

The Rise of the Middle Class: Inherited Bynames in 14th Century London

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Types of bynames

- Patronymic.
- Locative.
- Occupational.
- Other descriptives.

What can bynames tell us about class?

- Ownership of land.
- Occupation: literal occupationals, working class.
- “Rich enough” — to be taxed, to be taken to court, etc.

The rise of inherited bynames

- Inheritance of bynames began in urban settings, moved to rural.
- Developed first amongst the higher classes, moves to the lower classes.
- Used to indicate inheritance of land; marriage; apprenticeship.
- A few examples of shared bynames in 1066, 1086 Domesday.
- Inheritance or coincidence?

Source material

- 1292 and 1319 subsidy rolls: Ekwall, Eilert, *Two early London subsidy rolls* (WWW: British History Online), <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.asp?pubid=11>, originally published in 1951.
- 1332 subsidy roll: Curtis, Margaret, “The London lay subsidy of 1332” in George Unwin, ed., *Finance and trade under Edward III* (Manchester: University Press; London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1918).

Focus on 1319 subsidy roll (largest data set), with comparisons to 1292 and 1332.

Locative & toponymic bynames (1)

Focus on bynames indicating location.

- Locative: Based on the proper name of a city/street/region/river/country.
- Toponymic: Based on a generic descriptive, e.g., 'field', 'cliff', 'valley', etc.

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Contra

In the London Subsidy Rolls for 1292 and 1319, where about half those assessed have local surnames, the preposition is always retained. In 1332 there are 23 without a preposition. [Reaney & Wilson, p. xvii]

Population of London

- 1292: 12 wards, 810 entries (including ones struck out)
- 1319: 24 wards, 1855 entries (including ones struck out)
- 1332: 25 wards, 1632 entries (including ones struck out)

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Population:

- 11,000 (c. 1100) to 45,000 (c. 1400) [Gray, appendix 1].
- London was “at least comparable with Brussels or Ghent , which were around the 30,000-40,000 mark in the early fourteenth century” [Williams, 315].
- “by 1300 there were probably between 60,000 and 100,00 inhabitants” [Sheppard, 92].

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People who owned enough land and had enough money to fall within the bounds of a subsidy taxation: anywhere between 1% and 17%.

Wards of London



1319: Data by ward

The 1855 people were distributed into the words as follows:

Aldersgate	43 entries	Cornhill	60 entries
Aldgate	25 entries	Cripplegate	111 entries (within), 80 entries (without)
Bassishaw	36 entries	Dowgate	57 entries
Billingsgate	57 entries	Farringdon Within	173 entries
Bishopsgate	66 entries	Farringdon Without	108 entries
Bread Street	90 entries	Langbourn	75 entries
Bridge	82 entries	Lime Street	11 entries
Broad Street	74 entries	Portsoken	42 entries
Candlewick	68 entries	Queenhithe	81 entries
Castle Baynard	60 entries	Tower	75 entries
Cheap	173 entries	Walbrook	76 entries
Coleman Street	58 entries		
Cordwainer	74 entries		

Locative & toponymic bynames

- Marked toponymic bynames: 67
- Unmarked toponymic bynames: 12
- Marked locative bynames: 480
 - ▶ France (18); Cornwall (1); Scotland (2); Italy (1); Wales (1);
- Unmarked locative bynames: 23
 - ▶ France (10), Wales (1)

Total: 582 (31.3%)

Comparison with 1292 subsidy roll

Bassishaw	14 entries (-61%)
Billingsgate	65 entries (+14%)
Bishopsgate	19 entries (within), 18 entries (without) (-44%)
Bridge	100 entries (+18%)
Broad Street	65 entries (-12%)
Cordwainer	70 entries (-5%)
Cripplegate	85 entries (within), 45 (without) (-32%)
Dowgate	85 entries (+49%)
Portsoken	23 entries (-45%)
Queenhithe	68 entries (-16%)
Vintry	62 entries (<i>no entries in 1319</i>)
Walbrook	90 entries (+18%)

Locative & toponymic bynames in the 1292 subsidy roll

Locative & toponymic bynames found in 1292 but not 1319:

- Marked toponymic bynames: 18
- Unmarked toponymic bynames: 1
- Marked locative bynames: 105
 - ▶ France (9), Wales (1)
- Unmarked locative bynames: 16
 - ▶ France (9), Flanders (1), Italy (1), Hungary (1)

Total: 140.

Comparison with 1332 subsidy roll

Aldersgate	43 entries (0%)	43 entries (without)
Aldgate	21 entries (-16%)	(-46%)
Bassishaw	18 entries (-50%)	Dowgate 85 entries (+49%)
Billingsgate	49 entries (-14%)	Farringdon Within 130 entries
Bishopsgate	47 entries (-29%)	(-25%)
Bread Street	78 entries (-13%)	Farringdon Without 97 entries
Bridge	71 entries (-13%)	(-10%)
Broad Street	74 entries (0%)	Langbourn 77 entries (+3%)
Candlewick	45 entries (-34%)	Lime Street 18 entries (+36%)
Castle Baynard	46 entries (-23%)	Portsoken 23 entries (-45%)
Cheap	127 entries (-27%)	Queenhithe 74 entries (-9%)
Coleman Street	58 entries (0%)	Tower 71 entries (-5%)
Cordwainer	73 entries (-1%)	Vintry 40 entries (<i>no entries</i>
Cornhill	42 entries (-30%)	<i>in 1319 subsidy</i>)
Cripplegate	75 entries (within (-32%),	Walbrook 107 entries (+41%)

Locative & toponymic bynames in the 1332 subsidy

Locative & toponymic bynames found in 1332 but not 1319:

- Marked toponymic bynames: 31
- Unmarked toponymic bynames: 4
- Marked locative bynames: 240
 - ▶ France (9), Flanders (2), Scotland (1), Wales (1)
- Unmarked locative bynames: 12
 - ▶ France (6)

Total: 287

Summary

Bynames based on non-English (mostly French) places.

- 1292: 9.5% (marked), 75% (unmarked).
- 1319: 4.8% (marked), 47.8% (unmarked).
- 1332: 5.4% (marked), 50% (unmarked).

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The absence of the preposition in early forms of local surnames ... has been regarded as a sign that the surname had become hereditary. Such a supposition cannot be upheld. [Reaney & Wilson, p. xvii]

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