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Payne's and the Knights Templar?

The Payne name is of Norman origin. It is supposed to be a corruption of the word, "Pagen", which was a term applied among the Normans of the Tenth and Eleventh centuries not only to individuals who were slow about embracing Christianity, but also to country people, in general, as being slow in this respect. It was along about this time that surnames came into use (In Europe) and the first that is known to have born this name was "Pagen" of Domesday Book. He was a Norman, who went over to England from Normandy in the time of Edward the Confessor, and before the Norman conquest; and when William the Conqueror came in 1066, Pagens fortunes were greatly advanced. Domesday Book, which was an enumeration of the estates of England, made in or about 1086, shows that Pagen held lands in sixteen counties and notes that he had the right to go "whitsoever he would". He died about this time, and left an eldest son Edward, who inherited his estates.

Sir Hugh de Payen, supposed to have been a younger son of Pagen, of Domesday, and because he was younger, was without inheritance, went with Robert of Normandy on the First Crusade in 1099. He remained for some time in Palestine and with Godfrey de St. Omer founded the order of, "Templars of the Cross" which order attained great size and power during the Middle Ages. He was sent by King Baldwin II of Palestine as envoy to the Kings of France and England and a famous crusader (See Ridpath's "History of the World" and links below for more on the Knights Templar). Hugh D. and Edmond Paiene were the first known to have both given and surname. Edmond (Edward), son of Hugh, recieved a manor (See Proctor's "History of the Crusade). After the crusade, Hugh's son Thomas, dropped the old Norman spelling and signed his name Paine. Sir Thomas Paine also recieved a manor house in the "Kings Forest" of "two plowings" formerly owned by Hugh Browman, an Englishman (See Domesday Book). This manor was in Leicestershire and was known as Market Bosworth. It was here that in later years the Battle of the Roses was fought.