

Coat of Arms



Downes

Historiography

The Downes Coat of Arms illustrated left was drawn by an heraldic artist from information officially recorded in ancient heraldic archives. Documentation for the Downes Coat of Arms design can be found in Burke's General Armory. Heraldic artists of old developed their own unique language to describe an individual Coat of Arms. In their language, the Arms (shield) is as follows:

"Sa. a stag lodged ar. a bordure or, semee of quatrefoils sa."

When translated the Arms description is:

"Black, a silver stag laying down with a gold border with black clovers."

Family mottos are believed to have originated as battle cries in medieval times. A Motto was not recorded with the Downes Coat of Arms.

Individual surnames originated for the purpose of more specific identification. The four primary sources for second names were: occupation, location, father's name and personal characteristics. The surname Downes appears to be locational in origin, and is believed to be associated with the English, meaning, "one who came from, or lived near the hill or pasture." The supplementary sheet included with this report is designed to give you more information to further your understanding of the origin of names. Different spellings of the same original surname are a common occurrence. Dictionaries of surnames indicate probable spelling variations. The most prominent variations of Downes are Down, Downe, Downer, Downere and Downeres.

Census records available disclose the fact there are approximately 1250 heads of households in the United States with the old and distinguished Downes name. The United States Census Bureau estimates there are approximately 3.2 persons per household in America today which yields an approximate total of 4000 people in the United States carrying the Downes name. Although the figure seems relatively low, it does not signify the many important contributions that individuals bearing the Downes name have made to history.

No genealogical representation is intended or implied by this report and it does not represent individual lineage or your family tree.

