

Coulthurst, Cottam et al

From Lancashire into the West Riding of Yorkshire

- and back again

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Acknowledgments and disclaimers

Once again I must thank those Record Office staff who have responded patiently to my endless requests for documents, helped me find my way round a variety of sources and introduced me to some useful technology. I also owe a debt of gratitude to Kathy Smith who generously shared information on the Illingworth family. In addition, the work done by genealogist and local historian Chris Spencer, a specialist in Slaidburn and Bowland records, has provided numerous invaluable pointers to documents of interest.

This volume continues the story started in *Meat and Drink: Butchers, Publicans and Yeomen of the Fells*. It too contains publicans and yeomen, but the characters who begin this story conformed to the Church of England rather than the 'Old Faith', providing a convenient if arbitrary divide between the two branches. Further back in time, both Catholic and Quaker ancestors appear on the scene.

Any errors in this account are my own, and if you can correct them or add to the story, please get in touch. Names are variably spelled in different documents, so are often variously spelled in the account.

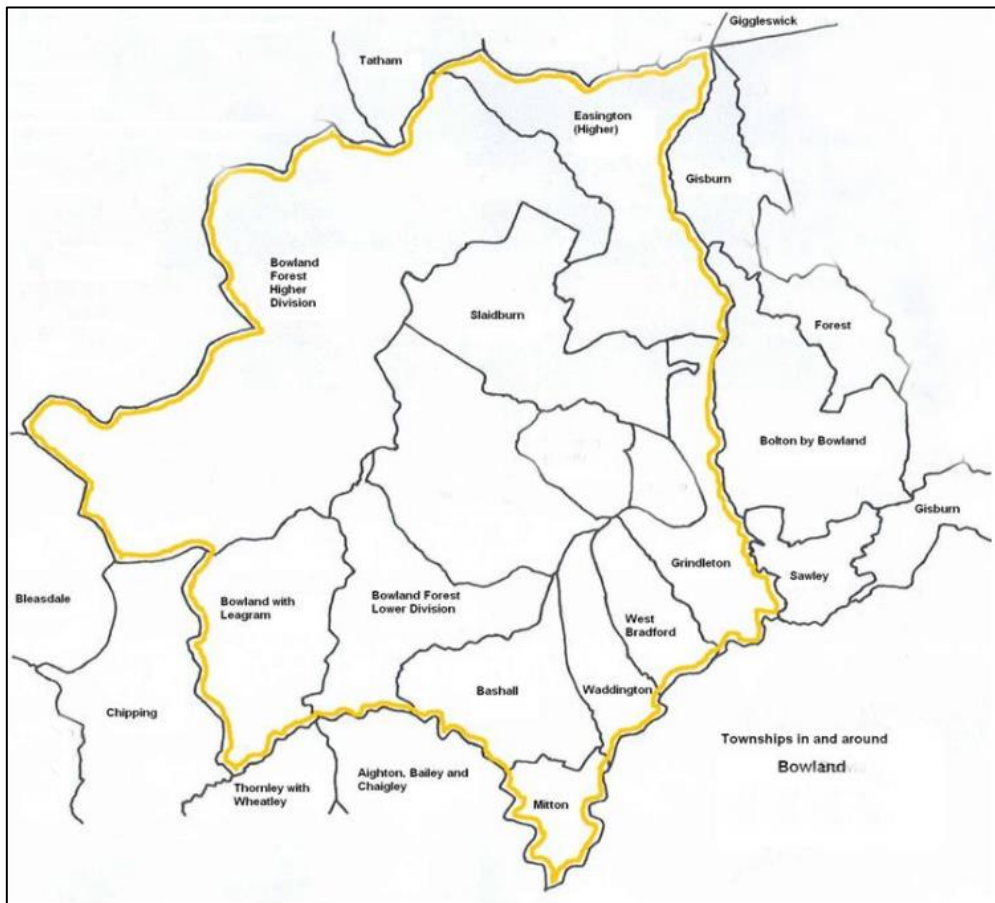
For the new chapters in this account I am indebted to another Cottam descendant, Rex Watson, (rexwatson@ntlworld.com) who first discovered the baptism of Thomas Cottam of Hurst Green, opened up a whole new, fruitful line of research, and has followed it diligently, sharing with me everything he has found.

Abbreviations

LA	Lancashire Archives
BI	Borthwick Institute
SoG	Society of Genealogists
TNA	The National Archives

The early Coulthursts – Great Mitton; Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley

This account started out as part of the history of the Parks, but when that became unwieldy, I decided to make a separate volume tracing the ancestors of Miriam Coulthurst, who married John Park in 1804 and was the mother of John and Richard Park. She was my 3 x great grandmother. Almost all the people who figure in this story lived either in a township in or close to the Forest of Bowland.



Relevant townships in and around Bowland
Adapted from a map drawn by Chris Spencer

Unlike the Park and Swarbrick families, the Coulthursts were adherents of the Church of England – at least as far as baptisms, marriages and burials were concerned. Miriam Coulthurst's burial at St Mary Newhouse Barton in 1816 gave her age as 31, suggesting a birth in around 1785, and she was 'of this parish' when she married at Mitton in 1804. In addition, the marriage licence taken out by John² Park included the permission of her father Richard Coulthurst, all of which detail clinches what had been a likely-looking baptism at Mitton on 21st August 1785:

Miriam daughter of Richard and Betty Coulthurst, Bailey Far^r

The Mitton register at this period not only helpfully records the township where the family lived but also Richard's occupation of farmer.

Miriam was the penultimate child of a family which had lived in the parish of Great Mitton for at least three generations. Coulthurst connections with the area go back much further though, and may possibly be the origin of the family story about connections to Mitton Hall outlined in *Meat and Drink*. According to *The History and Antiquities of the Deanery of Craven*¹, the Lordship of Mitton:

...in the beginning of [the reign of] James I...belonged to the Coulthursts
whose daughter and heir Isabel carried it by marriage into the family of
Hawksworth of Hawksworth

Was this the scrap of information which made Miriam's sons, Richard and John Park, believe that they had a right to Little Mitton Hall? There were no doubt several Coulthurst families in the area – it is a common local surname – and no proof that Miriam's family had any connection to the owners of Mitton, and in any case, if Isabel was heiress, presumably the male line had died out. It is an intriguing thought, though.

The parish of Great Mitton must be unique in that the majority of its townships were historically in the West Riding of Yorkshire, but the three that concern this family – Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley – were all part of Lancashire. In 1974, the whole parish was transferred to Lancashire. Mitton is a fairly remote area in the Forest of Bowland, about three miles south-west of Clitheroe, and high above the River Ribble. Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley are even more remote and tiny, a few miles to the west towards Longridge. Great Mitton Hall – originally in Yorkshire, and not to be confused with its Lancashire cousin Little Mitton Hall – built in the 14th century, stands, much modernised, beside All Hallows Church. Both church and hall share superb views across the Ribble Valley.



Great Mitton Hall

¹ <https://archive.org/stream/historyantiquiti00whit#page/n1/mode/2up> *The History and Antiquities of the Deanery of Craven in the County of York*, Thomas Dunham Whitaker, 1805

The first proven, recorded member of the Coulthurst family in this area was Gyles Coulthurst, who married Ellen Almond at Mitton on 23rd March 1710². He may have been connected to Coulthurst families in nearby Clitheroe, but there is nothing definitive in the records to prove this. The Mitton couple baptised a short-lived first child, named William, on 13th July 1712; he was buried there on 24th October 1712 as William son of Giles. The rest of the children from this marriage were also baptised at Mitton. Gyles was described as a labourer on the baptism of John, on 27th September 1713, as he was on that of Robert, our direct ancestor, on 21st January 1715. By the time Elizabeth was baptised on 30th October 1717, Gyles was styled a husbandman. He also served as churchwarden in that year. When Isabel, the last of Ellen's children, was baptised on 17th May 1719, Gyles was a farmer.

Ellen died just over a year later, and was buried at Mitton on 20th September 1720 as:

Wife of Gyles, husbandman, Ye Paradise



Map showing Paradise

Although no trace appears to survive of this delightfully-named abode on a modern OS Explorer map, it does appear on an earlier one. There is, though, no indication as to whether this was a genuine or an ironical name. A footnote in *A History of the County of Lancaster, volume 7* on the British History Online website³ reads:

See *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 212 (Paradise in Aighton)

in reference to events in the 16th century, so the name is ancient. Paradise appears on a map of Lancashire⁴ surveyed in 1842, where it is marked between Bankhurst and the Lower Hodder Bridge.

² SoG, YK/R 339, Mitton All Hallows CMB

³ <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp1-20>

⁴ <http://maps.nls.uk/view/102343925>

Within less than a year, on 17th April 1721, maybe wanting a mother for his young children, Gyles had married again, at nearby Waddington in Yorkshire. The register is in Latin, so renders his name as Egidius:

Egidius Colthurst contraxit matrimonium cum Margareta Carter (bannis legitimate publicatis)

This marriage produced just one further child, Richard, who was baptised on 19th May 1722. It is interesting to speculate why there were no further children. It might have been a birth with long-term complications, or Margaret may have been a mature bride when she married. Alternatively, Gyles may have been relatively elderly, which may be the case if he was, as has been suggested on some web-based trees, the Gyles born at Clitheroe in 1666. However, that would have made him over 40 at the time of his first marriage, and he lived on for 20 years after his second marriage. So this seems an unlikely scenario.

In 1724, his eldest surviving son, John, died, and was buried at Mitton on 30th June. The register refers to Gyles as a labourer of Aighton, so there seems to have been some lack of certainty about his status, especially as when Richard died - he was buried from Aighton at Mitton on 3rd February 1739 - his father was described once again as a famer. There is no further sighting of Elizabeth, but Isabel Coulthurst married Robert Salisbury on 27th December 1740 at Mitton.

I suspect that Giles was a little more than a labourer, as he served his township as churchwarden in 1739, and it was generally yeomen who were chosen to take on this role. A page in the churchwardens' account book⁵ carries the following heading:

The account of Giles Coulthurst churchwarden for Aighton for the year 1739. Made the 11th June 1739.

Entries include: for a new Common Prayer Book, for binding the old Bible and carriage, 3/6; for mending a surplice 1d. Among eclectic costs, there are payments for washing linen, cleaning plate, the sexton's fees, the mending of a wall and the killing of a 'bitch fox and cubs'. The following year, the accounts for Bailey and Chaigley include an unspecified payment to Giles Coulthurst of £1 3/9 ½. Nevertheless, he was presumably out of pocket at the end of his stint as churchwarden, as a final reference to him on 6th September 1740 (and referring to the previous year) says simply:

Pd Giles Coulthurst 2d his being out of purse.

The fact that Giles served as churchwarden in 1739 may serve to strengthen my feeling that he was not the child born in Clitheroe in 1666, as this would make him over 70, surely too old to be taking on the onerous duties of churchwarden.

⁵ LA, PR3031/5/1, Mitton Churchwardens' Account Book, 1738-1817

Gyles died in 1741 and was buried on 6th December as:

Gyles Coulthurst of Aughton farmer

His second wife, Margaret, survived him for five years, and was buried at Mitton on 17th October 1746 as a widow.



All Hallows, Great Mitton

His will⁶ described him as Giles Coulthurst of Paradise, parish of Mitton. It was proved by his only surviving son Robert on 27th February 1741, after he had taken out an obligation to:

well and truly execute and fulfil the said will

The accompanying bond, dated 12th February, begins:

Know all men by these presents that we Robert Coulthurst of Chaigley in the county of Lancaster husbandman and John Isherwood of Angram in the parish of Mitton and County of York yeoman do stand and are firmly bound ... in the sum of three hundred pounds...

In his will, Giles (or Gyles – both spellings appear in the same document) referred to himself as a yeoman, a definition confirmed by the contents of the accompanying inventory. To his second wife Margaret, along with £6 to be paid by Robert in annual instalments of 20/-, is bequeathed:

one bed bedding and furniture thereunto belonging and also one chest situate above stairs at my dwelling house at Paradise and also one baking stone and other necessities thereunto belonging

⁶ BI, Prob Reg 87, York, Will of Gyles Coulthurst of Mitton, 1741/2

The reference to a baking stone suggests, perhaps, that Margaret baked oatcakes rather than bread. A book by Michael Read on Georgian England⁷ notes that in Cumberland, because the landscape was so barren, the chief crop was oats. I doubt the Lancashire Fells were very different. According to Read:

The oatmeal was mixed with water and flattened out by hand to form a thin, unleavened bread called haver or 'clapbread'

and a month's supply could be made at one time and then stored. Another £4, originally destined for their son Richard, and:

now in the hands of Abraham Fish of...Clitheroe... (being money left to my son Richard Coulthurst deceased)

was willed to Margaret. Daughter Elizabeth received a bed and bedding from the parlour, and shared with her sister Isabel:

the use and benefit of one bond for £30 wherein Arthur Eccles [of] Waddington yeoman stands justly indebted to me

The rest goes to Robert, also named sole executor:

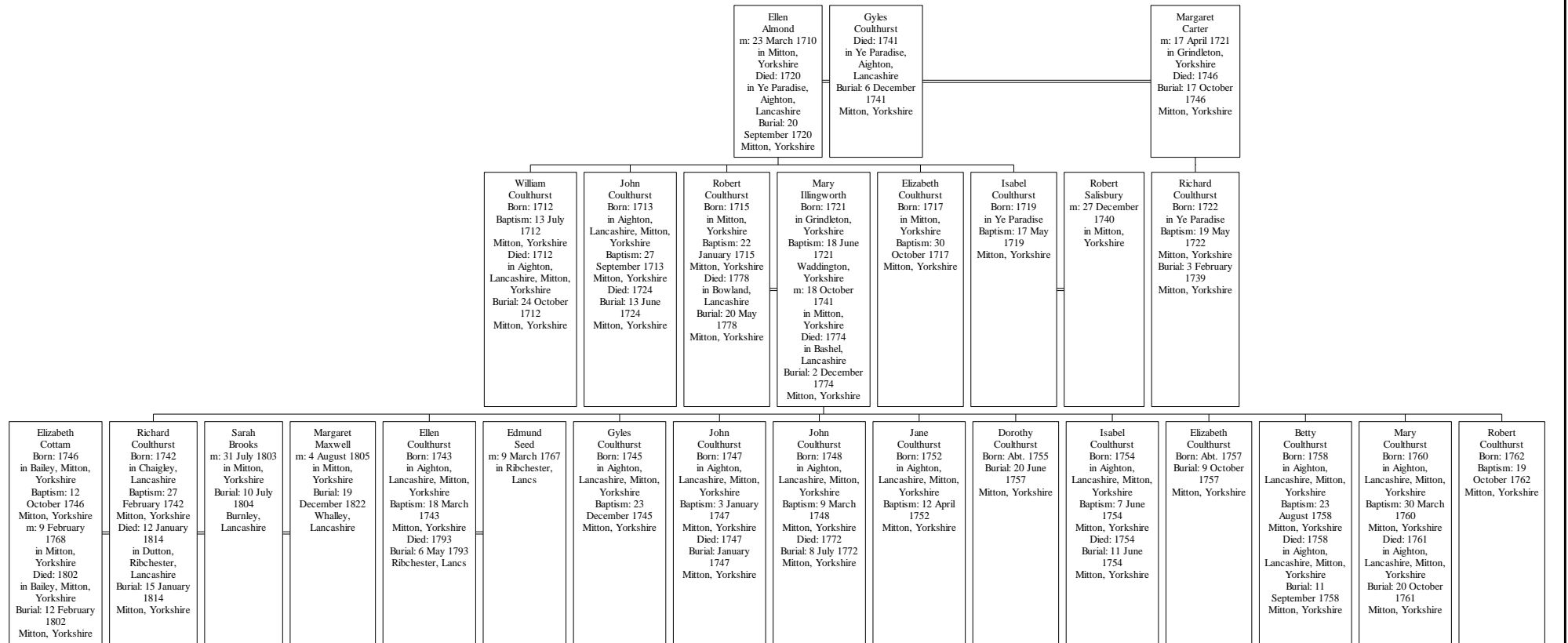
I give devise and bequeath the remainder of my household goods cattle chattels personal estate and effects of what kind or nature whatever situate at Walker Fold and Paradise unto my son Robert Coulthurst for ever, And whereas the house and other appurtenances thereunto belonging situate at Paradise I hold by lease for eleven years from her Grace Duchess Dowager of Norfolk I give and bequeath the use and benefit of the said lease and the remainder of the term I have therein at my decease he performing the covenants therein contained unto my said son Robert Coulthurst

From this, and the inventory, it is clear that Giles had interests in two properties. Paradise was down in the valley beside the River Hodder, but Walker Fold, about three miles away, was on the other side of Longridge Fell, on the scarp slope or just below it. The inference, perhaps reinforced by the lack of the term fire-house (or hall – i.e. the main room of the house) in that part of the inventory, is that the Walker Fold house was a summer dwelling, in use when transhumance moved his cattle to their summer pasture.

The inventory, taken on 12th December by John Brown, James Haighton and Edward Isherwood, is not tremendously detailed, so worth quoting in full, as it shows the division between the two properties as well as the importance of cattle, horses and sheep. It also suggests a comfortable level of income.

⁷ *The Georgian Triumph 1700-1830*, Michael Read, 1983, London, Rourledge

Tree 1 - Descendants of Gyles Coulthurst



	£	s	d
Item his horse purse and apparel	3	0	0
In the fire-house goods	4	10	0
Goods in the parlour	0	15	0
Goods above stairs	2	0	0
Goods in the buttery	0	5	0
At Walker Fould Goods			
In the house	1	0	0
In the kitchen	1	0	0
In the little parlour	1	0	0
Above stairs	4	0	0
Beasts and horses and sheep	86	0	0
Hay and corn	41	0	0
Cart and Wheels and husbandry gear	5	0	0
	152	0	0

Giles' son Robert, our direct ancestor, was born in January 1715, or, as we would think of it, 1716. He married at Mitton on 18th October 1741, though only the following is now legible in the original register:

Robert Coulthurst of this parish and Mary Illingworth of the parish of Whitewell spinster married ...

However, the Lancashire Online Parish Clerks⁸ project transcribes the entry as follows:

Robert Coulthurst farmer this parish; Mary Illingworth, spinster, Whitewell; married by licence by W Johnson, vicar, by virtue of a licence granted by Mr Yates of Slaidburn

The licence⁹ is a good deal more informative:

The seventeenth Day of October in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty one which day appeared personally Robert Coullthurst of Chaigley in the parish of Mitton in the county of Lancaster aged above twenty three years and a bachelor and alledged That he intendeth to marry with Mary Illingworth of Borram in the Chapelry of Whitewell in the county of York aged above twenty years and a spinster with the consent of Jane Illingworth widow her mother of Borram....

Robert signed the document, as did his soon to be brother-in-law Arthur Illingworth, who swore that their mother Jane gave permission for the marriage. Arthur was also bondsman on the other half of the licence, along with Martin Leeming of Gargrave. On this bond, Robert Coulthurst described himself as a yeoman. Having proved his

⁸ <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/index.html>

⁹ BI, Archbishop of York's Marriage Licences, Robert Coulthurst, 1741

father's will, and come into his inheritance, he presumably now felt he was in a position to marry and support a wife.

The first child born to Robert and Mary Coulthurst was our direct ancestor, Richard, who was baptised at Mitton on 27th February 1742. The entry reads:

Richard the son of Robert Coalhurst of Chaigley, farmer

All subsequent baptisms place the family at Aighton, but continue to call Robert a farmer. Richard was closely followed by Ellen, baptised on 18th March 1743. She married Edmund Seed at Ribchester on 9th March 1767 and was buried in the same parish on 6th May 1793, having born seven children in the interim. Of Gyles, baptised 22nd December 1745, there is no further trace at Mitton. However, I suspect it may be this Giles who married Jane Ingham at Whalley by licence on 15th February 1777 and baptised eight children there. He was a husbandman. A short-lived son John came next, was baptised on 3rd January 1748, and buried the same month. Another John was baptised on 9th March 1748 and apparently survived infancy. The burial of John Colthurst of Bashall, carpenter, at Mitton on 8th July 1772, is probably Robert and Mary's son, especially given that other members of the family were also employed in wood working of various kinds.

The next child was Jane, baptised on 12th April 1752, making a four year gap between her and John – a welcome respite perhaps for Mary, who had previously had five children in six years. Jane may have survived childhood, but disappears from the records, unlike her sister Isabel, baptised on 7th and buried 11th June 1754. The next two didn't even make baptism; Dorothy was buried on 20th June 1755 and Elizabeth on 9th October 1757. Betty fared little better, baptised on 23rd August 1758, she was buried on 11th September the same year. Mary also died young; she was baptised on 30th March 1760 and buried on 20th October 1761.

A final, twelfth child, named Robert, was baptised on 19th October 1762, but drops out of sight in the Mitton records. However, it seems likely that he moved to Chipping and settled there, as a Robert Coulthurst, giving his age as 21 on the marriage bond index on the Lancashire Archives catalogue, married Anne Robinson there on 1st February 1786, giving his occupation as carpenter. Although he would have been 24, his burial entry at Chipping, on 11th March 1827, gives his age accurately as 64. His occupation strengthens the theory that John of Bashall belonged to this family, and the carpentry link continues into the next generation with Richard's son Robert. Robert's wife Anne was buried at Chipping on 9th June 1800, and five years later he married a widow, Margaret Walmsley, at Chipping on 25th February 1805. On both the licence and in the register, he gives his occupation as wheelwright. Both marriages proved fruitful. By Ann Robert fathered at least eight children (two died young), while Margaret was mother to three more.

Of Robert senior and Mary's twelve children, six died as infants; three others may have died young but the record of their burial is missing; one seems to have

died as a young man, leaving only Richard, his sister Ellen and his brother Robert to continue the line. Not a lot to show for at least twelve pregnancies.

Like his father, Robert served as churchwarden¹⁰; in 1762 a page is headed:

The accounts of Rob^t Coulthurst churchwarden for Aighton in the year 1762

and there is a reference to him being remunerated for 'writing the register' so presumably the parish register for this year is in his hand. He was churchwarden again in 1763.

Mary, no doubt worn out by her 20 years of almost continuous child-bearing, died in 1774 and was buried on 2nd December 1774 at Mitton. However, the family had presumably moved from Aighton, as the register reads:

Mary wife of Robert Coulthurst, Bashall, farmer

She would have been 53 years old. Robert survived his wife by four years, maybe moving on again, as the record of his burial at Mitton on 20th May 1778 calls him:

Robert Colthurst, Bowland, farmer

Bowland, though, is usually an area rather than a township, so it's not entirely clear where Robert was living at the time of his death.

Illingworth – into Yorkshire: Grindleton and Waddington

Not much more is known about Mary Illingworth than has already been told. However, her baptism gives one vital clue. When it took place at Waddington in Yorkshire on 18th June 1721, the register recorded:

Maria fil: Roberti Illingworth nuper de Grindleton

As well as placing her home at Grindleton, a small village about 3½ miles north-east of Clitheroe, it uses the word 'nuper' meaning 'lately', and a term more often found in probate documents. In other words, Mary was born posthumously, which is why permission for her to marry as a minor was given by her mother, Jane Illingworth. The licence suggested they were living at Borram – a name which doesn't appear on the map. However, there is a hamlet named Burholme just to the north of Whitewell, near a bridge of the same name which crosses the River Hodder, and I suspect this may have been recorded as Borram.

Technically, Grindleton, which was home to the Illingworths for five generations before Mary, was part of Great Mitton parish, but the closest church was

¹⁰ LA, PR 3031/5/1, Mitton's Churchwardens' Account Book, 1738-1817

at the chapelry of Waddington, also in Mitton. Although now in Lancashire, historically it was part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and the village website¹¹ is clearly proud of its situation between Pendle Hill and the Forest of Bowland, both areas of outstanding natural beauty. Along with Waddington, West Bradford and Sawley, Grindleton sits on a terrace above the River Ribble; the village was planned, in linear style, by the Saxons, and retains this form today. Because of its isolated situation, it often escaped close scrutiny by authority, and apparently attracted people looking for religious freedom. The time the Illingworths lived there was a period of growth.



Grindleton Village signpost

Because much of what is known about the Illingworth family comes from the Slaidburn Court Rolls, which show land being transferred from one generation to another, it is probably easier to go back to the earliest known member of this family in Grindleton and work back down to Mary. I am indebted to Chris Spencer for his transcription of the Slaidburn Manor Court records, and to Kathie Smith, an Illingworth descendant, for sharing information with me.

John Illingworth was Mary's 3 x great-grandfather. He was born sometime in the middle of the 16th century, and seems to have married twice. His first wife is unknown, but was probably the mother of William¹ Illingworth, our direct ancestor. His second wife is named in his will as Jennet Illingworth alias Mitton. It is not clear why he distinguishes her in this way, but either that was her maiden surname or there was never a formal marriage. John first appears in the records in the Slaidburn Court Rolls¹² on 29th October 1584 as a juror for the Plea Court, a function he repeated on 29th July the following year. Presumably he was seen as trustworthy in the village if he was chosen to stand in judgment on his neighbours. However, he

¹¹ <http://www.grindleton.org/>

¹² LA, DDHCL/5/51, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1584

was not always such an upright citizen, as in 1595¹³ the Plea Court held on 30th July 1595 shows one Thomas Ellis and the tenants of Grindleton pleading against him over a debt of 15 shillings and 7 pence. The jury found him guilty.

The same Court Roll shows John as a tenant rather than the owner of his land, and his landlords were probably members of the Shuttleworth family which owned much of the area. In October 1594 the court heard the surrender of property and land in the occupation of John Illingworth. William Shuttleworth and James Aspinall were acting as feoffees for one Roger Parker and surrendering the property to Richard Hodgson and Giles Parker. However, a detailed 'intent' follows, making it clear that:

one messe one barn with other buildings and fifteen acres of land of oxgang land with the appurtenances being parcel of one tenement called and known by the name of the Foulde now in the tenure and occupation of the said John Illingworthe

was to be:

To the use and behoof of the said John Illingworthe and Jennett Illingworthe his wife during her widowhead for and during and unto the full end and term of twenty-one years next after the end and determination of one surrender already made and passed by John Shuttleworth late deceased to the said John Illingworthe

John was to pay 14/- a year in rent. A final clause ensures that after John and Jennet are both dead, their son Robert is to hold the property until the 21 year lease expires.

After her husband's death Jenet appeared at the October 1607 court¹⁴ in order to confirm her tenancy of the land for the next 16 years to the use and behoof of:

Robert Illingworth eldest son of the said Jenet, provided he keep Henry Illingworth, his youngest brother, with meat, drink and lodging

for the next three years, and:

also do keep his mother Jenet with meat, drink, clothing and lodging according to her degree and calling during her natural life

From this may be inferred that Robert must be of age, so born perhaps in the 1580s and that Henry is probably a minor.

John did have other children, as evidenced by his will¹⁵ written on 16th January 1599. It was proved on 22nd April 1602, so he probably died around 1601-2.

¹³ LA, DDHCL/5/70, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1594/5

¹⁴ LA, DDHCL/5/84, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1607

¹⁵ BI, V 28 f 630, Will of John Illingworth of Grindleton, 1602

He describes himself as sick, and asks to be buried at Waddington. The will continues:

Whereof I have, by deed of gift lawfullie executed bearing date 15 January in the year aforesaid, given and confirmed to Robert Swinglehurst and Francis Bayne my verie trustie and faythful friends all my goods and chattels, moveable and unmoveable, and all bills, bonds and specialties for debte, and all my playte and jewells, substance and utensils whatsoever, and all interest thereof arising – to have and to hold for such uses as are herein granted

It is interesting to speculate whether the reference to plate and jewels was a formulaic phrasing or whether he was so endowed. He refers to himself as a husbandman, so I suspect his wealth was not great. He appointed his two friends, Robert Swinglehurst and Francis Bayne as trustees to distribute his estate. After they had paid his debts and funeral expenses they were to divide up his possessions as follows:

to my youngest son Henry Illingworth alias Mitton one red ... one branded quie two years old 9 winter wether sheep one feather bed with one bolster, two blankets, two linen sheets and two coverlets, one on the bedstead that came last home from Gigglesworth and the other to be that which lyeth onto on my bed at the making hereof. ...[to] my son Thomas Illingworth als Mitton one cow called Chrofte also it is my will that my son Richard shall have the chest which I have already given and delivered to him. ... to Jennet my wife alias Jennet Mitton the third part in three parts to be divided of all my goods ... to Robert my son alias Robert Mitton one stone trough standing in my house, one sideboard and one forme

Was Gigglesworth John's previous home perhaps? No such place appears on modern maps, but there are a few references to a Gigglesworth near Settle in archives catalogues, so I suspect this is the modern Giggleswick. The constant repetition of the phrase 'alias Mitton' differentiated Jennet's offspring from his oldest son William, as the will ends:

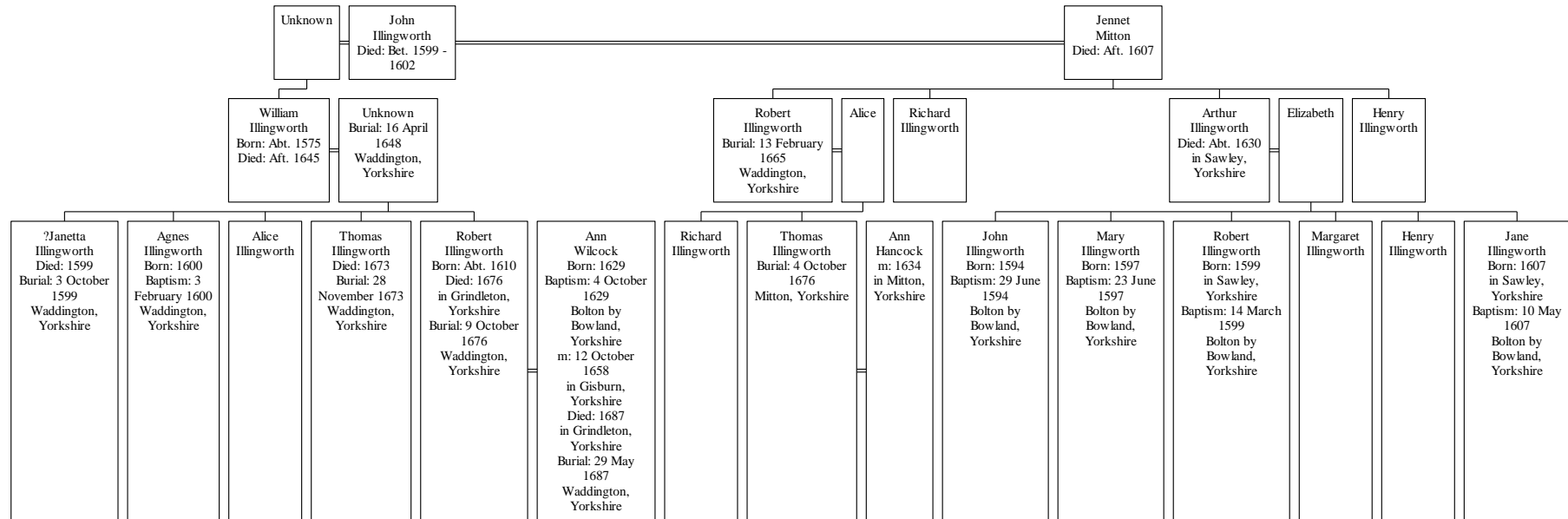
The residue of my estate to my 6 children – William Illingworth, Arthure Illingworth alias Mitton, Robert Illingworth alias Mitton, Richard Illingworth alias Mitton, Thomas Illingworth alias Mitton and Henrie Illingworth alias Mitton equally

Jennet was to be sole executor, and the will was witnessed by Edward Waddingbie (I suspect this should have been transcribed as Waddington) and Leonard Horner.

Earlier in the will John makes reference to a deed of gift already drawn up:

As by the said deed more fully at large it doth and may appear ... I the said John Illingworth for the better explaining of my meaning

Tree 2 - Descendants of John Illingworth



It is possible that Arthur's family belongs to an earlier generation, although John did have a son named Arthur.

It is the only time I have seen a will apparently backed up by a further document. It may just have been standard business in the manor court, but it is more probable that Jennet was either Catholic or non-conformist (probably the latter given the preamble of the will), and as any marriage outside the established church wasn't seen as legal, this would be a way of ensuring that she and her children did inherit.

William¹ Illingworth's story will be followed shortly, but first a brief aside about the rest of the family. Robert, Jennet's eldest son, also appears in the Slaidburn Court Rolls. Indeed, it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between him and his nephew, William¹'s son, also called Robert. The elder Robert married a woman named Alice, and they had two sons, Richard, and Thomas who succeeded to his father's land and married Ann Hancock in 1634. Thomas and Ann had five children, but their only son, also named Robert, died as an infant. Of the girls, I have only traced one marriage, that of Alice to John Leeming in 1661. Nothing more is known about Margaret, Isabella and Elizabeth.

Robert senior (John and Jennet's son) appears in a run of court roll entries¹⁶ between 1619 and 1631 with no discriminating addition to his name, presumably because his nephew was still too young to cause confusion, although his wife is often also mentioned, which is how her name is known. In the entry for April 1638¹⁷ though, he is referred to as Robert Illenworth the elder, as he is in 1642¹⁸. He must have lived to a ripe old age, as the only burial recorded which could be his at Waddington was on 13th February 1665.

His brother Richard married – but omitted to give his spouse a name when he referred to her in his will¹⁹ (written on 2nd March 1614). She was his sole beneficiary for life, but after her death his land was to go to his brother Robert's younger son Richard. The will was proved on 18th April 1616. John's sons Thomas and Henry are only known from their father's will, but Arthur and a wife named Elizabeth seem to have settled at nearby Sawley and have baptised some of their children at Bolton-by-Bowland around the turn of the century. His will²⁰ names his wife and surviving children: John, Henry, Marie and Jane. As the eldest of these – John – was born in 1594, it is possible that this Arthur belonged to the previous generation and was in fact John's brother. However, the last child in this family was baptised in 1607, five years after John senior died, so it seems more likely that this family is John's son and grandchildren.

William¹ Illingworth was probably born somewhere around 1570 - give or take 10 years. Not only were his birth and marriage before the commencement of the Bishop's Transcripts for Waddington (the only version of the register readily available), but his child-raising years also mainly fell into the gap in these between

¹⁶ LA, DDHCL/5, Slaidburn Court Roll - various

¹⁷ LA, DDHCL/5/150, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1638

¹⁸ LA, DDHCL/5/155, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1642

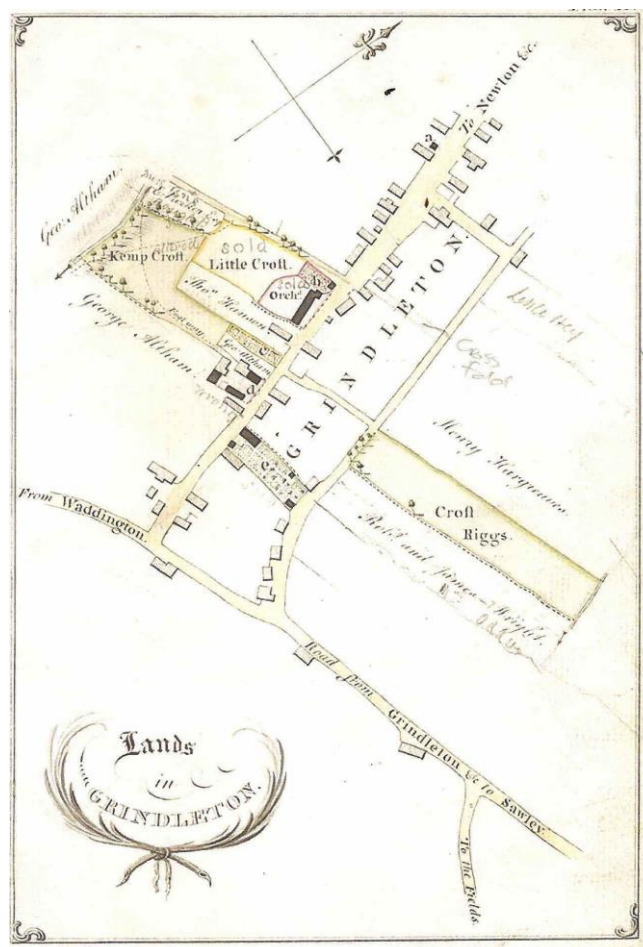
¹⁹ BI, v 34, f 26, will of Richard Illingworth of Grindleton, 1616

²⁰ BI, Will of Arthur Illingworth of Sawley, 1631, vol 41, f 548

1600 and 1616, and his death probably occurred during the Interregnum – another period when there is a gap in the records. Of his offspring, a possible first daughter was buried at Waddington in 1599 as:

Janeta filia Willelmi Illingworth tertio die Octobris

If Janeta was indeed William¹'s child, then he began raising a family at about the same time as Arthur in Sawley. A daughter Agnes was baptised on 3rd February 1600, but Alice, Thomas and our ancestor Robert¹ were probably born later. William appears once in the BTs, as Gulielmus Illingworth and sharing the role of 'Guardiani' or churchwarden in 1633 with Giles Taylor, Ralph Horner and Edward Waddington.



'Lands in Grindleton' showing 'Little Croft'
From: www.bradfer.yascollection.org.uk

Apart from these brief entries, we are reliant again on the Slaidburn Court Rolls. In May 1603 and April 1608²¹, William¹ served as a juror. Sometime between 1612 and 1616²², Robert, son of Giles Parker of West Bradford leased:

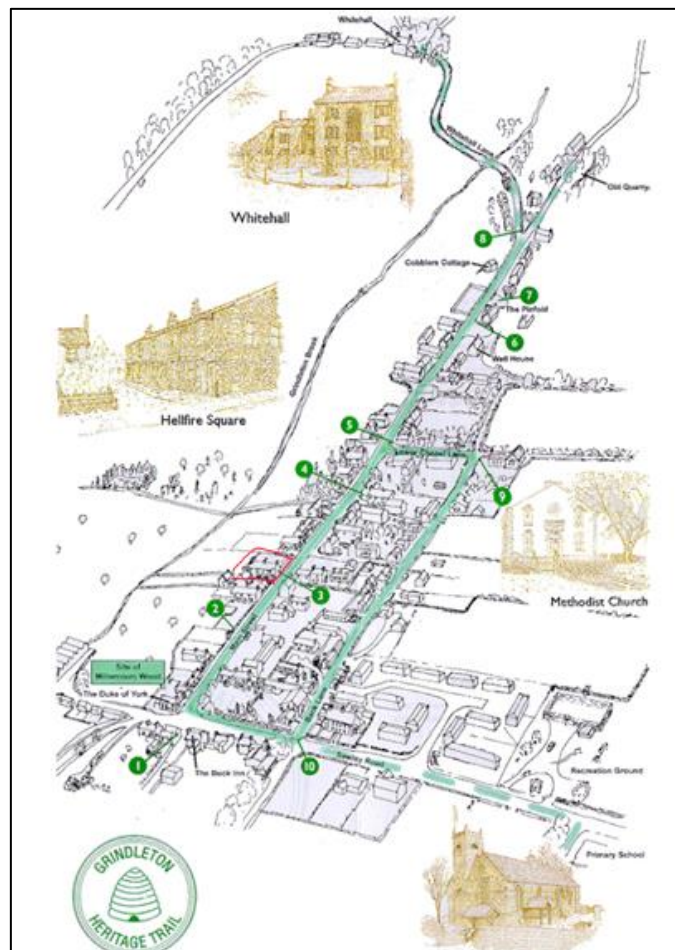
²¹ LA, DDHCL/5/78&85, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1603 & 1608

a messuage, garden and the west part of a bar containing a jettie and a turf house in Grindleton, for a term of 18 years

to William, who paid Parker 10s a year. In 1628, the court record²³ shows that Giles Parker and his son Robert issued a further lease to William¹ of a:

firehouse, barn, turf house, two gardens, Little Croft, Chappel Inge with Hiccliffe Ends, Great Hiccliffe, Radmires,

in total six acres, for ten years from 2nd February 1627. Firehouse was a term used in the north to describe the main room of the house, what would have been called the hall elsewhere. Little Croft appears on a map entitled *Lands in Grindleton*²⁴ and suggests that this parcel of land occupied the land on which Hellfire Square (named for the sermons of ranting preachers, apparently) now stands. The layout of the village today clearly follows this pattern of streets.



Grindleton Heritage Trail Hellfire Square marked in red

²² Information from Kathy Smith provided by Chris Spencer, local historian. Original not seen.

²³ Information from Kathy Smith provided by Chris Spencer, local historian. Original not seen.

²⁴ www.bradfer.yascollection.org.uk MD335/1/4/3/14 Lands belonging to George Horner, 1783

William¹ also got a mention in an entry regarding his son²⁵, who was acting as feoffee, and it helpfully pieces together family relationships:

To this court came John Taylor of Grindleton by Robert Illingworth senior [William's brother] To the use and behoof of Robert Illingworth son of William Illingworth

The last entry for William¹ was on 5th March 1645²⁶; this was probably around the time of his death, as he has clearly organised his affairs and ensured that each of his children benefitted:

At this court came William Illingworth and John Taylior of Grindleton and surrendered ... by Roger Parker, a messuage, a barn, two gardens adjoining the aforesaid buildings and another garden adjoining a certain parcel of land called the Roanes, two closes of land called Chappell Inges, a close of land called ye Hickcliffe, in total containing in total by estimation 4½a of bovat land with the appurtenances in Grindleton, and another 2a of land according to the measure of 8 yards to the rod lying upon Smalden alias Grindleton More and commonly called the Welfeild and another 2a lying at Smalden Crosse in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Walker of Skridles, and also 2a of land and ½a of land of the new improvements of Grindleton More in the tenure and occupation of the said William Illingworth. To the use and behoof of Robert Illingworth, son of the said William his heirs and assigns immediately after the death of his father. And after this came Robert Illingworth and was admitted ... to hold the aforesaid messuage, gardens and aforesaid premises ... immediately after the death of the aforesaid William Illingworth provided he pay to Thomas Illingworth, Agnes Illingworth and Alice Illingworth, children of the said William Illingworth, the sum of £20 to be divided equally between them within the space of one year next after the death of the said William, and also a further sum of £20 between them within 2 years after the death of the said William Illingworth.
Admitted. Fine 4s. 1d.

The fact that William appears to be represented by Roger Parker in this transaction and that his son was admitted may suggest that he was already dead, or he may simply have been tying up his affairs as he expected to die soon. Certainly there are no further entries about him.

There are, however, entries referring to William¹'s son Thomas. For example, in 1655²⁷ Thomas Leeminge surrendered a 'fyrehouse, garden, barn and other buildings in Grindleton to the use and behoof of Thomas Illingworth, his heirs and assigns, and when he died in 1673 (he was buried on 28th November), the court²⁸ held on 4th May the following year noted its transfer to his brother Robert.

²⁵ LA, DDHCL/5/146, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1634

²⁶ LA, DDHCL/5/156, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1645

²⁷ Information from Kathy Smith provided by Chris Spencer, local historian. Original not seen.

²⁸ LA, DDHCL/5/183, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1674

There is also a somewhat puzzling reference to daughter Agnes in 1634²⁹ in which Robert son of William is a feoffee in a transaction in which Agnes is named as the intended wife of John Taylor. However, her father's division of property in 1645 refers to her as Agnes Illingworth, not Taylor. So maybe the marriage did not go ahead. In addition, the transcript taken from the Archbishop's Transcripts at York³⁰ clearly states that Agnes Illingworth married Henry Wallis on 9th December 1644. If William¹ had indeed recently died, this may have put Agnes in a good financial position to marry, although she would have made a rather mature bride if she was the Agnes baptised in 1600. Maybe she was the younger sibling of an older, deceased sister, or maybe there were two Agnes Illingworths in Grindleton. Incidentally, Henry Wallis was later one of the witnesses to his brother-in-law Robert's will.

To return to the main line of descent, as has already been stated, Robert¹ Illingworth's year of birth is not known, but it was probably around 1610, during the gap in the Waddington transcripts. However, evidence cited above shows him to have been the son of William¹ Illingworth and an unknown mother. Obviously part of his income came from the land he farmed in Grindleton, but there are also references in the Slaidburn Court Rolls of 1651³¹ and 1660³² to Robert Illingworth, tailor. Although these references could be to his uncle Robert, he was probably too old by this time to be actively working. The Court Rolls also show Robert¹ to have been involved in several land transactions. The first entry of interest is a reference in April 1634³³ to:

Robert Illingworth son of William Illingworth

who is made one of two feoffees for:

a firehouse, a barn with other buildings, a garden and 19½a of land

being surrendered by John Taylor through Robert Illingworth senior (our Robert's uncle.) Taylor is about to marry Robert's sister Agnes and the intention is that, although Robert is trustee, he and Agnes are to have use of the land. As already stated, it is uncertain whether this marriage took place. However, manorial documents can be confusing and I may be misinterpreting them. Five years later³⁴ Robert, along with John Taylor (who was in occupation of this property) and William Kaylie surrendered it to Thomas Baxter by one James Bashall. Manorial documents are often short on punctuation, so the phrase:

Robert Illingworth the younger son of William Illingworth of Grindleton

²⁹ LA, DDHCL/5/146. Slaidburn Court Roll, 1634

³⁰ SoG, YK/R/151, Yorkshire Parish register Society volume 88, Waddington

³¹ LA, DDHCL/5/161, Slaidburn Court Roll, Inquisition 10.7.1651

³² Information from Kathy Smith provided by Chris Spencer, local historian. Original not seen.

³³ LA, DDHCL/5/146, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1634

³⁴ Information from Kathy Smith provided by Chris Spencer, local historian. Original not seen.

used in this extract could mean that Robert was a younger son, but I suspect it is used to differentiate him from his uncle, also named Robert and therefore Robert Illingworth the elder. Another entry, eight years later, in 1647³⁵, begins:

At this court came Robert Illingworth of Grindleton the younger,

corroborating my interpretation. In this extract, Robert¹ makes three consecutive surrenders of 4 acres, 1 rood and 33 falls, all in newly improved land on the wastes of Chatburn, and lying contiguously in the western, middle and eastern sections of a greater and smaller field. (Improved in this context often means enclosed.) The first is to Richard and Jenet Swinglehurst, the second to Richard and Alice Core and the third to Thomas and Ellen Shires. Each attracted a fine of 2s 2^d. Strangely, in a section of the same roll headed:

Plus at a court baron held 21st October 1647

he is readmitted to all of it except a small portion granted to widow Jane Tayleur as part of her dower:

To this court came Richard Swinglehurst of Grindleton and Jenet his wife, Richard Core of Banke and Alice his wife and Thomas Shires of Sawley and Ellena his wife, the which Jenet, Alice and Ellen had first been questioned by Thomas Altham to ensure they had not been coerced but came of their own free will and surrendered 13 acres one rood and 21 falls of Champion land on the Waste of Chatburne ... to the use and behoof of Robert Illingworth junior of Grindleton aforesaid his heirs and assigns ... and Robert Illingworth came and asked to be admitted... After came Jane Tailor and prohibited this, claiming that she was due one third as her marriage portion. This she was granted and Robert Illingworth was admitted to have and to hold the aforesaid land

Could Jane Tailor have been the widow of the John Tailor who had intended, seven years previously, to marry Agnes Illingworth? The Court Rolls tantalise as much as inform.

In 1651³⁶ one Thomas Illingworth and his wife Ann surrendered:

one close or parcel of land called by the name of the Hothercabanckes containing by estimation 2a of land with its appurtenances

It is possible that the surrender is by Robert¹'s brother named Thomas, but the likelihood is that this is the cousin who married Ann Hancock in 1634. To this property, on Smalden or Grindleton More, Robert Illingworth the younger was admitted on payment of a fine of 8d. At a court baron on 2nd January, Robert's name appears under those listed for the inquisition; it also appears on 10th July that year,

³⁵ LA, DDHCL/5/158, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1647

³⁶ LA, DDHCL/5/161, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1651

as Robert Illinworth 'Tayler'. Once again, the court records tantalise. Our Robert would have been about 40, his uncle a good 20 years older; given it was often the senior members of the community called on to give evidence in such cases, it seems initially more likely that the uncle was the tailor. However, in 1660³⁷ Robert Illinworth tailor was admitted to another half acre of land in a close named Hothercabankes, and it seems most unlikely that this would refer to his now elderly uncle. Two years later, Robert¹ acted as feoffee to one William Earnshay³⁸.



Grindleton – with Pendle Hill in the background

If the assumed date of Robert¹'s birth is right, then he left it late to marry, unless an earlier marriage has not been found. Banns were published at Gisburn on 19th and 26th September and 3rd October 1658 before a wedding took place there between Robert Illingworth of Grindleton and Ann Wilcock on 12th October. William² was their first-born son, baptised (like his siblings, at Waddington) on 13th February 1661. Thomas, who later was William's trustee or feoffee, was baptised on 16th October 1664. Twenty-five years later, on 26th October 1689, he married Esther Cooke at Clitheroe, but seems to have settled in Long Preston where he baptised his own daughter Anne in 1691. He was buried there on 7th September 1702. The youngest son was William's brother Robert – later his executor, who was baptised on 13th May 1669. He stayed in the area, marrying Margaret Badger at Waddington on 11th June 1696. They produced yet another Robert and two daughters. He was buried on 16th January 1738.

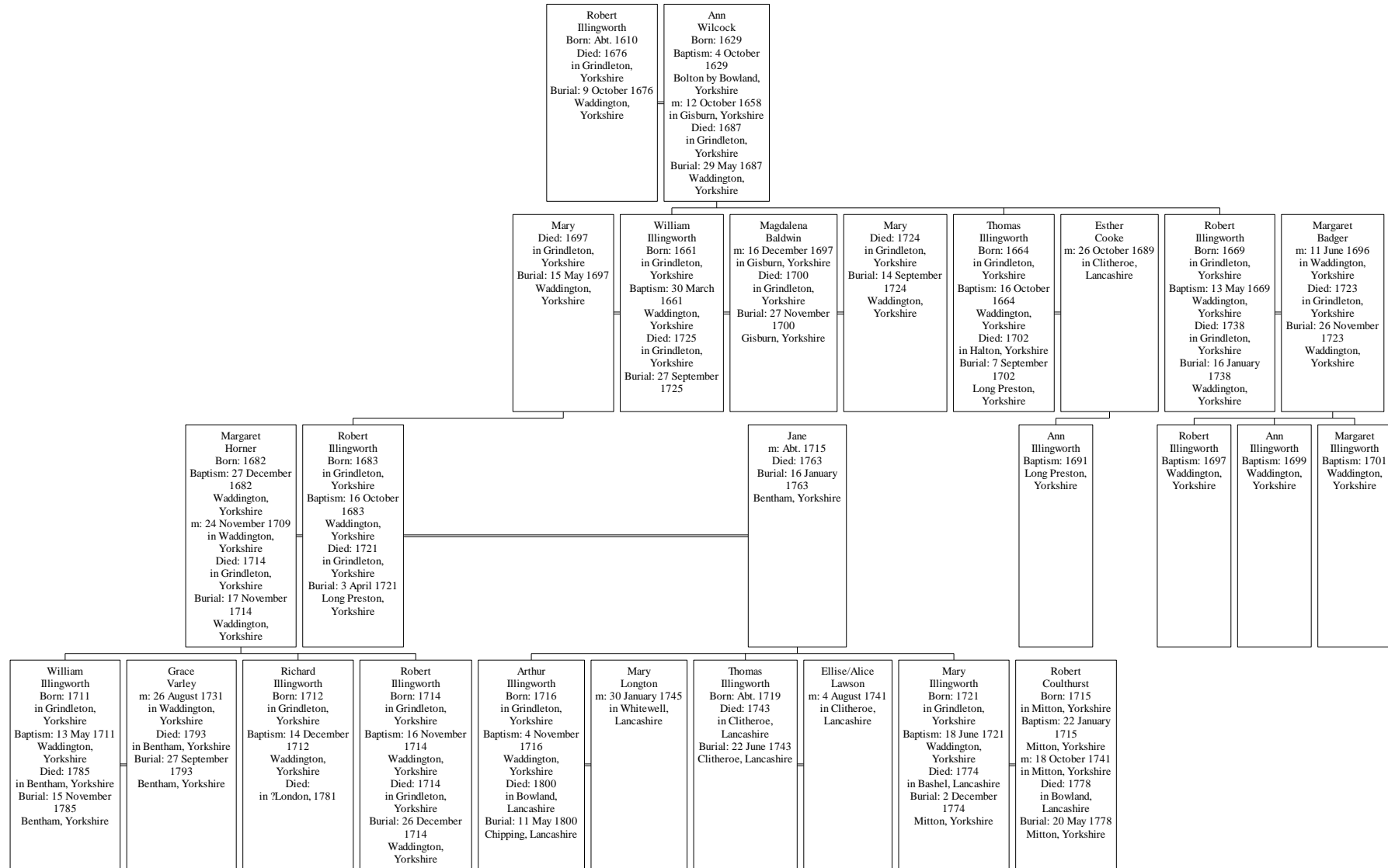
To return to Robert¹ and the Court Roll; at the court held on 3rd May 1660³⁹, his name appeared on the Inquisition, and in the same document, one William Shutleworth of Easterleigh surrendered a half acre on Hothercabankes to him.

³⁷ Information from Kathy Smith provided by Chris Spencer, local historian. Original not seen.

³⁸ LA, DDHCL/5/173, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1662-3

³⁹ Information from Kathy Smith provided by Chris Spencer, local historian. Original not seen.

Tree 3 - Descendants of Robert Illingworth and Ann Wilcock



At a court in 1669⁴⁰, Edward and Agnes Frankland surrendered land to Robert in Hickliffe and Chappell Ing in Grindleton, though the amounts are not legible. In 1673 Thomas Altham and Thomas Illingworth surrendered one acre and 30 falls of land in a close called Hickliffes⁴¹ to the use and behoof of Robert Illingworth. It's not clear which Thomas Illingworth was involved. An entry for 4th May 1674⁴² is, for once, mercifully clear cut:

At this court it is presented by Inquisition taken there for the lord aforesaid that a firehouse, a barn with other buildings, a garden, with the appurtenances situate in Grindleton have reverted into the hands of the said lord after the death of Thomas Illingworth and that Robert Illingworth is his brother and next heir and of full age and seeks to be admitted to the fine. Admitted. Fine 1d.

It seems likely that this is the property which Robert¹, in the person of Henry Wallis, passes on to his son on 1st October 1678:

At this court came Robert Illingworth, by Henry Wallis, and surrendered a firehouse called Leeminge House, a garden, a small barn adjoining to the north end of the new barn, containing by estimation 1r of land, situate with the appurtenances in Grindleton. To the use and behoof of Thomas Illingworth, son of the aforesaid Robert Illingworth, his heirs and assigns, forever. Admitted. Fine 1d.

A further entry⁴³ in 1678 confirms that Robert¹ had three sons, William², Thomas and Robert:

At this court came Robert Illingworth, by Henry Wallis and surrendered a close or parcel of land lying in Hickcliffs, two enclosures called Chappell Ings, containing by estimation in all 3a 3r of land ... in Grindleton. To the use and behoof of Thomas and Robert Illingworth, sons of the said Robert Illingworth

It goes on to specify:

that William Illingworth shall pay unto the above said Thomas Illingworth the sum of £10 ... when the said Thomas Illingworth shall accomplish the age of 21 years, furthermore, the said William Illingworth shall pay unto the above named Robert Illingworth the sum of £20 when the said Robert Illingworth shall accomplish the age of 21 years

The inference has to be that William, the oldest son and heir-at-law of the land, is being enjoined to compensate his brothers so that they get a fair share of their father's estate.

⁴⁰ LA, DDHCL/5/179, Slaidburn Court Roll 1669

⁴¹ LA, DDHCL/5/183, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1673

⁴² LA, DDHCL/5/183, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1674

⁴³ LA, DDHCL/5/189, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1678

This should all be beautifully clear cut, but the entry goes on to record:

Provided and agreed that if the said Robert Illingworth be restored to his former health, that he the said Robert may withdraw this surrender.

Initially I took this to be a reiteration of an entry which predated this one. I read it that Robert¹ thought he might be close to death, and indeed, the Waddington Bishop's Transcripts record the burial of Robert Illingworth, but, and this is a big but, the entry is for 9th October 1676, and the court roll entry is for 1678. I believed for a while that there must be an extra generation, all using the same names, but which had gone unrecorded in the BTs, but dismissed this as unlikely. Just to compound the confusion, the 1678 Hearth Tax⁴⁴ also records a Robert Illingworth, who is assessed for one hearth. This cannot be Robert¹'s son, as he would have only been nine years old, a minor like his brothers. Robert¹ wrote his will on 3rd October 1676; his burial at Waddington was recorded on 9th October 1676, coincidentally the date of his cousin Thomas' burial, so that the entry reads:

Rob'tus Illingworth sepult: fuit eodem die

The will was proved on 24th January 1677, only a couple of months before Lady Day when the Hearth Tax was collected. Robert's wife would no doubt have been at the family home with her three young sons, so it is perhaps unsurprising that the entry went down under her husband's name. Having considered a number of theories regarding the apparent discrepancy between the dates in the court roll and the will and burial register, I have now returned to my initial idea - that the words recorded in 1678 are taken from an earlier piece of writing settling Robert¹'s affairs which maybe didn't make it into the official court roll.



Above Grindleton

⁴⁴ *West Riding of Yorkshire Hearth Tax Lady Day 1678*, ed. David Hey et al, British Record Society, London, 2007

On 30th September 1680⁴⁵, Henry Wallis came to the court again on Robert¹ Illingworth's behalf, and presented that a messuage, barn and three gardens on land called the Roans, along with several parcels of land called Chapell Inges, and Hickliffes, measuring 4 ½ acres, and another two at Smalden or Grindleton More, more specifically in the West Field, another 2 ½ acres at Hothercabankes (some of it on newly improved land at Smalden) and a small parcel of land at Oldhills in Grindleton, had all reverted to the lord on the death of Robert Illingworth, and that his son and heir, William, was now of full age. William Illingworth was duly admitted to his father's lands, paying a fine of 5s 1d.

A further entry dated 12th April 1683⁴⁶ confirms the relationship again:

...a close called Hickliffes, a land lying upon the south part of Longhickliffes containing by estimation 1a 30f of rodland with the appurtenances in Grindleton have reverted into the hands of the said lord after the death of Robert Illingworth and that William Illingworth is his son, nearest heir and of full age

William paid a fine of 4 ¾^d to be admitted.

Having already disposed of his land, Robert¹'s will⁴⁷ was brief and conventional. He left one third of his goods to his wife, as specified by the diocese of York, and the rest to be equally divided between his three sons: William, Thomas and Robert. His wife Ann and 'brother' Thomas Gelderd were to be executors. In fact, as will be seen, Thomas Gelderd was his sister-in-law's husband. Henry Wallis, Richard Slater and John Shiers witnessed the will.

William² Illingworth was born in Grindleton and baptised at Waddington on 13th February 1661. He seems to have married three times. During his marriage to his first wife, Mary, mother of his only son, Robert², he served in 1695 as churchwarden, along with Thomas Parker, Robert Horner and William Hayhurst. Mary merits two mentions in the Slaidburn Court Rolls. The first is in 1690⁴⁸ when the roll notes:

At this court came William Illingworth and Mary his wife, she previously having been examined and confessed that she had not been coerced but proceeded of her own free will, were sworn by Ralph Horner tenant of the Lord of the Manor and surrendered into the hands of the lord a close called Hothercabankes improved land on Smalden or Grindleton More

The other refers to a further surrender made in 1694⁴⁹, and has similar opening wording as far as I can make out.

⁴⁵ LA, DDHCL/5/191, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1680

⁴⁶ LA, DDHCL/5/192, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1683

⁴⁷ BI, vol 57 f 243, will of Robert Illingworth of Grindleton, 1677

⁴⁸ LA, DDHCL/5/199, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1690

⁴⁹ LA, DDHCL/5/203, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1694

Two years later, Mary died and was buried at Waddington on 15th May 1697 as:

Maria uxor Gulielmi Illinworth

and, as no marriage record has been found, it is not possible to discover her maiden name and family. However, there is one possible clue, although this must be speculation. In 1701⁵⁰, William² made an intriguing surrender worded more or less as follows:

At this court came William Illingworth ... and surrendered ... on 29th May 1701 one third part of all a messuage a barn two gardens a croft? and ?several closes or parcels of land called by several names whether le high croft a barn Le Browne Riddings le hole meadow le hagg le two halsteads higher and lower ... lying and existing in West Bradford containing by estimation nine acres and a half of bovat land ... a third part of 11 acres of land ... and a third part ... acre ... lying to the east of Hasker Hill in the aforesaid manor and lately inherited from James Bashall deceased. To the use and behoof of John Baldwin of Chatburn and Jane his wife

None of the field names is familiar from other Illingworth entries, and what leaps out even more is the phrase 'lately inherited from James Bashall deceased'. A quick check on FindmyPast shows a York Exchequer administration for a James Bashall of Grindleton, Mitton, dated 9th November 1698. There is a later probate document, a tuition to ensure the welfare of his minor children, and dated 16th April 1701. Unfortunately, neither of these documents is likely to show a relationship between William² Illingworth and James Bashall. Bashall is not a surname that crops up in any of the earlier generations of Illingworths and Wilcocks. It is just possible that James had married William's aunt, and in default of a closer heir, bequeathed land to William. However, a more likely scenario is perhaps that Mary Illingworth, wife of William, started out life as Mary Bashall. Regrettably, this speculation is probably unprovable.

A few months later, William² took out a licence⁵¹, which refers to him as William Illingworth of Grindleton, and remarried, on 16th December 1697 at Gisburn.. He and his bride, Magdalen Baldwin, had little luck, though, as she was buried less than a year later at Gisburn on 27th November 1700 as:

Magdalena uxor Gulmi Illingworth de Smithies Bridge

Smithies Bridge is a tiny place, due east of Grindleton and due south of Sawley, in the confluence of the River Ribble and one of the many becks which flow into it. Nothing daunted, William must have married again as the Waddington register records:

⁵⁰ LA, DDHCL/5/210, Salidburn Court Roll, Easter 1701

⁵¹ BI, Archbishop of York's Marriage Licence Index, (missing from film)

Maria uxor Gulielmi Illingworth de Grindleton sep: Septembris 14^{to} 1724

The following year, William also died, and was buried at Waddington:

Gulielmus Illingworth de Grindleton sep: Septembris 27^{mo} 1725



Grindleton and Smithies Bridge⁵²

Having lost three wives and an only son, it is perhaps not surprising that he left his worldly goods to his grandchildren, if somewhat unevenly. His will⁵³ stated him to be a yeoman and announced that he had surrendered:

four parcels of oxgang or rodd land called Long Hickclife, North Hickclife, the Hill Meadow and the Croft at the barn end, containing by estimation 4 acres 1 rood and 10 falls

to his feoffees Robert and John Horner who were to sell it in order to pay his monetary bequests. Grandson Richard was to receive £3 10/- a year until he was 21. The rest of the land was to go to William³ who, when his brother Richard was 21 was to pay him a further £60 and pass on a bed and a chest. Jane's three children were not forgotten, but it is clear that his grandchildren by his son's first wife took priority as the younger family was just mentioned as follows:

To my three grandchildren Arthur, Thomas and Mary Illingworth 20s. each when they are 21

Had he already supported these youngsters and their mother, perhaps? It seems unlikely that he would leave his son's widow and her family destitute. However,

⁵² <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101169533> Sheet 68 - Clitheroe 1898

⁵³ BI, vol 78, f 288, will of William Illingworth, Grindleton, 1724

once again I ask myself the question whether Robert² and Jane were legally married. Certainly, no marriage has been found, and the clause transferring William³'s inheritance to his brother Richard in the case of his death without heirs, and then if Richard also fails to produce an heir to:

descend to the next heir apparent

begs the question that if Arthur was a legitimate son, why was he not named as the next heir. However, I may again be reading too much into it.

His brother Robert, named as executor, was given 10/- and the will was witnessed by Richard Smith, Margaret Gill and John Waterworth. Probate was granted on 1st December 1725.

In the intervening years between his father's death and his own, William² made several appearances at the Slaidburn Manorial Court. The first of these was on 30th September 1680⁵⁴, as he reached his majority:

At this court it is presented that a messuage, a barn and two gardens adjoining the same and another garden lying on a certain parcel of land called the Roans, two closes of land called Chappell Inges, a close of land called the Hickliffes, in total containing by estimation 4½a of bovat land with the appurtenances in Grindleton and also 2a of land after the measure of 8 yards to the rod or pole lying upon Smalden alias Grindleton Moore commonly called West Feild and 2a of land lying at Smalden Crosse and 2½a of land of the new improvements upon Grindleton More and also ½a of land upon Smalden alias Grindleton Moore in a certain close called Hothercabanckes and also a close or parcel of and called Hothercabanckes containing by estimation 2a of the new improvements upon Smalden alias Grindleton Moore and also a parcel of land lying in the west part of the Oldhills in Grindleton aforesaid containing by estimation 1r 36f of rodland, have reverted into the hands of the lord after the death of Robert Illingworth, and that William Illingworth is his son and nearest heir and of full age. Admitted. Fine 5s. 1d.

There was obviously further land in Hickliffes as the court held on 12th April 1683⁵⁵ presented:

that a close called Hickliffes, a land lying upon the south part of Longhickliffes containing by estimation 1a 30f of rodland with the appurtenances in Grindleton have reverted into the hands of the said lord after the death of Robert Illingworth and that William Illingworth is his son, nearest heir and of full age. Admitted. Fine 4¾d.

The 1690⁵⁶ court entry, which named Mary and has already been referred to, showed William surrendering land in Hothercabanckes to Robert Parker of Bronsholme. A

⁵⁴ LA, DDHCL/5/191, Slaidburn Court Roll, Michaelmas 1680

⁵⁵ LA, DDHCL/5/192, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1683

⁵⁶ LA, DDHCL/5/199, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1690

further entry, in 1693⁵⁷, shows William acting as feoffee for members of the Swinglehurst family. In 1694⁵⁸ William and Mary together surrendered two acres of land on Smalden to Richard Altham.

The first entry to mention William²'s only son Robert³, born in 1683, appears to be on 30th May 1698⁵⁹ when it appears that William² chose to put land in trust for his young son. To this end, he surrendered:

one messuage or dwelling house, one building called the outbuilding, one barn, one garden, one parcel of land called the Croft adjoining to the same barn, two closes of land called the Chappell Inges containing by estimation 2½ acres of bovat land, and also 2 acres 3 roods 20 falls of bovat land lying on the north side at the north part [sic] of the field called Long Hickcliffes, all [*the lands*] situated, lying and being with the appurtenances in Grindleton. To the use and behoof of Thomas Illingworth of West Hallton, his brother, and his heirs, as feoffee in trust...

However, the intention was that the property is for his own use for life and:

after his decease, for the use and behoof of Robert Illingworth, son and heir apparent of the said William Illingworth

A caveat, showing that William realised how slender the line of succession was, provided for Robert³ dying without an heir.

However, lacking any other candidates of the same name in Grindleton at the end of the 18th century, it seems likely that the following entry in 1691⁶⁰ also refers to William's son, who would have only been about eight years old:

At this court came Thomas Illingworth and Robert Illingworth ...and surrendered ... one parcel of land lying in the field called Longhickliffes, two closes of land called the higher and lower Chappell Inges containing by estimation three acres and acres of bovat land ... situated in Grindleton ... and now in the tenure or occupation of William Illingworth to the use and behoof of the said William Illingworth

It rather looks as if land has been settled on the young Robert, and that, accompanied by the uncle who is to be his feoffee, the child has come to surrender it to the father who is currently farming it. Again, a puzzling entry.

In 1701⁶¹ William made two surrenders to John Baldwin and his wife Jane. Maybe they were related to his deceased wife Magdalen. The first, with its reference

⁵⁷ LA, DDHCL/5/202, Slaidburn Court Roll, 1693

⁵⁸ LA, DDHCL/5/203, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1694

⁵⁹ LA, DDHCL/5/207, Slaidburn Court Rolls, Easter 1698

⁶⁰ LA, DDHCL/5/201, Slaidburn Court Rolls, Michaelmas 1691

⁶¹ LA, DDHCL/5/210, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1701

to James Bashall, has already been discussed. The other also names parcels of land not previously mentioned:

At this court came William Illingworth and William Baldwin ... and ... surrendered... the 29th day of May 1701 all... a messuage and garden or croft a barn ... one close called le Stumsteeds [another] barn ... a close called Le Longley adjoining, ... land lying in the ?Meaufflaight ... lately the inheritance of Thomas Hodgson of Grindleton grandfather of Jane the wife of John Baldwin of Chatburn and situated in Grindleton ... to the use and behoof of John Baldwin and Jane his wife....

At Easter 1702⁶² William² was briefly admitted to further property in Grindleton, a house and outbuildings and accompanying land – one acre called the Croft and half an acre on Grindleton Moor, but at the following court⁶³ he surrendered the house and buildings, his interest in the half acre on Grindleton Moor and another half acre in his own tenure on Old Hills. After a lull of around eight years, in 1710 the court⁶⁴ reported that William had been admitted to another parcel of land:

half of one close or parcel of land commonly called Farr Halfe Acres lying and being upon the south part of the said close, containing by estimation $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre 30 falls of bovat land, situated in Grindleton, with the appurtenances

Eighteen months later⁶⁵ this land and other parcels was handed over, for a fine of 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d to Robert² who had recently married Richard Horner's daughter Margaret:

To this court came Robert Horner and William Illingworth of Grindleton, by Richard Horner a tenant of the Lady of the Manor aforesaid and sworn and surrendered into the hands of the said Lady, from 9 May 1711, two parts of one close or parcel of land called Long Hickliffes lying and being upon the east part of the said close, containing by estimation 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land and adjoining one rood of land belonging to North Hickliffes, and also all the whole close of bovat called the Farr Halfacres containing by estimation 1 acre 60 falls of land, situated, lying and being within the township of Grindleton and Manor aforesaid, now in the tenure and occupation of us, Robert Horner and William Illingworth. To the use and behoof of Robert Illingworth son of William Illingworth of Grindleton, his heirs and assigns, according to the custom of the Manor aforesaid forever. Admitted.

William²'s land dealings didn't stop there. On 21st October 1715⁶⁶ he paid £14 10 s half an acre of land in a close called Weanycliffes and 1 rood 30 falls of land called Oldhills, both in Grindleton. In 1723⁶⁷ he sold the Weanycliffes land on for

⁶² LA, DDHCL/5/211, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1702

⁶³ LA, DDHCL/5/212, Slaidburn Court Roll, Michaelmas 1702

⁶⁴ LA, DDHCL/5/219, Slaidburn Court Roll, Michaelmas 1710

⁶⁵ LA, DDHCL/5/221, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1711

⁶⁶ Information from Kathy Smith provided by Chris Spencer, local historian. Original not seen.

⁶⁷ LA, DDHCL/5/239, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1724

£10, and in 1724⁶⁸ also sold the Oldhills land for £7. He clearly made a profit on these deals; maybe he had improved the land in the 10 years he'd owned it, or maybe there was inflation. His only son was dead, and maybe it made more sense to have capital to distribute to his grandchildren when he died.

The final transaction made was carried out on his behalf by his brother Robert who, in 1727⁶⁹, confirmed that William²'s remaining land was in trust:

Let it be remembered that on 1 December 1724 William Illingworth of Grindleton, yeoman, surrendered into the hands of the lady of the Manor aforesaid, by the hands of Robert Illingworth, a customary tenant there and sworn, a part of a close or parcel of land lying on the west part of the Long Hickliffs containing 1½ acres more or less, another close called the North Hickliffs with a parcel of land containing 6 yards in width from the North Hickcliffes Gapp up to the east side of Long=Hickliffs containing by estimation 1 acre 30 perches of bovat land, another close called the Hill Meadow containing 1½ acres of bovat land and also 20 perches of land more or less called the Croft; and all the aforesaid premises are lying and being in Grindleton aforesaid and in the occupation of the aforesaid William Illingworth or his assigns. To the use and behoof of Robert Horner and John Horner, and longest living of their heirs forever, to stand and be fined and seized thereunto as feoffees in trust according to the custom of the Manor aforesaid to perform the uses mentioned in the last will or testament of the aforesaid William Illingworth. Admitted. Fine 1s 5¼d



Waddington St Helen's

Robert² Illingworth was the only child of William² Illingworth and his wife Mary, and was baptised at Waddington on 16th October 1683. On 24th November 1709 he married local girl Margaret Horner at Waddington. Their first child was named William³ and baptised – at Waddington as were all but one of his siblings –

⁶⁸ LA, DDHCL/5/240, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1725

⁶⁹ LA, DDHCL/5/241, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1727

on 13th May 1711. A son Richard was baptised on 14th December 1712 and a final short-lived son named Robert – baptised 16th November 1714 and buried on 26th December the same year. His mother had been buried on 17th November, the day after his baptism.

During this period, Robert² Illingworth served as churchwarden for Waddington four times, in 1713, 1714 and 1715, and also 1717; maybe had he not died when he did he would have served again. His signature in this role appears in the register as Robert Illinworth.

At some point his son Richard left the area and settled in London as a haberdasher. This seems a long way from both Yorkshire and farming, but it was not uncommon for younger sons of yeomen, who had little hope of inheriting enough land to make a living, to be apprenticed into a trade or craft. Many Yorkshire sons went into silk-weaving:

...and the craft of haberdashers was popular⁷⁰

He later became involved in a chancery dispute⁷¹ with his brother William³, Robert Illingworth (either his great uncle or his father's cousin) and Robert Horner – one of William²'s feoffees and presumably a relative of his mother's. Two documents survive from this dispute, the second merely being an answer⁷². They are dated 1736 and 1737 and refer to Richard as a haberdasher of St Giles in the Fields in Middlesex. Legal documents are always verbose, and Richard's initial complaint is no exception. It begins by repeating the details of his grandfather's will, naming his lands and the arrangements made for them with his feoffees – Robert and John Horner - and listing his bequests. His complaint then is that his brother William has not paid all the money he is owed from his legacy and has not given him the bed and chest promised by his grandfather.

The surviving feoffee - Robert Horner - in his answer suggests that the complainant has probably already had the chest and bed (he has no knowledge of them) and explains that the lands have not been profitable enough to pay all that the will anticipated. In support of his equally long-winded argument he appends a brief inventory of William² Illingworth's possessions, which does indeed suggest that the old man had little to leave:

The schedule referred to with the answer of these defendants containing a true inventory or account of the goods and chattels and personal estate of the said William Illingworth deceased and the values thereof.

To wit The testator's purse and apparel	01	00	0
His bedstead and bedding	01	10	0
Two old chests	00	10	0
One old trunk	00	01	6

⁷⁰ *The English Yeoman*, Mildred Campbell, 1967, Trowbridge, Redwood Press

⁷¹ TNA, C11/771/1/12 Illingworth v Illingworth 1736 – Bill and answer

⁷² TNA, C11/771/5 Illingworth v Horner 1737 - Answer

His brother William³ offers a similar answer, in that the estate has not been profitable enough for him to give his brother any more, and implies that:

this defendant being young and unskilled in husbanding of lands

he had followed the advice of Robert Horner, which may not have always been the right thing to do. With regard to the other bequests to Richard:

his brother was entitled under the said testator's will to the bed and chest and he being then a young housekeeper and not well fitted with household goods of all sorts requested the complainant to permit this defendant to have ... and benefit of the bed and curtains till he shall.... them ... request the complainant then freely complied whereupon this defendant took the same into his own possession and now is and ever since hath been in the possession thereof and always was and now is ready and willing to deliver the same to the complainant where he shall ... the same And this defendant saith that... was given by the testator's will to the complainant always stood in this defendant's house at Grindleton in the said County of York saith he.... he this defendant for his better convenience of living set his said house in Grindleton aforesaid about three years ago and removed ... therefore to a called Ranterford in the county of Lancaster where he this defendant now lives and in order to preserve the said chest from being in regard the complainant was his own brother and then resided at London he the defendant removed the said chest with his own goods to Ranterford aforesaid and hath ever ... in possession thereof and always ready to have delivered at the same had he been requested there to but expressly denies that either the complainant or any other person on his behalf ever demanded or requested this defendant to deliver up the said bed and curtains and chest or any of them to him or for his use save by that his bill of complaint

In spite of the gaps where the text is illegible, the gist is clear. There is no record of the outcome of this case, but my feeling is that it was simply a family squabble that got out of hand, and that the blame was probably fairly equally shared.

The likelihood is that Richard died in the south. Illingworth was not a common name in 18th century London, so the burial of Richard Illingworth at St Dunstan in the East on 20th May 1781, about two miles away across the City, could be the same man.

As was the norm, having lost one wife, Robert², still only just over 30, found a new partner, though where, and what Jane's surname might be, remain a mystery. Two years after Robert junior's birth and death, Robert baptised a son named Arthur, on 4th November 1716. It was this man who signed Robert Coulthurst's marriage bond. Four years after his sister's wedding, he also married, on 30th January 1745 to Mary Longton, at Whalley. He and his wife raised a numerous family before he died at the ripe old age of 84 and was buried at Chipping on 11th May 1800.

Thomas is the one child in this family whose baptism doesn't appear in the Waddington register, but he must have been born around 1719 as his marriage licence⁷³, dated July 1741, gives his age as 22. The bond gives his occupation as gentleman, but this may have been a bit of bravado as the same is given for his bondsman, William Baldwin. His bride came from Grindleton. He married Ellise or Alice Lawson on 4th July 1741 at Clitheroe, but only lived long enough to father one child. He was buried at Clitheroe on 22nd June 1743, and three years later, his widow married John Hargraves at Gargrave.

Mary, Robert's final child was born, as has been stated, shortly after her father's death in 1721. Although she was the youngest of six children, it is clear that Robert², her father, was not expecting to die, and so had not made a will. Instead, his widow took out an administration, granted when Mary was around a month old; it reads:

Administration of the goods and chattels of Robert Illingworth of Grindleton was granted to Jane Illingworth his wife and relict before Roger Mitton, Clerk, surrogate. Estate valued at above £40.



Long Preston, St Mary the Virgin

Robert² was buried at Long Preston rather than Waddington, as might have been expected. This was a parish about 11 miles to the north-east, but there were family connections as his uncle and cousin both appear in the register there, but it was far enough away for both the parish register and the BTs to get the name wrong. The register records the burial on 3rd April 1721 of:

Robert Illingworth of Gridleton in the parish of Mitton

while the BTs have Grinleton!

⁷³ BI, Archbishop of York's Marriage Licences – Bond and Obligation

Robert²'s eldest son, William³, married Grace Varley at Waddington on 16th August 1731 and began raising a family. In 1732, some years after his grandfather's - and his father's - death, William³ came to court to claim his grandfather's land⁷⁴:

The Jury say that William Illingworth, late of Grindleton, yeoman, deceased, surviving feoffee in trust for the lands and premises hereafter mentioned, died fined and seized, according to the custom of the said Manor, of and in one eighth part in eight equally divided parts of several closes or parcels of land called the Postlands, the Mill Hey, the Crabtree Ley and the Litle Ing, containing in total 8 acres of land lying and being in Grindleton, of yearly rent 4d.; and that William Illingworth of Grindleton is the grandson and nearest heir of the said William Illingworth, deceased, and of full age and ought to be admitted to the fine according to the custom of the Manor

The steward duly demised the land to William³. The next entry in the roll refers to the land put in trust with William²'s brother Thomas, whose son-in-law John Heelis has come to court to return it to William³. Another fine was paid: 1s 9 ½ d.

The following year an inquisition⁷⁵ took evidence under oath from a number of 'good and honest men' who:

find and present that Robert Illingworth late of Grindleton within the said Manor, yeoman, deceased, died fined and seized according to the custom of the said Manor of and in one close or parcel of ground lying and being within Grindleton aforesaid commonly called or known by the name of the Farr Halfe Acres containing by estimation 1 acre 60 falls of land or more or less and of yearly rent 5½d. to the Lady of the Manor; and that William Illingworth of Grindleton, yeoman, is the eldest son and next heir to the said Robert Illingworth deceased and of full age and ought to be admitted according to the custom of the Manor.

William³ was admitted and paid a fine of 5 1/2d for the privilege.

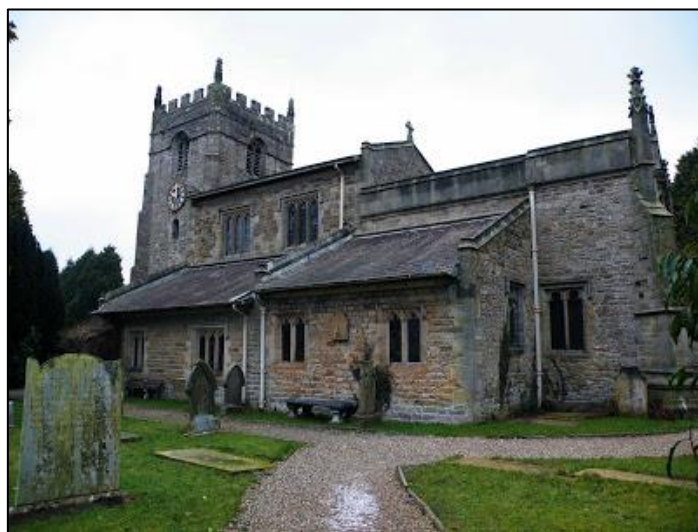
The next entry looks like a mortgage, as William³ now surrendered a quarter of his land to Henry Hardacre in exchange for £50. If he and one Margaret Wilkinson, who is also party to the deal, repay Hardacre, the land comes back to them. A further mortgage for £100 is taken out two years later. It looks as if William might have been in financial difficulties, as in 1736, by which time he had moved to Slaidburn and was an 'Inholder', there seems to have been a further mortgage. By 1738 William and his family were at Rantenfold in the parish of Tatham, over 20 miles to the north, and William was selling his remaining equity in the land at Grindleton. So it was that on 10th April 1739:

William Illingworth of Rantryfold, p. Tatham, co. Lancaster, yeoman,
and Richard Illingworth of the parish of St Gyles in theFields, co.
Middlesex, haberdasher, for and in consideration of the sum of £70 to

⁷⁴ LA, DDHCL/5/245, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1732

⁷⁵ LA, DDHCL/5/245, Slaidburn Court Roll, Easter 1733

them or one of them in hand paid by John Parkinson of Clithero, co. Lancaster, gentleman, have and each of them hath surrendered by George Horner, customary tenant there and sworn, all that part or parcel of land lying on the south west side of the Long Hickliffs containing 1½a of land, one other close called the North Hickliffs containing 1a 30f of land, with one parcel of land containing 6 yards in breadth from the North Hickliffs Gap to the east corner of the Long Hickliffes, one other close called the Little Meadow or Hill Meadow containing 1½a of land or thereabouts, and also 20f of land called the Croft, all which said premises are situate, lying and being within the said Manor and now in the tenure, holding or occupation of the said John Parkinson, his tenants or assigns, and of the yearly rent to the Lord of the said Manor of 1s. 5¼d. To the use and behoof of him, the said John Parkinson, his heirs and assigns, forever.



Bentham, St John the Baptist

By 1746, William³, still calling himself a yeoman, was living at Bentham, and disposing of yet more land of which he had been a feoffee⁷⁶. I suspect, in the end, there was nothing left. Both William³ and his wife Grace were buried at Bentham as paupers, he on 15th November 1785 and she on 27th September 1793. However, this was an era of tax on burials, so this might just have been an avoidance tactic by the incumbent, especially as Jane, Mary's mother and Robert's widow seems to have chosen Bentham as her final home, and was maybe being supported by William.

Jane Illingworth was buried at Bentham on 16th January 1763, some 41 years after the death of her husband Robert. It seems strange that she chose to be near her stepson rather than her two surviving children. Maybe the Bentham area, beyond the northern edge of the Forest of Bowland was where she came from; maybe she had an affinity with her elder step-son or maybe it's just coincidence. Her daughter Mary, the most obvious person for an elderly widow to seek help from, was perhaps not in the best of health, having buried 5 children in the last six years, and only recently having given birth to her last child.

⁷⁶ Information from Kathy Smith provided by Chris Spencer, local historian. Original not seen.

Wilcock, Parkinson, Ellill and Scotte - Gisburn and Bolton by Bowland

Gisburn and Bolton-by-Bowland are contiguous parishes to the east of Waddington, and so historically in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Wikipedia⁷⁷ describes Gisburn as a rural, hilly and relatively unpopulated area. Surrounded by the Forest of Bowland, Pendle Hill, the Dales and the Pennines, it must have been even more isolated in the 16th and 17th centuries, which no doubt explains why the same limited set of surnames appears in the registers again and again. Bolton-by-Bowland was even smaller than Gisburn, and its main claim to fame today seems to be the possession of two village greens. In earlier times Bolton Hall provided a haven for Henry VI, fleeing from defeat at the Battle of Hexham in 1464⁷⁸. New Ing, where the Wilcocks lived, is to the north of Gisburn - and closer to Bolton. It is part of the Forest of Bowland, an area of outstanding natural beauty today. The Wilcock name appears with various spellings; I have stuck to the above or Wilcocke unless quoting from a document which uses an alternative.

Amongst all the elusive Illingworth brides, only one has proved traceable, taking the family roots further into Yorkshire. When Robert Illingworth married at Gisburn (following banns published on 19th and 16th September and 3rd October), whoever wrote up the register did so in fulsome detail:

Robert Illingworth of Grindlton within the parish of Mitton and Ann
Wilcock daughter of Hugh Wilcock of Newinge P. Parish church Gisburne
Wit Thomas Geldart and William Wilcocke. M 12th October 1658

Not only did he supply the groom's residence, but added the bride's father's name and abode, and finally, for good measure, named the witnesses as well. Because Thomas Gelderd appeared later in Robert's will it seemed likely that Gelderd was Ann's maiden name, and without the addition of the witness names, it might have been assumed that this was a different Robert. Further scrutiny of the register showed that in fact it was Ann's sister Mary who married Thomas Gelderd on 27th July 1656, making him Ann's brother-in-law rather than Robert's. Ann outlived her husband by eleven years and was buried at Waddington in 1687:

Anna Illingworth vidua sepult: erat Maij 29

Ann had been baptised in 1629 in her mother's parish of Bolton-by-Bowland:

Anne the daughter of Hugh Wilcoke, Baptised the iiijth day of October

She was the eldest of three daughters born to Hugh Wilcock and his wife Grace. The couple had wed two years earlier in Bolton-by-Bowland:

Hugh Wilcocke and Grace Parkinson married the xjth day of Februarie 1627

⁷⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gisburn>

⁷⁸ <http://www.bolton-by-bowland.org/thevillage.html>

but their younger daughters were baptised at Gisburn, Ellen on 14th May 1632 and Mary on 9th September 1634. Ellen didn't marry and was buried at Gisburn on 29th March 1669. When Mary married, the clerk was as detailed in recording the event as he would be for Anne:

Thomas Geldert of Agden and Marie Wilcock daught of Hugh Wilcocke of Newing, both within thi Forest of Gisburne. P Parish church Gisburne 6th, 13th and 21st July. Wit John Billington and Thos Houlgate of Bolton. M 24th July 1656

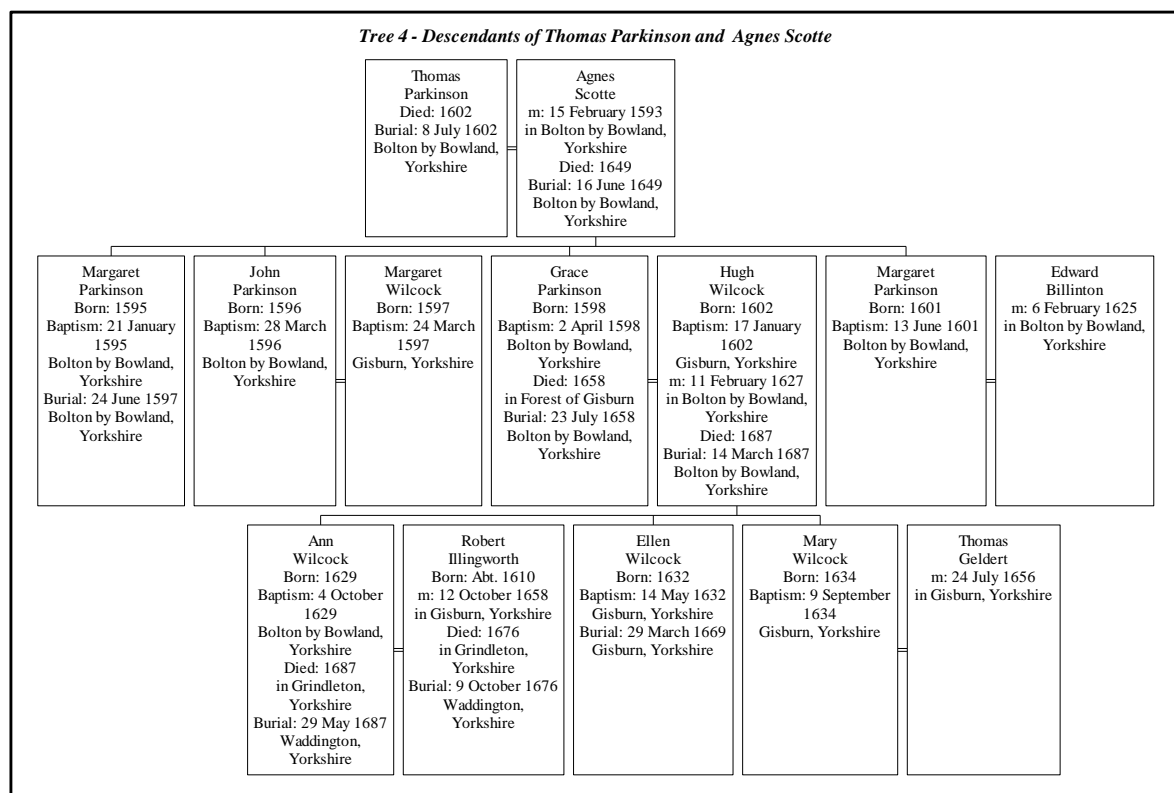
Anne's mother Grace had died a few months before her wedding, and chose to be buried in her home parish despite the fact that her abode was presumably at Newing. So her burial is recorded in the Bolton-by Bowland register on 23rd July 1658 as:

Grace the wife of Hugh Wilcoke of the Forest of Gisborne

Presumably this is why Hugh was also buried there, nearly 29 years later:

Hugh Wilcock bur xiiijth day of March 1687

He left no will, but was 85 years old by then, so maybe either had already disposed of his goods or was too infirm to make his wishes known.



A brief aside will detail all that is known of Grace's family before returning to the Wilcocks. Her parents were Thomas Parkinson and Agnes Scotte who had

married on 15th December 1593 at Bolton-by-Bowland. They baptised four children there: Margaret – 21st January 1595 (buried 24th June 1597), John – 28th March 1596, Grace on 2nd April 1598 and another Margaret – 13th June 1601. Thomas was buried at Bolton on 8th July 1602, when Grace was only four, but her mother remained a widow for nearly half a century and was buried at Bolton on 16th June 1649.

To return to Hugh, he was the youngest child of James Wilcock and his wife Alice Ellill, and was baptised at Gisburn on 17th January 1602, as the register says, in the 43rd year of the reign of Elizabeth I:

Hugonis filio de Jacobi Wilcocke decimo septimo Januarij 1602 bap
Anno Elizabetha quadragessimio tertio

James and Alice had married at Bolton-by-Bowland on 16th July 1582. Most of their seven children's baptisms are recorded in the parish register, but there are a couple of gaps. Henry was baptised on 16th March 1587, and was, I suspect, followed by a brother William, who married Alice Walbancke on 11th February 1617. Richard also features in the register, on 27th March 1592, but is probably followed by Thomas, who married Margrett Billington on 11th August 1623. Margaret Wilcock was baptised on 24th March 1597 and grew up to marry John Parkinson – Grace's brother – but died fairly young and was buried at Bolton on 14th August 1630. The penultimate child was Christopher, baptised two and a half years ahead of Hugh, on 2nd July 1599.

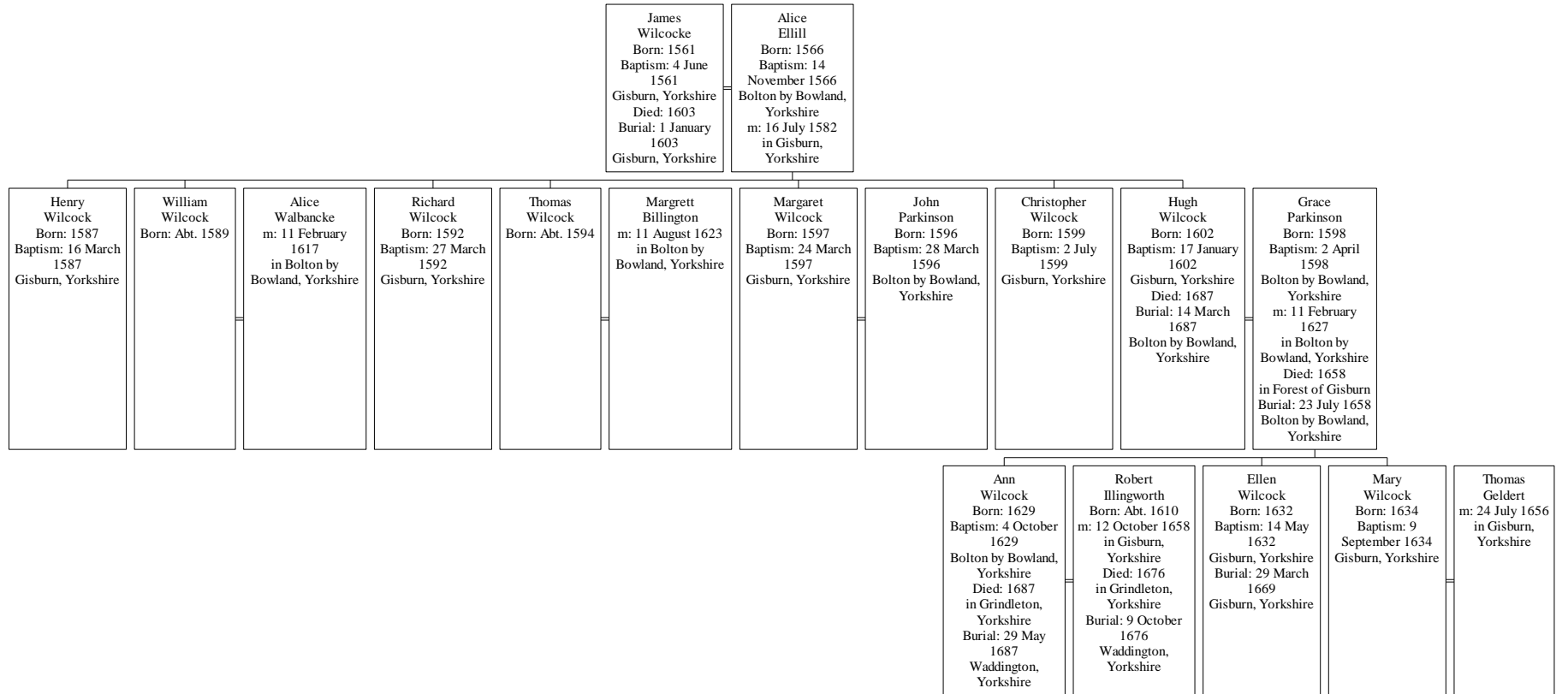


Bolton-by-Bowland, SS Peter and Paul

Unfortunately for this young family, James died when Hugh was less than a year old, and was buried at Gisburn on 1st January 1603. It was presumably not a sudden death, as he had time to put his affairs in order in a will⁷⁹. He describes himself as a husbandman, sick in body, and after the usual openings, focuses on his 'messuage or tenement' called 'New Inge'. This he divides into thirds, with one part:

⁷⁹ BI, v 29, f 273, Will of James Wilcock of New Inge par Gisburn, 1604

Tree 5 - Descendants of James Wilcocke and Alice Ellill



assigned unto Alice my wife during her widowhood

Another third is designated to his heir-at-law Henry, while the final third is assigned:

to the residue of my children during the continuance of my lease

with the proviso that if any of them decide to sell their interest in the property at any time, their oldest brother is to have first refusal at the discretion of their uncles Leonard Wilcocke and William Ellill of Skirden. It seems to be his intention that eventually, the whole property shall devolve to Henry. Henry also receives all his husbandry gear, but this time with the proviso that his siblings can use it, as long as it returns to Henry in good order.

The clause dealing with the rest of his goods is intriguing. Again, everything is divided into thirds, but while Alice gets her widow's third, the second is divided between all the children and the third is split so that two thirds of it goes to the youngest three and one third to the elder three. Presumably Henry is not part of this division. He nominates his father-in-law William Ellill and his brother Leonard Wilcocke executors. The will was proved on 26th April 1604.

Five years later, on 4th May 1609, a tuition bond⁸⁰ was taken out by William Ellill and Leonard Wilcock as guardians of:

William, Richard, Thomas, Margaret, Christopher and Hugh Wilcocke
children of James Wilcocke late of Newing... deceased

This was a monetary payment required by the courts to ensure that the guardians undertook their duties properly.

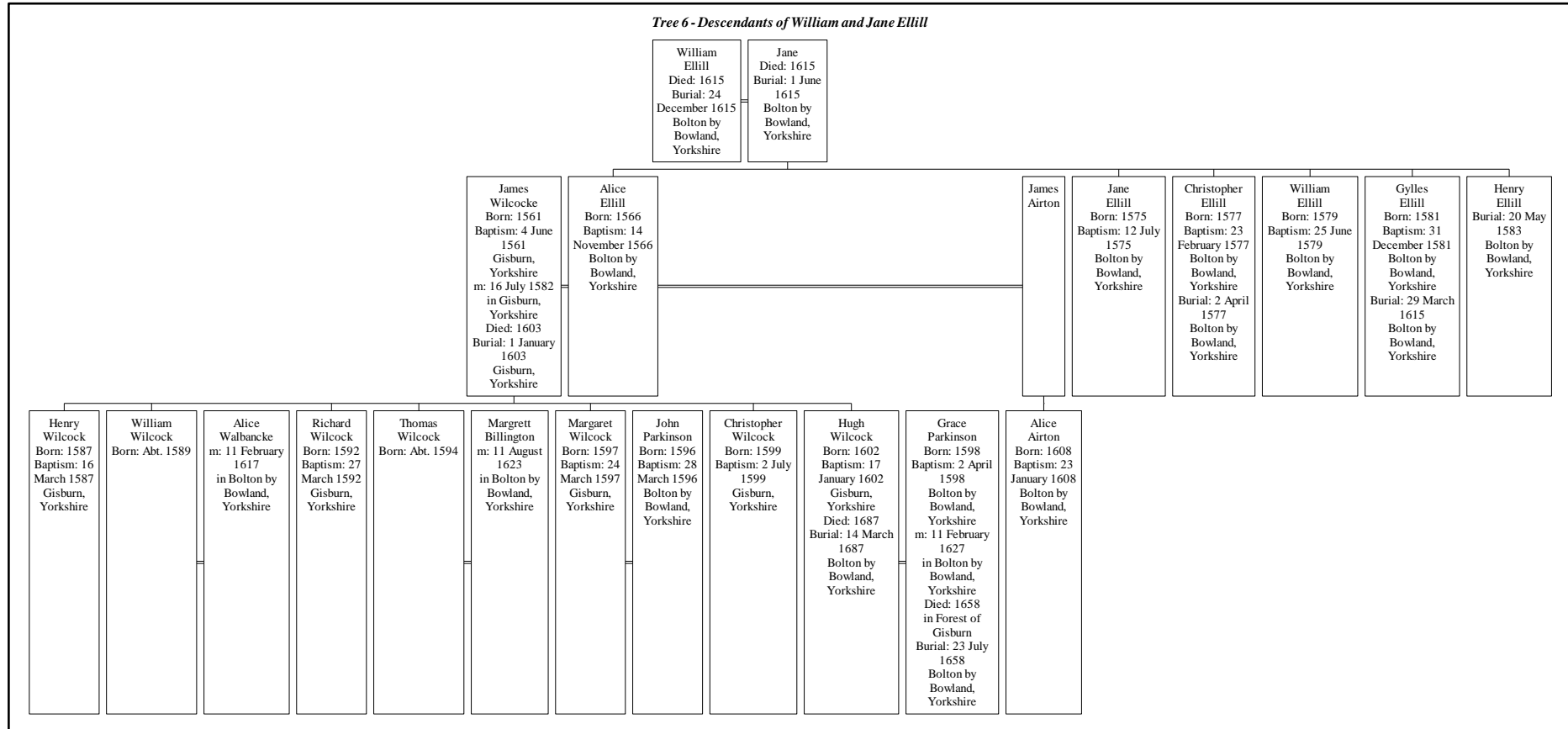
Once again, before continuing the Wilcock story, a digression will follow James' wife Alice Ellill. She was the eldest daughter of William and Jane Ellill, and baptised at Bolton-by-Bowland on 14th November 1566. There is a nine year gap before a sister Jane is baptised on 12th July 1575, so I suspect there may be some omissions, especially as the next child, Christopher, followed less than two years later (baptised 23rd February 1577; buried 2nd April 1577). William was baptised on 25th June 1579, Gylles on 31st December 1581, and a son Henry – who may have been an infant or have been born between Alice and Jane – was buried on 20th May 1583. Alice's mother Jane was buried on 1st June 1615 as:

Janne, the wyffe of Willia' Ellill of Skirden, senior

and William himself was buried six months later on 24th December, also at Bolton-by-Bowland.

⁸⁰ BI, Tuition, mf 1170

Tree 6 - Descendants of William and Jane Ellill



William Ellill left a detailed will⁸¹, written on 1st December 1615 and proved on 18th April 1616 – four months later. He describes himself as a husbandman and asks to be buried in the church or churchyard at Bolton. This will is hard to read in places, but he assigns the lease on his tenement at Skirden, and all other leases and their remaining years, to his son William, and £10 to his daughter Alice Wilcocke, widow. These seem to be his only surviving children, though several grandchildren are mentioned, including Henry, William and Margaret Ellill – presumably William junior's children. He leaves clothing to his son-in-law William Wickham, who was probably Jane's husband. The bequests veer between money and goods, in a slightly random way, as if the old man adds things in as they occur to him. Nevertheless, it is thorough, with bequests to three servants, 20 shillings towards the maintenance of a schoolmaster at Bolton, and a peck of meal for a presumably impoverished widow. He makes his son William sole executor.

The most interesting items for this story, though, are the bequests to his daughter Alice and her family. Having made an initial bequest of £10 to her, he then deals with her family:

Item I give and bequeath to my grandchild Margaret Wilcocke fifty-three shillings four pence and this my legacy to be augmented for the better preferment of the said Margaret Wilcocke at the discretion of my trusted friends Richard Weston and John Wallbanke Item I give and bequeath every one equally rest of James Wilcocke's children 10 shillings apiece and to Alice Airton als Wilcocke 10 shillings Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Alice Wilcocke widow one coverlet to blankets and two sheets

It is interesting that William singles out his granddaughter for special treatment. Maybe this money was to be a marriage portion. The bequest of 10/- to 'Alice Airton als Wilcocke' was to a child born to Alice five years after James' death:

Alic', the daughter of Alic' Wilcocke, widdowe, of the p'ishe of Gisboirne and one James Airton, the supposed Father thereof

Boyd's Marriage Index⁸² notes a York Archdiocese marriage licence taken out for a marriage between James Airton and Alice Wilcock in 1608, but there is no sign of the marriage ever having taken place, and William's will shows that she remained a widow. It is a matter of speculation as to whether he got cold feet or she refused to marry him as it meant giving up the widow's third she had received from her husband.

Alice junior was clearly seen as part of the family. The will⁸³ of Thomas Wilcocke (brother of James), suggests he had no children of his own, so after making provision for his wife Margaret, and his godchildren, he remembers his siblings in varying degrees. Brother William is left £4 10/-; sister Margaret, wife of John

⁸¹ BI, v 34, f 23, Will of William Ellill, Skwden [sic], Bolton nighe Bolland, 1616

⁸² <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> Boyd's First Miscellaneous Marriage Index 1415-1808

⁸³ BI, v 38, f 261, will of Thomas Wilcocke of Newing, Gisburn, 1624

Parkinson, gets 6/8; brother Richard 20/-. However, Alice and her daughter are dealt with in a slightly confusing way. I suspect this may be down to transcription into the registered will, which reads:

Item I do give and bequeath to my sister Alice Wilcock als Airton -base begotten daughter of James Airton 10 shillings Item my will and mind is that mine executor hereinafter named shall pay to Alice Wilcock my niece 10 shillings yearly during her natural life and also three pounds yearly during the continuance of the lease of the Newing aforesaid

I am assuming that there is a missing possessive 's' somewhere, as Alice and her daughter seem to have been conflated.

The executor was his youngest brother Hugh, our ancestor, who also received the residue of his brother's estate, while William Ellill and John Billington were named as supervisors.

Thomas' uncle and guardian Leonard Wilcoke also left a will⁸⁴, written on 28th January 1617. He had remained unmarried, and so his estate was divided almost exclusively amongst his nephews (with the exception of the eldest, Henry) and niece. The sums differ hugely, and there is no reason given. William is bequeathed £100, Thomas £20, Christopher £3, Hugh £7 and Richard £3 6/4. Their sister Margaret was given:

£17 beside her child's portion due from her father which is £23

and something else which is not clear. Rather endearingly, he makes a bequest of £6 6/4 to Agnes Parkinson, widow, his nephew Hugh's widowed mother-in-law. His sister-in-law Alice was one of the witnesses, and his nephew William was named executor.



Gisburn, St Mary the Virgin

⁸⁴ BI, v 34, f 855, will of Leonard Wilcoke of Newinge, 1617

Like the Bolton register, the Gisburn one goes back to 1558, so most of Henry and Agnes Wilcock's children's baptisms appear there. The first, Elizabeth, was presumably born before the register began, but her burial is noted on 28th May 1560. James, our ancestor, came next and was baptised on 4th June 1563. William was short-lived – baptised 13th May 1563, buried 12th July the same year. Two more sons followed: Richard – 14th November 1564, and Leonard, whom we have already met, on 7th November 1566. Another daughter named Elizabeth doesn't appear in the baptism record but was buried on 24th April 1577. At some point, Henry must have strayed, as there is mention in the will of his illegitimate daughter Margaret. There is no sign of Agnes's burial, though she must have outlived Henry, who was buried at Gisburn on 5th May 1582 as:

Henricus Wilcocke de Forest

His will⁸⁵, written on 22nd April 1582, gives a further spelling of his name:

I Henrie Wilcokk of Newynge in the Forest of Gysbourne in the county of York yeoman

It is long, and not always easily readable, but deals first with his messuage and tenement at Newinge which he occupies per the terms of an indenture made with Francis Duncye esquire. From the wording, he feels he has made considerable outlay and effort to improve the property and trusts that as a consequence his family will be able to continue the lease. One third of the property is to go to his wife Agnes, as long as she stays a widow, and one half is to go to his eldest son James. The rest is to be shared between sons Richard and Leonard until (if I've understood it right) their elder brother is in a position to buy them out. He trusts his cousins and friends – namely William Ellill of Skirden, Christopher Dunster of Morehouse and Richard Wilcoke son of James Wilcoke of Thornton to supervise this. A further clause details how the property is to be divided up if James has no children. Agnes is granted any of her husband's goods:

which she ought to have

rather vague wording for a will.

Henry then goes on to deal with his illegitimate daughter:

I give and bequeath unto Margaret Wilcoke my bastard daughter als Margaret Alanson daughter of Margaret Alanson ten ewes and ten lambs one filly and two ... stirks ... until such time as they have calves.....

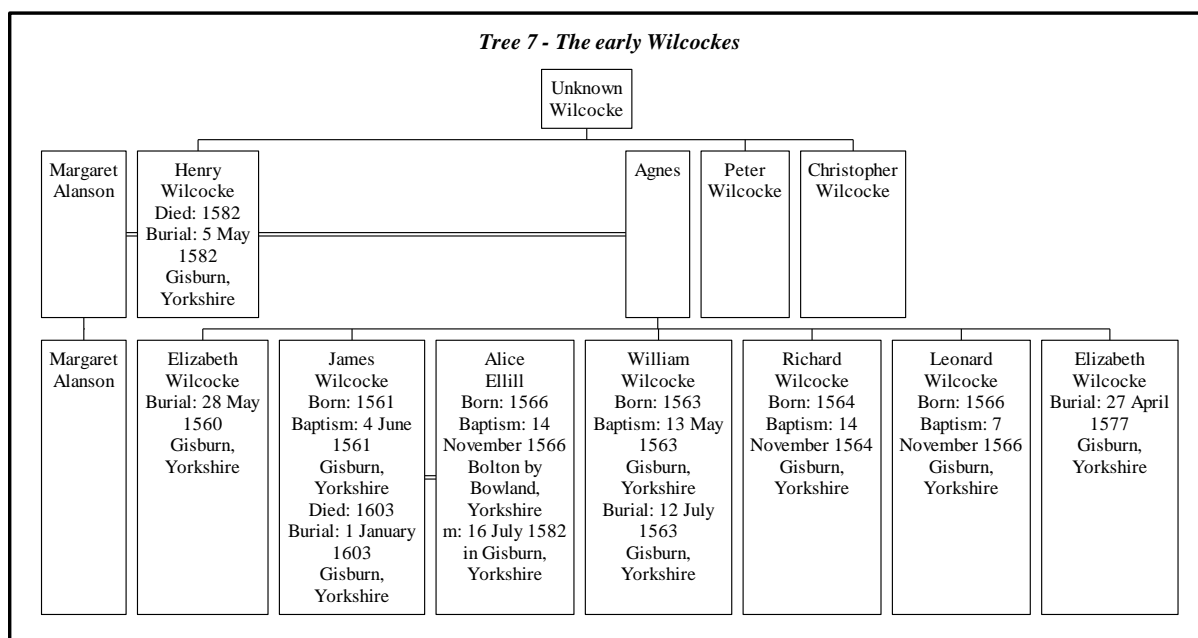
The next section is more or less unreadable, but it then goes on:

I will that the said Margaret shall have over and beside the legacies and gifts before said a bride wayne against her marriage worth five marks and better

⁸⁵ BI, v 22, f 245, will of Henry Wilcokk of Newinge, 1582

at the discretion of my wife and children

His son Leonard receives some land in the pastures of Gargrave parish which Henry inherited from one Christopher ?Lowde, and a parcel of land whose name is not decipherable is bequeathed to three of his youngest children for the remaining two years of its lease.



Other bequests go to one Rosamund Robinson, daughter of Peter Robinson, and an animal of some kind is gifted to Henry's brother Peter. Another brother, Christopher, is let off money he owes. Christopher's son William and several unnamed daughters are also remembered, and a final bequest is made to James Wilcock, Henry's son, of £24. Any surplus is to be divided between his sons Richard and Leonard. Agnes and Leonard were joint executors and the will, which was proved on 30th July 1582, was witnessed by Henry Foster, Edmund?, Christopher Dunster and William Ellill.

Richard Coulthurst and family - mainly Mitton and Ribchester

After a long detour into Yorkshire with the Illingworth and Wilcock families, it is time to return once more to the Coulthurst line in Lancashire. Richard Coulthurst, grandson of Giles Coulthurst and Ellen Almond, was baptised at Mitton on 27th February 1742 as:

Richard the son of Robert Coalthurst of Chaigley, farmer

His mother Mary Illingworth doesn't get a mention in the register, of course. Richard was more successful in raising a family than his parents had been. He

married Elizabeth Cottam at Mitton on 9th February 1768 by banns published on 24th and 31st January and 7th February:

The said R^d Colthurst of the parish of Mitton ...and Eliz Cottam of the parish aforesaid were married... this ninth day of February 1768...

Both bride and groom signed the register.

Richard and Elizabeth's first child was named after his grandfather. Robert was baptised at Mitton on 1st January 1769, his father's occupation noted as labourer and abode as Bayley. Aged 20, he married Elizabeth Greenwood at Ribchester - on 9th May 1789 - by licence⁸⁶ and calling himself a yeoman. He baptised a number of children in the parish, giving his abode as first Dutton, then Hothersall and finally Ribchester itself. At some point the family moved to Barton, as this was recorded in the Ribchester register as her abode when his first wife was buried there on 19th June 1824. When he remarried to Jane Balmer from Woodplumpton, it was at Lancaster - on 12th February 1830 - although he was living at Myerscough. He was obviously a worker in wood, variously giving his occupation as carpenter and millwright. However, by the time of the 1851 census⁸⁷, when he was 82, he was recorded as a joiner receiving parish relief. He was buried at Barton from Myerscough on 31st May 1852.

Myerscough is another of the Broughton townships, and it is possible that he was influenced in his move there by the fact that his brother-in-law John Park was settled in the area. Robert's youngest child was baptised at Ribchester in 1815, but the move may have already taken place, as a Robert Coulthurst appears in a Rental⁸⁸ in the area in 1815, and although he was principally a carpenter, many people also worked the land as a supplementary occupation:

No 14 Rob ^t Coulthurst				
House Barn Orchard Garden Fold)	0	3	34	4 14 4
And Lane etc)				
Nearer Paddock	0	3	34	110 5 7 8
Further Paddock	1	0	15	8 8/9 4 17 0
Wood Meadow	1	1	5	85 5 14 4
Long ?Shoot and part of Range Yard	3	1	8	75 12 7 6
Further Bank and part of Range Yard	3	2	17	72 12 7 10
Nearer Intack	1	1	24	80 5 12 0
Further "	1	2	16	80 6 8 0
Nearer Bank	2	2	2	64 8 0 9
	16	3	1	65 19 2
Brook Meadow brought from no 16	0	3	37	105 5 2 11
Brook Meadow brought from no 18	1	2	16	105 8 17 11
Survey	19	1	4	£ 80 0 0

⁸⁶ LA, ARR 11, Marriage Bond, Robert Coulthurst

⁸⁷ HO 107/2270, 1851 census, Myerscough

⁸⁸ LA, DX 244, Rental of Barton, Kidsnape, High Moor and Goosnargh c 1815

No 16 Robt Coulthurst
Brook Meadow taken back to no 14 0 3 37

No 18 Robt Coulthurst
Brook Meadow 1 2 16 105 5 2 11
Taken back to no 14.

Robert also appears on a list containing the names of the farms in Barton, headed on the front:

Names of every house in the Township of Barton Given to me by George
Cross Barton 1822

Part way down the list appears:

Robt Coulters Popes

By the time Robert's sister Mary Colthurst was baptised, on 14th October 1770, her father Robert had become a shopkeeper, an occupation also recorded on the next three baptisms. She appears to have had an illegitimate daughter named Elizabeth, born at Dutton and baptised at Ribchester, in 1792. Some years later she married Edmund Kay – at Ribchester on 11th July 1797 - and was buried there aged 63 on 26th May 1834.



Great Mitton, All Hallows

Alice, baptised on 9th September 1773, married Cuthbert Baines by licence⁸⁹ at Mitton on 1st July 1793. He was a farmer living in the parish of St Michael on Wyre and she was a minor, so the bond shows her father Richard, a yeoman, giving consent. She and her husband also migrated to Myerscough, from where she was buried at St Michael on Wyre aged 66 on 22nd May 1840. Jane, baptised on 10th

⁸⁹ BI, Archbishop of York's Marriage Licences – Bond and Obligation

December 1775, was married by licence⁹⁰, to Joseph Bradley, a local stone mason, at Mitton. She is traceable as far as 1841, when she appears on the Blackburn census⁹¹ with her son James, also a mason, but her death has not been found.

The next child was a boy, John, baptised on 16th November 1778. On 6th June 1803, he married Martha Dewhurst, by licence⁹², and at Mitton of course. The bond shows him to have been a farmer and her to be living in Blackburn at the time of the marriage. He and Martha had two children – named after their grandparents: Richard – born in October 1803 – and Elizabeth baptised at Ribchester rather than Mitton, in 1810. Despite the evidence from the marriage bond, both young Richard's baptism and an alehouse calendar⁹³ show his father to have been an innkeeper, an occupation also being followed by this time by Richard senior. Once again, dual occupations seem to have been the norm:

Staincliffe and Ewcross 1803

Mitton with Bashall

John Coulthurst [sums bound] 10 Surety Thomas Howson 10

No further trace has been found of John, although he was still alive when his father wrote his will in 1813.

Another boy followed John, though by the time Richard junior was baptised on 11th August 1782, the family was living at Aighton, and Richard senior was a farmer rather than a shopkeeper, unless this had simply become the more important part of a dual occupation. Richard died aged 20 and was buried at Mitton on 12th March 1803 as:

Richard, son of Richard Coulthurst of Bayley, innkeeper

The penultimate child was Miriam, whose story has already been told. Born in 1788, she slots neatly in between Richard and the youngest of Richard and Elizabeth's brood, Thurston, baptised on 14th September 1788. His father was still farming at Bayley at this time. Two years before his marriage (on 13th June 1812) he appeared before the Quarter Sessions at Preston⁹⁴, described as a yeoman of Dutton and was judged to be the father of an illegitimate child born to Cicely Smith of Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley. He was ordered to pay £25 2/- for expenses of the birth and maintenance, and a further £1 6/- for the cost of apprehending him, along with 2/- a week maintenance while the child was chargeable to the parish.

⁹⁰ BI, Archbishop of York's Marriage Licences – Bond and Obligation

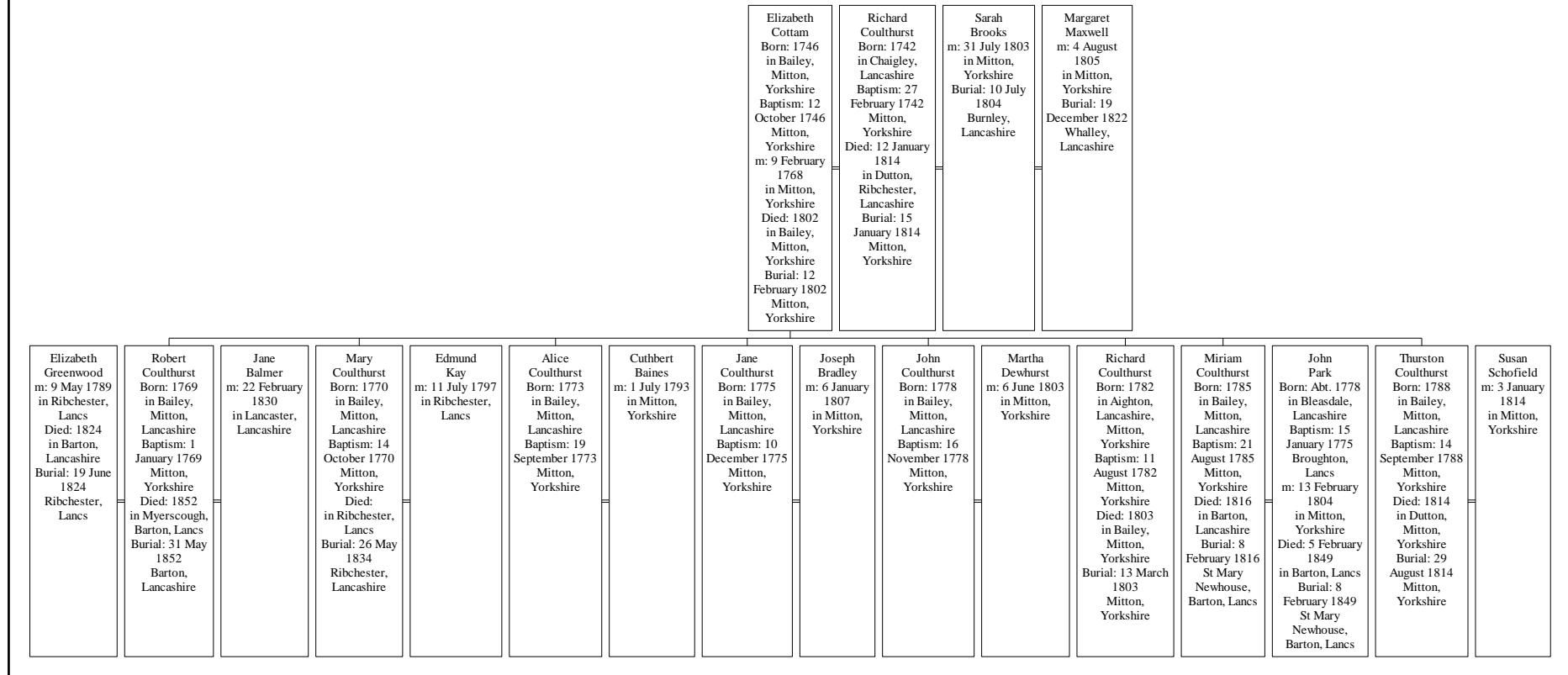
⁹¹ HO 107/502, 1841 census, Blackburn

⁹² BI, Archbishop of York's Marriage Licences – Bond and Obligation

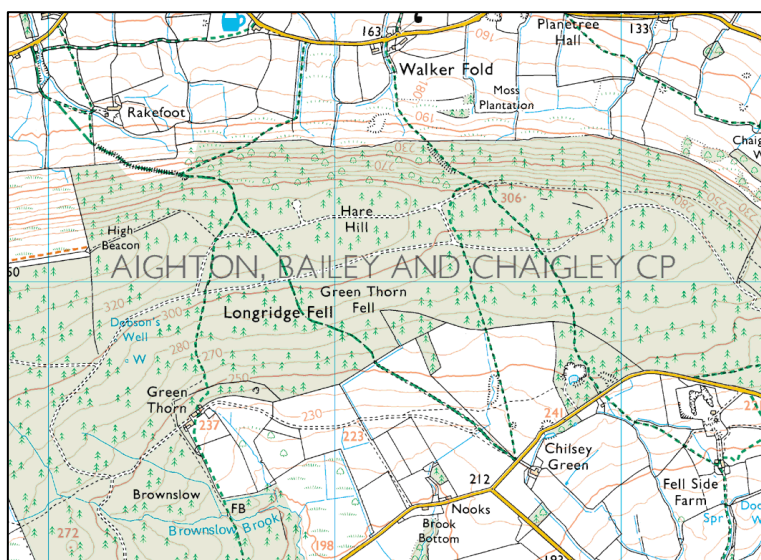
⁹³ SoG, YK/L 232, Alehouse calendar of Recognisance for wapentakes of Morley, Staincliffe and Yewcross

⁹⁴ <https://search.ancestry.co.uk> Lancashire QS Records, 1812, RB 38

Tree 8 - The family of Richard Coulthurst



Thurston lived long enough to prove his father's will⁹⁵ on 4th February 1814. He had married Susan Schofield of Blackburn by licence⁹⁶ at Mitton on 3rd January that year (calling himself a husbandman on the bond, and saying that his bride came from Dinkley in Blackburn), but was buried from Dutton at Mitton on 29th August. A month later, on 25th September 1814 at Ribchester, his widow baptised a posthumous daughter named Betty. Documents refer to Thurston variously as a husbandman, yeoman and farmer.



Map showing Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley

The only evidence about Richard Coulthurst's early life comes from the parish registers, but from 1784⁹⁷, he can be traced through the land tax returns at Aughton. He had called himself a farmer from the time of Richard's baptism in 1782, but there is no sign of him on the returns for 1782 and 1783. In 1784:

Proprietor	Occupier	Quarter's Assessment	Whole year assessment
Mrs Wales Preston	Rich ^d Colthurst	11d	3/8

The following year, the assessment is similar, except that the final column has 9/4 in it. Was he paying for the two earlier years, perhaps? From 1786 through to 1792, when this run of returns ends, the entry is the same as the first one. In 1793 he seems to have bought this plot of land, as the Land Tax Return⁹⁸ for that year reads:

Richard Coulthurst	Himself	3 / 4
--------------------	---------	-------

and continues this way until 1804. The final run of Land Tax Returns⁹⁹ for the area only records him in 1807, with the same wording as above.

⁹⁵ LA, W/RW/A/R/130/B/24, Will of Richard Coulthurst of Dutton Hall, 1814

⁹⁶ BI, Archbishop of York's Marriage Licences – Bond and Obligation

⁹⁷ LA, QDL/B3 Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley Land Tax Returns, 1782-92

⁹⁸ LA, QDL/B/13, Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley Land Tax Returns, 1793-1804

⁹⁹ LA, QDL/B/13, Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley Land Tax Returns, 1805-32

Six months later, Richard remarried. His new wife, whom he wed at Mitton on 31st July 1803 – by licence¹⁰⁰ of course – was also a widow, named Sarah Brooks, and from Burnley. On this occasion, both made their mark, although Richard's was more elaborate than Sarah's. Richard had signed his name at the time of his first marriage, and also signed to show consent on the licences of both his daughter Alice in 1797 and daughter Miriam in 1804, so it is curious that he made his mark for this second wedding both in the register and on the bond. The marriage lasted barely a year, as Sarah was buried on 10th July 1804 in her home parish of Burnley. Her death was obviously sudden and unexpected, as the *Lancaster Gazette*¹⁰¹ reported:

On the 7th inst, Mrs. Coulthurst, wife of Mr. Coulthurst, publican, near Stoneyhurst: A person of remarkably even temper and good nature, in an apparent state of perfect health, feeling a dizziness seize her, she went to the door to enjoy the fresh air, on reaching which, she fell down and immediately expired.

The transcript on Lancashire Online Parish Clerks¹⁰² reads:

Sally Colthurst – Wife of Richard Colthurst
Abode: Bairley in the Parish of Hindley [sic]

Richard presumably took his role of step-father seriously, as Sarah's daughter Mary is treated in the same way as his own children in his will¹⁰³.

Nothing daunted, the twice-widowed Richard took a third wife, Margaret Maxwell, alias Jemmison, widow of Whalley, by licence¹⁰⁴ at Mitton on 4th August 1805. Again, both made their mark, as did Richard on the bond. After Richard's death she presumably returned to Whalley; there is no reference to her in his will and she was buried in her home parish on 19th December 1822, aged 80.

In 1810, it seems that Richard Coulthurst moved from his home in Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley to next-door Dutton in the parish of Ribchester, where he rented for £20 a year and for a term of 21 years:

all that plot piece or parcel of land or ground lately part of the common and waste ground ... within Ribchester in the said County of Lancaster which has been lately allotted and assigned to the said Thomas Cowper Hincks as lessee of the right reverend the Lord Bishop of Chester in respect of the Rectory and Glebe lands of Ribchester

The plot of land measured 31 acres, 1 rood and 38 perches. A number of conditions attached to the deal. Richard was not to plough up or convert to arable land any

¹⁰⁰ BI, Archbishop of York's Marriage Licences – Bond and Obligation

¹⁰¹ www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk, *Lancaster Gazette*, 21.7.804

¹⁰² <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/index.html>

¹⁰³ LA, W/RW/A/R/130/B/24, Will of Richard Coulthurst of Dutton Hall, 1814

¹⁰⁴ BI, Archbishop of York's Marriage Licences – Bond and Obligation

part of it, and was to surround it either with a stone wall 5' high or plant a 3' high fence of:

good garden thorn quicks, six at least in every yard in length and to be protected by good thorns or staff and bound fences

Presumably the 'quicks' were living and would grow in height. He was also to lime the land and to keep all the demised premises:

in good tenantable repair.

He may have had plans to build a home on the land, as a final clause declares:

and if the said Richard Coulthurst ... shall at any time during the continuance of the said term be mindful and desirous of erecting farmhouse with suitable outhouses offices and other necessary buildings upon the said demised premises it shall and may be lawful for him ... so to do and in that case the said Thomas Cowper Hincks ... shall and will provide for and allow unto the said Richard Coulthurst his executors or administrators such good and sufficient oak timber in the rough as shall be necessary and proper that such buildings provided the same buildings be erected with good stone and made in a substantial and workmanlike manner

Richard's signature appears clearly at the foot of the indenture, though in a very shaky hand, which may explain why he chose not to sign the marriage register.



The River Ribble at Ribchester

Two years later he had managed to acquire a small parcel of land in his own name, as the 1812 Enclosure Award¹⁰⁵ records:

No 50 Richard Coulthurst 0 0 7 a r p land in Tinkler Field in Dutton bounded on the S by the Clitheroe Road

¹⁰⁵ LA, DP 485/11, Counterpart lease

He didn't have long to enjoy these new lands, though. On 15th November 1813 he made his will¹⁰⁶, referring to himself as a yeoman of Dutton Hall. Dutton Hall still exists, and now houses the National Collection of Hybrid Musk roses; a website¹⁰⁷ devoted to its garden gives something of its history, explaining that part of the property has existed from at least the 1670s and some may be older. It belonged originally to the Townley family but was sold to the Rothwells in the 18th century. During their ownership, the property was tenant farmed, and it was probably in this capacity that Richard Coulthurst was there. He also owned property in Dutton, as his will makes clear:

I give and devise unto my son Thurston Coulthurst ...all those my two Messuages or Dwelling Houses situate in Dutton aforesaid with their rights privileges and appurtenances as now occupied by one Thomas Lakeland and Henry Wilkinson

Thurston also received his father's rights in the newly enclosed land on Ribchester Common, his term and interest in Dutton Hall and all other personal estate, including cattle and crops. From this, Thurston was to pay:

the Sum of Thirty pounds each of Lawful British Money unto my Son and Daughters and Stepdaughter hereinafter named viz. Robert Coulthurst, Mary Kay, Alice Baines, Jane Bradley and Merriam Park and my Stepdaughter Mary Brookes

and £10 to his son John, who had perhaps already received money from his father. Thurston was appointed executor, along with Robert Greenhalgh of Dutton, hatter, and Thomas Ainsworth of Blackburn, attorney. Richard Cutler, Henry Wilkinson and Thomas Lakeland witnessed the will. In the event, it was Thurston and Robert Greenhalgh who proved it, on 12th February 1814. The probate helpfully notes that Richard had died on 12th January that year. He was buried on 15th January, at Mitton, but with his abode given as Dutton. His age was recorded as 72, although he may have been just shy of that.

As a postscript, Richard's lands on Ribchester Common were measured in April 1814¹⁰⁸, and still referred to as belonging to him, so maybe this was part of the process of formalising the change of ownership:

Ribchester April 20th 1814
Measure of the Allotment on Ribchester Commoning, belonging unto the late Rich^d Coulthurst deceased, Measured as far as is Plowing Land, Customary Measure 7 yds, --- and the Higher Field is Lett, by Thurston Coulthurst, unto Robert and Hen^y Greenall - and the Share of the Rent, to be divided equal between Thurston Coulthurst and Rob^t and Hen^y Greenall according to the Measure of each Share.

¹⁰⁶ LA, W/RW/A/R/130/B/24, Will of Richard Coulthurst of Dutton, Hall, 1814

¹⁰⁷ http://www.duttonhall.co.uk/?page_id=4

¹⁰⁸ LA, PR 2905/6/4

	a	r	p		£	s	d
Higher Field	11	0	30	Rent	14	9	0
Lower Field	7	2	2	Rent	10	1	0
Both Fields	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>32</u>	Rent	<u>25</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Measured by Us

T. Wilcock

Robert Hesmondhalgh

Ribchester April 20th 1814

Measure of the Higher Field of the late R^d Coulthurst Allotment on Ribchester Commoning, now in the Possession of Robert and Henry Greenall

Customary Measure of Plowing Land

	a	r	p
Lower Shoot, nar side	2	2	26
Lower Shoot, fur side	2	2	28
Higher Shoot, nar side	3	0	32
Higher Shoot, fur side	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>24</u>
Whole Field	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30</u>

Cottam – Hurst Green, Mitton

Finally it is time to explore what is known about Elizabeth Cottam's ancestry. The register entry for her marriage to Richard Coulthurst called her 'of Mitton' and I suspect the Cottam clan had been resident in the area for several generations. By the 18th century, there were several branches, all using the same limited range of first names, so the line quickly runs into the buffers of multi-candidacy.

Elizabeth was baptised at Mitton on 12th October 1746 as:

Elizabeth daughter of Richard Cottam of Bayley, labourer

Her parents, Richard Cottam and Mary Brigg had married at the same church on 29th May 1744:

Richard Cottam labourer and Mary Brigg spinster, both of this parish, married by W^m Johnson vicar, ye banns first being regularly published

There appear to have been no other children from this marriage, although Richard may have been married before, as there are two other Cottam baptisms with a father named Richard: Mary was baptised at Ribchester, from Dutton, on 20th August 1738, with a father who was a labourer, while John was baptised at Mitton on 28th November 1742 with a father who was a farmer at Chaigley. Both or neither of these may have been Elizabeth's siblings, or they may have been the children of another Richard who was living in Mitton parish at the time. However, as both Dutton and Chaigley feature in Richard Coulthurst's story, it seems feasible that his wife had

connections in these places. Either way, the only further information on her adult parents is from their presumed burial records, his on 8th February 1792:

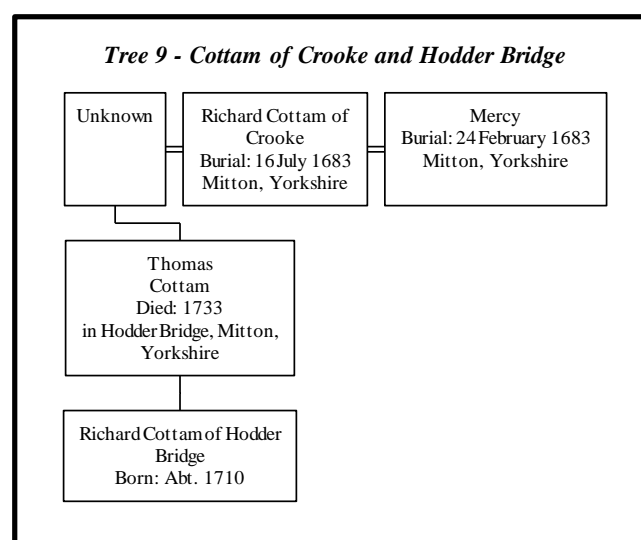
Richard Cottam, Chaigley, Husbandman, Pauper

and hers on 10th February 1796 as Mary the widow of Richard Cottam, Bayley. The fact that Richard's burial calls him a husbandman, suggests that the pauper label was possibly a ploy popular at the time to avoid the burial tax then in force. Mary, whose origins remain a mystery, was not designated pauper, and as widows were usually poorer than their deceased spouses, this further puts Richard's recorded status in question.

It is impossible to be certain as to Richard Cottam's origins. There are two possibilities, and I will deal with the briefer option first. For the first hypothesis, there is no baptism in the parish registers. However, a curious pair of administrations appears in the Probate Act Books for Yorkshire¹⁰⁹. The first of these is straight-forward, and roughly translated reads:

administration of the goods of Thomas Cottam lately of Hodder Bridge in the parish of Mitton in the diocese of York having died intestate as is asserted was granted to his son Richard Cottam

I am assuming that the abode refers to the old bridge, which lies directly between Stoneyhurst College and Great Mitton. However, a second entry follows immediately after, and is harder to translate. However, the gist is that Richard Cottam of Hodder Bridge took the opportunity to also take on administration of his namesake, an earlier Richard Cottam. This man's will is referred to, with a date of 4th September 1683, which suggests that the word 'nepote' to describe the younger man, probably means grandson rather than nephew. Either way, he is described as nearest in blood to the older Richard, whose wife, Mercy is also named.



¹⁰⁹ BI, mf 1172, Admon of Thomas Cottam of Mitton and Richard Cottam of Mitton, 1733

The will¹¹⁰ of this earlier Richard is brief but intriguing. He describes himself as of Crooke in the county of York, and leaves everything to his wife Mercy, with the proviso that after her death it passes to his illegitimate son:

after the decease of Mercy my now wife or after discharge of my debts as aforesaid all the possession claim title interest of the said house and tenements with all and every the premises shall belong unto my natural son Thomas Cottam and his assigns during the remainder of the lease that shall then be unexpired

Richard's burial appears in the Mitton register on 16th July 1683 and his widow Mercy's on 24th February 1683, so the will had only been proved a few months earlier. Why his grandson had to go to court again fifty years later is unclear. Maybe his father had never claimed his inheritance. Crooke is on the east side of the River Hodder, towards Clitheroe.

From the very little known about Elizabeth's father Richard, it is impossible to say for certain if this Richard, from a family settled in the Yorkshire part of Mitton parish was her father. Presumably, if he was old enough to deal with probate, he must have been born in at least the early 1710s, possibly making him too old.

The second hypothesis deals with a Richard born in 1720, and a solid line of evidence shows that his father died in 1762, not 1733. In addition, this family lived on the west side of the River Hodder, in Lancashire, and as the information we have about Elizabeth and her family places them in Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley in Lancashire, I tend towards this hypothesis as the correct one. Because Elizabeth's father was described as a labourer at the time of her birth, I initially dismissed the only likely baptism at Mitton, which was on 3rd April 1720 of:

Richard son of Thomas Cottam miller

as millers were often some of the better off inhabitants of a community, so maybe unlikely to have labouring sons. However, I have since found this man referred to on occasion as a labourer, as was his second son, Robert. It seems that labourer was almost the generic term in this area for a young man not yet sufficiently established to be given a better title.

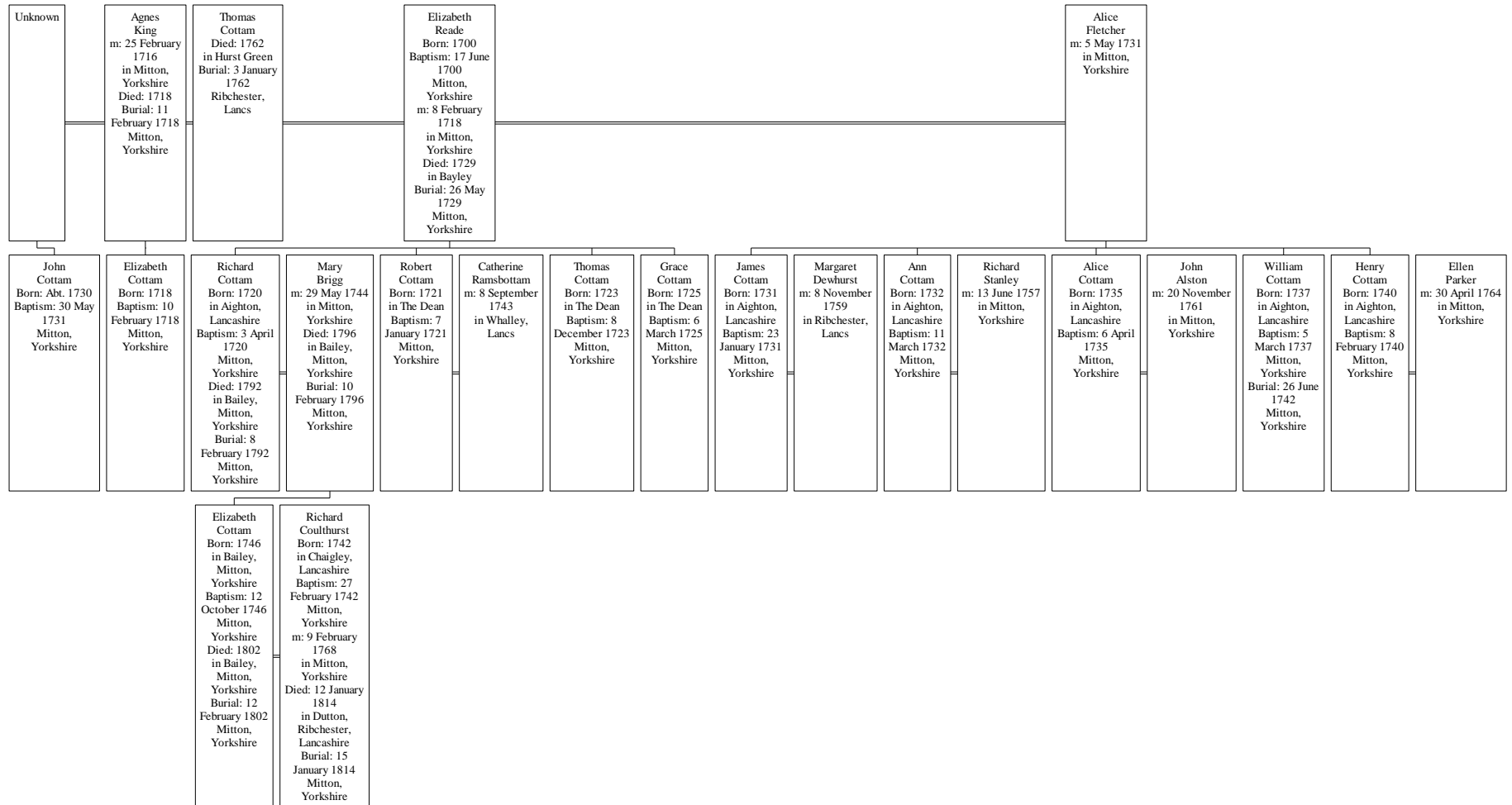
Thomas Cottam the miller's life, when unpacked, seems not inconsistent with what is known of Richard Coulthurst and Elizabeth Cottam's. His first marriage took place at Mitton on 25th February 1716, suggesting he was born in the 1690s:

Thomas Cottham labourer and Agnes King spr

Unfortunately, this marriage didn't last long, as, on 10th February 1717, Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Cottam labourer was baptised, and the burial of her mother,

¹¹⁰ BL, vol 60, f 72, will of Richard Cottam of Crooke, Mitton, 1683

Tree 10 - The family of Thomas Cottam



Agnes, wife of Thomas Cottam, was recorded the following day. At present, this first marriage is the only clue we have to his age, as the only baptism at Mitton for a Thomas Cottam, in 1699, is probably that of the son of Robert Cottam of Stockbridge, who makes mention of his eldest son Thomas as a gentleman of Ormskirk in the Slaidburn Court Roll¹¹¹ of 1733, when 'our' Thomas was milling and baptising children in Mitton. (Robert also makes mention of daughters only in his will¹¹² of 1754.) However, we can surmise a birth perhaps between 1690 and 95.

Almost exactly a year after his first wife's death, on 8th February 1718, the register notes:

Thomas Cottam and Elizabeth Read both from the Hurst Green married

Hurst Green lies between Stoneyhurst - the Jesuit College - and the River Ribble, in the southern part of Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley. Thomas and Elizabeth's first child was, if this hypothesis is right, our direct ancestor Richard, baptised on 3rd April 1720 at Mitton and whose story has already been told. A brother named Robert came next, baptised on 7th January 1721. He married Catherine Ramsbottom at Whalley on 8th September 1743, and, having one son born at Clitheroe returned to Mitton to raise the rest of his brood. Five of his children's baptisms there designate him a labourer of Chaigley. A third son, named Thomas, was baptised on 8th December 1723 but there seems to be no further trace of him. The last child was a girl, named Grace and baptised on 6th March 1725. It seems that although she gave birth to an illegitimate son by Stephen Hitchin (baptised 22nd April 1753) she remained unmarried as there is a burial of a Grace Cottam at Mitton on 29th November 1762. However, this burial could belong to either of the other two Graces born in the parish - in 1715 and one in 1717!

While Richard's baptism only made reference to his father being a miller, those of the three younger siblings call him:

Thomas Cottam of Ye Dean miller

Dean Brook runs beside Stoneyhurst Park and through Hurst Green on its way to join the Ribble; an area just north of the hamlet is still called Mill Wood, though the later mills on the stream were used to make bobbins for the textile industry rather than grind corn. Elizabeth died when her youngest child would have been only four; the register recorded her burial on 26th May 1729 as:

Elizabeth ye wife of Thomas Cottam of Bayley labourer buried

exemplifying the fluidity of the description of both occupations and addresses.

¹¹¹ SoG, The Court Rolls of the manor of Slaidburn, vol 1, 1724-33, YK/L 239

¹¹² BI, v 98, f 246, Will of Robert Cottam of Mitton, 1754

Thomas, widowed for the second time at the age of 30, quickly remarried, at Mitton on 5th May 1731. The entry reinstates his occupation, but is vaguer regarding his whereabouts:

Thomas Cottam miller and Alice Fletcher widow, both of this parish,
married by William Johnson vicar, the banns being first regularly published

It is possible that Thomas and Alice had 'jumped the gun', and not once but twice, as the register records the baptism of one James son of Thomas Cottam on 23rd January 1731. The only glitch is that the father's occupation is ale-keeper, not miller. In addition, there is:

John y^e supposed son of Thomas Cottam of Aughton miller bapt: May 30

in the same year. In this case, there is no doubt who the father is. Maybe Thomas was sowing his wild oats, and managed to get two local girls pregnant at the same time but James could be the son of another Thomas, born in 1712. It is frustrating that the Mitton register, so good on abodes and occupations, ignores the womenfolk. Wives' names, as well as adding to the body of knowledge about the family, would help sort out the relationships in many instances.

The baptisms of Ann on 11th March 1732 (married blacksmith Richard Stanley in 1757) and Alice on 6th April 1735 (married John Alston, a miller, in 1761) are clear-cut in calling their father a miller, but with William, the plot thickens again. He was baptised on 5th March 1737, but his father was supposedly an innkeeper. When he was buried on 26th June 1742, his father had morphed back into a miller again. My gut feeling is that either Thomas, like so many others, dabbled in more than one occupation, or that the parish clerk wasn't always as careful as he might have been. Henry, the last of the brood, was baptised on 8th February 1740, became a tailor, and married Ellen Parker in 1764.



Aughton Mill, Hurst Green

Despite having been referred to as of Aughton on all his later family's baptisms, when he died, Thomas was buried at Ribchester, on 3rd January 1762, as:

Thomas Cottam of Hurst Green Corn Miller

However, a letting agency advertisement¹¹³ describes Aughton Mill as 'off the Dene, Hurst Green', so I suspect all three addresses were actually the same place, if indeed this building dates from Thomas' time. Given that Robert Coulthurst also seemed to have a foot in both Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley and Ribchester, it seems most likely that this is indeed the right Cottam family.

Read – Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley, Mitton

If this second hypothesis is correct, then it is worth following the family of Thomas Cottam's second wife, Elizabeth Read. She was baptised on 17th June 1700 at Mitton, the daughter of Robert Read, and (although the register doesn't record the mother's name) his wife Margaret. Robert Read married Margaretta Dewhurst at Mitton 7th December 1695. If, as seems likely, she was the daughter of Thomas Dewhurst baptised on 28th December 1678, she was a young bride. Robert and Margaret were not fortunate with their offspring. According to the parish register transcript, three infants were all baptised and buried at Mitton on the same day: Martha – 7th December 1697, Richard – 8th September 1704 and Mary – 11th February 1706. (The BTs give 6th October for Martha's baptism.) Only Elizabeth, baptised at Mitton on 17th June 1700 survived, to marry almost as young as her mother had. Margaret, like Elizabeth, also died young: Elizabeth was 29; her mother 31 when she was buried as:

Margaret wife of Robert Read of Dean yeoman

on 3rd May 1720. Robert lived for another five years and was buried on 11th November 1725 as:

Robert Read of the Dean

His will, written on 4th January 1724, when he was already failing, and proved on 1st December 1725, describes him as a yeoman of Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley. Having only one surviving daughter, it is perhaps unsurprising that he entrusts his personal estate to:

my son-in-law Thomas Cotham to be managed by him for the use and benefit
and behoof of his children begotten or to be begotten on the body of
Elizabeth his now wife my only surviving daughter

He goes on to describe his freehold estate in Bailey:

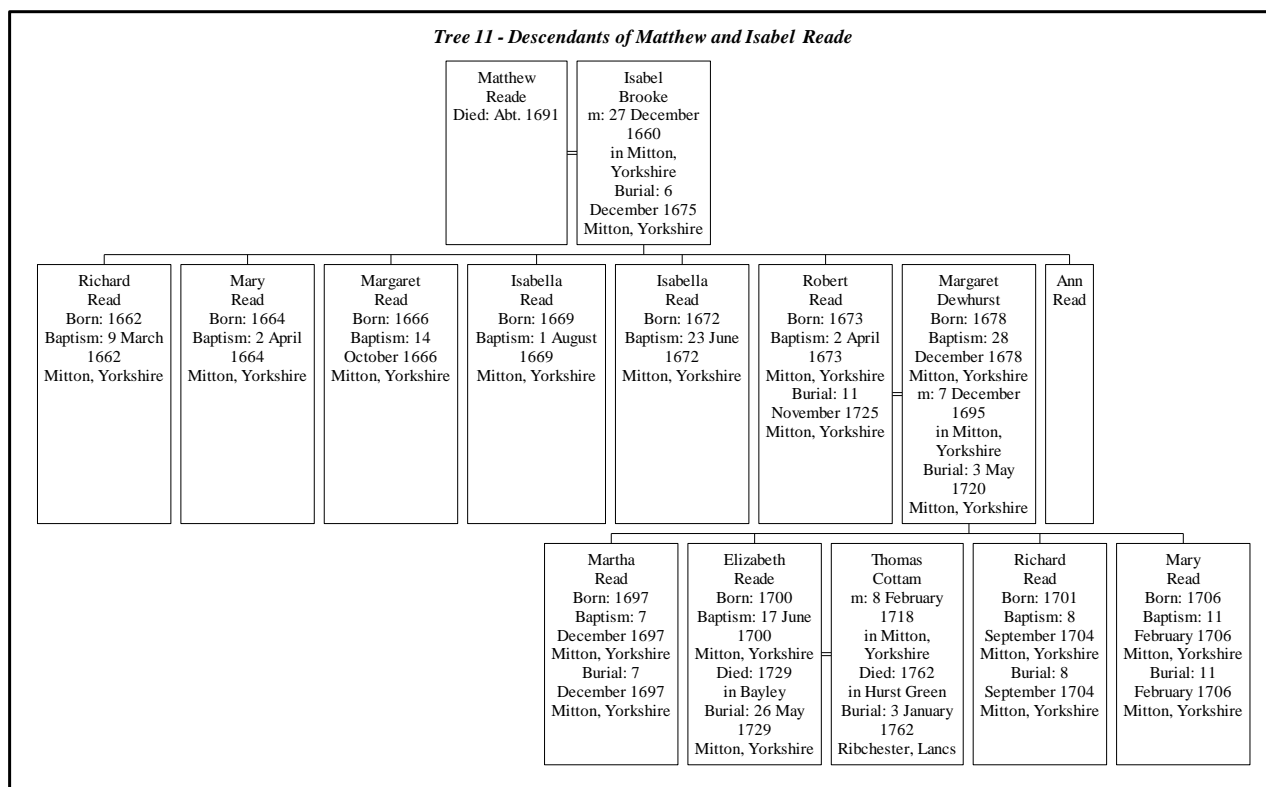
¹¹³ <http://athertonslettings.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Aughton-Mill-Hurst-Green.pdf>

consisting of a new erected house with several other new erected outhouses a croft and a garden

the rents and profits from which are to go to Elizabeth. There is also reference to rent of £16 per annum from Dutton, in Ribchester parish. The will is hard to read in places, but it seems to imply that profits from part of this new house, including:

the stable the lower turfhouse the said croft and garden and the rents

shall devolve eventually on his grandson Richard, while the upper turfhouse and 'hogsty' go to his grandson Robert. Evidently painfully aware of the transience of life, the rest of this clause sets out instructions for where this is all to go if the boys die young – to any future siblings in order of age, and then to presumably more distant relatives in Clayton-le-Dale. The local squire, and yeoman Richard Pickering, are made executors. One of the witnesses was named John Cottam – possibly a connection of Thomas'.



Robert Read was the younger son of his father Matthew Reade, by his wife Isabel Brooke (they married at Mitton on 27th December 1660). Two children were born soon after: Richard – baptised 9th March 1662 – and Mary – baptised 2nd April 1664. Margaret was baptised on 14th October 1666, Isabella on 1st August 1669, another Isabella on 23rd June 1672, and then Robert – baptised 2nd April 1673. There is no burial for a young Isabella, so I wonder if one of these girls was the daughter actually named Ann according to Matthew's will. Matthew's wife Isabel was buried on 6th December 1675. His own burial is missing, though he must have died

between 7th June 1690 when he wrote his will¹¹⁴ and 30th September 1691 when it was proved.

The will is relatively brief, but shows that he and his wife were more successful at raising a family than Robert was. Their two sons (and Matthew's executors), Richard and Robert, were each bequeathed £5, and daughter Isabel received a cow. The residue of the estate was divided between all the children: Richard, Robert, Mary, Margrat, Ann and Isabell.

The will states that Matthew was a woollen webster, i.e. a weaver, but the inventory submitted shows him to have been farming as well:

	£	s	d
Imprimis 4 oxen at Showley	15	0	0
item 4 stirks there	5	0	0
item 19 sheep at 9/6 per sheep	4	5	0
item 4 bushels of corn	3	0	0
item 1 stirk	1	6	8
item 1 red calf	0	10	0
item 1 horse	3	10	0
item 1 bay filly	1	15	0
item 1 foal	1	0	0
item 1 bay mare	2	0	0
item 5 cows and one calf	14	10	0

(Showley was on the south side of the River Ribble, part of Clayton-le-Dale). It then deals with his stock in trade, including:

item 4 stone of wool at £5 8/2 a stone	1	2	8
--	---	---	---

including looms, wheels and 'instruments for warping' along with coarse wool, sacks, and 17 yards of 'green plain', before listing household items. These include several 'caddows', rough wool blankets used as bed coverings, and a range of blankets, sheets and bolsters for both feather and chaff beds. There are several chests, metal pans, a bottle, a churn and so on, and some intriguing items: some tanned leather, a desk and:

8 yards of green plain in curtains

worth 7/4. There is a parlour, and a higher and lower parlour, and a room over the parlour. All in all, it looks like a reasonably comfortable yeoman home.

While preparing this account I was struck again by how regional many of the surnames were. In documents I looked at, the same names came up again and again, suggesting a web of distant kinship across Lancashire and the West Riding of

¹¹⁴ BL, mf 1668, will of Matthew Reade of Aighton, 1691

Yorkshire. Checking some of my ancestor's names on *Public Profiler*¹¹⁵, it was clear that many of them are still most prolific in that part of the world, though they had of course migrated to other parts of the UK by 1998. In 1881, though, Coulthursts, Cottams, Dewhursts and Briggs were centred in the Blackburn area and only a little beyond it on the whole, while the name Wilcock was strongest in the Preston area and Illingworth around Bradford. In 1881 Park – as explored in *Meat and Drink* – concentrated in the Lancaster area, although the names was widespread in Scotland as well, while Swarbrick was limited to a tiny area around Blackpool. Even a relatively common surname like Walker seemed to have one of its main concentrations around Lancaster. It would seem that, as a nation, we remained quite tribal until relatively recently. How brave, therefore, must some of our ancestors been to migrate to different places where their names would mark them out as different as much as their accents.

¹¹⁵ <http://gbnames.publicprofiler.org/default.aspx>

Cottam updated- Dutton and Ribchester

The final chapter in the account of my Coulthurst ancestors was originally headed *Cottam and Reade – Mitton speculations*. Five years on, I am more convinced that my hypotheses were correct. I was recently contacted by another Cottam descendant, Rex Watson, an experienced researcher, and between us, we have managed to take the Cottam and Reade lines quite a lot further. I am indebted to Rex for alerting me to records I had not previously found and for putting me on what I am now sure is the right track.

I had noted the proximity of Mitton and Ribchester parishes, but in searching for a baptism for Thomas Cottam, miller of Hurst Green, I had continued to look at the Mitton register, where the only candidate was born too late and clearly didn't belong to the right family. I had surmised a birth in the first half of the 1690s but had ignored the clue regarding his burial. The only two places a person had the right to be buried were their parish of residence and their parish of birth. Thomas was buried at Ribchester in 1762, so that was the obvious other place to look. However, it was Rex who pointed out an entry in 1694:

Sept 30th Thomas the son of Richard Cottam Dutton.

Dutton has already featured in this history, so an earlier link to the place seemed feasible. All Thomas Cottam's siblings are recorded at baptism as living in Dutton, which is a settlement about two miles north of Ribchester, with Hurst Green about a mile and a half further east. Great Mitton church is another two and a half miles east of Hurst Green and on the other side of the river. Dutton has no centre as a village, but has houses scattered across the landscape between the River Ribble and Longridge Fell.



Dutton countryside – the valley of Duddel Brook
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So it seemed likely that Thomas Cottam grew up in Dutton but settled in Hurst Green as an adult. An entry in the records of the estate of Sir Nicholas Shireburn of Stoneyhurst¹¹⁶ gives the following:

Aighton
Mill called HurstMilne, with the kilne and turfe house and the boon
turf delving and leading in the tenure of Thomas COTTAM for 11
years from 2 Jan 1716/7 at £20 rack rent

This would fit perfectly with his marriage to Agnes King six weeks later.

Richard Cottam of Dutton – Thomas’ father – was born in 1657 and baptised at Ribchester as the son of James Cottam on 10th October (**See tree 12 – p.71**). Once again, the register helpfully notes the place of birth as Dutton. He married Elizabeth Sowerbutts at Ribchester in 1681 – the register doesn’t record the exact date:

Maryed was Richard Cottam and Elisabeth Sourbutts both of this parish

The couple had seven children, all baptised at Ribchester and all with Dutton given as the abode in the register. (There was another Richard Cottam, a slater, who baptised a son John at this time, but was clearly of a different family). Sarah was Richard and Elizabeth’s eldest child, baptised on 24th June 1683 – she possibly married John Lunnett in 1710. James was baptised on 21st August 1686, Susan (or Suseane) on 21st July 1689 and Anne on 30th September 1692. Next came our Thomas, baptised, as already stated, on 30th September 1694, and then Richard on 28th February 1696.

While the children were still young, Richard senior died and was buried at Ribchester on 26th February 1699 as:

Rich Cottam de Dutt:

His wife Elizabeth was pregnant at the time, and baptised a final son, Henry, three months after her husband’s death on 21st May 1700. She took out a bond to administer her husband’s estate¹¹⁷ as there was no will. She was described in the preamble as:

Elizabetham Cottam de Dutton parochiae de Ribchester in Com Lancs vidua
and as:

the above-bounden Elizabeth Cottam administratrix of all and singular the
Goods and Credits of Richard Cottam late of Dutton above Yeoman her
husband ...deceased

¹¹⁶ http://rslc.org.uk/api/file/Vol_108.pdf, *Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, vol. 108

¹¹⁷ LA, WCW/Supra/C274A/69, Administration, Richard Cottam, Dutton, 1701

was enjoined to:

make or cause to be made a true and perfect inventory... and do exhibit it... at or before the second day of December next ensuing

She fulfilled the terms of the bond and submitted the following inventory:

An Inventory of Richard Cottam's Goods, of Dutton in ye county of Lanc^s
Yeoman deced, February ye 23rd An^o Dm 1699

	£	s	d
Imprimis 3 old Cowes, 1 Heiffer, 1 Calf	10	00	00
Two horses with Horse Gear	04	00	00
One Cart, 1 pair of wheels, 1 plow and a harrow	01	00	00
In the parler 1 Bed and rest of ye Goods	04	00	00
In the Chamber adjoining to the parler 1 Bed and 4 boxes	01	10	00
In the little Chamber 1 Bed and 2 Chests	00	13	04
Above the Staires one Bed	00	10	00
In ye Buttry, all ye Brass and pewter	10	00	00
Wooden ?Tenells in ye House	00	10	00
In the Firehouse, Fire Iron and all other Goods	02	00	00
The deced ^s purse and Apparell	01	10	00
Spade and Fork w th other Huslement	00	02	00
	26	13	04

23^o Septbris 1701

Hustlement is a term denoting goods of little value.

Richard Cottam would have been in his early 40s when he died, and it seems that his father probably also died relatively young, although his year of birth is unknown. The burial of:

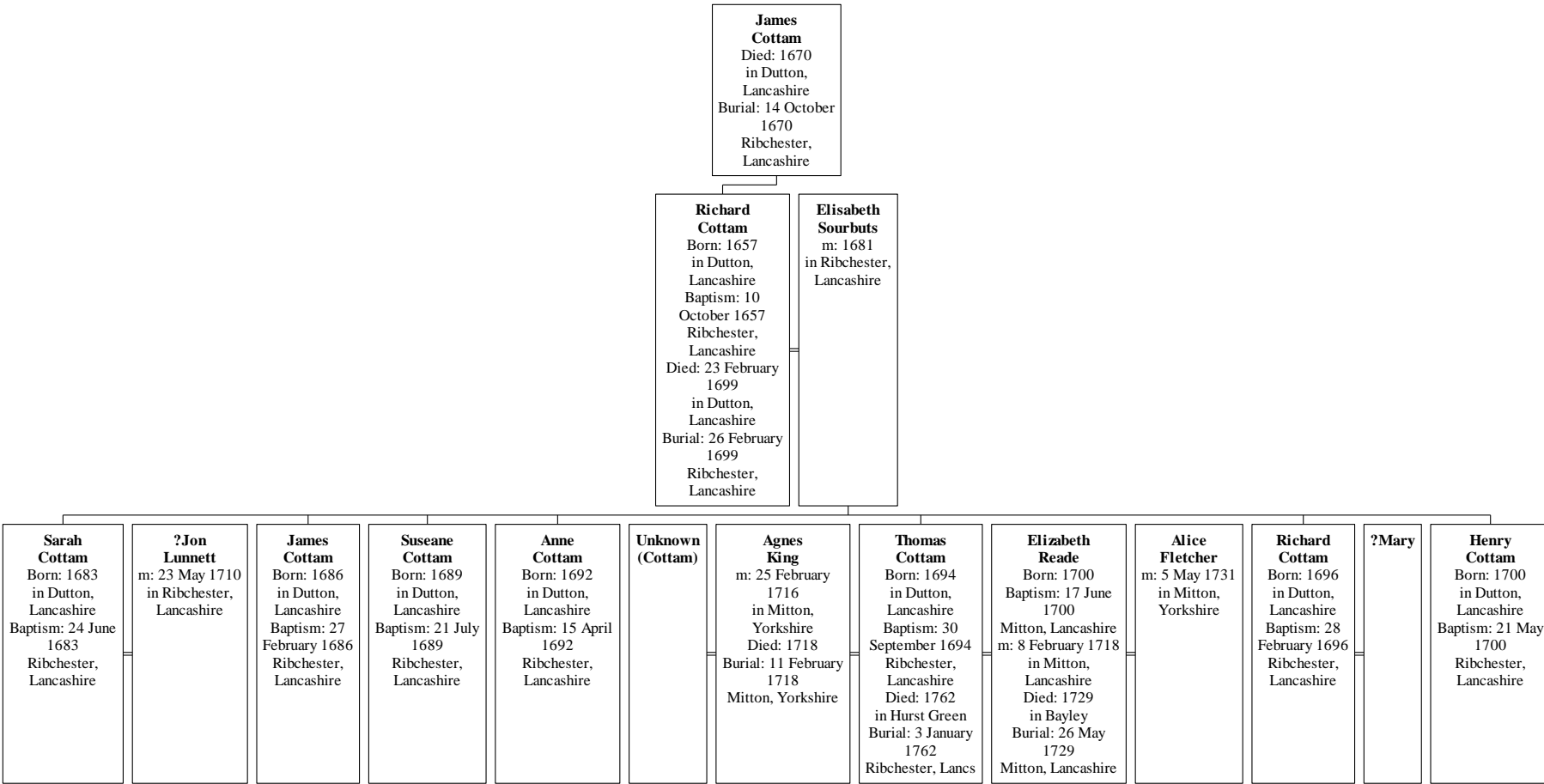
James Cottam of Dutton

took place on 14th October 1670. There was no will, and the inventory¹¹⁸ of his possessions seems to have been taken by neighbours. It is dated 2nd November 1670, and is hard to read as both spelling and orthography are somewhat idiosyncratic. As far as I can make out, it reads as follows:

An Aprisement of all the goods and Chattels of James Cottam of Dutton
deceased maid by us Richard Couall, Edward Aslie, John Crumbleholme,
Thomas Dewhurst as followeth

¹¹⁸ LA, WRW/A/R18C/29, Inventory, James Cottam, Dutton, 1670

Tree 12 - Probable descendants of James Cottam



£	s	d	
Imp ^s one Bed and all belonging to it	0	13	0
Itm fower ould Chiests	0	10	0
Itm in wooden vessel	0	6	8
Itm in Brase	0	10	0
It in Pewter	0	3	0
It Charese & quishons and stowels	0	5	0
It fiere iron & rackontree & tongs & spitel & rack	0	6	0
It his working toul	0	5	0
It in hay	0	10	0
It in turves and Coals	0	6	0
It his apparel	1	0	0
It one litel pig...	0	5	0
The total sum			
	£	s	d
is	4	19	8

The spelling is largely phonetic; quissons is cushions and a rackontree was a frame for cooking over an open fire. There is an illegible word after pig, which may be crossed out – perhaps a dialect word for a particular kind of pig.

Here, once again, the Cottam trail goes cold, at least for our main line. There are a number of other Cottam families in the area, which is not surprising as the name probably originates from the village of the same name, situated about a dozen miles away, near Preston.

Sowerbutts – Dutton and Ribchester

When Richard Cottam died, his wife Elizabeth (née Sowerbutts) would – provided they had all survived infancy – have been looking after four children under ten as well as three older children. So, it is not surprising that, having settled Richard's estate, she remarried. Her new husband was Thomas Cort or Court and the wedding took place at Ribchester in the closing months of 1701. The date is illegible, but it was clearly no earlier than October. There were no children from the marriage, but when Elizabeth died in 170 her burial at Ribchester on 4th December recorded her as:

Eliz^{bth} Wife of Tho^s Court de Dutt: Miler

Orthography was somewhat fluid in the 18th century so I am sure that Thomas' occupation should read Miller. No doubt the young Thomas Cottam helped his step-father at work, putting him in a perfect position to lease Hurst Green Mill when became an adult. It may also be significant that a settlement certificate¹¹⁹ survives

¹¹⁹ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, Lancashire, England, Quarter Session Records and Petitions, 1648 - 1908

from 6th November 1724 in which the churchwardens and overseers of the poor for Ribchester attempt to remove to Mitton, Thomas Court or Cowart:

Lately come out of the township of Aighton, Chaigley and Bailey, the place of his last Legal Settlement into Dutton aforesaid but hath no Legal Settlement there.

A note at the bottom of the page says:

Set aside at hearing

So presumably his right to reside in Dutton was recognised. Could it be that after Elizabeth Sowerbutts' death, Thomas Court went to live for a time with his step-son Thomas Cottam in Hurst Green, or was he perhaps already living there as a miller himself before returning in old age to Dutton?

In tracing the background of Elizabeth Sowerbutts or Sourbutts (**See tree 13 – p.74**), two familiar names appear: Cottam and Dewhurst, a reminder of how isolated an area Ribchester must have been and how small the pool of surnames was. What is known of Elizabeth's adult life has already been recorded, and no baptism has been found for her. However, she was definitely the daughter of one Thomas Sowerbutts as this man's will¹²⁰ is witnessed by her as Elizabeth Cottam and makes mention of a son-in-law Richard Cottam. It also names a wife 'Serow' or Sarah and a granddaughter Serow Cottam, Elizabeth's eldest child.

Thomas married Sarah Dewhurst on 12th January 1663:

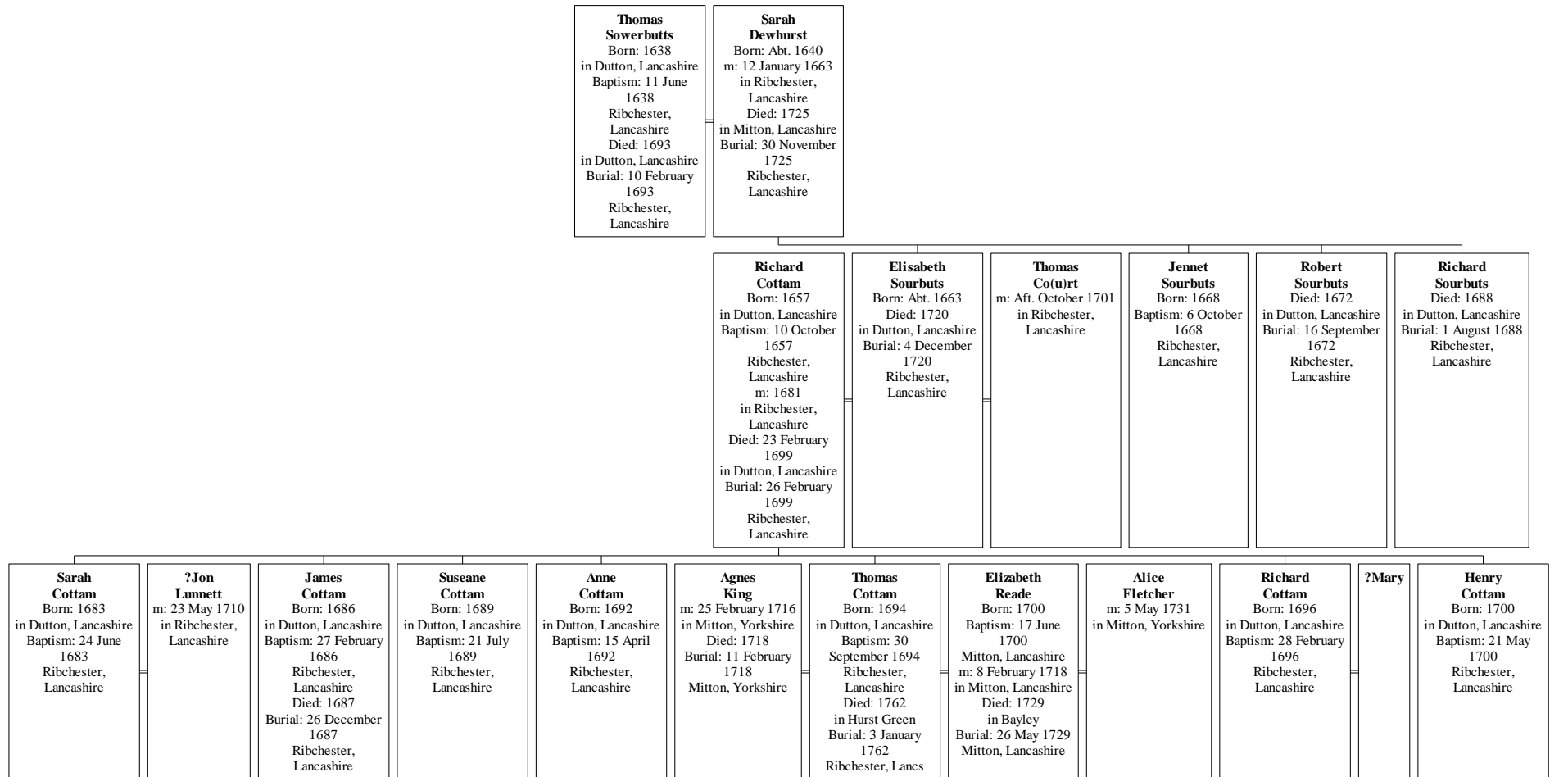
Married was Thomas Sowerbutts and Sarah Dewhurst both of the parish of Ribchester

but the only baptism recorded there seems to be of a daughter Jennett in 1667 or 68. However, there were at least two other children who died young as the burial register records sons Robert 16th September 1672 and Richard – 1st August 1688. Both name the father as Robert Sowerbutts of Dutton.

Given that Elizabeth named her first child Sarah, it seems likely that Sarah Dewhurst was her mother, and that she was born shortly after her parents' wedding. However, that would make her a bride at around 18 years of age, which seems rather young for that era. The same caveat was made, though, for the Margaret Dewhurst who married Robert Read in 1695, so maybe early marriage for girls in this part of the country was more common than is usually thought. The other possibility is, of course, that Elizabeth was the daughter of an earlier, unknown wife of Thomas Sowerbutts, but there is nothing in the records to suggest this.

¹²⁰ LA, WRW/A/R77C/5, Will of Thomas Sowerbutts of Dutton, 1693

Tree 13 - Descendants of Thomas Sowerbutts and Sarah Dewhurst



Thomas wrote his will on 5th February 1693, calling himself:

Thomas Sowerbutts of Dutton... Yeoman

His goods and chattels were to be divided between his wife and granddaughter Sarah, but there were also sizeable monetary bequests: £60 to son-in-law Richard Cottam and £100 to the use of his wife Sarah. After her death granddaughter Sarah was to receive £50 while the other £50 was to be divided between her siblings. There is also a rather peculiar bequest to one James Bradley, whose connection to Thomas is not known:

I give and bequeath to James Bradley of Bailey one bed stid in the new chamber one cobard in the fire house and one cobard in the botery forther if James Bradley pay six shillings and six pence within one year after my decease he shall have the table in the fire house and one bedstid in the lower loft after the decease of my brother John Sowerbutts

Wife Sarah and son-in-law Richard were named as executors. In addition, he appointed:

My loving Brother Henry Dewhurst of Clayton and my cosin Ellise Cottam of Ribchester both yeomen feffes and overseers

of his will. It was witnessed by John Cutler, Elizabeth Cottam and Thomas Jackson.

Thomas Jackson, along with the two feoffees and John Dewhurst – another of Sarah's brothers – made an inventory¹²¹ of Thomas' goods. This included:

Four cowes and a caulffe

worth £10, along with three twinters (two-year-old sheep), four calves and a horse, together worth another £11. There is the usual list of beds and bedding, brass, pewter and earthenware, chairs, stools and a settle, carts, wheels and implements of husbandry, but by far the largest sums, after the livestock, were for debts owed:

Item In one debt owing by James Bradley due within one year after y ^e decedents death	£160	00	00
---	------	----	----

which goes some way to explaining the bequest to this man, and:

One debt owing per Willm Pinder	£2	14	0
One other debt owing per Jo: Seed	£1	19	0

which brought the total value of the estate to £201 9/2, equivalent, perhaps to over £30,000 in today's money. Clearly, Thomas Sowerbutts was a man of some status, with enough liquid assets to lend substantial sums to other members of the community.

¹²¹ LA, WRW/A/R77C/5, Inventory, Thomas Sowerbutts, 1693

Thomas had written his will on 5th February when he was clearly close to death as his burial took place only five days later:

Feb y^e 10th Thomas Sourbutts of Dutton

Sarah Sowerbutts née Dewhurst and Richard Cottam took out a bond¹²² on 21st March 1693 in which they promised to:

truly execute observe and performe fulfil and keep the last will and testament of Thomas Sowerbutts late as aforesaid ...do exhibit into the said registry of the said archdeaconry a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods chattels and credits which late were and did belong to the said deceased; and make a true and just account into the same...

Three years later, on 1st October 1696, she remarried in the parish of Clitheroe:

Will^m Noblett of Mitton and Sarah Sorebutts of the parish of Ribchester were married at Grindleton Chapel

She lived for another 29 years and was buried at Ribchester on 30th November 1725:

Sarah wife of W^m Noblet nuper de Mitton buried.

No burial has been found for Thomas Court.



Dutton Hall

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¹²² LA, WRW/A/R77C/5, Obligation, Sarah Sowerbutts and Richard Cottam, 1693

Dewhurst – Dutton, Ribchester

A brief digression will cover all that is known of Sarah Dewhurst Sowerbutts Noblett's family. No baptism has been found for Sarah, but her father's will shows her to have been the daughter of Richard and Mary Dewhurst of Dutton (**See tree 14 – p.77**). This couple had five children who survived to be named in their father's will: Grace, Jane and Sarah, Henry, baptised at Ribchester on 3rd October 1632, Thomas, baptised on 14th December 1635 and John.

Richard's will¹²³ shows him to have been a yeoman living in Dutton. He wrote it when ill in December 1673, but lived for another four years. He bequeathed half his estate (with two exceptions given to son Henry) to his wife Mary before listing monetary bequests to his offspring:

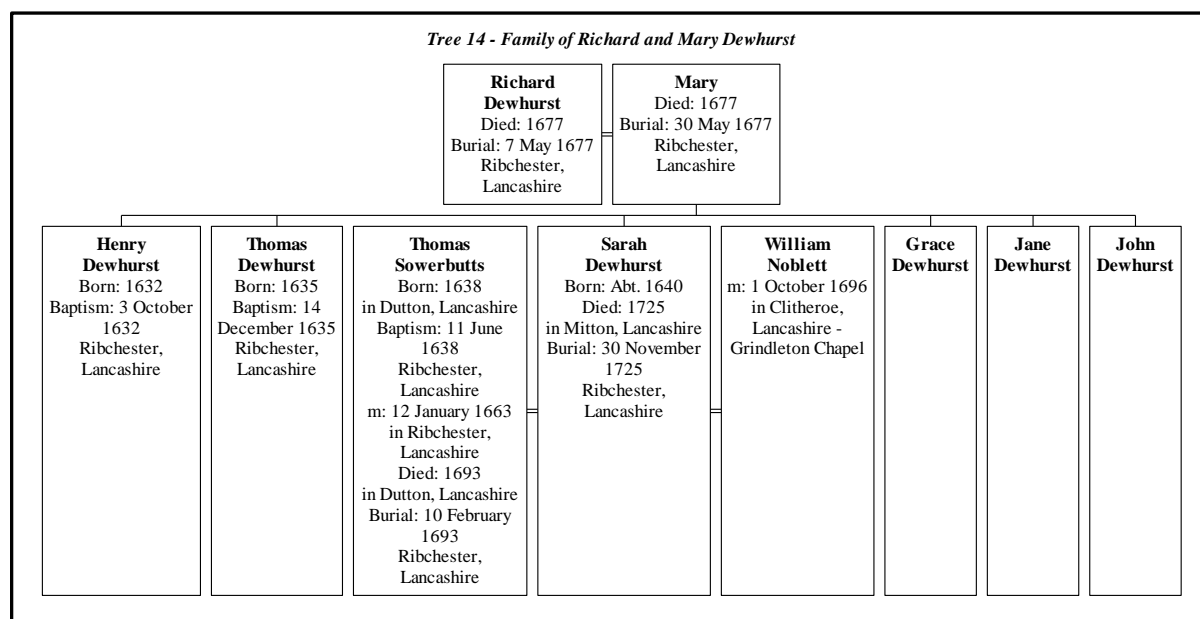
Item I give and bequeath unto Jane my daughter the sum of ten pounds of lawful English money

Item I give and bequeath unto Thomas Dewhurst my son the sum of three pounds of like lawful English money

Item I give and bequeath unto Grace my daughter the sum of two pounds of like lawful English money

Item I give and bequeath unto Sarah my daughter the sum of three shillings and fourpence of English money

The smaller bequest to Sarah suggests she had already received part of her inheritance when she married Thomas Sowerbutts. The remainder was to be divided between his son John and his wife. Henry, as heir-at-law, would have automatically inherited any land. He and his mother were named as executors, and the will was witnessed by John Entwistle, Seth Haddocke and Jonathan Stephenson.



¹²³ LA, WRW/A/R27A/39, Will of Richard Dewhurst, Dutton, 1677

Richard Dewhurst was buried at Ribchester on 8th May:

Richard Dewhurst ith Church

so presumably not in the churchyard. An inventory was taken on 14th May 1677 by Mr Abraham Townley, James Idesford, John Entwistle and Richard Barlowe. His cattle were valued at £15, a mare at £2 and a swine at 13/4. He also had two bee hives worth £1. The 'higher chamber' contained beds and bedding, a table, two chests a desk and two boxes. Above that was a loft containing an old bed, and there was another in the lower chamber. There was an array of brass and pewter, along with linen, flax and yarn and wooden vessels. The House had a table, two seats, four chairs and other bits of furniture including cushions and also the food store – meal, malt, groats, wheat, barley, beef and bacon along with cooking implements. Outside were corn in the ground, all the usual array of carts, ploughs and instruments of husbandry. Richard's purse and clothing were valued at £3. The final items listed were a little ark in the lower chamber – 5/-, salt – 2/6 and:

charges in breaking of timber for the house use	0	5	0
---	---	---	---

The total was recorded as £49 1/-

Henry Dewhurst took out the bond for administration, supported by Thomas Dewhurst (connection unknown), John Harwood and Jonathan Entwistle. Presumably his mother was not well enough to support him as executor as her burial is recorded on 30th May the same year as:

Y^e wife of Richard Dewhurst of Dutton

Mary Dewhurst did manage to make a will¹²⁴, although nuncupatively – i.e. as a spoken record:

Memorandum that upon the fourteenth day of May last past Mary Dewhurst late of Dutton ...deceased being of perfect minde and sound disposing memory and having a minde to settle her estate made her last will ... nuncupatively declaring her last will and minde in these or the like words in effect following viz she did give and bequeath unto John Dewhurst her sonne all her goods and chattels whatsoever excepting her cloathes which she did give and bequeath unto her children to be divided equally amongst them and did declare her said sonne John to be her executor which said words or to the same effect were spoken in the presence and hearing of Bartholomew Feareclough Alice Towneley and Alice Walker.

John proved the will on 28th June 1677. An inventory was taken again, by Abraham Thornley, Richard Barlow again, John Dewhurst and Christopher Varley. Many of the items in Richard's inventory appear again, although it is clear that much has been passed on to his heirs. For example, there is only one stock of bees rather than

¹²⁴ LA, WRW/A/27A/38, Will of Mary Dewhurst of Dutton, 1677

two. The little ark is still recognisable, though now only worth 4/- . Mary's apparel is valued at £2 with another £1 in ready money, so the same as for Richard. However, the whole estate is only valued at £18 7/0, considerably below half of Richard's.

Sowerbutts, Barton and Kighley – Dutton, Ribchester, Goosnargh and Garstang

The first appearance of Robert Sowerbutts, father of Thomas and John (**See tree 15 – p.82**), in the registers was on the occasion of his marriage in 1623 to Elizabeth Cottam, but an inquisition post-mortem¹²⁵ for his father – another Thomas Sowerbutts - helpfully gives his precise age on the day of his father's death on 19th September 1623 as:

seventeen years ten months and eight days

which, if my Maths is right, means that he was born on 11th November 1605. This would make him a remarkably young groom when he married on 15th October 1623:

Robte Sowerbutts and Elizabeth Cottam both in this pishe

His father had died two months previously, and he was the heir, so maybe feeling that he was financially established went to his head. Maybe, too, he needed a wife to help him run the farm. It's also possible, in a close community like Dutton, that Elizabeth was related and that other members of the family rallied round as overseers to help the young heir.

Despite, or maybe because of their youth (assuming Elizabeth was of a similar age), Robert and his wife took some time to establish a family. A 'child' of Robert Sowerbutts of Dutton was buried on 15th April 1627 and a son Thomas, baptised on 8th July 1628 was probably the 'child' buried on 12th November the same year. The next child, also named Thomas, was baptised on 12th February 1632 but presumably also died young, though not before a sibling named John was born and baptised on 22nd June 1634. He became Robert's heir in due course.

Robert was clearly determined to perpetuate his father's name as, on 11th June 1638, another Thomas, our ancestor, was baptised at Ribchester. There may also have been a daughter, probably younger than Thomas, as a daughter of Robert Sowrebutts of Dutton was buried on 5th August 1654.

It seems probable that Robert had a brother named Thomas and that they were both Catholic – not unusual in Lancashire at this time. Following rumours of a

¹²⁵ NA, RC6395324-21a49b21-40ed-46d9-9126-1132814a7349_6395324_27_Hen_VIII-6_Car_I_0001

plot in London in 1641, a Protestation Oath was required of any male citizen who wished to hold office – either clerical or lay. This turned into a kind of census, with every parish in the land sending its Protestation Return to parliament. The return for Dutton¹²⁶ was made in 1642, and the following two would not swear to:

live and die for the true Protestant religion, the liberties and rights of subjects and the privilege of Parliaments

Their names were:

Robert Sowerbuttes, refused to take Protestation, Dutton
Thomas Sowerbuttes, refused to take Protestation, Ribchester

The inquisition post-mortem showed that the father, Robert, held land in both places, so it seems reasonable to assume that these two were brothers.



Wall painting - St Wilfred's Ribchester
[cc-by-sa/2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) - © [Alexander P Kapp - geograph.org.uk/p/2892769](https://www.geograph.org.uk/p/2892769)

Bizarrely, a reference also turns up for this man in the catalogue of the Hull History Centre¹²⁷. It refers to a:

Bond in 40s.: Robert Sourbutts of Daton [sic] to Richard Sherburne

and is dated 27th June 1642. It appears to be regarding a payment of 20 shillings, so a bond of 40 seems slightly over the top, but would no doubt encourage prompt payment. It was witnessed by Robart Woodes and John Sherburne.

Robert Sowerbutts' burial seems to be missing from the records. The mid-17th century was a time of turmoil in the United Kingdom. The English Civil War –

¹²⁶ https://archives.parliament.uk/collections/getrecord/GB61_HL_PO_JO_10_1_94_2 Protestation Returns for Ribchester, Dilworth and Dutton 1642 HL/PO/JO/10/1/94/2

¹²⁷ Hull History Centre, U DDEV/69/7

Royalists versus Roundheads or parliamentarians – began in August 1642. It is not known for sure which side Robert Sowerbutts was on, if any, but, as a Catholic, he was more likely to favour the crown than the Puritan parliament. Maybe he went to fight and died, or maybe his burial was just omitted from the register. No burials were recorded between 1636 and 1649. However, there is reference to him, as a deceased person, in the Royalist Composition Papers.

In 1643 Parliament set up a commission to confiscate the land of those who were on the Royalist side. They included papists as a matter of course, whether they were actively engaged in the fighting or not. An entry referring to Robert Sowerbutts of Redisnape¹²⁸ shows that he must have been dead by 1655. It reads as follows:

Petition of Elizabeth Sowerbutts, widow, and John Sowerbutts, son and heir of Robert Sowerbutts, showing that Elizabeth had been wife and was relict of Robert Sowerbutts of Redisnape co. Lancaster, husbandman, deceased; that 2/3rds of the estate of the said Robert had been sequestered for his recusancy and had been let by the Commissioners of that county; that by the death of the said Robert the estate had come to petitioners, who were conformable, that the Commissioners, supposing Elizabeth was a recusant, had continued the sequestration and had declined to discharge it without an order from above. They therefore prayed for an order to examine their title, &c. (12 June 1655). Referred to the Lancashire Commissioners. The estate to be discharged on proof of title, if the value be so small (15s rent for two-thirds).

This suggestion is corroborated by the mention of a lost will¹²⁹ which lists Robert Sowrbutts of Redysnape yeoman in 1648.

As the marriage entry shows, Robert Sowerbutts' wife was another Cottam. Her parentage is unknown but given that in his will her son named Ellis Cottam, born in 1632, as his cousin, it seems likely that the father of this Ellis, also named Ellis, was Elizabeth's brother. Elizabeth was buried at Ribchester as:

Widdow Sowerbutts of Dutton

on 10th February 1664. She didn't write a will, but her son John and John Pinder, also of Dutton, applied to administer the estate and arranged for her brother Ellis Cottam, Edward Houghton and Seath Hadocke (presumably neighbours) and Richard Dewhurst (her daughter's father-in-law) to create an extensive inventory of her goods¹³⁰ on 14th February 1664. The most valuable items were a grey mare, with sack and saddle - £2 12/-; two cows worth £4 13/4 – the younger of the two being of greater value – and her store of beans, oats and meal. Along with her clothes - £1,

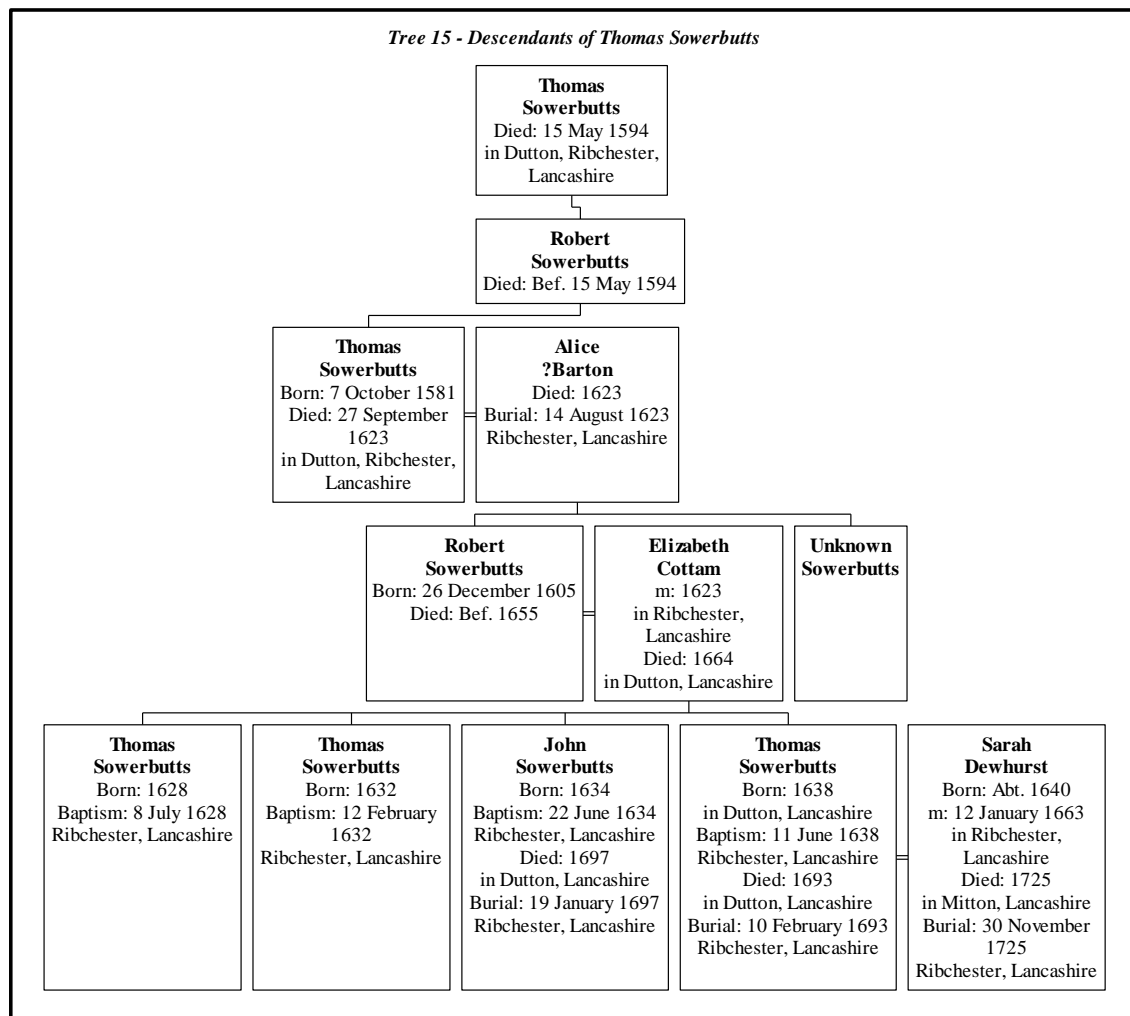
¹²⁸ http://rslc.org.uk/api/file/Vol_095.pdf, *Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society*, vol 95, Royalist Composition Papers vol 6 part 1

¹²⁹ <https://archive.org/details/recordsocietyfor10reco/page/260/mode/2up?q=Sowrbutts> *Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society*, vol 10, Wills proved in the Richmond Archdeaconry, 1457-1680

¹³⁰ LA, WRW/A/R73D/4, Inventory, Elizabeth Sowerbutts of Dutton, 1664

and all the usual bits of furniture, bedding, pewter, brass, and so on, the whole came to £18 11/8. There was also 12 shillings-worth of flax and yarn, suggesting that Elizabeth span to supplement the income from her crops and livestock. John, her 'natural son' as the note at the end of the inventory says, exhibited the inventory on the last day of February 1664.

In passing, Elizabeth's brother Ellis Cottam was involved in an Exchequer Deposition in 1664 regarding whether property in Ribchester was part of the glebe land belonging to the Bishop of Chester¹³¹.



Thomas Sowerbutts, father of the Robert who married Elizabeth Cottam, did not leave a will, and appears in the Ribchester registers only twice: first on the occasion of the baptism of his son Robert in 1605 and again on the occasion of his burial on 29th September 1623 when he is recorded as:

Thomas Sowerbutts in Dutton

As has been suggested, there may have been another son named Thomas, who was possibly born between 1605 and 1608 when there is a gap in the register. As

¹³¹ <https://archive.org/details/recordsociety11recoouft/page/40/mode/2up?q=Cottam>

Catholics, Thomas and his wife probably avoided the Anglican church where possible.

No marriage has been found for Thomas Sowerbutts and his wife Alice (possibly they were married by Catholic rites, so unrecorded in the parish registers), and her surname is still a matter of some conjecture. However, I am reasonably sure she was a Barton. My reasons for this assumption require some unpicking. Searching for Sowerbutts references in a printed volume of Lancashire IPMs¹³², Rex came across a reference to:

Thomas Sowerbutes of Redesnape and Alice his wife

This was clearly our man – and his wife - but why was he named in the IPM of one John Kighley of Goosnargh? And more importantly, what was Alice's relation to this family?

To find the answers to these questions, it is necessary to backtrack a little. The Kighleys were a well-to-do family for whom the title gentleman seems fitting (**See tree 16 – p.85**). They were also Roman Catholics. In *The History of the Parochial Chapelry of Goosnargh* by Henry Fishwick¹³³, the author describes the history of a property in Goosnargh called *White Lee* or *White Lay*. This belonged to Thomas Catterall of Little Mitton until his death in 1577 when it devolved to one Thomas Strickland and his wife. Robert Kighley – whose relationship will be explained later - took Strickland and his tenants to court, arguing that Thomas Catterall had in fact settled the estate on himself and his brother James. The pleading is in The National Archive¹³⁴. The catalogue describes it as a pleading to protect plaintiff's title by lease on:

A tenement in Gosenarghe [Goosnargh], Lancashire sometime the estate of Thomas Cotterall esq and by him settled to certain uses, and afterwards demised to plaintiff and his brother for their lives.

The Kighleys won their case and the property, which remained in the family until a distant descendant had to leave the country in a hurry, having been involved in the 1715 rebellion to restore the Catholic Stuarts to the English throne.

Clearly, having been to court once, Robert Kighley was keen to tie up his family's title to the property. So, according to Fishwick, in 1602 Robert Kighley created an indenture specifying exactly who the property should pass to once he was dead. In other words, he entailed it, which means that any beneficiary must be

¹³²

<https://archive.org/details/lancashireinquis16lanc/page/32/mode/2up?q=Kighley&view=theater>
Lancashire Inquisitions returned into the Chancery of the Duchy of Lancaster... Stuart Period part II 12-19 James I

¹³³ <https://prestonhistory.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/fishwick-goosnargh.pdf>

¹³⁴ TNA, C 2/Eliz/K5/34, Kighley v Braddill

related. By this time, his brother James had died, but there were clearly several other close relatives. So, his list of possible heirs began with his wife Ann, who was to have a life interest, and then ran through: John Kighley, son of half-brother Hugh; Henry Smith, son of sister Ellen; Robert Fairclough, son of sister Jennet; Robert Barton, son of Richard and Isabel Barton (another sister), or failing all these, to Elizabeth Barton, Robert's sister. A final safeguard was added in the person of his half nephew Thomas Blackburne, son of Ann. In the event, he didn't need to go that far, as his first designated heir, his half-nephew John, did in fact inherit when Robert died in 1612.

By then, though, some of the original potential heirs had been changed. So Robert, in his will¹³⁵, rewrote his list. His wife had since died, so his preferred heir was his half-nephew John, followed still by Henry Smith and Robert Fairclough. It would seem though, that his nephew Robert Barton had fallen from favour and was replaced by Robert Smith (Henry's brother) unless the Robert Smith who comes next is a mistake and Smith should read Barton. However, it is the next entry which seems to tie Alice into the family:

And for default of such issue then to the use and behoof of Thomas Sowerbutts of Redesnape and Alice now his wife and the heirs of their two bodies lawfully begotten

Most of the listed names are followed by the phrase 'and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten' and the specific phrasing used for the Sowerbutts must surely imply that it is Alice who belongs to the Kighley bloodline. The next named heir is Elizabeth Barton, and although Robert's list doesn't always follow the strict laws of primogeniture, it does seem to be significant that Alice and Elizabeth are named consecutively, especially as the IPM discussed below refers to Elizabeth as the younger daughter. The final named potential heir is Thomas Blackburne, his half-sister's son, but in case all these should fail, there is a final statement:

And in default of such issue then to the use of the right heirs of me the said Robt Kighley according ... to several deeds of entail thereof by me made

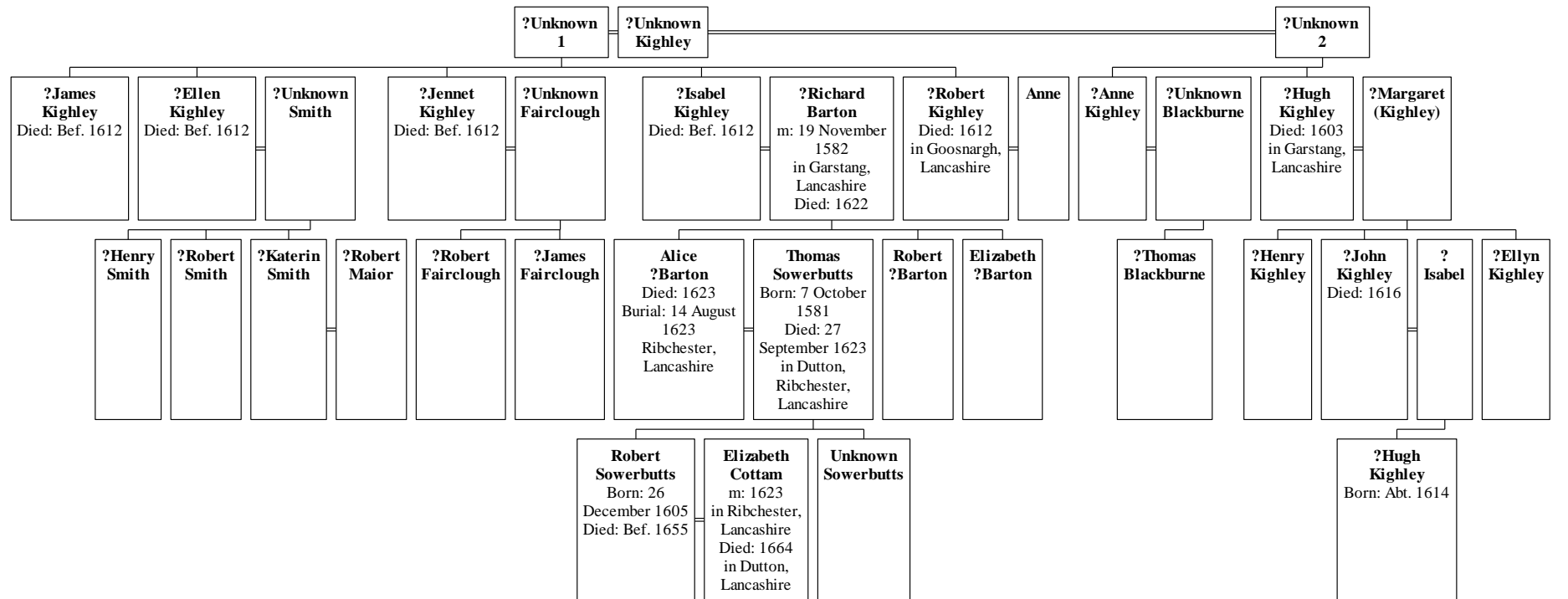
Clearly, Robert Kighley was not taking any chances that the property might fall out of family hands.

Before detailing what should happen to his property, Robert Kighley made several monetary bequests. He mentions – and gives his relationship to – Elizabeth and Robert Barton, Robert and Katerin Smith, Robert Fairclough, Robert Blackburne, and a great niece Alice Hudson. Embedded between these bequests is the following:

Item I do give to the children of Thomas Sowerbutts equally to be divided amongst them forty shillings

¹³⁵ LA, WCW/Supra/C54A/4e, will of Robert Kighley of Goosnargh, 1612

Tree 16 - The Kighley family of Goosnargh



Although no relationship is stated, the placement of this clause between all his other cousins is highly suggestive of the fact that Thomas' children at least have Kighley blood in their veins.

The Inquisition taken at Blackburn on 29th August 1616¹³⁶ for John Kighley, Robert's nephew, states that Robert's property consisted of:

1 capital messuage, called "le White Lee" and 80 acres of land, meadow and pasture, in Goosenargh; of 9 messuages, 60 acres of land, meadow and pasture, in Threlfall and Goosenargh; of 2 messuages and 12 acres of land, meadow and pasture, in Whittingham; and of 2 messuages, 20 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 2 acres of wood and underwood, and 20 acres of moor and moss in Claughton

a considerable inheritance. It reiterates most of the entail outlined in Robert's will, including in the list referring to his land and tenements in Goosnargh:

Thomas Sowerbutes of Redesnape and Alice, his wife and their heirs

before pointing out that Robert's nephew John had in fact inherited his uncle's estate.

Fishwick gives one other useful snippet of information¹³⁷, that Robert Barton was the:

son of Richard Barton of Bradicrosse lane and Isabel his wife, deceased

The Garstang register records the marriage of:

Rychard Barton and Elsabeth Kighley

on 19th November 1582, a date which would fit nicely with an inferred birth of Thomas Sowerbutts' wife Alice (her husband was born in 1581). Richard Barton, yeoman of Garstang, wrote a will in 1622, but unfortunately, although it appears in the index¹³⁸ it has not survived so there is no way of proving that this was Alice Sowerbutts' father.

Before leaving the Kighleys and Bartons completely, it is worth noting that the Middlesex Session Rolls¹³⁹ show how far the long arm of the law could reach during the so-called 'penal times', when Catholic recusants risked being arrested

¹³⁶

<https://archive.org/details/lancashireinquis16lanc/page/32/mode/2up?q=Kighley&view=theater>
Lancashire Inquisitions returned into the Chancery of the Duchy of Lancaster... Stuart Period part II 12-19 James I

¹³⁷ <https://prestonhistory.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/fishwick-goosnargh.pdf>

¹³⁸ <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/>, Lancashire Wills and Probate, 1457-1858

¹³⁹ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/middx-county-records/vol2/pp25-33>

and hauled off to the Old Bailey in London for non-attendance at church. Although places of origin are not named (all were supposed to be lately residing either in St Andrew Holborn or St James Clerkenwell) the entry for 1st June 1607 lists a whole host of specifically Lancashire names. Amongst them are Thomas Sowerbutts yeoman, Richard Barton yeoman and Robert Kighley gentleman accused of:

not going to church, chapel or any usual place of Common Prayer during three months beginning on 1 Sept.

The following year, these three appear in the list again. Presumably they had been defiant before as now they are told:

to surrender their bodies to the Sheriff of Middlesex – the said persons, at the next Gaol Delivery for Middlesex, made at the Justice Hall in the Olde Baylie on the said 19th Jan., 5 James I, were on failing to surrender convicted of the offences of which they were indicted

Unfortunately, there seems to be no record of whether they were fined or imprisoned, and if so, when they were allowed to return home.

Because Thomas held a number of pieces of land, an inquisition post-mortem was held to verify that his properties passed to his heir. For some reason – maybe because of his son's youth, the Inquisition was not held until 1630 – seven years after his death. IPMs are difficult to interpret, partly because of the style of handwriting but also because they are written in formulaic Latin with numerous abbreviations. However, the gist of the document can be gleaned. The court of inquiry was held at Blackburn on 27th September 1630. Interestingly, this is the precise anniversary of the man's death, which is probably a coincidence. It was chaired by Hugh Rigby as Escheator, the man responsible for upholding the rights of the monarch as feudal lord. Giving evidence were a whole raft of local men who could swear to the deceased's possessions. In the document, they are all listed as 'gent' or gentlemen, which seems unlikely. I imagine this was an honorific title given to the local yeomen farmers. These men testified that on the day of his death:

Thomas Sowerbutts late of Dutton deceased

held:

one messuage one garden one orchard fifteen acres of land meadows and pastures with the appurtenances in Dutton ... and in Dewhurst Cottages fifteen acres of land and pasture in Ribchester...

Nowhere named Dewhurst Cottages appears on modern maps. However, there is a Dewhurst House just east of Ribchester, on the River Ribble and very near to Lower Dutton, so I suspect Thomas' fifteen acres were near there. The 'gentlemen' go on to swear that Thomas Sowerbutts had died on 27th September at Dutton:

in the reign of our late King James in the 21st year of his reign

i.e. in 1623, and that he held Dutton lands

from the king as tenant in capite by Knight's service that is a two hundredth part of a Knight's fee

worth, if my reading is correct, 6 shillings and eight pence a year. This property is elsewhere identified as Reedysnape¹⁴⁰. There is then mention of:

two cottages and other premises with appurtenances in Ribchester

(These may have been mentioned earlier in the document in a part which was to me illegible). These were held from the king by socage, i.e. a form of tenure which involved rent rather than military services. The rent payable was six shillings and eight pence per annum.

Following the description of his property and its value, the inquisition then confirms who is to inherit. In this instance it was:

Robert Sourebutts son and next heir of the said Thomas Sourebutts [who] was of age at the time of the death of the aforesaid Thomas Sowerbutts ... seventeen years ten months and eight days

Just to make sure that nothing has been missed, the jurors sum up by saying that Thomas Sowerbutts also held:

several other messuages land and holdings without service from... the king

as well, perhaps, as others in other places. However, this sounds like a way of ensuring that no one can challenge Robert's right to any property his father held.

Thomas and his wife Alice both died in 1623. Alice was buried at Ribchester on 14th August as:

The wife of Thomas Sowerbutts

and Thomas on 29th September as:

Thomas Sowerbutts in Dutton

Amazingly, an earlier inquisition post-mortem exists, for Thomas' grandfather, another Thomas Sowerbutts. This takes us back another two generations, though sadly for the male line only. Everything known about this man comes from the inquisition, which tells that he was a yeoman of Reedysnape in Dutton, Ribchester parish, and that he died on 15th May 1594, predeceased by his son Robert, who would have been his heir.

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp54-61>

Reedysnape originally belonged to the nearby abbey at Sawley, which was dissolved in May 1536. This parcel of land was:

acquired by Sir Arthur Darcy in 1538; it was held by the 200th part of a knight's fee¹⁴¹

The description of how the land was held is the same as in the 1623 inquisition. *Wikipedia*¹⁴² defines a knight's fee as follows:

In feudal Anglo-Norman England and Ireland, a knight's fee was a unit measure of land deemed sufficient to support a knight. Of necessity, it would not only provide sustenance for himself, his family, and servants, but also the means to furnish himself and his retinue with horses and armour to fight for his overlord in battle. It was effectively the size of a fee (or "fief" which is synonymous with "fee") sufficient to support one knight in the ongoing performance of his feudal duties (knight-service). A knight's fee cannot be stated as a standard number of acres as the required acreage to produce a given crop or revenue would vary depending on many factors, including its location, the richness of its soil and the local climate, as well as the presence of other exploitable resources...

It was also used as a unit for tax assessment.



Ruins of Sawley Abbey

Like the earlier IPM, this document¹⁴³ is hard to read and translate. However, it is clear that the inquisition was held at Preston on 2nd November in the 38th year of the reign of Elizabeth I, i.e. 1594. Thomas Sowerbutts is described as:

¹⁴¹ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp54-61>

¹⁴² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knight%27s_fee

¹⁴³ TNA, Duchy of Lancaster Inquisitions Post-Mortem, vol xi folio 20

late of Redysnape in Dutton in the county aforesaid yeoman deceased
and that he died:

seized ... of and in one messuage and 25 acres of land meadow and
pasture with the appurtenances in Dutton aforesaid called Readysnape,
which parcel was late in possession of the monastery of the Blessed
Mary at Sawley in the county of York

and that he was also seized of:

and in one messuage and 22 acres of land meadow and pasture with
appurtenances in Ribchester in the aforesaid county at one time in the
occupation of William Sclater deceased or his assigns

This parcel of land seems to have belonged at one time to the chantry of Ribchester
church, before it was suppressed, and the annual rent was 3d per year, payable to
the Queen as present owner. This land was held:

by socage in fealty

and was evidently worth 15 shillings per year.

Once again, the jurors cover themselves by suggesting that Thomas may have
held other lands or tenements but didn't know anything about them if he did.
Finally, they swear that:

Thomas Sowerbutts is closest in blood and his [Thomas senior's] next
heir son of Robert Sowerbutts deceased and was of age at the taking of
this inquisition 13 years, eight months and eight days and no more

The final sentence makes reference to seals being removed and applied, so
presumably the escheator accepted Thomas junior's right to inherit.

Read or Reade – Lamyclough (Lammerclowes), Mitton

When I wrote my original account, I could get no further back on this line
than Matthew Reade, whose will was written in June 1690 and proved in the
following September. With Rex Watson's help, I have been able to find out more
about him and his ancestors. It seems that, possibly following the death of his wife
in 1675, Matthew became a Quaker. At this time, it was an offence not to conform to
the Church of England, and Matthew paid the price for his non-conformity. In a

book called *Early Stages of the Quaker Movement in Lancashire* by B Nightingale¹⁴⁴ reference is made to:

Matthew Read of Heighton for a meeting at his house had taken from him goods valued at £20 10/-

In 1680 this was a considerable sum. Another reference in January 1680-1 gives the following details:

Thomas Parker of Aighton and William Clayton of Whalley took oath before Nicholas Townley and Thomas Braddyll justices of the peace that on Sunday the Seventeenth day of Octob instant John ffish of Clitheroe Margret his wife Anne his daughter Richard Colborne of the same Ellen his wife Charles Leigh of Mearley Ursilla the wife of John Allmond of Wilpshire Thomas Robinson of Gisburne in the County of York Thomas Eccles of Balshaw Eaves Thomas Proctor of the same Edmund Tomlinson of Grindleton Clement Parker of the fforest of Bolland William Romsbotham of Aighton William Cottam of the same Anne Baldwin is the same Katherine Cross of the same Margret Houghton of the same Bridget Isherwood of the same Jenet Houghton of the same Town Elizabeth Standen daughter of Henry Standen of the same Edward Parkinson of Cheagley James Corner of the same Thomas Bleasdale of Aighton John Richmond of the same Mary the wife of Henry Standen aforesaid John Aspinall of Pendleton William Whalley of Marsden Alexander Salisbury of Lagram Alice his daughter Edward Row of Thornley Thomas Dilworth of the same Sarah his wife James Dilworth of the same Anne his wife John Smith of Thornley and Henry Cottam of Chipping together with above twenty psons unknown or thereabouts all of them as the age of sixtiene yeares and upwards and Subjects of this Realm were psent at an Assembly Conventicle or meeting under colour or ptence of the exercise of religion in other manner than according to the Liturgie and practice of the Church of England in the house of one Mathew Read of Aighton aforesaid, Husbandman, Contrary to the Statute made in the two and twentieth year of the Raigne of King Charles the Second Intituled an Act to pvent and suppres Seditious Conventicles And these Informants further say that William Whalley aforesaide took upon him to teach and preach or pray after the manner and practice of the Quakers in the said assembly. Fines inflicted.

William Whalley prdicatr xxxli offence 2.

Matthew Read xii.

Clearly this was no small congregation, and Matthew's house must have been fairly roomy to accommodate them all. A further snippet from the book says:

The following are from the Kenyon MSS. and give the Registrations in 1689:-
Meeting Houses the Quakers within this County certified and recorded, viz:
[A list follows, including]

144

<https://ia600204.us.archive.org/35/items/earlystagesquake00nighuoft/earlystagesquake00nighuoft.pdf> *Early Stages of the Quaker Movement in Lancashire*, Rev. B Nightingale, London, Congregational Union of England and Wales, Inc, Memorial Hall, E.C.4, 1921

Matthew Read's house in Mitton parish

So it would seem that the authorities had relented and certified Matthew's home as a meeting house. In a footnote referring to Quakers in Chipping, Nightingale notes:

It is interesting to note that in all this district including Aighton and Chaigley, which is exceedingly rural, the Quakers at this time were quite numerous

before commenting that, in his own time there were few if any.



Newton in Bowland Quaker burial ground
[cc-by-sa/2.0](#) - © [Alexander P Kapp](#) - [geograph.org.uk/p/426362](#)

Given that a daughter named Ann was named in Matthew's will, and that she was probably born at around the time his wife Isabel died, it may be that his conversion explains the lack of a baptism for her. Matthew held to his new faith for the rest of his life, and when he died, he was buried in the Quaker burial ground at Newton in Bowland. The exact date is open to question. The Quakers kept entries of vital events in the records of monthly and quarterly meetings. Information was passed from one region to another, and sometimes the records gave varying details. Consequently, the monthly meeting of Settle¹⁴⁵ gives:

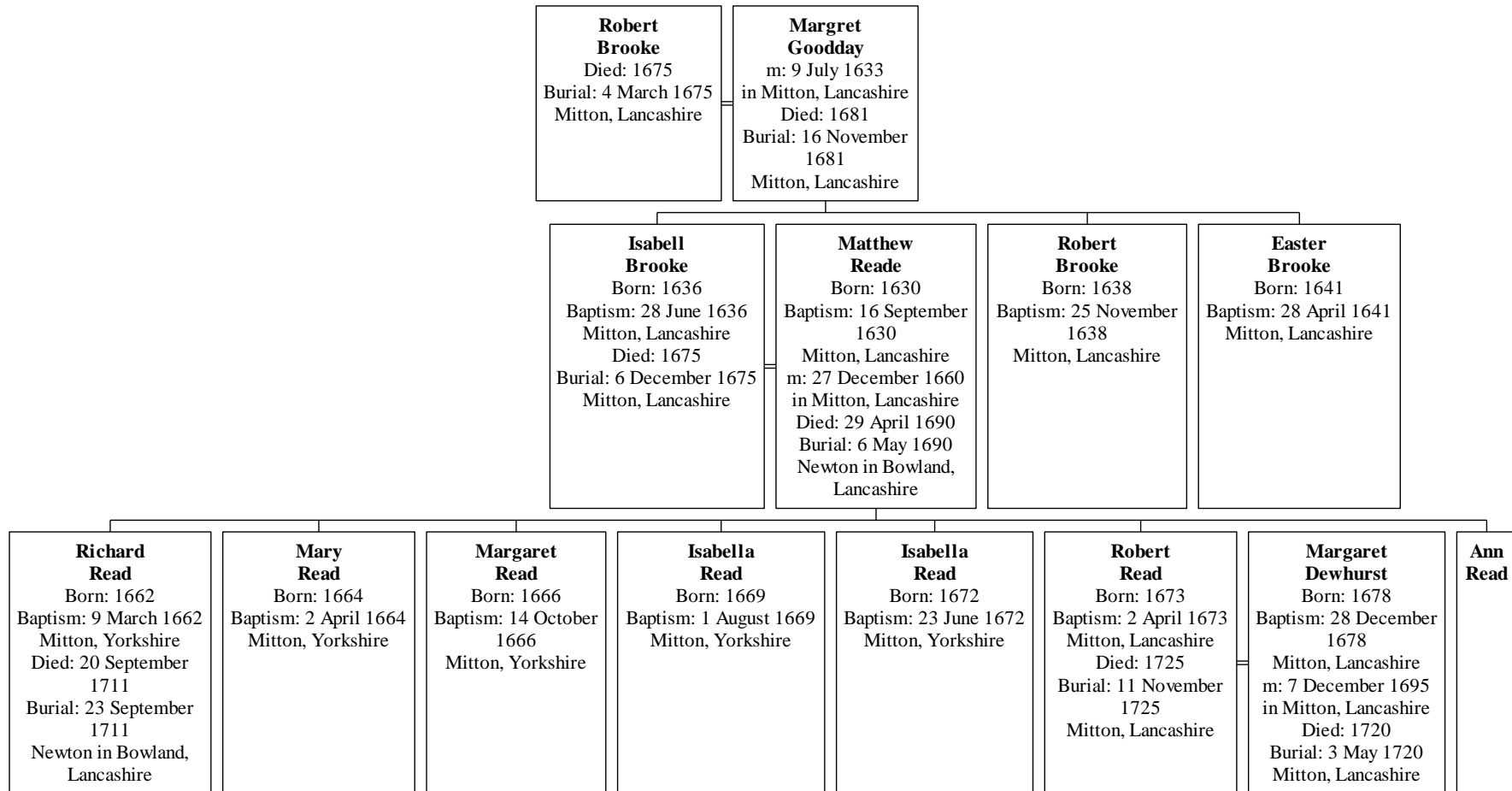
Mathew Read dyed ye 29th of ye 4th month and was buried ye first day of ye fifth month 1690

i.e. in the Quaker dating system he died in June and was buried in July, while the Quarterly Meeting for Norfolk and Suffolk records that:

Mathew Read of Haighton was buried at Newton the 29th day of the 4th month 1690

¹⁴⁵ https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/7097/images/41815_b0153434-00202?backlabel=ReturnSearchResults&queryId=a5906b0d3c5da501ab310a18767d6e38&pId=145684

Tree 17 - Descendants of Robert Brooke and Margaret Goodday



To further muddy the waters, the Lancashire Monthly Meeting¹⁴⁶ records his burial as on 31st June! His younger son, our ancestor Robert, seems to have reverted to the Church of England. However, his older son, Richard, clearly followed his father's lead and was buried at Newton in Bowland Quaker burial ground on 23rd October 1711.

To complete Matthew's story, there is a very faint entry in the Mitton parish register announcing the baptism of:

Mathew the son of Richard Read

on 16th September 1630. It is no surprise then that Matthew named his first child Richard, and the fact that he named his second Mary was clearly a homage to the mother whose name was not recorded on his baptism.

In passing, it is worth mentioning that Matthew's wife Isabel Brooks was the eldest child of Robert Brooke and Margret Goodday (**See tree 17 – p.93**), who had married at Mitton on 9th July 1633. So Matthew and Isabel also remembered her parents when naming their children. Isabel was baptised at Mitton on 28th June 1636, a brother Robert on 25th November 1638 and a sister named Easter on 28th April 1641. Robert Brooke senior was buried at Mitton on 4th March 1675 and his widow Margret on 16th November 1681.

The only definitive fact about Richard Reade's wife Mary comes from his will¹⁴⁷, in which he mentions a wife of this name. This document is complex and difficult to read, something compounded by damage at the edges. It was written on 14th December 1638 when he must have been close to death as he was buried three days later. However, he was clearly anxious to settle his affairs in detail. He describes himself as a yeoman living at Lamerclowes. The name of the township has torn away, but Lamerclowes is almost certainly the place referred to as Lambing Clough Farm on modern maps, which lies less than half a mile south of Hurst Green on the way to the River Ribble.

A property website¹⁴⁸ shows photos of the farmhouse, now a very elegant and expensive property. Whether Richard lived in a house in which this one has its origins or whether he lived nearby, the grainy picture shows a beautiful setting. Another property on the site, and sharing the same postcode, is called Quaker Field House, which suggests that the links to Matthew Reade have not been entirely forgotten.

¹⁴⁶

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=TNA%2FRG6%2F1004%2F0%2F0223&parentid=TNA%2FRG6%2FBUR%2F779421>

¹⁴⁷ BI, (ref not known for sure, but possibly 81/142.) Indexed in YAS Record Series vol 4, Index calls the property Lannerhowses. <https://archive.org/details/YASRS004>

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices/bb7/lambing-clough-lane.html>



Lambing Clough Farm

Richard Reade was born in 1598, in the final years of Queen Elizabeth's reign. He probably married Mary around 1620, and the first child to be found in the register is James, baptised at Great Mitton on 6th March 1623. A daughter Isabell was baptised there on 17th November 1630 but there is a gap of nearly five years before Matthew was baptised in 1630. Two boys followed, fairly close together – John, baptised on 24th February 1634 and Nicholas in December 1637. There was also a daughter Jane mentioned in the will, but there is no record of her baptism.

As a yeoman in this small community, Richard presumably had some standing, and, as a young man, he served as a juror giving evidence on at least three inquisitions post-mortem: in May 1620 at Whalley for the IPM of Henry Brotherton; in the following March at the same place for John Holgate and in September 1621 at Blackburn for Edward Tildesley.

Richard lived barely a year after the birth of Nicholas and was buried at Great Mitton on 17th December 1638. Either he or his scribe held a strong Protestant faith as the will¹⁴⁹ states his belief that he will be:

one of the number of those to [whom] that blessed sentence shalbe
pronounced Come ye blessed of my father possess the kingdom prepared
[for] you from the beginning of the world

and he asks for his body to be buried in Mitton parish church:

as near the place where my father was buried as may convenient be

I wondered whether, despite his desire to be buried in the parish church, Richard was showing the kind of non-conformist leanings which led his son to become a

¹⁴⁹ BI, Ref no possibly 81/142 (not clear on document). Indexed as in 'August Bundle' in YAS Record Series vol 4, *Wills in the York Registry from 1636-52*, Will of Richard Reade, Lannerhowses, 1638

Quaker. However, a few years earlier in 1626, he appears as one of several inhabitants of Mitton paying the subsidy. A number are also listed as paying as noncommunicants¹⁵⁰ but Richard was not one of them.

As was customary he asked for his estate – after debts and expenses – to be divided into three, with the first third bequeathed to his wife Mary. The second part is to be split between his children: James, Matthew, John, Nicholas, Isabell and Jane:

in lieu of their child's part

Presumably he felt this wasn't security enough for his daughters as:

the third and last part I give and bequeath to the said Isabell Reade and Jane Reade my two daughters to be equallie divided between them

The next section refers to an indenture:

bearing date the twelfth day of this instant December made between me the said Richard Reade on the one part and Francis Tomlinsone second sonne of Thurston Tomlinsone of Bayley in the said countie of Lancaster gentleman of the other part that Adam Bolton servant Thomas Walmsley of Dunkenhall in the said countie of Lancaster esquire and John Ward the younger of Bayley aforesaid yeoman

Unfortunately, the section describing the land these men should be seized of is illegible. However, Thurston Tomlinson appears to have been Richard's uncle, and it seems that this young father, only 40 years old, was engaging his cousin and others he could trust to take on his land. He then goes on to bequeath his other land:

Item all that my messuage and tenement and the appurtenances commonly called by the name of Lamerclowes, and of and in a third part of all the lands and other premises thereunto belonging (except the messuage lands and premises with the appurtenances called the Hursthouse) for the use and behoof of James Reade, Mathew Reade, John Reade, Nicholas Reade, Isabell Reade and Jane Reade

He also assumes that his wife will remarry so nominates Adam Bolton and John Ward to be seized of one third of this property and after Mary's death to put it to 'the use and behoof' of his children until the youngest reaches the age of 15.

Despite the caveat ensuring that his widow's next husband can't get his hands on the children's inheritance, Richard goes on to make Mary Reade joint executor with John Ward. The will was witnessed by Henrie Waltsmay (Walmsley?), Francis Parkinson and Richard Bradley.

¹⁵⁰ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp1-20>, Blackburn Hundred – Mitton, Subs. R. Lancs, bdle. 131, no. 317

The only reason for certainty regarding Richard Reade's age comes from yet another inquisition post-mortem¹⁵¹, that of his father Robert. In this document, dated 4th April 1611, it clearly states that Richard, his son and heir, is 12 years, 11 months and 14 days, which works out to a date of birth on 19th April 1598, before the start of the Mitton parish register. This document gives a wealth of information. The inquisition was held at Preston on 4th April 1611 and describes Robert as a yeoman of Aughton, i.e. Aughton. The jurors say that:

Robert Reade was seized in fee of certain messuages, lands and tenements, formerly called "Lauclosse and Hackenfeilde," with the appurtenances in Aughton and Bayley, which are held of Richard Sherburne, Esq., in free socage by 4s rent paid yearly... and are worth per. ann. (clear) 20s.

They go on to say that he also held 16 acres in Dutton:

(by the gift of *John Tomlynson*)

his father-in-law, and that these are held:

of the king by the 300th part of a knight's fee; and by Deed dated 22 Dec, 8 James [1610], he gave the same to *James Reade, George Reade, Thomas Reade* and their heirs for ever

The document also helpfully gives an exact date of death – 24th December 1610, at Aughton and states that:

Richard Reade, his son and heir, is now aged 12 years, 11 months and 14 days

There follows a reference to a third part of the Dutton land being held by Elizabeth, late wife of Richard Harrison and now of Anthony Huthersall, (she may well be a Tomlinson relation) before helpfully explaining that:

Katherine Reade, widow of *Robert*, is yet living at Aughton and holds for life a 3rd part of all the other premises in Aughton and Dutton

Robert Reade left a detailed will¹⁵², dated 15th June 1608, two years before his death. He described himself as of Lamycloughes, and states that, although not unwell he has:

many little children not able for themselves and altogether unprovided for and unpreferred

and, not knowing when death might occur, is now making his will. He requests that his body be buried in Mitton church:

¹⁵¹ <https://archive.org/details/recordsocietyfor3188reco/page/176/mode/2up?q=Reade>, *The Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* vol 3, Lancashire Inquisitions now returned into the Duchy of Lancaster, 1-11 James I

¹⁵² BL, vol 30, f 698 (York Registry), Will of Robert Reade of Aughton, 1610

with my parents and friends in our usual kneeling place
and makes the usual request for any debts to be paid.



Shireburn chapel - Mitton church
Dedicated to the landlords of several generations of Reades

He then divides his estate into three, reserving the first part to himself, the second to his wife Katerin, and the third to his younger children, James, George, Thomas and Jane – to be divided equally between them. Out of his own part is to come funeral expenses, a dole to the poor, 10/- to his godson Lawrence Hayhurst and a 'counter' to Myles Craven. His brother Edmund Reade is to receive:

a parte of my flaxen apparel (namely) jerkin hose dublett and stockings
at the discretion of my executor

The residue is to be divided between Thomas and Jane Reade. It looks initially as if son Richard has been forgotten, but as heir-at-law, he would have inherited his father's land by right, as shown in the IPM. However, he is enjoined to be considerate to his siblings, even if he has a right to take what he wants:

my desire is that if Richard Reade my son and heir be mindful to any
wains wheels sleds or other husbandry geer or any Arks chests
bedstocks or such like that shall light in his brethren or sisters
or any of them that they may spare and go without, that he may have
the same paying for any such thing which he shall desire to have the
full worth and price thereof or more at the sight of the praysors of my
goods

He then deals with his properties: two messuages, and land and woods which he names Lamycloughes and Atkin fields rather than the Lauclose and Hackenfeilde of the IPM. To his wife Katerin goes the house called the Hurst House and the lands and woods which:

late were in the possession of Jenett Reade widow deceased late wife of
Robert Reade my Grandfather

a snippet which, amazingly, takes us with confidence back two more generations. If this doesn't come to her full widow's third, it is to be made up from his other lands and be held by her for life.

What is left is devised to his brother James Reade and his brother-in-law Thurston Tonlinson to be held as feoffees in trust for his children – Richard, Thomas and Jane, and the profits used for their education and upbringing. In an interesting insight to the mores of the time, Robert requests that:

because the mother by nature is bound to be most dear and tender to her children my mind and will is that the said Thurstane and James shall permit and suffer the said Katerin my said wife to Cohabit and dwell with her five children and to occupy the said lands and premises to the uses aforesaid during the term aforesaid if she live so long sole and unmarried and be of good and honest conversation, and will do her best to keep the said children well and honestly with the profit thereof and of their other goods to learning or trades or both as god shall enable them with wisdom and knowledge , And if she marry again or be of lewd and dishonest behaviour, And do not keep and bring up my said five children as she ought at sight of their neighbours uncles and nearest friends **That then** my will and desire is that the said Thurstan and James or the survivor of them shall enter into the same two partes of the said messuages lands and premises and occupy and enioy them to the of use Richard Thomas and Jane Reade my said children and to do to them in all things as their mother should and ought to have done

Further stipulations are made as to what is to happen if Katerin dies before Richard reaches his majority. Despite the earlier rant, Robert presumably did trust his wife and he then makes her his sole executor, with his father-in-law John Tomlinson and John Hayhurst supervisors.

Unusually, there is a written comment at the end which paints a picture of Robert's last hours:

The original of this was written with the decedents hand and after his decease was found in his chest of evidences under his seal and ready to be shewed when need required And also Thomas Kenion and George Reade were with the said Robert Reade in his sicknes in the hour of his death and he said unto them that he had A will and he bade his wife fetch it furth of his chest for I fear that my daughter Jane is left furth of it

All this suggests that Robert Reade was possessed of a fair bit of wealth. This is maybe borne out by other snippets of information. In an item on Mitton in the

*Victoria County History*¹⁵³ there is reference to both Robert Read and John Tomlinson of Aughton as freeholders. There are only six other names on the list. The entry in volume 12 of *Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*¹⁵⁴ goes one stage further and refers to him as:

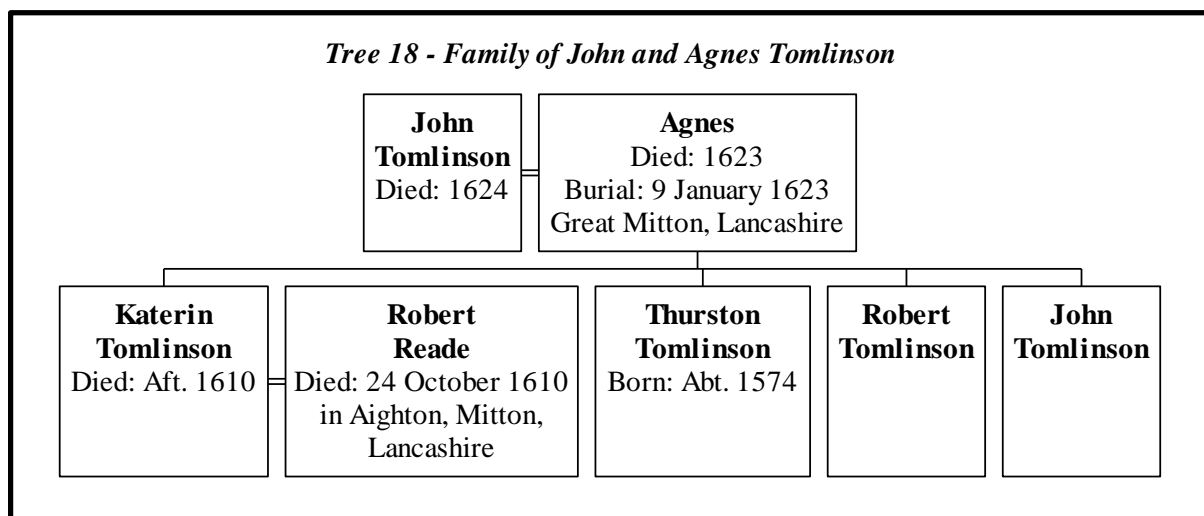
Robtus Reade de Aughton, gen

i.e. gentleman. This honorific is also used in a Quarter Sessions record¹⁵⁵ at a session held at Preston on Wednesday 8th July 1601:

Inquest by Robert Reade of Ayghton, John Tomlynson of Aughton.....
gentlemen

He appears at several other inquests as a juror between 1602 and 1606 and is always referred to as gentleman. However, all the jurors are given this title, so maybe it was used in lieu of yeoman, as it's unlikely that this rural area was bristling with gentry.

Tomlinson - Mitton



It is not known whether Katerin lived long enough to raise her family or whether she remarried. The only possible sign of any of her children apart from Richard comes from the marriage of Thomas Reade to Dorothy Seed at Ribchester in 1637, and even this may be another Reade family. However, from exploring the

¹⁵³ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lan/cs/vol7/pp1-20> Blackburn Hundred, Mitton

¹⁵⁴

<https://archive.org/details/recordsocietyfor12reco/page/234/mode/1up?view=theater&q=Reade>

¹⁵⁵ <https://archive.org/details/lancashirequarte00lond/page/n5/mode/2up?q=Reade>

Remains Historical and Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancashire and Cheshire Vol 77 (printed for the Chetham Society) Lancashire Quarter Session Records 1590-1606

paper trail left by her husband Robert, it is clear that she was the son of John Tomlinson and the sister of Thurstan (See tree 18 – p.100).

Unfortunately, John Tomlinson did not leave a will, although the evidence suggests he may well have had enough property to make this a sensible move. Certainly, he was involved in a bargain and sale¹⁵⁶ on 18th May 1597 as noted in the Lancashire Archives catalogue, Lancat:

John Tomlinson of Bayley, yeoman, to Edward Houghton of Smythybotham in Dutton, and Elizabeth his wife – Dutton

It is not known when he was born, but he and his wife Agnes probably married around 1570. Certainly, Thurston, John's heir, must have been born around 1574 as an entry in *British History online*¹⁵⁷ suggests that he was around 50 when his father died in 1624. Katherine, or Katerin, may have been the only daughter, though the reference in Robert Reade's IPM¹⁵⁸ quoted earlier to 16 acres in Dutton gifted by John Tomlinson begs the question maybe as to whether the Elizabeth Huthersall named in the document as holding a 3rd part of the said 16 acres for life is also a Tomlinson by birth. John and Agnes also had a son named John who, in the BHO entry quoted above:

died in 1633 holding land in Chaigley and Clitheroe of the king; his brother Thurstan was heir

Another son was named Robert. He is only known from land transactions. Two Lancat entries mention him, the first on 16th June 1609¹⁵⁹:

William Yeaites of the Crooke within Mitton co. Yorks., yeoman, to John Laithes and Robarte Tomlinson, son of John Tomlynson of Chaidghlei, yeoman. – Chaigley

The second¹⁶⁰, a year later, on 4th July 1610, also mentions his brother-in-law Richard Reade:

John Tomlynson of Chageley, gent., and one of his younger sons, Roberte Tomlynson, to Roberte Reade of Aghton, yeoman. -- Dutton

Interestingly, one entry makes John a yeoman, the other a gentleman.

John senior, like his son-in-law, appeared in the Quarter Session records¹⁶¹ between 1592 and 1604, always with the honorific gentleman when he is acting as a

¹⁵⁶ LA, QDD/9/ m15

¹⁵⁷ BHO <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp1-20> Blackburn Hundred – Mitton, Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdle. 12, m. 232

¹⁵⁸ <https://archive.org/details/recordsocietyfor3188reco/page/176/mode/2up?q=Reade>

¹⁵⁹ LA, QDD/17/m8d

¹⁶⁰ LA, QDD/18/m1d

juror. However, he also appears in other circumstances. For example, at the Preston Session held on 9th October 1592, the following appears under Recognisances:

John Tomlinson of Bayley for Agnes his wife, to keep the peace towards Elizabeth Smyth until the session after Easter next, etc;

Some years later, at the Preston Session on 3rd October 1604, it is the Tomlinsons who are the aggrieved parties:

Presentments: ... Henry Giller, labourer of Bayley, contrary to the statute of 8 Henry VI, on 20 Sept 1604, entered on a messuage there, in the occupation of John Gregson, and belonging to John and Thurstan Tomlynson

In the subsidy of 1597¹⁶² John Tomlinson contributed for his lands, as did Thurstan in 1626. John also appears in the 1600 list of freeholders¹⁶³.

British History Online¹⁶⁴ also helpfully tells us when John died, although no burial record survives:

John Tomlinson died in 1624 holding land in Chaigley, with common of pasture in Bailey, of Richard Shireburne as of his manor of Aighton

This entry also neatly ties in the three townships in Mitton – Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley. John's wife Agnes predeceased him, though not by much. Her burial is recorded in 1623 at Mitton:

Agnes uxor John Tomlinsonn January 9

Thurstan Tomlinson was appointed one of the High Constables for Blackburn Hundred in 1628¹⁶⁵ but maybe also inherited his mother's fiery nature as in the same year he appears in an entry¹⁶⁶ enjoining him to:

keep the peace to Margaret, wife of Roberte Watson

He seems to have been still alive in 1642 as his name appears on the Protestation Returns for Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley¹⁶⁷, closely followed by a John and Francis Tomlinson, presumably his sons.

¹⁶¹ <https://archive.org/details/lancashirequarte00lond/page/n5/mode/2up?q=Reade> *Remains Historical and Literary Connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancashire and Cheshire Vol 77 (printed for the Chetham Society)*, Lancashire Quarter Session Records 1590-1606

¹⁶² BHO <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp1-20> Blackburn Hundred – Mitton, Subs. R. Lancs, bdle. 131, no. 274

¹⁶³ BHO <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp1-20> Blackburn Hundred – Mitton, Rec. Soc. Lancs, and Ches. I, 234-7

¹⁶⁴ BHO <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol7/pp1-20> Blackburn Hundred – Mitton, Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdle. 12, m. 232.

¹⁶⁵ LA QSV/11/1

¹⁶⁶ LA, QSB.1.41.4

The earliest Reades – Mitton

Fortuitously, two wills survive which allow us to take this family back two further generations (**See tree 19 – p.104**). Richard Read of Aighton, father of Robert, died around 1587, before the earliest entries in the parish register. However, on 30th October 1587, when ill, he made a detailed will¹⁶⁸. He requests that his body be buried in Mitton church, and that, once his debts have been paid that his goods be divided into two parts, one for himself to bequeath and one for his children. He helpfully lists these by name: James, John, Edmund, Isabel and Grace. Robert is not here named as he would automatically have been heir-at-law. Edmund, Isabel and Grace – presumably the three youngest – are to have:

the issues and profits of all and every such parcels of land woods and grounds as I the said Richard Read have granted in Lease to the use of this my will unto Edmond Sherburne of Bayley and Edmond Ashe of Dutton (that is to say) the Long Field the Subinge and the great Wood and the further plain

until their share equals that of their elder siblings. After that, the land is to revert to his heir, Robert Read. Isabel and Grace are also to receive £40 apiece and Edmund £20. Son James will get the property called the Hurst House with its garth, currently in the occupation of Richard Lukas. His son John does not get a separate mention; maybe he had already received his share on reaching adulthood. There were two married daughters as well, Jane married to Robert Craven and Alice wife of Edward Payne. These also received their due share.

No wife is named, so presumably Richard was a widower when he wrote his will. Whether he strayed before or after his wife's death, he includes in his bequests 40/- to:

Thomas Read my base begotten son

His heir Robert receives a specific gift of:

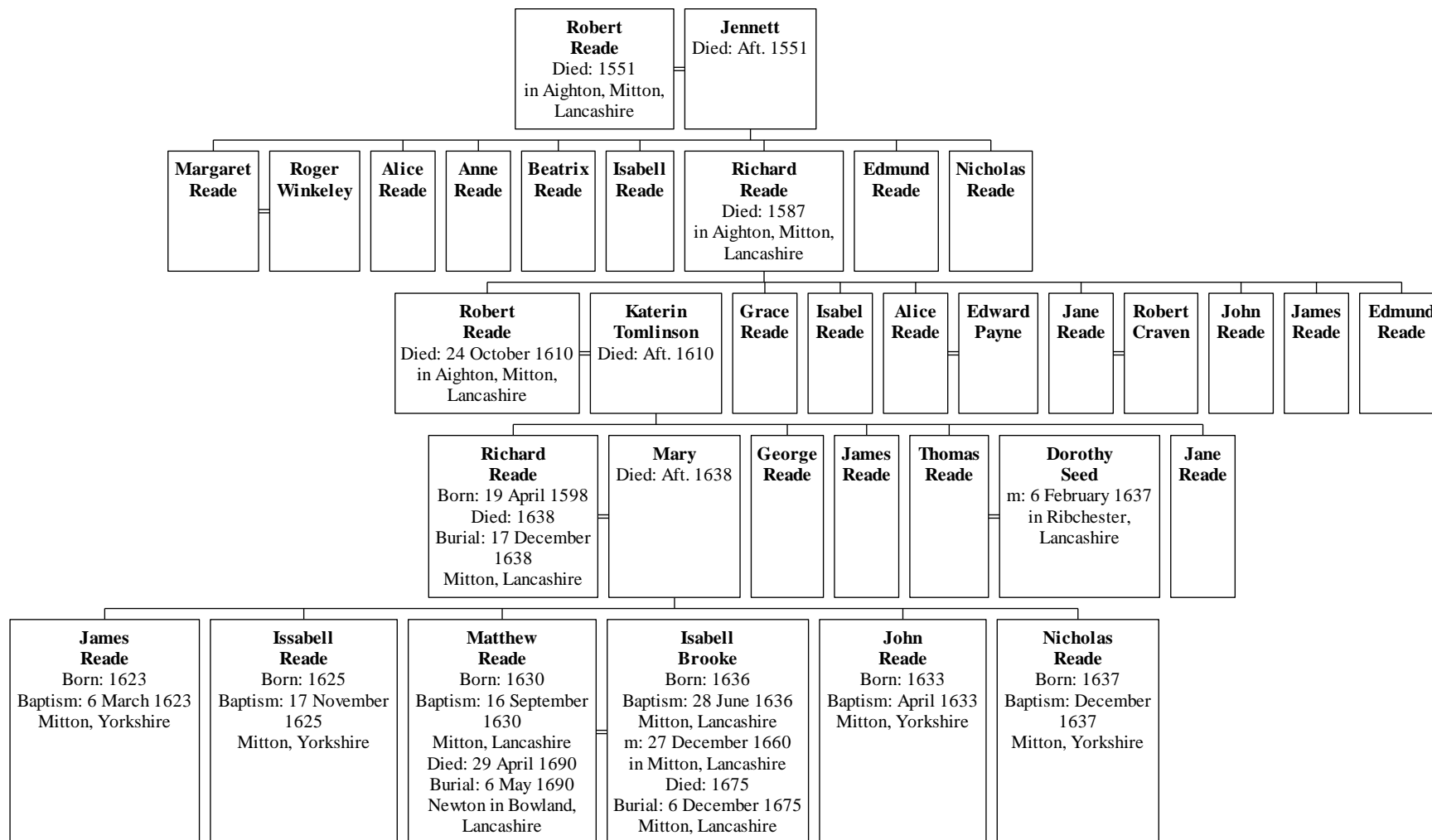
one long settle and two Arks ... to be heirlooms at the house

Anything left over is to be split between James, Edmond, Jane and Alice. He makes sons Robert and James his executors and gentlemen Edmund Shearburne of Bayley and John Dewhurst of Ribchester supervisors. The will was witnessed by Batholomewe Shearburne, Edward Ashe, William Bradley and Henrie Hayhurst. His sons proved the will on 12th December.

¹⁶⁷ https://archives.parliament.uk/collections/getrecord/GB61_HL_PO_IO_10_1_94_7

¹⁶⁸ BI, York Registry, volume 13, folio 588 (YAS volume 22 – Index to wills in the York Registry), Will of Richard Read, 1587

Tree 19 - Descendants of Robert and Jennet Reade



The final character in this story is yet another Robert Reade, who died some time after 10th December 1548, when he wrote his will¹⁶⁹:

in the third yere of the reign of our sovereign lord King Edward the sixth
as

Roberte Reade of Aughton in Blackburneshire

Unlike his descendants, he asks to be buried in the churchyard of Great Mitton rather than inside the church.

The wording of this will is somewhat convoluted, making reference to properties held both by knight's service and by socage. Trying to make sense of it is difficult but suffice it to say it includes property in Aughton called Lane Houses – presumably the place which eventually morphed into Lammyclough. Some property has been made over to his wife Jennet, while the rest is to be managed by his executors to the use of his children, namely:

Edmund Read, Nicholas Reade, Isabell Reade, Alice Reade, Beatrix Reade,
Anne Reade and Margaret



All Hallows, Mitton

Sons Edmund and Nicholas are bequeathed £20 between them with the proviso that their brother – Robert's heir Richard – pay them this money. If he does so, he is to inherit all his father's property. In addition, Richard is to have:

all my charters deed and writing concerning any part or parcel of mine
inheritance ... and two great Arkes

¹⁶⁹ BI, York Registry, volume 13 folio 769, (YAS Record Series volume 11: Index of wills in the York Registry), Will of Robert Reade, 1551

My guess is that these arks are the ones Richard later designates as heirlooms. Further instructions are given about the share-out of his money, with some being put aside for whichever of his unmarried daughters shall marry first. His wife is to have enough wood and timber to keep warm in her widowhood. Anything left over is to be equally divided between wife and children.

Robert's son Richard was made executor, but his son-in-law Roger Winkeley gentleman:

who hath married my daughter

(presumably Margaret – the only offspring not earlier designated as Reade) is made joint supervisor with Edmund Sherburne. There were numerous witnesses, including the local priest.

And here, the trail ends for the Read family of Mitton, for now at least.

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