

Ahlstrom Family Name History

The Swedish surname Ahlstrom, and its variants Ahlstromer, Alstrom, and Alstromer, is of local origin, that is, it belongs to the category of surnames derived from a geographical feature, either natural or manmade, near which the original bearer once lived or held land. In this instance, the name is derived from the Swedish "a(h)l", meaning "alder tree", and the Old Norse "straumr", meaning "brook or stream". Thus, the name indicates "one who lived at, or near, the stream where alder trees grew". Similar surnames include Ahlberg (alder branch), Alquist (alder twig), Ahlmark (alder field), and Ahlborg (alder castle).

Notable bearers of this surname include Johan Niklas Ahlstrom, a composer, who was born 12 June 1805 in Visby. He was the son of a craftsman and studied piano and organ at the University of Upsala. Jonas Alstromer, born on 07 January 1685 in Alingsas, is called the father of the Swedish industrial revolution. He was a student at Upsala, traveled abroad to London, and on his return entered the service of King Karl XII. In 1731 he married Margareta Clason and after her death, Hedvig Elisabeth Paulin. His death is recorded on 02 June 1761. His sons Patrick, Clas, and Johan all studied at the University of Upsala and became important in commerce and industry. The following coat of arms was granted to the Ahlstrom family of Alingsas in 1751.

Blazon of Arms: Vert, a bend ondulee argent, charged with two escallops sable, between two bees.

Translation: The scallop was used as a badge by pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land, and the bee is an emblem of Industry. Green symbolizes the planet Mercury and denotes Hope and Joy.

Crest: A bee of the arms.

Origin: Sweden

Source: The Historical Research Center at www.names.com