

**ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE  
NAME OF ALEXANDER, WITH  
BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE MOST  
NOTED PERSONS OF THAT NAME:  
THE CRESENCE FAMILY RECORD**

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Origin and History of the Name of Alexander, with Biographies of All the Most Noted Persons of that Name: The Cresence Family Record by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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NAME OF ALEXANDER, WITH  
BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE MOST  
NOTED PERSONS OF THAT NAME:  
THE CRESENCE FAMILY RECORD**



*awful*  
ORIGIN AND HISTORY

OF THE

N A M E

OF

ALEXANDER

WITH

BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE MOST NOTED  
PERSONS OF THAT NAME.

AND AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN OF  
SURNAME AND FORENAMES.

TOGETHER WITH

OVER FIVE HUNDRED CHRISTIAN NAMES OF MEN AND WOMEN  
AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE.

**The Crescent Family Record.**

*"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."*

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1904.

*But strew his ashes to the wind,  
Whose sword or voice has served mankind,  
And is he dead, whose glorious mind  
Lifts him on high?  
To live in hearts we leave behind,  
Is not to die.*

PUBLISHERS' NOTE.

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A NUMBER of letters and material have been received of a genealogical nature, with requests to incorporate the same into this work. It is to be regretted that this cannot be done, as the object of this work is simply to preserve and perpetuate the names and biographical history of the most notable members of this family name.

The preservation of such a record cannot fail to prove invaluable and a source of pride and interest not only to persons of the name but to the world in general; and this book may prove the foundation upon which a monumental work may be constructed.

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*in front of Bingham*



## INTRODUCTION.

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NOW that we all have surnames, we are apt to forget that it was not always so. We cannot easily realize the time when John, Thomas and Andrew, Mary and Abigail, were each satisfied with a single name, nor reflect that the use of two is not a refinement dating from an obscure and unknown antiquity, but quite within the reach of record and history.

Every name, no doubt, originally had a meaning, or was at first assumed or imposed from its real or supposed fitness, from some accidental circumstance, or from mere caprice. Each individual is distinguished from his fellows by *his name*. But for this system history and biography could scarcely exist.

Our proper name is our individuality; in our own thoughts and in the thoughts of those who know us, they cannot be separated. Our names are uttered, and at once, whether in connection with blame or praise, with threat or entreaty, with hatred or love, we ourselves are affected by the ideas and feelings expressed. A few trifling words, in no way meant to apply to the man they describe, suffice to awaken the recollection of that man, his physical peculiarities, his moral character, and the most remarkable acts and events of his life; a few syllables will cause the tear to start afresh from the mother's eye, after years of consolation and resignation to her loss; they will summon the tell-tale blush to the maiden's cheek, and she immediately thinks her secret is discovered; they will make a lover's heart beat more rapidly; rekindle the angry glance in an enemy's eye; and in a friend separated from his friend, will renew all his past regrets and his fondest hopes. None the less rapidly do our thoughts connect a name with the idea of the thing to



which it belongs, be it land of birth, country, town, river, road, valley or hill. Dislike, desire, recollection of pain or pleasure, admiration, jealousy, kind feelings, national hatreds and love of country, one and all may be evoked by a single word, because the word represents to us the very object which has created those emotions within us. Every person, even the most inquisitive observer of words and things, must have remarked the great variety that exists in the names of families. He cannot fail to notice that such names are of widely different significations, many being identical with names of places, offices, professions, trades, qualities, familiar natural objects and other things. There is probably no person capable of the least degree of reflection who has not often, in idle moments, amused himself with some little speculation on the probable origin of his own name. It is not sufficient for a person of inquisitive mind that he bears such and such a surname because his father and his grandfather bore it; he will naturally feel desirous of knowing why and when their ancestors acquired it.

What would the annals of mankind and the records of biography be if people had never borne any proper names? It would be a mere chaos of undefined incidents and an unintelligible mass of facts, without symmetry or beauty, and without any interest at all for after ages. Indeed, without names, mankind would have wanted what is perhaps the greatest stimulus of which the mind is susceptible — the love of fame; and consequently, many of the mightiest achievements in every department of human endeavor would have been lost to the world.

Many of our ancient and modern institutions are intimately connected with the meaning and continued existence of proper names. It has been well said that hereditary names perpetuate the memory of ancestors