

The Blakers of Portslade

D. Brailsford

The
BLAKERS
OF PORTSLADE
A Chronology

D. Brailsford, B.Sc.
Denton, August 1982

INTRODUCTION

This brief sketch sets out to try and give the reader a mental image of the Blaker family as its members progress through one and a half centuries from a tightly-knit unit at the end of the eighteenth century, through expansion and dissipation, to final dispersion earlier in the twentieth century.

In spite of their demise, the Blakers still hold our interest - albeit locally in and around Portslade - because of the heritage to the Village of a number of prominent buildings that they had at one time or another inhabited. These include Kemps House, opposite the Church Twitten at the top of the High Street; Easthill House and Park; Sellaby House on the Old Shoreham Road; and Portslade Lodge, now known as Manor Lodge. The latter house is now an annexe to the Convent which itself occupies the property once known as the Manor House and once the home of another influential family - the Borrers - which had strong links with the Blakers, as we shall see.

Another imposing building which cannot be passed unnoticed is the Parish Church of Saint Nicolas, and a closer examination reveals a large number of memorial tablets to most of the people whose story we take up in the following pages - the Blakers of Portslade:

The chronology is not taken as a continuous flow of history but rather as a series of fixed dates at irregular intervals of a decade or so. This method was chosen so as to give a more vivid impression of the lives of the people concerned. Each tableau, then, stops the progress of time and allows us to enter the various family circles as observers before we permit the clock once more to mark the incessant passage of time.

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PROLOGUE

Before we start our story in the late eighteenth century, let us present a brief summary of the earlier Blakers. What is now known as Kemps House - and this name will be used throughout - was built by one Edward Blaker who lived here with his wife Christian from 1540 until his death in 1571. The house passed on to their son. Christian died in 1578. Grandson Edward eventually inherited the place. His marriage (the second) to Susanna, daughter of a Tuppin Scrase of nearby Hangleton Manor, produced three children: (a) Richard, MP for Shoreham from 1658 to 1678, who lived at Buc'ingham House, Old Shoreham and married to Dorothy, daughter of Henry Goring of Highden; (b) William, High Sheriff of Sussex in 1684; (c) Richard, who inherited the house at Portslade. In 1658 he married Mary, daughter of Thomas Cowper of Slinfold and Barbara Goring (sister of Dorothy mentioned above). Mary died in childbirth (her son died a few days later) - a foretaste of tragedy that was to typify the destiny of the Blakers. Richard married again - to Mary Backshell of Beeding. They had two

daughters and, when Richard died, Mary re-married.

Richard's second cousin, Edward Blaker of Kingston Bowsey inherited Kemps but he did not take up residence there. It was Edward's fourth son, Nathaniel, who eventually moved there from Kingston Bowsey. When Nathaniel died in 1764, he left the house to his son Nathaniel who was just 21 years old. This Nathaniel was the progenitor of all the Blakers whose lives form the subject of this documentary.

1788 - BEGINNINGS

At the time our story is taken up, Portslade was very much a village - a collection of houses grouped below the church and surrounded by farmland, all within twenty minutes walking distance from the sea-shore and its fishing community. From one of these houses - the one we call Kemps - a walk along Church Twitten would lead us past St. Nicolas Church and along Manor Road to the farm spread over the gentle slopes of East Hill, overlooking the English Channel. Nestling next to the church, but separated from it by a high wall, was the Manor House, mostly of Norman origin. The year is 1788 - well before the industrial revolution began eroding the tranquility of the scene and that of the people it contained. Just off the road - Locks Hill - leading down from the village to the harbour, a new house had just been built by newcomers to Portslade. This house, Portslade Lodge, together with the site at East Hill, were to figure in the lives of the Blakers during the next 150 years.

We return from our stroll - much the same may be experienced to-day in this part of Portslade - and take a look into the ancestral home of the Blaker family. Immediately evident are the children, ranging in age from newly-born Cordelia up to first-born Nathaniel, now a young fellow of fifteen. In between were no less than six boys and four girls. John was 14, Harry eleven, Edward eight, Thomas seven, George three and Charles one. Their sisters included two little girls of six and four years, of whom history does not record much, not even their names. Then there were Catharine, 12, and Ann, just ten.

The mother of this large brood - there were to be no more after Cordelia - was Elizabeth, born 42 years earlier at the Rogers home in Patcham. By the time she had married Nathaniel Blaker sixteen years ago, he was a very wealthy man of 29. Eight years previously to their marriage, he had inherited the house from his father.

At this tranquil period, there must have been few inklings as to what was in store for these children. Perhaps the variety of characters shown in the seriousness of Nathaniel junior, the intelligent sensitivity of Harry, the love of the open air shared by Edward and Thomas gave clues to their diverging destinies? We can but speculate, although we have the advantage of hindsight.

1800 - INTO A NEW CENTURY

We move on to view the scene as it had developed by 1800. Of the twelve children we glimpsed during our first visit here eighteen years previously, two had married and left Portslade and another was at university. These were the three eldest sons. Nathaniel was married and lived at Selmeston. John had this year married 24-year-old Sarah Hardwicke of Hangleton Manor, a mile to the East - they were now living in Lewes. Harry, in his early twenties, was studying to become a surgeon. He was engaged to Sarah Arabella.

The other children included eligible Catharine, now 24, and Anne, 22; their youngest sister, Cordelia, was twelve. The four remaining boys were Edward, 20; Thomas, 19; George, 15; and Charles, 13. Parents Nathaniel and Elizabeth were now in their mid-fifties.

The biggest upheaval to the status quo, however, was the loss to the family of both parents. Nathaniel died on 6th May 1815 aged 72, followed only eleven days later by Elizabeth, aged 69.

So, within a short period, the house was all but depleted of its hitherto numerous occupants - Catherine and Cordelia (they had been left the house) and Thomas were all that remained.

In addition to these three, we shall follow the fortunes and tragedies that came the way of only three others and their families - John at Lewes, Harry at Easthill Farm and Edward at Churchfield House. Siblings Nathaniel, George, Charles and the two married girls have now disappeared from the focus of our attention.

THE SCENE AT LEWES

Here we have one of the two main branches of the Blaker family in the making. John and Sarah had been living here for fifteen years and had five children - Elizabeth, 14; Mary Ann, 12; John the younger, ten; Cordelia, eight; and Emily, four. We wonder if, during the visits to Portslade, John junior ever came face-to-face with six-year-old Mary Borrer of Manor House - she was to become his wife much later.

THE SCENE AT CHURCHFIELD HOUSE

At Churchfield House we see Edward and Anna with their two small daughters, Anna Kemp (taking her mother's full maiden name), aged four, and Elizabeth Susanna, three. Neither child was particularly strong and their parents must have had their hands full in nursing them through incessant illnesses.

Edward, now 35, ran a grocery business in Brighton.

THE SCENE AT MANOR HOUSE

We have briefly alluded to this house and have mentioned one of its household - little Mary Borrer, aged six. We have also intimated that Mary it was who was to fuse together two of the most influential families in the Parish and beyond - the Blakers and the Borrers.

Mary had a younger sister, Kate, aged four, and two little brothers, John, two, and baby William. Actually, the boys were half-brothers to the two girls, their father, John Borrer, having re-married after his first wife Kitty died, aged only 27, giving birth to Kate. John, at 28, married Mary Anne two years later.

John the elder, only three years old at the time of our first visit to the Blaker home in 1788, inherited the Manor on the death of his father, William Borrer, in 1806. He then set about rebuilding the house, leaving the original Norman structure mostly in ruins. William, Sheriff of Sussex, had purchased Pakyns Manor at Hurstpierpoint, in 1883, two years before John was born there. John's brother William the younger was a botanist, living at Barrow Hill, Henfield, in the house built for him by his father.

With this, our third, visit to the various groups established at Manor House, Churchfield House, Easthill Farm, at Lewes and in what was later to become known as Kemps, we see the main branches of the family setting out along their separate paths that were, as far as Portslade was concerned, sooner or later to lead to their final extinction.

1828 - MISERERE

At the Blaker ancestral home, Catharine, now 52, and Cordelia, 40, are still looking after their brother Thomas, by now 47; he still spends his time down on the farm at East Hill, managing his brother Harry's agricultural interests there.

The previous year saw the funeral, away from Portslade, of their youngest brother, Charles. He was 40 and had remained a bachelor.

At Easthill Farm, surgeon Harry, now 51, came home to his wife Sarah Arabella, and a cosy house. As at the High Street house, there were, however, no children to be seen, apart from one solitary nephew from Churchfield House. All the other children of that generation had, as we shall see, either grown up or died.

By this time, and since our last visit to Edward and Anna at Churchfield House in 1815, there had been a number of changes. Little Elizabeth and Anna had finally succumbed to

their ailments - Elizabeth eight years previously, aged eight, and Anna six years later, aged 15. The grief caused by these losses were partially offset by the arrival on the scene of little Edward, by now a sturdy boy of seven. This year saw the birth of another son who was named after his deceased uncle Charles but who, unfortunately, shared his uncle's fate after only eighteen days of life.

Over in Lewes, things were not much different. Again, two daughters had died, three years previously - first Emily, the youngest, at 14, followed three months later by the oldest girl, at 24, Elizabeth. Then, two years later, tragedy struck this family yet again: Cordelia died, aged 20. Heartbroken John and Sarah cherished their remaining two children Mary Ann and John the younger, now both grown up at 25 and 23 respectively.

Such a fate had not quite befallen the Borrers at the Manor House, although even they had had their share of tragedy. Mary was now 19, Kate 17, John 15 and William 13. The boys had in the meantime gained a sister, Ellen, who was now already eleven. Two further brothers, Nathaniel and Frederick, had been born in 1818 but had died when, respectively, a few weeks, and two months, old. Worse was to follow a year later when their mother, Mary Anne, died in childbirth, thus following the example of her predecessor Kitty of eight years

previously. John Borrer remained a widower for two years until he married his third wife, Sarah Anne Hall, a 27-year-old from Lewes. Three children were born: Henry, now six, Lindfield who died in infancy, and Sarah Anne, four.

John, now in his early forties, his third wife, and his seven surviving children, had plenty of room in the big house. No-one would move away from that house for some time to come - the first on to do so would be Mary, the oldest child, as we shall see.

1839 - FUSION

In the intervening eleven years at Manor House, one further sad event took place. Ellen died while suffering a high fever - she was only seventeen. Otherwise things were much as they had been. This year saw the family preparing for a wedding - the bride was Mary, now 30. Her sister Kate was 28, her half-brothers John, 26; William, 24; and Henry, 17. Half-sister Sarah Anne was fifteen.

The groom was to be John Blaker the younger, 34, of Lewes. He and his bride were to live in his father's house which was, sadly, lately depleted of yet another member of the family; this time it was his mother, Sarah, who died. That was seven years previously, when she was 56.

When Mary moved in, there were thus four people living at the Lewes house: John the elder, now 65, his only surviving daughter, a spinster of 36, and the bridal pair.

We take the opportunity briefly to survey the rest of the scene at this time. Things both at the main house in the High Street and at the Farm were unchanged - the people were just quietly getting older. Spinsters Catharine and Cordelia were, respectively, 63 and 51, whilst Thomas was 58. Harry, 62, and Sarah Arabella were still to be seen at Easthill Farm.

Over at Churchfield House, too, nothing untoward had happened to the three occupants - Edward, 59, Anna, 56 and son Edward, now 18. The latter was planning to go into the army.

1854 - DEMISE OF CHURCHFIELD - RISE OF EASTHILL

We move on in time through fifteen years to find that each of the three people remaining at Churchfield House had departed from its portals for the last time. Six years ago, Edward the younger married Ellen Isaacson who, at 20, was seven years his junior. He had reached the rank of First Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery and was now eager to settle down in a place of his own. His uncle Harry and aunt Sarah Arabella had both died and young Edward bought the property. On this site he had, in 1848, erected a new house - Easthill House - into which he moved with his bride. By now they had three boys - Charles, four; Thomas, three; and baby Walter Isaacson. There had been an older boy, Edward, who had died, aged three, two years previously.

So Churchfield House retained the original couple - Edward and Anna - but not for long. Three years after the wedding of Edward and Ellen, Edward the elder died at 71. Now, another three years on, we see widow Anna leaving Churchfield to move into the house

which carries her maiden name to this day, albeit adapted by the addition of an 's' - Kemps.

KEMPS GETS ITS NAME

The house had been left to Anna by her sister-in-law, Cordelia Blaker, who had just died, aged 66. Cordelia had been living on her own since her older sister Catharine had died, aged 71, seven years previously. Their brother Thomas died two years before that, at 64.

LOSSES AT LEWES

Events at Lewes had been following a pattern similar to that at Easthill House. Two children were once more to be seen at the house - Henrietta, already 14, and Arthur Beckett, aged eleven. As at Easthill House, there had been another child, this time a baby girl, Ada Matilda, who had died when only three weeks old, two years after the birth of Arthur. Again, as with that other family branch, the grandfather had died. John Blaker the elder was 77 when his remains were laid to rest at

St. Nicolas Church, three years before the date holding our current attention.

There were, in fact, now none of the original twelve children of Nathaniel and Elizabeth left - Cordelia having been the last.

Sharing the Lewes house with John Blaker the younger, now 49, his wife Mary and their two growing children was John's sister Mary Ann, a spinster of 41.

FURTHER LOSSES AT THE MANOR

John Blaker's in-laws at Portslade Manor had been depleted around ten years previously by the loss of John and William Borrer. John junior had died following a coach crash in North England. Attempts to save his life - including amputating a leg - had failed. Two years later, it was the turn of William - he was lost at sea. Both were 30 years old.

Of the original ten children, therefore, only four now survived. In addition to Mary at Lewes, these were her sister Kate, 43; half-brother Henry, 32; and his sister Sarah Anne, 30. Their parents John and Sarah Anne were getting older at 69 and 60 respectively.

1869 - LAST LINK WITH KEMPS SEVERED

In this year, Edward the elder's widow Anna Blaker née Kemp died, aged 86. She formed not only the last link with the generation of John of Lewes, Harry the surgeon, farmer Thomas and her own late husband, grocer Edward, but also with the Blaker house itself. This was now sold off, thus leaving the ownership of the Blakers for the first time in over three hundred years.

Meanwhile, at Easthill House, Anna's son Edward had experienced several ups and downs. His wife Ellen had given him another child since our last visit: Elizabeth Jane, now 14. A year later, however, Ellen had died in childbirth, aged 28. Some five years later, Edward had re-married; his second wife, Emma Lewin, had rounded off the family by giving birth to Edward Spenser, now seven, and five further daughters, one of whom (Emma Mary) had died as an infant six years before the year of

our current visit, two others of whom history relates little, and the two youngest, Isabella Maud and baby Ethel.

We have already met the eldest sons; these were by now young men: Charles 19, Thomas 18 and Walter Isaacson 15. Their sister Edith was by now 16.

From the Lewes branch of the family at this time, we are able only to report further losses: Mary had become a widow five years previously when her husband John the younger died aged 59. Then, two years later, she lost both her step-mother Sarah Anne, 72, and, six months afterwards, her father John Borrer, aged 81.

At the Manor House, Henry (44) had inherited the estate and he lived on there. Henry's sister Sarah Anne the younger (42) and half-sister Kate (55), however, purchased Portslade Lodge and the two spinsters had now become next-door neighbours of the Blakers at Easthill House.

With this dispersal of all but one of the Borrers from Manor House, our interest in that house now wanes.

1878 - INTERIM REPORT

At Easthill House during the 'seventies, the three surviving sons from Edward's first marriage had reached manhood and left home. Thomas had been studying surgery, as his father's uncle Harry had done, three-quarters of a century before; Walter had been reading divinity at Oxford University and now had his M.A. degree; Charles married and left Portslade. Then, this year, Thomas died prematurely at 28.

This loss still left quite a number of young people at Easthill House, however. Apart from Walter, his father Edward (now 57) and step-mother Emma (49), the oldest among these was 25-year-old Edith. After Elizabeth Jane, 23, there were Emma's own children Edward Spenser and the four youngest girls of 14, 12, 11 and 9 years.

Looking across the lawns, over the flint wall into the neighbouring Portslade Lodge, we catch a glimpse of the Borrer spinsters Sarah Anne,

54, and Kate, 67, as they managed what for them must have been much too large a house.

In Lewes, the spinsters' widowed sister Mary had of late become more and more infirm whereas, at 75, her sister-in-law Mary Ann was still relatively mobile. There was now only one other occupant of the Lewes house, 36-year-old Henrietta having died two years previously - predictably, perhaps, unmarried: Arthur was once more single and looking after his ageing mother and aunt.

1887 - THE BRANCHES INTERTWINE

In this year we witness the coming together of two members of the two main family branches whose lives we have been following since the beginning of the century. Arthur Beckett Blaker, 44, of Lewes took as his second wife his second cousin, Edward's second-eldest daughter Elizabeth Jane Blaker, now 32. Edward himself had died four years earlier, aged 62. His widow Emma, now 58, remained at Easthill with her youngest daughters Isabella Maud and Ethel, now around 20 years old. Her son Edward Spenser was a postgraduate at Cambridge. His half-brother Walter Isaacson, 33, was now a clergyman. Walter's spinster sister Edith, 34, continued to live at Easthill House.

Across at Portslade Lodge, not much had changed. Sarah Anne was still sprightly at 62 but her 76-year-old sister Kate was becoming more and more unsteady.

Seven years before Arthur Beckett Blaker brought his bride to Lewes, his mother - Kate's elder sister - had died, aged 71. His old aunt Mary Ann was still to be seen about the house but by now was less mobile and would most likely be propped up in a chair by the fireside. She was 84.

1894 - FATHER TIME SUCCUMBS
TO THE NEW GENERATION

This year saw the passing, at the age of 65, of Emma Blaker at Easthill House. She left the property to her youngest daughters Isabella Maud, 27, and Ethel, 25. Their elder brother Edward Spenser Blaker, M.A. was in India.

Clergyman Walter, 40, ailing of late, was no longer at Easthill House and it is presumed that his sister Edith, 41 and still a spinster, no longer lived there either. Their half-sisters decided to sell the property. Next door, at Portslade Lodge, Sarah Anne Borrer, now 70, had been living alone for four years since her half-sister Kate died at 79.

Meanwhile, at Lewes, ancient aunt Mary Ann had died four years previously at 87 years - she was the last of the grandchildren of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Blaker who, we recall, died 75 years before. Prior to her death, however, the old lady had witnessed the arrival of the first children on the scene since their

aunt Ethel was born at Easthill twenty years before. These were Dorothy Kathleen and Arthur Wilfrid, the firstborn of Arthur and Elizabeth.

Dorothy was now six, her brother Arthur five; they were joined meanwhile by siblings Brenda Mary, three, Geoffrey Beckett, one, and baby Barbara Joan.

This, indeed, had all the appearances of a Blaker resurgence. We shall see.

1909 - FURTHER CONSOLIDATION

At the end of our last visit, the family was distributed between only two houses - that at Lewes, and Portslade Lodge. Now, fifteen years on, we see the family crystallise into a single unit at Portslade.

The event that precipitated this was the death during the previous year of the last of the Portslade Borrers - 84-year-old Sarah Anne. Her closest relative was her nephew Arthur Beckett Blaker and it was he who inherited the Lodge. Now, a year later, his branch of the family returned to Portslade after three generations in Lewes; for his wife it meant a return to that part of the world she was brought up in, just next door to the house she had left 22 years before.

Arthur was now 66; Elizabeth 54. Elizabeth's brothers Walter Isaacson and Edward Spenser had died many years before - Walter in 1895, aged 41, and Edward two years later in Calcutta, aged 35. Edith had died more recently - in

1905, aged 52. Elizabeth still had her two half-sisters, Isabella Maud and Ethel who were now into their forties.

Arthur and Elizabeth had brought all but one of their five offspring with them to Portslade - their elder son Arthur Wilfrid had joined the navy some two years before. So, young Geoffrey, 16, was duly installed at the Lodge with his three sisters Dorothy, Brenda and Barbara, by now young ladies at 21, 18 and 15 respectively.

The happy scene that this household of nine conjures up was not to last - the Great War, more losses and dispersal were just around the corner.

1920 - UPHEAVAL

At the commencement of the War, Arthur Beckett died, aged 71. He was, therefore, spared the grief shared by the rest of his family a few months later when the death of his 26-year-old elder son was announced. Lieutenant Arthur Wilfrid Blaker was killed in action at the Dardanelles in 1915, and was buried at sea.

Elizabeth Jane Blaker's family had already begun to dwindle with the marriage of her two eldest daughters Dorothy and Brenda before the War. Now, after the cessation of hostilities, her remaining son Geoffrey, 27, had left for a new life in Canada. Her youngest daughter Barbara had recently married and left home.

In 1918 Isabella Maud and Ethel came to live with their half-sister Elizabeth. No doubt these three daughters of Edward Blaker the younger cast an occasional and nostalgic glance over to Easthill House to remember that they were now the only ones left of the once large brood brought up by Ellen and Emma.

With the dispersal of her family now complete, however, 65-year-old Elizabeth decided to sell the house she had moved into only eleven years before, and to leave Portslade. Left with no home, her two half-sisters Isabella and Ethel then bought Sellaby House down on the Old Shoreham Road and moved there. Isabella was 53 and her sister two years younger.

END OF AN ERA

The last of the children of Easthill House died in 1933. This was Ethel, the youngest - by then aged 64. Three years earlier, her sister Isabella Maud had died; she was 63.

Their older half-sister Elizabeth Jane had not survived her departure from Portslade for long. Four years after leaving the Lodge she died, a heartbroken lady of 69.

Of her four surviving children, Mrs Barbara Graham was the first to pass on. She was 53 when she died in 1948. The other three lived into their seventies - Mrs Dorothy Hodgson died aged 72 in 1960, Mrs Brenda Gordon Jones 71 in 1962 and, finally, Geoffrey, aged 70, in 1963.

There are now no Blakers living in Portslade Village. How different this might have been were it not for the high mortality rate among infants and juveniles in the past, nor for the general reluctance, apparently, for the Blaker offspring - especially the girls - to enter into matrimony.

REMINDEERS OF THE PAST

Substantial traces of the Blakers can be seen to-day in the form of the houses that they once occupied. When Anna Kemp Blaker died in 1869, the ancestral home of the Blakers since 1540 left the family possession. The property was divided into two dwellings during the first decade of the twentieth century. The house is still known as 'Kemps'.

Easthill House was sold by the youngest daughters of Edward Blaker when his widow died in 1894. The first owner - John Dudney of Southdown Brewery - died in 1908, a year before the Lewes Blakers moved to Portslade Lodge. The house had three subsequent private owners until, in 1947, the widow of the last owner sold it with the gardens to the local council.

Portslade Lodge (now Manor Lodge), last occupied by Elizabeth Jane Blaker in 1920, was eventually sold to the Convent of St. Marye. The house now forms an annexe to the main group of buildings we have known as Manor House.

Finally, Sellaby House, home for a decade for two of the last of the Portslade Blakers, has been in possession of the education authorities since the mid-'thirties.

Take a stroll around the tree-lined perimeter of Easthill Park. Then walk along leafy Manor Road and into the churchyard; then on between the lofty flint walls of the twitten leading onto the upper High Street where Kemps is situated. Reflect that this was the route taken daily by Thomas Blaker as he returned from a day's work at his brother Harry's farm, over 150 years ago. This was the way also that little Elizabeth Jane and her brothers and sisters must have come when visiting their ageing grandmother Anna Kemp Blaker during the late 'sixties of last century. If you do not imagine you sense the presence of these people either here or in the Park below, at least you will have enjoyed the walk!

APPENDIX 1

Summary of Important Dates

- 1764 Nathaniel inherits Kemps
 1772 Nathaniel marries Elizabeth Rogers
 1774 John Sr born
 1775 Catharine born
 1777 Harry born
 1780 Edward born
 1781 Thomas born
 1788 Cordelia born
 1800 John marries Sarah (Hardwicke); they
 move to Lewes
 1803 Mary Ann (Lewes) born
 1805 Harry marries Sarah Arabella; they move
 to Easthill Farm.
 John Jr born
 1806 John Borrer inherits Manor House
 1808 John Borrer marries Kitty
 1809 Mary Borrer born
 1810 Edward marries Anna (Kemp); they move to
 Churchfield House
 1811 Kate Borrer born; Kitty dies
 1813 John Borrer marries Mary Anne
 1815 Nathaniel & Elizabeth die.
 Kemps inherited by Catharine & Cordelia
 1819 Mary Anne (Manor House) dies

- 1821 Edward Jr born.
 John Borrer marries Sarah Anne (Hall)
 1822 Henry Borrer born
 1824 Sarah Anne Jr born
 1832 Sarah (Hardwicke) dies
 1839 John Jr marries Mary Borrer
 1843 Arthur Beckett born
 1845 Thomas dies
 1846 Harry dies
 1847 Catharine dies
 1848 Edward Jr marries Ellen (Isaacson);
 they move to Easthill House
 1851 John Sr dies.
 Edward Sr dies
 1853 Edith Ellen born
 1854 Cordelia dies; Anna (Kemp) inherits house
 1855 Elizabeth Jane born
 1856 Ellen (Isaacson) dies
 1861 Edward Jr marries Emma (Lewin)
 1864 John Jr dies
 1866 Sarah Anne Sr & John Borrer (Manor House)
 die; Henry Borrer inherits the house.
 Kate & Sarah Anne Jr purchase P'de Lodge
 1867 Isabella Maud born
 1869 Ethel born
 1869 Anna (Kemp) dies
 1880 Mary (Borrer) dies
 1883 Edward Jr dies
 1887 Arthur Beckett marries Elizabeth Jane
 1888 Dorothy Kathleen born
 1889 Arthur Wilfrid born

- 1890 Mary Ann (Lewes) dies.
Kate Borrer dies
1891 Brenda Mary born
1893 Geoffrey Beckett born
1894 Emma (Lewin) dies; Isabella & Ethel sell
Easthill House.
Barbara Joan born
1905 Edith Ellen dies
1908 Sarah Anne Borrer dies; Arthur Beckett
Blaker inherits Portslade Lodge
1909 Arthur Beckett & Elizabeth Jane move to
Portslade Lodge
1914 Arthur Beckett dies
1915 Arthur Wilfrid killed in battle
1918 Isabella & Ethel move to Portslade Lodge
1920 Elizabeth Jane leaves Portslade Lodge;
Isabella & Ethel move to Sellaby House
1924 Elizabeth Jane dies
1930 Isabella Maud dies
1933 Ethel dies
1948 Barbara Joan dies
1960 Dorothy Kathleen dies
1962 Brenda Mary dies
1963 Geoffrey Beckett dies

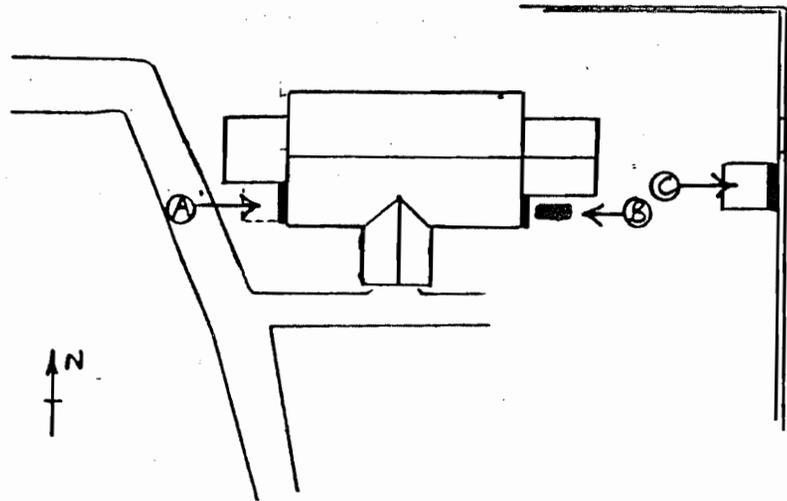
APPENDIX 2

Record of Tombstone Inscriptions
St. Nicolas Churchyard, Portslade

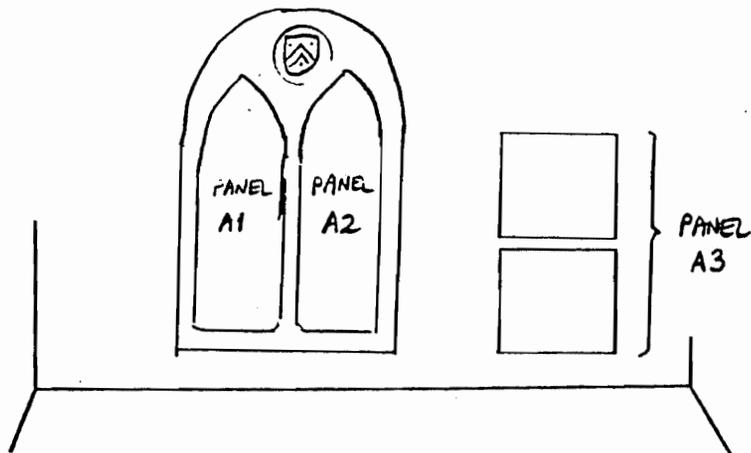
The inscriptions on the following pages were recorded in the Churchyard of St. Nicolas in Portslade Village in August 1982.

Some inscriptions were illegible - these have been indicated by series of dots in the following record. The use of upper, lower and italic cases is reproduced as seen. Note, however, that in some instances, certain parts of the inscriptions have been differentiated from one another by two sizes of upper case - this is not reproduced in this record. No attempt has been made to correct any misuse of punctuation and grammar.

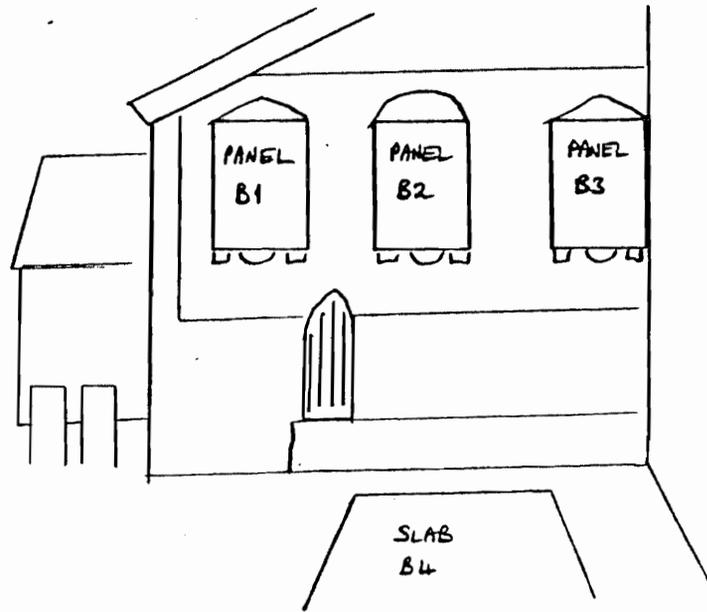
LOCATION PLAN OF THE SITES,
ST. NICOLAS, PORTSLADE VILLAGE



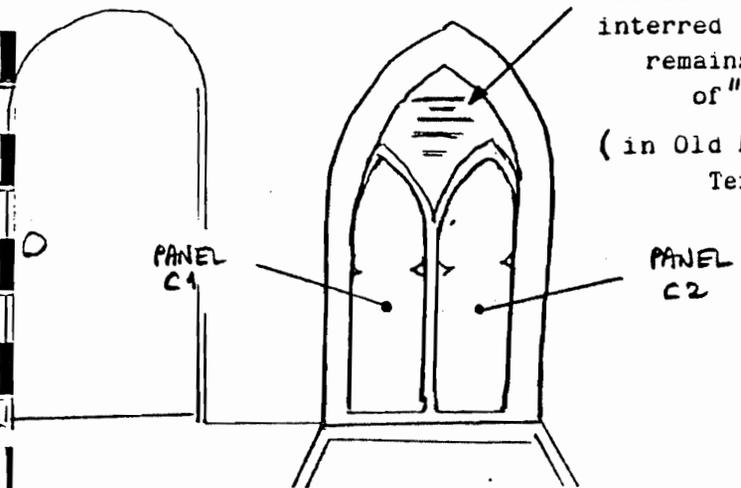
LAYOUT AT LOCATION A



LAYOUT AT LOCATION B



LAYOUT AT LOCATION C



"In the vault
beneath are
interred the
remains
of"
(in Old English
Text)

A. SOUTH OF TOWER

PANEL A1

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN BLAKER, OF LEWES,
DIED 18TH JUNE 1851,
AGED 77 YEARS.

AND OF SARAH, HIS WIFE
DIED 27TH FEBRUARY 1832,
AGED 56 YEARS.

ALSO OF EMILY,
THEIR FIFTH DAUGHTER,
DIED 22ND APRIL 1825,
AGED 14 YEARS.

ALSO OF ELIZABETH,
THEIR SECOND DAUGHTER,
DIED 29TH JULY 1825,
AGED 24 YEARS.

ALSO OF CORDELIA,
THEIR FOURTH DAUGHTER,
DIED 13TH MARCH 1827,
AGED 20 YEARS.

ALSO OF MARY ANN,
THEIR THIRD AND LAST
SURVIVING DAUGHTER,
DIED 6TH JANUARY 1890,
AGED 87 YEARS.

PANEL A2

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN BLAKER,
THE YOUNGER, OF LEWES,
DIED 8TH APRIL 1864,
AGED 59 YEARS.

ALSO OF ADA MATILDA,
SECOND DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE,
AND MARY, HIS WIFE,
DIED 2ND JUNE 1845,
AGED 3 WEEKS.

ALSO OF HENRIETTA,
THEIR ELDEST DAUGHTER,
DIED 29TH JULY 1876,
AGED 36 YEARS.

ALSO OF MARY,
WIFE OF THE ABOVE NAMED
JOHN BLAKER,
DIED 9TH FEBRUARY 1880,
AGED 71 YEARS.

ALSO OF ARTHUR BECKETT,
ELDER SON OF THE ABOVE NAMED
JOHN AND MARY BLAKER,
DIED 25TH AUG. 1914, AGED 71 YEARS.

ALSO OF ELIZABETH JANE,
WIFE OF THE ABOVE NAMED
ARTHUR BECKETT BLAKER,
DIED MARCH 15TH 1924, AGED 69 YEARS.

PANEL A3

ALSO OF
LIEUT. ARTHUR WILFRID BLAKER, R.N.,
H.M.S. INFLEXIBLE,
ELDER SON OF
ARTHUR BECKETT AND ELIZABETH JANE BLAKER,
KILLED IN ACTION AT THE DARDANELLES,
MARCH 18TH 1915
AGED 26 YEARS
HE WAS BURIED AT SEA

ALSO IN MEMORY OF THE DAUGHTERS AND
YOUNGER SON OF ARTHUR BECKETT
AND ELIZABETH JANE BLAKER;
DOROTHY KATHLEEN HODGSON
7TH FEBRUARY 1888 - 16TH DECEMBER 1960

BRENDA MARY GORDON JONES
12TH MARCH 1891 - 5TH MARCH 1962

GEOFFREY BECKETT BLAKER
15TH MARCH 1892 - 2ND MAY 1963

BARBARA JOAN GRAHAM
24TH DECEMBER 1894 - 30TH MAY 1948

B. SOUTH OF CHANCEL*

PANEL B1

Sacred
to the Memory of
THOMAS BLAKER
who died
on the 20th day of March 1845
Aged 64 Years.

Also of CATHARINE BLAKER
who died
on the 3rd day of April 1847
Aged 71 Years.

Also of CORDELIA BLAKER
Sister of the above
and fifth Daughter of
NATHANIEL and EDWARD BLAKER
who died
on the 17th day of September 1854
Aged 66 Years.

Also of WALTER ISAACSON BLAKER M.A. OXON.
fourth Son of EDWARD and ELLEN BLAKER
Vicar of Easterton in Wiltshire where he lies buried
He died on March 12th 1895 Aged 41 Years.

*NOTE: On the East wall inside the South Aisle
of the church is a tablet to Harry
Blaker (1777 - 1846).

PANEL B2

In the Vault beneath
are Deposited the Remains of
NATHANIEL BLAKER
of this Parish *Gent*
who Died on the 6th Day of May
1815, Aged 72 Years.

Also of ELIZABETH *Widow of*
the aforesaid NATHANIEL BLAKER
who Died on the 17th Day of May 1815,
Aged 69 Years.

Likewise of ANN their fourth Daughter
who Died on the 2nd Day of April 1811,
Aged 35 Years.

..... *Memory*

Likewise of EDWARD SPENSER BLAKER
M.B. CANTAB - M.R.C.S. ENG.
only Son of
EDWARD AND EMMA BLAKER
who Died at Calcutta, January 16th 1897 Aged 35

PANEL B3

Sacred
TO THE MEMORY OF
ELIZABETH SUSANNA,
THE SECOND DAUGHTER
OF EDWARD AND ANNA KEMP BLAKER
WHO DIED APRIL 12TH 1820,
AGED 8 YEARS.

ALSO OF
ANNA KEMP, THEIR ELDEST DAUGHTER,
WHO DIED MAY 27TH 1826,
AGED 15 YEARS.

ALSO OF
CHARLES, THEIR SECOND SON,
WHO DIED OCTOBER 31ST 1828
AGED 18 DAYS.

ALSO OF THE ABOVE NAMED
EDWARD BLAKER,
FOURTH SON OF
NATHANIEL AND ELIZABETH BLAKER
WHO DIED APRIL 7TH 1851
AGED 71 YEARS.

ALSO OF ANNA KEMP WIDOW OF
THE AFORESAID EDWARD BLAKER
WHO DIED MAY 3RD 1869
IN THE 86TH YEAR OF HER AGE

SLAB B4

EDWARD ISAACSON (SON OF EDWARD AND ELLEN BLAKER)
..... AGED 3 YEARS 8 MONTHS

ELLEN, WIFE OF EDWARD BLAKER.
DIED 1856
AGED 28 YEARS

EMMA MARY DAUGHTER OF
EDWARD AND EMMA BLAKER.
DIED 1863

EDWARD BLAKER
.....
... SON OF EDWARD AND ANNA KEMP BLAKER
..... 62 YEARS

..... EMMA DIANA
WIDOW OF THE ABOVE EDWARD BLAKER
SHE DIED 1894
AGED 65 YEARS

ALSO EDITH ELLEN BLAKER
ELLEN DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
EDWARD AND ELLEN BLAKER
WHO DIED 1905 IN HER 52ND YEAR

C. EAST WALL OF CHURCHYARD

PANEL C1

JOHN BORRER,
OF THE MANOR HOUSE
IN THIS PARISH
WHO DIED AUGUST 12TH 1866
AGED 81.

ALSO KATE,
SECOND DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED FEBRUARY 23RD, 1890
AGED 79 YEARS

PANEL C2

SARAH ANNE,
THIRD WIFE OF
JOHN BORRER,
WHO DIED JANUARY 4TH 1866
AGED 72.

ALSO OF SARAH ANNE
DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED MARCH 6TH 1908,
AGED 84 YEARS

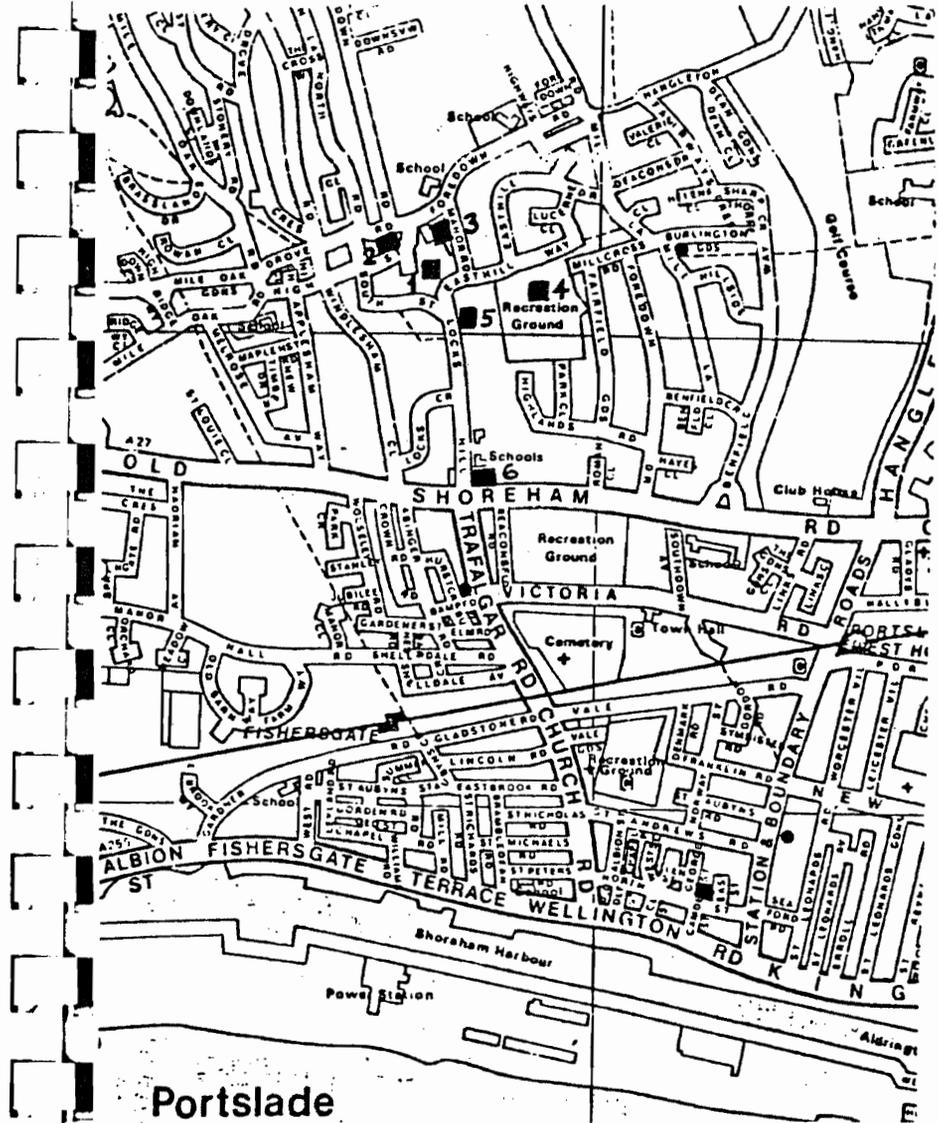
THE BLAKERS OF PORTSLADE - A CHRONOLOGY

Appendix 3

SIMPLIFIED GENEALOGICAL DIAGRAM

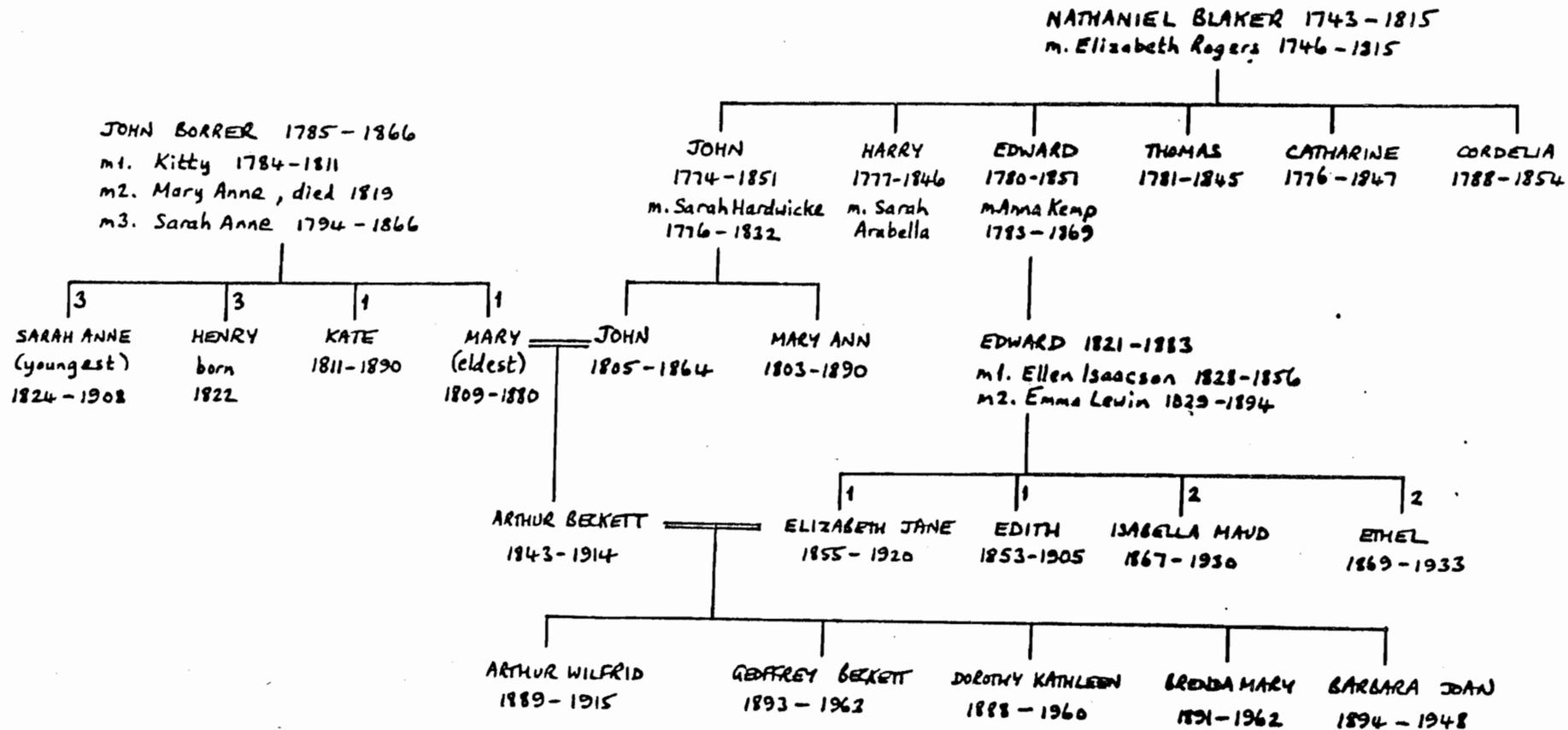
BLAKERS AND BORRERS

THE BLAKERS OF PORTSLADE - A CHRONOLOGY



Portslade

- 1 - Church of St. Nicolas
- 2 - Kemps
- 3 - Manor House
- 4 - Easthill House
- 5 - Manor Lodge
- 6 - Sallaby House



SIMPLIFIED GENEALOGICAL DIAGRAM

DB Aug 82