

## Blaker family

rates on a wharf at Chapel from 1824-6 at least). Rance assumes the proprietor was a George Blaker who he mentions as being master of the wooden paddle steamer "Emerald" which was owned by W C Westlake. The "Emerald" had the distinction of being the first Southampton built steam boat. However there seems no George Blaker who would be an appropriate age for the responsibility of master at this time. Another steamer called the "Emerald" was built in 1858 by Day & Summers, with shares in that ship being sold to 34 individuals. Even at the later date, the two George Blakers we know of give their occupations as shipwrights, not mariners.

After describing the development of the Day & Summers yard, Rance continues ... "The 1830s saw the founding of another major yard on the west bank of the Itchen. James Blaker rented some land from Daniel West, who owned and operated a nearby iron foundry at Crabniton" (the area where Melbourne St later developed). "The land was on the west bank of the river just below the bend at Millstone Point and on it Blaker established the Belvidere Ship Yard. James Blaker first appears as a shipbuilder in conjunction with John Ransom in the 1823-4 Directory of the town.

This partnership operated the long established yard at Chapel but by 1829 John Ransom was living at Cross House and, it would seem, was working with John Rubie at the Cross House Yard. The precise nature of the relationships have yet to be worked out but suffice to say that Ransom was eventually to take over the Cross House Yard and subsequently to replace Blaker at the Belvidere Yard. ... It was on 27 September 1852 that John (known as Johnny) Ransom took over the lease of the Belvidere shipyard from his erstwhile partner James Blaker." In fact James was dead by this date - it was presumably the eldest son George that released the yard. In the 1851 census George is described as a shipbuilder employing 20 men.

A J Holland in "Ships of British Oak" mentions a John Blaker building on the Itchen and launching the 130-ton schooner "Palyrma" in 1835. Adrian Rance repeats this in "Southampton - An Illustrated History" (published 1986), describing the ship as 71ft 6in, and also mentions a slightly larger schooner the "Sonia" built for Joseph Giles. Both these ships were for the Mediterranean trade. Ten schooners of Blaker were registered with Lloyds. Rance goes on to describe Blaker's founding of the Belvidere Ship Yard. "John" is almost certainly an error for James, and it is a bizarre error for Rance to make as he had already written about James and the Belvidere Yard in his previous book. Although there were two John Blakers alive at the time, they both called themselves shipwrights not shipbuilders, and were by implication employed men. In fact the only other Blaker to refer to himself as a "shipbuilder" was James' brother Harry.

In 1866 Ransom expanded the Belvidere Yard, but fortunately there are maps of the area in 1836 and 1866 which show the yard much as it must have been in the Blakers' time. In 1836 the yard seems isolated from any habitation, with Bevois Street being the nearest residential area. By 1866 the road Belvidere Terrace had been densely built up. It ran from one end of the shipyard through to Northam Bridge Road. James' widow Ann mentions in her will of 1843 possessing land between the shipyard and the Northam Bridge Road granted "on lease by Thomas Chamberlayne Esq for a term on one thousand years". Harry Blaker, James' brother had also leased four houses in Belvidere Terrace from Thomas Chamberlayne Esq.

## Blaker family

Harry had moved into 1 Belvidere Terrace by 1845, when the Terrace was probably newly built. It seems the original numbering of the Terrace was serial (not odds & evens). No. 78 was the Belvidere Inn from the 1840s when Edward Sherwood had a licence. On the 1866 map an Inn is shown on the north side of the Terrace at the river end (directly opposite the Ship Yard). On the south side of the road a Timber Field took up a large corner plot, then there was an Independant Chapel then the row of terrace houses began. Presumably 1 Belvidere Terrace was here. It is unclear exactly where Ann Blaker's land fell, and whether it was land that was later developed as houses.

It is interesting to speculate how James alone of all the Blakers was able to set himself up in what was apparently a very successful business. He was the eldest son of an eldest son, and as such may have inherited the bulk of whatever family fortune there was. However none of his known ancestors seem to have been people of wealth. The status of his wife's family is unknown. His son George seems to have returned to the status of employed shipwright within ten years of inheriting the business. All these factors seem to indicate that James had rather special personal qualities.

### Children:

Baptised Southampton St Mary 8 Feb 1824 Ann Blaker dau James & Ann, Godfrey's Town, Shipwright  
Baptised Southampton St Mary 19 Feb 1826 George Blaker son James & Ann, Godfrey's Town, Shipwright  
Baptised Southampton St Mary 15 Jun 1828 Ellen Blaker dau James & Ann, Godfrey's Town, Shipwright  
Buried Southampton St Mary 3 Sep 1829 Ellen Blaker 15m, Bevoys Street  
Baptised Southampton St Mary 28 Jul 1830 Ellen Blaker dau James & Ann, Godfrey's Town, Shipbuilder  
Baptised Southampton St Mary 7 Oct 1832 Emma Blaker dau James & Ann, Bevoys Street, Shipbuilder  
Baptised Southampton St Mary 7 Oct 1832 Frances Blaker dau James & Ann, Bevoys Street, Shipbuilder  
Baptised Southampton St Mary 26 Apr 1835 James Blaker son James & Ann, Bevois Street, Shipbuilder  
Baptised Southampton St Mary 6 Aug 1837 Maria Blaker dau James & Ann, Bevois Street, Shipbuilder  
Baptised Southampton St Mary 23 May 1841 Agnes Blaker dau James & Ann, 39 Bevois Street, Shipbuilder

He married Ann Hatch, on 18 Nov 1822 in Southampton St Michael. Born in 1798. Died in 1843 in Bevois Street, she was 45. Buried on 28 Oct 1843 in Southampton St Mary.

Married Southampton St Michael 18 Nov 1822 James Blaker, bachelor, St Mary & Ann Hatch, spinster, St Michael, Witnesses John Ransom, Mary Mitchell

Living Southampton 1843 Mrs Blaker , 39 Bevois St

Abstract of will of Ann Blaker - 19 May 1843

This is the Last Will and Testament of me Ann Blaker of Bevois Street in the

## Blaker family

Town and County of the Town of Southampton widow Whereas I am possessed of or entitled to a piece of land situate at Northam and adjoining or near to the Ship Building Yard called the Belvidere Yard now or late in my occupation with certain Mud land and appurtances thereunto belonging which were lately granted to me on lease by Thomas Chamberlayne Esquire for the lives of one William Painter and of my two sons George and James Blaker

And I am also possessed of or entitled to another piece of land situate at or near Northam aforesaid and lying between the said first mentioned piece of land and the Northam Bridge Road which was also lately granted to me on lease by the said Thomas Chamberlayne for a term of one thousand years

And I am also possessed of certain other personal property and effects in my own right as the widow of my late husband James Blaker deceased

Now I give devise and bequeath the said two pieces of land and Premises and all my Estate together with the said leases and all other my personal effects and property unto Harry Blaker and Frederick Moore both of the said Town of Southampton shipwrights

( The last sentence had been altered on the original document - it formerly read William Blaker and Harry Blaker both of the said Town of Southampton shipwrights and brothers of my said late husband )

To hold to them upon trust with all convenient speed after my decease to sell and dispose of and to convert the same into money and invest the proceed thereof in the Public Stocks or Funds of Great Britain for the benefit of all my children equally Except my eldest son George Blaker ( who in consequence of the intestacy of his Father my said late Husband is possessed of a Freehold Dwellinghouse in Bevois Street in Which I now reside ) when and as they shall respectively attain the age of twenty one years and to pay the interest dividends and annual produce thereof in the meantime towards the maintenance clothing and education of them my said children

And I appoint the said Harry Blaker and Frederick Moore Executors of this my Will and Guardians of my Children during their minorities

In testimony whereof I have set my hand this nineteenth day of May One thousand eight hundred and forty three

Ann Blaker

Signed in the presence of us  
Isaac Warner Solr Winchester  
John Collyer Plumber Southampton  
Ann Blaker died 22 October 1843 will proved 1 December 1843 - value estate under £800

Buried Southampton St Mary 28 Oct 1843 Ann Blaker 45, Bevois Street

Her mother is recorded living with Ann's children  
1851 census 39 Bevis Street, Southampton  
Ann Hatch grandmother widow 75 None born Eling

## Blaker family

They had the following children:

i. Ann. Born in 1824 in Godfrey's Town. Baptized on 8 Feb 1824 in Southampton St Mary. Was on the census in 1851 for 11 Melbourne St, Southampton, she was 27.

Baptised Southampton St Mary 8 Feb 1824 Ann Blaker dau James & Ann, Godfrey's Town, Shipwright

Married Southampton St Mary 3 May 1845 Ann Blaker, full age, spinster, Bevois St, dau James, shipwright & Frederick Osman, full age, watchmaker, College St, son Thomas, Ironmonger. Witnesses Edward Blaker, Ellen Blaker.

1851 census 11 Melbourne St, Southampton folio 356  
all born Southampton  
Frederick Osman 30 Weigher HM Customs  
Ann wife 28  
Emma dau 1

She married Frederick Osman, on 3 May 1845 in Southampton St Mary. Born in 1821 in Southampton. Occupation: Watchmaker.

ii. George. Born in 1826 in Godfrey's Town. Baptized on 19 Feb 1826 in Southampton St Mary. Was on the census in 1871 for folio 1193 131 26 128, he was 45. Was on the census in 1881 for 3 Cobourg Yard, Southampton St John, he was 55. Died in 1885 in Southampton, he was 59. Occupation: Ships Carpenter.

Baptised Southampton St Mary 19 Feb 1826 George Blaker son James & Ann, Godfrey's Town, Shipwright

1845 George Blaker , 39 Bevois St, Shipbuilder  
1849 George Blaker , 39 Bevois St, Shipbuilder  
1851 George Blaker , 39 Bevois St, Northam, shipbuilder

1851 census 39 Bevis Street, Southampton  
Ann Hatch grandmother widow 75 None born Eling  
George Blake head unnm 25 Shipbuilder employing 20 men, all born Southampton  
Ellen (sister) 20 None  
Emma (sister) 18 Employed at a Drapers  
James (brother) 16 Shipbuilders apprentice  
Agnes (sister) 9  
(the census actually gives relationship of George as "head & son", and the others as son or dau)

1852 George Blaker Voters List, Bevois St, Shipwright, Conservative  
1855 George Blaker , 39 Bevois St, Shipwright

He presumably inherited his father's business at the Belvidere Ship Yard in 1841. The lease was transferred to John Ransom on 27 Sep 1852.

1881 Census

Dwelling: 3 Cobourg Yard

Census Place: Southampton St John, Hampshire, England

Source: FHL Film 1341297 PRO Ref RG11 Piece 1214 Folio 79 Page

36

Marr Age Sex Birthplace

## Blaker family

George GANDY M 60 M Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Head  
Occ: Boot And Shoe Maker  
Elizabeth GANDY M 55 F Portsmouth, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Wife  
Charles G. GREENHAM 8 M Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Grandson  
Occ: Scholar  
George BLAKER M 55 M Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Lodger  
Occ: Ships Carpenter

GRO Deaths Index Southampton 1885 George Blaker 59

iii. Ellen. Born in 1828 in Godfrey's Town. Baptized on 15 Jun 1828 in Southampton St Mary. Died in 1829 in Bevoys Street, she was 1. Buried on 3 Sep 1829 in Southampton St Mary.

Baptised Southampton St Mary 15 Jun 1828 Ellen Blaker dau James & Ann, Godfrey's Town, Shipwright  
Buried Southampton St Mary 3 Sep 1829 Ellen Blaker 15m, Bevoys Street

iv. Ellen. Born in 1830 in Godfrey's Town. Baptized on 28 Jul 1830 in Southampton St Mary. Was on the census in 1881 for Lambeth, Surrey, she was 51. Occupation: Nurse.

Baptised Southampton St Mary 28 Jul 1830 Ellen Blaker dau James & Ann, Godfrey's Town, Shipbuilder  
Living Southampton 1853 Ellen Blaker , 39 Bevois St

? Married St Pancras Old Church 11 Jun 1855 Ellen Blaker & John Howard

Dwelling: 7 Hayter Rd  
Census Place: Lambeth, Surrey, England  
Grace BIGG W 74 F Walworth, Surrey, England  
Rel: Head  
Occ: Independent  
Ellen L. HUNT U 28 F London, Middlesex, England  
Rel: Companion  
Occ: Ladys Companion  
Ellen BLAKER U 50 F Southampton St Marys  
Rel: Nurse  
Occ: Nurse

v. Emma (Twin). Born in 1832 in Bevoys Street. Baptized on 7 Oct 1832 in Southampton St Mary. Was on the census in 1881 for Magdala House, Southampton St Mary, she was 49.

Baptised Southampton St Mary 7 Oct 1832 Emma Blaker dau James & Ann, Bevoys Street, Shipbuilder

1851 census living with brother George. She was employed at a Drapers.

## Blaker family

Married St Pancras Old Church 2 Aug 1852 Emma Blaker & Henry William Bull

1871 census Magdala House Southapton  
Henry W Bull head 40, Contractor, all born Southampton  
Emma wife 38  
Emma L dau 18 scholar  
George E son 16 scholar  
Alice M dau 15 scholar  
Henry L son 13 scholar  
Frederick W son 11 scholar  
Larries C son 9 scholar  
Helen Grace dau 1  
Elizabeth dau 1  
Maria Blaker unnm wif'e's sister 33  
Agnes Blaker unnm wif'e's sister 29  
Henrietta Miller servant 30 Cook, domestic servant, born Hythe, Hants

1881 census  
Dwelling: Magdala House  
Census Place: Southampton St Mary, Hampshire, England  
Source: FHL Film 1341295 PRO Ref RG11 Piece 1207 Folio 75 Page  
1  
Marr Age Sex Birthplace  
Henry W. BULL M 50 M Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Head  
Occ: Builder Contractor  
Emma BULL M 48 F Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Wife  
Occ: Contractors Wife  
Emma L. BULL U 28 F London, Middlesex, England  
Rel: Daur  
Occ: Contractors Daur  
George E. BULL U 27 M Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Son  
Occ: Contractor  
Frederick W. BULL U 21 M Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Son  
Occ: Contractor  
Helen G. BULL U 17 F Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Daur  
Occ: Contractors Daughter  
Ethel M. BULL U 11 F Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Daur  
Occ: Scholar  
Maria BLAKER U 43 F Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Sis In Law  
Agnes BLAKER U 39 F Southampton, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Sis In Law  
Kate M. CHAPMAN U 22 F London, Middlesex, England  
Rel: Servant  
Occ: Domestic Serv Housemaid  
Mary GREEN U 24 F Winchester, Hampshire, England  
Rel: Servant  
Occ: Domestic Serv Cook

## Blaker family

The property was listed between 102 Millbank St and 1 Belvidere Terrace

She married Henry William Bull, on 2 Aug 1852 in St Pancras Old Church. Born in 1831 in Southampton. Occupation: Builder Contractor.

1851 census Southampton folio 242

Henry Bull 20 born Southampton

Joseph 48 born Southampton

Sarah 46 born Lymington

many children

vi. Frances (Twin). Born in 1832 in Bevoys Street. Baptized on 7 Oct 1832 in Southampton St Mary. Was on the census in 1851 for Southampton folio 963, she was 19.

Baptised Southampton St Mary 7 Oct 1832 Frances Blaker dau James & Ann, Bevoys Street, Shipbuilder

Census Southampton 1851 Frances Blaker 18 born Southampton, folio 963

1881

Dwelling: 34 St Marys Rd

Census Place: Southampton St Mary, Hampshire, England

George CLIFT M 48 M London, London, Middlesex, England

Rel: Head Handicap: Blind

Occ: Clerk (Dock Company)

Frances CLIFT M 48 F London, London, Middlesex, England

Rel: Wife

George H. CLIFT U 20 M Southampton, Hampshire, England

Rel: Son

Occ: Labourer

She married George Clift, on 29 Jul 1856 in Southampton St Mary. Born in 1833 in London. Occupation: Clerk (Dock Company).

vii. James. Born in 1835 in Bevoys Street. Baptized on 26 Apr 1835 in Southampton St Mary. Died in 1894 in Southampton, he was 59. Occupation: Shipwright.

Baptised Southampton St Mary 26 Apr 1835 James Blaker son James & Ann, Bevoys Street, Shipbuilder

Living Southampton 1880 James Blaker , 39 Belvidere Terrace, Shipwright

1891 census Poor House, St Mary St, Southampton

James Blaker unnm 57 Shipwright born Southampton

GRO Deaths Index Southampton 1894 James Blaker 59

viii. Maria. Born in 1837 in Bevoys Street. Baptized on 6 Aug 1837 in Southampton St Mary. Was on the census in 1871 for folio 1188 102 17 99, she was 34. Was on the census in 1851 for Ringwood, she was 14. Was on

## Blaker family

the census in 1881 for Magdala House, Southampton St Mary, she was 44.

Baptised Southampton St Mary 6 Aug 1837 Maria Blaker dau James & Ann, Bevois Street, Shipbuilder

Census Ringwood 1851 Maria Blaker 13 born Southampton, Pupil, folio 300 (living with Eliza Coles, school mistress, near Up Street)

Census Magdala House, Southampton 1871 Maria Blaker 33 born Southampton sister-in-law Henry W Bull

Census Magdala House, Southampton 1881 Maria Blaker 43 born Southampton sister-in-law Henry W Bull

1901 census St Pancras

Maria Blaker 59 Bookseller, born Southampton

ix. Agnes. Born in 1841 in 39 Bevois Street. Baptized on 23 May 1841 in Southampton St Mary. Was on the census in 1871 for folio 1188 102 17 99, she was 30. Was on the census in 1881 for Magdala House, Southampton St Mary, she was 40. Died in 1912 in Kensington, London, she was 71.

Baptised Southampton St Mary 23 May 1841 Agnes Blaker dau James & Ann, 39 Bevois Street, Shipbuilder

Census Magdala House, Southampton 1871 Agnes Blaker 29 born Southampton sister-in-law Henry W Bull

Census Magdala House, Southampton 1881 Agnes Blaker 39 born Southampton sister-in-law Henry W Bull

1901 census Agnes Blaker 59 St Pancras

GRO Deaths Index 1912 - Agnes - 71 - Kensington

**16. Edward Blaker.** Born in 1800 in Beaulieu. Baptized on 27 Jul 1800 in Beaulieu. Died on 5 Sep 1861 in 8 Melbourne St, Southampton, he was 61. Buried on 8 Sep 1861 in Hill Lane Cemetery, Southampton. Was on the census in 1851 for 8 Melbourne St, Southampton, he was 51. Occupation: Shipwright. Cause of death: Meningitis.

Baptised Beaulieu 27 Jul 1800 Edward Blaker son Edward & Ann

Married Southampton All Saints 7 Jul 1825 Edward Blaker, bachelor, St Mary & Elizabeth Harding, spinster, All Saints, Witnesses John Blaker, Hester Terrell, Elizabeth ?Honian

1826 daughter born at Hythe, baptised from Chapel Lane, Southampton

1828 eldest son born, but baptism not yet found

1829 son born Godfrey's Town

1832-42 children born Bevois St

HRO ref 138M87/20/1-23

Conveyances of land that later formed property of St Marys School, Ascupart Street.

50 Bevois Street, sold to Edward Blaker, 1833