

21 more of Suffolk's oldest surnames - and what they mean

The surname Kentell has roots in Long Melford's Kentwell Hall



Danielle Lett goes back in time to discover some interesting facts about surnames in Suffolk

If you and your family are Suffolk natives, chances are your surname can be traced back to hundreds of years ago.

A lot of local surnames were formed in the 11th century – many of them first recorded in the Domesday Book.

“The Domesday Book is the first census in this country, and it’s when we started seeing surnames being registered for the first time in a very big way,” explains Suffolk historian and surname expert Charlie Haylock.

“Gradually, through time, surnames became registered through a variety of ways in pipe rolls, Curia Regis rolls, the Hundred rolls, the Assize courts, land transactions, Royal Charters, and more.”

Here, Charlie reveals the origin of just a few more local surnames, beginning with the letters H, I, J, and K, explaining their meanings and where they come from.

Haggin

“First recorded in 1086 in the Domesday Book in Suffolk as ‘Hagana’ from Old Scandinavian ‘haghi’, meaning ‘hawthorn’, it’s a nickname for a dweller on land where hawthorn is growing,” explains Charlie.

Hagwood

Recorded in 1095 in Bury St Edmunds in the Suffolk Pipe Rolls as ‘Heiuuard’, this surname derives from the Old English ‘hege weard’, and is also the same derivation for the surname ‘Hayward’.

“It means someone who maintained and guarded hedges and fences – either to keep livestock away from the crops, or wild predators away from the livestock,” says Charlie.

“It is common for the letter ‘g’ to be pronounced softly as a ‘y’, such as ‘sign’ and ‘resign’, but changes to a ‘g’ sound when saying ‘signature’ and ‘resignation’, hence Hagwood and Hayward.”

Haken

“This surname appears in 1275 in the Hundred Rolls of Suffolk as ‘Hakun’, and is a Viking-Danish

name for someone from the noble classes.”

Haker

Haker is a Middle English trade name deriving from the Old Norse ‘hake’, which means a hook. “Haker is either someone who works with a hook or hook-shaped tools or weapons; or a maker of hooks or hook-shaped implements for work or weaponry; or someone who uses them as such.”

‘Hake’ is also an old Suffolk dialect word for the hook in a fireplace on which to hang a kettle or a pot.

Haylock

“Officially recorded as a surname in Bury St Edmunds in 1188 in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls as ‘Heiloc’, and it means the son of an East Angles landowner called Hagul, but is pronounced with the soft ‘g’ as ‘Hayl,’” says Charlie.

Hibble

“This is a very rare surname because it means the ‘son of Isabel’, and the ‘sons of’ group of surnames are normally of male derivation. Hibble is a pet form for Isabel.”

Hillen

“Hillen pre-dates the 1086 Domesday Book and was recorded 20 years before and just after the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Tihel de Helion, known as ‘The Breton’, who came from Helléan, West Brittany, ventured over with William the Conqueror as a successful leader of Breton mercenaries. Subsequently he was granted land on the Essex-Suffolk border either side of the River Stour in the Haverhill area. According to surname dictionaries there a few variations of Helion, but Hillen is Suffolk and is a direct descendant of Tihel de Helion.”



Charlie Haylock

Hollen

“This surname appears in the 1327 Suffolk Subsidy Rolls as John in the Holin. It means ‘dweller by the holm-oak or holly oak’, from the Old English ‘holegn holly-oak’.”

Hufflet

“Hufflet literally translates as ‘the son of the son of Hugh’. Hufflet is very Suffolk and is a local variation of Howlett. As there were no standards in spelling until the early 1800s, this surname has had many spelling variations including ‘Houghlet’ which was also later pronounced as ‘Hufflet’ and then spelled as such. The

surname is a double diminutive and is contraction of Huff + el + ett. ‘Huffel’ means ‘son of Huff’ and ‘Hufflet’ means ‘son of Huffel’.”

Hulver

“Recorded in the 1474 Suffolk Pipe Rolls as ‘Isabel Huluyr’, with the second ‘u’ being pronounced as a ‘v’. This a Viking-Danish name and refers to ‘a dweller by a holly tree’. The Old Norse word ‘hulfr’ means ‘holly tree’, and is also the derivation of the two Suffolk hamlets called Hulver and Hulver Street.”

Hurren

“This is a Norman-French surname and first appears in the Suffolk section of the 1086 Domesday Book. It derives from ‘hurant’ meaning ‘shaggy haired’, and is a nickname for someone with shaggy hair.”

Husting

Husting stems from an old Viking name given to an officer of a law-court.

“Recorded as a surname in 1275 as Robert Husting in the Suffolk Hundred Rolls, the Rotuli Hundredorum, which was a detailed census of all the various administration areas in Suffolk called ‘Hundreds’. ‘Husting’ derives from the Old Norse ‘hús þing’. The letter þ is both Old English and Old Norse for a ‘th’ sound as ‘hús thing’, the contraction of which becomes ‘Husting’.”

Hyner

“This is believed to have derived from someone who had lived in the medieval Suffolk lost village of Henyard, which in itself derives from the Old English words ‘henn’ (poultry), and ‘geard’ (yard). It is another soft ‘g’ pronounced as ‘y’.”

Ingate

“In 1327 in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls, Matilda de Endegate is recorded, and a later recording in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls in 1568 is Robert Ingate. The name means someone who comes from Ingate, Beccles – but the derivation is not



The surname Hollen stems from 'dweller by the holm-oak or holly oak'
Pictures: ARCHANT/GETTY

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as obvious as it looks, and is a mixture of Old English and Old Norse.

"The Old English 'ende' refers to a particular district of a parish or a hamlet, and the Old Norse 'gata' means 'street' but was later written down as 'Ingate'. In fact, all the 'gates' in Beccles refer to 'road' or 'street', as in Blythbergate which is a corruption of Blythburgh Gata and means Blythburgh Street."

Jaye

"There are many variations in spelling of this surname, but it would appear that Jaye is peculiarly Suffolk. In the 1881 surname distribution map, Jaye is only found in Suffolk. This is a nickname for someone who is a loud chatterer, like the bird of the same name, and comes from the Old French 'jay' and 'gai', both meaning 'jay'."

Jowers

"There are other spelling variations of this surname in other counties, but Jowers was first recorded in Suffolk in 1524 in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls as

'Jowyr'. It is an anglicised extension of the Norman French 'jour' meaning 'day', and a figure of speech for a journeyman (a person out of apprenticeship but not yet a master craftsman and as such, paid by the day). As a matter of interest, the word 'journey' originally meant how far you could travel in a day."

Kant

"First recorded in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls in 1327 as 'Richard Cante', it comes from French-Viking 'cant' and Old French 'chant' meaning 'singing' and is metonymic for a singer or a minstrel. Kant is the anglicised Suffolk version."

Keeble

"First recorded in the Suffolk Pipe Rolls in 1095 in Bury St Edmunds as 'Æluric Chebbel', and later in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls in 1524 as 'Kebull', this surname derives from Old English 'cybble' (pronounced as 'kibble'), and means 'cudgel'. It is a metonymic name for a maker or seller of cudgels."

Kentell

"This is the Suffolk local pronunciation of Kentwell, Long Melford. After the Norman Conquest in 1066, the English owners of the manor of Kentewelle, just outside Long Melford, were allowed to hold onto their land. The son of the owner took on the name as Gilbert de Kentwelle, and his son appears in the Suffolk Pipe Rolls in 1165 as Richard de Kentewelle. The place name most probably derives from Old English for a source of water ('wella'), on land owned by a man called Centel."

Kentwell

See above.

Kindred

"First recorded in Suffolk Church registers in the 1500s, the first recorded spelling of the surname is that of Steven Kindred 1510 in Kelsale. The local vicar of Carlton cum Kelsale found a baby left on his door step. Not knowing the name of the baby, he said that it was his Kindred and therefore gave the baby the surname of Kindred."

I need a new home...

Charlie, male dog, six years old, chocolate and white

Charlie is a sweet loving crossbreed, that came into the centre when his owner could no longer care for him.

He is looking for a home with patient owners who are around most of the time to help him settle and learn it's okay to be left alone.

Charlie has alopecia due to an ongoing skin condition. He is currently receiving weekly medicated baths to help improve his welfare and this will need to continue in the home as well as ongoing eye and skin treatment. Charlie's skin has massively improved from being in our care and receiving the treatment he desperately needed. Adopters must also be willing to continue with Charlie's reward-based training around veterinary treatment. Charlie is currently



Picture: RSPCA

undergoing training to help him cope with his reactivity towards other dogs. He requires to wear a muzzle when out on walks and can show signs of frustration such as barking, pulling on the lead and lunging when

he sees another dog, even at a distance. Charlie has been assessed by a clinical animal behaviourist and a plan is under way to help him cope in these situations, which will need to be continued in the home.

Charlie loves nothing more than spending time with his human friends enjoying all the attention. He likes playing with squeaky toys and exploring the outside world.

Charlie is a lovely boy who will be worth all the love and attention you can give.

For more information on Charlie, or any other pet in our care please call 0300 999 7321 from 9am to 4pm or email info@rspca-suffolkcentral.org.uk.

ask the vet

Nina Downing, PDSA veterinary nurse



I want to give my dog a treat at Christmas and was thinking he might enjoy a mince pie, but I have been told dogs can't eat them. Is this true?

It's true that you shouldn't feed your pooch mince pies. The mincemeat in this festive favourite usually contains raisins, currants and sultanas, which are all toxic to our furry friends. When eaten by dogs – even in small amounts – they can cause gut upsets and put pets at risk of kidney problems, which can be life-threatening. Symptoms can vary and may not show straight away, but instead appearing days afterwards, so if you think your dog has eaten raisins, contact your vet straight away – don't wait for any signs. A pet-safe alternative to mince pies are these gingerbread dog biscuits which you can make yourself at home.

For more information on raisin poisoning in dogs, you can visit www.pdsa.org.uk/grape-poisoning-in-dogs

Our dog, Duke, cut his paw pad on a walk. It didn't bleed much and we cleaned it up with water, but overnight the wound seems to have opened up more. Should we give it some time to heal, or do we need to take him to see a vet?

Small wounds can heal naturally – keep it clean, and stop Duke from licking or biting the area, which can cause

further damage and infection – use a cone collar if needed. Bathe the wound twice daily with salt water; 1 tsp salt in a pint of cool (previously boiled) water, and cover with a clean dressing. Watch out for signs of infection, such as swelling, heat, discharge or smell. A non-infected wound should heal fairly quickly. Contact your vet with any concerns, or if the cut doesn't seem to be healing. For information on first aid for cuts and grazes, visit www.pdsa.org.uk/wound-first-aid

My hamster, Humphrey, has a lump that makes his cheek look full all the time, and it seems to be affecting his eating. What could it be?

Hamsters have a pouch in their cheeks that can look like a lump when filled with food, but if Humphrey's lump is there all the time, and affecting his eating, there could be another cause so it's important to take him to see a vet as soon as possible. Remember, not all lumps and bumps are sinister, but they need investigating especially if he's struggling to eat, as this will impact his health and happiness. Monitor Humphrey for any other symptoms, such as lack of energy, or changes in food choices like eating softer foods rather than harder pellets. Any information you can provide your vet will be helpful in working out a diagnosis.

Nina Downing is a veterinary nurse at the PDSA, answering questions on pet-related concerns

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