The estate of Cecil Alan Bealing

STATUS — NO HEIRS · Bona Vacantia reference BV971507/1 · died Southampton, Hampshire, 13 February 1997

Conclusion: Cecil Alan Bealing died a widower at Southampton on 13 February 1997, and no person is entitled to his estate under section 46; it remains bona vacantia. He left a will of 1976 giving his whole estate to one man, his brother-in-law, who had died nineteen years before him. No substitute was named, so the gift lapsed and the estate falls to be dealt with as on an intestacy. He left no widow and no issue. His only sister died childless at his own address, twenty-one years before him. Each of his parents had exactly one sibling, and both of those lines end on the register without issue. No remarriage on either side produced a half-blood uncle or aunt. The grant, purchased and read, certifies the gross value of the estate as £440,755 and the net value as £439,796, and because the will's only gift failed the Crown's interest is the whole net estate. One point stands open because no index can close it: the maternal grandfather's forty-five years apart from his wife, which his 1956 death certificate would speak to. The thirty-year claim bar falls on 13 February 2027, 136 days from today.

HD Genealogy & Technology · 30 September 2026 09:58 BST, second edition · claim bar 13 February 2027

What this edition adds, and what it corrects. This edition brings the file of 16 August 2026, with the property-based estimate added to it on 6 September 2026, to the house standard. The status now stands on the top line, and the conclusion is restated in the house form. The grant and what it certifies are given their own section, ahead of the estimate that sits beside them. The references are re-authored to the referencing guide as identifiers only, their numbering unchanged, and the notes that argued rather than described a source are cut back to the consideration itself. No finding is added and none is withdrawn: every finding, control and negative of the first edition stands, and the first edition remains on file exactly as issued.

Supplied complete and without restriction on internal circulation. No living person is named in this file.

THE MAN ON THE LIST

A net estate of **£439,796**, and a will. On the face of it the easiest kind of case there is — find the will, read the name, done. This file exists because that is not what happened.

He was born **Cecil Alan Bealing on 12 May 1924 at Southampton**, the only son of Alan Clarence Bealing and Bella Daisy Bealing, formerly Blake; the birth index gives his mother's maiden surname as Blake.[2, 1] He lived and died in the city his family had occupied for three generations, and died a widower at 300 Burgess Road, Southampton, on **13 February 1997**.[3, 1]

THE WILL THAT FAILED

He left a will made in **1976** giving everything — real and personal, without qualification — to one man: **Henry Carberry Cotter**, his brother-in-law, of the same address, whom he also appointed sole executor. There is no residuary clause beneath the gift, no substitution, no survivorship condition and no contemplation-of-marriage clause. If that gift failed, nothing in the will caught what fell.[4]

Cotter never inherited. He died at Southampton in the autumn of **1977** — nineteen years before the testator — and the gift lapsed with him.[5] A lapsed gift with no substitute passes as on an intestacy, which is why the grant of March 1999 is administration **with will annexed**, why it was taken by the Treasury Solicitor for the use of the Crown, and why a testate estate sits on the Bona Vacantia list at all.[3]

The identification of Cotter is the load-bearing fact of this file, and it does not rest on a name match. The death index prints a date of birth, 16 February 1921, and carries the same rare middle name.[5] The birth registration of that same year shows **Carberry to be his mother's own maiden surname**, carried into his name at birth — a structural fact about one family, not a coincidence that could attach to a stranger.[6] His 1948 marriage to the testator's sister is registered in the same district as the death.[7] And the national marriage index was read across the whole of his widowhood, from her death in the spring of 1976 to his

own in the autumn of 1977 — the only window in which a remarriage could have occurred; it carries none.[8] Birth, marriage, widowhood and death agree on one unbroken life.

A will is not an exit; only reading it, and testing whether its gift survived, tells you what it is.

NO WIFE SURVIVING, AND NO CHILDREN

He died a widower, as the Crown's own archived row records.[1] The national marriage index was read for the whole span from 1942 to his death and carries **no marriage of his at all**: the single Bealing entry in that window is a different man, on forename and on district, in Devon.[9] No birth is traceable to him on any source consulted. The will points the same way: a man with living children in 1976 does not leave his whole estate to his brother-in-law.[4]

> *The published note on this case says his wife and children were "believed killed in a traffic accident in the 1960s/70s". That sentence is the Crown's own summary and not a register entry, and this file does not rely on it in either direction: the conclusion rests on the registers, which show no marriage and no issue to inherit — whatever the family's story was.*[1]

ONE SISTER, AND HER LINE ENDS AT THE SAME ADDRESS

His parents married at Southampton in **1922**,[10] and had exactly two children: Cecil, and **Barbara Elsie Mary**, born in the early weeks of **1926**.[11] Barbara is the hinge of the whole case — she married Henry Carberry Cotter in 1948, which is what made him the testator's brother-in-law.[7]

She died on **26 February 1976**, the death index printing her date of birth as 8 January 1926 and so tying the woman who died to the sister who was born.[12] Her estate was administered rather than willed, out of the Winchester registry that April, the probate calendar giving her address as **300 Burgess Road** — the address on her brother's will, made that same year.[13, 4] She left **no children**: the national birth index was read for the whole of her married life, from 1948 to her death, for a Cotter birth with a maternal surname of Bealing, and holds none, while the same span read without the maternal surname returns more than fourteen hundred Cotter births — so the index was answering and the silence is a finding.[14] Her husband survived her by eighteen months and remarried no one.[8]

Read together the file tells one story: a childless brother and a childless sister sharing a house, the brother writing his will the year his sister died, leaving everything to the brother-in-law who remained — who then died himself. Nobody replaced him in the will, and nobody existed to inherit outside it.

HIS FATHER'S FAMILY — ONE AUNT, DEAD BEFORE HE WAS BORN

His father died in **1958** and his mother in **1974**, both at Southampton, and she died still under the married surname of the 1922 marriage.[15, 16] The paternal grandparents married at Southampton in **1889**.[17] Their household in the census of 1891 — nine persons, read in full — contains one child: **Emma Eliza, eight months old**.[18] Two sons, Reginald and Bertie, died in infancy, the register recording Bertie's death before his first birthday.[19]

Emma Eliza married **Bernard Kenneth Cousins at Poole, Dorset, on 19 April 1919**, the parish register naming her father, which is what proves her the deceased's aunt rather than merely a Bealing of the right household.[20] She died in the spring of **1923, aged 32, at South Stoneham** — before her nephew Cecil was born.[21] Her four-year married life produced no registered child: the national birth index was read for a Cousins birth with a maternal surname of Bealing across the whole of it and is silent, while the same span read without the maternal surname fills the index's own row limit — so the negative is a finding and not a silence.[22]

That line ends with her.

HIS MOTHER'S FAMILY — ONE UNCLE, WHOSE MARRIAGE WAS CHILDLESS

His mother was one of the two children of **Cecil Arthur Blake and Harriet Elizabeth, formerly Moon**, who married at Southampton at the end of **1896**.[23] The census return of 1911 — the household's own statement, read from the image rather than from a transcript — closes the question in one line: **two children born alive, two still living, none died**.[24] The two were Bella Daisy, the deceased's mother, and

her brother **Cecil Arthur Blake junior**, the uncle the deceased was named for.

Blake junior married once, and late, in **1938**;[25] the wartime register of 1939 shows the couple with no child in the household;[26] and he died at Southampton in **1974, aged 77**.[27] No birth to that marriage exists in the national register across the three decades from it: the single national entry under the couple's surnames belongs to a family in a different district and is excluded on place.[28]

That line ends with him.

NOTHING ON THE HALF BLOOD

Neither grandparental couple produced a second family. On the paternal side the marriage index was read across the whole of the widowed grandmother's widowhood and carries no remarriage for her.[29] On the maternal side the grandparents lived apart for some forty-five years — the wife enumerated in 1911 as married rather than widowed, with no husband in the house[24] — and the national marriage index was read from the year after their marriage to the eve of the war for a second or bigamous marriage by him, and holds none.[30] He died at **Droxford in 1956, aged 82**, still married to the wife he had left.[31] There is no half-blood uncle or aunt, and so no issue of one.

A NOTE ON THE RECORD THAT WAS WRONG

The published case data gives the mother's maiden name as **Black**.[1] The register says **Blake** — at the deceased's own birth entry, at his sister's, and at the parents' marriage.[2, 11, 10] A reading keyed on the published spelling returns a clean, plausible, entirely empty result. The point is made here because every search in this file downstream of the mother runs on the corrected name, and any attempt to check this work on the published one will fail.

THE GRANT, AND WHAT IT CERTIFIES

The grant itself certifies the value. A copy of the grant — letters of administration with the will annexed, granted at the Principal Registry of the Family Division on 18 March 1999 to the Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury for the use of Her Majesty — was purchased and read for this file: it certifies **the gross value of the estate in the United Kingdom as £440,755 and the net value as £439,796**.[3] No other source consulted states a figure. The will was proved, and the estate was administered by the Crown because the will's only gift did not take effect; the interest to be traced is therefore the whole net estate on the intestacy that follows a wholly failed will.[3, 4]

A PROPERTY-BASED ESTIMATE

His last address is the one the grant and the will both give: **300 Burgess Road, Southampton, SO16 3BJ**.[3, 4] A property comparable taken against the address on 6 September 2026 stood at £396,000 (range £356,000 to £435,000); it is consistent with the certified figure and is superseded by it.[32] The control on that figure is **HM Land Registry Price Paid Data**, which records no sale of this property at all since the 1995 baseline; the nearest same-block comparables are 302 Burgess Road at £210,000 in September 2003 and 304 Burgess Road at £100,250 in May 2000.[33]

Tenure is unknown. No document read in this case states that the deceased held title to the property — only that it was his address at death — and the estimate is therefore a labelled estimate of what a property at that address is worth, not a valuation of anything he is shown to have owned. It is not the documented value, which is the grant's, and the two are not to be added or blended.

HOW FAR THE LADDER IS CLIMBED

Spouse
closed

Issue
closed

Parents
closed

Brothers & sisters
closed

Grandparents
closed

Aunts & uncles
closed

Cecil Alan Bealing - BV971507/1 - 1 candidate for the decedent's own identity, not kin
solid box: a record states the relationship - dashed: our candidate - a rung with no box carries the reason instead

THE SECTION 46 LADDER, RUNG BY RUNG

— **Spouse** — CLOSED: a widower on the Crown's own archived row, and the national marriage index across 1942 to his death carries no marriage of his.[1, 9]

— **Issue** — CLOSED: no issue is recorded by any source consulted, and there is no marriage of his for any to have issued from.[9] The will, which leaves everything to a brother-in-law, is consistent with a man who had none.[4]

— **Parents** — CLOSED as takers: both identified and both predeceasing him — Alan Clarence Bealing, died 1958, and Bella Daisy Bealing formerly Blake, died 1974.[15, 16]

— **Brothers and sisters of the whole blood and their issue** — CLOSED: one sister only, Barbara Elsie Mary, who died twenty-one years before him with no child registered to her marriage across its whole span.[11, 12, 14]

— **Brothers and sisters of the half blood and their issue** — CLOSED: the mother died still under the married surname of the 1922 marriage, and the father predeceased her by sixteen years, so no second marriage of either parent appears on the register.[10, 15, 16]

— **Grandparents** — CLOSED: both couples identified on their marriage entries of 1889 and 1896, none surviving him, and the maternal grandfather's own death registered in 1956.[17, 23, 31]

— **Uncles and aunts of the whole blood and their issue** — CLOSED. Paternal: one aunt only, who died in 1923 with no registered child, her two brothers having died in infancy.[18, 19, 21, 22] Maternal: one uncle only, whose 1938 marriage produced no registered child and who died in 1974.[24, 25, 28, 27]

— **Uncles and aunts of the half blood and their issue** — CLOSED on the index: no remarriage is registered for the widowed paternal grandmother, and none for the separated maternal grandfather in the forty-three years he could have made one.[29, 30]

The will's only gift lapsed and nothing in it caught the estate.[4] **The next class entitled is the Crown**, and the estate stays where the Treasury Solicitor placed it in 1999.[3]

WHAT REMAINS OPEN

One point is named honestly, because no index can close it. The maternal grandfather's forty-five years apart from his wife is exactly where an informal second family would sit, and a birth index cannot surface one: it prints the mother's maiden surname and not the father's name, so a search requires already knowing the other woman's identity. **His 1956 death certificate**, whose informant would name the household he died in, is the document that speaks to it. Nothing in any register read suggests such a family exists; the point stands open because the registers cannot prove it closed.

Beyond it, two residuals of ordinary size. The aunt's issue reading is bound to the exact spelling of her husband's surname, and variant spellings of it remain unsearched. And any birth registered outside England and Wales is invisible to every source read here.

No search on this case was left unreached: every route named above was run, and each negative is recorded with the check that makes it trustworthy.

THE DECISIVE DOCUMENTS

The maternal grandfather's 1956 death certificate — the entry indexed at Droxford in the first quarter of that year, in the name Cecil Arthur Blake, aged 82; the index reference is given at the citation.[31] It names the informant and the address at death, and is the one document that can speak to a second household the birth index cannot reach. Ordered from the General Register Office, £12.50. It has not been ordered.

The aunt's 1919 marriage entry — the parish register entry at Poole of 19 April 1919, in the name Emma Eliza Bealing.[20] It fixes the exact spelling of the surname her children would have been registered under, which is the single term the childlessness reading on her line is bound to. The register image has been read; a certified copy would add nothing to it.

ABOUT THIS ACCOUNT

This file was prepared by HD Genealogy & Technology from public and archived official records, to Genealogical Proof Standard discipline: every assertion above carries its source; every negative is dated and carries the check that makes it trustworthy; no living person is named; nothing is inferred beyond what a cited record states.

Index entries are described as index entries. The registers themselves remain unread except where a document was obtained: the grant and the will were both purchased and read in full, and the two census returns were read from the images. **Please check it.** Every reference is to a public record any researcher can open independently. If any reference does not say what it is said to say here, the fault is this file's, and correction is invited.

This is the second edition. The first, of 16 August 2026, with the estimate added on 6 September 2026, remains on file exactly as issued; nothing in it has been rewritten, and nothing is withdrawn.

This is genealogical research and **not legal advice**; entitlement is a question of law for the reader to determine. No living person is named, none has been approached, and no contact details are supplied. A negative finding is dated rather than permanent: records are digitised and released continuously, and this account speaks as at the date on its first page.

REFERENCES

References follow the University of Strathclyde standard. Where one records a negative, the control search proving the instrument was answering is stated with it.

1. Government Legal Department, Bona Vacantia Division. Unclaimed estate register entry, archived edition of 8 January 2022 and live list. Southampton, Hampshire. BEALING, Cecil Alan. 13 February 1997. BV971507/1. Collection: Unclaimed Estates list. www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list : accessed 06 September 2026.
2. Births index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. June quarter 1924. BEALING, Cecil Alan. Vol. 2c. p. 23. Collection: England and Wales birth index, 1837 onwards. www.gro.gov.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
3. Testamentary records. England. 18 March 1999. BEALING, Cecil Alan. Grant of letters of administration with will annexed, purchased digital copy. Probate no. 98716. HM Courts and Tribunals Service. Collection: Find a Will, digital index of grants issued from 1 January 1996. probatesearch.service.gov.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.
4. Testamentary records. England. 1976. BEALING, Cecil Alan. Will, the copy annexed to the grant, purchased digital copy. Annexed to probate no. 98716. HM Courts and Tribunals Service. Collection: Find a Will, digital index of grants issued from 1 January 1996. probatesearch.service.gov.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.
5. Deaths index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. September quarter 1977. COTTER, Henry Carberry. Vol. 20. p. 1250. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.
6. Births index (CR) England. Barrow-in-Furness registration district, Lancashire. March quarter 1921. COTTER, Henry C. Vol. 8e. p. 1365. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Birth Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.
7. Marriages index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. June quarter 1948. COTTER, Henry C. Vol. 6b. p. 1483. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.
8. Marriages index (CR) England and Wales. March 1976 to September 1977. COTTER, Henry. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.
9. Marriages index (CR) England and Wales. 1942 to 1997. BEALING. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
10. Marriages index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. June quarter 1922. BEALING, Alan C. Vol. 2c. p. 155. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
11. Births index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. March quarter 1926. BEALING, Barbara Elsie Mary. Vol. 2c. p. 9. Collection: England and Wales birth index, 1837 onwards. www.gro.gov.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
12. Deaths index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. March quarter 1976. COTTER, Barbara Elsie Mary. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
13. Testamentary records. England. 08 April 1976. COTTER, Barbara Elsie Mary. Grant of letters of administration, Winchester District Probate Registry. Calendar of Grants of Probate and Administration, 1976. HM Courts and Tribunals Service. Collection: National Probate Calendar. probatesearch.service.gov.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
14. Births index (CR) England and Wales. 1948 to 1976. COTTER. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Birth Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.
15. Deaths index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. June quarter 1958. BEALING, Alan C. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007. www.findmypast.co.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
16. Deaths index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. September quarter 1974. BEALING, Bella Daisy. Vol. 20. p. 1029. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
17. Marriages index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. September quarter 1889. BEALING, Clarence John. Vol. 2c. p. 45. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index 1837-1915. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
18. Census records. England. Southampton, Hampshire. 05 April 1891. BEALING, Clarence John. RG 12. [Transcription] Collection: 1891 England Census. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
19. Deaths index (CR) England and Wales. 1890 to 1900. BEALING. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.
20. Marriages (PR) England. Heatherlands, Poole, Dorset. 19 April 1919. BEALING, Emma Eliza. [Transcription] Collection: Dorset, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1921. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.

21 Deaths index (CR) England. South Stoneham registration district, Hampshire. June quarter 1923. COUSINS, Emma Eliza. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.

22 Births index (CR) England and Wales. 1919 to 1923. COUSINS. Collection: England and Wales birth index, 1837 onwards. www.gro.gov.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.

23 Marriages index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. December quarter 1896. BLAKE, Cecil Arthur. Vol. 2c. p. 37. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index 1837-1915. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.

24 Census records. England. Southampton, Hampshire. 02 April 1911. BLAKE, Cecil Arthur. RG 14/5962. Collection: 1911 Census of England and Wales. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.

25 Marriages index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. September quarter 1938. BLAKE, Cecil Arthur. Vol. 2c. p. 233. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.

26 1939 Register. England. Southampton, Hampshire. BLAKE, Cecil Arthur. 29 September 1939. National Archives (Great Britain), Kew, England. [Transcription] Collection: 1939 Register. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.

27 Deaths index (CR) England. Southampton registration district, Hampshire. December quarter 1974. BLAKE, Cecil Arthur. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.

28 Births index (CR) England and Wales. 1920 to 1970. BLAKE. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Birth Index. www.ancestry.co.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.

29 Marriages index (CR) England and Wales. 1941 to 1946. BEALING, Mary. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 15 August 2026.

30 Marriages index (CR) England and Wales. 1897 to 1940. BLAKE, Cecil Arthur. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Marriage Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.

31 Deaths index (CR) England. Droxford registration district, Hampshire. March quarter 1956. BLAKE, Cecil Arthur. Vol. 6b. p. 354. [Transcription] Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index. www.freebmd.org.uk : accessed 16 August 2026.

32 Zoopla Limited. House-price estimate for 300 Burgess Road, Southampton SO16 3BJ. Southampton, Hampshire. 06 September 2026. UPRN 100060685673. Collection: Zoopla house prices. www.zoopla.co.uk : accessed 06 September 2026.

33 HM Land Registry. Price Paid Data for Burgess Road, Southampton SO16. Southampton, Hampshire. 06 September 2026. Postcode SO16 3BJ. Collection: Price Paid Data, 1995 onwards. landregistry.data.gov.uk/data/ppi : accessed 06 September 2026.