

Doncaster 1379 poll tax returns

Introduction

The poll tax return is for the parish of Doncaster – Doncaster, Wheatley & Sandall, Hexthorpe & Balby, Loversall, Langthwaite

This is currently just for Doncaster:

Married couples 305 (so 610 adults)

Single men 52

Single women 94

Please note – some of these ‘singletons’ are adults living with their parents, some are widows or widowers, quite a few are servants.

Servants – 23 male, 26 female

There were no single men paying above the basic 4d and only two women :

Lady Agnes de Gaussill who paid half a mark (mark = 13s/4d) which was 6s/8d (only member of the aristocracy in the town)

Alicia de ffulsham – Chapman - 12d

Trades operating in Doncaster

All married men except for Alicia de ffulsham – who was there with her son.

Trade	Meaning	Number	Payment
Lister	dyer	1	6d
Tailor	tailor	3	6d x3
Draper	originally anyone who sold something by quantity, particularly wool, but also other commodities (later became cloth)	4	6d x2 12d 2s (24d)
Tavener	inn keeper – people could only stay at inns	1	6d
Smith	metalsmith - general	2	6d x2
ffleschewer	butcher	1	6d
Souter	shoemaker	3	6d x3
Wright	worker with construction skills e.g. wheelwright	3	6d x3
Ostler	An ostler takes care of horses	3	12d x 2 0.5 mark (6/8d)
Bower	I presume a maker of bows (bowyer)	2	6d x2
Glasswright	Glass maker	1	6d

Webster	Weaver (although originally a high ranking steward or bailiff, then a female spinner/weaver, then any sex). This was a man and his wife	1	6d
Sergeant (serigant)	A serving man who attended his lord, also one who attended a knight on the field of battle and carried the lord's banner	1	0.5 mark (6s/8d)
Skinner	Dealer in pelts, skins and furs	1	6d
Fisher (ffyscher)	Likely to be a fisherman. Outside possibility of being a provider of food to travelers.	3	6d, 2s (24d) 40d
Chapman	A person who bought and sold, travelling salesman/woman	2	12d 40d
Merchant	General term for a buyer or seller of anything, generally educated and possibly well-travelled with a knowledge of languages.	3	2s (24d) x2 40d
Cordwainer	Shoemaker (not boot maker) and other leather working e.g. leather bottles – from Cordovan Spanish leather	1	12d
Magister	Someone with a degree – originally a clergyman or gentry. Probably a member of the clergy here – possibly the vicar or chantry priest as fairly poor	1	6d
Fishmonger	Seller of fish	1	2s (24d)
Barker	Several meanings – owner of a 'barking house' where nets were steeped in a solution made from oak bark and the tanning helped to preserve the nets from salt water. Also a leather tanner Also someone who shouts to crowds at a fair etc	4	12d x 3 0.5 mark (6s/8d)
Shipman	Sailor or a master of a ship (more likely given the wealth)	1	2s (24d)
App'nt	Lawyer : apprenticed to the law	1	20s !!
Shipwright	Ship builder	1	12d
Baxter	Baker	1	40d
Goldsmith	Goldsmith	1	6d Not sure why so very low

Extras – only three times does the occupation match the surname – tailor x1, webster x1 goldsmith x1

Otherwise occupations and surnames do not match

Top of the heap in 1379 Doncaster were these 15 households.....

The lawyer, Richard Lewer (L'Ewer – an office in a great household in charge of the water, l'eau) and his wife Catherine are by far the wealthiest at 20s (one pound).

Next are the four half mark households (6s/8d) – Lady Agnes, the baker John Bell and his wife Joanna, the sergeant Richard of Assh and Eleanor his wife, and the ostler Robert of Elland and his wife Alice

Next are the four 40d households – the fisherman Hugo Mathew and his wife Sybilla, the chapman John Barber and his wife Margaret, the merchant William Millot and his wife Auicie(Avice?), the baker John of Cleveland and Agnes his wife

Next are the six 2s (24d) households – the draper John of Methley and his wife Agnes, the fisherman Adam of Sprotbrough and his wife Emma, the merchants Thomas of Messingham and his wife Margaret and William of Stainforth and his wife Joanna, the fishmonger John of Bailey and his wife Joanna, and the shipman Richard Harman and his wife Joanna

Occupational surnames		
It should be noted that these must stem <u>from ancestors</u> as only three tradesmen have the same trade as their surname		
Surname	Meaning	Number of time this surname occurs
Bailey	Steward, bailiff	1
Baker	Baker	1
Bakester (Baxter)	Baker	2
Barber	[Barbour] Barber and surgeon	3
Barker	Several meanings – owner of a ‘barking house’ where nets were steeped in a solution made from oak bark and the tanning helped to preserve the nets from salt water.	3
Bele	The Bele surname arose independently from several different sources. In some instances, it comes from the Old English word "belle" meaning "bell," and was most likely an occupational name for a bell ringer. It may have also been a name for someone who lived near a bell. Bele is also known to have arisen from the English and Scots given name Bel, which derived from the Old French "beu" or "bel," meaning "handsome." [1] "From Le Bel, a surname which frequently occurs in Normandy.	6
[Beste]	Someone who looked after animals, Middle English bester, from beste ‘beast’ (see Best). Possibly a nickname	1
Bishop	Either occupational as somebody who served in the household of a bishop, or it was a nickname for a person who played the part of a bishop – this would almost certainly be in a mystery play at this time. I felt that someone who served in a bishop’s household perhaps more likely as an ancestor.	1
Bolte	The name may perhaps be of English occupational origin denoting a sifter of flour from the Old French "beluter", a sifter of flour (Medieval English "bo(u)lt"). Bolt may also be a metonymic occupational name for a maker of bolts from the Medieval English word "bolt", a bolt or arrow	1
Bowyer	[Bower], maker of bows	2

Brewster	Brewer	2
Butler	[Boteller] Servant with widely diverse duties depending on the size of the household – house steward, head waiter, personal assistant	1
Carter	Man in charge of a cart/who carts goods	5
Cartwright	Maker/mender of carts	1
Chaloner	[Chaloner] Blanket maker/cloth seller	2
Chamberlain	Personal servant of a king or nobleman, steward running an establishment	1
Chapman	[Chapman] Travelling seller of goods/pedlar	3
Cobbler	[Cobbeler] Shoe maker/repairer	1
Cook	[Coke/Cok] Cook for large household or café	1
Cooper	[Couper] Maker/repairer of barrels	3
Crier	[Cryour/Crioure] – town crier (old French in origin)	2
Crok	Crock? – potter. Or possibly Crook or Crookes (near Sheffield)	1
Doweber	'Dauber' or 'Dawber'. The name is of early medieval English origin, and is an occupational surname for a plasterer, specifically a builder who used wattle and daub to build walls.	1
Fisher	Fisherman	1
Flesher	Butcher [fflescher]	2
Forester	Huntsman. In an abbey a uniformed position. Entitled to carry a bow and arrows as part of his job [fforester]	1
Frere	[ffrere] - possibly a nickname for a pious person, or an occupational name for someone employed in a monastery, from the Middle English, Old French 'frere', Latin 'frater', brother, meaning a friar or a monk. I think there is a good chance that it is occupational – however possibly should be in the nickname section	1
Gardener	[Gerdener] Gardener	1
Glasswright	Glass maker	1
Glazer	Glassmaker/worker	1
Glover	[Glouer] Maker of gloves	3
Goldsmith	[Goldsmyth] Metalworker in gold	1
Hatter	Maker of hats	1
Harman	Warrior – word that came over with the Normans, although Scandinavian/Anglo-Saxon in origin - hereman	2
Hunter	One of the only people in the forest allowed to carry a bow and arrows. In abbey terms the head huntsman was in charge of the foresters (who were also known as huntsmen with additional responsibility for guarding the deer).	2
Kemp	Soldier – Scottish origin [Kemp]	1
L'Ewer	Manager of the water in a lord's household	1
Latimer	Translator (in and out of latin)	1
Lister	[Lyster] Dyer	1
Locksmith	[Lokesmyth(e)] Locksmith	2
Lorimer	Spur manufacturer/horse tackle manufacturer/saddler [Lorymer]	2

Marshall	[Marschall] Someone who gathers together and organizes men, horses, soldiers etc	1
Mason	[Mason] Builder in stone	3
Miller	[Milner] Miller	2
Netmaker	[Nettemaker] Netmaker	1
Nouthird	'the neat-herd,' a tender of cattle; compare Coward, Oxnard, Shepherd, Calvert, the suffix of all of which is -herd. Middle English neet, Icel. naut, cattle. Every variety of form is found in Yorkshire records.	1
Parmyner	Unclear – possibly tailor	1
Pilgrim	Presumably someone with a pilgrim ancestor – may be a nickname surname though	1
Piper	[Piper] Pepperer – early name for a retail grocer as opposed to a grossier - wholesaler	1
Porter	Carrier of various goods/door keeper/bag carrier	1
Potter	Maker of pots	1
Prestservant	Priest's servant	1
Razor	[Rasour] (think this probably Razor) maker of razors or a barber, from Old French rasor, rasur 'razor'	1
Roper	Rope maker/net maker	3
Saddler	[Sadeler] Maker/mender of saddles and leather worker	4
Salter	Salt dealer/maker	1
Sander	[Saunder] Sold sand for building projects, roads etc	2
Sawyer	[Sare] – someone who saws wood	1
Scarlet	[Skerlet] - a dyer or a seller of rich, brightly coloured cloth, often of a brilliant, vivid red colour	1
Seamster	Sewer of cloth	1
Sinkman	Maker of lead weights for weighing down hooks on a fishing line. Or, possibly well or shaft digger	1
Smith	[Smyth] General metalworker	5
Spenser	Colloquial contraction of 'dispsense' – small room in the buttery of a large establishment/larder	1
Spicer	Trader/dealer in spices	1
Squire	Gentleman with land	1
Tavener	[Tauerner] Innkeeper	1
Tailor	[Taylour/Taylor] Tailor	6
Templar	Presumably a Templar ancestor, possibly at their suppression in 1312. Perhaps giving an indication of when many of these surnames may have been formed	1
Tenant	A farmer who held his land from an overlord by obligations of rent or service	1
Tewer	Early medieval English occupational origin, describing a "tawyer", i.e., someone who prepares white leather, which is cured with alum rather than tanned with bark, from the Middle English "tewe", to taw	2
Thresher	Farm worker who threshed the corn	1
Turner	Wood or metal worker	1
Vickerwoman	Possibly woman who makes candles (wicks)	1

Wait	Night watchman – guarded gates and marked the hours by playing a note on a musical instrument or bell	1
Walker	Cloth worker who walked on cloth during treatment (was this mainly woolen cloth?) [Walker/Walkere]	7
Webster	Weaver – originally female weaver [Webester]	10

Locational surnames	
Some of these are best guesses, but indicate the spread of people – possibly many as the result of the Black Death, which was only 30 years before and people not only fled from it, but it opened up new opportunities for the survivors.	
Locational surname	Number of time this surname occurs
Within the town	
Bardyk (I am presuming this is someone living next to one of the bars and by the ditch)	1
atte Water (presumably near the river)	1
[atte Wel]l (presumably close to a well within the town)	1
dal Bancke (as it is dal – presumably of the bank) I am presuming very local	1
de burgh (local? of the town)	1
del Gates (presumably near the town gates)	1
del Hill (presumably up Hallgate)	1
del Lethe (presumably near a barn – laithe?)	1
[del More] (I think probably Town Moor)	
Oldeyard (seems likely this is from within the town)	1
Very local	
Adwick [Athewyk]	1
Balne	5
Barnby Dun [de Barmby – could be Barnby near Retford]	2
Barnburgh	1
Bawtry	1
Bentley [Bentelay]	2
Besakil (I'm presuming Bessacarr)	1
Blaxton	1
Braithwell [Braythewell]	1
Bramwith [Bramwyth]	2
Brend (this is speculation that it is Brand and so close to High Melton)	1
Carcroft [Carrecroft]	1
Carrhouse	1
Clifton	1
Conisbrough [Kanesburgh – more likely than Knaresborough?]	1

Edlington [de Edlyngton]	1
Fishlake	2
Harthill (have included here as part of the soke of Conisbrough) [Herthill]	1
Hatfield	1
Hexthorpe [Hexthorp]	2
Loversall	1
Marr	1
Sprotbrough	1
Stainforth	1
Sutton (presuming this is the one near Campsall, but very common)	1
Tickhill	2
Wadworth	3
Local (including Notts and Lincs)	
Axhay (Haxey I presume – Isle of Axholme)	1
Blyth (Nottinghamshire)	1
Bollesore (presume Bolsover, Derbyshire)	1
Brerelay (presuming Brierley between Doncaster and Wakefield – West Riding)	1
Carlton (am presuming Carlton in Lindrick, so Nottinghamshire) [Carleton]	2
Dalton (there are quite a few Daltons in the North, but I am presuming this is the one near Rotherham)	1
Darfield (east of Barnsley, West Riding)	1
Elmsall	2
Glentworth (presume Wentworth near Barnsley)	1
Maltby (West Riding)	1
Pollington (East Riding near Snaith) [Polyngton]	1
Pontefract (West Riding) [Poumfrayt]	1
Scofton (near Worksop,, Notts)	1
Upton (presuming this is the one between Badsworth and Elmsall)	1
Wakefield (West Riding)	2
Whitelow (West Riding near Sheffield at Dore) [Whytelowe]	1
Worksop (Nottinghamshire) [Wrykesop]	1
Wrote (Wroot?)	1
Yorkshire	
Aldwark (in Hambleton north of York – North Riding)	1
Bingley (West Riding)	1
Calverley (West Riding between Leeds and Bradford) [Calverlay]	1
Cleveland (North Riding) [Clyueland]	2
Cotes (there is a Stainton Cotes near Skipton and a Cold Cotes near Harrogate – so North Riding)	1
Crossley (I think that this is near Bingley, West Riding)	1
Dalby (North York Moors - North Riding) [de Dalby]	1
Elland (just south of Halifax – West Riding) [Eland]	2
Emley (West Riding – between Huddersfield and Wakefield) [Emley/Emly]	2
Farndale (Ryedale, North Riding)	1
Fryston (presumably Monk Fryston, North Riding)	1

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Halifax (West Riding)	1
Howden (East Riding) [de Houden]	1
Hull (East Riding)	1
Huntington (near York – North Riding)	1
Knaresborough (Knaresburgh) North Riding	1
Methley (nr Castleford – West Riding?) [de Methelay]	1
Monkton (Nun Monkton between Harrogate and York – so North Riding) [Munketon]	1
Pudsey (near Leeds – West Riding)	1
Pyghell (Pickhill near Hambleton in North Riding, however there was a Pyghell family in the medieval period came from Wilsden near Bradford – turned into the Pickles family)	1
Riston (north of Hull, East Riding)	1
Scansby (East Riding) [Scanseby/Scansceby]	2
Silkstone (West Riding – between Barnsley and Penistone) [Silkeston]	1
Stockbridge (West Riding) [Stokbrig]	2
Swaloughill (seems to be related to Swales/Swaledale – so North Riding)	1
Thornton (Ryedale – North Yorkshire) [de Thorneton]	2
Thrybergh (West Riding)	1
Wortley (between Barnsley and Stocksbridge – West Riding)	1
Elsewhere in England	
Asseby (there is an Asby in Westmorland near Kirkby Stephen)	1
Bawmfurd – presuming this is Bamford, Derbyshire)	1
Barrow (maybe North Lancashire, probably Barrow upon Humber in North Lincs) [de Barowe]	2
Barton (quite common, but am presuming its Barton-on-Humber in North Lincolnshire)	1
[Biguelay] (maybe Bickley – so Cheshire, Kent or Devon)	1
Birton (possibly Burton on Trent - Staffordshire, but could be more wide-ranging and common in central and northern England)	1
Coupland (could be Coupland near Wooler in Northumberland or Coupland in Cumbria – previously Westmorland near Appleby – or possibly Copeland in Cumbria). Are these the ancestors of the bakers?	2
Derby	1
Fulsham (likely to be Foulsham, Norfolk, as this was Alice Chapman, so probably a travelling seller)	1
[Hallestedes] (there is a Halstead in Essex and one in Denmark)	1
Hanely (near Stoke on Trent – Staffordshire)	1
Kirkely (there is a Kirkley in Northumberland near Blyth – also one near Lowestoft)	1
Lincoln (Lincolnshire)	1
London [de London]	1
Messingham (North Lincolnshire just south of Scunthorpe)	1
Nocton (Near Lincoln – Lincolnshire)	1

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Paston (probably Paston, Norfolk – interestingly and a lot later, by 1499 Elizabeth Paston married Sir John Savile)	1
Preston (Maybe Lancashire there is a Preston in the East Riding) [Preston]	1
Rasen (Lincolnshire)	1
Sandwich (Kent one of the Cinque Ports) [Sandewysche]	1
Sherwood (Nottinghamshire)	1
Spalding (Lincolnshire) [de Spaldyng]	1
Staveley (probably the one near Chesterfield) [de Stauelay]	1
Wilsthorpes x3 – one near Long Eaton near Derby, one on East Riding coast and one east of Stamford in Lincolnshire) [Willesthorp]	1
Wytton (Cambridgeshire)	1
Foreign parts	
Alayncan (is this Alencon in Normandy?)	1
Bede – from Brittany, several places [de Bede]	1
Banes – from Baynes, Normandy [de Baines]	1
Boller (South German and Swiss German (also Böller): habitational name for someone from any of several places called Boll (see Boll). South German and Swiss German: nickname for a noisy blustering person, from Middle High German bollen 'to bluster'.	1
Bossewill - habitational name from Beuzeville in Seine Maritime, France	1
Furneaux - Norman-French origin, and is a locational name from any of the various places in the north of France named with the Old French "fournel", a diminutive of "four", oven, furnace [ffurnex – how said locally at Furnuex Pelham in Hertfordshire]1	1
Gandowe – from Gandow on the Elbe south east of Hamburg (connection with Hanseatic League?)	1
Ireland	2
Lecke - Leck was originally found at Leckie in the county of Stirlingshire	1
Lescy - derives from the village of "Lassy" in Calvados, France. Presumably a distant member of the Lacy family.	1
Mantill –The Mantell family lived in Buckinghamshire. Their name, however, is a reference to the family's place of residence prior to the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, Mantell, near Gamages, Normandy.	1
Milot (Norman name from Miall, Normandy)	1
Norris (derived from elements meaning "northerner", and referred to people from Norway, and northern England and Scotland) – am presuming it must be from outside the north of England	2
Pynchon – from Pontchardon in Normanby originally, mainly based in Devon	4
Qualley (seems to be Norweigan - the Norwegian last name of Kvåle is merely a "farm name" there and it is used as their address. If the person moved to another farm - the "last name" changed to the new farm name)	1
Scot	2
Non-specific	
Hagh/Halgh (piece of flat alluvial land by the side of a river)	3
Marsh (possibly Marr?) [de Marsche]	1

Moresman – unknown meaning, but possibly someone who lives on the moor. By 19 th century strongest in North West England and around London (presumably due to migration), a few in Norfolk and elsewhere.	
Assh (unknown)	1
del Pecke (peck surname means someone who dwells near the foot of a peak or someone who deals in weights and measures. Seems to have originated on Nottinghamshire/East Midlands or Denbighshire in North Wales. There was a family of this surname in Wakefield at this time). I felt that as it started with del, then more likely to be locative.	2
Croft	1
del Okes (near an oak tree)	2
Kay – meaning wharf/quay – from Old Welsh, Cornish, Breton ‘Cai’. Cornish variant is Key	1

Name-based surnames		
Surname	Meaning	Number
Bate	three distinct possible origins, the first and most likely source being the medieval male given name "Bate", itself a petform of "Bartholomew" The name may also be occupational for a boatman, deriving from the Olde English pre 7th Century "bat" (Northern Middle English "bat"), a boat. Finally, the Old Norse "bati", profit or gain, used in the transferred sense of "lush pasture" may have given rise to the surname. Early examples from this topographical source are Thomas del Bate (Northumberland, 1270), and William of Ye Bate (Yorkshire, 1297).	1
Dawson [Daweson]	Son of David, English origin or it is a locative surname from Osonvilla, near Dieppe, Normandy, and it is from the local form of this name, D'Oson,	2
[Daykyn]	Kin of David, like Dawson – presumably from Dai(?)	1
Dewy	Welsh origin, the surname is an Anglified spelling of 'Dewi'	1
Ellison [Elysson]	Ellysson – Norwegian surname, possibly ‘son of Elias’	3
[Gawyn]	The Gawyn surname is a Brythonic Celtic name that comes from the personal name Gawen (Gawain). Independently, the surname Gawyn is native to the Isle of Man, and as a Manx name, it is an occupational surname derived from Mac-an-Gabhain, which means the smith's son.	1
Gilleson	Derived from the families of the ancient Dalriadan clans of Scotland. It is derived from the Gaelic words "gille lose," which means "servant of Jesus." First recorded in Lothian under David I	1

Hacket	The surname Hackett is derived from the medieval given names Hack or Hake. These English names were derived from the Old Norse name Haki, which is a cognate of the English name Hook and was originally given to someone with a hunched figure or a hooked nose	1
[Hodelot]	The history of the Hudelot name began during the Middle Ages in a region known as Brittany. The French name is derived from the Germanic personal name Holdwin, which meant strong friend	1
Johnson	Actually down at this point as 'son of John' in the records	1
Knotte	Knut (Cnut)	1
[Malkynson]	Malkinson – son of Matilda (Malkin/Maud)	1
Matthew [Mathewe]	Derived from a father called Matthew	4
Mirfyn	Mervin – from Welsh Merfyn (originally Merlin)	1
Nele	Nele - The surname Neil is a reduced form of the surname McNeil (from the Gaelic Mac Néill, "son of Niall"),	1
Osbern	Derived from an Old Norse personal name "Asbjorn" made up of "às," meaning "god" and "bjorn," or "bear." The name became Osbern in old English. Bearers of this name also came to Britain from Normandy,	1
Passé	Welsh origin – 'son of Asser' which is ap Asser	1
Penycok	Pennycock – son (cock) of Penny. This unsure though.	2
Pulte	variant of Polte, from a short form of the personal name Hippolyt (see Hypolite). (also Pult) from Middle Low German pulpite, pult 'desk for reading or writing', 'pulpit', also (as a field name) 'raised area'; probably a topographic name for someone living by a raised area of land. or possibly an occupational name for a manufacturer of desks.	1
Rawyn	Closest I could get was Raw - derived from the name of an ancestor. 'the son of Ralph,' from the nick. Raw, whence such surnames as Rawson or Rawkins, which see. (2) Local, 'at the Row,' i.e. the row of cottages. N.E. raw, from residence therein or thereby	1
Trig	Trygve is a given name for males and most common in Norway. Trygve is derived from the Old Norse tryggr, meaning "true, trustworthy", cognate with Old English treowe,	1

Nickname-based surnames		
Surname	Meaning	Number
Bausce	Bausch - from Middle High German busch 'fluffy ball', a nickname for a puffed-up person or someone with a touchy personality.	1
Bigod	Bygot - the name Bigod a name for a Norman or an excessively religious person. There was a Bigod family and this might be a descendant of theirs	1
Bull	Bull – someone with great physical strength	2
Ducette	Dokette – mild/sweet	2
Grewe	from the Olde French "grue" meaning a crane, and was originally given as a nickname to one thought to resemble the bird in some way, perhaps a tall slender person.	1
Hare	Hare Name Meaning. Irish (Ulster): Anglicized form of Gaelic Ó hÍr, meaning 'long-lasting'. In Ireland this name is found in County Armagh; it has also long been established in Scotland.	1
Lamb	Lambe/Lambyn – like a lamb	3
Hart	Herte – from OE Heorot for stag	
Long	Given to a tall man (or possibly a very short one!)	
Malk	Malkynson -	
Nobill	Either someone from aristocratic stock, or possibly someone very low born who adopted airs and graces	
Partrick	Partridge or its variant forms, Partriche and Partrick, may be either an occupational name for a hunter or catcher of a partridge (the bird", or it may derive from a medieval nickname given to someone who had some fancied resemblance to a partridge. I think that it is more likely to be a nickname, but on no basis really, other than it seems odd to just concentrate on the one bird as a hunter.	
Pety	From the French 'petit' or small	
Proudfoot	From Old English – someone with a proud way of walking	
Pye	Likely to be a nickname for a talkative, cheeky person (short for magpie). However might be an occupational surname for a pie seller.	
Snell	A nickname for a brisk or active person, from the Middle English (1200 - 1500) "snell", quick, lively,	
Sparrow	Surname that seems to have originated in Norfolk. May refer to someone with sparrow-like characteristics	

Tripper	In English it is usually a derivative of the word 'trippere', a metonymic nickname from pre 8th century Old French, for one who 'tripped'	2
Wildgoose	[Wylegouse] - unknown why this surname.	
Woodcock	[Wodecok] - may be a nickname for a naive person, from the Middle English "woodcock", a compound of the Olde English pre 7th Century "wude", wood, and "cocc", cock, bird, a bird easily caught. Roger Wudecoc is noted in the 1176 Pipe Rolls of Hertfordshire. Secondly, the surname may be locational from any of various places named with the Olde English elements "wudu", wood, and "cot", cottage, shelter, as for example, Woodcott in Cheshire	1