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# Bableigh, Parkham

**Bableigh** (pronounced *Babe-leigh* or *bay-balee*) is an historic estate in the parish of Parkham in North Devon, England. It is separated from the village of Parkham by the Bableigh Brook. It was the earliest recorded seat of the Risdon family in Devonshire, from which was descended the Devon historian Tristram Risdon (died 1640).

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The present Bableigh Farm, in the parish of Parkham, Devon, near the site of the demolished former mansion house occupied by the Risdon family from the 12th - 18th centuries

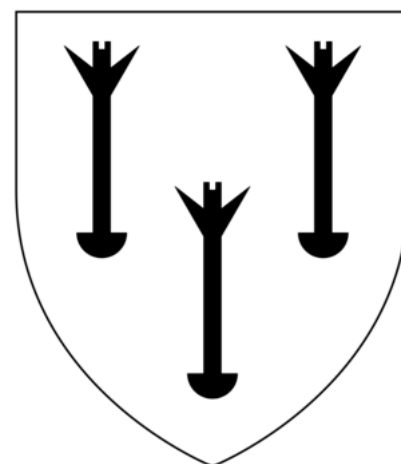
## Descent

### de Oilgi

The holder of Bableigh during the reign of King William the Conqueror (1066–1087) was Robert de Oilgi.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Risdon

According to Tristram Risdon (died 1640) himself, in his work *The Survey of Devon*, the Risdon family originated in Gloucestershire, where during the reign of King Richard I (1189–1199) they were lords of the manor of Risdon.<sup>[3]</sup> The Risdon family is first recorded at Bableigh in 1274,<sup>[4]</sup> and a member of this family, apparently Giles Risdon (1494–1583), built the north aisle of Parkham Church (in which are situated several monuments to the Risdon family, now very worn and illegible) and also *Veybridge* (alias *Heybridge*)<sup>[5]</sup> over the River Torridge.<sup>[3]</sup> The descent of Bableigh in the Risdon family was as follows:<sup>[6]</sup>



Arms of Risdon of Bableigh and Winscott: *Argent, three bird-bolts sable*<sup>[2]</sup>

### 13th century

- Robert Risdon, held Bableigh in 1274<sup>[4]</sup>

## 15th century and subsequent

- Thomas Risdon (15th century<sup>[7]</sup>), the first member of the family recorded in the Heraldic Visitations of Devon.<sup>[8]</sup>
- Gefferie Risdon (son and heir)<sup>[8]</sup>
- Richard Risdon (son) who married Matilda Braye, daughter of John Braye.<sup>[8]</sup>
- John Risdon (died 1518) (son)<sup>[8]</sup>
- Giles Risdon (1494–1583) (son and heir), whose monument survives in Parkham Church,<sup>[9]</sup> with inscription worn away. He built the north aisle of Parkham Church, in which is situated his monument, and also *Veybridge* (alias *Heybridge*<sup>[5]</sup>) over the River Torridge.<sup>[3]</sup> He married twice:
  - Firstly to Elizabeth Bremelcombe (died 1549), daughter and heiress of Thomas Bremelcombe of Honichurch, Devon. By his first wife he had children two daughters and seven sons including:
    - Thomas Risdon (died 1586), his eldest son and heir to Bableigh,
    - Ambrose Risdon (died 1604) (2nd son), who founded his own branch of the Risdon family in the parish of Buckland Brewer,<sup>[10]</sup> adjacent to Parkham.
    - William Risdon (died 1622), of Winscott, St Giles in the Wood, father of the Devon historian Tristram Risdon (died 1640). William married Joanna Pollard a daughter of George Pollard of Langley, Yarnscombe by his wife Thomazine Coplestone, a daughter of John Copleston (1475–1550) "The Great Copleston"<sup>[11]</sup> of Copleston, Devon.<sup>[12]</sup> Joanna's younger brother Pollard, or another close relation,<sup>[13]</sup> of unknown first name, was Gentleman Usher to Queen Elizabeth I (1558–1603) and to her successor King James I (1603–1625) and married a sister of Elizabeth Talbot, Countess of Shrewsbury (c. 1527 – 1608) ("Bess of Hardwick").<sup>[14][15]</sup> Pollard's daughters by this marriage were Maids of Honour to Queen Elizabeth I.<sup>[14]</sup>
    - Edward Risdon (born 1541) who was a Jesuit priest, a Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford and one of the founders of the College of Douai<sup>[16]</sup> in France, established in about 1561 for Catholic exiles from Protestant England.
    - John Risdon (1544–1628), rector of Parkham.<sup>[16]</sup>
  - Secondly in 1649/50 he married to Phillipa, of unrecorded family, widow of Mountjoy, by whom he had further children.<sup>[8]</sup>
- Thomas Risdon (died 1586) (eldest son and heir), a Justice of the Peace for Devon, a lawyer who was double Reader of the Inner Temple. He died along with several other Justices of the Peace and members of the Devon Gentry at the Black Assize of Exeter 1586, having contracted gaol fever.<sup>[17]</sup> He married Willmot Giffard (died 1617), a daughter of his neighbour Thomas Giffard (died 1550)<sup>[18]</sup> of Halsbury, in the parish of Parkham, by his wife Margaret Monck, a daughter of Anthony Monck (died 1545)<sup>[19]</sup> of Potheridge in Devon, great-great-grandfather of George Monck, 1st Duke of Albemarle (1608–1670). He had five daughters and two sons, the younger of whom was Thomas Risdon (died 1641), of Sandwell, in the parish of Harberton, near Totnes, Devon, Reader of the Inner Temple,<sup>[16]</sup> one of the Worthies of Devon of John Prince (1643–1723).<sup>[20]</sup> His monument survives at Harberton Church, Devon.<sup>[21]</sup> He made his fortune in the Law and purchased the estate of Sandwell. As he died without children he made

his great-nephew<sup>[22]</sup> Thomas Risdon (died 1667) his heir, the son of Francis Risdon (1601–1639) of Bableigh by his 3rd wife Dorothy Bluett. A monument survives in Harberton Church in memory of Dorothy Bluett erected by her son Thomas Risdon (died 1667) of Sandwell.<sup>[23]</sup>

- Giles Risdon (1565–1632) (eldest son and heir), who married Elizabeth Viell, a daughter and co-heiress of William Viell (died 1598) of Trevorder in Cornwall,<sup>[16]</sup> and of Vielston in the parish of Buckland Brewer,<sup>[24]</sup> adjacent to Parkham, in Devon. He had three daughters and three sons.
- Francis Risdon (1601–1639) (eldest son and heir), who married three times:
  - Firstly to Frances Hill, without children;
  - Secondly in 1630 to Frances Greene (died 1631) of Harberton, Devon, by whom he had a son and heir Giles Risdon (1632–1679).
  - Thirdly to Dorothy Bluett (1612–1654), youngest daughter of Arthur Bluett (1573–1612) of Holcombe Rogus, Devon,<sup>[25]</sup> and widow of Giles Poyntz, a relative of her step-father Philip Poyntz (died 1645).<sup>[26]</sup> Her monument survives at Harberton Church, Devon.<sup>[27]</sup> By Dorothy Bluett Risdon had two children including a son Thomas Risdon (died 1667) of Harberton, whose monument survives at Harberton Church, Devon.<sup>[16]</sup>
- Giles Risdon (1632–1679) (son and heir by father's 2nd wife), who married Grace Hill (died 1677), whose monument survives at Harberton Church,<sup>[16]</sup> by whom he had five daughters and seven sons.
- Giles Risdon (died 1697) (eldest son and heir). He married three times:
  - Firstly in 1677 to Katherine Coffin (1654–1682), third daughter of Richard Coffin (died 1700) of nearby Portledge, in the parish of Alwington, Sheriff of Devon in 1683,<sup>[28]</sup> of a very ancient Devon family. Without children.
  - Secondly in 1684 to Jane Carter (died 1685), a daughter and co-heiress of John Carter of St Columb Major in Cornwall, by whom he had a daughter Jane Risdon (born 1685).<sup>[16]</sup>
  - Thirdly to Anne Darrell, daughter of Thomas darrell of Trewornan, Cornwall, who survived him and remarried to John Carveth.<sup>[16]</sup> By Anne Darrell he had three daughters and a son and heir Giles Risdon (1689–1748).
- Giles Risdon (1689–1748) (son and heir by father's third marriage), who in 1729 married Anne Bruton (died 1752), and had a daughter Elizabeth Risdon and a son and heir Giles Risdon (born 1732).<sup>[16]</sup>
- Giles Risdon (born 1732) (son and heir), who married a certain Frances, who survived him.<sup>[16]</sup>

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1. Risdon, Tristram (died 1640), *Survey of Devon* ([https://books.google.com/books?id=w\\_0GAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA100](https://books.google.com/books?id=w_0GAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA100)), 1811 edition, London, 1811, with 1810 Additions, p.243

2. Per the 17th-century Risdon monument and (newly restored) Chafe monument in St Giles in the Wood Church, and as given by Thomas Robson in *The British Herald*. However, the published edition of Risdon's own *Note-book* gives his arms with the tinctures reversed: *Sable, three bird bolts palewise argent*, (Tristram Risdon's *Notebook*, 1897 edition, p.41 [1] ([https://archive.org/stream/notebookoftristr00risdrich/notebookoftristr00risdrich\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/notebookoftristr00risdrich/notebookoftristr00risdrich_djvu.txt))) as does his contemporary Devon historian Sir William Pole (*Pole, Sir William* (died 1635), *Collections Towards a Description of the County of Devon*, Sir John-William de la Pole (ed.), London, 1791, p.499)
3. Risdon, p.243
4. Risdon, p.243, regnal date 3 Edward I
5. Prince, p.702
6. Vivian, Lt.Col. J.L., (Ed.) *The Visitations of the County of Devon: Comprising the Heralds' Visitations of 1531, 1564 & 1620*, Exeter, 1895, pp. 648-50, pedigree of Risdon of Bableigh
7. Estimated date of life as his great-grandson died in 1518
8. Vivian, p.648
9. Vivian, p.648, denoted by "MI"
10. Vivian, p.649 & pedigree p.650
11. Prince, John, (1643-1723) *The Worthies of Devon*, 1810 edition, p.235
12. Vivian, p.224
13. Not mentioned in Vivian, p.599, pedigree of Pollard of Langley
14. Risdon, p.314
15. Prince, p.644
16. Vivian, p.649
17. Jenkins, Alexander, *Civil and Ecclesiastical History of the City of Exeter and its Environs*, 2nd edition, Exeter, 1841, p. 125 [2] (<https://books.google.com/books?id=TXkfAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA125&lpg=PA125&dq=black+assizes+exeter+1586&source=bl&ots=MRfRrX5SvY&sig=pvON0SC0AgasspYo0aAaT1yiae4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=JGX3Uv7eLM7e7Abxq4GAAG&ved=0CDoQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=black%20assizes%20exeter%201586&f=false>)
18. Vivian, p.397
19. Vivian, p.569, pedigree of Monk of Potheridge
20. Prince, John, (1643-1723) *The Worthies of Devon*, 1810 edition, London
21. Pevsner, Nikolaus & Cherry, Bridget, *The Buildings of England: Devon*, London, 2004, p.469; Image from Flickr [3] ([https://www.flickr.com/photos/sheepdog\\_rex/5926717857/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sheepdog_rex/5926717857/)); For transcript of inscription, see Prince, p.703
22. Great-nephew per Vivian, p.649, but called "his eldest brother's son" by Prince, p.703
23. Prince, p.703
24. Rogers, W. H. (1938) *Buckland Brewer*, reprinted 2000, Snetzler, M.F. (Ed.), Barcott, *Buckland Brewer*, p.14, quoting *Inquisition post mortem* 10 Charles I, 473 N.14
25. Vivian, p.649; p.93, pedigree of Blewett
26. *History of Parliament* biography of her brother John Bluett (1603-1634), MP
27. Vivian, p.649; For transcript of inscription, see Prince, p.703
28. Vivian, p.210, pedigree of Coffin

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