# Feminine Personal Names from 13th and 14th century Yorkshire

## by Wendi Dunlap Revised version: April 2011

The following list is drawn from two sections of the *Court Rolls of the Manor of Wakefield*. Wakefield is in what was historically the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The manor court rolls contain records of much of the business that was done in the manor, including the levying of fines and settlement of disputes. Women as well as men pleaded their cases in the manor court sessions.

While women's names are not as common in the Rolls as men's names, there are many to be found. The names here are from two different periods: 1274-75 and 1350-52. First, I've listed each name in alphabetical order, and how many of the name can be found in each period. See below for the names in order of popularity: [1274-75](#a74pop) and [1350-52](#a50pop).

**Some of these names are themselves variants of other names here**; for example, Mariota is a diminutive of Mary, and so are Malle and Malyna. If the forms were substantially different, I kept them separate here, but keep in mind that in certain cases we are dealing with multiple forms of the same name. *(April 2011: I've just edited the table to make these relationships more clear.)*

If you need further information about these names, for many of the names I have provided links to Talan Gwynek's excellent resource [*Feminine Given Names in A Dictionary of English Surnames*](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/), which contains examples of a great many names from this period, and provides useful etymological information as well as other forms of these names.

*(****A note regarding the forms of these names:****The original documents are in Latin. I am working from an English translation. The editors of the 1350-52 volume seem more likely than that of the earlier volume to list the names in their Latin documentary form: e.g. Cecilia, which may have been something like Cicely in the vernacular. Names in the earlier volume have typically been normalized by the translator, so, for example,* Parnell *is the normalized form of the Latin version,* Petronilla. In the future I plan to replice the normalized forms here with the Latin forms from the original.)

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| [Agnes](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Agnes) *(See also Annot, Anot)* | 1274-75: 21 1350-52: 29 |
| [Aleysia, Alice, Alicia](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Alice) *(See also Alot, Alote)* | 1274-75: 17 1350-52: 33 |

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| [Alot, Alote](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Alice) *(See also Aleysia, Alice, Alicia)* | 1274-75: 2 |
| [Amabel](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Amabel) | 1274-75: 2 |
| [Amice](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Amice) | 1350: 1 |
| Amora  (I do not have access to the original text, but I wonder if this is in fact [Annora](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Annora) with the *nn* misread as *m*.) | 1351: 1 |
| [Annabel, Anabel](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Annabel)  (Annabella once in 1352) | 1274-75: 2 1350-52: 6 |
| [Annot, Anot](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Agnes) *(See also Agnes)* | 1274-75: 2 1351: 1 |
| [Avice](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Avice) | 1274-75: 3 |
| [Beatrice, Beatrix](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Beatrix) | 1275: 1 1350-52: 8 |
| [Cecilia, Cecelia](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Cecilia) *(See also Cicely)* | 1350-52: 11 |
| [Christiana](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Christiana) | 1274-75: 2 1350-52: 2 |
| [Cicely](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Cecilia) *(See also Cecilia, Cecelia)* | 1274-75: 4 |
| [Dionysia, Dyonisia](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Denise) *(See also Dyota)* | 1351: 3 (Two of these may be the same woman) |
| [Dyota](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Denise) *(See also Dionysia, Dyonisia)* | 1275: 1 |
| [Elizabeth](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Elizabeth) | 1350-52: 6 |
| [Ellen](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Ellen)  (Elena once in 1352) | 1275: 1 1350-52: 4 |
| [Emma](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Emma) | 1274-75: 3 |
| Eugina | 1275: 1 |
| [Eva](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Eva) | 1274: 1 1350-52: 4 |
| [Gelle](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Juliana) *(See also Juliana)* | 1275: 2 |
| [Gemma](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Jemma) | 1275: 1 |
| [Godyth, Godith](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Godith) | 1275: 1 |
| [Hawisia](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Hawis) | 1275: 1 |
| [Idonea](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Idonea) | 1352: 1 |
| [Isabella](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Isabel) (one Isabel) | 1350-52: 16 |
| [Isolda](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Isolda) | 1275: 2 1350-52: 3 |
| [Ivett](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Iva)' | 1274: 1 |
| [Johanna](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Joan) *(See also Jonetta)* | 1350-52: 24 |
| [Jonetta](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Joan) *(See also Johanna)* | 1274: 1 |

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| [Juliana](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Juliana) *(See also Gelle)* | 1274-75: 4 1350-52: 7 |
| [Lettice](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Lettice) | 1274: 1 |
| [Magge](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Margaret) (also [here](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Margery)) *(See also Margaret, Margery)* | 1274: 2 |
| [Malle](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Mary) *(See also Malyna, Mariota, Mary)* | 1274: 1 |
| [Malyna](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Mary) *(See also Malle, Mariota, Mary)* | 1274: 1 |
| [Margaret](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Margaret) *(See also Magge)* | 1350-52: 10 |
| [Margery](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Margery)  (one Marjory in 1275) *(See also Magge)* | 1274-75: 8 1350-52: 33 |
| [Mariota](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Mary) *(See also Malle, Malyna, Mary)* | 1275: 1 1350-52: 2 |
| [Mary](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Mary) *(See also Malle, Malyna, Mariota)* | 1275: 3 |
| [Matilda](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Matilda) *(See also Maude)* | 1350-52: 24 |
| [Maude](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Matilda) *(See also Matilda)* | 1275: 7 |
| [Meriilda, Miriilda](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Merild) | 1275: 1 |
| [Modest](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Modesty) | 1351: 1 |
| Nalle | 1275: 1 |
| [Olive](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Olive) | 1350: 1 |
| [Parnell](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Petronilla) | 1275: 1 |
| [Quenilda](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Quenild) | 1275: 1 |
| [Sabina](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Sabina) | 1350: 1 |
| [Sarah](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Sara) | 1275: 3 |
| [Sibyl](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Sibyl) | 1275: 1 |
| [Susannah](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Susanna) | 1275: 1 |
| [unnamed] (usually identified in the Court Rolls by husband's name *e.g.*"the wife of Adam") | 1274-75: 10 1350-52: 45 |
| [Wymark](http://www.s-gabriel.org/names/talan/reaney/reaney.cgi?Wimarc) | 1275: 2 |

**Names in order of popularity, 1274-75**

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| Agnes | 21 |
| Aleysia, Alice, Alicia | 17 |
| Margery, Marjory | 8 |
| Maude | 7 |
| Cicely, Juliana | 4 |
| Avice, Emma, Mary, Sarah | 3 |
| Alot, Alote; Amabel; Annabel, Anabel; Annot, Anot; Christiana; Gelle; Isolda; Magge; Wymark | 2 |
| Beatrice; Dyota; Ellen; Eugina; Eva; Gemma; Godyth, Godith; Hawisia; Idonea; Ivett'; Jonetta; Lettice; Malle; Malyna; Mariota; Meriilda, Miriilda; Nalle; Parnell; Quenilda; Sibyl; Susannah | 1 |

**Names in order of popularity, 1350-52**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Aleysia, Alice, Alicia; Margery | 33 |
| Agnes | 29 |
| Johanna, Matilda | 24 |
| Isabella, Isabel | 16 |
| Cecilia, Cecelia | 11 |
| Margaret | 10 |
| Beatrice, Beatrix | 8 |
| Juliana | 7 |
| Annabel, Anabel, Annabella | 6 |
| Elizabeth | 6 |
| Ellen, Elena; Eva | 4 |
| Dionysia, Dyonisia; Isolda | 3 |
| Christiana, Mariota | 2 |
| Amice; Amora; Annot, Anot; Idonea; Modest; Olive; Sabina | 1 |

**Sources:**

*Court Rolls of The Manor of Wakefield*, 1274-1297. Ed. and trans. William Paley Baildon. Vol. 1 (first series). Leeds: Yorkshire Archæological Society, 1901. Print.

*Court Rolls of The Manor of Wakefield*, 1350-1352. Ed and trans. Moira Habberjam, Mary O'Regan, Brian Hale. Vol. VI (second series). Leeds: Yorkshire Archæological Society, 1987. Print.

Scott, Brian M. “Feminine Given Names in *A Dictionary of English Surnames*.” 1994. Web.

**Note:**

An alternate version of this article has been posted online at <http://slumberland.org/sca/articles/wakefieldfemnames.html> for use by SCA researchers.