

Our ancient family name, comes from Saxon root of their ancient Folk speech, which, like the Hebrew, has a meaning and history frequently of greater significance than those of Latin Europe.

Spelman in his Glossary of Anglo Saxon—the highest authority on the subject—derives it from “DUGGE”: a woman’s breast. This is verified and confirmed by the very ancient, original Patent of the Family Arms; and to the same effect is Gwillim’s Display of Heraldry.

Our name has always remained without change, which is so frequent in other Sur-names.

In the recent edition of Milton’s Poetical Works, by Prof. David Masson; and in the Editor’s note to the Sonnet on the University Carrier, will be found an effort upon inferior authority to give the etymology of our name, when used as a verb by Milton.

If Richardson and Wedgwood, whom he quotes, had studied Spelman and our ancient Patent of Arms, it is safe to say, that neither they nor Masson would have resorted to conjecture or secondary application, for the original meaning of a simple and original Saxon word.

As the Patent is of itself an historic curiosity, and the armorial Bearing depicts the meaning of the name, according to its Saxon origin; besides reciting the achievements and locality of the Patentee, and Founder of the Family in England, I may be allowed, on this occasion, to re-produce the original Patent, as certified from the Herald’s College, London.

The original Patent is in Norman French, of which I give a literal translation from the parchment copy in my possession, with rich emblazonment of the Arms: certified as “Extracted from the Records of the College of Arms, London. Thos. Wm. King, York Herald, 30 March, 1850.”

FIRST PATENT.

“To all Men loving Nobleness, Virtue and Chivalry: and to all Ladies, and maidens of honor, of honest deportment and *gentillesse*, and to each of them:

“I, James Hedingley, called Guyen King of Arms: Greeting in Peace and good Speed. Above all, that which appertains to the honorable office of a Herald is first; to record the good fame and renown of all honest and virtuous persons. So, likewise it is suitable and fit, to Give and set in order to such persons, Ensigns and Arms of honor; so, that their noble and valiant deeds of arms, may be preserved in perpetual remembrance.