

# Haughley W.I. – Surnames

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

<b>ME</b>	Middle English (1066 to 1487)	<b>NF</b>	Norman-French
<b>NV</b>	Norman-Viking	<b>OE</b>	Old English (or Anglo-Saxon)
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**Adams** most probably widow of Adam . . could be son of  
most probably - nickname of actor playing Adam in ME pageant play

**Ager** OE *Æðelgar* elf or noble spear – warrior nickname

**Aldous** either from OE female name *Ealdgýð* – old home  
or dweller at the old house – OE *eald hūs*

**Allum** from either Alham, Somerset  
or Elham, Kent, (spelled Alham in the Domesday Book)  
(both thought to be from OE *ealh* pagan temple *hamm* enclosure)  
or Hallam, Derbyshire  
OE *halum* secluded settlements by the rocks

**Betts** either final letter 's' denoted widow of Bett, sometimes, son of  
Bett is pet name for Beatrice, Elizabeth or Bartholomew  
or maker of barrels, casks or butts OE *bytt* butt or cask

**Bolton** from one of the many places called Bolton or Boulton  
OE *bōthl tūn* settlement with a special building

**Bruce** from Brix, Normandy anglicised to **Brus** and eventually Bruce

**Burrows** the final letter 's' usually denotes widow of Burrow, maybe son of  
Burrow from either OE *beorg* hill dweller by or on the hill  
or OE *burg* fort dweller by or in a fort  
But . . Burrows can also derive from OE *būr hūs* bower house  
dweller or worker at the bower house

**Chinery** First recorded 1327 Suffolk Subsidy Rolls - from Chenevray, France

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<b>Claridge</b>	most probably dweller on or by the clay ridge OE <i>clæg</i> (pronounced clay) <i>hrycg</i>
<b>Coe</b>	ON <i>ká</i> ME <i>co(o)</i> jackdaw nickname for one who looks or behaves like a jackdaw (normally a chatterer)
<b>Crane</b>	from OE <i>cran</i> a crane nickname for long legs
<b>Crossman</b>	ON <i>kros</i> OE <i>mann</i> male dweller by the stone or wooden cross
<b>Faiers</b>	the final letter 's' being the widow of Faier, maybe the son of OE <i>fæger</i> (pronounced fayer) beautiful (not necessarily blond) First recorded in Suffolk - 1086 Domesday Book as <i>Faira</i> Other spellings are more widespread – but still very East Anglian
<b>Freeman</b>	OE <i>freoman</i> free born man
<b>Gant</b>	either ME for tall slender and angular or NF <i>gaunt</i> for glove maker / seller or from Ghent – Flemish weavers
<b>Garnham</b>	First recorded as Garnham in 1568 in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls - but previously recorded as Garnon or similar NF nickname for wearing a moustache <b>Quote</b> from Oxford Dictionary of English Surnames “In the 1524 Subsidy Roll for Suffolk four men of this name were assessed in Bacton: Thomas Gernon, Nicholas Gernown, John and Edmund Garnon. In the same parish, in 1568, all four men of this family are called Garnham. The only form to be found in the 1674 Hearth Tax” <b>Note</b> - England were at war with France - many people with French sounding surnames anglicised them. . sometimes beyond recognition
<b>Gill</b>	either ON <i>gilli</i> servant (adopted by Irish and Scots) or variation of Will - abbreviation of French <i>Guillaume</i>
<b>Goodchild</b>	OE <i>gōd cild</i> good child
<b>Gostling</b>	either NF <i>gauzelin</i> meaning “a descendant of the Goths” or ME <i>gosselyng</i> gosling – nickname for a keeper of geese

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<b>Greengrass</b>	First recorded 1275 Suffolk Hundred Rolls dweller by the green grassy place	OE <i>grene</i>	ON <i>gres</i>
<b>Hannan</b>	either from lost village of Hanna, Lowlands of Scotland or ON <i>ōnundr</i> Old Danish <i>anund</i> Old Swedish <i>anund</i> a land clearer, creating areas of land to be cultivated		
<b>Hart</b>	like a hart – fleet of foot - speedy	OE <i>heorot</i>	
<b>Hawkins</b>	either <b>Hawk</b> from OE <i>hafoc</i> – (pronounced haw'k) – nickname for someone with hawk like features or attributes (eg. good hunter) <i>Hawk kin</i> (abbreviated to <b>Hawkin</b> ) means son of Hawk . . . the final letter 's' being the widow of Hawkin, maybe the son of or <b>Haw</b> being pet form of Harry <i>Haw kin</i> means son of Haw . . . the final letter 's' being the widow of Hawkin, maybe the son of		
<b>Herbert</b>	NF <i>herbert</i> NV <i>here berht</i>		famous warrior
<b>Hoey</b>	anglicised Gaelic <i>heochaidh</i> which in itself is Gaelicised ON <i>hór ey</i> - from Norwegian locational farmstead named <i>Hoøy</i> high island		
<b>Holland</b>	from Holland, Essex, Lincolnshire or Lancashire OE <i>hōh land</i> cultivated land by a slanting hill spur <i>hōh</i> Note – does not mean from the Netherlands		
<b>Hyland</b>	dweller by the hay land or the high land OE <i>hēg</i> (pronounced hay) <i>land</i> or <i>hēah land</i>		
<b>James</b>	Biblical origins in the Hebrew name <i>Yaakov</i> - Latinised by the Romans as <i>Jacobus</i> , and then in the 11th century as <i>Jacomus</i> . <i>Yaakov</i> was Esua's younger twin - meanings behind the name <i>Yaakov</i> are varied and in dispute Therefore - James as a surname in Middle English period - could originate from either - (most probably) son of James or name for the second twin or an unknown nickname with Biblical origins		

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**Keens** letter “s” denotes widow of Keen . . . maybe son of Keen OE *cēne* ME *kene* wise, brave and proud

**King** either someone who behaved like a king OE *cyning* *cyng*  
or the actor who played the part in a ME pageant play (eg one of the Three Kings or King Herod)

**Laflin** Suffolk surname - Suffolk pronunciation of Laughlin  
ON from Lachlann – land of fjords – *lagh land* (loch land)

**Largent** either someone with silver grey hair NF *l'argent* silver  
or a silversmith or similar NF *l'argent* silver  
or NF surname – dweller near a silver mine

**Lepine** either dweller by the thorn bush NF *l'épine*  
or from a French settlement with *l'épine* in the name

**Lewis** either (and most likely) from NF *Louis* which derives from Old Frankish *hlúd* loud *vig* battle over 50 different spellings throughout Europe ranging from Louie to Ludvig to Lewis  
or (most unlikely) from Lewes, Sussex

**Madgwick** from a lost village in Devon  
OE *muda wic* important place *wic* on the estuary *muda*

**Matthews** Hebrew *Mattathiah* gift of Jehovah - Normans introduced name into England - letter 's' refers to widow of Matthew, but can be the son

**Miles** final 's' normally denotes widow of Mile, maybe son of Mile is either from Latin via NF *milo* – mercy, mild  
or NF *mille* a soldier

**Murray** either from the province of Moray, Scotland  
or ME *murie* merry

**Partis** variation of Partys . . . widow of Party, may be son of - Party is an anglicised oath name from NF *pour Dieu* for God

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<b>Pask</b>	NF <i>pasche</i> Easter - from Hebrew <i>pesakh</i> Passover - nickname for someone born during Easter
<b>Poley</b>	agreeable, polite . . . denotes a courteous or amiable person NF <i>poli</i>
<b>Quinton</b>	either and most likely . . . from Quinton in Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire or Worcestershire - OE <i>cwēn tūn</i> queen's manor or NF <i>quintin</i> fifth born or from St Quentin, France
<b>Revens</b>	variation of Ravens final "s" denotes widow of , maybe son of First recorded in Domesday Book as <i>Reuene</i> nickname for black shiny hair – like a shiny black raven OE <i>hræfn</i> Old Norse <i>hrafn</i>
<b>Robinson</b>	son of Robin, which is a pet form of Robert NF <i>Hrodbeorht</i> fame bright - bright most probably referred to shiny bright armour
<b>Sharp</b>	OE <i>scearp</i> (pronounced shearp) quick, sharp, smart
<b>Shave</b>	dweller by the wood OE <i>sceaga</i> wood W. Country dialect variation <i>scaugh</i> (pronounced <i>shayfe</i> or <i>shave</i> )
<b>Silberberg</b>	German Ashkenazic ornamental name meaning silver mountain ( eg - could be a tall big person with silver grey hair and beard - or man who lives on a snowy mountain - and many other reasons)
<b>Southgate</b>	dweller by the south gate of a walled town or from Southgate, Mddx OE <i>suth geat</i>
<b>Sparks</b>	final "s" denotes widow of Sparke, maybe son of ON <i>sparkr</i> for someone who is lively
<b>Spencer</b>	NF <i>despencier</i> buyer and dispenser of food
<b>Stiff</b>	nickname for someone resolute or steadfast, rigid, firm OE <i>stif</i>

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**Syddell** from Siddal, Halifax, Yorks or Siddall, Middleton, Lancs  
OE *sid* wide *halh* secluded piece of land

**Thompson** Thomas - Biblical name of an Apostle - means “twin brother” -  
in England, up to 1066, Thomas was a priest's name only. . .  
after The Conquest it became a very common Christian name,  
then later, a surname – Thomson means son of Thom (Tom)  
**note** – the “p” was added later in C16th for easier pronunciation

**Todd** someone who is crafty like a fox OE *todde* fox

**Thynge** either a slender or lean person OE *thynne* . . . or could mean  
complete opposite (Anglo-Saxon humour)  
or from Thwing, East Yorkshire, OE *thweng* long & thin

**Turner** either NF *tornour* one who turns on a lathe (wood, bone etc)  
or someone who turns a turnspit  
or ME *turne hara* (turn hare) speedy like a hare  
or NF *tornoieor* someone who takes part in a tournament  
or NF *tornei* an official in charge of a tournament

**Welburn** from one of the various villages in Norfolk, Lincs or Yorks  
with similar spellings . . . . OE *wella* spring *burna* stream

**Wittwer** a dialect version of Whitworth in Durham or Lancs  
OE *hwit word* (worth) white wood (blossom or colour of bark)

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