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Moore (surname)

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This article is about the surname. For people who share this surname, see List of people with surname Moore. For other uses, see Moore (disambiguation).

Moore /mʊər/ is a popular English-language surname. It is the 34th most common surname in Australia, 32nd most common in England,[1] and was the 16th most common surname in the United States in 2000.[2]

It can have several meanings and derivations, as it appeared as a surname long before written language had developed in most of the population, resulting in a variety of spellings.

Variations of the name can appear as *Moore*, *More* or *Moor*; as well as the Scottish Gaelic originations *Muir*, *Mure* and *Mor/Mór*; the Manx Gaelic origination *Moar*; the Irish originations *O'More* and *Ó Mórdha*; and the later Irish variants *O'Moore* and *de Mora*.

The similarly pronounced surname Mohr is of Germanic lineage and is not related to the Gaelic/English variations.

Moore

Origin	
Word/name	Anglo+Celtic
Meaning	"stately and noble"
Region of origin	Ireland, Great Britain

Frequency Comparisons:[1]

Ó Mórda.

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Meanings and origins [edit]

- From Middle English *mor* meaning "open land" or "bog" and given to persons dwelling near a moor or heath.
- The Old Irish Moores are *O'Mordha*, from the Irish Gaelic word *mordha*, meaning "stately and noble". The Anglo-Norman Moores (established in Ireland's province of Munster soon after the Anglo/Norman invasion) are called *de Mora* in Irish, a phonetic rendering of the English name which is derived from the word "moor", or "heathy mountain".
- Alternatively of Gaelic/Manx origin *Moar*, the name for a collector of manorial rents on the Isle of Man.
- The spelling Moore was sometimes used to indicate a son of someone called *More* - this being one use where spelling is significant.
- Possibly derived from *Maurus*,[citation needed] a Roman first name which meant "dark skinned" in Latin, and related to the Old French *More* meaning "Moor" like Berber, a colloquial nickname for a person of dark complexion, often describing someone of North African descent.
- Possibly originated from early references to persons who worked with boats at a wharf or Moorage.
- The De La Mare surname from French Normandy was progressively anglicized in England as "de la Mare" (Walter de la Mare), "De La More", "More", and "Moore" after its bearers accompanied and assisted William the Conqueror in his conquest of England, eventually settling in Benenden, Kent County for several centuries, before many moved to America, including Reverend John Moore of Newtown, Long Island. The De La Mare's of Normandy trace their heritage to Vikings and the coastal city of Møre og Romsdal in Norway. The Møre surname is a place name derived from the Old Norse "Moerr", and the Norwegian word "Marr", meaning ocean, sea, or coastal district. Rollo, the famous Viking and founder of the Dukes of Normandy, which includes the present day British Royal Family, may have been a member of this family, if his father - as some historians have it - was Rognvald Eysteinsson, Earl of Møre, Norway.

Frequency [edit]

In the United States, "Moore" ranked 9th among all surnames in the 1990 census, accounting for 0.3% of the population.[3]

See also [edit]

- Clan Muir
- List of the most common surnames in Europe

References [edit]

1. ^ a b "Moore Surname Meaning". forebears.co.uk. Retrieved 20 January 2014.
2. ^ "Frequently Occurring Surnames from the Census 2000". United States Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. 15 September 2014. Retrieved 2 November 2015.
3. ^ United States Census Bureau (9 May 1995). s:1990 Census Name Files dist.all.last (1-100). Retrieved on 2008-07-04.

Categories: English-language surnames | Surnames of English origin | Surnames of Irish origin | Irish families

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