

# Introduction

Near the town of Beccles in Norfolk, England lies Hales. Hales, which is listed as *Hala* on the Domesday map, was held by Alestan, a thegn of Harold's, in the reign of Edward the Confessor. Hales was listed in the Domesday survey as being 15 furlongs and 13 perches in length and 6 furlongs in breadth (148.5 yards short of 2 miles long and 3/4 mile in width). There were thirteen freemen in Hales during this period.<sup>1</sup> It appears that the Hales family originated here prior to the year 1172.<sup>2</sup>

The surname Hales is a place name. Originally appended of *Hales* or *de Hales* to the given names, it was later shortened to simply Hales when the *of* or *de* suffix was dropped. The meaning of the word *Hales* or *Hala* seems to be either hollow, from the Anglo-Saxon Hal, a hiding place, or salt, from the Celtic root hal, which is synonymous with the teutonic sal.<sup>3</sup>

According to *Archaeologia Cantiana*, the Hales name originated during the time of Edward the Confessor from a place named Hales by a man named Tonne.<sup>4</sup> How the family descends from him and what caused the Hales family to move from Norfolk to Kent is unknown, but it was from Hales Place at High Halden, Kent that they spread over the whole of Kent County and found their places of prominence in English history.<sup>5</sup> Sir Nicholas Hales of Woodchurch, Kent appears about 1300. He was grandfather of Thomas Hales of Hales Place at High Halden and is credited as being the common ancestor of the family and the bearer of the original Hales arms.

The ancient arms of Nicholas Hales is a red shield containing three arrows pointed downwards, two high and the middle one lower. It is claimed that this is a pun on the Hales name meaning a *hail of arrows*. Anyone viewing pictures in medieval times of the

archers in battle would understand how the arrows fell like hail.

In time Coats of Arms became hereditary. Heirs and heiresses inherited not only the father's estate, but took the Coat of Arms as well. This inheritance of arms is governed by law in some European countries even today, although in the United States there are no legal conditions or restrictions unless there is a copyright.

Sir Nicholas Hales arms are shown in this book because they are part of the history of the Hales family. The Hales family was very prolific. To distinguish the various branches of the family a different colored scarf was shown tied around the embowed arm on the crest. The red scarf shown here is for the Woodchurch branch of the family. The Hales estate and arms have now become extinct. There are no living descendants who can claim them by inheritance. They are displayed not as a personal emblem, but in memory of those whose deeds in the past have brought honor and credit to the family name.

Not all of the English Hales people were knighted. In fact, I have not been able to prove descent from any of the ones who were, or from Nicholas Hales who is supposed to be the common ancestor of the Kent County Hales families. Also, there are other people who contributed to the family from which I descend. I wish to mention them in this book as well as those with the Hales name.

This book contains stories of my ancestors, which I have written or collected during my years of research, as well as my own history. It is my hope that my family and others might remember their heritage because of it, giving honor to those people in the past who have made their lives possible. All material in this book has been carefully checked for accuracy and the sources of information are described. Now, as if looking through several *WINDOWS*, let me introduce my family.

1. *The Victoria History of the Counties of England – Norfolk*, (London: Archibald Constable and Company Limited, 1906), Vol. 2., p. 105.
2. *The Genealogists' Magazine*, (London: Phillimore, May 1902 - April 1903), Vol. 6., p. 542.
3. H. Ling Roth, *Bibliography and Chronology of Hales Owen* p. introduction.
4. R. Cox Hales, *Archaeologia Cantiana*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1892), Vol. XIV., p. 61.
5. Thomas Philipott, Esquire, *Villare Cantianum*, (London: W. Whittingham, 1659), p. 176.



