

William Blacker

William Blacker held land in the manor of Gillingham in the earlier 17th century. He did not hold the entire manor, which always belonged to the queen, but was a major landowner within it. His main holding was the Queen's House, now Thorngrove, which in earlier times had been the demesne farm but was by now rented out like other tenements in the manor. References to Blacker are:

1594 Not included in list of people paying lay subsidy

1608 Survey of the manor PRO LR2 214, microfilm copy in Dorset History Centre

Holder of capital messuage, the queen's farm, and 362 acres. 15 parcels, some named. Rent £5 17 6d.

He almost certainly had further land in the Forest of Gillingham (Motcombe), but I don't have the record of this at the moment.

1624 Survey of the manor R45817 66 Nicholas Papers, John Rylands Library

William Blacker, Esq, Holder of mill and two tenements, rent 38s 6d. Also an Edmond Blacker who had a cottage value 11d, and another cottage 3s 6d.

1624 Plan of Gillingham Forest, Dorset History Centre. Shows Blacker as holder as follows:

Mr. Wm. Blacker	Bengavills	86.3.30 acres
	Manor of Ham	77.1.10
	Other	13.2.5

1624 Book of compositions Nicholas Papers, John Rylands library

Agreements made for enclosure of Gillingham forest. Allocated 17 acres of forest (for the 176 acres above).

Blacker also held the manor of Pierston, and these records appear at the Wiltshire and Swindon Archive, Ref. 164/11/2:

Court book of the manors of Edward and William Blacker of Pierston in Gillingham Dorset and West Harnham. Volume rebound, original cover now loose.	1616-1681
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