

THE NAME AND FAMILY

OF

OATES

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The name or OATES is derived from the ancient baptismal name of Odo or Otho and was first taken as a patronymic by the sons of those so called. It appears in ancient British records in the various forms of Otho, Odo, Oto, Otto, Othes, Otes, Oat, Oattes, Oatts, Oats, Oates, and others, of which the last spelling is that most frequently used in America today. The name of Fitz Otes, meaning "son of Otes", occurs in the Roll of Battle Abbey, among the followers of William the Conqueror, who led the Normans into England in the year 1066 A.D.

Records of the name are found at early dates in the annals of the English Counties of York, Lincoln, Norfolk, Lancaster, Chester, Cornwall, and Oxford, as well as in those of the city and vicinity of London. These families were chiefly of the landed and merchant classes.

Among the earliest definite records of the name in England are those of William Fitz Otes, whose daughter and heir was in wardship to the Earl of Oxford in 1215;

those of Robert Fitz Otes, who held lands at Westcote in 1254; those of Andreas or Andrew Otes, of County Norfolk, in 1273; those of John Otes, who held land at Little Laver, County Essex, as early as 1307; those of Johannes Hotes or John Otes, of Yorkshire, in 1379; those of John Otes, who resided at Shibden Hall, in Yorkshire, in 1410; those of John Otes, Glover, who resided at Halifax in 1439; and those of Bryan Otes, who possessed considerable estates at Halifax in 1530.

Soon after 1530 the Yorkshire family of the name was represented by three brothers, Thomas, John, and Lawrence Oates or Otes. Of these brothers, Thomas was admitted to Lincoln College, at the University of Oxford, in 1575, he being then twenty-one years of age. The second brother, John Oates, was the father of a son named William, who first married a daughter of George Greene, of Nether Denby, Yorkshire, and had issue by her of a son named John, who died at an early age. By his second wife, Ann, daughter of Thomas Beaumont, of Mirfield, County York, whom he married in 1630, William had further issue of ten children, John, Joseph, Joshua, Thomas, Jonas, Josias, Judith, Mary, Ann, and Elizabeth.

John Oates, of Nether Denby, Yorkshire, eldest son

and heir of William and Ann, left issue by his first wife, Susan, daughter of William Brooke, to whom he was married in 1657 of William, Joshua, John, and Ann. By his second wife, Hannah Wadsworth, John had further issue of Joseph, James, Samuel, Mary, Martha, and Hannah. Of the sons of the elder John of Nether Denby, William probably died without issue, as did James, the fifth son. The second son, Joshua Oates, settled in New York in 1699, but left only one child, a daughter named Susan; and Samuel Oates, the sixth son and youngest son, went to America about the year 1724. He will be mentioned again below.

John Oates, the third son of the elder John and Susan (nee Brooke), left issue by his wife Elizabeth of Edward, John, Anne, Dorothy, and Francis, of whom the first had a wife named Anne and was the father by her in the early eighteenth century of four children, John, Joseph, William, and Elizabeth Oates.

Joseph, fourth son of the elder John and the first child by his marriage to Hannah Wadsworth, married Grace, daughter of Bartin Allot, in 1706. To this union were born John, Richard, Amby, Joseph, Bryan, Bartin, James, Mary, Jane, Grace, Ann, Hannah, Sarah, Catherine, Susanna, and Margaret. Of these, James married Catherine Poole,

by whom he was the father of a son named Joseph Oates, who settled near Cork, in Ireland.

Josias Oates, the youngest son of the first William Of the Yorkshire line mentioned above, first married Elizabeth, daughter of William Fenton, and was the father by her of William, Joseph, Anne, Mary, and Elizabeth. In 1682 Josias married a second wife, Hannah, another daughter of William Fenton; and his children by this marriage were Josias, Benjamin, Thomas, Abigail, and Samuel, of whom the last was the father of five children, Hannah, Elizabeth, Margaret, Francis, and Henry. Josias, son of the first of that name, was married in 1716 to Ann, daughter of Gervase Norton, and was the father of Josias, Hannah, and Ann.

William Oates, eldest son of the first Josias, was married in 1707 to Gertrude, daughter of Edward Goodwyn, and had issue by her of William, Edward, Thomas, Charles, George, Goodwyn, Gertrude, Samuel, Richard, Francis, and Sarah. Of these, the first two died unmarried; while Thomas was the father by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Foster, of Edward, William, Susanna, Elizabeth, Gertrude, and Mary.

Joseph Oates, second son of the first Josias, became

a merchant at Leeds. He married Mary, daughter of Thomas Fenton, in 1702 and had issue by her of eleven children, Thomas, George, Josiah, Joseph, Samuel, Elizabeth, Lydis, Ann, Mary, Rachel, and another son, who died in infancy. Of the last mentioned brothers, Thomas and Josiah left only female issue; Joseph died young; George was the Father by his wife, Sarah Jolley, of Joseph, Louisa Ann, George William, Sophia Caroline, Benjamin, Mary, Ann, Sarah, Sally, and Frederick; and Samuel had issue by his Wife, Mary Hamer, of Samuel, Josiah, William, Joseph, Henry, Edward, Ann, Margaret, and Mary.

Another branch of the Yorkshire family was represented in the latter sixteenth century by two brothers, Thomas and Robert Oates. Of these, Thomas died about the year 1608, leaving issue of Ralph, William, George, Dorothy, and several other daughters; and Robert was the father of Richard, John, Robert, Isaac, Isabel, Agnes, Alice, and Ellen.

Titus Oates, of Norwich, in the County of Norfolk, was married in 1612 to Anne Rallye or Raleigh. To this union was born at least one son, Samuel Oates, who had a son, Titus Oates, who entered Caius College, at Cambridge in 1667, The records of this line are not complete.

Although the connection between the before-mentioned lines and the earliest emigrants of the name to America are not available in all cases, the Oates families of the United States are undoubtedly of English descent and probably originated with the Yorkshire line.

The first of the family in America was Gregory Oates, who settled in New Norfolk County, Va., in 1637. Nothing is definitely known, however, concerning the immediate family of this immigrant.

In 1675 one John Oates, a soldier in Moseley's New England Company, was killed by the Indians. His records are also incomplete, but it is possible that he was the progenitor of that John Oates, Oats (occasionally called "the emigrant ancestry") who appeared at Yarmouth, Mass., as early as 1717. However this may be, it is known that this John of Yarmouth was married in that year to Dorothy Joyce and settled soon afterward at Bristol, Me. His children were Mary, John, Peter, James, Thankful, Samuel, and Desire. Some of the descendants of this line of the family are known to have spelled the name Otis.

Samuel Oates or Oats, son of the first John of Maine, married Patience Sherman, of Dartmouth, R.I., and had issue by her of Samuel, Waity, Ebenezer, David, Thankful,

Anna, Sarah, and John.

Sometime before 1679 one George Oats settled at St. Michael's, in Barbadoes. In that year his son Joseph was baptized. It is probable that descendants of this line settled in Virginia, but the records of this family are not complete.

The before-mentioned Samuel Oates, of Yorkshire, who came to America about the year 1724, settled at Barnstable, Mass. He had two sons, Samuel Allen and the Hon. James, both of whom, however, spelled the name Otis and were progenitors of families so named.

Roger Oatts or Oats, who served with the Virginia forces during the Revolutionary War, became a justice of the peace for Wayne County, Ky. The names of his progeny are not, however, in evidence.

Isaac Oates, who died in Halifax County, Va., about 1807, left issue by his wife Susannah of Alexander, Catey, Thomas, William Elizabeth, Jane, and Sarah.

The fairly numerous progeny of this family in America have spread to many parts of the country. Characterized, in general, by fortitude, business acumen, ability to lead, and some literary and histrionic talent, members of the

family have been particularly successful in the field of law, literature, government, and scholarship.

Further records of the family in the Revolutionary War mention, among those who served the Colonies at that time, the names of Leonard, James, and William Oats, of Virginia; John and Vendel Oat, of Pennsylvania; Ensign James Oates, of Pennsylvania; Lieutenant Oates (Christian name not given), of South Carolina; Peter Oat, of Massachusetts; Asher Oates, of Massachusetts; and many others as well.

James, William, Thomas, Joseph, Josias, Richard, Francis, George, Samuel, Henry, Edward, Robert, and John are among the Christian Names most frequently used by the family for its male progeny.

Among those of the name who have been prominent in America in more recent years are:

William Calvin Oates (1835-1910), of Alabama, soldier, lawyer, Congressman, governor, and author.

Alice Oates (1849-1887), of Tennessee and Pennsylvania, actress and singer.

James Wyatt Oates (b. 1850), of Alabama and California, lawyer.

James Franklin Oates (b. 1870), of Illinois, author.

Max Bruce Oates (b. 1883), of Louisiana, economist.

William R. Oates (latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), of Michigan, public official and author.

The coat of arms of the English family of Oates is generally described, in heraldic terms, as follows (Burke, Encyclopedia of Heraldry, 1844):

Arms - "Argent, a bear rampant sable, muzzled gules.

Crest - "A boar's head, erased argent."

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