

# BLANTON FAMILY

By

LOUISE M. DONALD

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF  
OLD TRYON COUNTY

P

BLANTON FAMILY

by

Louise McDonald

*1/20 1/15/1975  
100 decreased*

Indexed

by

Beatrice Blanton Ramey

P.O. Box 244

Lattimore, NC

28089

March 3, 1975

## F O R W A R D

The purpose of this work is to preserve family history, and to perpetuate pride in the accomplishment of our pioneer ancestors.

Several hundred persons have worked diligently on this project, the lineage of each branch of the Blanton Family is shown under the earliest known ancestor of that Group.

This work is not intended to be a final story of the Blanton Family, but, rather, a first chapter of the story, which we hope will never be ended.

The writer will appreciate any additional information related to this family. Future plans are to publish the material in book form.

A copy of this material can be found in the library of the Genealogical Society Of Old Tyron County, P.O. Box 938, Forest City, N.C. 28043.

Beatrice Blanton Ramey  
(Mrs. S. Arnold) P.O. Box 244  
Lattimore, North Carolina  
28069

CONTENTS

Blanton Family History . . . . .	1
Upton-Upon-Severn (England) . . . . .	4
Blanton Arms . . . . .	8
Heralds and Heraldry . . . . .	9
Knights and Gentlemen . . . . .	10
North Carolina Colonial and State Records . . . . .	12
Virginia Records . . . . .	23
What The Censuses Are And How They Are Taken . . . . .	28
George Blanton Family . . . . .	30
Burwell Blanton Family . . . . .	35
William A. Blanton Family . . . . .	55
John Blanton Family . . . . .	77
Richard Blanton Family . . . . .	94
Reuben Blanton Family . . . . .	95
Lewis Blanton Family . . . . .	97
Daniel Blanton Family . . . . .	107
Reuben Blanton, Jr., Family . . . . .	116
Herod Blanton Family . . . . .	120
Nancy Blanton . . . . .	127
Frances Blanton . . . . .	127
William Blanton Family . . . . .	133
Clayborn Blanton Family . . . . .	138
Cbadiah Blanton Family . . . . .	159
Jeremiah Blanton Family . . . . .	169
William Blanton, II, Family . . . . .	194
Facts Fertaining To The Life of Rev. Benjamin Blanton . .	203

## FOREWORD

The facts given in these Blanton Family Records have come from numerous sources, such as the census schedules; deeds; wills; land grants and land warrants; military records; marriage bonds; birth and death certificates; baptismal certificates; family Bible registers; cemetery inscriptions; biographical sketches; newspaper clippings; old letters; the personal knowledge of Blanton Family members; and information from allied and kindred families.

The material in this collection is arranged in chronological sequence and in geographical order. Each section begins with the earliest known Blanton ancestor of that group, covers migration when known, and traces the lineage to around the year 1880. The genealogy of a line is brought down to date when the person supplying the information on his lineage included those facts.

Only when each individual is identified by name, date and place of birth, parentage, residence, marriage, death and burial statistics, can his identity be positively established.

In the Blanton family, the given names of Thomas; John; William; Richard; James; Charles; Benjamin; George; Burwell; Claibourne; Isaac; Joseph; Joshua; Ezekiel; Vincent appear frequently. The given names of "Francis Asbury" indicate there was great admiration and respect among our Blanton forebears for FRANCIS ASBURY (1745-1816) the first Methodist Episcopal Bishop in America.

There are contradictions in published records concerning the Blanton Family. It is extremely difficult to correct errors made in the past by well-meaning ancestor hunters. However, at this time, to attempt to document the entire family prior to 1750, would be futile because many early Virginia records are missing. It is regrettable that an endeavor to assemble and publish all available facts known about the family, was not undertaken years ago, for then many valuable records could have been preserved which have now become lost.

Notwithstanding the time, money, and labor devoted to research, imperfections will, no doubt, appear. Accuracy, rather than literary excellency has been the aim of those who have worked on this project.

Recognition and appreciation is expressed to all who have participated in the tremendous task of assembling these records. In years to come, perhaps facts will be discovered which will enable relationship to be determined for all members of the Blanton Family.

BLANTON FAMILY HISTORY

The surname Blanton is traced back to the Fifteenth Century and is a contraction of the ancient Scotch border family name, Ballantine, the evolution being through Blantine to Blantin, Blanten, Blanton.

In an old manuscript dated 1459, reference is found to the family, and in an older manuscript, John Blanton, evidently of the same family, is named. The family was in Lancashire, England in the Sixteenth Century.

See: Cyclopaedia Virginia Biography - Lyon G. Tyler

A legal search of the records in England resulted in the following statement:

"In consideration of this matter a thorough and exhaustive search has been made of all the available printed and manuscript records of the County of Lancashire together with a portion of the Counties of Cheshire, but without any discovery of the existence of the family, other than the record of the arms about the middle of the Sixteenth Century. Robert Grover, Somerset Herald, from 1571 to 1588 includes in his ordinary of arms, two coats for Blanton of Lancashire, and the simplicity of the first coat points to great antiquity and it may be assumed that the second coat is of later date and adopted by a descendant of the family bearing the first coat. Description of Arms: Blanton of Lancashire, silver or white on a bend (black) sable; three gold lions rampant out of the field.

"The bearing of such coat of such a period clearly denotes that the family then occupied a position of some consequence, as the heralds of the day exercised great vigilance in preventing unauthorized bearing of arms and possessed considerable powers which they did not hesitate to employ as occasion required." History of Caroline Co. Va. - Marshall Wingfield - 1925.

In 1574 when John Blanton was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I of England, he was noted as being from Lancashire. Inf. by Gordon Gill, London, England.

In the vault of Parish Church, Upton-On-Severns, Worcestershire, England, are the old Parish Registers, which have been searched by the Rev. Howard S. Bailey, Rector. Baptismal entry in the 17th Century shows:

"May 1608. John the son of Ralf Blanton was baptised."

"Feb 1614. Alice the daughter of Ralf Blanton was baptised."

Family tradition has taught us that three Blanton brothers came from England to America about time the Civil War broke out in England in 1642. One brother went to Massachusetts; the other two stopped on Summer Isles (now Bermuda), then came to Virginia. The family was formerly the old Scotch Border Ballantine/Blantine/Blanten Blanton. They migrated from Lancashire to Worcestershire, England.

William Blantine/Blanton of the Parish of Upton had passage on the FELLOWSHIP which sailed from London, England to Boston, Massachusetts. He was admitted a Freeman of Massachusetts on May 10, 1643. His will, dated February 25, 1662 refers to his wife Phebe Blanton, "whom while she live, shall enjoy all my estate, and my share in ye Iron Workes at Taunton." Eldest son, William Blantine; daughter Pheebe Blantine; and daughter Mary (born 1645) share in Estate "after may wife decease." Reference is made

To the York & ...

to "My eldest brother Ralph Blantine, and his children; also the children of John Blantine, my second brother. These two were borne in ye Parish of Upton-Upon-Severns in Wostershire." The will further states "neither had I my Land by or from any predecessor's inheritance, but from the blessing of God on my endeavor."

William Blantine  
10th July 1662

Phebe Blanton, Relict of William Blanton affirmed Inventory 7-30-1662.

William, son of the above William Blantine/Blanton made his home at Rehoboth, Mass., and by his wife Bethia had two sons Obadiah and Samuel. William and his descendants adapted the spelling of "Blanding" and are found in the 18th Century in Royalston and Richmond, N.M., as well as in New York State . . . . Portraits in Brown University, Providence Athenaeum: An original oil painting. "William Blanding, born 1773; died 1857; Grad. 1801; distinguished for his zeal in the study of natural history . . . ."

NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL REGISTER  
Abstracts of Early Wills on Record in the County of Suffolk, Mass.

William Blantine Will 25 2nd Mo. 1662

I giue to my Eldest sonne, William Blantine, the now house in the Close by the pond, the breadth of ye Land & house in the front towards the Lane, Containeing 65 foote, beginning at the corner of the house next unto the pond, & to goe along in front, next the Lane towards the South East, and the depth of the Land, with the house before mentioned, to be three score foote along by the pond synde from the front & so to be layd out in a square. Also I giue to My Sonne, William the Lott of Land that Lyeth betwixt the Lott of George Griges & ye Land yt was Thomas Bells as it lyeth now fenced in.

To my dau. Phebe Blantine, I giue the house next Joseph Wheeler, with halfe the Orchard from ye front down to the Pond, and halfe a little Garden lying betwixt John Hord & Gamaliell Wait, that half next John Hord, & she shall Haue a high way of sixe foote into her Garden by the pond side. Also, I giue to my dau. Phebe, the pastor Ground inclosed, next to Josias Belcher, being full seven rod wide, next the streete, & goeing in length to the beach by the Sea on the South East, & on the East corner without the Fence there is about 11 or 12 foote, & so to runn on a strait line betwixt the Towne Land vp to the Streete, with all the fence about the Towne Land is my owne, with the fence next old Whites Lott.

To my dau. Mary, I giue the whole dwelling house I now live in with the Shopp next the Streete and the other halfe of the little Garden next to Gamaliel Wait & ye Pastor Ground next ye pond, all of it, when my sonne Williams is laid out, I giue to my dau. Mary as it lieth inclosed. This my Estate thus bestowed, neither my wife now my Children shall have powr to mortgage or to make Sale of, neither shall they Let it without the Consent of one another, nor shall any one of them Let this their Inheritance, not for above one yeare. This my Estate thus diuided to my three children after my wife decease, whom while shee liue, my willis, she shall enjoy all my Estate, to be

at her dispose while she liue, & as for my Share in ye Iron Workes at Taunton, I freely giue to my Wife to Let or sell as her need shall require; in case she doe not sell it, after her decease, I giue it to my dau. Pheebe. This my Estate, my Wife shall enjoy without molestation from my Children or from any other whatsoeuer. All my stocke or State in cattle and household goods I giue to my wife to be at her dispose while she liue & at her death.

(Provision is made in case his children die or have any children, or if they die without issue.)

In the latter case, all this Estate of mine shall returne to my Eldest Brother Ralph Blantine his children & be eqully divided; & if Ralph hath no Children, then it shall be transferred upon the Children of John Blantine, my Second Brother, and be equally devided. These two was borne in ye Parish of Upton upon Seauerns in Wostershire. My wife Pheebe Blantine, executrix.

The reason why I bestow no more of my Estate upon my sonne William is, because he will not harken to my Counsell, neither had I my Land by or from any predecessors inheritance, but from the blessing of God on my endeavour.

William W. Blantine.

Witnesses, Nathaneil Bishope

Nathaniell Bishop

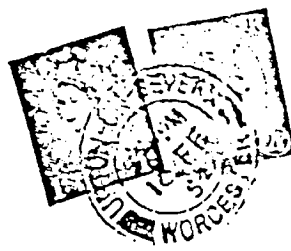
Benjamin Thurstun, who deposed 10th July 1662

Henry Rust

Inventory of the Estate taken 2d July, 1662. Amt 498.6. Witnesses

Phebe Blanton, Relict of William Blanton, Affirmed 30 July 1662.





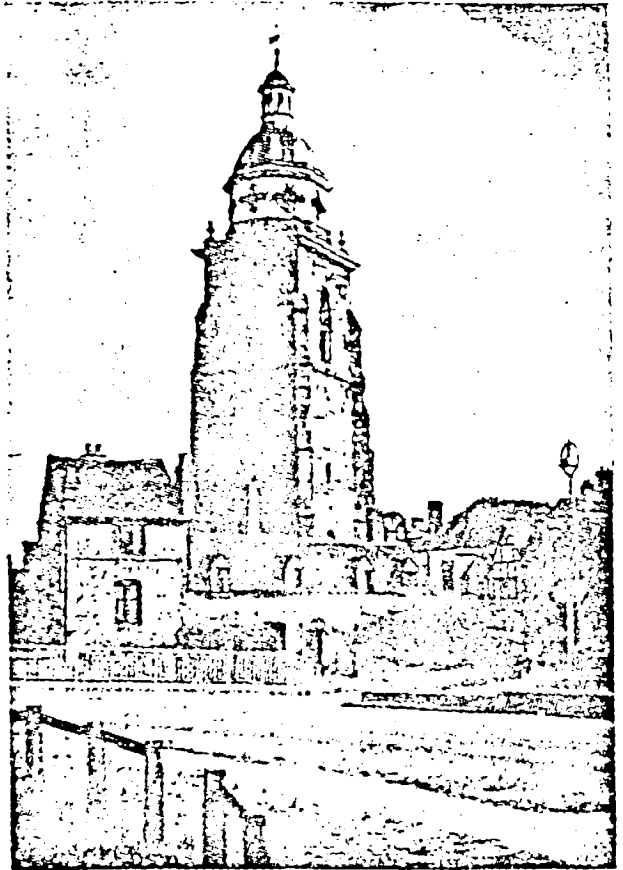
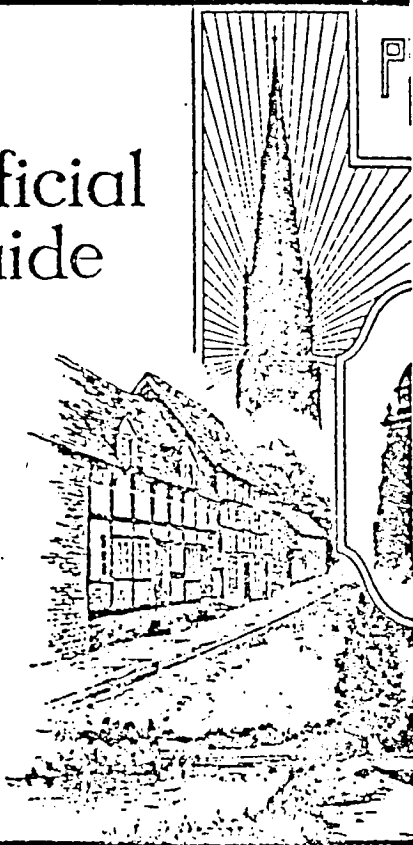
Mrs L. McDonald,

1453, Emory Drive,

Whittier, 1

CALIFORNIA,

# The Official Guide



THE OLD CHURCH,  
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN.

UPTON  
UPON  
SEVERN  
RURAL DISTRICT

20th March 1964.

Dear Mrs McDonald,

Thank you so much for your very kind and very interesting letter containing the generous gift of £20, which I have already put to the Old Church Tower Repair Fund which is now, with your gift added, requiring only another £30 to pay off the debt.

Copy of entries of Baptisms from the seventeenth century Registers in the care of the Parish Church Upton-on-Severn

1608 -

John the son of Ralf Blanton was baptised the 7th of May.

1614 -

Alice the daughter of Ralf Blanton was baptised the 7th Feb.



Howard S. Bailey.

Rector of Upton-on-Severn,  
Worcestershire.

Mrs McDonald

Your Ref. ice EAT/JEC

THE RECTORY,  
UPTON-ON-SEVERN,  
WORCESTER.

1st January 1964  
54

REV. H. S. BAILEY.

Dear Mr Turner,

In reply to your letter of 14th October 1953 enquiring for any records I could find of William Blanton of Massachusetts.

The only possible records in my possession are the old Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers which date back to 1545. Those of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries are very hard to decipher.

However I have searched all through those of the seventeenth century and the only possible entries of the name Blanton are those, a copy of which I enclose.

Entries in those days were not carefully made; some are too faint to read at all; some years, a few, are omitted altogether; and so this is not very satisfactory.

However I send them to you for what they are worth. Spellings also vary.

I will enclose a copy of this letter to you together with a copy of the entries so that if you so wish you can forward them on to the enquirer in America and save you some correspondence.

As for a fee for such a search; there is no regulation fee, but if your correspondent sent a donation for the church of Upton-on-Severn say a couple of dollars, that would be very acceptable.

yours faithfully

Howard S. Bailey

Rector of Upton-on-Severn

Bank of America NT & SA  
 REMITTER'S RECEIPT  
 Issued Subject to Conditions Printed on Back Hereof

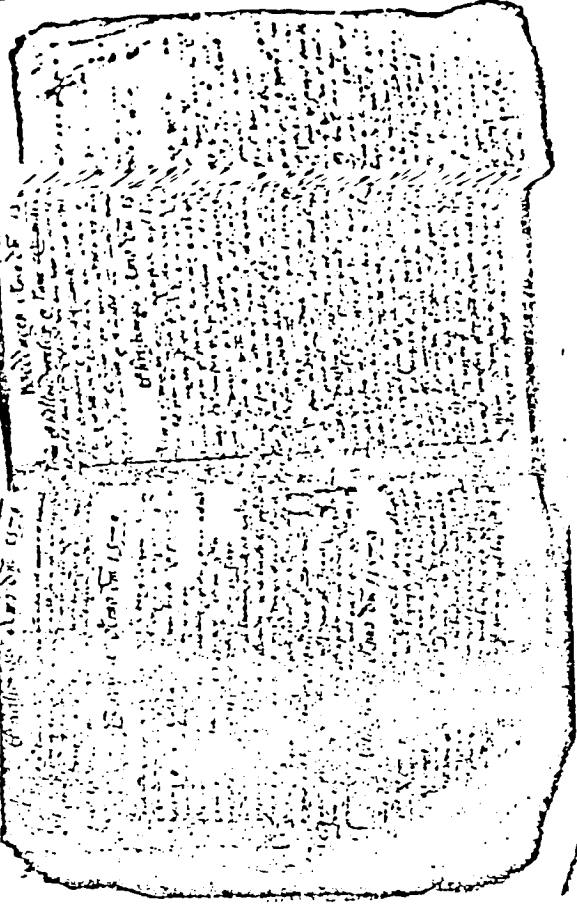
DATE 12-0-54 No. 256062  
 PAYEE Rev. Howard S. Bailey, Parish Church  
 DRAWN ON Midland Bank Limited  
 AT Worcester, England  
 ISSUED IN Pounds Sterling AMOUNT 2-100-00  
 SELLING RATE 2.81 DATE SHEET NO. 56721  
 AMOUNT OF OR EQUIVALENT IN U. S. DOLLARS 5.62

BANK OF AMERICA NT & SA  
 REMITTER'S RECEIPT  
 Issued Subject to Conditions Printed on Back Hereof  
 No. 200936

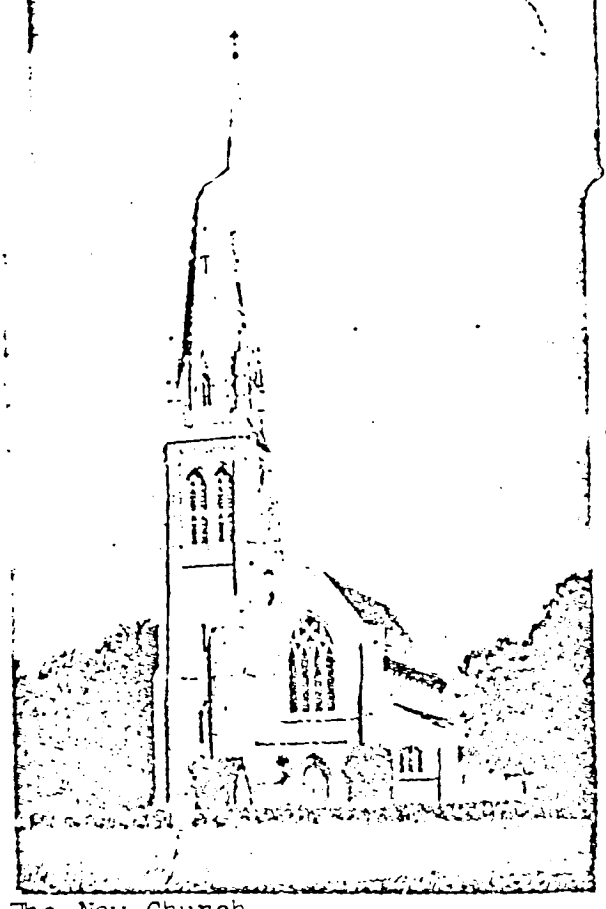
DATE 3-10-54  
 PAYEE REV. HOWARD S. BAILEY-RECTOR  
 DRAWN ON MIDLAND BANK LIMITED  
 AT WORCESTER ENGLAND  
 ISSUED IN POUNDS STERLING AMOUNT 20.00  
 SELLING RATE 2.25 DATE SHEET NO. S-6702  
 AMOUNT OF OR EQUIVALENT IN U. S. DOLLARS 45.66.50  
 COMMISSION 1.50  
 AIR MAIL 1.15  
 CORRESPONDENT BANK CHARGES 1.00  
 TOTAL RECEIVED FROM PURCHASER 57.15  
 SOLD TO LOUISE MC-DONALD WHITTIER  
 ADDRESS 1453 EMORY DR. CARNEYVALE  
WHITTIER

*22<sup>nd</sup> March - 1954*

THE RECTORY,  
 UPTON-ON-SEVERN,  
 WORCESTER.  
 REV. H. S. BAILEY.



Church Register of the USA Content.



The New Church

THE REGISTERS, which can be inspected, date from 1546. From time to time letters are received from the U.S.A. seeking traces of ancestors who were born in Upton and emigrated with some of the first settlers. In 1954 an enquiry came from a lady in California after a William Blanton who took passage in "Fellowship" from London to Boston, Mass. He was admitted a Freeman of Massachusetts in 1643. He and his two brothers were said to have been baptised in Upton Parish Church.

The Reverend H. S. Bailey was able to find two baptismal entries of members of the Blanton family in 1608 and 1614 and these he sent to the enquirer with a guide to Upton and an appeal notice for the repair of the Old Church Tower. His stewardship was rewarded with a cheque for £20.

Upton and its Church suffered severely in the Civil Wars and in August, 1651 became a focal point in the Roundhead strategy which culminated in the Battle of Worcester.

REV. H. S. BAILEY.

16<sup>th</sup> February 1954.

Dear Mrs McDonald,

First let me thank you for your very kind letter together with the most generous gift of \$10.00 which means £3.10.0 towards Upton-in-Savem Church repairs which is very much appreciated by all concerned.

I read the whole of your letter to a meeting of our church members & they were all very interested. There is, alas, no provision made, today, for the maintenance & reproduction of our ancient church registers. They are merely stored away in the church safe & inaccessible to be searched only when required. Perhaps one day your suggestion might be acted upon. In any case when I have more time I will make a further search for the Stanton family in the latter half

of the 16<sup>th</sup> century & will certainly send you a copy of my "finds" I make.

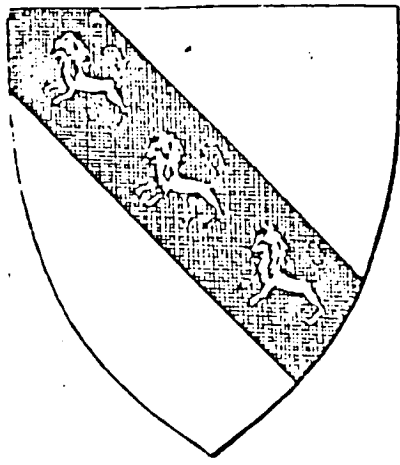
I enclose an "Official Guide" to Upton-in-Savem, which will give you much of the information you require & explain how only the 14<sup>th</sup> century tower is all that remains of the old church. We, in England, are very interested in any American residents who visit Upton & shall be so glad if ever you visit Upton & call at the Rectory -

We had hundreds of American soldiers & personnel of an American field hospital billeted on us here - during the war -

With kind regards & many thanks.

Yours very sincerely,

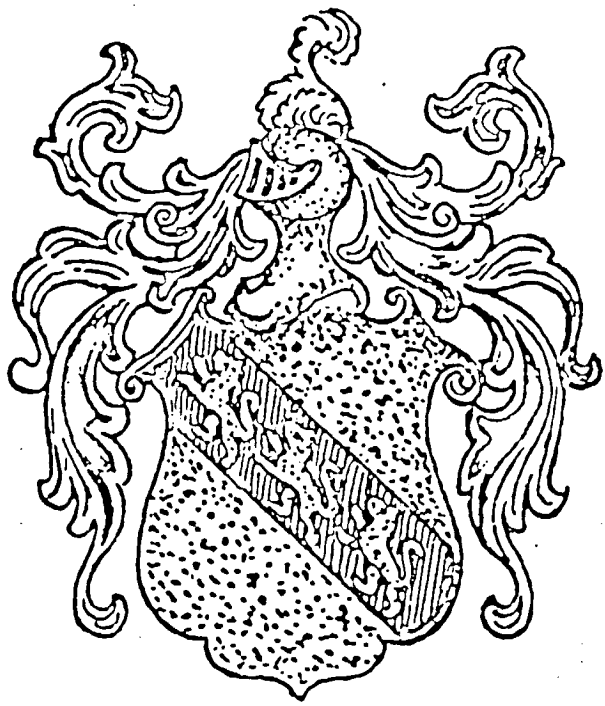
Howard S. Bailey,  
Rector.



Blanton Arms

THE BLANTONS OF CAROLINE

*BLANTON*



*Arms: Argent, on a bend sable, three lions rampant.*

HERALDS and HERALDRY

from

Shakespeare - Major Plays

edited by G. B. Harrison

Textbook recommended by Dr. Frank C. Baxter, Professor of English, at University of Southern California. (See Dec. 7, 1953, LIFE MAGAZINE for details concerning Dr. Baxter, listed among "Nation's Top Ten" of more than 11 million educators.) Following quotation is from page 1073 of the above textbook.

"Heralds, wearing their sleeveless coats embroidered with the royal arms, still have their place in state pageantry in England, but nowadays they are little more than a picturesque survival from the Middle Ages. Their greatest age was in the fourteenth century . . .

"The heralds were concerned with matters that affected the dignities and honor of kings, noblemen, and gentlemen . . .

"The most important function, however, of the College of Heralds was to preserve the records of noble families and to grant coats of arms to persons worthy to be considered gentlemen . . .

"The granting of a coat of arms was the official recognition that the recipient was a 'gentleman' . . .

"Heraldry was originally a means of distinguishing one warrior enclosed in armor from another. Each assumed a recognizable badge, which he painted on his shield. By the thirteenth century a regular system of recording and painting these badges had developed, and coats of arms were passed down from father to son. Coats of arms were not only useful in war; they are also a pleasing and picturesque form of decoration. In time, heraldry developed into an elaborate science with a considerable vocabulary to describe the colors, ornaments, and arrangement of innumerable devices in such a way that anyone could recognize or reproduce the design from the description.

"Seven colors were used in painting, or blazoning, a shield, usually designated by French names, viz., "or" (yellow or gold), "argent" (white or silver), "gules" (red), "azure" (blue), "sable" (black), "vert" (green), "purpue" (purple). The shield was divided in many different ways, each of which had its technical name. Many shields contained only a geometrical pattern, but more commonly devices or charges were used, which were often appropriate to the name or the deeds of the first wearer. Coats of arms descended from father to children, but members of the same family often made a distinction in their coats by adding a border or changing the color of the background or making a slight variation in the device; this was known as a difference. Daughters bore the coats of arms of their fathers; and when a gentleman married the daughter of a distinguished house, especially if she was also an heiress, the coats of arms of the two families were combined, either by impaling (that is, by dividing the shield vertically and blazoning the two coats of arms side by side) or halving (where each coat was cut in two horizontally) or by quartering (when the shield was divided into four and two coats repeated at the opposite corners.)

" . . . Coats of arms were not confined to noblemen or gentlemen: cities, corporations, bishops, universities, colleges, dioceses, guilds, were all entitled to appropriate arms.

"In addition to the shield, the heralds granted a crest. This was originally a device worn on top of the helmet by a knight in full armor and was therefore something simple.

"The bend is a band running diagonally from the top right corner.

#### KNIGHTS and GENTLEMEN

"Next to the nobility in the chain of order came the knights and gentlemen. A man was made knight either by the Sovereign in person or by a deputy in the field. He then bore the title "Sir" before his name. The honor, which was personal and not hereditary, was given for many different reasons--for political services, for gallant service in the wars, or as a mark of esteem to rich men who had shown public spirit.

"Queen Elizabeth I was particular in bestowing the honor, and it was one of her major causes of annoyance with the Earl of Essex that when in command of her armies he had made knighthood cheap by giving it away too easily.

"Next to knights were the gentlemen. Legally a gentleman was a person of good birth and independent means who was not employed in any trade or profession. A man became officially a "gentleman" when a coat of arms was granted to him by the College of Heralds."

- - - - -

Note: The foregoing quotation on Knights and Gentlemen, also attached quotation on Heralds and Heraldry, is offered as an explanation to persons who have confused "English Gentlemen" with "Knighthood."

There is no connection between the two. Although, A Gentleman, if also Knighted is thereafter titled, "Sir (his name), Esq.", or "Gent."

Note particularly that the honor of Knighthood is personal, whereas a "Gentleman's" descendants all enjoy the ancestor's distinction.

Ownership of much land was a prerequisite to becoming a Gentleman, hence any English Family to which Coat of Arms was granted was necessarily of the Landed Gentry.