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Map Key and Documentary Sources

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The Map Key (see pages 164–65) offers a partial representation of the locations of black people in Elizabethan London derived from documentary sources and superimposed on [Georg Braun and Frans Hogenberg], *Londinium feracissimi Angliae Regni metropolis* ([Cologne], [1574]), hand-colored and letterpress text in Latin on back from 1635 edition; Folger Shakespeare Library Shelfmark: MAP L85c no.27. This map is used by permission of the Folger Shakespeare Library under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. All locations are approximate. For the locations that exceed the borders of the map, arrows indicate approximate direction. The numbered entries of the Documentary Sources correspond to the numbers on the Map Key. The list of Documentary Sources begins below and continues on page 166, following the Map Key. For a color image of this scholarly map with additional markings for recorded residential neighborhoods of theater personnel and for documented residences of Shakespeare in London, see the cover of this issue.


2. 23 May 1566, St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, burial: “Jhon, a Blackamoor.” *Registers of St Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury*, ed. Bannerman, p. 27.


Note: For entries 4, 5, and 6, above, because St. Olave’s, Old Jewry sat on the border of Colman Street Ward and Bishopsgate Ward, it was often identified interchangeably with the names of those two wards.


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1 Data selection assistance provided by Michan Myer, MA, Old Dominion University.


Note: All Saints, Stainings is later also known as All Hallows, Stainings.


Note: For entries 10 and 11, above, Paget House became Leicester House when the Earl of Leicester took possession of the house in the 1580s and rebuilt it into an opulent mansion; see John Stow, Survey of London, ed. C. L. Kingsford, 2 vols. (Oxford, UK: Clarendon Press, 1908), 2:92. Although Leicester also had apartments near Crychurch (Cree Church also known sometimes as St. Katherine Cree near St. Botolph Aldgate on the east side near the Tower), it is much more likely that the individuals mentioned in entries 10 and 11 were both connected to Leicester House and its lavish court ethos, including the individual mentioned in entry 11 as belonging to Walter Ralegh (Mr. Rawle) who as a newcomer to the court at this time was seeking patronage from Leicester and who may have given the man to Leicester to curry favor; see Household Accounts and Disbursement Books of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, ed. Adams, 210n444.


15. 22 October 1586, St. Botolph, Aldgate, burial: “Christopher Cappovert, a blackamooere who dyed in the whittell of the high street was buryed the 22 October anno domini.” “The Registers St. Botolph without Aldgate,” Memoranda Books, Guildhall Library, London, MS 92341/1.

17,18. 27 August 1587, St. Botolph without Aldgate, burial: “Dominguo, being a ginny [Guinea] negar and being servant to the right worshipfull Sir William Wynter knight dwellinge in the abbey place being the manor house of East Smithfield was buryied.” The Registers of St. Botolph without Aldgate, Memoranda Books, Guildhall Library, London, MS 9234/1.

Note: East Smithfield comprised at this time of the lightly populated and generally open areas east and south of Aldgate.


Note: The Court of Requests was usually at this time held in Whitehall palace. Hector Nunes was living at this time in Mark Lane in the parish of St. Olave, Hart Street; see Margaret Pelling and Frances White, “NONEs, Hector,” in Physicians and Irregular Medical Practitioners in London 1550–1640 Database (London, 2004), British History Online, http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/london-physicians/1550-1640/nones-hector (accessed 21 May 2016).


Note: Reasonable is recorded as living in several locations around St. Saviour’s Church directly to the west of this location, on the other side of London Bridge, as early as 1579; see Imtiaz Habib, “The Resonables of Boroughside, Southwark: An Elizabethan Black Family near the Rose Theater,” Shakespeare 11.2 (2015): 135–56.

30. 2 March 1592/3, St. Margaret's Lee, Lewisham, burial: “Cornelius Blacke a more, buried.”

Note: The parish of Lewisham, with the Church of St. Margaret’s Lee at its center, was southeast of Southwark, straddling the border of Surrey and Kent; see Daniel Lysons, “Lewisham,” in The Environs of London, Volume 4, electronic database, British History Online, at http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-environs/vol4/pp514-536 (accessed 21 May 2016). The parish is currently under the diocese of Southwark.


Note: Paul Baning or Bayning had residences in Mark Lane, St. Olave, Hart Street, and Wallbrook, but in 1593 he purchased “a substantial city mansion” “next to the church of St. Mary Bothaw” in Dowgate Ward, just before or during his manipulative securing of his appointment as Alderman for nearby Farringdon Ward Without in 1593. To provide the grandeur and hospitality that the appointment entailed he probably brought into this mansion, from his business activities in Mark Lane, the three women that the city surveyors recorded; see Ian W. Archer, “Bayning, Paul (c. 1539–1616),” in Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2006; online edition, 2008), http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/52003 (accessed 3 June 2016); and Imtiaz Habib, Black Lives in the English Archives 1500–1677 (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2008), 78n50. The location shown is of his mansion in Dowgate Ward.


35. 8 October 1593, St. Botolph without Aldgate, burial: “Cassangoe a negar sevant of Mr. Thomas Barber a marchaunte from his howe at the sign of the Red Crosse in the libertie of East Smithfield.” The Registers of St. Botolph without Aldgate, Register General 1571–93, Guildhall Library, London, MS 9221/1.

Note: The “sign of the Red Crosse” demarcates an inn.

36. 13 October 1593, St. Botolph without Aldgate, burial: “Easfanyo a negar sevant to Mr Barber a marchaunte from his howe at the sign of Rood/Flood . . . in the liberties of East Smithfield.” The Registers of St. Botolph without Aldgate, Memoranda books, Guildhall Library, London, MS 9221/1.

Note: The “signe of the Rood” demarcates an inn.

37. 29 November 1593, St. Botolph without Aldgate, burial: “Robarte a negar servant to William Matthews a gentleman dwelling in a garden behind Mr. Quarles hys house and

Note: Hogge Lane was the road curving west-northwest diagonally from behind St. Botolph without Aldgate and somewhat parallel to Houndsditch running in front of the church.


Note: The “Prince of Portugal” was the Portuguese claimant to the Spanish throne, Dom Antonio, maintained in exile in London by Elizabeth and at this time living in Windsor House in Farringdon Ward Within, a block to the west of St. Stephen, Coleman Street in Coleman Street Ward, and just below Cripplegate and inside the left wall of the city.


43. 7 August 1595, St. Margaret’s, Westminster, christening: “William Harris ‘blackamoor baseborn.’” Memorials of St. Margaret’s Church, Westminster, ed. Burke, p. 58.

44. 7 September 1595, St. Leonard’s Shoreditch, baptism: “Susan, A black More’s Childe was baptized . . . Haliwell Street.” “Registers of St. Leonard’s, Shoreditch,” Guildhall Library, London, MS 7493.

Note: Haliwell [Holy Well] Street or Lane was diagonally in front of the church to its left. It was a theater precinct where the Theatre and Curtain playhouses were situated and also had gambling dens and bordellos all around it. Theater personnel—such as James, Richard, and Cuthbert Burbage and William Sly, among others—are buried at St. Leonard’s Church.

45. 3 March 1595/6, St. Botolph without Aldgate, burial: “A Negar supposed to be named Frauncis, he was servant to Peter Miller a beare brewer.” The Registers of St. Botolph without Aldgate, Memoranda Books, Guildhall Library, London MS 9234/5.

Note: Thomas Forbes in A Chronicle from Aldgate: Life and Death in Shakespeare’s London (New Haven, CT: Yale UP, 1971) identified the location of Peter Miller as “dwelling at the signe of the hartes horne [the sign of the Hart’s Horn, an inn] in the libertie of East Smithfield” (p. 4).


47. n. d. but between entries for 24 April and 20 May 1597, St. Mary Woolchurch Haw, London, burial: “a blackmore belonging to Mr. John Davies died in Whitechapel parish, was laied in the ground in the church yarde sine frequentia populi et sine ceremonis quia trum christianus esset necne nesciebamus [without any company of people or ceremony, because we did not know whether he was a Christian or not.” Registers of St. Mary, Woolchurch Haw,
48. 5 May 1597, St. Thomas's Church, London, medical entry: “Polonia the blackmor maid at Mr Peirs of 12 years old . . . Lyk to vomit/ a fever in her bones faint harte full of melancholy & cold humors mixed with collars.” Simon Forman’s Casebooks, Ashmole Collections, Bodleian Library, Oxford, Entry for 5 May 1597, vol. 234.


52. 28 May 1599, London / Turnbull Street, Clerkenwell, private correspondence from Denis Edwards to Thomas Lankford, secretary of the Earl of Hartford: “my negres . . . I pray make inquiries for her, for she is sartanlye dwelinge in Tornebole street at the signe of the Swan . . . it is hard by Carken well . . . .” State Papers Domestic, Public Record Office, Surrey, UK, MS 270:119.

Note: The location shown is of the woman mentioned.

53. 18 January 1600/1, St. Margaret’s, Westminster, christening: “Susan ethiop.” Memorials of St. Margaret’s Church, Westminster, ed. Burke, p. 65.

54. 29 March 1601, St. Mary Bothaw, London, baptism: “Julyane a blackamoore servant with Alldermane [sic] Banyng of the age of 22 yeares . . . was baptised and named Marye.” Registers of St. Mary Bothaw, Guildhall Library, London, MS 4310.


Note: Robert Cecil, the Earl of Salisbury, who had by this time succeeded his father William Cecil, Lord Burleigh, as the most powerful officer of Elizabeth’s cabinet, resided in this parish when in London.

56. 18 March 1602, St. Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney Tower Hamlets, London, baptism: “Christian Ethiopia borne of a Blackmore.” Registers of St. Dunstan and All Saints,
Note: Stepney Tower Hamlets was about a mile east of the Tower in the dockyard area of Ratcliffe.