

Stanway U3A – Surnames

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

ME	Middle English (1066 to 1487)	NF	Norman-French
NV	Norman-Viking	OD	Old Danish
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OF	Old French	OW	Old Welsh
ON	Old Norse	Bryth	Brythonic

Locational Names

Barraclough	from the lost village of Barrowclough in WR Yorkshire OE <i>beara</i> grove or wood <i>cloh</i> ravine or very steep slope
Beecham	from Beauchamps, La Manche - Beecham is an anglicised version
Boxshall	most probably from a lost village of Boxholte Sussex OE <i>box</i> box tree <i>holt</i> wood
Cowie	either from Cowey Green, Essex or Barony of Cowie, Scotland
Eavery	from Evreux. Normandy . . many variations of anglicised spellings including Everie, Every, Everex and Eavery just to name but a few
Fairhurst	dweller by a beautiful wooded hillside OE <i>faeger</i> fair beautiful <i>hyrst</i> wooded hillside
Garfoot	from Garforth, WR Yorkshire - in Domesday Book as <i>Gereford</i> - Garfoot is dialect variation - OE <i>gara</i> triangle <i>ford</i> river crossing
Glessing	perhaps an anglicised version of Glessen, nr Cologne, Germany first recorded as a surname in England in late 1700s
Greenwold	dweller in the green wood OE <i>grene</i> green <i>wald</i> forested area
Heavingham	from Hevingham Norfolk OE <i>Hefa inga ham</i> homestead settlement <i>ham</i> belonging to followers <i>inga</i> of a man called <i>Hefa</i>

Mockford	from the lost village of Mockford, Sussex OE <i>Mocca ford</i> a river crossing belonging to a man called Mocca
Motum	from the lost village of Mottham in north west Kent OE <i>Moda ham</i> homestead settlement <i>ham</i> belonging to <i>Moda</i> - present day settlement Mottingham grew up alongside and engulfed Mottham - therefore, Motum can also be a dialect corruption of Mottingham
Oxley	from Oxley in Staffordshire or Ox Lee in Yorkshire OE <i>oxa lēah</i> woodland clearing where oxen are pastured
Rickaby	from Rickerby, Cumbria ON <i>Rikr bý</i> fortified settlement <i>bý</i> belonging to <i>Rikr</i> (ON name meaning mighty and powerful)
Rustage	believed to be from the lost village in Lancashire with OE derivations <i>hrist</i> brushwood <i>hrycg</i> ridge . . many variations in spelling of the surname, incl. Rustadge, Rustich, Rustidge, Rustedge and Rustage
Sowerbutts	from the lost village of Sowerbutts Lancashire. <i>bytts</i> small pieces of land prefixed by either OE <i>sūr</i> sour acidic or <i>sāwere</i> sown with seed
Strachan	from the Lands of Strachan (pron. strawn) Gaelic <i>strath eachin</i> <i>strath</i> the valley <i>eachin</i> horses . . valley pasture for horses . . Lands of Strachan were in the historic county of Kincardineshire in north east Scotland
Swinburn	from Swinburn, Northumberland . . OE <i>swin burna</i> <i>burna</i> small stream or burn where pigs, swine <i>swīn</i> are kept

Occupational

Futcher	foot soldier OE <i>folchere</i> foot soldier . . many variations of spellings, including Fulcher, Futcher and many more
Gruenke	perhaps derivation is from German <i>gruenkern</i> . . . a half ripened green grain (green kernel) that is dried and boiled . . therefore - someone who makes <i>gruenkern</i>

Sixsmith	either or	a maker of scythes, a scythe-smith OE <i>sigthe smyð</i> more likely, a maker of sickles OE <i>sicol smyð</i>
Ward	either or	OE <i>weard</i> watchman or a guard (ward) ME <i>werd</i> in Essex, Kent and Herts can be a dialect word meaning marsh a marsh man

Nicknames

Carlo	many variations throughout Europe, Carlos, Carletti, Carlo, Charles and many more - derives from OG Karl meaning man
Dunn	brown hair or swarthy OE <i>dunn</i> brown
Godfrey	God peace ON <i>gode</i> NF <i>froi</i>
Richer	powerful and brave NV <i>ricard</i> powerful and brave many spelling variations incl. Richard, Reacher and Ricker
Wragg	powerful ON <i>wraghi</i> powerful, counsel, reign

Sons and Family of

Anderson	Son of Andrew- Greek name <i>Andreas</i> adopted by NF - means manly
Daines	final letter 's' usually refers to widow of Daine, maybe the son of Daine derives from either NF <i>dein</i> worthy, honourable or NF <i>deien</i> a clerical dean or ME <i>dain</i> haughty
Deeks	Deeks – most probably the widow of Deek. . . could be son of - Deek - dweller near a ditch or dyke OE <i>dic</i> ditch or dyke
Griffiths	final 's' could denote widow of or son of or belonging to Griffith Old Welsh <i>griph-iud</i> Griffith - chief with a strong grip

Lawson	son of Lawrence – Lawrence became popular after St Laurence had been martyred – name originates from Laurentium – city of laurels - nickname for peacemaker or peaceful person
Postings	the last letter 's' usually means widow of Posting, maybe son of - Posting is dweller by, or keeper of the postern gate NF <i>posterne</i>
Reynolds	the last letter 's' usually means widow of Reynold, maybe son of - Reynold derives from NF <i>rein</i> (counsel) <i>wald</i> (rule) a wise ruler
Simpson	either son of Simme (Simon) . . name Simon is a Biblical name introduced by NF - from Hebrew <i>shimeon</i> - snub-nosed the letter 'p' is a later dialectal intrusion note rare, but maybe from any of the three places in Devon called Simpson
Willmot	Willmot(t) is informal pet form for son of William William + NF <i>ett</i> (<i>ott</i> or <i>itt</i>) little - little William - son of William - William derives from <i>will helm</i> from <i>wulf helm</i> (wolf helmet) warrior leading troops into battle had a wolf embossed or engraved on his helmet

Either / Or

Fisher	either fisherman OE <i>fiscere</i> or dweller by an enclosure for catching fish ME <i>fisshar</i>
Minnion	either loyal servant minion late C15th from French <i>mignon</i> or anglicised Irish <i>Muimhneachain</i> man from Munster or a miner - derivative of NF <i>minier</i> mining
Pryle	many variations in spelling incl. Prail, Pryell, Pryale and more either dweller on, or worker on, clayey ground Breton <i>priel</i> or a robust character OG <i>prahl</i>
Share	either someone bright and beautiful OE <i>scære</i> sheer bright or a shearer from OE <i>scera</i> cutting through with a weapon or possibly maker of shares, ploughshares OE <i>scera</i>

Silversword either a Viking warrior nickname for an accomplished swordsman who's flashing sword looked like silver
 or noble Viking who warranted a silver ceremonial sword
 Swedish surname equivalent today is Silfverswärd ON *sylfr sverð*

Wheal either a maker of wheels OE *hwēol* wheel
 or one who uses a spinning wheel
 or dweller by, or keeper of a waterwheel

Wopling likely to be OE *inga* family of, or son of, or follower of, a man called
 either *Wapol* - a dweller near a watery area
 OE *wapol* pool, marshy, spring
 or *Wagpol* - (pron. wayp'l - later wopple)
 OE *wagpol* one in authority who wags a pole
 (similar to Wagstaff)

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Additional Surnames

(submitted on the day - alphabetical order)

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Ager	OE <i>Æðelgar</i> <i>Æðel</i> elf or noble <i>gar</i> spear – warrior nickname
Angot	Norman surname derived from their Viking roots meaning a God like leader of the Geats NV <i>Angot</i> from ON <i>as</i> god <i>Gautr</i> name of tribe in southern Sweden of which Beowulf was a leader (The Geats) -
Balm	dweller near a cave - OF <i>baume</i> a cave variant spellings are Bawme and Balm(e) - first recorded in England from the mid C16th - French Huguenot name
Barrett	brave, strong leader like a bear NV <i>Baraud, Baraut</i> <i>bar</i> (bear) <i>aud</i> (rule)
Blanche	a complimentary nickname for a woman - white as a flower NF <i>blanche</i> white
Bloom	iron worker, maker of blooms OE <i>bloma</i> ME <i>blome</i> ingot of iron
Board	many spelling variations of the surname either a maker of planks OE <i>bord</i> a plank of wood or dweller on the edge of a village NF <i>bordure</i> edge of or dweller in house of timber standing alone NF <i>borde</i>
Brooks	the final 's' referring to the widow of Brook, maybe son of Brook - surname Brook means dweller by the brook - OE <i>brōc</i>
Bruce	from Brix, Normandy anglicised to Brus and eventually Bruce
Buat	derivation of surname not found - abbreviated version of de Buat
Camp	dweller in the countryside or expanse of wide open country NF <i>champ</i> open land from Latin <i>campus</i> expanse of flat land

Chidgey	from Chidgley in W. Somerset - OE <i>lēah</i> woodland clearing most probably belonging to a man called <i>Cycg</i> spelling variations incl. Chedsy, Chedgly, Chedgey & Chidgey etc
Christmas	someone born at Christmas time OE <i>Cristes Mæsse</i>
Clisby	from Cleasby, NR Yorkshire - in Domesday Book 1086 as Clesby ON <i>by</i> farmstead settlement belonging to a Viking called <i>Kleiss</i>
Cooper	maker / mender of wooden barrels, cask, etc ME <i>couper</i>
Copping	son of a man called Copp OE <i>Copp</i> + <i>inga</i> family of, son of - <i>Copp</i> means dweller on top of a hill OE <i>copp</i> hill top
Crowne	many spelling variations incl. Crown, Crowen, Crone etc etc either dweller in a house with the sign of the crown NF <i>corone</i> or from Craon, Mayenne, France
Day	either OE <i>dāge</i> kneader of bread ME <i>daye</i> or pet form of David . . . son of David
Drake	either OE <i>draca</i> ON <i>draki</i> meaning 'dragon' depicted on battle standards . . . a standard bearer in battle or nickname from ME <i>drake</i> for male duck - someone who behaves like, or dresses like, a drake
Dugard	abbreviated oath name from NF <i>Dieutegarde</i> <i>Dieu te garde</i> God guard you
Ferris	man of vigour or force from anglicised Gaelic <i>fearghusa</i>
Finch	sometimes with two lower case ffinch double ff is miscopying by scribes of the medieval capital F nickname chirpy or someone who sings like a finch OE <i>finc</i>
Fludder	dweller by small stream or occasional spring OE <i>flode</i> a channel or intermittent water source
Forbes	from Forbes, Aberdeenshire Gaelic <i>forba</i> a field or district
Gallant	dashing, spirited and bold NF <i>galant</i>
Gardner	a gardener NF <i>gardinier</i>

Geater	either dweller by the street ON <i>gata</i> street or dweller by or worker at a gate (gatekeeper) OE <i>gaet</i> + <i>er</i> or a keeper of goats (a goatherd) OE <i>gat</i> (goat) + <i>er</i> or someone stubborn & strong willed. . . like a goat
Gurney	from Gournai-en-Brai, Normandy (now Gournay-en-Bray)
Harrington	from Harrington in Cumbria, Lincs or Northants
Harris	Harry is a Middle English pet form of Henry Henry however derives from NF <i>Henri</i> meaning “home rule” Harris is either widow of, or son of Harry
Hawkins	Original surname was - either Hawk 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 Hawkin) means son of Hawk . . . final letter 's' being the widow of Hawkin, maybe the son of or Haw being pet form of Harry <i>Haw kin</i> means son of Haw final letter 's' being the widow of Hawkin, maybe the son of
Hoare	either grey haired OE <i>hār</i> grey/white or from Ore, Sussex OE <i>orā</i> river bank or dweller by a river bank
Holdgate	from Holgate WRY or dweller by the hollow road OE <i>hol</i> ON <i>gata</i> road . . the letter d is a dialectal intrusion
Houghton	from one of the many places with Houghton in the name OE farmstead settlement <i>tūn</i> on a slanting hill slope <i>hōh</i>
Hunt	a hunter OE - <i>hunta</i>
Lee	dweller by the clearing OE <i>lēah</i> clearing or from one of the many places called Leigh or similar
Lemmon	lover or sweetheart abbreviated form of Loveman OE <i>lēof mann</i> love man ME <i>leofman</i> , <i>leman</i> or <i>lemman</i>
Lucas	Ancient Greek name <i>Loucas</i> . . .from Lucania, Italy Lucas is a name associated with the various Christian Crusades and was brought back as a Crusader name to England in C12 th
Martin	adopted by the Normans – <i>martinus</i> from Mars the god of war

Matthews	Biblical name Matthew, from Hebrew <i>Mattathiah</i> meaning "gift of Jehovah" - introduced into England by the Normans final letter 's' usually refers to the widow of, but can be the son
Meadows	final letter 's' usually refers to the widow of, but can be the son dweller by the meadow OE <i>mæd</i> <i>mædwe</i> cultivated clearing
Morris	NF adopted from Latin <i>maurus</i> swarthy like a Moor
Myers	the final letter 's' denotes the widow of Myer, maybe son of either NF <i>mire</i> physician or dweller by the marsh ON <i>myrr</i> marsh
Newell	from Neville, Saint-Inferieure, Normandy
Oakey	dweller by the oak copse OE <i>āc</i> oak <i>hæh</i> copse, spinney
Osbourne	OE <i>Osbern</i> adapted from ON god bear - strong leader
Pearce	<i>Piers</i> NF variation of Greek name <i>Petros</i> (Peter) steadfast like a rock
Punter	dweller by, or keeper of the bridge ME <i>punt</i> + <i>er</i> NF <i>pont</i> ME <i>punt</i> a bridge
Ruffell	<i>Ruff</i> + <i>ell</i> (NF) means son of Ruff - derivation of Ruff is - either NV <i>hrolfr</i> wolf - warrior nickname (most likely) or OE <i>rūh</i> rough - name for dweller near rough ground or OE <i>rūh</i> rough - nickname for someone rough & ready
Spalding	from Spalding Lincolnshire OE <i>spald inga</i> the settlers <i>inga</i> in a district called <i>Spald</i> (ditches and trenches)
Spettigue	most probably surname derives from Pettigue with an inorganic initial letter S (same as in Spatchett, Spash and Sturge deriving from Patchett, Pash and Turge respectively) Pettigue, dialect variation of Pettigrew NF <i>petit cru</i> small growth, nickname for a short man or perhaps the opposite . . . just as Littlejohn was the tallest and biggest of Robin's Merry Men
Stoye	derivation not found - believed to be of Danish origin
Stevens	final s means widow of either Streven . . . can mean, son of - Streven - variant spelling of <i>Scriuen</i> or <i>Scrivin</i> NF (<i>E</i>) <i>scrivier</i> clerk or scribe, a highly paid respected member of the community

Stringer	maker of string, cord or bow strings OE <i>streng</i> (string)
Stuart	OE <i>stiweard</i> administers the household, the estate etc but in Scotland a term for a magistrate as well Stuart is the French spelling adopted by Mary, Queen of Scots
Stuttle	rare name with long periods of dialectal changes & development including Stichel, Stittle and Stuttle from Stivichall, Coventry but pronounced Stitchal in Warwicks. OE <i>styfic</i> tree stumps <i>halh</i> secluded piece of land
Swingwood	possibly from a lost village called Swinwood in NW England OE <i>swin</i> swine, pigs <i>wudu</i> wood - a wood where pigs are kept
Szmodics	derivation not found, but does have Slavic origins
Tarbin	many spelling variations incl. Tarbin, Tarborn, Tarborne etc etc from a lost village in Tarn Burn, Northumberland ON <i>tjorn</i> small mountain lake OE <i>burna</i> clear running stream
Thacker	either from OE <i>þacian</i> or ON <i>þak</i> - to thatch – a thatcher <i>þ</i> is a character pronounced “th” in both OE and ON
Timms	either a spelling corruption of Timms or an abbreviated version of Timmons final s is widow of either Timm or Timmon. . . can mean, son of - Timm derives from OE name <i>Tima</i> (meaning someone famous) Timmon derives from OE <i>Timan</i> (belonging to <i>Tima</i> - son of <i>Tima</i>) note - Timm first recorded as a surname in 1285AD - therefore not a diminutive of Timothy - the name Timothy only appears in England after the Reformation in the C16th
Trovell	from Trowell, Notts . . surname has many spelling variations incl Trowell, Trowill, Trouell, Trovell etc etc OE <i>trēow wella</i> stream <i>wella</i> with a tree trunk <i>trēow</i> as a footbridge
Udell	many variations of spelling Eudall, Ewdale, Udale, Udell, etc etc from Yewdale, Lancashire OE <i>eowu</i> yew OE <i>dæl</i> dale a valley where yew trees grow
Vowles	the last letter 's' usually means widow of, may be son of - Vowel is West Country dialect of OE <i>fugol</i> (fowl) a nickname for someone looking after fowl or a fowler

Whalebone	dweller by a stream on an isolated round hill ON <i>hváll</i> isolated round hill OE <i>burna</i> a clear stream
Whybro	either from Wigborough, Essex OE <i>Wicgh beorg</i> - <i>beorg</i> a hill belonging to a man called <i>Wicgh</i> or and the most likely derivation - a female warrior's name <i>Wigburh</i> pronounced wybra - OE <i>wig</i> war <i>burh</i> fortress
Wiggins	last letter 's' usually means widow of Wiggin, may be son of - derivations of Wiggin as a surname are - either from Wigan, Lancs OE <i>wīgan</i> - a homestead settlement or most likely, Norman Conquest, Breton mercenary name <i>Uuicon, Guegon</i> - worthy, high, noble or anglicised NF warrior name <i>wigan</i> to fight
Wild	either the wild one OE <i>wilde</i> or dweller by the wild uncultivated wasteland from OE <i>wilde</i>
Will	Will is abbreviation of William from NV <i>wolf helm</i> wolf helmet <i>wilhelm william</i> warrior nickname who led troops into battle - would have a wolf embossed or engraved onto his helmet
Windsor	from Windsor, Berks, maybe Little Windsor or Broawindsor Dorset bank or slope with a windlass OE <i>windels ora</i>
Wolsey	an Anglo-Saxon complimentary wolf warrior nickname either wolf victory OE <i>wulfsize</i> (g pron as a y)(f becomes silent) a successful accomplished warrior or wolf's eye OE <i>wulfes ega</i> (g pron as a y)(f becomes silent) a warrior who's a lookout, guard, spotter or sentry
Wonders	last letter 's' usually means widow of Wonder, may be son of - most likely a spelling variation of Wander - either a mole catcher OE <i>wand</i> (a mole) + <i>er</i> or maker or seller of cloth OG <i>wander</i> or anglicised OG <i>wand</i> (a wall) + <i>er</i> - builder of walls or officer of royal household or court of justice who bore a wand (a rod of ebony or silver as a sign of office and would be carried erect) ON <i>vondr</i> ME <i>wand</i> + <i>er</i>
Woodall	dweller in a secluded spot by a wood OE <i>wudu</i> wood <i>halh</i> secluded spot, a nook

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