

Family Name History

Cayton



This surname is a variant of Caton, along with Catton, and is of locative origin translating literally into "of Catton", a chapelry in the parish of Croxhall, County Derby. There are parishes of the same name in County Norfolk, some two miles from Norwich, and in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Townships existed in the parish of Topcliffe, North Riding of Yorkshire, and again in the parish of Lancaster. The old English "Cada" is a personal or byname, and "tun", meaning "settlement, enclosure", give us "Cada's settlement", gradually corrupting to "Catton" with usage.

We read in the Hundred Rolls of 1273, of references to Robert de Catton, or Catune of County Norfolk, and John Caton of County Hunts. Richard Caton is mentioned in Rotuli Hundredorum for Cambridgeshire in 1279, and in the Subsidy Rolls for the county of Suffolk, we read of Peter Catoun in 1327. The Poll Tax Rolls for Yorkshire record the names of Johannes de Catton, and Willelmus de Caythton both in 1379. Two marriages are evidenced, Thomas Stevens to Agnes Catton at St. James, Clerkenwell in 1569, and William Clark to Elizabeth Catton at St. George's, Hanover Square, London in 1773.

The name appears in the United States when Mary Caton married Charles Carroll in June of 1768. The Carroll family are a most distinguished American family, being descended from Florence O'Carroll, King of Ely in 1205. Charles Carroll was a signatory to the Declaration of Independence on 2nd. August 1776.

BLAZON OF ARMS : Per fesse gules, and azure, two cats-a-mountain passant guardant in pale argent pellethee on a canton or, a cross crosslet fitchee sable.

CREST : Issuant from a ducal coronet or, a saracen's head affrontee proper wreathed round the temples or, and gules.

MOTTO : Cautus metuit loveam lupus.

Translation : The wolf who is cautious fears the snare.

ORIGIN : ENGLAND

