

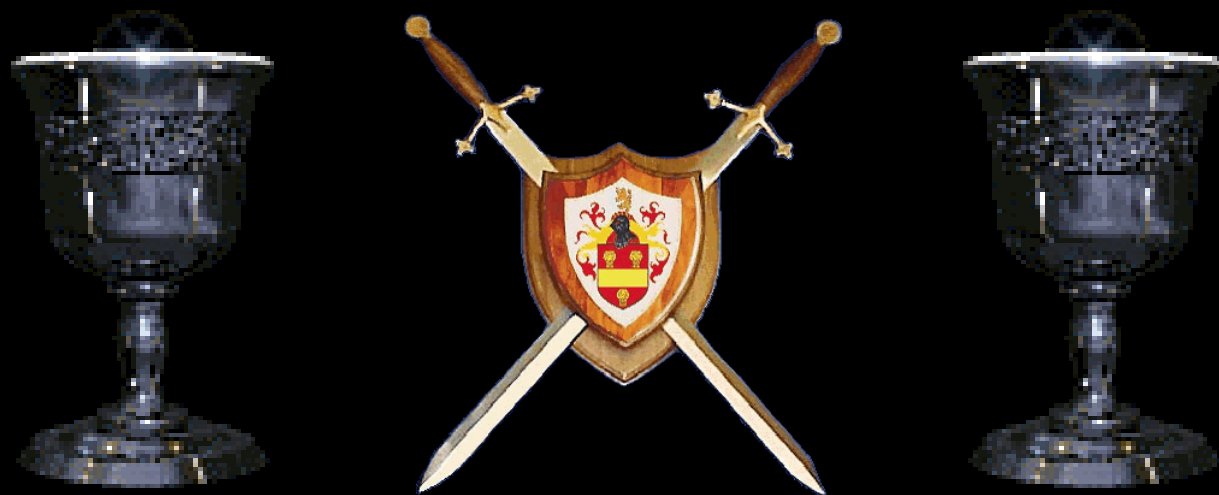
Discover interesting facts about your family:

First Name:

Last Name:

Blankenship Origins





Blenkinsop — Blenkinship — Blankinship — Blankenship

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ACCESS TO BLANKENSHIP ORIGINS WEB SITE



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There are 70 web pages at this web site

"GETTING STARTED WITH GENEALOGY"

An excellent primer on this subject

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A description of the Coat of arms above is given in Gayle King Blankenship's book, on page B-45. It describes a motto attributed to the COA of [Thomas Blenkinsop, esquire of Helbeck](#). Brough is a village adjoining Helbeck and in 1777 it contained about 210 families. All of these families belonged to the church of England in 1777. The church at Brough is dedicated to St. Michael and there is a vicarage. The church is a fairly large handsome ancient building. The steeple is not so old; having been built about the year 1513, under the direction of Thomas Blenkinsop of Helbeck esquire. Some historical documents state that Thomas Blenkinsop was Catholic. However, other accountings would suggest that the church he built in 1513 later became associated with the Church of England.

[NOTE: Gayle King Blankenship's book "*Blankenship Ancestors*" can be purchased directly from her at 24 Roberts Landing, Poquoson, VA 23662. The price in 1998 was \$49. This is not an advertisement for her book. Rather, it is simply a courtesy message to those who are seeking to add to their collection of genealogy books on the Blankenship families in America. Her book is well researched and well acclaimed by those who have it in their genealogy libraries.

The coat of arms for Thomas Blenkinsop is described as follows: gules, six annulets or, 3 2 1, engrailed argent. The crest is further described as: arms embowed holding aloft a sword. The motto is "Deo, rege et patria" which means "For God, king and country."

As early as the year 1240, Ruanulph de Blankenshope resided at Blenkinsopp castle at Greenhead in Northumberland. Around the same time or before the year 1327 the brothers, Richard and Robert de Blenkinsop were living 40 miles south at Helbeck, in the Parish of Brough, County Westmorland. Of the last mentioned brothers, Richard Blenkinsop married the daughter and heiress of Thomas de Helbeck and was the father of another Thomas Blenkinsop, who represented the county of Westmorland in Parliament about the year 1388. Near this same time in history there was another Thomas Blenkinsop (a cousin) residing at Blenkinsop Castle in Greenhead in Northumberland, 40 miles north of Helbeck. The family line of Blenkinsops at Helbeck in Westmoreland County were said to be Catholics. One account tells us that during the late medieval period they were prosecuted for their religious beliefs. The other line of Blenkinsops from Northumberland and Durham were all Protestants who belonged to the church of England. While there are numerous burial records of Blenkinsops and Blenkinships buried in Protestant cemeteries in Durham and Northumberland England, there are literally no records of Blenkinsops buried in Catholic cemeteries. The Catholic faith was outlawed for a substantial period of time in English history. The Blankinships and Blenkinships observed in English church records were all buried in Protestant cemeteries. At this web site you'll see a listing of these Blankinsops and Blenkinships (and several surname variants) dating from about 1550 to 2000 AD.

There are several more Blenkinsop coats of arms which you'll read about once you enter the web site. However, none of them are authenticated or legitimized in the British College of Arms. This is a formality by which the arms are registered along with the genealogy of the person who once received the coat of arms. Although it is almost certain that the Blenkinsops cited in these old English documents used and displayed the coat of arms or amory during their lifetimes, the act of legitimizing them by their registry at the College of Arms was never actually initiated or was never finalized in accordance with the strict rules which apply. However, various English historians have acknowledged the existence of several different Blenkinsop coats of arms over the last 500 years. You'll read more on this subject at the web site and see reproductions of these coats of arms and where they were once displayed or are documented in historical archives.

And lastly, keep in mind that any web site or book you find displaying a BLANKENSHIP coat of arms is bogus. The fact that it is displayed as representing a Blankenship coat of arms should make you suspect that other material at the web site or material contained in a book may be devised or fabricated in part. Coats of arms were only issued to a single individual and not families. Only the male heirs of the original person who received the coat of arms is authorized by the king of arms to display it. Only if you can accurately and unquestionably document your direct lineage to the original ancestor who was official awarded the coat of arms are you then authorized to display it as your own. In Scotland it is a violation of

national law to display a coat of arms to which you are not authorized. NO DIRECT LINKAGE HAS EVER BEEN MADE TO PROVE THAT THE AMERICAN BLANKENSHIPS ARE DESCENDED FROM THE BLENKINSOPS AND BLENKINSHIPS OF ENGLAND. However, as you read the 70+ pages of research at this web site you will come to the same obvious conclusion of Scottish and English professional genealogists who tell us with a high degree of certainty that Blankinships and Blankenships are, in fact, very much related in kinship. It is only a few fragmentary documentary pieces of evidence which are still needed to neatly stitch the Blankenship—Blenkinsop lineage together.

This dilemma of proof is associated with the very brief 50-year time span in England when a very few Blenkinsops and/or Blenkinships chose to vary the surname spelling to Blankenship and Blankinship. These few Blankenships and Blankinships once resided in Hexam in Northumberland; Gainford in County Durham and the ancient parish at Bishopwearmouth, also in Durham. This time span when we briefly observe the surname Blankenship and Blankinship in northern England occurred about 1700 AD +/- 25 years. It includes the time when we first begin to see migrations of Blankinships from England to colonial America. They migrated from England to the villages of Fairhaven and Marion in Plymouth County (near Cape Cod), Massachusetts c. 1720; Ann Arundel County, Maryland in 1714; and Henrico County, Virginia in 1686. Later there were migrations of these Blankinships to North Carolina prior to the Revolutionary War. Today there are about 55,000 Blankenships in America and approximately 3,500 Blankinships. This web site is a history lesson and a genealogical narrative of their colonial American lives and their earlier medieval era English ancestors and more..... much more.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BLENKINSOPS

[James Blenkinsop](#) in 1888 witnessed the presence of Jack the Ripper shortly after 1:30 AM in London, England. He claimed the killer was well dressed and said to him in passing "Have you seen a man and a woman go through here?" Jack the Ripper was a serial killer who murdered a number of prostitutes in the East End of London during that year.

In 1812 [John Blenkinsop](#) invented the first commercially successful steam locomotive, using the Blenkinsop rack and pinion drive. It commenced operation on the Middleton Railway. This was the world's first regular revenue-earning use of steam traction, as distinct from experimental operation. The Middleton railroad was established by an Act of Parliament in 1758. This [railway system at Leeds](#), can claim to be the oldest Railway in the world. It also played host to the first commercially successful, revenue earning, steam locomotives which entered service there in 1812. In 1835 worn-out locomotives and a sharp reduction in fodder prices caused a reversion to horse-traction until 1862, when steam engine locomotion resumed by new owners using conventional friction drive wheels. In 1881 the railway line was converted to standard gauge.

George Bernard Shaw included mention of a fictitious [Dr. Blenkinsop](#) in one or more of his plays.

"EXCERPT FROM GAYLE KING BLANKENSHIP'S BOOK"
on the early Blankenship history in colonial Virginia. http://www.geocities.com/simeon1865/Blankenship_Story.html

ENJOY YOUR VISIT

Collecting accurate genealogy information.....

The only accurate way of tracing your ancestry is by searching for legal evidence using records recognized by the law of the land. The main sources are—

Legal evidence

- Registrations of birth, marriages, death
- Church parish register entries of baptism, marriage, burial
- Census Returns
- Wills and letters of Administration (Probate records)
- Manorial records
- Enclosure Awards in the UK
- Tithe Awards in the UK

There are other sources of evidence—

Documents

- Certificates of birth, baptism, marriage, death.
- Parish registers of baptisms, marriages, burials
- Non-conformist registers
- Census returns; 1790 onward in the USA, 1841 to 1891 in the UK
- Wills and administrations (with inventories of earlier wills)
- Marriage bonds and allegations
- Other official records such as those deposited in the County Record Offices or the Public Record Office, etc.

Family papers, usually informal, which may include—

- The Family Bible (Use caution because Bible records usually are entered by old people who already are forgetful)
- Personal letters

Birthday books
Ration books
Family photographs and albums
Post-card albums
Certificates of all kinds - school, college, trade or professional, awards etc.
Cards - christening (baptism)
Wedding invitations or cake cards
Muniments, i.e. documents preserved as evidence of rights and privileges

Printed material—

Standard County histories and Parish histories giving documentary references
Poll books
Trade and local directories
Newspapers (for obituary notices especially)
Professional directories
Lists of Military personnel
Award noted in old newspapers
University alumni lists (old students)
School histories and magazines
parish magazines etc.

The "Family Legend"

This may be in writing or handed down orally. If the latter, write it down immediately; if you don't, you will tend to interpret or modify what you have been told, in the light of what you learn from your research. It is preferable to write down the contributions of different members of your family under their names (they each have their own slant and special pieces of information), e.g. John Alan Smith (1900-1984); not "Uncle John's account". Some future reader will ask "Whose Uncle John?", "John who?". Never take any account on trust; always check each part of the story if you can. Family traditions, however, may be very valuable and should never be discarded. If you have an elderly relative who is willing, make a list of questions as "leads" and tape record a conversation of their reminiscences.

Remember, "all sources are suspect" - always double check! Families often wanted to forget their past if they found themselves on the wrong side during rebellions, religious wars, and particularly during and after the Civil Wars if they were to keep their lands and inheritances. All family histories on this web site have been checked out by expert genealogists.

A Few Tips for Beginners...

When visiting a funeral home, wear old clothes, no make-up, and look like you have about a week to live ... the funeral director will give you anything you ask if he thinks you may be a customer soon.

Treat the brothers and sisters of your ancestors as equals ... even if some of them were in jail.

Death certificates are rarely filled in by the person who died.

The cemetery where your ancestor was buried does not have perpetual care, has no office, is accessible only by a muddy road, has tall grass, and lots of bugs ... and many of the old gravestones are in broken pieces, stacked in a corner under a pile of dirt.

Remember, few people had anything to do with the information on their own birth certificate.

The application for a death certificate you want insists that you provide the maiden name of the deceased's mother ... which is exactly what you don't know and is the reason you are trying to get the death certificate in the first place.

If you call the local registrar and ask where to write for a birth certificate, tell them it is for yourself ... they won't help you if you say you want one for your great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather who died in 1642

When you contact the local family history society and ask if they are "on-line" and they respond, "on what?," you may have a problem

A census record showing all twelve children in a family proves only that your ancestors did not believe in birth control

Work from the known to the unknown. In other words, just because your name is Washington doesn't mean you are related to George

With any luck, some of the people in your family could read and write ..and may have left something written about themselves

It ain't history until it's written down. If it's not written down, it ain't history yet

A genealogist needs to be a detective. Just give me the facts, ma'am.

Always interview brothers and sisters together in the same room. Since they can't agree on anything about the family tree, it makes for great fun to see who throws the first punch

The genealogy book you just found out about went out of print last week

A good genealogical event is learning that your parents were married

Finding the place a person lived may lead to finding that person's arrest record.

It's really quite simple. First you start with yourself, then your parents, then your grandparents ... then you QUIT ... and start teaching classes in genealogy.

In spite of MTV, computer games, and skate boards, there's always a chance that your grandchildren will learn how to read someday.

To understand the living, you have to commune with the dead, but don't commune with the dead so long that you forget that you are living!



This site has had a total of **30326** visits since Aug. 15, 2001

www.digital.com

Discover interesting facts about your family:

First Name:

Last Name:

BLANKENSHIP ORIGINS

Chat Room



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Once you enter the Chat Room you can type your text in the bottom left corner. Press enter key to display your text to others. Choose a different color for each guest. You can have as many guests in the Chat Room as you like. Keeping the number under five people is best. The only requirement is that each person be logged on with their browser to this same web page

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