

THE BLAKER FAMILY OF SUSSEX, ENGLAND AND IRELAND

Volume 2.
Research Reports

by David Bethell

to Rod Blaker
rod.blaker@gmail.com

and Group Gen

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Early Sussex Blakers

1379 to 1440	Cuckfield
1379	Southwick
1395	Shelley
1413	Lancing
1473	West Preston
1482 to 1591	Preston Episcopi
1524	Bexhill
1541	Tilton
1544 to 1575	Selmeston and West Firle
1544 to 1653	Portslade
1553 to 1576	Hove
1581 to 1684	Cuckfield (Richard Blaker line)
1589 to 1644	Brighton
1600 to 1665	Cuckfield (Arthur and Francis Blaker)
1604 to 1617	Cowfold
1634	Nuthurst
1642	West Grinstead

Early Somerset Blakers

1326 to 1421	Mells and Ashwick
1601	Eglwys Cymmyn

Blakers of Sussex: Overview

SOUTHWICK EARLY:

† Alice Blokere 1379

SHELLEY

John Blaker 1395

LANCING

Thomas Blaker 1413

ASHWICK

Thomas Blaker 1420

WEST PRESTON

Ralph and Joanna Blaker 1473

PRESTON EPISCOPI

† John Blaker 1482

Richard Blaker his son 1512, 1524 *

1524 and 1525 Lay Subsidy

The Drew Inheritance

† ——— Blaker of Preston, dead well before 1553, possibly named John, possibly identical with John Blaker above; had a son John, perhaps dead by 1553.

1544 Lay Subsidy

Richard Bla(y)ker of Preston, died 1559, son of Richard (below)

[Agnes Bartlett, godmother of Richard's daughter Alice sr]

Richard Blaker's family

Katherine Buckwell, Richard's wife

Richard Blaker's children

Joan Halfpenny, Richard's relict

† Edward Blaker 1544, 1570

Preston Episcopi Court Rolls

Richard Blaker senior, may equal * above, died 1570

George Blaker, his son (and brother of Richard ob 1559) 1570, 1587

Henry Blaker, his son, born about 1570, 1591

Joan Boniface, granddaughter of George Blaker: married 1602

Boniface × Buckwell

BRIGHTON

Henry Blaker, as above, born about 1570

Agnes Gunn his wife, married 1589

Henry and Agnes (Gunn) Blaker: Henry died 1626

John Blaker, son of Henry and Agnes, married 1613, perhaps moved away from

Brighton in

1644.

Elizabeth (Sturt/Grenier) Blaker, John's 3rd wife

HOVE: (almost certainly a branch of Preston Episcopi)

† John Blaker, married (1st) 1553, died 1567

Agnes Blaker, John's daughter, married Andrew Webb 1574

SELMESTON

† William Blaker, died c. 1545

John Blaker, son of William

John Fawkner of Selmeston yeoman

The Sterts

John Blaker's children

Who was Margaret Fawkner's second husband?

Who was Margaret Fawkner's first husband?

John Blaker's sister

TILTON

† Richard Blaker 1541

CUCKFIELD

† Arthur Blaker born c. 1535, died 1618

Alexander Blaker his son, married 1613, 1621, died 1654

Eleanor (Blaker) Gurr, Arthur's daughter, died 1633

Joan (Blaker) Butcher, Arthur's daughter, married 1601

Elizabeth (Blaker) Kidd, Arthur's daughter, married 1613

What happened to Dorothy Kidd (Elizabeth's daughter)?

The Genners

Margaret (Blaker) Holcombe, daughter of Arthur, married 1622

Arthur Blaker's Parentage

† Francis Blaker, died 1610: son Arthur (II)

† Arthur Blaker (III), married c. 1680, 1685

Carrying the Line Earlier

CUCKFIELD B

† Richard Blaker (ob 1546)

John Blaker sr, son of Richard

John Blaker jr, son of John sr

† Richard Blaker senior, ob 1623

John Rowe's Book

'Amfreys'

Edmund Challoner

'Blakers'

Cuckfield Parish Registers

Richard Blaker of Blakers, probably his son, born about 1585

Dumbrells

Contemporaries of Richard Blaker

Tuckneys

Patchings

Richard Blaker junior, born 1615

Parsons

SOUTHWICK LATE

[Edward Blaker 1571]

COWFOLD

† George Blaker born about 1580 (ob 1617)

George Blaker's Children

Richard Blaker, born about 1607, perhaps living at West Grinstead 1642

NUTHURST

† Richard Blaker, living 1524 at Nuthurst or West Grinstead

Edmund Blaker, son of Richard Blaker (of Cuckfield, born about 1585)
died *s.p.* 1635

PORTSLADE

† Edward Blaker (ob 1571)

his younger children:

Agnes (Blaker) Cook

Alice (Blaker) Voggins

Anne (Blaker) Beard

Edward Blaker (ob 1594/5) his son

his younger children:

John Blaker

Christian Blaker

Thomas Blaker

Henry Blaker

Anne/Agnes (Blaker) Watkinson

Watkinsons

Edward Blaker (1560–1654) his son

Dappes

Scrases

Edward Blaker, continued

WEST GRINSTEAD

Richard Blaker (1642)

Blakers of Cuckfield, 1379 to 1440

John and Walter Blaker

1379 Poll Tax

There are two Blaker/Blakere/Blakker entries in the printed text, both from Cuckfield:¹

Buttinghill Hundred

E179/189/41/16 // E179/189/41/17

Villata de Cokefeld
in hundr' de Buttynghulle
Cuckfield

communar' maritati²

...

Ricardus Wolf	4d
Johannes Aschbernere	4d
Johannes atte Nasshe	4d
Johannes Blakere	4d
Laurencius Bakere	4d
Ricardus Chelesham	4d
Henricus Cartere	4d
...	
<i>E179/189/36/1 // Ext 6/99/117.2</i>	
Johannes Wel / Johannes W...	4d
Robertus Goderobyn / Robertus Go...	4d
Johannes Henemethe / Johannes ...	4d
Walterus Gynnour / Walterus ...	4d
Walterus Blakere / Walterus ...	4d
Johannes Broksmele / Johannes Bro...	4d
Simon Merefeld / Simon ...	4d
Willelmus Haselyngs / Willelmus Hastelyn'	18d
...	

The various collectors of the poll tax prepared their returns in a variety of ways. The detail of the 1379 Poll Tax Act is recorded in the *Anonimalle Chronicle*. There were many categories of tax, but the vast majority of the population fell into one of three bands:

1. Artisans

All lesser merchants and artisans who have profit from the land, according to the extent of their estate

6d, 12d or 2s

¹ The British Academy: *The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381. Part 2. Lincolnshire-Westmorland*. Edited by Carolyn C. Fenwick, 2001, Oxford, 609

² married common folk

2. Married common folk

Each married man, for himself and his wife if they do not belong to the estates above-mentioned and are over the age of 16 years, genuine beggars excepted

4d

3. Single common folk

Each single man and woman of this last estate and of the same age

4d

Although the ‘married’ and ‘single’ bands paid equally, many of the returns give separate lists for ‘communarii maritati’ and ‘soli & sole non maritati’ &c. Cuckfield was just such a return: first there are the artisans at 6d each, then the married commoners at 4d (wives going free), then unmarried commoners at 4d.

The difficulty of this arrangement is that there were many married people who no longer had a husband or wife. Therefore widows and widowers appear in the ‘married’ lists. Secondly, servants and adult children were normally listed together with their masters/fathers if they were married. In some returns servants and children are clearly described as such, and in some returns wives are named, or at least indicated. Neither was the case in Cuckfield. It is possible that there is a subtlety in the spacing of the actual Cuckfield returns that indicates household groups but which has not been carried over into the printed transcript, but as it stands we do not know if an individual named was a servant or dependent of the person listed above, or if the person(s) listed below him were his servants or dependents.

In the Cuckfield return the only occupations given (apart from the gentry) are those of the artisans paying 6d or more. There are 4 carpenters, 1 tanner, 1 clerk, 5 tailors, 1 smith, 1 thatcher and a cooper. Obviously the majority of artisans in the town of less extensive trade fell into the 4d category (see further below).

There are three sources for the Cuckfield return (E179/189/41/16 and /17, and Ext 6/99/117), despite which there are some portions missing. Although the population was steadily growing in the rebound after the Black Death of 1348, the Sussex headcount returned in the successive taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381 declined from 35,326 to 26,616, as more and more people evaded this regressive taxation particularly punitive for the poor. Therefore a portion of the population is simply unrecorded in the 1379 returns.

The Blakers of Cuckfield therefore appear to us as two married men, John and Walter, living not particularly close to one another, if the return was compiled street by street. If they were living in others’ households the heads might be John atte Nashe and Walter Gynnour respectively. If they had married servants or son-in-laws living with them they might be Laurence Bakere and John Broksmele and perhaps others, respectively. There is certainly a suspicion that Laurence ‘Bakere’ might be Laurence Blakere in reality.

Thomas Blaker of Cuckfield, husbandman³

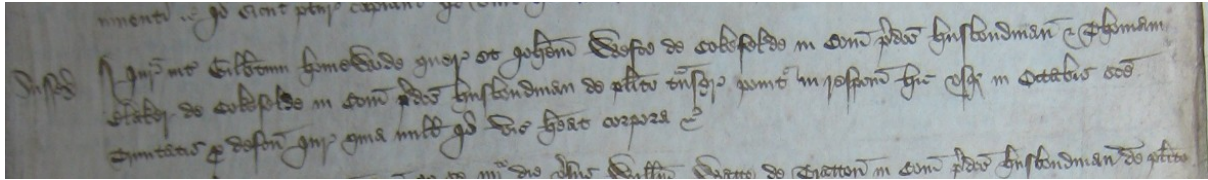
In 1440 a Thomas Blaker of Cuckfield became involved in this case in the Common Pleas:

Source: Public Record Office: CP 40/717 m.381

Title: *Common Pleas Easter 18 Henry VI*

Easter 1440

³ At this period ‘husbandman’ signifies a small farmer, not an agricultural labourer as later



Sussex'

Jur' int' Gilb'tum Homewode quer' et Joh'em Weste de Cokefelde in Com' p'd'co
Husbandman' & Thomam Blaker de Cokefelde in Com' p'd'co husbandman de pl'ito t'nsgr'
ponit' in resp'cm hic vsq' in Octabis s'ce Trinitatis⁴ p' def'cu Jur' quia null' l'o vic' h'eat
corpora &c'

Sussex

*The jury between Gilbert Homewode plaintiff and John Weste of Cokefelde in the county
aforesaid husbandman and Thomas Blaker of Cokefelde in the county aforesaid husbandman
in a plea of trespass is put in respite hence to the octaves of Trinity for default of jurors,
because no one. Therefore the sheriff shall have the bodies &c.*

Source: Public Record Office: CP 40/717 m.109d

Title: *Common Pleas Trinity 18 Henry VI*

25 June 1440

4 29 May 1440

pacem d'ni Regis nunc &c' Et vnde id'm Gilb'tus p Will'm Brayne attorn' suu' querit' q'd p'd'ci Joh'es & Thomas primo die Marcij Anno regni d'ni Regis nunc sextodecimo⁵ vi & armis scil't gladijs arcub' & sagittis clausum ip'ius Gilb'ti apud Cokefeld' fregerunt & duodecim bouiculos septem vaccas quatuor vitulos & decem & octo oues suos p'cij &c' ib'm inuent' ceperunt & abduxerunt & alia enormia &c' ad g'ue dampnu' &c' & cont'a pacem &c' vnde dic' q'd det'iorat' est & dampnu' h'et ad valenc' quadraginta librar' Et inde pduc' sectam &c'

Et p'd'cus Joh'es West in ppria psona sua Et p'd'cus Thomas Blaker p Henr' Welles attorn' suu' ven' Et defend' vim & iniur' quando &c' Et quo ad venir' vi & armis dic' q'd ip'i in nullo sunt inde culpabiles Et de hoc pon' se sup p'riam Et p'd'cus Gilb'tus similit' Et quo ad residuu' t'nsgr' p'd'ce ijdem Joh'es & Thomas non cogn' bouiculos vaccas vitulos & oues p'dict' fuisse tanti p'cij put p br'e & narraco'em p'd'ca supponit' dic' q'd p'd'cus Gilb'tus acco'em suam p'd'cam inde v'sus eos manutenere non debet quia dic' q'd clausum p'd'cm necnon locus in quo bouic'li vacce vituli & oues p'dict' capt' fuerunt tempore quo supponit' t'nsgr' p'd'cam fieri fuerunt solum & lib'um ten' Joh'is Comit'is Huntyndon' & Beatricis vx'is eius vt de iure ip'ius Beatricis et q'd ip'o eodem tempore fuerunt s'uietes ip'or Comit'is & Beatricis et q'd ip'o p'd'co tempore quo supponit' t'nsgr' p'd'cam fieri inuen' bouiculos vaccas vitulos & oues p'd'cos dampnu' in p'd'co loco in quo &c' facientes p quod ip'i vt s'uietes p'd'cor Comit'is & Beatricis & p eor' prec' bouiculos vaccas vitulos & oues p'd'cas tunc ib'm ceperunt & abduxerunt put eis bene licuit Et hoc parati sunt v'ificare vnde non intend' aliquam iniur' in hoc casu in psonis suis assignari posse &c'

Et p'd'cus Gilb'tus dic' q'd ip'e p aliqua p'allegata ab acc'oe sua p'd'ca H'end' p'cludi non debet quia dic' q'd tempore quo supponit' t'nsgr' p'd'cam fieri clausum p'd'cm necnon locus in quo supponit' t'nsgr' p'd'cam fieri fuerunt solu' & lib'um & ten' ip'ius Gilb'ti & non solum & lib'm ten' p'd'cor Comit'is & Beatricis put p'd'cus Joh'es West & Thomas sup'ius allegarunt Et hoc pet' q'd inquirat' p p'riam Et p'd'ci Joh'es West & Thomas similit' I'o prec' est vic' q'd venire fac' hic a die Pasche in quinq' septi'as⁶ xij &c' p quos &c' Et qui nec &c' ad recogn' &c' Quia tam &c' Et sup hoc Henr' Wellys Thomas Chalon' Will's Wymeldon' & Egidius Bunter om'es de London' Gentilmen manuc' p'fat' Joh'em West h'end' corpus eius hic ad p'fat' t'nu' & sic de die in diem ad queml't diem pl'iti quousq' pl'it'm inde int' eos t'minet' & iudiciu' inde reddit' fu'it videl't quil't eor' corpus p corpore &c' Postea continuato inde p'cessu int' partes p'd'ca p Jurat' po'it' inde int' eas in resp'cm hic vsq' ad hunc diem scil't in Crastino s'ci Joh'is Bapt'e Anno regni d'ni Regis nunc decimo octauo Et modo hic ad hunc diem ven' tam p'd'cus Gilb'tus q'm p'd'ci Joh'es West & Thomas Blaker in pprijs psonis suis Et Jur' exacti similit' ven' qui ad v'itatem de p'missis dicend' el'ci triati & Jur' dic' sup sacr'm suu' q'd clausu' p'd'cm necnon locus in quo supponit' t'nsgr' p'd'cam fieri te'pore quo supponit' t'nsgr' illam fieri fuerunt solu' & lib'um ten' p'd'ci Gilb'ti & non solu' & lib'um ten' p'd'cor Comit'is & Beatricis put p'd'cus Gilb'tus sup'ius allegauit Et assid' dampna ip'ius Gilb'ti occ'one t'nsgr' p'd'ce vlt'a nus' & custagia sua p ip'm circa sectam suam in hac parte appo'ita ad viginti solidos et p nus' & custag' suis p'd'cis ad viginti solidos I'o cons' est q'd p'd'cus Gilb'tus recu'pet v'sus p'd'cos Joh'em West & Thoma' Blaker dampna sua p'd'ca p Jur' p'd'cos ad p'd'cos quadraginta solidos sup'ius assessa necnon decem solidos eidem Gilb'to ad requisic'oem suam p nus' & custag' suis p'd'cis p Justic' hic de incremento adiudicat' que quidem dampna in toto se atting' ad quinquaginta solidos Et p'd'ci Joh'es West & Thomas Blake⁷ capiant' &c'

Sussex

5 1 March 1438

6 1 May 1440

7 sic

John Weste of Cokefelde in the county of Sussex husbondman and Thomas Blaker of Cokefelde in the same county husbondman were attached to answer Gilbert Homewode in a plea wherefore by force of arms they broke into a close of the said Gilbert in Cokefeld and took and drove off twelve bullocks, seven cows, four calves and eighteen sheep worth 40 marks found there, and did other enormities to him, to grave damage of the said Gilbert and against the peace of the lord now king &c. And wherein the same Gilbert, by William Brayne his attorney, complains that the aforesaid John and Thomas on the 1st day of March in the 16th year of the reign of the now lord king by force of arms, namely, with swords, bows and arrows, broke into the close of the said Gilbert at Cokefeld and took and drove off twelve bullocks, seven cows, four calves and eighteen sheep of his worth &c. there found, and other enormities &c. to grave damage &c. and against the peace &c., whereby he says that he was harmed and has damage to the value of £40; and therein produces suit &c.

And the aforesaid John West in person, and the aforesaid Thomas Blaker by Henry Welles his attorney, come and defend the force and injury when; and as to the coming by force of arms they say they are in no way guilty thereof, and of this put themselves upon the country; and the aforesaid Gilbert likewise. And as to the rest of the trespass aforesaid the same John and Thomas do not acknowledge that the bullocks, cows, calves and sheep taken were of such a price as is proposed by the writ and statement abovesaid. They say that the aforesaid Gilbert ought not maintain his action aforesaid therein against them because they say that the close aforesaid as well as the place in which the bullocks, cows, calves and sheep aforesaid were taken at the time it is proposed the trespass aforesaid took place, were the soil and freehold of John earl of Huntynndon and of Beatrix his wife, as of the right of the said Beatrix, and that at that same time they were servants of the said earl and Beatrix, and that at that time aforesaid that it is proposed that the trespass aforesaid was committed they found the bullocks, cows, calves and sheep aforesaid in the aforesaid place in which &c.; acting as servants of the aforesaid earl and Beatrix and at their command they then and there took and drove off the aforesaid bullocks, cows, calves and sheep, as was well lawful for them; and they are ready to prove thereof, not intending there might be assigned to themselves in this case any injury &c.

And the aforesaid Gilbert says that he should not be precluded from having his action aforesaid by anything alleged above, for he says that the day on which it is proposed the trespass aforesaid took place, the close aforesaid, as well as the place in which it is proposed the trespass aforesaid was made, were the soil and freehold of the said Gilbert and not the soil and freehold of the aforesaid earl and Beatrix as the aforesaid John West and Thomas have alleged above. And he seeks that this be inquired into by the country; and the aforesaid John West and Thomas likewise. Therefore it was ordered the sheriff that he cause to come here in five weeks from Easter twelve &c. by whom &c. and who neither &c. to recognize &c. that both &c. and thereupon Henry Wellys, Thomas Chaloner, William Wymeldon and Giles Bunter, all of London gentilmen mainperned the aforesaid John West to have his body here at the term aforesaid and thus from day to day to whatever day of plea until the plea therein between them be ended and judgment thereon given, to wit, each of them body for body &c. Afterwards, the process having been continued between the parties by the jury put therein between them in respite until this day, namely, on the morrow of Midsummer in the 8th year of the reign of the lord now king; and now at this day come both the aforesaid Gilbert and the aforesaid John West and Thomas Blaker in person; and the jurors having been called likewise come, who, chosen, tried and sworn to pronounce upon the truth in the premises, say upon their oath that the close aforesaid as well as the place in which it is proposed the trespass aforesaid took place were at the time it is proposed that trespass took place were the soil and freehold of the aforesaid Gilbert and not the soil and freehold of the

aforesaid earl and Beatrix as the aforesaid Gilbert alleged above; and they assessed the damages of the said Gilbert by reason of the trespass, above the nuisance and his costs had about this suit against the aforesaid John West and Thomas Blaker, at 20s; and for nuisance and his costs aforesaid at 20s; therefore it is considered that the aforesaid Gilbert should recover against the aforesaid John West and Thomas Blaker his damages aforesaid assessed above by the jurors at 40s, as well as 10s to the same Gilbert at his request for nuisance and his costs aforesaid adjudged in addition by the justices here; which said damages in all amount to 50s; and the aforesaid John West and Thomas Blake(r) shall be taken &c.

John earl of Huntingdon and Beatrix his wife

Thomas Blaker claimed, no doubt correctly, that he was acting as a bailiff on behalf of John earl of Huntingdon and Beatrix his wife. John Holand, 2nd but 1st surviving son and heir of John Holand (earl of Kent, earl of Huntingdon, duke of Exeter, who was attainted and beheaded for treason 15 January 1400), was restored to his father's earldom by act of Parliament in 1417, and 6 June 1443 created Duke of Exeter.⁸ He married (2ndly) by licence 20 January 1433 Beatrix dowager countess of Arundel, illegitimate (but probably legitimate) daughter of John I, king of Portugal. As she is mentioned in this court case, it evidently referred to a claim to lands in Cuckfield as being part of the manor of Cuckfield in the barony of Lewes.

Jack Cade Rebellion

This popular revolt, led by Jack Cade, flared up in Kent in the summer of 1450, agitating for the removal of king Henry VI's 'insaciable, covetous, malicious' advisers who believed that 'good is evyll and evyll is good.' After having taken London and annoyed the citizens, the rebels faded away and Cade himself was captured in Sussex. A royal pardon was issued to the rebels, apart from some leaders, and the lists show many men from Sussex, including one person from Cuckfield, Gilbert Homewood himself, the man who sued Thomas Blaker ten years earlier: (Patent Roll 28 Henry VI pt 2 m,4):

Gilbert Homewode of Cokefeld, co. Sussex, 'yoman,' and John Homewode of Plumpton, co. Sussex, 'yoman,' constables of Strete hundred, co. Sussex, John Wyldegoos of Holdelegh, co. Sussex, 'yoman,' John atte Roe of Wyvelysfeld, co. Sussex, 'yoman,' and Thomas Esthanfeld of Wyvelysfe (sic), 'yoman.'

The Homewoods are described as constables of the hundred of Streat (which included Plumpton, but not Cuckfield, which was in Buttinghill hundred). Despite Gilbert's venture in the rebellion he was in sufficiently good odour to have been nominated as a tax collector for Sussex, 12 June 1453 (Fine Roll 31 Henry VI m.5).

⁸ *Complete Peerage*, 1st edn., iv p. 287

ALICE BLOKERE of SOUTHWICK, 1379

‘Villata de Prestone’ is included in Whalesbone hundred in the 1379 poll tax returns, which are more or less complete⁹. About 100 men are listed in Preston. No Blaker or variant appears in the whole of the hundred.¹⁰ In fact, the only Blakers listed in the whole county are a John Blakere and Walter Blakere at Cuckfield¹¹, and an Alice Blokere at Southwick¹². So we are reasonably sure that the Preston Blakers arrived there after 1379.

However, Southwick is but a mile away from Preston, whereas Cuckfield is several miles inland. There are 28 people listed at Southwick: Alice was most likely a widow. Southwick lay in Fishersgate half hundred, i.e., that part of Fishergate hundred that lay in Bramber rather than Lewes rape. This small geographical shift therefore brings with it new considerations as to the available records.

We know that in 1579 Christian Blaker of Portslade widow left money to the poor of Southwick¹³, Edward Blaker of Portslade in his will of 1571 having ‘latelye purchased’ a house and land there¹⁴: and, equally, there are parish registers at Southwick surviving from an early date — but this is all far too late to be relevant to the Blokera or Blakers of Southwick of 1379.

9 PRO E 179/189/41/5 and 179/189/55

10 and 179/41/6 and 179/41/25

11 Fenwick, p. 609

12 Fenwick, p. 587

13 Sussex Arch Coll xix 200-201

14 Sussex Arch Coll xxxix 217-218

JOHN BLAKER of SHELLEY, 1395

Renshaw ¹⁵ transcribes a deed of 1395 thus:

Sciant presentes et future quod ego Johannes Blakere de Schullegh dedi concessi et hae presenti cartâ meâ confirmavi Willelmo Haselyng de Cokefold unam croftam terre mee cointinentem tres acras cum ejus pertinentiis in eadem jacentem inter terram Ricardi Thorndoune ex partibus australibus occidentalibus et borealibus et terram Johannis Holere ex parte orientali sicut cerrte mete et bunde cindonantem (?)¹⁶ Habend' et tenend' dictam croftam terre cum omnibus ejus pertinentiis prædicto Willelmo Haselyng heredibus et ejus assignatis de capitali domino feodi illius per servitia inde debita et de jure consueta in perpetuum Et ego præfatus Johannes et heredes mei prædictum croftum terre cum omnibus ejus pertentiiis prædicto Willelmo heredibus et ejus assignatis contra omnes gentes warantizabimus et defendemus in perpetuum. In caju rei testimonium huic præsentî cartæ sigillum meum apposui his testibus Johanne de Brantrugge (γ) Willelmo de Tye (δ) Thomas Hodcombe Et aliis. Dat: apud Cokefold dominica proxima post Festum Circumcisionis Domini anno regi Regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum decimo oçtavo (Sunday, Jan. 3, 1394/95).

This does not make it clear whether the land in question was in Cuckfield, Shelley, or elsewhere. The village of Shelley, in Lower Beeding, fades out of view during the Middle Ages, having been a rectory in Lewes deanery: it lay just to the west of Cuckfield. Neither Lower Beeding nor Shelley is listed separately in the 1379 poll tax or the lay subsidy returns, doubtless both being subsumed in the lists for Cuckfield.

¹⁵ *The Blaker Family of Sussex*, appendix A. I can't believe all these errors in the text are in the original book, but of which I don't seem to have a copy.

¹⁶ The doubtful word 'cindonantem' will doubtless be *condonant* 'delineate' or *condonantur* 'are delineated'.

LANCING



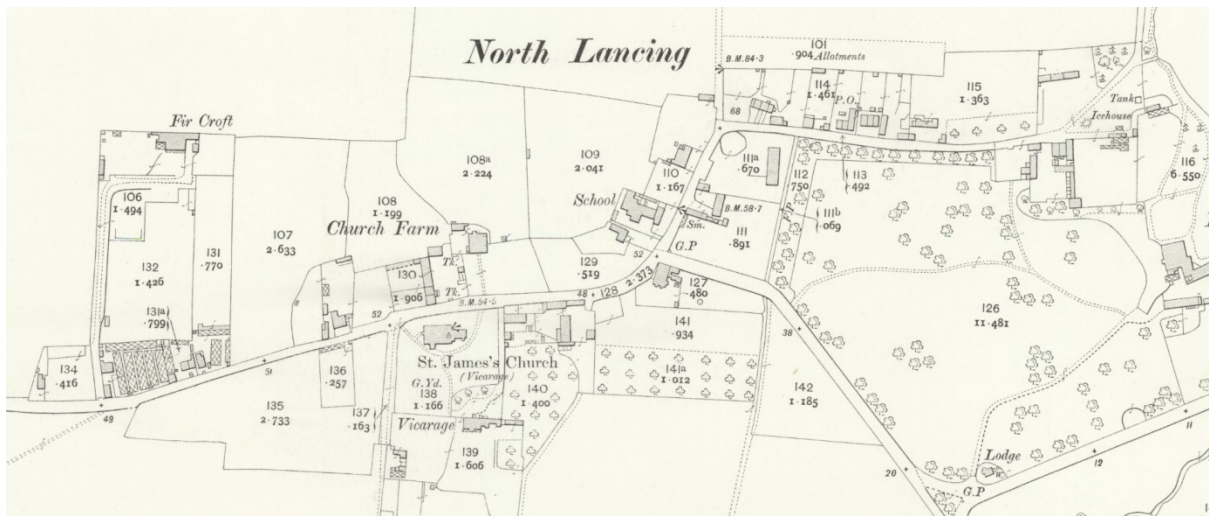
Lancing, Sussex, 1612



Lancing [Lanceing], Sussex, 1793

LANSING, a parish, in the hundred of BRIGHTFORD, rape of BRAMBER, W. division of SUSSEX, 2 miles (W.) from Shoreham; containing 781 inhabitants. This parish, which is bounded on the east by the river Adur and Shoreham harbour, and on the south by the English Channel, comprises by measurement 2524 acres, whereof 1476 are arable, 566 meadow and pasture, 424 sea and fresh-water beach, and 14 plantations. Its soil is chiefly a rich loam intermixed with sand, but in that portion forming the downs generally chalk; the scenery, which is enriched with wood, is finely varied, and Lansing House, the seat of Sir James Martin Lloyd, Bart., is a handsome residence seated in a demesne tastefully laid out. The living is a discharged vicarage, valued in the king's books at £6. 9. 4.; patron, Bishop of Lincoln; impropiator, Sir J. M. Lloyd. The great tithes have been commuted for £767. 14., and the vicarial for £176, and the glebe comprises 6 acres. There is also a rent-charge of £61. 8. 6., payable to the rector of West Grinstead. The church is an ancient structure, partly Norman, and partly in the early and decorated English styles; the interior is neatly arranged, and has been repewed, by which 114 additional sittings have been obtained. A school-house has been erected on a site given by Sir J. M. Lloyd, who also contributed largely towards its erection. Vestiges of a Roman pavement, with some small altars, lavatories, and a great number of coins, have lately been discovered on Lansing Down.

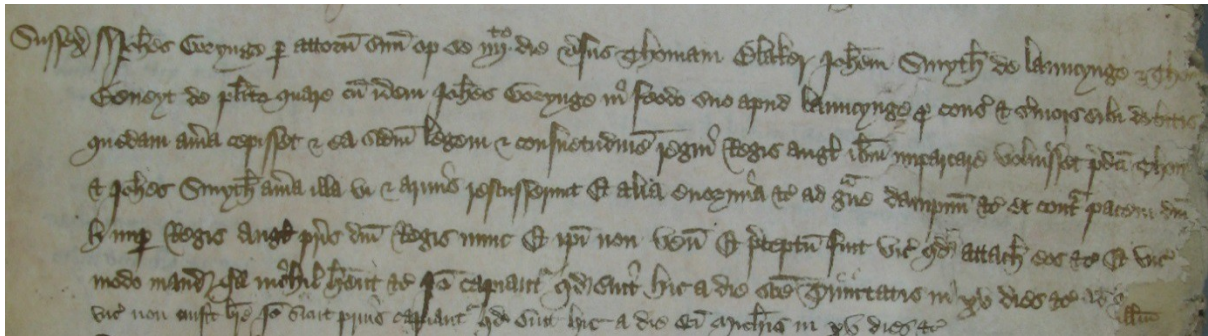
Samuel Lewis Topographical Dictionary of England, 1845



North Lansing, Sussex, 1908

Lansing formed a single separate ancient parish, divided into the manors of North Lansing and South Lansing. The church was and is in North Lansing.

Thomas Blaker, 1413



Source: Public Record Office: CP 40/609 m.144d ¹⁷

Title: *Common Pleas Easter 1 Henry V*

Easter 1413

Westminster

Pl'ita apud Westm^r coram Will'mo Thirnyng & socijs suis Justic' d'ni Reg^s de Banco de T^rmino Pasche anno regni Regis Henrici quinti post conquestum primo

Pleas at Westminster before William Thirnyng and his fellows, justices of the lord king de Banco, for Easter term in the 1st year of the reign of king Henry the fifth after the Conquest

Sussex'

Joh'es Gorynge p' attorn' suu' op se iiii^{to}. die v'sus Thomam Blaker Joh'em Smyth' de Launcynge & Thom' Beneyt de pl'ito quare cu' idem Joh'es Gorynge in feodo suo apud Launcynge p' cons' & s'ruicijs sibi debitis quedam au'ia cepisset & ea s'cdm legem & consuetudine' regni Regis Angl' ib'm imparcare voluisset p'd'ci Thomas & Joh'es Smyth' au'ia illa vi & armis rescusserunt Et alia enormia &c' ad g'ue dampnu' &c' Et cont'a pacem d'ni H nup' Regis Angl' p'ris d'ni Regis nunc Et ip'i non ven' Et p'ceptu' fuit vic' q'd attach' eos &c' Et vic' modo mand' q'd nichil h'ent &c' I'o capiant' q'd sint hic a die s'ce Trinitatis in xv dies' ¹⁸ &c'

¹⁷ http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H5/CP40no609/bCP40no609dorses/IMG_0641.htm
¹⁸ 2 July 1413

Sussex

John Gorynge appeared by his attorney for a fourth day against Thomas Blaker, John Smyth of Launcyng and Thomas Beneyt, in a plea wherefore whereas the same John Gorynge in his fee at Launcyng, for the customs and services due to him, took certain grazing animals and, according to the law and custom of the realm of the king of England, wished to empark them, the aforesaid Thomas and John Smyth rescued those animals by force of arms, and (inflicted) other enormities (upon him) &c. to grave damage &c. and against the peace of lord Henry late king of England, father of the lord now king. And (the defendants) have not come; and it had been ordered the sheriff to attach them &c. And the sheriff now reports that (the defendants) have nothing (in his bailiwick in lands or chattels by which they might be attached) &c. Therefore let (the defendants) be taken, to be here on the quindene of Trinity &c.

The Manorial Documents Register lists only one item pre-1500 for Lancing: at Arundel Castle there is a ‘court book, with other manors (draft, mutilated)’ from 1452.

Bearing in mind the occasions where Blakers have been recorded as Blabers, the poll tax for Lancing has this interesting entry:

Source: The British Academy

Title: *The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381. Part 2. Lincolnshire-Westmorland.* Edited by Carolyn C. Fenwick, 2001, Oxford, 584

1379

Lancing

SUSSEX

Rape of Bramber 1379

Brightford Hundred

E179/189/42/21

Launcyng cum sua decena

Lancing

Willelmus Swyth ux’ 6d

Johannes Blabour ux’ 4d

Robertus Petman ux’ 4d

Willelmus Apslond ux’ 4d

Johannes Peythe ux’ 4d

BLAKERSOF WEST PRESTON

West Preston was a hamlet of the ancient parish of Rustington, and adjoined East Preston, which was a parish in its own right.



Preston near Rustington, Sussex, 1612



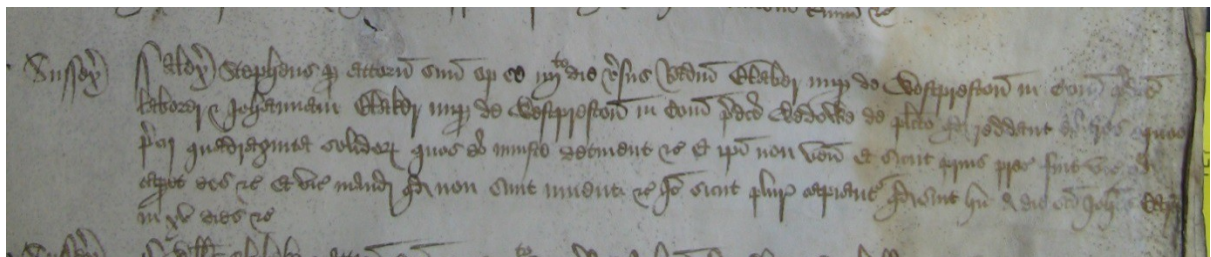
[West] Preston, Sussex, 1793



West Preston and East Preston, Sussex, 1910

Ralph Blaker and Joanna Blaker, 1473

Common Pleas, Trinity 1473: PRO CP 40/847 m.239d:



Sussex'

Alex^r Stephens p attorn' suu' op se iiii^{to} die v^r sus Rad'm Blaber [sic] nup de Westpreston' in Com' p'd'co laborer & Johannam Blaker nup de Westpreston' in Com' p'd'co Wedowe de pl'ito q'd reddant ei tres equos p'cij quadraginta solidor quos ei iniuste detinent &c' Et ip'i non ven' et sicut prius prec' fuit vic' q'd capet eos &c' Et vic' mand' q'd non sunt inuenti &c' I'o sicut plur' capiant' q'd sint hic a die s'ci Joh'is Bapt'e in xv dies 19 &c'

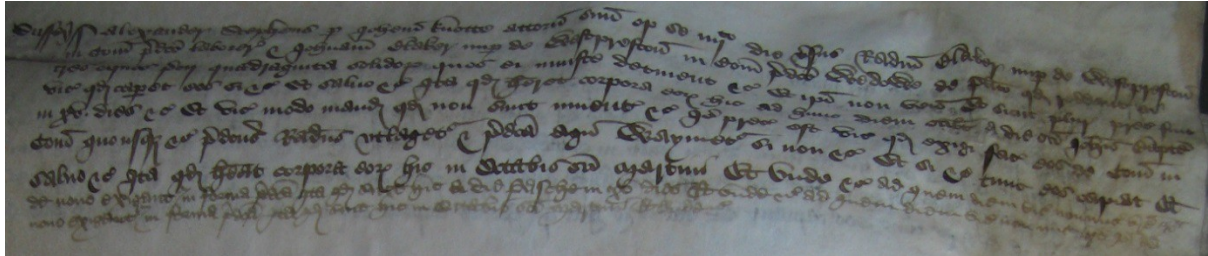
Sussex

Alexander Stephens appeared by his attorney for a fourth day against Ralph Blaber late of Westpreston in the county aforesaid laborer and Johanna Blaker late of Westpreston in the county aforesaid wedowe, in a plea that they render him three horses worth 40s which they unjustly withhold from him &c. And (the defendants) have not come; and, as before, it had been ordered the sheriff to take them &c. And the sheriff reports that (the defendants) are not found &c.

19 8 July 1473

Therefore, as many times, let them be taken, to be here on the quindene of Midsummer &c.

Common Pleas, Trinity 1473: PRO CP 40/847 m.343d:



Sussex'

Alexander Stephens p̄ Joh'em Knotte attorn' suu' op se iiij^{to} die v^rsus Rad'm Blaker nup de Westpreston' in Com' p^rd'co laborer & Joh'nam Blaker nup de Westpreston' in Com' p^rdict' Wedowe de pl'ito q'd reddant ei tres equos p^rcij quadraginta solidos quos ei iniuste detinent &c' Et ip'i non ven' Et sicut plur' prec' fuit vic' q'd capet eos si &c' Et saluo &c' Ita q'd h'eret corpora eor' hic ad hunc diem scil't a die s'ci Joh'is Bapt'e in xv dies ²⁰ &c' Et vic' modo mand' q'd non sunt inuent' &c' I'o prec' est vic' q'd exigi fac' eos de Com' in Com' quousq' &c' p^rd'cus Rad'us vtlaget' & p^rd'ca Agn' [sic] wayuiet' si non &c' Et si &c' tunc eos capiat Et saluo &c' Ita q'd h'eat corpora eor' hic in Octabis s'ci Martini ²¹ Et vnde &c' Ad quem diem vic' non mis' br'e I'o de nouo exigant^r in forma p^rd'ca Ita q'd sint hic a die Pasche in xv dies ²² Et vnde &c' Ad quem diem vic' non mis' br'e I'o de nouo exigant^r in forma p^rd'ca Ita q'd sint hic in octabis s'ci Martini ²³ Et vnde &c'

Sussex

Alexander Stephens appeared by John Knotte his attorney for a fourth day against Ralph Blaker late of Westpreston in the county aforesaid laborer and Johanna Blaker late of Westpreston in the county aforesaid wedowe, in a plea that they render him three horses worth 40s which they unjustly withhold from him &c. And (the defendants) have not come; and, as many times, it had been ordered the sheriff to take them if &c. and safe &c. so that he have their bodies here on this day, namely the quindene of Midsummer &c. And the sheriff now reports that (the defendants) are not found &c. Therefore it is ordered the sheriff to cause them to be exacted from county (court) to county until &c. the aforesaid Ralph be outlawed and the aforesaid Agnes [sic] be waived if they do not (appear) &c. and if (they appear) &c. then he shall take them and safe &c. so that he have their bodies here on the octaves of Martinmas; and wherein &c.

20 8 July 1473

21 18 November 1473

22 24 April 1474

23 18 November 1474

On which day the sheriff did not send the writ. Therefore let them be exacted anew in form aforesaid, so that they be here on the quindene of Easter; and wherein &c. On which day the sheriff did not send the writ. Therefore let them be exacted anew in form aforesaid, so that they be here on the octaves of Martinmas.

The Manorial Documents Register lists nothing earlier for West Preston manor than a court book of 1512 to 1615 and a rental of 1548-9 (Holmes Campbell box 129), at West Sussex Record Office.

BLAKERS of PRESTON EPISCOPI. 1482 to 1591



Preston Episcopi, Sussex, 1612



Preston Episcopi, Sussex, 1793

rectory-house was rebuilt in 1859.

PRESTON (*St. PETER*), a parish, in the union of STEYNING, hundred of PRESTON, rape of LEWES, E. division of SUSSEX, $1\frac{3}{4}$ mile (N. N. W.) from Brighton ; containing 756 inhabitants. The parish comprises 951 acres, of which 261 are common or waste land. The village is pleasantly situated on the London road, near the entrance to Brighton. Ann of Cleves resided at Preston House, which contains her portrait, a good original painting; and from this place she retired to a convent at Falmer, about three miles distant, where she died and was buried. The London and Brighton railway passes through the parish, in which are the cavalry barracks, and the water-works for supplying Brighton. The living is a discharged vicarage, with that of Hove united, valued in the king's books at £20. 2. 11., and in the gift of the Prebendary of Hove in the Cathedral of Chichester. The vicarial tithes have been commuted for £304, with a glebe of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres ; and £13 are paid to the Prebendary. The church is in the early English style, with a square embattled tower: on the eastern wall were discovered, a few years since, some ancient paintings, ascertained to have been of the time of Edward I.

Samuel Lewis, *Topographical Dictionary of England*, 1845



Preston Episcopi, Sussex. 1909

John Blaker

Our earliest record of Blakers at Preston Episcopi is the enrolment together of two wills of 1482 in the Chichester Consistory probate registers²⁴, the first being that of a John Blaker:

Copia test'i Joh'is Blaker de P'ston iux^a Lewes

In Dei no'ie amen septimo die Mensis Octobris Anno d'ni Mill'o ~~quingentimo~~^{quingentimo} CCCCLxxxij
Ego Joh'es Blaker de P'ston compos ment^s & sane memorie existens condo test'm meu' in
hu'c modu' In p'mis lego a'iam mea' Deo o'ipoten' &c' corpusq' meu' sepeliend' in

24 WSRO STC I-2 f.89v

cimiterio eccl'ie s'ci Petri de Preston Ite' lego su'me altari ib'm p dec'is oblit^s xvjd' Ite' fabrici eccl'ie cicestr' viijd' Ite' cuili't filiolor meor^r iiijd' Ite' lego Ric'o filio meo sex boues quos volo sibi delib'ari q'ncu'q' placu'it mat' sue Ite' lego eide' centu' oves tales quales placu'it matri sue eide' delib'ari Ite' volo q vxor mea post decessu' meu' delib'et duob^s filijs & filie fr'is mei Radulphi duentas oves dimediu' eor mat'ces & aliud dimediu' oviu' bidenciu' & cet'or eng² oviu' quas oves p'r eor eis legauit & ecia' cuili't eor vnu' integru' lectu' & vnu' papside' & o'ia alia bona eis legata in cist' & volo q eis deliberent^r p executore' meu' q'n puenint ad l'tiam etate' p put apparebit pleni^s in test'o patris eor Ite' lego dict' eccl'ie de P'ston vs iux^a vlti'am voluntate' p'ris mei Residuu' vero bonor meor^r supius non legator do & lego Agneti vxori mee & Ric'o Scrase seniori quos facio meos executores p p'ntes Ita q disponant ea p saluti a'ie mee pare'tu' fr'm soror amicor meor^r meliori modo quo sciuerint &c'

Copy of the testament of John Blaker of Preston by Lewes

In the name of God amen, the 7th day of the month of October in the year of the Lord 1482: I, John Blaker of Preston, being sound of mind and whole of memory, make my testament in this manner. Firstly, I leave my soul to God Almighty &c. and my body to be buried in the graveyard of the church of St Peter of Preston. Also I leave to the high altar there for tithes forgotten 16d. Also to the fabric of the church of Chichester 8d. Also to each of my little children 4d. Also I leave to Richard my son six oxen that I want to be delivered to him whenever it shall please his mother. Also I leave to the same, 100 ewes such as may please his mother to be delivered to him. Also I wish that my wife after my death shall deliver to the two sons and daughter of my brother Ralph 200 sheep, half ewes, half wethers, and the other sheep which their father bequeathed them, and also to each of them a complete set of bedding and a dish, and all the other goods left to them in the chest; and I will that these things shall be delivered to them by my executor when they shall come to lawful age, as may appear more fully in their father's will. Also I leave to the said church of Preston 5s in accordance with the last will of my father. I give and leave the remainder of my foods not bequeathed above to Agnes my wife and to Richard Scrase senior, whom I make my executors by these presents, so that they dispose of them for the health of my soul, my parents' brothers', sisters (and) my friends as best they know &c.

following which is registered the testament of Walter Knyght:

Copia test'i Walteri Knygh't de P'ston p'dict'

In Dei no'ie amen Anno d'ni M^l CCCClxxxij vij v'o die Me'sis Noue'br' Ego Walterus Knygh't de Preston sane memorie existens condo test'm meu' in hunc modu' In p'mis lego a'iam mea' o'ipoten' deo &c' corpus q' meu' sepeliend' in cimiterio de P'ston Ite' lego su'mo altari ecc^e pro^{lis} de P'ston xijd' Ite' eccl'ie cicestren' vjd' Ite' fabrici eccl'ie de p'ston ~~iiij~~ iij^s iiijd' Ite' volo q vxor mea delib'et dict' ecc^e iij^s quos recepi a Joh'e Hamond in brasio Ite' lumini s'ci Nich'i iij^s quos recepi in stipite ad sustenta'd' dictu' lumen Item iij^s iiijd' quos rec' p xvj li' lane Ite' volo q vxor mea & gard'i d'ce eccl'ie petant a Ric'o Scrase xijd' Ite' de eode' p vna ove morbida xd' Ite' eide' eccl'ie xvjd' q'o rec' a Radulpho blaker s Ide' Radulph^s rec' ab Alicia cony de brightelmeston Residuu' vero bonor do & lego Alicie vxori mee qua' facio mea' execut'ce' & Henric' Est' supvisore' &c'

Copy of the testament of Walter Knyght of Preston aforesaid

In the name of God, amen, in the year of the Lord 1482, on the 7th day of the month of November, I, Walter Knyght of Preston, being of sound memory, make my testament in this manner. Firstly, I leave my soul to Almighty God &c. and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Preston. Also I leave to the high altar of the parish church of Preston 12d. Also to the church of Chichester 6d. Also to the fabric of the church of Preston 3s 4d. Also I will that my wife shall deliver to the said church 3s that I received from John Hamond in malt. Also to the light of St Nicholas 4s that I received in the offering box for the upkeep of the said light. Also 3s 4d that I received for 16 lbs of wool. Also I will that my wife and the wardens of the said church shall get 12d from Richard Scrase: also, from the same, for a fat sheep, 10d. Also to the same church 16d that I received from Ralph Blaker, which the same Ralph received from Alice Cony of Brightelmeston. The rest of my goods I give and leave to Alice my wife, whom I make my executrix, and Henry Est overseer &c.

These two testaments clearly form a pair, both being of men from Preston and both referring to Ralph Blaker and Richard Scrase: whereas the wills in the register immediately before and after appear unrelated and are of much later date (see below). This suggests that they both were only proved or re-registered (as the surviving registers have nothing earlier than 1482) in connection with the proof of some estate in about 1530. Ralph Blaker, Richard Scrase and Henry Est left no surviving will.

These will registers are unusual in that they do not give the matching grants of probate or administration. The dates given in the calendars are therefore the dates of the wills, rather than the date of registration. However, the registers are sequential codices, as opposed to being sheaves of separate copy wills bound together. In consequence, the first six volumes, from 1482 to 1555, ‘overlap considerably, and it is difficult to indicate exactly what years each volume comprises, as they do not run in strictly chronological order’²⁵.

On folios 81 to 100 these wills appear:

1524	John Prat of Byllyngshurst	81	
1525	John Ferybe of Ford, pryste	81v	
1531	Edward Lee of Billingsherst	82v	
1527	Harry Cutts of Lymynster	83	
1530	John Hylle of Byllyngshurst	83v	
1530	John Hawkyngs of Mydhurst	84v	
1530	John Hylle of Byllyngshurst	85v	
1524	Johanna Wise of Westgrenstede		86v
[undated]	Feyth Telyng of Petworth	87	
1521	Thomas at Lee of Burfam	87	
1525	William Cooper of Chichester St Pancras	87v	
1527	Margaret Pyke of Slynfold	87v	
1524	Margarett Hartill of Clympyng		88
1524	John Hawkyng of Mydherst clothier	88	
1522	Simon Perle of Madeherst	88v	
1523	Richard Smart the elder of Egden	89	
1524	John Cooper of Westgrenestede		89
1482	John Blaker of Preston		89v
1482	Walter Knyght of Preston	89v	
1530	William Watersfeld of Rustyton	90	
1531	John Swyfte of Worthyng	90v	

²⁵ Index Library xlix, p. v

1531	Edward Lee of Billyngherst	91v	
1530	John Smyth of Ashyngton	92	
1530	George Rose of Amberle		93
1530	John Jotten of Kyrdford		93v
1528	John Sawkyns of Kyngston	95	
1533	William Gilforde of Bossum	95	
1531	Thomas Weller of Shipley	96	
1530	Richard Till of Almoditon	96v	
1531	Nicolas Gosden of Esborne	97v	
1532	John Andrew of Storington	97v	
1535	Richard Lock of Estangmeryng		99v
1538	Elisabeth Michell of Horsham wydow		100v

This suggests that the two 1482 wills were registered in 1531 or at most a year or two later .

The main function of John Blaker's will is to deal with outstanding bequests that had been left by his (unnamed) father, and his brother Ralph. There is nothing to suggest that either lived anywhere but in Preston. John Blaker was clearly fairly young in 1482: he refers to his *flioli*, little children. We might tentatively place his birthdate around 1450. Since his father left a legacy to Preston church, most likely the father, John and Ralph all farmed in Preston. Certainly, as John makes a bequest to the church for tithes forgotten, he must have had land in the parish. Parishes in this area had extensive rights of common for pasturing sheep on the salt marshes and the Downs. The number of stock owned by John and Ralph shows that they were substantial farmers: but John was not of high enough rank to expect to be buried in the church, rather than the graveyard: in other words, he was a yeoman.

Walter Knyght's will is largely about settling accounts for monies received for the sacred light of St Nicholas in Preston parish church, of which he had doubtless been an overseer, in charge of the *stipes*, offertory box, comparatively recently, such overseers being appointed by houserow annually. His having received an amount from Ralph Blaker that Ralph had in turn received from Alice Cony²⁶ may indicate that Ralph Blaker had been overseer in the previous year: if so, that would show that Ralph was also a householder in Preston.

We can assume that Richard Blaker (son of John) was alive in 1482, as were the (unnamed) two sons of Ralph. For Preston Episcopi, the period of greatest interest is thus before and after 1482. The Manorial Documents Register lists:

1429	bailiff's account	Lambeth Palace Library	ED 919
1429-1430	reeve's account	Lambeth Palace Library	ED 920
1504	court book	West Sussex Record Office	Ep/VI/12/1
1537	court book	West Sussex Record Office	Ep/VI/12/3
1546-1553	2 court books	West Sussex Record Office	Ep/VI/12/4-5
1552	survey	West Sussex Record Office	Ep/VI/2/1 ff.36v- 39
1552	court roll	Gloucestershire Archives	D678/1 M5/3
1552	rental	East Sussex Record Office	BH/P ES/ET/73B

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²⁶ This might have been a legacy: but it would have been too early for any will of Alice to survive in the Lewes or Chichester probate records. She does not appear in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury probate calendars.

In dei nomine Amen vicesimo primo die Mensis Februarij Anno d'ni Mill'ino CCCCLxxx^{mo} sexto Ego Ric'us Scrace senior de Hangleton' Cicestren' dioc' compos mentis & sane memorie videns tamen mortis pic'lm michi imminere condo testamentum meum in hunc modum. In primis lego animam meam deo omnipotenti deo b'te Marie Matri sue et om'ibus s'cis corpusq' meum sepiliend' in eccl'ia poch' sancti Petri de Preston' iuxta Aliciam & Malinam vxores meas defunctas It'm lego Fabrice eiusdem eccl'ie xxs'. It'm lego Fabrice eccl'ie Cath' Cicestren' iijs' iiijd'. It'm lego Altari eccl'ie poch' sancte Helene de Hangleton' p'dict' iijs'.iiij.d'. It'm lego Fabrice eiusdem eccl'ie v.s'. It'm lego Priori & Conuentui Monasterij sancti Pancracij de Lvyā vt orent pro anima mea & Parentum ac Amicor meor xl.s'. It'm do & lego cuil't poch' eccl'ie a Ponte de Bramburgh vsq' ad Pontem Levvie in longitudine & a limite Maris vsq' ad Sagittatu' sub collib^s in latitudine iij.s'.iiij.d'. sinautem j q^{art} ordij ad disposico'em executoris mei. It'm lego duob^s locis fratru' infra Ciuitatem Cic' vj.s'.viij.d'. equalit^r diuidend' It'm do & lego fr'ib^s Arundalie vt orent p anima mea vj.s'.viij.d'. sinautem vj oues matrices. It'm lego domui fr'm de Seale vt orent similit^r iijs' iiijd' It'm lego domui fratru' de Luya vt orent pro anima mea iijs' iiij.d'. It'm lego duab^s domib^s fratrum in Wynchelsee vt orent similiter vjs' viij.d' equalit^r diuidend' It'm do & lego Alicie vxⁱ mee M^l oues Quar prima pars arietes s'cda' pars oues matrices & t'cia pars erunt agni per equales porco'es & ppria bona cum ornamentis du'mo° non clamitet, nec vendicet aliquam dotem de terris & tenement^s meis impost^{um} nec aliqua alia bona sibi in p^rsentib^s non legata It'm do & lego Ric'o filio meo & heredi Hered' & assign' suis om'imod' t'ras & ten' mea in Sussexia & Cancia excepta vna domo cum ptin' in palenta apud Cicestria' & trib^s aliis ten' cum suis ptin' in strata boriali eiusdem Ciuitat^s Cic' que do & lego Alicia filie mee & Heredib^s de corpore suo l'ime p^rcreatis Et volo q'd feoffati mei feoffabunt p'd'cam Aliciam filiam meam in p'dict' ten' vt supra Et si contingat p'd'cam Aliciam decede sine herede de corpore suo l'ime p^rcreat' tunc volo q'd om'ia p'd'ca ten'ta reu'tant^r & remaneant Ric'o filio meo & heredi heredib^s & assign' suis impp'm. It'm do & lego Ric'o filio meo & heredi p'dict' M^lM^l oues quosdam arietes quasdam oues matrices quosdam hoggastros & quosdam Agnellos iuxta quantitaten ouiu' mear It'm do & lego Alicie filie mee p'dict' M^l oues videl't quosdam arietes quasdam oues matrices & quosdam hoggastr' vt supra It'm do & lego seruiantib^s meis CCC oues s'cdm disposico'em executoris int' ipsos diuind'. It'm do & lego cuil't filiolo & filiole meis vt orent pro anima mea iij.s' iiijd' sinautem tres oues matrices p^r disposicione' executoris mei p'd'ci vt sup^a It'm do & lego Andree Scrace cognato meo xx oues mat+r+ices It'm do & lego Johanni Gace filiastro meo xx oues matrices It'm lego Matildi filiastre mee & sorori eiusdem Johannis vj oues matrices. It'm lego Juliane Gurre vj oues matrices. It'm lego Alianore sorori sue iiij oues matrices It'm lego Agneti Gurre Matri eardem iiij oues matrices Residuu' vero o'im bonor meor non legator do & lego Ric'o Scrace filio & heredi meo p'd'co vt exhibeat Capellanu' bene dispositu' ad celebrand' p anima mea parentu' & Antecessor meor ac o'im fideliu' defunctor p q'nq'nniu' quem ordino facio & constutuo executorem meum vt ip'e disponat p anima mea put ei melius videbitur expedire. Hijs testib^s Mag'ro Johanne Clerke pu^{ce} Auct^ae ap'lica Notario ac Rectore eccl'ie poch' de Hangleton' Andrea Scrace Johanne Gace Johanne Rykforth' Thoma Jakes & alijs Et in testimoniu' p'missor Sigillum meum p'sentib^s est appensum Et volo q'd p'd'cus Ric'us Scrace filius heres & executor meus faciat & pimpleat om'ia p'missa in voluntate mea contenta p visum & consiliu' d'ni Thome Atwelle Prioris Monasterij sancti Pancracij de Luya quem facio ordino & constituo Supuisorem p'sent' testamenti mei. It'm volo q'd feoffati mei feoffabunt p'd'cm Ric'm Scrace filium & heredem meum in om'ia illa terras & ten' mea redditus & suicia cum suis ptin' in Com' Sussex' & Cancie sibi & hered' suis imperpetuu'

Testament of Richard Scrace

In the name of God, Amen, the 21st day of the month of February in the year of the Lord 1486, I Richard Scrace senior of Hangleton in the diocese of Chichester, sound of mind and hale of memory, but danger of death threatening me, make my testament in this manner. Firstly, I leave my soul to God Almighty, to Blessed Mary his mother and to all the saints, and my body to be buried in the parish church of St Peter of Preston, next to Alice and Malina my wives deceased. Also, I leave for the fabric of the same church 20s. Also I leave for the fabric of the cathedral church of Chichester 3s 4d. Also I leave to the altar of the parish church of St Helen of Hangleton aforesaid 3s 4d. Also I leave for the fabric of the same church 5s. Also I leave to the prior and convent of the monastery of St Pancras of Luya (Lewes), that they shall pray for me soul and those of my parents and friends, 40s. Also I give and leave to every parish church from Bramburgh (Bramber) bridge to Lewes bridge in length, and from the seashore to a bowshot from the downs in breadth, 3s 4d, or a quarter of barley, at the disposition of my executor. I also leave to the two friaries in the city of Chichester 6s 8d to be divided equally between them. Also I give and leave to the friars of Arundel, that they may pray for my soul, 6s 8d or six ewes. Also I leave to the friary of Seale, that they may pray likewise, 3s 4d. Also I leave to the friary of Lewes, that they may pray for my soul, 3s 4d. Also I leave to the two friaries in Wynchelsea, that they may pray likewise, 6s 8d, to be divided equally between them. Also I give and bequeath to Alice my wife 1000 ewes, of whom the first part shall be rams, the second part ewes and the third part shall be lambs, in equal portions, plus her own goods and ornaments, so long as she shall not claim any dower from my lands and tenements thereafter nor any other goods not bequeathed to her in these presents. Also I give and leave to Richard my son and heir, his heirs and assigns, all manner of lands and tenements of mine in Sussex and Kent, except for one house with appurtenances in the Pallant at Chichester, and three other tenements with their appurtenances in the Northgate of the same city of Chichester, which I give and leave to Alice my daughter and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten; and I will that my feoffees shall enfeof the aforesaid Alice my daughter in the tenements aforesaid as above. And should it happen that the aforesaid Alice die without heir of her body lawfully begotten, then I will that all the aforesaid tenements shall revert and remain to Richard my son and heir, his heirs and assigns, for ever. Also I give and leave to Richard my son and heir aforesaid 2000 sheep, some rams, some ewes, some hoggets and some little lambs, according to the quantity of my sheep. Also I give and leave to Alice my daughter aforesaid 1000 sheep, to wit, somerams, some ewes and sum hoggets, as above. Also I give and leave to my servants 300 sheep to be divided between at the disposition of my executor aforesaid as above. Also I leave to each of my godsons and goddaughters, so that they pray for my soul, 3s 4d or three ewes. at the disposition of my executor aforesaid as above. Also I give and leave to Andrew Scrace my kinsman twenty ewes. Also I give and leave to John Gace my stepson twenty ewes. Also I give and leave to Matilda my stepdaughter, and sister of the same John, six ewes. Also I leave to Juliana Gurre six ewes. Also I leave to Alianora her sister four ewes. Also I leave to Agnes Gurre, mother of the same, four ewes. I give and leave the remainder of all my goods unbequeathed to Richard Scrace my son and heir aforesaid, that he fund a well chosen chaplain to celebrate for my soul and those of my parents and ancestors, and of all the faithful dead, for five years - whom I ordain, make and constitute as my executor, that he dispose for my soul as may seem best to him. These witnesses: master John Clerke, by apostolic authority notary public, and rector of the parish church of Hangleton, Andrew Scrace, John Gace, John Rykforth, Thomas Jakes and others. And in witness of the above my seal is appended to these presents. And I will that the aforesaid Richard Scrace my son, heir and executor, shall do and fulfil all the premises contained in my will by the view and

counsel of sir Thomas Atwelle, prior of the monastery of St Pancras of Lewes, whom I make, ordain and constitute overseer of this my present testament. Also I will that my feoffees shall enfeoff the aforesaid Richard Scrace my son and heir into all those my lands and tenements, rents and services with their appurtenances in counties Sussex and Kent, to him and his heirs, for ever.

Probatum fuit sup^ascriptum testamentum apud Lamhith' vicesimo septimo die Mensis Nouembris Anno d'ni Mill'imo CCCC octuagesimo septimo iuramento Ric'i Scrace et Thome Jakes ac approbat' &c' Et co'missa fuit administracio o'im bonoꝝ &c'. Ric'o Scrace execut' in d'co testamento no'iato de b'n & fidelit' administrando eadem Ac de pleno &c' Inuentario &c' exhibend' cit^a quartum Februarij px' Necnon de plano & fideli comp'o &c'. Reddend' &c' iurat'.

The abovewritten testament was proved at Lambeth on the 27th day of the month of November in the year of the Lord 1487 by the oath of Richard Scrace and Thomas Jakes and approved &c. and administration of all the goods &c. was committed to Richard Scrace the executor named in the said testament, to well and truly administer the same, and to exhibit a full &c. inventory before the 4th of February next, as well as to render a plain and truthful account &c.

There is no mention of any Blaker or Knyght, the associated surnames being Gurre, Gace and Jakes. The 1504 court book for Preston Episcopi, in the episcopal archives at West Sussex Record Office (Ep/VI/12/1) is only two folios, but it has already provided us with a Blaker entry:

Source: West Sussex Record Office: Ep VI/12/1 f.37
Title: *Preston Episcopi Court Roll 20 Henry VII*

25 September 1504

Preston'

Vis' cum Cur' tent' ib'm xxv^{to}. Die mensis Septembr' Anno regni Reg^s Henrici vij^{mi}
vicesimo: & tempe Joh' Cheston' p'po'it' ib'm

Preston

View with court held there on the 25th day of the month of September, in the 20th year of the reign of king Henry VII: and in the time of John Cheston, reeve.

Ad hanc Cur' ven' Agnes ~~Ricketon~~ vxor Henrici Joh'n nup vxor Joh'is Ricketon' & Congnouit se teneri de d'no vnu' Cotagiū' vocat' partriches H'end' sibi & suis Cui^s Dat' e' xx die Marcij Anno rr' E. iiij quarto Et fec' d'no fidel' &c'

At this court came Agnes wife of Henry John late wife of John Ricketon, and acknowledged herself to hold from the lord a cottage called Partriches, to have to her and hers: the date of which is the 20th day of March in the 4th year of the reign of king Edward IV (1464). And did fealty to the lord &c.

Ad hanc ven' Joh'nes Phylpote & Congnoui se teneri de d'no p Cop' vnu' Cotagiu' cu' gardinu' adiacent' h'end' sibi & her' suis Cui' dat' e' xxv^{to} die Aprilis Anno rr' Henr' vij^{mi} xv^{mo}. Et fec' d'no fidel' &c'

To this (court) came John Phylpote and acknowledged himself to hold from the lord by copy a cottage with garden adjoining, to have to him and his heirs, the date of which is the 25th day of April in the 15th year of the reign of Henry VII (1500). And did fealty to the lord &c.

Ad hanc Cur' venit Joh'nes Blaker & Congnoui se teneri de d'no vpu' Mes' nu Will'i Alyes & duas virgat' & di' terre h'end' sibi Agneti vx'i eius & suis Cui' dat' e' xxj^o die Septembr' Anno rr' H. vij xvij^{mo} Et fec' &c'

To this court came John Blaker and acknowledged himself to hold from the lord a messuage late of William Alyes and 2½ virgates of land, to have him, to Agnes his wife, and theirs. The date of which is 21 September 17 Henry VII (1501). And did &c.

So we now have a John Blaker holding a farm in Preston Episcopi, apparently by right of his marriage to Agnes daughter of William Alyes. We know that John was alive in 1524 (see below).

Richard Blaker

At present our next notice of the Blakers at Preston comes in 1512, thirty years after the two wills:²⁸

Source: Public Record Office: C 40/998
Title: *Common Pleas Hilary 3 Henry VIII*

Hilary 1512

Sussex'

Joh'es Prior monast'ij s'ci Pancratij de Lewys p attorn' suu' op se iiij^{to} die v'sus Ric'm Blaker nup de Preston' in Com' p'd'co yoman' de pl'ito q'd reddat ei decem libras quas ei debet & iniuste detinet &c' Et ip'e non ven' Et prec' fuit vic' q'd sum' eum &c' Et vic' modo mand' q'd nichil h'et &c' I'o capiat' q'd sit hic a die Pasche in tres septimanas²⁹ &c' Ad quem diem vic' non mis' br'e I'o sicut prius capiat' q'd sit hic in octabis S'ce Trinitatis³⁰ Ad quem diem vic' non mis' br'e I'o sicut plur' capiat' q'd sit hic in Octabis S'ci Martini³¹ &c'

Sussex

John prior of the monastery of St Pancras of Lewys by his attorney appeared for the fourth day against Richard Blaker late of Preston in the county aforesaid yoman in a plea that he render him £10 which he owes him and unjustly detains &c. And (the defendant) has not come; and it had been ordered the sheriff to summon him &c.; and the sheriff now reports

28 FONS BLAKER 24/1
29 2 May 1512
30 13 June 1512
31 18 November 1512

that (the defendant) has nothing (in lands of chattels by which he might be attached) &c.; therefore let him be taken, to be here in three weeks from Easter &c.; on which day the sheriff did not send the writ; therefore, as before, let him be taken, to be here on the octaves of Trinity; on which day the sheriff did not send the writ &c.; therefore, as many times, let him be taken, to be here on the octaves of Martinmas &c.

The fact that Richard Blaker yeoman is described as ‘late of Preston’ does not indicate that he had removed from the parish: it was a common device in preparing a writ to describe the defendant as ‘late of’ to guard against exception being taken to the wording, it only being necessary to prove that the defendant once resided there. Caley’s *Monasticon Anglicanum*, vol. 5, p. 7 n., lists among the extensive former holdings of the priory in Sussex granted in 1537 to Lord Cromwell, messuages in the parishes of:

Lewes, Southover, Kyngeston juxta Lewes, Wongnam, Hamsay, Newike, Rotyngden, Falmer, Boromer, Peccham, Cheley, Dychenyng, Twynham, Bolney, Slaugham, Chiltyngdon, Herst Perpound, Berwynt, Balneth, Lynfeld, Fletchyng, Horsted Parva, Altyngworth, Portyslade, Aldington, Bryghtehelmeaton, Hove, Imberhorne, Estgrensted, Westhotheley, Horsted Caynes, Langney, Westham, Pevensey, Wyllyngdon, Estborne, Borham, Hethefelde, Soyngden, Sutton, Seeford, NytyMBER, Wantley, Goryng, Pedyngghoo, Cookefeld, Hangylton, Ekyngton, Rype, Bletchyngton, Clayton, Pycomb, Mechyng, Waldern, Balcomb, Erchyngley, Tarring, Preston³², Bedyngton, Berecomb, Berynden, Westmeston, Walland sub Castro, Twynham, Southberwyke, Benhover, Shotenbere, Perchyng, Plumton, Mullescomb, Ballysden, Radmell, Northes, Ludershale, Bygner, Medlers, Compton, Upm’den, Midlavant, Stedham, Weysbett, Tollyngton, Cottys, Ipyng, et Boxgrave in com. Sussex

At the dissolution of the monasteries, various records of the Cluniac priory of St Pancras at Lewes were preserved. The main register found its way to the Cottonian collection, and survived the fire in that library. The collection was purchased by the British Museum, and the register is now (British Library) Cotton Vespasian a xv. The priory cartulary found its way by the 19th century into the hands of one Edward Bysshe esquire.³³ There was also a leiger book, that, according to Bodleian Codex Rawlinsonianus 721 of the 18th century was in the possession of Lord Buckhurst. Many of the charters belonging to the priory survive in various collections, but these are by and large grants to the house in the 12th and 13th centuries.

The Harleian MSS³⁴ (also now in the British Library) include collections from the cartulary (Harleian MS 2044 f. 37). The Bodleian also has (Western MSS 6501(1k) and 6505t) extracts from ‘Lewes priory reg.’ when in the possession of John Selden the antiquary.

Sussex Archaeological Collections vol. xxxv, published in 1887, includes *Additional Materials toward the History of the Priory of St Pancras at Lewes. By Sir G. F. Duckett, Bart.* (pp. 101–126). His interest, however, was almost exclusively in the priory records of

32 but this Preston being listed between Tarring (Tarring Neville) and Bedyngton (Beddingham) suggests that this was East Preston, not Preston Episcopi. Equally, the manor of Preston Episcopi extended into Bryghtehelmeaton (Brighton) and Hove, both listed here.

33 Joseph Hunter’s catalogue of the Dodsworth MSS in the British Museum, 1838, p. 133: item LV includes ‘large extracts, many of the charters being transcribed at large, from the cartulary of the priory of Lewes, in possession of Edward Bysshe, Esq.; f. 57–85’. Additional MS 8930, also now in the British Library is a rental by or for a John Wood of the lands of the priory, made in 1509, but only relating to its lands in Melton Mowbray, Burton, Freeby and Sysonby.

34 Sussex references in the 1759 Harleian calendar were abstracted by L. F. Salzman, and printed in Sussex Record Society vol. iv

the 11th to 14th centuries. He refers to records at Cluny, and also another cartulary, at the Public Record Office (Chapter House Miscellaneous Books B 5/5) containing

‘about 249 original charters, mostly undated, and some of them are very ancient. These are mounted on parchment, and bound up in one large folio volume. We have gone through the series, and find the following some of chief interest’

Generally speaking, antiquarian interest has been upon the early centuries of the priory’s history, and these materials are not late enough to help in the present case. After the dissolution in 1535, accounts of the priory estates in the hands of the Crown were seized and are now preserved in the Public Record Office³⁵ from 21-22 Henry VIII [1529-1531] to 1535, but the modern calendar³⁶ indicates that they cover the lands in Balneath, Falmer, Homewood, Langney, and perhaps Newick, as well as the priory grange. There are also accounts of various priory officials — the granger, hosteler, larderer, master of works, pittancer, proctor, and refectorer. SC 6/HENVIII/3517 is the account of ‘the collector of pensions and portions in Sussex and Surrey’ of 26-27 Henry VIII [1534-1536]: there are two similar rolls for that and the previous year (/3515 and 3516), but only covering the archdeaconry of Chichester, *i.e.* western Sussex. In a separate collection (SC 11) there are two valors (/662 and 850) of the priory’s estates at the dissolution.

After the dissolution Lewes priory estates came into the hands of Thomas lord Cromwell, who was then attainted for treason, and they reverted to the Crown, and so (PRO SC 12/23/6) there remains in the public records a valor of what had been the possessions of Lewes priory.

Among the Davies-Gilbert records now in the East Sussex Record Office there is a ‘particular of lands of which Lewes Priory owned the title of hay and sheaves, with brief abuttals and owners’ names’ of 1509 (GIL/1/4/1 pp 144-145).

1524 and 1525 Lay Subsidy

There are surviving lay subsidy returns for Lewes rape from 1524 and 1525:³⁷

Public Record Office E 179/189/119 - 1524; E 179/189/162 - 1525

Indenture dated 6 April 15 Henry 8 (1524) by Richard Covert Sqvyer, Richard Bellingeham, George Gifford, Nicholas Gaynesford, John Michell, Richard Shelley and Thomas Michell, commissioners. John Bird of Perching’ and John Alcorn, high collectors.

‘Sum of the hoole Subsidie within the Rape of Lewes — cccxij.li. xijs.vjd., whereof payed by anticipation - xij.li.’

Endorsed ‘Per manum Ricardi Covert infrascripti quinto die Julii xvj Regis H. viij.’³⁸

Preston township, parish or hundred does not appear as such, being subsumed in a general entry for Whalesbone hundred, which includes four Blaker householders:

Simon Blaker	assessed at	£3	
John Blaker			£4
Richard Blaker			£2
Nicholas Blaker			£1

35 SC 6/HENVIII

36 PRO Lists & Indexes xxxiv, pp. 152-153

37 Printed Sussex Record Society lvi, 1956, Lewes

38 by the hands of Richard Covert within-written on the 5th day of July in 16th of king Henry VIII [1524].

Richard may, of course, be the Richard son of John Blaker born, say, 1475. We have no indication which of these four were living in Preston. Whalesbone hundred also included Brighton and Hove and West Blatchington.

The Drew Inheritance

As we have seen, something happened around 1531 that impelled the Blakers to tidy up their title in Preston by causing the two wills of 1482 to be belatedly (proved and) registered at Chichester. The dissolution of Lewes priory in 1535 may have been the spur; but, coming to court in 1533, there was a case in the Court of Star Chamber which involved the family, tangentially.

The Court of Star Chamber by Act of 3 Henry VII (cap. 1), 1487, was given authority to ‘punnishe dyvers Mydemeanors³⁹’ — 1. Maintenance; 2. Giving of liveries; 3. Having retainers; 4. Embracery; 5. Misconduct by Sheriffs; 6. Bribery of Jurors; and 7. Riots and Unlawful Assemblies. The case ‘Duffeld v. Drew’⁴⁰ took place in 1533, for which there survive both the original complaint, by Robert Duffeld, and a certificate of the depositions in the case taken at East Grinstead 21 August 1533 and 28 August 1533⁴¹.

The case concerned a dispute as to the ownership of a substantial⁴² farm called Tablehurst⁴³, near Forest Row, in East Grinstead: the justification of bringing it before the Court of Star Chamber appears to have been that the defendants had seized the farm in a riotous manner.

Tablehurst had belonged to a ——— Tablehurst, who had three daughters⁴⁴. One daughter married ‘old’ Thomas Drewe, who bought out her sisters’ shares, and so became sole possessor of the property. The dispute revolved around whether he had then created an entail to his heirs male, or had merely left Tablehurst to his son ‘young’ Thomas. The two parties at loggerheads were Robert Duffeld, who had acquired the farm from John Drewe, claiming by fee tail; and William Hele, who had bought it, 12 September 1532⁴⁵, from ‘young’ Thomas’s grandson Thomas (son of Robert), and who, finding Robert Duffeld in possession, had ejected him with enough violence to justify a Star Chamber action⁴⁶. The ejection had been effected by a writ under the Statute of Northampton (of 1328), by Hele with an under-sheriff, bailiffs, and witnessed by a justice of the peace⁴⁷: this suggests that the writ had been obtained not of novel disseisin in the common law, but by a *qui tam* under statute law, which would in turn have led to the possibility of Duffeld being imprisoned.

39 sic

40 although the demandant was John Drewe (deposition of James Homwode), and the defendant William Hele

41 abstract printed Sussex Record Society xvi pp. 20-27, 1913, London: below, Appendix A.

42 120 acres of arable, 30 acres meadow, 60 acres pasture, 60 acres woodland: Robert Duffeld’s complaint

43 which still exists

44 deposition of Edmund Alfrey gentleman

45 deposition of William Hele

46 William Hele and the bailiffs approached the farm when Robert Duffeld was away: they took possession peaceably until Duffeld’s wife locked herself in a back room with her servant and children. Hele proceeded to batter down the door and, Duffeld claimed, ‘beat her about the face and the head and the body, “so that all her face was arrayd with her blood” and two of her ribs nigh broken, and then and there put out of the house Complainant’s wife and children and took his money and entered into his pastures, and with force drove out “xiiij melche kyn into the Kynges highway where they contenuyd so longe so that the seid kyn were in suche payn for lake of mylkyng that the mylke rane oute of there oddereus and so lyke to be all perishte and also xiiij calffes with the seid kyn.” — Robert Duffeld’s complaint

47 deposition of William Arnold

Robert Duffeld was, in fact, married to one of ‘young’ Thomas Drewe’s daughters, and had previously lived in a house in East Grinstead given to him by his father-in-law⁴⁸. John Drewe had also, 24 March 1533, made him a trustee in a deed to uses of the Tablehurst property⁴⁹.

Duffeld’s case was the stronger: there were many deponents who gave circumstantial evidence that Tablehurst was held in tail male. However, it was also clear that ‘young’ Thomas Drewe, who had succeeded his father ‘old’ Thomas Drewe farming at Tablehurst, desired to pass the farm on to his son Robert Drewe, living with him and farming there, despite the fact that John Drewe, son of ‘young’ Thomas Drewe’s dead elder brother Henry, was alive and was the true heir, John then being ‘not in those parts and but a very young man’⁵⁰. To this end, ‘young’ Thomas granted Tablehurst to trustees to the use of his will, and in his will 31 May 1517⁵¹ gave the farm to Robert, reserving an annuity of 33s 4d to Agnes, Robert’s mother. ‘Young’ Thomas left the farm before his death, moving to East Grinstead village, so that at his death his son Robert was well established as the owner of Tablehurst. Robert Drewe had a son Thomas, who sold Tablehurst to William Hele. Robert Drewe’s widow, Joan, married a James Coole.

The difficulty that Robert Duffeld (and John Drewe who had sold him the farm) had was the fact that they did not possess the original deed of entail which would prove that John Drewe was heir to the farm. William Hele, asserting the right *viâ* Robert son of ‘young’ Thomas Drewe, claimed that the lands had passed without entail to ‘young’ Thomas Drewe: but the commissioners noted that, on being pressed, Hele ‘thereof shewed no deed nor would not nor shewed not whether Robert Drewe and other were seised to the use of the said Thomas, sonne of Thomas in fee or in fee taylor otherwise’. Several items of evidence suggested that James Coole (on Hele’s side) actually possessed the original deed, which the Heles were suppressing because it would destroy their claim to title.

The Blakers of Preston become involved because they were thought to have possessed the deed of entail at one stage. This involvement could have been as early as 1472, because it was 12 April, 12 Edward IV (1472) that [‘old’] Thomas Drewe and three trustees enfeoffed Thomas Wildgoose, John Homwode and William Homwode in possession of Tablehurst, in trust.⁵² James Homwode, who was born about 1461, deposed that the trustees in 1472 were John Homwode ‘and divers others’: that of these trustees John Homwode was the last survivor, and as the trust had never been wound up, on John Homwode’s death his son and heir William Homwode inherited the responsibility. William Homwode made a new deed of trust granting Tablehurst to ‘Robert Drewe and other’ to the use of ‘young’ Thomas Drewe⁵³. William Homwode’s status as trustee precluded him introducing or abolishing an entail on the property.

Blaker involvement therefore stemmed either from the trust set up in 1472, or from the more recent deed, as ‘the other’ in ‘Robert Drewe and other’. In 1553 Robert Harman, aged 40, deposed:

that one John Blaker the younger, son of Blaker of Preston, shewed him that his father had delivered a deed of entail of the said lands to Sir Edward Bray, Knight, and the same Sir Edward afterwards delivered the said deed to one James Coole, which had married the widow of Robert Drewe, one of the sons of Thomas Drewe.

48 deposition of John Payne

49 deposition of Robert Duffeld

50 deposition of Edmund Alfrey

51 produced at the hearing: too early to survive in Lewes Archdeaconry: not in Chichester Consistory.

52 deposition of William Hele

53 presumably before 1517, when ‘young’ Thomas made his will

Similarly, William Arnold, aged 60,

deposes that he has heard one Blaker of Preston, now deceased, say that he held a deed of entail in his custody of Tabilherst lands, which deed he delivered to Sir Edward Bray, Knight, supposing it concerned lands which he, Blaker, sold to Sir Edward.

Neither Robert Harman (born about 1513) nor William Arnold (born about 1493) seems to have known this Blaker's christian name, although Blaker's son is referred to as John Blaker *junior*. It is not even clear whether John Blaker junior was still alive in 1553: he certainly did not testify.

When the deed was drawn up in 1472, a copy would have remained with the Drewes, and a copy with at least one of the trustees. It could not be foreseen that, of those trustees, John Homwode would prove to live longest. Presumably Blaker's copy came from one of the trustees, John Homwode, William Homwode or Thomas Wildgoose.

There is no surviving will for William Homwode or Thomas Wildgoose before 1553 at Lewes, but:

Homwood, John, East Grinstead 15 May 1543 Book A I 14⁵⁴

John Homwode's heir and executor was his son Edward, John Crips being appointed overseer. There is no mention of the trust.

There may have been earlier entail of the Tablehurst estates than that of 1472. Robert Duffeld claimed that 'old' Thomas Drewe's right came 'by force of old entails thereof made to his ancestors'. Blaker's deed passed *via* sir Edward Bray to James Coole: but Coole had other evidences. The Drewes had consulted a Mr Richard Lewkenor of Bramblety (near Forest Row) about the title to Tablehurst⁵⁵: a batch of 36 'peces of evidence' had been acquired by Lewkenor's servant Oliver⁵⁶, whose daughter Alice then had them, and Alice's husband John Malle took them to James Coole, who kept them for a fortnight before returning 32, but 'kept three, and a rental concerning the said land.' Coole's wife Joan⁵⁷ boasted that "she had in her keeping that thing that would help" John Drewe the plaintiff "to his land, but rather than he should have it she would burn it".

— **Blaker of Preston**

So — Blaker of Preston had sold lands to sir Edward Bray, not at Tablehurst, but imagined that Bray ought to have the Tablehurst document. Percy C. Mundy, the editor of the abstracts, stated in a note (in 1913):

From a rental of the manor of Preston, undated, but apparently not later than 1550, in the possession of Mrs. Thomas-Stanford, the lady of the manor, it appears that Richard Elryngton acquired from Sir Edward Bray, Knt., by deed dated 10 May 1544 (*inter alia*), a freehold messuage or tenement called Blakers in Bishop's Preston.

1544 Lay Subsidy

54 Appendix C

55 deposition of William Arnold

56 deposition of John Malle

57 deposition of Thomas Brown

So we know that a [John?] Blaker of Preston had sold a freehold in Preston Episcopi (possibly well) before 1544, and that he had a son John Blaker junior, possibly still alive in 1553. The lay subsidy for 34-35 Henry VIII, 1543/4 lists three Blaker householders in Preston and Hove:

E 179/190/192 or 193 or 195⁵⁸

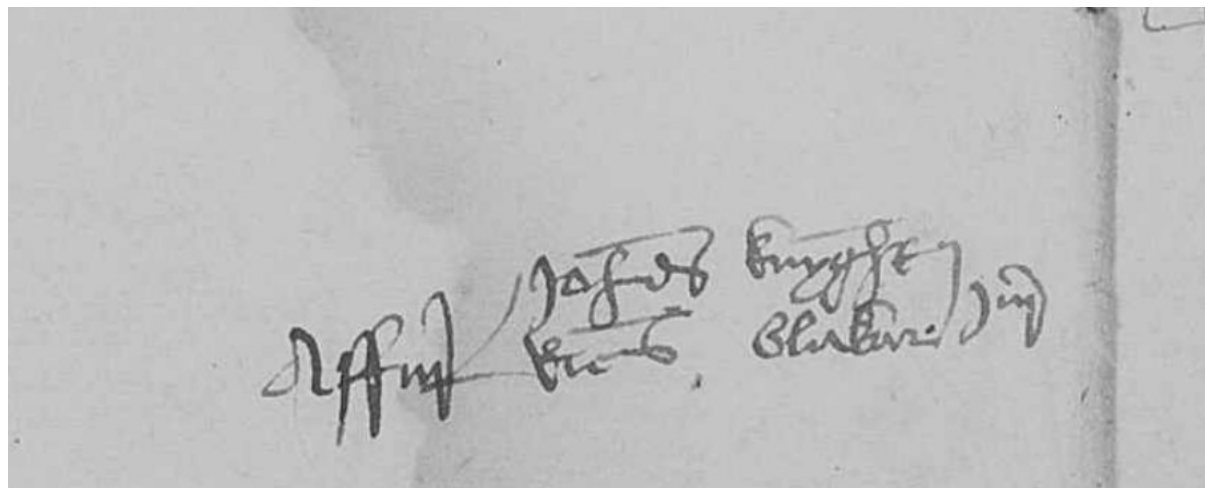
Townships of Preston and Hove.

Richard Blaker senior in goodes	£5	3/4 ^d
Richard Blaker in goodes	26/8 ^d	2 ^d
Edward Blaker in goodes	£20	13 ^s 4 ^d

It is striking that for all three their wealth was in goods rather than land, suggesting that none was a freeholder, and therefore might be traceable in rentals of copyhold records. The absence of John Blaker ‘junior’ suggests that he was in fact dead by 1553, and so his evidence concerning the missing deed of entail could therefore not be delivered in person but through the testimonies of Robert Harman and William Arnold.

Richard Blaker of Preston, 1537, 1559

The 1537 Preston manor court roll (Ep VI/12/1 ff.13-14) is a slight affair, with few entries for the view of frankpledge held 1 October 29 Henry VIII. However, the tenants signing off the entries were John Knyght and Richard Blakar:



The will of Richard Blaker of Preston Episcopi⁵⁹, made in January 1559 was proved in the following April, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. He was clearly not very old: his father Richard was alive, and his eldest son George was under age. There is, in addition, a George Blaker (Richard’s brother) who was a witness of the will. There is no mention of

⁵⁸ from *Renshaw*, app. I: it would be desirable to see the originals, to see whether these entries adjoin one another, who appear beside them in the return, and what the total assessment was for Preston and Hove.

⁵⁹ Appendix B

John Blaker junior as above, so we doubtless have two separate strands of the family living in Preston Episcopi, just as there were in 1482.

Richard Blaker left his body to be buried in Preston churchyard. Preston burial registers survive from 1539 onwards, from Thomas Cromwell's first order instituting registers of baptisms, marriages and burials in every parish: but marriages before 1544 and baptisms before 1551 are lost. In 1597 an order was made that all the entries up to that date must be in a parchment, rather than paper, book: and the entries from 1538 to 1597 appear to be a transcript in one hand, on parchment, from a lost paper original, accordingly.

On 2 June 1531⁶⁰ the parish of Hove was annexed to Preston, and they remained united until 1878.⁶¹ Two separate registers were kept, that for Hove generally being fuller and better kept. Richard Blaker and Jane his wife were buried shortly after the making of his will, with consecutive entries in the Preston registers:⁶²

Richard Blaker was buryed the xviii of Feb^{ry} [1558⁶³].
Jane Blaker was buryed the xviiith of March 1558.

Richard Blaker appointed his son George and his wife Jane his executors: Jane, dying only a month after Richard, never took upon herself the executorship of the will; and George the son was under age. In fact, it is extraordinary that he should have been appointed, as he was an infant, having been baptized at Preston less than two years before.⁶⁴

George the sonne of Richarde Blaker was bapt. the 17th daye of September Anno Dni 1557.

After mention of George in the will, Richard continues:

Item yt is my will' that Jane my wif haue the vse and occupying of my howse and land wyth' the Appurten^{ancs} vnto suche tyme as my heire co'me to the age of Twentye yeres / yf she kepe her wydowehod And yf she do mary then' yt is my will' that she haue the said howse and land w^t the appurten^{ancs} the space and terme of vj yeres next after her maryage keping the said howses and land wythe the Appurten^{ancs} in sufficient Reapac'on and to leve the ground sowen'

as if he considered the baby George to be his heir rather than his older son Richard: which would be correct if, as seems likely, his land was copyhold of the manor of Preston Episcopi, in which inheritance was by the custom of Borough English, first to the youngest son.

Richard Blaker (ob. 1559) was clearly a farmer, with 'my howse and land', to be inherited by his son Richard, then under the age of 20, and so born in the period 1539–1559 and probably before 1551, when Preston baptism registers start. He had some cattle and sheep, and also a malt quern and malting vat, so doubtless grew grain.

Peter Hunt

Although George the brother and Richard Richard's father had been appointed overseers, neither stepped in to deal with the probate: in fact, a certain Peter Hunt proved the

60 Chichester Register, Story pt. Shirborne, fo. 59

61 A transcript by Ernest Fredk. Salmon of the parish registers of Hove and Preston, 1538 to 1812, published by subscription in 1912.

62 volume 1, page 15: page 55 of the printed transcript. *Pace* Renshaw, who states Richard was buried at Hove.

63 Old Style

64 volume 1, page 1: page 38 of the printed transcript

will in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, *i.e.* in London, in April 1559. Telscombe, the only other place mentioned, is only six miles east of Preston Episcopi: no hint of property in another diocese.

There is nothing in Richard's will to indicate why probate should have been taken in the Prerogative Court, nor Peter's relationship, if any, to the family. Hunts are not found in Preston or Hove parish registers; equally, his own will is not found in the Prerogative Court, nor at Lewes. However, there is one Peter Hunt in the Chichester Consistory files:⁶⁵

[Hunt,] Peter, Shepley (Orig.⁶⁶ D. 45 & I. 33) 1574⁶⁷

Shipley is about 10 miles northwest of Preston Episcopi. These are the original will (D 45) and an attested copy (I 33), from which the following is a transcript:

In the name of god Amen The xxjⁱⁱ daie of Maye in the yeere of our Lorde god a thousand fyve hundred Seventie foure And in the ~~Seventeen~~ +Sixteene+ yeere of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Ladie Elizabeth by the grace of god Quene of Englande Fraunce and Irelande Defender of the faith &c' **I Peter Hunt** of Shipley in the dioc' of Chichester within the Countie of Sussex yeoman beinge sycke of bodie but of good memorie (thanks vntoo god therefore doo make this my last will and Testament in man^r and forme folowinge And Fyrste I bequethe my soule vnto Almightye god my maker, Hopinge, that for my saviour Jesus Christe's sake through his meryt^s that he will accepte ytt amonge his electyd in the Kyngdome of Heaven Item I will that my bodie shalbee buried in that paryshe where so euer yt shalle please almightye god to caule mee oute of this transitorye Lyef at the Discretyon of myne Execcutors and then I will there shalbee gyven, too the most poore of that parishe equally amongiste theym te'ne shilling^s in money by my said Eexecuto^s Item I will to the mother churche of Chichester iiij^d **And** I give and bequethe to Marie my wyfe threescore pound^s of Lawfull Englishe money too be paied to her vpon condytion and in man^r and forme folowinge in Recompense of all Jointers & dowers, which she might claime in all or any pt of my Land^s after my decease, And vpon condytion that shee shall Release all her right and Tytle thereof too my sonne, and Heyre beefore shee shall Receyve any pte of the said threescore poundes And I will then twentie pound^s pcell of y^e saied Lx^{li} shalbe paied too her wythin +one+ moneth next after the saied Release so too be made, Item I will that fortie pound^s residewe of the saied threescore pound^s shallbe paied too her wythin one yeere next after my decease And I will that my saied Wief shall haue my beste bedd excepte one wythe a Coverlett, a Blankett and bolster. **Item** I giue vntoo Arthur Hunt my sonne tenne pound^s of Lawfull money a fether bedd, a bolster, a paire of sheet^s, a coverlett and a blankett too be paied and delyueryd vntoo him when as hee shall accomplyshe thage of twentie one yeeres i'mediatly **Item** I giue vntoo Mary Hvnt my doughter tenne pound^s of Lawfull Englishe money too be paied too her at the daie of her mariage yf shee shall happen to bee marryed before shee shall accomplyshe thage of xxjⁱⁱ yeeres or els yf she shall not happen too be marryed beefore that age: Then I will that shee shall haue the saied x li' delyu^red her i'mediatly when shee shalbe xxjⁱⁱ yeer^s of age t vse ytt after her pleasure too her owne behoufe **Item** I will that yf the saiede Arthur or Marie happen too dye beefore any of there saied Legacies shalbee too him or her due by y^s my Last will: Then my verie will ys That hee or shee whiche shall over Lyve thother too haue y^e portion of him or her so Dyinge togyther wythe the Legacie too him or her by this wyll gyven at the tyme aboue lymitted for the receipte thereof **Item** I will that yf my sonne Arthur and my saied doughter Marie happen to

65 Index Library xlix p. 196

66 original will

67 no registered copy will

die before any of theym maye by this my will and Testame't enyoie the same legacie or legacies Then I will that Jesper Hvnt my eldeste son shall haue the portion and portions hereby wylled too the saied Arthur and Marie or any of theym Whiche they or either of theym myght not or oughte not too receyve by force of his or her death or of the deathes of both of theym so dyinge **Item** I will that for thadvoydinge of Reproche too any whiche shall deale wyth my goodes and cattals after my decease and cheifly too my Executors by force of this my will and Testame't There shalbe as p^rfytt an Inventory made of all my saied goodes and cattls after my deceasse as my good Neighbours Edwarde Penfolde Thom^as Weller of Lytle hurste Thomas a deane Bocher and Edwarde Haler Smyth' can devise and make Whom I desyre too prayse the same goodes and Cattelles after their good conscyenc^s as they ar worth beefore anie of the same shall be demyneshed by my Executors or any other, And I will the same bee putt in Wrytinge Indentyd vnder there names and Seales, Thone p^rte of w^{ch} wryttinge Indentyd I wyll to remayne wyth my Executors, And thother p^rte thereof Wyth the saied Thomas Weller too bee kept vntyll Jesp Hvnt my saied sonne shall com' vnto his age of xxjⁱⁱ yeeres. **Item** I do devyse and make my cosen John Atlee and my brother George Arnolde too bee Executo's of this my last will and Testament And I giue too either of theym xxs' for their paynes over and besyd^s their necessary charges and expenses Whiche they shall sustayne in and a bouts th execution of this my last will and Testame't **The** residew of all my chattell^s not beequethed my debt^s paied and Legacies p^rformed I geve and bequeth to my saied sonne Jasp Hvnt desyringe almyghtie god too blesse him, and his brother & syster tpo his honor in this worlde and with Hevenly blessynge in his hevenly Kyngdome after his mortall Lief **And** I desyre my saied Frende Thomas Weller too deliu' or cause the same p^rte of the saied Inventory of my goods and cattells too my saied sonne Jasp Hvnt i'mediatly when as hee shall come too his age of xxjⁱⁱ yeer^s Witnesses hereof John Apsley esquier Joh'n Gratwyke and James Arnolde

Probatum fuit h'moi Testamentum coram mag'ro Henrico [Worley] Legum doctor official Principal Curie Cons' ep'al' Cicesterⁿ' legum d'. l'time deputat' in Eccl'ia Cathedral' Cicesterⁿ' secundo die mens^s Octobris a'no d'ni Mill'mo quinquag^o Septuagesimo quarto [ac p nos] appbatum et insinuatum pro veroq' valore eiusd'm l'time pronu'ciatum Comissaq' p Nos admistraco^{em} omn' et sing'lor' bonor et debitor dict' defuncti et eius Testame'tum concernen' Executorib^s in h'moi Testame'to no'iat^s et fidel'r admistrand' eadem [et] soluend' debita et legata ip'ius defunct' Necnon de fidei comp'ti Calcul..... p'miss's inde reddend' ad S'ta dei evang'l' inde in debita iuris forma iurat' &c' saluo iure cuiuscu'q'. Dat' sub sigillo n'ro die mens^s et an' d'ni supradictis

Henricus Worley

This testament was proved before master Henry Worley, Ll.D., legally appointed principal official of the Episcopal Consistory Court of Chichester, in the cathedral church of Chichester on the 2nd day of the month of October in the year of the Lord 1574, and by us approved and registered and lawfully pronounced as to the true value of the same; and administration of all and singular the goods and debts of the said deceased and relating to the same testament was granted by us to the executors named in this testament, to faithfully administer the same and to pay the debts and legacies of the said deceased, as well to render a faithful account of the premises, sworn upon the Holy Gospels in due form of law; saving the right of whomsoever &c. Given under our seal the day, month and year of the Lord abovesaid

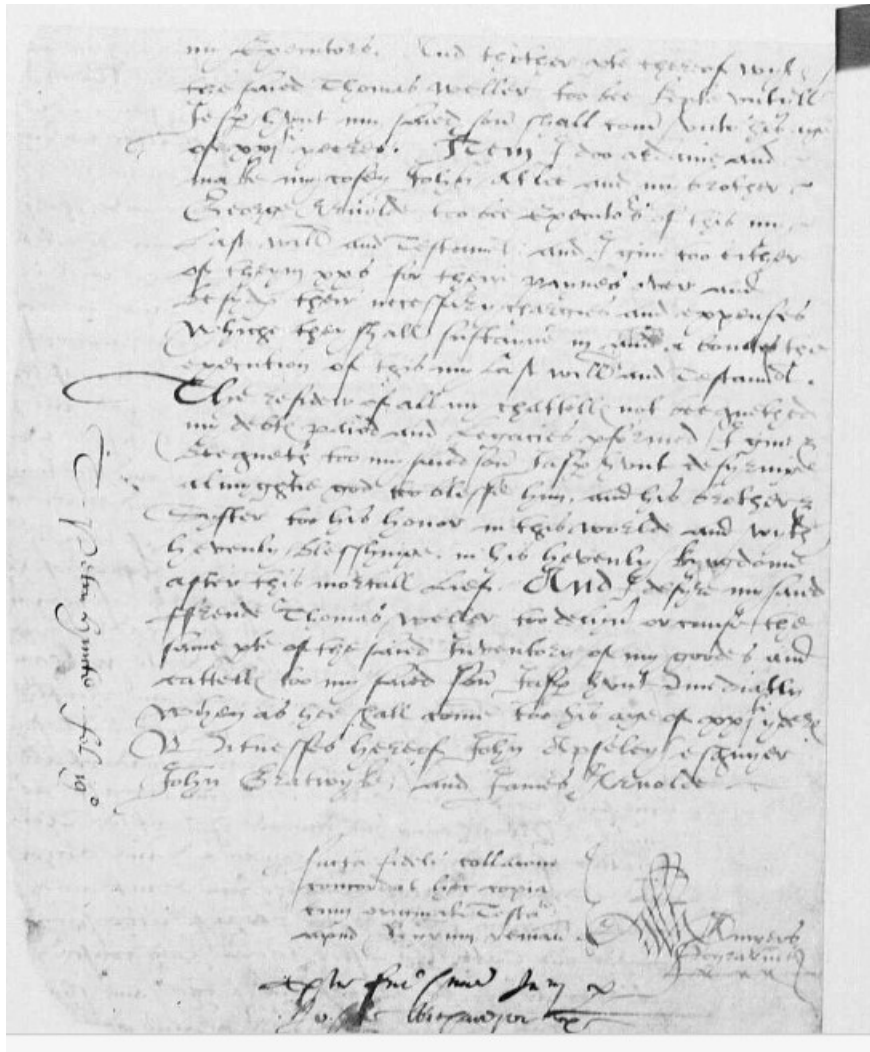
Henry Worley

The original will:

In the name of god amen

[The page contains dense, handwritten text in a historical script, likely Latin or a related language. The text is arranged in several columns and is heavily faded and stained, making it difficult to read. At the top, there are some marginal notes and a small table or list of names. At the bottom right, there is a signature or name: (C. M. C. M. C.)

The attested copy:



Peter Hunt of Shipley made his will in 1574 and died the same year, leaving a wife, Mary, and three children, Jasper, Arthur and Mary, all minors. There is nothing in the will to indicate any connection with the Blakers. Peter refers to his brother-in-law George Arnold and his cousin John Atlee.

Agnes Bartlett

The other children mentioned are two daughters Alice (elder and younger) and Joan: Alice the elder had been given 'all suche goodes as was gyven' to her by her godmother of *Bryghthelmeston* as doeth' appeare by the *Inuentary therof*'. The godmother's surname is not given, but the fact that there was an inventory suggests that her will had been proved or administration granted, and probably within the previous ten years. In Lewes Archdeaconry we find the will of Agnes Bartlett of Brighton, with administration by Richard Blaker of Preston her 'cognate' 23 May 1557 [Book A 3. 250]:

Bryghthelmston

Ado bonor Agnetis Bartlett concessa e' Rich'o Blaker de Preston ei's cognato / Sm^a In'ij ls' ijd'

Georgius Blaker de Preston & Simon Kydder de Marsfeld fideiuss

Ex^r in R'coria de Marsfeld 23^o die Maij A^o d'ni 1557 / p exec' ad valore' eiusd'm iur'

Bryghthelmston

Administration of the goods of Agnes Bartlett is granted to Richard Blaker of Preston her cognate. Sum of the inventory 50s 2d. George Blaker of Preston and Simon Kydder of Marsfeld sureties.

Exhibited in the rectory of Marsfeld the 23rd day of May in the year of the Lord 1557, by the executor, sworn to the value of the same.

‘Cognate’ is sometimes used with the meaning of a blood relative through one’s mother, as opposed to ‘agnate’, a blood relative through one’s father, though both terms can be used loosely for a kinsman. If the term is used strictly here, we would expect Agnes Bartlett’s mother to have been related by blood to Richard Blaker. No indication is given whether Agnes was spinster or widow. Brighton burial registers survive no earlier than 1587.

A Richard Bartlett was buried at Preston Episcopi in 1551.⁶⁸

Richard Bartlet was buried the second day of Februarie anno prd 1550.⁶⁹

There is no will for this Richard Bartlett at Lewes, Chichester, or in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

Richard Blaker’s family

Richard Blaker the testator appears to have married twice. The first wedding is recorded in Preston Episcopi parish registers for 1543⁷⁰:

Richard Blaker was married to Katherin Buckwell ultimo Septembris anno supra scripto⁷¹

The baptism registers survive no earlier than 26 October 1551, so we may be missing the first issue of this marriage. Certainly Katherine was buried in February 1553⁷²:

Katherine Blaker was buryed the 8 of Feb^y eod.⁷³

Richard remarried later in the year⁷⁴:

Richard Blaker and Joanne Oustine were married the xth of Oct. A^o Dni 1553 regni Mariae p^{mo}

The baptism registers survive from 1551, but the earliest years are poorly kept and in part illegible. There follow these entries:

Mary Blaker bapt. the ⁷⁵ ⁷⁶

68 volume 1 page 14: page 54 of the printed transcript

69 Old Style

70 in fact, the first surviving marriage entry in the registers: volume 1, page 10: page 49 of the printed transcript

71 25 Henry VIII

72 volume 1 page 14: page 54 of the printed transcript

73 Ao 1552, *i.e.* 1553 New Style

74 volume 1, page 10: page 49 of the printed transcript

75 remainder missing: some time between 5 May [1553?] and some date in 1554

76 volume 1, page 1: page 37 of the printed transcript

George the sonne of Richarde Blaker was bapt. the 17th daye of September Anno Dni 1557. ⁷⁷

Mary may not have been a child of Richard: she does not appear in his will: equally, we have no evidence that she died in infancy, as she does not appear, as such, in the Preston Episcopi burial registers, nor in the marriage registers of either Preston or Hove.

One of the Alice Blakers was buried at Preston:

Alice Blacker was buried xxjth day of Aprill Anno Domini 1565. ⁷⁸

Katherine(Buckwell) Blaker

We have to assume that the son Richard and the daughters Alice, Alice and Joan were children of Katherine (Buckwell). The surname Buckwell, Buckell, Buckoll, Bukoll or Buckle appears 26 times in the printed Preston and Hove parish registers. There is no Buckwell &c. of Preston will in Lewes Archdeaconry during the time of Katherine's marriage, 1543 to 1553 but there is:

Buckhold, Elizabeth, Beddingham, widow [will] 21 March 1552[/3] proved 23 May 1553
Book A 3 82

which refers to the Blakers:

Bedyngham'

In the name of god amen The xxj day of the monyth of marche, the yere of our Lorde god. M^o v^{co}. lij^o. & in the yere of the Reigne of our sou'aigne Lorde Edward the Sexte by the grace of god Kynge of England, Fraunce, & Ireland, Defender of the Fayth & of the churche of England & also of Ireland in earthe the sup^rme headde the vijth79 / I Elyzabeth Buckhold of the pyshe of Beddingham' in the Countie of Sussex Wedowe of good & pfytt remembraunce, but onely seke in my bodye thank^s be to allmyghtie god, make & ordeyn this my last Wyll & Testam^t in man^r & Forme as her aft^r dothe Folowe, Fyrst I gyve & bequeth my Sowlle to allmyghtie god my onely creator & redem^r, And my bodye to be buryed in the churche yarde off Bedyngham' before sayd / Also I bequeth to the poore men's boxe of the same pyshe ijd' Also I bequeth to Androwe my Sonne ij yard^s & a halffe of Carsey, iiij Busshell^s of wheatt, a payr of shett^s, ij kerchyff^s, one calffe, ij busshell^s of malte ij wethers & ij pounce of wooll'e / Also I bequeth to Roberte my Sonne ij busshell^s of wheatt, also I bequeth to Joh'n Bonyface my sonne in Lawe ij bushell^s of wheatt & I Forgyve hym all suche dett^s as he dothe owe to me at this p^rsente / Also I bequeth to Jone Bonyface my goddowghter a hempyn shete / Also I bequeth to Richard Blaker ij busshell^s off wheatte to be delyu^red at next harvest Also I bequeth to Wyll'm Gaytt^s viij pound of Woolle & iiij busshell^s of wheat / Also I bequeth to Isbell Gaytt^s my dowghter my best gowne / a payr of shett^s a Smocke & a Kerchyffe / Also I bequeth to Jane Buckhold one smocke Also I bequeth Isbell Barber my god dowghter – iiiijd' / Also I wyll that my executor shall requyre & take of Richard Blaker – xs' that he owth me / Also I bequeth to eu^ry one of Robert Buckehold^s Chyldren, John Bonyface chyldren & Richard Blacker's chyldren, and to Wyll'm Gaytt^s chyldren – iijd' The Resydwe of all my good^s vnbequeathed, my dett^s payd & my Legacyes Fulfyllyd I gyve & bequeth to Joh'n my Sonne / whom I make & ordeyn my hole executor of this my Last Wyll & Testam^t to haue

77 volume 1, page 1: page 38 of the printed transcript

78 volume 1, page 15: page 55 of the printed transcript

79 21 March 1553

and dyspose the same as shall seame to hym moost best to be done to the pleasure of
allmyghtie god & to his sowlle health / Theyse beinge Wyttnesses, s̄ Joh'n Reder vicar ther /
Joh'n Goodwyn / Jamys Cudnar / Androwe Buckhold & Joh'n Buckhold

Sm^a In^{rij} — vij^{li} xjs' iiijd'
exhibitu' in R'coria b'te marie de Westaut in villa Lewes in villa Lewes xxiiij^o die maij A^o
d'ni 1553 p̄ exec' ad valore' In^{rij} in forma iuris iurat'

Sum of the inventory — £7 11s 4d
Exhibited in the rectory of Blessed Mary of Westaut in the town of Lewes the 23rd day of
May in the year of the Lord 1553, by the executor, sworn in form of law to the value of the
inventory.

Elizabeth Buckwell made her will in March 1553, just after Katherine's death. Richard
Blaker owed Elizabeth 10 shillings, which she instructed her executor to recover:

Also I wyll that my executor shall requyre & take of Richard Blaker – xs' that he owth me

Equally, she made this bequest to him:

I bequeth to Richard Blaker ij busshell^s off wheatte to be delyu^ded at next harvest

and his children are included in a general bequest to, presumably, grandchildren:

Also I bequeth to eu^ry one of Robert Buckehold^s Chyldren, John Bonyface chyldren &
Richard Blacker's chyldren, and to Wyll'm Gaytt^s chyldren – iijd'

Robert Buckwell and Andrew Buckwell are identified in the body of the will as her sons, and
John Boniface as her son-in-law, and Isabella Gates (presumably William Gates' wife) as her
daughter.

Beddingham is about 7 miles east of Preston, and evidently her son Robert had also
settled in Preston, for his will appears in the Lewes Archdeaconry archives:

Buckhole, Robert, Preston [will] 18 Dec 1578 [proved] 19 Mar 1578[/9] Book A 7 93, B 1 72

but he only mentions his sons George and James:

Buckhole
Robert

In the name of god amen / the xviiijth date of December An^o d'ni 1578 I Robert Buckhole of
Preston, beinge sycke in body but (god be thanked) of p̄fect mind and memory / doe make this
my last will and Testament in mann^r and forme followinge viz' / First I bequeth my soule vnto
almighty god my maker and redem^r, and my bodie to be buried in the Church yard of
Preston': Item I geve and bequeth vnto George Buckhole my sonne, three score sheepe,
wherof forty are at Patcham and tenn weathers, tenne Ewes a pied heffer, a payre of quarne
stones to grind mault, a brasse pot, a newe cawdren' three pewter platters, three pewter
dishes a sawcer a candlesticke a salt seller, a kettell a possnet, a chaffingdisge three
chesse, tenne payre of sheet^s, a cou^rlet a payre of blanket^s, ij table clothes ij table napkins, a
fether bolster, a pillowe, twenty shilling^s toward^s the bynge of a bed, a payre of cart wheeles,

a courbe for awell, Timber to fyll the syde and heade of his barne and bourd^s to close it, and half my wood that is standinge at Albourne / also my Wife's best cassock savinge one / Item wheras my wif did geve to Margret Wooden' my maide twenty shilling^s and a payre of sheet^s / I will that she +have+ the same / And I geve her more forty shilling^s and ij payre of sheet^s . Item I geve to eu'y one of my godchildren' xijd' apece / Ite' I will that George my sonne shall have half my ground that I have by lease at Albourne duringe the whole yeres payinge half the rent^s / Item the Resadewe of all my good^s & debt^s moueable and vnmoueable I geve and bequeth vnto James Buckhole my sonne, whome I mak my whole executor of this my last will and Testament to fullfill yt to the true intent therof / and I make my overseres of this my last will and Testament / George Kelner vicar of Preston' & Edward Kempt Witnesses to this my will George Kelner Edward Kempt Richard Tester wth others

Probatu' fuit hoc Testamentu' cora' me Will'mo Coell Commissario &c' xix^o die Marcij ano d'ni 1578

[This testament was proved before me, William Coell, commissary &c., the 19th day of March in the year of the Lord 1578] ⁸⁰

Preston burial registers are reasonably well kept up to 21 May 1578, but there is then a gap, culminating in the death of the vicar — witness and overseer of Robert's will — buried there 12 January 1579:⁸¹

George Kylner, Vicar, was buried the xiith of Jan' eod'.

If Robert Buckwell was buried at Preston, in accordance with his will, the record would appear to have been omitted during the last months of the vicar's life.

There is a suggestion from Robert's will that his wife was no longer living: in the Preston burials we have, in 1577:⁸²

Elnor Buckoll was buried the xixth of August.

Robert and Eleanor married at Preston in 1548:⁸³

Robert Buckell and El'nor Philpott were marryed the iijth of August ij^o Edw. A^o.

The first surviving page of the Preston baptism registers has, together, two fragmentary entries printed thus:⁸⁴

James Buckell was baptized the xiiith of August.
the sonne of Robert Buckell 7^{to} Edwardi sexti⁸⁵

80 Old Style = 19 March 1579

81 volume 1, page 16: page 56 of the printed transcript

82 volume 1, page 16: page 56 of the printed transcript

83 volume 1, page 10: page 49 of the printed transcript

84 volume 1, page 1: page 37 of the printed transcript

85 the 7th (and last) year of Edward VI ran from 28 January 1553 to 6 July 1553

Richard Blaker's children

None of the children of Richard Blaker married at Preston. Joan may never have married, for we have this burial there⁸⁶:

Joanne Blaker Buryed the viiith of October 1571.

But this Joan might well have been her grandmother, the entry immediately following that for her grandfather Richard:

Richard Blaker was buried the xxth of Maye 1570

Joan the daughter (living a child in 1559) may be the Joan Blaker who married in the adjoining parish, Brighton, in 1572:

[1572 Novembe^r] y^e xvjth was married John Halfpenie & Joane Blaker ⁸⁷

Joan(Blaker)Halfpenny

A damaged entry in the Brighton baptism register of the following year gives this child:

[1573 August] The 30th was bapt: Elisabeth Halfpeny daug . . . ⁸⁸

Brighton burial registers do not survive before 1589: so we do not know whether Elizabeth the child and Joan the mother, or, indeed, John the father, survived. The surname Halfpenny appears later in Brighton parish registers, but without obvious connection to this family.

Administration of the estate of 'John Hapeny' of Brighton is registered in Lewes Archdeaconry Act Book B I (115), 10 April 1583.⁸⁹ Joan (Blaker) may immediately have remarried at Brighton, but the surviving registers have a gap from September 1577 to January 1588. She is not found there later than that: no Halfpenny or variant occurs in the early registers of Preston or Hove.

Edward Blaker

The Blaker in Preston and Hove with the most property in 1544 was Edward Blaker, a name not appearing in the family above. This confirms that there were (at least) two strands of Blakers in the united parishes at this time. Hove and Preston burial registers are both reasonably complete from 1538 onwards, but he does not appear. Lewes, Chichester and the Prerogative Court of Canterbury will calendars furnish nothing for him. There is, however, this baptism entry at Preston⁹⁰ that might relate to his line:

Edwarde the sonne of Edwarde Blaker was bapt. the sixt of Maye eodem anno. [1570]

86 volume 1, page 15: page 55 of the printed transcript

87 volume 1, page 83: page 106 of the printed transcript

88 volume 1, page 14: page 18 of the printed transcript

89 [we need to see this](#)

90 volume 1, page 2: page 39 of the printed transcript

Preston Episcopi Court Rolls

In 1921 the Sussex Record Society (vol. xxvii) printed *An Abstract of the Court Rolls of the Manor of Preston (Preston Episcopi)*. By Charles Thomas-Stanford, M.P., F.S.A., who says:

As regards the manorial records, a few miscellaneous papers of a date earlier than Elizabeth's accession survive, but I have not been able to find the Court Rolls of this period. The late Canon Deedes searched for them among the Chichester Cathedral muniments without success. Of the Rolls from which abstracts are printed here, those from 23 September 10 Eliz. to 27 March 14 Eliz., from 23 September to 13 April 21 Eliz., from 24 September 24 Eliz. to 2 April 26 Eliz., and from 21 September 29 Eliz. to 29 March 34 Eliz. are in the Public Record Office (L.R. Court Rolls, 115/5). They are not arranged chronologically, but scattered about and mixed up with Rolls of Selsey, Falmer and other manors. I am indebted to Col. Attree for their discovery. The other Elizabethan Rolls are in the British Museum (Additional Rolls 32,354–8). From 1592 to 1628 there is a gap. From 1628 onwards the Rolls are in my possession. It has not been thought advisable to carry the abstract later than the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Of the several rentals of the manor at different periods which I possess, the earliest is of the year 1551-2. An abstract of this has already been printed.⁹¹ A survey of the manor made by Thomas Marshall, steward, in September 6 James I, with the assistance of a jury of ten of the tenants, contains very full and minute details of the manorial lands, etc. It is a pity that this document is too voluminous to be printed here in full, as it is of considerable local interest and importance.⁹²

Richard Blakersenior

From the first page we find Richard Blaker (senior, his son Richard now being dead) performing his duties in the manor courts:

Page 1: **3 October 1562**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of the most excellent Princess the Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the Faith, etc., held there on Saturday the 3rd day of October the 4th year of her reign (1562).

Jury for the Queen: John Dunke, constable, Edward Winchester, Thomas Chapman, Richard Addamps, William Bicketon, John Rowland, John Boniface, John Wolgar, Richard Blaker, Thos. Bisehop, John Buckholte, John Martin, Willm. Merchaunt. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth held there on Saturday the 3rd day of October the 4th year of her reign (1562).

Homage: Richard Blaker, Thos. Chapman, William Ricketon, Richard Jeffrey, John Boniface, John Gratewike, William Marchant. Sworn.

91 "Brighton and Hove Archæologist," 1914., p. 29 *seq.*: **we need to see**

92 'I have placed a transcript of it with the abbreviations extended, by Mr. L. F. Salzman, F.S.A., in the Brighton Public Library.'

Page 2: **28 April 1563**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth held there on Wednesday the 28th day of April the 5th year of her reign (1563).

Jurors for the Queen: John Dunke, constable, Edward Kempe, Rich. Addamps, Thomas Chapman, John Wolgar, William Ricketon, Thos. Bishoppe, John Boniface, John Martin, Richard Blaker, Will. Merchant, Robert Buckholte, Robt. Prior, Edwd. Winchester, Thos. Geffery, Gabriel Lidham, John Lambert, John Campion, Peter Peckom, Thos. Colier, John Merchant. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth held there on Wednesday the 28th day of April the 5th year of her reign (1563).

Homage: Edward Kempe, Thos. Chapman, Richard Blaker, Rich. Jeffery, William Ricketon, John Gratwiche, John Boniface, Will. Merchant, Rich. Barkeley. Sworn.

Pages 2-3: **16 September 1564**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth held there on Saturday the 16th of September the 6th year of her reign (1564).

Jurors for the Queen: Edward Kempe, John Marchante, Robert Prior, Willm. Adye, Robert Buckholde, John Campion, Thos. Chapman, Edwd. Winchester, Rich. Blaker, Thos. Blaker, John Boniface, John Wolger, William Ricketon. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth held there on Saturday the 16th day of September the 6th year of her reign (1564).

Homage: Edward Kempe, John Boniface, Robert Pryor, William Ricketon, Thomas Chapman, John Marchant, Rich. Blaker, Robt. Buckholde. Sworn.

Pages 3-4: **7 April 1565**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge held there on Saturday the seventh day of April in the seventh year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1565).

Richard Addamps, Constable, William Ricketon, Richard Scrace gent., John Martyn, Edward Kempe, John Blaker, Robert Prior, John Dunke, Robert Buckholde, Thomas Baker, Thos. Chapman, John Marchant, Richard Blaker, Thos. Bisshope, John Boniface, Rich. Jeffery. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth held there on Saturday the 7th day of April the seventh year of her reign (1565).

Homage: Edward Kempe, John Boniface, Robert Buckholde, William Ricketon, Thos. Chapman, Rich. Jeffery, Rich. Blaker, John Marchant, Robert Prior. Sworn.

Page 4: **20 October 1565**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth held there the 20th day of October the seventh year of her reign (1565).

Jury for the Queen: John Marten, constable, Rich. Blaker, Rich. Scrace gent., William Ricketon, Robt. Buckholde, John Marchante, Edward Kempe, John Dunke, Robt. Prior, Rich. Addamps, Thos. Chapman, Thos. Baker. Sworn.

Page 5: **27 April 1566**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge held there on Saturday the 27th day of April the eighth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1566).

Jury for the Queen: Richard Scrace gent., Rich. Blaker, John Marten, constable, William Merchant, Robert Prior, John Merchant, Edward Kempe, Rich. Addamps, William Ricketon, Thos. Bisshope, Thomas Towner, Edward Winchester, Stephen Gunne. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth held there on Saturday the 27th day of April the eighth year of her reign (1566).

Homage: Robert Pryor, John Boniface, Edward Kempe, Rich. Blaker, John Marchante, William Ricketon, William Marchante. Sworn.

Pages 6-7: **5 April 1568**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge held there on Monday the fifth of April the tenth year of the reign of our Lady Elizabeth (1568).

Edward Kempe, constable, Thos. Baker, John Marten, Rich. Adams, Robert Prior, John Dounke, Richard Blaker, Thos. Bisshope, Thos. Chapman, Edwd. Winchester, Robt. Buckhole, Thos. Walder, John Marchant, Henry Mouncks. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth held there on Monday the 5th April the tenth year of her reign (1568).

Pages 7-8: **23 September 1568**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth held there the 23rd day of September in the 10th year of her reign (1568).

Thos. Barker, constable, Henry Bechelye, Edward Kempe, John Martin, Robert Prior, Robt. Buckhole, Rich. Blaker, John Marchant, Thos. Chapman, Richard Adams, John Boniface, John Dunke, Thomas Towner. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 23rd September in the 10th year of her reign (1568).

Robert Prior, John Marchant, Edward Kemp, John Boniface, William Marchant, Thomas Chapman, Rich. Blaker, Robert Buckhole. Sworn.

Page 9: **30 September 1569**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth on Friday 30th September in the 11th year of her reign (1569).

Jury for the Queen: Henry Gunne, constable, John Palmer, Edward Kempe, Thomas Marchaunte, Robert Prior, John Bonyface, Richard Blaker, Richard Adams, Thomas Chapman, Edward Winchester, Henry Beacheleye, Richard Dennys, Robert Buckhole, Edward Ruckton. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth, Friday, 30th September in the 11th year of her reign (1569).

Robert Prior, John Marchaunte, Edward Kempe, Robert Buckhole, Richard Blaker, Thomas Chapman, John Boniface, John Barckley. Sworn.

Pages 10-11: **21 March 1570**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth, 21 March the 12th year of her reign (1570).

Jury for the Queen: Henry Gunne, John Boniface, Edward Kempe, John Marten, Robert Prior, Edward Ricton, Richard Blaker, John Woolgar, Thomas Chapman, Richard Adams, Robert Buckhole, Edward Winchester. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth, Tuesday the 21st March in the 12th year of her reign (1570).

Robert Prior, William Marchante, Edward Kempe, John Marchante, Richard Blaker, Thomas Chapman, John Boniface, Robert Bucholer, John Barckley. Sworn.

George Blaker

As we have seen above, Richard Blaker (sr) died and was buried at Preston in May 1570: his death is duly recorded, with the succession to his copyhold lands passing to his (younger) son George, *i.e.* George the brother of Richard who died in 1559:

Page 12: **22 September 1570**

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 22nd September in the 12th year of her reign (1570).

Richard Blaker, who held one cottage and half a virgate of land in Preston to him and George his son and the heirs of George, by court held 27th Sept. 2 and 3 Phil. and Mary (1555), died before the last Court. Heriot, a cow worth 16s. Said George comes and is admitted tenant.

George then replaces his father on the juries:

Page 13: **25 September 1571**

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth held there the 25th September in the 13th year of her reign (1571).

Homage: Rob. Prior, John Boniface, Edw. Kempe, John Marchaunt, Robt. Buckhole, Will. Marchaunt, Thos. Chapman, Geo. Blaker. Sworn.

Licence is granted to George Blaker to let a cottage and half a virgate of land in Preston for two years. Fine, 12*d*.

Page 16: **9 April 1575**

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth held 9th April in the 17th year of her reign (1575).

Homage: Edward Kempe, John Boniface, Robt. Buckhole, George Blaker, John Marchant, John Jeffery. Sworn.

Page 18: **28 September 1575**

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth held there the 28th September in the 17th year of her reign (1575).

Edward Kempe, Robert Prior, Robert Buckhole, John Jeffrey, John Boniface, Robert Affell, George Blaker, John Marchaunt. Sworn.

Page 19: **13 April 1576**

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth, 13th April the 18th year of her reign (1576).

Robert Buckhole, John Brabury, Edward Kempe, Miles Marchaunt, John Marchaunt, Robert Afell, John Boniface, George Blaker, William Marchaunt. Sworn.

Page 20: **18 September 1576**

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 18th day of September in the 18th year of her reign (1576).

Edward Kempe, Robert Prior, Robert Buckhole, John Bradford, John Marchaunt, George Blaker, Miles Marchaunt, John Jefferey. Sworn.

Page 22: **13 September 1577**

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 13th September in the 19th year of her reign (1577).

Homage: Edward Kempe, Robert Prior, George Blaker, John Bradford, Robert Buckhole, Miles Marchaunt, John Marchaunt, Wm. Marchaunt, John Jefferey. Sworn.

Page 23: **3 April 1578**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth 3rd April in the 20th year of her reign (1578)

Jury for the Queen: Edward Kempe, constable, Robt. Buckhole, Henry Bacheler, Miles Marchaunt, Edw. Winchester, William Marchaunt, John Avere, Geo. Blaker, Thos. Woolgar, John Bonyface, Robert Duncke, Rich. Mills, Rich. Poole, Richard Adams, Wm. Chantry, Thos. Idle. Sworn.

George Blaker is elected headborough for the following year and is sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 3rd April in the 20th year of her reign (1578).

Edward Kempe, William Gratewyke, Robt. Buckhole, John Bartlett, Miles Marchaunt, William Marchaunt, Robert Prior, George Blaker. Sworn.

Page 25: **23 September 1578**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth 23rd September in the 20th year of her reign (1578).

George Blaker headborough and ale-taster there, with his tithing, give the common fine, 2s.

Affeerers: Edward Kempe, George Blaker. Sworn.

Pages 25-26: **23 April 1579**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth 23rd April in the 21st year of her reign (1579).

George Blaker headborough and ale-taster there, with his tithing, give the common fine, 2s.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 13th April in the 21st year of her reign (1579).

Homage: Edward Kempe, Miles Marchaunt, John Marchaunt, William Gratewyke, William Marchaunt, George Blaker. Sworn.

Page 26: **27 September 1582**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth 27th day of September in the 24th year of her reign (1582).

Jury for the Queen: John Woolger, constable, Miles Marchaunt, Henry Avere, Edward Kempe, Robert Towner, George Blaker, William Pryor, James Buckhole, George Silvester, Richard Adams, John Bonyface, John Avery, William Wymark, William Boes, John Kempe. Sworn.

Page 28: **28 March 1583**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth 28th March in the 25th year of her reign (1583).

Jury for the Queen: John Woolger, constable, Edward Kempe, John Avery, Miles Marchaunt, Robert Dunk, William Pryor, Edward Winchester, James Buckhole, William Wymarck, George Blaker, William Wells, John Bradford, Robert Towner. Sworn.

And they elect George Blaker and Edward Kempe for constables, of whom the Steward elected Edward Kempe, who is sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 28th March in the 25th year of her reign (1583).

Homage: Edward Kempe, George Blaker, Miles Marchaunt, John Bradford, William Pryor, James Buckhole, Robert Pryor, John Jeffrey. Sworn.

Page 29: **21 September 1583**

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 21st September in the 25th year of her reign (1583).

Homage: Edward Kempe, William Pryor, Miles Marchaunt, John Bonyface, George Blaker, John Bradford, James Buckhole. Sworn.

Page 30: **2 April 1584**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth 2nd April in the 26th year of her reign (1584).

Jury for the Queen: Edward Kempe, constable, Richard Peacock, John Bonyface, Henry Bechellie, George Blaker, Edward Winchester, James Buckhole, William Wymarcke, William Pryor, Henry Aveye, John Barckley, Robert Towner, Humphrey Stone, George Silvester. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 2nd April in the 26th year of her reign (1584).

Homage: Edward Kempe, John Bradford, George Blaker, John Barckley, Robert Pryor, William Wymarck, John Bonyface, James Buckhole. Sworn.

Page 31: **24 September 1585**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth 24th September in the 27th year of her reign (1585).

Jury for the Queen: George Blaker, constable, Humphrey Stone, Edward Kempe, James Buckhole, William Pryor, Robert Towner, Richard Adams, John Kempe, Edward Dunck, John Jennynge, William Wymarck, John Bonyface. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 24th September in the 27th year of her reign (1585).

Edward Kempe, John Bonyface, William Pryor, John Bartlett, Robert Pryor, James Buckhole, George Blaker, William Wymarck, Miles Marchaunt. Sworn.

Pages 31-32: **28 March 1586**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth 28th March in the 28th year of her reign (1586).

Jury for the Queen: George Blaker, constable, Henry Avery, Edward Kempe, William Boys, William Pryor, John Parson, Robert Pryor, Robert Dunck, John Bonyface, William Wymarck, James Buckhole, George Payne, John Bradford, John Palmer, Edward Winchester, Richard Baylie. Sworn.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 28th March in the 28th year of her reign (1586).

Homage: Edward Kempe, William Pryor, George Blaker, John Bonyface, Robert Pryor, James Buckhole, Miles Marchaunt, William Ryckton, John Bradford. Sworn.

It is then that George Blaker transferred the property to his son Henry:

Pages 33-34: **21 September 1587**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth 21st September in the 29th year of her reign (1587).

Henry Blaker is sworn in the jury of the lady the Queen.

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 21st September in the 29th year of her reign (1587).

George Blaker surrendered one cottage and half a virgate of land which he held to him and his heirs by a Court held the 27th day of September, 2 and 3 Phil. & Mary (1555), to be regranted to Henry his son and his heirs, whereupon there falls to the lady the Queen of heriot the best animal that he had at the time of his death, namely, a wether sheep worth 5*s*. And the said Henry is of the age of eighteen years, therefore John Bonyface should have the wardship of the said land as well as of the said Henry until such time as the said Henry shall come to the age of twenty-one years, and afterwards to the said Henry and his heirs. John Boniface is admitted on condition that he find the said Henry in food, clothing and everything necessary for his support during the term aforesaid, and gives to the lady the Queen of fine for the wardship aforesaid, as well as for the estate of the said Henry, 40*s*.

George Blaker surrendered half a virgate of land which he held to him and his heirs by the Court held 1st April, 19 Elizabeth (1577), to be regranted to Henry his son and his heirs, whereupon there falls to the lady the Queen of heriot the best animal he has at the time of his death, namely, a wether-sheep worth 5*s*., and the said Henry is aged eighteen years. John Bonyface admitted as before and on same conditions, and pays a fine of 34*s*. 3*d*.

Henry Blaker

In the following year Henry Blaker is of full age, and is admitted to the cottage and land in Preston manor, and so will have been born about 1570:

Page 39: **31 March 1591**

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 31st March in the 33rd year of her reign (1591).

Henry Blaker, the wardship of whom was committed to John Bonyface together with one cottage and half a virgate of land during his minority by the Court held 21st Sept., 29 Eliz. (1587), being now of full age, is admitted.

Henry Blaker, the wardship of whom was committed to John Bonyface together with half a virgate of land during his minority by the court held 21st Sept., 29 Eliz. (1587), being now of full age, is admitted.

By the custom of Borough English, Henry will have inherited as George's youngest son. George was born before Preston Episcopi baptism registers start: he may have married earlier than 1543, when the marriage registers start: but we certainly do not have the baptism there or at Hove of Henry his son, or of any other children; nor is his burial recorded there, nor the marriage or burial of Henry, nor the baptisms of any of Henry's children. The suspicion arises that, perhaps from 1571 when George let out 'a cottage and half a virgate of land in Preston', he had moved away to a neighbouring parish, retaining the land in Preston Episcopi: and in fact, his will, made 2 September 1587, describes him as 'George Blaker of Brighthelmestone husbandman⁹³', his son Henry proving the will as executor 30 September 1587:

In the name of God amen: The seconde daye of September in An'o D'ni 1587 I George Blaker of the pish of Brighthelmestone in the countye of Sussex husbandman, sicke in bodye but of pfecte memory and vnderstandinge praysed be god Doe make and ordayne my Last will and Testament in ma'ner and forme followinge: viz' First I bequeath my soule to allmightie god my onely maker, Redeemer, and sanctifier, and my bodye to a Christian buriall'. Item I geye and bequeathe to the poore people of Brighthelmestone aforesayde x^s to be devided at the discrec'on of the Collectors of the sayde poore there. Item I bequeathe to Alce Blaker my wiffe all the goodes which I now haue, that was hers before I married with her Item I geue her two Ewes from amonge my sheepe, Item I geve and bequeathe to Annis Blaker my daughter xvj^{li} of good and lawfull money of England to be payde vnto her wthin one yeare next after my deceasse by myne Executor Item I geve my sayde daughter tenn Ewes tenn payre of sheetes, ij Chestes, a Cettell with ij yronringes, ij little brasse pottes, one Cettle with a bayle, and one olde Cettle which I haue in the lofte, Item I will that all my pewter be devided in two equall partes, one parte therof to remayne to my Executour And the other parte soe devided I geue to my sayde daughter It' I geue to Joane Boniface my daughter's child tenn sheepe, I geue likewise to another of the Children of my sayde daughter whose name is Marye one Ewe Item I geue to John Boniface my sonne in lawe to be an ayde to myne Executour xl^s The residewe of all my goodes vnbequeathed my debtes and Legacies discharged I whollye geue and bequeathe to Henrye Blaker my sonne, whome I make my hole and full Executor, And I doe appoynte to be overseers of this my Laste will John Boniface aforesayde, and James Buckoll' of Preston, and to him I will v^s for his paynes.

93 *Pace* Renshaw, 'husbandman' was not a labourer, but a farmer

Witnesses hereof are Thomas Jacksonn, John Duddinge, John Boniface, James Buckoll', and Rob'te Evans.

Probatum fuit hoc p'sens suprascriptu' Testa^m Georgij Blaker Coram Mag'ro Thoma Vnderdowne cl'ico Artiu' Mag'ro Surr' &c' xxx^o die mensis Septembris A'no d'ni 1587 Ac p'eunde' et auct'ate sua approbatu' et insinuatu' proq' virib^s et vero valore eiusdem pronu'ciatu'. Co'missaq' fuit Ad^o &c' Henrico Blaker Executor &c' Jurat' &c'

This present testament abovementioned of George Blaker was proved before master Thomas Underdowne clerk, M.A., surrogate, &c. the 30th day of the month of September in the year of the Lord 1587, and by him and by his authority approved and registered and pronounced for the force and validity of the same; and administration was committed to Henry Blaker, the executor &c., sworn, &c.

Although Brighton baptism registers survive from 1558 onwards, the earliest surviving burial is 3 January 1588: doubtless George was buried there, the record now being lost.

Joan (Blaker) Boniface

In 1587 George Blaker was survived, it would appear from his will, not only by his son Henry, but also by his wife Alice, his daughter Agnes (Annis), his son-in-law John Boniface, and John's daughters Joan and Mary. Of these, only Joan the granddaughter appears in the Brighton parish registers:

[1602 Maye] The xth day Thomas Baker tooke to wife Joan Bonniface ⁹⁴

The marriage of John Boniface and Joan Blaker doubtless took place about 1570 to 1587, but is not to be found at Brighton, Preston or Hove. Chichester Consistory marriage licences survive from 1575 onwards: they are not recorded there. Lewes Archdeaconry marriage licences do not survive earlier than 1586.

It would appear that John Boniface (husband of Joan Blaker) was son of a John Boniface and Alice, for 9 April 1575 in Preston manor court we have:

Page 17: 9 April 1575

John Boniface surrenders two cottages and a virgate of land, late Walshes, who held to him and his heirs by Copy of Court held the 20th October, 4th Edward 6th (1550), to be regranted to him, Alice his wife, and John Boniface his son and the heirs of his son John. Heriot as appears afterwards with the fine. Granted to the said John Boniface the elder, Alice his wife, and John Boniface his son and the heirs of the said John the son successively. Heriot and fine, 20s.

Preston manor extended into both Hove and Brighton, but John Boniface (senior) was clearly living in Preston itself, for he appears as headborough and aletaster there in 1565:

Page 4: 20 October 1565

PRESTON: John Boniface headborough and ale-taster there, with his tithing, present the common fine there, 2s.

⁹⁴ volume 1 page 80: page 100 of the transcript

The burial of the wife of John Boniface senior has not been found at Preston, unless:

Alice Boniface was buried the 3rd of January 1580⁹⁵.⁹⁶

John Boniface senior's last appearance in the Preston manor court rolls (so far as they survive) is as the guardian of Henry Blaker in 1587 (as above). Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars in the following years, to 1608, have:

John Boniface of Keymer, husbandman	1 February 1604, 16 March 1604	A 12 59 B 3 44
John Boniface of Woodmancote	28 August 1604	B 3 33
John Bonniface of Preston, yeoman	August 1609, 13 April 1611	A 13 125 B 3 238
John Bonyface of Henfield, yeoman	16 May 1611, 8 June 1612	A 14 31 B 3 273 ⁹⁷

The 1609 will proves to be that of John Boniface junior. Clearly this John Boniface would have been buried at Preston, but the burial registers are at that period chaotic, and are missing between 1606 and 1613. His nuncupative will, dated in August 1609, was proved 13 April 1611 by his wife and residuary legatee, Alice: the only other bequests are to his daughter Joan, married to Henry Peckham of Patcham, Richard their son, and his daughter Mary, married to Thomas Patching. The witnesses were Henry Blaker and James Buckold.

The burial of Alice Boniface the relict is not found at Preston, Hove or Brighton. Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars include:

Alice Boniface of Patcham, widow 26 November 1625 B 5 230⁹⁸

John Boniface junior and Joan (Blaker) would have succeeded to the property in Preston, under the terms of the surrender in 1575. At Preston manor court we find:

Page 53: **12 April 1642**

James Mathew and Mary his wife, daughter of John Boniface, surrender a messuage, a barn and one virgate of land containing thirteen acres to Thomas Mathew, son of the said James and Mary, to the said Mary for the term of her life and afterward to the said Thomas and his heirs. And they give of fine 8*d.* and have seisin.

Page 57: **9 April 1649**

James Mathew and Mary his wife surrender a messuage, a barn, and a virgate containing thirteen acres in Preston to James Mathew, younger son of the said James. And he is admitted and gives for heriot and fine 53*s.*

James Mathew, junr., comes and surrenders the above premises to the use of him and Ann his wife. And they are admitted and give for heriot and fine 50*s.*

95 Old Style, *i.e.* 1581

96 volume 1 page 16: page 56 in the published transcript

97 **one of these other three wills may be that of John Boniface senior**

98 This suggests that Alice went to live with her daughter Joan in Patcham: **this will should be checked**

No marriage of James Mathew is found in the surviving Preston or Hove registers, but at Brighton we have:

[1563⁹⁹ Januarye] The xixth James Mathew tooke to wife Amye Longe ¹⁰⁰

1616 Jullye The iiiijth married James Mathew & Mary Worger widd: ¹⁰¹

There is no Mary Boniface in the Lewes Archdeaconry or Chichester Consistory marriage licences.

Boniface × Buckwell

We have seen above that Elizabeth Buckwell's surviving children were Andrew Buckwell, Robert Buckwell, and Isabella Gates (presumably William Gates' wife), and her recently deceased daughter Katherine was seemingly the wife of Richard Blaker. There was also an unnamed daughter ♀ wife of John Boniface, who might or might not have been living in 1553. Was Katherine (Buckwell) Blaker's sister ♀ married to John Boniface senior, the father of John Boniface junior who married Joan Blaker, George's daughter? In other words, were Joan (Blaker) Boniface and her husband John Boniface junior first cousins once removed? It would mean that John Boniface junior married a granddaughter of his maternal aunt.

Elizabeth Buckwell mentions her goddaughter Joan Boniface. At Preston we have this early baptism, but from after the date of the making of Elizabeth's will:¹⁰²

Joan Boniface the daughter of John Boniface was baptized the [blank] of [blank] 1554.

99 Old Style, *i.e.* 1564

100 volume 1, page 81: page 101 in the published transcript

101 volume 1, page 92: page 118 in the published transcript

102 page 1 of the register, page 37 of the printed transcript

Check for Peckham, Patching, Austin (Oustine) wills.

APPENDIX A

Star Chamber Proceedings

Source: Sussex Record Society xvi

Title: *Abstracts of Star Chamber Proceedings relating to the County of Sussex. Henry VII. to Philip and Mary. Transcribed and Edited by Percy D. Mundy, 1913, London, 20-27*

August 1533

East Grinstead

DUFFELD v. DREW.
H. 8, Vol. 13, Nos. 123–133.

To the King and Lords.

Complaint of Robert Duffeld stating that where one Thomas Drewe [*mutilated*] in the county of Sussex, yeoman, was seised of and in a messuage and 120 acres of arable land, 30 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture, 60 acres of wood, with appurtenances in Tabilherst in the parish of East Grinstead, by force of old entails thereof made to his ancestors, whose heir he was, and died seised of the premises, after whose death they came to one John Drewe, heir to the said Thomas, that is to say son of Henry, son of the said Thomas Drewe, by force whereof the said John Drewe peaceably entered into the premises and was thereof seised, and so seised of the premises enfeoffed your said subjects Robert Duffeld, William Arnolde and others to hold to them and their heirs to the use of the said John Drewe and his heirs, by force whereof they were seised of the same, and after the same John Drewe granted, demised, and to farm let the premises to the said Robert Duffeld to him and his assigns for 20 years, and the said Robert brought his wife, children, and household stuff and money into the said messuage and so inhabited, and in the absence of Complainant in the 25th year of the King's reign, one William Heyle, William Growerde of Hertfelde, county Sussex, labourer, John Gilbert of the same county, labourer, John Drewe of East Grinstead and others [*names undecipherable*], and John S . . sby in the said county, yeoman, to the number of sixteen, with swords, bucklers, and daggers, entered into the premises and broke up the parlour door, and not satisfied broke the chamber door being fast locked, and notwithstanding that they had almost killed one of the children of the said Robert Duffeld took his wife and beat her about the face and the head and her body, "so that all her face was arrayd with her blood" and two of her ribs nigh broken, and then and there put out of the house Complainant's wife and children and took his money and entered into his pastures, and with force drove out "xiiij melche kyn into the Kynge's highway where they contenuyd so longe so that the seid kyn were in suche payn for lake of mylkyng that the mylke rane oute of there oddereus and so lyke to be all perishte and also xiiij calffes with the seid kyn."

Certificate of John Skynner and John Michell, gentlemen, before whom witnesses were called in the above matter, "the Thursday next before the fest of Sent Bartilmew the appostill in the xxvth yere of your most nobill regn (1534)¹⁰³ at Estgrynsted in yor Countie of Sussex."

103 *sic*. 21 August 1533

First Robert Duffeld affirmith that he ought to have the messuage and lands for term of certain years of the demise, lease, and grant of one John Drewe, cousin and heir of Thomas Drewe, his grandfather, deceased, states that Robert Drewe was seised of the premises and died so seised and the premises descended to the said John Drewe, who did let them to farm to the said Robert for term of xx years, and after did enfeoff in the said messuage and lands one William Arnold, gentleman, the said Robert Duffeld, John Payne of Walehill, Thomas Drewe, Thomas Duffeld, and Thomas Plawe, by a deed bearing date 24th March, 24 Henry VIII., and affirmeth the said bill in all other things to be true.

Examination also of Edmond Alfrey, gentleman, aged 60 years, who states that the lands in question are called "Tabilhurst," "because oon Tabilherst of old tyme was owner of the same," who had issue three daughters whereof one was married to one Thomas Drewe. He knows not whom the other daughters married. He has always heard that the said Thomas Drewe the elder had the third part of the said lands in right of his wife, one of the said three daughters which were heirs to the said Tabilherst, and the other two parts he purchased of the other sisters and so was owner of the whole. He states that Thomas Drewe the younger had issue divers sons and daughters, to wit one John Drewe his eldest son who died without issue in the lifetime of his father, Henry Drewe his second son, who also died in the lifetime of his father, leaving issue John Drewe, yet being alive, and now claiming the premises as heir of his grandfather Thomas Drewe the younger; also the said Thomas the younger had issue one Richard Drewe, who died without issue, and one Robert Drewe who had issue Thomas Drewe, who, since the decease of the said Robert, sold the premises to the above mentioned William Hele. Deponent does not know how the said Robert Drewe should come by the said lands after the death of Thomas his father and believes that the said John son of Henry was the next heir to the same Thomas, but has lately heard say that the said Thomas Drewe, grandfather to the said John Drewe, made a feoffment and declared a will and gave the said lands to the said Robert his son. He further deposes that the said John Drewe claimed the said lands in the life of the said Robert Drewe his uncle, and said the same Robert did him wrong, but knows not how the said Robert avoided his claim. He supposeth that the said Robert came to the possession of the said land by reason that he dwelled in the house in his father's lifetime, and held it in farm of his father, and so continued his possession after his father's death, at whose decease the said John Drewe the heir was not in those parts and but a very young man. He says that he knows nothing but what he has heard concerning the riotous entry, and has heard that after the entry (as described in the bill) one William Ide, with others, kept the possession of the house by the space of two or three weeks. He has not heard of the taking of money or hurting of beasts, "but yt wer in etyng of mylk, butter, chese or creme beyng but of litell value."

James Homwode, aged 72 years, says that he married Joan the daughter of the said Thomas Drewe the younger, and has heard that Thomas Drewe the elder did entail the land on his heirs male. He says that Thomas Drewe the younger had issue John who died without issue, Henry which had issue John, now demandant, and Robert which had issue Thomas which sold the land to William Hele. He says that he has heard that Thomas Drewe the eldest did enfeoff one John Homwode and divers others in the said lands, to the use of his heirs male, which John Homwode overlived the other feoffees and died thereof seised, and afterwards William Homwood, son and heir of the said John Homwode (at the request and desire of Thomas Drewe, son and heir of Thomas Drewe) did seal a deed of Release to the said Thomas, which deed he supposeth the said William did make and write in his own hands, "for he was lernyd somewhat in the lawe."

He further says that the said Thomas Drewe, his wife's father, did say many times, as long as he was alive and could speak, that if Henry Drewe had a son alive that the same son was right heir to Tabilherst lands, and required the deponent always to report and bear

witness of the same. He says that the said Robert Drewe did farm the said messuage and lands of his father, and that the said father divers times charged him that if the said Henry Drewe had any son alive (“as men sey he hath oon yet a lyve”) that the same son should have the land, and “in lykewise the same Thomas charged the seyd Robert ageyn upon his blessing when he the seyd Thomas lay syke in his deth bed.” Deponent states that, after the decease of the said Thomas Drewe, the said Robert continued in possession of the said messuage and lands, and the said John Drewe his nephew came to him and claimed the said lands as his rightful inheritance, and the said Robert said to him “yf your right be better than myn y will not kepe it from you,” and afterwards the said Robert came to his sister (deponent’s wife) and said “Suster, now my nevewe John Drewe, sonne of my brother Henry, is come to clayme his land by inheritance, and now y must be fayne to forsake this contree.” Deponent can depose nothing with regard to the riotous entry.

Walter Homwode, aged 44, deposes similarly.

William Arnold, aged 60, deposes similarly, and states that Richard Drewe dwelled “with the Lord Dacre of the South,” being in his service, and that the said Lord desired the said Thomas, father to the said Richard, to give the same Richard some of the said lands to live by, whereupon the said Thomas desired respite to make the said Lord answer, and went to one Mr. Thomas Lewkenor of Brambiltie to have his advice, and Mr. Lewkenor said he could not make him any of the Tabilherst land but he must needs sue a recovery which would be both chargeable in law and conscience, and that, the said Thomas said he would never do. Deponent therefore believes that Mr. Lewkenor “knew well that Tabelherst land stood intayled.” He further deposes that he has heard one Blaker of Preston, now deceased, say that he held a deed of intail in his custody of Tabilherst lands, which deed he delivered to Sir Edward Bray, Knight, supposing it concerned lands which he, Blaker, sold to Sir Edward. Touching the alleged riotous entry deponent says that he was present with divers other of his neighbours at the request of Mr. John Sakevile, one of the Justices of the Peace, to be a witness of what should be done, the said Mr. Sakevile and Mr. Richard Sakevile his brother, Thomas Elyott, Under Sheriff of the shire, the said William Hele and divers of Mr. Sakevile’s servants and others being present, and that when the seyd deponent and his neighbours came to the house called Tabilherst, “lying at fforrest Rowe beside Estgrynsted,” they perceived that Mr. Richard Sakevile, Hele, and other entered in to the house in peacable manner and came out again, and the under Sheriff caused three proclamations to be made in the King’s name and read there a writ upon the Statute of Northampton and declared the same and then went into the house again in good and peacable manner, the wife of the said Robert Duffeld and their children and a woman servant or two then being in the house. “And the seyd wyffe, children and servant wer all comaunded to avoyd the house and the wyffe wold not but went in to a chamber near the hall and her children and shut dooris fast into them and then William Hele brake upp ij dooris with force and behynde on of the doores oon of the children lyke to have ben hurt . . . and ther was myche stryvynge and noyse bitwene them and at last he brought her oght by force and strength and blood ranne down by her face but how she was hurt whether by eny strokes or by the struggelyng bitwene them he cannot tell and betwene her and her children and servant was most piteous noyse and crying that ever he herde and cald upon her neyghbours that wer there to helpp her but noo man of them dyd medill and so she and her children and a woman servant wer all avoyded the housse w^t force and strength.” Deponent knows of no taking away of money, nor of any damage except that “by brekyng uppon of the doores certain erthen potts or stenes with ale was brokyn and spylt.”

Ann Homwode, widow, aged 50, late the wife of John Homwode, deceased, who was with Thomas Drewe, father to Robert Drewe, about ten or twelve years past, when he lay sick on his death bed, deposes that he called before him his said son Robert saying to him these words: “Sonne Robert y have delyvered unto the the evidence of Tabilherst and y charge the

uppon my blessing that if Henry Drewe have eny sonne a lyve that will clayme the seyde land delyver the seyde evidence unto hym and let hym have the land withoute you and he can otherwise aggree betwixt you.”

Depositions of John Malle the elder, aged 80 years, John Homwode of Dene, aged 60, and William Walys, aged 75, which last deposes that one Tabilherst was owner of the lands in question and that he had issue three daughters and heirs, “and oon of the doughters was married to old Thomas Drewe, a nother was married to a ffysshmonger of London and the third to one White of Metching.” Deponent thinketh that John, son of Henry Drewe, ought to have the land, and says that he has dwelled within two miles of the land “all dayes of his lyffe.”

Depositions of Thomas Partriche, aged 60, George Payne, aged 35, John Ditlyng, aged 50, and Robert Harman, aged 40, which last deposes that one John Blaker the younger, son of Blaker of Preston, shewed him that his father had delivered a deed of entail of the said lands to Sir Edward Bray, Knight, and the same Sir Edward afterwards delivered the said deed to one James Coole, which had married the widow of Robert Drewe, one of the sons of Thomas Drewe.

Thomas Plawe, “aged somewhat about lviiij years,” deposes that “old Thomas Drewe” was his godfather, and says that he can tell of no hurt done at the entry, “but yf the seyde wyffe was hurt in the stryvyng betwene Hele and her, which the seyde deponent herd by the lumberyng and noyse.”

John Payne, of Pikstones, aged 40, deposes that a tenement in East Grinstead was purchased by old Thomas Drewe, whose son Thomas gave it to his daughter in marriage, which daughter is now the wife of Robert Duffeld.

Deposition of Richard Plawe, aged 80.

John Malle, Junior, aged 40, deposes that certain evidences of divers men’s lands came to his hands by “reason of marriage of Alice his wyffe, which before had married one Benson and was daughter to one Olyver, sometime servant and butler to Mr. Richard Lewkenor of Brambiltie, and that at the request of one James Coole which had married the widow of Robert Drewe he delivered unto the same James 36 peces of evidences, thinking that Tabilhurst had belonged to Robert Drewe, his wife and to his heirs, which James had the same in his custody by a fortnight space and brought again thirty-two peces and kept three, and a rental concerning the said land, and afterwards one John Payne of Pykstones said to deponent that he did wrong to deliver the said evidences to the said Coole, for they belonged to John Drewe.

Thomas Rutter, aged 50, deposes that “Duffeld’s wyffe was soore hurt in soo myche her neyghbours supposed she shold a died of it,” and that they “drave ought catell oute of the land in to the strete.”

Thomas Brown, aged 30, “dwelling within half a mile of this land,” deposes that Joan, wife of James Coole, formerly wife of Robert Drewe, told him that John Drewe might as well seek to her for his land as to Robert Duffeld, for she had in her keeping that thing that would help him to his land, but rather than he should have it she would burn it.

Joan Sprynget, widow, aged 60, late the wife of John Sprynget, deceased, late parish clerk of East Grinstead, deposes that when Thomas Drewe, father to Robert, lay sick in his death bed and sent for the Vicar of the said parish “to have his rights of holy chirche,” the said Springet her husband went with him, and at his coming home again she asked him how the said Thomas Drewe did, and he said “syk at the plesure of God and trowid they shold never see hym goo a brood ageyn, and then she seyde if he dye Robert his sonne is made a man if he have his lands of Tabilherst, and her seid husband seyde then ageyn if Henry Drewe have a sonne alyve y wold not geve Robert Drewe a groote for all his right in Tabilherst.”

Depositions of John Hartt, of the age of 60, and Richard Snowe, aged 61, who “dwelleth within a mile of the land,” John Payne of Walehill, aged 50, who “dwelleth and

ever hath done within two furlongs of the land,” who deposes that “Thomas Drewe the sonne of Thomas had issue oon John which was his eldest sonne and was somewhat decrepitt and lame and was therfore made a Tayllor and his mother havynge the lesse favour unto him seyde she wold the lands of Tabilherst had been ffee symple land that her husband mought have gevyn them to oon of his younger sonnes,” whereby deponent thought that she knew that they were entailed.

John Harman, aged 60, deposes that he remembreth well that a “communication of marriage” was had between Thomas Drewe and one Smyth of Bristowe [? Burstowe] that John Drewe, eldest son of the same Thomas Drewe, should have married the said Smith’s daughter, and thereupon Smith required Thomas Drewe to know what lands John his son should have after him, and he said that John must have all his lands of Tabilherst and that he could not put it from him.

Depositions of William Lullingden, aged 60; John Payne, Junior, aged 30; John Cripps, aged 40, “dwelling within half a mile of Tabilherst land,” and William Page, aged 60, “who has always dwelled within half a mile of the land.”

Deposition of Thomas Drewe, aged 50, who says that Thomas Drewe, father to Robert Drewe, was his godfather, and after the son Thomas was come to dwell “in Grynsted town,” and Robert his sonne dwelled in the house at Tabilherst, the said deponent, at the desire of the said Robert, made great instance and labour to the said Thomas Drewe to give the land of Tabilherst to Robert his son, and he said he could not (but if he should do wrong to Henry Drewe’s son which was the right heir), and said further that Henry his son had bought his land which lay in Horley at the time he was in suit and trouble with one Mr. Cornwalys for the same lands in Horley, and in no wise he would agree that Robert should have Tabilherst.

Deposition of Edward Langrigge, aged 35, son of Robert Langrigge, who says he has always heard that John Drewe ought to have the land by inheritance.

Depositions of John Langrigge, aged 33, brother to the above Edward Langrigge, Thomas Moys, aged 60, and William Kyppyng, aged 40. Thomas Duffield and Edward Duffield were not examined, being brethren to Robert Duffield, Complainant.

“Item the afore named John Payne and Richard Plawe say upon oath that they heard Thomas Drewe, son of Robert Drewe, say that he had been with Mr. Sakevile of Wethyham to ask counsel on the sale of Tabilherst land, and seyde that Mr. Sakevile seyde ‘it is better to take halff a looff than noo bred,’ soo they conjectured that Mr. Sakevile lyked his title noo better but that it were better for hym to sell it and take somewhat than to loose all togeder.”

Depositions on the part of William Hele, Defendant, taken on the Thursday next after the feast of St. Bartholomew 25 Henry VIII.¹⁰⁴, before us John Skynner and John Michell at Estgrynsted aforesaid.

First he says that one Thomas Drewe and John Burstowe, John Tudham and John Busse were seased of the lands in demesne in fee, and so seised by a deed bearing date 12 April, 12 Edward IV. (1472), enfeoffed Thomas Wildegoose, John Homwode and William Homwode to the use of the said Thomas Drewe and of his heirs and afterward the said Thomas Wildgoose and William Homwode died and the said John Homwode outlived and had issue one William Homwood and died, which William enfeoffed Robert Drewe and other to the use of Thomas Drewe, son of Old Thomas Drewe (but thereof he shewed no deed nor would not nor shewed not whether Robert Drewe and the other

104 28 August 1553

were seised to the use of the said Thomas, sonne of Thomas in fee or in fee taylor or otherwise), and so the said Robert and other being seised the said Thomas Drewe gave the said lands to the said Robert Drewe in taylor, which Robert had issue Thomas and died, the use whereof descended to the said Thomas as son and heir of the said Robert and afterwards the said son of Robert by deed bearing date 12 September, 24 Henry VIII.¹⁰⁵, made estate of the premises to William Hele, Robert Shoysmyth and George Payn, to the use of the same William Hele and of his heirs, by force whereof the said Hele entered and thereof was seised from the date of the same deed unto the feast of the Annunciation of Our Blessed Lady next ensuyng “til by the said Robert Duffeld and other diseased.” And further the said William Hele says that the said Thomas Drewe the elder was never seised of such estate intayll to his knowledge as in the bill of complaint of the said Robert Duffeld is supposed, nor died not seised, and he further says that the said Thomas, son of Robert, is yet alive.

Item the said Hele denieth the entry with force into the premises but says he was put in possession by virtue of a writ executed by Thomas Elyot, under Sheriff, in the presence of Mr. John Sakevile and others, also denieth that he did “mysorder” himself as is stated in the bill.

Item the will of Thomas Drewe made the last day of May A.D. 1517 was produced, by which it appeared that the testator wished his lands, etc., at Tabilherst to remain wholly to his son Robert and to his heirs, and for lack of heirs to the next heirs of the said Thomas Drewe for ever, his said son Robert to pay out of the said lands yearly to Agnes his (testator’s) wife 33s. 4d. quarterly. The said John Skynner and John Michell declare that Hele had many more deeds, fines, and evidences concerning the said land, which he utterly refused to shew them.

Thomas Cocheforth, aged 50 or somewhat more, says that about 22 or 23 years ago one Richard Hasilden desired him to go with him to Forest Row to the house and land called Tabilherst, where there dwelled Robert Drewe (Thomas Drewe his father then being alive), and that one William Homwode then and there made estate by a deed of his own handwriting to one Sir [Edward] Primer, Vicar of Est Grensted, Robert Laugrigge, James Homwood, Thomas Humfrey, and Robert Drewe, at the request and desire of the said Thomas Drewe, of the said lands called Tabilherst to the performance of his last will, and the said William Homwode delivered possession at the house at Tabilherst upon a working day aforenoon in the presence of the said deponent, Richard Hasilden, John Springet, parish clerk, John Rolff, and John Payne; and he saith that the said Vicar made Thomas Drewe’s will; and he many times heard Thomas Drewe say that Robert his son should have Tabilherst lands.

James Coole, aged 30 years or above (albeit he has married the widow or “love” of Robert Drewe and by her claimeth some profits of the said land), was heard “on account of the fewness of witnesses,” and he deposes that John Rolff, lying in his death bed, told him (as he had done before) that he the said John was at the possession taking at Tabilherst by estate made by William Homwode to Robert Drewe, Primer, James Homwode and other to the use of Robert Drewe and his heirs, his father Thomas Drewe then being present, and dwelling then in the same house, and that the same Thomas had put out himself and put in Robert his son, yet nevertheless the said Thomas and Robert continued and dwelled together, and

105 12 September 1532

afterwards the said Thomas removed from the house to East Grensted and the said Robert paid his father money by the year.

APPENDIX B

The will of Richard Blayker of Preston, 1559.

Public Record Office PROB 11/42B ff. 69v-70r

T Ric' Blayker

In the name of god amen The iiiijth day of January in the yere of our lord god a thousand fyve hunderth lviiij¹⁰⁶ I Richard Blayker of the parryshe of Preston' w'in the diocese of Chichester sicke in my body but in pffitt memory and knowledge / doeth make my last will' and Testame't in man^r and fourme as hereafter doeth followe / First I give and bequeth my soule to all' mightie god our Lady saynt Mary and all the holly company of heaven' to pray for me / and my body to be buried w'in the Church yard of preston' aforesaid / Item I give to Richard my sonne one Cupbourd a great Kettill a Malte querne a gryndstone and a Malting fatt / and yt is my will' that Jane my wif shalhave the occupying of thies pcell^s of my goodes for and concernyng her owne prop vse and doing^s vnto suche tyme as Richard my sonne be twentye yeres of age / Item' I give to Alice my doughter ij paier of shetes one pewter platter and one pewter dishe and one sawcers / Item' I give to Jone my doughter ij paier of shetes two pewter platters ij Tyncker Kettill^s having no Bayles and one two Yering Bullock one Saucer and one brasse pott / Item' yt is my Will' that Alice my doughter the yonger haue all suche goodes as was gyven' to her by her godmother of Brightelmeston' as doeth' appeare by the Inuentary therof / except one Kettill and therefore I give to her one Cowe that is nowe Wynterring at Tette'comb Item I give to George my sonne one fetherbedd w' the boulster and cou'ing therto belonging / Item yt is my will' that Jane my wif haue the vse and occupying of my howse and land wyth' the Appurten^{anc}s vnto suche tyme as my heire co'me to the age of Twentye yeres / yf she kepe her wydowehod And yf she do mary then' yt is my will' that she haue the said howse and land w' the appurten^{anc}s the space and terme of vj yeres next after her maryage keping the said howses and land wythe the Appurten^{anc}s in sufficient Reapac'on and to leve the ground sowen' / Item' yt is my will' that yf any of my childern' dye before they co'me to lafull age to haue the vse of their goodes that their pte of goodes be equally deuyded emongest those that be lyving by even' porcons / Item' yt is my will' that the Table in the Haule stand there still' to the vse of my heire / Item' I give to Richard my sonne one stocke of Bees & one old clapsed Cote / Item' I give to Alice my doughter the elder one Reade Kirtill that was her mother's / Item' yt is my will' that Richard Blayker my father haue Tenne shepe for to helpe my childern' wythall' at their nede / and se them' brought vpp and to save their goodes that I have gyven them' to their pfett and to be a gyde and gou'no^r for them' at all tymes as my onely trust is to hym' / The Resydewe of all my goodes and Cattall^s moveable and vnmmoveable after that my debtes be paied and thies legac^s comprysed by this my last will' and Testament fulfilled I give and bequeth vnto Jane my wif and to George my sonne / whom' I ordeyn' and make executo^rs of this my last will' and Testament / Item' I make Richard Blayker my father and George Blaker my brother Ou'seers of this my last Will' and Testament to se yt fulfilled and perfourmed to the trewe intente herof / Theis being wytnesses hereof s^r George Kyn^r Vicar of Preston' Richard Blayker George Blayker w' other mo the daye and yere a boue wryttyn'

Vicesimodie mens's Aprilis Anno d'ni mill'mo quingentesimo quinquagesimo nono Emanuit Co'misso Petro Hunt ad Administrand' bona Jura et credita d'ci defuncti minori etate Georgij Blayker executoris Duran' minori etat' / &c' De bene &c' Ad sancta dei Eu^{ang}elia Jurat' Jane Rel'ca et ex' demortua anteq^m onus ex^{nis} in se acceptauit /

106 Old Style = 4 January 1559

The 20th day of the month of April in the year of the Lord 1559 issued a commission to Peter Hunt to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased during the minority of George Blayker the executor &c. to well &c. sworn on the Holy Gospels, Jane the relict and executrix having died before she took upon herself the charge of execution.

APPENDIX C

The Will of John Homwood of East Grinstead, 1543

Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 1, f. 14

Estgrenested

In the name of god ame' the 15 day of may in y^e yere of o^r lord god 1543 I Joh'n Homwood of Estgrenested in y^e Count' of sussex beyng hole of mynd & w^t good reme'brance make y^{is} my last wyll & test' in forme foloyng Fyrst I bequeth' my sawle to almyghty god o^r lady st Mary & to all the holy company of hevyn & my body to be buryed in the church yerd of st swythyne in estgrenested aforesaid It' I bequeth' to y^e hygh alt^r of estgrenestede for my tythes & offeryng^s for gotten xijd' It' I bequeth to y^e repations of y^e churche of estgrenested xxd' It' I bequeth to eu^y of my god chyldre' ijd' It' I bequeth' to the me'dyng of y^e wats betwyne oleu's bryg' & stockewell xijd' It' I wyll y^t Edward my son shall haue my teneme't of deane w^t all y^e land^s y^to appteny'g, & to his her^s for eu^r & he to kepe my wiff his mother for terme of her lyff, and to lett her haue her cha'ber by her selff w^t eate & dry'ke as behovyth her to haue, or els to delyu^r to her her cha'ber w^t all y^to belongy'g & to pay to her or to her assignes yerly duryng her lyff xxs' sterlyng at iiij term^s in y^e yere y^t is to say at y^e feast of the Natyvyte of st Joh'n y^e baptyst at the feast of st Mychaell tharcha'gell at the feast of y^e nativite of o^r lord god & at the feast of th'anu'ciatio' of o^r lady by equall portions and to begyn his payme't at the next of any of thes feast^s after my decease, All ye resydew of my good^s not bequethid I gyff & bequethe to Edward my son who' I make & orden myn executo^r to bestow the' to y^e pleasure of god & for y^e welth' of my sawle & to distribute at my buryeng to p^rst^s & clerk^s & to poore pepple xs' & as myche at my mo'thes day, Also I orden Joh'n Cryps to be the s ou^rseer of y^{is} my test' & last will' to be fulfyllyd & he for to haue for labors xx^d affore thes testes Wyll^am Jon^s p^rst and curat, Joh'n Crip^s, Wat^r Homewood Joh'n Dyer & willam owtreed w^t oy^r moo. It' I bequeth to the chyldre' of Joh'n crip^s xx^s It' I bequetyh to anne Wykenden my dowghter iij^s iiij^d

Blakers of Bexhill, 1524

A Richard Blaker is recorded at Bexhill hundred in the 1524-5 lay subsidies:

524		THE HUNDRED OF BEXYLL	
Richard Shossmith ..	18	Symon Marten	7
Emme Cotys, wedowe ..	6	William Skotte	2
Jamys A Sole	3	William Walcott	2
Thomas A Broke	2	Hewe Lyndsey	W 0 6 0
† Agnes Edrysh, widow ..	1	John A Barge	9
John Comber	L 1	William Bonyface	2
Richard Lolle	4	William Sheppard	7
Thomas A Barge	20	John Brere	L 0 10 0
Richard Braynfourd ..	2	John Ryman ¹	9
Thomas Wylytyng	16	George Cony	2
Thomas A Sole	8	Harry Pedyllysden ..	16
William A Broke	1	Stevyn Pedyllysden ..	W 1
John A Sole	9	William Potchett ² ..	2
Thomas Dyxon	2	William A Beche, sen. ..	6
Robert Joynt	3	William A Beche, jun. ..	6
Antoyny Pylcher	2	John Weeke	3
Robert Comber	2	John (Screche)	10
John Lunsfourd	16	Symon Harm(er)	1
Thomas Lunsfourd	3	John Meredyth	1
John Lunsfourd, jun. ..	3	Richard Bysshoppe ..	1
William Parys	8	George A Broke	1
Richard Cheuerell	2	William Frankwell ..	1
† William Shoismyth	6	William Gundry	1
Thomas Williams	W 1 6 0	John Parys	1
Agnes Shoismyth	L 1	† Bernaby Tyccnare ..	2
John Mery	2	Rawfe Belle	P 1
Gefray Ederysh	1	William Baker	1
Walter Sulby	16	Henry Mory	P 1
Thomas Sulby	W 1	John Bukholt	0 16 0
Mathew Smyth	5	† John Motkyn	0 10 0
Rychard Blaker	W 2	Thomas Myhell	1
† Thomas Edryssh	3	William Butelar	W 0 16 0
John A Broke	6	† Richard Busshe	0 16 0
Harry Cheuerell	6	John Pettar	P 1
[Rowland] Shoismyth ..	7	† John Sampson	1
S	6	† Thomas Agates	1
† William Cheuerell	2	John Potman	W 1
William Heseman	2 10 0	Wylliam Motkyn	W 1
<i>Sum</i> £8.			
Or "Eyman"?			
² Or "Potwell"?			

1525

THE HUNDRED OF BEXYLL—*continued*

Agnes Ederyshe, wedow ..	L	0	10	0	Thomas Cheuerell ..	..	P	1
William Shosmyth ..	..	7			Bernaby Tyccenare ..	..	P	1
Thomas Edryssh ..	..	4			John Motkyn ..	..	P	1
Thomas Lenche ..	..	2			William Albone ..	..	P	1
William Stamer ..	L	0	6	8	William Harmer ..	..	P	1
Richard Skynner ..	P	1			Richard Smythe ..	..	P	1
Thomas Eyer ..	..	2			John Cheuerell ..	..	P	1
William Parrys ..	..	8			Richard Busshe ..	..	P	1
William Cheuerell ..	P	1			John Sampson ..	..	P	1
Richard Blaber ..	..	2			Thomas Agates ..	..	P	1
John Tu[rner] ..	..	9			John Rawlyn ..	..	P	1
<i>Sum</i> £7 ls. 8d.								

As Bexhill hundred comprised merely the ancient parish of Bexhill, this reference is fairly specific.

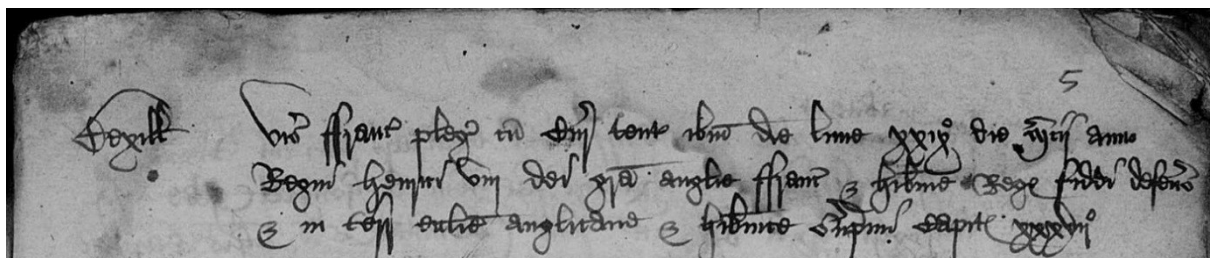


Bexhill, Sussex, 1610

The manor of Bexhill was one of the properties of the bishops of Chichester, and as such copies of the manor court roll appear in the surviving register Ep/VI/12/4, Easter 1546 to June 1552. This register, 355 folios, has copies of court rolls from Aldingbourne, Amberley, Bexhill, Bishopston, Cakeham, Ferring, Litlington, Preston, Selsey, Sidlesham and Streatham manor, the hundreds of Manhood and Tipnoke, and Sidlesham prebend.

Bexhill:

f.5



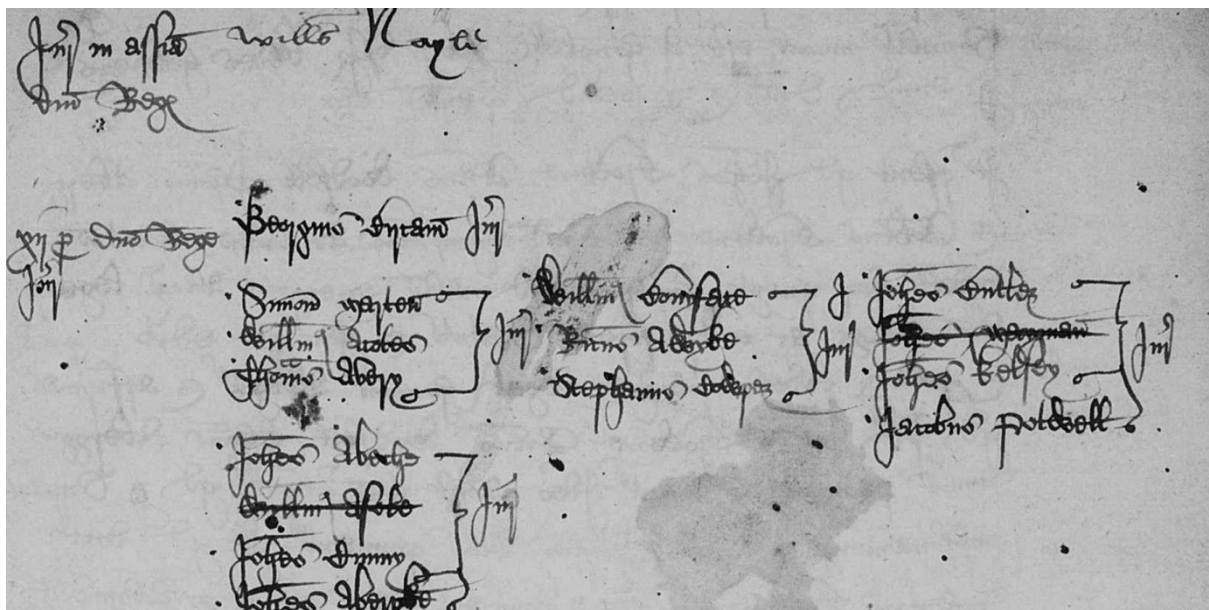
Bexhill

Vis' Franc' pleg' cu' Cur' tent' ib'm die Lune xxix^o die M'tis anno Regni Henrici viij dei gr'a Anglie Franc' & Hib'nie Reg^s fidei defens' & in terr' ecclie Anglicane & Hib'nice Sup'mi Capit' xxxvij^o

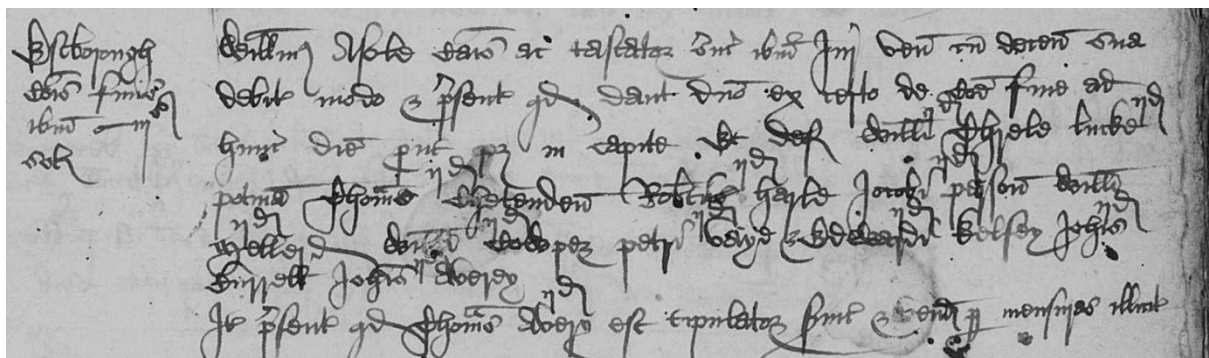
Bexill

View of frankpledge with court held there Monday the 29th day of March in the 37th year of the reign of Henry VIII by the grace of God king of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith and on earth Supreme Head of the English and Irish church [29 March 1546]

The following persons appear:

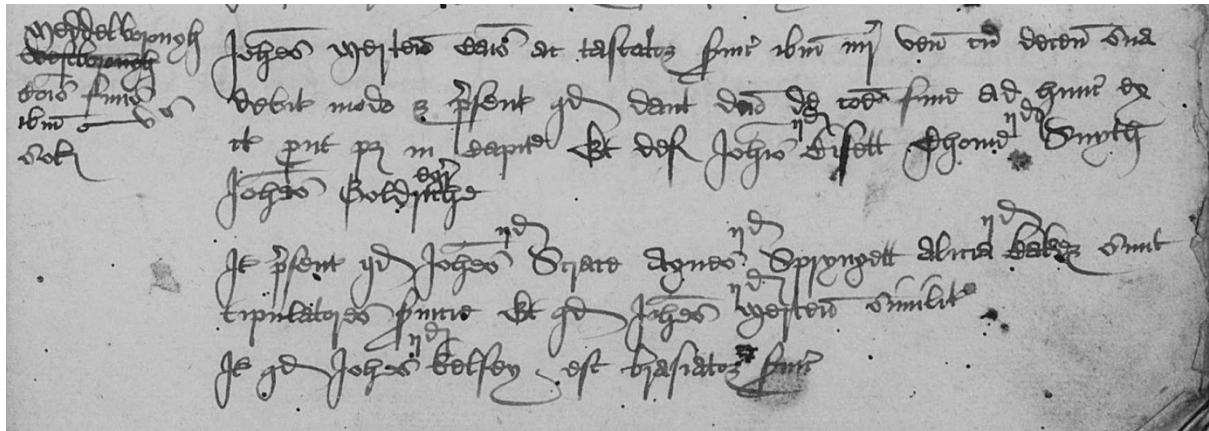


William Nayle, George Birtam, Simon Marten, William Acotes, Thomas Avery, William Bonyface, Richard Awyke, Stephen Cowper, John Butler, John Meryman, John Kelsey, James Potwell, John Abeche, William Asole, John Cunny, John Aberyke



Estborough:

William Asole, William Chele, Luke Potman, Thomas Chetenden, Robert Harle, James Parson, William Mellerd, William Cowper, Peter Vaye, Edward Kelsey, John Burrell, John Averey, Thomas Avery



Meddelborough:

John Merten, John Bisett, Thomas Snyth, John Goldriche, John Scrace, Agnes Spryngett, Alice Baker, John Merten, John Kelsey.

John Scrace here is of particular interest, bearing in mind the multiple connections between the Scrace and Blaker families. His entry reads:

It' p'sent' q'd Joh'es Scrace +ijd'+ Agnes Spryngett +ijd'+ Alicia Baker +ijd'+ sunt tipulatores suicie

Also they present that John Scrace (2d), Agnes Spryngett (2d) (and) Alice Baker (2d) are tipplers of ale.

f. 5v

Je pfont yd Jorges Spedens Junes deuspe Jgoms abeyg
 (3 Robens Spedens de qm) nignstons ad ludu rliuto
 videt loz quoyte tnsymt ad malu exomptio dloz) lozoz
 dno Boge ar contra fyma Statutu in gar pte edit 3 pms
 3 qma p fidei ptoz) 3 lozal gommis allegat 3 affirmat
 yd yd Jorges Spedens Junes deuspe Jgoms abeyg
 mms pampals granant Jdeo contt rno pmpit yd p Dupaz
 mpsanament p qparm dms dno pmanat Et yd dno
 Robertus Spedens qm copia dmsiaz vato affant 3 abmdat
 pona de Statutu in gar pte edit 3 pms content vbeat 3
 mmm

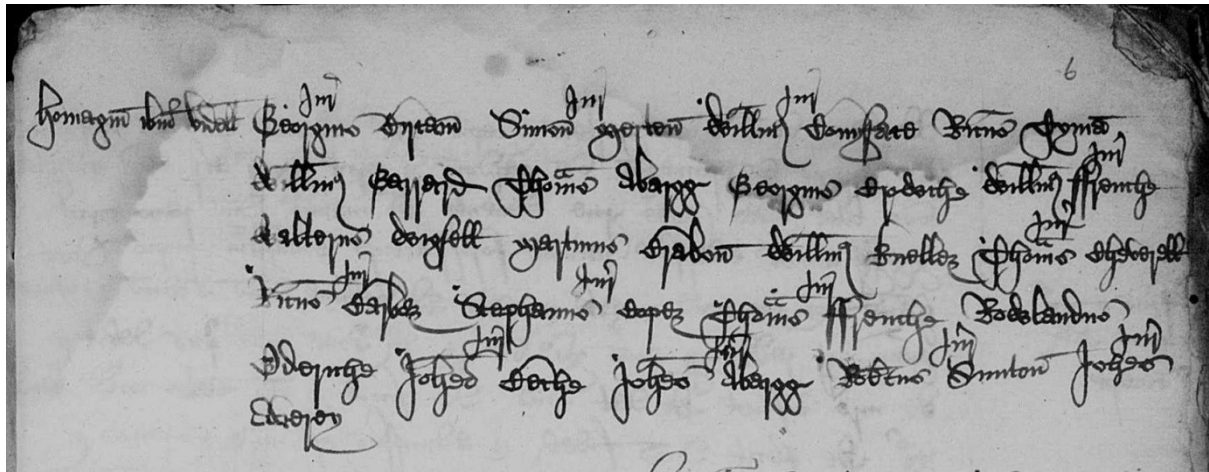
John Browne, Richard Wodsell, Thomas Aberyg, Robert Browne, John Browne, Richard Wodsell, Thomas Aberyg, Robert Browne

pona de Statutu in gar pte edit 3 pms content vbeat 3 mmm
 desceydeyng
 dno fime dno
 sub no
 Junes Barbar dno ar tascataz dno rno qm dno ad doremot
 dno 3 pfont dno ad fimo pne p et de Jorgo Jmms Jm
 Jmms Jmms ppat
 p Jorgo Jmms yd mpsanent ofney fac fossit dno a poflon
 Jmms dno dno ut fmo pstatulu dno Jorgo dno dno
 pona
 veydeyng ym
 dno Boge
 Am dno dno dno dno yd dno dno dno dno dno dno
 dno 3 fidei pfont 3 mllro amabament pof et dno dno
 oia dno

Westborowgh

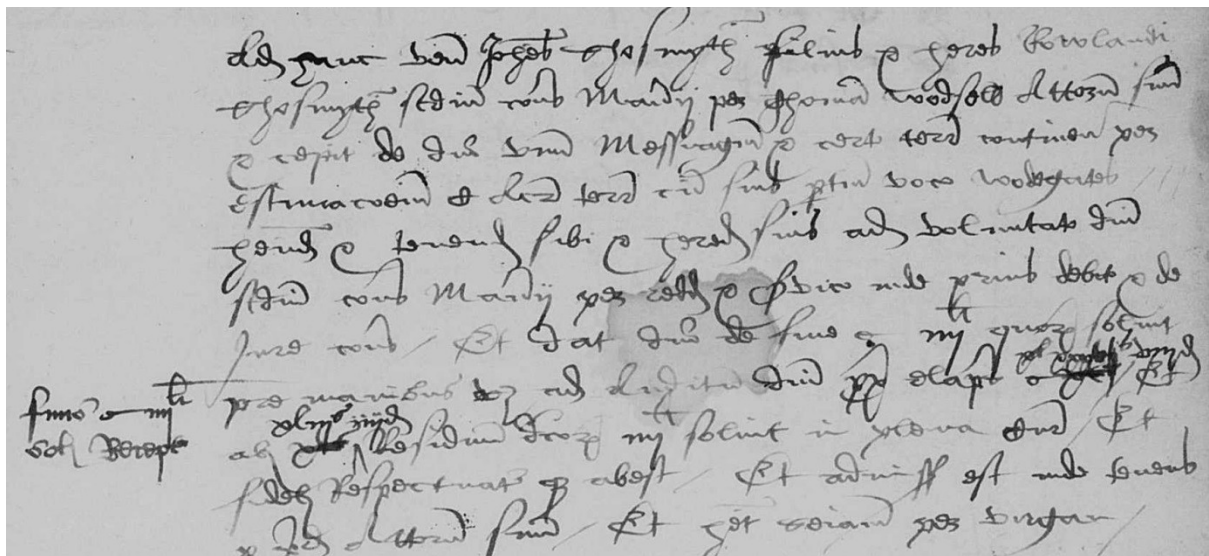
Richard Barbar, John Tyman, Richard Tyman, John Pral, John Tyman

f. 6

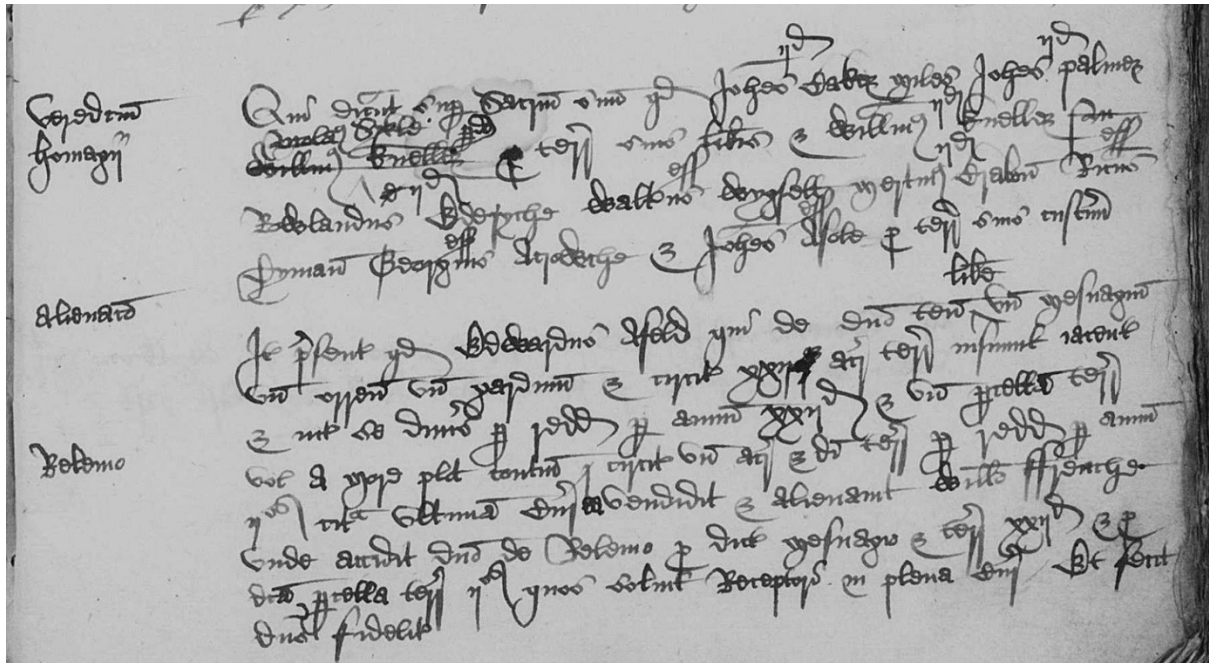


Homage

George Birtam, Simon Merten, William Bonyface, Richard Tyman, William Garrard, Thomas Abargg, George Crowche, William Frenche, Walter Wigsell, Martin Brabon, William Kneller, Thomas Cheverell, Richard Barbar, Stephen Coper, Thomas Frenche, Roland Ederiche, John Beche, John Abargg, Robert Sunton, John Averej

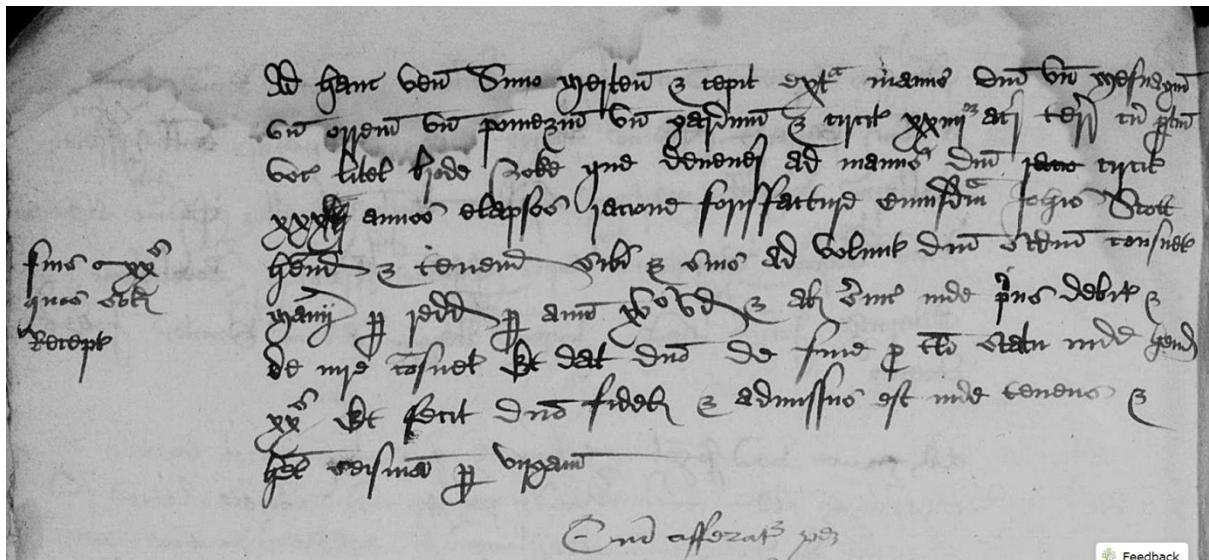


John Shosmyth, Roland Shosmyth, Thomas Wodsell



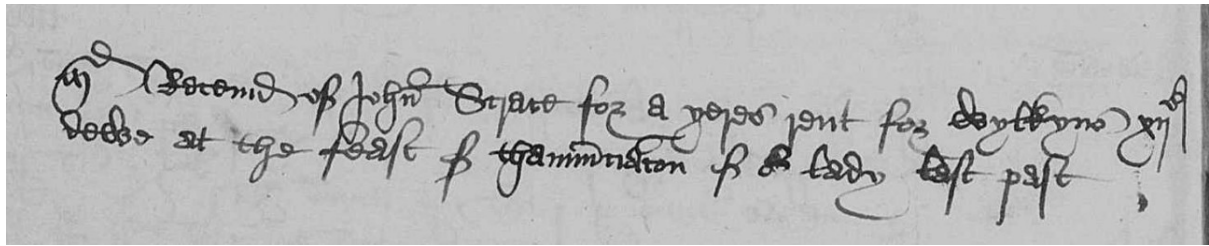
John Baker kt, John Palmer, William Kneller, Nicholas Sykle, William Kneller, Roland Ederyche, Walter Wygsell, Martin Brabon, Richard Tyman, George Acrowche and John Asole, Edward Afeld, William Frenche

f.6v



Simon Merten, John Scott

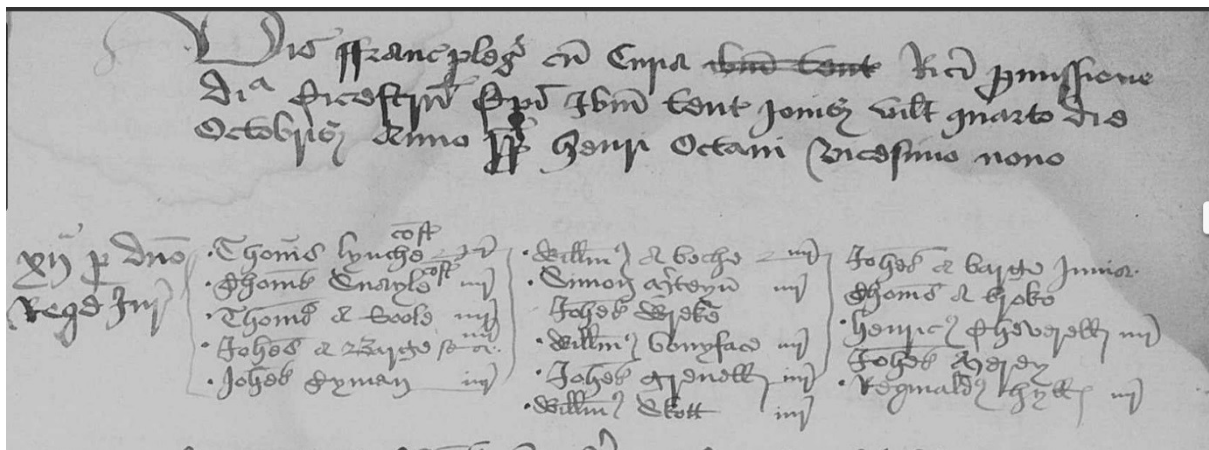
The last item in this court is a memorandum in English, concerning John Scrace, of the related Scrace family:



M^d Receiud of Joh'n Scrace for a yeres rent for Wylkyns xij' dewe at the feast of thannu'ciac'on of o' lady last past [25 March 1546]

The next previous surviving court roll for Bexhill is VI/12/3, for 1537, in the episcopal court book for the manors of Sidlesham, Selsey, Cakeham, Aldingbourne, Amberley, Ferring, Preston, Bishopston, Litlington and Streatham, and the hundreds of Bexhill and Tipnoke:

f.16



Vis' Franc' pleg' cu' Curia Ric'i pmissione di^a Cicestren' Ep'i Ib'm tent' Jouis vi'lt quarto die Octobris Anno rr' Henri Octaui vicesimo nono

xij p d'no Rege Jur'

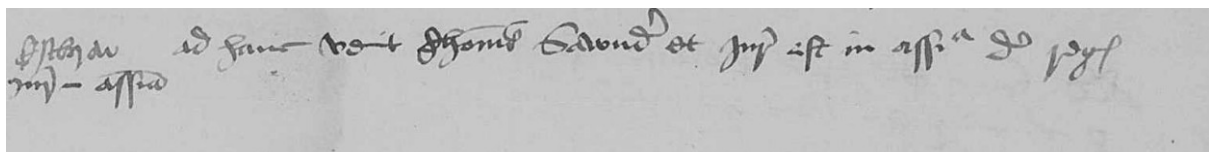
- | | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| . Thom's Lynche +co'st'+ | Jur' |
| . Thom's Snayle +co'st'+ | iur' |
| . Thom's A Soole | iur' |
| . Joh'es A Barge senior | iur' |
| . Joh'es Tyman | iur' |
| . Will'm ^s A beche | iur' |
| . Simon M ^r teyn' | iur' |
| Joh'es Wreke | |
| . Will'm ^s Bonyface | iur' |
| . Joh'es greuell | iur' |

. Will'm ^s Skott	iur'
Joh'es a barge Junior	
Thom's A broke	
. Henric ^s Cheverell	iur'
Joh'es Merey	
. Reginald ^s Hyll	iur'

View of Frank pledge with court of Richard, by divine permission bishop of Chichester, held there on Thursday, to wit, the 4th day of October in the 29th year of the reign of king Henry VIII [4 October 1537]

Twelve sworn for the lord king

. Thomas Lynche +constable+	Sworn
. Thomas Snayle +constable+	sworn
. Thomas A Soole	sworn
. John A Barge senior	sworn
. John Tyman	sworn
. Willia ^s A beche	sworn
. Simon Marteyn	sworn
John Wreke	
. William Bonyface	sworn
. John Grevell	sworn
. William Skott	sworn
John a barge junior	
Thomas A broke	
. Henry Cheverell	sworn
John Merey	
. Reginald Hyll	sworn



Estborow
Sawnd^f

Westborowe Jago denche papat ac tate pmo id m vnt doto
 modo e deo fa et plet qd dat de de pto f e de ad pto de
 ut h e qd pto a bage ja / Jago ffuythay / ffuythay det
 tate e qd qd Jago a bage a ~~ffuythay~~ / ffuythay
 m bage tate e qd vlt plet e d e ffuythay ut ffuythay
 Qui dicit sup pagn f qd de pto e e fidei plet e d
 ffuythay mlt coelamit fage / ffuythay plet qd bage. ap b
 ghynd lnd op m det pto pto tate dicit tate g amptat
 pto de diti pto at ffuythay d pto bnt pto m m m

ffuythay ffuythay

ffuythay ad fimo ffuythay. Reginald ffuythay in offic ffuythay m dicit ffuythay de qd op
 ffuythay ffuythay ffuythay ffuythay in offic ffuythay ffuythay de qd op
 ffuythay ffuythay ffuythay ffuythay ffuythay ffuythay ffuythay ffuythay ffuythay

Westborowe
Wreke, Thomsytt, Denche, A Barge, Fayrman, A Barge, Hyll, Grynell

Ave Maria in Awdeby miserere (Dicit) Amen dico vobis
 An amen dico vobis
 Amen dico vobis alle

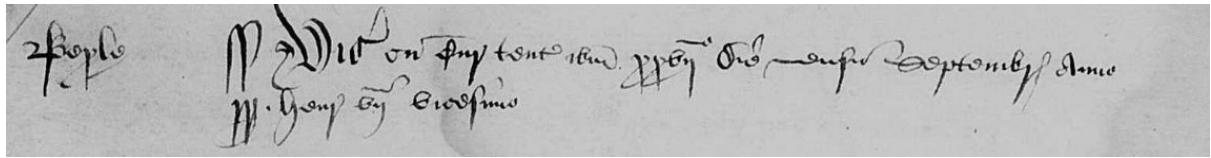
Awdeby

f.17r

Cowp bar Homizad abm fup pto qd Jago bakar / dedit bage
 qm fup pto pto fimo vocat bakay / qm pto pto
 libat mpy ffuythay parker vocat gloned / e fac dor bage qm
 fup pto pto - m e p ac dnd ffuythay ffuythay dedit bage pto fup
 pto pto pto / ffuythay ffuythay / ffuythay ffuythay / ffuythay ffuythay
 bage qm fup pto fup ad voluntate d e fac dk
 e ad fimo ffuythay ffuythay e ut pto

Bakar, Parker, Homer, Pallm^r, Wigsell, Cowp, Buttler

The next previous court surviving for Bexhill is from 1504, Ep/VI/12/1 ff.42-44 62 folios covering Manhood hundred, the manors of Chichester Palace, Amberley, Aldingbourne, Cakeham, Selsey, Sidlesham, Streatham, Drungewyke, Ferring, Preston, Bisjopston, Bexhill and Ticehurst, and Tipnoke hundred.



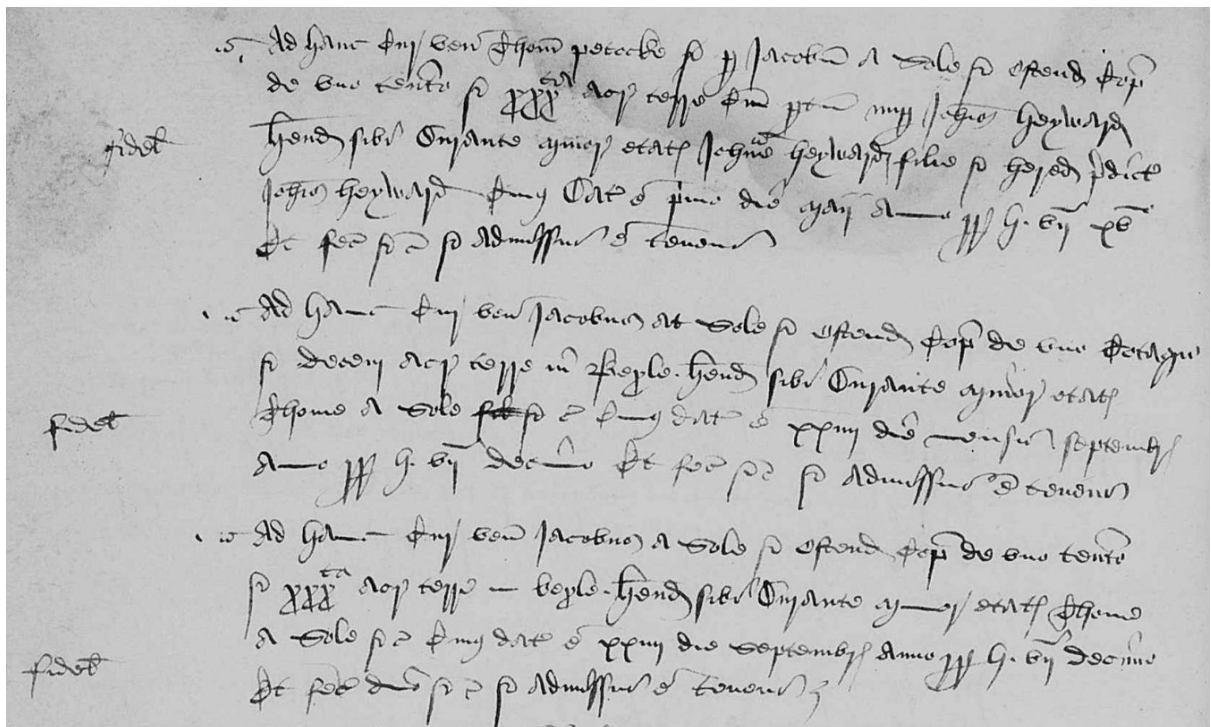
Bexle

Vis' Cu' Cur' tent' ib'm xxvij^{mo} Die mensis Septembr' Anno rr' Henr' Vij vicesimo

Bexle

View with court held there on the 27th day of the month of September in the 20th year of the reign of king Henry VII [27 September 1504]

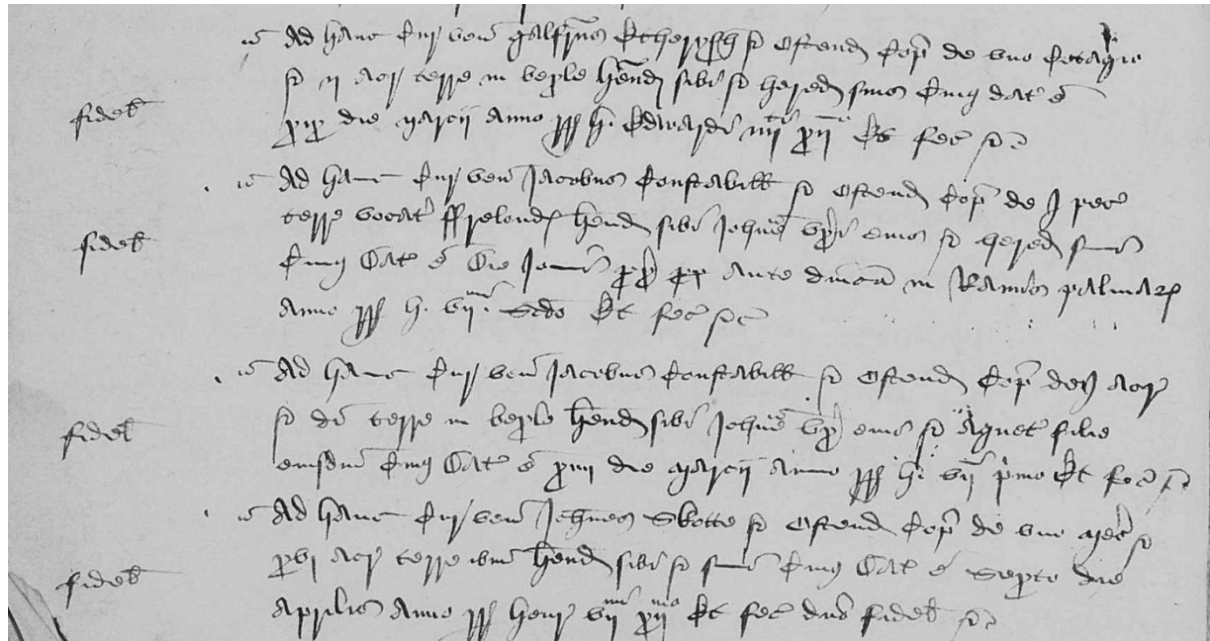
This starts with a set of admissions to copyhold premises, fealty being performed by the new tenants:



Thomas Petocke (by James A Sole): admitted tenant to 30 acres of land of John Heyward during the minority of Johanna Heyward, John's daughter and heir as per deed 1 May 15 Henry VII [1500];

James At Sole admitted tenant to a cottage and 12 acres of land in Bexle, during the minority of Thomas A Sole as per deed 24 September 10 Henry VII [1404];

James A Sole admitted tenant to a tenement and 30 acres of land in Bexle, during the minority of Thomas A Sole as per deed 24 September 10 Henry VII [1404];

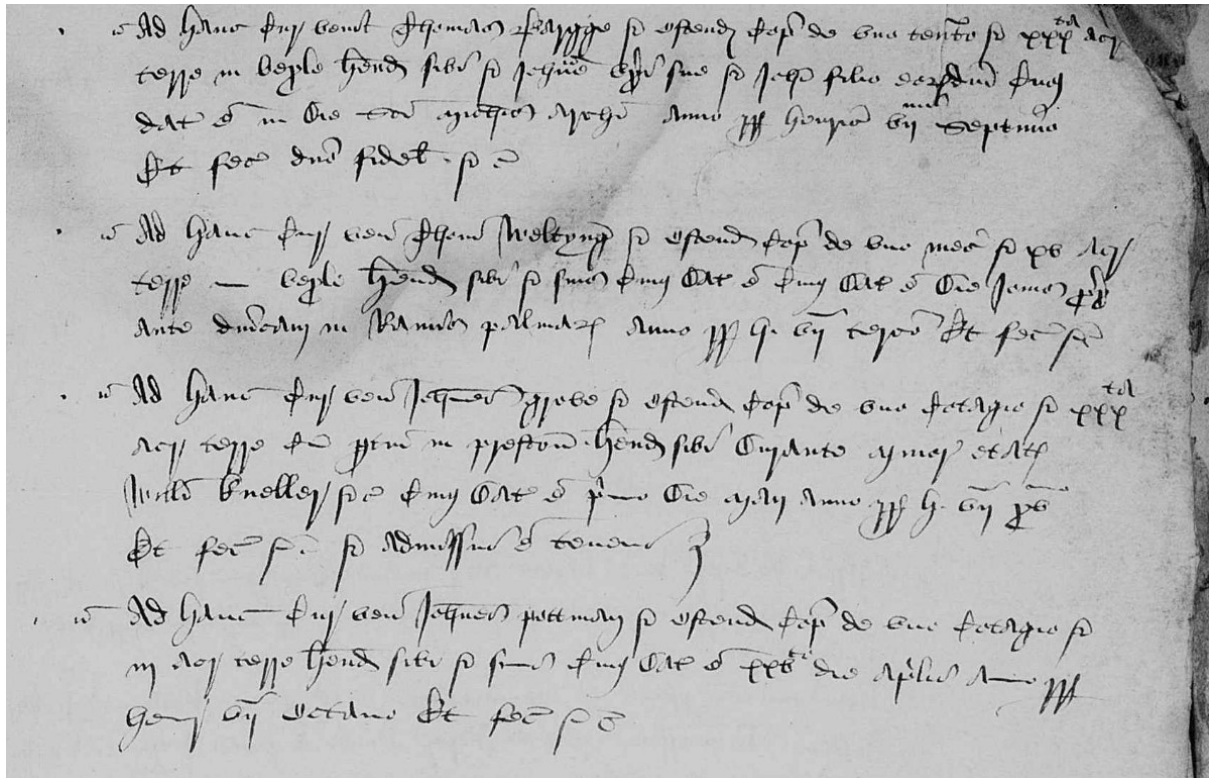


Geoffrey Ethersh admitted tenant of a cottage and 2 acres of land as per deed 20 March 12 Edward IV [1472];

James Constabill admitted tenant of a piece of land called Frelond^s to him and Johanna his wife and their heirs as per deed Thursday before Palm Sunday 2 Henry VII [5 April 1487];

James Constabill admitted tenant of 10½ acres of land in Bexle to him and Johanna his wife and Agnes their daughter as per deed 14 March 1 Henry VII [1486];

John Skotte admitted tenant of a messuage and 16 acres of land there as per deed 6 April 12 Henry VII [1497];

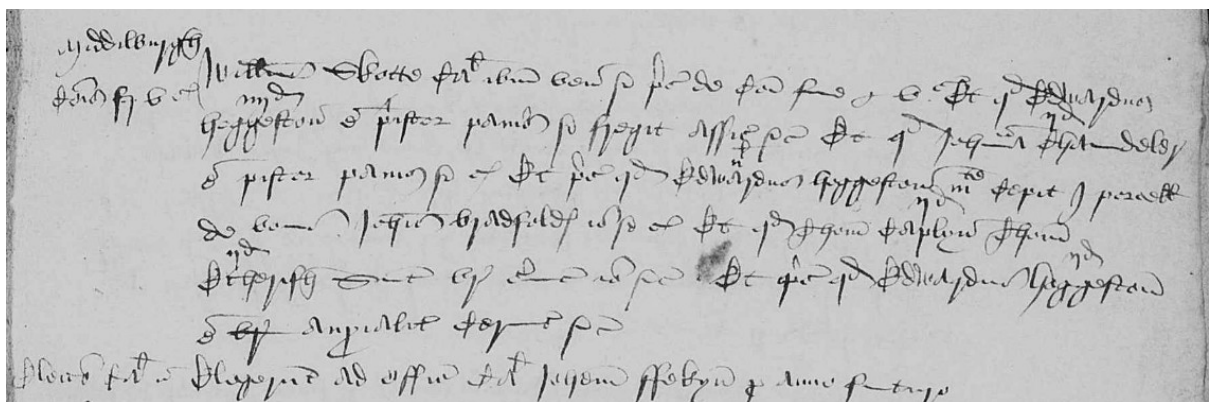


Thomas Barge admitted tenant of 30 acres of land in Bexle, to him and to Johanna his wife and John their son, as per deed Michaelmas Day 7 Henry VII [29 September 1491];

Thomas Weltyng admitted tenant of a messuage and 15 acres of land in Bexle, as per deed Thursday before Palm Sunday 3 Henry VII [27 March 1488];

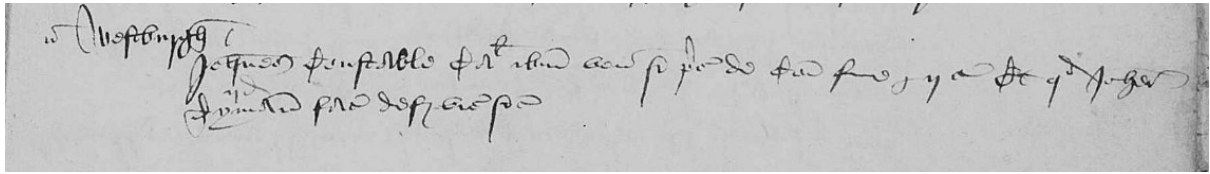
John Grove admitted tenant of a cottage and 30 acres of land in Preston, during the minority of William Kneller, as per deed 1 May 15 Henry VII [1500];

John Pettman admitted tenant of a cottage and 3 acres of land, as per deed 25 April 8 Henry VII [1493]



Middilburgh

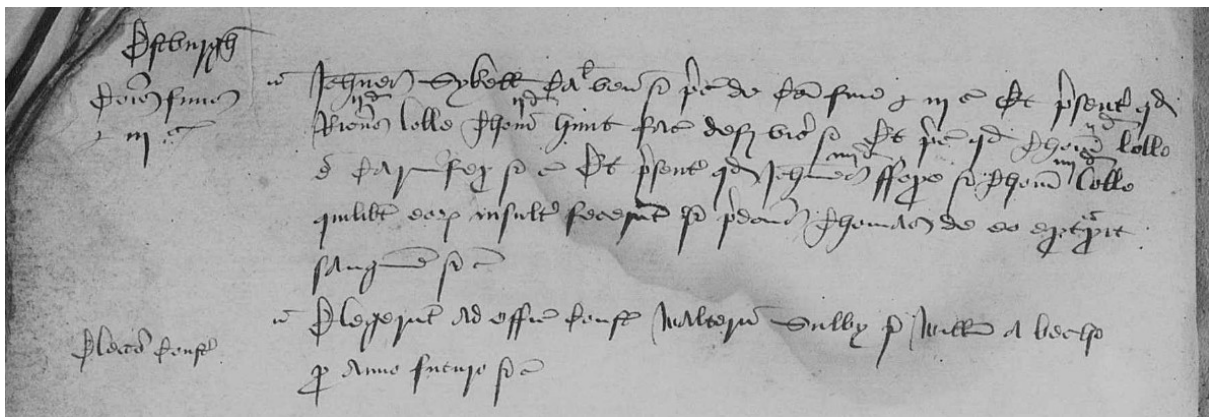
Skotte, Hoggeston, Chanderler, Hoggeston, Bradfeld, Caplyn, Etherish,
Hoggeston, Fekyn



A snippet of handwritten text in a medieval script, likely Gothic or similar. The text is written in dark ink on a light-colored parchment or paper. It begins with a large initial letter, possibly 'H' or 'Hog', followed by several lines of text. The script is dense and somewhat difficult to decipher due to its cursive nature and the age of the document.

Westburgh

Constable, Tyman



A larger snippet of handwritten text in a medieval script. The text is written in dark ink on a light-colored parchment or paper. It begins with a large initial letter, possibly 'H' or 'Hog', followed by several lines of text. The script is dense and somewhat difficult to decipher due to its cursive nature and the age of the document.

Estburgh

Sykell, Lolle, Hunt, Lolle, Foxe, Lolle, Sulby, A beche

RICHARDBLAKERofTILTON, 1541

25 February 1541 among the property with which sir Edward Bray enfeoffed trustees to uses, was a 'messuage and all lands and tenements in the occupation of Richard Blaker', described in a marginal note as being part of the manor of Telton.¹⁰⁷

The township of Telton (the modern Tilton) lay in Alciston hundred of Pevensey rape, which comprised the ancient parishes of Alciston, Alfriston and Lullington. Tilton is on the extreme west edge of the hundred, closely adjoining West Firle, and a mile or so southwest of Selmeston. The lay subsidy returns for Telton of 1524 and 1525 appear to be complete: no Blaker is recorded, but there is an Edward Baker, according to the printed transcript, assessed at £5.¹⁰⁸

22 December 1539 sir Edward Bray had been granted by the Crown 'certain lands in the borough of Telton in the parishes of Selmeston and Alciston, Sussex, on the south and north sides of the highway leading from Lews towards Pevisey; and the lands called Pysons Wyshe and Telton Downe, in Telton; which premises belonged to the late monastery of St. Martin, Battle, Sussex.'^{109 110}

The manor of Telton appears in the *pedes finium* for Hilary term 24 Henry VIII (1533) as 'Manor of TELTON and tenements in Selmyston, Rype and Alcyston' in the hands of the Gage family¹¹¹: Edward Bray esquire and Elizabeth his wife were deforciantes of the 'Manor of TELTON and tenements in Telton, Selmeston *alias* Selmston, Rype and Alsyston' quitclaiming to James Gage esquire in Michaelmas term 1 Edward VI (1547).

Christ Church Archives, Oxford, contain a *valor* of the manor (with other manors) (DP iv.b.1) made in 1525, and manor accounts for 1526–7 (DY 4): but the Manorial Documents Register lists nothing for our immediate period of interest, before and after 1541.

107 WSRO CLOUGH/166

108 It might be as well to check this in the original

109 Signet Book: abstract in *Letters & Papers Foreign & Domestic Henry VIII*, xiv ii 301

110 There are extensive records surviving from Battle Abbey, and there should be a complete rental made during the dissolution.

111 *Sussex Manors* ii 433

BLAKERS of SELMESTON and WEST FIRLE

William Blaker

Selmeston parish¹¹², 7 miles east of Lewes, lay in Danehill Horsted hundred of Pevensey rape. In the fairly comprehensive list of householders in the 1524 lay subsidy¹¹³ there is a return for Danehill Horsted hundred, not differentiating between the parishes of which it was comprised (Horsted Keynes, Selmeston and Tarring Neville *alias* East Tarring): no Blaker or variant is recorded.

However, in 1544¹¹⁴ we have one of the earliest surviving Blaker wills, that of William Blacar of Selmeston, dated 4 March 1543(/4)¹¹⁵, directing his body to be buried in Selmeston churchyard. Selmeston burial registers do not survive earlier than 1607¹¹⁶. He says:¹¹⁷

Selmyston

In the name of god ame' the iiijth day of the mo'the of marche & in the 35 Yere of the Reign' of o' sou'agn' lord Kyng Henry the eight & in y^e yere of o' lord god 1543¹¹⁸ I wyll^{am} blacar of y^e p'ishe of Selmyston seke in body bott hole good & of p'fet reme'br^{ance} doo make my test' & last will in man' & forme foloyng / Fyrst I bequethe my sawle to almyghty god my sauour redem' & maker / & to the blessyd virgyn o' lady st Mary & to all the blessyd co'pany of hevyn & my body to be buried wⁱⁿ the churche yerd of Selmyston' It' I doo make Joh'n & will^{am} my ij sons my executors & my wiff to be as fare at my good^s as my ij sons if she doo abyde w^{it} them / It' if she goo from them' then my ij sons to pay her iiij^{li} of lawfull mony of Englund / It' I gyff to my ij dowghters iiij^{li} etche of them xxvj^s viij^d a pese. and thay to be payd at the tyme of their mariage / It' if any of my dowght^rs depart then y^t pt to be devydyd to my ij sons / It' I gyff to the hye alter of selmyston xij^d / It' I gyff to the lyght afore the Rode xij^d / It' it is my wyll to haue at my buryng ij prest^s & at my mo'thes mynd ij p^rst^s & at my yer^s mynd ij p^rst^s / It' I make my supvisors Joh'n stert & Robert sterte to se that my wyll be fulfillyd & kept / wytnes hereof s Edward fell curat Joh'n stert & Robert sterte w^{it} oth^r moo. / It' I gyff to will^{am} my son my best kowe more then any of my chyl dren Sm^a Inventorij [*blank*]¹¹⁹

112 Selmeston old church, which had by then been pulled down, was discussed in an article in *The Antiquary* xxxi of 1895, in which four views of the original structure are published. The name Selmeston sometimes appears corrupted to Sim(p)son.

113 PRO E 179/164: printed Sussex Record Society lvi p. 131

114 assuming the will is dated Old Style

115 Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 1, f. 53v

116 Bishop's Transcripts: the original registers survive from 1660 onwards.

117 West Sussex Record Office

118 Old Style = 4 March 1544

119 For some reason, Renshaw's transcript differs considerably, perhaps being based on an early and inaccurate copy: *Item I doo make John and Willyam my twoe sonnes myn executors. My wyef to abyde wth my twoe sonnes and bee keep'd by them butt yf shee goe from them thenn they are to paie her £4. I doo gyve to my dowghteres £4 eche of them and 26.8^d a pese when they become 21. Item. Yf anye of my dowghteres departe thys lyfe then ytt ys to bee dehyver'd to my twoe sonnes. Item. I gyf to the Hye Aulter of Selmeston 1^l and to the Lyghte befoore the Rode 1^l. Item. Yt is my wyll to have att my buruyng thre prestes and att my obitys thre Prestes. Item. I gyf the Parsonne my best Kowe.*

Evidently William was not very old: his three daughters were unmarried, but there is no indication that they were minors. He was perhaps born about 1500. His sons were John and William. The will registers do not give details of probate at this period: in this volume (A 1) the wills were proved in the period 1541 to 1549¹²⁰. These are the dates of the wills that appear on folios 50 to 56, i.e., adjoining William's in the register¹²¹:

50	Edward Birchett of Catsfield	28 October 1543
50	Richard Browne of Waldron	8 January 1545
50	Geffray Mychell of Rye	31 January 1544
50	Thomas Wallar of Hastings	21 June 1544
51	Agnes Allyn of Ticehurst	22 April 1538
51	John Godfray of Hastings St Clement	administration
51	William Hunt senior of Ticehurst yeoman	18 January 1544
51	Agnes Jorden of Ticehurst	18 February 1541
52	Thomas Ryckeward of Southease	2 December 1543 + administration
53	John Aylard of Lewes All Saints	26 May 1544
53	Thomas Berd of Brighton	administration ¹²²
53	William Blacor ¹²³ of Selmeston	4 March 1544
53	Robert Hun of Brighton	administration
53	Nicholas Medway of Hastings All Saints	administration
54	Philip Banester of Eastbourne	1 October 1544
54	John Stapulton of Eastbourne	18 February 1545
55	John Gardener of Slaugham yeoman	15 February 1544
55	Thomas Thetcher of Willingdon	13 May 1544
56	John Durrant of Hastings St Clement	12 May 1543
56	Thomas Holden of Winchelsea St Thos ap	27 January 1545

This shows that William's will was proved no earlier than January 1545, but not much later, so he will have died only a year or two after making the will.

John Blaker

Shortly afterwards John Blaker of Selmeston husbandman appears as a defendant in this case:

Public Record Office: C 40/1127
Common Pleas Hilary 37 Henry VIII

Hilary 1546

Sussex

Petrus Hanelys Capellanus p Attorn' suu' op' se iij^{to} die v'sus Simonem Austen' nup de Selmeston' in Com' p'd'co Husbondman' +de pl'ito q'd reddat ei quadraginta solidos+ Et v'sus Rob'tum Thaccher nup de Selmeston' in Com' p'd'co Husbondman' Joh'em Blaker

120 Index Library xxiv p. 2 note

121 dates adjusted to New Style

122 these administrations are not dated in the original register, and so do not help us pin down the date of probate

123 *sic* in calendar

The earliest material for Selmeston Ludlay is a court book of 1605 to 1888, held by East Sussex Record Office (SAS/G¹²⁹ 68/2/1). For Tilton there is a valor of 1525 (with other manors) held by Christ Church college, Oxford (DP iv.b.1) and accounts for 1526 to 1527 (DY 4). There is nothing early for Sherrington.

In the absence of reference to any Blaker in Selmeston after 1546, and the lack of parish registers until over 60 years later, we can perhaps learn something more from wills. Selmeston was a small parish: there are these wills in the Lewes Archdeaconry archives through to 1600¹³⁰:

William Blacor	4 March 1544	A 1	53
William Martyn, clerk	6 October 1547	A 1	151
John Fawkener, yeoman	18 March 1556, 8 December 1556	A 3	203
Richard Roke	9 August 1552, 20 March 1553	A 3	67
Thomas Fawkenor	15 April 1559, 6 March 1560	A 4	328
John Rowke	19 August 1558, 24 September 1558	A 4	89
John Rucke	?1558 administration	A 4	90
Richard Fawkener	11 January 1566, 1 February 1566	A 5	286
Thomas Pecden, singleman	27 January 1567, 6 May 1567	A 5	432
Thomas Theccher	5 February 1560, 10 November 1562	A 5	101
William Rucke	administration 4 September 1562	A 5a	8
John Caffenche	20 March 1571, 12 December 1571	A 6	149
Thomas Mason	28 March 1575, 16 September 1575	A 6	335–33
John Porden	administration 13 May 1573	B 1	282
John Rucke	14 April 1574	A 6	357
Hugh Jaxon	10 February 1579, 12 June 1579	B 1	117–75
Peter Paris, clerk	26 July 1573, 12 December 1579	B 1	101
John Roffe	6 May 1580, 30 June 1580	A 7	207–85
Edward Thetcher	20 October 1578, 27 November 1578	B 1	100–70
John Mascall, gentleman	10 March 1589, 30 August 1589	A 8	310–82
Richard Hills	2 March 1594, 12 March 1594	B 2	235–191
John Rolfe, husbandman	11 March 1596, 2 April 1596	A 9	377–216*
Thomas Staple, husbandman	16 January 1596, 25 May 1596	B 2	388–219*

John Fawkner of Selmeston yeoman

Renshaw reports¹³¹ that the will of John Fawkner above¹³²

gave to [blank] Blaker three ewes and conferred benefits on various persons named Swane

This abstract, which corroborates none of the above, is given in *Fragmenta Genealogica*:¹³³

129 archives of the Gage family of Firle: SAS/G4/87 is interesting, in that (6 February 1587) it refers to copyhold surrender of a wist (20 acres) of land in Selmeston, in Wilmington manor. There are estreats for this manor in 1565 at SAS/CP 215; and a rental of 1584 held at Castle Ashby (NRA 21088 Compton: 831).

130 Old Style dates have been modernised

131 Appendix B

132 Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 3 f. 203: **we clearly need to see this**

133 x 118

JOHN FAULCONER of Selmeston, yeoman. To be buried at Selmeston. To son John all lands in Chityngleigh. Wife and sons William and Thomas to have my farm and stock. Two daughters Agnes and Joane. Son Richard. Executors: Sons William and Thomas. Overseers: James Page (?), esquire, John Faulconer and William Faulconer, yeomen. Dated 24 March 1555. Proved 13 December 1556.

The Sterts

John and Robert Stert were witnesses and executors of William Blaker's will in 1545. It would seem likely that John was the John Stert (with a son Robert) mentioned in the will of Margaret Fawkner of the adjoining parish of (West) Firle, made in 1568:¹³⁴

In the name of God Amen the xxviiith day of January in the yere of our Lord God 1567¹³⁵ I Margaret Fawkenor widow of the pioch of West Firls wthin the Countie of Sussex and wthin the Dioc of Chichester of good and pfect remembrannce lawd and prayse be to Almightye God do make and ordeyn this my last will and Testament in man' and form followinge. First I bequeath my sowll into the mercyfull hands of Amightie God my creator and maker and to my redemer and sav'r Jesus Christ. And my body to be buryed in the pioch churchyard of Westfirls aforesaid. And I will ther be distributed and gyven at the day of my buryall amongst the inhabitants of Westfirls aforesaid one barrell of bear and ii bussells of wheat to be baked in bread and one shepe or a calfe if it be a day therfore if not bread and chese sufficyent and one barrell of bear as is aforesaid. Itm I gyve towards the repacons of the church of Westfirls iii^s iiiii^d. Also I gyve towards the amendement of the high way from Small Redge towards the church of Westfirls xii^d. Itm I gyve and bequeath to ev'ry one of my Godchildren that be unmaryed xii^d a pece if it be asked. Itm I gyve and to Alice Tyshurst

134 Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 5 f. 493: **we need a copy of the original; this transcript was by Dave Woolven, who complained that he was working from a scratched microfilm, and who clearly found some of the text illegible**

An abstract of this will was given in *Fragmenta Genealogica* x 121 (1904) in an article entitled *Faulconer Family Wills 1543–1829*. FONS BLAKER 2/3. There are radical differences between the reading in *Fragmenta* and the transcript by DW: *MARGARET FAULCONER of Firle, widow. To repairs of West Firle Church, 3^s 4^d. To repair the road from Small Body towards church 1^s. To Alice Tyshurst and Johan Brooke, widows, clothing. To Margaret Brooke my god-daughter clothing. To John Seale of the mill wheat. To Thomas Harman of Warbleton ditto. To Robert Carpenter my god-son a bullock. Bequests of cattle, &c., to Richard Feydelphe my god-son, and to John Brown ditto. To John, Richard, William, Edward, John (sic) and Joane Blaker sheep, &c. To son-in-law John Blaker, their father. To Johan Blaker my god-daughter sheets, &c., at 21. To Robert Start furniture, his father John Start to be constable till 21. To John and Michael Stert cattle. To Edward Vynall a great chest which was his uncle's, Richard Swane's. To Johan, John, Edward and Richard Vynall, children of Richard, cattle, he to be constable. Cattle to John Swane, to his sons John and William and his daughter Margaret, my god-daughter. To John Swane their father, bacon, &c. To Agatha Stert, Jane Vynoll and Agnes Blaker, my daughters, clothing and also residue to them. A debt due from John Bellingham of Old Shoreham to be divided in specified portions between John Swane and John Stert my sons and Richard Vynoll and John Blaker, sons-in-law, but John Blaker to permit Alice Tyshurst and Johan Brooke, widows, to live on farm during rest of the lease, otherwise £2 between the widows, £1 to the poor and balance between John Swane my son and John Blaker, son-in-law. Overseers: John Stert and Richard Vynoll, sons-in-law. Clothes to Richard Stydolf and John Browne. A debt owing by Robert Bastian, to John Bastian at 21. Dated 28 January 1567. Proved 22 March 1567. The Faulconer materials collected in this article give no indication of Margaret's husband's name, despite there being extensive coverage of the early wills and parish register entries.*

135 Old Style = 28 January 1568

widow one tolvet of wheat and one tolvet of malt one lockeram and one smock to be delyv'ed to her ymediatly after my decease by the hands of Itm I gyve and bequeath to Johanne Brooke widow one tolvet of wheat and one tolvet of malt my best russet peticote and my gowne wch I usually do wear every hollyday my best lockeram rayll a hollyday kercher and a smock to be delyv'ed to her after my decease. And I gyve to Margaret Brooke my Goddaughter my best read peticote to be deliv'ed to her after my decease. Itm I gyve and bequeath to John Seales als Joyner? of the myll one bussell of wheat if it be then ready in the barne to have it ymediatly after my decease if not he to tarry a longer tyme untill it be ready. Also I gyve and bequeath to Thomas Harman of Warbleton one bussell of wheat and one bussell of malt to be deliv'ed to him ymediatly after my decease. And I gyve to Robert Carpenter my Godson one two yeringe bullock. Itm I gyve to Richard Frydolphe? my servant one wenyer calfe one of my best blanckets my best whyttell? and one payre of sheetes one of hemp and thother of canvas. Also I gyve to John Browne? one wenyer calfe. It I gyve and bequeath to Willyam Blaker my Godson one ox and my great pann. Itm I gyve to vi of John Blaker his children that is to say to John, Richard, Willyam, Edward, Johane and Johane Blaker iii shepe and ii lambs to be equaly shifted and devyded amongst them. Itm I gyve to Richard and John Blaker one ox to be shifted betwixt them and I gyve to Edmond Edward Blaker and Johane Blaker the yonger one other ox to be equaly shifted betwixt them. And my veary will and mynde be that the said stock of cattell shalbe deliv'ed to the said vi children when they and ev'y one of theme shall accomplish thage of xxi yeres. And that my sonne in law John Blaker their father shall put forth or cause ~~to be put~~ the said stock of cattell to be put forth to the most encrease utilitie proffyt and advantage for the said children from their sev'all ages of xiiii yeres untill they and ev'y one of theme do accomplish the full age of xxi yeres. And then at the said age of xxi yeres to delyver the said stock of cattell to the said children with the encrease therof without frawd or decept as I have appoynted by this my last will. And if it fortune any of the said vi children to decease and depart this p'te world before the receipt of this their legacy and before they and ev'y one of them do accomplish thage of xxi yeres that then my will and mynd is that his or her part or porcon so deceased shall remayn and equaly be devyded and shifted amongst them that survive. And as concerninge my great panne wch I have bequeathed and gyven to Willyam Blaker my Godson shall remayn and be in the salve custody of John Blaker his father untill he come to the full age of xxi yeres. And that the said John Blaker duringe the said space shall not break consume? spill or spoyall the said panne but to occupy? yt and use yt reasonably and to be answerable to the said Willyam at the foresaid age appoynted. Itm I gyve to Johane Blaker my God daughter a green coverlet and payre of sheates wherof one to be hooke seamed and thother of hemp or canves as they do aryse a payre of sylver hookes and a pewter dishe to be delyvered to her at thage of xxi yeres or els at the day of her maryage if she marry before the said age. Itm I gyve to ...? Puller iiii bussells of barley malte to be delyvered to her at thage of xxi yeres. Itm I gyve and bequeath to Robert Start my Godson my best flock bead a bolster my best coverlet or blancket a payre of hempen sheates a table cloth of hempe wrought with blew threed my best chest my great plater one great panne with ii eares to be delyvered into the hands of John Start his father ymediatly after my decease by my executors and my executors therof to be discharged and acquytted and the said John Start to be comptable therof when the said Robert doth accomplish thage of xxi yeres. Also I give to John Stert and Michaell Stert one oxe to be equaly devyded betwixt theym. And I gyve to the said one pewter platter and one sheit and I gyve to the said John Start one sheit. Itm I gyve to Johane Stert one payre of shetes a pewter dish a kercher and a lytell chest. Also I gyve to the foresaid iiii children of John Stert (that is to ~~said~~ say) to Robert, John, Michaell and Johane Sterts fower shepe to be equaly devyded amongst theym. And my myne and will is that the said John Stert their father shall put forth the said ox and the fower shepe to the most

encrease and profyt he can for the said children from their sev' all ages of ~~xxi~~ xiiii yeres untill they and every on of them come to thage of xxi yeres and then at the said age of xxi yeres to delyver the said stock or porcon of goods to the said children with thencrease therof without frawd or decept as I have appoynted by this my last will. Also if it happen any of the foresaid iiii or children to decease in lyke man' as is abovesaid that ... his or her pte so deceased shall remayn and equally be shifted amongst them that survive and overlyne. Itm I gyve and bequeath to Edward Vynall one cow one great chest wch was his unkle? Richard Swanes? and one sheit. Itm I gyve to Richard Vynall one cow and a sheit. Itm I gyve to John Vynall my best kettell one of my best pewter plates and one payre of sheates. Itm I gyve to Johane Vynall one blancket one payre of shetes one to be hooke seamed and the other of hemp or canves as they shall aryse a payr of sylver hookes a holydayes kearcher and a pewter dish. And I gyve to the foresaid Edward, Richard, John and Johane Vynalls fower shepe to be equally devyded betwixt them. And this their bequeath and legacy aswell cattell as howsold stuffe shalbe put in the hands of Richard Vynall their father by my executors and my executors therof discharged and acquyttd. The said Richard Vynall shalbe answerable to the said children when they and ev'y one of them come to the age of xxi yeres. And my will and mynd is that the said Richard Vynall shall put forth the said stock of cattell to the most encrease and proffyt he can for the said children from their sev' all ages of xiiii yeres untill they and ev'y one of them come to thage of xxi yeres and then as they and ev'y one of them do accomplish the foresaid age to delyver their stock and portion of goods so bequeathed unto theyme with the encrease therof without covyn frawd or decept as I have appoynted theyme by this my last will. And if it shall chance any of the foresaid iiii children to depart this po't world in lyke man' as is above expressed then I will that his or her part so deced shall remayn and equally be devyded amongst them that survive and overlyne. Itm I gyve and bequeath to John Swayn the sonne of John Swayn a great brasse pott and a cow. And I gyve to Willyam Swayn one cow. Itm I gyve to Margaret Swayn my Goddaughter one seam of wheat and on seams of barley malt one payr of sheates one kercher for the hollydayes ii shepe and a sow pigg. Itm I gyve to John and Willyam Swayn to eche one of them one sheps apece. And this their bequeath and legacy as well cattell as howsold stuffe put in the hands of John Swayn their father. And the said John Swayn their father to be answerable to them when they and ev'y one of them do come to thage of xxi yeres. And my will and mynd is that the said John Swayn shall put forth the said stock of cattell to the most encrease and proffyt he can for the said children from their sev' all ages of xiiii yeres untill they and ev'y on of them do accomplish the full age of xxi yeres. And he then as they and ev'y on of them do accomplish the foresaid age to delyver their stock and portion of goods so bequeathed unto them with thencrease therof without frawd g... or decept. And if it happen any of the foresaid iiii children to decease in lyke maner as is before expressed then I will that his or her part so deceased shall remayn and equally be delyvered amongst them that overlyne. Itm I gyve to John Swayn my sonne ii fleches of bacon or a pigg. And I gyve to Agatha Stert my daughter a payr of flaxen shetes the best. And I gyve to Jane Vynall my daughter my best gown. And I gyve to Agnes Blaker my daughter my next best gowne and ii kirtells one of worsted and the other of black cloth. And the rest of all my howsold stuffe wch is not gyven nor bequeathed I gyve to Agatha Stert, Jane Vynall and Agnes Blaker my daughters to be equally shifted and devyded amongst them. Itm wheras Mr John Bellingham gent of Eringhm within the pish of Oldshorham doth ow unto me the some of nyne pounds of lawfull money of England as by a byll of his hand more plantly it doth and may appear. I will the same as followeth. Fyrst I bequeath to John Swayn my sonne iii^l to John Stert my sonne in law xl^s to Richard Vynall my sonne in law xl^s and to John Blaker my sonne in law xl^s on this condicon that he the said John Blaker shall suffer and p'myt Alice Tyshurst widow and Johane Brooke widow peaseable and quyetly to inhabyt and dwell in the

howse or tenement wheras they now do dwell duringe all the space and term of yeres that he the said John Blaker now hath? In the farme? wheras he now dwelleth. But if it happen the said John Blaker at any tyme duringe the sayd yeres of the ferme? Wrongfully or ...onsly do molest trouble vex or put forth the said ii widowes out of the howse whear they now dwell the behavinge theym selves gently sobrelly and quyetly as they ought to do then I will that the foresaid xl^s gyven and bequeathed to John Blaker shalbe devyded as followeth that is to say xx^s therof to be gyven to the sayd ii wydowes to be equaly devyded betwixt theym. And the other xx^s I will shalbe distributed and gyven amongst poore people. Itm I gyve to the poore mens box of Westfirles use. The reasidew of all my goods nor gyven nor bequeathed my detts and legacyes first payed my funerall expenses discharged and this my last will proved and fulfilled I wholly gyve and bequeath to John Swayn my sonne and John Blaker my sonne in law whom I ordeyn and make myn executors of this my laste will and Testament. And I constitute make and ordeyn John Stert my sonne in law and Richard Vynall my sonne in law my faithfull and trusty oversears of this my last will and Testament and they to have for their paynes taking herin eche one one of theym one stere. These beyng witnesses Willyam Bownden?; Georg Awoche? and Michaell Lander clerk with other. Itm I gyve and bequeath to Richard Stydolf a hose cloth of my best kersey. Also I gyne to John Brown a hose cloth of my best kersey, Itm wheras Robert Bastian doth ow me the some of tenn shillings of lawfull money of I gyve the same to his sonne John Bastyan and my Godson when he comyth to thage of xviii yeres. And if the said John do dy afore he come to the said age to receive yt then I will the same to remayn back agayn to the sayd Robert Bastyan his father. Witnes as afore.

Sum of the inventory lxix^l xvi^s viiii^d

..... John Ebringham? of Lewes xxii March 1567

Margaret's daughter Agatha was married to John Stert, whose children Robert, John, Michael and Joan were under age, probably all under 14, *i. e.* born 1554 to 1568. John Stert's marriage to Agatha Faulconer would be before the start of surviving Chichester (1575) and Lewes (1586) marriage licences. West Firle parish registers survive no earlier than 1606.

These Stert &c. wills and administrations are listed in the Lewes Archdeaonry calendars from 1544 to 1640:

John Stert of Firle	6 August 1548		A 1 182
Thomas Start of Arlington	26 May 1593		B 2 174
Thomas Sturt of Bishopstone	6 April 1582	18 June 1582	A 7 274 B 1 103
Alice Start of Glynde widow	8 November 1596	13 October 1597	B 36
John Start of Firle, yeoman ¹³⁶	6 November 1605	7 February 1606	A 12 192 B 3 92
John Starte of Beddingham	11 December 1613		B 4 27
John Start of Firle	8 March 1623	13 April 1624	A 18 150 B 5 161
Michael Starte of Firle ¹³⁷	4 June 1625		B 5 210 B 5 211
Nicholas Start of Firle	10 November 1628		B 6 15

¹³⁶ we need a copy of this

¹³⁷ 15 August 1607 Lewes Archdeaonry marriage licence: Michael Starte yeoman & Joan Fawkener of Westfurle: sureties, the said Michael Starte and Mr John Boone, clerk. To be married at Westfurle.

Michael Start of Firle	11 November 1628		B 6 16
Michael Start of Firle	12 November 1628		B 6 16
John Sturt of Seaford	27 November 1630		B 6 73
John Sturt of Seaford	30 November 1630		B 6 74
Thomas Start of Chalvington	16 April 1631		B 6 86
Michael Start/Sturt of Blatchington	12 December 1636	7 January 1636	A 24 140 B 7 29

John Blaker's children

John Blaker was married to Agnes, another daughter of Margaret Faulconer, and by 1568 he had these children, all under age, and probably all under 14: John, Richard, William, Edward, Joan and Joan (plus, possibly, Edmund), *i.e.* born 1554 to 1568. John Blaker son of William Blaker of Selmeston was apparently, but not certainly, of age in 1544.

In the 1568 will there is this particular bequest:

to John Blaker my sonne in law xl^s on this condicon that he the said John Blaker shall suffer and p'myt Alice Tyshurst widow and Johane Brooke widow peaseable and quyetly to inhabyt and dwell in the howse or tenement wheras they now do dwell duringe all the space and term of yeres that he the said John Blaker now hath? In the farme? wheras he now dwelleth. But if it happen the said John Blaker at any tyme duringe the sayd yeres of the ferme? Wrongfully or ...onsly do molest trouble vex or put forth the said ii widowes out of the howse whear they now dwell the behavinge theym selves gently sobrely and quyetly as they ought to do

This does not specify where John Blaker's farm lay, apart from making clear that the eviction of Alice Ticehurst and Joan Brook lay within his power: doubtless both were poor, and no will or administration for either appears in the Lewes Archdeaconry archives.

Evidently John Blaker settled at West Firle, for we have his will there proved in 1575:¹³⁸

In the name of God Amen the xxi daye of August Anno Dni 1570 I John Blaker of the pishe of Westfirles within the County of Sussex and wthin the Dices of Chichester beinge sicke and weake of body but whole in minde and pfect of remembrannce lauded be God doe make and ordaine this my last will and Testam^t in mann' and forme followinge. First I bequeth my sowle to Almightye God my creator and maker and to my redem' and saviour Jhessus Christ by whose blud sheadinge I trust to obtaine remission of my sinnes. And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Westfirles aforesaid. And I gyve to the same church of Westferles xii^d. And I gyve to the poore mens box ther xii^d. Item I gyve to the mother church of Chichester vi^d. Item I will ther be distributed in almes amongst poore people at the daye of my buriall ii bushels of wheate to be baked in breade ... barrell of beare and one sheepe if it be a daye therfore or els sufficient cheese. Item I gyve and bequeth to Richard Blaker my sonne vii^l xiii^s iiiii^d to be delivered to him at the age of xxi yeres. And I gyve to William Blaker my sonne vii^l xiii^s iiiii^d & one pewter platter to be delivered to him likewise at the age of xxi yeres. Item I gyve to my sonne Edward Blaker vii^l xiii^s iiiii^d my fetherbed wth the boulder therto belonginge and one pewter platter to be delivered to him at the age of xxi yeres. Item I gyve to Joane Blaker my eldest daughter vii^l of lawfull money of England to be delivered to her at the age of xxi yeres or els at the daye of her mariage if she happen to marrie before that age. Item I gyve to Jaine? Blaker my second daughter vii^l of lawfull money of England to be delivered to her at the age of xxi yeres or els at the daye of her

¹³⁸ Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 6 324, B 1 27

mariage, if she marry before that age. Item I gyve to Agatha Blaker my youngest daughter vii^l of lawfull money of England and one cowe to be delivered to her at the age of xxi yeres or els at the daye of her mariage if she marry before that age. Also I bequeth to ev^{'ie} of my daughters one pewter platter a pece to be delivered to them and ev^{'ie} of them at the tyme above appointed. And if it fortune any of my sonnes to die or dep^{'t} this p^{'sent} world before they be of age to receive this their legacy gyven unto them or eyther of them then I will that his pt so dep^{'ted} or deceased shalbe equally shifted and devided betwixt the other of my sonnes then survivinge or beinge alyve. And if it fortune anie of my daughters to dep^{'t} this p^{'sent} world before ther sev^{'all} age or dayes of mariage to receive this their legacy appointed to them and eyther of them then I will that her yt so deceased shalbe equally devided amongst the other of my daughters then survivinge being on^{' lyve}. And my will and minde is that neither any of my sonnes to intermedle or have any thinge to doe wth any pt or porcon of my daughters legacs and bequethes neyther yet anie of my daughters to intermedle or have anie thinge to doe wth anie pt or porcon of my sonnes legacs and bequethes but that ev^{'ie} one of them in their degree and nature to be contented wth their pt and porcon of goods as I have limited unto them accordinge to the true meaninge of this my last will. ... my will and minde is that Agnes my wiffe and John Blaker my eldest sonne shall have hole use occupye and enioye ioyntly together my farme wth [*sic*] I hold of Mr John Jeffery Sergant at the Lawe duringe the space and terme of yeres yet to come conteyned and expressed in a lease therof made. And I will that the said John my sonne shall susteyne and beare equall charges wth Agnes my wiffe in all things touchinge the occupyinge of the said farme as in kepinge of howse, payinge and discharginge all mann^{' of} ... to whatsoev['] psons. And my will and minde is that Agnes my wiffe for her pt and John my sonne for his pt shall bringe up my children honestly vertuouslye and in the feare of God till they and ev^{'y} of them doe accomplishe ther sev^{'all} ages of xxi yeres or ther dayes of mariage, if anie of them marrie before that age. And if the said John doe refuse to beare and paye equall charges wth my wiffe in all things and to bringe up for his pt my children as is above mencioned then I will that imeadiatly upon such refusall Richard Blaker my sonne shall take the execution of this my last will and Testament upon him. And in that case the said Richard my sonne to susteyne and beare equall charges wth my wiffe in all things and to bringe up for his pt my children as my said sonne John should have done as is above expressed. And then the said John my sonne to have the pt and porcon of goods gyven willed and bequethed to Richard my sonne and noe more accordinge to the true meaninge of this my last will. But if the said John Blaker my sonne doe fortune to dye before he shalbe of age to take the execucon of this my last will and Testament upon him, and my said sonne Richard then survivinge doe succede in the roume? of the said John as one of the executors of this my last will and Testament then my very will and minde is that the pt and porcon of goods soe gyven and bequethed to my sonne Richard as is above declared shall remaine and be equally devided betwixt the residewe of my sonnes then being on lyve and soe from one to the other of my sonnes provided alwayes if my wiffe doe marry againe then my will and minde is that he wth whome shee shall soe marrye shalbe bound and sufficient suerties wth him to my ov^{'seers} for the good and honest educacon and bringinge up of my children soe many as she shalbe then charged wthall and for the faythfull and true deliverye of my children stocke when as they and ev^{'ie} of them shall come to thage of xxi yeres or the daye of ther marriage, if anie of them chance to marry before that age without anie colusion? crafte? or deceyte accordinge to the true meaning of this my last will. And if he refuse to doe the same? then my ov^{'seers} to have authoritie and power by vertue of this my last will and Testam^t to receyve and take theise my children stocke soe as my wiffe shalbe then charged withall into ther hands and to put owt the same for the most proffit of my sayd children and they likewise to be bound to my said wiffe for the faythfull deliverie of the same stock and the proffits therof, if anie then

be, to my said children at ther sev'all ages or dayes of marriage as is above reserved. And if the said John Blaker my sonne doe at anie tyme hereafter neglect his dutie in bringing up of them my children, wth whome he shalbe then charged, for his pt and doe then beginne to dyminishe spoyle and wast my children for ... soe comitted to his charge then and in that case my ov'seeres to have the like authoritie and power ov my sonne John as is comitted to them on my said wiffe or him wth whome shee shall soe marrie againe as is above remembered any other thing conteyned and expressed in this my said last will and Testament in anie wise to the contrarie not wthstanding. Item I gyve to Agnes my wiffe in redy gold iii^l. Item I gyve to John my sonne xl^s. Item I gyve to John Browne my servant one wether sheep to be delivered to him imediately after my decease. Also I gyve to Elinor Browne my sisters daughter ii bushels of wheat to be delivered to her after my decease. And I gyve to Elinor Fuller foure bushels of mault and one ewe to be delivered to her after my decease. Item I gyve to Alice Tysherst widdowe and Joane Brook widdowe to ev'ie of them xii^d apece or els one tolvett of wheat apece to be taken at their choyce. Item I gyve to ev'ie of my Godchildren vi^d apece. The residew of all my goods not gyven nor bequethed my debts and legacs first payd my funerall expences discharged and this my last will proved and fulfilled I doe gyve and bequeth to Agnes my wiffe and John my sonne whome I mak and ordeyne my executors of this my last will and Testament. And I constitute make and ordaine John Stert and John Swaine? my brothers in lawe my ov'seers of this my last will and Testament and they to have for their paines takinge herin eyther of them iiiii bushels of wheate. Thes being witnesses Arnold Balle?; John Weller the... and Michaell Lawder, Clerk and others¹³⁹

John has presumably made good his mother-in-law's desire not to harm Alice Ticehurst and Joan Brook, and he now leaves them small bequests. The will was made in 1570, when his younger children (Richard, William, Edward, Joan, Joan and Agatha) were still under age, and so born between 1549 and 1570.

We now find that John Blaker's farm was held by lease from John Jeffery, serjeant-at-law. Jeffery acquired the manor of Amies otherwise Levetts in West Firle in Easter 1564:¹⁴⁰

Amies *alias* Levetts, Amys and Levetts (Manor).

John Jefferay, *plaintiff*, and John Bolney, esq., and Jane his wife, *deforciant*s — Manors of AMYSE and LEVETTES and tenements in West Fyrle, Bedingham, Selmyston, Clive near Lewes, Denton, Sefford and Wyllyngton, also pasture for 2 cows and 200 sheep in WEST FYRLE, quitclaimed to *plaintiff* and heirs (East., 6 Eliz. [1564]).

The Manorial Documents register lists two court books for this manor in the period 1500 to 1660:

1547-1558 draft court book, with Meads otherwise Broad¹⁴¹

East Sussex Record Office SAS/CP 66 NRA 41801 Cavendish

1650-1739 court book, with West Firle

East Sussex Record Office SAS/G 68/8/1 NRA 9421 Gage

Agnes (Fawkner) Blaker died about 1584, for this probate or administration is listed in the Lewes Archdeaconry act books:¹⁴²

139 This transcript is by Dave Woolven from a photocopy; it would be as well to correct it from the original

140 Sussex Record Society xix-xx: *Sussex Manors, Advowsons, Etc., Recorded in the Feet of Fines Henry VIII. to William IV. (1509-1833). Alphabetically Arranged and Edited by Edwin H. W. Dunkin, F. S. A., 1914-1915*, Lewes, 6

141 This should be checked first

142 we need to see this

Agnes Blaker of Firle 11 April 1584 B 1 127

Who was Margaret Fawkner's second husband?

Margaret left a good deal of property in West Firle: we do not know her age in 1568, but she had a large number of young grandchildren. In the period 1540 to 1568 there is no Fawkner of (West) Firle will or administration in the Lewes, Chichester or Canterbury probate archives. There are, however, the three Selmeston items at Lewes, as mentioned above:

John Fawkener, yeoman	18 March 1556, 8 December 1556	A 3	203
Thomas Fawkenor	15 April 1559, 6 March 1560	A 4	328
Richard Fawkener	11 January 1566, 1 February 1566	A 5	286

This abstract of Thomas Fawkner's will is given in *Fragmenta Genealogica*:¹⁴³

THOMAS FAULCONER of Selmeston. To be buried at Selmeston. Brothers Richard and William Faulconer, and his sister Joane. Mother-in-law (? step-mother) still living. Wife Agas (?) and son John Faulconer, executors. Dated 15 April 1556. Proved 6 March 1559.

and this abstract of Richard Fawkner's will is given in *Fragmenta Genealogica*:¹⁴⁴

RICHARD FAULCONER of Selmeston. To brother John Faulconer 40s. To sons Stephen and John "on tegge," if either die survivor to inherit. To Brother John a Bower 20^s. To sister Johan 20^s. To her child 2^s. To sister Agnes 20^s. To brother William Faulconer's son 3^s 4^d. To Johane Faulconer his daughter 3^s 4^d. To each a cow. To Margery Hooke 12^s. To poor of Aston [Alciston] 1^s 8^d. To church of Selmeston 6^d. Bequests to brother's servants. Brother William executor and residuary legatee. Overseer: Mr John Mascall. Dated 11 January 1565. Proved 1 February 1565.

Who was Margaret Fawkner's first husband?

In her will, Margaret refers to her son John Swain. John Fawkner, according to Renshaw:¹⁴⁵

gave to [blank] Blaker three ewes and conferred benefits on various persons named Swane

In the period 1540 to 1568, we have this one Swain will from West Firle in the Lewes Archdeaconry archives:¹⁴⁶

Thomas Swayne of Firle	24 January 1562	3 June 1563	A 5 119
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John Blaker's sister

143 x 118

144 x 120

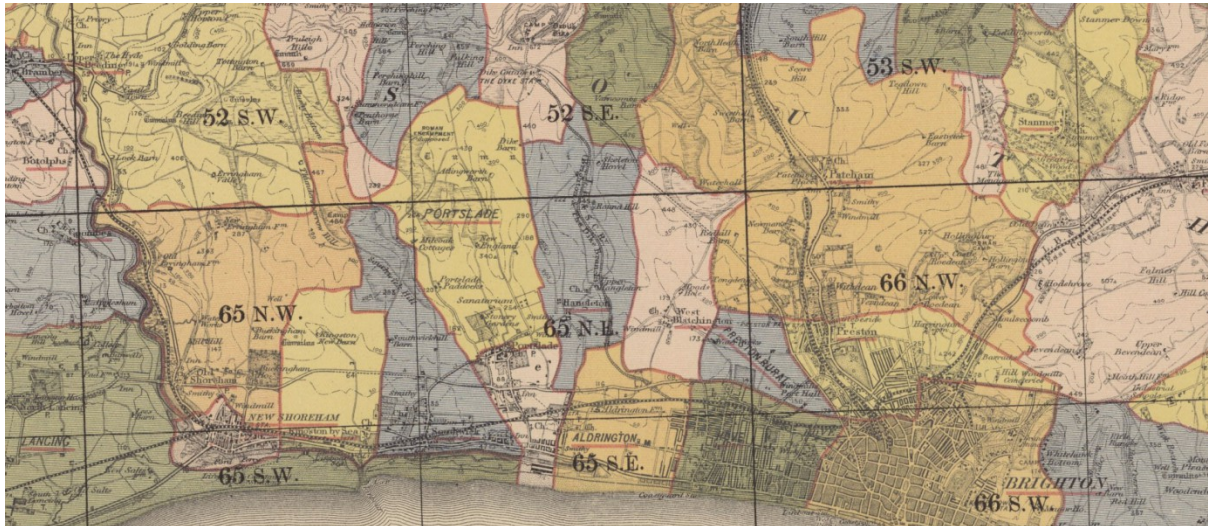
145 above

146 **which we should see**

John Blaker of West Fyrlle's will (1575) includes a bequest to 'Eleanor Brown my sister's daughter). As for a marriage licence, those for Lewes archdeaconry do not survive earlier than 1586, and those for Chichester no earlier than 1575. The relevant surviving parish registers (West Firle and Selmeston) start too late to be helpful. Equally, Brown might be Eleanor's married surname, in which case we have no information as to the surname of John's sister. Lewes Archdeaconry wills and administrations survive from 1541 onwards: from then to 1600 there are 38 Brown and variant entries in the calendars, but none from Selmeston or West Firle.

Blakers of Portslade, 1544 to 1653

Portslade is a mile inland from the south coast, from which it is separated by Hove and Southwick. Portslade formed an ancient parish in Fishergate hundred of Bramber rape, and lay in Lewes archdeaconry of the diocese of Chichester. This map of 1867 shows the *civil* parishes in the area.



Portslade is in the centre [yellow], surrounded by [clockwise from the top] Fulking [blue], Poynings [pink], Hangleton [blue], Portslade by Sea [e: pink], Sandwich [blue], Kingston by Sea [yellow], New Shoreham [pink], Old Shoreham [orange], Upper Beeding [yellow] and Edbarton [pink]. The ancient ecclesiastical parishes, on which the early records depend, are similar, but not exactly the same:

Portslade (divided later into Portslade and Portslade by Sea) and Hangleton were separate ancient parishes in Fishergate hundred of Lewes rape.

Fulkington, merely a hamlet of Edburton parish, and Poynings parish were in Poynings hundred of Lewes rape.

Sandwich, Kingston by Sea, New Shoreham and Old Shoreham lay in the other half of Fishergate hundred, in Bramber rape.

Upper Beeding and Edburton were ancient ecclesiastical parishes forming Burbeach hundred of Bramber rape.

From our point of view it is unfortunate that the key area of interest is bisected by the boundary between Bramber rape and Lewes rape, and between Chichester archdeaconry and Lewes archdeaconry. Portslade lay on the extreme western edge of Lewes rape and Lewes archdeaconry.

John Speed's map of Sussex of 1610 shows the boundary as a brown and green line, with Portslade ['Portstad'] to the east:



The active parishes are shown with a church symbol, as at Portslade: chapelries with a circle, and the market towns New Shoreham [‘New Shoram’] and Brighton [‘Brighthemston’] with a large symbol of a cluster of houses.

No Blaker or obvious variant appears in the Portslade lay subsidy returns of 1296, 1327 or 1332,¹⁴⁷ or in the Portslade poll tax of 1379.¹⁴⁸ The 1524 and 1525 subsidy returns for Bramber rape¹⁴⁹ give a combined entry for Fishergate half hundred,¹⁵⁰ presumably including the adjoining parishes of Kingston-by-Sea, New Shoreham, Old Shoreham and Southwick: but, again, no Blaker appears.

147 Sussex Record Society x pp. 49, 174, 288

148 British Academy, *The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381. Part 2. Lincolnshire-Westmorland*. Edited by Carolyn C. Fenwick, 2001, Oxford, 587

149 PRO E 179/189/126 and /134: Sussex Record Society lvi

150 p. 74

Edward Blaker (ob 1571)

However, the lay subsidy for Fishergate hundred of 1543-4¹⁵¹ includes:

Edward Blaker in Goodes £20 13^s 4^d

in 1545:¹⁵²

Edward Blaker in goodes £13 13^s

in 1549:¹⁵³

Edward Blaker in goods £12 12^s

in 1558-9:¹⁵⁴

Edward Blaker	£11	11 ^s
George Blaker	20 ^s	1 ^s 4 ^d

Edward Blaker therefore settled at Portslade about 1540. Renshaw gives this information from the Portslade manorial records:

On 25 September, 36 H. 8 (1544) [Edward Blaker] was admitted copyhold tenant of the manor of Portslade in respect of the property described in the following assurance. The rolls of this manor show that on 15 October, 6 E. 6 (1552), Sir Thomas West, "Lord la Warr" who died 25 September, 1554, by common recovery conveyed to Edward Blaker (A) in free subject to rent relief heriot and suit of court "One tenement one yard of land and three gardens called Notinghams Greneways and Roger Kylheys in Portslade and Half a yard land lying in Aldrington some time John Berd's which said premises were formerly held by copy of court roll dated 25 Sept 36. H. 8.¹⁵⁵ and containe in y^e whole one messuage three gardens xxx acres of arable land xiiij acres and one rood of pasture whereof iij acres lyeth in Aldrington and common for LXX sheep, that is to say, upon the downe there called Blakedene Downe XX sheep and upon the Downe there called Portslade Downe ffifty sheep And also vij acres of Pasture upon the north side of Blakedene Downe and xviiij acres and a half on the north part of Portslade Downe. If this be inclosed then not to have y^e common for lxx sheep. Rent p ann^m xxiiij^s viij^d payable at Ladyday and Michaelmas. Relief xxiiij^s viij^d upon every death or alienation in fee of fee tail generall or speciall of the said premises or any part. Heriot x^s and suite of Court at Portslade"¹⁵⁶

In addition, he acquired land in East Aldrington in 1565 from Richard Covert esquire.¹⁵⁷

151 PRO E 179/190/192, 193 or 195, quoted by Renshaw (App. I): [we need a copy of the original](#)

152 PRO E 179/190/218, quoted by Renshaw (App. I): [we need a copy of the original](#)

153 PRO E 179/190/225 or 239 or 246 or 247, quoted by Renshaw (App. I): [we need a copy of the original](#)

154 PRO E 179/190/267, quoted by Renshaw (App. I): [we need a copy of the original](#)

155 25 September 1544

156 [we need to see the original](#)

157 Renshaw, quoting Sussex Pedes Finium: [we need to see the original](#)

The will of Edward Blaker of Portslade was made 1 October and proved 17 November 1571 by his wife Christian, with an inventory of his goods assessed at £222 3s. Further details about his family are given by Christian's will, made 21 February 1578¹⁵⁸. Christian appeared in the lay subsidy roll for 18 Elizabeth (1575-1576) assessed at £6 'in goodes', on which she paid 10s.¹⁵⁹

Edward and Christian left, and made bequests to, a son Edward, and four daughters: Agnes married to Richard Cook; Alice wife of Thomas Voggins; Anne wife of John Beard; and Barbara wife of Nicholas Avery.

Portslade parish registers are lost before 1666, although some previous years exist in the Bishop's Transcripts¹⁶⁰. The family was sufficiently prosperous that the children might have married by licence rather than by banns, but Chichester marriage licences survive no earlier than 1575 and Lewes 1586. Barbara married between 1571 and 1578, and was of marriageable age in 1571, so born in or slightly before 1550. Presumably her older siblings were born in the period 1530 to 1550.

Edward Blaker did not care to mention the names of his three married daughters, nor to make them any bequest, in his will. Out of his estate of £222 3s he gave £2 each to each of the three daughters' husbands, plus £1 each to the two grandsons named, Edward, after him. This was mitigated by his widow, Christian, who named the daughters, gave them money and clothing, and named and gave small amounts to all the grandchildren.

Edward left most of his property to his son Edward, failing whom he cut out his daughters' families, going to great lengths to bequeath his estate to his tail male, however remote. And yet, when his grandson Edward entered his pedigree at the Visitation of Sussex in 1634, he was not able to recall his grandfather's name, and cannot have inherited any paperwork relating to the Blaker ancestry; and for all Edward Blaker the grandfather's solicitude for his remote Blaker relatives, he does not appear as a legatee in their wills.

Instead of leaving his property in the event of his son Edward's death without male heir, back to his own right heirs in tail male, Edward the testator set out this preferred line of precedence, which we would assume therefore was slightly different from the natural order of things:

and for want of heires males of the body of my said sonne lawfully begotten I geue my said house and land^s and barne and land^s with all and every there app^rten^ances vnto my Cosen Joh'n Blaker and to theires males of his body lawfully begotten and if my said Cosen John Blaker happen to dy wthout such Issue of his body then I geue all the same house barne and land^s wth all there app^rten^ances vnto Richard Blaker sonne of my Cosen John Blaker deceased and vnto the heier male of his body lawfully begotten and for lacke of such Issue of the body of the said Richard Blaker I geue the said house barne and land^s vnto my Cosen Richard Blaker ~~son~~ sonne of my vnckle Richard Blaker deceased and to theyer male of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such yssue I will all the said house barne and land^s wth all and every there app^rten^ances shall and doe remaine vnto the right and next heires of me the first abovesaid Edward Blaker for ever

As Edward Blaker the testator had to resort to cousins rather than brothers or nephews, we can assume that he had no surviving brother or nephew in 1591. 'Cousin' is a

158 of which we have a transcript by Dave Woolven 'from an appalling photocopy added to which there has been a considerable amount of bleed-through that has obliterated much of the text': it is also quoted in Sussex Archaeological Collections xix, *Sussex Notes and Queries*, 1867, Lewes, 200-201 (BLAKER 2/10): **we need a copy of the original**

159 PRO E 179/190/299, quoted in Renshaw App. I.

160 **we need details**

very loose term, and could include nephews, but really means no more than 'kinsman'. The most tangible link is the statement that his cousin Richard (living in 1591) was son of his uncle Richard (deceased in 1591). However, there were at least three possible Richard Blakers to be the uncle (at Preston Episcopi, Nuthurst and Cuckfield) each of which had or might have had a son Richard. Similarly, as for 'Richard Blaker sonne of my Cosen John Blaker deceased' there are several possibilities, and our knowledge of the Sussex families at this period is so fragmentary, that it requires an act of faith to plump for any particular person.

Agnes(Blaker)Cook

Edward Blaker, Agnes's father, left her husband, Richard Cook, 40s, and their son Richard 20s. Her mother, Christian, left her some items of clothing, and gave her children Edward, Richard, Agnes, William, Alice and Jane 40s apiece. Christian's will describes her son-in-law as Richard Cook of Bolney. Bolney is 7 miles north of Portslade, and adjoins Cuckfield on the southwest.

Unlike Portslade, Bolney parish registers survive from an early period (1541).¹⁶¹ These children were baptized there:

- Ano D'mi 1562. John & Ann the children of Richard Cook was chrystened the 3 day of October.¹⁶²
- Ano D'mi 1565. William the sonn of Richard Cook was chrystened the xth day of June.¹⁶³
- Ano D'mi 1567. Margaret the daughter of Richard Cook chrystened the vii day of march.¹⁶⁴
- Ano D'mi 1571. Alice the daughter of Richard Cook baptized the 22 day of aprill.¹⁶⁵
- Ano D'mi 1573. Thomas the sonn of Richard Cook baptized the 12 day of July.¹⁶⁶
- Ano D'mi 1575. Jane the daughter of Richard Cook baptized the xth day of July.¹⁶⁷

John, Margaret and Thomas are missing from Christian's will, and we have these burials at Bolney:

- Ano Dm. 1562. John the sonn of Richard Cook was buried the 7 day of October.¹⁶⁸

The eldest two children, Edward and Richard, were not baptized at Bolney, nor were their parents married there. This suggests that the family moved to Bolney about 1560.

This may be Richard Cook (husband of Agnes) burial at Bolney:

- Ano Dom'i 1624. Richard Cooke buried the five and twentie day of Maie.¹⁶⁹

but Agnes is not found there.¹⁷⁰

An earlier Richard Cook and wife were buried at Bolney:

1598. There was buried the first of october ould Richard Cooke 1598.¹⁷¹
1598.¹⁷² The viith of January was buryed ould Richard Cookes widow.¹⁷³

161 Printed Sussex Record Society xv: *The Parish Registers of Bolney, Sussex 1541–1812*. Edited by Edward Huth, 1912, Lewes

162 page 7 of the printed transcript

163 page 9 of the printed transcript

164 Old Style, i.e., 1568: page 10 of the printed transcript

165 page 11 of the printed transcript

166 page 12 of the printed transcript

167 page 13 of the printed transcript

168 page 65 of the printed transcript

169 page 49 of the printed transcript

170 Equally, there is this pair of wills in the Chichester Consistory calendars:

Cook, Richard, Sidlesham	15	320b	1609
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Cook, Annis, widow, Sidlesham	B. Dean. 8, 22		1612
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171 page 20 of the printed transcript

172 Old Style, i.e. 1599

173 page 21 of the printed transcript

This Richard Cook of Bolney's administration was granted in Lewes Archdeaconry court 16 January 1599 (Book B2 f. 263).¹⁷⁴

This marriage at Bolney may be of the daughter of Richard and Agnes (Blaker) Cook:

1598. The 29th day of Ja. was married ambrose wickam and ann Cooke 1598.¹⁷⁵

But there remains some doubt whether the family stayed in Bolney after about 1575. Cook is, of course, a common surname, but this Lewes Archdeaconry marriage licence may be of significance:

1612-3. Feb. 10 Richard COOKE of Slaugham,¹⁷⁶ husbandman, &
Elizabeth BURRELL of Cuckfield, maiden:
sureties, said R. C. and William Fludd of Lewes, vintner
(Cuckfield)¹⁷⁷

Alice (Blaker) Voggingins

Edmund Blaker's will includes bequests to his son-in-law Thomas Voggingins: Christian's will enlarges on that, naming the children of Thomas Foggingins of Aldrington by her daughter Alice as Christian, Agnes, Barbara and John.

Aldrington adjoins Portslade on the south, and had been a separate parish, but the church fell into ruins in the 12th century, and the cure was thereafter held jointly with Portslade, and there were no separate parish registers

Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars include this administration in 1583:

Voggingins, Thomas, E. Aldrington 19 Sep B 1 121¹⁷⁸

The daughter Barbara was married at Brighton in 1595:¹⁷⁹

Maye 1595 The iiijth married Thomas Heath of Fulkinge in the pish of Edberton & Barbara Voganee of this pish.

Anne (Blaker) Beard

We have seen that Edmund Blaker, on coming into Portslade, acquired land in Aldrington that had belonged to a John Beard. He made bequests in his will to his son-in-law John Beard, and to John's son Edward. Christian's will amplifies this: their daughter Anne was married to John Beard of Rottingdean, and had children Edward, Barbara, John and Thomas.

174 **we should check this**

175 Old Style, i.e. 1599: page 21 of the printed transcript

176 Slaugham is three miles north of Bolney

177 The only marriage of a Richard Cook in the surviving Cuckfield parish registers is:

1611. May 27 Richard Coock to Joan Haselgrove. (p. 103 of the printed transcript)

178 **we need to see this**

179 *The Parish Registers of Brighton in the County of Sussex 1558–1701. Edited with an Introduction by Henry D. Roberts, M.B.E., Director of Brighton Public Library, 1932, Brighton, p. 113.*

Rottingdean was another separate parish, but for which the early registers are lost¹⁸⁰; and although it adjoins the other parishes just mentioned, it lay in another different hundred (Younsmere), in Lewes rape. It happens that *The Book of John Rowe*¹⁸¹, compiled about 1622, based on a rental of, perhaps, 1600. John Beard is listed:¹⁸²

Joh'es Beard 15. Apr. 14. Ja: et 23 Aug. 1. Ja.: tenet j cotag' nup Beldams 24. Sept. 15. Eliz: h'iett' vj^d fin' vj^d de c'to, & reddit iij^d 38. *Eliz.*

This suggests that John Beard's lease dated from 24 September 1573. A John Beard is also listed as one of the thirteen reeves:¹⁸³

8. John Beard. [for] 3. yardes of land.

The copyhold cottage and 3 virgates of land may not have been John Beard's only estate in Rottingdean.

The Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars include:¹⁸⁴

Bearde, John, Rottingdean: 24 Mar. 1596 [?1595-6], 10 July 1593 A 9 407; B 2 223

Edward Blaker (ob 1594/5)

Edward Blaker the father made elaborate provisions for his son Edward in his will, setting him up with a farm in Southwick, and additionally making him the principal legatee of his personal estate:

Itm I geue vnto Edward Blaker my sonne thoccupac'on of the house and land therevnto belonginge in Southweeke wch I late bargained for wth Richard Pyper duringe all such time and terme as by vertue of the same bargaine I ought of right to haue therein and so longe as my said sonne doth occupy and vse the same to the well likinge of my executrix and overseers or the more part of them and I geue alsoe to my said sonne in stocke to be likewise vsed and occupied about the same house and land vj Oxen wth yokes Chaines wayne dongcart and all other necessaries and implement^s for husbandry and appertayninge to the furnishinge of one Teme accordinge to the Custome of the Country wth one horse one hundreth sheepe eight quarters Seede wheat and Sixteen quarters seeade barley to be delivered vnto him p'sently after my death All w^{ch} or any the said last bequeathed p'misses yf my said sonne fondly consume or vnecessarily wast either els' disorderly spend or bestowe away that then my executrix and overseers or the more part of them Consenting shall and may notwthstandinge any former gifte or bequest hereinmenco'ed haue & take againe into their owne Custody all and every the said bequested p'misses from my said sonne or from any other psonne or psonnes in whose Custody by his deliveraunce or otherwise they shall then renaine and be and the same at there discreations to bestowe duringe the naturall life of my wife and p'sently after her death then to deliver againe the same or such like good^s to that value vnto my said sonne Edward or to his wife or children if he happen in the meane time to dye wthout any delay Further I geue vnto my said sonne Edward Blaker duringe his naturall

180 [check here for Bishop's Transcripts](#): also another source says that the early registers survive, at East Sussex Record Office

181 Sussex Record Society xxxiv: see CUCKFIELD

182 fol. 40v, page 64 of the printed transcript

183 fol. 39, page 63 of the printed transcript

184 page 118: [we need to see this](#)

life (and after the death of my wife) my house I nowe dwell in and the land^s apperteyninge therevnto belonginge wch I purchasid frely to me and my assignes of the right honorable the late lord dellaware deceased and one barne and the land^s thervnto belonginge in Eastaldrington w^{ch} I lately purchased of m^r Richard Covert Esquyer and after the death of my said sonne Edward Blaker I geue the said house and land^s and the said barne and land^s wth all there app^ten^ances vnto the heires o^f males of the body of my said sonne Edward lawfully begotten

Edward duly succeeded: whether he ever went to Southwick we do not know: but we do know that **his** son Edward was born in 1559–1560, when he was living in Preston Episcopi: for Edward the son, when appearing as a witness 29 March 1636, stated that he was aged 76, born in Preston.¹⁸⁵ We have this baptism from Preston parish registers, but from ten years later:¹⁸⁶

Edwarde the sonne of Edwarde Blaker was bapt. the sixt of Maye eodem anno. [1570]

Moreover, Edward the son stated that he had lived at Kingston Bowsey from about 1569.

Edward Blaker the father will have married, say, about 1555 — before any surviving marriage licences at Chichester or Lewes. His will¹⁸⁷ was made 16 July 1594, and proved 3 December 1595 by his relict and executrix, Anne. Their son Edward's pedigree entered at the Visitation of Sussex in 1634 states that she was daughter of 'Rob. Fowler of Postlade'¹⁸⁸.¹⁸⁹ There is no reference to the Fowler family in his will. No Robert Fowler appears in the Lewes archdeaconry probate calendars: in the Chichester calendars there is only a Robert Fowler of Fittleworth in 1614 (M. Dean. 33).¹⁹⁰

At some time in queen Elizabeth's reign [17 November 1558-24 March 1603], a John Fowler and Edward Blaker were sued in the Court of Requests concerning land in Portslade:¹⁹¹

Source: Public Record Office Lists & Indexes xxi

Title: *List of Proceedings in the Court of Requests, preserved in the Public Record Office. Vol. I.*, 1906, London, 352

THIS list includes the existing Proceedings of the Court of Requests from the reign of Henry VII to that of Philip and Mary, with part of those of the reign of Elizabeth, as follows: -

Bundles 1-13	Henry VII and VIII.
Bundles 14-19	Edward VI.
Bundles 20-25	Philip and Mary.
Bundles 26-136	Elizabeth.

185 Sussex Archaeological Collections lvi. *Witnesses from Ecclesiastical Deposition Books, 1580-1640*. By Walter C. Renshaw, LL.M., K.C., 1914, Lewes, 13. **It would be as well to check the original deposition, because an age of 66 would fit with the baptism at Preston. Renshaw cites the cases as (Deposition Books under dates 5 May, 1618, 29 March, 1636, 26 May and 31 October, 1637, 27 April, 1638, and 24 July, 1640).**

186 volume 1, page 2: page 39 of the printed transcript

187 Lewes Archdeaconry A 9 f. 262, B 2 f. 203. **We only have a transcript, by Dave Woolven, complaining 'Transcribed from an appalling copy, the text has been reduced to little more than grey smudges.' We need a scan.**

188 sic

189 Harleian MS 1562, f. 164, printed in Harleian Society liii: *The Visitations of the County of Sussex, Made and taken in the years 1530 By Thomas Benolte, Clarenceux King of Arms; And 1633–4 By John Philipot, Somerset Herald, and George Owen, York Herald, for Sir John Burroughs, Garter, and Sir Richard St. George, Clarenceux*. Edited by W. Bruce Bannerman, F.S.A., 1905, London, p. 179.

190 Fittleworth is twelve miles northwest of Portslade: **this should be checked.**

191 FONS BLAKER 43/1

The records of this court, like those of the Star Chamber, belonged to the Treasury of the Exchequer, and were therefore preserved in the Chapter House at Westminster before their transfer to the Public Record Office.¹⁹² The bills are addressed to the Sovereign, and habitually refer to the court as his council.

BUNDLE CIX.

[No. in Bundle:] 46

[Plaintiff:] Robert Owen

[Defendants:] John Fowler and Edward Blaker.

[Concerning:] Lease of two-thirds of a messuage and land in Portslade, and
bond.

[County:] Sussex

John Fowler and Edward Blaker served on a jury at Old Shoreham 19 February 1579:¹⁹³

Source: Printed

Title: *Calendar of Assize Records. Sussex Indictments. Elizabeth I. Edited by J. S. Cockburn*, 1975, London, 141

7 July 1578

East Grinstead

EAST GRINSTEAD ASSIZES, 7 JULY 1578

Before John Southcote, J. and

Thomas Gawdy, J.

[Assizes 35/20/3]

718¹⁹⁴ **Hubbard, Walter**, of Kingston by Sea, labourer, indicted for felonious killing. By an inquisition held at Old Shoreham, 19 Feb. 1579, before Thomas Sherman, jun., coroner, on the body of John Smythe of Portslade, shepherd, the jury - John Ampleforde, Thomas Okenden, Richard Collier, John Fowler, John Blockson, Thomas Foggens, Henry Dumbrell, Richard a Kent, Richard Poller, Henry Owden, William Cheale, John Thomas, Edward Blaker, Peter Aveye, John Aveye - found that on 7 Nov. 1578 at Kingston by Sea Hubbard and Smythe fell into a quarrel, in the course of which Hubbard struck Smythe with a flint stone inflicting injuries from which he died on 10 Nov.

Not guilty.

[*mm.* 28, 32]

Anne the relict, as 'Agnes Blaker widow while shee lived of the parrishe of Portslade in the Diocs of Chichester deceased', made her nuncupative will 'about the latter end of July' 1598, proved 16 September following.¹⁹⁵ Both Thomas and Anne/Agnes make bequests to their children Edward, John, Thomas, Henry and Anne, and Edward also mentioned their daughter Christian. At the Visitation of Sussex in 1634, the elder brother Edward gave no information about his siblings other than that they were John, Thomas and 'Henery', in that

192 Seventh Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, p. 13. **The actual proceedings are clearly of interest, and should be checked.**

193 FONS BLAKER 1/15

194 sequential number in volume

195 Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 10, f. 136, B 2 f. 259

order of seniority. Their grandmother Christian left 'Edward Blayker, John, Christian & Thomas Blayker the children of my sonne Edward Blayker' 40s each in her will, in 1578.

John Blaker

John Blaker appears to have been of age when left £60 by his father in 1594, and his mother gave him a further £25, and £5 to his son Edward, then a minor. John Blaker will therefore have been born no later than 1573: his elder brother Edward was born about 1560. He was alive in 1578, 1591 and 1594. There is no marriage licence for him at Lewes or Chichester. There is no entry for John Blaker in the Lewes or Chichester probate calendars. His son Edward was a minor in 1598, and so born in or after 1577. There are various John Blakers and Edward Blakers found elsewhere in Sussex of a suitable age, but we have no evidence to attach them to this line. Elizabeth daughter of John Blaker was baptized at Portslade 27 January 1617.¹⁹⁶

Christian(Blaker) Brown

Christian is the third of the children mentioned by her grandmother Christian in 1578. She was left £40 by her father Edward in 1594, being then still under age and unmarried, i.e. born in or after 1573. She is presumably 'her daughter Browne' left £15 by her mother in 1598. There is no marriage licence for her at Lewes or Chichester. There is no entry for a Christian Brown in the Lewes or Chichester probate calendars.

Thomas Blaker

Thomas was left £60 by his father Edward in 1594, and a further £15 by his mother Anne/Agnes in 1598. In 1594 he was still under age, and so born in or after 1573. There is no marriage licence for him at Lewes or Chichester, nor any Thomas Blaker will. Thomas must, however, have lived as a householder in Portslade, for he was churchwarden there in 1611.¹⁹⁷

Henry Blaker

Edward Blaker left his son Henry (then a minor) £30 in 1594; Henry's mother left him a further £10 and some household goods in 1598, when he was still under age, i.e. born in or after 1577. The will of Henry Blaker of Portslade yeoman was made 16 March and proved 25 March 1639¹⁹⁸, naming his son Edward, his daughter Susan, and his wife Joan, whom he made his executrix.

The marriage of Henry and Joan does not appear in the Lewes or Chichester licence calendars.

The Book of John Rowe¹⁹⁹, completed about 1622, lists the customary tenants of the manor of Portslade, including:²⁰⁰

196 or 1619: Renshaw. [We need a general search of the early Portslade parish registers/BTs](#)

197 Renshaw states that Thomas signed the bishop's transcript for the parish of Portslade in 1611

198 Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 26 1; B 7 144. [We need a scan of this.](#)

199 Sussex Record Society xxxiv

200 f. 153v; p. 209 of the printed transcript

Henr' Blaker 37 Eliz. tenet j cotag' et p estim' 4 acr' terr', 2 acr' et vna' roda pasture et 10 sheepeleaze p redd' iiij^s iiij^d

Henry Blaker (37 Elizabeth) holds a cottage and, by estimation, 4 acres of (arable) land, 2 acres 1 rod of pasture and 10 sheepeleaze by a rent of 4s 4d

This cottage by itself would hardly make Henry a yeoman, but he may have had other land elsewhere, or acquired more between 1622 and 1639. The copyhold cottage was held by a grant in 37 Elizabeth, i.e. 17 November 1594 to 16 November 1595. This coincides with his father's death, and was doubtless Henry's inheritance as youngest son by Borough English.

...

Anne(Blaker)Watkinson

Edward Blaker in 1594 left £40 to his daughter Anne, then a minor, unmarried. In 1598 her mother, Agnes, left to Anne's brother, Edward, £20, to be bestowed upon Anne 'as need should require by the discrecon of the said Edward her sonne'.

Anne's marriage was by licence.²⁰¹

Source: Sussex Record Society i

Title: *Calendar of Sussex Marriage Licences Recorded in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Chichester for the Archdeaconry of Lewes, August, 1586, to March, 1642-3.* By Edwin H. W. Dunkin, F. S. A., 1901, London, 27

12 December 1597

SUSSEX MARRIAGE LICENCES.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LEWES.

1597.

Dec. 12 Matthew WATKINSON, mercer, &
 Agnes BLAKER of Portslade, virgin:
 sureties, said M. W., John Tewpatt and John Whiteheade
 of Lewes, yeoman.

Watkinsons

There is no Watkinson will in the Lewes or Chichester calendars 1597 to 1647: nor any other Watkinson in the printed marriage licence indexes except, from Chichester:²⁰²

1588-9.

Jan. 30 Brian WATKINSON &
 Mary AMPLEFORD of Portslade
 (Portslade)

201 FONS BLAKER 13/1

202 page 12 of the printed calendar

This may have been his second wife, for we have this burial at Preston Episcopi:²⁰³

1588 Jullie The iijth buried Agnes wiffe of Bryan Watkinsonn.

Two children of Brian Watkinson were baptized at Preston:

1591 Junne The vjth bap: John sonn of Bryan Watkinson.²⁰⁴

1593 Junne The xth bap: Thomas sonn of Bryan Watkinsonn.²⁰⁵

And he was buried there in 1613:²⁰⁶

June The xiiijth buried Bryan Watkinson housholder.

Mary, his relict, would then seem to have married a Bryant, for she was buried at Preston:²⁰⁷

1645 Februarij The third burried Mary Bryant or Watkinson widow

No Watkinson or Bryant appears in the printed Preston Manor Court Rolls.²⁰⁸ However, John Rowe's Book, in the manor of Atlingworth, has this entry:²⁰⁹

Mesuagia et cotag' tenta de Man'io p'd'co p cop' iac' in les Hemsheeres in B.

...

Maria Jeffery. 5. Car. tenet ib'm vnam pcellam terr' vna cu' medietate fontis (except' put) nup Hewers 22. Ja: et quonda' Watkinsons. 12. Ja: fin' et h'iet vj^d de certo ech. redd' j^d

...

Edward Blaker (1560-1654)

Edward Blaker (ob 1594) left the bulk of his estate to his eldest son Edward, and there were further legacies from Agnes/Anne Blaker the mother, in 1598, who named him her executor.

Edward the son lived first at Kingston Bowsey, from about 1569 until about 1581.²¹⁰

Source: Sussex Archaeological Collections lvi

Title: *Witnesses from Ecclesiastical Deposition Books, 1580-1640.* By Walter C. Renshaw, LL.M., K.C., 1914, Lewes, 13

29 March 1636

203 page 117 of the register: page 162 of the printed transcript

204 page 21 of the register: page 26 of the printed transcript

205 page 23 of the register: page 29 of the printed transcript

206 page 128 of the register: page 175 of the printed transcript

207 page 111 of the register: page 154 of the printed transcript

208 The 1642 Protestation Returns for West Sussex have only one Watkinson, a 'Henerie Watkinson' at distant Trotton. Sussex Record Society v, p. 183

209 f. 157v, page 214 of the printed transcript

210 FONS BLAKER 11/14

1636. Mar. 29. EDWARD BLAKER of Portslade arm: where resided 55 years before that in Kingston Bousey 12 years born in Preston aged 76.

Edward Blaker was churchwarden of Portslade in 1599, when he was cited as to repairs to the Church (Act Books ex officio, 1595-1599).²¹¹ In 1601 he was rated at £4 in land in the lay subsidy for Fishergate hundred, and was taxed 5s 4d: ‘He was one of the petie collectors’²¹²

Edward Blaker entered a pedigree, which went no further than his father, at the Visitation of Sussex in 1634.²¹³ This stated that he had married twice, the first wife (from whom no issue was recorded) being ‘Anne d. Willm. Dappe of Newick in com. Sussex’.

Dappes

Newick is about a dozen miles northeast of Portslade. Edward Blaker married Anne Dappe there 11 October 1596.²¹⁴

The will of William Dappe the younger of Newick, yeoman, made 9 March 1608²¹⁵, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1609.²¹⁶

Anne (Dappe) Blaker’s father, William, buried at Newick 8 December 1615²¹⁷, made his will 6 December 1615²¹⁸, proved at Lewes 16 December 1615²¹⁹, giving

unto Anne Blaker, “my Daughter”, one cow, two sheep and one great chest and directed his executor to pay her the yearly sum of £20, which was to cease “if Edward Blaker my sonne in lawe or Anne Blaker my daughter their heyres or assignes doe molest or trouble John Kilnor²²⁰ my sonne in law and executor of this my will or Joane Kilnor his wife concerninge my lands which I have given unto him and to his wife lying in Newick or Barcombe”, and he directed his executor to pay £200 to each child of his daughter Anne Blaker “yf yt shall please God to blesse Her wth any.

The will of Margaret Dappe of Newick widow, made 7 February 1617, was proved in Lewes Archdeaconry court 15 March 1616.²²¹

Anne (Dappe) Blaker was buried at Portslade 28 December 1627.²²²

Scrases

211 Renshaw Addenda: [we need to see the original](#)

212 Renshaw Appendix I: [we need to see the original](#)

213 Harleian MS 1562, f. 164, printed in Harleian Society liii: *The Visitations of the County of Sussex, Made and taken in the years 1530 By Thomas Benolte, Clarenceux King of Arms; And 1633–4 By John Philipot, Somerset Herald, and George Owen, York Herald, for Sir John Burroughs, Garter, and Sir Richard St. George, Clarenceux. Edited by W. Bruce Bannerman, F.S.A.*, 1905, London, p. 179.

214 Renshaw: [we need to check the original](#)

215 Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 28 34 ‘Wills Proved in London’: [we need to see this](#). ‘In 1590 William Dappe, as a witness in the cause of Butler v. Colman, described himself as born in Newick, and aged 42. (Deposition Books, 1587-1593)’ Renshaw.

216 Register Dorset, qu. 33: [we need to see this](#)

217 Renshaw: [we need to check the original](#)

218 Renshaw: [we need to check the original](#)

219 Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 15 f. 71

220 John Kilner was buried at Newick, 3 October, 1622, and Joane Kilner, widow of Chailey, was married at Brighton, 11 September, 1623, to John Raby of Newick: Renshaw.

221 Book A 15 f. 216; B 4 f. 141: [we need to see this](#)

222 Renshaw: [we need to check the original](#)

In the 1634 visitation, Edward Blaker described his second wife as ‘Susan eldest d. of Tuppin Scrase. Richard Scrase of Blechington also entered a pedigree in 1634. Like Edward Blaker, Tuppen Scrase, Richard’s father, had been allowed a coat of arms and crest by William Segar, Garter King of Arms, 14 August 1616:²²³

Arms, a dolphin embowed between three escallop shells or.
Crest. On the stump of a tree erased, coupé at the top proper, entwined by a snake vert, a falcon rising of the first, beaked and belled or.

Richard Scrase was unable to take his pedigree back any further than his grandfather: his father’s unusual christian name arose from his mother being ‘Jullian d. of . . . Tuppin of . . . in com. Sussex.’ He could not state her father’s name. Richard was even unsure as to where Edward Blaker was then living, giving his aunt as ‘Susan ux. Edward Blaker of . . .’

Edward Blaker married Susan Scrase by licence in 1628:²²⁴

Source: Sussex Record Society i

Title: *Calendar of Sussex Marriage Licences Recorded in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Chichester for the Archdeaconry of Lewes, August, 1586, to March, 1642-3.* By Edwin H. W. Dunkin, F.S.A., 1902, Lewes, 166

12 April 1628

SUSSEX MARRIAGE LICENCES.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LEWES.

1628.

Apr. 12 Edward BLAKER of Portslade, gent., &
Susan SCRASE of Blackington, maiden:
sureties, said E. B. and Thomas Carver of Brithelmston, yeoman
(Blachington)²²⁵.

West Blatchington (Blachington, Blackington, Blechington) adjoins Portslade on the northwest: the church became ruinate, Brighton being, in practice, the parish church. Doubtless the marriage took place there, as intended, but the record is now lost.

After marrying into the Scrase family, Edward Blaker became involved in a long argument over the Scrase inheritance. Initially this was against Henry, William and John Scrase, concerning land in Hamsey:²²⁶

Source: Public Record Office Lists & Indexes xxx

Title: *Index of Chancery Proceedings (Series II.) preserved in the Public Record Office. Vol. III. A. D. 1621-1660*, 1909, London, 143

223 Harleian MS 1562, f. 163, printed in Harleian Society liii: *The Visitations of the County of Sussex, Made and taken in the years 1530 By Thomas Benolte, Clarenceux King of Arms; And 1633–4 By John Philipot, Somerset Herald, and George Owen, York Herald, for Sir John Burroughs, Garter, and Sir Richard St. George, Clarenceux.* Edited by W. Bruce Bannerman, F.S.A., 1905, London, p. 178.

224 FONS BLAKER 11/8

225 intended church for wedding

226 FONS BLAKER 32/1: [we need to see the original](#)

[1626-1639]

A. D. 1626-1639
(SIR THOMAS COVENTRY, LORD COVENTRY)

BUNDLE 396.

[No.:] 85

[PLAINTIFFS:] Blaker, Edward, and another

[DEFENDANTS:] Scrase, Henry, William and John

[PLACE OR SUBJECT:] Hamsey

[COUNTY:] Sussex.

Hamsey adjoins Newick: both were in Barcombe hundred of the rape of Lewis. The following Chancery decrees give much of the detail of the cases. Edward Blaker had first of all tried to recover in the common law courts a sum of £450 that he claimed to be owed by Henry Scrase:

Source: Public Record Office: C 33/168 p. 429²²⁷

Title: *Chancery Orders & Decrees Easter 11 Charles I*

15 April 1635

Hen: Scrase q'

Ed'rum Blaker def'

Forasmuch as this Co't was this daie informed by M^r Gelt^s being of the pl't^s Councell That the pl't haueinge ex'ted his Bill unto this Co'te to bee releued agt seu'all bond^s and bills wch the def' hath putt in suite at lawe agt the pl' for 450^l lent vnto the pl't to bee repaid without interest whereof the pl't hath paid A good parte to the def' +hee the said def'+ hath putt in A verie insuff' answeare to the said bill and thereby confesseth the receipt of some monies and offereth to abate some interest there beinge noe interest due and the pl't beinge content to paie vnto the def' the Remainder of the principall money due vnto him It is therefore ordered that S^r Robt Rich kt one &c' shall consider of the bill and answeare and therevppon report to this Co't aswell what money is due vnto the def' wch the plt is to paie accordinglie and alsoe whither the sd answeare bee suff' in the point^s excepted vnto or not if not Then where in the same is insuff' and then A spa is awarded agt the said def' to make A pfect and direct answeare to the pl'ts bill accordinge to the sd M^rs report therein to bee made And in the meane tyme and vntill the sd M^r hath made his report the Def't^s proceeding^s at lawe for the said 450^l are staid

As this court was today informed by Mr Gelts, being of the plaintiff's counsel, that, the plaintiff having exhibited his bill unto this court to be relieved against several bonds and bills which the defendant has put in suit at law against the plaintiff for £450 lent unto the plaintiff to be repaid without interest (whereof the plaintiff has paid a good part to the defendant) he the said defendant has put in a very insufficient answer to the said bill and thereby confesses the receipt of some monies and offers to abate some interest (there being no interest due); and the plaintiff being content to pay to the defendant the remainder of the principal money due to him: it is therefore ordered that sir Robert Rich knight one (of the

227 FONS BLAKER 51/6

Masters of this court) shall consider the bill and answer, and thereupon report to this court both as to what money is due to the defendant (which the plaintiff is to pay accordingly) and also whether the said answer be sufficient in the points to which exception has been taken or not; if not, then wherein the same is insufficient; and then a subpoena is awarded against the said defendant to make a perfect and direct answer to the plaintiff's bill according to the said Master's report thereon to be made. And in the meantime and until the said Master has made his report, the defendant's proceedings at law for the said £450 are stayed.

Source: Public Record Office: C 33/168 p. 573v²²⁸

Title: *Chancery Orders & Decrees Easter 11 Charles I*

13 May 1635

Henr' Scrase q'tem

Ed'rum Blaker def'

Vpon openinge of the matter this p'nte daie vnto the right ho'ble the lord Keeper by Mr Foster beinge of the Def'ts Councell and vpon the readinge of A reporte made in the cause by S^r Robt Rich kt one &c' whoe hath thereby certified that there is 498^l 6^s 8^d due vnto the Def' vppon the severall bonds in question and therefore it was prayed that the said plt may paie the said money vnto the Def' and cost^s of suite or else the def' may bee at lib'tie to proceed at lawe for the same It is therefore ordered by his lopp that the said plt havinge notice hereof shall by the first daie of the next tearme make his elecc'on whither hee will paie the Def' the said money reported due vnto him wth interest for the same till then and cost^s of suite by the middle of the next tearme or else bee left to the lawe and in Default of such elecc'on the Def' is at lib'tie to proceed at lawe vppon the said bonds

Upon opening of the matter today to the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper by Mr Foster (being of the defendant's counsel) and upon the reading of a report made in the cause by sir Robert Rich knight, one (of the Masters of this court) who has thereby certified that there is £498 6s 8d due to the defendant upon the several bonds in question, and therefore it was prayed that the said plaintiff may pay the said money to the defendant with costs of suit, or else the defendant may be at liberty to proceed at law for the same. It is therefore ordered by his Lordship that the said plaintiff having notice hereof shall by the first day of next term make his election whether he will pay the defendant the said money reported due to him, with interest for the same till then and costs of suit, by the middle of next term, or else be left to the law; and in default of such election the defendant is at liberty to proceed at law upon the said bonds.

As the case progresses further details are given:

Source: Public Record Office: C 33/168 p. 618v²²⁹

Title: *Chancery Orders & Decrees Trinity 11 Charles I*

6 June 1635

Henr' Scrase q'

Ed'rum Blaker def'

228 FONS BLAKER 51/7
229 FONS BLAKER 51/1

Forasmuch as this Court was this Daie informed by M^r Cesar beinge of the pl['] Councell that Richard Scrace the pl[']t^s father and Tuppin Scrace his sonne became heretofore bound to the def['] in A bond of 200^{li} for paym^t of 99^{li} at A daie menconed in the condic[']on of the said bond wch Debt the sd Richard Scrace paide but the def['] kept the bond p^rtendinge somethinge to bee behind and vnpaid wherevpon Richard Scrace preferred his bill into this Co^rt to haue vpp the said bond wherevnto the Def['] answered and confessed that hee had receaved all the debt to A matter of 50^s or 3^l but before any end made of that suite both the obligors died and the pl[']t havinge some goods of the said Turpin Scrace his brother in his Custody the def sued him at the Comon law vppon the said bond as executor in his owne wronge wherevpon the nowe pl[']t ex[']ted his bill into the Co^rte whereto the def['] hath answered and saith that the said bond of 200^{li} and all the debt due herevpon is vnsatisfied which is quite contrary to his former answeare the bond beinge one and the same bond as may appeare by the Date of the same and the tyme of paym^t It is therevpon ordered that S^r Robt Rich kt one &c['] shall consider of both bills and answeares and if hee shall finde and certifie that it is but one and the same bond and that the Def['] in his former answeare acknowledged the Debt paid to A matter of 50^s or 3^l as aforesaide then an Iniuc[']on is awarded for staie of the Def[']t^s proceedings at the Common lawe vpon the said bond in question vntioll the hearinge of the Cause in this Co^rt or other order taken to the contrary

As this Court was this day informed by Mr Cesar, being of the plaintiff's counsel, that Richard Scrace the plaintiff's father and Tuppin Scrace his son became heretofore bound to the defendant in a bond of £200 for payment of £99 at a date mentioned in the condition of the said bond: which debt the said Richard Scrace paid, but the defendant kept the bond, pretending that something was in arrears and unpaid: whereupon Richard Scrace preferred his bill into this court to have him surrender the said bond; whereunto the defendant answered and confessed that he had received all the debt, except for a matter of 50s or £3. But before any end was made of that suit, both the obligors died, and the plaintiff having some goods of the said Turpin Scrace his brother in his custody, the defendant sued him at the Common Law upon the said bond as executor in his own right: whereupon the now plaintiff exhibited his bill into the court, whereto the defendant has answered, and says that the said bond of £200 and all the debt due thereupon is unsatisfied — which is quite contrary to his former answer, the bond being one and the same bond, as may appear by the date of the same and the time of payment. It is thereupon ordered that sir Robert Rich knight, one (of the Masters of this court) shall consider both bills and answers: and if he shall find and certify that it is but the one and the same bond and that the defendant in his former answer acknowledged the debt paid apart from a matter of 50s or £3, as aforesaid, then an injunction is awarded for stay of the defendant's proceedings at the Common Law upon the said bond in question, until the hearing of the cause in this court, or other order be taken to the contrary.

The £200 bond referred to was entered into during the lifetime of Richard Scrase, grandfather of Susan (Scrase) Blaker, the Scrase family becoming indebted to Edward Blaker perhaps before his marriage to her. Richard Scrase is stated in 1634 to have ‘had divers sonn^s & daughters’²³⁰, among whom we now see was Henry Scrase the plaintiff of 1635. Edward Blaker married Susan Scrase in 1628, but the families had been involved socially and perhaps financially since at least 1594, when Edward’s father has made his loving friend Richard Scrase of Blatchington gentleman (Susan’s grandfather) one of the overseers of his will.

230 Scrase pedigree in the Visitation of Sussex.

Source: Public Record Office: C 33/169 p. 365v²³¹
Title: *Chancery Orders & Decrees Hilary 11 Charles I*

26 February 1636

Ed'rus Blaker gen' q'
Ps et Joh'is²³² Scarce²³³ def'

Forasmuch as the def' appeared the last tearme and haue not yet aunswared Id' Att' vic'
Sussex r' xv pas'²³⁴

As the defendants appeared last term, and have not yet answered: therefore an attachment issued to the sheriff of Sussex, returnable the quindene of Easter.

In 1636 the executor of the estate of a Roland Scrase joins with Edward Blaker in the suit:

Source: Public Record Office: C 33/169 p. 509²³⁵
Title: *Chancery Orders & Decrees Easter 12 Charles I*

24 May 1636

Edrus Blaker et Geo. Bedford executor Rolandi²³⁶ Scrase q'
Henr' Scrase def'

The matter vpon the plea and demurrer comeing this Day to be opened by the Councell learned of the said Def', the substance of the matter being that the pl'ts being executors haue ex'ted their bill into this Court for releife ag't the Def' for good^s of the testators supposed to be come vnto the hand^s of the said Def't to wch bill the said Def' hath put in a plea shewing that one of the pl'ts hath made vnto the Def' a Release, and so hath pleaded the said Release and Demaund^s the Judgement of this Court It is therefore ordered that the matter of the pl'ts bill be cleerely dismissed out of this Co't wth 20^s cost^s to be paid by the pl'ts to the said def.

The matter upon the plea and demurrer coming this day to be opened by the counsel learned of the said defendant, the substance of the matter being that the plaintiffs being executors have exhibited their bill into this court for relief against the defendant for goods of the testator that are supposed to have come into the hands of the said defendant: to which bill the said defendant has put in a plea showing that one of the plaintiffs has made a release unto the defendant; and so (the defendant) has pleaded the said release, and craves judgment of this court. It is therefore ordered that the matter of the plaintiff's bill be clearly dismissed out of this court, with 20s costs to be paid by the plaintiffs to the said defendant.

The visitation pedigree shows that George Bedford was Edward Blaker's brother-in-law, 'George Bedford of London' being married to Susan (Scrase) Blaker's sister Edith.

231 FONS BLAKER 51/2

232 sic

233 sic

234 1636

235 FONS BLAKER 51/3

236 sic, for Ricardi

George and Edward were granted probate of Richard Scrase's will in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1634.²³⁷

Source: Printed

Title: *Year Books of Probates: Abstracts of Probate Acts in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury*, ed. John Matthews and George F. Matthews, B. A., 1902, London, 292

7 November 1634

Anno 1634

SCRAS, RICHARD, of Bletchington (Blatchington), Sussex, (gent.).

Will [104 Seager] pr. Nov. 7 by EDWARD BLAKER.

P. r.²³⁸ GEORGE BEDFORD, who proves May 5, 1635, and
SIMON STONE.

The litigation continued:

Source: Public Record Office: C 33/176 p. 52v²³⁹

Title: *Chancery Orders & Decrees Michaelmas 14 Charles I*

6 November 1638

Henr' Scrace gen' q'
Edrum Blake Def

Forasmuch as this Co't was this daie informed by M^r Whitmore beinge of the pl' Councill that Richard Scrace the pl' father p^rferred his bill into this Cou^rte to bee releevd agt the bond in question in this suite whereto the Def^r answered And therefore it was praid this Cause standinge in the booke to be heard to morrowe that the Def^rs said answeare in the said former suite might bee read and given in evidence at the hearing of this Cause wch request this Court held reasonable and Doth order the same accordingly vnles the said Def^r havinge notice hereof shall at the sd hearinge shewe vnto this Co't good cause to the contrary

As this court was this day informed by Mr Whitmore, being of the plaintiff's counsel, that Richard Scrace the plaintiff's father preferred his bill into this court to be relieved against the bond in question in this suit; whereto the defendant answered. And therefore it was prayed, this cause standing in the court calendar to be heard tomorrow, that the defendant's said answer in the former suit might be read and given in evidence at the hearing of this cause: which request this court held reasonable, and does order the same accordingly, unless the said defendant, having notice hereof, shall at the said hearing show to this court good cause to the contrary.

Source: Public Record Office: C 33/176 p. 90²⁴⁰

Title: *Chancery Orders & Decrees Michaelmas 14 Charles I*

237 FONS BLAKER 11/13

238 power reserved to

239 FONS BLAKER 51/4

240 FONS BLAKER 51/5

7 November 1638

Henr' Scrase gen' q'
Edrm Blaker et Wm Scrase def'

Vpon the hearinge and debatinge of the mre this pnte daie in the pnce of the Councell learned on both sides the scope of the pl' bill beinge to establish his possion in divers goods and to discover and haue againe divers other goods appartayninge to him and damadge for them wch the def Blaker hath and to bee releued agt the said Blaker vpon a bond of 200^l by him putt in suite at the Common Lawe agt the pl' as A supposed executor in his owne wronge of Tuppinge Scrase deceased It appeared that Tuppin Scrase deceased being in his lityme indebted to the pl' 300^{li} the said Tuppin for the pl' satisfacc'on in Dec. 8 Caro:²⁴¹ made A deed to the plt of divers of his the said Tuppin's goods +and a greate pte of the said good^s+ weare deliue'd vnto the pl' by the said Tuppin and his direcc'ons in his life tyme but the sd Tuppin dieinge the def Wm Scrase tooke Adm'nstracon of Tuppin's estate and by virtue thereof made title to the pl't^s goods soe conveyed as aforesaid but after findinge the pl' considerac'on to bee iust the def Willm desisted and made a deed of confirmac'on thereof vnto the pl' yet the def Blacker beinge ex'tor vnto Richard Scrase eldest sonne of the said Tuppin hee the def Blacker laied claime to the said goods and tooke away some pte thereof and havinge an Ancient Dormant Bond of 200^{li} entered his acc'on at law agt the pl' as ex'tor in his owne wronge as aforesaid vpon the said Bond of 200^{li} supposed to bee entered into by the said Tuppin and would by the said goods soe conveyed to the pl' vpon a supposed deed of guift made from the said Tuppin satisfie the said debt supposed to bee due vpon the said Bond Whereas it now appeared by the prooffes now read that Richard Scrase eldest sonn of the said Tuppin did not in his life time eu^r intermedle wth any his said father's goods although the def Blacker would now set on Foote a p'cedent deed of guift thereof made vnto the said Richard by his said father neither could the def' by any prooffe now impeach the conveyance thereof made to the pl' as aforesaid And as for the debt p'tended to bee due vpon the Bond of 200^l the def Blacker hauinge put in twoe Answeres in this Co'te one to a Bill ex'ted by the pl' father about Eleven yeares since and thother to the pl' now Bill hee by his first Answeres doth confess the whole Debt thereby payable to bee discharged saue onlie a matter of 50^s for interest and yet by his second Answeres hee affirmes the whole debt to bee due wch Answeres doe thwarte one another the first Answeres confessing the whole debt to bee paid and the second averring the debt to bee still dew vppon all wch this Co'te doth conceive the said Bond fitt to bee Discharged and that the pl' ought to haue and retaine the said goods and to that end it is ordered and decreed that the def' shall deliuer vpp to the pl' the said Bond to bee cancelled and the said pl' shall holde and enioy the said goods accordinge to the Deed of conveyance thereof made vnto him by the said Tuppin as aforesaid

Upon the hearing and debating of the matter this present day in the presence of the counsel learned on both sides, the scope of the plaintiff's bill being to establish his possession in various goods and to discover and have again various other goods appertaining to him, and damages for those which the defendant Blaker has, and to be relieved against the said Blaker on a bond of £200 put in suit at the Common Law by him against the plaintiff, as a supposed executor in his own right of Tuppinge Scrase deceased: it appeared that Tuppin Scrase deceased being in his lifetime indebted to the plaintiff £300, the said Tuppin, for the plaintiff's satisfaction in December 8 Charles made a deed to the plaintiff of various of his the said Tuppin's goods, and a great part of the said goods were delivered to the plaintiff by the said Tuppin and his directions in his lifetime but the said Tuppin dying, the defendant

241 December 1632

William Scrase took out administration of Tuppin's estate and by virtue thereof made title to the plaintiff's goods so conveyed as aforesaid; but after finding the plaintiff's consideration to be just the defendant William desisted and made a deed of confirmation thereof to the plaintiff; yet the defendant Blacker, being executor to Richard Scrase eldest son of the said Tuppin, he the defendant Blacker laid claim to the said goods and took away some part thereof, and having an ancient dormant bond of £200, entered his action at law against the plaintiff as executor in his own right as aforesaid on the said bond of £200 supposed to have been entered into by the said Tuppin, and wished by the said goods so conveyed to the plaintiff on a supposed deed of gift made from the said Tuppin, satisfy the said debt supposed to be due upon the said bond. Whereas it now appeared by the proofs now read that Richard Scrase, eldest son of the said Tuppin did not in his lifetime ever have to do with any of his said father's goods, although the defendant Blacker would now stake a claim by reference to a preceding deed of gift thereof made to the said Richard by his said father; nor could the defendant by any proof now impeach the conveyance thereof made to the plaintiff as aforesaid. And as for the debt pretended to be due upon the bond of £200, the defendant Blacker having put in two Answers in this court, one to a bill exhibited by the plaintiff's father about eleven years ago and the other to the plaintiff's present bill, he by his first answer does confess the whole debt thereby payable to be discharged save only a matter of 50s for interest; and yet by his second answer he affirms the whole debt to be due; which answers do thwart one another, the first answer confessing the whole debt to be paid, and the second averring the debt to be still due; upon all which this court does conceive the said bond fit to be discharged and that the plaintiff ought to have and retain the said goods and to that end it is ordered and decreed that the defendant shall deliver up to the plaintiff the said bond to be cancelled and the said plaintiff shall hold and enjoy the said goods according to the deed of conveyance thereof made to him by the said Tuppin as aforesaid.

We now see that Tuppin Scrase had been indebted in £300, a considerable sum, to Henry Scrase, whom he made his executor, but Edward Blaker held a bond for £200 from Tuppin. Henry Scrase having acquired much of Tuppin's estate, was sued by William Scrase, executor of Tuppin's will, and by Edward Blaker, executor of Richard's. The court rejected Blaker's claim because of his prevarication about the bond: 'And as for the debt pretended to be due vpon the Bond of 200^l the def Blacker hauinge put in twoe Answeres in this Co^{te} one to a Bill ex'ted by the pl' father about Eleven yeares since and thother to the pl' now Bill hee by his first Answeres doth confess the whole Debt thereby payable to be discharged saue onlie a matter of 50^s for interrest and yet by his second Answeres hee affirmes the whole debt to be due wch Answeres doe thwarte one another the first Answeres confessing the whole debt to be paid and the second averring the debt to be still dew vppon all wch this Co^{te} doth conceive the said Bond fitt to be Discharged'.

Tuppen Scrase was buried at Preston Episcopi:²⁴²

Tuppen Scrase, Gent., was buried Dec^r the ixth, 1633.

Administration of his estate was granted 29 March 1634 in Lewes Archdeaconry court, as Tuppen Scrase of Blatchington, gentleman.²⁴³

Edward Blaker, continued

²⁴² Book 1, page 18: page 59 of the printed transcript

²⁴³ Book B 6 f. 29: [we need to see this](#)

Edward Blaker resided in Portslade, and was a churchwarden there in 1620:

Source: Sussex Archaeological Collections xlix²⁴⁴

Title: *Notes from the Act Books of the Archdeaconry Court of Lewes. By Walter C. Renshaw, K.C., 1906, Lewes, 59*

30 May 1620

Portslade

1620. May 30. Portslade. Henry Savage for calling Edward Blaker, then churchwarden, “a forsworne knave for presenting him for drawinge sheepe on a sabboth day.”

but in 1621 is assessed for lands in Hangleton:

Source: Sussex Archaeological Collections ix²⁴⁵

Title: *Subsidy Roll, Collected within the Rape of Lewes, 19 James I., A.D. 1621. Communicated by W. S. Ellis, Esq., from the original MS. roll in his possession, 1857, London, 79*

20 September 1621

Hangleton

***** Certificate indented made the xxth daye of September, in the nyneteenth yeer of the rayne of the most gracious Souvraigne Lord Jeames, by the grace of God of Englande, Ffrance, and Scotlande Kynge, Defender of the Faith, &c., and of Scotlande the five and fiftieth, witnesseth that wee, Sir Walter Covert, Sir Edward Culpeper, knightes, and Richard Amherst, Esquire, Commissioners amongst others assigned by our Souvraigne Lord the Kinge, in the said Countye of Sussex, for the assessinge, taxeing, and levieng of the first paiem^l of the seconde subseyde granted to our said Souvraigne Lord Kinge Jeames, of the layetie, by Acte of Parliamente, in the eighteenth yeere of his Ma^{ties} raigne, have executed that service within the said Rape of Lewes, in the said Countye of Sussex, w^{ch} said Rape wee have assigned and nominated John Stapley, of Twyneham, gent., high collector for the wholle taxacon of the said Rape, and have taken his obligation for answeringe the money appointed to his collection to the use of our said Souvraigne Lorde the Kinge, accordinge to the forme of the saide Acte.

FFISHERGATE HALF HUNDRED.

HANGLETON.

...

Sessors.	Abraham Edwards, gent., in landes	£4 ²⁴⁶	10	8 ²⁴⁷	
”	Edward Blaker, in landes		£4	10	8
”	Henrye Savidge, in landes	20 ²⁴⁸	2	8	
”	John Collyer, in landes		20	2	8

In 1626, described as yeoman, Edward was appointed provost marshal for Lewes rape:

244 FONS BLAKER 11/4

245 FONS BLAKER 11/5

246 this is the total assessed - £4

247 this is the subsidy raised - 10s 8d

248 20s total assessed

Source: Sussex Archæological Collections xl²⁴⁹

Title: "*Booke Concerning the Deputy Lieuetennantship*" Communicated by Edward S. Cunliffe, Esq., 1896, Lewes, 18

15 August 1626

Provost Marshalls apoynted by the Deputie
Lieveten'nts 15 Aug: 1626 viz

In Hasteing Rape	Anthony Cruttenden of Burwash gent
In Pevensey Rape	Thomas Jeffery of Chiddingleye gent
In Lewes Rape	Nicholas Chaloner of Chiltington gent
In Bramber Rape	John Young of Warneham ye ⁿ
In Arundell Rape	John Standly. of ffitleworth ye ⁿ
In Chichester Rape	Henry Peckham of Bosgrave gent

Captaynes of the Pyoneers apoynted likewise 15 Aug 1626

In Hasteing rape	Launcelot Davis of Whatlinton ye ⁿ
In Pevensey Rape	Richard Ballard of Wadhurst ye ⁿ
In Lewis Rape	Edward Blaker of Porteslade ye ⁿ
In Bramber Rape	Henry Bridger of Asherst ye ⁿ
In Arundell Rape	William Strudwick of Hillsgreene ye ⁿ
In Chichester Rape	William Peirce of Bosham ye ⁿ

He appears among the Sussex gentry in 1634:

Source: Sussex Archaeological Collections xxxix²⁵⁰

Title: *Lists of Sussex Gentry at Various Dates, with Descriptions of the Arms of a Few Families not Previously Noticed.* By Major F. W. T. Attree, R.E., 1894, Lewes, 110

1634

The next List of Gentry which claims our attention is taken from the Visitation of Sussex in 1634. The Original Visitation is in the Herald's College MSS. C. 29 and EDN. 15; but there are many more or less correct copies of it in existence, and the following list has been obtained from references to Harl. MSS. 1,135 and 6,164 in the British Museum, Rawlinson's MS. B. 435 in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and Slye's copy of the Visitation in the Library of our own Society at Lewes.

GENTRY OF SUSSEX IN 1634.

...

Edward Blaker, of Portslade.

...

and as Edward Blaker gentleman acts as a surety:

Source: Sussex Record Society i²⁵¹

249 FONS BLAKER 20/3

250 FONS BLAKER 11/10

251 FONS BLAKER 11/12

Title: *Calendar of Sussex Marriage Licences Recorded in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Chichester for the Archdeaconry of Lewes, August, 1586, to March, 1642-3.* By Edwin H. W. Dunkin, F.S.A., 1902, Lewes, 213

5 July 1634

SUSSEX MARRIAGE LICENCES.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LEWES.

1634.

July 5 Thomas SMITH of Portslade, yeoman, &
Mary BURROW of same, widow:
sureties, said T. S. and Edward Blaker of same, gent.
(Plumpton)²⁵²

In 1636 and subsequently Edward Blaker appeared as a witness in the ecclesiastical court:²⁵³

Source: Sussex Archaeological Collections lvi

Title: *Witnesses from Ecclesiastical Deposition Books, 1580-1640.* By Walter C. Renshaw, LL.M., K.C., 1914, Lewes, 13

29 March 1636

1636. Mar. 29. EDWARD BLAKER of Portslade arm: where resided 55
years before that in Kingston Bousey 12 years born in
Preston aged 76.

and 1638, 1642 and 1643 was surety for three marriage licences:

Source: Sussex Record Society i²⁵⁴

Title: *Calendar of Sussex Marriage Licences Recorded in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Chichester for the Archdeaconry of Lewes, August, 1586, to March, 1642-3.* By Edwin H. W. Dunkin, F.S.A., 1902, Lewes, 245

9 March 1638

SUSSEX MARRIAGE LICENCES.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LEWES.

1637-8.

March 9 Henry BLAKER of Portslade, husbandman, &
Agnes BLAKER of same, maiden:

252 intended church for wedding

253 FONS BLAKER 11/14

254 FONS BLAKER 11/16

sureties, said H. B. and Edward Blaker of same, gent.
(New Shoreham)²⁵⁵.

Source: Sussex Record Society i²⁵⁶

Title: *Calendar of Sussex Marriage Licences Recorded in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Chichester for the Archdeaconry of Lewes, August, 1586, to March, 1642-3.* By Edwin H. W. Dunkin, F.S.A., 1902, Lewes, 294

26 November 1642

SUSSEX MARRIAGE LICENCES.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LEWES.

1642.

Nov. 26 John SMITH of Portslade, husbandman, &
Elizabeth GODSMARKE of Hendfield, maiden:
sureties, said J. S. and Edward Blaker of Portslade, gent.
(Hendfield)²⁵⁷.

Source: Sussex Record Society i²⁵⁸

Title: *Calendar of Sussex Marriage Licences Recorded in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Chichester for the Archdeaconry of Lewes, August, 1586, to March, 1642-3.* By Edwin H. W. Dunkin, F.S.A., 1902, Lewes, 296

11 March 1643

SUSSEX MARRIAGE LICENCES.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LEWES.

1642-3.

March 11 John BELGRAVE of Hangleton, clerk, &
Jane SMITH of Lindfield, maiden:
sureties, said J. B. and Edward Blaker of Portslade, gent.
(Horsted Keins)²⁵⁹.

In the 1634 Visitation, Edward named his children as:

1. Edward Blaker 4 yere old 1634.
 2. William.
 3. Richard.
- Susan.

255 intended church for wedding

256 FONS BLAKER 11/19

257 intended church for wedding

258 FONS BLAKER 11/20

259 intended church for wedding

Edward Blaker made his will 5 October 1653: it was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 2 June 1654:²⁶⁰

Edward Blaker.

October the 5th. 1653./

In the Name of God Amen I Edward Blaker of Porteslade gent' being of perfect health and Memory the Lord be praised for it doe bequeath my Soule to God that gave it mee And my body whensoever it shall please the Lord to call mee out of this present world to be buried in the parish Church of Porteslade And as for the personall Estate wherewth. it hath pleased God to blesse I dispose of as followeth Inprimis I nominate and ordeine my welbeloved Sonne Edward Blaker my sole Executo^r. and Administrato^r. of this my last Will and Testament Item my will is that my Executor Edward Blaker shall buy as much Land as will make vp my sonne Richard Blakers Land an hundred pound^s a yeare Item I give to my eldest daughter Suzan Alferries Child one hundred pound^s to be payed within three monthe^s after my decease Item I give to my daughter Mary Blaker six hundred pound^s to be paied at the Age of one and twenty and to my daughter Francis Blaker six hundred pound^s to be likewise payed her at the Age of one and twenty yeare^s Item I will that my Sonne Edward Blaker whome I have made my sole Executor and Administrator shall have the bringing up of my twoe daughters Mary and Francis Item I give to my deare Wife M^{rs}. Susan Blaker beside^s the Third^s of my Land a Bed and tenne pound^s to be paied her within a Monthe after my decease All the rest of my Estate I give solely and wholie to my Executo^r. Edward Blaker Item I nominate and ordeyne for my Overseer of this my last will and Testament M^r. William Scrace of New-shoreham to whome I give fortye shillings and what reasonable charge^s he shall be in seeing this Will of mine truly and faithfully performed Witness^s my hand this fifth Daye of October 1653. / E: Blaker. / In the presence of John Bennet his marke and of John Belgrave Rectour of Angleton. /

This will was proved at Westminster the second Daye of June in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred fiftye foure before the Judges for probate of Wills and granting Administrac^ons lawfully authorized by the Oathe of Edward Blaker the sole Executor named in the said Will to whome the Administration was Co'mitted of all and singuler the Good^s Chattle^s and Debts of the said deceased Hee being first sworne well and truly to administer the same. /

260 PRO PROB 11/234 f. 372v

Searching for the origin of the Portslade Blakers:

Edward Blaker at the head of the Portslade line died in 1571. Renshaw found him in the lay subsidy rolls for 1543-4, 1545, 1549 &c., and in the Portslade court rolls of 1544. On the other hand, Edward is not found there or elsewhere in Sussex in the subsidy returns for 1524-5.

The Manorial Documents Register has various court rolls for the manor of Portslade back to 1546; nothing earlier except an account roll, with other manors, 1542 to 1546 (WSRO Add MSS 2251-2252). Note that there is a discrepancy here, in that Renshaw saw an item in 1544, from a court roll not now apparently surviving. Certainly, if the Portslade court rolls seen by Renshaw extended back further in time, he would have noted any earlier entries. The absence of evidence of Edward in Portslade court rolls before 1544 is not evidence of absence.

Portslade was already an ancient parish church by this time, and would have had registers of baptisms, marriages and burials from 1538 onwards, but nothing now survives earlier than fragmentary bishop's transcripts from about 1604 onwards.

Edward was prosperous, and as he does not appear to have inherited property in Portslade from his father (judging by absence of a Blaker there in 1524-5), the other clear route to prosperity would be by marriage. If we suppose that Edward was about 70 when he died in 1571, leaving four children and his widow Christian, he would have married somewhere around 1520 to 1540. Being prosperous he would have married by licence rather than banns, but Chichester marriage licences survive no earlier than 1575 and Lewes 1586.

So, if we have no help from lay subsidies (none surviving between 1525 and 1543), nor from parish registers or marriage licences, nor from manorial records (missing before 1546), we do have two possible alternative routes of investigation.

The first is the question of wills. Again, we are running up against the barrier of loss of the earliest records, but let us consider the possibilities:

1. To identify the wealthy inhabitants of Portslade, and locating their wills in Edward's lifetime that might show him as a legatee; and, failing that direct approach,
2. To check any other Portslade wills during his lifetime, hoping for a link.

This is the return for Fishergate half hundred in Lewes rape in 1524:

SUBSIDY ROLLS, 1524-5		93	
DIMID' HUNDRED DE FISSHERSGATE			
<i>1524</i>			
John Hokenden	10	Richard a Kent	2
William Hunter	5	Thomas Graunt	5
Adam Auere	3	Thomas Corner	2
† Richard Gatser	3	John Gylys	1
Nicholas Gyer	2	John Palat	1
John a Kent	4	John Thornton	5
Thomas Eyre	5	Richard Gater	2
William Corner'	3	William Pollard	2
Walter Warncombe	3	Nicholas Gafrard	2
Thomas Domrell	2	Robert Hyne	1
Henry Mathewe	10	John Gotherell	2
Thomas Hunter	2	Robert Jamys	1
James Yowden	2	Richard Colyer	20
John Piccombe	5	William Matthew	2
Nicholas Auere	2	Richard Hitchecke	1
Richard Avere	2	John Bawys.. ..	5
Robert Grynsted	2	John Cowper	5
Roger Duke	5	Peter Snellyng	80
John Thornton, jr.	2	Nicholas Grove, alien	1
Richard Ewden	2	William Farle	2
Thomas Monke	2	Henry Gode, of Aberton	2
Richard a Levyn	2	Robert Plony	1
<i>Sum</i> £7 18s. 10d.			
<i>1525</i>			
<i>The return is in very poor condition, but these names can be distinguished</i>			
Adam Endrem ¹	2	William Cogger	2
Richard Gatser (?)	2		

Portslade and Hangleton comprised that part of Fishergate hundred as lay in Lewes rape; neither being named or distinguished: but Hangleton was an insignificant part of the half hundred, amounting to only eight houses in 1821. So we see that there were four relatively wealthy persons in this area in 1524: Peter Snellyng, Richard Collyer, John Hokenden and Henry Mathewe.

Wills from Portslade would be found in the records of Lewes archdeaconry, or above that in Chichester consistory, or above that in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, where the wealthiest testators would be found. The calendar of the Canterbury jurisdiction has these Portslade wills from 1353 to 1558:

1489 Edward Fox	19 Miller
1494 Robert Page	19 Vox
1517 John Som'er	34 Holder
1545 Peter Sneling	42 Pynnyng

BLAKERS OF HOVE, 1553 to 1576

John Blaker of Hove

The Preston Episcopi marriage registers record in 1553.²⁶¹

John Blaker and Anne Patchinge were married the xxviiith of September 1553 Ed. regis 6^o sexto.

No children of this couple appear in Preston baptism registers, but in the united parish of Hove we find:

Agnes the Daughter of John Blaker was baptized the xiiith daye of October Anno Do'i 1553.²⁶²

Richard the sonne of John Blaker was baptized the xiith of Januarye Anno Do'i 1554.^{263 264}

Alice the Daughter of John Blaker was baptized xxiith of Aprill Anno Do'i 1556.²⁶⁵

Richard the sonne of John Blaker was baptized the xvith daye of March 1558^{266 267}

Anne (Patching) Blaker presumably then dies, for we have in the burials:

Anne Blayker was buried the xxiith daye of september Anno Doni 1559.²⁶⁸

and John Blaker remarries:

John Blacker and Margaret Lambert were married xiiijth of November 1564.²⁶⁹

and these burials:

Margerye Blayker was buried the second of Julii anno henr. octavi xxxvi^o. [1544]²⁷⁰

Joanne Blayker buried the xviiith of sept. Anno Regis henrici oct. xxxvii^o. [1545]²⁷¹

Alice Blaker was buried the xxith of Aprill. [1558]²⁷²

Preston Episcopi manor included part of Hove parish, and the court rolls confirm that John Blaker was living in Hove, dying in 1567:

John Blayker was buried the xxth of Aprill 1567.²⁷³

261 volume 1 p. 10: p. 49 in the published transcript

262 volume 1 p. 2: p. 3 in the published transcript

263 Old Style, i.e. 1555

264 volume 1 p. 2: p. 4 in the published transcript

265 volume 1 p. 3; p. 4 in the published transcript

266 Old Style, i.e. 1559

267 volume 1 p. 3: p. 4 in the published transcript

268 volume 1 p. 21: p. 26 in the published transcript: among 'Some buryells I misplaced in the end of marridges in past not lookinge well upon it'

269 volume 1 p. 16: p. 20 in the published transcript

270 volume 1 p. 24: p. 24 in the published transcript

271 volume 1 p. 24: p. 24 in the published transcript

272 volume 1 p. 17: p. 22 in the published transcript

273 volume 1 p. 22: p. 27 in the published transcript

and succeeded by the daughter Agnes (baptized 1553, above):

Page 7: **5 April 1568**

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth held there on Monday the 5th April the tenth year of her reign (1568).

John Blaker who held a shop upon the seashore lying at Hove by a rent of *2d.* before this time hath closed his last day. Heriot nothing because never before heriotable. Agnes Blaker is his daughter and next heir and is within age, and the admission of the said Agnes is respited until the next general Court because Richard Blaker, grandfather of said Agnes, claims the said shop, therefore a day was given the said Richard against the next general Court to shew the Court if he hath any right in the premises. And that in the meantime he permit the widow of said John peacefully to hold the said shop.

Agnes Blaker

Page 8: **23 September 1568**

Admission of Agnes Blaker to the shop on the sea front is respited until the next Court, and it is ordained by the assent of Richard Blaker that meanwhile she should peacefully hold the shop aforesaid.

Page 9: **31 March 1569**

Agnes Blaker, daughter and heir of John Blaker, whose admission to a shop on the sea shore was respited from the court held 5th April, 10 Elizabeth²⁷⁴, until this because Richard Blaker, grandfather of the said Agnes, claimed the shop aforesaid, comes and prays to be admitted to the said shop as heir of the said Richard, and because, by the deposition of Thomas Chapman and Robert Buckhole, tenants of this manor, the said Richard has estate in the premises, the lady the Queen by her steward grants seisin thereof to the said Agnes and her heirs. Fine to have entry thereunto, *2d.*

Agnes Blaker married at Preston Episcopi in 1574 (in fact, the last Blaker to appear in Preston and Hove registers before 1812):

Andrewe Webb and Agnes Blaker were married the tenth of Maye 1574.²⁷⁵

Page 16: **9 April 1575**

Andrew Webbe and Agnes his wife, daughter of John Blaker, she being examined alone, have surrendered a shop upon the seashore at Hove which he²⁷⁶ held to him and his heirs by Court held the 31st March, 11 Elizabeth²⁷⁷, to be regranted to Robert Assell and his heirs. Heriot as appears afterwards with the fine. The aforesaid Robert admitted. Heriot and fine, *4d.*

274 5 April 1568

275 volume 1 p. 10: p. 50 in the published transcript

276 error for *she*

277 31 March 1569

This shows that John Blaker buried 20 April 1567 at Hove was the son of Richard Blaker alive in 1568: i.e., not Richard Blaker who died in 1559, but Richard his father, who died in 1570.

Agnes Blaker succeeded to the Blaker property in Hove in 1569, despite there having been a brother Richard baptized in 1558. An earlier Richard, baptized in 1554, had presumably died.

Andrew Webb may have assumed, after the surrender of the shop on the sea shore, that he no longer had responsibility to do suit to the manor court:

Page 17: 23 September 1575

Andrew Webbe and John Bartleys fined *2d.* each in default of suit.

An otherwise unexplained Thomas Blaker²⁷⁸ appears on the jury for the view of frankpledge:

Page 17: 23 September 1575

Jury for the Queen: John Marten, constable, Robert Prior, Edward Kempe, Richard Adames, Robert Buckhole, Thomas Blaker, John Marchaunte, John Pallmer, Thomas Dunke, Robert Smart, John Boniface, John Avery, Richard Tester, Gabriell Leedham. Sworn.

Similarly the Blakers, in the form of Richard Blaker, make default of suit at the next Michaelmas court:

Page 18: 28 September 1576

John Bartleis and Richard Blaker fined *2d.* each in default of suit.

Whether or not Andrew Webb or Richard Blaker was justly fined for default of suit, it is certain that Andrew continued to hold land in Hove, for:

Page 27: 28 March 1583

HOVE: Andrew Webbe headborough and ale-taster, with his tithing, give the common fine, *6s.*

The last mention of Andrew in the surviving court rolls is in 1592:

Page 41: 29 March 1592

Patrick Butten is ordered to move to the house where Andrew Webbe dwells before the 1st of May under penalty as in the statute.

Andrew Webb had married Agnes Blaker at Preston 10 May 1574 (above). Their children were baptized at Hove:

278 ? a misprint

Henrye the sonne of Andrew Webb was bapt. the xxiiiith of October Anno Do'ni 1578.²⁷⁹
John Webbe was baptized the ivth daye of Janu. 1580^{280 281 282}
Alice the Daughter of Andrewe Webb bapt. the xxviiiith of Februarye Anno Dom'i 1581²⁸³

After which there is no further mention of Andrew's family in the Hove parish registers: but he is buried in 1598 at Preston Episcopi:

Andrew Webbe was buryed the xxvth of December A^o Dni. 1598.²⁸⁴

Agnes remarried, at Preston, in 1600, presumably the Patrick Button who had been ordered to live with them under the poor law statute in 1592 (above):

Patricke Button & Agnes Webbe were marryed the xxiiith of Maye anno D'ni 1600.²⁸⁵

Patrick's (presumably) first marriage had also been at Preston Episcopi church, in 1590:

Patricke Button & Margaret Dubbinge were married the xxijth of June 1590.²⁸⁶

where two children were baptised:

Anne & Alice the daughters of Patricke Button were bapt. the sixt of Auguste 1592.²⁸⁷

Patrick and Agnes (Blaker) Button disappear from Hove and Preston Episcopi parish registers and from the Preston Episcopi court rolls after their marriage. No will for either appears in the Lewes Archdeaconry records.

279 volume 1 page 5: page 7 of the published transcript

280 Old Style: *i.e.* 1581

281 father's name not given, but no other Webb family appears in the baptisms at this time

282 volume 1 page 5: page 8 of the published transcript

283 Old Style: *i.e.* 1582

284 volume 1 page 16: page 57 of the published transcript.

285 volume 1 page 11: page 51 of the published transcript.

286 volume 1 page 11: page 51 of the published transcript.

287 volume 1 page 4: page 42 of the published transcript.

Blakers of Cuckfield, 1581 to 1684
(Richard Blaker line)

Richard Blaker (ob 1546)

Whereas Ralph Blaker (above) was assessed at £1 in the 1524 lay subsidy for Cuckfield²⁸⁸, Richard Blaker was assessed at £20 — only nine of the inhabitants are recorded at £20 or more. The names adjoining Richard in the list (which may have been made house to house) are Gerard Haseling (£2), Hugh Ashfold (£2 6s 8d), Richard Hastings (£1 in land), and on the other side Gilbert Standen (£2), John a Feld (£1) and Thomas Ashfold (£5).

Richard Blaker of Cuckfield made his will in 1546 (Lewes Archdeaconry A 1 100):²⁸⁹

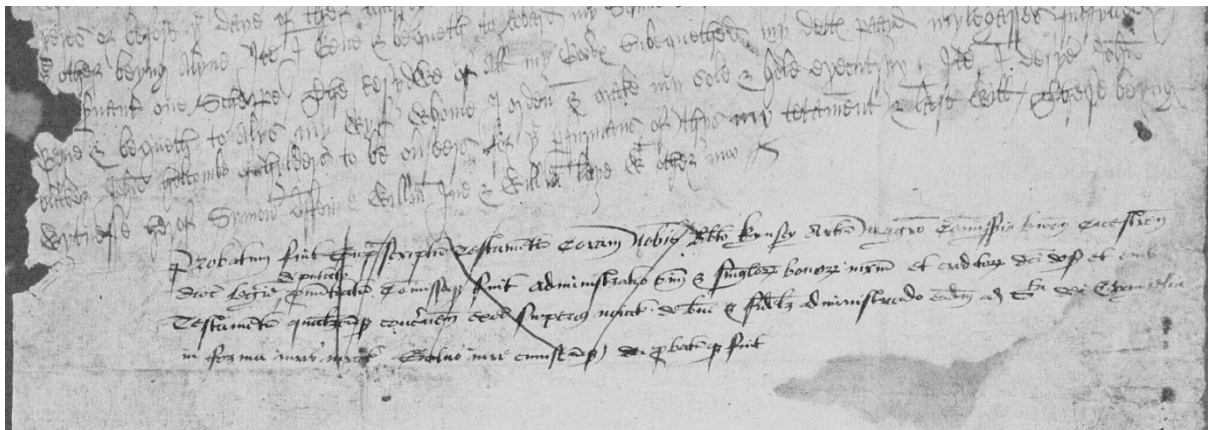
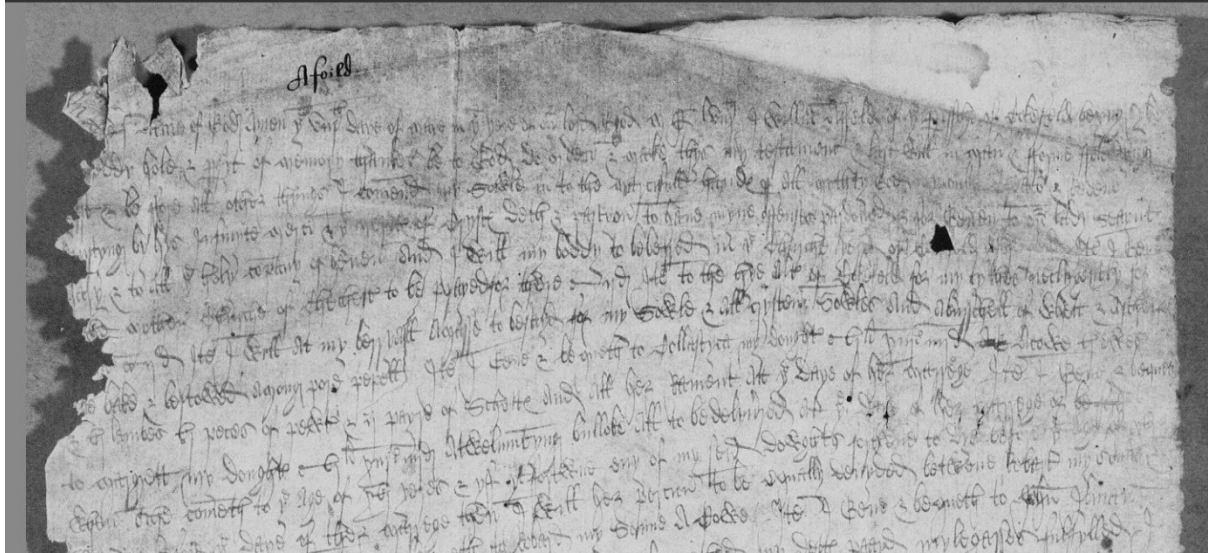
In the name of God Amen I Rd Blaker of Cokefeld being hole of mynd & good of remembrance make this my psent test & last will this th... the of May in the yere of o'r Lord God 1546 & in the 38 yere of the reign of my sov'aign Lord Henry the 8 by the grace of God &c in man' & forme folowing, First I bequeth my soule to Almighty God & my body to be buried wthin the church of Cokefeld. It I gyve to the hie alt'r xii^d. It to the repacons of the church vi^s viii^d. Also I will have iiii mass? at my & iiii at my to the poore at the discession of my son John & Also I gyve to Agnes my wiff iii kyne one white mare ii ewes i sowe wt a pygge half the whete & barle yt is in the house half the whete that the land to the same house & the beddyng that belongith to her chamber that is to say a bedstedle a bed a bolster ii paire of shets a paire of blanketts & a coverlett. I gyve to John Blaker my son vi oxen iii & a mare colt. I gyve to A... my daughter a cow wt a calf to Jane my daughter a cow wt a calf to Anne a cow wt a calf. I gyve to Jane Tully? a cow wt a calff to John Robyns? my s... a wa... to resydew of all my goods & cattells my debts being paid & my bequests fulfilllyed I gyve to John Blaker my son whome I make whole onely executor of this my last will made in the psence of ... John He..., Roger, & John J....., £15 4s 8d

288 P.R.O. E 179/189/119, printed Sussex Record Society lvi, p. 86

289 this transcript of an evidently difficult original, was made by Dave Woolven: 'Transcribed from a very poor photocopy, the original was written in a very poor, hurried & scribbled hand, much of the text being little more than a wiggly line': [we need to see the original.](#)

John Blaker senior

John Blaker of Cuckfield was named an overseer in the will of William Afield,
of 8 May 1558:



[In the] Name of God Amen y^e vijth daye of Maye in y^e yere of ou^r lord God M C lvijth I Willia^r Affeld of y^e Pissche of Cokefeld beyng syke [in b]oddy hole & p^ryt of Memory thanks be to God do ordein' & Make thys my testament & last Will in Man^r & Forme Folowing [Fi]rst & be fore all other things I co'mend my Sowle in to the Mercifull hand^s of all mighty God my only savio^r & Redem^r trustyng by hys Infynyte Merci & y^e Merit^s of Cryst^s deth & pascyon' to haue myne offenses pardoned & for Geuen to o^r lady Seaynt Mary & to all y^e Holy co'pany of Heuen' And I Will my boddy to be beryed in y^e Churche yerd of C[oke]feld aforesaide It^e I [give to] the Mother Churche of Chechest^r to be prayed for there – ijd' It^e to the hye alt^r of Cokefeld for my tythes necllygently [unpaid] – ijd' It^e I wyll at my berryall A masse to be sayd for my sowle & all crysten' sowles And a busschell of wheat & a scheaf be bakd & bestowed among pore pepell It^e I Geue to Collastyca my dough^t – vjli' xiijs' iiijd', A cowe vj ewes & vj lambes vj peces of pewt^r & ij payre of Schetts and all her Rament att y^e daye of her Maryege It^e I Geue & bequethe to Margett my dough^t - vjli' xiijs' iiijd', A twelmu'tyne bulloke All to be deliu' red at y^e daye of her Maryege or before

when sche co'meth to y^e Age of xvj yeres & yff yt Fortwne eny of my seid Dowght's fortwne to dye before y^e age of xvj yeres or before y^e daye of ther Marrege then I Will her porcion to be equally deuyded betwene Robart my sonne & y^e other beyng alyue Ite' I Geue & bequeth to Robard my Sonne a Cowe Ite' I Geue & bequeth to Joh'n Ilman [my] suant one Scheppe The Resydwe of all my Good^s vnbequethed my dett^s paayd my legasses fulfilled I Geue & bequeth to Alys my Wyff Whome I orden' & make my sole & hole executryx Ite' I desy^re Joh'n Blaker Joh'n Holcombe of Hylders to be ou'seers of thys my tetament & last Will, These beyng Wytnesse herof Symon' Affenne Will^am Ine & Will^am Laye W^r other moo

Probatum fuit Sup^ascriptu' Testame'tu' Coram nobis Rob'to Kynsey Artiu' Mag'ro Co'missio Lewen' Cicestren' dioc' legi'e +deputato+ pnu'tiatu' Co'missaq' fuit administratio o'im & sing'lor bonor iuriu' et creditor d'ci def et eius Testame'tu' qual'rcu'q' conc'nen' exec' superi^s no'iat' de b'ne & fidel'r administrando ead'm ad S^{ta} dei Evangelia in forma iuris iurat' Saluo iure cuiuscu'q' pbatu'q' fuit

[The abovementioned testament was proved before us, Robert Kynsey, lawfully deputed commissary of Lewes in the diocese of Chichester, and administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased and howsoever concerning his testament was granted to the abovenamed executor, sworn in form of law on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same; saving the right of whomsoever &c]

William Afield, the testator, left three children - daughters Scholastica and Margaret (both under 16) and a son, Robert. He made his wife Alice his executrix. If we suppose that he was about 40 at his death in 1558, that would indicate a birthdate around, say, 1520. He was clearly a smallholder, paying tithes to Cuckfield church. In 1524 a John a Feld was living in Cuckfield, probably near Richard Blaker (see above). Richard Blaker died in 1546, and was succeeded by his son John. As one of the more prosperous inhabitants of Cuckfield, John Blaker would be a natural choice to act as overseer of William Afield's will.

In Lewes Archdeaconry ²⁹⁰ we have the will of John Blaker of Cuckfield, made 2 September 1567, proved 25 May 1568:

John Blaker of Cuckfield
My daughter Elizabeth
My sonne John
My wife Kathryne & sonne John executors.

John Blaker junior

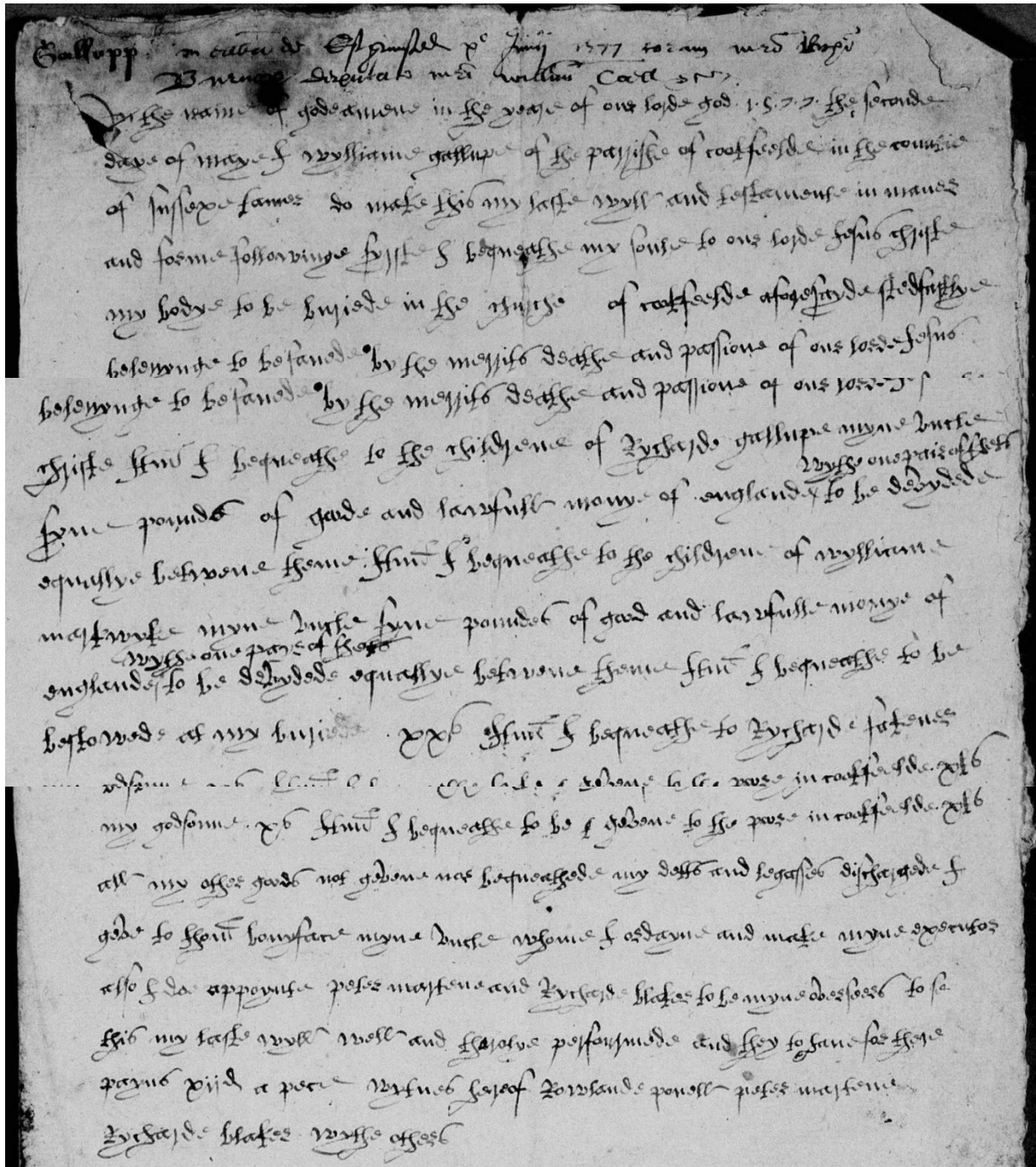
John's son John was evidently alive in 1568, but neither he nor his mother Katherine was buried at Cuckfield after 1598, when the surviving Cuckfield parish registers begin: nor did either have a will proved at Lewes.

290 Book A 5 528

Richard Blaker senior

The will of William Gallup

The calendar of Lewes Archdeaconry wills is based on the books of registered copy wills, but these do not make a perfect continuous sequence. One gap is in 1577, but for which some the (uncalendar) original wills survive. These include (582) the will of William Gallup of Cuckfield, of which Richard Blaker was both an overseer and a witness:



Gallop in eccl'ia de Estgrinsted x^o Junij 1577 coram m'ro Rich'i Burnop deputato m'ri Will'mi Coell &c'

[Galopp: in Estgrinsted church 10 June 1577 before master Richard Burnop, deputy of master William Coell &c.]

Yn the name of gode amene in the yeare of our lorde god .1.5.7.7. the seconde daye of Maye I Wylliam gallup of the parrishe of cookfeeld in the countie of sussex tanner do make this my last Wyll and testamente in maner and forme followinge fyrst I bequeathe my soule to our lorde Jesus christe my bodue to be buriede in the churche of cookfeelde aforesayde stedfastlye beleuyng to be saued by the merrits deathe and passione of our lorde Jesus christe It'm I bequeathe to the childrene of Rycharde gallupe myne vncler fyue pounds of goode and lawfull monye of englande +Wyth one pair of shets+ to be devydede equallye betwene theme: It'm I bequeathe to the children of Wylliam markwyke myne vncler fyue poundes of good and lawfull monye of englande +wythe one payr of shets+ to be devydede equallye betwene theme It'm I bequeathe to be bestowed at my buriede .xxs' It'm I bequeathe to Rychard fakener my godsonne .x.s' It'm I bequeathe to be gevene to the poore in cookfeeld .xls' all my other goods not gevene nor bequeathed my detts and legasses discharged I geve to Jhon' bonyface myne vncler whome I ordayne and make myne executor also I doe appoynt Peter martene and Rychard blaker to be myne overseers to se this y laste wyll well and thorolye perfourmede and they to haue for there payns xijd' a pece Wytnes hereof Rowlande pouell peter martene Rycharde blaker wythe others

William Gallup refers to his uncles Richard Gallup and William Markwyke, both of whom appear in the lay subsidy for Barcombe, 1524-5:

Source: Sussex Record Society lvi

Title: *The Lay Subsidy Rolls for the County of Sussex 1524-25. Transcribed and edited by Julian Cornwall, 1956, Lewes, 95-96*

1524 – 1525

Barcome

RAPA DE LEWES

189/119 - 1524

189/162 - 1525

Indenture dated 6 April 15 Henry 8 (1524) by Richard Covert Sqvyer, Richard Bellingham, George Gifford, Nicholas Gaynesford, John Michell, Richard Shelley and Thomas Michell, commissioners. John Bird of Perching' and John Alchorn, high collectors.

‘Sum of the hoole Subsidie within the Rape of Lewes - cccxij.li. xijs.vjd., whereof payed by anticipation - xiiij.li.’

Endorsed ‘Per manum Ricardi Covert infrascripti quinto die Julii xvj Regis H. viij.’²⁹¹

HUNDR’ DE BARCOMB²⁹²

[BARCOME²⁹³]

1524

...			
	Richard Rottes	3	²⁹⁴
	John Parker	3	
* ²⁹⁵	Thomas Broke	1	
	Thomas Gallop	1	
	Thomas Pyme	2	
	John Lambe	1	
† ²⁹⁶	John Towner	2	
...			
	John Cobbe	4	
	Simon Cobbe	2	
†	William Lok’	2	
†	Richard Gallop	3	
	Thomas Chaunteler	4	
	Richard Chaunteler	6	
*	Robert Kyng	1	

1525

...				
	John Ivner	W ²⁹⁷	1	
	Thomas Ivner		1	
	William Lok’		3	
	Richard Gallop		7	
	Richard Erle		3	
	Thomas Page		1	6 8
	Thomas Markwyke		7	

291 by the hands of Richard Covert within-written on the 5th day of July in 16th of king Henry VIII [1524].

292 sic

293 sic

294 assessed on goods, worth £3

295 name only found in the 1524 return

296 entried amended in the 1525 return

297 assessed on wages

...

Barcombe was (and is) just north of Lewes, and a few miles southeast of Cuckfield:



Barcombe (bottom right) and Cuckfield ['Cuckfeild'] (top left), Sussex, 1610

William Gallup's executor and principal legatee was his uncle John Boniface, with whom we are familiar from the will of Elizabeth Buckhold of Beddingham, widow (see above) made 21 March 1552[3] and proved 23 May 1553 (Book A 3 82):

also I bequeth to Joh'n Bonyface my sonne in Lawe ij bushell^s of wheatt & I Forgyve hym all suche dett^s as he dothe owe to me at this p^rsentte / Also I bequeth to Jone Bonyface my goddowghter a hempyn shete / Also I bequeth to Richard Blaker ij busshell^s off wheatte to be delyu^red at next harvest

These circumstances seem to tie in Richard Blaker of Preston Episcopi (1537 and 1559) to this third branch of the Blakers at Cuckfield, starting with Richard Blaker of Cuckfield who died in 1546.

John Rowe's Book

John Rowe's Book ²⁹⁸ was finished in 1622, and used material from Cuckfield court rolls as far back as 1559. The tenement that was to be called Blakers is described thus: ²⁹⁹

*Ric'us Baker*³⁰⁰ 24. Eliz: tenet j quadrantem terr' cont' 25 acr' & Dimid' voc' Amfryes p redd' viij^s q^a Di' gall' et 6. ovor

16. Sept. 10. El.

Item p eandem copia' tenet vnu' cotagiu' et j ferlingat' terr' cont' [blank] acr' voc' Blakers in C. p redd' xxij^d

24. El. 28. El. 12 oct. 1. Ed. 6.

The main text thus shows that Richard B(l)aker held by copy of court roll from the 24th year of Elizabeth (17 November 1581 to 16 November 1582) both a farthing-land of 25½ acres called Amfryes, and a cottage (and a ferling of land, added later) called Blakers in Cuckfield, the rents being 8s 0¼d and half a hen and six eggs, and 22d, respectively. Rowe had found references to this land in court rolls of 16 September 1568, 1581-2, 1585-6 and 12 October 1547. Presumably Richard Blaker came into occupation as a young man, not long after his marriage, in 1581-2: if by inheritance, it would be (by Borough English) as the youngest surviving son.

'Amfreys'

John Rowe also records:³⁰¹

Ed'us Challoner gen' 23. Eliz: tenet vna' ferlingat' terre voc' Amfreys cont' xxv acr' in C. p redd' vij^s x^d ob' q^a j gallin' et sex ovor

10. Ja.

[Edmund Challoner gentleman (23 Elizabeth) holds a ferling of land called Amfreys containing 25 acres in Cuckfield, by rent of 7s 10¾d, a hen and six eggs]

The only other copyhold property in Cuckfield listed by Rowe as held by Edmund Challoner is:³⁰²

Ed'us Challoner gen' 7. Ja: 20 Ja: 29. Eliz: tenet j cotagiu' &. vna' acr' terr' eid' adiacen' h'iett vj^d de c'to fin' vj^d de c'to fin' vj^d de c'to p redd' ij^d

Edmund Challoner

298 see CUCKFIELD

299 fol. 14, p. 26 of the printed edition

300 sic

301 fol. 12v, p. 23 of the printed edition

302 fol. 15, p. 28 of the printed edition

Edmund Challoner was buried at Cuckfield in 1611:³⁰³

1611. Dec. 10 Edmonde Chaloner, gent. & sinnier, a batchelor of famoze memorie, which was borne & baptized 5 Sept. 1538, of age three score & 13.³⁰⁴

There is also this burial:³⁰⁵

1611. Apr. 10 Jane d. of Ann greene, widdowe, gent. M^r edmond chaloner's brother's daughter.

Edmund Challoner therefore acquire his half of Amfreys (in 1581) when he was about 43 years old.

In 1901³⁰⁶ Lieut.-Col. F. W. T. Attree, R.E., F.S.A. published his *Notes on the Family of Chaloner of Cuckfield*. He prints this abstract of the will of William Challoner of Cuckfield, made in 1557, in which Edmund his son, then under 23, had a legacy of £10:³⁰⁷

“xvth day of december” 1557 “I wyll'm chaloner of the pyshe of cuckefelde gent” “to be buried wthin the churche earthe of Cuckefylde” — to poor at burial 6^s/8^d — to John Chaloner my sonne £20 — to Margaret Chaloner my dowghter £20 and a Cowe — to Nynyan my sonne my brandyrans in the plor and my sylver salte and my sylver spones after the death of my wife — to Edmunde Chaloner my sonne £10 — The Resydwe to Issabell Chaloner my wiffe & Nynyan Chaloner my eldest sonne whom executors. — My salt seler of sylver & gylt & my sylver spones being sex spones to Issabell my wiffe for life she to have the custodye of yt so that at any time when soever the sayd nynyan my sonne shall occupy yt at any time ether with his brydall or churchinge of his wiffe whensoeu' yt shall please god to call him to yt the sayd Issabell my wiff shall delyu' yt to him whensoever he shall occupye yt. — Issabell my wiffe shall have here dwellinge in my howse of homsted with her chamber rome & ffewell sufficyent for here occupyenge durynge the tyme of her widowhedd wthowt lette of my sonne or any other pson — the £20 I have gyven to John Chaloner my son to be delyu'ed to him at 24 — Margaret my daughter shall have at the day of her marriage £10 and a Cowe & the other £10 a year after — Edmund Chaloner my sonne shall have the £10 at 23 — James my servaunt shall have a twoyerynge effer within two years after my decease — Alyce my servaunt shall have Imedyatelye after my decease 12^d — Nynyan burrell, Thomas burrell & Wyllm burrell my brothers in lawe shalbe ou'rseers — Witnesses Nynyan burrell, Wyllm burrell, Thomas burrell Thomas Mychell, Rychard Venner, John Standen & Rowland Powell. (Lewes A 5. 224. No date of proof entered up, but, from dates of probate of accompanying wills, probably proved early in 1564/5).

Attree also prints³⁰⁸ this abstract of Edmund's will, proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1612:

7 Dec 1609. Edmond Chaloner of Cuckfield gent — to the reparations

303 p. 139 of the printed transcript

304 curiously, the printed register omits the full entry, which is given by Lieut.-Col. Attree as: 1611. Dec. 10. “Edmond Chaloner gent & sen^r a bachelor of famous memory which was born and baptised the 5th of September 1538 : : of age three score & 13. both loving & welbeloved and woorthey of good fame for a memoriall.”

305 p. 138 of the printed register

306 Sussex Archaeological Collections xliv

307 p. 127

308 pp. 128-129

of the church of Cuckfield £5 — to the poor of Cuckfield £7; of Slaugham 40/-; of Bolney 20/-; to my wel beloved sister Margaret Turner widow my two houses in Cuckfield called Maultmans and Breaches for life and £40 — to Elizabeth Gramell wife of Henry Gamell my sisters daughter £5 — to Margarett Corney my sisters daughter £5 — to Huntingdon Corney £20 — to Mary Fullam widow late wife of Edward Fullam my brother's daughter £10 and to her five daughters Mary Putnam, Elizabeth Brooke, Ellynor Brooke, Mary Fullam and Grace Fullam £5 apiece — to Jane Brooke £20 — to Anne Greene widow my brother's daughter £20 — to Jane Greene and Mary Greene her two daughters £5 apiece — to Richard Challoner my brother's eldest son my house called Goldings in Cuckfield now in the tenure of John Bluett gent, and after his decease to his son Nynyan Chaloner my godson and his heirs for ever — to Johane Roberts the wife of John Roberts my brother's daughter £5 — to Walter Chaloner my brothers son £100 and houses called Maultmans and Breaches after the death of my sister Turner — to Rachell Chaloner my brothers daughter 100 marks to be paid in 7 years after my decease or in 3 years if she marry with the consent of her friends — to Richard Heaver gent £4 — to friend John Pilbeame £4 — to Richard Cripps the elder £4 — to Anthony Millam, William Jokes and Peter Cresey 40^s/ each — and to Peter Tullett 20^s/ — to my old servant Thomas Harte £6. 13. 4. — to my servant William Haseling 40^s/ — to my servant Francis Gynner 20^s/ — to my servant Nicholas Thornden 20^s/ — to my servant Joan Burtenshawe 40^s/ — to Elizabeth Webbe 20^s/ — to William Wynne junior my servant 20^s/ — to Alice Nelson 20^s/ — to Thomas Standon and William Wynne the elder 10^s/ each. Residuary legatee and executor Richard Chaloner my brother's eldest son. Overseers welbeloved friends and kinsmen Henry Ward gent, Nathaniel Hussey gent, and Nicholas Ferrall yeoman — Proved 5th Feb 1611/2 by Richard Chaloner the nephew in P.C.C. (14 Fenner).

There is no mention in Attree's study of Amfreys or the Blaker family. The two small copyhold tenements listed for Edmund by Rowe will doubtless have descended by Borough English to his youngest male relative.

'Blakers'

Three places or fields called Blakers are mentioned in John Rowe's Book: at Cuckfield³⁰⁹, Pecham³¹⁰ (three virgates called Blakers, held by Thomas Shirley esquire) and at Rodmell³¹¹ George Lewes holds 40 acres called Great Hackers in Hellingly, late Blakers &c.

309 as above

310 f. 46, p. 72 of the printed text

311 f. 73, p. 111 of the printed text

Richard Blaker senior and his wife Joan will have married before 1580, a period for which Cuckfield parish registers do not survive. Joan was buried there in 1610:

1610. Oct. 6 Joan wyfe of Richard blaker, Sinyer.³¹²

and Richard there in 1623:

1623. Apr. 4 Richard Blaker, an old man.³¹³

Richard was therefore still alive at the time of the compilation of John Rowe's book. Rowe's collection of notes on the maintenance of bridges locally, states:³¹⁴

Northwortleford bridge hath bene often p'sented to be repayred sometimes by more, sometimes by fewer ten's as 41. El./2. 5. 11. Ja: but it was finally resolved and agreed vppon at a Lawday holden 30. Sept. 15. Ja.³¹⁵ that it ought to be made by the persons & in respect of the landes hereafter named viz.

1.	Thomas Geere	for landes called	Westvpp
2.	John Burtenshawe		Misbrookes
3.	Richard Bartlye		Haselinges pcell.
4.	Widow Nye		Haselinges pcell.
5.	Richard Bartlye.		Lowfildes.
6.	Richard Blaker		Blakers.
7.	Tho: Ansty als ffeild		Wylles.
8.	Thomas West		Hodesherve.
9.	Richard Ansty		Westland pcell.
10.	Richard Dumbrell		Westland pcell.
11.	Richard Dumbrell		Scarons.
12.	Richard Myles		ffurners crofte
13.	Will'm Woldred		Woldredges.

Cuckfield Parish Registers

Although parish registers were instituted in England in 1538, those for Cuckfield survive only from 1598 onwards³¹⁶. The printed edition of the first two extant registers was edited by W. C. Renshaw, who remarks that:

In the oldest of them is a note to the effect that "Marriages, Christenings, and Burials registered in the old register bookes before this" began in the year 1538, and ran to 1597. These older register books are traditionally supposed to have been appropriated by Sir William Burrell, and they are not now to be found.

Richard Blaker of Blakers

Richard Blaker married Eleanor Dumbrell at Cuckfield in 1607, and so was probably born about 1585:

312 p. 138 of the printed transcript

313 p. 151 of the printed transcript

314 f. 84v, p. 129 of the printed text

315 30 September 1617

316 1598 to 1699 printed Sussex Record Society xiii, 1911, London.

1607. Jun. 22 Richard Blaker & Elinor Dumbrell.³¹⁷

The marriage registers at this period do not indicate whether weddings were by licence or after banns. There is no licence for this marriage in the surviving Chichester or Lewes archives. These children of Richard and Eleanor Blaker of Blakers were baptized at Cuckfield parish church:

1608.	Dec. 11	Anna d. of Richard & Elnor Blaker of Blakers. ³¹⁸
319		
1611/12.	Mar. 22	Marie d. of Richard & Elnor Blaker of Blakers. ³²⁰
1615.	Jul. 23	Richard s. of Richard & Elnor Blaker. ³²¹
1617.	Oct. 19	Edmond s. of Richard & Ellinor Blaker. ³²²
1619.	Apr. 11	Elizabeth d. of Richard Blaker. ³²³
1620.	Jul. 23	Henry s. of Richard Blaker. ³²⁴
1623.	Apr. 13	John s. of Richard Blaker. ³²⁵

of whom were buried in infancy:

1608.	Dec. 13	Anna d. & Infant of Richard & Elnor Blaker of Blakers. ³²⁶
1617.	Nov. 14	Edmond s. of Richard and Ellinor Blaker. ³²⁷

Eleanor died in 1626, being buried at Cuckfield:

1625/6.	Feb. 11	Elenor wife of Richard Blaker.
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Richard may have remarried, for we also have:

1655/6.	Jan. 18.	Margaret wife to ould Richard Blaker. ³²⁸
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Edmund Blaker of Nuthurst³²⁹ in his will, made in 1634, made bequests to Richard, his brother, of 40s *per annum*, and £15, £10 and £10 to Richard's children Richard, Mary and Elizabeth; and Richard himself was granted administration of Edmund's goods.

Dumbrells

317 p. 102 of the printed transcript

318 p. 12 of the printed transcript

319 It is possible that an earlier son John was baptized at Bolney (printed parish registers, Sussex Record Society xv, London, 1912, p. 25):

John Blaker the sonne of Richard Blaker chrystened the vith of Januarie.

Bolney registers survive from 1541 onwards: no other child appears for this Richard Blaker, nor does he seem to have been baptized, married or buried there. Bolney is two miles southwest of Cuckfield.

320 p. 16 of the printed transcript

321 p. 19 of the printed transcript

322 p. 22 of the printed transcript

323 p. 23 of the printed transcript

324 p. 25 of the printed transcript

325 p. 28 of the printed transcript

326 p. 136 of the printed transcript

327 p. 146 of the printed transcript

328 p. 178 of the printed transcript

329 see NUTHURST

Eleanor Dumbrell will have been born about 1585, too early for the surviving Cuckfield registers, in which baptisms are recorded no earlier than 1598. Just before her marriage to Richard Blaker in 1607, there is this baptism entry there:³³⁰

1604. Jul. 8 Thomas s. of Thomas & Eliner Dumbrell, cooper

but this was evidently a different Eleanor Dumbrell, for the burials have:³³¹

1608/9. Mar. 15 Ellinor wyfe of Thomas dumbrell, cooper.

These Dumbrell wills and administrations appear in the Lewes calendars from 1607 to 1650:

Dumbrell, Eliz., Wivelsfield, wid. of John: 11 Sep. [1604], 10 Nov. 1604 A 12 39; B 3 37³³²

Dumbrell, Henry, Hove, husbandman: 18 Sept. 1606, 9 Oct. 1606 A 12 180; B 3 84

Dumbrell, John, Cuckfield: *cv* 24 Dec 1624; 31 Jan 1624/5 B 5 184, 189

Dumbrell, John, Southease: 3 Jan. 1626/7 B 5 279

Dumbrell, Edward, Southease, husb.: 23 Feb. 1638, 26 Feb. 1638 A 25 219; B 7 139

Dumbrell, Thomas, Southease, farmer: 25 Nov. 1638, 2 March 1638 A 25 225; B 7 140

Dumbrell, John, Cuckfield: 24 Sep. 1633 B 6 166

The Cuckfield items match this burials in Cuckfield registers:³³³

1624. Dec. 25 John Dumbrell.

There is no further burial for or before 1633, suggesting that the second item may be a further grant.³³⁴ John Dumbrell does not appear in John Rowe's book under Cuckfield, but there is:³³⁵

Ric'us Dumbrell tenet j cotagiu' cum gardino cont' p estimac' xvj acr' voc' Moores *al's*
Onsty iacen' apud Ansty crosse in C. nup Standens. 7 Eliz: p redd' xvij^d
26 et 27 Eliz: 9 Ja' 20 Ja', 38. El'.

Richard Dumbrell was buried at Cuckfield in 1612.³³⁶

1612. Nov. 13 Richard Dumbrell

There is no will or administration for him at Lewes.

Contemporaries of Richard Blaker

330 p. 7 of the printed transcript

331 p. 136 of the printed transcript

332 there would appear to be a Cuckfield connection here, because a little earlier we find:

Dumbrell, John, Wivelsfd., Portslade, Cuckfd., yeo.: 28 Ag. '99, 2 Oct. '02 A 11 162; B 3 11

333 p. 152 of the printed transcript

334 **We need to see both these administrations**

335 f. 12, p. 22 of the printed transcript

336 p. 141 of the printed transcript

Richard Blaker married in 1607. Cuckfield parish registers survive no earlier than 1598, and we do not have his father's will, and so no indication of who his brothers and sisters might have been. However, we do have these marriages there of around the same time:

1601.	Aug. 3	Rychard Bochor to Johanne Blaker. ³³⁷
1601.	Aug. 24	John Tuckny to Isbell Blaker. ³³⁸
1607.	May 20	William West & Elizabeth Blaker. ³³⁹
1613.	Jul. 11	Richard Kid to Elsabeth Blaker. ³⁴⁰
1613.	Sep. 7	John Patching to Marie Blaker. ³⁴¹

We know that the Elizabeth Blaker who married Richard Kidd was a daughter of Arthur Blaker, and mentioned by him in his will, as was Johanna married to Richard Butcher. But there is no indication that the other three belonged to Arthur's family:

1601.	Aug. 24	John Tuckny to Isbell Blaker.
1607.	May 20	William West & Elizabeth Blaker. ³⁴²
1613.	Sep. 7	John Patching to Marie Blaker. ³⁴³

Edmund Blaker of Nuthurst who died 1634 made a bequest to "my sister Elizabeth and her husband William West."³⁴⁴ But there is no mention in his will of any Patching or Tuckney connection.³⁴⁵

Tuckneys

There are only a few Tuckney entries in the Cuckfield parish registers of this period. John and Isabella married in 1601. There is this baptism in 1617.³⁴⁶

1617.	May 11	John s. of John Tucknye.
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and these burials in 1634 and 1639:

1634.	May 6	John Tuckny. ³⁴⁷
1639.	Aug. 25	Elizabeth Tuckney. ³⁴⁸

There is no will or administration for John in the Lewes Archdeaconry archives.

Patchings

337 p. 99 of the printed transcript

338 p. 99 of the printed transcript

339 p. 101 of the printed transcript

340 p. 104 of the printed transcript

341 p. 104 of the printed transcript

342 A Richard Blaker was one of the witnesses to the will of George Blaker of Cowfold in 1617 (see COWFOLD), who mentioned William West as one of his good friends.

343 The surname Patching is already familiar to us from Preston Episcopi, where John Boniface's will of 1609 refers to his daughter Mary married to Thomas Patching; and from Hove, where John Blaker married Anne Patching in 1553

344 see further under NUTHURST

345 Alexander Blaker married Susan Tuckney at Cuckfield 5 June 1621 (p. 108)

346 p. 21 of the printed transcript

347 p. 161 of the printed transcript

348 p. 166 of the printed transcript

John Patching married Mary Blaker at Cuckfield in 1613. These children appear in the baptism registers:

1613.	Dec. 22	Ann d. of John Patching. ³⁴⁹
1616.	Nov. 22	Ann d. of John & Marie Patching. ³⁵⁰

The elder Ann dying in infancy, and being buried there:

1616.	Apr. 11	Ann d. of John Patching. ³⁵¹
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After that the Patchings seem to have left Cuckfield. Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars have two possibilities:

Patching, John, Jevington, husbandman : 18 Aug. 1635, 25 Mar. 1637	A 24 154; B 7 38
Patching, John jr. ³⁵² of Eastbourne : 26 Apr 1637	B 7 41

349 p. 18 of the printed transcript

350 p. 21 of the printed transcript

351 p. 145 of the printed transcript

352 John Patching husband of Mary Blaker may well have been son of John Patching parish clerk of Cuckfield who appears in the registers. **We should check this administration.**

Richard Blaker junior

Richard son of Richard and Eleanor Blaker of Blakers in turn married an Eleanor, Eleanor Parsons, in 1638:

1638. Apr. 24 Richard Blaker & Eleanor Parsons.³⁵³

Their children were baptized at Cuckfield from 1639 onwards:

1639. Oct. 20 Thomas s. of Richard & Ellinor Blaker.³⁵⁴
1641. Oct. 23 Mary d. of Richard & Eleanoure Blaker.³⁵⁵
1643/4. Feb. 2 Timothy d.³⁵⁶ of Richard & Elinor Blaker.³⁵⁷
1644/5. Jan. 16 Timothy d. of Richard & Eleanor Blaker.³⁵⁸

This may be Eleanor's burial, at Cuckfield:

1683/4. Jan. 28 Elinor Blaker.

but the record of Richard Blaker's burial does not survive³⁵⁹: there is no will or administration for him at Lewes, Chichester or Canterbury.

Parsons

Richard Blaker married Eleanor Parsons at Cuckfield in 1638. We have these baptisms there:

1609. Aug. 20 Richard s. of John & Elinor Parson, tayler.³⁶⁰
1611. Nov. 14 Elnor d. of John & Elnor Parson, tayler.³⁶¹
1614. Apr. 25 John s. of John & Elnor Parson, tayler.³⁶²
1616. Jun. 2 Mary d. of John & Ellinor Parsons.³⁶³

of whom was buried there:

1617. Jun. 22 Mary d. of John & Elinor Parson.³⁶⁴

and possibly:³⁶⁵

1628/9. Jan. 21 Infant daughter of John Persons.

353 p. 113 of the printed transcript

354 p. 45 of the printed transcript

355 p. 47 of the printed transcript

356 sic

357 p. 49 of the printed transcript

358 p. 50 of the printed transcript

359 Cuckfield registers have some imperfections: for instance, no burials are recorded in 1652

360 p. 13 of the printed transcript

361 p. 16 of the printed transcript

362 p. 18 of the printed transcript

363 p. 20 of the printed transcript

364 p. 146 of the printed transcript

365 p. 157 of the printed transcript

Eleanor was buried at Cuckfield in 1642:

1642. Dec. 12 Eleanor Parsons.

There are these possibilities for John:

1646. Aug. 13 John Parson.³⁶⁶
1680. Nov. 12 John Parsons.³⁶⁷

No will or administration of a John Parsons of Cuckfield appears in the Lewes calendars 1616 to 1650.

John Parsons, father of Eleanor (Parsons) Blaker, married Eleanor Mercer at Cuckfield in 1608:³⁶⁸

1608. Jun. 21 John Parson to Elinor Mercer.

There is no matching licence in the Lewes or Chichester archives, so presumably the marriage was by banns. We do not know who Eleanor's father was, but this could be a sister, marrying at Cuckfield four years earlier:³⁶⁹

1604. Jun. 12 Ambrose Lussie to Margaret d. of Henry Mercer.

There are few Mercer entries in the Cuckfield parish registers; these are the only male Mercer burials before 1650:

1598. May 19 Edward Mercer.³⁷⁰
1613. May 25 old Henry Mercer, Tayler.³⁷¹

Henry Mercer who died in 1613, left a will proved at Lewes:

Mercer, Henry, Cuckfield: 2 March 1611, 5 June 1613

A 14 109; B 4 7

366 p. 173 of the printed transcript

367 p. 195 of the printed transcript

368 p. 102 of the printed transcript

369 p. 100 of the printed transcript

370 p. 129 of the printed transcript

371 p. 142 of the printed transcript

Blakers of Brighton, 1589 to 1644

Henry Blaker

Brighton parish registers survive from December 1558 (baptisms), April 1559 (marriages) and January 1558 (burials), with minor gaps. A transcript of the registers as far as 1701 was edited by Henry D. Roberts and printed by Brighton Corporation in 1932.

Henry Blaker, son of George Blaker (see Preston Episcopi) married at Brighton in 1589:

[1588³⁷²] Marche The xvth married Harrie Blaker & Agnes Gunn ³⁷³

Lewes Archdeaconry marriage licences survive from 1586 onwards: we have:

8 March 1588³⁷⁴

Henry Blaker &

Agnes Gunne of Brythelmston, virgin

Surety: Henry Gunne of the same, yeoman

Agnes Gunn

This Agnes Gunn was baptized there in 1565, the name of her father being lost:

[1564³⁷⁵] March The xjth day was bapt: Agnes Gunn daughte^r ³⁷⁶

There follow:

[1566 Octobe^r] The xiiijth was bapt: John Goonn son of Richard ³⁷⁷

[1568³⁷⁸ March The xvth] y^t day was bapt: Thom^as Gunn son of Richard ³⁷⁹

1570 Aprill The second was bapt: Leatyce Gunn daughte^r of Ric[?]: ³⁸⁰

[1572] Julye The vijth day was bapt: Steeven Gunn son of Richard ³⁸¹

The Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars have this will:

Richard Gonne of Brighton: 17 July 1609, proved 10 February 1609 Book A12 406; B3 189

Doubtless Richard Gunn was buried at Brighton, but the registers say:

372 Old Style

373 volume 1 page 86: page 110 of the transcript

374 Old Style: *i.e.* 1589

375 Old Style

376 volume 1 page 6: page 7 of the transcript

377 volume 1 page 8: page 9 of the transcript

378 Old Style: *i.e.* 1569

379 volume 1 page 9: page 11 of the transcript

380 volume 1 page 11: page 13 of the transcript

381 volume 1 page 13: page 16 of the transcript

In this yeare of ou^r Lord 1609 the Visitacion³⁸² begann when for that yeare there was noe Register kept³⁸³

However, Richard Gunn's will suggests that, although father of Lettice and Stephen, as above, he was not the father of Agnes (Gunn) Blaker, nor closely related to Henry Gunn. He made his sons Stephen and William his residuary legatees and executors, there being other legacies to his wife Joan, his son John (with a daughter Joan) and his daughter Lettice (wife of John Comper). The overseers of the will were his friends Thomas Gunn and Thomas Carver of Brighton.

Who, then, was the Henry Gunn who acted as a surety in 1588? He does not appear otherwise as a husband in the Chichester Consistory and Lewes Archdeaconry records; but a Henry Gunn acts as a surety two other times at Lewes:³⁸⁴

1593	Sept. 1	William HARRIS of Seale, husbandman, & Elizabeth GUNNE of Brighthelmstone, virgin; sureties, said W. H. and Henry Gunn of Brighthelmstone, yeoman
1594	Dec. 21	John COVERTE, son of Edward Covertt of Twyneham, gent., & Anne CHATFELDE of same, virgin: sureties, Henry Gun of Brithelmston, yeoman, and James Plomer of Sowthover, yeoman.

and once at Chichester:³⁸⁵

1587.	Apr. 20	John HARMAN of Brighthelmston & Pernel GUNNE of same: sureties, James Plummer and Henry Gunne of same, yeoman (Brighthelmston).
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This marriage, although intended to take place at Brighton, is not recorded in the surviving registers there³⁸⁶: but the marriage registers have a gap between 2 September 1577 and 14 January 1588. No Parnell/Petronella Harman appears in the printed burial registers.

A Henry Gunne appears in three entries in the printed abstracts of Preston manor court rolls (Preston manor extending into Brighton and Hove parishes).³⁸⁷

Page 8: **31 March 1569**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth on Thursday the 31st day of March in the 11th year of her reign (1569).

HOVE

Henry Gunne elected constable and sworn.

382 *Sussex Archaeological Collections* xxii p. 87: 'The plague seems to have visited Westbourne in the year 1609. For though that sickness is not mentioned by name there were no less than 68 burials during the three summer months of that year.' [*Parochial History of Westbourne. By the Rev. John Hanson Sperling, M.A., 1870, Lewes.*]

383 volume 1 page 90: page 115 of the transcript

384 calendar, pages 17, 20

385 calendar, page 10

386 volume 1 pages 85 to 86: pages 108 to 109 of the transcript

387 Sussex Record Society xxvii: *An Abstract of the Court Rolls of the Manor of Preston (Preston Episcopi)*. By Charles Thomas-Stanford, M.P., F.S.A.

Page 9: **30 September 1569**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth on Friday 30th September in the 11th year of her reign (1569).

Jury for the Queen: Henry Gunne, constable, John Palmer, Edward Kempe, Thomas Marchaunte, Robert Prior, John Bonyface, Richard Blaker, Richard Adams, Thomas Chapman, Edward Winchester, Henry Beacheleye, Richard Dennys, Robert Buckhole, Edward Ruckton, Sworn.

Page 10: **21 March 1570**

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge of Queen Elizabeth, 21 March the 12th year of her reign (1570).

Jury for the Queen: Henry Gunne, John Boniface, Edward Kempe, John Marten, Robert Prior, Edward Ricton, Richard Blaker, John Woolgar, Thomas Chapman, Richard Adams, Robert Buckhole, Edward Winchester. Sworn.

This suggests that Henry Gunn was actually living in Hove in 1569. The only reference to him in Hove parish registers is this baptism:³⁸⁸

Henrye the sonne of henrye Gunne was baptized the xxith of November Anno Do'i 1568

As Henry Gunn also acted as surety for a Parnell Gunn (perhaps another daughter) in 1587, it is striking to discover in the Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars:³⁸⁹

Gunne, Parnell, Brighton, widow: 9 Feb. 24 Ez. [1581], 14 July 1589 A 8 303; B 2 80
proved shortly after:³⁹⁰

Gunne, Thomas, Brighton: 13 Nov. 1587, 23 Dec. 1587 A 8 127, B 2 42

There is only one Henry Gunn burial in the Brighton registers:³⁹¹

1644 October The first burried Henry Gunn housholder

and only one Henry Gunn marriage:³⁹²

1622³⁹³ Januarie The first marri: Henerie Gunn & Joane Harman widd': both of
this p^h

388 volume 1 page 4: page 6 of the transcript

389 page 109

390 both should be looked at

391 volume 1 page 110: page 153 of the transcript

392 volume 1 page 95: page 122 of the transcript

393 Old Style, i.e. 1 January 1623

Henry Gunn of Hove would appear to have been born about, say, 1540, and would have been of an age to have been father of Agnes (Gunn) Blaker, who married in 1588, when he acted as surety.

Henry and Agnes (Gunn) Blaker

Henry continues to appear in the Preston Episcopi court rolls until 1596:

Page 41: 29 March 1592

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 29th March in the 34th year of her reign (1592).

Henry Blaker hath carried away half a cart-load of cuttings of elms and is fined *2d.*

Page 42: 20 July 1592

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 20th July in the 34th year of her reign (1592).

Homage: Edward Kempe, James Buckhole, Robert Pryor, Henry Blaker, William Pryor, Robert Affell, John Bonyface, John Ryckles, William Wymarck. Sworn.

Page 43: 1 April 1596

PRESTON: Court of Queen Elizabeth 1st April in the 38th year of her reign (1596).

. . . . William Kempe, sub-tenant of Thomas Kempe, shall not henceforth land of Henry Blaker under penalty of 26s. *8d.*

It is here that we hit on the gap in the surviving court rolls, to 1628. After that there just remains a reference to part of what had been Henry Blaker's land:

Page 64: 5 April 1659

PRESTON: View of Frankpledge and Court Baron, 5th April 1659, by Charles Goodwyn, gent., Steward.

Thomas Mighill, who held by copy the moiety of a yardland³⁹⁴ in Preston called Philpottes, heretofore Henry Blaker's, by a yearly rent of 5s., and the moiety of another yardland in Preston by a yearly rent of 5s. *3d.*, died since last Court. Whereupon there falls two several heriots

Cornelius Mighill, thirteen years old, youngest son, according to custom is next heir. First proclamation, if any, etc.

Henry's children were baptized at Brighton parish church:

[1590 September	The xxvij th] That day bap: Agnes daughter of Harrie Blaker ³⁹⁵
[1592 Auguste]	The xxiii th bap: Harrie sonn of Harrie Blaker ³⁹⁶
[1594 ³⁹⁷] Marche	The second bap: John sonn of Henery Blaker ³⁹⁸

394 i.e., half a virgate, as above

395 volume 1 page 20: page 25 of the transcript

396 volume 1 page 22: page 28 of the transcript

397 Old Style, *i.e.* 1595

398 volume 1 page 24: page 30 of the transcript

[Apriell 1605] The xixth bap: Sara daughter of Henry Blaker ³⁹⁹
[1607⁴⁰⁰ Marche] The xxijth bap: Joane daughter of Henry Blaker ⁴⁰¹

and there are these burials:

[1607⁴⁰² Marche] The xxjth buried Elizabeth daughter of Henery Blaker ⁴⁰³
[1608 Aprielle The second] That day buried Joane daughter of Henery Blaker ⁴⁰⁴
[1611 December The xxxth] That day buried Joane daughter of Henery Blaker ⁴⁰⁵
[1611⁴⁰⁶] Januarye The vth buried Harrey sonn of Henery Blaker ⁴⁰⁷

Henry Blaker was buried at Brighton in 1626:

[1626 November] The xxiiith buried Henery Blaker housholder ⁴⁰⁸

and this may be Agnes:

[1639 November] The viijth burried the Widdow Blaker ⁴⁰⁹

We have no will or administration for either Henry or Agnes in the Lewes Archdeaconry or Chichester Consistory archives.

399 volume 1 page 26: page 33 of the transcript

400 Old Style, *i.e.* 1608

401 volume 1 page 29: page 36 of the transcript

402 Old Style, *i.e.* 1608

403 volume 1 page 125: page 171 of the transcript

404 volume 1 page 125: page 172 of the transcript

405 volume 1 page 127: page 174 of the transcript

406 Old Style, *i.e.* 1612

407 volume 1 page 127: page 174 of the transcript

408 volume 1 page 137: page 186 of the transcript

409 volume 1 page 144: page 196 of the transcript

John Blaker

John Blaker married Joan ‘Vell’ at Brighton in 1613:

Maye 1613 The vth married John Blaker & Joane Vell ⁴¹⁰

From 1615 onwards we have these children of John Blaker baptized at Brighton:

[Apriell 1615] The xvjth bap: Ann daughter of John Blacker ⁴¹¹
[1621⁴¹² Januarie The xxxth] Then bap: Edward sonn of John Blacker ⁴¹³
[1625 September] The xjth bap: Elizabeth daughter of John Blaker ⁴¹⁴

Edward, and a son John, being buried there infants:

[1617 November] The xxiiijth buried John sonn of John Blaker ⁴¹⁵
[1622⁴¹⁶ Februarie] The xxijth buried Edward sonn of John Blaker ⁴¹⁷

John’s wife Joan was buried at Brighton in 1638:

[1638 September] The xxvijth burried Joane wife of John Blaker ⁴¹⁸

John remarried:

Ano Domi 1641⁴¹⁹ [Januarij] The xvjth married John Blaker & Joane Hoames widow
both of this [towne]

and had a daughter Agnes, for we have in the baptisms for 1643:

[1643 December The xth] Then bap: Agnis daughter of John Blaker ⁴²⁰

the second wife Joan having being buried earlier in the year:

[1643 Aprill] The xvijth buried Joane wife of John Blaker ⁴²¹

and John married again in 1644:

[Ano 1644] August The first married John Blaker & Elizabeth Sturt widdo’: booth of
this towne ⁴²²

410 volume 1 page 91: page 116 of the published transcript

411 volume 1 page 34: page 42 of the published transcript

412 Old Style: *i.e.*, 1622

413 volume 1 page 41: page 50 of the published transcript

414 volume 1 page 45: page 55 of the published transcript

415 volume 1 page 131: page 178 of the published transcript

416 Old Style: *i.e.*, 1623

417 volume 1 page 134: page 181 of the published transcript

418 volume 1 page 143: page 195 of the published transcript

419 Old Style: *i.e.*, 1642

420 volume 1 page 68: page 83 of the published transcript

421 volume 1 page 147: page 200 of the published transcript

422 volume 1 page 102: page 139 of the published transcript

There is a gap in the surviving burial registers from 1644 to 1653: and after the registers resume, no Blaker entry until at least 1688.

Did John and Elizabeth Blaker move away from Brighton after their marriage?

Elizabeth (Sturt) Blaker

There is no surviving marriage licence for Elizabeth's marriage in 1644, nor for John's previous two marriages, in Lewes Archdeaconry or Chichester Consistory. This would appear to be her previous marriage, at Brighton:

[1631] Jullie The xvth married Thomas Steart of Baulsden and Elizabeth Grenior &c: ⁴²³

There is no licence for this in the Lewes Archdeaconry records: Chichester Consistory records are missing from 1626 to 1644.

Thomas Sturt was buried at Brighton in 1633:

[1633] June The vth burried Thomas Start housholder ^{424 425}

leaving a posthumous son Thomas, baptized there:

[1633 December] The xxth bap: Thomas sonne of Thomas Start deceased ⁴²⁶

who is doubtless the Thomas married there in 1661:

[Anno 1661] Aprill The xvth was married Thomas Sturt houseca'penter & Hester Thomas booth [&c:] ⁴²⁷

Elizabeth Grenior is not found in the Brighton baptism registers: but she was a contemporary of:

[1628] November The xxiiith married John Greenier and Joane Kemp booth of this towne ⁴²⁸

[1631] August The xvth married Thomas Grenier and Katharen Nevell booth of [this] town ⁴²⁹

[1640] August The xxvijth married Thomas Davis & Agnis Grenior booth of [this towne] ⁴³⁰

[1641 August The xxvjth] Then married John Glover & Katheren Grenior wth a lysence ^{431 432}

This set of marriages suggests that the parents of John, Elizabeth (Blaker), Thomas, Agnes and Katherine Grenier had moved into Brighton parish during their childhood. The

423 volume 1 page 98: page 129 of the published transcript

424 volume 1 page 141: page 191 of the published transcript

425 no will or administration in the surviving Lewes Archdeaconry or Chichester Consistory probate files

426 volume 1 page 54: page 66 of the published transcript

427 volume 1 page 98: page 129 of the published transcript

428 volume 1 page 97: page 127 of the published transcript

429 volume 1 page 98: page 129 of the published transcript

430 volume 1 page 100: page 135 of the published transcript

431 licence not found in Lewes archdeaconry: Chichester missing 1626 to 1644

432 volume 1 page 101: page 137 of the published transcript

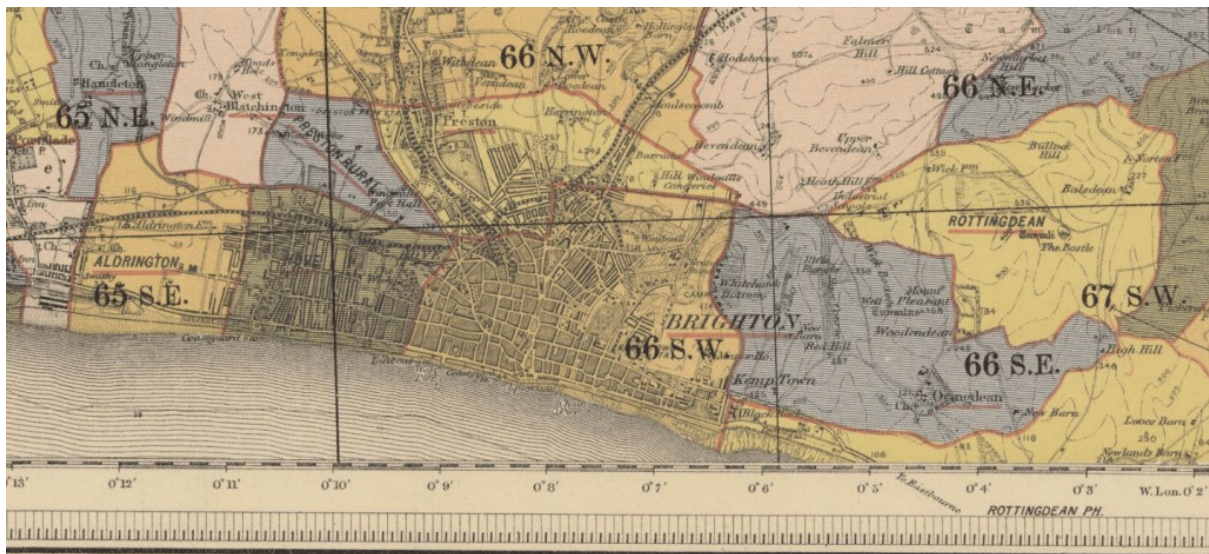
father might be the Thomas Grenier buried at Brighton in 1640:

[Anno 1640] Septemb^r The iiijth burried Thomas Grenior housholder

Origins of the Brighton branch

At present the Brighton branch commences with Henry Blaker, son of George Blaker (see Preston Episcopi) marrying at Brighton in 1589. He married Agnes Gunn, baptised there in 1565, but her father's name lost from the record. Preston manor extended into Brighton and Hove: Henry Gunn acted as surety for the marriage in 1589 and for that of Parnell Gunn in 1587, and a Henry Gunn appears in the Preston manorial records in 1569 and 1570, probably as a resident of Hove, as he acted as constable there (see Brighton).

Brighton, Hove and Preston Episcopi



This map of 1875, after ecclesiastical parishes had been replaced by civil parishes for local administration, shows nevertheless the basic pattern of the ancient parishes, with some slight adjustments. Brighton is in the centre, orange. It is surrounded on land, working clockwise from the left, by Hove (green), West Blatchington (pink), Preston Rural (blue), Preston (yellow), Patcham (orange), Falmer (pink), Ovingdean (blue) and Rottingdean (yellow).

The census abstract of 1821⁴³³ shows the earlier arrangement of rape, hundred and parish as it had existed from mediaeval times: it will be seen that most of these key parishes lay in Lewes rape - Patcham in Dean hundred; Hove and Preston being in Preston hundred; Brighton (Brighthelmstone) and West Blatchington in Whalebone hundred; Falmer, Ovingdean and Rottingdean in Younsmere hundred.

The only Gunn entry in the 1524-5 lay subsidy returns for the rape⁴³⁴ is a John Gonne at Cuckfield. We have now searched a muster roll entitled *The names of thable men apointyd to S^{ue} the queene's Highnes and to be in a*

433 Appendix A.

434 Sussex Record Society lvi p. 86

redynes apon one hour^s warnynge wth the names of their Capitaynes for the rape of Lewes, for 1559 ⁴³⁵ but no Gunn or variant appears in the lists of archers, billmen and gunners: but this was not a full muster, but a list of chosen men.

The Manorial Documents Register lists five sources under Brighton:

Erleys Manor: 1686-1720: court book, with Allington: ESBHRO ADA 54

Raddingdean Manor: 1713-1714: quit rents, inc rental for Preston: ESBHRO BH/P ES/ET/101

Brighton Michelham Manor:

1440-1440: rental, with other manors and lands of Michelham Priory (copy made 1533) Kent History & Library Centre U269 Q53;

1539-1540: bailiff's account, with other manors: British Library: Harley Roll D21

1558-1560: survey, with other manors: Kent History & Library Centre U269 E341

1567-1567: survey (annotated to 1588): British Library Add MS 38483 ff. 223-225

and many more later items

Brighton Manor: 1330-1331: reeve's account roll (Barony of Lewes): Arundel Castle MSS/Acc 171/1

1343-1344: halmote court roll, with other manors: Arundel Castle MSS/M 529

1421-1422: account roll: Arundel Castle MSS/A 363

1436-1438: reeve's account [?Brighton]: PRO SC 6/1021/7

1475-1476: account roll, with other manors: Lambeth Archives: Class VI/330

1481-1481: account roll, with other manors: Arundel Castle MSS/A 1869

1497-1499: minister's account, with other manors: PRO SC 6/HENVIII/6158

1512-1513: court roll, with other manors: PRO SC 2/206/7

1523-1524: account roll, with other manors: Arundel Castle MSS/A 476

1534-1537: minister's account, with other manors (damaged): British Library Add Ch 71285

1550-1600: particular (copyholders unspecified), with note rel to fishing customs: Kent History and Library Centre U269 M44/1

435 Public Record Office SP 12/6/63 ff.137-138

1550-1550: court roll, with Allington, Houndean
Abergavenny, Clayton, Middleton and Meeching:
ESBHRO ACC 4299/1/21/1

1559-1817: volume of transcripts of documents
relating to the manor: ESBHRO HOW 120/6/1

1576-1576: rental (copy made c1630): Kent History
and Library Centre: U269 M65

1581-1655: surrenders and admissions (14): ESBHRO
BH/P ES/AX/4-17

and many later

Atlingworth Manor:

1519-1550: abstracts of court rolls: ESBHRO AMS
2945

1539-1540: collector's account, with other manors: BL
Harley Roll D21

1542-1543: 1542-1543: bailiff's account, with other
manors: BL Harley D20

Appendix A.

RAPE OF LEWES.										
BARCOMB Hundred. (*)										
Barcomb - - - - - Parish	121	144	-	1	128	16	-	394	359	753
Hamsey - - - - - Parish	42	53	2	1	25	12	16	266	271	537
Newick - - - - - Parish	78	103	-	-	80	19	4	278	262	540
BUTTINGHILL Hundred.										
Ardingley - - - - - Parish	70	99	-	2	72	23	4	299	280	579
Balcomb - - - - - (1) Parish	101	114	-	-	70	28	16	338	268	606
Bolney - - - - - Parish	97	112	1	-	97	13	2	291	269	560
Clayton - - - - - Parish	73	79	1	-	72	6	1	242	211	453
Crawley - - - - - Parish	51	60	-	-	22	25	13	174	160	334
Cuckfield - - - - - Parish	324	436	2	3	275	126	35	1,250	1,135	2,385
Hoathly, West - - - - - Parish	119	172	-	1	115	38	19	523	420	943
Hurst-Perpoint - - - - - Parish	213	245	3	1	134	69	42	642	679	1,321
Keymer, North and South - - - - - Parish	112	122	-	-	84	19	19	359	320	679
Slaugham - - - - - Parish	123	148	-	4	99	46	3	497	436	933
Twineham - - - - - Parish	38	48	-	1	32	9	7	148	127	275
Worth - - - - - Parish	264	276	1	1	221	40	15	931	794	1,725
DEAN Hundred.										
Patcham - - - - - Parish	70	75	-	3	60	10	5	209	194	403
FISHERGATE Hundred.										
Hangleton - - - (+) - - - Parish	8	8	-	-	8	-	-	26	26	52
Portslade - - - - - Parish	41	62	-	1	40	19	3	233	188	421
HOLMSTROW Hundred.										
Newhaven otherwise Meeching (m) Parish	158	167	-	2	18	53	96	447	480	927
Piddinghoe - - - - - Parish	29	49	-	-	44	4	1	137	114	251
Rodmell - - - - - Parish	39	65	-	-	46	16	3	175	161	336
Southeast - - - - - Parish	15	26	-	1	25	1	-	60	52	112
Telscombe - - - - - Parish	17	23	-	1	19	-	4	59	54	113
LEWES Hundred.										
LEWES - - - - - (n) Borough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
POYNINGS Hundred.										
Edburton Parish: (o)										
Fulking - - - (+) - - - Hamlet	25	41	-	-	37	3	1	93	84	177
New-Timber - - - - - Parish	26	26	-	-	24	2	-	81	80	161
Poynings - - - - - Parish	38	40	1	-	23	16	1	123	109	232
Piecombe - - - - - Parish	20	39	-	-	33	6	-	119	99	218
PRESTON Hundred.										
Hove - - - - - Parish	45	49	2	4	25	17	7	149	163	312
Preston - - - - - (p) Parish	53	55	-	2	33	11	11	129	190	319

(*) Southover, part of Barcomb Hundred, is entered with Lewes at the end of the county.—(1) Balcomb Parish extends into Street Hundred. The inmates of the Parish workhouse are entered as one family in the third column of Occupations.—(m) Pilots and Preventive Officers are included in the Population of Newhaven.—(n) The Borough of Lewes,

with its Suburbs (Southover and Cliff,) is entered at the end of the county.—(o) Edburton Parish is partly in Burbeach Hundred (Bramber Rape.) The entire Parish contains 269 Inhabitants.—(p) The two female schools at Preston cause a disproportionate number of females in the Return.

Blakers of Cowfold, 1604 to 1617

Cowfold lies between West Grinstead and Bolney, being southeast of Nuthurst and southwest of Cuckfield. Cowfold and Shermanbury were the two parishes that formed Windham and Ewhurst hundred of Bramber rape, and both were on the Lewes side of the boundary between the archdeaconries of Chichester and Lewes.

Cowfold parish registers survive from 1558 onwards. These have no Blaker entry until George's marriage, in 1604:

28 May 1604 George Blaker & Elizabeth Living

The first two children of George Blaker were baptized in the adjoining parish of Bolney, where the parish registers survive more or less complete from 1541 onwards⁴³⁶: he was perhaps living there immediately after his marriage, but he was not baptized, married or buried there:

1604. John the son of George Blaker baptized ye 13th of Januarie 1604.^{437 438}
1607. George Blaker filius Georg blacker xxian' the 29th of march.⁴³⁹

Three more children were baptized at Cowfold:

6 May 1610 William son of George Blaber [*sic*]
2 June 1611 Richard son of George and Elizabeth Blaker
10 September 1615 Thomas son of George Blaker

William, however, died in infancy, and was buried at Cowfold:

14 May 1610 William son of George Blaker from Kings

This suggests that George Blaker was living in 1610 at King's Farm, which is shown by this map from 1875 as being in the far southeastern corner of Cowfold parish: the dotted lines indicate the boundaries with Bolney parish on the east, Shermanbury and Twineham on the south.

436 Sussex Record Society xv: *The Parish Registers of Bolney, Sussex, 1541–1812*. Edited by Edward Hut, 1912, Lewes

437 Old Style

438 page 23 of the printed transcript

439 page 24 of the printed transcript



Elizabeth did not long survive the birth of their son Thomas, and was buried at Cowfold:

18 September 1615 Elizabeth wife of George Blaker

George Blaker himself was buried there two years later:

24 April 1617 George Blaker

George Blaker's Will

George Blaker of Cowfold made his will 23 April 1617. His four children, John, George, Richard and Thomas, were under the age of 20, i.e. born between 1597 and 1617. There is no mention of his wife, suggesting that she was already dead. Edmund Blaker⁴⁴⁰ (not apparently closely related) was one of his trustees and executors, and he mentioned his good friend William West, known to have been Edmund's brother-in-law. A Richard Blaker (probably Edmund's brother Richard or his father Richard) was one of the witnesses. Nothing is said relating to any farm or land: George was illiterate.

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1604. John the son of George Blaker baptized ye 13th of Januarie 1604.^{442 443}

1607. George Blaker filius Georg blacker xxian' the 29th of march.⁴⁴⁴

George Blaker's children.

⁴⁴⁰ See NUTHURST

⁴⁴¹ Sussex Record Society xv: *The Parish Registers of Bolney, Sussex, 1541–1812*. Edited by Edward Hut, 1912, Lewes

⁴⁴² Old Style

⁴⁴³ page 23 of the printed transcript

⁴⁴⁴ page 24 of the printed transcript

Edmund Blaker of Nuthurst, one of the three men responsible for the upbringing of George Blaker's children, made bequests (about 1634) to George's son George (£15), his son Thomas (still under 21) (£20) and Richard, Richard being favoured with his house, barn and land, as well as being appointed his executor. The fact that George Blaker named his first son John would conventionally indicate that George's father was a John Blaker.

Elizabeth Living

Cowfold parish registers survive from 1558 onwards, but the only Living or variant entry before Elizabeth Living's marriage to George Blaker in 1604 is the baptism of an unnamed son of a Richard Livinge 12 April 1582. The surname does not appear before 1710 in the Lewes or Chichester probate calendars.

Richard Blaker

Cowfold appears in the West Sussex protestation returns of 23 February 1642,⁴⁴⁵ which listed virtually all adult males. No Blaker appears: nor is Richard found in the return for Nuthurst. The returns for East Sussex, i.e. immediately east of Cowfold and Nuthurst, are lost: in West Sussex the only Richard Blaker was at West Grinstead.^{446 447} (q. v.).

445 Sussex Record Society v: *West Sussex Protestation Returns 1641-2. Transcribed, Edited, and Indexed by R. Garraway Rice, F. S. A., of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law*, 1906, Lewes

446 p. 41

447 BLAKER 18/8

SOUTHWICKLATE

Southwick is now a populous suburb of Brighton and Shoreham, but it was an insignificant village even as late as 1879. The parish was little more than 1000 acres in extent, forming a slice of land between Kingston-by-Sea and Portslade parishes. Nevertheless, it was an ancient parish with a church as early as Norman times, and as such has independent status in the mediaeval records. Whether or not there was a distinct manor of Southwick, no manorial records are now registered.⁴⁴⁸ In 1830, according to Edward Cartwright,⁴⁴⁹ the possessions here of the dissolved priory of Reigate in Surrey were ‘*styled a manor farm*’, and ‘*There are in this parish quit-rents paid to the manors of Horton, Sullington, and Slaugham*’.



Figure 1: New Shoreham in 1610 (John Speed)



Figure 2: Southwick Village in 1879 (Ordnance Survey)

448 Manorial Documents Register, sub Southwick.

449 *Rape of Bramber*, ii ii 65-66



Figure 3: Fishergate Hundred in 1879 (Ordnance Survey)

The parish registers do not survive earlier than 1654, but there are bishop's transcripts from 1606 onwards. A transcript by the Sussex Family History Group shows no Blaker or variant entry earlier than the marriage of William Davy to Elizabeth Drewit 29 June 1761 witnessed by Nathaniel Blaker junior and Arthur Bridger. Although the burial registers survive reasonably intact from 1606 to 1641, there is no Blaker or variant entry, suggesting an absence of any previous generation of Blakers in this parish.

Edward Blaker of Portslade [q.v.] in his will of 1571 says '*I late bargained for wth Richard Pyper*' a house and land in Southwick.⁴⁵⁰ The will was made 1 October 1571 and proved 17 November 1571 by his wife Christian, with an inventory of his goods assessed at £222 3s:

Itm I geue vnto Edward Blaker my sonne thoccupac'on of the house and land therevnto belonginge in Southweeke wch I late bargained for wth Richard Pyper duringe all such time and terme as by vertue of the same bargaine I ought of right to haue therein and so longe as my said sonne doth occupy and vse the same to the well likinge of my executrix and overseers or the more part of them and I geue alsoe to my said sonne in stocke to be likewise vsed and occupied about the same house and land vj Oxen wth yokes Chaines wayne dongcart and all other necessaries and implement^s for husbandry and appertayninge to the furnishinge of one Teme accordinge to the Custome of the Country wth one horse one hundreth sheepe eight quarters Seede wheat and Sixteen quarters seeade barley to be delivered vnto him p^rsently after my death All w^{ch} or any the said last bequeathed p^rmisses yf my said sonne fondly consume or vnneccessarily wast either els' disorderly spend or bestowe away that then my executrix and overseers or the more part of them Consentinge shall and may notwthstandinge any former gifte or bequest hereinmenco'ed haue & take againe into their owne Custody all and every the said bequested p^rmisses from my said sonne or from any other p^rsonne or p^rsonnes in whose Custody by his

450 Sussex Arch Coll xxxix 217-218

deliveraunce or otherwise they shall then renaine and be and the same at there discreations to bestowe duringe the naturall life of my wife and p^rsently after her death then to deliver againe the same or such like good^s to that value vnto my said sonne Edward or to his wife or children if he happen in the meane time to dye wthout any delay

Further details about Edward Blaker's family are given by his widow Christian's will, made 21 February 1578.⁴⁵¹ She left money to the poor of Southwick:⁴⁵²

To the poore of Southweeke one bushelle of wheate and one bushell of barly to be geven and bestowed unto them wthin one moneth next after my decese

There was also a bequest

To Robert Humfrey, Katherine Patching, and Dorothy Humfrey the said Robert's sisters and eche of them xiii^s 4^d.

Katherine Patching of Southwick by nuncupative will dated 18 March 1616, and proved at Lewes by her son Richard Patching, 29 March 1617⁴⁵³ gave legacies to her children and grandchildren. Interestingly, she does not appear in the burials at Southwick, suggesting that her family grave was elsewhere.

The Overseers of my will to be Thomas Reede of Upwaltham Tho. Pellatt of North Stoke and John Thomas of Southweeke

A Jone wife of John Thomas was buried at Southwick 4 October 1617 and a John Thomas 2 May 1639.

Who was Richard Pyper?

There are no Pyper or variant entries in the Southwick parish registers earlier than the 1870s: but these registers survive no earlier than 1604. The bargain between Edward Blaker and Richard Pyper took place before 1571. There is no Pyper or variant in the lay subsidy for Fishergate hundred of 1524-5.⁴⁵⁴ However, the Chichester Consistory will calendar⁴⁵⁵ has a Richard Pyper of 'Barneham' in 1610⁴⁵⁶ and a Richard Piper of Washington in 1567.⁴⁵⁷ Barnham

451 Sussex Arch Collections xix, *Sussex Notes and Queries*, 1867, Lewes, 200-201 (BLAKER 2/10): **we need a copy of the original**

452 Sussex Arch Coll xix 200-201

453 Book A 16 f.2

454 Sussex Arch Coll lvi 74, 93

455 Index Library xlix 292

456 xv 347b **which should be checked**

457 x 317

is not particularly close to Southwick, but Washington is only a few miles to the northwest (Figure 1). Our next priority in this case would be to obtain a copy of the 1567 will.

Blaker of Cuckfield, 1600 to 1655 (Arthur and Francis)

Arthur Blaker

The will of Arthur Blaker of Cuckfield husbandman⁴⁵⁸ was made 28 August 1618 and proved by his widow and executrix, Alice, 20 October following:

In the name of God Amen The twenty eight of August in the yeare of our Lord God one Thousand six hundred and eightene I Arthur Blaker of Cuckfyeld in the County of Sussex Husbandman being sike of body yet neverthesse of good and perfecte remembrance all laud and prayse be given vnto the almighty make and ordayne this to bee my last will and Testament in manner and forme following viz't Imp'r mis I give and bequeathe my soule vnto Almighty God my maker and Redeemer by whose meanes I hope to be saved and by none other And my body to be buryed in the Churchyard of Cuckfyeld aforesayd Item I give and bequeathe vnto my daughter Margaret Blaker one Joyned bedsteddle w^{ch} standeth in the low Chamber wth A fetherbedd performed one windescot Cubbord and one brasse pan Item I give and bequeathe vnto William Butcher and Alice Butcher sonne and daughter of Richard Butcher of Barlcombe each of them. thre shilling^s four pence A peece of good and lawfull money of England Item I give and bequeathe vnto Thomas Garr sonne of Thomas Gurr of Barlcombe three shilling^s four pence Item I give and bequeathe vnto my daughter Ellnor wyfe of the forsayd Thomas Gurr twelvecence Item I give and bequeathe vnto my sonne Alexander Blaker one payer of Coarse sheet^s and all the bord^s and shelves w^{ch} are in and about my house Item I give and bequeathe vnto my grandchilde Richard Blaker three shilling^s foure pence Item I give and bequeathe vnto my sonne in law Richard Kidd one Chaffebedd and to his wyfe being my daughter Elizabeth Kidd twelve pence Item I give and bequeathe vnto my grandchild Dorathy Kidd three shilling^s foure pence Item I give and bequeathe vnto my Grandchilde Margaret Butcher one payer of good sheet^s All the rest of my good^s and Cattell vnbequeathed and not given I give and bequeathe vnto my loving wyfe Alice Blaker whome I make and ordayne to be my whole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament my buriall performed and Legacyes payd And my mynde ys that my foresayd wyfe shall have and enioye the vse of all such housholdstuffe as is here before given and bequeathed during her naturall life And I doe ordayne make and appoynt Edward Genner and Thomas Page To be Overseers of this my last will and Testament In Witnes whereof I have herevnto sett my hand in the presence of these Memorand' my mynde is that all such good^s and Chattels as my wyfe hath or shall have after my decease w^{ch} is vnbequeathed and not given shall after her decease be equally devyded betweene my foure Children That is to say Alexander, Ellnor, Elizabeth, and Margaret The marke of Arthur Blaker Edward Genner Thomas Page & me Osmundu' Salter script'

Probatu' Coram Mag'ro Will'mo Inians Presb'ro Surrogato vicesimo die Octobris Anno d'ni millesimo sexcentesimo decimo octavo Juramento Alicie Blaker Relicte d'ci defuncti ac Executricis &c Cui Co'missa fuit Administrac'o Bonoru' &c' de bene et fidel'r administrando &c' ad sancta &c' iurate

Proved before master William Inians, priest, surrogate, the 20th day of October 1618, by the oath of Alice Blaker, relict of the said deceased and executrix &c. to whom was committed administration of the goods &c. sworn upon the Holy Gospels &c. to well and truly administer &c.

458 at this period 'husbandman' did not mean an agricultural labourer, but rather a farmer of a lesser rank than yeoman

Arthur's burial is recorded at Cuckfield⁴⁵⁹:

[1618] Sep. 28 Arthur Blaker, an olde man.⁴⁶⁰

Alice was buried there in 1632.⁴⁶¹

[1631/2] Jan. 31 Alice Blaber⁴⁶², widow, about 93 years old.

This suggests that she was born about 1539, and doubtless Arthur a little earlier. Although parish registers were instituted in England in 1538, those of Cuckfield survive only from 1598. If we suppose that Arthur was a native of the parish, not only his baptism but possibly his marriage to Alice (say, 1560)⁴⁶³ and the baptisms of all their children there would be lost to us.

Arthur was certainly living in Cuckfield in 1593:⁴⁶⁴

16 July 1593
East Grinstead

EAST GRINSTEAD ASSIZES, 16 JULY 1593
Before Robert Clarke, B., and
Serjeant Thomas Owen
[Assizes 35/35/8]

1434.⁴⁶⁵ Charman, William, of Slaugham, husbandman, indicted for grand larceny. On 10 June 1593⁴⁶⁶ at Cuckfield he stole 19s. 6d. in money from Arthur Blaker.

On 26 Apr. 1593 before Henry Bowyer, J.P., Arthur Blacker⁴⁶⁷ of Cuckfield, husbandman, entered a recognizance to give evidence against Charman.

On 28 May 1593 before George Goring and Henry Bowyer, J. P.s, John Holand of Balcombe, husbandman, and John Thomas of Dorking, Surrey, shoemaker, entered recognizances for the appearance of Charman.

Guilty; allowed clergy.

[*mm.* 18, 26, 47]

Carrying the Line Earlier

We are fortunate that Arthur Blaker (ob. 1618) and Francis Blaker (ob. 1610) were both husbandmen. Cuckfield township was largely copyhold, so we might expect any court

459 Sussex Record Society xiii: p. 147

460 Quite what the parish clerk would have considered 'an olde man' is open to debate: in the same year a similar accolade is given to Mr Edmond Mychell (14 April) and Edmund Tompsett *alias* Carver (29 October).
461 p. 159

462 sic

463 Lewes Archdeaconry marriage licences survive no earlier than 1586, and Chichester Consistory 1575

464 *Calendar of Assize Records. Sussex Indictments. Elizabeth I. Edited by J. S. Cockburn, 1975, London, 273.*
FONS BLAKER 1/19

465 sequential number in volume

466 this date must be wrong, as it is after the date of the recognizances

467 sic

rolls or rentals immediately before 1610 to be helpful. The Manorial Documents Register gives these records for the main manor of Cuckfield in the period 1500 to 1610:

1500–1675 list of court rolls 1676	Surrey History Centre	LM/1084/61
1523–4 account roll, with other manors	Arundel Castle	MSS/A 476 NRA 12614 Fitzalan-Howard
1532–4 minister’s account, with other manors	Public Record Office	SC 6/HENVIII/6158
1534–7 minister’s account, with other manors (damaged)	British Library	Add Ch 71285
1542–3 survey	Public Record Office	LR 2/227 (ff. 1–12)
1582 survey	East Sussex Record Office	DAN 1126 NRA 8607 Adams
1586–1594 court rolls, with other manors (3)	East Sussex Record Office	DYK 1121–1123
1597–1817 court books, with other manors (17)	East Sussex Record Office	ACC 2953/1–17 NRA 11856 Nevill

At first sight, the 1582 survey looks most promising. ‘DAN’ is the archives of the Danny family of Hurstpierpoint, and DAN/1126 is the ‘Danny Cartulary’, described thus:

This contains title deeds of properties belonging to the Fiennes family, Lords Dacre, in some sixteen counties (1514–1595). Also included is the will of Gregory, 10th Lord Dacre and the long and detailed will of his wife, Lady Dacre. There are title deeds, too, of Goring properties (1581-98), and detailed surveys of the manors of Hurstpierpoint, Newick, Streat and of parts of Westmeston, Keymer and Houndean, these being acquired by George Goring of Ovingdean and Lewes.

From this it seems that the Cuckfield survey is not of the manor of Cuckfield, but merely of some lands held by the family there.

Actual court rolls seem to survive no earlier than 1586 at DYK 1121. ‘DYK’ is the archives of the Dyke family of Frant, Waldron and Kent and the Penkherst family of Mayfield and Buxted. However, the calendar states:

The provenance of the three Court Rolls of the 7th and 8th Barons Bergavenny, 1586–1594, (DYK/1121–1123) is a mystery. The only clue is provided by the endorsement “These Rolls were given me by my Cosin Mr. Henery Shelley of Lwys Novbr the 8th 1671” [21].⁴⁶⁸

John Rowe’s Book

⁴⁶⁸ I suggest we write to ESRO enquiring about the size of DYK/1121 (how many membranes), and how much of the roll is devoted to the manor of Cuckfield.

The text of John Rowe's Book was printed in 1928 by Sussex Record Society (vol. 34). What John Rowe set out to do was to compile a terrier of the Bergevenny estates in Sussex, with a view to tracing the various rents and rights for which he was responsible as steward. In the case of Cuckfield, where the majority of the estate was copyhold, held for small rents, but with subsidiary rights such as heriot, he appears to have taken a rental, and then examined the court rolls, annotating each rental entry with the dates of the rolls in which the key entries for the property appeared. He appears then to have added further notes into his book as he found out more about particular properties, and in the printed copy these additions are printed in italics.

The copyhold lands in Cuckfield manor are set out on folios 12 to 16 of his book, pages 22 to 31 of the printed text: headed *Tenentes p copia' Man'ij p'dci*.

The latest annotation is dated 17 James (1619–20), John Rowe's book was finished in 1622⁴⁶⁹, and covers the court rolls as far back as 1559:

Forasmuch as there is no written costumall within any of the Manors of the Barony of Lewes, belonging to the Right Hon. Edward Neville, Lord Bergavenny, whereof I, John Rowe, was steward twenty-five years, and by reason thereof had good means to be thoroughly acquainted with all the customs of the said manors, not only relying on my own travail and experience, but also through an extraordinary desire to understand all particulars, I did often and many several times, diligently and heedfully peruse over all or part of my lord's Court Rolls, books of Survey and Rentals, aunciente and moderns, (whereunto his lordship gave me free and willing accesse), especially since the 1st year of Queene Elizabeth; I have therefore, in this sixty-second year of mine age, undertaken to the utmost of my skill and understanding, for the benefit of posterity, to set down in writing all the customs of the aforesaid manors, which I hope to perform and finish with that care and faithfulness and truth, as becometh a Christian in the awful face of that great God that seeth all secrets, and searcheth the hearts and intendments of man, whose ayde for instruction in this business, I heartily implore.

The survey or rental that he used as a basis was made perhaps about 1600. 148 separate properties are mentioned, some being mere slips of land, held by 96 separate tenants⁴⁷⁰. Rowe had intended to state a total of the rents, but the mathematics must have eluded him: there are rents as little as a halfpenny, the largest single item being over 17s. In the 1524 list of householders in the township of Cuckfield in the lay subsidy of that year⁴⁷¹ 98 households are listed: so clearly both the 1524 record and the c. 1600 rental give us, effectively, a complete census of heads of households for Cuckfield. In the 1524 census two Blaker entries appear: Richard Blaker was assessed at £20; Rauff Blaker at £1. In John Rowe's book two Blakers appear: Richard Blaker⁴⁷², whose rents (including 'Blakers') amount to over 10s, and Arthur Blaker 9d.

None of the tenants listed in Cuckfield c. 1600 bears the christian name Francis, Ralph or Alexander: nor is there any other Arthur than Arthur Blaker. No Alexander, Francis or Arthur appears in 1524.

This is the entry in John Rowe's book relating to Arthur Blaker:⁴⁷³

469 *pace* Horsfield, who in his *History of Lewes*, vol. i, p. 177, dates it to 1662, a confusion doubtless arising from Rowe stating that it was finished when he was aged 62.

470 there are, in addition, a number of freeholders &c., but some of whom also held copyhold from the manor

471 Public Record Office E 179/189/119: Sussex Record Society lvi

472 misprinted Baker, indexed Blaker

473 folio 14v: pages 26 to 27 of the printed text

Arthur Blaker 33 Eliz: 16 Ja: tenet solu'modo de W. C. et H. B. vnam peciam terr' pcell' de Hatchland p redd' cont' 4. acr' vj^d
 Idem 16. Ja. 15. Eliz: tenet j coterling in Brodestrete h'iett vj^d de certo fin' vj^d de certo, 42. ij^d
 Eliz. p redd' 21. Sept. 1 Eliz.

Arthur Blaker (33 Elizabeth 1590–1, 16 James 1618–9) holds solely⁴⁷⁴ from (sir) W(alter) C(overt) and (sir) H(enry) B(owyer) a piece of land, parcel of Hatchland, for a rent of 6d (contains 4 acres)

The same (16 James 1618–9, 15 Elizabeth (1572–3) holds a coterling in Brodestrete: heriot, 6d for a certain fine, 6d for a certain (fine). 42 Elizabeth (1599–1600), for a rent of 3d (21 September 1 Elizabeth (1559)

Hatchland

Arthur Blaker thus appeared twice in the court rolls in relation to the Hatchland 4 acres: in 1590–1 and in 1618–9. We know what the latter entry will have related to, for it was then that Arthur Blaker died; and, according to the custom of the manor, the property then passed simply to his widow:⁴⁷⁵

The widow of the purchaser of a copyhold to which he has been admitted, or the widow of an heir by descent, though unadmitted, may, within three courts holden next after her husband's death, claim her widow's bench, and shall be admitted for her life, even though she marry again, she paying the lord a reasonable fine not exceeding one year's value of the land or tenement. But if the husband, even on his death bed, make a surrender of his copyhold, his widow shall not have her bench, nor the widow of a purchaser unadmitted, nor the widow of a tenant in reversion.

As it happens, Arthur's widow Alice was still alive in 1622, when John Rowe finished his book. Doubtless her son Alexander Blaker inherited the property at her death, in 1632.

In John Rowe's book one part of Hatchland was freehold:⁴⁷⁶

Hatchland.

Joh'es kinge de Tylehouse tenet solu'modo de D'no Bergevenny (vt dicitur) vnam ferlingat' terre pcell vnus ferlingat' voc' Hatchland in C. p redd' 21 Eliz:
 ij^s vj^d quere si Henr' Ward gen' non solvet viij^d de hoc redditu

Hatchland

John Kinge of Tylehouse holds solely from lord Bergevenny (it is said) 1 ferling called Hatchland in C(uckfield) by a rent of 2s 6d (21 Elizabeth 1578–9). Query whether Henry Ward gentleman does not pay 8d of this rent.

but the other part of John King's Hatchland was held by copyhold: his entry for this immediately precedes Arthur Blaker's, suggesting that the two parts derived from a single plot:⁴⁷⁷

474 ownership of the manor had become split at this period, in such a way that some lands were held from the lords jointly, others solely from one or two of the lords

475 Horsfield i 178

476 folio 10v: page 20 of the printed text

477 folio 14: page 26 of the printed text

Joh'es kinge Jun' 28. Eliz: tenet solu'modo de W. C. et H. B. vnam ferlingat' terr' voc' Hatchland cont' [blank] acr' in Cuckfild Vide 12. Ja' p redd' 32 H. 8. 19. Jun: 28 El. ij^s

John King (June 28 Elizabeth (1586) holds solely from (sir) W(alter) C(overt) and (sir) H(enry) B(owyer) 1 ferling of land called Hatchland containing [blank] acres in Cuckfild, at a rent of 2s. See 12 James (1614–5). 32 Henry VIII (1540–1). 19 June 28 Elizabeth (1586).

The Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars show that John Kinge senior of Cuckfield yeoman made his will 5 August 1616, proved 14 September 1616 (A 15 164; B 4 124).⁴⁷⁸ He was buried at Cuckfield:

[1616.] Aug. 10 Old John King of til'd house.

Broad Street

John Rowe initially found Arthur Blaker's cottage in Broad Street in three court rolls: 15 Elizabeth (1572–3) 6d for a fixed fine; 42 Elizabeth (1599–1600) for a fixed fine; and 16 James (1618–9), for the heriot on Arthur's death. Rowe recorded that small cottages paid reduced fines and heriots:

Cottages and cotterlings pay stinted fine and stinted heriot in general; some few cottages pay stinted heriot and fine arbitrable.⁴⁷⁹

The fact that a heriot was only payable in 16 James suggests that Arthur Blaker had been in continuous occupation of the cottage throughout the period. We have no information as to why he paid fixed fines in 1572–3 and 1599–1600. But Rowe subsequently added that he had found this property in the court roll for 21 September 1 Elizabeth (1559).

We know that Arthur's wife Alice was born about 1539: if Arthur Blaker inherited the cottage in 1559, he had probably just come of age.

Borough English

In *Sussex Archaeological Collections* vol. vi there is the result of an investigation by George R. Corner into how extensive the custom of Borough English was in Sussex, including a list of manors in which customary descent was to the youngest son. He had addressed an enquiry to the then (1853) stewards of the various manors: the owners of Cuckfield manor were then the Earl of Abergavenny and the Reverend W. Sergison. He obtained information from 'S. Waller, Esq.; H. R. Homfray, Esq.; F. H. Gell, Esq., Steward' and also referred to John Rowe's book.

The custom of Borough English dictated that land should be inherited not by the eldest son, as was then normally the case, but by the youngest son. But there had arisen a variation in this custom in different manors, as to who should succeed in the absence of a surviving son. In the case of Cuckfield it was stated that inheritance went to the youngest son; failing sons to the youngest daughter 'or collateral heir'.

One practical effect of Borough English was that tenancies were of long duration: the heir was usually very young when he/she inherited, so that tenancies of 50 or more years were not uncommon.

478 we should see this

479 Horsfield i 178

In the case of Arthur Blaker our best evidence is that he inherited the little cottage on Broad Street, Cuckfield, when about 21 years old.

Arthur Blaker's Father

Arthur was born about, say, 1535, too early for his baptism to be recorded in the surviving Cuckfield parish registers (from 1598). However, his father was probably alive in 1524 and 1525, for which have lists of Cuckfield householders in the lay subsidy returns⁴⁸⁰:

Source: Sussex Record Society lvi

Title: *The Lay Subsidy Rolls for the County of Sussex 1524-25. Transcribed and edited by Julian Cornwall, 1956, Lewes, 86*

1524
Cukfeld

RAPA DE LEWES.

189/119 - 1524.
189/162 - 1525.

HUNDRED' DE BUTTINGHILL

(VILLATA DE CUKFELD)

1524

...

	Gerard Haseling		2 ⁴⁸¹		
	Hugh Ashfold		2	6	8
*482	Richard Hastings	L	1 ⁴⁸³		
	Richard Blaker		20		
	Gilbert Standen		2		
	John a Feld		1		
	Thomas Ashfold		5		
	John Nayler		2	6	8
	William Parson	L	1	6	8
	Thomas Vynall		10		
	John Standen		1		
	Rauff Blaker		1		
	Richard Chesman		1		
	William Clever		1		
	Richard Robyn		2		

...

480 Sussex Record Society lvi: FONS BLAKER 1/5

481 assessed on goods, worth £2

482 name peculiar to the 1524 schedule

483 assessed on lands, worth £1

Considering how conservative naming customs were at the time, it is striking that the name Ralph (Raffe) appears not to have been continued among the Blakers at Cuckfield. Richard, however, is very well represented. Subsequent lay subsidy returns are more restricted, naming only the more prosperous inhabitants. These Blakers then appear:⁴⁸⁴

34 and 35 Henry VIII., 1543-4. Record Office, Rolls

[E 179/] 190/192. 190/193, 190/195.

Hundred of Buttinghill

Edmund Blaker in goodes	£4	8 ^d
John Blaker [in goodes]	£2	4 ^d
Richard Blaker [in goodes]	£16	10 ^s 5 ^d

The difficulty with this is that Buttinghill hundred also comprised Balcombe, Slaugham and Crawley. Similarly we have in 1 Elizabeth 1558–9. E 179/90/267:

Hundred of Buttinghill

John Blaker in goodes	20 ^s	1 ^s 4 ^d
Edmond Blaker [in goodes]	£5	5 ^s

and in 18 Elizabeth, 1575–6, E 179/190/299 the sole Blaker in Buttinghill hundred is:

John Blaker's widow

In 43 Elizabeth, 1601, E 179/190/342, in Cuckfield:

Richard Blaker in landes	20 ^s	1 ^s 4 ^d
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Arthur was at this period a relatively unusual christian name. It had come into use in England after Henry VII named his eldest son, born in 1486, Arthur. In the early Cuckfield parish registers the name is almost confined to the Blaker family. The other instances are:

Arthur Collingham	pages 113 and 164 [churchwarden 1638]
Arthur Cox	pages 204 [his child bur 1692] 206 [his child bur 1694] 207 [child bur] 213 [mar 1684]
Arthur Holford	pages 69 [bap 1663] 94 [bap 1694]
Arthur West	page 56 [bap 1651]

As Arthur was his father's youngest son, born about 1540, his father could have married anywhere in the period 1510 to 1540, and have been born in the period 1490 to 1520. Unless the father was a newcomer to Cuckfield, that really only leaves us with Ralph Blaker of the 1524 lay subsidy as Arthur's father or grandfather. Ralph is a very unusual christian name among the Sussex Blakers of the period, the only other coming to mind is Ralph brother of John Blaker of Preston Episcopi, who was dead by 1482, and represents an earlier generation again.

484 taken from Renshaw: need checking

Cuckfield Court Rolls

Most land in Cuckfield being held by copyhold, the manor court rolls would be much less likely to be discarded than elsewhere: the court rolls gave evidence of title. Clearly the court rolls existed in abundance in the time of John Rowe (1622), and were in the possession of the Marquis of Abergavenny, of whom he was the steward. The editor (Walter H. Godfrey) does not perform the usual duty of an editor in checking the text against the manorial documents that were its source. The book itself was then in the possession of Charles Thomas-Stanford. There is no reference to the Abergavenny archives, whether the original court rolls survived or not.

The book indicates that although possession of the manor of Cuckfield had become fragmented, the records remained undivided in Lord Abergavenny's possession, and the estates were managed by a single steward. The National Register of Archives *Guide to the Location of Collections Described in the Reports and Calendars Series 1870–1980*, states:⁴⁸⁵

ABERGAVENNY, Marquess of

Eridge Castle, Sussex. 1885, 1887 Tenth R, 23-25 and App VI 1-72 [15]

Remain at Eridge Park, except five MS books and some documents (pp1-3) deposited in East Sussex RO with other estate and genealogical papers. Copies of the political papers of John Robinson (pp13-16) are held by the British Library (MS Facs 340(1)–(5)) which also has four volumes of his original parliamentary and private papers (Add MSS 37833–36). See further *Parliamentary papers of John Robinson 1744–84*, ed WT Laprade, Royal Historical Society, Camden Third Series xxiii, 1922.

Some manorial and estate papers not noticed by the Report have been bought by the British Library (Add MS 60746) and others deposited with Sussex Archaeological Society [NRA 11856], in Gwent RO [partial list NRA 7410] and in Kent AO [NRA 7745]. Some stray family and estate papers at Althorp, not open for research [NRA 10410, pp51–63].

The Historical Manuscripts Commission on the archives, printed in the 6th report of the 10th report in 1887, as above, is almost entirely devoted to *The Political Correspondence of John Robinson*. There is, however, a single line statement on page 3:

Court-rolls of different manors in the counties of Sussex and Norfolk.

Sussex Archaeological Society's holdings are described in National Register of Archives report 11856: when the society ceased to have an archivist, about 1990, these materials were transferred to the West Sussex Record Office, which had also acquired a mass of documents from Eridge Castle in the 1960s. The then archivist, Richard Dell:

visited the Eridge Estate Office in January 1960 and reported that the records were contained in 60 tin boxes measuring 20 x 20 x 18in, some 50 volumes on shelves, six outside maps in a cabinet and

485 p. 1

about 60 rolled maps. They were kept in a strongroom so damp `that even quite recent records are coated with thick white mildew – the most virulent I have ever seen`

These estate records do not, however, include Cuckfield court rolls. ABE/10W, dated 10 June 1882, is a 'list of the manorial court books in the custody of Augustus F. Drake, Lewes, deputy steward'. The collection at West Sussex Record Office includes court books for the manors of Ditchling, Patcham, Rotherfield, Chiltington & Nutbourne, Ewyas Lacy (Herefordshire), Northease & Ilford, Houndean, Rodmell and Rottingdean, as well as the Barony of Abergavenny: but all this material is later than 1700 (except Rotherfield court book from 1631 onwards); and there are no court rolls, and nothing relating to Cuckfield manor court.

Arthur Blaker's Descendants

In Arthur's will (1618) he mentions children Alexander, Eleanor, Elizabeth (Kidd) and Margaret (apparently unmarried).

Alexander Blaker

Alexander Blaker of Cuckfield married at Lindfield in 1613:⁴⁸⁶

1612/3 Jan. 13 Alexander Blaker & Bridget Verrall

This child was baptized at Cuckfield:⁴⁸⁷

[1618] Aug. 22 Richard s. of Alexander Blaker

Bridget was buried there the same day.⁴⁸⁸

[1618] Aug. 22 Bridget wife of Alexander Blaker

Alexander remarrying there in 1621:⁴⁸⁹

[1621] Jun. 5 Alexander Blaker & Susan Tuckney

This doubtless being his burial at Cuckfield:⁴⁹⁰

[1653/4] Mar. 12 Alexander Blaker

Susan's burial does not appear in the printed Cuckfield registers⁴⁹¹: she perhaps returning to Lindfield. We have no will or administration for Alexander Blaker, but he died during the interruptions of the Commonwealth period.

Eleanor(Blaker)Gurr

Arthur's will, 1618, mentions his daughter Eleanor wife of Thomas Gurr of Balcombe. Eleanor was buried at Cuckfield in 1633:⁴⁹²

[1633] Apr. 15 Elloner Gur, widow of Thomas, deceased, of Balcomb.

But neither her marriage, her husband's burial, nor the baptisms or burials of any of their children are recorded there.⁴⁹³

The Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars have:

486 p. 210 of the printed transcript of Cuckfield parish registers

487 p. 23

488 p. 147

489 p. 108

490 p. 176

491 which are taken as far as 8 March 1700, for burials

492 p. 160

493 [Have Balcombe registers been searched?](#)

Joan(Blaker)Butcher

Arthur's will includes bequests to William and Anne Butcher, son and daughter of Richard Butcher of 'Barlcombe', and to his grandchild Margaret Butcher. Richard married at Cuckfield in 1601:⁴⁹⁵

[1601] Aug. 3 Rychard Bochor to Johanne Blaker ⁴⁹⁶

No other Butcher entry appears in the printed Cuckfield registers, so doubtless the couple settled in Balcombe, about 5 miles north of Cuckfield.⁴⁹⁷ There is no will or administration for a Richard or Joan Butcher of Balcombe in the Lewes Archdeaconry calendars. Balcombe parish registers have survived from 1539 onwards.⁴⁹⁸ There is no Butcher of Balcombe will or administration in the Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars 1601 to 1660.

Elizabeth(Blaker)Kidd

Richard and Elizabeth married at Cuckfield in 1613:⁴⁹⁹

[1613] Jul. 11 Richard Kid to Elisabeth Blaker.

These children were baptized there:⁵⁰⁰

[1614] Dec. 4 Dorothy d. of Richard & Elisabeth Kyd.

[1619] Oct. 10 Elizabeth d. of Richard Kidd.

with this burial:⁵⁰¹

[1617/8] Mar. 9 Infant d. of Richard Kidd dying immediately after birth.

Arthur's will refers to the daughter Dorothy. Elizabeth, born shortly after his death, died in 1628:⁵⁰²

[1628] Aug. 26 Elizabeth d. of Richard Kid.

and Richard Kidd was buried at Cuckfield in 1657:⁵⁰³

[1657] Nov. 25 Richard Kid.

494 **We need a copy of this**

495 p. 99

496 no marriage licence at Lewes or Chichester

497 in Buttinghill hundred, and Lewes archdeaconry

498 **Has any search been made of these?**

499 p. 104

500 pp. 19 and 24

501 p. 104

502 p. 157

503 p. 179

The burial or second marriage of Elizabeth (Blaker) Kidd does not appear in the printed Cuckfield register: no will or administration for Richard or Elizabeth Kidd appears in the Lewes Archdeaconry or Chichester Consistory probate calendars. No marriage licence for Elizabeth or for Dorothy appears in the Lewes Archdeaconry or Chichester Consistory files. There is no Kidd will or administration in the Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars from 1613 to 1660 from Cuckfield or neighbourhood.

What happened to Dorothy Kidd?

Dorothy was born in 1614, and was not buried in infancy at Cuckfield. Looking forward through the Cuckfield registers, in which Dorothy is not a common christian name, we find these baptisms:

[1639/40] Jan. 12 John s. of John & Dorothy Jenner.⁵⁰⁴
[1642] Apr. 24 Thomas s. of John & Dorothy Jenner.⁵⁰⁵ &c.

and we have seen that an Edward Jenner was overseer and witness to Arthur Blaker's will in 1618: but this Dorothy's name was Standen, as shown by her marriage in 1638 at Cuckfield.⁵⁰⁶

[1638] Nov. 8 John Jenner & Dorothy Standon

It is possible that Dorothy was a young widow in 1638, but there is no male Standon buried at Cuckfield in the years just before 1638.

The Jenners

Whether related through marriage or not, Edward Jenner was clearly a close friend of Arthur Blaker, to be one of the two overseers appointed in 1618 (the other was Thomas Page). In Cuckfield burial registers we have:

[1628/9] Jan. 16 Edward Jenner of Horsegate, an old man.⁵⁰⁷
[1640] Apr. 8 Edward Jenner.⁵⁰⁸

whose names appear in the Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars:

Edward Jenner of Cuckfield yeoman 9 Sep 1628 26 Jan 1628[/9] A 20 135 B 6 19
Edward Jenner of Cuckfield yeoman 3 Apr 1640 27 Apr 1640 B 7 33 A 27 206⁵⁰⁹

Margaret (Blaker) Holcombe

Shortly after Arthur's death this marriage took place at Cuckfield:⁵¹⁰

504 p. 45

505 p. 47

506 p. 114

507 p. 157

508 p. 167

509 we need to see these

510 p. 108

[1621/2] Jan. 20 William Holcombe & Margaret Blaker.⁵¹¹

There also appear these baptisms:

[1639/40] Mar. 15 Thomas s. of Stephen & Dorathy Holcombe.⁵¹²
[1643] Dec. 12 Frauncis s. of Thomas & Dorothy Holcombe.⁵¹³

and these burials:

[1643] Oct. 5 John son of Thomas & Dorothy Holcombe.⁵¹⁴
[1643/4] Jan. 3 Dorathy wife of Stephen Holcomb.

Thomas and Dorothy Holcombe were not married at Cuckfield, but Stephen and Dorothy were:

[1618] Nov. 2 Stephen Onstye *als.* Holcombe & Dorothy Orgle.⁵¹⁵

It therefore remains possible that Dorothy (Kidd) married Thomas Holcombe about 1635, and that the family moved away from Cuckfield after 1643.

In the period after 1622 this Holcombe of Cuckfield appears in the Lewes Archdeaconry probate calendars:

Walter Ansty alias Holcombe, of Cuckfield, yeoman 1 Feb 1639[/40] 14 Feb 1639[/40]
Book A 26 97 B 7 191

Francis Blaker

One of the earliest surviving entries in Cuckfield parish registers is this baptism:

[1600] Sep. 7 Arter Blaker s. of Francis.⁵¹⁶

It is highly unlikely that Francis Blaker would have name a son Arthur without being related to Arthur Blaker (ob. 1618). Of this younger Arthur, we have nothing more: he was not married or buried at Cuckfield.

Francis Blaker the father appears in the records of these children:

[1600] Sep. 7	Arter Blaker s. of Francis. ⁵¹⁷	baptized
[1602/3] Feb. 13	Edmond & Alis s. & d. to Francis Blaker. ⁵¹⁸	baptized
[1606] Apr. 5	Edmond s. of fraunces blaker. ⁵¹⁹	buried
[1606] Oct. 12	Elsabeth d. of Frances Blaker. ⁵²⁰	baptized

511 no marriage licence at Lewes or Chichester

512 p. 45

513 p. 49

514 p. 170

515 p. 107

516 p. 3

517 p. 3

518 p. 5

519 p. 134

520 p. 9

[1608] Jul. 31 Elsabeth d. of Fraunces Blaker.⁵²¹ baptized

and then Francis died:

[1610] Dec. 17 frannces blaker, husbandman.⁵²² buried

Beyond that, we have little information. Doubtless Francis married about 1600: but if before 1598, then the record at Cuckfield is lost. There is no marriage licence for him at Lewes or Chichester. There is no will or administration for him in the Lewes or Chichester probate archives. Like Arthur, he was a husbandman, but by the time of Arthur's will Francis was dead, so we have no corroboration whether Francis was Arthur's brother or nephew, for instance.

The most telling thing about our information on Francis is that he named a son Edmund. If we have one pointer from the Cuckfield parish registers as to who would be the ancestor of Arthur Blaker living at Cuckfield in 1524 and 1525, it is this.

Arthur Blaker(III)

Cuckfield parish registers also give us an Arthur Blaker from a younger generation: his first wife was buried in 1681:

[1681] Dec. 21 Ann wife of Arthur Blaker.⁵²³

He re-married in 1685:

[1684/5] Feb. 3 Arthur Blaker & Sara Keel.⁵²⁴

and he had these children:

[1680/1] Mar. 3 A Son of Arthur Blakers, unbaptized.⁵²⁵ buried
[1683] Sep. 23 Alexander s. of Arthur & Anne Blaker.⁵²⁶ baptized
[1685/6] Jan. 3 Anne d. of Arthur & Sarah Blaker.⁵²⁷ baptized

Neither marriage was by licence at Lewes or Chichester: there is no will or administration for him at Lewes or at Chichester. His naming of his son Alexander points to him being part of this line.

Arthur Blaker (III)'s first marriage is recorded at Bolney.⁵²⁸

[1677.] Feb. 24 Arthur Blaker & Ann Vincentt

521 p. 12
522 p. 138
523 p. 198
524 p. 125
525 p. 196
526 p. 83
527 p. 85
528 p. 132 of the printed transcript

Bolney lies two miles southeast of Cuckfield: the parish registers survive from 1538 onwards⁵²⁹, and a later Blaker family was established there, but Arthur was not baptized there. These are the only early Blaker entries:⁵³⁰

- [1604]⁵³¹ John the son of George Blaker baptized ye 13th of Januarie 1604.
[1607] George Blaker filius Georg blacker xxian' the 29th of march.
[1609] John Blaker the sonne of Richard Blaker chrystened the vith of Januarie.
[1610]⁵³² Thomas Blaker the sone of Richard Blaker baptized the xiiith of Januarie.

Doubtless Arthur married there because it was his bride's home parish. We have this baptism:⁵³³

[1655.] Oct. 31 Ann d. of Robert Vincent

529 printed Sussex Record Society xv
530 pp. 23-35 of the printed transcript
531 Old Style, = 1605
532 Old Style, = 1611
533 p. 74 of the printed transcript

Blaker of Nuthurst, 1634

Nuthurst is five miles west of Cuckfield. Despite its proximity to Cuckfield, Nuthurst parish lay in a different hundred (Singlecross) and rape (Bramber), and in a different ecclesiastical jurisdiction — Chichester archdeaconry. Nuthurst parish registers survive from the time of the institution of such registers, in 1538, in contrast to many of the surrounding parishes.

The township of Nuthurst⁵³⁴ is recorded in the 1327 lay subsidy returns⁵³⁵: 19 people were assessed for tax, at amounts for 8d to 3s 6¾d, as part of Steyning hundred.⁵³⁶ There is no Blaker listed, although there is a Robto Blachol at 2s and Willo ate Blakestrode at 10¼d. In the 1332 return for Steyning hundred, Nuthurst does not appear as such, but some of the same inhabitants appear⁵³⁷ under ‘Villat de Cherleton & Shrottesfeld’⁵³⁸. Similarly, Nuthurst seems to have been included in the ‘Villata de Cherleton’ in Steyning hundred of Bramber rape in the 1379 poll tax returns.⁵³⁹

Richard Blaker

Neither Nuthurst nor Singlecross hundred is mentioned as such in the 1524 and 1525 lay subsidy rolls for Bramber rape⁵⁴⁰, and as the returns are intact, taxpayers from Nuthurst must be included under some other heading. Looking at the Chichester Consistory probate indexes, we find, for instance, a William Brussher, carpenter, of Nuthurst, with a will proved in 1553.⁵⁴¹ Brussher is an unusual surname, and in the 1524 returns for West Grinstead, in West Grinstead hundred, there is a ‘Wyllyam Brussher’ assessed at £3 6s 8d.⁵⁴² This is towards the end of the West Grinstead return; five entries earlier is a ‘Thomas a Dene of Rouspar’. Rouspar is another parish later included in Singlecross hundred. Above this is:

Rychard Blakyer ⁵⁴³ [£]3

There is no will or administration for this Richard in the Chichester archives (Lewes start generally too late) or the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.⁵⁴⁴

Edmund Blaker

534 *Villat’ de Nothurst*

535 Sussex Record Society x

536 There is no mention of ‘Singlecross hundred’ as such in the 14th-century lay subsidy returns or the poll tax. 537 p. 270

538 names that have since disappeared

539 PRO E 179/189/25. British Academy, *The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381. Part 2. Lincolnshire-Westmorland. Edited by Carolyn C. Fenwick*, 2001, Oxford, 589. These entries occur that might be abbreviated or misread forms of Blaker:

588a Johanna Blake, Warnham

590a Johanna Blake, Coombes, servant

592e Robert Blake, West Grinstead

540 PRO E 179/189/126 and /134, Sussex Record Society lvi

541 British Record Society xlix p. 56

542 West Grinstead adjoins Nuthurst on the south

543 with footnote: ? Clavyer. There is a rare surname Clovier in Sussex. **We need to check this**

544 **We need to search Nuthurst parish registers for Richard’s burial, and, indeed, all and any Blaker entries from 1538 to at least 1640**

The will of Edmund Blaker of Nuthurst was proved at Chichester in 1634/5 (Book 18 f. 347v)⁵⁴⁵. He refers to his sister Elizabeth married to William West⁵⁴⁶ (whose marriage is recorded at Cuckfield in 1607)⁵⁴⁷, and his brother Richard with children Richard, Mary and Elizabeth.

Richard Blaker and Eleanor Dumbrell, who married at Cuckfield in 1607, had seven children baptized there⁵⁴⁸, two of whom died in infancy. The five survivors were Mary, Richard, Elizabeth, Henry and John. Doubtless the first three of these are the legatees of Edmund. The father, Richard Blaker of Blakers in Cuckfield, appears to have been son of Richard Blaker of Cuckfield senior who died there in 1623, in which case Edmund would be another son of Richard senior. As Richard junior inherited the Blakers by custom of Borough English, Edmund would be his elder brother. Richard junior named a child Edmund.

Edmund also made bequests to three children (George, Thomas and Richard) of a George Blaker, whose relationship to him he does not state. The son Richard he made his executor. Thomas was still under age. In fact,⁵⁴⁹ in 1617 (17 years earlier) Edmund had been made one of the three trustees and executors of the will of George Blaker of Cowfold, to whom the upbringing of George's four minor children, John, George, Richard and Thomas, was entrusted. Equally, George Blaker in his will makes no statement as to how, if at all, he might have been related to Edmund, but does refer to William West (Edmund's brother-in-law) as his good friend.

There is nothing to indicate that Edmund Blaker married or left any descendants. Doubtless he was buried at Nuthurst.⁵⁵⁰ Although he had appointed the young Richard son of George Blaker his executor, in fact administration of his goods was granted 24 December 1634 to Edmund's brother Richard:⁵⁵¹

Vicesimo Quarto die Decembris Anno d'ni 1634 magr' Gulielmus Nevill legium d'cor Vicarius &c' Co'misit Ad'nem bonorum &c' Edmundi Blaker nup dum vixit de Nuthurst Arch'inat' Cicestren' defuncti Richardo Blaker fratri n'rali et l'timo dicti defuncti de bene &c' Jurat' salvo &c'

The 24th day of December in the year of the Lord 1634, master William Nevill, doctor of laws, vicar &c. committed administration of the goods &c. of Edmund Blaker late, when living, of Nuthurst in the archdeaconry of Chichester, deceased, to Richard Blaker the natural and lawful brother of the same deceased, to well &c. sworn, saving &c.

Cowfold appears in the West Sussex protestation returns of 23 February 1642,⁵⁵² which listed virtually all adult males. No Blaker appears. If Richard son of George Blaker inherited the legacy of house, barn and land from Edmund seven years earlier, then he did not, apparently, go to live there.

545 We have only an abstract of this, plus a scan of the administration: we need a scan of the original.

546 whom he made an overseer

547 see CUCKFIELD B

548 see CUCKFIELD B

549 see COWFOLD

550 We need to search Nuthurst parish registers for this

551 The entry refers back to a previous probate entry on page 271: we need to see this

552 *West Sussex Protestation Returns 1641-2. Transcribed, Edited, and Indexed by R. Garraway Rice, F. S. A., of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law, 1906, Lewes. Sussex Record Society v.*

Blaker of West Grinstead, 1642

Richard Blaker

Cowfold appears in the West Sussex protestation returns of 23 February 1642,⁵⁵³ which listed virtually all adult males. No Blaker appears: nor is Richard found in the return for Nuthurst. The returns for East Sussex, i.e. immediately east of Cowfold and Nuthurst, are lost: in West Sussex the only Richard Blaker was at West Grinstead.^{554 555}

Sussex: Westgrinsted: The Minister, the Churchwardens and the Overseers of the Parish of Westgrinsted, and the names of other inhabitants of the sayd Parish from the age of 18 yeares and upward, which have taken the Protestation the 20th day of this instant moneth of February in the yeere of o^r lord 1641⁵⁵⁶, according to an order from the Honourable House of Parliament directed to the High Shrief and Justices of the Peace of this County.

...

William Naldret
Richard More
Jacob Welles
Thomas Blaker
Richard Arnold
Thomas Whittington
Michaell Slater

...

Thomas Lancaster
Jerard Wood
Mathu Pollard
Richard Blaker
James Duffell
Richard Longley
James Arnold

...

553 Sussex Record Society v: *West Sussex Protestation Returns 1641-2. Transcribed, Edited, and Indexed by R. Garraway Rice, F. S. A., of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law*, 1906, Lewes

554 p. 41

555 BLAKER 18/8

556 Old Style

FALSE LEADS

1279, Sele Priory

Turner's *Sele Priory* states⁵⁵⁷ that a 'John **le Blakere**, is returned in an assize roll dated 1279, as a defaulter, for selling wine contrary to the assize.' However, in Cartwright's *Rape of Bramber* this appears:⁵⁵⁸

*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."* [Rot. Assis. 7 Edw. I. in the Chapter House, Westminster.]

We have examined the actual return⁵⁵⁹: Cartwright misread most of the surnames, but the original certainly says '**le Blake**':

Rapus de Brembre

Villata de Schorh^am venit p xij

De vinis d'nt q'd Mich' atte Wald' de Shorh^am vend' iij^{xx} dolea vini. Cleme's le Tauern^r lx dolea. Is' que fuit vx' Henr' Pechon xxx dolea. Alex' de Peuense xvi dolea. Joh'es le Blake xij dolea. Rad' Eu'ard xx dolea. Guydo Lumbard x dolea. Rad' Kyky .x. dolea. Will's Poning' x. dolea. Will's Tuthome viij dolea & Walt'us le Keu iij dolea p^s vltimu' Iter cont^a assi^am I'o om'es in m'ia

Rape of Brembre

Township of Schorham comes by twelve

As for wine, they say that Michael atte Wald of Shorham has sold 80 casks of wine; Clement le Taverner 60 casks; Isabel who was wife of Henry Pechon 30 casks; Alexander de Pevense 16 casks; John le Blake 12 casks; Ralph Everard 20 casks; Guy Lumbard 10 casks; Ralph Kyky 10 casks; William Poning 10 casks; William Poning 10 casks; William Tuthome 8 casks; and Walter le Keu 4 casks, since the last eyre, contrary to the assize: therefore they are all in mercy

Renshaw's *The Blaker Family of Sussex* states⁵⁶⁰:

557 Sussex Archaeological Collections x: *Sele Priory, and some Notice of the Carmelite Friars at New Shoreham, and the Secular Canons at Steyning*. By the Rev. Edward Turner, 1858, Lewes: p. 109n.

558 *The Parochial Topography of the Rape of Bramber, in the Western Division of the County of Sussex*. By Edmund Cartwright, M.A. F.A.S. Canon of Chichester, Rector of Earnley, Vicar of Lyminster, and Chaplain to His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester. Vol. II. Part the Second, 1830, London, p.

559 Public Record Office:

560 p.11

In 1330 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. — Suss. Arch. Coll. vol. x. p. 109

The Sussex Archaeological Collections item, published in 1858, occurs in an article entitled *Sele Priory, and some Notice of the Carmelite Friars at New Shoreham, and the Secular Canons of Steyning*, by the Rev. Edward Turner, who prefaces his dissertation with:

WHEN giving an account of the remains of the *Vetus Pons* discovered in 1839, near Beeding (*Sussex Archæol. Collect.* Vol. II. p. 66), my knowledge of the neighbouring Priory of Sele was derived chiefly from what had already been published in the *Monasticon* and Cartwright's *Rape of Bramber*; but having since been obligingly permitted by the late venerable President and the Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, to inspect and make extracts from the ancient deeds and charters in their possession, I am now enabled to give a much more enlarged history of it. These very numerous documents are, for the most part, in a legible condition; many of them are original, and, thanks to the care that has been taken of them, the seals of some of them remain in a fair state of preservation, adding much to their value. But, besides the separate charters, there are two folio volumes of transcripts: one containing upwards of one hundred leaves of parchment, in which many other charters are entered; and the other, of as many paper leaves, of a much later date, in which deeds are only referred to, such references being numbered and arranged under the heads of the parishes and places in which the property is situated.

The deed in question is described on page 109:

From the documents incidentally met with among the Sele records, we learn a little of their endowment. By a deed, dated Shoreham, 1330, John Kingeswode, of Findon, a considerable landed proprietor, gave them a tenement, with a house standing upon it, in the ville of New Shoreham, which he held under the Temple. In this deed they are addressed as “Religiosis viris ordinis Beatæ Mariæ de Monte Carmeli, apud Novam Shoreham, in comitatu Sussex, commorantibus.” This tenement had the house of Simon Crabwych on the south side of it, and that of Robert Herryngs, and other houses, the property of John de Blaker, and John de la Knauc, John le Ferur, and Simon Trenchmere, on the west; and the marsh of the Templars, called “le Temple Stead,” to the north and east. The seal which is appended to this deed is of red wax, and in a very perfect state. On the face of it is the impression of a squirrel, with tail erect, clinging to a leafless branch, and at the back “S’ IO’NIS DE KINGESWODE.” Nigel de Combes, Robert Mitchell, John de Bokyngham, were among the witnesses to this grant ...

In a footnote re ‘John de Blaker’ Turner states:

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 ...

We learn from Turner’s account that the deed, dated at Shoreham, in 1330, was the original, as it had a seal appended, as against being one recited in either of the two cartularies.

In 1910 the Sussex Record Society (vol. x) published transcripts of *The Three Earliest Subsidies for the County of Sussex in the Years 1296, 1327, 1332. With Some Remarks on the Origin of Local Administration in the County through “Borowes” or Tithings*, transcribed and edited by the Rev. William Hudson, M.A., F.S.A. These are evidently lay subsidy rolls from the Public Record Office (p.x note). Renshaw, referring to

the sole Blaker in the 1327 lists, gives a P.R.O. reference 'Lay Subsidy Roll., 1 E. 3 Suss., Rape of Lewes Villata de Cokefeld 189/3; and states that no Blaker appears in Lewes or Bramber rape⁵⁶¹ 1296 or 1332.⁵⁶²

The following are mentioned in Turner's reading of the Shoreham deed of 1330:

occupiers:

Simon Crabwych
Robert Herryngs
John de Blaker
John de la Knauc
John le Ferur
Simon Trenchmere

witnesses:

Nigel de Combes
Robert Mitchell
John de Bokyngham

The 1327 lay subsidy for New Shoreham, as transcribed by Hudson⁵⁶³, has no Crabwych, Herryngs, Blaker, Knauc, Ferur or Trenchmere; nor any Combes, Mitchell or Bokyngham. The index leads us to:

p. 104	Simon' de Crabbewyke	7s 6½d	among the villeins of Hugh Bardulf
p. 126	Robto Heryng	1s	in Villat' de Boxgrau
p. 160	John Blachemere	6s 4¼d	in Villat' de Byne ⁵⁶⁴
	no Knauc		
p. 123	Johne le Ferour	3s 6d	in Villata de Mundeham
	no Simon Trenchmere, but		
p. 118	Rico Trencemer	1s 2d	in Villat' de Thorny
p. 160	Robt Trenchemer	1s 10½d	in Villat' de Byne

Turning to the 1332 returns, the New Shoreham lay subsidy⁵⁶⁵ of 'Burgus de Shoreham' has no Crabwych, Herryngs, Blaker, Knauc, Ferur or Trenchmere; nor any Combes, Mitchell or Bokyngham. The index leads us to:

p. 289	Isabell' de Crabewyk	6s 0¾d	in Villat' de Perchyng
	no Robert Herryngs; no Heryng &c. at Boxgrave (p. 249):		
p. 315	Laur' Heryng	4s 9d	in Villat' de Isenehurst
p. 273	Johe de Blachemeredenne	4s 0¼d	in Villat' de Byne
p. 287	Emma Knaue	5s 4½d	in Villat' de Brighthelmeston
p. 243	Johe le Ferur	1s 6d	in Villat' de Mundeham
	no Simon Trenchmere, but:		
p. 235	Rico Trentemars	10¾d	and
	Willo Trentemars	2s 5½d	in Villat' de Thornye

561 New Shoreham fell in the rape of Bramber

562 p.11

563 p. 152

564 Byne was a township in the hundred of West Grinstead in the rape of Bramber, inland from Shoreham.

565 *op. cit.*, p. 227

Simon Trenchmere is a distinctive name, and only appears in the index to the 1296 subsidy (p. 42) where we have, in Villat' de Brystelmeston & Molscumb:

Simon' Trenchemer 12s 7¼ d

In Villata de Bristelmeston (Brighton) in the 1327 return⁵⁶⁶ no Trenchmere or variant appears. There are the following Simons:

Simone Neue	10d
Simone Gibbe	1s
Simone Jude	1s 6d
Simone Kepere	6d

There is thus a strong suggestion that Simon Trenchmere died between 1296 and 1327; in which case the names of occupiers of adjoining land in the 1330 deed may refer to a period closer to 1300. It is not unusual for property descriptions in deeds to be copied slavishly from successive deed to deed without updating the names of adjoining occupiers, with the phrase such as 'now or late in the holding of'. Equally, the thought occurred that Turner could have misread the date of the '1330' deed. 1330 fell in the 3rd and 4th years of Edward III. The 3rd and 4th years of Edward II were in 1309 to 1311.

Were the other occupiers in the 1296 returns? The index gives us:

p. 67	Robro Heryng	4s 10¼d	in Burgus Noue Shoreham
p. 70	Johanne le Ferur	3s 0½d	in Villat' de Totyton & Bargham

The best indication from the lay subsidies, therefore, was that the names of the occupiers belong to a period rather earlier than 1330, and that only the Herring family actually lived in New Shoreham.

The deed shows that the holdings adjoined 'the marsh of the Templars, called "le Temple Stead," to the north and east'. If they were not 'houses' but merely holdings, they could have been summer pastures in the sea marshes, held by farmers from elsewhere, inland.

The Story of Shoreham, by Henry Cheal, hon. curator and librarian to the Sussex Archaeological Society, was published at Hove in 1921. He refers to the same deed (p. 87):

In 1330, John Kingswode of Findon gave the [Carmelite] Friars [of Shoreham] a tenement in the town of New Shoreham, which he held under the Temple. This tenement was described as having the house of Simon Crabwych on the south side of it and that of Robert Herryngs, together with other houses the property of John le Blaker, John de la Knauc, John le Ferur and Simon Trenchmere on the west, and the marsh of the Templars, called "le Templestead," to the north and east. Among the witnesses to this deed was a John de Bokyngham.

There is nothing to suggest that Cheal checked the original deed, and all the names appear in the same spellings, except that, curiously, John de Blaker is now John le Blaker. Perhaps the society had an annotated copy of Turner's original article in which the 'de' had been altered to 'le'. The Blakers continued

⁵⁶⁶ *op. cit.*, p. 173

prominent in the society and would have been alive to any error in Turner's article.

In summary, there was a strange absence of all the 1330 occupiers from the 1327 and 1332 subsidy rolls: however, Simon Trenchmere was alive, at Brighton, in 1296: and Robert Herryngs was living at New Shoreham in 1296.

Returning, then, to the 1296 subsidy, there are only two John Bla—— listed in the county — John Blanchard at Bradewatere (p. 62), and John Blaunkpeyn (twice) at New Shoreham (p. 67).

Starting from this point, contact was made with the Magdalen College archivist, Robin Darwall-Smith, who reported:

I have looked through the catalogues of our medieval deeds relating to Sussex, and I think I have found the deed in question. Or rather the deeds. Somehow, this has become more complicated than I had expected. There are two deeds relating to these particular lands in Shoreham, which bear the archive references "Shoreham 14" and "Shoreham 16". Both are dated to the Monday after the first of SS Peter and Paul 3 Edward III (i.e. 3 July 1329, rather than 1330 — it sounds as if Turner didn't do his arithmetic).

Both deeds are grants or a tenement from John de Kyngeswode to the Carmelites of New Shoreham, but the properties bounding it are described slightly differently — in particular those to the west of it. In Shoreham 14, the properties are described thus:

"... et tenementa que fuerunt Johannis le Blak' Robert le Poffere et Johannis Judde ex parte occidentali..."

And in Shoreham 16 they are described thus:

"...et tenementa que fuerunt Johannis le Blak' et Johannis le Knave Johannis le Ferrer et Simonis Trenchemere ex parte occidentali..."

The apostrophe at the end of "Blak" represents a flourish, which Turner must have interpreted — I think probably correctly — as an abbreviation for "-er", to give us "Blaker". However, our Victorian cataloguer read the name as "le Blak", and so was evidently less convinced. I can also confirm that he is definitely "le Blaker" as opposed to "de Blaker" on both deeds. I read it as "le", and so did our Victorian cataloguer.

This confirms the suspicion that had already arisen that the holdings were not necessarily houses, and that the names of the occupiers were from an earlier period - 'tenementa que fuerunt'.

The revised list of occupiers on the west is:

John le Blak'
Robert le Poffere
John Judde

John le Blak'
John le Knave
John le Ferrer

Simon Trenchmere

Simon Crabwych doubtless is listed on the south, and Robert Herryngs on the west, as in Turner's transcript of the deed Shoreham 16.

Returning to the 1296 lay subsidy, we have these names:

John Blauncpeyn	at New Shoreham	p. 67
Henry le Puffere	at Midhurst	p. 93:
but Robert Puffare is listed at New Shoreham in 1327 (p. 152) and 1332 (le Puffar, p. 227)		
No Judde:		
but John Judde is listed at New Shoreham in 1332 (p. 227)		
Simon Knaue	at Brighton	p. 41:
Emma Knaue there in 1332 (p. 287)		
John le Ferrer	at Totyton & Bargham	p. 70
Simon Trenchmere	at Brighton	p. 42
No Crabwych:		
but Simon Crabwych appears among the villeins of Hugh Bardulf in 1327 (p. 104)		
Robert Heryng	at New Shoreham	p. 67

Mr Darwall-Smith's readings make it clear that the plots were *tenementa* — he himself uses the word 'lands', and that as of 3 July 1329, the actual date of the deeds, these holdings *fuerunt*, 'were' of the various occupiers. This makes it likely that some of these occupiers, such as Simon Trenchmere of Brighton and Robert Heryng of New Shoreham, dated from well before 1329, whereas others were recent, such as Robert Puffer and John Judd. Since the major difference between Shoreham 14 and Shoreham 16 is the list of adjoining tenants, it would seem likely that Shoreham 14, with the contemporary names of Robert Puffer and John Judd, was a revision of Shoreham 16.

So far as John le Blak' is concerned, we now have two sightings of his name, both with the 'le'; we know that he held property in New Shoreham, but by no means necessarily lived there; and that his date would be somewhere around 1296 to 1329. There is also no reason to believe that he was a Blaker: because Blakers lived at Shoreham four centuries later, Turner, who appears to have been careless as to reading, dating and translation, grasped at what he took to be an early Blaker entry, doubtless at the same time pleasing his Blaker fellow-members of the Sussex Archaeological Society.⁵⁶⁷

Darwall-Smith also checked the cartulary of Sele Priory by L. F. Salzman, published in 1923, and indexed, and found a number of Black/Blake references, but no Blaker.

⁵⁶⁷ The list of members of the Sussex Archaeological Society in 1858 included:
John Blaker, Esq., Lewes.
Edgar Blaker, Esq., Lewes.
W. L. Blaker, Esq., Worthing.

No John le Blak' or variant appears in the three printed lay subsidies. Without the incubus of the Blaker attribution sitting on the deeds, one would naturally assume that John le Blak' of Shoreham 14 and 16 was:

1. an otherwise unrecorded John Black/Blake of New Shoreham; or
2. John Blaunkpeyn, at New Shoreham in 1296, abbreviated to 'le Bla'k''

Darwall-Smith gives a nod to Turner reading the name Blak(er), but says that it is uncertain, and he cannot provide us with photocopies. He also says that there is an unindexed calendar to the 450 deeds in the Sele Priory collection, which could be copied.⁵⁶⁸

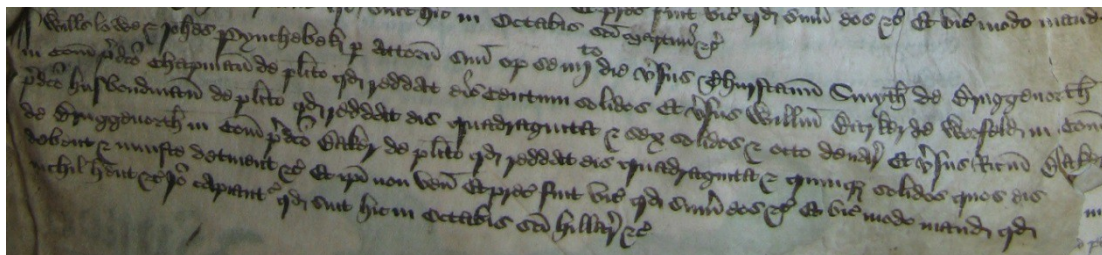
William Blaker, 1325

John and Walter Blaker, 1379

⁵⁶⁸ In these circumstances the correct next steps would be to obtain photographs of Shoreham 14 and Shoreham 16, and a set of photocopies of the calendar, as suggested.

Blaker of Bridgnorth, 1460

Recent indexing of certain of the Plea Rolls now deposited at Kew brought to light an early Blaker entry, from 1460, previously undiscovered:



Source: Public Record Office: CP 40/799 m.85d

Title: *Common Pleas Michaelmas 39 Henry VI*

Michaelmas 1460

Westminster

Pl'ita apud Westm^r coram Joh'e Prysot & socijs suis Justic' d'ni Regis de Banco
de termino S'ci Mich'is anno regni Regis Henrici sexti post conq^m tricesimo
nono

*Pleas at Westminster before John Prysot and his fellows, justices of the lord
king de Banco, for Michaelmas term in the 39th year of the reign of king Henry
the sixth after the Conquest*

Salop'

Will's Lowe & Joh'es Pynchebek p^r attorn' suu' op se iiij^{to} die v^rsus Thurstanu'
Smyth' de Bruggenorth' in Com' p^rd'co Chapman' de pl'ito q'd reddat eis
Centum solidos Et v^rsus Will'm Barker de Worfeld in Com' p^rd'co
husbondman' de pl'ito q'd reddat eis quadraginta & sex solidos & octo denar'
Et v^rsus Ric'm Blaker de Bruggenorth' in Com' p^rd'co Baker de pl'ito q'd
reddat eis quadraginta & quinq' solidos quos eis debent & iniuste detinent &c'
Et ip'i non ven' Et prec' fuit vic' q'd sum' eos &c' Et vic' modo mand' q'd
nichil h'ent &c' I'o capiant' q'd sint hic in Octabis s'ci Hillar' &c'

Shropshire

*William Lowe and John Pynchebek appeared by their attorney for a fourth day
against Thurstan Smyth of Bruggenorth in the county aforesaid chapman, in a
plea that he render them 100s; and against William Barker of Worfeld in the
county aforesaid husbondman, in a plea that he render them 46s 8d; and*

Hilary 1461
Westminster

Pl'ita apud Westm^r coram Joh'e Prysot & socijs suis Justic' d'ni Regis de banco
de termino sancti Hillarij anno regni Regis Henrici sexti post conquestu' Anglie
tricesimo nono

*Pleas at Westminster before John Prysot and his fellows, justices of the lord
king de Banco, for Hilary term in the 39th year of the reign of king Henry the
sixth after the Conquest*

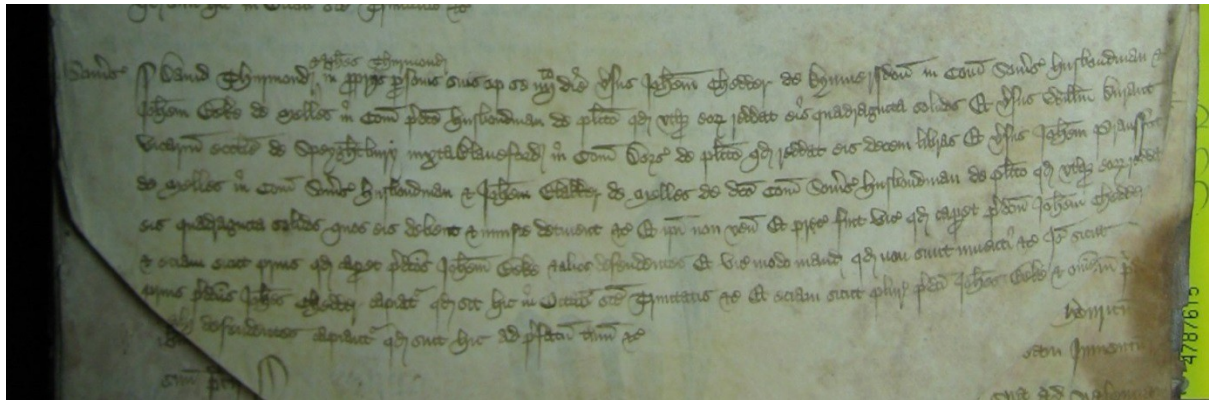
Salop'

Will's Lowe & Joh'es Pynchebek p attorn' suu' op se iij^{to} die v^rsus Thurstanu'
Smyth' de Bruggenorth' in Com' p^rd'co Chapman' de pl'ito q'd reddat eis
Centum solidos Et v^rsus Will'm Barker de Worfeld in Com' p^rd'co
husbondman' de pl'ito q'd reddat eis quadraginta & sex solidos & octo denar'
Et v^rsus Ric'm Baker de Bruggenorth' in Com' p^rd'co Baker de pl'ito q'd reddat
ei^s quadraginta & quinq' solidos quos eis debent & iniuste detinent &c' Et ip'i
non ven' Et prec' fuit vic' q'd capet eos &c' Et vic' modo mand' q'd non sunt
inuent' &c' I'o sicut prius capiant' q'd sint hic a die Pasche in xv dies ⁵⁶⁹ &c'

Shropshire

*William Lowe and John Pynchebek appeared by their attorney for a fourth day
against Thurstan Smyth of Bruggenorth in the county aforesaid chapman, in a
plea that he render them 100s; and against William Barker of Worfeld in the
county aforesaid husbondman, in a plea that he render them 46s 8d; and
against Richard Baker of Bruggenorth in the county aforesaid baker, in a plea
that he render them 45s: which (the defendants) owe (the plaintiffs) and
unjustly withhold &c. And (the defendants) have not come; and it had been
ordered the sheriff (of Shropshire) to take them &c. And the sheriff now reports
that (the defendants) are not found &c. Therefore, as before, let (the
defendants) be taken, to be here on the quindene of Easter &c.*

569 19 April 1461



Source: Public Record Office: CP 40/629 m.63d
Title: *Common Pleas Easter 6 Henry V*

Easter 1418

Som's'

Dauid Thurmond +& Joh'es Thurmond+ in pprijs psonis suis op se iiij^{to} die v'sus Joh'em Chedder de Kynmersdon' in Com' Som's' Husbondman & Joh'em Beke de Melles in Com' p'd'co Husbondman de pl'ito q'd vt'q' eor reddet eis quadraginta solidos Et v'sus Will'm Durant vicariu' eccl'ie de Speygh'tbury iuxta Blaneford in Com' Dors' de pl'ito q'd reddat eis decem libras Et v'sus Joh'em Pransfot de Melles in Com' Som's' Husbondman & Joh'em Blakker de Melles de d'co Com' Som's' Husbondman de pl'ito q'd vt'q' eor redd' eis quadraginta solidos quos eis debent & iniuste detinent &c' Et ip'i non ven' Et prec' fuit vic' q'd capet p'd'cm Joh'em Chedder & eciam sicut prius q'd capet p'd'cos Joh'em Beke & alios defendentes Et vic' modo mand' q'd non sunt inuenti &c' I'o sicut prius p'd'cus Joh'es Chedder capiat' q'd sit hic in Octab' s'ce Trinitatis⁵⁷⁰ &c' Et eciam sicut plur' p'd'ci Joh'es Beke & om's alij defendentes capiant' qd sint hic ad p'fatu' t'nu' &c'

Somerset

David Thurmond and John Thurmond appeared in person for the fourth day against John Chedder of Kynmersdon in county Somerset husbondman and John Beke of Melles in the county aforesaid husbondman in a plea that each of them render them 40s; and against William Durant, vicar of the church of Speyghtbury by Blaneford in county Dorset, in a plea that he render them £10; and against John Pransfot of Melles in the county of Somerset husbondman and John Blakker of Melles of the said county of Somerset husbondman in a plea

570 29 May 1418

that each of them render them 40s, which they owe them and unjustly detain &c.; and (the defendants) have not come; and it was ordered the sheriff that he take the aforesaid John Chedder, and also, as before, that he take the aforesaid John Beke and the other defendants; and the sheriff now reports that they are not found &c.; therefore, as before, the aforesaid John Chedder is to be taken, to be here on the octaves of Trinity &c.; and also, as many times, that the said John Beke and all the other defendants be taken, that they be here at the term aforesaid &c.

Mells was an ancient parish in Somerset, in Wells archdeaconry of the diocese of Bath and Wells:



Mells ['Melles'], Somerset, 1610



Mells, Somerset, 1793

COUNTY OF SOMERSET—continued.

PARISH, TOWNSHIP, OR EXTRA-PAROCIAL PLACE.	HOUSES:				OCCUPATIONS:			PERSONS:		
	Inhabited.	By how many Families Occupied.	Building.	Un-inhabited.	FAMILIES chiefly employed in AGRICULTURE.	FAMILIES chiefly employed in TRADE, Manufactures, or Handicraft.	ALL OTHER Families not comprized in the Two preceding Classes.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL OF PERSONS.
KILMERSDON Hundred.										
Ashwick - - - - - (z) Parish	193	219	4	2	80	75	64	379	450	829
Babington - - - - - Parish	37	37	-	-	8	21	8	76	80	156
Buckland-Denham - - - - - (a) Parish	93	96	1	3	9	83	4	219	221	440
Hardington - - - - - Parish	4	4	-	-	2	-	2	15	16	31
Hemington - - - - - Parish	72	72	-	-	65	7	-	163	160	323
Holcombe - - - - - Parish	112	112	-	1	20	11	81	253	274	527
Kilmersdon - - - - - (b) Parish	369	388	1	5	71	64	253	969	1,022	1,991
Radstock - - - - - (c) Parish	164	169	1	5	29	34	106	491	411	902
Stratton-on-the-Foss - - - - - Parish	74	74	-	3	24	30	20	139	178	317
Writlington - - - - - Parish	38	41	-	-	13	20	8	128	88	216
	1,156	1,212	7	19	321	345	546	2,832	2,900	5,732
KINGSBURY (East) Hundred. (e)										
Chard Parish: (d)										
Chard - - - - - Tything	184	273	9	8	51	173	49	628	702	1,330
Crim-Chard - - - - - Tything	75	87	-	-	2	12	73	180	178	358
Old-Chard - - - - - Tything	124	141	4	4	6	84	51	330	356	686
Poor-House - - - - -	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	9	17	26
South-Chard - - - - - Tything	43	50	2	-	22	14	14	140	129	269
Tatworth and Forton - - - - - Tything	84	89	-	3	47	29	13	221	216	437
Combe-St.-Nicholas - - - - - Parish	197	211	5	9	92	70	49	514	532	1,046
Huish-Episcopi - - - - - Parish	75	94	-	2	87	6	1	244	238	472
Kingsbury-Episcopi - - - - - (f) Parish	280	303	1	3	263	31	9	724	746	1,470
Winsham - - - - - Parish	156	184	-	14	94	82	8	427	451	878
	3,063	3,436	34	117	1,425	1,493	518	7,757	8,443	16,200
KINGSBURY (West) Hundred. (g)										
Ash-Priors - - - - - Parish	42	46	-	1	39	6	1	112	89	201
Bishops-Lydeard (+) (h) Parish	208	225	1	13	139	78	8	503	513	1,016
Buckland, West - - - - - Parish	160	171	3	8	119	49	3	371	379	750
Fitzhead - - - - - Parish	54	63	-	5	48	12	3	151	149	300
Wellington - - - - - Parish	837	842	3	14	207	524	111	1,927	2,243	4,170
Wiveliscombe - (+) - - - - - Parish	543	656	6	33	209	323	124	1,276	1,515	2,791
	3,063	3,436	34	117	1,425	1,493	518	7,757	8,443	16,200
MARTOCK Hundred. (b)										
Martock - - - - - Parish	376	544	1	14	260	232	52	1,204	1,356	2,560
MELLS and LEIGH Hundred.										
Leigh-upon-Mendip - - - - - Parish	149	149	-	3	148	1	-	337	329	666
Mells - - - - - Parish	231	260	1	1	50	126	84	566	581	1,147
	380	409	1	4	198	127	84	903	910	1,813
MILVERTON Hundred.										
Ashbrittle - - - - - (i) Parish	111	111	-	5	72	36	3	297	282	579
Bathealton - - - - - Parish	22	22	1	-	19	3	-	56	49	105
Kittisford - - - - - Parish	32	32	-	-	22	7	3	84	91	175
Langford-Budville - - - - - Parish	99	116	1	4	95	20	1	282	282	564
Milverton - - - - - (k) Parish	380	415	7	17	220	166	29	896	1,034	1,930

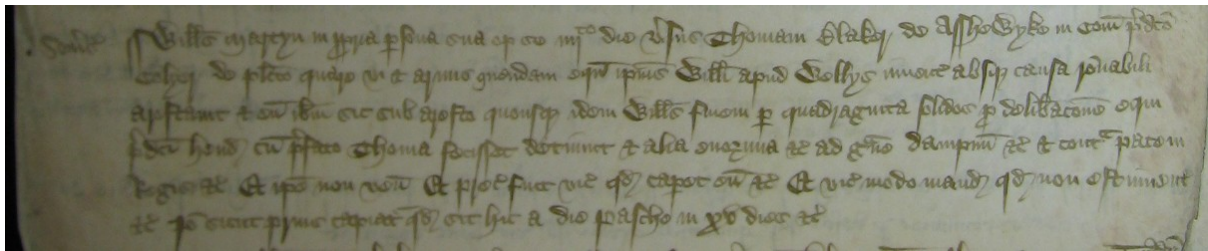
(z) A brewery and coal-works have been established at Ashwick.—
 (2) The cultivation of Teasles (which are used in the woollen manufactory), has increased the Population of Buckland-Denham.—(b) The Return of Kilmersdon Parish includes the Hamlets of Charlton, Coleford, Kilmersdon, Kilmersdon-Common, Luckington, and Lypeat, all which, in the year 1811, made distinct Returns. Coal-mines have caused an increase of Population.—(c) Coal-mines have caused an increase of Population at Radstock.—(d) Chard and Combe St. Nicholas, Huish-Episcopi, Kingsbury-Episcopi, and Winsham, in four unconnected portions (East and South-East of Taunton), form that part of the Hundred called East-Kingsbury. The entire Parish of Chard contains 3,106 Inhabitants.—(e) The Parish of Kingsbury-Episcopi includes the Tythings of Barrow, Kingsbury-Episcopi, East-Lambrook, West-Lam-

brook and Lake, and Stembridge, each of which, in the year 1811, made a distinct Return.—(f) West-Kingsbury is in two unconnected portions (West and South West of Taunton); Wellington and Buckland forming one; Ash-Priors, Bishops-Lydeard, Fitzhead and Wiveliscombe, the other.—(g) Bishops-Lydeard includes the Tythings of Bishops-Lydeard, Coombs-Ash, East-Bagborough, East-Coomb Hill, Lydeard-Punchardon and Quantock.—(h) Buckland St. Mary, partly in Martock Hundred, and partly in South-Petherton Hundred, is entered in a bick Hundred.—(i) The Tything of Greenham is included in the Return of West-Ashbrittle Parish.—(k) One female in Milverton Parish upwards of 100 years of age. The establishment of a silk manufactory in this Parish has caused an increase of Population.

MELLS (*St. Andrew*), a parish, in the union of FROME, hundred of MELLE and LEIGH, E. division of SOMERSET, 3 miles (W. N. W.) from Frome; containing 1261 inhabitants. There are extensive coal-works, and iron-manufactories, principally for agricultural implements; and fairs are held on the Monday after Trinity-week, and on Michaelmas-day. The river Frome here flows between rocks of a great height, somewhat resembling St. Vincent's rock, below Bristol. The living is a rectory, with that of Leigh-upon-Mendip annexed, valued in the king's books at £33. 16. 8., and in the gift of T. S. Horner, Esq.: the tithes have been commuted for £600, and the glebe comprises 16 acres. Schools are supported by subscription.

Samuel Lewis, Topographical Dictionary of England, 1845

In Hilary term of 1420 we have:



capet eu' &c' Et vic' modo mand' q'd non est inuent' &c' I'o sicut prius
capiat' q'd sit hic a die Pasche in xv dies ⁵⁷¹ &c'

Somerset

William Martyn appeared in person for a fourth day against Thomas Blaker of Asshewyke in the county aforesaid colyer, in a plea wherefore by force of arms without reasonable cause he arrested a horse of the said William found at Wellys and so kept it there under arrest until the same William made him a fine of 40s to have release of the horse aforesaid, and (committed) other enormities &c. to grave damage &c. and against the king's peace &c. And (the defendant) has not come; and it had been ordered the sheriff (of Somerset) to take him &c. And the sheriff now reports that (the defendant) is not found &c. Therefore, as before, let him be taken, to be here on the quindene of Easter, &c.

Ashwick is an ancient parish in the Mendips, in Wells archdeaconry of the diocese of Bath & Wells. Each of the three archdeaconries (Bath, Taunton and Wells) had separate probate records, but almost all of which were destroyed by bombing in 1942. In any case, the earliest material then in existence dated no earlier than 1529. Some Somerset wills from 1383 onwards, proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, have been printed: but the PCC calendars list no Blaker will from Somerset.

The defendant, Thomas Blaker, is described as a 'collier'. In 1845 there were quarries in the parish, but of lime and stone:

ASHWICK (*St. James*), a parish, in the union of SHEPTON-MALLET, hundred of KILMERSDON, E. division of SOMERSET, $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles (N. by E.) from Shepton-Mallet; comprising 1527*a.* 2*r.* 34*p.*, and containing 945 inhabitants. There are many quarries, supplying a material for building and for making lime. At the village of Oakhill, which stands partly in this parish, and partly in those of Stoke Lane and Shepton-Mallet, are some good residences, and a public brewery; and the road from Bath to Exeter, and another from Bristol to Weymouth, run through the parish. The living is a perpetual curacy; net income, £113; patron, Vicar of Kilmersdon; impropiator, J. Twyford Jolliffe, Esq. The great tithes have been commuted for a rent-charge of £28. 10., and those of the incumbent for £59. 15.; the glebe consists of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The curacy was separated from the vicarage of Kilmersdon in 1826, at which time also the church was rebuilt, with the exception of the tower; it is a neat structure, accommodating about 550 persons. There are places of worship for Independents, Unitarians, and Methodists. On the south-western side of the parish, near the Fosseyway, is a Roman camp, with a double intrenchment, called Masbury Castle.

Samuel Lewis, *Topographical Dictionary of England*, 1845

571 21 April 1420

However, John Speed's map of 1610 shows a set of 'cole pitts' to the east of the village, and we know from the description of Mells in 1845 that there were collieries there.



In 1884 there remained four disused collieries to the east of Astwick village: Sweetleaze, Strap, Pitcot and Barlake:



The Manorial Documents Register lists only one early item for Ashwick: a court roll of 1484 with other manors, held by Bristol Archives (AC/M/3/10).

There remains the question of what happened to the court case. The rolls of Common Pleas survive from Easter, Trinity and Michaelmas terms of 1420, but are unindexed. If William Martyn pursued his case it should duly appear in the roll for Easter, CP 40/637.

The 1327 twentieth also includes a Walter le Blacker of Whitestone hundred:

Folio 42. HUNDREDUM DE WHYTSTAAN.

De Matilda Cotele ...	iijs. iiijd.	De Waltero de Wokton	xijd.
Roberto le Scot ...	ijs.	Roberto Borour ...	vs.
Johanne Uppehulle ...	xxd.	Waltero de Boreforde	xijd.
Roberto le Haare ...	vs.	Waltero de Valour ...	iiijs.
Johanne le Webbe ...	vjd.	Johanne Gilberd ...	xijd.
Johanne de Bradleghe	ijs.	Thoma le Heyr ...	ijs.
Willelmo Pulle	xijd.	Waltero de Pultone ..	vjd.
Johanne le Tayllour...	ijs.	Roberto Uppedowne	xijd.
Johanne Torre ...	vs.	Willelmo Uppehulle	vjd.
Willelmo atte Mulle	xijd.	Ade le Noble ...	vjd.
Johanne Evesham ...	xijd.	Willelmo le Tayllour	xijd.
Johanne atte Mulle ...	vjd.	Johanne Stul ...	xijd.
Roberto le Smyth ...	vjs. viijd.	Summa xx° villate	
Waltero le Blacker ...	xijd.	predicte	lijs. ijd.
Johanne le Colyar ...	xijd.		

It is interesting that his name comes before that of John le Colyar.

Whitestone hundred included several parishes (Batcombe, Croscombe, Ditchat, Doultling, Downhead, Hornblotton, Lamyatt, East Pennard, Pilton-with-Witton, Pylle, Shepton Mallet and Stoke Lane or Stoke St Michael) with a total population of 2,434 in 1821, half of whom were from Shepton Mallet. It lay immediately south of Mells and Ashwick:



Whitestone Hundred, Somerset, 1610

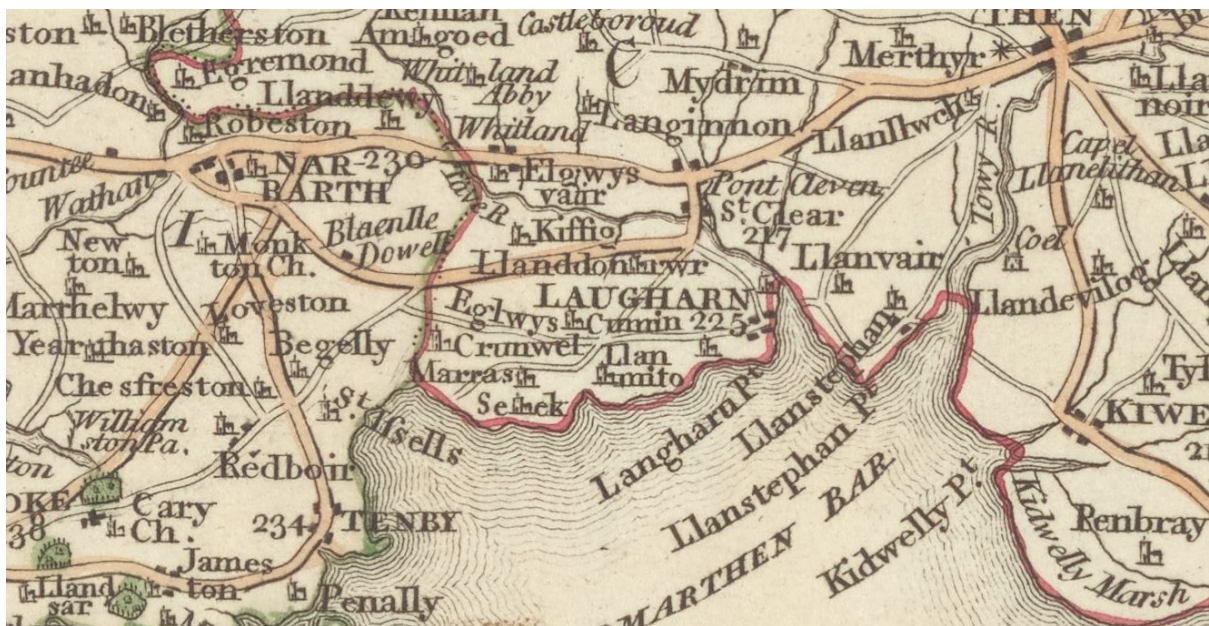
BLAKER of Eglwys Cymmyn

We have an isolated, early, Blaker reference in the form of the 1601 will of a Stephen Blaker or Blacker, from the archives of the diocese of St David's, now in the National Library of Wales. The Christian name Stephen does not appear among the early Blakers of Sussex, but is attested in the Blakers of Mells, Somerset. As southern Wales was opened up to mass English settlement it became a commonplace for Somerset families to expand across the Severn estuary.

The parish of Eglwys Cynnen was and is a rural, bleak and mountainous area in Carmarthenshire, and Stephen Blaker's will is that of a smallholder, with a few animals and growing oats, barley and rye.



Eglwys Cymmyn ['Egloskemen'], Carmarthenshire, 1610



Eglwys Cymmyn ['Eglwys Cumin'], Carmarthenshire, 1793

COUNTY OF CARMARTHEN—continued.										
PARISH, TOWNSHIP, or EXTRA-PAROCHIAL PLACE.	HOUSES:				OCCUPATIONS:			PERSONS:		
	Inhabited.	By how many Families Occupied.	Building.	Un-Inhabited.	FAMILIES chiefly employed in AGRICULTURE.	FAMILIES chiefly employed in TRADE, Manufactures, or Handicraft.	ALL OTHER Families not comprized in the two preceding Classes.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL or PERSONS.
DERLLYS Hundred.										
Clear's, St. - - - - - Parish	204	215	-	7	29	50	136	421	487	908
Eglwys Cynmin - - - - - Parish	54	55	-	2	50	5	-	167	154	321
Egremout - - - - - Parish	23	23	1	1	13	3	7	61	58	119
Henllan-Amgoed - - - - - (n) Parish	34	34	-	-	28	6	-	86	93	179
Eglwys-fair-Achyrig - - - - - Chapelry	53	53	-	1	40	6	7	139	142	281
Kiffick - - - - - Parish	103	103	-	3	87	13	3	275	266	541
Kil-y-Maenllwyd (part of) (o) Parish	62	62	-	-	49	13	-	225	248	473
Castle-durran - - - - - Chapelry	11	13	-	-	10	1	2	38	42	80
Laugharne, or Llacharn (p) Parish	95	104	-	2	74	10	20	286	276	562
Laugharne - - - - - Township	212	233	5	5	74	49	110	630	761	1,391
Llanboidy { Lower - - - } (q) Parish	105	105	-	-	94	11	-	336	219	555
Llanboidy { Upper - - - } (q) Parish	212	217	-	-	143	74	-	523	583	1,106
Llandaw - - - - - Parish	4	4	-	-	1	1	2	16	10	26
Llandilo-Abercowin - - - - - Parish	16	16	1	-	4	5	7	36	41	77
Llandissilio (part of) - - - - - (r) Parish	101	101	-	-	51	13	37	264	297	561
Llandowror - - - - - Parish	71	76	-	-	19	22	35	184	207	391
Llangain - - - - - Parish	49	49	-	4	39	10	-	207	212	419
Llangan (part of) - - - - - (s) Parish	124	132	-	2	36	13	83	355	334	689
Llanginning - - - - - Parish	68	68	-	-	58	9	1	131	184	319
Llangludwen - - - - - Parish	51	51	-	-	20	11	20	101	127	228
Llangunnoch - - - - - Parish	156	171	3	9	120	29	22	411	396	807
Llansadurnen - - - - - Parish	36	36	-	3	34	2	-	89	104	193
Llanstephan - - - - - Parish	242	265	2	8	230	20	15	563	622	1,185
Llanvalteg (part of) - - - - - (t) Parish	58	58	-	-	39	19	-	131	158	289
Llanvihangel-Abercorwin - - - - - Parish	131	138	1	1	115	18	5	360	399	759
Llanwinio { Eastern - - - } (u) Parish	96	96	-	-	90	6	-	197	216	413
Llanwinio { Western - - - } (u) Parish	97	97	-	1	77	19	1	242	273	515
Marros - - - - - Parish	44	44	-	-	18	3	23	95	100	195
Mydrim - - - - - Parish	159	173	3	2	61	20	92	461	480	941
Pendine - - - - - Parish	33	35	-	1	12	7	16	79	73	152
	2,704	2,827	16	52	1,715	468	644	7,113	7,562	14,675
ELVET Hundred.										
Abergwilly - - - - - (w) Parish	389	419	3	18	269	82	68	1,063	1,120	2,183
Abernant - - - - - (w) Parish	117	121	-	-	89	22	10	348	361	709
Convil-in-Elvet - - - - - Chapelry	244	245	1	3	212	25	8	644	641	1,285
Kennarth - - - - - (w) Parish	340	343	1	4	193	121	29	795	840	1,635
Kilrhedin (part of) - - - - - (x) Parish	151	149	2	1	48	28	73	337	353	690
Llanegwad (part of) - - - - - (y) Parish	237	245	3	2	179	64	2	646	641	1,287
Llangeler - - - - - (z) Parish	350	353	1	-	197	148	8	749	824	1,573
Llanllawddog - - - - - (w) Parish	139	139	-	-	89	18	32	352	387	739
Llan-pumpsaint - - - - - Parish	104	122	-	1	68	26	28	251	264	515
Merthyr - - - - - Parish	24	24	-	-	16	8	-	126	121	247
Newchurch - - - - - Parish	156	156	1	-	133	21	2	362	407	769
Penboyr - - - - - Parish	229	229	-	-	115	55	59	519	604	1,123
Treleach-ar-Bettws - - - - - (w) Parish	263	269	1	4	97	171	1	651	641	1,292
	2,743	2,814	13	33	1,705	789	320	6,843	7,204	14,047

(n) The entire Parish of Henllan-Amgoed contains 460 Inhabitants.
(o) Kil-y-Maenllwyd Parish is partly in Dungleddy Hundred, County of Pembroke. The entire Parish contains 579 Inhabitants.
(p) The entire Parish of Laugharne, or Llacharn, contains 1,953 Inhabitants.
(q) The entire Parish of Llanboidy contains 1,661 Inhabitants.
(r) Llandissilio Parish is partly in Dungleddy Hundred, County of Pembroke. The entire Parish contains 945 Inhabitants.
(s) Llangan Parish is partly in Dungleddy Hundred, County of Pembroke. The entire Parish contains 705 Inhabitants.
(t) Llanvalteg Parish is partly in Dungleddy Hundred, County of Pembroke. The entire Parish contains 344 Inhabitants.
(u) The increase of Population in the Parish of Llanwinio, is attributed to the return of peace, and to not having experienced any severe fever, or other great illness since 1811. The entire Parish contains 928 Inhabitants.
(w) The increase of Population in the Parish of Abergwilly, is attributed to the return of peace; and the same observation applies also to Abernant Parish, to Kennarth Parish, to Llanllawddog Parish, and to Treleach-ar-Bettws Parish. The entire Parish of Abernant contains 1,994 Inhabitants. In the Parish of Kennarth is one female upwards of 100 years of age.
(x) Kilrhedin Parish is partly in Kilgerron Hundred, County of Pembroke. The entire Parish contains 941 Inhabitants.
(y) Llanegwad Parish is partly in Cathbinog Hundred. The increase of Population is attributed to an inclosure and cultivation of waste lands. The entire Parish contains 2,070 Inhabitants.
(z) The increase of Population in Llangeler Parish is ascribed to the return of peace, to the diminution of malignant fevers, formerly more common and more destructive, but especially to the almost total extirpation of the small-pox.

EGLWYS-CUMMĪN (EGLWYS-CYMMYN), a parish in the lower division of the hundred of DERLLŷs, county of CARMARTHEN, SOUTH WALES, 4 miles (W. by N.) from Laugharne, on the road to Narberth, containing 373 inhabitants. This parish, which is of considerable antiquity, derives some degree of celebrity, from an allusion made to it by Sir John Pryce, in his history of the Welsh wars, as the place in which a peace was once concluded; and a memorial of this event is preserved in the name of "Peace Park," given to the spot on which the negotiations were transacted. The parish is of great extent, and a considerable portion of it is at present uncultivated: it is intersected by two streams, which, after pursuing a subterraneous course for a considerable distance, discharge their waters into the bay of Carmarthen. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Carmarthen, and diocese of St. David's, rated in the king's books at £8, and in the patronage of the King, as Prince of Wales. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, contains a monument to the memory of Sir John Perrot, who was the first sheriff of the county of Pembroke; and on the chalice of the communion plate is inscribed, in old letters, *Poculum Ecclesiae de Eglos Skymine*, with the date 1574: the word *Skymine*, signifying "bleak," is supposed to allude to the situation of the church on a lofty unsheltered eminence. Zacharias Thomas, in 1682, bequeathed to the poor not receiving parochial relief a rent-charge of £1. 6. 8. There are some vestiges of an ancient military earthwork in a field, which, from that circumstance, has obtained the appellation of "Castell Park." The average annual expenditure for the support of the poor amounts to £105. 11.

Samuel Lewis, *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, 1834



Eglwys Cymmyn, Carmarthenshire, 1886



Eglwys Cymmyn, Carmarthenshire, 1941

Very few early wills surviving relating to the parish; indeed, there are few early records. This was an ancient parish, and the parish registers would have been instituted there, as elsewhere, in 1538, but nothing now survives earlier than 1731, apart from fragmentary bishop's transcripts (1690, 1693-6, 1698-9, &c.), all too late to refer to Stephen Blaker or his son Morris.

There is nothing for the parish in the Manorial Documents Register. Stephen Blaker was a tenant: perhaps the main local landowners were the Perrot family, with monuments in the parish church.

The parish lay in Derllys hundred. In the local taxation records there is the record for the Free and Voluntary Present to the Crown made by the inhabitants of Cayo, Derllys and Kidwelly hundreds, listing about a thousand names (P.R.O. E 179/264/17, 'partly paper, fragile') and there is an Association Oath Roll (C 213/341) for the county, from 1695, all too late for our purposes.

The surviving Tudor muster lists for Carmarthenshire are from 1539: these rather too early for our purpose. None of these covers Derllys hundred, although one (SP 2.S ff 316-41) includes 290 names from Laugharne lordship, which may have extended as far as this.

Will and probate inventory of Steven Blaker, 1609

NLW ref. SD/1609/34

In the name of god Amen the xijth daye of maye in the yeare of o[u]r Lord god 1609 I Steven blaker of the p[ar]ishe of Eglowys kymyn whithin the Dioces of St Davyds being of whole mynd allthoughe Sy{c}ke in body fearinge the panges of deathe doe make my Laste will & testame[n]t in maner and forme folowinge that is to saye fyrst I com[m]it my sowle to allmyghty god my maker and redimer and my ^body^ to Christen buriall Item I geve & bequethe to the Cathed[-]rall churche of St Davides iiijd Item I geve and bequeth[e] to the p[ar]ishe churche of Eglowys kymyn xijd Item I geve and bequethe to my weddyd wyfe the thyrdes of all my goodes & cattells as well reall as p[er]sonall the thyrdes of of1 my lease duringe hyr naturall lyfe Item I make Constitute and ordayne moris blaker my eldest sonne to be my true and lawfull executor to whom I geve and bequeathe all my goodes & cattells moveable and unmoveable not above geven or bequethed And for the true execuc[i]on of the same I make Constitute and ordayne Willia[m] white of lacharne my brother in Lawe And katheringe moris my wedid wyfe to be tutors upon my sayd executor duringe his mynoryty or noneage wittnesses of this my last will and testame[n]t Imprimis David {K}eaddes2 Thomas Andro {?}oweland thomas John ap parry [*deletion*] will[ia]m bowen & of me Thomas Davyes clearke Deaptes due upon me the sayd testator Imprimis to david rawlinges my wyfis sonne Liijs iiijd Item to mary rawlinge{s} my wyfe is doughter Liijs iiijd Item to ^Mr^ Sawnders baret of tenby vijs vjd Item to Mr william wiat iijs iiijd to roland thomas my brother in Lawe fyve shilinges [*remainder of this line and the next deleted*]

[page 2]

Probate: 19th June 1609 to Catherine Moris, one of the executors appointed in the will, during the minority of [the other executor].³

1 Sic

2 Or Readdes?

3 There is a note in the probate about William White being named in the will as a tutor, but it's not clear why he is mentioned.

[page 3 – the inventory]

The trewe ^and p[er]fect^ Inventori ~~all~~ of all the goodes and chattells ~~and chattels~~ moveable and unmoveabell of Steven blacker of the p[ar]ishe of egl{owis}k{emine} [*word deleted*] dess[eas]ed prised by william whit ~~and~~ David Rother{ey} and edward moris

Imprimis iij kine prised	iiijl
Item on styere of three yere ould	xxs
Item on styer of two yere ould and a hefere of two yeres ould	xxs
Item more one nag and a coult of two yeres ould prised	xxvjs {?}d
Item more one ould mare prised	vs
Item more iiij{or} swine prised	viijs
Item more iij ackeres of ottes growing in the ground	x{l}s
Item more howell{ff}e an ackare of barly	x{v}s
Item more howellffe ^halfe^ anackere of Rye or theraboutes growing in the ground [<i>deletion</i>]	xvs

[page 3 – the inventory]

The trewe ^and p[er]fect^ Inventori ~~all~~ of all the goodes and chattells ~~and chattels~~ moveable and unmoveabell of Steven blacker of the p[ar]ishe of egl{owis}k{emine} [*word deleted*] dess[eas]ed prised by william whit ~~and~~ David Rother{ey} and edward moris

Imprimis iij kine prised	iiijl
Item on styere of three yere ould	xxs
Item on styer of two yere ould and a hefere of two yeres ould	xxs
Item more one nag and a coult of two yeres ould prised	xxvjs {?}d
Item more one ould mare prised	vs
Item more iiij{or} swine prised	viijs
Item more iij ackeres of ottes growing in the ground	x{l}s
Item more howell{ff}e an ackare of barly	x{v}s
Item more howellffe ^halfe^ anackere of Rye or theraboutes growing in the ground [<i>deletion</i>]	xvs

ORIGINS

The earliest entry that we have for the surname le Blakiere in Winchester, Hampshire, is from about 1250, at the same time that witnesses are found with their surname Latinized as 'tinctor' — painter or stainer. In Chippenham we find (1312–1313)⁵⁷² a Roger le Blakkere also written as Roger le Blecchere: and elsewhere in England there are le Blaker &c. entries; but with the Sussex Blakers we have yet to find a trustworthy **le** Blaker entry.

Our earliest genuine Sussex Blaker entry is William Blaker assessed at 2s 10½d in the lay subsidy for the township of Cuckfield in 1327⁵⁷³. Most of the surnames given there are prefixed by 'de', 'ate' or 'le': the only exceptions are Hervest, Goldyng, Blaker and Bygge. None of these is occupational.

There is a long list of taxpayers in the 1296 return, which is a combined one for Cuckfield and Hurstpierpoint; moreover, a careful look at the 1296 return shows that it also included entries from Slaugham, and perhaps elsewhere⁵⁷⁴. This would explain why the 1296 tax (an 11th) amounted to £8 15s, as against £1 15s 6¼d for Hurst, £3 14s 11¾d for Cuckfield, and 17s 1d for Slaugham in the 12th of 1327.

This was a period of surname formation, so it is likely that William Blaker's father or grandfather is among the taxpayers in the Hurst & Cuckfield list for 1296, but unrecognizable to us. However, in 1296 we have a John le Wytthauwere paying 2s.

The first question is whether this John is in the part of the list that related to Cuckfield: the names before and after him are Goldyng, atte Broke, Chode, and de Keyshale. Of these, Goldyng and atte Broke appear in 1327 in Cuckfield; no Chode or Keyshale remains

572 *Sessional Papers: Members of Parliament. Return (in part) To an Order of the House of Lords, dated 13th July 1877, for: ... Return, from so remote a Period as it can be obtained up to the Year 1696, of the Surnames, Christian Names, and Titles of all Members of the Lower House of Parliament of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with the Name of the Constituency represented, and Date of Return of each. Part I. Parliaments of England, 1213–1702. Ordered to be printed 11th August 1879, 1879, London, 41, 42, 45:*
Summoned to meet at Westminster, 18 March 1312–13.

Chippenham Borough:
Johannes le Chipman.
Rogerus le Blakkere.

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 8 July 1313.

Chippenham Borough:
Edwardus le Smyth.
Rogerus le Blecchere.

Summoned to meet at Westminster, 23 September 1313.

Chippenham Borough:
Edwardus le Smyth.
Rogerus le Blackere.

573 *Sussex Record Society x: The Three Earliest Subsidies for the County of Sussex in the Years 1296, 1327, 1332. With some Remarks on the Origin of Local Administration in the County through "Borowes" or Tithings. Transcribed and Edited by The Rev. William Hudson, M.A., F.S.A., 1909, London, p. 177*

Taxatio xx^{me} Domino Regi Edwardo tercio a conquestu concessa facta per Will'm de Northo & Joh'm atte See ad dictam xx^{am} in Com' Sussex taxand' coll' assignatos Anno eiusd' D'ni Regis Primo finiente Incipiente secundo.

Taxation of a twelfth granted to the lord king Edward the third from the Conquest, by William de Northo and John atte See assigned to tax and collect the said twentieth in county Sussex, in the first year ending, second year beginning of the same lord king.

VILLATA DE COKEFELD.

574 *Sussex Record Society x: The Three Earliest Subsidies for the County of Sussex in the Years 1296, 1327, 1332. With some Remarks on the Origin of Local Administration in the County through "Borowes" or Tithings. Transcribed and Edited by The Rev. William Hudson, M.A., F.S.A., 1909, London, p. 46:*

UNDECIMA DE COMITATU SUSSEX ANNO REGNI REGIS EDWARDI XXIIIJ^{TO}.
VILLAT' DE HURST & KUKEFELD.

in the 1327 Sussex returns, according to the index. Our best indication, therefore, is that John le Wytthauwere was a resident of Cuckfield.

There is no Whittawyer or variant in the 1327 returns, except possibly a William Whitewe at Sadlescomb cum Poning. If the surname Blaker in Sussex is occupational, then the meaning could in this case be 'whittawyer', with John le Wytthauwere representing a generation or two further back.

HERALDRY

Blaker Coats of Arms

Blaker of Portslade 1617

Blaker of Portslade 1633

Blaker of Portslade c. 1633

Bla(c)ker of Salisbury 1613

Bla(c)ker of Salisbury 1614

Aspidora Segariana

Blaker Coats of Arms.

The Blaker of Sussex coats of arms are recorded from the early 17th century, and are almost identical with those of the Blakers or Blackers of Salisbury.

Blaker of Portslade, Sussex: 1617 **Ermine chevron: moors' heads: golden hair**

This coat was granted 19 February 1617: there are descriptions in English, Latin and French from *Aspidora Segariana*.⁵⁷⁵

- E. A a Chevron †⁵⁷⁶ between 3 Moors heads side faced couped pp. crined O.
- L. In parma argentea tignum nigrum albicantibus mustulinis maculis respersum inter tria Maurorum Capita ad collum plane secta & auri-comata⁵⁷⁷
- F. D'argent au chevron d'+count'+hermines acompagne de trois têtes de Mores coupées au naturel & chevelées d'Or⁵⁷⁸

The English version says that the chevron has ermine spots, but the Latin makes it clear that it is black with white spots (i. e., ermine), and the French has **hermines**, emphasized by alteration to counter-hermines. In all three descriptions the heads are moors' heads with golden hair.

Blaker of Portslade, Sussex: 1633 **Ermine chevron: moors' heads: black hair**

The 1633-4 Visitation of Sussex is printed by the Harleian Society from Harleian MS 1562, and gives *Argent, a chevron ermine between three Moors' heads in profile, couped at the shoulders sable*. 'Under the hand & seale of Willm. Segar, Garter, to Edward Blaker 19 Feb. 1616.' A fault in the printed Harleian Society volumes, is that they tend to cram in information from various sources, rather than presenting a single manuscript in its original form. So there remains a slight doubt with the Blaker pedigree of 1633-4 taken from Harleian MS 1562 whether the blazon and the reference to the grant of arms are actually stated in MS 1562 or have been lifted from elsewhere. The reference is to folio 164 of Harleian 1562.

⁵⁷⁵ 49

⁵⁷⁶ here the conventional mark for an ermine spot is inserted

⁵⁷⁷ on a silver shield, a black chevron sprinkled with the white spots of a weasel, between the heads of three moors, cut off straight at the neck, and with hair of gold

⁵⁷⁸ of silver, with a chevron of +counter+ermine, together with three moors' heads cut off naturally and with hair of gold

Blaker of Portslade, Sussex: c. 1633
Ermine chevron: girls' heads: golden hair

The pedigree in Harleian 6164 was as per the 1634 visitation, but the heads are of *three girls with long wavy blonde hair facing slightly forwards*.⁵⁷⁹ According to Sims, there are several contemporary manuscripts that have the same pedigree - Harleian 1076 f. 30b; 1084 f. 92b; 1135 f. 49; 1194 f. 71b; 1406 f. 84; 1562 f. 163; 6164 f. 14b.

Nicolas, in 1825, describes Harleian MS 6164 as 'A copy of the [1633] Visitation on Vellum, with the Arms handsomely painted.' The original printed British Museum catalogue says: 'A Book in folio, written in a fair hand upon Vellum, containing the Arms in Colours & Pedegrees of Families in the County of Sussex, taken at a Visitation A. D. 1634.' A manuscript note says 'very beautifully written on the best vellum but the information is scanty, and the pedigrees very short'. This suggests that it is an early, unelaborated, version.⁵⁸⁰

Bla(c)ker of Salisbury: 1613
Pea chevron: men's heads: black hair

This coat was granted in 1613: these are the descriptions in English, Latin and French from *Aspidora Segariana*⁵⁸¹:

E. O a chevron pean between 3 mens heads side faced couped pp crined S.

L. In campo aureo cantherium nigrum macu[*lis*]⁵⁸² ad instar illarum muris pontici atqui deaur[at'] interstinctum inter tria humana capita impositum Quæ sunt e native colore ad collu[m] plane secta & nigri comata⁵⁸³

F. D'Or au chevron de Sable semé de mouchelar[d'] d'Hermines d'Or acompagné de trois têtes d'ho'm[e] de profil coupées de carnation chevelées du second.⁵⁸⁴

To William Blaker of y^e City of Salisbury in Com' Wilts Esq^r son of William B descended of y^e Blakers of Com' Derby

Grant of y^e abovesd Arms & Crest viz^t. Out of a wreath a demi horse issuant S [char]ged wth a ducal Crown. O.

Bla(c)ker of Salisbury: 1614
Erminoise chevron: moors' heads: black hair

579 Information of Ken Toll. Ken has seen 1084 and 6164 - 1084 moors' heads, 6164 maidens'. So the score so far, out of seven manuscripts, is Moors 2, Maidens 1.

580 It would be interesting to know who produced it - whether there is any colophon or bookplate: it is clearly a special copy, expensive to produce. What is the style of the writing? Does it suggest an early date? Ken thought that it might have been an early draft. It is not impossible that this was the original or close to the original version of the visitation, and that the other six manuscripts were revisions with additions. Going back to Nicolas, his list says that 1076 is a copy 'with a few additions', and 1084 is a copy 'with extracts from deeds, &c.'; 1406 is 'another copy, hastily written'; and 1194 'has some additions and notes not to be found in 1135'.
581 48

582 the ends of these lines are lost in the binding

583 on a gold field, a black chevron chequered with spots like those of a Pontic mouse [ermine] but gold, placed between three human heads which are of natural colour, cut off straight at the neck, and with black hair
584 of gold, with a chevron of black scattered with ermine marks of gold, together with three men's heads in profile, cut off in the flesh, with hair of the second [i. e., black].

Revision 12 July 1614⁵⁸⁵:

a Chevron erminois between 3 Negros heads cou[ped] pp

In the first version the men's heads would be normal, i.e. of fair complexion, with black hair. In this revised version they are negroes. The chevron in the first version is pean, i. e. black with gold ermine spots; the chevron in the second version is erminois, the reverse, i. e. gold with black ermine spots. The printed Visitation of Wiltshire of 1623 does not give the coat of arms.

Aspidora Segariana

William Segar, Garter King of Arms, was responsible for granting both coats; and in the collection of his grants, Simon Segar's *Aspidora Segariana* the two coats are depicted side by side (48 and 49): so clearly, in that respect, the similarity between the coats is not accidental. This is the full text:

Blaker.

48.⁵⁸⁶

E.⁵⁸⁷ O a chevron pean between 3 mens heads side faced couped pp crined S.

L.⁵⁸⁸ In campo aureo cantherium nigrum macu[lis]⁵⁸⁹ ad instar illarum muris pontici atqui deaur[at'] interstinctum inter tria humana capita impositum Quæ sunt e native colore ad collu[m] plane secta & nigri comata⁵⁹⁰

F.⁵⁹¹ D'Or au chevron de Sable semé de mouchelar[d'] d'Hermines d'Or acompagné de trois têtes d'ho'm[e] de profil coupées de carnation chevelées du second.⁵⁹²

To William Blaker of y^e City of Salisbury in Com' Wilts Esq^r son of William B descended of y^e Blakers of Com' Derby

Grant of y^e abovesd Arms & Crest viz^t. Out of a wreath a demi horse issuant S [char]ged wth a ducal Crown. O.

Anno Dom' 1613.

Int' MSS. J A. ar'.⁵⁹³ y^e Coat is ⁵⁹⁴ a Chevron erminois between 3 Negros heads cou[ped] pp & Crest on a wreath an horses head couped S. armed pp bitt & bridled O.

July 12. Anno Reg. Jac. 12⁵⁹⁵ W^m Segar Esq^r

Blaker.

585 *Aspidora Segariana* 48

586 sequential number in the volume

587 English

588 Latin

589 the ends of these lines are lost in the binding

590 *on a gold field, a black chevron chequered with spots like those of a Pontic mouse [ermine] but gold, placed between three human heads which are of natural colour, cut off straight at the neck, and with black hair*

591 French

592 *of gold, with a chevron of black scattered with ermine marks of gold, together with three men's heads in profile, cut off in the flesh, with hair of the second [i. e., black].*

593 among the manuscripts of J. A. esquire

594 word erased

595 12 July 1614

E. A a Chevron †⁵⁹⁶ between 3 Moors heads side faced couped pp. crined O.

L. In parma argentea tignum nigrum albicantibus mustulinis maculis respersum inter tria Maurorum Capita ad collum plane secta & auri-comata⁵⁹⁷

F. D'argent au chevron d'+count'+hermines acompagne de trois têtes de Mores coupées au naturel & chevelées d'Or⁵⁹⁸

To Edward Blaker of Portslade in Com' Sussex son of Edward B— of y^e said place⁵⁹⁹ of y^e abovesaid Arms & Crest. viz^t. Out of a Wreath an horses head S bridled & mained O.

Feb 19 Anno Dom' 1616⁶⁰⁰ ⁶⁰¹

Apparently William Segar left considerable records of his time as Garter: Mark Noble in 1804 (*History of the College of Arms*) refers to sir William Segar's 'voluminous and accurate collections'. However, in 1800 the College of Arms, in response to an order of the House of Commons, made a return of the official records in their possession. Although they had registers of visitations, there were no registers of grants of arms. They also had manuscripts 'comprehending the accumulated labors of Glover, Camden, Vincent, Philipot, Dugdale, le Neve, Walker, and other distinguished and skilful Members of the College.' There is no mention of Segar.

Simon Segar's *Aspidora Segariana* came, in a collection of unrelated heraldic manuscripts, to the British Museum in 1841. He may be the Segar who was referred to by Noble — 'One of [sir William Segar's] male descendants became very troublesome to the College [of Arms]: presuming upon the situation of his ancestor, Garter, he thought he could "demand" some post of consequence.' William Segar's grandson, Simon Segar, butler and librarian of Gray's Inn compiled an extensive work, including a register of admissions to Gray's Inn from 1521 to 1674. Simon may have been in possession of all sir William Segar's papers. But his work on Gray's Inn also came eventually to the British Museum. 'The MS. seems to have been sold or given by him to Humphrey Wanley, who transferred it to Lord Harley.' It is now Harleian MS. 1912.⁶⁰²

The antiquarian Joseph Foster set about collecting details of all surviving grants of arms or references to such grants from manuscripts 'preserved in the British Museum, the Bodleian Library, Oxford, Queen's College, Oxford, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and elsewhere'. The register that he produced, completed in 1898, was acquired by the British Museum and became Additional MS. 37,147: it was edited and published by the Harleian Society in 1915 (xlvi). Foster's primary source for Segar's grants was Additional MS. 12,225, familiar to us as *Aspidora Segariana*.

Foster gives the date of the Blaker of Salisbury grant as 12 February 1613/4, and that of the Blaker of Portslade grant as 19 February 1616/7. If these dates are correct, the first grant of arms was to William Blaker of Salisbury, and it has two strange features. One is that it is a differenced coat, with a chevron erminois, later described as pean; the other is that he is

596 here the conventional mark for an ermine spot is inserted

597 on a silver shield, a black chevron sprinkled with the white spots of a weasel, between the heads of three moors, cut off straight at the neck, and with hair of gold

598 of silver, with a chevron of +counter+ermine, together with three moors' heads cut off naturally and with hair of gold

599 sic

600 Old Style

601 19 February 1617

602 It is also claimed that *Aspidora Segariana* was not the work of William's great-grandson Simon, but of William's son, Thomas Segar, Bluemantle Pursuivant: and that the *original* manuscript is in the possession of the College of Arms (MS. E.D.N. 57). The copy in the British Library has spaces for, but is missing, actual paintings of the shields. **The College of Arms copy may have them.**

referred to as William **Blaker**; whereas the Bla(c)kers of Wiltshire were normally called **Blacker**:

The Blaker of Sussex coat of arms is generally referred to later as having an ermine chevron, which would make it the model upon which the Wiltshire coat was differenced; but it would seem that the grant of arms is actually of a chevron ermines, i. e., another differenced coat.⁶⁰³

The two coats (Blaker and Blacker) are varied in such a way as to avoid any implication that either was the elder line: but nor was there a pre-existing coat of arms for any family with pure ermine for the chevron from the differences of ermines, erminois or pean might suggest a junior status.

Grants of arms are registered in the grant books of the College of Arms, but which only survive from 1637 onwards; nor may earlier grants have been registered systematically. At the head of Foster's *Grantees of Arms*⁶⁰⁴ there is this quotation:

It is recorded by W. Segar, Somerset, afterwards Garter, that "Cooke, Clar., made many profitable Visitations, both by hymself and his deputyes, whoe, notwithstanding they were well entertayned, feasted and richly rewarded by the gent of ye cuntrey, hath left no memory of them in the Generall office. These were upon deceasse attached by arrests, alienated and soald. Two Norroys Kinges of Armes, two Windesors, Richmond, Lancaster, Somersett and Yorke, deceased, have done the like to the great sclaunder and decaye of the office and officers present." (Cott. MS. Faustina F. 1, fo. 263.) [printed.]

Thus it may be that both the Blacker and Blaker coats of arms had been in circulation before 1613, and part of a general trade in coats during the previous period of misrule: but the use of ermine, ermines, erminois and/or pean points more to both having been the creation of William Segar himself.

603 Sir William Segar was of Dutch origin and introduced ermine, other furs, and colours such as purple and brown, into an English heraldry which was very conservative compared with the Continent, and mainly used primary colours and bold simple charges.

604 Harleian Society lxvi: *Grantees of Arms named in Docquets and Patents to the End of the Seventeenth Century, in the Manuscripts preserved in the British Museum, the Bodleian Library, Oxford, Queen's College, Oxford, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and Elsewhere, Alphabetically Arranged by The Late Joseph Foster, Hon. M. A. Oxon. and Contained in the Additional MS. No. 37,147, in the British Museum. Edited by W. Harry Rylands, F. S. A., 1915, London, 1.* For Blaker of Portslade, Foster gives two references: Aspidora and Guil. 251. And for Blaker of Salisbury he gives Aspidora, College of Arms C22 and Guil. 248. 'Guil.' is John Guillim's *A Display of Heraldrie &c.* of 1724. **We have never been able to check out the 1724 edition.**

SOURCE MATERIAL

1379 Poll Tax

Blak' in the Poll Tax

The following Blak* entries appear in Sussex:

page	col.	name	place	occupation	tax
581	a	William Blak	Chichester	—	6d
581	c	John Blakewell	Petworth	—	—
586	d	Nicholas Blake	Thakeham	—	4d
588	a	Johanna Blake	Warnham	—	4d
590	a	Johanna Blake	Coombes	servant	4d
591	e	John atte Blakelond	Henfield	—	4d
592	b	John Blak	Wyckham	—	4d
592	e	Robert Blake	West Grinstead	—	4d
593	c	Clement Blakeman	West Thorney	—	4d
593	c	John Blakeman	West Thorney	—	4d
593	c	Agnes Blakemon	West Thorney	—	4d
609	c	John Blaker e	Cuckfield	—	4d
609	c	Walter Blakere	Cuckfield	—	4d
619	b	Richard Blakemor	Ditchling	tanner	2s
623	b	Agnes Blakeman	Brighton	—	4d
626	d	John Blakeman	Wellingham	—	—
628	d	William Blakman	Chichester	—	3s
629	a	Alice Blake	Chichester	—	4d

The only Blac* surnames are Blachemerdenne (592c) and Blachurst (628b).

Fenwick's transcript does not preserve the various signs and accents that indicate abbreviations. We therefore have to rely on her judgment that none of the Blaks or Blakes above conceals a Blak^r or Blak^e. The two Blaks are shown as such, not Blak'. If we cannot rely on her judgment, all the Blak and Blake are suspect, but Black and Blake being common surnames we would expect there to be a fair scattering of them.

If we take an unequivocally -er surname, such as Carpenter, there are 21 Carpent* entries in Sussex, 19 as Carpenter, 1 Carpentir, 1 Carpentyr, none rendered as Carpent' (although that appears in the Wiltshire returns), and certainly no Carpent. So there is nothing there to suggest that Fenwick clips her entries.

With two-syllable occupational surnames such as Carter and Thatcher, the spelling is often as -ere, i. e., Cartere, Thatcherere. And these occupational surnames appear more frequently among the 'commoners' than the 'artisans', so we have nothing in this record to militate for or against Blaker originating as an occupational surname. It is striking how many Millers were millers, Taylors tailors, &c., showing that surnames were still forming or had formed recently in Sussex in 1379. Patronymics such as Johnson (filius Johannis) &c. are almost completely absent, that form of hereditary surname having yet to emerge for the underclasses.

Blaker

The only Blok* entry is:⁶⁰⁵

Fishersgate Half-Hundred

Villata de Southwyke
Southwick

...

E179/189/42/3d

...

Johanna Wytynge	4d
Simon Chate	4d
Beatrix Chate	4d
Robertus Wegge	4d
Alice Cokayle	4d
Alice Blokere	4d
Ricardus Gerveys	4d

Summa 10s 8d

There is no Broker or variant.

Blaber in the 1379 Poll Tax

Although Blaber appears to have been an independent Sussex surname, it is frequently confused with Blaker both by researchers and in the original records. In this pair of early deeds the same individual appears in the one as William Blaker, in the other as William Blaber:⁶⁰⁶

24 June 1356

[Bedf.]

A. 11443. Feoffment by Alice late the wife of John Gys, knight, sister and heir of Edmund Gacelyn, to John Cryngelford of Southyevele, in tail, with remainder in default to his right heirs, of a furlong (*quarteriam*) of land called 'Holewey quarter' and that which William Blaker⁶⁰⁷ formerly held in Southyevele and the tenement which Reginald Race held, with the cottage and land formerly of William Pyk the elder in the said town; rent, 10s., and two suits of her court of Southyevele yearly. Friday, Midsummer day, 30 Edward III.

24 June 1356

[Bedf.]

605 p, 587

606 *A Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds in the Public Record Office. Prepared under the Superintendence of the Deputy Keeper of the Records. Vol. V. Published under the Direction of the Master of the Rolls by Authority of his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department*, 1906, London, 145, 232

607 sic

A. 12024. Feoffment by Alice, late the wife of John [G]yz, knight, and sister and heir of Edmund Gacelyn to John de Cryngelford, of Suthyevel, in tail, with remainder in default to his right heirs of the rood (*illam quarter*) of land, called ‘Holeweyquarter,’ and the rood of land, which William Blaber⁶⁰⁸ formerly held, in Suthyevel, and the whole of that tenement which Reginald Race held, with the cottage and land formerly of William Pyk, the elder, there; rent, 10s. Friday, Midsummer Day, 30 Edward III. *Seal.* See A. 11443.

In the 1379 Sussex poll tax we have:⁶⁰⁹

Brightford Hundred

E179/189/42/21

Launcyng cum sua decena
Lancing

Willelmus Swyth	ux’	6d
Johannes Blabour	ux’	4d
Robertus Petman	ux’	4d
Willelmus Apslond	ux’	4d
Johannes Peythe	ux’	4d

...

Wiltshire Blackers in the Poll Tax

No Blacker, Blaker, Blakker or variant entry appears in the printed Wiltshire returns for the 1379 Poll Tax. This is surprising, as the Blacker family was certainly settled in Salisbury from an early period, and Roger Blacker was M.P. for Chippenham in 1312-1313⁶¹⁰:

Salisbury occupies pages 110-119 of Fenwick’s transcript. The only Blak* entry is this:⁶¹¹

Salisbury

Ext 6/99/162d c.2

Nova Sarum
SALISBURY

...		
Johannes Paulesholte	labor’	4d
Nicholaus Wayte	labor’	4d
Johannes Mynty	labor’	4d
Johannes Blakemour	labor’	4d
Johannes Bruton’	labor’	4d

608 sic

609 p. 584

610 as above

611 p. 118

Johannes Brugwater	labor'	4d
Isabella Holemour sola		4d
...		

The Salisbury returns have several peculiarities. 4d payers are classed as *labor'*, workman; *art'*, artisan; or *serviens*, servant. Servants' surnames are almost always omitted. Single women are almost always given the 'surname' Spynnestre. Members of households are generally grouped together.

Assuming that there were Blackers in Salisbury in 1379, they must either be lost in the damaged parts of the return, have been servants with surnames omitted, or appear under a different surname. There is a Baker at 114d, Bakere at 111b, 114a, 115d, 116b, 116d, 117b, 117e, 118c. We would have expected to have found the Blackers as Blakker(e). There is a Clakkere at 118d. That is the only *akker(e) in the Wiltshire returns.

Lewes Rape Muster, 1559

Public Record Office SP 12/6/63 ff.137-138

Sussex

The names and sur names of iij^c able men wth ther captaines Appoyntyd to be in a redynes wth in the rapes of chechester ~~and~~ Arundell bramber and Leus to serve the quee's ma^{tie} apone one howr^s war'inge

The names of thable men apointyd to S^rue the queene's Highnes and to be in a redynes apone one hour^s warnynge wth the names of their Capitaynes

The Rape of Lewes

Archers

Ric' Heth
John fowle
Thom's Duckfurd
George Renyfiled
Will'm apitt
John parker
John geffry
Mathew sturme
Jo. Thatcher
John Davy
Ric' senock
John pson
Will'm Lashmor
Thom^as cresse
Cristopher aldry
will'm brooker
Ric' Downegate
Ric' Hilles
Nycolas crowder
James morgan
John payne
Will'm polter
John Hassellden
oswell pker
Thom^as Tyrell
Thom's beach
Edmond ploman

Thom^as Hider
John Hooke
Harry Pancorst
Ric' Alde
Harry nelson
Alen fawkener
Robert Hider
Thom's Kydd
Will'm Bradford
John ma'kwyk
Stephen Lenefyld
Thom's peter
Thom's fawkener
Thom^as eston
Will'm taylor
John pish Junio^r
Thom's Harman
Jo pish senio^r
John Erick
John Hardin
John Davy
Jo cade
Robert amore
Ric' Heisman
John Smith
Ric' martyn Junio^r
Ric' martyn senio
Thom^as White
Jo Eveys
Will'm askin
Joh'n cantler

Archers furnishid – Lvijj

Byllmen

Thom^as brussher
Jo adams
Jo berde
Edward capley
James homewood
John gele
Olyver Wyn
Stephen King

Will'm Danyell
Mighell Davy
John Butcher
Will'm egerton
Thom^as cunstable
Thom's chamberlen
Jo gellh'm
Robert staplehurst
Robert martyn
Martyn the miller
Ric' ogden
Will'm Weller
Nynian tilltman
Ric' Ferrall
Joh'n Vpton
Ric' cowp
Will'm awod
Harry Pelling
Robert Weaker
nycolas norman
Thom^as Knight
Harry Person
nycolas mychell
Mark^s tayler
Ric' Locke
John smith
Ric' Davy
will'm smith
Robert Rendoll
Will'm swan
Ric' Butcher
John mychell
Thom^as webbe
John box
Robert crowcher
Thom's winter
Andrew corver
Ric' bridgwater
georg man

Billmen furnishid – xlvij

Gun

Alexand^r Loveley

guners – one

Edward covert gentleman is apoyntyd capytain to haue the leading of the sayd men wthin the Rape of Lewis

BLAKER WILLS

Introduction

Until the introduction of the modern civil system in January 1858, all probate matters fell under the jurisdiction of the Church of England. There were three levels of probate courts: archdeaconry, diocese (consistory) and province (prerogative).⁶¹² The system was in some areas disrupted by the Henrician Reformation, when new dioceses were created: but that did not affect Sussex. Most early wills were in English, occasionally in Latin: a few were transcribed into the bishop's register.

Until the 18th century wills were what is properly referred to as 'testaments' (and were referred to as such in the court records), because they were dispositions of personal goods and money, but real estate could not be bequeathed, since that would disrupt the normal process of inheritance. Increasingly, in later years, that limitation was ignored: but tenure based on a probate bequest could always be overturned by the actual heir.

To modern eyes, therefore, an early will can seem a little strange, as the house(s) and land(s) of the testator do not appear among the bequests, and the will seems obsessed with the distribution of livestock, small amounts of cash, clothes and trinkets. The more so before the Reformation, when most wills contain mainly gifts to churches, chapels, friars and chantries. It is not at all uncommon for an early will to make no mention of the testator's heir.

Which leads us to the question of inheritance. When a man, a freeholder, died, his estate passed to his eldest son, &c., failing which it was divided between his daughters. His widow did not inherit his freehold: instead she had a right of dower in a third of the property. She had no right to have her third part separated from the rest, nor to grant any of it away: and if she remarried, the property did not pass to her and her husband. In this way the rights to the real estate (the true source of wealth) could not be alienated from the man's heirs.

Often the man so dying left an eldest son under age (less than 21 years old): nevertheless, the freehold passed to that boy, but who, being a minor, could not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of it till he came of full age, it all being held in trust by his guardian (as often as not his mother, but perhaps some friend or relative, who might be named in the will). Suppose some person wished to claim a right in the estate (not a debt) at law during such minority, the court would refuse to act, instructing the plaintiff to attend the inheritance.

On the other hand, if a married woman died who held the freehold in her own right (say, by marriage settlement and/or it having been her inheritance)

⁶¹² However, by ancient custom, a few manors claimed and exercised the right of probate within their jurisdiction.

then her husband could continue in her stead for the rest of his life ‘by the courtesy of England.’

If the man dying was not a freeholder but a copyholder, his widow would continue in the tenancy by right of freebench.

In Sussex the situation is muddled by the existence of manors where the usual English system of inheritance did not apply: by a custom called ‘Borough English’ the property descended first to the youngest son &c. As the youngest son was very often an infant, periods of guardianship become much more important in those areas.

Administrations

There was no compelling reason for an individual to leave a will, particularly in the early period when the descent of his real estate would take place by the rules of inheritance. But if he died intestate and there was any difficulty involving the lay courts — suing or being sued for debts &c. it became essential for his family to get documentation to prove their rights in the matter. Occasionally depositions might be made that the intestate had, during his lifetime, said that this and that parts of his property should go to so and so: and this would be filed as a nuncupative will among the main probate archives.

Otherwise the family would apply to the ecclesiastical probate court for letters of administration. Sometimes there was a will, but it was unsigned or unwitnessed or otherwise faulty, and so administration was taken out ‘with will attached’. Then again, the executor or executrix of a normal will might die before having distributed the estate, in which case an administration would be awarded ‘*de bonis non*’, to complete the process. Grants of administration are often listed in a separate register, administration bonds often surviving and archived separately again.

Sussex

The county of Sussex ⁶¹³ was more or less co-terminous with the ancient diocese of Chichester ⁶¹⁴, which was divided into two archdeaconries, Chichester and Lewes. There were therefore three main probate courts — Chichester Archdeaconry, Lewes Archdeaconry and Chichester Consistory: above which was the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

The Prerogative Court of Canterbury had overarching jurisdiction over the province of Canterbury, i.e. all the kingdom of England except the northern province of York. Because the prerogative court actually did business in London, despite the fact that there was a mosaic of minor probate jurisdictions

613 the ancient kingdom of the South Saxons, similar in extent to the pre-Roman tribe of the Regnenses: Chichester was *Noviomagus Regnensium*

614 founded in 1075, well before the earliest surviving wills, by the removal of the see from Selsey

in London and Middlesex, and exercised by the City of London, in practice most London and home counties wills were proved there. Certainly, any wills relating to property in more than one diocese, or London, or overseas, would be dealt with by the prerogative court.

During the Commonwealth all the ecclesiastical probate courts were abolished and replaced by a single principal probate registry. On the Restoration the records of this civil probate registry were assimilated into those of the revived Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

Peculiars

For various historical reasons there were exempt areas, usually single parishes, in ‘peculiar’ probate jurisdictions. There were four such peculiars in Sussex:

- A. The Archbishop of Canterbury’s Exempt Deanery of South Malling: covering the parishes of Edburton, Lindfield, Buxted, Framfield, Isfield, Uckfield, Mayfield, Wadhurst, Glynde, Ringmer, St Thomas at Cliffe, South Malling and Stanmer
- B. The Peculiar of Battle (Bellum): covering Battle parish
- C. The Peculiar of Chichester: covering most of Chichester, New Fishbourne and Rumboldswyke
- D. The Archbishop of Canterbury’s Exempt Deanery of Pagham and Tarring, comprising the parishes of Durrington, Heene, Patching, part of Horsham, West Tarring, East Lavant, Pagham, Slindon, South Bersted, Tangmere and the parish of All Saints (the Pallant) in Chichester.

By and large, the survival of probate records from the peculiars is not as good as that from the archdeaconry, consistory and prerogative courts.

The division between Chichester and Lewes archdeaconries was similar to but not the same as the modern division between West Sussex and East Sussex respectively. The ancient centre of Blaker settlement — around Cuckfield — is in the east of the county, and well within Lewes archdeaconry. However, the western Blaker area, in Bramber and Lewes rapes, is close to the boundary between the archdeaconries: although largely lying in the modern West Sussex, half of Bramber rape was in Lewes archdeaconry. However, the key parishes — Cuckfield, Portslade, Preston and Shoreham, were all in Lewes rape and in Lewes archdeaconry. Moreover, there was only one parish (Edburton) in Lewes rape that fell within a peculiar. Therefore, if particular attention were to be given to any of the local probate records (such as tracing ancillary documents) those of Lewes archdeaconry would be most likely to help with the present research.

Lewes Archdeaconry

The pre-1858 records were transferred to the newly-established Lewes Probate Registry, from which they are now removed to East Sussex Record Office:

Wills from 1527 (with gaps)
Probate Act Books from 1542 (with gaps)
Registered Copy Wills from 1518

A calendar of the pre-Commonwealth part of this probate archive was printed as *Calendar of wills and administrations in the Archdeaconry Court of Lewes in the bishopric of Chichester: together with those in the Archbishop of Canterbury's peculiar jurisdiction of South Malling and the peculiar of the deanery of Battle, comprising together the whole of the eastern division of the county of Sussex and the parish of Edburton in West Sussex : from the earliest extant instruments in the reign of Henry VIII to the Commonwealth. Compiled by William Hamilton Hall, in 1901, as volume 24 of the Index Library. This was compiled from the registered copy wills, described as the 'transcript books':*

The transcript books are numbered in a series A 1, A 2, etc.; A signifying Archdeaconry of Lewes. There is a second series of transcripts, late in date, but in the earlier period supplemented by "bundles," of which some items are original wills, others loose copies. This series is known as the Deanery Wills, those of testators from the Deanery of South Malling, a peculiar jurisdiction of the Archbishops of Canterbury. These bundles are lettered A to H; but the instruments in each bundle have been arranged and numbered differently at different times; and in this Calendar these have been entered as they were found. They are of course liable to rearrangement and to casual disarrangement. There is a further peculiar jurisdiction, that of the titular dean of Battle. The books of this peculiar are called the "Battle Books." In addition to these are two books known as the "Chichester Books." These books are bound uniformly with the transcript books preserved in the Archdeaconry of Chichester at the Chichester Probate Office. They are designated C 4 and C 11, and these volumes, 4 and 11, are wanting in that series, the books having been sent to Lewes because their contents referred to the Lewes Archdeaconry, not to the Chichester Archdeaconry. The book C 4 is mainly contemporary with the Lewes Book A 1, and in part duplicates the Lewes Book numbered A 1a. There is also the series of Act Books. These are numbered consecutively B 1, B 2, B 3, etc.; and contain administration and probate acts, together with a small number of miscellaneous entries. Administration Acts were entered into the transcript books before this series of Act Books began, and these are probably pretty complete as a series.

Any one will might therefore not only appear as an entry in the 'transcript' register, but also as the original will, and also the probate act would be registered in the Probate Act Book. Hall sought to combine all these sources with a view to making a complete calendar. However, as mentioned above, we do not have a complete record from 1518 onwards:

The records are incomplete, and there is no means available in the registry of making good the missing portions, save in a very few instances. The first hiatus is between Book A 5 and Book A 6. This is to a certain extent supplied by Book C 11. A more important hiatus, of three years, 25, 26, and 27 of Elizabeth, was due to the vacancy of the see of Chichester, from the death of Bishop Richard Curteys in August 1582 to the elevation of Thomas Bickley, elected 30 Dec. 1585. None of the wills proved in this interval

are now to be found, but the act-books supply, perhaps very imperfectly, such scanty details as can be gathered from the mere probate acts. In addition to the probate acts of this vacancy period there are a certain number of other probate acts showing that wills were proved in the registry, of which, however, no transcripts are now forthcoming. In the same way there are certain "administrations with will annexed," which are technically administration acts, but with which should be transcripts of the so-annexed wills. Of these some may on research no doubt be found to be second probates, or probates granted in exercise of power reserved, or administrations issued by reason of the interim death of the executor. Still others may be found among the so-called Unregistered Wills, two bundles designated U1 and U2. Of these many were in fact duly registered, and in the Calendar have been referred to their proper places in the register books. Various irregularities account for yet other of these cases, as for example Colman, Joane, Brede, 25 Sept. 1576; B1 48, where the act-book contains this note: "We lacke the will to goe on the file." A further number of these probate acts refer to wills proved from March 1641 to the abolition of the episcopal jurisdiction under the Commonwealth. The act-books break off in March 1642-3; but wills were still 'proved,' perhaps it would be more correct to say still brought in, all through the Commonwealth. Some of these are extant, as original wills, in the "Unregistered" bundles.

In this calendar there are seventeen Blaker and variant items, two Blatcher, and two Blabor:

Archdeaconry of Lewes: Book A 1, 1541–1549.⁶¹⁵

Blabor , ⁶¹⁶ Richard, Westham, ——— ⁶¹⁷ : 29 Apr. 1543	29
Blacor , ⁶¹⁸ William, Selmeston, ———: 4 Mar. 1543	53 ⁶¹⁹
Blaker , Richard, Cuckfield, ———: 6 May 1546	100 ⁶²⁰

Book A 5. 1560–1568.

Blayker , John, Hove, ———: 26 April 1566, 17 June 1567	441; U2, 14
Blaker , John, Cuckfield, ———: 2 Sept. 1567, 25 May 1568	528 ⁶²¹

*Book A 6. 1570–76. B 1.*⁶²²

Blaker , John, Fyrle, ———: 21 Aug. 1570, 2 June 1575	324–27 ⁶²³
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Book A 7. 1576–83. B 1.

Blaker , Christian, Portslade, widow: 21 Feb. 1578, 4 June 1579	130–72 ⁶²⁴
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Book A 8. 1586–91. B 2.

Blaker , George, Brighton, husbandman: 2 Sept. 1587, 30 Sept. 1587	105–34 ⁶²⁵
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Book A 9. 1591–96. B 2.

Blaker , Edward, Portslade, yeoman: 16 July 1594, 3 Dec. 1594	262–203 ⁶²⁶
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615 In Book A 1, the date given is the date of the will and not of the probate. The grants of probate were made in the period 1541–1549. The last figures give the reference to the folio in Book A 1. Similarly in Book A 1a the grants of probate were made during 1540–42.

616 F. W. T. Attree (Sussex Archæological Collections xxiii 132) read this surname as Blaker: it is actually Blacar.

617 no description

618 F. W. T. Attree (Sussex Archæological Collections xxiii 133) read this surname as Blaker

619 we have scan, and transcript: see below and SELMESTON.

620 we have a transcript by Dave Woolven: see CUCKFIELD B

621 we only have an abstract of this will

622 The dates in this book are very confused, and often evidently incorrect. The registers do not appear to be strictly contemporary. Many of the probates are not dated, and the years given in square brackets are diffidently offered as being perhaps approximate. The book covers the period of the introduction of Act Books, of which the first is letter B 1. The figures following this mark (–) refer to the folio of the Act Book.

623 we have a transcript, but no scan nor act book entry

624 we have a transcript, but no scan nor act book entry

625 we have scan and transcript of the will (A8 105): see below and BRIGHTON.

626 we have a transcript, but no scan nor act book entry

Book A 10. 1596–9 & 1601. B 2.

Blaker, Agnes, Portslade, widow: July 1598, 16 Sept. 1598 136–259⁶²⁷

Book A 16. 1617–8. B 4.

Blaker, George, Cowfold, —: 23 April 1617, 28 April 1617 9–146⁶²⁸

Blaker, Arthur, Cuckfield, husbandman: 28 Aug. 1618, 20 Oct. 1618
214–182⁶²⁹

Book A 20. 1627–9. B 5.

Blaker, Edward, Litlington, —: 29 Dec. 1627, 26 Jan. 1627 80–329⁶³⁰

Book A 23. 1633–4. B 6.

Blaker, Mary, Chiddingly, widow: 23 April 1634, 28 Jan. 1634 201–212

Book A 26. 1639. B 7.

Blaker, Henry, Portslade, yeoman: 16 March 1638, 25 March 1639
1–144⁶³¹

*Book A 28. 1602–40.*⁶³²

Blatcher, John, Ticehurst, Hawkhurst, —: *ad.* 3 Nov. 1632 139

627 we have a transcript of the will, but no scan; and no copy of the act book entry

628 we have scan, but not the act book entry: for transcript see below. COWFOLD

629 we have scan and transcript of the will, but not the act book entry

630 we have scan and transcript of the will, but not the act book entry

631 we only have an abstract of this will

632 “Wills proved in London.” Search in P.C.C. will probably give the missing dates of probate, which are here surmised on the bare assumption that the transcripts are entered more or less in order of date of probate.

*Archdeaconry of Lewes: Act Books.*⁶³³

Book B 1. 1573–85.

127⁶³⁴

1584

Blaker, Agnes, Firle

11 Apr

Book B 5. 1619–27.

1625

217

Blaber, Henry, Cuckfield

6 [August]

Book B 6. 1628–35.

1631

91

Blacher, Eliz. Warbleton, wid.

31 [May]

Book B 7. 1636–42.

1639

234

Blaker, Joane, Portslade, wid. *cv*

[5 Dec]

1640

261

Blaker, Joane, Portslade, wid.

26 [Jun]

633 The references will be understood to be to Administration Acts unless otherwise described: *ac.* acquittance; *cl.* ad colligend.; *cs.* commission to administer oath; *cv.* caveat; *gd.* guardianship; *lc.* licence; *rn.* renunciation.
634 folio number

Surviving Cuckfield Willsto 1574
Lewes Archdeaconry

Margt wid Steph Davye	1 August 1539	LA A 3 5
Thomas Stanbryge	7 January 1541/2	LA A 1 87
John Fawkener	20 May 1543	LA A 1 8
John Bechely	16 June 1544	LA A 1 172
Stephen Honesty	22 June 1544	LA A 1 89
John Comber	18 June 1545	LA A 1 76
Agnes Comber widow	19 June 1545	LA A 1 89
Thomas Gaston	26 June 1545	LA A 1 71
Richard Blaker	6 May 1546	LA A 1 100
John Michell sen	5 September 1546	LA A 1 125
Thomas Holcombe yeo	9 October 1546	LA A 1 110
John Beche	8 October 1547	LA A 1 153
John Alexander	10 June 1549	LA A 1 18
Robert Whelar	16 June 1549	LA A 1 178
Joan Beche widow	31 October 1549	LA A 1 172
William Joynar	6 May 1551, 8 March 1557	LA A 4 31
Stephen Ridge	25 August 1551	LA A 3 9
Edward Hyd	6 October 1551, 26 Sep 1558	LA A 4 84
Edward Hyde	16 Octob 1551, 26 Sep 1558	LA A 4 306
Gerard Brydger tanner	3 May 1552	LA A 3 43
John Fullar	6 July 1552	LA A 3 208
Thomas Gynner husbmn	18 January 1552/3	LA A 3 95
John Ansty	15 May 1553	LA A 4 24
Thomas Gynner	17 January 1553/4	LA A 3 110
Michael Hoomewod yeo	20 July 1553; 18 Feb 1560	LA A 4 503
John Scrase yeoman	24 July 1554	LA A 3 183
John Furlonger	6 July 1554	LA A 3 123
John Yve	19 August 1556	LA A 3 207
John Mytton	23 August 1556	LA A 3 197
Thomas Unsty als Feld adm	?1558	LA A 4 82
Henry Brydger husbandman	6, 21 March 1558	LA A 4 290
William Affeld	8 May 1558	LA A 4 264
Hugh Ashefeld	5 August 1558	LA A 4 112
John A'More	12 August 1558	LA A 4 213
Joane Furlongar als Bouton[?]	22 Sep 1558, 18 Apr 59	LA A 4 267
Thomas Berd	24 November 1558	LA A 4 109
Thomas Burtenshawe	4 February, 18 April 1559	LA A 4 262
Richard Esterfeld	6 August 1557, 18 April 1559	LA A 4 269
John Kyng, husbandman	18 Sep 1557, 19 January 1558	LA A 4 151
Ninian Stanbrydge, husb	17 Jan 1558, 18 April 1559	LA A 4 280

John Savege	20 March 1558, 18 April 1559	LA A 4 264
John Vyncent	adm 24 November 1558	LA A 4 115
John Garston	31 May 1559, 22 April 1560	LA A 4 406
William Fryman	12 Nov 1559, 22 April 1560	LA A 4 401
John Fletcher	28 January 1560, 18 June 1561	LA A 4 357
Thomas Falkener	adm 16 December 1561	LA A 4 345
Roger Vynall	1558, 22 April 1560	LA A 4 400
Simon A'Fen	12 Feb 1563, 29 March 1565	LA A 5 229
William Blunden	adm 16 January 1564	LA A 5 218
Thomas Boughton, husb	3 Dec 1565, 12 June 1566	LA A 5 329
John Blaker	2 Sep 1567, 25 May 1568	LA A 5 528
John Geale, husb	18 October 1557, ?1561	LA A 5 46
William Chaloner, gent	15 Dec 1557, ?1564-5	LA A 5 224
William Dumbrell	15 March 1562, 25 May 1568	LA A 5 528
John Robards	12 July, 2 October 1562	LA A 5 92
Richard Onstye als Holcombe	29 Dec 1562, 19 Oct 1563	LA A 5 136
Michael Davye	24 March 1563, 22 April 1564	LA A 5 158
Agnes Scrase, widow	9 July 1563, 26 Nov 1566	LA A 5 387
John Manne	adm 7 September 1563	LA A 5 131
Agnes wid Wm Fryman	14 May 1564, 15 June 1565	LA A 5 256
Richard Pyckam, husb	25 May, 29 July 1564	LA A 5 202
John Kyng	adm 14 October 1564	LA A 5 209
William Plummerden also Harrys	11 Oct, 9 Feb 1565	LA A 5 290
Richard Geere, yeoman	11 Feb 156[5-]6, 31 Aug 1566	LA A 5 363
Richard Standen	adm 29 March 1565	LA A 5 224
Anthony Stamford	14 Feb 1566, 27 May 1567	LA A 5 436
John Fouell, tailor	23 Feb 1566, 6 Dec 1567	LA A 5 478
Richard Michell, gent	10 March 1566, 27 May 1567	LA A 5 434
Nicholas Tuckney	2 Sep 1566, 15 Nov 1567	LA A 5 475
John Cooper, weaver	16 Sep 1566	LA A 5 465
John Gynner, widower	25 Feb 1567, 26 April 1568	LA A 5 505
Thomas Fenner	adm 25 February 1567	LA A 5 488
Thomas Fuller	30 March, 27 May 1567	LA A 5 437
William Gardyner	20 March 1568, ?1572	LA B 1 77
Agnes Myllers, widow	24 Jan 1570, 25 May 1571	LA B 1 256
John Gennor	2 July 1570, 1570?	LA B 1 6, U 2 66
<i>John Burt, yeoman</i>	<i>17 July, 16 August 1571</i>	<i>LA B 1 34</i>
Walter Hobson	adm 13 March 1572	LA B 1 277
Henry Batcheler, yeom	15 October 1574, 1575?	LA B 1 362
William Throne	21 Nov 1570, ?1572	LA B 1 109
Henry Younge	3 Dec 1570, 21 April 1572	LA B 1 119
John Payne, fusterer	22 June 1572, 27 Sep 1572	LA B 1 220
Margaret Vynolde, maiden	15 Jan 1574, 4 Feb 1573	LA B 1 185

<i>Matthew White, husb</i>	<i>24 April, 2 July 1574</i>	<i>LA B 1 189</i>
<i>John Senocke</i>	<i>10 June 1574</i>	<i>LA B 1 187</i>
<i>John Ansty</i>	<i>17, 23 January 1579</i>	<i>LA B 1 155-79</i>
<i>Joane Ansty alias Holcombe wid</i>	<i>22, 28 May 1582</i>	<i>LA B 1 252-106</i>

For items in bold, see transcripts in the main text; items in italic are abstracted below:

John Burt, yeoman *17 July, 16 August 1571* *Originals: 303*
John Burte of Brantridge in the prishe of Cuckefeld
... *sicke in my bodye*
... *to be buried in y^e churche yard of Cuckefeld*
... *brydgett anay my svant*
... *John penys my svant*
... *Richard worgar my svant*
... *Johan Duffell my svant*
... *Catheryn my wyfe*
... *my son Nycholas*
... *that pcell of land called the waste land lyeng in the pisshof Bawcombe*
... *the xxvs' that M^r Covert of Slagh^am oweth me for bording of tymber hewers in blackefould*
... *vnto eu'y of my god children*
... *vnto Thomas Wyles*
... *vnto owin Wyles*
... *my sons childe Nycholas*
... *Nicholas Burte my son and Heire Whome I make & orde[n] my sole & onelye executo^r*
... *Nycholas Burte my brother and ellys vynoulde my trew & faithfull Ou^rsears*
Witnesses: John gavis John artor Henrye bechellie Thomas standon and Vmpfiabile Hamblyn
Probate 16 August 1571

Matthew White, husb *24 April, 2 July 1574* *Originals 410*
Mathee White of the parys of Cokefield in the Diosses of Chychester in the cunte of Sussex Hwsbanma' beyng syk [i]n bodi but holle in mynde thankes be to allmyghtye god
... *Jonne my Wife ... my ecsdeqtrix*
... *corne that I haue in Cokefield*
... *E[dmon] Baclye of the paris of cokefield yoman: and nynyon' Jupe of the same paris ... overseers*
... *to the vse of ny Children during ther minorite*
... *to Thomas White my sonne xx li' when he co'mes to the age of xxiiij years*
... *To Jonne White my dowghter x li' when she Co'mes to the age of xxiiij years*

... to Ane my doughter x li' when she comes to the age of xxiiij years
Witnesses: Wyllyam Mylles Rychard Burte
Probate 6 June 1574 by dicta Johanna de Cutfilde vidua et Edmundus Bechelly
de [Cuck]filde husbandman et Ninianus Juppe de ead' fayster

John Senocke 10 June 1574 *Originals 440*

John Senocke beinge sicke of body and whole of mynde and in good and
perfecte memorye

... my bodye to be buried wth in the Church yeard of Cookfield

... to my sone George

... to my sone Harry ... when he co'mes to one and twenty yeares of age

... to my doughter Elizabeth ... to be paied vnto her at the Day of her marage, or
when she comes to the age of one and twentye yeares

... to my doughter Barbarye ... to be paid vnto her at the Day of her marage, or
when she comes to the age of one and twentye yeares

... to Agnes my wyf and to Thomas my sonne, whom I doe make myne executors

... Willia' illma', and Roger gynner to be myne ovcersears

Witnesses: Daudid Devance clarke curat of Cookfield, Law^rraunce vpton, John
Horscrofte

Proved 10 June 1574 by the relict, power reserved to the other executor,

William Ilman de Balcombe yeoman et Rogeru' Gynner de Cucfilde lyenman

Chichester Consistory

The superior court to Lewes Archdeaconry was Chichester Consistory. After the abolition of the ecclesiastical probate courts in 1858, the consistory records were transferred to Chichester Probate Registry, and in 1915 a calendar of wills from 1482 to 1800 by E. H. W. Dunkin and Edward Alexander Fry was printed as *Index Library* volume 49. The main sequence of wills is contained in ‘transcript registers’. There are 45 volumes of these registered wills: there are gaps in 1598, 1606, 1611–17, 1620–5, 1640–3, 1653–59. However, as well as the registers there are bundles of original wills from about 1550 to 1590 Orig. A.1]; 1606 [A. Dean]; 1611–17 [B. Dean], 1621–5 [M. Dean] and 1640–43 [S. Dean]; and some unregistered wills [Orig. B. 5].

The calendar does not cover administrations, which survive from 1555 onwards.

These Blaber, Blaker &c. wills are listed⁶³⁵:

Blaber,	John, Arundell (orig. B. 138)	8	240	1557
	John, the elder, Sompting	15	103	1600
	John, Angmering	27	178	1680
	Susan, widow, Billingshurst	39	246	1695
Blaker,	Edmund, Nuthurst	18	347 <i>b</i>	1634 ⁶³⁶
	Edward, Porteslade (?orig. F. 93)	10	466 <i>b</i>	1571 ⁶³⁷
	Blackcar, George, Lancing	S. Dean.	14	1640 ⁶³⁸
	John, Preston	2	89 <i>b</i>	1482 ⁶³⁹
	John, Sompting	40	341	1762
	John, Steyning	42	64	1769
	Mary, widow, Goreing	45	336	1799
	Thomas, Walberton	10	61 <i>b</i>	1560
	William, Torton	M. Dean.	16	1612 ⁶⁴⁰
	William, Goring	43	215	1778

635 no Blatcher or variant is found

636 we have an abstract of the will and a scan of the act book entry: but no scan of the will

637 we have scans and a transcript of the will, but not of the act book entry

638 we have scans of the will and inventory and a transcript, but no act book entry: PRESTON

639 with Walter Knyght of Preston: transcripts below

640 we have a scan of the inventory

Prerogative Court of Canterbury

Similarly, there are printed calendars of the early wills in the superior court, the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in *Index Library* volumes 10 and 11 (1383–1558), 18 (1558–1583), 25 (1584–1604), 43 (1605–1619) and 44 (1620–1629). Sussex wills abound, but only one Sussex Blaker is listed:

- | | | |
|------|---|--------------------------|
| 1559 | Blaker , Blayker, Richard, Preston, Sussex | 9 Chaynay ⁶⁴¹ |
| 1582 | Blacker , Thomas, Compton Episcopi, Somerset | 15 Rowe |
| 1588 | Blacker , William, thelder, gent., Close of Sarum, Wilts.;
Gillingham, Dorset | 11 Leicester |

⁶⁴¹ we have scans: PRESTON

Blaker references in the wills of relatives

The Blakers of Sussex did not live in a vacuum, and will doubtless have been referred to and given legacies in the wills of their immediate relatives.

Lewes archdeaconry marriage licences survive from 1586 onwards: these Blakers are found before 1700⁶⁴²:

8 March 1588

Henry Blaker &
Agnes Gunne of Brythelmston, virgin
Surety: Henry Gunne of the same, yeoman

12 December 1597

Matthew Watkinson, mercer, &
Agnes Blaker of Portslade, virgin
Sureties: the said Matthew Watkinson,
John Tewpatt and
John Whiteheade of Lewes, yeoman

26 September 1601

William Clamper of Waldron, weaver, &
Joan Blaker of Chittinglie, widow
Sureties: the said William Clamper &
John Mittell of Waldron, yeoman

24 July 1624

John Hart of Arlington, husbandman, &
Joan Blaker of the same, maiden
Sureties: the said John Hart &
William Blaker of Berwicke, carpenter
At Lullington

12 April 1628

Edward Blaker of Portslade, gentleman, &
Susan Scrase of Blachington, maiden
Sureties: the said Edward Blaker &
Thomas Carver of Brithelmston, yeoman
At Blachington

24 January 1634

William Constable of Alfriston, carpenter, &
Elizabeth Blaker of Berwicke, maiden
Sureties: the said William Constable &
William Blaker of Alciston carpenter
At Berwicke

9 March 1638

642 Sussex Record Society i, vi: missing 1643 to 1670

Henry Blaker of Portslade, husbandman, &
Agnes Blaker of the same, maiden
Sureties: the said Henry Blaker &
Edward Blaker of the same, gentleman
At New Shoreham

30 August 1638
John Blaker of Hellingly, husbandman, &
Mary Page of the same, widow
Sureties: the said John Blaker &
Thomas Burkin of Lewes, locksmith
At St John sub Castro, Lewes

9 April 1681
John Verroll of Ditchalling &
Elizabeth Blaker of Kingston Bowsy
Sureties: the said John Verroll &
Richard Turner of Keymer, yeoman
At Kingston Bowsy

9 September 1681
[blank] Blaker &
[blank] Newington

16 February 1682
Thomas Cobb of Newick &
Elizabeth Blaker of the same, spinster
Sureties: the said Thomas Cobb &
Edmund Tompsett of Newicke, mercer
At Newicke

17 October 1682
John Munke of Hurstperpoint, gentleman, &
Susan Blaker of Old Shoreham, maiden
Sureties: the said John Munke &
Henry Hopkin of Lewes, gentleman
At Old Shoreham

17 June 1684
William Blaker of Old Shoreham, gentleman, &
Mabel Vynall of Kingston near Lewes, widow
Sureties: William Blaker of Old Shoreham, esquire, &
William Coby of Southover, gentleman
At Iford

8 October 1687
John Langley of Batle &
Mary Blaker of Hasting, widow
Sureties: the said John Langley &
Thomas Freind of Westfeild, yeoman

At St. Clement, Hasting

26 April 1688

John Avery of Ashburnham &
Elizabeth Baker [or Blaker] of Horsemounceux, maiden
Sureties: the said John Avery &
Anthony Avery of Ashburnham
At Waldron or Ashburnham

25 November 1692

Silvanus Austen of Lewes and
Susan Blaker of Kingston Bowsey, maiden
Sureties: the said Silvanus Austen &
John Austen of Lewes
At Easthoathly or Laughton

30 June 1698

Thomas Durrant of Battle &
Elizabeth Blaker of Heathfield, maiden
Sureties: the said Thomas Durrant &
John Blaker
At All Saints, Lewes

The marriage licences from Chichester archdeaconry include this one pre-1700 Blaker⁶⁴³:

14 April 1691

Mr Thomas Sparkes, clerk, &
Dorothy Blaker of Funtington, maiden
Sureties: Edward Benson of Stoughton, gentleman &
John Crowcher of Chichester, cordwinder;
and
Edward Benson of Stoughton, gentleman &
Mary Bemboe of Funtinton, maiden
Sureties: the said Edward Benson &
John Croucher of Chichester, cordwinder

In each case the probate calendars were checked for wills for the appropriate surname from the same area for the period immediately after the marriage, with a view to checking each for reference to the Blaker family:

Gunne 1588-1638 in or near Brighton:

Lewes Archdeaconry:

Parnell Gunne of Brighton widow: 9 February 24 Elizabeth [1581], proved 14 July 1589
Book A8 303; B2 80

Ralph Gunne of Ovingdean: 13 April 1595, proved 26 July 1595

643 Sussex Record Society ix

Book A9 362; B2 213

Richard Gonne of Brighton: 17 July 1609, proved 10 February 1609
Book A12 406; B3 189

Stephen Gunne of Brighton, yeoman. 24 December 1617, proved
16 February 1617 Book A16 114; B4 167

Thomas Gun of Brighton, yeoman. 23 February 1630, proved 7
May 1631 Book A21 116; B6 89

Joane Gunn of Brighton, widow: 17 September 1638, proved 13
October 1638 Book A25 184; B7 114

William Gunne of Ditchling, husbandman: 25 April 1636, proved
17 November 1638 Book A25 179a; B7 122

Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Watkinson 1597–1647 in or near Portslade

Nothing in Lewes Archdeaconry
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Clamper 1601–1651 in or near Waldron

Nothing in Lewes Archdeaconry
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Hart 1624–1674 in or near Arlington

Lewes Archdeaconry [to 1660]:
John Hart of Arlington, senior: 30 March 1629, proved 6 June 1629
Book A20 160; B6 32

Jeremy Hart of Hooe, yeoman: 10 August 11 Charles I [1635], proved
15 October 1635 Book A24 46; B6 233

Thomas Hart of Wartling, yeoman: 10 September 1635, proved 15
September 1635 Book A28 143

Robert Hart of Arlington, husbandman: 28 March 1636, proved 5
December 1639 Book A26 79; B7 184

William Harte of Ashburnham, husbandman: 7 July 1638, proved 25
April 1639 Book A26 16; B7 149

Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Scrase 1628–1678 in or near Portslade/Blatchington

Lewes Archdeaconry [to 1660]:
Richard Scrase of Henfield: 16 April 1631
Book B6 86

William Scrase of Henfield: 21 February 1634, proved 12 March 1634
Book A23 212; B6 216

Tuppen Scrase of Blatchington: 29 March 1634
Book B6 182

Richard Scrase of Blatchington, gentleman: 13 July 1634 (caveat)
Book B6 196

William Scrase of Pyecombe: 27 January 1637, proved 6 April 1639
Book A26 8; B7 146

George Scrase of Brighton, gentleman: 4 March 1639 (with renunciation)
Book B7 193

Richard Scrase of Keymer: 5 April 1639, proved 20 April 1639
Book A26 13; B7 148

Jane Scrase of Henfield, widow: 29 May 1640
Book B7 258

Jane Scrase of Pyecombe, widow: 10 July 1640
Book B7 262

Henry Scrase of Blatchington, gentleman: 26 February 1641
Book B7 274

Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Constable 1634–1684 in or near Alfriston/Berwick
None in Lewes Archdeaconry [to 1660]
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Page 1638–1688 in or near Hellingly
None in Lewes Archdeaconry [to 1660]
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Verroll 1681–1731 in or near Ditchling/Kingston Bowsey
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Newington 1681–1731 location unknown
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Cobb 1682–1732 in or near Newick
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Munke 1682–1732 in or near Hurstpierpoint/Old Shoreham
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Vynall 1684–1734 in or near Old Shoreham/Kingston by
Lewes
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Langley 1687–1737 in or near Battle/Hastings
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Avery 1688–1738 in or near Ashburnham/Hurstmonceaux
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Austen 1692–1742 in or near Lewes/Kingston Bowsey
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Durrant 1698–1748 in or near Battle/Heathfield
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Sparkes 1691–1741 in or near Funtington
Nothing in Chichester Archdeaconry and Consistory

Other Marriages

Ardingly

No Blaker marriages 1558 to 1812.

Cuckfield

Blaker marriages 1598 to 1660:

3 August 1601	Rychard Bochor to Johanne Blaker
24 August 1601	John Tuckny to Isbell Blaker
22 June 1607	Richard Blaker to Elinor Dumbrell
7 September 1613	John Patching to Marie Blaker
27 November 1614	Henry Blaber to Susan Norman
5 June 1621	Alexander Blaker to Susan Tuckney
20 January 1622	William Holcombe to Margaret Blaker
24 October 1625	Thomas Knight to Susan Blaber
6 August 1627	Richard Blaker to Margaret English
24 April 1638	Richard Blaker to Eleanor Parsons

Cuckfield wills in Lewes Archdeaconry to 1660:

No Bochor &c. 1601–1651

No Tuckney &c. 1601–1660

No Patching &c. 1613–1660

Holcombe &c. 1622–1660:

Anne Holcombe alias Anstye of Cuckfield, widow 27 June 1629

Walter Ansty alias Holcombe of Cuckfield, yeoman 1 Feby 1639

No Knight &c. 1625–1660

No English &c. 1627–1660

Parsons &c. 1638–1660:

William Parsons of Cuckfield, shoemaker 17 Janry 1636;

William Parsons of Cuckfield (renunciation) 17 Decr 1638

Texts of Wills

John Blaker of Preston, 1482

Copia test'i Joh'is Blaker de P^rston iux^a Lewes

In Dei no'ie amen septimo die Mensis Octobris Anno d'ni Mill'o **quingent^{mo}** CCCCLxxxij Ego Joh'es Blaker de P^rston compos ment^s & sane memorie existens condo test'm meu' in hu'c modu' In pⁱmis lego a'iam mea' Deo o'ipoten' &c' corpusq' meu' sepeliend' in cimiterio eccl'ie s'ci Petri de Preston Ite' lego su'me altari ib'm p^r dec'is oblit^s xvjd' Ite' fabrici eccl'ie cicestr' viijd' Ite' cuili't filiolor^r meor^r iiijd' Ite' lego Ric'o filio meo sex boues quos volo sibi delib'ari q'ncu'q' placu'it matⁱ sue Ite' lego eide' centu' oves tales quales placu'it matri sue eide' delib'ari Ite' volo q^d vxor mea post decessu' meu' delib'et duob^s filijs & filie fr'is mei Radulphi ducentas oves dimediu' eor^r mat^{ces} & aliud dimediu' oviu' bidenciu' & cet^ror^r **eng²** oviu' quas oves p'r eor^r eis legauit & ecia' cuil'it eor^r vnu' integru' lectu' & vnu' papside' & o'ia alia bona eis legata in cist' & volo q^d eis deliberent^r p^r executore' meu' q'n puenint ad l'tiam etate' p^r put apparebit pleni^s in test'o patris eor^r Ite' lego dict' eccl'ie de P^rston vs iux^a vlti'am voluntate' p'ris mei Residuu' vero bonor^r meor^r supius non legator^r do & lego Agneti vxori mee & Ric'o Scrase seniori quos facio meos executores p^r p'ntes Ita q^d disponant ea p^r saluti a'ie mee pare'tu' fr'm soror^r amicor^r meor^r meliori modo quo sciuerint &c'

Copy of the testament of John Blaker of Preston by Lewes

In the name of God amen, the 7th day of the month of October in the year of the Lord 1482: I, John Blaker of Preston, being sound of mind and whole of memory, make my testament in this manner. Firstly, I leave my soul to God Almighty &c. and my body to be buried in the cemetery of the church of St Peter of Preston. Also I leave to the high altar there for tithes forgotten 16d. Also to the fabric of the church of Chichester 8d. Also to each of my little children 4d. Also I leave to Richard my son six oxen that I want to be delivered to him whenever it shall please his mother. Also I leave to the same 100 ewes such as may please his mother to be delivered to him. Also I wish that my wife after my death shall deliver to the two sons and daughter of my brother Ralph 200 sheep, half ewes, half wethers, and the other sheep which their father bequeathed them, and also to each of them a complete set of bedding and a dish, and all the other goods left to them in the chest; and I will that these things shall be delivered to them by my executor when they shall come to lawful age, as may appear more fully in their father's will. Also I leave to the said church of Preston 5s in accordance with the last will of my father. I give and leave the remainder of my foods not bequeathed above to Agnes my wife and to Richard

Scrase senior, whom I make my executors by these presents, so that they dispose of them for the health of my soul, my parents' brothers', sisters (and) my friends as best they know &c.

Walter Knyght of Preston, 1482

Copia test'i Walteri Knygh't de P^rston p^rdict'

In Dei no'ie amen Anno d'ni M^l CCCCLxxxij vij v'o die Me'sis Noue'br' Ego Walterus Knygh't de Preston sane memorie existens condo test'm meu' in hunc modu' In p^rmis lego a'iam mea' o'ipoten' deo &c' corpus q' meu' sepeliend' in cimiterio de P^rston Ite' lego su'mo altari ecc^e p^ro^{lis} de P^rston xijd' Ite' eccl'ie cicastren' vjd' Ite' fabrici eccl'ie de p^rston ~~iiij~~^{iiij} iijs' iiijd' Ite' volo q^u vxor mea delib'et dict' ecc^e iij^s quos recepi a Joh'e Hamond in brasio Ite' lumini s'ci Nich'i iij^s quos recepi in stipite ad sustenta'd' dictu' lumen Item iijs' iiijd' quos rec' p^r xvj li' lane Ite' volo q^u vxor mea & gard'i d'ce eccl'ie petant a Ric'o Scrase xijd' Ite' de eode' p^r vna ove morbida xd' Ite' eide' eccl'ie xvjd' q^os rec' a Radulpho blaker s^u Ide' Radulph^s rec' ab Alicia cony de brightelmeston Residuu' vero bonor^u do & lego Alicie vxori mee qua' facio mea' execut'ce' & Henric' Est' supvisore' &c'

Copy of the testament of Walter Knyght of Preston aforesaid

In the name of God, amen, in the year of the Lord 1482, on the 7th day of the month of November, I, Walter Knyght of Preston, being of sound memory, make my testament in this manner. Firstly, I leave my soul to Almighty God &c. and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Preston. Also I leave to the high altar of the parish church of Preston 12d. Also to the church of Chichester 6d. Also to the fabric of the church of Preston 3s 4d. Also I will that my wife shall deliver to the said church 3s that I received from John Hamond in malt. Also to the light of St Nicholas 4s that I received in the offering box for the upkeep of the said light. Also 3s 4d that I received for 16 lbs of wool. Also I will that my wife and the wardens of the said church shall get 12d from Richard Scrase: also, from the same, for a fat sheep, 10d. Also to the same church 16d that I received from Ralph Blaker, which the same Ralph received from Alice Cony of Brightelmeston. The rest of my goods I give and leave to Alice my wife, whom I make my executrix, and Henry Est overseer &c.

John Homwood of East Grinstead, 1543

Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 1, f. 14

Estgrenested

In the name of god ame' the 15 day of may in y^e yere of o^r lord god 1543 I Joh'n Homwood of Estgrenested in y^e Count' of sussex beyng hole of mynd & w^t good reme'brance make y^{is} my last wyll & test' in forme foloyng Fyrst I bequeth' my sawle to almyghty god o^r lady st Mary & to all the holy company of hevyn & my body to be buryed in the church yerd of st swythyne in estgrenested aforesaid It' I bequeth' to y^e hygh alt^r of estgrenestede for my tythes & offeryng^s for gotten xijd' It' I bequeth to y^e repations of y^e churche of estgrenested xxd' It' I bequeth to eu^ry of my god chyldre' ijd' It' I bequeth' to the me'dyng of y^e wats betwyne oleu^rs bryg' & stockewell xijd' It' I wyll y^t Edward my son shall haue my teneme't of deane w^t all y^e land^s y^rto appteny'g, & to his her^s for eu^r & he to kepe my wiff his mother for terme of her lyff, and to lett her haue her cha'ber by her selff w^t eate & dry'ke as behovyth her to haue, or els to delyu^r to her her cha'ber w^t all y^rto belongy'g & to pay to her or to her assignes yerly duryng her lyff xxs' sterlyng at iiij term^s in y^e yere y^t is to say at y^e feast of the Natyvyte of st Joh'n y^e baptyst at the feast of st Mychaell tharcha'gell at the feast of y^e nativite of o^r lord god & at the feast of th'anu'ciatio' of o^r lady by equall portions and to begyn his payme't at the next of any of thes feast^s after my decease, All ye resydew of my good^s not bequethid I gyff & bequethe to Edward my son who' I make & orden myn executo^r to bestow the' to y^e pleasure of god & for y^e welth' of my sawle & to distribute at my buryeng to p^rst^s & clerk^s & to poore pepple xs' & as myche at my mo'thes day, Also I orden Joh'n Cryps to be the s ou'seer of y^{is} my test' & last will' to be fulfyllid & he for to haue for labors xx^d affore thes testes Wyll^am Jon^s p^rst and curat, Joh'n Crip^s, Wat^r Homewood Joh'n Dyer & willam owtreed w^t oy^r moo. It' I bequeth to the chyldre' of Joh'n crip^s xx^s It' I bequetyh to anne Wykenden my dowghter iij^s iiij^d

William Blacar of Selmeston 1544

Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 1, f. 53v

Selmyston

In the name of god ame' the iiiijth day of the mo'the of marche & in the 35 Yere of the Reign' of o^r sou'agn' lord Kyng Henry the eight & in y^e yere of o^r lord god 1543⁶⁴⁴ I wyll^am blacar of y^e p^rishe of Selmyston seke in body bott hole good & of p^rfet reme'br^ance doo make my test' & last will in man^r & forme foloyng / Fyrst I bequethe my sawle to almyghty god my sauour redem^r & maker / & to the blessyd virgyn o^r lady st Mary & to all the blessyd co'pany of hevyn & my body to be buried w^tin the churche yerd of Selmyston' It' I doo make Joh'n & will^am my ij sons my executors & my wiff to be as fare at my good^s as my ij sons if she doo abyde w^t them / It' if she goo from them' then my ij sons to pay her iiiij^{li} of lawfull mony of Englund / It' I gyff to my iij dowghters iiiij^{li} etche of them xxvj^s viij^d a pese. and thay to be payd at the tyme of their mariage / It' if ony of my dowght^rs depart then y^t pt to be devydys to my ij sons / It' I gyff to the hye alter of selmyston xij^d / It' I gyff to the lyght afore the Rode xij^d / It' it is my wyll to haue at my buryng iij prest^s & at my mo'thes mynd iij p^rst^s & at my yer^s mynd iij p^rst^s / It' I make my supvisors Joh'n stert & Robert sterte to se that my wyll be fulfillyd & kept / wytnes hereof s Edward fell curat Joh'n stert & Robert sterte w^t oth^r moo. / It' I gyff to will^am my son my best kowe more then any of my chyldren

Sm^a Inventorij [*blank*]

644 Old Style = 4 March 1544

Richard Blaker of Cuckfield, 1546

Elizabeth Buckhold of Bedyngham, 1553

Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 3, f. 82v

Bedyngham'

In the name of god amen The xxj day of the monyth of marche, the yere of our Lorde god. M^o v^{co}. lij^o. & in the yere of the Reigne of our sou'aigne Lorde Edward the Sexte by the grace of god Kynge of England, Fraunce, & Ireland, Defender of the Fayth & of the churche of England & also of Ireland in earthe the sup^rme headde the vijth645 / I Elyzabeth Buckhold of the pyshe of Beddyngham' in the Countie of Sussex Wedowe of good & p^rfytt remembraunce, but onely seke in my bodye thank^s be to allmyghtie god, make & ordeyn this my last Wyll & Testam^t in man^r & Forme as her aft^r dothe Folowe, Fyrst I gyve & bequeth my Sowlle to allmyghtie god my onely creator & redem^r, And my bodye to be buried in the churche yarde off Bedyngham' before sayd / Also I bequeth to the poore men's boxe of the same pyshe ijd' Also I bequeth to Androwe my Sonne ij yard^s & a halffe of Carsey, iiij Busshell^s of wheatt, a payr of shett^s, ij kerchyff^s, one calffe, ij busshell^s of malte ij wethers & ij ponde of wooll'e / Also I bequeth to Roberte my Sonne ij busshell^s of wheatt, also I bequeth to Joh'n Bonyface my sonne in Lawe ij bushell^s of wheatt & I Forgyve hym all suche dett^s as he dothe owe to me at this p^rsente / Also I bequeth to Jone Bonyface my goddowghter a hempyn shete / Also I bequeth to Richard Blaker ij busshell^s off wheatte to be delyu^red at next harvest Also I bequeth to Wyll'm Gaytt^s viij pound of Woolle & iiij busshell^s of wheat / Also I bequeth to Isbell Gaytt^s my dowghter my best gowne / a payr of shett^s a Smocke & a Kerchyffe / Also I bequeth to Jane Buckhold one smocke Also I bequeth Isbell Barber my god dowghter – iiijd' / Also I wyll that my executor shall requyre & take of Richard Blaker – xs' that he owth me / Also I bequeth to eu'y one of Robert Buckehold^s Chyldren, John Bonyface chyldren & Richard Blacker's chyldren, and to Wyll'm Gaytt^s chyldren – iijd' The Resydwe of all my good^s vnbequeathed, my dett^s payd & my Legacyes Fulfyllyd I gyve & bequeth to Joh'n my Sonne / whom I make & ordeyn my hole executor of this my Last Wyll & Testam^t to haue and dyspose the same as shall seame to hym moost best to be done to the pleasure of allmyghtie god & to his sowlle health / Theyse beinge Wyttnesses, Joh'n Reder vicar ther / Joh'n Goodwyn / Jamys Cudnar / Androwe Buckhold & Joh'n Buckhold

Sm^a In^{rij} — vij^{li}' xjs' iiijd'

exhibitu' in R'coria b'te marie de Westaut in villa Lewes in villa Lewes xxiiij^o die maij A^o d'ni 1553 p exec' ad valore' In^{rij} in forma iuris iurat'

Sum of the inventory — £7 11s 4d

645 21 March 1553

Exhibited in the rectory of Blessed Mary of Westaut in the town of Lewes the 23rd day of May in the year of the Lord 1553, by the executor, sworn in form of law to the value of the inventory.

Richard Blayker of Preston, 1559

Public Record Office PROB 11/42B ff. 69v-70r

T Ric' Blayker

In the name of god amen' The iiijth day of January in the yere of our lord god a thousand fyve hunderth lvij⁶⁴⁶ I Richard Blayker of the parryshe of Preston' wⁱn the diocese of Chichester sicke in my body but in p^rfit memory and knowledge / doeth make my last will' and Testame't in man^r and fourme as hereafter doeth followe / First I give and bequeth my soule to all' mightie god our Lady saynt Mary and all the holly company of heaven' to pray for me / and my body to be buryed wⁱn the Church yard of preston' aforesaid / Item I give to Richard my sonne one Cupbourd a great Kettill a Malte querne a gryndstone and a Malting fatt / and yt is my will' that Jane my wif shalhave the occupying of thies p^rcell^s of my goodes for and concernyng her owne prop v^se and doing^s vnto suche tyme as Richard my sonne be twentye yeres of age / Item' I give to Alice my doughter ij paier of shetes one pewter platter and one pewter dishe and one sawcers / Item' I give to Jone my doughter ij paier of shetes two pewter platters ij Tyncker Kettill^s having no Bayles and one two Yering Bullock one Saucer and one brasse pott / Item' yt is my Will' that Alice my doughter the yonger haue all suche goodes as was gyven' to her by her godmother of Brightelmeston' as doeth' appeare by the Inuentary therof / except one Kettill and therefore I give to her one Cowe that is nowe Wynterring at Tette'comb Item I give to George my sonne one fetherbedd w^t the boulder and cou^ring therto belonging / Item yt is my will' that Jane my wif haue the v^se and occupying of my howse and land wyth' the Appurten^{anc}^s vnto suche tyme as my heire co'me to the age of Twentye yeres / yf she kepe her wydowehod And yf she do mary then' yt is my will' that she haue the said howse and land w^t the appurten^{anc}^s the space and terme of vj yeres next after her maryage keping the said howses and land wythe the Appurten^{anc}^s in sufficient Reapac'on and to leve the ground sowen' / Item' yt is my will' that yf any of my childern' dye before they co'me to lafull age to haue the v^se of their goodes that their p^rte of goodes be equally deuyded emongest those that be lyving by even' porcons / Item' yt is my will' that the Table in the Haule stand there still' to the v^se of my heire / Item' I give to Richard my sonne one stocke of Bees & one old clapsed Cote / Item' I give to Alice my doughter the elder one Reade Kirtill that washer mother's / Item' yt is my will' that Richard Blayker my father haue Tenne shepe for to helpe my childern' wythall' at their nede / and se them' brought vpp and to save their goodes that I have gyven them' to their p^rfett and to be a gyde and gou^rno^r for them' at all tymes as my onely trust is to hym' / The Resydewe of all my goodes and Cattall^s moveable and vnmmoveable after that my debtes be paid and thies legac^s comprysed by this my last will' and Testament fulfilled I

646 Old Style = 4 January 1559

give and bequeth vnto Jane my wif and to George my sonne / whom' I ordeyn'
and make executo^rs of this my last will' and Testament / Item' I make Richard
Blayker my father and George Blaker my brother Ou^rseers of this my last Will'
and Testament to se yt fulfilled and perfourmed to the trewe intente herof /
Theis being wytnesses hereof s^r George Kyn^r Vicar of Preston' Richard
Blayker George Blayker w^t other mo the daye and yere a boue wrytyn'

Vicesimo die mens's Aprilis Anno d'ni mill'mo quingentesimo quinquagesimo
nono Emanauit Co'misso Petro Hunt ad Administrand' bona Jura et credita d'ci
defuncti minori etate Georgij Blayker executoris Duran' minori etat' / &c' De
bene &c' Ad sancta dei Eu^angelia Jurat' Jane Rel'ca et ex' demortua anteq^am
onus ex^{nis} in se acceptauit /

*The 20th day of the month of April in the year of the Lord 1559 issued a
commission to Peter Hunt to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said
deceased during the minority of George Blayker the executor &c. to well &c.
sworn on the Holy Gospels, Jane the relict and executrix having died before she
took upon herself the charge of execution.*

Edward Blaker of Portslade, 1571

Chichester Consistory: Book 10 ff. 466v-467v

T: Edwardi Blaker.

In the name of god amen I Edward Blaker of Porteslade wthin the dioces of Chichester sicke in body but of good and pfect remembraunce I thanke almighty god doe ordaine and declare here in this my last will and testament the first day of October in the year of o^r lord and saviour Jesus Christ one thowsand, five hundred threscore and eleaven in manner and forme followinge wherein first I Co'mitte my soule vnto the pleasure of almighty god and my body I will to be buried at the discreation of suche my frend^s hereafter named of trust to accomlishe this my said will And I geue to the Cathedrall Churche in Chichester aforesaid vjd' and to be distributed p^rsently after my death amonge the poor people in Portslade aforesaid I geue iijs' iiijd' Also vnto every of my godchildren Co'minge to my buriall I geue xijd' It'm I geue toward^s the repayringe of the highe way leadinge from Poonning^s gate towards hill foote iijs' iiijd' It'm I geue vnto my sonne in lawe Richard Cooke xls' and vnto Edward his sonne xxs' Further I geue vnto my sonne in lawe Thomas Voggens xls' It'm I geue vnto my sonne in lawe John Berd xls' and vnto Edward his sonne xxs' Further I geue vnto my sonne in lawe Thomas Voggens xls' It'm I geue vnto Agnes Lyde⁶⁴⁷ xls' and vnto my servant Mary Barber xxs' and I geue vnto my servant Joh'n Hunter xxs' It'm I geue vnto Barbarow Blaker my daughter toward^s her p^rferment in mariage Thirty pound^s of lawfull money of England but yf my said daughter doe marry against the good will and Consent of my wife and ouerseers that then I geue vnto her hereby but twenty pound^s of like lawfull money of England and wheather it be xxx^{li} or xx^{li}. shalbe due vnto her by this my former gifte I will the same shalbe paid vnto her vpon the day of her mariage to or vnto her husband wthin one halfe yeare then next followinge And if it happen that my daughter be not married wthin two yeares next after my deathe that then I will and geue hereby vnto her at thend of the said ~~terme~~ two yeres [xxx^{li}] wheather she be married or not married then to be paid her wthout further [delay] Itm I geue vnto Edward Blaker my sonne thoccupac'on of the house and land therevnto belonginge in Southweeke wch I late bargained for wth Richard Pyper duringe all such time and terme as by vertue of the same bargaine I ought of right to haue therein and so longe as my said sonne doth occupy and vse the same to the well likinge of my executrix and overseers or the more part of them and I geue alsoe to my said sonne in stocke to be likewise vsed and occupied about the same house and land vj Oxen wth yokes Chaines wayne dongcart and all other necessaries and implement^s for husbandry and appertayninge to the furnishinge of one Teme accordinge to the Custome of the Country wth one horse one hundreth sheepe eight quarters Seede wheat and

647 could be Hyde

Sixteen quarters seeade barley to be delivered vnto him p^rsently after my death All w^{ch} or any the said last bequeathed p^rmisses yf my said sonne fondly consume or vnneccessarily wast either els' disorderly spend or bestowe away that then my executrix and overseers or the more part of them Consenting shall and may notwthstandinge any former gifte or bequest hereinmenco'ed haue & take againe into their owne Custody all and every the said bequested p^rmisses from my said sonne or from any other p^rsonne or p^rsonnes in whose Custody by his deliveraunce or otherwise they shall then renaine and be and the same at there discreations to bestowe duringe the naturall life of my wife and p^rsently after her death then to deliver againe the same or such like good^s to that value vnto my said sonne Edward or to his wife or children if he happen in the meane time to dye wthout any delay Further I geue vnto my said sonne Edward Blaker duringe his naturall life (and after the death of my wife) my house I nowe dwell in and the land^s apperteyninge therevnto belonginge wch I purchasid frely to me and my assignes of the right honorable the late lord dellaware deceased and one barne and the land^s thervnto belonginge in Eastaldrington w^{ch} I lately purchased of m^r Richard Covert Esquyer and after the death of my said sonne Edward Blaker I geue the said house and land^s and the said barne and land^s wth all there app^rten^ances vnto the heires of males of the body of my said sonne Edward lawfully begotten and for want of heires males of the body of my said sonne lawfully begotten I geue my said house and land^s and barne and land^s with all and every there app^rten^ances vnto my Cosen Joh'n Blaker and to theirs males of his body lawfully begotten and if my said Cosen John Blaker happen to dy wthout such Issue of his body then I geue all the same house barne and land^s wth all there app^rten^ances vnto Richard Blaker sonne of my Cosen John Blaker deceased and vnto the heier male of his body lawfully begotten and for lacke of such Issue of the body of the said Richard Blaker I geue the said house barne and land^s vnto my Cosen Richard Blaker son sonne of my vnckle Richard Blaker deceased and to theyer male of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such yssue I will all the said house barne and land^s wth all and every there app^rten^ances shall and doe remaine vnto the right and next heires of me the first abovesaid Edward Blaker for ever It'm I geve vnto Christian Blaker my wife all the said house barne and land^s wth all and singuler there app^rten^ances whatsoever duringe her naturall life wch also my said wife I make and ordaine hereby my whole and sole Executrix of [this] my said last will and testament soe that she orderly enter into suche reasonable bond^s wthin one monith next after my deathe as shalbe of[fered] vnto her to seale by my overseers for the accomplishinge and p^rforming of this my said will accordinge vnto the true meaninge thereof w^{ch} onely vpon any Controversy thereabout growinge shalbe [... and reputed by all and every p^rsonne clayminge benefit the]⁶⁴⁸ said ou^rseers or the more part of them shall iudge and determine therefore and I ordaine for my overseers of trust herevnto my Lovinge frend^s Thom's Pelley John

648 this line is missing from our scans

Dumbrell my Cosen John Blaker and Thomas Rede and for every of there paines therein to be taken I geue xls' I meane to every of them a peece Prouided alwaies and my will is that if my said wife and overseers vpon iust cause movinge shall take againe into their hand^s the pticuler good^s and Stock of Cattle and Corne before limited and appointid vnto my said sonne Edward that then I will my said wife shall geue and allowe vnto my sonne his wife & Children sufficient and reasonable meate drinke rayment and lodginge duringe the naturall life of my said wife or vntill my said sonne Edward be by my said wife and ouerseers setled and placid in some other Convenient farme for the sufficient sustentac'on of himself his wife and Children as before Prouided alsoe that if it fortune my said sonne Edward to dye leauinge alive Issue male of his body lawfully begotten and vnder thage of xxj^{tie} yeares then I will that my ouerseers beforenamed or soe many of them as shall then be livinge shall enter into and vpon all my said house and land and barne and landes wth thapp^rten^ances before Conveyed and the same shall occupye vse & employe to there discretions vntill such issue male shall accomlishe and Come vnto the said age of xxj yeares at what time I will that my said ouerseers or suche of them as duringe the nonage of my sonnes issue haue occupied the p^rmisses shall render vnto him a iust accompt of the profit^s thereof and then after allowaunce of there resonable Charges deliver and make paiment vnto him of suche overplus of the pfitt^s thereof as shall then remaine wthout delay. / In witnes of all the p^rmisses and that this is my true and vndoubtid Last will I haue Caused the same to be written and haue therevnto putt my vsuall marke the day and yeare first abouewritten inthe p^rns of vs Joh'n Englishe vicar of Porteslade George Blaker Thomas Okenden and Richard Lewes

Testa^m Edwardi Blaker de portisslade executrix christiana eius relict'
 vjd' Recepti & p d'no vs'

*The testament of Edward Blaker of Portisslade: executrix Christiana his relict.
 I have received 6d, and 5s for the lord*

xvij^o die mens's Novembris a'no d'ni 1571 coram sup^ad'co M'ro Henrico Worley in ecc' Cic' co'p d'ca executrix et exhibuit testa^m p^rd'cum vnacum Inven^o continen' CCxxij^{li} iijs'

The 17th day of the month of November in the year of the Lord 1571, before the abovesaid master Henry Worley in the [cathedral] church of Chichester, the said executrix appeared and exhibited the testament aforesaid together with an inventory amounting to £222 3s

Robert Buckhole of Preston, 1578

Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 7, f. 93

Buckhole
Robert

In the name of god amen / the xviiijth date of December An^o d'ni 1578 I Robert Buckhole of Preston, beinge sycke in body but (god be thanked) of pfect mind and memory / doe make this my last will and Testament in mann^r and forme followinge viz' / First I bequeth my soule vnto almighty god my maker and redem^r, and my bodie to be buried in the Church yard of Preston': Item I geve and bequeth vnto George Buckhole my sonne, three score sheepe, wherof forty are at Patcham and tenn weathers, tenne Ewes a pied heffer, a payre of quarne stones to grind mault, a brasse pot, a newe cawdren' three pewter platters, three pewter dishes a sawcer a candlesticke a salt seller, a kettell a possnet, a chaffingdisge three chesse, tenne payre of sheet^s, a cou^rlet a payre of blanket^s, ij table clothes ij table napkins, a fether bolster, a pillowe, twenty shilling^s toward^s the bynge of a bed, a payre of cart wheeles, a courbe for awell, Timber to fyll the syde and heade of his barne and bourd^s to close it, and half my wood that is standinge at Albourne / also my Wife's best cassock savege one / Item wheras my wif did geve to Margret Wooden' my maide twenty shilling^s and a payre of sheet^s / I will that she +have+ the same / And I geve her more forty shilling^s and ij payre of sheet^s . Item I geve to eu^ry one of my godchildren' xijd' apece / Ite' I will that George my sonne shall have half my ground that I have by lease at Albourne duringe the whole yeres payinge half the rent^s / Item the Resadewe of all my good^s & debt^s moueable and vnmoueable I geve and bequeth vnto James Buckhole my sonne, whome I mak my whole executor of this my last will and Testament to fullfill yt to the true intent therof / and I make my overseres of this my last will and Testament / George Kelner vicar of Preston' & Edward Kempt Witnesses to this my will George Kelner Edward Kempt Richard Tester wth others

Probatu' fuit hoc Testamentu' cora' me Will'mo Coell Commissario &c'
xix^o die Marcij ano d'ni 1578

*This testament was proved before me, William Coell, commissary &c.,
the 19th day of March in the year of the Lord 1578⁶⁴⁹*

649 Old Style = 19 March 1579

George Blaker of Brighton, 1587

Lewes Archdeaconry Book B 2, f. 105

In the name of God amen: The seconde daye of September in An'o D'ni 1587 I George Blaker of the pishie of Brighthelmestone in the countye of Sussex husbandman, sicke in bodye but of pfecte memory and vnderstandinge prayed be god Doe make and ordayne my Last will and Testament in ma'ner and forme followinge: viz' First I bequeath my soule to allmightie god my onely maker, Redeemer, and sanctifier, and my bodye to a Christian buriall'. Item I geve and bequeathe to the poore people of Brighthelmestone aforesayde x^s to be devided at the discrec'on of the Collectors of the sayde poore there. Item I bequeathe to Alce Blaker my wiffe all the goodes which I now haue, that was hers before I married with her Item I geue her two Ewes from amonge my sheepe, Item I geve and bequeathe to Annis Blaker my daughter xvj^{li} of good and lawfull money of England to be payde vnto her wthin one yeare next after my deceasse by myne Executor Item I geve my sayde daughter tenn Ewes tenn payre of sheetes, ij Chestes, a Cettell with ij yronringes, ij little brasse pottes, one Cettle with a bayle, and one olde Cettle which I haue in the lofte, Item I will that all my pewter be devided in two equall partes, one parte therof to remayne to my Executour And the other parte soe devided I geue to my sayde daughter It' I geue to Joane Boniface my daughter's child tenn sheepe, I geue likewise to another of the Children of my sayde daughter whose name is Marye one Ewe Item I geue to John Boniface my sonne in lawe to be an ayde to myne Executour xl^s The residewe of all my goodes vnbequeathed my debtes and Legacies discharged I whollye geue and bequeathe to Henrye Blaker my sonne, whome I make my hole and full Executor, And I doe appoynte to be overseers of this my Laste will John Boniface aforesayde, and James Buckoll' of Preston, and to him I will v^s for his paynes. Witnesses hereof are Thomas Jacksonn, John Duddinge, John Boniface, James Buckoll', and Rob'te Evans.

Probatum fuit hoc p^rsens suprascriptu' Testatm Georgij Blaker Coram Mag'ro Thoma Vnderdowne cl'ico Artiu' Mag'ro Surr' &c' xxx^o die mensis Septembris A'no d'ni 1587 Ac p eunde' et auct'ate sua approbatu' et insinuatu' proq' virib^s et vero valore eiusdem pronu'ciatu'. Co'missaq' fuit Ad^o &c' Henrico Blaker Executor &c' Jurat' &c'

This present testament abovewritten of George Blaker was proved before master Thomas Underdowne clerk, M.A., surrogate, &c. the 30th day of the month of September in the year of the Lord 1587, and by him and by his authority approved and registered and pronounced for the force and validity of the same; and administration was committed to Henry Blaker, the executor &c., sworn, &c.

Richard Gonne of Brighthelmstone 1609

Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 12, f. 406

Gonne.

In the name of God amen: this seventeenth of Julye 1609 I Richard Gonne of Brithelmeston in the Countye of Sussex yeoman doe make my last will and Testament being in perfect memorye though weake in bodye by reason of age and weaknes, I doe therfore Co'mytt my Soule and bodye in to the hand^s of Almightye god whoe hath Created mee and preserved mee from my firste being vntill this present tyme, whome I praye to guide mee by his Counsell, whilst I am in this life, and after this life to receave mye to glorye whensoever yt shall please him to Cutt the thrid of my life Asunder I doe assure my selfe that as my Bodye shall goe to the dust, soe my soule shall retorne to god that gave yt, And I doe beleave that at the last day I shall have A ioyfull resurrecc'on by the bloude of Jesus Christe my onelye saviour and Redeemer, And seing yt hath pleased god of his great mercye and goodnes to give A wife and Children, and hath alsoe endewed mee w'th some outward portion of blessing^s Concerning this present life for our Comfort^s I doe nowe yeeld and render them vpp agayne into his hand^s that hath given them mee for hee hath promised to bee A father of the fatherlesse Children, and that hee will defend the widdow's Cause, I doe give and bequeath vnto the poore people of Brithelmeston tenn shilling^s to bee distributed at the day of my buryall, I doe alsoe will and give vnto Joane Gonne the daughter of my sonne John three pound^s eight shilling^s of good and lawfull money of England to bee paid her at the age of one and twentye yeres, I doe alsoe will and give my daughter Lettice Comper the wife of John Comper twentye pound^s of good and lawfull English money to bee paid vnto John Comper twoe yeres after my decease, and yf yt should please god to take away by death the aforenamed John Comper and his wife Lettice, Then I will yt shalbee paid vnto their heyres Executo^rs Administrato^rs or assignes. Further I doe will and give Joane my wife the third parte of all my howshold stuffe, excepte one ioyned bedsteddle standing in the Southwest parlor w'th one ioyned table, and six ioyned stooles, and Certeyne wainscott in the same Roome w^{ch} my will ys shalbee left as standers in the howse for my sonne William Gonne, And further more my will ys that my sonne William Gonne shall gave all my Copppeholde land w'th the appurtenances thervnto belonging w^{ch} Copppeholde ys scituate & lying in Brithelmeston my will us hee shall have yt presentlye after my decease, & furthermore my will ys that my sonne William Gonne shall pay vnto Joanev my kinde and lovinge wife eight pound^s A yere during her naturall life in this manner that ys to say hee shall his mother quarterlye, And furthermore my wife Joane shall have the +forenamed+ southwest parlor to her vse during her naturall life, according to the true meaning of the Surrender I gave my sonne William Gonne bearing date the foureteenth day of July the day

and yere abouewritten, Furthermore my will us that there shalbee soule as much of my good^s as will pay my sonne William fyne, And furthermore I doe ordeyne and make my welbeloved sonns Stephen Gonne & William Gonne my whole & sole Executo^rs To have and holde and to enioye all the rest of my good^s as Corne, Cattells and all my other good^s of what sort soever, even all that I have in this worlde my debt^{'s} and legacyes being paid and my funerall being dischardged, Furthermore I doe will that my forenamed sonnes Stephen Gonne, and William Gonne shall enter into bond to Edward Payne of Bishopston the elder & Thomas Gonne of Brithelmeston the elder I say them twayne my forenamed sonns shalbee bound in one hundred pound^s bond to the forenamed Edward Payne & Thomas Gonne for the performing of my will in every respect, and that they shall not buy nor sell any part or parcell of these good^s w^{ch} they come to by being my Executo^rs wthout one another's Consent to that end or intent to wronge one another, Therefore yf there shalbee ant disagreement betweene my forenamed sonns about any of my good^s my will ys that these my forenamed frend^s Edward Payne & Thomas Gonne shall decide the matter & bee vmpyres betweene them, and as they determyne the cause soe yt shall stand, and furthermore I doe appoynte for my Overseers my very good Frend^s the forenamed Thomas Gonne & Thomas Carver of Brithelmeston, In witnes of the truth of all the foresaid premisses I have herevnto sett my hand and seale the day and yere above written; Richard Gonne his marke; Signed sealed in the presence of vs Thomas Gonne, and Walter Gonne, and Thomas Carver;

Probatum Coram m'ro Will'imo Inians Presb'ro Artiu' m'ro Surrogato &c' decimo die Februarij Anno d'ni iuxta Computac'oem eccl'ie Anglicane millesimo sexcentesimo nono⁶⁵⁰, Juramento Stephani Gonne et Willi'mi Gonne filior' n'aliu' et l'timor' d'ci defuncti ac Executor' &c' quibus Co'missa fuit Administratio bonor' &c' de bene et fidel'r Administrando &c' ad sancta &c' iuratis

Proved before master William Inians priest, master of arts, surrogate &c., the 10th day of February in the year of the Lord, according to the calculation of the English church, 1609, by the oath of Stephen Gonne and William Gonne, natural and lawful sons of the said deceased and executors &c., to whom was committed administration of the goods &c., sworn upon the Holy (Gospels) &c. to well and truly administer &c.

650 10 February 1610

John Bonniface of Preston 1609
Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 13, f. 125

Bonniface

In the name of god Amen John Bonniface of Preston in the County of Sussex and diocese of Chichester yeoman beinge sicke and weake in body but of good and perfect memory Did make and declare his last Will and Testament Nuncupative the [*blank*] daye of August in the yeare of our lord God One Thousand six hundred and nyne in manner and forme in effect as followeth. That is to saye He did will and bequeath vnto Joane Peckham his daughter the wife of Henry Peckham of Patcham Tenn sheepe, Item he did give and bequeath vnto Richard Peckham sonne of the said Joane Peckham Tenn sheepe, Item he willed and bequeathed vnto Mary Patchinge wife of Thomas Patchinge his daughter one featherbed wth all the furniture thervnto belonginge The Residue of all and singuler his good^s Chattell^s and Credit^s whatsoever his debt^s payde and these Legacyes performed he gave and bequeathed vnto Alice Bonniface his wife whom he named and appoynted sole Executrix of this his last will and Testament There beinge present at the makeinge and declaringe hereof Henry Blaker and James Buckold.

Probatum Coram Mag'ro Will'mo Inians Presb'ro Artiu' Mag'ro Surrogato &c' decimo tertio die Aprilis Anno d'ni Millesimo sexcentesimo vndecimo Juramento Alicie Bonniface Rel'ce dicti defuncti ac Executricis &c' Cui Commissa fuit Administracio bonoru' &c' de bene &c' Ad sancta &c' iurate

Proved before master William Inians priest, master of arts, surrogate &c. on the 13th day of April in the year of the Lord 1611, by the oath of Alice Bonniface, relict of the said deceased, and executrix &c., to whom was committed administration of the goods &c., sworn upon the Holy (Gospels) &c. to well &c.

George Blaker of Cowfold, 1617

Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 16, f. 9

In the name of god Amen The three and twentyth Day of Aprill one Thousand six hundred and seaventene, I George Blaker of Cowfould being sicke in body but in pfecte memory thank^s be given to god doe make my last will and Testament in manner and forme as followeth Item first I bequeathe my soule into the hand^s of Allmighty god, my body to the Earth from whence yt Came there to bee buryed in Christian buryall at the Discretion of my Executors, Item my debt^s and Legacyes payd and my funerall discharged, I give all the Residue of my good^s to remayne to my foure Children John Blaker George Blaker Richard Blaker and Thomas Blaker, for the bringing of them vppe to be payed at the age of twenty yeares, yf any of the sayd Chyldren should Dye each to bee Heyre to other, Item I make myne Executors of trust, for the disposing of my good^s toward^s the bringing vpp of my foresayed Children John Gratwicke Edmond Blaker and John Lythinge I doe appoynt these myne Executors of trust to make sale of my good^s toward^s the bringing vppe of my Children, And I doe make myne Overseers of this my last will and Testament my good fryndes William West and Thomas Asfyeld, And yf they have any travell about any Cause herein Conteyned or any Busynes I will they shalbe payed for their Charges and paynte, And to affirme that this ys my last will and Testament, I have here vnto sett my hande and seale, The marke of George Blaker witnesses. Richard Blaker John Agates

Probatu' Coram mag'ro Will'mo Inians⁶⁵¹ Presb'ro Surrogato &c' vicesimo octavo die Aprilis Anno d'ni Millesimo sexcentesimo decimo septimo Juramento Joh'is Gratwicke Edmundi Blaker et Joh'is Lythinge Executoru' &c' Quibus Comissa fuit Adminitrac'o Bonor' &c' de bene et fidel'r administrando &c' ad sancte &c' iuratis

Ex^r

Proved before master William Inians, priest, surrogate &c. the 28th day of April in the year of the Lord 1617, by the oath of John Gratwicke, Edmund Blaker and John Lythinge, executors &c.: to whom was committed administration of the goods &c., sworn to well and faithfully administer &c. upon the Holy (Gospels) &c.

651 *sic*, for Inians

Arthur Blaker of Cuckfield 1618

Lewes Archdeaconry Book A 16, f. 214

In the name of God Amen The twenty eight of August in the yeare of our Lord God one Thousand six hundred and eightene I Arthur Blaker of Cuckfyeld in the County of Sussex Husbandman being sike of body yet neverthelesse of good and perfecte remembrance all laud and prayse be given vnto the almighty make and ordayne this to bee my last will and Testament in manner and forme following viz't Imp'mis I give and bequeathe my soule vnto Almighty God my maker and Redeemer by whose meanes I hope to be saved and by none other And my body to be buryed in the Churchyard of Cuckfyeld aforesayd Item I give and bequeathe vnto my daughter Margaret Blaker one Joyned bedsteddle w^{ch} standeth in the low Chamber wth A fetherbedd performed one windescot Cubbord and one brasse pan Item I give and bequeathe vnto William Butcher and Alice Butcher sonne and daughter of Richard Butcher of Barlcombe each of them. thre shilling^s four pence A peece of good and lawfull money of England Item I give and bequeathe vnto Thomas Garr sonne of Thomas Gurr of Barlcombe three shilling^s four pence Item I give and bequeathe vnto my daughter Ellnor wyfe of the forsayd Thomas Gurr twelvecence Item I give and bequeathe vnto my sonne Alexander Blaker one payer of Coarse sheet^s and all the bord^s and shelves w^{ch} are in and about my house Item I give and bequeathe vnto my grandchilde Richard Blaker three shilling^s foure pence Item I give and bequeathe vnto my sonne in law Richard Kidd one Chaffebedd and to his wyfe being my daughter Elizabeth Kidd twelve pence Item I give and bequeathe vnto my grandchild Dorathy Kidd three shilling^s foure pence Item I give and bequeathe vnto my Grandchilde Margaret Butcher one payer of good sheet^s All the rest of my good^s and Cattell vnbequeathed and not given I give and bequeathe vnto my loving wyfe Alice Blaker whome I make and ordayne to be my whole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament my buriall performed and Legacyes payd And my mynde ys that my foresayd wyfe shall have and enioye the vse of all such housholdstuffe as is here before given and bequeathed during her naturall life And I doe ordayne make and appoynt Edward Genner and Thomas Page To be Overseers of this my last will and Testament In Witnes whereof I have herevnto sett my hand in the presence of these Memorand' my mynde is that all such good^s and Chattels as my wyfe hath or shall have after my decease w^{ch} is vnbequeathed and not given shall after her decease be equally devyded betweene my foure Children That is to say Alexander, Ellnor, Elizabeth, and Margaret The marke of Arthur Blaker Edward Genner Thomas Page & me Osmundu' Salter script'

Probatu' Coram Mag'ro Will'mo Inians Presb'ro Surrogato vicesimo die Octobris Anno d'ni millesimo sexcentesimo decimo octavo Juramento Alicie

Blaker Relicte d'ci defuncti ac Executricis &c Cui Co'missa fuit Administrac'o
Bonoru' &c' de bene et fidel'r administrando &c' ad sancta &c' iurate

*Proved before master William Inians, priest, surrogate, the 20th day of October
1618, by the oath of Alice Blaker, relict of the said deceased and executrix &c.
to whom was committed administration of the goods &c. sworn upon the Holy
Gospels &c. to well and truly administer &c.*

Edmund Blaker of Nuthurst, 1634

Chichester Administration Act Book

Ad'o bonorum Edm: Blaker

Vicesimo Quarto die Decembris Anno d'ni 1634 magr' Gulielmus Nevill legium d'cor Vicarius &c' Co'misit Ad'nem bonorum &c' Edmundi Blaker nup dum vixit de Nuthurst Arch'inat' Cicester' defuncti Richardo Blaker fratri n'rali et l'timo dicti defuncti de bene &c' Jurat' salvo &c'

In'ij su'ma [*blank*]

Pag 271 pbat' fuit Testamentu' d'ci def' Cui o'i ad'ne sursu' redditur

Administration of the goods of Edmund Blaker

The 24th day of December in the year of the Lord 1634, master William Nevill, doctor of laws, vicar &c. committed administration of the goods &c. of Edmund Blaker late, when living, of Nuthurst in the archdeaconry of Chichester, deceased, to Richard Blaker the natural and lawful brother of the same deceased, to well &c. sworn, saving &c.

Sum of inventory: [blank]

Page 271 was proved the testament of the said deceased, to whom all administration is surrendered

Edward Blaker of Portslade, 1654

Prerogative Court of Canterbury PROB 11/234 f. 372v

Edward Blaker.

October the 5th. 1653./

In the Name of God Amen I Edward Blaker of Porteslade gent' being of perfect health and Memory the Lord be praised for it doe bequeath my Soule to God that gave it mee And my body whensoever it shall please the Lord to call mee out of this present world to be buried in the parish Church of Porteslade And as for the personall Estate wherewth. it hath pleased God to blesse I dispose of as followeth Inprimis I nominate and ordeine my welbeloved Sonne Edward Blaker my sole Executo^r. and Administrato^r. of this my last Will and Testament Item my will is that my Executor Edward Blaker shall buy as much Land as will make vp my sonne Richard Blakers Land an hundred pound^s a yeare Item I give to my eldest daughter Suzan Alferries Child one hundred pound^s to be payed within three monthe^s after my decease Item I give to my daughter Mary Blaker six hundred pound^s to be paied at the Age of one and twenty and to my daughter Francis Blaker six hundred pound^s to be likewise payed her at the Age of one and twenty yeare^s Item I will that my Sonne Edward Blaker whome I have made my sole Executor and Administrator shall have the bringing up of my twoe daughters Mary and Francis Item I give to my deare Wife M^{rs}. Susan Blaker beside^s the Third^s of my Land a Bed and tenne pound^s to be paied her within a Monthe after my decease All the rest of my Estate I give solely and wholie to my Executo^r. Edward Blaker Item I nominate and ordeyne for my Overseer of this my last will and Testament M^r. William Scrace of New-shoreham to whome I give fortye shillings and what reasonable charge^s he shall be in seeing this Will of mine truly and faithfully performed Witness^s my hand this fifth Daye of October 1653. / E: Blaker. / In the presence of John Bennet his marke and of John Belgrave Rectour of Angleton. /

This will was proved at Westminster the second Daye of June in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred fiftye foure before the Judges for probate of Wills and granting Administrac'ons lawfully authorized by the Oathe of Edward Blaker the sole Executor named in the said Will to whome the Administration was Co'mitted of all and singuler the Good^s Chattle^s and Debts of the said deceased Hee being first sworne well and truly to administer the same. /