The Kinship of *Jack*: I, Pet-Forms of Middle English Personal Names with the Suffixes *-kin*, *-ke*, *-man* and *-cot*

*Peter McClure*
University of Hull

Shortly before 1250 the process was more or less completed by which insular (Old English and Old Norse) personal names were largely displaced by names introduced by Normans and their followers from the near continent, such as Bretons, Flemings and Picards.¹ In origin the new name stock was partly Continental Germanic, of a West Frankish type, partly Romance (including many saints’ names) and partly from the Biblical languages, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek (via Latin), not to mention some lesser contributions from Scandinavian and Celtic languages. All the names were expressed in Old French form and they came with ready-made hypocorisms or pet-forms, usually consisting of a short form of the name compounded with a diminutive suffix. The majority of the suffixes were Old French, too, such as *-in*, *-on*, *-un*, *-el*, *-et*, *-ot*, and the double diminutives *-inet*, *-elin*, *-elet*, and (Northern Old French) *-chon*, as we see in names like *Robin*, *Betun*, *Marion*, *Simonel*, *Jonet*, *Annot*, *Adinet*, *Tommelin*, *Perelet* and *Huchon*.² The Middle English suffix *-y* in pet-forms like *Addy* may be a variation of *-in*. In addition there is a small


but significant Germanic component, chiefly but not exclusively Flemish, and it is this group that I want to discuss in this paper. The best known of them is the common suffix -kin that we find in pet-forms such as Wilkin, and I hope that a comparison with Belgian and Northern French surnames will shed some additional light on the provenance of this suffix and its transmission into Middle English. I shall then set out the Middle English evidence for three other hypocoristic suffixes: -ke (of which the prime example is Jakke), -man and -cot, each of which is well documented in Northern France and/or Flanders but whose use in post-Conquest England has not been fully recognised. In Part Two of the paper I shall consider whether two Middle English hypocoristic suffixes of uncertain etymology and provenance, the hitherto unknown -cus and the well-known -cok, might be similarly attributable to Flemish or Franco-Flemish influence on Anglo-French and Middle English naming practices.

---

3This is a revised version of two papers given to conferences of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland at Bangor in 2000 and York in 2001. I am indebted to Prof. Peter King, University of Hull, for providing me with English translations of some Dutch publications and to Dr Brian Levy, University of Hull, for advice on Old French and Anglo-French linguistics.
1. The suffix -kin

This suffix is not found in Old English, so its appearance in post-Conquest England, even when compounded with short forms of Old English personal names, must be owing to its introduction from either Low German or Middle Dutch. It is usual to attribute Middle English use of -kin to the influence of the many Flemings who settled in England, especially in the eastern counties. P. H. Reaney observes that some of the earliest examples of -kin are names of Flemings, citing Derechin 1158 (Essex), Derekin del Acre (a Fleming living in Castle Acre, Norfolk) 1197, and Lambekyn Flandrensis 1178.\(^4\) He remarks that:

this supports the common view that the suffix was brought from the Netherlands but there seems to be no concentration in the east, whilst -kin names were common in Cheshire at the end of the thirteenth century.\(^5\)

It may seem surprising that -kin names are no commoner in the east than in the west of England, as is another of Reaney’s observations, that ‘compounds which can be proved to be purely Flemish in origin [such as Derekin] are rare’.\(^6\) The pattern of distribution may in part reflect influence from immigrants other than Flemings and Brabanders. Merchants bearing such names from the Baltic Sea coast and North Germany also appear in the English records, and, even more to the point, merchants from north-eastern France, where the adoption of Flemish -kin (conventionally re-spelled as -quin) produced a large number of pet-forms such as Hankin, Jankin, Perkin and


\(^5\)Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, p. xxxix.

\(^6\)Reaney, *Origin*, p. 216.
Wilkin that became common in Middle English.\(^7\) As Reaney points out, the most telling fact about Middle English use of -\textit{kin} is that it is almost exclusively compounded with names of Old French form, just the same range of names as are compounded with the Old French suffixes I mentioned in the opening paragraph.\(^8\)

Reaney’s explanation for this is that by the time -\textit{kin} was fully absorbed into English personal name practices the Middle English name stock had become almost entirely French in character, and that -\textit{kin} was then freely used to form new compounds. During the early decades of the thirteenth century most English children at all levels of society were being baptised with names of the French type, while evidence for the widespread use of -\textit{kin} pet-forms, especially among the lower classes, is not plentiful until after 1250, its period of greatest frequency being the second half of the fourteenth century. On the other hand the chronological disjunction may be more apparent than real. The recording of vernacular pet-forms was largely dependent on the whim of individual clerks in a period when it was normal to render all personal names in conventional Latin forms. Increasing evidence for -\textit{kin} compounds from the latter half of the thirteenth century and through the fourteenth could be partly due to the expansion in the number and social range of documentary records as well as a growing tendency among scribes to be less assiduous in latinising personal names when used as bynames.

I wonder if there is a further reason for the overwhelmingly French character of -\textit{kin} compounds in medieval England. The Flemings were greatly influenced by French culture, and the Picard form of Northern Old French was the preferred language of discourse both within Flemish courtly society and in social, commercial and military relationships with the French and with the Normans. The onomastic consequence of this can be seen

\(^7\)Ibid., pp. 215–16.
\(^8\)Ibid., p. 215.
in the widespread use in Flanders of Northern Old French (Picard) forms of personal names, including wholly French pet-forms with suffixes like -in, -ot and so forth, as well as pet-forms with Middle Dutch -kin.\(^9\) Looking through Frans Debrabandere’s *Etymological Dictionary of the Surnames of Belgium and North France* I am struck by the degree of correspondence there is between -kin surnames of this Franco-Flemish derivation and those that occur in England. Examples include Bodkin (Boidekin), Dankin, Filkin, Gilkin, Hankin, Hipkin, Jankin (Jenkin, Jonkin), Jeffkin, Lambkin, Lorkin, Marykin, Perkin, Potkin, Rankin, Roskin, Salkin, Silkin, Simkin, Tomkin, Walterkin and Wilkin.\(^{10}\)

This list covers only those -kin pet-forms that happen to survive as modern surnames. It is not unlikely that Flemish or Picard forms once existed for some of the other -kin names that occur in England, such as Adkin (Adam), Alkin (Alexander, Alan or Alice), Badkin (Baldwin or Bartholomew), Batekin (Bartholomew), Benskin (Continental Germanic Benzo, Old French, Middle English Benze), Cassekin (Cassandra), Elkin (Ellis or Ellen), Herbekin (Herbert), Hukin (Hugh), Idekin (Continental


\(^{10}\)For the Middle English forms see Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, under these name forms, though my interpretation is different for Bodkin (a pet-form of Baldwin, but which Reaney treats as a nickname), for Gilkin, which is a pet-form of Giles or Gilian, rather than Old Norse Gilli, which was surely obsolete by the mid-thirteenth century, and for Hipkin, which is a pet-form of Hildebert (Hibbert) not Herbert. For the continental names see F. Debrabandere, *Verklarend Woordenboek van de Familienamen in Belgie en Noord-Frankrijk* (Brussels, 1993), snn. Boutkens, Dannequin, Filkin, Gillekens, Hanniken, Janquin, Jennekens, Jefkenne, Lammekens, Lorquin, Maroquin, Pirkin, Potgens, Renkin (Picard Ranquin), Roosjen (Rosquin), Salkin, Silkens, Simkens, Thomkin, Wautrequin and Willekens. The *Woordenboek* does not indicate the full regional distribution of these names, so I cannot be sure that all of these names occurred in medieval Flanders.
Germanic Ida), Lovekin (Old French Loup, Louve, Love), Ludekin (Continental Germanic *Hludowic, Middle English Ludewic), Malkin (Middle English Mald, Maud from Northern Old French Mahald, i.e. Matilda), Ma(y)kin (Matthew, Old French Maheu), Pollekin (either Paul, Middle English Poul, Polle, or a rhyming form of Middle English Molle, pet-form of Maud, Moud), Sankin (Samson, Old French, Middle English Sanson; cf. the attested Picard surname Sanquin?), Sessekin (Cecily) and Watkin (Walter, Northern Old French Wauter, Water, with which compare Middle Dutch Woitkin, implying a Picard form *Watequin). I don’t want to overstate the case. Resemblances in form between names found in Belgian and English dictionaries of surnames may sometimes belie significant differences in etymological or onomastic history. Moreover, any of the names I have listed may have been independently formed or re-formed in England.

There are good reasons for believing that -kin was a living suffix in post-Conquest England. Several very common compounds of the type Dawkin (also probably Hawkin), Hobkin and Hodgekin, which are diminutives of Ralph, Robert and Roger respectively, are derived from rhyming forms of Continental Germanic R-names, a hypocoristic device for which there is no parallel, it seems, either on the continent or in pre-Conquest England.\(^{11}\) Hobbe first appears in a Pipe Roll of 1176, the forename of a man with an English byname (Litel), while the first known occurrence of Hobkin is in a Curia Regis Roll dated 1224.\(^{12}\) Although this type of pet-name is commonly found among fourteenth-century peasants, it occurs much earlier in town records, and it may well have been the competitive, close-knit urban communities of Norman England, among whom nicknaming certainly


\(^{12}\)Reaney, Dictionary, s.nn. Hob, Hopkin.
flourished, that invented this intimate way of playing with personal names. It is probably no coincidence that rhyming verse was introduced to England under Norman and Angevin royal patronage, and it is a remarkable fact that the earliest example in Europe of each of the new rhymed verse genres is Anglo-French. Perhaps the rhyming pet-forms were originally coined by Normans to ridicule the way English townsfolk adopted (and pronounced?) Norman names, and thus put these would-be Normans in their place. Similarly, the Normans may have employed the -kin pet-forms beloved of the Picards and Flemings as an onomastic put-down for those whose origins, occupation or manners marked them out in Norman eyes as social inferiors. This would help to explain the subsequent widespread occurrence of -kin pet-forms among ordinary English people and their relative infrequency at higher levels of society.

One -kin compound that is definitely based on an English name is Edekin, a pet-form of Edith, as is proven by Etkin daughter of Adam Sutor, who is also called Edith or Ethkin in the 1345 Court Roll of Dyffryn Clwyd. Middle English Edith can only represent Old English Ēadgð, one of a handful of Anglo-Saxon personal names that remained in general use throughout the medieval period. Others include Ēadmund and Ēadweard (Middle English Edmund, Edward, which could also have been hypocorised as Edekin), and Ōsweald (Middle English Oswald), which may be one source of Osekin, first recorded as a forename in 1274, although the more usual source is more likely to

13I owe this point to Dr Brian Levy of the University of Hull.
14My thanks to Oliver Padel for drawing my attention to this instance from the Dyffryn Clwyd Court Rolls, Public Record Office (PRO), Special Collections (SC) 2/217/6—2/218/3; the reference in the database record prepared as part of the Dyffryn Clwyd Court Roll Project is 2/5/185.
15See Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Hosken, where Osekin is attributed less convincingly to Old English Ösgð or Ösmr, which were probably obsolete by the mid-twelve hundreds.
be one of the Norman personal names Osbern, Osbert, or Osmund.\(^{16}\)

A small but significant number of Middle English -kin compounds appear, therefore, to be exclusively Anglo-French or Middle English in composition. A much larger number correspond to that corpus of -kin names that was common to both Flanders and north-eastern France. Were they imported from the continent or were they coincidentally re-created in England? There is no way of telling, and the two explanations are not mutually exclusive. Coupled with the fact that distinctively Flemish compounds (of which there were large numbers in Flanders) were rare in England, it does suggest that the culture in which this type of name initially flourished in England was itself predominantly French. Furthermore, if the distribution of -kin names in England does not reflect the known patterns of Flemish settlement, then others besides Flemings must have been involved in the suffix’s diffusion. I wonder if continental Normans might have picked up the usage from their Picard neighbours, as they did some Picard forms of baptismal names like William and Ricard. Certainly we can point to the presence of Picards and Artesians in post-Conquest England, some as ‘Norman’ lords (with their dependants and households), others as merchants dealing in the lucrative cloth and dye trades, and there is no doubt that Anglo-French was influenced by Picard speech.\(^{17}\) By one means or another, it seems probable that -kin was current in some sections of Anglo-French society, especially in business circles, before


it passed more generally into English, and that it was dispersed by the movements of merchants and craftsmen, of whatever ethnic origin, around the urban network. This is a somewhat speculative interpretation of what happened, but it gets some support from the early compounds with what appear to be Anglo-French rhyming pet-forms and I think that some such explanation is required to account not only for the wide use of -kin in Middle English but also for the three Middle English hypocoristic suffixes which I shall consider next, -ke, -man and -cot.

2. The suffix -ke

Names ending in -ke have received little attention, being treated as occasional Middle English contractions of names in -kin and -cok. There is some justice in this view. Although some, like Jakke and Wilke, are recorded as forenames as early as the twelfth century, others such as Danke, Gilke and Jenke are so far attested only in fifteenth- or sixteenth-century surnames, while *Perke, which is implied in the modern surname Perks, is not yet evidenced in any pre-modern documentation. Nonetheless, the early forms deserve a closer look, particularly as Middle English Jakke is exceptionally common and its etymology not immediately obvious.

Jakke
This is without question a Middle English pet-form of John. It is witnessed as such in 1414 by a Canterbury monk, who illustrates the English habit of varying Christian names with the example ‘pro Johanne Jankin sive Jacke’.  

---

18 See Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.nn. Danks, Gilkes, Jenks.
Prosoponymic variants offer earlier proofs. Bardsley cites John or Jacke le Warner 1275 (Norfolk) and John or Jakke de Bondec 1275 (Buckinghamshire) and Reaney adds Jake or John de Coventre 1292, 1300 (London).\textsuperscript{20} A Nottinghamshire example is Ad[am] Jac 1295 Wheatley Court Roll,\textsuperscript{21} Ad[am] Jake 1296 \textit{ibid.}, who is identical with Ad[am] fil[ius] Joh[annis] 1297 \textit{ibid.}\textsuperscript{22} There are even earlier instances of Jack than these, but because they lack prosoponymic support they run into the objection that they may represent Old French Jacque(s), a contraction of Romance and Latin Jacobus and also of Picard Jakeme(s) from late Latin Jacomus (whence Northern Old French and Middle English \textit{James}). This leads us to the vexed question of the origin of \textit{Jack}, which has long been a source of debate.

Some have believed that the formal similarity of \textit{Jack} to Jacque(s) points to its real etymology as an Old French form of \textit{James}, and that the transferred use of Jacque(s) or Jake(s) as a pet-name for John was a peculiarly English semantic change.\textsuperscript{23} Others have adopted E. W. B. Nicholson’s explanation that \textit{Jack} was a late Middle English shortening of Jackin, a dissimilated form of Jankin, the common Middle English pet-form of Jan ‘John’.\textsuperscript{24} This is surely nearer the mark but relies on a sound change that is otherwise unknown in English. In 1956 a Belgian

\textsuperscript{20}C. W. Bardsley, \textit{A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames} (London, 1901), s.n. Jack (I have corrected the dates from 1273 to 1275); Reaney and Wilson, \textit{Dictionary}, s.n. Jack.
\textsuperscript{21}Wheatley Court Rolls, PRO, MS SC2/196/96 (December 19, 1295).
\textsuperscript{22}PRO, MS SC2/196/96 (November 26, 1296; January 14, April 22, August 12, 1297).
MCCLURE

scholar, J. Lindemans, published prosoponymic evidence that Jakke was a pet-form of Northern Old French Jan (< Jehan < Latin Johannes) in early-fourteenth-century Flanders and early-fifteenth-century Artois.\(^\text{25}\) He explains the development by reference to Flemish Haket, Haquinot and Hakart, which also appear to be pet-forms of Jehan through denasalisation of the common Picard pet-form Hanke to Hake, to which Romance suffixes have then been added. Hanke is either a contraction of Hankin or an extended form of Han with the Middle Dutch suffix -ik (Continental Germanic -ico). Lindemans proposes that Jakke arose by a similar denasalisation of *Janke.

I find Lindemans’ suggestion that Picard-Flemish Jakke is the source of Middle English Jakke very persuasive. Like pet-forms in -kin, Jakke as a pet-name for Jan or John was widely used throughout medieval England and offers further support to the view that Anglo-French was the disseminating lingua franca by which Picard-Flemish naming practices spread generally into Middle English. It follows that we should be able to find evidence for it in the late twelfth century or early thirteenth, when -kin names first occur in English records. I think we probably have it in filius Jake 1195–97 (Cornwall), filius Jacce 1218 (Lincolnshire) and the diminutive forms Jakin 1202 (Essex), Jakelinus 1219 (Yorkshire), both of them forenames, and Jagard 1194 (Wiltshire) and Jacun t. Henry III (Essex), which occur as bynames.\(^\text{26}\) Formally, however, any of these might alternatively derive from Jacque(s), as may Jaket, which is first recorded as a Sussex byname in 1296,\(^\text{27}\) but the onomastic context is less favourable to this interpretation. Jacobus is found in medieval England from the mid-twelfth century onwards, but the name was


\(^{26}\) See Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.nn. Jack, Jacklin, Jaggard, Jakins. They assign all the early forms to James.

\(^{27}\) See *ibid.*, s.n. Jaggard.
never very popular compared to the ubiquitous *Johannes* and its usual Middle English form was *Jame(s)* or *Gemme*, which would not have given rise to *Jakke*. *Jacques* and *Jakeme* definitely appear in the English records in the forenames *Jakes*, *Jakemin* (diminutive with -in) and *Jakemina* (feminine), and in one instance each of the pet-names *Jack*, *Jaketta* (feminine) and *Jacolin*, where the prosoponymy indicates either *Jacobus* or *Jakemina*. The examples are few, mostly from London around 1300, and possibly represent names of French immigrants. There is no evidence to suggest that the pattern of usage in the twelfth and early thirteenth centuries was significantly different from that in the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, when *Jakke* and its diminutives were occasionally used for ‘James’ but predominantly for ‘John’.

**Hanke, Luke, Maike, Malke, Moke, Nemke, Samke, Silke, Wilke**

In view of the origin of *Jakke*, we might expect to find evidence for other -ke hypocorisms in the early English records. *Maike, Samke, Silke* and *Wilke* appear in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries, while *Hanke*, which according to Lindemans is common in medieval Picardy and West Flanders, is first recorded in the late thirteenth. These may, like *Jakke*, be imported pet-forms, but *Luke, Malke, Moke* and *Nemke* are more likely to be ad hoc Middle English shortenings of names in -kin or -cok, a practice which may similarly have been introduced from the continent. I have not included Scottish *Jock*, which on the available evidence seems to be a dialect pronunciation of *Jack* rather than directly derived from a parallel Northern Old French *Jokke* (< *Jonke* < *Johan* + -ke), whose existence cannot be inferred with complete certainty either on the continent or in medieval England.

---

28 See *ibid.*, s.nn. Jack, Jackaman, Jackett, Jacklin.
None of these -ke pet-forms was used with anything like the frequency of Jakke. The evidence for them is presented below in alphabetical order, followed by a brief etymological discussion.

**Hanke:** *Hank’ carpentarius* 1280 Oseney Cartulary (Oxfordshire), cited in Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Hanke, cf. *Hankynus* 1285 Oseney Cartulary, *ibid.*; Roger *Hanke* 1275 (Norfolk) *ibid.* Cf. the modern surname *Hanks* and the Flemish prosoponyms *Hancke de Helefaut* 1278 = *Johannis decani de Helfaut* 1268 (West Flanders), cited in Debrabandere, *Woordenboek*, s.n. Hanck. This is a pet-form of Old French (Picard) *Jan, Jehan*.

**Luke:** *Luke de Nettelton* (of Raistrick, West Riding of Yorkshire) 1308 = *Lovecok de Nettelton* 1309, cited in *Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 48, where Redmonds also associates ‘a messuage called *Lowekeshows*’ in Hepworth (in Holmfirth), 1550, with *Lovekoc de Wlvedale* (Wooldale in Holmfirth), 1275, John of *Loukes* of Wlvedale, 1316, and William *de Loukes* of Holmfirth, 1360. He interprets *de Loukes* as signifying ‘of Louke’s (house)’ and *Luke, Louke* and *Loweke* as short forms of *Lovecok*. This is not a pet-form of Old English *Lufa*, as suggested in Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Lowcock, but of Old French, Middle English *Lou, Leu, Love* (< Latin *Lupus, Lupa*), which has several diminutive forms, including *Lovet, Lovot, Lovel, Lovekin* and *Lovecok*. 31

Flemish *Jock* and *Jonquin* to a dialect pronunciation of *Jack* and *Janquin*. Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.nn. Jukes and Juggins, interpret occasional examples of the Middle English bynames *Jock* (1279), *Jokke* (1327) and diminutives *Jokin* (1275) and *Joket* (1332) as pet-forms of Middle English *Jukel, Jokel* < Old Breton *Judicael*. Welsh *Yockyn* (also spelled *lokyn*), a pet-form of *John*, might be derivable from a Middle English *Jokin*, but T. J. and Prys Morgan, *Welsh Surnames* (Cardiff, 1985), p. 137, think this unlikely because the initial vowel is /j/ not /dz/.


31Old French *Lou(p)* was used as both baptismal name and
**Maike:** *Maicus de Leuerton* 1202 *Lincolnshire Assize Roll*;\(^{32}\) *Gilebertus filius Maike* (Coddington, Nottinghamshire) c.1250 *Newark Docs*, pp. 24 and 29;\(^{33}\) *Robertus filius Maiki* (Coddington) c.1250 *ibid.*, pp. 27 and 42. It has been suggested that the 1202 *Maicus* might be a form of *Maccus*, a name of uncertain origin used by Irish Vikings and found in pre- and post-Conquest England.\(^ {34}\) The Coddington examples alternatively point to a latinised form of *Maike*, which is probably a pet-form of Middle English *Maheu*, *Mayheu* < *Mahieu* (an Old French form of *Matthew*), either by addition of *-ke* to *Ma(y)-* or by shortening of Middle English *Maykin* and *Maycok*.\(^ {35}\) Some instances of Middle English *Mak(e)* may belong here, too. Cf. *Moke* below.

**Maike:** *Joh’e fil’ Malk’* (Cotham, Nottinghamshire) 1327 *Subsidy Roll*, m.15.\(^ {36}\) Probably a shortening of Middle English *Malkin*, a common pet-form of *Mald* (Maud).

**Moke:** *Malg[er] fil[ius] Moche* c.1175 *Newark Docs*, p. 2;


\(^{33}\) *Documents relating to the Manor and Soke of Newark-on-Trent*, edited by M. W. Barley, Thoroton Society Record Series, 16 (Nottingham, 1955).

\(^{34}\) See D. E. Thornton, ‘Hey, Mac! The name *Maccus*, tenth to fifteenth centuries’, *Nomina* 20 (1997), 67–98 (p. 88). The personal name *Macus* also occurs in Lincolnshire at about the same date as *Maicus*; see Stenton, *Earliest Lincolnshire Assize Rolls*, item 358.


\(^{36}\) PRO, Lay Subsidy Rolls, MS E179/159/4.
Ralph Moke 1243 (Somerset), Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Mock; Will’s fil’ Moke de Wueleesthorp’ 1280 Assize Roll (Nottinghamshire); Moke Hermer (deceased, of ?Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire) 1287 Forest Proceedings; Henr’ fil’ Moke (Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire) 1291–92, 1294–95, 1297 Rentals; Mokke (Sussex) 1296 Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Mock; Ric’o Moke (Cuckney, Nottinghamshire) 1327 Subsidy Roll, m.5; Robert Mok’ (Yorkshire) 1331 Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Mock; John Mokeson (Bradfield, West Riding of Yorkshire) 1379, *Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 236, s.n. Moxon.

Redmonds explains Yorkshire examples of Moke as short forms of Mocok, a name for which he has prosoponymic evidence that it was a pet-form of Matthew, Middle English Ma(y)heu. We would expect Ma(y)heu to produce Macok or Maycok (cf. Maike above). Macok does indeed occur side by side with Mocok in the Holmfirth area and the variation is repeated in a Staffordshire example of 1323, one man being surnamed Maycok and Moycok. The change of -a- to -o- is unexplained. It could be a playful variation of the vowel, comparable to the initial consonant substitution in rhyming pet-forms, or it might be by assimilation to the -o- of -cok. Cf. Moggot for Maggot, a pet-form of Margery and Margaret. It is not unlikely that some of the Nottinghamshire examples of Moke listed above have the same origin. Alternatively Moke might be short for Morecok, probably a pet-form of Morice, while pre-1250 instances could represent Old English Mocca or a short form of Old Swedish Morkar, a

37PRO, MS Just 1/666.
38PRO, Justices of the Forest, MS E32/127.
39PRO, Special Collections, MSS SC2/196/8, 10 and SC11/537.
41See Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Maycock.
42See Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Moorcock.
name used in twelfth- and early thirteenth-century Newark.  

**Nemke**: tenement sometime of Robert Nemkesone (Nottingham), 1314 ‘Calendar’, CA 1255/238, 1316 Borough Court Roll, CA 1256; Margeria Nemk’, Nempk’ (Nottingham), 1308, 1311 *ibid.*, CA 1251b, 1253; Leticia Nempke, Nemk’ (Nottingham), 1322, 1323 *ibid.*, CA 1257, 1258d. It looks like a pet-form of Old French, Middle English *Emme*, with prosthetic *N-* to make a rhyming form.  

**Samke**: William Samke (Suffolk) 1221, Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Sank. This is probably a pet-form of Old French, Middle English *Samson*, Sanson, a name not uncommon in twelfth- and early thirteenth-century England due to its popularity among continental Normans, Bretons and Flemings. Cf. Middle English *Samkin*.

Reaney and Wilson somewhat unconvincingly explain

---


44 ‘A Calendar of the Nottingham Borough Court Rolls, 1303–1455’, edited by T. Foulds (unpublished), roll 1255, item 238. It forms part of the Nottingham Borough Court Rolls Project, for which see T. Foulds, J. Hughes and M. Jones, ‘The Nottingham Borough court rolls: the reign of Henry VI (1422–57)’, *Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire*, 97 (1993), 74–87. I am grateful to Dr Foulds for permission to use material from the Calendar.

45 Nottingham Borough Court Rolls, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire Archives, CA 1256.


47 See Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Sankin, which they derive from *Samson*. 
Samke as a hypothetical Anglo-Scandinavian pet-form of an Old Norse *Sandúlfr or Sandi, apparently compounded with -kell.

**Silke:** Aedwardus Selke (Somerset) 1170, Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Silk; Adam Silke of Holkam c.1277, *Middle English Dictionary*, s.v. silke;\(^{48}\) Johannes Selke (Somerset) 1327, *ibid.*; William Silke (London) 1350, Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Silk; John Silk (Wiltshire) 1353, *ibid.* This may be a pet-form of Middle English Cecily, Cisely. Cf. Sely filia Nicholai (Worcestershire) 1221, Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Sealey, and medieval Flemish Selie, Cylie for Cecilia.\(^{49}\) Or it might be a pet-form of Old French, Middle English Sil-, Selvester or Sil-, Selvain.\(^{50}\) Forssner derives it from Continental Germanic Salico, a pet-form of names in Sal-,\(^{51}\) while Reaney and Wilson treat it as an occupational byname for a dealer in silk (Old English seolc, Middle English silk, selk).\(^{52}\) However, Middle English Silkin, Selekin and Silcok, Selecok give some credence to Silke and Selke as post-Conquest hypocorisms.\(^{53}\)

**Wilke:** Wilke Waterman 1196 Merchant Gild Rolls, *Records of Borough of Leicester*, I, 12, 13;\(^{54}\) Wilke Ouernon (quit of entry and hanse through all England) 1198, *ibid.*, I, 16; Wilke furnur de Munsorel [Mountsorrel, Leicestershire] 1225, *ibid.*, I, 27; Wilke Mile filius Ricardi

---


\(^{49}\) Debrabandere, *Woordenboek*, s.n. Celie. Perhaps also cf. *ibid.*, s.n. Selke, though it is given a different etymology.

\(^{50}\) See Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.nn. Silvester and Sauvain.


\(^{52}\) *Dictionary*, s.n. Silk.

\(^{53}\) See *ibid.*, s.nn. Silcock and Silkin.

1226, ibid., I, 29; Wilke de Pailinton [Paiton, Warwickshire] 1242-43 ibid., I, 63; Wylke de Chyrchele 1246 (Lancashire), Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Wilk; Wilke 1286 (Cheshire), ibid.; Roger Wylk 1279 (Bedfordshire), ibid.; John Wilkys 1327 (Worcestershire), ibid.; Henry Wylkeson of Widmerpool (Nottinghamshire) 1391 Nottinghamshire Inquisitiones Post Mortem, 1350-1436, p. 117; William Wilkynsone, juror for Tuxford (Nottinghamshire) 1352 ibid., p. 1 = William Willson, Tuxford juror, 1354 ibid., p. 4 = William Wilkesone, Tuxford juror 1354, ibid., p. 11 = William son of William de Tuxford, juror, 1360, 1371, ibid., pp. 46 and 65. The Tuxford example is prosoponymically identified as a pet- form of William, either by shortening of Wilkyn or by extension of Wil by the suffix -ke. Debrabandere similarly explains the modern Belgian surname Wilk(es) as a variant of Willeken(s). Reaney and Wilson, however, interpret Middle English Wilke as a survival of Old English Willoc, while Insley and Cameron suggest that it sometimes represents Old Norse Vígleikr. Granted that a year or so either side of 1200 might not be too late for a Leicester inhabitant to bear an insular forename, a case can be made for these alternative etymons. On the other hand, the early instances of Wilke in Leicester belong exclusively to merchants, most of whom are likely to have been incomers (indeed Wilke Overnon, 1198, may have been a foreigner), and among whom continental names had become the general rule by the beginning of the thirteenth century. In such circumstances the forename of the Leicester merchant, Wilke Mile filius Ricardi (1226),

---

56Debrabandere, Woordenboek, s.n. Willeken(s).
57Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Wilk.
58See K. Cameron, The Place-Names of Lincolnshire, II, English Place-Name Society, 64/65 (Nottingham, 1991), 148, s.n. ad Wilkeflet (early thirteenth cent.).
whose father and (?) grandfather bore continental names, is much more likely to have been a Franco-Flemish pet-form of William rather than either of the insular names.

3. The suffix -man

The following examples of forenames and patronymics point to the use of -man as a hypocoristic suffix to make pet-forms of Middle English personal names.

**Bateman**: Batemanus de Staunford’ 1222 (Rutland), Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Bateman; Bateman le Keu 1267, ibid.; Batman d’Appleton 1313 (York) ibid.; Batemannu[m] Hok’ de Newerk’ 1280 Assize Roll (Nottinghamshire);\(^{59}\) Bateman Lem[er]yng’ (Nottingham) 1323 Borough Court Roll;\(^{60}\) Batemanno le Swynherd 1336 ibid.;\(^{61}\) Rog[er]us fil’ Bateman de Stretton (Nottinghamshire) 1287 Forest Eyre Roll;\(^{62}\) Nich’ fil’ Bateman (Mansfield, Nottinghamshire) 1315 Court Roll;\(^{63}\) Freisaunt Batemanson’ (Wilford, Nottinghamshire) 1332 Subsidy Roll.\(^{64}\)

**Hikeman**: Hikeman 1279 (Oxfordshire), Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Hickman; Hykemon Smert 14th cent. (Worcestershire), ibid.; Walt. Hykemons (Billesley, Warwickshire) 1332 = Walt. Hyken (ibid.) 1327, Middle English Nicknames, Warwicks., p. 30.\(^{65}\)

---

59PRO, MS Just 1/666.
60Nottingham Borough Court Rolls, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire Archives, MS CA 1258d.
61Ibid., CA 1262.
62PRO, Justices of the Forest, MS E32/127.
63Mansfield Court Roll, 1315–1316, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire Archives, MS DDP/17/1.
64PRO, Subsidy Rolls, MS E179/159/5, m.6. Freisaunt was probably the widow of Gilb[er]to Bateman, assessed in Wilford in the 1327 Subsidy Roll, E179/159/4, m.16.
65I. Hjertstedt, Middle English Nicknames in the Lay Subsidy Rolls for Warwickshire, Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis, Studia Anglistica Upsaliensia, 63 (Uppsala, 1987).
NOMINA 26

Hugeman, How(e)man, Hueman, Hiweman, Huckeman: Hugeman de Assinton 13th cent. (Suffolk), Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Human; Nicholaus filius Howemanni, filius Huemann 1252 (Huntingdonshire), ibid.; Willelmus filius Howman 1276 (Huntingdonshire), ibid.; Matill’ filia Hiweman c.1248 (Wiltshire), ibid.; Hucmon ridig 1259 (Lancashire), ibid.

Pateman: Pateman Broin 1407 (Scotland), Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Pateman, cf. Jordan Pateman 1219 (York) and Peter Patemon 1275 (Worcestershire), ibid.

Poteman: Nigellus filius Poteman 1185 (Kent), Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Potman; Poteman de Rokesakere 1258 (Kent), ibid.

Reaney explains Bateman, Hikeman, Pateman and Poteman (under the references given) as ‘servant of a man named Bate, Hick, Pate or Pott’, which are short forms respectively of Bartelmew (probably), Rikard (Richard), Patrick and Philipot, a diminutive of Philip. He believes that these occupational expressions came to be used as nicknames and then personal names, ‘perhaps on the analogy of such names as [Old English] Blaecmann, Dēormann, etc.’.  

I doubt if -man in these names is a noun meaning ‘servant’. Rather it is a hypocoristic suffix alternating with other Old French or Middle English suffixes such as we see in the comparable forms Batin, Batun, Batekin and Batecok; Hikin, Hikun, Hicky and Hicok; Patin and Patun; Potin and Potekin. The prosoponymic alternation of the Warwickshire byname Hykemons with Hyken puts the matter beyond doubt, as Hyken is a typical West Midland equivalent of Hykes, with

66Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Bateman.
67Ibid., s.nn. Batten, Batkin, Badcock, Hickin, Hickey, Hickox (but with a different etymology to that given by Reaney), Patten, Potten and Potkin.
the weak genitive singular -en substituted for -es.\(^{68}\) *Hykemon* is not an occupational byname, ‘Hyke’s servant’, but a hypocoristic extension of *Hyke*. As for *Hugeman, Howeman, Hueman* and *Hiweman* Reaney and Wilson take them to be evidence for an unrecorded Old English *Hgemann*. I doubt if *Hiwe-* is a reflex of Old English *Hge-*; nor would Old English -y- give rise to -u-spellings in the Middle English dialects of Suffolk and Huntingdonshire, where the *Hu(g)e-* and *How(e)*- forms are documented. What we have is a pet-name for *Hugh* (Continental Germanic *Hugo*), which has a number of Middle English forms including *Huge, Howe* (a spelling for *Huwe*), *Hue* and *Hewe* (of which *Hiwe* is an alternative Anglo-French spelling). These -man forms belong with other diminutives of *Hugh*, such as *Huget, -in, -un, -elin, Howet, Hewet* and *Hukin*. *Huckeman* is left unexplained by Reaney and Wilson; I think it, too, is a pet-form of *Hugh*. In Anglo-French and Middle English contexts the forenames *Hugge* and *Hucke* would represent weak forms of *Hugo*,\(^{69}\) hence the diminutive form *Huckel* and, if we take -o- as a spelling for /ul/, also *Hoget, Hoket* and *Hokyn*.\(^{70}\)

The use of -man as a hypocoristic suffix has a long history in the West Germanic languages. Förstemann argues that while some Continental Germanic personal names ending in -man were probably dithematic, most were pet-forms of other names.\(^{71}\) Lindemans points out that an interesting example occurs in *Karloman*, ‘little Charles’, a frequent name in the Carolingian dynasty


\(^{69}\)In other contexts *Hugge* and *Hucke* might alternatively be pet-forms of Old English *Úhtrd*, as shown by Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Huck.

\(^{70}\)For the forms see Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.nn. Huckel, Hockett and Hockin, though they are explained there as Old English *Ucca* and *Hocca* + Old French –el, -et and –in.

NOMINA 26

(seventh to ninth centuries) and which was borne, for instance, by the second son of Pipin II, presumably to distinguish him from the elder son, Karel, otherwise known as Charlemagne.\textsuperscript{72} Similarly some Old English names in -mann may be genuinely dithematic and others may be hypocorisms,\textsuperscript{73} in which case it is natural to suppose that Middle English use of hypocoristic -man could have derived from the Old English practice. There must be some doubt about this, however, since no other Old English hypocoristic suffix seems to have been added to names of post-Conquest introduction. It is more likely that the Middle English usage was adopted from Flanders and the neighbouring counties of the Southern Netherlands (Brabant, Limburg, etc.) where the practice was commonplace. There we see, for example, Coleman for Nicolaus and Wauterman for Walterus, both from the second half of the thirteenth century and proven by prosoponymic variation, and many other similar instances of common forenames suffixed with -man, such as Hanneman for Jehan (John) and Hugeman for Huge (Hugh).\textsuperscript{74}

The fact that in England the earliest example of Poteman (1185) is more or less contemporary with the earliest example of Potekin (1166),\textsuperscript{75} serves to emphasise the probable Flemish connection, as do the thirteenth-century instances of Hu(g)eman in both Flanders and in southern England. The occurrence of Pateman in Lowland

\textsuperscript{72}J. Lindemans, ‘De familienamen op \textit{–man’}, Mededelingen van de Vereniging voor Naamkunde, 40 (1964), 6–32 (p. 18).
\textsuperscript{73}See, for example, J. Insley, ‘The study of Old English personal names and anthroponymic lexika’ in Person und Name. Methodische Probleme bei der Estellung eines Personennamenbuches des Frühmittelalters, edited by D. Geuenich, W. Haubrichs and J. Jarnut (Berlin and New York, 2002), pp. 148–76 (p. 165), where he explains Old English Dudemann as a hypocoristic form.
\textsuperscript{74}See Lindemans, ‘Familienamen op \textit{–man’}, pp. 19 and 20.
\textsuperscript{75}William Potechin, cited in Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Potkin.
Scotland, where *Patrick* and its other pet-forms *Pate*, *Paton* and *Patin* were common, may also owe something to Flemish settlement there.76 Compared with the other names, *Bateman* is unusually frequent. There are six instances in Nottinghamshire alone and no doubt there are many more to be found in other counties, suggesting that it may have become used independently as a Christian name. Some of these names may have been imported from the continent as ready-made pet-forms, but the combination of -*man* (and its West Midland variant -*mon*) with the rhyming form *Hike*, which was probably an Anglo-French coinage, confirms that it was a live suffix in post-Conquest England. One curious feature of the continental practice (from perhaps the twelfth century onwards) is the use of -*man* to make pet-forms of women’s names, such as *Mariman* (Mary) and *Sareman* (Sarah).77 I have no definite evidence of a similar use in England, although both *Maryman*, -*mon* and *Saremon* occur as bynames in early-fourteenth-century Warwickshire.78 They may, however, signify ‘Mary’s/Sarah’s servant’.

To what extent -*man* was employed as a hypocoristic suffix in medieval England is not easy to determine. There are many -*man* names that might be interpreted as pet-forms of post-Conquest personal names but which are capable of alternative interpretations. Are the following forenames and patronymics Middle English hypocorisms or are they Old English personal names in -*mann*?

76See Black, *Surnames of Scotland*, s.nn. Pate, Paton and Patrick. In his citation, s.n. Paton, of *Patein* or *Pateman Broin*, Black implies that *Patein* is a spelling of *Patin*, which would provide us with a useful piece of prosoponymic evidence, but the spelling is unusual and I wonder if *Patein* is an editorial misreading of *Patem*, i.e. *Patem[an]*.


NOMINA 26

**Adiman**: *Adiman* 1204 (Yorkshire), Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Addyman; it is explained there as ‘Addy’s servant’ but as an independent personal name I think it must be either a pet-form of *Adam* (cf. Middle English *Addy*, *Adekin* and *Adécok*) or a modified form of Old English *Ēadmann*, cf. *Ed(i)man* below.

**Dayman**: *Dayman Buntyng* 1221 (Cambridgeshire), *ibid*., s.n. Dayman. Either a diminutive form of Middle English *Day*, which might be a pet-form of *David*, as Reaney suggests, or a rhyming short form of Old French names like *Raymond*, *Rainer*, *Raynold* and *Rainard* (cf. Middle English *Daykin*); or Old English *Dægmann*.

**Ed(i)man**: *Ediman Cumin* 1295–97 (Northamptonshire), *ibid*., s.n. Edman; *Edman’ Diriuol* 1327 = *Edimmannus Drituol* 1332 (Norfolk), Seltén, *Anglo-Saxon Heritage*, II, 69, s.n. Ēadmann;⁷⁹ *Edman’ f. Willemi* 1327 = *Ediman f. Willelmi* 1332 (Norfolk), *ibid*. Either a Middle English pet-form of (originally Old English) *Ed-* names like *Edward*, *Edmund* or *Edith*, or an equivalent Old English *Ēadmann* as Reaney and Seltén suggest, though the forms are unusually late for an Old English personal name to be still in use as a forename. Perhaps *Ēadmann* survived into the fourteenth century through association with Ēadweard or Ēadmund, of which it was perhaps a pet-form. Seltén explains the variation *Edi-* as showing influence from Middle English *edi* (OE ēadig) ‘wealthy, happy’. Cf. *Adiman* above?

**Litman**: *Liteman de Clunton’* 1176 (Devon), Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Lilleyman, *Rogerus filius Liteman* 1204 (Suffolk), *ibid*. Either a diminutive form of Middle English *Lete*, *Lite*, which may be a short form of Old French, Middle English *Letard* (Continental Germanic *Leuthard*) or *Letice* (Latin *Laetitia*), cf. Middle English *Lety*, *Lity* and *Litecock* (Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Litcook); or else Old English *Lt(el)mann*, as suggested by

---

MCCLURE
Reaney and Wilson, *ibid.*, s.n. Lilleyman.

The main problem in assessing the frequency of hypocoristic -man arises from the fact that most of our evidence for the vernacular forms of Middle English personal names is preserved in bynames that are asyndetic, that is without linking elements such as filius or -son. These are then open to different interpretations because of formal convergence between names of other origins. In addition to Old English personal names in -mann, Middle English -man commonly occurs in occupational compounds and sometimes in locative or other types of nickname. The following examples have all been explained in one or more of these ways in the secondary sources from which I have taken the Middle English forms.\(^8\) Here I gloss them as possible hypocorisms.

**Bademan**: a voiced form of *Bateman* or a pet-form of Old French *Baudwin* or of a Continental Germanic name in *Bad*, cf. Middle English *Badekin* and *Badecok*.

**Dikeman**: \(<\) Middle English *Dike*, a rhyming short form of *Rikard* (Richard). Cf. Middle English *Hikeman*.

**Henman**: \(<\) Middle English *Hen*, short for *Henry*, cf. Middle English *Henkin* and Debrabandere, *Woordenboek*, s.n. Henneman(s).

**Heyman**: \(<\) Middle English *Hai, Hey* (Continental Germanic *Haio*), short for names like Middle English *Hain* (Continental Germanic *Hagano*), cf. Middle English *Heycok*.

**Loveman**: \(<\) Northern Old French, Middle English *Love* (Latin *Lupus, -a*), cf. Middle English *Lovekin, Lovecok*.

Lovet, -ot, -el.

Palman: < Middle English Palle, a pet-form of Paul or possibly a rhyming form of Malle, a pet-form of Maud, cf. Middle English Palecok and Palcus.

Perman: < Middle English Per (Peter), cf. Middle English Perkin and Debrabandere, Woordenboek, s.n. Peerman.

Above all it is impossible on formal grounds to distinguish Middle English pet-forms in -man from bynames composed of a personal name and Middle English man ‘servant’. Some Middle English bynames, such as Gasman (< Old French Gace, Continental Germanic Watso) and Waleman (cf. Middle English Walecok, < Northern Old French Wale, Continental Germanic Walo) are based on names that fell out of use during the medieval period, but most of them are commonplace and require no comment, as for example Matthewman, Stevenmon, Thomeman, Walterman and Willeman. Many names of this type are first recorded in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, which makes these more likely to be occupational surnames denoting someone’s servant. All the definite evidence so far for Middle English -man as a hypocoristic suffix is from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

4. The suffix -cot

Some years ago, while looking through some editions of

81 See Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.nn. Gassman, Wallman and Walcock.
82 See Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.nn. Matthewman, Tumman, Waterman and Willman; also Hjertstedt, Middle English Nicknames, p. 220, s.n. Steuenmon; and cf. the medieval Flemish personal names Wauterman and Willem in Debrabandere, Woordenboek, s.nn. Wouterman(s) and Willeman(s). It is possible that Rog’o Wilman (Gringley on the Hill, Nottinghamshire) 1327 Subsidy Roll (P. R. O., MS E179/159/4, m.5 ) is identical with Rog’o fil’ Willm’i 1297 Gringley Extent (P. R. O., MS SC 11/534).
thirteenth- and fourteenth-century London records, I came across a woman called Sarrecote, presumably a pet-form of Middle English Sarre (Sarah). The reference was unfortunately lost during an office move, but I then happened on a similar forename, Salcote, in the Nottingham Borough court rolls, which seemed to confirm the existence of a Middle English hypocoristic suffix, -cot(e). It is of Picard origin and belongs to a group of hybrid double suffixes, including -quet and -coul, in which Germanic -ik- has been extended by the addition of a French diminutive. The suffix was used in Picardy and Flanders to form pet-names like Hanecot (for Old French Jehan) and Wilecot (for Northern Old French William).  

It would be surprising if no other examples of Middle English -cot(e) were to occur, but although there are plenty of candidates it is difficult to establish unambiguous instances. Examples appearing as forenames and having the (probably less common) spelling -cote provide the only real certainty. Asyndetic bynames, like Lovecote, are often open to alternative etymologies, while forenames and bynames that have the more expected spelling -cot fall foul of a palaeographical ambiguity that makes -cot and -kot impossible to distinguish from -coc and -koc, which are variant spellings of the common hypocoristic suffix -cok. From the mid-thirteenth century onwards scribes so often write a -c- like a -t- and vice versa that there is no way of telling if what appears in printed editions as -cot or -kot are genuine examples of the suffix. For illustrative purposes I have opted for examples that happen to be printed, rightly or wrongly, as -cot or -kot. On the other hand some names printed with -coc or -koc may have been originally intended to represent -cot.

Alcot: John Alkot 1290 (Cheshire), Reaney and Wilson, Dictionary, s.n. Alcott, where it is suggested that it ‘may

---

be a misreading of Alkoc’. Either way it is a pet-form of names like Alice, Alexander and Alan.

**Hanecot**: Henry Havekot (printed sic) 1275 (Norfolk), Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Hawkett. The -v- will be an editorial interpretation of a double minim in the manuscript and may be read as -n- instead of -u-. Hanecot was a common pet-form of Old French Jehan in Picardy. Reaney and Wilson explain the rare Havekot as a diminutive form of Old English Hafoc (with Old French -ot). Alternatively the intended form could have been Hanekoc, a fairly usual Middle English pet-name for either Johan or Hanry (Henry).

**Lovecot(e)**: Richard Lovecot 1275 (Worcestershire). Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Lovecot; John Lovecote 1327 (Debden, Essex), *Place-Names of Essex*, s.n. Lovecott Fm; John Louecote 1378 (Debden, Essex), Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Lovecote. Perhaps a pet-form of Old French, Middle English Love (cf. Lovekin, Lovecok, Lovel, etc.). Since it occurs as an asyndetic byname a topographical origin is another possibility, from an Old English *lufu-cot* ‘love-house’, as attested in the byname of John ate Lovecot 1300 (Surrey), Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Lovecot. This compound might be the source of Lovecott Farm in Debden, Essex, with which Reaney and Wilson associate the family of John Lovecote. On the other hand, the farm name is not recorded earlier than the six-inch Ordnance Survey map and may have been named after the family rather than the other way round. The Worcestershire Lovecot of 1275 is less likely to have any connection with the Debden farm name. It may, however, be in error for Lovecoc.

**Salcote**: Salcote le Taverner 1359 × 1360 (Nottingham), ‘Calendar’, CA 1269/266. The comparable pet-name

85See Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Hancock.
MCCLURE

Salekin is assumed by Reaney and Wilson to be a man’s name, probably a diminutive of Old French, Middle English Salomon, but the context of the Nottingham court roll indicates that Salcote is the name of a woman. Sal(le) for Sarah is not known before the seventeenth century and may be a post-medieval form, so it is perhaps a pet-form of Old French, Middle English Isald.

**Simcot:** Robert Symcot 1275 (Cambridgeshire), Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Simcock, where it is interpreted as an error for Symcoc. In either event it is a pet-form of Old French, Middle English Simon.

---

87 *Dictionary*, s.n. Salkin.
89 For Isald see Reaney and Wilson, *Dictionary*, s.n. Issard, and for the loss of final -d cf. ME Mal(le) for Mald (Maud).