

## Werlawescroft & Werlascroft Surname

The first mention I have found of the surname Werlascroft was in 1287 when a Clement de Werlascroft (Warlawescroft) was mentioned in the Pleas of the Forest of Cannock and Kenfare in Staffordshire. In January 1301 (1302) Clement de Warlesawescroft appeared at the Assizes held at Stafford with Stephen Hawarden and John de Caldewelle accused of unjustly disseised Henry son of Hugh de Teddesleye of land and tenements at Bloxwich in Staffordshire. On the 26 November 1302 Clement again appeared at the assize before William Inge and Ralph de Bellafago held at Tamworth but the case was adjourned as the recognitors did not appear.

An Adam de Werlascroft was 'a free and lawful man' when he was appointed one of the twenty four Jurors to hear the case of Robert de Bures and land in Cannock Forest at an Inquisition held in 1311. In 1315 on the Feast of St. Wistan (1 June) Elizabeth att Mote granted to Adam de Werlascroft and Joan her daughter his wife all her messuage called le Mote in Byssbury, Staffordshire.

'Werlascroft' is not mentioned on 19C maps of the Bushbury area. However, I have recently found a reference to Werlascroft on the [Black Country History web pages](#). The page states that Westcroft Farm, Bushbury was originally called 'Werlascroft'. It was one of the three farms in the possession of the Underhill family. The connection with the Underhill family is confirmed in a charter dated the Sunday next after the feast of St. James (30 July) in 1374 William de Worlascroft, vicar of Bisshebury (Bushbury) and William de Wybaston, chaplain, grant (land) to Thomas Underhill and Elene his wife.

William Werlascroft was the vicar at Bushbury in 1369, 1374 and 1397. Previously he had been clerk and is mentioned in a document for 1346 in connection with a feoffment. It is also possible that the William Werlawescroft mentioned in the Shropshire Fleet Fines dated 27 October (one month from St Michael) 1393 is the same William. William and others were querents in a case brought against John Smythyman and Islot, his wife, (deforciant) for land including the manor of Brydewyk (Baswich, Staffordshire). The deforciant gave John and Islot a 100 marks of silver after they remitted all rights to the land.

In my opinion, from the evidence available, the surname Werlascroft was derived from the place of the same name located near Bushbury in Staffordshire. The surname appears to have 'disappeared' in its original form over the process of time.

First Name	Surname	Date	Place	County	Document	Source
Clement	de Werlascroft	1287	Esinton	STS	Pleas of the Forests	SRS, 1884 Vol 5 Pt1 pp286
Clement	de Warlawescroft	1301	Bloxwich	STS	Plea Rolls	SRS, 1886 Vol VII pp105-6
Clement	de Warlawescroft	1302	Bloxwich	STS	Assize Roll	SRS, 1886 Vol VII pp 94/95
Adam	de Werlascroft	1311	Cannock Forest	STS	Inquisition 4 E II	SRS 1911 p307
Adam	de Werlascroft	1315	Mote	STS	Ancient Deeds	Wodenhouse, Wombourne (SRS)
William	de Worlascroft	1346	Moseley, Bushbury	STS	Sutherland Papers	Stafford Record Office: D593/A/2/3/2
Nicholas	de Worlascroft	1351	Penn	STS	Power of attorney	William Salt Library D593/b1/17/14/8
William	Werlascroft	1369	Bushbury	STS	Old Fallings deeds	SRS, Bushbury (1956-7)
William	Werlascroft	1374	Bushbury	STS	Old Fallings deeds	SRS, Bushbury (1956-7)
William	de Werlascroft	1391	Engulton & Brewode	STS	Final Concords	SRS 1890 Vol XI p198
William	Werlawescroft	1393	Birwick	STS	Fleet Fines	CP 25/1/195/19, Shropshire
William	Werlascroft	1397	Bushbury	STS	Old Fallings deeds	SRS, Bushbury (1956-7)

References to the surname Werlawescroft and Werlascroft 1200-1400