

Gascoigne - Coat of Arms

Origins Available: English, French

Where did the English Gascoigne family come from? What is the English coat of arms/family crest? When did the Gascoigne family first arrive in the United States? Where did the various branches of the family go? What is the history of the family name?

Anglo-Norman names are characterized by a multitude of spelling variations. When the Normans became the ruling people of England in the 11th century, they introduced a new language into a society where the main languages of Old and later Middle English had no definite spelling rules. These languages were more often spoken than written, so they blended freely with one another. Contributing to this mixing of tongues was the fact that medieval scribes spelled words according to sound, ensuring that a person's name would appear differently in nearly every document in which it was recorded. The name has been spelled Gascoigne, Gascoyne, Gascoine, Gascoin, Gaskoyne and others.

First found in Yorkshire where they were seated 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.

For many English families, the political and religious disarray that plagued their homeland made the frontiers of the New World an attractive prospect.

Thousands migrated, aboard cramped disease-ridden ships. They arrived sick, poor, and hungry, but were welcomed in many cases with far greater opportunity than at home in England. Many of these hardy settlers went on to make important contributions to the emerging nations in which they landed. Among early immigrants bearing the name Gascoigne or a variant listed above were: Thomas Gaskoyne who settled in Virginia in 1619 before the "Mayflower"; Saville Gascoyne settled in Virginia in 1635; Stephen Gascoyne settled with his wife and servants in the Barbados in 1680.

Some noteworthy people of the name Gascoigne

| Rosalie Gascoigne (1917-1999), Australian sculptor

| Paul Gascoigne, English soccer player

| William Gascoigne (d. 1644), English astronomer, and maker of scientific instruments, who invented the micrometer

| General Sir Julian Gascoigne,

| General Sir Frederick Gascoigne,

| Sir William Julius Gascoigne Gascoigne, British Army officer, General Officer Commanding the Forces Canada from 1895 to 1898

| Marc Gascoigne (b. 1962), British author and editor