

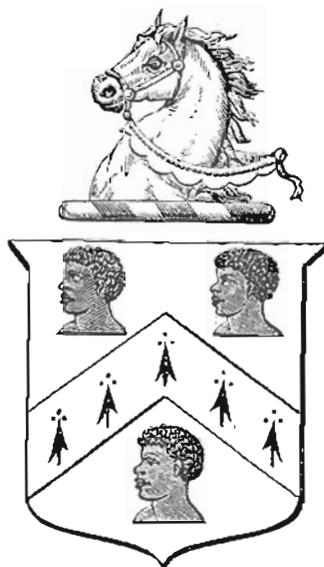
RECORDS
OF THE
BLAKER FAMILY

(SUSSEX):

COMPILED & EDITED BY ONE OF THEM.

*"Every family is a history in itself, and even a poem to those who know how
to search its pages."*—LAMARTINE.

"Thou, Lord, hast been our Refuge from one generation to another."—PSALM XC. 1.



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DEDICATION.

To George Blaker, Esqre., of Haresdean, Piccomb, the venerable and much-respected Head, at the present time, of our ancient and worthy Family, this book is dedicated with affectionate regard by the Author, who has been the recipient of very many great favours at his hands in times past.

P R E F A C E.

If I need any excuse for compiling these Records on my own responsibility unauthorised and unsolicited by any one, I must plead an earnest, and almost romantic love for the Traditions of the family to which I feel it an honour to belong; a love which has grown up with me from boyhood, and which by no means diminishes as the years of manhood roll by.

I have long hoped, but in vain, that a far abler pen than mine would have undertaken what I have at last attempted myself.

For many generations past—it is indeed no exaggeration to say for centuries—we have dwelt on the slopes of the beautiful South Downs, ranging from Steyning on the west, to Lewes on the east, and having Portslade for a Centre and Head-quarters.

It seems now, however, as if every year we were getting more and more scattered, and that the old familiar places which have known us so long, are to know us no more. There is something peculiarly sad (to my own mind at least) in this disruption of old ties and of old associations; and it has therefore seemed a particularly fitting task and labour of love, for one of our number to gather up all the threads of family interest and tradition, and to weave them, as it were, into a consistent and interesting whole. This I have endeavoured to do in the following pages.

Now we may not on the one hand be able to point to any great men of "light and leading" amongst our ancestors, but on the other we can with pardonable pride, and much satisfaction, look back upon a long line of

forefathers, who have been esteemed and respected in their day and generation. Men who feared God and honoured the King and were good Citizens of the Commonwealth. Men who have been Great in the best sense of the word. Great in their Honour and Uprightness and in the Grand Simplicity of their lives.

Do we not read in Holy Writ that "The memory of the Just is Blessed!" Then, since this is so, and we believe that our ancestors were "Just" men, so far as such a term can be considered applicable to people who had, no doubt, much more of the Sinner than the Saint in their composition, it follows that it is nothing more or less than our plain duty as their children to do all we can to "keep their memorie greene."

I am quite aware, however, that a certain section of mankind have always a ready sneer for those who boast a long pedigree, and I trust I have not read my Thackeray in vain; but in spite of them all, I can and do see no harm whatsoever in the legitimate pride one feels in belonging to a good old English family.

The Laureate in a few well-known lines tells us that:

"From you blue heavens above us bent,
The gardener Adam and his wife
Smile at the claims of long descent.
Howe'er it be it seems to me
'Tis only noble to be good.
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood."

Well! that is all very fine as far as it goes, but I prefer the ring of Longfellow's verses for my own part:

"Lives of Great men all remind us,
We can make OUR lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.
Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er Life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, may take heart again."

Such a brother tempted to do wrong, might, it is very conceivable, abstain from doing so, if for no better motive than that he remembered his family and its traditions of Honour and Duty. "Noblesse oblige," would whisper a still small voice, and he would return to the path of Virtue, from which he was about to step aside !

So after all, what more precious heirloom can any family have than this same Tradition of Steadfastness, Honour, and Simplicity of character, in those who have gone before !

That none of us now living, or those who may come after, will ever do aught to sully so fair a name and reputation ; and that it may please Almighty God in His Goodness and Mercy to continue to bless us in the future as He has undoubtedly in times past, is the humble prayer of

THE COMPILER OF THESE RECORDS.

“Oh God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope in time to come,
Be Thou our Guide while troubles last,
And our Eternal Home.

Amen.”

PART I.

PERIOD OF THE HOUSE OF TUDOR,

1485 to 1603.

CHAPTER I.

“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations : ask thy father, and he will shew thee ; thy elders, and they will tell thee.”—Deuteronomy xxxii. 7.



ONCE upon a time—even in the days of “bluff King Hal,”—there dwelt in the neighbourhood of Portslade, in the County of Sussex, a worthy couple, yecept Master and Mistress Christian Blaker or as they themselves put it (for spelling in those days was merely a matter of taste and fancy), “Blakyer of Portyslade.”

They lived, dear souls, in great connubial bliss for many years, and had the unspeakable comfort of seeing their children grow up around them in health and happiness.

Though far from being wealthy they were yet undoubtedly very well-to-do, and belonged to the class of Yeomen who may be described as the gentleman farmer of that epoch, and the very backbone of the country.

Rising early and going to bed betimes, they lived on their simple, uneventful lives, a thrifty, hard-working family of gentlefolks.—Tilling the land and rearing sheep occupied their whole time. But occasionally news, from what was to them almost an outside world (so isolated were they), would reach them. News of an exceedingly sensational and startling character.—Fancy, for instance, their incredulity and astonishment on hearing that the king had taken to himself yet another wife,

having divorced, or beheaded, or imprisoned her predecessor; and in all probability by the time the news had reached them, that particular wife they were so interested in hearing about, had begun to disappear; for news must have reached Portslade very, very slowly in those days.

Then again, the early days of the Reformation were startling ones to live in, and strange tales and rumours must have filled the very air.

The neighbouring port of Shoreham would probably be their nearest source of information; and thence tidings of the strange doings from the "Field of the Cloth of Gold," would reach the amazed ears of our worthy ancestors.

Then news would come along that the king was himself gone to his long home at last, and that his delicate boy, Edward, was on the throne, only in six *short* years to follow his father.

Then the advent of Bloody Mary, and all the horrors of her reign, with dreadful doings so near at hand at Lewes, would astonish and affright them.

And then, after six more *long* years of misery indescribable, came the joyful intelligence that the Protestant queen, Elizabeth, had ascended the throne, and the troubled land was to know its sorrows no more.

An eventful, stirring time to live in! A time of great prosperity when Master and Mistress Christian Blaker first set up housekeeping together; a hard, struggling, sorrowful time afterwards for many a long year, to be succeeded once again by the good old fashioned prosperous times.

In these prosperous times we read *that "prices were very low. Half-a-crown appears to have been the price of a calf, little more than a shilling purchased a carcase of mutton and a round of beef could be purchased for ninepence. Sheep sold at twenty pence a piece, lean oxen at eight shillings a piece; twopence for a lean capon, and threepence or fourpence for a pig. All sorts of goods were cheap in proportion. A farm labourer earned from threepence to threepence half-penny a day.

* Bright's Hist. Eng. Vol. II.

The purchasing power of money was about twelve times what it is now which would make the ordinary wages 36s. a week."

In the bad times things were very different and the country was speedily overrun with rogues and vagabonds.

So with due economy and thrift, and steady industry, Master Blaker was enabled to provide comfortably for his family, bothering himself very little about the outside world.

In fulness of time he was gathered to his fathers, and in all likelihood was buried at Portslade, leaving his wife and family of five children to deplore his loss and **prate for p^e repose of hys soule**, for no doubt Christian was a Roman Catholic whatever his widow and family may have become afterwards. His children were four daughters, viz.:—Agnes, Anne, Alice, and Barbara, and one son Edward.

Well, time wore on and widow Blaker became feeble, being well "stricken in years," after having had the satisfaction of seeing all her five children married and well to do in the world: and she numbered no less than 22 grand children.*

Presently the dread summons came to her also, as it must indeed to each and all of us. "Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die and not live."

So she bethought her to make her will, and this is how she did it:—

Widow Christian Blaker's Will.

"My body to be buried at Portslade.

"I geve and bequeth vnto the high church of Chichester, vid.

"To the poore of Portslade iiij bushels of wheate and ij bushels of barley.

"To the poore of Southweke, one bushel of wheate and one bushell of barley to be given and bestowed unto them wthin one month next after my decease.

* See page 14.

"To Richard Cook, of Bolney, my sonne-in-law ij quarters of wheate and iij quarters of barly.

"To Agnes his wife, my daughter, wearing apparel, &c., and to their children Edward, Richard, Agnes, William, Alice, and Jane, fforty shillings a pece.

"To John Beard, of Rottingden, my sonne-in-lawe, ij quarters of wheate and iij of barley; to Anne Beard, my daughter, his wife, my best russet Cassock; to their children Edward, Barbara, John and Thomas Beard, xls. a pece.

"To Thomas ffogins, of Aldrington, my sonne-in-law, ij quarters of wheate and iij quarters of barly; to Alice, my daughter, his wife, my second russet cassock, my best worsted kertle, and a peticote; to their children Christian, Agnes, Barbara,* and John ffogins, xls. a pece.

"To Nicholas Avery, of Old Shoreham, my sonne-in-lawe, ij quarters of wheat and iij of barly; to Barbara Avery, my daughter, the wif of the said Nicholas, a cou (er) let of blewe and red yarne, &c.; to their children Nicholas, William, and Mary, xls. a pece.

"To Edward Blakyer, John B., Christian B., and Thomas B., the children of my sonne Edward, xls. a pece.

"To Robert Humfrey, Katherine Patching, and Dorothy Humfrey, the said Robert's sisters, and to every of them xiijs. ivd.

"The residue to Edward Blaker, my sonne, my full, sole and only Executor.

"Overseers of my will—Thos. Pellett, of North Stoke, and John Thomas of Southweek."

Shortly after making her will she died, leaving her son Edward and his five sons to go on with the old place.

* One of the Scrases, Mrs. Edward, who made her will in 1590, leaves "Barbara Voggins," of Aldrington, sole executrix. No doubt the same family.—ED.

CHAPTER II.

"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor, yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." "Her children arise up and call her blessed."--Pro. xxxi. 20 and 28.



EXTRACT from the Sussex Archæological Collections, Volume XIX., page 200. Notes and Queries, No. 14.

"The ancient family of Blaker have for several centuries been connected with the County of Sussex and with the parish of Portslade. The pedigree printed in Berry's Sussex Genealogies (pp. 86 and 87) from Visitation 1634 commences with Edward Blaker, who must have been born in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The following excerpts relate to his Mother. Her will dated 21st Feb., 1578, was proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Lewes, 9th April, 1579.

"The principal or rather the more curious bequests," are those given already.

The writer in the Notes and Queries, from which the foregoing extract is taken, then goes on to say that Edward, the son of the Mrs. Christian Blaker, who made the will, married the daughter of Cuppen Scrase, and became the father of Edward the M.P. This is manifestly an error. Edward, the son of Christian Blaker, married Ann Fowler, and had four sons mentioned in the will, and another named Henry not in the will. One of them, the eldest, viz., Edward, married first Ann Dappe, and

secondly Susannah, daughter of Tuppyn Scrasce, Esq. To this Edward, one of the boys (who had the xls. left him in the will) were the family arms granted in 1616, and *he* was the father of the M.P. This would of course make Mrs. Christian Blaker the Great-grandmother of the M.P., not the grandmother as stated in the Sussex Arch. Coll.

Now the will of Mrs. Christian Blaker reads like that of a kind, good, simple-minded, and withal *old* lady. For we find she leaves behind her 5 children all married and 21 (22?) grand-children.

Supposing then that she was born in the first year of the reign of Henry VIII. (1509 to 1547) she would have been just 70 years old when she died (the will was made in 1578 and was proved in 1579) and supposing also that her husband was about the same age as herself when they married; it follows that they in all probability married in Henry VIII.'s reign (for he reigned 38 years) and that their children were all born before Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne. This Queen had been just 21 years on the throne when Mrs. Christian Blaker died, who, as we have seen, left 5 married children behind her: they must have been born in the reign of Henry VIII. or possibly as late as Edward VI. or Mary.

The writer in the Sussex Arch. Coll. before alluded to, states that Edward the son of Mrs. Christian Blaker was born in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Had he been born in the first year of her reign he would have been 21 at the time of his mother's death with five sons! No, he must have been much older than that. If, instead of 21 we make him* 36, he would have been born towards the end of Henry VIII.'s reign, viz., in 1543, and would have been old enough to have remembered the horrors of Mary's reign (1553 to 1558). He was probably also a widower

* We find by Mr. Hooper's study of the Preston registers, that his eldest son Edward (who received xls. by his grandmother's will, and in 1616 had the family arms granted to him), was baptized in 1570. So, if I am right that his father (Edward, the son of Christian) was born in 1543, he would have been 27 when this baptism took place, presumably shortly after birth. (See page 17).—ED.

when his mother died, for surely so estimable an old lady would not have overlooked her only daughter-in-law in her will, seeing that she remembered all her four "sonnes-in-lawe."*

The probabilities seem to be that Master and Mistress Christian Blaker saw daylight before the time of Henry VIII., viz., in his father's reign (Henry VII., 1485 to 1509), and that they were gentlefolks, and that they lived at or near "Portyslade."

To begiu our family history with Queen Elizabeth, or, as some do with James I, is, I think I have conclusively shown, out of all question.

* There is another son of this Edward, viz., Henry, not mentioned in the will, who afterwards married (see Appendix, page 6, and Berry's pedigree in his *Sussex Genealogies*). I presume, that, being merely an infant, his grandmother left him nothing.—Ed.

CHAPTER III.

“*That which is crooked cannot be made straight, and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.*”—Ecclesiastes i. 15.



It is curious to observe, that during the 30 or 40 years—say from 1845 to 1883—that the late Edward Blaker (my lamented father), lived at East Hill, Portslade, a certain Mr. John Blaker, a builder and contractor (of no relationship to our family) lived in the same village.

Now between 300 and 400 years ago there also lived in or near the same village of Portslade, two families of the name of Blaker, viz. : Richard Blaker and Christian Blaker. Whether or not they were related there is no evidence to show. They may have been; but we cannot assume it from want of evidence. It would be just as reasonable 400 years *hence*, for some archæologist or chronicler, when studying the village records of the Victorian era, to say, “There were two families of the name of Blaker living in Portslade at this time, *ergo*, they *must* have been related.” Now *we* know they were not, as a matter of fact; consequently we cannot admit such a *post hoc propter hoc* kind of argument.

Possibly both branches may have run back into a very remote antiquity before a common origin could be established. Who can say!

For my own part I should be inclined to think, from considerable study of the Family History, that the many Blakers we know of, which

we cannot trace as connections of our branch of what was no doubt *once* a common stock, sprang from these Richard Blakers.

I have to thank the Rev. R. P. Hooper, one of the Hove Commissioners for very courteously giving me all the information I possess about these same Richard Blakers. There is a very old register kept in old Hove church, beginning in 1538. The cover is a stiffish parchment, and on it are some inscriptions, so faded and indistinct as to be at the present time undecipherable by any ordinary mortal. A few years back however, when the register had not been so handled and exposed to daylight as it has been since, Mr. Hooper was enabled to make out what follows.

Writing to me, he says, "I took especial care in copying a register which I did not think *could ever be deciphered again.*"

This is what he copied:—

"Beginning 1538.

1539.

Boniface.

Marye Blaker, baptized.

George, the sonne of Richard Blaker, was bapt'd. of March, at
Portslade, 1557.

Edward*, the s. of Edwarde Blaker, baptised of March, eodum
anno (1570).

Regis
quinto anno Henrici octavi

^

Richard Blaker was married to Katharine Buckwell, octimo Septembris
anno supra scripto.

Richard Blaker and Joaune were marryed the Xth of
October A. Dⁿⁱ. 1553, regna Mariæ pmo vide infra.

Katherine Blaker, buried 8th Feb., 1552.

Richard Blaker, ,, 18th Feb., 1558.

Jane Blaker, ,, xviii. Mar., 1558.

* To whom the arms and crest were granted in 1616.

Alice Blaker, buried xxi. Ap. 1565.
Richard Blaker, „ xx. Maye, 1570.
Joanne Blaker, „ viii. Oct. 1571.”

From a study of these inscriptions we gather material sufficient to make out the first pedigree table, which see.

As these Richard Blakers cannot be proved to belong to our family, this pedigree by rights ought not to be given here. My excuse is, that the details discovered by Mr. Hooper were archæologically too interesting to us to be set on one side.

Now we are on this subject of the *unknown* family of Blakers, I may incidentally remark that in the year 1724 (time of George I.), a certain Henry Blaker or Blacker, was born at Cuckfield. He grew to be 7ft. 4 inches in height, and travelled the country to show himself as a giant. The late Edward Blaker, of East Hill, Portslade, had a woodcut of him, and he is also mentioned in “Caulfield’s Characters,” and Lower’s “Worthies of Sussex.”

CHAPTER IV.

"The depths have covered them ; they sank into the bottom as a stone.

"Thou did'st blow with Thy wind, the sea covered them, they sank as lead in the mighty waters."—Exodus xv. 5 and 10.

WIDOW C. Blaker had passed away leaving Edward her only son, and his five boys, Edward, John, Thomas, Christian, and Henry in the old home. Times were fairly peaceful then, and leading very jog-trot lives for the next nine years,—veritably "*cochlearum vitas agentes*,"—the lads grew up towards manhood. At this period (1587), it became whispered about that Philip of Spain intended a descent upon our shores, and the scattered populations from the Land's End to the Nore began to feel not wholly comfortable. Nor were they greatly reassured by finding that the niggardly government of the day had only provided 36 small guns on land to defend the whole length of this distance.

As the year (1587) drew to a close this uneasiness increased ; but with our own people it was to some degree allayed by the unusual preparations to resist invasion made at their very door, *i.e.*, between Shoreham and the little village of BRIGHTHELMSTONE where the canal at this day runs (or more likely still on a spot now washed away by the sea).

It appears* that in order to ascertain how far the coast of Sussex was prepared for defence a survey was made in 1587 by Sir Thomas Palmere Knight. He reports that, "Between Shoreham and Bright-helmstone there is good landing; for defence of which two demi-culverins and two sacres should be kept in some goode house, to be readie at suddenne; and in sundrie places trenches, with sunk flankers for small shotte and the towne (Shoreham) may be well strengthened with like flankers; there is one demi-culverine, three sacres, one minion, and one fawlcon mounted and furnished with shotte and wante powdre."

Now Shoreham in times past had taken rank with such sea ports as Bristol, Plymouth, and even London, but during the past century it had been much demolished by the encroachments of the sea. Nevertheless at this critical epoch in the nation's history, Shoreham furnished both men and ships to fight the "proud Don," an honour eagerly coveted by every young Englishman who both hated, and not without good reason, feared the Spaniards. As Edward Blaker's three sons, John, Thomas, and Christian are not to be heard of after (about) this time, it is not improbable that being carried away with patriotic enthusiasm they joined the Shoreham equipment against the Armada, and "foremost fighting fell."

"It is curious," says Macaulay, "to consider with how much awe our ancestors in those times regarded a Spaniard. He was in their apprehension a kind of dæmon, horribly malevolent, but withal most sagacious and powerful. 'They be verye wyse and politicke,' says an honest Englishman in a memorial addressed to Mary, 'and can throwe ther wysdome, reform and brydell theyr owne natures for a tyme and applye their conditions to the maners of those men with whom they meddele gladlye by friendshippe; whose mischievous maners a man shall never kuowe untyll he come under ther subjection; but then shall be perfectlye parceyve and fele them; which thyng I praye God

* Sussex Arch. Coll., Vol. xi., p. 150.

England never do; for in dissimulations untyll they have their purposes and afterwards in oppression and tyrannye when they can obtayne them, they do exceed all other nations upon y^e earthe.'"

* †Camden speaking of Shoreham after describing the coast about what is now Lancing and Worthing, writes thus: "Somewhat lower upon the shore appeareth Shoreham, in times past Scoreham, which little by little fell to be but a village, at this day called Old Shoreham, and gave increase to another towne of the same name, whercof the greater part also being drowned and made even with the sea is no more to be seene; and the commodiousnesse of the haven by reason of bankes and barres of sand cast up at the river's mouth quite gone; whereas in feregoing times it was. won't to carry shippes with full sails as far as to Bramber, which is a goodo waye from the sea."

The preparations which were hurriedly pushed on all along the coast, coupled with the sweet uncertainty as to when the invasion so long expected would actually come off, must have caused a thrilling and most pleasurable excitement to our slow-going but plucky ancestors. And then when the actual time arrived (July 29th, 1588) when the "Invincible Armada" was first sighted off Plymouth "and the blaze and smoke of ten thousand beacon-fires from the Land's End to Margate, and from the Isle of Wight to Cumberland gave warning to every Englishman that the enemy was at last upon them," then indeed must the heart of old England have beaten proudly with patriotic disdain and indignation (not altogether unmingled with fear), at the impudent

* Horsfield's "Hist. of Sussex."

† William Camden the great antiquary, some time second master of Westminster school, of whom Ben Jonson wrote:—

"Camden! most reverend head, to whom I owe
All that I am in arts, all that I know,
(How nothing's that?) to whom my country owes
The great renown and name wherewith she goes!" etc.

J. A. Symond's Life of Ben Jonson.

‡ Motley.

attempt of the haughty Spaniard to molest her; and then must have come the very climax of intense excitement and enthusiasm to old and young alike, and the sleepy dwellers of Portslade and every other village in the kingdom must have been aroused as they never were before since England first began to write history.

Now it is not probable that at this time our family was particularly wealthy—indeed one would not gather such an idea from Widow Christian's will—and I am strengthened in this opinion by a perusal of the list of names of Sussex Gentry* who subscribed to a fund for the defence of the kingdom. Neither our own name nor that of any family with which we are familiar as connections at that time appears in this list of several columns' length.

We learn also that* "Queen Elizabeth directed Sir Francis Walsingham, keeper of the Privy Seal, to inform the Lieutenant of each county that for 'the better with-standing of the intended invacon of this Realme upon the great preparacons made by the King of Spaine both by sea and land, the last yere, the same having been suche as the like was never prepared yet anie time against this realme' she required from her loving subjects an extraordinary (and by way of) loan for the defence of the country."

It is not likely that with such preparations going on under his very eyes, and with the (to him at all events) important town of Shoreham taking active steps in the defence of the kingdom, that Edward Blaker had he been a wealthy man would have buttoned up his trouser pockets—or their equivalent—at such a grave national crisis. Perish the thought. Let us hope he did better still, and that as I have already said, he sent instead of money his own flesh and blood in the shape of his three sons, John, Thomas and Christian, to grapple with the nation's foe.

We cannot take leave of this our Elizabethan Ancestor without at least the thought that he might not improbably have known some of the

*Suss. Arch. Coll. Vol. I., p. 32.

great admirals and sea captains of the day. "Sea-dogs" as they delighted to call themselves, Drake, Frobisher, Hawkins, Howard, Lord Henry, Sir Henry Palmer, Sir William Winter, Cross, Borlase, and the rest. What more probable than that some, if not all of them, visited Shoreham, and surveyed the coast between that port and Newhaven!

On the other hand it is not altogether probable, though of course it is possible, that he may have seen and perhaps have known some of the great literary men of his day, men who like Shakespeare, Spenser, Sidney, Ben Jonson, Marlowe, Greene and many more, were destined to delight posterity for all time to come. At all events it is pleasant to think that he may have done so and that he was cultured enough to appreciate the privilege.

We have no record of his death, but had he lived until the year Queen Elizabeth died (1603), he would have been just about sixty years of age at that time.

*Christian Blaker, married in Henry VIII.'s reign. He died leaving a widow whose Will we have, and five children:—

- 1st. Agnes, married Richard Cook, of Bolney; they had five children:—Edward, Richard, Agnes, William, and Alice.
- 2nd. Anne, married John Beard, of Rottingdean; they had four children:—Edward, Barbara, John, and Thomas.
- 3rd. Alice, married Thomas Foggins, of Aldrington; they had four children:—Christian, Agnes, Barbara, and John.
- 4th. Barbara, married Nicholas Avery, of Old Shoreham; they had three children; Nicholas, William, and Mary.

Edward, fifth child of Master and Mistress Christian Blaker,

Born about 1543. (Time of Henry VIII.)

Alive in 1579. („ „ Elizabeth).

Date of death not known.

He married Ann Fowler† and had by her five sons, viz. :—

- | | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| 1st. Edward | } | Mentioned in the Will. |
| 2nd. John | | |
| 3rd. Christian | | |
| 4th. Thomas | | |

5th. Henry, not mentioned in the Will.

He married Ann — ? Both died in 1655.

(See Appendix, p. 6. And Berry's Sussex Genealogies).

* See Pedigree Table II.

† There was a memorial to some Fowlers in Old Shoreham church at one time.

Lower, "Hist. of Sussex."

PART II.

PERIOD OF THE HOUSE OF STUART.

1603 to 1702.

CHAPTER I.

"Lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north."—Ezekiel viii. 5.



WE must suppose Queen Elizabeth to be dead, and James VI. of Scotland to be sitting on the throne of England as James I.

The particular Edward Blaker with whom we have now to deal, was the son of Edward and Ann (née Fowler) Blaker. We first hear of him as being baptized in 1570*, no doubt a short time after his birth, and it is known that he was alive in 1634, when a visitation of the county was made by the Somerset and York Heralds and their deputies. He would then have been 64 years old, and how much longer he lived after that time we have no evidence to go by.

This is the Edward "Blakyer" who, together with his three little brothers, John, Christian and Thomas, received XLs. by his grandmother's Will when he was just nine years old.

He was twice married. First to Anne, daughter of one, Master Dappe, of Newick, and secondly to Susannah, daughter of Master Tuppyn Scrasce, of West Blatchington. She was born in the year 1608, the first year of James I.'s reign, when her future husband was already 33 years old.

* See Part I., Chapter III.

He had no issue by his first wife, but by his second he had four children, viz. :—Susannah; Edward (afterwards M.P. for New Shoreham); William, who married and had an only daughter, also named Susannah, who married* a certain Master John Monke, of Kingston, by whom she had two children; and lastly,† Richard, who was admitted, as youngest son, in 1655, to Copyhold in Portslade Manor. He also married a lady whose name is lost to us, by whom he had a family. We only know for certain the name of the youngest of them,‡ Mary, who was also admitted as youngest child to Copyhold in Portslade Manor, in 1678. ¶There are, however, two entries in the Kingston Register of an Elizabeth Blaker, who married a John Verrall in 1681, and an Edward Blaker who was buried in 1688. If these were not Richard's children they cannot belong to our branch of the family at all.

Now, how long the first Mistress Edward Blaker (née Anne Dappe) lived we do not know positively, but supposing that Edward did not remain a bereaved widower a *very* long time, it must have been for some years.

Edward was probably about 56 years old, and his young bride, Susannah (née Scrasce), only 23 at the time of his second marriage, in 1626, the first year of Charles I. reign. She lived to be 74. ¶

We know that his second child, Edward (the M.P.), died in 1678, aged 49, by the ¶inscription to his memory in Old Shoreham Church. This M.P. was therefore born in 1629, when his father, who was born we know in 1570, must have been 59 years old,—and the two youngest sons, William and Richard, must have been born to him when he was 61 and 63 years old. For another inscription in Old Shoreham Church to this William, shows that he died in 1703, aged 72, which proves his father was 61 at the time of his birth (1631).

I would point out that details of this Edward, to whom this chapter is devoted, are the more interesting because he and his son, the M.P., stand out somewhat prominently on the page of Family History.

* See Appendix, page 17.

† Berry's Sussex Genealogies.

‡ Ditto.

¶ See Appendix, page 6.

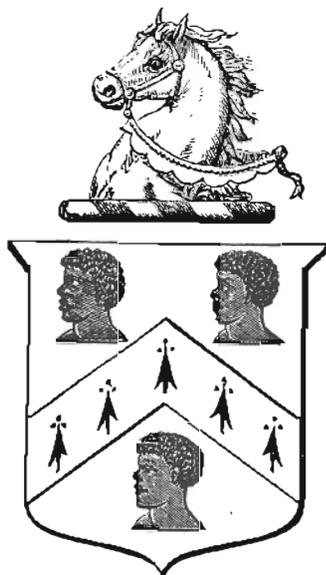
¶ Ditto, page 16.

We have seen that he was 33 at the time when Queen Elizabeth died and James VI. of Scotland became James I. of England, thus uniting the two Kingdoms under one King.

Two years later the whole country was startled by news of the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot.

This Edward was the first of our name to enjoy a quiet pipe in the evening, and he was the first moreover who had the inestimable privilege of being able to study the Authorised Version of the Holy Bible, which must have come into his hands when he was in the full prime of manhood.

In 1616 (the year by the way of Shakespeare's death) our ancestor applied for, and had granted to him on the 19th February, the Family Crest and Coat of Arms.*



CREST.—A Horse's Head, sa., Bridled and Mained, or.

ARMS.—Ar. a chev. betw., Three Moor's Heads side-faced, coupéd, pp.r. crined or.

*Some Members of the Family at the present time adopt the motto, "Esto quod

He had by the time of his second marriage left Portslade and taken up his abode at Buckingham, for we find on the inscription to his widow Susannah,* that he is described "as of Buckingham."

He was alive during some very stirring times in our National History. He saw 30 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign,—was 18 years old at the time of the Armada,—he lived throughout the whole of James I. reign, and being alive in 1634* (and we don't know how much longer) must have been cognisant of the quarrels and miseries which were always going on between Charles I. and his Parliament.

It was in this year, 1634, when our Edward was 64 years old, that the King attempted to extort from his subjects the famous "Ship-money." As it was at first inflicted only on the maritime parts of the Kingdom, Shoreham would have been amongst the first to cry out against this tyrannical impost. Three years later (1637), Hampden refused to pay it; and then began the row in earnest.

esse videris" (Be what thou seemest to be). It is a motto used as well by several other families in the United Kingdom, but has not been registered by us. Mr. John Blaker the elder, of Lewes, was, I believe, the first to adopt it.

In May, 1888, I applied to the present York Herald at the College of Heralds, London, with these questions:—

"1st—Arms granted to Mr. Edward Blaker, of Portslade; Sussex, February 19th, 1616. Is there any record of this?"

"2nd—Was a letter written at the time to Mr. Blaker? If so, can a copy be had of it?"

"3rd—Why was the Crest a Horse's Head, and the Arms Three Moor's Heads?"

ANSWERS:—

"1st—There is a record of the Arms in the form of a docquet but not the original Grant. The docquet is dated 19th February, 1616, and was made by Seager. (Appendix, page 5).

"2nd—There is no letter.

"3rd—I cannot explain the Arms; perhaps the Three Moor's Heads are a play upon the name 'Blacker.'

(Signed) "ALFRED SCOTT GATTY,
"York Herald."—ED.

* See Appendix, page 16.

CHAPTER II.

"And he was a prosperous man."—Gen. xxxix. 2.

EDWARD (afterwards M.P. for Shoreham) was the son of Edward and Susannah (née Scrase) Blaker, of Portslade and Buckingham.

He was born in 1629 (the fourth year of Charles I. reign), and died on the 13th September, 1678 (the 18th year of Charles II. reign), aged 49. There is a memorial* tablet to him in old Shoreham church on the west wall; now, alas, completely hidden by the organ, which backs right on to it, but it is in very excellent preservation.

He married a certain Dorothy, but whose daughter she was we cannot, I am sorry to say, find out. She was, however, no doubt, a lady of considerable fascinations, for within three years of her husband's somewhat early demise, a poor Master Robert Hall, not being sufficiently "beware of vidders," fell an easy prey to her charms. By her first husband, our ancestor, she had issue an only child, Edward, who was probably born towards the end of the Protector's rule, say in 1657, when his father was about 28.

Now as we have seen, *he* was born in 1629, and was consequently just 20 years old when Charles I. lost his head as the result of double-dealing, folly, and perfidy; and for aught we know to the contrary, Edward may even have been a spectator of this terrible national crime.

* See Appendix, page 16.

It is hardly probable that he took an active part in the Civil Wars, especially as little or no fighting took place so far south as this, and his brothers would have scarcely been old enough to have "flocked" to anybody's standard, unless they went as raw youths. If they did, they escaped; for we find them later both married and settled down, one at Kingston, the other at Portslade.

This Edward lived all through Oliver Cromwell's protectorate, and saw England raise her head proudly amongst the nations of the earth, as she had not done since his grandfather's and great grandfather's times; and he lived, shame that it should have to be written, to see England bow her head in humiliation and degradation, with the guns of the Dutch thundering in the Medway (1667), and our fleet defeated in the Downs.

But this is going too fast ahead.

He may very possibly have assisted in the escape of Charles II. to France (1651), shortly after the battle of Worcester, when our Edward was 22 years old: just the age when a young man of mettle would like to take part in an adventure of this kind.*

He heard of "Old Noll's" death, of his son Richard's brief assumption of power; he heard the joy bells ring and saw the beacon fires blazing. He may even have witnessed the triumphant return itself of Charles II. to power after his long exile.

Years passed away. Milton and Bunyan were making names for themselves, imperishable names to the world's end; old Pepys was penning his amusing diary; and Charles, having forsaken old friends, was toying with new mistresses, as was his wont.

* All who have read "Ovingdean Grange" will remember the graphic description given there by Ainsworth of this flight. Our Sussex historian, M. A. Lower, however, finds reason to believe that the embarkation took place not at Shoreham, but at some point about half-way between BRIGHTHELMSTON and Shoreham. Say off Portslade, as the mouth of the river Adur was farther east in the olden time than it is now.—ED.

The Great Plague had been, and after it the terrible Fire of London (1665), and nine more years rolled by, till we come to 1674, when our ancestor was elected "Burges* of Parliament" for New Shoreham.

This Parliament succeeded the Parliament known as "The Convention," and took the name of the "Cavalier Parliament." It was elected early in 1661, and was not dissolved until January, 1679, a period of 18 years. It was, however, many times prorogued in a most unconstitutional manner by Charles II. †When elected "the people were mad with loyal enthusiasm." A large proportion of the members were men of mature years who had fought for the Crown and the Church, and †"were more zealous for royalty than the king, more zealous for episcopacy than the bishops." A smaller proportion were young men,‡ and "the most profane swearing fellows that ever I heard in my life." ¶The Presbyterians sank to a handful of fifty members.

When the dissolution took place in 1679 we read ¶"that to loyal enthusiasm had succeeded profound disaffection. Towards such a crisis things had been tending during all these 18 years. The whole stock of popularity, great as it was, with which the king had commenced his reign, had long been expended. The prevailing discontent was compounded of many feelings. One of these was wounded national pride. That generation had seen England, during a few years, allied on equal terms with France, victorious over Holland and Spain, the mistress of the sea, the terror of Rome, the head of the Protestant interest. Her resources had not diminished; and it might have been expected that she would have been at least as highly considered in Europe under a legitimate king, strong in the affection and willing obedience of his subjects, as she had been under an usurper, whose utmost vigilance and energy were required to keep down a mutinous people. Yet she had in consequence of the imbecility and meanness of her rulers sunk so low,

* See Appendix, page 16, Old Shoreham inscriptions.

† Macaulay.

‡ Pepys' Diary.

¶ Green.

¶ Macaulay.

that any German or Italian principality which brought five thousand men into the field was a more important member of the commonwealth of nations."

It is, however, with the last five years out of these eighteen with which we are now most concerned, since our ancestor Edward Blaker was elected as "Burges in Parliament for New Shoreham" in 1674: he died in 1678; and the following year the Parliament was dissolved. Just about the time of his election a separate peace had been concluded with the Dutch.

It will be remembered that we had gone to war with Holland in 1672, having France under Louis XIV. as an ally. *"The French did not pretend an excuse, the English pretences were so trivial as to be almost worse than none." Our naval combats with the Dutch at this time in no way added lustre to our arms, and the British flag had little to be proud of. The French on land however, were for a long time irresistible. This war had never been popular with the English nation, whose representatives in the House of Commons, as opposed to the arbitrary government of the day were denominated the "Country party."

Sir Thomas Osborne at this time (1674) had just been created Earl of Danby, and was made Lord Treasurer. †"He was greedy of wealth and honours, corrupt himself and a corrupter of others."

That infamous Cabinet known as the "Cabal," had just been overthrown, and "from them †Danby had bequeathed to him the art of bribing parliaments." To gain his ends he did not scruple to bribe members and the electors in the country, so far as he could get at them. †"Every man who had a vote might sell himself to Danby." Not but what it would be †"unjust to impute to members the wickedness of taking bribes to injure their country. On the contrary, they meant to serve her: but it is useless to deny that they were mean and indelicate enough to let a foreign prince pay them for serving her." For it was

* Bright's Hist. of England.

† Macaulay.

French gold, lavishly supplied by Louis XIV. for the purpose, that Danby had at his disposal. **"It is, perhaps, scarcely fair to say that they were bribed. In the first place, because the sums given were too small (from £300 to £500) to have had much influence upon men of property and position; and secondly, because no change of principle was required from the recipients. At the worst they were only paid for following their own political objects more energetically."*

All through this period (1674 to 1678) the country was thirsting for war with France. †*"The popular leaders were afraid of Louis XIV., yet they were afraid to entrust their own king with the means of curbing France, lest those means should be used to destroy the liberties of England."*

Louis, knowing this, made overtures to Charles, **"and at the price of 500,000 crowns purchased from him the lengthened prorogation of Parliament from November 1675 to February, 1677."*

After the prorogation was over, when Parliament again met, Lords Shaftesbury, Salisbury, Wharton, and the Duke of Buckingham were all sent to the Tower, where they remained more than a year, for maintaining that the late prorogation was unconstitutional and illegal.

The Commons, upon re-assembling, were induced by bribery to make a considerable grant to be devoted chiefly to the Navy. But Charles collected an Army instead of 20,000 to 30,000 men. †*"The sight of such a force, and their well-founded dread of the objects of the Court, made the Parliament demand its dismissal. It indeed seems probable that both Charles and his brother James fully intended to use it for their own purposes. Nor could the French king, in spite of his connection with Charles, feel the least certain that it would not after all be employed against him. He therefore used his influence to get the army disbanded. This brief session (only a few months) had convinced Louis of the wisdom of securing lengthened prorogations. He therefore again bribed Charles with a subsidy of 2,000,000 livres to prorogue Parliament till April, 1678."*

* Bright's Hist. of Eng.

† Macaulay.

‡ Bright's Hist. of Eng.

In the September of this year, Edward Blaker, M.P., died, shortly after the conclusion of the treaty of Nimeguen, which *¹ left France the arbiter of Europe, and Charles II. with 20,000 men and one million of French money in his treasury, which he had obtained by trickery and perfidy."

In the same year (1678), through Danby's influence, Mary, the eldest daughter of James, Duke of York, afterwards James II., and Anne Hyde, his second wife, was married to William, Prince of Orange, whose reputation had long ago won him popularity in this country. The significance of this match is, of course, known to us all.

It will be observed that owing to the lengthened prorogations of Parliament during the four years our ancestor was a member of it, he could have seen but little of Parliamentary life. But I venture to think that this brief sketch of what did actually take place during the time that this, our most distinguished ancestor, was M.P., cannot but prove interesting to us, his descendants.

* Green's Hist. of the English people.

CHAPTER III.

"My soul longeth, even fainteth, for the courts of the Lord."—Psa. lxxxiv. 2.

THE present Edward with whom we have to do, was the only child of Edward Blaker, sometime M.P. for New Shoreham, and Dorothy his wife.

Supposing that the M.P. married when he was about 25, and that his only child was born some three years later, that would give us 1657 as the year of this Edward's birth. *We know that he died in 1723, so he would then have been about 66 years old. Being born in Oliver Cromwell's time he lived through five reigns, as he died in the reign of George I.

He was 17 years of age when his father was elected M.P. for New Shoreham, and 21 when his father died. He may consequently, as he was an only child, have been taken by his parents to London to see some of the gay doings in the capital at that merry time. And he may even have listened in rapt silence whilst his father electrified the House of Commons with his oratory, when making his maiden speech; of which, I regret to say, we have no authentic record.

Three years after his father's death his mother re-married (1681), and

* See Appendix, page 7.

her son must have followed her example about the same time, as we find his eldest child was born in 1683.

He married Ann, the daughter of a gentleman, whose name has not been handed down to us, and they two conspired together to add eight more souls to the population of the kingdom. These were:—

1st. Susannah, born in 1683, time of Charles II.

2nd. Frances,* who married John Hitchcock, 1712. Born 1685.

3rd. † Edward who was born in 1687, in the reign of James II. He died in 1745 in George II. time, aged 58. He married † Elizabeth, whose maiden name is also lost to us, and they had four children, viz.:

† Elizabeth, who died in 1726, aged 10 months.

† Edward, who died unmarried in 1757, aged 31 years.

† ‡ Siderick, who died in 1729, only a few weeks old.

† Ann, who died in 1736, aged 5 years.

4th. † Ann, who was born in 1690 (William and Mary's reign), and died in 1726 (George I. reign), aged 36.

5th. † ¶ William, who was born in 1692 (William and Mary's reign), and died in 1751 (George II. reign), aged 59.

He also married an Ann, † whose maiden name is missing, but she, like her husband's grandmother, must have possessed considerable personal charms, for we find that a certain "Harry Bridger, Esqre.," not being proof against them, succumbed, and married her.

The Bridgers possess and occupy Buckingham to this day.

6th. John, born 1695 (William and Mary's reign). He died, aged 74, in 1769 (the ninth year of George III. reign). He was a wanderer, and pitched his tent as far afield as Steyning.

* See Appendix, page 7.

† Berry gives this name as Shadrack; it is very clearly Siderick on the vault. See Appendix, pages 7 and 8.

¶ His name is inscribed on the title page of the Bible in Kingston Church.

† All buried at Kingston. See Appendix, page 17.

7th. Sarah, born in 1697, died 1749. She married first, William Chapman, 1720; second, William Forster, 1742.

8th. Nathaniel, of Portslade, to whom the next chapter is devoted

Our ancestor, Edward, the father of these eight children, was for some time Churchwarden of Kingston Church. His* name is inscribed on the bell in the tower there.

With the death of our M.P. ancestor in 1678, we have, as a family, little more to do with English History. Events of the extremest importance of course we know, were constantly taking place. The rise and fall of Ministries; the death of Charles II. when he openly avowed himself a Roman Catholic, and begged pardon of those around his bed for the "unconsciable long time he took a dying"—(a poor joke at such a time even for a "Merry Monarch");—the short reign of James II., with his bigotry and unconstitutional attempts at government; the invitation to William of Orange and Mary, his Queen, to come over and dispose the latter's father; the advent of William, and subsequent flight of James II.; the war in Ireland; the death in due course of Queen Mary, and in a few years later of her Royal husband; the accession of Queen Anne; the Rise and Fall of the Duke of Marlborough; his great achievements; the Queen's death, bringing the Stuarts' reigns to a close for ever; the accession of George I.

All these things were of course events of surpassing interest to those who lived at that time, and they must have given much food for reflection to our Edward, his children, and grandchildren. †But the scenes of their various occurrences, unlike many of those I have already recorded, took place so far from the somewhat restricted confines of our

* A little discovery I made for myself. I have not seen it recorded anywhere. See Appendix, page 12.—ED.

† If we except the Naval engagement off Beachy Head in 1690, when Torrington, the British Admiral, showed the white feather, and Tourville, the French Admiral, swept the Channel in consequence.—Bright's Hist. of Eng., Vol. III., page 826.—ED.

family, that our ancestors were not much affected by them. We find them still living at Portslade, Shoreham, Buckingham and Kingston, and one John (presumably bolder than the rest) wandered away, as we have seen, as far as Steyning, where sticking fast, he took root.

They seem all, except John, to have been churchwardens at Kingston either in succession or two at a time.

PART III.

PERIOD OF THE HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK,

1702 to Date.

CHAPTER I.

"For who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?"—
Eccles. vi. 12.

THE first Nathaniel Blaker, the eighth and youngest child of Edward and Ann Blaker, was born in the reign of William and Mary, in the year 1699, and he died in the fourth year of George III. reign, 1764,* aged 65. He was consequently alive through five reigns; being three years old when Anne became Queen; fifteen when George I. ascended the throne; twenty-eight at the accession of George II.; and sixty-one when George III. succeeded him.

Amongst the more important historical events in his time were: the Jacobite rising; the South Sea bubble in 1720; †Wesley's teaching and avowal that "Our service is not such as supersedes the Church service: we never designed it should. I declare once more before my death, that I live and die a Member of the Church of England;" the supremacy of Walpole, his declaration of war against Spain in 1739; the battle of Fontenoy, 1745; the Young Pretender's landing in Scotland; Pitt's vigorous rule; the commencement of the famous Seven Years' War in 1756, and its close in 1763.

* See Appendix, pages 7 and 13.

† Bright's Hist. Eng.. Vol. III.!

Amongst the great men of his day were, Pope, who was eleven years his senior; Sir Isaac Newton; Swift; "Gulliver;" Defoe; Steele and Addison; Gay; Fielding; and of course many more.

Now this Nathaniel (the first) married one,* Katharine, the daughter of a neighbouring gentleman, of the name of Friend. She was born in 1695, and was therefore four years older than her husband. She died in 1762, two years before him, aged 67. They had issue

1st. Katharine, born 1738; she died a spinster, 1809, aged 71.

2nd. Anna, born 1740; died 1814, aged 75. †She married Henry Kipping, Esq., of Brighton, and they had four children.

3rd. NATHANIEL THE SECOND, SURNAMED THE GREAT, to whom we owe very much.

It will be observed that the elder Nathaniel was the youngest of his father's family, and that his son, the Great Nathaniel, was his *only* son and *youngest* child, *i.e.*, the youngest child of the junior branch of the family. Now, if Nathaniel the first's children had died off, as his eldest brother Edward's did, the family name would have become extinct, unless John, his brother, who was an old bachelor, had set to work in the matter by getting married.

‡ Nathaniel the elder's name is inscribed in the big Bible in Kingston Church, together with his brother William's. He was 42 at the time; William 49.

His son, Nathaniel the Great, was 22 years old, and unmarried when the old man died, who must have gone down into his grave thinking it quite on the cards that the Blakers were played out.

But he little knew his son, if he had any such an idea worrying him!

* See Appendix, pages 1 and 17.

† See Appendix, page 1.

‡ See Appendix, page 17.

CHAPTER II.

“*Be fruitful and multiply.*”—Genesis i. 28.

NATHANIEL THE SECOND, SURNAMED THE GREAT, was the youngest child and only son of his parents, Nathaniel (the elder) and Katharine (née Friend) Blaker.

He was born in 1742, and died on the 6th May, 1815, aged 73, and lies buried at Portslade, *with his wife and eight out of his twelve children beside him.

He was 18 years old when George III. ascended the throne, and 22 when his father died, leaving him, to all intents and purposes, the last surviving male of the family, with the exception of his old uncle John, of Steyning, who was a confirmed old bachelor, 69 years of age, and therefore practically out of the hunt.

Nathaniel began to look about him for a lady, whose family history would lead him to suppose that she would be likely to prove *prolific*.

And he was eminently successful in his search!

Five years after his father's death, when he himself was 27 years of age, he married a lady of remarkable descent, one, Elizabeth Rogers, the daughter of William Rogers, a gentleman living at Patcham. She was born in the year 1745, and was consequently her husband's junior by three years. She died 17th May, 1815, only surviving her husband by 11 days, aged 70. She too lies buried by her husband's side at Portslade.* They were married, therefore, 46 years, and died about a

* See Appendix, pages 2 and 19.

month before the battle of Waterloo was fought, within a few days of each other. They lived in great domestic enjoyment in the old *Manor House at Portslade, and were a very busy couple indeed !

† She (Elizabeth, maiden name, Rogers), was a direct lineal descendant of John Rogers, the martyr, who was burnt at the stake in Bloody Queen Mary's reign.

An account of this really great man's life and sufferings is given in Foxe's Booke of Martyrs, Vol. III., pp. 1 to 17. There we learn that Master John Rogers was the first or "proto-martyr of all the blessed company that suffered in Mary's time," and that "he gave the first adventure upon the fire."

The date and place of his birth are not known with certainty. He was a graduate of the University of Cambridge, where he "profitably travailed in goode learninge." This was some time in Henry VIII.'s reign (1509 to 1547). He then proceeded to Antwerp as Chaplain to an English factory, and there having become intimate with "that worthie servant and martyr of God," William Tyndale or Tindall, and with Miles Coverdale, he "throw off the yoke of popery," and with them entered into "the most painfull and profitable labour of translating the Scriptures into English.‡"

* See Appendix, page 14.

† Told me by Mrs. Somers Clarke, the daughter of Mr. Harry Blaker, the elder, and the wife of Mr. Somers Clarke, the second child of Barbara (née Blaker) Clarke.

‡ It appears that the first *printed* Bible in English was the translation in 1525 of portions of the Old and the whole of the New Testament, by William Tyndale, one of the early Martyrs to the Reformation.

He had long cherished the idea of making "the boy who driveth the plough to knowe more of the Scriptures than did all priests." His translation was superior to all previous versions in purity, perspicuity and accuracy, and it formed the basis of all subsequent translations, particularly of the Authorized Version.

In 1535, Miles Coverdale translated the whole of the Bible, not from the originals, but from German and Latin versions, and it was therefore inferior to Tindall's.

Now, after the death of Tindall, in the year 1536, Master John Rogers under-

He then settled in Wittenberg in Saxony, and renouncing what he called "unlawful vowes" he married a German lady, and presently, having mastered the German language, became the pastor of a congregation there, a position which he held for many years.

He came back to England in Edward VI.'s time, and Bishop Ridley made him a Prebend in St. Paul's.*

After the tyrant, Mary, had ascended the throne, on the occasion of her procession to the Tower on the 3rd August, 1553, and again, a few days later, Master Rogers preaching from "Paul's Cross, delivered a godlie and vehement sermon," inveighing bitterly against idolatry and superstition. The Queen's Council of Bishops thereupon called him to account, and being brought before them, he made "a stout, wittie, and godlie answere," and was dismissed. But a Royal proclamation was immediately issued, which forbade Protestant preaching; and for disobedience to it, Rogers was first confined in his own house for a considerable period, and finally lodged, at Bishop Bonner's instigation, in Newgate.

He was examined at great length on the 22nd January, 1555, Gardiner being Lord Chancellor, and again on several other occasions; but remaining steadfast, he positively refused to recant. The Council thereupon ordered him to be degraded and handed over to the sheriffs, and he was condemned to death by burning.

He repeatedly pleaded for permission to see his wife and children in Newgate, but each time his request was bluntly and cruelly refused.

took the completion of his translation of the Old Testament, but based it on Coverdale's version, and brought out a new edition of the whole Bible, which he dedicated to Henry VIII., under the assumed name of Thomas Mathewe. Part of the Mathewe's Bible (as far as the Book of Isaiah) was printed on the continent, the rest in this country.—ED.

* This good Bishop, "smalle in stature, but greate in learninge, in all pointes so goode, godlie, and ghostlie, a man that England may justlie rue the losse of soe wortheie a treasure," was himself burnt in company with Latimer on the 16th October, 1555, eight months after poor Master Roger's Martyrdom.—ER.

At length, on the 4th February, 1555, the gaoler's wife suddenly awoke him early in the morning, out of a deep sleep, and warned him that his time was come. On being commanded to make haste, he calmly replied, "If it be so, I neede not to tye my poyntes."

The sheriffs then brought him to Smithfield, and "on his waye thither, his wife and children, being eleven in number, and ten able to goe, and one suckinge on the breaste, met him," but he went on to his death "nothing daunted, and being fulle of good courage," chanting the Psalm, "Miserere," as he went.

Shortly before his burning at the stake, his pardon was brought if he would have recanted, but this he utterly refused to do, scorning even to listen to those that would tempt him.

So they lighted the pile; and "the flames having taken hold upon his legs and shoulders, he, as one feeling no smart, washed his hands in the flame as though it had been cold water. And lookinge up to Heaven most mildly, this happie Martyr yielded up his spirit into the hands of his Heavenlie Father."

Surely, we may be justly proud to be descended, even if somewhat indirectly, from such an ancestor; and although in these latter days we may not all hold alike with his theological views in their entirety, yet it is impossible not to admire the firm Faith and unswerving Pluck of this great soldier of Christ.

Putting all theology on one side, he is moreover a distinctly historical personage, and one who takes high rank amongst the literary men of his day.

THE FAMILY OF NATHANIEL AND ELIZABETH BLAKER
AND THEIR DESCENDANTS.

Nathaniel the Great and his wife Elizabeth (née Rogers) had twelve children, viz. :—five daughters and seven sons, in the following order ;—

	Born.	Died.	Age.	Married.	Buried at.
1. ELIZABETH ...	1770 ...	1847 ...	77 ...	Yes ...	Keymer.
2. BARBARA ...	1771 ...	1849 ...	78 ...	Yes ...	Brighton.
3. NATHANIEL ...	1772 ...	1863 ...	91 ...	Yes ...	Preston.
4. JOHN ...	1774 ...	1851 ...	77 ...	Yes ...	Portslade.
5. CATHERINE ...	1775 ...	1847 ...	72 ...	No ...	Ditto.
6. ANN ...	1777 ...	1811 ...	34 ...	No ...	Ditto.
7. GEORGE ...	1778 ...	1856 ...	78 ...	Yes ...	Patcham.
8. EDWARD ...	1780 ...	1851 ...	71 ...	Yes ...	Portslade.
9. THOMAS ...	1783 ...	1847 ...	64 ...	No ...	Ditto.
10. HARRY ...	1784 ...	1846 ...	62 ...	Yes ...	Ditto.
11. CHARLES ...	1786 ...	1827 ...	41 ...	No ...	Ditto.
12. CORDELIA ...	1788 ...	1854 ...	66 ...	No ...	Ditto.*

Average age, 67 years 7 months.

* See Appendix with Inscriptions on Vaults.

FIRST CHILD, ELDEST DAUGHTER, ELIZABETH.

Born 1770.

Died 1847.

Aged 77.

Buried at Keymer.

She married Thomas Turner, Esq., of Old Land, Keymer, at Portslade,
30th June, 1791.

They had eleven children:—

	Born.	Died.	Aged.	Buried at.
Elizabeth (Turner) ...	... 1794 ...	1870 ...	76 ...	Maresfield.
Thomas (Turner) ...	... 1795 ...	1874 ...	79 ...	St. John's, Lewes.
William (Turner) ...	... 1796 ...	1812 ...	15 ...	Keymer.
Sarah (Turner) ...	... 1798 ...	1876 ...	78 ...	Singleton.
*Richard (Turner) ...	... 1799 ...	1860 ...	61 ...	All Saints', Lewes.
John (Turner) ...	... 1801 ...	1858 ...	57 ...	Keymer.
Mary Jane (Turner) ...	... 1803 ...	1886 ...	83 ...	Ditchling.
Frances Anne (Turner) ...	... 1804 ...	1880 ...	76 ...	Ditchling.
Roger (Turner) ...	... 1806 ...	1882 ...	76 ...	Battersea Cemetery.
†Edward Wilson (Turner) ...	... 1811 ...	1865 ...	54 ...	Ovatreston, St. George, Wilts.
Nathaniel Blaker (Turner) ...	... 1814 ...	1882 ...	68 ...	Steyning.

* Father of the present Richard Turner, Esq., Surgeon, of Lewes, and of Harry Turner, Esq., Surgeon, of Steyning.

† Mrs. Reginald Blaker's (of Lewes) father.

THE FAMILY OF NATHANIEL THE GREAT AND HIS WIFE
ELIZABETH (*continued*)—

SECOND CHILD, SECOND DAUGHTER, BARBARA.

Born 1771. M. SAMUEL CLARKE, M.A. FEBRUARY 1773

Died 1849.

Aged 78.

Buried first in the Dyke Road Cemetery. The remains were subsequently removed to the Brighton Parochial Cemetery.

They had five children:—

Samuel ...	(Clarke) ...	Born 1801	...	Died 1828	...	Aged 27.
*Somers ...	(Clarke) ...	„ 1802	..	„ 1822	..	„ 20
Nathaniel	(Clarke) ...	„ 1803	...	„ 1805	...	„ 2.
†Theophilus	(Clarke) ...	„ 1813	...	„ 1840	...	„ 27.
William ..	(Clarke) ...	„ 1817	...	„	...	„

who married Miss Isabella Morris, by whom he had three children.

*He married a First Cousin, namely, Sarah, eldest daughter of Harry Blaker, Esq., the elder, by his wife Sarah Arabella (née Mills).

They had two children:—

Arabella Clarke, born 1839.

Somers Clarke, born 1841, a distinguished Architect.

† Buried at Gogo, in the East Indies. Appendix, page 21.

THE FAMILY OF NATHANIEL THE GREAT AND HIS WIFE
ELIZABETH (*continued*)—

THIRD CHILD, ELDEST SON, *NATHANIEL (THE THIRD).

Born 1772. 20 NOV.

Died 1863. 6 OCT.

Aged 91.

Buried at Preston.

He married Anna, daughter of Anthony William Hodson, Esq., of
10 JAN. 1800. Westmeston. She died 1842. Aged 73. 6 OCT

Buried at Preston.

They had seven children:—

1st. Nathaniel.

2nd. Anna.

3rd. John.

4th. George.

5th. Harriet.

6th. Elizabeth.

7th. Mary.

1st. Nathaniel, eldest son of Nathaniel and Anna Blaker.

Born 1800. 22 SEPT

Died 1880. 8 SEPT.

Aged 80.

Buried at Piccombe.

He married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Fuller, Esq., of Mays. She
14 FEB died 1888. Aged 85.

They had an only Son, Nathaniel Paine.

(See page 55).

* See his letter, Appendix, page 10.

The Family of Nathaniel the Third and Anna Blaker.—*Continued.*

2nd. Anna,—

Born 1802. 9. JAN

Died 1842

Aged 40

Buried at

3rd. John,—

Born 1803. 21 AUG.

Died 1820. 30 MAY

Aged 17.

Buried at Selmeston.

4th. *George,—

Born 1805. 7 MAR.

Died 1890 15 APR.

Aged 85

Buried at

He married Elizabeth, daughter of James Hodson, Esq., of Falmer Court.

N. 20 JAN 1839

She died 1886.

Aged 76. 2 FEB.

BORN 29 JAN 1810

Buried at Piecombe.

5th. Harriet,—

Born 1807. 22 MAY

Died 1824. 20 OCT

Aged 17.

Buried at Selmeston.

* The respected head of our family at the present moment, to whom I have taken the liberty of dedicating these Records.—ED.

N.B.—The year of his birth was the year of the Battle of Trafalgar.

The Family of Nathaniel the Third and Anna Blaker.—*Concluded.*

6th. Elizabeth,—

Born 1809. 9 JULY

Died 1824. 24 MAY

Aged 15.

Buried at Selmeston.

7th and youngest child of Nathaniel and Anna Blaker, Mary,—

Born 1811. 16 JULY

Died 1891 21 FEBRUARY

Aged 80

Buried at ^{13 MAY 1891}

She married Edward Grantham, Esq., of Lewes, who died, leaving
M. 24 NOV 1864 her a widow.

The Family of Nathaniel the Fourth and Elizabeth (née Fuller) Blaker.

An only child, *Nathaniel Paine,—

Born 1835. *A. J. M.*

Died.

Aged.

Buried at

He married Fanny Jane, daughter of John Oliver Smith, Esq., of Brighton.

M. 19. 1867 1869

Born 1848.

Died

Aged

Buried at

They had four children :—

1st. Nathaniel George.

2nd. Anna (Cissy)

3rd. Helen Elizabeth.

4th. Herbert Harry.

(see next page).

* A well-known Surgeon (for many years House Surgeon, and afterwards Honorary Surgeon to the Sussex County Hospital), living at 29, Old Steine, Brighton.

The family of Nathaniel the Fifth, and Fanny Jane Blaker..

1st. Nathaniel George,— BA. (INNER COURSE)
 Born 1875. 13 FEB.
 Died
 Aged
 Buried at

2nd. Anna,—
 Born 1876. 25 OCT
 Died
 Aged
 Buried at

3rd. Helen Elizabeth,—
 Born 1879. 22 MAR.
 Died
 Aged
 Buried at

4th. Herbert Harry,—
 Born 1881. 12 JAN
 Died
 Aged
 Buried at

M. HAD
 DAUGHTER

THE FAMILY OF NATHANIEL THE GREAT AND HIS WIFE
ELIZABETH (continued).

FOURTH CHILD, SECOND SON, JOHN.

Born 1774. 11 APRIL.

Died 1851. 15 JUNE.

Aged 77.

Buried at Portslade.

He married *Sarah, daughter of William Hardwick, Esq. of Hangleton
Place.

M. 31 OCT 1794,
15.4 JUNE 1795 She died 1832. Aged 56. Buried at Portslade.

27 FEB. They had eight children:—

1st. Sarah. Born 1799. Died 1859. Aged 60.

12 MAY 11 JUNE
Buried at Fletching.

M. 9 MAY 1821
She married George Turner, Esq.

2nd. Elizabeth. Born 1801. Died 1825. Aged 24.

16 JUNE 29 JULY
*Buried at Portslade.

3rd. Mary Anne. Born 1802. Died 1890 Aged

7 MAY 6 JAN
Buried at

4th. John. Born 1804. Died 1864. Aged 60. (Not in list)

20 NOV 8 APR
*Buried at Portslade.

(See page 58).

5th. Cordelia. Born 1806. Died 1827. Age 21.

1 DEC 13 MAR
*Buried at Portslade.

6th. Edgar. Born 1808. Died 1874. Aged 66.

*Buried at All Saints, Lewes.

(See page 60).

7th. Emily. Born 1810. Died 1825. Aged 15.

*Buried at Portslade.

8th. Fanny. Born 1812. Died 1863.

26 APR 30 JULY
Buried at Highgate Cemetery.

She married William Ridge, Esq. B. 1808 D 1865

* See Appendix, Portslade inscriptions on vaults.

The Family of John (the younger) and Mary (née Borrer) Blaker. *B. 27 JAN 1809, 9526. 110.*
 John, the fourth child, and eldest son of John and Sarah (née Hardwick)
 Blaker.

He married Mary, daughter of John Borrer, Esq., J.P. of Portslade, by
M. 18 APR 1839. his first wife. She died 1880. Aged 71.*

Buried at Portslade.

They had five children:—

1st. Henrietta. Born 1840. Died 1876. Aged 36.
25 APR. 29 JULY
 Buried at Portslade.

2nd. Arthur Beckett. Born 1842. Died 1914 Aged 72
 Buried at *Portslade*.

A gentleman farmer.

He married Elizabeth Jane, daughter of Edward Blaker, Esq., of East
M. 25 FEB 1887 Hill, Portslade.

They had 5 children

Dorothy Kathleen. *Brenda Mary. Wilfred. Geoffrey Beckett + Banks.*
 Born 1888. *1891 1894 1893 Joan 1894*

3rd. Ada Matilda. Died 1845. Aged three weeks.
B. 10 MAY 2 JUNE
 *Buried at Portslade.

4th. Isabel Beatrice. Born 1848. Died 1912 Aged
7 JULY
 Buried at *Haugleton*.

She married Charles Robert Dendy, Esq., of Chichester, who died 1876,
M. 20 APRIL 1871 aged 28, leaving her a widow. DIED 1912.

They had two sons:—

One died an infant in 1872.

Robert Arthur (Dendy).

Born 1873.

MARRIED 1 CHILD

* See Inscriptions at Portslade, Appendix, page 21.

The Family of John Blaker (the younger) and Mary his wife.—*Concluded.*

3rd. Evelyn Borrer. Born 1850. Died 1912 Aged 62

Buried at ^{23 AUG} —

A retired Solicitor.

He married twice:—

First, Julia Georgina, daughter of Dr. Weekes, of Hurstpierpoint. She

^{15 JUNE 1875} died 1879. Aged 31. And is

buried at Hurstpierpoint.

Second, Blanche Emma Sophia Louise Lozeron, a lady of Polish

extraction. Born 1864. Died 1910 Aged 46.

^{23 AUG} Buried at —

The family of Edgar and Amelia (née Renshaw) Blaker.

Edgar the sixth child and second and youngest son of John Blaker, the elder, and Sarah his wife.

He married Amelia, daughter of Henry Grundy Renshaw, Esq., of London and Ramsgate. She died 1879. Aged 66. ^{M. 7 MAY 1835} 18. 26. 2. 1879. ^{29 JAN}
Buried at All Saints, Lewes.

They had nine children:—

1st. EDGAR SHAW. Born 1836. Died Aged
Buried at

For many years Surgeon to Her Majesty's Convict Prison, at Portland, and now of Worthing.

He married Julia, daughter of John Renshaw, Esq., of Highbury, London. Born 1838. Died Aged ^{M. 20 JUNE 1866} 24 AUG. Buried at

They had two children:—

1st. Helen Mary. Born 1870. Died Aged ^{2 MAY} 11 OCT 1874
Buried at FRANCIS CHURCH WOODFIN CLIFF

2nd. Maud Edith. Born 1874. Died Aged ^{12 SEPT} 1. 1. SEPT. 1877
Buried at CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S, WOODFIN CLIFF

2nd. EMILY LOUISA. Born 1838. Died Aged
Buried at

She married Edward Andrews Nicholson, Esq., of Lewes (a well-known and much esteemed solicitor), and had 5 children.

The family of Edgar and Amelia Blaker (continued)—

3rd. MONTAGUE SPENCER. Born 1841. Died 1912 Aged
Buried at ^{10 FEB}

B.A., London University, Solicitor, Registrar, &c., of Lewes.

He married Katharine Louisa, daughter of William Beard, Esq., of
M. 20 June 1878 Southover, Lewes. Born 1849. Died 1949 Aged 100
Buried at ^{22 JULY}

They had 5 children:—

1st. Sibyl Amelia. Born 1880. Died 1968 Aged 88 M. STEVENSON SANDFORD.
Buried at ^{11 AUG} LEWES ^{24 JUNE} D. 1935

2nd. Sylvia Katharine. Born 1882. Died ' Aged
Buried at ^{16 APR}

3rd. Harold Montague. Born 1883. Died 1962 Aged 79 M. KATHERINE.
Buried at ^{5 DEC} LEWES.

4th. Ida Mary. Born 1886. Died 1902 Aged 74
* Buried at ^{11 JULY} LEWES.

4th. HERBERT. Born 1843. Died 19 Aged
Buried at ^{7 NOV}

He went out to Natal and settled there as a Colonist.

He married Ellen Prest, daughter of the late Chas. Saml. Cautherley,
M. 24 Aug 1870 Esq., of Abington Pigotts, Royston, Cambs.
Born 1847. Died Aged

Buried at

They had 3 children, viz.:—

1st. Charles Edgar. Born 1872. Died 1900 Aged 28
Buried at ^{23 JUNE} ^{15 APR}

2nd. William Herbert. Born 1876. Died Aged
Buried at ^{12 JUNE}

M. LUCRETIA WILKIN

3rd. George Ernest. Born 1881. Died Aged
Buried at ^{20 NOV}

5th. CLEMENT. Born 1846. Died 1869. Aged 23.
Buried at ^{18 DEC} All Saints, Lewes. ^{27 FEB}

* 5th FLORENCE FRANCIS BORN 1890 DIED 1970 Aged 80
^{28 MARCH}

The family of Edgar and Amelia Blaker (concluded)—

6th. AMELIA RENSRAW. Born 1848. Died Aged
Buried at

7th. REGINALD. Born 1850. Died Aged
Buried at ^{15 SEPT}

A solicitor at Lewes, holding sundry important offices.

He married Ellen Theresa, daughter of Edward Wilson *Turner, Esq., of
M 29. AUG 1884 Shrewton, Wilts. Born 1850. Died 1938 Aged 88
Buried at ^{15 SEPT}

8th. CECIL RENSRAW. Born 1852. Died Aged
Buried at ^{14 NOV}

A Clergyman, M.A., Queen's College, Oxford.

He married Annie, daughter of John Henry Kirtley, Esq., of Rochdale,
M 11 JUNE 1886 Lancashire. Born 1859. Died Aged
Buried at ^{11 MAY}

They had 3 child. REN
1st * Joyce. Born 1888.

9th. ERNEST HENRY. Born 1855. Died 1938 Aged 83.
Buried at ^{17 JUNE} ^{17 JUNE}

A Solicitor, of Worthing, holding important offices in the town.

He married Harriet Marianne, daughter of Rev. Henry George Nicholls,
Esq., of Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. Born 1859. Died Aged
M 10 JULY 1883. Buried at ^{16 SEPT}

* 2nd. CEDRIC BLAKER. BORN. 1889. 19th FEB. M.
2 SONS. DIED
1 PETER

* See page 50.

2 JOHN

* 3rd BRIAN OSCAR BLAKER. B. 1892 12 APR. M
D 1942

THE FAMILY OF NATHANIEL THE GREAT AND HIS WIFE
ELIZABETH (*continued*)—

5th Child, 3rd Daughter. Catherine (Spinster).

Born 1775. 17 JUNE
Died 1847. 3 APR.
Age 72.

*Buried at Portslade.

6th Child, 4th Daughter. Ann (Spinster).

Born 1777. 17 APR
Died 1811. 2 APR
Aged 34.

*Buried at Portslade.

7th Child, 3rd Son. George.

Born 1778. 30 SEPT.
Died 1856.
Aged 78.

Buried at Patcham.

He married Anna Kemp, only daughter of Stephen Bine, Esq., of New-
timber. Born, 1780? Died 1870. Aged 90.
17 16 OCT 20
B³URIED²⁵ at Patcham.^{25 APR}

They had two children:—

Anna, born 1814. Died 1834. Aged 20. Spinster.
0 OCT
*Buried at Patcham.^{25 DEC}

Elizabeth, born 1816. Died 1893 Aged 77
Buried at ^{12 FEB}

^{8 OCT 1839}
She married Thomas C. Renshaw, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn, London, and
the Sandrocks, Hayward's Heath, Barrister at Law and Queen's Counsel
They had seven children.

* See Inscriptions in Appendix.

THE FAMILY OF NATHANIEL THE GREAT AND HIS WIFE
ELIZABETH (*continued*)—

8th child, 4th Son. Edward, of Brighton and Portslade.
Born 1780. 26 MAR
Died 1851. 7 APR -
Aged 71.

*Buried at Portslade.

He married *Anna Kemp, daughter of John Marchant, Esq.,
M FEB 1810 of Saddlescomb. OAP 25 OCT 1823 D. 3 MAY 1841.

They had four children:—

1st. Anna Kemp. Born 1811. Died 1826. Aged 15.
*Buried at Portslade. 27 MAY

2nd. Elizabeth Susannah. Born 1812. Died 1820. Aged 8.
*Buried at Portslade. 12 APRIL

4th. Charles. Born 1828. Died 1828. Aged 18 days.
*Buried at Portslade. 18 OCT 31 OCT

3rd. EDWARD (of East Hill, Portslade).
Born, August 15th, 1811. Died, July 26th, 1883.
Aged 62.

*Buried at Portslade.

He married twice.

First, Ellen, daughter of Thomas Isaacson, Esq., of Freshwater, Isle of
Wight.

She died 28th May, 1856. Aged 28.

*Buried at Portslade.

They had six children:—

1st. Edward Isaacson. Born 1848. Died 1852. Aged 4.
OAP 14 JULY 1849 *Buried at Portslade. 29 AUG

* See Appendix with Inscriptions on vault.

First Family of Edward and Ellen Blaker, of East Hill, Portslade.—

(Continued).

2nd. CHARLES ISAACSON. Born 1850 (January 31st).

Died 1913 Aged

Buried at

A Solicitor.

Holding several important offices in the town of Leamington.

He married Annie, daughter of Joseph Glover, Esq., of Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Born 1854. Died Aged

Buried at

They had 5 children:—

1st. Charles Edward. Born 1881. Died

Aged M HAD 2 SONS.

Buried at

1. CECIL BLAKER

2nd. Reginald Bromhead. Born 1886. Died

Aged m.

Buried at

1 DAUGHTER.

3rd. *THOMAS FREDERICK ISAACSON. Born 1850

(December 25th). Died 1947 Aged

Buried at

Surgeon, of Preston, near Brighton.

UNC. ...

... ..

He married Mary Eliza, daughter of Henry Belcher, Esq., M.D., of Brighton.

Born 1860. Died Aged

Buried at

They had 2 children:—

1st. Henry Walter Roland. Born 1886. Died 1886.

Aged 6 weeks.

Buried in Brighton Extra Mural Cemetery.

2nd. Margaret Helen. Born 1887. Died Aged

Buried at

M.

* The Compiler and Editor of these Records.

The Family of Edward Blaker, of East Hill, Portslade.—(Concluded).

- 4th. WALTER ISAACSON. Born ^{AUG 1} 1852. Died 1895 Aged 43
Buried at *Easterton Within*
Clergyman, M.A. Oxon. (St. Edmund Hall), Curate at Tisbury, Wilts.
- 5th. EDITH ELLEN. Born 1853. Died 1904 Aged 51
Buried at ^{16 JULY}
- 6th. ELIZABETH JANE. Born 1855. Died 1924 Aged ^{AUG 1}
Buried at ^{17 FEB}
She married Arthur Beckett Blaker. (See page 58).

He married secondly:—

Emma Diana, daughter of Robert Lewin, Esq., of Cheam, Surrey.

1829 & 1874

They also had six children:—

- 7th. Emma Mary. Born 1859. Died 1863. Aged 4 years.
^{BORN 18 DEC 1859} *Buried at Portslade. ^{13 JULY}
- 8th. Edward Spencer. Born 1861. Died 1894 Aged 36
^{BORN 15 SEPT 1861} Buried at ^{16 JULY}
- M.A., M.B., Cantab. (Cavendish Coll.), of Wilts. County Lunatic
Asylum, Devizes.
- 9th. Katharine. Born 1862. Died 1924 Aged 62 ¹⁸⁸⁵
¹⁸⁶² Buried at ¹⁸⁸⁵
- 10th. Alice. Born 1865. Died 1924 Aged 59
^{BORN 14 JULY 1865} Buried at
- 11th. Ethel Anna. Born 1866. Died 1938 Aged 72
¹⁸⁶⁶ Buried at ¹⁹³⁸
- 12th. Isabella Maud. Born 1869. Died 1926 Aged 58
^{BORN 30 JAN 1869} Buried at ¹⁹²⁶

* See Appendix, with Inscription on Vault.

THE FAMILY OF NATHANIEL THE GREAT AND HIS WIFE
ELIZABETH—(continued).

8th Child, 4th Son. Edward. (See page 64).

9th Child, 5th Son. †Thomas (Bachelor).
Born 1788. 17 NOV. ?Y.
Died 1847. 20 MAR.
Aged 64.

*Buried at Portslade.

10th Child, 6th Son. Harry. (See page 68).

11th Child, 7th Son. †Charles (Bachelor).
Born 1786. 23 NOV.
Died 1827. 12 APR.
Aged 41.

*Buried at Portslade.

12th Child, 5th Daughter. Cordelia.

Born 1788. 7 SEPT.
Died 1854. 17 SEPT.
Aged 66.

*Buried at Portslade.

* See Appendix, with Inscriptions on Vaults.

† See his Letters (Appendix, page 9).—ED.

† A Sailor. I have heard my father say, he was the first man known to have ascended to the summit of Peak Teneriffe in the Canary Isles, 12,182 feet above the sea; and affording (so the books say) one of the most remarkable views in the world.
—ED.

THE FAMILY OF NATHANIEL BLAKER THE GREAT AND
HIS WIFE ELIZABETH.—(Concluded).

10th CHILD, 6th SON. HARRY.

Of Brighton. One of the leading Surgeons in the town in the Prince
Regent's time. Born 1784. Died 1846. Aged 62.
Buried at Portslade.

He married Sarah Arabella, daughter of John Mills, Esq., of Brighton.
M. 30 Jan. 1815

She died 1864. Aged 74.

They had nine children:—

1st. HARRY MILLS. Born 1816. Died 1869. Aged 53.

Buried at Brighton Parochial Cemetery.

Also a well-known and much esteemed Brighton Surgeon.

He married Emily, daughter of R. Puckle, Esq., of Camberwell.

M. 11 Mar. 1843

Born 1817. Died 1896. Aged 79

Buried at

They had three children:—

1st. Emily. Born 1844. Died Aged

Buried at

She married Andrew Duncan, Esq., of London.

2nd. Harry Mills. Born 1848. Died Aged

Buried at

3rd. Douglas. Born 1850. Died 1879. Aged 29.

Buried at Ifield.

He married Mary Kate, daughter of Mark Lemon, Esq., of Crawley (of
Punch fame).

Issue, one child, born and died 1879. PHILIP DOUGLAS BLETTER

2nd. WALTER LEOPOLD. Born 1818. Died 1835. Aged 16.

Buried at Portslade.

Family of Harry Blaker the elder, and Sarah Arabella, his wife—

(continued). 17 APR

3rd. SARAH. Born 1819. Died 1892 Aged 73

Buried at Brighton Parochial Cemetery (3:21) JULY 1892

She married Somers Clarke, Esq., of Brighton, where he has been a leading and highly respected Solicitor for upwards of half-a-century. (18:18) FEB 1837

He is the second son of Barbara, the second daughter of Nathaniel Blaker, the Great, and Elizabeth, his wife. (12:12) JAN 1892

They had two children.

(See page 51).

4th. HARRIET. Born 1820. Died 1821. Aged 1.

Buried at Portslade. 17 SEPT. 18 FLID

5th. RICHARD NATHANIEL. Born 1821. Died 1894 Aged 73

Buried at 3 NOV 18 F.C.

For many years the Vicar of Ifield, near Crawley, Sussex.

He married Loetitia, daughter of John King, Esq., of Brighton. Born

M. 2 FEB. 1820 1825: Died Aged

Buried at

They had six children —

1st. Harry Campbell. Born 1847. Died Aged

Buried at 25 JAN

He married Edith, daughter of Rev. T. J. Rowsell, Canon of Westminster.

M. 17 JUL. 1872 Born 1848. Died Aged

Buried at 3 MAY

They had 4 children:—

1st. Harry Rowsell. Born 1872. Died Aged M: LILIA FORK 25 AD 1904.

Buried at 31 OCT

1 SON B D 1902.

2nd. Edith Rowsell. Born 1875. Died Aged M: FRED OLIVER,

Buried at 9 OCT

CHILD.

3rd. Maude Campbell. Born 1877. Died Aged M. BRADEN

Buried at 4 JUNE

CHILD

4th. Richard Norman Rowsell. Born 1879. Died Aged M

Buried at 24 OCT

CHILD.

Family of Richard Nathaniel Blaker, and his wife, Loetitia—(continued).

2nd. Walter Campbell. Born 1848. Died Aged

Buried at ^{14 JAN}

A Surgeon, of Lyndhurst, Hants.

He married Emma Kennett, a widow, daughter of Joseph Allison, Esq.,

M² SEPT. 1871 of Acton, near London. Born 1849. Died Aged

Buried at ^{12 MAR}

They had three children:—

1st. Madeline Emma. Born 1872. Died Aged

Buried at ^{5 JULY}

2nd. Mabel Josephine. Born 1873. Died Aged

Buried at ^{7 DEC}

3rd. Beatrice Kathleen Mildred. Born 1875. Died Aged

Buried at ^{21 JULY}

3rd. Madeline Campbell. Born 1849. Died 1875. Aged 26.

Buried at Ifield. ^{20 JULY 1901}

4th. Horace Campbell. Born 1850. Died 1900 Aged 50

Buried at ^{23 NOV 1900}

1978. Married, at Calcutta in 1875, Kate, fifth daughter of Mark Lemon, Esq.,
1875 of Crawley, Sussex (of *Punch* fame). Born 1857. Died Aged

Buried at

They had 4 children:—

1st. Kate Lemon. Born 1876. Died Aged

Buried at ^{26 FEB 18}

2nd. Winifred Lemon. Born 1878. Died Aged

Buried at ^{20 OCT}

3rd. Norah Lemon. Born 1882. Died Aged

Buried at ^{22 OCT}

4th. Dorothy Lemon. Born 1885. Died Aged

Buried at ^{7 NOV}

Family of Richard Nathaniel Blaker and Loetitia, his wife.—(Concluded).

5th. Aubrey Campbell, of the Theological College, Chichester.

A Clergyman of Ifield, Sussex.

Born 1855. Died Aged

^{2 JUNE}
Buried at

6th. Reginald Campbell. Born 1861. Died Aged

^{4 FEB}
Buried at

He married Constance Eva, daughter of H. R. Brett, Esq., of Kensington.

M 20 OCT 1886. Born 1864. Died Aged

Buried at

They had 1 child, viz.:—

1st. Dorothea Campbell. Born 1886. Died Aged

^{26 SEP}
Buried at

14.

Family of Harry Blaker the elder, and Sarah Arabella, his wife.—
(Concluded).

6th. ELIZABETH. Born 1823. Died Aged
Buried at ^{22 AUG}

7th. MARIAN. Born 1824. Died Aged
Buried at ^{10 AUG}

8th. CHARLES. Born and died 1827.
Buried at Portslade. ^{26 JUL 1892}

9th. CORDELIA. Born 1828. Died 1901 Aged 73
Buried at ^{17 DEC 1900}

She married Benjamin Octavius Engleheart, Esq., of Beckenham, Kent.
M 13 FEB 1854 They had two sons and eight daughters.

CHAPTER III.

“Therefore, now let it please Thee to bless the house of Thy servant, that it may continue for ever before Thee. And with Thy blessing, let the house of Thy servant be blessed for ever. 2 Samuel vii. 29.



WITH the death of our venerated ancestors, Nathaniel the Great, and Elizabeth, his faithful wife, we come to modern times.

The Pedigree Tables, of which there are 9 at the end of this book, and the foregoing explanatory notes, will speak for themselves.

I have, therefore, nothing more to do, but to make my bow, and retire from the rôle of amateur historian, with the hope in my heart, that in years to come,* some one of the as yet unborn, may take it into his head to gather up the threads where I have dropped them, and bring out Volume II.

* It is to be devoutly desired that, for the sake of the poor chronicler of the future, the present fashion of giving children so many names will die out. I feel more at liberty to make such a remark, seeing that I answer myself to about the longest name of the whole family, which has been a nuisance to me since I first began to say my Catechism to the present day; and I have moreover been an equal sinner with the rest with regard to my own children.—ED.

It is my very sincere trust, that by privately publishing these Records amongst ourselves only, I may have given offence to none; but on the other hand perchance, a modicum of pleasure to, at least, some of the multitudinous tribe of

— Blaker. —

† There are now (May, 1886), 10 Boys and 20 Girls living of the rising generation,—the 4th from Nathaniel the Great and his wife Elizabeth.

In our generation—the 3rd—the numbers are almost reversed: i.e., there are 19 men with 15 wives, and nine women, married and single.

In the 2nd generation there are remaining, two men (one a widower, the other still married) and nine women,—of these, one is still happily married; four are widows; and four are virgins of mature years.

All told,—Widows, Wives, Virgins, Men and Children,—there are now living 85 Blakers.

Of the 1st generation, all “have been gathered to their fathers;” the last to go being old Mr. Nathaniel Blaker (the 3rd), the eldest of the 12, who died at the advanced age of 91 in 1868. (Appendix, pages 10 and 23).

Just a hundred years ago this May, there were 15 Blaker's living, and another on the road, viz.:—Cordelia, the youngest of the celebrated 12, who was born in September, 1788.—ED.

A P P E N D I X .

*Entries in an old BIBLE now in the Possession of NATHANIEL P.
BLAKER, Esq., Surgeon, 29, Old Steine, Brighton.*

December the 11th Day, 1738, *Katharine Blaker, Born'd. January
the 3 Day, 1739 Babties.

April the 20 Day, 1740, †Anna Blaker was Born'd. May the 13
Day, 1740, Babties.

December 3 the Day, 1742, } Octbr. 29 Day, 1745, §Edwd.
‡Nathl. Blaker Born'd. December } Blaker. Died, B. Novb. 2 Day.
31 Day, 1742, Babties.

¶Katharine Blaker, died November the 15th Day, 1762. Buried,
November the 20th. Aged 67.

¶Nathaniel Blaker, Died July the 10th Day, 1764. Buried, July
17th. Aged 65.

*Katharine Blaker, Daughter of the above Nathl. and Katharine
Blaker, Died, Sept. 6th, 1809. Aged, 71 years.

†Anna Kipping, Widow of the late Henry Kipping and Daughter
of the above Nathl. Blaker and Katharine Blaker, Died, April 12th,
1814. Aged, 74, wanting eight days.

* The eldest sister of Nathaniel the Great.

† The second ditto ditto ditto, who afterwards married H. Kipping.

‡ The Great Nathaniel.

§ Uncle to Nathaniel the Great, second grandson of the M.P.

¶ The Great Nathaniel's mother.

¶ Nathaniel the Great's father, *i.e.*, the first Nathaniel, eighth grandchild of the
M.P.—[Ed.]

Nathl. Blaker and Elizth. Rogers were married July 26th, 1769.

Elizabeth, daughter of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was born July 20th, 1770. Baptized, August 15th, 1770.

Barbara, Daughter of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was Born July the 19th, 1771. Baptized, July 31st, 1771.

Nathaniel, son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker was Born Nov. the 20th, 1772. Baptized, Dec. the 8th, 1772.

John, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was Born April the 11th, 1774. Baptized, June 16th, 1774.

Catharine, Daughter of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was Born, June 17th, 1775. Baptized, July 14th. 1775.

Ann, Daughter of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was Born, April 19th, 1777. Baptized, October the 15th, 1777.

George, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was Born, September the 30th, 1778. Baptized, Novbr. 18th, 1778.

Edward, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was Born, March 26th, 1780. Baptized, May 26th, 1780.

Thomas, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was Born, Novbr. 17th, 1782. Baptized, January, 10th, 1783.

Harry, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was Born, October the 26th, 1784. Baptized, Novbr. 24th, 1784.

Charles, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was Born, November 23rd, 1786. Baptized, Feby. 27th, 1787.

Cordelia, Daughter of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, was Born, September 7th, 1788. Baptized, Decbr. 12th, 1788.

Ann Blaker, Daughter of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, April 2nd. 1811. Aged, 33. Buried, April 8th.

Nathaniel Blaker, Father of the aforementioned childreu, Died, May 6th, 1815. Aged, 72. Buried, May, 12th. Elizabeth Blaker, his wife, Died, May 17th, 1815. Aged 69. Buried, May 22nd.

Charles Blaker, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, April 12th, 1827. Aged, 40. Buried, April 17th.

Harry Blaker, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, April 23rd, 1846. Aged, 61. Buried, May 2nd.

Thomas Blaker, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died March 20th, 1847. Aged, 64. Buried, March 27th.

Catharine Blaker, Daughter of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, April 3rd, 1847. Aged, 71. Buried, April 9th.

Elizabeth Turner, Widow of Thomas Turner, and Daughter of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, May 23rd. Aged, 76. Buried, May 29th, 1847.

Barbara Clarke, wife of the Rev. Samuel Clarke, and Daughter of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, April 12th, 1849. Aged, 77. Buried, April 19th.

Edward Blaker, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, April 7th, 1851. Aged, 71. Buried, April 14th.

John Blaker, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, June 18th, 1851, Aged, 77. Buried, June 25th.

Cordelia Blaker, daughter of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, Sept. 17th, 1854. Aged, 66. Buried, Sept. 22nd.

George Blaker, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, Oct. 9th, 1856. Aged, 78. Buried, Oct. 16th.

Nathaniel Blaker, Son of Nathl. and Elizth. Blaker, Died, October 6th, 1863. Aged, 90. Buried, October 13th, 1863.

An account of Distempers which each child has had.

Elizth. Blaker has had The Hog Pox, the Measles, the Mumps, the Small Pox, the Hooping Cough.

Barbara Blaker has had the Hog Pox, the Measles, the Mumps, the Small Pox, the Hooping Cough.

Nathl. Blaker has had the Hog Pox, the Measles, the Mumps, the Small Pox, the Hooping Cough.

John Blaker has had the Chicking Pox, the Measles, the Mumps, the Small Pox, the Hooping Cough.

Catharine Blaker, the Chicking Pox, the Measles, the Mumps, the Small Pox, the Hooping Cough.

Ann Blaker has had the Mumps, the Chicking Pox, the Small Pox, the Hooping Cough, the Measles.

George Blaker has had the Chicking Pox, the Small Pox, the Hooping Cough, the Measles, the Mumps.

Edward Blaker has had the Chicking Pox, the Small Pox, the Hooping Cough, the Mumps.

Thomas Blaker has had the Measles, the Chicking Pox, the Scarlet Fever, Hooping Cough, Mumps, Small Pox.

Harry Blaker has had the Measles, the Chicking Pox, Hooping Cough, Mumps, Small Pox (Scarlet Fever).

Charles Blaker has had the Hooping Cough, Chicking Pox, Mumps, Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever.

Cordelia Blaker has had the Hooping Cough, Chicking Pox, Mumps, Small Pox, Measles.

End of Bible Entries.

Original Documents in Possession of

ARTHUR BECKETT BLAKER, Esq., of Beechwood, near Lewes.

They came to him from Mr. John Blaker, the elder, of Lewes, his Grandfather, and formed the foundation of our Pedigree in Berry's Sussex Genealogies.

Granted to Edward Blaker, under ye hand and seal of Wm. Segar Garter, on ye 19 of February, 1616. Moors heads.

Edward Blaker, of Portslade, in
Con. Sussex. | Anne, Daur. of Robert Fowler.

Henry, 4 son.	Anne, daur. of William Dappe, of Newick, in Con. Sussex, 1st wife.	=Edward= Blaker, of Portslade, Son & heir. S. P. Arms granted to him 19th February, 1616. Living 1634.	*Susan, daur. of Tuppin Scras, 2nd wife.	John 2nd son. Thomas, 3 son.
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William 2nd son about 2 years old.	Richard 3rd son.	Edward Blaker, Eldest Son, about 4 years old, 1634.	Susan, about 5 years old, 1634.
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New Shoreham.—Harry Bridger and Ann Blaker, were married 6th March, 1762. Martin.

Tuppin Scras, the Father, lived at Blatchington (not stated †East or

* Susannah, not Susan. See last of the Old Shoreham inscriptions. Appendix, page. 16.

† But West of course. Here the Scrase family lived for generation after generation. This pedigree is now published in Suss. Arch. Coll. Vol. viii. page 1. See Appendix, page 22.—Ed.

West), and Susan, the Wife of Edward Blaker, was the Eldest Daughter and stated to be the wife of Edward Blaker, in the pedigree of the Scrase folio, 416.

*Henry Blaker signed the terrier of the Glebe. It appears that there was land belonging to the family here at that time, 1635. Richard Blaker, buried 1672.

†Old Shoreham Registry book bought by W. Blaker, Esq., MDCXCIV. 1703. W. Blaker, of Buckingham, Esq., was buried.

*1655. Henry Blaker, buried March 7th.

*1655. And his widw. do. March 13.

‡Edward Blaker, Esq. was buried Sept. 15th, 1678. The Affidavit for his being buried in woollen only was entered the twenty-second day of September, 1678, 3rd.

KINGSTON REGISTER.

1681. Robt. Hall, Gent., Mar'd. Dorothy, widow of E. Blaker, of Old Shoreham, Esq.

1681. Jno. Verrall, Mar'd. Eliz. Blaker.||

1683. Susanna, dau. of E. B., Bapd.

1687. Edward, son of -do., do. (He died in 1745).—ED.

1688. Edward Blaker, Buried.§

(I suppose the child above) (No.)

1690. Ann, daur. of E. B. (her maiden name wanted), and Ann, his wife. Bapd.

* Not mentioned in his Granny's will. He died 1655. His wife Ann died the same year.

† What has become of it?

‡ The M.P.

|| Unless she was a daughter of Richard the youngest brother of the M.P., she doesn't belong to us. He had children whose names are not recorded. We only know of Mary *the youngest* child, who was admitted to Copyhold in Portslade in 1678.

§ The writers were evidently confused by this entry. There was no Edward in 1688 to bury, unless he was an unrecorded son of the same Richard.—ED.

1692. Will, Son of E. B., Baptized.
 1695. John, Do. Do. Do.
 1697. Sarah, Do. Do. Do.
 1699. *2nd Nathaniel, Do. Do. Do.
 1712. Ann, wife of E. B. Buried.
 1712. John Hitchcock, Mar'd. F. B. License. ¶ Frances, born
 1685.—Ed.
 1714. E. B., Sen. and Jun., Churchwardens
 1728. E. B., Sen. Buried.
 1726. Eliz. daur. of E. Blaker. Buried. (Aged 10 months).—Ed.
 1726. Anne B. of this Parish. Buried.
 1726. †Shadrack, son of E. B., Old Shoreham. Buried.
 1736. Ann Blaker. Buried.
 1738. Katharine, daur. of Nathl. Bap.
 1740. Ann do. do. do.
 1742. Nathl. do. do. do.
 1745. E. B., Buckingham. Buried.
 1751. W. Blaker. Buried.
 1757. E. B., Old Shoreham. Buried. (Age, 31. Unmarried).—Ed.
 1762. Mrs. K. B., wife of N. B. Buried.
 1769. Jno. Blaker, Steyning. Buried.
 1764. Nathaniel Blaker. Buried. (The first, father of Nathaniel the
 Great).—Ed.
- Arms granted in 1616 to ‡5. E. Blaker, Married Anne Fowler.
 4. E. Blaker, Married Anne Dappe.
 ||3. E. Blaker, Married Anna ———.
 2. N. Blaker, Married Katharine Friend.
 1. N. Blaker, Married Elizth. Rogers.

* Of course the First not the Second or Great Nathaniel.

¶ Papers lent me by Mr. Cecil Somers Clarke, grandson of Somers Clarke, Esq.

† On the vault it is Sidorick, not Shadrack. See Appendix, page 17.—Ed.

‡ This is clearly an error, it was to his son.

|| Anne not Anna.—Ed.

" MY DEAR BROTHER,—

" I have this day been in Kingston church for the purpose of collecting the inscriptions on the tombs of our ancestors. It would be well if the chisel of 'Old Mortality' had been exercised upon the oldest of them, for upon that I can make out only the word 'Blaker' in two places with the addition of Mary. I will now give the remainder.*

" † There is a slab over which the gallery stairs are placed so that I could only read the words 'Edward and Elizabeth Blaker.' The right hand part of this marble being under the stairs I could get no date.

" From a conversation I had to-day with Jas. Turner, I find there are some Blakers buried at Old Shoreham. He has kindly promised to take the inscriptions, and when I get them they shall at once be forwarded to you in order that they may be placed before Mr. Woolgar, who I doubt not (if any man can), will be able to make out our claim to the arms we use. I have not been able to find ‡ the maiden name that you have searched for, and I question much if we shall get it.

" I am aware I have written in the style of a 'Parson much bemused in Beer,' but as there is no help for it now, I will conclude by saying that,

" I am ever,

" My dear Brother,

" Yours very affectionately,

(Signed) "THO. BLAKER.

" Portslade,

" Feby. 2nd, 1829.

" To Mr. Blaker, Lewes, Sussex."

* Here come the inscriptions which I have copied myself. See Appendix, page 17.

† The one he could not copy I have, owing to the stairs having been removed.

‡ Nor I.—Ed.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—

"I am informed by Harry this afternoon Mr. Woolgar desires 'to have the names and dates of birth of all the children and grandchildren' of our late respected father.

"He has very properly confined my task in this manner to the children only, of whose names and dates I annex a copy from the great family Bible.*

"Nathl. Blaker, father of these children died May 6, 1815, aged 72 years. Elizabeth, his wife, died May 17th, 1815, Aged 69 years.

"Should there be anything worthy notice in Old Shoreham Church or New Shoreham Church, or register, I will forward it to Mr. Woolgar, in London, provided you will give me his address. I see Mr. Woolgar says he has only the years and not the months and days in the Kingston extracts; he had a faithful copy of all the inscriptions. I find the Blakers of Buckingham lived where Mr. Bridger now does in the memory of Mr. W. Hall. I hope you are not labouring under so severe a cold as that which now afflicts,

"Your affectionate Brother,
(Signed) THO. BLAKER.

"Portslade,
"Feb. 6th, 1829."

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—

"I have enclosed by the desire of my brother Harry the names and dates of my children's births and deaths, namely:—

"Samuel Clarke, born 5th July, 1801. Died, 17th Febr., 1828.

"Somers Clarke, born 21st July, 1802.

"Nathaniel Clarke, born 19 December, 1803. Died, June 13, 1805.

* See copy of entries in said Bible, Appendix, page 1.

"Theophilus Clarke, born 21 September, 1813.

"William Clarke, born 23 November, 1817.

(Signed) "B. CLARKE."

"Old Land, Feb 5th, 1829.

"DEAR BROTHER,—

"I am requested by our brother Harry, to transmit to you the names and ages of my children. Elizth. Blaker, of Portslade, married Thos. Turner, of Old Land, in the Parish of Keymer, by whom she had issue:—

" Elizth.	was Born the 17th of February, 1794.
" Thomas	do. 27th July, 1795.
" William	do. 8th October, 1796, died, 12th Aug., 1812.
" Sarah	do. 18th January, 1798.
" Richard	do. 17th September, 1799.
" John	do. 1st August, 1801.
" Mary Jane	do. 7th January, 1803.
" Frances Ann	do. 7th November, 1804.
" Roger	do. 21st March, 1806.
" Edward Wilson	do. 12th October, 1811.
" Nathaniel Blaker (Turner)	do. 21st July, 1814.

"Yours truly,

(Signed) "ELIZABETH TURNER."

"Pangdean, Febr. 6th, 1829.

"DEAR BROTHER,—

"Our pedigree Brother of Brighton has requested me to send you the names, births, deaths, and ages of my family. The under-written Names I believe are correct and are as follows:—

"Nath., borne, Sept. 22nd, 1800.

- "Anna, born, Jany. 9th, 1802.
 "John, borne, August 21st, 1803. Died, 30th May, 1820.
 "Geo., Born, March 7th, 1805.
 "Harriet, born, May 22nd, 1807. Died, 2nd Oct., 1824.
 "Elizth., born, July 9th, 1809. ,, 24th May, 1824.
 "Mary, born, July 16th, 1811.
 "Mrs. B. and family join with me in love to you all.

"Yours affectionately,
 (Signed) "NATH. BLAKER."

John Blaker, Born, 11th April, 1774. Married Sarah, Daughter of
 William Hardwick, of Hangston Place, 31 Oct., 1797.

Issue :—

- Sarah, Born 12 May, 1799. Married George Turner.
 Elizabeth, ,, 16 January, 1801. Died, 29 July, 1825.
 Mary Ann, ,, 7 March, 1802.
 John, ,, 20th November, 1804.
 Cordelia ,, 1st October, 1806. Died, 13th March, 1827.
 Edgar ,, 17th April, 1808.
 Emily, ,, 14th July, 1810. Died, 22nd April, 1825.
 Fanny, ,, 26th March, 1812.

"Thursday Afternoon.

"DEAR BROTHER,

"I send you the dates of birth of Ned's progeny and also my own issue, and though we cannot claim great deeds, at least we can claim a numerous offspring to make up the deficiency.

"I have written to Tom, to Nat, to George, to Mrs. Turner, and Mrs. Clarke at once to furnish the names and date of birth of their respective children, and also of the deceased ones. I have requested them all to direct their letters to you, and with the hope you will directly let Mr. Woollgar have them, as he goes to London on Tuesday, and as he

will see Mr. Berry* he will confabulate with him upon the subject in order to its final completion. In the sketch inclosed from Mr. Woollgar. I have added one or two things, that is Mr. Turner of *Keymer* and not of *Ditchling*. George Blaker, of Patcham; Edward Blaker, of Brighton; and Harry Blaker, of Brighton. You know I am rather particular and like truth near as we can get it.

" † Edward Blaker's Issue.

" Ned himself was born March 26th, 1780. Married, Feb. 1st, ‡ 1810, to Anna Marchant.

" Since the commencement of my letter I have received George's progeny which I have added, and have requested Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Clarke, and Nat, to forward theirs to you, and that you will have the kindness to see Mr. Woollgar and explain intricacies, if any, in the repetitions here given and inclosed. I have added a few dates as to births and deaths in Mr. Woollgar's programme, but which are correct. Mr. W. had better see Mr. Berry when in London, and put the matter in a state of training for printing and any other information we can quickly get shall be transmitted. Tom is going again on Monday to Shoreham.

" I am sure you are too active a man to sleep in a matter of this kind.

" Ever yours affectionately,

(Signed) " HARRY BLAKER.

" Saturday evening."

Harry Blaker's Issue. AND WE DON'T KNOW THAT THE GAME IS YET PLAYED OUT!!! ||

1. Harry Mills Blaker, born, December 11th, 1816.

* The author of *Sussex Genealogies*.

† Already given.

‡ This was an extraordinary foggy day.

|| *Litera scripta manet!* Little did he think his letter would go down to posterity!—Ed.

2. Walter Leopold ,, ,, March 11th, 1818.
3. Sarah ,, ,, July 14th, 1819.
4. Harriet ,, ,, Sept. 17th, 1820. Died Feb. 25th,
1821, and buried at Portslade.
5. Richard Nathaniel ,, ,, November 3rd, 1821.
6. Elizabeth ,, ,, April 22nd, 1823.
7. Marian ,, ,, August 10th, 1824.
8. Charles ,, ,, July 26th, 1827. Died, August 20th,
1827, and buried at Portslade.
9. Cordelia ,, ,, October 17th, 1828.

Harry Blaker himself born Oct. 26th, 1784, and was Married to Sarah Arabella Mills, Jany. 30th, 1816.

George Blaker's Issue.

1. Anna, Born, Oct 6th, 1814.
2. Elizabeth, ,, August 8th, 1816.

George Blaker himself, born Sept. 30th, 1778, and was married to Anna Kemp Bine, Oct. 16, 1810.

THE ANCIENT MANOR HOUSE OF PORTSLADE.

This old building now stands in Ruins, more or less picturesquely surrounded by lanky trees, and knee deep in wild parsley and rank undergrowth. The place where it stands is appropriately known as "The Wilderness" and forms a portion of the charming grounds of the modern Manor House.

It was at this old place, that our venerated great grand parents, Nathaniel Blaker and Elizabeth (née Rogers) his wife dwelt. It was here that they begot, brought forth, and reared their twelve children; and it is within a few yards of these old ruins that nearly all *these twelve children lie buried.

For what we know to the contrary the ancient Blakers, Blackers, or Blakyers of Portslade may have lived in this very house.

Be that as it may it was the happy home of our grandfathers, when they were boys living with their parents and sisters. And a very united and attached family they all were.

For many years after they were grown up it was always their custom to meet here every Christmas, which they kept in genuine good old-fashioned style—*not forgetting the wassail-bowl!* This custom was kept up until there were only one or two of them left, and it then became so sad to the survivors, that they honoured the custom by its breach, rather than by its observance.

The dear old place passed out of our hands in a somewhat mysterious manner; mysterious, because there is no one living who seems to know just how it came about, or whether even the place was actually owned by our great-grandfather or only leased by him. †It was purchased by the late William Borrer, Esqre. of some people of the name of Lambe.

* See Appendix, page 19.

† A. B. Blaker, grandson of John Borrer and John Blaker, Senior.

Now whether the Blaker family sold it to them, or how the Lambes became possessed of it, is not clear. John Borrer, Esq., J.P., the son of the above-named William Borrer, lived in it for three years whilst the modern one was building, and then he caused it to be pulled down. This was in 1833.

I have direct authority for stating, that at the time this sale of the poor old place occurred, it caused some annoyance to more than one of the sons (our grandfathers), who would gladly have bought it, had they known it was for sale—but apparently there was a good deal of mystery and secrecy about the whole transaction.

Unfortunately I have no Ghost to chronicle, "Doom'd for a certain term to walk the earth."

In M. A. Lower's Hist. of Sussex, Vol. II. we find this short-paragraph:

"The Ancient Manor House, Portslade, still exhibits two tolerably perfect double-light round-headed windows. Of one the dividing mullion has a decidedly Norman capital. One fragment of wall is three feet three inches thick, and seems to have been overthrown by violence."

Ed.

RECORDS FROM OLD SHOREHAM CHURCH.

ON THE WEST WALL IN THREE TABLETS:

To the Pious Memory of

Edward Blaker of Buckingham in this Parish Esqr.,
Justice of the Pece & Burges in Parliament for New Shoreham,
Whose Piety, Loyalty, Charity, Humility, & Sweetness of Disposition
engaged the love and admiration of all that knew him in his life and noe
less their lamentations at his death.

Hee exchanged this life for a Better 13th September 1678 in y^e 49 year
of his age, Whose sorrowfull Relict (Dorothy y^e daughter of Henry Gore-
ing of Heydowne in this County of Sussex Esqr. as a testimony of her
never dyeing Affection hath paid her last duty in this monument.

To the Memory of

William Blaker of Buckingham, Esqr.,
Who departed this life the 6th day of October,
in the year of our Lord, MDCCIII.

Aged 72.

This Monument was erected by William Monke, of Buckingham
Esqre., his Grandson by Susanna the only daughter of the said William
Blaker.

HERE

lieth the Body of *Susannah the widow of Mr. Edward Blaker of
Buckingham. She dyed in the 75th year of her age, June 20th, 1678.

* Mother of the M.P. and daughter of Tuppyn Scrasce. It will be observed that
she died only a few weeks before her son.

RECORDS FROM KINGSTON (BY SEA) CHURCH.

The Bell in the Tower has this inscription :

“ Edward Blaker, Churchwarden, 1687.”

The Bible in the church has written on the fly leaf :

“ William

and

Nathaniel Blaker.

Richard Harris, Rector,

September ye 1st, 1741.”

(Time of George II).

The following Inscriptions are all on the floor of the church, and are in wonderfully good preservation, and well cared for. Each inscription has the family coat of arms on the top :

Here lyeth

The Body of Susanna the Wife of John Monke of this Parish, the only daughter of William Blaker, Esqre., of Buckingham, in Old Shoreham, who died the 9th of May, 1690. Here also lyeth the Body of John and Mary, Son and Daughter of y^e said John and Susanna Monke.

Here

lieth y^e body of Ann y^e daughter of Edward and Ann Blaker, who departed this life Sepr. y^e 5th, 1726, Aged 36 years.

Here lieth Interr'd the Body of Elizabeth, Daughter of Edward Blaker, Gent., and Eliz.—his wife, who departed this life the 27th June, 1726, Aged 10 months. Also their son Siderick, who departed this life the 20th September, 1729, Aged 7 weeks.

Also their Daughter Ann, who departed this life the 9th January, 1736, Age, 5 years.

Here lieth Interr'd the Body of Edward Blaker, Gent., who departed this life the 28th October, 1745, Aged 58 years.

Here lieth Interr'd the Body of Elizabeth, Relict of Elizabeth Blaker, Gent., who departed this life the 16th December, 1755.

Aged 60 years.

Here lieth Interr'd the Body of Edward Blaker, Gent., son of Edward and Elizabeth Blaker, who departed this life y^e 20th May, 1757, Aged 31 years.

In Memory of Katharine, wife of Nathl. Blaker, Gent., who died Nov. y^e 15th, 1762. Aged 67 years. Also the aforesaid Nathl. Blaker, Gent., who died y^e 10th July, 1764, Aged 65.

Here lieth Interr'd y^e Body of William Blaker, Gent., who departed this life y^e 29th of July, 1751, Aged 59 years.

Also Mrs. Ann Bridger, Wife of the above William Blaker, Gent., since marry'd to Harry Bridger, Esqre. She departed this life January the 3rd, 1769.

RECORDS FROM PORTSLADE CHURCHYARD AND CHURCH.

(On the Churchyard side of the South Wall, eastern aspect, in three tablets.)

Sacred

To the memory of Thomas Blaker, who died on the 20th day of March, 1847. 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 Elizabeth Blaker, who died on the 17th day of September, 1854. Aged 66 years.

In the vault beneath

are deposited the remains of Nathaniel Blaker, of this Parish, Gentleman, who died on the 6th day of May, 1815. Aged 72 years.

Also of Elizabeth, Widow of the said 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 33 years.

Also of Charles, their youngest son, who died on the 12th day of April, 1827. Aged 40 years.

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.

ON THE TOP OF THE VAULT.

In the vault beneath are deposited the remains of Edward Isaacson, the eldest son of Edward and Ellen Blaker, who died 29th August, 1852.

Aged 3 years and 8 months.

Also of

Ellen, wife of Edward Blaker, who died 28th May, 1856. Aged 28 years.

Also of Emma Mary, daughter of Edward and Emma D. Blaker, who died July 13th, 1863. Aged 3 years and 8 months.

Also of the above named Edward Blaker, of this Parish (eldest son of Edward and Anna Kemp Blaker), who died July 26th, 1883.

Aged 62 years.

On a vault close to the other.

In memory of

Harry Blaker, Gentleman, who died at Brighton on the 23rd April, 1846.

Aged 61 years.

Also of

Sarah Arabella, wife of the above, who died on the 10th of April, 1864.

Aged 74 years.

In Memory of

Walter Leopold, second son of Harry Blaker and Sarah Arabella, his wife, who died Feb. 3rd, 1835. Aged 16 years.

Also of Harriett, their second daughter, who died Feb. 28th, 1821.

Aged 5 months.

Also Charles, their fourth son, who died August 20th, 1827.

Aged 3 weeks.

ON THE WEST WALL, CHURCHYARD SIDE TO RIGHT OF TOWER,
ON TABLETS.

In memory of John Blaker,
of Lewes, who died 18th June, 1851.

Aged 77 years.

And of Sarah, his wife who died 27th February, 1832. Aged 56 years,

Also of Emily, their fifth-daughter, who died 22nd April, 1825.

Aged 14 years.

Also of Elizabeth, their second daughter, who died 29th July, 1825.

Aged 24 years.

Also of Cordelia, their fourth daughter, who died 13th March, 1827.

Aged 20 years.

In Memory of

John Blaker, the younger, of Lewes, who 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, who died 29th July, 1876.

Aged 36 years.

Also of Mary, Wife of the above named John Blaker, who died 9th
February, 1880. Aged 71 years.

INSIDE THE CHURCH (EAST WALL OF RIGHT AISLE).

To the Memory of

Theophilus Clarke, Assistant Surgeon,

H.E.I.C.M.

Who died at Gogo, in the East Indies,
November 8th, 1840. Aged 27 years.

Sacred to the memory of

Mr. Harry Blaker, of Brighton, Surgeon,
who died the 23rd of April, 1846. Aged 61 years.

"The memory of the just is blessed."

[The following inscriptions have only indirect connection with our family, but they were placed in the church by the late Mr. Edward Blaker, of Portslade, in 1883. The Edward Blaker, to whom the arms were granted in 1616, married Susanna, daughter of Tuppyn Scrase, Gentleman, of West Blatchington. And Mrs. Edward Blaker (née Anna Kemp Marchant), had a sister who married a Scrase in the early part of the 19th century.]

Here lyeth buried Rychard Scrasce, late of Hangelton, Gentelma, whiche died in the yere of our lord god one 1499.

Here lyeth buried Rychard Scrasce, of Bletchington, Gentelma, which died in y^e yere of our lord god one 1519.

Here lyeth buried Edward Scrasce, of bletchington Gentelma, who died in y^e yere of o^r lord (1579).

This Brass was preserved from the ruins of West Blatchington Church.*

[N.B.—“Our Lord God One,” refers I suppose, to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity].—ED.

*This annotation of my late father's is, I fear wrong, for in Vol. VIII. of the Suss. Arch. Coll., the brasses are very fully described, and it there states distinctly that they were found at Preston, where we know very many of the family were buried. Miss Scrase, who helped to compile the said paper, writes to me that the statement therein is probably correct.—ED.

RECORDS FROM PRESTON CHURCH-YARD.

Sacred to the memory of

Anna,

Wife of Nathaniel Blaker, Esq.,

late of Pyecombe (but now of this Parish), who departed this life the
29th of January, 1842, in the 73rd year of her age.

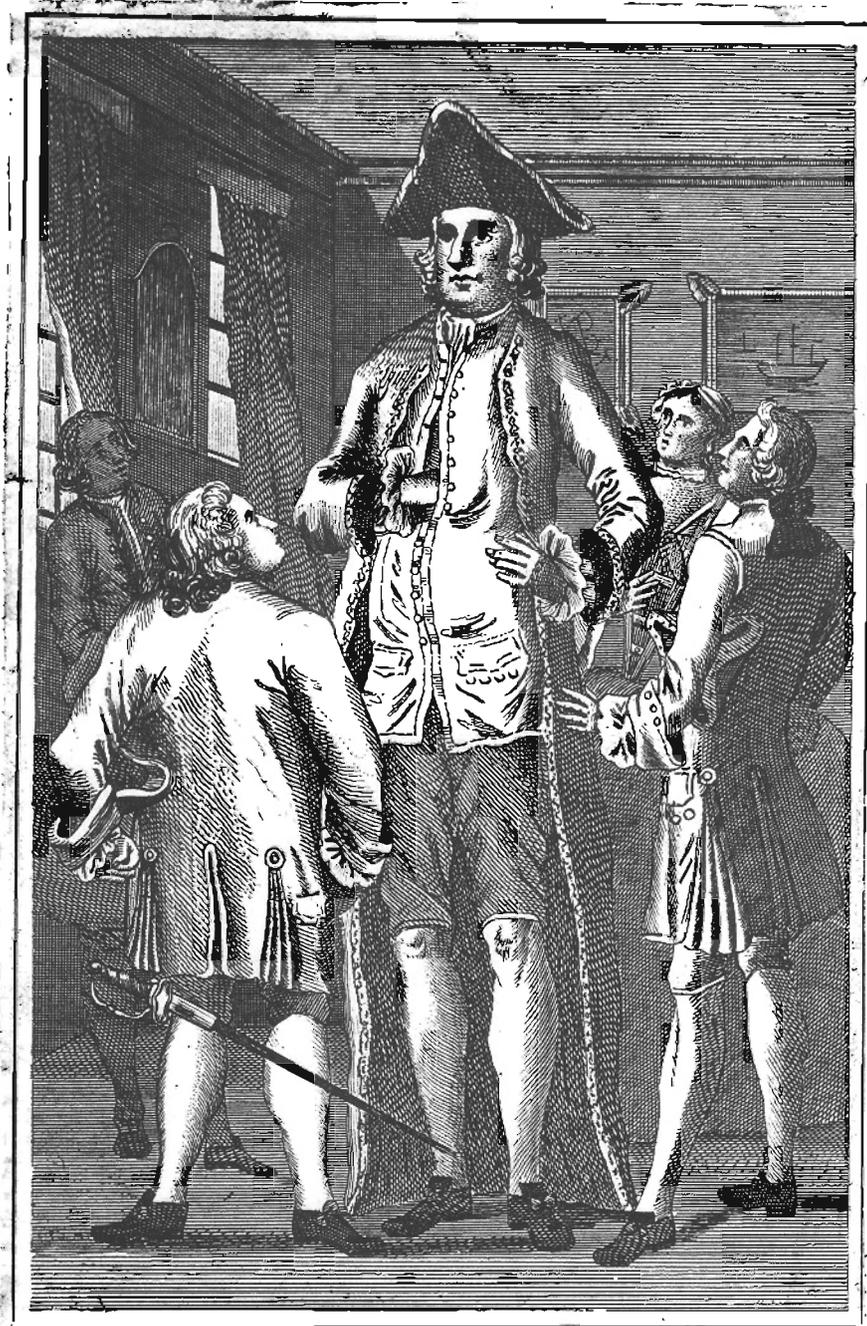
Also of the above Nathaniel Blaker, Esq., who departed this life the 6th
of October, 1863, in the 91st year of his age.

RECORDS FROM PATCHAM CHURCH-YARD.

Sacred to the Memory of
Anna Kemp Blaker,
Widow of George Blaker, Esq.,
who died on the 25th April, 1870.
Aged 90 years.

Sacred to the Memory of George Blaker, who died on the 9th of
October, 1856. Aged 78 years.

Sacred to the Memory of
Anna, Daughter of George and Anna Kemp Blaker, who departed this
life, Dec. 25th, 1834. Aged 20 years.



MR. HENRY BLACKIER,

Our own, and the sister kingdom, Ireland, have produced what have been denominated giants, of still greater dimension than Byron describes the Patagonians; amongst whom may rank Mr. Henry Blacker, commonly called the British Giant. He was born near Cuckfield, in Sussex, in the year 1724. In the year 1751, when he was about twenty-seven years of age, he was publicly exhibited in London, and attracted great numbers, out of curiosity, to see a man measuring the immense height of seven feet four inches, which considerably exceeded that of a celebrated German giant, named Cajanus, who was shewn, and received with great success and applause, as a prodigy some few years prior to Blacker's exhibition of himself. A great many of the first nobility and gentry honored Mr. Blacker by their frequent visits, and among others the celebrated William, Duke of Cumberland, was one of his greatest followers and admirers.

This man appears, from his portrait, to have been a much better-made and proportioned person than the generality of those of a similar description, and though the famous O'Brien, who measured eight feet two inches, exceeded him ten inches in height, he was knocked-kneed, very unwieldy, and clumsily made.