

The Blinkhorns of the Fen Counties.

As I began to collect information about the BLINKHORNS from the British Newspaper Archives it became apparent that the name, originating in Cumberland from Blencarn, had a wider earlier distribution than you would expect from such a limited origin. In Westmorland and Yorkshire today it is usually spelt BLENKHORN (with a frequent variant BLENKIRON amongst the lead miners of North Yorkshire) whilst in Lancashire and everywhere in England south of this the usual spelling is BLINKHORN. Search for the name on Family Search and you are also given LINKHORN which I think we can assume is a derivative of LINCOLN although the place name Linkinhorne in Cornwall ought to be investigated as a possible source. BLINCO or BLINKOW etc is believed to come from Blencow in Cumbria and is quite separate whereas BLINKIN is of uncertain origin and may perhaps have been BLINKHORN and resulted from the lazy pronunciation of their name by people who did not know how to spell it.

Whilst there are earlier traces elsewhere, by the time of the 1841 census BLINKHORN is most often found in Lancashire with a second concentration in the Fen Counties. Thereafter it has once again spread to many other counties. There was clearly a family of Blynkkhorns in Huntingdon by the 1560s and such early versions as BLENKARN continue long after BLINKHORN becomes the most common spelling.

It seemed likely that BLINKHORNS in the Fen Counties could all be related as so many were millers, bakers, millwrights etc. Strangely the other common occupation for their descendants appears to be draper and I cannot quite explain this. I began to collect details from parish register transcripts from Cambs, Hunts and South Lincolnshire together with the National Burial Index (NBI) and store them for ease of reference in spreadsheets.

Baptisms, sorted by first name of the child and then year of baptism. (see footnote *)

Parish	First name	Parents	day	year
Willingham	William	Joseph & Lydia	20-Jun	1792
Lutton St Nicholas	William	William & Elizabeth	07-Mar	1792
Whittlesey St Mary	William	Elizabeth (& Richard HUSON)	09-Dec	1793
Ely C of H	William	John & Elizabeth	14-Apr	1793

This is easily resorted by parents and then year of baptism to identify possible siblings

Parish	First name	Parents	day	year
Cambridge St Giles	William	Robert & Elizabeth	04-Sep	1618
Sutton	Thomas	Robert & Hannah	08-May	1768
Bluntisham	Susannah	Robert & Mary	12-Jul	1698
Colne	Elizabeth	Robert & Mary	29-May	1748

Resorting by parish can also be useful in some cases

Burials I adapt the format used by the NBI adding maiden surnames of wives and year of birth when these can be identified from other sources.

d	m	y	first name	SURNAME	Age	Parish	born
10	Nov	1908	Phoebe	BLINKHORN	77	Lincoln, Canwick Rd	1831

			PALMER				
5	Feb	1621	Prudence	BLINCKHORNE		Sutton, St Andrew d of Wm	
10	Nov	1816	Rebecca	BLINHORN	70	Bury	1746
7	Jan	1823	Rebecca COOK	BLINKHORN	57	Holbeach, All Saints	1766

Marriages I find are best separated into male and female databases for the surname you are researching. Females are sorted most usefully by first name and then year.

Day	Year	Parish	BLINKHORN	Spouse
				Charles GIDDINS ba
24-Oct	1860	Huntingdon	Emma Betsy sp 34	32 of Hemingford Abbots, farmer
06-Feb	1686	Woodwalton	Esther	Thomas HOBBS
19-			Fannie	John Ebenezer
Aug	1862	Chesterton		LOVELL
22	1706	Whaplode	female	John BARNABY

Males, if listed to show the full name of the marriage partner in one column, can be sorted by that name. This makes it easier to locate wives who have died or widows who have remarried.

Day	Year	Parish	BLINKHORN	Spouse
08-Oct	1835	Willingham	ba otp Robert	Charlotte STOCKBRIDGE sp otp
24-Nov	1774	North Somercotes	William	Dinah MOORE
17-Feb	1712	Bluntisham & Earith	Robert	Dorothy WINSUR
30-Apr	1690	Ware	John	Eliza THOROUGHGOOD

My great grand father William BLINKHORN was born in Sawtry son of a miller/farmer. He moved to Lincoln where he was draper and hosier and founded a Strict Baptist chapel in Orchard Street. Sir Francis HILL, who wrote a number of books on the history of Lincoln as J W F HILL, was a local solicitor and grandson of William. All my grandparents were born in Lincoln and until recently I knew little about William's ancestry.

THOMAS

If you look for the 4 words – Thomas BLINKHORN Vancouver Island – you will find a number of websites giving biographical details of Thomas as a pioneer farmer. They omit to mention that he was a convict transported to Tasmania in an earlier part of his life and I still have no details as to his whereabouts from 1843 when his certificate of freedom was issued to 1850 when he set sail for Vancouver Island from England with his wife. As he seems to be otherwise of good character it is possible that he arranged to steal the gelding horse belonging to William CHENEY from his farm at Great Gidding and leave it later at a public house where it could be recovered. By this means Thomas would have gained a free passage to Tasmania. William CHENEY would have been the grandfather of Martha CHENEY who later travelled to Vancouver with her Uncle Thomas BLINKHORN. I would be interested to hear from anyone who can prove the often repeated tale that Thomas was a friend of Sir John FRANKLIN who was Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania. It seems to me that this

was Thomas's cover story to avoid mentioning that he had been a convict. He was employed in the vicinity of Launceston first at Scone mill and possibly later at Thorpe mill. Both were watermills. Thomas was my William's eldest half brother. It is often said that he had children but this would be to misunderstand the fact that his father married a second time and the "children" were his half siblings.

SAWTRY

The Sawtry registers for All Saints and St Andrew show more BLINKHORNs. They are the descendants of Joseph BLINKHORN and Mary BATTISON and what at first appears to be a separate family of the descendants of William BLINKHORN and Sarah FRIESBY who married in Yaxley 1739. William was a widower when he married Sarah and after her death went on to marry a further three widows the last outlived him and remarried. This did not explain where Joseph came from but an Elizabeth wife of William buried 1738 must have been William's first wife.

This William's will is dated 1770 and mentions his sons Joseph and William together with granddaughter Mary and Grandson Joseph

There are two legal disputes mentioned on the National Archive website which together identify where the Sawtry BLINKHORNs came from.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Place-names gives us the following information re Sawtry. Previous spellings Saltreda etc mean "the landing place of the salt sellers".

1749 "John, Elizabeth and Joseph, 3 children of William BLINKHORN of Saltree, Hunts v MUSGRAVE". This alone does not help but an earlier case 1748 "BLINKHORN v FEAST" gives the ages of the 3 children John 19, Elizabeth 15 and Joseph 18.

EARITH AND BEFORE

Now we can identify two baptisms in Bluntisham John son of William 11 Feb 1729 (he probably married Sarah BRIERS 1746 and their descendants lived at Warboys) and Joseph son of William 17 Jan 1730 but no mention of their sister Elizabeth. Clearly at least one earlier generation also pursued the occupation of miller at Earith and disposal of this mill would have funded the purchase of the mill at Sawtry.

The will of Susan BLINKHORN of Earith is dated 1703. She was widow of a miller and has son William BLINKHORN and daughter Elizabeth BLINKHORN. Also mentioned are "son in law" George BLINKHORN and "daughter in law" Ester HOBBS. An "in law" is a relative acquired by marriage so you could have two mothers in law, one if you marry yourself and another if your father remarries. By introducing the term "step" in later years this source of ambiguity was dispensed with. The only parish register entry this clarified was the marriage of Ester BLINKHORN and Thomas HOBBS in Woodwalton 1685/6. At this stage we do not know the name of Susan's husband.

1705 A legal dispute arises between George and his half brother William. George wishes to sell the windmill he has inherited from his father to William and dates when two stage payments are due is established but William fails to make the first payment believing that George does not have full title to the mill. George explains that his younger brother John was entitled to inherit the will from his father Robert provided he made a payment to George of £25 within one year of his father's death. No such payment was received, John has died and his son John (now about 7 years old) therefore has no entitlement to any interest in the mill. George is able to sell the mill and if William still has any doubts offers to cancel the arrangement to sell provided that William pays him an estimate of average

profits on the business since the date of the original agreement. It is not now known what William decided to do. The dispute was settled by appeal to William COWPER, recently appointed Keeper of the Great Seal who, it appears was grand uncle of the poet William COWPER whose verses I have several times encountered whilst recording memorial inscriptions in Norfolk.

William son of Robert BLINKHORN baptised 1646 at Sutton and Elizabeth baptised 1655 at Sutton will be children of Robert's last wife Susannah and they would have also been the parents of Robert 1648 - 1663 and Richard 1653 - 1658 also born at Sutton. [It is possible that this paragraph is incorrect see footnote*]

The young John would be the John baptised at Bluntisham 1696 Possibly this John went on to marry Mary KETTLE and is ancestor of the BLINKHORNS of Colne. But were his father John, together with George and Ester born somewhere else in England or were Robert and his first wife(s) careless about having their children baptised?

Robert left an inventory but his will seems not to have survived his death in 1703 and the same can be said of his son John whose inventory has survived but not his will 1704 and neither of them seem to have a burial record.

We are now missing a generation what is the origin of the William whose first children were born in Bluntisham and later children in Sawtry? It would appear that he was son of George and baptised 1693 in Bluntisham. George's wife at the time is not known but may be Dorothy who was later mother of Susannah born in Wentworth 1696. Both George 1709 and his daughter Susannah 1701 died at Witchford whilst Dorothy may possibly be the widow who died 1723 at Haddenham.

George as we have seen was son of Robert and as we progress backwards in time the records are increasingly less complete. I would guess that Robert was baptised Sutton 1619 son of William and Bridget BLINKHORN.

Without the assistance of documents other than parish registers it will be more difficult to determine how the other BLINKHORNS in the Fen Counties are related.

NOT ALL OF THE FENLAND BLINKHORNS ARE NECESSARILY RELATED

There are families at Thorney, Ramsey, Cambridge and Great Shelford which seem not to be related at present.

Apart from James and Rebecca (COOKE) the south Lincolnshire Blinkhorns may have a separate origin. One Thomas BLINKHORN of Spalding famously invented an improved portable pump for the fire fighters of the day which was patented in 1859 and exhibited at agricultural and other shows around the country throughout the 1860s where its efficiency was demonstrated. It became known as "Blinkhorn's Little Wonder"

SUMMARY CHART

Space does not permit the printing of a conventional family tree on pages of this size. The following is a summary designed to show how various branches of the Fenland BLINKHORNS are related, it is designed to be read from the bottom upwards. E.g. The parents of James of Holbeach generation 6 are William and Sarah generation 5. This list shows some of the descendants of (3) George and John,

sons of (2) Robert and his first wife. Full details when known have been posted to a Public Member's Tree on Ancestry.co.uk, which will be amended should that be necessary.

Generation

- 1 William BLINKHORN died 1678 Sutton = Bridget unknown surname
- 2 Robert born 1619 Sutton = unknown wife and then Susannah of unknown surname
- 3 George died Witchford 1709 = Dorothy of unknown surname
- 4 William born 1693 Bluntisham = Elizabeth of unknown surname, then 1739 Sarah FRIESBY
- 5 John born 1729 Bluntisham in 1746 = Sarah BRIERS >> Warboys
- 5 Joseph born 1730 Bluntisham in 1766 = Mary BATTISON
- 6 Thomas born 1777 Sawtry in 1805 = Ann WALDOCK, then in 1821 = Ann HODSON
- 7 Thomas born 1806 Sawtry in 1827 = Ann BEETON >> Vancouver Island but no children
- 7 John born 1811 Sawtry in 1837 = Mary JACKSON >> Hertfordshire
- 7 William born 1827 Sawtry >> Lincoln
- 5 William born 1744 Sawtry in 1760 = Sarah BARRITT
- 6 William born 1763 Willingham in 1785 = Jane MERRY >> Chatteris
- 7 William born 1790 Chatteris in 1812 = Mary HARVEY >> St Ives & Wisbeach
- 6 John born 1764 Willingham = Elizabeth of unknown surname
- 7 William born 1791 Bluntisham in 1819 = Elizabeth ROOTHAM
- 6 Robert born 1767 Willingham = Mary Ann BRIDGES >> Maidstone, Kent
- 7 Robert born 1814 Kent, = Eleanor BUNYARD >> Gloucester
- 6 James born 1768 Haddenham in 1800 = Rebecca COOKE >> Holbeach
- 6 Pepper born 1771 Haddenham = Camelar WARNER >> Channel Isles and USA
- 3 John died before 1705 in 1695 = Margaret THORP
- 4 John born 1696 Bluntisham in 1717 = Mary KETTLE >> Colne

Footnote * Excel spreadsheets allow you to sort on three levels at once but you would not be correct if you thought it was not possible to sort on more than 3 levels. If you want to sort by SURNAME, and within each surname by first name and within each first name by year and within each year by day, then you need to understand that the program sorts in the reverse order to that you might expect. i.e. by year, then first name, then SURNAME. So first sort your database by day. Then by the other three levels. Knowing how this works you can sort on as many levels as you like.

John PEPPERDINE Huntingdonshire FHS Member1785

***Footnote.** Having discussed this with Ian Kemp who is also a descendant of the Sawtry family I am inclined to agree that if this paragraph is correct then George, John and Esther would have to have been born before 1646 and it follows that they would all have married late in life. It is more likely that Robert and his last wife Susannah had their family after 1670. In which case it appears that none of Robert's children were baptised in a C of E church.

Sawtry Mill before restoration and as it looks today.

http://sawtry.ccan.co.uk/content/catalogue_item/the-mill-sawtry-a-closer-look-3

http://sawtry.ccan.co.uk/content/catalogue_item/sawtry-windmill-now-a-private-house

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George BLINKHORN 1809 - 1891

Fa Robert BLINKHORN

Mo Mary Ann (BRIDGES)

Married Sarah PARAMORE Sep 1840 at Leeds, Kent

1841 At Abbey Mill, Leeds, Kent aged 30 miller

1851 At Abbey Mill, Leeds, Kent aged 41 miller & farmer employing 6 men, wife Sarah 4 sons, 1 dau

KENTISH GAZETTE Tue 9 Jan 1855

John KING acquitted of stealing four gallons of flour value 6s the property of George BLINKHORN his master at Leeds

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 25 Feb 1860

Accident On Mon a horse in a van belonging to Mr G BLINKHORN of Leeds was standing at his shop in King St when the animal suddenly bolted across the road into Mr CLAYTON's glass window. Animal was rescued uninjured but the window damaged to about 50s

1861 At Abbey Mill, Leeds, Kent aged 51 miller & farmer of 50 acres employing 4 men & 2 boys, wife Sarah 4 sons 3 dau

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 7 Feb 1863

Leeds annual dinner for farmers and local inhabitants

Mr BLINKHORN vice chair

SUSSEX ADVERTISER Tue 4 Dec 1866

SUSSEX ADVERTISER Wed 5 Dec 1866

Horsmonden Ploughing Match annual

George Else BLINKHORN present

DOVER EXPRESS Fri 21 May 1869

A tramping miller looking for employment broke into Mr BLINKHORN's mill at Leeds and stole £5 and a pair of spectacles

1871 At Abbey Mill, Leeds, Kent aged 61 miller master, wife Sarah 3 sons 2 dau

1881 At Abbey Mill, Leeds, Kent aged 71 miller master, wife Sarah 2 sons 1 dau

Alfred BLINKHORN 1843 – 1927

Fa George BLINKHORN

Mo Sarah (PARAMORE)

1891 Abbey Mill, Leeds, Kent now run by Alfred BLINKHORN (son of George) aged 48 corn miller widowed mother and one sister

1901 miller and baker with sister Louisa

1911 corn miller with sister Louisa both unmarried

John BLINKHORN 1800 – 1873

Fa Robert BLINKHORN

Mo Mary Ann (BRIDGES)

Born 16 Jul 1800 Maidstone, Kent

1841 At Thurnham Mill age 40 miller wife Ann 1 son

Married Ann DAWSON 15 Jun 1827 Rochester, Kent

KENTISH GAZETTE Tue 31 Jul 1849

Sandling . On Sunday night Mr BLINKHORN's mill was entered by false keys or picklocks and about three bushels and a half of flour taken.

1851 At Thurnham Mill age 50 master miller, 1 employee wife Ann 1 dau 1 son

KENTISH GAZETTE Te 7 Feb 1854

Thurnham Mon an inquest held at Mr BLINKHORN's Thurnham Mill on body of Esther Callaway their servant of 23 years. Suicide by laudanum whilst of unsound mind

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 12 Jan 1861

Messrs G O THIRKELLI of Brenchley, John SMITH of Sutton Valence and John BLINKHORN of Thurnham indicted for non repair of Hockenbary, Leign and Franks bridges in hundred of Eyhorne

1861 At Thurnham Mill age 60 miller wife Ann

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 28 Oct 1865

KENTISH GAZETTE Tue 31 Oct 1865

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 11 Nov 1865

Joseph WELLS a tramp of Croydon charged with stealing a galvanised pail value 2s 9d the property of Mr J BLINKHORN at Bearsted/Thurnham . 3 months hard labour.

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 18 Nov 1865

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 9 Dec 1865

George HOWARD (or Hayward)an Agricultural labourer charged with stealing a quantity of mixed corn from his master John BLINKHORN of Bearsted
4 months hard labour

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 29 Aug 1868

Thomas Winchester age 13 picking plums on Mr BLINKHORN's farm at Bearsted fell and dislocated his shoulder

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 10 Jan 1869

Bearsted

Complaints about the unsafe state of a plank crossing a stream at Mr BLINKHORN's mill at Thurnham

1871 At Thurnham Mill age 70 miller and farmer wife Ann

Will 1873 <£9,000 John BLINKHORN the elder of Thurnham Kent miller died 23 Sep 1873 to John BLINKHORN of Otham the son and Batchelor ROPERr of Hollingbourne farmers

John BLINKHORN 1832 – 1908 (son of above)

Fa John BLINKHORN
Mo Ann (DAWSON)

Born Bearsted, Kent 1832

1841 At Thurnham Mill aged 8 son of miller

1851 At Thurnham aged 18 son of miller

Married Sarah KEMP 20 Nov 1857 at Thurnham, Kent

SUSSEX AGRICULTURAL EXPRESS Sat 24 Oct 1857

KENTISH GAZETTE Tue 27 Oct 1857

Cranbrook

Accident Wed evening Mr BLINKHORN who had just taken the flour mill of Mr T PARTON at Broadford Horsmonden was returning home in horse and carriage with a passenger (Mr KEMP jun of Loose) when the horse bolted. Mr BLINKHORN was thrown from the carriage and seriously injured but now recovering. His passenger was able to go home

1861 At Horsmunden mill house age 28 master miller and farmer wife Sarah 1 son 1 dau

SUSSEX ADVERTISER Tue 22 Mar 1864

SUSSEX ADVERTISER Wed 23 Mar 1864

Dinner for officers of the 41st Kent Rifle Volunteers

Civilians present included J BLINKHORN (Horsmonden)

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 24 Dec 1864

Mr J BLINKHORN of Otham bred a pig weighing 26 score and aged 22 months

SUSSEX ADVERTISER Sat 11 Feb 1865

SUSSEX ADVERTISER Tue 14 Feb 1865

KENTISH GAZETTE Tue 14 Feb 1865

Horsmonden Annual Ploughing match

BLINKHORN present at later dinner

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 20 Feb 1869

George HAM a carpenter native of Bristol charged with stealing tools at Brenchley belonging to George AVARDS. HAM was later working for Mr BLINKHORN on his farm at Horsmonden and found to have tools which he says he borrowed

Court discharged case as insufficient evidence

DOVER EXPRESS Fri 3 Sep 1869

Inquest at West Kent General Hospital into death of Phoebe Milgate aged 30 lately servant to Mr John BLINKHORN miller of Thurnham

Verdict died of shock whilst undergoing operation for cancer under chloroform

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 16 Jul 1870

Stephen Phillips charged with stealing cider property of Mr John Blinkhorn of Horsmonden. he gave it to 10 year old son to hide under his smock. 2 months hard labour

1871 At Broadford farm aged 38 farmer widower 4 sons 4 dau

1871 At millhouse Horsmondem Alfred LAMBERT aged 32 miller unmarried

Married Mary Whistler STEVENS at Brighton, 1873

1881 At millhouse farm Thurnham aged 48

1891 At Thurnham mill farm aged 58 farmer 2 sons 1 dau

A Quaker BLINKHORN family of millers at windmills in Bluntisham and Earith, Hunts are the ancestors of a number of BLINKHORN families.

One of these was William BLINKHORN born 1744 in Sawtry, Hunts who married Sarah BARR(E/I)TT at Wentworth, Cambs. They lived first at Willingham, Cambs and later Haddenham, Cambs. He was a miller as were several of his sons

William born 1763 Willingham died 1829 Chatteris, Cambs

John born 1764 Willingham died 1805 Ely, Cambs

Joseph born 1765 Willingham died 1833 Sawtry, Hunts

Robert born 1767 Willingham died 1840 Maidstone, Kent

James born 1768 Haddenham died 1838 Holbeach, Lincs

Pepper born 1771 Haddenham died 1823 Jersey Channel Islands (enlisted in Army 1794 giving miller as occupation)

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**Robert BLINKHORN (ba, miller) = Mary BRIDGES (sp), both of this parish
19 Feb 1797 Maidstone All Saints, Kent**

Robert's will 1840 confirms names of some of his daughter's husbands

Children

William bpt 25 Mar 1797 (born 10 Mar 1797) believe died before 1840

Mary Ann bpt 18 Mar 1798 (born 2 Feb 1798) = John HEAPS 30 Apr 1832 Newington, Surrey

Elizabeth bpt 2 Jun 1799 (born 15 Apr 1799) believe died before 1840

John* bpt 31 Aug 1800 (born 16 Jul 1800) = Ann DAWSON 15 Jun 1827 Rochester, Kent

Harriett bpt 1 Nov 1801 (born 16 Jul 1801) = Richard DAWSON 8 Mar 1852 Maidstone, Kent

Charlotte bpt 25 Dec 1804 (born 23 Nov 1804) = Edward BELLINGHAM 28 Jul 1829

Maidstone

Eliza bpt 23 Mar 1806 (born 11 Feb 1806) = William H BENSTED

Thomas* bpt 3 Apr 1808 (born 3 Feb 1808) = Mary BETTS

George* bpt 12 Nov 1809 (born 22 Aug 1809) = Sarah PARAMORE Sep 1840

Maria bpt 14 Jul 1811 (born 28 ?? 1811) = Frederick Freeman COBB 22 Oct 1832 Maidstone

Louisa bpt 21 Mar 1813 = John PARAMORE 4 Sep 1839 Minster, near Ramsgate, Kent

Robert bpt 9 Feb 1814 = Eleanor BUNYARD 7 Jun 1843 Maidstone died Gloucester.

[* = miller using watermills in the Maidstone area of Kent see separate sheet]

Thomas BLINKHORN 1808 - 1874

Fa Robert BLINKHORN

Mo Mary Ann (BRIDGES)

Born Maidstone, Kent 1808

Married Mary Ann BETTS 16 Oct 1832 Bearsted, Kent

1841 Sandling Mill, Boxley, Kent age 30 miller wife Mary Ann 1 son

1851 Sandling Mill, Boxley age 46 miller wife Mary Ann 5 sons

KENTISH GAZETTE Tue 30 Dec 1851

On Sat night or Sun morning Mr BLINKHORN's barn at Sandling mill was broken into and 3 sacks of red oats stolen. This is the third such event in six weeks

KENTISH GAZETTE Tue 20 Jan 1852

Maidstone

On Wed a sheepskin was found in a river and identified as one of the sheep lately stolen from Mr BLINKHORN of Sandling

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 12 Mar 1859

Suicide. Inquest on Thu evening last on body of Samuel MARTIN aged 40 years Jane MARTIN wife of deceased said he had risen to work as labourer digging hops at Mr BLINKHORN of Sandling. But by half past 6 she realised he had not gone as his tools lay outside the door. She found him in the privy with his throat cut. He suffered from asthma and feared he would not find employment. Verdict temporary insanity

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 12 Mar 1859

Bearsted

John WHITE and John HEARNE wilfully damaged two sheep gates belonging to Thomas BLINKHORN farmer of Boxley

Each fined 1s and £1 8s 2d costs

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 23 Jul 1859

Maidstone Spring water Co Committee of House of Commons investigates water shortage in Maidstone and consequent high mortality rate

William WEST in employ of Mr BLINKHORN miller at Sandling testified to the fact that the water in the stream flow has greatly diminished due partly to the works at Luton

KENTISH GAZETTE Tue 13 Nov 1860

Maidstone Agricultural Association 22nd anniversary Length of servitude

Female servant 3rd prize Mary Ann BOAKES 3 years Mr BLINKHORN of Sandling

1861 Sandling Mill, Boxley aged 53 farmer 116 acres & miller employing 9 men and 1 boy, wife Mary Ann 1 son

DOVER EXPRESS Sat 18 Jul 1863

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 18 Jul 1863

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 1 Aug 1863

Boxley

At Maidstone Police Court

A soldier of the Royal Engineers, Thomas ALLUM aged 29 charged with igniting a load of hay and wagon value £16 property of Thomas BLINKHORN of Sandling in parish of Boxley

Prisoner's excuse was that he was tired of soldiering and wanted to get a 12 month sentence

Acquitted at Crown Court

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 20 Aug 1870

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 27 Aug 1870

Ragged School Annual Treat in a meadow at Sandling lent by Mr BLINKHORN

He and others also donated fruit

Maidstone Agricultural Association Sat 5 Nov 1870

Long service awards Edward BATES with Mr Thomas BLINKHORN Sandling served 22 years

MAIDSTONE TELEGRAPH Sat 24 Dec 1870

Mr T REYNOLDS Week St displayed a splendid lot of young pork in prime condition and best country fed by Mr BLINKHORN of Boxley and others

1871 Abbey Court Farm Sandling aged 63 farmer 52 acres miller employing 3 men 1 boy wife Mary Ann 4 sons

1881 Abbey Court Farm son Robert John BLINKHORN is now the miller

Dover Express Fri 1 May 1874

Death. April 27 Abbey Court, Sandling Mr Thos BLINKHORN aged 66 years

Robert John BLINKHORN 1847 - 1920

Fa Thomas BLINKHORN

Mo Mary Ann (BETTS)

1851 Sandling Mill aged 4 son of miller

1861 Sandling aged 14 son of miller

1871 Sandling aged 24 son of miller

Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald Sat 22 Jan 1881

Jan 13 at St Simon's Kensington, Robert John BLINKHORN of Abbey Court, Boxley, Kent to Jessie Mary eldest daughter of the late James PHILLIPS of Roswick (sic) Norfolk

1881 Abbey Court Boxley aged 34 miller & farmer employing 4 men at farm, 1 man at mill. Wife Jessie Mary

died New Zealand 1920

William BLINKHORN born abt 1772 Somerset buried 18 Apr 1849

William BLINKHORN married Elizabeth Jane BLIGHT 24 Feb 1805 at St Andrew, Holborn, City of London. (She was buried 26 Jan 1842 with husband at Seaton , Devon)

BATH CHRONICLE AND WEEKLY GAZETTE Thu 17 May 1821

13 weavers of Taunton and district brought before bench of Sat week for assaulting fellow weavers so trying to prevent them from working for Mr BLINKHORN of Staplegrove. Six were selected by magistrates for two months hard labour reduced to one month by BLINKHORN's request. Rest discharged by magistrate seriously admonished

MORNING CHRONICLE Mon 17 Feb 1823

Partnership dissolved

W BLINKHORN and E BRIND Staplegrove, Taunton, Somerset silk throwsters

BATH CHRONICLE AND WEEKLY GAZETTE Thu 14 Sep 1826

Game lists County of Somerset.

Persons who have obtained certificates for 1826

BLINKHORNE William

TAUNTON COURIER AND WESTERN ADVERTISER Wed 11 Sep 1833

The following have game certificates for Somerset year 1833

BLINKHORN William Staplegrove

BATH CHRONICLE AND WEEKLY GAZETTE Thu 11 Sep 1834

BRISTOL MERCURY Sat 13 Sep 1834

Game lists for County of Somerset

Following persons have general certificates for year 1834 at £3 13s and 6d each

BLINKHORN Wm of Staplegrove

WESTERN TIMES Sat 1 Dec 1838

SHERBORNE MERCURY Mon 3 Dec 1838

BRISTOL MERCURY Sat 8 Dec 1838

Taunton business of Messrs James is to cease.

The silk throwing factory is to close and many of the 200 hands have found work at Mr BLINKHORN of Staplegrove or Mr STEVENSON of this town

TAUNTON COURIER AND WESTERN ADVERTISER Wed 24 Mar 1841

Dinner by the guardians of the Taunton union including BLINKHORN

Census 6 Jun 1841 William BLINKHORN of Staplegrove, Somerset aged 69 (therefore born about 1772 in Somerset)

TAUNTON COURIER AND WESTERN ADVERTISER Wed 22 Mar 1865

Extensive fire at Taunton affected the extensive flax mills of Messrs WOTTON and Co (better known as BLINKHORN's Factory) at Bisop's Hill.

Death is registered in the Axminster Registration District in Devon middle of 1849.

Whilst the 1841 census shows that William was born in Somerset it is not known where and is entirely possible that he is the William, son of William BLINKHORN baptised at Cross St Presbyterian, Manchester 26 May 1772. It would not be surprising if there were to have been a silk mercer's business with branches in London and Manchester.

More information is available on Google which in one case shows extract of an entry in the Victoria County History of Somerset

George BANNISTER 1813 - 1872

In the 1841 census Sawtry mill was run by John BLINKHORN who was to die later that year. His father Thomas died 1828 and had married a second time to Ann HODSON who, according to the newspaper announcement at the time, was a niece of William HODSON

Charles BANNISTER was miller at the Mill Sawtry All Saints, Huntingdonshire from the census of 1851 to the census of 1871. He died 1872.

Charles was born in Gosberton, Lincolnshire about 1813

He had married Elizabeth Hodson SCOTNEY 1848 in Huntingdon (Father William SCOTNEY 1806 – 1849 and mother Mary HODSON 1806 – 1887) Whether Ann HODSON and Mary HODSON were related is not known at present

He died and his widow Elizabeth was miller in 1881 assisted by son William and in 1891 by son George. By 1901 Elizabeth still lived in the parish but was retired and died in 1909.

Nearby on the 1901 census was a corn miller George H BANNISTER son of Charles and Elizabeth and his wife Mary Ann born in Billingborough, Lincolnshire.