

The Blackall clan, upwardly-mobile in south Oxfordshire and Berkshire, late C16-early C19

THE NAME BLACK(H)ALL is strongly associated with south Oxfordshire and Berkshire. (It is often spelt Blackhall, with the same persons using both forms interchangeably.) The family was well established by the C16 in the area between Henley, Goring, Wallingford, Watlington, and Nettlebed (*see map, p 7*).

In 1587 Thomas Blackall, a yeoman farmer of Checkendon, married Joan Buckeridge of Ipsden.¹ Of their five sons, three left to seek their fortunes in London, while two remained in Oxfordshire. The eldest son, Richard, had a son, also Richard (1620-1676), who moved to Britwell Prior;* he married his cousin Anne from London² in 1648. William, the youngest son, remained in Checkendon. The same Christian names recur through several generations of Blackalls: they are distinguished in what follows for example as Thomas I, Thomas II, Richard I, Richard II, and so on; Sheriff Thomas Blackall of Great Haseley is Thomas V.

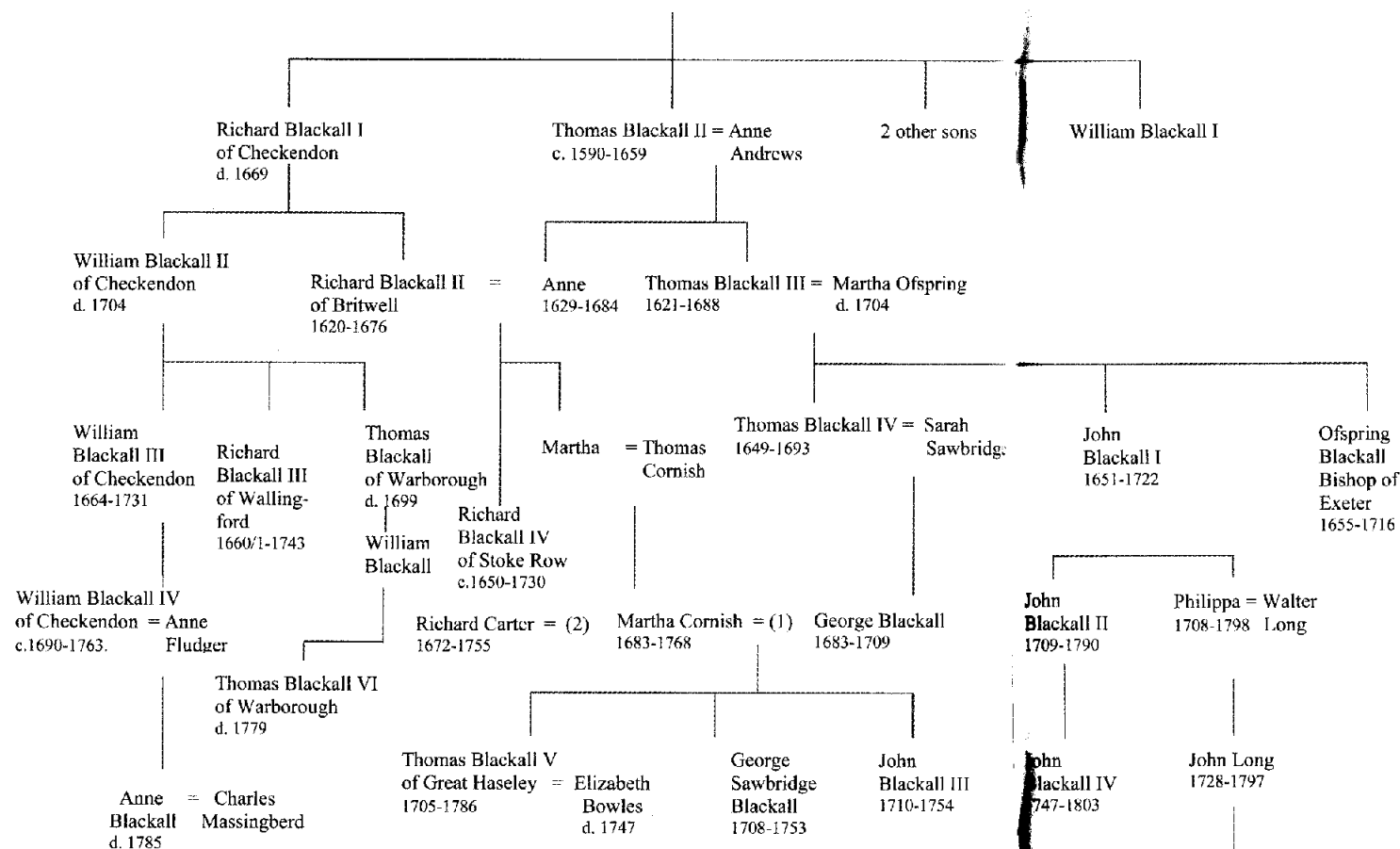
Of those who went to London and set up in trade Thomas II (c.1590-1659) was active in the Haberdashers' livery company, becoming a freeman of the city and then an alderman in 1657.³ His son Thomas III (1621-1688), also an alderman, had a large family: it included Thomas IV (1649-1693), the eldest, father of George Blackall (1683-1709) who began the family connection with Great Haseley, and John Blackall I (1651-1722), whose descendants inherited Great Haseley after the death of George's son, Thomas Blackall V, in 1786. When Thomas III died in 1688, he left to each of the eight children of his sister Anne (the wife of Richard Blackall II of Britwell) 'a broad peice (*sic*) of gold as a token of my love to them'.⁴

The Blackalls of Great Haseley

George was only 16 when his father died, and he was entrusted to the guardianship of his grandmother Martha (née Ofspring). Relations with the Oxfordshire Blackalls remained warm and George no doubt visited

* Britwell Prior was a detached chapelry of Newington parish, situated several miles to the south-east, intermingled with the houses and fields of Britwell Salome near Watlington.

Thomas Blackall 1 = Joan Buckeridge
d. 1636/7



them from time to time. He may well have stayed with Martha, one of those to whom his grandfather had left a piece of gold, and who had in the meantime married Thomas Cornish, the vicar of Watlington. He fell in love with Martha's daughter, his second cousin, also called Martha; both were aged 19 when they married in London at the church of St Mary Aldermary, where George's uncle Ofspring Blackall was the rector before becoming Bishop of Exeter in 1708.⁵

George's education would have been overseen by his uncle John Blackall I, draper, who was active in exporting goods to Maryland and Virginia, and perhaps also by another Oxfordshire cousin, Richard Blackall III (the nephew of Richard Blackall II of Britwell). Richard III had been born in 1660 and so was a little younger than George's uncle; he had studied for the Bar at Staples Inn, part of Gray's Inn, and may well have frequented his cousins' house in Hackney.⁶ He was shortly to become mayor of Wallingford and an important figure in the area.

George and Martha, whose first two children were born in Hackney, were presumably looking for a house in the country in which to bring up their young family—one not too far from Martha Cornish in Watlington and Richard Blackall III in Wallingford. It may have been John I or Richard III who drew George's attention to the possibility of acquiring elements of the property portfolio built up by Sir John Cutler, Bt. (1603-1693). Cutler was a former grocer who by arranging mortgages for landowners had ended up owning a range of estates, including Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire and several in Oxfordshire.

The Blackall family tree 1636-1871

The manor of Latchford, near Great Haseley, had been held by the Lenthalls since the C15, and Haseley Court at Little Haseley by the Huddlestons, but both these recusant families had been forced to mortgage their properties to Cutler to cover their debts. Great Haseley itself was a different case: that manor had been given to Elizabeth Woodville on her marriage in 1464 to Edward IV, and by her in 1478 to the College of St George at Windsor to help fund the new royal chapel.⁷

George Blackall was able to purchase Latchford from Cutler's heir, the Earl of Radnor, in 1706, and in 1708 the lease of Great Haseley (of which the ultimate owners were still the dean and canons of Windsor).⁸ But before his third son, John Blackall III, was born in 1709, George had died, shortly after his twenty-sixth birthday—though the inscription on the baroque white marble bust by John Piddington (*see p 10*), which his widow erected in the newly-built north chapel of St Peter's, Great Haseley, claims that he was in his twenty-fifth year. George Blackall had already made arrangements to dispose of some of his peripheral landholdings in Gloucestershire and Hertfordshire, and in his will he appointed two of his senior relatives, Richard Blackall III of Wallingford and John Toovey of Watlington (the husband of Martha Cornish's older sister Elizabeth), as executors and trustees to complete those sales and to set up adequate allowances for his young children. George's widow Martha was to keep a property in London, and was to be able to go on living in Great Haseley Manor House.⁹

Sheriff Thomas Blackall V of Great Haseley

In 1710 Martha remarried. Her new husband was Judge Richard Carter (1672-1755), a senior bencher of the Inner Temple. He had been a student at Balliol, and in 1721 was appointed Chief Justice of Glamorgan, Brecon, and Radnor. He made the Manor House at Great Haseley his residence until 1739 when he moved to Chilton, four miles north of Thame, and thus just in Buckinghamshire.¹⁰ Presumably Martha's second marriage had the approval of Richard Blackall III, whose advice in such matters George's will had particularly urged her to follow. Judge Carter managed the Great Haseley estate during the minority of George's eldest son Thomas Blackall V (1705-1786), and he also served as steward of the Honour of Ewelme, a group of estates mainly in south Oxfordshire, including Great Haseley, which preserved the mediaeval system of manorial courts and frankpledge.¹¹

In 1723 Carter obtained admission for Thomas to two prestigious



The Blackall countryside

An extract from John Speed's map of Oxfordshire, published 1611. The Blackalls flourished in the villages and small towns between the Thame, the Thames, and the Chilterns.

establishments at which to further his education. These were the Inner Temple, in London, which was often used as a finishing school for the sons of the wealthy, and Exeter College, Oxford, where he matriculated in May of that year. To the former Thomas was admitted gratis in February 1723, 'in consideration of Mr Carter's purchasing the chamber, late Mr Pulteney's, at £263 in the name of his son-in-law, Mr Thomas Blackhall (sic)'.¹²

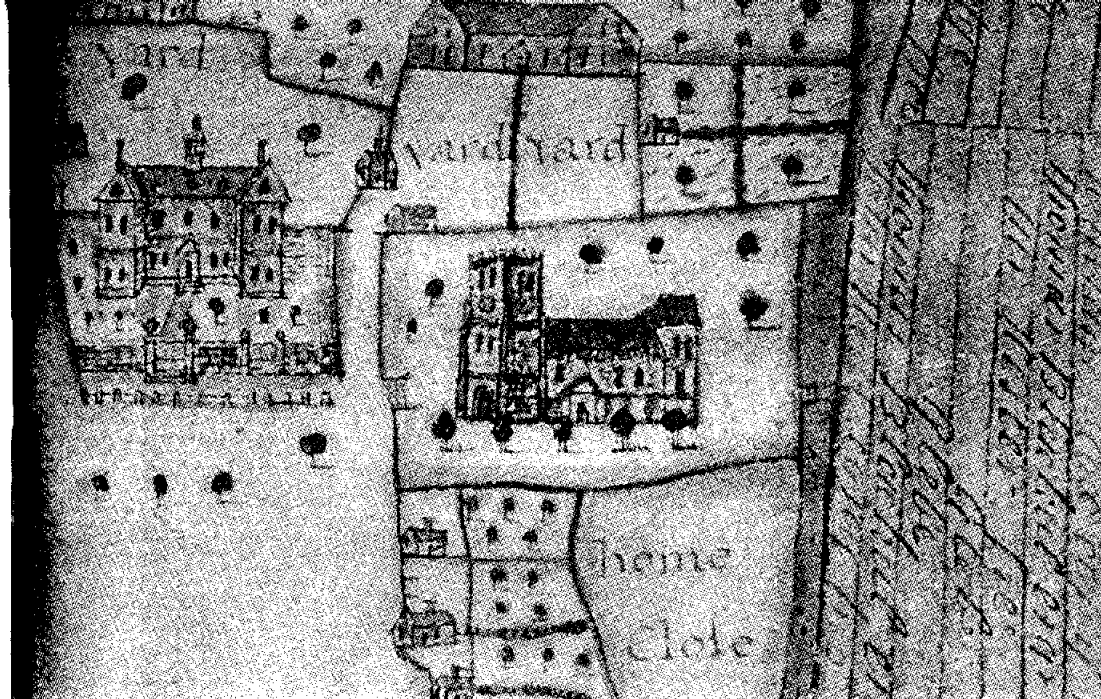
Like many others at that period Thomas was never called to the Bar, although he retained his membership of the Inner Temple until 1747 (when his 'bond' or guarantee to pay all dues was taken over by his two step-brothers, George Richard and Thomas Richard Carter);¹³ nor did he ever take his degree, but clearly felt some loyalty to Exeter College to which he presented a splendid orrery in 1757. This was an elaborate clockwork model of the solar system, the latest must-have toy, first made in 1704 for the Earl of Orrery; it stood for many years in the college library

In 1726 Thomas Blackall V attained his majority and took over the Oxfordshire estates. He had inherited property in several counties from his father, together with shares in the company which owned the New River, constructed in the C17 to supply water to London from Chadwell Springs in Hertfordshire. He went on to consolidate and expand his landholdings, acquiring the manor of Aston Rowant in 1756, and those of Great Milton and Little Milton in 1773. His heirs followed a similar policy: Ascott (next to Stadhampton) was added a few years after his death, and eventually Haseley Court as well in about 1819. All these lay close to Great Haseley.

In 1742 Thomas married Elizabeth Bowles (1704-1747), the sister of Charles Bowles of Windsor, who owned several thousand acres of sugar plantations in Jamaica.¹⁵ The *Daily Post* of London reported on 18 March 1742 that she was 'a Lady of fine Accomplishments, and a Fortune of £20,000' (about £3 million in today's money, according to MeasuringWorth.com), which meant that Thomas was now very well off indeed. But his hopes of founding a dynasty were shattered when Elizabeth died in December 1747. 'Through a long and painful Illness she behaved with Patience and a Christian Resignation, and died greatly beloved and regretted by all who knew her' (*General Evening Post*, London, 15-17 December 1747).

The Oxfordshire election of 1754

It may have been at this point that Thomas Blackall V became more in-

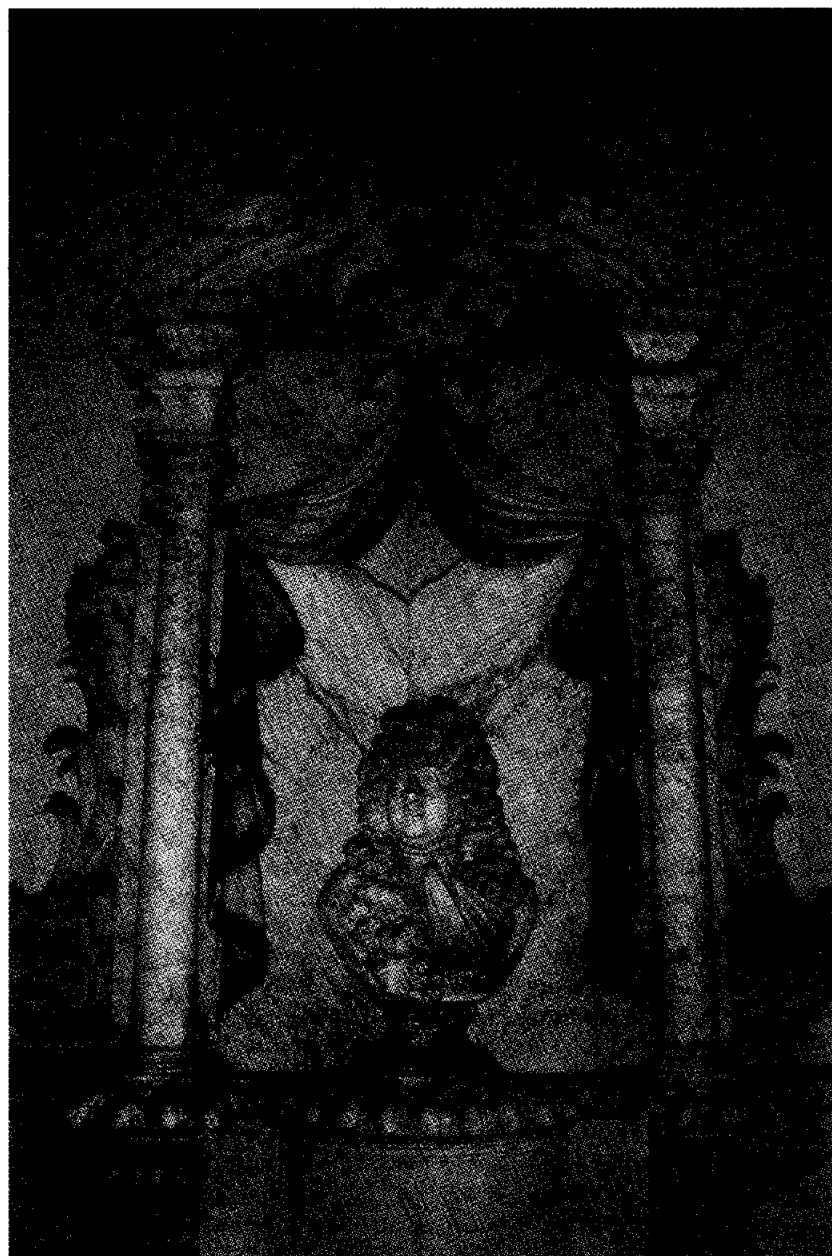


An extract from the 1729 map of the Great Haseley estate made by William Burgess. The parish was still largely unenclosed (note the strips on the right, two of which are labelled Thomas Blackall); of its 588 acres 215 (36.5 per cent) were then open fields. (Map by courtesy of the dean and canons of Windsor.)

involved with county affairs, finding his way onto the list of those considered worthy enough—and wealthy enough—to serve as High Sheriff, and being selected (by the sovereign, from a list of three nominees) to hold that office for the year 1754. His term was overshadowed by the parliamentary election of 17 April that year. This was the contest which brought William Hogarth to new fame as a political cartoonist by partially inspiring *The Humours of an Election*, a series of four oils now housed in Sir John Soane's Museum, London.

There were four candidates for the county's two seats; two Tories (the 'Old Interest') and two Whigs (the 'New Interest'), in Oxfordshire's first contested election for 44 years. In the absence of a secret ballot corruption was flagrant.¹⁶ The Tory candidates (one of them, Sir James Dashwood, was standing for re-election) gained small majorities of the votes and Sheriff Thomas Blackall, as returning officer, announced that they had won. However, he then faced objections from the other side who alleged irregularities in the voting, and counter-objections from the

(continued on page 11)



'Exuberant Baroque with a podgy bust beneath trumpeting cherubs on a pediment. A remarkably accomplished design by a local sculptor.' This is the description in the Pevsner *Oxfordshire* (1974) of John Piddington's monument to John Blackall in St Peter's church, Great Haseley.

apparent winners. In the end he made a 'double return' to the Crown Office, declaring both pairs of candidates to have been duly elected, and asking parliament to resolve the issue.

The affair rumbled on for months, until a vote in the Whig-dominated House of Commons in April 1755 awarded both seats to the New Interest, which Sheriff Thomas Blackall was widely thought to have favoured.* His *alma mater*, Exeter College, was a hotbed of New Interest partisanship; and he was certainly close to one of the Whig candidates, Thomas, Viscount Parker, later the third Earl of Macclesfield (1723-95), who lived at Shirburn Castle near Watlington (the other was Sir Edward Turner of Ambrosden, near Bicester). Blackall later named Parker's son George (later the fourth earl), like himself a member of both Exeter College and the Inner Temple, as one of the two executors of his will.¹⁷

A contemporary anecdote illustrates the feelings left by the election:

After the contest, Dr. Bacon being at his estate at Baldon, his neighbour Mr. Blackall, the High Sheriff, (to whom credit was generally given for making a double return on account of his partiality for Lord Parker and Sir Edward Turner), happened to be hunting with his harriers over the Doctor's land; and, thinking an apology necessary, Mr. Blackall sent his servant to Dr. Bacon to say that he hoped the trespass would be excused. 'Tell Mr. Blackall' (said the Dr.), 'that I will excuse him, provided he makes no double return on my Turnips.'¹⁸

Sheriff Thomas Blackall's stepfather Richard Carter and his two brothers, George Sawbridge Blackall and John Blackall III, all died during the 1750s, and his mother Martha followed them in 1768 at the age of 85. His stepbrother George Richard Carter died in 1771. Thomas remained close to his stepsisters: Martha, who married Sir Thomas Aubrey, of Boarstall and Brill; Frances, who married the Revd William Pease, a fellow student of his at Exeter, and later vicar of Great Milton and Jane, who married another clergyman, George Stockwell. He was also close to his wife's family, eventually leaving money in his will to her nephew and niece, and to his relations in Devon, the descendants

* The votes tallied at the poll were: for the Tories, Wenman 2033 and Dashwood 2014; for the Whigs, Parker 1919 and Turner 1890. After lengthy wrangling—often in granular detail—the commons declared Turner elected by a majority of 147 over Wenman, and Parker by 195 over Dashwood. (See *The Oxfordshire Election of 1754* by R.J. Robson, Oxford 1949, Chs. IX and XI.)

of his great-uncle Ofspring Blackall, Bishop of Exeter, and in 1776 he became godfather to the youngest boy in that family, who was christened Thomas, and who was later to follow him at Exeter College.¹⁹

Thomas Blackall V's ward, Clarissa Blackall, and his heirs

In 1779 Sheriff Thomas Blackall V's namesake and third cousin (their great-grandfathers were brothers), Thomas Blackall VI of Ewelme and Warborough, died. He was a gentleman-farmer who is recorded in the parish register as having weighed an impressive 32 stone at death, and whose impressive tomb still stands in the churchyard at Warborough.²⁰ In 1774 he had made a will naming Thomas Blackall V of Great Haseley as his trustee and executor, along with three others (John Weyman of Maidenhead Thicket, gent., John Lane of Ewelme, gent., and William Matthews of Wallingford, gent.).²¹ They were also to be guardians of his only daughter Clarissa, her mother having already died. These four were to look after the estate on her behalf until she reached her majority, and in return he expressed the hope 'that my said daughter will not contract matrimony without the approbation of the said [trustees], and that she will consult with and be directed by [them] in all her weighty affairs'.

Thomas Blackall clearly took this responsibility seriously, and may indeed have adopted Clarissa as his daughter (though adoption had no legal status in England until 1926). At any rate, she came to live with him in Great Haseley, and two years after her father's death, in 1781, he was able to give her away at her marriage in St Peter's Church, Great Haseley, to James Musgrave. He was the son of the rector of Chinnor, and his mother was Jane Austen's godmother. Some years later, in 1812, he unexpectedly inherited a baronetcy from a cousin, and became Sir James, of Barnsley Park, Gloucestershire: Lady Clarissa Musgrave was buried there in 1824.²²

But well before James Musgrave's elevation, Thomas Blackall V of Great Haseley had died, naming James as one of his trustees and executors along with George, Viscount Parker (later the fourth Earl of Macclesfield). Having no children of his own, he left the estate to his cousin John Blackall II, the son of his great-uncle John Blackall I. He thus ignored his cousin's sister Philippa Long, whose grandson Walter Long eventually inherited it in 1829, following a stipulation in the will of George Blackall, Thomas V's father. If John Blackall II should die without issue, the estate was to go to Theophilus Blackall (the grandson of the Bishop of Exeter), or, failing him, to the brothers of Theophilus

in turn (one of whom, John, became a famous doctor). Most of Thomas Blackall's personal possessions, however, including the furniture, pictures and jewellery from Haseley Manor, he left to his two executors.²³

No portraits of Thomas Blackall V seem to have survived, unfortunately. He left money to a large number of relatives and friends, including his wife's nephew and niece, and also to some of his faithful retainers, among them Francis Lewingdon, his bailiff and gamekeeper for Great Haseley and Great Milton, and Joseph East, who performed the same functions at Latchford. He seems to have left no specifically charitable legacies, but of course he continued to administer the Blackall Charity set up by his father's will. This was soon merged with that named after the grazier Luke Taylor or Tayler (d. 1647), to form what is now known as the Tayler Blackall Fund. In the C19 two thirds of the income was distributed to the poor and needy, and the rest to the village school; today the fund offers support to individuals and community projects in Great Haseley.²⁴

Thomas Blackall V's heir, John Blackall II, survived only until 1790, but left a son, John Blackall IV* who in 1789 also served as high sheriff of Oxfordshire. He died in 1803, leaving a son, John Blackall V, who also served as high sheriff in 1822 but died without issue in 1829. Philippa Long's grandson Walter then inherited the estate.²⁵

The Blackalls of Checkendon, and Richard Blackall III of Wallingford

William Blackall II (d. 1704) of Checkendon, the second son of Richard Blackall I and brother of Richard Blackall II of Britwell Prior, had several children who married well into local gentry families. Richard I had described himself as a yeoman in his will, but William II described himself as a gentleman.²⁶ His eldest son William Blackall III married Ellen Reade, daughter of Edward Reade, lord of the manor of Ipsden; and one of his daughters, Rebecca, married Ellen's brother Thomas Reade (there are wall tablets commemorating both Rebecca and Thomas in Ipsden church). Another daughter married John Lydall, of Uxmore House (Ipsden). William II's youngest son married his cousin Anne Toovey from Watlington. William II himself seems to have developed an unassuming farmhouse, Braziers about half a mile south of Ipsden village,

* John Blackall III was Thomas's youngest brother who predeceased him in 1754.

into a substantial property which enabled him to hold his own with these gentry families. A datestone marked 1688 is preserved in the basement of Braziers Park House.²⁷

William Blackall II's middle son, Richard Blackall III, was mentioned earlier as one of the executors of his cousin George's will. A fascinating item that once belonged to him has somehow come into the possession of the Dunedin public library in New Zealand. In the winter of 1683-4 the Thames froze, and a printing press was set up on the ice. Richard Blackall bought a printed 'frost fair keepsake' bearing his name, which he later used as a book label.²⁸

After his legal studies in London Richard Blackall III returned to the Checkendon area, and set up in business across the river in Wallingford, then in Berkshire, working as an attorney there for most of the first half of the C18. He also built up an extensive property portfolio. This comprised several farms, including Braziers in Checkendon; the manor, also known as Kentwood, at Cholsey; and Warpsgrove near Chalgrove. In addition he served as steward for a number of manorial courts, including Huntercombe, Stoke Row, Ipsden, and North Moreton, and he held the lordship of the manor of Little Stoke, and half of that of Checkendon.²⁹

Richard Blackall III served as an alderman in Wallingford for several decades. He was known as a fervent Tory, and achieved some notoriety in the parliamentary election of 1709 when a Tory candidate was returned. His defeated Whig opponent complained to parliament that he had himself been returned by the rightful mayor, whose position Blackall was said to have usurped. That seems unlikely, and parliament did not pursue the matter.³⁰ Blackall had certainly been mayor the previous year, and indeed on three earlier occasions, the first in 1697, and he went on to serve six further terms between 1710 and 1729. He was therefore presumably seen as a worthy citizen, whatever his conduct may have been in 1709.³¹

Richard Blackall III had married Mary Sayer of Cholsey in 1689, just a month after his brother William Blackall III of Checkendon had married Ellen Reade. Mary died without leaving him an heir, and in 1742, aged over 80, he married Mary Arey of Wallingford, but died the following year, still childless. His lengthy will stipulates that he should be buried 'in the vault by me lately made in the parish church of Checkendon in the County of Oxon, that being the parish wherein I first drew breath, with a marble monument to be sett up'.³² That monument can

still be seen on the wall of the church, which also contains tablets commemorating other members of the family, including three generations of William Blackalls.

He left to his widow Mary his house in Wallingford, together with its contents (except for his books) and 'my chariot and chaise with the harness to the same respectively belonging, and a pair of my horses which she shall choose'. He also left her property in Cholsey, Little Stoke, and South Stoke. After her death these legacies were to go to his nephew William Blackall IV, together with Braziers Farm, Lavalls Farm, and Neales Farm in Checkendon and the surrounding parishes. Other properties (mostly quite local, but some as far away as Chesham in Buckinghamshire on the eastern side of the Chilterns) were distributed among other members of the family: his sister Anne Wing, for instance, was to have the house and barn 'near the Castle in Wallingford which I hold by lease from the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford'.

Richard Blackall III's nephew William Blackall IV was now the head of the family. He had begun his career in London, as an apprentice to a master in the Salters' livery company,³³ but had later returned to Checkendon. In 1746 or 1747 he married Anne, the daughter of Henry Fludger, a tanner who had been mayor of Wallingford in 1727 and would hold that office several more times.³⁴

William's brother-in-law William Fludger (mayor in 1768) was named in his will as one of the trustees charged with the maintenance and education of his only child Anne, who inherited Braziers and eventually married Charles Massingberd, of Ormsby in Lincolnshire, in 1774. She died in 1785, the last member of the Checkendon branch of the Blackall family. Braziers was sold to Admiral Isaac Manley (1755-1837), the last surviving member of Captain Cook's first voyage round the world, who remodelled the house in the Strawberry Hill Gothic style and is buried in Checkendon churchyard.³⁵

The Blackall family and religion

While all the Blackalls were Protestant Christians, supporting the Church of England, some were especially pious. In London they worshipped in churches such as St Antholin's with its Puritan tradition.³⁶ In his will George Blackall's father directed his son's guardians to 'take particular care he be piously educated and instructed in the Christian religion as it is now professed by the Protestants of the Church of

England'.³⁷ Richard Blackall III's will is remarkable for its unusually lengthy, detailed, and pious introduction.³⁸

Some members of the family were involved with Nonconformist groups. One of the family's houses in Stoke Row (probably belonging to Richard Blackall IV, the son of Richard Blackall II of Britwell and cousin of Richard Blackall III of Wallingford) was licensed for Congregationalist worship in 1691.³⁹ And a sister of Richard Blackall II of Britwell married Thomas Hambledon of Warborough, of whom the *Victoria County History* has this to say: 'In 1673 another conventicle keeper, Thomas Hambledon, was singled out by the curate as "a great hinderer of our church" and a supporter of the barn at Overy'; despite that, the *VCH* notes that 'nonetheless Hambledon was one of the collectors for the new church tower, and his name, with those of several other Nonconformists, is recorded on the tower's stonework'.⁴⁰

Conclusion

The Blackall family was in many ways typical of the social developments of the period. At the turn of the C16 and C17 three sons of a yeoman farmer went to London and used the livery-company system to take advantage of the opportunities of trade, associated in some degree with what was the still new Protestant ethic—to make money and acquire property. They kept in touch with their Oxfordshire roots, and some of their descendants were able to marry into the county gentry and get involved in local politics. By the late C18 this drive for social and economic improvement seems to have declined, and the Oxfordshire Blackalls either died out—as in the case of the Great Haseley and Checkendon branches—or simply led a quieter life. Dynamism was to be found elsewhere, most notably among the descendants of Ofspring Blackall, Bishop of Exeter, who included the physician John Blackall (1771-1860), author of a much-admired book, *Observations on the Nature and Cure of Dropsies* (1813). □

Notes and references

Abbreviations Bod., Bodleian Library; NA, National Archives; OHC, Oxfordshire History Centre; vch, *Victoria History of the Counties of England* in electronic links, *VCH* elsewhere.

1. Ipsden parish registers in OHC.
2. *Calendar of Marriage Licences Issued by the Faculty Office, 1632-*

1714, London, British Record Society, XXXIII, p10 or see <https://ia800302.us.archive.org/26/items/calendarofmaria01chur/calendarofmarria01chur.pdf>. In 1665 the house they rented, Priory Farm, the present Priory House, was large, being taxed on eight hearths: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol8/pp43-55>.

3. Alfred P. Beaven, *The Aldermen of the City of London Temp. Henry III - 1912*, digitised at <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/london-aldermen/hen3-1912>. For apprentices and freemen of the London Livery Companies, see <http://www.londonroll.org>.

4. NA PROB 11/393/287.

5. Joseph Lemuel Chester, *The Parish Registers of St Mary Aldermay, London*, 1880 or see <https://archive.org/details/parishregisterso05stma>. For the Ofspring family, see note 36 below.

6. The early registers of Staples Inn have not survived, but 'Richard Blackall of Staples Inn, London, Gent.' is shown as party to several deeds including a conveyance dated 1694/5: NA Add Mss 11,221. For the Blackalls' house in Hackney, see <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol10/pp75-91>.

7. <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol18/pp235-274>.

8. *Ibid.*; also St George's Chapel Archives, SGC XV.22.12(a-b).

9. NA PROB 11/509/294.

10. Historic England Archive ref:42998.

11. W. O. Hassall, 'Ewelme Honour Court Leets, 1712-20', *Oxoniensia* XV (1950), pp 114-6. Frankpledge is defined by the *Shorter OED* as: 'the system whereby every member of a tithing was answerable for the good conduct of, or damage done by, any one of the other members'.

12. *A Calendar of Inner Temple Records*, vol. 4, 1714-1750, p 91, <https://www.innertemple.org.uk/who-we-are/history/calendars-of-inner-temple-records-1505-1845/>.

13. *Ibid.*, p 528.

14. William Boase, *Registrum Collegii Exoniensis*, Oxford, 1894, p 270.

15. Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery, <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146649457>.

16. Ralph John Robson, *The Oxfordshire Election of 1754: A Study in the Interplay of City, County, and University Politics*, OUP, 1949; Robson gives figures of votes cast for each candidate (Ch. IX pp 115-27). Elaine Chalus, 'The Rag Plot: The Politics of Influence in Oxford, 1754', in Rosemary Sweet and Penelope Lane, eds., *Women and Urban Life in Eighteenth-Century England: 'On the Town'*, Routledge, 1985, pp 43-63.

17. NA PROB 11/1139/303.

18. John Marriott Davenport, *Lords Lieutenant and High Sheriffs of*

Oxfordshire, 1086-1868 (Oxford, 1868), p 72, note (b). The colourful Phanuel Bacon (1700-83) was rector of Marsh Baldon and also looked after the church at Toot Baldon for a while (<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol5/pp30-47>). The Baldons are nearly five miles due west of Great Haseley. As high sheriff, Blackall was responsible for assessing and collecting taxes.

19. NA PROB 11/1139/303; Boase, *Registrum Collegii Exoniensis*, p 162.

20. Warborough parish registers, OHC and <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1181163>.

21. NA PROB 11/1056/112.

22. Karen Thomson, 'Mrs Musgrave of Newton Priors? Jane Austen and Sir Isaac Newton's Library', *Persuasions-Online*, 38, 1 (2017), <http://jasna.org/publications-2/persuasions-online/vol38no1/thomson/>; <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/glos/vol7/pp13-21>.

23. NA PROB 11/1139/303.

24. <http://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/205178/governing-document>.

25. For an account of some of the legal wrangles involved in the inheritance, see 'Long v. Blackall' (1796-7) in Francis Vesey, *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the High Court of Chancery*, vol. 3, London, 1811-15, pp 486-90. Two relevant memorial tablets in the North Chapel of St Peter's church, Great Haseley (the Blackall Mausoleum) read as follows: (1) 'In the vault beneath are deposited the remains of John Blackall of Haseley Court Esqr., sometime of Emanuel College Cambridge, Deputy Lieutenant and Magistrate for this County. He departed this life Jan 1, 1829, aged 36. He was the eldest & only surviving son of John Blackall of Haseley Manor House Esqr. (who was buried at Epsom in 1803), grandson of John Blackall of London, merchant (who was buried at Epsom in 1790) and great-grandson of John Blackall of London, merchant (who was buried at Hackney in 1722). This last-mentioned John Blackall was the next surviving brother to Thomas Blackall of Hatton Garden London Esqr. (buried at Hackney in 1693), whose only son George Blackall of Haseley Manor House Esqr. and grandson Thomas Blackall of the same place Esqr. lie here interred'; (2) 'Sacred to the memory of Philippa relict of Walter Long Esqr. of the city of New Sarum and of Preshaw Hants and daughter of John Blackall Esqr. of London, merchant, who died in 1722. She departed this life March 16, 1798 aged 90 and was buried in St Thomas's Church New Sarum. She survived her eldest son John Long Esqr. of Preshaw, whose only child Walter Long of the same place and of Haseley Court has caused this tablet to be erected.'

26. NA PROB 11/481/174.

27. Sarah Wood, 'A History of the Land at Braziers', *Research Communications* 19, p 27, <http://www.braziers.org.uk/pdfs/ResearchCommunications19.pdf>.

28. See <http://antipodeanfootnotes.blogspot.com/2012/03/ephemera-1-printed-on-thames-being.html>.

29. Richard Blackall's Ipsden Court Roll 1703, Bod. Ms rolls Oxon 48, listed in W. O. Hassall, *Index of Persons in Oxfordshire Deeds Acquired by the Bodleian Library, 1878-1963*, Oxford, 1966.

30. <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1690-715/constituencies/wallingford>.

31. See list of mayors in John Kirby Hedges, *The History of Wallingford*, London, 1881, vol. 2, p 230.

32. NA PROB 11/726/232.

33. See list of apprentices and freemen of the London Livery Companies at <http://www.londonroll.org>.

34. Hedges, op.cit (see note 31), pp 230-1; Pat Preece, 'The Fludgers and Fludgers Wood, Ipsden', *SOAG* (South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group) *Bulletin*, 61 (2006), pp 44-6.

35. In 1763 Anne Blackall wrote 'a short account of my land belonging to Braziers Farm'. Sarah Wood, 'A History of the Land at Braziers', p 28. (See note 27 above.)

36. Charles Ofspring (1586-1659), the father of Martha who married Thomas Blackall III, was the Rector of St Antholin's for over 30 years from the 1620s until his death. Ofspring was one of the leaders of the Calvinist tendency in the Church of England; he helped to develop a Presbyterian system of church governance in his part of London, training young clergy and lecturers to follow his ideas, and actively supporting a plan to buy up clerical livings across the country in order to install in them ministers of a Calvinist persuasion. And, although not a member of the Westminster Assembly, he was involved in the discussions which produced the Westminster Confession (1646), the definitive statement of Presbyterian doctrine in the English-speaking world. His name is among the signatories of the letter, 'To the Christian Reader, Especially Heads of Families', which is often printed with the Confession.

37. NA PROB 11/418/446.

38. NA PROB 11/726/232.

39. OHC QS/Meeting Houses/1691.

40. <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol18/pp393-421>.