

# THE BLAKER FAMILY OF SUSSEX, ENGLAND AND IRELAND

Volume 4.  
Monthly genealogical research reports  
starting in August 2024

by Chris Phillips  
[cgp@medievalgenealogy.org.uk](mailto:cgp@medievalgenealogy.org.uk)

to Rod Blaker  
[rod.blaker@gmail.com](mailto:rod.blaker@gmail.com)

and Group Gen

# Contents

## Monthly research reports

1. Searches in combined database of selected CP 40 plea rolls [1349-1575]	3
2. A claimed Blaker entry in a Sussex Assize Roll of 1279	14
3. A claimed Blaker in New Shoreham in 1329	21
4. Searches in combined database of selected CP 40 plea rolls (1576-1596) and in miscellaneous lists and indexes on the AALT website	25
5. A 13th-century Blakere in South Malling, Sussex	34
6. Some Blaker entries in the King's Bench (KB 27) plea rolls (and also in chancery final decrees)	38
7. Some 13th-century Blakers and a discussion of the surname	45
8. 16th-century Sussex muster rolls	59
9. Early given names similar to Blaker	66
10. The Sussex lay subsidies of 1524 and 1525	76
11. The Sussex lay subsidies of 1543 and 1545	87
12. Searches for the surname Blaker and variants in miscellaneous published records	96
13. Records of the manor of Cuckfield held in London	107
14. A grant of tenements in Cuckfield, Shelley and Ifield to John Blakere and others in 1374	120
15. Cuckfield probate records. Part 1: 1570-1600	126
16. Cuckfield probate records. Part 2: before 1570	139

## Appendices

A. Some thoughts on the 16th-century Cuckfield Blakers [November 2008]	159
B. Blaker entries in an Irish muster roll for 1395-7 [January 2024]	162
C. Deposition of John Blaker, joiner, bound for Breda in Holland in their Majesty's service, 1691/2 [March 2024]	166

# **Genealogical Research Report number 1**

**Searches in combined database  
of selected CP 40 plea rolls [1349-1575]**

**[August 2024]**

## REPORT NUMBER 1. AUGUST 2024.

### SEARCHES IN COMBINED DATABASE OF SELECTED CP 40 PLEA ROLLS

Chris Phillips

CURRENT COVERAGE OF DATABASE: 109 indexes from the period 1349-1575

Searched for the exact spelling Blaker and also using wildcards for Bla\*k\*er\*, Bla\*k\*or\* and Ble\*k\*er\*, excluding results that appeared unrelated. (Among the forms excluded were Blakester, Blaykester, Blaykster, Blekster, Blekstere, although they may share the same root.)

This excludes four indexes from this period that have not yet been included in the database:

Roll numbers 758 (Trinity 1450), 799 (Michaelmas 1460), 1076 (Hilary 1533) and 1135 (Hilary 1548).

These cannot be searched using wildcards, but have been searched for these four forms found in the database:

Blaker, Blacker, Blakker and Blekker.

#### **(1) Results for exact spelling Blaker**

##### **(a) Sussex (7 results, all of which are included in David Bethell's files)**

CP 40/609 (Easter 1413)

**Index entry:** d 641 Sussex / trespass: rescue / Gorynge, John / Blaker, Thomas; Smyth, John, of Launcyng; Beneyt, Thomas

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H5/CP40no609/bCP40no609dorses/IMG\\_0641.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H5/CP40no609/bCP40no609dorses/IMG_0641.htm)

[See David Bethell file: 'Lancing']

CP 40/717 (Easter 1440)

**Index entry:** f 768 Sussex trespass / Homewode, Gilbert / Weste, John, of Cokfelde, husbandman; Blaker, Thomas, of Cokefelde, husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no717/aCP40no717fronts/IMG\\_0768.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no717/aCP40no717fronts/IMG_0768.htm)

[See David Bethell file: 'Cuckfield Early October']

CP 40/717 (Easter 1440)

**Index entry:** d 1209 Sussex / trespass: close & taking animals / Homewode, Gilbert / Weste, John of Cokefelde, Sussex, husbandman; Blaker, Thomas, of Cokefelde, husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no717/bCP40no717dorses/IMG\\_1209.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no717/bCP40no717dorses/IMG_1209.htm)

[See David Bethell file: 'Cuckfield Early October']

CP 40/847 (Trinity 1473)

**Index entry:** d 1240 Sussex / debt / Stephens, Alexander / Blaber, Ralph, of West Preston, laborer; Blaker, Joan, of West Preston, widow

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/E4/CP40no847/bCP40no847dorses/IMG\\_1240.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/E4/CP40no847/bCP40no847dorses/IMG_1240.htm)

[See David Bethell file: 'West Preston November 2022']

CP 40/847 (Trinity 1473)

**Index entry:** d 1446 Sussex / debt / Stephens, Alexander / Blaker, Ralph, of West Preston, laborer; Blaker, Joan, of West Preston, widow

**Link:**

[https://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/bd/cp40\\_link.php?folder=91&image=1446](https://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/bd/cp40_link.php?folder=91&image=1446)

[See David Bethell file: 'West Preston November 2022']

CP 40/998 (Hilary 1512)

**Index entry:** d 63 Sussex / debt / Ashdowne, John, prior of Lewys Priory / Blaker, Richard, of Preston, yeoman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H8/CP40no998/bCP40no998dorses/IMG\\_0063.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H8/CP40no998/bCP40no998dorses/IMG_0063.htm)

[See David Bethell file: 'Preston Episcopi October']

CP 40/1127 (Hilary 1546)

**Index entry:** 2178d Sussex / debt / Hanelys or Havelys, Peter, chaplain / Austen, Simon, of Selmeston, husbandman; Thaccher, Robert, of Selmeston, husbandman; Blaker, John, of Selmeston, husbandman; Raynger, John, of Barwyk, busbandman; Martyn, Robert, of Selmeston, chaplain; Rolfe, John, of Selmeston, husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/aalt1/H8/CP40no1127/bCP40no1127dorses/IMG\\_2178.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/aalt1/H8/CP40no1127/bCP40no1127dorses/IMG_2178.htm)

[See David Bethell file: 'Selmeston May']

**(b) Other counties (4 entries: 1 each from Cambridgeshire, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire)**

[NB 5 other entries indexed as Blaker appear to have been misread. See below for my readings]

CP 40/636 (Hilary 1420)

**Index entry:** d 1139 Soms / trespass: taking / Martyn, William / Blaker, Thomas, of Asshewyke, collier

**Link:** [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H5/CP40no636/bCP40no636dorses/IMG\\_1139.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H5/CP40no636/bCP40no636dorses/IMG_1139.htm)

**Translation:**

Somerset

William Martyn appeared in person on the fourth day against Thomas Blaker of Asshewyke [Ashwick] in the aforesaid county, collier, concerning a plea why by force and arms he seized a certain horse of William found at Wellys [Wells] without reasonable cause, and kept it there so seized until William made a fine of 40 shillings with Thomas to have delivery of the horse, and other enormities etc to the grave damage etc and against the king's peace etc.

And he did not come. And the sheriff was ordered to take him etc. And the sheriff now reports that he was not found etc. Therefore as before he is to be taken so that he should be here 15 days from Easter etc.

CP 40/664 (Hilary 1427)

**Index entry:** d 1562 Wilts / trespass: close / Bradenestoke Priory, prior of / Mere, Nicholas, of Childe Compton, husbandman; Blaker, John, of Childe Compton, husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no664/bCP40no664dorses/IMG\\_1562.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no664/bCP40no664dorses/IMG_1562.htm)

**Translation:**

Wiltshire

The prior of Bradenestoke by his attorney appeared on the fourth day against Nicholas Meere of Childecampton [Chilcompton, Somerset] in the aforesaid county [sic], husbandman, and John Blaker of Childecampton in the same county, concerning a plea why by force and arms they broke the close and buildings of the prior at Clakke [Clack, in Lyneham parish] and with certain cattle fed them on, trampled and consumed his corn and grass to the value of 20 pounds lately growing there, and other enormities etc to the grave damage etc and against the king's peace etc.

And they did not come. And the the sheriff was ordered to attach them. And the sheriff now reports that they have nothing etc. Therefore they are to be taken so that they should be here three weeks from Easter etc.

CP 40/732 (Hilary 1444)

**Index entry:** f 22 Cams / trespass: assault / Coterell, Nicholas; Burgh, John, bailiffs of Stane, Stapilho and Flendiche / Poperyke, John, of Chipenham, holy water clerk; Lak, John, of Chipenham, laborer; Carpenter, Thomas, constable of Chipenham, husbandman; Hervy, Thomas, of Chipenham, husbandman; Hervy, John, of Chipenham, husbandman; Norman, William, of Chipenham, husbandman; Baker, John, of Chipenham, husbandman; Berford, John, of Chipenham, husbandman; Cate, John, of Chipenham, husbandman; Pygot, Thomas, of Chipenham, husbandman; Asshele, John, of Chipenham, husbandman; Blaker, John, of Chipenham,

husbandman; Hakka, John, of Chipenham, husbandman; Busshell, Robert, of Chipenham, husbandman; Smyth, Adam, of Chipenham, husbandman; Lak, John, of Chipenham, husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no732/aCP40no732fronts/IMG\\_0022.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no732/aCP40no732fronts/IMG_0022.htm)

**Translation:**

Cambridgeshire

The sheriff was ordered to take John Poperyke of Chipenham [Chippenham] in the aforesaid county, holy water clerk, and John Lak' of Chipenham in the aforesaid county, labourer, if etc. And saving etc. So that they should be here at this day, to wit, 15 days from St Hilary etc. And they did not come. And the sheriff now reports that by virtue of the aforesaid writ he made a warrant to Nicholas Cocerell [or Coterell] and John Burgh', the king's bailiffs of the hundreds of Stane, Stapilho and Flendiche [Staine, Staploe and Flendish], to arrest John Poperyk'. Nicholas and John Burgh arrested John Poperyke on Monday next after Christmas last past at Chipenham, and wished to take him to the king's gaol of Cambridge Castle. And on this, Thomas Carpenter, the constable of the vill of Chipenham, husbandman, Thomas Hervy of Chipenham, husbandman, and John Hervy of Chipenham, husbandman, William Norman of Chipenham, husbandman, [over erasure: John] Baker of Chipenham, husbandman, John Berford' of Chipenham, husbandman, John Cate of Chipenham, husbandman, Thomas Pygot' of Chipenham, husbandman, John Asshele of Chipenham, husbandman, John Blaker of Chipenham, husbandman, John Hakke of Chipenham, husbandman, Robert Busshell' of Chipenham, husbandman, Adam Smyth of Chipenham, husbandman, and Johannes Lak' of Chipenham, husbandman, with other unknown malefactors to the number of 40 persons arrayed in a warlike manner, by the common consent of John Poperyke, came and at Chipenham by force and arms, namely swords, staffs and daggers, assaulted Nicholas and John Burgh then and there, and beat and ill treated John Burgh so that his life was despaired of, and took John Poperyk' from the custody of Nicholas and John Burgh at Chipenham against their will and took him away. And on this comes John Vampage, who sues for the king, and he seeks a writ of attachment against Thomas, Thomas, John, William, William, John, John, Thomas, John, John, John, Robert, Adam et John. And it is granted to him, returnable here one month from Easter.

[Different hand:] Afterwards, to wit, on 24 April in the 23rd year of the reign [1444] come Thomas Carpenter, Thomas Hervy, William Norman, John Berford', John Blaker, John Cate, Thomas Pygot, John Asshele, John Hakke, Robert Busshell', John Hervy and John Poperyke before the justices here. And they seek to be admitted to a fine with the king. And they are admitted. And each of them is assessed by the justices at [amount blank] by the pledge of William Cecyll of Clerkenwell in the county of Middlesex, esquire, and John Tybbey de London, who being examined before the justices here, go bail for the fines thus assessed by the justices.

CP 40/732 (Hilary 1444)

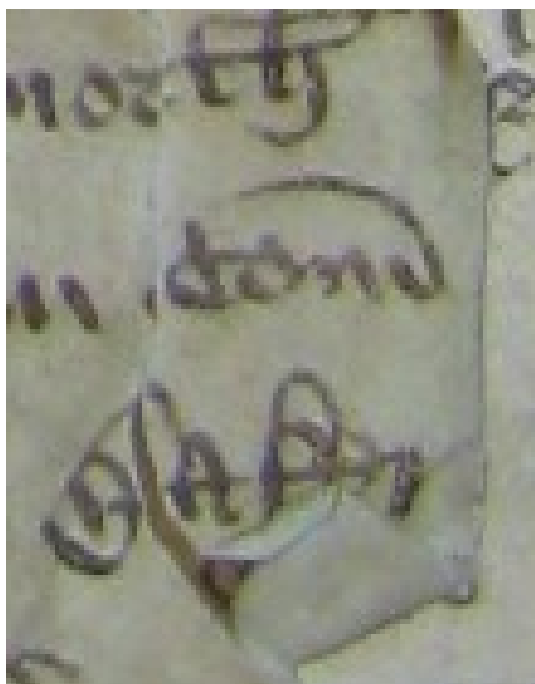
**Index entry:** d 1986 / debt / Blaker **[Blaket]** alias Barton, Richard, of Shelton / Joos, Henry, of Hardegrave, husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no732/bCP40no732dorses/IMG\\_1986.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no732/bCP40no732dorses/IMG_1986.htm)  
[apparently relates to Hargrave and Shelton, Northamptonshire]

CP 40/799 (Michaelmas 1460)

**Index entry:** d 1194 Shrops / debt / Lowe, William; Pynchebek, John / Smyth, Thurstan, of Bruggenorth, chapman; Barker, William, of Worfeld, husbandman; Blaker, Richard, of Bruggenorth, baker [this has been indexed as 'Blaker', but I think it is 'Baker' with a tear in the parchment producing the appearance of an 'l'; David Bethell notes that a related entry in CP 40/800 (Hilary 1461) gives the name as 'Baker'.]



**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no799/bCP40no799dorses/IMG\\_1194.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no799/bCP40no799dorses/IMG_1194.htm)  
[See David Bethell file 'Bridgnorth September']

CP 40/841 (Hilary 1472)

**Index entry:** f 404 debt / Kent / Blaber or Blaker [Blaber, not Blaker], Richard, minister of Holy Trinity, Modynden / Pyx, Richard, of Yaldyng, husbandman; Morgan, Thomas, of Gosfeld, Essex, esq; Kychyn, John, of Chelmysford, Essex, husbandman; Eton, William, of Feversham, husbandman; Brodwey, John, of Horton, stainer

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/E4/CP40no841/aCP40no841fronts/IMG\\_0404.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/E4/CP40no841/aCP40no841fronts/IMG_0404.htm)

CP 40/888 (Easter 1484)

**Index entry:** d 962 Devon / debt execution / Bremelcombe, Henry / Blaker [Blaket], John, of Toryton, yeoman; Baker, John, of Great Toryton, tanner; another,

of Great Toryton, miller; Neucombe, Simosn [Simon], of Whitteslegh, husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/R3/CP40no888/bCP40no888dorses/IMG\\_0962.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/R3/CP40no888/bCP40no888dorses/IMG_0962.htm)

CP 40/1064 (Hilary 1530)

**Index entry:** d c1032 Dorset / debt / Hurdeler, John / Wyllehams alias Blaker, Robert, of West Stoure, husbandman

**Link:** [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H8/CP40no1064/cCP40no1064dorses/IMG\\_1032.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H8/CP40no1064/cCP40no1064dorses/IMG_1032.htm)

**Translation:**

Dorset

John Hurdeler by his attorney appeared on the fourth day against Robert Wyllehams late of West Stoure [West Stour] in the aforesaid county, husbandman, otherwise called Robert Blaker of West Stoure in the aforesaid county, husbandman, concerning a plea that he should render to him 40 shillings which he owes him and unjustly keeps etc.

And he did not come. And the sheriff was ordered to summon him etc. And the sheriff now reports that he has nothing etc. Therefore he is to be taken so that he should be here 15 days from Easter etc.

CP 40/1157 (Hilary 1554)

**Index entry:** 177 d Suffk / debt / Tylney, Elizabeth, widow / Blaker [Blower], Geoffrey, of Debenham, gent

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/M/CP40no1157/bCP40no1157dorses/IMG\\_0177.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/M/CP40no1157/bCP40no1157dorses/IMG_0177.htm)

**(2) Blacker/Blakker (24 results; 3 from Dorset, 3 from Hampshire, 1 from Lincolnshire, 3 from Somerset, 14 from Wiltshire)**

CP 40/629 (Easter 1418)

**Index entry:** d 1003 Soms / debt / Thirmond, David; Thurmond, John, on his own account / Chedder, John, of Dynnersdon, Soms, husbandman; Beke, John, of Melles, husbandman; Durant, William, of Speghtbury, by Blandford, Dors, vicar; Pransfot, John, of Melles, Soms, husbandman; Blakker, John, of Melles, husbandman

**Link:** [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H5/CP40no629/bCP40no629dorses/IMG\\_1003.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H5/CP40no629/bCP40no629dorses/IMG_1003.htm)

CP 40/677 (Easter 1430)

**Index entry:** f 698 Wilts / trespass: taking a boat / Alisaundre, William, on his own account / Blakker, John, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no677/aCP40no677fronts/IMG\\_0698.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no677/aCP40no677fronts/IMG_0698.htm)

CP 40/677 (Easter 1430)

**Index entry:** d 1219 Wilts / debt / Dautesey, Edmund, on his own account / Blacker, Thomas, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], carpenter; Waryn, John, of Salisbury,

fuller

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no677/bCP40no677dorses/IMG\\_1219.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no677/bCP40no677dorses/IMG_1219.htm)

CP 40/685 (Easter 1432)

**Index entry:** d 1172 Soms / trespass: close and taking / Blacker, Thomas [by his attorney John Rewe] / Wylkyns, William, of Farnton, husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no685/bCP40no685dorses/IMG\\_1172.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no685/bCP40no685dorses/IMG_1172.htm)

CP 40/692 (Hilary 1434)

**Index entry:** d 1275 Wilts / debt / Bromley, John, of Salisbury / Porter, Gerard, of Salisbury, goldsmith; Wodewere, William, of Warmystre, dyer; Blakker, John, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], dyer

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no692/bCP40no692dorses/IMG\\_1275.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no692/bCP40no692dorses/IMG_1275.htm)

CP 40/717 (Easter 1440)

**Index entry:** d 1481 Soms / trespass: close & taking / Sammell, John, junior / Blakker, Thomas, of Childe Compton [Childecompton], husbandman; Hunte, John, of Childe Compton, collier; Heyman, John, of Shepton Malet, husbandman; Mede, Willam, of Shepton Malet, collier

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no717/bCP40no717dorses/IMG\\_1481.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no717/bCP40no717dorses/IMG_1481.htm)

CP 40/717 (Easter 1440)

**Index entry:** d 1488 Wilts debt / Warwyk, Willam, of Salisbury, mercer / Gerard alias Blakker, Thomas, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], carpenter; Herneman, John, of Over Wallop, Hants, husbandman; Maryot, Stephen, Salisbury, fisher; Ovyng, Willam, of Salisbury, chandler

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no717/bCP40no717dorses/IMG\\_1488.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no717/bCP40no717dorses/IMG_1488.htm)

CP 40/732 (Hilary 1444)

**Index entry:** d 1451 Wilts / debt / Atkyn, John, dyer / Hendy, Ralph, of Salisbury, weaver; Blakker, Thomas, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], carpenter; Stone, John, of Plympton, Devon, gent; Ely, John, of Cranborne, Dorset, tucker

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no732/bCP40no732dorses/IMG\\_1451.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no732/bCP40no732dorses/IMG_1451.htm)

CP 40/853 (Hilary 1475)

**Index entry:** d 956 debt / Wilts / Blakker, Thomas [by his attorney] / Heyron, John, of Ambresbury, cordwainer

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/E4/CP40no853/bCP40no853dorses/IMG\\_0956.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/E4/CP40no853/bCP40no853dorses/IMG_0956.htm)

CP 40/871 (Hilary 1480)

**Index entry:** f 111 debt / Southampton / Ambrose, Christopher / Michell, Walter, of Holwall, Soms, husbandman; Blakker, Thomas, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], chapman; Ape, John, of Brisport, Dorset, dyer; Tulle, Joan, of Chichester, Sussex, widow

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/E4/CP40no871/aCP40no871fronts/IMG\\_0111.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/E4/CP40no871/aCP40no871fronts/IMG_0111.htm)

CP 40/883 (Hilary 1483)

**Index entry:** d 443 Southampton / trespass / Blakker, Thomas, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], tanner / Walker, John, of Southampton, merchant; Ambrose, Christopher, of Southampton, merchant

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/E4/CP40no883/bCP40no883dorses/IMG\\_0443.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/E4/CP40no883/bCP40no883dorses/IMG_0443.htm)

CP 40/883 (Hilary 1483)

**Index entry:** d 530 Southampton / trespass / Blakker, Thomas, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], tanner / Walker, John, of Southampton, merchant; Ambrose, Christopher, of Southampton, merchant

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/E4/CP40no883/bCP40no883dorses/IMG\\_0530.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/E4/CP40no883/bCP40no883dorses/IMG_0530.htm)

CP 40/890 (Michaelmas 1484)

**Index entry:** f 548 Wilts debt / Blakker, Thomas [by his attorney] / Maryner, John, of Southamton, shoemaker; Wexham, John, of Fordyngbryge, Hants, tanner; Ora\_ (?), William, of Warminster, butcher; Haukyns, John, of Fontell Bishop, butcher; Cotes, William, of Salisbury, butcher

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/R3/CP40no890/aCP40no890fronts/IMG\\_0548.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/R3/CP40no890/aCP40no890fronts/IMG_0548.htm)

CP 40/891 (Hilary 1485)

**Index entry:** d 784 Wilts / debt / Blakker, T\_(?) [Thomas, by his attorney; cf parties in 890, 892 and 893] / Maryner, John, of Southampton, shoemaker; Wexham, John, of Fordyngbrige, tanner; Oram, William, of Warminster; Haukyn, John, of Fontell bishop, butcher; Cotes, William, of Salisbury

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/R3/CP40no891/bCP40no891dorses/IMG\\_0784.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/R3/CP40no891/bCP40no891dorses/IMG_0784.htm)

CP 40/892 (Easter 1485)

**Index entry:** f 369 Wilts / debt / Blakker, Thomas [by his attorney] / Maryner, John, of Southampton, shoemaker; Wexham, John, of Fordyngbrige, tanner; Oram, William, of Warminster; Haukyn, John, of Fontell Bishop, butcher; Cotes, William, of Salisbury

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/R3/CP40no892/aCP40no892fronts/IMG\\_0369.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/R3/CP40no892/aCP40no892fronts/IMG_0369.htm)

CP 40/893 (Trinity 1485)

**Index entry:** d 1616 Wilts/ debt / Blakker, Thomas [by his attorney John Hampton] / Maryner, John, of Southampton, shoemaker; Wexham, John, of Fordyngbrygge, tanner; Oram, William, of Warminster, butcher; Haukyns, John, of Fontell Bishop, butcher; Cotes, William, of Salisbury, butcher

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/R3/CP40no893/bCP40no893dorses/IMG\\_1616.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/R3/CP40no893/bCP40no893dorses/IMG_1616.htm)

CP 40/907 (Hilary 1489)

**Index entry:** d 1489 Wilts / debt / Blakker, Thomas / Molens, Richard, of Sandehill, Fordyngbrigge, Hants, gent

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/H7/CP40no907/bCP40no907dorses/IMG\\_1489.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/H7/CP40no907/bCP40no907dorses/IMG_1489.htm)

CP 40/951 (Hilary 1500)

**Index entry:** f 338 Wilts / debt / Blakker, Thomas [by his attorney] / Gendon, John, of Salisbury, carpenter

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H7/CP40no951/aCP40no951fronts/IMG\\_0338.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H7/CP40no951/aCP40no951fronts/IMG_0338.htm)

CP 40/1049 (Hilary 1526)

**Index entry:** d 392 Dorset / debt / Jamys, William / Adys, John, of Shaftesbury, plumber and innholder; Blacker, Thomas, of Shaftesbury, innholder

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/H8/CP40no1049/bCP40no1049dorses/IMG\\_0392.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/H8/CP40no1049/bCP40no1049dorses/IMG_0392.htm)

CP 40/1076 (Hilary 1533)

**Index entry:** 6519 d Dorset / Jenkyns, Henry, clerk / Lasy, John, executrix of; (Blacker, Agnes, of Wyke, [in the parish of] Mylborne Port, Soms, widow)

**Link:** [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H8/CP40no1076/bCP40no1076dorses/IMG\\_6519.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H8/CP40no1076/bCP40no1076dorses/IMG_6519.htm)

CP 40/1084 (Hilary 1535)

**Index entry:** d 2932 debt / Wilts / Chafyn, Thomas, of Salisbury, mercer / Lawrens, John, of Malmysbury, yeoman; Blakker, William, of Gyllyngham, Dorset, yeoman; Lewes alias Taylour, Robert, of Wymburne Minster, Dorset, tailor or innkeeper

**Link:** [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H8/CP40no1084/bCP40no1084dorses/IMG\\_2932.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H8/CP40no1084/bCP40no1084dorses/IMG_2932.htm)

CP 40/1084 (Hilary 1535)

**Index entry:** d 2935 debt/ Wilts / Chaffyn, Thomas, of Salisbury, mercer / Lawrens, John, of Malmysbury, yeoman; Blakker, William, of Gyllyngham, Dorset, yeoman; Lewes alias Taylour, Robert, of Wymburne Minster, Dorset, tailor or innkeeper

**Link:** [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H8/CP40no1084/bCP40no1084dorses/IMG\\_2935.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H8/CP40no1084/bCP40no1084dorses/IMG_2935.htm)

CP 40/1092 (Hilary 1537)

**Index entry:** d 3245 Dorset / replevin / Rede, Thomas; Blacker, William [by his attorney]; Smale, Thomas; Mathewe, John; Caffé, Thomas; Philippys, William; Kyrby, Richard / Browne, Joan, widow

**Link:** [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H8/CP40no1092/bCP40no1092dorses/IMG\\_3245.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H8/CP40no1092/bCP40no1092dorses/IMG_3245.htm)

CP 40/1207 (Hilary 1563)

**Index entry:** 1207/f 292 Lincs / common recovery / Mounson, Robert; Broxholme, John, esq / Rotheram, Christopher; Blacke, William; Toynton, Henry; Bylclyffe, Edward; Blacker, Robert [with others held the manor of Wyckenby alias Whyckenby (i.e. Wickenby)]; Bowcooke, John

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/Eliz/CP40no1207/aCP40no1207fronts/IMG\\_0292.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/Eliz/CP40no1207/aCP40no1207fronts/IMG_0292.htm)

### **(3) Blekker (3 results; 2 from Bristol, 1 from Somerset)**

CP 40/618 (Trinity 1415)

**Index entry:** d 2028 / trespass: taking / Bristol / St Katherine Hospital, Bedminster juxta Bristol, master of / Blekker, John, senior, of Bristol, brewer; Scharshull, Adam, of Bristol, weaver

**Link:** [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H5/CP40no618/bCP40no618dorses/IMG\\_2028.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/H5/CP40no618/bCP40no618dorses/IMG_2028.htm)

CP 40/654 (Trinity 1424)

**Index entry:** f 197 Soms / Mede, Walter / Blekker, Walter, of Bath, fuller ['toker'] account as receiver

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no654/aCP40no654fronts/IMG\\_0197.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no654/aCP40no654fronts/IMG_0197.htm)

CP 40/677 (Easter 1430)

**Index entry:** f 568 Bristol / debt / Buklond, Anisia, prioress of / Blekker, John, senior, of Bristol, brewer; Person, John, of Bristol, dyer; Shire, Henry, of Bristol, weaver

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no677/aCP40no677fronts/IMG\\_0568.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT1/H6/CP40no677/aCP40no677fronts/IMG_0568.htm)

# **Genealogical Research Report number 2**

**A claimed Blaker entry  
in a Sussex Assize Roll of 1279**

**[September 2024]**

## REPORT NUMBER 2. SEPTEMBER 2024.

### A CLAIMED BLAKER ENTRY IN A SUSSEX ASSIZE ROLL OF 1279

Chris Phillips

In his book "Searches into the history of the family of Blaker of Sussex" (1894), on [pages 9 and 10](#), Walter Charles Renshaw wrote that the earliest known reference to a Blaker in Sussex was to a "John de (?le) Blaker", who held land in New Shoreham in 1330. For this reference, Renshaw cited an article by Edward Turner about Sele Priory. He added that Turner had also mentioned a "John le Blakere" in 1279, but Renshaw apparently dismissed this because another author, Cartwright, had transcribed the same name as 'Bakere', not 'Blakere'.

**T**HE earliest known reference to a Blaker in Sussex occurs in 1330, when John Kingeswode of Findon gave to the Carmelite Friars of New Shoreham a tenement situate there, and bounded on the west in part by property of John de (?le) Blaker (a).

(a) Surtees Society Publications, vol. lxxix. p. 18, *note*.

(b) As edited by Marshall, p. 96, and see pp. 2 and 75. See also pedigree of Ernley in Elwes' Castles, &c., of Western Sussex, p. 75.

(c) In the proceedings in a chancery suit, temp. Eliz., relating to the manor of "Downhead," the names of the litigant parties are spelt John Blaker and Walter Blaker (Record Office, Chanc. Proc., Series II., Bundle 23, No. 7). There is a deed between Anthony Kempe and William Blacker of New Sarum, dated in 19 Eliz. (Close Rolls, 1010).

(d) Register of Oxford University, pub. by Oxford Hist. Soc.

(e) Sus. Arch. Coll., vol. x. p. 109, where mention is made of a John

le Blakere in 1279, but in Cartwright's Rape of Bramber, p. 51, the name referred to as identical is Bakere.

Turner's article had appeared in Sussex Archaeological Collections, volume 10 (1858). The reference to a John le Blaker in 1279 appeared in a footnote on [page 109](#),

where he wrote that the "John de Blaker" who held land in New Shoreham in 1330 was no doubt an ancestor of the Blaker family who were at Shoreham and later at Kingston and Portslade. He added that one of the family, John le Blakere, was returned in an assize roll of 1279 as a defaulter, for selling wine contrary to the assize.

<sup>1</sup> No doubt an ancestor of the ancient family of Blaker, who originated at Shoreham, but who, in more modern times, resided at Kingston and Portslade, and one

of whom, John le Blakere, is returned in an assize roll dated 1279, as a defaulter, for selling wine contrary to the assize.

In the other work cited by Renshaw - Edmund Cartwright's "The parochial topography of the rape of Bramber", volume 2, part 2, [page 51](#) (1830) - is a list of 11 people who were presented for selling wine in 1279 in New Shoreham, and as Renshaw wrote, here the name is given instead as "John le Bakere".

In the assize roll of 1279 is a return of defaulters who had sold wine, since the last iter, contrary to the assize: viz. "Nicholas at Wald, 80 casks; Clement le Taverner, 60; Isabel, the widow of Henry Pecher, 30; Adam Everard, 20; Alan de Pennock, 16; John le Bakere, 12; Grey Lambert, 10; Ralph Kekey, 10; William Poyning, 10; William Ichnore, 8; William Aken, 4; all of New Shoreham, who were amerced."<sup>c</sup>

<sup>c</sup> Rot. Assis. 7 Edw. I. in the Chapter House, Westminster.

This was the basis on which Renshaw dismissed Turner's reference to a Blakere in 1279. However, according to C. R. J. Currie and C. P. Lewis's "A guide to English County Histories", page 388 (1997), Cartwright's work had been noted for its inaccuracy - "C. F. Trower in 1875 enumerated 19 separate mistakes in the descent of Findon manor."

In view of this, it seemed possible that Renshaw had been wrong to conclude that Turner had misread the name, so I looked at the Sussex assize rolls for 1279 in order to try to clarify the question.

Breaches of the assize of wine appear among the crown pleas in the assize rolls. Neither Cartwright nor Turner gave any more information about the roll than the year and the county. There are actually four surviving rolls containing crown pleas at the assize held at Chichester on 27 June 1279 - one roll compiled for each of three justices, and the "rex roll" compiled for the record keeper. The contents of these rolls are essentially the same, but there are differences in spelling of names and in some of the contents.

All these rolls are available on the Anglo-American Legal Tradition website. Although there were several hundred photographs to search, fortunately they were

arranged by hundred and town. I searched only sections for the half-hundred of Fishersgate in the rape of Bramber, which contains Shoreham, and for the town of Shoreham itself.

In the four rolls I found ten references to the John in question:

(1) He appeared in a list of 11 people who were said by the jurors for the town of Shoreham to have sold wine after the last eyre, against the assize, and were therefore in mercy (i.e. liable to be 'amerced' or fined). John had sold 12 casks. There is a version of this list in each of the four rolls.

(2) In one roll there is a list of fines and amercements, in which a payment of one mark by John for selling wine against the assize is recorded under Shoreham.

(3) Also in the section for the town of Shoreham is an entry concerning William Chamond, who was presented for two exchanges of money and made a fine of 40 shillings, for which John was one of two sureties. The sureties are named in only one of the four rolls.

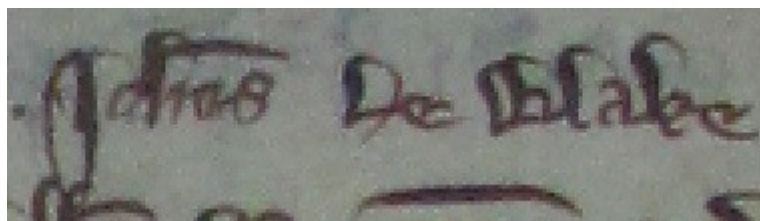
(4) John is also listed as one of the jurors for the town of Shoreham. The jurors are listed in all four rolls.

The photographs below show how the name was written in each of these ten entries.

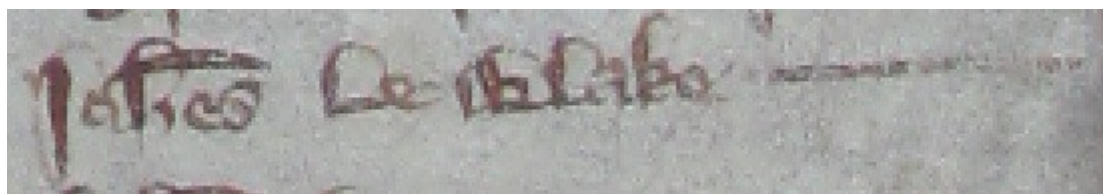
### **JUST 1/915**

Sussex eyre of 1279, Rex roll of crown pleas, gaol delivery, plaints, amercements and fines and jury calendar (39 rotulets)

Wine ([rot. 19](#))



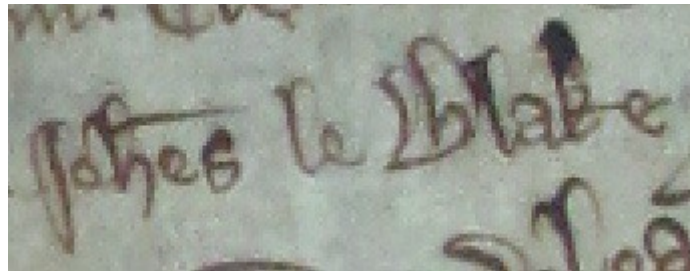
Jurors ([rot. 1](#))



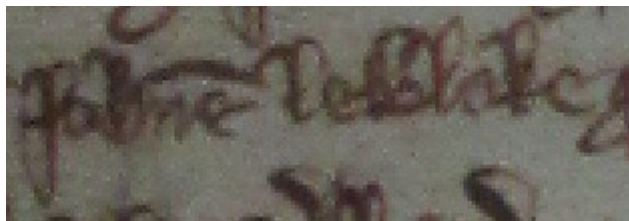
### **JUST 1/917**

Sussex eyre of 1279, Boyland's roll of crown pleas, gaol delivery, plaints, amercements and fines and jury calendar (41 rotulets)

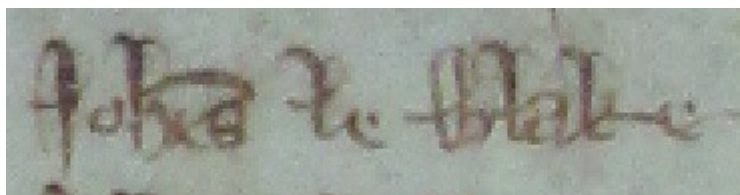
Wine ([rot. 16](#))



Amercement ([rot. 35d](#))



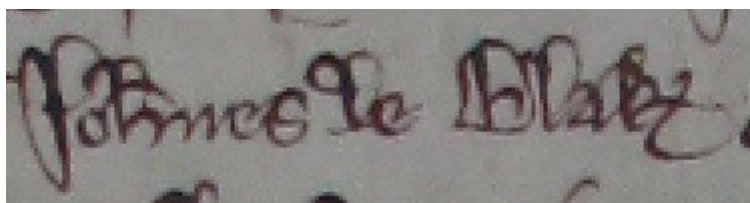
Jurors ([rot. 2](#))



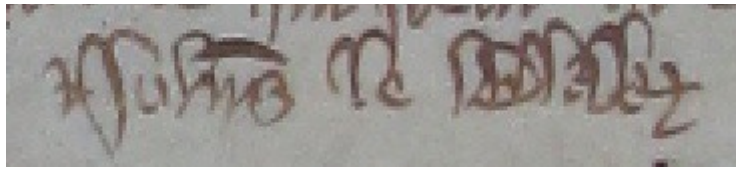
### **JUST 1/921**

Sussex eyre of 1279, Reigate's roll of crown pleas, gaol delivery, complaints and jury calendar (35 rotulets)

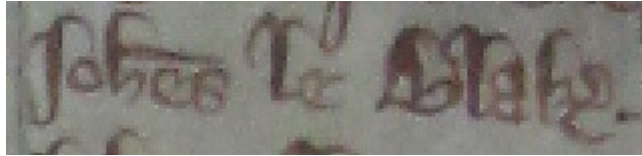
Wine ([rot 33](#))



Surety ([rot 33](#))



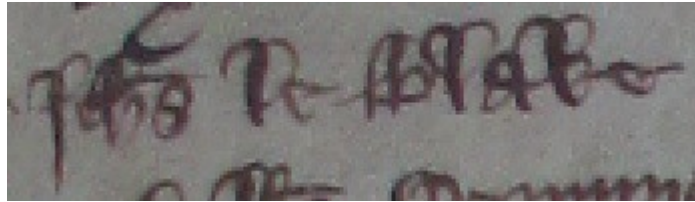
Jurors ([rot. 35](#))



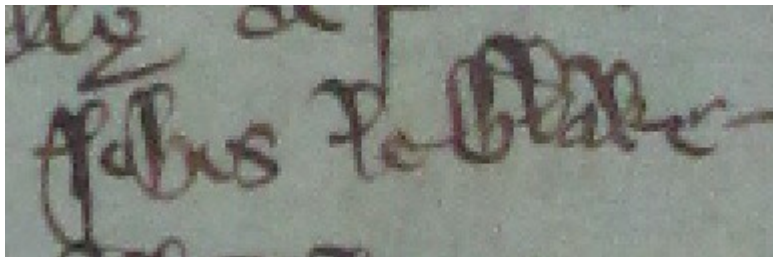
### JUST 1/923

Sussex eyre of 1279, Rochester's roll of crown pleas, complaints and jury calendar (30 rotulets)

Wine ([rot. 23d](#))



Jurors ([rot. 30d](#))



It is clear from these extracts that the surname is neither 'Blakere', as Turner had read it, nor 'Bakere', as Cartwright had read it, but 'Blake'. In three of the rolls - numbers 915, 917 and 923 it is written simply as 'Blake'. In the other - number 921 - it is written as 'Blak' with an abbreviation mark at the end. In two of the entries this is just the usual abbreviation used when there is a 'k' at the end of the word, and would be understood to indicate the omission of the following 'e'. In the third entry there is an additional flourish which does resemble the usual sign for an omitted 'er'. But in this case it seems to be just an idiosyncrasy of the clerk, as a number of other words ending in 'k' have the same mark, and these include surnames derived from place-names which certainly do not end in 'er' (for example 'Trobewyk' - Trubwick in

Cuckfield - and 'Gotewyk' - Gotwick in Rusper).

Comparison of the spellings of names in the different rolls with those in Cartwright's translation suggests that he saw the entry in roll number 917. It may seem strange that he could have misread 'Blake' as 'Bakere'. But evidently the criticisms of his accuracy were fully justified, because there are major misreadings in most of the names in his list. For example, among the forenames, he misread Michael as Nicholas, Alexander as Alan and 'Guydo' (Guy) as Grey, while among the surnames he misread 'Peuense' (Pevensey) as 'Pennock', 'Tuthome' as 'Ichnore' and 'le Keu' as 'Aken'.

Turner presumably saw the entry in roll number 921, in which the surname is abbreviated, and wrongly extended the abbreviation as 'ere'. Unfortunately this raises a question over the reference to a "John de Blaker" in 1330, also in Shoreham, for which Turner was Renshaw's source.

### **Conclusion**

The surname of the man presented for breaking the assize of wine at Shoreham in 1279 was not Bakere, as read by Cartwright in 1830, or Blakere, as read by Turner in 1858, but Blake.

# **Genealogical Research Report number 3**

## **A claimed Blaker in New Shoreham in 1329**

**[October 2024]**

## REPORT NUMBER 3. OCTOBER 2024.

### A CLAIMED BLAKER IN NEW SHOREHAM IN 1329

In a previous report a name in a 1279 assize roll entry for Shoreham, previously read as John le Blaker, was examined and found to read John le Blake. It had been read as Blaker by Edward Turner, and mentioned by him in an article on Sele Priory published in [Sussex Archaeological Collections, volume 10](#) (1858). In the same article, Turner also mentioned a deed dated 1330 (actually 1329) by which a tenement in New Shoreham was given to the Carmelite friars there. The charter specified the tenants of the neighbouring tenements, one of whom (according to Turner) was named "John de Blaker".<sup>1</sup> As Turner misread "Blake" as "Blaker" in the assize roll, his reading of the charter needed to be checked.

The name in question actually occurs in two charters, both dated 1329, which are now among the records of Sele Priory held by Magdalen College, Oxford (numbered Shoreham 14 and Shoreham 16). This question had previously been investigated by David Bethell (see volume 2, pages 203-209), who was sceptical of the accuracy of Turner's reading but couldn't reach a definite conclusion because the College was unable to provide copies of the charters.

Fortunately the College Archives now has a policy of fulfilling small reprographic requests free of charge, and kindly supplied photographs of the two charters and their seals to me.

In summary, the texts of the charters are as follows:

#### (1) Shoreham 14.

I **John de Kyngeswod'** have granted to the religious men of the order of the blessed Mary of Mount Carmel dwelling at Nouam Shorh[a]m the tenement with houses built on it that I have in the vill of Noua Shorh[a]m on the fee of the former Temple [between the tenement(s) which was/were\*] of **Ralph Joye** on the south side and the tenements which were of **John le Blak'**, **Robert le Poffere** and **John Judde** on the west and the field of the aforesaid brothers called le Templested' on the north and east side, to hold to the prior and brothers and their successors in pure and perpetual alms. Warranty.

Witnesses: William de Northo, Nigel de Coumbes, Robert Michel, John de Bokyngham, John de Peuenese of Shorh[a]m, Germanus de Obelyt, Thomas de Weston', Guy de Cly [sic] and others.

Given at Shorh[a]m on Monday next after the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, 3 Edward III [3 July 1329].

---

<sup>1</sup> The names are also given by Henry Cheale, in 'The Story of Shoreham' (1921), p. 87, but apparently these are essentially based on Turner's article.

[\* These words were omitted from the text.]

## (2) Shoreham 16.

I **John de Kyngeswod'** have granted to the religious men of the order of the blessed Mary of Mount Carmel dwelling at Nouam Shorh[a]m the tenement with houses built on it that I have in the vill of Noua Shorh[a]m on the fee of the former Temple between the tenement which was of **Simon de Crabwyk'** and the tenement which was of **Robert Heryng'** on the south and the tenements which were of **John le Blak'** and **John le Knaue**, **John le Ferur** and **Simon Trenchemere** on the west and the field of the aforesaid brothers called le Templested' on the north and east, for a certain sum of money paid to me, to hold to the prior and brothers and their successors freely, quietly and peacefully in perpetuity. Warranty.

Witnesses: William de Northo, Nigel de Coumbes, Robert Michel, John de Bokyngh[a]m, John de Peuenese of Shorh[a]m, Germanus de Hobelyt', Thomas de Weston', Guy de Ely and others.

Given at Shorh[a]m on Monday next after the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, 3 Edward III [3 July 1329].

It is strange that both these charters bear the same date and apparently concern the same land. The main difference is that the names of the neighbouring tenants nearly all differ between the two charters, John le Blak' being the only one common to both. There are also some differences in the wording. In one the land is to be held by the friars in alms, while in the other the gift is made for a sum of money paid and is to be held simply in perpetuity. I can only think that after one of these versions was sealed the parties wished to change the wording, and the other version was drawn up instead. It seems the opportunity was also taken to revise the names of the neighbouring tenants, presumably because they had been copied from an older document and were out of date.

Bethell examined the names of the neighbouring tenants in Shoreham 16, and those on the west side in Shoreham 14, which were supplied to him by Robin Darwall-Smith, the then archivist of Magdalen College. He compared them with the published lay subsidies of 1296, 1327 and 1332.<sup>2</sup> Of the names in Shoreham 16, in 1296 Simon de Crabbewyke appears among the villeins of Hugh Bardulf [p. 104], Robert Heryng in New Shoreham [p. 67] and Simon Trenchemer in Brighton with Moulsecoomb [p. 42]. Of the names in Shoreham 14, Robert le Poffere occurs in Shoreham in both 1327 (as Puffare) and 1332 (as Puffar) and John Judde occurs in Shoreham in 1332 [p. 152, 227]. To these can be added the southern neighbour Ralph Joye, who also appears in Shoreham in both 1327 (as Joie) and 1332 [p. 152, 227].

From this, it would seem that these three names in Shoreham 16 (and probably also John le Knaue and John le Ferur) represent neighbouring tenants perhaps a generation

---

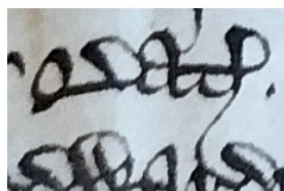
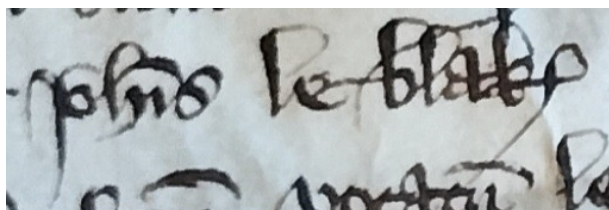
<sup>2</sup> [The three earliest subsidies for the county of Sussex in the years 1296, 1327, 1332](#), edited by W. Hudson (Sussex Record Society volume 10, 1909).

or more before the date of the charter, while those in Shoreham 14 are their successors in 1329. If Shoreham 14 was a replacement, drawn up in haste on the same day, that might explain the omission of several words from the text before the name of Ralph Joye. As for John le Blak', he too must have been a tenant at the earlier time, but it's not so clear whether he was still a tenant in 1329 or whether his name simply remained in the revised text because the name of the current tenant was unknown.

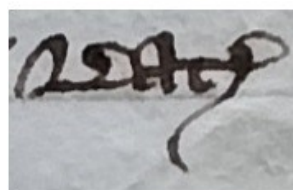
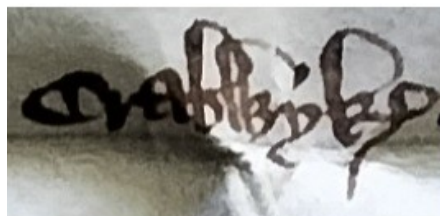
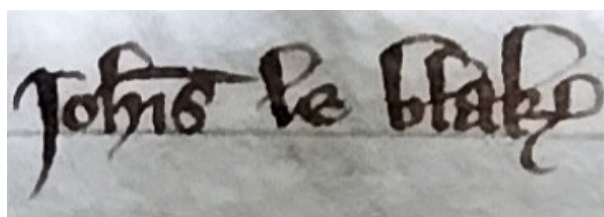
Turner certainly made an error in giving the name as "*de* Blaker". But was he right to interpret "Blak'" as "Blaker"? Darwall-Smith commented to Bethell that at the end of the word there was "*a flourish, which Turner must have interpreted — I think probably correctly — as an abbreviation for "-er", to give us "Blaker".*" But he noted that the Victorian cataloguer read the name simply as "le Blak".

In fact it seems clear that in both charters the flourish is simply the ordinary abbreviation mark at the end of a word, indicating an omitted letter or letters, not the specific abbreviation for "er". Exactly corresponding abbreviations are found in both dating clauses (Dat' for Datus), and in Shoreham 16 exactly the same mark appears at the end of the surname Crabwyk'. This would have originated from the place-name Crabwick (now Crabbet in the parish of Worth). So, as with the assize roll of 1279, the name seems to be simply "John le Blake". In fact, if this - like the other names in Shoreham 16 - was the name of a neighbouring tenant perhaps a generation or more before the date of the charter, he may have been the same man named in the assize roll.<sup>3</sup>

#### Shoreham 14



#### Shoreham 16



---

<sup>3</sup> In 1353 a man named William le Blake was among those charged with murdering two pirates who had been captured by men of Shoreham and had sailed from there for Normandy. The accused men were pardoned. (Cheale, *Story of Shoreham*, pp. 112, 113.)

# **Genealogical Research Report number 4**

**Searches in combined database  
of selected CP 40 plea rolls (1576-1596)  
and in miscellaneous lists and indexes  
on the AALT website**

**[November 2024]**

## REPORT NUMBER 4. NOVEMBER 2024.

### SEARCHES IN COMBINED DATABASE OF SELECTED CP 40 PLEA ROLLS (1576-1596) AND IN MISCELLANEOUS LISTS AND INDEXES ON THE AALT WEBSITE

#### **(I) Additional searches in the combined CP 40 database**

Report number 1 (August 2024) contained the results of searches in the database, which then covered indexes to selected rolls in the period 1349-1575 (excluding four indexes for which there were technical problems). Thirty more indexes covering rolls from the period 1576-1596 have now been included, and the four previously excluded indexes have been added. Data that were missing from two other indexes have also been supplied.

This additional material has been searched for the surname Blaker and variants. As before, wildcard searches for Bla\*k\*er\*, Bla\*k\*or\* and Ble\*k\*er\* have been carried out, and surnames that appeared unrelated to 'Blaker' have been excluded.

No new entries were found in the period up to 1575. The results for the range 1576-1596 are shown below.

#### **(1) Results for the exact spelling Blaker (2 entries, both from London)**

CP 40/1352 (Hilary 1578)

**Index entry:** f 288 London / debt, undefended / Edmond[es], Ambrose, of Staunton St John, Oxon, gent / Blaker, Barnard, [clerk,] rector of Elsfeld, Hants

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/Eliz/CP40no1352/aCP40no1352fronts/IMG\\_0288.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/Eliz/CP40no1352/aCP40no1352fronts/IMG_0288.htm)

CP 40/1354 (Hilary 1578)

**Index entry:** d 694 London / debt, execution / Edmond[es], Ambrose, of Stanton St John, Oxon, gent / Blaker, Barnard, [clerk,] rector of Elsfeld, Hants

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/Eliz/CP40no1354/bCP40no1354dorses/IMG\\_0694.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/Eliz/CP40no1354/bCP40no1354dorses/IMG_0694.htm)

#### **(2) Results for Blacker (14 entries, 9 from Wiltshire, 3 from Lincolnshire and 1 each from Hampshire and Yorkshire)**

CP 40/1420 (Hilary 1584)

**Index entry:** d 513 / Wilts / debt / Davy, John, esq, administrator of; (Blacker, William, gent, during minority of Thomas Davy & John Davy, sons of John Davy) /

Cunditt, William, of Kevell, yeoman; Townsend [or Townesend], William, of Sutton, yeoman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/bCP40no1420dorses/IMG\\_0513.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/bCP40no1420dorses/IMG_0513.htm)

CP 40/1420 (Hilary 1584)

**Index entry:** d 513 / Wilts / debt / Davy, John, esq, administrator of; (Blacker, William, gent, during minority of Thomas Davy & John Davy, sons of John Davy) / Howle, Thomas, of Droitwich, [Worcs,] gent; Thorley, William, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], gent

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/bCP40no1420dorses/IMG\\_0513.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/bCP40no1420dorses/IMG_0513.htm)

CP 40/1420 (Hilary 1584)

**Index entry:** d 513 / Wilts / debt / Davy, John, esq, administrator of; (Blacker, William, gent, during minority of Thomas Davy & John Davy, sons of John Davy) / Westall, John, of Market Lavynghton [simply Lavynghton in the record], yeoman; Pereson, John, of West Lavington, tucker

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/bCP40no1420dorses/IMG\\_0513.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/bCP40no1420dorses/IMG_0513.htm)

CP 40/1420 (Hilary 1584)

**Index entry:** f 587 / Wilts / debt / Davy, John, esq, administrator of; (Blacker, William, gent, during minority of Thomas Davy and John Davy, sons of John Davy) / Barnes, John, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], spurrier; Hooper, Henry, of Salisbury [Nova Sarum], or of Lincolns Inn, Middx, gent

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/aCP40no1420fronts/IMG\\_0587.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/aCP40no1420fronts/IMG_0587.htm)

CP 40/1420 (Hilary 1584)

**Index entry:** f 587 / Wilts / debt / Davy, John, esq, administrator of; (Blacker, William, gent, during minority of Thomas Davy and John Davy, sons of John Davy) / Graunt, Richard, of Uffynghton [or Uffington], Berks, yeoman; White, William, of Moiles Court, Hants, esq

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/aCP40no1420fronts/IMG\\_0587.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/aCP40no1420fronts/IMG_0587.htm)

CP 40/1420 (Hilary 1584)

**Index entry:** f 587 / Wilts / debt / Davy, John, esq, administrator of; (Blacker, William, gent, during minority of Thomas Davy and John Davy, sons of John Davy) / White, William, of Moiles Court, Hants, esq; Graunt, Richard, of Uffynghton [or Uffington], Berks, yeoman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/aCP40no1420fronts/IMG\\_0587.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/aCP40no1420fronts/IMG_0587.htm)

CP 40/1420 (Hilary 1584)

**Index entry:** f 588 / Wilts / debt / Davy, John, esq, administrator of; (Blacker, William, gent, during minority of Thomas Davy and John Davy, sons of John Davy) / Smyth [or Smith], Henry, of Cossam, gent; Vyner [or Vynar], John, of Fulswicke, gent

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/aCP40no1420fronts/IMG\\_0588.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1420/aCP40no1420fronts/IMG_0588.htm)

CP 40/1421 (Hilary 1584)

**Index entry:** d 1056 / Yorks / debt / Blacker, George / Forde, Thomas, of Wakefeld, yeoman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1421/bCP40no1421dorses/IMG\\_1056.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1421/bCP40no1421dorses/IMG_1056.htm)

CP 40/1422 (Hilary 1584)

**Index entry:** d 576 / Hants / debt / Wither, George / Blacker, Barnard, of Elsfild, clerk, administratrix of; (Blacker, Agnes, of Elsfilde, widow)

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1422/bCP40no1422dorses/IMG\\_0576.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1422/bCP40no1422dorses/IMG_0576.htm)

CP 40/1423 (Hilary 1584)

**Index entry:** f 14 / Wilts / debt / Blacker, William / Hunter, John, of Wilton, or [citizen] of London, ironmonger

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1423/aCP40no1423fronts/IMG\\_0014.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/Eliz/CP40no1423/aCP40no1423fronts/IMG_0014.htm)

CP 40/1436 (Hilary 1585)

**Index entry:** d 118 / Lincs / debt / Marshe, William / [\_, Thomas (obscured in photograph);] Blacker, Robert, of Fockingham, glover; Plommer, Walter, of Borne, glover; Flyntam, Thomas, of Easton, Nhants, laborer

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/Eliz/CP40no1436/bCP40no1436dorses/IMG\\_0118.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/Eliz/CP40no1436/bCP40no1436dorses/IMG_0118.htm)

CP 40/1438 (Hilary 1585)

**Index entry:** f 530 / Wilts / debt / Davy, John, esq, executor of; (Blacker, William, gent) / Vynar, John, of Fulswicke, gent

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/Eliz/CP40no1438/aCP40no1438fronts/IMG\\_0530.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/Eliz/CP40no1438/aCP40no1438fronts/IMG_0530.htm)

CP 40/1506 (Hilary 1593)

**Index entry:** f 627 / Lincs / debt / Wrawby, William / Blacker, William, of Aylesbye [or Aylesby], husbandman; Wyllys, William, of Aylesbye [Aylesby], husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/Eliz/CP40no1506/aCP40no1506fronts/IMG\\_0627.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/Eliz/CP40no1506/aCP40no1506fronts/IMG_0627.htm)

CP 40/1577 (Michaelmas 1596)

**Index entry:** f 1040 / trespass: close / Lines / Blacker, Isabel / Harrison, John, of senior, Alesbie, husbandman; Harrison, John, junior, of Alesbie, husbandman; Robinson, Thomas, of Alesbie, husbandman

**Link:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/Eliz/CP40no1577/aCP40no1577fronts/IMG\\_1040.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/Eliz/CP40no1577/aCP40no1577fronts/IMG_1040.htm)

## **(II) Searches in other lists and indexes on the AALT website**

In addition to the CP 40 indexes covering the period 1349-1596, [the Anglo-American Legal Tradition website](#) hosts quite a large number of lists and indexes covering miscellaneous records from the medieval and early modern periods.

Unlike the CP 40 database, it is not possible to search these for surnames using wildcards. The web pages have to be searched individually for particular spellings. Twenty-one sets of indexes, listed below in section III, were searched in this way, using the four possible spellings of the Blaker surname previously identified from wildcard searches of the CP 40 database, namely Blacker, Blaker, Blakker and Blekker.

The results of these searches are listed below. (Note that there are also about 80 indexes to the King's Bench plea rolls still to be searched.)

### **(1) CP 40 (Court of Common Pleas plea rolls)**

Seven additional indexes to plea rolls from the 1640s, which unfortunately cannot be incorporated into the database because of their format.

#### **Blaker**

CP 40/2495 (1642 Trinity)

**Index entry:** B477 / Sussex / Edward Blaker, gent / Edward Field [Feild] de Worth, innholder; And v. John Field [Feild] de Bolney, carpenter; And against Edward Corner de Southwick [Southweeke], husbandman / Debt: each render 15 [pounds]; sum; nh; capias / m. 197 / d [784]

**Image:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/C1/CP40no2495/bCP40no2495dorses/IMG\\_1351.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/C1/CP40no2495/bCP40no2495dorses/IMG_1351.htm)

CP 40/2495 (1642 Trinity)

**Index entry:** B478 / Sussex / Edward Blaker, gent / Richard Parson de West Grinstead [Westgrinsted], yeoman / Scire Facias on a Common Pleas recovery in Debt for £200 plus 100s damages / m. 330 / f [785]

**Image:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/C1/CP40no2495/aCP40no2495fronts/IMG\\_0648.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/C1/CP40no2495/aCP40no2495fronts/IMG_0648.htm)

CP 40/2498 (1642 Trinity)

**Index entry:** B255 / Sussex / Edward Blaker / Thomas Hyder de Ditchling [Ditchelinge], gent / Debt on an obligation: £100; undefended; (53s4d damages) / m. 1676 / f[450]

**Image:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/C1/CP40no2498/aCP40no2498fronts/IMG\\_0347.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/C1/CP40no2498/aCP40no2498fronts/IMG_0347.htm)

CP 40/2498 (1642 Trinity)

**Index entry:** B256 / Sussex / Edward Blaker / William Perkins de Ditchling [Ditchelinge], yeoman / Debt on an obligation: £100; undefended; (53s4d damages) / m. 1676 / f[451]

**Image:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/C1/CP40no2498/aCP40no2498fronts/IMG\\_0347.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT5/C1/CP40no2498/aCP40no2498fronts/IMG_0347.htm)

## (2) C 33 (Chancery Orders and Decrees)

### Blaker

C33/182 (1642)

Henry Scras, infant, by William Hay, curator / George Bedford, executor of Richard Scras; Charity Rivers, relict and executrix of James Rivers; Richard Unedale [Uvedale]; Edward Blaker

**First Volume Link:** (H1642) Link[2,891]

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_7871.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_7871.htm)

**Other Volume Links:** (H1642) Link[2,892], [2,893], [2,894], [2,895], [2,896], [2,897]; (E1642) [2,898], [2,899]; (T1642) [2,900], [2,901], [2,902]

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_7916.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_7916.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_7959a.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_7959a.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_7962.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_7962.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_8006.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_8006.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_8011.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_8011.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_8015.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_8015.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_8060a.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_8060a.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_8068.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_8068.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_8160.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_8160.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_8245a.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_8245a.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG\\_8248a.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no182/IMG_8248a.htm)

**Reference:** C33/182, p. (H1642) 196r; (H1642) 241r, 284v, 287r, 310r, 335r, 339r ; (E1642) 376v, 384r ; (T1642) 473r, 558v, 561v

### Blacker

C33/181 (1642)

Gervase Cooper / Mary Blacker; and Henry Garforth /Garfoote

**First Volume Link:** (H1642): Link[2,406]

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no181/IMG\\_6568.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no181/IMG_6568.htm)

**Other Volume Links:** (E1642): Link[2,407]; [2,408]

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no181/IMG\\_6688a.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no181/IMG_6688a.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no181/IMG\\_6870a.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no181/IMG_6870a.htm)

**Reference:** C33/181, p. 433r, (E1642) 552v, (T1642) 727v

C33/181 (1642)

Jervase Cowper / Mary Blacker, widow

**First Volume Link:** (H1642): Link[2,634]

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no181/IMG\\_6494a.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C1/C33no181/IMG_6494a.htm)

**Reference:** C33/181, p. 359v

### **(3) Review Procedures (review of cases from both local and central courts by the Court of King's Bench)**

#### **Blaker**

KB 27/1656 (1640)

**Index entry:** AM / Error. Common Pleas (14 Charles I) / Indebitatus Assumpsit / Judgment rendered / George Blaker v. Alice Atree de Brighthelmston, Sussex, widow

**Links:** f[70]; d[71]

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/C1/KB27no1656/aKB27no1656fronts/IMG\\_0719.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/C1/KB27no1656/aKB27no1656fronts/IMG_0719.htm)

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/C1/KB27no1656/bKB27no1656dorses/IMG\\_1734.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/C1/KB27no1656/bKB27no1656dorses/IMG_1734.htm)

### **(4) C 78, 79 (Chancery Final Decrees)**

Checked 117 annual calendars for 1534-1650.

#### **Blaker**

1638 7 Nov / 14 Charles I / Henry Scras of Blechington, Sussex v Edward Blaker & William Scras / Debts and bonds / C78/414, no. 5 [147]

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no414/IMG\\_0050.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no414/IMG_0050.htm)

1639 12 Dec / 15 Charles I / George Bedford v James Rivers; Simon Stone; Edward Blaker; Roger Coby / Reimbursement of bail money payable from profits of sale of unspecified lands / C78/479, no. 31 [204]

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no479/IMG\\_0290.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no479/IMG_0290.htm)

1646 12 Feb / 21 Charles I / Henry Scras an infant by William Hay v George Bedford; Charity Rivers relict & executrix of James Rivers since decd, Richard ...att and Edward Blaker / Estate of Tuppin Scras late father of the complt. Lands in Hainsey, Essex / C78/1328, no. 1 [8]

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no1328/IMG\\_0067.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no1328/IMG_0067.htm)

**(III) List of miscellaneous indexes on the AALT website checked for the surnames Blacker, Blaker, Blakker and Blekker**

(1) CP 40 (Court of Common Pleas plea rolls). In addition to the database covering indexed rolls from the 14th to the 16th century, seven indexes to plea rolls from the 1640s:

[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/The\\_Coming\\_of\\_the\\_English\\_Civil\\_War\\_at\\_Law](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/The_Coming_of_the_English_Civil_War_at_Law)  
For 4 Blaker entries, see Section III, part 1, above.

(2) REQ1 (Court of Requests). Four indexes from the period 1639-1642:

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/Indices/REQ1Indices/REQ1\\_Indices.html](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/Indices/REQ1Indices/REQ1_Indices.html)

(3) C 33 (Chancery Orders and Decrees). Three indexes from the 17th century:

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C33IDX/1606\\_4pl.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/C33IDX/1606_4pl.htm)

[http://www.uh.edu/waalt/index.php/Modern\\_Index\\_for\\_C33/181](http://www.uh.edu/waalt/index.php/Modern_Index_for_C33/181)

[http://www.uh.edu/waalt/index.php/Modern\\_Index\\_for\\_C33/182](http://www.uh.edu/waalt/index.php/Modern_Index_for_C33/182)

For 1 Blaker and 2 Blacker entries, see Section III, part 2, above.

(4) E 13 (Exchequer of Pleas). Four indexes from the period 1627-1640:

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/Indices/E13Indices/E13\\_Indices.html](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/Indices/E13Indices/E13_Indices.html)

(5) Review Procedures in KB 27 (King's Bench plea rolls). 43 lists and sub-lists from the 1290s to the 1640s:

[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Review\\_Procedures](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Review_Procedures)

(6) London Sheriffs' Register of Central Court Writs 36 Henry VI. One list:

[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/London\\_Sheriffs](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/London_Sheriffs)

[%27\\_Court\\_Register\\_of\\_Central\\_Court\\_Writs\\_36\\_Henry\\_VI](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/London_Sheriffs/Court_Register_of_Central_Court_Writs_36_Henry_VI)

(7) Medieval Parsons up to 1500. One list:

[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Medieval\\_Parsons\\_up\\_to\\_1500](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Medieval_Parsons_up_to_1500)

(8) Lists of Defendants accused of Felony, up to 1350, and 16th century. Two lists:

[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/List\\_of\\_Defendants\\_accused\\_of\\_Felony\\_up\\_to\\_1350](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/List_of_Defendants_accused_of_Felony_up_to_1350)

[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/List\\_of\\_Defendants\\_accused\\_of\\_Felony\\_16th\\_century\\_onwards](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/List_of_Defendants_accused_of_Felony_16th_century_onwards)

(9) Calendars of Rex Rolls in KB 27. Five lists, covering the years 1317-1327 and 1399-1401:

[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/The\\_Rex\\_Rolls\\_Project](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/The_Rex_Rolls_Project)

<https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/IDXRexH1317-M1327>

<https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/IDXRexM1400-T1401>

- (10) Review of Final Concords at Common Law. One list:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Review\\_of\\_Final\\_Concords\\_at\\_Common\\_Law](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Review_of_Final_Concords_at_Common_Law)  
For 1 Blaker entry see Section III, part 3, above.
- (11) Miscellaneous Chancery Records enrolled at Common Law. One list:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Miscellaneous\\_Chancery\\_Records\\_enrolled\\_at\\_Common\\_Law](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Miscellaneous_Chancery_Records_enrolled_at_Common_Law)
- (12) E 124, E 126 (King's Remembrancer, Orders Calendars). 18 transcripts of handwritten calendars of Entry Books of Orders and Decrees, covering 1603-1671:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/KR\\_Orders\\_Calendars\\_\(E124,\\_E126\)](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/KR_Orders_Calendars_(E124,_E126))
- (13) Inquisitions Post Mortem in Common Law Records. One list:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Inquisitions\\_Post\\_Mortem\\_in\\_Common\\_Law\\_Records](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Inquisitions_Post_Mortem_in_Common_Law_Records)
- (14) Glorious Revolution Project. One list:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Glorious\\_Revolution\\_Project](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Glorious_Revolution_Project)
- (15) General Pardons. One list:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/General\\_Pardons](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/General_Pardons)
- (16) Gaol Delivery Rolls in KB27s. One list:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Gaol\\_Delivery\\_Rolls\\_in\\_KB27s](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Gaol_Delivery_Rolls_in_KB27s)
- (17) Enrolled Writings, Indentures, etc. 13 pages, from the period up to 1600:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Enrolled\\_Writings,\\_Indentures,\\_etc](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Enrolled_Writings,_Indentures,_etc)
- (18) SP 12 and other sources (Elizabethan State Papers Project), 312 calendars, from the period 1558-1580/1:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Elizabethan\\_State\\_Papers\\_Project](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Elizabethan_State_Papers_Project)
- (19) STAC (Elizabethan Star Chamber Project). Files for English and Welsh counties, universities, maritime and Ireland:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/STAC\\_Cases\\_by\\_County](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/STAC_Cases_by_County)
- (20) Court Clerks of Edward I and Edward II. One list:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Court\\_Clerks\\_of\\_Edward\\_I\\_and\\_Edward\\_II](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Court_Clerks_of_Edward_I_and_Edward_II)
- (21) C 78, C 79 (Chancery Final Decrees). Annual lists from 1534, checked up to 1650 [for some later entries see report 6 for January 2025]:  
[https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Chancery\\_Final\\_Decrees](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/Chancery_Final_Decrees)  
For 3 Blaker entries see Section III, part 4, above.

# **Genealogical Research Report number 5**

## **A 13th-century Blakyere in South Malling, Sussex**

**[December 2024]**

## REPORT NUMBER 5. DECEMBER 2024.

### A 13TH-CENTURY BLAKYERE IN SOUTH MALLING, SUSSEX

At one time it was believed that the earliest record of a Blaker in Sussex was an entry in the 1279 assize roll for Shoreham, which was thought to mention a "John le Blaker". There was also believed to be a reference to a "John le Blaker" in a Shoreham charter from 1329.<sup>4</sup> In both cases, the presence of the article 'le' would indicate an occupational surname. Unfortunately, it is now known that both these names had been misread, and that the men (or man) in question were called John le Blake.<sup>5</sup> This would leave no references to Blakers in Shoreham before the 16th century, and would make the 1327 lay subsidy return for Cuckfield - which includes a William Blaker - the earliest dated record of the family in Sussex.

However, there is another undated but early reference to a Blaker in Sussex. This occurs in a custumal of the Archbishop of Canterbury's manor of South Malling, which was published by the Sussex Record Society in 1958.<sup>6</sup> The manor was part of a large estate which had been granted to the archbishop before the Norman Conquest, which stretched from South Malling near Lewes in the south-west to Wadhurst on the border of Kent in the north-east. The entry occurs in a list of free tenants under the heading 'Mallinges', and in the published translation it reads:

"Alice, widow of le Blakyere, holds a built-on croft of 1/2 rood for 6d.; 3d. at Easter and Michaelmas."<sup>7</sup>

This relates to a small enclosed piece of land of about an eighth of an acre with a building on it, presumably a dwelling. Unfortunately the forename of Alice's deceased husband is not given, but there is no doubt that "le Blakyere" is a surname here, as shown by other similarly worded entries.<sup>8</sup>

#### Dating and relationship to other sources

Although the custumal of South Malling is not dated, limits can be placed on its date. The text survives in a later copy, written in the 15th or early 16th century, which also includes custumals of manors in other counties. Two of the Kent custumals specify

---

4 [Sussex Archaeological Collections, volume 10](#), page 109 (1858).

5 David Bethell, *Blaker Family*, volume 2, pages 203-209; Chris Phillips, *Blaker Family*, volume 4, pages 14-20 and 21-24.

6 B. C. Redwood and A. E. Wilson, [Custumals of the Sussex manors of the Archbishop of Canterbury](#) (Sussex Record Society, volume 57, 1958). The original document is Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library, Lit. MS E24.

7 Redwood and Wilson, p. 112.

8 For example, "Helwis, widow of le Knyth" (Redwood and Wilson, p. 113), and "Mabel, widow of Self" (p. 112), who also occurs as "Widow Self" (p. 114).

the archbishop's year of office in which the preceding inquisition was taken, giving dates in the range 1283-1285.<sup>9</sup> As a result, these custumals as a whole are often dated to 1285.

The internal evidence in the South Malling section is consistent with such a date, but allows a wider range of possibilities. The section must date from 1270 or later, as Boniface of Savoy, who died in that year, is referred to as a previous archbishop.<sup>10</sup> The date is unlikely to have been very much later than that, as Wymark de Aqua, a widow, whose father-in-law is stated to have acquired the holding in the time of Stephen Langton (d. 1228), is listed as a tenant.<sup>11</sup>

The names mentioned in the custumal can also be compared with those in the lay subsidy return of 1296<sup>12</sup> and a rental of South Malling dated 1305-1306.<sup>13</sup> No Blakers appear in either the lay subsidy return or the rental.

Comparison between the custumal and the rental shows many tenants holding the same tenements in both. In some cases the succession of tenants can be identified, showing that the custumal is certainly earlier than the rental.<sup>14</sup>

In contrast, the list of taxpayers in 1296, under the heading Malling and Cliffe, is much shorter than the lists of manorial tenants in the custumal and the rental, and has little overlap with them. There are only six names in common between the 1296 lay subsidy and the 1305-1306 rental, and none at all between the lay subsidy and the custumal (unless Richard 'Cosin' in the former is the same person as Richard 'Coffyn' in the latter). Possibly that may indicate a rather earlier date than 1285 for the custumal.

## Discussion

On the evidence discussed above, Alice, the widow of le Blakyere, was a tenant of the manor of South Malling, probably around the mid-1280s. By 1305-1306 she was no longer a tenant, presumably because she had died, remarried or gone to live elsewhere. She was at South Malling 40 years or more before the first known record of a Blaker elsewhere in Sussex, at Cuckfield in 1327. The presence of the article 'le' in her husband's surname indicates unambiguously that its origin was occupational.

---

9 Redwood and Wilson, page xxv.

10 Redwood and Wilson, pages 112, 114, 115, 118. The editors note that the text also incorporates some material older than this.

11 Redwood and Wilson, page 115.

12 William Hudson, [The three earliest subsidies for the county of Sussex in the years 1296, 1327, 1332](#). (Sussex Record Society, volume 10, 1910).

13 Also published by Redwood and Wilson (pages 123-138).

14 For example, "William de Benetle" in the custumal (p. 111) is succeeded by "Isabel, widow of William de Benetlegh" in the rental (p. 135), "Basilia Bunye" in the custumal (p. 113) by "Ralph le Kyng, half of Basil Bonye's cot" in the rental; (p. 136) and (in Cliffe) "Simon le Bunne" in the custumal (p. 116) by "The Sacrist for Simon Bun's tenement" in the rental (p. 134).

But as South Malling is about 11 miles south-east of Cuckfield, it is not clear whether the two families were related.

The fact that Blakers are listed at Cuckfield in the 1327 lay subsidy but not in 1296 might suggest that the surname had been adopted between those two dates.<sup>15</sup> But the lack of overlap between the list of South Malling taxpayers in 1296 and the lists of manorial tenants from the same period should make us cautious about drawing conclusions from the absence of a surname in the lay subsidy return. The lay subsidy was a tax on moveable goods, but was payable only by those with goods worth more than 11 shillings,<sup>16</sup> so the return is certainly not a record of the whole population. The threshold in 1327 was similar - 10 shillings<sup>17</sup> - but obviously the fortunes of a family can vary from generation to generation. Nor is any Blaker listed at Cuckfield in the lay subsidy return of 1332.

There is one possible connection between the Cuckfield area and South Malling which may perhaps suggest a relationship between the two families. There was another manor of South Malling, which has often been confused with the archbishop's manor.<sup>18</sup> This was also an extensive estate, which had been granted before the Norman Conquest to what later became the Collegiate Church of South Malling. For that reason it was also known as South Malling manor, but unlike the archbishop's manor it included no land in South Malling, but was centred on Stanmer, Lindfield, and Burleigh, further to the north-west and west. To avoid confusion, it is now known as the manor of South Malling Lindfield.

Lindfield is the parish immediately to the east of Cuckfield, and there are a couple of hints in the records that some families may have held land in both these manors, which were both owned by the church and both administered from South Malling. A list of surnames recorded in the manor of South Malling Lindfield in the late 14th century includes the uncommon name Tynker,<sup>19</sup> and the same name is found in the custumal and the rental of South Malling.<sup>20</sup> Conversely, the surname Stanmer also occurs in the records of South Malling,<sup>21</sup> and suggests a family that originated from Stanmer, in the territory of South Malling Lindfield. Such a pattern could conceivably explain why a family that was at South Malling in the late 13th century might later be found at Cuckfield, near Lindfield, in the 14th.

---

15 David Bethell, *Blaker Family*, volume 2, pages 228, 229.

16 See the National Archives [catalogue entry for E 179/189/1](#).

17 See the National Archives [catalogue entry for E 179/189/3](#).

18 Mary S. Holgate, [The canons' manor of South Malling](#) (Sussex Archaeological Collections, volume 70, pages 183-195, 1929).

19 [The Manorial Court Records of South Malling Lindfield and Walsted](#), on the website of the Felbridge and District History Group.

20 Redwood and Wilson, pages 112-115, 136

21 Redwood and Wilson, page 114.

# **Genealogical Research Report number 6**

**Some Blaker entries in the  
King's Bench (KB 27) plea rolls  
(and also in chancery final decrees)**

**[January 2025]**

## REPORT NUMBER 6. JANUARY 2025.

### SOME BLAKER ENTRIES IN THE KING'S BENCH (KB 27) PLEA ROLLS (AND ALSO IN CHANCERY FINAL DECREES)

#### (1) King Bench plea rolls (KB 27)

In the medieval period the two principal courts of England were the Court of Common Pleas and the King's Bench. Photographs of the records of both of these courts are available at the Anglo-American Legal Tradition (AALT) website, and some of these records have been indexed by volunteers. The indexes for the Court of Common Pleas have already been checked for entries containing the surname Blaker and variants (see reports 1 for August 2024 and 4 for November 2024). There are also currently 89 indexes for King's Bench plea rolls (KB 27), covering the periods 1307, 1470-1564 and 1641-1642. Together with other miscellaneous lists and indexes, these have been incorporated into a [database](#) that is searchable by keywords.

The King's Bench records have been searched for the same keywords including wildcards that were previously used for the searches in the Court of Common Pleas database, namely Bla\*k\*er\*, Bla\*k\*or\* and Ble\*k\*er\*. The only surnames found in this way that appear to be variants of Blaker, were Blaker itself and Blacker.

The results are summarised below. For the surname Blaker there are four entries from the period 1489-1498, all for Sussex. Translations of these entries are given, together with some comments about how they relate to the known Blaker families of Preston (Episcopi) and Brighton. For the surname Blacker there are two entries, both from 1641 for London. For these the index entries are given.

#### **Blaker**

KB 27/910 (1489 Hilary)

d 309

Sussex

Thomas, Earl of Derby, by his attorney, appeared on the fourth day against John Blaker, late of Preston Episcopi in the aforesaid county, the elder, husbandman, and John Blaker, late of Bishops Preston in the aforesaid county, the younger, husbandman, concerning a plea of trespass. And they did not come. And the sheriff was ordered as before to take them [if found in his bailiwick]. And the sheriff returns that they are not found [in his bailiwick]. Therefore the sheriff is ordered as often before to take them if [found in his bailiwick] and safely [keep them]. So that he is to have their bodies before the lord king 15 days from Easter. At which day the sheriff did not return the writ thereof. Therefore as often before the sheriff is ordered to take

them if [found in his bailiwick] and safely [keep them]. So that he is to have their bodies before the lord king eight days from Holy Trinity. At which day the sheriff did not return the writ thereof. Therefore as before the sheriff is ordered to take them if [found in his bailiwick] and safely [keep them]. So that he is to have their bodies before the lord king eight days from St Michael.

**Image:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H7/KB27no910/bKB27no910dorses/IMG\\_0309.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H7/KB27no910/bKB27no910dorses/IMG_0309.htm)

[**Comment.** This entry dated 1489 concerns a plea of trespass by the Earl of Derby against John Blaker of Preston Episcopi the elder and John Blaker of Preston Episcopi the younger, both husbandmen. There are known to have been Blakers in Preston since at least 1482, when a John Blaker of Preston made his will (see David Bethell's report at volume 2, pages 25-37). That will mentions his deceased father, who had left money to the church of Preston, and the two sons and daughter of his deceased brother Ralph, who were minors. Although no date of probate is given, wills were usually made soon before death, so the testator is unlikely to have been either of the John Blakers who appear in this plea roll entry seven years later. Nor does the testator appear to have had a son named John. It is possible that one of these John Blakers was a son of Ralph (or even that both of them were, as it was not unknown for brothers to be given the same name and distinguished as "the elder" and "the younger"). It seems likely that one of these John Blakers was the same man referred to, with a wife Agnes, in an entry dated 1501 in the Preston court roll (see Bethell, page 34, where it is suggested the same John appeared in the 1524-5 lay subsidy for Whalesbone Hundred, which included Preston parish). It also seems likely that one of these John Blakers was the plaintiff in the next two plea roll entries below, dated 1493 and 1495 and concerning pleas of trespass against men of Brighton and Preston respectively, though no description of the plaintiff is given in them.]

KB 27/922 (1492 Hilary)

f 15

Sussex

John Blaker, by his attorney, appeared on the fourth day against John Eston, late of Brighthelmeston [Brighton] in the aforesaid county, yeoman, concerning a plea of trespass. And he did not come. And the sheriff was ordered to have him [before the lord king]. And the sheriff returns that he is not found [in his bailiwick]. Therefore the sheriff is ordered as before that he should take him [if found in his bailiwick] and safely [keep him]. So that he is to have his body before the lord king 15 days from Easter.

**Image:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H7/KB27no922/aKB27no922fronts/IMG\\_0015.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H7/KB27no922/aKB27no922fronts/IMG_0015.htm)

KB 27/934 (1495 Hilary)

d 264

Sussex

John Blaker, by his attorney, appeared on the fourth day against Thomas Kempe, late

of Preston Episcopi in the aforesaid county, cooper, concerning a plea of trespass. And he did not come. And the sheriff was ordered to take him [if found in his bailiwick]. And the sheriff returns that he is not found. Therefore the sheriff is ordered as before to take him if [found in his bailiwick] and safely [keep him]. So that he is to have his body before the lord king one month from Easter.

**Image:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H7/KB27no934/bKB27no934dorses/IMG\\_0264.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H7/KB27no934/bKB27no934dorses/IMG_0264.htm)

KB 27/946 (1498 Hilary)

d 277

Sussex

George Nevyle, knight, lord of Bergevenny [Abergavenny], who [sues] both [for the king and himself,] by William Crull, his attorney, appeared on the fourth day against Thomas Nicoll of Brightelmeston in the aforesaid county, fisher, Simon Blaker, late of Brightelmeston in the aforesaid county, fisher, Richard Bukman, late of Brightelmeston in the aforesaid county, fisher, concerning a plea wherefore by force and arms they broke a close of George at 'Rattyngden' and took and carried away 18 pounds and 16 shillings in ready money found there. And [inflicted] other enormities [on him], to [his] grave damage and against the now king's peace. And they did not come. And the sheriff was ordered as often before to take them. And the sheriff returns that they are not found [in his bailiwick]. Therefore the sheriff is ordered to have them summoned from county court to county court until [according to law and custom] they are to be outlawed if [they do] not [appear]. And if [they appear] then he is to take them and safely [keep them]. So that he is to have their bodies before the lord king on the morrow of [All] Souls.. And whereof 15 days from St Hilary etc.

**Image:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H7/KB27no946/bKB27no946dorses/IMG\\_0277.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/H7/KB27no946/bKB27no946dorses/IMG_0277.htm)

[**Comment.** This entry dated 1498 concerns a plea of trespass by Lord Abergavenny against three fishermen of Brighton, including Simon Blaker. This reference predates by about 90 years the first Blaker of Brighton mentioned in David Bethell's account (see volume 2, pages 164-172), who was a son of George Blaker of Preston Episcopi. However, a Simon Blaker appears in the 1524-5 lay subsidy return for Whalesbone Hundred (which included the parish of Brighton), and he may be the same man mentioned in this plea. The place, 'Rattyngden', where the alleged theft of money took place, apparently indicates the nearby parish of Rottingdean rather than the manor of 'Raddingdean' in Brighton, as Lord Abergavenny held the manor of Rottingdean at the time (see Victoria County History, Sussex, volume 7, pages 232-238).]

**Blacker**

KB 27/1667 (1641 Easter)

**Index entry:** London / Blacker, Robert, gent / Mallet, William, armiger / Debt on a Contract: £500: confessed

**Image:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/C1/KB27no1667/bKB27no1667dorses/IMG\\_1621.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/C1/KB27no1667/bKB27no1667dorses/IMG_1621.htm)

KB 27/1670 (1641 Trinity)

**Index entry:** London / William Laurence / John Blacker, barber surgeon of London / Debt on an obligation: £9; Penal Bond (aborted) / m. 1479

**Image:**

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/C1/KB27no1670/aKB27no1670fronts/IMG\\_0136.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT3/C1/KB27no1670/aKB27no1670fronts/IMG_0136.htm)

## (2) Other AALT lists and indexes

Other miscellaneous lists and indexes on the AALT website have already been searched individually for the surnames Blaker, Blacker and Blecker (see report 4 for November 2024). Almost all these lists and indexes have now been incorporated, with some others, into a [database](#) that is searchable by keywords.

This database has been searched for the same keywords including wildcards that were previously used for the searches in the Court of Common Pleas database, namely Bla\*k\*er\*, Bla\*k\*or\* and Ble\*k\*er\*. The only additional entries found that appear to be variants of Blaker, were three referring to Blaker and four to Blacker in Chancery Final Decrees (C 78, 79), which had previously been searched only up to 1650.

The additional index entries are as follows:

### **Blaker**

1676 / 7 Nov / 28 / Edward Fleming and Margaret his wife, grandchild and heir of George Bland v Francis Page; William Blaker; John Wright; and Edward Hobson / Title to the manor of Raymonds, Sussex / C78/744, no. 10 [157]

Index: [https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78\\_1676](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78_1676)

Image: [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no744/IMG\\_0402.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no744/IMG_0402.htm)

1709 / 25 July / 8 / George Naldrett, John Gratwicke and Anne his wife, John Collins and Mary his wife, Thomas Butcher, Jane Neve widow, William Birdfield junr, Thomas Smith, John Wallis, John Sherwood, Richard Butcher, Joan Parkhurst widow and James Burstow creditors of Thomas Beard the elder and Thomas Beard the younger v Thomas Beard the elder since decd, John Stone and Richard Turner surviving executors of Thomas Beard the younger and of Ralph Beard the son and heir of the said Thomas Beard the younger and against William Blaker since decd who was administrator of John Monke decd and against William Monke son and heir of the said John Monke / Trust settlement of lands in Hurstpierpoint, Twineham and Shermanbury, Sussex. / C78/1130, no. 5 [98]

Index: [https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78\\_1709](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78_1709)

Image: [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no1130/IMG\\_0287.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no1130/IMG_0287.htm)

1847 / 16 July / Margaret Isabella the wife of George Brown by James White next friend; Robertson Brown; and Charles John Robertson Brown infants by James White their next friend; Sarah Agnes the wife of Joseph Brown by John Brown her next friend v. Charles Robertson; Edmund Jenner; William Smith; James Oliver; James Foster Groom; Joseph Brown; James Stephen Robertson (called James Robertson); Susannah Robertson; Joseph White; and John Brown / re. praying that the defendants might answer the premises and that the trusts of the will and codicil of John Martin Blaker might be performed and carried into execution, and an account might be taken of the testator's debts and expenses, and the legacies of his will and codicil... / C78/2130, no. 12 [32]

Index: [https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78\\_1847](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78_1847)

Image: [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no2130/IMG\\_0096.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no2130/IMG_0096.htm)

## **Blacker**

1651 / 28 June / Leonard Ward v Anne Rawle als Blacker; Edward Blacker; Henry Fricker / Debts payable from the manor of Pearson and lands in Westharnam, Wilts / C78/1150, no. 35 [97]

Index: [https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78\\_1651](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78_1651)

Image : [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no1150/IMG\\_0578.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no1150/IMG_0578.htm)

1660 / 8 Feb / Richard Blacker son & heir of Richard Blacker late of Gillingham, Dorset v Alice Willoughby, widow; Thomas Grove; Francis Cradocke; Thomas Meggs / Mortgage of messuages and lands in the manor of Gillingham, Dorset / C78/646, no. 3 [16]

Index: [https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78\\_1660](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78_1660)

Image: [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no646/IMG\\_0223.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no646/IMG_0223.htm)

1667 / 18 Nov / 19 / Thomas Woodford, John Bampton v Edward Berkeley, Edward Blacker, John Perne / Dispute over property at Britford, Wiltshire. / C78/785, no. 8 [143]

Index: [https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78\\_1667](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78_1667)

Image: [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no785/IMG\\_0010.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no785/IMG_0010.htm)

1675 / 13 Dec / 27 / William Willoughby, esq; William Willoughby, gent; and Katherine Cholmely, widow, heirs of Edward Blacker, esq, his great grandfather v. Maurice Berkely, gent; Edward Berkely, esq; Huttoffe Grove, gent; John Pearne & Jane his wife; Seymour Bowman, esq; and others (sic) / re. descent of manors of Pierson [Pierston in Gillingham, Dorset] and West Harnham [now in Salisbury, Wilts.] in cos. of Wilts and Dorset, after the decease of Edward Blacker the minor who died Nov 1672 without issue... / C78/1259, no. 1 [207]

Index: [https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78\\_1675](https://waalt.uh.edu/index.php/C78_1675)

Image:

[http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no1259/IMG\\_0593.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT7/C78/C78no1259/IMG_0593.htm)

# **Genealogical Research Report number 7**

## **Some 13th-century Blakers and a discussion of the surname**

**[February 2025]**

## REPORT NUMBER 7. FEBRUARY 2025.

### SOME 13TH-CENTURY BLAKERS AND A DISCUSSION OF THE SURNAME

#### Records from the 13th century for the surname Blaker and variants

Details of the earliest records of the surname Blaker and variants in England are collected below. They go as far as the year 1300, and are arranged by county. A brief summary is given for each, together with some additional notes. For some entries links are given to fuller details in the FONS files, or in the reports by David Bethell or me. For those not already in these files, a transcript, translation or summary is given in the Appendix.

#### (1) Buckinghamshire

##### (i) Missenden/Wendover, early 13th century

Charter of Adam, son of Walderus, assigning to the church of the Blessed Mary of Missenden [Missenden Abbey] a rent of 12 pence, which **Elricus le blakier** was accustomed to pay him in respect of a messuage between the messuages which Seman Cocus and Adam le brakier' [sic] held.

Two versions of the Latin text survive in the cartulary of Missenden Abbey, one in the section of the cartulary for Missenden and the other in the section for Wendover, together with two entries in the lists of contents. In the list of contents for Wendover, Elricus is called le brakier (like the holder of the neighbouring messuage). But his name is spelled blakier or blakier' in the two versions of the text of the charter itself.

[See **Appendix** for Latin text, from J. G. Jenkins, ed., "[The cartulary of Missenden Abbey](#)", Part 1 (1938; Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, Records Branch, volume 2), pages 4, 12, 101, 232-232. The cartulary is British Library, Harleian Manuscript 3688.]

#### (2) Essex

##### (i) Great Stambridge, 1289

Charter, dated 19 August 1289, and witnessed by **Thomas le Blakiere**. Adam Cobbe of Great Stambridge granted to Sir Richard of Southchurch, a messuage in Great

Stambridge and all his chattels there.

[See **Appendix** for [entry in the National Archives Discovery catalogue](#). The charter is held by Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library.]

### **(ii) Colchester, 1291**

Gaol delivery roll, Colchester, 10 September 1291. A number of the prisoners had been taken by the appeal [i.e. on the accusation] of **Ralph le blaker'**.

Ralph's surname is given only once, but he is referred to in three subsequent entries as "the said Ralph".

[A photograph of the original document can be seen on the [AALT website](#) (National Archives, JUST 3/18/3, rot. 3).]

### **(iii) Great Sutton, 1293**

Licence granted, 22 June 1293, for two alienations in frank almoin [i.e. a gift in "free alms" to a religious body, free of feudal service] to the Knights Templar in England, and for them to retain a previous gift that had not been licensed. One of the two new gifts was by **Thomas le Blakiere**, of a messuage and 4 acres of land in Great Sutton.

[An extract from the Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1292-1301, page 26, is in [FONS file Blaker17](#). The calendar is also available at the [Internet Archive](#). Brief details of an associated enquiry are given in [List of Inquisitions ad quod damnum, Part I](#) (Lists and Indexes XVII), page 30.]

### **(iv) North Shoebury, 1300**

Proof of age of Thomas, son and heir of William de Wodeham, taken at Westminster, 28 March 1300. One of the witnesses was **Thomas le Blakyer**, aged 44, who said that **Hugh** his father had died at the feast of St Andrew in the same year that Thomas was born at North Shoebury [30 November 1277].

[An extract from the Calendar of inquisitions post mortem, volume 3, pages 497-498, is in [FONS file Blaker26](#). The calendar is also available at the [Internet Archive](#).]

### (3) Gloucestershire

#### (i) Bristol, 1287

Assize roll, pleas of the Crown of the borough of Bristol, Easter 1287. **Walter Blakers** who had killed Henry Leverych and fled, was to be summoned and outlawed. Edith Stoker, a harlot, had held Henry while Walter killed him.

[An extract from E. A. Fuller, "Pleas of the Crown at Bristol in 1287", page 167 (1899; Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, volume 22), is in [FONS file Blaker32](#). The publication is also available on the [Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society website](#). A photograph of the original document can be seen on the [AALT website](#) (National Archives, JUST 1/284, rot. 36d).]

#### (ii) Cirencester, 1259-1260

Charter of John de Londres [London] and Matilda, his wife, granting that William de Baunton (Baudynton') and his heirs should hold two messuages which had been disputed between them in the court of Cirencester in 44 Henry III [1259-1260]. One of the messuages was situated next to a messuage formerly of **Richard le Blakiere** in Gosedich [Gosditch].

[See **Appendix** for Latin text, from Mary Devine, ed., "The cartulary of Cirencester Abbey, Gloucestershire. Volume 3", p. 801 (1977) (borrowable from the [Internet Archive](#)). The text of the charter is also available at the [DEEDS website](#).]

#### (iii) Cirencester, late 13th century

Charter of **Walter le Blakier**, with the consent of **Denise**, his wife, granting 12 pence of annual rent in Cirencester to the Hospital of St John, Bath, from the 3 shillings which William le Kager and his heirs owe annually to Walter and his heirs. The witnesses include **Thomas le Blakier**. The seal bears the inscription "+S' WALTERI: LE NEROVR".

[See **Appendix** for Latin text, from B. R. Kemp, ed., "Medieval deeds of Bath and district. Part 1", p. 46 (1974; Somerset Record Society, volume 73). The text survives in an 18th-century copy of a 17th-century transcript of the Hospital's charters.]

### (4) Hampshire

#### (i) Winchester, c. 1250

Charter of Roger Luteman, with the consent of Maud, his wife, granting to Ralph

Blund the land which he had with Maud, from the free tenement which was of **Thomas le Blakiere**, her late father, in Wonegerestret, rendering annually 2 and a half pence to the bishop of Winchester and one pair of white gloves worth one halfpenny to Roger and his heirs by Maud.

[An extract from W. Dunn Macray, "Calendar of charters and documents relating to the possession of Selborne and its priory", pages 77-78 (1894; Hampshire Record Society, second series, volume 9), is in [FONS file Blaker10](#). The calendar is also available at the [Internet Archive](#).]

## **(ii) Brading, Isle of Wight, 1280-1281**

9 Edward I. Appointment of Robert Fulconis [Fulco] and William de Brayboef to take the assize of novel disseisin arraigned by **Adam le Blackere** against Joan de Tracy and others, concerning a tenement in Brerding (Brading).

[The entry from the Appendix to the Fiftieth Annual Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records (1889), page 32 is in [FONS file Blaker12](#). The report is also available at the [Internet Archive](#).]

## **(5) Kent**

### **(i) Canterbury, 1256-1257**

**Nicholas le Blakier** paid 6 pence as a fine for failing against William Russel.

[Entry in Canterbury fee farm account (Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CC-F/Z/2), quoted by John H. Williams, "[Bailiffs and Canterbury's Firma Burgi in the thirteenth century](#)", page 226 (in Archaeologia Cantiana, volume 140, 2019). The date of the document is discussed on pages 217-219 of the article.]

## **(6) Lancashire**

### **(i) Salfordshire, 1246.**

List of persons indicted at an assize for the wapentake of Salfordshire, at Lancaster, 20 October 1246, includes **Roger Blacker**. The name has been cancelled, and is immediately followed by John de Crikeleston, where the 'de' is interlined [mistranscribed in the published edition as Crikelston].

[An extract from John Parker, "A Calendar of the Lancashire Assize Rolls ...", page 75 (1904; Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society, volume 47), is in [FONS file Blaker12](#). The text is also available at [HathiTrust](#). A photograph of the original

document can be seen on the [AALT website](#) (National Archives, JUST 1/404, rot. 18d).]

## (7) Sussex

### (i) South Malling, c. 1285

**Alice, widow of le Blakere**, holds a built-on croft of 1/2 rood for 6d.; 3d. at Easter and Michaelmas.

[Text from custumal of the manor of South Malling (Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library, Lit. MS E24). See the published edition of the custumal - B. C. Redwood and A. E. Wilson, "[Custumals of the Sussex manors of the Archbishop of Canterbury](#)", page 112 (1958; Sussex Record Society, volume 57) - and my [Research Report number 5](#), pages 34-37 (December 2024).]

## (8) Wiltshire

### (i) Malmesbury, 1249

[April-June] 1249, at Wilton, crown pleas for the borough of Malmesbury. **Walter le Blakere** and **Joan** his wife were acquitted of harbouring John of Kynemeresford, an approver who appealed them [i.e. an accomplice who accused them].

[See **Appendix** for the entry from C. A. F. Meekings, ed., "[Crown Pleas of the Wiltshire Eyre, 1249](#)", page 155 (1961; Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Records Branch, volume 16). A photograph of the original document can be seen on the [AALT website](#) (National Archives, JUST 1/996, rot. 23).]

## (9) Yorkshire

### (i) Worsbrough, late 13th century

Several undated charters mention a Henry de Blacker in this period:

(a) Sir Hugh de Nevile granted to **Henry de Blacker** a capital messuage in Milnthorpe in Worsbrough, which Henry de Milnethorpe formerly held.

(b) **Henry del Blacker** witnessed a charter of Henry, son of Henry de Brom, granting to Robert, son of Sir John de Bosovile, and his heirs a bovate of land called Blabirmegand, with a messuage, in Worsbrough.

(c) **Henry de Blacker** witnessed a charter of Hugh de Nevile, chief lord of Brierley, granting to Adam, son of Robert de Swathe, and his heirs specified land in Darley [in Worsbrough].

(d) **Henry de Blacker** witnessed a charter of Hugh de Nevile, lord of Brierley, granting to Henry, son of Reyner de Swathe, and his heirs, specified land in Darley [in Worsbrough].

[See **Appendix** for summary information about these charters:

(a) from Joseph Hunter, "[South Yorkshire](#)", volume 2, page 284 (1831).

(b-d) From J. W. Walker, "Abstracts of the chartularies of the priory of Monkbretton", pages 120 ([no 371](#)), 137-138 (nos [433](#), [434](#)) (1924; Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Record Series, volume 66).

For dating information relating to the parties and witnesses to these charters, see page 236 of J. W. Walker, "[The Blackers of Blacker near Worsborough and Crigglesstone in the West Riding of the county of York, 1250-1650](#)", Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, volume 35, pages 235-260 (1943).]

## **Discussion of the early records, in relation to the Blaker surname**

Based on the evidence of these records, the English surname Blaker and its variants had at least three different origins.

### **(1) Yorkshire and Lancashire**

Henry de Blacker, who was recorded in Yorkshire the late 13th century, clearly took his name from the place-name Blacker in Worsbrough. There were several places with this name in Yorkshire, including one in Northowram and another in Crigglesstone, where there was a Blacker family at least from the late 14th century until the 17th century. It has been asserted that the Blackers of Crigglesstone were descendants of the Blackers of Worsbrough<sup>22</sup> - the implication apparently being that the place in Crigglesstone was named after the family - but there appears to be no clear evidence that the two families were related.

In the Lancashire assize roll from 1246 cited above, a Roger Blacker and a John de Crikeleston [Crigglesstone] appear consecutively in a list of the men indicted. The first of these names lacks the preposition 'de' which would indicate a place-name, but it was also omitted from the second, and interlined afterwards, so the omission may have been accidental for both. Unless the juxtaposition of these two names is a chance coincidence, it suggests there may already have been Blackers in Crigglesstone at that time, predating the first record of a Blacker in Worsbrough.<sup>23</sup> If so, it seems

---

<sup>22</sup> J. W. Walker, "[The Blackers of Blacker near Worsborough and Crigglesstone in the West Riding of the County of York, 1250-1650.](#)" Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, volume 35, pages 235-260 (1943).

<sup>23</sup> The place in Crigglesstone is now called Blacker Hall, but according to the [Survey of English Place-Names](#), this form

that these two families were unrelated, and took their surnames independently from the names of two different places.

## **(2) Bristol, Gloucestershire**

The 1287 Bristol assize roll refers to a man named Walter Blakers. This name lacks a preposition 'de' or 'le', which would indicate a place-name or occupation - perhaps indicating a nickname or personal name - and also ends with an 's', unlike all the other early examples above. Reaney and Wilson (1995)<sup>24</sup> list a surname Blackers, derived from the nickname "black arse", which would explain these characteristics. (An alternative might be that the 's' indicated the son of someone with a Scandinavian forename rendered as Blaker, but this seems unlikely in the absence of any examples of such forenames in England later than the 11th century.)

## **(3) Southern England**

The other 12 examples come from seven counties across Southern England ranging from Gloucestershire to Kent. In every case the surname is preceded by 'le', indicating an occupation. In 10 cases, the name is spelled either Blakier(e) or Blakyer(e), and in the other two Blackere and Blaker'.

Authors of works on English surnames are divided over the meaning of this occupational surname. The two meanings suggested are "blacker" and "bleacher".

Fransson (1935)<sup>25</sup> gave a detailed discussion of Middle English surnames ending in -ier, based on the large number of examples that he had collected. He concluded that these were regularly formed from either Old English verbs ending in -ian or Old English nouns, the first syllable in both cases having a short vowel. He was aware of only one example of the Blacker/Blaker surname being spelled with a final -ier(e), but he concluded on this basis that the name must derive from the Old English blæc, which meant black (or ink), and must therefore have the sense of "blacker" rather than "bleacher".<sup>26</sup> As shown above, the -ier(e)/-yer(e) spelling of the surname was actually widespread in Southern England, so Fransson's argument is not dependent on an isolated example.

In contrast, McKinley (1988, 1990)<sup>27</sup> and Reaney and Wilson (1995)<sup>28</sup> gave the meaning as "bleacher". Reaney and Wilson noted Fransson's opinion, but commented that he did not specify an occupation. More recently Hanks, Coates and McClure

---

was first recorded in the 16th century, while the earliest record of the place-name, as Blacker, dates from the early 14th century. The [same source](#) states that Blacker in Worsbrough was first recorded, as Blakeker, in 1199.

24 P. H. Reaney and R. M. Wilson, "A dictionary of English surnames", p. 46 (1995). They list an example of Blachers from 1189, and two other names found in the 12th century for which similar interpretations are suggested - Withars ("white arse") and Bredhers ("broad arse").

25 G. Fransson, "Middle English surnames of occupation, 1100-1350", pages 45-48, 108, 109 (1935).

26 Fransson, page 47, note 2.

27 R. McKinley, "The surnames of Sussex", page 259 (1988) and "A history of British surnames", page 144 (1990).

28 P. H. Reaney and R. M. Wilson, "A dictionary of English surnames", p. 46 (1995).

(2016)<sup>29</sup> said that the meaning of the occupational surname was disputed. They mentioned Fransson's explanation, and suggested that it might relate to either making black ink or dyeing black cloth. They also summarised a counter-argument which they attributed to Reaney<sup>30</sup>, who noted that a Wiltshire man in 1313 was called both Blakkere and Blecchere, and suggested that the name, meaning "bleacher", was an unrecorded Middle English verb derived from the Old English word meaning "to whiten". But they noted that the evidence from Wiltshire was ambiguous, because Blecchere itself might represent a south-western pronunciation of a word meaning "blacker".

Fortunately, one of the records summarised above sheds further light on the meaning of the occupational surname.

The late-13th-century charter of Walter le Blakier, concerning rent in Cirencester, bore a seal with the inscription "S' WALTERI: LE NEROVR", meaning "The seal of Walter le 'Nerour'". Presumably 'Nerour' was an alternative word for his occupation (and the fact that he used two different words suggests that in his case Blakier had not yet become a true surname). I have not been able to find the word 'Nerour' in any dictionary, but in Middle English the suffix -our was used to form, among other things, occupational descriptions. These words were predominantly borrowed whole from Old French, with some borrowed from Latin, and a smaller number formed in England from an Old French or Latin stem.<sup>31</sup> In Anglo-Norman French "neir" was the usual word for "black", and "ner" was among the recognised variants.<sup>32</sup> So 'Nerour' could have the meaning "blacker".

Therefore Walter le Blakier's seal appears to confirm that Fransson's linguistic argument was correct, and that the original meaning of the occupational name was "blacker", not "bleacher". It also appears to eliminate the possibility that this meant a maker of ink. Because while Fransson's suggested Old English root, "blæc", had the dual meaning of "black" and "ink", this is not true of the Anglo-Norman "neir/ner", which meant only "black" (ink being "encre"). That leaves the dyeing of black cloth as the most likely interpretation of "blacker".

---

29 P. Hanks, R. Coates and P. McClure, "[The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain](#)", volume 1, page 244 (2016).

30 The exact source of this argument was not cited, and I haven't been able to find it in Reaney's published works.

31 See the [Middle English Dictionary](#).

32 See the [Anglo-Norman Dictionary](#).

## Appendix: Transcripts, translations and abstracts of sources

### (1) Buckinghamshire

#### (i) Missenden/Wendover, early 13th century

[From list of contents for "Messend":]

lxxvij. Carta Ade filii Walderi de redditu xij d. de mesuagio quod Elricus le blakiere tenuit.

[From Missenden section:]

Assignment by Adam, son of Walder, of a rent of twelve pence which Elricus le blakier was accustomed to pay him for a certain messuage. The said rent is to be used to maintain a light in the Abbey church. [Early 13th century.]

lxxv. [lxxvij.] Carta Ade filii Walderi de redditu xij d. de mesuagio quod Elricus le blakiere tenuit.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Adam filius Walderi assignaui deo et beate Marie ad lumen ecclesie beate Marie de Messend' xij d. redditus quos Elricus le blakier michi solebat reddere de mesuagio quod iacet inter mesuagium quod Seman Cocus tenuit et mesuagium quod Adam le brakier' tenuit tenendos et habendos bene et in pace in perpetuum. Et ut hec mea assignacio stabilis sit et rata presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Testibus Roberto Brond Willelmo filio Walderi Waldero de Puderugg' Rogero Menge Simone le tannur Rogero filio Philippi Thoma Walder. Et aliis.

[From list of contents for "Wendouere":]

lxj. [lxix.] Carta Ade filii Walderi de redditu xij d.

[From Wendover section:]

Grant by Adam, son of Walder, of a rent of 12d. which Elricus le blakier was accustomed to pay in respect of a certain messuage. The rent to be used for the upkeep of the light in the Abbey church. [Early 13th century.]

lxij. [lxix.] Carta Ade filii Walderi de redditu xij d. de mesuagio quod Elricus le brakier tenebit.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Adam filius Walderi assignaui deo et beate Marie ad lumen ecclesie abbathie de Messend' xij d. redditus quos Elricus le blakier' michi solebat reddere de mesuagio quod iacet inter mesuagium quod Seman Cocus tenuit et mesuagium quod Adam le brakier' tenuit tenendos et habendos bene et in pace in perpetuum. Et ut hec mea assignacio stabilis sit et rata presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Testibus Roberto Brond Willelmo filio Walderi Waltero de Puderugg' Rogero Menge Simone le tannur Rogero filio Philippi Thoma Walder. Et aliis.

J. G. Jenkins, ed., ["The cartulary of Missenden Abbey"](#), Part 1 (1938; Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, Records Branch, volume 2), pages 4, 12,

101, 232-232.

## **(2) Essex**

### **(i) Great Stambridge, 1289**

Reference: CCA-DCc-ChAnt/S/326A

Title: Grant

From: Adam Cobbe of Great Stambridge To: 'Dominus' Richard of Southchurch A messuage in the vill ('villa') of Great Stambridge, together with all Adam's chattels in the same vill, both within the land and outside it. For an annual payment of 1 clove ('clavum garioffili'). Given at Great Stambridge [Essex]. Witnesses: John de Counbe; Robert Doget; Richard de la Hel; Ralph Coc of Paglesham; Philip son of Serle; Walter Picard; Thomas le Blakiere; Robert le Bret; Richard le Harpur Endorsed with description, almost obliterated, in late 13th cent hand.

Date: 19 Aug 1289

[Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library - DEAN AND CHAPTER ARCHIVE - Chartae Antiquae S]

Registered version: CCA-DCc-Register/B, f85r (SEE ALSO CCA-DCc-ChAnt/S/93)

[From [entry in the National Archives Discovery catalogue.](#)]

## **(3) Gloucestershire**

### **(ii) Cirencester, 1259-1260**

Grant by John of London and Matilda his wife to William of Baunton that he may hold quietly henceforth two messuages which had been disputed between them in the court of Cirencester by writ of right, 1259-60.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit Johannes de Londres et Matilda uxor sua salutem in Domino eternam. Noverit universitas vestra nos concessisse Willelmo de Baudynton' et heredibus suis vel assignatis pro nobis et heredibus nostris quod quiete, bene et in pace de cetero teneat illa duo mesuagia cum omnibus pertinenciis de quibus placitum fuit inter nos in curia Cirencestr' per breve de recto anno regni regis Henrici filii regis Johannis quadragesimo quarto, quorum unum mesuagium scitum est juxta mesuagium quondam Ricardi le Blakiere en Gosedich, et alterum mesuagium juxta terram quondam Roberti le Seler en Schittestret'[1]; reddendo inde annuatim nobis et heredibus nostris ipse et heredes sui quatuor solidos argenti ad quatuor anni terminos et cetera.

[1] 'Schittestret' is tentatively identified with Shooter Street (lost) in Cirencester, see Place-Names of Gloucs., vol. i, p. 63.

...

MS: B fo. 59v.

[From Mary Devine, ed., "The cartulary of Cirencester Abbey, Gloucestershire. Volume 3", p. 801 (1977) (borrowable from the [Internet Archive](#)).]

### **(iii) Cirencester, late 13th century**

Late 13th century

Grant in free alms by Walter le Blakier, with the consent of Denise his wife, to the Hospital of St John, Bath, of 12d. annual rent in the town (villa) of Cirencester (Cirincest') at four terms of the year, viz., on the feast of St Andrew 3d., at the Annunciation of the B.V.M. 3d., at the Nativity of St. John Baptist 3d., and at Michaelmas 3d.; that is to say, from the 3s. which William le Kager and his heirs owe annually to the said Walter and his heirs. Sealing.

Witnesses: Thomas le Blakier, William de novo ponte, Adam Fuller (Fullo), John Inn, Nicholas son of Richard Smith (Faber), William Pinbury (Pendebury), master Walter, and many others.

Seal Round, green wax, showing a small flower. Inscription: +S' WALTERI: LE NEROVR.

Date The deed is undated and therefore most probably belongs to the period before 1300. Adam Fuller occurs as a witness to Bath city deeds between 1283 and 1310 (Shickle, pp 4, 31, 56, 77, 80, 118).

[From B. R. Kemp, ed., "Medieval deeds of Bath and district. Part 1", p. 46 (1974; Somerset Record Society, volume 73).]

## **(8) Wiltshire**

### **(i) Malmesbury, 1249**

THE BOROUGH OF MAMBESBYR' COMES BY TWELVE

...

22. Walter le Blakyere and Joan his wife. accused of harbouring John of Kynemeresford, an approver who appealed them, come and deny all and put themselves on the country. The jurors say they are not guilty, so they are acquitted.

[From C. A. F. Meekings, ed., "[Crown Pleas of the Wiltshire Eyre, 1249](#)", page 155 (1961; Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, Records Branch, volume 16).]

## **(9) Yorkshire**

### **(i) Worsbrough, late 13th century**

(a) William de Rockley, the son and heir of Peter, appears among the witnesses to a deed by which sir Hugh de Nevile gives to Henry de Blacker a capital messuage in Milnthorpe in Worsborough, which Henry de Milnethorpe formerly held.

[From Joseph Hunter, "[South Yorkshire](#)", volume 2, page 284 (1831).]

(b) (371) Grant by Henry son of Henry de Brom to Robert son of Sir John de Bosovile [sic], his heirs and assigns, of that bovate of land with the messuage and appurtenances, without retention, which he (the grantor) had by the gift of Henry his father in the territory of Wirkysburg, that bovate namely which is called Blabirmegand. To hold and to have to the grantee, his heirs and assigns, from the grantor and his heirs, in fee and inheritance, freely, quietly, etc., with all liberties, easements, and commons thereto belonging, rendering thence yearly to the grantor and his heirs 3s. for all suits, services, etc. Warranty, in consideration of a certain sum of money paid by the grantee in hand. Witnesses, Sirs Roger son of Thomas de la Wodehall, Nicholas de Wrtelay [sic], Sir Nicholas de Turribus, Peter de Bosevile, Richard de Birg, Adam son of Ralph de Derlay, Henry del Blacker, Robert Perre of Erdisley, and others.

[From J. W. Walker, "Abstracts of the chartularies of the priory of Monkbretton", page 120 ([no 371](#)) (1924; Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Record Series, volume 66).]

(c) (433) Grant by Hugh de Nevil, chief lord of Brelelay, to Adam son of Robert de Swathe, and his heirs or assigns, except Religious, Jews, and the chief lords of the fee, of an essart as it lies within the bounds of Derley between the land of Adam son of Oryn, and an essart called Lauedi Rode, whereof at one head it abuts on the essart called Therprode and at the other head on the wall between that essart and the essart of Henry Ketilbarne. To have and to hold to him, his heirs and assigns, from the grantor and his heirs, without retention by them, in fee and inheritance, freely, quietly, etc., with all liberties, easements, and commons belonging to the said essart; rendering yearly to the grantor and his heirs 3s. 2d. for all services, etc., saving forinsec service, as belongs to such a holding. Warranty of the said essart, with the messuage and all other things belonging to the said essart. Witnesses, Henry de Rockelay, Richard of the same, Henry de Blacker, Adam de Derlay, Henry of the same, Reiner de Bosco, William the clerk, and others.

[From J. W. Walker, "Abstracts of the chartularies of the priory of Monkbretton", pages 137-138 ([no 433](#)) (1924; Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Record Series, volume 66).]

(d) (434) Grant by Hugh de Nevile, lord of Berelay, to Henry son of Reyner de Swathe, his heirs and assigns, except Religious and Jews and the chief lord, of all that land, with the messuage and appurtenances, without retention, which Jordan Ketilbarn and Robert Ayre sometime held, in the territory of Derlay. To have and to

hold to the grantee, his heirs and assigns (except as aforesaid), in fee and inheritance, freely, quietly, etc., with all liberties, etc., within and without the bounds of Derlay, thereto belonging. Rendering yearly to the grantor and his heirs or assigns 8s. for all services, etc., save forinsec service, as belongs to such a holding. Witnesses, Henry de Rockelay, Richard his brother, Henry de Blacker, Adam son of Ralph de Derlay, and many others.

[From J. W. Walker, "Abstracts of the chartularies of the priory of Monkbretton", page 138 (no [434](#)) (1924; Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Record Series, volume 66).]

# **Genealogical Research Report number 8**

## **16th-century Sussex muster rolls**

**[March 2025]**

## REPORT NUMBER 8. MARCH 2025.

### 16TH-CENTURY SUSSEX MUSTER ROLLS

#### 1. Introduction

Muster rolls are potentially a useful genealogical source, as for each locality they list men liable to military service in an emergency, together with details of arms and armour held. Together with taxation records, they can be helpful in supplementing records such as parish registers and wills, particularly in the early period when these are scarce or non-existent.

The surviving muster rolls for 16th- and 17th- century Sussex have been listed by Jeremy Gibson and Alan Dell, in "Tudor and Stuart Muster Rolls" (1991). The records for Sussex from the early and mid 16th century are all held at the National Archives, and are summarised in the next section.<sup>33</sup>

#### 2. Records checked

The records are organised firstly by the six large-scale divisions of the county, known as rapes, then within each rape by the hundreds and finally within each hundred by the tithings or boroughs.

##### (a) Records "of the time of Henry VIII"

###### (i) Rape of Bramber

[National Archives E 101/549/21]

**Hundreds:** Brightford; Burbeche; East Easwirth; Fishergate [half hundred in Bramber rape]; Patching; Singlecross; Steyning; Tarring; Tipnoak; West Grinstead; Windham and Ewhurst

[all hundreds represented]

###### (ii) Rape of Chichester

[National Archives E 101/549/21]

**Hundreds:** Aldwick; Bosham; Box and Stockbridge; [?]Dumpford; Easebourne; Manhood; Westbourne and Singleton

[all hundreds represented]

Lists of names arranged by hundred, and then by tithing and borough.

Gibson and Dell describe this as "fragmented pages, readable in places but difficult to

---

<sup>33</sup> Gibson and Dell also list returns for the rapes of Bramber and Chichester from 1548 (National Archives SP 10/3, numbers 17 and 18), but these do not include any personal names.

identify." There are a number of booklets, in various conditions. For some, most of the names are legible, while for others only a few can be read. But for nearly all, at least some place-names are legible, allowing the hundreds to be identified. Several dates can also be read, two in January and February 26 Henry VIII (1535) and one in 28 Henry VIII (1536-1537).

## **(b) Records of 1539**

### **(i) Rape of Arundel**

[Two lists. National Archives E 36/45 and SP 2/5, folios 214-224; both calendared (as a list of hundreds and tithings included) in "[Letters and Papers of the reign of Henry VIII](#)", volume 14, part 1, pages 296-297]

**Hundreds and boroughs:** Avisford; Arundel borough; Bury; Poling; Rotherbridge; West Easwirth

[all hundreds represented]

### **(ii) Rape of Bramber (two lists)**

[Two lists. National Archives E 36/45 and SP 2/5, folios 229-236; the second calendared in Letters and Papers, volume 14, part 1, page 297]

**Hundreds and boroughs:** Bramber borough; Brightford; Burbeach; East Easwirth; Fishergate (half hundred in Bramber rape); Horsham borough; New Shoreham borough; Singlecross; Steyning; Steyning borough; Tipnoak; West Grinstead; Windham and Ewhurst

[all hundreds represented except Patching and Tarring, each of which contains a single parish]

[the first list also includes an entry for "Blaxtton" in the hundred of "Strete", which place I have not been able to identify]

### **(iii) City of Chichester**

[National Archives SP 2/5, folios 173-179; calendared in Letters and Papers, volume 14, page 295]

### **(iv) Rape of Chichester**

[National Archives SP 2/5, folios 180-212; calendared in Letters and Papers, volume 14, pages 295-296]

**Hundreds:** Aldwick; Bosham; Box and Stockbridge; Dumpford; Easebourne; Manhood; Westbourne and Singleton

[all hundreds represented]

### **(v) Rape of Hastings**

[National Archives E 36/50; calendared in Letters and Papers, volume 14, pages 297-298]

**Hundreds:** Baldstrow; Battle; Bexhill; Foxearle; Goldspur; Gostrow; Guestling; Hawkesborough; Henhurst; Netherfield; Ninfield; Robertsbridge; Shoyswell; Staple

[all hundreds represented]

#### **(vi) Rape of Pevensey**

[National Archives SP 2/5, folios 238-272; calendared in Letters and Papers, volume 14, pages 298-299]

**Hundreds:** Alciston; Dill; East Grinstead; Eastbourne; Flexborough; Hartfield; Longbridge; Loxfield; Parkgate; Rotherfield; Rushmonden; Shiplake; Totnore; Willingdon

[perhaps two thirds of the hundreds represented]

Lists of names arranged by hundred, and then by tithing and borough.

#### **(c) Records of 1559<sup>34</sup>**

##### **(i) Rape of Bramber**

[National Archives SP 12/6, folios 13-16; images online at [AALT](#)]

**Hundreds and boroughs:** Brightford; Burbeach; East Easwirth; Fishergate (half hundred in Bramber rape); Horsham borough; New Shoreham borough; Old Shoreham town; Patching; Singlecross; Steyning; Steyning borough; Tarring; Tipnoak; West Grinstead; Windham and Ewhurst

[all hundreds represented]

Lists of names arranged by hundred, and then by tithing and borough.

##### **(iii) Rape of Chichester**

[National Archives SP 12/6, folios 17-24; images online at [AALT](#)]

**Hundreds and boroughs:** Aldwick; [?]Bosham; Box and Stockbridge; Chichester city; Dumpford; Easebourne; Manhood; Westbourne and Singleton

[all hundreds represented]

Lists of names arranged by hundred

### **3. Entries found**

The lists were searched for Blaker and variants. Blake and Baker were not noted, but Blaber was, as it can so easily be confused with Blaker.

Six Blaber entries and one Blaker entry were found, as follows.

#### **(a) Records of "the time of Henry VIII"**

Rape of Bramber, hundred of Brightford, tithing of Brodwater [Broadwater]

---

<sup>34</sup> Misdated to 1569 by Gibson and Dell, who omit the return for Bramber. In the same volume (at folios 132-141) are much shorter lists of chosen men, containing about 100 names for each of the rapes of Bramber and Lewes, and 50 for each of the rapes of Arundel and Chichester. They include no Blakers.

Renoldo Blaber

[folio 1v; generally forenames are given in English here]

Rape of Bramber, hundred of Brightford, tithing of Sowntyng [Sompting]

John Blaber 1 harness

[folio 2; probably bracketed with the previous name, John Vynson]

Rape of Chichester, hundred of Aldwick, [tithing of Pagh[a]m [Pageham]]

John B[l?]aber a byllman

[folio 2v]

#### **(b) 1539**

Rape of Arundel, hundred of Avisford, Arondell Borogh [Arundel]

Thomas Blaber [bill man]

[folio 218v]

Rape of Arundel, hundred of Poling, Burgh[a]m & Weppeham [Burpham and Wepham]

Wyll[ia]m Blaber [bill man]

[folio 220v]

Rape of Bramber, hundred of Brightford, tithing of Sounting Abbat [Sompting]

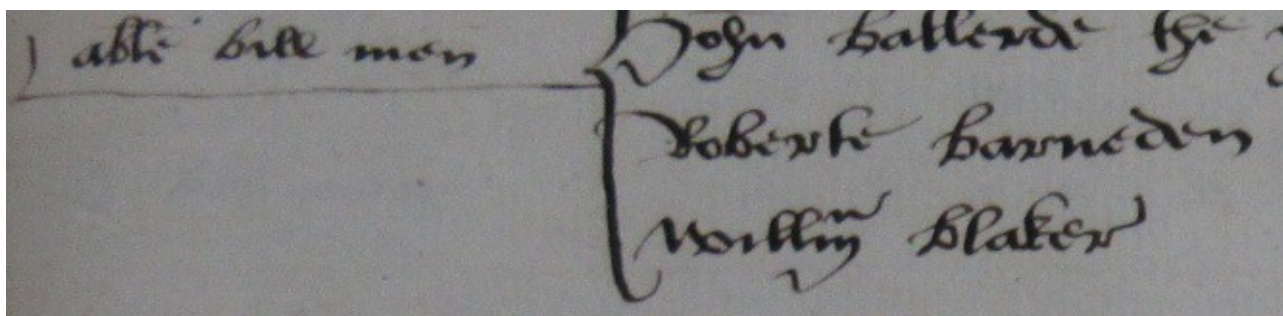
Phillip Blaber [bill man]

[folio 232r]

Rape of Pevensey, hundred of Totnore, borowe of P[re]ston Poning[es] [Preston Poynings, in the parish of West Firle]

Will[ia]m Blaker [able bill man]

[folio 261]



#### **4. Discussion**

It is disappointing that only a single Blaker has been found in the records of these musters. No doubt there would have been more if records for the rape of Lewes had

survived, and these would have helped to determine the places of residence of the Blakers in the lay subsidies of this period for whom only the names of hundreds are given. There were six parishes in the rape of Lewes where Blakers are known to have been in the period 1475-1550 - Brighton, Cuckfield, Edburton, Hove, Portslade and Preston. Obviously these muster records can give us no information about Blakers in these places.<sup>35</sup>

The one positive piece of information found is that a William Blaker, classified as an "able bill man" (a man fit to fight using a bill as a weapon), appears in the 1539 list for Preston Poynings, in the parish of West Firle, the hundred of Totnore and the rape of Pevensey. We already know there were Blakers in this locality at the time. Land in the manor of Tilton (apparently in Selmeston or Alciston) was occupied by a Richard Blaker in 1541, and a William Blacar of Selmeston made his will in 1543/4. His son John later lived in West Firle.<sup>36</sup> Selmeston was only about three miles from Preston Poynings, so the bill man seems likely to have been related to Richard and William, or was perhaps identical with William.

As to reaching negative conclusions from the absence of Blakers from the muster roll, obviously it's necessary to be cautious. The rolls excluded women, children, men over 60 and often men who were unfit to fight, and even allowing for those exclusions it is difficult to know how complete the lists were. But it's interesting to note that in terms of documentary evidence, other than the lay subsidy returns (discussed below), the only indications of Blakers in Sussex outside the rape of Lewes in the period 1475-1550 relate to those around West Firle and Selmeston - in the only locality where a Blaker is found in the muster rolls.<sup>37</sup>

In contrast to the muster rolls and the other documentary evidence, published transcripts of the lay subsidies of 1524-5 and 1543-4 show several Blakers in other places in Sussex. In 1524-5 they show two in the rape of Bramber and one each in the rapes of Arundel and Hastings.<sup>38</sup> In 1543-4, they show four in the rape of Bramber.<sup>39</sup>

This presents a very different picture from that of Blakers inhabiting only one locality of Sussex - Selmeston/West Firle - outside the rape of Lewes in the early 15th century. But given the scarcity of Blakers in the muster rolls and the larger number of Blabers, it seems possible that some names in the lay subsidy returns have been mistranscribed or misread.

---

35 The description in Gibson and Dell of muster rolls in National Archives E 36/45 for the rape of Bramber - as "Rape of Bramber (also Fishergate)" (p. 29) - may give the impression that Portslade is included. The hundred of Fishergate was divided into two half hundreds, one in the rape of Bramber and the other (including Portslade) in the rape of Lewes. But there is no indication in the document that the half hundred in the rape of Lewes is included.

36 See the articles on these places by David Bethell (volume 2, pages 96-109).

37 There is also a reference in Sussex Archaeological Collections, volume 23, page 133, to the will of a Richard Blaker of Westham in the 1540s (see FONS extracts at [BLAKER\\_11.pdf](#)). Westham was in the rape of Pevensey, but "Blaker" here seems to be a misreading of "Blabor" (see David Bethell's article, volume 2, page 248).

38 Julian Cornwall, ed., "[The lay subsidy rolls for the county of Sussex 1524-25](#)" (Sussex Record Society, volume 56, 1956), pp. 46, 59, 80, 140.

39 Walter C. Renshaw, "Sarches into the History of the Family of Blaker of Sussex", p. 113 (1904).

There are particular grounds for suspicion in some cases:

- (1) In West Grinstead in 1524 the published transcript shows a Rychard Blakyer, but a footnote indicates that the surname may alternatively be "Clavyer".<sup>40</sup>
- (2) In the hundred of Bexhill the published transcript shows a Rychard Blaker in 1524 but a Richard Blaber in 1525. Both were assessed at £2 (with wages indicated in 1524).<sup>41</sup>
- (3) In the Storrington return for 1524 the published transcript shows a Blabar and in that for 1525 a Blaker, though with different forenames.<sup>42</sup>
- (4) In the hundred of Brightford in 1543-4 there is a "Roffe" Blaker, while in the muster rolls there are four Blabers in the same hundred.

Clearly it is desirable to check the original lay subsidy returns, to clarify whether some of these names have been misread.

---

40 Cornwall, p. 59.

41 Cornwall, pp. 140, 141.

42 Cornwall, p. 46.

# **Genealogical Research Report number 9**

## **Early given names similar to Blaker**

**[April 2025]**

## REPORT NUMBER 9. APRIL 2025.

### EARLY GIVEN NAMES SIMILAR TO BLAKER

In my report for February 2025 I collected examples of the Blaker surname and variants from the 13th century, and discussed the origins of the surname. The conclusions were that (1) in the south of England all the examples of the surname except one were preceded by "le", which indicated it was originally an occupation, and (2) in the single example from Yorkshire the surname was preceded by "de", which indicated that it was originally a place-name. For the two other examples - one from Bristol and other from Lancashire - the surname wasn't preceded by either "le" or "de", and could conceivably have originated from a given name, though in one case it seems likely that a "de" had been accidentally omitted, and in the other a nickname has been suggested as the explanation.

However, in the period before the development of surnames, a number of given names with at least a superficial resemblance to Blaker were recorded in England and Ireland, so for completeness I have collected here what information I could find about them. In the Appendix are translations and abstracts of the records, together with references to the sources, arranged in chronological order.

The earliest is **Blaecca** (1), a prominent citizen of Lincoln ("praefectus" in Latin, and rendered "reeve" in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle), who was converted to Christianity in the early 7th century. This is the only record I have seen of a man with this name, though it has been suggested as an element in a number of English place-names, including East Blatchington in Sussex.<sup>43</sup>

The name **Blaca** (2) occurs in the 9th century in Northumbria, and three similar names - **Blac**, **Blach** and **Blache** (6) - appear in the Domesday Book as tenants in Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Sussex and Yorkshire, before the Norman Conquest in 1066. Writers on Anglo-Saxon names agree in deriving these from the Old English word *blæc*, meaning "black" (while also allowing for the alternative *blāc*, meaning "pale"). *Blac* appears in the Domesday Book as a nickname for several people with other names.<sup>44</sup>

The most prominent man with a Blaker-like given name was **Blacair(e)** (3), a Viking who became king of Dublin in 943. Although he was initially militarily successful, he was defeated the following year by Congalach Cnogba, the overking of Leinster, and had to give up his kingship in 945. Three years later Blacair was killed in battle

---

43 See entries in Key to English Place-Names (University of Nottingham) for [East Blatchington](#) (Sussex), [Bletchingley](#) (Surrey), [Blatchinworth](#) (Lancashire) and [Blacklow Hundred](#) (Essex).

44 Rudolf Müller, [Untersuchungen über die Namen des nordhumbrischen Liber Vitae](#), pages 47-48, 95 (1901); Mats Redin, [Studies on Uncompounded Personal Names in Old English](#), pages 11, 44, 121 (1919); Olof von Feilitzen, *The pre-conquest personal names of Domesday book*, page 203 (1937).

against Congalach. His name evidently derived from the Old Norse *Blakkr*, again meaning "black".<sup>45</sup>

This leaves a group of names from the 11th century and later, which are closer in form to Blaker. There are a moneyer called **Blacere** (or **Blacera**, **Blacra** or **Blacre**) (4) and a Benedictine monk called **Blakere** (5), both in Suffolk in the mid-11th century, a pre-Conquest tenant in Yorkshire named in the Domesday book as **Blacre** (6), a man called **Blakerus** commemorated at Thorney Abbey in Cambridgeshire in the second quarter of the 12th century (7), two sons of **Blacher** who witnessed charters in Yorkshire in the third quarter of the century (8), and a grandson of **Blaker** who granted land in Whitby, Yorkshire, in the early 13th century (9).

The scholarly verdict on the origins of these names is not so clear. Two possible origins have been discussed. One is again the Scandinavian name *Blakkr*, and the other is an apparently hypothetical Old English name *Blæchere*, supposed to have been formed from the two elements "blæc", meaning black, and "here", meaning army.<sup>46</sup> In the case of the Domesday name *Blacre*, on the whole writers have favoured *Blakkr* as the origin.<sup>47</sup> But for the forms ending -er(e) opinion has been divided.<sup>48</sup>

## Conclusion

Before searching for more examples of given names similar to Blaker, I hadn't seen any examples later than the Domesday Book. The four additional records found show that such names still existed probably a century after Domesday, and I am sure that more examples exist that I haven't found. In the case of the one early surname without a prefix indicating either an occupation or a place-name - "Blakers" in Bristol in 1287 - it might have originated from the given name Blaker, rather than as the nickname "black arse" (suggested by Reaney as an interpretation of "Blachers"). But despite this possibility, as discussed previously, there is still strong evidence that in nearly all cases the origin of the surname was either an occupation or a place-name.

---

45 [Blacair \(Blakkr\)](#) (Dictionary of Irish Biography); Feilitzen, page 203; Gillian Fellows Jensen, *Scandinavian personal names in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire*, pages 56-57 (1968).

46 Cf. Fran Colman, *The Grammar of Names in Anglo-Saxon England*, pages 204-205 (2014). This suggested Old English name is listed by Reaney and Wilson as a possible source for the Blaker surname (*A dictionary of English surnames*, p. 46 (1995)).

47 Redin, page 11; Feilitzen, page 203; Jensen, pages 56-57; Fran Colman, *Money Talks: Reconstructing Old English*, page 84 (1992).

48 For example, Feilitzen takes the names of the monk *Blakere* and the moneyer *Blacere* to originate from the Old English *Blæchere*, while Colman (1992) has argued that *Blacere* is a form of the North Germanic *Blakkr*.

## Appendix: Translations and abstracts of sources

### (1) Blaecca, of Lincoln, c. 627

Paulinus also preached the word of God to the province of Lindsey, which lies immediately south of the Humber, and extends to the sea. His first convert was **Blaecca**, Reeve of the city of Lincoln, with all his family.

[Bede, *Historia ecclesiastica gentis anglorum*, book 2, chapter 16.

English translation from Leo Sherley-Price, revised by R. E. Latham, [A history of the English church and people](#), page 131 (1968).

In the Latin text, Blaecca is described as the "praefectus" of Lincoln. Manuscript E of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle dates this episode to 627 and renders the word in English as gerefafa, "reeve". (G. N. Garmonsway, *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, p. 25 (1972))]

### (2) Blaca, [?]Lindisfarne Abbey, mid-9th century

The name **blaca** occurs in a commemorative list of the names of clerics in the earliest section of the Durham Liber Vitae, which is believed to have been written in the mid-9th century, probably at Lindisfarne Abbey.

[Henry Sweet, ed., [The Oldest English Texts](#), page 161, line 256 (1885)]

### (3) Blacair(e), King of Dublin, mid-10th century

[The dates given in brackets are according to the chronology given by Clare Downham, *Viking kings of Britain and Ireland: the dynasty of Ívarr to A.D. 1014*, page 248 (2007).]

#### Annals of the Four Masters

938 [940]

Amhlaeibh Cuaran went to Cair-Abroc; and **Blacaire**, son of Godfrey, came to Ath-cliath.

940 [942]

Cluain-mic-Nois and Cill-dara were plundered by Blacaire, son of Godfrey, and the foreigners of Ath-cliath.

941 [943]

Muirheartach of the Leather Cloaks, son of Niall Glundubh, lord of Aileach, the Hector of the west of Europe in his time, was slain at Ath-Fhirdiadh by Blacaire, son of Godfrey, lord of the foreigners, on the 26th of March. In lamentation of him was

said:

Vengeance and destruction have descended upon the race of the Clann-Cuinn  
for ever,  
As Muircheartach does not live; alas, the country of the Gaeidhil will be  
always an orphan.

Ard-Macha was plundered by the same foreigners on the day after the killing of  
Muircheartach. Mughron composed this:

One, nine hundred, four times ten, since Christ was born of Virgin birth,  
Is the number of years that have come, to the great death of the Muircheartach.

943 [945]

Blacaire, one of the chiefs of the foreigners, was expelled from Dublin; and  
Amhlaeibh remained after him there.

946 [948]

The battle of Ath-cliath [was gained] by Conghalach, son of Maelmithigh, over  
Blacaire, grandson of Imhar, lord of the Norsemen, wherein Blacaire himself, and  
sixteen hundred men were lost, both wounded and captives, [and upwards of a  
thousand\*] along with him. Of this was said:

The Thursday of Conghalach of chiefs  
At Ath-cliath was a conflict of heroes,  
As long as his children live to propagate children,  
They shall bring the foreigners to all kinds of trouble.

[\* O'Donovan adds a footnote:

This is an alias reading, incorrectly inserted into the text by the Four Masters. The  
true reading is given in Peregrine O'Clery's copy of the *Leabhar-Gabhala*, p. 217, as  
follows:

...

"It was in the fourth year of his" [Conghalach's] "reign (946) the battle of Ath-cliath  
was fought by him against Blacaire, grandson of Imhar, lord of the Norsemen, where  
Blacaire himself was slain, together with sixteen hundred men, in revenge of  
Muircheartach, son of Niall Glundubh, slain by him some time before."]

[English translation from John O'Donovan, *Annals of the kingdom of Ireland by the  
Four Masters*, [volume 2](#), pages 641-659 (1856). In the Irish text, the name is spelled  
Blacaire throughout.]

## **Annals of Ulster**

943

Muirchertach son of Niall, i.e. Muirchertach of the Leather Cloaks, king of Ailech  
and the Hector of the western world, was killed by the heathens, i.e. by **Blacair** son  
of Gothfrith, king of the foreigners, at Glas Liatháin beside Cluain Chain, in Fir Rois,  
on the first feria, fourth of the Kalends of March 26 Feb.. Ard Macha was plundered

by the same foreigners on the following day, the third of the Kalends of March.  
(Vengeance and ruin have come to rest  
On the race of Conn's children for ever:  
It were grievous that Muirchertach lives no more,  
The land of the famous Irish is orphaned.)

945

Blacair gave up Áth Cliath and Amlaíb succeeded him.

948

Blacair son of Gothfrith, king of the foreigners, was killed by Congalach son of Mael Mithig, and sixteen hundred were also killed or taken captive.

[English translation by Seán Mac Airt and Gearóid Mac Niocaill (1983), from the [Corpus of Electronic Texts](#) website.

The Irish text is available in the edition of William M. Hennessy, [volume 1](#) (1887), in which the name is spelled Blacair in the first two of these annals, but Blocair in the third.]

### **Chronicon Scotorum**

941 [942]

Cluain-muc-Nois was plundered by the Foreigners of Ath-cliaith, and by **Blacaire**, son of Gothfrith.

947 [948]

Blacaire, grandson of Imhar, King of the Norsemen, was treacherously slain, together with many men, viz. 1,000, by Congalach, son of Maelmithidh.

[English translation from William M. Hennessy, [Chronicum Scotorum](#), pages 205, 209 (1866). In the Irish text, the name is spelled Blacaire in both these annals, but a variant reading Caire is noted in a footnote.]

### **Annals of Clonmacnoise**

933 [940]

Awley Cwaran came to Yorck, and **Blackare** m[c]Godfrey arrived in Dublin to govern the Danes.

935 [942]

**Blacaire** m[c]Godfry with the Danes of Dublin robed and spoiled Clonvicknose.

937 [945]

**Blacairey** was banished from Dublin and Awley succeeded him to the government.

943 [948]

Blacaire m[c]lmer, king of the Normans, was killed by king Congallagh and a thousand Danes, and upwards with him were slaine alsoe.

[Text from Denis Murphy, [The Annals of Clonmacnoise](#), pages 151-154 (1896). This is an edition of an early 17th-century English translation of an Irish text which is now lost.]

#### **(4) Blacere, of Thetford, Norfolk, moneyer, between 1042 and 1066**

13 silver pennies of the reign of Edward the Confessor issued from the mint at Thetford in Norfolk bear the name of a moneyer, variously written as **Blacere** (7), **Blacera** (4), **Blacra** (1) or **Blacre** (1). Another halfpenny (in the form of a penny cut in two) from Thetford bears the first three letters "Bla" and is presumed also to be his.

[See the [online database](#) of the Corpus of Early Medieval Coin Finds/Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles, which includes photographs of coins.

Seven of these coins (including the halfpenny) are attributed to a large find at Queen Victoria Street/Walbrook in the City of London in 1872. A number of the coins from this find were described in [an article](#) by John Evans in the *Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society*, 3rd series, volume 5, pages 254-273 (1885). These included seven pennies of Blacere of Thetford. The inscriptions given for them do not seem consistent with those in the database, and include the additional variants **Blacer** and **Blcere**.]

#### **(5) Blakere, Benedictine monk, Suffolk, mid-11th century, between 1044 and 1065**

It seems likely that these two records relate to the same man.

#### **List of books at Bury St Edmunds Abbey**

**Blakere** has one winter reading book.

[The list, written in English, in Corpus Christi College Oxford, manuscript 197, f. 106b, was first printed by M. R. James, [On the abbey of S. Edmund at Bury](#), page 6 (Cambridge Antiquarian Society Octavo Publications number 28, 1895).

It was written when Leofstan was abbot (1044-1065).]

#### **Notification of the establishment of Rumburgh as a cell of the abbey of St Benet of Holm.**

To all the sons of the holy mother church, let it be noted that brother **Blakere** has

been professed and ordained in the church and congregation of St Benedict of Holm by Almarus the bishop and abbot Thurstan and by their licence is to serve God monastically in a certain cell which is called Romburch with certain brothers - and they have been subjected to the aforesaid place of St Benedict and to the abbot and brothers of the same place. And they are to accept from them instruction in the rule and example of life to the extent of their power and to submit to their obedience, so that being subject to the order they may truly be participants in the heavenly kingdom.

[For the Latin text of the notification, see Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum*, [volume 3, page 610](#) (1846), and J. R. West, *St Benet of Holme, 1020-1210*, pages 89, 90 (Norfolk Record Society volume 2, 1932).

The document is dated between the beginning of the episcopate of Æthelmær, bishop of Elmham, in 1047, and the death of Thurstan, abbot of St Benet, in 1064.

The Domesday Book recorded that in 1086 there were 12 monks at the house.]

## **(6) Blac, Blach, Blache and Blacre in the Domesday Book, 1086**

[Translations adapted from those available through the National Archives website (from the Alecto edition, 1986-1992). Place-names, surnames and uncommon given names are spelled as they are in the manuscript.]

### **Bedfordshire [Huntingdonshire]**

[Lands held by William de Warenne as tenant in chief]

In the same [vill] [Estone; Easton, in Huntingdonshire] the same William holds 1 virgate of land. There is land for 2 oxen, and there are 4 oxen. It is and was worth 2s; In the time of King Edward 3s. **Blach**, a man of Augi, held this land; he could give it to whom he wished.

[f. 211v]

[Augi is mentioned earlier as Auigi, a man of Aschil, predecessor of Hugh Beauchamp (who was sheriff)]

### **Hertfordshire**

[Lands held by the abbot of St Albans]

In Eldeha[m] [Aldenham] Geoffrey de Bech holds 1 hide under the abbot. There is land for 1 plough, but the plough is not there. There are 2 cottars, [and] woodland for 100 pigs. It is and was worth 12s; In the time of King Edward 20s. **Blache**, a man of St. Alban, held this land. He could not sell.

[f. 136r]

## Sussex

[Lands held by Robert, Count of Eu, as tenant in chief]

Robert holds NEREWELLE [Ninfield] of the count. **Blac** held it of King Edward, and wished [sic] to go with the land where he would. Then it was assessed at 3 hides; now at 2½ hides. There is land for 12 ploughs. In demesne Robert has 1 plough, and a church, and 1 bordar.

[Further details of tenure within the manor follow.]

The whole manor in the time of King Edward was worth 6£; and afterwards 20s; now the whole [is worth] 105s.

[f. 18r]

## Yorkshire

[Lands held by William de Percy as tenant in chief]

In CHILUERTEBI [Killerby, in Cayton], **Blac** and Sprot had 2 carucates of land to the geld, where there could be 1 plough. Now William has it, and it is waste.

...

In TORP [Thorpfield, in Seamer] and IRETUNE [Irton, in Seamer], Carle and **Blacre** had 4½ carucates of land to the geld, where there could be 2 ploughs. Now William has it, and it is waste. In the time of King Edward worth 16s; now 16s.

...

In ATUNE [East Ayton], **Blacre**, Ghilander and Torbrand had 6 carucates of land to the geld, where there could be 4 ploughs. Now William has there 1 mill [rendering] 5s, and 18 villans with 6 ploughs, [and] 40 acres of meadow. [There is] woodland pasture 9 furlongs long and 9 broad. In the time of King Edward worth 30s; now 40s.

...

In SNECHINTUNE [Snainton], **Blacre** had 1½ carucates of land to the geld, and there could be 1 plough. Now Fulk has it of William. He himself [has] 1 plough there; and 5 villans [with] half a plough, and 2 acres of meadow. In the time of King Edward worth 16s; now the same.

[f. 323r]

### (7) **Blakerus, Thorney Abbey, Cambridgeshire, second quarter of the 12th century**

The name **Blaker(us)** occurs in a commemorative list in the Thorney Liber Vitae, dated palaeographically to the second quarter of the 12th century.

[Lynda Rollason, ed., *The Thorney Liber Vitae*, page 97 (2015). The parentheses indicate that an abbreviation has been expanded to give the ending -us.]

## **(8) Richer and Baldwin, sons of Blacher, Yorkshire, late 12th century**

### **Charter of William de Percy, between 1154 and 1166**

Confirmation to Whitby Abbey of specified gifts in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, made by the grantor, his father Alan de Percy, his grandfather William de Percy and others, for the souls of the grantor's grandfather, his parents, himself, his wife Aliza and Henry king of England.

The last two named witnesses are Richer (Richerus), son of **Blacher**, and Geoffrey (Gaufridus), his son.

[J. C. Atkinson, ed., *Cartularium abbathiae de Whiteby*, [volume 1](#), pages 28-30, number 26 (1879); Charles Travis Clay, ed., *Early Yorkshire Charters*, [volume 11](#), page 25, number 11 (1963).

Clay argued, against the suggestion that the charter was granted during the reign of Henry I, that the limits on its date were the accession of Henry II in 1154 and the date by which the grantor had married his second wife, 1166.]

### **Charter of Robert de Percy, between 1161 and c. 1170**

Gift to Whitby Abbey of the church of Sutton upon Derwent, Yorkshire.

Among the witnesses are Richer (Richerus), son of **Blacher**, and Baldwin (Bal[de]winus), son of **Blacher**.

[J. C. Atkinson, ed., *Cartularium abbathiae de Whiteby*, [volume 1](#), pages 46-47, number 43 (1879); Charles Travis Clay, ed., *Early Yorkshire Charters*, [volume 11](#), page 117, number 104 (1963).

The limits on the date of the charter come from those for two confirmation charters of the archbishop of York, the second mentioning this gift and the first not.]

## **(9) Walter, son of Godfrey, son of Blaker, Whitby, Yorkshire, between 1223 and 1244**

Grant (by Walterus filius Godfridi filii **Blaker**) to Hugh, son of Roger Prudume, of one toft of land in Whiteby, which lies between the land of Richard Freboys and the land of Agnes, the wife of Thomas Cocus, in the street called Flore [Flowergate], to hold to him and his heirs of the grantor and his heirs, for two marks of silver given by Hugh. Hugh was to render annually to the abbot burgage and one penny for the books of the church of the Blessed Peter of Whiteby.

Witnessed by Sir Roger, abbot of Whiteby, and others.

[J. C. Atkinson, ed., *Cartularium abbathiae de Whiteby*, [volume 1](#), page 21, number 18 (1879).

Roger de Scardeburg was abbot of Whitby between 1223 and 1244.]

# **Genealogical Research Report number 10**

## **The Sussex lay subsidies of 1524 and 1525**

**[May 2025]**

## REPORT NUMBER 10. MAY 2025.

### THE SUSSEX LAY SUBSIDIES OF 1524 AND 1525

#### Introduction

A previous search of the 16th-century Sussex muster rolls, for which no records survive for the rape of Lewes, showed only a single Blaker entry, in the parish of West Firle.<sup>49</sup> This was consistent with other records, which showed no Blakers outside the rape of Lewes in the early 16th-century, except in the neighbourhood of West Firle and Selmeston. In contrast, published extracts from the 16th-century lay subsidies showed a wider distribution of the surname, including a number of entries in the rape of Bramber to the west. The muster rolls also contained a number of entries for the similar surname Blaber in the three western rapes of Chichester, Arundel and Bramber.

This difference - between the published extracts of lay subsidies and other records - suggested that some of the Blakers in the lay subsidies might really be mistranscribed Blabers. Therefore the Blaker entries were checked in the original records at the National Archives.

In May 1523 parliament granted Henry VIII an annual subsidy for the following four years. The first two instalments, in 1524 and 1525, covered a large percentage of the population, as the taxpayers were to include all those who owned goods worth £1 or more, those who held land worth £1 or more annually, and those whose annual wages were £1 or more. The surviving returns represent a limited kind of census arranged geographically, though the lists are often arranged not by individual places but by hundreds, which typically contained several parishes. In addition, several hundreds sometimes seem to have been listed under the name of one.

An edition of the Sussex returns for 1524 and 1525, edited by Julian Cornwall, was published by the Sussex Record Society in 1956.<sup>50</sup> In this edition, in order to avoid transcribing both the 1524 and the 1525 lists in full, in most cases the 1524 list was used as the main text, and differences from the 1525 list were indicated by either a \* (for entries omitted in 1525) or a † (for entries amended in 1525). There was also a separate list of entries that appeared in 1525 only. But as noted below, sometimes the editor failed to mark such omissions and amendments.

---

<sup>49</sup> Research report number 8, March 2025.

<sup>50</sup> It is available on the Sussex Record Society's website, either as a [PDF file](#), or as [images of the printed pages in web format](#), with links to particular places.

## Extracts from the records

### (I) Rape of Arundel

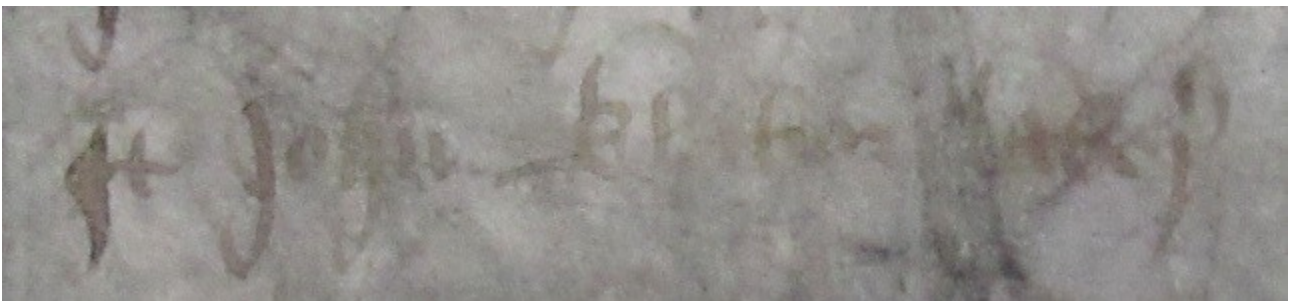
#### (1) Storrington tithing

*Published transcript:*

John Blaker, laborer [assessed at] £1  
[Cornwall, p. 46; in 1525 return only]

*Original document:*

John Blabor labor' [assessed at] xx s [paid] iiij d  
[E 179/189/141, m. 1 (21 January 1525); the manuscript is faded but the surname is clear under ultraviolet light]



*Comments:*

The surname in the published transcript is a misreading of Blabor. According to the published edition, in the same place a Robert Blabar, servant, was assessed at £1 in wages in 1524. In 1525 he appeared as Robert Blaber, laborer, and was again assessed at £1 [E 179/189/141, m. 1].

### (II) Rape of Bramber

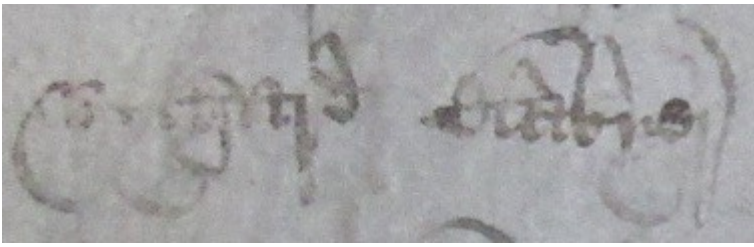
#### (1) West Grinstead tithing

*Published transcript:*

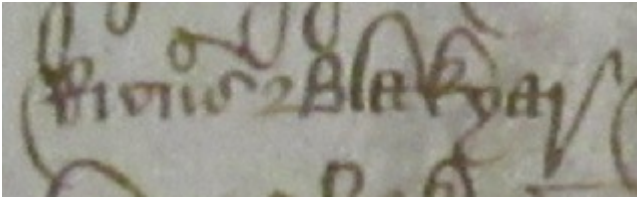
Rychard Blakyer [assessed at] £3  
[Cornwall, p. 59; a footnote gives an alternative reading "? Clavyer"; in 1524 return, and the 1525 entry is implied to be identical]

*Original documents:*

Rychard' Blabyer' [assessed at] in good[es] iij li [paid] xviiij d  
[E 179/189/126, rot. 2 (6 April 1524)]



Ric'us Blakyar [assessed at] in bon' lx s [paid] xviiij d  
[E 179/189/134, rot. 6 (20 February 1525)]



*Comments:*

In the 1524 West Grinstead return the surname is spelled Blabyer (not Blakyer or Clavyer). But in 1525 it is Blakyar. So it is unclear which of the two spellings is correct.

As there are no headings for Singlecross in the 1524 or 1525 returns, David Bethell suggested that entries relating to Singlecross might have been listed under West Grinstead tithing.<sup>51</sup> There are known to have been Blakers in the parish of Nuthurst in Singlecross Hundred from the early 17th century, and Nuthurst is only about 7 miles from Cuckfield. On the other hand, West Grinstead is a similar distance from Storrington and other places in the rape of Bramber where Blabers were recorded in the lay subsidies.

**(2) West Tarring**

*Published transcript:*

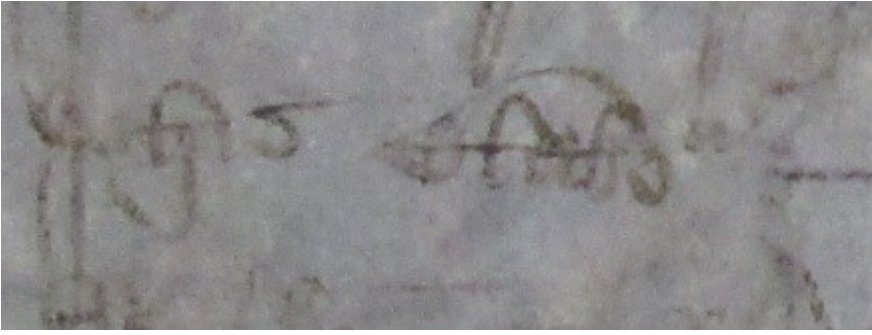
John Blakor (a servant of Thomas Shorte) [assessed in annual wages at] £1  
[Cornwall, p. 80; in 1524 return, and the 1525 entry is implied to be identical]

*Original documents:*

Joh'is Blabo[r] [assessed at] [in yerely wages] xx [s] [paid] iiij d  
[E 179/189/126, rot. 13 (6 April 1524)]

---

<sup>51</sup> See Volume 2, page 200.



No similar entry was found in the return for West Tarring in E 179/189/134, rot. 10 (20 February 1525).

*Comments:*

The surname in the published transcript for 1524 is a misreading of Blabor, and there is no corresponding entry in 1525.

### **(III) Rape of Lewes**

#### **(1) Buttinghill hundred (Cuckfield)**

*Published transcript:*

Richard Blaker [assessed at] £20

...

Rauff Blaker [assessed at] £1

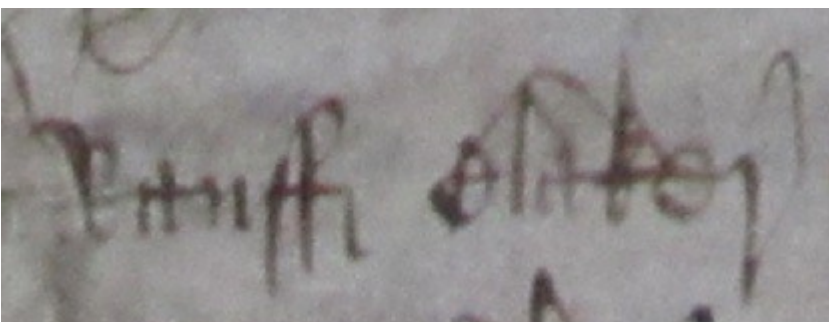
[Cornwall, p. 86; in 1524 return, and the 1525 entries are implied to be identical; a heading for Cuckfield township is supplied from the 1525 return]

*Original documents:*

Ric'us Blaker' [assessed at] in bonis xx li [paid] xx s

...

Rauff' Blaker' [assessed at] in bonis xx s [paid] iiij d  
[E 179/189/119, rot. 2 (6 April 1524)]

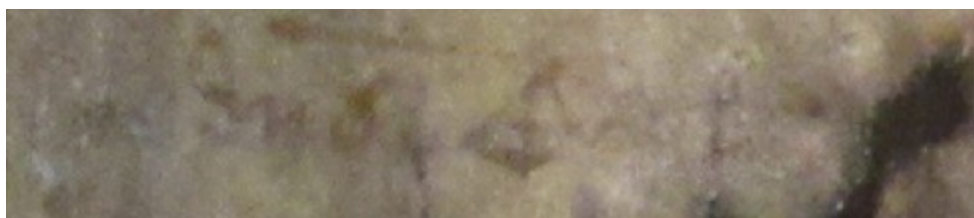
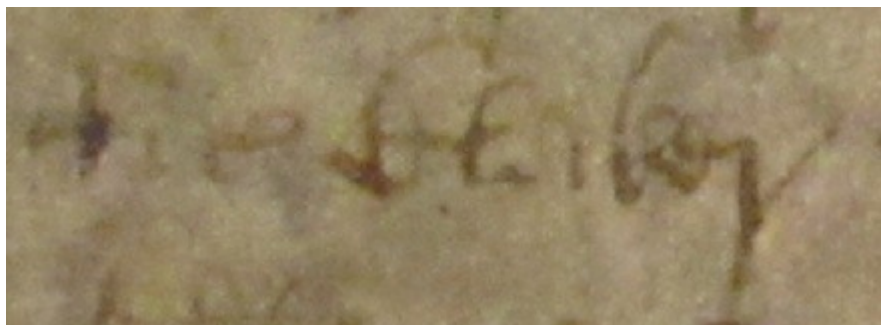


Ric' Blaker [assessed at] in bonis xx li [paid] xx s

...

Radus Blaker [assessed at] in bonis xx s [paid] iiij d

[E 179/189/162, rot. 1 (9 February 1525): Cuckfield township; the second name is faded but clear under ultraviolet light]



*Comments:*

These entries relate to the Blakers living at Cuckfield, and the published transcript is accurate.

**(2) Whalesborne hundred**

*Published transcript:*

Simon Blaker [assessed at] £3

...

John Blaker [assessed at] £4

...

Richard Blaker [assessed at] £2

...

Nicholas Blaker [assessed at] £1

[Cornwall, p. 92; in 1524 return; it seems to be implied that no 1525 entries survive for these four men]

*Original documents:*

rot. 5

Simon' Blaker' [assessed at] in bonis iij li [paid] xviiij d

rot. 5d

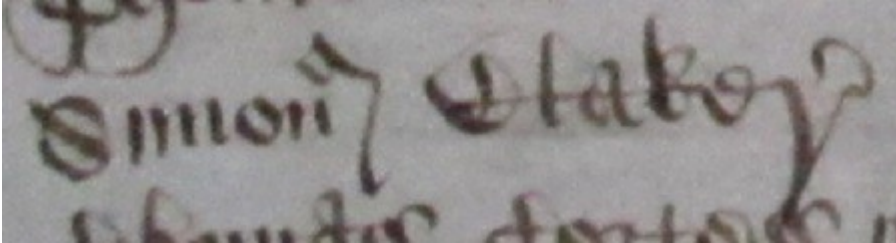
Joh'es Blakere [assessed at] in bonis iiij li [paid] ij s

Rot 6

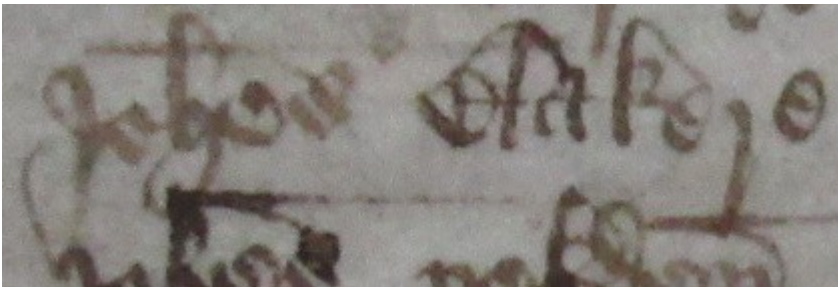
Ric'us Blaker' [assessed at] in bonis xl s [paid] xij d

...

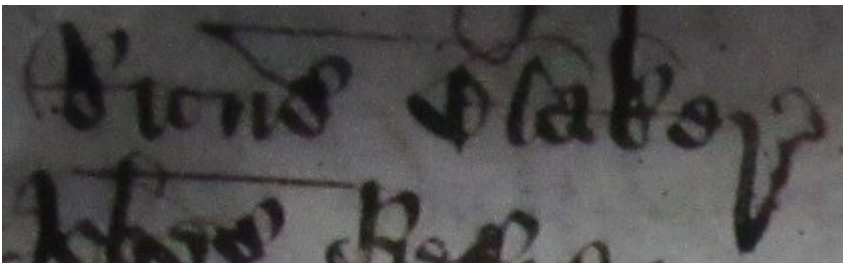
Nicolaus Blaker' [assessed at] in bonis xx s [paid] iiij d  
[E 179/189/119 (6 April 1524)]



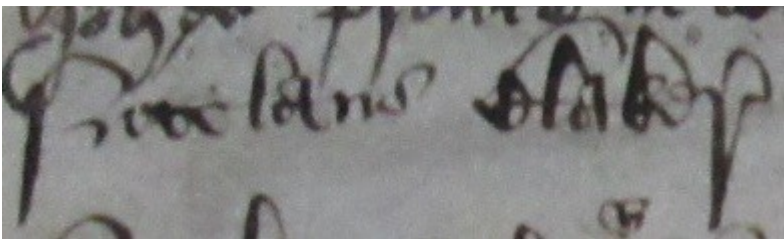
Simon Blaker



Johes Blaker



Nicolaus Blaker

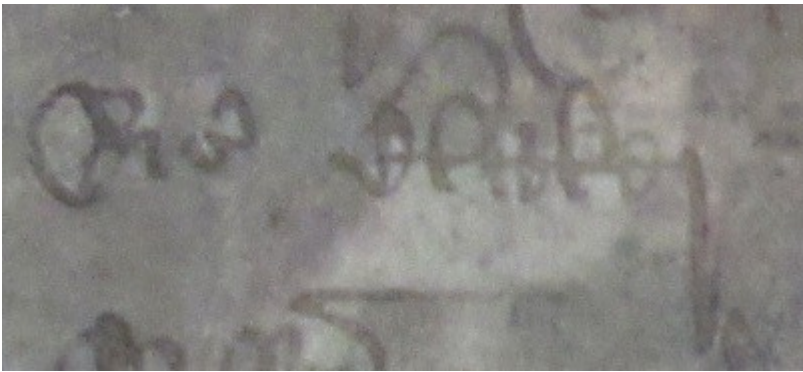


Ric'us Blaker

Ric' Blaker [assessed at] in bonis xl s [paid] xij d

...

Johes Blaker [assessed at] in bonis xx s [paid] iiij d  
[E 179/189/162, rot. 4d (9 February 1525)]



*Comments:*

These names were accurately transcribed, except that it seems to have been implied that there was no surviving return for Whalesborne Hundred in 1525 beyond a few entries for Brighton. In fact there are entries for two Blakers in Whalesborne in 1525.

Unfortunately it is not clear where these four Blakers were living. In 1524 they occur in a section headed Whalesborne hundred. But there is no section for Preston and Hove, and David Bethell concluded that this was included under Whalesborne.<sup>52</sup> In 1525 the relevant part of the roll is mutilated. There is a heading for Brighton at the top of one rotulet, followed by an incomplete list of names, then a gap, and finally the concluding part of the hundred (which contains no more headings). Richard and John appear in the final part, so it may be that they did not live in Brighton. However, the John of 1525 may not have been the same man who was assessed at £4 in 1524, as the valuation given in 1525 is only £1.

---

<sup>52</sup> See Volume 2, page 36.

## (IV) Rape of Hastings

### (1) Bexhill hundred

#### *Published transcript:*

Rychard Blaker [assessed in wages at] £2

[Cornwall, p. 140; in 1524 return, and the 1525 entry is implied to be identical]

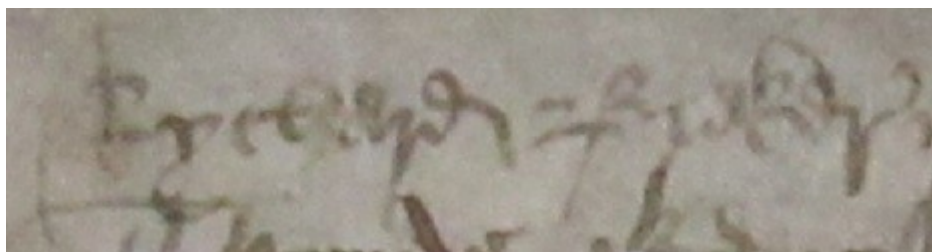
Richard Blaber [assessed at] £2

[Cornwall, p. 141; in 1525 return only]

#### *Original documents:*

Rychard' Blaker' [assessed at] in Wag[es] xl s [paid] xij d

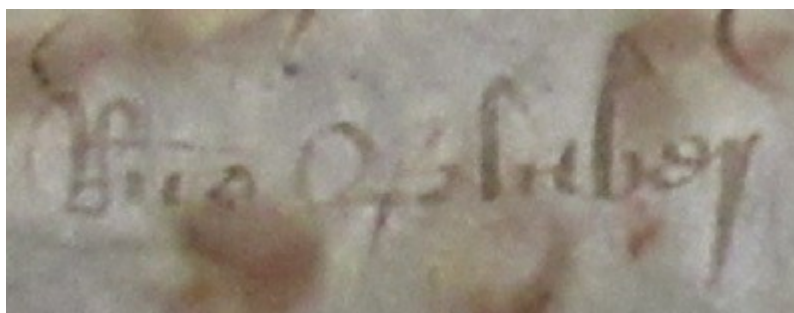
[E 179/189/128, rot. 3d (6 April 1524)]



De Ric'o Blaber [assessed at] in p[ro]fyt[es] xl s [paid] [xi]j d

No Blaker entry found in the return for Bexhill hundred

[E 179/189/161, rot. 1 (January 1525)]



#### *Comments:*

Although the published transcript implies that there are entries for Richard Blaker in both 1524 and 1525, and also an entry for Richard Blaber in 1525, in fact there is only a Richard Blaker in 1524 and a Richard Blaber in 1525. They are both assessed for the same amount, so it seems likely that they are the same person, and that an error has been made in one of the original documents. It is difficult to guess whether Blaker or Blaber is correct, as there seems to be no other reference to either surname in Bexhill in this period.<sup>53</sup>

---

<sup>53</sup> In researching the Blaker entry in the published volume, David Bethell searched a number of manorial court records for Bexhill from the first half of the 16th century, and listed the surnames he found, but they did not include either Blaker or Blaber (Volume 2, pages 77-95).

## Conclusions

The main conclusion is that, as suspected, a number of Blakers (and variants) in the published transcripts of these records represent misreadings of Blaber or similar surnames in the original records.

The following maps show the distributions of Blakers and Blabers in Sussex in 1524-1525, first according to the published transcripts of the lay subsidies, and then incorporating the corrections summarised above.

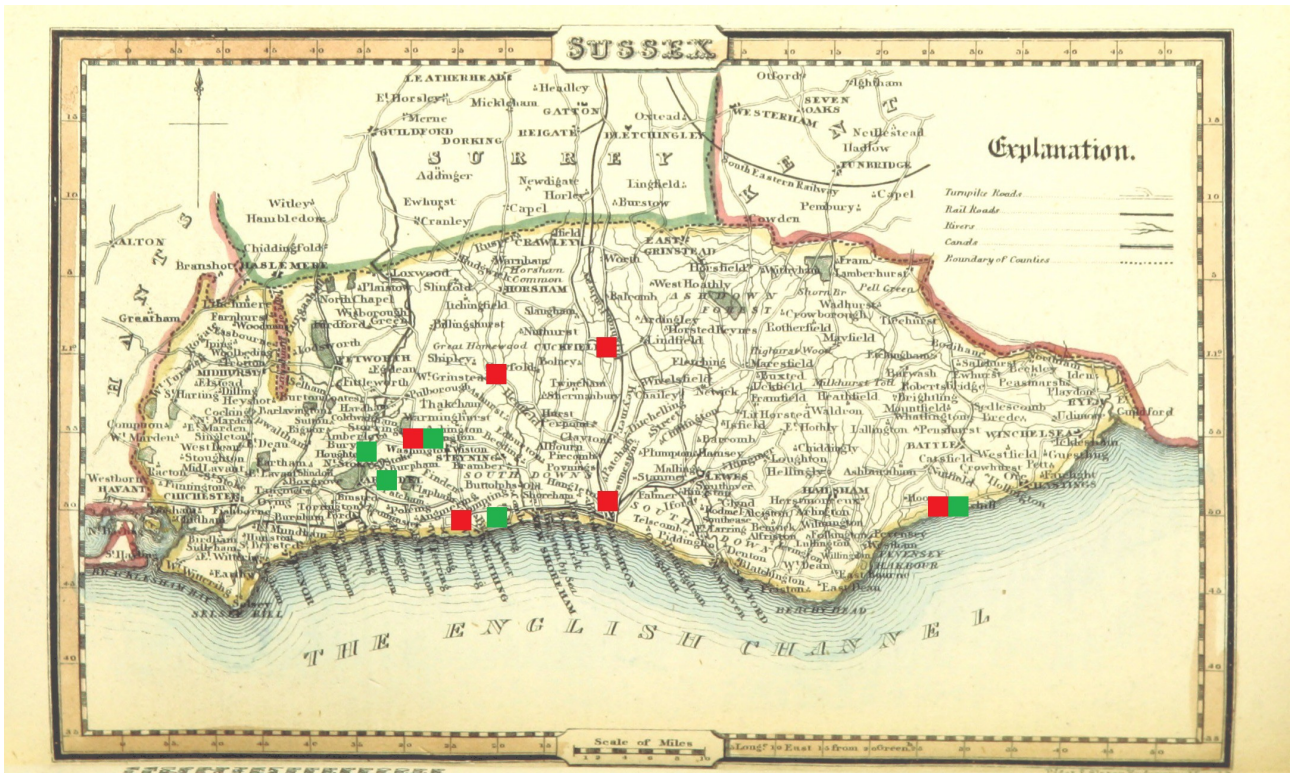


Figure 1. Distribution of Blakers and Blabers, according to the edition of the 1524 and 1525 lay subsidy returns published by the Sussex Record Society.

- Places where the surname Blaker (or similar) was listed
- Places where the surname Blaber (or similar) was listed
- ■ Places where individuals with both surnames were listed

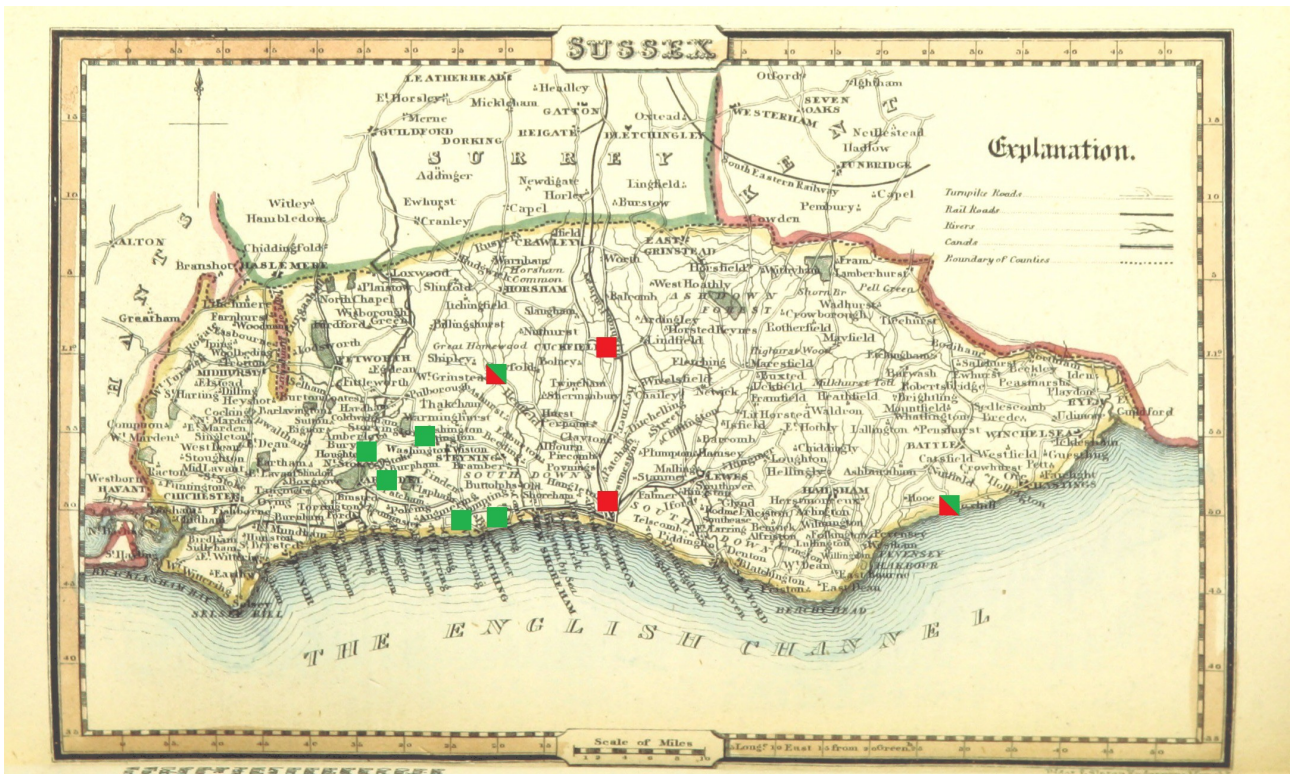


Figure 2. Corrected distribution of Blakers and Blabers in the 1524 and 1525 lay subsidy returns  
 ■ Places where apparently the same person was listed, as Blaker (or similar) in one return and Blaber (or similar) in the other.

The result is that, as shown by the maps above, a more consistent picture emerges, in which the Blabers are predominantly found in the west of the county, within an area about 10 miles square to the north-west of Worthing. (In the muster rolls, the Blaber entries were rather more widespread than that, but still confined to the three western rapes of Chichester, Arundel and Bramber.) In contrast, most of the Blakers are within the Rape of Lewes in the centre, either in Cuckfield to the north or in the neighbourhood of Brighton near the coast.

The two exceptions are a man apparently called Richard Blabyer in one return and Richard Blakyar in the other, and assigned to West Grinstead tithing, and another apparently called Richard Blaker in one return and Richard Blaber in the other, listed under Bexhill. It is difficult to guess whether these men were really Blakers or Blabers. West Grinstead is roughly equidistant between the two areas where the two surnames were mostly found. Bexhill is well to the east of both these areas, and the absence of other references to either Blakers or Blabers in Bexhill suggests that the man was not originally local.

# **Genealogical Research Report number 11**

## **The Sussex lay subsidies of 1543 and 1545**

**[June 2025]**

## REPORT NUMBER 11. JUNE 2025.

### THE SUSSEX LAY SUBSIDIES OF 1543 AND 1545

In the previous report (Number 10, May 2025) the original lay subsidy assessments from 1524 and 1525 were checked, and it was found that several entries transcribed as Blaker (or similar) in the edition published by the Sussex Record Society were really Blabers.

Walter Renshaw had also published selected extracts from Sussex lay subsidies, including some from the assessments of 1543 and 1545, for the rapes of Bramber and Lewes.<sup>54</sup> In view of the rarity of Sussex Blakers outside the rape of Bramber in this period, the original records were checked to see whether Blabers had been mistranscribed as Blakers here too. Also, as there is evidence of Blakers having lived in the area of Selmeston and West Firle in the 1540s, part of the surviving assessment for the rape of Pevensey was also checked.

The results are given below.

#### **(I) Rape of Bramber**

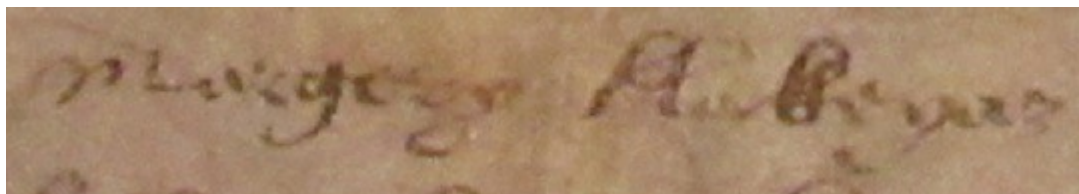
##### **(1) Singlecross hundred**

*Published transcript:*

Margery Blakeyar [assessed at] in landes £1 [paid] 4d  
[Renshaw, p. 113; from E 179/190/194 (15 November 1543)]

*Original documents:*

It Margery Blakeyar [assessed at] in land[es] xx s [paid] iiij d  
[E 179/190/194, rot. 6 (15 November 1543)]



*Comments:*

This surname has been transcribed correctly. Moreover, in the 1524 and 1525 assessments for the tithing of West Grinstead there is a man whose name is given as Richard Blabyer' in the former but Richard Blakyar in the latter. West Grinstead parish neighbours the hundred of Singlecross, so thid Richard in 1524-1525 and the

---

<sup>54</sup> Walter C. Renshaw, "Searches into the History of the Family of Blaker of Sussex", pages 110-113 (2nd edition, 1904). More limited extracts had been given in the first edition of 1894.

Margery Blakeyar of 1543 may have been related. As there are no headings for Singlecross in the 1524 or 1525 returns, David Bethell suggested that entries relating to Singlecross might have been listed under West Grinstead tithing.<sup>55</sup> There are known to have been Blakers in the parish of Nuthurst in Singlecross Hundred from the early 17th century. Nuthurst is only about 7 miles from Cuckfield, though West Grinstead is a similar distance from Storrington and other places in the rape of Bramber where Blabers were recorded in the lay subsidies of the 1520s.

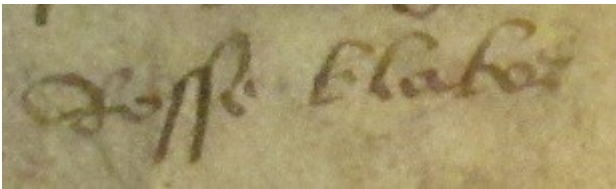
## (2) Brightford hundred

### *Published transcript:*

Rosse (Roffe) Blaker [assessed at] in goodes £2 [paid] 4d  
[Renshaw, p. 113; from E 179/190/194 (15 November 1543)]

### *Original documents:*

It Rosse Blabor [assessed at] in good[es] xl s [paid] iiij d  
[E 179/190/194, rot. 3d (15 November 1543)]



### *Comments:*

The surname in the published transcript is a misreading of Blabor.

## (3) Steyning hundred

### *Published transcript:*

John Blaker [assessed at] in goodes £2 [paid] 4d  
[Renshaw, p. 113; from E 179/190/194 (15 November 1543)]

### *Original documents:*

It John Blabor [assessed at] in good[es] xl s [paid] iiij d  
[E 179/190/194, rot. 4d (15 November 1543)]



### *Comments:*

The surname in the published transcript is a misreading of Blabor.

---

<sup>55</sup> See Volume 2, page 200.

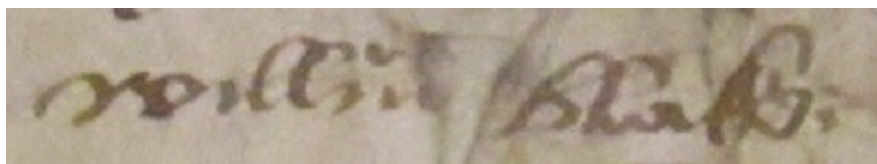
#### **(4) Tipnoak hundred**

*Published transcript:*

William Blaker [assessed at] in goodes £2 [paid] 4d  
[Renshaw, p. 113; from E 179/190/194 (15 November 1543)]

*Original documents:*

It Will'm Blaker [assessed at] in good[es] xl s [paid] iiij d  
[E 179/190/194, rot. 9 (15 November 1543)]



*Comments:*

This surname has been transcribed correctly. Tipnoak Hundred contains the parishes of Albourne, Henfield and Woodmancote, which are 4-8 miles from Cuckfield.

#### **(II) Rape of Lewes**

##### **(1) Buttinghill hundred**

*Published transcript:*

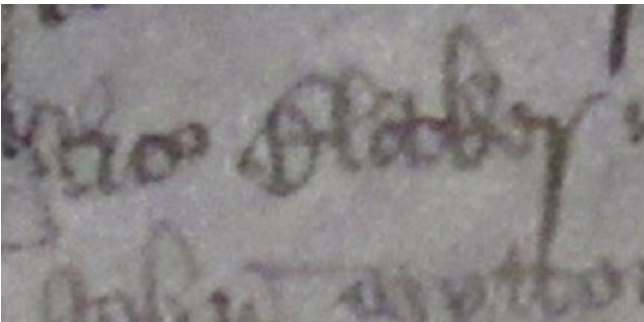
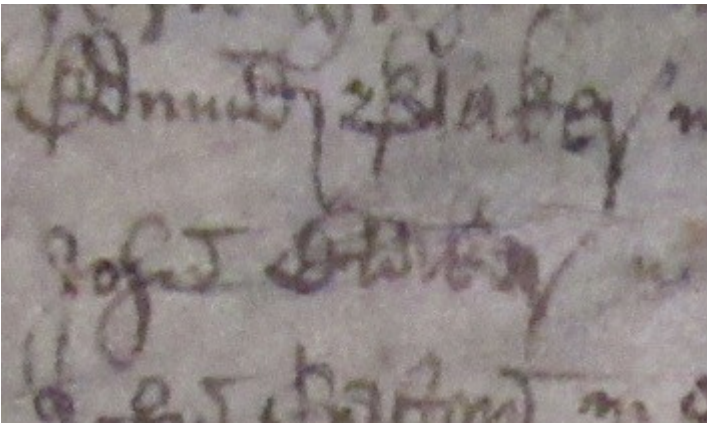
Edmund Blaker [assessed at] in goodes £4 [paid] 8d  
John Blaker [assessed at] in goodes £2 [paid] 4d  
Richard Blaker [assessed at] in goodes £16 [paid] 10s 5d  
Also (under "Hundred of Streat"):  
John Blaker [assessed at] in goodes £2 [paid] 2d  
Edmund Blaker [assessed at] in goodes £4 [paid] 4d  
[Renshaw, p. 111; from E 179/190/192, 193 and/or 195]

*Original documents:*

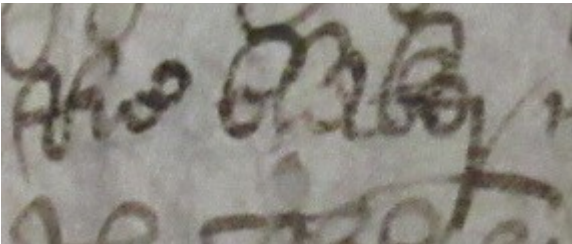
Edmu'd Blaker [assessed at] in good[es] iiij li [paid] viij d  
John Blaker [assessed at] in good[es] [?]xl s [paid] iiij d

...

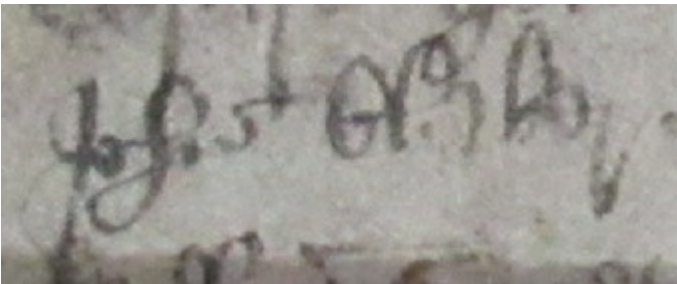
Ric' Blaker [assessed at] in good[es] xvj li [paid] [?]x s viij d  
[E 179/190/193, rot. 1d (23 November 1543)]

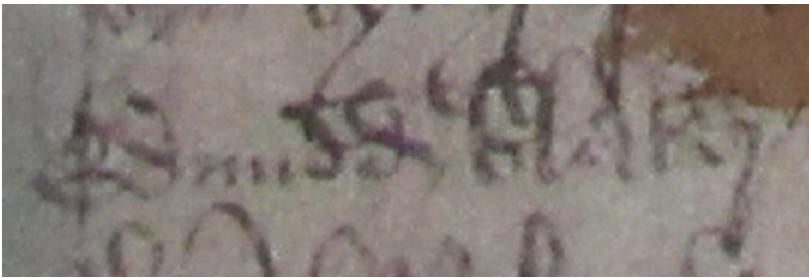


Ric' Blaker [assessed at] in good[es] xvj li [paid] v s iiij d  
[E 179/190/192, rot. 3 (1 December 1545)]



Johs Blaker [assessed at] in good[es] xl s [paid] [?]ij d  
...  
Edmu'd Blaker [assessed at] [in good[es]?] iiij li [paid] [iiij] d  
[E 179/190/195, rot. 1d (1 December 1545): Cuckfield]





*Comments:*

These entries relate to the Blakers living at Cuckfield, and the published transcripts are accurate, except that the entries for John and Edmund in 1545 were incorrectly assigned to Streat Hundred. According to the E 179 database, the part of the roll containing the entry for Richard Blaker in 1545 represents an "anticipation", meaning an earlier payment by wealthier taxpayers.

**(2) Vills of Preston and Hove**

*Published transcript:*

Richard Blaker senior [assessed at] in goodes £5 [paid] 3s 4d\*

Richard Blaker [assessed at] in goodes 26s 8d [paid] 2d

Edward Blaker [assessed at] in goodes £20 [paid] 13s 4d

Also (under "Hundred of Ffishergate"):

Edward Blaker [assessed at] in goodes £20 [paid] 13s 4d

[Renshaw, p. 111; from E 179/190/192, 193 and/or 195

\* The first entry contains some incorrect information; "senior" is not stated in the record, and the amount paid was 20d.]

*Original documents:*

Ric' Blaker [assessed at] in good[es] v li [paid] xx d

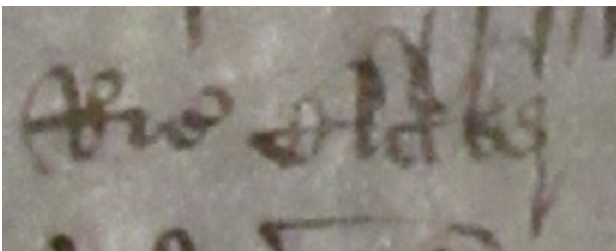
...

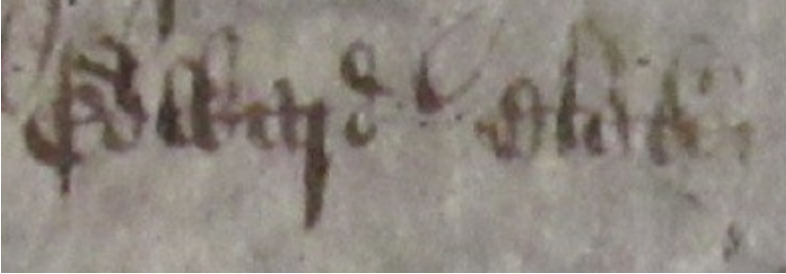
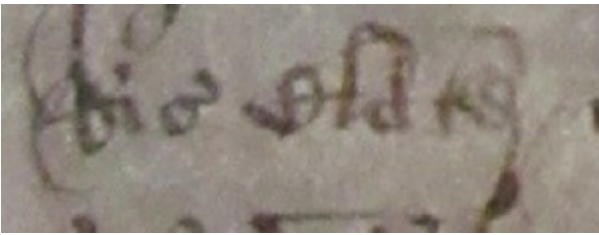
Ric' Blaker [assessed at] in good[es] xxvj s viij d [paid] ij d

...

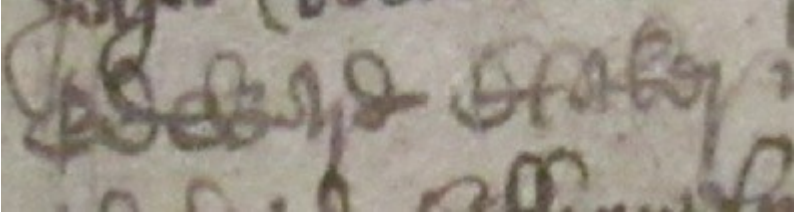
Edward Blaker [assessed at] in good[es] xx li [paid] xij s iiij d

[E 179/190/193, rot. 3 (23 November 1543)]

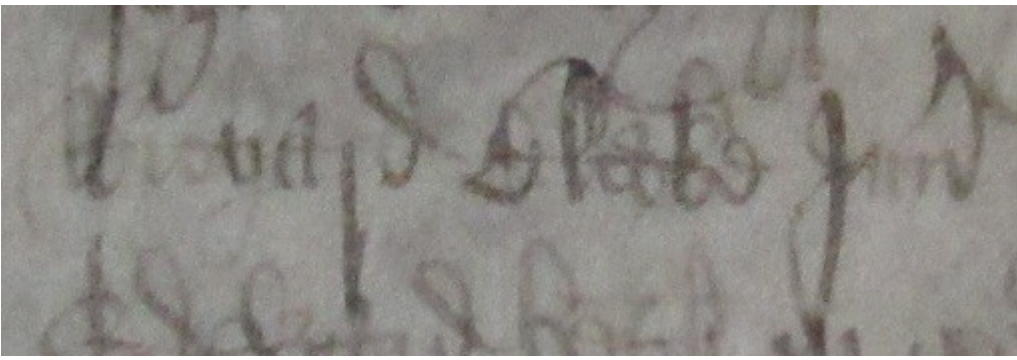


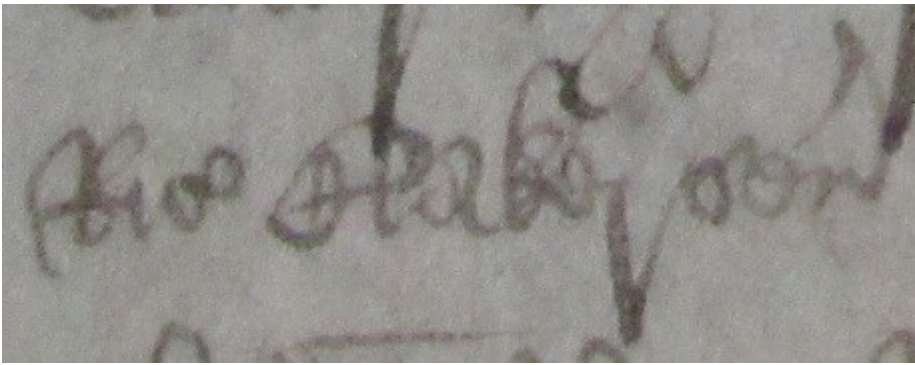


Edward Blaker [assessed at] in good[es] xx li [paid] xiiij s iiiij d  
 [E 179/190/192, rot. 3d (1 December 1545); in a combined section for the four  
 hundreds of Preston and Hove, Whalesborne, Fishersgate and Holmestrowe]



Richard Blake [sic] Jun' [assessed at] in good[es] xx s [paid] j d  
 ...  
 Ric' Blaker sen' [assessed at] in good[es] v li [paid] x d  
 [E 179/190/192, rot 1d (1 December 1545): Preston and Hove hundred. Possibly  
 "Blake" is an error for Blaker; his assessment differs from that of 1543, but other  
 entries show comparable differences.]





*Comments:*

These names have been transcribed correctly except that, as noted above, the first entry from 1543 contains some inaccurate information, and an entry for Edward in 1545 was incorrectly assigned to Fishersgate Hundred. In fact it was in a section covering four hundreds, including Preston and Hove where Edward had been assessed in 1543.<sup>56</sup> According to the E 179 database, this part of the 1545 roll represents an "anticipation", as for Buttinghill Hundred above.

### **(III) Rape of Pevensey**

The extracts from the lay subsidies of 1543 and 1545 given by Renshaw are from the assessments for the rapes of Lewes and Bramber only. However, we know from other records that in 1539 a William Blaker appeared in a muster roll for the "borowe" of Preston Poynings (in West Firle), in 1541 a Richard Blaker held land in Tilton manor (apparently in Selmeston and Alciston) and in 1543/4 a William Blacar of Selmeston made his will.<sup>57</sup> These parishes lay in the rape of Pevensey, and in the hundreds (or half-hundreds) of Alciston, Danehill Horsted and Totnore. The surviving assessments from 1543 for these hundreds were therefore checked for Blakers, with the following result.

Willm' Blaker [for Goodes] [paid] xx d

[E 179/190/191, rot. 7 (10 November 1543): Totnore hundred: Preston. The total to be paid on goods in the three years of the subsidy granted in 1543 was 8d in the pound for goods worth £5 or more, with half the total to be paid in the first year. So the value of William Blaker's goods must have been assessed as £5.]



---

<sup>56</sup> David Bethell (Volume 2, page 112) concluded from the information published by Renshaw that Edward Blaker had settled in Portslade (in Fishersgate Hundred) around 1540, but on this evidence it would have been after 1543.

<sup>57</sup> Chris Phillips (Volume 4, page 59) and David Bethell (Volume 2, pages 96 and 97).

*Comments:*

This is presumably the William Blaker who appeared in the muster roll of 1539 and who made his will in 1543/4. There is no entry for a Richard Blaker. Possibly the document naming Richard as a tenant in 1541 was copied from an earlier record, and he was William Blaker's predecessor as a tenant of the manor of Tilton.

## **(IV) Rape of Hastings**

Similarly to West Grinstead in the rape of Bramber, the 1524 and 1525 assessments for the hundred of Bexhill contained entries for a Richard Blaker in the former and a Richard Blaber in the latter - presumably for the same person. Unfortunately there are no surviving assessments for the 1543 or 1545 lay subsidies, so they are of no help in determining Richard's surname.

## **Conclusions**

The entries in the rapes of Lewes and Pevensey confirm the known presence in the 1540s of Blakers in the areas of Cuckfield, Preston and West Firle/Selmeston.

But, as for the published 1524-1525 assessments, in Renshaw's extracts for the 1540s two of the entries for Blakers outside the rape of Lewes (in Brightford and Steyning hundreds in the rape of Bramber) have been mistranscribed, and really relate to Blabers. However, two others in the rape of Bramber (in the hundreds of Singlecross and Tipnoak) have been correctly transcribed, and confirm the presence of Blakers in the area to the west of Cuckfield at this time. One of these also tends to confirm that the nearby Blabyer'/Blakyar entries in West Grinstead in the 1520s represents a Blaker rather than a Blaber.

# **Genealogical Research Report number 12**

## **Searches for the surname Blaker and variants in miscellaneous published records**

**[July 2025]**

## REPORT NUMBER 12. JULY 2025.

### SEARCHES FOR THE SURNAME BLAKER AND VARIANTS IN MISCELLANEOUS PUBLISHED RECORDS

A search was carried out in various published sources, including the main late-medieval and early-modern national series of English public records. The volumes with indexes were searched for possible variants of Blaker starting with "Blac" or "Blak". (The volumes of the Sussex Archaeological Collections were treated differently, as explained below.)

A number of entries from some of these sources are included in the Blaker/Blacker extracts from the [Family Origins Name Survey \(FONS\)](#), as noted below. But as I didn't know the exact coverage of FONS and the spelling variants searched for, all these sources were checked, and 16 additional entries were found in the national series (though unfortunately in these sources no new Sussex entries were found).

The spellings Blaca, Blaka and Blakaa, found in Cornwall and Scotland, have been included, though these seem likely to be versions of "Black" or "Blake", rather than "Blaker" or "Blacker".

Most of these volumes are now available online. But, **as noted below**, there are a few others I have so far been unable to check, despite visiting the National Archives, the Institute of Historical Research and the British Library. I shall keep trying.

#### **(1) Calendar of entries in the papal registers relating to Great Britain and Ireland. Letters**

Checked volumes 1-16, 17 parts 1 and 2, 18-20 and 23 part 1 (1198-1521 and 1523-1524). **NB. A further volume, 21, was published in 2024, but so far I have not been able to find a copy in London.**

Nil.

#### **(2) Calendar of entries in the papal registers relating to Great Britain and Ireland. Petitions to the Pope**

Checked volume 1 (1342-1419). Only one volume published.

Nil.

### **(3) Calendar of inquisitions miscellaneous preserved in the Public Record Office**

Checked volumes 1-8 (1216-1485).

Inquisition before the sheriff. Bodmin. Saturday before St. Matthew 28 Edward III.  
[20 September 1354.]

Richard Byry and Iseult his wife have sustained damage to the amount of 9£. 14s. by the detention of her dower in 16 messuages, 12 acres of land, 2 acres of meadow, and 6£. of rent, whereof John Blaka, sometime her husband, was seised in fee.

[Volume 3, p. 63, [number 170](#)

C. Inq. Misc. File 171. (17.)]

### **(4) Calendar of the charter rolls preserved in the Public Record Office**

Checked volumes 1-6 (1226-1516).

Nil

### **(5) Calendar of inquisitions post mortem preserved in the Public Record Office**

Checked volumes 1-26 and 35 of the original series, and volumes 1-3 of the series for the reign of Henry VII (1236-1447 and 1483-1509). The intervening volumes have not yet been published.

Thomas le Blakyer, Essex, 1300. (See FONS file, [BLAKER\\_26](#))

[Volume 3, [p. 622](#)]

OLIVER WODEROFE

Writ. [Endorsed with name of escheator.] 2 July 1431. [Wymbyssh.] [Witnessed by Humphrey of Lancaster, duke of Gloucester.]

Regarding lands and tenements held by knight service of Richard, duke of York, a minor in the king's wardship.

YORKSHIRE. Inquisition. Wakefield. 10 October 1431. [Thwaytes].

...

He held no lands or tenements in demesne or service of Richard, duke of York, or any other but was formerly seised of the following in demesne as of fee.

...

[includes:] Chapelthorpe, a messuage, 40 a. land, 6 a. meadow, 20 a. pasture, and an acre of wood, annual value 40s., held of Robert Blacker, service unknown.

...

He granted the above to William Mirfeld, esquire, John Manyngam of Neuland, Henry Northorp, chaplain, and John Laverok, and to their heirs and assigns in perpetuity. The grant was made by charter in which he is described as Oliver Woderofe of Woolley and the messuages etc. are described as the manor of Woolley and all lands, tenements, rents, and services that he held on the day of making the charter in Woolley, Notton, Kettilmanthorp, Higham, Barnby, Cromwell Bottom, Extwistle, Chapelthorpe, Crigglestone, Wakefield, Stanley, Normanton, Woodhouse, Altofts, Snyderdale, Royston, and Frickley. The charter was shown to the jurors. William, John, Henry, and John were thus seised in demesne as of fee and are still so seised.

He died on 20 November last. John Woderofe is his kin and next heir, as the son of John brother of Oliver, and aged 14 and more.

[Volume 23, p. 339, [number 655](#)

C 139/54/28, mm.1-2

Note that in 1393, Alice, formerly wife of John Deye of Staynton, had quitclaimed her rights in Crigglestone, Chapelthorpe and Wakefield to John de Blakkare of Crigglestone (see FONS file [BLACKER\\_4](#))]

[Inquisition post mortem of Isabel Saymoure, widow, late wife of John.]

WILTSHIRE. Inquisition indented. Salisbury [Novam Sarum]. 25 June 1485 [25 June 2 Ric III].

Jurors: [include] Thomas Blakker.

[Property: the manor of Wootton Rivers, one third of the manor of Westlecott alias 'Burbage' and 1 messuage and 40 acres of land in Crofton.]

[Volume 35, p. 141, number 164

C 141/7/36, mm. 5-6]

## **(6) Calendar of the patent rolls preserved in the Public Record Office**

Checked 49 volumes in various series (1272-1509 and 1547-1558).

Thomas le Blakiere, Great Sutton, Essex, 1293. (See FONS file, [BLAKER\\_17](#))

[1292-1301, [p. 26](#)]

Aymer le Blakere, [Cumberland], 1304. (See FONS file, [BLAKER\\_2](#))

[1301-1307, [p. 253](#)]

Richard le Blacker, Modeslee, Somerset, 1327. (See FONS file, [BLAKER\\_12](#))

[1327-1330, [p. 87](#)]

[1476-1485]

May 22, [1481] Westminster.

[Mandate to all bailiffs and others to permit] Robert Potter alias Blakaa, [born in Scotland, dwelling in England, who has taken an oath of fealty, to inhabit the realm peaceably and enjoy his goods.]

[1476-1485, [p. 274](#)

21 Edward IV, part 2, m. 14]

## **(7) Calendar of the patent rolls of the reign of Elizabeth**

Checked 9 volumes of the original series covering 1558-1582, and further volumes published by the List and Index Society covering 1582-1603, including indexes of grantees for 23-36 Elizabeth I and corrigenda for 25-45 Elizabeth I (with the exception of volume 353 for 45 Elizabeth I, which I have not yet been able to find in London).

2 Mar 1591. Licence, for Robert and William Partridge, to alienate the manors of Sainte Mary Ampney, Asbrooke and Wishanger, with lands [details given] in Sainte Mary Ampney, Asbrooke, Wishanger, Miserdere, Bisley, Througham and Daglingworth, Glos, and the manor of Hedington, with lands [details given] in Hedington, Wilts, with tithes and the advowson of Hedington church, to William Lambarde and William Blacker and William Lambard's heirs. For £13 paid to the queen's farmers under patent.

[List and Index Society, volume 308, p. 95, number 543

C 66/1367 (33 Elizabeth I, part 6), m. 42]

18 May 1596. Commission [Wiltshire], to [among others] William Blacker, to enquire post mortem Mary Stourton, widow.

[List and Index Society, volume 317, p. 67, number 474

C 66/1447 (38 Elizabeth I, part 5), mm. 7d-8d]

5 Nov 1597. Pardon of alienation by the will of Richard Matheman who, being seised of lands [tenants named] in Whyckenbye, Lincs, by his will 27 May 30 Eliz. [1588], left the premises to Margery Blacker, wife of George Blacker, Elizabeth Boyne, Dorothy Boyne, Jane Boyne, Isabel Boyne and Janet Boyne. After Richard's death the said Margery, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Janes, Isabel and Janet entered into two parts of the premises without licence. For 26s 8d paid to the queen's farmers under patent.

[List and Index Society, volume 322, p. 239, number 1431

C 66/1476 (39 Elizabeth I, part 19), mm. 22-23]

12 Apr 1599. [Wiltshire] Commission, to [among others] William Blacker ... to inquire post mortem John Thistlethwaite.

[List and Index Society, volume 328, p. 124, number 647

C 66/1503 (41 Elizabeth I, part 11), m. 14d]

10 Jul 1599. Commission of the peace in the county of Wiltshire, to [among others] William Blacker [last named].

[List and Index Society, volume 328, p. 22, number 73

C 66/1493 (41 Elizabeth I, part 1), mm. 24d-25d]

17 Dec 1599. [Wiltshire] Commission, to [among others] William Blacker ... to

inquire post mortem William Button.

[List and Index Society, volume 332, p. 201, number 996  
C 66/1533 (42 Elizabeth I, part 17), mm. 1d]

18 Jan 1600. [Wiltshire] Commission, to William Blacker [and others] to inquire post mortem William Eyre.

[List and Index Society, volume 332, p. 201, number 998  
C 66/1533 (42 Elizabeth I, part 17), mm. 1d]

23 May 1600. Commission of the peace in the county of Wiltshire, to [among others] William Blacker.

[List and Index Society, volume 332, p. 87, number 499  
C 66/1523 (42 Elizabeth I, part 7), mm. 26d-27d]

12 June 1601. Commission of the peace in the county of Wiltshire, to [among others] William Blacker.

[List and Index Society, volume 339, p. 37, number 198  
C 66/1549 (43 Elizabeth I, part 2), mm. 26d-27d]

4 June 1602. Commission of the peace in the county of Wiltshire, to [among others] William Blacker.

[List and Index Society, volume 349, p. 250, number 1274  
C 66/1594 (44 Elizabeth I, part 25), mm. 31d-32d]

## **(8) Calendar of the close rolls preserved in the Public Record Office**

Checked 46 volumes in various series (1272-1509).

May 27. [1341] Westminster.

[Writ for payment to] John Blaka and Roger de Penquyt, burgesses of Launceveton [for their expenses in attending the parliament held at Westminster on Monday after the quinzaine of Easter last (23 April).]

[1341-1343, [p. 144](#)

15 Edward III, part 1, m. 2d]

June 12. [1367] Westminster.

Writing of John Mallyngges of Walton by Sandale Magna co. York, giving with warranty to John de Querneby clerk, his heirs and assigns, all this lands in the town and territory of Walton and Chevet, with rents, services of free tenants, their wards, reliefs, excheats, homages and marriages, moors, meadows, feedings, pastures, fish ponds, paths, ways etc. Witnesses: Sir William Fynchedene, John Burgh knights, Hugh Brerlay, Adam Moselay, William Fery of Wakfeld, William Castelford, Thomas Manyngham, Adam Heyrode of Walton, John Kyng, Richard Blackar. Dated Walton, 12 May 41 Edward III.

Writing of John Mallyngges of Walton by Sandale Magna co. York, giving to John de

Querneby clerk all his goods and chattels moveable and immoveable wheresoever found, granting that he may bequeath or assign them to whom he will without challenge of the grantor or of his executors. Witnesses and date (as the last).

Memorandum of acknowledgment of the foregoing charter and writing, 24 May.

[1364-1368, [p. 383](#)

41 Edward III, m. 17d]

William Blakker, St Dunstan in the East, London, 1452. (See FONS file, [BLAKER](#))

[1447-1454, [p. 341](#)]

## **(9) Calendar of the fine rolls preserved in the Public Record Office**

Checked 22 volumes covering 1272-1509. The fine rolls for 1547-1553 are included in volume 5 of the Calendar of patent rolls of Edward VI (see above).

Nil

## **(10) Inquisitions and assessments relating to feudal aids**

Checked 6 volumes (1284-1431).

Nil

## **(11) Letters and papers, foreign and domestic, of the reign of Henry VIII**

Checked 22 volumes in 34 parts.

[Lists of persons receiving the King's general pardon. Reasons not specified.]

Thomas Blacker, or Blakker, of Shaftesbury [present tense rather than "lately of"], Dors[et], Mere and Stourton, Wilts, and Morekyrchell, Dorset], innholder or y[oman], 7 July [1509].

[Volume 1 (revised edition), part 1, p. 209, [number 438](#) (13th line from bottom)

Pardon Roll, 1 Henry VIII, Part 1, m. 13; Patent Rolls Supplementary, 56-9]

Thomas Blacker, Shaftesbury, Dorset, 1521. (See FONS file, [BLACKER\\_7](#))

[Volume 3, part 1, [p. 437](#)]

The town of Gillingham. Grant to Rob. Dirdo, sen[ior], Thos. Chaffyn, Will. Dyrdo, and Rob. Dyrdo, jun[ior], and Will. Blacker, Rob. Howchyns, John Philips, Will. Cowarde, John Stone, Will. Knaplocke, John Blacker, Rob. Belman, and the tenants and inhabitants of the town of Gillynham, Dorset, of two fairs yearly, viz., one on

the Monday and Tuesday after the feast of the Holy Trinity, and the other on the 1st and 2nd of September. Westm[inster] Palace, 2 June 33 Henry VIII. Del[ivered] Westm[inster], 27 June. - P.S.

[Volume 16, p. 462, [number 947\(52\)](#)

Patent Roll, 33 Henry VIII, part 9, m. 40]

## **(12) Calendar of state papers, domestic series**

Checked 35 volumes in various series (1547-1649).

William Blacker, Gillingham, Dorset, 1628. (See FONS file, [BLACKER\\_2](#))

[Charles I, volume 3, [p. 371](#)]

## **(13) Descriptive catalogue of ancient deeds**

Checked 6 volumes.

[Cornw.]

Bond by Roger de Carmynou and Richard de Trewennard to Roger Blaca, merchant of Bodmyn, in 5 marks at Easter and Midsummer.

Carmynou, Friday after Michaelmas, 10 Edward III.

Endorsed:- Solvit [dissolved] xxxiijs. iiijd.

[Volume 4, [p. 518](#)

Number A. 10179]

Two entries for William Blaker or Blaber, Southill, Bedfordshire, 1356. (See FONS file, [BLAKER\\_3](#))

[Volume 5, pp. [145](#), [232](#)]

## **(14) Sussex Archaeological Collections**

This series has been published by the Sussex Archaeological Society since 1847, and originally included a wealth of antiquarian material as well as papers on archaeology in its narrower modern sense. W. C. Renshaw was a subscriber and contributor, and in the revised edition of his book on the family published in 1904 he cited most of the relevant information that had appeared in the series by that date.

Many of the volumes are available as PDF files on the website of the [Archaeology Data Service](#). This includes all 133 volumes published up to 1995 (by which time the antiquarian component was small) and some of the others up to 2020. The volumes generally include only brief indexes, so they have been examined both using the indexes and by the PDFs for words beginning "Blacke" and "Blak" (though this relied

on text recognition which was evidently not always completely accurate).

The items listed below are those containing significant information not referred to in the 1904 edition of Renshaw's book:

1685-6.

"June 17th, paid to Wm. Peckam for my duty for 12 days, 8s., and 1s. towards a new leather belt: I find 2 parts; and King's farme 2 parts; Blaker 1 part; J. Heath 1 part: so ye whole armes is divided into 6 parts, as appears by the muster booke."

[[Volume 2](#), p. 112. From the diary of Richard Stapley, gent., of Hickstead Place, in Twineham. Renshaw (p. 93) quotes another entry on p. 111, which says that in 1683-4 Richard Blaker of Bolney had with Stapley to find a pike in the trainbands.]

F. 2.

John Fawkener of Cookefeld 20th May 1543. son John F; to John F son of John F: to wiff of Henry Kymore - wyff of Wylliam Blaker - to Idene (?) my dowghter - Stephen F. my son - exors. John Hasylden & Thomas Fawkener. Gerard F. is a witness.

[[Volume 32](#), p. 136. From abstracts of early wills at Lewes. Renshaw (p. 79, footnote) refers to this as a legacy of 3s. 4d.]

Blaker occurs in a list of names occurring in Oving parish register, from their commencement in 1561 to 1600.

[[Volume 34](#), p. 213]

A Blaker entry occurs in Wivelsfield parish register in 1599.

[[Volume 36](#), p. 30]

Blaker occurs in a list of families for whom there are "high tombs &c" in Sompting churchyard. It is one of four families for whom the tombs are described as "numerous".

[[Volume 41](#), p. 24]

George Butler, cler., B.A. of Trinity College, Oxford, was ordained priest 5th June, 1626, instituted to West Blatchington 10th August, 1628, on the presentation of his father Christopher Butler, cler., vicar of Wisborough Green, and Thomas Care, of Oving, cler., inducted 15th August, 1628, in the presence of Edward Blaker, Richard Scrase and others.

[[Volume 49](#), p. 165. This is a Notes and Queries item by W. C. Renshaw. On p. 37 of his book is quoted the will of Henry Blaker of Portslade (1638/9), which refers to Mr Butler as his loving neighbour.]

Thomas Cooper, M.A., of Magdalene College, Cambridge, was presented as rector of Keymer by Edward Blaker. He was a son of Thomas Cooper, of Stroode, in Slinfolde, where he was baptised 24th July, 1642; and his sister Mary baptised there 12th August, 1635, had been married to Richard Blaker, of Portslade, a brother of Edward

Blaker.

[[Volume 54](#), pp. 29 and 30. Renshaw refers on p. 41 to the grant to Edward Blaker of the advowsons of Clayton and Keymer, and on p. 54 to the marriage of Richard Blaker and Mary Cooper.]

Edward Blaker of Portslade was a witness in the Archdeaconry Court of Lewes in 1636 [further details given].

[[Volume 56](#), p. 13. The details are discussed by David Bethell, volume 2, p. 118. He notes that an age of 66, not 76 as given in this volume, would fit the date of Edward Blaker's baptism.]

Buttinghill. View of frank pledge, 29 September 1613.

[Cuckfild tithing] Richard Blaker was among those who had made default in respect of the common fine, and were each fined 3d.

...

Richard Blaker senr Thomas West Richard Holcombe and the tenants of lands called Weskupp together with others whom it concerns are to repair Wortleforde bridge in Cuckfield by the Feast of St Andrew next under penalty of 40s.

...

Buttinghill. View of frank pledge, 29 September 1617.

Richard Blaker, for Blakers, among those who are to repair Northwortleford bridge in Cuckfield from time to time, as their houses and lands are near.

[[Volume 58](#), pp. 8, 10 and 17. For the third of these, see David Bethell, volume 2, p. 157]

Richard Blacker was a witness to the will of William Marten [of Twineham], proved 30 May 1746 (Lewes A57-366).

[Volume 68, [p. 260](#)]

[Additions to museum:]

Mrs. Arundell Esdaile, West Hoathly,

Henry Blacker - "the British Giant."

[[Volume 88](#), p. 1 (i.e. Roman numeral 50). Renshaw (p. 94, footnote) identifies the giant as Henry, the son of Richard and Jane Blaker, baptised at Bolney in 1721. See below an engraving held by the [Wellcome Collection](#), 171i. J. H. Cooper, "A history of the parish of Cuckfield", p. 170 (1912), wrote that he "was really a Bolney man, by name Henry Blacker, born in 1724 and working later as a farm labourer at Henfield. He was exhibited in London in 1851 as the tallest man ever shown, being 7 ft. 4 in. in height ..."]

An average smallholding was that of William Blaker of Tortington with 3 acres corn and pulse, 2 cows, a bullock, and 4 sheep [citing Inventory, May 1612].

[[Volume 92](#), pp. 65 and 89. Article by Julian Cornwall, on Farming in Sussex, 1560-1640. The West Sussex Record Office reference for the will is M. Dean 16]

Edward Blaker, of Old Shoreham (d. 1678) was a Justice of the Peace in 44 sessions, 1660-78; also an M.P.; served in the Militia; Commission of Sewers. [?]Tory.

[[Volume 132](#), p. 137. Article by Peter Le Fevre, on Sussex Justices of the Peace, 1660-1714, compiled from various sources. Renshaw (pp. 40 and 41) notes that he was a J. P. in 1662.]



*Mr. Henry Blacker the BRITISH GIANT.*

*Born near Cuckfield in Sussex 1724. He is thought by all who have view'd him, to be the tallest Man ever exhibited in England, measuring 7 Feet 4 Inches & exceeds y<sup>e</sup> famous Mlynheer Cajanus who was shewn with so much Applause several Years ago.*

# **Genealogical Research Report number 13**

## **Records of the manor of Cuckfield held in London**

**[August 2025]**

## REPORT NUMBER 13. AUGUST 2025.

### RECORDS OF THE MANOR OF CUCKFIELD HELD IN LONDON

Members of the Blaker family were recorded in, or in association with, Cuckfield in 1327<sup>58</sup>, 1379<sup>59</sup>, 1395<sup>60</sup>, 1440<sup>61</sup>, 1510<sup>62</sup>, 1524-1525<sup>63</sup> and later. It seems likely that a branch of the family lived there continuously from the early 14th century onwards. From a list of tenants compiled in the early 17th century, it is known that some of them were tenants of the manor of Cuckfield at least from the middle of the 16th century.

In general, manorial records are one of the most promising sources for tracing ordinary families before the period of parish registers, locally proved wills and government taxation records. Unfortunately, only scattered records of the manor of Cuckfield exist in various repositories. In principle, these should all be listed in the Manorial Documents Register<sup>64</sup>, which is an official catalogue of surviving manorial records, which in some cases may still have legal significance.

#### The ownership of the manor

Before outlining the surviving records, it's necessary to say something about the ownership of the manor of Cuckfield. During the 15th century, this had an unusually complicated history, which left the manor divided into four parts during the 16th century, which is the period at which the Blaker genealogy becomes uncertain as we work back. A fuller account of the descent of the manor with source references is given in the Appendix, but in summary what happened was the following.

The manor of Cuckfield, together with the barony of Lewes and many other Sussex manors, was originally held by the earls of Surrey. When Thomas Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, died without issue in 1415, his heirs were his three sisters. Thomas's widow Beatrice continued to hold the Sussex estates until her death in 1439, but in the following year they were divided between Thomas's coheirs, and in this division the manor of Cuckfield went to Edmund Lenthall, the son of the third sister, Margaret. At this point the manor remained undivided, but when Edmund died

---

58 William Blaker, 1327 lay subsidy (Sussex Record Society, volume 10, page 177, 1910).

59 John and Walter Blakere, 1379 poll tax (C. C. Fenwick, "The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379, and 1381, Part 2", pages 609, 2001).

60 John Blakere of Shelley granted a croft of land in Cuckfield, 1394/5 (W. C. Renshaw, "Searches into the history of the family of Blaker of Sussex", pages 77, 78, 1904).

61 Thomas Blaker of Cuckfield, defendant in the Court of Common Pleas, 1440 (David Bethell, volume 2, pages 9 and 10).

62 Richard Blaker witnessed a feoffment of land in Cuckfield, 1510 (West Sussex Record Office, [SERGISON/1/279](#)).

63 Richard and Ralph Blaker, lay subsidy, Cuckfield, 1525-1525 (see above, pages 80, 81).

64 Available through the [National Archives website](#).

in 1447 his mother Margaret's issue became extinct, and the manor was divided into two moieties (i.e. halves) between the heirs of Thomas's other two sisters - the Mowbray dukes of Norfolk, and the Nevill lords Bergavenny.

The lords Bergavenny (later earls of Abergavenny) continued to hold their moiety until the late 19th century, but the Mowbray line was soon to die out with its heiress Anne Mowbray, who was married as a small child to Richard, Duke of York, the younger of the "Princes in the Tower", and who died in 1481. Richard had been given a life interest in the Mowbray estates, but did not live to enjoy it. The part of the Mowbray estates that had come from the earls of Surrey was then divided between four coheirs, the descendants of the sisters and half-sisters of Anne Mowbray's great-grandfather. This might have meant the Mowbray moiety of Cuckfield manor being divided into four eighths, but fortunately an agreement was reached that the Sussex property should be shared between only two of the coheirs - the Howard dukes of Norfolk and the Stanley earls of Derby.

Some of the details are obscure and the agreement may not have been implemented immediately, but by the early 16th century the manor was in three parts - a moiety held by the lords Bergavenny and two quarters held by the Howards and Stanleys. In 1575 the Stanley quarter was sold to Henry Bowyer, and in 1585 the Howard quarter was sold to Walter Covert of Slaugham. (Much later the Sergison family would acquire all three parts, reuniting the manor.)

## **The Book of John Rowe**

Our main source of information about the Blakers as tenants of the manor of Cuckfield comes from a document known as the Book of John Rowe, written in the early 17th century. Rowe was Lord Bergavenny's steward, and his book lists the tenants of several manors including Cuckfield, with notes of their holdings, the rent they paid and significant dates taken from the court records.

Two Blakers appear in Rowe's Book. They both appear as copyhold (or customary) tenants, and for each of them two land holdings are listed:<sup>65</sup>

### **(1) Richard Blaker's land<sup>66</sup>**

(a) 1 farthing-land containing 25 and a half acres called Amfryes, by rent of 8 shillings and a farthing, half a hen and 6 eggs. For this holding Rowe originally recorded the date 24 Elizabeth [1581-1582], and later added another date, 16 September 10 Elizabeth [1568].

---

<sup>65</sup> W. H. Godfrey, ed., "[The Book of John Rowe](#)" (Sussex Record Society, volume 34, 1928). See also David Bethell in volume 2, pages 154 and 187-189; also extracts from the book in volume 3, pages 19-24.

<sup>66</sup> Godfrey, page 26. Apparently mistranscribed as Baker in the published edition, though his land was still given as "Blakers".

(b) By the same copy (that is by virtue of a copy of the same entry in the court book) 1 cottage (and 1 farthing-land added later) containing [blank] acres called Blakers in Cuckfield, by rent of 22 pence. For this holding Rowe later added the dates 24 Elizabeth [1581-1582], 28 Elizabeth [1585-1586] and 12 October 1 Edward VI [1547].

In relation to Richard's land, in his history of Cuckfield, Wilbraham Cooper printed a list of tenants in Lord Abergavenny's possession, copied in 1679 (or 1697) from an old map of the manor.<sup>67</sup> The original list would probably have been quite close in date to Rowe's Book, as a number of tenants' names are common to both. The copy Cooper saw is probably the document listed as number 15 below, held by East Sussex, Brighton and Hove Record Office, whose catalogue dates the original to 1625.

This list includes, under the heading "Lands at Moorfields, Barnsnape", Rich. Blaker for 37 acres at "Stedesland". In 1679 the tenant was Mr Lintott. Cooper commented that "Dumfries is opposite to Deakes and Stedesland to the west, all by the Wyllies Lane".<sup>68</sup> Although the acreage is different, it is possible that it is related to Richard Blaker's land called "Amfryes" recorded in Rowe's Book. It is also possible that the nearby field name "Dumfries" is a misreading of "Aumfries", and is the "Amfryes" mentioned by Rowe (though Cooper seems to include it among the place-names "familiar to Cuckfield people" in 1912).<sup>69</sup>

## **(2) Arthur Blaker's land<sup>70</sup>**

(a) Held solely of Walter Covert and Henry Bowyer, one piece of land, part of Hatchland (containing 4 acres added later), by rent of 6 pence. For this holding Rowe recorded the dates 33 Elizabeth [1590-1591] and 16 James [1618-1619].

(b) 1 coterling<sup>71</sup> in Brodestrete, by rent of 3 pence. For this holding Rowe recorded the dates 16 James [1618-1619] and 15 Elizabeth [1572-1573], and also that a heriot of 6 pence and a fine of 6 pence was paid<sup>72</sup>, with the date 42 Elizabeth [1599-1600]. He later added another date, 21 September 1 Elizabeth [1559].

The name "Hatchlands" is shown on the 25-inch-to-one-mile Ordnance Survey map

---

<sup>67</sup> W. Cooper, "A History of the Parish of Cuckfield", pages 82-84 (1912).

<sup>68</sup> [Old Deakes Farmhouse](#) is a 17th-century or earlier listed building on Deak's Lane, which must be the same as Cooper's Wyllies Lane, and which runs about a mile west of the centre of Cuckfield.

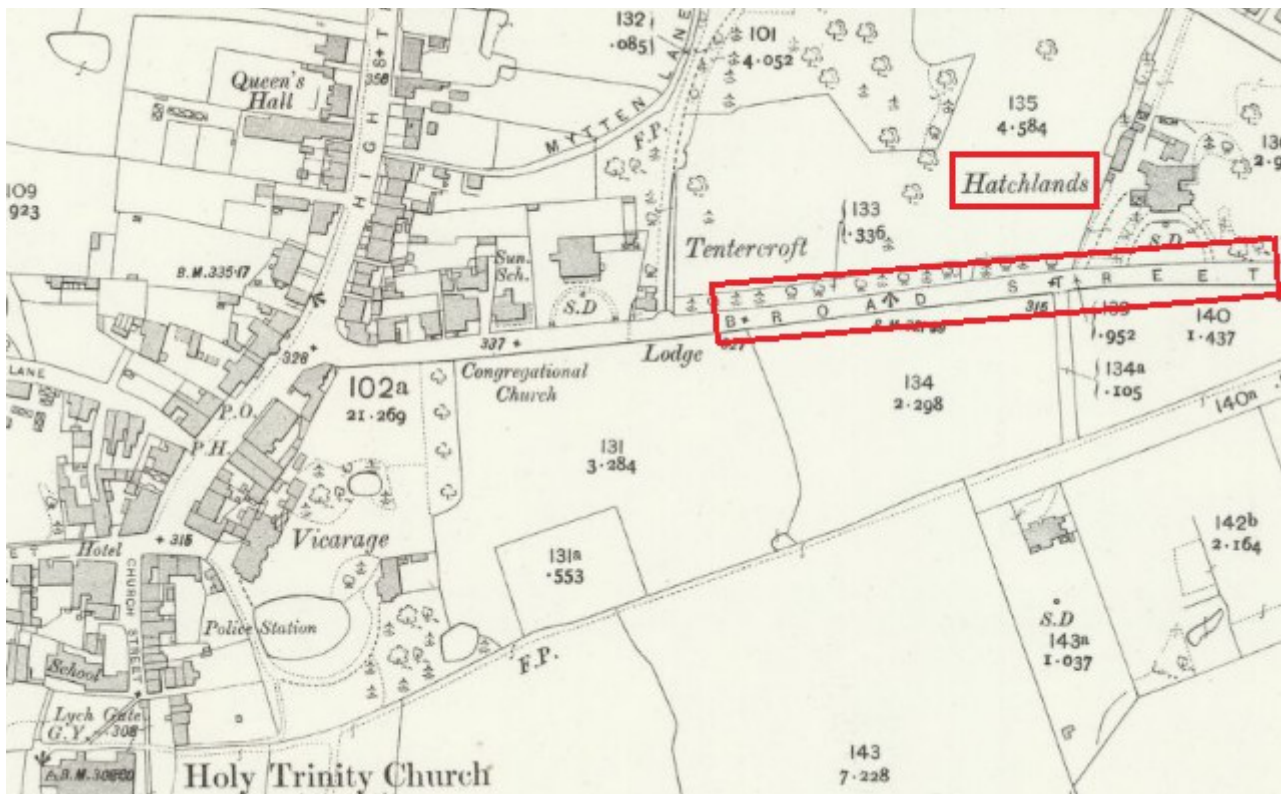
<sup>69</sup> David Bethell, in volume 2, pages 154-156, notes that according to Rowe's Book, Edmund Challenor held another 25 acres of land called Amfryes - almost exactly the same acreage as Richard Blaker's. It's interesting that in the list printed by Cooper Mr Challiner is shown holding 47 acres at Deakes and 22 acres at Dumfries, close to Richard Blaker's 37 acres at Stedesland.

<sup>70</sup> Godfrey, pages 26 and 27.

<sup>71</sup> This word appears to be very rare and perhaps even be peculiar to Rowe, who uses it only ten times in his book. The editor of the published edition interprets "coterling" as "small holding" (on page xiii).

<sup>72</sup> It appears that at Cuckfield both a heriot and a fine were paid when a copyhold tenant died and was succeeded by the heir.

published in 1911.<sup>73</sup> It lay just to the north of Broad Street (opposite the junction with the present-day Courtmead Road). Presumably Arthur's "coterling" in Broad Street and his 4 acres of land in Hatchland lay close together here.



Unusually in John Rowe's Book, Arthur's first entry indicates that he held his land in Hatchland solely of Walter Covert and Henry Bowyer, the lords of the two quarters of Cuckfield manor. For the other Blaker holdings the lord is not specified, so he can be assumed to be Lord Bergavenny, whose steward Rowe was.<sup>74</sup> There are six entries relating to Cuckfield where the book describes tenants as holding "solely" of Covert and Bowyer, and none in which the land is held "solely" of one of them or the other. This may indicate that the former Mowbray moiety of the manor continued to be managed as a single unit after it had been nominally split into two quarters.

Elsewhere in Rowe's Book there is a reference to a croft called Haggland, otherwise Hatchland, "lying next to Bakers land formerly Fawkenors"<sup>75</sup>. If this is another error for "Blakers" it may refer to Arthur's 4 acres in Hatchland, and if so it would indicate that the land had previously been held by someone named Fawkenor.

Finally, it should be noted that the custom of inheritance for copyhold land in the

<sup>73</sup> Available on the [National Library of Scotland website](#).

<sup>74</sup> David Bethell suggested that where no lord was specified, this meant the tenant held of all three lords jointly. But the lord is very rarely specified in Rowe's Book. In only three of the Cuckfield entries is land recorded as held "solely" of Lord Bergavenny, and in all of them some doubt about the tenure is noted. It is said to be held "solely" of the other two lords in only six Cuckfield entries. It seems likely that Rowe's list was mainly of the tenants of his own employer, Lord Bergavenny. Presumably the holdings of tenants of the other lords were included only in cases where it might be practically useful for Rowe to know about them, perhaps in order to avoid confusion. In Arthur's case, it may possibly have been because he held two pieces of land close together, of different lords.

<sup>75</sup> Godfrey, page 29.

manor of Cuckfield was the unusual one known as "Borough English", in which the heir was the youngest rather than the eldest son.<sup>76</sup> As codified in John Rowe's summary<sup>77</sup> of the customs of the Bergavenny manors in Sussex, this rule of "ultimogeniture" extended to all the conceivable heirs:

*Estates in fee, & discentes.*

1. **ffirst** all Copiholders holde their customary lands and tenement; to them and their heires sedm consuetud Man<sup>o</sup>ij, and the same ar discendable vpon death to the

	1	sonne
	2	sonnes youngest sonne
	3	sonnes youngest daughter
	4	daughter
	5	daughters yongest sonne
	6	daughters yongest daughter
	7	brother
Yongest	8	brothers yongest sonne
	9	brothers yongest daughter
	10	sister
	11	sisters yongest sonne
	12	sisters yongest daughter
	13	Vncle
	14	Vncles yongest sonne
	15	sonne of the fathers sister

## The surviving records of the manor before 1640

The Manorial Documents Register lists the following documents. Where possible I have added notes to indicate which parts of the manor they relate to.

### (1) Arundel Castle, MSS/Acc 171/1

1330-1331: reeve's account roll (Barony of Lewes) [for manors including Cuckfield]. See [Box lists of the uncatalogued collections](#), Box List 3, page 13 (page 229 of PDF). The manor was undivided at this date.

### (2) Arundel Castle, MSS/M 529

1343-1344: halmote court roll, with other manors. See [Catalogue, volume 2](#), page 179 (page 187 of PDF). The manor was undivided at this date.

<sup>76</sup> See David Bethell, volume 2, page 189.

<sup>77</sup> Godfrey, page 77.

### **(3) British Library, Harleian Roll I 8**

1420: account, with other manors (fragment).

The manuscript catalogue describes this as an account of officers of Lewes Priory, and dates it to the late 14th century. Cuckfield is included in the list of places covered, in most of which the priory had been granted land or rights by the Warenne family in the 11th century. In Cuckfield the priory held the advowson of the church. No manors are mentioned, though there is a reference to the clauditor of the park of Cuckfield.

This appears to relate to possessions of Lewes Priory, and not to the manor of Cuckfield.

### **(4) London Borough of Lambeth Archives, Class VI/330**

1475-1476: account roll, with other manors.

See below for a description.

This is described in the online [Guide](#) to the archives (page 55) as "Account roll for the Duke of Norfolk's manors in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Sussex and Surrey", and must relate to the moiety held by the Mowbrays at this date.

### **(5) Arundel Castle, MSS/A 1869**

1481: account roll, with other manors.

See [Catalogue, volume 4](#), page 105 (page 115 of PDF).

This must relate to the moiety held by the Mowbrays up to this date.

### **(6) National Archives, SC 6/HENVII/1474**

1497-1499: minister's account, with other manors.

See [National Archives catalogue](#).

See below for a description.

The other manors listed in the catalogue show that this document relates to the moiety previously held by the Mowbray, which was divided into quarters held by the Howards and Stanleys at this date.

### **(7) Surrey History Centre, LM/1084/61**

1500-1675: list of court rolls 1676 [apparently meaning a list made in 1676 of court rolls from the period 1500-1675].

See [National Archives catalogue](#).

This forms part of LM/1084, which contains records of the Hendley family estates in Kent and Sussex, "including Cuckfield deeds re Earl of Warenne". The Hendleys were the successors of Henry Bowyer, so this must relate to the quarter held successively by the Stanleys, Bowyers and Hendleys during this period.

### **(8) Arundel Castle, MSS/A 476**

1523-1524: account roll, with other manors.

See [Catalogue, volume 2](#), page 120 (page 128 of PDF).

This must relate to the quarter held by the Howards at this date.

### **(9) National Archives, SC 6/HENVIII/6158**

1532-1534: minister's account, with other manors.

See [National Archives catalogue](#).

See below for a description.

This is catalogued as the possessions of the Countess of Derby, so it must relate to the quarter held by the Stanleys.

### **(10) British Library, Additional Charter 71285**

1534-1547:<sup>78</sup> minister's account, with other manors.

See below for a description.

The other manors include those assigned to the Mowbrays in the partition made in 1440, and the accounts are said in the catalogue to be of manors held jointly by the Duke of Norfolk and Lady Derby. They therefore related to the quarters held by the Howards and the Stanleys.

### **(11) National Archives, LR 2/227, ff. 1-12**

1542-1543: survey.

See [National Archives catalogue](#).

This is a list, running to 22 pages, of tenants of "Cokefeld" manor, giving their names, details of their holdings and the rent they paid. The great majority were copyhold tenants, and the dates of the copies from the court roll that they held are given. The list of tenants is followed by a note that the king was the patron of the church, which refers to Robert Basse as the incumbent. This should have been by far the most promising of the surviving records of the manor of Cuckfield held in London.

**However**, after struggling for quite a long time to work out which part of the manor this survey related to, I was struck by the fact that none of the place-names mentioned were to be found in the index of the published edition of the Book of John Rowe. And then by the fact that one of the place-names - Smithwood Green - *was* to be found (by Google) in the parish of Cockfield in Suffolk, *not* Cuckfield in Sussex. A parish history confirmed that Robert Basse was the incumbent of Cockfield at this time.<sup>79</sup>

---

<sup>78</sup> The end date is given as 1537 in the Manorial Documents Register, but this seems to be an error (see below).

<sup>79</sup> C. Babington, "Materials for a history of Cockfield, Suffolk", [page 33](#) (1880). Confusingly, the king had also held the advowson of Cuckfield shortly before this date, though it had been granted to Anne of Cleves in 1541.

So unfortunately this survey does relate to the manor of Cockfield in Suffolk, and has been wrongly catalogued under Cuckfield. This misidentification must have happened in or before the early 17th century, as it is bound in a book of records from the reign of James I. An old endorsement added on the final folio clearly reads "Sussex"!

**(12) East Sussex, Brighton and Hove Record Office, DAN 1126**

1582: survey

For this document, David Bethell quoted a catalogue description saying that it includes "title deeds ... of Goring properties (1581-98), and detailed surveys of [various properties] acquired by George Goring of Ovingdean and Lewes."<sup>80</sup> He commented that from this description it seemed that this was not a survey of the manor of Cuckfield. That is correct, because this George Goring was the second husband of Mary, the daughter of Joan Everard, to whom property in Cuckfield had been conveyed in 1539 by Sir Anthony Wingfield.<sup>81</sup> As explained in the Appendix, the Wingfields had not retained any part of the manor of Cuckfield, but only an eighth of the so-called manor of Cuckfield Clauditor, which is what this document presumably relates to.

**(13) East Sussex, Brighton and Hove Record Office, DYK 1121-1123**

1586-1594: court rolls, with other manors (3)

See [National Archives catalogue](#).

The catalogue entry says that these are court rolls of the Lords Bergavenny, though their provenance is unknown.

**(14) East Sussex, Brighton and Hove Record Office, ACC 2953/1-2953/17**

1597-1817: court books, with other manors (17)

The names of the other manors identify these as relating to the Bergavenny moiety, and in confirmation of that they are listed in the National Register of Archives catalogue designated 11856 Nevill.

**(15) East Sussex, Brighton and Hove Record Office, ACC 363/48**

1625: copy of plan, 1679

This is also listed in the NRA catalogue 11856 Nevill, and must therefore relate to the Bergavenny moiety. It is presumably the plan described in Cooper's History of Cuckfield (see above).

---

<sup>80</sup> David Bethell, volume 2, page 186.

<sup>81</sup> *Victoria County History, Sussex*, volume 7, [page 6](#).

**(16) East Sussex, Brighton and Hove Record Office, ACC 10000, folios 9-17**

1630: survey

The same volume contains surveys of other manors, almost all of which formed part of the Bergavenny share in the partition of 1440, or of the Lenthall share which was later divided between the Mowbrays and Bergavennys. So it must relate to the Bergavenny moiety.

## **Surviving records held in London**

Six of the records listed above are held in London - three at the National Archives, two at the British Library and one at the London Borough of Lambeth Archives. The parts of these relating to the manor of Cuckfield (and to the manor of Cockfield) were checked, and unfortunately no mention of Blakers was found. Some details of the documents are given below.

**(A) London Borough of Lambeth Archives, Class VI/330 (Mowbray moiety; number 4 above)**

This is a very long account roll from 1475-1476, covering a large number of manors that belonged to the Duke of Norfolk. In the short section for Cuckfield, very few individuals are named - three parkers, one forest ranger and one fee holder.

**(B) National Archives, SC 6/HENVII/1474 (Howard and/or Stanley quarters; number 6 above)**

This is an account roll for various manors from 1497-1499, of which the reeve's account for Cuckfield covers parts of both sides of one rotulet. Some tenants' names are mentioned, but no Blakers were found.

**(C) National Archives, SC 6/HENVIII/6158 (Stanley quarter; number 9 above)**

This is another account roll for various manors, from 1532-1534, similar in format to the last one. The reeve's account for Cuckfield covers parts of both sides of one rotulet and part of another. Part of the text is damaged and faded, and an ultraviolet lamp was used on the faded part. Again, some tenants' names are mentioned, but no Blakers were found.

**(D) British Library, Additional Charter 71285 (Howard and Stanley quarters; number 10 above)**

This is a third account roll for various manors, from the period 1534-1547, again similar in format to the previous two. The reeve's account for Cuckfield covers one

side of each of two rotulets. As before, some tenants' names are mentioned, but no Blakers were found.

## **Conclusion**

It is disappointing that none of the surviving early records of the manor held in London contain references to Blakers (and also that what should have been the most promising record was really a survey of the manor of Cockfield in Suffolk). A small compensation is that Wilbraham Cooper's published history of Cuckfield contained some apparently new information about the land held by Richard Blacker, probably in the early 17th century, and indicated roughly where it was to be found on the map.

The original of the plan mentioned by Cooper is probably item 15 listed above, held by East Sussex, Brighton and Hove Record Office. Also held there are court rolls and books from 1586 onwards and a survey of 1630,<sup>82</sup> which should record at least some transactions involving the Cuckfield Blakers. In contrast, the earlier records held at Arundel Castle seem likely to be similar in format to the account rolls seen in London, and therefore less promising.

---

<sup>82</sup> Cooper (page 82) printed a list of names from an ancient survey of the manor, transcribed in 1697 (or again 1679?). It includes no Blakers. Possibly this is the same as the survey dated 1630 listed by the Manorial Documents Register, though Cooper gives no date for the original survey, and the MDR does not indicate it is a later copy.

## Appendix: The ownership of the manor of Cuckfield

The evidence concerning the descent of the manor was considered in detail by Charles G. O. Bridgeman, in a long article in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* in 1914<sup>83</sup>, which remains the full and clearest account. The summary below follows Bridgeman except where otherwise indicated.

The barony of Lewes had been held by the Warenne and later the Fitzalan earls of Surrey from the 11th century until the death of Thomas Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, without issue in 1415<sup>84</sup>.

By a settlement of 1326, the estates had been entailed on the heirs of the bodies of Thomas's paternal grandparents. On his death, his heirs were his three surviving sisters Elizabeth, Joan and Margaret<sup>85</sup>. But Thomas had had the Sussex estates granted to him and his wife Beatrice for their lives, and she continued to hold them until her death in 1439<sup>86</sup>. By this time the three sisters were dead, and a partition was made in 1440<sup>87</sup> between their heirs (1) John Mowbray, 3rd Duke of Norfolk, the grandson of Elizabeth, (2) Elizabeth (Beauchamp), the wife of Edward Nevill, later Lord Bergavenny, the granddaughter of Joan and (3) Edmund Lenthall, the son of Margaret. In this partition, nearly all the Sussex manors were allotted whole to one of the heirs rather than being divided, and the manor of Cuckfield formed part of the share of Edmund Lenthall<sup>88</sup>.

However, the issue of the third sister, Margaret, became extinct when Edmund Lenthall died in 1447. Parts of the estate were assigned as dower to his widow Margaret, who did not die until 1484. These did not include the manor of Cuckfield, but did include an annual rent for the inclosure of the park of Cuckfield (this rent later known as the manor of Cuckfield Clauditor<sup>89</sup>). The rest of the Sussex estate was partitioned between the other two heirs (Mowbray and Nevill), and each manor was divided into moieties. As a result, each of them now held a moiety of the manor of Cuckfield<sup>90</sup>.

But the Mowbray line ended with Anne, the daughter and heir of the 4th Duke of Norfolk. In 1476 her father had died and she had inherited the Mowbray share of the former Warenne estates in Sussex (her mother holding dower only elsewhere in the county), and in 1477/8 she had been married at the age of five to Richard, Duke of

---

83 Charles G. O. Bridgeman, "The devolution of the Sussex manors formerly belonging to the earls of Warenne and Surrey", *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, volume 56, pages 54-91 (1914); available at the [Archaeology Data Service website](#).

84 *Victoria County History, Sussex*, volume 7, [page 3](#).

85 Bridgeman, pages 55-60.

86 Bridgeman, pages 58, 59.

87 *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1436-1441*, [page 483](#).

88 Bridgeman, pages 59, 60.

89 See *Victoria County History, Sussex*, volume 7, [page 157](#).

90 Bridgeman, page 62.

York, the second son of Edward IV and the younger of the "Princes in the Tower". Richard had been given a life interest in Anne's estates by Act of Parliament, but presumably died in 1483. Under the entail of 1326, the heirs to the former Warenne estates in Sussex that had been held by the Mowbrays were the descendants of the four sisters and half-sisters of Anne's great-grandfather John Mowbray, who were daughters of Elizabeth FitzAlan by two of her four marriages. In 1483 they were (1) John (Howard), Duke of Norfolk, (2) William (de Berkeley), Earl of Nottingham, (3) Thomas Stanley, later Earl of Derby, and (4) John Wingfield<sup>91</sup>.

For the parts of the estates that were already in moieties, such as Cuckfield, a further division into four parts would have produced eighth parts. Instead of this, it seems that an agreement was reached that some parts - including the property in Sussex - should be divided between the Howards and the Stanleys, and others between the Berkeleys and the Wingfields. The property to be divided consisted partly of whole manors (from the Mowbray share in the original partition in 1440) and partly of moieties (from the Mowbray half of the original Lenthall share). Both of these were to be divided in moieties between the Howards and the Stanleys. Bridgeman suggested that there was a delay in implementing the agreement, because William de Berkeley's brother and successor tried to repudiate it, before reaching a compromise with the Howards in 1504. The agreement was afterwards embodied in an Act of Parliament in 1512<sup>92</sup>. Bridgeman also suggested that the property held in dower by Margaret, the widow of Edmund Lenthall, was not included in the agreement between the four coheirs of the Mowbrays, because it was still in her hands at the time. As a result, although the Wingfields had given up their share of the manor of Cuckfield itself, they and their successors retained an eighth part of Cuckfield Clauditor, which would otherwise have gone to the Stanleys<sup>93</sup>.

The result of all this was that from the 16th century the manor of Cuckfield was divided into a moiety held by the (Nevill) Lords Bergavenny and two quarters held by the (Howard) Dukes of Norfolk and later Earls of Arundel, and by the (Stanley) Earls of Derby. In 1575 the Stanley quarter was sold to Henry Bowyer, and in 1585 the Howard quarter was sold to Walter Covert of Slaugham<sup>94</sup>. These are the families who held the manor at the time when John Rowe, Lord Bergavenny's steward, recorded the Blaker land holdings in Cuckfield.

The three parts of the manor were eventually reunited by the Sergison family, who acquired the former Bowyer quarter after it was mortgaged to them in 1692, the former Covert quarter in 1735 and finally the Abergavenny moiety in 1865<sup>95</sup>.

---

91 Bridgeman, pages 63-67.

92 Bridgeman, pages 76-83.

93 Bridgeman, pages 70; *Victoria County History, Sussex*, volume 7, [page 157](#).

94 *Victoria County History, Sussex*, volume 7, [page 156](#).

95 *Victoria County History, Sussex*, volume 7, [page 156](#).

# **Genealogical Research Report number 14**

**A grant of tenements in  
Cuckfield, Shelley and Ifield  
to John Blakere and others in 1374**

**[November 2025]**

**REPORT NUMBER 14. NOVEMBER 2025.**  
**A GRANT OF TENEMENTS IN**  
**CUCKFIELD, SHELLEY AND IFIELD**  
**TO JOHN BLAKERE AND OTHERS IN 1374**

In a file of notes made by David Bethell is a reference to a Cuckfield document of 1374 relating to Blaker, held by the British Library [Additional Charter 30,342]. As this would be the second earliest reference to a Blaker in Cuckfield (after the 1327 lay subsidy) I went to the Library and looked at the charter.

The Latin text, with abbreviations extended, is as follows:

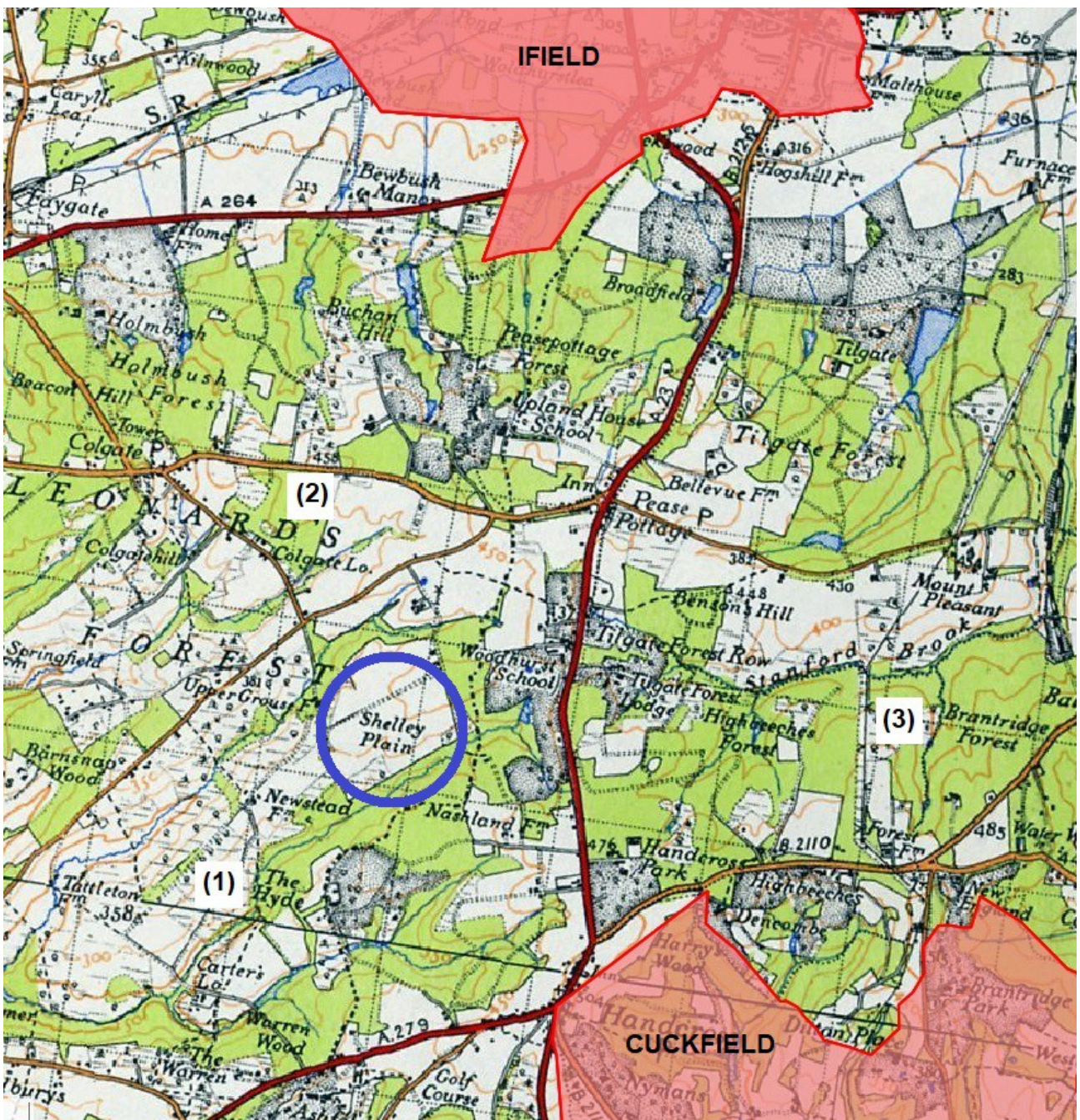
*Sciunt presentes & futuri quod ego Thomas ate Hyde de parochia de Schulflegh dedi concessi & hac presenti carta mea confirmaui Willelmo Schulflegh Johanni ate Blakehulle Johanni Mayne & Johanni Blakere omnia terras tenementa redditus & boscos cum pertinenciis que habeo jacences in Cokefeld Schulflegh & Ifeld sicut sepibus & fossatis includuntur habenda & tenenda omnia predicta terras tenementa redditus & boscos cum suis pertinenciis predictis Willelmo Johanni Blakehulle Johanni Mayne & Johanni Blakere heredibus & assignatis suis de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per seruicia inde debita & de iure consueta inperpetuum Et ego uero predictus Thomas & heredes mei omnia predicta terras tenementa redditus & boscos cum suis pertinenciis predictis Willelmo Johanni ate Blakehulle Johanni Mayne & Johanni Blakere heredibus & assignatis suis contra omnes gentes warantizabimus inperpetuum In cuius rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillum meum apposui hijs testibus Willelmo Holmesstede Willelmo ate Watere Johanne ate Watere Thoma Thorndenne Roberto Schulflegh Johanne Schulflegh Thoma Kepelond & alijs Datum apud Schulflegh die jouis proxima ante festum Sancti Martini in jeme Anno regni regis edwardi terciij post conquestum anglie quadragesimo octauo*

In English:

May those present and future know that I Thomas ate Hyde of the parish of Schulflegh have given, granted and by this my present charter confirmed to William Schulflegh, John ate Blakehulle, John Mayne and John Blakere all the lands, tenements, rents and woods with appurtenances which I have lying in Cokefeld, Schulflegh and Ifeld, as enclosed by fences and ditches, to have and to hold all the aforesaid lands, tenements, rents and woods with their appurtenances, to the aforesaid William, John Blakehulle, John Mayne and John Blakere, their heirs and assigns, of the chief lords of those fees by the services owed for them and of right accustomed for ever. And truly I the aforesaid Thomas and my heirs will warrant all the aforesaid lands, tenements, rents and wood with their appurtenances to the aforesaid William, John ate Blakehulle, John Mayne and John Blakere, their heirs and assigns, against all men for ever. In witness of which I have put my seal to this present charter, these bearing witness: William Holmesstede, William ate Watere, John ate Watere, Thomas

Thorndenne, Robert Schulflegh, John Schulflegh, Thomas Kepelond and others. Given at Schulflegh on Thursday next before the feast of St Martin in winter in the 48th year of the reign of king Edward the third after the conquest of England. [9 November 1374]

The land concerned was in the parishes of Cuckfield, Shelley and Ifield. As the charter indicates, Shelley was formerly a parish in its own right, and lay just to the north-west of Cuckfield. (It was later in a detached portion of the parish of Crawley, and in 1933 was transferred to Lower Beeding.)<sup>96</sup> The locality is shown in the map below, with Shelley Plain circled in blue, and the parishes of Ifield to the north and Cuckfield to the south-east shaded in red (adapted from [www.visionofbritain.org.uk](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk)).



<sup>96</sup> Victoria County History, Sussex, volume 7, [pages 144-147](#).

Apart from specifying the parishes in which the lands, tenements, rents and woods lay, the charter gives no further details of them. Nor does it say anything to explain why they are being granted to four men and their heirs, which is somewhat unusual.

However, some further information about the men concerned can be gleaned from the poll tax assessments of 1379, made five years after the date of the charter, and some of the place-names from which their surnames were taken can be identified.

The grantor was Thomas ate Hyde, and a man of this name was assessed for 4 pence in [Lower] Beeding in the 1379 poll tax.<sup>97</sup> Presumably he took his name from The Hyde, just to the south-west of Shelley,<sup>98</sup> indicated by (1) on the map above.

The first grantee was William Schulflegh, and his surname must have originated from Shelley itself. The surname of the second grantee, John ate Blakehulle, apparently came from Black Hill in Lower Beeding,<sup>99</sup> indicated by (2) on the map above. As for the third, John Mayne, a man of that name was assessed for 4 pence in the [Lower] Beeding poll tax.<sup>100</sup>

As for the witnesses - the first, William Holmstede "apprenticius de lege" (scholar of the law), was assessed for 6 shillings and 8 pence in the Cuckfield poll tax (the second largest amount in the parish).<sup>101</sup> Perhaps he had advised on the grant and written the charter. Also in the Cuckfield poll tax assessment were John atte Watre and Thomas Thorndenne, presumably the third and fourth witnesses, who were assessed for 4 pence each.<sup>102</sup> The places from which these surnames must have originated, Holmsted and Thorndean are in Cuckfield parish, and are indicated by (1) and (2) on the map below.<sup>103</sup>

This charter of 1374 is the first of three references to a John Blakere associated with Cuckfield in the late 14th century. The second comes from the 1379 poll tax, where a man of that name was assessed for 4 pence,<sup>104</sup> and the third is in a charter of 1395, whose text was printed by Walter Renshaw, by which John Blakere of Shullegh [Shelley] granted to William Haselyng of Cuckfield a croft containing 3 acres in the same place (i.e. in Cuckfield). This croft is described as lying between land of Richard 'Thorndoune' on the south, west and north sides and land of John Holere on the east side. The witnesses were John de Brantrugge, William de Tye and Thomas Holcombe.<sup>105</sup>

---

97 Carolyn C. Fenwick, *The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379, and 1381*, Part 2, page 585 (2001).

98 A. Mawer, J. E. B. Gover and F. M. Stenton, "The place-names of Sussex", page 205 (1929-1930).

99 Mawer *et al.*, page 203.

100 Fenwick, page 585.

101 Fenwick, page 609.

102 Fenwick, page 610.

103 Mawer *et al.*, pages 263, 265.

104 Fenwick, page 609.

105 W. C. Renshaw, "[Searches into the history of the family of Blaker of Sussex](#)", pages 77, 78 (1904).

Presumably these three references to John Blakere are either all to the same man, or to two closely related men of the same name.

Again, the poll tax assessment for Cuckfield lists several men with the same or similar names to those in the 1395 charter. There is William Haselyngs or Hastelyn, assessed for 18 pence, John Helere (4 pence), John atte 'Bratesrugge' (12 pence) and Thomas Holcombe (4 pence).<sup>106</sup> Also, two of the place-names from which their surnames probably originated can be identified - Hazeldean in Cuckfield<sup>107</sup> and Brantridge in Balcome<sup>108</sup> (indicated by (3) on the map above).

The neighbouring land mentioned in the charter of 1395, held by Richard 'Thorndoune', may give a clue as to where the land of John Blakere lay. It seems likely that 'Thorndoune' should read Thorndenne ('u' normally being identical in appearance with 'n', and 'o' often being difficult to distinguish from 'e'). If so, this is again the family whose surname originated from Thorndean in Cuckfield, and the Richard of 1395 may be the successor of the Thomas who witnessed the 1374 charter and the 1379 poll tax assessment.

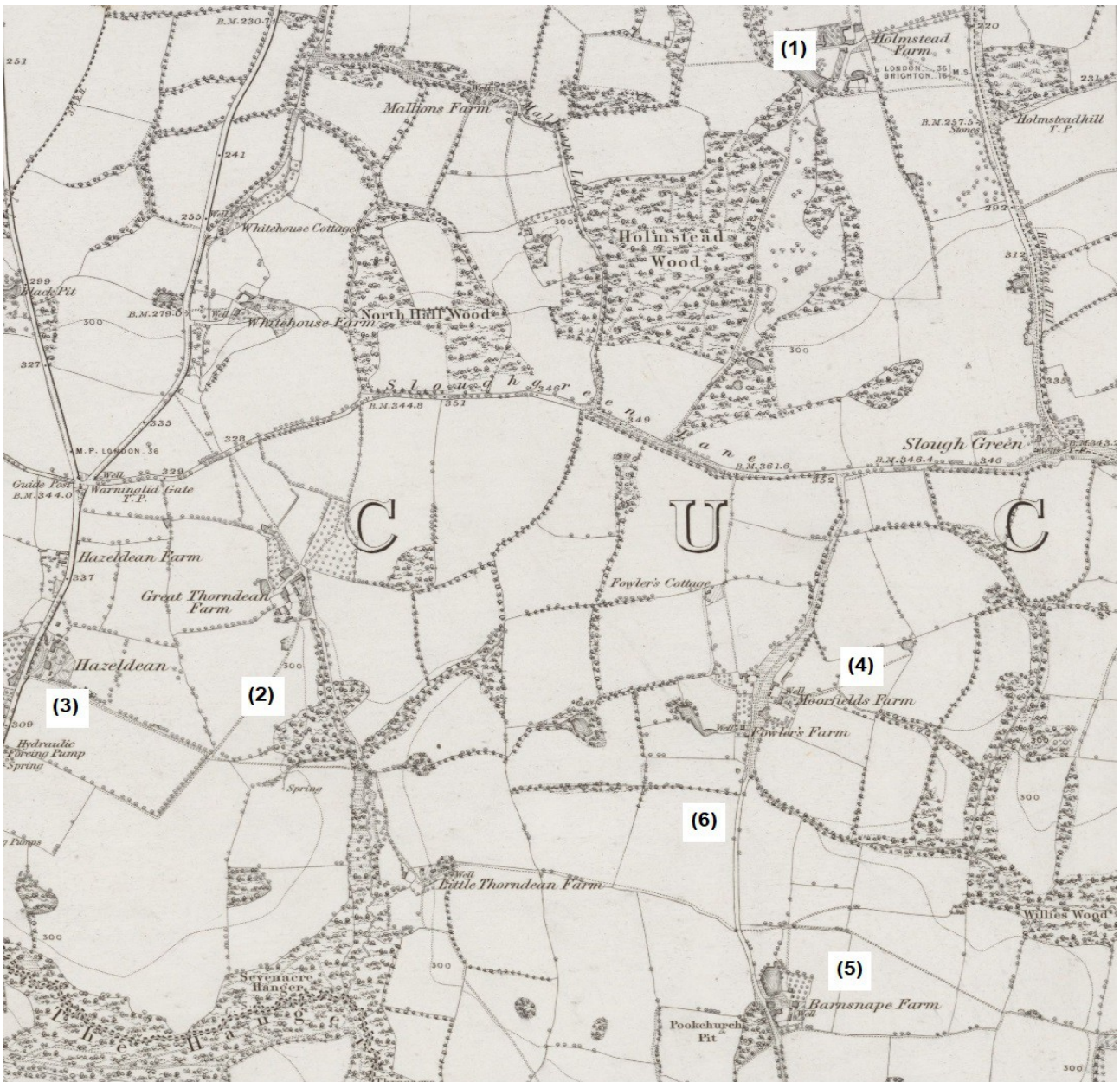
In fact Thorndean is very close to Hazeldean, the place from which the family of the 1395 grantee William Haselyng apparently originated. These both lie to the west of the village of Cuckfield, and are shown on the map below, indicated as (2) and (3) respectively (from the Ordnance Survey six-inch map, published in 1879).

---

106 Fenwick, pages 610, 609.

107 Mawer *et al.*, page 263.

108 Mawer *et al.*, pages 255.



What is particularly interesting is that these places are so close to the land listed as being held by a Richard Blacker (or Blaker) in the 17th century.<sup>109</sup> We don't know the precise location of this land, but it was evidently in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, Barnsnape and Wyllies or Deaks Lane, indicated by (4), (5) and (6) on the map above.

Evidently land held by John Blakere in the 14th century lay very close to that which was in the hands of Blaker family in the 17th century. This would tend to confirm that the Blakers remained in the parish throughout the late-medieval and early-modern period, and that there was a continuous line of descent from the earliest to the latest recorded Blakers of Cuckfield.

<sup>109</sup> Chris Phillips, *Blaker Family*, volume 4, page 110.

# **Genealogical Research Report number 15**

## **Cuckfield probate records**

### **Part 1: 1570-1600**

**[January 2026]**

**REPORT NUMBER 15. JANUARY 2026.**  
**CUCKFIELD PROBATE RECORDS**  
**PART 1: 1570-1600**

As the probate records of the Archdeaconry of Lewes have now been digitised by Ancestry, and are available as part of its subscription service, a systematic search for references to the Blaker family was carried out in early wills and other probate records relating to testators or intestate persons connected with Cuckfield. This covered both the records of the Archdeaconry court and the Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills, which are also available from Ancestry.

The British Record Society has published indexes for the PCC wills and the Archdeaconry probate records, and the Cuckfield references up to 1600 (with a few others from 1601) were extracted from these. This report deals with the period 1570-1600, for which there were 111 items, which are listed in the Appendix with links to the images at Ancestry (for one of the items in the index volume, no image could be found).

### **Wills mentioning Blakers**

There were references to Blakers in four wills.

One of these had already been found by David Bethell. This is in the Archdeaconry will of William Gallupe (or Gallupp) of Cuckfield, tanner, dated 2 May and proved 10 June 1577. Gallupe appointed Rycharde Blaker as one of the two overseers of his will (leaving him a shilling for his pains), and Blaker was also one of the witnesses of the will. A transcript of the will can be found in the volume containing David Bethell's research reports.<sup>110</sup>

Abstracts of the other three wills, with the parts of the text mentioning Blakers quoted, are given below.

#### **Anstye als. Felde, Robert, Cuckfield, yeoman : 20 December 1586, 12 January 1586**

Dated 20 December 1586.

Robert Anstye alias Felde of the parish of Coockfelde, Sussex, yeoman.

Sick and impotent of body but whole and of perfect memory.

Soul to god, body to be buried in the churchyard of Coockfeld.

To wife Mary a threeyearing heifer, 1 bull and a barren [bull], 4 twelvemonthing

---

<sup>110</sup>David Bethell, Blaker Family, volume 2, pages 150 and 151.

bullocks, a mare and a colt, 16 of the best sheep, all corn within barns and in house, and 8 acres of wheat growing on the ground, with half household stuff, with the condition that she shall bring up his children until they come to age to receive their stocks. If she refuse she is to lose all those goods, which are to be put to the bringing up of his children at the discretion of his overseers.

To son John £30, half to be paid at 21 and the other at 24.

To son Richard £10, to be paid at 16.

To daughter Mary £13 6s 8d, to be paid at her marriage or at 20, and also 1 red cow, 2 sheep and 2 pairs of sheets, to be paid within 1 month of decease.

To daughter Frauncys £13 6s 8d, to be paid at her marriage or at 20.

To daughter Elizabethe £13 6s 8d, to be paid at her marriage or at 20.

If any children die before coming to age to receive their stocks, it is to be divided equally amongst their fellows.

To John Tyltman 13s 4 d that testator owes him and a twelve-monthing bullock, to be paid within 2 years after decease.

To servant Ambrose 2 sheep, to be paid within 1 month after decease.

To poor people of Coockfelde 20s, to be distributed at day of burial, where overseers shall see cause.

To repairing of the church of Cuckfelde 5s, to be paid within 1 ye ar after decease.

Residue to son Thomas, who is made whole and sole executor.

"Alsoe I make and ordayne Edmond Chaloner gen' and **Richard Blaker, my brotherinlawe** to be my Ouerseers of this my laste will and Testamentte, And I will p<sup>t</sup> eyther of them haue for their paynes v s.

Wytyneses herof Thomas West, **John Blaker wryter**/"

[Latin:] Proved before Master Thomas Underdowne, clerk, master of arts, surrogate, on 12 January 1586[7]. Administration committed to Thomas Ansty alias Felde, natural son of the deceased and executor, in the person of Robert Othringham, notary public, his proctor.

### **Luce, Lucye, Ambrose, Cuckfield, husbandman. : 13 May 1573, 13 November 1576**

Dated 13 May 1573.

Ambrose Luce of the parish of Cockfyelde, husbandman.

Sick and impotent of body but whole of memory.

Soul to Jesus Christ, body to be buried in the churchyard of Cockfielde.

To son Jhon 1 featherbed, 2 pairs of sheets, 2 pewter platters, 1 candlestick.

To daughter Joane 26s 8d.

To daughter Anne 26s 8d.

To son Ambrosse 20s.

All to be paid at the days of their marriages or else at 20.

To Elizabethe Cobden 1 lamb.

Wife Anne to be executor.

John Dombrell and John Onstie of Westlande to be overseers, and to have for their

pains 12d apiece.

Wife to enter into bonds before her marriage or at any time when my overseers shall call her thereunto. If she deny it the overseers shall take all such goods that were mine at my decease to the preferment of my children.

"Witnesse herof John Dombrell Jhon Onstie Willyam Weste **Richarde Blacar** w<sup>th</sup> others."

Proved [?]13 November 1576 before master William Coell, commissary.

### **Turpe, Alice, Cuckfield, - : 25 January 30 Elizabeth [1587-8], 14 March 1588**

Alice Turpe of Cuckfielde.

Sick of body but of good and perfect remembrance.

Soul to god. Body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Cuckfielde.

To cousin Elizabeth Hamson my best red petticoat, 1 black safeguard, 1 neckerchief, and to Hamsons wife and her daughter 2 tablecoths 1 sheet in her hands already.

To Thomas King[es] wife 2 petticoats, 1 red, 1 russet, 1 gown, 1 pair of sheets, 1 blanket in her hands already.

To Mercye Kinge John King[es] daughter 1 pewter dish.

To Elizabeth Kinge her sister 1 chest at Hasseldens of Grinsted.

To Willyam Kinge 1 sheet at Hasseldens.

"Item I geue to **Arthur Blakers wiffe** and John King[es] wiffe all my Lynen not sett downe allreadye equally devided betwixte them two.

Item to **Ellino' Blaker Arthurs daughter** one pewter platter.

Item to **Elizabeth her sister** one pewter dishe.

Item to **Arthur Blaker** one brasse panne.

Item to Elizabeth Dumbrell the daughter of John Dumbrell one spitte.

Item to **Ellino' Blaker** one Chest.

Item to **John Blaker** v<sup>s</sup> yf it will come to soe muche or else lesse."

To Thom[a]s King[es] children 2s apiece if it will come to so much or else less.

[Some of the following was evidently written by those who were with the testatrix the day before, and refers to her in the third person.]

John Hasselden of Grinsted has had of her 42s which she had for a cow of Willyam Morley which he has had 5 years paying her nothing for it, promising her to pay her for it as she had before being 4s a year, the same Hassellden 20s more she lent him which she has had the interest of the same for 3 years 6s.

John Atree of Barckome [Barcombe] received 20s which was due to me and thus became debtor for the same at any time it shall be demanded. One day before the making hereof she sent for Hassellden she had great need of her money and he came to her that day by the same token he cast her 4 shillings, and we being there would have him to a reckoned with her and he would not but went his ways and would not tarry no reckoning, and bid her and us get it how we could before witness of John Kinge, Edward Gynner and Edmonde Illman.

"Provided allwayes my mynde and will p[er]formed my debt[es] & Legacies paid **all the residue of my good[es] I geue to Arthur Blaker whome I make my hole**

**Executo**r and geue authoritye to come by any parte or p[ar]cell therof by order of lawe & by learned counsell whatsoever yf he cannot come to yt otherise."

Dated 25 January 30 [30 Elizabeth: 1587/8].

Witnesses: John [?]Nunam, Edmonde Ginner and Edmonde Illman.

[Latin:] Proved before master Stephen Weston, clerk, substitute, on 14 March 1588\*.

Administration committed to **Arthur Blaker, executor.**

[\* The order of wills in the register suggests this means 1588/9.]

These wills from the 1570s and 1580s mention (probably) six different Blakers of Cuckfield. There are 83 more Cuckfield items in the earlier probate records, mostly from the 1540s to the 1560s, which will be covered in the next report. That report will also discuss the light shed on the Blaker family history by all the references found.

## **Appendix: Lists of wills and other documents searched**

### **(A) Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills (11)**

The list was extracted from the indexes published in the British Record Society Index Library series, volumes [18](#) and [25](#) (1898, 1901), using the indexes of places.

[Borde, Boorde, George](#), gent, son of Stephen Borde, decd, Cokefield, Sussex, Rottingdene, Ashhurst, Wevelsfield  
1580 10 Darcy

[Bowyer, Henrye](#), esquier, Cockfeilde, Sussex  
1589 74 Leicester

[Brooke, John](#), gent., Bransnape, par. Cuckfeilde, Sussex  
1592 82 Harrington

[Chaloner, Frauncis](#), Lindfeilde, Earthinglighe, Cookefeilde, Wilvesfeilde, Horstedkines, Sussex  
1592 68 Harrington

[Huse, John](#), esquier, Cokfeld, Sussex  
1572 9 Peter

[Michell, John](#), the elder, Cokfeld, Sussex  
1573 24 Peter

Pelland, Edward, Cuckfeilde, Sussex  
1587 6 Rutland

Stanford, Robert, Cuckefield, Sussex  
1582 31 Tirwhite

Symons, Simondes, Margaret, St. Nicholas Olaves in bredstreate, London; Cuckfield,  
Sussex, wherein I was borne  
1589 65 Leicester

Warde, John, gent., Couckfeild, Sussex  
1592 45 Harrington

Wildeman, William, Cuckefeld, Sussex  
1594 70 Dixy

#### **(B) Archdeaconry of Lewes wills (65)**

The list was extracted from the index published in the British Record Society Index Library series, volume 24 (1901), by searching the text of the [online version at HathiTrust](#) for the word "Cuckfield".

Amore, John, Cuckfield, - : 5 Aug. 1587, 17 Oct. 1587  
110-36

Ansty, John, Cuckfield, - : 17 Jan. 1579, 23 Jan. 1579  
155-79

Anstye, als. Holcombe, Joane, Cuckfield, wid : 22 May 1582, 28 May '82  
252-106

Anstye als. Fielde, Robert, Cuckfield, yeo. : 20 Dec. 1586, 12 Jan. 1586  
60-13

Banke, Dorothy, Cuckfield, widow : 19 April 1582, 18 April 1583  
306-117

Batcheler, Henry, Cuckfield, yeoman : 15 Oct. 16 Eliz. [1574], [?1575]  
362

Bechleye, John, Cuckfield, - : 8 April 1576, 1 Oct. 1576  
19-48

[Braket, Brockett, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : 15 Nov. 1577, 25 Sep. 1578  
105-69

[Bridger, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 3 March 1590, 10 May 1591  
418-117

[Britt, Burt, James](#), Cuckfield, - : 6 Sept. 1582, 3 Oct. 1582  
277-110

[Burt, John](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : 17 July 1571, 16 Aug. 1571  
34

[Burte, Nich.](#), sen., Cuckfield, - : 26 Ap. 38 Ez. 1595 (sic), 29 Sep. 1596  
410-225

[Burtenshall, Ric.](#), Cuckfield, - : 30 Jan. 35 Ez. [1592-3], 16 June 1593  
180-176

[Burtenshall, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : 25 Jan. 1581, 3 Feb. 1581  
245-104

[Burtenshawe, Margaret](#), Cuckfield, wid. : 15 Oct. 1581, 28 Nov. 1581  
229-101

[Burt, William](#), Cuckfield, butcher : 20 Jan. 1594, 17 May 1595  
320-209

[Carver, Tomsett als., John](#), Cuckfield, joiner : 3 Sp. 1591, 18 Mh. 1591  
16-136

[Cooper, Margery](#), Cuckfield, widow : 28 April 1595, 7 May 1595  
321-209

[Davie, George](#), Cuckfield, - : 23 Nov. 35 Ez. [1592], 22 Mar. 1592  
124-164

[Davye, Richard](#), Cuckfield, - : 23 April 1595, 11 Aug. 1595  
361-214

[Fawkener, John](#), Cuckfield, butcher : 10 Oct. 1577, 29 May 1578  
113-67

[Fielde, Alexander](#), Cuckfield, - : 22 April 1588, 30 April 1588  
164-52

[Fuller, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, husbandman : 3 Apr. 1593, 7 Apr. 1593  
136-166

[Gallupe, William](#), Cuckfield, tanner : 2 May 1577, 10 June 1577  
56-58

[Gardynner, William](#), Cuckfield, - ; 20 March 1568, [?1572]  
77

[Gasson, James](#), Cuckfield, - : 6 June 1587, 26 June 1587  
87-27

[Gatfere, George](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : 17 April 1587, 6 July 1587  
136-28

[Gatland, Edw.](#), Cuckfield, - : 28 Jan. 32 Ez. [1589-90], 10 Feb. 1589  
341-88

[Gatland, Gerard](#), Cuckfield, - : 26 Sept. 1577, 12 Sept. 1579  
143-76

[Gatland, John](#), Cuckfield, tailor : 26 Dec. 1579, 11, 12 Feb. 1579  
160-81

[Gennor, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 2 July 12 Eliz. [1570], [?1570]  
6; U2, 66

[Ginner, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 2 Feb. 39 Ez. [1596-7], 14 May 1600  
13-282

[Haselgrowe, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 16 April 1601, 9 May 1601  
278-296

[Hobson, Walter](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. 13 March 1572  
277

[NB In the index this place-name has been misinterpreted as Cuckfield. It reads Catisfild, i.e. Catsfield]

[Jenner, Tho.](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : 27 Aug. 41 Ez. [1599], 22 Mar. 1509  
261-280

[Johnson, Edmund](#), Cuckfield, - : 21 Sept. 1600, 19 May 1601  
282; B3-3

[Johnson, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 27 Dec. 1597, 2 Dec. 1600  
59-290

[Juppe, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : 18 Jly. 28 Ez. [1586], 10 Oc. 1586  
6-7

[Kid, Robert](#), Cuckfield, - : 17 Oct. 41 Eliz. [1599], 10 Nov. 1599  
234-275

[Luce, Lucye, Ambrose](#), Cuckfield, husbdman. : 13 May 1573, 13 Nov. 1576  
31-51

[Lucke, Joane](#), Cuckfield, wid. of Geo. : 5 Mar. [1594-5], 14 Jun. 1596  
360-211

[Michell, Joane](#), Cuckfield, wid. of Edmund : 1 Oct. 1569, 1 Sep. 1580  
192-89

[Michell, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, gent. : 6 Nov. 1578, 19 Mch. 1578  
94-71  
[NB This will is in very poor condition, and very little is legible.]

[Myllers, Agnes](#), Cuckfield, widow : 24 Jan. 1570, 25 May 1571  
256

[Newnham, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 13 Feb. 1596, 14 March 1596  
36-236

[Nye, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 6 June 1599, 21 July 1599  
204-271

[Paltoke, William](#), Cuckfield, - : 11 Jan. 1597, 1 Feb. 1598  
167-263

[Payne, John](#), Cuckfield, fusterer : 22 June 1572, 27 Sept. 1572  
220

[Peper, Richard](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : 1 Sept. 1576, 25 Sept. 1578  
103-69

[Pepper, Sebastian](#), Cuckfield, - : 15 Nov. 29 Ez. [1587], 3 Feb. 1587  
175-45

[Robins, Catherine](#), Cuckfield, widow : 1586, 14 Mar. 1586  
83-18

[Senocke, John](#), Cuckfield, - : , 10 June 1574  
187

[Simons, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : 3 Feb. 1581, 26 April 1582  
250-105

[Standbridge, Joane](#), Cuckfield, - : 15 April , 6 June 1587  
29-25

[Thornden, Robert](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : 15 June 1601, 5 Sept. 1601  
301-299

[Throne, William](#), Cuckfield, - : 21 Nov. 13 Eliz. [1570], [? 1572]  
109

[Turpe, Alice](#), Cuckfield, - : 25 Jan. 30 Ez. [1587-8], 14 March 1588  
272-71

[Uden, John](#), Cuckfield, - : , 5 Feb. 1578  
99-71

[Vynall, Ellis](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : 3 Dec. 1595, 15 May 1596  
384-218

[Vynall, Stephen](#), Cuckfield, - : 3 Dec. 1596, 1 April 1598  
111-253

[Vynolde, Margaret](#), Cuckfield, maiden : 15 Jan. 1574 [?73-4], 4 Feb. 1573  
185

[West, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : 29 Jan. 1593, 18 Oct. 1594  
300-201

[White, Matthew](#), Cuckfield, husb. : 24 April 16 Eliz. [1574], 2 July 1574  
189

[Wouldredge, William](#), sen., Cuckfield, - : 29 Jan. 1588, 21 Feb. 1589  
342-89

[Younge, Henry](#), Cuckfield, - : 3 Dec. 1570, 21 April 1572  
119

### **(C) Archdeaconry of Lewes act books (28)**

The list was extracted as for (B) above.

[A'Fielde als. Anstye, John](#), Cuckfield 18 [Aug?]1601  
299

[Anstye als. Hoakham, Thomas](#), Cuckfield [10 Feb?] 1596  
232

[Becheley, Ninian](#), Cuckfield 4 Apr 1590  
93

[Burtte, Margy](#), Cuckfield, wid. 4 Mch 1597  
251

[Culpepper, Richard](#), Cuckfield 6 [Nov?] 1599  
275

[Davye, George](#), Cuckfield 26 Oct 1594  
201

[Davye, William](#), Cuckfield 2 Oct 1600  
287

[Gatland, John](#), Cuckfield cv 11 [Apr?] 1587  
20

[Geale, Richard](#), Cuckfield 15 [Nov?] 1595  
218

[Homewood, John](#), Cuckfield 27 Nov 1578  
70

[Homewood, John](#), Cuckfield [11 Dec?] 1578  
70

[Ilman, Henry](#), Cuckfield 25 [Feb?] 1597  
251

[Ilman, John](#), Cuckfield 14 [Sep?] 1584  
133

[Ilman als. Haselinge, Thomas](#), Cuckfield 31 [Dec?] 1580  
92

[Jenner, Richard](#), Cuckfield [14 Jul?] 1599  
271

[Longhurst, Mary](#), Cuckfield [23 Feb?] 1593  
189

[Nye, John](#), Cuckfield [21 Jul?] 1599  
271

[Robyns, Anne](#), Cuckfield [25 Sep?] 1578  
69

[Robyns, Richard](#), Cuckfield 25 Sep 1578  
69

[Seaman, Robert](#), Cuckfield 18 Aug 1589  
81

[Virgoe, John](#), Cuckfield [30 Mch?] 1588  
50

[Vynall, Joane](#), Cuckfield, wid. [16 May?] 1601  
297

[Vynall, John](#), Cuckfield cv 24 [Feb?] 1598  
264

[Vynall, John](#), Cuckfield cv [26 Feb?] 1598  
265

[Vynall, John](#), Cuckfield 14 [Jul?] 1599  
271

[Wyn, John](#), Cuckfield [12 Jan?] 1597  
250

[Ylman als. Haslinge, Thomas](#), Cuckfield 29 Jun 1598  
257

[Younge, Robert](#), Cuckfield [21 Sep?] 1592  
146

**(D) Probate acts for which wills do not appear to have been registered (7)**

The list was extracted as for (B) above.

[Betchley, Henry](#), Cuckfield 3 Feb 1574  
B 1. 14

[Hussey, Margaret](#), Cuckfield 27 Nov 1583  
B 1. 124

[Denman, Gerard](#), Cuckfield 11 [Mch?] 1583  
B 1. 127

[Field, Henry](#), Cuckfield 20 [May?] 1584  
B 1. 129

[Wickham, John](#), Cuckfield 21 [Oct?] 1584  
B 1. 134

[Frenie, John](#), Cuckfield 3 [Mch?] 1584  
B 1. 139

Michel, Joane, Cuckfield 6 Jun 1597  
B 2. 302

[This register has been photographed by Ancestry, but I was unable to find this entry at or near f. 302]

# **Cuckfield probate records**

## **Part 2: before 1570**

**Genealogical Research Report number 16**

**[March 2026]**

**by Chris Phillips**

**[cgp@medievalgenealogy.org.uk](mailto:cgp@medievalgenealogy.org.uk)**

**to Rod Blaker**

**[rod.blaker@gmail.com](mailto:rod.blaker@gmail.com)**

**and Group Gen**

**REPORT NUMBER 16. MARCH 2026.**  
**CUCKFIELD PROBATE RECORDS**  
**PART 2: BEFORE 1570**

This report continues the previous one, and concerns further searches for references to the Blaker family in the probate records of the Archdeaconry of Lewes and the Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills (available from Ancestry), relating to testators or intestate persons connected with Cuckfield.

### **Documents mentioning Blakers**

There are references in Blakers in seven of these probate records before 1570.

One of these had already been found by David Bethell. This is in the Archdeaconry will of William Affeld of Cuckfield, dated 8 May 1558 and proved 18 April 1559. Affeld appointed John Blaker as one of the two overseers of his will, a transcript of which can be found in the volume containing David Bethell's research reports.<sup>111</sup>

The Blaker legacy in the will of John Fawkener of Cuckfield, dated 20 May 1543, is mentioned by Renshaw<sup>112</sup>, and there is a brief abstract of the will in Sussex Archaeological Collections, volume 32, p. 136, but a fuller summary is given below.

There are also two Archdeaconry wills of Blaker testators: Richard Blaker of Cuckfield (dated 6 May 1546), and John Blaker of Cuckfield (dated 2 September 1567 and proved 25 May 1568). These wills were also discussed by David Bethell,<sup>113</sup> but as he had access only to a transcript of the former made from a partly illegible photocopy, and to a brief abstract of the latter, transcripts of both are given below. In fact the abstract of John Blaker's will incorrectly called his son John, rather than Richard.

#### **Berd, Thomas, Cuckfield, - : administration 24 Nov. 1558**

Cuckfeld

[Latin:] Thomas Berd dying intestate.

**Edmund blaker** administrator, who will give to the children of the brothers of the deceased

[English:] eu[er]y of them vj s viij d a pece at xvj yeres of ther age or at the day of ther marrege yf they marry befor

[Latin:] William Wnsty "husbandma[n]"

<sup>111</sup>David Bethell, Blaker Family, volume 2, pages 148 and 149.

<sup>112</sup>W. C. Renshaw, "Searches into the history of the family of Blaker of Sussex", page 79 (1904).

<sup>113</sup>David Bethell, Blaker Family, volume 2, pages 147 and 149.

William blwndell "shomaker" - gave surety

Sum of the inventory 10£ 18s 6d.

Extracted at the rectory of Horstedkaynes on 24 November 1558 by the administrator, sworn to the value of the same.

### **Blaker, John, Cuckfield, - : 2 Sept. 1567, 25 May 1568**

In the name of god Amen A° dni 1567 the second day of September I John blaker of the p[ar]ysh of Cuckfeld beyng sycke & impotent of body but whole & of p[er]fect memory do make this my last wyll & testament in man[er] & forme followynge. Fyrst I bequeth my sowle to allmighty god & my body to be buried in the churchyard of cuckfeld aforesayd stedfastly belevenge to be saved by the merytt[es] death & passion of o<sup>r</sup> Lord Jhesus chryst. Fyrst I bequeth to the mother church of chichester iiij<sup>d</sup>. Itm' I bequeth to my dawghter Elizabeth vj<sup>li</sup> xij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> to be payd at the day of maryage or w[i]thin one year after my death. Also I bequeth to my dawghter Elizabeth aforesayd one fetherbed w[i]th the [?]stedell boulster one payer of shetes a payer of blankett[es] a cou[er]let but yf the sayd Elizabeth chaunce to dy before the day of her mariage then the sayd money & good[es] to remayne to my exec' & assign'. Itm I bequeth to my godsonne John West xx<sup>s</sup>. Itm' I bequeth to John Luce xx<sup>s</sup> to be payd at thage of xx yeares. If any of them happen to dye the other to be hys heyer. yf they happen to dy both then the sayd xl<sup>s</sup> to remayne to ambrose lucey. Itm' I bequeth to thoms tyltman one ij yerynge haffer to be payd at the day of my death. Itm' I bequeth to Ambrose [?]lucy [apparently altered, but must be same name as lucey above] half a quarter of wheat one quarter of otes & a cowe. Itm' I bequeth to eu[er]y one of my [?]godchylderen iiij<sup>d</sup>. Itm' I make & ordeyne Katheryne my wyfe & Ric' my sonne tobe my executors & assign' to se thys my last wyll well & thorowghly p[er]form[d] Ric' bartly ouerseer of this my last wyll & he to have for his payne[s] xij<sup>d</sup> Witnesse herof Ric' bartly Robt [therd - deleted] thernden thoms seman w[th] others./ Sm<sup>a</sup> In<sup>rij</sup> [Total of inventory] lxxxx<sup>[li - deleted]</sup> viij<sup>li</sup> ij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>/ Ex<sup>tr</sup> in Eccl[es]ia p[ar]ochi[ali] s[an]cti Mich[ael]is archi[ange]li in Lewes xxv<sup>to</sup> die mensis Maij A[nn]o dni 1568 p[er] exec[utores] ad valore[m] eiusd[e]m iur[atis] [Extracted in the parish church of St Michael the archangel in Lewes on 25 May 1568 by the executors, being sworn to the value of the same.]

### **Blaker, Richard, Cuckfield, - : 6 May 1546**

In the name of god ame[n] I Ri[chard] blaker of Cokefeld beyng hole of mynd & good of reme[m]br[au]nce make this my p[re]sent test[ament] & last will this thursday the

6 of may in the yere of o[ur] lord god 1546 & in the 38 yere of the Reign' of

our sou[er]aig[n] lord Henry the 8 by the grace of god &c' in man' & forme foloyng first I bequeth my soule to almyght god & my body to be buried w[i]t[h]in the church of Cuckefeld It I gyve to the hie alt[ar] xij<sup>d</sup> It to the rep[ar]acons of the church vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>/ Also I will haue iiij mass[es] at my buryeng & iiij at my mo[n]thes mynd w[i]t[h] almes gyvyn to the poore at the discession of my son John & other/ Also I gyve to agnes my wiff iij kyne/ one white mare ij ewes j sowe w[i]t[h] a pygge/ half the whete & barle þ[a]t is in the howse/ half the whete that growyth upon the land þ[a]t longeth to the same howse/ & the beddyng that belongith to her chamber that is to say a bedstoke/ a bed/ a bolster ii paire of shet[es] a paire of blankett[es] & a cou[er]lett/ I gyve to John blaker my son vj oxen iij twelmo[n]tyng[es] stere bollock[es] & a mare colt/ I gyve to Amy my dowght[er] a cow w[i]t[h] a calff/ to Jone my dowght[er] a Cow w[i]t[h] a calf/ to Anne a cow w[i]t[h] a calf/ I gyve to Jone tully a cow w[i]t[h] a calff/ to John Robyng my s[er]u[au]nt a wenyere [weaner calf]/ to Margery barberye my s[er]u[au]nt a twelmo[n]tyng haffer bullocke. The resydew of all my good[es] & cattels my dett[es] beyng paid & my bequest[es] fulfillyed I gyve to John blaker my son whome I make myne onely executor of this my last will/ made in the p[re]sence of Mast[er] John Heuer Roger[probably altered from Rob...] barow p[re]st Tho[ma]s Symo[n] & John Ive  
 Sū Inv<sup>rij</sup> [Total of the inventory] 15<sup>li</sup> 4<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>:

### **Fawken, John, Cuckfield, - : 20 May 1543**

Dated 20 May 1543.

John fawken[er] of the parish of Cookefeld.

Whole of mind and sick in body.

Soul to god [etc] and body to be buried in the church yard of Cookefeld.

To the high altar of Cookefeld 4d.

To 12 men that shall bear my body to Cookefeld 10s.

10s to be divided at my burying as executors shall think good.

10s likewise at my month's mind to be divided at clayton or Cookefeld.

6s 8d at my year's mind and it to be made at clayton.

To John fawken[er] my son a bullock of a year old or 6s 8d as he shall think best, and also a pair of sheets, a blanket and a "whytyll".

To John fawken[er] the son of John fawken[er] in Kym[er] [Keymer] a bullock of a year old.

To the wife of Henry Kynge 3s 4d and a pair of sheets.

"It I bequeth to **the wyff of Will[a]m blaker** iij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>,"

To Idene my daughter 3s 4d.

To stephyn fawken[er] my son 6s 8d.

The rest of all my goods to John Hasylden and Thomas fawken[er] whom I make my whole execut[ors] to divide upon poverty as they think best for my soul's health, and

the said Thomas Fawken[er] shall have a cow that is with gerard Fawken[er] and the foresaid John Hasylden shall have a cow that is with Wyll[ia]m gybbe for their labours and pains.

I make alexander Hasylgrove my supervisor of this my last will and he is to have 5s for his labour.

Records hereof John Wykham, Ric[hard] geferay and gerard Fawken[er] with others.

[Latin:] Total of inventory 12£ 9s 10d.

### **Fouell, John, Cuckfield, tailor : 23 Feb. 1566, 6 Dec. 1567**

Dated 23 February 1566 [apparently altered from 1567].

John Fouell of the parish of Cuckfeld, tailor.

Of whole mind and perfect remembrance.

Soul to god and body to be buried in the churchyard of Cuckfeld amongst the faithful people.

Bread and drink to be given to the poor and 3s 4d in money whereas most need shall be thought at my burying.

If my wife be with child then to the same child 5£ if it be a daughter, and if it be a son 3£ 6s 8d.

To Johane my wife the lease of a farm croft lying at Hendmede [Henmead] which I took of John geale, excepting the corn thereupon now growing. She shall have all such household stuff as she brought and such as she has made since the time of our beginning.

To John Fouell my son 2 cauldrons, an iron pot, 2 brass kettles, a skillet, a spit, 6 pewter platters, 6 pewter dishes, a featherbed which was his grandfather's ['of deleted?'] Unstyes gift, a pair of blankets, a boulster and a coverlet which was his own mother's, also he shall have a bedhanging, a table cloth and a chair which was his own mother's, also 2 chests, 10 pair of sheets and [?]4 pair of sheets which was the gift of his aunt mary park[es] deceased.

To every one of my 2 sisters' children 12d apiece, excepting gerrard onsty my godson, and unto him I give a lamb.

If my son John Fouell decease before he shall accomplish the age of 21 then the third part thereof shall remain to the child which my wife now goes by (if she be with child). And if the same child die then that part shall remain to Johane my wife and the other 2 parts shall remain to my 2 sisters and sisters' children by equal portions.

The governor of my son John Fouell shall have 3 acres of wheat now growing in a croft at Hendmede which I took by a lease of John geale towards his government and bringing up. If the land be not sufficient the stock shall be charged therewith, giving and rendering just accounts thereof.

Residue to be equally divided between Johane my wife and John Fouell my son whom I make my sole exec[utors] by the discretion of my 2 overseers and 2 honest men of the parish as the overseers shall think good.

Willyam onsty my brother in law and Peter bennet my brother in law or their assigns the bringing up of my son John Fouell and his stock until he shall accomplish the age

of 21, and then to have his stock delivered to him.

William and Peter are to have honestly for their pains.

I make Willyam Onsty my brother in law and Thomas Vynall of Mockford[es] my brother in law to be overseers.

Witnesses: Thomas borde, John gyner [Gynner], **Edmond blaker**, John gatland and Thomas Bennet.

[Latin:] Total of inventory 50£ 15d.

[Latin:] Extracted in the usual house of residence of Master Richard Kitsom of Sowthover by Lewes on 6 December 1567 by Joan Fouell, one of the executors named, a power being reserved to John Fouell the coexecutor [etc].

Cuckfeld

[Latin:] Thomas Burrell gentleman

Thomas Vynall "roughmason" - gave surety.

### **Fryman, Agnes, Cuckfield, widow of Wm. : 14 May 1564, 15 June 1565**

Dated 14 May 1564.

agnis fryman widow of Cukeyfyld, late the wife of Wyllym fryman of the aforesaid parish.

Sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance.

Soul to god, body to the church earth of Cokefelde.

Concerning my money in my son thomas hands and in the hands of John attre that is the said thomas oweth 3£ 11s 8d and in John's hands 8s 4d, all which I give to Elynor my daughter.

To John my son all my corn growing at [?]harvest hill and also all sums of money he owes me.

Residue of goods to Elynor my daughter, whom I make sole executrix.

"Witnesses here of thomas hardane & **John blaker** /witnes at the signinge hereof Edmund[es] Robard[es] & Wyllym lay clarke of Cokefyld"

[Latin:] Total of inventory 10£ 17s 8d.

[Latin:] Extracted in the usual house of residence of Master Richard Kitsom of Sowthover by Lewes on the 15 June [apparently altered from May] by the executrix.

## **Summary**

Records of Cuckfield Blakers, both in these wills and administrations and from other sources, are briefly summarised below.

### **Richard Blaker I**

1524 and 1525:<sup>114</sup>

---

<sup>114</sup>Blaker Family, volume 4, pages 80 and 81.

Assessed for £20 in goods in Cuckfield lay subsidies.

1543 and 1545:<sup>115</sup>

Assessed for £16 in goods in Cuckfield lay subsidies.

6 May 1546:

Will of Richard Blaker of Cuckfield. Son John (executor and residuary legatees), wife Agnes, daughters Amy, Joan and Anne. Total of inventory £15 4s 8d.

### **John Blaker I**

1543 and 1545:<sup>116</sup>

Assessed for £2 in goods in Cuckfield lay subsidies.

6 May 1546:

Executor and residuary legatee in the will of his father, Richard Blaker of Cuckfield.

1560:<sup>117</sup>

Assessed for £1 in land in Cuckfield lay subsidy.

14 May 1564:

Witness of the will of Agnes Fryman.

2 September 1567:

Will of John Blaker of Cuckfield. Daughter Elizabeth. Wife Katherine and son Richard (executors). Others including godsons John West and John Luce; Ambrose Lucey. Total of inventory £98 2s 4d. Proved 25 May 1568.

1576:<sup>118</sup>

John Blaker's widow in Cuckfield lay subsidy.

### **Richard Blaker II**

13 May 1573:

Witness of the will of Ambrose Luce or Lucye of Cuckfield [who was a legatee of the will of John Blaker in 1567].

---

<sup>115</sup>Blaker Family, volume 4, pages 90-92.

<sup>116</sup>Blaker Family, volume 4, pages 90-92.

<sup>117</sup>Renshaw, page 112. The assessment was given by Renshaw as £1 in goods for a payment of 1s 4d, but those with goods worth less than £5 were not liable to be taxed, and the amount of the payment shows that the assessment must have been £1 in land - the same as for Richard Blaker in 1621. But given the value of his goods (£98) when he died seven years later, it appears his tax liability was seriously underestimated, as he should have been assessed on whichever criterion - goods or land - would produce more tax.

<sup>118</sup>Renshaw, page 112.

2 May 1577:<sup>119</sup>

An overseer and witness of the will of William Gallupe or Gallupp of Cuckfield.

20 December 1586:

Brother-in-law and an overseer of Robert Anstye alias Fielde of Cuckfield (also witnessed by John Blaker, writer).

Early 17th century:

In the book of John Rowe,<sup>120</sup> tenant of:

(a) 1 farthing-land containing 25 and a half acres called Amfryes, by rent of 8 shillings and a farthing, half a hen and 6 eggs. The date 24 Elizabeth [1581-1582] was recorded, and later another, 16 September 10 Elizabeth [1568], was added.

(b) By the same copy 1 cottage (and 1 farthing-land added later) containing [blank] acres called Blakers in Cuckfield, by rent of 22 pence. The dates 24 Elizabeth [1581-1582], 28 Elizabeth [1585-1586] and 12 October 1 Edward VI [1547] were added.

5 October 1610:<sup>121</sup>

Joan wyfe of Richard blaker, "Sinyer" [senior], buried at Cuckfield.

1622:<sup>122</sup>

Assessed for 20s in lands in Cuckfield lay subsidy.

4 April 1623:<sup>123</sup>

Richard Blaker, "an old man", buried at Cuckfield.

## **William Blaker**

20 May 1543:

The wife of William Blaker was left 3s 4d in the will of John Fawkener of Cuckfield.

## **Edmund Blaker**

1543 and 1545:<sup>124</sup>

Assessed for £4 in goods in Cuckfield lay subsidies.

24 November 1558:

Administrator of Thomas Berd of Cuckfield.

---

<sup>119</sup>David Bethell, Blaker Family, volume 2, pages 150 and 151.

<sup>120</sup>[Sussex Record Society, volume 34](#), page 26 (1928).

<sup>121</sup>David Bethell, Blaker Family, volume 2, pages 157, citing [Sussex Record Society, volume 13](#), page 138.

<sup>122</sup>Renshaw, page 112, where it is dated 1601. But the reference given, E 179/190/342, is a return for 1622.

<sup>123</sup>David Bethell, Blaker Family, volume 2, pages 157, citing [Sussex Record Society, volume 13](#), page 151.

<sup>124</sup>Blaker Family, volume 4, pages 90-92.

1560:<sup>125</sup>

Assessed for £5 in goods in Cuckfield lay subsidy.

23 February 1566:

Witness of the will of John Fouell of Cuckfield.

## **John Blaker II**

20 December 1586:

Witness of the will of Robert Anstye alias Fielde of Cuckfield, and described as "wryter" (Richard Blaker was the testator's brother-in-law and an overseer).

25 January 1588:

Left 5s in the will of Alice Turpe of Cuckfield (Arthur Blaker was the executor and residuary legatee, and his wife and his daughters Eleanor and Elizabeth were also legatees).

## **Arthur Blaker**

25 January 1588:

The executor and residuary legatee of the will of Alice Turpe of Cuckfield. His wife and his daughters Eleanor and Elizabeth were also legatees (together with John Blaker).

1593:<sup>126</sup>

William Charman of Slaugham was found guilty at East Grinstead Assizes of stealing 19s 6d in money from Arthur Blaker, husbandman, at Cuckfield on 10 June.

Early 17th century:

In the book of John Rowe,<sup>127</sup> tenant of:

(a) one piece of land, part of Hatchland (containing 4 acres added later), held solely of Walter Covert and Henry Bowyer, by rent of 6 pence. For this holding the dates 33 Elizabeth [1590-1591] and 16 James [1618-1619] were recorded.

(b) 1 coterling in Brodestrete, by rent of 3 pence. For this holding the dates 16 James [1618-1619] and 15 Elizabeth [1572-1573] were recorded. It was also noted that a heriot of 6 pence and a fine of 6 pence were paid, with the date 42 Elizabeth [1599-1600]. Another date, 21 September 1 Elizabeth [1559], was added.

28 August 1618:<sup>128</sup>

---

<sup>125</sup>Renshaw, page 112.

<sup>126</sup>J. S. Cockburn, ed., "Calendar of Assize Records. Sussex Indictments. Elizabeth I.", page 273 (1975). See [extract provided by FONS](#).

<sup>127</sup>[Sussex Record Society, volume 34](#), pages 26 and 27 (1928).

<sup>128</sup>David Bethell, Blaker Family, volume 2, page 184.

Will of Arthur Blaker of Cuckfield, husbandman. Four children: Alexander, Eleanor (wife of Thomas Gurr of Barcombe; Thomas Gurr, his son), Elizabeth (wife of Richard Kidd; granddaughter Dorothy Kidd) and Margaret Blaker. William Butcher and Alice Butcher, son and daughter of Richard Butcher of Barcombe, grandchild Margaret Butcher. Grandchild Richard Blaker (mentioned after son Alexander). Wife Alice Blaker (executrix). Overseers Edward Genner and Thomas Page. Proved 20 October 1618.

28 September 1618:<sup>129</sup>

Arthur Blaker, "an olde man", buried at Cuckfield.

31 January 1632:<sup>130</sup>

Alice "Blaber", widow, about 93 years old, buried at Cuckfield.

## Discussion

### The line of Richard I, John I and Richard II

The evidence here, including the new references in wills, is consistent in showing the first Richard (who made his will in 1546) succeeded by his son John (who died in 1567 or 1568), who was succeeded in turn by his son Richard. It seems clear that this line was later represented by the Richard Blaker who died in 1623, and it is plausible that this was the same Richard who had succeeded in 1568, though alternatively it looks chronologically possible for there to have been two Richards, father and son.

In support of Richard (d. 1623) being the eventual successor of Richard I and John I, there are the identical assessments of the value of John's land 1560 and Richard's in 1622. In addition, two of the dates noted for the holdings of Richard in the book of John Rowe - 12 October 1547 and 16 September 1568 - are close to the dates of death of Richard I and John I, and probably refer to the records of the admissions of their successors in the manorial rolls.

The new piece of unequivocal genealogical information found in these documents is the reference to Richard Blaker as the brother-in-law of Robert Anstye alias Fielde of Cuckfield in 1586. Unfortunately it is not clear how this should be interpreted. It could mean either that Richard had married a sister of Robert, or that Robert had married a sister of Richard, as the modern usage of the term would imply. But in the 16th century it could probably also mean that they were step-brothers. The other probate documents relating to the Ansty alias Field family don't appear to shed any light on the question.

---

<sup>129</sup>David Bethell, Blaker Family, volume 2, pages 185, citing [Sussex Record Society, volume 13](#), page 147.

<sup>130</sup>David Bethell, Blaker Family, volume 2, pages 185, citing [Sussex Record Society, volume 13](#), page 159.

## **William Blaker**

The will of John Fawkenor of Cuckfield, dated 1543, contained a legacy for the wife of a William Blaker. This seems to be the only reference to a William Blaker associated with Cuckfield in the 16th century.

It is possible this William lived elsewhere, and in fact there was a William Blaker of Selmeston who made his own will in 1543/4, and whose family was connected with a Fawkenor family.<sup>131</sup> But there the connection was that William Blaker's son John married an Agnes Fawkenor, probably later than 1543, and it is not clear how this would fit in with the reference in this will.

For a speculative reconstruction connecting this William Blaker, Arthur Blaker and the Fawkenor family, see Appendix 1.

## **John Blaker II**

A John Blaker appears as a witness and the writer of the will of Robert Anstye alias Fielde of Cuckfield in 1586 (whose brother-in-law Richard Blaker was an overseer). There is a legatee of the same name in the will of Alice Turpe of Cuckfield in 1588 (who also left money to Arthur Blaker, his wife and daughters).

There seems to be no other record of a John Blaker associated with Cuckfield at this time. In view of his role, the writer of the first will seems quite likely to have been the John Blaker, bachelor of arts, who was granted a licence to teach boys in the parish of Slaugham (about 4 miles from Cuckfield) and elsewhere in the archdeaconry of Lewes in 1595<sup>132</sup>, and presumably also the same John Blaker who was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge, as a sizar (i.e. a student receiving assistance) in Easter 1587 and who graduated as a B.A. from Clare Hall in 1590-1.<sup>133</sup>

Whether or not the writer of the first will was the man mentioned in the second, as the latter is listed immediately after Arthur Blaker and his family, they seem likely to be closely related. There is no John mentioned in Arthur's will, but he could conceivably be a son of Arthur who predeceased him.

## **Arthur Blaker**

As Arthur was the executor and residuary legatee of Alice Turpe in 1588, and it seems likely that they were closely related. Unfortunately no relationship is stated, and it is not even clear from the will whether Alice was a spinster or a widow.

---

<sup>131</sup>David Bethell, Blaker Family, volume 2, pages 97-109.

<sup>132</sup>Renshaw, page 81.

<sup>133</sup>See FONS files [number 9](#) and [number 11](#).

However, Alice Turpe's will clearly shares some points of contact with John Fawkener's will of 1543, and these suggest a speculative reconstruction of the genealogy, which is outlined in Appendix 1. In short, it seems possible that Alice Turpe and Arthur Blaker were first cousins, both being grandchildren of John Fawkener on their mother's sides, Arthur being a son of the William Blaker mentioned in John's will.

## **Appendix 1: A speculative reconstruction connecting Arthur Blaker, William Blaker and the Fawkener family**

In addition to the fact that both testators lived in Cuckfield, the wills of John Fawkener (1543) and Alice Turpe (1587/8) share several points of contact. Each of them couples an unnamed wife of a Blaker with an unnamed wife of a King (both the husbands having different names in the two wills) and both also name a John Hasylden or Hasselden - in the first he is an executor and in the second he has in his house two items belonging to the testatrix, and has also borrowed money from her.

Turpe is an unusual surname. Apart from Alice herself, among the probate records of the Archdeaconry of Lewes in the published index, there are only two Turpe entries, both recording letters of administration issued on 24 April 1561 to the widow of Robert Turpe of Rottingdean, who bore the unusual forename Iden, and who by that date had remarried to a Thomas Lucas. The entries noted that the deceased had left three children, Alice, Margaret and John.<sup>134</sup>

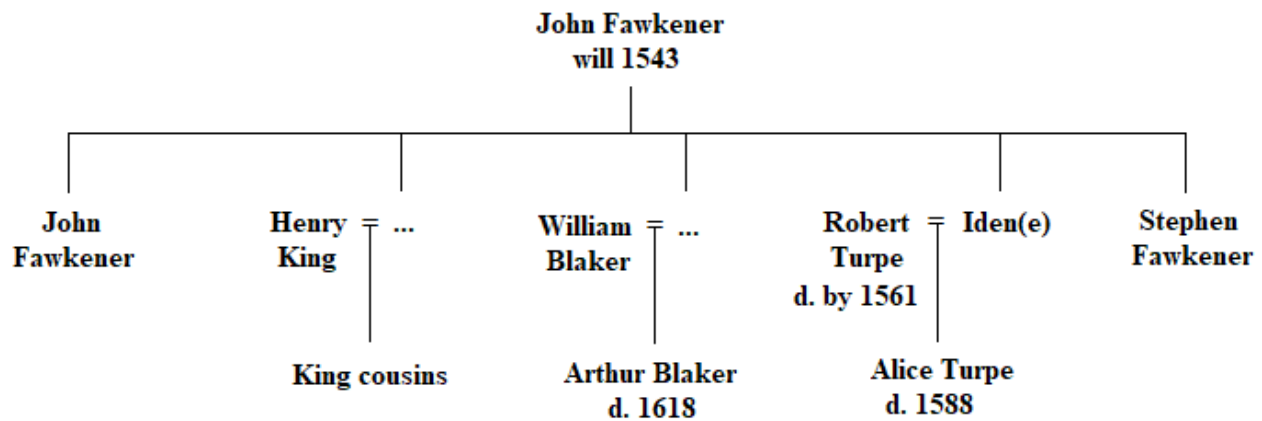
There is no proof that this Alice Turpe of 1561 was the later testator of the same name. But given the points of contact between the two wills, it is a remarkable coincidence this Alice's mother bore the uncommon forename Iden, because John Fawkener's will also names an Idene, who is the testator's daughter. This suggests that the two Iden(e)s were the same woman, and that John Fawkener was the grandfather of Alice Turpe.

Now the beneficiaries of John Fawkener's will were his son John Fawkener (a bullock or 6s 8d), John Fawkener the son of John Fawkener in Keymer (a bullock), the wife of Henry Kynge (3s 4d and a pair of sheets), the wife of William Blaker (3s 4d), his daughter Idene (3s 4d) and his son Stephen Fawkener (6s 8d), with the rest going to charitable works, the executors being rewarded with a cow each. It seems strange to the modern eye that the two married women are unnamed with their relationship to the testator unspecified, but judging from the sequence in which they appear and the amounts left to them, they must surely be the testator's daughters (and presumably John the son of John is his grandson).

This interpretation would give the pedigree shown below.

---

<sup>134</sup>[Book A4, 538](#) and [Book A5, 21](#).



If this is correct, the relationships in Alice Turpe's will become clear. The first person named is Elizabeth Hamson, a female cousin whose parentage we don't know. The next few are all named Kinge. After beginning with a cousin-in-law, these Kinges must be more cousins, the descendants of Alice's maternal aunt who had married Henry King(e). Then there are Arthur Blaker's wife and John Kinge's wife, who are to share the residue of the linen. And after these cousins-in-law there are the Blaker cousins, descendants of Alice's maternal aunt who married William Blaker. The odd one out among the Blakers is Elizabeth the wife of John Dumbrell, but presumably she is Arthur's daughter Elizabeth, who by the time of his will was the wife of Richard Kidd. At the end are John Blaker and the children of Thomas Kinge, who are left sums of money to be paid if funds allow.

Although definite proof of this reconstruction is lacking, it does seem to make sense of the similarities between the two wills. There is one further fact that tends to confirm it. An entry in the book of John Rowe refers to a croft called Haggland, otherwise Hatchland, "lying next to Bakers lane [sic; land?] formerly Fawkenors".<sup>135</sup> If "Bakers" here is an error for "Blakers" (as it seems to be elsewhere in the printed edition<sup>136</sup>), this may refer to the piece of land, part of Hatchland, which was then held by Arthur Blaker. If Arthur Blaker's mother was a Fawkener, as suggested here, that could explain how he came to hold land that had previously been known as "Fawkenors".

## Appendix 2: Lists of wills and other documents searched

### (A) Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills (5)

The list was extracted from the indexes published in the British Record Society Index Library series, volumes 10, 11 and [18](#) (1893-1898), using the indexes of places.

<sup>135</sup>Sussex Record Society, volume 34, page 29 (1928).

<sup>136</sup>Sussex Record Society, volume 34, page 26 (1928). In Richard's first entry his name is printed as "Baker", though in the next entry part of his land is called "Blakers".

[Chaloner, Lewys](#), Kokefelde, Sussex; London  
1528 2 Jankyn

[Flower, Flowre, Edmond](#), St. Martyne Otwiche, London; Cukfelde, Sussex  
1521 8 Maynwaryng

[Hever, John](#), Cuckefeeld, Sussex  
1558 3 Welles

[Michell, Edmund](#), esquier, Cuckfelde, Sussex  
1558 31 Welles

[Waterman, Emlyn](#), Cuckfeld, Sussex  
1523 16 Bodfelde

### **(B) Archdeaconry of Lewes wills (74)**

The list was extracted from the index published in the British Record Society Index Library series, volume 24 (1901), by searching the text of the [online version at HathiTrust](#) for the word "Cuckfield".

[A'Fen, Simon](#), Cuckfield, - : 12 Feb. 1563, 29 March 1565  
229

[Affeld, William](#), Cuckfield, - : 8 May 1558, 18 April 1559  
264

[Alexander, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 10 June 1549

[A'More, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 12 Aug. 1558, 24 Nov. 1558  
213

[Ansty, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 15 May 1553, 31 March 1558  
24

[Ashefeld, Hugh](#), Cuckfield, - : 5 Aug. 1558, 24 Nov. 1558  
112

[Beche, Joane](#), Cuckfield, widow : 31 Oct. 1549  
172

[Beche, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 8 Oct. 1547  
153

[Bechely, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 16 June, 36 H. VIII [1544]  
175

[Berd, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. 24 Nov. 1558  
109

[Blaker, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 2 Sept. 1567, 25 May 1568  
528

[Blaker, Richard](#), Cuckfield, - : 6 May 1546

[Blunden, William](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. 16 Jan. 1564  
218

[Boughton, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, husbandman : 3 Dec. 1565, 12 June 1566  
339

[Bouton?, Furlongar als., Joane](#), Cuckfield, - : 22 Sept. 1558, 18 April 1559  
267

[Brydger, Gerard](#), Cuckfield, tanner : 3 May 1552, 5 Sept. 1552  
43

[Brydger, Henry](#), Cuckfield, husbandman : 6 March 1558, 21 March 1558  
290

[Burtenshawe, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : 4 Feb. 1559 [for 1558-9], 18 Apr. 1559  
262

[Chaloner, William](#), Cuckfield, gent. : 15 Dec. 1557, [?1564-5]  
224

[Comber, Agnes](#), Cuckfield, widow : 19 June 1545  
87 [89]

[Comber, John](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. with will : 18 June 1545  
76

[Cooper, John](#), Cuckfield, weaver : , 16 Sept. 1566  
465

[Davye, Margaret](#), Cuckfield, widow of Stephen : 1 Aug. 1539, 25 May 1551  
5

[Davye, Michael](#), Cuckfield, - : 24 March 1563, 22 April 1564  
158

[Dumbrell, William](#), Cuckfield, - : 15 March 1562, 25 May 1568  
528

[Esterfeld, Richard](#), Cuckfield, - : 6 Aug. 1557, 18 April 1559  
269

[Falkener, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. 16 Dec. 1561  
345

[Fawkener, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 20 May 1543  
8

[Feld, Unsty als., Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. [?1558]  
82

[Fenner, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. 25 Feb. 1567  
488

[Fletcher, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 28 Jan. 1560, 18 June 1561  
357

[Fouell, John](#), Cuckfield, tailor : 23 Feb. 1566, 6 Dec. 1567  
478

[Fryman, Agnes](#), Cuckfield, widow of Wm. : 14 May 1564, 15 June 1565  
256

[Fryman, William](#), Cuckfield, - : 12 Nov. 1559, 22 April 1560  
401

[Fullar, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 6 July 1552, 26 Jan. 1556  
208

[Fuller, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : 30 March 1567, 27 May 1567  
437

[Furlonger, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 6 July 1554, 11 Sept. 1554  
123

[Garston, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 31 May 1559, 22 April 1560  
406

[Gaston, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : 26 June 1545

71

[Geale, John](#), Cuckfield, husbandman : 18 Oct. 1557, [?1561]

46

[Geere, Richard](#), Cuckfield, yeo. : 11 Feb. 1566 [?for 65-6], 31 Aug. 1566

363

[Gun, Walter](#), Brighton, ad. to Richard Tychester, of Cuckfield : 16 Jan. 1553

103

[Gynner, John](#), Cuckfield, widower : 25 Feb. 1567, 26 April 1568

505

[Gynner, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, husbandman : 18 Jan. 1552, 16 Dec. 1553

95

[Gynner, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : 17 Jan. 1553, 9 April 1554

110

[Harrys, Plummerden als., Wm.](#), Cuckfield, - : 11 Oct. 1565, 9 Feb. 1565

290

[Holcombe, Onstye als., Richard](#), Cuckfield, - : 29 Dec. 1562, 19 Oct. 1563

136

[Holcombe, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : 9 Oct. 1546

110

[Honesty, Stephen](#), Cuckfield, - : 22 June 1544

89

[Hyd, Edward](#), Cuckfield, - : 6 Oct. 1551, 26 Sept. 1558

84

[Hyde, Edward](#), Cuckfield, - : 16 Oct. 1551, 26 Sept. 1558 [another version of the previous will, with additional witnesses]

306

[Hoomewod, Michael](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : 20 July 1553, 18 Feb. 1560

503

[Joynar, William](#), Cuckfield, - : 6 May 1551, 8 March 1557

31

[Kyng, John](#), Cuckfield, husbandman : 18 Sept. 1557, 19 Jan. 1558  
151

[Kyng, John](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. 14 Oct. 1564  
209

[Manne, John](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. 7 Sept. 1563  
131

[Michell, John](#), sen., Cuckfield, - : 5 Sep., 38 H. VIII [1546]  
125

[Michell, Richard](#), Cuckfield, gent. : 10 March 1566, 27 May 1567  
434

[Mytton, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 23 Aug. 1556, 6 Nov. 1556  
197

[Pyckam, Richard](#), Cuckfield, husbandman : 24 May 1564, 29 July 1564  
202

[Ridge, Stephen](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. to Agatha Gyrdeler, late relict, 15 Aug. 1551  
9

[Robards, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 12 July 1562, 2 Oct. 1562  
92

[Savege, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 20 March 1558, 18 April 1559  
264

[Scrase, Agnes](#), Cuckfield, widow : 9 July 1563, 26 Nov. 1566  
387

[Scrase, John](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : 24 July 1554, 18 May 1556  
183

[Stamford, Anthony](#), Cuckfield, - : 14 Feb. 1566, 27 May 1567  
436

[Stanbrydge, Ninian](#), Cuckfield, husbandman : 17 Jan. 1558, 18 April 1559  
280

[Stanbryge, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : 7 Jan. 1541  
87

[Standen, Richard](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. 29 March 1565  
224

[Tuckney, Nicholas](#), Cuckfield, - : 2 Sept. 1566, 15 Nov. 1567  
475

[Vynall, Roger](#), Cuckfield, - : 1558, 22 April 1560  
400

[Vyncent, John](#), Cuckfield, - : ad. 24 Nov. 1558  
115

[Whelar, Robert](#), Cuckfield, - : 16 June 1549  
178

[Yve, John](#), Cuckfield, - : 19 Aug. 1556, 26 Jan. 1556  
207

#### **(C) The "Chichester" Books (4)**

The list was extracted as for (B) above.

[A'Wood, William](#), Cuckfield, - : March , [apparently incomplete]  
C 4 42

[Kynge, Thomas](#), Cuckfield, - : no date [actually 10 January 1535/6]  
C 4 30

[Ashould, William](#), Cuckfield, yeoman : , 1 March 1568  
C 11 10

[Onstye, Gerard](#), Cuckfield, yeoman, 10 Nov. 1568  
C 11 4

# APPENDICES

# **Appendix A**

## **Some thoughts on the 16th-century Cuckfield Blakers**

**[November 2008]**

## Some thoughts on the 16th-century Cuckfield Blakers

Chris Phillips  
November 2008

Renshaw gives details of the wills of Richard Blaker of Cuckfield (d. 1546) and John Blaker of Cuckfield (d. 1567/1568). Richard's will mentions his wife Agnes, his son John and three daughters. John's will mentions his wife Katherine, his son Richard [d. 1623] and his daughter Elizabeth.

In addition to this "main line", he gives details of Arthur Blaker of Cuckfield (d. 1618), whose will mentions a wife, a son Alexander and four daughters, and also a Francis Blaker of Cuckfield (d. 1610), who had sons named Arthur and Edmund and two daughters.

The chronology of these early generations is difficult to gauge, but Arthur would appear to be a generation or two younger than the elder Richard. Yet on the evidence of the wills, Arthur was not a descendant of the elder Richard.

Francis was perhaps a generation younger than Arthur, but judging from Arthur's will, Francis was not a son who predeceased him. The younger Richard (d. 1623) did not leave a will, so it is impossible to be sure that Francis was not a son of his. But the fact that Francis named his son Arthur suggests that he was closely related to Arthur, rather than to the "main line", and the fact that Francis is not named in the will of Richard's son Edmund (d. 1634/1634/5) - who died childless and mentioned his sister and two brothers - tends to confirm this conclusion. So it seems possible that Francis was a nephew of Arthur, or some other close relation.

The other information on 16th-century Cuckfield Blakers given by Renshaw comes from Tudor lay subsidies. In summary:

(1) E 179/189/119: Buttinghill Hundred, 1524:

Richard Blaker assessed on £20 goods

Ralph Blaker ... 20s goods

(2) E 179/190/192: Buttinghill Hundred, 1545:

Edmund Blaker ... £4 goods

John Blaker ... £2

Richard Blaker ... £16 goods

(3) E 179/190/267: Buttinghill Hundred, 1560:

John Blaker ... 20s goods

Edmund Blaker ... £5 goods

(4) E 179/190/299: Buttinghill Hundred, 1576:  
John Blaker's widow

(5) E 179/190/342: Cuckfield, 1622 [misdated 1601 by Renshaw]:  
Richard Blaker 20s lands

Apparently the elder Richard, John, John's widow and the younger Richard from the "main line" are recorded as expected. But at least one more family seems to be present, represented successively by Ralph (1524) and Edmund (1545 and 1560). These could naturally be seen as the predecessors - perhaps even as the father and grandfather - of Arthur Blaker, and the fact that Francis named his younger son Edmund could be seen as some confirmation of this. On the other hand, it's worth bearing in mind that Buttinghill Hundred included 12 parishes in total, not just Cuckfield. So the picture may be more complicated than it seems at first sight.

# **Appendix B**

## **Blaker entries in an Irish muster roll for 1395-7**

**[January 2024]**

## **Blaker entries in an Irish muster roll for 1395-7**

Chris Phillips  
January 2024

The [Medieval Soldier database](#) includes entries showing payments to two John Blakers, serving as archers under Sir Stephen le Scrope in Ireland. The source is [a muster roll](#) held at the National Archives from the period 1395-7.

The entries are as follows:

Blaker, John:

Archer

Standing Force, Ireland

Orell, Nicholas de

Scrope, Stephen le, Sir (d. 1408)

13950425

Roll of payments to soldiers with names [NationalArchives], E101/41/39, m. 1ii

Blaker, John

Archer

Standing Force, Ireland

Orell, Nicholas de

Scrope, Stephen le, Sir (d. 1408)

13950425

Roll of payments to soldiers with names [NationalArchives], E101/41/39, m. 4ii

### **Translations of the entries in E 101/41/39**

I visited the National Archives and found the corresponding entries on the muster rolls. Translations are given below.

[**Image E101\_41\_39-1**

Post-medieval description of the roll]

19-20 Richard II.

Account of the pay-roll of Stephen Lescrop, lieutenant of William Lescrop, chamberlain and justiciar of Ireland and of the men at arms etc in the parts of Langen' [Leinster], Mamon' [Munster] and Uriell' [Oriel].

### **[Images E101\_41\_39-2 and 3**

Heading of membrane 1]

Payments of wages of William Lescrop, chamberlain and justiciar of Ireland, by the hands of William Periate, clerk, for the wages of Stephen Lescrop, lieutenant of the said justiciar, paid both to the men at arms and the archers, being both in the company of the aforesaid lieutenant in the parts of Leinster, Munster and Oriel and in diverse guards [wardiis\*] remaining in the same place, for the quarter of one whole year from 25 April, 18 Richard II to 24 July, 19 Richard II [1395].

[\* Wardia could mean "watch and ward" - standing guard by day and night - or "castle-guard"]

### **[Images E101\_41\_39-4 and 5**

Heading of Nicholas Orell's section on membrane 1]

And to Nicholas Orell for [deleted: his wages for 10 (3 written above, also deleted) men at arms and] 24 archers in diverse guards of the earl of Wexford\* for the cause abovesaid, taken for his wages for men at arms and archers as above.

One of the entries in the list under Names of the Archers is for John Blaker.

[\* Apparently this refers to Richard Lord Talbot, who held the Honor of Wexford.]

### **[Images E101\_41\_39-6 and 7**

Heading of Nicholas Orell's section on membrane 4, which is for the quarter from 25 July to 23 October, 19 Richard II [1395]]

And to Nicholas Orell [deleted: 5 men at arms and] 24 archers in a certain guard in the county of Wexford for the safe guarding of the [?]men of the lord king in the same place, taken for his wages for men at arms and archers as above.

One of the entries in the list under Names of the Archers is for John Blaker.

## **Comments**

The roll contains a series of lists of men at arms and archers who were paid wages, each covering a quarter of a year, for the period 19-20 Richard II [1395-1397]. The roll relates to a military operation to enforce Richard II's lordship over Ireland, which began in October 1394. The king returned to England in April 1395. The two John Blaker entries in fact relate to the same man, who served under Nicholas Orell in the county of Wexford, and who appears in the lists for the quarters 25 April-24 July

1395 and 25 July-23 October 1395. I realised afterwards that I should also have noted the dates of the lists of Nicholas Orell's men in which John Blaker didn't appear, but judging from the online database there were seven such quarterly lists and their sequence is fairly clear (the lists are not placed in chronological order in the roll). The two lists in which John Blaker appears seem to be the earliest in the roll.

It seems that between the second and third lists, four out of the 24 archers disappeared, including John Blaker. However, the strength of Orell's contingent of archers didn't fall below 20 until later, when in the last two lists there were only 12 archers. So it's not clear why John Blaker disappeared from the lists. One obvious possibility would be that he died.

In any case I am not sure there is any reason to think John Blaker would have remained in Ireland afterwards (though of course if you know of other early Blakers in Wexford that might be an indication that he did). Nicholas Orell came from a Lancashire family, and it looks as though at least some of the men who served under him in Ireland would have been recruited locally. There are two places named Orrell in Lancashire, one in the parish of Wigan and the other in the parish of Sefton. I think our man's family would have originated from Orrell in Wigan, as a Nicholas de Orell was a juror in 1385 in an inquisition concerning land in Westhoughton (<https://archive.org/details/chartularyofcock6433manc/page/1116/mode/2up>), which is about 8 miles from Orrell in Wigan. The Victoria County History account of Orrell in Wigan says that a branch of the family was at Turton in the parish of Bolton-le-Moors. In the lists of archers there are at least three surnames corresponding to nearby places in Lancashire - Blackburn, Buckshaw and Shakerley, which are all roughly 8 miles from Turton.

So it may have been that John Blaker was a local Lancashire man, though on the other hand there are other names on the list that seem to come from further afield, such as David or Davey Walsh or Walsheman, who must have been Welsh.

I can't see any other possible entries in the database for this John Blaker under other variants of the surname. The database includes some other rolls listing archers serving under Nicholas Orell in Ireland in 1389, but John Blaker doesn't appear there. It would be natural to assume he was recruited for the military operation that began in 1394.

# **Appendix C**

**Deposition of John Blaker, joiner,  
bound for Breda in Holland  
in their Majesty's service, 1691/2**

**[March 2024]**

**Deposition of John Blaker, joiner, bound for Breda in Holland in their Majesty's service, 1691/2**

Chris Phillips  
March 2024

The following deposition, among the records of the Middlesex Sessions of the Peace, was identified using the '[Discovery](#)' catalogue on the website of the National Archives.

This Deponent John Blaker Joyner maketh Oath That he this Deponent is now bound unto Breda in Holland in their Ma<sup>ty's</sup> service as a Joyner to the Kings house there And is obliged by the next oppertunity to depart from the City of London on his voyage to Holland in the service aforesaid.

John Blaker

Jur' cor' me 26<sup>o</sup>  
die Februarij 1691  
Tho: Stampe Major

[Sworn before me 26 February 1691[/2]  
Thomas Stampe, mayor (of London)]

[Endorsed:] Affid[avi]t for Blaker

[London Metropolitan Archives, MJ/SP/1692/02/001]