



BODIAM CASTLE

# THE MOST DISTINGUISHED SURNAME HEDGES

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## ORIGINS

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The beginnings of the name Hedges are in the ancient Anglo-Saxon culture. It comes from when they lived near a hedge or enclosure. This name belongs to the class of topographic surnames, which were given to people who resided near physical features such as hills, streams, churches, or types of trees. The surname Hedges was originally derived from the Old English hecg, which meant hedge.

## ANCIENT HISTORY

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During the twilight of the Roman domination of the British Isles, fierce Saxon and Angle tribesmen marauded and migrated to the island as it was being deserted by the Roman legions. Descended from these tribesmen were the ancestors of the bearers of the Hedges family name. The culture of these Anglo-Saxons shaped England extensively.

During the Dark Ages men of the church were the keepers of the written word; surveys were compiled for the purpose of the king's taxes, births, deaths and marriages were recorded and land purchases were registered. Among these records are the Domesday Book, compiled in 1086, the Curia Regis Rolls, drawn up in the 11th century and many other documents. Evidence from these documents suggests that the name Hedges was first found in Kent where John de la Hegge was first listed in the Hundredorum Rolls of 1273. The same rolls lists Walter de la Hegge in London. <sup>[1]</sup>

## SPELLING VARIATIONS

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Revealed in these documents are the various ways in which the Hedges surname was spelled. This surname appeared as Hedge, Hedges, Heggess and Heggessand these changes in spelling could even appear between father and son. It was not unheard of for the same individual to be referred to with their surname spelled differently multiple times. Even literate individuals such as Shakespeare spelled their own name in many different ways. This famous playwright's name can be found recorded as Shakespere, Shakspere and even Shaxspere. There are many different reasons for the variety of spellings a name many have, one of which is that early English lacked spelling rules. Words were recorded as they sounded until spelling rules were formalized. For every different accent in England there could be a different way to spell a word. A line from Geoffrey Chaucer's "Miller's Tale," written in the 14th century in Middle English, provides us with a sample of older spellings of common words. "Whan that the Knight hadde thus his tale ytold, In al the route nas ther yong ne old, That he ne saide it was a noble storye," can be understood to say "When the Knight had thus told his tale, In all the route there was neither young nor old, That did not say it was a noble story." Modern grammarians would shudder at such free-form spelling.



## EARLY HISTORY

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The Hedges family, which has descended from the Anglo-Saxon tribes, has a history that is intertwined with that of the Anglo-Saxons themselves. In the 5th century first the Saxons, and then the Angles, migrated to England and pushed the Britons into what is now Wales. They established the kingdoms of Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, Kent, Essex, Sussex and East Anglia. These rival kingdoms were united under Egbert, king of Wessex. Surviving periodic Viking invasions, the Anglo-Saxon culture continued to develop. In 994 a successful Danish invasion eventually led to the expulsion of the Anglo-Saxon king, Ethelred. Ethelred fled to Normandy, where his family remained until 1042. Up to this time a Danish dynasty of kings ruled, then Edward the Confessor, son of Ethelred, came to the throne. Upon the death of Edward in 1066, Harold Godwin was elected king, however, this choice was disputed by Duke William of Normandy. William led yet another invasion of England and its success brought the reign of the Norman kings. Despite the ever changing leadership the country remained predominantly Anglo-Saxon.

The first years of Norman rule were marked by rebellion and oppression. William sought to achieve political stability by increasing the central authority of the king. But not all reforms were tyrannical in nature; for instance, learning was greatly encouraged during William's reign. After the reigns of William and his sons, the disputes over succession ended when the Plantagenet dynasty was founded.

The Hedges family emerged at this time in Kent where they were recorded as a family of great antiquity seated at Hegge with manor and estates in that shire. In 1273 John Hedge was Lord of the manor of Hegge in that county. By 1296 they were granted lands in Essex by King Edward I and within ten years they had branched north to Yorkshire. They later acquired branches at Romney, Alderton in Wiltshire, and Finchley in Middlesex.

## EARLY NOTABLES

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Distinguished members of the family at this time included Robert Hegge (1599-1629) was an English academic and antiquary from Durham; and Sir Charles Hedges (1649-1714), of Compton Bassett, Wiltshire, an English lawyer and politician, judge in Admiralty Court, one of Queen Anne's Secretaries of State.

## LIFE IN IRELAND

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Throughout the Middle Ages the Hedges family and the English nation managed to endure despite plague, famine and the harsh realities of life at this time. Under the Tudors there existed problems of succession, strife between Catholics and Protestants, and the fear of foreign invasion. The Stuarts came to power at a time when the power of the middle class was increasing and as a result Parliament had a greater influence on the country. The reign of James I saw the resurgence of religious conflict and escalating tensions between the King and Parliament. In time the Stuarts were ousted from power by Parliament. The political and social climate of England was such that families voluntarily or involuntarily left for Ireland or the colonies.

In Ireland, Protestant settlers and followers of Cromwell were granted land that had been confiscated from the Catholic Irish. Other families moved to Ireland to work in the industries that were developing. In Ireland this distinguished followed the tide of English settlers and settled in Cork where they became known as the Earls of Bantry. Sir William Hedges (1632-1701), Irish-born merchant from Coole in County Cork, the first governor of the East India Company in Bengal claims descendency from the Wiltshire branch of the family.

## THE GREAT MIGRATION

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Turmoil at home led many families to risk the hazardous journey across the oceans to the newly discovered lands in North America. But the New World was no paradise for the earliest English settlers. Early attempts to establish a colony, such as at Roanoke Island, North Carolina met with disaster. In 1591 supply ships found the colony deserted with the fate of the settlers to remain a mystery forever.

## SETTLERS

- Robert Hedges, who arrived in Jamestown, Va in 1624<sup>[2]</sup>
- Francis Hedges, aged 13, who landed in Bermuda in 1635<sup>[2]</sup>
- Grace, Joseph, Robert, and Sarah Hedges, who settled in Virginia between 1623 and 1654
- Walter Hedges, who landed in Virginia in 1664<sup>[2]</sup>
- Thomas Hedges, who arrived in Maryland in 1666<sup>[2]</sup>
- Samuel Hedges, who landed in New Jersey in 1675<sup>[2]</sup>
- Richard Hedges, who landed in Virginia in 1699<sup>[2]</sup>
- William Hedges, who arrived in Virginia in 1711<sup>[2]</sup>
- James Hedges, who arrived in New York, NY in 1836<sup>[2]</sup>
- Alfred Hedges, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Phoebe" in 1846<sup>[3]</sup>

- Jeremiah Hedges, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Phoebe" in 1846<sup>[3]</sup>

As well as 45 more in the Appendix.

## CURRENT NOTABLES

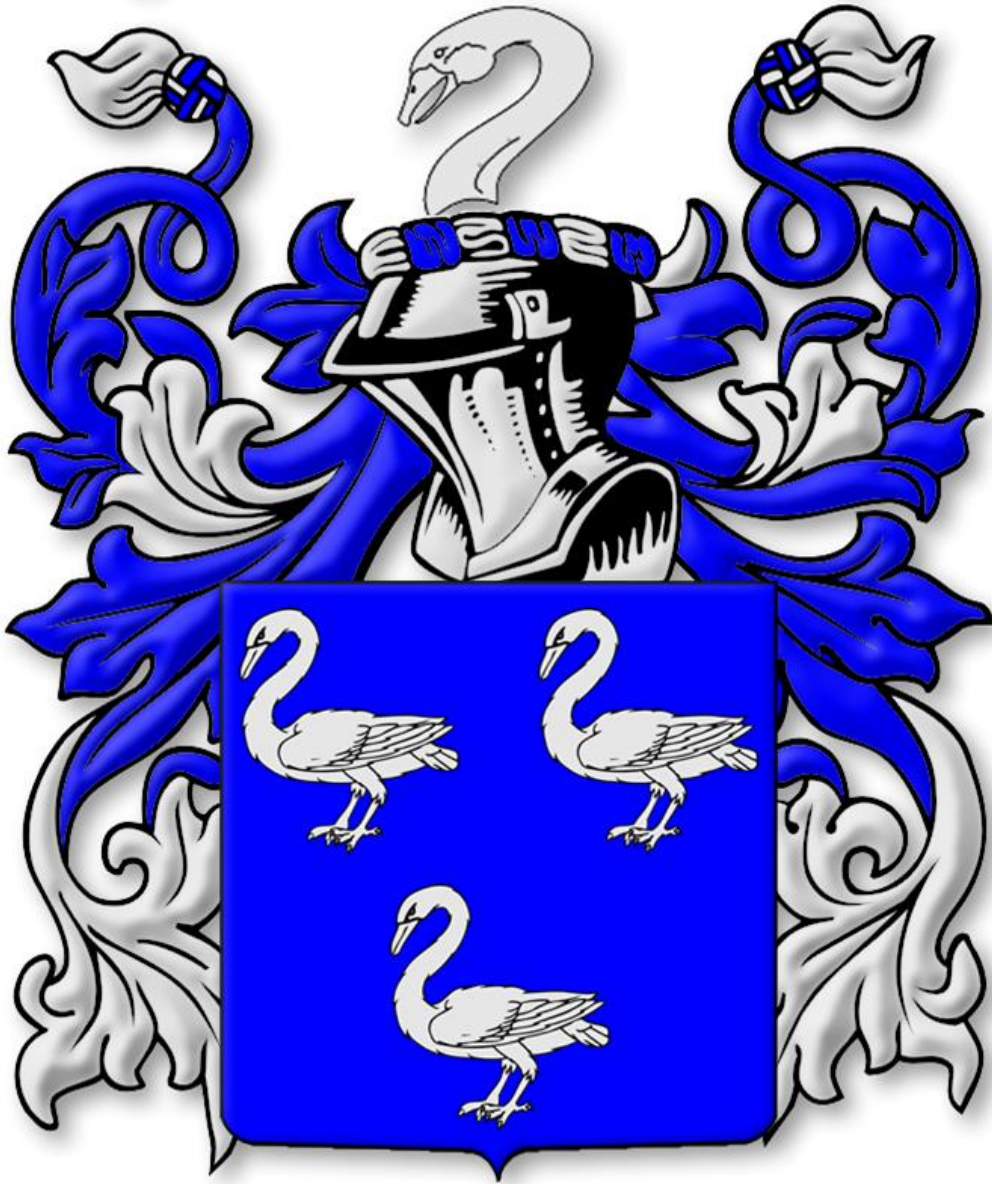
The open spaces and untamed frontiers of the west attracted many immigrants in search of adventure and property. There was a large migration of English settlers in the years surrounding the American Revolution, as families loyal to the British crown made their way north to the Nova Scotia, the St. Lawrence and Niagara regions of Canada.

- Chuck Hedges, American Jazz Clarinetist who performs in jazz clubs and festivals world wide
- Robert Ernest Mortimer Hedges, British archaeologist
- Robert Hedges, British administrator of the English East India Company, President of Bengal (1713 to 1718)
- Sir William Hedges (1632-1701) British merchant and the first governor of the East India Company in Bengal
- William Hedges (1856-1935) English-born, Australian politician
- Robert Hedges (1869-1932) American baseball executive, owner of the St. Louis Browns (1902 to 1915)
- F. A. Mitchell- Hedges (1882-1959) British explorer and writer
- Frederick William Hedges VC (1896-1954) British recipient of the Victoria Cross
- Sidney George Hedges (1897-1974) British author
- Frederick Hedges (1903-1989) Canadian bronze medalist rower who competed at the 1928 Summer Olympics
- Benjamin Hedges (1907-1969) American Olympic silver medalist who competed at the 1928 Summer Olympics

As well as 14 more in the Appendix.



The Ancient Arms of



Hedges

# SYMBOLISM

## INTRODUCTION

The practice of representing people with symbols is ancient, and in England this habit evolved with feudal society into a system of distinctive devices on shields. The heralds developed an extensive armory that had the important function of distinguishing members of the upper class from each other, whether at court or on the battlefield. Since then, heraldry has grown into a complex field with many rules and a terminology that requires some knowledge to interpret.



ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMS OF  
HEDGES



MANTLE OF HEDGES

An Achievement of Arms such as the Hedges arms depicted on the left typically consists of these parts: the Escrolls, displaying the family motto and name, the family crest (if any) seen above the helmet, the actual Coat of arms (also known as 'arms,' or 'the shield'), the Helmet depicted below the crest, the Torse on top of the helmet, and the Mantle draped from the helmet. Each of these elements will be described below. Supporters were a later addition to the Achievement; they are somewhat rare, and are usually personal to the grantee.

The mantle was spread over and draped from the helmet and served as a protection, 'to repel the extremities of wet, cold, and heat, and to preserve the armour from rust.' The numerous cuts and slits suggest that it had been torn and hacked on the field of battle. The style or design of the mantling is up to the individual heraldic artist, and it is usually depicted in the main color and metal from the shield. The helmet (or Helm) varied in shape in different ages and countries, often depicting rank. The Esquire's Helm, as depicted here, is generally shown silver, with a closed visor and facing to the dexter (its right). On top of the helmet is a Torse or wreath which was formed by two pieces of silk twisted together. Its purpose was to hold the crest and mantle on the Helm.



## MOTTO

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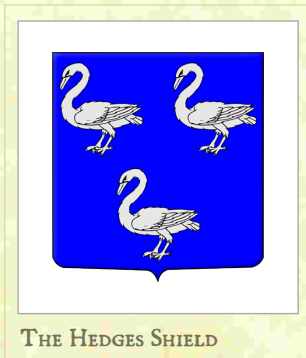
The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto.

The coat of arms displayed here for the surname Hedges did not include a motto.

## SHIELD

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Shields (or Escutcheons) at first were painted simply with one or more bands of color or 'ordinaries'. Later, the ordinaries were used in conjunction with other figures or symbols. The Coat of Arms for the surname Hedges can be described as follows:

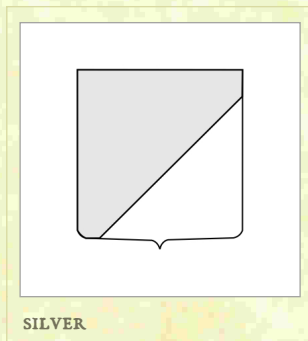


## HEDGES ARMS

Three silver swans heads on a blue shield.

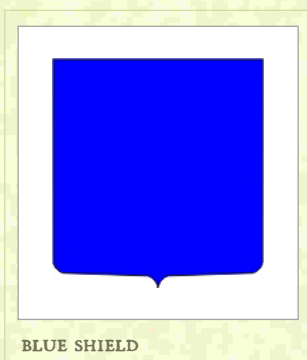
## THREE

"Three" devices, beasts or ordinaries of the same have a special significance in heraldry. First of all, there is the obvious reference to the Trinity in the design that would signify observance of the Christian doctrine. Secondly, with many Arms it brings balance that is steeped in tradition. To better understand this latter scenario, we must look at the evolution of shield in personal armory. Kite shields that were the most popular from the the 10th-14th century evolved into Heater shields that had flat tops c. 1250. This was the time of heraldry's beginnings and when "three" objects were used for balance in each corner of the shield. Later, with the advent of the "chief," "chevron" and "bend" three devices brought balance to these ordinaries too.



## SILVER

Argent (from the French for silver), or silver is one of the two metals used in heraldry. It is usually represented on a shield by the colors gray or white. This metal represents nobility, peace and serenity. It is associated with the qualities of purity and chastity, because the metal withstands the test of fire.



## BLUE SHIELD

Azure (derived from the French word for "blue") represents the color of an eastern sky on a clear day. It also corresponds to the metal tin. The word, "azure" was introduced from the east during the Crusades. It signifies piety and sincerity, and is equated with autumn. In engravings it is represented by horizontal lines.

Symbolic Virtues: Blue denotes calmness and power of reflection. It infers nobility of the soul and signifies Loyalty, Justice and Courage. The color has also long been associated with purity and love, since the times when brides wore blue ribbons to the chapel.

Precious Stone: Turquoise

Planet: Jupiter

Obligations: Help for the servant

## THE CREST

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The Crest was worn on top of the helmet, and was usually made of wood, metal, or boiled leather. It provided the double advantage of easy identification and the addition of height to the wearer. The Crest for the surname Hedges is described as follows:



## A SWAN'S HEAD.

## HEAD

The head stands for honor. After all, the head is the center of knowledge, thinking and learning for the body.



# CONCLUSION

## APPENDIX - NOTABLE LIST

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- Chuck Hedges, American Jazz Clarinetist who performs in jazz clubs and festivals world wide
- Robert Ernest Mortimer Hedges, British archaeologist
- Robert Hedges, British administrator of the English East India Company, President of Bengal (1713 to 1718)
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- Frederick Hedges (1903-1989) Canadian bronze medalist rower who competed at the 1928 Summer Olympics
- Benjamin Hedges (1907-1969) American Olympic silver medalist who competed at the 1928 Summer Olympics
- Fred Paul Hedges (1921-1999) American guitar maker
- Bernard Hedges (1927-2014) Welsh cricketer
- Anthony Hedges (b.1931) British composer
- James Hedges (b.1939) American prohibitionist
- Michael Hedges (1953-1997) American guitarist
- Chris Hedges (b.1956) American journalist and author, specializing in American and Middle Eastern politics and society and part of The New York Times team that won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for the paper's coverage of global terrorism
- Peter Hedges (b.1962) American novelist, screenwriter, and film director
- Jared Hedges (b.1980) American screenwriter

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF HEDGES

- Charles Hedger, British guitarist known for his work with the extreme metal band Cradle of Filth
- Dave Hedger, British house DJ, producer and remixer
- Grant Hedger, Australian rugby league footballer of the 1970s
- Kristin Hedger, American politician, Member of the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Party

- Marthinus F. Hegge, American politician, Delegate to North Dakota State Constitutional Convention from Traill County, 1889<sup>[4]</sup>
- Jennifer Frances Hedger (b.1975) Canadian television personality from London, Ontario

## APPENDIX - SETTLER LIST

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### AMERICAN SETTLERS

- Robert Hedges, who arrived in Jamestown, Va in 1624<sup>[2]</sup>
- Francis Hedges, aged 13, who landed in Bermuda in 1635<sup>[2]</sup>
- Grace, Joseph, Robert, and Sarah Hedges, who settled in Virginia between 1623 and 1654
- Walter Hedges, who landed in Virginia in 1664<sup>[2]</sup>
- Thomas Hedges, who arrived in Maryland in 1666<sup>[2]</sup>

#### SURNAME VARIANTS OF HEDGES

- John Hedge, who arrived in Lynn, Massachusetts in 1634<sup>[2]</sup>
- William Hedge, who arrived in Lynn, Massachusetts in 1634<sup>[2]</sup>
- Robert Hedger, who arrived in Maryland in 1636<sup>[2]</sup>
- Lawrence Hegge, who arrived in Virginia in 1657<sup>[2]</sup>
- Nich Hedge, who landed in Virginia in 1658<sup>[2]</sup>
- Samuel Hedge, who settled in New Jersey in 1664 with his wife Anne
- Henry Hedge, who landed in Maryland in 1673<sup>[2]</sup>
- Mary Hedge, who landed in Maryland in 1673<sup>[2]</sup>
- Thomas Hedge, who landed in Maryland in 1673<sup>[2]</sup>
- Samuel Hedge, who settled in Delaware in 1675
- Anna Fenwicke Hedge, who landed in New Jersey in 1675<sup>[2]</sup>
- Samuel Hedge, who arrived in New Jersey in 1675<sup>[2]</sup>
- George Hedge, who arrived in Maryland in 1676<sup>[2]</sup>
- Mary Hedge, who settled in Pennsylvania in 1682
- Joh Bernd Hegge, who landed in America in 1813-1820<sup>[2]</sup>
- Gerd Jos Hegge, who arrived in America in 1814-1820<sup>[2]</sup>
- Bernard Hedger, aged 25, who arrived in America, in 1893
- I. Hedger, aged 46, who arrived in America, in 1896
- Harold Philip Hedger, aged 35, who arrived in America from London, England, in 1904
- Thomas Hedger, aged 37, who arrived in America, in 1904

### CANADIAN SETTLERS

#### SURNAME VARIANTS OF HEDGES

- Ellen Mary Hedger, aged 38, who arrived in Camrose, Alberta, Canada, in 1921
- Phillip Hedger, aged 6, who arrived in Camrose, Alberta, Canada, in 1921



## AUSTRALIAN SETTLERS

- Alfred Hedges, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Phoebe" in 1846<sup>[3]</sup>
- Jeremiah Hedges, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Phoebe" in 1846<sup>[3]</sup>

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF HEDGES

- Thomas Hedges, English convict from Middlesex, who was transported aboard the "Almorah" on April 1817, settling in New South Wales, Australia<sup>[5]</sup>
- Charles Hedge, aged 26, a farm servant, who arrived in South Australia in 1849 aboard the ship "Ascendant"<sup>[6]</sup>
- Charles Hedge, who arrived in Adelaide, Australia aboard the ship "Ascendant" in 1849<sup>[6]</sup>
- James Hedger, aged 31, a miner, who arrived in South Australia in 1856 aboard the ship "Violet"

## NEW ZEALAND SETTLERS

- William Hedges, aged 33, a gardener, who arrived in Wellington, New Zealand aboard the ship "Golden Sea" in 1874
- Eliza Hedges, aged 31, who arrived in Wellington, New Zealand aboard the ship "Golden Sea" in 1874
- Alice M. Hedges, aged 10, who arrived in Wellington, New Zealand aboard the ship "Golden Sea" in 1874
- William Hedges, aged 4, who arrived in Wellington, New Zealand aboard the ship "Golden Sea" in 1874
- Emma Hedges, aged 2, who arrived in Wellington, New Zealand aboard the ship "Golden Sea" in 1874

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Here is a listing of some of the sources consulted when researching British surnames. The resources below directly or indirectly influenced the authors of our surname histories. We have most of these titles in our library, others we have borrowed or had access to. Source materials have been chosen for their reliability and authenticity. Our research into surnames is ongoing, and we are continually adding to our source library. For each surname history, we seek and refer to sources specific to the surname; these are generally not included in the list below.

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The National Archives (USA): <http://www.archives.gov/>

College of Arms (England): <http://college-of-arms.gov.uk/>

### MEDIEVAL ROLLS

Where available we consult Medieval rolls or use their information as reprinted in secondary sources.

Subsidy Rolls: taxation records from the 12th to the 17th centuries.

Assize Rolls: records from court sessions

Pipe Rolls: rolls of the Exchequer of accounts of the royal income, arranged by county, for each financial year. Many 12th and 13th century documents have been published with indexes by the Pipe Roll Society.

Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem: Feudal inquiries, undertaken after the death of a feudal tenant in chief to establish what lands were held and who should succeed to them. Records exist from around 1240-1660.

Roll of Battle Abbey: a list of the principal Norman Knights said to have accompanied William across the English Channel. Original roll was lost.

Curia Regis Rolls (Rotuli Curiae Regis): Rolls and Records of the Court held before the king's Justices. Various translated and published, London 1835),

Feet of Fines: Legal agreements, usually about property ownership

Register of the Freemen of York: list of freemen from 13th-18th century, published by the Surtees Society, Francis Collins (editor) in 1897.

Charters: documents recording grants, usually of land recorded by the Chancery

Historia Regum Britanniae ("The History of the Kings of Britain"): a legendary account of British history, accredited to Geoffrey of Monmouth in around 1136.

Heralds' visitations: 16th-17th century, county by county visits to regulate the use of arms; many published by the Harleian Society.

Hundred Rolls (Rotuli Hundredorum): various royal inquests, documents were held in the tower of London. Much was published in 1818  
Ragman Rolls: rolls of deeds on parchment in which the Scottish nobility and gentry subscribed allegiance to Edward I. of England, A. D. 1296.

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Extra Credit goes to Wyrdlight at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File: Bodiam-castle-10My8-1197.jpg> for the picture on the cover.

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