

Family Name History



MOOJEN

The origins of the Dutch surname Moojen are not entirely clear. It seems most likely that it is derived from the Dutch word "mooi/mooy", which translates as "graceful" or "charming". "Mooi" is also used in Dutch and north German regional dialects as a greeting, as an indication of agreement with the statement of another, and as an all-purpose word meaning "good", "fine", or "well". For instance, the expression "mooi blijft" would equate to the English "keep well". We can plausibly suggest that the surname Moojen developed from a nickname applied to the original bearer, presumably on the basis of an attractive appearance or a winning personality. Surnames based on nicknames are not uncommon, the original nickname usually pertaining to a physical attribute, personality trait, or, to a style of dress favored by the bearer. The Dutch involvement in what is now Indonesia began in the early seventeenth century when, as part of their struggle for independence from Spain, the forces of the United Provinces of the Netherlands evicted Spain's ally Portugal from most of its Pacific territories. The government of the United Provinces delegated the administration of the newly-won colonies to the Dutch East India Company, which was chartered in 1602. There was never a massive Dutch colonial presence in what they called "Batavia" and by 1957, there were only 46,000 Dutch nationals living in the independent nation of Indonesia. In German archives, we find a reference as early as 1282 to an individual known as "Moyekop" ("pretty head") while a review of Dutch emigration records leads us to W. Monijzen, a carpenter who left the town of Texel in North Holland in 1867 for parts unknown. The arms below were borne by the Mooyen family of Harderwick, Holland.

BLAZON OF ARMS: Azure; three acorns proper, issuing one and two from one stem of the same, with alternating leaves, two and two, of the same.
CREST: One acorn proper.
ORIGIN: HOLLAND

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