

Suffolk Surnames – M to Z

M

Makejoy First recorded in the Suffolk Assize Rolls 1221 Richard Makeioie
A-S nickname for someone who makes joy could be a court jester

Maliphant First recorded in the Suffolk Pipe Rolls 1205 Geoffrey Malenfant
Norman French for naughty child – mal enfant

Malvenue First recorded in Suffolk Curia Regis Rolls in 1200 as Henry Malvenu
Norman French for someone who committed a bad crime or act

Manwin First recorded in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls in 1188 in Bury St Edmunds
Manewine Leuiet - this is a personal name – not a surname yet
1327 in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls – Marjeria Manwyne – now a surname
A-S Mannwine – servant friend / man friend

Marjoram 1881 Distribution of Surnames shows the name as predominantly
Marjoran Suffolk and the North Suffolk / South Norfolk border.
Norman French for the herb marjerane or marjeram – a grower or seller of herbs
BUT - most likely a herbalist.

Marking First recorded in 1357 in the Court Rolls – Nicholas Merkyn
Old English - Mary kin – family of Mary

Markwell 1881 Distribution of Surnames shows the name as predominantly
Suffolk with just a few elsewhere
Anglo-Saxon – someone who lives by the source of the river on a boundary line

Markle Suffolk pronunciation of Markwell and common in Great Barton
Rare name but peculiarly Suffolk

Maxim First recorded in Suffolk Subsidy Rolls 1327 as William Maggesonne
Son of Maggs – pet form of Margaret. The “gs” often get writ down as an “x”
Other variations – Moxon, Moxom and Maxam – these are not Suffolk

Mayhew First recorded in the Court Rolls in 1351 – William Mayhew -
Old French – Norman form of Matthew

Meekins First recorded in the 1674 Suffolk Hearth Tax as Widow Maykinge

Meekin literally means the family of Mayhew – May being short for Mayhew plus kin (family) May Kin Meekin. And Meekins means son of Meekin

Making which is another Suffolk variation of the surname
Family (kin) of May (Mayhew)

Mayse which is another Suffolk variation of the surname
Son of May (Mayhew)

Moye – This is another Suffolk variation and the Suffolk pronunciation of May
Son of May (Mayhew) Moye

Melding First recorded in 1327 Suffolk Subsidy Rolls Remigius de Meldingge
Someone from Milden Suffolk

Melford First recorded in Bury St Edmunds in 1095 as Hubert de Meleforda
Someone from Long Melford

Mendham First recorded in 1195 Suffolk Pipe Rolls William de Mendeham
Someone from Mendham

Morling 1881 census shows the name in Suffolk and a few in Cambs.
"Moor" is Anglo-Saxon, not just for moor, but also for fen or marsh.
"Ling" is Anglo-Saxon for son of, young of or followers of
Therefore, we have the son of (ling) a dweller by the moor (fen or marsh)

Morphew This is a Suffolk variation of Morfey
Originally in the Northamptonshire Pipe Rolls as Wido Malfeth in 1130
But – in 1564 in the Suffolk Pipe Rolls we see it writ down for the first time as Morfewe and later in 1629 as Jedion Morphewe – first time with the “ph”.
It's a Norman name – Mal Fe meaning Bad Faith and originally was a term of abuse given to the Saracens or the devil – later - someone who's Ill-omened – lots of bad luck - bedevilled

Mothersole First recorded as a surname in 1674 Suffolk Hearth Tax as John Mothersole - Before that as an Anglo-Saxon personal or first name
Anglo-Saxon - modig sawol – meaning brave proud soul
OR it could be an oath name Modhers Sawol – by my mother's soul

Motte First recorded in Beccles and is Norman referring to a fortified hill
Motte and Bailey castles and fortifications – the motte was the fortified hill and the bailey was the protected courtyard down below
Motte is someone who lives on or at a fotified hill

Mouser First recorded in ICC, Cambridge Inquisition, part of Domesday Book
AEluric Mus – Anglo-Saxon for mouse – and led to surname Mouse
Mus (mouse) - A-S nickname for someone behaving like a mouse – timid and shy
OR the complete opposite – brash and gregarious.
Howsumever the Mouser variation appears peculiarly Suffolk and could also refer to a pest controller

Mower First recorded in Suffolk as Mower in 1305 in the Pinchbeck Register
Anglo-Saxon - mawan – to mow – a mower

Mullenger Variation of Mulliner - First recorded in Suffolk as Mullenger in the 1674 Hearth Tax – Norman French Molinier for miller

Munnings First recorded in Suffolk Domesday Book 1086 as Mundingus
Anglo-Saxon - Munding meaning son of Munda – Munda meaning protector

Musk First recorded in the Suffolk Subsidy Rules in 1327 as Geoffrey Morch
which is the Anglo-Saxon pronunciation and the Viking pronunciation is Musk
It literally means the younger son

Mutimer Suffolk variation of Mortimer – from Mortemer (Seine-Inferiure)

Muttit – First recorded in Suffolk in the late 1600s – French Huguenot name
derives from Mottet or similar meaning small fortified hill

Muttock Suffolk variation of Maddock and Mattock -A pre 7th century personal
name from Celtic origins, either Breton, Cornish, or Welsh – derives from Matoc or
Madawc meaning the goodly one.

N

Nesling 1524 Suffolk Subsidy Rolls as Nicholas Nestlyng
Anglo-Saxon for nestling – a young bird too young to leave the nest – a young child
or Anglo-Saxon nestlian – to make a nest or home

Nickles – Suffolk variation of Nicholas - appears in the 1086 Domesday Book.
Comes from the Greek – meaning “Victory People” - a common Medieval name
First recording of Nickles is in the 1783 Suffolk Pipe Rolls

Noller Originally – atten Alder – dweller by the alders – later pronounced atte
Nolder – later as Noller

Noy first recorded in Suffolk in 1327 as Noysse in the Subsidy Rolls –
It's Hebrew – Noah - meaning long life

O

Orford - Richard de Oreford 1191 in the Suffolk Pipe Rolls and literally means –
someone from Orford.

Orris / Oris / Orriss– 1668 in Suffolk Subsidy Rolls William Orice
Comes from the Latin “Horatius” – a Roman family
Name came over to England during the Renaissance from Italy 14th to 17th century

Ortis - 1327 Suffolk Subsidy Rolls - Artoys - Norman French someone from Artois France

Orvis Suffolk variation of office or officer – Norman French orfreis meaning a
dealer in orphrey or gold embroidery

Ours Suffolk variation of Owers – first recorded in Suffolk 1524 Subsidy Rolls
Anglo-Saxon for dweller near a bank or steep slope

Outlaw First recorded in Suffolk Feet of Fines 1230 as Alan le Vtlage
Viking name utlagi - pronounced outlaw

Oxfoot First recorded in Suffolk in 1199 in the Charter Rolls – Godwin Oxefot
Anglo-Saxon for ox foot – nickname for someone with large feet

P

Pakenham 1196 in Bury St Eds as William de Pekenham from Pakenham Suffolk

Papillon First recorded in 1095 in Bury St Edmunds as Tuoldus Papilio
Norman French - “papillon” meaning butterfly - meaning inconsistent

Pamplin 1496 the Suffolk variation, Plampeyn, was recorded. Later in 1564 as
Plampen and the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls of 1568 as Plampin. The name is of Norman
French origin ('Blanc Pain') denoting a white bread baker

Pannifer Suffolk variation of Pennyfather and first recorded in Suffolk 1749 Pipe
Rolls - Anglo-Saxon for penig foeder – penny father – a miser

Pattle - First appears in the records – mid 16th century – A Suffolk variation of Middle English beadle, originally a minor parish official in the English church

Perebourne First recorded in 1229 in Suffolk Feet of Fines as Walter Perbrun Anglo-Saxon for pear brown – nickname for a swarthy complexion

Perkinson Suffolk variation of Parkinson - son of Perkin or Parkyn which in itself means son of or family of Pierre

Pettingale 1201 in the Suffolk Curia Regis Rolls as Walterus filius Portingalliae – Walter, the son of the Portuguese - From the Middle English word Portingale meaning “from Portugal”

Pickers 1881 distribution map shows the name as Suffolk only Anglo-Saxon for maker or seller of pikes or pick axes

Pickess 1881 distribution map shows the name as East Anglian but very predominantly Suffolk - same as Pickers above - maker or seller of pikes or pick axes

Pilborough 1881 distribution map shows the name as predominantly Suffolk

Pilbow From a lost Suffolk village, Pileburgh (pron. Pillbra or similar)

Pilbrow In the Bosmere Hundred - Anglo-Saxon Pileberga

Pinner – Does not mean from Pinner in Mddx.

1881 Distribution map shows the name as very Suffolk and common in Ramsholt Someone who makes pins – big wooden pins for joining especially boat building

Pintel - First recorded in 1177 in Suffolk Pipe Rolls as Robert Pintel Anglo-Saxon for the male part – very rare name – and has gone under the radar

Pipe – First recorded in the Domesday Book 1086 – meaning a piper

Playford – 1130 in the Suffolk Pipe Rolls as Fulcher de Pleiforda - from Playford

Pleasants Suffolk variation of Pleasance Norman French plaisance – meaning pleasant and usually referred to a female

Posford 1568 in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls - Very specific from Potsford Barn in Letheringham, Suffolk – near Wickham Market

Powling Suffolk variation of Paulin - Means son of Paul

Pritty 1327 in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls as Robert Prytty

Anglo-Saxon “preatigg” for crafty and cunning

Pulfer 1881 distribution map shows it as a Suffolk surname and common in Little Welnetham - Anglo-Saxon “pulver” for one who grinds powders – at first for medicinal purposes, but later it also meant gunpowder.

Pung 1881 distribution map shows it as a Suffolk surname common in Bricett From Anglo-Saxon pung meaning purse or pouch - a maker of purses and pouches.

R

Raker This is a Suffolk variation of the surname Rake or Raikes
Anglo-Saxon name meaning someone who lives in a narrow valley
Anglo-Saxon word hraca meaning throat – narrow valley shaped like a throat.

Rampley / Rampling from a lost Suffolk village.

Rattell Suffolk diminutive of the name Ratt – means son of Ratt – Anglo-Saxon raet – would refer to a rat catcher – therefore son of a ratcatcher

Redditt Suffolk variation of Readett, Anglo-Saxon hreodet dweller by the reed bed

Regent Is a Suffolk name - Believed to have come from the Irish name Regane – first recorded in Dublin in 1264 - from the Irish Gaelic name Riagain – little king

Redgrave - First recorded in 1179 in Suffolk Pipe Rolls as Ebrard de Redegraue
Literally means from Redgrave, Suffolk.
Redgrave comes from Anglo-Saxon read graef meaning reed pit

Rell derives from Rolf or Raoul – nickname from the Old Viking for wolf -
First recorded in the Domesday Book – 1086 It means son of Raoul

Revans First recorded in the Domesday Book 1086 as Leduinus filius Reuene
Nickname for raven – black shiny hair - Several variations, Raven, Ravens, Revens.
Revans is the Suffolk variation

Riddleston(e) Ridel is Norman French for a small hill and ton is Anglo-Saxon for farmland settlement – from a farmland settlement on a small hill or from a lost hamlet near Polstaed

Ridgeon Suffolk pron. of Riching or Richin - Norman French name – son of Rich

Rieman Suffolk variation of Rayman, Ryman - Anglo-Saxon for dweller by the low lying land or stream - First recorded in 1327 as Robert Ryman

Ringshall / Ringshaw Domesday Book in Suffolk - 1086 Godric de Ringeshale from Ringshall, Suffolk - Ringshall is derived from a nook of land, secluded spot or shelter, heath belonging to a Danish chieftain called Hrings

Risby First recorded in 1112 in Bury St Edmunds as Wilfric de Rysebi
Literally from Risby Suffolk and the surname distribution map would confirm that Risby is pure Viking - By is the Viking equivalent of bergh, borough and bury – a fortified hill or farm area belonging to Danish chieftain Hrisa

Risher is the Suffolk variation of Rusher – from Anglo-Saxon rusc meaning rush – dweller among the rushes

Riveron Norman French - Came over with William the Conqueror in 1066
Means from Reveillon, Orne

Rookard Rookard is Anglo-Saxon for rook yard – someone who lives near a yard with loads a rooks. A yard in medieval times was roughly 30 acres, and long and narrow in strips and was part of the feudal system

Rozier Number of variations – but Rozier is the Suffolk variation
It's a Huguenots Protestant refugee surname - – a grower of roses – rose petals were used in medieval period for medicines as well as for perfume and textile dyes.

Ruffels – Viking name via the Normans - Old Viking name hrodwulf later hrolfr – a nickname associated with the wolf
Normans introduced the name as Rolf and as such - Recorded in the Domesday Book
Ruffels would have been recorded later as a diminutive of Rolf

Ruman Rue is Anglo-Saxon for dweller in a row of houses. Only in Suffolk, the name was extended to - the man who lives in a row of house – Rueman

Rumbellow First recorded in 1524 in Suffolk Subsidy Rolls as Robert Rombilow, and later, in Suffolk, as William Rumbilow – The surname comes from a local nickname for a sailor - from the meaningless combination of syllables sung as a refrain whilst rowing - *Hal an tow, jolly rumbelow, We were up long before the day 0.*

Rushbrooke(e) 1148 in Bury St Eds as Wударus de Rosshebroke
from Rushbrook Suffolk

S

Sarff These three names all have the same derivation, and are Suffolk
Scarce variations of the Viking word for cormorant - skarfrs
Scarff

Saver This is the Suffolk variation of the surname Saffer from the Norman French saffre meaning a glutton

Sawer First recorded as William Sawer in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls 1524
From the Anglo-Saxon sawere – to sow – someone who sows seed.

Scates From the Middle English word scate or scaite – the fish
Therefore a nickname – seller of fish – and Scates would be the son of the fish seller

Scribner – many variations of this name - From the Norman French – escrivain,
meaning writer – someone who writes and copies books and manuscripts
We also get the v sound being hardened up to sound more like a b. So from escrivain
we get escribain and from that we get the surname Scribner- and words like scribe
and scribble

Scoggins Suffolk variation of Viking nickname Skoggi - meaning the bearded one
First recorded in Suffolk 1554 – William Scoggin
Scoggins means the son of the bearded one

Scotchmer Refers to another lost village in Suffolk, Scotchmere – so called
because there would have been an Irish settlement by a lake
Scottas was Anglo-Saxon / Old Viking for Irish
Scotchmer name was first recorded in Walsham le Willows in 1542 on the 23rd July

Scowen – This surname derives from both the Anglo-Saxon and Ancient Celt
It's a word that the Anglo-Saxons adopted from the Ancient Britons
Someone who lives near an elderberry plantation or makes elderberry wine

Seely - There are very many variations of this name – Sealy, Sealey, Selly, Ceely,
Ceeley, Zealy, Zelly, Sealig, etc etc – but Seely is the Suffolk variation.
Comes from the Anglo-Saxon sealig meaning holy and according to the Surname
dictionary - “Often misused in the phrase “Silly Suffolk”

Segers – Many variations, and quite a wide distribution – Segers is the Suffolk
variation. First recorded in the Domesday Book 1086 -Anglo-Saxon sagar for sea
spear – a sea warrior

Selvage – Many variations, but Selvage is Suffolk

Comes from the Norman French Salvage or Sauvage, meaning savage and wild

Seman – Seamans - Many variations, but Seamans and Seman are Suffolk
First recorded in the Domesday Book 1086 and is Anglo-Saxon a sea man – sailor

Shafe - Many variations, but Shafe is the Suffolk variation.
Comes from the Anglo-Saxon sceagh – dweller by the wood

Shinn – First recorded in 1165, Herveus Schin, in the Suffolk Pipe Rolls
From the Anglo-Saxon scinn – pronounced shin by the Anglo-Saxons and skin by the Vikings – it's a trade name for a skinner

Sibton – First recorded in 1212 Pipe Rolls – Roger de Sibbeton – from Sibton.

Sillett First recorded in 1219 Suffolk Assize Rolls as Richard Silat
Norman French for son of Sill – and Sill being short for Sylvester

Simper - First recorded in Suffolk as John Simper in the 1674 Suffolk Hearth Tax.
Refers to Geoffrey de Clinton, chamberlain to Henry I, who came from
Saint Pierre de Semilly – Normandy - Simper literally means from Saint Pierre

Sissell – It's the Suffolk dialect way of saying Cecil
Cecil was first recorded in the Domesday Book, but it was later when Sissell was
recorded in Suffolk - Saint Cecil was the patron saint of musicianers

Skeet There are other variations of the name which are East Anglian, but Skeet is
Suffolk, and first recorded as Skeet in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls in 1327
It's Viking skjotr for being fast and quick, fleet of foot.

Songer Distribution maps show it as very Suffolk and common in Raydon,
Rendham and Somersham. Anglo-Saxon songere for a church singer – a chorister

Spall Many variations of the name, but Spall is the Suffolk variation and was
recorded afore the Domesday Book and is an Old English byname
A dialect way of saying St Paul - someone associated with a church called St Paul

Spindler Anglo-Saxon for a maker of spindles

Spoore / Spore First recorded in Suffolk in 1303 in the Feudal Aids records
Anglo-Saxon spura meaning spur – Someone who is a spurrier

Spraggins – Son of Spragg – and Spragg was first recorded in Suffolk in the
Subsidy Rolls in 1327 - Someone who is lively

Squirrel – first recorded in Suffolk in the 1274 Hundred Rolls
Geoffrey le Esquirel - Norman French – le esquirel – later le squirrel
A nickname for someone lively and agile

Staff First recorded in Suffolk Pipe Rolls 1177 as William Staf
Anglo-Saxon and used by Chaucer as a type of leanness or thinness

Stallworth All three names derive from the lost 13th Century,
Stallworthy Suffolk village of Stallworth or Stallworthy
Stollery and Stollery is the local dialect pronunciation.

Stammer first recorded in the Domesday Book 1086 in Suffolk as Stanmer
number of Suffolk recordings and in the 1674 Hearth Tax – first time as Stammers
Anglo-Saxon – stanmer – meaning “stone fame” - someone who stands firm

Stanard First recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086 in Bury St Edmunds
Many variations – eg Stanhard, Stanhart, Stannard and Stanart – but Stanard is the
Suffolk variation - Anglo-Saxon nickname Stanheard – stone hard – could be a good
warrior – or someone who stands by his faith – etc etc – immovable

Starn / Starns / Stearne / Stearns - Many other variations but these four are the
Suffolk ones - Anglo-Saxon styrne meaning severe, strict, uncompromising austere

Steff / Stiff First recorded in 1524 Suffolk Subsidy Rolls - unyielding and strong

Steggals, Many variations but there two are Suffolk – dweller by the style
Stegal These are Saxon names from the Anglo-Saxon word stigol
Angle pronunciation is Styel – style – hence the surname “Styles”

Stofer 1568 Suffolk Subsidy Rolls as Gyelles Stofer

Stoffer It is a nickname for Christopher

Suggate Many variations – But, Suggate is Suffolk, dweller by the south gate

Suttle The distribution maps show two locations – Suffolk and Yorkshire
The Yorkshire Suttle literally means from Soothill, Yorkshire
The Suffolk Suttle means crafty and cunning from the Norman-French word sotil

Syrett First recorded in the Domesday Book 1086 and many variations – Sired,
Sirett, Sirette, Syrad, Syratt, and our Suffolk variation – Syrett
Anglo-Saxon sigeraed – with the Angle pronunciation of syred or syrett meaning
victory council – a successful warrior and leader

T

Thurkell – First recorded in the Domesday Book 1086 in Suffolk.

Many variations - but Thurkell is Suffolk and a less common variation of Thirkettle Viking name meaning – Thor's Kettle – and kettle in Norse mythology is a special cauldron from whence warriors are made – a special warrior from Thor's Kettle

Tigar First recorded in the Domesday Book 1086 in Suffolk.

Teager Norman-French -Tigier – Anglo-Saxon Thiodger – people's spear – a warrior

Tongate Ton is Anglo-Saxon for a settlement from which we get the word town
Someone who lives by the ton gate or the town gate

Tydeman This is a Suffolk variation of Tiddeeman

Anglo-Saxon Teodingmann – the chief man of a tithing, originally ten householders

U

Ungless – This is the Suffolk variation of Uncles – first recorded 1200 as Uncle but in the Domesday Book as Ulfketel and Ulketel

Christopher Ungle appears in the 1568 Suffolk Subsidy Rolls

Quote from Oxford Dictionary of English Surnames

“The Suffolk example, (Ungle), makes it clear we are concerned with only one name, the Viking, Ulfkettle – meaning wolf cauldron – which is common in that county”.

In Viking mythology many warriors from the cauldron (kettle) - from the wolf's kettle comes the protective warrior – and Ungless means the son of Ungle

Upson / Upston – First recorded in Suffolk in 1279 in the Hundred Rolls

as Robert de Ubbeston and later the “B” softens up to John Upston 1524 in the Suffolk Subsidy Rolls - Literally, someone from Ubbeston

V

Vandeville first recorded in 1550 in the Calendar of Patent Rolls

Vanderville derives from a Dutch name meaning “van der veld”. Someone who lives or makes a living “from the field”

Vineyard A Suffolk variation of Winyard, Wingard – first recorded in 1212. A worker in the vineyard and comes from the Anglo-Saxon win gearð

W

Wansey – Domesday Book in 1086 in Suffolk – Hugo de Wanceio
Norman-French - from Wanchy in Seine-Inferieure

Washbrook – First recorded in Pleas before the King or Justices in 1202 in Suffolk
John de Wassebroc – from Washbrook, Suffolk

Watsham - First recorded in the Bury St Edmunds Subsidy Rolls in 1190
as Osbert de Wachesham and it means – from Wattisham in Suffolk

Went - First recorded in the Suffolk Hundred Rolls in 1275 as Henry de la Wente
and also Henry atte Wente - From the Middle English “wente” - meaning – cross-
roads – therefore dweller by the cross-roads

Westbroom – From the name of a lost Suffolk village which is now incorporated
in Woolpit. Between Broom Hill Lane and Lower Broom Road

Wetheringsett – from Wetheringsett in Suffolk

Whatling Other variations are more widespread but Whatling is very Suffolk.
First recorded in Suffolk in 1524 in the Subsidy Rolls - From the Anglo-Saxon
Hwaetling - Hwaet ling – son of hwaet – hwaet means active bold and brave

Whayman – Suffolk variation of Wyman which was first recorded in the
Domesday Book and first recorded in Suffolk as Whayemonde in 1568 Subsidy Rolls
From Anglo-Saxon – Wigmund – pronounced Whaymand - “War Protector”

Whistlecraft – First recorded - Suffolk Subsidy Rolls, 1524 as Thomas Wyslycroft
Anglo-Saxon for dweller at the croft by the “twisla” - a fork in the river

Whymark – Domesday Book 1086 as Robertus filius Wimarc in Essex without the
“h” and the Suffolk variation with the “h” came later
They came over in 1066 and were Breton mercenaries – and the Breton name was
Wuihomarch – and it meant someone worthy to have a horse

Winney / Winny – First recorded in Suffolk in 1205 in the Feet of Fines as
Wengeue pronounced winyey - Anglo-Saxon - Wyngoefu – meaning “Joy Battle”

Woolnough – Other variations – but Woolnough is the Suffolk variation
First recorded in Suffolk in Bury St Edmunds as Godwine Hulnoth – many other
recordings in Suffolk including John Woolnough in the Suffolk 1674 Hearth Tax.
Anglo-Saxon nickname relating to the legendry wolf. Means “wolf boldness”

Worledge plus many variations, such as Worlidge, Wolledge, Woollage - They are all truly Suffolk – The first recording of the name is in 1468 as John Woorliche and all recordings thereafter including the 1827 Suffolk Subsidy Rolls. Anglo-Saxon name deriving from the wolf meaning worthy, noble and distinguished.

Wortham – First recorded in 1188 in Bury St Edmunds as Adam de Wortham And literally means from Wortham, Suffolk.

Whybread This is a Suffolk surname and literally means from Weybred

Wiskins Viking pronunciation of Anglo-Saxon wisc – dweller near a damp meadow or marsh - recorded before the Domesday Book.
Wiskin means - family of Wisk and Wiskins means son of Wiskin

Woolby – From a lost Suffolk hamlet - Viking for wolf plus fortified hill

Wrycraft Anglo-Saxon Ryge – pronounced – Rye by the Angles and Anglo-Saxon “croft” - Means dweller by the rye croft

Y

Yonwin – First recorded in Bury St Edmunds in 1095 -Anglo-Saxon “young friend”