



WOFFINDENS OF AMERICA

Their Ancestors and Descendants

Compiled by

Anna Joy (Woffinden) Watts

And

Wilma (Woffinden) Mauchley

**TABLE OF CONTENTS
for
VOLUME I**

**WOFFINDENS OF AMERICA
Compiled in 1999 A.D.**

Section A. = Preface and Table of Contents

- 1. Family Shield, Arms, & Crest**
- 2. Instructions and Thanks**
- 3. Origins & History of the Woffinden Surname**

Section B. = Insert the John Joseph Woffinden book here. Available from Wilma Mauchley.

Section C. = Walter & Mary Jane Denton Woffinden

- 1. Marriage-day Picture and Family Picture**
- 2. Family Group Sheet**
- 3. Conversion Stories**
- 4. Pictures Taken in England**
- 5. Pictures Taken in America**

Section D. = Walter's History

Section E. = Walter's Genealogy

Section F. = Mary Jane's History

Section G. = Mary Jane's Genealogy

VOLUME II

**Walter's and Mary Jane's Children
and their Families
with a picture pedigree chart, etc.**

Section A. = Horace Woffinden

- 1. Pictures of Family**
- 2. Family Group Sheet**
- 3. Horace's Life Sketch**

Section B. = Mary Elizabeth Woffinden Makin

- 1. Pictures of Family**
- 2. Family Group Sheet**
- 3. "Lizzie's" Life Sketch**

Section C. = Sarah Ellen Woffinden Makin

- 1. Pictures of Family**
- 2. Family Group Sheet**
- 3. "Nellie's" Life Sketch**

Section D. = Thomas Woffinden

- 1. Pictures of Family**
- 2. Family Group Sheet**
- 3. "Tom's" Life Sketch**

Section E. = Walter Woffinden Jr.

- 1. Pictures of Family**
- 2. Family Group Sheet**
- 3. "Nick's" Life Sketch**

Section F. = Clara Annie Woffinden Rhodes

- 1. Pictures of Family**
- 2. Family Group Sheet**
- 3. Clara's Life Sketch**

VOLUME III

**WALTER'S & MARY JANE'S
GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT GRANDCHILDREN, ETC.**

TBPL = To Be Published Later!

If you haven't done so already, PLEASE, (all GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT GRANDCHILDREN of Walter and Mary Jane Woffinden) send us a family picture of you, your spouse, and your children; a family group sheet; and your life sketch.

VOLUME IV

will be the great, great, grandkids, and the great, great, great, grandkids! Then we'll be able to count us all and fill in the blanks at the end of the conversion story in Volume I.

INTRODUCTION & INSTRUCTIONS:

*It's such an awesome task, you see,
To write a family history!*

*You gather and gather and you save.
Yet, more information you madly crave!*

*For years and years, we've been collecting.
Piles of stuff we've been protecting.*

*All stories, pictures, and family group sheets
Are now in this book, ever so neat.*

*But lo, it isn't perfect, - not yet!
There are still pages missing; on that you can bet.*

*So Wilma and I have come up with a plan
That eventually will get everyone in the clan.*

*Our format allows "adding on" to this book,
So if you're not mentioned, please don't get shook!*

*Just send in your info as soon as you can.
Getting everyone in, is the goal of our plan.*

*If we have you married before you were born,
Or if your picture looks sad and forlorn;*

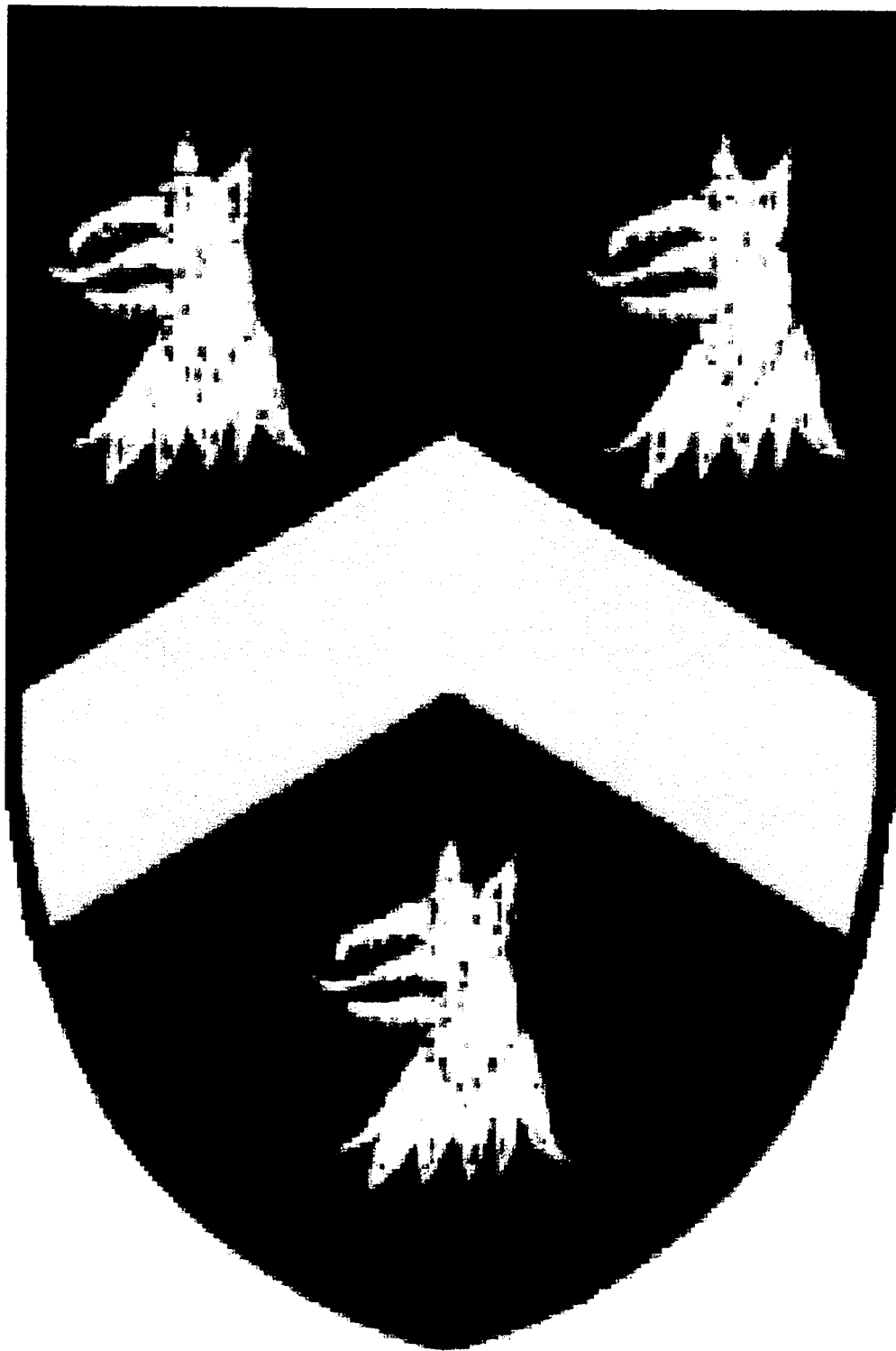
*Perhaps we've mistaken your name, dates, or places:
Just speak right up, right to our faces!*

*Promptly we'll fix it, without any delay.
Technology's here to help us today.*

*On the computer, we'll correct all errors,
So mark them boldly in big red squares.*

*Send us your corrections, pictures, additions.
We'll print out new pages, and make new editions.*

By A.J. (Woffinden) Watts



WOFFINDEN FAMILY SHIELD



WOFFINDEN FAMILY CREST

Please send or call in any additions or corrections to:

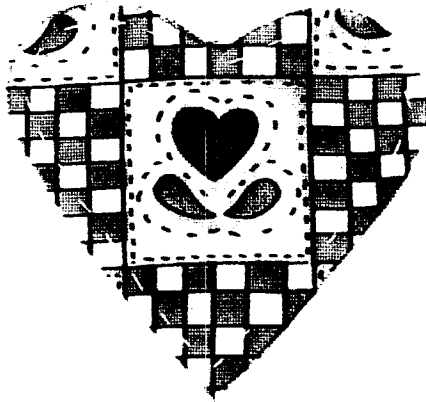
For the John Joseph Woffinden Lines:

Mrs Wilma (Woffinden) Mauchley
558 West 100 North
Logan, Utah 84321
Phone: (435) 752 8304

For the Walter Woffinden, Sr. Lines:

Mrs. Anna Joy (Woffinden) Watts
695 East Pages Lane
Centerville, Utah 84014
Phone: (801) 292 - 2634





Our Family

Our Family is like
A patchwork quilt,
With kindness gently sewn.
Each piece is an
Original with beauty of its own.
With threads of
Warmth and happiness,
It is tightly stitched together
To last in Love throughout
The years; Our family is
Forever.

THANKS!

..... to all who contributed to this book, including Aunt Clara Annie (Woffinden) Rhodes whose work is the basis of most of the records here.

Thanks also, to Ina Roberts for her years of family history work, the family newsletter, and for saving all the stories and pictures from the early days.

Thanks to family representatives who dug up the facts and pictures of the children of Walter and Mary Jane Denton Woffinden. They are:

Walt & Emily Woffinden

Carol Weddington

Donna Woffinden (Leo)

Bernice Woffinden (Ennis)

Carma Woffinden Jolley

Sharol Woffinden Bangerter

Lona Rhodes (Glen)

Russell G. Woffinden

Paula L. Stewart

Margaret Woffinden Morris

Bret Woffinden for the family crest and shield

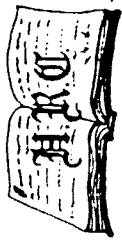
& Nathan E. Watts for page designs

IF...

... YOU find errors in this record, have old pictures that have not been included, or have additional information or histories; PLEASE make copies and send them to Wilma Woffinden Mauchley for the John Joseph side of the family, or to Anna Joy Woffinden Watts for the Walter Sr. side of the family. Their phone numbers, addresses, and E-Mail addresses are in the front of this book.

For right now, we have formatted our books to allow additions and corrections. Perhaps, when we have corrected and added all we can find, we might want to look into the possibilities of publishing them in hardback copies; but there is a lot of work to do before we do that. Check out the genealogy sections, and see if you have any names, dates, or places that we do not have. Just because it isn't in these books, doesn't mean it hasn't been done or can't be found.

Family Name History

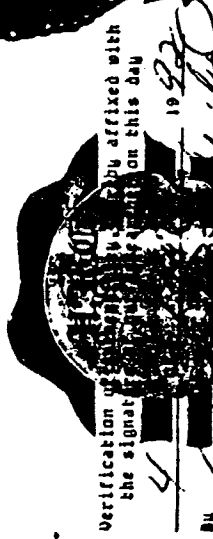


WOFFINDEN

The English surname Woffinden, a variant of the name Wolfenden, is local in origin, being one of those surnames derived from the place where a man once lived or held land. In this instance, the surname means simply "of Wolfenden" being derived from an Old English term meaning "valley with an enclosure against wolves" referring to the placename Wolfenden, once a hamlet in Newchurch-in-Rossendale, Lancashire (formerly Walfhamdene), and would indicate that the original bearer of the surname came from here in medieval times. It must be remembered that before the advent of the hereditary system of surnames, it was not unusual to name a person according to where they came from as it provided a simple form of identification and distinguished the original bearer from others in the community.

One of the earliest references to the placename dates back to the seventeenth century when one George Hey, of Wolfenden, forest of Rossendale was recorded in 1620 in the "Wills at Chester". Some early instances of the surname include James Wolfenden of Rochdale, who was mentioned in the "Wills at Chester" in 1614 and also one Marie Wolfendene, daughter of Robert Wolfendene who was baptised in 1620 ("Register for St. Thomas the Apostle, London"). In 1792, Thomas Francis married Elizabeth Wolfendene ("Register for St. George's, Hanover Sq."). In the "Returns for the Owners of Land" for West Riding in Yorkshire for 1873, there is one entry as Woffenden and one in the "Philadelphia Directory" of 1885. Variants of the surname include Wolfenden, Wolfendine and Woolfinden.

BLAZON OF ARMS : Sable a chevron or, between three wolves' heads erased argent.
TRANSLATION : The chevron denotes Protection. The wolf signifies Perseverance.
CREST : A demi wolf as in the arms.
ORIGIN : England.



ENGLISH ORIGINS

by George Redmonds

"Alias" Surnames (Part II)

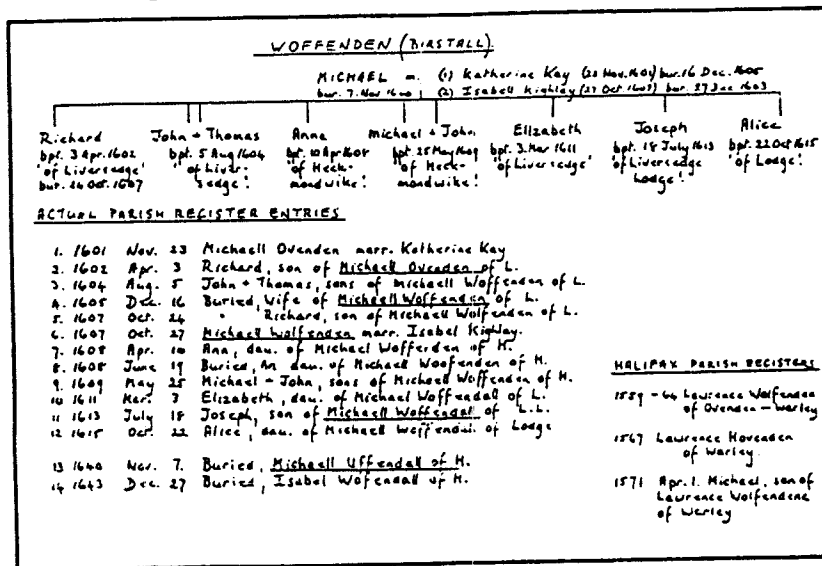
Those surnames which appear to have a transparent meaning (e.g. such occupational surnames as *Baker* and *Locksmith*, "epithet" surnames such as *Knight*, and patrymonics like *Jackson*) and which are identical in form with words in our everyday vocabulary were probably less likely in the past to be badly misspelt or develop unusual variants. This circumstance is also true of many surnames derived from place names — either because the place itself was widely known (e.g. *York*) or because the surname consisted of meaningful, recognizable elements (e.g. *Greenwood*, *Hardcastle*).

On the other hand, a significant percentage of surnames do not have an obvious meaning, usually because the words from which they derive are no longer in common use. This group would include occupational terms such as *Fewster*, personal names such as *Auty*, and epithet names such as *Glew*, as well as large numbers of surnames derived from difficult and unfamiliar place names, e.g. *Barraclough* (Yorkshire) and *Wolfenden* (Lancashire). Surnames in these categories would often be unknown outside their immediate neighborhood and would sound "foreign" in parishes only 15 or 20 miles distant. In such cases a relatively short move could precipitate spelling variations owing something to phonetics and even more to popular etymology. A clerk recording a new and unfamiliar name could easily find himself making assumptions about how it ought to be spelled, based on his own limited experience. The temptation to link this unfamiliar name with a known surname or place name may have been almost irresistible. The variant spellings of the Lancashire surname *Wolfenden* illustrate this point. The name arrived in Halifax parish ca. 1559, when one *Lawrence Wolfenden* settled in *Warley*, having first spent some time in the township of *Ovenden*. Because the dialect pronunciation of this township, usually given an initial "w," was so close to *Wolfenden*, it seems to have been assumed that the two names shared a common origin, and *Lawrence's* surname was recorded in 1567 as *Hovenden*. From this date onwards, therefore, *Wolfenden* had an "alias" and either form of the name could be used. *Michael Wolfenden*, born in 1571, can

probably be identified with the *Michael Ovenden* who married *Katherine Kay* in 1601 in the neighboring parish of *Birstall*, and when his first son *Richard* was baptized, the alias *Ovenden* was also used. Although this usage is in one way a problem for the genealogist it is, once identified, helpful in establishing the link with *Lawrence*, and indicates that the "alias" existed, even though not made explicit. *Ovenden* was now a hereditary alias.

At this stage there were further developments in the surname, and such spellings as *Woffenden* and *Woffendall* began to be used. Neither of these changes poses a problem for somebody working in early Yorkshire records, as similar developments took place over a wide area. Nevertheless an explanation may be useful. The loss of the "l" in the prefix *Wolf-* is to be expected, particularly if we consider the written and

spoken forms of words like "calf." Such a change would almost certainly have helped in the development of *Ovenden* as an alias. The substitution of "-dale" for "-den" is also commonplace in Yorkshire, partly because final "l" and "n" often interchanged — the sounds are closely related — and partly because the two suffixes both mean "valley." The *Birstall* family now had a double alias and the references on the chart illustrate how the



genealogical evidence might be interpreted.

There are several lessons to be learned from this brief account of one family. Perhaps the most important is that such developments were *not unusual*. This case also shows how dangerous it might be to assume that a surname and a place name with the same spelling are always directly connected, and should also make us wary of indexes. The editor of the *Birstall* register recognized *Wolfenden* and *Woffendall* as the same name, but saw no connection with *Ovenden* or *Uffendall*. Finally, it should be emphasized again that such aliases did not usually need to be made explicit. Just occasionally, perhaps to secure an identification, a clerk might feel the need to make things clear, as in the following reference from the West Riding Quarter Sessions.

1770: Joshua *Wolfenden* otherwise *Woffindale* otherwise *Ovenden* of Heckmondwike (*Birstall*)

Dr. George Redmonds, founding editor of *Old West Riding* and authority on English place and personal names, has led the Society's English sightseeing tours and "Family History for Americans" courses in England for several years. Interested readers may write him at 5 Knotty Lane, Lepton, Huddersfield, HD8 0ND, West Yorks., England.

The Genealogy
of the
Woolfenden Surname

Raynee Woolfenden
April, 1979

The Woolfenden¹ surname is found in small groups in most English speaking countries with the largest group located in Lancashire County, England (U.K.), This is generally regarded as the home of this family surname.

Woolfenden is derived from Anglo-Saxon, German, Middle English and Indo-European base roots. It may thus be spelled Wullfenndenn or Wullfendern, Wollefennedial, Wollefenndenn or Wollefenndenn and Welpandhen respective to the before mentioned roots.

The name bespeaks of a people who either raised sheep for wool or were weavers of wool or both. These people resided in or more likely near a marsh or some other low, flat, marshy land with a pasture nearby or adjacent to the marsh.

These people are of Danish stock, either Angle or Saxon which would correspond to the description of the land of Denmark and the topography of the land as mentioned in the surname itself.

During the Dark Ages, these people migrated to England as part of the Danish, Angle and Saxon invasions. They were

¹ There are at least twenty-five ways to spell this surname and possibly that many or more ways to pronounce it as well. Woolfenden and Wolfenden are the two most accepted spellings today and they are the primary ones considered in this thesis. Other meanings are possible considering the many various spellings. However, many of those other spellings are most likely mis-spellings by various clerks over the centuries.

firmly settled there by 1076 A.D. when William the Conqueror appeared on the isle and thus helps to verify the mention of this surname in the Domesday Book of approximately 1086 A.D.

History credits the wool industry in England as beginning before 1127 A.D. This would lend respectability to the occupation which the surname implies.

Another popular spelling of this surname is Wolfenden.

The genealogy remains the same under this spelling but the possible past spelling² and meanings vary. Spellings include the following:

Wulfendenn, Anglo-Saxon and Middle English
Wolfendial, German
Wlpendhen, (or Lupendhen) Indo-European

The meaning changes to a fierce, possibly warlike, people living in a lair or flatted place (flat of the land). This still corresponds to the beforementioned geographic locations but changes the occupation to that of a warrior which does relate to the method of settlement used by the Angles and Saxons.

Other possibilities³ include Wooffinden, a weaver of sails for ships from a flat land which brings Danish and Latin roots into play; Wolffinden, a fierce people of the sea whose lair or home was a flat land; or, Wooffenden, weavers of cloth products from a low, flat marshy land. The combinations continue but the basic definitions remain unaltered.

² Greek and Latin come into play with this spelling.

³ See the appendix for syllable meanings, roots and possible old spellings.

Thus, the outline of a warlike people of the sea who specialized as sail weavers from a flat, marshy pastureland emerges with strong links evident to the present nation of Denmark as a prior home of these people.

The traces of Greek, Latin and even remote Gothic and Finnish roots seems to imply a possibility that these people were wanders or nomads who may have settled in Denmark much the same as they did in England.

Therefore, in conclusion, the surname of Woolfenden seems to be a key to its bearer that opens the door to a world of traveling people from centruies past who helped build the foundation of today's English speaking society, of which the bearer is a part.

Appendix: Spellings

Syables

Historical Spellings

Definitions of Abbreviations

A.S. = Anglo-Saxon

M.E. = Middle English

G. = German

I.D. = Indo-European base

PRESENT Woolfenden

A.S. Wullfenndenn or Wullfendenn

M.E. Woffefennden or Wollefendenn

G. Wollefennedial

I.D. Welpandhen

PRESENT Wooffenden

A.S. Oweffinndenn

M.E. Ooffinndenn

PRESENT Wolffinden

M.E., A.S. Wulffindenn

G. Wolffennedial

I.D. Wlppetdhen or Luppetdhen

PRESENT Wooffenden

A.S. Oweffenndenn or Owefendenn

M.E. Ooffenndenn or Oofendenn

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Wolfendon | 14. Wolffinden |
| 2. Wolfenden | 15. Wolfendine |
| 3. Woolfenden | 16. Wolfender |
| 4. Woolfeden | 17. Wolfington |
| 5. Wolfeden | 18. Woolfiden |
| 6. Wolfinden | 19. Wolfelder |
| 7. Wolfingden | 20. Wolfenton |
| 8. Wooffinden | 21. Wolfendale |
| 9. Woffindin | 22. Woofendall |
| 10. Woffinden | 23. Woffendale |
| 11. Woffendon | 24. Wolfendene |
| 12. Woffenden | 25. Wooffenden |
| 13. Woofenden | |

Numbers two and three are the most accepted spellings at present. Numbers 2,3,6,13,15,24 and 25 are from the "Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames with Special American Instances", Bardsley, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1967.

Numbers 2,3,8,9,19,11,12,21,22, and 23 are from "A Dictionary of British Surnames", P.H. Reaney, second edition, with corrections and additions by R.M. Wilson, 1976, Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,14,16,17,18,19 and 20 are from various U.S. Census and Baltimore, Maryland Business Directory Records.

wool, (Middle English, wolle; Anglo-Saxon, wull; German, wolle, Indo-European base, wel;) hair, wool, grass (Latin, lana; Greek, lenas) page 1683

woof, (Middle English, Anglo-Saxon, owef, cf. weave)*cloth, texture, fabric page 1683

wolf, (Middle English, Anglo-Saxon, wulf; German, wolf-, Indo-European base, wlp-, lup-; Latin, lupus; Greek, lykos) names of animal of prey, fierce, cruel or greedy person page 1680

fin, (Middle English and Anglo-Saxon, finn; Danish, vin; German, finne; Indo-European base, pet-; Latin, penna) (cf. pen) feather, wing, fin of fish and/or ship; also Finnish; also peninsula page 543.

fen, (Middle English, Anglo-Saxon, fen, fenn; German, fenne; Gothic, fani; Indo-European base, pan-) marsh, mud, wet, slime, mire; low, flat marshly land; swamp, bog page 534

en-, (Greek, en) in page 477

den, (Middle English, Anglo-Saxon, denn; German, dial; Indo-European base, dhen-) lair, pasture, place where grass is trodden down, flattened place, flat of the land; Denmark page 391

din, (Middle English, din, dyn; Anglo-Saxon, dyne; Old Norse, dynr; Indo-European base, dhwen-, dhun-; Sanskrit, dhrani) to sound, boom, roar, noise, thunder, word, uproar page 411

dene, (British Dialect) low mound of loose sand near a seashore; dune page 392.

dale, (Middle English, Anglo-Saxon, dal, dalu; old Norse, dair; Indo-European base, dhel) a small valley page 370

* cf. - means compare to.

Select Bibliography

Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, Encyclopedic Edition, World Publishing Company 1964, Volumes I and II, page 370, 392, 411, 391, 477, 534, 543, 1680, 1683 and others.

Encyclopedia Britannica, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1973, Volumes 1, 2, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 20.

Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames with Special American Instances, Bardsley, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1967.

A Dictionary of British Surnames, P.H. Reaney, second edition, with corrections and additions by R.M. Wilson, 1976, Routledge and Kegan Paul

U.S. Census reports from 1790 to 1900

Various Baltimore City Business Directories