

Family Name History

Littlehales



The English surname Littlehales is toponymic in origin, belonging to that group of surnames derived from the place where the original bearer once dwelt or where he once held land. In this case the surname can be traced back to the Old English "lytel halh" meaning "small nook" or "small corner plot of land". The original bearer would therefore have been "one who dwelt at the small nook" or perhaps "one who farmed the small corner of land". The ultimate letter "s" indicates the genitive case, thus the surname more correctly means "son of the dweller at the small nook". Reaney suggests a derivation from "lytel heall" meaning "one who resided at the little hall", but this is not generally accepted today. As with many unusual toponyms the surname Littlehales is not documented until comparatively recently. In the Sixteenth Century we note in the registers of St. Dionis Backchurch a reference to one Thomas Lyttellhayle, son of George Lyttelhayle, who was baptised in the year 1557, while in the same sources in the following year we find an entry concerning the marriage of one George Lybilhayle. In 1618 in London one Joane Littleale was married, while in 1679 one Hannah Littlehayles was married, her licence being granted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Finally in 1778 one Martha Littlehales was married at the Church of St. George in Hanover Square. The arms below were awarded to the Baronet Littlehales of Ashcombe, Sussex, on his being raised to the House of Lords in 1802.

BLAZON OF ARMS: Argent, on a bend cotised sable, three cinquefoils or. On a chief gules, as many arrows erect, points downwards, proper.

CREST: Between a vol or, an arm in armour embowed proper, garnished or, the hand gauntletted and grasping an arrow entwined with an olive branch proper.

ORIGIN: ENGLAND.

