Birth, parentage, marriage and death of

John Blockley of Great Claybrooke

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of John Blockley of Great Claybrooke.

Those details are –

> John Blockley of Great Claybrooke was baptised in Claybrooke, Leicestershire on 19th September 1701, and his parents were John and Elizabeth Blockley.
>
> He married Martha Stafford in Claybrooke on 8th March 1736.
>
> He died on 18th February 1784, and was buried in Claybrooke on 28th February 1784.

John Blockley of Great Claybrooke was the second in a line of four successive John Blockleys. Accordingly, he has been designated John Blockley of Great Claybrooke, a title given him in an historical record below, to distinguish him from the preceding and succeeding John Blockleys, being John Blockley Senior (born c.1663), John Blockley the Elder (bap.1737), and John Blockley the Younger (bap.1776).

The research for this brief was principally conducted in about September 2026.

John's marriage

It is demonstrated in the brief relating to John Blockley the Elder that he was baptised on 6th January 1737 in Claybrooke, Leicestershire, and his parents were John and Martha Blockley.

And it is demonstrated in the Appendix to the brief relating to John Blockley the Younger that:

1. A John Blockley of Great Claybrooke, "Yeoman",[1] executed a will on 3rd June 1782,[2] under which he gave "unto my son John Blockley" a tenement at Ullesthorpe "with the Orchard Homestead", as well as leased lands at Walton and Kimcote.[3] He also gave pecuniary legacies totalling £800 to other children namely Thomas Blockley, William Blockley, Mary Wright the wife of John Wright, and Joseph Blockley.
2. Probate of the will was granted to the testator's executor, heir and son John Blockley on 18th March 1784, see https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/LEICS/102890533/00094.
3. John Blockley the Elder was the son of John Blockley of Great Claybrooke, Yeoman.

(The 1782 will and 1784 probate set out in the Appendix to the brief relating to John Blockley the Younger are also set out in the Appendix to this brief).

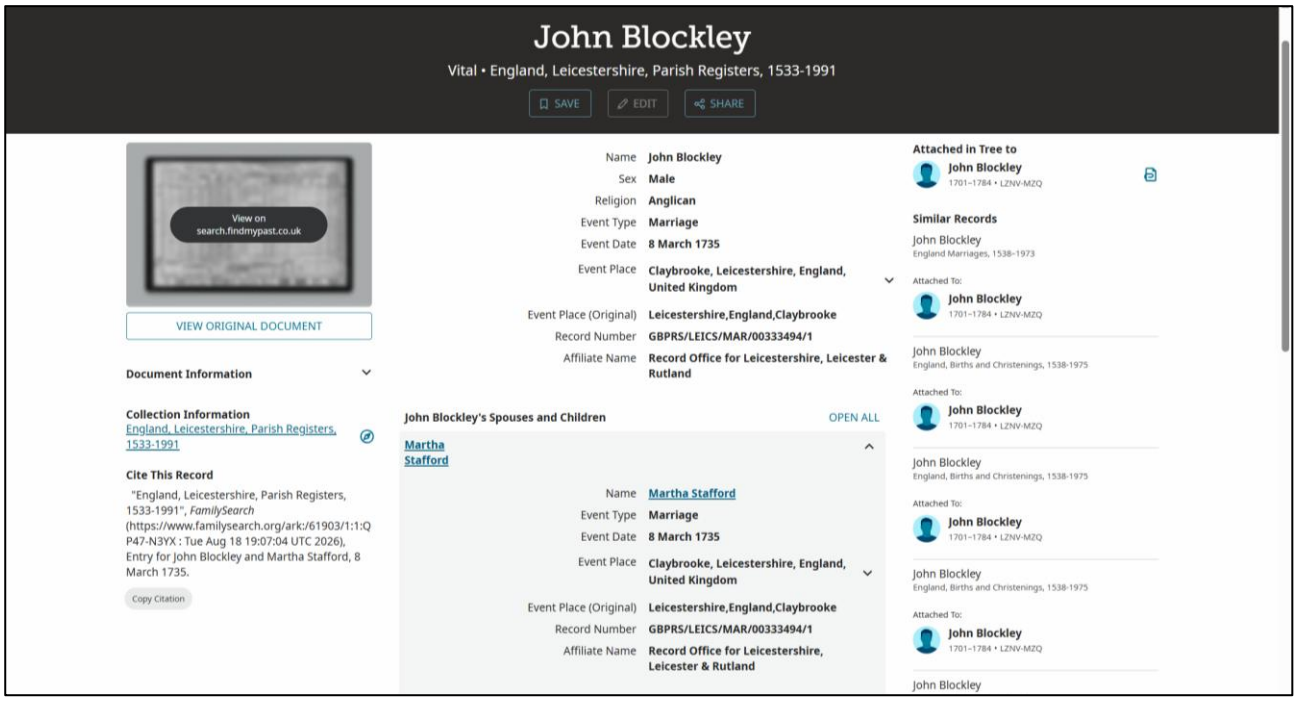
(Ullesthorpe is in the Claybrooke parish and less than a mile away from both Claybrooke Magna and Claybrooke Parva, see the Appendix to the brief relating to John Blockley the Younger).

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[1] See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yeoman.
[2] See https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/LEICS/102890533/00093 (the preceding image being the case file jacket).
[3] Walton and Kimcote are adjoining villages 6 miles east of Claybrooke.

It is also demonstrated in the Appendix to the brief relating to John Blockley the Younger that the Blockleys had a patronymic tradition[4] of giving the name "John" to their first-born son (and heir under the system of male-preference primogeniture[5] obviously followed by the family). For this reason, John and Martha were likely married shortly before John's baptism on 6th January 1737, even if they firstly had a girl or girls.

A Family Search search for a John Blockley marriage to a Martha in Leicestershire between 1720 and 1740 produced one relevant marriage record only.[6] The marriage was on 8th March 1735 in Claybrooke, and the bride's name was Martha Stafford, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP47-N3YX?lang=en:[7]



(The Family Search search also returned the baptism in Claybrooke of a John to a John Blockley on 19th September 1701, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPWY-167T?lang=en, as to which, see further below. Also, it returned burials in Claybrooke of a John Blockley on 28th July 1755, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP4Q-SJP8?lang=en, and also of a John Blockley on 18th February 1775, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP4Q-4H16?lang=en, as well as a baptism of a Mary to a John Blockley in Claybrooke on 30th June 1699, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JMJ6-Y87?lang=en).

In addition to the above, the search also returned baptisms in Claybrooke to John and Martha Blockley of a Thomas on 12th March 1738, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NPWC-Y8D?lang=en, a Mary on 17th April 1741, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NYRY-5ZS?lang=en, a William on 3rd May 1744, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NYRY-TMK?lang=en, and a Joseph on 3rd March 1746, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JW8S-QXS?lang=en.

As noted above, on 6th January 1737, John Blockley the Elder was also baptised in Claybrooke to John and Martha Blockley. The sequence of these five children's baptism dates in relation to each other, as well as in relation to the 1735 marriage date, combined with the lack of any other candidate couple, and also the fact that the first

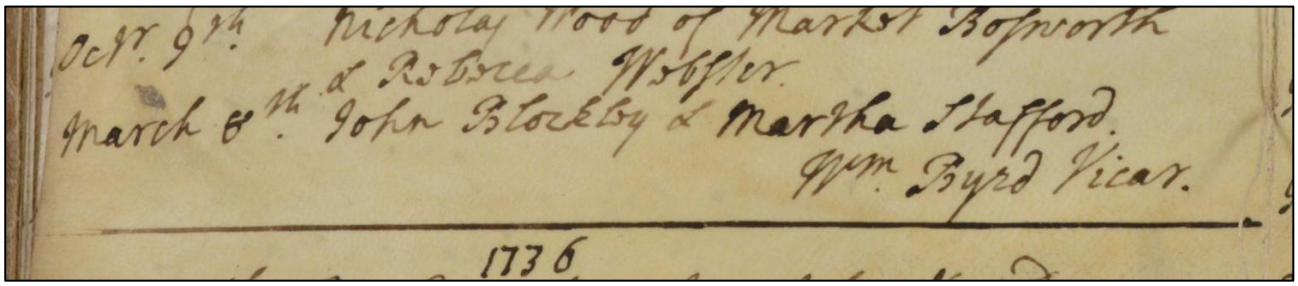
[4] See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patronymic.
[5] See https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/learning/medievalwomen/theme2/inheritance.aspx and https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/9781118430873.est0290. The system was designed to keep landed estates intact, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primogeniture: "The effect of English primogeniture was to keep estates undivided wherever possible". The system in operation is exemplified by the 1735, 1782 and 1795 wills listed in the table below.
[6] See https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.birthLikePlace=Leicestershire%2C%20England&q.givenName=John&q.marriageLikeDate.from=1720&q.marriageLikeDate.to=1740&q.spouseGivenName=Martha&q.surname=Blockley.
[7] URLs of Family Search records linked herein include "61903", presumably a specific member number, and likely need adapting to function.

name Martha was noted from researches to have been relatively uncommon at the time, militates the conclusion that these children are siblings.

That conclusion is reinforced by the fact that, in his 1782 will, John Blockley of Great Claybrooke left land and tenements to his son John Blockley the Elder, and pecuniary legacies to his other children Thomas, William, Mary and Joseph. It also puts beyond doubt the above noted conclusion reached in the Appendix to the brief relating to John Blockley the Younger that John Blockley of Great Claybrooke who made the 1782 will was the father of John Blockley the Elder.

A similar search in FindMyPast for a John Blockley event in Claybrooke or within 10 miles of it between 1720 and 1740[8] produced no other relevant marriage record except for the 1735 Claybrooke marriage.

An image of the original record of the 1735 marriage in Claybrooke's parish register is to be found in FindMyPast at https://search.findmypast.com/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FLEICS%2F15-0818-GB-LEC-CLAYBRO-DE732-5-BAPTISMS-MARRIAGES--BURIALS-1705-1736%2F00056:



Immediately noticeable is that the March date follows on from an October date in a list of 1735 events. As seems to have been very common in parish registers of the time, an event or two in the new year is added before the year is written. An examination of this page, as well as the previous and subsequent pages, makes clear that this happened in the instant case, and that the year of the marriage was 1736.

Accordingly, John Blockley of Great Claybrooke married Martha Stafford in Claybrooke, Leicestershire on 8th March 1736.

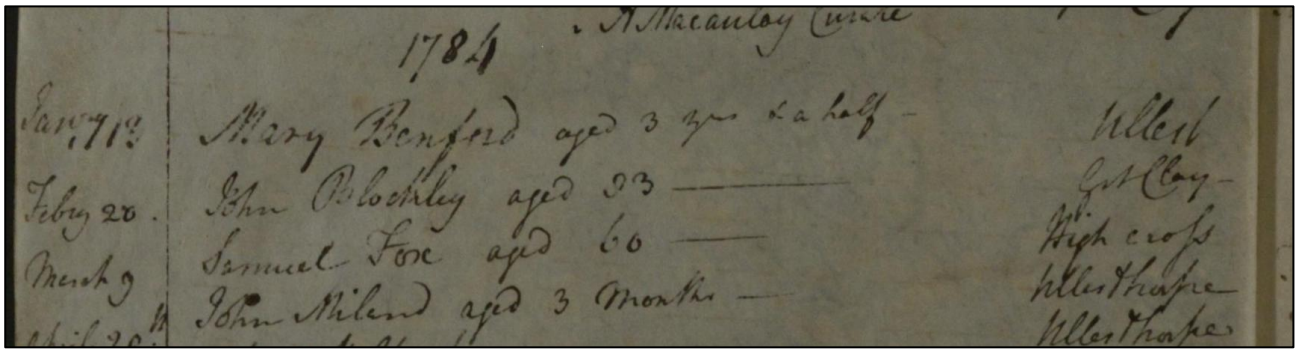
John's death

As noted above, probate of the 1782 will of John Blockley of Great Claybrooke was granted on 18th March 1784. He therefore likely died not long before then. Also as noted above, that "John Blockley of Great Claybrooke" is verifiably the father of John Blockley the Elder.

The brief relating to John Blockley the Elder notes that a Family Search search conducted for the death of a John Blockley in Leicestershire between 1775 and 1830[9] returned a record of a John Blockley dying in Claybrooke on 18th February 1784, and also a record for a John Blockley being buried there on 28th February 1784.

The Family Search record of the death notes that John was aged 23 at death, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP43-1BWT?lang=en, but the Family Search software has misread his age at death given in his burial record, as he was actually aged 93 according to that record, which is at https://search.findmypast.com/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FLEICS%2F102197542%2F00011:

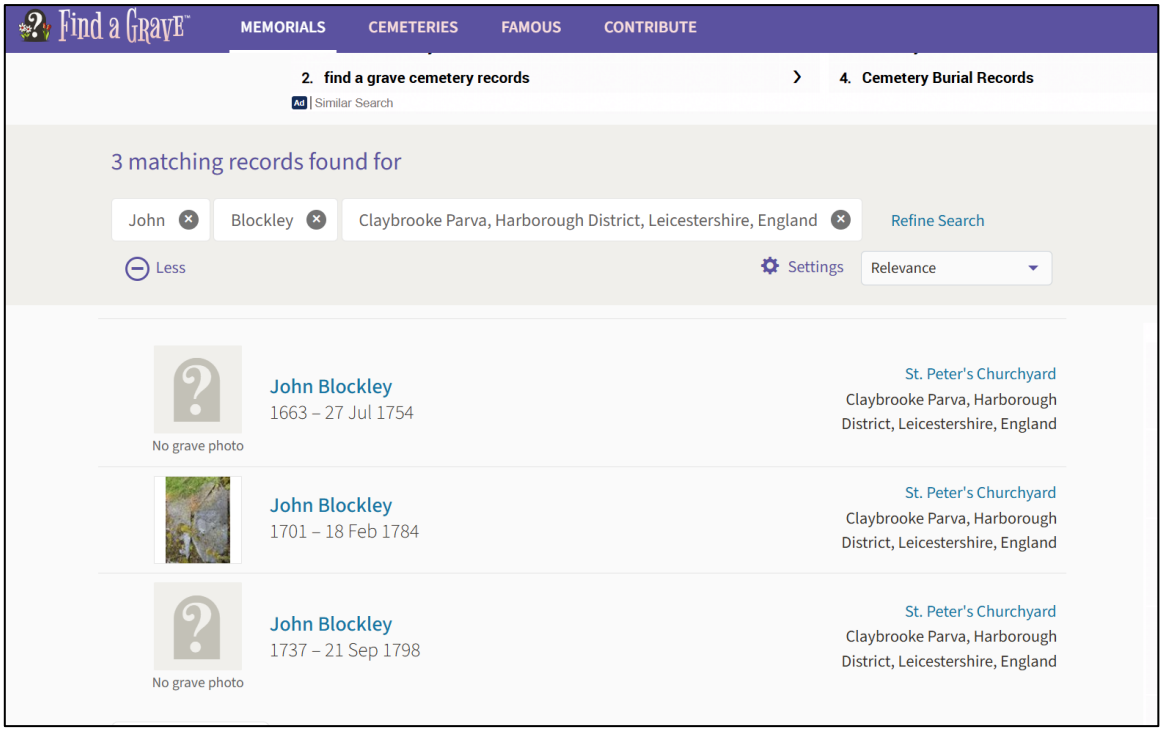
[8] See https://www.findmypast.com/search/results?sid=100&firstname=john&lastname=blockley&eventyear=1730&eventyear_offset=10&keywordsplace=claybrooke+parva%2c+leicestershire%2c+england&keywordsplace_proximity=10&sourcecountry=england.
[9] See https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.deathLikeDate.from=1775&q.deathLikeDate.to=1830&q.deathLikePlace=Leicestershire%2C%20England&q.deathLikePlace.exact=on&q.givenName=John&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Blockley&q.surname.exact=on.



(Note the "9" in the next line, also three times elsewhere on the page. Note also his abode of Great Claybrooke).

There is no record of his date of death in FindMyPast,[10] and both his burial record above and the 1784 probate for his will (see the Appendix) do not specify it. However, as noted above, a Claybrooke death on 18th February 1784 was returned on the above Family Search search, and it is almost certain that the John Blockley who died at Claybrooke on that date is the John Blockley who was buried there 10 days later on 28th February 1784.

The source for that death date given in the relevant Family Search record, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6Y4P-PYH7?lang=en, appears to be a headstone in the graveyard at St Peter's Church in Claybrooke Parva, as the record refers to Find a Grave's index. A Find a Grave search for John Blockley graves in Claybrooke was therefore done, and it returned three graves in the graveyard at St Peter's Church in Claybrooke Parva:[11]



[10] See https://www.findmypast.com/search/results?sid=998&firstname=john&firstname_variants=true&lastname=blockley&yearofdeath=1784&yearofdeath_offset=0&keywords=claybrooke&keywordsplace_proximity=5&sourcecountry=england.

[11] See https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/search?fulltext=&firstname=John&middlename=&lastname=Blockley&birthyear=&birthyearfilter=&deathyear=&deathyearfilter=&location=Claybrooke+Parva%2C+Harborough+District%2C+Leicestershire%2C+England&locationId=city_416767&bio=&linkedToName=&plot=&memorialid=&mcid=&datefilter=&orderby=r&page=1#sr-269462954. A separate search for Claybrooke Magna returned no results. As noted above, the Claybrooke parish covers Claybrooke Magna, Claybrooke Parva and Ullesthorpe, and the parish church is St Peter's Church, which is situated in Claybrooke Parva, see https://claybrookeparvaparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-history/.

Find a Grave has digitised family trees attached to its records, so dates (or parts of them) given in the above search returns may have been scraped from them, rather than from a headstone inscription.

Only the John Blockley buried in 1784 had a photo of his headstone attached. This is it, although the inscription is unreadable, at least in the photo:[12]



(It is noted that Find a Grave records the deceased's birth year as 1701, suggesting that he may have been about 83, and not 93, at death).

Given that a probate for the 1782 will of John Blockley of Great Claybrooke was granted on 18th March 1784, the record of a death in Claybrooke a month earlier patently relates to him. Specific Family Search[13] and FindMyPast[14] searches for the death of a John Blockley in Claybrooke in the 5 years up to 1784 returned no other relevant record.

Accordingly, John Blockley of Great Claybrooke died on 18th February 1784, and was buried in Claybrooke on 28th February 1784.

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[12] BillionGraves could not assist to read the inscription, as it had no records of any John Blockley grave in Leicestershire, see https://billiongraves.com/search/results?CollectionID=&CatalogID=&PageNumber=1&PageSize=20&GivenNames=John&GivenNamesExact=false&MaidenName=&MaidenNameExact=false&FamilyName=Blockley&FamilyNameExact=false&EventBirthYear=&EventBirthYearRange=5&EventDeathYear=1784&EventDeathYearRange=5&MilitaryConflict=&MilitaryBranch=&MilitaryRank=&YearRange=&ID=31060fa9-9172-41b7-a323-f5325bd0b806&given_name=&family_name=&County=Leicestershire&State=England&Country=United+Kingdom.

[13] See https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.deathLikeDate.exact=on&q.deathLikeDate.from=1779&q.deathLikeDate.to=1784&q.deathLikePlace=Leicestershire%2C%20England&q.givenName=John&q.miscKeyword=Claybrooke&q.surname=Blockley.

[14] See https://www.findmypast.com/search/results?sid=100&firstname=john&firstname_variants=true&lastname=blockley&yearofdeath=1780&yearofdeath_offset=5&keywordsplace=claybrooke+parva%2c+leicestershire%2c+england&keywordsplace_proximity=5&sourcecountry=england.

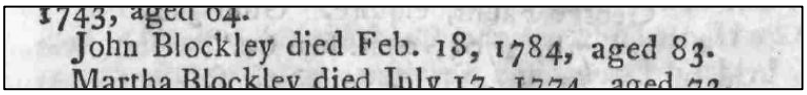
John's birth

John's above burial record notes that he was aged 93 at death on 18th February 1784. That implies that he was born between 19th February 1690 and 18th February 1691.

That does not tie in with his marriage to Martha Stafford on 8th March 1736. On that date, he would have been about 45, which would be an old age to marry for the times. (And he would also have been very old to have baptised Joseph on 3rd March 1746 at age 55).

There is another anomaly in that the above Find a Grave record says the John Blockley who died in 1784 was born in 1701. Based on that record, one might speculate that the inscription on John's grave headstone says he was aged 83 at death, but it could just be Find a Grave's software linking the 1784 death to the John Blockley who was baptised in Claybrooke on 19th September 1701, as mentioned above.[15]

(Subsequent to completion of this brief, and during research for the brief relating to John Blockley Senior, a transcription of a headstone in St Peter's Churchyard at Little Claybrooke was located. It was included in a volume of a monumental county history work called *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* by John Nichols, a work that is fully available online via the University of Leicester's Special Collections.[16] The volume in question was produced about 1810, some 25 years after the death of John Blockley of Great Claybrooke, so no doubt its headstone transcriptions are correct. The transcription in question is in Volume 4, Part 1, Image 144, see https://leicester.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15407coll6/id/3048/rec/1:

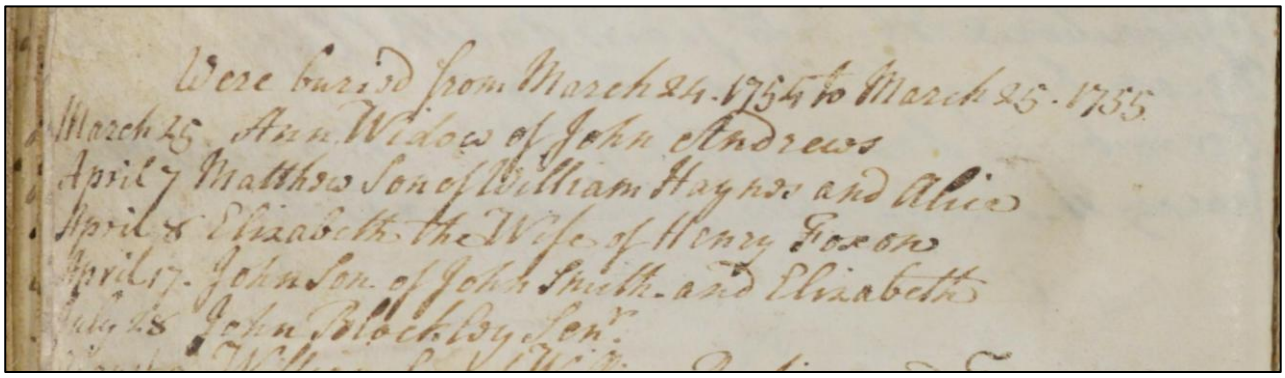

1743, aged 64.
John Blockley died Feb. 18, 1784, aged 83.
Martha Blockley died July 17, 1774, aged 73.

It appears FindAGrave's databases used this work or similar works to calculate birth years. In any event, the conclusion that the age at death of 93 given in John's above burial record was probably wrong proved correct).

A marriage in 1735 suggests a birth between about 1700 and about 1715. However, a Family Search search for John Blockley events in Claybrooke between 1690 and 1720[17] returned no relevant birth or baptism records except the 1701 birth. As did a FindMyPast search for John Blockley births in Claybrooke between 1698 and 1718.[18] It is possible that the curate inaccurately recorded John's age at death in the Claybrooke parish register as 93 when it should have been recorded as 83.

Notably, the FindMyPast search returned the burial of a "John Blockley Senr" in Claybrooke on 28th July 1755, see https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FLEICS%2FBUR%2F00755646&tab=this. This is the FindMyPast image of the original parish record of that event, see https://search.findmypast.com/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FLEICS%2F15-0818-GB-LEC-CLAYBRO-DE732-6-BAPTISMS-MARRIAGES--BURIALS-1737-1776%2F00022:

[15] See https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPWY-167T?lang=en.
[16] See https://leicester.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15407coll6/search/searchterm/Nichols%2C%20John/field/creato/mode/exact/conn/and.
[17] See https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.birthLikeDate.exact=on&q.birthLikeDate.from=1690&q.birthLikeDate.to=1720&q.birthLikePlace=Leicestershire%2C%20England%2C%20United%20Kingdom&q.givenName=John&q.miscKeyword=Claybrooke&q.surname=Blockley.
[18] See https://www.findmypast.com/search/results?sid=100&firstname=john&firstname_variants=true&lastname=blockley&yearofbirth=1708&yearofbirth_offset=10&keywords=claybrooke&keywordsplace_proximity=5&sourcecountry=england.


Were buried from March 24. 1754 to March 25. 1755
March 25 Ann Widow of John Andrews
April 7 Matthew Son of William Haynes and Alice
April 8 Elizabeth the Wife of Henry Foxon
April 17 John Son of John Smith and Elizabeth
[illegible] John Blockley Senr

Notably the burial was in fact in 1754, not 1755.[19]

Probate of a 1735 will of John Blockley of Ullesthorpe Yeoman was granted on 3rd October 1754, see the Appendix. No doubt, therefore, that will was the will of "John Blockley Senr" who was buried in Claybrooke just over 2 months earlier.

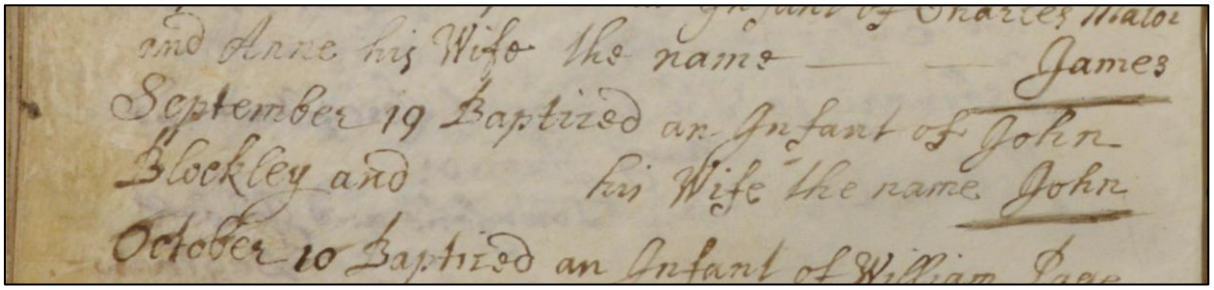
The 1735 will of John Blockley Senr states that he had a wife named Elizabeth, and that he had daughters Elizabeth and Mary, as well as his son and main heir John, see the Appendix.

A John and Elizabeth Blockley baptised children Elizabeth, Mary and John in Claybrooke between 1696 and 1701, as verified by the following facts.

1. The person record in Family Search for John Blockley Senr is at https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/LZLX-RX9. It states, and the following Family Search and FindMyPast records verify, that he baptised daughters Elizabeth (baptised in Claybrooke on 4th December 1696, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPWB-Y1WP?lang=en) and Mary (baptised in Claybrooke on 30th June 1699, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPW1-WR5C?lang=en) before baptising a son John, being the John baptised in Claybrooke on 19th September 1701, as referred to above.

2. The three baptism records specifiy the father as John Blockley. Given they were all baptised to the same named father in the same location, and given the sequencing of their baptisms, Elizabeth, Mary and John were no doubt siblings.

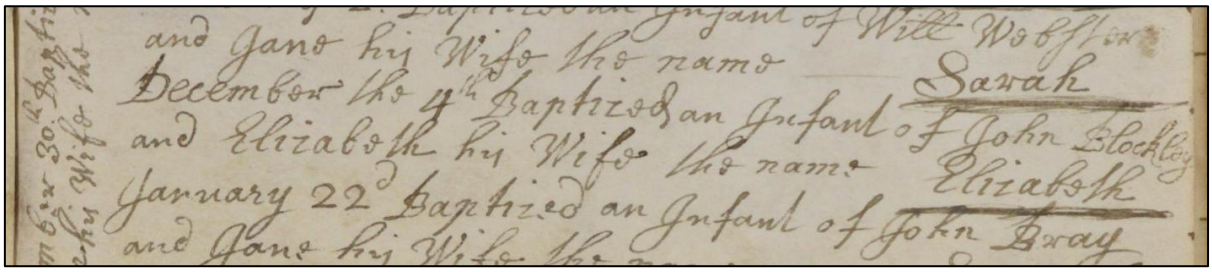
3. The 1701 baptism record for John does not include the mother's name, see https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=R_949219568&tab=this. This is the FindMyPast image of the original parish record of that event, see https://search.findmypast.com/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FLEICS%2F15-0818-GB-LEC-CLAYBRO-DE732-4-BAPTISMS-MARRIAGES--BURIALS-1685-1704%2F00032:


and Anne his Wife the name James
September 19 Baptized an Infant of John
Blockley and his Wife the name John
October 10 Baptized an Infant of William

As with John's baptism record, Mary's baptism record also does not specify the mother's name, see https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/LEICS/15-0818-GB-LEC-CLAYBRO-DE732-

[19] No doubt FindMyPast's document reading software picked up the last year mentioned in the phrase "Were buried from March 24. 1754 to March 25. 1755".

4-BAPTISMS-MARRIAGES--BURIALS-1685-1704/00027. However, Elizabeth's baptism record does, see https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/LEICS/15-0818-GB-LEC-CLAYBRO-DE732-4-BAPTISMS-MARRIAGES--BURIALS-1685-1704/00023:



Accordingly, the first name of the mother of the siblings Elizabeth, Mary and John was Elizabeth.[20]

The obvious conclusion is that this family with children being baptised in Claybrooke by John and Elizabeth Blockley between 1696 and 1701 is the same family whose family members are mentioned in the 1735 will of John Blockley Senr.

The next obvious conclusion is that John Blockley Senr was the ancestor of John Blockley of Great Claybrooke given that –

- John Blockley Senr owned an "Orchard Homestead or Backside and appurtences in Ullesthorpe", as well as land and tenements at Walton and Kimcote, because he gifted them in his 1735 will, see the Appendix and
- John Blockley of Great Claybrooke also made gifts in his 1782 will of the "Tenement with the Orchard Homestead or Backside and Appurtenances thereto" at Ullesthorpe, as well as lands and appurtenances in Walton and Kimcote, see the Appendix.

John Blockley of Great Claybrooke, the subject of this brief, had very obviously inherited those very same assets from John Blockley Senr. That is obvious from the fact that the same assets are mentioned in their respective wills, and also given the family followed the system of male-preference primogeniture, as noted above.

There is a possible alternative, namely that John Blockley of Great Claybrooke was the grandson, rather than the son, of John Blockley Senr. If there was such an interposing John Blockley, he would have inherited the lands mentioned in the will of his father John Blockley Senr, and passed them on to his son, given they are mentioned in the will of John Blockley of Great Claybrooke.

One would therefore expect a probate, or letters of administration, to have issued in respect of the estate of such an interposing John Blockley after July 1754 (when John Blockley Senr was buried), and likely prior to 3rd June 1782 when John Blockley of Great Claybrooke's will was made and, in any event, prior to 18th March 1784 when that will was proven. (The latter date allows for the possibility that the estate of any such interposing John Blockley had not been fully administered when John Blockley of Great Claybrooke made his 1782 will, but he dealt with the aforementioned real estate assets in that will in expectation of receiving them).

However, despite Family Search[21] and FindMyPast[22] searches, no other probate or administration documents were located for a John Blockley of Ullesthorpe or Claybrooke between 1754 and 1784.

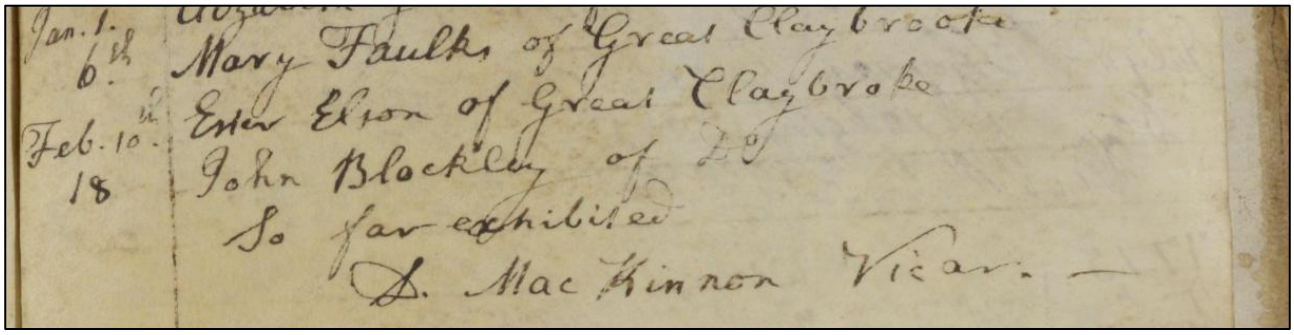
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[20] She had died by the date of the probate of her husband's will, 3rd October 1754, as she was a co-executor with her son John under that will, see the Appendix, and he is described in the probate as the "surviving Executor".

[21] See https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1750&q.anyDate.to=1782&q.givenName=John&q.givenName.exact=on&q.miscKeyword=Wills&q.surname=Blockley&q.surname.exact=on. The same results were returned by changing the keyword from "wills" to "probate".

[22] See https://www.findmypast.com/search/results?sid=100&firstname=john&firstname_variants=true&lastname=blockley&eventyear=1765&eventyear_offset=20&datasetname=leicestershire+wills+and+probate+records%2c+1500-1939.

But the Family Search search did return the burial in Claybrooke already located and mentioned above, namely that of a "John Blockley of Great Claybrooke" on 18th February 1775.[23] Being a burial between that of John Blockley Senr in 1754, and John Blockley of Great Claybrooke in 1784, this burial could be of an interposing John Blockley who was the son of the former, and the father of the latter. The FindMyPast image of the original parish record of the burial is at https://search.findmypast.com/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FLEICS%2F15-0818-GB-LEC-CLAYBRO-DE732-6-BAPTISMS-MARRIAGES--BURIALS-1737-1776%2F00045:



No age at death is given.

A Family Search search for John Blockley events in Claybrooke between 1700 and 1800[24] returned 63 records, 20 of which were noted as occurring in Claybrooke, and which (allowing that some were duplicates) comprised each of the records in the following table (except for the burial of John Blockley senr on 28th July 1754, see above, which was not returned for some reason). No additional relevant results were returned on a FindMyPast search for John Blockley events in Claybrooke or within 5 miles of it between 1710 to 1790, except for the 1754 burial.[25]

In other words, between them the searches returned every event in the following table, and they returned no other John Blockley events in Claybrooke between 1710 and 1790.

Person	***Baptism***	***Marriage***	***Will***	***Burial***
John Blockley Senr			16th April 1735‡	28th July 1754#
Possible interposing John Blockley				**18th February 1775#**
John Blockley of Great Claybrooke	19th September 1701	8th March 1735	3rd June 1782‡	28th February 1784 (died 18th February)
John Blockley the Elder	6th January 1736	25th December 1770	20th April 1795*	25th September 1798 (died 21st September)
John Blockley the Younger	13th January 1776	11th January 1797		2nd September 1828
John Blockley brother to Sophia	29th January 1798 (born 6th March 1797)*			

For verification of the ascription of dates to the person named, see the brief for the person named except as follows.

‡ See the Appendix.

See above.

* See the brief relating to John Blockley the Younger.

[23] See https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP4Q-4H16?lang=en and also https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FLEICS%2FBUR%2F00755957&tab=this.

[24] See https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1700&q.anyDate.to=1800&q.anyPlace=Claybrooke%20Magna%2C%20Leicestershire%2C%20England%2C%20United%20Kingdom&q.givenName=John&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Blockley&q.surname.exact=on.

[25] See https://www.findmypast.com/search/results?sid=100&firstname=john&lastname=blockley&lastname_variants=true&eventyear=1750&eventyear_offset=40&keywords=claybrooke&keywordsplace_proximity=5&sourcecountry=england. Changing the key word to "Claybrook" returned the exact same results.

Except for the 1775 burial, the periods between the several baptism events, the several marriage events, and the several burial events, with some variation, is as may be expected for succeeding generations of John Blockleys leading to the father of the Sophia Blockley who married Charles Ludlam.

The preliminary conclusion is therefore that those four were succeeding John Blockleys, and that the John Blockley buried in Claybrooke in 1775 was likely the son of a male Blockley who was a brother to one of the John Blockleys who inherited the Ullesthorpe property and other lands. Exactly which such brother could not be determined, but there is no doubt that a number of such brothers named a son John.

For example, a William Blockley and a Thomas Blockley married in Claybrooke in 1764 and 1766 respectively,[26] and a Joseph Blockley of Claybrooke married in nearby Broughton Astley in 1774.[27] It is most likely that they were the William, Thomas and Joseph Blockley mentioned in the 1782 will of John Blockley of Great Claybrooke, see the Appendix. Joseph named a son John,[28] and another Jonathan.[29] Thomas is also said by Family Search to have baptised a son John in Packwood, Warwickshire in 1767, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XX1N-FL6?lang=en, but given that village is 22 miles west-south-west of Claybrooke, it may be doubtful whether this was the William who married in Claybrooke.

The same is likely to have occurred in relation to preceding generations, that is, any son of John Blockley likely named one of his own sons after his father, and not just the son who inherited.

An alternative possibility is that the John Blockley buried in Claybrooke in 1775 was an infant born to John Blockley the Elder, who married in 1770, and who baptised a son whom he named John eleven months after the infant was buried on 18th February 1775. Indeed, his death in childbirth, or shortly thereafter, might explain the lack of a located baptism record for him.[30]

Regardless of where the John Blockley buried in Claybrooke in 1775 fits in the family, the above analysis of the sequencing of relevant event dates indicates that he was not an interposing John Blockley, the son of John Blockley Senr, and the father of John Blockley of Great Claybrooke. Further, and crucially, as noted above, no will was located which was proved in relation to the 1775 burial, a strong indicator that the deceased did not own property, whereas it is known that John Blockley Senr, John Blockley of Great Claybrooke, John Blockley the Elder and John Blockley the Younger did own property.

Additionally, if there was an interposing John Blockley, that is, if John Blockley of Great Claybrooke had a father who was the son of John Blockley Senr, that father would have been born between 1660 and 1685 given John Blockley of Great Claybrooke was baptised in 1701, see above. A Family Search search for an event in that period for a John Blockley returned no relevant birth or baptism.[31] A FindMyPast search for a John Blockley event between 1655 and 1695 in Claybrooke or within 5 miles of it also returned no relevant record.[32]

It is thus concluded that there was no such interposing John Blockley.

Accordingly, John Blockley was baptised in Claybrooke on 19th September 1701 to John and Elizabeth Blockley.

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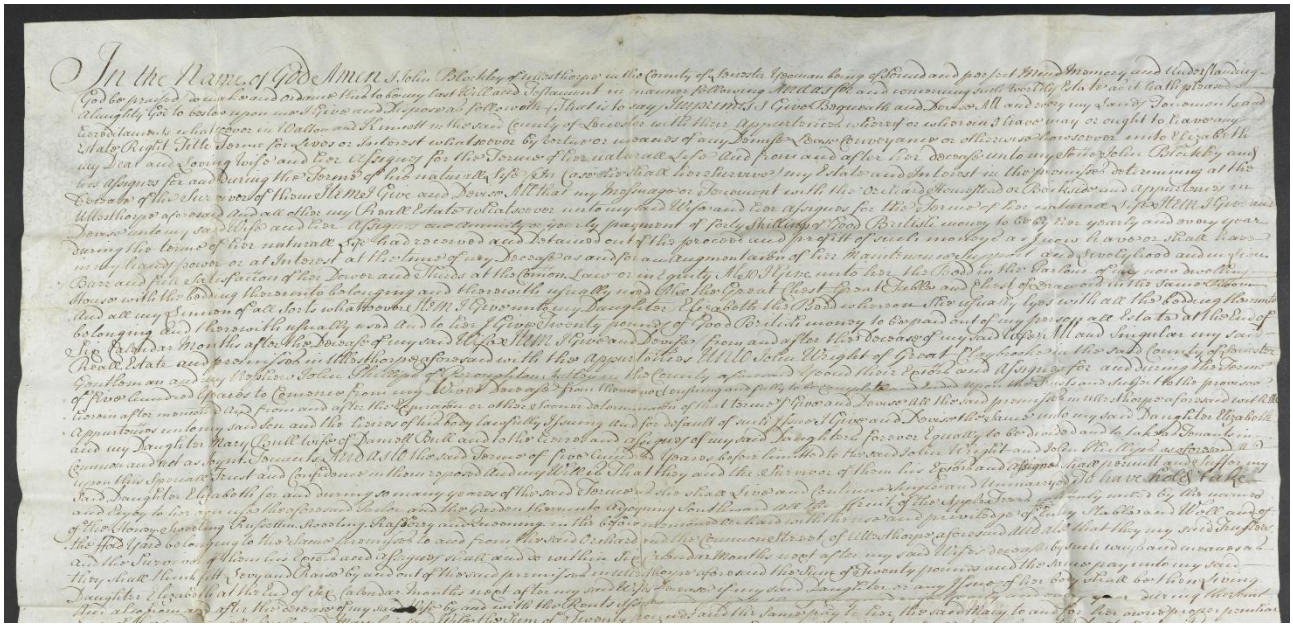
[26] William married an Elizabeth and Thomas married an Ann, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP4W-2H63?lang=en and https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP44-8S3Z?lang=en.
[27] See https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QP47-NSYW?lang=en. He married an Ann.
[28] Albeit not the John Blockley buried in 1775, as he was baptised in Broughton Astley in 1776, see https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPWB-SM1Y?lang=en.
[29] See https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPWB-4VH1?lang=en.
[30] The Claybrooke parish register (which at the time combined baptisms and burials) was inspected backwards from that 1775 burial date to March 1768, but no John Blockley event was recorded. See https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/LEICS/15-0818-GB-LEC-CLAYBRO-DE732-6-BAPTISMS-MARRIAGES--BURIALS-1737-1776/00036 and following images.
[31] See https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1660&q.anyDate.to=1685&q.givenName=John&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Blockley&q.surname.exact=on.
[32] See https://www.findmypast.com/search/results?firstname=john&firstname_variants=true&lastname=blockley&yearofbirth=1675&yearofbirth_offset=20&keywordsplace=claybrooke%20parva%2c%20leicestershire%2c%20england&keywordsplace_proximity=5&sourcecountry=england&sid=999.

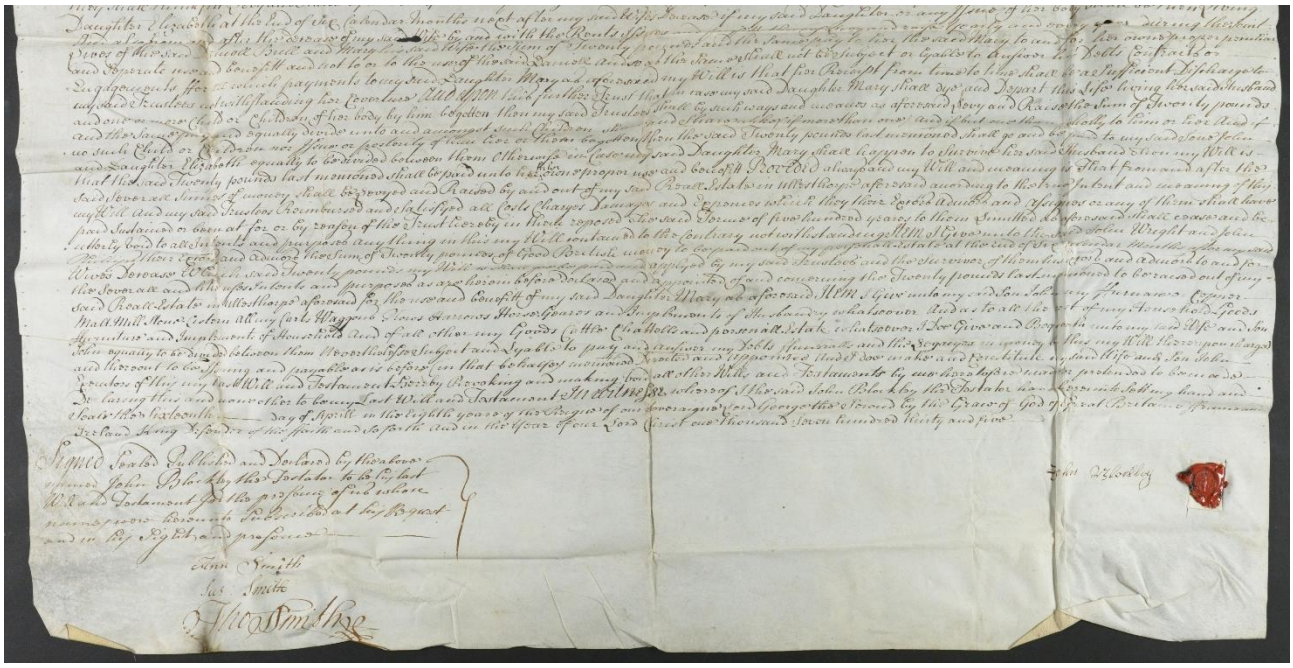
Appendix

Wills, probate and estate administration documentation involving John Blockley

1735 will and 1754 probate

A "John Blockley of Ullesthorpe Yeoman" executed a will on 16th April 1735, see https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/LEICS/102837132/00086 (and the succeeding image, with the preceding image being the case file jacket):





The will has the following provisions:

1. "I Give Bequeath and Devise All and every my Land Tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in Walton and Kimcote[33] … unto Elizabeth my Dear and Loving Wife and her assigns for the Term of her natural Life and from and after her decease unto my son John Blockley and his assigns for and during the Term of his natural Life/ In case he shall her survive/ my Estate and Interest in the premises determining at the decease of the Survivor of them"

2. "I Give and Devise all that my Messuage or Tenement with the Orchard Homestead or Backside and appurtences in Ullesthorpe aforesaid and all other my Real Estate whatsoever unto my said Wife and her assigns for the Term of her natural Life"

3. "I Give and Devise unto my said Wife and her assigns one annuity or yearly payment of forty shillings of Good British money" in "augmentation of her Maintenance Support and Livelihood and in Lieu Barr and full satisfaction of her Dower and Thirds at the Common Law or in Equity"[34]

4. "Also I Give unto her the Bedd in the Parlour of my now dwelling House with the bedding thereunto belonging and therewith usually and Also the Great Chest Great Table and Chest of Drawers in the same Parlour and all my Linnen of all sorts whatsoever"

5. "I give unto my Daughter Elizabeth the Bedd whereon she usually lyes with all the bedding thereunto belonging and therewith usually used" and also £20 payable out of my personal estate six months after the death of my wife

6. "I Give and Devise from and after the decease of my said Wife All and Singular my said Real Estate and premises in Ullesthorpe aforesaid with the appurtences unto John Wright of Great Claybrook in the said County of Leicester Gentleman and my Nephew John Phillips of Broughton Astley … for and during the term of five hundred Yeares to Commence from my Wive's Decease … upon the Trusts and subject to the provisions hereinafter mentioned"

7. On the expiration or sooner determination of that term, "I Give and Devise all the said premises in Ullesthorpe … unto my said son and the heires of his body lawfully Issuing and for default of such Issue I Give and Devise the same unto my said Daughter Elizabeth and my Daughter Mary Bull wife of Daniell Bull" equally as tenants in common

8. [As to the Trusts mentioned in 6]:

   (a) my Trustees are to "permitt and suffer my said Daughter Elizabeth for and during so many years of the said Term as she shall Live and continue Single and Unmarryed to have hold take and Enjoy to her own use the aforesaid Parlor and the Garden thereunto adjoyning Southward all of the fruit of the Apple Trees" etc. in the orchard and the use of the entry stables and well, and the "Hold Yard" and "Common Street" at the Ullesthorpe property

   (b) my Trustees "shall as they think fitt Levy and Raise by and out of the said premises in Ullesthorpe" £20 to be paid six months after my wife dies to my daughter Elizabeth if she or any issue are living, £20 to my daughter Mary Bull each year during the joint lives of Daniell and Mary Bull, but for the use of Mary, not Daniell, "and the same shall not be subject or lyable to answer for his Debts Contracts or Engagements", and "notwithstanding her Coverture",[35] but if "Mary shall dye and Depart this Life leaving her said Husband and one or more child or children of her body by him begotten" the Trustees are to raise £20 and pay it equally amongst such children "share and share

[33] Walton and Kimcote are adjoining villages 6 miles east of Claybrooke. They together form one parish called "Kimcote and Walton", see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kimcote_and_Walton. Kimcote appears to be spelled "Kimrott" in the will. Notably it is spelled "Kimcote" in the 1782 will of John Blockley of Great Claybrooke set out below.

[34] Google AI Overview states: "This phrasing is a classic piece of historical or highly formal legal language, typically found in wills … It means that the financial provisions or property being given to a woman are specifically intended to provide for her living expenses, and she accepts them as a complete substitute for any other legal rights she might have had to her husband's estate. … Under old English Common Law, a widow had a legal right to "dower" – usually a life interest in one-third (thirds) of all the real estate her husband owned during their marriage. This phrase ensures she takes the specified gift instead of that automatic legal share."

[35] See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coverture.

alike", and, if there be no such children, the £20 is to be divided between my children John and Elizabeth and, if Mary survived Daniell, the £20 is to be paid to her

10. Provided the several sums are raised as aforesaid, the trustees are to be reimbursed their costs arising by reason of the Trusts, and the said term of five hundred years "shall cease and be utterly void to all Intents and purposes"

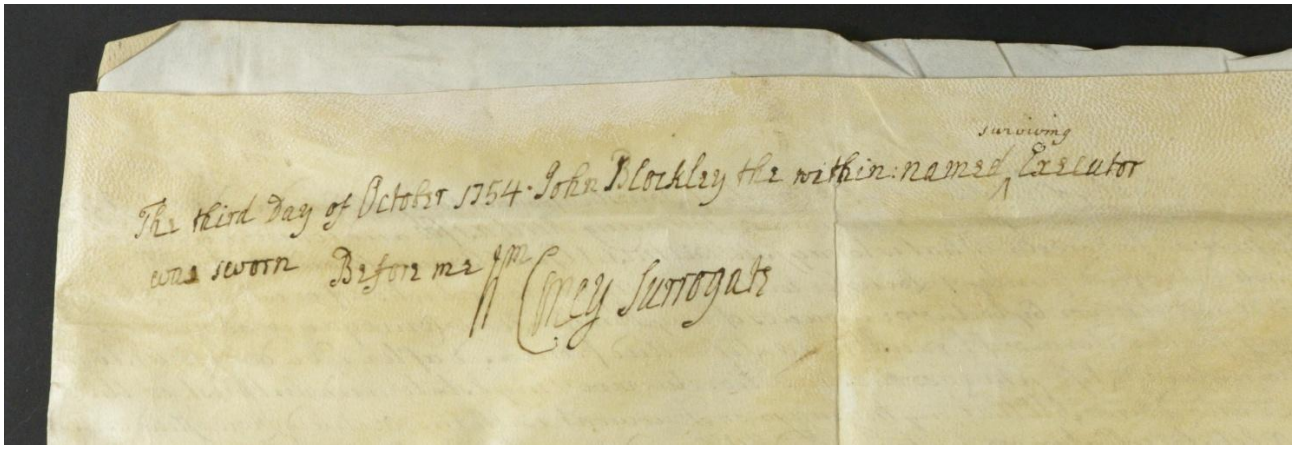
11. I give £20 to my trustees for the use of Mary payable six months after my wife's decease and to be raised out of my Ullesthorpe property

12. "I give unto my said son John my Harnesses Copper Malt Mill Stone Cistern All my Carts Waggons Plows Harrows Horses Geares and Implements of Husbandry whatsoever and As to all the rest of my Household Goods Furniture and Implements of Household and of all other my Goods Cattle Chattells and personall Estate" I give to my wife and son John equally "Subject and Lyable to pay and answer my Debts Funeralls and the Legacyes in money by this my Will thereupon charged and thereout to be Issuing and payable"

13. "I do make and constitute my said Wife and son John Executors of this my last Will and Testament hereby Revoking and making Void all other Wills and Testaments by me heretofore made or pretended to be made Declaring this and none other to be my Last Will and Testament".

The will was witnessed by Ann Smith, "Sus : Smith" and Thomas Smith.

Probate of the will was granted on 3rd October 1754, see the probate at https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/LEICS/102837132/00088:[36]



The probate notes that John was the "surviving Executor".

From this paperwork, it can be said that:

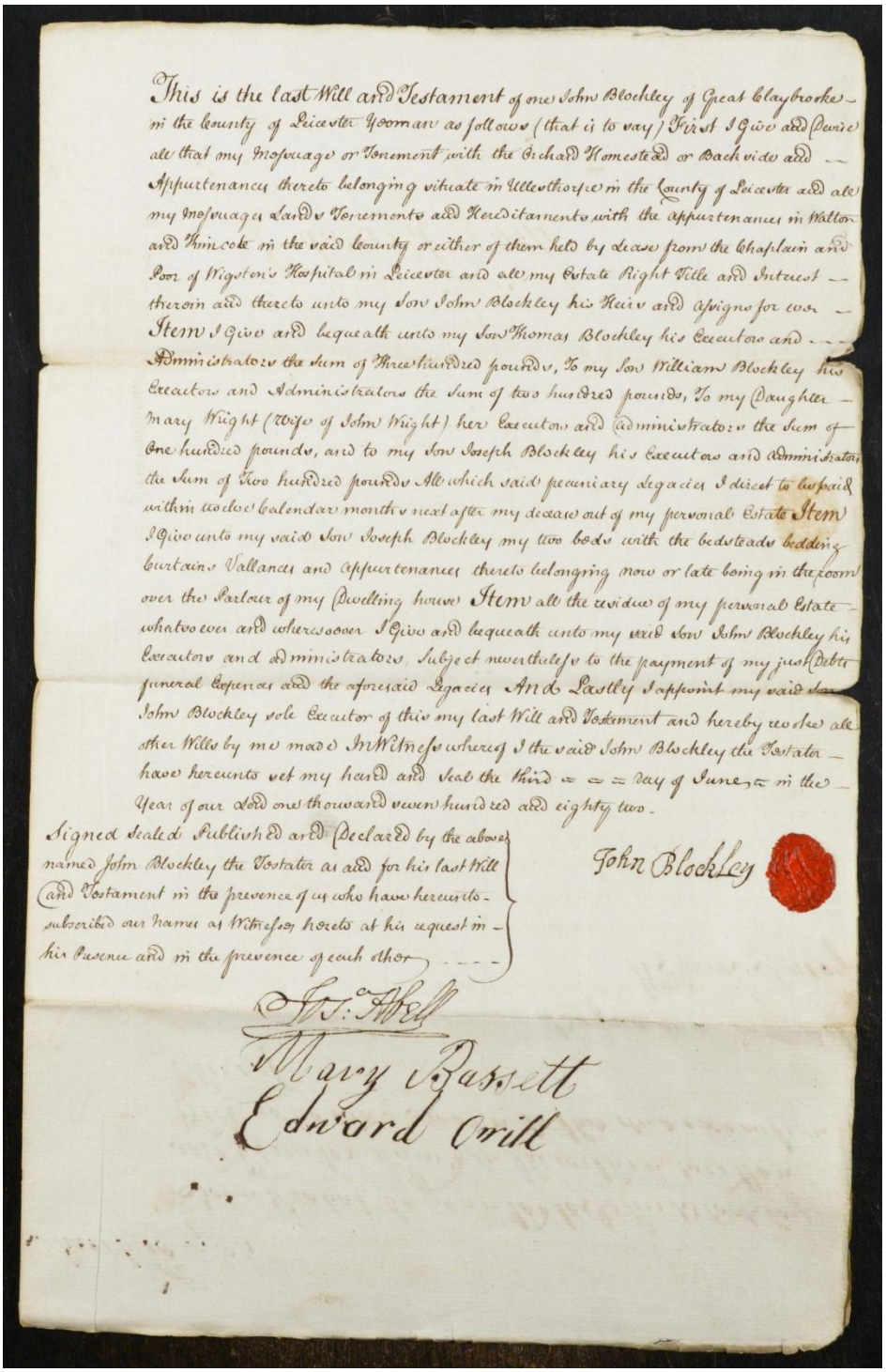
1. John Blockley of Ullesthorpe Yeoman had a wife named Elizabeth.
2. He had a son John and daughters Elizabeth and Mary, and Mary had married a Daniell Bull.[37]
3. He had inherited the Blockley family lands and tenements by 16th April 1735.
4. He would have died shortly before 3rd October 1754.
5. His wife Elizabeth had died by then.
6. He had a nephew John Phillips of Broughton Astley, 3½ miles north-east of Claybrooke.

[36] The case file jacket is at https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/LEICS/102837132/00085.
[37] The record of Mary's marriage to Daniel Bull was located. It occurred on 24th October 1731 in Claybrooke, see https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FLEICS%2FMAR%2F00333479%2F1&tab=this. The FindMyPast image of the original parish record of that event is at https://search.findmypast.com/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FLEICS%2F15-0818-GB-LEC-CLAYBRO-DE732-5-BAPTISMS-MARRIAGES--BURIALS-1705-1736%2F00050. Daniel was from Copston, a small village 2½ miles west of Claybrooke.

It is also noted that the Blockleys still owned the tenements referred to in the 1735 will in Walton and Kimcote in 1782 when John Blockley of Great Claybrooke executed the will referred to immediately below.

1782 will and 1784 probate

A John Blockley of Great Claybrooke, "Yeoman", executed a will on 3rd June 1782, see https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/LEICS/102890533/00093 (the preceding image being the case file jacket):



This is the last Will and Testament of me John Blockley of Great Claybrooke in the County of Leicester Yeoman as follows (that is to say) First I Give and Devise all that my Messuage or Tenement with the Orchard Homestead or Backside and Appurtenances thereto belonging situate in Ullesthorpe in the County of Leicester and all my Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments with the appurtenances in Walton and Kimcote in the said County or either of them held by Lease from the Chaplain and Poor of Wigston's Hospital in Leicester and all my Estate Right Title and Interest therein and thereto unto my Son John Blockley his Heirs and Assigns for ever Item I Give and bequeath unto my Son Thomas Blockley his Executors and Administrators the Sum of Three hundred pounds To my Son William Blockley his Executors and Administrators the Sum of two hundred pounds To my Daughter Mary Wright (Wife of John Wright) her Executors and Administrators the Sum of One hundred pounds and to my Son Joseph Blockley his Executors and Administrators the Sum of Two hundred pounds All which said pecuniary Legacies I direct to be paid within twelve Calendar months next after my decease out of my personal Estate Item I Give unto my said Son Joseph Blockley my two beds with the bedsteads bedding Curtains Vallances and Appurtenances thereto belonging now or late being in the Room over the Parlour of my Dwelling house Item all the residue of my personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever I Give and bequeath unto my said Son John Blockley his Executors and Administrators Subject nevertheless to the payment of my just Debts funeral Expences and the aforesaid Legacies And Lastly I appoint my said Son John Blockley sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament and hereby revoke all other Wills by me made In Witness whereof I the said John Blockley the Testator have hereunto set my hand and Seal the third day of June in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two.

Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the above named John Blockley the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses hereto at his request in his Presence and in the presence of each other

John Blockley

W. Abell

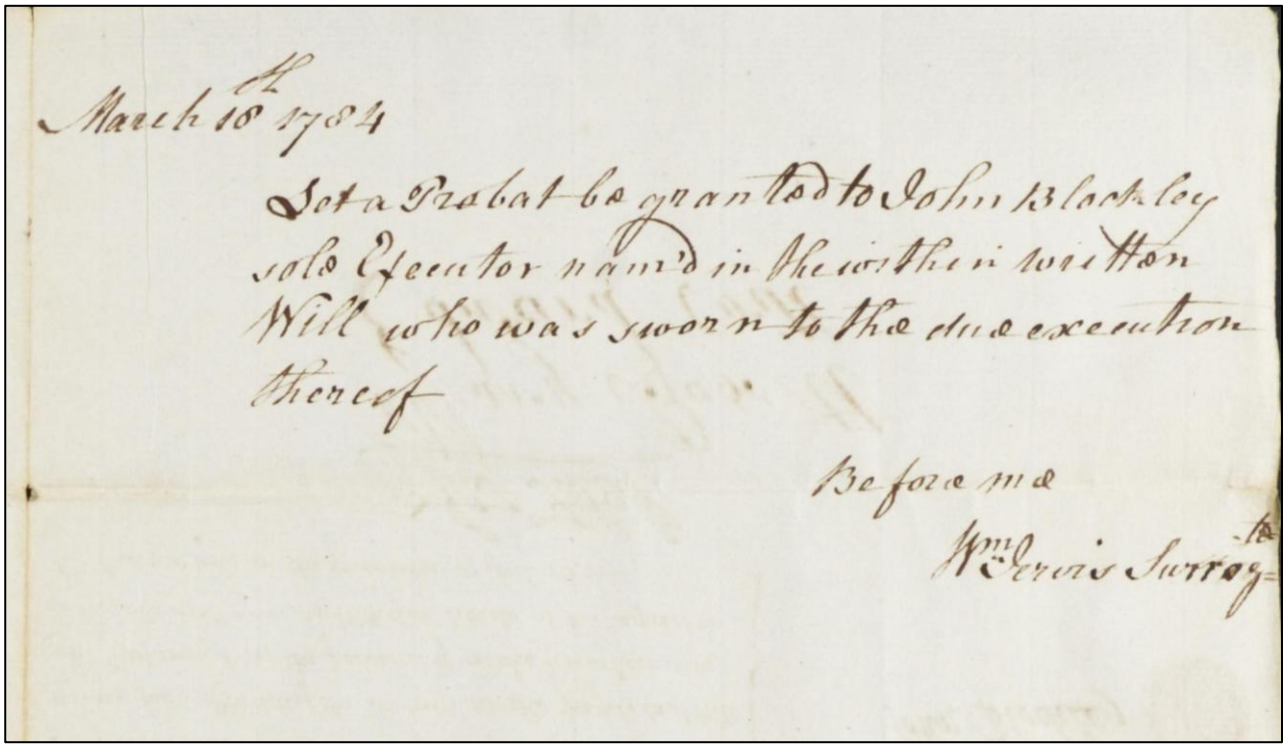
Mary Bassett

Edward Orrill

John gave to his son John Blockley his "Tenement with the Orchard Homestead or Backside[38] and Appurtenances thereto" at Ullesthorpe, as well as all lands and appurtenances in Walton and Kimcote "held by Lease from the Chaplain and Poor of Wigston's Hospital in Leicester".[39]

He gave pecuniary legacies totalling £800 to his other children Thomas Blockley, William Blockley, Mary Wright the wife of John Wright, and Joseph Blockley,[40] with the legacies to be paid out of his personal estate. Except for some bedding given to his son Joseph, his son John was also given the balance of his personal estate, and John was also appointed as sole executor.

Probate of the will was granted to the testator's executor, heir and son John Blockley on 18th March 1784, see https://search.findmypast.com/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/LEICS/102890533/00094:


March 18th 1784

Sot a Probat be granted to John Blockley sole Executor named in the within written Will who was sworn to the due execution thereof

Before me

Wm Lewis Surrog.

[38] A backside is an old-fashioned or legal term for the yard or land directly behind a house, see https://www.law-dictionary.org/definitions-b/backside.

[39] Lands, including at Kimcote and Walton, were conveyed by the founder of the hospital (Wigston) to its trustees in 1521, and the rents were used to run the hospital, see https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/leics/vol4/pp398-410.

[40] Possibly the Joseph Blockley referred to above who baptised a John on 18th February 1776 in Broughton Astley.