford in 1977
- William Crapo "Billy" Durant (1861-1947) American leading pioneer of the United States automobile industry, founder of General Motors and Chevrolet
- Ariel Durant (1898-1981) American author who shared the 1968 Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction with her husband Will and later was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Ford in 1977
- Omara Durand Elías (b.1991) Cuban visually impaired sprinter, four-time gold medalist at the 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2024 Paralympics
- Samuel Thornton Durrance Ph.D. (1943-2023) American scientist who flew aboard two NASA Space Shuttle missions as a payload specialist
- Sir Henry Thomas Estridge Durrant (1807-1861) 3rd Baronet of Scottow, Norfolk, English peer
- Sir Thomas Durrant (1775-1829) 2nd Baronet of Scottow, Norfolk, English peer
- Sir Thomas Durrant (1722-1790) 1st Baronet of Scottow, Norfolk, High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1784, English peer
- Kenneth W. Durant (1919-1942) United States Navy sailor killed in action on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, 3 November 1942, eponym of the USS Durant (DE-389)
- Marguerite Durand (1864-1936) French stage actress, journalist, and a leading suffragette who founded her own newspaper and ran for election, eponym of the Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand
- Ciro Durán (1937-2022) Colombian screenwriter and film director
- Robert "Bob" Bondurant (1933-2021) American racecar driver who raced for the Shelby American, Ferrari, and Eagle teams, founder of the Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Driving which has been responsible for training generations of American racing drivers
- Mr. John Dorand, British sheriff, held the joint position of Sheriff of Nottingham, England from 1514 to 1515
- Carlo Durante (1946-2020) Italian gold, silver and bronze medalist Paralympic athlete who mainly competed in category T11 marathon events
- Stuart O. Bondurant (1929-2018) American professor and dean emeritus at the UNC School of Medicine in Chapel Hill, North Carolina

- Erica Durance (b.1978) Canadian actress from Calgary, Alberta, best known for portraying Lois Lane on the series Smallville as Dr. Alex Reid on the medical drama series Saving Hope
- Sir William Alexander Estridge Durrant (b.1929) 8th Baronet of Scottow, Norfolk, English peer
- Sir William Henry Estridge Durrant (1901-1994) 7th Baronet of Scottow, Norfolk, English peer
- Sir William Henry Estridge Durrant (1872-1953) 6th Baronet of Scottow, Norfolk, English peer
- Sir William Robert Estridge Durrant (1840-1912) 5th Baronet of Scottow, Norfolk, English peer







## APPENDIX - HISTORIC EVENT LIST

### EMPRESS OF IRELAND

RMS Empress of Ireland departing from Quebec City, Quebec, Canada bound for Liverpool, England, United Kingdom was struck by the Norwegian SS Storstad due to fog on May 29, 1914. The ocean liner received severe damage and began to flood, she was carrying a total of 1057 passengers and 420 crew, of which 1012 people died.



EMPRESS OF IRELAND

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF DURANDIS

- Mrs. Frances Durrant (1884-1914) née King Canadian Third Class Passenger from Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada who was traveling aboard the Empress of Ireland and died in the sinking<sup>[3]</sup>
- Mr. James Durrant (1890-1914) Canadian Third Class Passenger from Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada who was traveling aboard the Empress of Ireland and died in the sinking<sup>[3]</sup>

## HMS DORSETSHIRE

During World War II, HMS Dorsetshire was assigned to Force A of the Eastern Fleet. She was dispatched to escort a convoy of ships for repairs when she was spotted by a Japanese air craft from the Japanese Cruiser Tone. Once spotted, dive bombers attacked the HMS Dorsetshire from three different Aircraft Carriers finally sinking her on the 5th April 1942 along with her sister ship.



HMS DORSETSHIRE

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF DURANDIS

- Bryan Cecil Durant, British Lieutenant Commander Navigation aboard the HMS Dorsetshire (1945) when she was struck by air bombers and sunk; he survived the sinking<sup>[4]</sup>



## USS INDIANAPOLIS

The USS Indianapolis was on a top-secret mission delivering uranium to the Tinian Naval Base as well as other parts required for the atomic bomb "Little Boy", which would eventually be dropped on Hiroshima. Upon completion of her duty she was to return the crew to Leyte for training, on the 30th July she was struck by torpedoes from the Japanese submarine I-58. There was 1,195 crewmen aboard the ship when she was struck, of that number 300 went down with the ship, the remaining crew were stranded in the water, as their mission was so top-secret no one knew they were in the area. The stranded survivors faced exposure and dehydration for 4 days prior to being spotted, but many also died from these as well as saltwater poisoning and shark attacks. As there had not been enough life boats or life jackets those 4 days were bleak. Once they were spotted and rescue attempts started only 316 crewmen were saved, of those 2 died after from their injuries.



INDIANAPOLIS OFF MARE ISLAND ON 10 JULY 1945

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF DURANDIS

- Ralph Joseph Durand Jr., American crew member on board the ship "USS Indianapolis" when she was on a top secret trip for the first nuclear weapon, she was sunk by Japanese Navy on 30th July 1945, he was one of the many who were killed in the sinking due to exposure, dehydration, saltwater poisoning and shark attacks<sup>[5]</sup>



## AMERICAN SETTLERS

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF DURANDIS

- Diego Durán, who settled in America in 1510
- Rodrigo Durán, who arrived in Cartagena in 1534
- Juan Durán, who arrived in Mexico in 1563
- Juan Duran, who arrived in Peru in 1565
- Diego Durán, who settled in Mexico and wrote a "History of the Indies of New Spain" based on Mexican legends. He died in Mexico in 1588
- William Durand who settled in Virginia in 1635
- William Durand, who landed in Virginia in 1635<sup>[6]</sup>
- Richard Durrant, who arrived in Virginia in 1635<sup>[6]</sup>
- Elizabeth Durand, who landed in Maryland in 1648-1649<sup>[6]</sup>
- William Durand, who landed in Maryland in 1648<sup>[6]</sup>
- William Durant, who arrived in Maryland in 1648<sup>[6]</sup>
- Jo Durant, who arrived in Virginia in 1650<sup>[6]</sup>
- John Duran, who arrived in Virginia in 1654<sup>[6]</sup>
- Tho Durant, who landed in Virginia in 1654<sup>[6]</sup>
- John Durand, who landed in New England in 1657<sup>[6]</sup>
- George Durant, who arrived in North Carolina in 1661<sup>[6]</sup>
- Geo Duram, who landed in Virginia in 1664<sup>[6]</sup>
- An Durant, who arrived in Virginia in 1665<sup>[6]</sup>
- Thomas Dante, who arrived in Maryland in 1669<sup>[6]</sup>
- Thomas Dant, who immigrated to Maryland in 1674

## CANADIAN SETTLERS

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF DURANDIS

- Jean Durant, aged 21, who landed in Canada in 1657
- Mr. Jean Durant, French labourer travelling to Canada to work for Antoine Grignon, Pierre Gaigneur, and Jacques Massé, arriving on 3rd March 1657<sup>[7]</sup>
- Mr. William Durie U.E. who settled in Saint John, New Brunswick c. 1784<sup>[8]</sup>
- Samuel Durrant, who landed in Canada in 1832



## AUSTRALIAN SETTLERS

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF DURANDIS

- Mr. Edward Durant, English convict who was convicted in Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England for life, transported aboard the "Dromedary" on 11th September 1819, arriving in Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land)<sup>[9]</sup>
- Miss Maria Durrant, English convict who was convicted in Sussex, England for 14 years, transported aboard the "Fanny" on 14th July 1832, arriving in New South Wales, Australia<sup>[10]</sup>
- Mr. Thomas Durrant, English convict who was convicted in St Albans, Hertfordshire, England for 7 years, transported aboard the "Eden" on 27th August 1836, arriving in Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land), he died in 1843<sup>[11]</sup>
- James Durrant, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Isabella Watson" in 1846<sup>[12]</sup>
- Susannah Durant, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "David Malcolm" in 1847<sup>[13]</sup>

## NEW ZEALAND SETTLERS

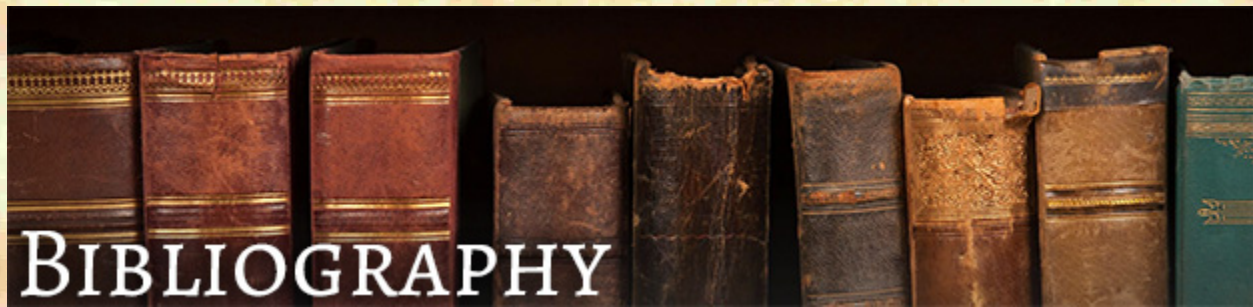
### SURNAME VARIANTS OF DURANDIS

- Peter Doreen, who landed in Wellington, New Zealand in 1840 aboard the ship Bengal Merchant<sup>[14]</sup>
- Peter jun Doreen, who landed in Wellington, New Zealand in 1840 aboard the ship Bengal Merchant<sup>[14]</sup>
- Thomas Doreen, who landed in Wellington, New Zealand in 1840 aboard the ship Bengal Merchant<sup>[14]</sup>
- William Durrant, aged 25, a labourer, who arrived in Port Nicholson aboard the ship "Gertrude" in 1841<sup>[15]</sup>
- Mr. Elisha Durrant, British settler, as the 2nd Detachment of New Zealand Corps of Royal New Zealand Fencibles travelling from Gravesend aboard the ship "Minerva" arriving in Auckland, New Zealand on 8th October 1847<sup>[16]</sup>
- Edward Durand, who arrived in Canterbury aboard the ship "Hastings" in 1856
- Mary Durand, who arrived in Canterbury aboard the ship "Hastings" in 1856
- Sarah Ann Durand, who arrived in Canterbury aboard the ship "Hastings" in 1856
- Mr. John Durran, British settler travelling from London aboard the ship "Palmyra" arriving in Dunedin, Otago, South Island, New Zealand on 19th February 1858<sup>[17]</sup>
- Mrs. Durran, British settler travelling from London aboard the ship "Palmyra" arriving in Dunedin, Otago, South Island, New Zealand on 19th February 1858<sup>[17]</sup>
- F. Durrant, who arrived in Nelson, New Zealand aboard the ship "Golconda" in 1859
- Miss Durrance, British settler travelling from Plymouth aboard the ship "Roman Emperor" arriving in Lyttlelton, Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand on 30th March 1863<sup>[17]</sup>

- Mrs. Elizabeth Durant, (b. 1833), aged 32, Cornish settler departing on 17th April 1865 aboard the ship "Indian Empire" arriving in Lyttelton, Canterbury, New Zealand on 23rd July 1865 <sup>[18]</sup>
- Miss Elizabeth Durant, (b. 1864), aged 7 months, Cornish settler departing on 17th April 1865 aboard the ship "Indian Empire" arriving in Lyttelton, Canterbury, New Zealand on 23rd July 1865 <sup>[18]</sup>
- Miss Margaret Durant, (b. 1863), aged 2, Cornish settler departing on 17th April 1865 aboard the ship "Indian Empire" arriving in Lyttelton, Canterbury, New Zealand on 23rd July 1865 <sup>[18]</sup>
- Mr. Thomas Durant, (b. 1834), aged 31, Cornish blacksmith departing on 17th April 1865 aboard the ship "Indian Empire" arriving in Lyttelton, Canterbury, New Zealand on 23rd July 1865 <sup>[18]</sup>
- Mr. Thomas Durant, (b. 1861), aged 4, Cornish settler departing on 17th April 1865 aboard the ship "Indian Empire" arriving in Lyttelton, Canterbury, New Zealand on 23rd July 1865 <sup>[18]</sup>
- Miss Elizabeth Durant, (b. 1864), aged 7 months, British settler travelling from Gravesend aboard the ship "Indian Empire" arriving in Lyttelton, Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand on 23rd July 1865 <sup>[16]</sup>
- Mrs. Elizabeth Durant, (b. 1833), aged 32, British settler travelling from Gravesend aboard the ship "Indian Empire" arriving in Lyttelton, Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand on 23rd July 1865 <sup>[16]</sup>
- Mr. Thomas Durant, (b. 1834), aged 31, British blacksmith travelling from Gravesend aboard the ship "Indian Empire" arriving in Lyttelton, Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand on 23rd July 1865 <sup>[16]</sup>







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.

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

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.

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

Feet of Fines: Legal agreements, usually about property ownership

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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