

# The Ancestry of Susannah Tapper, my Great(x5) Grandmother

born Susannah Blachford in 1744 in Fordingbridge, Hampshire

*By Mark Wareham*

*Last updated 18th May 2011*

The information contained in these spreadsheets is gathered from several sources. I have tried to use recognised source material where it is available such as Visitation reports of the Harleian Society of the 16th and 17th centuries, parish records, wills, county histories or other reference books. There is some information from the internet such as Wikipedia or some independent study.

For maternal ancestral branches refer to the worksheets arranged in alphabetical order according to family name.

## Blachford family

The **Blachford Coat of Arms** to the right are from the *Harleian Society Visitations of London 1633*

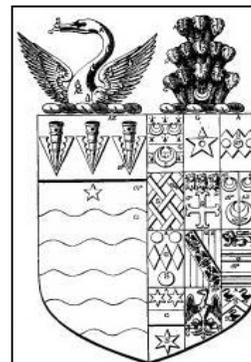
The arms on the left are those of Blachford then on the right hand side -

Top row right left to right - Waterton, Assenhull, De Burgh

Second row - Bellew, Molyns, Courte

Third row - Montague, Grandison, Tregoz

Fourth row - Ewyas, Monthermer, Hymerford



Note - confirmation of the Molyns, Courte, Montague and Monthermer arms contained in the above crest comes from the Harleian Visitations of Somerset detailing the Molyns pedigree (MS Harl 1544 fo 107).

Thanks - Credit goes to Pamela Paterson and Fiona Redmond of the Family Forest website for alot of the Blachford information. Also thanks to the work of Jack AG Blachford. Thanks to David Blachford at [www.blachford.info/other/blachford.html](http://www.blachford.info/other/blachford.html) and thanks to Richard Travell who was the first researcher to draw my attention to my Blachford ancestry (I originally had the wrong Tapper family line!) and then the links back to the Plantagenets and other noble medieval lines.

See also this website for other Blachford related information - <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fordingtondorset/Files/JohnBlachford1574.html>

## Blachford line

Susannah Blachford b 5/9/1744 Fordingbridge, Hampshire d 20/5/1817 (age 64 ?*) Iwerne Courtney	m 29/12/1763 Fontmell Magna, Dorset	James <b>Tapper</b> b 1742 Iwerne Minster, Dorset d 1/3/1808 Iwerne Minster, Dorset	
John Blachford b 12/10/1715 Fordingbridge, Hampshire d 9/3/1773 Fontmell Magna, Dorset	m 17/10/1743 Fordingbridge	Susannah <b>Pinhorne</b> b 18/12/1717 Fordingbridge, Hampshire d 16/5/1782 Fontmell Magna, Dorset	
Daniel Blachford b 1/10/1681 Fordingbridge, Hampshire d 31/8/1728 Fordingbridge	m 15/4/1708 Fordingbridge	Mary <b>Pinhorne</b> b 31/7/1683 Fordingbridge, Hants d 22/11/1765 Fordingbridge, Hants	
Daniel Blachford b 3/3/1651 Ellingham, Hants d 5/1/1720 Gorley, Fordingbridge, Hants	m 29/3/1678 Fordingbridge	Christabella Clare <b>Barry</b> b 7/5/1657 Gorley, Hants d 14/5/1728 Fordingbridge, Hampshire	
Robert Blachford b 21/1/1624 St Michael Bassinlaw, London	m 30/3/1647 Rockbourne, Hampshire (1st)	Elizabeth <b>Wright</b> b 4/2/1620 St John's, Winchester	m 1667 (2nd) Anne Mullens b

d 13/10/1670 Newport, Isle of Wight		d 12/6/1663 Fordingbridge	d
Richard Blachford	m 16/3/1623 Fordingbridge, Hampshire	Eleanor <b>Waterton</b>	
b 1601 Ashmore, Dorset		b c 1605 Newport, Isle of Wight	
d 10/11/1635 St Mary Woolnoth, London		d aft 1648	
Richard Blachford	m 1597-1601 Ashmore or Dorchester	Frances <b>Combe</b>	
b 1570 Holsworthy, Devon ?	Dorset	b 1580 Ashmore, Dorset	
d 1652 Dorchester, Dorset		d 16/12/1647 Dorchester, Dorset	
William Blachford	m bf 1570	Martha ?	
b 1545 Holsworthy, Devon		b bf 1552	
d 12/4/1624 Dorchester, Dorset		d ?	
John Blachford	m 22/4/1543 St Mary Arches	Joan <b>Biele</b>	
b c 1522	Exeter, Devon *	b bf 1525	
d ?		d ?	

### **Susannah Blachford (1744 - 1817)**

\* this burial at Iwerne Courtney of a 'Sus Tapper' is the most probable that I have found to date. Susannah was not buried at Iwerne Minster or Fontmell Magna and Shroton is the next most probable parish. If this is the correct burial then Susannah's age is quoted incorrectly by about 10 years as she was 73/74.

Children of James and Susannah Tapper - 1765 (ba ?) Elizabeth (m Thomas Hurdle 1784 IC), ? James (bur 1768 IM), 1771 Mary (ba ?, m Thomas Tuffin 1792 Sutton Waldron), ? James (bu 1775 IM), ? William (bu 1775), ? Susannah (m 1789 Joseph Lockyer Sutton Waldron), 1778 William (m 1808 Shroton Hester Bolwell).

### **John Blachford (1715 - 1773) and wife Susannah (1717 - 1782)**

#### 1782 will of Susannah Blachford

I Susannah Blachford of Hartgrove in the Parish of Fontmell Magna in the County of Dorset - Widow do this Eighth Day of January in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Two make Publish and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner following -

That is to say First I give and bequeath unto my good friends James Bennett of Hartgrove aforesaid Gentleman and John Mitchel of the same Yeoman and the survivor of them his Executors and Administrators all my ready money and Securities for money which shall be payable of at the time of my decease In trust that they and the survivor of them his Executors and Administrators do apply and dispose of the same to and for the only live and benefit of my son John Blachford During his natural life as they or the survivors them his Executor or Administrator shall in his or their discretion think fit and if my said son shall happen to Die before my said Trustees shall have paid or applied the moneys herein before given them for his benifit then I give the remainder that shall be dispersed of unto my daughter Ann Ball.

I also give and bequeath unto my said daughter Ann Ball all and singular my Goods Chattels and wearing apparel and all other of my personall Estate whatsoever and wherever To hold to her, her Executors, Admors and assigns forever and I do hereby Constitute and appoint my said Daughter Ann Ball whole and Sole Executrix of this my last will and Testament In Witness whereof I the said Testatris Susannah Blachford have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the day and year first above written

#### Dorset Archives - leases, Glyn Estate

D/GLY/C/T 21 dates 1734-1797

42. Plot lately inclosed out of Blackven Common near the Pound, 1780 (1). (Blachford).

#### 1773 will of John Blachford

I John Blachford of Black Venn in this Parish of Fontmell Magna in this county of Dorset Gentleman being of sound Mind Memory and Understanding but calling to mind the

mortality of my Body and the uncertainty of this life Do Make and Ordain this my Last Will and Testament in Manner following that is to say Principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it and my Body I recommend to the Earth to be buried in a decent manner at the Discretion of my Executrix herein after named, nothing doubting but at the General resurrection I shall receive the same again through the Merits of my Blessed Savioure and Redeemer and a touching such worldly Estate wherewith I have pealsed God to bless me with I dispers thereof as follows.

First I give and bequeath unto Susannah my wife all my Hay, Corn, Cattle, Wheat in Ground and all other my stock in Husbandry whatsoever and if my said Wife Shall at any time hereafter have of Business then I Will all my stock in Husbandry wherein before particularly mentioned unto my said wife and my four sons viz Daniel, Richard, Robert and Joseph to be equally divided between them but in case my said wife should happen to die without having off Business as aforesaid then I give my said stock in husbandry unto my said sons last mentioned son v equally to be divided amongst them share and share alike.

I also give unto my said Wife the use of all my Household Goods during her natural life and after her decease I give them to my daughter Ann Blatchford

I also give and bequeath unto my son Daniel my Writing Desk and Gun.

I also give and bequeath unto my daughters Mary the wife of Matthew Hunt and Susannah the wife of James **Tapper** one shilling each.

And lastly all the rest residue and remainder of my Goods, Chattells and Personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever I give and bequeath unto my beloved Wife whom I make whole and sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking disannulling and making void all former and other Wills and Testaments lying at anytime heretofore made and do Ratify and confirm this only to be my last Will and Testament,

In Witness whereof I have hereto set my Hand and Seal the Twentieth Day of December One Thousand seven Hundred and seventy Two.

Signed Sealed Published and Declared the said Testator John Blachford as and for his last Will and Testament in the Presence of us Robert Smith, Samuel West

On the Tenth day of July 1782 This Will of John Blachford deceased was proved by the Oath of Ann Wife of William Ball the lawful Daughter sole Executrix and residuary Legatee named in the last Will and Testament of Susannah Blachford the sole Executrix and residuary Legatee above named and Administration of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the above named John Blachford do saved together with his said will answered was committed and granted to the said Ann Ball, Susannah Blachford the Executrix above named dying before she had taken upon her the Execution of the said Will and the said Ann Ball having been first sworn before me Geo Marsh Snr.

John Blachford of 1715 took over Hartgrove Farm at Fontmell Magna in about 1750 from another John Blachford who was his father's cousin (and once Mayor of London).

Court record of the transfer states that John the younger was the son of Daniel Blachford of Fordingbridge. Hartgrove was known as Blatchford Farm until the 1990s from when it became Blackberry Farm.

#### Hampshire Records Office (11M61/601)

27/12/1748

Agreement reciting that John Tarrant of Fordingbridge, gent, John Gilbert of Bickton, yeoman and John **Blachford** of Bickton, yeoman had taken a lease from William Norris of Fordingbridge, gent, of one acre of meadow in broad mead and watercourse for 21 years.

By signatories to pay proportion of rent and cost of cleaning out watercourse according to acreage of their land watered with schedule of 8 pieces of land

1744 to 1748 on the baptisms of his children John Blachford was described as 'John of Bickton'.

Children of John and Susannah Blachford at Fordingbridge - 1744 Susannah (m 1763 James Tapper), 1747 Daniel (m 1780 Susanna Kerly, Durweston), 1748 Francis, ? Richard, ? Mary (m Matthew Hunt), ? Robert, ? Joseph.

#### Blachford family history by Jack AG Blachford

John [Note - John of London] held property during his lifetime in London ....and the lease of a small holding called Newshay in the Manor of Hartgrove near Sixpenny Handley in Dorsetshire. (From the manorial records of Hartgrove Manor) Copy holders of Newshay:

First copyholder (25.4.1699-1709) Robert Blachford of Sandhill

Second copyholder (1709-1709) Daniel Blachford of Wilton

Third copyholder (1729-1759) John Blachford (Alderman) of London

Fourth copyholder (1753- ) John Blachford (farmer) of Shaftesbury

There is an old farm at Hartgrove (otherwise Black Venn) in the Fontwell Magna parish, still known as Blachford farm. Probably the farm of John Blachford the farmer of Shaftesbury.

1715 baptism John son of Mr Daniel Blashford of Gorley

**Daniel Blachford (1681 - 1728)**

1765 burial of Mary says 'widow of the late Mr Daniel Blachford' at Fordingbridge.

1728 burial Daniel Blashford of Bicton buried at Fordingbridge.

**1728 will of Daniel Blachford**

In the name of God amen this twenty eighth day of August ... 1728 I Daniel Blachford of Bickton in the parish of Fordingbridge in the County of Southton Gent being sick & weak of body but of perfect mind & memory thanks be to God for the same I doe make and ordain this to be my last will and testain in manner and forme following revoking and hereby annulling and making void all foremer and other wills by me heretofore made ....

Imprimis I give and bequeth unto my well beloved wife Mary all my said lands and all my goods chattles rights and credits whatsoever during her natural life upon condition that she shall pay my debts and brood up my children and when they are soe bred up my will is what shall then be left shall be equally divided amongst my children in manner following viz

to my son Daniel a double part (that is to say) as much again as either of the other herein after named

and to my five daughters Elizabeth, Anne, Jane, Christable and Susannah an equal share alike and in case their shares shall not amount to more than my daughter Mary the wife of John Sibly have already paid then my will is that she shall have additional part more as shall make the equal with the other five above named

and my will further is that in case my son John shall not be otherwise provided for by his cousin John Blachford then he shall have an equal share with his sisters above named

and I doe nominate ordaine and appoynt my said wife Mary to be full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament and I desire my two brothers in Francis Blachford

and Robert Blachford and my brother in law Abraham Pinhorne to be my trustees and to see this my last will justly performed.

In testimony hereof I the said Daniel Blachford the testate hath hereunto ... my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Children of Daniel and Mary Blachford at Fordingbridge - 1709 Mary (m John Sibly), 1710 Daniel (of Daniel junior of Gorley), 1712 Ann, 1714 Waterton (of Mr Daniel of Gorley) (bu 1714), 1715 John (m Susannah Pinhorne), 1720 Christabel, 1724 Susannah, ? Elizabeth, ? Jane

**1686 Visitations of Hampshire**

Daniel son of Daniel Blachford and \_\_\_\_ daughter of Francis Barry of Gorley in Fordingbridge.

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**Daniel Blachford (1651 - 1720)**

**1719 will of Daniel Blachford**

I Daniel Blachford the Elder of Fordingbridge in the County of Southton, Gent., upon due consideration do make and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following revoking and hereby annulling and making void all former and other Wills by me heretofore made (if any such shall happen to be found) viz,

Imprimis: I give devise and bequeath unto my Son Daniel Blachford all my Lands at Gorely in the parish of Fordingbridge in the County of Southton with the appurtenances thereunto belonging To hold the same to him my said Son Daniel his heirs and assignes forever immediately from and after my decease he paying to Christable my now Wife one hundred pounds within Six Months after my decease and also Tenn pounds per annum during her natural life out or forth thereof.

Item: I give devise and bequeath unto my Son Robert Blachford all that my Lands and Mannor at Durson or elsewhere in the County of Somerset with the Appurtenances To hold the same to him my said Son Robert Blachford his heirs and assignes for ever immediately from and after my decease he paying to my Executrix one hundred and fifty pounds of lawfull money to my Executrix hereinafter named within Six Months after my decease and also paying five pounds per annum to Christable my said Wife during her natural life out or forth thereof. And Whereas I have already given and secured to my Son Francis Blachford four hundred pounds my Will is that he shall pay to my said Wife Christable four pounds per annum during her natural life.

Item: I give and bequeath to my Daughter Elizabeth Blachford Two hundred pounds in lawful mony to be paid unto her by my Executrix within six months after my decease.

Item: I give to my Daughter Christable Blachford two hundred pounds of like lawfull Money to be paid unto her by my Executrix within Six Months after my decease.

Item: I give to my Grand Son Daniel Blachford of my above said Son Daniel Blachford my Silver Tankard and Gold Seal Ring.

Item: I give to my Grandson John Blachford, Son of my said Son Daniel Blachford five pounds lawful money to be paid unto him by my Executrix when he shall come to the age of one and twenty years.

Item: I give to each of my Son Daniel's Daughters one broad piece of Gold to be paid unto them by my Executrix as they shall attain to the age of one and Twenty years and

if either of them shall happen to dye before the said age of one and Twenty years then to remaine equally between the survivors.

Item: I give to my Grand Son Francis, Son of my Son Francis, five pounds lawfull money to be paid unto him by my Executrix when he shall come to the age of one and Twenty years and in case he shall should happen to dye then to remaine to the other Children of my said Son Francis (if any).

Item: I give to Christable my said Wife the said several annuities abovementioned to be paid unto her by my abovesaid Sons during her natural life.

Item: all the rest of my Goods and Chattels whatsoever already ungiven after my Debts Legacies and funeral Expenses are first paid and discharged, I give and bequeath to Christable my said Wife and do hereby make constitute and appoint her the said Christable full and sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament

And I desire my loving Brother Mr Walter Barry, Mr John Garrett, and Mr Henry Rooke to be my friends in Trust to see this my last Will justly performed and I give to each of them one Guinea apiece for their pains.

In Testimony here of the said Daniel Blachford the Testator hath hereunto sett his hand and Seale the day and year first abovementioned.

Dan Blachford, Signed Sealed published and declared in the presence of (us) with these words between the third and fourth lines, viz – one hundred pounds within one month after my decease and also being first interlined – the mark of Nicholas Barry, John Gray, Jos Gray.

Probate: Probate was granted in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury before John Bettsworth to Christabella Blachford, widow of the deceased. Pro

Made December 1719

1719 burial at Fordingbridge 'Mr Daniel Blachford'

*The Pleader's Assistant, containing a selection of precedents of modern pleadings in the courts of the King's Bench and Common Pleas etc, 18th century*

Pinhorne and others v Ann Forster, Fordingbridge

Refers to Abraham Pinhorne and others of Fordingbridge, he a churchwarden, and their legal suit against Ann, widow of Hugh, who has refused to pay a £100 debt back to the claimants via his will. The date of the will was 12/1/1723. It does not mention whether Abraham is junior or senior. The suit also refers to one Daniel Blackford (probably Blachford) 'since deceased' who was one of the creditors and was an 'overseer of the poor' at the time Hugh Forster entered into the debt, which must have therefore been before January 1720.

*Deeds of descent of Ashford Farm, Fordingbridge*

List of owners/occupiers includes -

1695 - Daniel Blatchford, gent, Fordingbridge.

Daniel's first son called Daniel was baptised June 1679 and buried 26/3/1681. Later that same year he called his next son Daniel.

In the baptisms of his children from 1679 to 1699 Daniel Blachford is described as 'Mr Daniel Blachford of the parsonage'. This is probably Parsonage Farm to the north west of the town of Fordingbridge.

Children of Daniel and Christabel Blachford at Fordingbridge - 1679 Daniel (bu 1681), 1681 Daniel, 1684 Elizabeth (bu 1684), 1685 Francis, 1687 Robert, 1689 Waterton (bu 1690), 1691 Waterton, 1693 John, 1694 Elizabeth, 1699 Christabel

1678 marriage states Daniel Blatchford of Fordingbridge, gent, to Christabella Barry.

*1686 Visitations of Hampshire*

Daniel Blachford (son of Robert and Elizabeth) married \_\_\_\_ daughter of Francis Barry of Gorley in Fordingbridge.

1651 baptism of Daniel Blatchford at Ellingham notes he was the son of 'Robert, gent'.

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### **Robert Blachford (1624 - 1670)**

Robert's son Robert sold Sandhill manor in 1702 -

*Hampshire Records Office (8M59/610)*

1702

Certified copy of sale of the manor of Sandhill and lands and tenements called Little Over Burgate by Robert Blachford to Thomas Warre  
However by 1801 the family again appears to have had another connection to Sandhill, but this time through a lease -  
(8M59/741)

Lease to Blachford of mansion house and farm called Sandhill and farm called Over Burgate

1670 will of Robert Blachford

In the name of God Above, I, Robert Blachford, now of Newport in the Isle of Wight in the county of Southton, Gent, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following (that is to say)

Imprimis: I commend my soul into the hands of God my creator hoping to be saved through Jesus Christ my saviour and my body to the earth to be decently buried according to such of my quality.

Item: I gave and bequeath unto my dear wife Anne one broad piece of gold.

Item: I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth (Mullens), the daughter of my said wife Anne another piece of gold.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth (1647-1676), tho' now wife of Stephen Marsh, another of my broad pieces of gold

Item: I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth, the daughter of my son in law Stephen Marsh, one broad piece of gold.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my son Daniel (1651-1720) and his heirs forever, all that parcel of land known by the name of the manor of Crosse Scittault (?) having and being in the parish of Durston in the county of Somersett with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my said son Daniel and his heirs forever all that parcel of land called or known by the name of Heathley now in the tenure or occupancy of William Miller and William Oates, their assignor or assignee together with all and singular thappurtenance.

Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter Ellenor, the sum of two hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid immediately after my decease by my son Robert (1650-1705) provided always that if the said Robert has not the money in his hands immediately after my decease then to pay interest therefore unto my said daughter Ellenor until such time that he shall have moneys in his hands to pay her the whole two hundred pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Mary the sum of two hundred pounds to be paid unto her when she shall come to the age of one and twenty years or six months after her marriage to be paid also by my said son Robert and also to pay interest unto my said daughter Mary until the said sum of two hundred pounds shall grow due and payable.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter Jane the sum of two hundred pounds also to be paid unto her by my said son Robert to be paid also when she shall attain to the age of one and twenty years or six months after her marriage.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter Sarah the sum of two hundred pounds to be paid also by my said son Robert when she shall attain to the age of one and twenty years or six months after marriage with interest therefore until the money shall grow due and payable.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Hannah the sum of two hundred pounds to be paid also by my said son Robert when she shall attain or reach to the age of one and twenty years or six months after her marriage with interest therefore until she shall reach the age of one and twenty years or until six months after her marriage.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my daughter Martha the sum of two hundred pounds to be paid by my said son Robert when she shall attain or reach to the age of one and twenty years or six months after her marriage with interest therefore until the money shall grow due and payable.

Item: My will is that in case it shall happen that either of my daughters should decease or depart from this natural life before they shall favourably attain unto the age of one and twenty years, that then my will is that one hundred pounds of each daughter for dying be equally divided amongst the rest of my daughters and the other hundred pounds shall go back and again unto my said son Robert.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Hannah above what I gave her before the sum of twenty pounds to be paid by my said son Daniel when she shall reach to the age of one and twenty years or six months after her marriage.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Ellinor the sum of ten pounds also above what I have given her before to be paid by my said son Daniel when she shall reach to the age of one and twenty years or six months after her marriage.

Item: I give and bequeath unto the poor of Newport the sum of forty shillings to be paid by my said son Robert.

Item: I give and bequeath unto the poor of the parish of Fordingbridge the sum of forty shillings to be paid also by my said son Robert immediately after my decease.

Item: I make William Talke of Sandhill Heath in the county aforesaid, Gent, and William Rooke of Fordingbridge in the county aforesaid, Gent, them I do devise and grant unto them the said William Talke and William Rooke and to their executors and administrators and assignee all that my manor of Sandhill with all the lands tenanted with the appurtenance thereunto belonging, for the course of forty years next after my decease provided nevertheless that it is my said son Robert or his heirs or executors shall pay and discharge all and singular the legacies aforesaid wherein he is concerned as aforesaid. And also do and shall pay and discharge all such costs and charges as any person shall be at in or about my funeral not exceeding three score pounds that from the said deceased to my said executors shall cease, discontinue, and from thenceforth shall be utterly void. In witness whereof I have unto this my will contained in two sheets of paper set my hand and seal over the fifth day of October one thousand six hundred and seventy.

Signed, sealed and published by the within named Robert Blachford as his last will and Testament. John Bal

1663 burial says 'Elizabeth wife of Mr Robert Blachford of Sandhill House'.

Ancestry.co.uk - Oxford University Alumni 1500-1886

Blachford Robert s R of Newport Isle of Wight, gent, Exeter College, matric, 26/11/1669 aged 18

Hampshire Records Office (24M82/PO16/30&31)

1651, Fordingbridge - apprenticeship indenture of Alice (12) daughter of Charles Chater to Robert Blachford

Blachford family history by Jack AG Blachford

During the Civil War, those who supported King Charles I's cause, had their estates compounded or had to pay fines to the government. Unlike his grandfather, Richard of Dorchester, Robert was a Royalist and appeared before the commissioners for sequestration and sale of the estates of the Royalist nobility and gentry. He appeared on the second count for those Royalists permitted to compound on payment of a fine. At the hearing Robert was described as a gentleman of Over Burgate in the county of Southampton. He appeared before the commissioners on the 13th of May, 1651, and made reference to three properties. He referred to a conveyance made to him about four years previously upon his marriage, of a farm called Over Burgate in the parish of Fordingbridge in the county of Southampton. The farm was settled on him for life; remainder to his wife for life; remainder to their heirs to be begotten; remainder to his brother Richard Blachford and his heirs and assigns forever. The estate was worth about seventy pounds per year according to the compounder, Robert Blachford. Robert wished to compound for the moiety of the manor at Sandhill at Fordingbridge, and to certain old rents in the parish of Durston in Somerset belonging to the manor of cross; and likewise to a house in Salisbury in the occupation of Francis Swanson esquire, which premises he claims on equitable interest..... Robert appeared again on the 12th of August in the same year, stating that the Salisbury house was now valued at six pounds per year, and the farm at Fordingbridge was worth eighty pounds a year....

Children of Robert and Elizabeth Blachford at Fordingbridge - 1648 Elizabeth (to Mr Robert of Burgate) (m Stephen Marsh), 1650 Robert, 1651 Daniel (at Ellingham), ? Ellenor, ? Mary, ? Jane, ? Sarah, ? Hannah, ? Martha

1686 Visitations of Hampshire

Robert Blachford (son of Richard Blachford and Elianor Waterton) of Sandhill married Elizabeth, daughter of ... Wright of Winchester

Robert Blachford of 1624 was lord of the manor of Durston Manor at Taunton in Somerset also lived at Sandhill in Fordingbridge. He inherited both from his grandfather Robert Waterton who in turn received the Manors from his marriage to Jayne Moleyns. Robert received the lands at Over Burgate, Fordingbridge.

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**Richard Blachford (1601 - 1635)**

1686 Visitations of Hampshire

Richard Blachford 'of Dorchester' married Elianor Waterton (daughter and heir of Robert Waterton and Jayne Molyne)

Richard of 1601 was a merchant in London in 1633 and also lived in Dorchester. His 1623 marriage to Eleanor Waterton at Fordingbridge confirms he was then of Dorchester.

Children of Richard and Eleanor Blachford - 1624 Robert, 1627 Richard (m Margaret Topp), Frances, 1636 Elinor.

Municipal Records of Dorchester - Mayo, 1908

P424 - 2/3/1624 list of the Admission of Freemen of the Company of Freemen of the Borough - Richard Blachford, jnr, merchant, £2

See also references below to 'young Richard Blachford'.

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**Richard Blachford (1570 - 1652)**

Richard Blachford, Mayor of Dorchester - from the 'Family Forest' website (based on research by Jack A.G. Blachford in 'Blachford - a family history)

Spent his early years in the employ of a Gilbert Smyth, a merchant in the town of Exeter who imported and exported goods through the port of Weymouth.

Started his own business in Dorchester c 1593. Went into partnership with John Finn and son importing and exporting wool.

Became a town Councillor, Alderman, member of the company of Freemen and Bailiffe of Dorchester.

In the 1623 Harleian Visitation of Dorset (dated 9th August) Richard was listed as a Burgess of the Town of Dorchester with John Blachford his son.

His son was granted of coat of arms and in London in 1633/4 an official pedigree.

In 1629 in choosing the Mayor of Dorchester Richard and his son John were amongst the first fifteen Capital Burgesses and Richard was one of the first six Aldermen.

November 1630 Richard mentioned in transaction in purchasing of the rectory of Beer and Seaton in Devon and puritan Rector John White was also a key mover.

1642 Dorchester was fortified by Parliament. However was easily captured by Royalists in 1643 by Lord Carnavon.

July 1644 recaptured for Parliament by Colonel Sydenham.

March 1645 Oliver Cromwell was present in Dorchester.

November 1646 'Captain Richard Blachford' mentioned in Parliamentary Dorset Standing Committee minutes in a transaction for cloth in 1644 for which the Committee meets the costs. \*

December 1646 mentioned reference purchase of cloth for clothing Captain Richard Blachford's soldiers at the appointment of the Committee in February 1644. This suggests that Richard was not in Dorchester whilst it was occupied by the Royalists between mid-1643 and July 1644.

March 1647 payment to John Covett for two horses employed in Parliamentary service under hands of Captains Edward Masters and Richard Blachford.

1647 - Richard was elected Mayor of Dorchester.

Richard died in 1652 aged 82.

"Minute Books of the Parliamentary Standing Committee 23 Sep 1646 to 8 May 1650" Mayo 1902

(Fol.63. 17th November, 1646, Dorchester) "Thomas Hayter.....where as it appeareth that Captain Richard Blachford did for two years since take up thirty yards of Broad cloth of one Thomas Hayter a clothier by order of the committee, It is ordered that the treasurer of this county pay unto said Thomas Hayter the sum of six pounds for the thirty yards of cloth aforesaid."

(Fol. 103. 29th December, 1646, Dorchester) "William Edmonds.....It is ordered that you pay unto William Edmonds of Woolbridge, clothier, the sum of seven pounds for forty (sic.) yards of broad cloth which the said Edmonds delivered to Captain Richard Blachford at the appointment of the committee of this county, for the clothing of his soldiers in February 1644."

(To the treasurer Mr. Richard Burie) (Fol. 38. 13th March, 1647, Dorchester) "John Covett.....It is ordered that the treasurer pay unto John Covett the sum of twenty pounds as soon as he is able, being for one grey mare, and one horse with saddle and armes employed in the parliamentary service, as by several certificates under the hands of captain Edward Masters and Captain Richard Blachford appeareth, and in the mean time the public faith of the Kingdom is for security unto the said John Covett engaged for the payment of the said sum of twentie pounds."

Children of Richard and Frances Blachford -

John, William, Henry (m 1629 Mary Bird of Chichester), Thomas (m 1627 Margaret Meech of Dorchester), Margery (m John Hogard of Lyme), 1601 Richard (m c 1623 Eleanor Waterton of Isle of Wight), Frances (m John Seward of Lyme), Edith (m 1630 Richard Chuchill of Dorchester),

References to the Blachfords in 'Fire from Heaven' by David Underwood

1) P28 - reference to libels against new rector of Dorchester John White and Richard Blachford chatting with fellow bailiff Matthew Chubb on Blachford's porch when a Thomas Foy found the libel and took it to them to investigate.

2) P30 - another libel is found and presented to Matthew Chubb who "... happens to be sitting on Blachford's porch". An alusion to Chubb being aware of the libels.

3) P31 - Christmas 1613 - visiting preacher William Jones gave an anti-Calvinist sermon and dedicated it to "Chubb, his friends Richard and Thomas Blachford and other gentlemen of Dorset." Suggesting that Blachford and friend Chubb were against the 'puritan' views of John White and others.

4) P36 - Matthew Chubb and Richard Blachford had sole control of the collection and distribution of relief funds after the fire of Dorchester 1613.

5) P36/7 - "... but the choice of Blachford as Chubb's fellow trustee does not inspire confidence, for he was one of a family notorious for greed and double dealing".

6) P43 - In 1623 only three of Chubb's old allies were left as burgesses and 'old' Richard Blachford was one "... though he did manage to have his son John elected ...".

"The Blachfords were the only exceptions to what was otherwise a puriton monopoly".

7) P45 - Exchequer suit about the evasion of customs duties at Weymouth - John Blachford fined £2000 and fled to France. Expelled from the Corporation in 1639.

8) P45/6 - "The Blachfords were famous for their greed. A few years later a poor man named John Chimney began abusing one of John Blachford's sons ... 'thy father hath spoiled the town ... and now dares not to show his face but keeps like a dog." He accused Richard Blachford as having 'cozened men' and "like an old crippled knave ...

stayed indoors because I could not face his neighbours." "Richard was absenting himself from the Corporation meeting for over a year, and he continued to do so until warned that he would be expelled if he did not attend. He assumed his place, but for much of the 1630's the Blachfords, the only members of the 'fifteen' who were not enthusiastic reformers ... were virtually without influence in the corporation".

9) P66 - potential scandal as young Richard Blachford, grandson of the corporation member, purchased a drink for a married woman at a public house, went upstairs and spent half-an-hour together. She protested that she 'did no harm with him there'.

10) P87 - a poor woman blames John Blachford for sending the best food and produce overseas as trade.

11) P109 - 'miserly' John Blachford gave £100 towards an improved ministry in 1630.

12) P116 - 1640 Richard Blachford paying one shilling a week in poor rates (one of the highest in the town).

13) Blachfords involved in colonial trade, particularly North America.

14) P183 - King Charles' new taxes, all but three local people were exempted on the grounds of poverty - Whiteway, Parkins and Richard Blachford.

15) P215 - Reference to the pre-civil war generation having passed away by the early 1650's including 'old' Richard Blachford.

### *Comments*

Underdown paints a very harsh portrait of the Blachfords of Dorchester. Whilst I have little evidence to the contrary, Underwood does not appear to completely reference some of the comments about them being 'greedy or double dealing'. Whilst I am sure they were ambitious, being merchants of the time, there are only the anecdotal comments of a 'poor man' and the tax evasion of John to justify it. The comments could alternatively be put down to jealousy on the part of the 'poor man' and whilst John did flee to France and may well have evaded tax, at a time which King Charles I was taxing the merchant class particularly heavily, I cannot see how David Underdown's comments about the Blachford family are fair or balanced on evidence. He notes that they were part of only 3 of 15 'non-reformers' on the Town's Corporation in 1630. But whilst they may not have shared the puritan zeal it appears that they did still hang on in the Corporation during the 1630s and 1640's and they could not have done this without some support and respect in the town. It appears that the family sided with Parliament in the civil war as did the town as many of the merchant class of England at that time. It may well have been self interest and bitterness towards the harsher measures against trade during Charles' time that probably made them take this stance. But they did still take a courageous stand at a very difficult time. The fact that Richard Blachford the elder became Mayor of Dorchester in 1647, a fact Underdown omits to mention, also shows the high status he held in the town despite apparently having differences with many other leading people at the time such as the Rector John White. I am not of course trying to justify or excuse all of the actions of my ancestors, the Blachfords, because evidently some were mean spirited (see 1626 court case below), however I am not sure that they merit the particularly harsh attention they receive in this otherwise excellent work of Underdown's in the context. I stand of course to be disproved.

### *Dorchester Divided by Community Play Research Group edited T Hearing January 2002*

p 10 - William Blachford, merchant clothier of Dorchester, dominates the 1625 Weymouth shipping records. With his son [Richard] he had a share in more than 3/4 of the cargoes leaving Weymouth that year.

p 59 - the Blachfords imported fish from Newfoundland.

### *Dorchester - References located to Dorchester People in Books, Diaries, Historical Documents, etc (1575-1686)*

#### *Compiled by Michael Russell OPC for Fordington May 2010 - Last updated july 2010*

1615 - *The casebook of Sir Francis Ashley JP Recorder of Dorchester 1614-1635* - Thomas Blachford, brewer of Dorchester

Note - Thomas was Richard's son and married Margaret Meech in 1727, moving to Rouen in France where he died in about 1644)

1619 (*as above*) - Roger Heydon of Fordington, churirgion, in £10 Richard Blachford of Dorchester, in £20 Bound over to the next Assizes 'for severall misdemeanors done by his tipling'.

10/7/1625 - *William Whiteway of Dorchester His Diary 1618-1635 Page 73* - PIRACY: This day being Sunday, Francis Sandars was taken by French Pirats laden with kerses, of which they took some, and let the rest goe. The Losses were. To Mr John PARKINS about £700; To Mr BLACHFORD about £350; To Mr WHITEWAY about £150; To Mr WALTHAM about £400. making a total of £1,600.

23/9/1629 - *William Whiteway of Dorchester His Diary 1618-1635 Page 107/108* - This Day Mr. John HILL, Mr William DERBY and Mr John BLACHFORD rode to London in the behalfe of the Towne, to procure from my Lord of Suffolke, or from the Counsell, liberty to muster our men in the towne and to have a Captaine of our owne. The Earle of Suffolke referred it to his Lieutenants Deputys: and they shewed so much coldness and unwillingness in it, especially Sir Thomas FREKE, that it came to nothing.

25/2/1633 - *William Whiteway of Dorchester His Diary 1618-1635 Page 128* - There was a warrant granted out for apprehending of Mr John BLACHFORD and Mr Thomas WALTHAM, for refusing to answer to the information made in the Exchequer against them for stealing custom [i.e. not paying custom duty on imported goods] and counterfeiting of Cockets which were discovered by Walter GOULD who had been their chief agent therein. Whereupon they absented themselves.

2/9/1633 - *William Whiteway of Dorchester His Diary 1618-1635 Page 133/4* - Mr GARDENER and Mr BLACHFORD had a commission at Waimouth about the Custome causes. Mr BLACHFORD's commissioners were Mr LAWRENCE of Wraxall and Parson SIMONS of Melbury. Mr GARDENER's were Robert SMART and Mr WOOLFREYS of

Hampton. Mr GARDNER seing he could not prove things as he desired, snatch up the commission and put it in his pocket, which Mr BLACHFORD certified into the exchequer. 16/12/1633 - *William Whiteway of Dorchester His Diary 1618-1635 Page 136* - There was a commission held here at the Shirehall about stealing of customs. Mr LAWRENCE of Wraxall, and John COLE were for Mr BLACHFORD, and Mr Robert SMART, for Mr GARDNER. It lasted a monthe.

30/12/1633 - *William Whiteway of Dorchester His Diary 1618-1635 Page 136/7* - The 30th of this month the 'Mary of Morlaix' laden with 120 fardles of derbys (i.e. bundles of cloth) for Dorchester, Weymouth and Hampton was cast away upon Portland beach and all the goods. The men forsook the narke when they might have saved her. The greatest loss fell upon Mr John BLACHFORD , Mr James GOULD and Mr Thomas WALTHAM.

18/3/1634 - *William Whiteway of Dorchester His Diary 1618-1635 Page* - After many thousands spent in law, Mr BLACHFORD and Mr GARDNER referred their differences upon account unto Mr John LAWRENCE and Mr Henry CUTTANCE who sate on it this day, but could not agree, so the business was referred unto Sir John STANGWAYS to be umpier who took time to deliberate on it until 1st August.

11/4/1634 - *William Whiteway of Dorchester His Diary 1618-1635 Page 143* - The 11th of this month Mr Thomas BLACHFORD being come into England about busyness was like to be betrayed into the hands of a pursivant by Mr John GARDNER who had a quarrel at him for beating him at bolayes. But he escaped him and lodged the night at Mr KNAPTON's whose back house was burnt the same night by the negligence of a servant who let a snuffe fall among the turnves. William BURT tailor was so affrighted with this fire that he died within 10 days after.

30/7/1634 - *William Whiteway of Dorchester His Diary 1618-1635 Page 148* - Sir John STANGWAYS after many delays and much intreaty made an arbitration between Mr BLACHFORD and Mr GARDNER wherein he gave Mr BLACHFORD the value of £250 from Mr GARDNER who demanded of Mr BLACHFORD £1,100. The next day he made a declaration wherein he showed that he had committed an error of £100 upon his arbitration.

### Hutchins Dorset

Lists of Mayors of Dorchester - 1630 and 1646 Richard Blachford

### Municipal Records of Dorchester - Mayo, 1908

P41 - 26/6/1610 "There shall be two bailiffs chosen from the burgesses of whom Henry Whittel and Richard Blachford, jnr, shall be the first, to continue in office until the Monday after Michaelmas next ensuing ... The first Capital Burgesses and Councillors are to be ... Richard Blachford aforesaide ..."

2/3/1624 list of the Admission of Freemen of the Company of Freemen of the Borough - Henrie Mynterne, clothier, app. to Mr. Rd. Blachford, g. and John Cooth, merchant, app. to said Mr. Blachford., g.

P57 - 22/9/1629 - Richard Blachford listed amongst Capital Burgesses and Bailiffs

P86 - 26/9/1629 - Mr John and Mr Richard Blachford listed amongst those contributing to the cost of the Charter

P89 - 19/9/1649 - "the first xxli was paid for Mr Blachford's yeare ..."

P395 - 6/10/1629 at Tounhall, Mr Richard Blachford listed amongst the Freemen of the Borough.

P396 - 22/10/1629 - Richard Blachford listed amongst the assistants to the Governor assembled in the Town Hall of the Borough.

P444 - corrects Hutchins and gives a dated of 6/10/1647 when Richard Blachford was sworn in as Mayor of Dorchester.

P454 - January 1611 'deed of resignation of George Trenchard as Recorder of the Borough' amongst signatories 'Richard Blachford, Justice'.

P539 - 1/12/1630 - Richard Blachford 'maior' listed on account of monies to the poor from losses due to the fire.

P599 - 1/3/1633 - Richard Blachford on list of signatories from the Borough to minister Thomas Hill of Cambridge.

P600 - 17/7/1633 - Richard Blachford on a list of signatories from the Borough to minster Stephen Webb asking him to take residence and assist Mr John White.

P624 - 24/11/1630 - 'Seaton and Beer Parsonage' "documents related to the transfer included a lease for 21 years from William Fry to Richard Blachford, merchant and two others Oct 1631.

P628 - 12/2/1647 letter to Walter Young of Culliton from the Corporation of Dorchester concerning possible sale of parsonage of Seaton and Beere - signed by Richard Blachford, Mayor

P699 - lessees of town burgages - "20/9 12th (1615) James Rd Oldish of Dorchester Shoemaker Elizbeth his wife and Edith Blachford da of Rd Blachford of Dorchester merchant

P706 - amongst 1610 list of defaulters at Assizes - Richard Blechford

P716 - 16/8/1652 election of capital burgesses Thomas Symonds, grocer, v Richard Blachford dec'd

### The Diary of William Whiteway of Dorchester

Richard Blachford - clothier, Burgess in Dorchester 1610, Baliff 1621-22 and 1627-28, assistant to governing body of freeman 1629-30, Mayor 1630 and 1647.

### Whetstone Almhouse Charity, Dorchester All Saints, Dorchester

Dorset Quarter Sessions

1626 - Richard Blachford named with three other clothiers of Dorchester in an order concerning relief for petitioners John Gardner and Roger Downe who had been working for the clothiers in London and had been robbed on their return. Four clothiers were named as responsible for damages and expense for the petitioners suffered in their employment.

Dorset Tudor Subsidy Rolls

1594 - Dorchester  
Richard Blatchford - good taxed £3

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**William Blachford (1545 - 1624)**

William Blachford of 1545 was 'of Holway in the parish of White Staughton' on the birth of his son Richard (according to the [\*Family Forest website\*](#)). See also reference below to shipping business at Weymouth in 1625.

Dorchester Divided by Community Play Research Group edited T Hearing January 2002

p 10 - William Blachford, merchant clothier of Dorchester, dominates the 1625 Weymouth shipping records. With his son [Richard] he had a share in more than 3/4 of the cargoes leaving Weymouth that year.

Municipal Records of Dorchester - Mayo, 1908

14/11/1621 list of the Admission of Freemen of the Company of Freemen of the Borough - William Blachford, merchant, £2

1610 John Blachforde married Margaret Membree at Dorchester Holy Trinity

Blachford - a family history by Jack A.G. Blachford

"... In 1525 we found a William Blachford of Winterbourne, two John Blachfords - father and son ... We also discovered a William and Richard Blachford both of Bridport in 1545. these two may have been brothers ... William may well have been the father of Richard Blachford of Dorchester."

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**John Blachford (c1522 - ?)**

Children of John and Joan Blachford - ? William (m bf 1570 Martha), ? Henry (m 1571 Holsworthy, Devon Johan Braunch), ? John (m 1584 Holsworthy, Devon Honour Priest)

\* St Mary Arches in Devon is a Norman Church which (from Exeter Memories website) 'during the 14th to 16th centuries ... was used as a centre of worship by many merchants and Mayors of Exeter. Given the subsequent occupations of the Blachfords of Dorset and Hampshire the fact that John Blachford married in this church suggests that he was also a merchant.'

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1641 Protestation Returns - do not survive for Dorchester.

1569 Devon Muster Roll

Nicholas Blacheford, billman - Cliston, Broadclyst  
Thomas Blatchforde, presenter - Belston, Black Torrington  
William Blacheforde, billman - Pyworthye, Black Torrington  
John Blatcheford, presenter (money and harquebut) - North Tawton  
William Blacheforde, presenter - Bridestowe and Sowerton

Edward Blacheford, pikeman - Dartington  
Thomas Blacheforde, billman - Littlehempton  
Thomas Blacheforde, harquebusier - Staverton  
George Blacheford, pikeman - Broadhempston

1524/7 Lay Subsidy Rolls for Devon

Henry Blacheford - Exeter St Sidwell

Walter Blaycheford - Pyworthy

Thomas Blachford - Sourton

John Blacheford - Okehampton

Henry Blacheford - Meavy in Roborough

John Blacheford - East Allington, Stanborough

Richard Blacheford - Little Hempston

Andrew Blacheforde - Broadhempston

William Blacheford - Staverton

The Internet Surname Database

This interesting surname is of English locational origin from Blatchford in Sourton, Devonshire. The placename derives from the Old English pre 7th Century personal name Blaecca plus "ford" a ford, shallow place in a river. The surname is first recorded in the latter half of the 16th Century, (see below). Other early recordings of the surname from the Devonshire church registers include; Christian, daughter of Edward Blatchford, who was christened on September 15th 1584, at Paignton; on October 30th 1584, the marriage of John Blatchford to Honour Preist took place at Holsworthy; Wilmot, son of Edward Blatchford was christened on February 18th 1587, at Paignton; and the marriage of Islett Blatchforde to Peter Priston took place in 1590, at Spreyton. A coat of arms granted to the Blatchford family consists of a blue shield with two gold wavy bars and in a gold chief, three blue arrowheads. On the crest there is a black swans head and neck between two silver wings. A chief in heraldy is said to signify Dominion and Authority and has often been granted as an augmentation reward for successful command in war. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Edward Blatchford, witness at christening, which was dated December 9th 1571, at Dartington, Devonshire, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1, "Good Queen Bess", 1558 - 1603. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.