-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Doc. Holliman [<mailto:holliman@psknet.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2004 11:45  
**To:** [christine.reynolds@westminster-abbey.org](mailto:christine.reynolds@westminster-abbey.org)  
**Subject:** Before and after

Dear Dr Holliman,

Thank you for the picture of the restored gravestone, which looks very good. I will send off the photo of the Bath stall plate to you today - it will be a challenge to restore that!. Our accounts department will arrange to take 12.50 sterling from your credit card.

The inscription on the plate, which as I said is difficult to make out now, is, as far as I can see:

Du Noble Seigneur GUILLAUME BLAKENEY Baron BLAKENEY de Castle Blakeney au Royaume d'IRLANDE Lieutenant General des armees du Roi Colonel du Regiment d'Infanterie de Inniskilling et Chevalier du tres Honorable Ordre du BAIN. Installé le 26 jour de May MDCCLXI

The date of installation, 1761, is on the plate, not the date he was knighted (all the plates have French inscriptions at this period)

The family motto underneath the arms is "Auxilium meum ab alto" (My help is from above). The circular one around the arms is the Bath motto "Tria junta in uno" (three joined in one)

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,  
  
Christine Reynolds  (Miss)  
Assistant Keeper of the Muniments  
  
Westminster Abbey Library,  
The Cloisters,  
London SW1P 3PA

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Miss Christine Reynolds

Assistant Keeper of the Muniments

Westminster Abbey Library,

The Cloisters,

London SW1P 3PA

Dear Miss Reynolds:

My gratitude !  You will never know how much genealogic excitement you have provided this old man !  I have already shared your correspondence with 20 or more Blakeneys.  One of my great grandmothers was a Blakeney.   My Holliman line is a  14  generation patriarchy that began with one John Holliman who was born in Hertfordshire in 1572.  Somehow he provoked the wrath of Queen Elizabeth I,  and he escaped England for the Virginia Colony.

The nephew of Lord Baron Wm. Blakeney was John Blakeney.  He may have been a child of Sir. William's brother, Robert.  John migrated to the Virginia Colony in 1750 and became a famous officer in the Revolution.  He was Captain John Blakeney of General Francis Marion's forces in the Carolinas.  Enough of this.  I always get "wound up" in talking about ancestry.

I want to order an  8  X  6  colour print of the brass stall plate of Lord William Blakeney.   Below,  you will find the first half of my  **VISA**  number.   I will send the second half tomorrow.

                                  4365 - 0031 -       Valid until  09/04     Rhodes  B  Holliman,  M.D.

I am applying for copies of the Wills of  Lord William  and his brother, Robert.

Lord William's manor house and fortified yard still stands and is occupied:   " Mount Blakeney,"   near Kilmallock, County Limerick, Ireland:  owner,  Dan Benchy.

I am indebted to you.  If I ever return to London,  I will come to the Abbey and thank you personally.

Sincerely,    Dr. Rhodes B. Holliman,   5684  Howell  Drive,    Dublin,  Virginia,  USA   24084

[holliman@psknet.com](mailto:holliman@psknet.com)        I will send you a scan of the stone after I have restored it in my Photoshop-7 program.

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Doc. Holliman [<mailto:holliman@psknet.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 23, 2004 11:10  
**To:** [christine.reynolds@westminster-abbey.org](mailto:christine.reynolds@westminster-abbey.org)  
**Subject:** My gratitude  
  
Dear Dr Holliman,

Thank you for sending your card details. I will order a photo of the stall plate for you. Yes, the floor of the nave is Purbeck marble, which is a darkish grey with minute fossil remains within in.

Yours sincerely,  
  
Christine Reynolds  (Miss)  
Assistant Keeper of the Muniments  
  
Westminster Abbey Library,  
The Cloisters,  
London SW1P 3PA

Miss Christine Reynolds

Assistant Keeper of the Muniments

Westminster Abbey Library,

The Cloisters,

London SW1P 3PA

Dear Miss Reynolds:

                                           -1285-1718                        Valid  09/04

                                                  Rhodes B. Holliman MD

I'm making great progress in restoring the lettering and stone surface.  The black spots are my "paint bucket".  I'll send you a scan of the fully restored photo.  I presume that the stone is marble.  I can create a marble surface or granite surface.

Dr. R. B. Holliman

5684  Howell  Drive'

Dublin,  Virginia,   24084

USA

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-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Doc. Holliman [<mailto:holliman@psknet.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2004 10:10  
**To:** [library@westminster-abbey.org](mailto:library@westminster-abbey.org)  
**Subject:** A respectful request:

Dear Professor Holliman,

Dr Mortimer has asked me to reply to your message.

The gravestone for William, even though it has been re-cut in recent years, is quite difficult to read due to the nature of the stone. The inscription is:

THE

RT.HON.

WILLIAM

LORD BLAKENEY

DIED

20 SEP 1761

AGED

91 YEARS

I attach a scan of the stone. He was buried on 9 October. As a Knight of the Bath he has a stall plate in the Lady Chapel (you can read about the Order on our website on the "Library and Archives" page). We could supply an 8 x 6 inch colour print of this plate if you would like it, at 12 pounds 50pence, including airmail. The brass stall plate is a bit pitted and not all of the inscription is now readable, but his coat of arms and supporters can be seen quite well on it. If you would like a photo of the plate payment can be made by Visa credit card. I will just need the name on the card, numbers and expiry date. Numbers can be sent in two separate e-mails for security if you wish. (If you have a post code in your address perhaps you could let me know it if you would like the print sent to you).

I don't know if you have copies of the wills of William and his brother Robert but you might find them on [www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk](http://www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk) and be able to order copies.

Yours sincerely,  
  
Christine Reynolds  (Miss)  
Assistant Keeper of the Muniments  
  
Westminster Abbey Library,  
The Cloisters,  
London SW1P 3PA

Dr. Richard Mortimer

Keeper of the Muniments

Dear Dr. Mortimer:

I have a somewhat unusual request, and I am not sure to whom I should send this request.   Attached,  please find a composite (collage) that I produced on my Adobe Photoshop-7 computer program.  The original portraits are in the MacBean Collection at Aberdeen University.  This collage contains five engravings of Sir. William Blakeney, knighted by George II, for his service to the British Commonwealth.  He was also titled as Lord Baron William Blakeney of the Peerage of Ireland and a Lieutenant General in the British Army.  According to the  WESTMINSTER  ABBEY  OFFICIAL  GUIDE,  he is buried in grave number 95 under the nave, close to the south isle near the fifth pilaster.

He was my  7 - great uncle !!

I have visited and worshipped in Westminster Abbey more than 15 times in the 1990s, but I did not know then of my illustrious ancestor buried there.  I visited the Abbey on two nights when photography was allowed but failed to get a photo of Sir William's grave.

I have now become old and disabled and will probably never again be able to visit the Abbey and obtain that photograph.

I am begging for a photo of the grave of  Sir William Blakeney, KCB.  I would be delighted to pay for such a service.  I can easily receive and print a scanned photo by email.

Thank you for your kind attention to this request.  Sincerely, your brother in Christ,

Rhodes B. Holliman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus;  M.D., Fellow in Tropical Medicine  (retired)

5684  Howell  Drive,   Dublin,  Virginia,  USA     [holliman@psknet.com](mailto:holliman@psknet.com)

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