

# West Bergholt History Group – Surnames

compiled by Charlie Haylock  
(author of, “In a Manner of Speaking”)  
(also dialect tour of GB on  
Charlie Haylock YouTube)

<b>ME</b>	Middle English (1066 to 1487)	<b>NF</b>	Norman-French
<b>NV</b>	Norman-Viking	<b>OD</b>	Old Danish
<b>OE</b>	Old English (Anglo-Saxon)	<b>OG</b>	Old German
<b>OF</b>	Old French	<b>Bryth</b>	Brythonic
<b>ON</b>	Old Norse	<b>OW</b>	Old Welsh

## Locational Names

<b>Beckwith</b>	from Beckwith, North Yorkshire	OE <i>bēce wudu</i>	beech wood
<b>Bown</b>	first recorded in the Domesday Book 1086ad from Bohun, Normandy		
<b>Boyce</b>	dweller in the wood	NF <i>bois</i>	woodland
<b>Brundle</b>	from Brundall, Norfolk	OE <i>brōmede halh</i>	broomy nook of land
<b>Flatman</b>	Suffolk surname first recorded in 1568 in Suffolk Subsidy Rolls - a male dweller on flat land	ON <i>flatr</i>	flat
		OE <i>mann</i>	man
<b>Fleming</b>	from Flanders	NF <i>flamanc</i>	anglicised to <i>fleming</i>
<b>Lacey</b>	from Lassey in Normandy		
<b>Lee</b>	dweller by the clearing	OE <i>lēah</i>	clearing
	or from one of the many places with Leigh or similar in the name		
<b>Liddamore</b>	from Livermere, Suffolk many variations incl. Libermore, Livermore, Levermore and Liddamore	OE <i>laefor</i>	rushes
		<i>mere</i>	lake
<b>Rowely</b>	from one of the many places called Rowely	OE <i>ruh</i>	rough
		<i>leah</i>	woodland clearing



<b>Halls</b>	final letter 's' usually denotes widow of Hall, may be son of . . . Hall - a worker at the hall OE <i>heall</i> hall
<b>Noakes</b>	last letter 's' usually means widow of, may be son of - Noake - dweller by the oak OE <i>atten āc</i> at an oak - later <i>at a noak</i> - abbreviated to <i>noak</i>
<b>Paris</b>	son of a nobleman . . member of patrician class - NF from Latin <i>Patricius</i> - also origin of Parrish, Patrice, Patrick and Partis
<b>Peters</b>	the last letter 's' usually means widow of, may be son of adopted by Normans from the Greek <i>petros</i> the rock
<b>Razzell</b>	son of Raz, Breton personal name <i>Raz</i> + NF <i>ell</i> son of . . . <i>Raz</i> a dweller by a narrow fast running racing channel of water like a mill stream - derives from Breton <i>raz</i> a race or current
<b>Tullet</b>	son of Matilda - Tull is abbreviated pet form for Matilda . . <i>Tull</i> + <i>ett</i> (NF little) son of Tull - name Matilda was introduced into England by the Normans - NV <i>maht</i> might <i>hild</i> battle - which suggests a mighty female warrior

## Either / Or

<b>Barrell</b>	either	nickname for man with a rounded stomach NF <i>baril</i> a barrel or cask . . .
	or	from Barwell, Leeds - OE <i>wella</i> spring or stream frequented by boar <i>bār</i>
<b>Blewitt</b>	either	first recorded in Domesday Book 1086ad NF <i>Bleu</i> + <i>ett</i> son of <i>Bleu</i> - nickname for the Viking element in the Norman invasion - blue-eyed NF <i>bleu</i> blue . . . this would be the first derivation of the surname
	or	recordings of the surname Blewitt reoccurred in the ME period and derive from ME <i>bluet</i> - a blue woollen cloth and nickname for the weaver of such a cloth - note - Lavenham was famous for its blue cloth being the finest
<b>Gant</b>	either	ME for tall slender and angular
	or	glove maker / seller NF <i>gaunt</i> glove
	or	from Ghent (Flemish weavers)

<b>King</b>	either or	behaving like a king OE <i>cyning, cyng</i> actor in a pageant play (eg King Herod)
<b>Meiring</b>	either or	from Meiringen, Switzerland door-keeper NF <i>meiring</i> door-keeper
<b>Real</b>	first recorded as a surname in 1684 - medieval Spanish origin either or or	from one of the many places in Spain with Real in the name - a rural property, farm, Moorish Arabic <i>rahal</i> farmhouse someone who behaves royally Old Spanish <i>real</i> royal Spanish royal servant
<b>Sawdy</b>	predominantly Devon and Cornwall in distribution either or or	most likely - Cornish oath name - NF <i>sauf</i> save OE <i>daie</i> day save the day or NF <i>sauf Dieu</i> God save us dweller by the river Sawdde, S. Wales sword maker OE <i>sweord</i> ME <i>swerd</i>
<b>Wiffin</b>	either or	son of the wife OE <i>wīf</i> wife plus <i>ing</i> family or son of (eg husband dies before wife has a baby) nickname for widower who takes on wife's duties/chores

**Additional Surnames**  
(taken on the night)  
(in alphabetical order)

<b>Alston</b>	either or	OE <i>Æðelstān</i> literally translates as elf stone a noble nickname for being a hard warrior from Alston, Cumberland or Somerset OE <i>tūn</i> farmstead settlement belonging to <i>Æðelsige</i>
<b>Amies</b>	NF from Latin <i>amicus</i> <i>amis</i> friend	
<b>Bass</b>	either or	someone short, broad and thick set NF <i>basse</i> fisherman OE <i>baers fysche</i> . . . bass fish
<b>Bennell</b>	from Benwell, Northumberland, or Benhall, Suffolk	
<b>Blowey</b>	most probably anglicised pronunciation of Anglo-Norman <i>blouet</i> (pronounced <i>bloway</i> ) and a variation NF <i>Bleu</i> + <i>ett</i> - same as first derivation as Blewitt in Either / Or section above	

<b>Burrows</b>	the final letter 's' usually denotes widow of Burrow, maybe son of either OE <i>beorg</i> hill dweller by or on the hill or OE <i>burg</i> fort dweller by or in a fort But . . Burrows can also derive from OE <i>būr hūs</i> bower house dweller or worker at the bower house
<b>Chessum</b>	from Chesham, Bucks OE <i>ceastel</i> stony <i>ham</i> homestead
<b>Constable</b>	NF <i>conestable</i> chief officer of the stable or household
<b>Darkins</b>	the final letter 's' usually denotes widow of Darkin, maybe son of - Darkin OE <i>dēor kin</i> family of a man called <i>dēor</i> - deer and a nickname for someone with deer like attributes (eg. agile and fast)
<b>Dehaney</b>	Irish surname - possibly from Irish Gaelic <i>dubh heanneach</i> (pronounced deh heaney) <i>dubh</i> black <i>heanneach</i> bird (normally describing a raven and a warrior nickname for a strong fierce warrior, especially Viking settlers who wore black armour)
<b>Diaper</b>	ME <i>dipper</i> - diving bird – someone who behaves like one
<b>Edwards</b>	final letter “s” denotes widow of Edward, or maybe son of - Edward derives from <i>ēd</i> wealth <i>weard</i> guard or ward
<b>Elderkin</b>	describes an older person in the family, usually a father or brother who has the same name as a later addition OE <i>eldra kin</i>
<b>Grimwade</b>	OE <i>grim weard</i> for helmet guard
<b>Hymas</b>	from a lost village in Durham
<b>Jakes</b>	anglicised version of French <i>Jaques</i> . . . a pet form of John - Biblical name - Jehovah has favoured
<b>Judd</b>	pet form of <i>Jordan</i> – a name brought back by Crusaders and given to their children to commemorate father's journey to the Holy land
<b>Lloyd</b>	Old Welsh <i>llwyd</i> grey . . . grey haired or ashen complexion
<b>Meekin(g)s</b>	final letter "s" means widow of Meekin or maybe son of . . Meekin derives from Maykin . . . family (kin) of May . . May is short for Mayhew (NF for Matthew - gift of Jehovah) First recorded 1674 Suffolk Hearth Tax as Widow Maykinge

<b>Nixon</b>	son of Nick . . abbreviation of NF nickname <i>Nicolaus</i> adopted from Greek via Latin for “victory people”
<b>Porch</b>	gatekeeper ME <i>porche</i> entrance to manor house or monastery
<b>Russell</b>	son of the red haired one NF <i>rous</i> red <i>el</i> son of
<b>Sapsford</b>	medieval pronunciation of Sawbridgeworth in Herts
<b>Snowling</b>	the offspring of a man called Snow (“ling” as in duckling gosling etc etc) . . OE <i>snāw ling</i> surname Snow is a nickname for white snowy hair
<b>Thain</b>	noble retainer or attendant OE <i>thegn</i> ME <i>thayn</i>
<b>Tough</b>	tough, vigorous and stubborn OE <i>toh</i> - tough

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