



WARTBURG CASTLE

THE MOST
DISTINGUISHED
SURNAME
ROETMAN

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ANCIENT HISTORY

The history of the name Roetman brings us to Thuringia, a modern state located between Hessen and Lower Saxony in the west and Saxony in the east. Originally a Kingdom of the Germanic tribe of the Hermunderen, the land was conquered by the Franks and the Saxons in 531. A.D. In 634, King Dagobert appointed Radulf duke of the Thuringians, and the land became virtually independent under his rule. However, Charles Martel abolished the position of duke and brought Thuringia under the rule of Franconian counts, and divided up the territory. The Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne founded the Thuringian Mark (border region) in 804 as a defensive bulwark against the power of the Slavic peoples.

In the Middle Ages the name Roetman has been traced back to Thuringia, where the family was known for its contributions to the prosperity and culture of the emerging feudal society. The family branched into numerous houses, many of which acquired estates and manors throughout the surrounding regions.

SPELLING VARIATIONS

Throughout the development and evolution of a name's history, variations in spelling and pronunciation frequently occur. As the scribes were the only ones among the common people who could read and write in the Middle Ages, they often had to record a name based on the way it was spoken, which varied from region to region. Another factor is the tendency in German to add phrases to a name, in order to tell something of the person's origins, religious beliefs, or character. Hence the numerous variations of the name Roetman include Roetman, Roetmann, Roedl and Roetto name a few examples.

EARLY HISTORY

In the 11th century, the Ludowinger dynasty became Landgraves of Thuringia. Landgrave Ludwig the Springer built the famous Wartburg near Eisenach in 1067, where J.S. Bach was later born. Under Landgrave Hermann (1190-1217), the castle became a center for mediaeval song and poetry contests, as depicted in Wagner's opera "Tannhaeuser." Landgrave Ludwig's wife was Saint Elisabeth (1207-1231), the daughter of the Hungarian King Andrew II. Her historical role was that of the princess of charity, but her legendary role was that of hostess for the Singer's Contests. Heinrich Raspe was the next ruler, who acted as regent on behalf of Hermann II; in 1241 he became landgrave of Thuringia.

After the demise of the ruling dynasty of the Ludowinger, the Emperor appointed the house of Wettin as rulers of Thuringia, who soon ascended to the throne of Saxony. Since then Thuringia's history has been closely associated with Saxony's. When Guenther, count of Schwarzenburg, died childless in 1440, Thuringia became part of the district of Saxony, and it was eventually divided up between the heirs Ernst and Albert. they both gave

Thuringia to the Wettin family, who were involved in Thuringia's political affairs until the end of the Great War in 1918. In 1485 Thuringia was divided into four main principalities: Sachsen-Weimar, Sachsen-Altenburg, Sachsen-Coburg (where Queen Victoria's Prince Albert came from), and Sachsen-Meiningen. After 1923 these districts were all united under the free state of Thuringia.

During this era of change and development bearers of the name Roetman moved to Thuringia where the Allanburg family grew in the same dimensions as the general population explosion in the 16th century. In Bohemia were Chevaliers (1790) and Barons of 1791. As the size of the family broadened they established many branches in this region. They moved following their special interests either in religious, military or political occupations.

EARLY NOTABLES

Notable bearers of the surname Roetman at this time were the Roet family of Thuringia.

THE GREAT MIGRATION

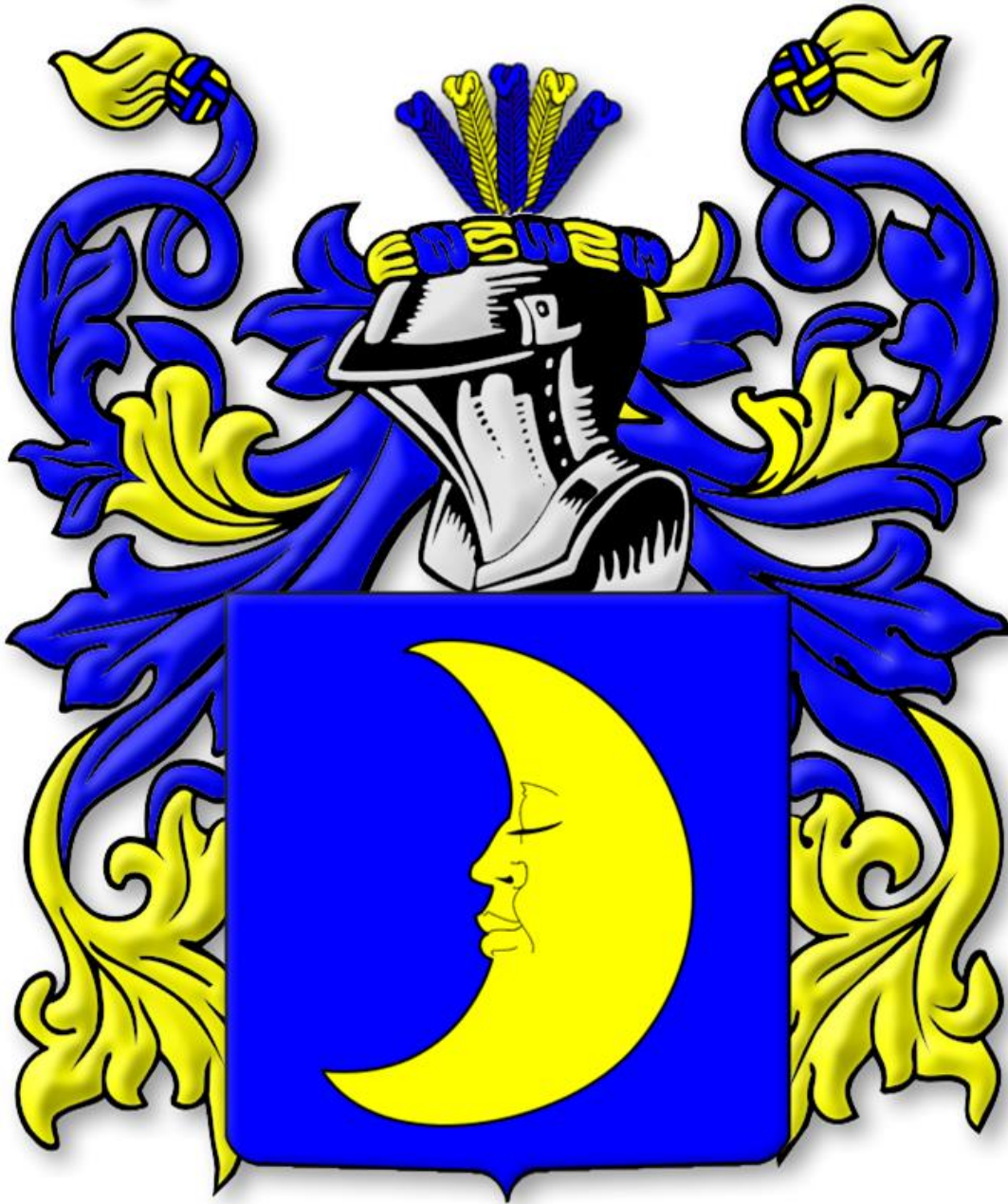
In the 18th century this region became a major center of European culture, particularly in Sachsen-Weimar, where the dukes were enthusiastic patrons of the arts. Weimar was the site of Goethe's most productive years, and his friendship with Friedrich Schiller produced one of the most famous collaborations in the world of literature. Weimar is most famous as the site of the founding of the Weimar Republic, the ill-fated government of the defeated Germany formed by the National Assembly in 1919. After the First World War, Thuringia remained a free state until it became a part of the German Democratic Republic in 1952.

CURRENT NOTABLES

The greatest influx of immigrants to the United States occurred between the 1840s and the 1920s. Between these years, around 37 million immigrants arrived in the United States. Many of these later settlers followed opportunities westward.

There are 0 notables with similar origins in the Appendix.

The Ancient Arms of



Roetman

SYMBOLISM

INTRODUCTION

In the feudal states of the Holy Roman Empire, that at one time encompassed most of eastern Europe, it was especially important to be able to identify enemies from allies because of the many conflicts that occurred there. A system of heraldry evolved that achieved this. It regulated what arms were borne, and allowed each of the German knights to be distinguishable from others.



ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMS OF
ROETMAN

An Achievement of Arms such as the Roetman 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.



MANTLE OF ROETMAN

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.

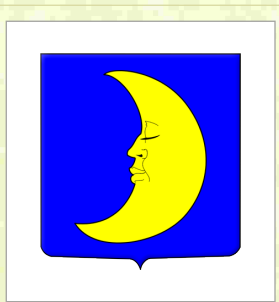
MOTTO

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 Roetman did not include a motto.

SHIELD

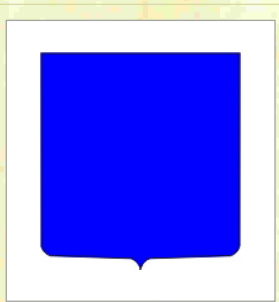
Shields (or Escutcheons) at first were painted simply with one or more bands of color or 'ordinaries'. Later, the ordinaries were used in conjunction with other figures or symbols. The Coat of Arms for the surname Roetman can be described as follows:



THE ROETMAN SHIELD

ROETMAN ARMS

A blue shield with a moon.



BLUE SHIELD

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



MOON

The image of the moon is a symbol of the goddess Diana and indicates, in its bearer, the serene power to endure mundane duties. It is also a symbol of the Virgin Mary. The moon was said to have the sovereignty by night that the sun had by day. The moon “in her compliment” signifies that the moon is full and no rays are ever drawn as with the sun. A face is usually represented in a full moon and sometimes in a crescent moon, but this must not be confused with an ordinary heraldic crescent, as they are not similar.

THE CREST

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. If a family had no crest, and many chose not to, plumes (feathers) were often displayed instead.

CONCLUSION

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Here is a listing of some of the sources consulted when researching German 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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Extra Credit goes to Thomas doerfer at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Wartburg2004.JPG> for the picture on the cover.